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THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"THE ULTROIDS ATTACK!"

FOUR OF THE
MIGHTY AVENGERS
HAVE JUST RETURNED
FROM THEIR EPIC BATTLE
WITH THE POWER-MAD
LIVING LASER!

NOW, AS HE STANDS ALONE
WITH HIS THOUGHTS, **CAP-
TAIN AMERICA** SUD-
DENLY HEARS A FOOT-
FALL BEHIND HIM,
AND...

SO, STEVE ROGERS...
I HAVE REACHED YOU
AT LAST!

WHO...? OH, IT'S
YOU, WANDA!
BETTER WATCH THAT
SNEAKING UP
ON A FELLA!

YOU ENTERED SO
QUIETLY, I THOUGHT
FOR A SECOND THAT ONE
OF OUR **ENEMIES**
HAD INVADED AVENGERS
HQ!

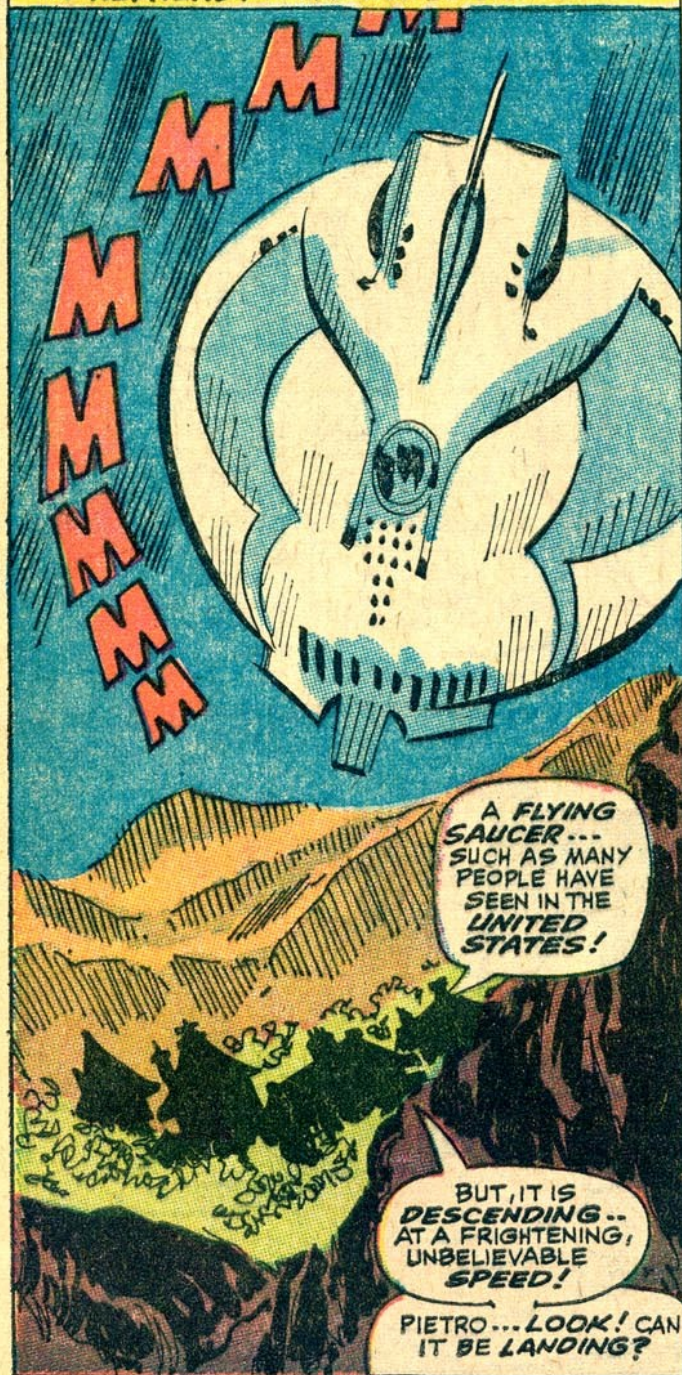
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STAN (THE MAN) LEE

DRAWN BY:
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SCRIPTED BY:
ROY (THE BOY) THOMAS

LETTERED BY:
SAM (THE SHAM) ROSEN

"THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL EYES WERE RIVETED TO THE **HEAVENS**, WHERE THEY BEHELD..."

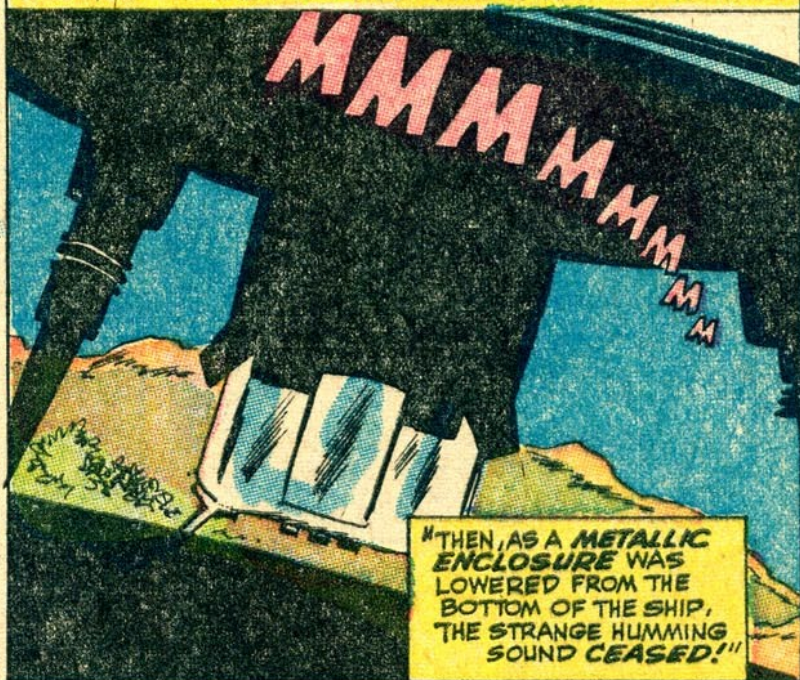


A **FLYING SAUCER**... SUCH AS MANY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IN THE **UNITED STATES**!

BUT, IT IS **DESCENDING**... AT A **FRIGHTENING, UNBELIEVABLE SPEED**!

PIETRO... **LOOK!** CAN IT BE **LANDING**?

"AND, MY WORST FEARS WERE **FULFILLED** ALMOST AT ONCE, AS THE **UNEARTHLY DISC** CAME TO REST NOT FAR AWAY."



"THEN, AS A **METALLIC ENCLOSURE** WAS LOWERED FROM THE **BOTTOM** OF THE **SHIP**, THE **STRANGE HUMMING** SOUND **CEASED**!"

WANDA, THERE MAY BE **DANGER**! WAIT HERE, WHILE I...

SAY NO MORE, MY BROTHER! ALREADY, I KNOW THE WORDS THAT ARE IN YOUR **HEART**!

BUT, THE **SCARLET WITCH** IS AS MUCH AN **AVENGER** AS IS **QUICKSILVER**... AND I WON'T BE **LEFT BEHIND**!

COME, THEN! THERE IS NO TIME TO **WASTE**!

A **FLYING SAUCER**... IN THIS SMALL **VILLAGE**! IT'S **INCREDIBLE**!!

"IT WAS WITH A FEELING OF **EAGERNESS**... ALMOST OF **EXHILARATION**... THAT I **DONNED** MY **CRIMSON COSTUME** ONCE AGAIN... AND, WITHIN **SECONDS**, WE **APPROACHED** THE **SILENT, UNMOVING SAUCER**..."

OBSERVE... THERE IS A **DOOR** IN THE **CYLINDER** DIRECTLY **BELOW** THE **SHIP**!

YET, EVEN AS I **SPEAK**, IT **STARTS** TO **CLOSE**! FOLLOW AT A **SAFE DISTANCE**, WANDA--

I **MUST** SEE WHAT LIES **INSIDE**!

NO... DO NOT GO ALONE!

I DO WHAT I **MUST**! FOR, IF I **WAIT** FOR YOU, WE COULD NEVER REACH THE **SHIP** IN **TIME**!

BUT, IF I DO NOT **RETURN**, TELL THE **AVENGERS** WHAT HAS **BEFALLEN** ME!



PIETRO! YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT **POWER** YOU MIGHT BE **FACING**... OR ITS **PURPOSE**!

IT'S **NO USE**! --HE IS **GONE**!

"THEN, AS I HURRIED
TOWARDS THE
GLEAMING SAUCER..."

LOOK
OUT! THE
DOORWAY
CLOSES
BEHIND
YOU!

THERE...
AHEAD
OF ME!
CAN IT BE?!!

WANDA...
BRING THE
AVENGERS...
AS QUICKLY
AS
POSSIBLE!

ONLY THEY CAN
COPE WITH WHAT I
SEE INSIDE THE
SHIP!

"A HEARTBEAT LATER..."

THE
ENTRANCE...
IT HAS
CLOSED!

AND...PIETRO
IS INSIDE...
A PRISONER!

BUT... A
PRISONER...
OF WHOM?

MY ONE RECOURSE
...IS TO USE MY
HEX POWER!

IF ONLY IT IS
STRONG ENOUGH
TO DAMAGE THE
SAUCER--!

"HOWEVER, TO MY
DISMAY..."

IT HAS NO
EFFECT! YET,
I KNOW THAT MY
POWER IS AS
MIGHTY AS
EVER!

WHAT STRANGE
CRAFT IS THIS...
THAT DEFIES MY
HEX AS IF IT
WERE A CHILD'S
PLAYTHING?

"AGAIN AND AGAIN,
I HURLED MY BLASTS AT
THE UNYIELDING METAL,
UNTIL..."

GETTING...
WEAKER! BUT,
I JUST CAN'T
GIVE UP!
MUST KEEP
TRYING...

"FINALLY, THE STRAIN PROVED TOO GREAT FOR ME TO
BEAR ANY LONGER, AND..."

CAN'T GO ON!
THE STRAIN...
WOULD MAKE ME
BLACK OUT...
AND THEN I, TOO,
MIGHT BE TAKEN
PRISONER!

THAT MUST NOT
HAPPEN! I AM
PIETRO'S ONLY
CHANCE FOR
RESCUE!

WHAT IF HE
IS A CAPTIVE
OF--CREATURES
FROM ANOTHER
WORLD?!!

"AND SO, WITH A HEAVY HEART, I TURNED FROM THE
SAUCER, AS..."

THE VILLAGERS
WILL BE OF NO HELP TO
ME! I MUST CONTACT
THE AVENGERS--
AT ONCE!

WHAT I COULD
NOT DO ALONE...
WE SHALL HAVE TO
ACCOMPLISH AS A
TEAM!

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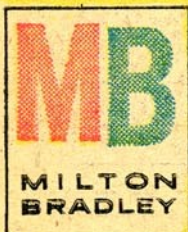
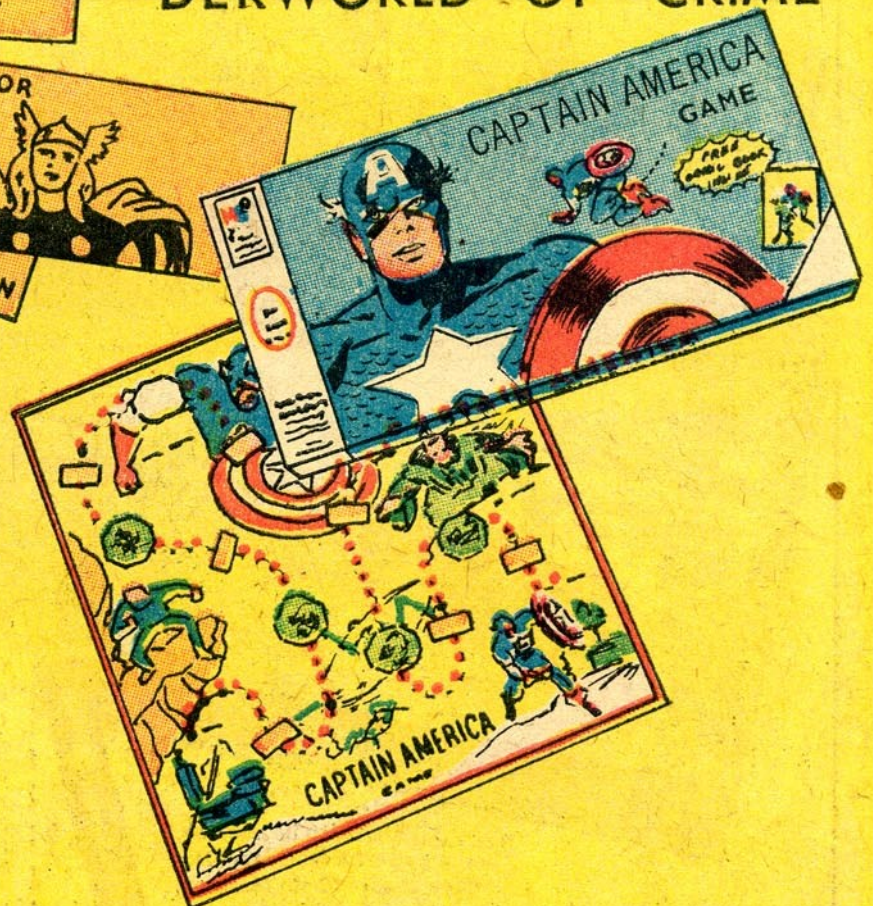
Hey Kids!

GET YOUR
EXCITING GAME
OF

CAPTAIN AMERICA

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FROM YOUR FAVORITE
STORE AND MEET HIS
SUPER HERO FRIENDS
AS YOU BATTLE THE UN-
DERWORLD OF CRIME



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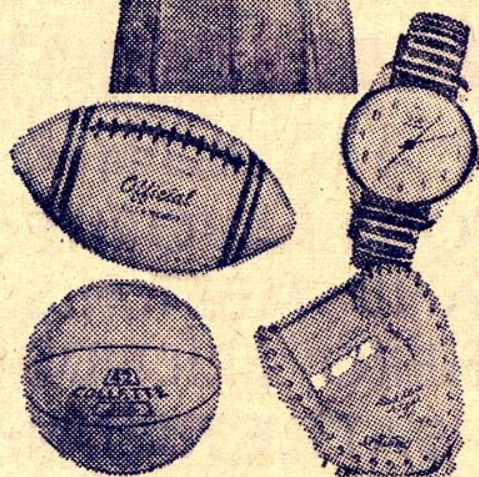
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of Solo and Ilya

A red logo with the word 'Comic' in a stylized font.



I TRIED TO CONTACT YOU ON OUR **SPECIAL FREQUENCY**... BUT THERE WAS NO **ANSWER!**

LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO USE MY **AVENGERS PRIORITY** TO OBTAIN AN INTERCONTINENTAL **JET**... AND RUSHED HERE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD!

WE RETURNED ONLY **HOURS** AGO FROM **LATIN AMERICA**! YOU MUST HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT US JUST **BEFORE** THAT!

BUT NOW, I'LL **SUMMON** THE **OTHER AVENGERS**... **AT ONCE!**



THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER... TWO COSTUMED FIGURES MAKE THE SCENE, AND...

HIYA, WING-HEAD! NATASHA AND I WERE JUST GETTIN' SET TO SPLIT A **PIZZA** WHEN YOUR CALL CAME THROUGH!

WHAT'S THE **BIG EMERGENCY**... YA FIND A RUST-SPOT ON YOUR SHIELD AND NEED SOMEBODY TO **POLISH** IT FOR YA?

THIS IS **SERIOUS AVENGER BUSINESS**, HAWKEYE! PIETRO'S BEEN **CAPTURED**... AND WE'VE GOT TO **FREE** HIM!

AVENGER BUSINESS? THEN... PERHAPS I SHOULD NOT HAVE COME!



NEVER MIND, 'TASHA, BABY... JUST LET OL' **HAWKEYE** HANDLE THIS!

I BROUGHT THE **BLACK WIDOW** WITH ME, CAP, BECAUSE I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME SHE WAS ADMITTED TO **MEMBERSHIP**!

THAT'S NOT FOR **US** TO DECIDE, AVENGER! WE'D HAVE TO CALL A **SPECIAL MEETING** TO VOTE ON IT!

AND, WE'RE TOO **BUSY** TO THINK ABOUT HER **CANDIDACY** NOW!

WELL, I'M NOT TOO **BUSY**... AND I VOTE **NO**!

GOLIATH!



HANK, PLEASE! CAN'T WE DISCUSS IT AFTER WE FIND OUT WHY CAP **SUMMONED** US HERE?

SORRY, JAN, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO **DISCUSS**!

IT WAS ONLY **WEEKS** AGO THAT THE **BLACK WIDOW** LED **POWER MAN** AND THE **SWORDSMAN** AGAINST US! *

LISTEN TO THE **BIG MAN**! HE GETS BACK TO **NORMAL SIZE** 'N HE'S SPOLIN' FOR A **FIGHT**!

EASY, PARTNER! REMEMBER... YOU'VE GOT QUITE A **TEMPER YOURSELF!**

WHAT'S HAWKEYE WANT... FOR US TO GIVE HER A **MEDAL**?

JUST THE SAME, THAT OVER-SIZED LUNK-HEAD BETTER **LAY OFF!** HE'S NOT RUNNIN' THE **WHOLE SHOW!**

*YOU THRILLED TO THAT EPIC IN **AVENGERS #29**... OR, AT LEAST, WE HOPE YOU DID! ... **INSECURE STAN.**



HE HAS A POINT, HANK! THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO GET SO UPSET!

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, JAN...WE'LL TAKE THE WHOLE MATTER UP SOME OTHER TIME!

JUST THE SAME, AS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS, I DON'T CARE TO SEE IT TURN INTO A REST HOME FOR REFORMED SUPER-VILLAINS!

GOLIATH, I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOUR HARPIN' ABOUT HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN AN AVENGER!



WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS, WHERE WERE YOU FOR THOSE BLASTED MONTHS THAT THE REST OF US WERE KEEPIN' THE AVENGERS FROM BEIN' JUST A NAME IN A HISTORY BOOK?

YOU TALK PRETTY BIG, FOR A GUY WHO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME TAKIN' VACATIONS!

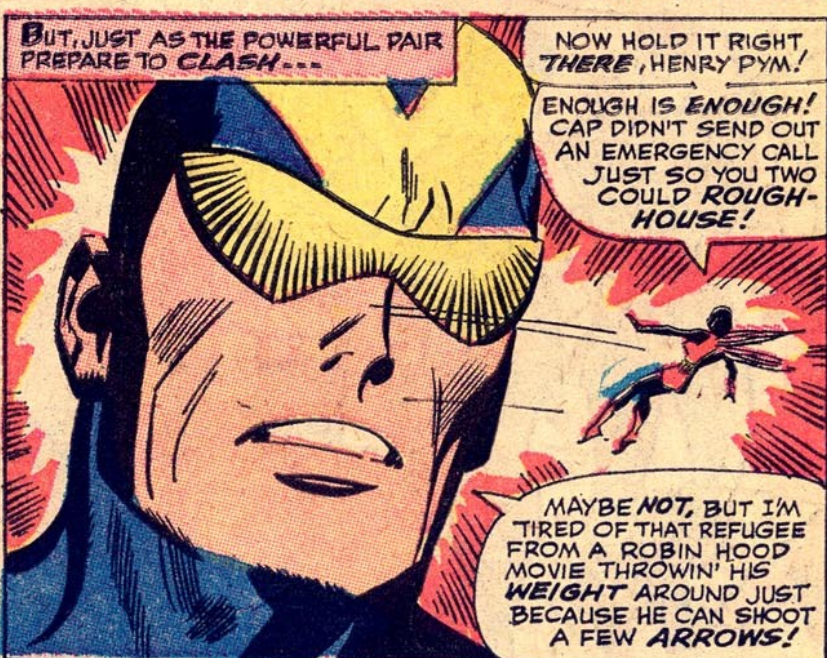


WHY, YOU TWO-BIT WILLIAM TELL! I WAS TAKING ON BADDIES LIKE COLOSSUS WHEN YOU WERE RUNNIN' AROUND IN SHORT PANTS, MAKING TROUBLE FOR IRON MAN!

AND SINCE YOU'RE STRINGIN' YOUR BOW, I MAY AS WELL MAKE MYSELF A BIGGER TARGET!

MISTER, I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU MADE YOURSELF SO SMALL COULD HIDE BEHIND ONE OF YOUR CRUMMY ANTS!

THE TARGET AIN'T BEEN MADE THAT HAWKEYE CAN'T HIT!

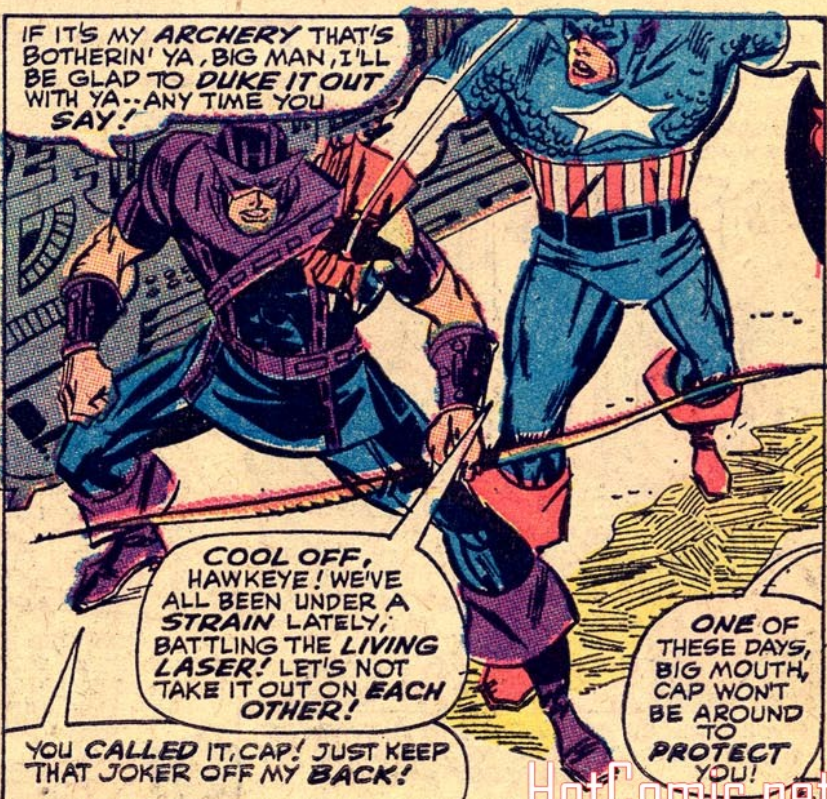


BUT, JUST AS THE POWERFUL PAIR PREPARE TO CLASH...

NOW HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, HENRY PYM!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! CAP DIDN'T SEND OUT AN EMERGENCY CALL JUST SO YOU TWO COULD ROUGH-HOUSE!

MAYBE NOT, BUT I'M TIRED OF THAT REFUGEE FROM A ROBIN HOOD MOVIE THROWIN' HIS WEIGHT AROUND JUST BECAUSE HE CAN SHOOT A FEW ARROWS!



IF IT'S MY ARCHERY THAT'S BOTHERIN' YA, BIG MAN, I'LL BE GLAD TO DUKE IT OUT WITH YA--ANY TIME YOU SAY!

COOL OFF, HAWKEYE! WE'VE ALL BEEN UNDER A STRAIN LATELY, BATTLING THE LIVING LASER! LET'S NOT TAKE IT OUT ON EACH OTHER!

YOU CALLED IT, CAP! JUST KEEP THAT JOKER OFF MY BACK!

ONE OF THESE DAYS, BIG MOUTH, CAP WON'T BE AROUND TO PROTECT YOU!

AND THEN, AS THE NOW CALMER-TEMPERED GOLIATH USES A BURST OF MENTAL CONCENTRATION TO SHRINK TO HIS NORMAL HEIGHT, A STRIDENT, ANGRY VOICE RINGS OUT...

IS *THIS* HOW YOU WELCOME
A RETURNING AVENGER,
ALL OF YOU?

CAN YOU DO NOTHING BUT
ARGUE, WHILE MY BROTHER
IS IN MORTAL PERIL AN
OCEAN **AWAY?**

PIETRO...IN
DANGER?

THAT'S WHAT
THE LADY'S BEEN
TRYING TO TELL
YOU, HANK!

TIME GROWS
SHORT! EVEN
NOW, THE
SAUCER MAY HAVE
DEPARTED!

WILL YOU
ACCOMPANY
ME FROM WHENCE
I CAME, OR MUST
I RETURN **ALONE?**

YOU KNOW THE
ANSWER TO
THAT, WANDA!

NOW I DON'T
WANNA HEAR ANOTHER
PEEP OUT OF **ANY-
ONE!** AN AVENGER'S
JUBLE--AND WE'RE
NA **HELP** HIM!

WE **READ** YOU,
CAP! LET'S GET
GOING!

OKAY! INTO OUR
AERO-CARS,
EVERYONE! WAN-
DA CAN FILL US IN ON
THE DETAILS AS WE
HEAD FOR **EUROPE!**

THUS IT IS THAT, LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS LATER, TWIN ENGINES OF A HIGHLY COMPLEX DESIGN BURST INTO EAR-SHATTERING LIFE...

... AND ZOOM WITH BLINDING, SUPERSONIC SPEED INTO THE **SUB-STRATOSPHERE**, AS ALL PASSENGERS FERVENTLY HOPE THEY WILL NOT BE--TOO LATE!

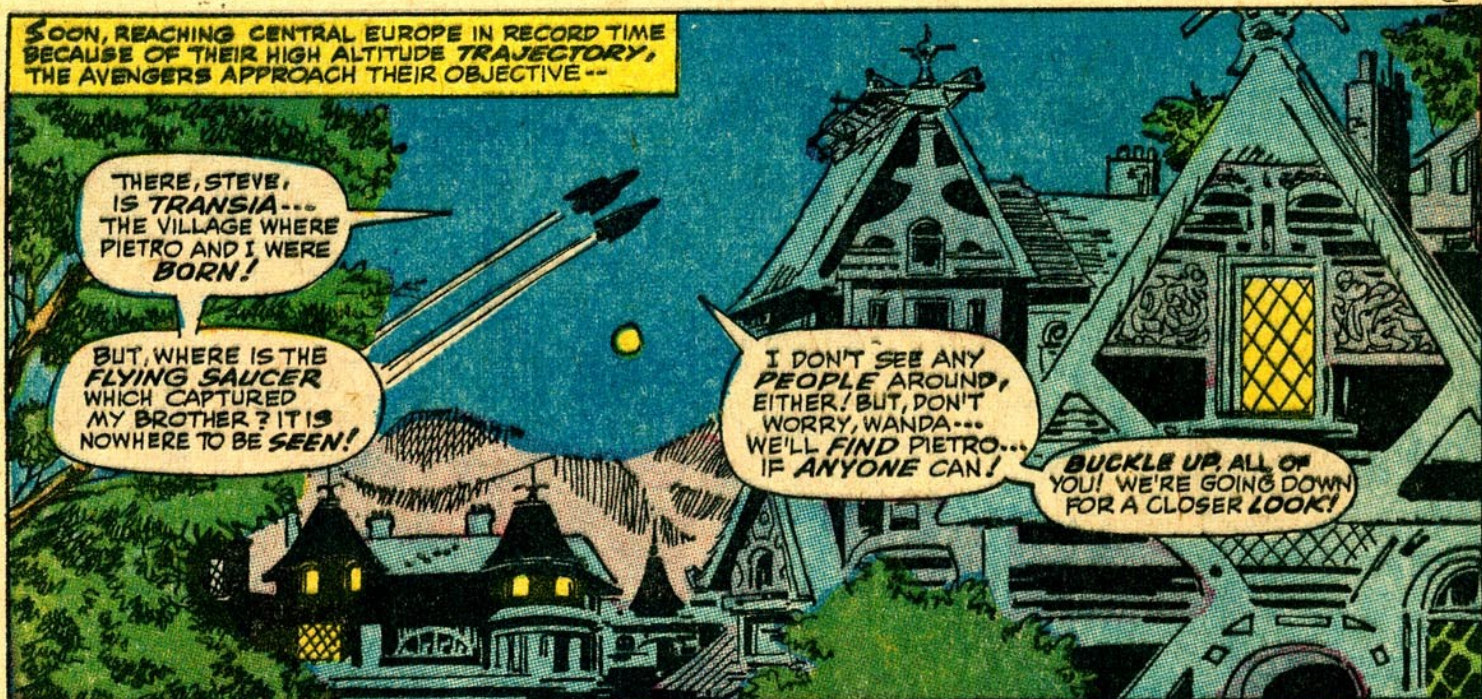
QUICKSILVER IS NO **PUSHOVER**... HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY HOSTILE FORCE ON BOARD THAT SAUCER WITH HIS **SUPER-SPEED!**

STILL, WE'VE NO WAY OF
KNOWING WHO--OR WHAT
HE MAY BE FACING!

IF THE SAUCER
IS **REALLY** FROM
OUTER SPACE--
NO, LET'S NOT
EVEN **THINK**
ABOUT **THAT!**

BUT, IF ANYTHING
HAS HAPPENED TO
HIM, HERE'S WHERE
THE **AVENGERS** SHOW
HOW THEY EARNED THEIR
NAME...IN SPADES!

SOON, REACHING CENTRAL EUROPE IN RECORD TIME BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH ALTITUDE TRAJECTORY, THE AVENGERS APPROACH THEIR OBJECTIVE --



THERE, STEVE, IS TRANSIA... THE VILLAGE WHERE PIETRO AND I WERE BORN!

BUT, WHERE IS THE FLYING SAUCER WHICH CAPTURED MY BROTHER? IT IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

I DON'T SEE ANY PEOPLE AROUND, EITHER! BUT, DON'T WORRY, WANDA... WE'LL FIND PIETRO... IF ANYONE CAN!

BUCKLE UP, ALL OF YOU! WE'RE GOING DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!



THEN, ABRUPTLY...

WAIT! CHANGE YOUR COURSE! CAP -- PULL UP!

SOME SORT OF FORCE FIELD LIES AHEAD! I CAN FEEL IT..!



WHEW! YOU WERE RIGHT! OUR INSTRUMENTS DETECTED IT, TOO... AT THE LAST SECOND!

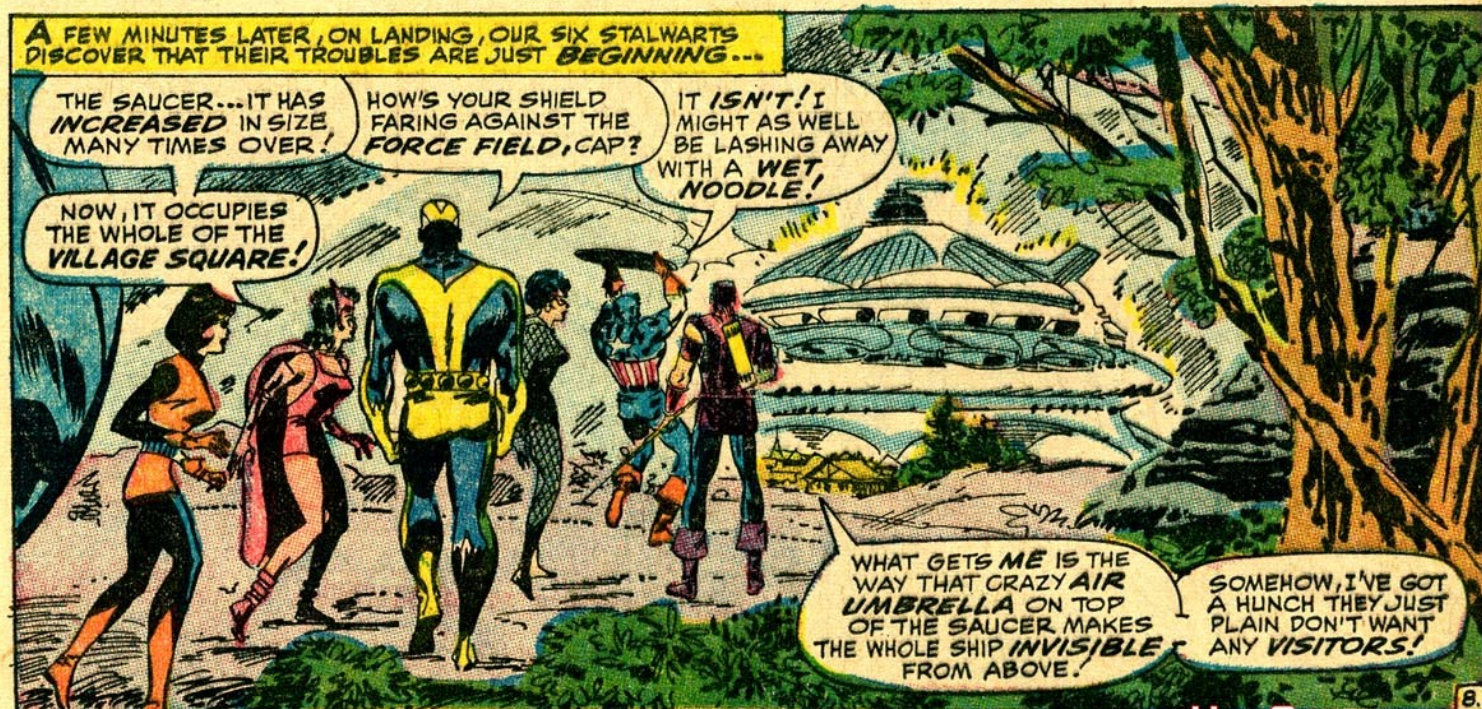
BUT, IT'S ALMOST INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE!



I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR POWERS INCLUDED ESP, WANDA! WHEN DID YOU DEVELOP A RADAR SENSE?

IT... MUST HAVE HAPPENED DURING OUR PROLONGED LEAVE, STEVE!

AT ANY RATE, I'M GLAD I NOW HAVE IT!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, ON LANDING, OUR SIX STALWARTS DISCOVER THAT THEIR TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING...

THE SAUCER... IT HAS INCREASED IN SIZE MANY TIMES OVER!

HOW'S YOUR SHIELD FARING AGAINST THE FORCE FIELD, CAP?

IT ISN'T! I MIGHT AS WELL BE LASHING AWAY WITH A WET NOODLE!

NOW, IT OCCUPIES THE WHOLE OF THE VILLAGE SQUARE!

WHAT GETS ME IS THE WAY THAT CRAZY AIR UMBRELLA ON TOP OF THE SAUCER MAKES THE WHOLE SHIP INVISIBLE FROM ABOVE.

SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY JUST PLAIN DON'T WANT ANY VISITORS!

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SUDDENLY, AROUND A BEND IN THE PREVIOUSLY GLOOMY CAVE ...

THAT GLARE... IT'S AS BRIGHT AS DAYLIGHT!

AND YET, WE'RE STILL FAR BELOW SURFACE LEVEL! LET'S GO... BUT, BE READY FOR ANYTHING!



THEN, THEIR TRAINED EYES QUICKLY BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO THE RESTORED LIGHT, THE MYSTIFIED AVENGERS EMERGE INTO AN ENORMOUS OPEN AREA, WHERE THEY ARE ASTONISHED TO FIND--

HOLY COW! WHOEVER'S RAMRODDIN' THE SAUCER HAS A WHOLE UNDERGROUND COMPLEX SET UP FOR HIMSELF!

YOU COULD PUT ALL A SHEA STADIUM IN HERE, AND NOT LOSE EVEN ONE CRUMMY FOUL BALL!

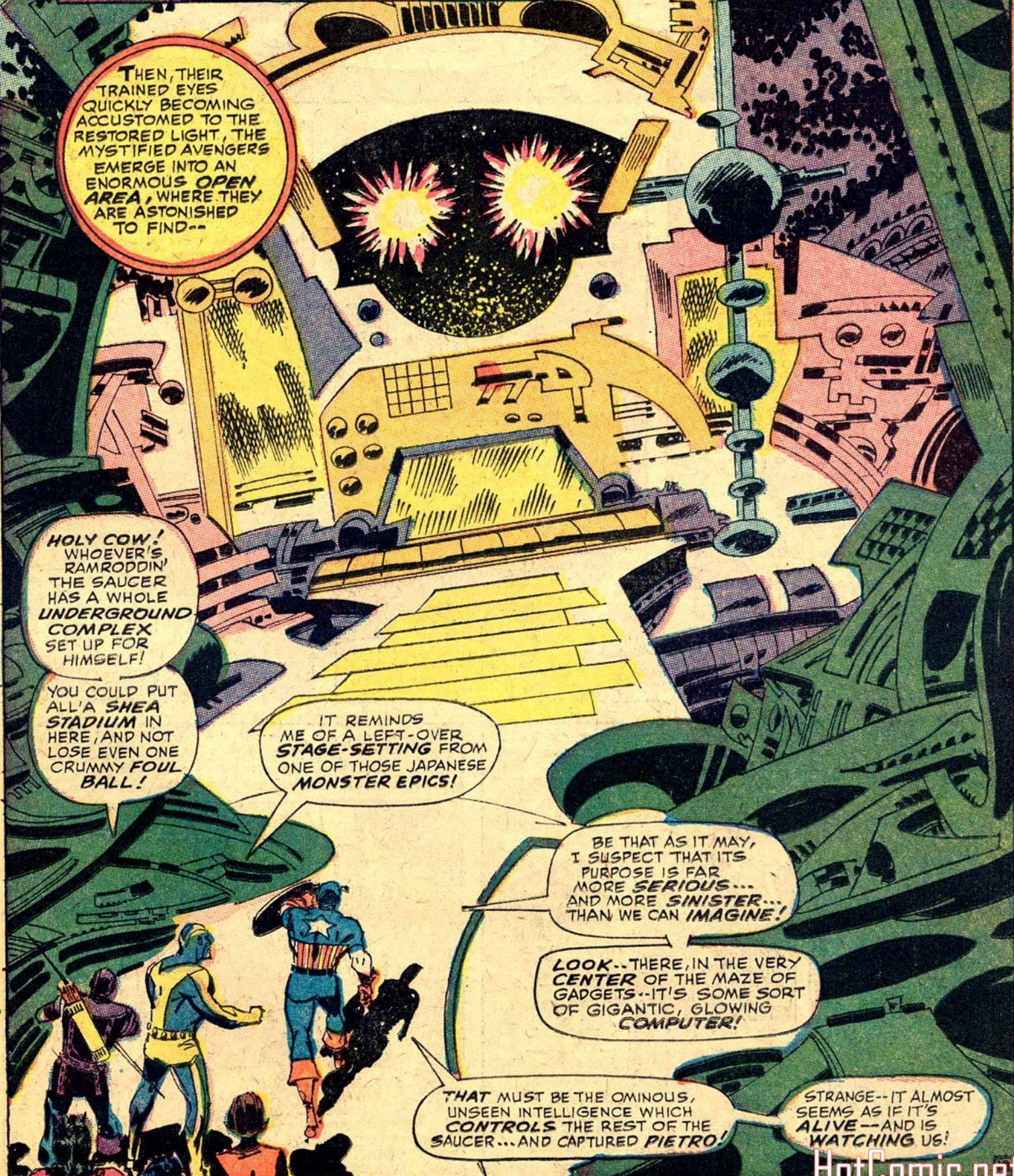
IT REMINDS ME OF A LEFT-OVER STAGE-SETTING FROM ONE OF THOSE JAPANESE MONSTER EPICS!

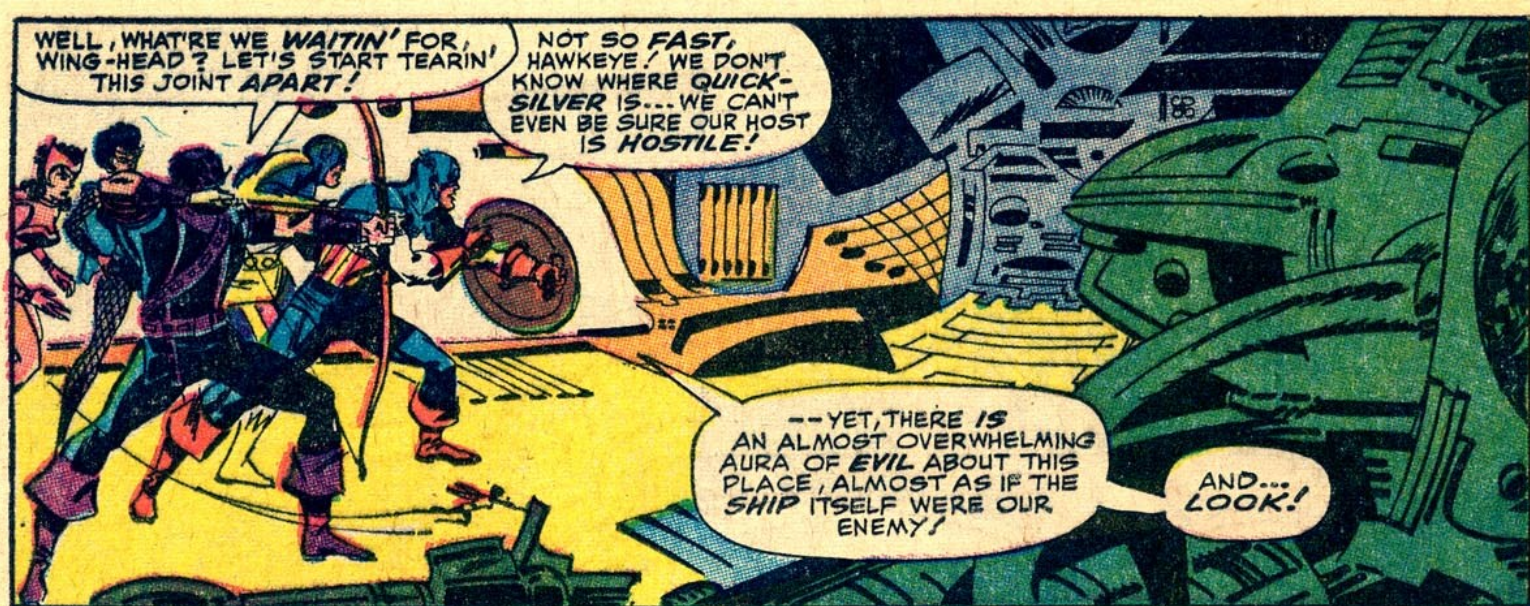
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I SUSPECT THAT ITS PURPOSE IS FAR MORE SERIOUS... AND MORE SINISTER... THAN WE CAN IMAGINE!

LOOK--THERE, IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE MAZE OF GADGETS--IT'S SOME SORT OF GIGANTIC, GLOWING COMPUTER!

THAT MUST BE THE OMINOUS, UNSEEN INTELLIGENCE WHICH CONTROLS THE REST OF THE SAUCER... AND CAPTURED PIETRO!

STRANGE--IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF IT'S ALIVE--AND IS WATCHING US!





WELL, WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR, WING-HEAD? LET'S START TEARIN' THIS JOINT APART!

NOT SO FAST, HAWKEYE! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE QUICK-SILVER IS... WE CAN'T EVEN BE SURE OUR HOST IS HOSTILE!

--YET, THERE IS AN ALMOST OVERWHELMING AURA OF EVIL ABOUT THIS PLACE, ALMOST AS IF THE SHIP ITSELF WERE OUR ENEMY!

AND... LOOK!



THERE... IN THAT GADGET-LADEN CHAIR, WITH THOSE STRANGE MECHANICAL DEVICES ATTACHED TO HIM! WHO IS IT, WANDA?

SO... SOME OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAMPIONS, THE SO-CALLED AVENGERS, WOULD SEEK TO CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE STARS! BUT, IT WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

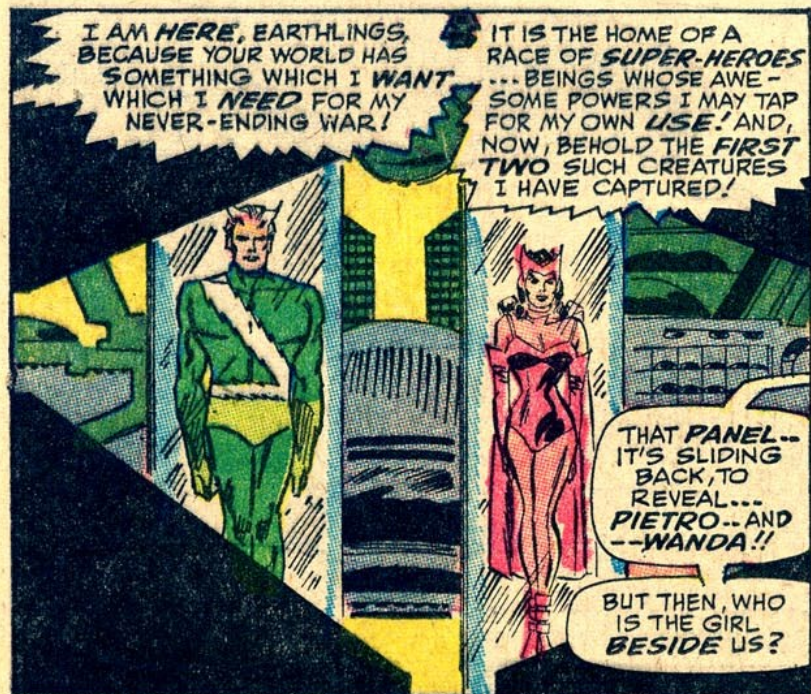
BECAUSE IT SUITS ME, I SHALL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, FEMALE! I AM IXAR, FROM THE STAR-SUN SIRIUS... AND I AM ENGAGED IN INTERGALACTIC WARFARE WITH POWERFUL FOES!

AS FOR YOUR PUNY PLANET, IT MEANS NOTHING TO ONE SUCH AS I! IT IS A MERE PAWN IN A STRUGGLE BEGUN CENTURIES AGO!

THAT VOICE... IT'S COMIN' FROM THE COMPUTER!

BUT, WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE IN ATTACKING EARTH THIS WAY?

DON'T MOVE! LET HIM TALK! WE'VE GOT TO LEARN ALL WE CAN!



I AM HERE, EARTHLINGS, BECAUSE YOUR WORLD HAS SOMETHING WHICH I WANT WHICH I NEED FOR MY NEVER-ENDING WAR!

IT IS THE HOME OF A RACE OF SUPER-HEROES... BEINGS WHOSE AWE-SOME POWERS I MAY TAP FOR MY OWN USE! AND, NOW, BEHOLD THE FIRST TWO SUCH CREATURES I HAVE CAPTURED!

THAT PANEL-- IT'S SLIDING BACK, TO REVEAL... PIETRO... AND --WANDA!!

BUT THEN, WHO IS THE GIRL BESIDE US?



SOME SORT OF ANDROID, I'D GUESS... THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN WATCHING HER CLOSELY EVER SINCE WE ARRIVED!

SO... YOU KNEW ALL ALONG? BUT HOW..?

LET'S JUST SAY I SUSPECTED! YOUR NEW POWERS... AND THIS GAVE... WERE ALL A BIT TOO EASY!

VERY CLEVER, MORTAL! STILL, YOUR CLEVERNESS WILL NOT SAVE YOU!

SHE...SHE'S STARTING TO **CHANGE**... BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

YES...FOR, I AM BUT AN **ANDROID**, AS CAPTAIN AMERICA GUESSED...

A MERE INVENTION OF **IXAR**...CREATED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF LURING YOU INTO HIS **TRAP**...

...A TRAP FROM WHICH YOU SHALL NEVER **ESCAPE**!

Y'KNOW, I WISH I HAD A **SAWBUCK** FOR EVERY TIME I'VE HEARD SOME NUT SAY THAT!

DON'T **UNDERESTIMATE** HER, GOLIATH! I'M BETTING SHE'S GOT AN **ACE** UP HER SLEEVE!

JUST THE SAME, MY MONEY'S ON THE **AVENGERS**!

SO...YOU REFUSE TO **SURRENDER**! VERY WELL...THEN, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE YOU BY **FORCE**, AS WE CAPTURED YOUR FELLOW EARTHLINGS!

WHO'S GOING TO **DO** ALL THIS CAPTURING, LADY...**YOU**, OR THAT BODILESS HUNK OF GRAY MATTER YOU CALL **IXAR**?

LOOK **BEHIND** YOU...AND YOUR FALSE BRAVADO SHALL COME TO AN **END**!

THEN, WHIRLING ABOUT AT THE METALLIC CLANG OF A **SECOND** SLIDING PANEL, THE STARTLED STALWARTS BEHOLD...

MORE ANDROIDS...AN ALMOST ENDLESS LINE OF THEM!

FAR MORE THAN ANDROIDS-- THEY ARE THE **ULTROIDS**...THE STRONGEST AND MOST TIRELESS OF THE MANY WEAPONS OF **IXAR**!

ONCE THEY HAVE CAPTURED YOU, **YOUR** POWERS ALSO SHALL FLOW THROUGH THEIR ARTIFICIAL VEINS... TILL EACH OF THEM IS THE EQUAL OF **ALL** THE AVENGERS!

SO THAT'S THEIR GAME! EACH OF THEM IS LIKE A WALKING **STORAGE BATTERY**... AND IXAR PLANS TO USE OUR POWERS TO FORGE THEM INTO AN INVINCIBLE **ARMY!**

BUT, FROM THE WAY THEY'RE LUMBERING **TOWARDS**

US, I'D SAY THEY HAVEN'T YET ABSORBED ANY OF **PIETRO'S SPEED!**

THAT'S **THEIR** TOUGH LUCK! GANGWAY, AND GIVE ME A **CLEAR SHOT!**

THWISH!

PARTNER, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING **MYSELF!**

BEWARE THE COLORFUL ONE'S **SHIELD!** UNNH?

KRASH!

HEY, CAP... WADDAYA **KNOW!** THOSE CHEERFUL CHARLIES CAN **TALK!**

THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE A NICE NOISY **BATTLE** TO WAKE UP THE OL' CORPUSCLES!

SPLANG!

THANG!

I'M GLAD YOU **FEEL** THAT WAY ABOUT IT, PAL! JUST REMEMBER... WE'RE PLAYING FOR **KEEPS!**

LET **THEM** REMEMBER IT, CAP!

PERSONALLY, I'M JUST GONNA HAVE MYSELF A **BALL**, AND LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY **MAY!**

THWAP!

THAT WAS **ONE** MANEUVER THOSE ALIEN ANDROIDS DIDN'T EXPECT! HANK RIPPED UP THE METAL **FLOOR** BENEATH THEIR FEET... AND SENT THEM **SPRAWLING!**

KEEP IT UP, GOLIATH! THIS IS MY **CHANCE** TO TRY AND REACH **PIETRO** AND **WANDA!**

STOP THEM! MY ULTROIDS! THEY MUST NOT FREE THEIR FELLOW **AVENGERS**... OR THE ODDS OF **BATTLE** MAY CHANGE IN THEIR **FAVOR!**

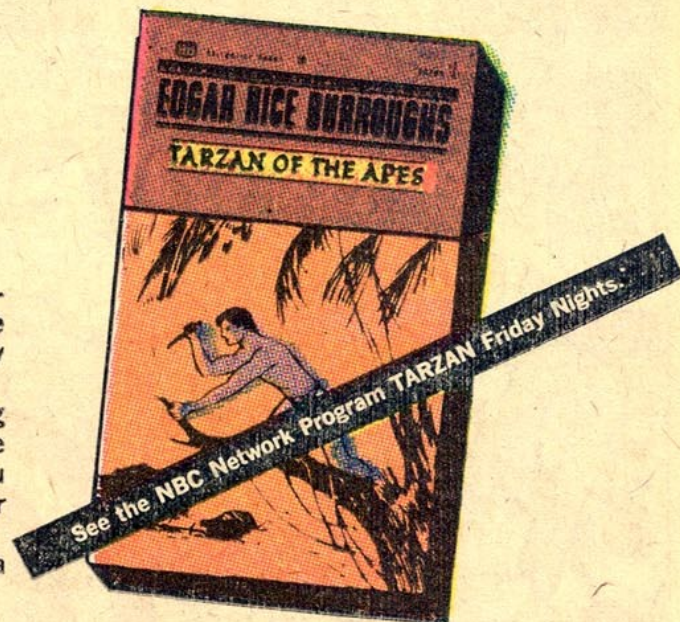
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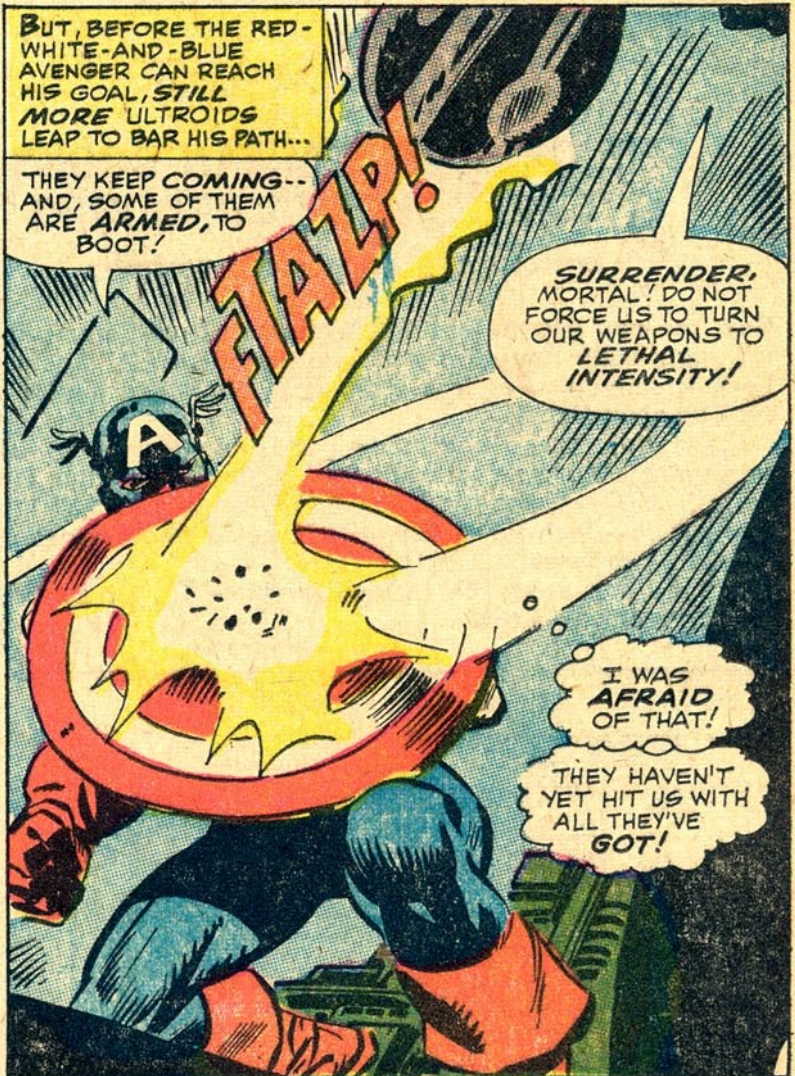
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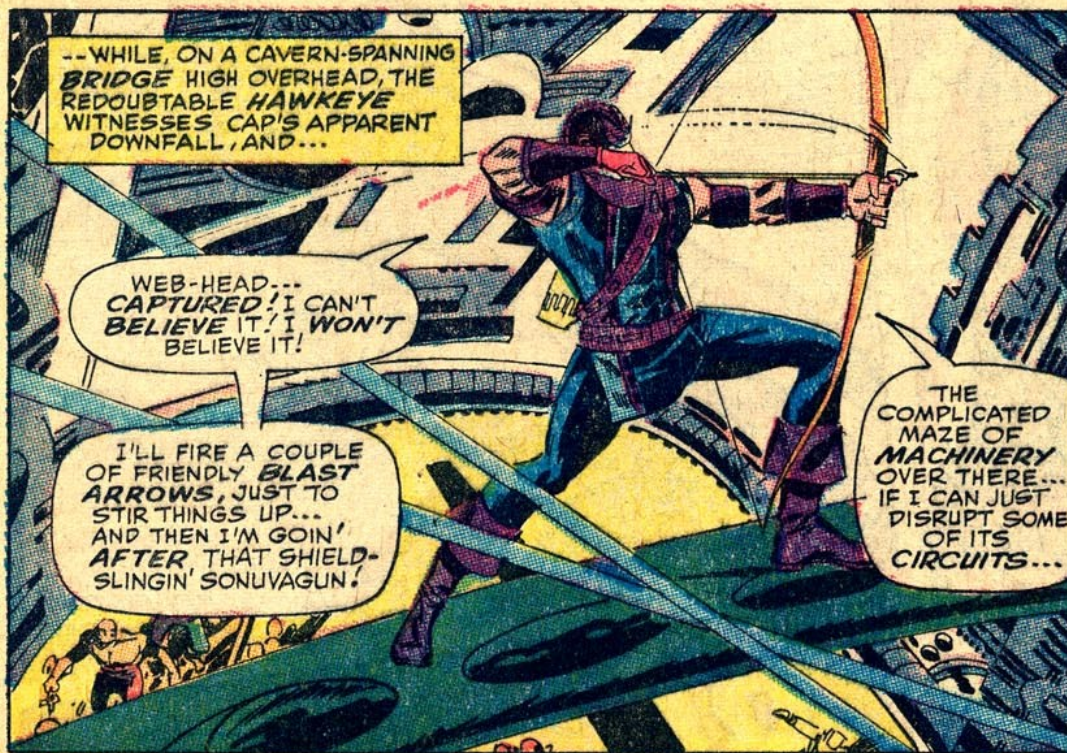
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--WHILE, ON A CAVERN-SPANNING BRIDGE HIGH OVERHEAD, THE REDOUBTABLE HAWKEYE WITNESSES CAP'S APPARENT DOWNFALL, AND...

WEB-HEAD... CAPTURED! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I WON'T BELIEVE IT!

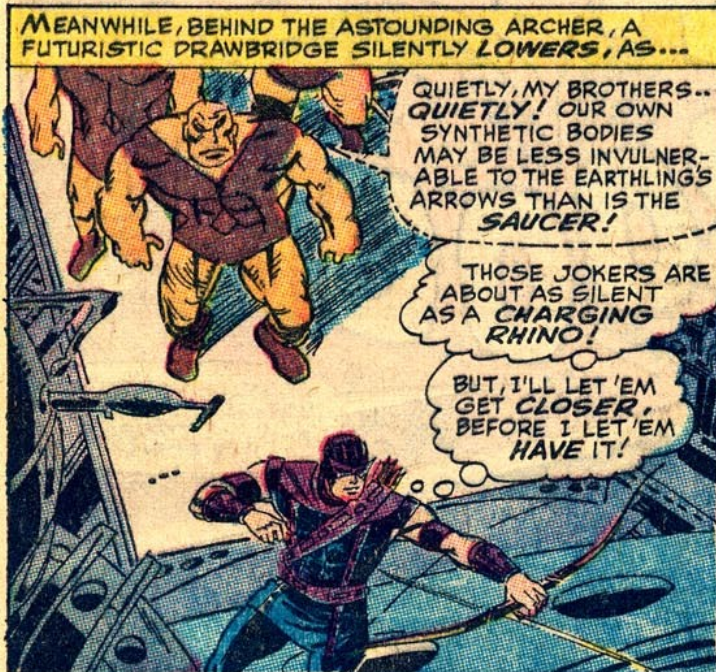
I'LL FIRE A COUPLE OF FRIENDLY BLAST ARROWS, JUST TO STIR THINGS UP... AND THEN I'M GOIN' AFTER THAT SHIELD-SLINGIN' SONUVAGUN!

THE COMPLICATED MAZE OF MACHINERY OVER THERE... IF I CAN JUST DISRUPT SOME OF ITS CIRCUITS...



NO GO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF METAL THIS PLACE IS MADE OF...

BUT, IT MAKES STEEL LOOK LIKE SO MUCH PAPIER-MACHE!

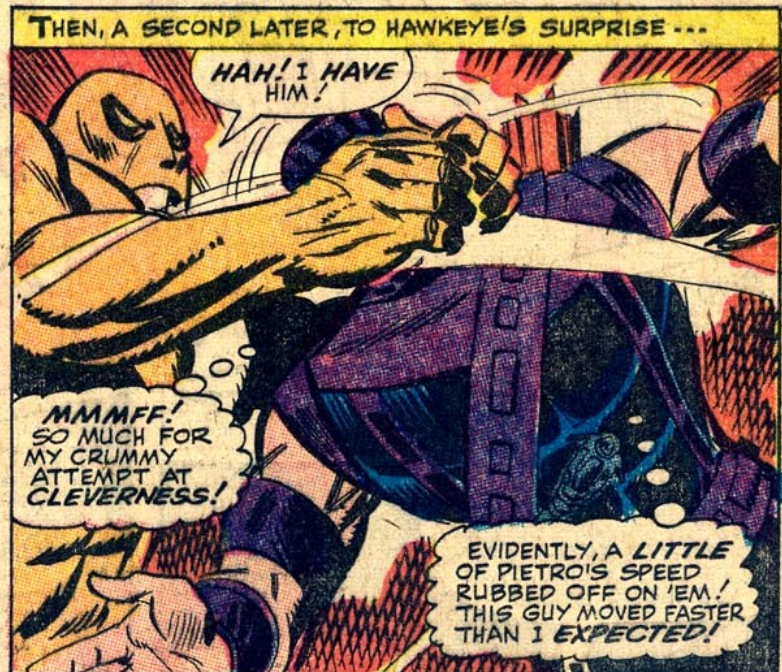


MEANWHILE, BEHIND THE ASTOUNDING ARCHER, A FUTURISTIC DRAWBRIDGE SILENTLY LOWERS, AS...

QUIETLY, MY BROTHERS... QUIETLY! OUR OWN SYNTHETIC BODIES MAY BE LESS INVULNERABLE TO THE EARTHLING'S ARROWS THAN IS THE SAUCER!

THOSE JOKERS ARE ABOUT AS SILENT AS A CHARGING RHINO!

BUT, I'LL LET 'EM GET CLOSER, BEFORE I LET 'EM HAVE IT!



THEN, A SECOND LATER, TO HAWKEYE'S SURPRISE...

HAH! I HAVE HIM!

MMMFF! SO MUCH FOR MY CRUMMY ATTEMPT AT CLEVERNESS!

EVIDENTLY, A LITTLE OF PIETRO'S SPEED RUBBED OFF ON 'EM! THIS GUY MOVED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!



YET, BEFORE THE POWERFUL HANDS OF THE ULTROID CAN FELL HAWKEYE, THE STRONGEST AVENGER OF ALL JOINS THE FRANTIC FRAY...

HOLD ON, BOYS! DON'T YOU KNOW IT ISN'T CRICKET TO ATTACK A FELLA FROM BEHIND?

UNNH! IT IS THE GIANT EARTHMAN... THE ONE CALLED GOLIATH!

WELL, HOW D'YA LIKE THAT! HIM THEY RECOGNIZE... ME THEY JUST CALL "EARTHLING"!

THAT SETTLES IT... I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO GET A NEW PRESS AGENT!

THE NEXT SECOND, THE TABLES ARE TURNED, AS...



OOOFF!
DIDN'T SEE
THAT ONE...
BEHIND
ME!

FRAK!

YOU ARE FORTUNATE,
MORTAL, THAT WE WISH
TO CAPTURE YOU ALIVE...
SO THAT WE MAY GAIN
YOUR **SIZE-CHANGING**
POWER!

AND,
JUST IN CASE
ANY OF OUR OTHER
MIXED-UP MARVELITES ARE ASK-
ING THEMSELVES THE SAME QUESTION,
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE TOOK A PEEK AT WHAT THE
WONDERFUL **WASP** IS ATTEMPTING, ONLY A
SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN
BEING THE SIZE OF AN
INSECT HAS ITS DISTINCT
ADVANTAGES... AND
THIS LOOKS LIKE **ONE**
OF THOSE TIMES!

THE **REST** OF THE
AVENGERS COULDN'T
GET THROUGH TO THIS
CONTROL PANEL
ABOVE WANDA AND
PIETRO... BUT NO-
BODY NOTICED
ME FLITTING
ABOUT!

THE ONLY DRAWBACK
IS, I'M NOT SURE JUST
WHICH OF THESE BUTTONS
FREES THEM! ALL I CAN
DO IS TRUST TO **LUCK!**

**BLACKING OUT...! CAN'T...
WITHSTAND ANY MORE
BLASTS...**



HANK'S OUT LIKE
A **LIGHT!** IT'S TOO
LATE TO HELP HIM
NOW!

BUT, IT'S **NOT** TOO
LATE TO SEND A
BLAST ARROW AT
THAT **RAY-PISTOL!**

**BA-
ROOOOM!**

SO MUCH, FOR THAT
POP-GUN! I WONDER
HOW THE **OTHERS**
ARE DOIN'!

BUT, THE
AVENGERS'
LUCK SEEMS
TO HAVE **RUN**
OUT, FOR...

OH...! THE
PANEL WAS **ELECTRONI-
CALLY BOOBY-TRAPPED!**
THE **SHOCK--!** CAN'T
TAKE IT--!



IT'S--ALL UP
TO--HAWKEYE--OR
ELSE--WE'VE--
FAILED--!

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HOWEVER, THE WORD "FAILURE" ISN'T EXACTLY IN OUR AMAZING ARROW-SLINGER'S VOCABULARY, AS...

LAY DOWN YOUR PUNY WEAPON AND SURRENDER, HELPLESS ONE! SURELY, YOU MUST REALIZE IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU ARE OVERCOME BY SHEER NUMBERS!

IXAR, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, YOU'RE SPREADIN' IT ON MUCH TOO THICK!

I GOT ME A HUNCH YOU WOULDN'T BE FLAPPIN' YOUR GUMS LIKE THAT... UNLESS I WAS SOMEHOW IN A POSITION TO CAUSE YOU SOME TROUBLE!

THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT A WEAKNESS... IF I CAN JUST FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

GET HIM! HE CANNOT POSSIBLY POSSESS ENOUGH SHAFTS TO DOWN ALL OF US!

THEN, SUDDENLY...INEXPLICABLY... HAWKEYE WHIRLS ABOUT, AND...

RIGHT YOU ARE, BRIGHT-EYES!

WHICH MEANS... I'VE GOTTA MAKE EVERY ONE OF 'EM COUNT!

THEN, THERE IS A MIGHTY BLAST AS THE HIGH-EXPLOSIVE ARROW STRIKES ITS MARK... A LONG METAL TUBE THAT HAD STOOD DIRECTLY BEHIND HIM... AND, AN INSTANT LATER...

HAH! I BUSTED A WATER PIPE!

SO, CHALK UP ANOTHER POINT FOR OL' HAWKEYE!

WHEN YOU CHARACTERS RUSHED ME, INSTEAD A USIN' YOUR ZAP-GUNS, I KINDA FIGURED THAT YOU DIDN'T WANNA HIT SOME-THIN' BEHIND ME!

WHOOSH!

SO, I TOOK A GUESS...AND IT SURE PAID OFF!

LUCKY FOR ME, THAT PIPE WAS MADE OUT OF A WEAKER MATERIAL THAN MOST OF THIS CRUMMY SET-UP!

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, WITHOUT WARNING...

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR IXAR AND HIS CREW...THEY AIN'T QUITTERS!

PTAP!

THAT NET-- FLYIN' AT ME FROM OUTTA NOWHERE--

NO PLACE TO RUN!

CLOSE IN ON HIM...WITHOUT DELAY! HE CAN FIRE NO MORE ARROWS WHILE ENMESHED IN THE ABSORBO-NET!

HE'S... RIGHT! THIS THING'S STICKIN' TO ME LIKE A SECOND SKIN!

WE OBEY, IXAR!

BUT, I'D BETTER STOP PATTIN' MYSELF ON THE BACK, AND START RESCUIN' SOME AVENGERS!

MY ONE CONSOLATION IS...AT LEAST NATASHA HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THE ENIGMATIC **BLACK WIDOW**--THE BEAUTEOUS GIRL WHO WAS ONCE THE IRON CURTAIN'S MOST DANGEROUS **SPY**...?

THE ULTROIDS SEEM PROGRAMMED MAINLY TO FIGHT THE **AVENGERS**!

OTHERWISE, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED SEEING ME HIGH OVERHEAD ON THIS **CROSSBEAM**!

THEY HAVE TAKEN **HAWKEYE PRISONER**! THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO FOR THE MOMENT...EXCEPT **WAIT**!

THUS, FROM HER UNSEEN **VANTAGE POINT** HIGH ABOVE, MADAME **NATASHA** WATCHES ANXIOUSLY--AS THE UNCONSCIOUS **ARCHER** WHOM SHE LOVES IS TAKEN BEFORE THE **MAMMOTH BRAIN** CALLED **IXAR**..

WELL DONE, MY ULTROIDS! BY **SEPARATING** THE MORTAL BEINGS, YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN **CAPTURING THEM**--- THAT YOU MAY SOON ABSORB THEIR **POWERS**!

BUT WAIT, O **IXAR**! ONE OF THE INTRUDERS IS **UNACCOUNTED FOR**!

IT IS THE FEMALE CALLED THE **BLACK WIDOW**! THOUGH SHE IS NOT TRULY AN **AVENGER**, SHE MAY YET POSE A **THREAT** TO US!

WE MUST SEEK HER OUT AND **DESTROY HER**... OR OUR VICTORY IS NOT **COMPLETE**!

DO AS SHE **BIDS** YOU, MY ULTROIDS! NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH OUR UTILIZING THE POWERS OF THE **AVENGERS** FOR OUR OWN **ENDS**!

BUT, MOVING AS SILENTLY AS A SILKEN SHADOW ALONG THE WALLS OF THE SUBTERRANEAN ENCLOSURE.. THE ULTROIDS' PREY SEEMS TO HAVE **OTHER IDEAS**...

NEVER HAVE THE **AVENGERS** KNOWN A GREATER **PERIL**... OR FACED A GRAVER **MENACE** THAN NOW CONFRONTS THEM!

ALL OF THEM ARE HELD CAPTIVE EXCEPT **CAPTAIN AMERICA**---AND EVEN I DO NOT KNOW THE FATE OF THE COURAGEOUS **STEVE ROGERS**!

THUS, MY ONLY HOPE IS TO FREE **QUICK-SILVER** AND THE **SCARLET WITCH**!

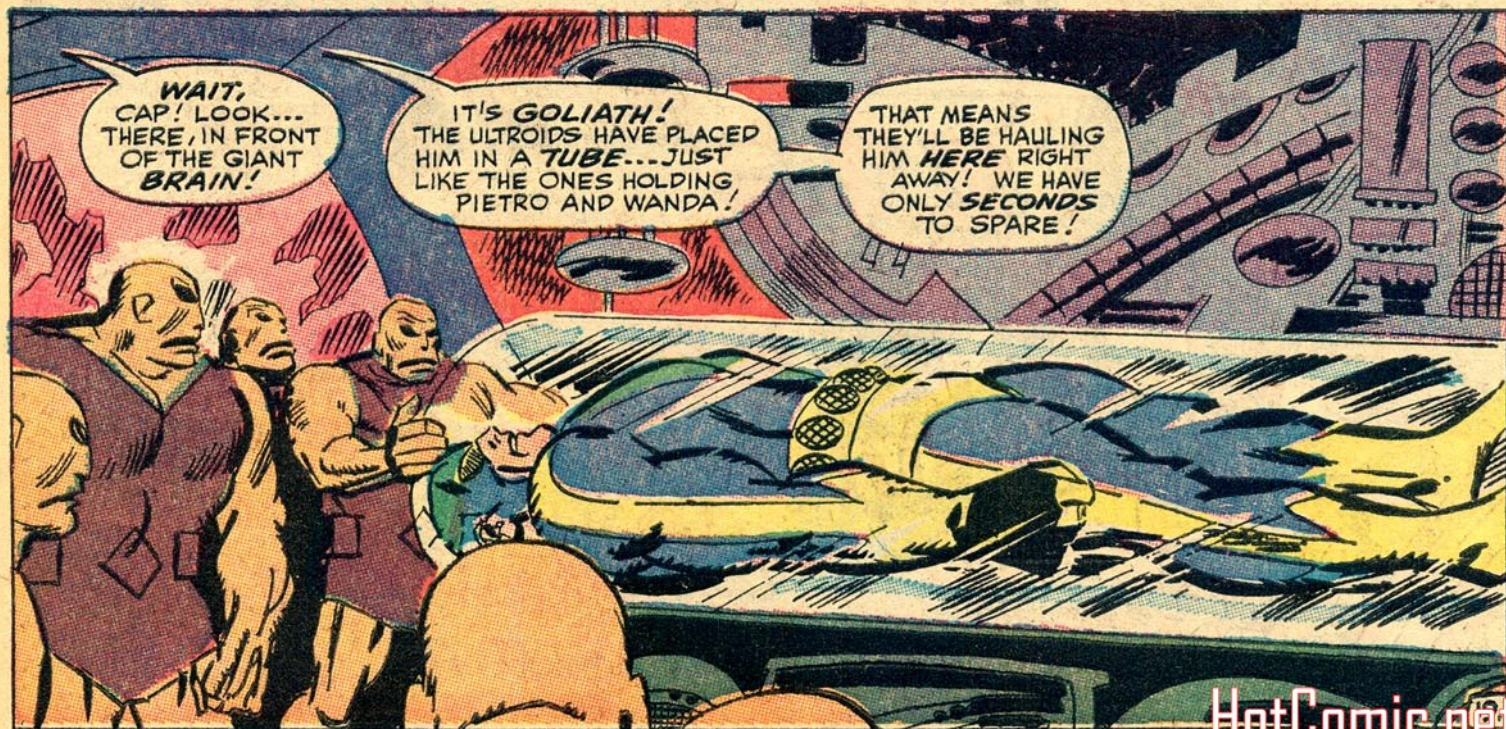
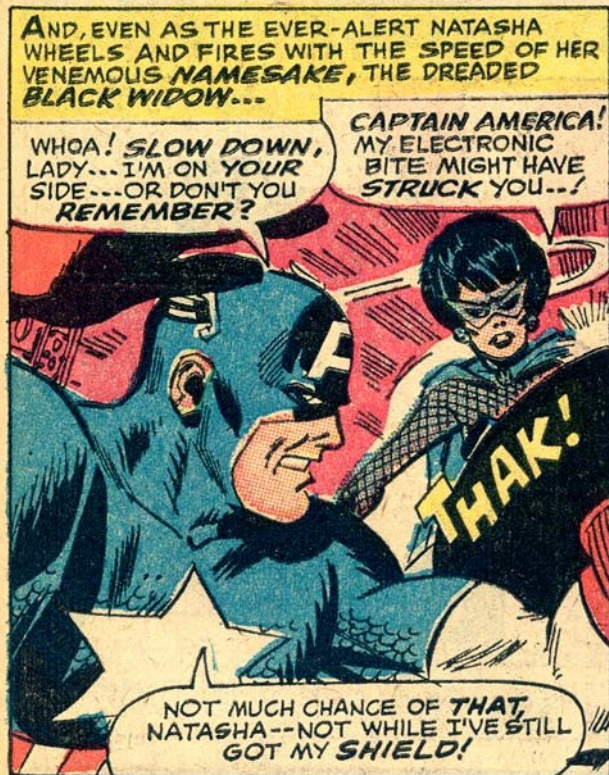
WITH THE OTHERS CAPTURED, THEY ARE GUARDED NOW BY ONLY ONE LONE ULTROID!

THEN, DROPPING CATLIKE TO THE FLOOR BEHIND THE WATCHFUL AUTOMATON, NATASHA TRIES A DARING **MANEUVER**...

GUARD! I HAVE BEEN SENT BY **IXAR** HIMSELF.. TO TAKE THE PRISONERS TO HIM!

WHAT?? ONE OF THE EARTHLING **FEMALES**! MY CIRCUITS WARN ME THAT THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF **TRICK**!

BUT, WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO **ACCOMPLISH** BY SUCH BRAZEN ACTION?



HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR EVEN THAT BRIEF TIME IS DESTINED TO BE DENIED TO THE IMPERILED PAIR, AS...

O IXAR, WE MUST REPORT THAT WE CANNOT FIND THE ONE KNOWN AS CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THEN, LOOK AGAIN, YOU WITLESS FOOLS! LEAVE NO CORNER UNSEARCHED UNTIL HE IS IN SHACKLES...OR DESTROYED!

FOR, THOUGH HE HAS NO TRUE SUPER-POWERS...IN MANY WAYS HE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS EARTHLING OF ALL!

HOLD! MY AUTOMATIC RELAY SYSTEM REVEALS THAT THE ULTROID GUARDING OUR FIRST TWO PRISONERS IS INOPERATIVE!

IT IS THERE THAT YOU WILL FIND HE WHO HAS BEEN THE RALLYING FORCE BEHIND THE AVENGERS! GO... AT ONCE!

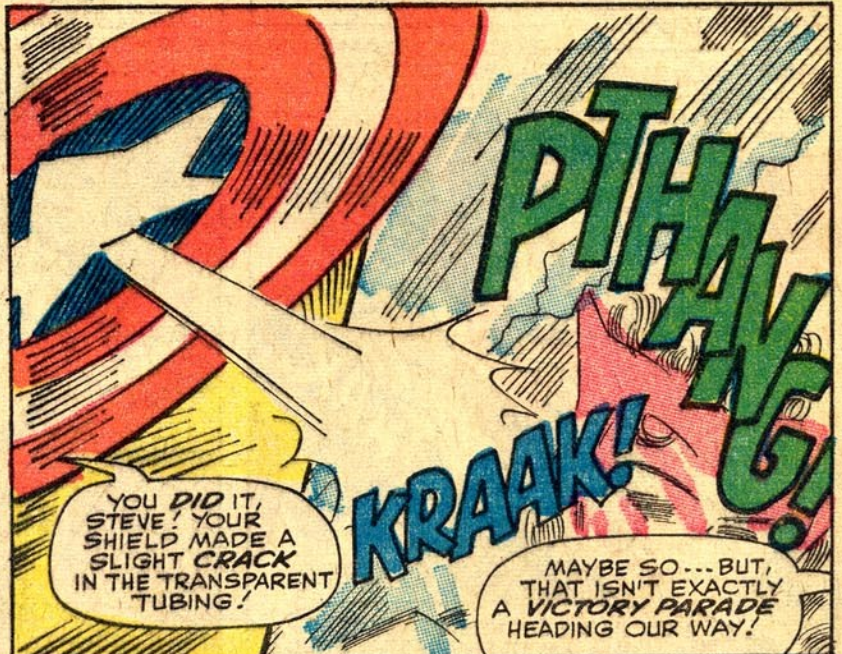
HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US THIS TIME, O IXAR!

WHILE, NEARBY...

STAND BACK, NATASHA! THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO CRACK THOSE OVER-GROWN TEST-TUBES!

HURRY! EVEN NOW I HEAR THE PURSUING ULTROIDS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, LADY! OUR TIME'S RUNNING OUT!



YOU DID IT, STEVE! YOUR SHIELD MADE A SLIGHT CRACK IN THE TRANSPARENT TUBING!

MAYBE SO... BUT, THAT ISN'T EXACTLY A VICTORY PARADE HEADING OUR WAY!

AND, A MERE HEARTBEAT LATER, BEFORE THE WHIZZING SHIELD CAN RETURN TO CAPTAIN AMERICA'S HAND, AN OVERWHELMING BLAST ENGULFS THE REMAINING TWO AVENGERS, AS...

THE FORCE OF THOSE RAY-PISTOLS... IT'S MAKING ME... BLACK OUT!

WE GAVE IT ALL WE HAD... BUT OUR BEST WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH!

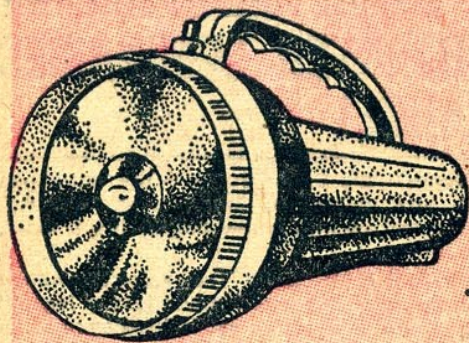
AND, IF WE END UP IN THOSE GLASS CYLINDERS OF IXAR-- IT COULD BE THE END OF--THE AVENGERS!

YOUR WORDS ARE WELL CHOSEN, EVEN IN UTTER, ABYSMAL DEFEAT, CAPTAIN AMERICA! FOR, SOON, MY ARTIFICIAL ULTROIDS SHALL EACH POSSESS ALL THE POWERS OF THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES!

POWERS WHICH YOU SHALL HAVE LOST FOREVER-- TOGETHER WITH YOUR LIVES!

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20



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THE LATEST LOW-DOWN ON MARVEL'S LIGHT-HEARTED LUMINARIES

FOR LITERATURE LOVERS AT LARGE!

ITEM: Before we do another thing, we've gotta give a mighty Marvel vote of thanks to the famous serviceman's newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, for the terrific write-up they gave our mags just a few ishes ago! We've received enthusiastic letters of comment about it from G.I.'s all over the world, and no wonder, considering that *Stars and Stripes* had things like this to say about us: "(Marvel is) responsible for getting the collegiate crowd on the comics kick"! Then, they go on to say, "From the Ivy League to the Pacific Coast Conference, more than 100 college campuses have their own fan-club chapter of the 'Merry Marvel Marching Society'." Not to mention: "—They are the first breed of super-characters that young adults can really identify with." Though the thing that really knocked us out was when we read: "—It's anything but 'just another fad' when the professors are reading them, too." We'd love to quote lots more, but you all know how inordinately modest we are — so we'll just toss another "much obliged" to our great G.I. boosters, and let it go at that!

ITEM: We get letters each day complaining about the difficulty of finding Marvel mags in some areas. The best way to prevent this unspeakable tragedy is to tell your dealer that he should be sure to display the Marvel titles up front. We're not trying to get you to shill for us, but unfortunately some dealers haven't yet realized the difference between Marvels and ordinary comics — and only you, O Keeper of the Faith, can remedy that situation by letting your dealer know that we're taking over the world — together!

ITEM: We never thought we'd say anything like this to you — because you know how greedy we are — but for the love of Aunt Petunia, don't send us your nickels, dimes, quarters, or postage stamps for our rings, mini-books, plastic figures, bubble gum cards, toys, or any of that jazz! We don't have any here at the Bullpen — honest! We're not the ones who sell those items — the manufacturers themselves do that! So, watch for all our Marvel goodies at your local stores and spare the gang in the Bullpen from having to lick a zillion stamps daily! Okay?

ITEM: It's time for another of our extravagant explanations! Practically every Marvelite in captivity has written to ask why we printed a TV ad a month or so ago which featured another company's character! Some of the letters were cute as all get-out, describing us as turncoats, traitors, defectors, or just plain weak-minded! Perhaps it was a startling sight to see a rival super-hero staring at you from the pages of one of our own publications! But, the explanation is really kind'a simple. We most sincerely believe in the theory of a free press. We also believe that honest competition is healthy for everybody concerned. So, if a competitor wants to pay us his own good money in order to buy an ad in one of our mags, we're delighted. Actually, we consider it a great compliment to us — for it proves that no matter how they may hate to admit it, even they are willing to pay a bundle just to appear

in a Marvel mag! (Say! Do you think they'd accept an ad for one of our mags in a book of theirs? It sure would be fun to find out!)

ITEM: Have we told you yet about the big COMICS FAN CONVENTION held in midtown Manhattan at the end of July? The guest of honor was none other than Jolly Jack Kirby, who gave a short, enthusiastically-received speech to his many fans, and then answered a whole kaboodle of questions from everyone in sight. A few weeks later, at another Comics Con, practically the whole Marvel Bullpen was in attendance. Smilin' Stan talked and talked and talked and talked — and talked — for hours, in his usual capriciously confusing manner, while Rascally Roy, Fabulous Flo, Jazzy Johnny, Wild Bill, Jaunty Jim, Mirthful Marie, Rambunctious Ron, Dandy Denny, Liltin' Larry, and Merry Morrie did their brilliant bit to spread the word of Marvel-dom thruout the awed assemblage! Our thanks to Dave Kaler, John Benson, and the many, many frantic fans whose heartwarming hospitality and good humor helped to make the occasion a truly memorable one for us all!

ITEM: Before next month's mags go to the printer, we should start receiving your cogent comments concerning our Marvel Super-Heroes TV Spectaculars! So, watch this space, as well as our various letters pages, for a detailed summing-up of the pros and cons of Marvel's first venture into what we laughingly refer to as — Show Biz! We have a hunch it'll be fun to compare notes. And remember — every one of you true believers is an official Marvel Critic-at-Large! We have spoken!



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #59: We call it "Doomsday!" You'll call it possibly the greatest F.F. spectacular of them all! Featuring Dr.

Doom — the Silver Surfer — the Inhumans — and mebbe we can squeeze the F.F. themselves into a few pages! It's a blast, dad!

SPIDER-MAN #45: The eagerly-awaited wrap-up of our now-famous Lizard legend! See one of the greatest fight scenes of all time as Spidey, with one arm in a sling, dares to tackle one of his deadliest foes!

X-MEN #28: We hadda do it! At long-awaited last, the X-Men face a brand new mutant menace whose super-power is ... the Wail of the Banshee! Also, wait'll you get a peek at the overwhelming, unspeakable Ogre!

DAREDEVIL #24: In answer to a zillion requests, we have another nutty, nail-biting mystery for you! And, just to make it extra-special, it features the return of a fighting-mad Ka-Zar — plus, the most serious threat yet to Matt's secret identity! A sizzler!

THOR #136: The big one, at last! Odin decides to make Jane Foster an immortal, so that she and the Thunder God can be married! But, it leads to one of the most unusual, unsuspected problems of all! We kid thee not!

STRANGE TALES #153: Nick Fury stars in one of the most hair-raising auto chases since the Perils of Pauline, as Hydra strikes again — while Dr. Strange attacks an army of Mindless Ones, single-handed, to save a helpless girl!

SUSPENSE #86: You've never seen Iron Man stronger — more supremely powerful — than now, when he battles the menacing Mandarin to a fateful finish! Meanwhile, Captain America invades an enemy stronghold to learn the secret of the dreaded Z-Ray!

ASTONISH #88: The surprise sensation of the season! Mighty Prince Namor faces a menace from outer space — and the evil Attuma, as well! And, talk about fights! You'll flip your wig over the Hulk's bomb-shell battle with blustering Boomerang!

SGT. FURY #38: The hard-hitting Howlers blaze into action in the Mediterranean theater, alongside a Japanese-American hero of the famed Nisei regiment. In addition, you'll wanna be on hand to find out the latest scoop on the wounded Dino Manelli!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #7: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Never before have so many fans received so much for so little!

FANCY MASTERPIECES #6: Another terrific trio of titanic tales with everybody's Golden-Age favorite, Captain America — plus three fantasy classics!

MARVEL TALES #6: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and the high-flying, heavenly Wasp! All in one mag — the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase!



Let's meet 26 more M.M.S. members!

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Bernard Fauntleroy
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Martin Ariner
Mersey, N. J.
David Jevass
Houston, Tex.
Jay Kier
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Wayne Metcalf
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James Higgins
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Daniel Callahan
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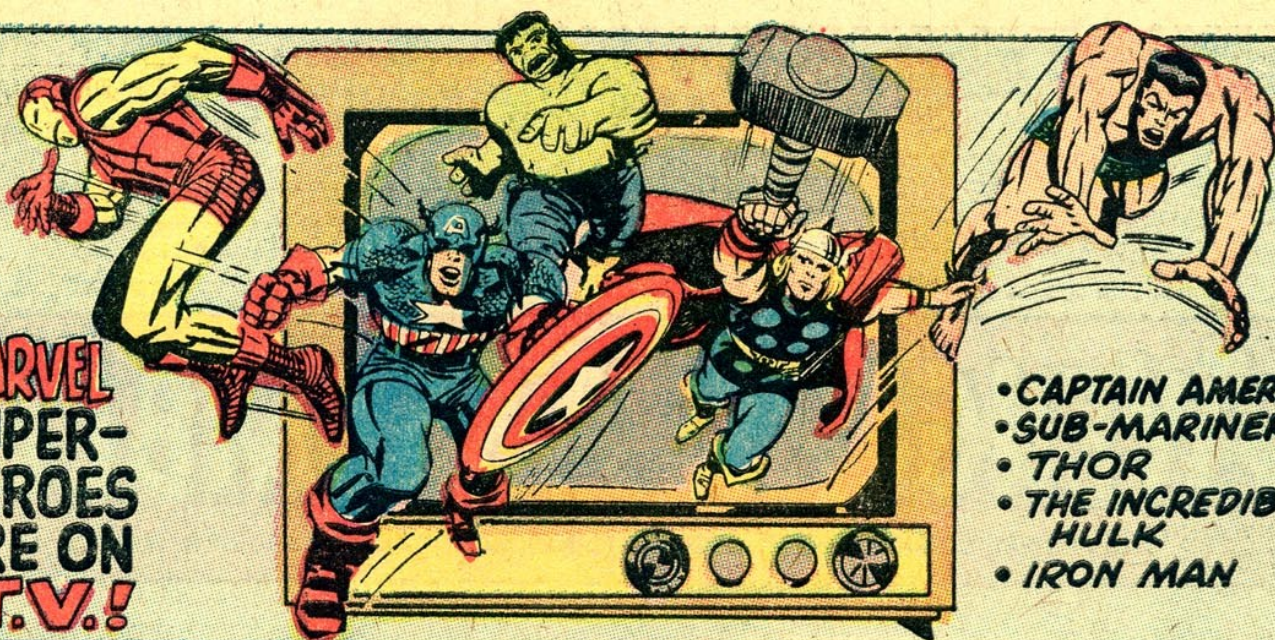
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I would like to say that in AVENGERS #32, "Sign of the Serpent", you have the best issue of this magazine you've ever published! In fact, it's one of the best Marvel stories I've ever read. Why? Well, here are the reasons. First, I must compliment Don on his incredible penciling and inking. He gives the males that rugged look, and the females (especially Jan) are the most beautiful I've seen in any mag. Congrats on a great job, Don! As for the story, this ish proves that Stan the Man is one of the best contemporary writers of the century. This story incorporated so many good features that I can only mention a few. Most important was the portrayal of the bigotry that unfortunately exists. The wonderful handling of this was enough to place the story in the extra-special category, but with such great touches as Goliath's regaining some of his old confidence, Cap and Hawkeye acting human toward each other, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch regaining their powers, and Henry and his wife ignoring the Sons of the Serpent beating up a foreigner, the story became a classic at which people will look back in years to come and say, "This was what made the Marvel Age of Comics so great!" Also, Artie Simek's sound effects were sensational as well. Face front, y'all!

Anthony Roche, 2 St. John's Park, Mounttown
Dun Laoire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

We can't, Tony boy! On account'a you, we're all too busy dodging Artie, who's running all around the place telling us we've gotta give him a bigger credit line!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

To quote Charlie Brown from the cartoon strip "Peanuts", "I hate it—I just hate it!" What do I hate? Continued stories! As an example, in the magazines I buy regularly, only SPIDER-MAN #41 and F.F. #55 were not continued. I beg you, please stop printing continued stories or I'll tell everyone in Muncie (Population: 68,568) not to buy Marvel Comics. How does that grab you? Also, what are you trying to do—kill off Goliath for good? First you take away his own monthly story and then you try to get Sub-Mariner to kill him, then you put him back in the Avengers (good—new name, new uniform), but then you get him stuck as a ten-foot freak—what next!? Finally, kill off pushy old Aunt May in SPIDER-MAN, and have Iron Man reveal his identity to the world. Bring back the Green Goblin—when you got rid of him, you got rid of all the interest in Spidey. Also, thank you for printing your magazines. David Cox, 206 E. Highland
Muncie, Ind. 47302

You're welcome, Davey—although, from the way you started your letter, we'd expect you to be even more grateful if we stopped printing 'em! We're gonna try to tone down on the continued yarns from now on—but don't hold it against us if one or two (would you believe a dozen?) happen to slip thru? After all, you know how hard it is to break a habit! As for the rest of your suggestions, we can't comment upon them until all of Marvel-dom has had its say! (Which is the sneakiest way we know to get out from under!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

In AVENGERS #32 on page 16 you made a technical error when Captain America referred to the Sons of the Serpent as super-patriots. To quote Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, "a patriot is a person who loves and loyally or zealously supports his own country". Super-nationalist is the correct replacement. Nationalism in relation to patriotism is "excessive, narrow, or jingoist patriotism". It was nationalism, not patriotism, that was the root of Fascism and Nazism in Italy and Germany. And it was nationalism, not patriotism, which under Napoleon made France for years the scourge of Europe. On the other hand, it was patriotism, not nationalism, that George Washington, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere and other great leaders of our revolution had. And it was patriotism, not nationalism, which inspired the brave Hungarians only a few years ago. Also, you use super-patriotism like a dirty word or something. Was Joan of Arc merely a patriot when she gave her life for God and country and brought an end to the Hundred Years War and unified France? Or would super-patriotism better describe her extreme unselfishness? I hope this will persuade you to refrain from using super-patriots incorrectly in the future.

Bruce Walker, 3320 S. Darlington
Tulsa, Okla.

Okay, Bruce, okay! We're persuaded! We're persuaded! Whew! We've never knocked patriotism, frantic one—in fact, we'll yield to no one in our love for this wonderful nation of ours. Our only point was that we must beware the fanatic who tries to deprive us of our hard-won liberties—who tries to pit one class against another—one race against another—one man against another—and dares to do it in the name of patriotism! No man who preaches the gospel of hate in this, a nation founded on brotherly love—can call himself a patriot! At least—not an American patriot! We've probably strayed from your original point; Bruce, but that's what always happens—put a type-writer in front of us, and we go wild!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

Embarrassed MMMS #27544 reporting in! My flushed face perceptibly whitens, having just blushed the known spectrum in pigmentary splendor. My reason—AVENGERS #33! Noteworthy both in art and manuscript, this issue, so powerful a concluding sequel, gave full rein to the idealistic principle of "Everlasting Marvel Goodness Over Badness Everywhere!" But yea, the perfect diamond is rare. One glance at the cover is enough. There, gallivanting hither and yon, engaged in derring-do, is our misplaced Scarlet Witch. You "wanda" what she's doing there, don't you, seeing that she's noticeably absent inside! "My favorite character, finally back in her rightful place!", I thought. But nay, snatched away before my very eyes. I do forgive you! Please consider this—Wanda used her replenished hex powers on the cover artist and got herself

put where she belongs. How about that?! As fast as Mercury, bring back Quicksilver. I won't dwell on the other Avengers—after all, we of the MMMS need not name-drop!

Clarence Black, Jr., 590 So. 22nd St.
Columbus, Ohio

You know we'd rather have the Avengers disassemble than embarrass a Merry Marcher, Clar! We've received at least a hundred zillion letters taking us to task for depicting wondrous Wanda on our cover when she was so obviously non-existent inside—and we still don't quite know how it happened! However, we flipped over your clever explanation, so that's the one we'll use from now on! It just proves how powerful her hex power really is! Thanks a heap, pal—and be thou patient—Pietro will definitely return! (We think).

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I greatly enjoy your comics. However, one character is a source of constant irritation. The character I refer to is the blue and yellow boob, Goliath. To start off with, what an obvious name, almost as bad as Giant-Man. Also, and most annoying, is his language—his constant use of "chum" and "fella", the way he talks down (no pun intended) to his fellow Avengers, and his general attitude of superiority when talking to people. The Wasp's speech is also annoying—things such as "You tell 'em, big man" and "Go get 'em, handsome" are out of place when denouncing dangerous groups and fighting violent and wily foes. While I admire Don's artwork, I found Goliath's gestures while denouncing the Serpents somewhat ridiculous. I feel that in keeping Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch in the background, you're missing out on good characters. Let's cut Goliath down to size!

Curt Tweddell, 7434 Drake Rd.
Cincinnati 43, Ohio

Poor ol' Goliath! It seems he can't do anything right! But, you're the first one to write a scathing letter which even denounces his *gestures*, Curt! How's about if we have him keep his hands in his pockets next time he speaks? No sacrifice is too great to placate a true Marvelite! However, if you can keep a secret, we'll confess that Golly really has a terrible memory—which is why he calls people "chum" and "fella". He can't remember their real names! In fact, we sometimes wonder how he remembers "chum" and "fella"!—Oh well...

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I have just finished AVENGERS #33 and, as usual, it was so well done that mere words would fail to do it justice. Maybe a moment of heartfelt meditation would be more appropriate. I know you will have a lot of mail on the great all-American plot and ending, so I won't, and probably can't, add to it. I am more concerned with quite another issue, that being the lack of interest by the readers and lack of publicity that you give the best of the Avengers. This character, in my opinion, should rank with Spidey, Hulk, the Thing, Thor and Captain America—I am referring to Hawkeye. His problems have been of enormous intensity and interest. His comments and humorous ad-libs rank second only to Bill Cosby's. Please treat him a little better—for without him, the Avengers would be only another group of nutty super-heroes.

Ron McDivitt, 806½ E. 4th St.
Sterling, Ill.

Ron, if he's all that you say he is, we'll handle him with kid gloves—and that's for sure! We've always liked him ourselves, but would never have gone so far as to call the rest of our capricious crew "another group of nutty super-heroes" without him! As a matter of fact, we always thought they were a nutty group even *with* him! But then, what do *we* know?

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

After going to a friend's and comfortably mooching comics from him, I came to notice a horrendous error in AVENGERS #32. On page 8 of same, Henry Pym was calling Tony Stark for advice as to the name of a qualified biochemist to help him with his size problems. Now, I'm sort of proud of my observation powers, but I may be proved wrong in this case. In all of Iron Man's mags, Stark goes through all varieties of trials and tribulations

to preserve his secret identity. Also, in all the Avengers stories, I thought even they didn't know his identity. Well, on the aforementioned page, when Pym was talking to Stark, Tony had his Iron Man chest plate uncovered! I could see the upper part of his suit in the screen he was talking to Pym from! Now, am I mistaken? Has Iron Man revealed his true identity to the Avengers? Or did the artist make some blunder—as artists are known to? If so, I say with great vigor, vim, and volume—sacrilege! You'd better atone for this sin-of-all-sins pretty fast. Howsoever, I like your mags, and I swear to mooch reading privileges off my generous friend whenever possible.

Bob Richards, 902 North Park
Helena, Mont. 59601

You're all heart, Bobby! You know, you're the first one to bring that little error to our attention! ("Little error"! It'll probably cause a congressional investigation!) We haven't had time to check it out yet, but we're guessing you're right—it *was* an artist's error—as well as an editor's error—a proof-reader's error—and a colorist's error! Which only seems to prove that *nobody* can qualify for our batty Bullpen unless he's as careless as the rest of us!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

First, on the subject of SUSPENSE, I wish to say that "He Who Holds the Cosmic Cube" and "The Red Skull Supreme" make up one of the finest tales ever created. They will be a classic for years to come. You may have dozens of heroes who can do anything with their powers, who can smash any obstacle, and who can take on opponents with power similar to theirs, but only one has ever dared to pit pure skill against a foe who could do anything. In FF #3, that group faced a supposed Miracle Man. Well, Cap took on a real one. I take back what I said about using only skill. He also had a shield, courage, and, as he said in AVENGERS #15, "The one thing (a villain) can never possess. A thing called... justice!" Cap, at that time, took on one of his greater battles, just as now he took on his very greatest. Even the Sleepers paled before the power of the Cosmic Cube. But not even the Cube could triumph over the man the world knows as Captain America. By the way, everyone is always saying that Goliath is the most powerful Avenger, and Cap the weakest. Unless you are speaking in terms of pure power, that is not true. In terms of fighting capacity, Captain America is the most powerful. In fact, he and Spider-Man are your most powerful heroes. Your old Avengers were the most powerful team you have ever created, yet both of the two I have just named defeated either the other members, or all of the members were defeated by one with equal skill. So Cap is your most powerful member. Also, against their recent foes, Cap is the only one who ever almost beats them alone. I think the record speaks for itself. Your other books are doing just great. I'm even buying THOR again. The other day some friends and I were making up famous last lines, and here's what I think Thor's might possibly be—"Rash mortal! Dost thou think mere bullets may harm the mighty Tho—..."

Gary Anderson, 1309 Vine St.
Norman, Okla.

That's a cute last line, Gar—sorry you beat us to it! Anyway, we're glad you like ol' Cap, 'cause we're kind'a partial to him ourselves. Maybe it's those goofy gloves he wears that grab us! Y'know, one of these days, maybe on April Fool's Day, we might try drawing him with a pair of mittens in one panel, just to see if you're all paying attention! So look alive out there, hear?

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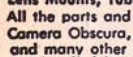
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