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A MARVEL COMICS EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

3

CIVIL WAR

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes.

Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, is attacked outside a nightclub and beaten into a coma. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is debated, which would require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents.

One week later, the Act is passed. Any person with superhuman powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.



Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society, and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties.

After being called upon to hunt down heroes in defiance of the Registration Act, Captain America goes underground and begins to form a resistance movement.

Spider-Man, who has allied himself with Iron Man and the pro-registration side, not only registers, but also unmasks as Peter Parker in front of the media.



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Civil War No. 3, September, 2006. Published Monthly in July, August, September, October, November and December by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in Canada. ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.



SOAK IT UP,
PETER.

YOU'RE
BIGGER THAN
ELVIS NOW.

THE BLACK PANTHER, WAKANDA:



YOU UNMASKED SPIDER-MAN ON LIVE TELEVISION?

NO, PARKER UNMASKED VOLUNTARILY. T'CHALLA, BECAUSE IRON MAN EXPLAINED THE GRAVITY OF OUR SITUATION.

CONFIDENCE IN SUPER-HUMANS IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW. STARK'S PLAN FOR A NEW BEGINNING IS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE LEFT.

A SUPER POLICE FORCE COVERING ALL FIFTY STATES? AND ME HELPING HIM HUNT DOWN THE SUPER HEROES WHO DISAGREE WITH IT?

I DON'T THINK SO, REED. WE DON'T LIKE IT WHEN AMERICA INTERFERES IN WAKANDAN AFFAIRS, AND I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE FEELING IS RECIPROCATED.



ACTUALLY, THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED THIS OF YOU PERSONALLY...

WELL, I'M AFRAID HE'S GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED. NOW TELL ME: WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY STORM? IS THE HUMAN TORCH RECOVERING WELL?

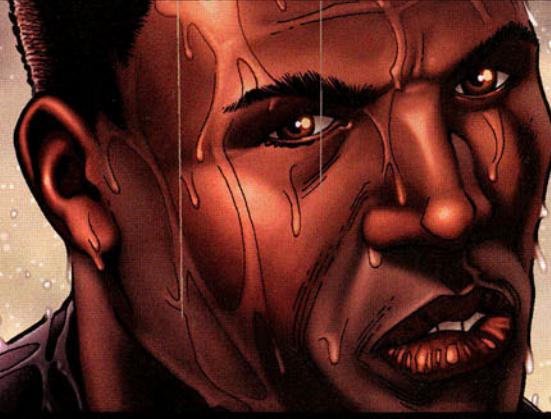
I HAVEN'T CHECKED IN FOR A DAY OR TWO, BUT SUSAN'S BARELY LEFT HIS BEDSIDE. IF ANYTHING WAS WRONG, I'M SURE I'D HAVE HEARD.



I LOVE IT OUT HERE, DON'T YOU? THIS HIGH-TECH JUNGLE.

IT'S SO EERIE STANDING AMONG TREES WITHOUT BIRDS OR INSECTS.

I'VE ALWAYS MEANT TO ASK: DOES THE ECO-SYSTEM ADAPT ITSELF OR HAVE YOU MANIPULATED IT ARTIFICIALLY?



WORD
OF ADVICE,
REED.
CALL
SUSAN.



DOCTOR STRANGE, GREENWICH VILLAGE:

I'M SORRY,
YELLOWJACKET,
BUT THE MASTER
SAID HE WOULDN'T
EVEN CONSIDER
SUPPORTING
TONY STARK'S
PLANS.

IN FACT, HE'S
GONE INTO SECLUSION
IN HIS ARCTIC LODGE
IN THE HOPE THAT HE
MIGHT RESOLVE
YOUR DIFFERENCES
BY FASTING FOR
FORTY NIGHTS.

WELL, HE
KNOWS WHERE
TO FIND US IF
HE CHANGES
HIS MIND,
WONG.

DAMN WATCH
ALWAYS SEEMS
TO STOP WHEN
I'M IN THIS
STUPID HOUSE.

Right

Opposite

THE X-MEN, WESTCHESTER:





EVEN WITH NINETY-PERCENT PUBLIC BACKING? AND THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS SO KEEN TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AGAIN?



PERHAPS WE JUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE PERSECUTED WHILE YOU'RE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT, MISTER STARK.



ASK THE MOMS AND DADS IN STAMFORD IF THEY THINK CAPTAIN AMERICA'S STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT.

OH, PLEASE. DON'T TRY TO BLACKMAIL ME WITH GENOCIDE. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO COMPARE NOTES?



WHERE WERE THE AVENGERS WHEN GENOSHA DIED, IRON MAN?

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN OUR BABIES WERE BURNING?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF YOUR STUDENTS, EMMA. IS IT REALLY WISE TO PUT THEM ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?

OH, WE DON'T WANT A FIGHT, DARLING. WE'RE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO REMAIN ON THIS RESERVATION THEY'VE MADE FOR US. ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU LEAVE US ALONE AND, IN RETURN, YOU HAVE OUR WORD THAT WE WON'T JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR STAR-SPANGLED FRIEND.

YOUR CHOICE, MISTER STARK.

THEY COMING OVER, BOSS?
AFRAID NOT, HAPPY, BUT THEY'RE NOT JOINING CAP'S SIDE EITHER WHICH MEANS WE STILL HAVE A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF ACTUAL NUMBERS.

I SAY WE GO AHEAD WITH THE CONTAINMENT AS PLANNED. I WANT THOSE GUYS NEUTRALIZED BEFORE I GO PUBLIC WITH THE FIFTY-STATE INITIATIVE.

IRON MAN?

CAN WE TALK?

CAPTAIN AMERICA:



HERCULES:



DAREDEVIL:



GOLIATH:



NO, WE TAKE WHATEVER NICK HAS TO OFFER, GOLIATH. BESIDES, THE SECRET I.D.S ARE JUST A PLACE TO GO TO GROUND WHEN WE AREN'T DOING THE IMPORTANT STUFF.

I'M ACTUALLY GETTING INTO THIS NEW SECRET IDENTITY THING. I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH NEW FAVORITE FOODS...NEW FAVORITE MOVIES...NEW FAVORITE BANDS...

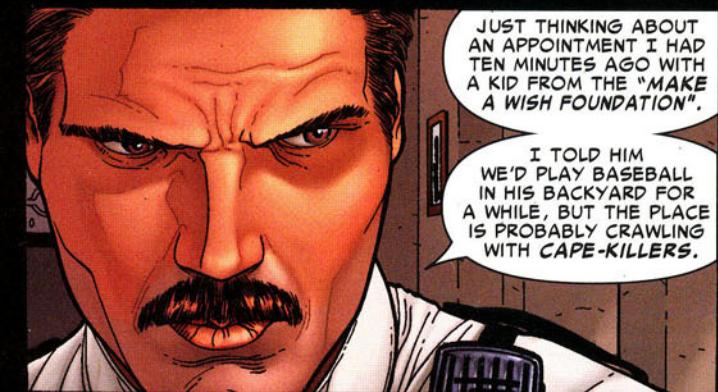


WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN? YOU BELIEVE TONY STARK TALKED HIM INTO JUST TAKING OFF HIS MASK LIKE THAT?

STRATEGICALLY, IT'S A BRILLIANT MOVE. NOBODY'S GUARDED HIS SECRET I.D. MORE THAN SPIDER-MAN, SO IT'S A POWERFUL MESSAGE FOR ALL THE COSTUMES STILL SITTING ON THE FENCE.



ARE YOU WELL, CAPTAIN? YOU SEEM A LITTLE QUIET.



JUST THINKING ABOUT AN APPOINTMENT I HAD TEN MINUTES AGO WITH A KID FROM THE "MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION".

I TOLD HIM WE'D PLAY BASEBALL IN HIS BACKYARD FOR A WHILE, BUT THE PLACE IS PROBABLY CRAWLING WITH CAPE-KILLERS.



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THEY'VE STOLEN FROM US WITH THIS REGISTRATION GARBAGE.

THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE.

S'UP?

PETROCHEMICAL PLANT ON FIRE OVER BY THE HUDSON. BASE SAID THERE'S THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED TRAPPED INSIDE AND THEY'RE SENDING CLOAK AND DAGGER TO TELEPORT US DOWN.

KEEP THE CHANGE, MA'AM, AND THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL MEAL.

EMERGENCY DISTRESS CALLS, SNEAKING INTO ALLEYWAYS AND CHANGING INTO COSTUME...

...I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'M KINDA STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.



NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL:

NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S COOL CAP'S STILL FIGHTING SUPER-CRIME. WHAT'D BE COOL IS IF HE STOPPED BREAKING THE LAW.

WELL, I BET THE PEOPLE THEY RESCUED FROM THAT HIJACKED PLANE ARE GLAD CAP'S SECRET AVENGERS ARE STILL AROUND, DARLENE.

OH MY GOD!

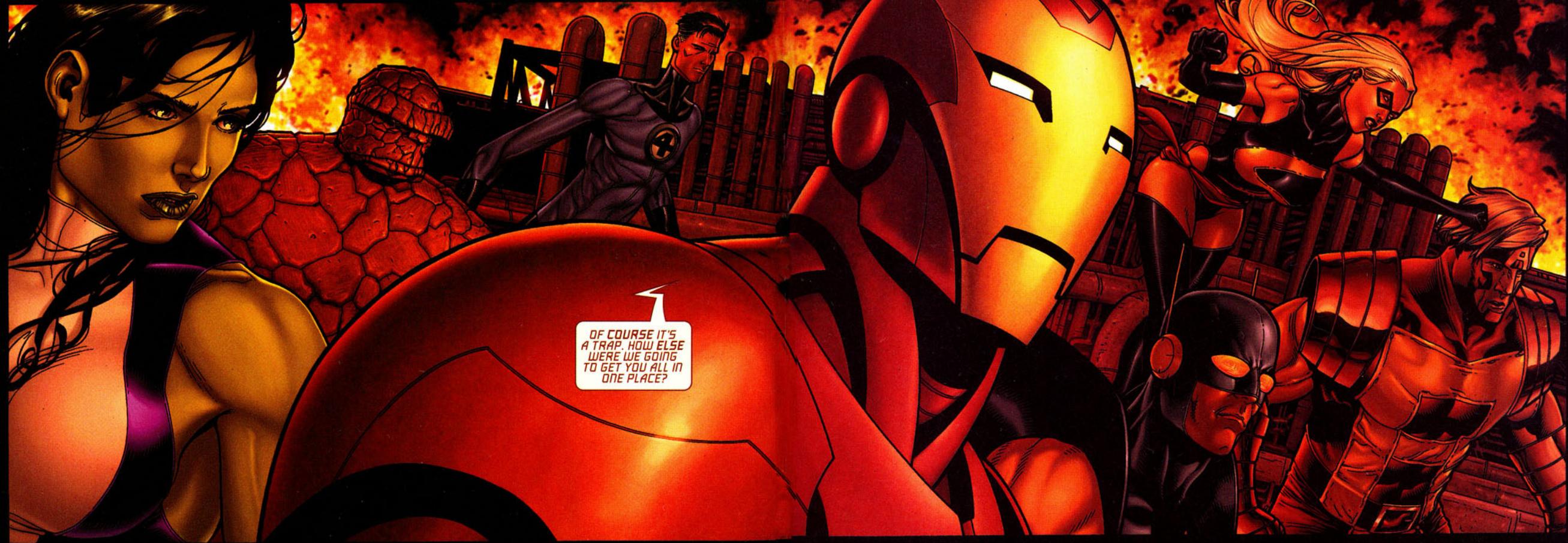
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE MY SISTER WENT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED, MISTER STORM? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP!



GEFFEN-MEYER CHEMICALS:





YOUR
PAYMASTERS
GOING SOFT,
TONY?

WE DIDN'T COME
HERE TO ARREST
YOU, CAP. I TALKED
S.H.I.E.L.D. INTO
OFFERING YOU ONE
FINAL AMNESTY.

YOU MEAN A
SURRENDER?

THANKS, BUT
I THINK I'D
RATHER TAKE
MY CHANCES.

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT
PRINCIPLES, SPIDER-MAN.
I SAW THAT LITTLE STUNT
YOU PULLED ON TV. IS MARY
JANE HAPPY ABOUT THE
SANDMAN HAVING HER
ZIP CODE NOW?

AW, C'MON. THE
ONLY PEOPLE WHO
WIN WHEN WE'RE
FIGHTING EACH
OTHER ARE THE
BAD GUYS, BIG
MAN. THIS GOES
AGAINST EVERY
PRINCIPLE YOU
EVER BELIEVED IN.

CAP, PLEASE. I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY.
I KNOW IT'S AN ENORMOUS CHANGE
FROM THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS WORKED,
BUT WE AREN'T LIVING IN NINETEEN
FORTY-FIVE ANYMORE.

THE PUBLIC DOESN'T
WANT MASKS AND
SECRET IDENTITIES.
THEY WANT TO FEEL
SAFE WHEN WE'RE
AROUND, AND THERE'S
NO OTHER WAY TO
WIN BACK THEIR
RESPECT.

YOU'VE KNOWN ME HALF MY ADULT LIFE,
CAP. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T DO THIS
UNLESS I BELIEVED IN IT WITH ALL
MY HEART.

WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.
JUST GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO TELL
YOU OUR PLANS FOR MY TWENTY-
FIRST CENTURY OVERHAUL.



IT'S A S.H.I.E.L.D.
ELECTRON-SCRAMBLER.
DEVELOPED BY NICK FURY'S
TECH TEAM IN CASE YOU
EVER WENT OVER TO
THE OTHER SIDE.

AAAGH!!

YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE TAKEN DOWN
TWO OF MY BOYS,
TONY.

UNH!

HEAD FOR THE
WATER!

GO!!

HANK, PLEASE!
WE CAN DO THIS
WITHOUT YOU
HAVING TO
GROW--!

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
BE SMART,
BILL.

HURRK!

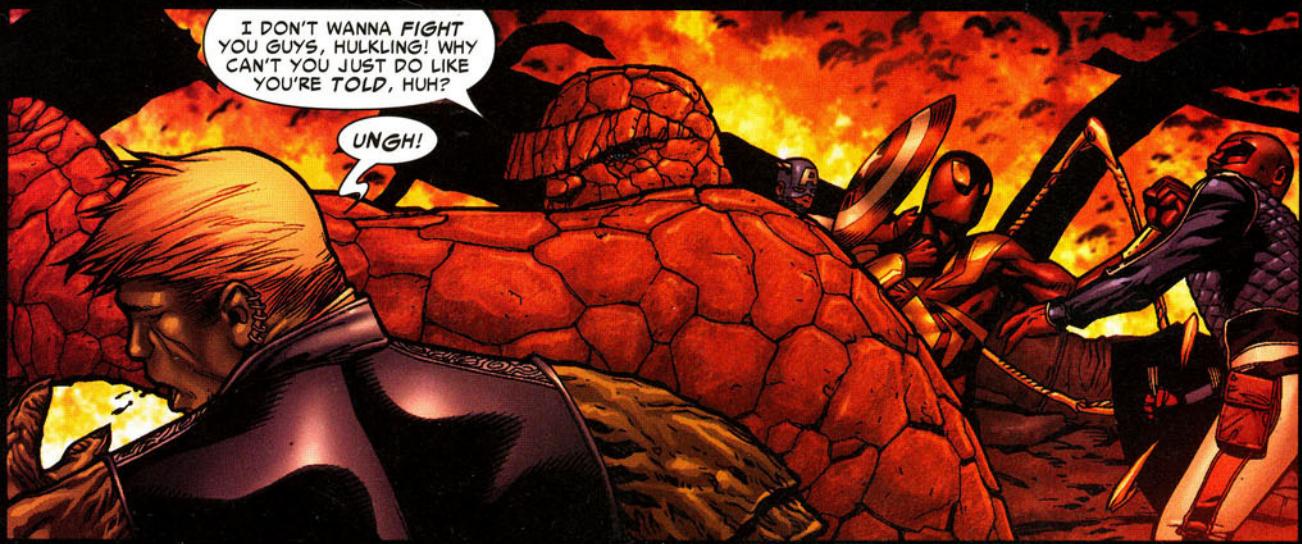


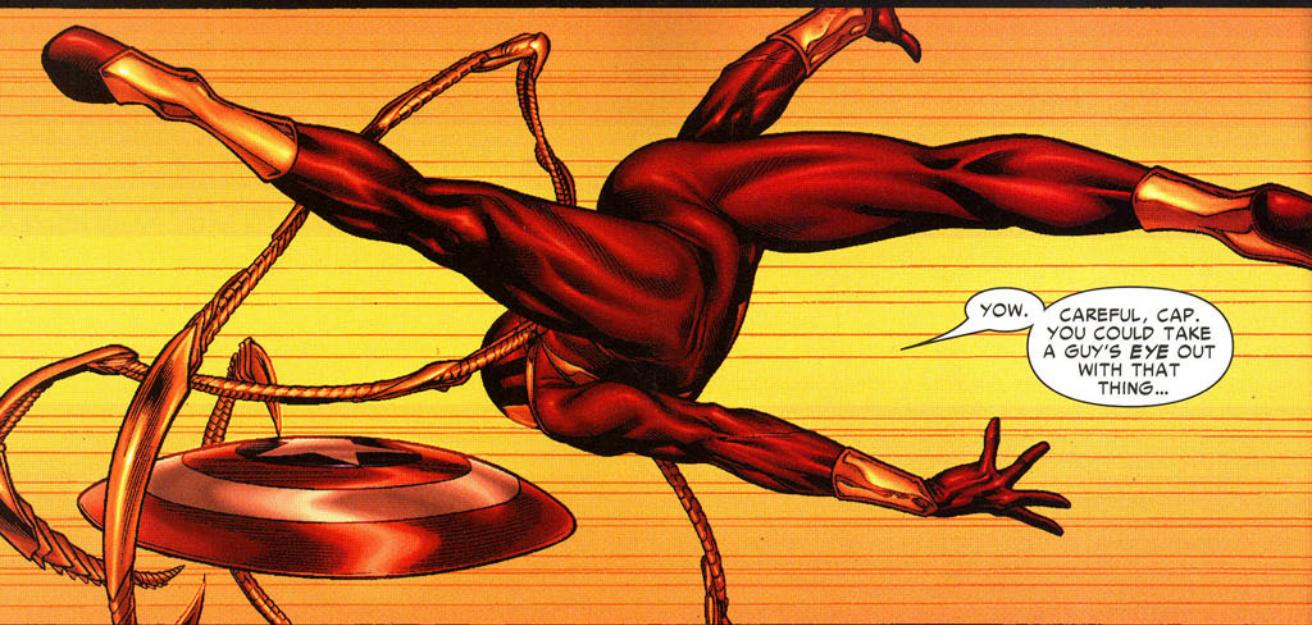
CONTROL TO
AIRBORNE: DO NOT
GET INVOLVED
UNLESS PERIMETER
IS BREACHED.

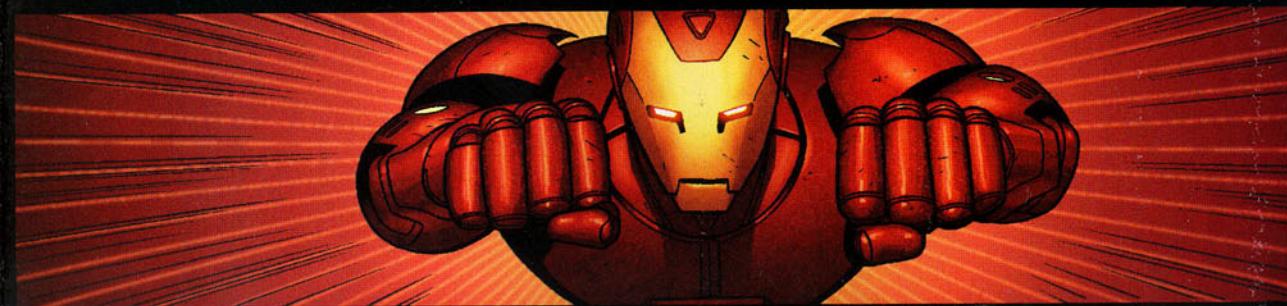
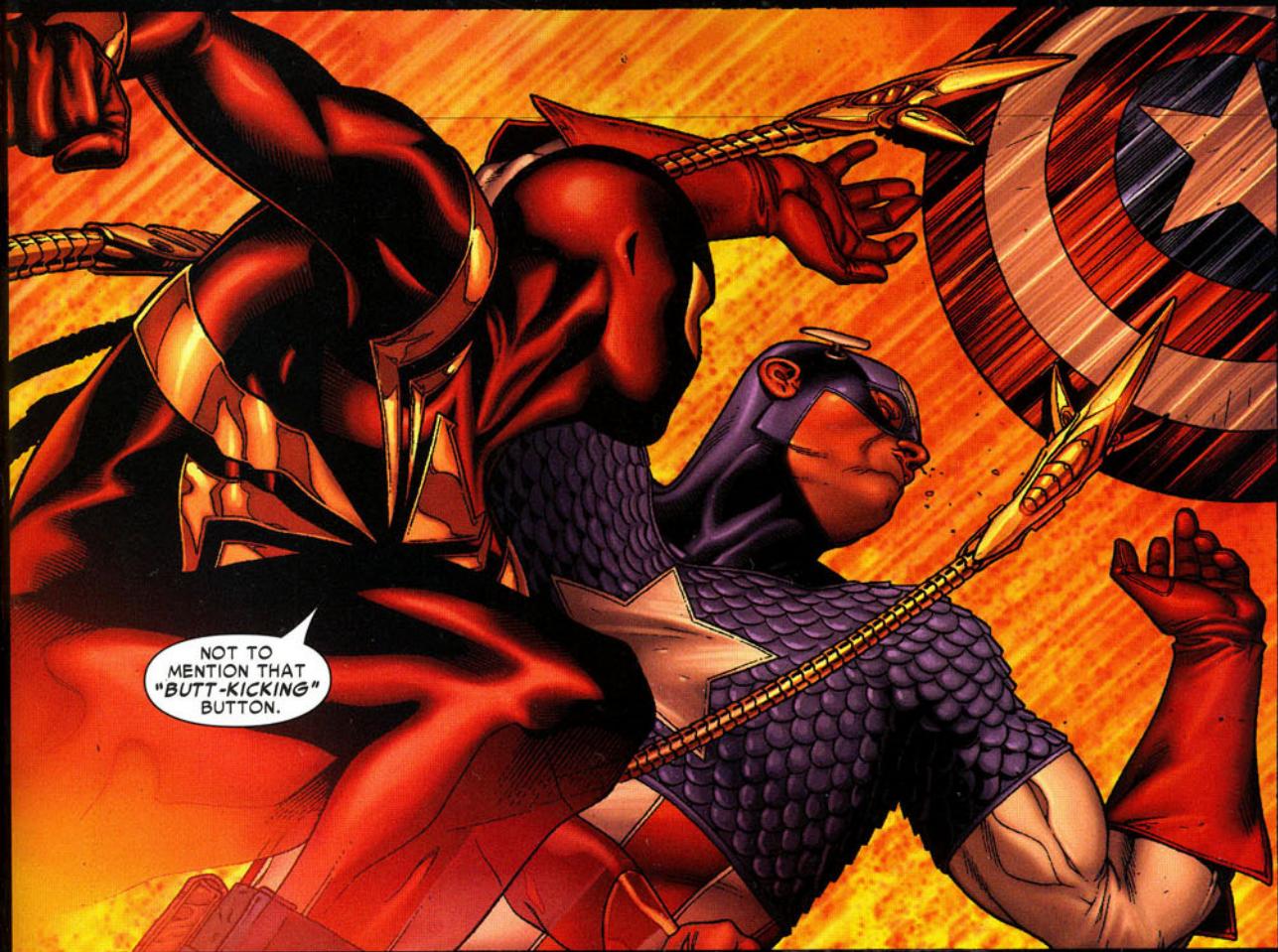
"CODENAME
LIGHTNING" IS UP
NEXT. I REPEAT,
HOLD YOUR FIRE
UNTIL IRON MAN
GIVES THE GO-
AHEAD.

I DON'T WANNA FIGHT
YOU GUYS, HULKLING! WHY
CAN'T YOU JUST DO LIKE
YOU'RE TOLD, HUH?

UNGH!

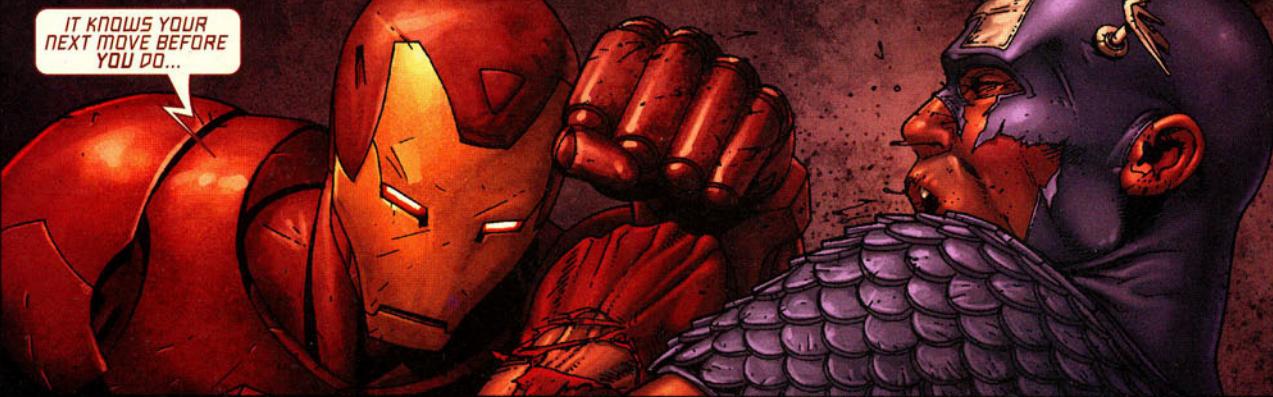




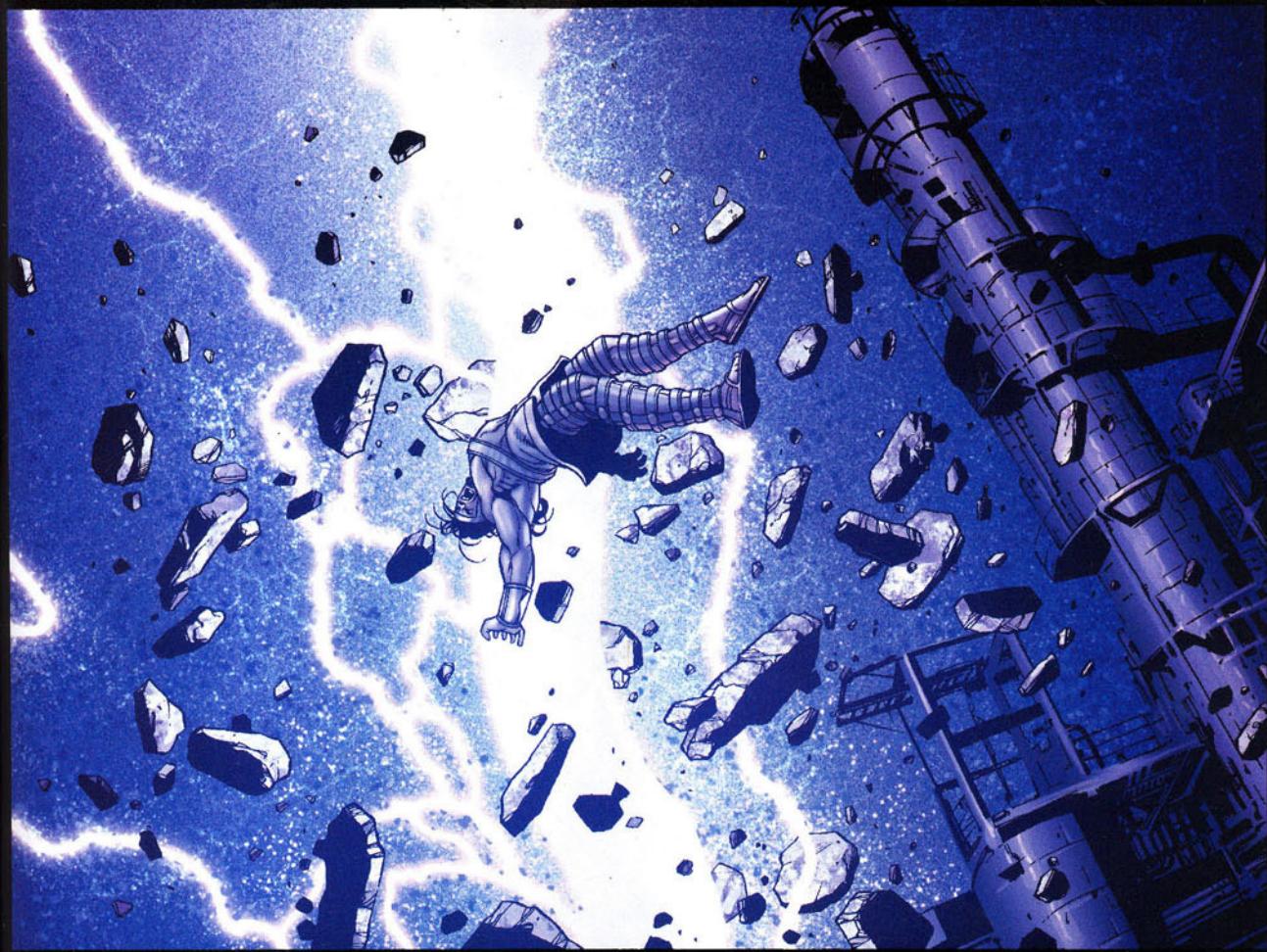




CAPTAIN! BEWARE!









TO BE
CONTINUED...