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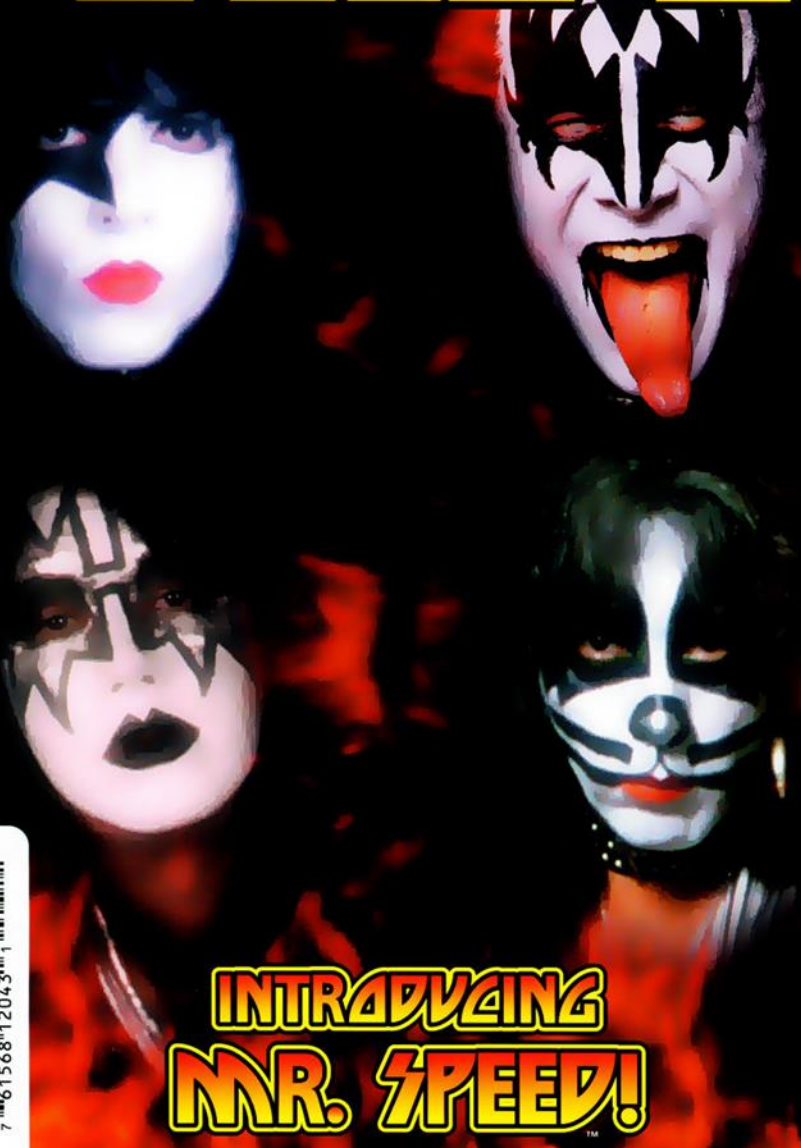
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**SCOTT LOBDELL PETER VALE**

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MR. SPEED!**

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# KISS<sup>®</sup>

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special thanks to **GENE SIMMONS** and **PAUL STANLEY**

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"I'VE BEEN TO  
RAVES THAT  
WERE HELD AT  
WORSE PLACES.

"EVERYWHERE FROM  
THE BACK OF AN  
ABANDONED TRACTOR  
TRAILER UNDERNEATH  
THE MANHATTAN  
BRIDGE--

"--TO A  
GUTTED  
SUPERMARKET  
ON 107TH  
STREET

"I MEAN,  
THAT'S PART  
OF THE  
APPEAL.

"THE  
DANGER.

"THE THRILL  
OF DOING  
SOMETHING  
WRONG.

"THE  
POSSIBILITY  
OF GETTING  
CAUGHT."

HELLO?

"WHEN  
YOU'RE  
YOUNG,  
YOU FEEL...  
INVINCIBLE.





"YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO."

THIS  
CAN'T  
BE THE  
RIGHT AD-  
DRESS.

THAT  
GUY MUST  
HAVE  
WRITTEN  
IT DOWN  
WRONG.

SHUK!

WHA---?!

SEE  
GUYS, I  
TOLD YOU  
SHE'D  
COME--

--TO OUR  
PRIVATE  
LITTLE CLUB  
SCENE.

P-PRESTON?

HOT.

I AM SO OUT  
OF HERE, AND  
D-DON'T  
TRY--

YOU  
TRYING TO  
EMBARRASS  
ME IN FRONT  
OF THE  
OTHERS...?

GRAB!





I KNEW  
YOU WOULDN'T  
DISAPPOINT ME,  
DANI. WHEN I SAW  
YOU OUT LAST NIGHT,  
I KNEW A HOTTIE LIKE  
YOU COULDN'T RESIST  
AN INVITATION TO  
A PARTY.

PRESTON  
SCORES.

...OR  
JUST  
PLAYING  
HARD TO  
GET?

P-LEASE  
...DON'T.









"THE NEXT  
SECOND...?"

"THERE  
HE WAS!"

so this  
is a rave,  
huhh?

They always  
look so much more  
exciting on MTV then  
when you get here  
it's just a bunch of  
losers hitting on some  
poor defenseless  
babe.

That's why  
I'm more of a  
concert guy. Sure  
you have to wait in  
line for a few hours  
but a lot of times you  
can pick your own  
seat.

Course there's  
always eBay but  
there's something  
about it I don't trust  
like do these people really  
have tickets on the night of  
the show am I going to be out  
sixty bucks and my name  
is going to be on the Pay-  
pal mailing list.

uh oh.

There I  
go rambling  
again.

This is  
exactly why  
I never get to  
hang out with  
the cool  
people.

WHA--?!

D-DID  
YOU JUST...  
RESCUE  
ME?

ppff.

I just got  
started.















I'm glad  
you asked me  
that I've been  
trying to come up with  
a name ever since I  
got these super  
powers!

I have to admit  
Most of the obvious  
names have been  
taken already by the  
bigger comic book  
companies like Marvel  
and DC between the Flash  
kid Flash son of Kid Flash  
Johnny Quick Quicksilver  
and my personal  
favorite the  
Whizzer!

Then I was thinking  
maybe something like  
Past or Speed but I  
don't know it doesn't  
really command respect...  
I could go with Colonel  
Past or Speedmaster  
but there's something so  
70s about those names  
don't you think?

"HE WAS  
TALKING  
ALMOST  
FASTER THAN  
I COULD  
LISTEN--

"--IF  
THAT'S EVEN  
POSSIBLE.

"NOT SO MUCH  
CRAZY...BUT MORE  
LIKE, ANXIOUS, LIKE  
A LITTLE KID ON  
CHRISTMAS MORNING  
RACING DOWNSTAIRS  
TO OPEN HIS  
PRESENTS.


"IT WAS  
KIND OF  
ENDEARING  
IN A WAY.

"WHO WAS I  
TO JUDGE HIM--  
HE'D JUST  
SAVED MY LIFE.









...I  
MEAN, I  
DIDN'T EVEN  
KNOW SUPER-  
HEROES WERE  
ALLOWED  
TO--

SAHEME  
THERE'S NO  
NEED TO GET  
GRAPHIC. I THINK  
WE CAN GUESS  
WHAT HAPPENED  
NEXT.

"TWENTY  
YEARS  
AGO"?!

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND--  
THIS HAPPENED  
LAST NIGHT.

WHEN  
I WOKE  
UP THIS  
MORNING,  
HE WAS  
GONE--





ARE YOU  
OUT OF YOUR  
ASTRAL MIND,  
STAR CHILD?!  
THIS IS JUST  
GETTING IN-  
TERESTING!

DOWN  
BOY.

THIS IS  
ALL VERY  
FASCINATING,  
MISS. BUT  
HOW DOES  
SOMETHING  
THAT HAP-  
PENED TWENTY  
YEARS AGO  
AFFECT  
US?

...

--AND  
I WAS  
TWENTY  
YEARS  
OLDER!

THIS IS MY  
LICENSE.

WHATEVER  
THAT--THAT  
MONSTER DID  
TO ME...

...AGED  
ME TWO  
DECADES  
IN ONE  
NIGHT!











I'M...  
GETTING  
SOME-  
THING.

SOMETHING  
WICKED  
HAPPENED  
HERE.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SEE?



"THIS MORNING...  
AS SHE SLEPT  
THE SLEEP OF  
THE INNOCENT  
AND JUST..."

"...THE  
MAN STOOD  
ABOVE HER  
AND..."

"BY THE  
GODDESS!"



GENE,  
HE--

--HE  
SIPHONED  
OFF HER  
LIFE  
ENERGIES.

RELAX, PAUL--  
WE'LL FIND  
HIM.

KETCHUP.

ALL SHE  
HAS IS  
KETCHUP.

WHEN ALL  
THIS IS  
OVER SOME-  
ONE OWES  
ME LUNCH.





QUIET,  
BEAST KING.  
IT'S TIME YOU  
EARNED YOUR  
KEEP.



HERE...  
FETCH.



NOT  
INTERESTED.

YOU'VE GOT *ONE*  
SKILL--USE IT. GO  
FIND THE WANNA-  
BE HERO.

*Give  
Give*

I'M NOT ONE  
OF THOSE HIRED  
THUGS YOU HAVE  
RUNNING AROUND THE  
SIMMONS FOUNDATION.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH  
YOU?! WHEN DID THE  
**KING OF BEASTS**  
BECOME SO DAMN  
SENSITIVE?!



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
SHAKING IN  
YOUR PLAT-  
FORMS OVER  
SOME PANSY  
NEW KID  
ON THE  
BLOCK!

ABSURD.





*MEN QUARRELLING LIKE  
JUVENILES OVER BROKEN TOYS,  
FRACTURED EGOS, IGNORING  
BONDS DEEPER THAN  
BLOOD, THAN PROMISES.*

*HOW MANY YEARS  
DID THEY STAND  
TOGETHER? HOW  
EASILY DO THEY  
NOW TEAR EACH  
OTHER DOWN?*

*AS SAVIORS CRUCIFY ONE  
ANOTHER, THE CITY PULSES AND  
TREMBLES TO OTHER THREATS,  
REAL AND IMAGINED.*

*IN THAT PART  
OF THE CITY  
KNOWN AS THE  
EAST VILLAGE...*

*...THE  
CELESTIAL  
FINDS  
WHAT ALL  
FOUR  
SEEK.*

*BUT HOW TO BREAK  
THE OTHERS FROM  
THEIR POSTURING...?*









GAH!

THIS TIME THE  
SMART MONEY'S  
ON THE UNDER-  
DOG!

DEMON!  
WAIT!

Oh my god  
guys this is  
such an honor I  
can't even tell you.  
I mean when all  
this started you  
were the first  
ones I thought  
of.



I mean I have all the toys  
the comics the t-shirts the--  
who does your licensing?  
Because I've been thinking  
once I really get a name out  
there maybe I can make  
a living off this gig  
you know?

















THANK YOU *SO*  
MUCH FOR LUNCH,  
MR. SIMMONS. FOR  
*EVERYTHING...*



YOU'RE WELCOME.  
I'M JUST GLAD WE  
WERE ABLE TO GET  
YOU LOOKING YOUR  
AGE AGAIN.

YOUR LAB GUYS  
ARE GENIUSES.  
YOU COULD PUT A  
LOT OF COSMETIC  
COMPANIES OUT  
OF BUSINESS.

WHY DO  
THAT WHEN  
I CAN PUT  
THEM TO  
WORK FOR  
ME?



AND HOW'S THE  
*PHILANTHROPY*  
BUSINESS, MR.  
SIMMONS?

REDEPTIVE,  
MR. STANLEY.



I FIND IT RE-  
DEPTIVE.

THE  
GIRL...

DANI.

...DANI  
GOT HER  
LIFE BACK, AND  
THE SIMMONS  
FOUNDATION  
GOT A NEW  
OPERATIVE.

SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL HAVE  
EVERYONE WORKING FOR YOU.  
I AM IMPRESSED, THOUGH.  
YOU WENT FROM WANTING  
TO FRICASSEE THAT KID TO  
GIVING HIM A JOB. IF THERE'S  
ANYWHERE HE CAN LEARN  
TO CONTROL THAT POWER,  
IT'S AT THE FOUNDA-  
TION.

AND IF  
THERE'S  
ANYONE WHO  
UNDERSTANDS  
THE DUALITY  
OF MAN...





"...IT'S  
US."

THERE'S A NEW HERO  
ON THE NEW YORK STREETS,  
STRUGGLING WITH THE HUNGER  
THAT COMES FROM POWER.

BUT HE'LL HAVE  
TO LEARN TO  
DEAL WITH IT.

BECAUSE  
THEY'RE  
WATCHING.

WILL HE  
CHOOSE  
TO BE A  
STREET  
LEGEND...  
OR A  
HERO?

OR CAN HE  
DO BOTH?