

FANTASTIC FOUR

"Pilot"

Written by

Michael A. Gainey

Based on the Marvel Comics

Created by

Stan Lee

And

Jack Kirby

Fantastic Four

"Pilot"

CAST

Reed Richards
Sue Storm
Ben Grimm
Johnny Storm
Dr. Franklin Storm
First Mate
Young Sue Storm
Receptionist
Gregson Gilbert
Lab Technician
Arthrosian Child
Preskil
Lura

Baluurian Adjutant
King Blastaar
Annihilus
Shield Officer
Agent #1
Agent #2
Agent Petruski
Alternate Reed
Soldier #1
Soldier #2
Namor

Crew Members
Baluurians
Arthrosians
Arthrosian Children
Crowd

Fantastic Four

"Pilot"

SETS

INTERIORS

Cruise Ship
- Living Quarters
Baxter Building
- Reception
- Dr. Storm's Office
Reed's Warehouse
Baluurian Palace
- Throne Room

EXTERIORS

Atlantic Ocean
- Cruise Ship
- Rescue Boat
Baxter Building
Yancy Street Pizza
Reed's Warehouse
Planetoid
- Desert
- Nomadic Camp
- Miles Above The Surface
Baluurian Palace
Project Pegasus
- Security Gate

FANTASTIC FOUR

"Pilot"

TEASER**EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN- CRUISE SHIP - DAY**

Gale force winds SMACK white-capped waves against a small CRUISE SHIP. A CREW MEMBER in rain gear braces himself as he eyes the waves intently from the deck.

His strained eyes go WIDE with alarm.

Grabbing the peal of the ship's bell, he RINGS THREE TIMES, pointing off the starboard side.

The ship's CREW scrambles, prepping a RESCUE BOAT.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM, 40, straps on a life preserver and follows the crew but he's halted by the FIRST MATE.

FIRST MATE

Stay here! We'll do everything we can!

DR. FRANKLIN STORM

So will I!

Dr. Storm stares, deadly serious, into the First Mate's eyes.

FIRST MATE

(CONCEDING)

Grab another vest! Hurry!

Waves CRASH against the hull as they follow guide ropes along the deck.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - RESCUE BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

The rescue boat heaves violently as Dr. Storm scans the water until--

DR. FRANKLIN STORM

There!

We follow his trembling finger to YOUNG SUE STORM, 6 years old, treading water in the distance.

Despite the raging winds and crashing waves, she floats peacefully, unafraid.

The crew positions the boat, the First Mate tosses a FLOTATION DEVICE out to the girl.

FIRST MATE
Grab the line!

The girl looks at the first mate, but makes no attempt for the FLOTATION DEVICE, deciding to remain in the ocean.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
Sue! Grab the line!

Sue considers for a beat, but her eyes catch the SAD, DESPERATE EYES of her father.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM (CONT'D)
(DESPERATELY)
Please!

Finally, Sue grabs the flotation device. The crew pulls the line. Closer and closer until--

Dr. Storm LEANS INTO THE WATER to grab Sue. Crew members clutch his vest to anchor his frantic rescue.

With a mighty heave, the crew pulls father and daughter back onto the boat. Dr. Storm desperately clutches the soaked six year old to his body, never to let go again.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM (CONT'D)
Susan! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

But young Sue ignores his concern, staring into the distance, searching for something.

INT. CRUISE SHIP - LIVING QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER

Dr. Storm carries the bundled girl into their cabin and lays her on the lower of two bunks.

Dr. Storm checks her forehead with his hand.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
Sue? Sue, are you okay?

Sue nods. She's fine, if just soaking wet.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM (CONT'D)
Thank God you're okay. It must have been terrifying.
(THEN)
Sue, say something.

Dr. Storm eyes his daughter with concern, but her gaze wanders, lost in recent memory.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM (CONT'D)
I need to know you're okay.

Awe-inspired tears well in her eyes.

YOUNG SUE STORM
It was... incredible.

The girl smiles as we...

CUT TO:

OPENING SEQUENCE

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**EXT. BAXTER BUILDING - DAY**

A modern skyscraper in the Manhattan skyline. A beacon for scientific achievement.

Title Card: **TWENTY YEARS LATER**

INT. BAXTER BUILDING - RECEPTION - DAY

Elevator doors open to a luxurious office suite. Sue Storm, now a confident and beautiful 26 years old, steps out and passes the reception desk like so many times before.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning, Miss Storm.

SUE STORM

Morning, Rosie.

Sue walks quickly into...

INT. BAXTER BUILDING - DR. STORM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Storm, grayed by 20 years of the hard sciences, reviews BLUEPRINTS with DR. GREGSON GILBERT, a white-coated technician. If you look closely, they might be plans for a dragon-shaped ANDROID.

GREGSON GILBERT

The design is flawless, but the A.I. is... problematic--

Sue enters.

SUE STORM

Hi, Dad. Dr. Gilbert.

GREGSON GILBERT

(TIMIDLY)

Hello.

(TO DR. STORM)

I'll... run these to Wittman.

Gregson avoids eye contact with Sue as he exits.

SUE STORM

Dad, we're going to be late.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
Oh, honey, I can't. Not today.

SUE STORM
You have to eat. Let's go.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
I'll order with the research team.

SUE STORM
(directly)
You have to talk to Johnny.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
What did he do this time?

SUE STORM
He's failing out of college!

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
Our Johnny?

SUE STORM
Your Johnny. You need to tell him
he doesn't get extra credit every
time he swipes right.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
He's a kid.

SUE STORM
You always--

Suddenly, a white-coated LAB TECHNICIAN enters.

LAB TECHNICIAN
Dr. Storm, we're ready for you.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
One minute.
(TO SUE)
I have to go. Tell Johnny I'm
dying to see that new car of his.
(OFF HER LOOK)
And to get his grades up.

Dr. Storm exits, but returns in a hurry.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM (CONT'D)
You aren't going into Brooklyn by
any chance...

SUE STORM
Dad, no.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
Please. Just see if he's making
progress. I need something to show
the board.

SUE STORM
Send a courier.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
I need to know he's okay.

SUE STORM
He blew up half of ESU.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
He's brilliant.

SUE STORM
He's crazy.

DR. FRANKLIN STORM
It's why he's the best.

INT. REED'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

CLASSICAL MUSIC echoes through a cavernous industrial warehouse. Years of neglect have gummed up the windows. Rust is peppered over exposed metal surfaces. The place is in disrepair.

All except a sleek, futuristic device in the center of the room, the pinnacle of high-technology, resembling a LARGE VIEWING SCREEN, if that screen were designed by Jack Kirby.

SPARKS fly from a welding torch, illuminating a figure in an OMINOUS WELDING MASK. The sparks cease. He lifts his mask.

This is REED RICHARDS, 28, lean, with a patchy 5 o'clock shadow that should have been shaved two days ago.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. YANCY STREET PIZZA - DAY

JOHNNY STORM, 20, all-american, checks his hair in the reflection of the restaurant window, sitting at an outdoor table.

Behind him, in the reflection, is a head-turning CLASSIC CAR.

He smiles confidently, first at himself, then at the car.

Across the table, Sue is not amused.

SUE STORM

You always choose restaurants for
the view of your own car?

JOHNNY STORM

It's the best in the city!

SUE STORM

You're talking about the car.

JOHNNY STORM

I'm talking about the car.

SUE STORM

You aren't at all concerned about
college?

JOHNNY STORM

I love college!

SUE STORM

Then you need to study! You can't
just... hot-rod through life.

JOHNNY STORM

School isn't my strong suit.

SUE STORM

How would you know? You aren't
going to your classes.

JOHNNY STORM

Wyatt takes really good notes.

(THEN)

Look, you and Dad, you got the
brains. Me? Charisma.

SUE STORM

(RE: THE CAR)

What happens when you can't afford
hundred thousand dollar charisma?

JOHNNY STORM

I'll borrow from you.

SUE STORM

Lunch is on you today.

JOHNNY STORM

Technically, it's on Dad.

Off Sue's scowl, we...

CUT TO:

INT. REED'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

A POUNDING on the metallic sliding door. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

GRUFF VOICE
Open up! Police!

Reed looks up from a dozen LEGAL NOTEPADS, extensive notes scribbled over each page.

REED RICHARDS
Police?

GRUFF VOICE
Don't make us break down the door!

REED RICHARDS
One second!

GRUFF VOICE
We had a lotta complaints. Wild parties, loud music, hunnerds o' women.

REED RICHARDS
(TO HIMSELF)
Women?

Reed slides open the door. It's his old friend, former football star, BEN GRIMM, in his college zip-up hoodie. Ben holds up a CASE OF BEER.

BEN GRIMM
A present from my Aunt Petunia.

REED RICHARDS
Ben? What time is it?

BEN GRIMM
Time fer a study break, doc.
Benji's orders.

INT. REED'S WAREHOUSE - LATER

Ben sits on a cot, Reed on a beat up old office chair.

BEN GRIMM
 (RE: THE COT)
 I like whatcha done wit' the place.

REED RICHARDS
 I... don't get many visitors.

BEN GRIMM
 Ya gotta get out, Reed. Stop
 beatin' yerself up.

REED RICHARDS
 Ben, I--
 (a deep breath)
 This isn't a punishment.

BEN GRIMM
 Ya couped up in this dusty ol'
 warehouse, don't see nobody. Ya
 gotta do this alone?

REED RICHARDS
 My last partner... didn't pan out.

BEN GRIMM
 He was a creep 'n you know it.

REED RICHARDS
 He was brilliant. His work... it's
 beyond science. He showed me--

BEN GRIMM
 --how ta blow up a college?

Reed hangs his head. He holds the cool beer bottle against
 his face.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
 Sorry. Listen--

REED RICHARDS
 I can't stop, Ben. Our work... it
 raised too many questions. I can't
 stop.

Ben eyes his friend, saddened by his burden. Then...

BEN GRIMM
 So you gonna show me how this
 bucket o' bolts works or do I
 haveta clobber ya.

A sly smile crosses Reed's face--

-- but suddenly the METAL DOOR slides open and SUE lets herself in.

SUE STORM
Dr. Richards.

REED RICHARDS
Miss Storm. Hello.

BEN GRIMM
Hiya, Suzie.

SUE STORM
Ben? Tailback AND astrophysicist?

BEN GRIMM
I'm a complex individgel.

SUE STORM
(to Reed)
My father's hoping you've made progress. Is there anything you can show him?

REED RICHARDS
I suppose--

BEN GRIMM
Take a seat, Suzie. Stay a while.

SUE STORM
(RE: THE COT)
No, thanks.

BEN GRIMM
Dr. Do-Nothin' was about ta put the Twilight Zone on the big screen.

SUE STORM
Oh?

REED RICHARDS
I was about to give Ben a demonstration.

Sue readies her CELL PHONE to record video.

SUE STORM
By all means.

Reed types at a computer terminal. He drags TESLA COILS into positions blocked off on the floor.

REED RICHARDS

Now, Ben, Sue,... Victor hypothesized that reality consists of several parallel planes of existence occurring simultaneously. By harnessing gamma radiation, ultrasonic frequencies--

BEN GRIMM

Yeah yeah, big brain. Get on wit' the show!

REED RICHARDS

Very well. Lady and... Ben, I give you the first window into a parallel dimension.

Reed strikes a few keys at a computer terminal. SPARKS FLY from the machine as it powers up. Sue FLINCHES.

REED RICHARDS (CONT'D)

It's alright. Just some o-zone. Perfectly normal.

Electricity CRACKLES across TESLA COILS as a faint image fades into the viewer.

Ben strains his eyes.

BEN GRIMM

Izzat... ?

Reed's eyes go wide as the image appears in the viewer:

A DWARF STAR shines brightly at the center as a FIELD OF ROCK-LIKE DEBRIS keeps a steady orbit.

REED RICHARDS

(AWED)

... a Dwarf Star System.

SUE STORM

Wow. Reed, this is--

BEN GRIMM

--one heckuva screen saver.

REED RICHARDS

Let's get some quick readings.

Reed adjusts a few instruments, then types away furiously at his computer terminal.

REED RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Fascinating.

Suddenly, SCREWS on the cement floor RATTLE, catching Ben's attention. They drift slowly towards the viewer.

The ZIPPER TAB and DRAWSTRINGS on his sweatshirt pull as well, drawn by an increasing force.

BEN GRIMM
Uh, Reed?

REED RICHARDS
One second, Ben.

BEN GRIMM
Reed, somethin' ain't right.

REED RICHARDS
Don't worry, old friend. It's just
a window--

BEN GRIMM
Yeah. I think yer window's open.

Sue's HAIR pulls slightly toward the portal.

SUE STORM
(INCREASING PANIC)
Reed?

A LEGAL NOTEPAD next to Reed flutters as pages are pulled by the increasing force. Reed stands to take a closer look at the portal.

REED RICHARDS
That's impossib--

Suddenly, Reed is SUCKED INTO THE PORTAL!

BEN GRIMM/SUE STORM
Reed!

The suction increases. The OFFICE CHAIR wheels toward the portal. PENS, NOTEPADS, THE COT, etc. inch closer, then fly into the portal.

Ben grabs Sue by the arm and they make for the exit but their feet slide on the concrete, pulled with increasing force. Ben grabs a METAL PILLAR in the room and pulls Sue to it. She grabs on...

... but her hands SLIP!

Ben snatches her hand. The suction pulls Sue's legs from the ground, forcing her parallel to the floor.

BEN GRIMM
Hold on, Suzie!

As ONE OF SUE'S SHOES disappears into the portal, we cut to:

EXT. REED'S WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Johnny wipes down his car with a DUSTER as he chats on his cell phone.

JOHNNY STORM
We can go to the party later.
First, let's go for a spin! C'mon
Dorrie-- Amber! I said Amber!
(HANGING UP, TO HIMSELF)
Aww, way to go, Johnny.

Beat.

Johnny dials his phone and puts it to his ear once more.

JOHNNY
Hey, Dorrie! It's...

SUE STORM (O.S.)
(SCREAMING)
JOHNNY!

The phone falls from his hands as he runs into...

INT. REED'S WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ben clutches the metal pillar with one hand and Sue with the other as the portal continues to pull them.

SUE STORM
Johnny, help!

JOHNNY STORM
What the-- What do I do?

BEN GRIMM
Cut the power!

Johnny scans the room. He spots a tangled mess of cable he can't decipher.

JOHNNY STORM
Ah, great!

SUE STORM

Hurry!

Sue's fingers slowly slide, struggling to maintain a grip on Ben's hand.

BEN GRIMM

Do it now, kid!

Johnny spots a CIRCUIT BREAKER on a far wall.

JOHNNY STORM

I think I see it!

But Sue SCREAMS as she and Ben are suddenly PULLED INTO THE PORTAL!

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)

Sue!

Johnny, without hesitation, dives into the mysterious portal as Sue echoes in the distance:

SUE STORM (O.S.)

Johnny!

Behind him, the warehouse's METAL DOOR pulls off its track and flies at the portal, destroying the machine and closing off the portal.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. PLANETOID - DAY**

BEN'S POV:

Blurry vision clears, revealing silhouetted ARTHROSIAN CHILDREN poking at Ben. They CLICK enthusiastically, in an alien language.

BEN GRIMM
Wha...? Who...?

Ben sits up and the children scatter.

He shields his eyes from the DWARF STAR ahead of him in the distance.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
Turn down the sun, will ya?

BACK TO SCENE

Ben lowers his hands to look at them and we see he is now a craggy, orange-skinned ROCK MONSTER.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
(RE: HIS STONY HANDS)
What the...?

Ben BLINKS hard, then SCREAMS!

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
AHHHH! No no no! Dis ain't real.
Dis ain't--

Ben scrambles, panicked, along the desert terrain but trips over a child.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
Ah, sorry, sorry, I--

Ben helps the kid to his feet, but this is no human child. He is ARTHROSIAN. Ben eyes the child's skeletal build and insect-like features, then SCREAMS.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
Ahhh!

ARTHROSIAN CHILD
(MIMICKING)
Ahhh!

A stoic Arthrosian adult, PRESKIL, approaches and the child cowers behind him for safety.

Preskil stands tall to intimidate his possible foe--

-- but an ARTILLERY EXPLOSION rocks the scene!

Preskil leads the child away, then yells back to Ben:

PRESKIL

Run!

Beat.

BEN GRIMM

Did he just--?

Suddenly, A LARGE SHADOW covers Ben. A BALUURIAN SOLDIER, a barbaric warrior with blue skin and a lion-like mane towers over him.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)

I gotta quit spicy food.

The Baluurian raises its fists, then SLAMS them down, narrowly missing Ben as he rolls to dodge the blow.

Ben gets to his feet, noticing his monstrous legs have burst through his sneakers which are now scattered fabric.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)

Aw, I just bought those!

The Baluurian marches in a rage toward Ben, raising a mighty fist then letting a powerful punch fly...

POOM! Ben CATCHES the punch in his stony fist, holding the arm of the puzzled Baluurian in mid-punch.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)

Huh. Who knew?

Ben cracks a smile, then--

In the distance, Preskil and the Arthrosian Child scurry away when--

BOOM!

The Baluurian launches into the air, then it's unconscious body CRASHES beside Preskil in a heap.

Preskil inspects the unconscious brute, then hears a thunderous BRAWL in the distance:

BEN GRIMM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Aw naw ya don't! Innerupt my
 beauty nap will ya!

Preskil smiles.

He crosses the landscape back to Ben, who now stands over a
 BEATEN, UNCONSCIOUS SQUAD OF BALUURIAN SOLDIERS.

Preskil looks on with amazement as OTHER ARTHROSIANS come out
 of hiding to take in the scene.

Ben spots Preskil and gestures to him.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
 You! You were sayin'?

The Arthrosians CLICK and WAVE their arms in an alien CHEER
 for their new hero.

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
 Ah, it wuz nothin'. Nobody messes
 with ol' blue eyes and gets away
 with it.

Ben FLEXES his muscles like a showboating wrestler, a glutton
 for admiration. On the growing cheers, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANETOID - DAY

On another planetoid, Johnny awakens in a startled SCREAM.

As his breathing slows, he takes in his surroundings, but
 discovers he is BUTT-NAKED.

JOHNNY STORM
 Ah! Okay, who stole my clothes?

The empty desert doesn't answer.

Johnny stands, then notices he is sitting in a LAYER OF ASH.
 Among the ash, a tiny metal object catches his eye.

He lifts the object; It's the HEAD OF A ZIPPER.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 Huh?

MINUTES LATER.

Johnny, hands covering his crotch, crosses the rocky terrain.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 (CALLING OUT)
 Sue! Susan Storm!
 (THEN)
 Other guy!

Johnny scans the horizon. Nothing. He turns around, shading his eyes, squinting.

In the distance, a DUST CLOUD beelines for Johnny. Hoping for rescue, Johnny WAVES his arms.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 Hey! Over here! Hey!

The dust cloud speeds ever faster. Johnny squints, looking a little closer--

It's a GIANT BUG-LIKE CREATURE, chomping hungrily!

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 That's not good.

Johnny SPRINTS in the opposite direction. Over his shoulder, the creature gains ground with each stride.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 I'm gonna die I'm gonna die I'm
 gonna die I'm...

But as Johnny runs, FLAMES slowly envelope his hands.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 Ah!

Johnny BLOWS on his hands and WAVES them to put the fire out, but THE FIRE SPREADS UP HIS ARMS!

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 I'm a trick candle!

The INSECT is now dangerously close. It opens its MANDIBLES. Johnny puts his flaming hands in front of his face and SHUTS his eyes, waiting for the bite.

But the bite never comes! Johnny opens his eyes, moves his still-flaming hands. He is now several yards above the ground and climbing! The insect shrinks in the distance.

Johnny breathes a sigh of relief, only to realize he's being carried by A FLYING BUG CREATURE!

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
 Ahhhhh!

In his panic, Johnny fully IGNITES, his body covered in flames. The insect drops him!

Johnny FLAILS his arms and SCREAMS, but soon realizes, he is FLOATING in place.

He looks down at his flaming body. Confused but calm, he leans to the right and he FLIES slowly in that direction. He then shifts his weight and floats in another direction.

Johnny smiles, strikes a SUPERMAN-LIKE POSE and jets off in a few clumsy loops as he enjoys his newfound ability.

JOHNNY STORM (CONT'D)
(EXCITEDLY)
Whoa ho! Flame on!

EXT. PLANETOID - NOMADIC CAMP - NIGHT

The Arthrosians walk into an encampment of primitive, yet alien, caravans, rejoining their nomadic group.

Among them, Ben WAVES confidently to those at the camp, but they greet him with DISTRUSTFUL EYES and AVERTED GAZE.

BEN GRIMM
Yeesh. What is this, Yancy Street?

Preskil falls back in the crowd and takes Ben by the arm.

PRESKIL
Come. Meet the leader.

BEN GRIMM
Awright awright, quit yankin' me.

Preskil drags Ben to a distinct caravan. Inside, a STRANGE GLOW emanates, but outside Ben notices a familiar, WORN-DOWN OLD COT!

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)
No way.

Suddenly, Ben is swept into a SERPENTINE COIL, his arms bound at his sides. Ben's eyes follow the serpent-like creature's body to what looks like a HOODED HUMANOID torso.

HOODED HUMANOID
(INTERROGATION IN AN ALIEN DIALECT)

BEN GRIMM
Wha?

HOODED HUMANOID
(AGAIN, MORE FORCEFULLY)

BEN GRIMM
Speak English, ya big mouth!

The Serpentine Coil's undulations cease, its grip loosens.

HOODED HUMANOID
Ben?

The hooded humanoid pulls down his hood. Behind a shaggy beard and greying temples, its...

BEN GRIMM
Reed?

EXT. PLANETOID - NOMADIC CAMP - LATER

Ben and Reed sit and LAUGH by Reed's caravan.

BEN GRIMM
So what happened? Yer supposed to be some kinda genius.

REED RICHARDS
I'm sorry, old friend. I never meant--

BEN GRIMM
(RE: HIS MONSTROUS APPEARANCE)
Yeah. No one coulda seen this comin'.

REED RICHARDS
I woke up to an insect swallowing my foot... a hundred yards away.

BEN GRIMM
Heh.

REED RICHARDS
I apologize for the hostility. The Negative Zone can be--

BEN GRIMM
--The what now?

REED RICHARDS
The Negative Zone. The increased antimatter, the negatively charged--
(OFF BEN'S LOOK)
(MORE)

REED RICHARDS (CONT'D)
 This isn't just another planet,
 Ben. It's another universe--
 governed by its own natural laws.

BEN GRIMM
 Like bugs hatin' lions.

REED RICHARDS
 Not exactly. But yes, these
 planetoids are barren. The
 Arthrosians and Baluurians are
 understandably territorial.

BEN GRIMM
 How'd you end up in the flea
 circus?

REED RICHARDS
 Preskil found me. He taught me the
 language, the way of life.

But Preskil enters in a hurry.

PRESKIL
 Reedrichards. Come. Come.

REED RICHARDS
 What is it?

PRESKIL
 We are in danger.

EXT. PLANETOID - NOMADIC CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Ben and Reed push through a crowd of Arthrosians until they
 see--

A GIANT BUG CREATURE (much like the creature that chased
 Johnny). Oddly, it stands still, as if waiting or
 controlled.

Preskil approaches Reed.

PRESKIL
 It does not attack. We do not
 understand.

Ben CRACKS his rocky knuckles.

BEN GRIMM
 Ya want me ta clobber 'im, Reed?

FOOM! At mention of Reed's name, the crowd of Arthrosians and Ben are PUSHED BACK by an unseen force. Reed, unaffected, is singled out.

Preskil steps forward but a FORCE FIELD ripples as it denies his advance.

In front of Reed, a figure FADES IN FROM THIN AIR. In tattered clothes and scattered bruises, its...

BEN GRIMM (CONT'D)

Suzie?!

SUE STORM

(FORCEFULLY, TO REED)

Where's Johnny?

REED RICHARDS

Johnny? Your--?

Sue PUNCHES Reed in the face! His rubbery features distort but his face quickly rebounds, unhurt.

Confused, exhausted, Sue falls to her knees.

SUE STORM

What did you do to me?

END OF ACT TWO