



STEPHEN STRANGE was a preeminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a miracle cure, but instead he found a mysterious wizard called the ANCIENT ONE who taught him magic and that there are things in this world bigger than himself. These lessons led Stephen to become the Sorcerer Supreme, Earth's first defense against all manner of magical threats. His patients call him...

# DOCTOR STRANGE

With the state of magic almost completely destroyed, Doctor Strange is at his weakest. After fighting his way out of Hell, he found himself at the mercy of Orb and Mister Misery. Once Baron Mordo arrived, all of Strange's foes began arguing over who had the right to kill him, while Strange prepared for the fight of his life.

That was when the fearsome Dormammu appeared to stake his own claim.

## BLOOD IN THE AETHER

### CHAPTER FIVE: THE DREAD

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YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D MENTIONED **LAST NIGHT** WE WERE GONNA BE CLIMBING EVEREST **TODAY**, I PROBABLY WOULD'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE MORE SLEEP.

YOU TOLD ME I'D BE PRACTICING MY LEVITATION SPELLS. YOU DIDN'T MENTION IT'D BE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5,000 METERS.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO LEVITATE, MY PUPIL. YOUR STUDIES WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

THEN WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

A SITUATION HAS ARISEN. AND MY SERVICES ARE NEEDED.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT *MY* SERVICES?

YOU ARE HERE TO OBSERVE. AND TO DO ONE OTHER THING IF THE NEED SHOULD ARISE.

TAKE THIS.

A **GUN**? WHAT THE HELL? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH **THIS**?

KEEP IT COCKED AND LOADED AND IN YOUR HAND AT ALL TIMES.

AND IF AT ANY POINT MY ENTIRE HEAD SHOULD BURST INTO FLAMES...YOU ARE TO PUT A BULLET BETWEEN MY EYES. UNDERSTOOD?

GOOD. LET'S GO.



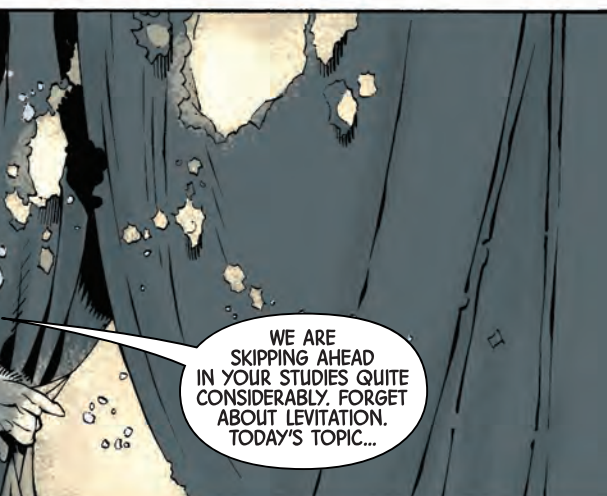
IT'S NEGATIVE THIRTY DEGREES, BUT THESE PEOPLE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BURNED TO DEATH. MASTER, WHAT IN THE--



SPEAK NOT ANOTHER WORD FROM THIS POINT ON, DOCTOR STRANGE. NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY SEE OR HEAR.



OKAY. THAT RAISES A FEW QUESTIONS. LIKE, EXACTLY, WHAT THE HELL AM I ABOUT TO SEE AND HEAR?



WE ARE SKIPPING AHEAD IN YOUR STUDIES QUITE CONSIDERABLY. FORGET ABOUT LEVITATION. TODAY'S TOPIC...



...WILL BE *DÉMONIC* POSSESSION.



HELLO,  
ANCIENT  
ONE.

YOU  
MISERABLE  
LITTLE FLECK  
OF LLAMA  
SPIT.

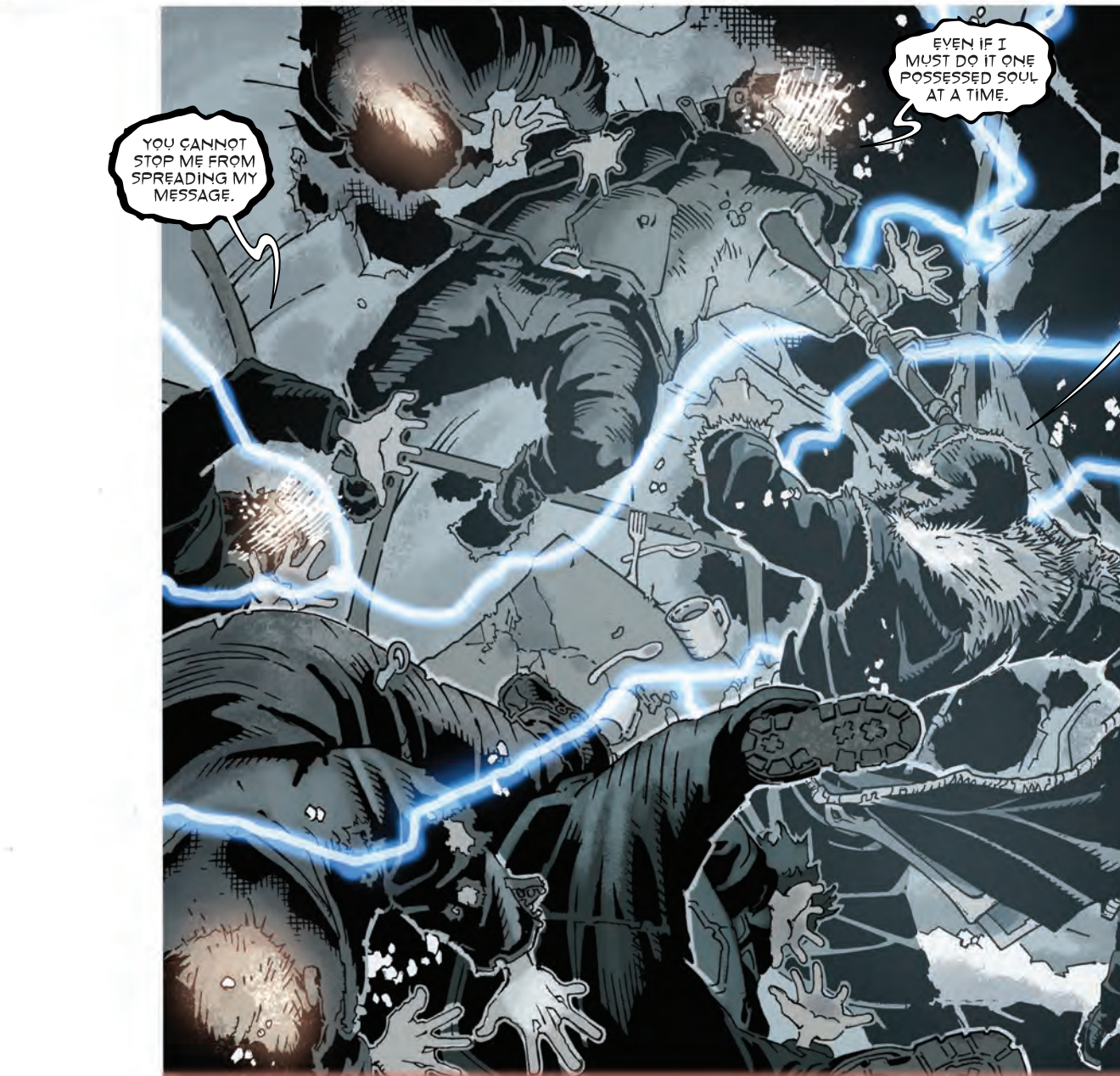
YOUR  
INTRUSION  
INTO THIS REALM  
ENDS NOW,  
EVIL ONE.



BY THE  
POWER OF  
THE VISHANTI,  
I COMMAND  
YOU...BE  
GONE!



WHOOOSH



YOU CANNOT  
STOP ME FROM  
SPREADING MY  
MESSAGE.

EVEN IF I  
MUST DO IT ONE  
POSSESSED SOUL  
AT A TIME.



HA HA  
HA HA HA  
HA HA!



EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, MY OLD FOE, YOUR FEEBLE MIND FAILS TO COMPREHEND.

THOUGH I DO THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY AND BRINGING ME SUCH A SCRUMPTIOUS LITTLE TRIBUTE.

TRIBUTE?



OH, NO.



STEPHEN, RUN! DON'T LET HIM SPEAK YOUR--

DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE. AT LAST, I DO ENJOY MEETING MY FOE'S DISCIPLES FACE TO FACE.



TELL ME, DOCTOR... HAVE YOU EVER KILLED ANYONE?

ON PURPOSE, I MEAN. NOT BECAUSE YOU BOTCHED SOME FEEBLE LITTLE BOUT OF FLESH-MEDDLING.

I NEVER BOTCHED ANY... DON'T COME ANY CLOSER.



HE GAVE YOU THAT GUN TO USE ON HIM, DIDN'T HE? TELL ME, DOCTOR, DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO USE IT ON ME?

IF YOU DON'T, I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR SKIN OFF AND SET IT AFIRE WHILE YOU WATCH.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE HIM, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE...



...DORMAMMU.

YES, YOU KNOW THAT NAME. YOU LIKE TO MAKE USE OF ITS POWER, DON'T YOU? BY CALLING IT OUT DURING YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT SPELLS.

I PROMISE YOU, DOCTOR, BEFORE WE ARE FINISHED HERE TODAY...

