

THE TRILLION DOLLAR KID

*NOT FINAL COVER

VOLUME ONE



JOHNS • TOMASI • SIMEONE • MANAPUL • SNEJBORG • KALISZ • LEIGH

T I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON THE BIGGEST SECRETS IN THE WORLD.

SECRET NUMBER ONE: PEOPLE THINK EVERY BILLIONAIRE IS FAMOUS.

THEY'RE NOT.

MOST OF THEM YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF. THEY'RE QUIET. CAREFUL. AND HIDING IN VERY EXPENSIVE PLAIN SIGHT...

...BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY, MONEY STOPS BEING FUN...ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S A TON OF LAWYERS ALWAYS LOOKING TO "HELP."

MY GRANDFATHER UNDERSTOOD THAT--AND HE NEVER OWNED MORE THAN TWO SWEATERS AT A TIME.

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

HE WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER. SEVENTH GRADE. HE BELIEVED IN LAB GOGGLES, PACKED LUNCHES, AND NOT SHOWING OFF.

WHEN MY PARENTS MADE THEIR FIRST MILLION DOLLARS FROM A PERFECTLY ORDINARY LITTLE COMPANY CALLED STICKY BANDAGES CO., MY GRANDPA TOLD THEM:

"YOU HAVE A CHOICE: STAY ORDINARY AND THE WORLD WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE, OR LET IT SEE HOW EXTRAORDINARY YOU ARE AND BE READY TO GIVE YOURSELF TO IT."

STICKY
BANDAGES
CO.

ONE MILLION TURNED INTO TEN.
TEN TURNED INTO A HUNDRED.
A HUNDRED TURNED INTO A BILLION.

GRANDPA DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE THAT PART. AND MY PARENTS CHOSE TO HIDE INSTEAD OF BEING SEEN.

SO, FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, NO ONE KNEW WHO MY FAMILY WAS.

NO INTERVIEWS. NO RED CARPETS.
NO FANCY PARTIES TO MAKE CHARITY ABOUT THEMSELVES.

WE WERE THE KIND OF RICH PEOPLE WHO PRETENDED NOT TO BE RICH.

WHICH IS EXHAUSTING, BY THE WAY. YOU EVER TRY HIDING A PRIVATE JET IN YOUR BACKYARD?

THEN...THINGS WENT WRONG.

T

STICKY BANDAGES CO. MADE SIMPLE BANDAGES. THE PLAIN KIND IN SCHOOL NURSE DRAWERS AND OLD METAL FIRST-AID TINS.

THERE WE GO. GOOD AS NEW.

FOR DECADES, THAT WAS ENOUGH.

THEN CAME STRETCHY ONES. WATERPROOF ONES. GLOW-IN-THE-DARK ONES WITH CARTOON PANDAS DOING KARATE.

WHILE STICKY BANDAGES CO. STAYED... SIMPLY STICKY.

SALES FELL. MEETINGS GREW LONGER. WORDS LIKE "RESTRUCTURING" DRIFTED THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A RAINCLOUD THAT WOULDN'T LEAVE.

THE COMPANY DIDN'T JUST WOBBLE.

IT NEARLY WENT BANKRUPT.

IT BEGAN WHEN MY PARENTS STARTED TRAVELING ACROSS THE COUNTRY...THOUGH THEY NEVER REALLY TOLD ANYONE WHY.

MY DAD CAME BACK FROM ONE TRIP WITH A BROKEN ARM. ANOTHER TIME, MY MOM SHOWED UP WITH A SPRAINED ANKLE...AND A CONCUSSION.

SOMEHOW, THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT WHATEVER HAD HAPPENED...BUT ALSO WORRIED. THE KIND OF WORRIED WHERE THEY STOPPED SLEEPING.

THEY SAID THEY WERE DISTRACTED BY SOMETHING... SOMETHING THEY INSISTED WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BUSINESS.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY.

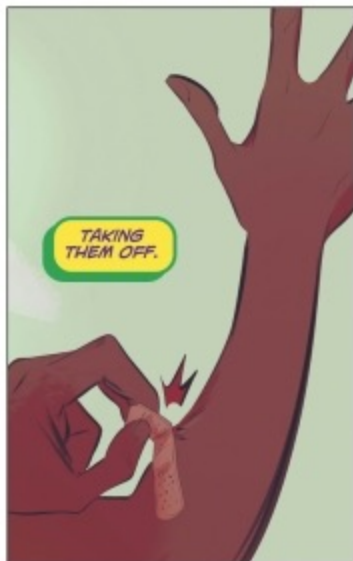


T I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT YET...

...I JUST KNEW I COULD HELP.



SO, I FIXED THE ONE THING EVERYONE HATES ABOUT BANDAGES



TAKING THEM OFF.



I INVENTED OUCH-LESS™.

TURNS OUT, THE WORLD HAS A LOT OF TINY HURTS.

DOCTORS LOVED THEM. KIDS DEMANDED THEM. ADULTS PRETENDED THEY DIDN'T CARE WHILE BUYING THE FAMILY PACK.

MY NON-STICKY STICKY ENDED UP ON BANDAGES, CASTS, SURGICAL TAPE-- EVEN ASTRONAUT GLOVES.

STICKY BANDAGES CO. DIDN'T JUST RECOVER. IT EXPLODED.

AND BECAUSE OF OUCH-LESS™...



...I BECAME THE WORLD'S FIRST TRILLIONAIRE.

WHICH IS WHEN I DECIDED MAYBE STAYING INVISIBLE WAS A LITTLE OVERRATED AND LET THE WORLD SEE HOW SPECIAL I WAS.

I DID INTERVIEWS. SMILED FOR CAMERAS. PERFECTED MY 'HUMBLE, BUT ALSO EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE' FACE.

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO UPGRADE REALITY...

...PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHO TO SEND THE THANK-YOU NOTES TO.

OF COURSE, GRANDPA WAS RIGHT. NOW THE WORLD WANTED EVERYTHING I HAD. BUT IT NEEDS IT. IT'S A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN IT WAS FOR GRANDPA. IT'S HEAVIER.

IF YOU ASK ME... IT COULD USE A LOT MORE FUN.

T SO, I STARTED AIRDROPPING PIZZA TO THE ENTIRE TOWN EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.

AND SENT ROOM SERVICE BREAKFAST TO THEM EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, ACCOMPANIED BY A BANANA SPLIT CART FOR DESSERT.

I INSTALLED LEMONADE FOUNTAINS ACROSS TOWN FOR THE SUMMER THAT SWITCH TO HOT CHOCOLATE WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DROP.

I BUILT AN INDOOR SKI SLOPE FOR YEAR-ROUND SNOWFALL AND A HEATED BEACHFRONT ON THE LAKE WITH SIMULATED SUNLIGHT FOR THE WINTER.

I INVENTED A MOSQUITO SPRAY THAT SENT THEM ALL TO OHIO (SORRY, BUCKEVES) AND PARKING METERS THAT TELL JOKES INSTEAD OF GIVING TICKETS.

I FOCUS ON INVENTIONS THAT MAKE THE WORLD FEEL BRIGHTER, SILLIER, AND WORTH WAKING UP FOR.

BUT HERE'S THE PART MOST PEOPLE STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD YET.

MONEY IS ONLY ONE REASON SOMEONE MIGHT STAY INVISIBLE.

SECRETS NUMBER TWO THROUGH... HONESTLY, I'VE LOST COUNT: THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH UNBELIEVABLE POWER...AND EVEN MORE UNBELIEVABLE BEGINNINGS.

AND THEY'VE GOTTEN EVEN BETTER AT HIDING THAN THE RICH FOLK EVER DID...

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE
GOT YOUR FREEDOM!
BUT WHAT COMES
NEXT?

T ...LIKE A FORMER
WISH-GRANTING GENIE
WHO WAS FINALLY GRANTED
HER OWN FREEDOM...
AND IS TRYING TO FOLLOW
THE RULES IN A WORLD
THAT MAKES NO SENSE...

YOUR TURN
TO WISH

I MEAN,
I'M NOT COMPLAINING...
REALLY, I APPRECIATE YOU AND
THE WHOLE S.I.N.E.E. TEAM
FINDING ME AN APARTMENT...
I JUST THOUGHT MY LAMP
WAS KINDA...
ROOMIER.

...OR THE VERY GRUMPY GHOST
IN BOISE, IDAHO WHO REALLY DOES
NOT WANT NEW PEOPLE MOVING IN...

HEY!
I JUST WIPED OUT
ON THIS STUPID
SKATEBOARD.

WHICH ONE
OF YOU LEFT
IT HERE?

WE HAVEN'T
EVEN TAKEN
ANYTHING OUT
OF THE VAN YET.
SOMEONE ELSE
MUSTA PUT IT
THERE.

...OR THE SECRET CUL-DE-SAC WHERE THE HOLIDAYS LIVE, THEIR TRADITIONS
FLICKERING LIKE A PORCH LIGHT THAT MIGHT GO OUT FOR GOOD.

HE HIT
JEREMY
RIGHT
IN THE EYE WITH A
SNOWBALL.

THE BRAT
ALMOST PUT
MY CANDLE
OUT!

MOST PEOPLE WOULD CALL ALL
THAT IMPOSSIBLE. MY PARENTS
HAD A DIFFERENT WORD.

CASPER
CLAUS--

IT WASN'T
ME, DAD,
IT WAS AN
ELF!

DISGUISED
AS ME.

THEY CALLED
THEM...

THE UNBELIEVABLES

I TURNED THIRTEEN
TWO MONTHS AGO. MY
NAME IS THOMAS NOBLE
TOWNSEND THE THIRD.

I'M NAMED AFTER MY DAD, WHO
WAS NAMED AFTER MY GRANDPA,
THE SCIENCE TEACHER.

I LOVE MY FAMILY.
MY PARENTS AND
MY SISTER, TABITHA.

YEAH, MAKING THE WORLD
A MORE FUN PLACE TO
LIVE IS GREAT...

T ...BUT THEY'RE MY
WHOLE UNIVERSE...

CHERRY PIT, MICHIGAN.

HOME TO TOMMY TOWNSEND III.
SON. BROTHER. TRILLIONAIRE.

Always remember
Some things money can't buy
Love, Mom & Dad

TO BE CONTINUED IN **THE TRILLION DOLLAR KID** #1

