

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

MARVEL

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MARK WAID
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WITH ÁLVARO LÓPEZ

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 ended with the birth of the mutant who would become Wolverine. And now the story continues...

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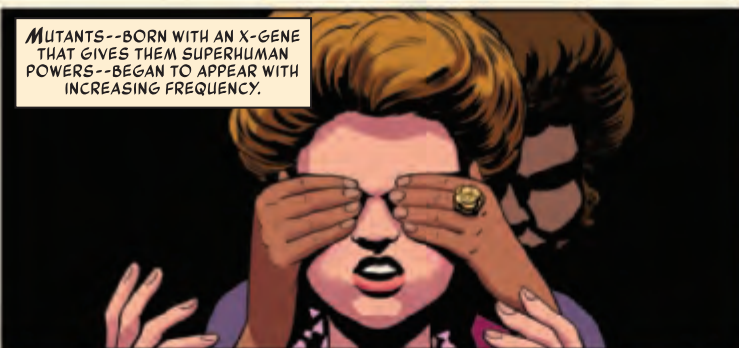
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MUTANTS--BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GIVES THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS--BEGAN TO APPEAR WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY.




TWO MUTANTS, AN AUSTRIAN PRECOGNITIVE NAMED **IRENE ADLER** AND THE SHAPE-SHIFTING **RAVEN DARKHOLME**, EMBARKED UPON A QUEST FOR WEALTH AND INFLUENCE UNDER THE NAMES **DESTINY** AND **MYSTIQUE**.



IN LONDON, A MYSTERIOUS BAND OF HUMAN SOLDIERS WITH STRANGE HIGH-TECH WEAPONS CAME TOGETHER TO REPEL A MARTIAN INVASION. ONE SURVIVOR, **EBEN STAFFORD**, DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO DEFENDING THE EARTH.

REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS "**THE MAN ON THE WALL**," STAFFORD WOULD PASS THE ROLE TO OTHERS IN THE YEARS TO COME.





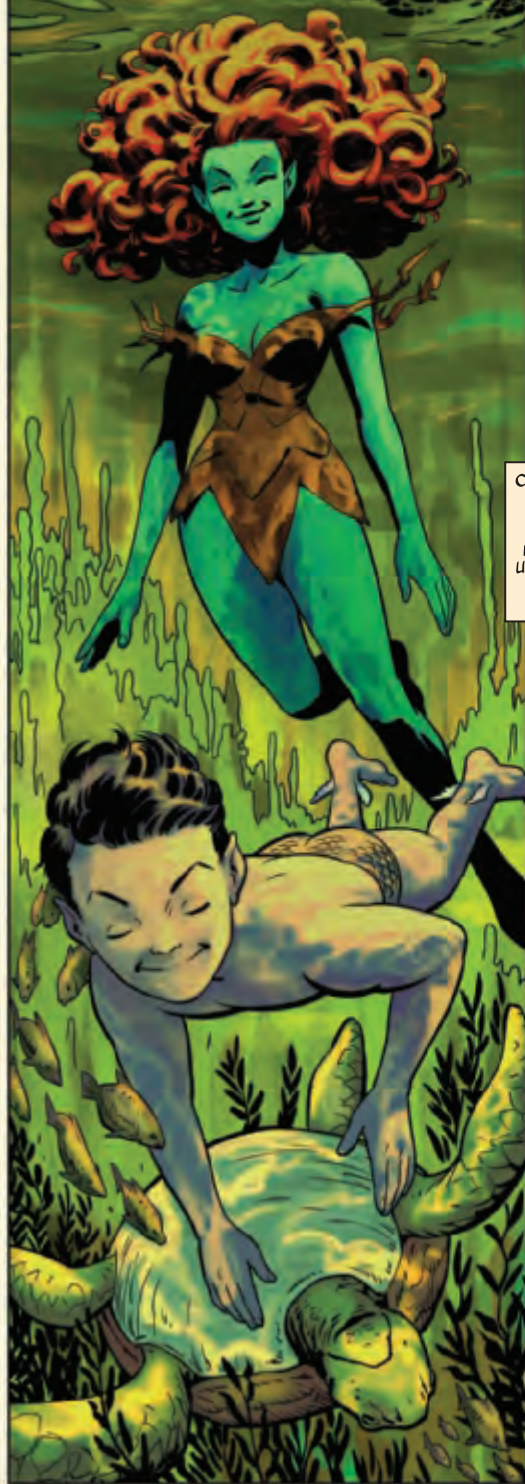
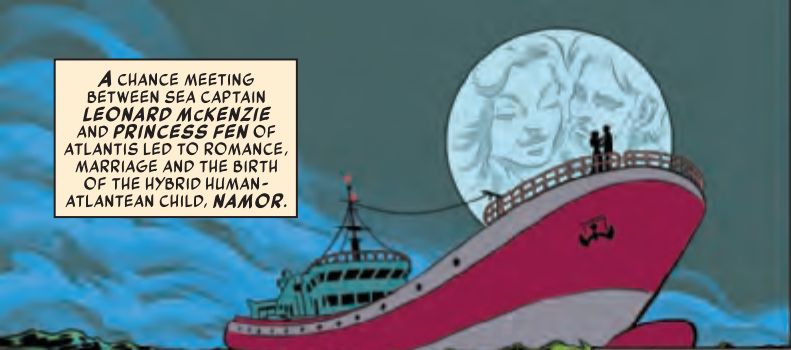
ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER LEGACY WAS CONTINUED WHEN AN ENGLISH COUPLE, THE RANDALLS, INADVERTENTLY DISCOVERED THE ANCIENT MYSTIC CITY OF K'UN-LUN DURING ONE OF ITS PERIODIC APPEARANCES ON THE EARTHLY PLANE.

THEIR SON, **ORSON RANDALL**, ADOPTED THE WAYS OF K'UN-LUN, DEFEATED THE DRAGON **SHOU-LAO** AND ABSORBED SOME OF ITS POWER, BECOMING THE FIRST **IRON FIST** OF THE MODERN AGE.

OTHER HEROES ROSE UNDER THE THREAT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AS **UNION JACK**, **JAMES MONTGOMERY FALSWORTH** BATTLED THE GERMANS ALONGSIDE THE **CRIMSON CAVALIER**, **SIR STEEL** AND THE **SILVER SQUIRE** AND THE **PHANTOM EAGLE**--**FREEDOM'S FIVE**. **IRON FIST** WOULD LATER JOIN THEIR RANKS.

BEHIND ENEMY LINES, AMERICA'S FIRST SUPER-SOLDIER, **JOHN STEELE**, WAS CAPTURED AND PLACED IN STASIS SO THAT GERMAN SCIENTISTS--AMONG THEM, THE CONSCRIPTED JEWISH DOCTOR **ABRAHAM ERSKINE**--MIGHT STUDY HIS INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL PROWESS.

A CHANCE MEETING
BETWEEN SEA CAPTAIN
LEONARD MCKENZIE
AND **PRINCESS FEN** OF
ATLANTIS LED TO ROMANCE,
MARRIAGE AND THE BIRTH
OF THE HYBRID HUMAN-
ATLANTEAN CHILD, **NAMOR**.




ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK, A SICKLY CHILD NAMED **STEVE ROGERS** WAS BORN ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, A DATE FORESHADOWING THE JOURNEY UPON WHICH HIS INNATE COURAGE AND HATRED OF BULLIES WOULD LATER TAKE HIM.



VAMPIRE **DEACON FROST** FEASTED ON A PREGNANT WOMAN, INFUSING HER CHILD WITH ENZYMES THAT TRANSFORMED **ERIC BROOKS** INTO THE HALF HUMAN, HALF VAMPIRE **BLADE**.





INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF **NATHANIEL ESSEX**, GENETICIST **HERBERT WYNDHAM** ESTABLISHED A LAB IN TRANSIA ON **WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN**. A SELF-DESCRIBED VISIONARY, WYNDHAM CROWNED HIMSELF THE **HIGH EVOLUTIONARY**, CREATING A NEW CIVILIZATION BY TRANSFORMING ANIMALS INTO HUMAN FORMS HE CALLED **NEW MEN**.

ADVENTURERS AND VIGILANTES CONTINUED TO JOIN FORCES. **IRON FIST** LED THE SHORT-LIVED **CONFEDERATES OF THE CURIOUS** AGAINST SUPERNATURAL THREATS, WHILE THE EAST COAST-BASED **MYSTERY MEN** BATTLED CONSPIRACY AND MYSTIC EVIL.

