

**Dear Marvel, Why Have You Financed *Spider-Man* and *Ant-Man*, But Not My Own Insect-Hero Film *The Fantastic Franz Kafka's Cockroach-Man*?**

- By Dan Caprera

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Dear Marvel Studios,

Over the past few years, your production company has financed many big-budget, high-octane, insect-inspired films such as *Ant-Man* (2015), *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017), *Ant-Man and the Wasp* (2018), and *Spider-Man: Homecoming 2* (2019). And, considering the *sheer volume* of insect-films your studio has created (in such a short amount of time, no less), I feel that I am somewhat obligated to now ask the following question:

Why have you not yet offered to finance *my* insect-hero screenplay, *The Fantastic Franz Kafka's Cockroach-Man*?

Loosely based off of Franz Kafka's 1915 novella *Die Verwandlung*, (or *The Metamorphosis*), I believe that *my* thrilling (yet inspirational) insect-film would be a *welcome addition* to the ever-growing Marvel "Insectverse." So, with that in mind, I have enclosed several key *Cockroach-Man* scenes along with this letter to better convince you as to why my film needs (*demands*) your full financial support.

To start, here's one of the film's opening scenes, which hopefully helps to contextualize everyone's favorite half-human/half-cockroach abomination:

EXT. CITY STREETS - EVENING

Mild-mannered traveling salesman GREGORY SAMPSON has just been transformed into a COCKROACH-MAN. His cockroach legs protrude from his milky-white husk of an exterior. He is hideous. No. He is glorious. His best friend DEREK DEVINS is astonished.

DEREK DEVINS

Oh no, Gregory. You are a cockroach.

COCKROACH-MAN

I must return to work or the boss will be angry with me. And if the boss is angry with me, how then will I provide for my sister and for my weak and infirm parents?

DEREK DEVINS

But this is your chance to be a hero.

COCKROACH-MAN

Chance has given me the pitiful and grotesque appearance of the vermin that hides beneath our boots.

DEREK DEVINS

Help us Cockroach-Man.

COCKROACH-MAN

How can I help you when I cannot help my own family?

Fun stuff, right?

In this next scene, we get a glimpse at Cockroach-Man's *romantic* subplot:

INT. THE "COCKROACH CAVE" - EVENING

Girl-next-door KIMBERLY KELLY has just discovered  
COCKROACH-MAN's secret identity.

KIMBERLY KELLY

Cockroach-man, I think I'm in love  
with you.

COCKROACH-MAN

Love is a meal that cannot feed the  
hungry. It is a foible that  
distracts the men and dogs who gnaw  
at it with their JAGGED TEETH... they  
gain no profit from their  
exertions.

KIMBERLY KELLY

Is there a Mrs. Cockroach-Man?

COCKROACH-MAN

Do you see me as a human, Kimberly?  
That is how I view myself still.  
But perhaps these thoughts are as  
fickle and fleeting as my own  
grotesque transformation.

(pauses)

Perhaps I am finally learning.

KIMBERLY KELLY swoons.

And if you're wondering if there's a classic Stan Lee cameo in this movie... well, worry no more!

INT. HOME - EVENING

COCKROACH-MAN is at home.

COCKROACH-MAN

The men who hate me are dogs, yet dogs do not possess the ability to misbehave. I was a man once but my body has become loathsome and impure. And I am CORRUPTED!

STAN LEE

Believe in yourself Cockroach-Man.

COCKROACH-MAN (cont.)

I am small. Both physically. But mentally too. Once I was potent, but now my potency has turned to ash in my mouth; and I am a burden to those who once relied upon my labors. Yet, in the past I was relied upon in the way that a farmer relies upon a donkey. Not as a man. But as a tool.

(pause)

Perhaps... it is better this way.

COCKROACH-MAN dies.

End of film.

Marvel, I realize that your selection process is both highly intensive and *extremely* selective. But I *guarantee* that my insect-hero film would be a “Marvelous” *addition* to your ever-growing Cinematic Universe.

Thank you so, so much for the consideration.

-Daniel

PS - And don't forget to check out my latest draft of *Thus Spake the Iron Man* where the Iron Man finally (*finally!*) destroys a weak and dying God.

Really fun stuff!