

MARVEL
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BLACK PANTHER

HUDLIN EATON HENNESSY WHITE

DIRECT EDITION



\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

RATED T+

BLACK PANTHER



PREVIOUSLY

There are some places you just don't mess with. Wakanda is one of them. Since the dawn of time, that African warrior nation has been sending would-be conquerors home in body bags. While the rest of Africa got carved up like a Christmas turkey by the rest of the world, Wakanda's cultural evolution has gone unchecked for centuries, unfettered by the yoke of colonization. The result: a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise that makes the rest of the world seem primitive by comparison.

Ruling over all of this is the Black Panther.

The Black Panther is more than just the embodiment of a warrior cult that's served as Wakanda's religious, political and military head since its inception. The Black Panther is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. Anyone who'd dare to make a move on Wakanda must go through him.

Despite conflict amongst his allies in America, the Black Panther was able to enjoy his marriage to Storm of the X-Men. Yet, as soon as the celebration concluded, T'Challa and his queen were thrust into the new reality of their world—one where Wakanda is in the precarious position of navigating a political minefield. And to further complicate matters, the couple was approached with a startling proposition: an alliance with their adversary, Dr. Doom!



THANK
YOU.



FOR
WHAT?

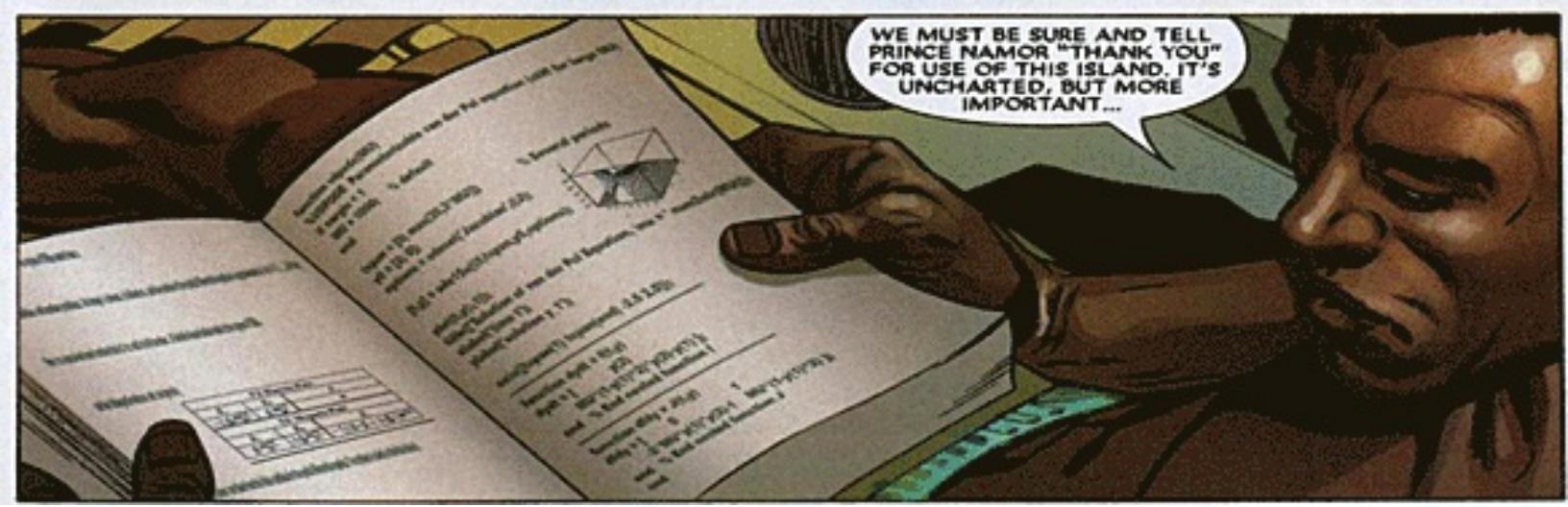
FOR SUCH
AN AMAZING
HONEYMOON.
TWO WEEKS AND
NO FIGHTS.

THAT WOULD
BE TERRIBLE IF WE
FOUGHT ON OUR
HONEYMOON!



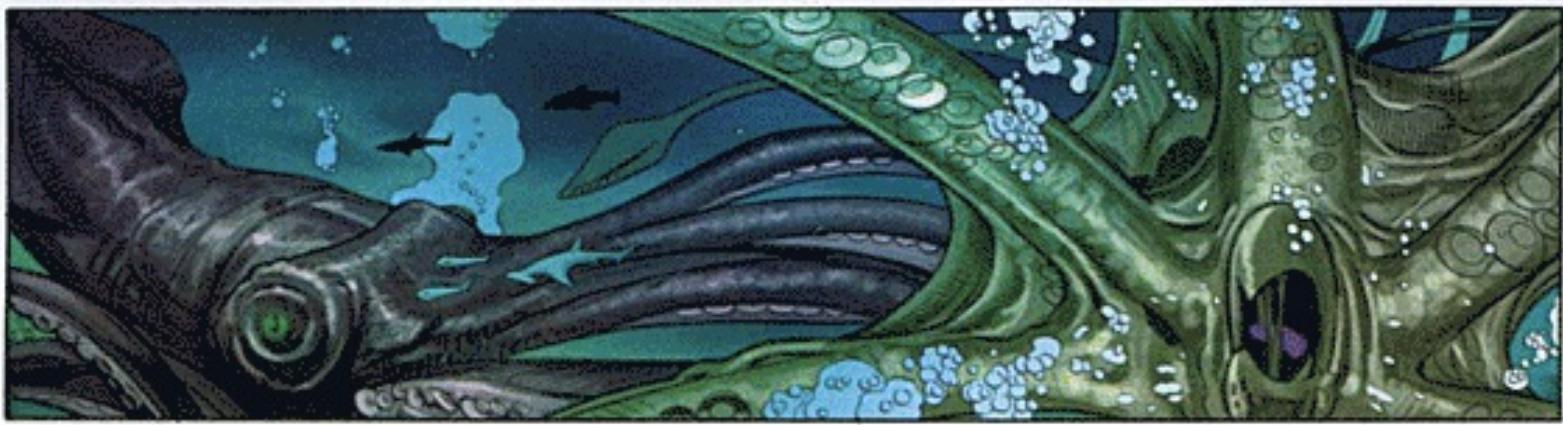
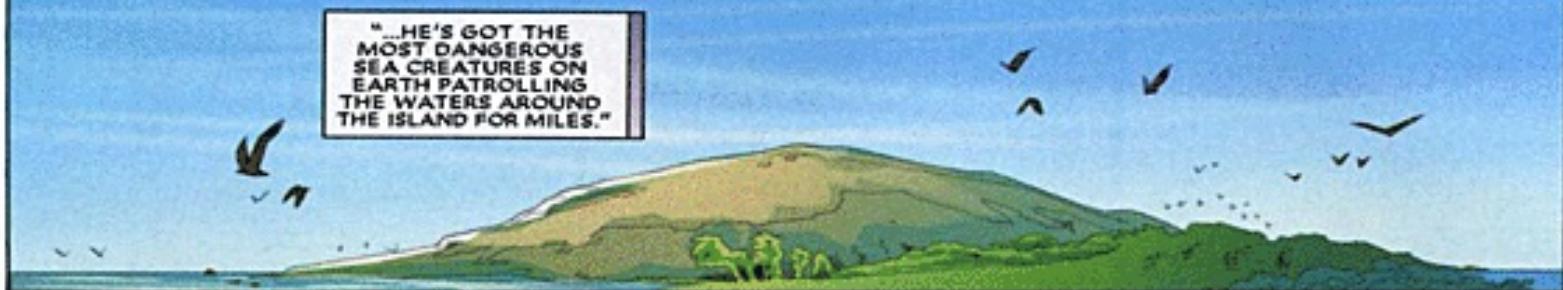
NO. I MEAN,
NO ATTACKS
FROM HYDRA OR
THE HELLFIRE
CLUB.

THE ISLAND
DIDN'T TURN
OUT TO BE A
LIVING BEING
WHO WANTED
TO EAT US.



WE MUST BE SURE AND TELL
PRINCE NAMOR "THANK YOU"
FOR USE OF THIS ISLAND. IT'S
UNCHARTED, BUT MORE
IMPORTANT...

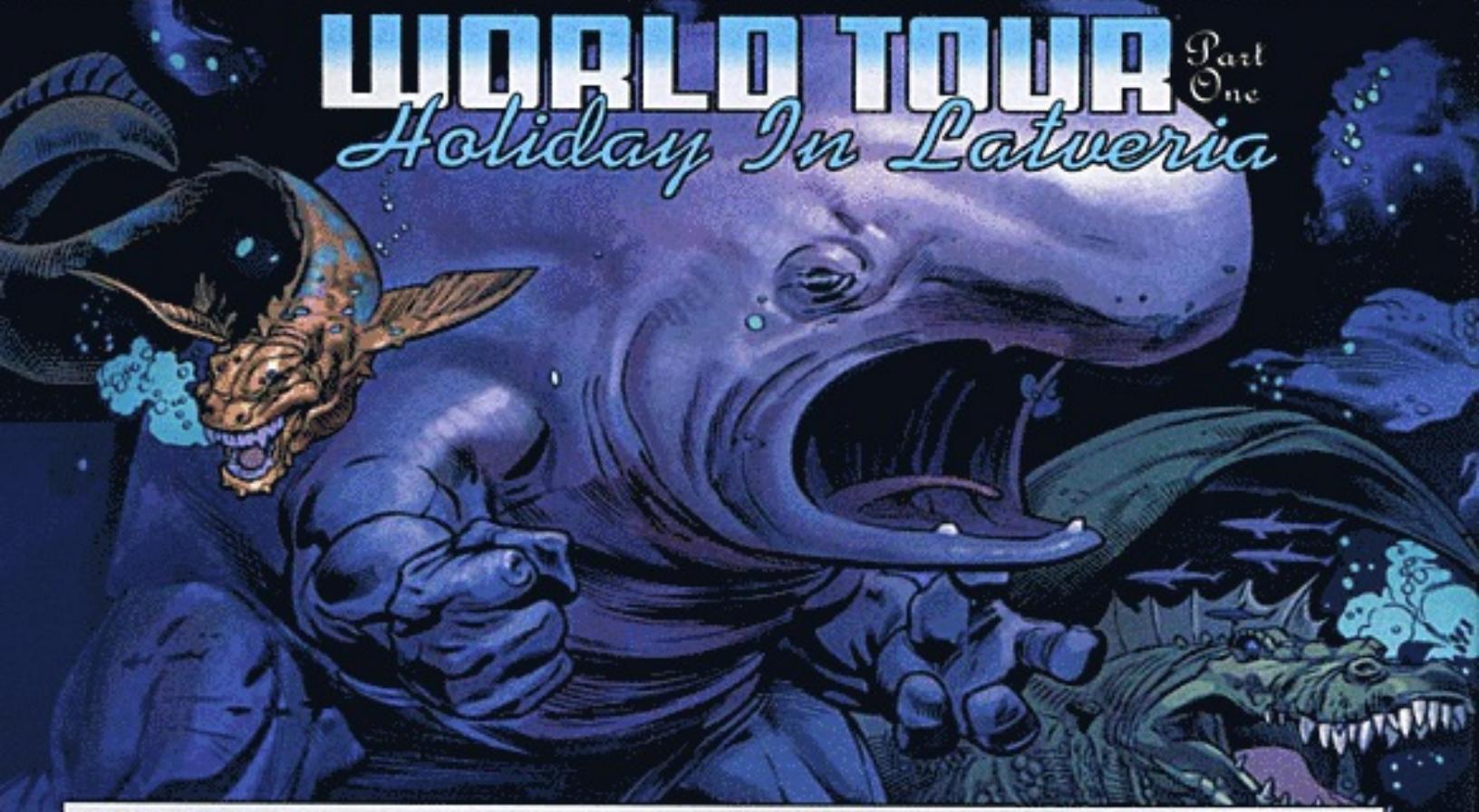
"...HE'S GOT THE
MOST DANGEROUS
SEA CREATURES ON
EARTH PATROLLING
THE WATERS AROUND
THE ISLAND FOR MILES."



WORLD TOUR

Holiday In Latveria

Part
One



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BUCKLEY
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ARE WE GOING TO SEE HIM SOON?
IS THERE A REGULAR MEETING OF
SUPER-POWERED MONARCHS THAT
WE'LL BE ATTENDING?



WELL, NOT A
"REGULAR MEETING."
NO, BUT I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA
FOR US TO VISIT SOME
OF THE LARGER CENTERS
OF GLOBAL POWER.

SO NOW THE JOB BEGINS.
DOOM'S MESSAGE TO US
REALLY Affected YOU
THAT MUCH?

HE JUST
ARTICULATED
A FEELING THAT
IS OBVIOUS TO
ANYONE PAYING
ATTENTION.



BEHIND THE SMILES AND THE GIFTS
LURKS FEAR. PEOPLE LOOK AT US AS
A COUPLE AND QUIVER.

TOO MUCH
POWER, TOO MUCH
WEALTH, TOO WELL
CONNECTED. THEY
THINK WE MIGHT TAKE
OVER THE WORLD.

SO YOU
WANT TO DO A
GOODWILL TOUR TO
ASSUAGE THEIR
FEARS.

EXACTLY.

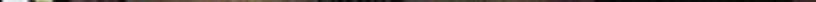


AND IF WE CAN'T
ASSUAGE THEIR
FEARS...?

THAT WOULD BE
UNFORTUNATE.

WHY?

BECAUSE THEN
WE'D HAVE TO
TAKE OVER THE
WORLD.



HA! HA! HA!





SOMEWHERE OVER
THE ATLANTIC...

ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO
DO THIS? NOT
THE NICEST WAY
TO END YOUR
HONEYMOON.

I HATE UNFINISHED BUSINESS,
W'KABI. THE MAN THREW DOWN
A GAUNTLET DISGUISED AS
AN INVITATION.

WHY TAKE
THE BAIT? AND
WHY DO IT ON
HIS TURF?
TO
MAKE A
POINT.

I WOULD HAVE
HOPED MARRIAGE
WOULD MATURE
YOU.

DR. DOOM IS A PSYCHOPATH
FRESH OUT OF HELL. IF
HE ISN'T CONTAINED
IMMEDIATELY, HE COULD
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE
CHAOS IN THE SUPER-
HUMAN COMMUNITY
TO--

I GET IT,
I GET IT.

SO, IN THE WAR
GAME SCENARIOS...
DO YOU WIN?

SORT OF, YES.
HALF OF EUROPE
IS DESTROYED,
BUT WE DO WIN.

OH.





AND WHAT
KEEPS THE
WORLD FROM
SHATTERING?

TRUST, A SHARED
UNDERSTANDING
OF WHO OUR
FRIENDS ARE.

TRUST IS A
RARE COMMODITY
THESE DAYS.

YOU TWO ARE VERY LUCKY. YOU'VE
FOUND SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST.
YOU'VE FORGED AN ALLIANCE
THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH OF
YOU FOR THE DURATION OF
YOUR LIVES.

BUT WHO
ELSE CAN YOU
TRUST?

DO YOU TRUST THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT?
S.H.I.E.L.D.? TONY
STARK?

OF COURSE YOU
DON'T. THAT'S WHY YOU
JOINED THE AVENGERS IN
THE FIRST PLACE. T'CHALLA, TO
SPY ON THEM, TO MAKE SURE
THEIR INTENTIONS WERE
HONORABLE.

AND NOW, YOUR FORMER COLLEAGUES--
DESPITE ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH
TOGETHER--ARE TAKING ACTIONS THAT
CONFIRM EVERY WORST-CASE
SCENARIO YOU'VE EVER IMAGINED.

YOU'RE A STRATEGIST,
T'CHALLA. YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS
HEADED...EVEN IF THEY DON'T. EVEN
AS THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS LEAD THEM
STRAIGHT TO HELL--A PLACE I'D
STRONGLY RECOMMEND AVOIDING.

AM I SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU,
VICTOR? A MAN WHO HIDES BEHIND
PUPPETS INSTEAD OF MEETING ME
FACE-TO-FACE?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT--?

STOP PLAYING
GAMES, OR WE'RE
LEAVING.

I AM
DOOM!

GOODBYE.





IN THE
INTERESTS OF
BIGGER GOALS,
I WILL IGNORE
YOUR INSOLENT
TONE.

CONSIDER
THE BIG
PICTURE:

YOUR FORMER
COLLEAGUES IN THE
UNITED STATES? RIPPED
APART BY A CIVIL WAR
THAT HAS PITTED FORMER
FRIENDS AGAINST ONE
ANOTHER, RACING
TOWARD UNCERTAIN
SPOILS.

THE HULK?
VANISHED TO
WHEREABOUTS
UNKNOWN, AND
GOD HELP US IF--
OR, SHOULD I
SAY, WHEN--
HE RETURNS.

PRINCE NAMOR?
PARANOID AS EVER
AND UNDERSTANDABLY
NERVOUS ABOUT THE
RAMIFICATIONS OF THE
CURRENT CLIMATE. INDEED,
MY INTEL INDICATES THAT
HE'S TAKEN A MORE "PRO-
ACTIVE" STANCE AGAINST
THE SURFACE WORLD.

THE INHUMANS?
RETREATED TO THE
BLUE AREA OF THE MOON
WHILE DECLARING A COLD
WAR WITH THE U.S AND,
INDEED, HUMANITY
ITSELF.

THIS IS THE
WORLD TODAY.
THE WORLD THAT
SURROUNDS WAKANDA.
A WORLD THAT BEGS
US TO CONSIDER A
SIMPLE ADAGE:

"POLITICS
MAKES STRANGE
BEDFELLOWS."

A PROVOCATIVE ANALYSIS OF WORLD EVENTS. DOOM, BUT I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR OFFER. I CANNOT FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH SOMEONE I DON'T TRUST.



YOU WOULD SHUN ME! AFTER I EXTEND MY HAND IN FRIENDSHIP?!

IF THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA ERUPTS BEYOND ITS BORDERS, I WILL FIGHT FOR THE PRINCIPLES THAT I SHARE WITH MY COMRADES, NOT FEAR OF LOSING MY THRONE.

WHATEVER COMES OF THIS WAR, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD THE VALUES THAT WAKANDA WAS BUILT UPON.

AND WHEN THEY TAKE WAKANDA FROM YOU?

VIOLATING OUR PRINCIPLES WOULD MEAN WE'VE ALREADY LOST.

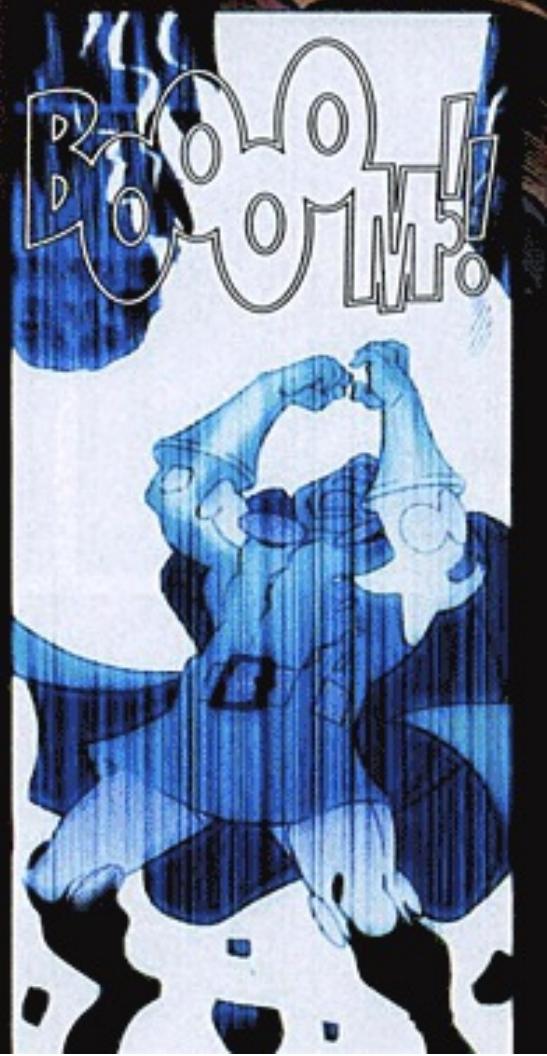
YOU JUST DON'T HAVE ANY TO LOSE.

PUT YOUR WOMAN IN HER PLACE, T'CHALLA. I'D HATE TO HAVE TO DO IT FOR YOU.

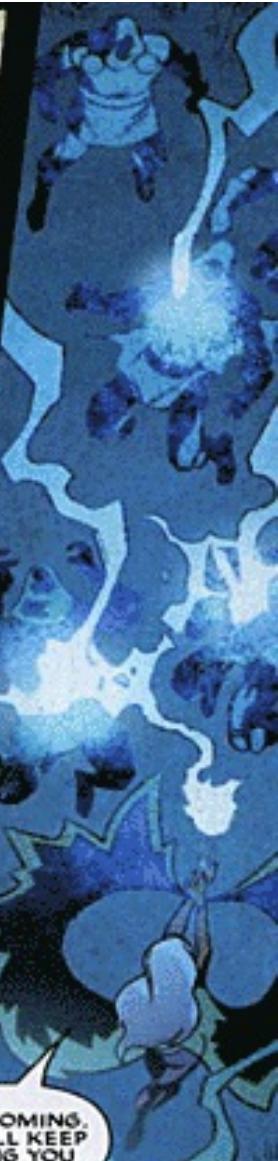
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL HOW YOU SPEAK TO MY WIFE.



ANY MAN
WHO REFUSES
A FAVOR FROM
DOOM--IS TOO
STUPID TO
RULE!







LIGHT ARMOR? NEAT TRICK. I BUILT ONE JUST LIKE IT AT FIFTEEN.



I DESIGNED THIS ONE WHEN I WAS TWELVE.



KEEP COMING, AND I'LL KEEP RIPPING YOU APART!



I'LL GIVE YOU A CHOICE, DOOM. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND POPULACE:



JUST THE TWO OF US. BARE-HANDED.



YOU ACT AS IF YOU HAVE LEVERAGE HERE. SUPERIOR STRENGTH.



DOOM DOES NOT BLUFF!!!

LOOK AT THE SKY!
THE CLOUDS SEEM
TO SWIRL AROUND
THE CASTLE.

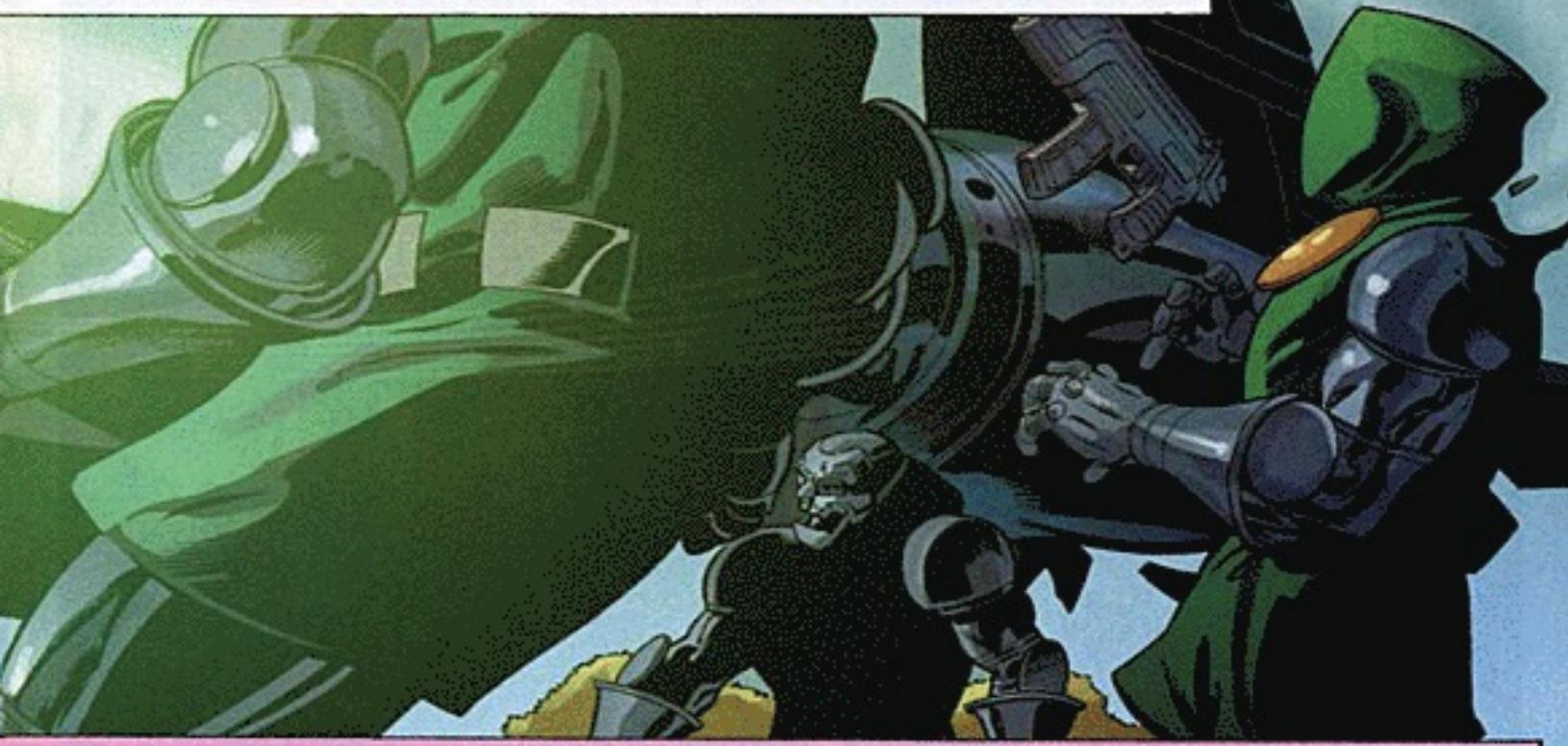
THE MASTER
IS BACK FOR A
FEW DAYS AND
ALREADY IT
STARTS.

QUIET! YOU
KNOW HE'S
LISTENING....

SHIP
OPERATIONAL.

FIRE AT
WILL...

WARNING!
ELECTRO--





AMONG OTHER THINGS, YOUR AUTOMATED MILITARY DEFENSE SYSTEM IS DOWN. WHICH MEANS YOU ARE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK-- NOT JUST FROM WAKANDA, BUT ANY OF YOUR OTHER ENEMIES.

NOW...DO YOU NEED HELP OUT OF THAT ARMOR?

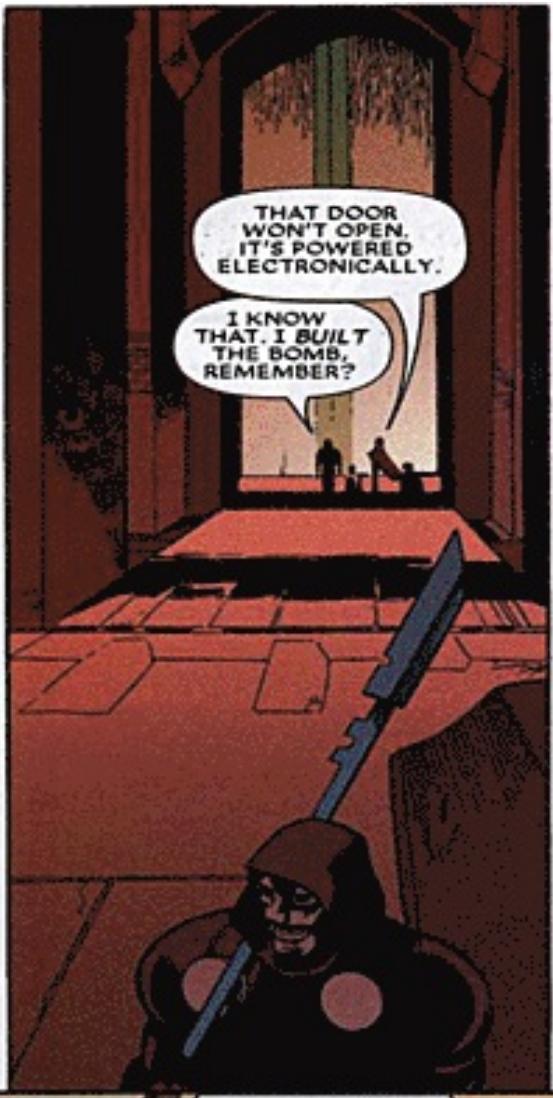
YOU THINK MY ARMOR IS DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL POWER SOURCES FOR ME TO MOVE?





NEVER TOUCH
MY HUSBAND
AGAIN!





FWOOSH



NOT EVERYTHING
CAN BE RESOLVED
WITH A KISS,
ORoro.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW?
DID YOU EVER
TRY AND KISS
DOOM?



NEXT:
TO THE MOON, BABY...

MAIL TO THE KING!

Greetings, Panther Fans! I must say, reading your letters is always a pleasure. I have plenty that I would like to share with you, so let's go to it!

Dear People of Wakanda,

I am a 27-year-old black male who recently came back to his childhood hobby. As a child I never really followed the Black Panther. This was probably because I felt that he was only added to the Avengers for cultural diversity. He didn't have any powers or abilities and didn't get a lot of exposure. A few months back I heard he was engaged to Storm and decided to pick up the latest copy, issue #14. WOW!!! This is the super hero I have been waiting to find. I am now tracking down all of the back issues I missed. There are other positive black super heroes, plenty of 'em, but T'Challa is at the top. I really love the fact that he is such a strong political figure, and that this comic is up to date on the current events of what's going on in the black community. T'Challa is a positive role model for all kids, especially black kids. If you are also reading the Storm mini series, you get a great history lesson from two great heroes with a solid foundation in some American history. At times I forget that this is fiction, it's that good! I do have one question. The Marvel Universe has an African prince and an African princess. Why did it catch so many people off guard in the comic community when we heard of the proposal? Present company included. Anyway, now you have another faithful follower. It's funny to think, the guy with no powers is one of the most powerful individuals in the world.

Sincerely,
Douglas Smallwood
Eustis, FL

I was also surprised by Ororo's engagement to T'Challa, Douglas. I think that I was surprised because this is a huge change in how I'll be reading characters I've grown up with. But, the more I read, the more I like it...and the more it makes sense. These characters certainly do have a rich history together. And, this issue included, there are numerous possibilities for where they can go next!

Black Panthers:

Hey guys! This book is unique! Each issue is crazier than the previous one. I want to comment on some Black

Panther #17 passages.

The romantic scene between T'Challa and Ororo (T'Ro for paparazzi) was brilliant. I mean, fighting before going to bed? That's gotta be the most exciting and effective foreplay of 'em all!

The "catfight" at the fashion store was hilarious. It was nice to see Ororo in action without her costume but in expensive clothes, giving that Paris Hilton of Africa what she deserved.

And the bachelor party: please send triple kudos to Scot Eaton for that splash page of the club in Rio with all those hot chicks. Unluckily, Panther's trademark bad-@#*ity makes him act like a wet blanket sometimes. I mean, the trip all the way to Brazil for nothing? Not even some innocent dancing? At least, that attitude seems to have saved him from the Cannibal's diabolical plans. He's a big threat, and he's too close—something bad is going to happen soon.

Non-traditional, unexpected scenes and dialogue are becoming Hudlin's signature. His storytelling is all about new angles and original approaches to elements of the super hero world. Cool! I like a writer like that, who takes risks and experiments with his writing to give us fans new emotions and feelings during our monthly reading doses of Black Panther. Don't ever let him go! Make mine Marvel!!!

Abel Lopez Paz
Barcelona, Spain

PS: A big welcome for the new assistant editor. Good luck, man!

I'm glad that you're enjoying the book, Abel. And thank you for the nice welcome! Running around Mighty Marvel, I'm constantly reminded of what the X-Men say to new members: "Hope you survive the experience!"

Dear Mr. Hudlin,

It is the best of times (for fans), it is the worst of times (for characters). In all of comicdom, the events of the past two years have been nothing short of extraordinary. It's been a time of conflicts, intergalactic to personal. It's been a time of death and rebirth, change and confusion, chaos and order.

It's a time of villains uniting and heroes dividing, a time of death and despair all in the name of peace and prosperity. A time when truth becomes lies. A time when no one knows who to trust and betrayal seems to be around every corner. A time

when the politicians and the magicians have ventured to the brink of insanity and beyond. Just as times appear darkest, you bring us this moment of hope, this most joyous of occasions. Just as the death tolls become too high for the sharpest of us to count, you remind us there is still love in this crazy world. You remind all of us that no matter what changes the world has in store for us, as long as we can reach out and find love there is still a chance for peace. In the backdrop of shadows and a world of craziness, two hearts will always be stronger than one. To you I say thank you. Thank you for this wonderful moment, this joining of heroes.

Thank you for bringing these beloved souls together.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this most grand event. Someone once said, "May you live in interesting times." Thank you for making our times just a bit more interesting. Until times become less than interesting, MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!

Rick Quick

I couldn't have said it better any other way. Thanks, Rick!

Next month, T'Challa and Ororo continue their diplomatic tour by dropping in on our favorite mute monarch, Black Bolt! We'll see you in thirty...ON THE MOON!

-Daniel

NEXT ISSUE:



INHUMANS!

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