

**VALIANT**

# Q2: The RETURN of **QUANTUM** AND **WOODY**

**Writer** PRIEST  
**Art** MD BRIGHT  
**Inks** RYAN WINN  
**Colorist** ALLEN PASSALAQUA  
**Letters** DAVE LANPHEAR

**Cover Art** MD BRIGHT with ALLEN PASSALAQUA; KALMAN ANDRASOFSZKY; and SEAN CHEN with MICHAEL WIGGAM  
**Editor** ALEJANDRO ARBONA  
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## ■ The story so far..



As teenagers on a hike, best frenemies Eric Henderson and Woody Van Chelton, along with the object of both their crushes, Amy Fishbein, found a dead man surrounded by cash and a pistol. When another man showed up to take the cash, Woody tried to frighten him off with the gun, but he pulled the trigger. The man hit the ground, and Woody ran. Helping him flee brought Amy closer to Woody; she gave him her Star of David necklace, along with some cash, girl's clothing to change into, and a kiss.

As adults, Eric and Woody went on to become superheroes after a freak accident in their fathers' lab gave them energy-based powers. As Quantum and Woody, they shared a bond via energy control bands permanently attached to their wrists. They drove each other nuts. And when Eric discovered Amy was in a relationship with Woody, he stormed out. Chasing him into the rainy, cold night, Amy suffered an asthma attack, and died. Eric and Woody haven't spoken since.

Today, Quantum and Woody are middle-aged men who haven't seen each other in years. Eric Henderson is mentoring a new, young heroic duo—a Caucasian man named Jonathan under the Quantum mask, and a fourteen-year-old Woody, whose gender self-identity is female...and the original Woody has come out of the woodwork to stop Eric from endangering the life of a child. A master thief named Koro has committed numerous daring heists, and attracted the attention of a mysterious organization called the Sword. But over breakfast with a shadowy puppet master named Ali Rusen, Eric discovered that Koro is a synthetic human being—a living weapon for national security, for sale to the world's intelligence agencies—just as Jonathan, a.k.a. Q2 himself. Q2 and the young Woody, meanwhile, have told Van Chelton their theory that the thief is after assets that house the encoded recipe to create more synthetic soldiers like himself.

Eric is determined to suit up as Quantum once more, stop the Sword, and prevent the proliferation of human weapons...but his recent manipulative deeds and a fit of angina give his one-time partner Woody serious concerns about Eric's health, both physical and mental. Nevertheless, Eric persuades Woody to don the old tights...one last time...



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME...?

"Klack"



...ME?  
PERSONALLY...?  
...HUFFE...

...HUFFE...  
NOTHING...

WE CAME  
TO...HUFFE...  
SAVE YOU,  
JONATHAN...



WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE  
TO ME?!



I'VE NOT PUT  
ONE IN YOUR EAR,  
JUGHEAD. YET.

ERIC RAN UP TO THE  
PROMENADE DECK...  
HE'S REALLY INTO  
SWOOPING...

HE'S NOT  
COMING.

WE ARRIVED  
TOGETHER,  
RED.



HE  
DUMPED YOU.  
DUMPED US--

--ON THIS  
AZERI EMBASSY  
YACHT.

WAIT--  
YOU MEAN,  
THE *GRAIL*--  
THOSE *SWORD*  
GUYS--NOT  
HERE?

ERIC...  
**LIED...?!**

...I'M  
SHOCKED AND  
SADDENED...



YOU SHOULD BE.

THIS CONTROL BAND... USELESS.

YOU SURE? THAT REPLICA WORKED PRETTY GOOD FOR YOU...

MY BAND WAS DAMAGED. I SUSPECT THIS ISN'T A REPLICA... IT'S ERIC'S.



THE KID STOLE IT.

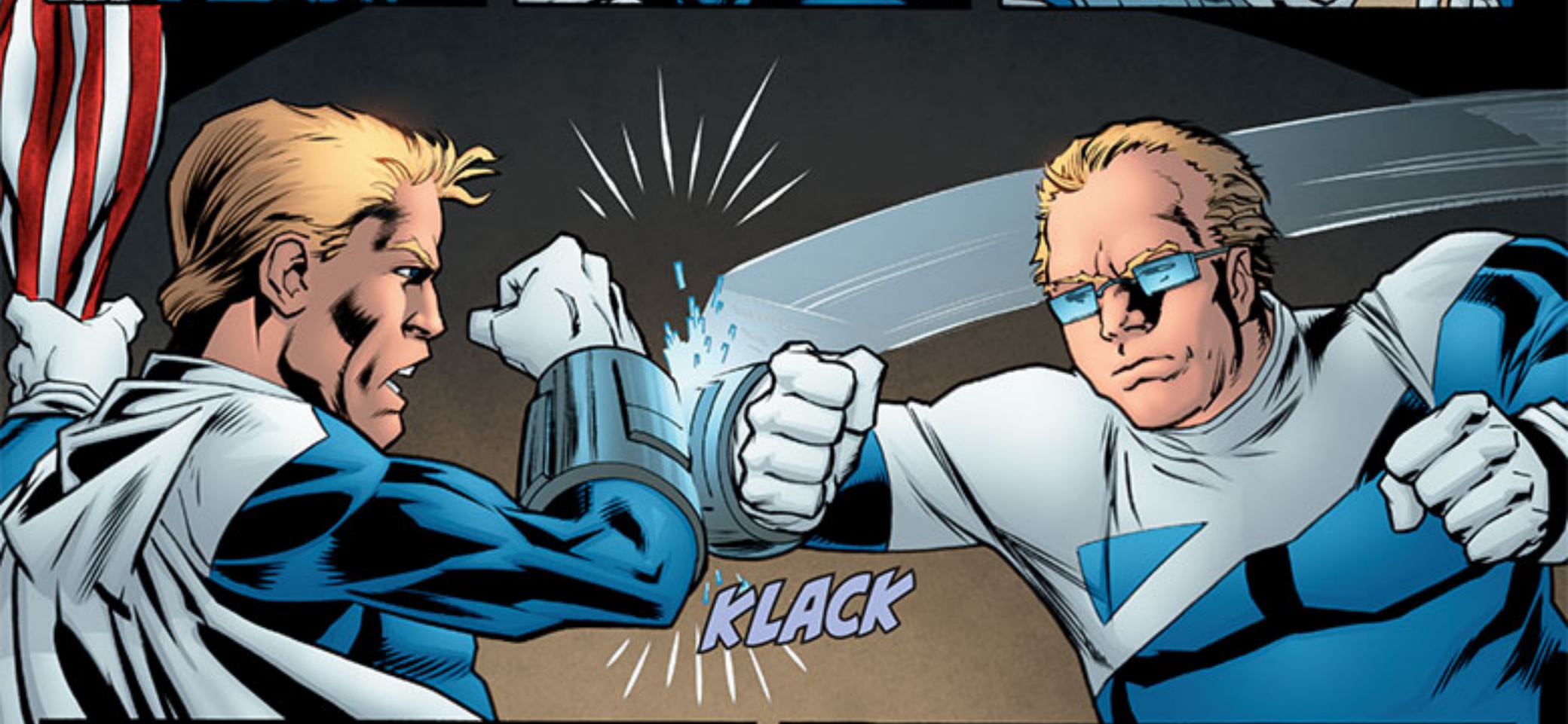
ERIC LEFT HIM ALONE WITH IT, WHICH MAKES NO SENSE. ERIC PRACTICALLY WORSHIPS THE THING. BUILT IT ITS OWN ROOM.

I USE MINE TO CRACK WALNUTS...



MY GUESS IS THIS BODYSUIT ERIC INSISTED I WEAR BENEATH THE QUANTUM UNIFORM WAS POWERED BY THE CONTROL BAND REPLICA.

ERIC'S ACTUAL CONTROL BAND DOES NOTHING...



KLACK



--?! "KLACK"--?!

MY GUESS: ERIC'S CONTROL BAND ONLY WORKS FOR ERIC. IT'S NOT THE BANDS--

--IT'S YOU TWO-- YOUR UNSTABLE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE-- THAT CYCLES THEM.



USELESS.

MY SUIT RETAINS SOME OF ITS ENERGY-DAMPENING PROPERTIES, BUT WITHOUT THE POWER CELL--

--THE COSTUME'S HIDDEN FEATURES STOP WORKING--



--WHAT I NOW ASSUME WAS A **NEAR FIELD** COMM SYSTEM THAT ALLOWED ME TO "HEAR" KORO IN MY HEAD...

...AND PERHAPS AN E.L.F. STATIC FIELD INHIBITING MY HIPPOCAMPUS... REPRESSING MY **MEMORY**...

IN OTHER WORDS, ERIC **FAKED** IT ALL: THE HEIGHTENED STRENGTH, THE "ALIEN" D.N.A....



...YOU'RE **NOT A ROBOT.**

DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...

AND ERIC BROUGHT US HERE **WHY?**

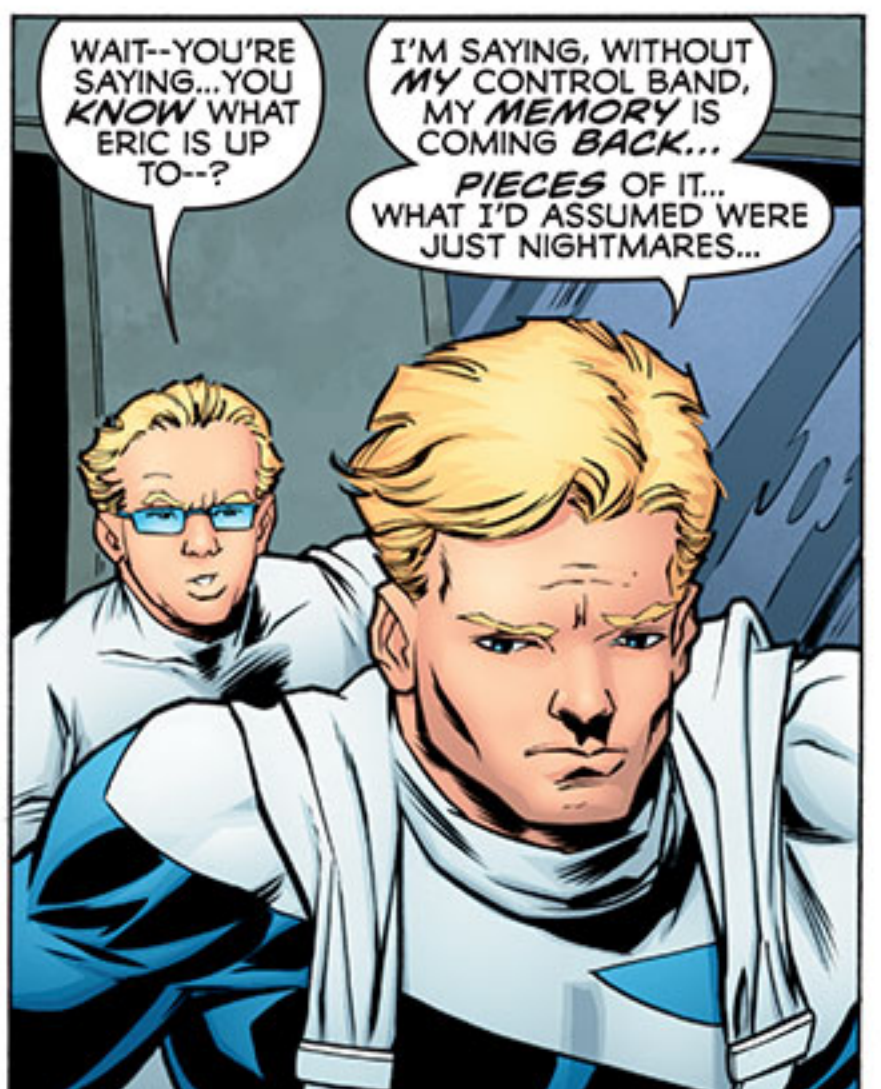
TO **DUMP** US.



**WHA--SO ERIC** CAN GO AFTER THE LAST PIECE OF THE **GRAIL** HIMSELF...?

I'M GUESSING ERIC **ALREADY HAS** THE GRAIL.

HE'S HAD IT ALL ALONG...



WAIT--YOU'RE SAYING... YOU **KNOW** WHAT ERIC IS UP TO--?

I'M SAYING, WITHOUT **MY** CONTROL BAND, MY **MEMORY** IS COMING **BACK**...

**PIECES** OF IT... WHAT I'D ASSUMED WERE JUST NIGHTMARES...