

MARVEL

3

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HISTORY OF THE **MARVEL** UNIVERSE



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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

At the end of existence, Franklin Richards asked Galactus to tell him the story of their universe as they wait for its heat death. Galactus began with the first stirrings of life and left off with the fateful space mission that would result in the formation of the Fantastic Four. Now, the story continues...

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ON AN ILL-FATED SPACE MISSION, FOUR ASTRONAUTS--**BEN GRIMM**, **REED RICHARDS**, REED'S FIANCEE, **SUSAN STORM**, AND HER BROTHER, **JOHNNY STORM**--WERE BOMBARDED BY COSMIC RAYS FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR THE SHIELDS ON RICHARDS' SHIP TO WITHSTAND.

THEIR BODIES CHANGED DRASTICALLY, GIVING THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS AND ABILITIES.

REED RICHARDS:
MR. FANTASTIC.

JOHNNY STORM:
THE HUMAN TORCH.

SUSAN STORM:
THE INVISIBLE GIRL.

RICHARDS, GUILTY OVER HOW HE'D ALTERED HIS FRIENDS' LIVES, REFUSED TO LET THEM BE FEARED BY THE WORLD AS FREAKS. INSTEAD, HE TURNED THEM INTO A GROUP OF SUPER HEROES IN COLORFUL COSTUMES WHO EMBRACED A LIFE OF CELEBRITY AND GLAMOUR.

BEN GRIMM:
THE THING.

TOGETHER, THEY HERALDED A NEW AGE OF HEROES AS THE **FANTASTIC FOUR.**





ON A SOUTHWESTERN TEST SITE, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST **BRUCE BANNER** WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF HIS GAMMA BOMB.



IN NEW YORK, JOHNNY STORM DISCOVERED AND REAWAKENED **NAMOR**, WHO HAD BEEN WANDERING THE EARTH IN AN AMNESIAC STATE FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS FATHER'S.



NAMOR, SUFFERING FROM A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE AFTER YEARS AS A LAND DWELLER, WAS NO LONGER AN AMERICAN ALLY.



REUNITING WITH THE ATLANTEAN RACE, HE ONCE AGAIN DECLARED AN ONGOING WAR ON THE SURFACE WORLD.



BLAMING HIS FORMER COLLEGE COLLEAGUE FOR AN ACCIDENT THAT SCARRED HIS FACE, **VICTOR VON DOOM** SWORE VENGEANCE ON **RICHARDS'** FANTASTIC FOUR.



HIS HIGH-TECH ARMOR WITH ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART DEFENSES QUICKLY MADE HIM THEIR MOST FORMIDABLE FOE--**DOCTOR DOOM**.



CLACK CLACK

AS THE RADIATION SETTLED IN HIS SYSTEM, BANNER'S BODY WOULD RESPOND TO STRESS BY TRANSFORMING INTO THE **HULK**, A RAGING BEHEMOTH WHOSE LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE WAS CONTINUALLY IN FLUX BUT WHOSE STRENGTH FOLLOWED ONE RULE: THE Madder HULK GOT, THE STRONGER HE GOT.

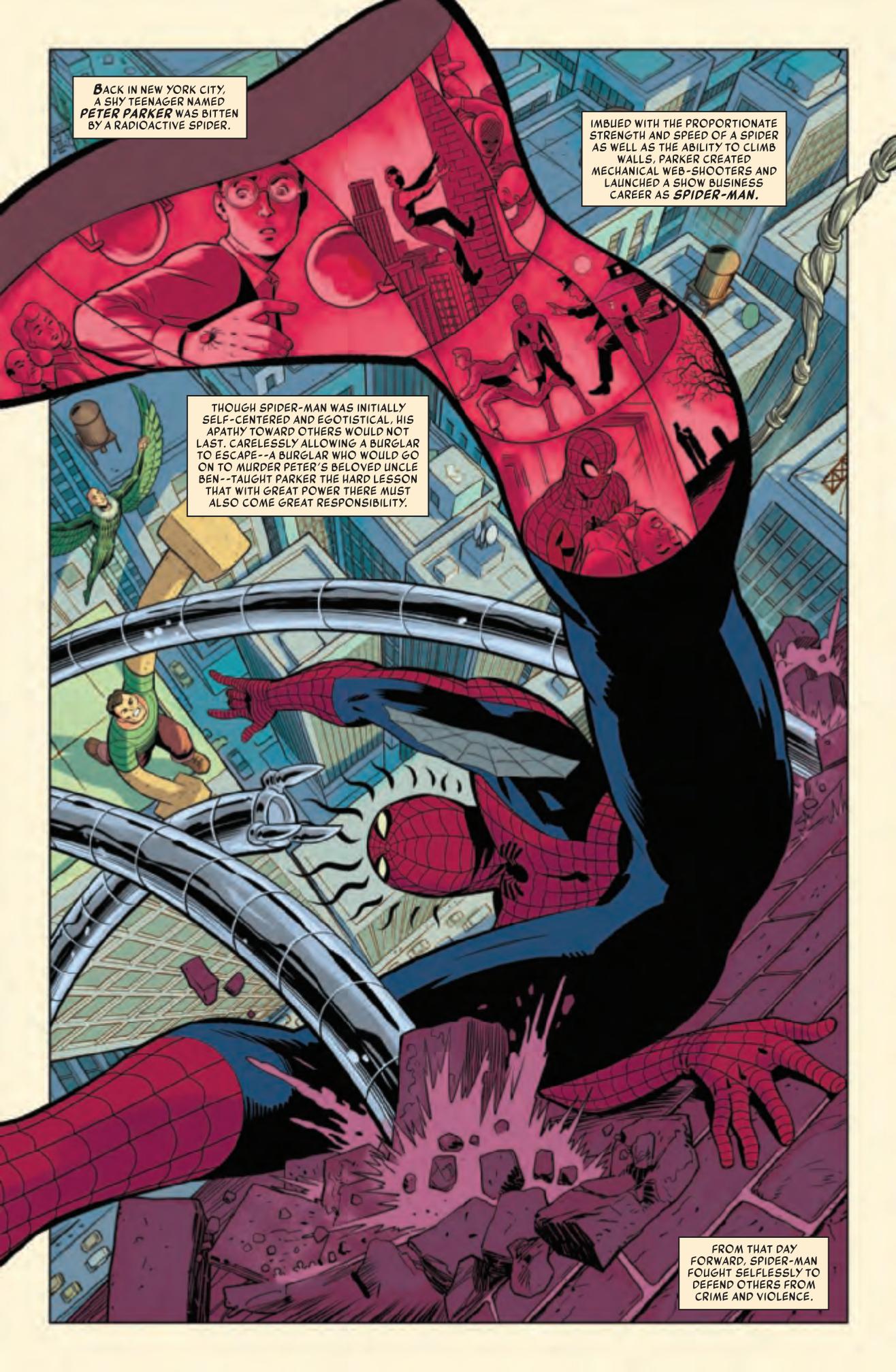
AFTER AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH ECCENTRIC SCIENTIST **HANK PYM** EXPOSED HIMSELF TO HIS OWN SHRINKING POTION, HE WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE USE OF HIS SIZE-CHANGING EXPERIMENTS.

BY COMBINING HIS "**PYM PARTICLES**" WITH A HELMET THAT ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANTS, HE BECAME KNOWN AS **ANT-MAN**.

LIKE NAMOR, DOOM WAS THE RULER OF HIS OWN KINGDOM: **LATVERIA**, A SMALL BALKAN NATION.

GRANTED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY BY HIS THRONE, DOOM USED LATVERIA AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER THE WORLD.





BACK IN NEW YORK CITY, A SHY TEENAGER NAMED PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.

IMBUED WITH THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND SPEED OF A SPIDER AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO CLIMB WALLS, PARKER CREATED MECHANICAL WEB-SHOOTERS AND LAUNCHED A SHOW BUSINESS CAREER AS SPIDER-MAN.

THOUGH SPIDER-MAN WAS INITIALLY SELF-CENTERED AND EGOTISTICAL, HIS APATHY TOWARD OTHERS WOULD NOT LAST. CARELESSLY ALLOWING A BURGLAR TO ESCAPE--A BURGLAR WHO WOULD GO ON TO MURDER PETER'S BELOVED UNCLE BEN--TAUGHT PARKER THE HARD LESSON THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, SPIDER-MAN FOUGHT SELFLESSLY TO DEFEND OTHERS FROM CRIME AND VIOLENCE.