

The Sprintress #4 - "Bad Vibes"

Written by Steven Bland

At a diner on Fifth Avenue, Nathan West sat at his table eating a BLT with potato chips and a diet soda for lunch. Suddenly, he heard a crash nearby that came from outside.

"What the - -?" Nathan asked as he jumped out of his seat and ran toward the exit.

Approaching the exit, Nathan went outside and saw the cause of the crash: an armored car with its wheels blown out. Then, the young digital reporter saw a costumed blond-haired woman arriving at the armored car.

"MAKE WAY FOR *VIBRATIA*, MISTRESS OF VIBRATION," the costumed blond-haired woman exclaimed. Nathan watched as Vibratia fired a blast of vibratory energy from her hands at the armored car's back doors. Vibratia's costume consisted of a skin-tight red bodysuit, red mask, and white boots and gloves. On her costume, was a satchel draped over her left shoulder.

Soon, Vibratia walked into the armored car. Inside it, were bags that each contained one billion dollars.

"Come to *momma*," Vibratia said with an evil smile as she greedily opened the bags and seized as much of the cash from them as she could. Then, she put the cash into her satchel until it couldn't hold any more money. With her satchel full, Vibratia left the armored car.

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A costumed super-powered thief robbing an armored car? This is *news*, Nathan thought as he got out his digital video camera and streamed Vibratia from a safe distance.

However, Vibratia noticed she was being watched and filmed.

"Who's there?" Vibratia asked angrily before she looked in Nathan's direction. "Show yourself!"

Uh oh, a fearful Nathan thought.

Suddenly, police cars arrived on the scene.

Whew, a relieved Nathan thought. The police are here.

Upon stepping out of their vehicles, the police officers got out their guns and aimed them at Vibratia, whose back was turned to them.

"FREEZE, LADY," the first officer exclaimed. "YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!"

Vibratia turned around to face the officers.

"DROP THE SACHEL NOW AND SURRENDER," the second officer shouted. "DON'T MAKE US SHOOT!"

"Sorry, boys, but I *decline* the offer," Vibratia said defiantly.

"Have it *your way*, lady," the first officer said, before he turned his attention to his fellow officers.

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"*OPEN FIRE*," he exclaimed.

The officers fired at Vibratia, but she surrounded her entire body with a vibratory shield, which the officers' bullets bounced off of.

"I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT," a third officer said. "OUR BULLETS HAVE *NO EFFECT* ON HER!"

This is getting *serious*, Nathan thought as he put down his digital camera and then took out his smartphone. I've got to call Nellie.

Nathan speed-dialed Nellie North's number and waited for an answer.

"This will *really* shake you up, HA HA HA HAAA," Vibratia said as she fired her vibratory blasts at the officers.

"*MOVE* IT," the first officer shouted as he and his fellow officers tried to dodge the blasts.

"HA HA HA HAAA!! Look at the officers *scatter*," Vibratia crowed.

The cops managed to avoid the vibration blasts by hiding behind a nearby parked car. From their hiding place, the first officer got out his walkie-talkie and put it to his ear.

"WE NEED A *SWAT TEAM* OVER HERE AT FIFTH AVENUE," the first officer said.

"*NOW!*"

Meanwhile, Nathan received an answer from Nellie.

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"Hello?" Nellie replied over Nathan's smartphone.

"Nellie, there isn't much time. There's a *supervillain* named Vibratia here at Fifth Avenue. She can fire blasts of vibratory energy. She just robbed an armored car and is *shellacking* New York's Finest," Nathan said. "Get here *A.S.A.P.*"

"I'll be right there," Nellie replied over the smartphone, before she hung up.

Soon, SWAT cars arrived on the scene. Upon stepping out of their vehicles, the SWAT cops got out their assault rifles.

"ALL RIGHT, MEN," the SWAT captain told his team. "OPEN FIRE!!"

The SWAT team fired their assault rifles at Vibratia, but her vibrational shield deflected the shells.

"*Hah!* Is that the *best* you've got?" Vibratia asked mockingly.

The blond-haired villainess then fired her vibratory blasts at the officers and they were knocked away several feet.

"YAAAAHHHH," the SWAT cops screamed.

"You're giving off *bad vibes*, lady," a female voice said from behind Vibratia.

Vibratia turned around and saw who the female voice belonged to: the Sprintress.

"THE SPRINTRESS," Vibratia exclaimed.

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I've got to *contain* her before she can fire another vibratory blast, the superheroine thought as she moved at superhuman speed to grab Vibratia.

"LET. ME," Vibratia exclaimed angrily as she caused her body to generate a vibratory field.

"GO," Vibratia continued as her vibratory field threw the superheroine off of her.

"AAAHHH," Sprintress cried out as the blast threw her a few feet. Soon, she landed on the pavement very hard.

"OOOFF," Sprintress exclaimed.

Vibratia walked toward the superheroine.

"So, *you're* the one who's called the Sprintress, eh?" Vibratia asked. "Well, *I'm* going to call you *something* else."

The blond villainess pointed her hands and fingertips at the superheroine.

"*DEAD*," Vibratia exclaimed cruelly as vibratory energy pulsed around her hands. Suddenly, Nathan left his safe spot and ran toward Vibratia in a desperate attempt to stop her from killing the Sprintress.

"*NOOOO*," Nathan screamed. This attracted Vibratia's attention.

The blond villainess hit Nathan with a powerful vibratory blast before the distraught superheroine's eyes.

"*AAAAHHHH*," Nathan screamed.

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"NATHAN! NOOO," Sprintress cried out.

Vibratia's blast sent Nathan flying toward the brick wall of a nearby building at incredible speed. Then, his body fell to the pavement. Sprintress ran to his side at superhuman speed.

"Nathan. Oh, nooo," a tearful Sprintress cried.

Vibratia then strode up to the superheroine.

"Oh, how *sad*," Vibratia said with mock pity.

"But, don't worry," the blond villainess said as she prepared to fire a vibratory blast at the superheroine. "You'll be joining him *real soon*."

He's been seriously injured by Vibratia's blast, a tearful Sprintress thought. Then, with a look of sheer hatred, she turned her attention to the blond villainess .

"Don't *bet* on it, Vibratia," Sprintress said. "After what you just *did* to this poor man - -"

"- - YOU'RE GONNA *PAY*," Sprintress exclaimed as she ran toward and then around Vibratia at superhuman speed. The superheroine ran faster and faster until she ran past the speed of sound causing a sonic boom that rattled the villainess's eardrums.

"AAAAHHH," Vibratia screamed as she fell. Sprintress stopped running and moved toward the villainess.

"It's *over*, Vibratia," Sprintress said angrily.

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"NO," Vibratia exclaimed as she used her vibratory powers to cause an earthquake to topple the superheroine.

"OOOFFF," Sprintress exclaimed.

"I'll go to *salve* my wounds, Sprintress! *But*, make no mistake, we *will* meet again," Vibratia vowed before using her vibratory powers to fly away.

"And I'll be *waiting*," Sprintress replied bitterly after her. Then, she turned her attention to Nathan.

"Nathan! *Hold on*, honey," Sprintress tearfully said to Nathan as she gently picked him up.

"I'm taking you to the *nearest* hospital."

Soon, Sprintress zoomed off with Nathan.

In minutes, the Sprintress, holding Nathan's body in her arms, arrived at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and was soon inside the building.

"I NEED A *DOCTOR*," a concerned Sprintress exclaimed. "*NOW!*"

Soon, a doctor arrived.

"What's the problem?" He asked the superheroine.

"This man was *severely injured* very recently," Sprintress said as she showed the doctor Nathan's body. "He was caught in the middle of my fight with a supervillainess named Vibratia."

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The doctor turned his attention to his nurse.

"I need some orderlies and a stretcher here," the doctor said. "*Stat.*"

"Yes, sir," the nurse said.

A few minutes later, a team of orderlies arrived with a stretcher.

"We got here as *soon* as we could," one of the orderlies said. "Who's the patient?"

"*This* man," Sprintress answered as she presented Nathan's body to them.

"Hand him to the orderlies," the doctor told the superheroine. "They'll take him to the emergency room."

"Okay," Sprintress said as she handed Nathan over to the orderlies. Soon, they placed him on the stretcher.

"Don't worry, Sprintress," one of the orderlies told the superheroine. "We'll do *everything* we can to save him."

"Thank you," Sprintress said.

"There's nothing more you can do here," the doctor told the superheroine. "Why don't you go home and get some rest?"

"Okay," Sprintress said before she left.

Once, she was outside the hospital, the superheroine zoomed off.

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As she raced through the city at superhuman speed, the Sprintress had vengeance on her mind.

Vibratia will *pay* for what she did to Nathan, the superheroine thought as she raced for home. I swear it!!

Upon arriving at her apartment building, the Sprintress went to a secluded spot where she changed out of her costume and into her civilian clothes. Minutes later, once she finished changing, Nellie North peeked from the secluded spot to see if there were any people around. She didn't see any.

Good, Nellie thought. The coast is clear.

Soon, Nellie emerged from the secluded spot and walked up to her apartment building's entrance. Once she approached the door, Nellie unlocked it with her key.

Next time I face Vibratia, Nellie thought as she entered her apartment. I'm going to need something to counter her powers.

She went to a dresser in her bedroom. On top of the dresser was a hand-held mirror.

Perfect, Nellie thought as she grabbed it. This mirror is *just* what I need.

She put the mirror in a bag and grabbed her keys.

Leaving her apartment with the bag containing her hand-held mirror, Nellie closed the door behind her and locked it.

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Once she was outside, Nellie returned to the secluded spot where she had changed her clothes. Inside that spot, Nellie put down her bag containing her mirror and changed back into the Sprintress. Grabbing the bag containing the mirror, she zoomed off at superhuman speed to search for Vibratia.

If Vibratia tries to hit me with another one of her vibratory blasts *again*, I'll use my mirror to *reflect* them *right back* at her, the superheroine thought as she raced through the city. *Then*, she'd better hope her *life insurance* is paid up! Because she's going to *need* it! *BIG TIME!*

In minutes, the Sprintress found Vibratia at the Chase Manhattan Bank, shaking the vault door off of its hinges.

Looks like it's *showtime*, thought the superheroine.

"You won't be *needing* any money where you're going, Vibratia," said Sprintress, attracting the villainess's attention.

"SPRINTRESS," exclaimed Vibratia.

"YOU ARE *SO DEAD*," the blond villainess exclaimed as she fired a vibratory blast at the superheroine.

"DON'T *BET ON IT*," Sprintress said as she quickly took out the mirror and used it to reflect the blast back at the villainess knocking her out.

"AAAAHHHH," Vibratia screamed as she fell unconscious.

Putting down the hand-held mirror, the Sprintress walked toward the unconscious villain.

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I want to *kill* you for what you did to poor, sweet Nathan, Sprintress thought as she looked at her foe.

Then, there was a moment of silence.

But I *won't*, the superheroine thought. I'm *better* than this. Besides, it *won't* undo the damage that was already done.

Sprintress picked up Vibratia.

I'll take her to Kay's lab, where she can put an inhibitor chip in Vibratia's brain to keep her from accessing her powers, Arrowswift thought before she zoomed off with her captive.

Soon, the Sprintress, with Vibratia in tow, arrived back at Kay Garrett's laboratory where Kay was present to greet her.

"Kay, this is *Vibratia*," the superheroine announced. "She can project vibratory blasts, which she used this afternoon to rob an armored car and to nearly wreck the city. She also put Nathan in the hospital."

"Can you whip up a device that can *inhibit* her powers?" Sprintress asked.

"Yes. I can design an inhibitor chip that can be implanted into her brain. Once it's inside her brain, the chip will prevent her from accessing her powers. But first, I'll need to *study* her," Kay replied. "Place her on the lab table."

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The superheroine did what Kay requested. With Vibratia on the lab table, Kay analyzed her and found the section of the brain that gave the villainess her powers.

"Give me a few minutes," Kay said.

"Sure," Sprintress said. "And in the meantime, I'll visit Nathan at the hospital and see how he's doing."

After Sprintress zoomed out, Kay immediately started work on the inhibitor chip for Vibratia.

In only mere minutes, Sprintress arrived at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Once she was inside, the superheroine walked through the halls at normal speed, heading for the nurses' station.

"Hello," Sprintress said to the nurse, attracting her attention.

"Sprintress," the nurse replied. "What can I do for you?"

"That man I brought in early this afternoon, what *room* is he in?" Sprintress asked.

"He's in Room 205," the nurse replied.

"Thank you," Sprintress said before she left the nurse's station.

Soon, the superheroine arrived at Room 205. The door was closed. Sprintress knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" Nathan asked from inside.

"It's me, Nathan," the superheroine answered. "The Sprintress."

"Come in," Nathan said.

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Sprintress slowly opened the door and entered. Once she was inside, she saw Nathan lying in his bed with bandages around his body. Despite his condition, Nathan was in good spirits.

Sprintress quietly closed the door behind her. Then, she turned her attention to Nathan and walked toward him.

"How are you feeling?" A concerned Sprintress asked.

"The doctor said my injuries *weren't serious*," a smiling Nathan assured her. "I'll be *fine*."

"Oh, Nathan, I am *so sorry*," Sprintress said with sorrow in her voice. "This is *all my fault*."

"How *could* it be?" Nathan asked.

"If I *hadn't* revealed my secret to you," Sprintress said. "You wouldn't *be here* now."

"Hey, *don't blame* yourself," Nathan assured her. "It was only *by chance* that Vibratia was in the *same part of the city* I was in when she robbed that armored truck. By the way, *did* you manage to stop her?"

"Yes," Sprintress said. "By using a hand-held mirror to reflect her own power right back at her. Once the force of her reflected power knocked her unconscious, I took her to Kay, so that she could whip up an inhibitor chip, which will be put into Vibratia's brain to prevent her from using her powers. Once that inhibitor chip is inside her brain, I can take her to prison."

"Good," Nathan said. "And you should *never* feel sorry that you revealed your secret to me. In fact, it's brought us *even closer* together. Just because you now have superpowers, doesn't mean that you should be alone for the rest of your life."

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"Thank you, sweetheart," Sprintress said before she kissed Nathan. "Get better soon."

"Love you," a smiling and thankful Sprintress said softly before she left Nathan's hospital room.

"Love you, too," Nathan said softly with a smile.

Soon, Sprintress arrived at Kay's lab.

"Did you finish making that inhibitor chip for Vibratia?" Sprintress asked.

"Yes. And it's already implanted into her brain," Kay said. "She is ready for you to take her to prison."

"Thanks," Sprintress said before she picked Vibratia up from the lab table. With the villainess in her arms, the superheroine zoomed out of the lab.

Minutes later, a couple of guards at the Tombs Prison felt a gust of wind whooshing by them. Soon, they saw the Sprintress with Vibratia in her arms.

"Here's *another* super-villain for you," Sprintress said as she handed Vibratia to the guards.

"Her name's Vibratia," the superheroine told them. "She was the one robbing armored cars this afternoon. She *shouldn't* be any trouble now, thanks to a special inhibitor chip that was just implanted into her brain."

The guards unmasked the unconscious villainess and were quite surprised.

"Well, *I'll* be," the first guard said. "It's Jackie Didio, the daughter of safecracker, Frank Didio.

"But, *how* did Jackie Didio get her vibratory powers?" Sprintress asked.

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"I dunno," the second guard replied. "Maybe she was *experimented on by aliens* or something."

"Anyway, thanks for bringing in this super-perp, Sprintress," the first guard said. "We'll see that her stay here will be a *very long* one."

"You're welcome," Sprintress said before she zoomed off.

"Y'know, John," the second guard said. "I'll *never* get used to how *fast* the Sprintress can move."

"Neither will I, Carmine," the first guard said. "Neither *will* I."

THE END

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