



LUKE CAGE

RATED **T+**
DIRECT EDITION

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WALKER
BLAKE
MENYZ



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

Luke Cage came to New Orleans for the funeral of Noah Burstein, the man who gave Luke his unbreakable skin. However, Burstein's death was faked and he was being held captive by Cyril Morgan, who was looking to profit off the dangerous experiments Burstein was conducting that saved the life of his son, Caleb, but gave him violent outbursts only held at bay through regular medication.

Overcome with guilt, Caleb freed Burstein, who escaped to one of his old labs, where Luke, Burstein's assistant Dr. Mornay, and an injured Mitchel Tanner (A.K.A. Warhawk), one of his original test subjects, were shocked to see him alive. Before the shock could wear off, the Ninth Ward Mafia (a gang led by KevLar that was also experimented on by Dr. Burstein and hired by Cyril Morgan to kill Cage and Warhawk) and a group of mercenaries hired by Morgan's shady business associates both descended on the lab. Burstein, Mornay, and Warhawk escaped, leaving Luke to face the deadly and increasingly unhinged KevLar.

David F. Walker
Writer

Nelson Blake II
Artist

Marcio Menyz
Color Artist

VC's Joe Sabino
Letterer

Rahzzah
Cover Artist

Kathleen Wisneski
Assistant Editor

Jake Thomas
Editor

Axel Alonso
Editor in Chief

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley
President

Alan Fine
Executive Producer

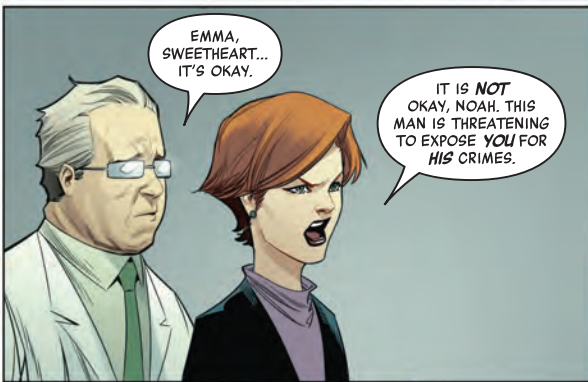
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MIKE DEODATO
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**MORGAN RESIDENCE.
LESS THAN A MONTH AGO.**

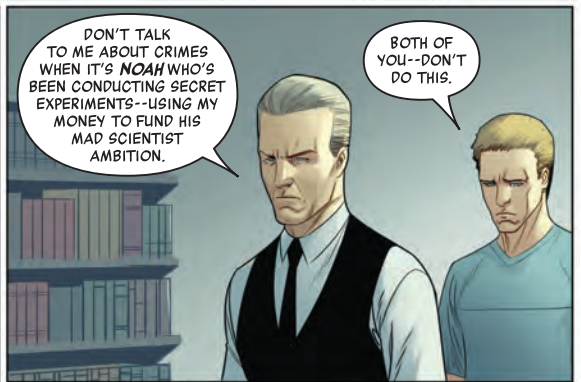


HOW DARE YOU TALK TO MY HUSBAND THIS WAY? AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR YOU--FOR YOUR SON--YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO THREATEN HIM? TO THREATEN US?



EMMA, SWEETHEART... IT'S OKAY.

IT IS **NOT** OKAY, NOAH. THIS MAN IS THREATENING TO EXPOSE YOU FOR HIS CRIMES.



DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT CRIMES WHEN IT'S NOAH WHO'S BEEN CONDUCTING SECRET EXPERIMENTS--USING MY MONEY TO FUND HIS MAD SCIENTIST AMBITION.

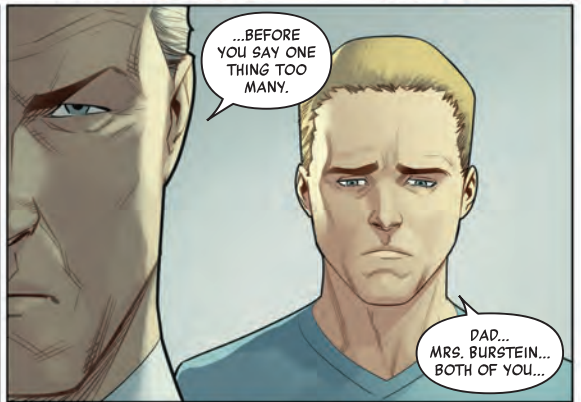
BOTH OF YOU--DON'T DO THIS.



NOAH IS SAVING LIVES-- MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. YOU'RE THE ONE TRYING TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM ALL OF HIS RESEARCH.

WHAT WOULD THE **AUTHORITIES** SAY ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN ALL THIS? ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION WITH THAT MOBSTER, CORELLO?

STOP RIGHT THERE...



...BEFORE YOU SAY ONE THING TOO MANY.

DAD... MRS. BURSTEIN... BOTH OF YOU...



...PLEASE... JUST... **STOP!**

now.

KEVIN LARSEN--KNOWN ON THE STREETS AS KEVLAR. HE'S ONE OF WHO-KNOWS-HOW-MANY PEOPLE BURSTEIN HAS EXPERIMENTED ON.

ONLY HE'S NOT LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.



HE'S STRONGER THAN THEM...

...STRONGER THAN ME. THE EXPERIMENTAL BLADES THAT SLICED ME UP HAVE NO EFFECT ON HIM.

YOU WANNA TEST ME, CAGE?!



I JUST HOPE...WELL...

...I HOPE HE'S NOT AS CRAZY AS ALL THE OTHERS.

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.



...JUST TAKE IT EASY FOR A MINUTE.

TAKE IT EASY?

AIN'T NOTHIN' TO TAKE EASY.



NO, MAN-- NOT LOOKING TO TEST YOU. THAT'S THE LAST THING I WANNA DO.

MAYBE WE JUST...YOU KNOW...COOL OUT A BIT.

BOTH OF US...





HE'S A KID--NOT EVEN TWENTY.

YOU SEE WHAT I JUST DID?

YOU SEE ALL THESE FOOLS I JUST KILLED?



AND I SEE IT--HIM COMING DOWN OFF THE ADRENALINE RUSH OF BATTLE.

I SAW.



HE'S NOT A CRAZED KILLER.

I...



AT LEAST HE WASN'T.

I AIN'T...



NOW HE IS.

...NEVER KILLED ANYONE BEFORE.



NEVER KILLED ANYONE.



KEVIN... I'MMA CALL YOU KEVIN, COOL?

YOU'RE DEALIN' WITH SOME PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW, BUT I AIN'T ONE OF THEM.



KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL NOBODY. HE WANTED US TO KILL YOU, BUT WE WASN'T GONNA DO IT.



WHO WANTED YOU TO KILL ME?

MR. FILTHY-RICH-MONEYBAGS--CYRIL MORGAN.



MORGAN SENT US. SAID HE NEEDED OUR HELP CLEANING UP THE MESS CORELLO MADE.

MORGAN AND CORELLO WERE IN BUSINESS TOGETHER?

THEY WERE, 'TIL THINGS WENT BAD.



WE..WASN'T GONNA KILL YOU.

I JUST NEEDED MORE OF THAT MEDICINE FOR MY CREW-- THE NEURO-STABILIZER.

GOTTA LOOK OUT FOR THE CREW.



IT'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

NO, IT AIN'T.

THEY'RE ALL DEAD-- ALL MY BOYS.



AIN'T A DAMN THING GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.