

FRANCIS TAKENAGA PAT LEE RICHARD FRIEND

WETWORKS

image

29
MAY

2
100%
CIVIL

POWER SURGE!



09653 04606





PUT HIM
DOWN!

IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE
HE "ACQUIRED" THE
SYMBIOTES, CLAYMORE
NEVER SACRIFICED ANY PART
OF BEING TRANSFORMED
BY THEM.

THEN SUDDENLY, A
STREAM OF RAGE...
PURE HATRED...
STARTED TO REVEAL
ITSELF WHEN DRAG
MADE THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE TO SAVE US.*

THE ONE WE ALWAYS KNEW TO BE
THE GENTLE VOICE OF REASON HAD
BECOME THE COLDEST KILLER. TO
A CERTAIN EXTENT, IT'S AS IF
CLAYMORE INSISTED A PRICE OF
THE FURY WE ALWAYS KNEW TO
RESIDE WITHIN DRAG...

...AND NOW THIS.

Unpredictable Madness
 with **Wagner** as **the**
psychic **the** **the** **the**
the **the** **the** **the**
the **the** **the** **the**
the **the** **the** **the**
the **the** **the** **the**
the **the** **the** **the**

THE BLOOD-DRINKING "FURY"
 WAGNER, "THE" "THE" "THE" "THE"

WAGNER'S "THE" "THE" "THE" "THE"
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WAGNER'S "THE" "THE" "THE" "THE"
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WAGNER'S "THE" "THE" "THE" "THE"
 "THE" "THE" "THE" "THE"





THE PERSON HAS
BECOME CLEAR
TO ME ONLY NOW.

RRAGH!

KINGH?

YOUR FIREARM,
PILGRIM! WHILE IT'S
DISTRACTED!



THE SHOTGUN
BLAST WOULD HIT
DANE. YOU CAN'T MAKE
THE SHOT, NOT
FROM HERE.

GIVEN THE
NATURE OF OUR
OPPOSITION, MY DEAR,
SACRIFICES MUST
BE MADE TO
STOP IT!

YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS!



DANE... YOU... ARE...
MY... KING... DAN...

MEANWHILE, AT THE HIDDEN
COMPOUND WHICH HELD HER
NETWORK...

HIS NAME IS NATHANIEL BLACKBIRD,
OF THE LYONS, A HIGH-ORDER
CLAN OF THE RESERVATION.

TODAY, HOWEVER, HE
IS LEFT BEHIND.

SURE,
LEAVE THE LITTLE
WOLF-BOY BEHIND.
"TOO UNPROTECTABLE."
"TOO UNPROTECTED!"
WOLF PROTECTED.
TOO, TOO...
BORING!

IF IT
WEREN'T FOR MR.
CASH'S SUBLINE
ACCOMMODATIONS,
I THINK IT'D GO
STR. CRAZY!

* Courtesy compliments of
Caleb Cline, AGS author.

CHANNEL
3000, THE
SKYWATCH --

HELLO!



COMPUTER
VOICE-COM ONE
STATUS, ON.

Voice recognition
enabled. Proceed.

ACCESS
SKYWATCH OPTICAL
BANKS AND PLAY BACK
SEGMENTS 0450
THROUGH 0500.

Playback and
capture initiated.



FREED.
WHAT THE HELL
IS THAT?

SkyWatch UREM[®] confirm
extraterrestrial craft en route
to Earth. ETA at current
speed: one week.

UREM[®] is the Electronic Eye.

ENHANCE THIS
IMAGE AND CREATE
HARD COPY.

"OH, MAN, THIS
ISN'T GOOD."

SPLUSH

BLAM

ARAACH!

SELUCH

WILDER! YOU
WEREN'T SUPPOSED
TO HATCH OUR
OWN!

I DIDN'T.

"WILDER SPOKE OF HER UNIQUE ABILITIES AS
WE SOUGHT THE KERADON. I TRUSTED SHE
WOULD USE THEM TO MOVE DANE FROM THE
LINE OF FIRE. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY."

THAT'S RIGHT!
DANE! ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

THE GUY
THROUGHLY
BATTERED ME, SO
I LET HIM
IN FIRST!

YOU DID,
GIRL. COME ON
BOYS, IT'S OUR
TURN!



WE HAVE TO REMOVE ITS HEAD!

ACT QUICKLY BEFORE IT REPAIRS ITSELF!

I'M RIGHT WITH YOU!

GROO!

UNHAND THIS KERATON! FACE ME AND PREPARE TO MEET YOUR END!

SHRIP

GRAAA!

PERSPHONE?

HEAD ONE YOU ARE, NEIGHBORMENT STILL, BUT YOU WILL AGAIN.

D-POOR as Ant-Man, now.



STOP FIGHTING ME, JESTER. I NEED YOU JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, WILDER?

GOOD. JUST STAY PUT AND WATCH OUT FOR THAT THING'S TONGUE.

WE'RE BEING ELIMINATED ONE AT A TIME. WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOR LONG.

DANE, I KNOW YOU'RE STILL WEAK --

DO IT.



HAVING THE PSI-POWER TORN FROM ME IS AS PAINFUL AS THE SOUL-BENDER STEALING MY LIFE-FORCE.

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, RECEIVING IT HURT A HELL IN THE PARK, EITHER.

RELEASES

CLAYMORE POURS A VAT OF PAIN INTO THE SOULBENDER... TO DEVASTATING EFFECT.



MOST
IMPORTANT, HUMAN.
EVEN YOU WERE GIVEN
THE SYMBIOTE I NEVER
THOUGHT YOU WOULD
CULMINATE SUCH
A POWER.

AND STAY
DOWN!

BLOMSH



PERSEPHONE? WHAT
BRINGS THE BLOODQUEEN'S
PROTECTOR TO THIS
CHAMBER OF HORRORS?

THE BRUSH
YOUNG PRINCE
DISCOVERED. MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
DOMINUS.

WHEN I
GET MYSELF PUT
BACK TOGETHER,
BALDY, YOU'LL BE
LUCKY IF YOU
CAN TALK.

I'M SORRY,
DEE. THERE WAS
NO OTHER WAY. WE
HAD TO ACT.

YOU'D DID THE
ACTING. MAKE SURE
YOU GIVE ME BACK
EVERY COUNCIL OF
MY GOLD.

I SWEAR,
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL.
THE SENSATIONS ARE
RELATED ONLY IN A
DIBLINO SENSE.

THEY'RE
SWEETER, YET TOTALLY
UNIQUE. THEY DON'T
"MIX".

YOU'D BETTER
BE "TALKING" AS
TH--!

TING!

QUIET, ALREADY.
HEH-HEH-HEH. THE GOLD
CAN DO SO MUCH MORE
THAN WE IMAGINED. BUT
I DON'T KNOW WHERE
MY KNOWLEDGE OF ITS
USE IS COMING FROM.
IT'S UNREAL.

TALK TO
ME, CLAYMORE.
WHAT'S GOING
ON WITH
YOU?

SUGAR,
SUGAR.
FO ME!

WHO ARE
YOU? GET
OUT OF MY
MIND!

COULDN'T TELL
YOU, SUG. ONLY
THAT THE INTERNAL
WORKINGS OF THE
SWEETIES SUDDENL
BECAME SECOND
NATURE TO ME.

DOUBT IF I
COULD EVER PUT
THE "INTUITION"
INTO WORDS,
THOUGH.

"ALAS, POOR YORICK. I KNOW HIM WELL..." NOW WHO WAS THE SILVER-TONGUED ENGLISHMAN WHO SPOKE THAT?

YOUR LACK OF DECORUM NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME, PRINCE SANDY. BE GRATEFUL IT WAS YOUR SKILL, TONGUED ABOUT THE GROUND LIKE A COMMON STONE.

SHOW YOURSELF.

EXACTLY WHY ARE YOU HERE, REDDY? MY FATHER SENT WILDER AND ME TO FIND THE KERAZON.

YOUR BROTHER THOUGHT IT BEST I FOLLOW TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU LIVED TO FACE YOUR FATHER, AS WELL THIS GROUP OF HUMANS. FORGET WHY YOU CAME HERE, THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

THE BLOODGIVEN HAS BEEN THIS COMING FOR SOME TIME, NOW, DOMINUS INTENDS TO ELIMINATE THE PRESENT VAMPIRE NATION.

DOMINUS WOULD SLAY ALL WHO WERE NOT OF PUREBLOOD DESCENT, NO SUCH THING EXISTS ANYMORE WITHIN THE CURRENT NATION. IT SHOULD BE GENOCIDE ON THE GRANDEST OF SCALES.

THE SURFACEWORLD WOULD FALL SOON THEREAFTER, THIS CANNOT BE.

INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE, CHILDREN WHO HAD NO SAY OF WHAT ORDER OF SOCIETY THEY WERE BORN INTO WILL BE THE FIRST TO PERISH. "LESS CHANCE OF FUTURE REVOLUTION," AS HE PUT IT.

EVEN I WOULD BE PUT TO THE BLADE FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN MY GENETIC "CONDITION" OF LIGHT SKIN.



GAME, MY
QUEEN SENT ME HERE
TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.
YOUR... PLANS MUST
BE CARRIED OUT,
AND QUICKLY.

I DON'T CARE,
RED. FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED, HE CAN
GRIND YOUR NATION
INTO ASH AND IT'D
MAKE NO
DIFFERENCE TO
ME.



AND WHEN
WE ARE GONE,
OUR FAMILIES DEAD,
HE WILL COME FOR
YOURS. WHAT
THEN?



IF DANE DOES
NOT PROVIDE US
AID IN OUR CAUSE,
THE WORLD WILL
BECOME A MOST
DANGEROUS
PLACE FOR PEOPLE
LIKE US.

THEN LET'S
HOPE THE
MAN COMES
AROUND.

A FEW HOURS
LATER...



LATER.



LATER.



HEHEE, BUDDY.
I'LL LISTEN TO KA
CLAYMORE SAYS HE'LL STICK
AROUND TO TRANSLATE THE
TECHNO-GEAR, AND YOUR
SISTER'S THE CHEERING
SQUAD.

LOVELY. I
FEEL ALL WARM
AND FUZZY INSIDE. MY
MUSCLE-ENHANCED
FRIEND.

THAT'S
BECAUSE YOU'RE
JUST A CUTE
LITTLE PUPPY.

HAVE I REALLY BEEN SO LOST
ALL THIS TIME, THOMAS? IT WAS
YOUR FOOTSTEPS... AND YOUR
MEMORY I WANTED TO HONOR
BY STAYING IN THE FORCESS.

PROTECT THOSE WHO COULD NOT
PROTECT THEMSELVES, FIGHT "THE
GOOD FIGHT" FOR THOSE WITHOUT
THE MEANS. BUT IN THE END, I
ENDED UP A COLD MURDERER...
JUST THE WAY CRAVEN WANTED IT.

SO WHAT DO I DO NOW,
BIG BROTHER? I'VE NEVER
FELT SO LOST, AND I HAVE
SO MANY COUNTING ON MY
DECISIONS.

I KNOW WHAT I SHOULD
DO, BUT THE GODS WERE
NEVER IN OUR FAVOR.
DOMINUS HAS THE POWER
TO KILL US ALL. IF SMALL
COULDN'T STOP HIM...

MEANWHILE...

IF YOU'RE
UP THERE,
THOMAS...

...SHOW ME THE
WAY, PLEASE.

ARE YOU
ABSOLUTELY
SURE YOU AREN'T
WATCHING THE
SCI-FI CHANNEL OR
SOMETHING?

THERE IS A
SMALL DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN TELEVISION
AND SATBRATCH'S ULTRA-
HIGH-FREQUENCY BAND
TRANSMISSIONS.

SCI-FI ALSO
DOESN'T REQUIRE
SPECTRAL-T-CLASS
DECRYPTION
PROTOCOLS.

IS IT YOU, CRIME?
I WILL NOT
SURRENDER TO
YOU AGAIN!

NO, RACHEL.
I WOULD NEVER DO
ANYTHING TO HARM YOU.
I'M THE ONE WHO
LOVED YOU.

JOEL? BUT I
THOUGHT... YOU...
I SAW YOU -

WV
OOOSH

HE IS UNLIKE
RACHEL. MORE SO
THAN ANY OF US. HE
CAN EITHER SAVE US
OR DESTROY US
WITH A SINGLE
THOUGHT.

IS THAT
WHY YOU'VE COME
BACK? TO WARN US
OF CLAYMORE'S
POWER?

NO. I CAME
TO SEE YOU ONE
LAST TIME. TO LOVE
YOU ONE LAST TIME
BEFORE I AM GONE
FOREVER.

WHAT?

I CAN'T HOLD MY
EMOTION TOGETHER
FOR MUCH LONGER.
IF NOT FOR THIS CASE, I
WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE
TO COMMUNICATE
WITH YOU.

SO I'M TO LOSE
YOU AGAIN.

THEN CLAYMORE'S
SUDDEN INTUITION
WAS YOUR DOING?

IN FACT, I
"BORROWED" THE
INFORMATION FROM
OTHERS.

THAT FARM
IS NEAR
OUR WAY, AND
NOBODY KNOWS
WHAT TO DO
ABOUT IT.

SHOWATCH CAN RARELY KEEP
A READ ON THE CRAFT AND
IT'S BECOMING HARDER TO
TRACK AS IT HEARS US.

COLONEL
AND MOTHER
SHOULD SEE
THIS. I'LL GO
FIND THEM.

I COULD
NEVER FORGIVE YOU
PROBABLY WHEN I WAS
"LIVE". RACHEL,
IN THIS STATE I CAN
STILL FEEL YOU
THROUGH YOUR
CIRCUITS.

D...DON'T...
LEAVE.

SORRY,
MOTHER. THE DOOR
WAS UNLOCKED --
HOLD--!

GRIP

I MUST.
MY TIME IS
NEARLY AT
AN END.

RELAX,
LOVE.







SKYWATCH HOME TO
STORMWATCH AND
ITS DISCREET, THE
WEATHERMAN.

INCREASE
POWER TO
FORWARD ARRAYS.
THE SCANNING FIELDS
FOR THE APPROACHING
VESSEL ARE BECOMING
UNSTABLE.

SOLAR CELLS
ARE TRIPPED AND THE
REACTOR CORE IS PENDING
WELL JUST DOX. THE
SAFETY SYSTEMS ARE
KICKING IN, SIR.

I'VE
OVERRIDE
SAFETY DAMPERS.
GIVE ME 100%
CAPACITY.

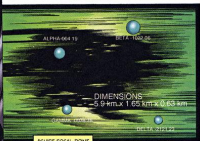
SIR, WE
COULD BLOW THE
SENSOR DOME, NOT TO
MENTION THE LOWER
QUARTER OF SKYWATCH

I'LL MONITOR
EVERYTHING MANUALLY.
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT
WHO THESE VISITORS ARE
BEFORE THEY GET HERE.
SKYWATCH HAS NOT
FORMED FOR SPACE
COMBAT.

HEAVEN
HELP US IF THEY
HEAD PLANETSIDE.
WE CAN BARELY
TRACK THEM.
HOW COULD WE
POSSIBLY FIGHT
AN UNKNOWN
ENEMY?



"ENHANCE."



"SHIFT FOCAL POINT TO U.F. SIGNATURE DESIGNATE ALPHA."

UNSC ALPHA: Unknown energy spectrum in random field. Probable origin: ALPH.

SENSOR array shutting down. Reactor core offline until safety locks are reinstalled.

NOTIFY THE UNITED NATIONS THAT I RECOMMEND E.D.-07 SECURITY READINESS. LET'S HOPE THESE CELESTIAL WANDERERS ARE SIMPLY PASSING THROUGH OUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE.

U.D. 8: Earth Defense Level 3
Extraterrestrial Threat





"IF NOT, THEN WE COULD
BE IN FOR THE FIGHT OF
OUR LIVES."

**COMING IN 30:
PANDORA'S FATE!**

THE DEEP END...

EDITOR:
MIKE ROCKWITZ

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
MICHELLE UPDEGROH

COVER BY:
JASON JOHNSON
TREVOR SCOTT

C/O HOMAGE STUDIOS • 7910 IVANHIDE AVE. #438 LA JOLLA CA 92037

E-mail: wetworks@wildstorm.com

IN CASE YOU ARE JUST JOINING US:

Kerodon the Soulbender, a monstrosity created through the union of a wolf and a vampire, is loose in the mountains of Seattle. The Vampire Nation's own Johnny Savory and Wilder, a tracker second to none, asked WetWorks to aid them in destroying the creature. During a ferocious encounter with the Soulbender, Claymore and Jester merged their symbiotic armor to create one ultimate fighting machine ready to stop the monster...

Dear Gold Crew,

In the question you put in the last issue or two about Claymore's powers and what they are.....it looks as though he has some, if not complete, control over the symbiote and it also helps him figure out any mechanical or computer device with little effort (if that wasn't him already). Hopefully this is close, and not too far fetched off the subject.

I do have a couple of questions though....

1. Am I seeing it right when it looks as though Lady Feign is made out of the same gold the symbiotes are made out of... and is this why the vampires have control over the symbiotes?
2. Is the symbiote that Taboo has also tied into the same story line? If so, will there be a crossover with BACKLASH and WETWORKS over the symbiote?
3. Will there be any other stories about the Lost One or has he made his last appearance?
4. Why did Claymore say "I hate it when this happens!" when the symbiote turned silver and kept him from dying by sealing him off? He acted as though it had happened before, but only in issue #1 did it do anything like that. It wasn't the same, was it?

Tony Rokietta
Sau Box 8254
Magnolia, AZ 71753

Close. Though as you said yourself, "it was him (Claymore) already". Keep tinkering with the idea, though. The answer is coming in the next issue! Answers to your questions are as follow:

- 1) Yes. Lady Feign is made of the same "material" as the symbiotes. Her particular "power," if you want to call it that, is a unique kinship with the Garond (the "stone worms" who have made scattered appearances throughout the series). A tangential ability of hers is the ability to manipulate the symbiotes of others to a small degree (as she did to Jester in the same issue). On the whole, however, the symbiotes are only susceptible to psionic attacks such as those Dane can generate. Or natural predators of the symbiote as demonstrated with Drakken's virus. Vampires in general have no psionic abilities (other than the Beastmasters), thus they do not control the gold.

- 2) No. And no. Sorry.

- 3) The Lost One is, for all practical purposes, dead. I mean REALLY dead. (I absolutely refuse to get into THIS argument again!)

- 4) What Claymore was referring to was indeed from issue one. "I hate it when that happens," is Claymore's casual regard for the symbiote saving his skin but acting as if it were trying to kill him!

Dear WETWORKERS,

Let me get this right, Dane (way back in issue #5) had some mental light deal going on with Cole Cash from WILDC.A.T.S, otherwise known as Grifter. What was that? And now to Jester, COOL, very cool, he is very cool now, he's getting goofier and that's great. I love it, just one thing in issue #26, in the "fun" house you got off of the noticeable look of Jester and made him look like a doofus when he raked that one guy with his "hooks". Try to stay with the same old goofier than mud Jester look. And I hope to see much more of Maritza's "wolf" side; and as of issue #21 her "other" sides, front, back, whatever, just show more of her. The Johnny Savory angle was way too easy to spot here, by far!!! Well, keep putting out these great books and keep Takenaga, Johnson, and the others together and I'll have mine with the WORKS!!! Keep up the great work, bye.

James Powers
NYC, NY

The "mental light deal," as you call it, was one of Dane's unconscious "feeler scans" compliments of his innate psi-powers. Since Dane himself didn't know what was going on, it only gave him a rough impression of the man behind the mask (Grifter) and tugged at his own memory for past associations. Jester. Cool and goofy? Good! That's just the way I want him. Doesn't make him any less dangerous, though. As for Maritza, all she'll want to do is to keep her wolfish side contained as it has been for so

many years. There will definitely be occasions when it comes to surface... Whether or not such a thing will benefit the team or hurt it, however, is another matter.

Hello WETWORKS,

I have been following this comic since issue #1. And since then, I have nothing but good things to say, with the exception of all the crossovers. All of the characters are very interesting, they all drive the plot. The situation with the Night Tribes and the Werewolves is absolutely thrilling. I must make it known that in my opinion, Grail is the most interesting character. Will there ever be a time Grail can control his energy, similar to the way that Dozer controlled his size? Also I have another question, what is the blemish that Grail mentioned? Well I guess I pried enough, but I just want to let you guys know your doing great, and you've won a reader for life. (Or for as long as WETWORKS continues.)

A faithful reader,
Rodney McCoy
Atlanta, GA

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Grail is...was...well, incapacitated (read: "dead"). Obviously, I had more in mind with him after his explosive demise, and that will be made known to you as of #30!

Dear WETWORKS crew,

I am writing you to let you know that :

- 1) WETWORKS is simply a killer comic;
- 2) The current story arc is very entertaining and enjoyable. I have written in to you many times before raving about the excellence of WETWORKS. I will probably continue to do so for (at least) the near future. You have created a truly unique comic book with new, fresh ideas and characters. The symbiotes are awesome and intriguing. The characters seem real and very believable. The

art is mind-blowing (including the pencils, inks, and colors!). Lately, however, I have noticed that the colors do not seem as bright and incredible as I have gotten used to. Maybe the color team has been changed—but I just wanted to let you know. I noticed this with the past two issues (the first one being the one in which Grail "died"). Not to say the colors are still not great—but just not as awesome like they were. The story is very intriguing and it was pretty cool to see Claymore and Jester combine in the end of the issue. It does seem kind of weak that the entire WetWorks team could not take out one little monster—although the Soulbender is a vampire/wolf mix. I am very much looking forward to the origin of the symbiotes upcoming story line (with aliens coming to town!!!). I was wondering if Jason Johnson is going to be leaving WETWORKS now. I saw in the back of this issue that Patrick Lee will be pencilling the next issue and that the artist from SIEGE will be doing a future issue. I think that Jason is an absolutely incredible artist and I have really loved his work. I hope that he is not leaving the title, but if he is, I think that JJ Kirby would be a suitable replacement. I really enjoyed his work on BACKLASH. Two last questions: did anyone ever use a symbiote on a vampire or wolf (other than Pilgrim)—and if so, what happened? How in the heck did Dag kill Grail? I mean, what the heck were those daggers made of that they could kill the indestructible being of energy? That seems really odd to me. Oh, one more: what is the deal with Lady Feign? Does she have a symbiote? How did she cover that spear with gold (the one that Dominus wounded Grail with)? Thanks for listening and thanks for putting out such an awesome comic!!!

Matthew Dwyer
00mdwyer@buvc.bu.edu

- 1) Muchas gracias.
- 2) Merci.
- 3) Please forward all complaints to the editor! Let's get one thing straight, here. The Soulbender was NOT your everyday nightmare! Oh, no. Not only was it an enraged beast of questionable origin, it had psionic capacities that negated Dane's own formidable abilities! To address the "indestructibility" of Grail, remember that his body was a vessel for his true form, which is energy. There is an annoying similarity here to a certain American icon who recently changed his looks and powers, but to coin the patriotic way of thinking: "We were here, first!"

NEXT ISSUE:

The S'RYNN encounter leaves WetWorks with many unsettling revelations concerning the symbiote's fusion to their bodies. With the impending rise of the Vampirism looming, Dane must press his weary team back into action. Only this time, they may have to save the Vampire Nation by stopping the ancient BloodWar from erupting! The mission will take them into the very depths of the Vampirism—and on a crash-course with Dominus himself!

