

Doctor Venom

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DOCTOR VENOM. Little is known about Dr. Venom. He is rumored to have once been a brilliant scientist before turning to fields of study no reputable scientist would have anything to do with. As his experiment moved into the fields of biological manipulation and mind control, Venom lost his backers, one by one. The only group willing to fund his work was Cobra. Venom's immense ego told him it made no difference who he worked for, as long as his genius was not stifled. Venom's greatest creation was the Brain-wave Scanner, that allowed Venom to peer into the mind of his subjects and pull out images and information. The process was very painful.

Dr. Venom first encountered the G.I. Joe team when Snake-Eyes, Scarlett and Zap were captured and taken to Springfield, the hidden Cobra town. If anyone in Springfield decided he or she wanted to leave Cobra, Venom's Scanner would ensure that they changed their minds. Venom first used the machine on Snake-Eyes, trying to learn the secrets of the G.I. Joe team. Snake-Eyes fought the machine and then fooled Venom into believing he was dead, using a ninja technique that slowed his heart rate and simulated death. He then escaped the Brain-wave Scanner and the other Joes escaped Springfield. Shortly afterward, Snake-Eyes, Stalker, Breaker and Gung-Ho travelled to Sierra Gordo where they were captured by Cobra agents led by the Baroness and Dr. Venom. The scientist left Snake-Eyes in a burning warehouse, believing the commando was dead. By the time Venom realized Snake-Eyes had tricked him again, it was too late. Snake-Eyes escaped and rescued his teammates. Snake-Eyes confronted the Eskimo mercenary, Kwinn and Venom at a Cobra bunker in the middle of a small island in Sierra Gordo. Before they could fight, the Baroness bombed the island, trying to kill Kwinn and Venom because they knew too much. The three men survived and escaped the bunker, but soon Venom betrayed Kwinn and Snake-Eyes, saving himself, not caring that the others had helped save his life. Kwinn knew Venom was nothing but a dishonorable coward and vowed to exact his revenge on the Cobra scientist. Venom returned to Cobra and helped plan a scheme to poison the people of the United States with his deadly virus. When the first plan failed, Venom infected Scar-Face, hoping to infect the Joes and discover their secret base. Kwinn and Snake-Eyes tracked down Venom just before a major Cobra attack on G.I. Joe headquarters. When Cobra arrived, using Venom's private lab on Brooklyn's waterfront as a staging area for the assault, Snake-Eyes and Kwinn were captured and placed them in mind-controlling SNAKE battle armor. During the assault on Joe headquarters, Snake-Eyes and Kwinn broke free of the armor's control, surprising Venom who arrogantly believed his devices were unbeatable. Venom was horrified when Kwinn came after him and planned to kill him with a hand grenade. The Eskimo was about to kill the scientist when he realized that he had been fooling himself as he sought his revenge. His life as a mercenary had been just as dishonorable as Venom's life. He let the scientist live, but the cowardly Venom shot Kwinn in the back, taunting him as he died. But Venom had once again underestimated his opponent and overestimated himself. As Kwinn's lifeless body fell to the ground, the grenade he had intended to kill Venom with fell from his hand. It exploded and killed the scientist. A short time later, Dr. Venom was buried in a potter's field, his body claimed by no one.

Years later, Venom's evil lived on when Cobra began to once again use the Brain-wave Scanner. The scanner played an important role in Dr. Mindbender's creation of the Cobra emperor, Serpentor. Mindbender later improved upon Venom's original design and used the new scanner to subjugate the town of Millville. Dr. Venom's name still lives on today, a legend in the realm of crime and terrorism.

(GI 10, 12, 14-19)