

AVENGERS

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THE AVENGERS

NOBODY
STOPS THE
PANTHER...
NOBODY!

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

HELP!
POLICE!
POLICE!!

NO...
NEVER
MIND! IT'S
...**TOO LATE!!**

**DEATH
IS THE
HUNTER!**



THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

A CITY WRITHES IN **TURMOIL**... A NATION FALTERS ON THE BRINK OF **CRISIS**! AND, IN THE SOMBRE DARKNESS OF AVENGERS MANSION, FOUR GRIM **FIGURES** GATHER ANXIOUSLY ABOUT THE FLICKERING LIGHT OF A **TV MONITOR**... TO HEAR THE MOST UNEXPECTED, THE MOST SENSE-SHOCKING DEMAND OF **ALL**:

"PURSUE THE PANTHER!"

SAY IT
AIN'T SO!
SAY I DIDN'T
HEAR THAT
COLOR-TUBE
JOCKEY RIGHT!

BUT YOU **DID**
HEAR HIM, CLINT...
WE **ALL** DID!

HE'S SAYING THE
BLACK PANTHER
HAS TURNED
CRIMINAL...

...AND THAT IT'S UP
TO THE **AVENGERS**
TO **CAPTURE** HIM...

...OR ELSE BE
CONSIDERED
IN **LEAGUE**
WITH HIM!!

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SO FAR, THE PANTHER HAS VICTIMIZED ONLY BUSINESSES OWNED BY KNOWN SUPPORTERS OF THE ULTRA-RIGHTIST SONS OF THE SERPENT...

...THUS LEADING AHEAD TO SPECULATION THAT HE IS BOTH BLACK... AND THE VANGUARD OF A NEW TYPE OF MARAUDING MILITANT!

AND LEADIN' GOLIATH TO WONDER WHERE THAT JOKER GOT HIS FACTS... OFF A WHEATIES BOX?

T'CHALLA ONLY HAD THE FACT THAT HE WAS BLACK BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE JUDGED AS A MAN...NOT A RACIAL TYPE!

IF THAT NEWSHOUND DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE PANTHER'S BEIN' FRAMED....!

EASY, BIG MAN! HE'S REPORTING THE NEWS...NOT MAKING IT!

THOUGH THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE!



LOOK! THERE'S MORE...!

"THESE FILMS, TAKEN ONLY MINUTES AGO, SHOW THE LATEST POLICE ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND THE PANTHER..."

"...AN ATTEMPT WHICH, LIKE ALL PREVIOUS ONES, ENDED IN TOTAL FAILURE..."



NUTS! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!

I'M TUNIN' THAT BOZO OUT... BEFORE I GET MAD ENOUGH TO KICK IN THE SCREEN...!

HOLD IT, GOLIATH!

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT IS... WE'VE GOT TO SEE THIS THRU TO THE END!



MEANWHILE, SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE ALLEGED THAT THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES ARE HIDING THE FUGITIVE, IN THEIR FIFTH AVENUE MANSION!

THIS REPORTER, CARL RYDER, DEFINITELY DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THAT THEORY...

... BUT DEMANDS THAT THE AVENGERS PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE, BY CAPTURING THEIR RENEGADE MEMBER!



AND NOW, HERE IS A VIDEO TAPE JUST RECEIVED BY THIS NETWORK...

... SENT TO US BY THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED FIGURE KNOWN AS THE SUPREME SERPENT!

ITS CONTENTS HAVE NOT BEEN VIEWED IN ADVANCE...

BUT, IT IS THOUGHT THAT IT MAY DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE BLACK PANTHER...!



OH, GREAT! INSTEAD OF LOCKIN' THOSE LOONIES UP, NOW THEY'RE GIVIN' EM AIR TIME!

YOU CAN'T ARREST THEM IF YOU CAN'T FIND THEM, PARTNER!

THEY KEEP THEIR HQ A SECRET, REMEMBER?

MARK HIM CLOSELY, MY FRIENDS! THIS IS THE MAN WHO SPOUTS THE VENOM THAT MAY POISON A NATION!



...THE SO-CALLED PANTHER IS NO MERE THIEF... BUT A TRAITOR TO ALL THAT AMERICANS HOLD DEAR!

THE AVENGERS SEEK TO PROTECT HIM... BUT SOON, AMERICA WILL KNOW WHO HER TRUE FRIENDS ARE...

...IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, WHEN THE SONS OF THE SERPENT UNMASK THE PANTHER... ON NATIONAL TELEVISION!

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN... THEY'VE CAPTURED T'CHALLA!!

WHILE, IN A SEALED COMPARTMENT, ABOARD THE SERPENTS' HARBOR-STALKING VESSEL, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES WATCHES THE SELFSAME BROADCAST... WITH AN EVEN MORE UNFAVORABLE REACTION...!



THEN THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN LEFT ALIVE ALL THIS TIME!*



* THE BLACK PANTHER WAS CAPTURED IN THE FINAL PANEL OF LAST ISSUE'S EPIC! STAN

THE SERPENTS WANT TO CAUSE A CIVIL WAR... TO SET BLACK AGAINST WHITE!

AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO REVEAL THAT THE PANTHER... HE WHO IS ALSO AN AVENGER... IS BOTH BLACK AND A MARAUDER?

THAT WILL BE THE CLIMAX... THE CAPSTONE TO A WEEK OF EVENTS WHICH THREATEN TO SET THE NATION AFIRE!



BUT, IT WON'T WORK... DO YOU HEAR ME...?

I SHALL BE FREE!



BUT, THE AFRICAN AVENGER'S SOLE ANSWER IS THE MOCKING RATTLE OF HIS OWN CHAINS... AND THEN, AS ANOTHER CAREFULLY-SELECTED PROGRAM BEGINS A FEW MINUTES LATER...

...GOOD EVENING! THIS IS DAN DUNN, THE HOST THAT THE TRUE ENEMIES OF AMERICA LOVE TO HATE!

MY GUESTS THIS EVENING, AS ON THE PAST TWO EVENINGS, ARE MISS MONICA LYNNE...



...AND MR. MONTAGUE HALE, SPOKESMAN OF BLACK AMERICA ... AND OTHER LOST CAUSES!



MR. HALE, YOU'VE CALLED ME A **BIGOT**...

BUT AREN'T **YOU** THE TRUE **BIGOT**... THE MAN WHO BELIEVES ONLY WHAT HE WANTS TO BELIEVE ABOUT HIS OWN ETHNIC GROUP?

FOR INSTANCE, WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE **BLACK PANTHER** IS REVEALED TO BE BOTH A **TRAITOROUS REVOLUTIONARY**... AND ONE OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE?

THEY HAVEN'T PROVED THAT **YET**, DUNN!

BESIDES, WHO WOULD BELIEVE **ANYTHING** SPOUTED BY A **RACIST GROUP** LIKE THE **SONS OF THE SERPENT**?



MR. HALE... ISN'T ALL THIS **BESIDE THE POINT**?

WE'RE DEBATING THE **BLACK CAUSE**... NOT THE INNOCENCE OR GUILT OF ANY ONE MAN!

ON THE **CON-TRARY**, MISS **LYNNE**...

I THINK THAT BOTH ONE MAN AND THE **BLACK CAUSE** ARE ON TRIAL HERE!

RIGHT! AND BOTH WILL BE **VINDICATED!!**



ARE YOU **SURE**, HALE? **SURE ENOUGH** TO PUT YOUR **COMMITMENT** WHERE YOUR **MOUTH** IS?

IF THE **PANTHER** IS BOTH **BLACK** AND **GUILTY**, WILL YOU ADMIT YOUR WHOLE MOVEMENT IS **RIDDLED WITH TRAITORS**?

IF HE IS **SO PROVEN**, IT'LL BE A **SERPENT TRICK!**

AND WE'LL **FIGHT**, IF NEED BE, TO **PROVE** IT'S A **TRICK!**

OH NO! NOW **HALE'S** PUT HIS **FOOT** IN IT!

ANY MORE OF THIS, AND THERE'LL BE **RACE RIOTS** OVER ME... WHILE I'M CHAINED HERE **HELPLESS...**!



WE'LL **REMEMBER** WHAT YOU SAID, HALE, WHEN THE **PATRIOTIC SONS OF THE SERPENT** SHOW THE **PANTHER'S TRUE COLORS**... IN EVERY SENSE!

YOU **DO** THAT... AND WHILE YOU'RE **AT IT**...

WHY DON'T YOU **CRAWL BACK** UNDER YOUR **ROCK**, LIKE THOSE **FILTHY SERPENTS** YOU ADMIRE!!



WHILE, A FEW SHORT MILES AWAY, A DRAMATIC DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED---

WHATEVER OUR OWN FEELINGS, WE MUST CAPTURE T'CHALLA!

OR THE CRUMB WHO'S GIVIN' HIM A BUM RAP!

WE'LL COVER MORE GROUND IF WE SEPARATE!

BUT REMEMBER, CLINT... THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT, NOT A PERSONAL VENDETTA!

IF YOU SPOT HIM, CONTACT THE REST OF US!



SURE THING, AVENGER!

THAT WAY, YOU THREE CAN HAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF 'IM.

BUT SOON, AS THE LONE VISION STALKS HIS SECTOR OF THE NIGHT-DARKENED SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK---

THAT'S ONE OF THE AVENGERS... THE ANDROID ONE!

I HEAR HIS VOICE IS ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU THE CREEPS!

HE AIN'T WHITE... AND HE SURE AIN'T BLACK!



WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, BABY?

GOOD HEAVENS! MARTHA... LOOK!

HE'S WALKIN' DOWN... RIGHT INTO THE CEMENT!



STOP HIM YOURSELF!

HE LOOKS SO GRIM... I WOULDN'T TACKLE HIM FOR A MILLION BUCKS!

STOP 'IM, MAN!



AND, IN THE HEART OF TIMES SQUARE ITSELF...

THIS IS MY CAB, BUDDY, SO SHOVE OFF!!!

UH, SORRY, GOLIATH... I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!

FORGET IT, CLYDE!

TAXI

Caliban Cab Co.

I WASN'T USIN' THAT RIB, ANYHOW!

A CAB MIGHT'A HELPED, THOUGH, LONG AS I'M WALKIN' AROUND NORMAL-SIZE TO KEEP OUTTA PEOPLE'S WAY!

HMM... WONDER WHAT THOSE TWO TEENY-BOPPERS ARE WHISPERIN' ABOUT!

MUST BE THE BICEPS I'VE PICKED UP, WORKIN' OUT WITH HANK'S GIANT BARBELLS!

CAN'T HURT JUST TO LISTEN IN...!

CAN YOU IMAGINE ANYBODY TOOLIN' AROUND TOWN IN A GET-UP LIKE THAT?

WONDER WHICH HE'LL CATCH FIRST... A SUPER-BADDIE, OR THE SNIFFLES!?

THAT TEARS IT!

FROM NOW ON, NO MORE NICE-GUY!

LOOK! HE-- HE'S GROWING!!

NOW MAYBE I CAN FIND THE PANTHER, IN TIME TO...

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, OFFICER?

YOU ARE, SEYMOUR!

I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE SECONDS TO STOP BLOCKIN' TRAFFIC ON MY BEAT...

AND THEN I'M RUNNIN' YOU IN!

MEANWHILE, IN STILL ANOTHER DIRECTION---

A LOT OF GOOD I'M DOING THE AVENGERS... ME, THE POOR MAN'S **TINKER BELL!**

EVEN FROM UP HERE, I CAN'T SEE HIDE NOR HAIR OF...

WAIT! THRU THAT WINDOW...!

IT IS! IT'S THE **PANTHER!!**

OR AT LEAST, SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE HIM---SHAKING DOWN A POTENTIAL VICTIM!

I'D BETTER SIGNAL THE OTHERS!

WASP TO AVENGERS... WASP TO AVENGERS!

OUR MAN'S PULLING A JOB AT 23RD AND LEXINGTON, AND IT LOOKS LIKE A REALIE!

I'LL STALL HIM AS LONG AS I CAN, GUYS!

BUT DON'T TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE HERE, HUH?

...Y'KNOW, WHITEY, YOU OUGHT TO THANK ME FOR TAKIN' THESE THINGS OFF YOUR HANDS!

IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE A JEWELRY SALESMAN, ALL ALONE IN THE BIG BAD---

WHO'S THAT??

IF YOU'D DONE YOUR HOMEWORK, MY WOULD-BE AVENGER...

...YOU'D KNOW A WOMAN-SIZED WASP WHEN YOU SAW ONE!

SURE I KNOW YOU! YOU JUST SURPRISED ME, THAT'S ALL!

BUT, IF YOU'RE HERE TO HELP MR. CHARLIE THERE GET BACK HIS MARBLES...





NO GO! HE'S
SLIPPERY AS A
GREASED EEL,
VIZH!

YOU TAKE 'IM!
YOU CAN GO RIGHT
THRU THIS WALL!

BUT, THE
ONE INSIDE
HAS VANISHED
FROM SIGHT!

THEN WE'LL
FIND 'IM...IF
IT TAKES
ALL NIGHT!



NOT ONLY DON'T WE HAVE
ALL NIGHT, GOLIATH...

HANK!

BUT I'VE
ALREADY
PINPOINTED
HIM FOR YOU,
ON THE ROOF!

EASY ON THE
TONSILS, BIG
MAN...I'M FRAGILE
AT THIS SIZE!



HALT, IMPOSTOR...
IN THE NAME OF
THE AVENGERS!

IMPOSTOR? I'M THE
REAL MCCOY, PAL...

... AS YOU'RE
ABOUT TO LEARN
THE HARD WAY!



IF YOU WERE THE BLACK
PANTHER, YOU WOULD
NEVER HAVE DARED LEAP
AT THE VISION!

YOU WOULD HAVE
KNOWN THAT I CAN
MAKE MY ANDROID
FORM AS ETHEREAL
AS SOME HAUNTED
SPIRIT...

... OR AS
UNYIELDING
AS THE HARDEST
DIAMOND!

UNNNH!



ATTABOY,
AVENGER!

NOW WE'VE GOT 'IM
...AND IT'S UNMASKING
TIME!

IS IT, YOU
OVERSIZED
CLOWN?



YOU TALK BIG, YA PHONEY,
BUT I'LL...

AARRHH!

PATOO!

GAS-
GRENADES!

AND, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...



PULL ME UP!! I... CAN'T SEE... LOSIN' MY GRIP...!

I CAN'T PULL YOU UP, AVENGER... WITHOUT BECOMING TOO HEAVY FOR THE ROOF TO SUPPORT!

IF YOU COULD ONLY SHRINK IN SIZE... BECOME YOUR NORMAL WEIGHT...!

HE CAN'T, VISION... THAT GAS-GRENADE MADE HIM TOO GROGGY TO CONCENTRATE!

BUT... WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING... FAST!



IF GOLIATH FALLS FROM THIS HEIGHT... HE'S HAD IT!!



THERE IS ONE CHANCE... AND ONE CHANCE ONLY!

IF I CAN SWOOP TO THE STREET BELOW... DISPERSE THE GAPING CROWDS THERE...!

HOLY CATS! THE BIG GUY'S GONNA FALL...!

I CAN SAVE HIM... IF ALL OF YOU WILL STAND BACK AT ONCE!

AND YOU SHALL STAND BACK... IF I MUST USE FORCE!



GANGWAY, PEOPLE! THAT JOE MEANS IT!



NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, AVENGERS... THE BLACK PANTHER ISN'T STICKING AROUND TO SEE IT!

AND THAT MEANS... THE SONS OF THE SERPENT WIN!



NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

GOLIATH IS FALLING!

KKRRUKKKKK

WITH THE IMPACT OF A PLUMMETING PILEDRIVER, CLINT BARTON'S MAMMOTH FORM STRIKES THE SHATTERING PAVEMENT....!

THEN, LONG MOMENTS LATER...

I MULTIPLIED MY MASS AT THE FINAL INSTANT!

BUT, DID I SLOW HIS GREAT FRAME ENOUGH... TO SAVE HIS LIFE?

WAIT! HE MOVES... HE SPEAKS!

OR DID THAT LIFE PASS FROM HIM, AS EASILY AS I NOW DRIFT THRU HIS UNMOVING LIMBS?

SKRAKK!

STOW YOUR WORRIES, VISION!

THE BIG FELLA'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!

PAT ME... ON THE BACK... AND I SAY "MAMA"...

...SORRY, CREW! IF I HADN'T PLAYED CLUMSY CARP, YOU'D HAVE NABBED THAT PHONY!

YOU DID AS MUCH AS ANY AVENGER COULD, CLINT!

STILL, WE'RE NOWHERE... AND TIME'S GROWING SHORT...!

...AND, IT WOULD SEEM, A RATHER UNEXPECTED GUEST!

AVENGERS, I... MY NAME IS MONICA LYNNE!

I'M SORRY, SIR... BUT THE LADY WAS MOST INSISTENT!

I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU... ABOUT THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE BLACK PANTHER!

SHE SAID IT CONCERNED MASTER T'CHALLA...!

HOLD, AVENGERS! THE WARNING LIGHT FLASHES...

...SIGNALLING THE APPROACH OF OUR BUTLER JARVIS...

YOU MAY GO, JARVIS! IT APPEARS WE HAVE A TV CELEBRITY IN OUR MIDST!

YOU'LL ALL ACT LESS **SMUG** WHEN YOU TURN ON THAT SET!

THE **SERPENTS** ARE CUTTING IN ON NATIONWIDE TV RIGHT NOW... WITH THE PANTHER THEIR CAPTIVE!

WHY YOUR SUDDEN CONCERN FOR HIS WELL-BEING, MISS LYNNE?

BECAUSE I'VE MET THE PANTHER... TALKED WITH HIM...

AND WHILE YOU SIT HERE DOING NOTHING, I'M SURE HE'S BEING RAILROADED... **FRAMED!**

AS A MATTER OF FACT, MISS, WE'RE SURE OF THE **SAME THING!**

BUT, WE'RE HARDLY DOING **NOTHING** ABOUT IT...!

...THIS, IN ONLY A FEW SHORT MOMENTS...

WE SHALL UNMASK BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES THIS CRIMINAL... THIS ANARCHIST IN SUPERHERO'S CLOTHING...

AND WHEN WE DO, AMERICA WILL KNOW AT LAST ITS **REAL ENEMIES...** AND WHAT MUST BE DONE ABOUT THEM!

TRANSLATION: A COAST-TO-COAST BLOOD BATH AND RACE WAR!

IF ONLY HE'LL RANT AND RAVE FOR A FEW MINUTES LONGER...

HE WILL, LOVER... HE'S THE TYPE!

NOR IS JANET PYM MISTAKEN... AS MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE BOMBARDED BY WORDS WHICH A FEW OF THEM **LIKE...** AND MOST OF THEM **FEAR...** BUT NONE CAN **IGNORE...**!

BUT THEN... EVEN AS THE SERPENT'S HARANGUE REACHES A **RABID CRESCENDO...**

THERE'S THE **RATS...** SO WE MUST BE IN THE **RIGHT HOLE!**

THEY'VE LOCATED US... EVEN HERE IN THIS **ABANDONED STUDIO!**

THE AVENGERS!

KILL THEM... BEFORE THEY RUIN EVERYTHING!



AND THIS IS WHAT THE AVENGERS SEE AND HEAR FROM THE DARKENED SHADOWS OF A ONCE-BRIGHT TV STUDIO... A TABLEAU OF ALL THAT IS VILEST IN MAN... A PANORAMA OF PERVERSITY... A LITANY OF SHEER, UNRELIEVED, UNREASONING HATRED...



SAY IT WITH ME, AMERICA! LET ALL REPEAT THE SACRED SERPENT OATH!

"AS THE FIRST SERPENT DROVE ADAM AND EVE FROM EDEN..."

"SO SHALL WE DRIVE FROM THIS LAND THE UNFIT... THE FOREIGN-BORN... THE INFERIOR!"

"WE ARE... THE SONS OF THE SERPENT!"

I'VE NEVER BEEN SICK IN PUBLIC BEFORE, BUT...

AND NOW... BRING FORTH THE PANTHER!

HERE HE IS, SUPREME ONE!

HE MUST PAY FOR HIS SINS... BEFORE THE EYES OF THE NATION!

BUT FIRST, LET US BEHOLD AT LAST THE FACE OF THE PANTHER...

THE FACE OF AMERICA'S FOE!!

YES... THE PANTHER...

AND PAY HE SHALL, MY FELLOW SERPENTS!

AND WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ITS FOE, SERPENT?

NO BLACK AMERICAN CAN REST... WHILE A WHITE AMERICAN LIVES!!



DO YOU HEAR,
WHITE AMERICA?

HE STANDS GUILTY
OF TREASON...
CONDEMNED BY WORDS
FROM HIS OWN MOUTH!



CAN THERE NOW BE ANY SLIGHT-
EST HESITATION TO MAKE THIS
COUNTRY YOUR OWN ONCE
MORE?

CAN THERE BE ANY LINGER-
ING DOUBT OF A VAST
BLACK CONSPIRACY TO
ENSLAVE AMERICA?

THE SERPENTS
SAY... NO!!



WE CAME AS SOON
AS WE COULD,
T'CHALLA!

BUT, IF WE
HAD RESCUED
THE WRONG
PANTHER...

YOUR LIFE
WOULD HAVE BEEN
FORFEIT!

YOU
BELIEVED IN
ME, AVENGER...
THAT'S WHAT
REALLY MATTERS!



WHO IN BLAZES ARE
YOU TALKING TO...?

THE PANTHER
... FREE!

YES, MY
FRIEND...
FREE...

... IN MORE
WAYS THAN
ONE!



MASTER!
MASTER!

THE SERPENT-
CHAMBER BEHIND
YOU... IT'S FALLING!

NO... IT
CAN'T...
NOT
NOW!



THE CHAMBER
SHATTERED...
AND, WITHIN IT...

ANOTHER
SUPREME
ONE... AND ANOTHER
PANTHER!

"ANOTHER
SUPREME ONE"
IS RIGHT,
LACKEY!

BUT NOT
"ANOTHER"
PANTHER...



JUST... THE TRUE PANTHER!!

SUPREME
ONE--- YOU'VE
GOTTA HELP
ME!

HE'LL
KILL ME...
AND YOU
MADE ME
DO IT..!

LOUDER,
SCUM...FOR
ALL THE
WORLD TO
HEAR!



DON'T JUST STAND THERE
GAWKING, YOU SIMPERING
FOOLS!

GET THEM...
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!



CORRECTION, CREEPS!

IT'S
ALREADY
TOO LATE...
FOR BOTH'A
YOU BOBBSEY
TWIN'S!



IN FACT, I'M BETTIN' YOUR
SERPENTS ARE DYIN' TO
KNOW WHY THEY GOT
TWO LEADERS... JUST
LIKE I AM!

STAND BACK...
OR WE FIRE INTO
THE AUDIENCE!

THAT YOU'LL
NEVER KNOW,
AVENGER!

THEY...
THEY
MEAN
IT...!



OKAY,
BALL-
AND-
CHAIN!

HERE'S WHERE WE
PULL OUR WEIGHT
AROUND HERE!

SOME
WEIGHT! A
COUPLE OF CENTI-
GRAMS EACH!



TWO CENTIGRAMS CAN BE
A LOT, LADY...

...APPLIED
AT THE RIGHT
PLACE, AT THE
RIGHT TIME!



WHAT IN
BLAZES...?

WE.. WE'VE
BOTH BEEN
UNMASKED...!

DUNN...AND
HALE! THEN
THEY WERE
THE SUPREME
SERPENTS!!



OF COURSE, YOU COSTUMED CRETINS! DID YOU REALLY FALL FOR OUR RACIST ACT?

DID YOU TRULY THINK WE CARE FOR ANYONE... ANY CAUSE...

WERE YOU AS MISLED AS THE FAWNING SHEEP WHO FED UPON OUR EVERY EPITHET?

...EXCEPT POWER FOR OURSELVES??



AND NOW, OUR SCHEMES LIE IN RUINS, THANKS TO YOU!

BUT, YOU'VE FOILED YOUR LAST POWER PLAY, AVENGERS!

THESE BLASTERS WILL SEE TO THAT!

WHY YOU--!

SAVE IT, BIG MAN! THERE'S SOMEONE BEHIND THEM THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM FOR US!



HAH! THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE...
MMFFFF!

WHAT IN--??

SHOVED THEM AS HARD... AS I COULD!

AVENGERS...
"HELP!"



IF YOU TWO HADN'T SPENT YOUR LIVES MOCKING ALL TRUTH...

...PERHAPS YOU'D HAVE BELIEVED THE ONE THAT HANK PYM TOLD YOU!!



THAT TOOK THE FIGHT OUT OF ALL OF THEM!

IF ONLY WE COULD UNDO THE HARM WHICH A MAN LIKE MONTAGUE HALE HAS DONE TO...MY PEOPLE!

HOW MANY MINDS CAN A VIPER LIKE HIM POISON AGAINST OUR CAUSE?

DON'T UNDER-RATE PEOPLE, MONICA!

MOST OF THEM KNOW THAT A CAUSE MAY BE RIGHT...THOUGH A LEADER OR TWO BE WRONG!



THEN... MAYBE I'VE LOST A SINGING CAREER TONIGHT...

...AND GAINED A NEW CAREER... A WORTHIER PURPOSE...!

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT, GIRL...

BUT SO HAS... THE BLACK PANTHER!!

THE END? HARDLY...!