

IRON MAN®



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REVOLUTION

002

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TONY STARK IS A TECHNOLOGICAL VISIONARY...A FAMOUS, WEALTHY AND UNPARALLELED INVENTOR. WITH THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED AND POWERFUL SUIT OF ARMOR, STARK VAULANTLY PROTECTS THE INNOCENT AS AN INVINCIBLE BRIGHT KNIGHT KNOWN AS...

IRON MAN



BELIEVE 2 OF 5 A GENTLEMAN'S WAGER

THE DNA-MODIFYING EXTREMIS VIRUS HAS BEEN SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET. ITS CREATOR, MAYA HANSEN, HAS BEEN MURDERED BY THOSE WHO WISH TO PROFIT FROM IT.

TONY STARK HAS PROMISED TO HUNT DOWN ALL EXISTING VERSIONS. HE HAS DEVELOPED A NEW MODULAR ARMOR THAT WILL ADAPT TO THE DIFFERENT THREATS.

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**RUSSIA,
ONE YEAR AGO.**



«CAREFUL,
GRIGOR. BE CARE--»



«YOU
IDIOT.»

AND THE THING
THAT HAUNTS ME
EVEN NOW?

I NEVER EVEN
HAD A CHANCE
TO LOSE.

«TAKE
YOUR
TIME!»

THE
SUITS AREN'T
MADE FOR
SPEED.

«THEY'RE
BARELY MADE
TO DO
ANYTHING.»

ALEX
DRAGUNO--

I'M
WORKING.

IF YOU
CALL IT THAT.
CERTAINLY NOT
THE WORK YOU
WERE BORN
TO DO.





**NEW YORK,
NOW.**

SUNGLASSES
AT NIGHT,
TONY? VERY
'80S.

HELL-O
CE-O PEPPER
POTTTZZZ.

FRI3333ND
OF TONY!
ALZO SIGNS
CH3QUES!

ALSOZZZ
HYPO-CRIT!
WEARING SHADEZZ!
HA! HA!
HAAA!



J.A.R.V.I.S.
SEEMS OFF.

IT'S NOT
J.A.R.V.I.S....
I'M BUILDING A NEW
A.I. WORKING FROM
SCRATCH. FIRST
PRINCIPLES.

IT'S
FUNCTIONAL,
BUT NOT
EXACTLY MS.
CONGENIALITY.

POTTTZZZ!
POTTERY!

?NOUN:
CLAYYYYYY
HOLDING!<
PLURA!!

YOU'RE
GOING AFTER
EXTREMIS WITH
A HALF-BAKED
A.I.?

TONY! WHY
DON'T YOU JUST
HAND THE JOB OVER
TO S.H.I.E.L.D.?

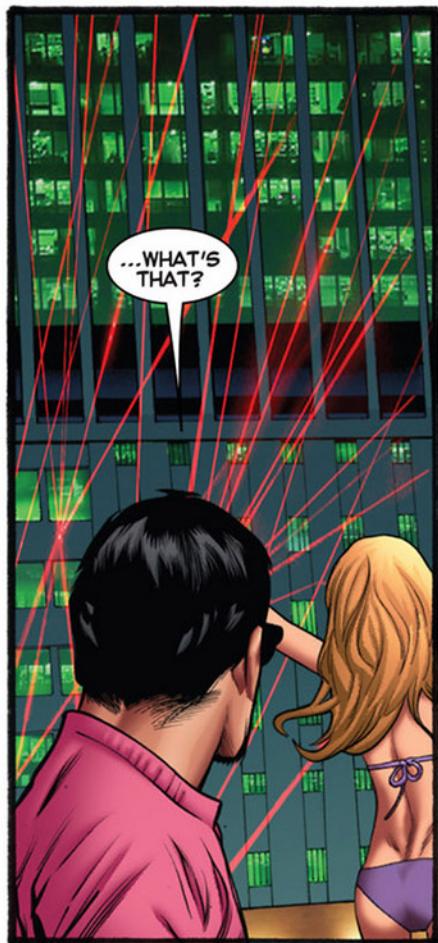
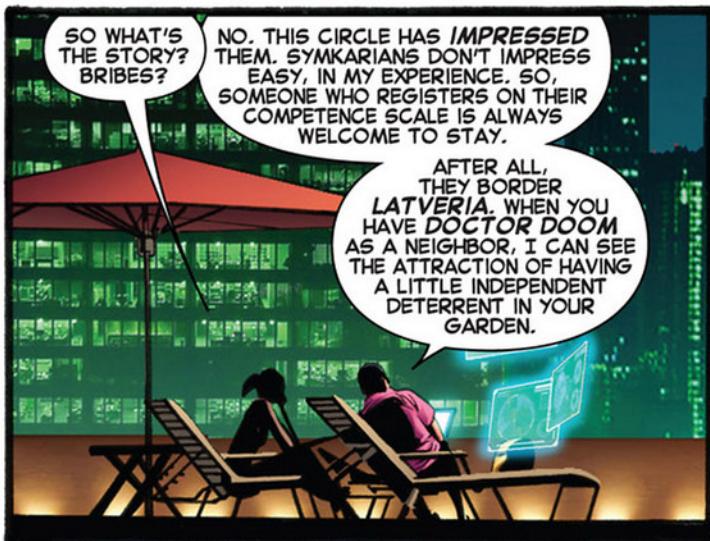
OH, I HAVE. BUT
THERE'S LEGAL
COMPLICATIONS.
BY THE TIME IT'S
SHAKEN DOWN,
I'D RISK THE TECH
FALLING INTO
EVEN CRAZIER
HANDS.

TAKE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE.
THERE'S SIX ACTIVATED EXTREMIS
ENHANCILES ON ONE LITTLE ARTIFICIAL
ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF A
LAKE IN SYMKARIA.

PROPERTY
OF A MERCENARY
GROUP CALLING
THEMSELVES
"THE CIRCLE."

SYMKARIA
JUST LOVES
THEM THERE.





NEW AVALON, LAKE SYMKARIA.

"WE DON'T HAVE NEFAIRIOUS PLANS FOR THE EXTREMIS TECHNOLOGY, TONY. WE'RE ADVENTURERS AND WARRIORS, JUST LIKE YOU. WELL...A LITTLE BETTER."

"WE'RE INSPIRED BY ARTHURIAN IDEALS. WE LIVE HERE, ON THE FRONT LINES, DEFENDING THE WEAK AGAINST DOOM, BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY."

"FUNDAMENTALLY: WE BELIEVE THE AGE OF ARMORED CHIVALRY HAS RETURNED, AND WISH TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT."



STILL--WE KNEW YOU'D BE LOOKING, AND YOU'RE TONY STARK! WHAT YOU LOOK FOR, YOU FIND. SO LET'S JUST CUT TO THE MAIN EVENT.

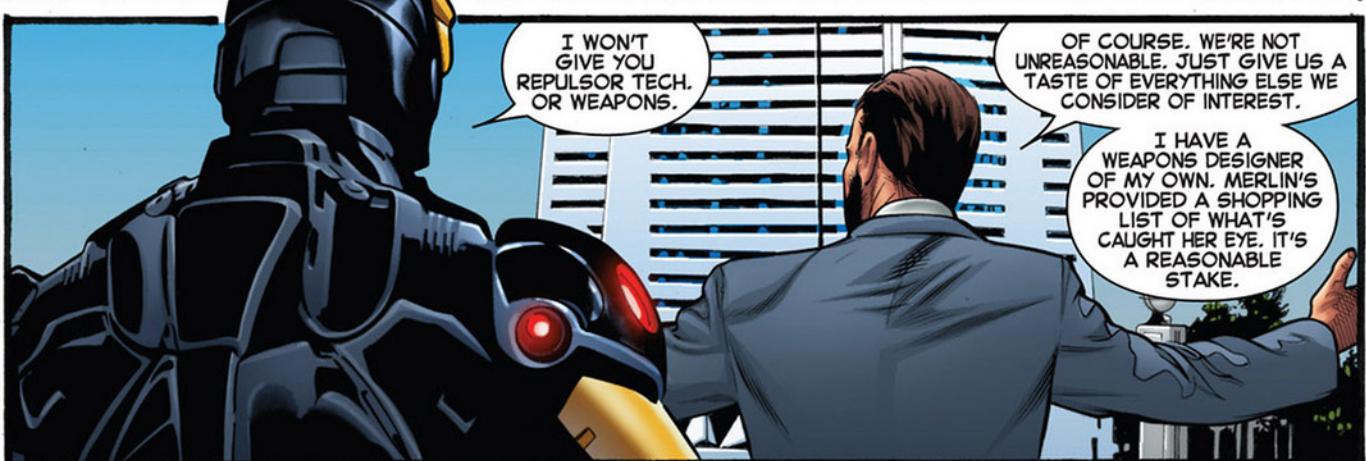
AND SO, TO OUR LITTLE ISLAND, COMES HE WHO WOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF GRAIL KNIGHT...



SORRY, I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN BE MISUSED IN BILLIONS OF WAYS THAT I SKIPPED RENAISSANCE FAIR THIS YEAR.

THE GRAIL KNIGHT, HE WHO IS DESTINED TO RETRIEVE THE GRAIL, AND IN DOING SO, UNDERSTAND ULTIMATE TRUTH...





ARTHUR IS CALLING HIM CHICKEN. AND TONY STARK IS FALLING FOR IT, AS EXPECTED. THE MAN'S NOTHING BUT EGO.

HE CAME, AFTER ALL. REALLY, THEY'RE JUST ARGUING OVER DETAILS AND MEASURING ONE ANOTHER UP.

YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING TO GET YOUR BIG DAY, LANCELOT...

AND YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT HIM. IN MY ARMOR. WELL-- IF I CAN GET THE NEURAL ALIGNMENT UP A COUPLE OF POINTS...

IT'S ENOUGH. THE SUIT'S LINK TO THE EXTREMIS PILOTTING SYSTEM IS MATCHING MY NEURONE-FIRING RATES. WE DON'T NEED MORE.

YOU'RE JUST BEING NERVOUS.

OF COURSE I AM! THAT MAN RUINED MY LIFE.

I WANT HIM HUMILIATED. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID TO ME?

"I WAS 21. I WAS A WONDER-CHILD, JUST LIKE STARK. THEY SAID THEY'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE WHAT I WAS DOING WITH FORCE FIELDS. I GOT MY CHANCE...

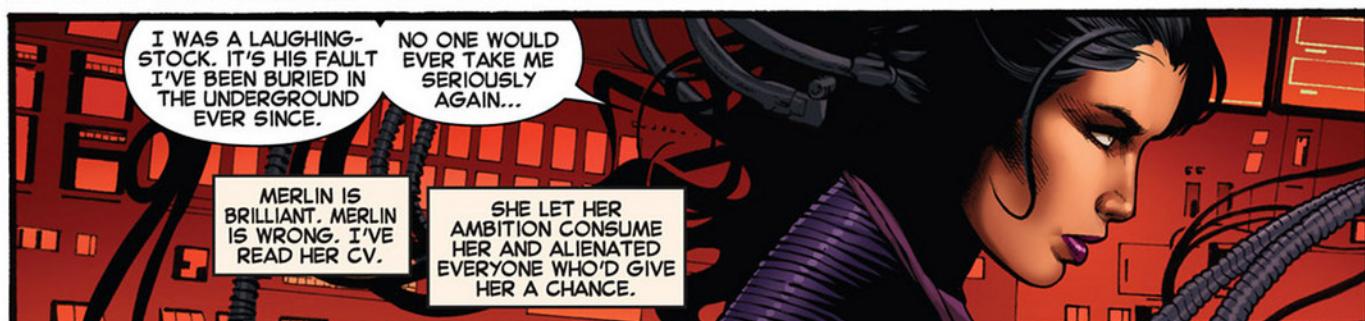
"MILITARY TRIAL. BIG CONTRACT. MY PROOF OF CONCEPT...

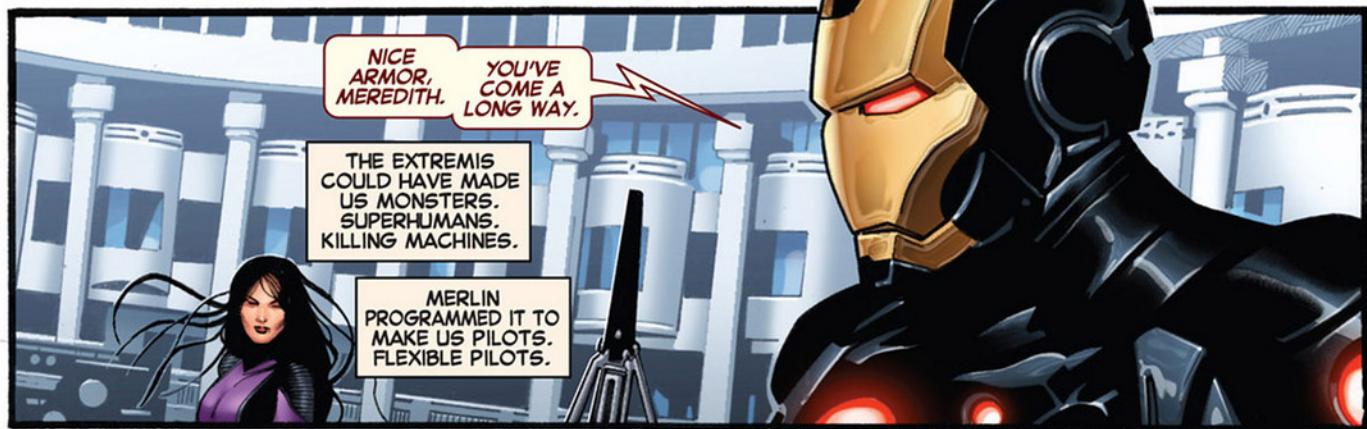
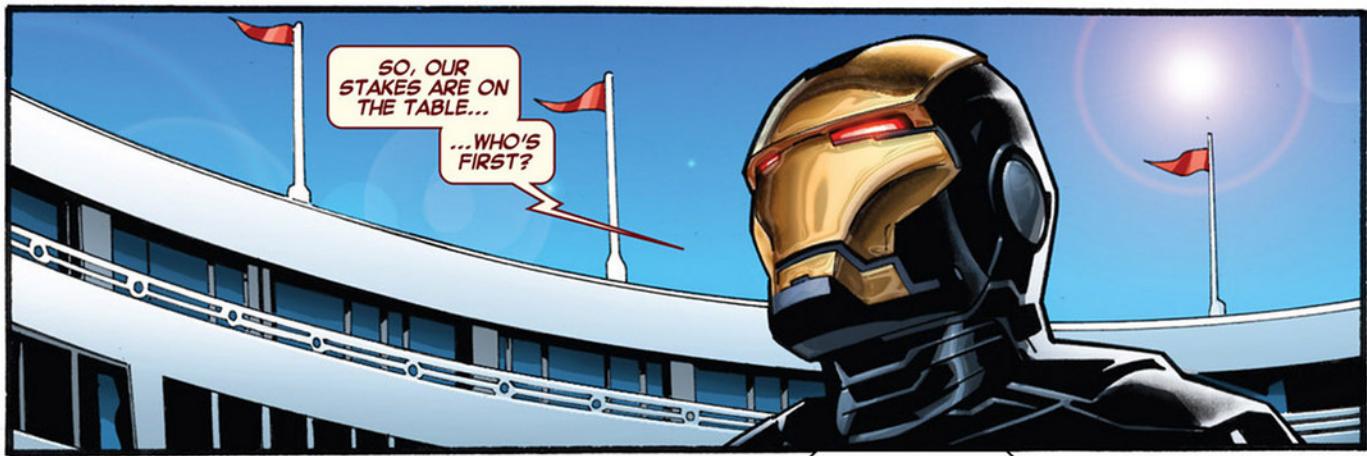
"I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS HIM IN THE SUIT THEN. NOBODY DID. IT WAS HIS TECHNOLOGY VERSUS MINE, MY IDEAS AND HIS SHARING A STAGE...

"I WAS SO PROUD.

"AGAINST IRON MAN'S REPULSORS.







WE ARE NOW LIVING CONTROL SYSTEMS, DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO WHATEVER SUITS MERLIN BUILDS. IT'S FUTURE-PROOFED. THE SUITS CAN IMPROVE WHILE THE PILOTS ARE AS GOOD AS THEY CAN GET WHILE STILL REMAINING HUMANS.



WELL, MOSTLY HUMAN. SOME MINOR BOOSTS, G-TOLERANCE AND SO ON, BUT THEY'RE NOT THE SORT OF THINGS THAT GET YOU INTO THE AVENGERS.

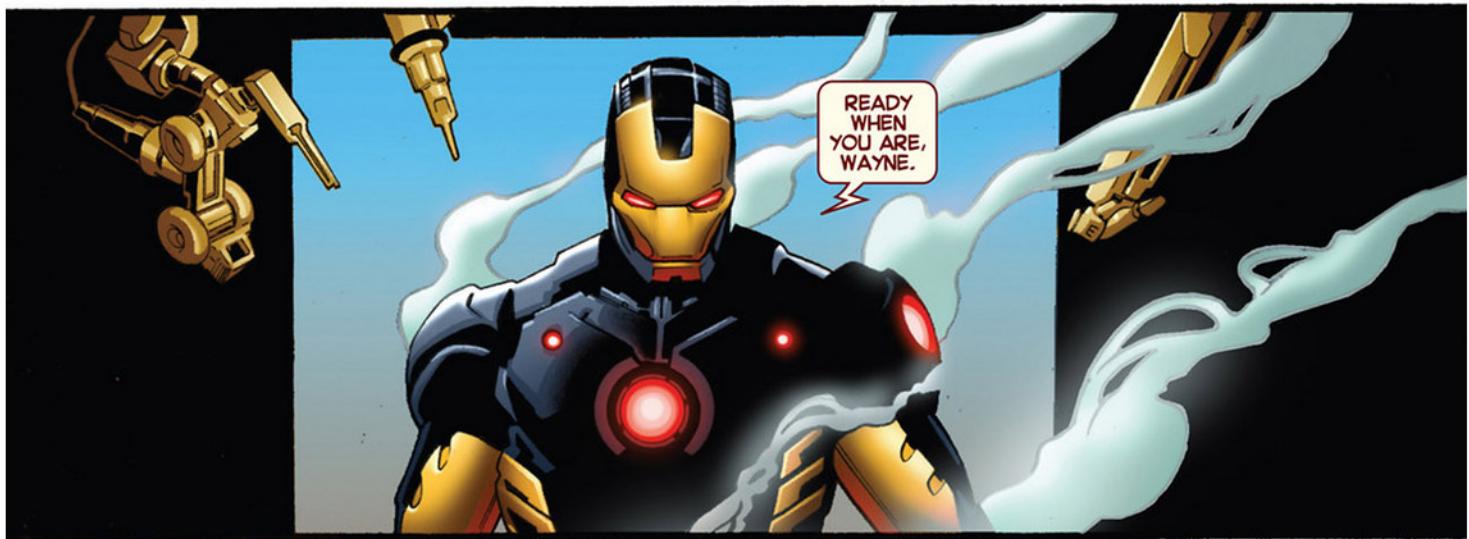


AFFIRMYES!

THANKS.

STARK'S THINKING ON SIMILARLY MODULAR LINES. IT'S IMPRESSIVE. ARTHUR DOUBTS STARK'S CALIBER AS A PILOT, BUT NO ONE IS STUPID ENOUGH TO QUESTION HIM AS A TECHNOLOGIST.

READY WHEN YOU ARE, WAYNE.



GAWAIN'S FROM SOMEWHERE IN MIDDLE AMERICA. MIXED-MARTIAL ARTIST. STRING OF BLACK BELTS. ONLY ANSWERS TO "GAWAIN" NOW.

HIS REAL NAME COULD BE "WAYNE" FOR ALL I KNOW.



THE LAST TO UPGRADE THROUGH THE EXTREMIS TECH. NATURALLY TALENTED, BUT LIMITED SUIT EXPERIENCE.

WE DREW LOTS. HE WON. ARTHUR IS A ROMANTIC. HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE. STARK'S LUCKY.

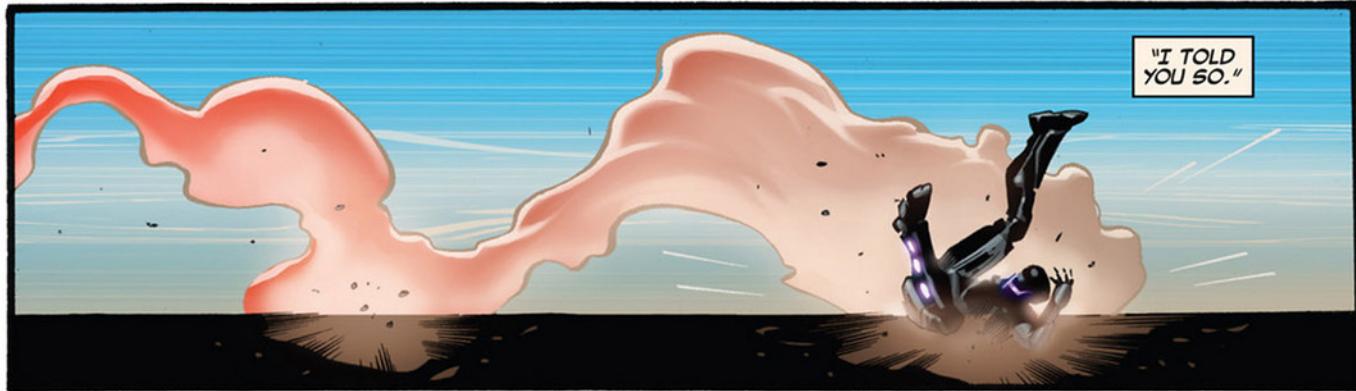
GAWAIN IS A SHOWBOATER. HE COULD SEND THAT FORCE HE ABSORBED OFF THE REPULSOR BACK IN A LANCE BLAST, BUT HE WANTS A TROPHY KILL.

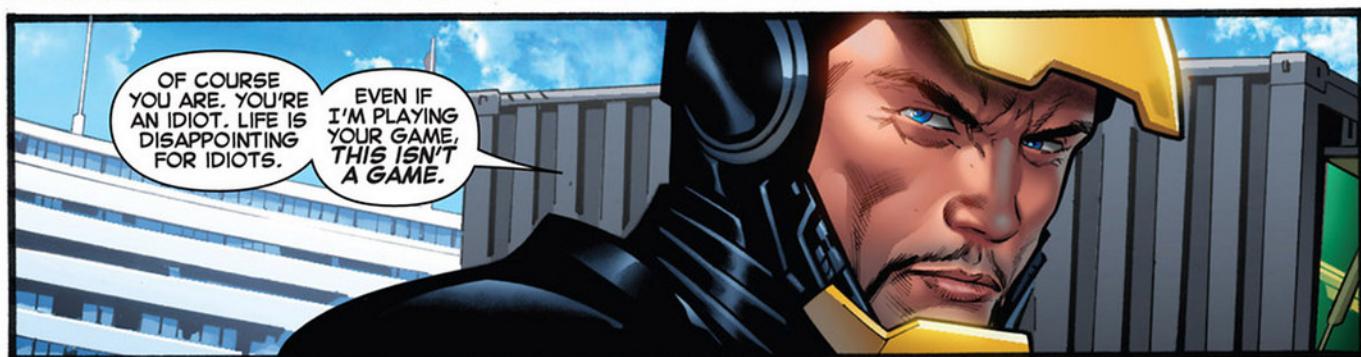
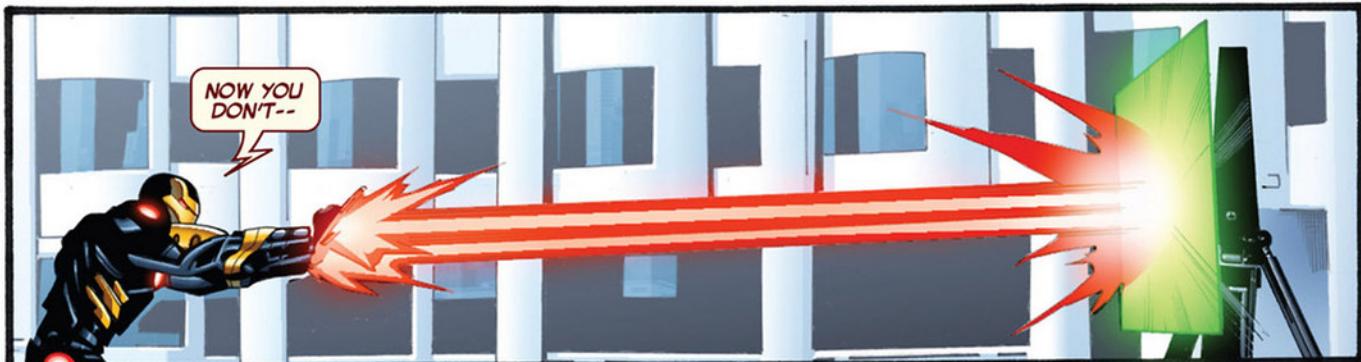
HE WANTS TO SHOW OFF HIS WARDROBE OF BLACK BELTS. THERE'S ARROGANCE IN EVERYTHING HE DOES...



ACTUALLY, THAT WAS A GOOD MOVE.







...SO IT'S A LONGER FIGHT.

STARK GETS A CHANCE TO SEE A LITTLE MORE OF MER'S KNIGHT-SUIT'S DESIGN. HE RECOGNIZES HER QUIRKS. REACTIVE TO THE POINT OF REACTIONARY, DEFENSE AS OFFENSE...

IN PRACTICE, THE SUIT'S STRENGTH AUGMENTATION IS ITS MOST DEPENDABLE ATTACK. THE STANDARD KINETIC BLAST IS JUST A REDEPLOYED THRUSTER. THE SHIELD DOES ABSORB ENERGY, AND CAN SEND IT RIGHT BACK IN A LANCE BLAST, WHICH IS NASTY...

BUT THAT'S DEPENDENT ON CORRECT SHIELD DEPLOYMENT BY THE PILOT...

OOF.
FLUFFED IT,
GALAHAD.

CUE TAKEDOWN...

HMM.

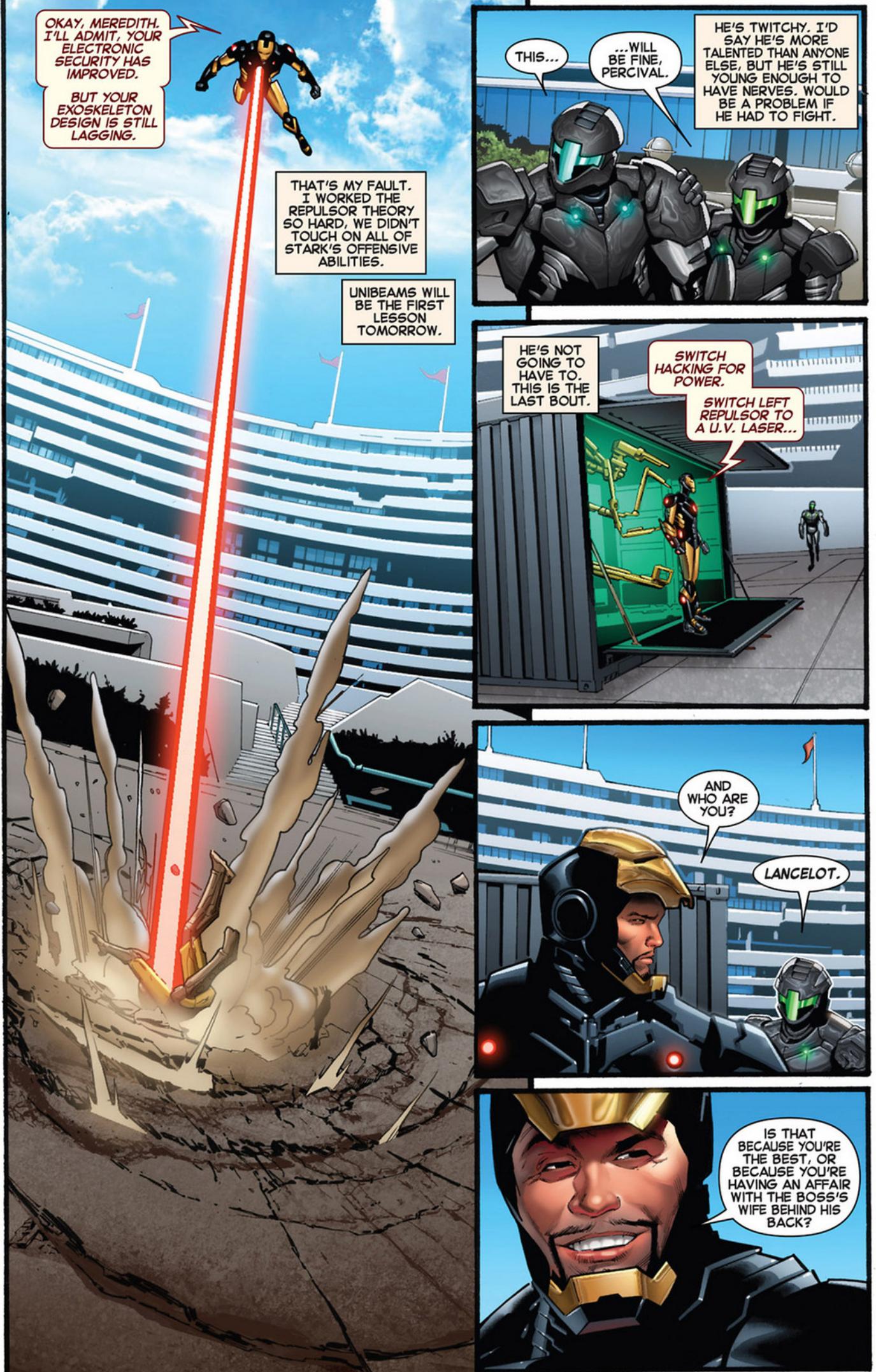
I ADMIT IT. GALAHAD IS DOING BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.

WE'RE BEING PLAYED.

THAT'S RIGHT.
STARK IS TRYING TO HACK THE SHIELDS.

HAH. THAT WILL NEVER WORK AGAIN. I'VE SPENT YEARS PERFECTING THE SECURITY...

AND...



IN 1968, A MAN CALLED FOSBURY WALKED ONTO AN OLYMPIC FIELD.

SO, MARTIAL ARTISTS IN MECH SUITS. I'M NOT THAT IMPRESSED.

I MEAN, I LIKE THE JAMES BOND VIBE OF THE PLACE, BUT...

THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

HE WAS A HIGH JUMPER. HE RAN UP, AND ON A WORLD STAGE DID SOMETHING NO ONE HAD SEEN BEFORE. HE LEANED OVER IT, CURLING IN THE AIR.

IT WASN'T HOW THINGS WERE DONE. IT LOOKED RIDICULOUS. EVERYONE LAUGHED.

BUT HE WON.

JUST FIGHT ME.

HEY, WHATEVER YOU WANT...

AND EVERY OLYMPICS, FEWER AND FEWER ATHLETES USED THE OLD TECHNIQUES, AND EVERYONE EMBRACED THE FLOP. NOW, EVERYONE DOES IT.

POINT BEING, SOMETIMES SOMEONE HAS THE INSIGHT TO INVENT A TECHNIQUE.

SOMETIMES
“SOMEONE”
IS YOU.



I'VE TRAINED THE
CIRCLE WELL, YOU
UNDERSTAND. I
DID MY JOB.

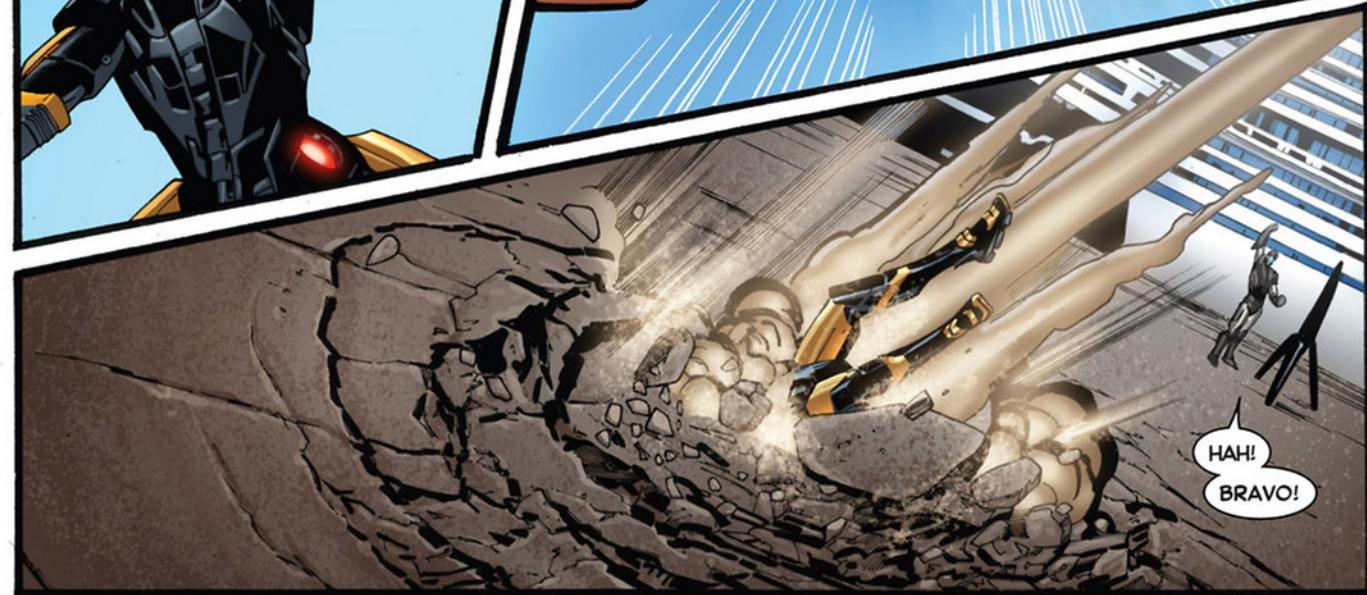
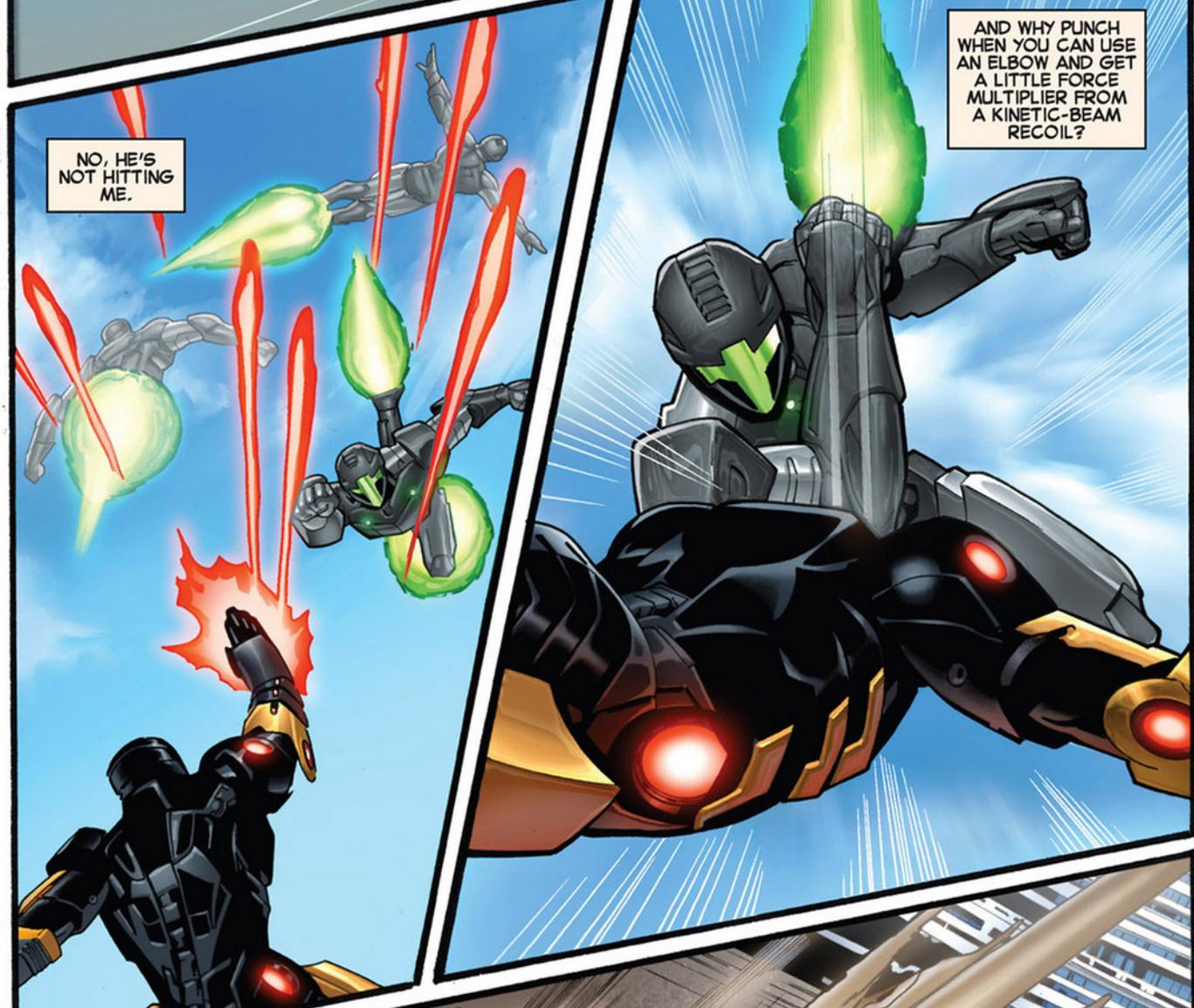
BUT I CERTAINLY
HAVEN'T TAUGHT
THEM EVERYTHING.
THEY'RE NOT REALLY
READY FOR IT.

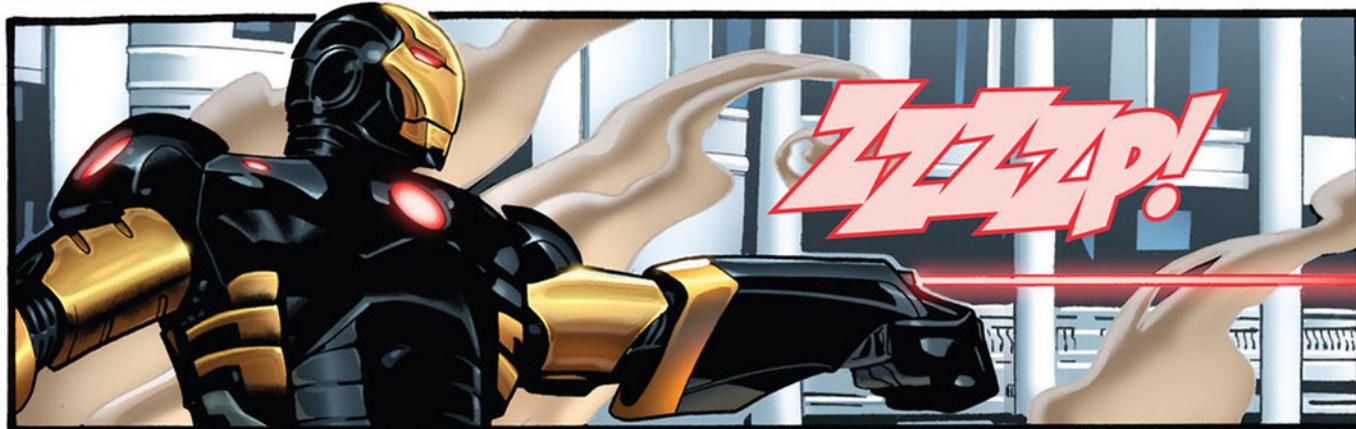
FORGET THE MARTIAL
ARTS. FORGET THE
GYMNASTICS. MY
TECHNIQUE IS ABOUT
ACTIVE CONTROL OF
THE SUIT'S THRUSTERS.

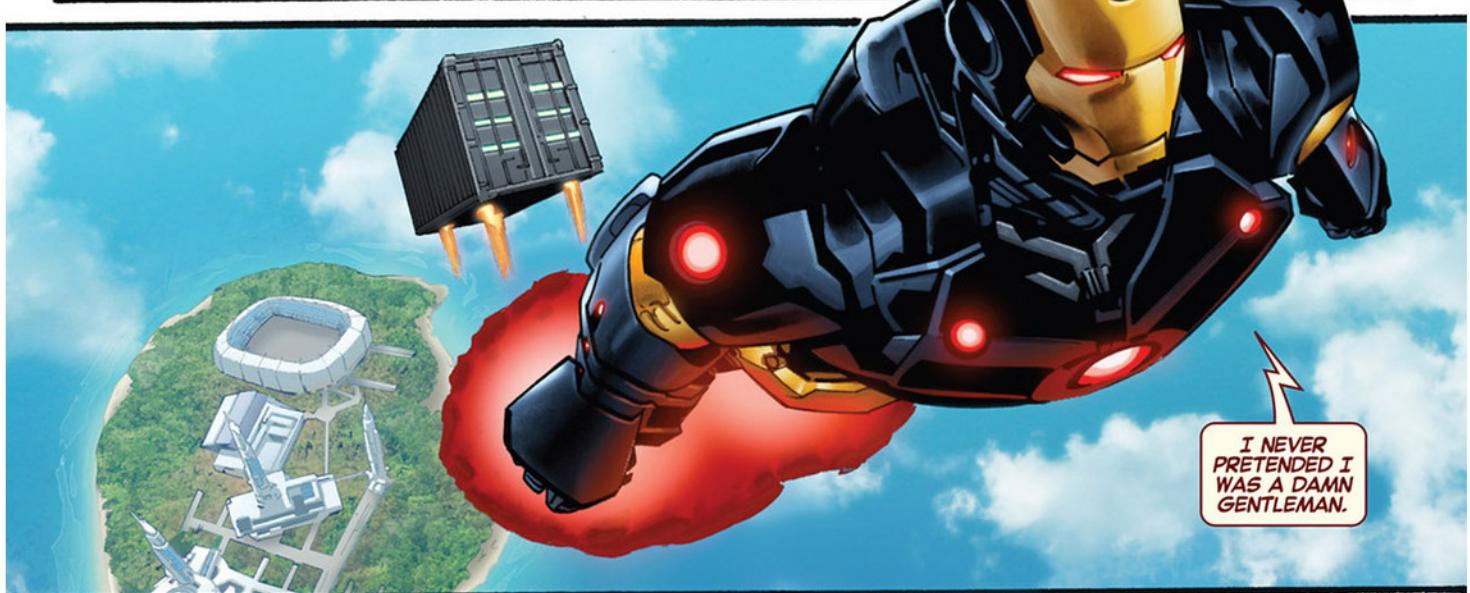
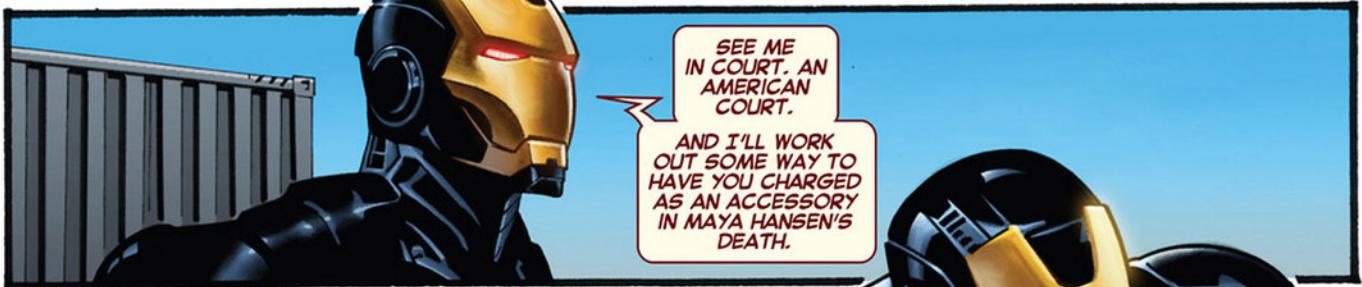
USING IT AS A FORCE
MULTIPLIER FOR TRADITIONAL
COMBAT, WITH AN EYE
ON WHAT THE SUIT CAN
DO THAT THE HUMAN
BODY DOESN'T.

MARTIAL ARTS
KICKS ARE FINE,
AS FAR AS THEY
GO, BUT THEY'RE
NOTHING NEW.

KNEES? YOU
CAN MERGE THE
THRUSTER WITH THE
SUIT'S STRENGTH.







Hi.

My last two books were *Uncanny X-Men* and *Journey Into Mystery*. They were two meticulous clockwork machines. The latter especially was based around a knowledge of the final page before the first was ever written. And lo and behold, 31 issues later, that's exactly where the story ends up.

And the Internet cried.

My *Iron Man* isn't going to be like that.

Don't get me wrong. I have dozens of places I want to take Tony. I've a mass of ideas I need to confront the smartest man in the Marvel Universe with (YOU HEARD, REED! IF YOU WERE SUCH HOT STUFF YOU WOULDN'T NEED HAIR DYE, YOU CHANCER!). Characters new and old, fierce emotions, everything. Frankly, in a few issues, Tony's entire conception of who he is will be gloriously incinerated.

However, it's not about the perfect plan. It's about the unknown. It's about finding out what all this means, why this matters, what "this" is.

Tony Stark is on a journey to discover the truth about the universe. We're all going along with him. And so am I. In 12 or 24 or 48 or 1024 issues down the line, I want to be as surprised as you.

This is intensely uncomfortable for me. There are brilliant writers who work like this all the time. They absolutely embrace the improvisational possibilities of the monthly medium. They're totally laughing at me for making a big deal about it. And they're right. They're feeling exactly the same as the more fluid thinkers of the Marvel Universe would think about Tony. Because our moustachioed Stark? He's a planner. He's an engineer. He likes graphs. He doesn't like things which can't be plotted on whatever axis he's chosen.

Which makes them the best things to confront him with.

So we're off into the wilderness here. We're in the dark, because the batteries in our torch have died. We've eaten the road map. We're not sure which way is north. We're not even sure which way is up. We've got every reason to be nervous.

I'm not.

The only reason I'm confident is Tony himself. In a real way, I'm only sure about his character. Especially when Tony isn't sure about Tony. That's the sort of person I love to write. That's the sort of character who's going to take us to interesting places.

Let's follow him. Let's see where his charm, arrogance and brilliance takes us.

See you on the other side.

Kieron Gillen

Write and let us know what you thought of our first issue at
MONDOMARVEL@MARVEL.COM (be sure to mark it "ok to print").

See you Iron Maniacs next issue when IRON MAN reveals an
all-new stealth suit.

NEXT ISSUE



ZONE

