



July,
1997

I was out doing footwork on a job I was having trouble with...



And when I came home there was a message on my machine.



HI JACOB... IT'S MINDY, FROM THE CONVENTION.

COMIC FEST, I MEAN.

COULD YOU GIVE ME A CALL BACK, PLEASE? IT'S KIND OF URGENT.

??



Apparently, *Hal Crane* was flying in to be given a *Lifetime Achievement Award* and they needed someone to... uh... basically be his *minder* for a few days. Make sure he got to the ceremony and his other appearances.

...I DON'T KNOW... I'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON...

PLEASE... IT'S JUST FOR THE WEEKEND...

HE ASKED FOR YOU SPECIFICALLY, JACOB.



Right after high school, about ten years before this, I was one of Hal's *assistants*.

He went through three or four of them a year back then, and I guess I lasted longer than most...

But it ended badly with us.



Of course, that didn't make me special. Hal ended most of his relationships badly.



Supposedly, when he quit working for *National* back in the day, he decked Julie Schwartz over a bad inking job...



And there's another story about him pulling a gun on some editor at Marvel in the early '70s... Gerry Conway, I think.

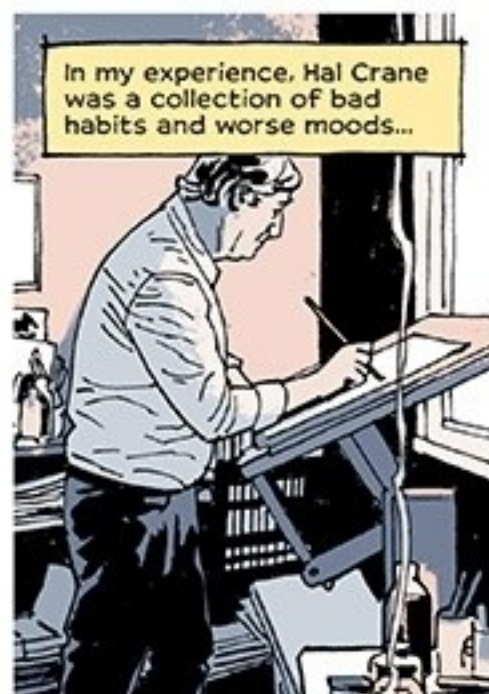


Hal said all that stuff was bullshit, that all he ever did was yell and throw some things around a few times...

WHY WOULD HE ASK FOR ME?

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE I QUIT.

I DON'T KNOW, HE JUST DID...



Friday



I realize I'm acting like you know who Hal Crane is, when you probably don't...

Unless you know a lot about comics.



But there are two reasons you might have heard of Hal anyway...



Things that had made him *kind of* famous in the "real" world.



First, because he was the main design and storyboard artist for *DANNY DAGGER AND THE FANTASTICALS*, a cartoon my generation grew up with.

DANNY DAGGER And The FANTASTICALS

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Danny Dagger, Princess Yaz, her little brother Tanner and his pet dragon Stuffy were not huge hits when they originally aired...

But the afterschool reruns in the '70s had made the show a pop culture sensation... Syndicated and merchandised around the world.

4 OCT 67
"DANNY DAGGER and the FANTASTICALS"
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This is not something you want to bring up with Hal Crane if you ever meet him, by the way.

He hated that show, even before he felt ripped off by it.

