

# LUKE CAGE

WALKER · BLAKE · MENYZ



003

**MARVEL**

BONUS

**DIGITAL  
CONTENT**

see inside for details

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# POWER MAN GO HOME





POWER - STRENGTH

# LUKE CAGE

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003 | VARIANT  
EDITION

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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.

In New Orleans for the funeral of Dr. Burstein, who gave Luke his powers, Luke met Cyril Morgan, a man whose son's disease had been cured by Burstein. Leaving Morgan's mansion, Luke was attacked by a man with a sword that pierced his skin, then rescued by Burstein's first test subject, Mitchell Tanner (A.K.A. Warhawk). Warhawk introduced Luke to more recipients of the Burstein Process, all with powers like Luke's plus a side effect: mania that must be suppressed with medication. Meanwhile, Burstein's assistant, Dr. Lenore Mornay, was kidnapped by crime boss Mateo Corello, who wanted her to re-create the medication for his son, another Burstein test subject. But she failed. Frankie Corello killed his father, and Lenore's next if Luke can't save her in time.



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**NEW ORLEANS,  
MONTHS AGO.**

I GET  
CONFUSED  
SOMETIMES. I  
CAN'T...WHAT'S  
THE WORD...  
FOCUS.

BUT I GET  
ANGRY...THEN I  
CAN FOCUS.

NO  
CONFUSION.  
JUST ANGER.

THAT'S WHEN  
I KILL. IT'S THE ONLY  
TIME I'M NOT CONFUSED--  
THE ONLY TIME I HAVE A  
SENSE OF...NOT FOCUS...  
WHAT'S THE WORD?

CERTAINTY.

LET ME ASK  
YOU SOMETHING,  
MITCHELL--

MY NAME IS  
WARHAWK.

NO, YOUR  
NAME IS MITCHELL  
TANNER, AND THAT'S  
WHAT I'M CALLING YOU.  
NOW, TELL ME...HOW  
DOES THE KILLING  
MAKE YOU FEEL?

I...DON'T  
KNOW.

PART OF ME  
DOESN'T WANT  
TO DO IT...I THINK.  
THE ANGER IS THE  
ONLY THING I'M  
CERTAIN ABOUT.

PUT THIS  
ON AND BREATHE  
IN DEEPLY.

YOU'RE HERE  
TO GET BETTER,  
MITCHELL.

WHY AM I  
HERE?

AND THIS  
WILL MAKE ME  
BETTER?

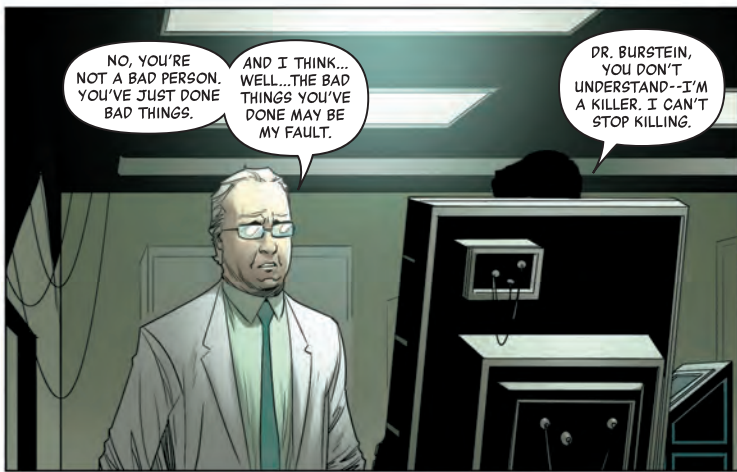
I WON'T BE AS  
CONFUSED?

I DON'T  
KNOW ABOUT THE  
CONFUSION, MITCHELL--  
I REALLY DON'T, BUT  
THIS WILL HELP WITH  
THE ANGER.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
I'M HERE.  
I'M...

...A  
VERY BAD  
PERSON.





NO, YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON. YOU'VE JUST DONE BAD THINGS.

AND I THINK... WELL...THE BAD THINGS YOU'VE DONE MAY BE MY FAULT.

DR. BURSTEIN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--I'M A KILLER. I CAN'T STOP KILLING.



I KNOW.



I DON'T LIKE THE KILLING, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP.



MITCHELL, YOU'RE LIKE A SON TO ME.

HAD I KNOWN MY EXPERIMENTS WERE GOING TO DO THIS TO YOU--TO DRIVE YOU TO KILL--I NEVER WOULD HAVE SUBJECTED YOU TO THE PROCESS.

GET BETTER?

I'M GOING TO HELP YOU GET BETTER.

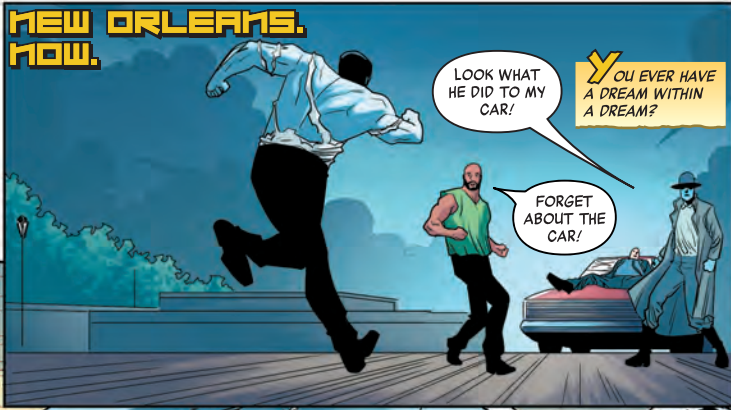


YES, SON.

BUT IT WON'T BE EASY, AND BOTH OF US MAY HAVE TO DO SOME THINGS THAT WILL BE...DIFFICULT.



**NEW ORLEANS.  
NOW.**



LOOK WHAT HE DID TO MY CAR!

**YOU EVER HAVE A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM?**

FORGET ABOUT THE CAR!

A NIGHTMARE WITHIN A NIGHTMARE?



**LUNG!**



OH, GOD... IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING--THE BOSS IS DEAD AND FRANKIE'S OUTTA CONTROL!



YOU WAKE FROM ONE...

GET OFF ME!

GONNA RIP YOUR LUNGS OUT THROUGH YOUR STUPID MOUTH!

SWEET CHRISTMAS!



...ONLY TO FIND YOURSELF TRAPPED IN ANOTHER.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE.



...CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO WAKIN' UP FROM SOME NIGHTMARES.

BEEN TAKIN' EXTRA VITAMINS, FRANKIE?



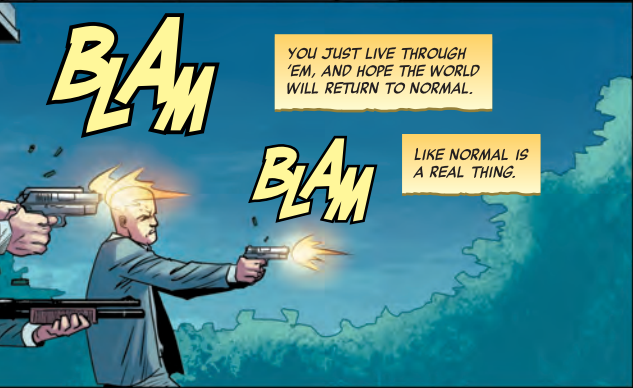
STOP SHOOTING! WE'RE BULLETPROOF!







TRUTH IS--THE HARD, COLD REALITY--YOUR WORLD HAS GONE TO HELL, AND THERE AIN'T A DAMN THING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT...



**BLAM**

**BLAM**

YOU JUST LIVE THROUGH 'EM, AND HOPE THE WORLD WILL RETURN TO NORMAL.

LIKE NORMAL IS A REAL THING.



CRAZY IS THE TRUE NORMAL.



QUIT HORSING AROUND AND DROP THIS FOOL, CAGE!  
HE WRECKED MY CAR!

EVERYTHING IS INSANE...