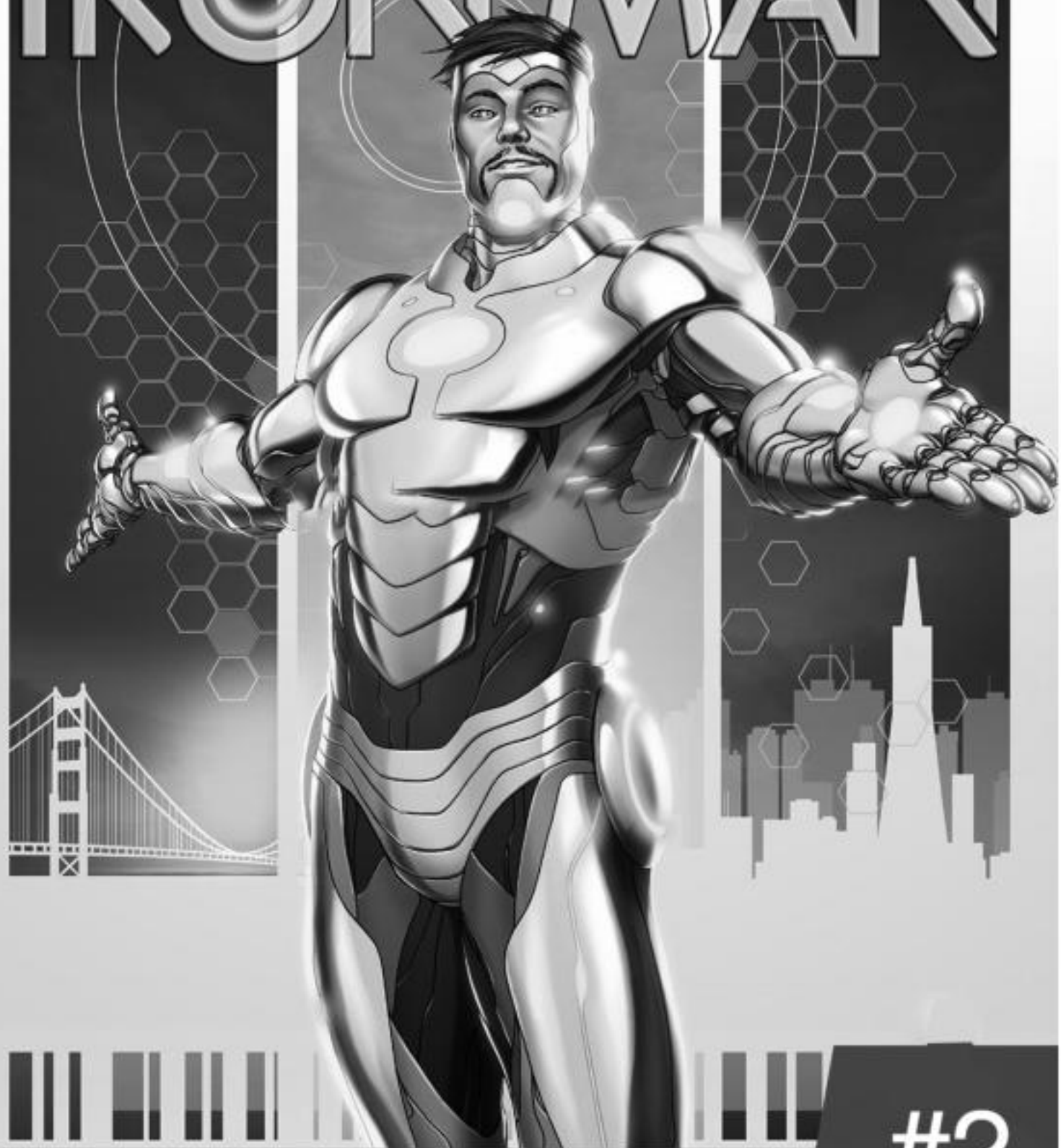


# SUPERIOR IRON MAN



#2

MARVEL

AVENGERS  
NOW!

STARK ISLAND.





YOU'RE  
THIRTEEN  
YEARS OLD,  
WHICH MEANS  
YOU PRETTY  
MUCH KNOW  
NOTHING.

SO HERE'S  
SOME ADVICE  
BASED ON  
WORLDLY  
EXPERIENCE.



YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIRECT SO MUCH AGGRESSION  
TOWARDS A GUY WITH ALMOST INFINITE RESOURCES WHO  
WORKED OUT HOW TO STAB RIGHT THROUGH YOUR  
UNSTABBABLE SKIN.





"SHE WORKED FOR  
YOU AT STARK INDUSTRIES.  
HER NAME WAS..."

KATRINA!

WHERE  
HAVE YOU  
BEEN?

AND WHY  
IS HE  
HERE?

HE'S  
SICK.

AND, WHAT?  
YOU THOUGHT  
YOU'D BRING HIM  
IN TO SHARE HIS  
ILLNESS WITH  
THE REST  
OF US?

I  
COULDN'T  
GET A  
SITTER.

TODAY? HE HAD  
TO GET SICK  
TODAY?

I CAN'T CONTROL  
ILLNESS, STEVEN.  
NOT YET.

DID WE  
GET THE NEW  
SHIELDING?

YES, IT'S  
NOT AS THICK  
AS WE REQUESTED,  
BUT IT'S  
ADEQUATE.

GREAT.  
"ADEQUATE"  
IS WHAT YOU  
WANT WHEN YOU'RE  
EXPERIMENTING  
WITH GAMMA  
RAYS.

TK  
TK  
TK

ACQUISITIONS  
WOULDN'T APPROVE  
THE EXPENDITURE.

IT'S LIKE  
STARK WANTS  
HIS COMPANY  
TO FAIL.

WILL HE  
EVEN BE HERE FOR THE  
DEMONSTRATION?

I DON'T KNOW. YOU  
CLEARLY HAVE MORE  
ACCESS TO HIM THAN  
WE DO.

WHAT'S THAT  
SUPPOSED TO  
MEAN?

I'M  
SORRY--





NAAARGHHH!

TOOOOOM









DECEMBER  
THIRTEENTH,  
EIGHT YEARS  
AGO.

IT WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE A GIANT  
LEAP FORWARD  
FOR CANCER  
TREATMENT.

IF IT  
WORKED, IT  
WOULD HAVE MADE  
THE GAMMA KNIFE\*  
LOOK LIKE A BLUNT  
INSTRUMENT.

*\*THE GAMMA KNIFE IS  
A REAL MEDICAL TOOL  
AND NOT SOMETHING  
BRUCE BANNER INVENTED.  
-DOC PANIC!*



TWO  
PEOPLE WERE  
CRITICALLY  
INJURED.



YOU  
REMEMBER?

I  
REMEMBER  
READING THE  
REPORT. SOME OF  
THOSE DAYS  
ARE A BIT...  
HAZY.



MY MOM SAID  
IT HAPPENED  
BECAUSE YOU WERE  
NEGLECTING THE  
COMPANY.

I  
WAS.

SHE WAS  
FIRED.



BY  
ME?

NO. SHE  
COULDN'T  
SEE YOU.



YEAH, I  
WAS ALWAYS BUSY  
BACK THEN. LEADING  
A DOUBLE LIFE DIDN'T  
LEAVE MUCH ROOM  
FOR THE LITTLE  
THINGS.

LITTLE  
THINGS?



AND THAT  
WAS THE DAY  
THE BLACK LAMA  
RETURNED.

WHAT?

"AN INTERDIMENSIONAL CRAZED KING WITH A GOLDEN ORB."

YES, FIGHT.

FIGHT AND BE MY CHAMPION, WHIPLASH!

WH-KSHHH

LISTEN TO ME, BLACK LAMA!

ON YOUR WORLD, YOU ARE A GOOD KING. THIS UNIVERSE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR MIND.

YOU HAVE TO RESIST IT. YOU HAVE TO RETURN AND--

CHZZZ

"HE SET UP THESE BIZARRE TRIALS. IT WAS A LAST-MAN-STANDING KIND OF THING.

"WHOEVER WON WOULD TAKE THE BLACK LAMA'S POWER AND HIS KINGDOM."

YES, DESTROY HIM!

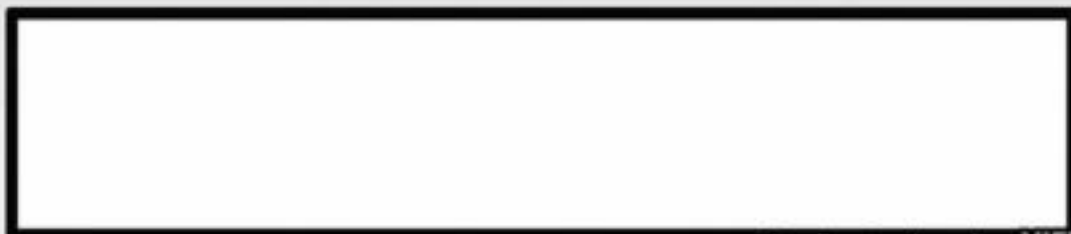
KILL HIM AND BE MY CHAMPION!

"BASICALLY, HE'D COMPLETELY LOST IT."

CRUNCH









AND THEN?



I...



I CAN'T REMEMBER.



HOW DID A LLAMA BEAT YOU?

WHAT?



I MEAN, IT HAS HOOVES. HOW DID IT HOLD THE ORB THING? WAS IT TIED AROUND ITS NECK OR...?

I WASN'T FIGHTING A--



HE WAS A POWERFUL MYSTIC!

HUH?

A LLAMA, ONE 'L'. LIKE A GIRL.



YOU WERE PICTURING ME FIGHTING AN ACTUAL LLAMA?

WELL... YEAH.

YOU...  
FORGET IT.



















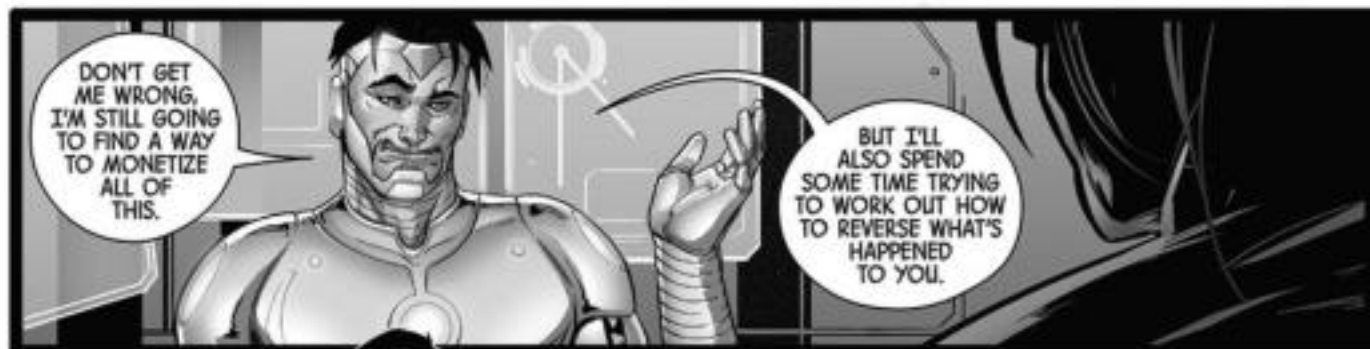
YOU'RE THE SON OF ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE I ACTUALLY CARED ABOUT.

I AM GOING TO HELP YOU NOW.

YOU ALREADY SAID YOU WERE GOING TO HELP ME...?



YES, BUT IN ACTUALITY, I WAS GOING TO PULL YOU APART AND WORK OUT WHAT YOUR CELLS ARE DOING IN ORDER TO HARNESS YOUR CONDITION FOR FUN AND PROFIT.



DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M STILL GOING TO FIND A WAY TO MONETIZE ALL OF THIS.

BUT I'LL ALSO SPEND SOME TIME TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW TO REVERSE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.



WE'LL START TOMORROW.

DO YOU NEED TO GO OUT AND PROTECT THE CITY?



NO, I'VE SET UP A HUGE NETWORK OF FLOATING CAMERAS THAT MONITOR THE ENTIRE POPULACE AND CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS.

NO ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO IS DOING ANYTHING THEY SHOULDN'T BE. THEY KNOW THEY'RE BEING WATCHED. MOST OF THEM ARE JUST THINKING UP REALLY CREATIVE WAYS NOT TO BE NAKED.