

STATIC SHOCK! #4

Rebirth Of The Cool
Chapter 4

“Places Left Unfinished At The Time Of Creation”

Dwayne McDuffie
Script for 22 Pages
First Draft, 8/3/00

Page 1
SPLASH

Similar to last issue, page 22. In the CHAMBER OF HORRORS. STATIC is looking at HARDWARE’S corpse in shock. POWER JUNKIE stands over Hardware’s smoldering body. It’s cut in two.

legend
(typeset)

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they suppress.”

—Frederick Douglass

logo
MILESTONE COMICS PRESENTS

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STATIC SHOCK!

title
“Places Left Unfinished At The Time Of Creation”

credits

Dwayne McDuffie

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John Paul Leon

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Letterer

power Junkie
So much for the Calvary.

STATIC
You killed Hardware.

power Junkie
Yes, Static. I did.

credits

STATIC created by McDuffie, Dingle, Cowan and Davis

INDICIA

[LEAVE SPACE]

Page 2

Panel 1

Angry Static fires a huge, two handed electrical bolt.

static

(burst)

Nooooo!

sfx

ZZZRRRRRAK

Panel 2

Power Junkie casually blocks the bolt with a FORCE FIELD.

power junkie

That would have hurt.

power junkie

No need for the disguise any longer, I suppose.

Panel 3

Power Junkie bursts out of his clothes, transformed into his NEW COSTUME and appearance.

sfx

(clothes bursting)

RRRIPPPPP

POWER JUNKIE

The blood of your fellow bang babies did more than just heal me, it changed me—

Panel 4

Closer on Power Junkie, his eyes are glowing, crackling with power.

power junkie

You have no idea how much power —how many powers I now posses.

Panel 5

Static, flying on his disk, dodges the deadly EYE BEAMS from Power

Junkie. Power Junkie is fading out in his TELEPORTATION EFFECT.

power junkie
Energy Projection.

sfx
ZZZZZOKKKK

Page 3

Panel 1

Power Junkie is teleporting in right behind Static, he's grabbed him from behind, by the collar. Static's forward motion is stopped, his disk is still going.

power junkie
Teleportation.

static
(burst)
Wha!?!

Panel 2

Power Junkie flings Static through the air and across the room.

power junkie
Super strength.

static
Ahhhhh!

Panel 3

Entire second tier. Power Junkie's speed lines zip from where he was just standing, right past Static (still flying through the air), and coming to a stop right where Static is headed.

power junkie
Super speed.

Panel 4

Power Junkie is holding up one hand, projecting an energy field that wraps around Static and suspends him helplessly in mid-air. Static is in pain, as if being crushed.

power junkie

Telekinesis.

static

Nnnnnnn...

Panel 5

On Static, struggling in vain against the energy bands.

power junkie

Pyrokinesis. Flight. Agility. Weather Control, Shapeshifting. Time Travel.

Enhanced Healing. Invisibility. Energy and Matter manipulation.

Page 4

Panel 1

Favoring Power Junkie, gesturing with his energy projecting hand.

power junkie

All the powers of any bang baby whose blood I've tasted is at my command.

I've barely scratched the surface of my abilities.

Panel 2

On Static, sweating, looking very bad.

power junkie

But we appear to have reached the limits of yours.

Panel 3

On both. Static's hands begin to crackle with power.

power junkie

Still, your electrical talents will make an interesting addition to my collection.

static

You want a taste of m-my powers?

Panel 4

Static fires a huge lightning bolt.

Static

(burst)

You got it!

sfx

ZZZRAK

Panel 5

Static's electrical bolt passes harmlessly through Power Junkie's semi-transparent body.

power junkie
Intangibility.

Panel 6

Static's lightning bolt strikes the wall where WISE SON is pinned, shattering his bonds. Power Junkie is partially turned to see what happened.

static
Overconfidence.

sfx
SHRRRAKK

power Junkie
Eh? Wise Son?

Page 5

Panel 1

Wise Son strains against his bonds, his muscles swelling.

wise son
You son of a bitch! Sucking us dry. Holding us against our will. It ain't right!

Panel 2

Wise Son tears free of his bonds and is leaping down, his blood tubes trailing from his body.

wise son
What are you thinking? Some of the guys in here ain't even Bang Babies!

Panel 3

Power Junkie catches Wise by the throat in mid-leap.

wise son
>Gack<

power Junkie

True. But I may find a use for them later. Waste not, want not.

Panel 4

Power Junkie has opened his hand and is telekinetically levitating a struggling Wise Son back up to the wall.

power Junkie

You belong to me. All of you do. Not because it's right. But because I can.

Wise Son

Arrrrgh!

Panel 5

Wise Son struggles against the wall. Power Junkie lifts one of Wise's thick blood tubes in his fist.

power Junkie

My continued existence depends on you —and dozens more like you.

Panel 6

Power Junkie is pouring Wise son's blood into his open mouth. The blood overflows and pours down his chin and onto his chest.

power Junkie

I'll never let you go.

Page 6

Panel 1

On Static, watching the off-panel action in horror.

static

Oh, no!

Panel 2

Wider, Static bursts free of Power Junkie's energy with a SURGE OF ELECTRICITY.

static

(burst)

Nooooo!

sfz

SHZZZZRAK

Panel 3

Static has dropped to the floor. On hands and knees, he reaches out with one hand. His flying disk is heading towards him.

static

(thought)

Gotta get out of here...

Panel 4

Background Static flies out of the room, foreground Power Junkie is still drinking blood, oblivious.

static

(thought)

Maybe I can find Xombi, or get Icon to come back and help.

Panel 5

Static flies towards the camera, he's just entered a cavernous chamber.

static

(thought)

Maybe...

static

Geez...

Page 7

Panel 1

Big panel, establishing TOWER'S TROPHY ROOM. It should evoke the Batcave and Superman's Fortress of Solitude. The room is filled with Display Cases and trophies from John Tower's career. John, call me and lets figure out what kind of stuff we can put in here. Static zigzags through the room.

static

...Some people never throw anything away...

Panel 2

Static flies out of the chamber.

static

(thought)

I think this is the way out.

Panel 3

Angle on TRAFFIC MAN #2 from issue # 3 is prominent standing at the front of a dozen or so more TRAFFIC MEN.

traffic man #2

Hello, Static. Remember me?

Panel 4

New Angle, Static facing off with Traffic Man #2. Other Traffic Men stand at the ready.

static

[.

traffic Man #2

Yep. And guess who just stepped in it.

Panel 5

Flying Static dodges blasts from the staves of several Traffic Men while firing a bolt back at them.

traffic Man #2

This time you can forget about electrocuting us with our staffs. These are insulated.

Page 8

Panel 1

Wide. Virgil is surrounded on all sides and from above and below.

traffic Man #2

Thanks to you, I haven't had a hit in over a day.

Static

C'mon up here, I'll hit you right now.

Panel 2

Favoring Traffic Man #2.

traffic Man #2

Brave talk. You're outnumbered and surrounded. If you got another card up your sleeve, it better be an ace.

Panel 3

Big Panel. New angle, HARDWARE bursts into the room through the ceiling.
He's firing away from both fists.

sfx
CHOOM

traffic man
(burst)
Hardware!!

hardware
(signature balloons)
Sorry I'm late, I was waiting for the perfect entrance line.

Panel 4
Static blasts a Traffic Man. Hardware fires a bolo shell that wraps up two others.

static
But I saw you get killed!

sfx
(Static's blast)
ZZRRRAAK

sfx
(bolo)
whupwhupwhup

hardware
Oh, please. That was a robot.

Panel 5
Interior HARDWARE'S LAB. Curtis Metcalf, legs still broken, is sitting in a high-tech Virtual Reality rig, his arms in the same pose as Hardware's in the previous panel. On a SCREEN in front of him is Hardware's point of view.

curtis
So is this one. I'm using a telepresence rig. My legs are broken, remember?

Page 9
Panel 1

Back at the fight. Hardware wrestles with two Traffic Men, he's facing panel left. Panel right, IOTA is holding a BOWLING BALL is GROWING in multiple

images, from a spec on the floor. She's up to about half-size, and grinning.

hardware

Unfortunately, I'm down to my last working robot. So I'm going to need a little help, here.

Iota

You called, sweetie?

Panel 2

Full-size Iota uses her bowling ball to clock one of the TRAFFIC MEN Hardware was struggling with.

sfx

THOK

Hardware

Good to see you, Iota. But you left the spare.

Panel 3

Static zooms in and blasts the last man.

static

Got'ems.

sfx

ZZZRAKK

Panel 4

Hardware, Static and Iota stand talking to each other. Unconscious Traffic Men are all over the room.

Iota

The rest of our people will be along presently. They're following my beacon to this position.

static

Well, Tower's probably on his way too. We better jet.

Panel 5

Favoring Static. Iota is skeptical.

Iota

John Tower?

static

Yep, still alive. He's the one behind all of this.

Page 10

Panel 1

Similar to previous.

iota

That simply cannot be true. John Tower is a hero. He's the greatest of us all.

Static

Was. Now he ain't nothing but a power junkie.

Panel 2

Favoring Hardware.

hardware

Yep. And junkies steal. In this case, lives.

Panel 3

PANEL. Wide as all react to the HEROES arriving: IRON BUTTERFLY, GLORIA MUNDI and PAYBACK. Captions label the new guys.

caption

Iron Butterfly.

caption

Gloria Mundi.

caption

Payback.

payback

You guys have been busy.

Panel 4

Favoring Iota.

Iota

You didn't do so badly yourselves, dears.

iron butterfly

What is our battle plan?

Panel 5

Favoring Hardware. Payback frowns.

hardware

We retreat. Their top man is way out of our weight class. We don't have enough power to fight him.

payback

Where's Blizten?

Page 11

Panel 1

Hardware explains to Payback.

hardware

She was captured. We'll come back for her, later. But now we have to regroup, find more help.

Panel 2

Silent panel. Close on Static, thinking about it.

Panel 3

Similar to previous. Static is speaking now.

static

No.

Panel 4

Wide on the group. Static on one side of the panel, everyone else on the other.

Gloria

(ornate balloon and script)

I'm sorry. Did you say, "No"?

iron butterfly

I understand your loyalty to our comrade. But in order to win the war, we must survive the battle.

Panel 5

Favoring Static, stubborn.

static

Do what you want. I can't leave Blitzen behind. The last time I didn't go back for somebody, she died.

Panel 6

Wider. Iron Butterfly is irritated. Hardware.

iron butterfly

That is irrational and futile. If we are ever to prevail, we will require your power.

hardware

She's right, kid. You stay here and fight, we're pretty much [ed.

Page 12

Panel 1

Iron Butterfly looks at Hardware with irritation.

hardware

I guess what I'm saying is, I'll stay too.

iron butterfly

Hardly a sacrifice, as I sense your real body doesn't reside within this shell.

hardware

Never claimed to be noble.

Panel 2

Iron Butterfly has turned back towards Static. Payback is visible.

iron butterfly

Nevertheless, I will also remain here and fight.

payback

Stop showboating, Kahina. We're all staying.

Panel 3

Favoring Iota. Static explains.

iota

One assumes you have some sort of plan?

static

Kinda. You guys mop up the rest of the Traffic Men. Keep them away from

the torture chamber. I need maybe half an hour.

Panel 4

Gloria is curious. So is Payback. Static is still filled with resolve.

Gloria

(ornate balloon and script)

And what will you do?

static

I'll take care of the Power Junkie.

payback

How?

Panel 5

Hardware has a hand on Static's shoulder.

static

I dunno. Reason with him?

hardware

You got a lot of guts, kid.

static

Yep, I don't even know the meaning of the word “fear.”

Panel 6

Static flies away from the group.

static

Which admittedly does not bode well for those fast-approaching SAT's.

Page 13

Panel 1

Tower's Trophy Room. Power Junkie is standing in the doorway.

power Junkie

Static! Where are you? I'm tired of searching for you.

off-panel Static

That's a coincidence—

Panel 2

New Angle shows Static, hovering over the GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA display.

static

I'm tired of hiding. I want to talk.

Power Junkie

Talk?

Panel 3

Favoring Static, who has floated down to the floor in front of the "ADVENTURE OF PIRATE JUDY" display.

static

Yeah, talk. As in "appeal to your better nature."

power junkie

You do remember that I want to drink your blood?

Panel 4

New Angle, nearby, we can see a trophy statuette of two planets crashing into each other on a podium.

static

I'm more interested in what you remember.

Panel 5

Close on Power Junkie.

off-panel static

Do you remember what you were? What you still represent?

Page 14

Panel 1

Big panel. Wide to show the room.

static

Look at this place! Look at everything you've accomplished.

Panel 2

Closer on the two of them.

static

You showed us the way. Everything my generation accomplished you made possible.

Panel 3
On Static.

static
But now you're killing us. It doesn't make any sense.

Panel 4
Wider on the two of them.

static
Remember all those things you used to say you believed in? Freedom, respect, partnership, justice?

Panel 5
Favoring Power Junkie. Glass display tubes with the empty costumes of Tower Girl and Kid Tower are visible behind him.

static
You wouldn't have said all that stuff if you didn't believe in some of it, deep down.

power junkie
Perhaps I did, once. But things were very different then.

Panel 6
Favoring Static, right in Power Junkie's face.

static
Nah, man. You weren't a hero because it was easy, you were a hero because it was right.

Page 15

Panel 1
Favoring Static, right in Power Junkie's face.

static
You don't demonstrate your values by what you do when it doesn't cost you anything.

static

The measure is whether you walk the walk when it's a sacrifice to do the right thing.

Panel 2

Favoring Power Junkie.

off-panel static

I know it's still in you, man. Step up. Be what you say you are.

Panel 3

Favoring Power Junkie.

Power Junkie

Your naiveté is astonishing, boy.

Power Junkie

When I was a good guy, it was because being good suited my ends. It doesn't, anymore.

Panel 4

Power Junkie looks at his palm, which begins to glow with energy. Static looks frightened.

Power Junkie

If you keep living up to your word all the time? Guys like me'll kill you.

static

Only if we let you.

Panel 5

Favoring Static.

power junkie

"We?"

static

Didn't I mention? Before I came in here, I drained the big generator that supplied power to that torture chamber in the next room.

Panel 6

Static is using his powers to open big double doors on the far side of the room.

static

I'm betting that most of your former prisoners are back on their feet again, by now.

static

(burst)

Guys? The criminal mastermind will see you now.

Page 16-17

Panel 1

DOUBLE PAGE SPLASH. Rushing the camera is, well, everybody. And they're mad as hell. This is the money shot. Prominent are DONNER, FLASHBACK, THIRD RAIL, BLITZEN, KOBALT, KWAI, WISE SON, DMZ and BRICKHOUSE. Also here are KOBALT AND CLOVER (they could be swinging on lines to put them in the air), EVERYONE ELSE you actually drew on the double-page spread in issue #3, plus HARDWARE, IRON BUTTERFLY, and the rest of the HEROES. You can also sneak in anyone else you want except for Xombi and Holocaust. Make it look full of characters, like George Perez, only anal.

Page 18

Panel 1

Okay John, Marvel-style. Power Junkie throws up a force field blocking energy blasts from several heroes

Panel 2

PJ is driven back, as the Muscle Guys pound on his force field in every direction.

Panel 3

The shield flares brighter. It's harder and harder to see what's going on.

Panel 4

Whiter still. Figures are only visible as dim silhouettes.

Panel 5

Pure white panel.

Page 19

Panel 1

Power Junkie is on his feet but dazed, he's smoldering. His arms are down,

he's not protecting himself. Standing close by, in the crowd of nearby heroes is Donner.

Panel 2

Donner PUNCHES Power Junkie, rocking him, half spinning him around.

sfx

KRAK

Panel 3

Facing the other way, Power Junkie takes a shot from Payback.

sfx

THOKK

Panel 4

DMZ holds Power Junkie helpless in a Full Nelson. Wise Son punches him in the face.

sfx

THUDD

Panel 5

Hardware and Static stand next to Power Junkie.

hardware

You do the honors, kid. You earned it.

power junkie

("weak" balloon borders)

Please... no more...

Panel 6

Static floors Power Junkie with a big taser punch.

static

Maybe just one more.

sfx

zzzrak

Page 20

Panel 1

Big panel, lots of people are gone, the remaining heroes are in clusters,

chatting together, Prominent are Static, Dogg, Wise Son, Hardware and some of the Syndicate.

caption
Later...

static
So what are you going to do now?

wise son
Get my people back together. Rebuild my gang. Maybe help some of the other bang babies who got effed over.

Panel 2
Favoring Hardware.

hardware
The Alva institute will foot the medical bill for anyone here who needs it.

static
Awfully nice of you.

hardware
I ain't nice. I like for people to owe me favors.

Panel 3
Static turns to Wise Son.

static
Flashback told me her brother Fade is still missing. If you need help I'll—

Wise Son
The Blood Syndicate takes care of their own Problems.

Panel 4
Wise Son has the grace to be embarrassed. Static is amused.

Wise Son.
You know. I mean, usually.

Panel 5
Static turns to Hardware. Iota taps him on the shoulder. Gloria Mundi is also nearby.

static

Hey! What are we going to do with the bad guys, anyway?

Gloria

(ornate balloon and script)

Within me lies the memory of billions of damned souls. There is certainly room for —

Iota

Dear?

Panel 6

Iota smiles up at Static, cold as ice.

iota

Now might be a good time for the morally fastidious among us to take their leave.

Page 21

Panel 1

Entire top tier. Static flies towards his house.

caption

Later...

Panel 2

Interior Virgil's room. He's wearing jeans, his Milestone "M" cap and a white undershirt. His Static pancho and costume are draped across his bed, near an empty cardboard STORAGE BOX. He's talking into his cell phone.

sfx

(phone)

prrrt prrrt

virgil

Hel-lo, Frieda.

Panel 3

Closer on Virgil, talking on the phone.

radio burst

Aughh! I hate when you do that!

virgil

I know. That's why I do it.

Panel 4

Virgil has his phone in the crook of his arm. He's holding his uniform full-length against his chest and is folding the arm.

virgil

Sorry you couldn't get through. I forgot to turn my phone back on after the fight.

radio burst

How did it go?

Panel 5

Frieda's room. Frieda is lounging on her bed, talking on the telephone.

radio burst

The usual. At the last possible moment, I pulled a plan out of my butt and saved the day.

frieda

That's great, Virgil! I'm really proud of you.

Page 22

Panel 1

Frieda's room. She scowls.

frieda

Virgil, you still there?

Panel 2

Virgil's room. Virgil places the folded uniform in the box, the poncho is already folded and in the box.

virgil

Yeah. I was just thinking.

virgil

I have to admit, it felt really good to be doing it again.

Panel 3

Silent panel. On Virgil, solemnly removing his cap.

Panel 4

Close. Virgil's hand puts the ballcap in the box on top of the uniform. The

Milestone “M” is prominent.

Radio burst

Does that mean you’re back in business?

virgil

Maybe not full-time. But whenever I get the call? Yeah.—

Panel 5

Closer still, the Milestone “M” fills the frame, leave enough room so that the word balloon doesn’t obscure the “M.”

Virgil

(off-panel)

—You can count on it.

-30-