

**MARVEL  
NOW!**

JONATHAN HICKMAN  
JEROME OPENA  
DEAN WHITE



JOIN THE  
**REVOLUTION**

002

# PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

"SO...THIS IDEA HAS BEEN RUNNING THROUGH MY MIND. IT'S OVERWHELMING-- ALL-CONSUMING-- AND I CAN'T SHUT IT OFF."



THE  
BEST IDEAS  
ARE ALWAYS THE  
*SIMPLEST*. AND  
LAST WEEK WHEN  
WE WERE TALKING  
ABOUT HOW  
THINGS KEEP  
ESCALATING...

"...HOW THE WORLD IS EVER  
MORE DANGEROUS, HOW  
THREATS ARE MORE FREQUENT...  
HOW OUR ENEMIES  
ARE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS..."

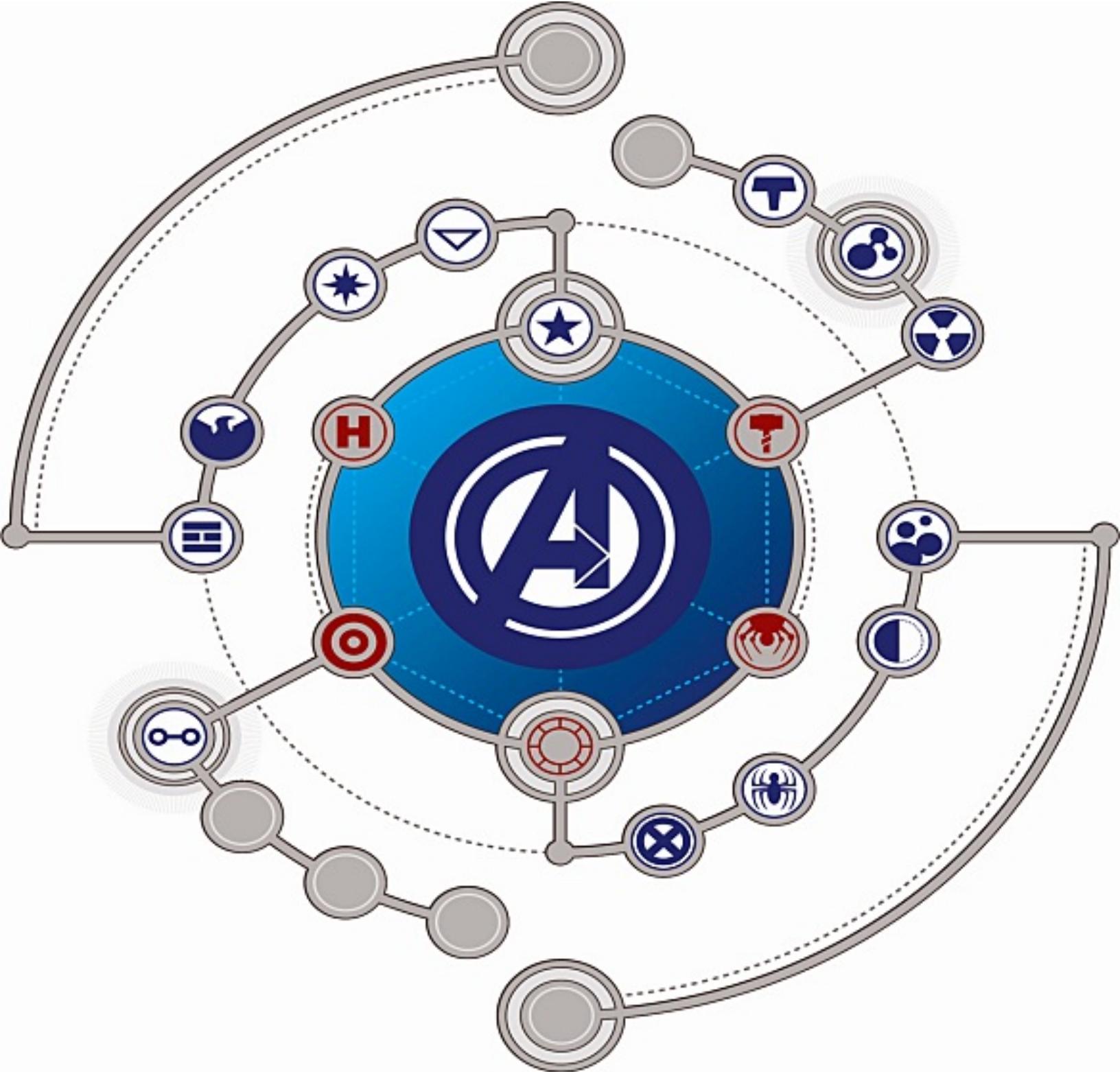
"WELL, STEVE, THAT'S A COMPLEX  
PROBLEM, BUT YOU HAD A  
PRETTY SIMPLE ANSWER..."

DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
WHAT YOU  
SAID?

I  
DO.

WELL, NOW  
I'M SURE YOU  
WERE RIGHT...

"WE HAVE TO  
GET BIGGER."



## EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

---

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK  
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN  
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD  
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



# "WE WERE AVENGERS"

---

**WRITER:** JONATHAN HICKMAN

**ARTIST:** JEROME OPEÑA

**COLOR ARTISTS:** DEAN WHITE with JUSTIN PONSOR & MORRY HOLLOWELL

**LETTERER:** VC's CORY PETIT

**COVER ART:** DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR

**VARIANT COVER ART:** ESAD RIBIC; JOHN ROMITA JR, KLAUS JANSON & DEAN WHITE

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** JAKE THOMAS

**EDITORS:** TOM BREVOORT with LAUREN SANKOVITCH

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** AXEL ALONSO

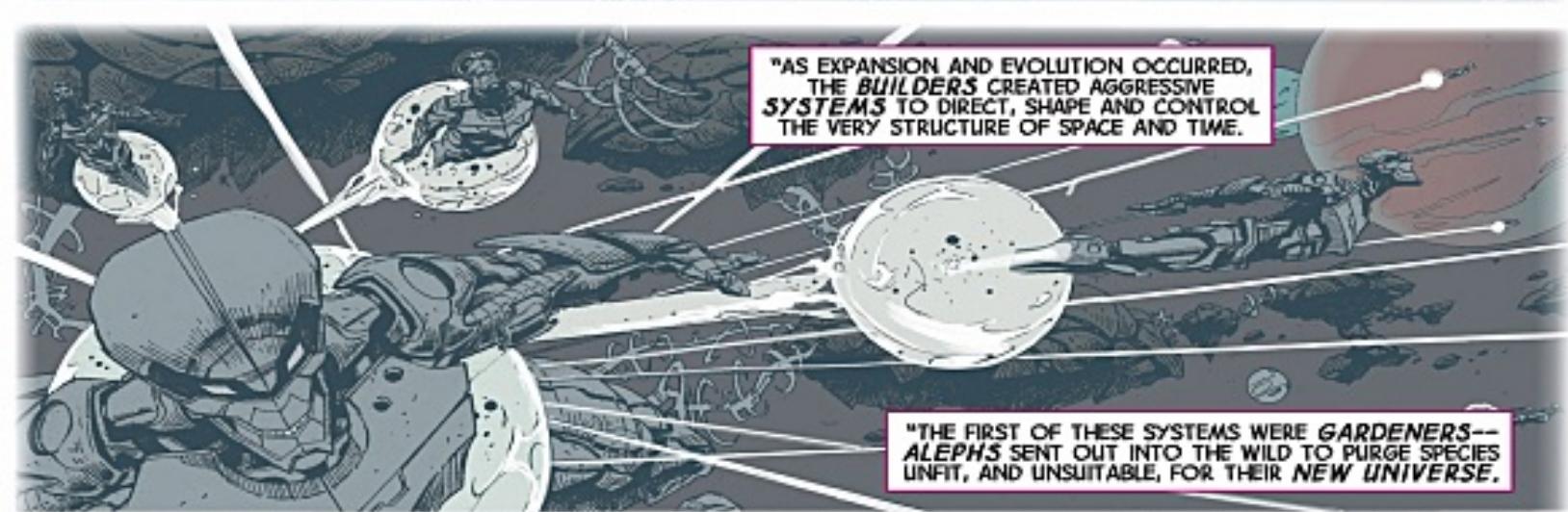
**CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER:** JOE QUESADA

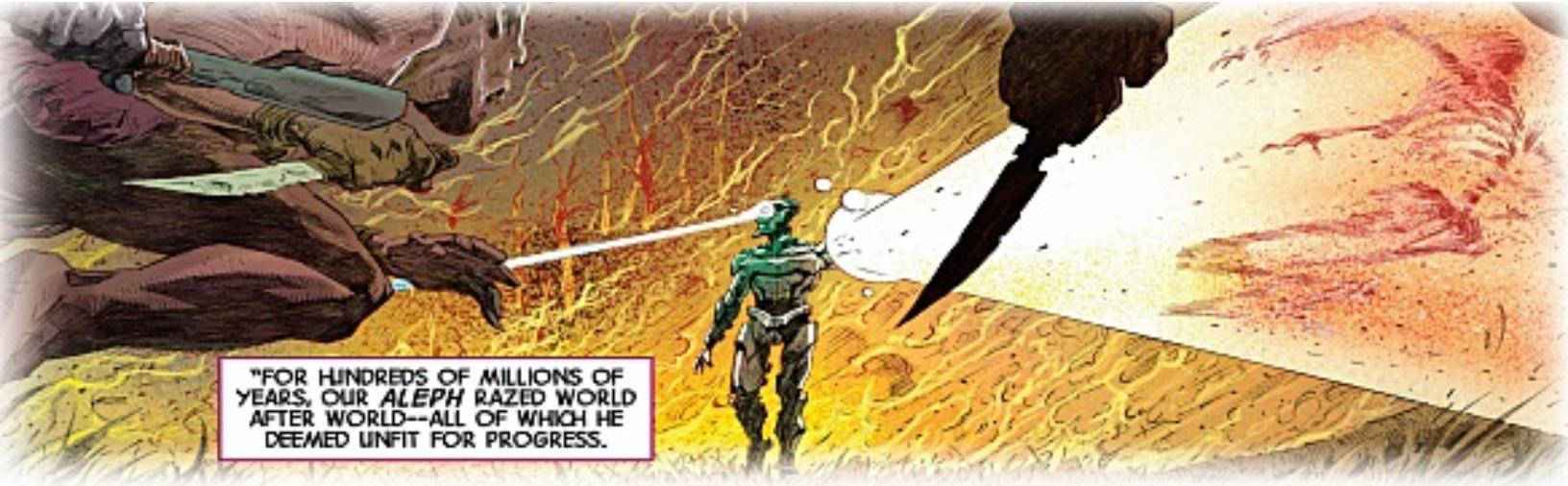
**PUBLISHER:** DAN BUCKLEY

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:** ALAN FINE







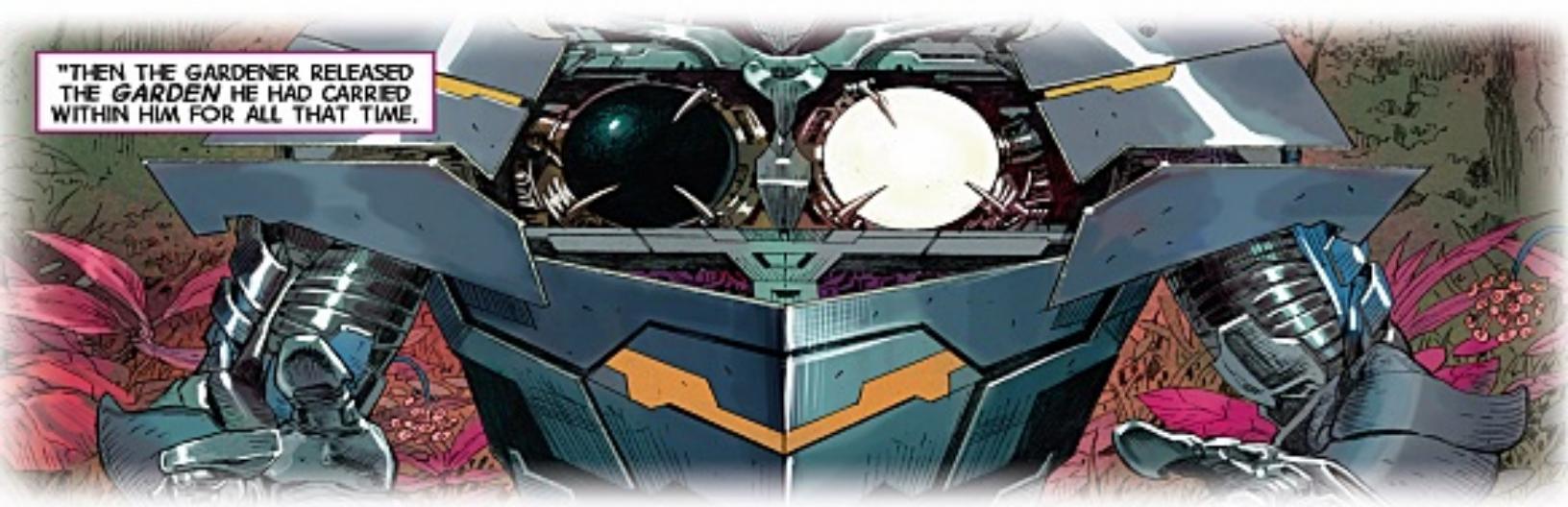


"FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS, OUR ALEPH RAZED WORLD AFTER WORLD--ALL OF WHICH HE DEEMED UNFIT FOR PROGRESS."



"UNTIL, ONE DAY, HE ENCOUNTERED A SPECIES HE CONSIDERED WORTHY OF PRESERVATION..."

"HE FOUND THEM WORTHY OF EVOLUTION."



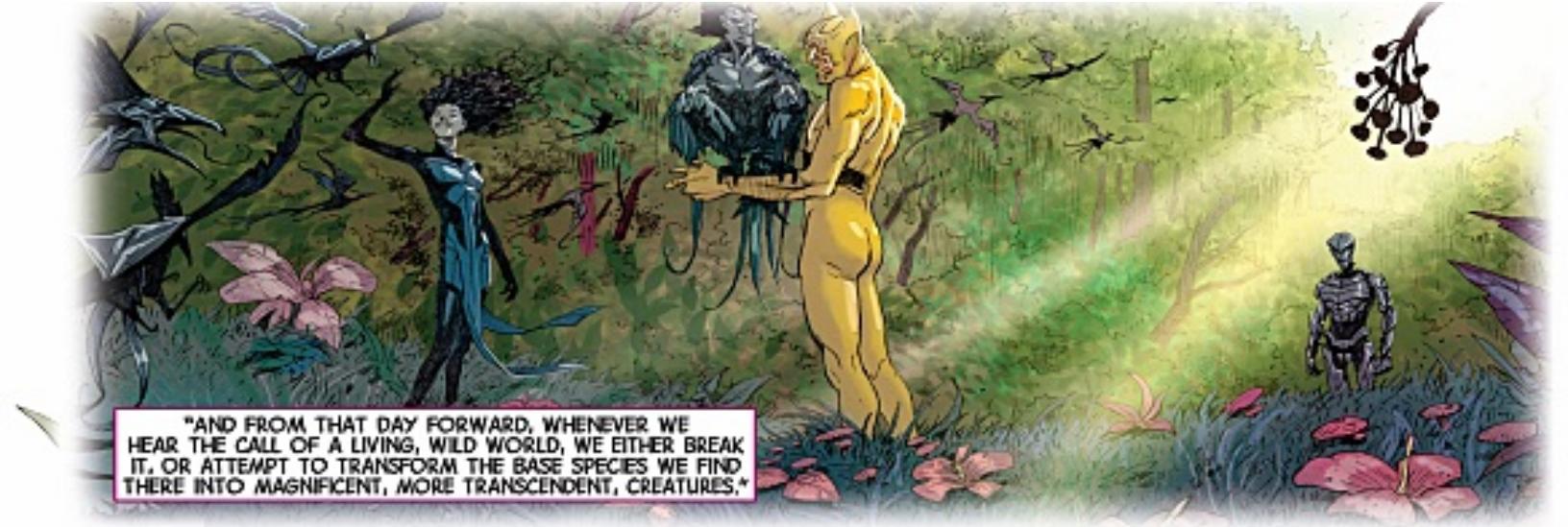
"THEN THE GARDENER RELEASED THE GARDEN HE HAD CARRIED WITHIN HIM FOR ALL THAT TIME."



"NO TWO SEEDS AN ALEPH CARRIES ARE THE SAME. THE BUILDERS, IN ALL THEIR WISDOM, KNEW THAT CREATION WAS CHAOS AND FULLY EMBRACED THIS INCONSTANT CONSTANT."



"THIS ALEPH--OUR ALEPH--YIELDED MYSELF, EX NIHILO, AND MY SISTER, ABYSS."



"AND FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, WHENEVER WE HEAR THE CALL OF A LIVING, WILD WORLD, WE EITHER BREAK IT, OR ATTEMPT TO TRANSFORM THE BASE SPECIES WE FIND THERE INTO MAGNIFICENT, MORE TRANSCENDENT, CREATURES."



"I ONLY WANT TO SAVE YOU PEOPLE FROM YOURSELVES."

THEN.

WE'RE COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT PEOPLE, STEVE,  
SO WE APPROACH THESE  
THINGS IN COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT WAYS.

IN THIS CASE,  
THE IDEA AT HAND:  
EXPANSION.

NECESSARY  
EXPANSION, BUT  
GO ON.

RIGHT.

SO, KNOWING  
YOU LIKE I DO, YOU'LL  
SEE THIS AS A STATE OF  
MIND, AN ATTITUDE TO BE  
ADOPTED AND SPREAD TO  
OTHERS THROUGH WORDS INVOKING  
DEEDS.

SAYINGS LIKE,  
"GREATER THREATS  
MEAN GREATER  
NEEDS."

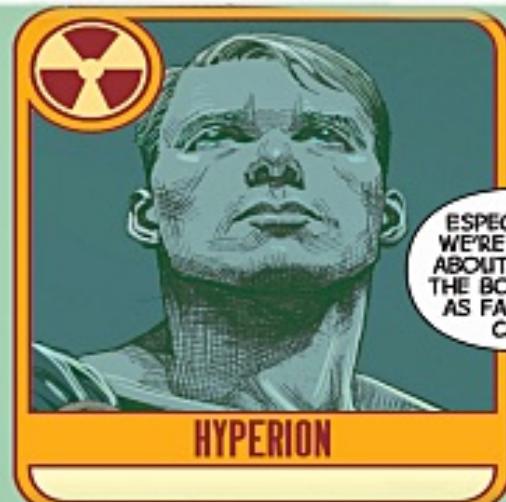
FAIR ENOUGH,  
TONY. I'LL ADMIT  
TO THAT.

AND I'M SAFE  
ASSUMING YOU SEE  
THIS AS SOME KINDA  
MATH PROBLEM?

AN ENGINEERING  
ONE, ACTUALLY--WE'RE  
TEARING DOWN WHAT WE  
HAD AND BUILDING A NEW  
**MACHINE** TO ACHIEVE  
OUR EXPANDED GOALS.

AND  
THAT'S WHAT  
THIS IS?

YES.  
SOME USEFUL  
PIECES OF THE OLD  
ORGANIZATION WILL  
SURVIVE, A LIMITED ROSTER  
UNTIL NEED DEMANDS  
MORE. CALL IT A  
FOUNDATION...





NOW.

AND ASSEMBLE  
WE DID.

HOW  
LONG?

CAROL SAYS  
THE BEST GUESS FOR  
HAVING THE QUINJET  
RETROFITTED IS AROUND  
FOURTEEN HOURS.

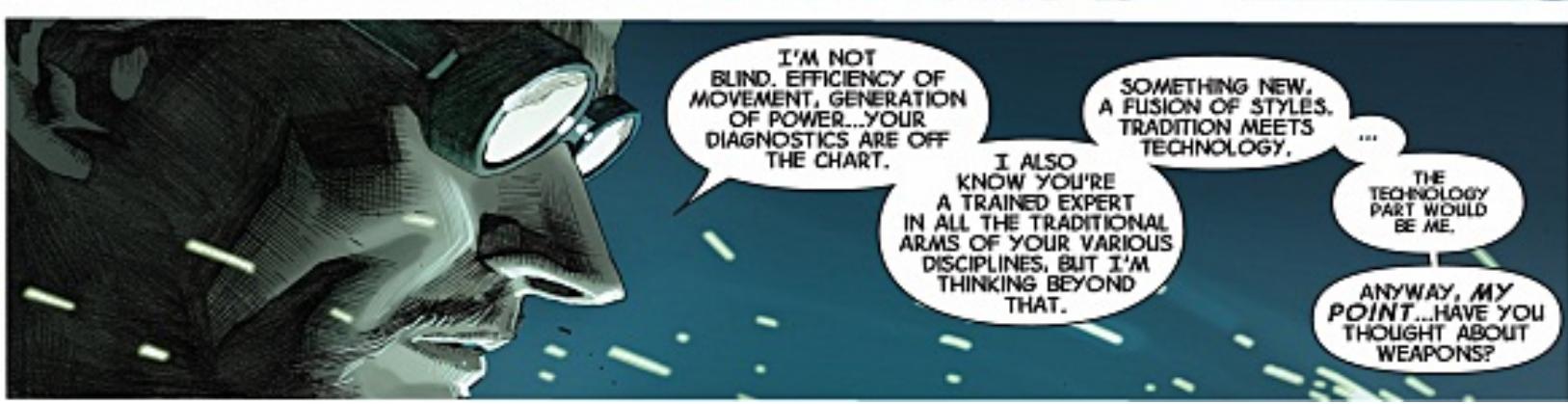
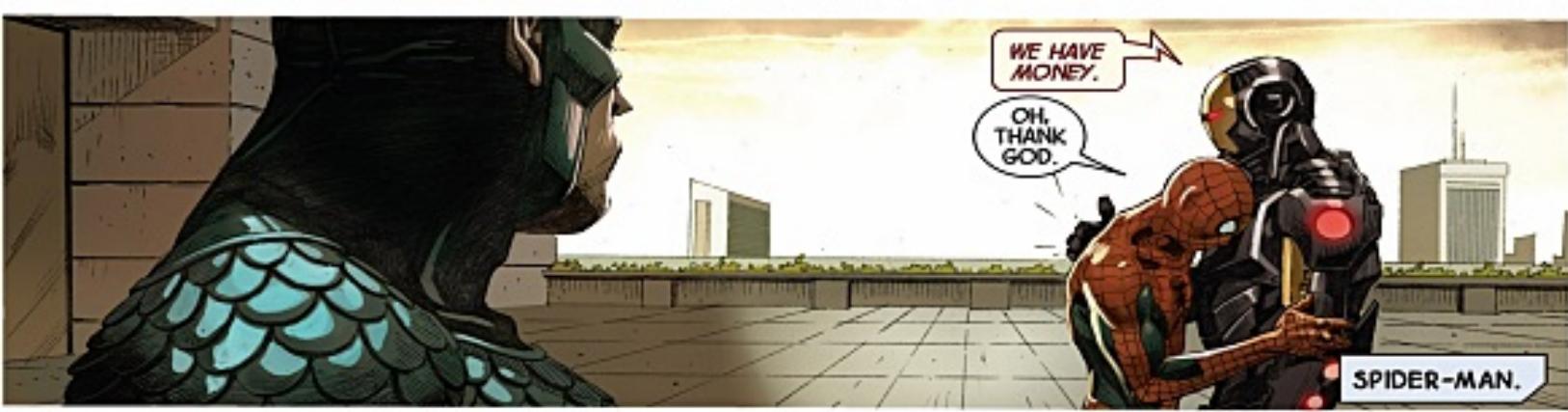
IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT,  
WHEN THE WORLD WAS  
SLEEPING, CAPTAIN  
AMERICA AND IRON MAN  
HAD MADE SOMETHING  
NEW...

AN AVENGERS  
MACHINE.

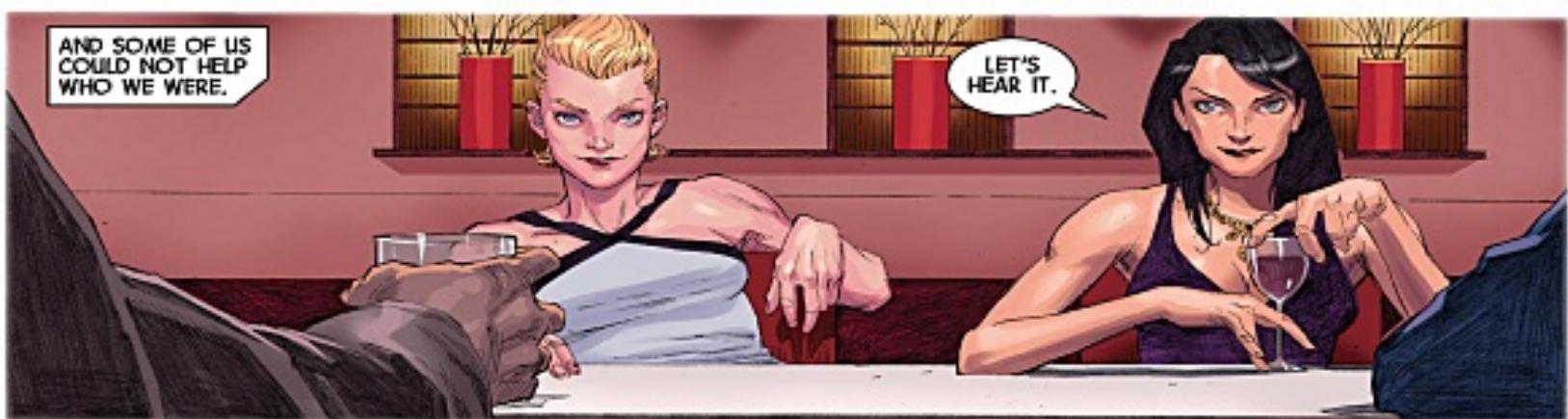
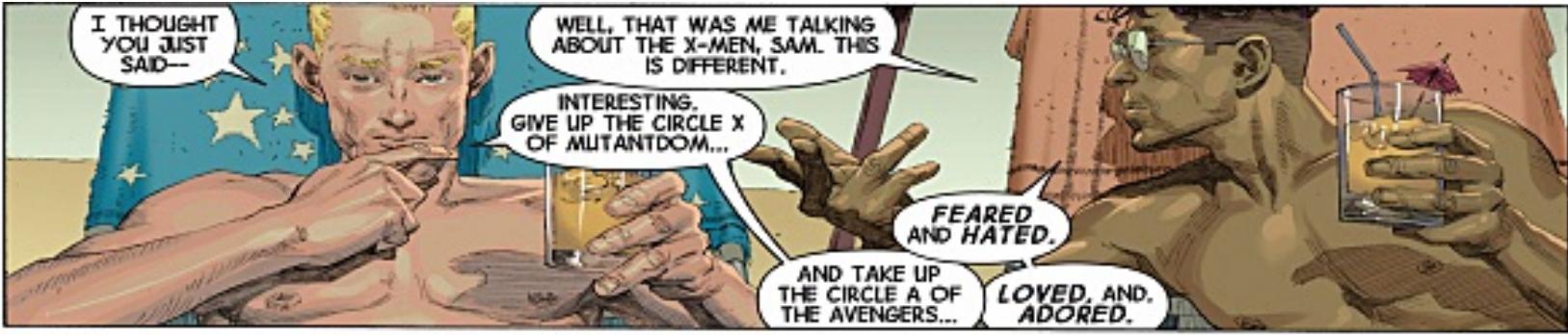
A COMMUNAL DEVICE  
THAT WAS BUILT TO  
SAVE US ALL.

THIS WHOLE  
WAS MADE OF  
PARTS...

INDIVIDUALS ALIGNED  
PERFECTLY TO SERVE  
A GREATER PURPOSE.









EARTH.  
NOW.

CAP!

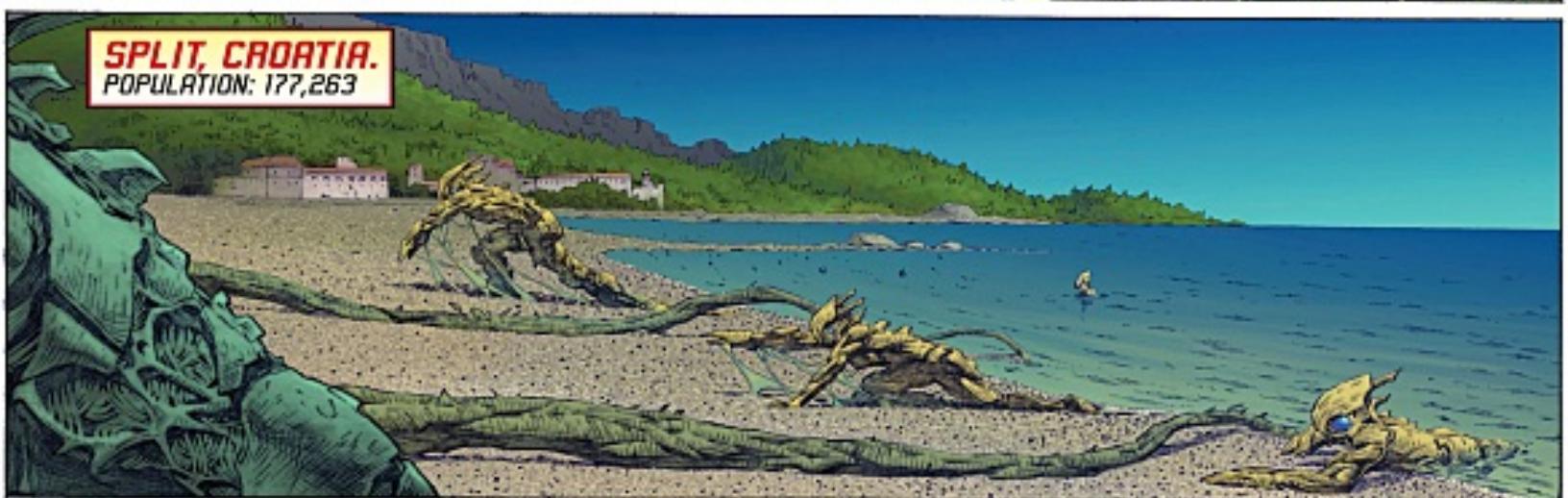
STARKCOMM  
SATELLITES PICKING  
UP MULTIPLE INCOMING  
TARGETS--TRAJECTORY  
MARKS THEM AS  
EXTRAPLANETARY...

"FROM  
MARS."



KOBE, JAPAN.

POPULATION: 1,543,091.



MARS.

YOU SEE...

SEE, I  
DON'T DESTROY,  
ANTHONY STARK...  
I CREATE.

I AM  
EX NIHILO--I  
MAKE SOMETHING  
FROM NOTHING.

YES, YES.  
I KNOW. BUT  
I'VE BEEN DOING  
THIS FOR MILLIONS  
OF YEARS AND EACH  
TIME IT'S NOT JUST  
DEATH I OPPOSE,  
BUT ALSO THE  
HATEFUL IGNORANCE  
OF INDIGENOUS  
DENIERS.

YES, I  
SUPPOSE I COULD. I  
SUPPOSE I SHOULD.

WHAT WE  
DO IS AN  
EXTENSION OF  
WHO WE ARE.

THE GARDEN  
IS CONFLICTED,  
TORN BETWEEN TWO  
PURPOSES. DO WE  
BUILD BETTER WORLDS,  
OR DO WE TEAR  
THEM DOWN?

I STILL  
BELIEVE IN  
CREATION.

AND I TELL  
YOU TRULY, I  
BELIEVE THAT YOUR  
WORLD CAN BE  
TRANSFORMED--  
TRANSFORMED AND SAVED.

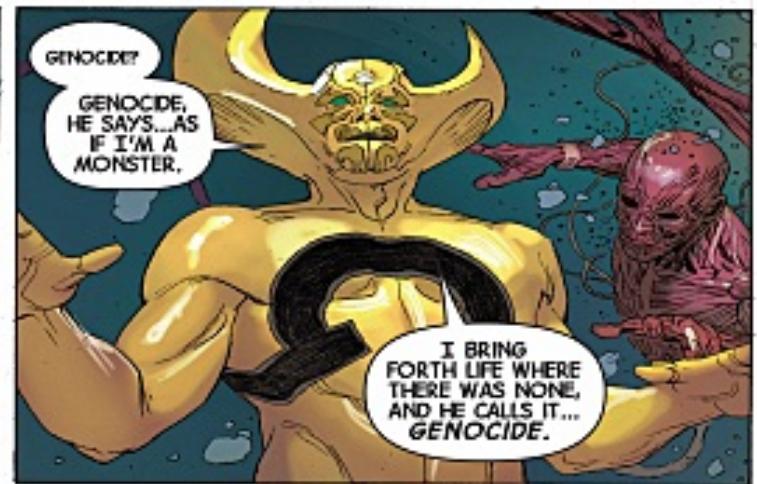
SO EACH ORGANIC  
DELIVERY SYSTEM I  
SEND HURTLING THROUGH  
SPACE TO EARTH--EACH  
ORIGIN BOMB--CONTAINS  
A COMMUNAL VIRUS  
TAILOR-MADE TO REMAP  
GENETIC CODE.

EACH  
BOMB DIFFERENT--  
MULTIPLE  
VARIATIONS FOR  
MULTIPLE PURPOSES--  
AND EACH ONE MAKING  
YOUR PLANET BETTER  
SUITED FOR ITS  
NEW FUTURE.

ಠ�ಠಠ

YOU THINK  
I'VE KILLED ALL THOSE  
PEOPLE ON YOUR PLANET,  
BUT THE TRUTH IS I'VE NEVER  
SET OUT TO KILL ANYONE  
OR ANYTHING MY  
ENTIRE LIFE.

I AM  
EX NIHILO--I  
MAKE SOMETHING  
FROM NOTHING.



**EARTH.**  
AVENGERS TOWER.

MULTIPLE  
DETONATIONS.

CONFIRMED IMPACTS  
IN JAPAN AND CROATIA.  
I THINK THERE MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN MORE, BUT WE LOST  
THEM AS THEY ENTERED  
THE ATMOSPHERE.

RETASKING THE  
STARKCOMM SATS  
AND REQUESTING  
ACCESS TO THE  
S.H.I.E.L.D. ARRAY.

CONFIRMING  
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S  
INITIAL DATA--IT  
APPEARS TO BE  
SIMILAR TO THE  
EARLIER STRIKES IN  
AUSTRALIA AND  
CANADA, STEVE.

WE'RE  
WAITING FOR  
CONFIRMATION,  
BUT AS SOON AS--

NO NEED.  
EXCUSE  
ME?

I'M  
TAKING TOO  
LONG.

THERE'S NO NEED.  
I KNOW WHO DID THIS,  
I KNOW WHY, AND THEY  
HAVE TO BE STOPPED.  
NOW.

MANIFOLD!

TEAM'S BEEN  
TOGETHER LESS  
THAN SIX HOURS,  
CAP.

YOU SURE  
THESE PEOPLE  
ARE READY  
FOR THIS?





# THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's time for the Big One: **AVENGERS #1**, kicking off the era of Jonathan Hickman as Earth's Mightiest Author! Coming your way two times a month from now on, this new iteration will feature bigger threats, a bigger cast, and big ideas and idealism! And the artwork by kickoff men Jerome Opena and Dean White is enough to make strong men weep! (And if that isn't enough for you, waiting in the wings for future twice-monthly installments are Adam Kubert, Dustin Weaver and Mike Deodato—no slouches to be found!) It's an Avengers World, baby!



Also making its debut this month is **AVENGERS ARENA #1**! For those fans who complain that Marvel has too many young heroes in our stable, Arena is out to do something about it—by imprisoning sixteen of them on Murderworld Island and forcing them all to fight to the death! The referees are writer Dennis Hopeless and artist Kev Walker, all under the watchful eye of **AVENGERS ACADEMY** Dean of Students Bill Rosemann! So if you're a fan of Hezmet, Darkhawk, the Runaways, Mettle, Cammi and Nico—or if you can't stand the sight of 'em—**AVENGERS ARENA**'s got something you won't want to miss!

Introducing a new recurring feature here in the Assembly, it's time for the **AVENGERS COSPLAY OF THE MONTH**! This first entry was taken at this year's Dragon Con in Atlanta, renowned for the complexity and intensity of its cosplayers, where close to three dozen (!!!) Avengers assembled for a series of group pictures! One thing's for certain: the efforts of these talented and dedicated fans puts Tom's old Ben Cooper Spider-Man outfit to shame!



Photo by Judy Stephens for Marvel.com

You know us, we've been on pins and needles wondering what your reaction to the debut of **UNCANNY AVENGERS** (not to mention the start of **MARVEL NOW!**) would be like! And then, we received this letter:

MARVEL's Uncanny  
Avengers  
Really is  
Very  
Exciting!  
Loved the ending!

Reed Beebe  
Kansas City, MO

Thanks for writing, Reed! Issue #3 will hit the stands before you know it later this month! And hey, everybody else: we'd love to hear from you! Let us know what's on your mind at the email address below!

Finally, we thought that you guys might like to read this follow-up on the letter we printed last month:

Dear Lauren, Tom, Arune and the rest of the Marvel Universe,

Wow! This is Spectacular/Amazing/Ultimate! First of all, thank you so much—your kindness & generosity is touching. As my wife has relayed, I've been having a tough go as of late; but today, if I shed any tears, they are of joy & exuberance. Your magnanimity & generosity speak volumes of your incredible characters & provide further evidence that the Marvel Universe is full of marvelous people! Seriously, thank you!

Through this difficult ordeal, Marvel comics have been a constant source of entertainment & inspiration. When you are stuck in bed for months at a time, a good story provides some much needed relief. So, again, thank you! The wonderful mountain of books you have sent me will help me further stock my Sanctum Sanctorum (which is actually my old bedroom at my mom's place)—every comic I read, poster and picture I tack on my wall, action figure I pose on my desk, and DVD and video game I cue up, help make this experience a little better and keep me resolved to get better and get back to doing what I enjoy most—helping people overcome injustice. So, per your communication with my lovely wife, I'd love to hear from other Marvelites! Well wishes and words of encouragement are always welcome—I can be reached at Mr.Joseph.V.Snee@gmail.com. And if anyone wants to send me more comics (or anything else for that matter) they are more than welcome!

The generous gift and your kind words will keep me busy reading and happy for a long time to come already, though!

Before I conclude, I'd just like to publicly thank my amazing wife.

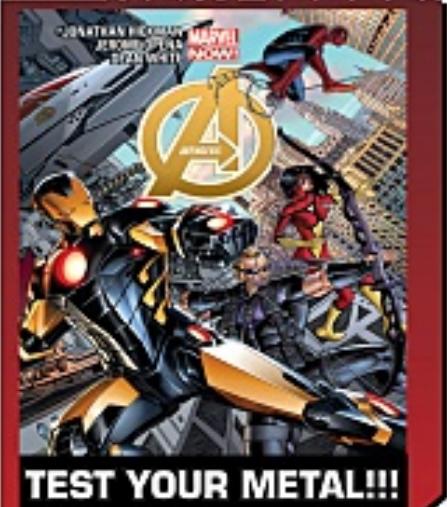
She is too kind. I really had no idea she was doing this, and I am amazed and humbled. What a touching letter. It's hard to believe it's about me. You know, I feel like I'm a Peter Parker type guy, and to know that she sees my inner Spider-Man—well, I think I'll just bask in that for a while. I am very grateful she reached out to you guys and gals, I am very pleased to make your acquaintance and very grateful of your kindness. I've been a Marvel fan since I figured out how to read, and I will continue forever more. Some folks pass their love of baseball or politics on to their kids, I'll be passing down my love of the Marvel Universe! Once again, thanks so much!

Respectfully yours,  
Joe Snee

Seems like the least we could do, Joe, for somebody who's kept the faith as devoutly

as you have! Get better, now, bear? We're all pulling for you!

## NEXT ISSUE:



## AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

**UNCANNY AVENGERS #3**  
THE RED SKULL MAKES HIS MOVE!

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #10**  
WHAT BEGAN AS A GAME BECOMES A LIFE-OR-DEATH STRUGGLE!

**AVENGERS #1**  
A NEW ERA BEGINS!

**AVENGERS #2**  
WHAT LURKS WITHIN THE GARDEN ON MARS?

**SECRET AVENGERS #35**  
ONLY THE SECRET AVENGERS REMAIN TO OPPOSE THE ROBOTIC REVOLUTION!

**AVENGERS ARENA #1**  
SIXTEEN SUPERHUMAN YOUNG ADULTS MUST FIGHT TO SURVIVE!

**AVENGERS ARENA #2**  
WHO OR WHAT IS DEATHLOCKET?

**DARK AVENGERS #184**  
WHAT FORCE CAN TURN EARTH'S DEADLIEST VILLAINS INTO HEROES?

**A + X #3**  
SPIDEY TEAMS UP WITH THE BEAST (HEY, AREN'T THEY BOTH AVENGERS?) AND HAWKEYE AND GAMBIT SAVE LIVES!

**ALSO ON SALE!**  
**MARVEL UNIVERSE VS THE AVENGERS #3**

**MARVEL UNIVERSE**  
**AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #9**





THE