

# ANT-MAN

WHEN THE ORIGINAL ANT-MAN, HANK PYM, RETIRED FROM THE JOB, ANOTHER MAN ROSE/SHRANK TO THE OCCASION (ERR, STOLE THE COSTUME) – SCOTT LANG! WITH HIS SOMEWHAT SORDID PAST SOMEWHAT BEHIND HIM, SCOTT TOOK ON THE SIZE-CHANGING, ANT-COMMUNICATING ABILITIES OF ANT-MAN!

RECENTLY, SCOTT MOVED TO MIAMI SO HE COULD BE PART OF HIS DAUGHTER CASSIE'S LIFE. HE'S OPENED A SECURITY FIRM THERE CALLED ANT-MAN SECURITY SOLUTIONS, AND HE'S EVEN HIRED HIS FIRST EMPLOYEE -- GRIZZLY, A FORMERLY VENGEFUL AND NOW ENTIRELY GRATEFUL EX-CON IN A BEAR SUIT.

HOWEVER, ON THEIR FIRST GIG -- INSTALLING SECURITY IN AN OFFICE SUPPLY WAREHOUSE (HEY, IT'S A LIVING, ALL RIGHT?) -- SCOTT WAS ATTACKED BY THE ASSASSIN KNOWN AS TASKMASTER! EVEN MORE ALARMING THAN FINDING OUT TASKMASTER DID NOT CONSIDER SCOTT TO BE HIS ARCHENEMY, SCOTT LEARNED TASKMASTER HAD BEEN HIRED MERELY TO DISTRACT SCOTT WHILE SOMEONE KIDNAPPED CASSIE!

THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING? AUGUSTINE CROSS, THE HEAD OF CROSS TECHNOLOGICAL ENTERPRISES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE SON OF THE SOON-TO-BE-FORMERLY-DEAD DARREN CROSS -- THE SAME DARREN CROSS WHO SCOTT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE ONCE KILLED. WHOOPS!

NOW SCOTT AND GRIZZLY ARE DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAVE CASSIE, BUT WILL THEY BE TOO LATE?

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This is all my fault.

I had one job--*keep my little girl safe.* Don't lose her again. And sure enough--



Can't even do that right.

They took Cassie. Those psychos at Cross Technologies *took her!*



And all I know is, that's *very* bad news.

I'm the guy who took down their boss, *Darren Cross.* He died in that fight.\*

I thought the company went legit after that, but turns out I was a little too optimistic.

\*SEE **MARVEL PREMIERE #47 & #48** FOR THE FULL SCOOP!--WIL



But here's what I don't understand--

I get why those jerks would come after me. But why now? And more importantly--



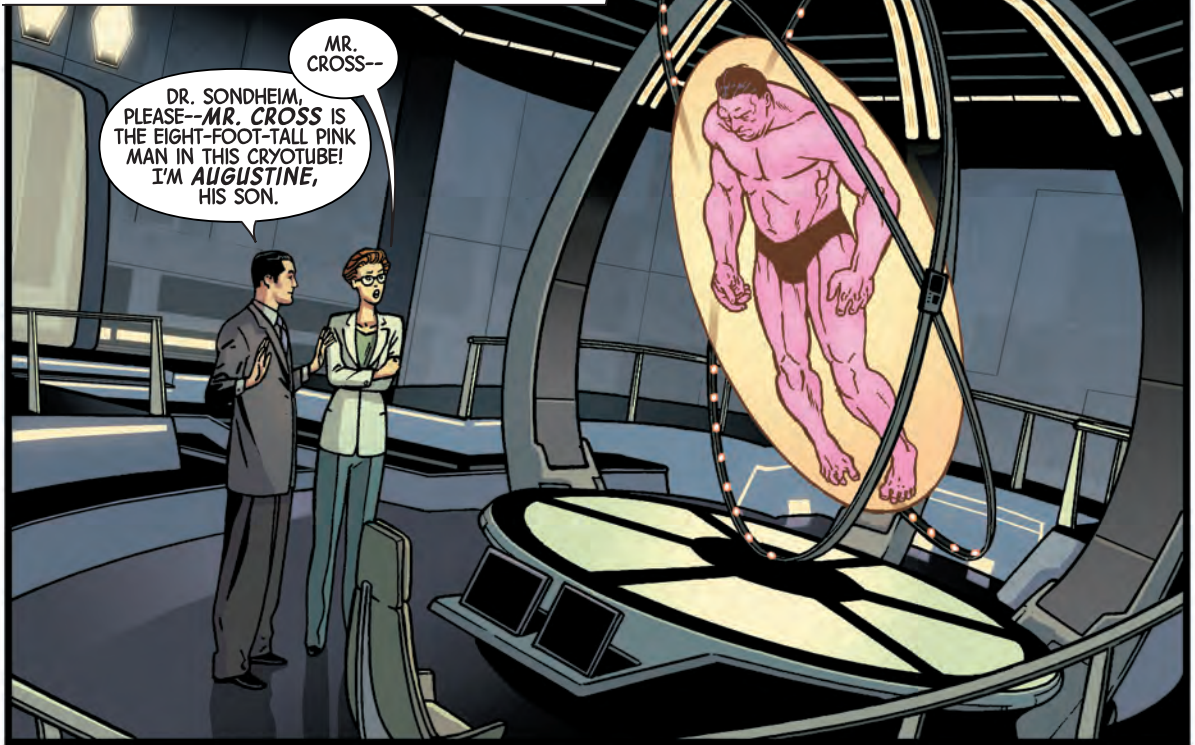
Why her?

THIS IS NOT ABOUT REVENGE!

I'D LIKE TO BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THAT. THIS IS ABOUT SCIENCE--

--AND FAMILY.

**CROSS TECHNOLOGICAL ENTERPRISES.**



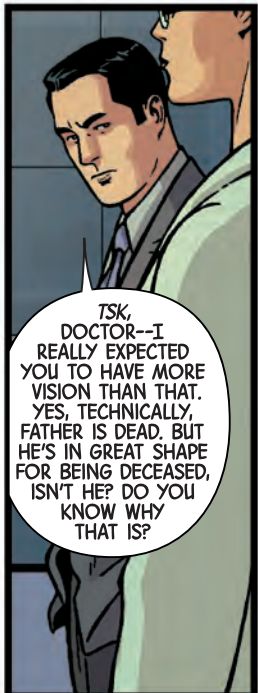
MR. CROSS--

DR. SONDEHM, PLEASE--MR. CROSS IS THE EIGHT-FOOT-TALL PINK MAN IN THIS CRYOTUBE! I'M AUGUSTINE, HIS SON.

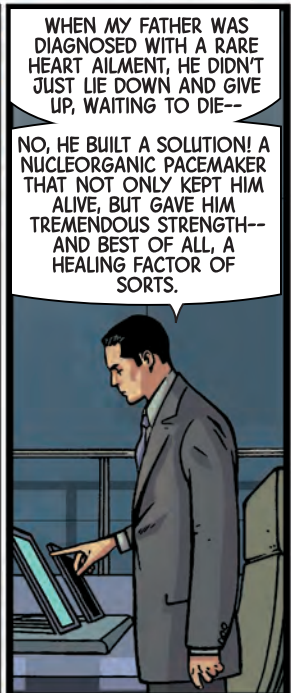


I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE! OR WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE PLAYING AT-- THIS IS *INSANE*.

THAT MAN-- DARREN CROSS-- IS DEAD. I SAW HIM DIE WITH MY OWN TWO EYES-- AND QUITE FRANKLY, I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER ABOUT IT.



TSK, DOCTOR--I REALLY EXPECTED YOU TO HAVE MORE VISION THAN THAT. YES, TECHNICALLY, FATHER IS DEAD. BUT HE'S IN GREAT SHAPE FOR BEING DECEASED, ISN'T HE? DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?

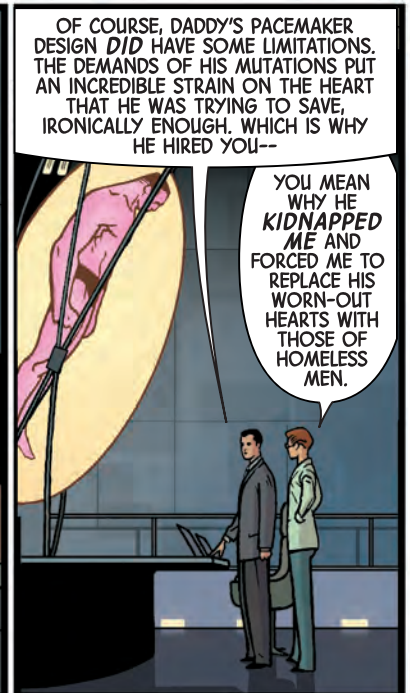


WHEN MY FATHER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE HEART AILMENT, HE DIDN'T JUST LIE DOWN AND GIVE UP, WAITING TO DIE--

NO, HE BUILT A SOLUTION! A NUCLEORGANIC PACEMAKER THAT NOT ONLY KEPT HIM ALIVE, BUT GAVE HIM TREMENDOUS STRENGTH-- AND BEST OF ALL, A HEALING FACTOR OF SORTS.



AND NOW THAT HEALING POWER, PLUS THIS CRYOSTASIS, HAS KEPT HIM IN EXACTLY THE SAME CONDITION HE WAS IN JUST SECONDS AFTER HIS DEATH, I'M PLEASED TO REPORT!



OF COURSE, DADDY'S PACEMAKER DESIGN *DID* HAVE SOME LIMITATIONS. THE DEMANDS OF HIS MUTATIONS PUT AN INCREDIBLE STRAIN ON THE HEART THAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE, IRONICALLY ENOUGH. WHICH IS WHY HE HIRED YOU--

YOU MEAN WHY HE *KIDNAPPED ME* AND FORCED ME TO REPLACE HIS WORN-OUT HEARTS WITH THOSE OF HOMELESS MEN.

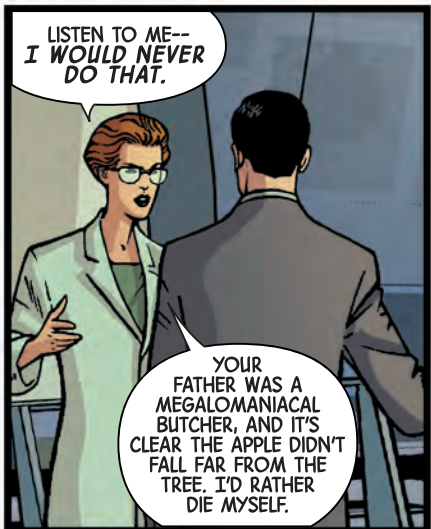




MM. AN UGLY BUSINESS, THAT. BIT OF A STAIN ON THE FAMILY'S GOOD NAME, I'LL ADMIT. BUT DRASTIC TIMES CALL FOR DRASTIC MEASURES, THEY SAY. LIKE NOW, FOR INSTANCE--

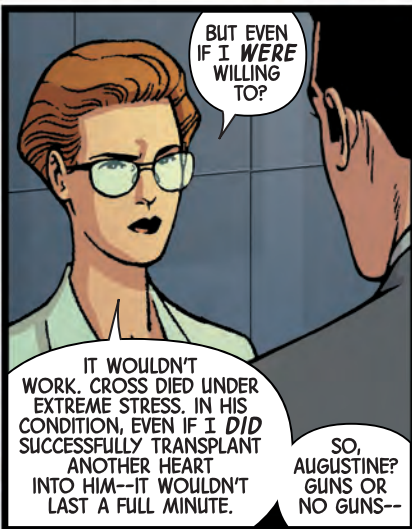


WHEN I'LL BE ASKING YOU TO REVIVE MY FATHER, AND PERFORM ONE LAST OPERATION ON HIM. TO RETURN HIM TO US, AND TO LIFE!



LISTEN TO ME-- I WOULD NEVER DO THAT.

YOUR FATHER WAS A MEGALOMANIACAL BUTCHER, AND IT'S CLEAR THE APPLE DIDN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE. I'D RATHER DIE MYSELF.



BUT EVEN IF I WERE WILLING TO?

IT WOULDN'T WORK. CROSS DIED UNDER EXTREME STRESS. IN HIS CONDITION, EVEN IF I DID SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPLANT ANOTHER HEART INTO HIM--IT WOULDN'T LAST A FULL MINUTE.

SO, AUGUSTINE? GUNS OR NO GUNS--



I SUGGEST YOU FIND ANOTHER WAY TO WORK OUT YOUR DADDY ISSUES.



HEH, DOCTOR-- I DO ADMIRE YOUR BEDSIDE MANNER. VERY DIRECT.

AND IT'S TRUE--I HAVE OFTEN STRUGGLED WITH THE SHADOW DADDY CAST UPON ME. HIS TRAGIC DEATH HAS HAUNTED ME TO THIS DAY. BUT! I NEVER GAVE UP HOPE. NOT ONCE!



I PLEDGED MYSELF TO BRINGING ABOUT HIS SAFE RETURN--

AND FOR YEARS I SEARCHED FOR A SOLUTION. ASKED MYSELF WHAT WENT WRONG, AND WHAT WE COULD DO BETTER. JUST LIKE HE WOULD'VE.



THEN, ALL AT ONCE, LIKE LIGHTNING--



**SNAP**

IT CAME TO ME!

YOU SEE, DADDY WAS A GREAT MAN. A GIANT, YOU MIGHT SAY. AND YET WE TRIED TO REPLACE HIS HEART--THE ONE THAT PUMPED THE BLOOD OF AN **INDUSTRIALIST LEGEND**-- WITH THOSE OF **DRUG-ADDLED VAGRANTS**?

**HOW REVOLTING!**

NO, INSTEAD, I COMMITTED MYSELF TO FINDING A HEART **WORTHY** OF THE MAN. A HEART FIT FOR A KING. A HEART THAT WOULD NOT FAIL HIM THIS TIME.

WE SEARCHED FAR AND WIDE, AND THANKFULLY-- AH, HERE THEY ARE-- **UNCLE CROSSFIRE, COME IN, PLEASE!**

TERRIFIC NEWS, DOCTOR--

**WE'VE FOUND THE PERFECT DONOR!**

