

Book 1: Crack

Splash Page

- The team is finishing up a fight with a giant-sized supervillain in the middle of time square. (Keith Truman AKA Giga Man)

Panels 1-3

- While treating it as a standard mission, Ishaan makes note to Ted that he needs to focus on protecting nearby civilians, to which he gets no response, as Ted is climbing up and fighting Giga Man above a crowd of people. Lucy is below them with Billy trying to disperse the crowd, Ishaan is in his energy mech pushing at his leg, while Parker and Harrison are flying nearby.
- Ted is now hanging off his face and has tacked several explosives along his path up. Ishaan shouts again, worried about the civilians, this time just getting the response “don’t move,” in an unbothered, almost bored tone.
- The explosions go off and Giga Man slips backwards into the mostly dispersed crowd, but it propped up by his spine where Ishaan is- breaking it, but protecting the entire crowd and leaving no casualties.

Panels 4-6

- Giga Man is being shrunk back down in the far back, while screaming in agony that he can’t feel his legs. Infront of him, the Prodigies are flagged down for a quick picture and press conference, wherein only Parker and Harrison stay behind.
- Parker gives a short cliched “heroic” speech before flying away (cemented as leader in speech), while Harrison steps forward to address the press directly.
- Harrison talks and acts like a young politician, answering a few questions (confirms Lucy and Ted have been together for a very long time), before he is asked about the drop in his and his father’s company “Roscher and Sons” drop in stock. He answers by saying he’ll actually be leaving the city for about a week to regroup with their branch in Florida.

Panels 7-10

- Cut to Ted, now unmasked and with Lucy at his side on a couch back at their headquarters (zoom page of Roscher and Sons building with several protruding floors at the top with reinforced walls). He’s watching the press conference and loudly states that was incredibly stupid- “we just told every psionic in the country that our only safety net is on vacation for a week.” Billy walks through with a bag of chips in full civilian attire and and sarcastically remarks “oh right, we might get captured by the Futurists again! And

they'll try to wipe our minds with that baby!" To which Lucy laughs. Ted looks annoyed and corrects "send us back in time, they were trying to-" "yeah yeah great memory, dude we haven't seen a telepath in years, we locked up all the scary ones. Relax."

- Ted stands up and leaves in a huff, leading to Billy sitting down next to Lucy and smiling at her, only for her to stand up and follow after Ted. Stays on Billy sitting alone and staring off at her for a moment.

Panels 11-17

- Cut to Ishaan working in his lab and talking with Parker about Ted, while working on some type of headset.
 - ISHAAN "People could've gotten hurt, he wasn't thinking or listening and he never does- it's always just-"
 - PARKER "But nobody did get hurt. And if you had moved then Lucy would've turned his body-"
 - ISHAAN "But how would he know that?"
- Ted walks in, glaring at Ishaan who quickly turtles up and turns back to his workbench
 - TED "she was already phasing some kid's leg through a busted pipe- I could see it in the reflection of the corner store window. Lucy instinctively protects herself by phasing outside threats, right Lucy?"
 - LUCY "I probably could've-"
 - TED "She would've. She was standing on ground level, well below the peak of your reach."
 - LUCY "and I really don't think I could get up there that fast-"
 - TED "She couldn't."
- Ishaan doesn't turn, but sheepishly says
 - ISHAAN "so we had to break his back."
 - TED "actually you broke his back."
- Ted can be seen slightly smirking as he says it, while Ishaan looks down shamefully. Ted then turns to Parker, asking if he saw what Harrison told the press.
 - PARKER *jokingly to ease tension* "for the first time I might actually be ahead of you! He checked it with me last week, Ishaan here thinks we can build us something to act as a backup-Harry while he's gone."
- Ted looks down closer at the workbench to see Ishaan working on a glowing mechanized headset
 - TED "Garan iron?"
 - PARKER "Nicholas can't send us much, but this is the same stuff the Gazarians used to conquer like 3 galaxies-"
 - TED "6. Where's the rest?"
- Ted looks around to find a box of glowing silvery metal, next to a few books titled "Study of the Mind," and the such. Ishaan looks up as he goes to grab them

- ISHAAN "it took me all week to get that stuff organized. Can you please just work here if you're gonna help."
- TED "he leaves tomorrow, we need it done by tomorrow. I left you the nutjob books."
- He then leaves with the box and one of the books.

Panels 18-27

- Cut to the afternoon the next day as alarms blare around the HQ, signaling they're needed somewhere. The team is readying up in the mission room as Parker explains there's been a prison riot gone out of control in upstate NY, and that Harry left earlier this morning but the Psionic Disruptors aren't ready, but should not be needed. Ted then walks in holding a pack of 4 perfectly made headsets, leading to some praise from Parker and an embarrassed look from Ishaan.
- The team lands their hovercraft just outside the burning prison walls, the inside has been barricaded but is trapping an immense amount of steam and fire inside. Ted states the building could collapse or explode with one wrong move, and so Parker sends Lucy into phase through the walls while he and the team work on creating a safe entry.
- Only a few moments later, Parker manages to safely suck the flames from the entry way, but in the process, activates the fire sprinkler system, covering Lucy and her headset in water, and short circuiting it. She quickly phases it off her, but is left floating in the dark prison on her own. That is until a figure in the shadows calls out to her, and suddenly the page goes fully green.
- Ted is shouting at Parker, obviously very worried for Lucy, and sprints inside. The next few pages are of the team casually fighting off prison inmates. One inmate calls out to Ted in a mocking tone, insulting and sexualizing Lucy. Ted responds by grabbing him by the back of the head and smashing his skull into prison bars CRACKS FILL THE PAGE until Billy sends a blast of sound that knocks him off. The two get into a short but heated argument, before Lucy emerges from the side of the wall, holding a beaten up supervillain (James Barton AKA Enigma), and proudly says "Teddy you get to say I told you so!"

Panels 28-31

- Cut to outside the prison, surrounded by armed soldiers and officials all with an "E.C.O" on their vests. Parker is talking with a relatively young man with a metal hand, glowing eye, and two holsters on both hips who also has the E.C.O. (In the background of much of this conversation, Lucy is seen talking closely with Billy, laughing, and smiling)
 - PARKER "Well how the fuck does it say that, when he's sitting in starting prison riots?"

- LUCAS PACKER "Our system holds a few thousand of your friends, if we lose 1 or 2 every couple years, I'm not losing sleep."
- PARKER "Your dad would've! As much a psycho as he was, at least he wasn't putting lives at risk. He understood the job!"
- LUCAS "the job? My job only exists cause you freaks are hell bent on running around playing backyard hero."
- PARKER "oh yeah, in the last 10 years how many of those inmates were handed to you by us?"
- Lucas is now stepping into a helicopter to leave along with his men and the detained James
 - LUCAS "Go ahead and lecture me kid. One of these days you'll be in the next cell."

Panels 32-38

- Cut to the team returning to HQ to decompress, Parker, Billy, and Ishaan head into the lab where Ted attempts to follow- but with Lucy walking past back to the foray, Parker stops him and says he should go check on her after all that.
- As the door closes, Billy removes his mask to ice the bruises Ted gave him then turns to the other 2
 - BILLY "He hits pretty damn hard- ha"
 - ISHAAN "Parker he is out of control."
 - PARKER "He got angry, we all get angry-"
 - BILLY "I don't!"
 - PARKER "Yeah you just smoke-"
 - ISHAAN "You can't be justifying this shit, he could've killed that guy! He was going to kill him! We're not kids anymore, we can't just pretend he's fine. I know you've heard about his "patrols."
 - BILLY "What patrols-?"
 - PARKER "He wasn't gonna kill him. He never kills, you know that."
 - BILLY "oh right he just cripples or disfigures them."
 - PARKER "Alright alright, I know. I'll talk to him. We'll keep him off the next few missions, just let him decompress."
- Cut to Ted listening in on the conversation through the intercom, CRACKS FILL THE PAGE looking incredibly mad, and then jumping off the balcony into the night.

Panels 33-35

- Ted's sits atop a perched gargoyle listening to a police scanner, before hearing the sound of a screaming man in an alley nearby. He arrives to find a man being mugged by several kid gangsters.

- Ted smiles before leaping down onto the first young boy, only a teenager, and crushing him beneath him- likely breaking the boys legs. The rest of the boys begin to scream and scatter, to which Ted says under his breath "oh come on," before throwing two daggers from his cloak at the youngest boy, pinning him to the wall by the tips of his ears. One of the older boys points a gun up at Ted and pleads with him to just let them go, but Ted just slowly walks towards him before grabbing the gun and pulling it to his chest, placing his own finger on the trigger, and pulling it- only for nothing to happen
 - TED "you think I can't tell a toy gun from the real one?"
- Ted then grabs the plastic pistol and begins to beat the boy with a wide grin, leaving it bloody and bent. As he's doing it, the youngest boy begins to pull himself from the wall, while screaming in pain and starts to run down the alley. Ted stands up and grabs a dagger from the wall, then lines up to throw it at the running kid- but suddenly his smile drops, as does the dagger. He looks down and shakes his head, before quietly walking away, leaving the two boys screaming in pain behind him.

Panels 36-42

- the team is back in the mission HQ, as Parker explains that he wants to send someone to secretly check on the E.C.O holding facilities and find an explanation for James Barton's miraculous escape, and why Parker isn't questioning it. Ted quickly volunteers, remarking that he's clearly the most capable covert agent they have, but Parker instead says he wants to send Billy. When pushed on why, Parker can't give a clear answer, but Lucy interjects, agreeing with Ted, and arguing that Billy should stay at HQ. After a short argument, Parker relents and lets Ted take the hovercraft to the nearest E.C.O prison. As he leaves, Lucy can be seen walking off with Billy in the background.
- Ted arrives at an unassuming bunker in the middle of the wilderness, and easily manages to slip inside alongside a cargo shipment from an incoming stealth chopper. Dropping down in the bunker, he sees rows and rows of cells blocks containing various superhumans of different forms, before he eventually reaches the bottom floor, wherein he finds the new holding block James is being kept in,
- before he can enter though, Ted is ambushed by a man in flying suit of armor with a jetpack in the shape of wings, firing small missiles and machine gun fire at him. Alongside Darren Woods AKA H.A.W.K, came a woman in a sleek tactical suit, sporting a black mechanical sword, Akira Kanako AKA Harbinger. Despite the pair of highly trained agents' best efforts, Ted pretty easily disarmed and defeated them, being moments before slicing off the arm of Darren's suit with Akira's sword before he's again interrupted by a clapping, impressed Lucas Packer.
- Lucas goes on to praise Ted for his impressive work, and states that he's always found him to be punching far below his weight class with the rest of his team- he offers Ted a job at E.C.O, to which Ted laughs and declines. Lucas goes on to say if he ever changes

his mind, he now knows where to find them- but he will be escorted off the premise for the time being, and if he returns tonight he will be shot on sight. In the background you can see the slit of a cell door, and 2 green eyes watching through.

Panels 43-48

- Ted returns to a quiet HQ, eventually finding his way to his and Lucy's room- only to find her and Billy asleep together. Ted goes into an unbridled rage, with him and Billy decimating much of the the HQ before the rest of the team is able to intervene- all the while, Lucy remains in the background smiling, her eyes now glowing a bright green.
- But since Ishaan and Parker don't know what's happening, they assume Ted is out of control again, and are far more rough and aggressive with him- all of which he seemingly easily evades or defends against. Finally, as Ted stands on opposite sides from the rest of his team, he smashes his fist down and yleaps out the balcony again to patrol the night
- Ted returns to the E.C.O bunker, but is is now inexplicably covered in blood (explained much later), this time sneaking his way down and towards Lucas to again take him up on his job offer. However on his way, Ted walks past a pair of glowing green eyes who calls out to him.
 - JAMES: "You didn't need them anyway."
- Ted stops and turns to the cell, pressing a button to slide the iron slab up and reveal James behind the glass.
 - JAMES: *jokingly* "oh I don't need telepathy to eavesdrop. Or to see! You've been busy haven't you?"
- Ted drops the slab and starts to keep walking
 - JAMES: "The suits won't let you kill them."
- Ted stops, his face still red from anger and blood, but he gets a slight frown and looks down
 - TED: "I don't want to kill them."
 - JAMES: "Yes you do- that's why you're here,"
 - TED "No it's not!"
 - JAMES "You don't want to work for E.C.O. You want to kill them. And you want Packer to let you."
- Ted takes a breath and walks back to the cell, opening the slab again
 - TED "You're really trying to get my head? Like I'm some idiot civilian?"
 - JAMES "And do what? Make you unlock the door with a code you don't know, and escape a prison you don't work for? C'mon, you know I'm smarter than that. No- no I see an opportunity, one that could benefit the both of us."
 - TED "And how would it benefit you?"
- James stands up and walks closer to the cell door
 - JAMES "We both want them dead. Do you even really even care?"
- Ted takes a long breath, looks down at his bloody gloves, and looks back at James

- TED "I want Billy dead. I was you to help me kill Sonic Boom."
- James smiles and says gladly, before Ted pulls a gadget from his cloak and plugs it into the cells security block. The light above the door suddenly turns from green, to a blaring red, and the cell opens- James stares back at him with a suprised look, then a wide smile
 - JAMES "Idiot civilian"
- The next few pages page are fully green, with only a few speech bubbles popping up as black cracks start to emerge from the corners before finally covering the page
 - JAMES "wait- wait no- how are- STOP! STOP IT! PLEA-!"
- A 'crack' is heard
- Page opens up to see a blood filled cell, and Ted standing over a dead James who's covered in stab wounds. Ted has a psychotic smile on his face, and the cracks of the page diverge onto him.