

MID-LIFE CRISIS
“Origins”
3-Issue Mini Series
Issue #1 of 3
Revised: V1d

Note: This is a draft script for Mid-Life Crisis #1.

Certain changes were made at the time of publication, so the actual comic book may not have the same panel breakdowns or dialogue.

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PAGE 1

Panel 1

Long, wide shot of a superhero funeral. Heroes, large and small stand with their heads bowed. If you want, you can make it raining or sunny. Just make it distinct. Usually an elevated angle is best in this situation.

VITRUVIUS:

And so we say goodbye to a hero. One who was taken from us too soon.

Cathode was one of us...he fought for what was right.

He died fighting for justice.

CREDITS BOX:

Mid-Life Crisis

“Origins”

Story: Buddy Scalera

Art: Andy Seabert

Letters: Andy Seabert

Panel 2

Medium shot of Anode standing in the front row with a dark sunglasses. She still has her costume on, as do all the heroes. Vitruvius is gesturing to the coffin sitting outside the ground, waiting to be lowered into the open hole.

VITRUVIUS:

He died a hero, but he lived as one as well.

We know this is true because everyone knew his origins and how he gained his superpowers.

Panel 3

Shot of Crisis, who is looking quite sad. I'd have him standing a few rows back. He'd be shoulder to shoulder with some of our heroes, so feel free to draw a few of them into the panel for perspective.

VITRUVIUS: (off panel)

His origin was a story worth telling.

Over and over, we tell stories. Stories of heroes and what made them who they are.

Panel 4

Closer shot, framing Crisis. It's that same sad look, but now seems sadder as we angle in on him. He looks older, tired. And sad.

VITRUVIUS: (off panel)

And isn't that the mark of a true hero?

PAGE 2

Panel 1

External shot of the Thunder League's Headquarters. This is a giant building constructed around the Statue of Liberty. It is an architectural monstrosity that would only make sense in comic books. I'd say that the Teen Titans "T" building is unlikely, but this has to take it to the next level. It should dwarf the Statue of Liberty, extending beyond the concrete platform and into the Hudson. It is a foreboding and solid stone structure, but made even more ominous by the stone statue perched at the top. The figure looks a bit like Conan wearing spandex pants and boots, holding a massive serrated sword above his head. The figure is faced outward to the East as a warning to anyone coming to invade the US. This is the original founder of the Thunder League, who has been honored with this building that is literally like an archway around the Statue of Liberty. Off to the side are three landing pads, each of which contains a different kind of hero helicopter. You only have to draw this one time this issue, so give it all of the fanboy details you would want in a playset for your kids.

VITRUVIUS: (off panel in the building)
Thank you all for coming back to our headquarters.

It is good to be surrounded by friends.

Panels 2 - 3

Interior shots of the Thunder League Headquarters. The room is lit only by candles, hundreds of them. Vitruvius sits at the head of a massive table in an insanely large room. If you draw any specific characters, use the ones we've designed. The others, you can just cheat and draw from behind, showing just shadowed shoulders. The candles give you some leeway to cheat with the light and shadows.

VITRUVIUS:
Surrounded by heroes.

We are united by our commitment to justice.

Panel 4

Medium close up of LEGEND on a TV monitor. If possible, use your original pose from Page 1 of the first time we did this. I'd like to re-use that for nostalgia sake. :)

VITRUVIUS:
To defeating evil.

PAGE 3

Panel 1

Later. Everyone is standing around the headquarters. Everyone looks a bit depressed. Metal Head is in his wheelchair, and they are sort of making a semi-circle around him. For the next few panels, we will focus on our core cast. If you show someone in the background, show these guys. Otherwise, just cheat and show a background or something. I don't want to establish more characters at this point.

PHILANTHROPIST:

Heard it was rough out there. Will you be able to fix the armor, Metal Head?

METAL HEAD:

I think so. We sustained damage to the core fuel cells, so I'll need to get more yellow cake.

Panel 2

MEZZO MORPH:

Mmm, cake. I go for cake.

SMOKE EATER:

Yellow cake is radioactive materials. Not the cake you eat.

MEZZO MORPH: (shrugging)

I still eat.

Panel 3

Vitruvius walks over and puts a hand on Metal Head's shoulder.

VITRUVIUS:

We'll find a way of getting you a fresh fuel supply. This cakeyellow fuel shall be procured, no matter the cost.

A warrior as brave as you deserves the support of the League.

Panel 4

Smoke talks to Vitruvius, who has an odd body language. He doesn't really look at Smoke Eater the way he should.

SMOKE EATER:

Maybe the League can help with my SmokeTanx? One of mine ruptured when...

VITRIVIUS:

Hmm, ah, well, perhaps you would want to check in the Parts and Replacements division in Basement Level Four.

They sometimes keep discontinued parts in stock.

Panel 5

Vitruvius walks away with a quick wave to Metal Head.

VITRUVIUS:

Excuse me now, please. I must make a media statement.

Metal Head, please contact my secretary on Monday.

Panel 6

Smoke looks a bit stunned. Metal Head and Philanthropist are suppressing a laugh.

SMOKE EATER:

But, I...

PAGE 4

Panel 1

Exterior establishing shot of the Crossover City Pub. It's night, but the inside lights and a few random streetlights remind us that this is a rough neighborhood. Think of a tough bar in Manhattan late at night.

SMOKE EATER:
(off panel)
Discontinued parts!

He directs me to Basement Three for...

PHILANTHROPIST:
(off panel)
Four.

SMOKE EATER:
(off panel)
What?

Panel 2

In this scene we have Mezzo Morph, Smoke Eater, Philanthropist, Metal Head, Crisis, and Barista (new female hero!). The pub is relatively empty, except for a few patrons who are more interested in their drinks than in the heroes in costume. Masks are still on, but they have definitely loosened up. Buttons loose here, gloves off there. Everyone is laughing at the line by Philanthropist. We will be in this pub scene for two pages. Think about how you want to lay out the panels and who you want to show. I will let you know if I need something specific, but you can draw what you want. Remember, there's usually a cute waitress handing out drinks, so you can drop her in if you want. Your call.

In this panel, Philanthropist is teasing his friend Smoke Eater. They are sitting next to each other. Philanthropist has his hand on Smoke's shoulder as if he's slapping him on the back to cheer up. Everyone is laughing and having fun, except Smoke Eater, who has an annoyed, hang dog expression.

PHILANTHROPIST:
It was Basement Level Four.

Basement Level Three is for cool heroes who bed down hot babes.

EVERYONE:

Hah! Hahah! Haha!

SMOKE EATER:

Har-dee-har. Very funny, Philanthropist.

Panel 3

[[If we're going to use Sirona as a character that brings fallen heroes to Valhalla, then we can't have her hanging out in a pub. I am in Starbucks right now, so I propose we name a character Barista. I have nothing other than the name Barista. Go forth and create a character named Barista!]]

SMOKE EATER:

Just wait till you guys get old. You'll see.

BARISTA:

Aw, Smokey, you're not old.

You're just not young anymore.

SMOKE EATER:

You're not helping, Barista.

Panel 4

Angle-in on Philanthropist and Crisis, who are slightly off to the side, enjoying the conversation.

Philanthropist:

Sad, but true.

CRISIS:

What's that?

Philanthropist:

We're not old...

CRISIS:

...we're just not young anymore.

PAGE 5

[[Originally we had this as that street scene where they beat up the kids. It doesn't have to be that. In fact, I cut out some material. I think they should be leaving the pub and walking down the street, but I leave that up to you.]]

Panel 1

Philanthropist:

I feel bad for Smoke Eater. I mean, he helped Vitruvius when he was young.

Now he needs a hand...

CRISIS:

And Vitruvius blows him off. That guy is such a @\$%.

Panel 2

Philanthropist:

Not just him. All of us.

Smoke's pushing 45. You haven't made it by this age...I don't know.

Being a superhero is a young man's game.

Panel 3

Philanthropist:

I hope someone asks him soon.

CRISIS:

Asks him what?

Philanthropist:

Oh, you know, his big "secret origin."

The ONLY reason Smoke Eater keeps suiting up is because he just wants to tell his story.

Panel 4

CRISIS:
Y'think?

Philanthropist:
I know. You hit his age, you either want to tell your origin story...
...or get killed so someone else tells it for you.

Dark shit.

Panel 5

CRISIS:
Easy for you to say. You told yours.

You drank radioactive water or something, right?

Philanthropist:
Yeah, lousy origin. I sort of wish it stayed secret.

Panel 6

Philanthropist:
All these years, and nobody's asked you once?

CRISIS:
Nope.

Philanthropist:
Sorry, man.

CRISIS:
Forget it. Let's get out of here. I have work tomorrow.

PAGE 6

[[Again, originally a street scene, but slightly different. Play it any way you'd like.]]

Panel 1

Crisis is leaving the bar at the same time as Philanthropist. It is very late and the streets are rather empty.

CRISIS:

Remember when we first met? There was this other guy. Steamer something right?

PHILANTHROPIST:

Steamroller.

CRISIS:

Right. He was a bit of a joke. Even back then when we had lower standards for what we called a "superhero.

But, man, the guy was powerful. Literally, he could steamroll an entire army of bad guys.

Panel 2

CRISIS:

But for whatever reason, he never really made it. He was never an A-list hero.

Went to the parties, knew everybody's name, but just couldn't pull it through. Couldn't get on a proper superhero team.

These days, he's running a hardware store out in Wisconsin.

Panel 3

PHILANTHROPIST:

But you were actually on the Thunder League.

CRISIS:

Yeah, for, like nine months. And now I'm not exactly sure which is worse.

Being someone like Steamroller who never made it at all...or being me...the superhero equivalent of a one-hit-wonder?

Panel 4

CRISIS:

For a brief moment, I got to see what real superheroes do. I experienced the dangers and finally understood...

Understood what it was like to stand toe-to-toe against the powerful villains and their evil plans. And shoulder-to-shoulder with the most valiant and brave heroes in the known universe.

For nine wonderful months, I was part of the most powerful superhero team in the world.

Panel 5

CRISIS:

You ask me what I want? I want one more shot.

Even though I'm 45 years old, I still have something to share with the world. God gave me superpowers...not great ones...but I've got bulletproof skin, and that's something.

I need to prove it to the world, to my family...hell, to myself, that I'm not just some B-list clown.

Panel 6

CRISIS:

I'm not ready to manage a hardware store.

PAGE 7

Panel 1

External shot. Tall office building in New York city.

CRISIS:

And those are the area of opportunity for business growth.

If there are no further questions, I think...

Panel 2

Crisis is having a business meeting in his regular clothes. He's a cool-looking guy. Jeans, black t-shirt, cowboy boots, blazer. For his age, he's in great, lean physical condition. In the conference room is Aubrey, his co-worker. She's also dressed well, like someone who works in an ad agency. The clients are dressed a little more formal with business suits, but no ties. Around the room are graphs, charts, and logos. They are in a business meeting and things are going well. Show the windows, so people understand the placement of the scene is inside the building.

CRISIS:

...my team has a LOT of work to do!

PEOPLE:

Hahah.

Panel 3

Crisis and Aubrey exiting the conference room together. She clearly likes him, but their relationship is strictly business. She's smart and capable, but this guy is the alpha male.

AUBREY:

Great presentation, Jess.

CRISIS:

Thanks, Aubrey. It was a team effort. Without your art support, the presentation would have looked lame.

AUBREY:
Charmer. Does your wife know you're like this?

Panel 4

Crisis and Aubrey walk down the hallway. Their arms are full with large, black portfolio bags. They are walking toward the elevator.

CRISIS:
There's a lot of things that my wife doesn't know.

AUBREY:
Flirt.

PHONE SPX:
Bzzzzzzt.

Panel 5

Going down in the elevator together.

CRISIS:
My pocket is vibrating.

AUBREY:
Hubba hubba, mine too.

PAGE 8

Panel 1

On the sidewalk in front of the building. Crisis looks a little pained, like he doesn't want to do this again to Aubrey. She's been through this before. She's a friend, so she's going to give him the kind of hard time you get from a friend.

AUBREY:
Let me guess.

CRISIS:
I gotta go.

AUBREY:
Guessed right.

Panel 2

Crisis is trying to tear himself away, but doesn't want to leave Aubrey stranded on the sidewalk with all this stuff. Remember, we're street level in NYC, so there's a lot going on in the background and foreground.

CRISIS:
You got this covered?

AUBREY:
You mean wrapping up the client proposal tonight by myself instead of going home to be with my kids?

If that's what you mean, sure, I got it.

Panel 3

He's trying to think of a way out of it. She gives him a playful slap on the arm.

CRISIS:
Oh. Well, I'll stay and help you get back to the office and...

AUBREY:

Come on, I'm just messing with you. Go, go, go.

Do whatever you have to do. Make it up to me with an extra-large coffee and a big, fat bagel.

Panel 4

Crisis running down the street, calling over his shoulder to Aubrey.

CRISIS:

Coffee and donut. Check.

Thank you so much! I'm very lucky to have you!

Panel 5

Aubrey looks alone holding all of the stuff, even though she's surrounded by people and activity. She looks at him with a semi-dreamy face.

AUBREY:

You're lucky you're so hubba hubba, big boy...

...or I might not have got it.

PAGE 9

Panel 1

Deep alley between buildings. Narrow, heavily shadowed, and some trash. Crisis is in this alley getting change, but you can't really get a clear view of him.

CRISIS:

It's me. Crisis, who else uses this phone number?!?

Yes...right, got that. I'm getting suited up right now.

Where are you?

Panel 2

Medium close up of Crisis. He's half dressed, half undressed. He looks a little ridiculous. He is standing behind a large, green dumpster getting dressed.

CRISIS:

...that's not even in the City. How the hell am I supposed to get there?

H20: (phone)

Do you swim?

CRISIS:

Yeah, but I can't swim from here to Governor's Island. Is anyone flying there?

Panel 3

H20 on a special intercom. You can see there are blasts in the background from a small battle.

H20:

No idea. You wanted me to call you if something came up, so I'm calling.

Get here. We can use the help.

Panel 4/5

Crisis dashing down the city street. He's on his cellphone. Split panel to show that he's talking to Rachael on the other line.

CRISIS:

Hey, I am going to be late tonight. They called me for a battle against some of Legend's henchmen.

RACHAEL: (profile face on phone)

Kick some ass for me!

Panel 6

Crisis standing in line to get a subway pass. Nobody seems to care.

Panel 7

Crisis riding the subway. Full costume. Nobody seems to care.

Panel 8

Crisis about to go up the subway stairs. He freezes when he hears...

WOMAN (off panel)

Get OFF me! Just GET OFF!

MAN (off panel)

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

PAGE 10

Panel 1

Crisis approaching a man who appears to be getting rough with a woman. She's cowering as he grabs a bunch of hair.

CRISIS:

Look, I'm in a bit of a rush here...is everything okay here?

MAN:

Go away, old cape. Doesn't concern you.

WOMAN:

Stop! You're hurting me! STOP!

Panel 2

Crisis is shoving the man, who has now released the woman.

MAN:

Told you to mind your own...oooff...

CRISIS:

I don't have TIME for this.

Panel 3

The MAN shoots Crisis in the chest at close range. This is a large caliber gun and the impact is knocking Crisis backward on one foot.

SFX:

BLAM!

WOMAN:

Nooooooo!!

Panel 4

Crisis is on the ground looking at the hole in his costume. A bit of smoke is coming out.

CRISIS:

Y'know. This was my favorite costume. And now it's ruined.

Panel 5

The woman is crouched next to him. You can see the Man running off.

WOMAN:

You're lucky that you're bullet proof.

CRISIS:

Yeah. And you're lucky I don't fly.

WOMAN:

Or you wouldn't be taking the subway?

CRISIS:

Or I wouldn't be taking the subway.

PAGE 11

Panel 1

In this page, Crisis is walking the Woman home.

WOMAN:

So if you're a superhero, howcome I never heard of you?

CRISIS:

I don't know.

WOMAN:

You new?

Panel 2

CRISIS:

New? No, quite the opposite. I've been doing this a long, long time.

WOMAN:

So howcome I never heard of you?

Oh wait...did you used to have a partner who flies? What's his name?

You did, right?

Panel 3

CRISIS:

Had a few different partners. Plus I was on a few different teams.

I was on a few adventures with the Archetypes.

I also spent about two years in the Thunder League.

Panel 4

WOMAN:

The Thunder League? No WAY!

I love them! Best team in the world! So, when were you in the Thunder League?

CRISIS:

Long time ago.

Panel 5

WOMAN:

Do you still fight for the Thunder League?

CRISIS:

Ummm, well...not really as much anymore.

Kind of doing my own thing.

Panel 6

WOMAN:

Get back on the Thunder League. You're bullet proof!

What else do you do? Do you fly? Can you shoot laser beams?

CRISIS:

No, I'm not like those new guys.

Only have one superpower, and you've already seen it.

Sorry to disappoint.

PAGE 12

Panel 1

CRISIS:

Hey, listen, I gotta get going. You're home safe and I have to get to Governor's Island.

WOMAN:

For that battle with Legend's henchmen? That's been over for, like, an hour.

Panel 2

CRISIS:

Are you serious?!?

WOMAN:

Yeah, I got an alert while we were walking. The Thunder League got their asses kicked and the Legendaries escaped.

The Cleanupers are there now.

CRISIS:

Cleanupers? Already?!?

WOMAN:

Stuff moves fast these days, man. It's already a meme on Instagram.

Panel 3

WOMAN:

Well, thanks for walking me home. I really appreciate it.

CRISIS:

Yeah, no problem.

WOMAN:

And I'm sorry I never heard of you, but I will Google you when I go inside.

CRISIS:
Uh, thanks.

Panel 4

Crisis is still talking as the Woman closes the door on him.

CRISIS:
There are mentions of me on the ThunderLeague.com website. Search for my name and...

SPX:
Ker-klunk. Click.

CRISIS:
Nevermind.

Panel 5

Crisis standing there outside her apartment on the sidewalk.

OLD LADY:
Can you help me?

CRISIS:
Sure. What do you need?

Panel 6

OLD LADY:
My dog made poopsies. But I can't bend to pick it up.

Panel 7

Crouching at the feet of the woman with a little plastic baggie to clean up the dog poop. (Don't show it. Just imply. It's funnier that way.) The dog is licking his ear.

CRISIS:
I need to learn how to fly.

PAGE 13

Page 1

External Suburban House. Well-manicured. Night.

RACHAEL:
So that was it?

CRISIS:
That was it. They called me at work to do this.

Page 2

Rachel observing Crisis looking too thin in the Santa costume. Rachel is a mature woman around 40-45. She's fit, trim, but has grown woman hips. She maintains a sensible haircut.

Their house is decorated for two people who have a small child. It's late, so we don't see their 12-year-old son.

RACHEL:
Why didn't they ask Mezzomorph to play Santa?

CRISIS:
Because when he's Mezzomorph, he might eat one of the children.

RACHEL:
Ew, really?

PHONE:
Bzzzz

Page 3

Crisis takes the call on the house phone. Rachel is doing stuff in the background.

CRISIS:
Seriously, did I have to be Santa? Can't I be an elf? Their clothes are much cooler and...

...and my costume underneath?!?

Dude, I'm going to be sweating balls.

Panel 4

She's calling over his shoulder into the phone.

RACHEL:
Is that Smokie?

CRISIS:
Yeah.

RACHEL:
Smokie, he sweats balls sitting on the couch.

Panel 5

Hanging up the phone and looking at his iPod at the same time.

CRISIS:
Okay, see you Sunday.

RACHEL:
Did he go to the funeral and everything?

CRISIS:
Yeah, all the old timers went. Some of the younger supers skipped it, but they just think they're invulnerable.

RACHEL:
Who spoke at the funeral services?

Panel 6

CRISIS:
Couple of old timers spoke. Said stuff about staying alive to see retirement.
Usual crap.

RACHEL:
Why is that crap?

PAGE 14

Panel 1

CRISIS:

Try to "stay alive?"

Aren't we ALL trying to stay alive out there?

Just sounded stupid to me coming from guys who put on tights and fight guys with doomsday weapons.

Panel 2

RACHEL:

Did Vitruvius speak? Or should I say...

"Does Vitruvius ever stop speaking?"

CRISIS:

So true. Yeah, he gave the Keynote

Panel 3

RACHEL:

Wait, what? Did you say Keynote?

CRISIS:

Yeah...I...

RACHEL:

Don't you mean Eulogy?

CRISIS:

Heh, wrong word. I think he wrote it in Keynote and delivered a Eulogy.

Heheh.

RACHEL:

You dope.

Panel 4

RACHEL:
I think he's gay. Vitruvius. Totally gay.

CRISIS:
People just think that because of his hair.

RACHEL:
I think it's the hair.

And the fact that he's gay.

Panel 5

CRISIS:
I wouldn't know. I'm not big on gay men.

RACHEL:
You sure?

I remember that one costume you had back in the 90s.

All that leather and exposed skin...

Panel 6

CRISIS:
I didn't look gay!

RACHEL:
You looked like Adam Lambert got into a motorcycle accident with Rob Halford outside of the YMCA.

It was THAT kind of gay.

PAGE 15

Panel 1

Crisis embraces and kisses her.

RACHEL:

Mmmff...

Panel 2

She is serious and he's rolling his eyes.

RACHEL:

You know I could never lose you right?

Don't ever die on me.

CRISIS:

Don't start this now.

Panel 3

Rachel is serious. Looking into his eyes. She really loves him and he loves her. You can tell.

RACHEL:

I'm serious, Jesse. I don't know what I would do without you.

CRISIS:

The world...

RACHEL:

I know. The world is a dangerous place. The world needs you.

But I need you. Me. I need you.

Panel 4

RACHEL:
Promise me you'll always remember that.

CRISIS:
I promise.

RACHEL:
And you'll be careful.

CRISIS:
I'll be careful. I promise.

Panel 5

External shot of house. Silo of window as they embrace.

RACHEL:
Now...prove to me you're not gay.

CRISIS:
With 90s leather on or off?

RACHEL:
On. Definitely on.

PAGE 16

Panel 1

External shot strip mall or some kind of retail place. People standing outside. We need it to be close to the street, so Crisis can run outside.

CRISIS: (off panel)
Christmas in summer?

Smokie, this is more than just embarrassing. It's...it's...

SMOKIE: (off panel)
It's for a good cause. Just be jolly.

Panel 2 - 4

Backstage dressing room for Santa. Crisis and Smokie. Santa costume and boxes on the ground. Crisis is wearing the hat.

SMOKIE:
This is a Thunder League tradition.

CRISIS:
The hat. I'll wear the hat, but nothing else.

SMOKIE:
If you wear the hat and nothing else, I suspect you'll get arrested.

CRISIS:
Har-har. Who writes your jokes?

SMOKIE:
Your wife. And your momma.

CRISIS:
Really?

I have to wear this outfit and take yo momma jokes?

Panel 5

CAPACITOR:

Well, I think you look cute....

CRISIS:

Who...?

PAGE 17

Panel 1

This is Capacitor's first appearance. She needs to look sexy as hell as an elf. This should also be a splashy, large panel. (NOTE: I'm not entirely sure how to pull this panel off. We need to show her in complete costume. Maybe she can be holding a little Santa hat or something?)

CAPACITOR:

My name is Capacitor...

...and I'm your elf.

Like my costume?

Panel 2

Reaction shot of Smokie and Crisis. Small panel. No dialogue.

PAGE 18

[[ANDY: I was thinking that this could be a grid of small panels. Mostly just headshots and two-shots. It's supposed to be a lot of dialogue banter. That said, if you want to include things other than headshots, that's up to you. For example, a hand holding a cellphone or something to break it up.]]

Panel 1

Smokie walks up to her, beaming and flirting. She's a wide-eyed fangirl.

SMOKIE:

Hi, I'm Smokie. I mean Smoke Eater.

CAPACITOR:

I know! You're awesome!

SMOKIE:

I am! You are!

CAPACITOR:

No YOU are!

Crisis stepping between Smokie and Capacitor.

CRISIS:

Dismount the elf.

CRISIS:

Hi, I'm Crisis.

CAPACITOR:

I know. You're awesome!

SMOKIE:

Thought I was awesome...?

CAPACITOR:

So I'm, like, your sidekick?

CRISIS:

Are you asking me or telling me?

CAPACITOR:

Telling?

SMOKIE:

You didn't tell me you had a sidekick.

CRISIS:

I didn't know.

CAPACITOR:

Um, yeah. The Philanthropist said you should call him? He said he'll explain everything?

Smokie is flirting again in the background, as Crisis dials his phone.

CAPACITOR:

My superpowers? Well, my costume collects energy, here and here...

SMOKIE:

Outstanding...

CRISIS:

Hey, Philanthropist. Yeah, it's me Crisis.

Yes...I've met her.

What's going on? Why do I have a sidekick?

PAGE 19

Split panel between Philanthropist (left) and Crisis (right). Crisis on iPhone.
Philanthropist on headset.

PHILANTHROPIST:

Look, the word on the street is that Vitruvius is planning a series of offensives.

CRISIS:

So why are you putting a rookie out here with me?

PHILANTHROPIST:

We've lost people, Crisis. Good people. We need to bring the next generation up through the ranks.

CRISIS:

But, I don't know anything about...

PHILANTHROPIST:

Capacitor is a good kid. She's new. Has the latest technology built into her costume.

She gets DirectTV in that costume, you'll love it.

CRISIS:

Come on, Philanthropist, give me a break.

PHILANTHROPIST:

I just need to get this girl through basic training for a Cleveland-based Thunder League.

Help me out?

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Panel 1

Crisis sitting in a Santa chair. He's wearing his Crisis costume with a Santa hat. [[NOTE the change. I think we should keep him in his costume, since this is a new character.]] There's a large line of kids waiting. Capacitor is wearing her costume and her Santa hat. (Or whatever you put her in.)

CAPACITOR:

Please form a line. Our superhero Santa is going to see all the children.

CRISIS:

Okay, little boy, tell Santa what you want for Christmas....in July.

Panel 2

BOY:

Revenge.

CRISIS:

Um, excuse me?

Panel 3

Crisis is holding the kid at arm's length. The kid's eyes are glowing

CRISIS:

Get these people out of here! It's an attack!

BOY:

Vitruvius will have his revenge on the entire Thunder League.

I self-destruct in 9 seconds.

8...7....

Panel 4

Crisis is running through the crowd trying to get past the fleeing people. He is holding this kid bomb, which is clearly electronic at this point. It should be mass chaos. Smokie is to the side trying to move people. Capacitor is a half a step behind.

CRISIS:
MOVE!!

CAPACITOR:
Wait, I can help!

BOY:
6...5...4...

Panel 5

Crisis, head down, kid-bomb under his arm like a football.

3...2...

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[[ANDY: You know what happens here. You don't have to follow this panel breakdown.]]

Panel 1

The kid bomb explodes. Glass, people, and explosives in a spray of chaos out on the street.

SFX:
THOOOOOOOOOM!

Panel 2

In the open glass window, Capacitor is standing as the blast approaches her. We're talking a millisecond later and she's already ready.

CAPACITOR:
Stand back, I can absorb the energy....

...I think...

Panel 3

This needs to be a really cool shot of Capacitor using her powers for the first time. She is absorbing all of the kinetic energy with her costume. Her eyes go pure white and she glows a little. Energy is being absorbed into her costume. Instead of going out, it's coming to her like a giant vacuum. Think Jean Grey becoming Phoenix.

SFX:
Whhhhhhhooooooooosshhhh.

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Panel 1

Post explosion. [[ANDY: Draw what you want here. If you want it to be indoors or outdoors doesn't matter. Draw what makes you happy.]]

RANDOM PEOPLE:

Oh my God!

Call 911!

Call the Thunder League!

An explosion!

Help! I need help!

Panel 2

Capacitor in same spot, except now she's on one knee. The effort took a lot out of her. She's crackling and smoking. Energy continues to swirl around her and her costume is literally glowing.

CAPACITOR:

So...much...energy...

Wasn't sure if I could absorb it all...

Panel 3

Smokie is now running to her. She's on both knees. Energy is radiating off her suit.

SMOKIE:

Are you...?

CAPACITOR:

I'll be fine...cough-cough...just help the...

Panel 4

People are wandering around dazed. A few are on the ground, leaning on an elbow or taking a knee. Everyone is alive.

CAPACITOR:

....people?

SMOKIE:

You did it...you saved everyone.

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Panel 1

Smokie comes down to her level. He looks at her earnestly.

SMOKIE:

Look, kid. I know you're new to this superhero thing.

But you HAVE to trust me here.

Focus. The danger may not be over.

Panel 2

Smokie is running to one direction and pointing for Capacitor to go in another direction.

CAPACITOR:

But...but...

Panel 3

Wide shot of the scene. Where the heck is Crisis?

CAPACITOR:

...where is Crisis?

Panel 4

Close up of Crisis' boot. It's still attached to his body, but you can see that he's on his back. There's smoke and the boot is damaged.

CRISIS:

Is that really me?

PAGE 24

Panel 1

Crisis on the ground. Dead. Face up, costume torn to shreds. His skin doesn't break, but blood is coming from his eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.

Panel 2

Crisis is standing right above himself. Right next to him is Sirona.

SIRONA:

Yes. That is you.

Panel 3

She's leading him away to the Pegasus horse. He is still staring at his dead body.

SIRONA:

We must go now. Come with me.

CRISIS:

Where...?

SIRONA:

Valhalla.

Panel 4

Now they are on the winged horse.

CRISIS:

But why?

SIRONA:

Isn't it obvious...?

PANEL 5

SIRONA:

You're dead.

END ISSUE #1