

THE BASICS.

MIKE NANO seems like a normal college guy. He misses classes, gets awkward around girls, and plays more video games than he should. He seems normal. But he's not.

He is a human swarm of nanobots. Every cell in his body is both biological and technological, and can float around independently. He doesn't know why. He was born that way. What he DOES know, thanks to comic books and TV, is that this is exactly the sort of thing you fight crime with. So, with the help of his scientific genius stepfather, JIM VAN BRAUN, he starts his fledgling superhero career, and discovers his own secret origin, taking us, the audience, along with him.

Oh, also, once and a while, he gets a flash of one of his dead father's memories, which sounds weird, but will make sense by the end of this page.

THE PLOT.

Issue 1. We meet Mike as a 10-year-old, wishing he could connect with the father he never knew, and using his powers to skip class and beat up bullies. He loses control, and almost kills the bullies. Van Braun stops him using a pink force field he invented. He offers to train Mike. And he marries Mike's mom.

Issues 2 through 4. Now in his early 20's we find Mike fighting crime, honing his skills while remembering more of his father's past. He manages to piss off the police, battle a villain or two, meet a nice girl, and get sued, all in about a week. At the end of Issue 4, Mike's mom, KAREN, laundry basket in hand, stumbles upon a secret room in their basement filled with comatose pregnant women.

Issue 5. Karen is missing. Mike, looking for her, also finds the room. He gets a flash of Van Braun with a syringe. His father's memory. He goes to his friend (not yet girlfriend) SADIE, a software engineer, asking her to help him access his father's memories. She hacks Mike's brain, and we are taken with Mike deep into his father's memory.

Issue 6. Flashback. FRANK NANO, Mike's real father, is severely injured while working at the Pelican Corporation's headquarters. The head of R&D, a younger Jim Van Braun, offers Frank an experimental nanotechnological cure to his injuries. He takes it, and for a time, he is healthier and stronger than ever. He reconnects with his wife, conceives Mike, and lives life to his fullest. Eventually, sadly, his body rejects the formula, and he falls apart into a pile of gray goo. Mike comes out of the flashback to find himself captured by Van Braun.

Issue 7. Van Braun reveals all. He still works for Pelican. The comatose women were impregnated with artificial nano-sperm, based on Mike's unique situation, and Van Braun wants Mike to lead the army of nano-children, which Pelican will sell to the highest bidder. He does actually love Mike as a son, but this is his job, and hey, being a general in a nano-army would be a good career move for Mike. Mike is understandably upset. They battle, Van Braun's force fields against Mike's powers. Mike barely survives, defeating Van Braun, but losing an arm in the process.

Outside, when it's all over, Mike and Sadie kiss for the first time. Across the street, watching them, is Frank Nano, looking pretty haggard and world-weary, but not dead.

TO BE CONTINUED!

Note: There's a longer 4-page version of this pitch available on my website, jackmcguigan.com, as well as a 5-page sample by penciller/inker Jethro Morales. It's also been written in its entirety, so if you'd like to read the full script(s), I'd be happy to provide.