

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, OR A TALE OF TWO CITIES

A MARVEL COMICS/CASABLANCA RECORDS AND FILMWORKS

EXTRAVAGANZA

Plot by James Shooter

Cast of Characters:

Cher, as the Witch Queen.

Donna Summer, as the Queen of Fire.

KISS, as the Dreadknights.

Robin Williams, as Tristan.

Rodney Dangerfield, as Dewey, Cheetham, and Howe, and  
as Lord Chaos.

The Village People, as the Stompers.

Lenny and Squiggy, as the Jesters.

and

Disco Dazzler, The Amazing Spider-Man and The Avengers,  
as themselves.

The story begins with the Disco Dazzler on stage at a live concert. She's singing her heart out, and the auditorium is awash in the dazzling, coruscating light show she creates. Multicolored brilliance bursts from her hands, reflecting from her mirrored pendant and wristlets, throbbing in time to the Disco beat. The audience is hers! Everyone is lost in the sound and light. Dazzler's number reaches a crescendo, and then, suddenly... she vanishes in a flash of searing light. The audience goes wild. They love it! They think it's part of the act. The backstage folks are frantic, though. This wasn't supposed to happen!

Meanwhile, at Avengers Mansion, a posh dwelling on Central Park West, the Avengers gather for their weekly meeting. Present are the following:

Iron Man -- Secretly inventor Anthony Stark, who, clad in in solar-powered circuitized armor of his own design, is an invincible modern knight.

The Falcon -- Whose rocket-powered wings give him the power of independent flight. He is actually Sam Wilson, a black teacher from Harlem.

The Scarlet Witch -- Born Wanda Frank, she is a mutant, who with a gesture can cause disasters to occur. She is Eastern European, and has a rather formal bearing.

The Beast -- Also a mutant, Hank McCoy is furry and bestial in powers and appearance, but extremely intelligent and erudite. He's crazy.

The Wasp -- Jan Van Dyne Pym was given a serum by her scientist-husband that enables her to shrink to insect size and sprout

wings. She is an heiress, and very much a lovable scatterbrain.

Jarvis, the Avengers trusted butler, is serving tea and scones as, with typical bantering, the Avengers convene their round table. Suddenly, in a blinding flash, the Avengers vanish! Jarvis drops his tea tray and says, "Oh, my word!"

Just then, Peter Parker and girlfriend Mary Jane Watson are boarding a subway in the theater district. Mary Jane makes some sort of lighthearted comment about being mugged, and Pete laughs. Not likely, he assures her, and then he vanishes in a burst of brilliance.

Pete finds himself tumbling through sub-space, falling down a seemingly endless tunnel-like vortex. He doesn't know what's going on or where he's going, but he figures that he's be better off facing this as Spider-Man. He doffs his outer clothes, pulls on his mask and kathump! Suddenly lands back in reality. He appears to be in Manhattan, and yet, something isn't right about it. Before he has time to ponder, though, the sounds of battle catch his attention. Not far away he sees the Avengers and Disco Dazzler fighting weirdly-garbed horsemen mounted on very weird lizard-like steeds! The Avengers and the Dazzler appear to be protecting a guy in a regular business suit, Cheetham, who's standing nearby, looking rather uncomfortable in his typical Rodney Dangerfield way.

Spider-Man enters the fray, and quickly, the mounted soldiers are put to rout. The heroes then gather around Cheetham and begin asking a dozen questions at once.

Cheetham thanks them for their kind intervention and assures them that they're in no danger of being sued. Cheetham speaks in a strange sort of legalese. "Where are we?" Spider-Man asks. "Manhattan," Cheetham replies. Actually, he explains, they're between Upper Hatten and Lower Hatten...in the Demilitarized Zone, where all the fighting goes on. He thinks it was once called Central Park. In response to other questions, Cheetham explains, in his somewhat obfuscatory manner, that this is the future, that all history officially ended with the coming of the Great Disaster. He's not sure what that was, since no one kept a history of it. He thinks it had something to do with casino gambling and frozen yogurt. Anyway, civilization has come down to two feudal states, Upper Hatten and Lower Hatten, respectively governed by The Queen of Fire and the Witch Queen. They are at war, of course. The Dazzler asks why--but at that moment Tristan cautiously steps out from behind a statue where he was hiding and asks if the soldiers are gone yet. It seems that Tristan is the one the soldiers were really after. "Which side?" Spidey enquires. "Both," says Tristan, sighing. Before that line of questioning can be pursued, Iron Man asks the important questions--who brought them here, how, and why. Cheetham has a theory. He figures that Lord Chaos, a mysterious Oz-like being of great power, brought them here. Why? Because it is written that someday a Sun Queen will come with her invincible knights to unite the two Queendoms of Manhattan. Dazzler, with her light powers, is obviously the Sun Queen. "Who wrote this prophecy?" Iron Man asks. "Lord Chaos, of course," Cheetham replies. "No one else can write!" During this entire scene it is obvious that Tristan thinks Dazzler is

the cat's pajamas. He should be making eyes, etc., and is almost worshipful when Cheetham suggests that she's the Sun Queen. She's cool, but clearly flattered. He's cute.

Suddenly, the gathering is attacked from two sides! From the north come fiery-garbed unicorn-mounted warriors, and spearmen in chariots made from old VW's. From the south come the same dark lizard-mounted warriors who were after Tristan before, but this time with reinforcements. They have lizard-drawn battle-wagons made from old Datsun pick-up trucks.

A ferocious battle ensues. Both sides seem to want Tristan, and woe be to those who seek to protect him!

The Avengers, Spidey and the Dazzler are hard pressed. In the midst of the battle, Cheetham confers with Tristan, like a lawyer whispering advice to his client. The chaos of battle has left open an escape route for them. Unseen by anyone but Tristan (who grimaces as if in pain) Cheetham clonks Dazzler on the head from behind. He and Tristan then slip away, Tristan tenderly carrying the unconscious Dazzler. The Avengers and Spider-Man, taken by surprise by vastly superior numbers, are ultimately defeated! The Lizard-riders of the Witch Wueen capture Spider-Man, Iron Man and the Scarlet Witch, while the fiery forces of the Queen of Fire capture the Beast, the Wasp, and the Falcon. Content with these unusual captives, both forces cautiously withdraw, regarding one another suspiciously.

After all have left the battle-site, an ominous, shadowy, not-quite-clear image of Lord Chaos appears, shimmering darkly in the air. He laughs evilly!

Soon, Iron Man, Spider-Man and the Scarlet Witch awaken to find themselves in the Throne Room of the Witch Queen! They are in heavy chains. Around them they see lots of armed guards. Before them, on a throne carved with mystic images sits the Queen herself. Nearby stands her counselor, Dewey, who looks a lot like Cheetham, except that he wears a different colored suit and tie, and glasses. Also nearby is the Queen's Jester, Lenny, who is not funny. Not at all, though he tries and tries. Off to one side stand the Queen's Imperial Guard, the Dreadknights. The captured heroes see that they are in what once was Windows of the World atop the one remaining tower of the World Trade Center. From here they see what has become of Manhattan. Many of the buildings and streets are gone, or in ruins, but many remain. Everything has obviously gone back to medieval technology levels though. There is no electricity, no cars, except those drawn by lizard-horses. There is a wall along Wall Street protecting the Witch Queen's inner stronghold, and another wall at the edge of her Queendom, along 59th Street. They are fascinated...and horrified! "Well," says Dewey, "the Queen asked you what you are! Can't you speak?" The three captives turn to the Queen, and the Scarlet Witch replies somewhat arrogantly, "I am the Scarlet Witch, and I do not appreciate being held captive!" With that, her hex power crackles around her chains and they crumble away in shards. Iron Man follows suit, snapping his chains with a shrug, while Spider-Man, who isn't quite as strong struggles, grunts, groans and finally breaks free. The Witch Queen is not impressed. She, after all, also has magical powers. She asks them to further demonstrate their powers, which they do. Then she asks Dewey for advice about what to do with

these folks. She thinks they should be destroyed. After all, they could be the Knights of Lord Chaos' prophecy, and she doesn't want her power usurped by some Sun Queen. Dewey feels that they're not the people of the prophecy, however. He advises the Queen to send them to the dungeon, pending an investigation, a committee report, joint hearings and a revised report, etc.

The Witch Queen agrees, and with that, the heroes decide to make a break for it! The Dreadknights leap forward to do battle with them, using their already established KISS - cosmic super powers, which are:

Gene Simmons, the Demon -- super-strength, ability to breathe fire

Paul Stanley, the Starchild -- fires rays from his starred eyes.

Ace Freely, the Space Ace -- can telephort short distances and pass phantom-like through solid objects.

Peter Criss, the Cat -- has catlike agility and speed.

Stunned by the unexpectedly powerful resistance, the Avengers are momentarily forced back. Suddenly, they freeze, immobilized, for they have stepped into a specially prepared mystic circle and thus fallen prey to the Witch Queen's own powers!

Meanwhile, far uptown, in what was the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a similar scene is enacted, as the Beast, the Falcon and the the Wasp are brought before the Queen of Fire, and her court, which includes her personal Royal Guard, the Stompers, her totally unfunny Jester, Squiggy, and her Counselor, Howe, who looks a good bit like Dewey and Cheetham. After approximately the same sequence of events as occurred in the Witch Queen's digs, the three heroes are subdued by paralyzing mystic flames sent forth by the Queen of Fire.



The Stompers, like the Dreadknights have awesome powers, as follows:

, the Motorcycle Cop -- has a nightstick that's charged with crackling energy.

, the Construction Worker -- has a jackhammer that can create small Earthquakes.

, the Cowboy -- twirls an unbreakable lasso that he controls as if it were alive.

, the Indian -- has a tomahawk that cuts through anything.

, the G.I. -- has a sidearm that fires mystic, fiery, laser-like blasts.

, the Leatherman -- is super-strong, and wields an unbreakable chain.

Cut to the ruins of The Tavern on the Green in the Demilitarized Zone. There, Dazzler awakens to find herself alone with Tristan. "What happened?" She asks. Tristan mutters something about a stray war-club thumping her on the back of the head, mentions that the others were captured, and segues into wooing her again. She's still confused, and all she wants is to go rescue her friends. Tristan insists that there is naught that can be done for now, but that Cheetham is working on it. She protests but he kisses her, and slowly she begins to respond. From behind a battered counter we see that Cheetham is observing this. He is pleased. He makes an "OK" sign to Tristan who can see Cheetham though Dazzler cannot. Tristan continues flattering and seducing Dazzler. Now he knows she is the Sun Queen, for he has known her in his dreams, etc., etc. He is fated, it is written, to love the Sun Queen. He loves her, ergo, she must be the Sun Queen. She's ready to believe him. She wants to be the Sun Queen..for Tristan. At this point Cheetham "enters". He has bad news.

Both Queens have decided, against their Counselor's advice, to execute their captives. "Oh, no!" says the Dazzler. "What can we do?" "Alas, nothing," says Cheetham, "but fear not, for you are the Sun Queen of the prophecy, and it must be fulfilled!"

Cut to the dungeon of the Witch Queen. Actually, it's the Federal Reserve Vault. Spider-Man, the Scarlet Witch and Iron Man are held helplessly in mystic bonds. Their hour of execution approaches. Outside the cell, on a hook on the wall, the keys to their bonds hang. With great difficulty Spider-Man manages to snag the keys with his webbing and pull them in. He frees himself, and is releasing the Scarlet Witch, when suddenly they hear footsteps coming. Why now, when they have a chance?! Spider-Man flattens against the wall above the door, ready to clobber the approaching guard--but it isn't a guard! It's Cheetham! He's guides them out, gives them directions to the Tavern on the Green, and then he heads back toward the Witch Queen's palace.

Meanwhile, similar events occur in the Queen of Fire's dungeon. Cheetham frees the captured heroes.

Cut to the throne room of the Witch Queen. Dewey reports that the captives have escaped! It must be the doing of the Queen of Fire! He suggests an all-out confrontation, the Witch Queen herself should lead her Dreadknights and her army into a final vengeful battle. She agrees.

Meanwhile, Howe is advising the Queen of Fire similarly, to gather with her troops and her Stompers in No Man's Land to settle with the Witch Queen for once and for all. Both Queens express great dislike for one another, and the name Tristan is mentioned often.

Cut to the Tavern as the former captives arrive. All are astonished that Cheetham is there "ahead" of them, but he cuts them off before they can compare notes. He tells them that the ultimate battle is impending and that only they can bring peace to this land by, er, trashing the other two armies. Nearly convinced that she is the Sun Queen, and since peace seems like a good cause, Dazzler leads the Avengers and Spidey off to the fray. Cheetham follows far behind gleefully rubbing his hands, chortling to Tristan that everything's going just perfectly! Tristan is unhappy though. It seems, well, he really does love the Dazzler. "Nonsense", says Cheetham.

Soon, at the battlefield (Sheep Meadow) the three forces face each other. The Witch Queen and the Queen of Fire exchange comments which show how they've been misled by Dewey and Howe respectively, but before anyone can catch on, nervous Dewey, Cheetham, and Howe yell "Charge!" and the battle is joined. Chaos ensues.

On a small rise, Dewey, Cheetham, and Howe gather, all smiling with evil satisfaction. Only Tristan is upset. "Fool!" Cheetham says. "When we're supreme, you'll share in the spoils!" With that, the three join hands, and above them in hazy form appears Lord Chaos, their Spiritual Essence. Lord Chaos is revelling in the awesome confusion and destruction before him.

On the battlefield, the Avengers, led by the Dazzler, cut a swath through the ranks of both armies. The Dazzler is trying her best to be the Sun Queen, using the sounds of battle to create a dazzling disorienting light show beyond any she has ever done. Soon the Queens meet face-to-face-to-

face, in the midst of the warring armies. For a moment the Queen of Fire and the Witch Queen ignore their hatred of each other to deal with the usurper. Poised for battle, the Queen of Fire pauses long enough to ask the Dazzler why she had to come to usurp their realms. The Dazzler begins to explain that she's the Sun Queen, and, well, it is written....but finally admits that she's just doing this to settle their war....and for Tristan.

"TRISTAN!" the other two Queens scream in unison. Both, of course were also courted by Tristan, and both, thanks to their Counselors think that the other stole Tristan from them, and that's a large part of the basis of their mutual dislike. The fact that Dazzler too is apparently involved with Tristan is the final straw! Both Queens lash out at the Dazzler. She manages to avoid being creamed, and starts putting two and two together.

Meanwhile, the looming figure of Lord Chaos suddenly stops revelling in the abundant chaos, and looks worried. Dazzler's catching on! Just when he needs to absorb just a dab more chaotic energy to become Chaos Incarnate, a veritable god. He'll have to silence her!

"NO!" screams Tristan, threatening to smash Cheetham with a big rock. "You do it and I'll clonk Cheetham! You still need your mortal bodies till you're done transforming!" Lord Chaos swats Tristan aside.

But on the battlefield, Dazzler has managed to calm down the Witch Queen and the Queen of Fire, convincing them that she's not out for their blood or their realms. If only she could stop the battle.

Summoning up all her power, and with the help of the other two Queens, the Dazzler blankets the battlefield with a soothing, peaceful, comforting and stunningly beautiful light display which has soldiers on all sides dropping their arms and marveling. Quiet falls like a blanket over the Sheep Meadow, except for the knoll upon which Lord Chaos stands. Lord Chaos screams in agony, and then shrinks back into oblivion, leaving Dewey, Cheetham, and Howe drained, shaken, and very nervous.

Moments later, the Dazzler, Spider-Man, the Avengers, the Witch Queen, the Queen of Fire, the Stompers, the Dreadknights, and Lenny and Squiggy confront Cheetham, Dewey, and Howe, and Tristan.

Cheetham, Dewey and Howe it turns out, are a law firm, and so, naturally are acolytes of Chaos. They arranged the war between the two Queens to create the chaos they craved. Trouble was, the two forces were too equally balanced. A third force had to be introduced, hence the summoning of the Dazzler and company.

With the defeat of Lord Chaos, now there will be peace, and so, ironically the prophecy was fulfilled: the "Sun Queen" and her "Knights" indeed united the two realms. Lenny finds a natural partner in Squiggy, and for the first time in their lives, together, they're funny! Cheetham, Dewey, and Howe are put to work as kindergarten teachers, to learn what true chaos is!

And so, the Avengers, Spider-Man, and Dazzler prepare to be sent back in time. Dazzler is cold toward Tristan, since she feels used by him. He has been found guiltless by the Queens because he was in the control of Lord Chaos until the end, but none of the women can quite forget being deceived. Tristan is broken-hearted. He swears to the Dazzler that his love for her was real. He picks for her a big, beautiful flower, and asks her to keep it as a token of his love. In the end, she believes and forgives him just as she, Spider-Man and the Avengers fade back in time (thanks to the Witch Queen's magic combined with the Queen of Fire's mystic energies.) Tristan watches her fade out tearfully, then says, "Oh, well." He straightens his collar, dusts off his jacket, picks a big beautiful flower and heads toward the Witch Queen.

The End!