



★ ★ THE ★ ★
MIGHTY

CRUSADERS

SPECIAL

1
ONE SHOT
JUL '10



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STURGES
JERWA
ROZUM
TRAUTMANN
PINA

A quorum of the GLOBAL CONCERN.

WOULD SOMEONE CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW SUCH A SIMPLE TRANSACTION TURNED INTO AN UTTER FIASCO?

DOCTOR ZADAR, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WE DID IN FACT RECOVER--

I DON'T RECALL ASKING WHAT WE DID OR DID NOT RECOVER.

THE GLOBAL CONCERN IS NOT A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE. WE ARE NOT A GANG OF THUGS. WHEN OUR TRANSACTIONS DEVOLVE INTO VIOLENCE, THERE ARE COSTS, EXTERNALITIES.

AND AS ANY GOOD BUSINESSMAN CAN TELL YOU, MISTER PRENTISS, THE COSTS OF SUCH EXTERNALITIES MUST BE DEFLECTED.

AND YES, I REALIZE THE GUN IS A BIT IRONIC, GIVEN WHAT I JUST SAID ABOUT VIOLENCE.



THE WEB

"UNTIL NOW."

Identity: UNKNOWN

Base of operations: NEW YORK CITY

Powers: TECHNOLOGICAL, NO METAHUMAN ABILITIES

Notes: Ties to industrialist John Raymond, Precise relationship unknown. Psych profile not a match for Raymond as secret identity.

length	68.594	87.96.59
HRU	54.223	66.49.69
HRM	54.867	58.78.65
HRH	54.313	87.98.58
height	64.988	44.53.25

Strength	28%
Potential	47%
Endurance	71%
Speed	45%
Intelligence	13%

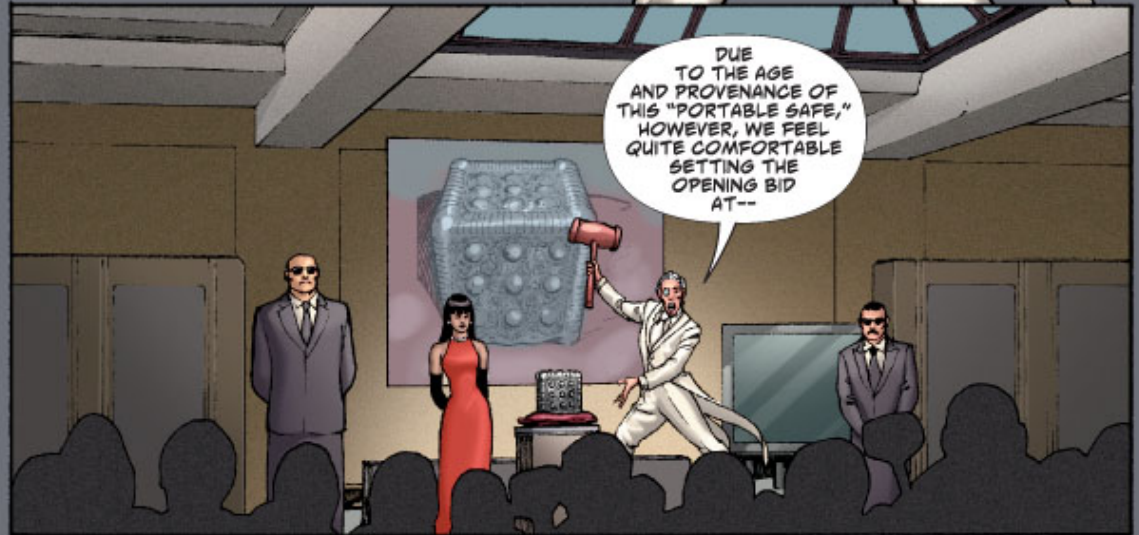
San Francisco.

One week earlier.

OUR NEXT ITEM UP FOR BID IS SOMETHING QUITE SPECIAL, THOUGH A BIT OF A MYSTERY.

IT IS RUMORED TO BE OF GREAT VALUE, THOUGH ITS CONTENTS ARE...*UNKNOWN*, AS IT IS NIGH ON IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN.

PERHAPS ONE OF YOU KNOWS MORE ABOUT IT THAN I? I IMAGINE SO.



DUE TO THE AGE AND PROVENANCE OF THIS "PORTABLE SAFE," HOWEVER, WE FEEL QUITE COMFORTABLE SETTING THE OPENING BID AT--



--FIVE MILLION.

THAT'S MY CUE.



FLASH

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FLASH

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CIRCLE

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I SUPPOSE IN RETROSPECT I COULD HAVE PICKED A BETTER MOMENT TO MAKE THE GRAB.

SECURITY!



AFTER THE PURCHASE WAS MADE, FOR INSTANCE, I COULD HAVE FOLLOWED THE LUCKY BUYER AND HIT HIM OR HER ON THE WAY HOME.

CRACKLE



BUT GOD, THIS IS SPECTACULAR.

SOMEONE STOP HIM!



AND IN THE END, ISN'T THAT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. I WAS PROMISED TOTAL SECURITY!

A TRAVESTY, INDEED. BUT SUCH ARE THE TIMES IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES.

