

Meanwhile, in the future...

Curse you, Squirrel Girl!

Curse me? You're the one going around trying to **conscript** people into your **personal army** so you can take over what's **left** of the world, Iron Monger 2000!

Wait, is that where you got your name From? Because you want 2000 people in your army?

I mean, it can't be because it sounds Futuristic. The year 2000 was over **half a century** ago, lady.

**Silence!** You'd already be out of the equation if it weren't for your infernal **squirrels**, who--

<Oh, I know you did not just trash-talk me.>\*

\*Triangle brackets indicate Squirrelese (Northeastern variant)!

<Or all my other Friends here, who have decided to keep Fighting For truth, justice, and the postapocalyptic but still basically decent way.>

Oh, you're in for it now, Iron Monger 2k. You've cheesed off Tippy and her squirrelFriends.

"Cheesed off"? I'll show you cheesed off, you blathering old--

**CHOOM!**  
...What?

Howdy. We've never met.

I'm Kang the Conqueror.

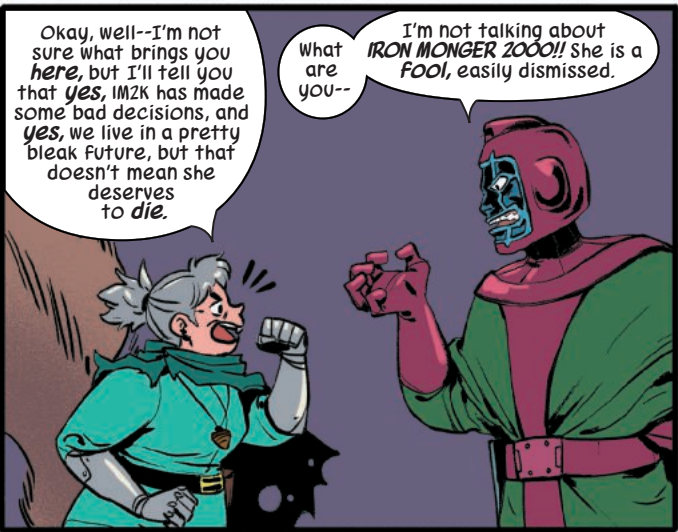
Time to die.





Waaaaaait a sec-- "Kang"? You're that crazy murderous time-traveling warlord guy, right? With the armor from the 41st century that gives you all these powers and zero weaknesses?

In the flesh.



Okay, well--I'm not sure what brings you here, but I'll tell you that *yes*, IM2K has made some bad decisions, and *yes*, we live in a pretty bleak future, but that doesn't mean she deserves to die.

What are you-- I'm not talking about IRON MONGER 2000!! She is a FOOL, easily dismissed.



She hasn't earned a death by my hand. I'm talking about you, Squirrel Girl.

You're the one who dies today.

No, don't--

PWWEEEEEE



YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME! I MONGER IR0000NNNNNNNN!!!

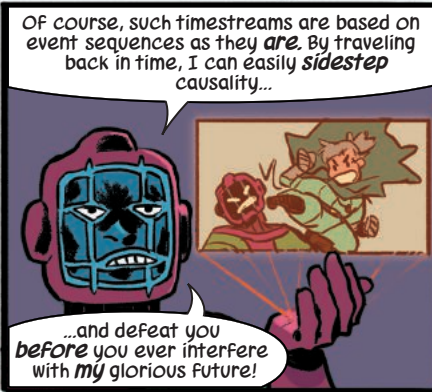
Wait, you've traveled through time to kill me? Today? Right now?

But-- why??

KOHOO

Because I observe timestreams, Squirrel Girl.

I know where the future is going. And everything's begun to coalesce in my defeat at the hands of some *old lady* I've never met: you.



Of course, such timestreams are based on event sequences as they are. By traveling back in time, I can easily sidestep causality...

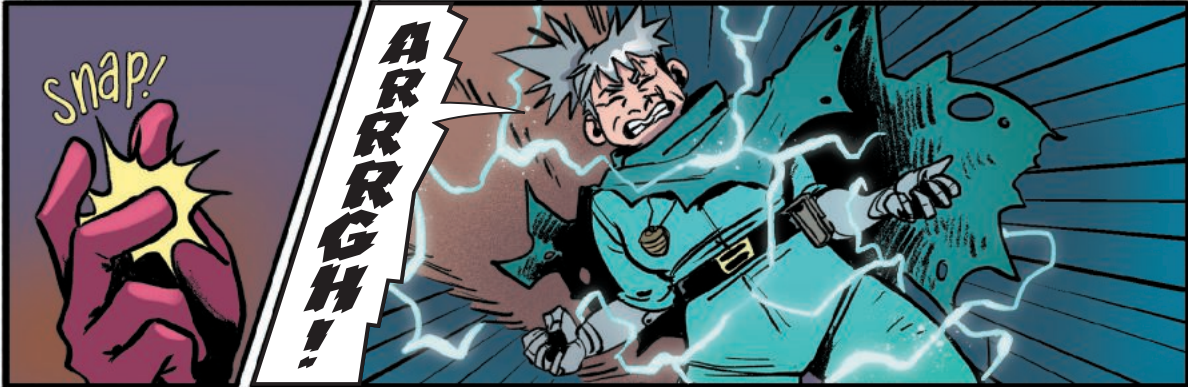
...and defeat you before you ever interfere with my glorious future!



May want to reconsider here, Kang. I've suffered setbacks, but I didn't get to my age by being the *Quite Extremely Beatable* Squirrel Girl!

To be fair, I did honestly think beating you would be harder. But then again...

...I also honestly thought you'd be smart enough to check your utility belt for booby traps this morning.



Snap!

ARRRRGH!



Meanwhile, in the present...

Thanks for helping me and Nancy on patrol, Brian!

Yeah, it was great to hang out a bit more.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE

THOUGH OF COURSE, THE FACT THAT I *DID* DERIVE PLEASURE FROM IT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE ALLEGED "SELFLESSNESS" OF IT, OR INDEED, ANY ACT OF KINDNESS, WHICH IN TURN UNDERMINES THE VERY CONCEPT OF GENEROSITY AND VIRTU--

Hold that thought. Someone's *skulking* around in that construction site!

I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING

Squirrel abilities-- got me some peripheral vision that's just as sharp and clear as my direct gaze. Okay, our skulker's faking something off his belt, and he's--

SHOOOM

--and he's gone?!

Let's move out!

INVESTIGATION MODE ENABLED

I hear that, buddy.

KRASH!

I AM NOT GOING TO SUMMARIZE THE PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATE OVER WHETHER OR NOT TRUE ALTRUISM EXISTS, AND HONESTLY, THE FACT THAT I'M SPARING YOU THAT IS SOME GRADE-A TRUE ALTRUISM RIGHT THERE



THE SCANNERS I HAVE BUILT INTO MY HANDS-- BECAUSE I AM AN ADULT WHO CAN MAKE HIS OWN CHOICES ABOUT HIS BODY--INDICATE THESE BEAMS HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED AND WILL EVENTUALLY SUFFER CATASTROPHIC COLLAPSE

AND A PATIENT ONE: I ESTIMATE THESE BEAMS, WHILE DAMAGED, WILL STILL STAND FOR FORTY OR MORE YEARS BEFORE FAILING

That guy was a **building saboteur?**

Weird. Are these ones here okay?

THEY ARE UNDAMAGED

Okay. Well, with these plans it should be an easy fix.

You got a welder finger in there, buddy?

ONE OF MY OTHER FINGERS IS CAPABLE OF REACHING TEMPERATURES EXCEEDING 1800 DEGREES CENTIGRADE

SO THAT IS A HARD YES FROM ME

I don't understand-- why make a building collapse decades down the road?

WELL, THE STANFORD MARSHMALLOW EXPERIMENT SUGGESTED DELAYED GRATIFICATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH--

GHOOOOM

You! I should've known it'd be YOU, Squirrel Girl, who'd force me to return to this time!

I'm sorry? I have absolutely no idea who you are!

Oh, you will. You will very shortly have reason to lament the name of

**KANG the CONQUEROR!**

'Kay, one sec. Let's see... Kaecilius, Kala, Kaluu, Kamikaze, Kangaroo... wait, there you are!

Kang the Conqueror!

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**KANG THE CONQUEROR**

- Okay so this guy's history is INCREDIBLY COMPLICATED but basically he's a time-traveler from the future who has time-traveled so much that there's several different versions of him running around history at any given point in, uh, time!

- He has also, or will also, or may currently be also going under the following names: Iron Lad, Immortus, Kid Immortus, The Scarlet Centurion, Rama-Tut, Victor Timely, John Titor, D. Esperate Times, and MORE??

- Anyway: dude is a fearless, determined warlord who has conquered huge areas of time. Despite having no inherent super-powers, his armor and technology is taken from the 41st century and makes him effectively invincible, so good luck kicking this guy!!

MAYBE HE'S A FUTURE DESCENDANT OF DOCTOR DOOM? OR MAYBE HE'S A FUTURE DESCENDANT OF REED RICHARDS? IT DOESN'T SUPER MATTER BECAUSE, AS WE ALL KNOW, WE ARE NOT DEFINED BY WHO OUR PARENTS ARE!!

Every time someone adds "the EX3" after their name ("Kang the Conqueror," "Alexander the Great") it always implies there's someone out there, with the same name who they keep being confused for and who they'd really like to distinguish themselves from. So, shout out to Kang the Dental Hygienist, keep on keeping on!



Meanwhile,  
in the  
past...

...pretty sure  
we just found  
the source of that  
bright Flash you  
saw coming out  
of the sewer,  
Monkey Joe.

<Come on, I've  
done some light bomb  
defusal before. Use your  
knuckle spike to cut  
the red wires!>

TICK  
TICK  
TICK

<And while we're  
at it, can I just say: Your  
parents are going to be *so mad*  
at me. I get them to take me along  
on their NYC business trip, and the  
first thing that happens is I lead  
their 10-year-old kid  
into a *sewer!*>

TICK  
TICK

We're a  
*crimefighting*  
team now, MJ!  
We go wherever  
*crime* takes  
us!

Though I do admit I was  
hoping our mission would be  
more *glamorous*. I thought  
we might bump into a *bank*  
robber when we walked  
around the block!

Oooh, or a  
*Magneto!*

I'd be all, "Stop doing crimes,  
criminal! Because I'm here  
to *fight crime* and...and...  
and have a good time!"

<...We'll  
work on  
that catch-  
phrase.>

And *that*, ladies and  
gentlemen, is how *Monkey*  
*Joe* and *Squirrel Girl*  
successfully completed  
their first *New York City*  
super hero mission!

<And the  
crowd goes  
wild!!>

Don't rush  
home so quickly,  
*Squirrel Girl*. We  
have much to  
discuss.

And I  
don't know  
about  
you...

Okay,  
let's head  
up above-  
ground! I  
can't wait  
to tell Mom  
and Dad  
how!

Anyway, I'm not  
complaining. This is good  
too, MJ! We're probably  
stopping a *mad bomber!*

...but  
I've got  
some time  
to kill.





Who-- who are you?

Kang the Conqueror.

That doesn't sound like a good guy name.

Oh, it's not.



I dominate *worlds*, entire *strata* of time. And while I prefer to defeat my foes when they are more capable of defending themselves, seeing as *you've* been such a pain as both an old lady *and* a sassy 20-something...



...well, no time like the present.



AAAAHHHHH!



<Monkey Joe, he's like a Future murder man and he's really gonna kill us! He's not fooling around!! He's really gonna do it, MJ!!>

<Doreen, calm down!>

<How can I calm down?! He's gonna kill us and nobody's ever gonna find us and we're definitely gonna die!!>

You're-- squeaking? You expect squeaking to save you?



It won't save you. Nothing can save--

<Doreen, listen to me. Heroes get scared too, okay? Captain America gets scared. Iron Man gets scared.>

<But what makes them heroes is they don't give in to that fear. They don't let it control them.>

<They let themselves feel it, they remember what it's like...>



<...and then they do what they can to ensure that *nobody* has to feel that way again!!>

--you!!

How is Monkey Joe always the best? If is a mystery. All we know is this: Monkey Joe is *always* the best.