



SIRE STUDIOS

#1 \$4.99

DOLCE
LEISTER
CALDWELL

The SIRE



talent 2016

The SIRE



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I REMEMBER...



...I REMEMBER
THE SMELL.

OF BURNT CINDER
AND ASH...LIKE RAIN
EVAPORATING OFF A
HOT PAVEMENT...



AND I REMEMBER...

...THROUGH THE PAIN...AND
THE SMOKE... AND THE FIRE
BURNING ITSELF AWAY...



...I REMEMBER IT.

THE COSTUME.

CLINGING...

...SURROUNDING...

...CONSUMING!



YOU ASK ME HOW IT
FELT? WHAT I WENT
THROUGH...

...I WOULDN'T
KNOW WHERE TO
BEGIN...

UHHH...

MIKEBOOKS & AFTER SHOCK COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

The
SIRE

I WAS ON THE NEWS
THE OTHER DAY...

WELL,
FELLAS...



THIS IS A REAL
FINE MESS
YOU'VE GOTTEN
ME INTO.



HAAAAHA!

SHUT YER
TRAP! YOU GOT
SOME NERVE
JOKING AROUND
LIKE THIS AIN'T
YOUR FAULT,
FIREHEART!

AW, CHEER
UP FELLAS.
THINGS
ALWAYS HAVE
A WAY...



...OF
WORKING
THEMSELVES
OUT!





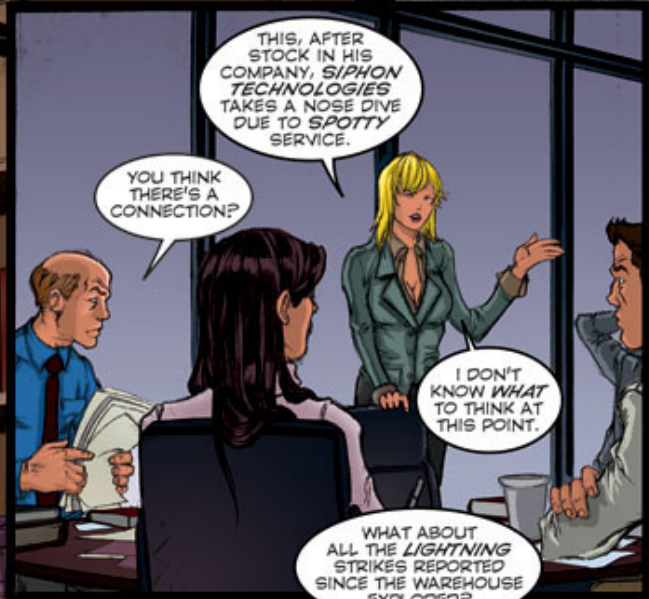
SOMETHING'S COMING...

JUST THINKING OUT LOUD, WALTER.

YOU SAY SOMETHING, J.J.P?

SOMETHING'S COMING... SOMETHING WE'RE NOT SEEING.

A BILLIONAIRE TECHNOLOGY MOGUL GOES MISSING THE SAME DAY ONE OF HIS WAREHOUSES EXPLODES.



THIS, AFTER STOCK IN HIS COMPANY, SIPHON TECHNOLOGIES TAKES A NOSE DIVE DUE TO SPOTTY SERVICE.

YOU THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK AT THIS POINT.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE LIGHTNING STRIKES REPORTED SINCE THE WAREHOUSE EXPLODED?



SAMUEL ANTONETTI'S RICH AND POWERFUL DOUG, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT--

FIFTY CASES WORLDWIDE IN JUST SIX HOURS!

--BUT HE'S NOT GOD!



NO, BUT HE IS AT THE CENTER OF THIS.

QUESTION NOW IS, JUST WHAT EXACTLY HE'S AT THE CENTER OF.

SOMETHING'S COMING WALTER...



SOMETIMES, YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE NOT KNOWING THE *IMPACT* YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ON THE WORLD...



FEEL

ALIVE!

YEAH, WHAT HE SAID.

CAN SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?! HANDS AREN'T EXACTLY SUPPOSED TO...*GLOW* LIKE THIS.

HAHAHAHA!





THIS IS J.J. WATERSTON, REPORTING *LIVE* OUTSIDE OUR STUDIO OFFICES WHERE A HORRIFIC SCENE HAS UNFOLDED!

REPORTS ARE STILL UNCLEAR AT THE MOMENT...

...BUT IT APPEARS A POLICE CONVOY HAS BEEN SOMEHOW **STRUCK DOWN** JUST OUTSIDE THIS BUSY NEW YORK CITY STREET CORNER.

THE BLAST SIGNATURE WAS ENOUGH TO SHATTER WINDOWS AS HIGH AS TWELVE STORIES BUT WHAT'S EVEN MORE UNSETTLING...



POLICE! FREEZE!

...IS THE SKIRMISH THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN POLICE AND CRASH SURVIVORS.



>HUK--!

THEIR FEATURES APPEAR CHANGED SOMEHOW... DEFORMED.



THOUGH, TO BE HONEST, NO ONE'S EXACTLY SURE WHAT'S GOING ON.

HAHA...

>HURGH--!



HEY!

SOREN, PUT HIM DOWN...

HAHAHAHA!!

COMPANY'S HERE!

...AND SOMETIMES, YOU'RE FORCED TO MAKE ONE!

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHERE I FOUND MYSELF.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE. IN FACT, I WANTED TO BE AS FAR AWAY FROM THERE AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO...UH, STOP, OR SOMETHING.

BUT THAT WASN'T AN OPTION.

ANOTHER MAN, DRESSED IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A HALLOWEEN COSTUME OF SORT-- --HAS INEXPLICABLY JUMPED BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS...

INSTEAD, I WAS THROWN INTO THE FRAY AGAINST MY WILL. FORCED TO FIGHT FOR REASONS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

HELD HOSTAGE...

...BY MY COSTUME!



I WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT YOU ARE WATCHING EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF THIS BREAKING EVENT ON WNBW, CHANNEL SIX.

THAT A GIRL! YOU SEE THAT? YOU TAKING NOTES? THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE!



BUT WALTER, COME ON!

THE DANGER... DOESN'T SHE REALIZE? DOESN'T SHE CARE?

THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER THE BEST, JIM...

...SHE'S FEARLESS!

I MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE.



UH, YEAH... SO, YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.

WHAT'S HE DOING?

WHO IS THAT?

...FILMING A MOVIE?

BUT I ALSO KNEW I WASN'T HELPLESS.

MY BODY WAS CHANGED SOMEHOW. LIKE AN OVERNIGHT UPGRADE. THE POWER I FELT... INDESCRIBABLE!

AND SOMETHING ELSE...



FIREHEART WAIT!

FOR WHAT? IF THIS GUY THINKS HE'S GETTING IN OUR WAY--

HAHAHAHA...

...MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY!

... SOMETHING I COULDN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON.

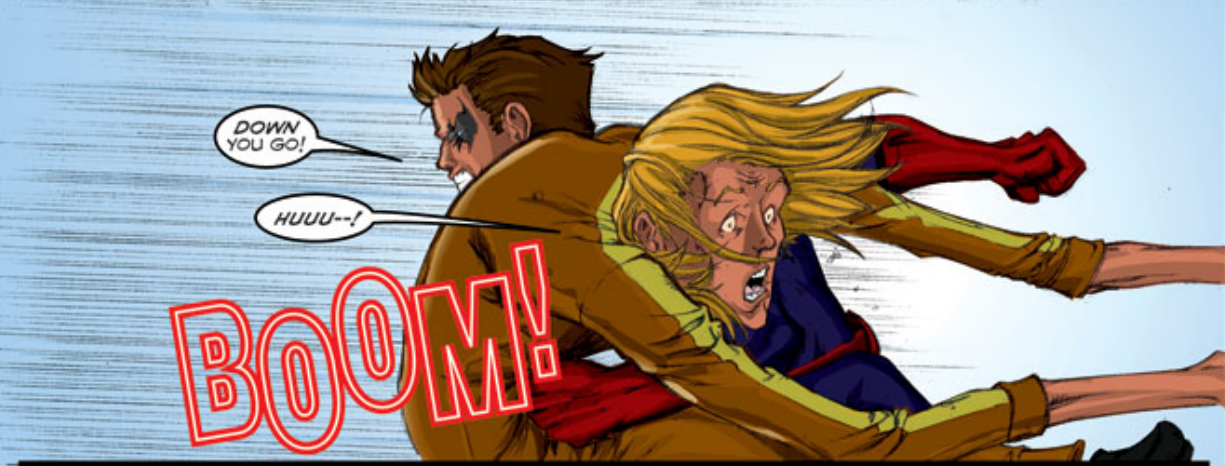


THE TENSION IS EXCRUTIATING AS THE HALLOWEEN MAN HAS WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE CONFUSION AND IS STARING DOWN THE OTHER THREE.

THE CROWD IS FIXATED, NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!

WAIT--

LIKE I WASN'T WORRIED IF I COULD TAKE THEM...





GET OFF ME!

--OOF!



FIREHEART!

JUST A LUCKY SHOT, BARD! GUARANTEED IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...

YES, BECAUSE WE ARE LEAVING NOW!

AH, BUT THE FUN'S JUST GETTING STARTED!



WHAT FUN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OUR CAPTORS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. OUR BODIES DRAMATICALLY ALTERED AND THE ONLY IMPULSE WE HAVE IS A RIDICULOUS STREET FIGHT?

DOES THIS MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU?

NO, BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GUY...

...MAKES YOU WANT TO POUND HIS FACE IN. I KNOW, I FEEL IT TOO. ALL THE MORE REASON TO LEAVE, YES?



WHAT ABOUT SOREN?

HIS FATE IS ALREADY SEALED.

BUT MINE WASN'T. I'D FIGURED I'D HAD ENOUGH ALREADY AND THAT IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE. MY COSTUME OF COURSE...



NNNAAA-AARGH!

...HAD OTHER IDEAS!



PICTURE A THOUSAND NEEDLES POUNDING AT YOUR CHEST WHILE A LOUDSPEAKER WAILS AT YOUR BRAIN.

IT HURTS...

OK...OK... YOU WIN...YOU WON...NOT GOING ANYWHERE...

...A LOT!

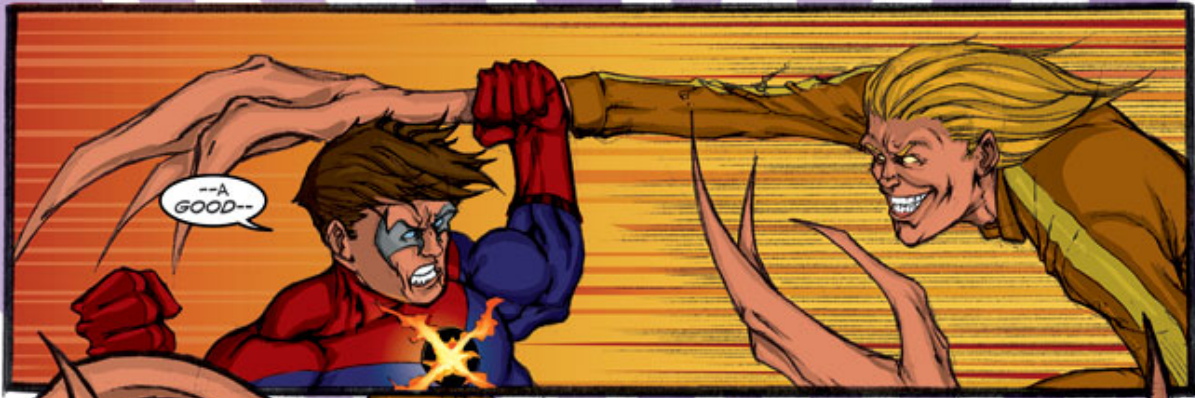
AND ALL IT MEANT WAS
THAT I WASN'T GETTING
OUT THE EASY WAY...

--HAHAHA...

OH,
GIMME A
BREAK!

NYHAHAHAHA!

THIS IS
NOT--





HA!
THAT WAS...THAT
WAS **INCREDIBLE!**
AMAZING! I CAN'T
BELIEVE I--!

EXCUSE ME!
EXCUSE ME, SIR!
HEY!



HUH?

J.J. WATERSTON,
CHANNEL SIX! THAT
WAS **SPECTACULAR!**
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT CAN
YOU TELL US ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE TODAY?

J.J.?



J.J.--!

--DONP!

AND THAT *PRETTY*
MUCH CATCHES YOU
UP TO *SPEED*...



I *RAN* AS SOON
AS SHE HESITATED.
GOT AWAY BEFORE
MORE *COPS* COULD
SHOW.

YOU
RAN?

WELL, SHE *IS* MY
BOSS AND SHE
DEFINITELY RECOGNIZED ME.
SHE'S ALSO THE UH...*REASON*
I WAS AT THE *WAREHOUSE*
TO BEGIN WITH.

HER?
WHY?

YOU EVER HEAR
OF A THING CALLED
LOVE? MAKES YOU DO
STUPID THINGS
SOMETIMES.

LIKE GET
YOURSELF CAUGHT
SOMEWHERE YOU
DON'T BELONG.

BUT ENOUGH
ABOUT ME. I'VE SPENT
THE BETTER PART OF AN
HOUR RECAPPING *MY*
LIFE FOR *YOUR*
BENEFIT.

TELL ME...
WHAT'S YOUR
DEAL?

WHY *SURE*, I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE OBVIOUS
BY NOW...

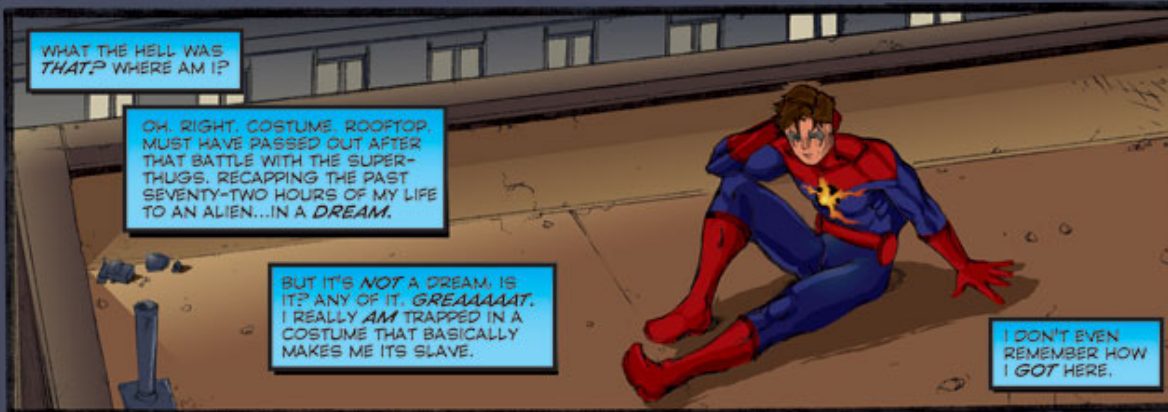




I AM YOU!



AAAAAH!!!



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? WHERE AM I?

OH, RIGHT. COSTUME ROOFTOP. MUST HAVE PASSED OUT AFTER THAT BATTLE WITH THE SUPER-THUGS. RECAPPING THE PAST SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF MY LIFE TO AN ALIEN...IN A DREAM.

BUT IT'S NOT A DREAM, IS IT? ANY OF IT. *GREAAAAAT*. I REALLY *AM* TRAPPED IN A COSTUME THAT BASICALLY MAKES ME ITS SLAVE.

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE.



HELLO?

CREAK!

THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE... CAN THEY?



GOOD EVENING MR. WRIGHT.

MY NAME IS **SAMUEL ANTONETTI**. I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE MY NAME THOUGH I DOUBT YOU'D RECOGNIZE MY FACE IN THIS...*CONDITION*.

YEAH, I'VE HEARD OF YOU. YOU'RE THAT BILLIONAIRE *MOGUL* THAT WENT MISSING.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU HAPPEN TO BE ON THE SAME ROOFTOP AS ME? I MEAN IT'S--OH MY GOD! YOUR FACE! IT'S--



YES, WELL THAT WOULD BE *YOUR* FAULT. YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME.

DUDE, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



OF COURSE YOU DO. A PLAN WAS SET INTO MOTION THREE NIGHTS AGO THAT WOULD HAVE YIELDED ME GREAT AND UNIMAGINABLE *POWER*.

DURING THE EXCHANGE HOWEVER, THERE WAS SOMEONE *PRESENT* THAT DID NOT BELONG.

AN *INDIVIDUAL* WHOSE MERE PRESENCE DISRUPTED THE CAREFUL *BALANCE* NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

THAT PERSON WAS *YOU*. THE WAREHOUSE YOU STUMBLED UPON...





...WAS *MINE*.
AS IT STANDS, YOU
HAVE SOMETHING THAT
BELONGS TO *ME*.

AND UNTIL I GET
IT *BACK* I AM FORCED
TO ENDURE THIS
UNFORTUNATE
APPEARANCE. NOW, IF
YOU DON'T MIND...



SERIOUSLY?
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING
THE NEWS LATELY, BUT I'VE
GOT *WAAAAAY* BIGGER
PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH
THAN YOUR SKIN
CONDITION.

SO IF YOU
DON'T MIND...



DON'T BE *COY!*
YOUR COSTUME IS THE
SOURCE OF *UNIMAGINABLE*
POWER! THE MISSING HALF
YOU STOLE FROM ME!

WE ARE
CONNECTED TO IT,
YOU AND I. IT'S HOW I
WAS ABLE TO *FIND* YOU
HERE. IT'S HOW I KNOW
YOU ARE *LYING* TO
ME NOW.



LOOK, YOU'RE
RIGHT. TRUTH IS,
THESE POWERS, THIS
COSTUME, THEY'RE *NOT*
MINE AND I REALLY,
REALLY, DON'T WANT
ANY PART OF THEM.

BUT I GET THE
FEELING THEY'RE
A *ONE-WAY*
TICKET.



OH, I
WOULDN'T SAY
THAT...



BEHOLD! I AM KNOWN AS... **THE SIPHON!**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A **SIPHON** DOES?

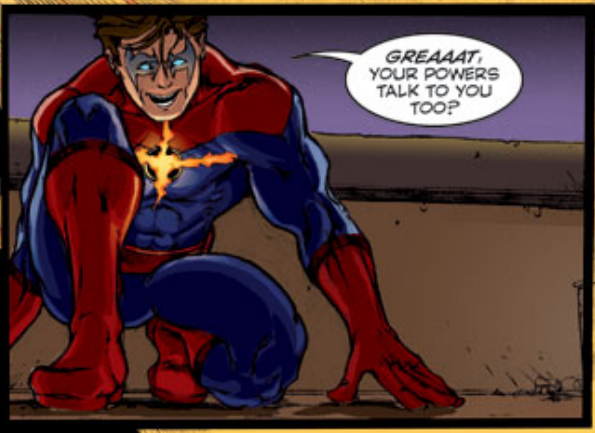


IT TAKES!

AGH! KIND OF...TICKLES!



WHAT? NOTHING'S HAPPENING! BUT I WAS TOLD...MY **POWERS** SAID...



GREAAAT, YOUR **POWERS** TALK TO YOU TOO?



NOW WE'RE BOTH **CRAZY!**



GET BACK
HERE NOW!



SORRY, PAL...



...NOT GONNA
HAPPEN!

HOLY CRAP! I'M NOT EVEN
THINKING ANYMORE!
JUST REACTING...

HA! MADE IT!
STILL IN ONE PIECE
TOO! IF IT WAS UP
TO THAT GUY...

...I WOULDN'T BE!



WHO WAS HE? IS HE
REALLY LIKE ME?

...OR IS THAT WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO *BECOME*?



YES...I
UNDERSTAND
NOW

HE CANNOT BE
SIPHONED. NOT
YET. I MUST GROW
STRONGER
FIRST.

THE
OTHERS...
THEY ARE THE
KEY.



HMM?



THOUGHT I
SAW...



...HMM. NOTHING.
NEVERMIND.



HEHEHEHE...



MEANWHILE...



WHAT IS IT? WALTER, DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK?

...WAS KIND OF HOPING I DIDN'T.

WE'VE GOT NEWS ANCHORS POSTING RESUMES BECAUSE OF HER!

WHEN J.J. FROZE UP ON CAMERA, SHE MADE US LOOK LIKE AMATEURS!

OUR REPUTATION AMONG VIEWERS, WITH RIVAL NETWORKS...WE'RE A LAUGHING STOCK!



LOOK, JIM, IF IT WASN'T FOR HER, WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE A REPUTATION TO LOSE!

THE HARD WORK SHE'S PUT INTO MAKING THIS NETWORK A CONTENDER...

...AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, OUR JOBS ARE HERS TO LOSE!



AND IF SHE DOES, WALTER? THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN LOYALTY AND STUPIDITY...

...AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE CROSS IT. FOR NOW, LET'S GIVE HER THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

IF SHE SAYS SHE'S TAKING CARE OF IT...

...SHE'S TAKING CARE OF IT!

...AUTHORITIES ARE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THIS MASKED LUNATIC WHO, DESPITE AIDING IN THE CAPTURE OF AT LEAST ONE ESCAPED CONVICT, IS STILL WANTED FOR QUESTIONING.



GREAT...LIKE I HAVE ANY ANSWERS.

IT'S SAD NO ONE ELSE HAS EVEN RECOGNIZED ME FROM WORK BESIDES J.J.

THE DON WRIGHT CHARM IN EFFECT. FADE SO FAR INTO THE BACKGROUND NO ONE NOTICES WHEN YOU TURN INTO A SUPERHERO.

OF COURSE, THAT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO WHAT I AM. IS IT? WHAT I AM--

--IS I'M AN IDIOT TRAPPED INSIDE A COSTUME!



I'M WANTED BY THE POLICE...

...HUNTED BY SOME PSYCHO BURN VICTIM...

...AND I WANT IT ALL TO STOP!



KNOCK KNOCK

WHAAT?!

OH CRAP!



DON, IT'S J.J., OPEN UP!

CRAP! CRAP!

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.

CRAP! CRAP! CRAP! CRAP!

COME ON, I HEAR YOU MOVING AROUND IN THERE...



...HELLO?

DON?

OH SH--

THANK YOU FOR READING!

We hope you enjoyed **THE SIRE #1** and look forward to reading more. As a **BONUS** for checking it out, we're offering you digital copies issues the next two issues – **fo' FREE!**

That's right! Go to sirestudiosinc.com/fofree to download issues #2 and #3 fo free! **Welcome to the world of The Sire!**

– Michael Dolce (creator: The Sire, Mainstream, Descendant)



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