

SCARLET WITCH

ISSUE 1

BY JAMES HENRY

PAGE 1

CAPTION
New York. 8.00 pm

1. WANDA is sitting in a limo, talking to a floating mobile phone while using both hands to do her makeup. A party invite is just visible sticking out of her handbag. At this stage we can't see her face clearly, but we can make out a mass of red hair. There are perhaps a few discreet red sparkles around WANDA's head, just to make it clear she's doing magic.

WANDA
Chest infection **again** I'm afraid, General Fury...

2. A hairbrush floats out of a handbag.

WANDA
I know, and I **so** wanted to attend tonight's training session.

3. A perfume bottle does the same trick.

WANDA
Pietro **insists** I stay wrapped up in the warm, watching one of your country's **charming** television programmes. He's older than me by ten seconds you know, and **so** protective.

DRIVER
We're here, Miss Maximoff.

4. A tall building is reflected in the limo's windscreen.

WANDA
No that was the television. One overalled hillbilly appears to be attacking another with a chair. The whole thing is simply **exhausting**.

5. The limo stops.

WANDA
Yes, I'll call in the moment this **terrible** cough clears up. Good night, dear General.

6. The driver is opening the door. WANDA 's legs can be seen as she prepares to exit the vehicle.

PAGE 2

SPLASH PAGE

Dusk. In the foreground is, obviously, WANDA, looking fabulous. She needs to look like a film star rather than a superhero, but keeping the scarlet theme, and maybe turning the headdress into some kind of very discreet tiara. She is clearly posing for the cameras (and the reader).

In the background is a extravagantly modern-looking skyscraper/hotel. A red carpet has been laid out, with maybe one or two people in evening dress (possibly annoyed at WANDA stealing their thunder). The public held back by velvet ropes. The paparazzi are out in force, as are a number of protestors, the slogans on whose banners read 'GOD HATES WICCANS', 'THOU SHALT NOT SUFFER A WITCH TO LIVE' AND '... AND THE BROOMSTICK YOU RODE IN ON'. Among the protestors is the STALKER, looking deeply dodgy in baseball cap, shades and a beard. He doesn't have to stand out too much, but it'll be good to go back later and realize he's been there from the start.

PAGE 3

1. WANDA is still soaking up the attention. A couple of photographers are right up close now.

DRIVER

Quite a few protesters tonight. Security say they'll be down in a moment.

WANDA

All that fuss for me? I simply won't hear of it.

2. Hex energy swirls around WANDA's hands, as her feet leave the ground.

CAPTION

Thor has **Midgard**...

3. The crowd are looking up. Photographers taking more shots, protesters looking angry. STALKER is looking up, but his expression remains neutral.

CAPTION

Spider-Man has his **rooftops** and grubby little **alleyways**...

4. A bottle of champagne and two glasses stand next to an open window.

CAPTION

That **delightful** Hulk chap can't seem to keep away from **research laboratories** and **military outposts**...

5. WANDA passes...

6. Now there is one glass, and a napkin encribed with 'XX SCARLET WITCH' in lipstick.

CAPTION

But **my** battleground?

SPEECH BALLOON (OFF PANEL)

Hey!

PAGE 4

1. WANDA lands delicately on a rooftop balcony, putting down her now-empty glass of champagne.

CAPTION
Society.

2. Next to her is a man dressed in a tuxedo, his back to her, talking on a mobile phone.

CAPTION
And you need more than a magic hammer, webs or big green muscles to survive **this** field of conflict.

3. The hairbrush re-emerges from WANDA's handbag and makes a few last-minute repairs.

CAPTION
Only **social grace**, a top class **fashion sense** and **split-second timing** can help you here. Society is a **Darwinian jungle**, and only the **fittest, the best prepared-**

4. The man next to her turns round. It is NICK FURY. Might be worth him sporting a name badge to same effect, rather than assuming everyone will know who he is, though.

NICK FURY
Hello Wanda.

5. WANDA and NICK FURY stare at each other.

WANDA
(pathetically small lettering) koff, koff.

PAGE 5

1-

NICK FURY

This would be the **20% unreliability factor** I keep reading about in your file?

2- WANDA looks embarrassed.

3-

NICK FURY

You know, I think I might be having a **magical vision**. I see... **you** doing a hundred push-ups at the **Triskelion gym**.

WANDA

In my defence-

4-

NICK FURY

This vision is **so** clear, I can even see the little flecks of **spit** made by the sweaty drill instructor as he shouts at you. And then I see me taking away your **government funded credit card**.

WANDA

You're aware I already **have** one psychopathically judgemental father figure? I really don't need **another**. Anyway, this kind of **sorcerous soiree** hardly seems like your usual setting, General.

6. NICK FURY helps himself to a canapé.

NICK FURY

I'm here strictly for **research purposes**. Ever heard of **working** for a living? Plus I really like these little cheesy things.

WANDA

Sorry about the whole... cold... thing. Honestly.

6-

NICK FURY

Yeah, well, lucky for you, SHIELD HQ just called me with bigger fish to fry. Seems their **weird -shitometer** just 'bout fell off the wall.

WANDA

Ew.

NICK FURY's VO as captions.

1-

CAPTION

'I got rats in the NY underground building
some kind of steam-powered device...'

(picture of bemused hard-hatted workers discovering same)

2-

CAPTION

'... about an hour ago all the mummies in the
Chicago Museum started screaming...'

(picture of upset museum-goers and screaming mummies, some
of which are crumbling into dust)

3-

CAPTION

'... half the statues in Braddock Mansion just
upped and walked into the sea...'

(picture of empty plinths and forced gaps in hedges)

4-

CAPTION

'... not to mention, every member of the
House of Representatives just started telling
the truth about every deal they've ever
made. They can't help themselves, and
they're doing it in rhyming couplets.'

(picture of dozens of police frantically running down corridors,
nightsticks drawn. One man in a suit is urging them on)

SUIT

Dear Lord, stop them!

7. Back to WANDA and NICK FURY again. WANDA is gazing into space. HUGO (WANDA'S P.A.) in the background, waving at WANDA.

NICK FURY

Dammit I hate all this magic crap. Give me something I can shoot. You heard a word I said?

WANDA

Something about the Underground? Excuse me a moment, General, it's my P.A.

PAGE 7

1. HUGO joins them, bringing two glasses of champagne. He is early thirties, well-dressed and English. Looks a bit like a younger Rupert Everett in 'My Best Friend's Wedding'.

NICK FURY

Wanda, we'll catch up. I ain't forgotten about those **push-ups**. Hey Hugo.

WANDA

(surprised) You know General Fury?

2. They watch NICK FURY depart.

HUGO

Well, one **time** there was this **thing**, and I sort of helped him out.

3. Beat panel of WANDA just staring at HUGO, taken aback.

WANDA

Do all English guys have this understated thing going on, or is it just you and Rupert Everett?

4. HUGO shrugs.

PAGE 8

1. What I'd like, if possible, is to get these speech bubbles interconnected, while party business happens around them. It might be too complicated, in which case I can cut the dialogue a bit, but if it **does** work, that would be great.

WANDA

So, how's the glittering Aladdin's cave that is my account at Gringott's?

HUGO

Honestly? Not great. Not since Mag- your father cut you off. I mean he's had all his accounts frozen anyway, but still...

WANDA

What about the telemovie?

HUGO

Yeah, the networks say they don't want anything too 'mutanty' right now.

WANDA

The autobiography?

HUGO

Your ghost writer just died.

2-

WANDA

Tell me the action figure's all right..

HUGO

Head keeps falling off. The whole line's been withdrawn as a choking hazard.

3- WANDA drinking her champagne.

4- WANDA still drinking her champagne.

5- WANDA puts her empty glass down.

HUGO

So...ready to mingle?

WANDA

(grimly) Bring it on.

PAGES 9/10

Huge, epic double spread of the party. Massive ballroom, with thousands of balloons held up in the ceiling by enormous nets. The idea behind this is to make the spread look like some enormous battle scene, in LOTR, or some of the later books of BONE, yet at the same time still look like a party. Good luck.

DETAILS:

NICK FURY is talking to a tuxeudo-ed security guard, but the rest of the party-goers seem kind of media/magical.

Everyone wearing full evening dress, except the few waiters who are scurrying around with trays, but just a few guests have wings/horns/staffs to go with their tuxes and evening gowns. This might be a fun excuse to crowbar in a few magic-using minor celebs (Doctor Voodoo, Doctor Druid, Clea, Belasco etc.). No Doctor Strange though.

A few unattached speech balloons can be made out from the crowd.

ONE

'... of course that young British lad with the scar is doing **terribly** well.'

TWO

'No I always use 5ccs of mouse blood and an egg.'

THREE

'... so I said 'My **soul**? Dear boy, you'll have to join the back of the queue with the others!'

On Page 10, another speech balloon, much larger than the rest, leading off to the right of the page.

CHANEL

DARLING!

1. CHANEL VON BULICH, looking directly out of panel at WANDA/reader and waving. CHANEL is blonde, very-well dressed and carries a handbag with some kind of tiny evil dog in it, wearing a bow the colour of CHANEL's suit.
2. CHANEL and WANDA, air-kissing.
3. CHANEL and HUGO looking coldly at each other. It would be great if the speech balloons could actually drip ice.

HUGO

Chanel.

CHANEL

Hugo.

4. HUGO stalks off.

CHANEL

So how fares everyone's favourite mutant witch superheroine slash villain?

WANDA

Good, good. What's it like being the the most poisonous gossip columnist in Manhatten?

5-

CHANEL

Can't complain. Not wearing the red leotard tonight? I always thought that was **such** a brave look.

WANDA

I'll take that as a great compliment, from someone who's **original** name I recently discovered to be 'Maureen'.

5. They look at each other, frowning.

WANDA

Time out?

CHANEL

Of course, darling.

1-

WANDA

So, do **you** know whose party this is? All I got was a blank invite.

CHANEL

Well, it's all so terribly **mysterious**, but I did find out the hotel was booked in the name of **Ashmole**.

2- WANDA looks blank.

3-

CHANEL

Very old family. Been mixing **business** and **magic** for centuries.

WANDA

Oh **them**. Aren't they a sort of **occult mafia**? Rival's business always **burning down**, that sort of thing?

4-

CHANEL

Probably. Who cares? Only sources tell me **Brett Ashmole** (eldest son, dark-haired), turns 32 this year. Rumour has it he's something of a **dark horse** anyway, and I think he's trying to spend as much of his family's **cash** as he can, just to annoy them.

6. WANDA looks over at BRETT, who is tall, dark, dangerous-looking, and has long hair flowing over his tuxedo (not in a Fabio way though). Maybe a tattoo just visible above the collar of his tux.

WANDA

Cash, eh?

CHANEL

Oodles of it.

6-

WANDA

Oodles, eh?

7-

CHANEL

Darling, you're starting to sound like a Canadian. Now come on, there's someone I **must** introduce you to.

1- WANDA (still looking over her shoulder at BRETT) is standing opposite SET, who is swarthy good-looking, in a satanic kind of way.

CHANEL

Look, it's **Margate Hilton!** Honestly, do her family keep her locked up in a **box?** Set, Wanda, Wanda, Set.

7. CHANEL scurries off, leaving SET and WANDA look at each other.

8. SET looks slightly embarrassed.

SET

You don't remember me, do you?

WANDA

Um, sorry...

4-

SET

Used to be a seven-headed serpent deity?

WANDA

Um....

5-

SET

Demonic Elder God? I kind of abducted you as one of my serpent brides?

WANDA

Not really ringing a bell...

9. SET sticks his tongue out at her. It is long, and forked, like a snakes.

7-

WANDA

Oh **no**.....

PAGE 14

10. SET is talking. WANDA is looking rather bored.

SET

Yeah, I'm a telekinetic hitman now. Self-employed, so, you know, I can pick my own hours...

2-

WANDA

Right, right..

11. SET and WANDA both looking uncomfortable, having clearly run out of things to say to each other.

12. WANDA waves a hand, a little hex power just visible, and in the background, a glass of champagne throws itself over CHANEL.

13. NICK FURY appears.

NICK FURY

Hope your cough's improved, Wanda. We got ourselves a situation.

WANDA

Oh thank God. What is it?

PAGE 15

14. Nice large panel, showing a load of protestors smashing their way into the ballroom, using their banner as improvised weapons and overpowering a couple of guards.

PROTESTORS

Burn the witches! /The unbelievers must be **cleansed!** / **Punish** the heretics!

15. Near NICK FURY, a couple of guards are going for their guns. NICK FURY is putting his hand out to stop them.

NICK FURY

No guns! They're **civilians**, man!

16. WANDA and SET look on as a huge rumble develops between the protestors and the guest, the former using bottles and trays as weapons, the latter starting to power up various magic spells/items. HUGO is also visible in the background, looking very excited.

HUGO

A fight! A **real** fight!

17. The fight is getting completely out of hand. WANDA seems to standing in some kind of safe zone as around her people are hit by trays, zapped by magical energy, or just plain turned into things. SET can be seen using his telekinesis, maybe levitating a protestor or two. This is kind of a rowdy bar fight, rather than a riot, but people are getting hurt, regardless.
18. NICK FURY is subduing one protestor and trying to fight off two others at the same time.

NICK FURY
Dammit Wanda, a little help here?

19. WANDA points her finger, but nothing happens.

FX
Pffft!

20. NICK FURY is now swamped in protesters.

NICK FURY
What the **hell** do we pay you for!?

21. WANDA unties the rope holding up the balloon netting.
22. The netting comes down from the ceiling, covering everyone in balloons, and trapping the majority of protesters under the netting.

WANDA
Honestly darling, do I have to think of **everything?**

