

ACTS of VENGEANCE!

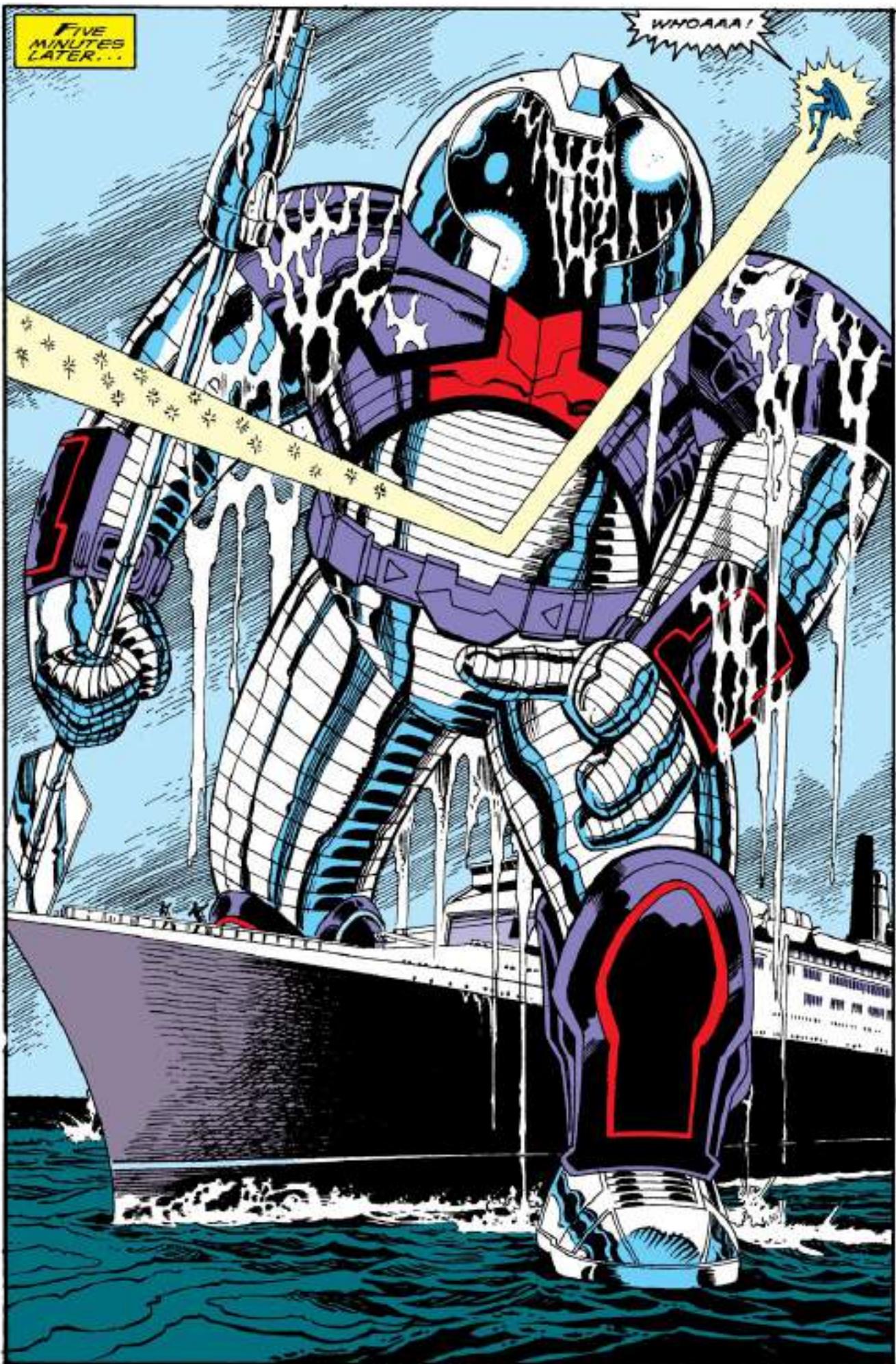
AVENGERS

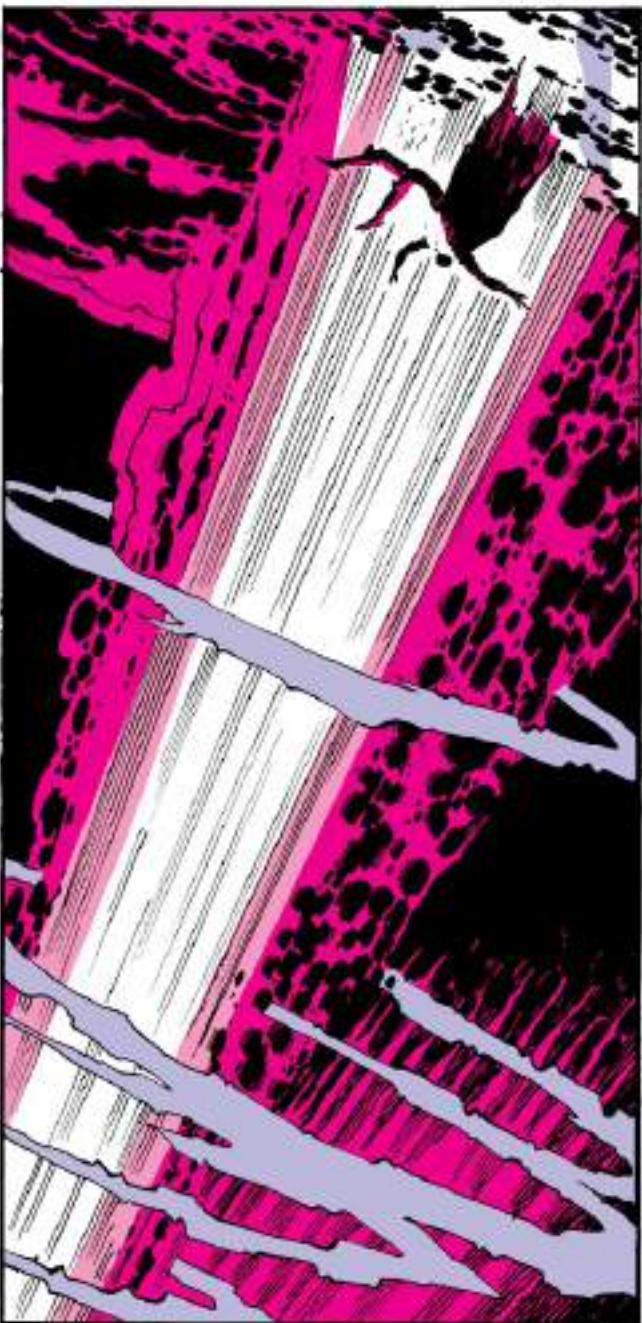
#3

MARVEL

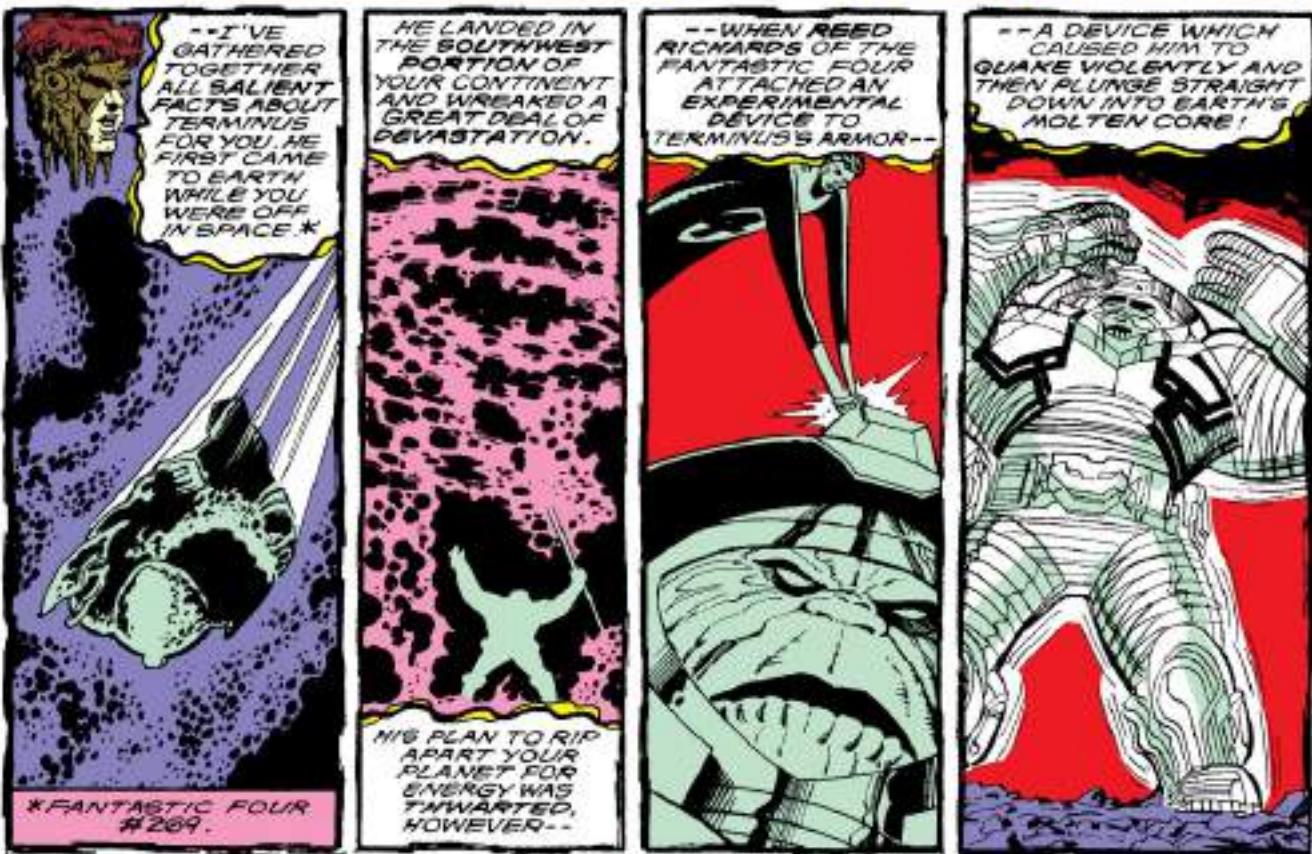
FIVE
MINUTES
LATER...

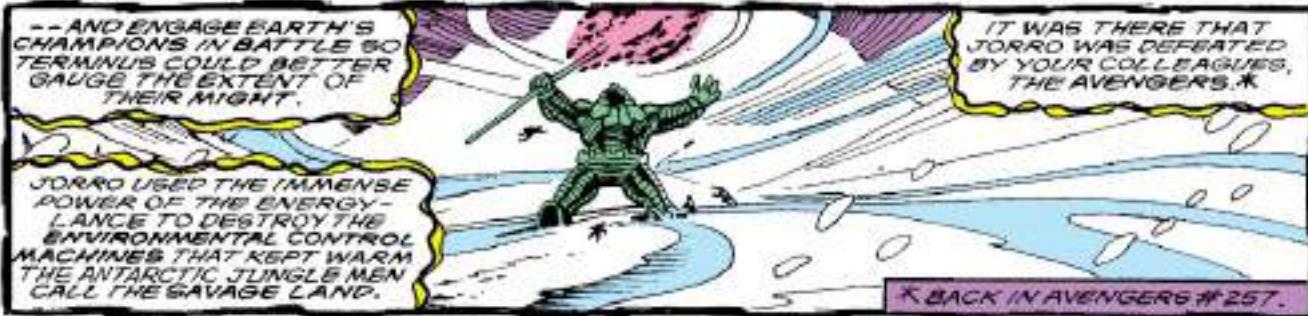
WHOAAA!



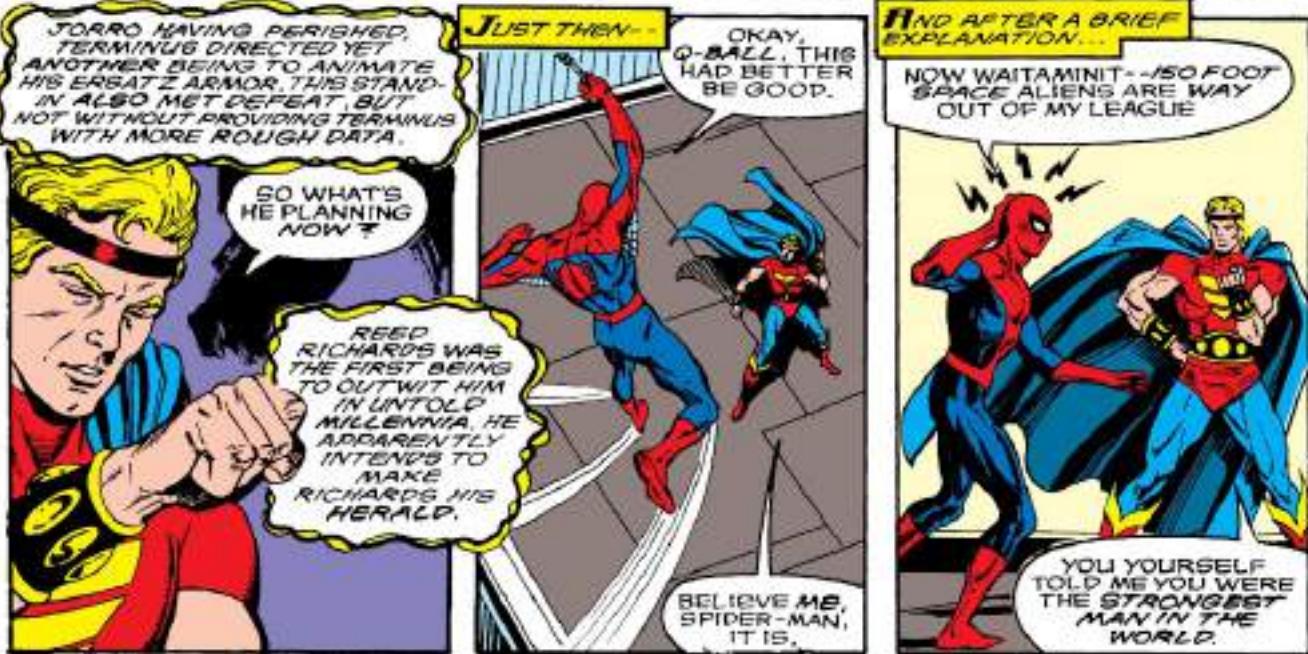


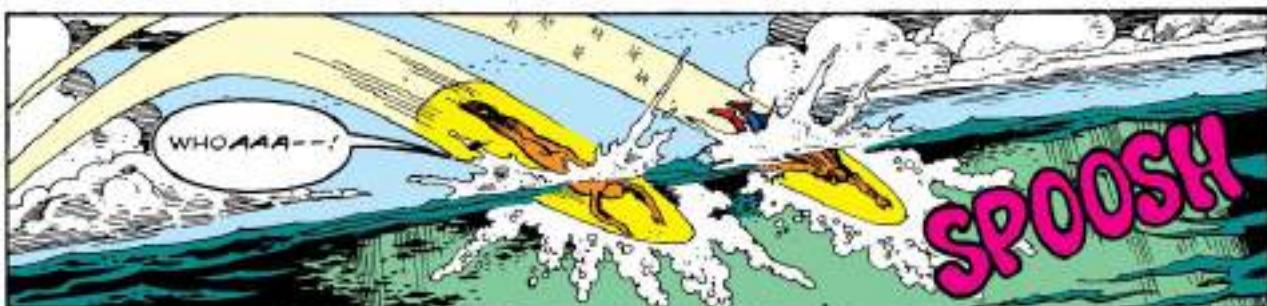


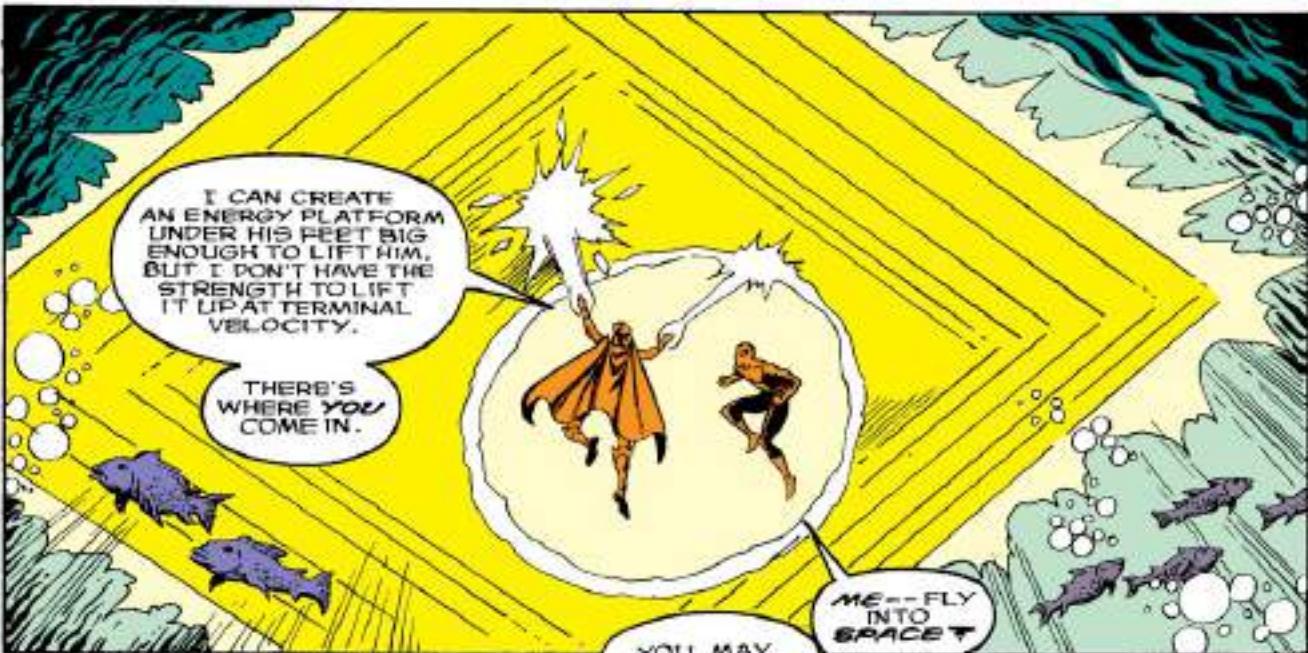




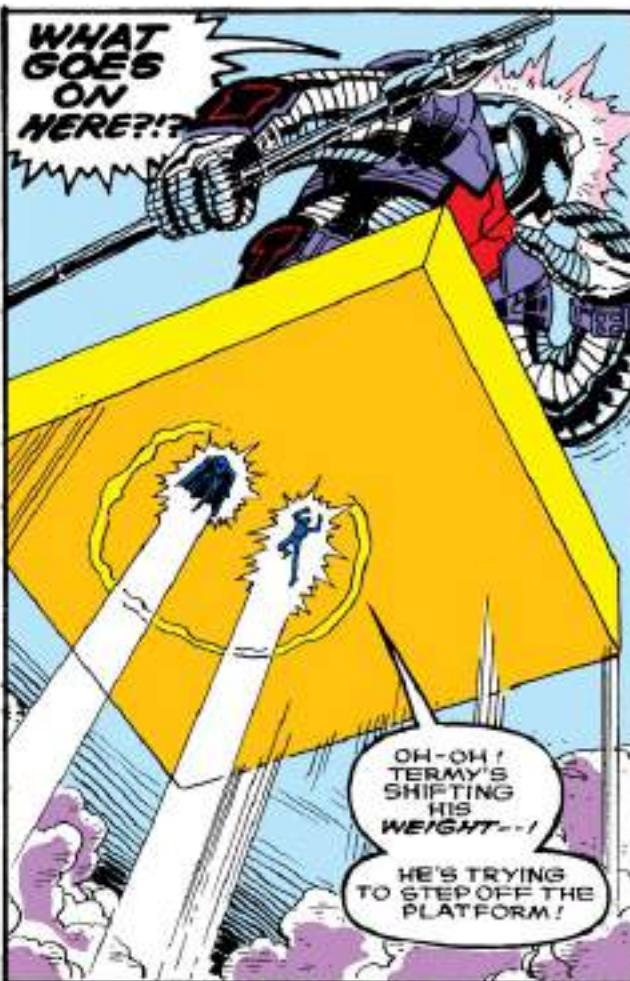
*BACK IN AVENGERS #257.

















Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

CAPTAIN AMERICA

MAGNETIC REPULSION

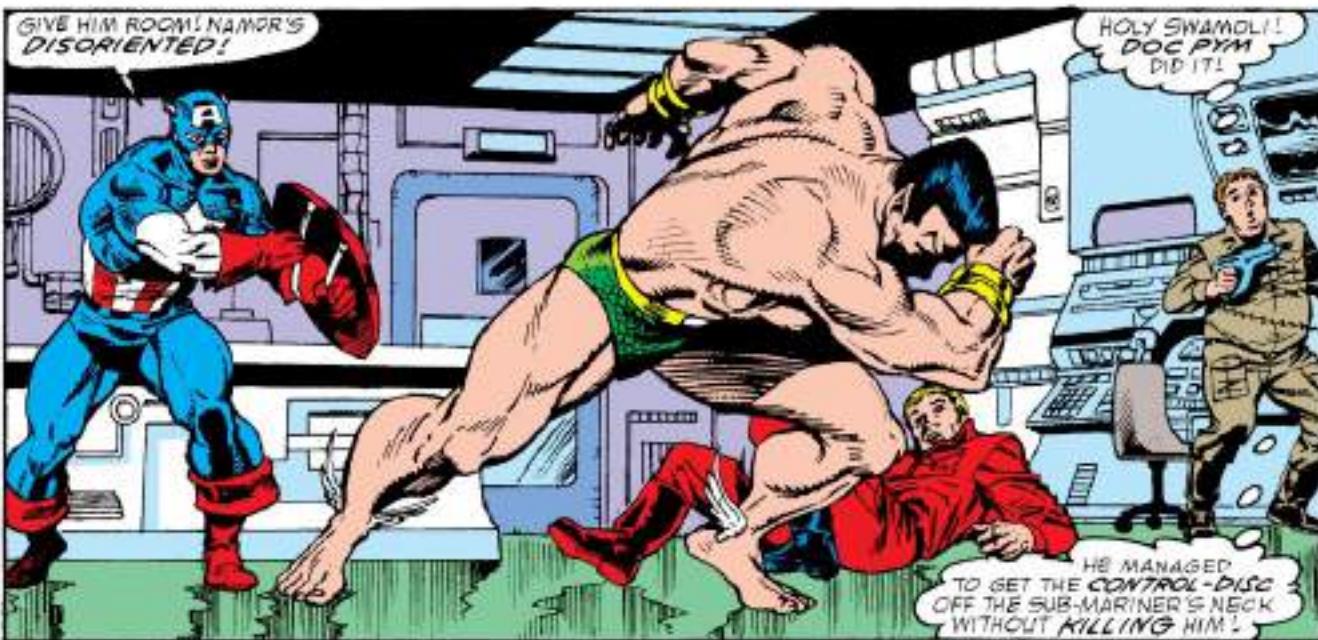
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS...

NAMOR...?

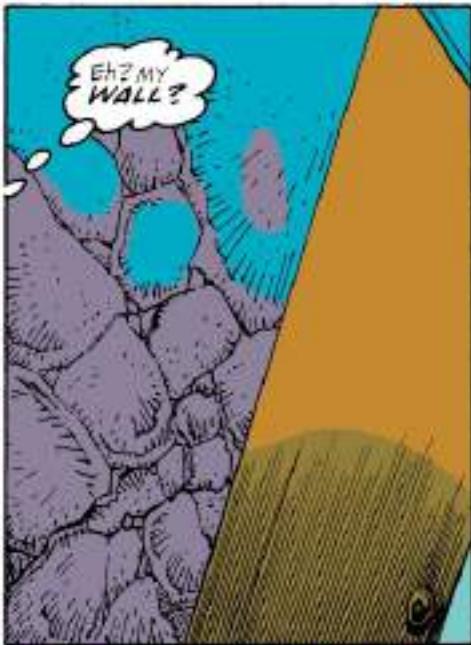
NYAAGH!

Whoza!

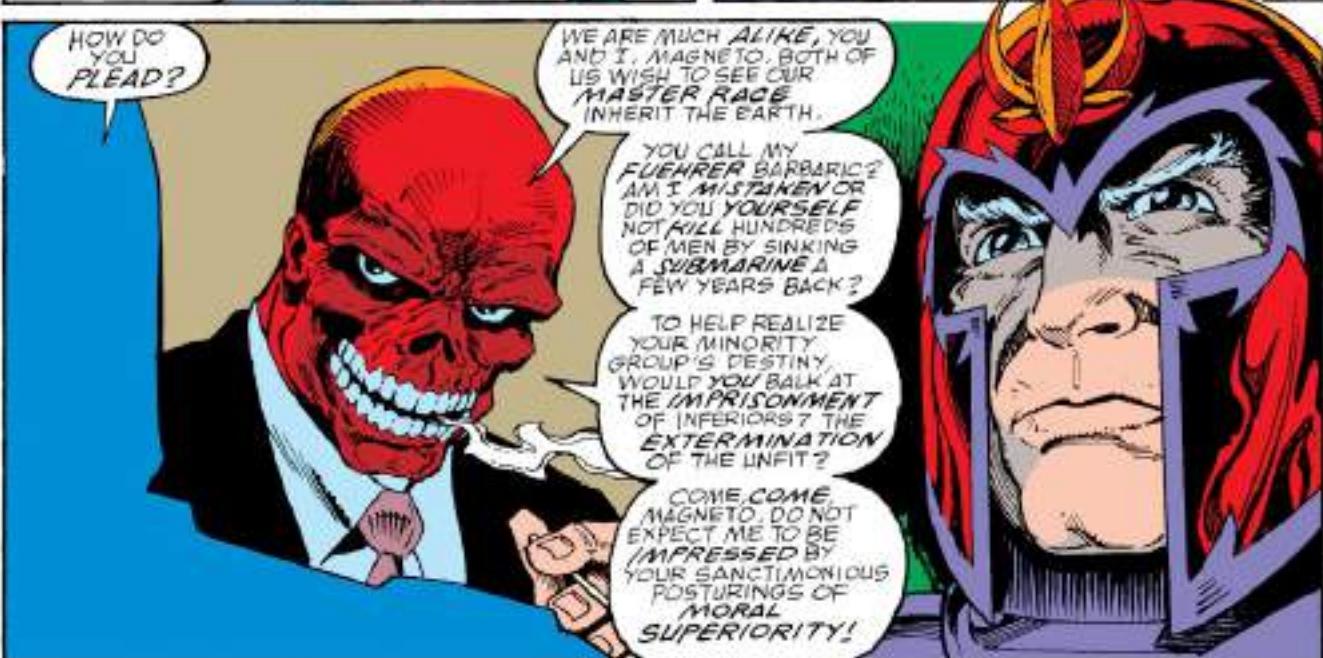
GRUENWALD
DWYER
BULANADI
MORELLI
BUCCELLATO
MACCHIO
DEFALCO
DO IT AGAIN!











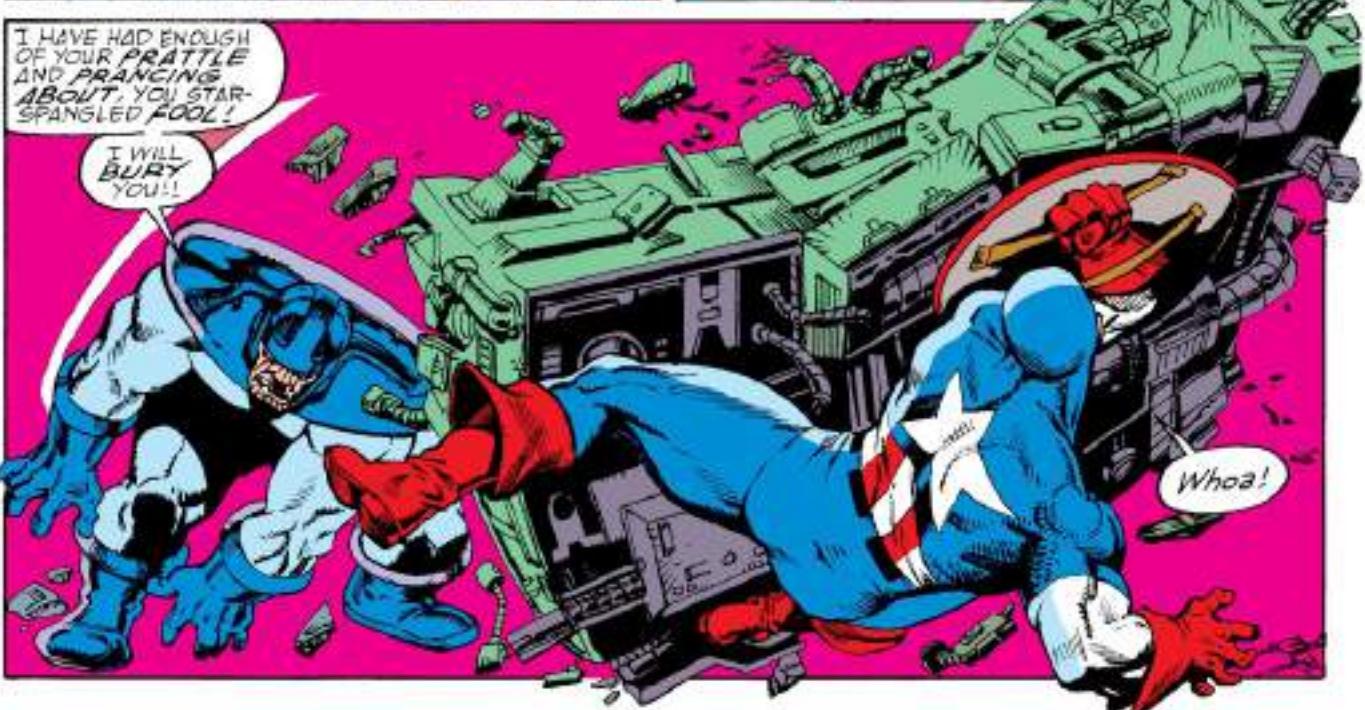


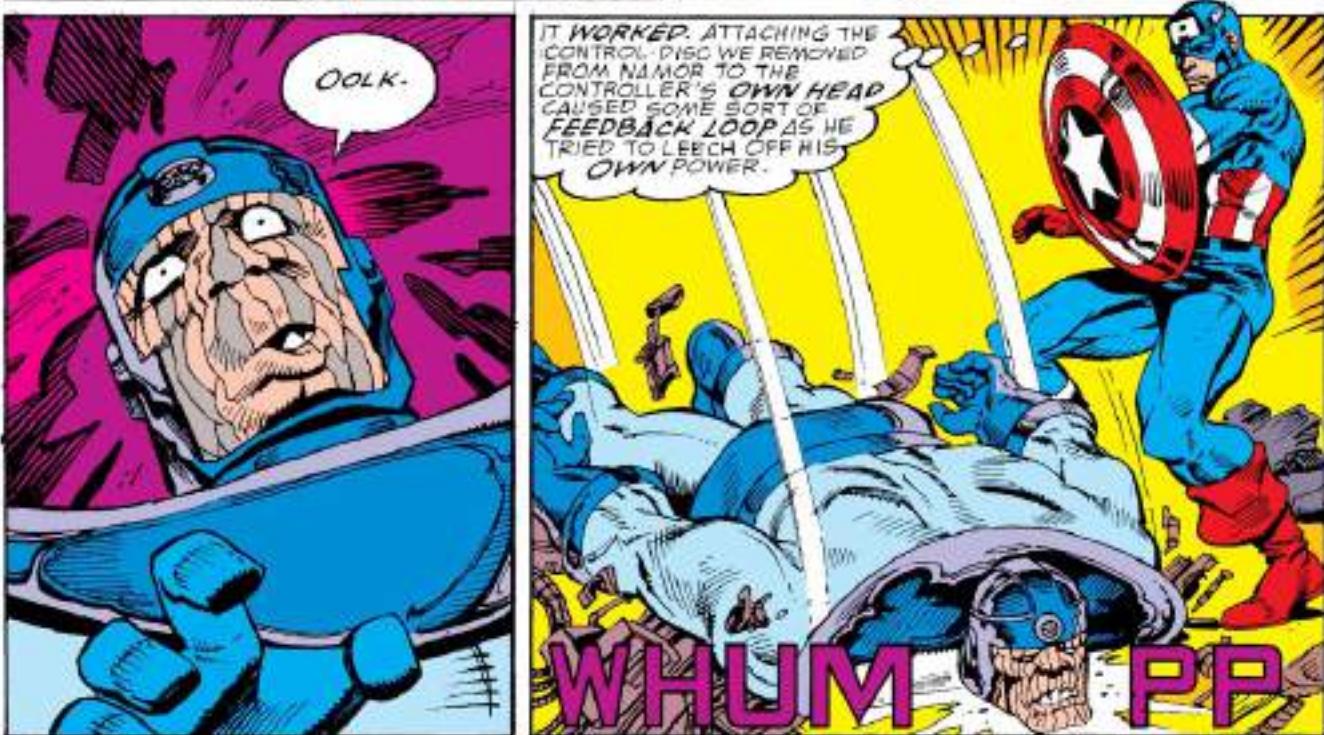




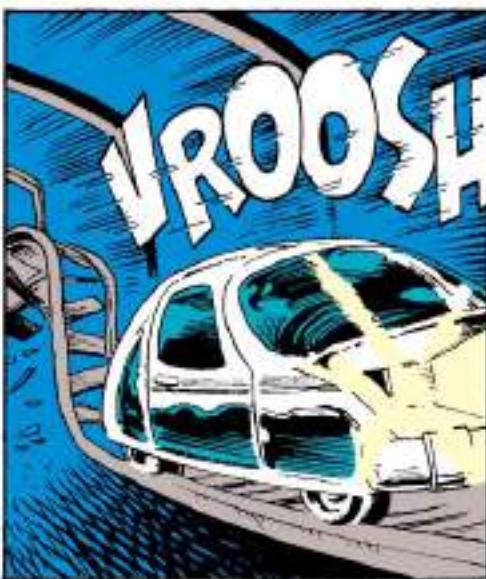
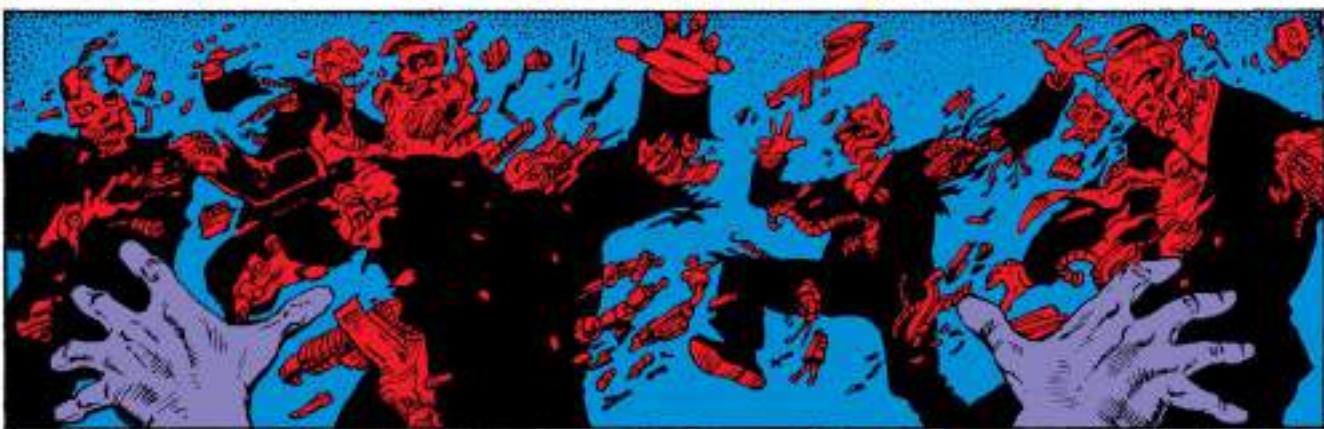


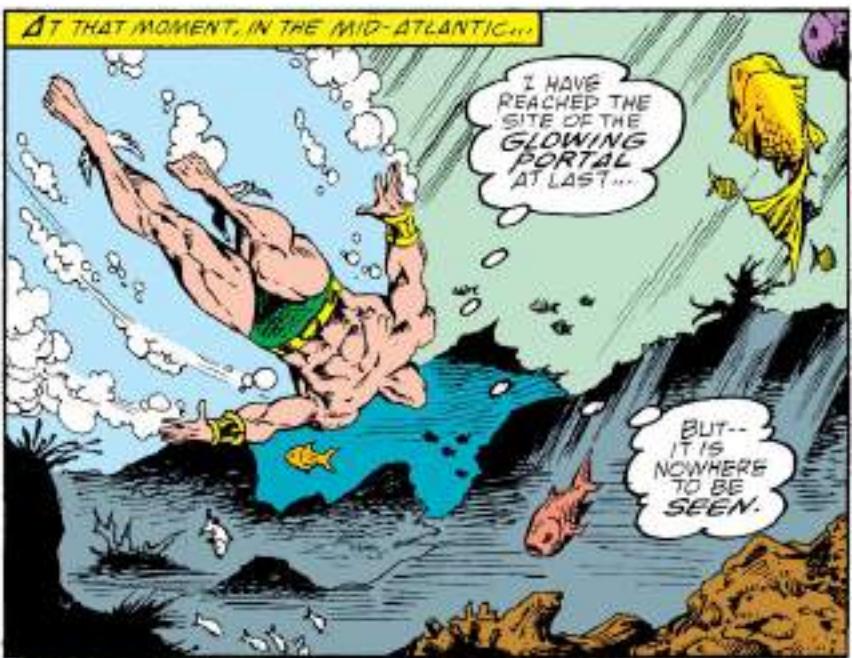








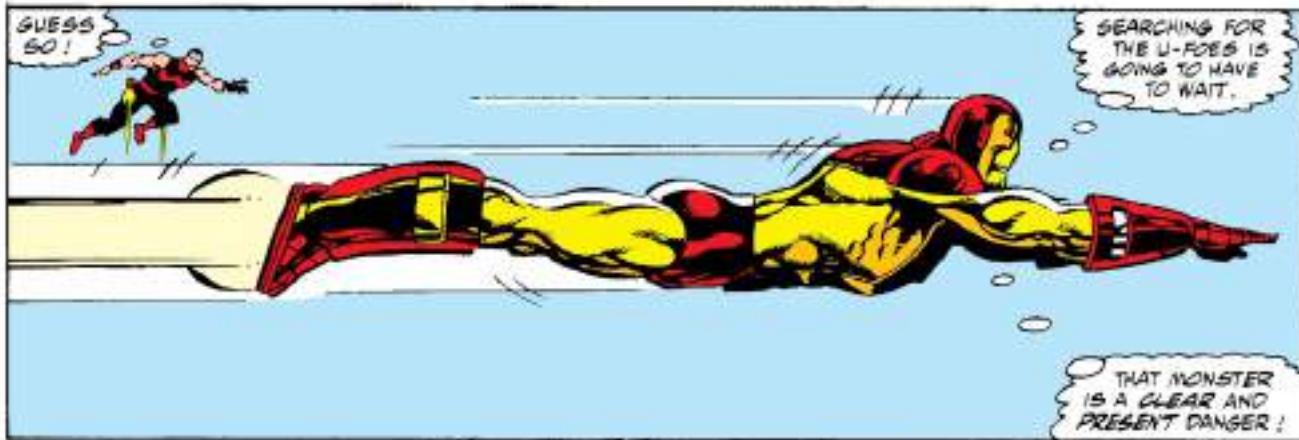






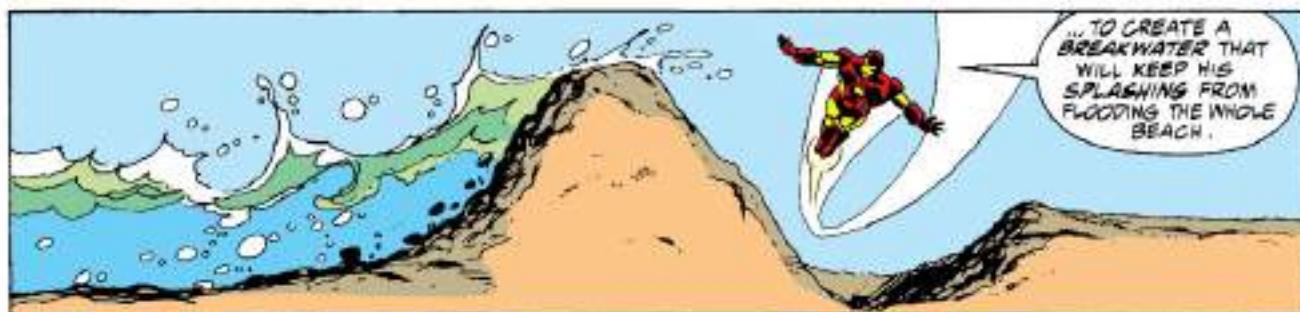
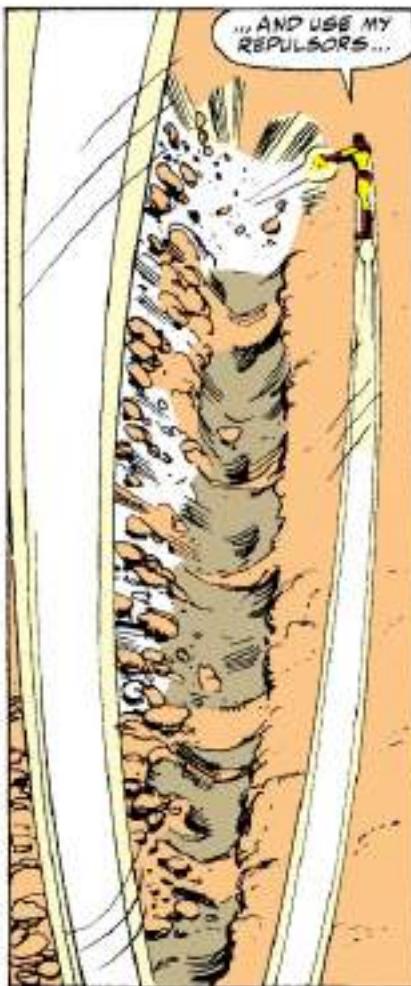




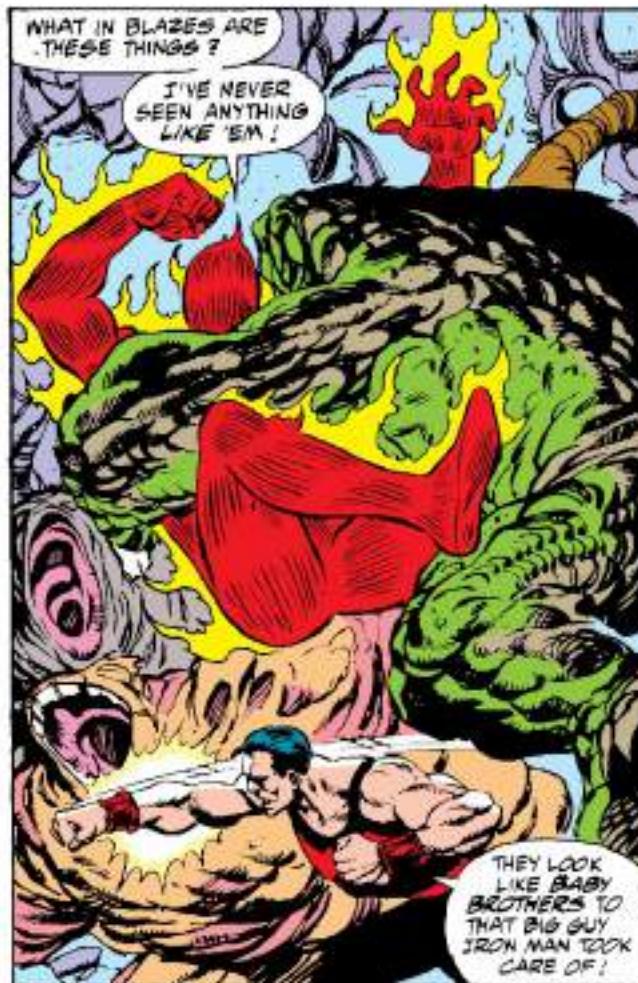












AT THAT MOMENT, SOME
MILES TO THE EAST...

...AN AVENGERS
QUINJET STREAKS
ABOVE THE ROCKY
MOUNTAINS,
GUIDED BY ITS
INFALLIBLE
AUTOPilot...

HOW'S SHE
DOING,
HANK?

NOT TOO
WELL, JAN.

SHE'S COMPLETELY
UNRESPONSIVE
AGAIN.

IT'S FOR
ALL THE WORLD
AS THOUGH HER BRAIN
HAS JUST SWITCHED
OFF!

CAN'T YOU BRING
HER OUT OF IT? YOU
DID ONCE BEFORE
ALREADY.

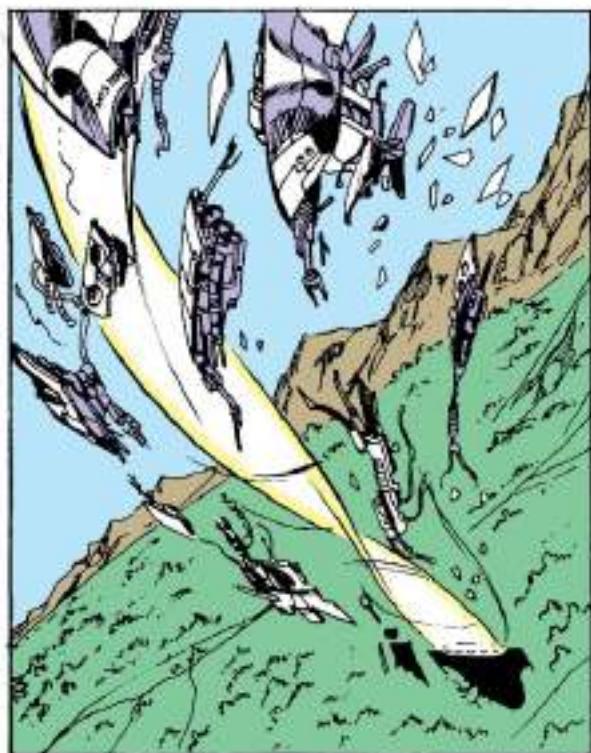
YES, BY TELLING HER
THE VISION WAS IN DANG-
ER. BUT THE VISION
HAS ELECTED TO REMAIN
IN NEW YORK...

AND I DON'T
THINK THAT KIND OF
"SHOCK THERAPY"
SHOULD BE
REPEATED
ANYWAY.

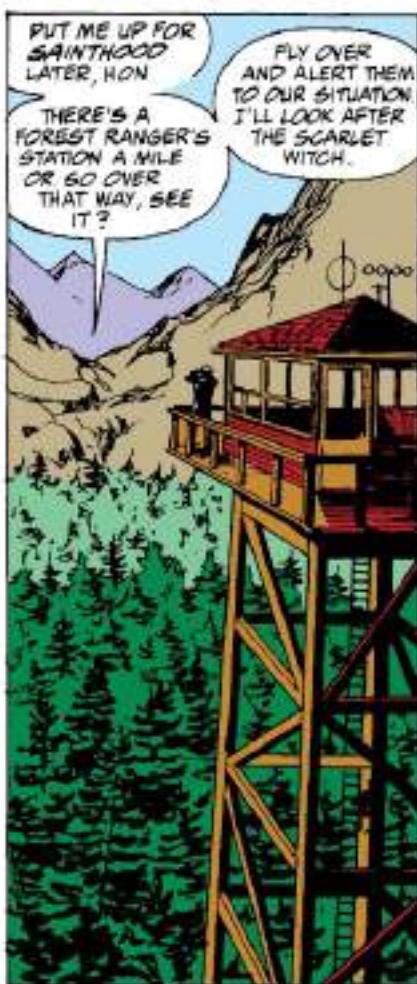
BUT WHAT
CAN WE DO FOR
HER? WE CAN'T
JUST--

OMIGOSH!
HANK!
LOOK!!







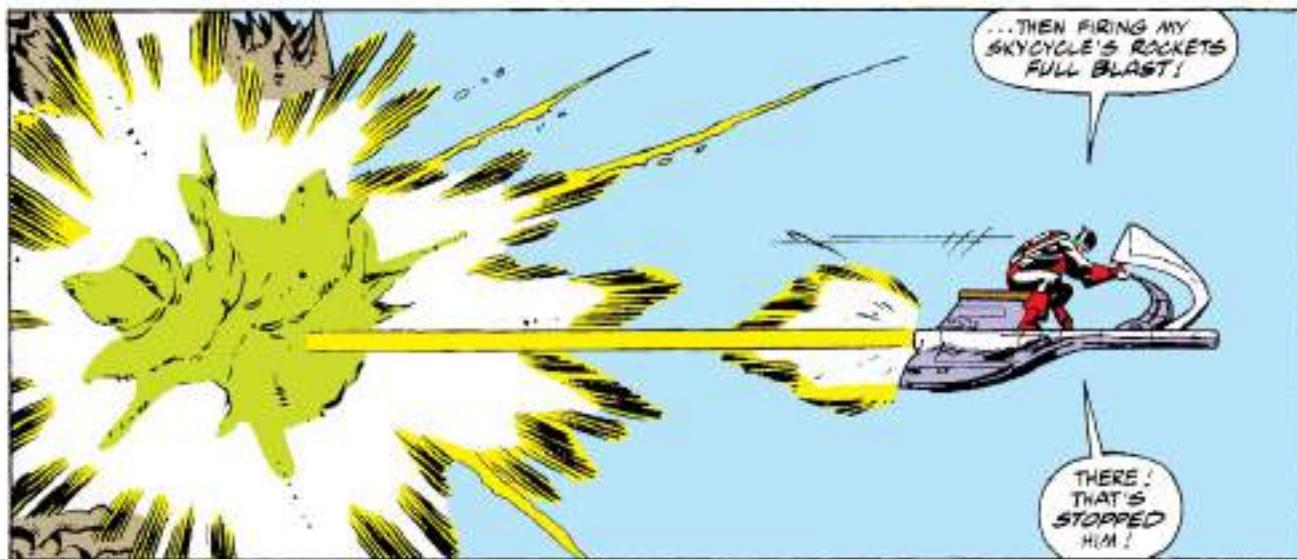
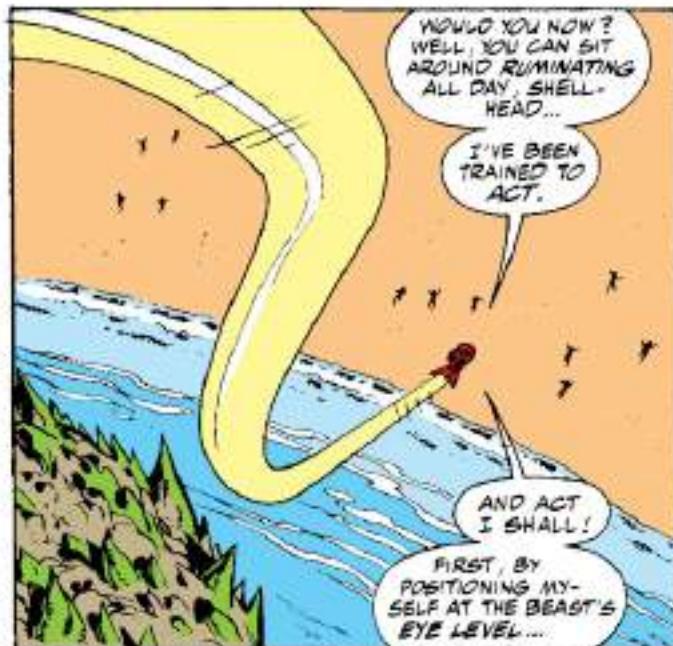


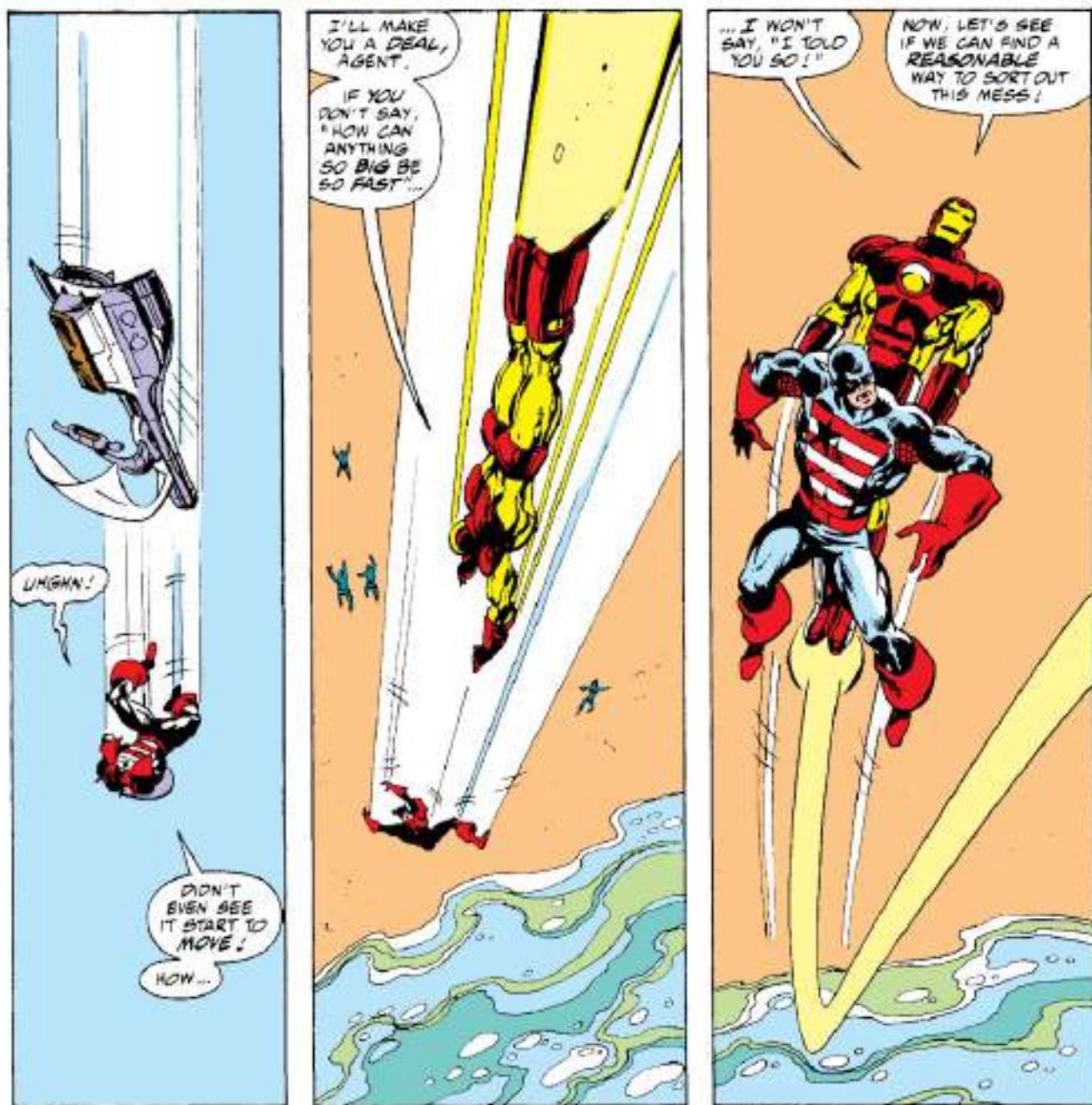
SOON ENOUGH YOU WILL LEARN THE TRUE OBJECTIVE BEHIND THE EVENTS YOU HAVE SEEN UNFOLD BEFORE YOU THIS DAY.

"BUT IT DOES NOT SUIT ME THAT YOU YET LEARN THE TRUE ARCHITECT OF THIS PLAN IS MAGNETO, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM!"





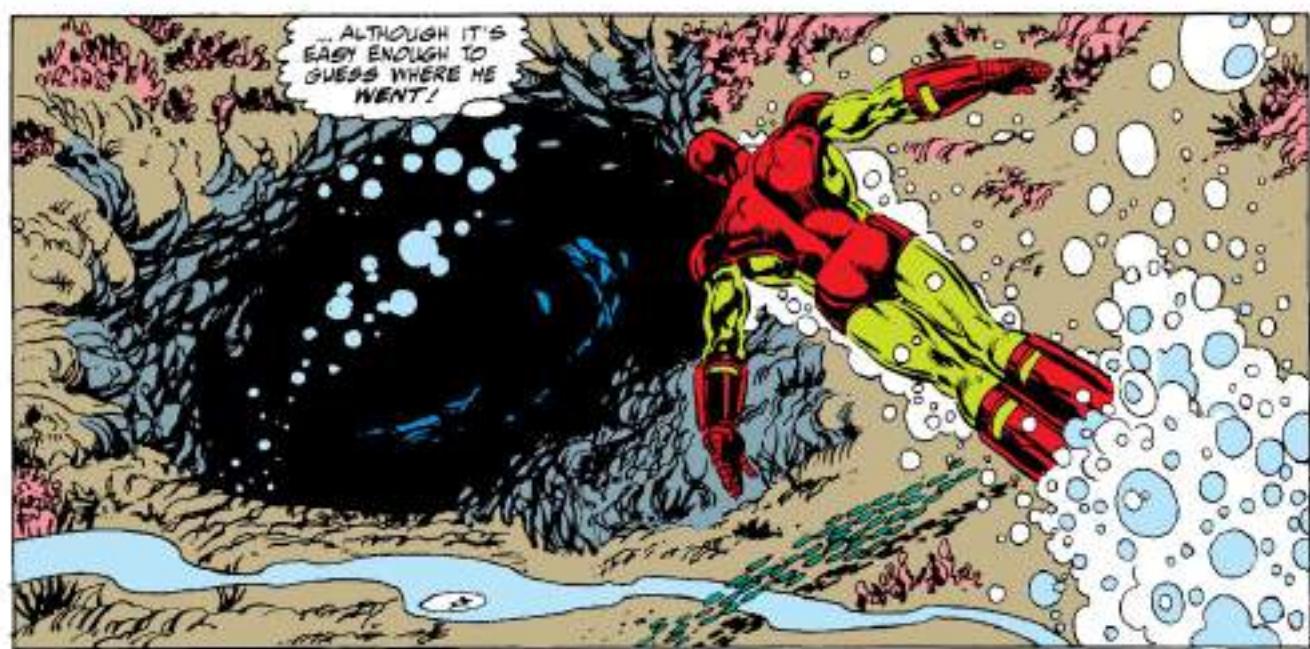
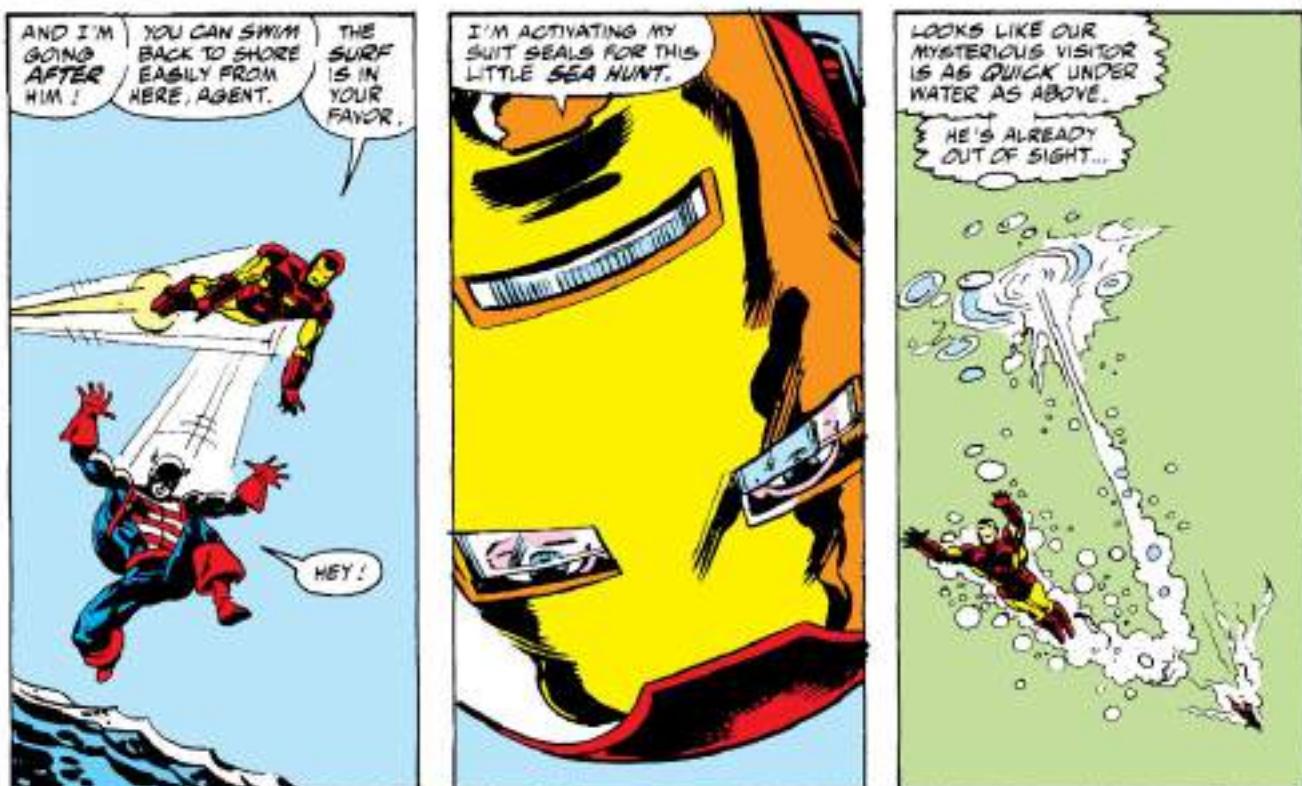
















MUTANT MISADVENTURES OF CLOAK & DAGGER #9 pinups by
John Byrne, Mark Texeira, Walter Simonson & Charles Vess

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

HAWKEYE DENVER DOUBLES

ONCE UPON A TIME
EVERYONE LIKED
SUPER HEROES!!

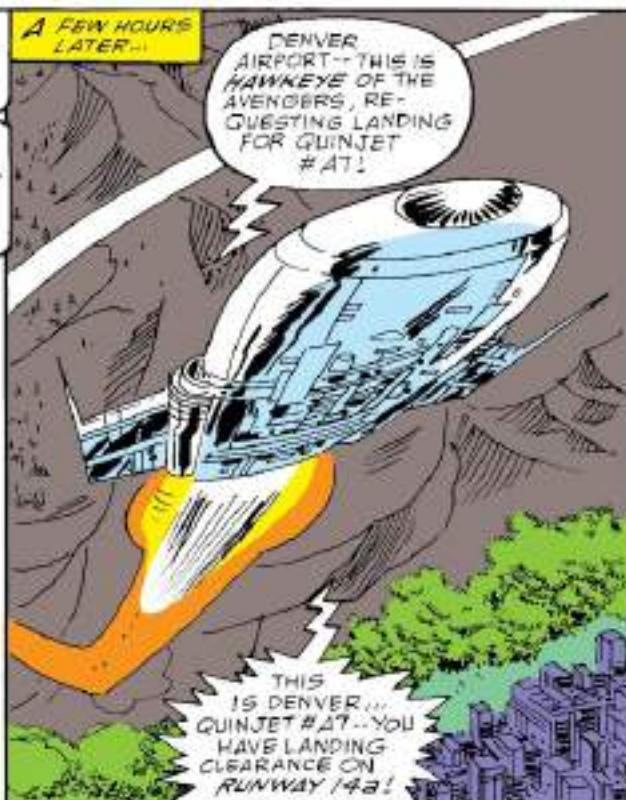
-BUT THEN ALL KINDS
OF WEIRD STUFF
STARTED HAPPENING!

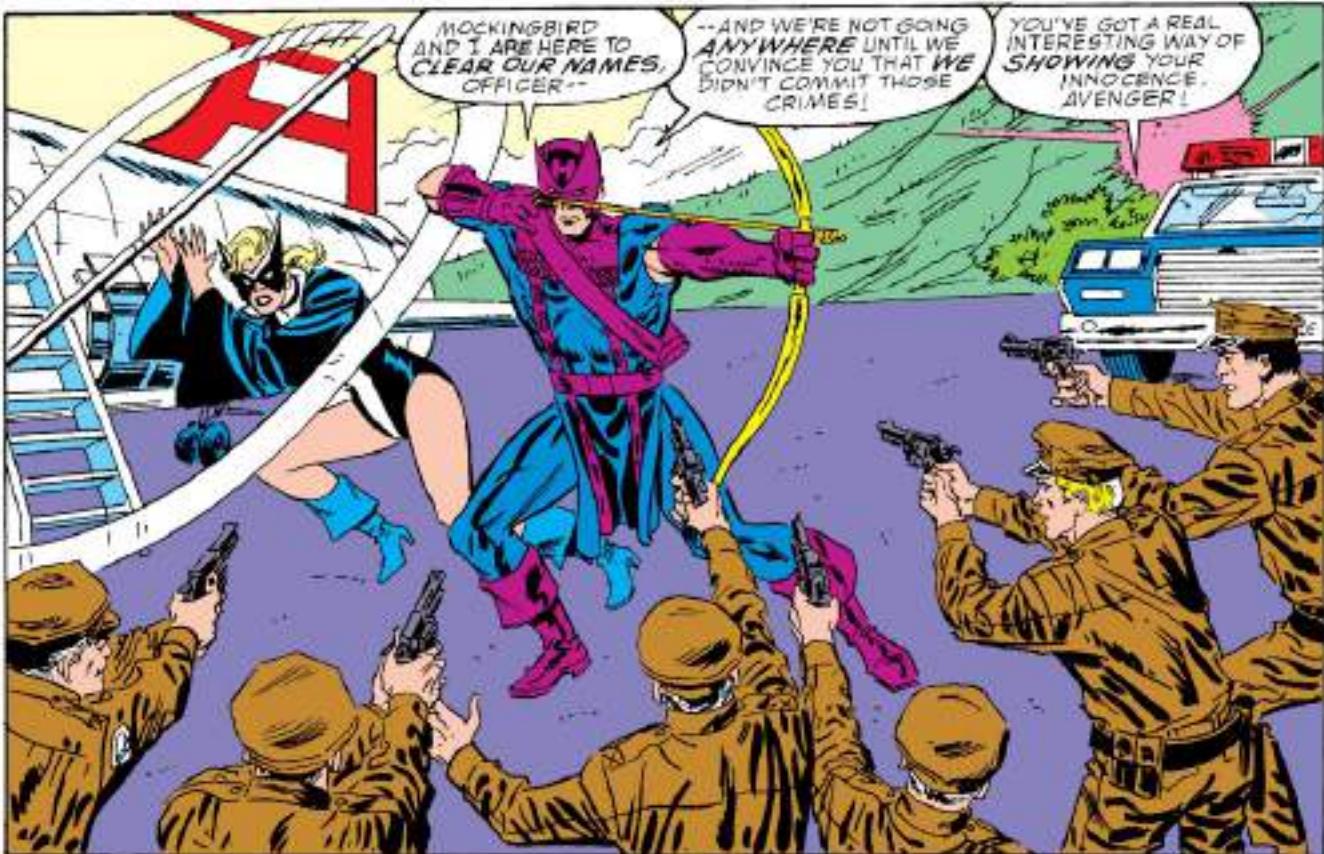
PLEASE,
MR. HAWKEYE!
D-DON'T HURT
ME!!



MACKIE · MILGROM · HECK MORELLI
BECTON GRUENWALD · DeFALCO



















WONDER MAN THE WASP

THE MAN SITTING ON THE BUNK IS THE CRIMINAL MASTER-MIND KNOWN AS THE MAD THINKER.

HE IS POSSESSED OF A LEVEL OF GENIUS RARELY SEEN ON THIS PLANET. HIS BRAIN IS THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ORGANIC COMPUTER. AND GIVEN SUFFICIENT DATA, HE IS CAPABLE OF PREDICTING THE FUTURE WITH A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY.

THE GAP BETWEEN "A HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY" AND PERFECTION EXPLAINS HIS CURRENT PRISON STAY. THE THINKER WAS CONTENT TO SPEND SOME TIME HERE CALCULATING PRECISELY WHERE HIS LAST PLAN WENT AWRY.

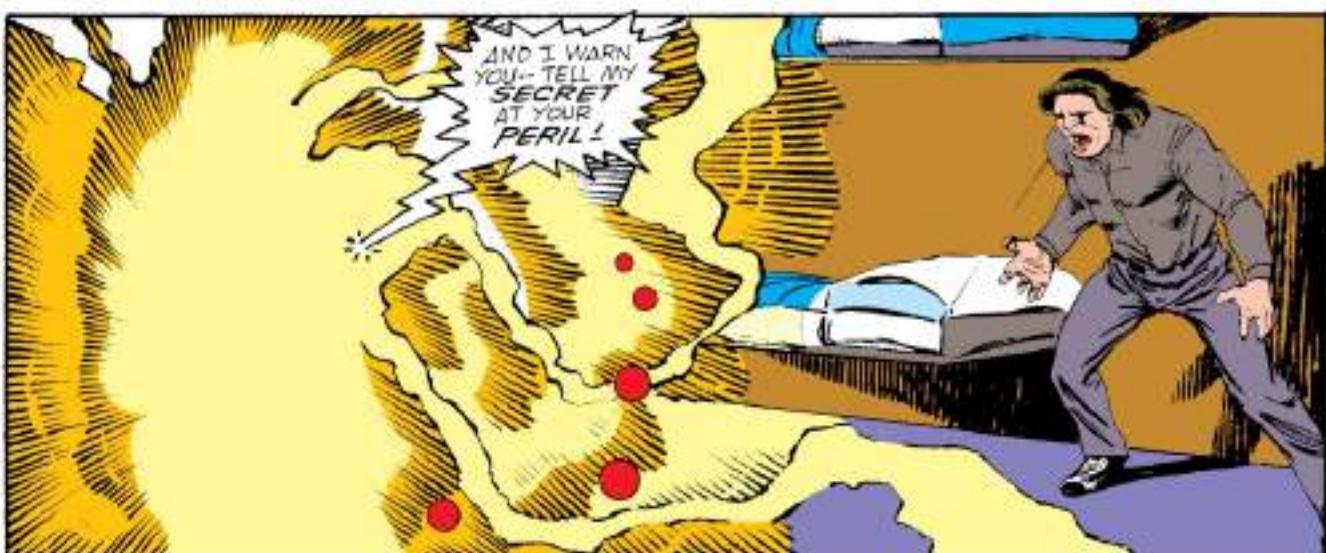
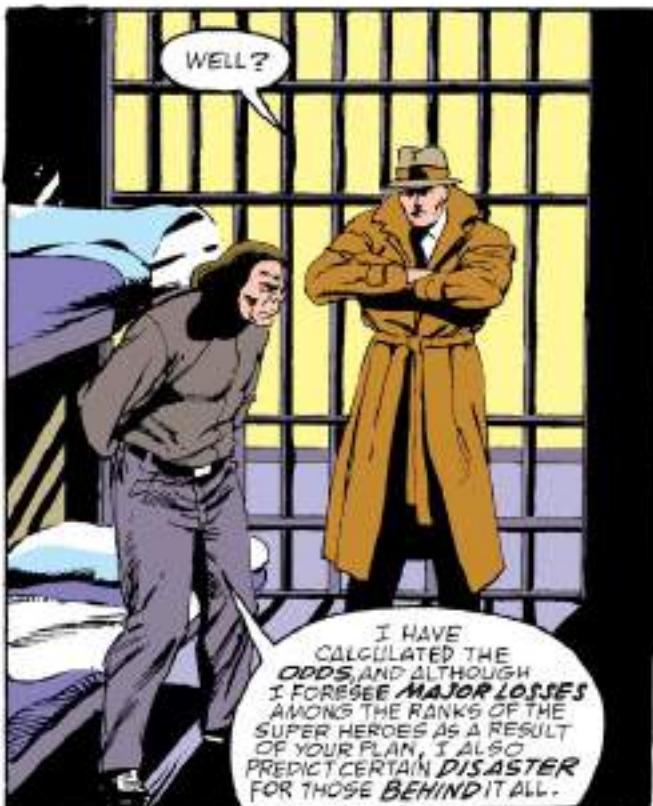
BUT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE MYSTERIOUS MAN IN THE TRENCHCOAT APPEARED AND ASKED THE THINKER TO JOIN A GROUP OF OTHER SUPER-VILLAINS IN CAREFULLY PLANNED ACTS OF VENGEANCE THAT WOULD DESTROY ALL OF THEIR ENEMIES FOREVER.

THE MAD THINKER REPLIED, NOT SURPISINGLY, THAT HE WOULD "THINK ABOUT IT."

SO HE DOES.

SECOND THOUGHTS

DWAYNE McDUFFIE * DWAYNE TURNER * CHRIS IVY * JACK MORELLI * MIKE ROCKWITZ * GREG WRIGHT * MARK GRUENWALD * TOM DEFALCO
WRITER PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS MANAGING ED. EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF





THE CAPITOL BUILDING, WASHINGTON,
D.C. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER.

INSIDE, EXPERT WITNESSES
TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS ON
THE PROPOSED "SUPER-POWERS
REGISTRATION ACT", A BILL THAT
WOULD FORCE THOSE WITH
SUPER-POWERS TO REGISTER
THEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

OUTSIDE, ON THE CAPITOL
STEPS, THE PUBLIC, IN THE
FORM OF DEMONSTRATIONS
FROM BOTH PRO-AND ANTI-
REGISTRATION ACT ORGAN-
IZATIONS, IS MAKING ITS
FEELINGS KNOWN...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
CLARION, THE CIVIL LIBER-
TARIANS AGAINST REGIS-
TRATION IN OUR NATION,
IS PROUD TO INTRO-
DUCE OUR NEXT TWO
SPEAKERS --

-- THEY ARE BOTH SUPER-POWERED
AVENGERS, ONE A BONAFIDE MOVIE
STAR, THE OTHER A WEALTHY
SOCIALITE --

ME EITHER,
SIMON, I'M GOING
TO WING IT!

I'M NERVOUS,
JAN. I STILL
DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M GOING TO
SAY...

WELL, HO
HO HO...

-WONDER MAN
AND THE WASP--?

I'M GARGRINT...UH, GLARGUNT...AH,
OH, YEAH...

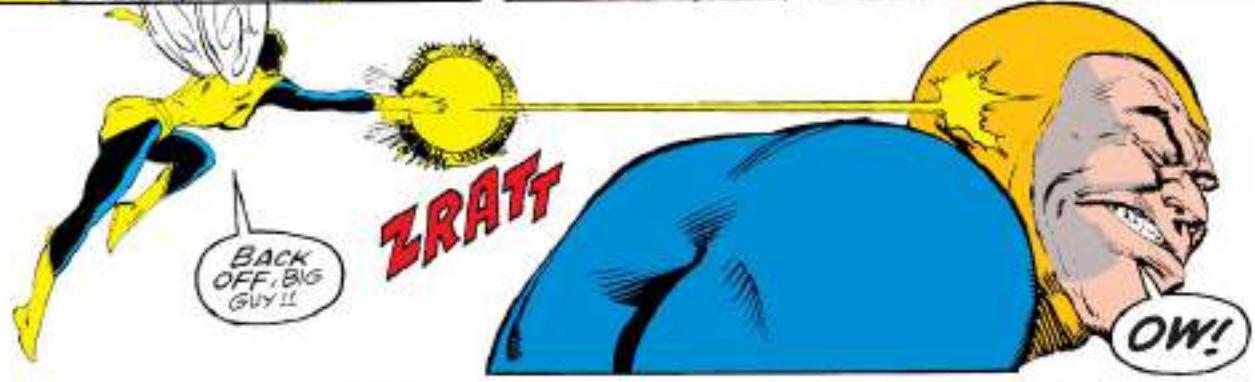
GARGANTUA!!

RIGHT?

WHAT THE
HECK IS
THAT?!















STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

the MIGHTY THOR

ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE,
HIGH ABOVE THE STREETS
OF MANHATTAN, STANDS
A VERY CONFUSED AND
FRUSTRATED ERIC
MASTERSON...

'WITHIN ME
DWELLS A
MONSTER!'

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?!

I'M ONLY A SIMPLE
ARCHITECT! HOW DID
MY LIFE EVER GET SO
BLASTED
COMPLICATED?

NOT ONLY HAVE I
BEEN PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY
MERGED WITH THE
MIGHTY THOR...

--BUT MY EX-WIFE
HAS SUDDENLY RETURNED
TO FIGHT ME FOR CUSTODY
OF OUR SON--

--AND I WAS ALMOST
KILLED RECENTLY WHEN
I EXPERIENCED ANOTHER
ONE OF THOSE RECURRING
SPELLS OF WEAKNESS
WHILE I WAS
BATTLED THE
JUGGERNAUT!*

*SEE THE TWO
PRECEDING
ISSUES--RALF

THOR'S PICTURED BY RON FRENZ
PENCILED BY TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ

LETTERED BY MICHAEL HEISLER

COLORED BY NEL YOMTOV

DRAWN BY RALPH MACCHIO

FINISHED ART
JOE SINNOTT

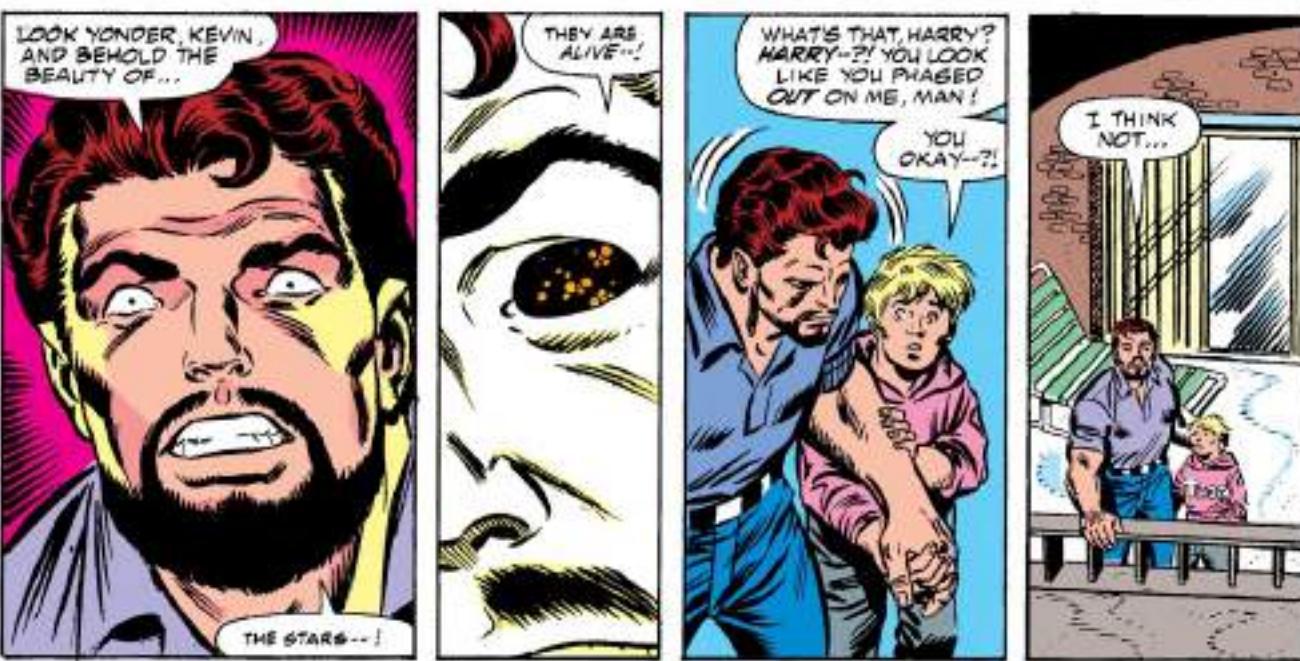
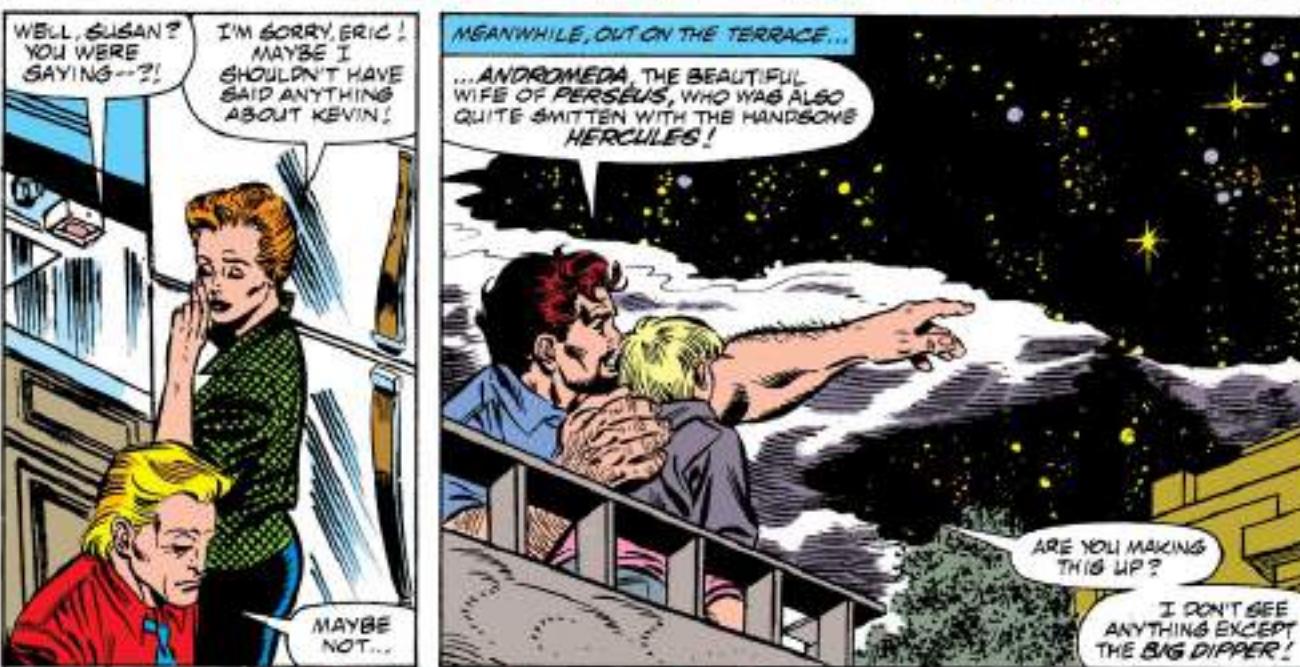
EDITED BY

RALPH MACCHIO



SOMETIME LATER, IN THE APARTMENT OF ERIC MASTERSON, SUSAN AUSTIN, HIS YOUNG EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, VOICES HER CONCERN...













THOR AND HERCULES VANISHED THE MOMENT THEY ENTERED THAT BUILDING!



CAN YOU PENETRATE THEM? SUCH A QUESTION IS UNWORTHY OF AN ANSWER!



DOCTOR STRANGE MAY PROVE QUITE MEPPLESOME -- AND COULD INTERFERE WITH MY CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED ACTS OF VENGEANCE!



THIS AMULET CONTAINS AN ENCHANTED ENHANCER WHICH WILL TEMPORARILY GRANT YOU THE NECESSARY POWER TO DEFEAT THE SONS OF ODIN AND ZEUS!



THAT DOORWAY WILL LEAD YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION!



THE PORTAL VANISHED AS SOON AS I CROSSED IT!



I WONDER HOW THEY WILL REACT TO ME?



















DON'T MISS THE SPECTACULAR, SENSES-SHATTERING CONCLUSION TO THE ACTS OF VENGEANCE IN AVENGERS WEST COAST #55! AND REJOIN US HERE NEXT MONTH... WHEN GOLDILOCKS JOINS HERCULES IN A NO-HOLDS-BARRED SUPER-SLUGFEST WHICH COULD ONLY BE ENTITLED...

"BEYOND COURAGE, MUST I STRIVE!"

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

THIEVES' HONOR

THE PLACE: JUST
OUTSIDE AVENGERS
PARK, MANHATTAN.

THE TIME: NOW.

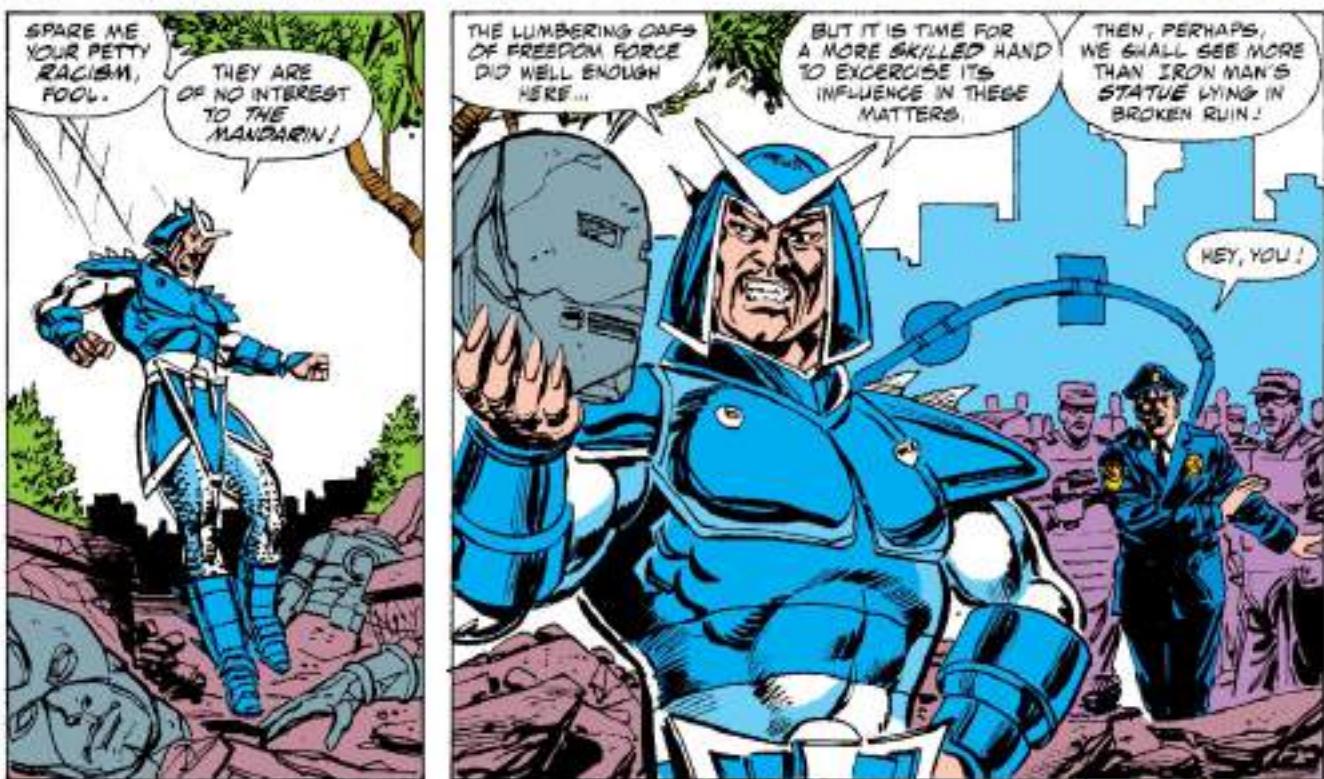
THE SITUATION:
EXPLOSIVE!



PAUL RYAN & TOM PALMER / JOHN BYRNE / BILL OAKLEY ~ LETTERER / HOWARD MACKIE / TOM DEFALCO
ARTISTS WRITER MIKE ROCKWELL - COLORIST EDITOR ED. IN CHIEF



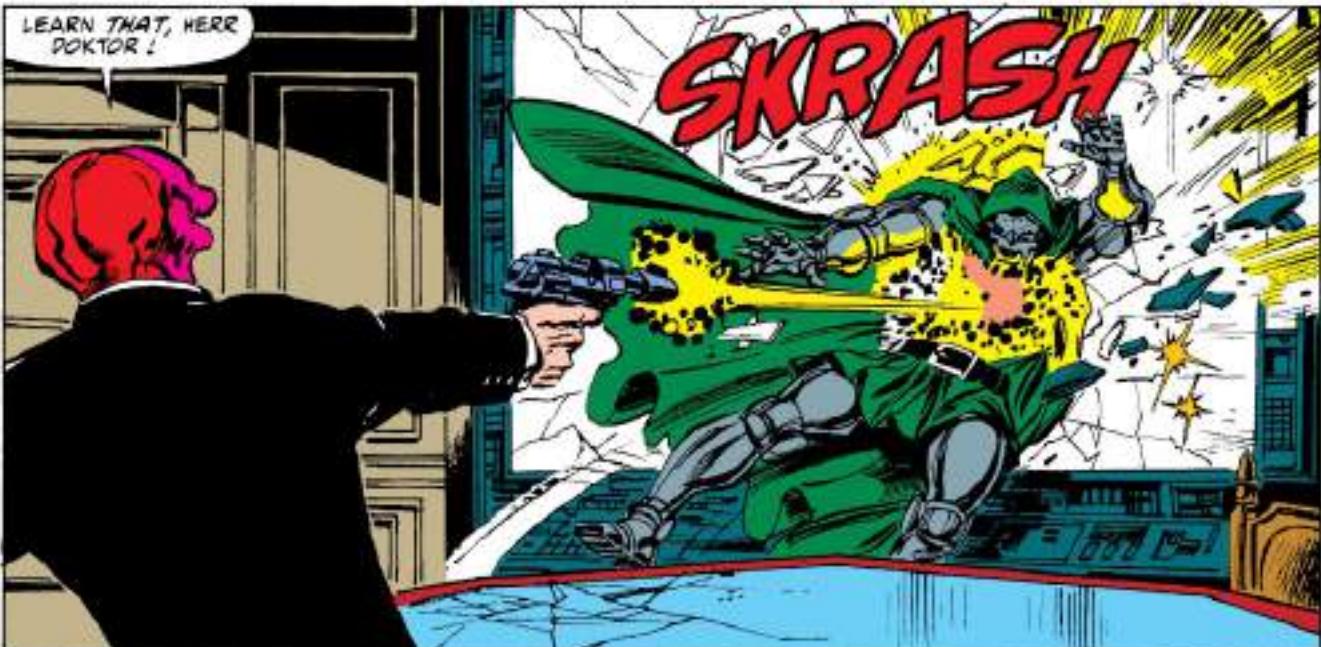






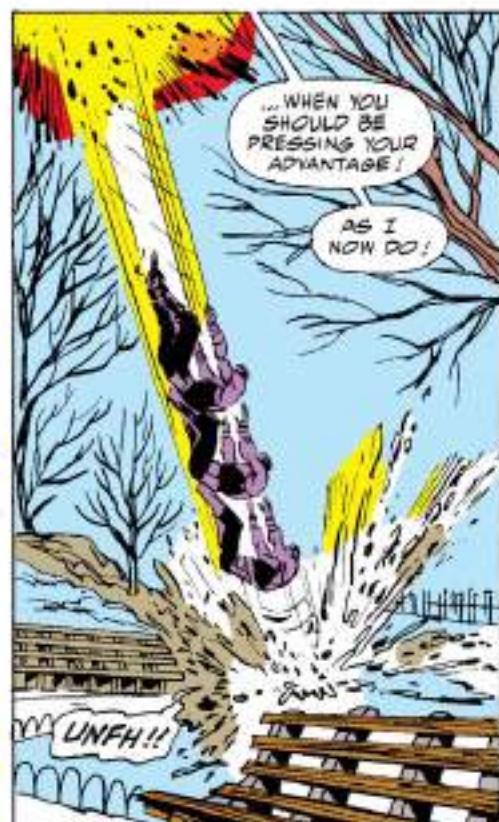




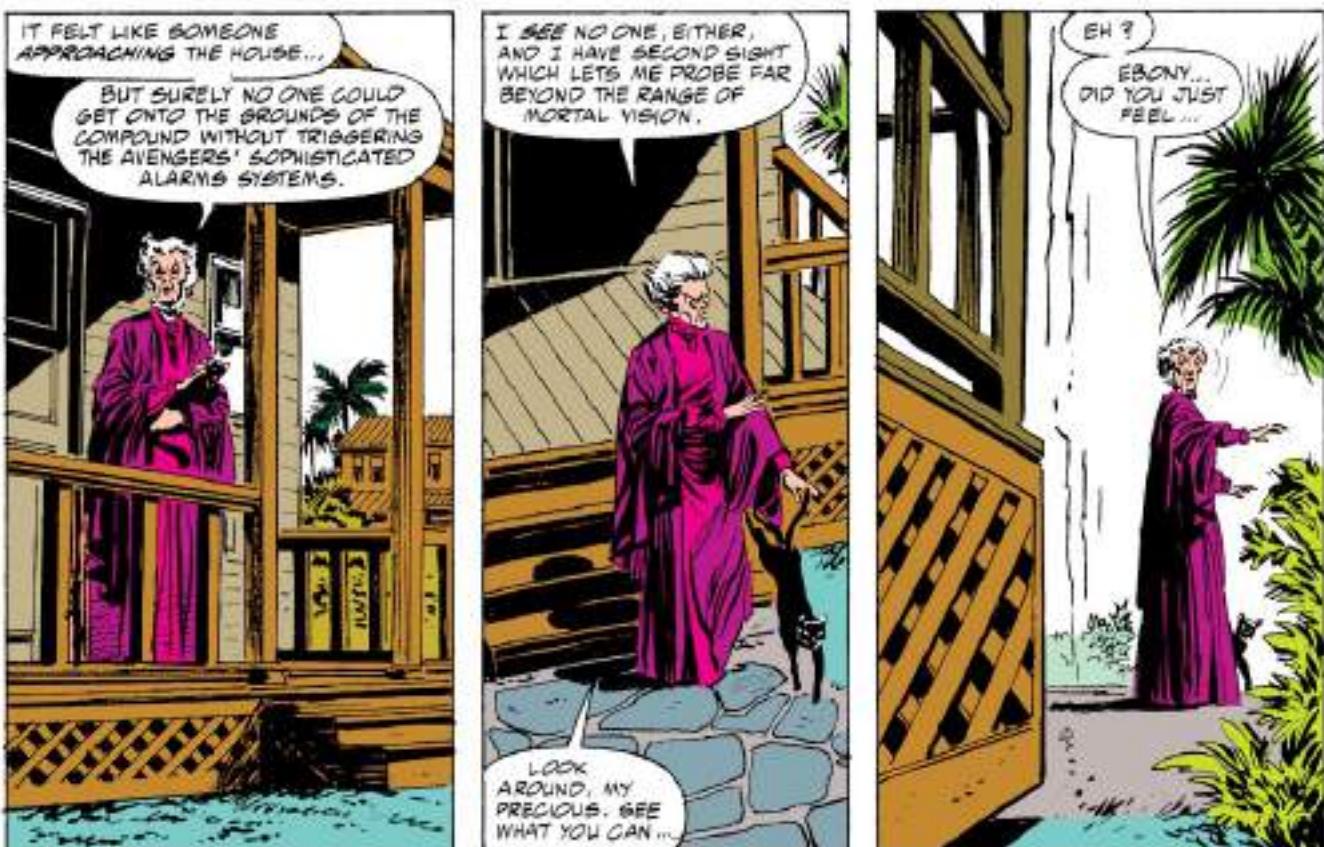


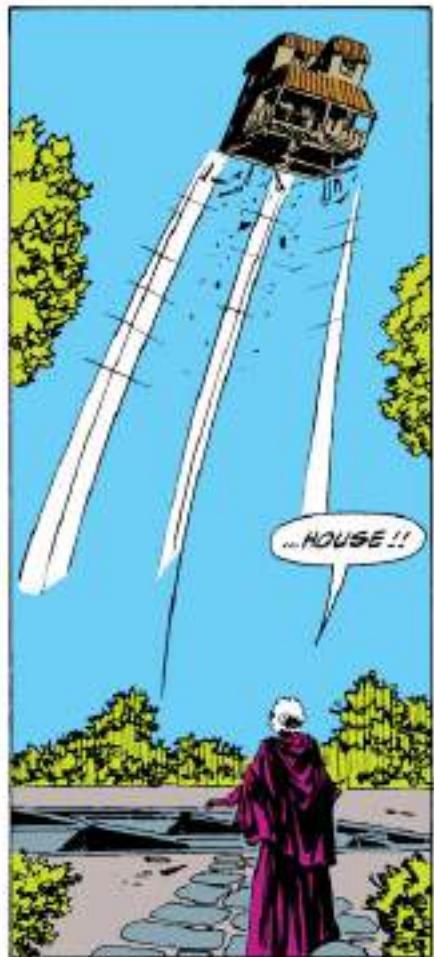
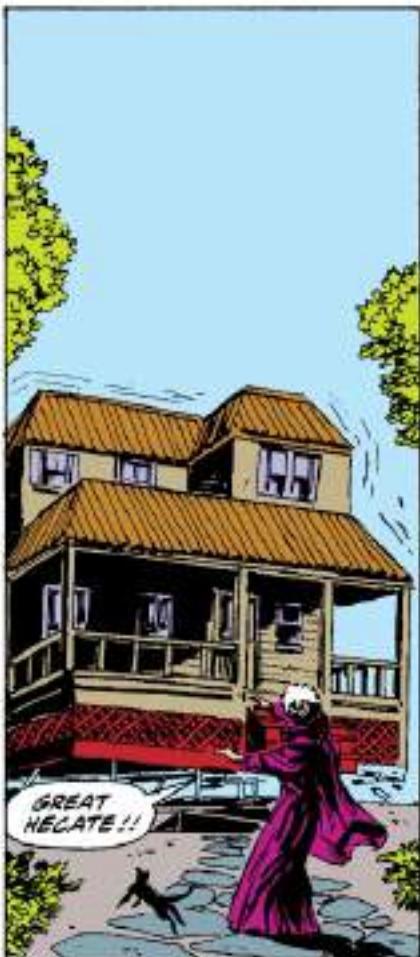








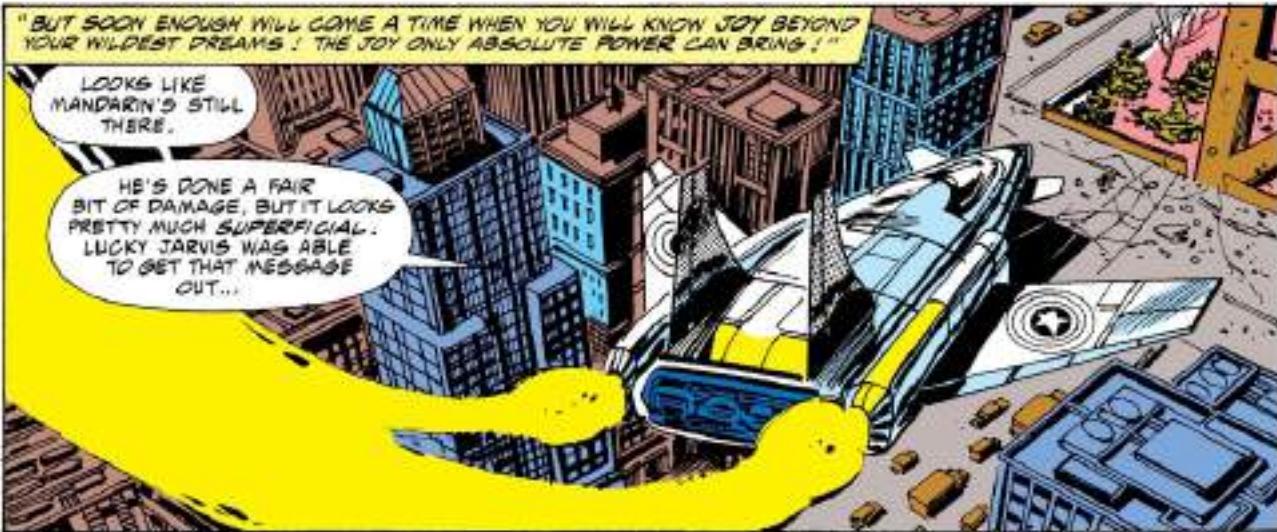




"BUT SOON ENOUGH WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU WILL KNOW JOY BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS : THE JOY ONLY ABSOLUTE POWER CAN BRING !"

LOOKS LIKE MANDARIN'S STILL THERE.

HE'S DONE A FAIR BIT OF DAMAGE, BUT IT LOOKS PRETTY MUCH SUPERFICIAL. LUCKY JARVIS WAS ABLE TO GET THAT MESSAGE OUT...



AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO RECEIVE IT!

NATASHA! HELLCAT! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT! WE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!



KEEP BACK WHILE I DO A QUICK RECON FLIGHT.

SINCE NEITHER OF YOU HAS SUPER-POWERS, WE DON'T WANT TO RISK...

BWOOOM



YOU WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT OTHERS, CAPTAIN...

...WHEN IT IS YOU WHO ARE MOST AT HAZARD!



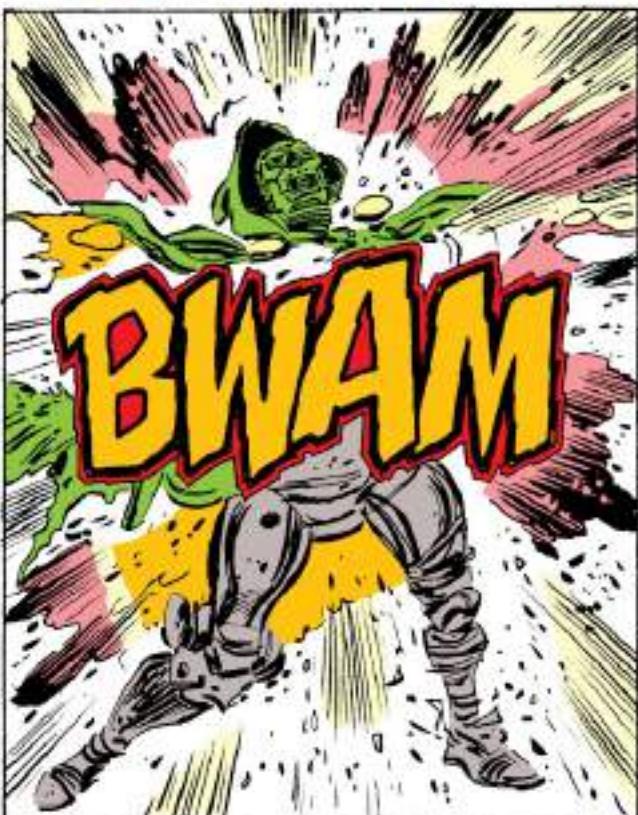












STAN LEE PRESENTS THE SOUL-SHATTERING CONCLUSION OF
ACTS OF VENGEANCE...

THE BREAKING STRAIN

WRITTEN AND PENCILED BY
JOHN BYRNE

INKED BY PAUL RYAN

COLORED LETTERED EDITED BY
BY BOB BY BILL HOWARD
SHAREN OAKLEY MACKIE
TOM DEFALCO - ED. IN CHIEF

HIGH ABOVE THE GOLDEN
COASTLINE OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA...

...OUT AT THE VERY EDGE
OF EARTH'S SLENDER
FILM OF ATMOSPHERE,
WHERE THE ENDLESS
NIGHT BEGINS AND MOTHER
NATURE HAS ALLOWED
NO PLACE FOR LIFE...

...A HOUSE.

A NORMAL, ORDINARY HOUSE
IN ALL RESPECTS SAVE
TWO: ITS LOCATION...



AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT,
THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY, IN
THE HI-TECH CATACOMBS OF
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS,
EAST COAST...

...THE GOD OF THUNDER
SPEAKS A SINGLE NAME...

LOKI!

EACH IN HIS PLACE AROUND THE GREAT
CONFERENCE CHAMBER, GATHERED
AVENGERS REACT TO THOR'S NEWS

FIRST TO FIND VOICE IS
THE STAR-SPANGLED
CHAMPION KNOWN AS
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

YOU'RE
SURE OF THIS,
ASGARDIAN?

LOKI IS
THE ONE BEHIND
THE RECENT
ATTACKS ON
SUPER HEROES
EVERYWHERE?



AYE AND
AYE AGAIN,
AVENGER!

I KNOW NOT HOW MY
EVIL HALF BROTHER HATH COERCED
THESE VILLAINS INTO CARRYING OUT
HIS WILL, BUT THERE CAN BE NO
DOUBT -- LOKI IS AT THE BLACK
HEART OF THIS!

BUT... CLOAK AND
DAGGER TOLD ME
IT WAS DOCTOR
DOOM... *

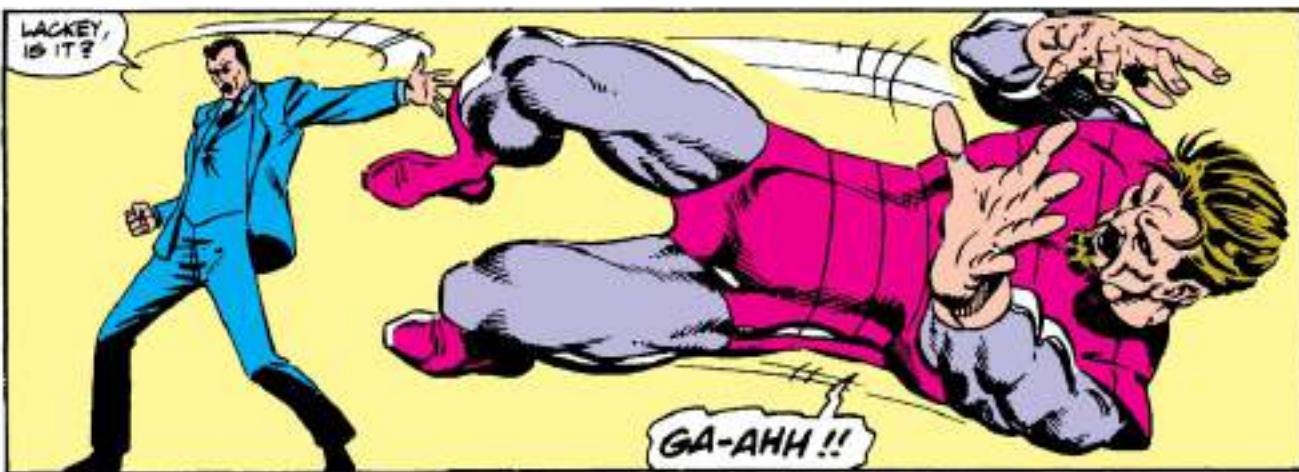
AND THE CAPTURED WIZARD
INFORMED US THAT A CON-
VOCATION OF VILLAINS WAS
BEHIND THE RECENT UNREST.



* IN CLOAK AND DAGGER #9 -- HOWARD.









A FEW FRENZIED MINUTES LATER...

THAT WAS VERY CLOSE, MR. PRESIDENT. IF YOU HAD NOT ACTED WHEN YOU DID...

I DOUBT THAT MUCH OF CONSEQUENCE WOULD HAVE HAPPENED, COLONEL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT YET LEARNED THE ART OF KILLING PRESIDENTS.

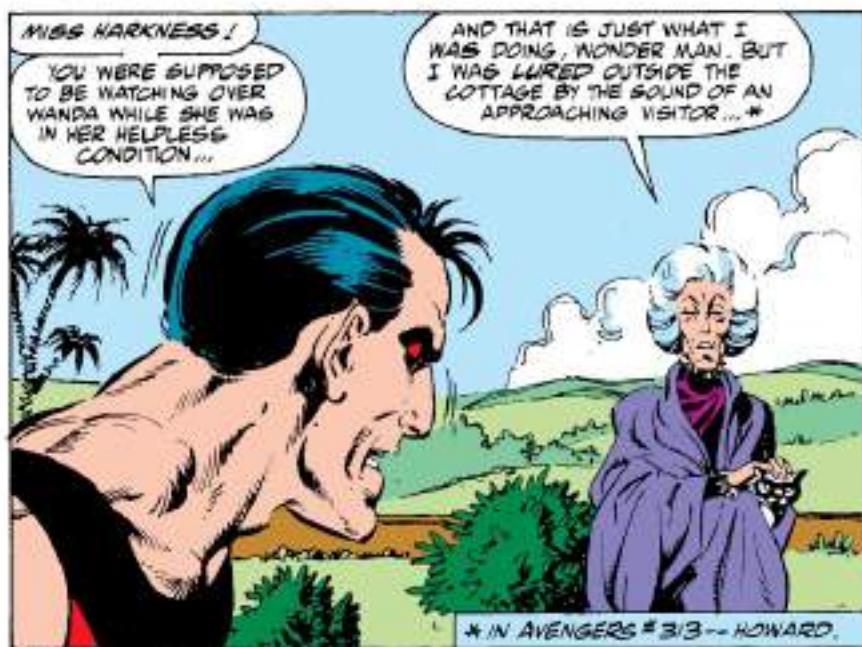
NOT THIS PRESIDENT, AT LEAST.

WELL, GENERAL? DON'T YOU HAVE ONE OF YOUR PHILOSOPHICAL REMARKS FOR US ON THIS OCCASION?

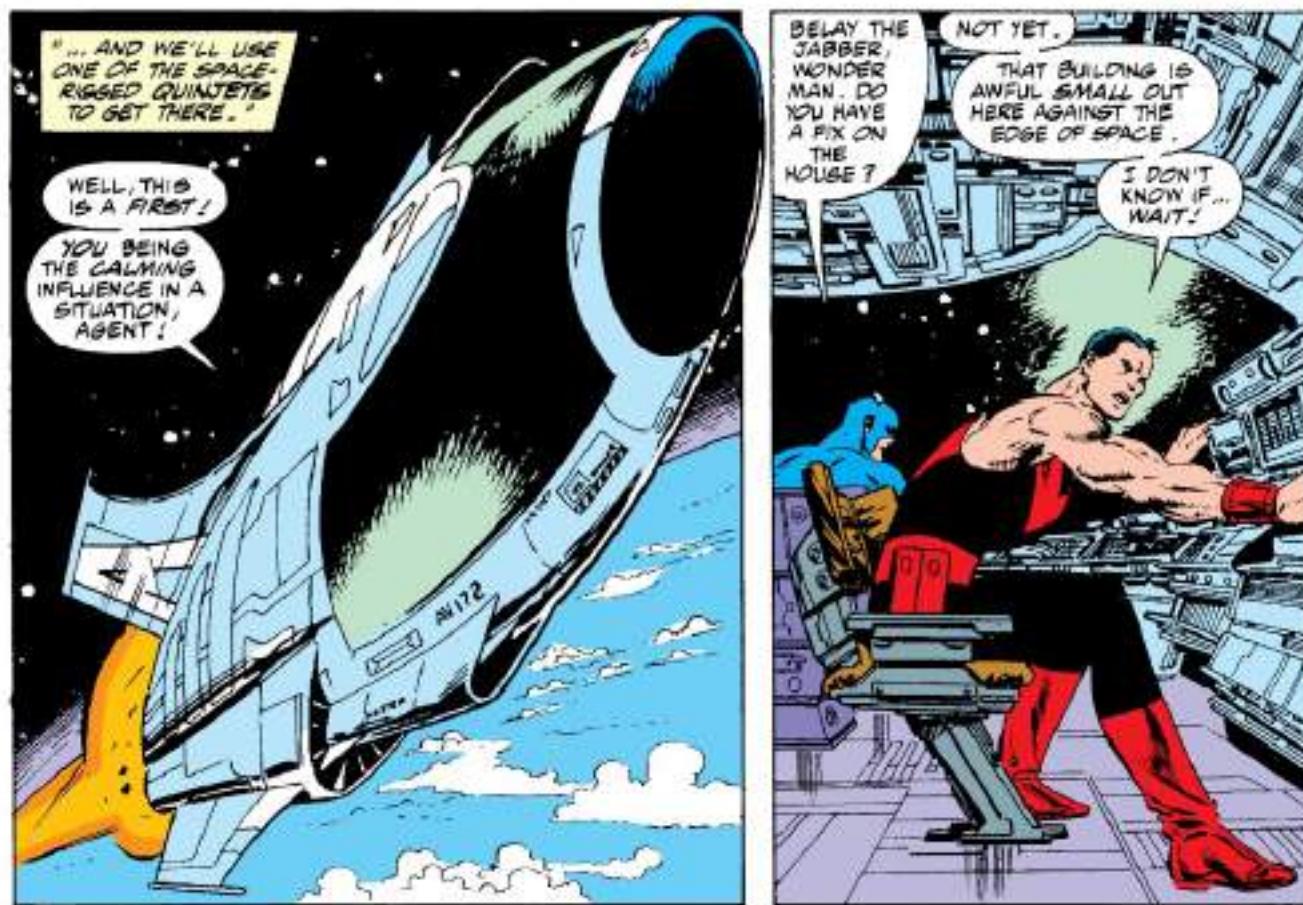
ONLY THIS, MR. LINCOLN...

I HAVE LONG BEEN AN ADMIRER OF YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY.





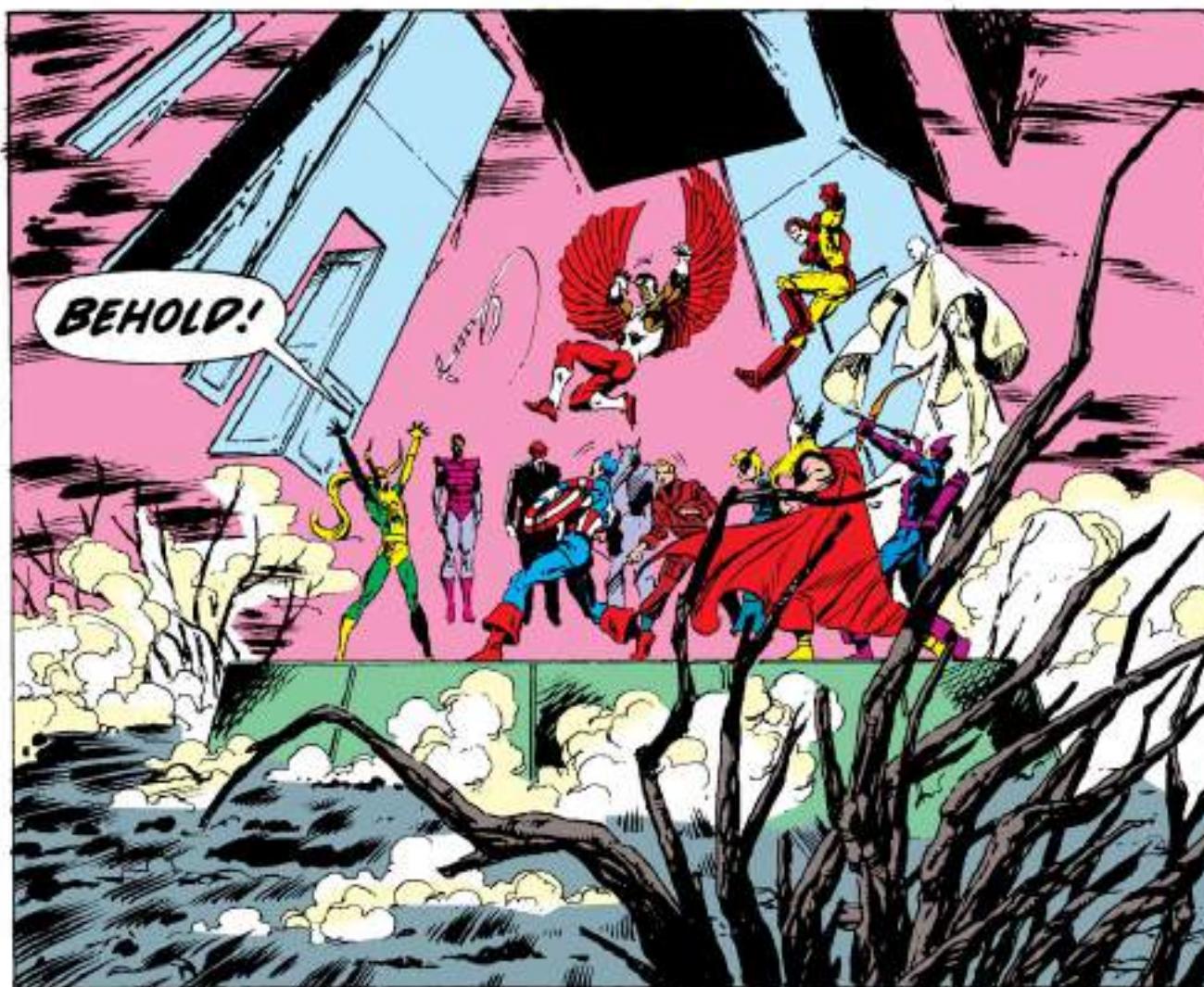
* IN AVENGERS #313 - HOWARD.





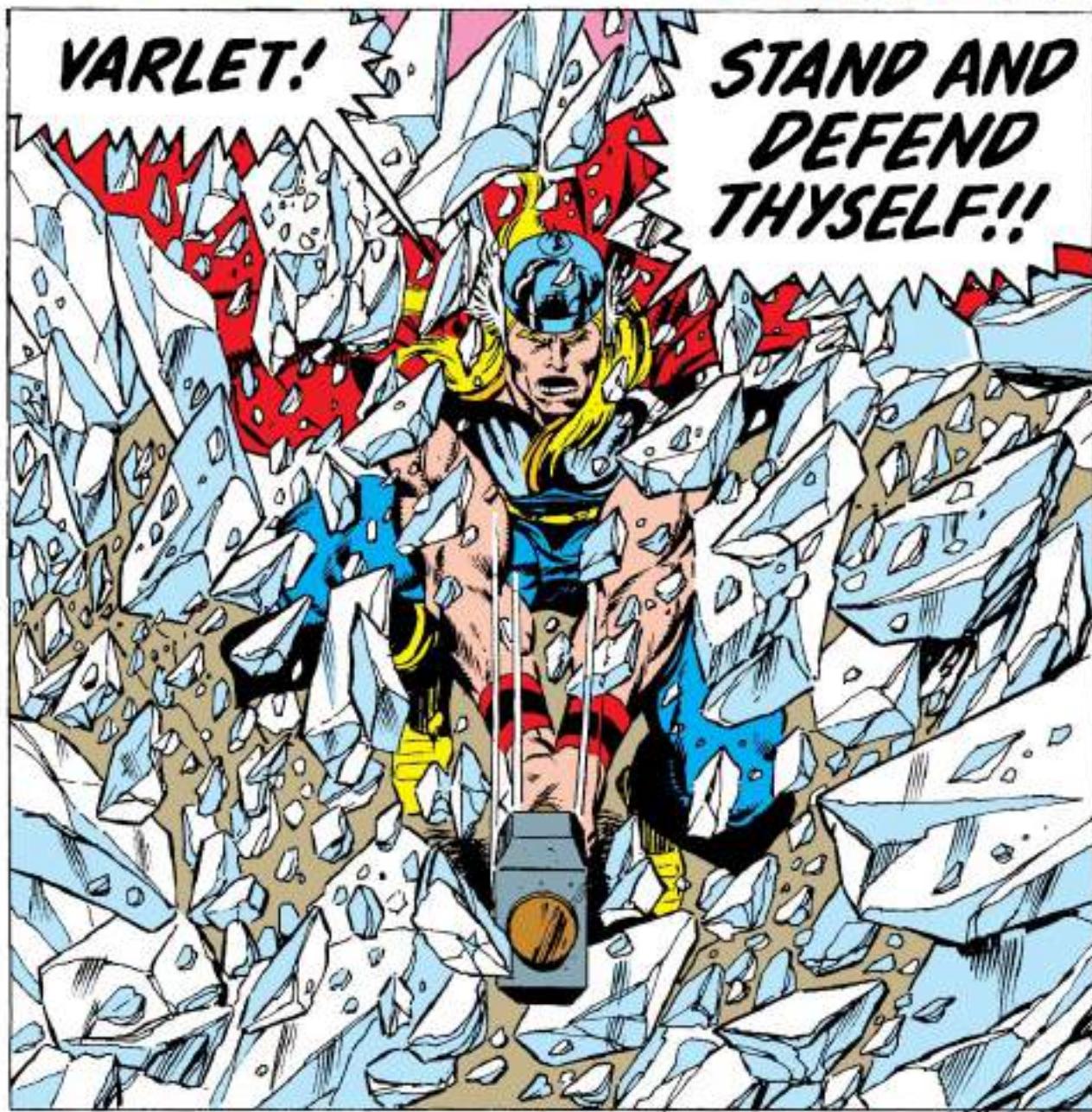
















FOR WHEN I SAW THIS MODELED IN THE LIKENESS OF MY BROTHER'S ONETIME ABOVE, I KNEW WHAT IT WAS THAT DROVE HIM IN HIS MADNESS.

BY BANDING TOGETHER A GROUP OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST VILLAINS, HE THOUGHT HE COULD UNDO US. INSTEAD HE HATH SUCCEEDED ONLY IN STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE!

T'WAS LOKI'S ACTIONS, LO THESE MANY YEARS AGO, WHICH FIRST DID BRING TOGETHER THOSE OF US WHO FUSED INTO THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS. LONG HATH THIS FESTERED IN MY BROTHER'S CRAW.

LET THE EVIL MINDS OF THE WORLD BEWARE! EVER AND ALWAYS SHALL THE AVENGERS PREVAIL!

A WAY, WAY WAY BACK IN AVENGERS #1-N.M.

THREE HOURS LATER, OVER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA...

SO LONG, IRON MAN!

SEE YOU SOON!

NOT TOO SOON I HOPE, DOCTOR PYM!

I THINK WE COULD ALL USE A REST!



SO... THAT'S THAT! ANOTHER THREAT ENDED, AND THIS TIME IT ALL STARTED BECAUSE LOKI GOT TIRED OF THE OTHER VILLAINS POKING FUN AT HIM AT THE ANNUAL BAD GUYS' PICNIC!

CHUCKLE! WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT ANYWAY, JANET.

IT'S ALWAYS GALLED THAT IT WAS SOMETHING HE DID THAT CAUSED THE AVENGERS TO GET TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE. MAYBE THIS WILL HAVE TAUGHT HIM WE'RE A TEAM THAT WAS MEANT TO BE. EAST COAST OR WEST, IT WAS MORE THAN LOKI THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER... AND IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN HIM TO BREAK US!



WELL, WHATEVER THE CAUSE, I'M GLAD IT'S OVER... FOR NOW AT LEAST.

I GUESS IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE THIS HAS PUT THE KIBOSH ON THE BAD GUYS ONCE AND FOR ALL...

I WOULDN'T THINK SO, JAN. NO, HOLOGRAM OFF... HANGAR DOORS OPEN...



MMM... WONDER IF THIS MEANS WE'LL NEED TO BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR HIM IN THE FUTURE?

COULD BE.

ANYWAY... I'M GOING TO CHECK ON TIGRA NOW. CARE TO TAG ALONG?



I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BIO-LAB IN A BIT, HON.

I WANT TO CLEAN UP AND GET INTO A FRESH COSTUME.

PLUS I WANT TO LOOK IN ON WANDA AND MISS HARKNESS. SEE HOW WANDA'S COMING ALONG.

OKAY.
SEE YOU IN A FEW...





* ALL IN RECENT ISSUES OF AVENGERS WEST COAST--HOWARD.



* A.W.C. ANNUAL #4, AMONG OTHERS--GUESS WHO!





NEXT ISSUE: **DARKER THAN SCARLET!**

ACTS of VENGEANCE!

EPILOG

FOR OVER A YEAR, THE THREE STORY SUBSTRUCTURE OF AVENGERS MANSION BENEATH AVENGERS PARK IN MANHATTAN HAS LAYED VACANT AND STRIPPED OF ALL ACCOUTREMENTS.

RECENT EVENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE FORCED THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST HEROES TO RETURN TO THE SITE AND HASTILY REESTABLISH IT AS THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS...

ON THIS LATE AUTUMN NIGHT, CAPTAIN AMERICA, VISION, AND THOR CONVENE IN WHAT WAS ONCE THE HIGH-SECURITY ASSEMBLY ROOM ON A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE...

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU BOTH FOR AGREEING TO STAY BEHIND AND HELP ME SORT THROUGH ALL THE DATA ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ACTS OF VENGEANCE AFFAIR...

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE TEAM'S MOST DEVASTATING SETBACK IN YEARS, ECLIPSING EVEN THE MASTERS OF EVIL TAKEOVER WHICH PROMPTED US TO MOVE OUT OF THE MANSION UPSTAIRS.

IT'S MY HOPE THAT BY GOING OVER THE RAW DATA, THE THREE OF US CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IT ALL MEANT, AND HOW WE CAN PREVENT SOMETHING SIMILAR FROM CATCHING US BY SURPRISE IN THE FUTURE...



MARK
GRUENWALD
WORDS

VINCE
MIELCZEK
PICTURES

BOB
DOWNS
INKS

JANICE
CHANG
LETTERS

DAVE
SAMSON
COLORS

INCORPORATING MATERIAL BY
BYRNE • MCDUFFIE • MACKIE •
DEFALCO

IT'S FORTUNATE WE COULD PERSUADE **BENTLEY WITTMAN** A.K.A. THE WIZARD, TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCEEDINGS IN EXCHANGE FOR LIMITED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.



"ANYWAY, THERE IN MY CELL TWO SUNDAYS AGO, I RECEIVED A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR--"



"--AND UTILIZING THE VARIOUS CAPACITIES I BUILT INTO MY UNIFORM, I LED THE CRETINS OUT OF CAPTIVITY."

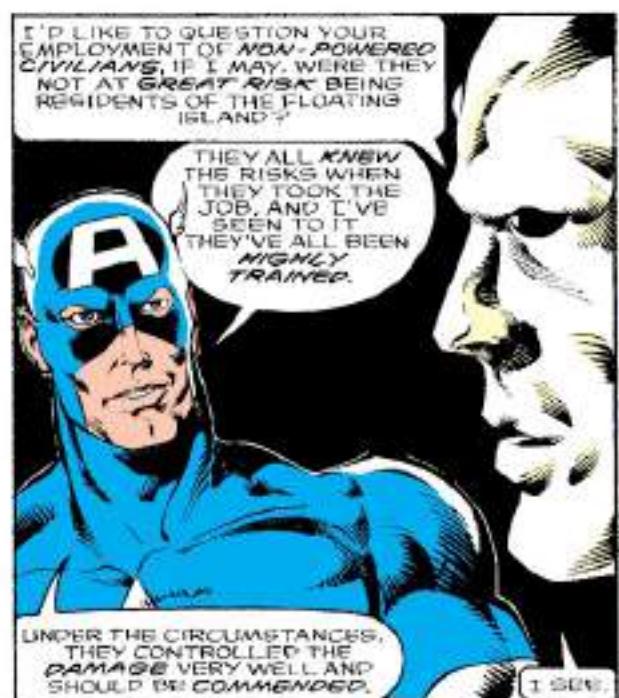
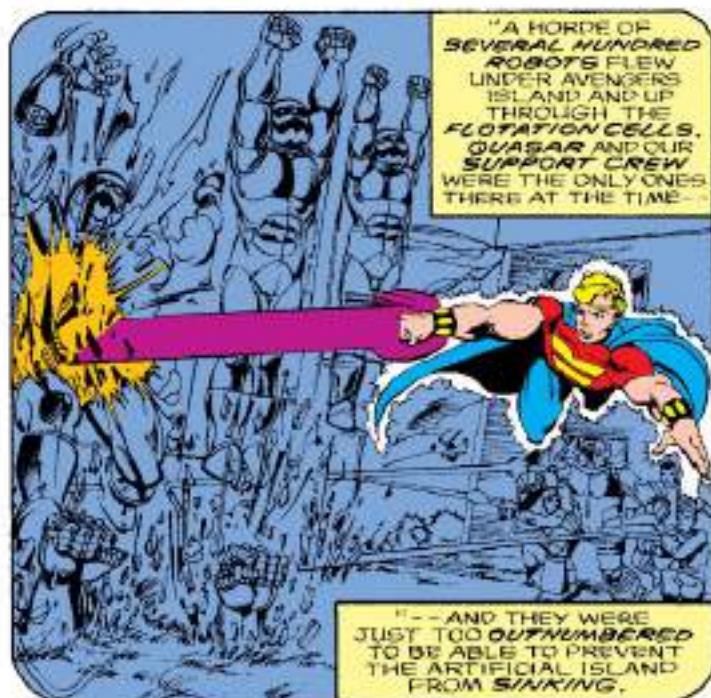


"APPARENTLY A COUPLE OF YOUR NUMBER EVENTUALLY SHOWED UP--"



FOR WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER...





"UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE QUASAR HAD HIS HANDS FULL KEEPING OUR DATABANKS FROM FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS, THE REVENGE ROBOTS WE WERE KEEPING IN STASIS IN OUR SCIENCE BUILDING WALKED OFF..."



"THE SLEEPER SOMEHOW FOUND ITS WAY BACK INTO THE RED SKULL'S HANDS. DOCTOR DOOM ABSCONDDED OFF WITH THE ADAMTOID AND FESS-ONE..."

"THE AWESOME ANDROID REMAINED BEHIND, BUSHWACKING STINGRAY SOME TIME AFTER QUASAR LEFT."

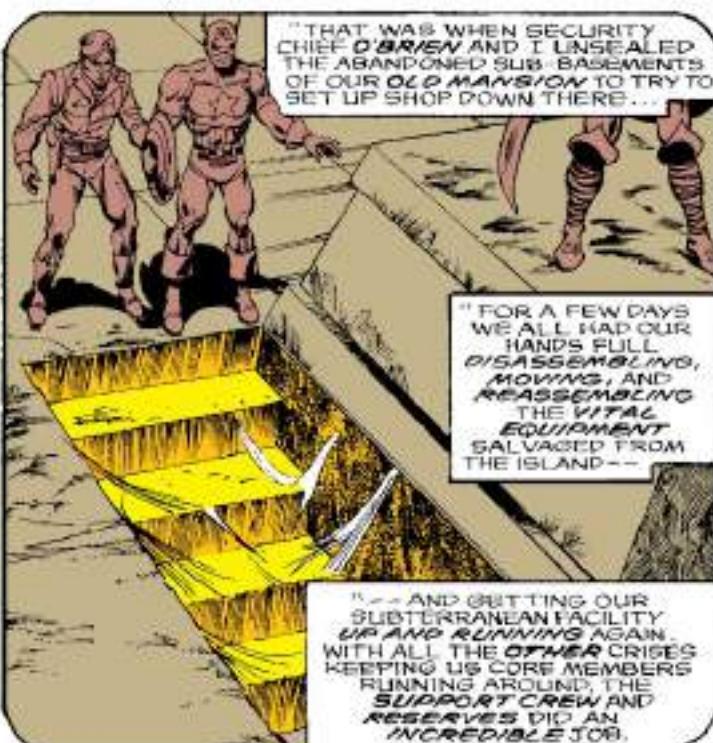


"WHY DIDN'T THE AUTOMATON ESCAPE WITH THE REST OF THEM?"

"CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. MY THEORY IS THAT THE CEREBRAL ESSENCE OF MACHINESMITH, WHICH WAS TRAPPED INSIDE THE SLEEPER AT THE TIME OF HIS INITIAL CAPTURE, ORDERED THE ANDROID TO COVER FOR THEM."



"ABOUT THAT TIME, THOR, YOU AND I WERE ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HEADQUARTERS HOPEFULLY SECURING THEIR PERMISSION TO MOVE IN WITH THEM FOR THE DURATION..."

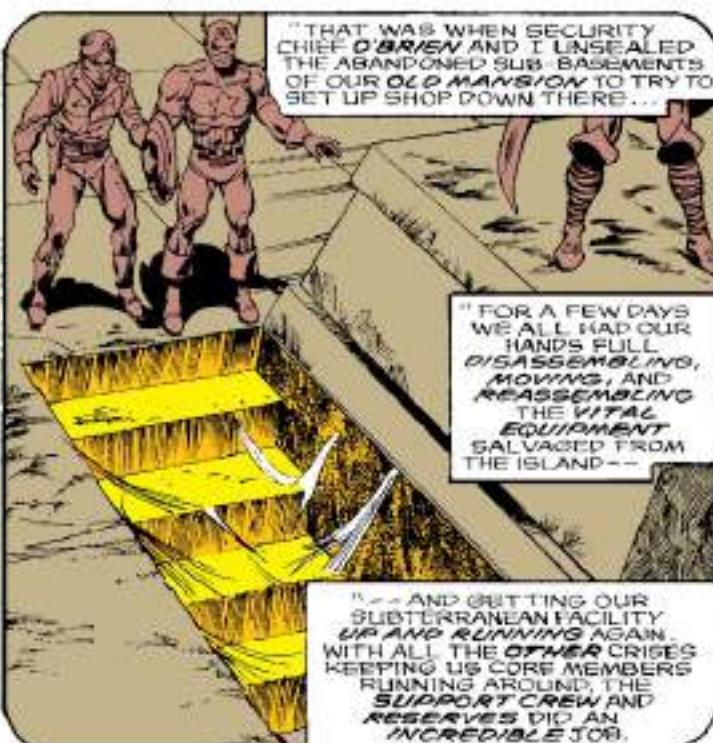


"UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE WAS HOME BUT THEIR SECURITY DEVICES!"

"BY THEN, ALL THE RESERVE MEMBERS EXCEPT HERCULES HAD BEEN CONTACTED AND GATHERED AT THE TIP OF MANHATTAN TO WATCH OVER THE SALVAGE OPERATION..."



"THEY MANAGED TO SUBDUED THE ANDROID."



"THAT WAS WHEN SECURITY CHIEF O'BRIEN AND I UNSEALED THE ABANDONED SUB-BASMENTS OF OUR OLD MANSION TO TRY TO SET UP SHOP DOWN THERE..."

"FOR A FEW DAYS WE ALL HAD OUR HANDS FULL DISASSEMBLING, MOVING, AND REASSEMBLING THE VITAL EQUIPMENT SALVAGED FROM THE ISLAND--"

"--AND GETTING OUR SUBTERRANEAN FACILITY UP AND RUNNING AGAIN. WITH ALL THE OTHER CRises KEEPING US CORE MEMBERS RUNNING AROUND, THE SUPPORT CREW AND RESERVES DID AN INCREDIBLE JOB."

"WE HAD NO SOONER REMOVED EVERYTHING FROM OUR BUNKER ISLAND AND REASSIGNED THOSE GUARDING IT TO OTHER DUTIES WHEN NAMOR SHOWED UP LOOKING FOR US--"



"--AND WAS INSTEAD MET BY THE CONTROLLER, WORKING IN THE SKULL'S EMPLOY. THE SLAVE-DISC HE TAGGED SUBBY WITH PUT HIM UNDER THE CONTROLLER'S CONTROL."

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE AROUND THAT TIME THAT LOKI'S HANDPICKED JIHAD OF TOP CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS MET FOR THE FIRST TIME..."

"ACCORDING TO THE WIZARD, NO COURSE OF ACTION COULD BE AGREED UPON AT THIS FIRST MEETING..."



AT THIS POINT LET ME PUT ON RECORD THE ACTIVITIES OF THE **WEST COAST** BRANCH OF THIS ORGANIZATION--

--AMONG WHOSE RANKS I WAS THEN COUNTED--

--SO THAT IT IS CLEAR WHY WE WERE UNABLE TO RENDER YOU MUCH IN THE WAY OF ASSISTANCE DURING THE DEVASTATING EVENTS YOU HAVE SO FAR CHRONICLED--

OUR WEST COAST HEADQUARTERS WAS BEIGED BY A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE U-FOES...



"WE WERE FORTUNATE, SUSTAINING MERELY 4 PER CENT OF THE DAMAGE YOUR ISLAND DID."

"WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SUBDU ALL OF THEM, WHEN SUBTERRANEAN CREATURES--"

--BELIEVED TO BE OBEDIING THE MOLE MAN--

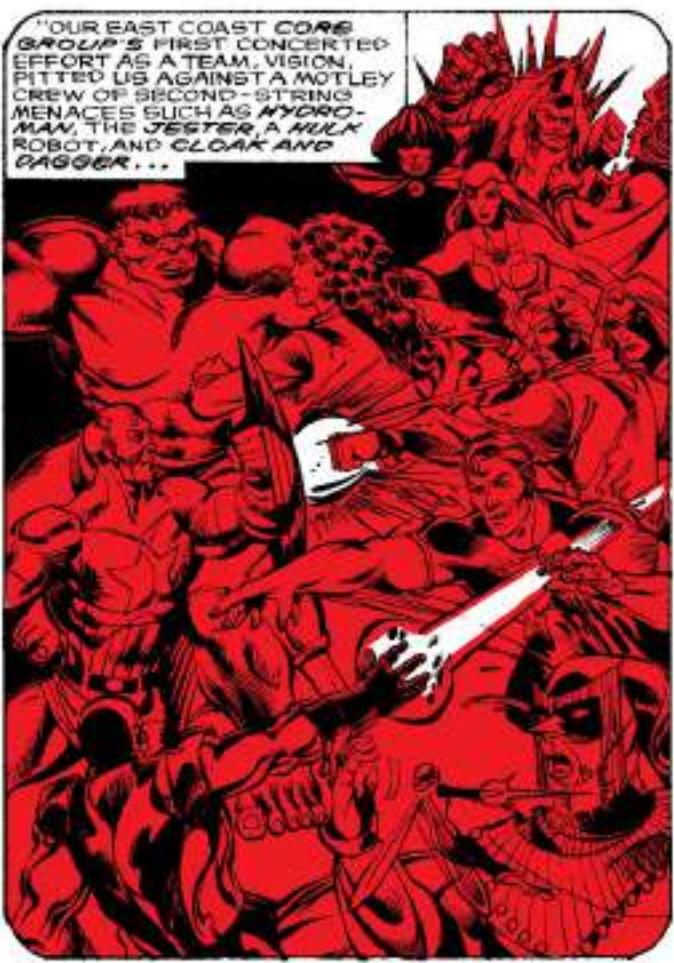
--ATTACKED LOS ANGELES,

"MANY OF OUR OLD FOES WERE BUSY ATTACKING NON-AVENGERS SUCH AS DR. STRANGE, SPIDER-MAN, AND DAREDEVIL--



--ACCORDING TO REPORTS WE'VE RECEIVED...

"OUR EAST COAST CORE GROUP'S FIRST CONCERTED EFFORT AS A TEAM, VISION, PITTED US AGAINST A MOTLEY CREW OF SECOND-STRING MENACES SUCH AS HYDRO-MAN, THE JESTER, A MULK ROBOT, AND CLOAK AND DAGGER..."

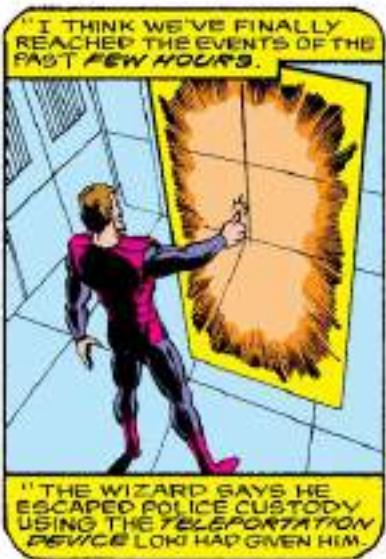


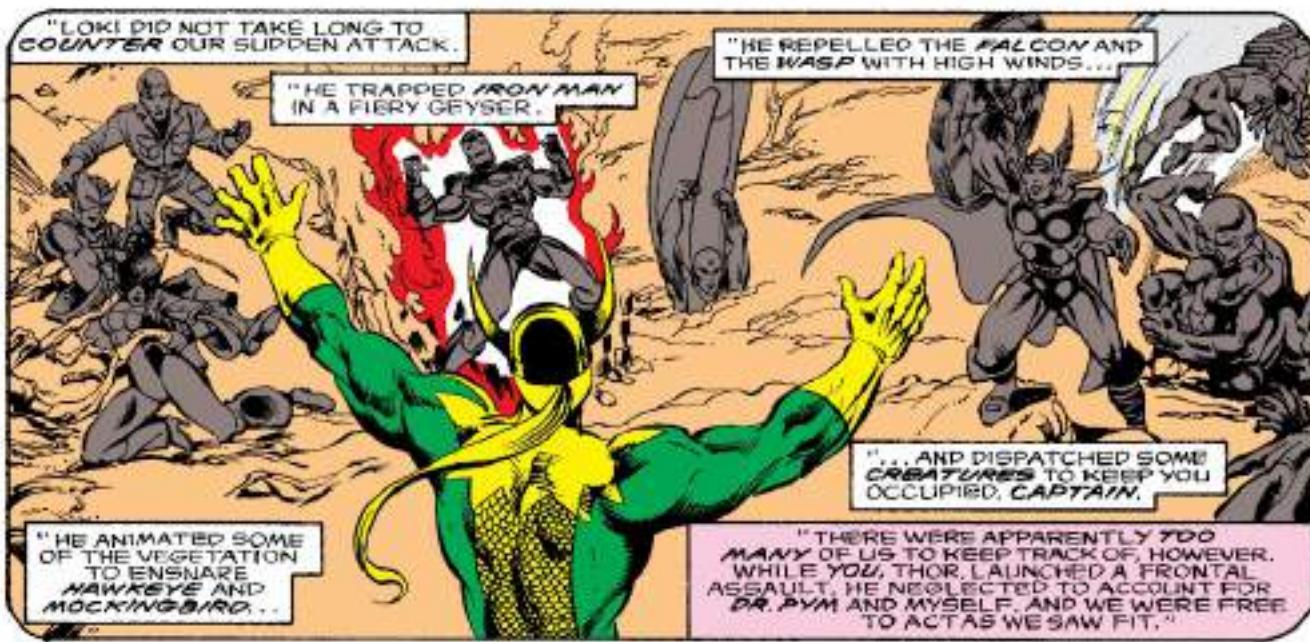
"AND WHILE MANY OF US WERE SO ENGAGED, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FREEDOM FORCE SOMEHOW LEARNED WE'D SET UP SHOP BENEATH AVENGERS PARK AND ATTACKED US THERE."

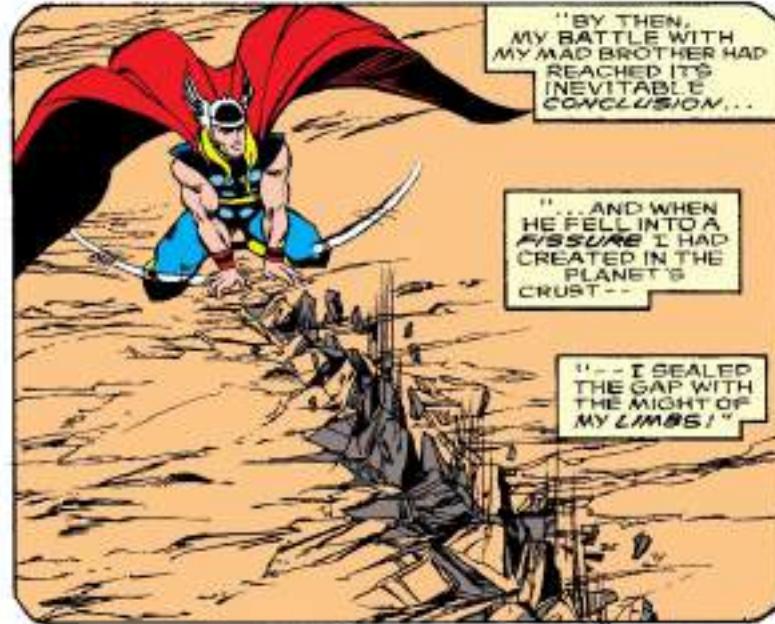
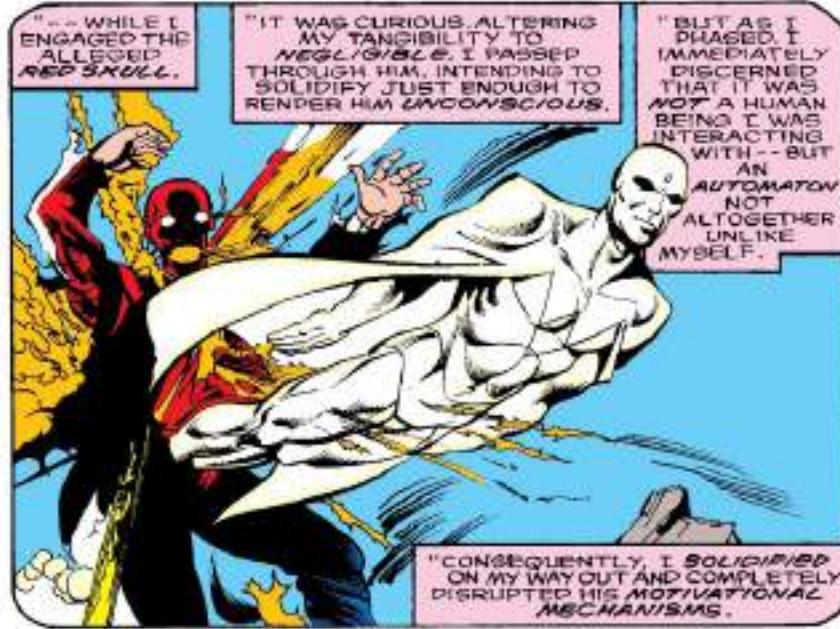


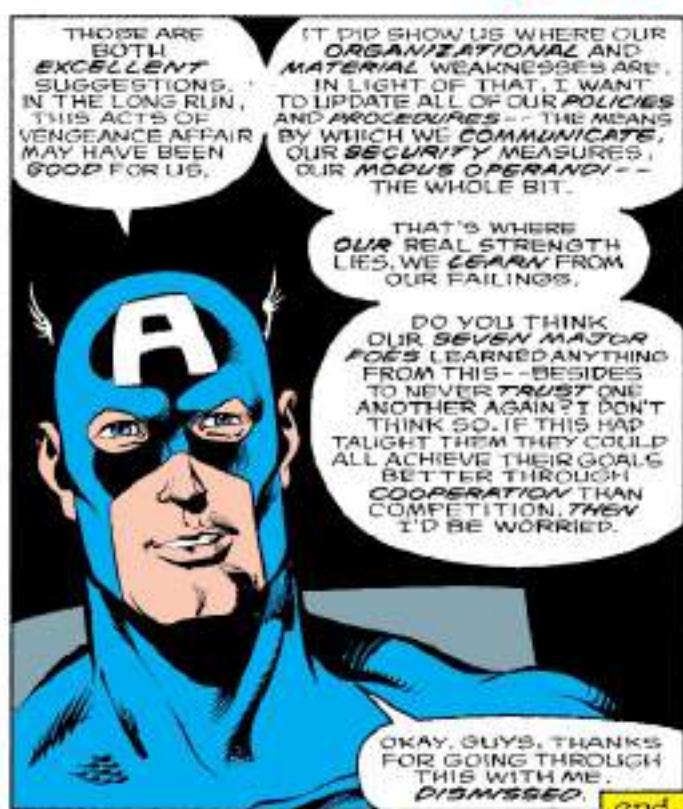
"BY THEN, CAPTAIN, DIFFICULTIES OUT WEST HAD SUBSIDED ENOUGH FOR SOME OF US WEST COASTERS TO COME EAST TO HELP OUT YOUR RESERVES..."











THIS IS "THE VAULT," THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION FOR THE INCARCERATION OF SUPER HUMAN CRIMINALS.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, FIVE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EVIL MEN, UNWITTINGLY LED BY THE ASGARDIAN GOD OF EVIL, LAUNCHED AN ALL-OUT, TERRORIST ASSAULT ON EARTH'S SUPER HEROES.

THEIR FIRST MOVE WAS TO ENGINEER A MASS ESCAPE FROM THIS PREVIOUSLY IMPREGNABLE PRISON COMPLEX.

BUT, WHILE THE FIRST MOVE IN THEIR SCHEME WAS SUCCESSFUL, ULTIMATELY THEIR ACTS OF VENGEANCE FAILED.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE VAULT HAS BEEN REPAIRED, AND THE GENTLEMAN IN THE RED AND GOLD ARMOR, THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN, HAS JUST UNVEILED HIS PLAN TO KEEP THE VAULT FROM EVER BEING BREACHED AGAIN.

WELL, GENTLEMEN,
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TONY STARK, THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN!

'TALES FROM THE VAULT'
(CONCLUSION)

DWAYNE MCPUFFIE DWAYNE TURNER CHRIS IVY RICK PARKER MIKE ROCKWITZ GREG WRIGHT & MARK TOM WRITER PENCILS INKS LETTERING COLORS EDITORS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

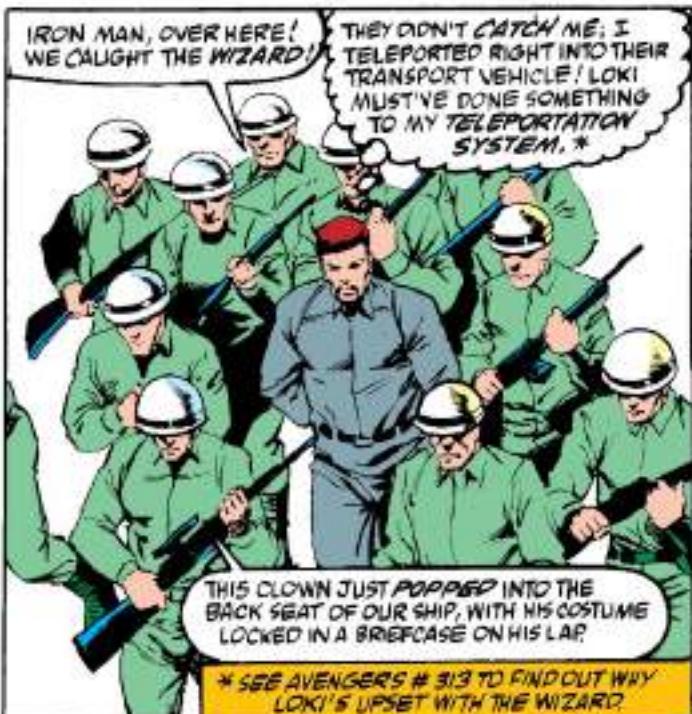
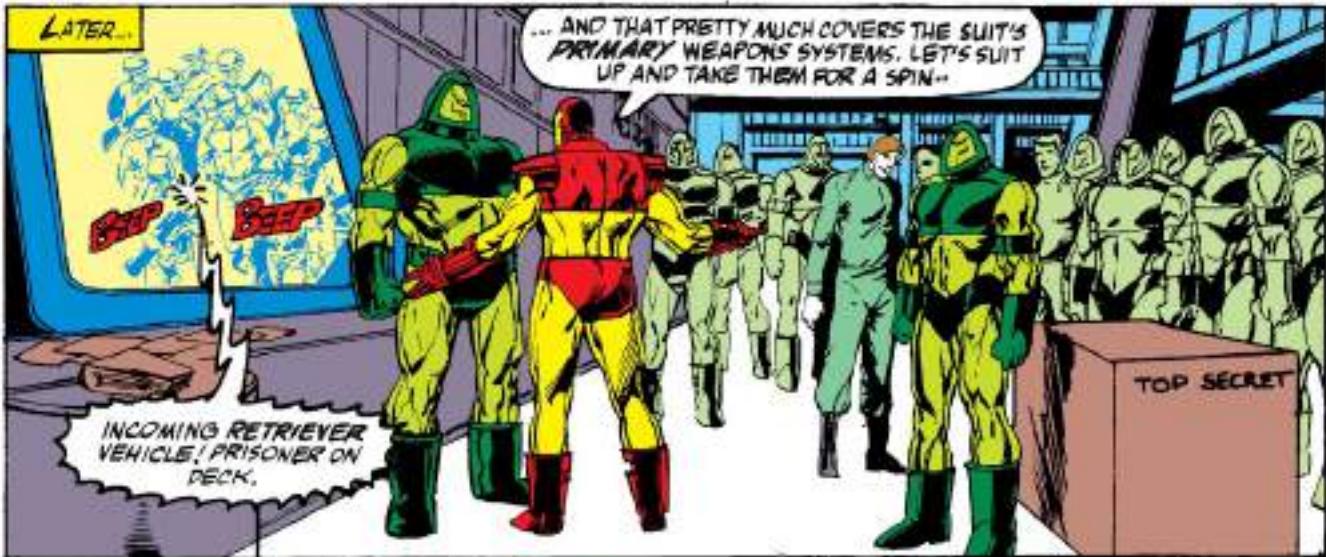


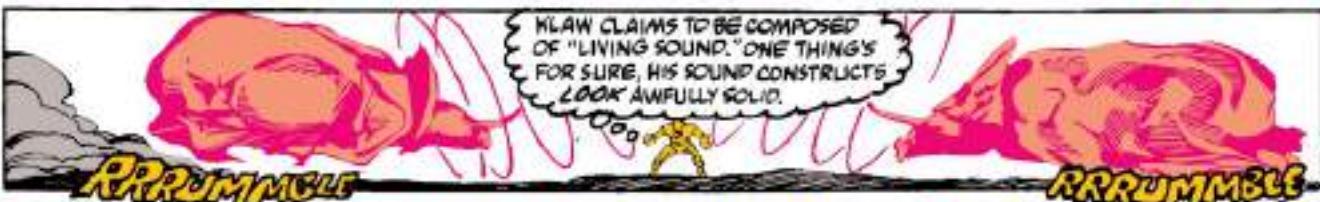
OUTSIDE...

THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ARRIVED TO SUPERVISE THE TRANSFER OF THE DOZENS OF SUPER-VILLAINS CAPTURED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. SOME ARE ESCAPEES FROM THIS PRISON, OTHERS ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

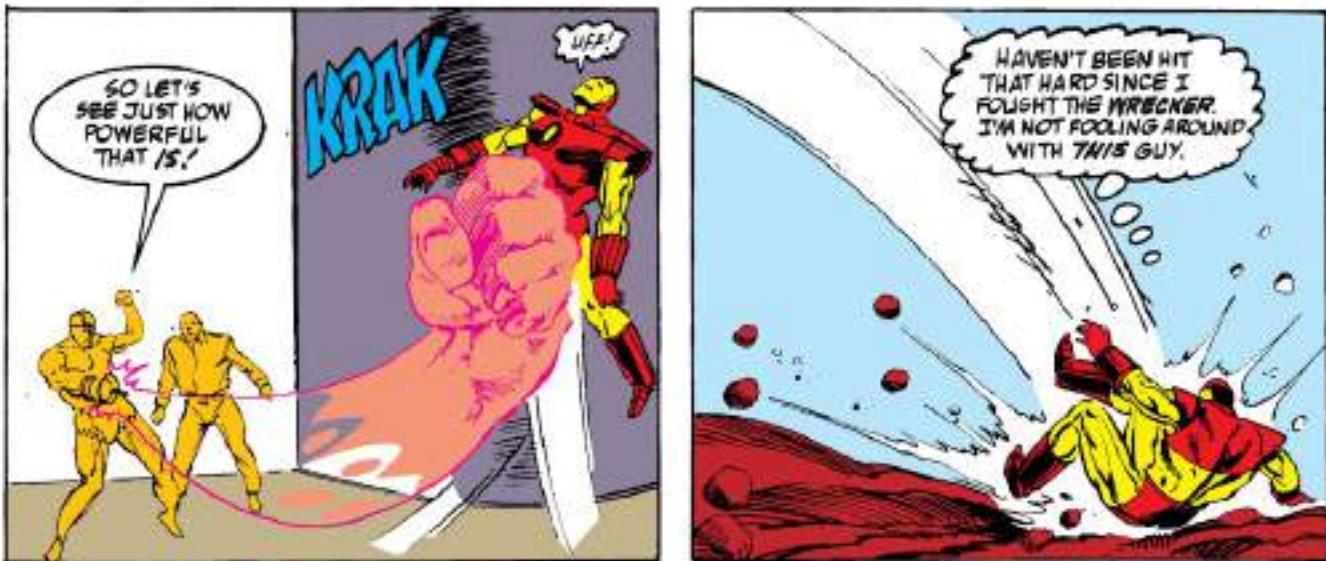
ALL HAVE DISCOVERED THAT, WHETHER SERVED HOT OR COLD, VENGEANCE IS A BITTER DISH, INDEED...

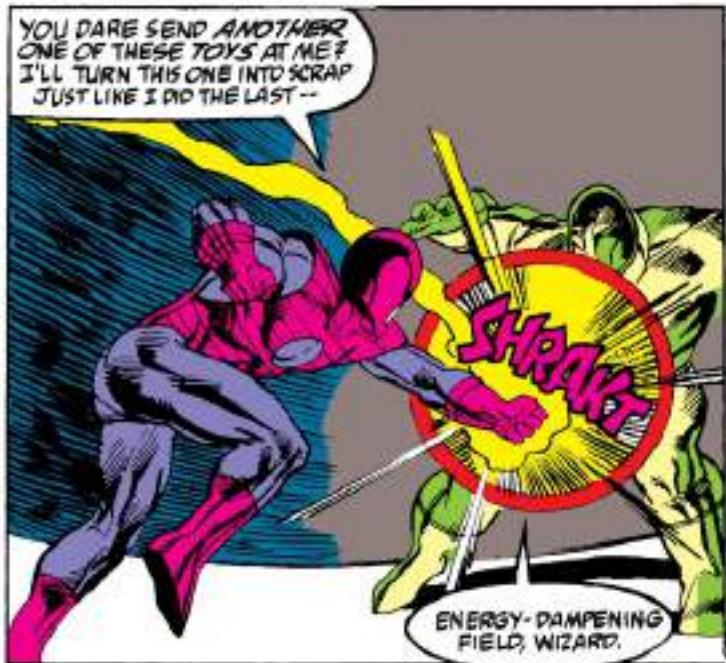




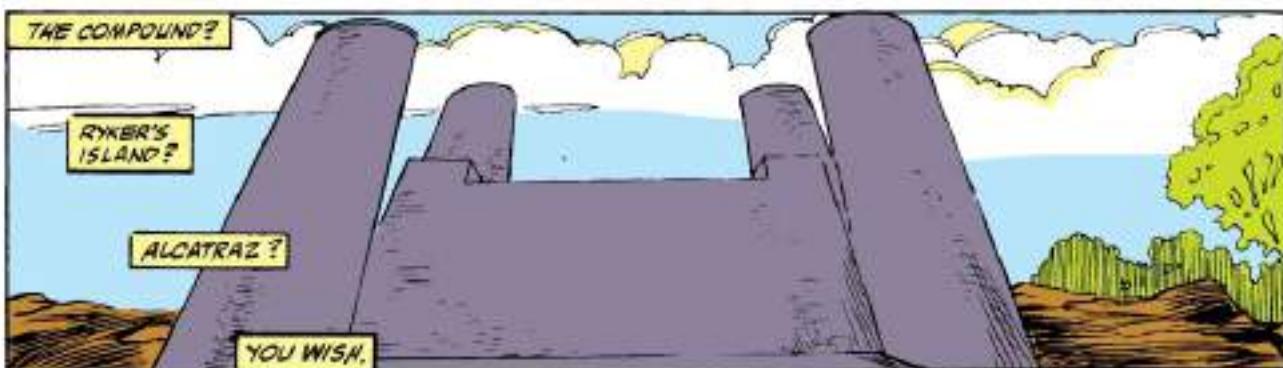












THEY CALL IT THE VAULT.

