

POWER MAN

Identity: Luke Cage (legally changed; his full given name is believed to be Carl Lucas)

Side: Good

Sex: Male

Experience: 80,000

Level: 12th

Age: 28

Training: +1 Strength

Powers:

1. Body Power (*Very Dense Muscle and Tissue*): Luke Cage possesses various superhuman physical attributes after undergoing an experiment designed to increase his body's cellular regeneration process.

a. Heightened Endurance B: +16

b. Heightened Strength B: +22. He uses his full strength when determining carrying capacity and basic HTH damage.

c. Invulnerability (*Titanium-Steel Skin*): 20 Points. Luke Cage's skin has a structural rating of 13.

d. Regeneration: While Luke Cage can regenerate any type of damage, but he can only do it once per every 10 turns.

e. Natural Weaponry (*Titanium-Steel Skin*): +2 to hit and +4 damage in unarmed HTH combat.

2. Heightened Charisma A: +11

3. Natural Weaponry (*Street Fighting*): +2 to hit and +4 damage in unarmed HTH combat.

Height: 6' 6"

Weight: 425 lbs.

Basic Hits: 9

Agility Mod: Nil

Strength: 37

Endurance: 30

Agility: 15

Intelligence: 13

Charisma: 24

Reactions from: Good: +4 Evil: -4

Hit Mod. (2.8) (3.8) (1.6) (1.1) = 18.7264

Hit Points: 169

Damage Mod.: +2

Healing Rate: 8.1

Accuracy: +2

Power: 95

Carrying Capacity: 22,803 lbs.

Basic HTH Damage: 3d10

Movement Rates: 82" ground.

Det. Hidden: 10%

Det. Danger: 14%

Inventing Points: 13.0

Inventing (39%):

To Hit (Unarmed HTH): +10

Damage (Unarmed HTH): 3d10 + 14

Knowledge Areas: Crime, Business, Detective & Streetwise

Origin and Background: (American) Born and raised in Harlem, Carl Lucas spent his youth in a gang called the Bloods. With his friend Willis Stryker, he fought the rival gang the Diablos and committed petty thefts, often on behalf of deformed crimelord Sonny Caputo, a.k.a. Hammer. In and out of juvenile homes throughout his teens, Lucas dreamed of becoming a major New York racketeer until he finally realized how his actions were hurting his family; he sought to better himself as an adult, finding legitimate employment. Meanwhile, Stryker rose through the ranks of crime, but the two men remained friends. When Stryker's activities angered the Maggia (a.k.a. the Syndicate), he was badly beaten in a mob hit, saved only by Lucas's intervention. When Stryker's girlfriend, Reva Connors, broke up with him in fear of his violent work, she sought solace from Lucas. Convinced that Lucas was responsible for the breakup, Stryker planted heroin in Lucas's apartment (that he stole from drug kingpin Cornell Cottonmouth) and tipped off the police. Lucas was arrested and sent to prison; contact with his family was sparse due to the resentment of his brother James, Jr., who intercepted Lucas's letters to their father James and eventually led each to believe the other was dead.

In prison, Lucas was consumed by rage over Stryker's betrayal and his father's supposed death, engaging in frequent brawls and escape attempts. Eventually transferred to Seagate Prison off the coast of Georgia, he became the favorite target of sadistic guard Albert "Billy Bob" Rackham, whose brutality ultimately led to a demotion that he blamed on Lucas. Later, research scientist Dr. Noah Burstein recruited Lucas as a volunteer for experimental cell regeneration based on a variant of the Super-Soldier process he had previously

used to empower Warhawk. Burstein immersed Lucas in an electrical field conducted by an organic chemical compound; when he left Lucas unattended, Rackham misused the experiment's controls, hoping to maim or kill Lucas. Lucas's treatment was accelerated past its intent, inducing body-wide enhancement that gave him superhuman strength and durability. He used his new power to escape Seagate and made his way back to New York, where a chance encounter with criminals inspired him to use his new powers for profit.

Adopting the alias Luke Cage and donning a distinctive costume, he launched a career as a Hero for Hire, helping anyone who could meet his price. He soon established an office in Times Square's Gem Theater, where he befriended film student D.W. Griffith. Burstein, aware of his friend's innocence, also relocated to New York and opened a medical clinic, assisted by Dr. Claire Temple, whom Cage began dating. Although Cage would have been content to battle strictly conventional criminals, he soon learned that New York was hardly the place to do so. Stryker himself had become a Maggia agent as Diamondback and died battling Cage. Subsequent opponents included Gideon Mace, an embittered veteran seeking a U.S. takeover who would become a frequent foe; Chemistro (Curtis Carr), whose Alchemy Gun would be a weapon later used by others, including his own brother after Curtis reformed; and Discus, Stiletto, Shades, and Commanche, all criminals with ties to Cage's prison days who would face him repeatedly over the years.

Having obtained proof of Cage's innocence in his original drug charges, the criminal Bushmaster abducted Burstein and Temple, using their safety and the hope of acquittal to blackmail Cage into abducting detective Misty Knight, who had humiliated Bushmaster in an earlier encounter. Cage's efforts led to a fight with Knight's boyfriend, the martial artist Iron Fist, a native of the extra-dimensional city of K'un-Lun and still a newcomer to Earth society; however, upon learning of Cage's situation, Iron Fist and Knight helped him defeat Bushmaster and rescue his friends. In the course of the encounter, Bushmaster forced Burstein to mutate him as he had Cage, but was nonetheless defeated and soon became paralyzed by the process. Cleared of criminal charges, Cage briefly worked for Knight's detective agency Nightwing Restorations but soon elected to join Iron Fist in a two-man team, Heroes for Hire, founded by attorney Jerlyn Hogarth and staffed by administrative wunderkind Jennie Royce. Although the streetwise Cage and the unworldly Iron Fist seemed to have little in common, they soon became the best of friends.

Cage and Iron Fist achieved great success with Heroes for Hire, earning an international reputation and fighting a wide variety of criminals, including the genius Nightshade, the international crime lord Montenegro, Sabretooth and the Constrictor, Warhawk, and the drug lord Goldeneye. Together with Iron Fist, they still operate as Heroes for Hire.

Occupation: Professional adventurer

Identity: Publicly known

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States, acquitted of criminal record

Former Aliases: Hero for Hire

Place of Birth: New York City

Marital Status: Single

Known Relatives: None

Group Affiliation: Partner of Iron Fist in Heroes for Hire, Inc., former member of the Defenders, former temporary member of the Fantastic Four

Base of Operations: New York City

First Appearance: HERO FOR HIRE #1

Hair: Black

Eyes: Black

Training Bonuses: (2) +1 Accuracy with Unarmed HTH Combat; (3) +1 Damage with Unarmed HTH Combat; (4) +1 Strength; (5) +1 Accuracy with Unarmed HTH Combat; (6) +1 Damage with Unarmed HTH Combat; (7) +1 Endurance; (8) +1 Accuracy with Unarmed HTH Combat; (9) +1 Damage with Unarmed HTH Combat; (10) +1 Agility; (11) +1 Accuracy with Unarmed HTH Combat; (12) +1 Damage with Unarmed HTH Combat.