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VENOM



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YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



POISON-X CONCLUSION

AFTER **CYCLOPS'** FATHER--THE INTERSTELLAR ADVENTURER **CORSAIR**--AND HIS CREW WERE KIDNAPPED BY A GANG OF SYMBIOTE-SUITED MERCENARIES LED BY **KILLER THRILL**, THE **X-MEN** ABDUCTED **VENOM** TO HELP SAVE HIM.

VENOM AND THE **X-MEN** CONFRONTED THE ARMS DEALER **HAZE MANCER**, WHO HAD SOLD THE SYMBIOTES TO **THRILL'S** GANG. IN THE ENSUING STRUGGLE, THE **X-MEN** WERE BONDED TO **KLYNTAR** OF THEIR OWN AND DEFEATED THE SYMBIOTE SLAVER!

USING **MANCER'S** SYMBIOTE TRACER TECH, THE **X-MEN** LOCATED THE **STARJAMMERS** AND LAUNCHED AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON **KILLER THRILL** AND HER GANG. MEANWHILE, AN OLD THREAT, ONE WITH A DANGEROUS INTEREST IN THE **KLYNTAR**, HAS RETURNED. THE **POISONS** HAVE INVADDED THE UNIVERSE...AND **JEAN GREY** AND **KILLER THRILL** WERE THEIR FIRST VICTIMS!

*NOTE: THE EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE AFTER **X-MEN BLUE #22**. IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK.*

CULLEN BUNN
WRITER

EDGAR SALAZAR & ARIO ANINDITO
ARTISTS

ALLEN MARTINEZ
INKER

DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA
COLORIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

WILL ROBSON & MORRY HOLLOWELL
COVER ARTISTS

TOM GRONEMAN ASST. EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR

NICK LOWE EXEC. EDITOR

CHRISTINA HARRINGTON, CHRIS ROBINSON, DARREN SHAN & MARK PANICCIA CONSULTING EDITORS

C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

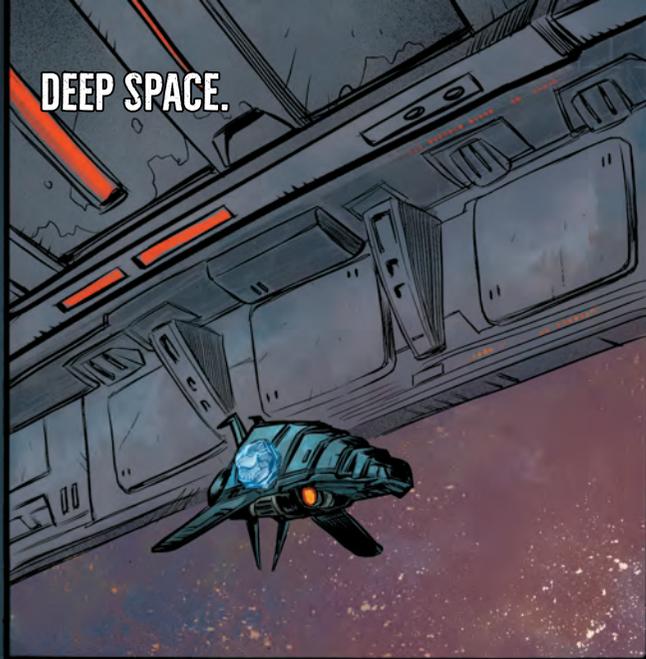
JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER

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DEEP SPACE.



JEAN?
JEAN--
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY CAN'T I HEAR YOU?



SOMETHING'S OFF.
I'D EXPECT THIS SHIP TO BE CRAWLING WITH PIRATES.
PIRATES OTHER THAN US, THAT IS.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, SON?
MAYBE THE OTHER X-MEN CLEANED HOUSE--
NOT NOW, CORSAIR.
CAN YOU NOT SEE?



HE'S WORRIED.



I'M SORRY, SCOTT.
THE BEST OF FATHERS MESS UP SOMETIMES, AND I'M FAR FROM THE BEST. I SAY STUPID THINGS MORE OFTEN THAN I'D LIKE.
BUT JEAN, SHE'S AS TOUGH AS THEY COME.



"I'M SURE SHE'S FINE."

I'VE KNOWN THE X-MEN A LONG TIME.

THERE'S NO SENSE IN TRYING TO TALK TO THEM.

THEY WILL NOT WILLINGLY ACCEPT WHAT WE ARE OFFERING.



IS THAT... JEAN?

NO, KID. NO, IT'S NOT. NOT ANYMORE.



SHE'S A POISON NOW.

EDDIE AND I FACED POISONS BEFORE.

THEY TERRIFY US.



A...POISON? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THOSE SYMBIOTES WHEN I TOLD YOU TO.

IT MEANS WE'RE SCREWED-- ROYALLY.

IT MEANS WE SHOULD BE RUNNING.



TAKE THEM.



WHATEVER YOU DO--

--DON'T LET THE LITTLE ONES TOUCH YOU!

PERFECT HOSTS...BUT HOSTS THAT KILL.



CONSUME OUR OTHERS...

...AND TURN US INTO WEAPONS.

ONE TOUCH IS ALL IT TAKES!

THEY'LL ABSORB YOUR SYMBIOTE...EAT IT... AND THEY'LL EAT YOU WITH IT!

DOES THAT MEAN JEAN--



JEAN!



YOU CAN'T STOP US, MY TERRIFIED LITTLE FREEZE-POP.

THOSE SYMBIOTES OF YOURS ARE MEANT TO BE WITH US!

YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH--



--AND SO WILL MY CREW!

GET THIS THING AWAY FROM ME!

GET IT A--



WAAEERGH!



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH JEAN?

LET HER GO!

LET HER GO OR I SWEAR--



CAREFUL, FLYBOY!

RETRACT THOSE WINGS OF YOURS!

YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF AN EASY TARGET!

WE MAKE THE POISONS STRONG.

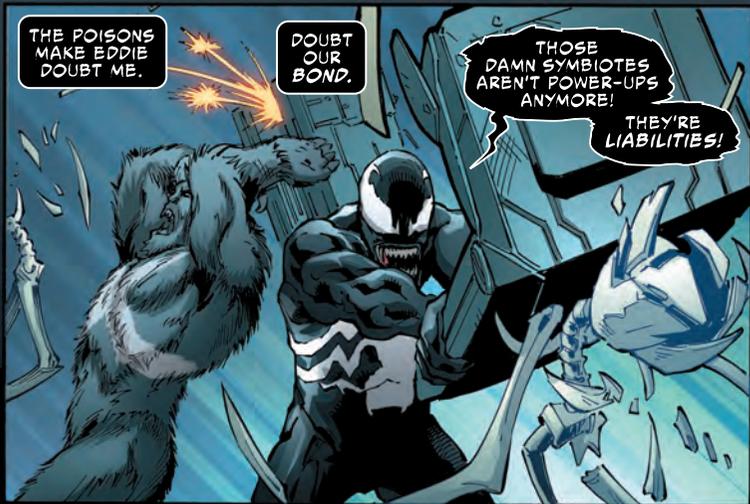


IN RETURN, THEY SILENCE US.



IF... ..IF I CAN'T USE MY WINGS...

...WHAT GOOD AM I?



THE POISONS MAKE EDDIE DOUBT ME.

DOUBT OUR BOND.

THOSE DAMN SYMBIOTES AREN'T POWER-UPS ANYMORE!

THEY'RE LIABILITIES!



FOR NOW, MAYBE.

BUT ONCE WE'VE TAKEN YOUR SYMBIOTES...ONCE THE METASTASIZATION IS COMPLETE...

...YOU'LL BE PURGED OF ALL WEAKNESS.

YOU'LL BE MADE PERFECT.



UNNH!
SHE'S GRABBED US IN A TK FIELD!
CAN'T BREAK FREE!

CAN'T BREAK FREE!

FREEDOM IS AN AWFUL LIE. YOU'LL SEE WHEN YOU JOIN THE HIVE.



THIS IS BAD, RIGHT?

I MEAN, THIS IS JUST ABOUT AS BAD AS IT GETS, ISN'T IT?



ZRAAAAANK