

FAO Ralph Macchio, Editor

Ultimate Fantastic Four #21

X-Over

Part One of Three

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22 Script Pages

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Page One

1/ Open with the PREVIOUSLY page.

Page Two

1/ Turn the page for a full-page splash of The Thing with his back to us, one fist pulled back towards us as he adjusts a head-set with the other. A T-Rex charges towards us through prehistoric foliage. We're millions of years in the past.

CAPTION : 150 Million years ago:

THE THING : Reed.

THE THING : Two seconds.

Page Three

1/ Cool shot of The Thing punching this dinosaur in the face.

THE THING : HNNT.

2/ Impact shot as the beast's head jerks back, his jaw dislocated.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Pull back and see the dinosaur just going over and landing in a heap, dust everywhere and The Thing just standing there and looking cool as a tiny figure down below. This would probably be best as an overhead.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Four

1/ Cut back to ground-level and Thing speaks into his head-set, almost casual.

THE THING : Okay, what's up?

RADIO BALLOON : I said be careful when you're looking for these guys, Ben. Try not to stand on any bugs or plants because even the smallest actions can have massive ramifications through the time-stream.

2/ Pull back for a wide overhead shot and we see this enormous beast either seriously hurt or killed, lying here and not moving. It looks absolutely enormous. A flame-trail passes overhead and we're looking down on it from this angle.

THE THING : Right.

3/ Focus on The Human Torch as he rockets around looking for something.

HUMAN TORCH : Yo, Reed. It's Johnny; listen, I've checked ten miles in every direction and these guys are definitely not in the cretaceous period anymore. You think this was just a pit stop?

4/ Cut to the same spot, fifty million years earlier. It's the Pre-Cambrian age and Reed and Sue are walking around here in the sand, looking up at a big jagged rock. The water ebbs gently from the tide beside them. The sky is thundering with electric storms and it's raining.

CAPTION : 200 million years ago:

MR FANTASTIC : It's possible. Their combined weight is thirty percent more than ours so maybe they could only reach the Dawn Of Life in two jumps. You know... like an airplane on a trip to China?

INVISIBLE GIRL : It's weird to think we're standing in the exact same place as you guys, but fifty million years earlier.

INVISIBLE GIRL : You see that huge rock up ahead? The one that's shaped like a witch's hat? Is that still there?

Page Five

1/ Cut back to the relative calm of the Cretaceous period and we see the exact same perspective and size of panel as the previous with Reed and Sue. The difference here is that Ben and Johnny are looking at a rock that's been greatly eroded.

THE THING : Kinda. But it's not so big anymore. I'd say maybe fifteen, twenty feet tall. How big is it fifty million years ago?

2/ Cut back to the soaking rain and Sue is smiling, her face filled with wonder as she touches this rock.

INVISIBLE GIRL : Over a hundred feet. Isn't that amazing?

3/ Pull back and we see our gang of baddies, all dressed in the same skin-tight super-villain uniform of your choice. These guys are the Chrono-Bandits and they're armed, their leader holding the first little fish that ever managed to scramble onto the sand as a reptile. Play this all completely straight.

MAIN BAD GUY : Spectacular. Now shut the Hell up and get the United Nations on that phone.

MR FANTASTIC : Sue! Get back!

4/ The main bad guy points his blaster at the little creature.

MAIN BAD GUY : I want you to confirm what I'm holding in my hands here.

MAIN BAD GUY : I want you to tell the secretary-general that unless we get ten billion dollars delivered into those bank accounts we're going to shoot the first thing that ever crawled from the sea.

5/ Pull back for a wide shot and Reed tries to explain. It's a stand-off.

MR FANTASTIC : Are you out of your mind? You create a break in the evolutionary chain and mankind ceases to exist... you guys included.

MAIN BAD GUY : Who cares? Unless you're rich, life isn't worth living anyway. Now get on the phone and explain to this idiot what kind of odds we're talking here...

Page Six

1/ The main bad guy narrows his eyes, but Sue gets serious.

MAIN BAD GUY : ...and no funny business. I know you can stretch like a rubber band and I know INVISIBLE GIRL can turn INVISIBLE.

MAIN BAD GUY : We studied you guys before we hacked into your files. We know ALL ABOUT you, "Mister Fantastic".

INVISIBLE GIRL : What about my force fields? You ever seen one of my force fields before?

2/ Close on the bad guy, a little confused.

MAIN BAD GUY : No...

3/ Pull back for a cool shot of all four guys getting knocked out by Sue's invisible force field. Reed stretches out and grabs the little creature before it hits the deck.

INVISIBLE GIRL : That's because they're INVISIBLE, jackass.

4/ End the scene with a nice shot of the creature scurrying off and Sue capturing the whole thing on her phone camera. Reed tangles the unconscious crooks up in his arms, speaking via head-set to the present day.

MR FANTASTIC : Captain America; this is Mister Fantastic. We've apprehended these computer hackers in the pre-Cambrian era and we're coming back home now.

MR FANTASTIC : Ben and Johnny; we'll pick you up along the way.

INVISIBLE GIRL : Just a second, Reed. I want to catch this on-camera for my Dad...

Page Seven

1/ Cut to the present day and we see The Ultimates (minus Thor) as they stand here and wait inside a big warehouse. There's a huge Stargate kind of contraption and we see the FF coming through it with their unconscious captives. The Thing had a great time.

CAPTION : The Present Day:

HAWKEYE : Stand back. Give 'em a little room here, huh?

THE THING : Dude, you would not BELIEVE what we just saw. It was exactly like JURASSIC PARK...

THE THING : ...except the dinosaurs were even BETTER and it didn't have those two KIDS you wanted to strangle.

2/ Cap's asking what's happening and Johnny's pretty cool about their big capture.

CAPT AMERICA : What the Hell's going on here? We got a call from the Baxter Building saying there was a temporal emergency at this address and the Fantastic Four were in some kind of trouble.

JOHNNY STORM : No trouble at all, Cap. All taken care of. A gang of nerds just hacked into our files and duplicated a time-machine Reed and Sue were working on.

3/ Close on Johnny as he smirks and breathes on his nails, obviously pleased with himself.

JOHNNY STORM : Creeps tried to hold the Earth to ransom, but I don't think they realized who they were MESSING with.

4/ Johnny throws Cap a little glance, wondering if he's crossed the line. Cap looks away and sighs, telling the others to pick these guys up. The Thing opens the doors in the background and looks horrified.

JOHNNY STORM : Uh, you don't mind if I call you "Cap", right?

CAPT AMERICA : Son, I don't care WHAT you call me. Okay, guys, Let's get them back to The Triskelion for questioning.
THE THING : Aw, man. Who let the DOGS out?

Page Eight

1/ Cut to exterior and crowds of reporters and TV people. Shot of the FF working their way through this huge crowd. They're obviously enjoying their new publicly known status, although Sue is a little put off by it.

SUE STORM : Johnny, was this YOU? Did YOU tip off the newspapers that we were going after those hackers?
JOHNNY STORM : We're PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE now, sis. Just relax and enjoy seeing your FACE on TV.
REPORTER ONE : Hey, guys. New York Daily News. How did you find out that The Chrono-Bandits were gonna hold the human race to RANSOM?
THE THING : Believe it or not, it was in our HOROSCOPES this morning.

2/ One reporter is particular stops Reed and he pauses to consider the question.

REPORTER THREE : Mister Fantastic! Daily Bugle! There's been a massive surge in super-villain activity these last twelve months. Any idea why all these super-people are crawling outta the woodwork now?
MR FANTASTIC : Actually, I've been thinking about this a lot lately and I think it's all got to do with probability curves, sir.

3/ Focus on Reed as he gives his interesting answer.

MR FANTASTIC : One post-human appears and the probability of another one showing up is increased by a factor of ten to the power five.
MR FANTSTIC : Two, ten or FIFTY post-humans appear and the probability of others just naturally occurring becomes a certified INEVITABILITY in mathematical terms.

4/ Silent reaction shot from the reporters and everyone looks a little wide-eyed and baffled by what they just heard.

NO DIALOGUE

5/ Sue Storm, the most take-charge of the crew, pushes a path for Reed and they all head for the new Fantasti-Car they've built (which we can only see part of thanks to the crowds.

INVISIBLE GIRL : He means they're CATCHING ON, boys. Now if you'll EXCUSE us...
THE THING : Hey, freak. You mind not breathing on the CAR?

Page Nine

1/ Cut to a realistic street scene in downtown New York and papers are blowing everywhere and hats are blowing off as people look up at something passing overhead.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Cut to a cool big shot of the new fantasti-car zipping through the buildings. This one is open and a little more exposed, but should have a strong relation to the one featured in the Doom storyline. This one is a little more dazzling and super-heroic, though. Ben, Reed and Sue are inside and Johnny is flying beside them. Great, iconic shot.

JOHNNY STORM : I can't believe we just DID that. I can't believe we just travelled all the way back to the DINOSAURS, man.

SUE STORM : He's really starting to get INTO the whole superhero thing, isn't he? Look at his face. Look at this NEW CAR he built for everybody. Reed's really starting to ENJOY himself...

REED RICHARDS : C'mon, Sue. Those guys hacked into our files and stole our CHRONO-TUNNEL notes. We couldn't exactly sit back and IGNORE them.

3/ Cut to inside an office building and we see all the girls inside bouncing against the files and the ledgers as they wave at the windows. Think of that scene in Superman when Supes is flying past the window. Reed waves out at the girls here.

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Reed allows himself a little smile and Sue gives him a little smile too.

MR FANTASTIC : Okay, so maybe I'm enjoying myself a LITTLE bit...

Page Ten

1/ Cut to an overhead shot of the Baxter Building. This is a really nice, big panel and we elucidate on the thing Warren set up for us in Doom where a section of the roof is pulled back and we can see a big landing pad inside with a number four on it. This is still relatively crude, but I like the idea of the headquarters being put together very gradually like this.

CAPTION : The Baxter Building:

SUB-CAPTION : Where the smartest minds today create what you'll be driving, playing and buying tomorrow.

2/ Cut to interior and we see a couple of the lab-coated staff standing around here with lab-coats and clipboards under their arms as they look up and see this thing coming in off-panel.

STAFFER ONE : Is it just me or has GOING PUBLIC kinda gone to their HEADS a little?

STAFFER TWO : Dudes called themselves THE FANTASTIC FOUR, man. What do you EXPECT?

3/ Pull back and a shot from behind Professor Storm as he heads straight for these guys, arms outstretched and asking the obvious question. We can see the fantasti-car lowering gently in the background. Johnny lands here too.

PROF STORM : Well?

INVISIBLE GIRL : Well what?

PROF STORM : What the Hell's GOING ON?

Page Eleven

1/ Reed tries to be casual about this as they all alight from their car, but The Professor is really angry with him here.

MR FANTASTIC : Some new SUPER-GANG stole our notes and tried to mess with the time-stream, Professor Storm. But everything's okay. The Ultimates have them now. Things are good.

PROF STORM : The Ultimates should have been dealing them in the FIRST place, Reed. Why on Earth didn't you leave this to the PROFESSIONALS?

2/ Pull back a little and Reed's still a bit dismissive. The Professor is clearly annoyed and Sue seems surprised by the outburst. He's still a cool guy and never lets his emotions run TOO high, though.

MR FANTASTIC : They're good at THEIR thing, we're good at OUR thing.

PROF STORM : Right now the only thing you seem especially GOOD at is endangering the lives of my CHILDREN.

INVISIBLE GIRL : Dad! For God's sake...!

3/ Johnny smiles and shrugs, but his Dad isn't listening. He's still on at Reed, but he's taken his glasses off, is pinching his brow and counting to ten inside.

JOHNNY STORM : Sue's right, Dad. I'm an After School Special waiting to happen all by MYSELF.

PROF STORM : Reed, I'm trying to be reasonable here. Even YOU must admit you've been acting completely out of character lately.

PROF STORM : You almost collapsed this entire REALITY with those things you

brought back from the N-Zone and now you're having these ADVENTURES in the TIME-STREAM.

4/ Close on The Professor, quietly annoyed.

PROF STORM : It's like the accident gave you a TASTE for being reckless.

5/ Close on Reed and he looks up at us, clearly hurt.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Twelve

1/ Reaction from The Professor as he puts his glasses on and stands before Reed. The others all realize how serious this is becoming. In the background, we should note that there's some guys in lab-coats poking a giant maggot with sticks and only Ben appears to be paying it much attention.

PROF STORM : Look, I'm sorry. I'm not trying to curb your imagination here, but the Baxter Building is funded by a coalition of interests.

PROF STORM : Our investors are WORRIED, Reed. You're opening them up to a world of lawsuits and falling behind on all the PRACTICAL assignments you were given.

2/ Close on the Professor and he looks a little more gentle, clearly hoping that Reed understands the situation.

PROF STORM : You're not a superhero. You're a scientist.

PROF STORM : Now promise me you haven't done anything else I'll be angry about. Promise me your mind is back on the job.

3/ Close on Reed as he looks down and kind of sideways, slightly guilty.

REED RICHARDS : Absolutely, Professor—

4/ Close on Reed's fingers crossed behind his back.

REED RICHARDS : --I promise.

5/ Pull back and we see everyone looking around at The Professor as he strides off with his team, a folder filled with files under his arm. Ben is still the only one looking around at this weird situation with the giant maggot in the corner.

PROF STORM : Good. Because I don't LIKE being annoyed with you.

PROF STORM : It's a very disagreeable feeling.

THE THING : Listen, am I the only one who sees those guys poking a giant

maggot with STICKS over there?

Page Thirteen

1/ Cut to a close shot of a million little pieces of machinery lying around a floor.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Pull back and we're in Reed's lab and see him sitting down here and wearing his lab-coat as he works away on some machine. This thing is a teleporter pad of some sort, but it's all in pieces at the moment and there's lots of high tech equipment around.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Repeat the perspective and everything just fades away. Reed is sitting here and looks absolutely astonished as this equipment all just disappears in a gradual fade.

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Close on Reed as he gives a little smile, realizing exactly what's going on.

REED RICHARDS : Hello, Sue.

Page Fourteen

1/ Switch angles and Sue fades into view, smirking as she stands in the doorway. Reed seems a little surprised.

SUE STORM : Damn.

SUE STORM : You still good for tonight?

REED RICHARDS : What do you mean?

2/ Sue enters the room and explains. Reed sits there and looks guilty.

SUE STORM : The chess game with Professor Hawking. And dinner afterwards. Only three of us got INVITES, Reed. Don't tell me you've FORGOTTEN.

REED RICHARDS : Oh, man.

3/ Sue looks around, horrified to see what Reed's doing.

SUE STORM : Are you still working on this N-ZONE stuff? I thought Dad told you to CLOSE all those files and put them in STORAGE?

REED RICHARDS : He did, but I've discovered something AMAZING here, Sue. It started with a signal from the outer reaches of the zone. Intelligent noise from an ALTERNATE REALITY...

4/ Reed's incredibly apologetic and tries to explain, but Sue can't believe he'd be this crazy.

SUE STORM : Reed, we've been banned from going anywhere NEAR the N-Zone...

REED RICHARDS : But it's a parallel Earth, Sue. An entire planet almost exactly like ours except for these tiny, little differences. We've actually been COMMUNICATING with each other...

5/ Close on Reed as he winces, realizing he might be in big trouble here.

REED RICH (small) : You're not going to tell your DAD, are you?

Page Fifteen

1/ Close shot from Sue as she reacts with a scowl.

SUE STORM : You know something, Reed?

SUE STORM : At least Dad waited until my Mom was DEAD before he lost himself in his work.

2/ Switch angles and we see Reed looking kind of sad as Sue storms off through the doorway. We're looking over Reed's shoulder here.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Same perspective and the doors close.

OFF-PANEL : First fight?

REED RICHARDS : Not exactly.

4/ Same perspective, but Reed looks around.

OFF-PANEL : Don't worry. My Sue used to storm off like that all the time.

OFF-PANEL : She'll be FURIOUS for an hour, ANNOYED for TWO HOURS and then SULK for a further ninety to ninety-five minutes before you just kiss and make up.

Page Sixteen

1/ Full-page splash and we get a full length shot of the regular Marvel Universe Reed Richards standing here as a hologram. Ultimate Reed has obviously seen him before and acts kind of casually as he sits here and continues to build. The adult Reed has young Franklin Richards with him too (also a hologram) and the visual should be a great one for leaking online; summing the whole thing up very simply and providing a nice teaser.

ADULT REED : Trust me.
ADULT REED : I speak from experience.

Page Seventeen

1/ Reed continues working and Adult Reed introduces the kid.

REED RICHARDS : Who's the little boy?
ADULT REED : This is Franklin. My son. We've got a little girl called Valeria too, but she's out shopping with her mother right now.
ADULT REED : I thought you might get a kick out of seeing the kind of child you and YOUR Sue might have a few years down the line if my projections are accurate. Say hello, Franklin.
FRANKLIN : You look like you could be my Daddy's little brother, mister.

2/ Reed smiles to himself as he tightens some screws, but Adult Reed speculates on exactly what could be happening here. An important note is that we never see the teeth of these characters in the hologram.

REED RICHARDS : Wow.
REED RICHARDS : It's just mind-blowing to think of Sue and I actually GETTING TOGETHER in the future. I mean it always felt like we would, but this is like OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.
ADULT REED : Unless, of course, that's one of the subtle differences between our worlds. I've been reading all those web-pages you sent me and the details are fascinating...

3/ Pull back for a wide shot as the hologram of Adult Reed looks around the room.

ADULT REED : Your AVENGERS are called THE ULTIMATES. Your BAXTER BUILDING looks COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
ADULT REED : You've got less than a hundred super-humans whereas we've got literally THOUSANDS...
REED RICHARDS : You got someone watching over your shoulder all day long and telling you what you should be WORKING on?

4/ Reed continues working and seems a little frustrated.

ADULT REED : No, our Fantastic Four is entirely self-financed.
REED RICHARDS : Wish I could say the same. We're part-funded by the government, part-funded by some Fortune 500 companies.
REED RICHARDS : Meaning we have to think up new DEFENCE SYSTEMS and new things to SELL to people when we should be doing all the things YOU GUYS are doing.

Page Eighteen

1/ Adult Reed looks slightly confused and Reed stops working for a moment.

ADULT REED : If you're unhappy why don't you just LEAVE?

REED RICHARDS : It's not that I'm unhappy. I love it here. This is the first place I've ever felt really at home...

2/ Close on Reed and he looks up at us, a little sad. He has such grand plans.

REED RICHARDS : It's just when you got in touch and said you were gathering the smartest minds in the MULTIVERSE for this MISSION you were planning... it just kinda got me THINKING.

REED RICHARDS : I want to be a superhero. I've got the powers and a costume with a symbol on it. Why can't I be a superhero like Spider-Man or Captain America?

3/ Pull back and we see Reed and Adult Reed concentrating on this big teleporter they're building together.

ADULT REED : I still wish you wouldn't keep all this to yourself. You'd have built the teleporter twice as fast if Professor Storm and his team had given you a hand.

REED RICHARDS : Ah, we've done okay. Even as a HOLGRAM you've been able to stop me making all the mistakes I'd have made with those blueprints you e-mailed through.

4/ Pull back a little and a shot through the window of the lab.

REED RICHARDS : Believe me, Reed. The rest of the gang just wouldn't have understood

5/ Pull back further and we're outside and see The Human Torch (his hands not aflame) as he flies past and laughs with a screaming, smiling girl.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Nineteen

1/ Cut to lab interior again and Reed is standing on the big, flat cylindrical platform and typing into something that looks like a remote control. This is a nice wide shot and he looks quite serious. Hologram of Adult Reed stands here with Franklin in his arms.

ADULT REED : Are you ready for the big jump?

REED RICHARDS : As ready as I'll EVER be.

ADULT REED : Good. The others are just arriving for this MEETING I've called.

What do you take in your coffee?
REED RICHARDS : Cream and four sugars...

2/ Switch angles and we see Reed's glowing silhouette as he stands in the middle of the platform and disappears in a flash of light.

NO DIALOGUE

3/ Cut to the alternate reality and we maintain the same perspective, but the lab we're in is much darker and only lit by some tiny lights as Reed appears here.

REED RICHARDS : ...just like YOU, presumably.
REED (small) : Man, that felt weird.

4/ Pull back and we see Reed standing here in the middle of a big, dark lab. There's no one around and the place should be damp and dark and very ghostly and spooky. It's like nobody's been here in years.

5/ Close on Reed as he looks around, a little confused.

MR FANTASTIC : Reed?

Page Twenty

1/ Cut to a close shot of Reed's boots as he walks down the big emergency stairs within this parallel Earth Baxter Building.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Pull back and see Reed walking down these winding emergency stairs. The whole place is in darkness and seems completely deserted.

REED RICHARDS : REED?

3/ Cut to the main lobby and an overhead shot as Reed walks across the big, wide floor and we see a hundred charcoaled corpses lying around.

REED RICHARDS : Oh my God.
REED RICHARDS : What happened? This is HORRIBLE.

4/ Cut to the front doors and Reed pushes them open, pushing back some burned bodies that are lying against the door outside.

NO DIALOGUE

5/ Closer on Reed as he looks up at us in awe.

REED RICHARDS : Reed?

Pages Twenty-One and Twenty-two

1/ Pull back and an awesome double-page spread of what's essentially a Lovecraftian nightmare. New York City is in ruins, black birds are feasting on the scattered remains of the corpses lying in the streets, smoking holes are dotted around, burning cars and the buildings are mostly demolished. It's already been established that the Empire State Building is near the Baxter Building and so we see it, burned down to the last ten floors, as we look up and see a huge, sick black sun hanging in the sky. Reed is a little figure dwarfed against this chilling backdrop.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Twenty-Three

1/ Upper-body shots of an evil Fantastic Four as they walk towards us and grin. Mister Fantastic is in the foreground here and he's the only one giving a wide smile, allowing us to see his wretched, almost brown teeth. This is the zombie FF and ALL the Marvel heroes we meet next issue are zombies. Reed looks ALMOST human, but the others should already have started to decay pretty badly. They're all suffering from an alien virus that gets explained next ish. Needless to say, Reed hasn't stepped into what we'd understand as the regular Marvel Universe.

ADULT REED : Ever get the feeling you've been HAD?

TO BE CONTINUED