



\$1.50 US
\$2.00 CAN
13

THE SPECTACULAR SPARKY

STARRING A.R.G.H.



YOU JUST HAD TO MOON THEM DIDN'T YOU.

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME!

**WARNING:
THIS SCENE
DOES NOT
APPEAR IN
THIS ISSUE!**

WHAT HAVE YOU
LEARNED ABOUT THE
CLONE, DOCTOR?

MANY, MANY FASCINATING
THINGS, LORD RECLUSE. HAD
YOU NOT ALLOWED ME SEVERAL
MONTHS TO EXPERIMENT ON THE
CLONE I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO DISCOVER ITS SECRETS.

YOU ARE
MISTAKEN, IT
HAS ONLY BEEN
SEVERAL HOURS.

HOURS? BUT IT
WAS MONTHS
AGO THAT WE
LAST SPOKE.


NO, IN COMIC
CONTINUITY THIS
ISSUE IS TAKING
PLACE ONLY
MINUTES AFTER THE
PREVIOUS.

NONSENSE! EVEN COMIC
CONTINUITY HAS ITS
LIMITS! AT THE VERY
LEAST A FEW WEEKS HAVE
PASSED BETWEEN ISSUES.

IF THE ULTIMATES CAN DO IT
THEN SO CAN WE. NOW STOP
DISAGREING WITH ME
BEFORE I LET SHOST WIDOW
PLAY WITH YOUR PANCREAS.

VERY WELL, BUT ARE YOU
AT LEAST GOING TO PAY
ME FOR ALL THE
OVERTIME I'VE WORKED?

NOT A
CHANCE, THE
CLONE
DOCTOR.




OH-HO-HO! SO, THE MIGHTY LORD RECLUSE HAS FINALLY SEEN FIT TO PRESENT HIMSELF BEFORE ME.

YOU KNOW, AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO ADD MY POWER TO YOUR EMPIRE, BUT NOW I SEE THE REAL REASON I'M HERE.

ALL THE EXPERIMENTING AND NEEDLES AND STICKING ME IN THIS GIANT JELLO MOLD HAD A WAY OF DRIVING HOME THE POINT.


YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME, THAT'S IT ISN'T IT? YOU'RE A CHICKEN AND I KNOW CHICKENS, LIKE THAT BIG ONE THAT KEEPS HITTING ME. I DON'T LIKE HIM VERY MUCH.

AND HE HANGS AROUND WITH SCARY, SPARKY! I MUST KILL HIM! NO, NO I WON'T. I'M BEYOND THAT NOW. NOPE, STILL WANT TO KILL HIM. WHERE WAS I?



Y'KNOW, IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER TO TALK TO YOU IF BEING IN THIS TUBE DIDN'T MAKE YOU SOUND LIKE CHARLIE BROWN'S TEACHER.

WAH WA WA WAH WA.




THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHY THE CLONE IS EVIL? NOW AM I SUPPOSED TO USE THAT TO MAKE AN ARMY OF EVIL STATESMEN?

AH YES, ABOUT THAT. WELL THE THING IS YOU CAN'T. IF YOU TRIED YOU'D JUST END UP WITH A PUDDLE OF GOO WITH THE I.Q. OF A GERBIL. SO ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS INTELLIGENT THAN THIS SPECIMEN.

YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO CREATE STATESMEN CLONES. OF COURSE I WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY FURTHER RESEARCH. AT A MODEST FEE. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE CLONE?

IT NO LONGER SERVES A PURPOSE. GET RID OF IT.





WELL SO MUCH FOR THAT POSSIBLE SURPLUS.

YOU LOST THE COIN TOSS, NOW GET IN THERE AND TELL HIM!

REST TWO OUT OF THREE!

PUSH!



UM, I'M SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING, LORD RECLUSE, BUT SOMETHING URGENT HAS COME UP.

I SWEAR I CAN'T TAKE THE TIME FOR A PISS WITHOUT EVERYTHING GOING TO HELL. WHAT IS IT NOW?

WELL SIR, IT SEEMS DEADLY DESIRE LOST THOSE TWO HEROES SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO WATCH.

TRULY? THAT'S RATHER DISAPPOINTING. I HAD SUCH HIGH HOPES FOR HER.

THE HEROES THEN BROKE INTO SHOST WIDOW'S TOWER.

WHAT?!

THAT TOWER CERTAINLY DOES DRAW ATTENTION. MAYBE WE SHOULD DEMOLISH IT AND BUILD YOU A CONDO.

THEN THEY HACKED HER COMPUTERS AND STOLE VARIOUS IMPORTANT FILES.

WHAT?!

AND BEAT UP POOR WRETCH.

WHAT?!

AND WE'RE PRETTY SURE THEY WENT THROUGH HER PRIVATE THINGS.

WHAT?!

ALSO, A LARGE CONTINGENT OF HEROES SLIPPED INTO FORT CERBERUS IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT THE SPIES. BY CHANCE THEY ENCOUNTERED ARACHNOS COMMANDER AND A FORCE OF VILLAINS HE HAD GATHERED AND ARE NOW LOCKED IN BATTLE.



IMPRESSIVE. WHOEVER FORMULATED THIS PLAN MUST BE A STRATEGIC GENIUS.

HEY! I NEED TUBE ONE FLUSHED AND STERILIZED! STAT! AND SOMEBODY GET ME A HAW SANDWICH!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA
HOW WORRIED I WAS?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

BUT SPARKY AND
BARBEQUE
CHICKEN NEEDED
HELP!

DON'T YOU PUT ME
MISTER. BY THE
WAY, NICE WORK
ON THE ARMOR,
SWEETIE.

I PICKED THE
COLORS!

SNEAK
SNEAK
SNEAK

HOW ABOUT I LET THE TWO
OF YOU TALK THIS OVER.
HOLY CRAP! UH, THE
SAFETY IS ON RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING
ANYWHERE. YOU'RE
GOING TO STAY
RIGHT HERE AND
PROTECT MY SON.

BUT HIS BATTLE
SEQUENCE,
MISSING OUT...

AW MOM, I CAN
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF!

YES MA'AM.

YES MA'AM.

AND I'LL
DEAL WITH
YOU LATER.

IF I HAD KNEES
I'D BE ON
THEM, REGGINS
FOR MERCY.

NOW STAY PUT,
MOMMY HAS TO
GO KICK SOME
@\$\$.

UH, YEAH. HEY
JOHNNY, DID YOU
KNOW YOUR MOM
IS A
BIT...INTENSE?

THE PSYCHIATRIST
CALLED IT BORDERLINE
PERSONALITY DISORDER
WITH VIOLENT
TENDENCIES.

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
IS YOUR MOM IS A FEW
BULLETS SHORT OF A
CLIP. GOTCHA

KR-BOOM! **BOOM!**
BRAM!

AW MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE MISSING OUT ON ALL THE ACTION.

C'MON. LET'S GO GET IN ON THE HERO STOMPING.

NOT A CHANCE, JENKINS. WE WERE ORDERED TO GUARD THIS DOOR AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOUR SCREW-UPS AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU RUIN MY CHANCES AT A PROMOTION.

YEAH, BUT...

LOOK PAL, YOU JUST STAND THERE AND DON'T DO ANYTHING.

YEAH, BUT...

SHUSH! NOT A THING.

DID YOU JUST SHUSH ME?

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, LADY?

I'M GOING INSIDE.

LIKE HELL! NOBODY GETS IN AND NOTHING YOU SAY OR DO IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT.

IS THAT SO? MAYBE I CAN HELP CHANGE YOUR MIND.

EYAR! OH MY GOD! **MAG!**

THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BEND THAT WAY!

WAAH! WOW, SO THAT'S WHAT A SPLEEN LOOKS LIKE.

ALSO **yargh!**

VNIP!

ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND STOP ME?

NOPE, I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO STAND HERE. SO RIGHT IN.











WE'RE LOSING.
HOW CAN WE BE
LOSING??

IT'S BECAUSE
THE CLASSES
AREN'T
BALANCED FOR
RP.

NOW DON'T
YOU START
WITH THAT
AGAIN!

OKAY THEN,
TELL ME HOW
WE'RE GOING TO
BEAT THE

BY DOING WHAT
ANY GOOD
VILLAIN WOULD
DO, WE'RE
GOING TO CHEAT.


SAD-SIT! THAT
MIGHT BE BETTER
RE ABLE TO DO
WHAT YOU SAY
IT CAN!

OF COURSE IT
WILL! A FLIP OF
THE SWITCH AND
EVERYONE IN
RANGE WILL HAVE
THEIR POWERS
BLOCKED FOR A
SHORT TIME.

IT WILL EVEN
SCRAMBLE
ANY POCKET
DIMENSION
DEVICES,
COMMENTARILY
EXPLAINED
EARLIER,
AND RECALL
ALL WEAPONRY!

EXCELLENT, OUR
VICTORY IS AT
HAND. HOLD
ON, DID HE SAY
EVERYONE?



A dark, atmospheric scene of a castle at night. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds. The castle's architecture is visible, featuring a crenelated roofline and several tall, narrow towers. A speech bubble is positioned in the lower-middle part of the frame, pointing towards the castle. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of black, grey, and a hint of blue in the sky.

YES! IT
WORKED! NOW
POPULAR
SCIENCE HAS
TO PRINT MY
ARTICLE!






WHAT'S GOING ON?
MY POWER TRAYS HAVE VANISHED!

I NEVER EVEN GOT TO SAVE ANYBODY A ROOT TO THE HEAD!

GO HAVE MY SUGAR!



WEIRD, MY POWER ANCHOR JUST SHUT DOWN. AND I NEVER REALIZED JUST HOW HEAVY IT IS UNTIL THIS MOMENT.

MY ZAPS!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY ZAPS!



MAYBE YOU'RE OUT OF JUICE. WANT ME TO FIND YOU A BATTERY TO SUCK ON?

WHY ARE YOU STILL WORKING WHEN NOTHING ELSE IS?

HEY SUGAR! OUR POWERS AREN'T WORKING EITHER.

BECAUSE I'M AWESOME!

N-BAMP HYPER! YOU'RE HERE TOO!

YEAH, WE CAME WITH JANICE. GOOY! NOW CAN YOU ALL GET AND WORKING GO FLOW ALL THE TIME. I NEED SOMETHING TO DRINK, SOMETHING WITH LOTS AND LOTS OF SUGAR. THAT'LL FIX MY POWERS I BET.




JUST ONE MORE HIT?

NO MEANS NO!

THINGS KEEP GETTING STRANGER AND STRANGER.

OR CHOCOLATE? DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY CHOCOLATE?



WHERE'S EVERYBODY?
SOMEONE COME ON, WE CAN STILL TAKE THEM!

AND LIKE WHAT? DRAWUP! NO WAY, I'M HEADING TO POCKET D TO HIT ON THE DANGERS UNTIL MY POWERS RETURN.



THAT'S IT, FIGHT'S OVER! BACK TO THE BOAT!



WE JUST LET YOU THINK THAT.

WHY IS OUR SECRETARY GIVING THE ORDER? I THOUGHT I WAS THE TEAM LEADER.

TEE-DEE! "GRANT" BE NICE!



YEAH THAT'S RIGHT! YOU BETTER RUN!

EVERYONE ON THE GUN! WE HAVE
TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE
REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE!

HOLD ON, I'M THE
LEADER! I WANT TO
GIVE THE ORDERS.

“GISH” FINE,
YOU CAN HAVE
THE STAIR.

YOU ARE NOT
GOING ANYWHERE
HEROES... YOU SHALL
PAY FOR INVADING
MY BASTARDY.

WE GIVE
UP!

OH FOR
TEE-DEE,
COMMAND CODE
NEATLOAF.

MY GUN! I
HAVEN'T EVEN
MADE THE
FIRST
PAYMENT YET!



BOOM!

IF YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO STOP ME, YOU'RE--

RIGHT! AND SINCE I'M IN A FORGIVING MOOD, I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING. NOW GO BACK TO PARASON CITY.

BUT HOW DO WE GET HOME WITH OUR SUB FUNK?

OH! OH! I KNOW! EVERYBODY FOLLOW ME!

DO WE HAVE TOP?

MEATLOAF? WHY MEATLOAF?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO MAKE FOR GLYBER AT THE TIME, REGIDES, WOULD YOU HAVE SUGGESTED IT?

WELL, NO. I HATE MEATLOAF.

KEEP DISSEING, NESTER.

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE INSURANCE!





GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND WELCOME TO THE FIRST FLIGHT OF SPARKY AIRLINES. THIS IS A NO FRILLS FLIGHT SO THERE WILL BE NO MEALS OR DRINKS SERVED. WE DO, HOWEVER, HAVE AN INFLIGHT FILM. A DOCUMENTARY ON THE WORST AIRPLANE DISASTERS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS! I HEAR IT'S A REAL NAIL BITER.

ALSO, IN THE CASE OF A WATER LANDING BOB CAN BE USED AS A FLOATATION DEVICE. NEXT STOP PARASON CITY!

**A
A
A
A
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H
!**

I WANT OFF! I WANT OFF!

I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

OH MY GOD!

THE GROUND IS COMING UP A LITTLE FAST!



GOSSY! GOSSY! ABOUT THAT! MY F A K! EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL NOW.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU KNEN HOW TO FLY!

I OY! I HAVE OVER 500 HOURS OF FLIGHT EXPERIENCE. ON FLIGHT SIMULATOR GAMES.

WE'RE GONNA DIE.

ATLAS PARK, THE NEXT MORNING.

AND IF YOU LOOK TO THE RIGHT YOU'LL SEE THE FAMOUS ATLAS STATUE.

WELL YOU JUST LAND ALREADY!

HEY SPARKY, DID YOU HAPPEN TO RAPID AHEAD AND INFORM THE NEDDES OF PARAGON THAT WE'RE ARRIVING IN A STOLEN ARACHNOS FLEET?

HOPE. WHY DO YOU ASK?

NO REASON, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO STICK YOUR HEAD BETWEEN YOUR LEGS AND KISS YOUR BFF GOODBYE.

NOW REMEMBER, I DO ALL THE FIGHTING. THE REST OF YOU ARE HERE JUST TO MAKE ME LOOK GOOD.

HEY! YOU'RE IN MY SPOT OLD MAN!

WANT TO KEEP YOU'RE RUINING THE SHOW! AND GINCE WHEN CAN YOU FLY?

EVER SINCE I DECIDED I COULD. NOW MOVE IT BEFORE I DECIDE TO STICK ANOTHER ARROW IN YOU!



REST OF ALL THE GAME
NUMBER OF HEROES THAT
WENT TO THE ISLES CAME
BACK TO PARAGON CITY.
MOORE WAS LEFT BEHIND.

PIRATES! NINJAS! PIRATES! NINJAS!

CAT
GIRLS!

YARRR

HEW?

THAT'S RIGHT, EVERYTHING
WAS WRAPPED UP NICELY. NO
LOOSE ENDS OR PLOT HOLES.

NOW WHY WOULD
SOMEONE
THROW AWAY A
PERFECTLY
GOOD BODY?

GROAN

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! DON'T
WORRY, I CAN REBUILD
YOU. MAKE YOU
BETTER... STRONGER... FASTER.
I HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY,
OR I WILL AS SOON AS I
SCOURGE IT OUT OF THIS
GARBAGE HEAP.

AS FOR MYSELF AND THE REST OF THE GANG, EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL.

JUST A SMALL TAP WILL DO.

WELL AS NORMAL AS IT GETS FOR US.



WHAM!

AAAGH!

TEZRAN!
WHAT THE HELL!?!

IT'S
GOOD TO
BE A HERO.

DAMNIT! THE
CURSE IS STILL
WORKING!

**THE END
FOR NOW...**