



STEPHEN STRANGE was a preeminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a miracle cure, but instead he found a mysterious wizard called the ANCIENT ONE who taught him magic and that there are things in this world bigger than himself. These lessons led Stephen to become the Sorcerer Supreme, Earth's first defense against all manner of magical threats. His patients call him...

DOCTOR STRANGE

The EMPIRIKUL, an interdimensional army, destroyed almost all magic on Earth. Stephen and Earth's mages managed to defeat them, but the state of magic will never be the same again.

With his access to magic severely depleted and with only a limited number of mystical weapons, the Master of the Mystic Arts is at his weakest. And things are about to go from bad to worse, because his old adversary, Baron Mordo, is back in town...

BLOOD IN THE AETHER CHAPTER ONE

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I NEVER IMAGINED HOW MUCH I WOULD MISS IT.

THE SUFFERING, I MEAN.

I TRULY DID TRY TO LIVE WITHOUT IT.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST THREE ENTIRE DAYS SINCE I HURT ANYONE.

BUT MISERY IS ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN. IT WAS MY CRADLE. MY MOTHER'S MILK. WITHOUT IT...

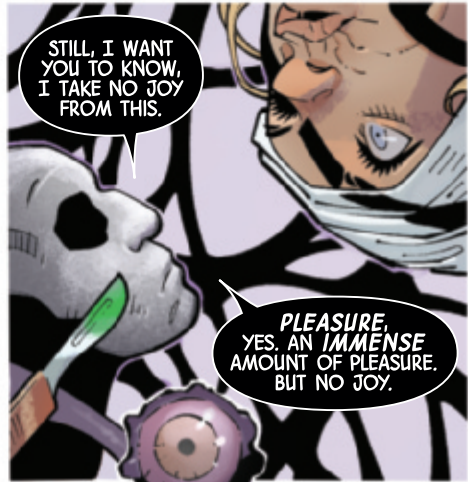


...I WITHER AND STARVE.



YOU HUMANS... YOU DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO ONE ANOTHER WHEN YOU'RE STARVING, DON'T YOU?

SO DEEP DOWN, YOU UNDERSTAND. I KNOW YOU DO.



STILL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I TAKE NO JOY FROM THIS.

PLEASURE YES. AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF PLEASURE. BUT NO JOY.

NYU MEDICAL CENTER.

I HOPE YOU
ALL CAN FORGIVE
ME FOR WHAT I AM
ABOUT TO DO.

AND
DO AND DO
AND DO.





MAYBE
SOMEDAY I'LL
EVEN BE ABLE TO
FORGIVE MYSELF.

THOUGH I'LL
NEVER FORGIVE
THE ONE
WHO--

THWICK

LET THEM
GO.



THESE
PEOPLE
HAVE DONE
NOTHING
TO YOU.

I'M THE
ONE YOU
WANT TO SEE
SUFFER.



HELLO, DOCTOR. WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.

STOP THIS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

THEIR SUFFERING LED ME HERE. WHAT LED YOU, I WONDER?



YOU, YOU'RE A PART OF ME. EVEN NOW.

YOU MEAN YOU GREW ME FROM BLACK MAGIC IN YOUR CELLAR. NURSED ME ON YOUR PAIN.

I MEAN YOU'RE MY RESPONSIBILITY.



I WAS A SPONGE TO SOAK UP YOUR SUFFERING. WHAT AM I NOW, DO YOU THINK?

I CAN HELP YOU, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP YOU. NOT THEM. LET THEM GO.

YOU WANT TO HELP ME? OKAY.



TAKE YOUR SWORD AND SLICE OFF YOUR FOOT.

I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE WHICH ONE.



POP



NO. I DON'T THINK SO.



THEN YOU'RE NOT HERE TO FEED ME, ARE YOU? I THINK YOU'VE COME TO SMOTHER YOUR BABY IN ITS CRIB.



YOU'RE NOT A HELPLESS CHILD. IF YOU WANT ME TO SUFFER, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF.

OKAY.