

DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

THE DEFENDERS

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THE DEFENDERS

MY NAME IS BEN URICH.

I AM AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE*.

I USED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH EX-SUPER HERO PRIVATE EYE JESSICA JONES.

WE WORKED ON A SPECIAL PART OF THE NEWSPAPER CALLED *THE PULSE* THAT FOCUSED ON THE SUPER-POWERED STORIES OF THE WORLD.

NOT THE GOSSIP, THE *STORIES*.

THE REAL STORIES AND HOW THEY ARE AFFECTING THE *REAL PEOPLE* OF THIS CITY.

HERE'S WHAT I KNOW.

DIAMONDBACK, A ONETIME LOW-RENT HOODRAT FROM HARLEM, IS BACK FROM THE DEAD AND ANGLING TO BE "KINGPIN OF THE CITY."

ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WILSON FISK, THE UNDISPUTED KINGPIN OF THE CITY, HAS BAILED ON THE TITLE TO MAKE A PLAY FOR A *LEGITIMATE* LIFESTYLE.

DIAMONDBACK TARGETED DAREDEVIL, IRON FIST, LUKE CAGE AND EVEN JESSICA JONES IN A SHOW OF STRENGTH AS HE BUILDS HIS NEW EMPIRE.

BUT IT'S LUKE CAGE, WHO HAS A REAL HISTORY WITH DIAMONDBACK, WHO TRACKS HIM DOWN FIRST. LUKE CAGE HAS UNBREAKABLE SKIN, SO DIAMONDBACK POISONED HIM.

AND HE DID IT RIGHT *IN FRONT* OF THE BLACK CAT, ANOTHER MAJOR CRIME FIGURE.

HE LEFT LUKE CAGE TO DIE.

WHILE THE OTHERS WERE TRYING TO CHASE DOWN DIAMONDBACK FOR WHAT HE DID, *THE PUNISHER* AMBUSHED AND SHOT THEM ALL.

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.

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PATRICE O'NEAL.

MY MAN.

NEVER HEARD HIM? GREAT COMEDIAN.

AS UNDERRATED AS IT GETS. PATRICE O'NEAL.

THE BROTHER DID NOT GIVE ANY EFFS ABOUT ANYTHING OR ANYONE.

HE GOT ME THINKING.

HE SAID THAT WE BLACK PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY FORGIVE SLAVERY IF SLAVERY HAD, LIKE, A FACE TO IT.

LIKE THE HOLOCAUST HAD HITLER.

SO NOW PEOPLE--THEY CAN JUST FOCUS THEIR HOLOCAUST ANGER AT HITLER.

BUT WHAT DO WE HAVE?



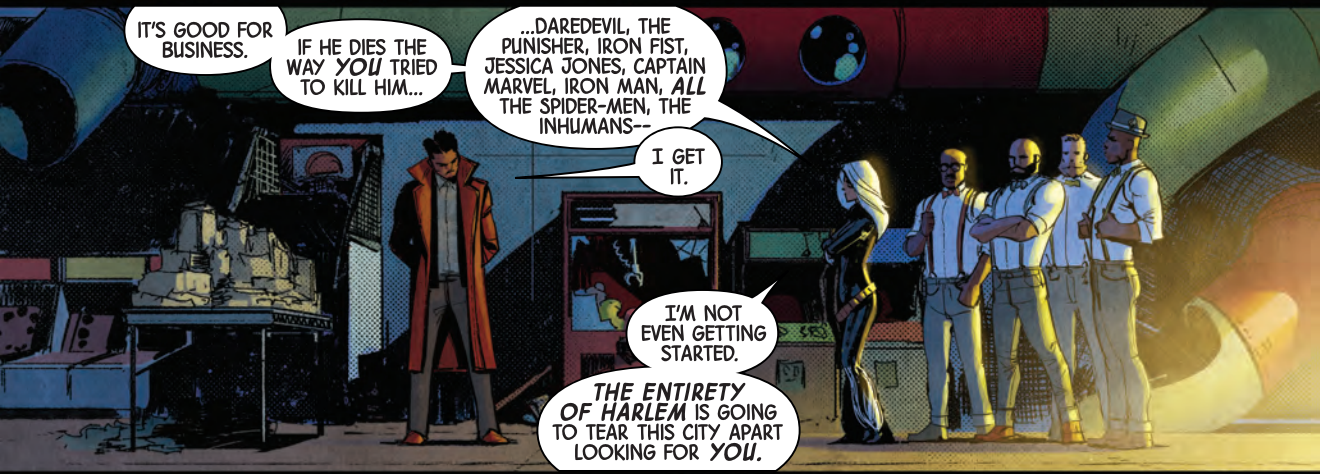
DIAMONDBACK, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DID YOU SAVE LUKE CAGE'S LIFE?

YES.

BLACK CAT.

EXPLAIN THAT ONE.



IT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

IF HE DIES THE WAY YOU TRIED TO KILL HIM...

...DAREDEVIL, THE PUNISHER, IRON FIST, JESSICA JONES, CAPTAIN MARVEL, IRON MAN, ALL THE SPIDER-MEN, THE INHUMANS--

I GET IT.

I'M NOT EVEN GETTING STARTED.

THE ENTIRETY OF HARLEM IS GOING TO TEAR THIS CITY APART LOOKING FOR YOU.



I THINK YOU HAVE AN INFLATED SENSE OF LUKE CAGE'S STREET CRED.



UH-HUH.



YOU COME HERE TO SHOW ME YOU AIN'T SCARED A/ME.

IT SHOWS ME...YOU'RE TOO SCARED NOT TO.







OR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.

BABY, I AM FIVE STEPS AHEAD AND YOU JUST CAN'T SEE THE MOVES...

THE OTHER REASON I DIDN'T LET YOU KILL LUKE CAGE IS HE'S A GOOD MAN.



I DON'T MIND TEARING SOMEONE'S HEART OUT IF THEY STAND BETWEEN ME AND MINE.

BUT A GUY LIKE HIM DESERVES BETTER THAN A GUY LIKE YOU.



YOU KEEP THIS UP, KITTY CAT...

...I DON'T SEE THIS ENDING WELL.



WELL, YOU'RE FIVE STEPS AHEAD OF ME--



--DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

