

Daredevil

NAME: Matthew "Matt" Murdock

BACKGROUND

He is raised by single father and fading boxer Jack Murdock after his mother, a nun named Maggie, left both Jack and Matthew in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. Jack instills in Matt the importance of education and non-violence with the aim of seeing his son become a better man than himself. Though Jack's intentions are noble, Matt is left unprepared to handle the bullying he received at school, and is branded with the sarcastic nickname, "Daredevil". Matt vents his frustration and anger by training in secret.

Matt is blinded by a radioactive substance that falls from a vehicle. The radioactive exposure heightens his remaining senses beyond normal human thresholds, enabling him to detect the shape and location of objects around him.

Still in school, Matt continues to honor his father's wishes by excelling in his studies, and ultimately enrolls in the Columbia School of Law.

Back in Hell's Kitchen, Jack struggles and becomes an enforcer for the Fixer (Roscoe Sweeney). In exchange for his services, the Fixer rigs a series of matches and provides Jack a late-life boxing renaissance, resulting in the once near-destitute fighter becoming a title contender. On the night of the title fight against John Romita, with his son in the crowd, Jack ignores the Fixer's demands to take a dive and wins by knockout. For his disobedience, the Fixer has him murdered.

Matt is devastated by the loss of his father and the judicial system's failure to convict the men responsible. Mindful of the childhood promise he made to his father not to lead a violent life, Matt dons a new identity for providing justice. Adorned in a red costume made from his father's boxing robes, renamed with the moniker of his childhood derision, and using his superhuman abilities, Matt confronts the killers and avenges his father as the superhero Daredevil and the Fixer dies of a heart attack during the confrontation as a result of the shock.

Daredevil encounters the assassin Bullseye for the first time, and the two battle each other. Eventually, Daredevil's secret identity is deduced by the reporter Ben Urich.

ABILITIES

Daredevil's four remaining **senses are heightened** far beyond human levels, due to exposure to radiation. Although Murdock is blind, he can "**see**" by means of his "**radar sense**". This radar sense allows him sense the proximity of objects and persons around him,



which allows him to react to attacks and launch his own attacks **much faster than normal** humans. This also enables him to dodge most ranged and close combat attacks with reliability. **Daredevil's radar sense**, combined with his **super hearing** enable him to instantly map the trajectory of a projectile (i.e., bullet or arrow) enabling him to dodge attacks with relative ease. He can also detect pulse fluctuations which serve as early warnings to physical attacks.

His sense of touch is sensitive enough to detect the faint impressions of ink on paper, allowing him to read by touch. He is able to feel minute changes in temperature and pressure due to body heat and air disturbance. His sensitivity to heat allows him to sense the temperature of people and objects in order to determine whether a person is living or dead and, if dead, for how long.

Daredevil's sense of smell is enhanced enough to distinguish individuals by their natural odors, and remember and identify them no matter how they attempt to mask their scent, as well as track that individual scent through a crowd of people. He can also determine the ingredients of food and drink down to concentrations of 20 milligrams by their scent. His sense of taste is sharp enough to enable him to detect the number of grains of salt on a pretzel.

Daredevil's enhanced sense of hearing enables him to **detect acoustic pressure changes** that ordinary humans cannot. Daredevil can often hear gunshots in time to avoid them, if the shooter is far enough away. He can hear human voices through soundproofed walls and the steady rhythm of a heartbeat from several feet away. Daredevil's sense of hearing makes him constantly aware of his own heartbeat, blood circulation, breathing, physical movements, etc. This skill is often employed by Murdock to serve as a lie-detector for his career as an attorney and as Daredevil. Other superheroes have sought Daredevil's aid at times for the expressed purpose of using him as a lie-detector. Extremely loud noises (or other extreme forms of sensory input, including visual) cause Daredevil considerably more distress than the average person; beyond a certain size, crowds of people cause too many sensory impressions for him to sort through without great difficulty.

Daredevil possesses **superhumanly acute powers of concentration**, allowing him to sift through his sensory input and concentrate on any one specific stimulus to the extent of the exclusion of all others.

Daredevil's senses grant him a superhuman level of kinesthetic awareness, which greatly enhances his fighting skills. Daredevil has extensive knowledge of pressure points, due to his training and radar sense. Daredevil is a master of a unique martial art from a blend of ninjutsu, aiki-jujutsu, judo, gymnastics, and American-style boxing.

Daredevil is a **superb athlete and gymnast**, the best in the Marvel Universe, possessing extraordinary agility, endurance, skill and balance. Because a person's sense of balance is linked with their sense of hearing (similar to the way that taste is linked with the sense of smell), Daredevil's superhuman hearing also grants him superhuman balance. He has been known to run across and even jump up and down on hydro wires. This 'super balance' enhances Daredevil's acrobatic skills beyond even what a highly skilled but sighted athlete would possess.

Daredevil's signature weapon is his specially designed billy club, which he created. Disguised as a blind man's cane in civilian garb, it is a versatile, multi-purpose weapon that contains thirty feet of aircraft control cable connected to a case-hardened steel grapnel. Internal mechanisms allow the cable to be neatly wound and unwound, while a powerful spring launches the grapnel. The handle can be straightened for use when throwing. The club can also be split into two parts, one of which is a fighting baton, the other of which ends in a curved hook. Daredevil has extreme accuracy when throwing his club, and can hit multiple enemies with ricochets.

As Matt Murdock, Daredevil is also a highly skilled criminal defense attorney with an extensive knowledge of the American legal system, even going so far as to defend some of his former adversaries in court.

Daredevil's Weaknesses

Radar Sense Limitations

Daredevil is unable to discern pictures or video images, and he can only guess at colors based on the amount of heat they are absorbing or reflecting. If anyone or anything is not emitting anything that would trigger his heightened senses Daredevil wouldn't be able to detect it, such as Mysterio's hallucinogenic toxin, which was devoid of taste or smell, or prior to his capture by the F.B.I., when a sniper bullet fired outside the range of his sense of hearing was able to badly injure him.

Radar Sense Disruption

Daredevil's superhuman senses render him extraordinarily vulnerable to excessive sound, odors, etc., which can temporarily weaken his Radar Sense or if he is bombarded by too much sound at once, Daredevil can easily be immobilized, which causes him great pain and leaves him disoriented. Once the disruptive effects wear off, Daredevil's Radar Sense is able to return to its normal calibration.

Non-Superhuman Physical Conditioning

As Daredevil's powers do not give him any kind of superhuman physical ability, Daredevil is as susceptible to physical injury and disease as any other normal human, often having to rely more on strategy than strength when up against a superhuman opponent.

Blindness

Daredevil is blind. While his Radar Sense helps him navigate, this becomes a problem for Daredevil to navigate and track his opponent when his heightened senses are scrambled or can't detect anything which diminishes Daredevil's ability to be able to fight back when in the middle of a battle.

