MARVEL COMICS

MIB
MEN IN BLACK™

1

AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENT



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THE MEN IN BLACK

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PRESIDENT
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THEY ARE THE CHOSEN FEW.

THEY OBSERVE.

THEY PROTECT.

THEY CONTROL.

THEY ARE...

THE MEN IN BLACK - PART 1:

INITIATION

THE OUTSKIRTS OF DRY FLAT, NEW MEXICO, NEAR THE U.S. BORDER.

THE SLEEPER WAKES.

WHERE AM I?

IN MY KINGDOM, CARL NORTH.

YES, WE KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE.

WE DO NOT CARE FOR GOVERNMENT AGENTS INFRINGING UPON OUR *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*.

TA-DA-TA-DA-TA

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?! YOU *MURDER* PEOPLE!!

NOT MURDER, *SACRIFICE*. OTHERS MUST DIE, THAT WE MAY BECOME IN-VINCIBLE.

YOU TRY OUR PATIENCE, MR. NORTH, BUT WE WILL SHOW YOU MERCY.

TA-DA-TA-DA-TA-DA-

DEFEAT OUR INITIATE AND WE WILL ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE...

MIGUEL, TELL MR. NORTH HOW OLD YOU ARE.

FIFTY-FOUR.

PREPARE YOURSELF, MIGUEL.

YES, SIR.

SNNFO!

OH, GOD!

AAAAHH!

EEEAAHH!

KILL HIM.

TATATATATATATATATA

SOMEWHERE IN THE PAINTED DESERT

THERE THEY ARE, ZED.

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

"YOU GETTING THIS BACK AT HQ?"

"GOT IT, KAY. THE VEHICLE IS REGISTERED TO RAMON QUINONES."

"HOW'S THE PLAN HOLDING UP?"

"THE DETAGLIO FAMILY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE QUINONES OPERATION. THEIR STIKE TEAM SHOULD BE ARRIVING IN APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES."

NOW THAT'LL BE A SIGHT TO SEE.

HOLD ON. I THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET OUT.

GOT HIM?

"RAMON QUINONES.

"MULTIPLE DRUG TRAFFICKING ARRESTS. NO CONVICTIONS."

"THAT'S ONE."

"HIM?"

"ROBERTO QUINONES."

"RAMON QUINONES' BROTHER AND BODYGUARD. SUSPECTED IN MULTIPLE HOMICIDE CASES."

"HE'S THE OTHER. THAT DOES IT."

"WHAT THE HELL? THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANYONE WITH THEM. ZED, WHAT'S HIS AFFILIATION?

"SEARCHING..."

"GOVERNMENT DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENT, ASSIGNED TO INFILTRATE THE QUINONES ORGANIZATION."

OH, WELL. MORE GRIST FOR THE MILL.

SORRY, GUY.

"THERE'S MORE, KAY. HE'S MARKED FOR EVENTUAL RECRUITMENT."

DAMN! WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS YOU THINK I SHOULD GO DOWN THERE AND RESCUE HIM?

YOUR DISCRETION.

IS THE USE OF FIREARMS APPROVED?

ALSO YOUR DISCRETION.

IN THAT CASE I'LL DO IT.

HEY, MAN. WHATCHA LOOKIN' AT? THE ACTION'S OVER HERE!

WE'RE BEING WATCHED. I CAN'T SEE HIM, BUT HE'S THERE.

WHAT? OH, NOTHING.

HOPE HE'S ON MY SIDE.

WELL, WHATEVER'S OUT THERE, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO LOOK AT IT LATER.

YEAH, WATCHIN' THIS PLACE'LL GET BORING AFTER A WHILE.

GETTING TO THIS PLACE IS THE CULMINATION OF NINE MONTHS WORK. HARDLY BORING.

THIS IS A GREAT SPOT. *NOBODY* AND *NUTHIN'* FOR MILES, BUT YOU STAY *ALERT* JUST THE SAME.

SURE.

WE GOT A *GENERATOR* OUT BACK BUT IT'S NOT WIRED UP YET.

MAYBE I'LL WORK ON THAT. ELECTRONICS IS SORT OF A *HOBBY* OF MINE.

YOU KNOW, ELECTRONICS AS IN "ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE."

YEAH, WHEN WE GET THIS PLACE GOIN', WE'RE GONNA BE RUNNIN' STUFF AIN'T *NOBODY* CAN TOP.

COKE?

NAH, WE GOT SOMETHIN' BETTER.

OR WORSE. DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

"WE GOT THIS NEW STUFF. BEZERK. BEATS COKE TO HELL AND BACK."

"WE PASSED OUT A FEW SAMPLES DOWN AROUND THE BORDER. THEY LOVED THE STUFF."

"BEZERK? NEVER HEARD OF IT."

PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO.

THAT'S RIGHT. BEZERK'S GONNA BE THE DRUG OF THE NINETIES, AND WE GOT IT EXCLUSIVE!

HEY – WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

KERASH!

DAMN!

BLAM! BLAM!

SKREEEE!!

SCREEE

DAMN!

BASTARD!

KA-BLAM! KA-BLAM!

YOU SON OF A BITCH! YOU SET US UP!

NO. BUT I SUSPECT I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.

AHH—!

Ptttg!

KA-BLAM KA-BLAM

DAMN!

I GUESS THAT'S IT.

MY TURN.

HURRY UP-GET IN.

HOLD IT! PUT DOWN THE GUN AND TELL ME WHO THE HELL YOU ARE!

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. NOW, GET IN. YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE HERE WHEN THE DETAGLIOS ARRIVE.

BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT VERY THREATENING WITH AN UNLOADED GUN.

SHOW ME SOME I.D. OR WE'LL SEE IF IT'S LOADED.

O.K. IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT TO PLAY IT.

FIRE

- WHA? WHERE AM I?

WELL, HELLO SLEEPING BEAUTY.

HAVE YOU DECIDED TO BE A LITTLE MORE *POLITE* THIS GO-ROUND?

A CAR. WHEN DID I GET INTO A CAR?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?

JUST A LITTLE OBJECT LESSON. MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU WILL LISTEN WHEN I TELL YOU TO DO SOMETHING.

HEY, I'M YOUR PARTNER NOW. I'M LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.'

PARTNER? WHAT THE HELL MAKES YOU MY PARTNER?

AND I PREFER TO LOOK OUT FOR MYSELF.

3 SOUTH

"LOOK, I SAVED YOUR LIFE. THE DETAGLIO FAMILY WAS ON ITS WAY TO ACE THE QUINONES BROTHERS, AND THEY'D HAVE KILLED YOU, TOO."

"IF YOU WANT, I CAN STILL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEY DID."

THE POINT IS, IT WAS MY DECISION. MY CALL.

YOU'RE HERE NOW BECAUSE I PULLED YOUR *FAT* OUT OF THE FIRE.

AND THAT MAKES YOU MY *PARTNER*? THE SYSTEM DOESN'T *WORK* THAT WAY.

WE'RE NOT THE SYSTEM. WE'RE *OVER* IT. ABOVE IT. BEYOND IT.

WE'RE "THEM." WE'RE "THEY." WE'RE THE *MEN IN BLACK*.

THIS GUY SURE KNOWS HOW TO FEED YOU A LINE, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT MUCH.

THE MEN IN BLACK ARE A MYTH. A LEGEND. A LIE.

YOU'VE SURE GOT A LOT OF NERVE! YOU KILL THE MEN I'VE WORKED NINE MONTHS TO PUT AWAY, KIDNAP ME, DRIVE ME OFF TO WHO KNOWS WHERE, AND STILL HAVE THE **GALL** TO EXPECT ME TO BE-LIEVE A STORY LIKE THAT.

I SAID, IT WAS THEM OR YOU ...DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

THEY WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD, ANYWAY.

AND YOU WEREN'T KIDNAPPED. YOU WERE REQUISITIONED.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ZAP THEM LIKE YOU DID ME? OR WOULD THAT HAVE TAKEN ALL THE **FUN** OUT OF IT?

I GAVE THEM A FIGHTING CHANCE. THAT WAS MORE THAN THEY DESERVED.

THOSE TWO WERE ABOUT TO START MANUFACTURING A DRUG SO TERRIBLE EVEN **I** GET A LITTLE SHAKY THINKING ABOUT IT.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT DOES?

NO.

DRY FLAT
NEXT 2 EXITS

THEY CALL IT BEZERK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT DOES.— DRIVES YOU BERSERK. A PERSON ON BEZERK FEELS UNSTOPPABLE, AND DAMN NEAR IS.

IT'S POSSIBLY THE MOST PSYCHOLOGICALLY ADDICTIVE DRUG ON EARTH!

FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS, WE'VE BEEN AFTER ANYONE WHO'S EVEN ***HEARD*** OF BEZERK.

WE THOUGHT THE QUINONES WERE THE LAST LOOSE END. NOW WE FIND OUT THEY WERE PASSING OUT **SAMPLES**.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

WAIT A MINUTE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU TOLD ME WHILE YOU WERE UNDER.

SO YOU DIDN'T JUST KNOCK ME OUT, YOU HYPNO--- HEY, WHY ARE YOU PULLING OVER?

LOOK, EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN FOR A GOOD REASON.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE.

I BELIEVE IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I DO.

I'M GIVING YOU AN OPTION. I GUESS YOU'VE EARNED THAT MUCH.

IF YOU YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO COME ALONG, I'LL ZAP YOU AND LEAVE YOU HERE

YOU'LL FORGET EVERYTHING, WHICH'LL MAKE IT A WHOLE LOT OF FUN WHEN YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR SUPERIORS.

YOU'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING IMPORTANT, OR EVEN INTERESTING AGAIN.

SO, ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

ALL RIGHT. I'M IN.

FOR NOW.

O.K. NOW OPEN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT.

O.K.

PUT YOUR HAND ON THAT PAD.

SCANNING... ALTERING RECORDS... COMPLETE. NEW AGENT DESIGNATION: JAY. WELCOME ABOARD.

THERE, YOU'RE OFFICIAL.

YOU'VE JUST REACHED THE PINNACLE OF YOUR PROFESSION. SMILE.

HMM.

YOU DON'T SMILE WHEN YOU'VE JUST MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.

O.K., JAY. I NEED TO FILL YOU IN ON A FEW DETAILS. LIKE WHY I BROUGHT US TO DRY FLAT.

WHERE IN THE HELL IS DRY FLAT?

"JAY." THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE GETTING USED TO.

NEW MEXICO. THE GUY THAT NAMED THIS PLACE PRETTY MUCH KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

THE QUINONES BROTHERS HAVE TIES TO HECTOR DOMINGUEZ, ONE OF THE LOCALS.

HEY, ZED, WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?

IT'S COMING THROUGH NOW, KAY.

KAY? THEY'RE CALLING US *JAY AND KAY?*

GOD, IT'S LIKE WE WERE *TWINS* OR SOMETHING.

HECTOR DOMINGUEZ HAS A SUBSTANTIAL CRIMINAL RECORD.

UGLY CUSS, ISN'T HE?

CONVICTIONS INCLUDE RESISTING ARREST, POSSESSION, AND POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO RESELL. SERVED 5 YEARS AFTER REFUSING TO TESTIFY AGAINST RAMON QUINONES.

DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT, HECTOR HOOKED UP WITH A PARTICULARLY VIOLENT SECT OF *DIABILOS.*

NO ARRESTS FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, THOUGH HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RENEWED HIS TIES WITH THE QUINONES' AND *STRENGTHENED* HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE DIABILOS.

THOSE DRUG CULTISTS ARE THE *LAST* PEOPLE ON EARTH WE WANT GETTING HOLD OF BEZERK. THEY'RE TROUBLE ENOUGH AS IT IS.

THERE'S MORE, KAY.

A DEA AGENT WAS INVESTIGATING DRUG TRAFFIC AMONG THE DIABILOS WHEN HE VANISHED FROM THIS VICINITY TWO DAYS AGO. SEEMS LIKE A PROBABLE CONNECTION.

THAT'S CARL NORTH. I KNOW HIM.

GOOD MAN.

PROBABLY A DEAD MAN, IF HE MESSED WITH THE DIABILOS.

YOU'RE A REAL CALLOUS BASTARD, YOU KNOW THAT?

YEAH.

NOW, DO YOU WANT TO GET TO WORK OR NOT?

OKAY.

GOOD. SEEMS LIKE HECTOR'S OUR MAN. WHEREABOUTS, ZED?

EXACT LOCATION UNCERTAIN. CURRENT RESIDENCE ON SCREEN. SATELLITE THERMAL SCAN FOLLOWS.

LOS GRANDE TRAILER PARK TRAILER NO. 37.

GOOD WORK, ZED. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.

LOS GRANDE TRAILER PARK.

YOU KNOW, I COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF THAT *THERMAL* SCAN.

YEAH? SOME THINGS YOU HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.

LOOK, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, WE HAVE GOT TO GET YOU OUTFITTED A LITTLE BETTER. I SUPPOSE THE SHIRT AND PANTS WILL DO, FOR NOW.

YOU'LL NEED A JACKET, TIE, AND GLASSES.

AND ONE OF THOSE *FLASH* THINGS.

A NEUROLYSER? SURE THING. HERE YOU GO.

THANKS.

I'LL HAVE THE REST IN A SECOND.

HERE WE GO. I THINK THESE'LL DO YOU.

PUT THESE ON AND--

FLASH

THERE, WAS THAT FUN?

THOSE GLASSES...

...THEY STOP THIS THING?

THEY DON'T CALL 'EM *RAYBAN* FOR NOTHING.

WE NEED TO GET MOVING.

IT'S ALMOST ELEVEN AND IF HECTOR IS USING BEZERK IN SOME SORT OF RITE, IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO HAPPEN AT MIDNIGHT.

YOU SOUND AWFULLY SURE OF YOURSELF.

ZED RAN THROUGH THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION DURING OUR TRIP DOWN. HE'S NEVER BEEN WRONG BEFORE.

DON'T FORGET THESE.

IF YOU SAY SO.

I'LL PASS. I DON'T NEED TO HIDE BEHIND A PAIR OF GLASSES.

THEN WE'LL GET YOU SOME CONTACTS LATER.

HERE'S THE PLAN. YOU'LL HAVE A LOOK INSIDE, AND I'LL SCOUT AROUND OUT HERE.

YOU MEAN WE'RE JUST GOING TO BREAK IN? NO WARRANT?

GET WITH THE PROGRAM. WE DON'T *NEED* A WARRANT.

IF IT REALLY BOTHERS YOU, I'LL HAVE ZED FAX US A WARRANT THAT'LL BE JUST AS GOOD AS THE REAL THING.

AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO *BREAK* IN.

PHEW! THIS PLACE STINKS!

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

ANYTHING OR ANYBODY THAT WILL LEAD US TO HECTOR AND HIS ASSOCIATES. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THEM HAVE BEZERK.

WHY AM I GOING ALONG WITH THIS?

OKAY.

THE NEUROLYSER?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

OH, WELL. I GUESS I'LL KNOW WHEN I FIND IT.

URRRK!

WHAP

Los Grand
ILER PAR
RANCH

I WEAR MY SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT, SO I CAN, SO I CAN...

KAY, HECTOR'S TAKEN THE BAIT. MONITORING JAY'S AUDIO LINK.

I'M TRACKING HECTOR'S CAR... HEADING: SOUTHEAST... EXTRAPOLATING DESTINATION.

TIME TO GET A MOVE ON. WHERE TO, ZED?

HERE WE GO. THERE'S A SMALL HILL CALLED "DEVIL'S MOUND" NEAR YOUR LOCATION. THERMAL SCAN SHOWS HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

DEVIL'S MOUND, HUH? THE DIABLOS COULD NEVER PASS UP A PLACE WITH A NAME LIKE THAT.

PLOTTING MOST DIRECT ROUTE.

CAREFUL, KAY. YOU DON'T WANT TO MOVE IN TOO FAST AND SPOOK HECTOR.

"RIGHT. THERE HE IS UP AHEAD. GIVE ME AN ALTERNATE ROUTE."

"OKAY, TURN LEFT."

"NOW!"

THANKS FOR THE WARNING

SKREEEE

AGAIN THE INFIDEL FORCES HAVE BESET US, BUT WE SHALL BEST THEM. PREPARE THE INITIATE.

OOOH!

KNOCKED OUT AND KIDNAPPED TWICE IN ONE DAY. THIS IS GETTING OLD.

AGAIN, THE SLEEPER AWAKES. YOU HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF CARL NORTH?

WHERE IS HE?

DO NOT WORRY. YOU SHALL JOIN HIM SOON ENOUGH.

TAT-

MARTHA, ARE YOU PREPARED TO PERFORM THE FINAL RITE TO JOIN US IN OUR INVINC-IBILITY?

YES.

TAT-TA

THEN PARTAKE

DAMN YOU! THAT'S *BEZERK!* YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'LL *DO* TO HER!

T-TAT-TAT-T

BEZERK? YES, YOU MAY CALL IT THAT. WE PREFER THE TERM *MANNA.*

TAT-T

MANNA FROM HELL.

T-TAT-TAT-TA

FEEARRR

URRRRR!

KILL HIM, MARTHA.

TAT-A-TAT-A-

LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

GRRR!

KAY SAID BEZERK MAKES A PERSON UNSTOPPABLE.

LET'S SEE.

FASH!

TAT-A-TAT-A

DAMN! DOESN'T THIS NEUROLYSER THING WORK ON ANYONE *BUT* ME?

GACK!

RRRRRR!

TAT.

RRRR!

TAT-TAT-A-TAT

A BODY. ONE OF THEIR VICTIMS.

CARL.

TAT-TAT-T

ARRRR!

TAT

-TAT

RAAKRR!

DAMN!

SMACK

SOUNDS LIKE JAY'S IN TROUBLE

AS EXPECTED. I'M ON IT.

NOW, WHICH DO I WANT- PISTOL OR SHOT-GUN?

SHOTGUN.

IT'S LOUDER AND MESSIER.

MARTHA IS PROVING UNWORTHY. PREPARE YOURSELVES.

THEY KILLED CARL.

I'D APOLOGIZE FOR HITTING A LADY, MARTHA...

THWP

... BUT I THINK YOU PROBABLY DESERVE THIS.

EEE AAARRGGH

KILL HIM, MY CHILDREN.

THUMP! WHUMP! CLUNCH!

TELL THEM TO STOP, HECTOR.

WHAT-?

I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN.

I CAN'T! I SWEAR I CAN'T!

THWACK THWACK

IT'S UP TO ME, THEN.

CRACK

LISTEN UP, YOU BASTARDS!

UHUMP!

K-POW!

NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION...

... YOU KNOW THE DRUG THAT'S DONE THIS TO YOU--THAT YOU'RE ALL ADDICTED TO?

THIS MAN HAS THE LAST OF IT IN THE WHOLE WORLD!!

NO! PLEASE, NO! DON'T TELL THEM THAT!

RURRR

NO! YOU CAN HAVE IT!

JUST LET ME GO!

NOOOO!

UHAM!

LET'S GET MOVING!

OOOH!

YOU SET ME UP!

YEAH, MAYBE YOU CAN DO THE SAME FOR ME, SOMEDAY.

WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.

I'M DYING.

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

I KNOW I'M DYING.

JUST WAIT TILL YOU GET TO HQ, THEY'LL FIX YOU UP.

YOU'LL BE A NEW MAN IN NO TIME.

THE MEN IN BLACK

INTERVIEW WITH LOWELL CUNNINGHAM

Q: What led you to create the series "The Men In Black"?

A: A friend of mine, Dennis Matheson, is interested in UFO phenomena and he told me of various rumors and legends surrounding UFOs. The most fascinating stories involved mysterious men dressed in black who invariably appeared after any UFO contact. I thought this would be a great idea for a television or comic book series. I have to admit I never really expected to see it go straight to the big screen.

Q: What part of the legends did you use in the comic?

A: Pretty much all I've kept from the UFO mythology are the clothes, the cars, and some of the MIB's methods. In the popular folklore, Men in Black are interchangeable, robotic beings. I gave the agents distinct personalities, made them human.

Q: Your heroes, Jay and Kay?

A: That's right. I've always tried to make Jay and Kay as different as possible. Kay is a veteran, he's seen and done it all. Jay learns something new every mission. The interplay between the characters is half of every story, and this comes across very strongly in the film.

Q: So you're pleased with the way "Men In Black" was translated into a motion picture?

A: Very much so. The film builds on the best aspects of the comic.

Q: So it stays close to your original material?

A: Much more than I expected. The picture moves into new territory, of course, but it's still very obviously my comic they're adapting.

Q: And now you get to adapt the film back into comic book form.

A: That was an interesting experience. I'd written movie and TV tie-ins before, but never a direct adaptation. With my "Alien Nation" and "Planet of the Apes" tie-ins I was adding new characters and events, which was fun. For the MIB film adaptation I actually had to cut characters and scenes to fit the story in the available space.

Q: How did that make you feel?

A: It was exciting. I learned a lot about the differences between the two media.

Q: You have a cameo in the movie. Did you write yourself into the comic?

A: Not this time. I did have an unexpected appearance in an earlier issue, though. Sandy Carruthers, the artist on the original series, drew the two of us as attendees at a science fiction convention.

Q: Now you just have to figure out a way into an episode of the animated series.

A: That would be a neat trick, wouldn't it? I am looking forward to the animated show, though. I recently met with the writing staff and have great confidence in their ability. The character designs look good. I think it's going to be a fun program.

Q: Do you think something like the Men In Black organization actually exists?

A: Who can say? If it does exist, we'd only know about it if it didn't do a good job covering its tracks. If you accept the existence of aliens on Earth, it's inevitable that there would be something like the MIB.

