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# THE AVENGERS

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(Avengers)

**"BLITZKRIEG in CENTRAL PARK!"**



# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

## "BLITZKRIEG IN CENTRAL PARK!"

Featuring:  
THE  
FIENDISHLY  
FAR-OUT  
FURY OF...  
THE  
SUPER-  
ADAPTOID!

HOLD THOU FAST TO THE  
ROPE WHICH I HAVE  
PROVIDED, SON OF ZEUS!  
WE SHALL REACH OUR  
DESTINATION IN MERE  
MOMENTS!

FEAR NOT  
FOR THE SAFETY  
OF HERCULES,  
MY FRIEND!

IF I LIVE TO BE A  
HUNDRED, I'LL NEVER  
QUIT BEING AMAZED  
AT THAT ENCHANTED  
URU HAMMER OF  
THOR'S... WHICH GIVES  
HIM VIRTUALLY THE  
POWER OF FLIGHT!

VERILY, NOT  
THE THUNDER  
GOD HIMSELF  
HATH A GRIP  
MORE UN-  
SHAKABLE THAN  
MINE!

STAN LEE

PERSONALLY PRESENTS  
AND POLISHES A  
ROY THOMAS-  
DON HECK

MELEE OF MATCHLESS  
MARVEL MAGNIFICENCE!

DELINEATED BY THE PROUD  
PENPOINT OF  
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY THE FUM-  
BLING FINGERS OF  
SAM ROSEN

IF YOU'RE AMAZED TO SEE  
IRON MAN, THOR, AND  
HERCULES TOGETHER IN THE  
ABOVE SPLASH PANEL, EITHER  
YOU MISSED AVENGERS SPECIAL #1... OR YOU'RE  
FANTASTICALLY FORGETFUL! BUT, NO MATTER WHICH,  
READ ON... AND ALL SHALL BE MADE CLEAR UNTO YOU!

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MEANWHILE, IN A LUXURIOUS MIDTOWN MANSION FROM WHICH THE PREVIOUS TRIO HAVE JUST DEPARTED, A SLIGHTLY MORE TYPICAL KIND OF CONVERSATION IS TAKING PLACE...

HURRY, MY SISTER! THE CEREMONY IS DUE TO START IN ONLY HALF AN HOUR, AND IT WOULD BE UNSEEMLY OF US TO BE LATE!

I'M GETTING READY AS FAST AS I CAN, PIETRO!

AFTER ALL, A GIRL MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT SHE LOOKS HER BEST ON SUCH AN OCCASION.

NOW, TELL THE TRUTH... HOW DO I LOOK? IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIX MY HAIR WHEN I'M WEARING MY TIARA!

YOU LOOK LOVELY, WANDA... BUT, YOU GO TO FAR MORE TROUBLE THAN MERE HOMO SAPIENS DESERVE!

'TIS THEY... WITH THEIR CONSTANT MISTRUST AND FEAR OF EVERYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORD MUTANT... WHO SHOULD TRY TO PLEASE US!

THAT SOUNDS SO UNLIKE YOU, PIETRO! WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO BITTER?

ARE NOT OUR DAYS OF STRIVING WITH MORE NORMAL HUMANS ENDED? ARE NOT OUR FELLOW AVENGERS HOMO SAPIENS?

I SPOKE NOT OF THEM, BUT OF THE HERD... OF THE NAMELESS, FACELESS MASSES WHO WERE ONCE OUR ENEMIES!

TODAY THEY DO US HOMAGE... BUT ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE AVENGERS! YET, WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING?

YOU MUSTN'T TALK THAT WAY, MY BROTHER!

THE DAYS WE SPENT AS MAGNETO'S ALLIES ARE BEHIND US... AND MUST BE EVER FORGOTTEN!

NOW, LET US GO! GOLIATH AND THE WASP ARE WAITING!

AND SOON, ZOOMING OVER THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS SKYLINE...

I STILL CAN'T GET OVER IT... A

PUBLIC CEREMONY HONORING THE AVENGERS, FOR CRUSHING THE MANDARIN'S MAD PLAN TO CONQUER THE EARTH!\*

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS AWAY ON A MISSION! I HOPE HE CAN ARRIVE BEFORE IT STARTS!

BY THE WAY, HANK, YOU DIDN'T MENTION WHY JAN IS NOT FLYING TO CENTRAL PARK WITH US!

ONLY BECAUSE I DON'T REALLY KNOW, WANDA! SHE SAID SHE HAD A SURPRISE FOR US... AND LIT OUT!

I'M ONLY GUESSING, BUT I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE INHERITANCE SHE RECENTLY CAME INTO! SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY ALL WEEK!

\*IN THE AFOREMENTIONED AVENGERS SPECIAL, STILL ON SALE... IF YOU'RE LUCKY! ... SUBTLE - HINTER STAN.



WITHIN MINUTES, THE CRUISING AERO-CAR HAS LANDED NEAR A SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED SHELL IN FAMOUS CENTRAL PARK... AMIDST A CROWD OF WELL-WISHERS...

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT, WHITEY!

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE PART OF AVENGER DAY?

I AM... HONORED, OF COURSE, HAWKEYE!

BUT, HOW IS THE BLACK WIDOW? I KNOW YOU HAVE COME HERE FROM THE HOSPITAL!

SHE'S FINE... BUT, SHE WON'T BE TURNIN' ANY CARTWHEELS FOR A WHILE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ALL THE AVENGERS IN PERSON... WHAT A DAY FOR AN AUTOGRAPH HOUND!

LOOK! THERE ARE THOR AND IRON MAN... BUT, WHO'S THAT WITH THEM?

THAT'S HERCULES GAL! HE'S IN EXILE HERE ON EARTH... OR HAVE YOU BEEN VACATIONING IN SIBERIA?

TWO OF THEM AREN'T HERE YET! I WONDER WHERE THEY ARE!?

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, OUR LIONIZED SUPER-HEROES ARE WONDERING THE SAME THING...

WHERE BE THY SHIELD-BEARING ALLY, ARCHER... AND JANET VAN DYNE?

MAN-MOUNTAIN HERE SAYS HIS LADY FRIEND TOOK A POWDER! BUT, I'M BETTIN' SHE JUST WANTS TO BE STYLISHLY LATE!

AS FOR CAP, HE JUST RADIOED US THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY!

I HOPE HE IS NOT LONG DELAYED!

IRON MAN AND I LEFT OTHER PRESSING MATTERS TO PARTAKE IN THIS EVENT!

BUT, ONE THERE IS IN THE THROG WHO IS EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE STAR-SPANGLED AVENGER...

WHY DOES HE NOT COME?

DOES HE PERHAPS KNOW THAT I... ONE OF HIS GREATEST FOES... AM WAITING HERE FOR HIM?

NO! HE CANNOT KNOW... HE CANNOT EVEN SUSPECT!

THIS TIME, THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE! THIS TIME, CAPTAIN AMERICA MUST DIE!

WELL DO I REMEMBER WHEN LAST I ENCOUNTERED HIM WHO IS TO BE MY VICTIM...

THAT IS THE MISSION THAT I WAS CREATED FOR... THAT MY PHOTO-ELECTRIC CIRCUITS WERE PROGRAMMED FOR! THAT IS THE REASON WHY THERE EXISTS... THE SUPER-ADAPTOID!



"EVEN HE COULD NOT STAND AGAINST ONE WHO HAD THE POWERS OF FOUR AVENGERS..."

YOU ARE DOOMED, CAPTAIN AMERICA... DOOMED TO DIE BY MY HAND!

CAN'T FIGHT MY OWN AGILITY... PLUS THE STRENGTH OF GOLIATH...!

\*RECREATED FROM SUSPENSE # 84... SMILEY.

I HAVE WON! I HAVE DESTROYED THE RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE AVENGER...

...AS MY CREATORS AT A.I.M. DESIGNED ME TO DO!

UNNNHHH...!

I ASSUMED THAT A FALL FROM SUCH A HEIGHT WOULD FINISH THE FOOL... AND SOUGHT OUT A HIDDEN REFUGE!

BUT, NOW I HAVE LEARNED THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA SURVIVED SOMEHOW... THAT HE WAS FAR STURDIER THAN I IMAGINED!

I HAD TO SEEK HIM OUT ONCE MORE! AS A PROGRAMMED ANDROID, I COULD NOT DO OTHERWISE!

AND, THIS TIME I SHALL TRULY KILL HIM! FOR, THIS TIME, I SHALL ADAPT THE POWERS OF ALL THE AVENGERS... AND EVEN OF HERCULES!

WHILE, NEARBY, UNAWARE OF THE MACABRE MENACE WHICH SHALL SOON CONFRONT THEM ALL, THE COLORFUL HAWKEYE GRANTS AN UNACUSTOMED INTERVIEW...

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANNA HEAR FROM THIS BOW-SLINGIN' BOHUNK WHEN YOU'VE GOT MYTHICAL GODS STANDIN' AROUND... BUT ASK AWAY!

IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMORS THAT YOU AND CAPTAIN AMERICA USED TO BE FEUDING?

SONNY, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LONGER MEMORY THAN I HAVE!

WHAT ABOUT THE BLACK WIDOW, HAWKEYE?

I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HERE TODAY!

AT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S QUESTION, A FAR-AWAY EXPRESSION CROSSES THE AVENGING ARCHER'S FACE... AS HIS MIND SKIPS BACK A HALF HOUR...

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND, MY DARLING... BUT, I WISH TO GIVE UP MY IDENTITY AS THE BLACK WIDOW!

MIND? NOT ME, LADY!

THE ONLY IDENTITY I WANT YOU TO HAVE IS... MY WIFE!

PERHAPS I SHALL... SOON!

UH, LET'S JUST SAY SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT... AND LET IT GO AT THAT!

NO NEED FOR THEM TO KNOW SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE INTERVIEW IS CONCLUDED...

WELL, WANDA, I MAY NOT EXACTLY BE A ONE-MAN BEATLES WHEN IT COMES TO GIVIN' OUT WITH THE ANSWERS... BUT, AT LEAST...

WHY THE LONG FACE, WITCHIE? SOMEBODY SET FIRE TO YOUR BROOMSTICK?

I SEE THOR STRIDING TOWARDS US... AND HE LOOKS SO GRIM!

HE ALWAYS LOOKS THAT WAY, LADY! LET'S FACE IT... A BUNDLE OF LAUGHS, OL' GOLDBLOCKS AIN'T!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE







AND MY REMARK IS BOUND TO TURN HULKIN' HANKS!

AND THOU, FAIR ONE, WOULD PLEASE THE EYE OF ANY IMMORTAL!

THE LOOK IN JANET VAN DYNE'S EYES... DOTH IT MEAN WHAT I DO READ THERE?

AND, MY REMARK IS  
BOUND TO TURN HULKIN  
HANKS!

AND THOU, FAIR  
ONE, WOULD PLEASE  
THE EYE OF ANY  
IMMORTAL!

THE LOOK IN JANET VAN DYNE'S EYES...DOES IT MEAN WHAT I DO *READ* THERE?

BESIDES, I KNOW FULL WELL  
THE SORROW THAT MAY  
BEFALL WHEN A GOD DOTH  
LOVE A MORTAL! IT MUST  
AND SHALL  
NOT BE!

HAWKEYE...IRON MAN  
AND I MAY TARRY NO  
LONGER! WILT THOU  
GIVE OUR REGARDS  
TO THE STAR-SPANGLED  
AVENGER?

WILL DO, CURLY! WE'RE  
JUST GLAD YOU AND  
SHELLHEAD HERE  
COULD MAKE IT!

CAP'LL BE SORRY,  
HE MISSED YOU!

ON..TO ASGARD!!

I DON'T HAVE AS COLORFUL AN EXIT LINE AS YOURS, THOR...

SO, I'LL JUST SAY.. SEE YOU AROUND!

**ON..TO  
ASGARD!!**

I DON'T HAVE  
AS COLORFUL  
AN EXIT LINE  
AS YOURS, THOR..

SO, I'LL JUST  
SAY.. SEE YOU  
AROUND!

LET THEM LEAVE! BOTH OF THEM REMAINED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ADAPT SOME OF THEIR POWERS!

WHEN I STRIKE, THOSE WHO REMAIN SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP ME FROM DESTROYING CAPTAIN AMERICA!

BUT, WHERE IS MY FATED VICTIM? SURELY, NO OTHER ENEMY HAS DEFEATED HIM...

LET THEM LEAVE! BOTH OF THEM REMAINED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ADAPT SOME OF THEIR POWERS!

WHEN I STRIKE,  
THOSE WHO  
REMAIN SHALL  
NEVER BE ABLE TO  
STOP ME FROM  
DESTROYING  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA!

BUT, WHERE IS  
MY FATED VICTIM?  
SURELY, NO OTHER  
ENEMY HAS DEFEATED  
HIM...

EEEEEE EEEEEEE

I TRIED TO TALK THE POLICE OUT OF GIVING ME THIS MOTORCYCLE ESCORT... BUT WITHOUT LUCK!

I TRIED TO TALK THE  
POLICE OUT OF GIVING  
ME THIS *MOTORCYCLE*  
*ESCORT...* BUT WITHOUT  
*LUCK!*

HOW IRONIC... WHEN I'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY  
WONDERING IF I SHOULDN'T GIVE UP MY  
LIFE AS CAPTAIN AMERICA!\*

**CAP.. WE WERE  
AFRAID SOMETHING  
SERIOUS HAD  
DELAYED YOU!**

NEXT TIME, WINGHEAD, MAYBE YOU  
BETTER TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH  
THE *SUBWAY!*

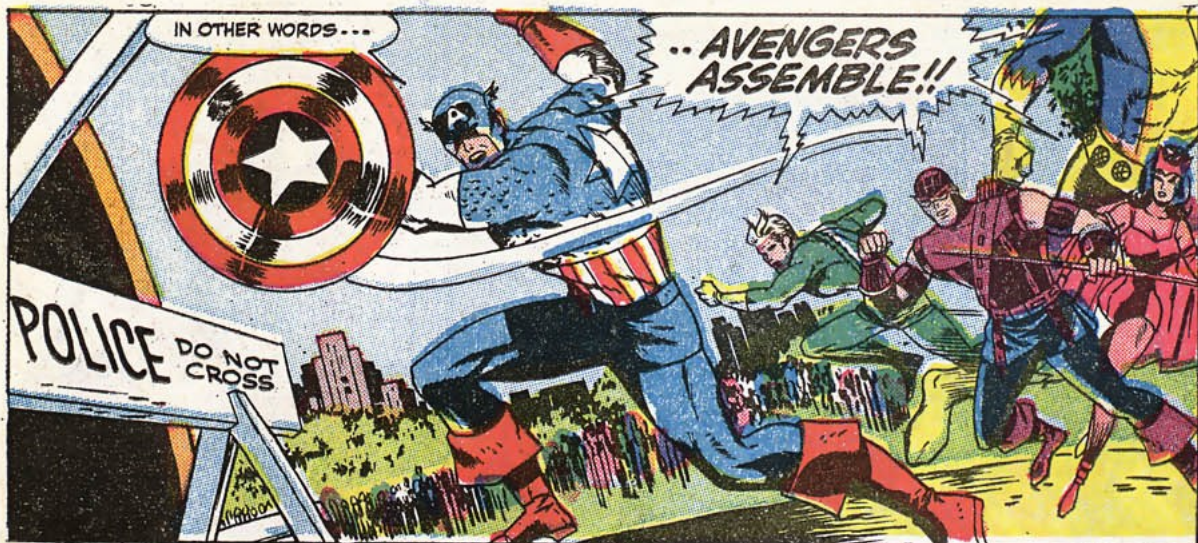
YOU MAY HAVE  
A POINT THERE,  
HAWKEYE! AND  
NOW---

SO, YOU'RE  
HERE, CAPTAIN  
AMERICA! THEN  
WE CAN **START!**

**YOU HEARD  
THE COUNCILMAN,  
CREW!**

\* JUST OUR SUBTLE WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW THAT THIS TALE *PRECEDES* THE OFF-BEAT EPIC IN *SUSPENSE* #95!... SLY OL' STAN.







YET, EVEN THAT BRIEFEST OF AWESOME TRANSFORMATIONS HAS NOT ESCAPED THE EVER-ALERT EYES OF THE AVENGERS...

SO... I HAVE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!

STILL, YOUR AWARENESS SHALL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!

FZAP!

CAP... IT'S THAT ADAPTOID CREEP YOU FOUGHT BEFORE!

NO SWEAT, PAL! HE TELEGRAPHED THAT BLAST BY A MILE!

BUT, IT'S OBVIOUS HE NOW HAS IRON MAN'S POWER... AND PROBABLY THOR'S!

INDEED, I AM GLAD CAPTAIN AMERICA IS FULLY ON GUARD... SO THAT I MAY DEMONSTRATE MY OWN INFINITE SUPERIORITY!

FIRST, HOWEVER, I MUST RID THE AREA OF THESE PITIFUL HUMANS...!

RUN! HE'S GROWING... AS BIG AS GOLIATH!

I WOULDN'T HAVE DREAMED ANYONE WOULD DARE ATTACK THE ENTIRE AVENGERS!

WHOEVER HE IS, HE MUST HAVE POWERS AS GREAT AS THEIRS!

AS GREAT AS THEIRS? NAY, MORTAL FLEA... MY OWN POWERS ARE FAR GREATER! OBSERVE, AS I...

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR FIGHTING WITH YOUR GUMS, BIG MAN!

UNNNHH!

THOOM!

HE'S GOT TO BE AFTER CAP... LIKE HE WAS THE FIRST TIME! BUT, HE'S MY SIZE!

SO, IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP HIM... COLD!

HANK... WAIT! THE SUPER-ADAPTOID HAS MORE THAN MERE SIZE ON HIS SIDE...!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



AND, ALAS... EXACTLY ONE MICROSECOND LATER, THE GIANT AVENGER LEARNS HIS LESSON QUITE GRAPHICALLY...

OOOFF! IT'S JUST LIKE BEING HIT... BY IRON MAN'S REPULSOR RAYS!

SIZZLE SK

A FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF ENERGY... KNOCKING ME OFF MY FEET...!

NOW, HUMAN FOOL...

...YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR ARROGANCE... IN DARING TO ATTACK THE ULTIMATE CREATION OF A.I.M.!!

I'M... JUST DOWN, MISTER... NOT OUT...



BUT, LET US SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST THE SHATTERING POWER OF.. THOR!!

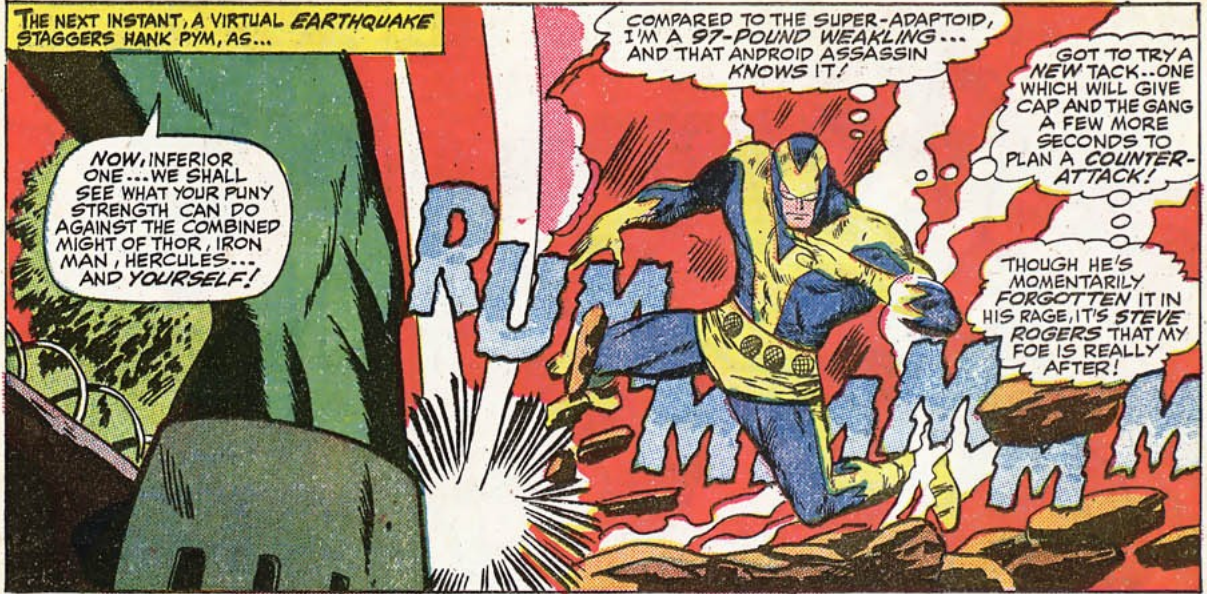
THOUGH I DID NOT ADAPT THE ENCHANTED HAMMER OF THE THUNDER GOD, I CAPTURED MUCH OF ITS WITHERING POWER WITHIN MY INVINCIBLE SHIELD!

NOT ALL THE MIGHT ON EARTH SHALL FOIL ME IN MY DEADLY MISSION.. TO DESTROY CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WROOOM!!



THE NEXT INSTANT, A VIRTUAL EARTHQUAKE STAGGERS HANK PYM, AS...



NOW, INFERIOR ONE...WE SHALL SEE WHAT YOUR PUNY STRENGTH CAN DO AGAINST THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THOR, IRON MAN, HERCULES... AND YOURSELF!

COMPARED TO THE SUPER-ADAPTOID, I'M A 97-POUND WEAKLING... AND THAT ANDROID ASSASSIN KNOWS IT!

GOT TO TRY A NEW TACK...ONE WHICH WILL GIVE CAP AND THE GANG A FEW MORE SECONDS TO PLAN A COUNTER-ATTACK!

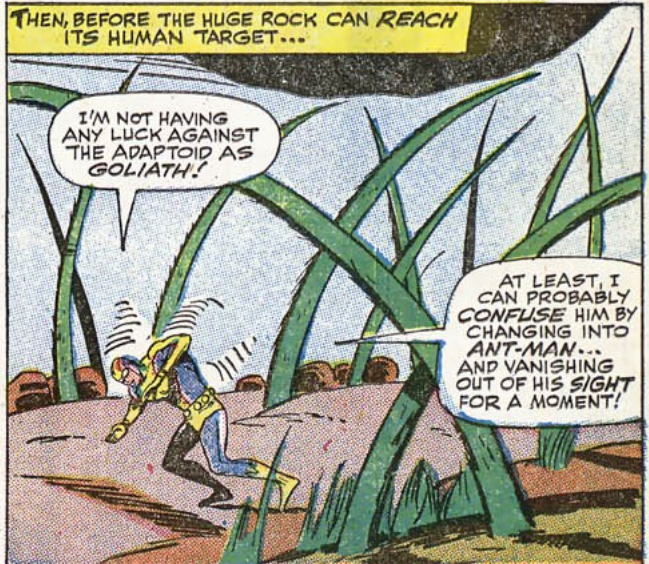
THOUGH HE'S MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN IT IN HIS RAGE, IT'S STEVE ROGERS THAT MY FOE IS REALLY AFTER!



SO, YOU SAY NOTHING...YOU DO NOT EVEN BEG FOR MERCY!

ONCE THIS HURLED BOULDER STRIKES YOU, YOU WILL SAY NOTHING... EVER AGAIN!

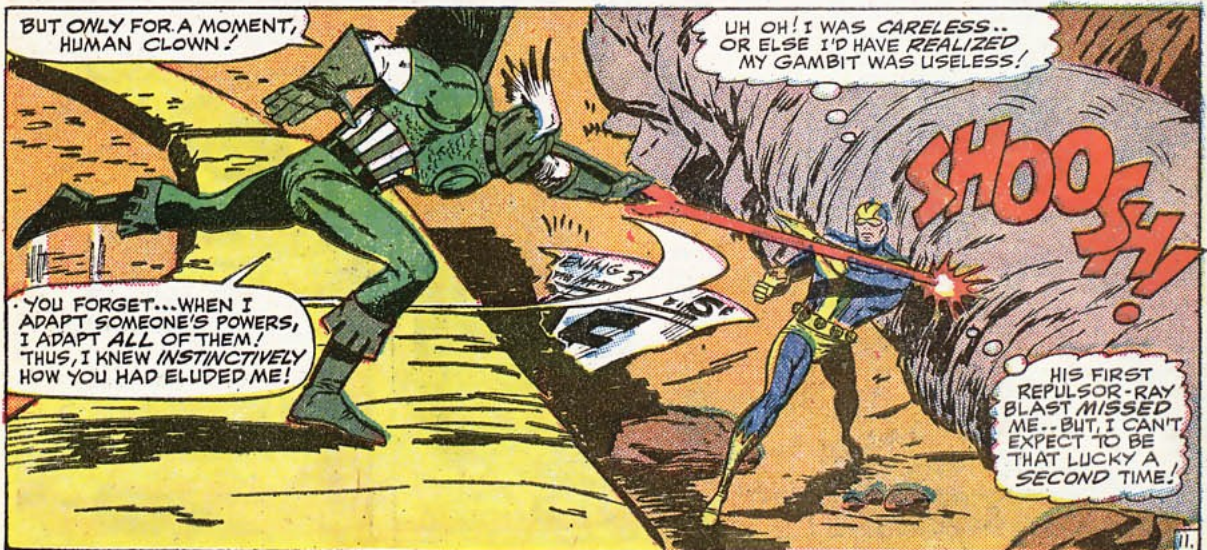
GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT... OR I'M FINISHED!



THEN, BEFORE THE HUGE ROCK CAN REACH ITS HUMAN TARGET...

I'M NOT HAVING ANY LUCK AGAINST THE ADAPTOID AS GOLIATH!

AT LEAST, I CAN PROBABLY CONFUSE HIM BY CHANGING INTO ANT-MAN... AND VANISHING OUT OF HIS SIGHT FOR A MOMENT!



BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT, HUMAN CLOWN!

YOU FORGET...WHEN I ADAPT SOMEONE'S POWERS, I ADAPT ALL OF THEM! THUS, I KNEW INSTINCTIVELY HOW YOU HAD ELUDED ME!

UH OH! I WAS CARELESS... OR ELSE I'D HAVE REALIZED MY GAMBIT WAS USELESS!

SHOO SH!

HIS FIRST REPULSOR-RAY BLAST MISSED ME... BUT, I CAN'T EXPECT TO BE THAT LUCKY A SECOND TIME!



HOWEVER, AT THAT MOMENT GOLIATH RECEIVES A SHAPELY RESPITE...

MY STINGS WON'T DO MUCH GOOD... BUT, PERHAPS THEY'LL GIVE HANK A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!



WH...? YOU HAVE COURAGE, FEMALE! A PITY IT WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!

AND NOW, JUST IN CASE YOU THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE REST OF OUR EVER-ASSEMBLING BUDDIES...

IS THERE NAUGHT THAT WE CAN DO?

NOT AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN ANT-SIZED!



WE CAN'T EVEN SEE 'EM!

LISTEN! THE SOUND OF POLICE SIRENS... THEY MUST HAVE SEEN THE FLEEING CROWDS!

THEN, AS A TRIO OF SQUAD CARS SCREECH TO A HALT...

WHAT'S UP, AVENGERS? WE WERE ASSIGNED TO WATCH THE STREETS LEADING INTO THE PARK...



A BUNCH OF PANICKY KIDS TOLD US THERE WAS A FIGHT GOING ON HERE, BUT I DON'T...

STAY BACK, OFFICER! YOU CAN'T COME A STEP CLOSER!

HUH? WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HAWKEYE'S RIGHT! IT'S TOO COMPLICATED TO GO INTO NOW, BUT A LIFE-OR-DEATH COMBAT IS TAKING PLACE... RIGHT BENEATH OUR VERY FEET!

IF YOU MUST APPROACH, DO IT SLOWLY... OR YOU MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF AN AVENGER!



YOU TOO, CAPTAIN AMERICA? OKAY, MISTER... WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY...

BUT, IF ANYBODY ELSE TOLD ME A COCKEYED STORY LIKE THAT, I'D HAUL 'EM IN AND TELL 'EM TO SLEEP IT OFF!

STEVE... ALL OF YOU! I... I'M SURE I SAW SOMETHING MOVE DOWN THERE... JUST NOW!

WHERE, WANDA? IF ONLY WE HAD SOME IDEA OF EXACTLY WHERE THEY WERE.



I'VE LOST THEM AGAIN! BUT THEY'RE THERE... I KNOW IT!

AND, WHAT CAN GOLIATH AND THE WASP DO... AGAINST THE SUPER-ADAPTOID??

AS A MATTER OF FACT, HANDSOME HANK AND HIS PRETTY PARTNER ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER THE SAME THING THEMSELVES...

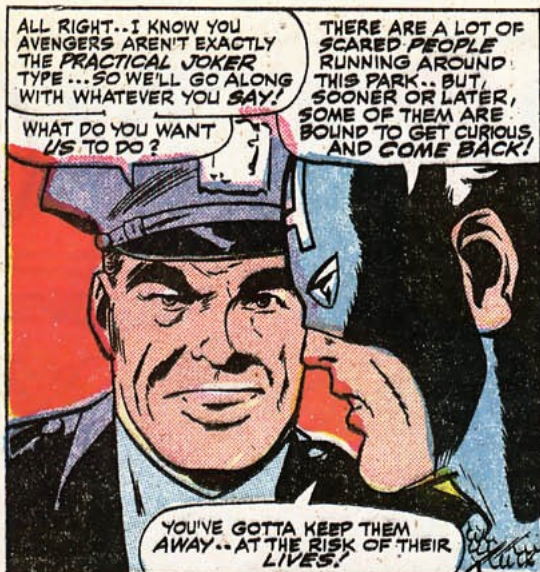
SO FAR, HANK'S JUST ABOUT BEEN ABLE TO HOLD HIS OWN... BECAUSE THE ADAPTOID'S NOT USED TO FIGHTING AT ANT-SIZE!

BUT, HITTING THAT MURDERING ROBOT IS LIKE BEATING YOUR FISTS AGAINST A STONE WALL!



IF CAP HADN'T SPENT HOURS TEACHING ME HOW TO USE MY FISTS, I'D HAVE BEEN FINISHED LONG AGO!



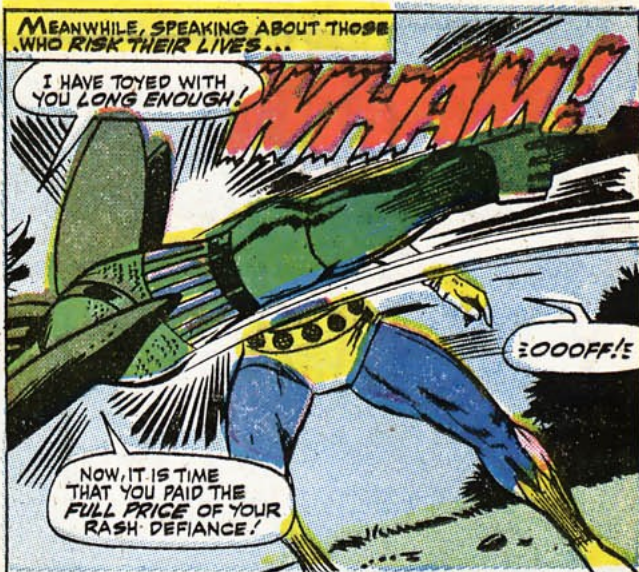


ALL RIGHT...I KNOW YOU AVENGERS AREN'T EXACTLY THE PRACTICAL JOKER TYPE...SO WE'LL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER YOU SAY!

WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

YOU'VE GOTTA KEEP THEM AWAY...AT THE RISK OF THEIR LIVES!

THERE ARE A LOT OF SCARED PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND THIS PARK...BUT, SOONER OR LATER, SOME OF THEM ARE BOUND TO GET CURIOUS AND COME BACK!



MEANWHILE, SPEAKING ABOUT THOSE WHO RISK THEIR LIVES...

I HAVE TOYED WITH YOU LONG ENOUGH!

**WHAM!**

OOOOF!

NOW, IT IS TIME THAT YOU PAID THE FULL PRICE OF YOUR RASH DEFIANCE!



AND, I CHOOSE TO SEAL YOUR FATE WITH THE SPEED OF QUICKSILVER...

...PLUS THE POWER OF IRON MAN!

UHHN! HE ONLY SEEMS TO USE THE ABILITIES OF ONE OR TWO AVENGERS AT A TIME!

BUT, AS LONG AS I DON'T KNOW WHICH HE'LL USE... I'M AT A FANTASTIC DISADVANTAGE!

HIS GRIP IS DRAWING TIGHTER...EVER TIGHTER...



BUT, EVEN AS GOLIATH LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS...

NEXT, I SHALL... WHAT-?

YOU'LL NOTHING, YOU SUPER-POWERED SPONGE! ANYBODY WHO ATTACKS HENRY PYM MUST ALSO DEAL WITH... THE WASP!!

I DID IT! I STARTLED HIM INTO LETTING GO OF HANK! NOW, MUST CARRY OFF THE SECOND PART OF MY PLAN!

AH...I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW FOOLHARDY A MORTAL FEMALE CAN BE...IN DEFENSE OF THE MAN SHE LOVES!

YET, DO NOT EXPECT FOR THAT REASON TO RECEIVE MERCY FROM ONE SUCH AS I!



THEN, SUDDENLY, IN A STARTLING AND TOTALLY UNEXPECTED MANEUVER, JANET VAN DYNE BEGINS TO GROW WITH AMAZING SPEED...

JAN...APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE! WHERE'S HANK...AND THE ADAPTOID??

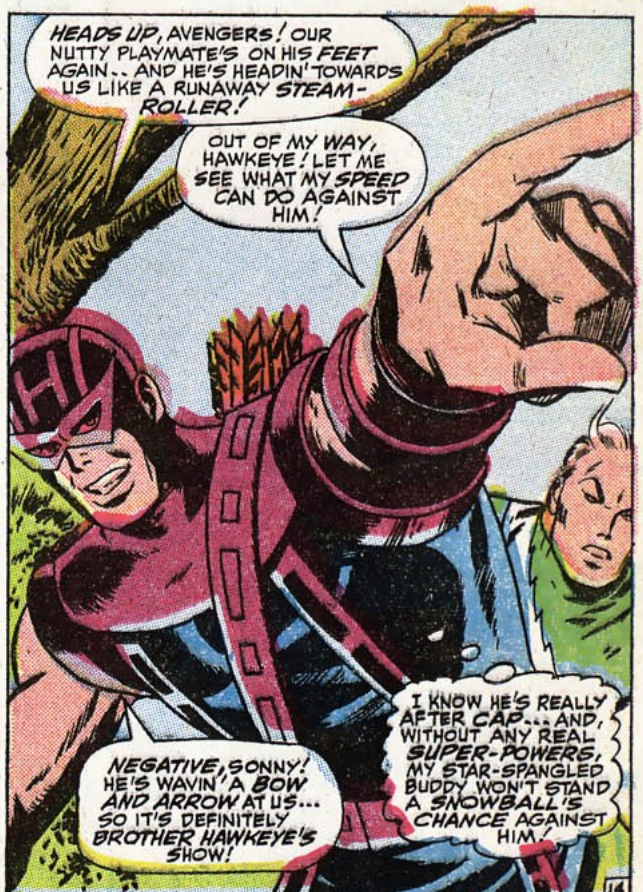
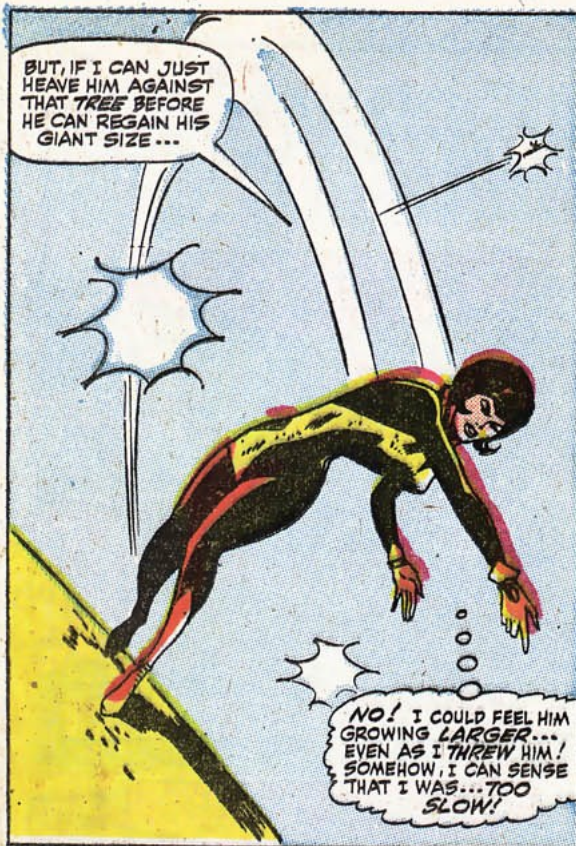
HANK'S ON THE GROUND... UNCONSCIOUS!

AS FOR OUR LITTLE FRIEND FROM A.I.M., I'VE GOT HIM RIGHT BETWEEN MY THUMB AND FOREFINGER!

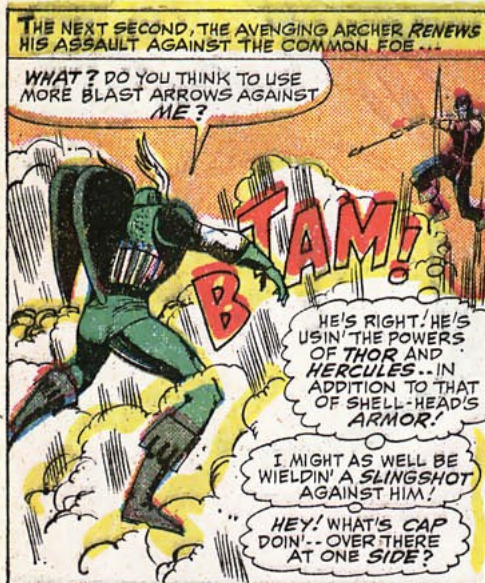
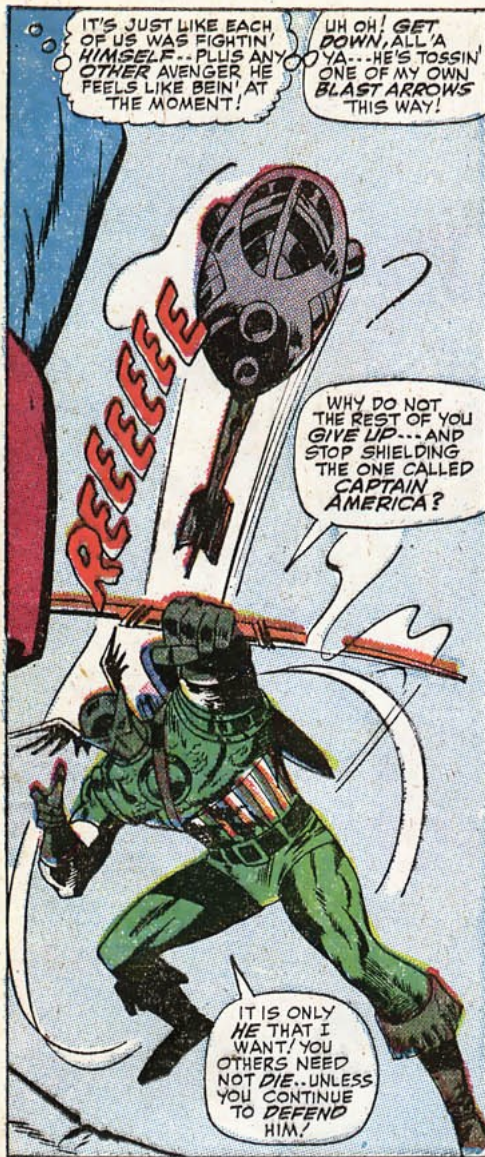
EVEN AT THAT SIZE, HIS SUPER-POWERS MAKE HIM TOO STRONG FOR ME TO HARM...

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BUT THEN, IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME BREATH, CAPTAIN AMERICA LEARNS THE TRUTH... THAT THE SUPER-ADAPTOID HAS NO WEAK SPOTS!

UNNNH!! HE HURLED ME BACK LIKE A RAG DOLL!

WAK!

HE'S USING WANDA'S HEX POWER TO KEEP THE OTHERS AT BAY... WHILE HAMMERING ME WITH THE POWER OF THOR!

BLAM!

DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY HE HASN'T FINISHED ME BY NOW...!

BUT... NO MATTER! CAN'T... KEEP MY FEET! I'M... GOING UNDER...

THOK!

HAN! HE HAS FALLEN... NEVER TO RISE AGAIN!

NOW, HATED ONE... YOU MUST DIE...!

HOLD, THOU BASEST OF VILLAINS!

SUDDENLY, RAISING HIS HEAD IN SHEER SURPRISE, THE ASTONISHED SUPER-ADAPTOID BEHOLDS...

HERCULES... BUT, HOW DID HE OVERCOME THE POWERFUL HEX I PLACED AROUND MYSELF?

THY SINISTER SPELL HAS VANISHED, MONSTER... BY REASON OF THINE OWN NEGLIGENCE!

IN THINE OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO DESTROY THE STAR-SPANGLED AVENGER, ALL ELSE WAS FORGOTTEN BY THEE!

AND NOW, MAY MY POTENT MACE PROVE THAT YON MISTAKE WAS THY FATEFUL UNDOING!

YET, AS THE GARGANTUAN ANDROID SWINGS THE CONCRETE LAMPPOST WHICH HIS MIGHTY ARMS HAVE TORN FROM THE GROUND...

YOU FORGET, OLYMPIAN, THAT... POWERFUL THOUGH YOU ARE... YOU HAVE ONLY THE POWER OF ONE IMMORTAL!

I CAN SUMMON THE IRRESISTIBLE, ALMOST LIMITLESS STRENGTH OF TWO!!

THOOM!

BY THE ZESTFUL ZITHER OF ZEUS!!



NEXT, BEFORE THE VALIANT HERCULES CAN RECOVER FROM THE STAGGERING BLOW...



...HE IS SEIZED IN AN UNBREAKABLE, AGONIZING, VISE-LIKE GRIP...WHICH, THOUGH IT CANNOT DESTROY HIM, RENDERS THE GREEK DEMI-GOD UN-CONSCIOUS...

THEN, AS THE FIGURE OF THE SON OF ZEUS SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, AND THE SUPER-ADAPTOID TURNS ONCE MORE TO THE UNMOVING STEVE ROGERS...



WANDA...WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IF YOU HURL ONE OF YOUR HEXES AT THE ADAPTOID, YOU MAY ALSO HURT CAP...!

I MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE, JAN! IT'S THE ONLY ONE CAP HAS!

I'VE SPENT LONG HOURS PERFECTING MY POWERS! NOW, IF I CAN ONLY CONTROL THIS SPELL FLAW-LESSLY--!

...AND, IF THAT MURDEROUS CREATURE DOESN'T LOOK UP IN TIME..!

BUT, SOME UNCANNY SIXTH SENSE...OR PERHAPS THE GOD-LIKE POWERS WHICH HE HAS UNCANNILY ADAPTED...SEEMS TO WARN THEIR INHUMAN FOE OF THE IMPENDING DANGER, AND...

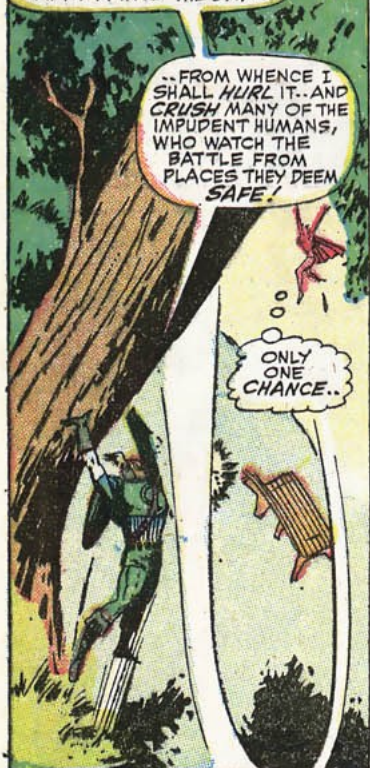


PERHAPS THAT LARGE, TOPPLING TREE WOULD HAVE FELLE ME..IF IT HAD STRUCK ME!

BUT, NOT ONLY SHALL I DODGE IT WITH THE UN-EQUALLED SPEED OF QUICK-SILVER...

KRAK

...I SHALL ALSO USE IRON MAN'S TRANSISTOR-POWERED BOOTS TO CARRY IT INTO THE SKY..



...FROM WHENCE I SHALL HURL IT..AND CRUSH MANY OF THE IMPUDENT HUMANS, WHO WATCH THE BATTLE FROM PLACES THEY DEEM SAFE!

ONLY ONE CHANCE..

WHAT...??



IT'S NO USE!

I HOPED TO STUN HIM..BY USING A HEX TO DISINTEGRATE THE TREE!

BUT, I FAILED...AND NOW MY POWERS ARE GREATLY DRAINED!

STILL, YOU GAVE ME ADDITIONAL MOMENTS TO THINK, MY SISTER..

THIS FAR, I HAVE HELD BACK...BECAUSE I DID NOT THINK THAT MERE SPEED COULD BE OF HELP AGAINST ONE SUCH AS THE SUPER-ADAPTOID!



BUT NOW, BY OBSERVING HIM DURING THIS BRIEF, VIOLENT BATTLE..I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER!

SPEAK, PIETRO...WHAT IS IT? BUT HURRY...EVEN NOW, THE ANDROID RETURNS TO EARTH!

I HAVE TIME TO SPEAK ONLY A FEW WORDS, WANDA...BUT HEED THEM EXACTLY..!



SCANT SECONDS LATER, BEFORE THE SUPREMELY CONFIDENT SUPER-ADAPTOID CAN REACH THE GROUND--A VIRTUAL HUMAN HURRICANE RACES PAST HIM, TAUNTING...

DO YOU THINK TO IMPRESS ME WITH NOTHING BUT SPEED?

YOU HAVE DEFEATED MEN AND GODS, ROBOT! NOW, SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST... A MUTANT!

SWOOOSH!

GODS, MEN, OR MUTANTS... NONE MAY THUS MOCK ME... AND LIVE!

FOR LONG, INDESCRIBABLY PRECIOUS MOMENTS, THE BEING KNOWN AS QUICKSILVER STREAKS THROUGH THE SKY... KNOWING THAT RAMPAGING DEATH FOLLOWS BUT AN INSTANT BEHIND HIM! THEN...

HE HAS MY SPEED... PLUS IRON MAN'S! CAN'T KEEP OUT OF HIS REACH... MORE THAN ANOTHER SECOND...!

MUST HOPE... THAT MY DELAY... HAS BEEN LONG ENOUGH!

AN INSTANT LATER...

SKRAK K!

HE'S... HURLING A HEAVY BENCH-- AT ME! TOO TIRED-- TO DUCK... AAARHHH!!

BUT THEN, AS THE TOWERING, ANGRY FIGURE NOW MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE STILL-DAZED FORM OF CAPTAIN AMERICA...

PIETRO IS DOWN! AND IF HIS PLAN DOESN'T SUCCEED...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER, HONEY... BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY IT!

THANK HEAVEN I REGAINED MY SENSES IN TIME TO HELP!

QUIT JAWIN' AND MOVE, AVENGERS! THAT BOZO'S GOT CAP. WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE TO--!

HOWEVER, THAT DREAD SENTENCE IS DESTINED NEVER TO BE FINISHED! FOR, IN THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT...

YAHOOO! WE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT... EXCEPT THAT CAP WOKE UP, AND SLAMMED THE ADAPTOID WITH HIS EVER-LOVIN' SHIELD!

AVENGERS ATTACK!!

NOW STRIKES MINE INVINCIBLE MACE... FOR THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!

GET BACK, ALL OF YOU! HE'S JUST AFTER ME...

THWAK!

NO DICE, FRIEND! WHEN HE TOOK ON ONE AVENGER, HE TOOK ON ALL OF 'EM!

BUT HURRY... HURRY... WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...





BUT, THE FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL SUPER-ADAPTOID FIGHTS BACK... WITH ALL THE CATASTROPHIC FURY AT HIS COMMAND...

YOU PUNY HUMAN FLEAS! MOST OF YOU MIGHT HAVE LIVED... BUT NOW YOU SHALL ALL DIE!!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I'LL USE ALL OF MY POWERS TOGETHER... THE MIGHT OF THOR... OF HERCULES... OF GOLIATH... OF IRON MAN...!

YET... I SUDDENLY FEEL STRANGE... SOME NEW SENSATION I HAVE NEVER BEFORE KNOWN...!

WHAT... IS... HAPPENING... TO... ME??

IT'D BETTER BE WHAT PIETRO THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN... OR ELSE THE NEXT COUPLE A SECONDS ARE LIABLE TO SEE... THE END OF THE AVENGERS!



THEN, THE NEXT FATEFUL, FEARFUL, SHATTERING INSTANT...

NO! THIS CANNOT BE... IT CAN'T!!  
**UNNNHHH!!**



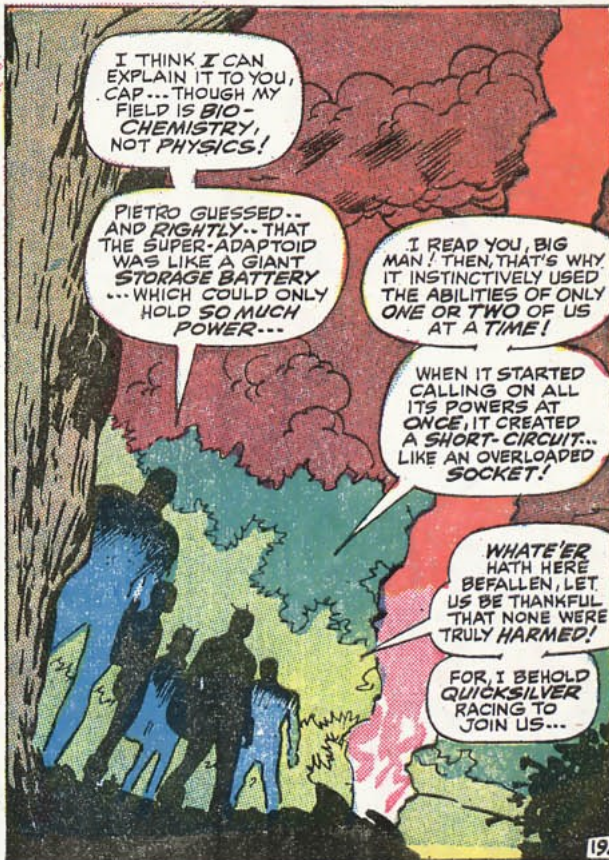
AND, WITH A RESOUNDING CRASH WHICH SHAKES THE VERY EARTH BENEATH IT, THE TOWERING ANDROID FALLS... ONCE MORE AN INERT, LIFELESS MASS OF METAL AND SYNTHETIC MATERIALS... AND NOTHING MORE!

THE ADAPTOID'S THROUGH... AND SO WOULD I HAVE BEEN, IF IT HAD HELD ME ANOTHER MOMENT!

BUT, WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID IT SUDDENLY COLLAPSE?

IT WAS PIETRO'S PLAN, STEVE... BUT, HE'S UNCONSCIOUS NOW...

**THOOM!**



I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, CAP... THOUGH MY FIELD IS BIO-CHEMISTRY, NOT PHYSICS!

PIETRO GUESSED... AND RIGHTLY... THAT THE SUPER-ADAPTOID WAS LIKE A GIANT STORAGE BATTERY... WHICH COULD ONLY HOLD SO MUCH POWER...

I READ YOU, BIG MAN! THEN, THAT'S WHY IT INSTINCTIVELY USED THE ABILITIES OF ONLY ONE OR TWO OF US AT A TIME!

WHEN IT STARTED CALLING ON ALL ITS POWERS AT ONCE, IT CREATED A SHORT-CIRCUIT... LIKE AN OVERLOADED SOCKET!

WHATE'ER HATH HERE BEFALLEN, LET US BE THANKFUL THAT NONE WERE TRULY HARMED!

FOR, I BEHOLD QUICKSILVER RACING TO JOIN US...



THEN, AS THE METEORIC MUTANTS COME TO A HALT...

SO...MY HASTY SURMISE WAS CORRECT!

THE ANDROID MUST BE BOUND... SO THAT HE CAN NEVER MENACE ANYONE AGAIN!

YET, HE IS TO BE PITIED ALMOST AS MUCH AS FEARED! FOR, IT WAS HUMANS WHO CREATED HIM... WHO PLANNED TO USE HIM AS A MERCILESS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION!

HE WAS CREATED BY EVIL HUMANS, PIETRO... MEN WHO WOULD HAVE USED HIM TO BRING BOTH HOMO SAPIENS AND MUTANTS UNDER THEIR DOMINATION... REMEMBER THAT!

STEVE SENSES... AS DO I... A STRANGE BITTERNESS IN PIETRO'S VOICE!

I WONDER... WHAT ALL THIS MAY BODE FOR THE FUTURE!

SUDDENLY, THE SLIGHT BUT UNMISTAKABLE SOUND OF A SNAPPING TWIG IS HEARD, AND...

HEADS UP, AVENGERS! SOMEONE'S BEEN WATCHING US... FROM BEHIND THOSE TREES!

COULD IT BE SOME ASSASSINS FROM A.I.M. ... OR EVEN ANOTHER ADAPTOID..?

BY THE HOOVES OF PAN... IF SUCH IT BE, I SHALL...

HOLD IT, HERCULES... ALL OF YOU, IT'S JUST US... SOME OF YOUR FANS!

WE WEREN'T SPYING... SO HELP US NAPOLEON SOLO! BUT, WE COULDN'T HELP SEEING WHAT HAPPENED!

WE DUCKED BACK HERE WHEN THE HEAVY FIGHTING STARTED!

AND I COULDN'T HELP TAKING SOME REALLY GROOVY COLOR SLIDES!

HAI! BE IT IN THE GROVES OF ANCIENT GREECE... OR IN THIS PLACE CALLED CENTRAL PARK... THE YOUNG ARE E'ER THE SAME!

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER... AFTER THE NOW-INERT FORM OF THE SUPER-ADAPTOID HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE POLICE... THE CELEBRATION CALLED AVENGERS DAY PICKS UP WHERE IT HAD LEFT OFF...

...WITH, AS THE OBSERVANT WILL NOTICE, A FEW NEW PLACARDS HASTILY ADDED TO THE OLD ONES...

AN AVENGER A DAY KEEPS THE SUPER-ADAPTOID AWAY!!

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD AVENGER DOWN

GO, GO HERCULES! NEWEST OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

MAKE EVERY DAY AN AVENGER DAY!

AH, HOW BRIGHTLY THE SUN DOETH SHINE... AS ON NO DAY SINCE I BEGAN MY SOJOURN IN THE WORLD OF MORTALS!

OR, IS IT MERELY BECAUSE I AM NOW AN AVENGER... AN HONOR SUCH AS MAN OR GOD MIGHT TRULY ENVY.

WITH THE RAW POWER OF HERCULES ADDED TO OUR RANKS...

...THE AVENGERS ARE AS STRONG AS THEY EVER WERE... AND READY TO TAKE ON ANYTHING!

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE AVENGERS, PEOPLE... THE MIGHTIEST FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL!

TO COIN A PHRASE, LADY... YOU JUST BETTER BELIEVE IT!

OKAY, O PARAGON OF PATIENCE... YOU'VE ALLOWED US ONE OFF-BEAT EPIC, AS A CHANGE-OF-PACE FROM OUR RECENT CONTINUED-STORY SAGAS/ BUT, IF YOU THINK THE AVENGERS ARE THROUGH WITH CHANGING FOR A WHILE, FORGET IT! OR, BETTER STILL, DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ASTONISHING ISH...

"WHEN WRITHES THE WHIRLWIND!"

'NUFF SAID!

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...



## WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MARVEL MADNESS!

**ITEM!** Here's the scoop you've been waiting for! The inside info about our two latest and greatest 25¢ Specials, which are on sale right now. Taking them in alphabetical order, we present the fabulous **FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL** which features not one, but two—that's right, TWO—original, never-before-published titanic thrillers, led off by a movie-length saga entitled "Divided We Fall," starring the F.F., the Black Panther, and the indomitable Inhumans! You'll also gasp in amazement at our second far-out feature which presents for the first time, starring in his own strip—the Silver Surfer! And you'll never guess who the unmentionable villain is! As if that's not enough, you'll frivolously fondle a whole kaboodle of pin-up pages and other assorted goodies!—But what about Spidey? Ah, we thought, you'd never ask! Our **SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL** for this year brings you a double-length, all-new, all-original action bombshell featuring the block-busting battle you've all been clamoring for—the world's favorite wall-crawler vs.—you guessed it—the Human Torch!! There are also two unexpected guest villains whose identities you'll never figure out—until it's too late! And, for an extra kick, virtually the entire unforgettable chiller-diller takes place in glamorous, goofy Hollywood! And wait'll you see the panicky pages of Spidey Extras, taking you behind the scenes of our web-slingin' wonder's life for an intimate glimpse of Peter Parker, his pad, and his pals—as you've never seen 'em before! Yessir, we kid thee not! **FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #5**, and **SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #4**—both on sale today! If you don't buy another mag this month, these two you must not miss!

**ITEM:** Just in case some of you Faithful Ones weren't paying attention last ish, we thought we'd remind you once more about the sensational **Fantastic Four** and **Spider-Man** half-hour shows heading your way this fall, as well as the fabulous **Fantastic Four Special** coming up on ABC-TV in September! Watch your paper's TV listings for the exact time and date . . . 'cause it's not to be missed! And how about those new, glitzy, mixed-up Marvel items hitting the market every day! If your dealer doesn't have a full supply—show your **MMMS** card, face front twice, and organize a read-in till he gets with it! That'll show 'im!

**ITEM!** Remember a few months back when we printed a letter from a fan suggesting that we give all True Believers various ranks and titles in the nobility of Marvel-dom? Well, the idea seems to have really caught fire out there amongst you tigers! We received countless letters, pro and con. First, we'll print the most typical of the anti-Marvel-ranks letters—

Dear Stan,

Let's get something straight. You are not MEO (Marvel's Earthbound Odin); your artists are not DDD'S (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers); and your letterers are letterers, not IWP's (Indefatigable Word Placers), and so on. Get the message? If you follow up the idea of having to get letters printed, and of winning no-prizes in order to gain Ultimate Status, you'll get more bonehead letters than you know what to do with. When a fan sends a letter, it's to verify or correct what you've done. If it gets printed, fine! If it wins a no-prize, fine! But if people write just to get their letters printed or to win no-prizes, the letters pages will start losing dignity. Finally, I thought all loy-

al Marvelites had achieved ultimate status in the eyes of the Bullpen long ago. Do we have to add an atmosphere of cheap, commercial competitiveness to the Marvel Comics Group? Robert Lax, 25 Audubon Drive Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167

—Bob's got a good point there, and he presented it most convincingly. However, while many other frantic ones expressed the same opinion, by far the vast majority of letters were in favor of the idea of ranks and titles for Marvel-dom. Here's an example of what we mean—

Dear Stan,

The idea of various ranks of Marvelites is terrific! Why didn't I think of it? However, there should be a rank for being an **MMMS** member. May I suggest K.F. (Keeper of the Faith) which would come between R.F.O. (Real Frantic One) and Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayers).

K.F. Wayne Nehwadowich  
3549 Nostrand Ave., Bklyn. 11229

—Actually, Wayne went on to mention many more ranks, but we figure that excerpt gave you the idea. So, what are we gonna do about it? Well, for one thing, we're going to boil down the seemingly endless list of titles which we've had suggested to us, and try to limit them to just a few, easy-to-remember ones. Then, when we get all the details worked out, we'll clue you in on this page in the very near future. And don't worry about being left out in the cold. We're gonna work it so that EVERY Marvelite—whether he's had a letter printed, or won a no-prize, or not—every Marvelite will be entitled to a rank of his own! Just give us time! Yes sir! Before we're through, we'll be well on our way to total oblivion!

**ITEM:** Here's an announcement we never expected to make! We're gonna recommend that you take a peek at—of all things—the latest ish of **MILLIE THE MODEL**! We've changed the mag around completely—new type of artwork and stories—and Honest to Aunt May, it's really kinda funny. Even if **MILLIE** isn't your own cup of tea, we have a hunch your sister or gal friend (wouldja believe your cousin?) might just get a boot out of it!

**ITEM:** Speaking of funny mags, the new ish of **NOT BRAND ECHH** is finally sporting its own Letters Page. So, if you've been looking for a reason to latch onto a copy, now you've got it! Incidentally, this maniacal mag has become the "in" sensation of the year! (Now, if we can only figure out WHICH year?)

## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many of you unsung heroes have written to ask how we really feel about our own mags. You've inquired whether we take them seriously, or just treat 'em as a patently pointless put-on! Well, just for the record, Charlie, we BELIEVE in our swingin' superheroes! We created them—we live with their adventures—their hang-ups—almost 24 hours a day. We know 'em as well as we know our families . . . and better than we know Irving Forbush! No, literature lover, our fearless little fables are NOT put-ons! To us, they're what's happening, baby! It's the REAL world we have our doubts about—but that's another story! Till next month then, Face Front! That's where the action is!

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**NOT BRAND ECHH #4:** This is the nuttiest one of all! See what happens to three of our greatest and goofiest super-heroes when the **VILLAINS** win! Funny? Don't ask!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #68:** The most truly important FF saga of the season. An old villain returns—and a deadly new peril will change the life of the Thing!

**SPIDER-MAN #54:** How can Spidey battle Doc Ock when his own Aunt May is an innocent hostage in the grim game of life and death? This one's not for the squeamish!

**X-MEN #37:** Possibly the most dramatic trial of all—as the uncanny X-Men face a jury of their greatest mutant foes, presided over by the malevolent master of Factor Three! Hoo-boy!

**DAREDEVIL #33:** Remember the bludgeoning Beetle—with the metal wings and armored body? Well, he's the one DD tangles with this time, and it's action all the way!

**THOR #145:** What's this? A Thunder God abandoned on earth—stripped of his powers—and tricked into helping the last group of villains you expected to see? It's a blast!

**SUSPENSE #95:** Iron Man battles the grotesque Grey Gargoyle as a new character enters his life! And Captain America faces his most startling decision!

**ASTONISH #97:** Namor fights for his very life to escape from the fantastic fortress known as Skull Island—while the Hulk finds himself menaced by the power of the Living Lightning!

**STRANGE TALES #162:** Can even Nick Fury escape from the clutches of the Yellow Claw—and can Doc Strange defeat Mordo before the Living Tribunal destroys earth? This one you have to see for yourself—we're afraid to look!

**SGT. FURY #47:** What begins as a liltin' leave in London erupts into an inferno of action as the Howlers fight to stop an impending Nazi invasion of Britain! It's a battle-scarred bombshell!

**MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #11:** This ish we're really gonna sock it to ya, baby! 'Cause, after thrilling to some of the greatest FF, Iron Man, Doc Strange, and Hulk sagas ever printed, you just have to wind up hangin' loose!

**FANTASY MASTERPIECES #11:** The best of three dynamic decades! Cap and Torchy from the 40's—Subby and a truly different super-hero from the 50's—and a far-out fantasy tale for good measure!

**MARVEL TALES #11:** The first classic team-up (or was it a battle royal?) of Spidey and DD—plus Thor, Waspie, and the ever-torpid Torchy! More majestic milestones on the Marvel Road to Greatness!



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

Alvin Fulton  
Kintree, S. C.  
Frank Federico  
Lynn, Mass.  
David Hartley  
Ben Hur, Va.  
Larry Farley  
Scarboro, Canada

Michael Farinacci  
Denver, Colo.  
Michael Gilbert  
Waterloo, Iowa  
Charles Jones  
New York, N. Y.  
Odell Harrington  
Peoria, Ariz.

Steve Hargis  
Vida, Mo.  
George Hill  
Ozone, N. Y.  
Albert Fanelli  
Phila., Pa.  
Steven Cipolla  
Coventry, R. I.

Dickie Larson  
Billings, Mont.  
Lonnie Hamilton  
Detroit, Mich.  
Sheldon Hyatt  
Anoka, Minn.  
Joseph Costanzo  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mathew Connarton  
N. Hampton, N. H.  
Layne Kiland  
Yonbun, Canada  
Tommy Compton  
Detroit, Mich.  
Steven Harvey  
New York, N. Y.

Matt Kilbow  
Johnson City, N. Y.  
Dave Heffner  
Muncie, Ind.  
Toby Fixel  
New York, N. Y.  
David LaPoint  
Stoneham, Mass.



# The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY ANNOUNCES A NIFTY NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT!

JUST FEAST YOUR BABY-BLUES  
ON WHAT ALL NEW MEMBERS ARE  
GONNA GET...

AN ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP PIN...AN  
OFFICIAL RECORDING OF THE M.M.M.S.  
SONG...SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT  
MARVEL HEROES...A NUTTY NEW  
NOTE PAD...AN ASSORTMENT OF  
MAGNIFICENT MINI-BOOKS...A MIND-  
SNAPPING MARVEL PENCIL...A  
MAJESTIC M.M.M.S. CERTIFICATE, AND  
YOUR OWN MUNIFICENT MEMBERSHIP  
CARD.

NOW THIS IS THE PART THAT'LL REALLY  
KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP! YOU GET  
ALL THESE GROOVY GOODIES  
FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF... **69¢**

OKAY, MADMEN...HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED 69¢ WHICH I'M  
SENDING YOU AT: M.M.M.S., MARVEL COMICS GROUP,  
625 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C., N.Y. 10022  
MAKE ME A MAGNILOQUENT MERRY MARCHER AND RUSH ME MY  
KRAZY KIT!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE TO PRESENT MEMBERS: WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU!  
FRANTIC ONES! WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE NEW KIT AT THE SPECIAL  
PRICE OF 50¢! (OUR OWN COST!) SO JUST SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
NUMBER WITH THE COUPON TO KEEP YOURSELF MARCHING IN STEP!

# AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

We are too, too disappointed in your good selves. What a glaringly gross error you have just made! Yarl! In AVENGERS #40, Goliath has Namor in a bear hug, not a hammer lock as he says he has. Why did he he say that? We remain your devoted friends.

Kathryne Ehwald, Fred Reed, Susan Reed,  
American Peace Corps, 5 Mathura Rd.  
Jangpura-A, New Delhi 14, India

Glad to hear it, crew! But wouldja believe that hand-  
some Hank only miscalled the wrestling hold to confuse  
ol' Subby and give himself a better chance? You  
won't, huh? Well, we can't say we blame you! Anyway,  
we hope you'll accept our gift of one of our far-famed  
free subscriptions — not because you Peace Corpsmen  
are our favorite kind of people (which you are), and  
not because we're flattered to get a letter all the way  
from the Indian subcontinent (which we are), but  
just because yours was the only missive we recall that  
spotted our monumental misnomer! Kinda makes you  
feel lonely but proud, doesn't it?

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I have just read issue #42 — great! But there was a  
certain something on the letters pages. It seems that one  
fan feels that Marvel is short on dead heroes and villains.  
He said Bucky is Marvel's only fallen great one. Well, I  
beg to disagree. A little research through my complete  
Marvel collection turned up the following proof of Marvel's  
generosity with eternal sleep. The Scientist who took  
the Thing's power in F.F. #51, Johnny and Sue Storm's  
father in F.F. #32, Peter Parker's uncle in SPIDER-MAN  
#1, the death of Supreme Hydra in STRANGE TALES  
#140, the death of Wonder Man in AVENGERS #9, of  
Zemo in AVENGERS #15, of Mastermind in X-MEN  
#11, Junior Juniper in SGT. FURY #4, and many, many  
supporting characters. By the way, I'm overdue for a no-  
prize! (Hint!)

William Modica, R.D. #1, Box 355  
Hightstown, N. H. 08526

Hint? It looks more like an order to us, Bill. But, far  
be it from modest Marvel to disregard even the most  
delicately-phrased of demands from you frantic ones!  
Accordingly, your no-prize is now on its no-way, even  
though the malevolent Mastermind is far from dead —  
as you may have noticed in THE X-MEN #37, now on  
sale! (Hint!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I liked AVENGERS #42. It was good to have Cap  
back. I think that Cap and Wanda would make a good  
romance. Also, a fan said that the AVENGERS SPECIAL  
would be a good time for Cap's last battle. In issue #23,  
Kang said, "Though Captain America has no super power,  
his was the hand that held the Avengers together... his  
was the spark that lit their flame of glory!" So you see  
that Cap is really needed in the Avengers. Also, it was  
said that Goliath should lose his life while saving the life  
of Hercules. Well, I think Goliath is needed in the Avenger-  
s. You had said that you would add him to your list of  
suggested lineups for the mighty Avengers roster. Have  
you guys flipped your lids? I'd say that when the smoke  
clears, the Avengers should emerge as Hawkeye, Wanda,  
Pietro, the Wasp, Goliath, and Cap — minus Hercules.

David Carey, 16 Melrose St.  
Adams, Mass. 01220

What have you got against our pulsatin' Prince of  
Power, Davey? Personally, we sorta think ol' Herky is  
the livin' end — but then, we've been wrong so many  
times that we're beginning to think the fact that we  
like him is a bad sign! Anyway, as you doubtless know  
by now, the first AVENGERS SPECIAL didn't feature  
the swan-song of our wingheaded wonder — and we've  
got a hunch that the second one won't, either. But then,  
you never know about your batty Bullpen. By the time  
next year rolls around, we're liable to have recruited  
ol' Kang himself as a member! (After all, a super-  
group can always use a guy who can give out with  
swingin' soliloquies like the one you quoted above!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

In reference to the Avengers, I have a comment about  
their oath never to take a human life. I can see where they  
cannot kill off all their opponents (and not just because  
it would be hard on you to create new villains all the  
time!), but when the fate of the world may be at stake,  
as it was in their encounter with Ixar way back in issues  
#36 and #37, it becomes most absurd that Hawkeye  
would surrender and put himself, the Avengers, and the  
earth in danger, rather than kill the awesome invader  
from space. Please amend their oath! If they must kill a  
villain to preserve their own lives and those of their world,  
then so be it!

Craig Kowalski, 2555 Dole St. #304  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Ah, lad — to think that a fair citizen of our newest state

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!



could be so vindictive against a mere super-villain from outer space, just because he was a threat to all life on earth! For shame, Mr. Kowalski — to suppose that a little thing like the survival of our oft-plundered planet could induce the mighty Avengers to change one imperishable word of their awesome oath! Better to have let the unrelenting Ixar uproot this tiny sphere from its eternal orbit — to have watched as the very sea arose in teeming tidal waves to engulf our coastal cities — to have . . . Hmmm! Y'know, on second thought, you may just have something there, frantic one!

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I am writing you this letter because I think I have something important to say, not because I just don't have anything else to do — because I should be doing my English homework. I realize that you guys probably have enough problems as it is, and you probably think I'm being cruel for bringing this up, but . . . Hawkeye doesn't have a name! (There, I said it.) Another fan brought this up quite a spell ago in issue #21. After this I don't recall the matter being mentioned again. Now there is Steve, Wanda, Pietro, Jan, and Hank, but everyone just calls Hawkeye . . . Hawkeye. Why? Even Natasha, the gal that loves him, never calls him by his real name. It seems to me that at least Tasha should know his name. (You apparently don't realize how it tears me up to know that out of all your life-like characters, you've neglected to give one of them a name.) Names do have their advantages, you know, such as a signature on a marriage license. (Being a girl, I regard this as a definite advantage. I might as well state while I'm at it that I hope he and Natasha get together eventually for good.) Personally, I think Mike would be a nice name for him. I don't think a two-syllable name would be appropriate. A one-syllable name has more strength to it. I'm sure you could think up a good last name for him. Now please don't get me wrong. I think the AVENGERS is about the greatest mag that you put out, but — why hasn't Hawkeye got a name?!!

Janis Williams, 1607 Russwood  
Memphis, Tenn.

Oh, but he *does*, Jan sweetie — as you'll discover one of these first issues! (In other words, just as fast as we can dream up a suitable Marvelous monicker for our anonymous archer!) And, as that extra touch you might expect from your big-hearted Bullpen, we have plans not only to tell you what his name is — but why he quit using it! It's just likely to be the biggest surprise sensation since we did an origin story for Nick Fury's ever-present eyepatch — and one of the most-demanded stories we could possibly print, this side of the unmasking of Irving Forbush! (The only thing is, Honest Irv claims that isn't a mask — it's his real face!) Just the same, how's that for service, pussycat?

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

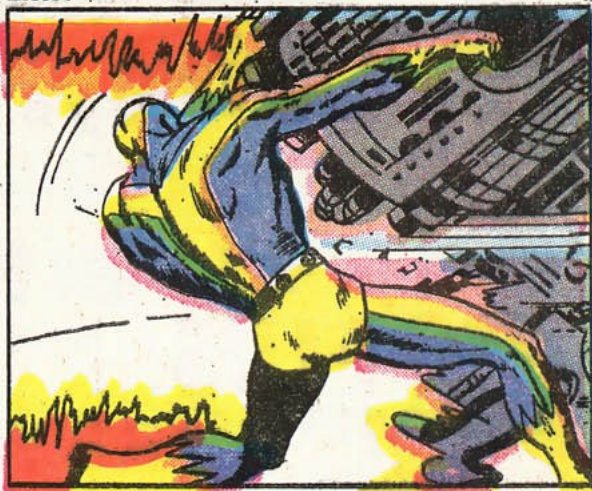
I have just returned from a four-hour fishless fishing trip, so I've had plenty of time to think about an obvious problem you have with the Avengers — too many members. I have a suggestion to make. First of all, Captain America must go. Wait a minute, don't get me wrong. I like Cap as much as anyone else, but I think he might be good in Shield. He'd be a great partner for Fury. Also, if Hawkeye and the Black Widow left, they could share a mag with the Black Panther. Thus you will have left in the Avengers the following — Goliath, Wasp, Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, and the non-member who fights with them, Hercules. On other things — I picked up a Brand Echh mag to see if they had improved and I'll tell you, they haven't changed since I started reading comics about eight years ago. Your mags improve every issue. They say you can't improve perfection, but you're doing it!

Scott Johnson, Box 717

APO San Francisco, Cal. 96555

Thanks, Scotty — but frankly, we'd feel a bit better about your closing statement if you hadn't prefaced it by saying that the Avengers have too many members. If that's perfection, just wait'll we start making goofs! Still, the plain, simple, unadorned fact is that we agree with you about the overcrowding — and, unaccustomed as we are to doing anything right, we plan to come up

with some drastic changes in the Avengers roster in the next few issues. We can't go into details just yet, 'cause we'd kinda like to keep you guessing a little longer, but we think our sizzlin' solution will knock you outta your tree! Meanwhile, better luck with the ol' rod and reel, S. J. — or are you one of the last of the cane-polers, like our demon production man, Morrie Kuramoto?



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

As I was reading AVENGERS #42, a silly question popped into my head. Would you consider this reading material to be called a magazine or a comic? This literature is in the shape and size of a comic, but a comic is something funny, appealing to the bubblegum brigade. It couldn't quite be called a magazine because of the colored ink and size. Several readers have called it a comic magazine, and I would string along with that. Maybe you could retitle it — "For people who want a new idea in literature reading — try a Marvel Magazic!" Oh, well, I tried! Anyway, getting back to the Avengers, the cover was great. The fight scenes on pages 8 through 16 were marvelously drawn by John Buscema. Some people say a good thing can only last a short time, but the way you are steadily improving your magazics, I doubt that this statement will hold true with you!

Allen Nicholson, 245 E. Main St.  
Moorestown, N. J.

We sure hope it won't, Al. Besides, we've always felt like we're on a treadmill that keeps speeding up, so that we have to keep doing better and better just to stay where we are! It's a little nerve-racking, but what the hey! By the way, we can't help wondering why you coined the particular word "magazines" to apply to our literary landmarks. What've you got against a nice little no-word like "comazines", for instance? You know how uneasy things like that make us! Come to think of it, maybe we'd better stick to calling 'em just plain Marvels, and let it go at that! Okay?

**NEXT ISH:** Never let it be said that mighty Marvel is willing to rest on its liltin' laurels! Just when it might be thought that the Avengers roster was complete and static — at least for a while — a dangerous menace arises whose very existence leads to a new and different life for the gargantuan Goliath — in a titanic tale destined to become the most controversial classic since the Old Avengers split the scene in ish #16! And, for our black-bustin' baddie, we're bringing back an old villain with a new name — a new costume — and a new plan for revenge on everybody's favorite assemblers — as you meet the wondrously wicked WHIRLWIND! (And, consider yourself no-prized if you guess who he used to be before next ish rolls around!) Till then, as Honest Irv always says, we must all hang loose — or we shall all hang separately! See ya, frantic one!