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THE CONFESSION

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

RATED T+



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DIRECT EDITION

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BENDIS

MALEEV

CIVIL WAR

THE CONFESSION



A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed, requiring all individuals possessing paranormal abilities to register their powers and identities with the government. Disagreement over the Act split the super hero community in two, with Tony Stark, Iron Man, as the figurehead of the pro-registration faction, and Steve Rogers, Captain America, leading the anti-registration rebellion. The conflict erupted into violence, only ending with the surrender and arrest—and eventual assassination—of Captain America.

Now, the Civil War is over, and Tony Stark has been named the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., the international peacekeeping force. He has set into motion THE INITIATIVE, a plan for training and policing super heroes in this brave new world.

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M A R V E L C O M I C S P R E S E N T S

THE CONFESSION



S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.

FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF
THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.

PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET
OVER ARLINGTON CEMETERY



DIRECTOR
STARK HAS
LANDED ON
FLIGHT DECK
ALPHA!

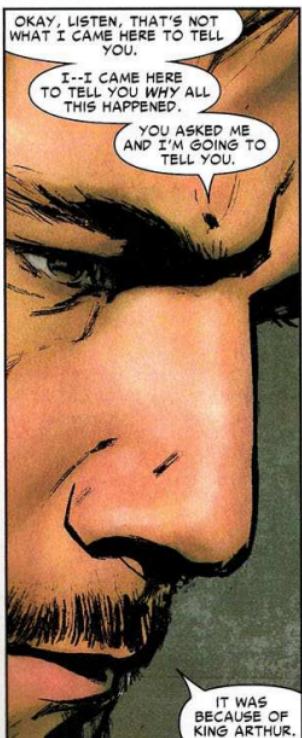
VISUAL
CONFIRMATION?

CONFIRMED.

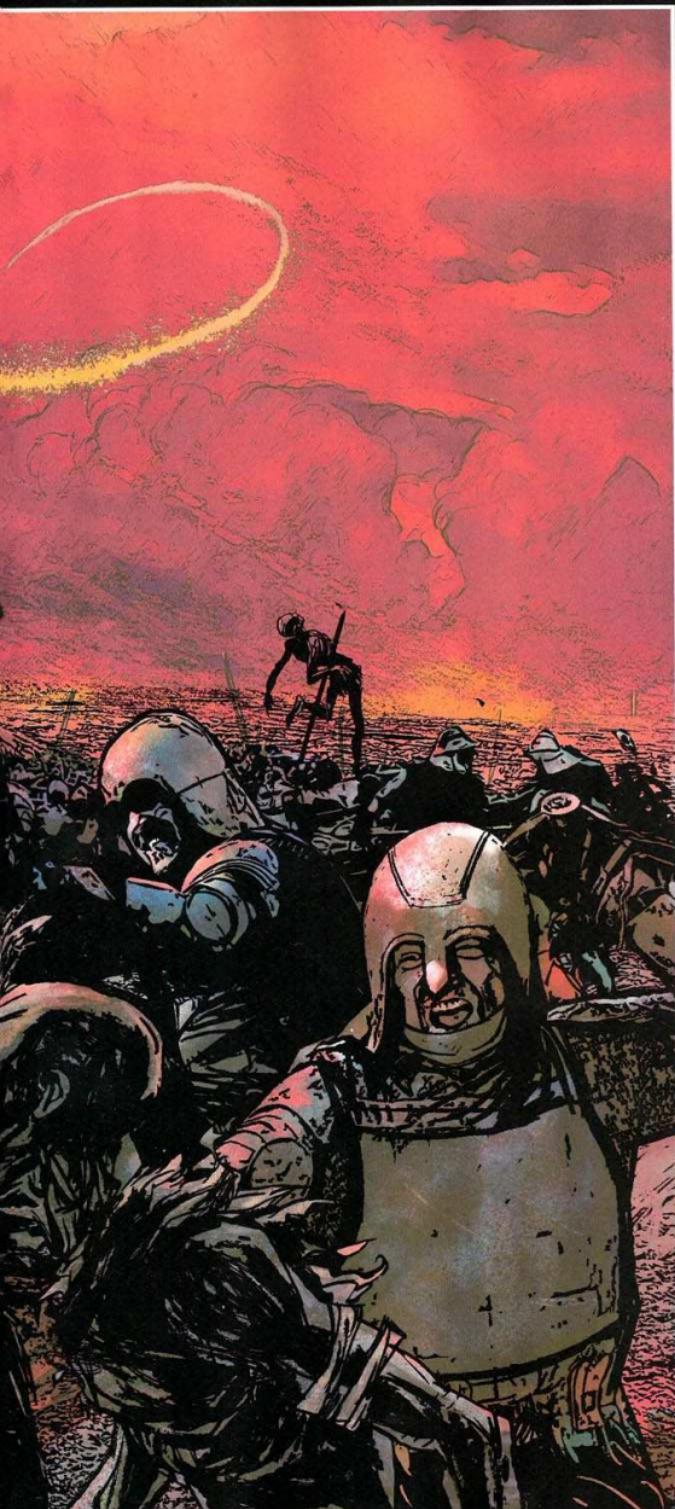
DIRECTOR
ON DECK!!!











"A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO DOCTOR DOOM AND I HAD A RATHER HOSTILE RUN-IN THAT ENDED UP WITH THE BOTH OF US (AS ONLY CAN HAPPEN TO US) BEING ACCIDENTALLY TRANSPORTED BACK IN TIME TO KING ARTHUR'S ENGLAND."

"I MET KING ARTHUR."

"ME--WHO BASED THE ENTIRE THEME OF IRON MAN ON AN ARCHETYPE HE PERFECTED."

"I MET KING ARTHUR!!"

"WE'VE ALL MET PEOPLE WE ADMIRE AND SOMETIMES MEETING THEM IS GARGANTUALLY DISAPPOINTING."

"BUT NOT THIS TIME. I MET THE GREATEST LEADER OF MEN."

"BUT I KEPT MY COOL AND SO DID HE."

"I MEAN, NOT THAT IT WAS SO EXCITING FOR HIM TO MEET ME, BUT CLEARLY HE WAS SCARED TO DEATH OF ME AND WHAT HE PROBABLY SAW AS MY 'DEVIL' ARMOR."

"AND WHILE I'M BONDING WITH ARTHUR, DOCTOR DOOM IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE BONDING WITH MORGAN LE FEY OF THE EVIL #%^@ING #%^@# LE FEYS AND THEY START A ZOMBIE WAR."

"OF COURSE!! RIGHT? IT'S DOOM!!"

"WHY TAKE THIS MIRACLE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO SIGHT-SEEING OR ON SOME SORT OF SOCIOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IN A TIME LONG LOST...WHEN YOU CAN START A ZOMBIE WAR!!

"BUT REALLY, AT MY MOST SELFISH, I THANK HIM FOR IT."

"BECAUSE THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN MEETING KING ARTHUR WAS FIGHTING ALONGSIDE HIM."

"AND THERE WE WERE, IN THE MUD, IN THE MUCK, WITH THE STENCH OF DEATH AND THE SOUND OF VICTORY CRIES AND--

"AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT."



"COME DOWN AND HAVE A RATHER HORTILE RUNIN' THAT I BEEN IN WHILE THE BOY'S BEEN AWAY. HE'S BEEN TRANSFORMED ACCIDENTLY INTO KING ARTHUR'S ENDAGE."

"I MET KING ARTHUR."

"ME WHO BASED THE ENTIRE THERE OF IRON MAN ON AN ARCHETYPE HE PERCEIVED."

"I MET KING ARTHUR!!"

"WE'VE ALL HEARD PROBLE WE HAVE AND SOME JOKES SARCASTICALLY DISPARAGING."

"BUT NOT THIS TIME. I MEET THE GREATEST LEADER OF MEN."

"I MET I LEFT MY COOL AND SO DID HE."

"I WISHN'T DO WHAT I HAS SO EXCITED FOR HIM TO MEET ME. BUT CLEARLY HE WAS LOOKED OUT FOR. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANT BY IT, BUT HE WAS MY PEW'L ARMOR."

"AND WHILE I'M DROPPING WITH THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE BOND WITH AOGAAN. HE'S ONE OF THE EUL. HE'S GOT A NAME. HE'S GOT A HOME. AND HE'S GOT A GOOD WIFE."

"OF COURSE!! RIGHT?"

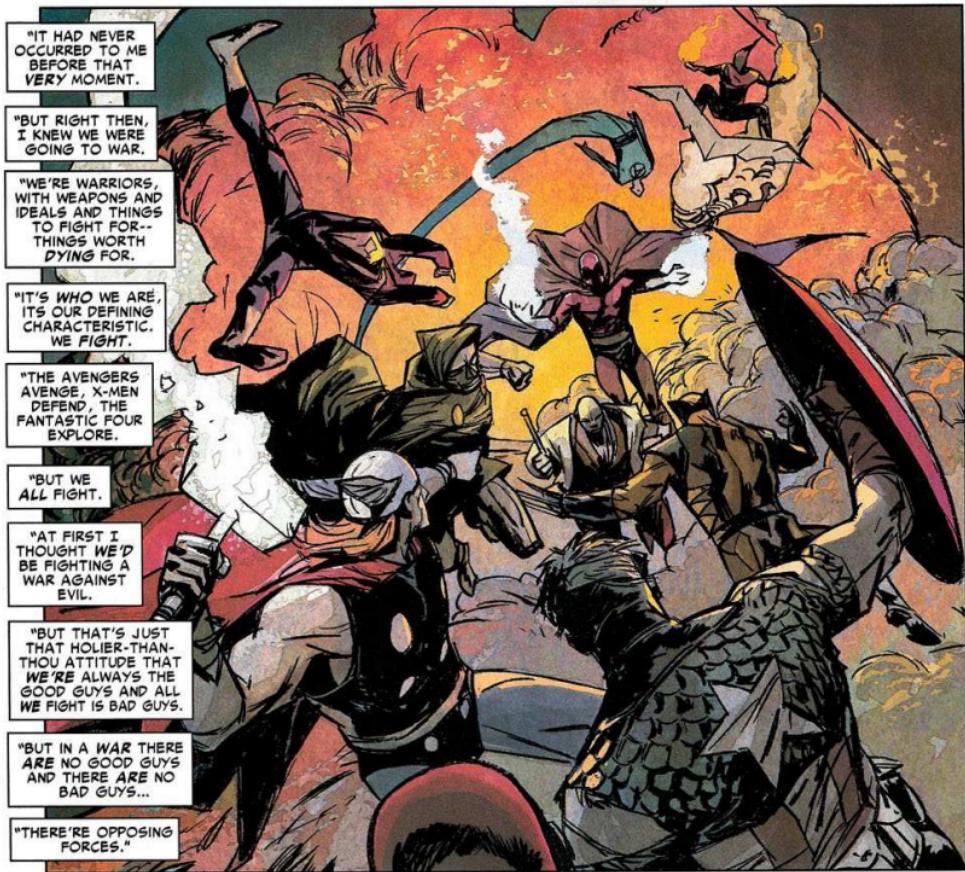
"WHY DON'T THIS MIRACLE SIGHT-SEEING ON SOME SORT OF SOCIO-CULTURAL EXPEDITION YOU CAN START A ZOMBIE WAR!"

"BUT REALLY AT MY MOST SELFISH I THANK HIM FOR IT."

"BECAUSE THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN MEETING KING ARTHUR IS KILLING HIM."

"AND WHERE WE WERE IN THE STREETS OF FERTH AND THE SONG OF VICTORY CRIES AND..."

"WHO THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT."



"I SAW THE WAR."

"I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN."

I'VE TOLD YOU--THIS IS WHAT I DO.

I'M AN INVENTOR. I CAN ENVISION THE FUTURE.

I CAN SEE WHAT THE WORLD WILL LOOK LIKE, AND I CAN SEE WHAT THE WORLD WILL NEED TO MAKE THAT FUTURE WORTH LIVING FOR.

I SEE WHAT WE WILL NEED AND I INVENT THE THING THAT WILL HELP US GET THERE.

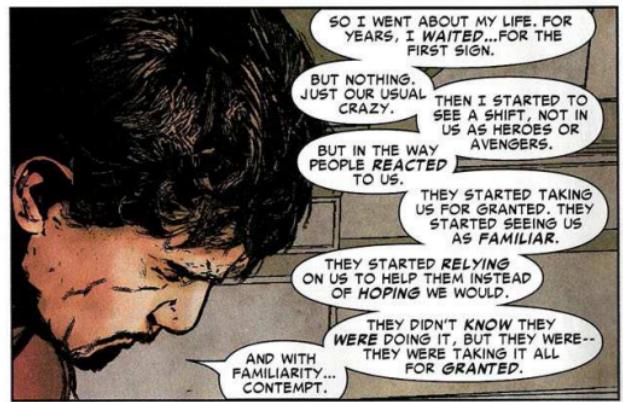
THAT'S HOW I INVENTED MY ARMOR, THAT'S HOW THE AVENGERS WERE BORN.

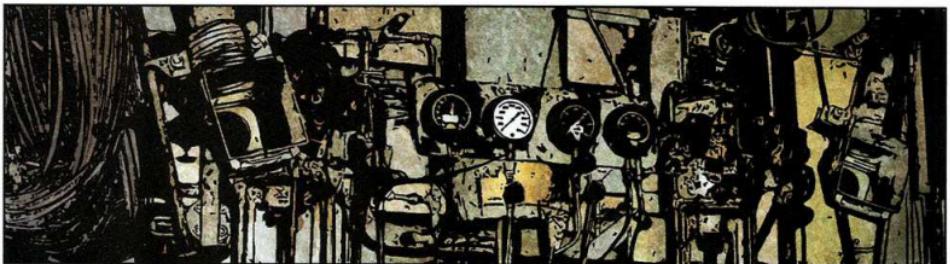
THAT'S HOW EVERY IDEA I'VE EVER HAD IN THE WORLD HAS COME TO BE.

I INVENT A SOLUTION.

I KNEW THERE WOULD BE A WAR OF HEROES. I KNEW IT.

THE END







I KNEW WE WERE ONE DUMB SLIP AWAY FROM THIS BILL PASSING AND SIDES BEING TAKEN.

ONE OF US WOULD GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE TO PASS THIS BILL AND THAT WOULD BE IT.

I TOLD YOU. I TOLD ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN...



WE HAD TO WORK WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

WE HAD TO WORK WITH THE LEADERS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY VOTED TO REPRESENT THEM.

TO NOT DO THIS IS ARROGANCE--CRIMINAL ARROGANCE.

I TOLD YOU THAT.

I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD FORCE ME--NO, THAT'S WRONG. YOU DIDN'T FORCE ME.

BUT I KNEW THAT I WOULD BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF TAKING CHARGE OF THIS SIDE OF THINGS.

BECAUSE IF NOT ME, WHO?

WHO ELSE WAS THERE? NO ONE. SO I SUCKED IT UP.



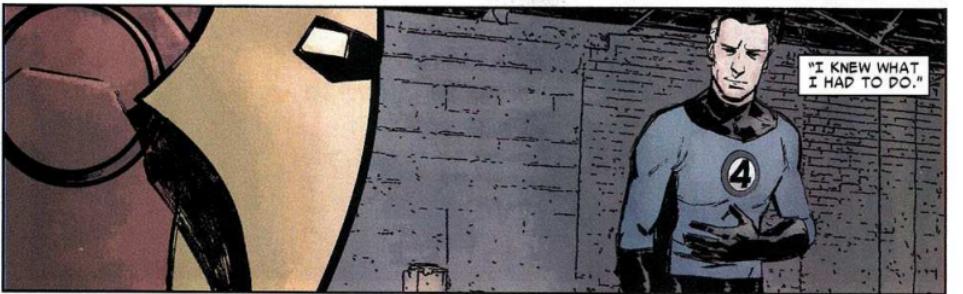
"I DID WHAT YOU DO.

"I COMMITTED.



BECAUSE IF THIS WASN'T HANDLED WITH FULL COMMITMENT, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COULD DIE.

INNOCENT PEOPLE.



"I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO."

THE GOOD NEWS IS...THROUGH ALL OF THIS...

I NEVER TOOK A DRINK!

AND IF I DIDN'T DRINK DURING THIS, I'M PROBABLY NEVER GOING TO...

SO THERE'S THAT...

TO DO WHAT I NEEDED TO DO TO WIN THIS QUICKLY--

I KNEW THAT MEANT YOU AND I WOULD PROBABLY NEVER SPEAK AGAIN.

OR BE FRIENDS AGAIN. OR PARTNERS AGAIN.

I TOLD MYSELF I WAS OKAY WITH IT BECAUSE I KNEW I WAS RIGHT AND I-KNEW IT WAS SAVING LIVES.

IT WAS!! IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

AND--AND--AND I WAS WILLING TO GET IN BED WITH PEOPLE WE DESPISE TO GET THIS DONE.

AND I KNEW THE WORLD FAVORS THE UNDERDOG AND THAT I WOULD BE THE BAD GUY.

I KNEW THIS AND I SAID I WAS OKAY WITH IT.

AND--AND EVEN THOUGH I SAID...

EVEN THOUGH I SAID I WAS WILLING TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH IT...

I WASN'T.

AND--AND I KNOW THIS BECAUSE THE WORST HAS HAPPENED.

THE THING I CAN'T LIVE WITH... HAS HAPPENED.

AND FOR ALL OUR BACK AND FORTH--AND ALL THE THINGS WE'VE SAID AND DONE TO EACH OTHER...

FOR ALL THE HARD QUESTIONS I'VE HAD TO ASK, AND TERRIBLE LIES I'VE HAD TO TELL...

THERE'S ONE THING THAT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE NOW.

NOT MY FRIENDS OR MY CO-WORKERS OR MY PRESIDENT...

THE ONE THING!!

THE ONE THING I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

BUT NOW I CAN'T...



IT WASN'T
WORTH IT.

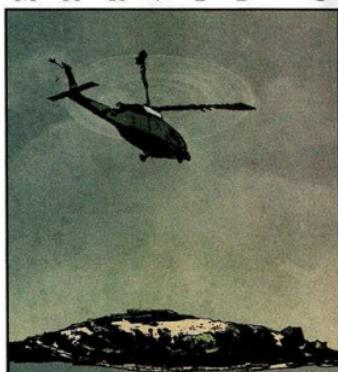


THE END

IT'S NOT ENOUGH!



THE END



RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.



THE CONFESSION



TWO DAYS AGO.

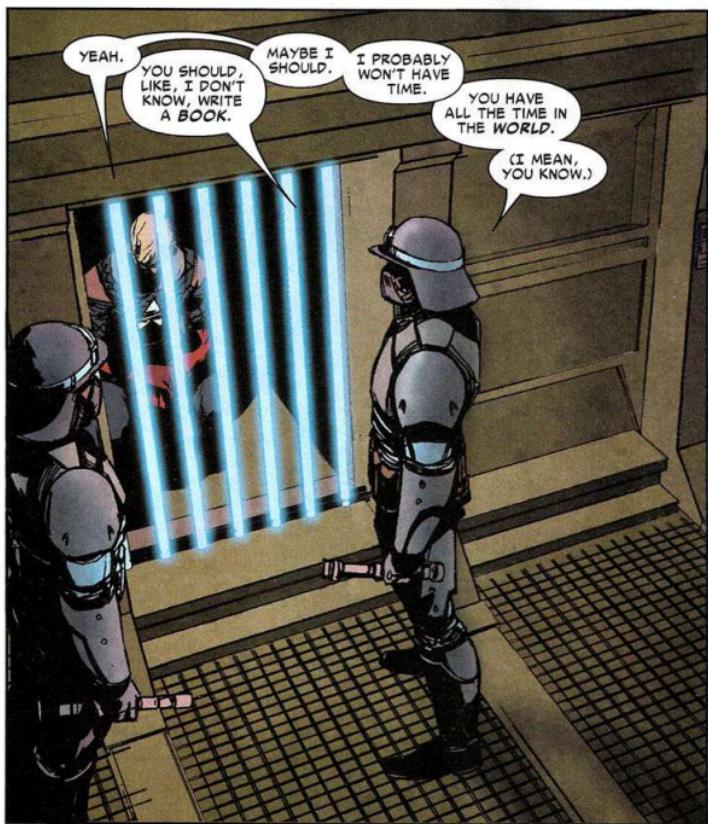


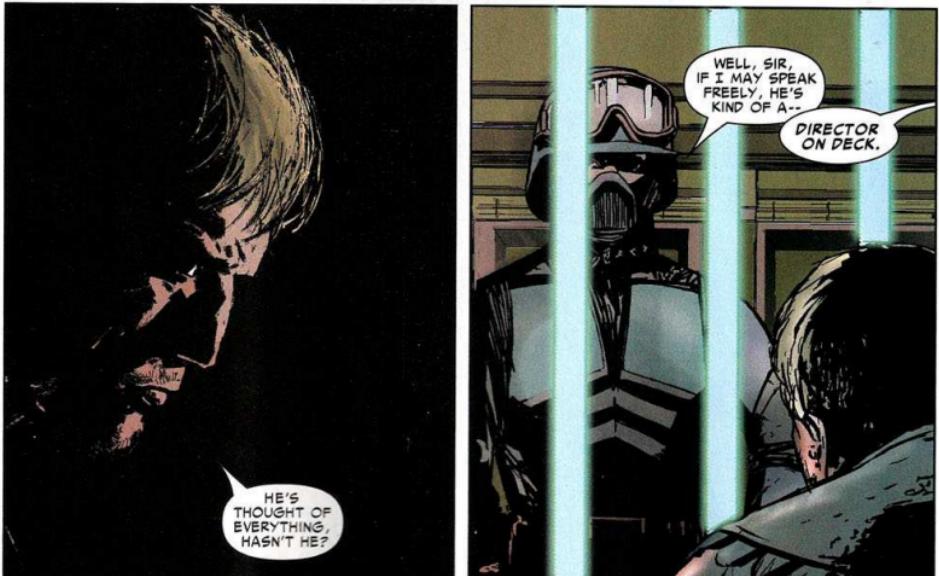
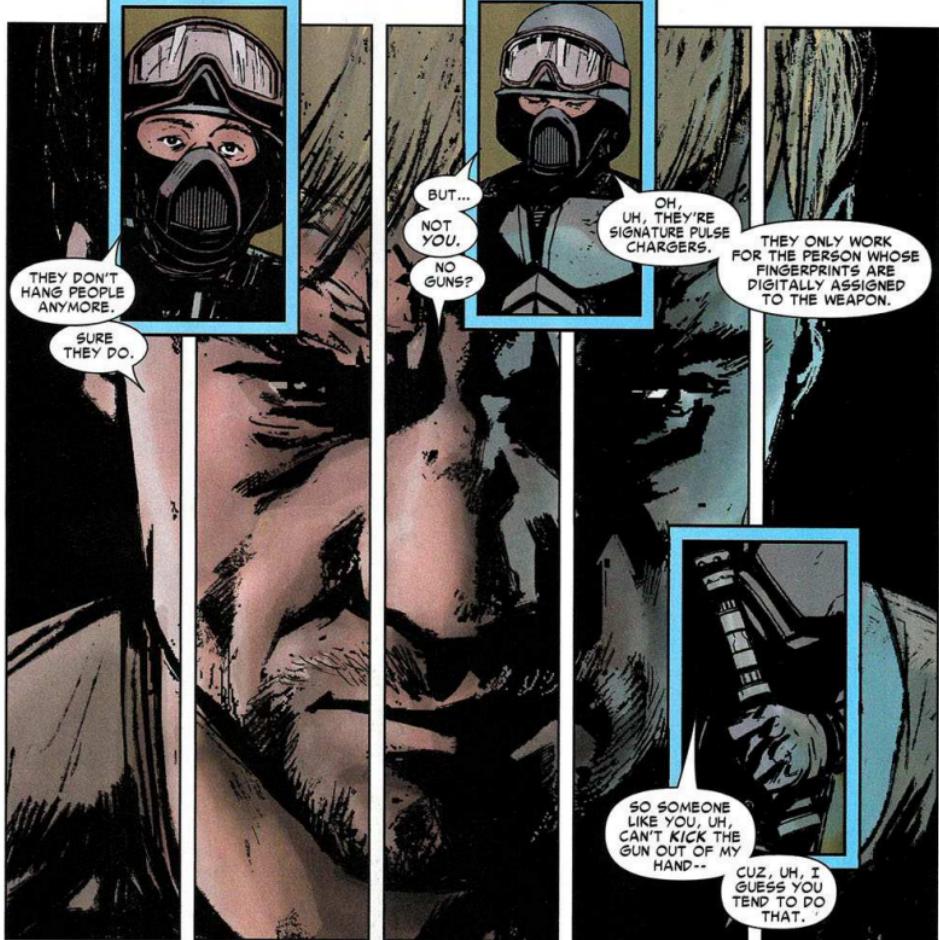
NOT
ANYMORE.

IT'S CAPTAIN
AMERICA.















DO YOU THINK
THE FACT THAT I'M
IN HERE MEANS
YOU WON?



UH, YES.



WE MAINTAINED
THE PRINCIPLES WE
SWORE TO DEFEND
AND PROTECT.

YOU
SOLD YOUR
PRINCIPLES.

YOU LOST
THIS BEFORE
IT STARTED.







RIP-Mia



One teaspoon of Super-AIDS in your butt...
and you're dead in three years.