

AVENGERS  
SPECIAL

ALL  
NEW!

NOT  
A  
SINGLE  
REPRINT!

MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

25¢  
IND.

1  
SEPT

KING-SIZE SPECIAL!

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# THE AVENGERS

THE  
**BIGGEST**  
CONTINUOUS ACTION  
EPIC EVER, IN THIS,  
THE MARVEL AGE  
OF COMICS!

THE  
**ORIGINAL**  
AVENGERS  
JOIN  
**TODAY'S**  
AVENGERS...

AGAINST SIX OF THE MOST  
MIND-STAGGERING VILLAINS  
OF ALL TIME, IN A FRANTIC  
**49-PAGE**  
FREE-FOR-ALL!



THE MANDARIN



POWER MAN

THE LIVING LASER



THE SWORDSMAN



THE ENCHANTRESS

THE EXECUTIONER



**BONUS!** PIN-UPS... BIOGRAPHIES...  
PLUS A LONG-AWAITED, MUCH-  
REQUESTED **DIAGRAM** OF THE  
FABULOUS **AVENGERS MANSION!**



# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

## "THE MONSTROUS MASTER PLAN OF THE MANDARIN!"

**THE GOOD GUYS:**  
(IN ALPHABETICAL  
ORDER--WHAT  
ELSE?)

CAPTAIN AMERICA!  
GOLIATH!  
HAWKEYE!  
HERCULES!  
IRON MAN!  
QUICKSILVER!  
SCARLET WITCH!  
THOR!  
AND, LAST BUT NOT  
LEAST,  
the WONDERFUL  
WASP!

**THE BAD GUYS:**  
(ALSO IN ALPHABETICAL  
ORDER, NATCH!)

THE MANDARIN!  
ENCHANTRESS!  
EXECUTIONER!  
LIVING LASER!  
POWER MAN!  
SWORDSMAN!  
(NOTE: SURE, WE KNOW  
THAT OL' MANDY'S  
NAME IS OUT OF ORDER  
--BUT, YOU THINK  
WE'RE GONNA ARGUE  
WITH A GUY LIKE  
HIM?)

STAN LEE  
LOVINGLY LORDS IT OVER A  
ROY THOMAS--DON HECK  
LANDMARK OF LITERARY LUMINESCENCE!

INKED BY  
GEORGE BELL!

LETTERED BY  
ARTIE SIMEK!

AND NOW, TURN THE PAGE, HALLOWED ONE--AND LET  
THE ONCE-A-YEAR WONDERMENT COMMENCE--!



WHAT SAY WE **BEGIN** OUR TITANIC TALE WHERE MOST SUPER-HERO SAGAS **END**--IN THE CONFINES OF A LARGE, MODERN UPSTATE **PRISON**--AND LET THE STORY TELL *ITSELF* FROM THERE...

WE'RE INDEED **HONORED** TO HAVE YOU HERE, SIR!

HOW MANY PRISONS HAVE THEIR NEW EQUIPMENT DELIVERED BY THE WORLD-FAMOUS **TONY STARK** HIMSELF?

IT'S STRICTLY MY PLEASURE, WARDEN!

AFTER ALL, THIS INSTITUTION IS A **MODEL** OF ITS KIND! THE INSTALLATION OF MY NEW **STUN-ULATOR** HERE IS GOOD **FREE PUBLICITY**!

I DON'T WANT TO SOUND GREEDY, BUT EVEN A **MUNITIONS-MAKER** HAS TO EAT!

STILL, BEFORE WE COUNT OUR **CHICKENS**, LET'S MAKE SURE THAT THEY'LL **HATCH**, EH?

I'VE DESIGNED THE MACHINE TO OPERATE AS **SIMPLY** AS POSSIBLE--AT THE MERE TOUCH OF A **BUTTON**!

**KLIK!**

THE FOLLOWING INSTANT...

WELL, AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO SAY, "**BACK TO THE OL' DRAWING BOARD**!"

ANYONE ENTERING THAT CORRIDOR NOW WOULD BE **STUNNED** INTO SUBMISSION--**PAINLESSLY**!

AMAZING! POSITIVELY **AMAZING**!

IN TIME, THIS DEVICE MAY WELL **REVOLUTIONIZE** RIOT CONTROL METHODS!

IT'S AS HARMLESS AS **TEAR GAS**--AND EVEN MORE **EFFECTIVE**!

AND, WITHIN THE YEAR, THESE **PORTABLE STUN-GUNS** MAY BE ADAPTED TO **MASS-PRODUCTION**!

I'M SORRY THEY LOOK LIKE SOME-THING OUT OF **FLASH GORDON**, BUT--

AN APOLOGY IS HARDLY **NECESSARY**, MR. STARK!

YOU'VE DONE **PENAL REFORM** A GREAT **SERVICE**!

YOU CAN SAY **THAT** AGAIN, WARDEN **SMITH**!

THANKS! NOW, IF YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE YOU'VE **PARKED MY CAR**--

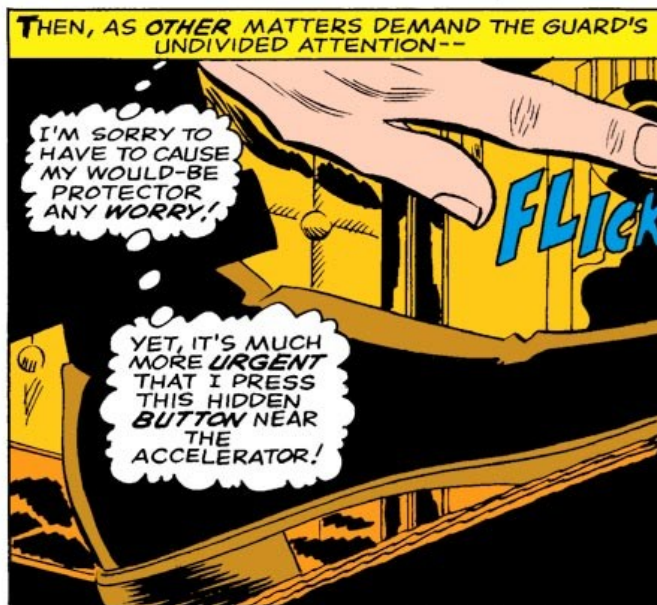
MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, BY ONE OF THE **ASTONISHING COINCIDENCES** WHICH ARE ALMOST AS COMMON IN **TRUTH** AS IN **FICTION**...

AT LAST, I'VE GOT THE **FINAL PART** I NEED--TO **SPRING** MYSELF FROM THIS JOINT!

MAYBE I'M JUST ANOTHER **JAILBIRD** AS **ARTHUR PARKS**--BUT NOT AS...THE **LIVING LASER**!\*

\*YOU REMEMBER HIM FROM **AVENGERS #34-35**, DON'T YOU? **DON'T YOU??** --INSECURE STAN.

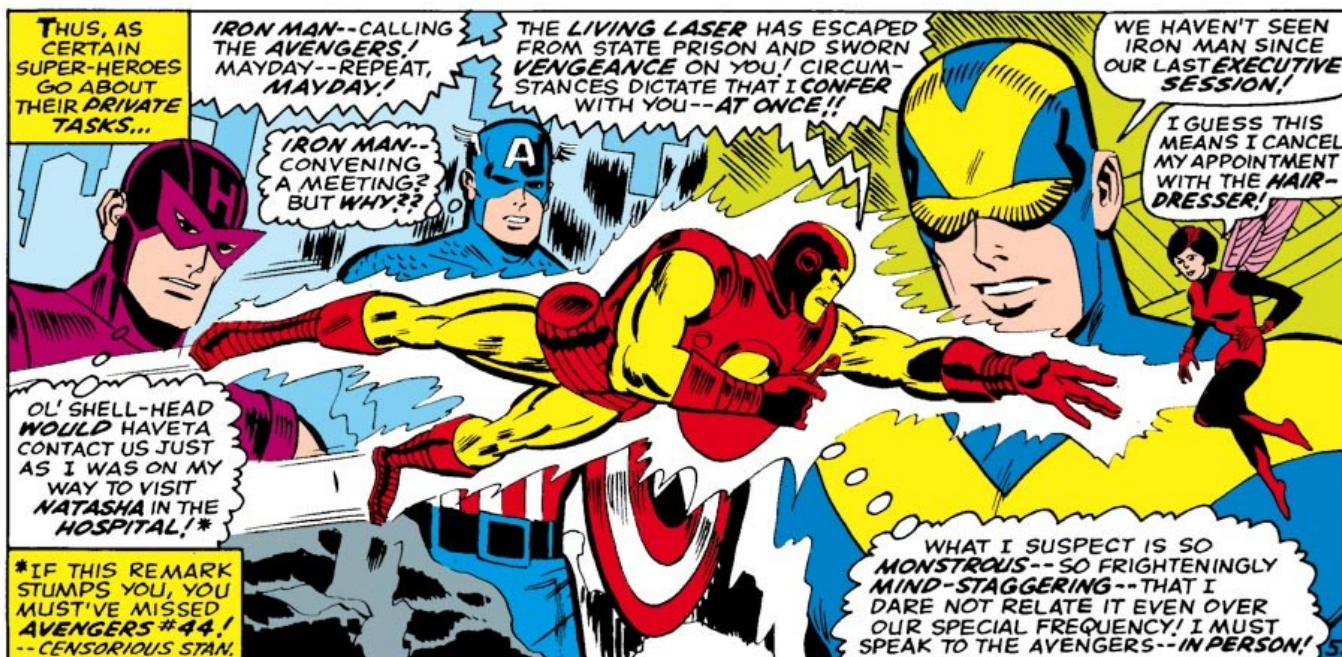
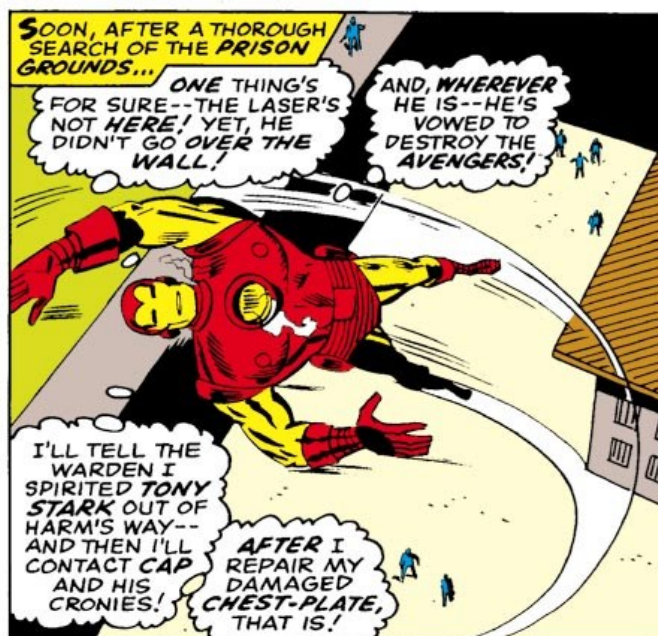
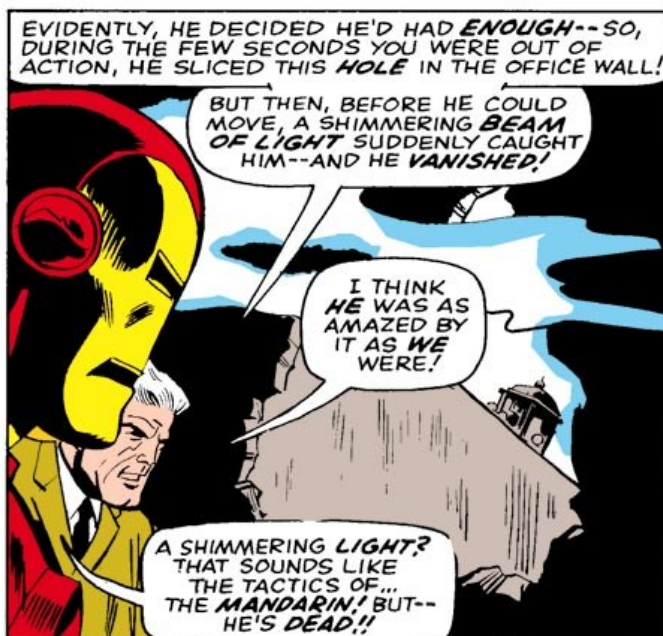




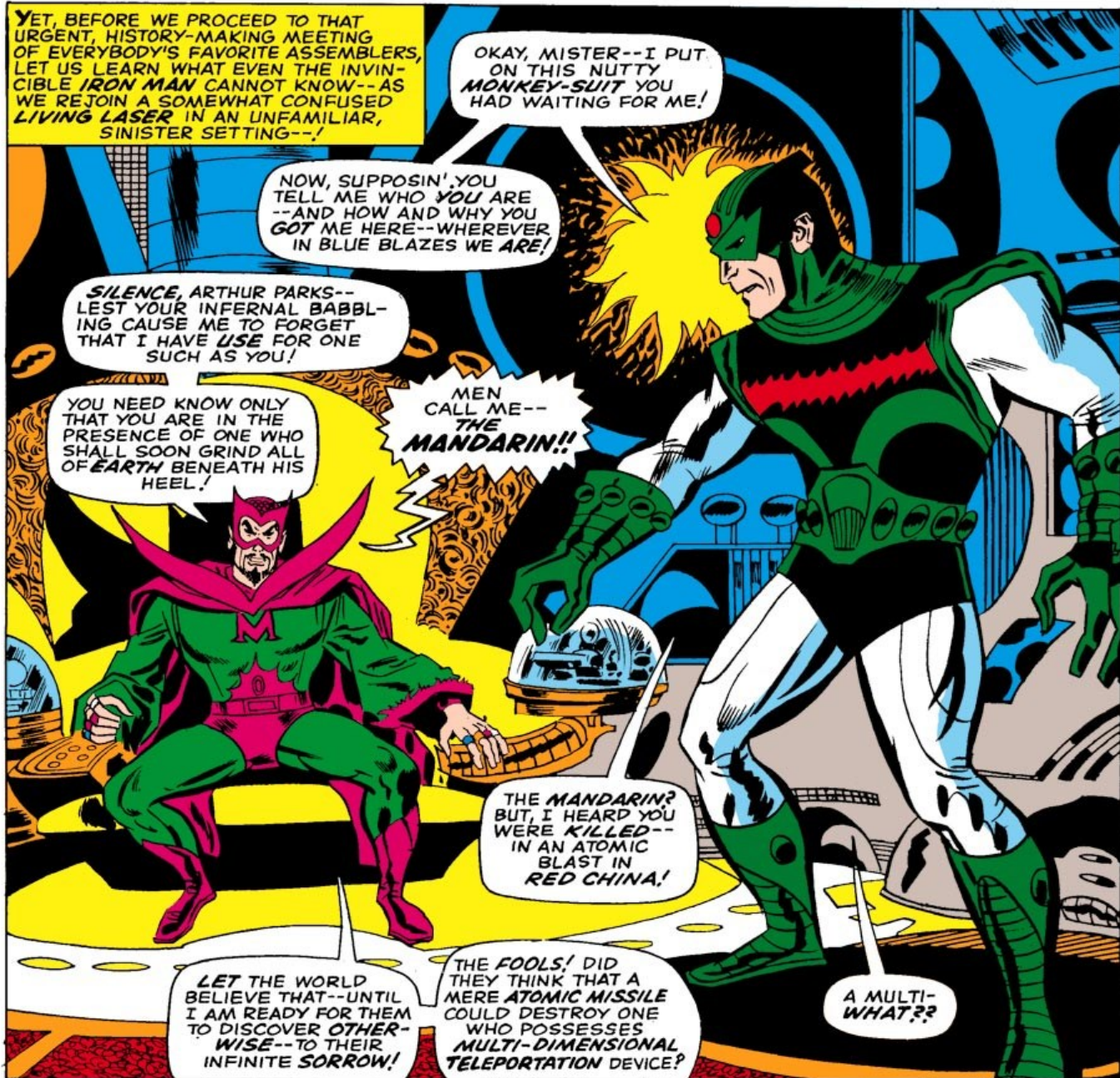














AND, AS A TENSE *QUIET* FALLS OVER THE EVIL ASSEMBLAGE...

NOW, *OBSERVE*-- AS I SUMMON THE *LAST* OF THOSE WHOM I DESIRE TO SERVE ME!

FROM THE WINE-DARK DEPTHS, I CALL FORTH--THE *SUB-MARINER*!

THE NEXT MOMENT, AS AN ENRAGED BUT REGAL *FORM* APPEARS IN THE CHAMBER...

WHO DARES TRANSPORT THE *TRUE SUB-MARINER* TO THIS PLACE WITHOUT HIS CONSENT?

*SPEAK*--OR ANSWER TO *NAMOR* THE FIRST!

*HOLD*, YOU SEA-BOUND SWINE, I DO NOT SEEK TO TEMPT FATE!

'TIS *YOU* WHO DO SORELY TEMPT FATE, BEARDED ONE--IF 'T WAS YOU WHO *BROUGHT* ME HENCE!

THE PLACE OF A PRINCE IS ON HIS *THRONE*--AND THERE I MUST RETURN!

SO--YOU HAVE *TOLD* ME THAT WHICH I WISHED TO KNOW!

ONE SUCH AS YOU IS NOT *WORTHY* TO SERVE THE *MANDARIN*!

YOU HAVE SIGNED YOUR OWN *DEATH WARRANT*, FOOL!

BEHOLD, MY LACKEYS, HOW I BUT ACTIVATE A NEARBY *SWITCH*--

--AND THE *SUB-MARINER* IS HURLED INTO *OBLIVION*!

SUCH FANTASTIC POWER MIGHT EVEN HARM--AN *IMMORTAL* SUCH AS I!

I DON'T WANT HIM TURNING THOSE *RINGS* ON ME!

*HAN!* MY GULLIBLE GUESTS DO NOT REALIZE HOW I *TRICKED* THEM!

THE *REAL* NAMOR STILL REIGNS IN *ATLANTIS*! I MERELY DESTROYED AN *IMAGE*-- THAT THEY MIGHT BE PROPERLY *IMPRESSED*!

*FLIT!*

NOW THAT THE *SEA MONARCH* IS DISPOSED OF, YOU MAY *OBSERVE* MY SUPREME *CREATION*--A MAMMOTH *DIAMOND* WHICH WILL GIVE US THE POWER OF *LIFE AND DEATH* OVER ALL MAN-KIND!

*HOLY COW!* ONE THING'S FOR SURE, *MANDARIN*--YOU'RE NO *PIKER*!

MAYBE I'LL *RECONSIDER* JOINING YOUR LITTLE COMBO!

YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU HAD A CHOICE, ARTHUR PARKS!

SAY NO MORE, BUT *LISTEN*--WHILE I TELL YOU THE *USE* TO WHICH THIS SYNTHETIC GEM WILL SOON BE PUT!

FOR, WITH *YOUR* HELP, THIS DIAMOND SHALL SOON BECOME THE *ULTIMATE WEAPON*--ONE WHICH SHALL MAKE US UNDISPUTED *MASTERS OF A PLANET*!!



MEANWHILE, AT NEW YORK'S FAR-FAMED AVENGERS MANSION ...



\*FOR A DIAGRAM OF THIS HALLOWED HQ, SEE OUR PIN-UP SECTION... BUT NOT TILL YOU FINISH THE STORY, HEAR? --STERN STAN.

WHY, NO, SIR--THE AVENGERS HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET!

WILL YOU HAVE A SPOT OF TEA WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, SIR?

ER, NO, THANK YOU, JARVIS!



I'LL JUST WAIT IN THE MEETING ROOM!

IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE OLD TIMES-- WALKING THESE QUIET CORRIDORS, WAITING TO FACE SOME NEW, DEADLY DANGER!

BUT, I'M NOT A FULL-FLEDGED AVENGER ANY MORE! EVEN JARVIS SENSED THAT, WHEN HE SAID, "THE AVENGERS HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET!"



I GUESS IT'S LIKE THE MAN SAYS-- YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN!

SUDDENLY, THE GLEAMING GLADIATOR'S REVERIE IS SHARPLY INTERRUPTED...

HOLD, SIRRAH! THE PRINCE OF POWER COMMANDS!

HUH? WHAT IN HOLY HANNAH--?



SO--THOU WOULDST ENGAGE ME IN FUTILE STRUGGLE!

THEN, HAVE AT THEE, IRON-CLAD ONE! NE'ERMORE SHALT THOU INVADE THE SANCTUARY OF THE AVENGERS!



MISTER, I HELPED FOUND THE AVENGERS! WHO IN THE NAME OF WILL SHAKESPEARE ARE YOU?

IT'S NO USE! HE'S HITTING MY HELMET SO HARD, HE CAN'T HEAR ME!

IN THE STREET BELOW, THE CLAMOROUS SOUNDS OF BATTLE ARE HEARD BY TWO OF NEW YORK'S FINEST...

WAIT, CHARLIE! JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT NOISE? THERE'S A FIGHT--IN THE AVENGERS MANSION!



SURE, I HEARD IT! HALF OF MANHATTAN MUST'VE HEARD IT!

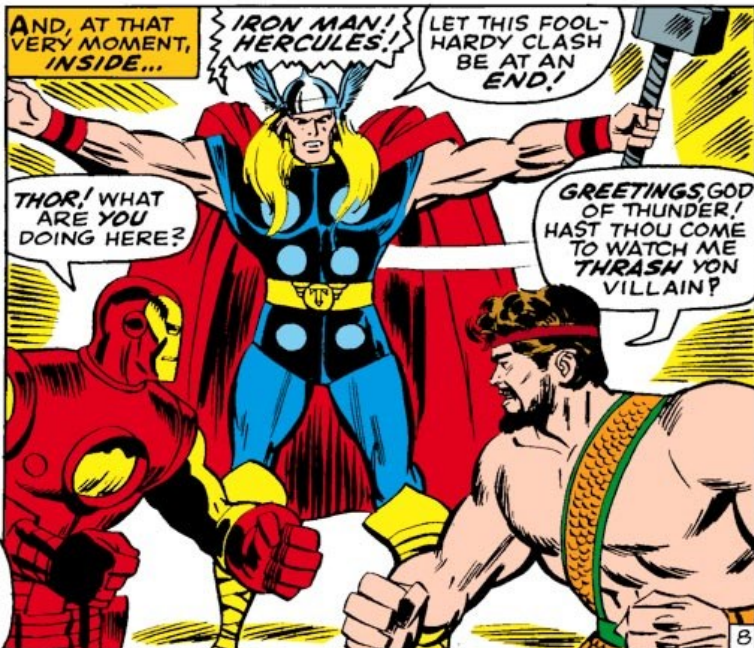
BUT, IF YOU WEREN'T A TWO-DAY ROOKIE, YOU'D KNOW THAT PLACE IS OFF LIMITS-- LIKE THE U.N. AND THE BAXTER BUILDING!

BESIDES, SOMEBODY JUST FLEW IN THAT WINDOW WHO CAN SETTLE ANY FIGHT!

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, INSIDE...

IRON MAN! HERCULES!

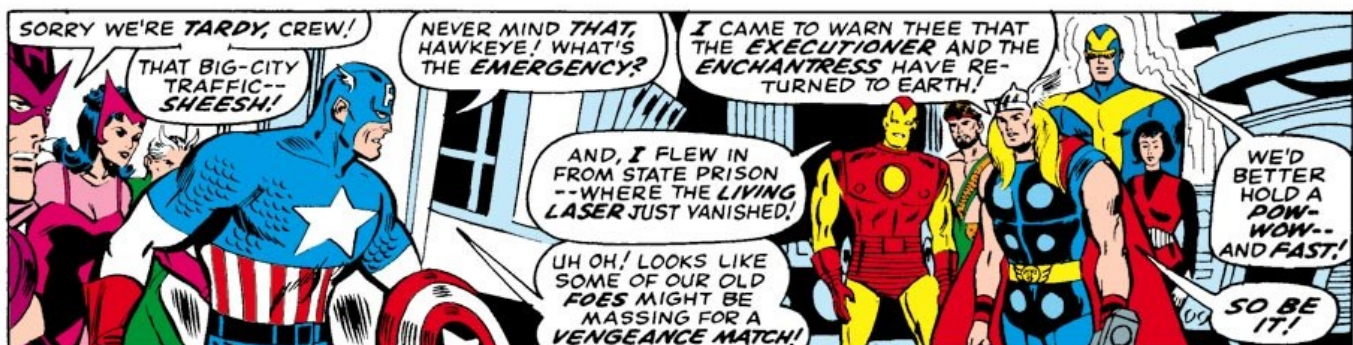
LET THIS FOOL-HARDY CLASH BE AT AN END!



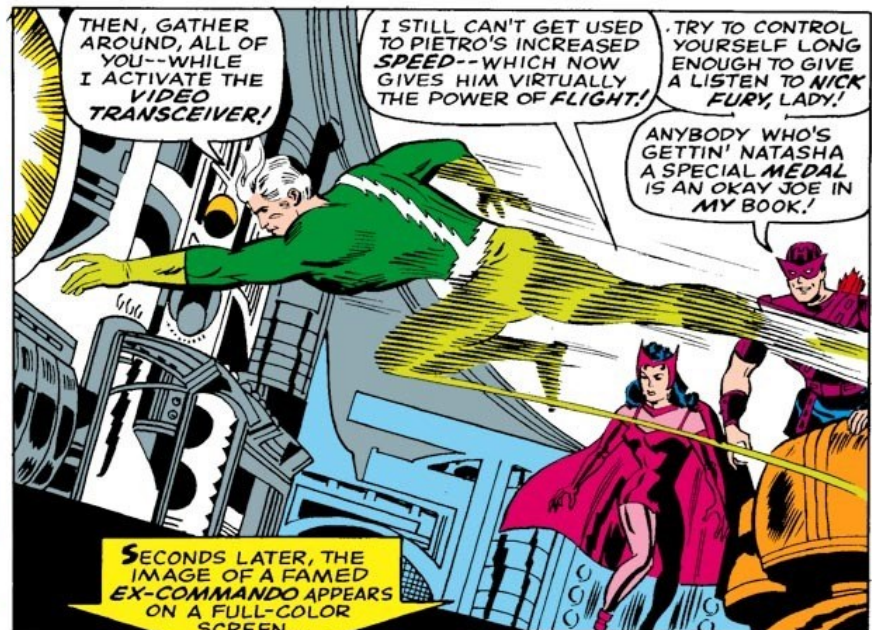
THOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

GREETINGS, GOD OF THUNDER! HAST THOU COME TO WATCH ME THRASH YON VILLAIN?

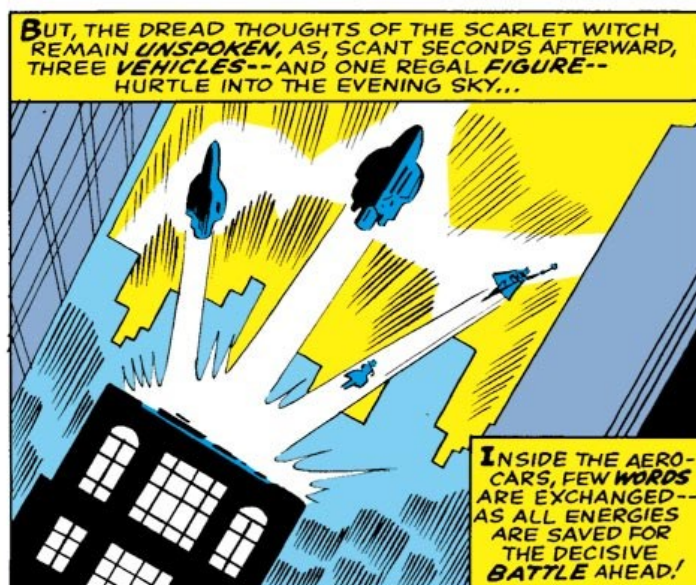














**PART  
2**

# "TO PERISH BY THE SWORD"

FROM THE FILES OF  
THE *Mandarin*:  
TO SWORDSMAN AND POWER MAN--  
ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE  
OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS IS  
ALSO ONE TRADITIONALLY RICH IN  
DIAMONDS! TO SECURE THIS  
AREA FOR ME, YOU ARE TO OBSERVE  
THE FOLLOWING PLAN...

ALL IS IN  
**READINESS**,  
SWORDSMAN--  
AS THE  
**MANDARIN**  
COMMANDED!

**EXCELLENT!** BUT,  
NEVER FORGET--  
FROM THIS MOMENT  
ON, YOU TAKE YOUR  
ORDERS FROM **ME**--  
WITHOUT HESITATION,  
WITHOUT **QUESTION!**

IN TERMS OF  
NUMBERS, OUR  
CAUSE MAY  
APPEAR  
**HOPELESS!**  
STILL, BEFORE  
THIS DAY ENDS,  
THE WORLD  
SHALL GASP AT  
OUR **VICTORY!**

**SIT DOWN,**  
BLADE-SLINGER!  
THERE AREN'T  
ANY **TV CAMERAS**  
ON YOU YET!

THERE SOON **WILL**  
BE, MY MUSCLE-  
BOUND FRIEND--  
WHEN WE TAKE  
CONTROL OF THE  
MOST MODERN  
CAPITAL IN THE  
**HEMISPHERE!**

AND THAT, TOO, IS  
BUT A **STEPPING-**  
**STONE** TO THE HOUR  
WHEN WE RULE THE  
ENTIRE **PLANET**--  
SECOND ONLY TO  
THE **MANDARIN!**



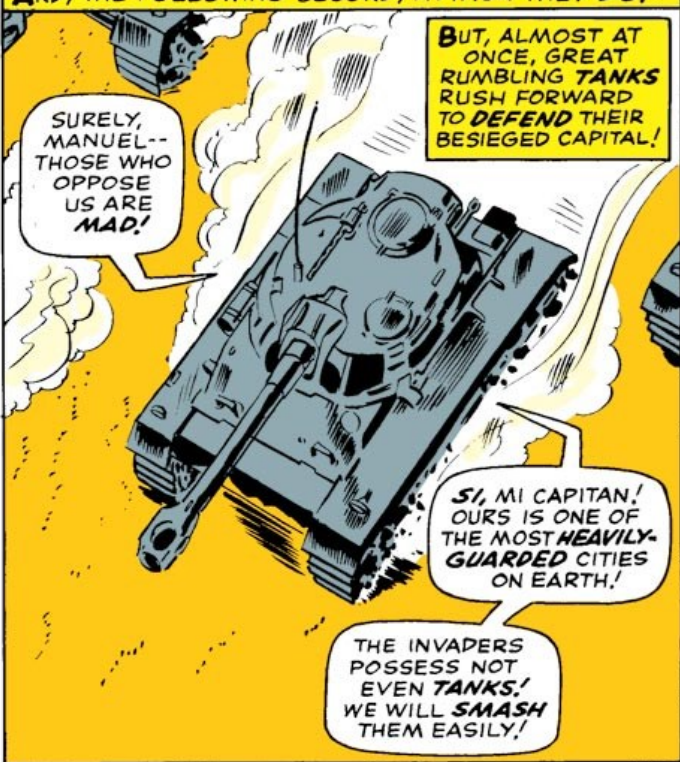
WITHIN MOMENTS, THE DUO'S ROCKET-CAR LEADS A STRANGELY OMINOUS PROCESSION ALONG A NEWLY-HEWN JUNGLE TRAIL...



LATER, ON THE CREST OF A FOLIAGE-COVERED HILL...



AND, THE FOLLOWING SECOND, ATTACK THEY DO!



INDEED, FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, THE TANK GUNNER'S WORDS SEEM PROPHETIC...



THEN, FROM AMIDST THE FRIGHTENED MEN AND BURSTING SHELLS, A FUTURISTIC CRAFT LIFTS OFF...





SECONDS LATER, THE SOMBRE SILENCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IS SHATTERED, AS...

CARAMBA! SOME SORT OF VEHICLE-- CRASHING THRU THE WINDOW!

IT CAN ONLY BE PART OF THE INVASION FORCE WHICH NOW ATTACKS THE CITY!

BUT, IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART, AMIGO --AS YOU SHALL SOON DISCOVER!

YOU TELL 'EM, SWORDIE!



HOW DARE YOU--!

KEEP BEHIND ME, SEÑOR PRESIDENTE!

IF THEY MAKE A MOVE TOWARDS YOU, THEY ARE DEAD MEN!



DOLT! DO YOU THINK IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE SWORDSMAN TO COME NEAR YOU IN ORDER TO DISARM YOU?

I HAVE MERELY TO PRESS THIS CONTROL STUD-- AND BEHOLD!

OHHHH--!



OKAY, SWORDSMAN! YOU'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME PLAYING BUCK ROGERS WITH THOSE GADGETS THE MANDARIN PUT IN YOUR SWORD!\*

NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DELIVER MANDY'S ULTIMATUM!

BE MY GUEST, POWER MAN!

ALRIGHT, SEÑOR PRESIDENTE-- TAKE A LOOK OUT WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR WINDOW!

\*IT HAPPENED 'WAY BACK IN AVENGERS #20, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE! --SMUG STAN.



THEN, AS THE PUZZLED STATESMAN COMPLIES, HE IS STUNNED TO SEE--



IT CANNOT BE! A GIGANTIC, GLEAMING SWORD-- SUSPENDED OVER THE ENTIRE CITY!

YOU JUST PASSED YOUR EYE CHECK-UP, CHARLIE...

NOW, IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER THAT SWORD STAYS UP THERE--OR COMES CRASHING DOWN!

THE SWORDSMAN, HERE, HAS MERELY TO PRESS A BUTTON-- AND THAT GIANT BLADE FALLS!

WHAT'S MORE, AS SOON AS IT TOUCHES ANYTHING--IT'LL EXPLODE!

SO, EITHER YOU ORDER YOUR MEN TO SURRENDER--OR ELSE!

YOU--YOU ARE SURELY BLUFFING! I--









THE NEXT SECOND, WITH BLINDING SPEED, POWER MAN STRIKES!





HOWEVER, NEARBY, THINGS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOING ACCORDING TO *SCHEDULE*...



THE WASP-- SHE'S BLASTING AT ME WITH HER INFERNAL STINGS!

THEN, AS THE SINISTER SWASH-BUCKLER SLUMPS FORWARD...



GOOD--HE'S PASSING OUT! MY STINGS DID IT!

THAT GIZMO HE'S DROPPING--IT MUST BE THE TRIGGERING DEVICE!

GOT IT!



IF THIS GADGET HAD HIT THE FLOOR, IT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THAT GIANT SWORD TO FALL ON THE CITY!

I'LL JUST HIDE IT IN A SAFE PLACE--AND THEN GO HELP HANK!

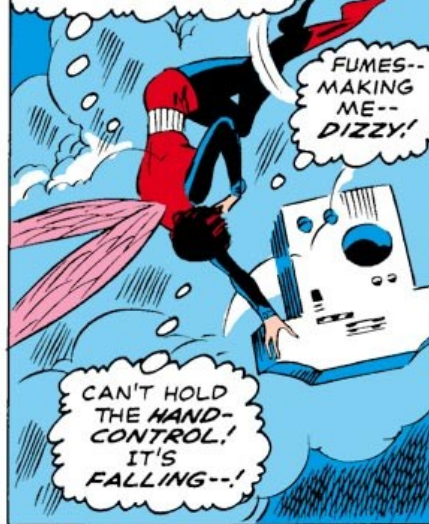
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE KIND, YOU ACCURSED FEMALE!



UH OH! HE WAS ONLY STUNNED BEFORE!

HE'S AFTER ME WITH HIS BLADE! THE HANDLE'S SHOOTING OUT FLAMES!

I ELUDED THE FIRE-- BUT NOW IT'S EMITTING SOME SORT OF GAS!



FUMES-- MAKING ME-- DIZZY!

CAN'T HOLD THE HAND-CONTROL! IT'S FALLING--!

BUT, EVEN AS THE TRIGGERING MECHANISM PLUMMETS TOWARDS THE GROUND, LET'S RETURN TO POWER MAN AND GOLIATH...



HUH? THAT OVER-RATED CLOWN VANISHED--BEFORE I COULD LAND MY SUNDAY PUNCH!

AND, IF I HAVE MY WAY, HE NEVER WILL! THERE ARE TIMES WHEN BEING A GIANT ISN'T EVERYTHING!

LET'S SEE HOW I FARE AS...ANT-MAN!

HOW DO YOU FIGHT WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE? I DON'T GET IT!

MAYBE NOT NOW-- BUT YOU SOON WILL!

OR AM I BEING TOO SUBTLE FOR YOU?



WHA--??

AND, AS THE PERPLEXED POWER MAN TURNS...



MISTER, YOU WADED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE!

NOW, WHILE YOU'RE IN SLUMBERLAND, I'D BETTER GET AFTER YOUR BLADE-SLINGING PARTNER!







THEN, INSTINCTIVELY REALIZING THAT HE--AND HE *ALONE*--STANDS BETWEEN THE THRIVING CAPITAL AND ITS COMPLETE, UTTER *DESTRUCTION*, THE GREAT GOLDEN AVENGER SEEMS TO FIND *RENEWED STRENGTH*, AND...

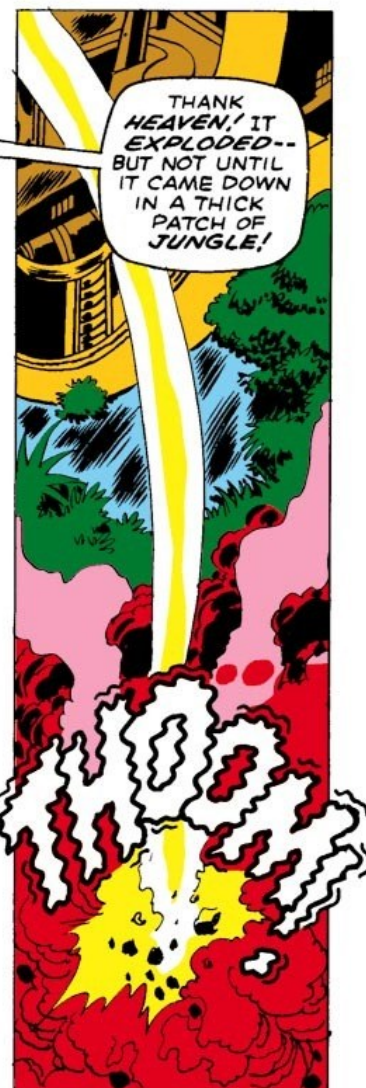
I DID IT!  
THE BLADE HAS  
**STOPPED**--WITH  
MERE *INCHES*  
TO SPARE!

BUT, THAT'S ONLY  
HALF THE BATTLE!  
NOW, I MUST  
**REVERSE** IT--HURL  
IT AWAY BEFORE  
MY *POWER* IS  
GONE--

--AND, BEFORE  
THE *ROOF* BENEATH  
ME COLLAPSES FROM  
THE *STRAIN*!

KR A A A A K K A A A K K K K K











From the FILES of...  
**THE MANDARIN:**

MANY OF THE LARGEST DIAMONDS ON  
ON THE PLANET ARE TO BE FOUND ON  
THE **ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT!** THERE-  
FORE, THIS AREA MUST BE SECURED  
BY THE **EXECUTIONER** AND THE  
**ENCHANTRESS...**

**PART 3**

# "STRUGGLE ...IN A STRANGE LAND!"

LO, THE DISTANT  
MOUNTAINS  
**TREMBLE--AS IF**  
THE **GODS THEM-**  
SELVES DID  
**BATTLE!**

WHAT DIRE  
THING  
THERE  
TRANSPIRES?

AS A MATTER OF  
RECORD, LET IT  
BE KNOWN THAT OUR  
TURBANED FRIEND  
ABOVE SPOKE MORE  
TRULY THAN HE  
**SUSPECTS!** FOR, MILES  
AWAY, BEINGS NOT OF THIS  
WORLD ARE MET IN  
DEADLY  
**COMBAT...**

FLY, MINIONS  
OF MALICE! FLEE  
BEFORE THE  
FLAMING FISTS  
OF **HERCULES!**

NOT BY FORCE OF  
**ARMS--NOR BY**  
TEEMING **NORGES--**  
MAY THE OLYMPIAN  
BE OVERCOME!

THOU TREACHEROUS  
**TROLLS!** THOUGH THY  
NUMBERS WERE AS  
MANY AS JEWELS IN  
THE CROWN OF  
**ZEUS--STILL VICTORY**  
WOULD BE **MINE!**











THUS, THE EVENLY-MATCHED CONTEST BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL COMMENCES--IN THE STRANGELY WONDEROUS SETTING OF A CITY HOVERING ON THE ABYSS BETWEEN THE WHAT-HAS-BEEN AND THE NEVER-SHALL-BE...

FOR, THIS IS THE SINISTER, LEGENDARY CITADEL OF SILENCE--WHOSE GLEAMING STREETS HAVE BEEN EVER DESERTED, AS IF WAITING SINCE TIME OUT OF MIND FOR THIS FIGHT OF FIGHTS...

AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADD...

YOU SHALL NOT ELUDE ME, AS DID THE CRAVEN THOR!

BASEST OF VILLAINS! MOST BLATANT OF LIARS!

TRULY, THOU ART UNWORTHY TO MENTION THE NAME OF THE VALIANT THUNDER GOD!

MEANWHILE...

I CAN SENSE THAT HERCULES FEELS A SPARK OF WARMTH FOR THE SCARLET WITCH!

BUT, THOUGH HE KNOWS IT NOT, THE HEART OF THE ENCHANTRESS IS EVER HIS!

THEREFORE, THE MORTAL GIRL MUST DIE--BY MY HAND!

YOU DELAYED TOO LONG WHILE YOU WRESTLED WITH YOUR OWN THOUGHTS, ENCHANTRESS!

COULD IT BE BECAUSE YOU DO NOT REALIZE HOW MY HEX POWER HAS INCREASED SINCE WE LAST FOUGHT?

BY ETERNAL ASGARD--!

THE VERY STRUCTURES 'ROUND ABOUT ME COLLAPSE!

YET, IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN FALLING DEBRIS TO DISPOSE OF AN IMMORTAL!

WITH ONE SWEEP OF MY HAND, I HURL THE FRAGMENTS TOWARDS HER WHOM I DESPISE!







THEN, WITH BLINDING SPEED, THE TREACHEROUS DEMI-GOD STRIKES...

MORTAL-MONGERING FOOL! YOU HAVE GROWN **SOFT** FROM YOUR EASY VICTORIES ON EARTH!

BUT, YOU SHALL FIND THAT MY POWERS ARE AT THEIR **PEAK**!

NOW, LEARN WHY MEN CALL ME... THE **EXECUTIONER**!

BY OLYMPUS! HIS GRIP IS THE MIGHTIEST I HAVE KNOWN SINCE I DID BATTLE **THOR**!

IN THE MEANTIME, THE UNCANNY DUEL BETWEEN THE **SCARLET WITCH** AND THE DREAD **ENCHANTRESS** HAS REACHED AN APPARENT **STALEMATE**...

THE CITY ABOUT US BECOMES A **SHAMBLES**--YET, NEITHER OF US CAN CONQUER THE **OTHER**!

LET US **CEASE** THIS MEANINGLESS DESTRUCTION, ENCHANTRESS!

**FTAZP!**

MEANINGLESS? YOU KNOW NOT WHEREOF YOU **SPEAK**, WENCH!

FOR, OUR FIERCE BATTLE HAS MERELY PROVIDED ME WITH THE MEANS OF YOUR **TOTAL DEFEAT**!

NOW, FROM THE ENCHANTED **RUBBLE** OF THIS MYSTIC CITY, I DO CREATE... A GARGANTUAN **FROST-GIANT**!

THE NEXT MOMENT, THE BROKEN BITS OF DEBRIS CONGEAL INTO A FEARSOME, GIGANTIC **FIGURE**--ONE WHICH IS NOT TRULY ALIVE, BUT WHICH STRIDES MENACINGLY TOWARDS AN ASTONISHED **WANDA**...

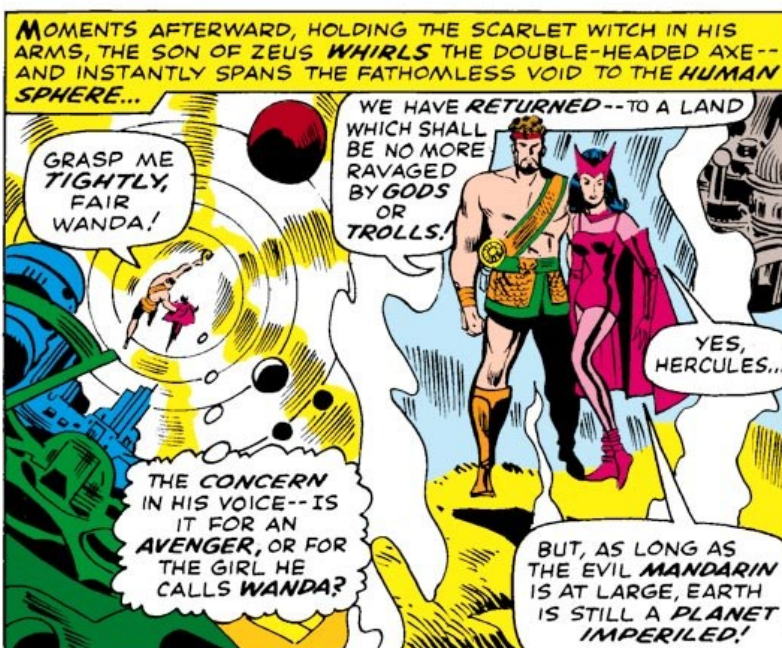
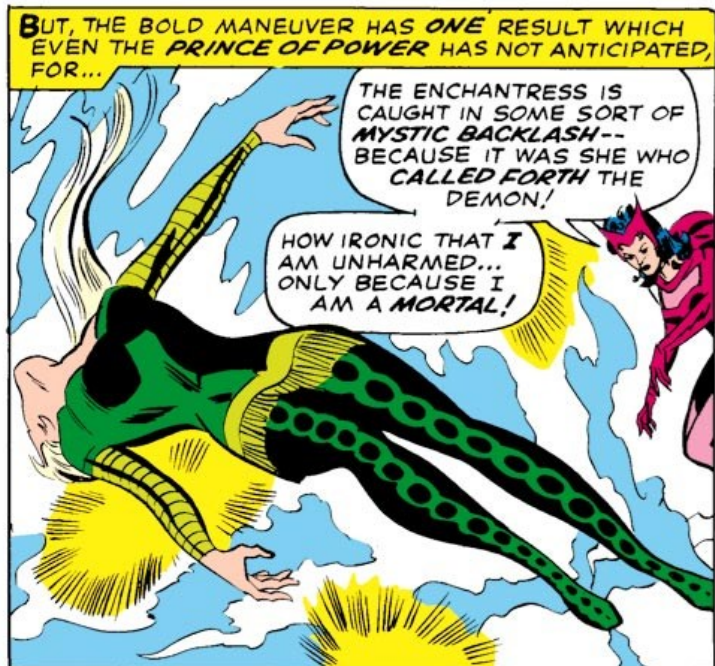
CAN SUCH A THING TRULY **BE**? I'M HURLING MY MOST POTENT **HEX** AT THE CREATURE!

BUT, HE SEEMS SCARCELY TO **FEEL** IT!











PART  
4

# ...AND A MONSTER SHALL STALK THE LAND!

From the FILES of THE MANDARIN:  
AFRICA IS THE RICHEST OF ALL CONTINENTS IN THE DIAMONDS WHICH I NEED! THIS AREA THE LIVING LASER MUST CONQUER FOR ME--WITH THE HELP OF MY MOST POWERFUL MINION OF ALL...

BEHOLD, ARCHER! YON THREATENING FIGURE MUST BE THE ONE WHOM WE SEEK!

YOU KNOW IT, THUNDER GOD! HE MAY HAVE BOUGHT HIMSELF A NEW PAIR OF THREADS...

BUT, IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN THE SAHARA WHEN OL' HAWKEYE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE --THE LIVING LASER!

WHY HAVEN'T THE POLICE LOCKED UP THAT COSTUMED KOOK?

DON'T YOU KNOW? HE CLAIMS HE'LL DESTROY PARLIAMENT IF ANYONE IN UNIFORM APPROACHES!

NO ONE MAN COULD DO THAT! HE MUST BE MAD!

SO FAR, YOKELS, MY LASER BEAMS HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT RIP A FEW HOLES IN THE FRONT OF YOUR PRECIOUS PARLIAMENT!

BUT, IF THIS COUNTRY ISN'T TURNED OVER TO ME FAST, I'M GONNA BRING THE ENTIRE CAPITAL DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!



THEN, AS THOR AND HAWKEYE OBSERVE, MOMENTARILY UNSEEN, THE VOICE OF THE *LIVING LASER* IS HEARD ONCE MORE...

MAD, AM I? YOUR STUPID GOVERNMENT WILL SOON LEARN JUST HOW CRAZY I AM...

...WHEN I UNLEASH THE MOST FRIGHTENING MENACE THE WORLD EVER SAW!

WE WILL LISTEN NO LONGER TO SUCH RAVINGS!

COME ON-- LET'S DRAG HIM FROM HIS PEDESTAL!

BUT, THAT PROVES MORE EASILY SAID THAN DONE...

YOU POOR FISH! YOU STILL DON'T REALIZE THE TRUE EXTENT OF MY POWER!

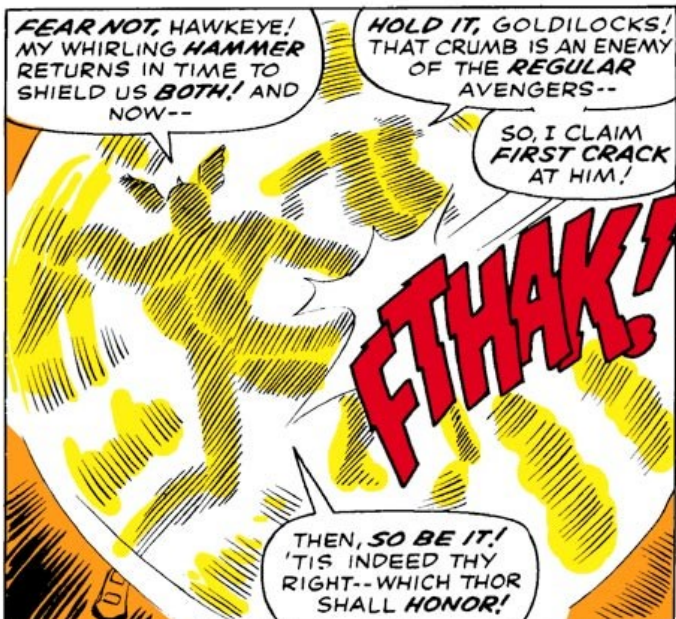
ONE BURST FROM MY WRIST-LASERS... AND YOU SCATTER LIKE A HERD OF STAMPEDING CATTLE!

RUN! NOTHING CAN STAND UP AGAINST A WEAPON LIKE THAT!

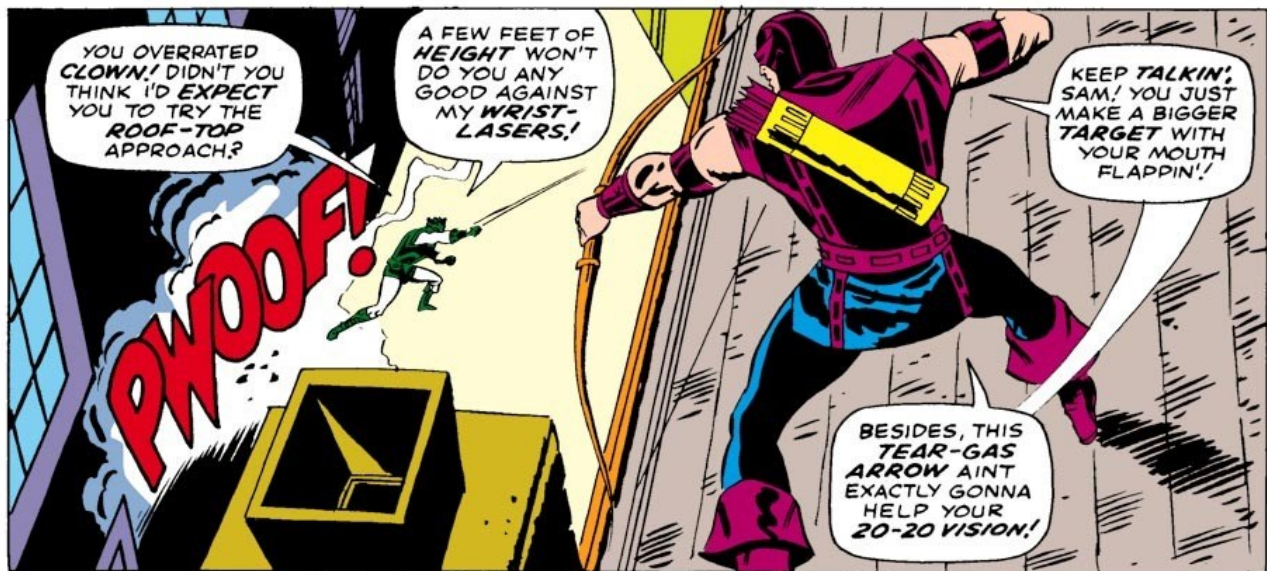
AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...

NOTHING-- EXCEPT THE SHATTERING POWER OF MIGHTY THOR--

--AND THE INVINCIBLE HAMMER WHICH HATH EVER BEEN CALLED *MJOLNIR*!















THEN, FOR A FLEETING MOMENT, THE SEARING FLAMES  
AND BLINDING SMOKE SEEM TO PART--TO REVEAL AN  
AWESOME, TOWERING FIGURE--THE FIGURE OF...













MOMENTS LATER, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER AGAIN TURNS TO FACE **ULTIMO**...

HE FOLLOWS ME **NOT**--AS IF HE WHO CONTROLS THE BEHEMOTH DOETH SOMEHOW **SENSE** MY NEED OF YON HAMMER!

THEN, I HAVE **NAUGHT** TO LOSE BY SPRINGING ONCE MORE TO THE **ATTACK**!

THUS FAR HAVE I FLED! I SHALL FLEE NO **FURTHER**!

HOWEVER, THE NEXT SECOND...



HE **DISINTEGRATED** THE BOULDER I THREW AT HIM--

--WITH ONE SWEEP OF HIS GARGANTUAN **HAND**!

AND, WITH EACH FLEETING INSTANT, THE **VOLCANO** HURLS OUT MORE **ROCKS** AND **LAVA**!

THEY--ALMOST AS MUCH AS **ULTIMO** HIMSELF--DO MENACE THE FRIGHTENED MULTITUDES IN YON **CAPITAL**!

YET, HOW CAN THOR HELP A CITY--WHEN HE CANNOT HELP **HIMSELF**?

WHILE, FAR AWAY...

**HAN!** IT APPEARS THAT EVEN THE MIGHTY **THOR** MUST YIELD BEFORE THE REVITALIZED **ULTIMO**!

HOW **FORTUNATE** THAT DAY WHEN I DID **FIND** HIS MAMMOTH FORM--AND STUDY WAYS TO MAKE IT MORE **POWERFUL** THAN **BEFORE**!



TRULY, THE THUNDER GOD IS **DOOMED**!!

THEN, SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE ASTONISHED EYES OF THE MANDARIN, THE HUGE FIGURE ON HIS VIEWSCREEN **WHIRLS**...



**GOOD!** **ULTIMO'S** TURNING TOWARDS **ME**--GIVING **THOR** A CLEAR SHOT AT HIS **CROQUET Mallet**!

OL' **GOLDILOCKS** BETTER MAKE IT ON THE **FIRST TRY**--

'CAUSE I MAY NOT BE **AROUND** TO GIVE 'IM A **SECOND**!



**HAWKEYE** **SACRIFICES** HIMSELF--THAT I MAY REACH MINE **HAMMER**!

BUT, EVEN AS THE IMMORTAL AVENGER **LEAPS**...



'TIS TOO LATE! THE SIXTY SECONDS HAVE **PASSED**!



THUS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS MIGHTY THOR WHO HURLED HIMSELF TOWARDS HIS FALLEN MJOLNIR...



--IT IS NOW DON BLAKE WHO CAREENS PAINFULLY TOWARDS A WOODEN WALKING STICK!

THERE'S STILL ONE CHANCE! IF ONLY I DON'T OVER-SHOOT THE CANE--!

I MADE IT! NOW, BEFORE ANYONE--EVEN HAWKEYE--LOOKS THIS WAY...



--THE CRIPPLED DR. BLAKE MUST VANISH...

...SO THAT THE SON OF ODIN MAY APPEAR!

NOW TO HELP THE BRASH BUT COURAGEOUS HAWKEYE!



THWOON!

AND, TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE AVENGING ARCHER COULD USE A LITTLE AID AND COMFORT JUST ABOUT NOW...



HE GOT ME-- BEFORE I COULD RUN TEN BLASTED FEET!

HIS EYES-- THEY'RE STARTIN' TO GLOW--JUST LIKE BEFORE!

THAT MEANS-- I'VE GOT ABOUT ONE SECOND TO LIVE!!



NOT SO, VALIANT ONE--IF THE POWER OF THOR CAN AFFECT THY PLIGHT!

AND, BY ASGARD, IT CAN!!

WHAM!

THOR!



AH--THE ANDROID HATH DROPPED HAWKEYE!

THAK!

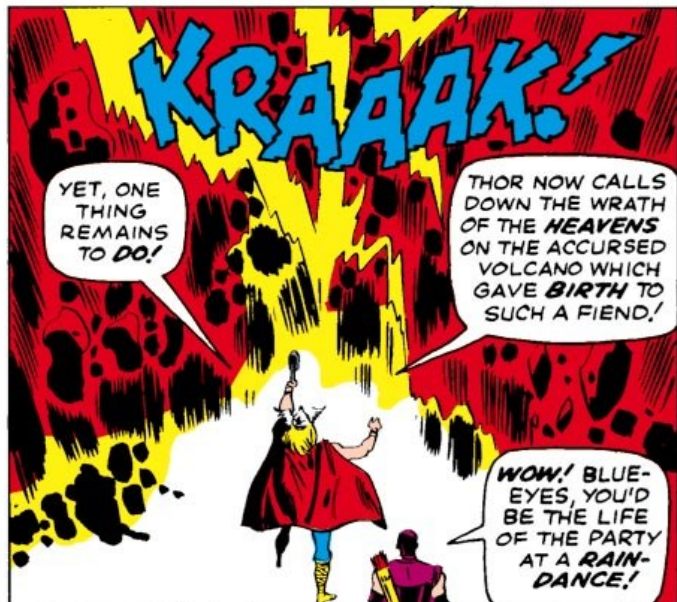
NOW, THOR SHALL BATTLE TO THE END-- THOUGH THAT END BE DOOMSDAY ITSELF!



BACK--EVER BACK--THE ENRAGED GOD OF THUNDER FORCES AN OFF-BALANCE ULTIMO--TILL THE WEAKENED CREATURE STANDS ON THE VERY EDGE OF DISASTER...



AND, AS THE ENCHANTED MALLET STRIKES HOME A FINAL TIME...



FOR LONG MOMENTS, FIERCE TONGUES OF FLAME DART FROM THE SKY, SENDING TONS OF MASSIVE ROCKS CASCADING DOWNWARD! THEN...





PART 5

# SHOWDOWN IN SPACE!

AS THE THIRD TEAM OF AVENGERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ITS MISSION AGAINST THE SUPER-POWERED MINIONS OF THE EVIL MANDARIN, A DRAMATIC TABLEAU IS BEING ENACTED IN A CERTAIN MIDTOWN MANSION IN NEW YORK CITY...

WELL, STEVE, WHAT ABOUT IT? HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE INFORMATION YOU WERE AWAITING?

I ACHE FOR THE CALL TO ACTION... THE SUMMONS TO COMBAT!

THEY ALSO SERVE WHO STAND AND WAIT, PIETRO!

BUT, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS AFFIRMATIVE! I'VE PICKED UP A THIRD SET OF ELECTRONIC EMANATIONS--THIS BUNCH BEAMED TOWARDS AFRICA!

SO, LET'S MOVE! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL GET ALL THE ACTION YOU CAN HANDLE!

WITHIN MOMENTS, A SLEEK AERO-CAR ZOOMS ACROSS THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE TOWARDS A NEARBY MILITARY BASE...

THIS IS "A" FOR ABLE TO UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT! IDENTIFY --OR BE FIRED UPON!

AND THIS IS "C" FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA--OPERATING ON AVENGERS PRIORITY!

I'M THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN READYING THAT MISSILE FOR--AND I BROUGHT MY LAUNDRY TICKET WITH ME!

BESIDES, IF I WAS AN ENEMY, THIS BABY WOULD ALREADY BE FLYING CIRCLES AROUND YOU!

THEN, A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME LATER, THE WAITING ROCKET IS LAUNCHED--WITH A PAIR OF GRIM PASSENGERS...

THERE SHE GOES--ONE OF THE FIRST MISSILES CAPABLE OF BEING TOTALLY MANUALLY OPERATED!

THOSE TWO AVENGERS CAN REACH ANY PLACE THIS SIDE OF THE MOON IN THAT CRATE!

AND EVEN WE DON'T KNOW JUST WHERE THEY INTEND TO GO--WE WERE JUST TOLD TO TURN IT OVER TO THEM!

I'M BETTING IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE SCATTERED INVASIONS WE HEARD ABOUT!



MINUTES AFTERWARD, HIGH IN THE ALMOST AIRLESS IONOSPHERE...

THERE IT IS, CAP--JUST WHERE YOU ESTIMATED! A GIGANTIC SPACE STATION!

BUT, HOW CAN WE APPROACH IT-- WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED?

WE CAN'T! SO, I'M BANKING ON ITS OWNER'S CURIOSITY-- AND HIS SUPREME CONFIDENCE!

AND, FROM THE ORBITING SHIP, COMES NO ATTACK-- NO SLIGHTEST HINT OF RECOGNITION--AS THE SMALLER CRAFT MAGNETICALLY LOCKS ONTO IT! THEN...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE BRAZEN APPROACH **WORKED**, PIETRO! NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF THESE **SPACE DUDS**!

WITH **PLEASURE**! THEY WOULD KEEP ME FROM USING MY FULL **POWERS**!

MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR **SPEED**, AT THE MOMENT, IS THAT WE **STICK TOGETHER**!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT WE'RE **EXPECTED**-- BUT, I DON'T SEE ANY **RED CARPET**!

ALMOST AT ONCE, AS THE POWER-PACKED PAIR EXIT FROM THE TINY **SPACE LOCK**...

IT'S THE **MANDARIN**--THE VERY ONE OUR FELLOW AVENGERS' REPORTS **TOLD** US WAS RAMRODDING THOSE INVASIONS!

YOU'RE **THRU**, FELLA! IF OUR INSTRUMENTS COULD LOCATE YOUR SECRET SATELLITE, SO CAN THOSE OF THE **ARMED FORCES**!

SO--YOU DARE TO ENTER MY PRESENCE, SPOUTING WORDS OF FALSE **BRAVADO**--

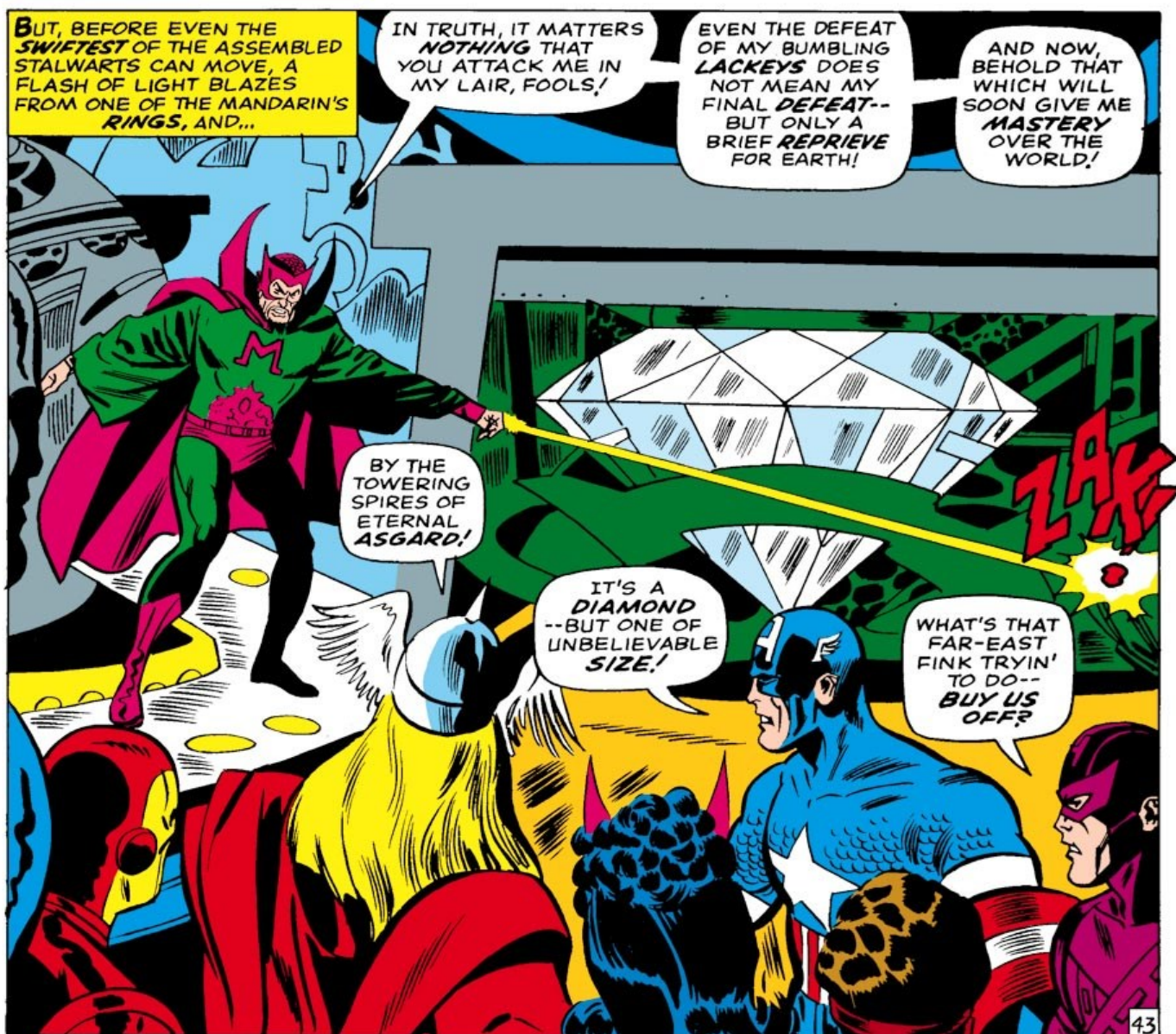
--WHEN, IN TRUTH, YOU KNOW THAT I **WANTED** YOU ABOARD MY SPACE STATION...OR YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN **BLASTED** WHILE MAKING YOUR **APPROACH**!

I DESIRED YOU TO COME--SO THAT I MIGHT DESTROY YOU **PERSONALLY**, AND TEACH YOUR COSTUMED COMRADES THE TRUE MEANING OF **STARK FEAR**!















THEN, THE VERY CHAMBER ITSELF SEEMS TO ERUPT IN A CACOPHONY OF SHATTERING SOUND--AS THE BATTLE GROWS EVER MORE SAVAGE, EVER MORE DEADLY, WITH EACH GRIM AVENGER LASHING OUT AT THE ONE NEAREST HIM...



**BULLPEN  
NOTE:**

SINCE THIS IS A  
ONCE-A-YEAR SPECIAL,  
WE KIND'A THOUGHT WE'D  
TURN DON AND ARTIE  
LOOSE ON ONE PAGE--  
JUST TO SHOW WHAT  
THEY CAN DO!  
ENJOY, TIGERS!  
--SMILEY AND  
RASCALLY.



THEN, WITH MADDENING SUDDENNESS--THE BATTLE ROYAL CEASES...

BY ASGARD! WHY HAVE WE THUS FOUGHT AMONGST OURSELVES?

MANDY'S HATE-RAY--HE MANAGED TO TURN IT ON US!

BUT, LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO HIM!



SOMETHING HIT HIM-- KNOCKING HIM AGAINST THAT CONTROL PANEL!

HIS CRUMPLING BODY MUST HAVE TURNED THE HATE-RAY OFF!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN-- THE WASP'S STINGS! BUT, HOW--?

THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE MANDARIN TOPPLES TO THE FLOOR...

I'M NOT SURE MYSELF JUST HOW IT HAPPENED, FELLAS!

I WAS DARTING TOWARDS OUR HOST--AND THAT'S ALL I RECALL!

OF COURSE! THAT INFERNAL HATE-RAY MADE EACH OF US ATTACK THE NEAREST PERSON!

AND, THE ONE CLOSEST TO JAN--WAS THE MANDARIN!

VERY AMUSING, FOOLS! BUT, FATE SHALL NOT SPARE YOU AGAIN-- FROM THESE LETHAL BLASTS!

LOOK OUT! HE WASN'T OUT, LIKE WE THOUGHT!

TOO LATE! ONE OF HIS RINGS IS ACTIVATING SOME NEW WEAPON!

YET, EVEN AS A SERIES OF DEADLY BLASTS INUNDATE THE CHAMBER, ONE SWIFT FORM IS ALREADY HURTLING ACROSS IT...

IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I SAW THE MANDARIN STIR AN INSTANT AGO!

FOR, ONLY MY LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES--MY INCALCULABLE SPEED--CAN SAVE THE AVENGERS NOW!

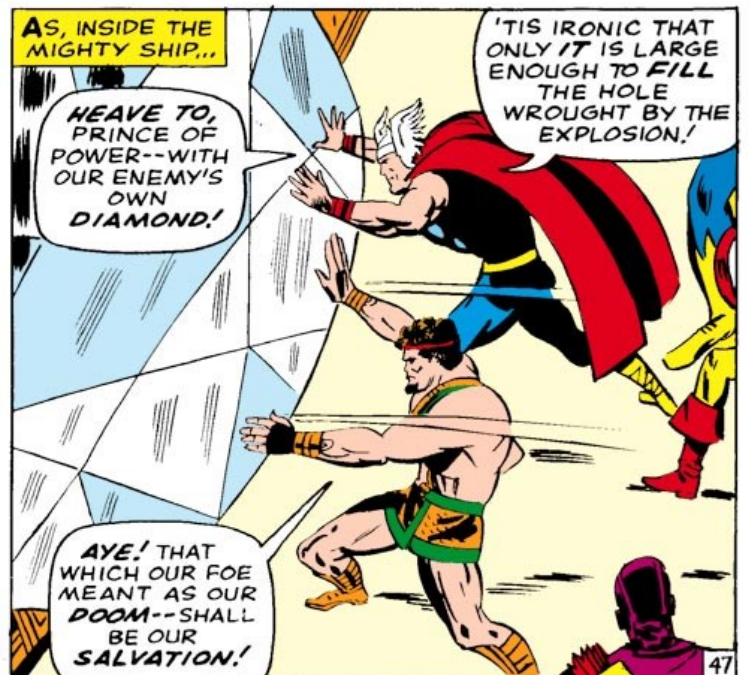
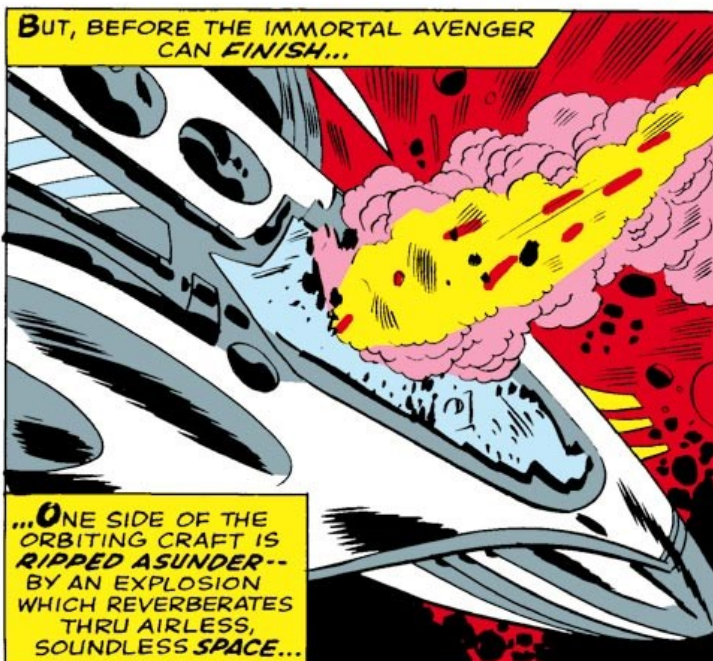
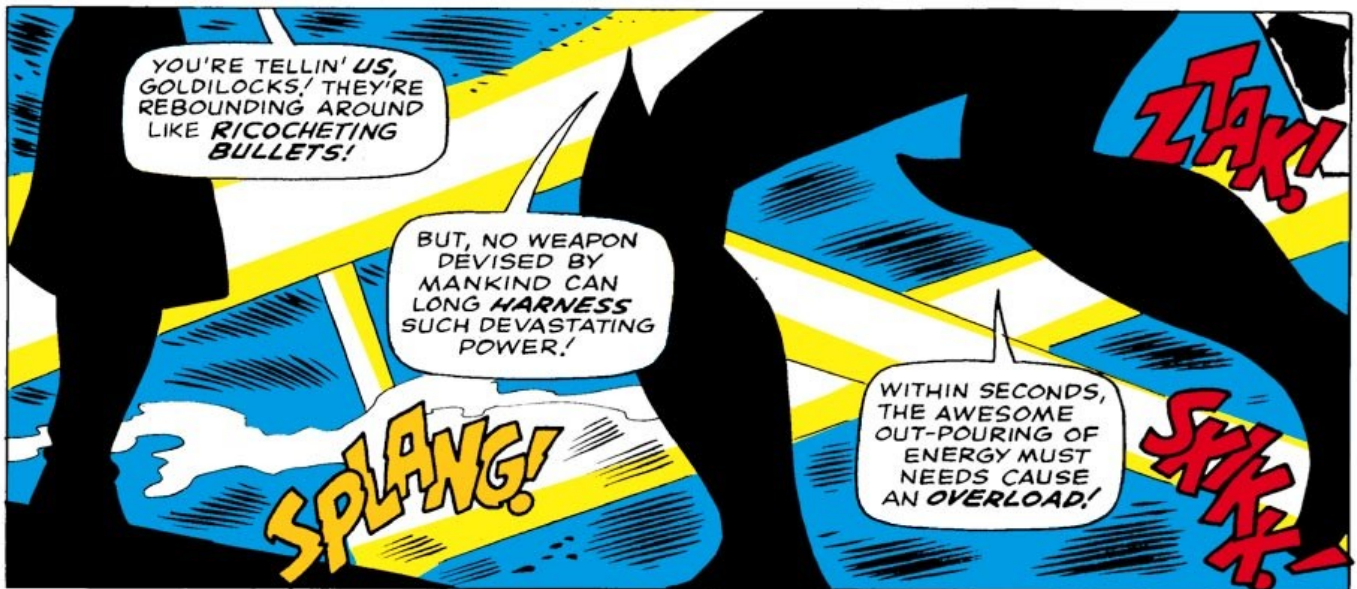
MUST HOPE THAT MY FANTASTIC MOMENTUM WILL DISLodge THE WEAPONS COMPLEX!

AND, THE METEORIC MUTANT'S DESPERATE ACTION WORKS!

THAT BLINDING BURST OF ENERGY DID MISS US BY THE NARROWEST OF MARGINS--THANKS TO QUICKSILVER!

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET! THOSE BLASTS ARE REBOUNding ALL OVER THE SHIP!







THEN, AS THE FORM OF THE MANDARIN IS LOST IN THE DISTANCE AND THE DARKNESS, THE MIGHTY SON OF ODIN SPEAKS...

THE VICTORY... IS OURS!!

YET, NE'ER HAVE THE AVENGERS-- OR THE EARTH ITSELF-- COME NEARER TO THE VERY BRINK OF DOOM!

MAYBE--JUST *MAYBE* IT'S BEEN WORTH IT--IF WE'VE REALLY SEEN THE *END* OF THAT DESPOTIC MADMAN!

IT WOULD *SEEM* HE'S DEAD, HANK-- BUT, HOW CAN WE EVER BE REALLY *SURE*--?

THE ANSWER IS--WE *CAN'T*! SOMEHOW, HE EVEN ESCAPED AN *ATOMIC BLAST* WHEN LAST WE MET!

BUT, IF HE POPS UP AGAIN-- WE'LL BE *READY* FOR HIM!

STEVE--WHAT OF THE MANDARIN'S SPACE STATION? DO WE DARE LET IT *EXIST*?

YEAH! MANDY PLANNED TO USE IT AS A *BASE* FROM WHICH TO MENACE THE *WORLD*!

AND, SOMEBODY *ELSE* MIGHT JUST TRY TO DO THE *SAME*!

GOOD THINKING, BOTH OF YOU! WE'LL JUST *TAKE CARE* OF THAT LITTLE *DETAIL*...

AND SO, A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME AFTERWARD...

OKAY, CREW--IT'S TIME TO MAKE TRACKS FOR *TERRA FIRMA*!

IN JUST ABOUT *THREE MINUTES*, THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE SO MUCH *COSMIC DUST*!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN *TAKE*, CAP, IT'S A *SUBTLE HINT*!

MOVE, AVENGERS-- INTO THE NEAREST *AUTO-CONTROL ROCKET*!

THUS, PRECISELY 180 WELL-SPENT SECONDS LATER, A *SECOND* SOUNDLESS EXPLOSION LIGHTS UP A TINY SEGMENT OF INFINITE SPACE FOR A BRIEF MOMENT--

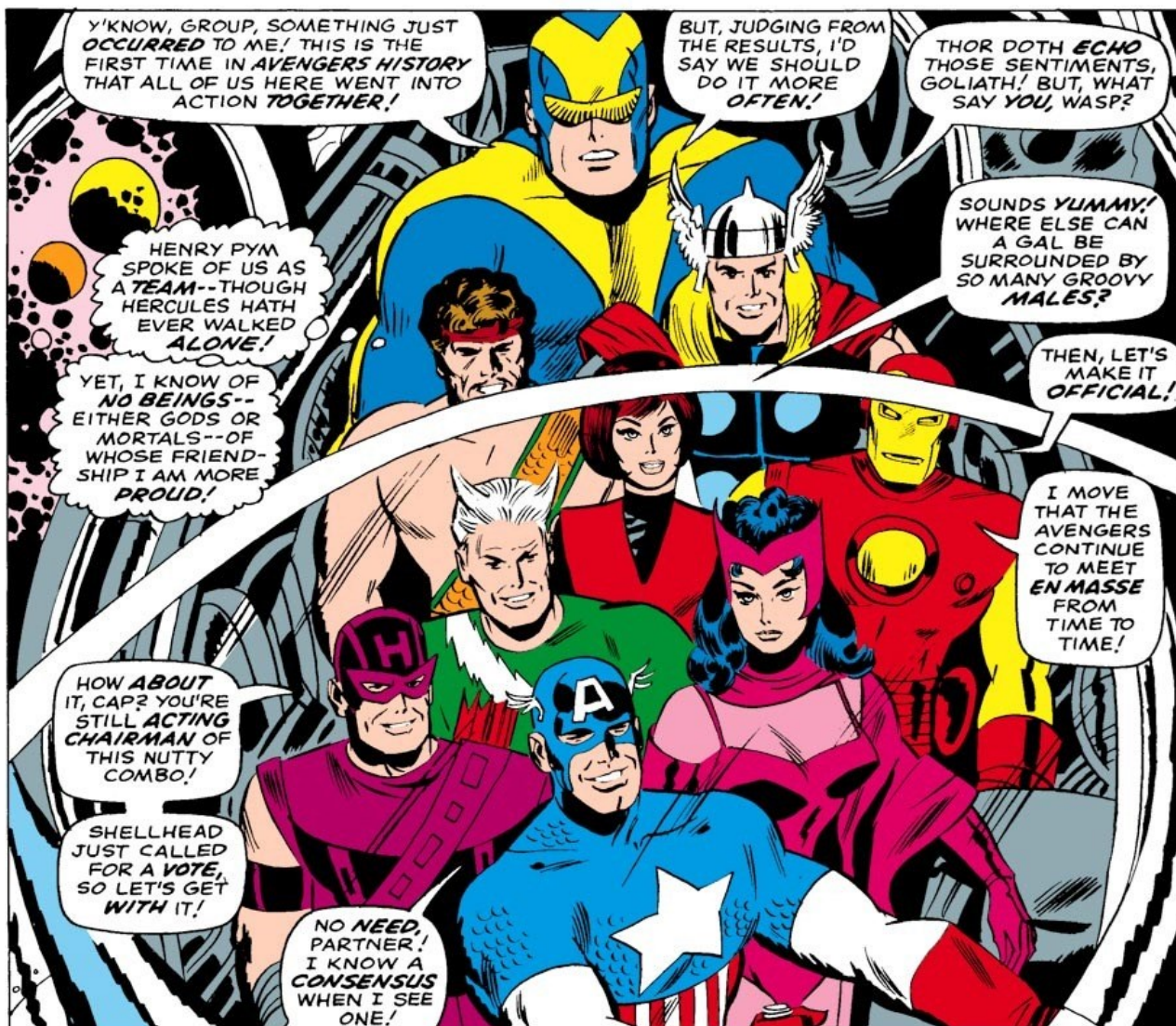
I'M A *BIO-CHEMIST*, NOT A SPACE SCIENTIST--

BUT, I STILL REGRET THAT WE HAD TO *DESTROY* WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN MAN'S STEPPING-STONE TO THE *STARS*!

THERE WILL BE *OTHER* SPACE STATIONS, HANK-- BUILT BY THOSE VERY NATIONS WHICH THE MANDARIN WOULD HAVE *ENSLAVED*!

LET'S JUST PRAY MANKIND HAS ENOUGH SENSE TO USE THEM IN THE INTERESTS OF *PEACE*--NOT OF *WAR*!







**PREEEESENTING!**  
THE UNCONQUERABLE  
**HERCULES!**  
SON OF ZEUS--PRINCE OF  
POWER--LION OF OLYMPUS--  
AND THE SURPRISE MARVEL  
SENSATION OF 1967!!



EXILED FROM MOUNT  
OLYMPUS FOR DISOBEYING THE  
IMPERIAL COMMANDS OF HIS  
FATHER ZEUS, THE PRINCE  
OF POWER HAS ADDED HIS  
AWESOME STRENGTH TO THE  
RANKS OF THE AVENGERS--  
TO MAKE THEM ONCE MORE  
THE MIGHTIEST FIGHTING  
TEAM ON EARTH!



**PULSATIN! PANORAMIC,  
PULCHITRUDINOUS PIN-UP DEPT.:**

WE'VE ALWAYS KIND'A THOUGHT  
THAT DASHIN' **DONNIE HECK** DRAWS  
THE MOST FABULOUS FEMALES  
THIS SIDE OF A FOLD-OUT **CENTER  
SPREAD!** AND SO, IN ANSWER TO  
A MULTITUDE OF REQUESTS  
(MAINLY FROM **STAN** AND **ROY**),  
MAY WE PROUDLY PRESENT  
FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AND  
ENLIGHTENMENT:

**1°** THE BEAUTEOUS  
**Black Widow!**  
(SHE'S NOT A FULL-FLEDGED  
**AVENGER** YET--BUT, IF  
WE HADN'T SQUEEZED  
HER INTO OUR SCIN-  
TILLATIN' SPECIAL  
**SOMEHOW**, NATASHA-  
PHILES THE WORLD  
OVER WOULD'A  
MOBBED US.)

**2°** THE WONDROUSLY  
WINSOME **Wasp!**  
(JANET VAN DYNE MAY BE  
THE ONLY HEIRESS IN  
THE WORLD CAPABLE OF  
**SHRINKING**--YET, WE  
SORT'A PREFER HER  
THIS SIZE! AGREED?)

**3°** THE **Scarlet  
Witch!**  
(WHEN LOVELY WANDA  
BELONGED TO MAGNETO'S  
**BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL  
MUTANTS**, EVEN THE  
**X-MEN** WERE ALMOST  
READY TO SIGN UP.)

**SPECIAL  
NOTE:**

WE ORIGINALLY INTENDED  
TO INCLUDE SOME  
**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA** ON  
OUR FRANKLY FANTASTIC  
FEMMES--INCLUDING THEIR  
**AGES**--BUT, WE DECIDED  
**AGAINST IT!** (AFTER ALL,  
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN  
THREATENED BY THREE  
SENSATIONAL SUPER-  
HEROINES AT  
**ONCE?**)



AND NOW, TO ROUND  
OUT THIS INCREDIBLE  
ISSUE, FEAST YOUR BABY-  
BLUES ON PERHAPS THE  
MOST RAPTUREOUSLY-  
REQUESTED PIC OF ALL!!

THE  
**ORIGINAL  
AVENGERS--**  
AS THEY APPEARED IN 1SH #1  
(SEPTEMBER 1963)--  
AND THE **NEW  
AVENGERS--**  
AS SEEN SINCE 1SH #28!!  
'NUFF  
SAID!

WELL, THAT WRAPS IT UP FOR THIS SPECIAL,  
FAITHFUL ONE! WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR  
EFFORTS FOR YOUR EDIFICATION, AND THAT  
YOU'LL HANG LOOSE TILL OUR NEXT ANNUAL  
EPIC APPEARS! AFTER ALL--WHAT'S A YEAR  
BETWEEN FRIENDS?