

“ACCEPTANCE”

Chapter 1

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Publishing Date: March 16, 2005

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(This takes place after the Abomination events in Incredible Hulk Volume Three)

The story begins on the eve of Betty's death. Bruce and Betty are walking together on Gamma Base discussing their lives.

Bruce: It's nice isn't it.

Betty: What is?!

Bruce: Us, me and you, walking...together.

Betty: Yes it is.

Bruce: I wish we can have walks like this all the time.

Betty: Maybe we can, and who knows; maybe we can walk with our child.

Bruce: Betty, do you mean you're ready to...

Betty: Bruce I love you, more than anything; you know that. I know we had our struggles in the past. My miscarriage, your transformation into several Hulk incarnations; but I think we can do this together as a family.

Bruce then pictures himself as the Hulk with Betty and two kids; with Hulk holding one of the babies.

Bruce: Yeah, that would be nice.

Bruce and Betty hold each other for a while, until they finally kiss. The scene then jumps to Bruce in the hospital trying to save Betty's life and her eventually dying

(Incredible Hulk#466). Suddenly Bruce wakes up in a hotel in the middle of the desert; on the outskirts of Las Vegas.

Bruce: What, what where am I; oh no another dream. It's been so long. Betty, why did you have to leave me; why?!

Suddenly it begins to rain as Bruce looks out the window.

Bruce (thinking): I wonder where Nadia is, what am I saying; I can't just keep rebounding?!

But that night, the night before she died. Betty, I love you so much; everyone I get near gets hurt...why, why?! Suddenly Bruce gets angry and begins to slowly transform into the Hulk, but calms himself down.

Bruce: Okay Bruce, calm yourself down; calm yourself...

Suddenly the phone rings and Bruce picks it up to hear a familiar voice on the other line...Rick Jones.

Rick: Hey Bruce.

Bruce: Rick, is that you; how did you find me?

Rick: We tracked yah down.

Bruce: So um, how are yah; how are you and Marlo?

Rick: We're good, so is it all right if we come down for a visit.

Bruce: Rick, I'm not so sure if that is a good idea.

Rick: C'mon buddy, lighten up; we're friends.

Bruce: Yeah, yeah you're right; I'm sorry...I would love if you and Marlo came on down.

The next day Bruce is eating breakfast in the hotel lobby and begins talking to a man sitting nearby.

Man: Good morning, sir.

Bruce: Um, good morning.

Man: Mind if I sit with you?

Bruce: Of course not, sit.

The man sits across Bruce and orders eggs and steak for his breakfast. The man then gets out a Bible and begins reading.

Man: You don't mind, do you?!

Bruce: N, no of course not.

Man: So let's see, Acts 1:8. "But you will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and be My witnesses in Jersuaem, in all of Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"...in Your Sweet and Holy Name Lord, Amen.

Bruce: Amen.

Man: Oh, are you a Christian?!

Bruce: No, not really.

Man: Are you interested?

Bruce: Can I get back to you on that.

Man: Of course, but remember no matter what burden you carry; it is never to heavy for God Almighty.

Bruce: Yes, thank you.

Bruce looks after the man, when all of a sudden Rick and Marlo arrive.

Rick: Hey, Bruce!!!

Bruce: Oh, hey Rick, Marlo; how are you?!

Marlo: We're fine, but how about you Bruce?

Bruce: I have my bad days, I really don't have good days.

Rick: C'mon man, it's been a year; it's time for you to move on.

Bruce: Easy for you to say Rick, your wife wasn't killed by the Abomination.

Rick: Bruce, listen carrying a burden like this for a whole year isn't healthy.

Bruce: It fits me, I've always been a repressed person...ever since the death of my mother.

Rick: Bruce, we've all been through some rough times.

Bruce: He killed her in front of me Rick.

Marlo: Bruce, please I know it's been hard; but you musn't let the past burden you in the present. The past is gone, it's time to deal with the present and look forward to the future.

Bruce: You know what future I want...I WANT BETTY BACK!!!

Rick: Bruce, she's ain't coming back man; I'm sorry. It broke my heart and Marlo's...

Bruce: I am, I was her husband; we were planning to give another try in having a child. I wanted a child with Betty, because I love Betty; I wanted to love the child. I wanted to be better than my father. But no, I'm the Hulk. Everyone who's near me or ever loved me is injured or worse. I'm cursed, don't you get it; I am cursed.
Marlo: Bruce don't say things like that.

Bruce: It's true, Betty was the only thing that ever completed me; she filled the void left open after my mother's death. Betty, my mother; who's next, huh?! You, Marlo, Jennifer, Doc, Nadia; everyone is gone...everyone.

Suddenly Rick punches Bruce in the face.

Marlo: RICK!

Rick: Sorry Bruce, but I'm sick of hearing you feeling sorry for yourself. You act as if you are the only person who lost two loved ones, who lost anyone. Bruce, you're not alone; we're not gone...I'm not gone. If you would open your eyes and let people in, you could see that.

Bruce: Rick, everytime I do; someone is hurt...I can't afford it...I won't.

Rick: So what, you're gonna repress your emotions until it makes your burst on the inside.

Bruce: That is what the Hulk is for, he represents all my anger; and I feel that it got even worst after Betty died.

Bruce leaves the diner, while a man in the far corner notices him; the same man that sat down with him. Later that day, Bruce is in his hotel room packing planning to leave town until Marlo comes in and tries talking to him.

Bruce: Marlo, please I don't want to talk right now.

Marlo: Bruce, you have to get your emotions out; how do you suppose to live your life...to live your life with Nadia?!

Bruce: Who told you about Nadia?!

Marlo: Nadia told me about Nadia.

Bruce: What are you talking about?!

Marlo: She's the one who contacted us and told us where you were going.

Bruce: But she didn't even know.

Marlo: She loved you enough, to follow a bit; she didn't want us to tell you that she contacted us. You love her don't you?!

Bruce: Y-yes, I guess; I don't know?!

Marlo: Yes you do, you just don't want to admit it; it's okay Bruce. It has been a whole year since Betty's death, we all loved her and we still do. She loves us and she is watching over us this instant, she wants you to be happy; now go and be happy you idiot.

Bruce: Thanks Marlo, you are a true friend; Rick is very lucky.

Marlo: Don't you know it.

Bruce goes down to the lobby and runs into the man he was sitting with.

Bruce: You.

Man: Excuse me?!

Bruce: Forgive me, but can we talk?

Man: Of course.

The two sit down and begin talking.

Bruce: Help me.

Man: What is it?!

Bruce: Tell me about God and how to put him in my life.

Man: Of course, you know the story of how the earth came into being.

Bruce: Yes.

Man: Then let me jump ahead. God is the Creator of the world, He loves all of His children; no matter what we've done or who we are...He still and always will love us. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us all from total damnation. Jesus taught us and witnessed to us and had a number of followers, these followers are called Christians. Christians accept God into their lives and live for His Word only. Today Christians grow and grow, churches also are growing. When Pontius Pilate put Jesus on the cross, He could have easily escaped; but he didn't. He endured torture, persecution, and plain hate from people to save us from darkness. He is Our Lord, and we should worship Him. Live for the Lord son, he will help you through all your troubles.

Bruce: Thank you, I feel much better now.

A few weeks later Bruce is hosting his own little get together with his friends: Rick, Marlo, and Doc Samson, his lady love Nadia, and cousin Jennifer Walters (She-Hulk).

Nadia: Bruce, I'm glad that you invited me.

Bruce: Of course, why not?!

Nadia: I wasn't sure if you would talk to me after our latest adventure.

Bruce: That's okay, I love you Nadia; always.

Nadia: I love you too Bruce.

Later Bruce and Nadia are walking out in the desert, talking.

Nadia: Bruce, I'm sure Betty gives us her blessings.

Bruce: Yeah, I think so too; who knows this could have been her doing?!

Bruce looks up into the sky much happier after learning more about Christ and finally moving on from Betty!!!!

THE END!!!!