

AVENGERS
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THE AVENGERS

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POWER MAN! SWORDSMAN!
LIVING LASER! MAN-APES!

**LO! THE
LETHAL
LEGION!**

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

LO! THE LETHAL LEGION!

HAIL, AVENGERS!

WHEREFORE HAVE THOR AND IRON MAN BEEN SUMMONED INTO THY MIDST?

FROM THE GLUM LOOKS ON THEIR FACES, THUNDER GOD, I'D SAY THAT SOMETHING **BIG** IS UP!

EITHER THE EARTH'S BEEN INVADED... OR **SPIRO AGNEW** JUST MADE ANOTHER SPEECH!

YOU WON'T FEEL LIKE MAKIN' WITH THE **MIRTH**, SHELLHEAD, AFTER YA HEAR WHAT **WE** GOT TO TELL YA!

STAN LEE • ROY THOMAS • JOHN BUSCEMA
EDITOR • WRITER • ARTIST

TOM PALMER, EMBELLISHER ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

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NO NEED
TO GET
ON YOUR
HIGH
HORSE,
BIG
FELLA!

AY, GOLIATH!
FOR, HAVE YE
NOT **CALLED...**
AND HAVE WE
NOT **ANSWERED?**



RIGHT!
THIS IS NO
TIME TO
QUARREL
AMONGST
OURSELVES!

TOGETHER,
WE MAY HOPE
TO **STAND!**
BUT
DIVIDED...
WE MUST
CERTAINLY
FALL!



FALL? TO
WHOM,
CAPTAIN
AMERICA?

YOU'LL NOTICE
THAT ONE OF
US IS **MISS-**
ING THIS
FINE MORN-
ING, **THOR!**

THAT ONE IS
OUR **AFRICAN**
AVENGER...
T'CHALLA,
THE **BLACK**
PANTHER!*

*SINCE LAST
ISSUE! -- STAN.

"IN THE DARKEST PART OF LAST NIGHT,
T'CHALLA WAS CAPTURED... BY A FELLOW
TRIBESMAN CALLED M'BAKU THE MAN-APe...!"



"MAYBE THAT
ATTACK SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
EXPECTED...
SINCE M'BAKU
ONCE VIED
WITH T'CHALLA
FOR HIS
THRONE!"

"BUT, WHAT'S AMAZING IS THAT THE FIRST
AVENGER THE MAN-APe TRIED TO CAPTURE WAS
ME... WHOM HE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE!"

THIS, PLUS OTHER
FACTORS, MAKES US
SUSPECT THAT WE'RE
FACING **MORE** THAN
THE SIMPLE PLOT OF
A VENGEFUL RIVAL!



THEN WHY IN
BLAZES ARE WE
RAPPIN' LIKE A
HIGH SCHOOL
DEBATE SQUAD...

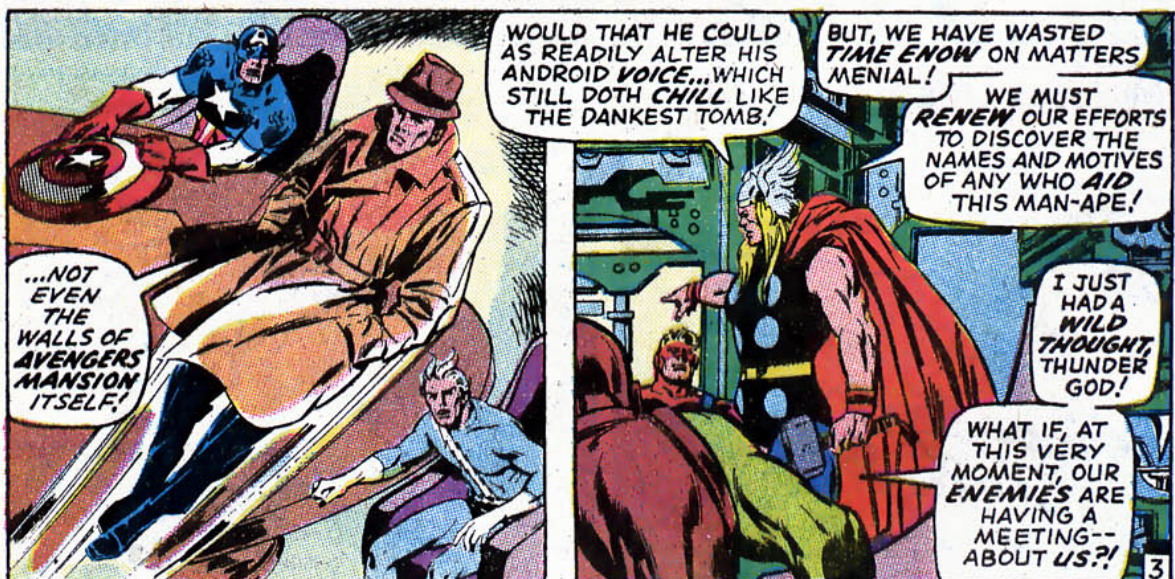
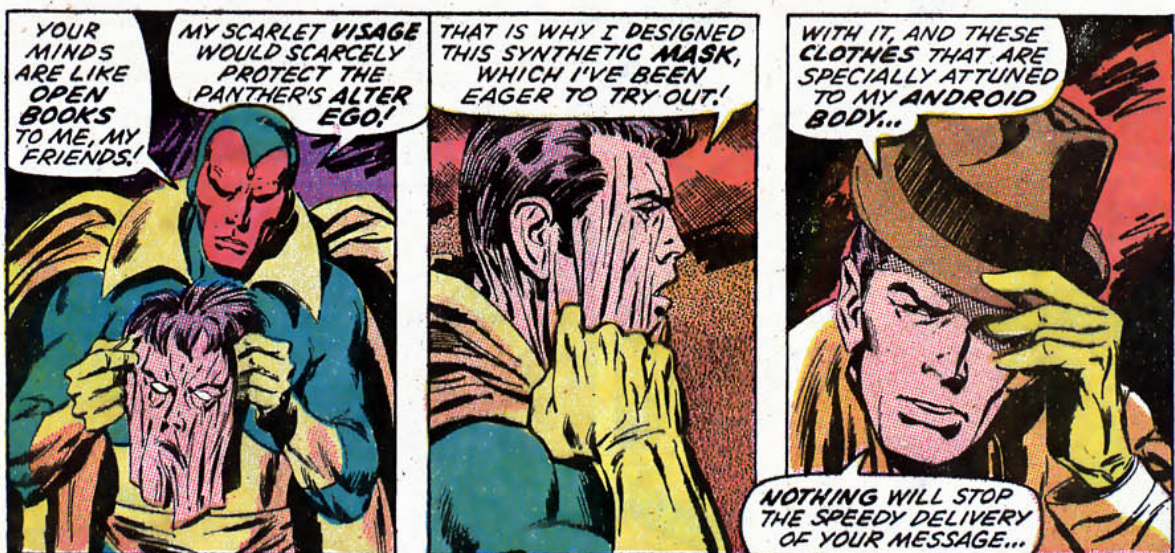
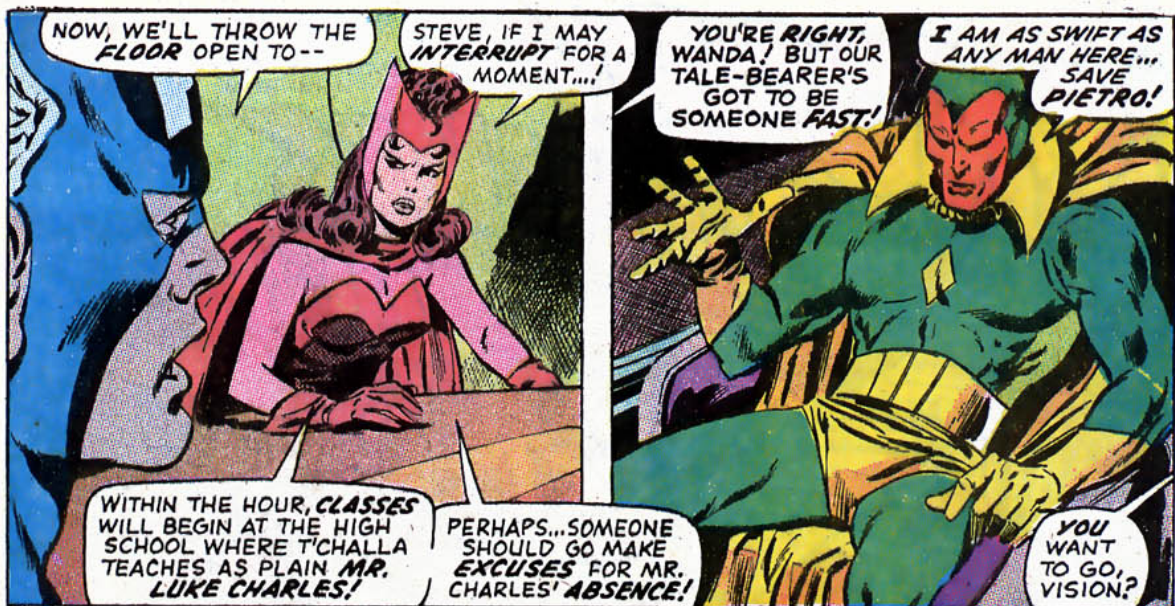
INSTEAD A
COMBIN' THE
CITY FOR THE
PANTHER?

BELIEVE IT,
WINGHEAD!

EASY,
AVENGER!

ONLY A **FOOL-**
HARDY MAN
RUSHES HEADLONG
INTO BATTLE...
BEFORE HE KNOWS
WHO HIS **ENEMIES**
ARE!

WE'LL PUT,
PIETRO!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

NOT NEARLY SO WILD A THOUGHT AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, TONY STARK! FOR, EVEN AS YOU SPEAK... IN A SECRET CHAMBER ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CITY...

HEY, GLORIOUS FOUNDER! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

YES! THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY AVENGERS AT LARGE!

SILENCE, YOU JIBBERING BUFFOONS! I INTEND TO SAVOR THIS MOMENT!

WHAT DO YOUR MAUDLIN MOUTHINGS MEAN TO THE GRIM REAPER?

YOU CAN LORD IT OVER THE OTHERS IF YOU WANT, REAPER... BUT DO NOT PLAY HIGH-AND-MIGHTY WITH THE SWORDSMAN!

WHAT? YOU DARE RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME!?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS I WHO FORGED YOU MALCONTENTS INTO--THE LETHAL LEGION?!

WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE I CAME, BUT FOUR SPITEFUL FAILURES...GNASHING YOUR TEETH AND MUTTERING OF REVENGE ON THE SUPERHEROES WHO HAD DEFEATED YOU?!

IT WAS ONLY I WHO WAS ABLE TO UNITE YOU--I, WITH MY ALL-CONSUMING HATRED OF THE AVENGERS AND ALL THEY STAND FOR!

AND, AS THE FIRST FRUIT OF THAT UNION...MAY I DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FAR WALL?!

YOU DON'T NEED TO IMPRESS US, REAPER!



AH, BUT I WANT TO, SWASH-BUCKLER!

BEHOLD THE **BLACK PANTHER**... AND THE LOVELY **BAIT** FOR THE TRAP THAT **SNARED** HIM!

THE FIRST **VICTIM** OF OUR **SLIGHTLY SINISTER GAME!**



IN DUE TIME, M'BAKU...IN **DUE TIME!**

IS IT NOT MORE FITTING THAT **ALL** THE **AVENGERS** PERISH...IN THE **SELFSAME INSTANT?**

"THE **FAMILY** THAT **FLIES TOGETHER** **DIES TOGETHER!**" YOU MIGHT SAY!



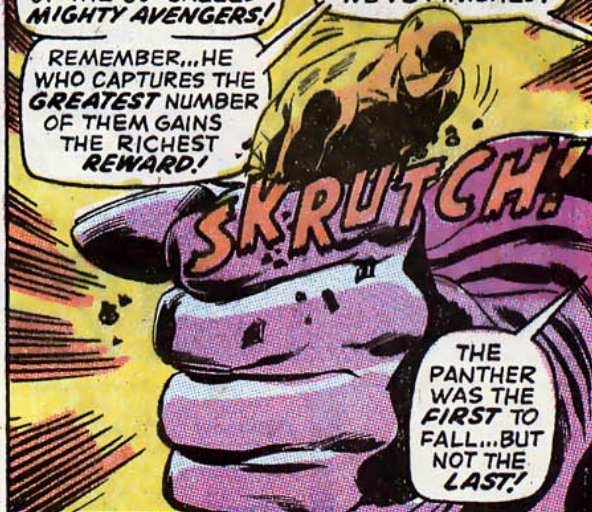
DO NOT SEEK TO TAKE **CREDIT** FOR HIS CAPTURE, GRIM ONE!

HE IS THE **MAN-APES PRIZE**...EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE HELD ME BACK FROM **SLAYING THE DOG!**

FOR, THAT IS THE **ESSENCE** OF THE GAME WE PLAY... THE **UTTER ANNIHILATION** OF THE SO-CALLED **MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

THOR...YELLOW-JACKET...WE'LL DESTROY EVEN THE HULK BEFORE WE'VE FINISHED!

REMEMBER...HE WHO CAPTURES THE **GREATEST** NUMBER OF THEM GAINS THE **RICHEST REWARD!**



SKRUTCH!

THE **PANTHER** WAS THE **FIRST** TO **FALL**...BUT NOT THE **LAST!**



OUR **FELINE GUEST** DOESN'T CHOOSE TO **COMMENT** UPON MY **LITTLE PREDICTION!**

BUT, NO **MATTER!**

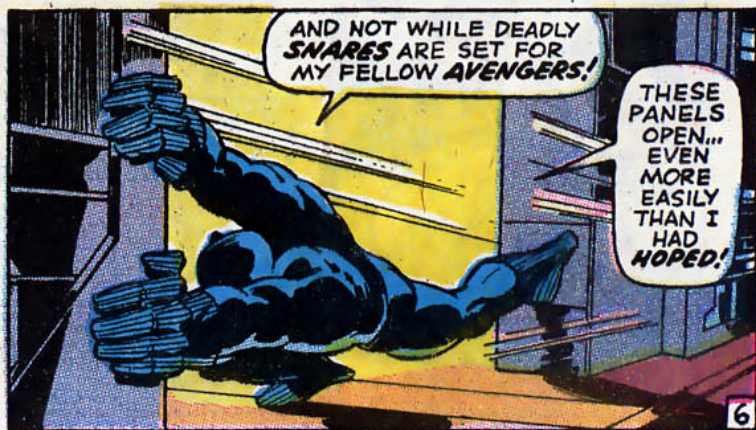
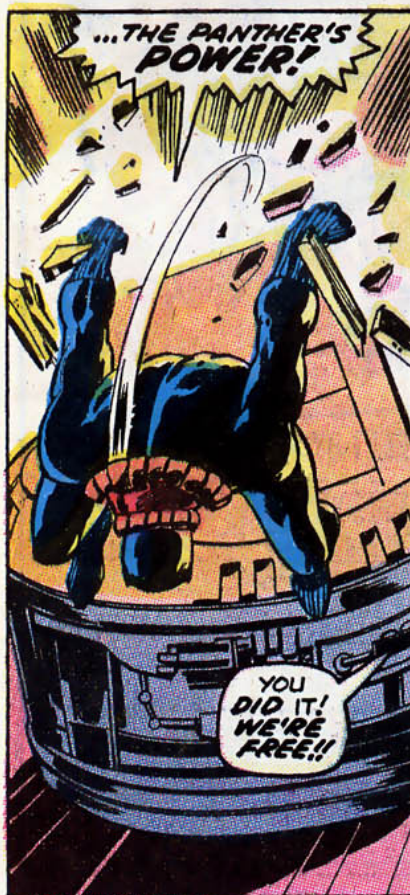
NOW, **LEGIONNAIRES** ...TO YOUR **POSTS!**

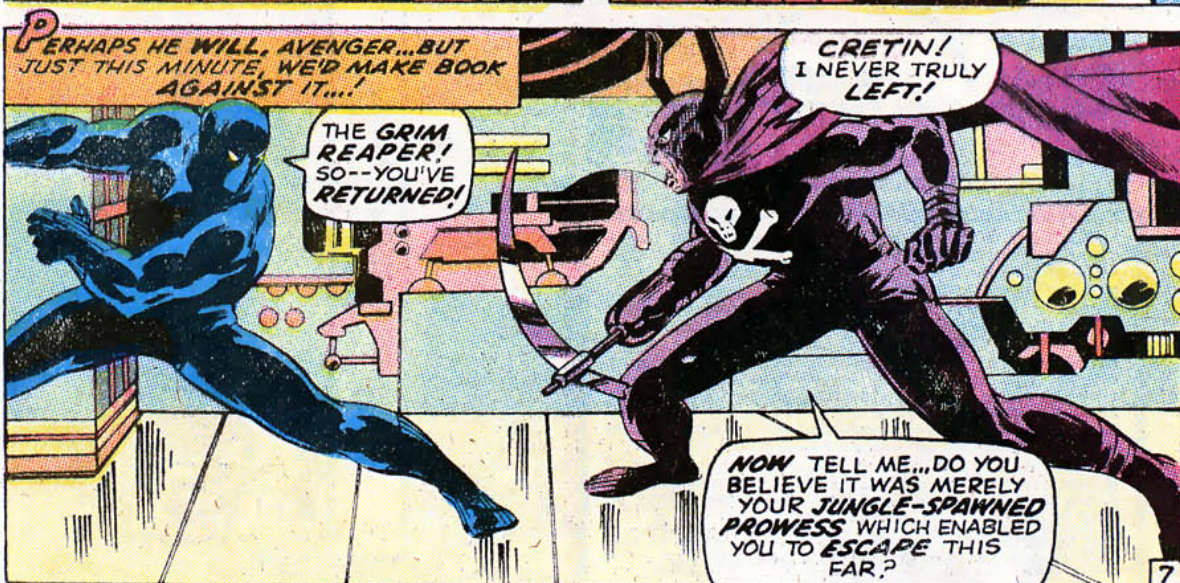
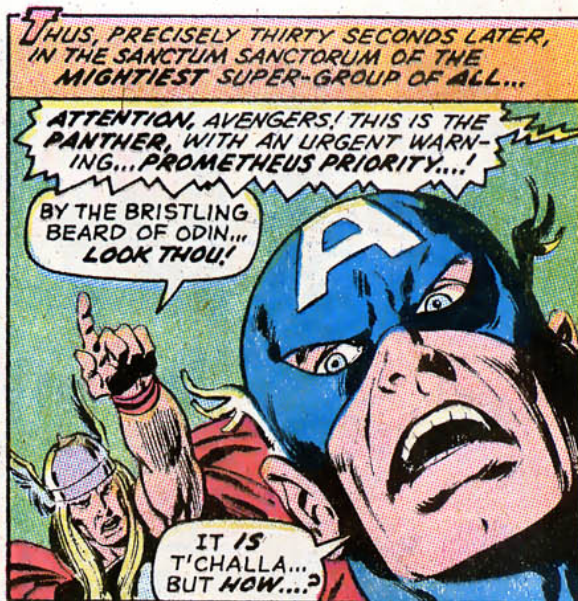


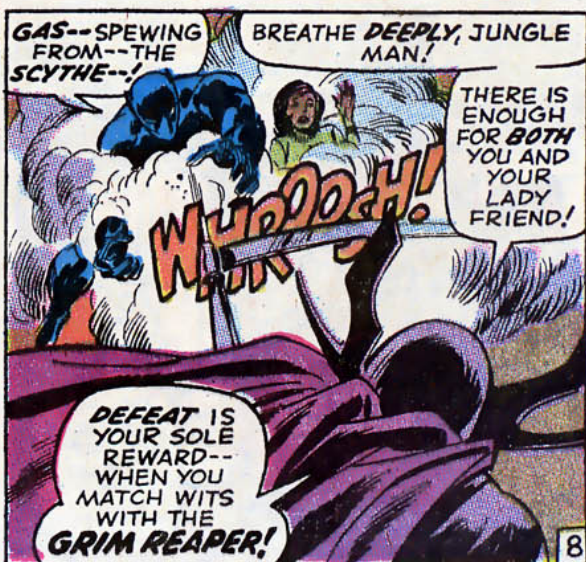
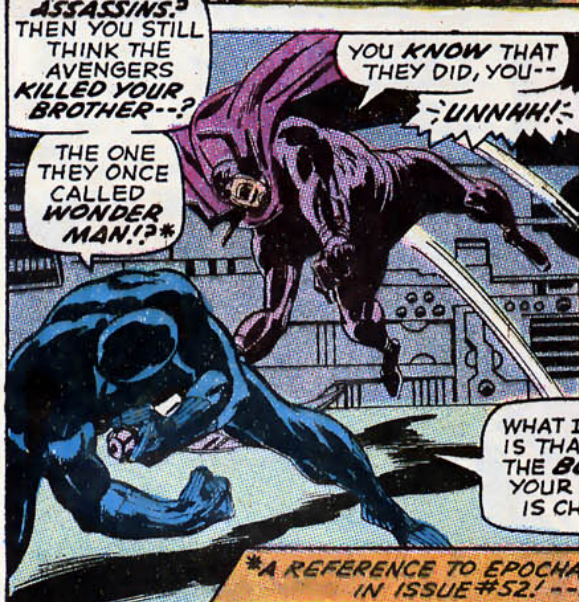
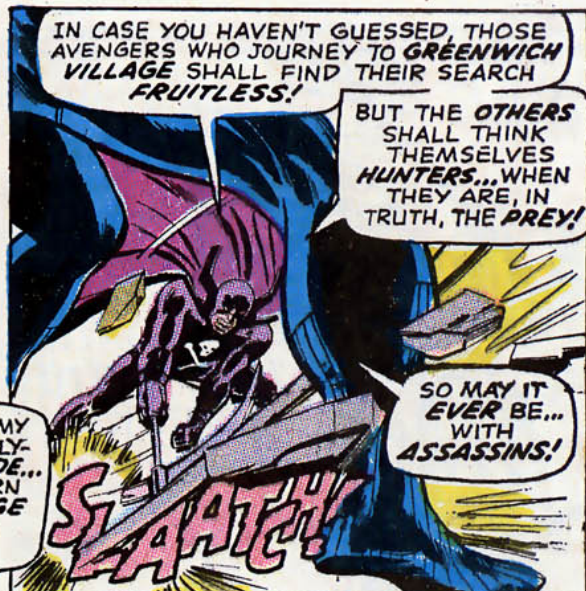
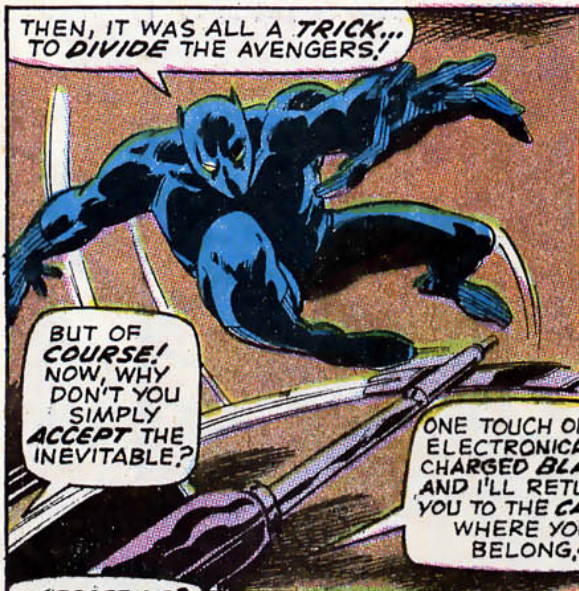
SWORDSMAN AND **POWER MAN**, TO THE **WATER MAIN** WHICH RUNS BENEATH THE **AVENGERS' MANSION**...

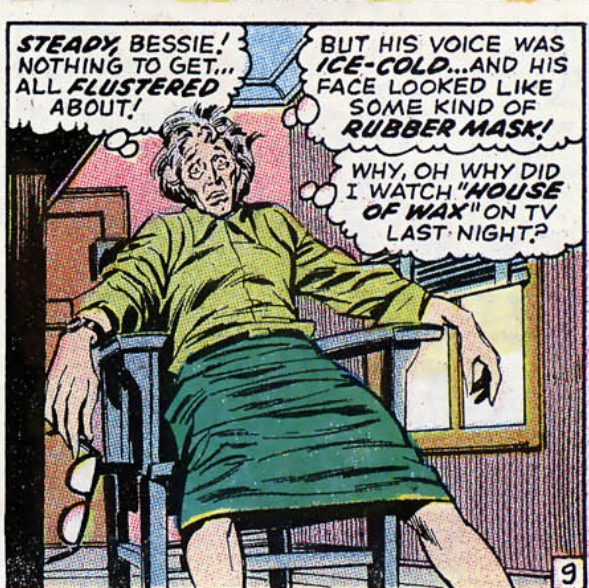
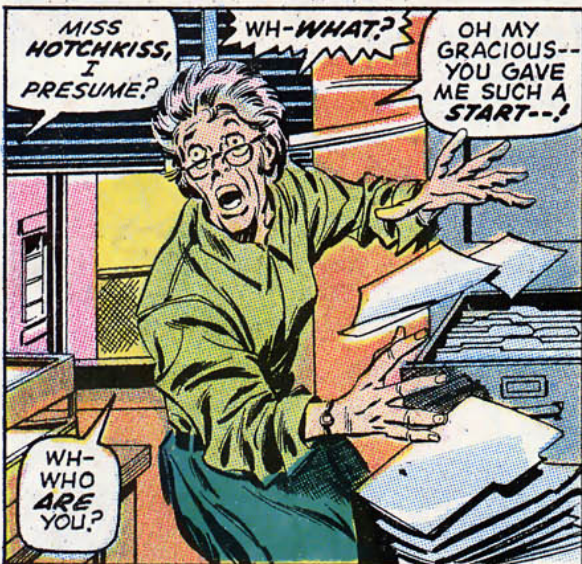
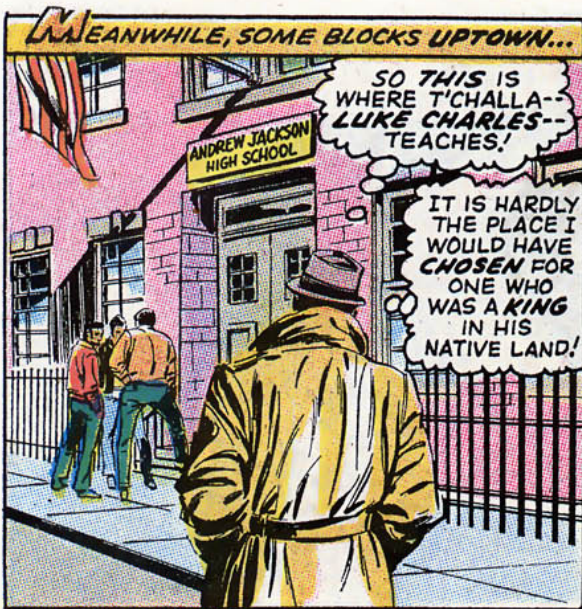
MAN-APES AND THE **LIVING LASER**, TO THE NEARBY **POWER STATION!**

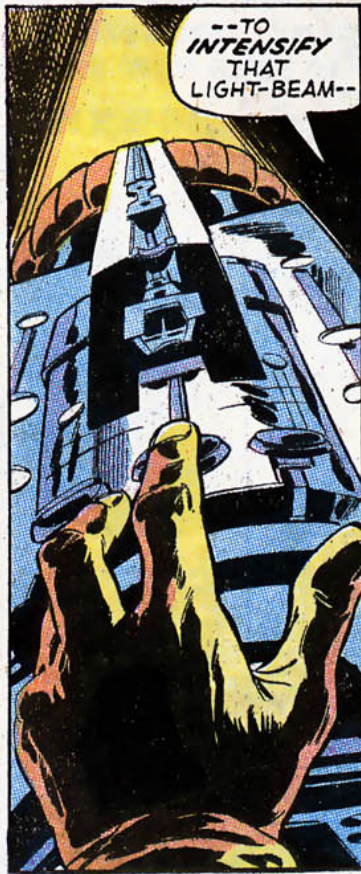
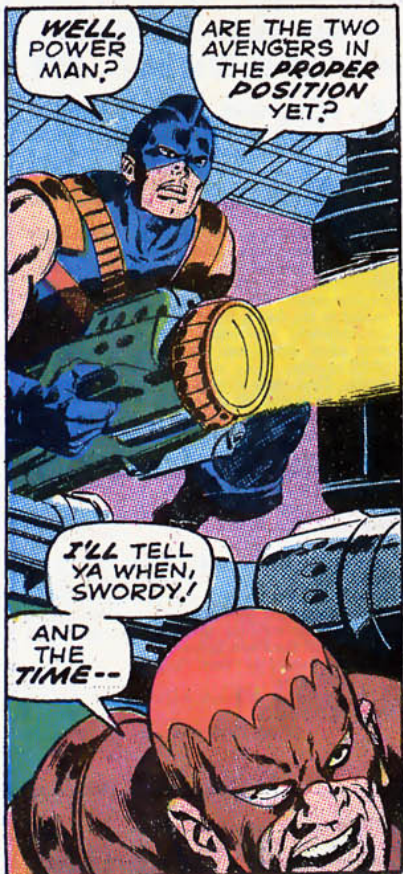
YOU SURE LIKE **GIVIN' ORDERS**, DON'TCHA?













THEY ARE **BLINDED**--
LIKE BATS CAUGHT IN
THE GLARE OF THE
SUN!

BULL, MISTER! THEY
MIGHT BE **DAZZLED**--
BUT THEY AINT **DOWN**
YET!

BY RIGHTS,
THAT SHOULD
MAKE THEM
BOTH **MY**
CAPTIVES!

IT'LL STILL
TAKE A HEAP
OF **MUSCLE**
TO TAKE OUT
GOLIATH--

IN EARNING THE
SUMS WHICH THE
REAPER HAS
PROMISED, **ONE**
AVENGER COUNTS
AS MUCH AS
ANOTHER!

LET THAT FIST-SLAMMING
FOOL BE THE ONE TO
CAPTURE **GOLIATH!**



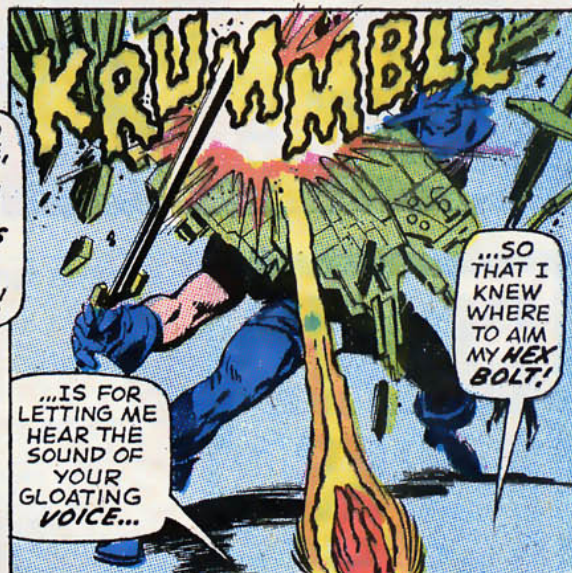
YOU SHOULD
THANK ME,
GIRL, FOR
SAVING YOU
FROM MY
FRIEND'S
LESS
CULTURED
CLUTCHES!

THE ONE
THING I
WILL
THANK YOU
FOR,
FRIEND...



AND ANOTHER
NAME FOR
MUSCLE IS--
POWER MAN!

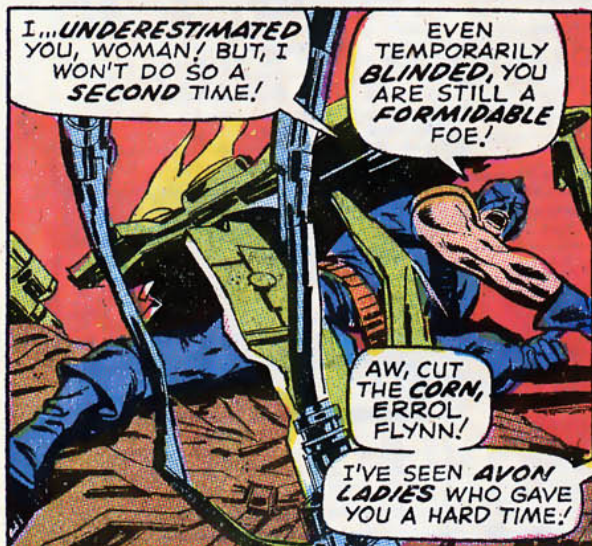
MMFFFF!



KRUNKMBL!

...SO
THAT I
KNEW
WHERE
TO AIM
MY **HEX**
BOLT!

...IS FOR
LETTING ME
HEAR THE
SOUND OF
YOUR
GLOATING
VOICE...



I...**UNDERESTIMATED**
YOU, WOMAN! BUT, I
WON'T DO SO A
SECOND TIME!

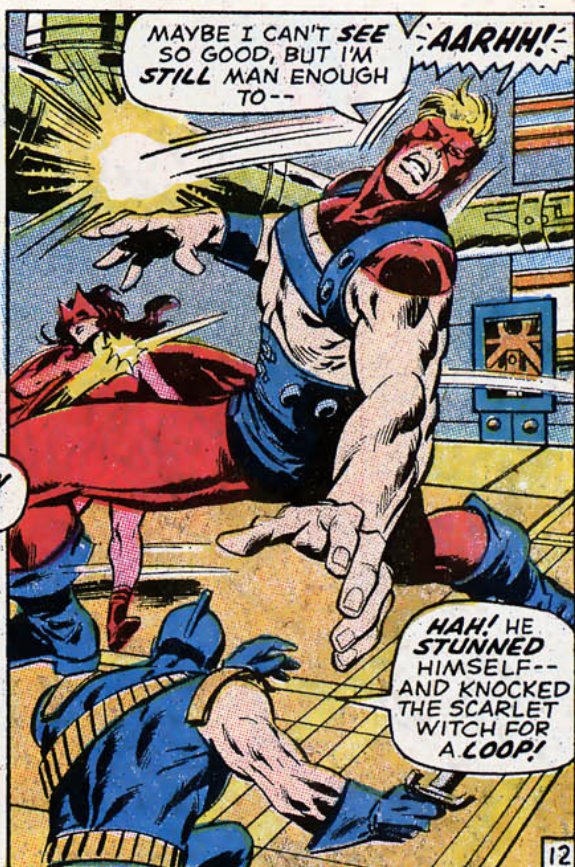
EVEN
TEMPORARILY
BLINDED, YOU
ARE STILL A
FORMIDABLE
FOE!

AW, CUT
THE **CORN,**
ERROL
FLYNN!

I'VE SEEN **AVON**
LADIES WHO GAVE
YOU A HARD TIME!



NOW,
SWORDY,
WATCH
HOW A
REAL
PRO
HANDLES--



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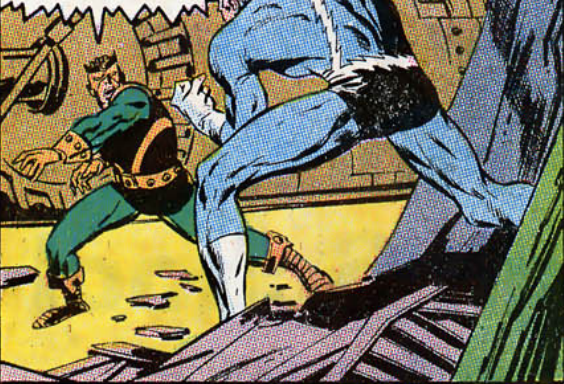
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THEN **PIETRO** SHALL
BUY YOU THE EXTRA
MOMENTS YOU NEED
TO **RECOVER, CAP!**

FOR, MY SPEED-
CONDITIONED BODY
ENABLED ME TO
ABSORB THE **TOTAL
SHOCK!**

QUICKSILVER!



WE ALL **KNOW** MY
NAME, **LASER!**

SUPPOSE YOU TELL
US SOMETHING WE
**DON'T KNOW--WHEN
YOU AWAKEN!**



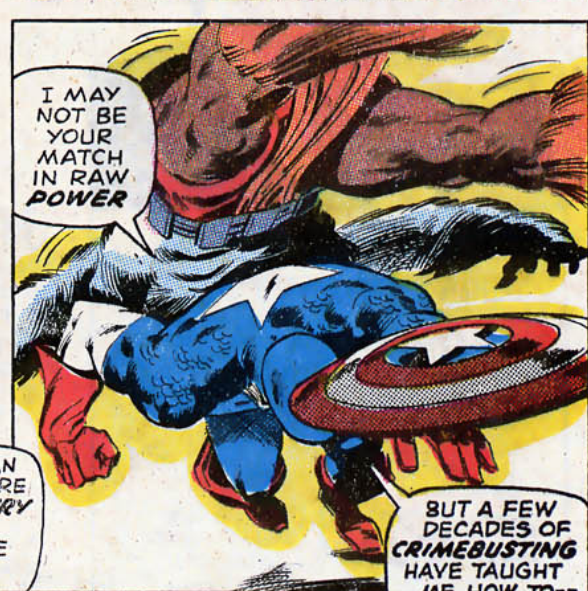
THE LIVING
**LASER IS A
FOOL!**

INSTEAD OF TALKING,
HE SHOULD HAVE
**SMASHED YOU--AS
I NOW SHALL DO!**



YOU MEAN
--AS YOU'RE
GONNA **TRY**
TO DO,
JUNGLE
JIM!

I MAY
NOT BE
YOUR
MATCH IN
**RAW
POWER**



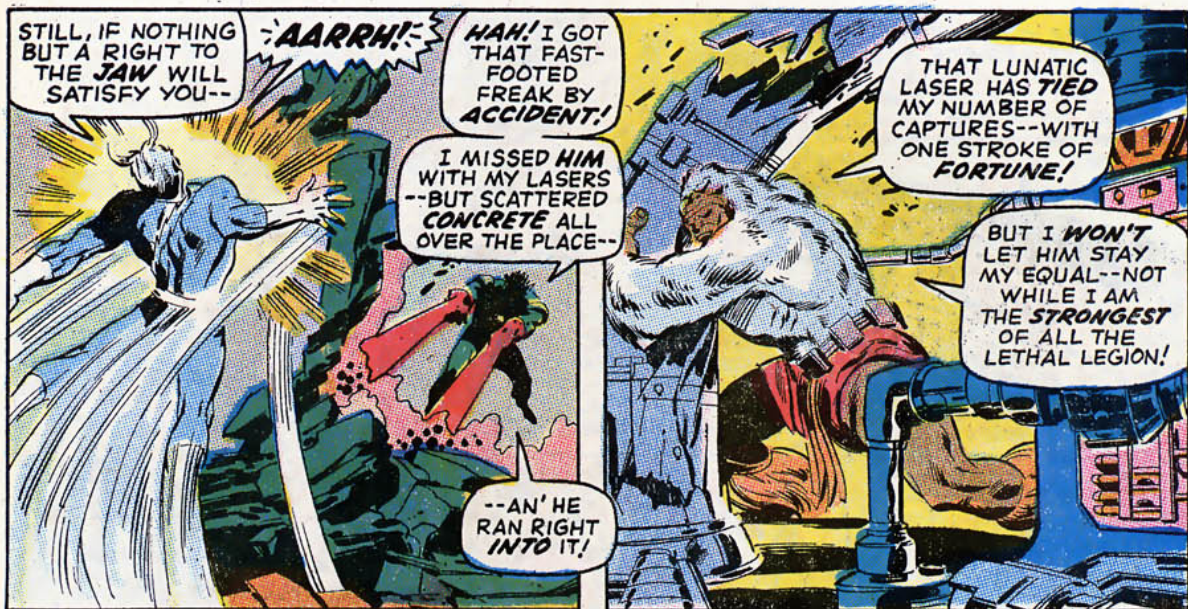
BUT A FEW
DECADES OF
CRIMEBUSTING
HAVE TAUGHT
ME HOW TO--
HIT 'EM LOW!

IF YOU THOUGHT
ONE PUNCH WOULD
KAYO ME, **SPEEDY**, YOU
GOT ANOTHER THINK
COMIN'!

BLAST IT! WHY
DON'T YOU STAND
STILL AND FIGHT
LIKE A **MAN--**
NOT A **BLAMED
ROADRUNNER?**

TO EACH
HIS OWN
**FIGHTING
STYLE,
LASER!**





STILL, IF NOTHING BUT A RIGHT TO THE **JAW** WILL SATISFY YOU--

AARRH!

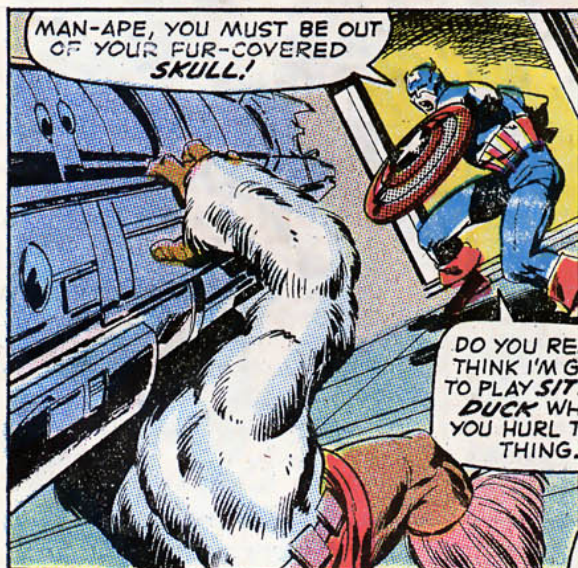
HAN! I GOT THAT FAST-FOOTED FREAK BY ACCIDENT!

I MISSED HIM WITH MY LASERS--BUT SCATTERED CONCRETE ALL OVER THE PLACE--

--AN' HE RAN RIGHT INTO IT!

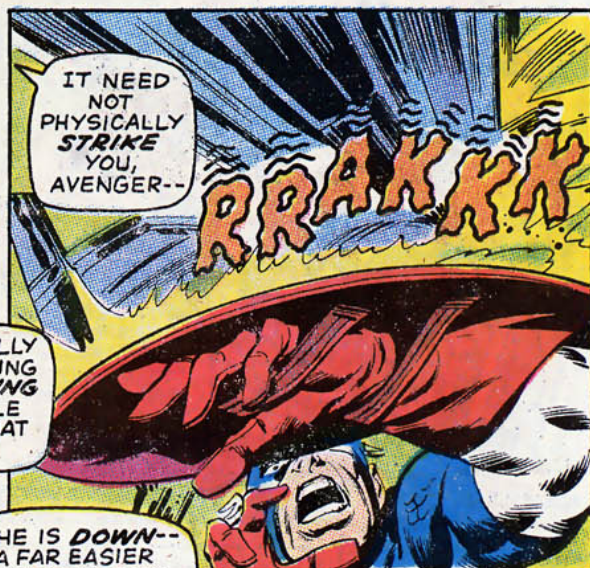
THAT LUNATIC LASER HAS TIED MY NUMBER OF CAPTURES--WITH ONE STROKE OF FORTUNE!

BUT I WON'T LET HIM STAY MY EQUAL--NOT WHILE I AM THE **STRONGEST** OF ALL THE LETHAL LEGION!



MAN-APE, YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR FUR-COVERED **SKULL!**

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO PLAY **SITTING DUCK** WHILE YOU HURL THAT THING?



IT NEED NOT PHYSICALLY **STRIKE** YOU, AVENGER--

RRRAKKKK

HE IS **DOWN**--A FAR EASIER VICTORY THAN I WOULD HAVE **IMAGINED!**



--BUT MERELY SHATTER THE **HYDRAULIC GENERATORS** BEHIND YOU!

THE RATHER **FORMIDABLE WATER PRESSURE** WILL DO THE REST!



THESE AVENGERS ARE VASTLY **OVERRATED**, IN THE EYES OF THE **MAN-APE!**

YEAH? WELL, A COUPLE OF GUYS NAMED **THOR** AND **IRON MAN** ARE STILL KICKIN' AROUND LOOSE!

WE'LL SEE HOW YA FEEL AFTER YOU TANGLE WITH **THEM**....

HOWEVER, FOR THE NONCE, THE GRIM REAPER WOULD SEEM TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE CAPTIVES AT HAND...FOR, ERE LONG...

AHHH... NOW THIS IS A SIGHT I'VE WAITED LONG TO SEE!

A QUINTET OF MIGHTY AVENGERS... SLOWLY PERISHING, AS DEADLY VAPORS FILL THEIR HALF OF A MAMMOTH HOURGLASS!

BUT, REAPER... I THOUGHT THE AVENGERS KILLED YOUR BROTHER BEFORE MOST OF THESE GUYS WERE EVEN DUES-PAYIN' MEMBERS!

WHAT? DOESN'T HE REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS-- WAIT! HERE HE COMES NOW!

AND BEARING GIFTS, IT WOULD SEEM...

...INCLUDING THE LIMP FORM OF THE ANDROID THEY CALL THE VISION!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER, LASER! IT'S ENOUGH THAT THEY ARE AVENGERS!

ALL WHO TAKE THAT ACCURSED NAME, I HAVE SWORN TO DESTROY!

SWORDSMAN! WHY HASN'T POWER MAN JOINED US YET?

HE WENT TO RANSACK THE AVENGERS' MANSION, REAPER!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND CLOD!

TOSS HIM INTO THE TANK... AND IF HE BREATHEES, HE'LL DIE WITH HIS FELLOWS!

AND WHAT ARE *THESE* YOU BROUGHT? AHH... THE *PERSONAL FILES* OF THE VARIOUS AVENGERS!

HOW IRONIC THAT I SHOULD FIRST BE *LEARNING* ABOUT SOME OF THEM, EVEN AS THEY *GASP* FOR AIR!

I'LL READ FIRST OF THE *VISION*, THEIR MOST RECENT...INDEED THEIR *FINAL ACQUISITION*!

FOR, THOUGH SIMON'S *BODY* MAY HAVE DIED, THEY SAY HIS *BRAIN PATTERN* WAS PRESERVED--

--TO BECOME THE MENTAL BASIS OF-- THE *VISION*!

REAPER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?

IF YOU SWING THAT *SCYTHE*, YOU'LL SMASH THE *HOURLASS*!

PERHAPS SOMETHING HERE WILL MAKE A FIT *EPITAPH* FOR--
NO! NO!!

IF THESE PAPERS SPEAK THE TRUTH-- THEN IT'S *I* WHO HAVE CONDEMNED MY BROTHER SIMON TO DEATH!

NOT THE AVENGERS-- BUT I!

PRECISELY WHAT I *INTEND* TO DO, YOU FOOL!

I ONLY PRAY-- THAT I'M NOT TOO LATE!

SMASH!

L-LEMMIE OUTTA THERE!

AIR! GOTTA HAVE--AIR!

WHAT?

REAPER-- I HAVE *KNOWN* THE *VISION*-- AND THAT IS *NOT* HIS VOICE!

THEN--THE NEED FOR THIS MASQUERADE IS ENDED!

THE *VISION* TRADED PLACES WITH POWER MAN!

HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE!



BUT HE'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAMBER ALIVE!

--EH??

IN YOUR IMPATIENCE, YOU FORGET--

--THAT ONE WHO CAN BECOME AS HARD AS DIAMOND CAN HARDLY PERISH BY THE SWORD!

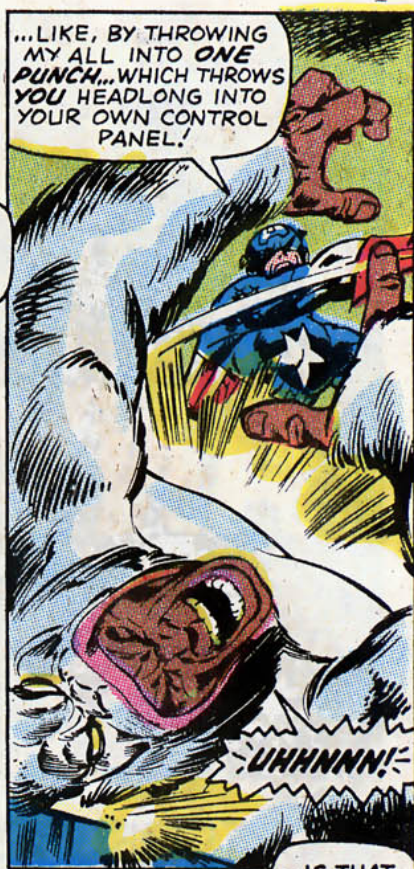
WHILE, EVEN AS THE OTHER AVENGERS TUMBLE FORTH FROM THE VAPOR-FILLED GLASS...



NOW, WEAKLING, WE SHALL FINISH WHAT WE HAVE TWICE BEGUN!

YOU'RE... RIGHT THERE, M'BAKU!

BUT... WE'LL DO IT... MY WAY...



...LIKE, BY THROWING MY ALL INTO ONE PUNCH...WHICH THROWS YOU HEADLONG INTO YOUR OWN CONTROL PANEL!

UHHNNN!



LOOKS LIKE THE MAN-APES SKULL WAS AS SOFT AS HIS BRAIN!

WELL, OL' QUICKSILVER WON'T HAVE THAT EASY A TIME WITH THE LIVING LASER!



HUH? THE WAY YOU DODGED MY BLASTS--

HOW? WHEN YOU'RE STILL GROGGY FROM JUST WAKIN' UP--?

THE OBVIOUS ANSWER, MY FRIEND--



--IS THAT WE WERE NEVER FULLY UNCONSCIOUS!

WE SIMPLY PLAYED ALONG WITH YOU--

--SO WE COULD BE SURE TO CAPTURE ALL OF YOU-- TOGETHER!



AND NOW, REAPER, IT'S TIME YOU WERE PUT UNDER WRAPS!

--ALTHOUGH I RATHER HATE KICKING A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH!

BLACKIE, YOU'RE GONNA DEVELOP A SENSAHUMOR YET!

I COULD NOT BE CERTAIN-- BUT MY ESCAPE SEEMED FAR TOO EASY!

STILL, IT'S THE VISION WHO IS THE HERO HERE!



THEN, WHEN THE LAST LETHAL LEGIONNAIRE IS SUBDUED...

I STILL...DON'T GET IT! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE LAYIN' FOR YOU?

THE PANTHER TOLD US!

WHEN CONTACTING US, HE USED THE WORDS "PROMETHEUS PRIORITY"-- OUR CODE FOR "SUSPECTED TRAP"!



WITHOUT HIM, WE'D HAVE HAD TO PUNCH OUR WAY OUTTA THAT HOUR-GLASS!

IF HE HAD NOT BEEN REVEALED AS THE GRIM REAPER'S BROTHER--

BUT I AM NOT HIS BROTHER-- NOR AM I BROTHER TO ANY TRUE HUMAN BEING!

AND THAT IS WHY--I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE AVENGERS!

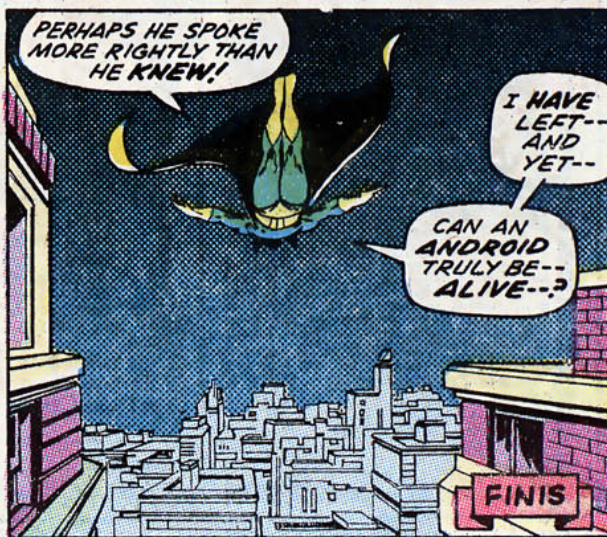
VISION-- NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT--!



BUT I DO MEAN IT-- I MUST MEAN IT!

WHAT PLACE HAVE I-- A COLD, SYNTHETIC THING-- AMONG MEN OF FLESH AND BLOOD?

THE SWORDSMAN SAID I WOULD NEVER LEAVE THIS CHAMBER ALIVE!



PERHAPS HE SPOKE MORE RIGHTLY THAN HE KNEW!

I HAVE LEFT-- AND YET--

CAN AN ANDROID TRULY BE-- ALIVE--?

FINIS