

STATIC SHOCK! #3

Rebirth Of The Cool
Chapter 3

“The Story, So Far...”

Dwayne McDuffie
Script for 22 Pages
First Draft, 6/9/00

Page 1
Panel 1

SPLASH

Looking up at the TOWER MEMORIAL. It's a gigantic, stone STATUE OF THE TOWER FAMILY (see Holocaust #3, page 24, panel 4 for reference, but add capes to the costumes). Standing in an heroic pose, are JOHN TOWER, TOWER-GIRL, TOWER JR. and WOOF, THE TOWER DOG (who also wears a cape and mask). The memorial is long untended, overgrown with plants and climbing ivy. The plaque at the base is still mostly readable, though: “Here lies the World’s Finest. The Tower Family 1938-“ The last year is obscured by overgrown plants. LOTS of text on this page, leave plenty of room for it.

legend
(typeset)

“There are few things in the world as dangerous as sleepwalkers. I learned in time though that it is possible to carry on a fight against them without their realizing it. I have been carrying on a fight with Monopolated Light & Power for some time now.”

—Ralph Ellison

logo
MILESTONE COMICS PRESENTS

logo
STATIC SHOCK!

Static caption

This is the Memorial, built on the site of the Tower of Solitude, headquarters of the Tower Family right up until it was destroyed, just about the time I was born.

Static caption

John Tower was the world’s first super hero. He and his family set the standard for over 60 years.

Static caption

Powerful, ageless, invincible. Under their watchful eyes we felt safe.

Static caption

And then they all got killed.

Static caption

True, John Tower came back to life a few years later, but the point remains.

Heroes die.

Static caption

I saw it happen once, to a girl named Dusk. That's the reason I quit.

Static caption

Now it's happening again, this time to a lot of people.—

Page 2-3

Panel 1

FIRST HALF OF DOUBLE-PAGE SPLASH.

Looking down at the assemblage from the POV of the statue. Prominent is STATIC, looking up at the camera (the Statue). This shot is a reverse angle of the previous page. Surrounding Static is the rest of the team, HARDWARE, IOTA, IRON BUTTERFLY, GLORIA MUNDI, PAYBACK and BLITZEN. The others are mostly paying attention to Hardware. Captions label the heroes, so arrange to fit. Some of these will be on the other page.

static caption

—And that's the reason I've come back.

static caption

My name is Static.

static caption

But I didn't come alone.

caption

Hardware.

caption

Iota.

caption

Iron Butterfly.

caption

Gloria Mundi.

caption
Payback.

caption
Blitzen.

Iota
I don't mean to be a pill, dears. But there doesn't appear to be a super villain's stronghold anywhere in the vicinity.

Page 2-3
SECOND HALF OF DOUBLE-PAGE SPLASH.

payback
Yeah. Anyway, how could the bad guys be holed-up in the Tower of Solitude when the place was leveled years ago?

Iron Butterfly
Leveled is the operative word. The building was destroyed. But the underground complex beneath it was left untouched.

hardware
Nobody knew it was there. The Alva Foundation built this memorial park right on top of it.

title
“The Story, So Far...”

credits	
Dwayne McDuffie	Writer and Editor
John Paul Leon	Artist
Melissa Edwards	Colorist and Separator
John Workman	Letterer

credits
STATIC created by McDuffie, Dingle, Cowan and Davis

INDICIA
[LEAVE SPACE]

Page 4

Panel 1

Iron Butterfly squats, hands spread, feeling the ground beneath her.

Hardware looks on.

iron butterfly

I can sense the metal in the ground. It is an enormous structure but something is preventing me from sensing any details.

hardware

You did better than me. It's shielded from every scanning technology I've got.

Panel 2

Favoring Hardware, pulling metal BRACELETS, inscribed with printed circuits, from a small pouch.

hardware

Even stuff that hadn't been invented back when it was built.

hardware

So we'll be going in blind.

Panel 3

Nearby, Blitzen touches Static on the shoulder from behind, he's still looking up at the off-panel statue.

blitzen

Hey, Static. You with us?

static

Yeah. I was thinking about the ones who didn't make it.

Panel 4

A resolute Static has turned to face Blitzen.

blitzen

Just because we didn't always succeed doesn't mean we weren't needed.

static

We're still needed, Val. That's why we're here.

Panel 5

Blitzen smiles and touches Virgil on the cheek with her open palm.

blitzen

You're a good guy, Virgil.

Panel 6

Wider, as the two turn back to the rest of the group.

Blitzen

Hey! I notice you're back in your old costume. What happened? Did Ash ask for his jacket back?

static

Okay, that's officially the last Pokemon joke, ever.

Page 5

Panel 1

Favoring Hardware, addressing the group. He's putting one of the bracelets on Static. Blitzen, Iron Butterfly and Payback already have them on and are looking at them.

Static

What's this for, does it give us powers?

hardware

It helps you keep them. At least it does for the Bang Babies among us.

Panel 2

Hardware explains.

hardware

Bang Babies all got their powers from breathing Q-Juice, a room temperature plasma that randomizes Planck's constant.

Panel 3

Favoring Payback, he's bored and ready to fight.

payback

Is there going to be a test later?

hardware

You bet your ass. And the other guys have been cramming.

Panel 4

Favoring Hardware. Iota thinks she gets it.

hardware

Anybody who inhales Q-Juice and survives, lives in a state of quantum grace. The nature of reality has changed to reflect your thoughts.

iota

As if a Genie granted you three wishes.

Panel 5

Hardware holds up one finger to illustrate.

hardware

One wish. And no takebacks.

hardware

Until now.

Page 6

Panel 1

Hardware shows the group the STAVE Static gave him last issue.

hardware

The “Traffic Men” are using de Broglie compensators, devices that reestablish Planck’s constant.

Panel 2

Gloria nods sagely.

Gloria

(ornate balloon and script)

The multitude of scientists who live in my memory believe this would temporarily remove a bang baby’s powers.

hardware

Tell the celestial choir that they’re right.

Panel 3

Favoring Static.

hardware

The bracelets should protect your powers, but they won’t protect you from the carrier wave.

Static

I can vouch. One of those blasts took out Stella.

Panel 4

Iota speaks to Static.

iota

Which is why we shall all be very, very careful. Anything else, dear heart?

Panel 5

Favoring Static.

static

Yeah. Um, everybody? We don't really know what we're up against. Or how many people. We do know they've taken out over a hundred of us.

Panel 6

Closer on Static.

static

We're not the Tower family, you know? We're not the most powerful heroes in the world.

Page 7

Panel 1

On the rest of the group, listening attentively to Static.

OFF-PANEL static

But we're as good at this as anybody's ever been. If this thing can be won, we'll win it. We—

sfx

Prrrrt prrrrt

Prrrrt prrrrt

OFF-PANEL static

Aw, man!

Panel 2

On Static, talking into a cell phone.

static (regular balloon)
Hello?

static (regular balloon)
Mom? This isn't really a good time ... No, I'm at Richie's ... What? ... Oh.

Panel 3

Static has turned his back on the group, trying to hide the phone as he whispers into it.

static (regular balloon)
(whisper balloon)
I love you too. Bye.

Panel 4

Embarrassed Static has turned back to the group, explaining.

static
She's a worrier.

Panel 5

Wide. Hardware takes the lead. Blitzen talks to Static, who is fiddling with his phone.

blitzeN
Just turn off your ringer before we go inside, action hero.

hardware
Alright people. Let's do this.

Page 8

Panel 1

Payback grabs the base of the Statue.

payback
Under here, right?

Panel 2

Payback lifts the entire statue over his head.

payback
RRRAARGH! Hurry!

lota

Everyone be considerate, Kevin has lower back trouble.

Panel 3

We see a metal plate where the statue's base was. Iron Butterfly gestures at it. The center of the metal plate is dissolving like melting ice.

iron butterfly

This plating obeys my commands, as do all things metallic.

off-panel Payback

Make it obey faster! I swear I'm about to drop it...

Panel 4

Wide. Favoring Blitzen, talking to Payback.

Blitzen

Why don't you just put it down?

payback

Okay. But it's not because it's too heavy. It's my sciatica.

iota

Of course it is, dear. Let's go.

Panel 5

Silent panel. Looking down on the metal plate, there's a big hole. Everyone's climbing in.

Page 9

Panel 1

Big panel. Madison, Frieda, Richie, Chuck, Felix and Daisy are in a long line at a movie Cineplex (make this a different one than the one we saw in issue one).

frieda

What do you mean, "Let's go"? You want to have a big catfight in the middle of the theater?

Panel 2

Felix is very excited at the prospect. Chuck is actually pointing at a nearby fountain.

felix

I think I speak for us all when I say: "Yes! Please!"

chuck

Look, there's even a fountain you can wrestle in!

Panel 3

Closer. Ignoring the boys, Madison talks to Frieda.

madison

This is the first chance we've had to talk without Virgil around. So let's talk.

Panel 4

Wider. Frieda and Madison walk away from the line. Daisy has her arms spread to stop the boys from following. Felix pouts.

daisy

We'll get your tickets, you guys catch up with us later.

felix

Another untimely intervention from officer Daisy of the Fun Police.

Panel 5

The girls are now sitting on the lip of the fountain. Frieda smirks.

frieda

So, boyfriend trouble?

madison

Meddling best friend trouble. At least, Virgil thinks you're his best friend.

Page 10

Panel 1

Frieda is looking down, not making eye contact.

Frieda

I am.

madison

Huh. My best friend doesn't meddle in my love life.

Panel 2

Favoring Frieda, looking up now.

frieda

Not even when asked?

Panel 3
Favoring Madison.

madison
I don't get you, Frieda. You introduced me to Virgil. Now you're putting moves on him?

frieda
No, I'm not.

Panel 4
Frieda stands up and begins to walk away.

frieda
But even if I were, “all's fair in love and war.”

Panel 5
Foreground Frieda, her back to Madison, stopped in her tracks, shamed. Madison still sits on the fountain, in the background.

madison
Wonder how fair you'd think it was if I were after your boyfriend.

Page 11

Panel 1
Solid Black Panel. Optional, if you wish you can give dim indications of Hardware, Iron Butterfly, *et al.*

caption
The Tower Memorial, deep underground...

hardware
Heads up folks...

iron Butterfly
(whisper balloon)
Silence, Hardware. This is a stealth mission!

Panel 2
Solid Black Panel. Optional, if you wish you can give dim indications of Hardware, Iron Butterfly, *et al.*

hardware

I'm pretty sure they already know we're here.

iron Butterfly
(whisper balloon)
How an you be certain?

Panel 3

Big Panel. 2/3 page splash. The Heroes are clustered in a group at the middle of a huge chamber. We see them in mid-creep, surprised that the lights just came on. They are surrounded by dozens of TRAFFIC MEN.

hardware
Call it a hunch.

TRAFFIC MAN
(burst)
Attack!

Page 12

Panel 1

The fight is on, Iron Butterfly is in flight, gesturing towards a couple of Traffic Men, whose staves are melting away, dripping as is suddenly made from mercury.

iron butterfly
Delta phalanx. I have aerial point.

Traffic Man
Our weapons! Melting away!

Panel 2

Payback scatters two or three Traffic Men with a backhanded swipe.

payback
I got ground point.

sfx
THWOCK

Panel 3

Favoring a TRAFFIC MAN LEADER, he's about to shoot up.

TRAFFIC MAN LEADER

Intruders are Bang Babies! All troops, Juice up!

Panel 4

Static shatters the syringes of two or three Traffic Men, as they prepare to inject the drugs (the Traffic Man Leader is prominent) with a single electric bolt.

static

Just say no.

SFX

(electric bolt)

SHZZZRRRRRAK

sfx

(breaking syringes)

plinkk

popp

Panel 5

A graceful Gloria Mundi blasts a large group of Traffic Men with a wide, incredibly bright energy beam. She's posed like a dancer, incredibly elegant. The men in the blast are rendered in high contrast.

Gloria mundi

(ornate balloon and script)

Fall before the wrath of a billion, billion souls.

sfx

(screams)

ARRRRRRGH!

Page 13

Panel 1

Iota holds a pencil-sized BASEBALL BAT in her fingers, seemingly intending to ward off the big, TRAFFIC MAN threatening her.

traffic man

What do you think you you're going to do with that?

iota

Oh, this little thing?

Panel 2

Favoring Iota. Multiple images as the Bat GROWS to full size.

Iota

I was thinking I'd knock you out.

Panel 3

Iota whacks the TRAFFIC MAN in the head with the full-sized bat, hard. He's creamed.

Iota

What's that charming expression you penile shortchanged gentleman use?

sfx

THOKK

IOTA

Ah yes, "I'm a grower, not a show-er."

Panel 4

Blitzen speed lines zip in and out past a series of surprised and just-disarmed TRAFFIC MEN. Panel right, she runs, with several of the Staves under her arm.

blitzen

Speaking of phallic symbols, anybody want one of these swizzle sticks?

Panel 5

Iron Butterfly is telekinetically wrapping staves around two more Traffic men.

iron butterfly

Curb your overconfidence. We do not know how many troops they have in reserve.

Page 14

Panel 1

On a corridor. Dozens more Traffic Men are pouring in.

off-panel Hardware

We'll know in about five seconds. Incoming!

off-panel Hardware

I got this corridor, check the others.

Panel 2

On Hardware. Both arms extended, firing several small missiles and beams from his wrist-mounted Omnicannons. His shoulder-mounted PLASER is also up and firing a little, glowing energy pellet (see Hardware #16 for reference).

Hardware

Everybody stand clear, I'm going into overkill mode.

sfx

(scattered around weapons fire)

POOMF POOMF POOMF POOMF POOMF BRAKKA BRAKKA SPEEYOW
ZZRAK

Panel 3

On the corridor, The Traffic Men are trying with varying success to avoid Hardware's incoming weapons fire.

sfx

(incoming weapons fire)

BLAMM BLAMM VIP VIP VIP VIP thoom

Panel 4

Static, in mid-air, is firing a two-handed blast at a SECOND corridor full of Traffic Men. This corridor and the men should be coming from the opposite direction of the corridor that Hardware is firing on.

static

More coming this way. Got'ems.

sfx

SHRZZZZZAKK

Panel 5

Closer on Static, still firing. Iron butterfly flies nearby.

static

Hey, I'm sensing a really big electromagnetic field. Maybe it's the power source for their weapons.

Iron butterfly

Investigate. I will maintain your position.

Page 15

Panel 1

Static zooms down a corridor. Iron Butterfly’s wings are spread ominously, she speaks to the Traffic Men below.

static

I’m on it.

iron butterfly

Gentlemen,—

Panel 2

Iron Butterfly fires pieces of her wings at the Traffic Men. They rain down as razor-sharp shards, tearing the Traffic Men to pieces.

Iron butterfly

—Retreat or die.

sfx

(screaming men)

Aiiieee!

Panel 3

Virgil Zigzags down a corridor.

Static

(thought)

Cold. Cold. Cool. Warm. Warmer. Hot.

Panel 4

Static stands in front of a giant metal door.

static

Red hot.

Panel 5

Close on Static, touching the face of the door with the fingertips of one hand, and pressing his ear against the door like a safecracker.

static

Electronic tumblers. I should be able to use my powers to pick the lock...

Panel 6

Similar to previous. Static is frustrated. Above his head is a THOUGHT

BALLOON with a picture of Static wearing a DUNCE CAP.

caption

Five minutes later...

STATIC

Hurm.

Page 16

Panel 1

Static BLOWS THE DOOR OPEN with a huge electrical blast.

static

Oh, well. Shoulda, woulda, coulda.

sfx

KRAK-THOOMMM

Panel 2

We're in the HOODED MAN'S THRONE ROOM, from last issue. He's on his throne, chin cupped in his hand, looking at an image (that floats in the air in front of him) of Static blowing open the door. A few Traffic Men stand guard around the room. This can be the big panel on this page, or Panel 4 with the expression. Your call.

hooded man

It's the one who escaped my men. I'm looking forward to meeting him face to face.

Panel 3

Hooded man is walking away from his throne.

hooded man

I imagine his expression will be priceless.

Panel 4

Close on Static, standing in the doorway he just blew open, a look of sheer horror on his face. We can't see what he's seeing, yet.

Static

Oh, no.

Page 17-18

DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD

This is tough as hell, it's Earth-X all over again. Static is a small figure, panel left, looking up at the wall. It's a chamber of horrors, show as much of this as you can. Call me, I'm sure. Strapped to a wall, waist, wrists and ankles, hanging unconscious, for the most part, stacked three men high, tubes running in and out of their arms, is PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE DAKOTA UNIVERSE.

Terrifying COLOR AND ART NOTE: All characters have one CLEAR tube (carrying a nutrient solution to them) going into their upper arm. Most characters (the Bang Babies) also have several red tubes, (carrying their blood away) coming out of their legs, torso and anywhere that looks neat. The names marked with an asterisk, do NOT have red tubing (as they aren't being bled).

Here goes. WISE SON, BRICK HOUSE (she's very tall and her bonds are metal), FLASHBACK, *DONNER (ground floor, she's also got special bonds), FUNYL (Static #8), *WYTCH (Shadow Cabinet #0), ASH (Shadow Cabinet #0, also special, heat-proof bonds), *HARM (Shadow Cabinet #0), HEADMASTER (Shadow Cabinet #0), his eyes should be covered), BOOGIEMAN (BLOOD SYNDICATE), BAD BETTY, TRANSIT (Hardware #11) ORO, NINA LAM (gagged), DMZ (heavy bonds). AQUA MARIA (Blood Syndicate. She's insensate in a glass tube on the floor. She's made of water but submerged in it as well Ask me if you don't remember). One tube goes in the top of the tube, one tube comes out, REPRISE (Hardware #2), DOGG, THE BOTANIST (Static #8), VIRUS (Static #9), EDMUND and CORNELIA (Blood Syndicate #7), BUBBASAUR, (Blood Syndicate #12) a 6 foot, WHITE COCKROACH, MASQUERADE (as a female), BABE (the blue ox-woman from Blood Syndicate), MISTRESS MAYHEM (Blood Syndicate #7) KARESS (Blood Syndicate #26), *CLOVER (from Kobalt), HOTSTREAK, COMMANDO X, PUFF, COIL, D-STRUCT (Static #12) JOYRIDE (Static #16), PALISADE (STATIC #17), *DUCKY (Static, after you left he's very important, later. So make sure he gets in), RIBBIT JONES (Static #26), RUBBERBAND MAN (Static #34), TARMACK, BLOWFLY (Kobalt #7), DOZER (KOBALT #11) TRAPSHOOT, BULLETPROOF AND FLAMBE (From Icon).

Arrange them as you wish. Make the best-known ones prominent. If you can't fit everybody in, just give the impression that there are a lot more. Throw in some ringers if you want to make them up. Speak to you in a couple of months.

static

No.

Page 19

Panel 1

Big panel. Back at the fight. Hardware is covered by swarms of Traffic Men. Gloria is down, as is Iota.

tailless Radio balloon

I found the missing Bang Babies!

hardware

Not now, kid. We're a little busy.

Panel 2

New Angle, foreground Blitzen's face as she reacts in surprise, Hardware is still fighting in the background.

tailless Radio balloon

I-I think they're still alive.

hardware

Do what you can. I'll send some help—

Panel 3

In the Chamber of Horrors. Speedlines zoom in as Blitzen Zooms to a stop near Static, who is talking into his cell phone.

TAILLESS RADIO BALLOON

—As soon as I can.

sfx

SWWWOOOOSH

Blitzen

Where's Donner?

static

She-

Panel 4

Speed-lines show us that Blitzen has zoomed over to Donner and freed her. Blitzen kneels, supporting Donner, whose upper body is cradled in her arms. Static is coming over.

sfx

SWWWOOOOSH

static

Is she alive?

Blitzen

Yeah. But she's been drugged. And bled. What the hell are they doing here?

Panel 5

New Angle. Blitzen and Static look up as THE HOODED MAN enters the scene, he's trailing tubes from his arms.

hooded man

I think I can answer that question.

static

Who are you?

Page 20

Panel 1

The Hooded Man reaches up to pull off his hood, we see him only from behind. Donner and Blitzen react.

hooded man

Didn't mean to cause alarm. I guess when you broke in here, you accidentally set me free.

Panel 2

Reverse Angle, he's dropped the robe. Beneath it, he's JOHN TOWER (in the old uniform, like in the statue but his face is horribly burned. Don't worry, John, the new costume's coming soon).

tower

The name's John Tower. I might be a little before your time, Son, but I'm still one of the good guys.

blitzen

But you died!

tower

Comes and goes in this business.

Panel 3

Favoring Static. Tower touches his cheek self-consciously.

Static

You said you know what they're doing here? Some kind of experiments? Did they burn your face?

tower

No, a fellow named Holocaust did this to me.* I'll even the score, one day.

Bottom caption

*Way back in My Name is Holocaust #4 –Ed.

Panel 4

Favoring Tower. He's raised his hands in front of him, , chest height. He's about to shoot a power blast.

tower

This place is a drug factory. The raw material is the very blood of your fellow Bang Babies.

Static

And you've come back to help us.

Panel 5

Tower blasts Blitzen and Donner with a powerful two handed burst that sends them flying.

tower

Not exactly.

sfx

SHHRAKOW

Panel 6

Tower blasts Static with a second shot. Static barely blocks it with a force field.

static

Unnnh!

sfx

SHHRAKOW

Tower

Don't you see? I've been battling evil since the 30's. I'm old, now. The last time I returned from the dead, I was left with injuries my powers couldn't heal.

Page 21

Panel 1

Tower shoots a fire blast at Static, who is trying to fly away, it hits his disk, sending him toppling out of control.

sfx

FWOOOSH

TOWER

But your blood, it gives me youth and strength. It allows me to reinvent myself yet again!

Panel 2

Wide, a small outline image of Tower (with some kind of funky special effect in it, maybe the effect from issue #2 he uses to teleport his men) is in the background. In the foreground, Tower (solid, but evidencing the special effect—he just teleported here) is standing over the fallen, dazed Static.

Static

But...you used to be one of us. You were the first. The best. You can't do this.

Tower

I can do anything, justify anything so long as it keeps me alive—

Panel 3

Tower is choking a helpless Static. An energy nimbus surrounds them both.

Tower

—And keeps me on top.

static

(wavy border)

Urrg.

Off-panel hardware

Let him go, Tower.

Panel 4

New angle. Hardware is there, fists aimed at Tower, who has turned at the waist to face Hardware. Tower is holding a limp Hardware by the neck with one hand.

hardware

Or are you afraid to go up against somebody your own size?

Panel 5

BIG PANEL. Tower fires a powerful energy bolt at Hardware that literally CUTS HARDWARE IN HALF. A shower of electronics and goo, blows out the back of the huge gap in Hardware's midsection

tower

Not particularly.

sfx

CHREEEEEAAAKKKK

Page 22

SPLASH

Power Junkie stands over Hardware's smoldering body. It's cut in two. No way Hardware is alive. Optional: If you can fit Static in the panel, Power Junkie is looking at him (Static is looking at Hardware's corpse in shock).

power junkie

Now. Where were we?

next issue caption

(Like last time)

NEXT: POWER JUNKIE

-30-