

THE THING

IN

GRIMM NIGHT

A Fantastic Four Fan comic Script

By

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PAGE ONE

Panel 1:

Splash, 2/3rd of page. It's a New York City night; and we are looking at a BURNING APARTMENT BUILDING, fire coming out of the windows, people crowded around outside. Firefighters and a fire truck are on the scene, and two firemen can be seen exiting the building, helping along a WOMAN AND TWO KIDS. The building itself isn't in very good shape and looks like the fire might finish it off.

LETTERING NOTE: We'll need several tail-less balloons here to show the conversations among the crowd:

1. BALLOON:

Did you see how it just went up like that? Never seen anything like that, I swear...

2. BALLOON:

... chemical fire, they say there was a meth lab inside...

3. BALLOON:

Jesse! Jesse, No, please god, no!

4. BALLOON:

I'm sorry, Ma'am. He was too close to the blast...

5. BALLOON:

Jesse! No, don't you touch him! Don't you dare!

6. BALLOON:

Ma'am, please, we need to check you for smoke inhalation -

Panel 2:

On a POLICE OFFICER with his back to the crowd, in charge of maintaining the perimeter, looking up at the burning building. A voice speaks out behind him, catching his attention.

7. BEN GRIMM (OFF-PANEL):

Excuse me, officer.

8. BEN GRIMM (OFF-PANEL, CONTD):

Can I help in any way?

9. POLICE OFFICER:

Listen, buddy, stay back and let the fire crew do their -

PAGE TWO

Panel 1:

Close on the officer as he turns and sees who he's talking to, a look of surprise on his face.

1. OFFICER:

- Oh.

Panel 2:

Close on Ben Grimm's face.

2. OFFICER (OFF-PANEL):

Mr. Grimm!

Panel 3:

Back on the Police Officer. He's turned to the left, and is yelling at the top of his voice:

3. OFFICER:

CHIEF! CHIEF!

Panel 4:

Pull back a bit and show that Ben has now stepped out of the crowd (some of whom are staring at him) and is talking to the officer and the Fire Chief, who has rushed over.

4. CHIEF:

Mr. Grimm!

5. GRIMM:

You in charge of this?

6. CHIEF:

Afraid so. I'm Chief Hendricks.

7. GRIMM:

Anything I can do to help, Chief?

8. CHIEF:

I don't know, the building's unstable. Meth lab explosion.

9. GRIMM:

I heard. Looks ready ta collapse.

10. GRIMM:

S'why I didn't charge in there. Last thing I wanna do is bring a floor down and cause trouble for you guys.

11. CHIEF:

Can you stand by the exit in case we need you?

12. GRIMM:

Sure.

13. CHIEF:

You are fireproof, right?

14. GRIMM:

Pretty much.

PAGE THREE

NOTE: This whole page is four wide panels one each in a row, with the same camera angle of of Ben standing by the exit, watching as the firemen do their job. He's unable to help but he doesn't get in the way, standing as still as a statue with his arms crossed.

Panel 1:

Ben is standing by the exit as a FIREFIGHTER comes out, carrying a WOMAN.

No Dialogue.

Panel 2:

Same view and angle. The fireman has exited.

1. CAPTION:

Hate feelin' useless.

2. CAPTION:

I can punch Galactus, but I can't save people from a fire.

Panel 3:

Same view and angle. Two FIREMEN come out, supporting an OLD MAN.

No dialogue.

Panel 4:

A FIREMAN is leaning out the door with a GROGGY, MIDDLE AGED WOMAN, who has burns on the LEFT SHOULDER AND ARM, and she's almost unconscious, being supported on his shoulder. The firefighter is HANDING HER over to Ben, in a rush to go back inside.

3. FIREMAN:

Here, take her!

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1:

The fireman has rushed back inside as Ben is walking in the opposite direction, carrying the woman gently in his arms.

1. FIREMAN (FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING):

She's breathed a lot of smoke, tell the medics!

Panel 2:

A little way away from the building, where TWO AMBULANCES with PARAMEDICS are treating several people in various stages of problems from the situation. Ben is LAYING the woman down on a STRETCHER under the supervision of a paramedic.

2. GRIMM:

One of the firemen said she breathed a lot of smoke.

3. PARAMEDIC:

I got her.

Panel 3:

Ben is back near the exit with the same view and angle as before, arms crossed once again.

No Dialogue.

Panel 4:

THE SAME FIREMAN comes out along with a WOMAN, yelling:

4. FIREMAN:

Stairs're coming down! Get back!

PAGE FIVE

Panel 1:

Same view and angle. The firefighter has exited with the woman; Ben is looking concerned.

1. SFX

CRAAAASH

2. VOICE FROM INSIDE:

AAAAAAH!

3. ANOTHER VOICE FROM INSIDE:

No! No!

Panel 2:

One firefighter is dragging a second fireman (let's call him GARY) out of the door against his will. Gary is trying to go back inside. Ben is stepping forward, seeing that he might be able to help.

4. GARY:

No! she fell!

5. OTHER FIREMAN:

Mr. Grimm!

Panel 3:

The two men stand aside and let Ben go in.

6. GARY:

It's a kid, she fell when I was bringing her down the stairs!

Panel 4:

Changing the camera angle, we "cut" to Ben, now inside the burning apartment building, steeling himself.

No Dialogue.

PAGE SIX

Panel 1:

Ben is walking through the fire, looking for the kid.

1. GRIMM:

Kid?

2. GRIMM:

Hello?

3. CAPTION:

Where'd she go? Did she run?

4. GRIMM:

HELLO?

Panel 2:

Same scene. Ben is TURNING as he hears a scream in response to his shouting.

5. VOICE (OFF-PANEL):

HELP!

Panel 3:

Ben is CRASHING through a wall without even noticing it.

6. GRIMM:

Hold on, kid!

Panel 4:

The crashed wall is raining some kind of BURNING SAWDUST-y chemical down on Ben, who's flinching.

7. CAPTION:

The hell is this? From the drug lab?

Panel 5:

Ben is now BURNING, his shoulders and head covered in flaming sawdust.

8. CAPTION:

Great, now I'm on fire.

9. VOICE (OFF-PANEL):

Heeelp!

PAGE SEVEN

Panel 1:

Over-the-shoulder shot of Ben. He's (still burning) looking at an ICE MACHINE.

1. CAPTION:

She climbed into the ice machine.

2. CAPTION:

It's probably water inside now, but still.

3. CAPTION:

Smart kid.

Panel 2:

Continue the over-the-shoulder shot, Ben still burning. He's opening the ICE MACHINE.

4. GRIMM:

It's all right, kid, yer safe now...

Panel 3:

Reverse shot. We're seeing what the little girl is seeing: Ben Grimm, a man made of ORANGE ROCK, covered in sawdust, ON FIRE. He looks like a demon freshly stepped out of hell. It's a terrifying sight.

5. GRIMM:

...I've got you now.

Panel 4:

On the little girl, half immersed in water, inside the ice machine. There's a look of pure horror on her face.

No Dialogue.

Panel 5:

Reverse angle and view: POV of the kid: Ben, a flaming rock giant, reaching his hand out to get her...

No Dialogue.

PAGE EIGHT

Panel 1:

Outside, the firemen standing next to the exit look up as they hear screaming.

1. VOICE FROM INSIDE:

AAAAAAAAAAAAEEEEEEHHHH!!!!

Panel 2:

Indoors, Ben is reaching for the kid as she's trying retreat back inside the ice machine, screaming.

2. GRIMM:

No, kid -

3. CAPTION:

Didn't think. Scared the wits off of her, a rock monster on fire.

4. CAPTION:

Stupid Ben.

5. GRIMM:

Kid, I'm trynna help!

Panel 3:

The girl is HITTING Ben's arm, terrified.

6. GIRL:

AAAAAAGH!!!

7. GRIMM:

Kid -

8. CAPTION:

Roof's coming down.

Panel 4:

Ben GRABS the girl. She continues to SCREAM and HIT his arms with clenched fists, which are turning bloody.

10. CAPTION:

Don't have time for this.

Panel 5:

Ben is CRASHING through the burning building, holding the girl against his chest to protect her from both the fire around him and the fire on him.

PAGE NINE

Panel 1:

Outside. Ben BURSTS through the exit, carrying the kid at arm's length.

No Dialogue.

Panel 2:

Ben is standing there with the building behind him. The building's interiors are collapsing, we can see this through the doors and windows. Ben, shoulders and head still burning, is holding the girl up with one hand - she continues to scream and hit his arm.

1. GIRL:

AAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!!!

Panel 3:

Ben puts the girl DOWN gently.

2. GRIMM:

Kid, I was just...

Panel 4:

The little girl, screaming, has fallen over and is CRAWLING backwards, tears streaming down her face.

No Dialogue.

Panel 5:

Close on Ben's face, pain and grief evident in the expression.

3. GRIMM:

I was just trying to help...

Panel 6:

Pull back a bit. Head-and-shoulders shot. Ben is still on fire. His expression is the same as previous panel; he's horrified at the effect he's had.

No Dialogue.

Panel 7:

In a cruelly hilarious shot, Ben suddenly gets SPRAYED with FIRE EXTINGUISHER FOAM as one of the firemen puts out the flames burning on him.

4. SFX:

SQUIRRRRRT

PAGE TEN

Panel 1:

A little while later, outside the building. Ben is leaning against an ambulance, his expression glum.

No Dialogue.

Panel 2:

Chief Hendricks has walked over to join Ben.

1. GRIMM:

How is she?

Panel 3:

The two of them, leaning against the ambulance, talking.

2. CHIEF:

She'll live.

3. GRIMM:

How is she really?

4. CHIEF:

...

5. CHIEF:

Broke both her hands when she was punching you. Multiple fractures.

6. CHIEF:

Her mom was unconscious when we carried her out earlier. She just woke up; we're taking them both to the hospital. She wanted me to tell you she doesn't blame you.

7. CHIEF:

You saved the kid's life.

8. GRIMM:

Tell her I'll take care of the hospital bill.

9. CHIEF:

Wasn't your fault.

10. GRIMM:

Just tell her.

Panel 4:

Ben walks off into the night, shoulders drooping, alone.

No Dialogue.

- END -