



# THE AVENGERS

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Telegram-Marvel comics  
(Avengers)

**THOR! IRON MAN!** PLUS...THE RESTORED POWER OF... **GOLIATH!**

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# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS! "IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE COLLECTOR!"

HAVING RECENTLY  
LOST HIS ABILITY TO  
BECOME A GIANT-SIZED  
BECOME A HANDSOME  
GOLIATH, HANK PYM WILL DO ANY  
THING TO REGAIN HIS  
VANISHED POWER...  
OR, AT LEAST, SO HE  
THOUGHT...

AAARRHH!

HAWKEYE...  
TURN OFF THE  
VIBROTRON...  
FAST!!

I'M TRYIN',  
MAN-MOUNTAIN...!

BUT, THE SWITCH  
IS STUCK! I CAN'T  
BUDGE IT!

MEANWHILE, HANK'S  
BEING BOMBARDED  
BY ZILLIONS OF  
ELECTRONS!

EVEN THAT NEW,  
SUPER-INSULATED  
SUIT OF HIS WON'T  
PROTECT HIM!

WE... WE'VE  
GOT TO DO  
SOMETHING...  
QUICKLY!

OTHERWISE...  
HANK WILL DIE  
WITHIN  
SECONDS!

**BLUSHIN' BULLPEN NOTE:**  
YES, WE KNOW WE ACCIDENTALLY  
COLORED HIGH-POCKETS THE  
OLD WAY ON OUR COVER! BUT,  
NOBODY'S PERFECT--LEAST OF  
ALL US!

FROM THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM  
OF SMILIN'  
**STAN LEE**  
COMES THIS  
**ROY THOMAS-JOHN BUSCEMA**  
TWO-MAN TOUR DE FORCE!

INKED AND EMBELLISHED BY:  
**GEORGE TUSKA**  
LETTERED AND RELISHED BY:  
**SAM ROSEN**

FRANKLY, PILGRIM, WE KINDA ENVY YOU RIGHT NOW...  
'CAUSE OF ALL THE GREAT GUEST STARS YOU'RE GONNA  
ENCOUNTER WITHIN THESE PULSE-POUNDING PAGES...





DON'T WORRY, LADY! OL' HAWKEYE'LL GET YOUR MAN OUTTA THAT FORCE FIELD...

NO...DON'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!

...OR GO DOWN TRYIN'!

LEAVE THE ADVISIN' TO DEAR ABBY, HIGH-POCKETS!

ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE HARD SHOVE, AN'...

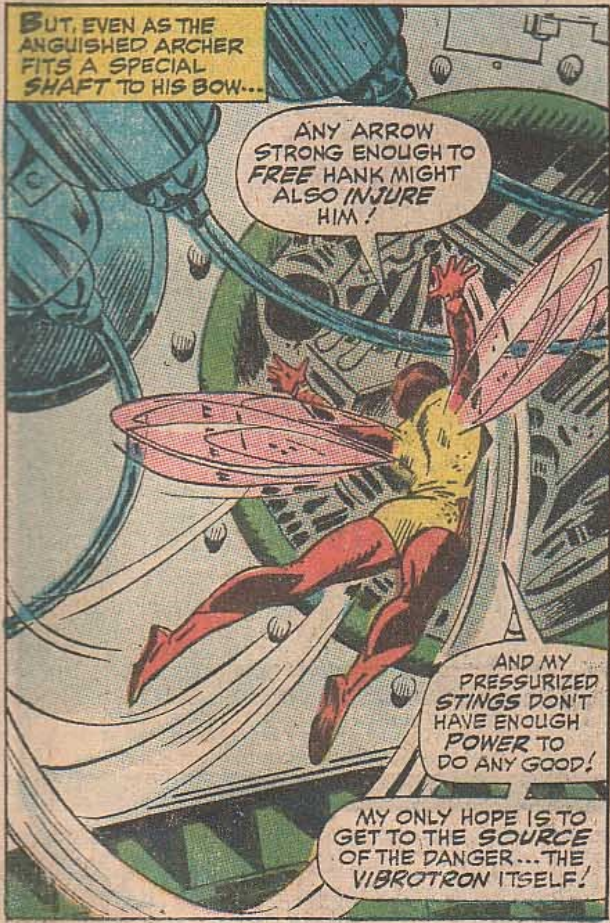


OHhh...!

SCAB!

THAT THING'S... GOT THE KICK... OF A MISSOURI MULE!

GOTTA RIG UP SOME KINDA ARROW... TO GET HIM OUT... ON THE DOUBLE!



BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGUISHED ARCHER FITS A SPECIAL SHAFT TO HIS BOW...

ANY ARROW STRONG ENOUGH TO FREE HANK MIGHT ALSO INJURE HIM!

AND MY PRESSURIZED STINGS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO DO ANY GOOD!

MY ONLY HOPE IS TO GET TO THE SOURCE OF THE DANGER...THE VIBROTRON ITSELF!



IF ONLY I KNEW WHICH OF THESE WIRES CONTROLLED THE FLOW OF IONIZED ELECTRONS THAT'S BLASTING HANK!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO PULL OUT ALL THE ONES I CAN...

AND PRAY!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HANK...IF HE'S HARMED...

NO! I DON'T DARE EVEN THINK OF SUCH A THING..!



NOR DOES SHE NEED TO...FOR, A FEW ANXIOUS MOMENTS LATER...

THANKS... PARTNER!

FOR A MINUTE, THERE...I THOUGHT...I'D HAD IT!

YOU'LL HAVE TO THANK THE WASP, PAL!

SHE'S THE ONE THAT DIVED RIGHT INTO THAT GIZMO TO SAVE YA!

ALL I HAD TIME TO DO WAS LEAD THE APPLAUSE!

HE'S STUNNED... BUT HE'S GONNA BE OKAY!

HANK...MY DARLING...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES...THANKS TO YOU, YOU ADORABLE NUT!

BUT, I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED A WAY...TO STRENGTHEN MY OVER-TAXED MOLECULES!

STILL, I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING! I MUST!

BUT NOW, PLAYING HAVOC WITH ARISTOTLE'S UBIQUITOUS UNITIES, WE SWITCH TO ANOTHER PLACE...AND A SOMEWHAT LATER TIME...

...WHERE THE CALCULATING COLLECTOR\* ADDRESSES AN UNSEEN AUDIENCE...

HEAR ME, YOU WHO ARE MY MOST UNWILLING SLAVE...!

AROUND YOU, YOU BEHOLD THE VARIOUS PRIZES OF MY FABULOUS COLLECTION!

FROM BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR HAVE I GATHERED THEM...

YET, NONE ARE SO VALUED BY ME AS... YOURSELF!

\*INTRODUCED IN THE COLLECTORS' ITEM ISH#28! (OUCH!)... SORRY ABOUT THAT STAN.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE MERELY THE FIRST OF A PRICELESS SET...

...A MATCHED SET WHICH I HAVE LONG DESIRED... BUT ONCE BEFORE FAILED TO ACQUIRE!

I SHALL NOT FAIL AGAIN!

AND NOW... OBSERVE!

AHH! I SEE THE GLINT OF RECOGNITION IN YOUR GLAZED EYES, MY RELUCTANT GUEST!

YES... THAT IS THE LOVELY JANET VAN DYNE... SHE WHO DABBLES IN AVENGING ONLY TO INTEREST GOLIATH!

SEE HOW SHE RELAXES IN HER NEW LUXURY APARTMENT!

BUT SOON... VERY SOON...

CONTINUED [HateQuarc.net](http://HateQuarc.net)



JUST THEN, AS FATE...SHE WHO DEALS HER CARDS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE DECK...WOULD HAVE IT...



HEY...WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO HERE ON THE RUN?

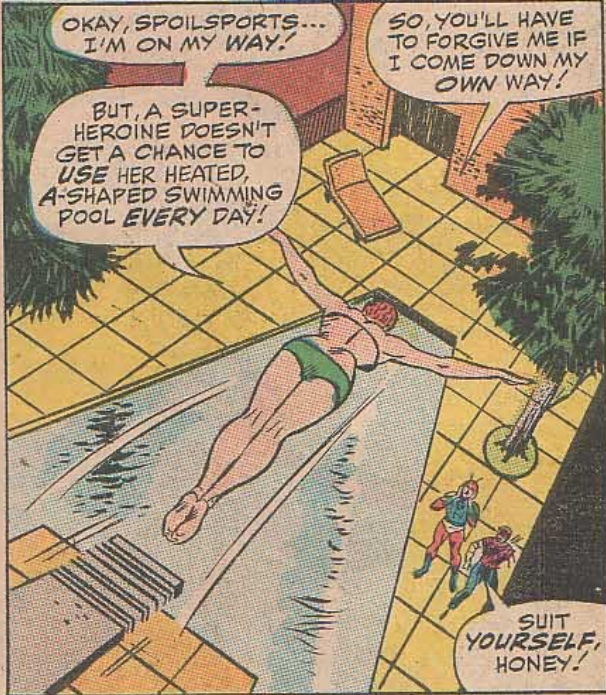
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE...AND WE JUST GOT A CALL FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA!

HE SAYS HE HAS A MESSAGE FOR US ALL!

SO, LIKE THE MAN SAYS... C'MON DOWN!

YEAH!

I'M SORTA EAGER TO HEAR WHAT OL' WING-HEAD'S BEEN UP TO SINCE HE QUIT US!



OKAY, SPOILSPORTS... I'M ON MY WAY!

BUT, A SUPER-HEROINE DOESN'T GET A CHANCE TO USE HER HEATED, A-SHAPED SWIMMING POOL EVERY DAY!

SO, YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME IF I COME DOWN MY OWN WAY!

SUIT YOURSELF, HONEY!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

WHY, THANK YOU, HAWKEYE!

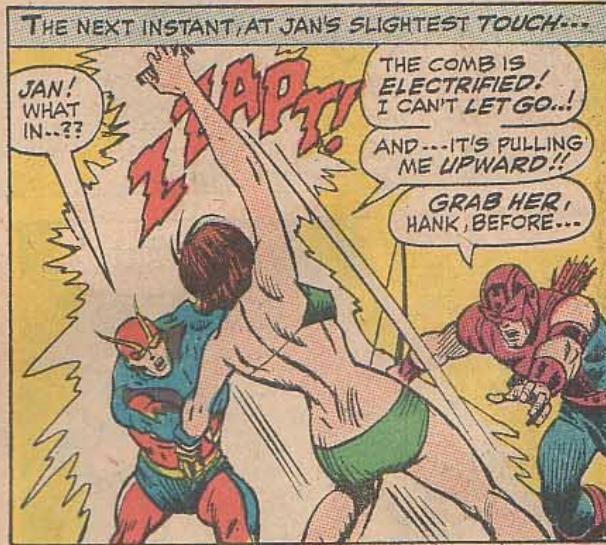
I'LL HELP YOU OUT, WASPIE!

TOO BAD MY OWN BASHFUL BEAU ISN'T AS MANNERFUL AS...

WAIT!

THAT COMB... IT ISN'T MINE! HOW DID IT...?

I WONDER WHO COULD HAVE LEFT IT HERE...!?



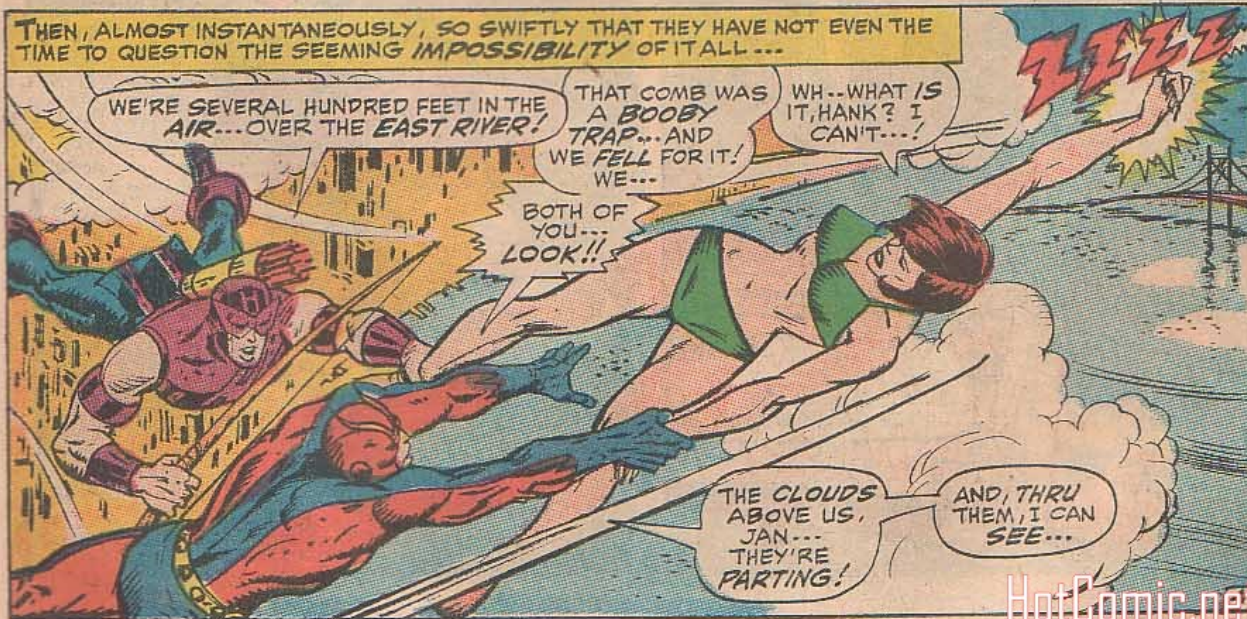
THE NEXT INSTANT, AT JAN'S SLIGHTEST TOUCH...

JAN! WHAT IN...??

THE COMB IS ELECTRIFIED! I CAN'T LET GO...

AND...IT'S PULLING ME UPWARD!!

GRAB HER, HANK, BEFORE...



THEN, ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY, SO SWIFTLY THAT THEY HAVE NOT EVEN THE TIME TO QUESTION THE SEEMING IMPOSSIBILITY OF IT ALL...

WE'RE SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR...OVER THE EAST RIVER!

THAT COMB WAS A BOOBY TRAP...AND WE FELL FOR IT! WE...

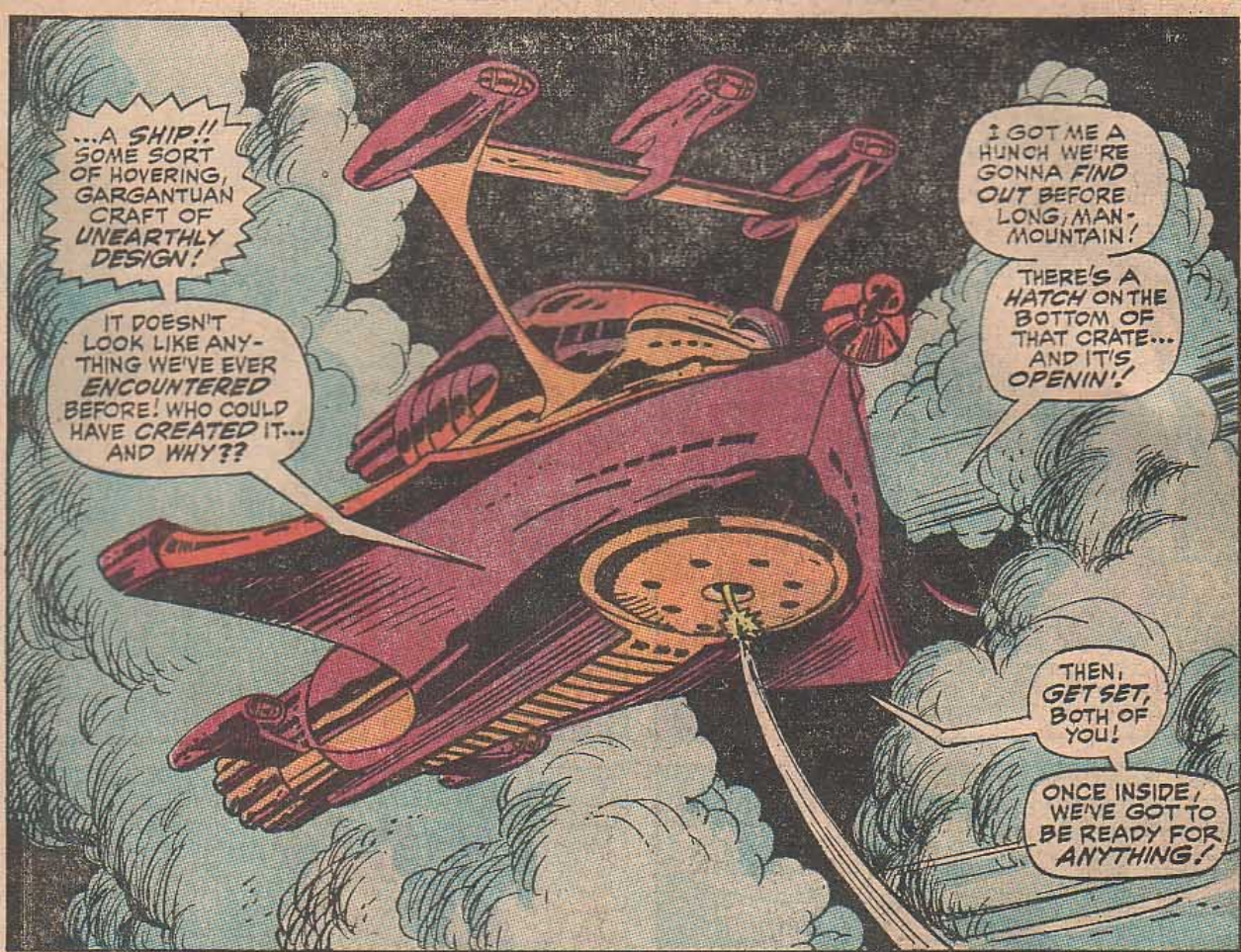
WH...WHAT IS IT, HANK? I CAN'T...!

BOTH OF YOU... LOOK!!

THE CLOUDS ABOVE US, JAN... THEY'RE PARTING!

AND, THRU THEM, I CAN SEE...





...A **SHIP!!**  
SOME SORT  
OF HOVERING,  
GARGANTUAN  
CRAFT OF  
UNEARTHLY  
DESIGN!

IT DOESN'T  
LOOK LIKE ANY-  
THING WE'VE EVER  
**ENCOUNTERED**  
BEFORE! WHO COULD  
HAVE **CREATED** IT...  
AND WHY??

I GOT ME A  
HUNCH WE'RE  
GONNA **FIND**  
**OUT** BEFORE  
LONG, MAN-  
MOUNTAIN!

THERE'S A  
**HATCH** ON THE  
BOTTOM OF  
THAT CRATE...  
AND IT'S  
**OPENIN'!**

THEN,  
**GET SET,**  
BOTH OF  
YOU!

ONCE INSIDE,  
WE'VE GOT TO  
BE READY FOR  
**ANYTHING!**

YET, COULD ANYONE  
TRULY BE PREPARED  
FOR WHAT HAPPENS  
SCANT SECONDS  
**LATER...?**

**HOLY  
HANNAH!**

HANK...  
HAWKEYE...  
SOMETHING'S  
**GRABBED**  
ME...

...SOMETHING  
**ALIVE!!**

IT'S GRABBED  
ALL **THREE**  
OF US, JAN!

WE'RE BEING  
**ATTACKED...**  
BY SOME GIGANTIC,  
LIVING ORGANISM...!

STOP PLAYIN' ANIMAL,  
VEGETABLE, OR  
MINERAL WITH IT,  
TWO-TON---

AN' THINK OF  
SOMETHIN' TO  
MAKE THIS THING  
LET US GO!

I...CAN'T,  
HAWKEYE!

THESE  
**TENTACLES**  
EXUDE SOME  
SORT OF  
POWERFUL  
**ADHESIVE!**

IF I TRIED TO  
**SHRINK...**THEY'D  
TEAR ME APART!

THEN...WE'RE  
**DOOMED!**

DOOMED TO DIE...  
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING...  
WHO **HAS ENEMY'S**



THEN, SUDDENLY, FROM THE CURVING CATWALK WHICH OVERLOOKS THE TRIO'S PLIGHT, A CACKLING VOICE IS HEARD... AND TWO SURPRISINGLY FAMILIAR FIGURES ARE SEEN...

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO MELODRAMATIC, MY DEAR MISS VAN DYNE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PERISH, YOU KNOW!

EVERYTHING IS STRICTLY UNDER CONTROL!

SHALL I SAVE THEM, COLLECTOR?

THE COLLECTOR!  
AND...  
**THOR!!**

SAVE THEM, THUNDER GOD? FROM WHAT? THEY'RE REALLY IN NO DANGER!

MY VENUSIAN RETRIEVER-ANEMONE SIMPLY GETS A BIT PLAYFUL AT TIMES, THAT'S ALL!

A SIMPLE STUN BEAM FROM THIS DEVICE WILL PROVIDE WHAT LITTLE RESCUING THEY REQUIRE!

BUT, TO THE AGONIZED AVENGERS, THE CURE SEEMS AS UNDESIRABLE AS THE DISEASE...

OHhhh...!

UNNNHHH!!



THEN, AFTER THE DISCIPLINED ALIEN ORGANISM HAS DEPOSITED HIS VICTIMS ON THE FLOOR...

THEY ARE UNCONSCIOUS! GOOD!

THOR...PUT THEM IN THE CELL WHICH I HAVE TEMPORARILY PROVIDED!

IN A... CELL? NO--!!

WHAT? YOU DARE REFUSE TO OBEY A COMMAND FROM YOUR MASTER?





HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE MY PROPERTY...MY OBJET D'ART?

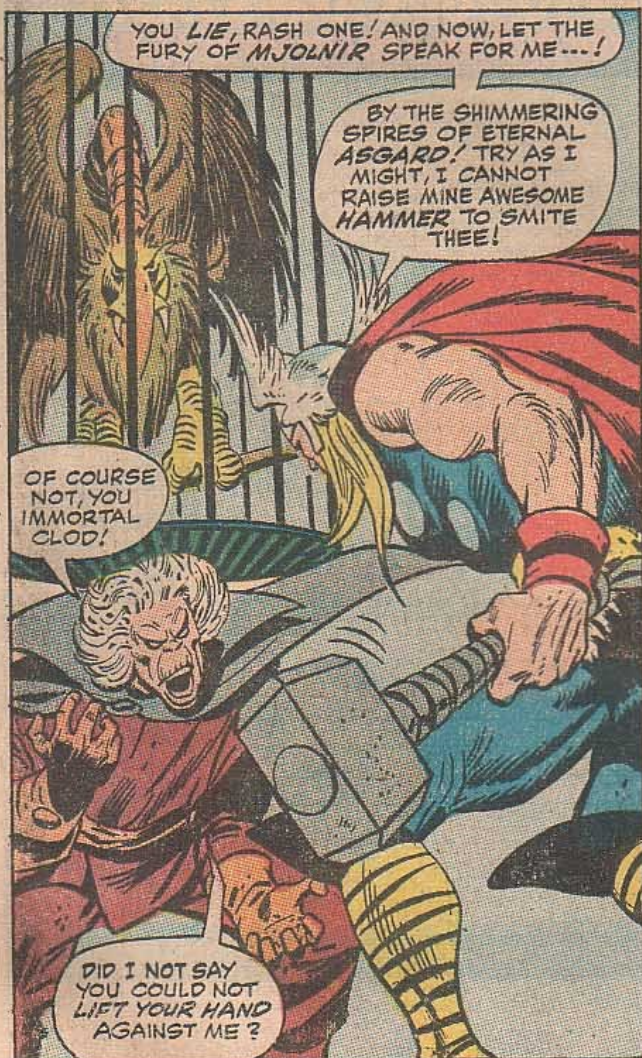
THE SON OF ODIN IS NO MAN'S VASSAL, SCION OF EVIL!

AS MUCH AS THE GLEAMING TROPHIES ABOUT ME...AS THE LIFE-LIKE MASKS WHICH DOT MY SHIP'S WALLS?

BEWARE, LEST THOU BRING THE WRATH OF THOR UPON THINE INTEMPERATE HEAD!

A STIRRING SPEECH, ASGARDIAN... BUT ONE WITHOUT THE RING OF TRUTH!

YOU KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT LIFT YOUR HAND AGAINST...THE COLLECTOR!



YOU LIE, RASH ONE! AND NOW, LET THE FURY OF MJOLNIR SPEAK FOR ME...!

BY THE SHIMMERING SPIRES OF ETERNAL ASGARD! TRY AS I MIGHT, I CANNOT RAISE MINE AWESOME HAMMER TO SMITE THEE!

OF COURSE NOT, YOU IMMORTAL CLOD!

DID I NOT SAY YOU COULD NOT LIFT YOUR HAND AGAINST ME?



LET THAT EXAMPLE SERVE AS A REMINDER... THAT THE WILL OF THE COLLECTOR IS YOUR WILL!

NOW...ENOUGH DELAY! PLACE YOUR FELLOW AVENGERS IN THEIR CELLS... BEFORE THEY REVIVE!

I...OBEY, COLLECTOR!

AH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!



THUS, A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE SHORT-LIVED EFFECT OF THE STUN BEAM WEARS OFF...

IT CAN'T BE...!  
THOR...AN ALLY OF  
THE COLLECTOR!

IT'S GOTTA  
BE SOME  
KIND'A TRICK!

THOR...  
YOU MUST  
FREE US!

THEIR INFERNAL PRATTLING UPSETS MY  
RARE JUPITERIAN SAURO-BEAST,  
THUNDER GOD!

ORDER THEM TO  
DESIST...AT ONCE!

HEED THE  
WORDS OF  
THE  
COLLECTOR,  
MORTALS!

THAT CAN'T BE  
THOR! IT MUST BE SOME IMPOSTOR...!

SO...YOU WOULD DISPUTE  
THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR  
EYES AND EARS, MY  
PRICELESS ARTIFACTS!

THEN, BECAUSE IT  
AMUSES ME, I  
SHALL RELATE TO  
YOU THE SIMPLE  
STORY OF HOW  
ONE OF THE  
ORIGINAL  
AVENGERS CAME  
TO SERVE ME!

IT OCCURRED  
BUT A FEW  
SHORT HOURS  
AGO...

"THE MIGHTY THOR HAD JUST REGAINED HIS IMMORTAL,  
INVINCIBLE POWERS...AND FLEW ABOVE THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST CITY, WHEN..."

BY THE BRISTLING  
BEARD OF ALL-FATHER  
ODIN!

SOME ENORMOUS  
VESSEL HATH SUDDENLY  
APPEARED ABOVE ME...  
FROM OUT OF NOWHERE!

I MUST DRAW  
NEARER...THAT  
I MAY LEARN  
WHAT AWESOME  
MYSTERY BE  
HERE!



"BUT, LITTLE DID THE IMMORTAL HERO REALIZE THAT I HAD WANTED HIM TO SEE MY SHIP...FOR PURPOSES OF MY OWN..."

GREETINGS, LORD OF THUNDER! I AM... THE COLLECTOR!

IF YOU WILL FIRST SUP WITH ME!

I SENSE YOUR CURIOSITY CONCERNING ME... AND I SHALL EXPLAIN MY MISSION TO YOU...

I TRUST NEITHER HIS MANNER NOR HIS Demeanor!

YET, SURELY NAUGHT THAT HE MAY DO CAN HARM THE SON OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN!

I ACCEPT THINE INVITATION!

"SOON, HOWEVER, AS THOR DRANK A TOAST WHICH I HAD PROPOSED, THAT ACCEPTANCE PROVED A MISTAKE...FOR HIM!"

IS SOMETHING AMISS, MY FRIEND?

HAH! HE HAS UNWITTINGLY DRUNK MY OBEDIENCE POTION... REINFORCED WITH HERBS FROM FABLED ASGARD ITSELF!

MY BRAIN...IT DOETH SORELY REEL...

WHAT ACCURRED THING...HATH BEFALLEN ME?

I HAVE COLLECTED YOU, FOOL...AS I SHALL COLLECT ALL YOUR FELLOW AVENGERS!

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU SHALL OBEY ME...IN MY EVERY WHIM!

THEN, HIS STORY FINISHED, THEIR SINISTER CAPTOR ORDERS THOR TO STRAP GOLIATH TO A NEARBY TABLE, AND...

WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE, COLLECTOR?

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM... THAT YOU CAN GET HOLD OF HERBS FROM ASGARD?

THAT YOU SHALL NEVER KNOW... UNLESS IT SHALL PLEASE ME!

FOR NOW, MORE IMPORTANT THINGS OCCUPY MY MIND!

FIRST, I MUST RESTORE YOU TO YOUR FORMER GARGANTUAN STATURE!

YOU WANT ME TO BECOME GOLIATH AGAIN? BUT... WHY?

DOLT! DO YOU THINK I WANT A FLAWED AVENGER IN MY COLLECTION?

THOR!

CREATE FOR ME NOW... A THUNDERSTORM!!



AND, WITH A WAVE OF HIS TEMPEST-TOSSING URU HAMMER, THE ENSLAVED SON OF ODIN COMPLIES...

COME, THOU THUNDERHEADS...  
THOU SEARING FLAMES OF  
CELESTIAL FIRE!

THE MIGHTY THOR  
DOTH COMMAND  
THEE...COME!

SO BE  
IT!

THE NEXT MOMENT, ON THE STREETS OF THE SPRAWLING CITY BELOW...

A  
THUNDER-  
STORM!

BUT THE  
SKIES WERE  
ALMOST  
CLEAR ONLY  
SECONDS  
AGO!

FIRST AIR  
POLLUTION...  
AND NOW  
THIS!

BUT, HIDDEN IN THE DARK  
CLOUDS ABOVE, GOLIATH  
AND THE COLLECTOR ARE  
NO HAPPIER...

STOP...STOP!!  
TOO MUCH POWER...  
BEING DEFLECTED  
TO ME...

HOLD, THOR!  
CEASE THIS  
MADNESS  
FOR THE  
TIME  
BEING!

WE SHALL  
TRY AGAIN  
LATER!

A DEAD  
AVENGER  
IS NO  
ASSET  
TO MY  
COLLECTION!

THEN, AS THAT ORDER, TOO, IS ACTED UPON...

SOON, I'LL FEED MY  
OBEDIENCE POTION  
TO MY THREE LATEST  
ADDITIONS!

MEANWHILE, I MUST  
SEARCH OUT THE  
REST OF THE AVENGERS...  
AND CAPTURE THEM!

HOW CANST  
THOU HOPE TO  
FIND THEM,  
COLLECTOR? THEY  
ARE SCATTERED  
ABOUT THE VERY  
EARTH!

YOU UNDER-  
ESTIMATE MY  
RESOURCES,  
THUNDER GOD!

WITH THIS  
DEVICE I ONCE  
COLLECTED, I CAN  
SCAN THE VERY  
UNIVERSE ITSELF!



AND THE MACABRE MYSTERY-MAN SEEMS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD...

THIS **COSMIC VIEWER** COLLECTS AND RECORDS THE MOST **RECENT** ENDEAVORS OF WHOMEVER I DESIRE TO **FOCUS** UPON!

THUS I CAN OBSERVE THE INCOMPARABLE **CAPTAIN AMERICA**... CURRENTLY BATTLING ALONGSIDE ONE CALLED THE **PANTHER**, AGAINST ARMED MINIONS IN **AFRICA**!

THE STAR-SPANGLED AVENGER MAY NOT YET HAVE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY!

THEREFORE, LET US LEARN IF THERE IS NOT SOMEONE I MAY COLLECT **FIRST**... BEFORE SEEKING HIM OUT!

AH! THE GARGANTUAN, GREEN-SKINNED **HULK**... HE WHOSE POWER IS VIRTUALLY THE EQUAL OF EVEN **THOR'S**!

BUT, MY VIEWER SHOWS THAT HE WAS LAST OBSERVED ENTERING ETERNAL **ASGARD**! HE, TOO, IS BEST LEFT FOR **LATER**!

AND, I KNOW THAT **HERCULES** HAS RETURNED TO TIMELESS **OLYMPUS**!

YET, THERE REMAINS ONE MORE WHO MAY BE WITHIN **EASY REACH**!

THEN, WITH THE MEREST TURNING OF A **DIAL**...

**IRON MAN!**

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HE RETURNS TO THE CITY FROM SOME PERILOUS ADVENTURE!\*

BUT, WHATEVER IT MAY HAVE BEEN... IT CANNOT COMPARE WITH THAT WHICH AWAITS HIM!

**THOR!** BRING THE GOLDEN AVENGER TO ME... AT ONCE!

\*YOU MIGHT CALL IT THAT... IF YOU'VE READ THE PREMIERE ISH OF SHELLHEAD'S OWN MAG... NOW C...

--SALES HotComic.net



THUS COMMANDED, AND AFTER A FEW MORE INSTRUCTIONS, THE ASGARDIAN IMMORTAL DEPARTS... IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE FASHION...

MY CAPTOR HATH BADE ME SUBDUE MY FELLOW AVENGER... IN THE SWIFTEST MANNER POSSIBLE!

THEREFORE, I HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO SMITE HIM... WITHOUT WARNING!

AND, SO IT IS THAT, SCANT SECONDS LATER...

NOW STRIKES THOR.. FOR HIM WHO IS CALLED THE COLLECTOR!

KWAM!

THOR! WHAT IN THE NAME OF...??

UNNNH!

DOWN... EVER DOWNWARD PLUMMETS THE ARMORED GLADIATOR... INTO THE CONCRETE CANYONS THAT COMPRISE NEW YORK CITY... UNTIL---

WONDER OF WONDERS!

IRON MAN HATH GRASPED YON FLAGPOLE... BEFORE I COULD O'ERTAKE HIM!

THIS IS BEYOND BELIEF! THOR APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE... AND ATTACKED ME!

WORSE... IT HAD TO HAPPEN WHEN I WAS FLYING ON RESERVE ENERGY... AFTER A LONG BATTLE WITH AIM AND THE MAGGIA!

STILL, ON THE BEST DAY I EVER SAW, MY TRANSISTORIZED POWER WAS NO MATCH FOR THOR!

I'D BETTER SWING THRU THIS WINDOW... GAIN MYSELF A MOMENT TO THINK!

KRAASH!

HEY! WHAT...??

IT'S... IRON MAN!



AND, ALMOST THE VERY NEXT SECOND...

HOLY SMOKES!  
NOW THOR'S HERE!

BUT... THEY LOOK LIKE  
THEY'RE SQUARIN' OFF  
FOR A FIGHT!

I THOUGHT  
THEY WUZ  
THE BEST OF  
BUDDIES!

SO DID  
I, PAL...  
SO DID  
I!

ARISE,  
IRON-CLAD  
ONE...

--THAT THE SON  
OF ODIN MAY STRIKE  
THE FINAL, SHATTER-  
ING BLOW!

CAN'T WASTE TIME  
ASKING QUESTIONS!  
GOT TO MAKE A LUNGE  
FOR HIM, BEFORE...

BUT, IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION, EVEN IRON MAN'S SPEED IS  
HARDLY THE EQUAL OF THOR'S, AND...

RUN FOR IT! THIS  
SLUG-FEST'S FOR  
REAL!

THO

OHOOH!!

O O O M!

I BID THEE SURRENDER,  
MY FRIEND...

...SO I MAY TAKE  
THEE TO HIM WHO  
DOETH COMMAND  
ME!

THEN THAT'S MY ANSWER! I  
SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED...  
FROM THE VERY FIRST!

SOMEHOW, SOME  
SINISTER ENEMY HAS  
GAINED CONTROL OF  
THOR... AND HAS  
ORDERED HIM TO  
CAPTURE ME...  
AT ANY COST!

WHAT NO ONE  
KNOWS... IS  
THAT MY METAL  
CHESTPLATE  
PROTECTS AN  
INJURED HEART!

AND, IF THOR  
SMASHES ITS  
VITAL MECHANISM...  
I'LL DIE!!

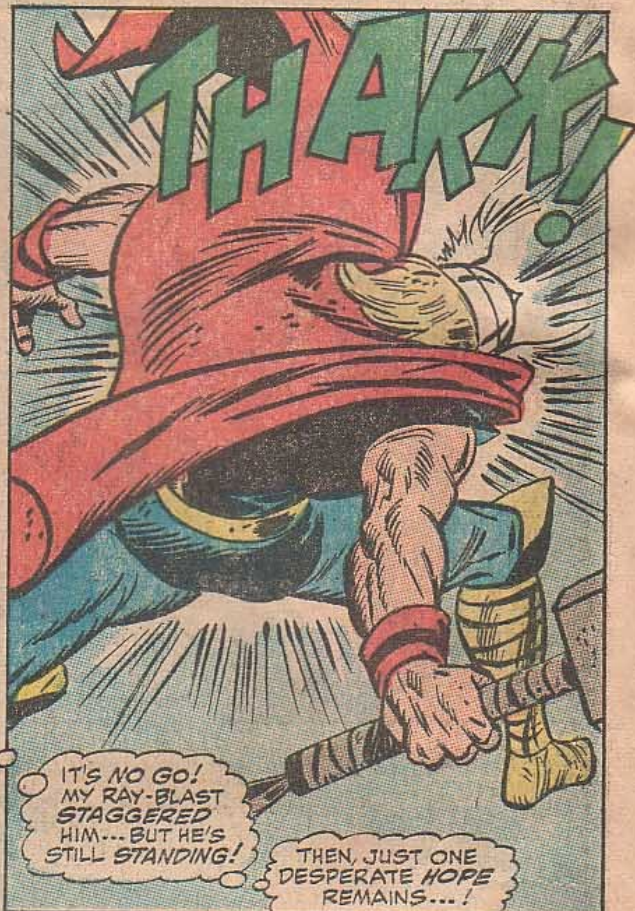


THEN, SUMMONING HIS LAST OUNCE OF FIGHTING STAMINA, THE ARMORED AVENGER LASHES OUT...

GOT TO HOPE I CAN KNOCK THE THUNDER GOD OUT OF COMMISSION... WITH A COUPLE OF FAST REPULSOR RAYS!

IF THAT FAILS... I'LL BE AT THE MERCY... OF MY UNKNOWN FOE!

OKAY, GOLDBLOCKS! LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE THIS!!



IT'S NO GO! MY RAY-BLAST STAGGERED HIM... BUT HE'S STILL STANDING!

THEN, JUST ONE DESPERATE HOPE REMAINS...!

BUT, AS A FRANTIC BEAM OF ENERGY IS UNLEASHED...

WHIRRAK!

THINE UNSTEADY HAND DOTH FALTER, IRON MAN!

FOR THY BLAST DOTH FLY WIDE OF ITS MARK!

THAT'S... WHAT YOU THINK, MY FRIEND!

IF I CAN'T STOP YOU... MAYBE A COLLAPSING WALL CAN!

IT WORKED... AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT! HE'S BURIED... UNDER TONS OF DEBRIS!

IF I'M GOING TO ESCAPE... IT'S GOT TO BE NOW...!

BUT... I CAN HARDLY MOVE... LET ALONE RUN!

IT TAKES BUT AN INSTANT FOR THOR TO FREE HIMSELF, MORTAL...



AND NOW, HAVE  
AT THEE...  
FOR THE FINAL  
TIME!

# KRUNCH!!

I WAS..  
TOO  
SLOW!

THEN, AMIDST THE SHATTERED WRECKAGE...AS SWIRLS  
OF DUST BEGIN TO CLEAR...ONLY ONE FORM STIRS...  
THAT OF THOR, THE IMMORTAL WHO HAS BECOME A  
MURDEROUS PUPPET...

...WHILE THE UNMOVING,  
BATTERED FIGURE OF  
IRON MAN CAN ONLY  
LIE IN SILENCE...AND  
CONTEMPLATE HIS OWN  
DEATH--!

CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE  
...AND I'VE ONLY A FEW  
SECONDS OF  
ENERGY LEFT!

IT LOOKS LIKE  
IRON MAN...IS  
FINISHED!

IN THE MEANTIME, ABOARD THE COLLECTOR'S STAR-  
SPANNING SPACESHIP, GOLIATH IS RECEIVING A MORE  
PLEASANT PIECE OF NEWS...

HONEY...YOU'RE  
FREE!

BUT...  
HOW?

WHEN IT COMES  
TO CLASSIFYING  
HIS COLLECTION,  
HANDSOME, OUR  
HOST SEEMS TO  
HAVE GOOFED!

THAT PET OF HIS HE  
CALLED A SAURO-  
BEAST...TURNS OUT  
TO ACTUALLY BE SOME  
SORT OF ALIEN  
INSECT!

I ORDERED IT TO  
FREE ME...AND HERE I AM...

...ALL  
2 1/2  
INCHES  
OF ME!

BUT, EVEN AS HANK AND JAN HELP HAWKEYE ESCAPE...

SO, AVENGERS...IT  
APPEARS I UNDER-  
ESTIMATED YOUR  
INGENUITY!

I SHOULD HAVE  
FORCE-FED YOU MY  
OBEDIENCE  
POTION...BUT I  
PREFERRED TO SEE  
YOU CAGED  
IN YOUR  
DEFIANCE!

STILL, I CAN  
EASILY UNDO MY  
MISTAKE...AND  
RECAPTURE YOU...

...BY ACTIVATING THAT GIANT ROBOTOID YOU  
BEHOLD...WHICH I COLLECTED FROM  
ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM!

# MMM!

IF ONLY I  
COULD GROW  
AGAIN...WE'D  
HAVE A CHANCE  
AGAINST HIM!

STOW THE  
WISHFUL  
THINKING,  
PARTNER!

THAT TIN-CAN  
TITAN MEANS  
BUSINESS!



NEXT, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE  
THE ARCHER'S EXCLAMATION...

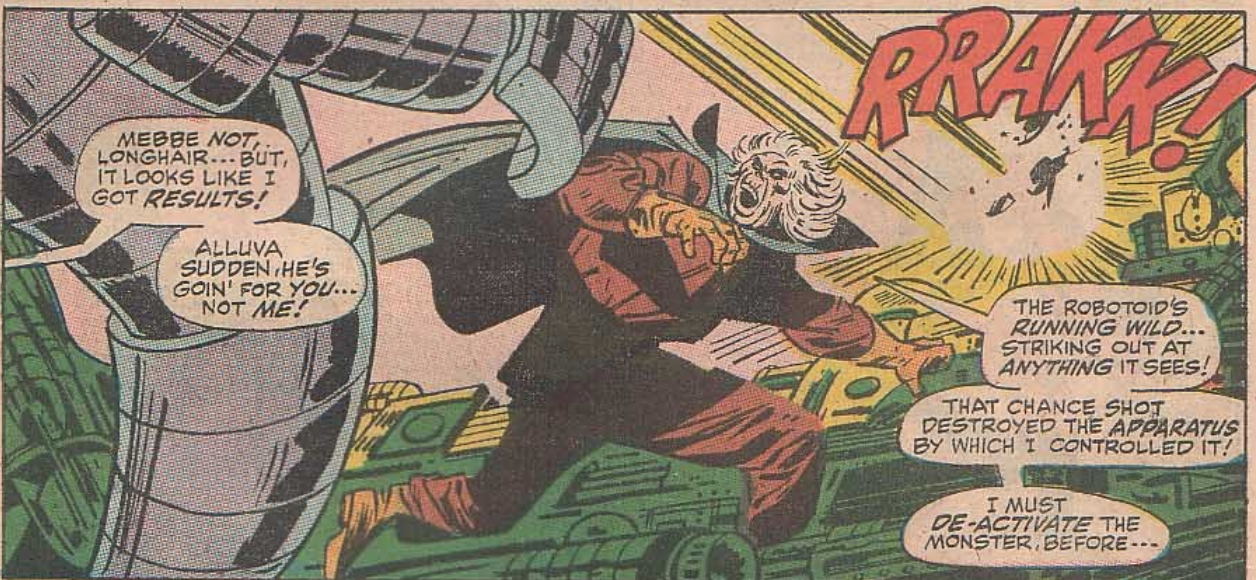


THAT BABY'S  
STUN-RAY IS  
SWEEPIN' AFTER  
ME...NO MATTER  
WHERE I TURN!

LET'S SEE IF I CAN  
DO SOME DAMAGE...  
BY RUNNIN' IN FRONT  
OF SOME MACHINERY!



DON'T, YOU  
FOOL! YOU DON'T  
REALIZE WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING!



I MUST  
DE-ACTIVATE THE  
MONSTER, BEFORE---

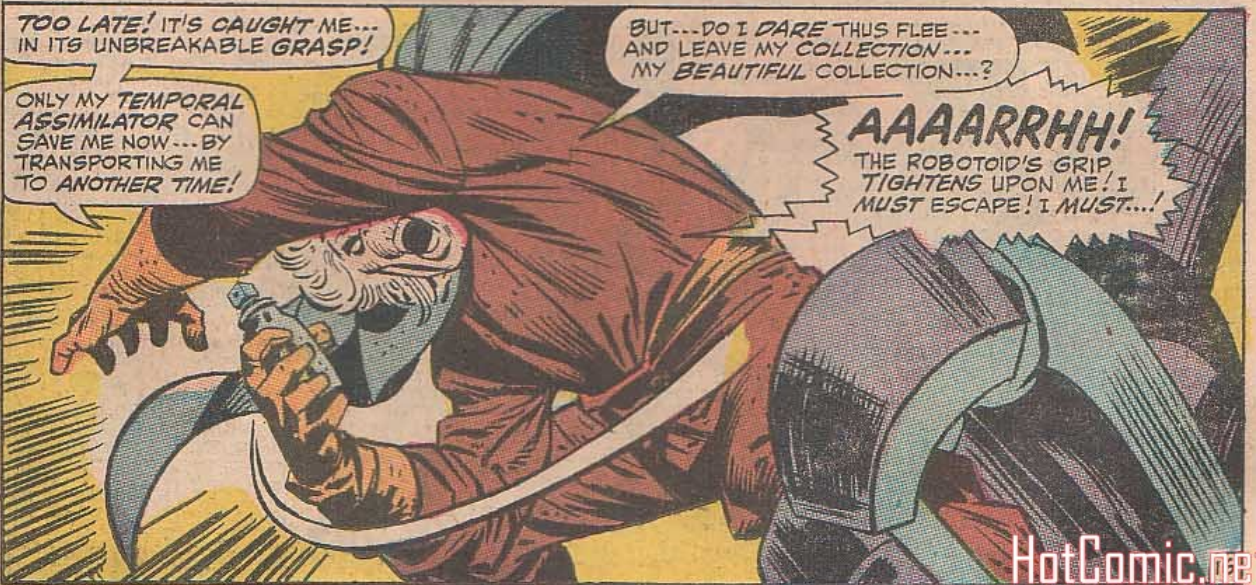
TOO LATE! IT'S CAUGHT ME...  
IN ITS UNBREAKABLE GRASP!

ONLY MY TEMPORAL  
ASSIMILATOR CAN  
SAVE ME NOW... BY  
TRANSPORTING ME  
TO ANOTHER TIME!

BUT...DO I DARE THUS FLEE...  
AND LEAVE MY COLLECTION...  
MY BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION...?

AAAARRHH!

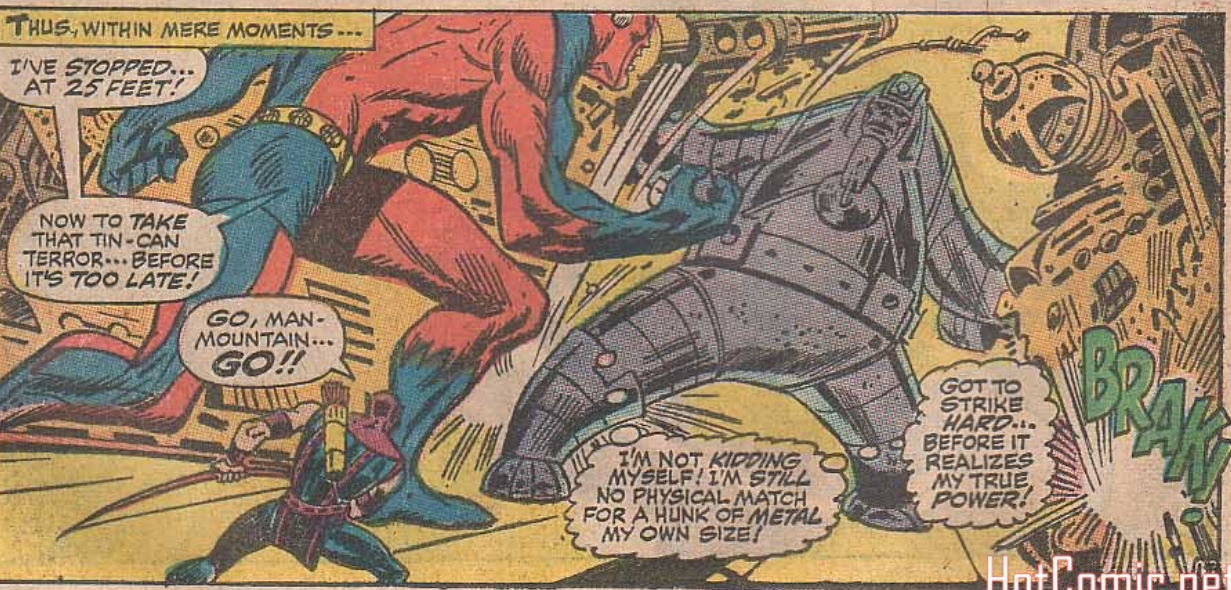
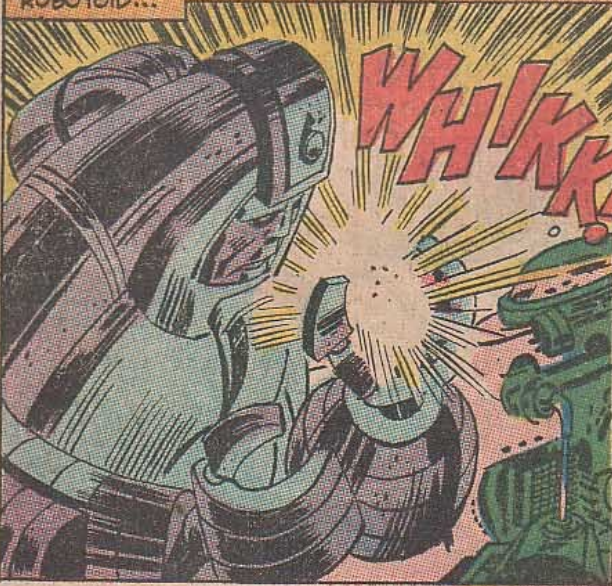
THE ROBOTOID'S GRIP  
TIGHTENS UPON ME! I  
MUST ESCAPE! I MUST...!





AND, THE FOLLOWING MICRO-SECOND, ESCAPE HE DOES...  
VANISHING INTO A SIDEREAL TIME-WORLD WHERE  
EXIST NEITHER THE AVENGERS NOR THE RAMPAGING  
ROBOTOID...

THEN, BEREFT OF ITS HUMAN PREY, THE MAMMOTH  
AUTOMATON SEEMS TO GO *BERSERK*... LASHING OUT  
AT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS AIMLESS  
PATH...



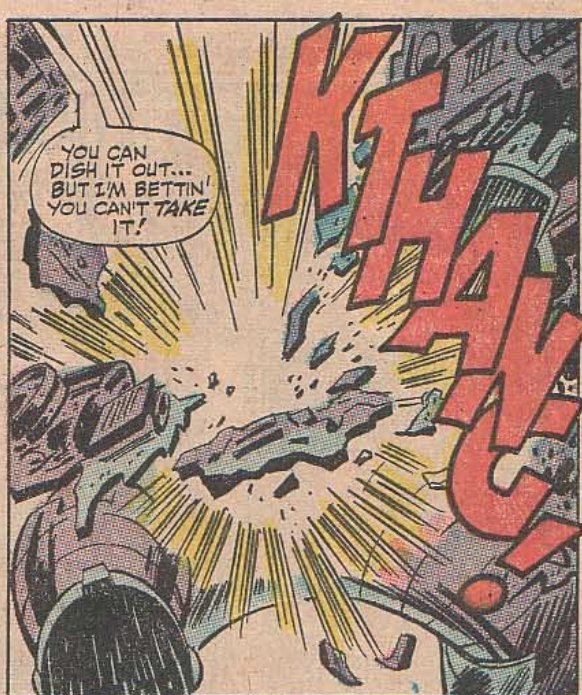


THEN, AS THE HUGE  
ANDROID HURLS A  
MASSIVE APPARATUS...



THIS ISN'T ANT-  
MAN YOU'RE  
FIGHTING ANY  
MORE, SILENT  
SAM...

IT'S...  
**GOLIATH!**

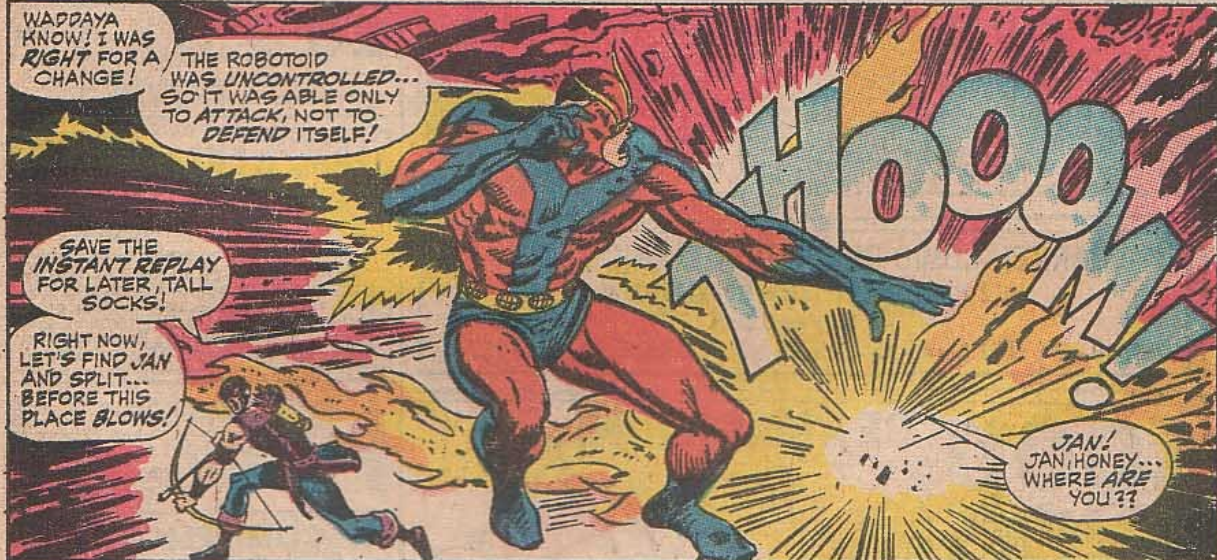


WADDAYA  
KNOW! I WAS  
RIGHT FOR A  
CHANGE!

THE ROBOTOID  
WAS UNCONTROLLED...  
SO IT WAS ABLE ONLY  
TO ATTACK, NOT TO  
DEFEND ITSELF!

SAVE THE  
INSTANT REPLAY  
FOR LATER, TALL  
SOCKS!

RIGHT NOW,  
LET'S FIND JAN  
AND SPLIT...  
BEFORE THIS  
PLACE BLOWS!



JAN!  
JAN, HONEY...  
WHERE ARE  
YOU??

HERE I AM, HANK! I'LL BECOME  
LARGE, SO THAT--

OH!! I DIDN'T SEE...  
THAT GIANT SAVAGE...  
BEHIND ME--!

HE MUSTA  
BEEN IN A  
CAGE THAT  
GOT BUSTED!

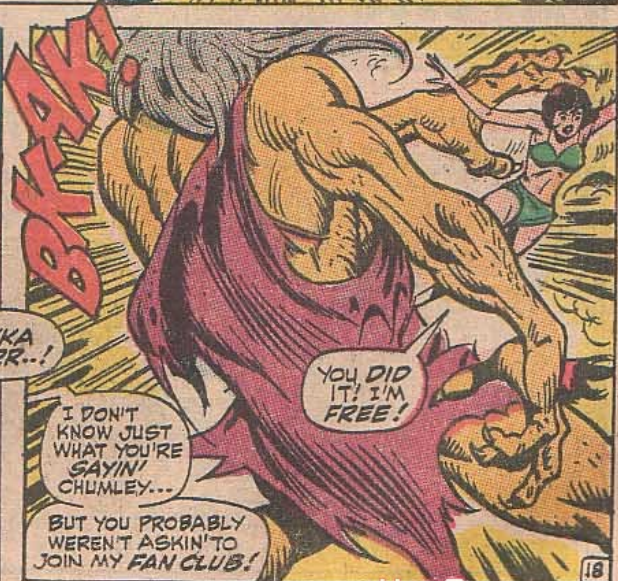
ANYWAY, NOW  
IT'S HAWKEYE'S  
TURN TO PLAY  
HERO!



TOKKA  
BORR--!

I DON'T  
KNOW JUST  
WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYIN'  
CHUMLEY...

BUT YOU PROBABLY  
WEREN'T ASKIN' TO  
JOIN MY FAN CLUB!



YOU DID  
IT! I'M  
FREE!



AND, AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME MOMENT, IN THE CITY BELOW...

MY MIND...  
'TIS SUDDENLY  
CLEAR ONCE  
MORE!

YET...WHAT HAVE  
I DONE TO IRON  
MAN... WHILE  
UNDER THE CON-  
TROL OF THE EVIL  
COLLECTOR?

HE LIES SO  
STILL...SO  
SILENT!

BUT, NO! HE STILL LIVES...THOUGH  
HIS BRAVE HEART BEATS MORE  
SLOWLY THAN I DEEM SAFE!

TRULY, THERE IS MORE  
TO HIS CONDITION THAN  
MEETS THE EYE...FOR  
I DEFEATED HIM  
TOO EASILY!\*

I SHALL  
CARRY  
HIM TO  
THE  
COLLECTOR'S  
SHIP,  
WHERE--  
BY THE GRIM  
VISAGE OF  
HOGUN!

\*REMEMBER, NOT EVEN  
THOR KNOWS THE REAL  
SECRET OF IRON MAN'S LIFE-  
GIVING ARMOR!...STAN THE MAN.

YON VESSEL...  
IS AFLAME!

EVEN SO, THE SON OF ODIN  
MUST ENTER, SO THAT...

MY FELLOW  
AVENGERS...  
THOU HAST ESCAPED  
FROM THY CELLS!

'TIS THEE  
THAT I DID  
RETURN TO  
RESCUE!

YOU'VE STILL  
GOT YOUR  
CHANCE, GOLDI-  
LOCKS!

A BUS STOP  
THIS PLACE  
AIN'T!

MOVE,  
AVENGERS!  
FORM A CHAIN  
BY HOLDING  
ONTO THOR!

AND, BARE INSTANTS AFTERWARD...

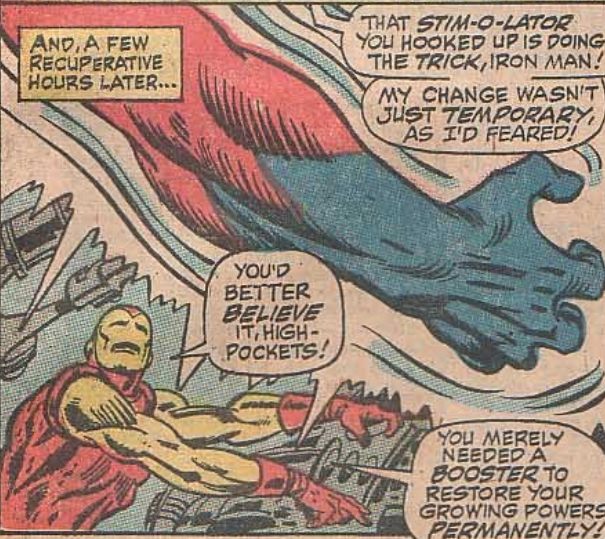
GRASP ME TIGHTLY, MY  
FRIENDS...AS I TRANSPORT  
THEE TO EARTH!

WE'LL  
BE ALL  
RIGHT,  
CURLY!

BUT HURRY!  
FROM THE  
LOOKS OF  
THINGS, OL'  
SHELLHEAD'S  
IN A BAD  
WAY!



HOWEVER, TO MAKE A SHORT STORY SHORTER, A MINISCULE AMOUNT OF RESERVE ENERGY REMAINS... JUST ENOUGH TO ENABLE IRON MAN TO RECHARGE HIMSELF IN SECRET...



AND, A FEW RECUPERATIVE HOURS LATER...

YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT, HIGH-POCKETS!

THAT STIM-O-LATOR YOU HOOKED UP IS DOING THE TRICK, IRON MAN!

MY CHANGE WASN'T JUST TEMPORARY, AS I'D FEARED!

YOU MERELY NEEDED A BOOSTER TO RESTORE YOUR GROWING POWERS PERMANENTLY!

SUDDENLY, AS THE LARGEST OF HEROES SHRINKS DOWN TO A MERE TEN FEET...



**BEEP! BEEP!**


THAT SOUND... IT MUST BE CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WE NEVER DID GET TO HEAR HIS MESSAGE!

I WONDER WHAT THE SONUVA-GUN'S GOT TO SAY!?

I'M ON AN ISLAND NEAR AFRICA... WITH A SPECIAL FRIEND OF MINE!

I'M KNOWN BY SO FEW OUTSIDE MY NATIVE LAND!



WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'VE SUGGESTED HE JOIN THE AVENGERS... AS MY REPLACEMENT!

HE CALLS HIMSELF... THE PANTHER!!

WHO COULD BLAME THEM IF THEY REFUSE..?

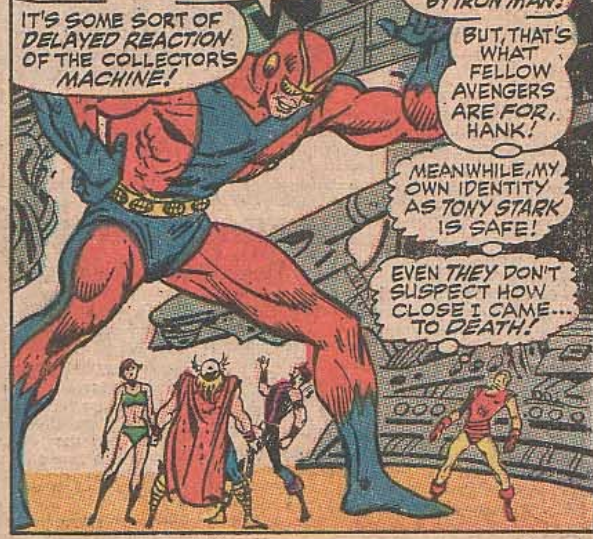
IF YOU VOUCH FOR HIM, CAP... HE'S AS GOOD AS IN!

I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!

OVER AND OUT!

WHAT'S MORE, I CAN NOW ATTAIN MY OLD SIZE OF 25 FEET... FOR UP TO 15 MINUTES!

POWERED BY THOR... AND STABILIZED BY IRON MAN!



IT'S SOME SORT OF DELAYED REACTION OF THE COLLECTOR'S MACHINE!

BUT, THAT'S WHAT FELLOW AVENGERS ARE FOR, HANK!

MEANWHILE, MY OWN IDENTITY AS TONY STARK IS SAFE!

EVEN THEY DON'T SUSPECT HOW CLOSE I CAME... TO DEATH!

THEN, AS THE AVENGERS' TRANSCIEVER IS ACTIVATED...



THIS IS CAP... AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS!

MAYBE I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO CONTACT YOU... AFTER THE WAY I WALKED OUT ON YOU BEFORE...

FORGET IT, PARTNER!

WE ALL KNEW YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO COVER UP YOUR OWN FEELINGS!

I MIGHT'VE KNOWN I DIDN'T FOOL ANYBODY!

WELL THEN, I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT...!

THEN, AS THOR AND IRON MAN DEPART...



THE WORLD OF MORTALS SHALL MARK THIS DAY WELL, MY FRIEND!

FOR, TODAY, ANOTHER GLORIOUS NAME WAS ADDED TO THE RANKS OF... THE AVENGERS!

AND THOSE WHO PLAN EVIL HAVE ONE MORE REASON TO FEAR!

**NEXT ISH:**

**ENTER: THE PANTHER... AND THE DEATH-DEALING GRIM REAPER!**