

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

by Benet Simon

PAGE ONE

In the four corners of this page, four small frames show the four super heroes from the main frame in the centre breaking the fourth wall to meet the readers with a short bio of each. One way or another, they all look like fools.

(1)

PALADIN - a muscular man in silver Lycra with a chain mail codpiece, a silver shield with a giant "P" on it, and a knight's helmet. The visor goes down in battle, but is otherwise raised to show his face, as it is here. He's winking at the reader and pointing at the reader with a silver gauntlet.

CAPTION:

PALADIN! LAST SON OF CHELTENHAM!

Note: all caption's depicting a character's name appear next to the character, not in a panel corner, and there is no caption box.

(2)

SUPER VIXEN - a buxom Amazonian woman fully covered in bright orange body fur, with pointy ears, cat-like incisors and cat whiskers. Super Vixen wears light armor and brandishes a shield and a flail. She looks erotic and naughty.

CAPTION:

**SUPER VIXEN! AMAZON OF
ACCRINGTON STANELY!**

(3)

RUSTY RING - a naive kid in full-body brown Lyrca, with only holes for his eyes and his mouth (he has braces on his teeth). He proudly brandishes a brown ring on his finger that glows with a brown light.

CAPTION:

**WITH THE MAGIC GYPSY RING HE WON
AT THE VILLAGE FETE TOMBOLLA,
YOUNG TIMMY TIMPSON IS . . . RUSTY
RING!**

(4)

SPOT the Jack Russell has a small cape and, for some reason, roller skates. Spot doesn't look too smart, even for a dog.

CAPTION:

SPOT! JACK RUSSELL OF JUSTICE!

(5)

INTERIOR. MAD SCIENTIST LAIR - DAY

MAIN FRAME, CENTRE OF PAGE, VERY LARGE

DOCTOR DEMONICUS, four feet ten inches tall, bald, with a pointy nose, pointy eyebrows and a manic grin. His costume is absurd, skin-tight black Lycra over a spindly body, and it hides nothing. Giant golden shoulder hoops. A Golden skull codpiece. A stethoscope that shoots a lethal ray, which bounces off PALADIN'S shield as Doc Demonicus battles the four members of super hero team The National Trust in his lair.

Behind him, a giant DEATH RAY pokes through a massive open skylight.

Rusty's ring projects a badly-drawn brown stick figure of a man with brown boxing gloves, which it uses to knock out one of Doc's minions, the MATRONICS, robots that look like bulky 1960s hospital nurses.

DOC: SUCK DETHOSCOPE, DO-GOODERS!

PALADIN: WILL YOU NEVER LEARN, **DOCTOR DEMONICUS?** ONLY A FOOL WOULD DARE CHALLENGE THE **NATIONAL TRUST (TM)!**

F/X:

SNOOOOOORE!

CAPTION:

I WAS LOATHE TO ADMIT IT, BUT THE
OAF HAD A POINT. AS AN OUTCAST AND
REBEL, I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE IN
JAIL OR ON THE RUN. THERE **HAD** TO BE
A BETTER WAY.

(3)

INTERIOR. PRISON KITCHEN - DAY

PRISONERS in aprons bustle about the kitchen preparing food. Unseen and
crammed into a tiny storage cupboard space on the ground that he uses as a makeshift
lab, Doc Demonicus tinkers with his latest invention, although even his small body is
cramped by the squeeze.

CAPTION:

WHILE BUILDING A DISINTEGRATOR
RAY OUT OF CLEANING FLUID,
WASHING MACHINE PARTS, SOME TOILET
PAPER AND YESTERDAY'S STEW, I
VOWED THAT *THIS* TIME?

(4)

INTERIOR. PRISON CORRIDOR - DAY

Using a ramshackle contraption strapped to his tiny body, Doc disintegrates three GUARDS down to their skeletons, to the glee of SUPERVILLAIN INMATES, many of them mutated, cyborgs, giant, tiny, part animal or alien, all cheering behind their bars. The supervillains are segregated by cells - aliens in one, cyborgs in another, men in another, and women in the last one, including PROFESSOR PAIN, a skinny lady of 50 with a black Mohican and a monocle.

THINGS

**THIS TIME THINGS WOULD
BE DIFFERENT!**

PAGE THREE

(1)

In a burst of light and no other background, the Doc, dressed in a respectable suit and tie, looks serious and righteous as he raises his right hand and rests his other hand on a large Bible clutched to his chest, as if swearing an oath.

CAPTION (TOP LEFT):

**NO MORE HOLDING THE WORLD TO
RANSOM WITH GIANT MAGNETS ON
THE MOON! NO MORE SELLING THE
HUMAN RACE TO ALIEN OVERLORDS!
NO MORE BUMBLING HENCHMEN!**

DOC: SO IT WAS "GOODBYE" TO MY LIFE AS
DOCTOR DEMONICUS, AND "HELLO" . . .

(4)

INTERIOR. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY

LARGE FRAME. Wearing glasses and a lab coat with torn off sleeves to show his new muscles, the Doc, in the body of the bodybuilder and every inch the suave and handsome physician, pulls on a latex glove as he casts a critical eye over the fed-up BORR.

Borr is a Thor-like character lying face down on an operating table with his trousers pulled down and a Viking hammer rammed up his ass, the head end sticking out.

CAPTION (TOP LEFT): DOCTOR DALIP PATEL, SURGEON TO
THE SUPER HEROES!

DOC: LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: AT LEAST
HE USED THE HANDLE THIS TIME.

PAGE FOUR

(1)

EXTERIOR. SWIMMING POOL AND MANSION - DAY

FULL PAGE WIDTH PANEL. In a swimming pool with a waterfall feature, Doc wears sunglasses and a smile as he floats on a giant inflatable chair made out of a dollar sign. Behind him, a mansion. Beside him, a snooty butler serves him a flute of Champagne on a silver tray.

CAPTION:

PLENTY OF BILLIONAIRE PLAYBOYS ON
MY REGISTER, SO THE GIG PAID GREAT!

(2)

INTERIOR. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY

LARGE FULL PAGE WIDTH PANEL. A snarling Super Vixen CRASHES into Doc's surgery, the door EXPLODING before her as she kicks it in.

CAPTION (TOP LEFT):

AND THE PERKS WERE INCREDIBLE . . .

F/X:

CRASH!

(3)

EXTERIOR. BEACH - DAY

Paladin, as Sidney Sticklebottom, relaxes on the beach in a Bermuda shirt, shorts and flip flops, with a squared handkerchief on his head. He hasn't a care in the world as he whistles and listens to his iPod on headphones. Other people on the beach look up in horror and point at the GIANT BLUE WHALE about to land on his head.

CAPTION:

PALADIN WAS THE FIRST TO GO, HE
ALWAYS FOILED MY PLANS, BUT
WITHOUT HIS INDESTRUCTIBLE
SHIELD, HE WAS EASY.

(4)

EXTERIOR. CITY STREET - DAY

Surrounded by fleeing CITIZENS, Borr slams his hammer into a GIANT KUNG-FU ROBOT. The hammer shatters.

CAPTION (TOP LEFT):

AND A FEW OTHER SUPER CLOWNS
WERE TOO STRONG OR TOO SMART TO
LEAVE TO CHANCE.

F/X:

SHATTER!!!

BOXLESS CAPTION:

BORR!

(5)

Confused, Borr dimly looks at the remains of his hammer with a question mark floating above his head. He sees the hammer remnant has "Made in Taiwan" stamped on it as a giant robot fist descends on him from above.

PAGE SIX

(1)

INTERIOR. BAKER STREET STUDY - NIGHT

PADLOCK HOLMES is a tall and muscular Sherlock-looking hero in skin-tight tweed with a padlock symbol on his chest and steel deerstalker hat metal helmet. He is slumped in an armchair, overdosed with a needle stuck in his arm. His eyes are skulls and his tongue lolls out of his mouth.

POLICE break down the door just as, out of their line of sight, the Doc steps through a glowing portal, his front leg disappearing to wherever the other side is. He wears anti-forensics gear - all in one white body suit, face mask etc. But he still has his glasses on, and he's still Asian, so we know it's him.

CAPTION:

PADLOCK HOLMES!

(2)

EXTERIOR. DOCKS - NIGHT

Police stand by the docks, taping off the waterfront. Above the water hangs a dead man impaled on a giant fish hook. He is dressed in a sprat fish superhero outfit complete with silver cowl silver fish eyes.

A POLICEMAN scribbles in a notebook as he takes a statement from a violently weeping nine year-old boy wonder dressed as a GOLDFISH, pointing at his dead mentor.

CAPTION: **SPRATMAN!**

(3)

EXTERIOR. LARGE LAWN - DAY

Outdoor wedding ceremony for Doc and Vixen. He is at the altar, she is being led up the aisle by a proud, half-human/ half tomcat father in later middle age. On each side of the aisle are various heroes with morning suits and pretty dresses over their ridiculous costumes. One big, strong hero has tears in his eyes.

CAPTION: **EVERYONE CAME TO OUR WEDDING.**

(4)

EXTERIOR. LARGE LAWN - DAY

The happy couple, hand in hand, gazing into each others' eyes, are about to exchange their vows before a PRIEST in mid drone.

Unseen, a huge SPACE SHIP appears in the distance far above their heads, it's clearly just arriving, it wasn't there a moment ago.

CAPTION: **BIG MISTAKE, AS IT TURNED OUT.**

PAGE SEVEN

(1)

FULL PAGE PANEL

A horde of two foot tall but vicious green aliens with tentacles instead of legs, 1950s space outfits and fishbowl helmets, pour out of the giant FLYING SAUCER that has landed on the congregation, crushing most of it to death. The aliens slaughter the remaining super heroic wedding guests with heat ray pistols. Alongside the aliens fight various villains and henchmen. Beside each villain, as with their hero counterparts earlier, appears their name. All the villains, and a couple of the aliens, were seen in prison with Doc earlier, but are now in costume.

Aliens ram Spot down Rusty Ring's throat, having already ripped his jaw off, the jawbone lying six feet away.

BOXLESS CAPTION:

DOC PLATYPUS!

A man with a fur suit and mechanical platypus enhancements, Doc Platypus has a metal robot beak, and while he retains his human arms and hands, he moves about via giant mechanical platypus feet.

BOXLESS CAPTION:

MURDER POPE!

A fat man in late middle age wearing a black pope's outfit with upside-down crimson crosses. His crook sends out lethal blasts, his eyes glow red and his spare arm is a writhing mass of venomous wires that split to strangle six people at once.

BOXLESS CAPTION:

HIGH FINANCE!

A red haired skinny stoner in a green mankini stamped with currency signs (pounds, dollars, Euros etc.) He blasts the crowd with a Tommy gun in each hand as he puffs on a giant spliff in his mouth.

(2)

This is a part of the previous picture, but the bottom right part, walled-off by frame lines.

The monocled PROFESSOR PAIN, in a tightly buttoned double-breasted 1940s black lab coat, floats above the ground on a hover platform, laughing maniacally with alien

guards by her side, her plasma rifle punching a hole in a super hero's chest.

CAPTION:

WITH NO REAL OPPOSITION,
PROFESSOR PAIN JUST ROUNDED UP
ALL THE OTHER VILLAINS, STRUCK A
DEAL WITH THE KRILL ARMADA AND
TOOK OUT THE REMAINING HEROES
ALL AT ONCE.

PAGE EIGHT

(1)

Surrounded by bloody hero corpses, Doc begs for mercy before Professor Pain in his smoking morning suit, on his knees as the villains who surround him. They have Vixen, her wedding dress in tatters, chained up on all fours by aliens and wearing a ball gag.

A skeptical Murderpope has a thought bubble with a picture of the old Doctor Demonicus inside it, next to a question mark.

DOC:

WAIT! I'M ONE OF YOU! I'M REALLY
DOCTOR DEMONICUS!

(2)

All the bad guys just laugh and point at the Doc, but Super Vixen raises an eyebrow and looks suspicious.

(3) EXTERIOR. GRANITE QUARRY - DAY

In rags, Doc has a slave ring around his neck with chain linking him to other slaves. He uses a pick to break rocks. In the background, a little ALIEN GUARD watches on in a uniform with a cigar, shotgun and shades to make him look like a prison guard from *Cool Hand Luke*.

CAPTION: SO HERE WE ARE.

(4)

A few seconds after the last frame, the Doc wipes sweat from his brow.

CAPTION: BUT THERE IS **ONE** PERSON WHO BELIEVES
ME.

(5)

The next slave along in the chain gang, the grimy and battered Super Vixen, gives Doc such a mighty kick in the nuts that his eyes pop out.

The Alien Guard finds this hilarious.