



ASTONISHING
TALES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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ASTONISHING TALES™ FEATURING

DEATHLOK

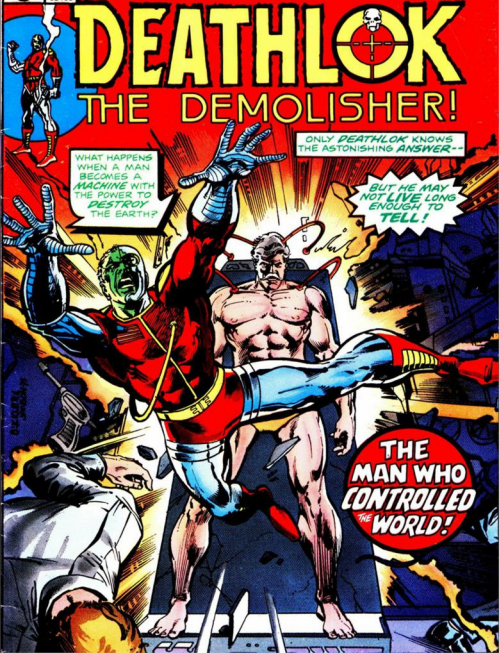
THE DEMOLISHER!

WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN A MAN
BECOMES A
MACHINE WITH
THE POWER TO
DESTROY
THE EARTH?

ONLY DEATHLOK KNOWS
THE ASTONISHING ANSWER--

BUT HE MAY
NOT LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO
TELL!

THE
MAN WHO
CONTROLLED
THE
WORLD!



A man locked in DEATH. No—not a MAN—a mockery of a man, an amalgam of flesh and computer-circuitry, that is the cyborg-designate DEATHLOK. Luther Manning has died and now, RESURRECTED in the year 1990, he searches with the fragment of humanity LEFT in him for a way to save both HIMSELF and his very SANITY.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

DEATHLOK THE DEMOLISHER!

'AND ALL THE KING'S MADMEN...

PRODUCED BY
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HELLINGER TERMINAL EYE
READOUT: CYBORG-DESIGNATE
DEATHLOK ENCOUNTERING
RESISTANCE IN N62 SECTOR
KNOWN AS CENTRAL PARK
FROM GROUP KNOWN AS THE
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY
ARMY... FOLLOWING...

"...COULDN'T
PUT DEATHLOK
BACK TOGETHER
AGAIN..."

GOTTA TRY AN'
SCATTER THESE
PUDES WITHOUT MURKIN'
'EM, 'PUTER--

--'CAUSE I'M
JUST BEGINNING
TO DIG THAT WE'RE
ALL ON THE SAME
SIDE IN THIS GUF
STINKIN' CRUMMY
LITTLE WAR!

"...OR
COULD
THEY?"

...DANGER...DANGER...DETONATION TIME
OF EXPLOSIVE WITHIN ATTACHE CASE
CHARGED TO BURST OF THIS ENTITY AT
TWENTY SECONDS AND COUNTING... 19...

...18...

I HEAR YOU, PUTER! I'M DOIN' THE BEST I CAN!

BUT I GOTTA GET THROUGH THESE GUYS IN ORDER TO GET TO THE CASTLE... WHERE HELLINGER SAYS THEY'RE HOLDIN' MIKE--

*SEE LAST ISSUE--MARV.

--AN' I GOTTA TRY AN' DO IT WITHOUT HURTIN' ANY OF 'EM!

HELLINGER TERMINAL-EYE REBOOTS CYBORG-DESIGNATE DEATHLOK STILL BEARING EXPLOSIVE, LASER-FIRE SCATTERING FREE REVOLUTIONARIES.

...17 SECONDS AND COUNTING...

ALL RIGHT, PUTER--

...18...

--I'M HURRYING!

...15...

--I'M HURRYING!

...14...

...13...

...12 SECONDS TO DETONATION...

THE CASTLE!

...11 SECONDS...

HEY! THE CABLE HAIN'T RELEASING!

IT'S SUPPOSED TO UNLOCK WHEN I REACH THE TARGET--

--SO I CAN DELIVER THE PAY-OFF AND SCRAM BEFORE--

HELLINGER!!

...10 SECONDS...

HELLINGER REBOOTS... DEATHLOK HAS REACHED DESTINATION... BELVEDERE CASTLE... FOLLOWING.

"ANGERS, HAIN'T IT, DEATHLOK? THERE MUST BE A, AN... FAULTY WIRE... SOMEWHERE!"



BUT YOU
CAN'T HEAR ME
...CAN YOU,
CYBORG?

ESPECIALLY
YOU!

A PITY I DIDN'T
INFORM YOU BEFORE—
HAND THAT: IN THIS OPERATION,
EVERYONE IS EXPENDABLE
...INCLUDING YOU!



AND WITH BOTH MY
BROTHER SIMON AND
HIS GREATEST CREATION
OUT OF THE WAY—

--THERE IS
NOTHING
THAT CAN STAND
IN MY WAY!
NOTHING!

IT WILL BE
HELLINGER WHO
DOMINATES! HELLINGER
WHO RULES!



"AND HELLINGER WHO
DESTROYS."

... 9 SECONDS ...

S--SOMETHIN'
JUST BLEW THE
BLAZES OUT OF
THE PIPES I
STUNNED, FUTUR!



WHAT IN
HEAVEN
IS GOING
ON?

... 8 SECONDS ...



DOOR'S OPENIN'!

TRAVERS!
GET NINA AN'
GET OUTTA
HERE!

... 7 SECONDS ...



HEY!
YOU'RE
NOT--

SYLVIA! GET
AWAY FROM
THE DOOR!

I--



WAIT! YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

LIKE BLAZES
WE DON'T,
FREAK!



... 4 ...
... ALERT!
DANGER
IMMINENT ...

I'M GONNA
DIE, FUTUR!
THIS THING'S
GONNA GO
OFF ANY
SECOND!

--AND I'M
GONNA DIE!

... 6 SECONDS ...

... 3 SECONDS... TERMINATION OF CYBORG-ENTITY
PROBABILITY FACTOR ESTIMATED AT 98.9999%...

... 2 SECONDS...

MY BIONIC
ARMS JAMMED
IN THE BLASTED
DOOR!

CAN'T
SHOOT OFF
THE CABLE!

IT'S GONNA--

... 1. TERMINATION.
TERMINATION.CYBORG
ENTITY APPROACHING
DROP-DEAD HALT!

-- BLOW!!

'PUTER, 'PUTER! I DON'T
HEAR 'YOU BUZZIN' INSIDE
OF ME! I...



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
LUTH'.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, LUTH'... EVEN IF YOU COULD HEAR ME--

-- BUT I HOPE YOU'RE ALIVE!

-- BUT I HOPE
YOU'RE *ALIVE!*

CYBORG APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONALLY INACTIVE.

CHARGES SET
AND DETONATED...

...CASTLE STRONGHOLD OF
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY
ARMY RENDERED INOPERATIVE.

I KNOW YOU SAID YOU'D
KILL ME IF YOU EVER SAW ME
AGAIN, LUTHER... FOR TAKING
YOUR WIFE AND KID WHILE
YOU WERE... DEAD!

BUT I DIDN'T DO ANY
OF IT TO HURT YOU,
LUTH'.

I HOPE YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND THAT!

BA-WHOOM!

[illegible]

"FOLLOW, COMPUTER! I WANT TO KNOW WHERE TRAVERS TAKES THE AH, BODY!"

REFERENCES

DAY-LOG; 1-3-91.
DEATHLOK'S BIONIC
ARM HAS BEEN
RESTORED.



REPLENISHMENT
OF HIS DEPLETED
AMNIO-BIOTIC
LIFE-FLUIDS
IS COMPLETE!

YOU'RE
WHOLE
AGAIN,
LUTHER!



WHOLE!
WE'RE GOING TO
WAKE HIM UP,
TRIVERS!

THE **BOSS**
WANTS YOU
TO BE
HERE.

YEAH.



WASN'T **EASY**
RESTORING THIS
THING! LOOKED
LIKE HE'D BEEN
THROUGH A
WAR!

HE
HAD!



YEAH, WELL
...HE'S BACK
TOGETHER
AGAIN,
NOW!

TOOK ALL
THE KING'S
MADMEN
TO DO IT,
HUH?

LOOK,
TRIVERS--

ALL RIGHT!
FORGET IT!
HE'S **AWAKE!**



'PUTER! AM I--ARE WE--?

ALL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING
AT 100% CAPACITY, DECAV-
FACTOR STABILIZED.

WE'RE **ALIVE!**

NEGATIVE, BUT WE EXIST.

LUTHER--?

GIVE HIM
A **CHANCE**,
MR. TRIVERS!

AFTER ALL ...
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY
ONE IS ALLOWED TO
BE **RESURRECTED!**

'PUTER, I ...
I CAN'T MOVE!



OUTSIDE PROGRAMING
IN OPERATION. WE
HAVE BEEN
IMMOBILIZED.

I'M **SORRY**
ABOUT THAT
MR. MANNING--



--BUT UNTIL I'M **SURE**
OF HOW YOU'LL **REACT**
I'M AFRAID OUR PRECAUTION
IS ... **NECESSARY!**

MY NAME IS **TERESA**
DEVEREAUX, MR. MANNING
... AND YOU ARE IN THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY--

--OF WHICH
I AM THE
HEAD!

I THINK WE
CAN ALLOW HIM
MOVEMENT NOW,
GENTLEMEN!

FULL MOBILITY RESTORED.

YOU ARE Ours NOW, DEATHLOK!

ANY PREVIOUS PROGRAMING HAS BEEN OVER RIDDEN!

IF YOU WILL GLANCE DOWN AT YOUR RIGHT ARM, YOU WILL NOTICE A NEW INPUT TERMINAL!

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY STILL FUNCTION AS AN INDEPENDENT OPERATIVE-- OUR GOALS ARE YOURS-- FOR THE TIME BEING!

PETER?

COMPUTER CHECK CORROBORATES RURAL INPUT. WE ARE NOW "PROGRAMED."

MR. TRAVERS WILL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU, MR. MANNING.

EXPLAIN IT, TRAVERS!

TELL ME I'M A FREAKIN' SUPER-SOLDIER, A DEATH-MACHINE FOR HIRE AGAIN! A COMPUTER JUNKIE!

FIRST RYKER! NOW THE CIA! AN' YOU LET 'EM DO IT TO ME!

NOBODY'S DOING ANYTHING TO YOU, LUTH'.

NOBODY EXCEPT RYKER!

AN' YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME THAT RYKER DON'T OWN THE CIA?

HE'S THE GOVERNMENT, TRAVERS! HE'S GOD IF HE WANTS TO BE!

HE MAY ALREADY BE BOTH, LUTH'--

THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL OF THIS!

THE CIA THINKS THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY CHANCE OF STOPPING RYKER! HE BUILT YOU! HE MADE YOU MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYBODY REALLY KNOWS!

THEY'RE FIGHTING HIM, LUTH'--AND WE'VE GOT TO HELP THEM!

YOU'RE A LIAR, TRAVERS!

BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIE ANYMORE!

NO USE, LUTH'! YOU'RE PROGRAMMED, REMEMBER! YOU CAN'T SHOOT ME!

YOUR POWER HAS TO BE USED AGAINST RYKER, LUTH'--

--BUT NOT BLINDLY, THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN USING IT!

ANALYSIS CORRECT. ACTION IS CONTRARY TO PROGRAMING.

BELIEVE ME, IT'S FOR THE BEST!

HE'S TELLING
THE TRUTH,
MR. MANNING!

YEAH?

I'M AFRAID SO!
THE GIRL NINA--WHOM
RYKER HAD TURNED INTO
AN OMNI-COMPUTER
TERMINAL OUTLET--HAS
PROBED THE MAIN
COMPUTER BANKS--

SEE 154#25--MARV.

--AND EVEN AS WE SPEAK,
THE MAJOR IS WELL ON HIS
WAY TO BECOMING OMNIPOTENT!
WE NEED YOU
DEATHLOK!

I SUPPOSE ALL
THE HARDWARE IS TO
MAKE SURE I AGREE!

NO! THEY'RE JUST
FOLLOWING PROCE-
DURE. CALL IT
INSURANCE!

WE'VE BEEN CAGED
FOR A LONG TIME,
MR. MANNING-- AND
WE WANT OUT!

I'M SURE YOU
CAN UNDERSTAND
THAT!

GUIDE THE COPTER IN
SLOW, PUTER! I WANT
RYKER'S BOOBS TO GET
A GOOD, HARD LOOK
AT IT!

AFFIRMATIVE.

HELICOPTER APPROACHING TARGET.

HERE HE
COMES, BOYS--
JUST LIKE THE
OMNI-COMP
SAID!

THAT CYBORG
MUST BE MORE
RECKLESS THAN
WE WERE TOLD--
CHARGIN' IN HERE
IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT

--THIS
IS WHERE
HE BUYS
IT!

OPEN
FIRE!

SENSORS INDICATE VEHICLE
UNDER ATTACK BY CONCENTRATED
LASER-FIRE.

BUT
DUMB AS
THAT IS--

VEHICLE DESTROYED.



WE GOT HIM!

HE'S DOWN!

SOMETHIN' DON'T FEEL RIGHT! THAT CYBORG WAS BUILT TO FIGHT--

--NOT TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF IN A STUPID RAID!

WHO CARES! HE'S DEAD--



AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!



YEAH, I SUPPOSE SO!

PLAY EFFECTIVE-- OUR PRESENCE HAS GONE UNDETECTED.



THAT'S GREAT, 'PUTER! NOW SHUT UP WHILE I MAKE USE OF THAT DIVERSION TO HAUL US UP!

STILL, I DON'T LIKE--

HEY! WHAT IN--



IT--IT'S THE CYBORG! HE DIDN'T GET BLOWN UP!

HE'S HERE!



YOU GOT IT, FRIEND!

AN' ADVERTISIN'! IT AIN'T GONNA DO YOU A BIT O' GOOD!



YARRRRR!

TARGET ONE ELIMINATED.

ONE DOWN, 'PUTER--

--TWO LEFT
TO GO!

GET
HI--!

STRAMM!

LOOKS LIKE
YOU TWO DON'T
NEED MY HELP
IN GETTIN'
ZAPPED!

WHAT-- WHAT'RE
YOU GONNA DO?

NOT
MUCH,
CRUP--

-- JUST GET
OUTTA MY WAY--

SMASH!

--SO I CAN HAVE
ME A LITTLE TALK
WITH YOUR
PARTNER!

NO! D-DON'T
HIT ME!

PLEASE!

JUST TELL
ME WHERE
RYKER
IS--

--AND WE'LL
BOTH WALK
AWAY FROM
HERE ALIVE!

SURE I'LL TELL
YOU! WHY NOT?
HE'S DOWN THERE
THROUGH THAT
DOOR!

FIGHT IT OUT WITH
HIM! I'M JUST A
FLUNKY, A FATSY,
CYBORG--

--JUST
LIKE
YOU!

I SHOULD HAVE
SHOT HIM, 'PUTER!

IRRATIONAL.
HIS STATE-
MENTS WERE
CORRECT.

THAT'S WHAT
I MEAN!

CALCULATIONS INDICATE
PROBABLE LOCATION
OF MAIN OPINI-COMPUTER
BANK BEHIND DOOR.

'AN WHERE
HIS TOYS ARE--

--THAT'S
GENERALLY
WHERE
RYKER IS!

HOPE YOU'RE
EXPECTIN' ME,
MAJOR--

-- CAUSE I'M
COMIN' IN!

AN' THIS
TIME THERE
AIN'T NOTHIN'
GONNA STOP ME--

--FROM
KILLIN'
YOU!

IT'S ME,
RYKER--

--THE MAN YOU
MURDERED!

ANOMALY, LIFE SIGNS NOT
EVIDENT, CONCLUSION: MAJOR
SIMON RYKER IS IN STATE AN-
ALOGOUS TO HOMEOSTASIS...

...BODY IS NO
LONGER ALIVE.

NO!!

GET UP,
RYKER! YOU'RE
NOT GONNA CHEAT
ME OUTTA KILLIN'
YOU!

IT-- IT'S THE
DEATHLOK-
CYBORG!

HE'S GONE
MAD!

NOT AS MAD
AS WE ARE
DOCTOR--

-- AND THAT MAY
BE OUR ONLY HOPE!

WHO--?

DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE ME,
DEATHLOK?

I'M
YOU!

I'M LUTHER
MANNING!

I'M GOIN' IN AFTER
HIM, 'PUTER!

POSSIBILITY FACTOR:
97%, SURVIVAL FACTOR:
0003%. PROGRAMME
COMPUTES AS ...

AS SUICIDE, 'PUTER!
I MAY NOT COME BACK!

LINK ME,
CLONE! I'M
GOIN' IN
AFTER HIM!

I'M COMING
INSIDE, RYKER!
YOU HEAR ME??

STABILITY-CIRCUIT OVERLOAD!
COMPENSATING...

HE'S ME, 'PUTER!
HOW MANY OF THEM
ARE THERE??

INSUFFICIENT DATA TO ...

DEATHLOK!
LISTEN TO ME!

I--GO
AHEAD!

ALTHOUGH
I'M A PHYSICAL
CLONE OF THE MAN
YOU WERE-- MY
MIND IS THAT OF
THE SURGEON WHO
CREATED YOU!
I'M A CYBORG-
SURGEON,
DEATHLOK--

--AND IT'S
BECAUSE OF
ME THAT
MAJOR RYKER
IS NOW
INSIDE THE
OMNI-
COMPUTER!
HE IS THE
COMPUTER!

WE HAD NO
CHOICE! HE ...
OWNS US, BODY
AND SOUL! I'M
THE LAST OF THE
THREE SURGEONS
WHO WORKED ON
YOU-- HE HAD THE
OTHER TWO ...
ELIMINATED!

INSIDE...?

I'M
GOING TO
KILL YOU!

GET READY
WHATEVER YOU
HAVE TO--



--WHILE I MAKE
SURE THAT HE AIN'T
GOT NO CHANCE OF
COMIN' BACK!

NO! EVEN THOUGH
THEY CAN'T SENSE
OUR ACTIONS DURING
THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD--

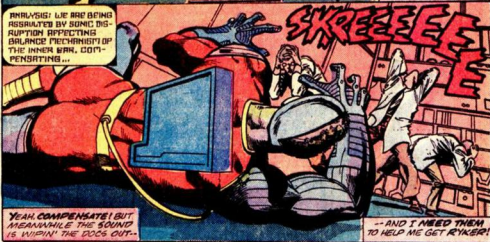
--RYKER'S BODY
IS STILL
PROTECTED BY
PRE-OPERATIVE
SAFEGUARDS!



WARNING... MOLESTATION
OF BODY HAS TRIGGERED
ROOTS DEFENSES... BEGIN
EVASIVE ACTION... REPEAT...

TOO LATE, 'PUTER!
IT'S STARTED!

SOMETHIN' PICKIN' ME
UP! FOSSIN' ME
ACROSS THE ROOM!



ANALYSIS: WE ARE BEING
ASSAULTED BY SONIC DIS-
RUPTION AFFECTING
BALANCE MECHANISM OF
THE INNER EAR. COM-
PENSATING...

YEAH, COMPENSATE! BUT
MEANWHILE THE SOUND
IS WHIPIN' THE DOGS OUT--

--AND I NEED THEM
TO HELP ME GET RYKER!

WE'RE SEEING
THIS THROUGH
DEATHLOK'S
EYES?

YES,
MS. DEVEREAUX!

THEN MAJOR
RYKER IS ALREADY
LINKED WITH THE
OMNI-COMPUTER!

THE OVER-RIDE
PROGRAMMING WE
INCORPORATED INTO
HIS SYSTEM MUST
HAVE HIM FEELING
LIKE AN ADDICT
ABOUT NOW!

HE'LL FACE ANYTHING!!!
DO ANYTHING TO GET TO
RYKER AND THUS
SATISFY HIS NEED!

THAT'S ONE OF
THE LITTLE... IMPROVE-
MENTS WE ADDED TO
THE CYBORG WHEN
WE REBUILT HIM!

DOES
MANNING
STAND A
CHANCE,
COINCES?

YES,
MA'AM...
BUT NOT
A VERY
BIG ONE!

I WISH
THERE WAS SOME
OTHER WAY!

"...BUT IF RYKER SUCCEEDS...
WELL, DEATHLOK'S AFFLICTION
WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR
WORRIES!"

GOT... TO...
SHUT... DOWN
THE... DEFENSE
...SYSTEM...

...STOP... THE
...SOUND...

IT'S
DONE!

THANK
GOD!

RETURN TO PRO-
GRAMMED ACTION.

GET RYKER.

RYKER!

GET ME READY,
DOC!

FAST!

I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, DOC! MY PROGRAMMING SAYS "GET RYKER"--

--AND I GOT TO JUMP!

AND ANYBODY WHO SEEMS TO BE IN MY WAY GETS IT!

PROGRAMMING! ALL RIGHT THEN... NEGATE YOUR PROGRAMMING BY LETTING IT KNOW THAT IF YOU KILL ME--

--YOU'LL NEVER GET IN AFTER THE MAJOR!

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PERFORM THE LINKAGE!

THAT DID IT, DOC!

"PUTER...?"

PROGRAMMING DOES NOT CONTRADICT. PROCEED.

LINK ME, DOC!

HELLINGER TERMINAL EYE READOUT: SUBJECT DESIGNATE "RYKER" IS FIRM-LOCKED TO TOTAL FUNCTIONING OF THE OMNI-COMPUTER. SUBJECT DESIGNATE "DEATHLOK" PREPARING FOR INTERCEPT-LINKAGE.

GOING IN AFTER SIMON, DEATHLOK?

GOOD! GOOD! BETTER THEN EVEN I COULD HAVE PLANNED!

COME, MY CLONE! COME OUT!

I WISH YOUR UNCOMPREHENDING EYES TO WITNESS THIS!

THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING MY SAINTED BROTHER HAS WORKED FOR--

--THE END OF HIS BENEVOLENT TECHNOLOGY AT THE HANDS OF HIS GREATEST TECHNOLOGICAL CREATION!

AND ONCE BOTH SIMON AND DEATHLOK ARE OUT OF THE WAY--

THEN THE WORLD WILL SCREAM BEFORE YOU, MY CLONE--

--THE FIRST OF THE DOOMSDAY-MECHS!

[OMNI-COMPUTER] [RYKER] INTERNAL PRINT-OUT.
(I) [WE] HAVE BEEN MIND-LOCKED TO ENTITY-
DESIGNATE "DEATHLOK!"

"DEATHLOK!!"

I'M IN HERE WITH YOU,
RYKER! I'VE FOLLOWED
YOU INTO HELL, YOU
STINKING MADMAN!

STATEMENTS AFFIRMATIVE.
POSTULATION! ENTITY IS
MIND-LOCKED TO RYKER-
OMNI-COMPUTER ENTITY...

SPECULATION: DOES
DESTROYING ONE
IMPLY DESTRUCTION
OF OTHER?

YOU PICK NOW TO
ASK THAT, 'PUTER?
NOW??

"[X][WE] WELCOME YOU,
MY CREATION! MY SELF!

"MY SON! WE ARE ONE
NOW... LINKED TO INFINITY
... INTELLIGENCE SUPREME
... MIND WITHOUT END!"

HE'S POPPED
HIS COCK,
PUTER! HE'S
MAD!

AND NOW IN
BLAZES AM I
GONNA STOP HIM??