

AVENGERS

15¢ 65
IND AUG



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



THE
SWORDSMAN
STRIKES!



Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)



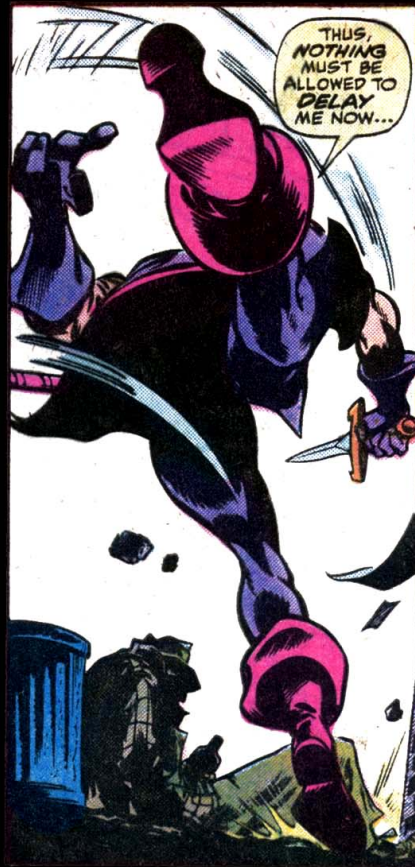
STAN LEE
PRESENTS A BATTLE-
LADEN LANDMARK BY:
ROY AND GENE
THOMAS COLAN
WRITER ARTIST
INKED BY:
SAM GRAINGER
LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN
COLORED BY: **KEN KLACZAK**
DAN FINGEROTH,
REPRINT EDITOR



SOMEONE HAS
SUMMONED
ME...
SOMEONE WHO
HAS NEED OF
MY GOOD RIGHT
ARM...



AND,
SOMEONE
WHO WILL
PAY
DEARLY
FOR IT!



THUS,
NOTHING
MUST BE
ALLOWED TO
DELAY
ME NOW...



NOTHING!





...THERE IS THE **WAREHOUSE** MY PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER MENTIONED, ON THE **PHONE!**

NOT EXACTLY THE **TAJ MAHAL...**

BUT HIS **VOICE** HAD THE AIR OF A MAN WHO **MEANS** WHAT HE SAYS!



HMM...*INSIDE*, THERE'S NOTHING BUT **COBWEBS** ...**DARKNESS...**

AND THE **DANKEST** OF AIR!

YET, TO ME, THIS CASTLE HATH A MOST **PLEASANT** SEAT, SWORDS-MAN!

WHO IS THAT...?



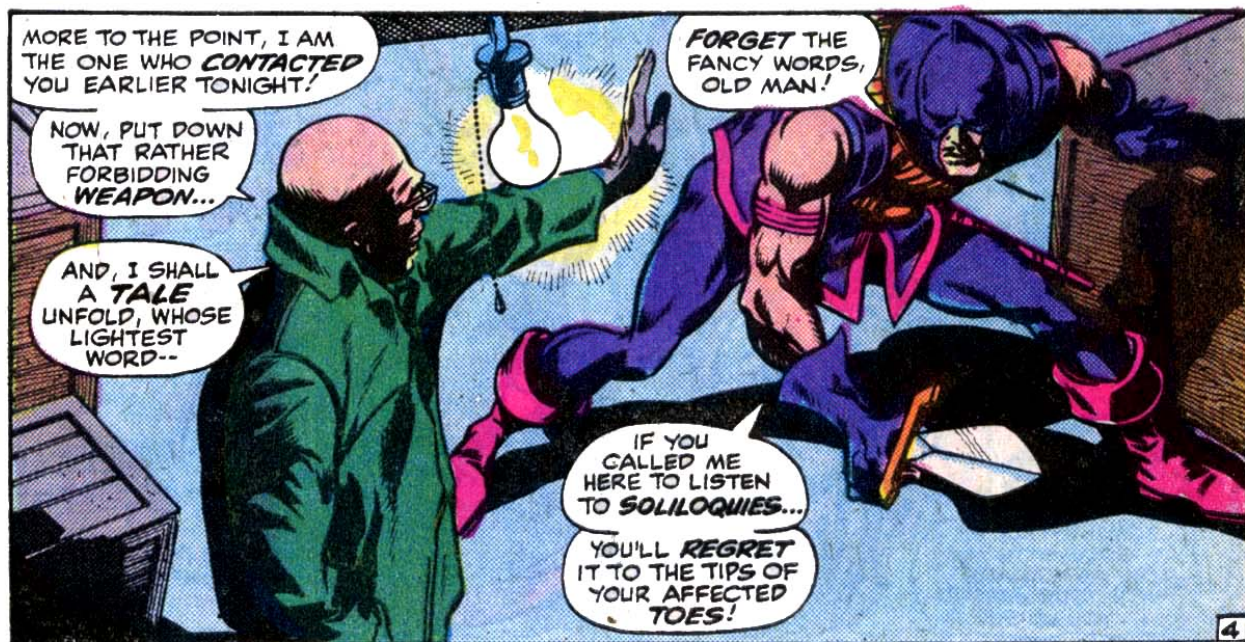
IDENTIFY YOURSELF, COWARD...

OR FACE THE SWORDSMAN'S **WRATH!**

KUK!

THEY CALL ME **EGGHEAD**, THAT DO SPEAK OF ME!

BUT, WHAT'S IN A **NAME...**AS THE **BARD** WOULD SAY!



MORE TO THE POINT, I AM THE ONE WHO **CONTACTED** YOU EARLIER TONIGHT!

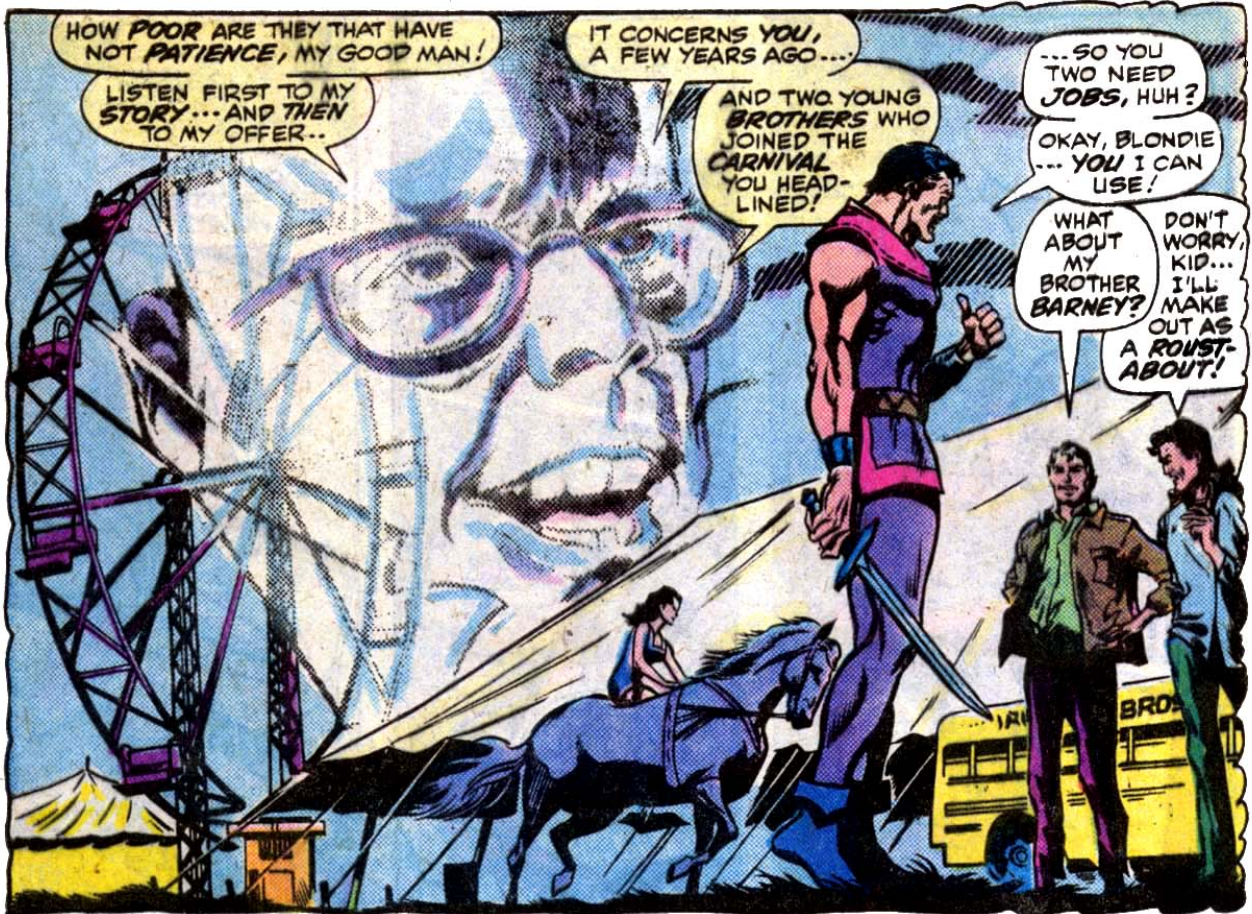
NOW, PUT DOWN THAT RATHER **FORBIDDING** WEAPON...

AND, I SHALL A **TALE** UNFOLD, WHOSE **LIGHTEST** WORD--

FORGET THE FANCY WORDS, OLD MAN!

IF YOU CALLED ME HERE TO LISTEN TO **SOLILOQUIES...**

YOU'LL **REGRET** IT TO THE TIPS OF YOUR **AFFECTED** **TOES!**



HOW POOR ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT PATIENCE, MY GOOD MAN!

IT CONCERNS YOU, A FEW YEARS AGO...

LISTEN FIRST TO MY STORY... AND THEN TO MY OFFER...

AND TWO YOUNG BROTHERS WHO JOINED THE CARNIVAL YOU HEAD-LINED!

...SO YOU TWO NEED JOBS, HUH?

OKAY, BLONDIE ... YOU I CAN USE!

WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHER BARNEY?

DON'T WORRY, KID... I'LL MAKE OUT AS A ROUST-ABOUT!



"YOU HAD A NOSE FOR TALENT, SWORDSMAN... AND SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE BOY CLINT HAD A FANTASTIC FLAIR FOR ARCHERY..."

KEEP PRACTICING, SONNY!

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A GREAT TEAM!

SNAP!

SOMEDAY I'LL BE AS GOOD WITH MY BOW AS YOU ARE WITH YOUR SWORD ... YOU'LL SEE!



DON'T TRY IT, BOY... DON'T EVER TRY IT!

I'M WARNING YOU... IT WOULDN'T BE HEALTHY!

DON'T EVER FORGET...



...WHICH
ONE OF US
IS THE
MASTER!!

"BUT, THE FAULT OF WHAT HAPPENED
THAT NIGHT, DEAR SWORDSMAN,
WAS NOT IN THE STARS, BUT IN
YOURSELF..."

HEY... DID YOU
HEAR ABOUT THE
PAYMASTER BEING
ROBBED, AND...

WHA...? WHERE'D
YOU GET ALL
THAT MONEY??

YOU
LITTLE
PUNK!



YOU YOUNG FOOL!
NOBODY WOULD **EVER**
CATCH US... WITH MY
SWORD AND YOUR BOW...



FORGET
IT... I'M
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE!

SO... THINK
YOU'RE TOO
GOOD FOR
ME, EH?

YOU'RE
TURNING
YOUR
BACK ON
ME, ARE
YOU?



THE **HIGH WIRE**
OUGHT TO PUT
ENOUGH
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
US!

YOUR FANCY
SWORD-SLING-
ING WON'T DO
YOU MUCH
GOOD UP
THERE!

I WARNED YOU NEVER
TO COME IN HERE
WITHOUT **ASKING**
FIRST!

NOW
THAT YOU
KNOW,
YOU'RE IN
IT WITH
ME!



NO! I
WORK FOR
MONEY... I
DON'T STEAL
IT!



UH OH! HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME!

THEN, I'VE GOT TO STAND AND FIGHT..!



IGNORANT PUP! YOUR ARROWS WILL NEVER GET PAST MY FLASHING BLADE!

AND NOW, WITH ONE SIMPLE THRUST, I'LL END YOUR CAREER...



...AND YOUR LIFE!!

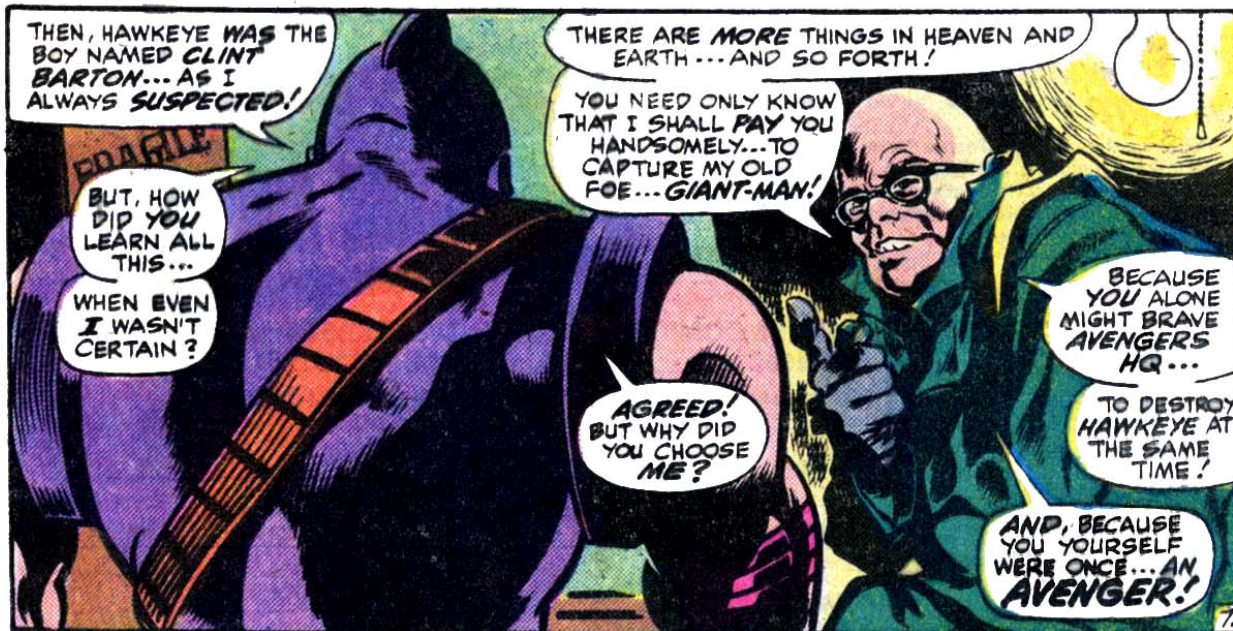
NOOOO

"THUS, YOU LEFT FOR DEAD THE YOUTH WHO BECAME... HAWKEYE!"

THEN, HAWKEYE WAS THE BOY NAMED CLINT BARTON... AS I ALWAYS SUSPECTED!

BUT, HOW DID YOU LEARN ALL THIS...

WHEN EVEN I WASN'T CERTAIN?



THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH... AND SO FORTH!

YOU NEED ONLY KNOW THAT I SHALL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY... TO CAPTURE MY OLD FOE... GIANT-MAN!

AGREED! BUT WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?

BECAUSE YOU ALONE MIGHT BRAVE AVENGERS HQ...

TO DESTROY HAWKEYE AT THE SAME TIME!

AND, BECAUSE YOU YOURSELF WERE ONCE... AN AVENGER!

NOW, WHILE MARVELDOM ASSEMBLED DIGESTS THAT FATEFUL FACT, WE JOIN AT LAST THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES, IN TIME TO HEAR...

YES...IT'S TRUE...

BARNEY BARTON... WAS MY BROTHER!

THEN, THAT IS WHY YOU WERE SO SECRETTIVE ABOUT YOUR PAST...

... WHY YOU NEVER USED ANY NAME BUT HAWKEYE... OR LATER, GOLIATH!

WELL, YOU NEED BE ASHAMED NO LONGER, CLINT!

HOWEVER BARNEY BARTON LIVED... HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH! *

*IN OUR LAST INCREDIBLE ISH! ... STAN.

IF NOT FOR HIM, EGGHEAD WOULD HAVE DESTROYED US...

AND BROUGHT THE WORLD TO ITS KNEES!

OKAY, SO HE WENT OUT TRAILIN' CLOUDS OF GLORY, LIKE THEY SAY!

MAYBE IT WAS MY FAULT, FOR NOT GOIN' TO HIM SOONER...!

WILL THAT HELP HIM WALK... OR DRAW ONE MORE BREATH?

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF!

WHO ELSE DO I BLAME, LADY?

FUNNY IT SHOULD END THIS WAY...

...AS IF, AFTER ALL THE YEARS SINCE WE LAST MET...

FATE THREW US TOGETHER WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE!

IF ONLY THAT ONE NIGHT HADN'T HAPPENED...

"...THE NIGHT WHEN I TANGLED WITH THE SWORDSMAN...
AND ALMOST PAID FOR IT THE HARD WAY..."

CLINT... CLINT!

I'VE BEEN LOOKIN'
ALL OVER!

WHAT IN BLAZES
HAPPENED TO YA?

SWORDSMAN...
TOOK RECEIPTS...
WANTED ME TO
JOIN 'IM!

WHEN I
WOULDN'T...
HE... UNNNH!

AND, YOU
NEVER SAW
HIM AGAIN...

...UNTIL HE CAME
TO US A FEW
HOURS AGO!

NOW, HE'S
JUST A
HUNK'A CLAY...

KILLED BY THAT
MURDERIN' MANIAC
EGGHEAD!

DON'T,
BIG MAN!

DON'T LET A
THIRST FOR
REVENGE EAT
AWAY AT YOU!

WE'RE
CALLED THE
AVENGERS,
AIN'T WE?

WELL,
I'M NOT RESTIN'
TILL I LIVE UP
TO THAT NAME!

YOU MEAN... YA
TURNED 'IM DOWN?

WE COULD'VE BEEN
ON EASY STREET...
AND YOU MUFFED IT?!

WELL, I
AIN'T EVER
GETTIN'
BUSTED
SAVIN'
OTHER
PEOPLE'S
MONEY!

NOT
EVER!

"BARNEY VANISHED THAT
NIGHT! LATER, I FOUND OUT
HE'D BECOME A BIG-TIME
HOOD... AND I STOPPED
USIN' THE NAME WE BOTH
SHARED!"

BUT MEANWHILE, THE SKEIN OF DESTINY DRAWS EVER TIGHTER...!

THIS IS IT...
THE AVENGERS!
OWN STRONG-
HOLD!

THE EVER-
FAITHFUL
JARVIS IS
PREPARING
A MEAL!

SET TWO
FEWER
PLACES THIS
EVENING,
OLD SPORT!

SO FAR, THIS
HAS BEEN
SIMPLICITY
ITSELF!

ONCE...
EVER SO
BRIEFLY... I
WAS INDEED
AN AVENGER!

NOW, IF MY
MEMORY
SERVES ME
RIGHTLY...

THAT ELEVATOR
WILL TAKE ME TO
THEIR MEETING
CHAMBER!

DURING
THAT TIME,
UNBEKNOWN
TO ALL...

I ACQUIRED
THIS DEVICE WHICH
DEACTIVATES
THEIR ALARMS!

MAN! MY MECHANISM
STILL OPENS ALL
DOORS TO ME!

THE NAIVE,
TRUSTING
FOOLS!

THEY NEVER
BOtherED
CHANGING
THEIR ALARM
CIRCUITS!

THE BETTER TO
KILL YOU, MY DEAR
GOLIATH...

NÉE GIANT-MAN!

I DON'T KNOW
WHY EGGHEAD
WANTS THE
LARGEST
AVENGER
SLAIN!

BUT, ALL I
CARE ABOUT
IS MY REWARD...

PLUS A CHANCE TO
PROVE I AM STILL BETTER
THAN THE DOOMED UPSTART
HAWKEYE!

AND SO, THE MISINFORMED
MERCENARY DRAWS NEARER
HIS TWIN PREY...AS UNAWARE
AS WAS EGGHEAD THAT AN UN-
PUBLICIZED IDENTITY SWITCH
HAS RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE...

...SO THAT THE MAN HE HAS BEEN HIRED TO DESTROY...
THE MAN ONCE CALLED GIANT-MAN...NOW WEARS THE
GARB OF YELLOWJACKET...!

IT CAN'T BE
JARVIS!

THE NEW
ALARM WE
INSTALLED
LAST WEEK
...JUST OUT-
SIDE THIS
CHAMBER!

SOMEONE
HAS TRIPPED
IT!

BUT, WHO
ELSE COULD
GET...THIS
FAR?

NO
ONE, FOOLS...
WHO WAS NOT
HIMSELF AN
AVENGER!!

THE SWORDSMAN!

AND YOU,
GIANT, ARE THE
ONE THAT I
WANT!

YOU...AND
THE COWARD
CALLED
HAWKEYE!

RECOGNIZE THESE
GOLDEN
TONES, BLADE-
SWINGER?

I'M THE
KID YOU
TAUGHT...
THEN
ALMOST
KILLED!

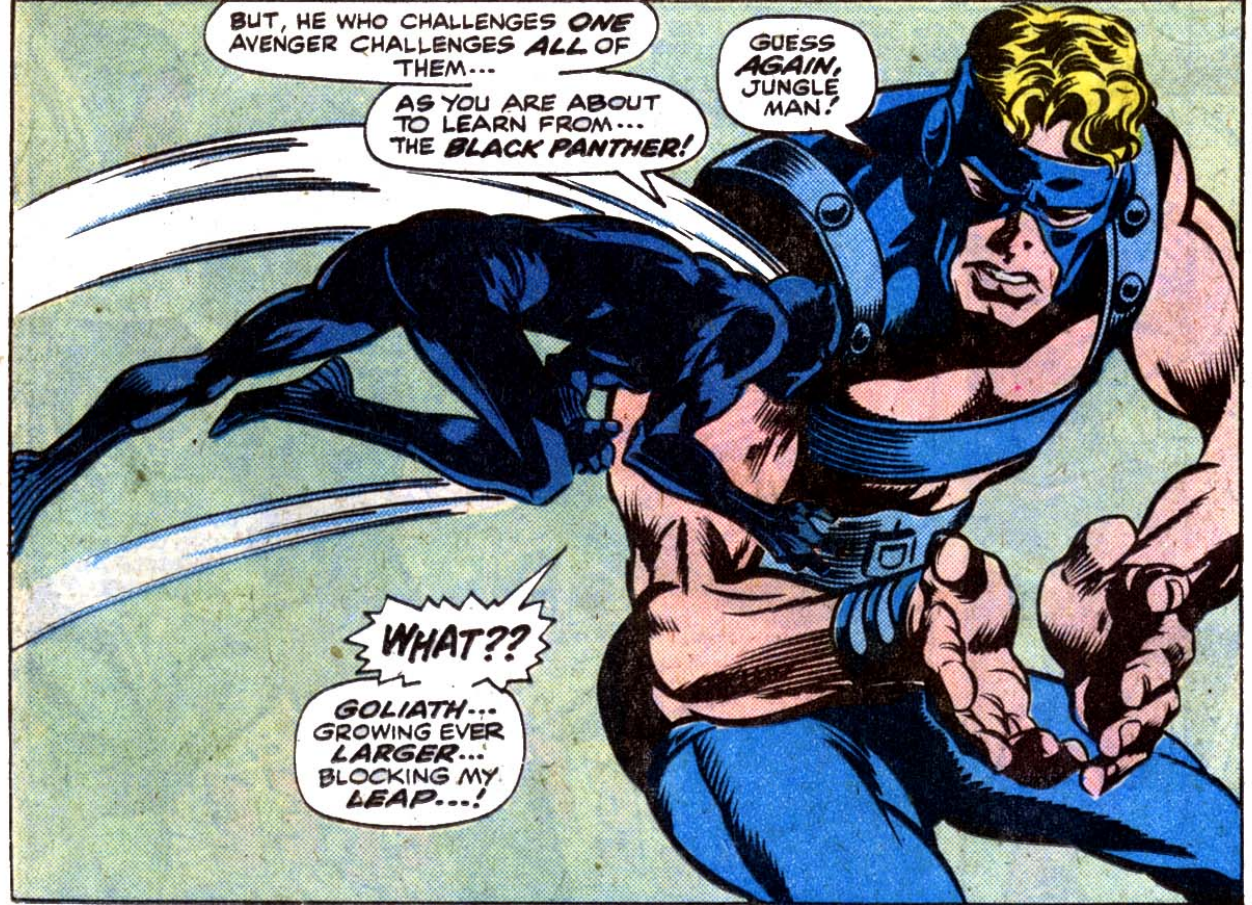
YOU!

THEN, I'LL
FINISH
THE JOB
THIS TIME!

WHATEVER THE
INTRUDER'S
PURPOSE, HE
DOES NOT SUS-
PECT THAT HAWK-
EYE IS THE NEW
GOLIATH!

WE'VE HAD NO
TIME TO KEEP THE WORLD ABREAST
OF OUR LINEUP CHANGES!

PERHAPS,
SWORDSMAN...



BUT, HE WHO CHALLENGES *ONE*
AVENGER CHALLENGES *ALL* OF
THEM...

AS YOU ARE ABOUT
TO LEARN FROM...
THE *BLACK PANTHER*!

GUESS
AGAIN,
JUNGLE
MAN!

WHAT??

GOLIATH...
GROWING EVER
LARGER...
BLOCKING MY
LEAP...



OL' SWORDY SEEMS
TO BE LOOKIN' FOR A
GRUDGE MATCH
WITH ME, TABBY!

AND, HE'S GONNA
GET WHAT'S COMIN'
TO HIM...

IF I HAVETA
WADE KNEE-HIGH
THRU *AVENGERS*
TO DO IT!

LET...
GO OF ME...
YOU RASH
FOOL!

IT'S NOT
THE *PANTHER*
WHO IS OUR ENEMY,
GOLIATH... BUT
THE *SWORDS-*
MAN!

AN ENEMY
WITH WHOM
THE *VISION*
NOW SHALL
DEAL!!



HOLD IT, RED... I DON'T REMEMBER ASKIN' YOU TO FIGHT MY BATTLES, EITHER!

YOU DARE..?



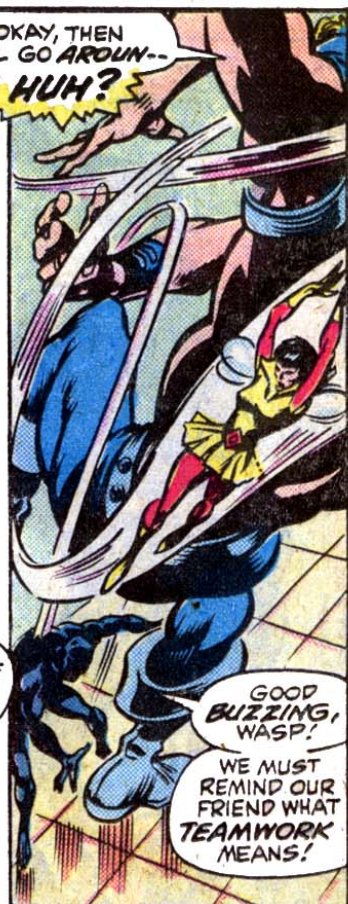
YOU KNOW IT, CLYDE!

NOW TO...

UNNNH!

YOUR STRENGTH IS USELESS, GIANT...

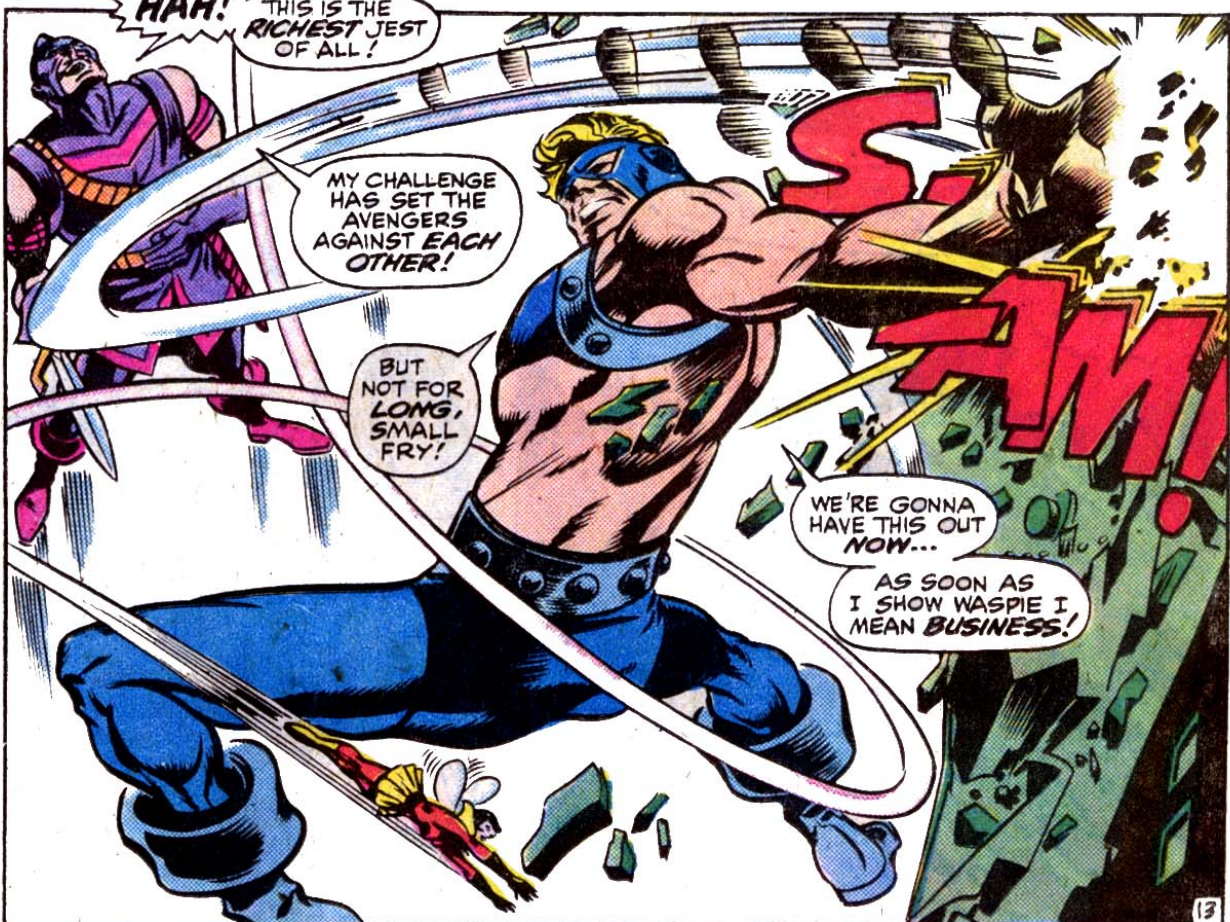
...WHEN I INCREASE MY MASS BY MANY TIMES!



OKAY, THEN I'LL GO AROUND--
HUH?

GOOD BUZZING, WASP!

WE MUST REMIND OUR FRIEND WHAT TEAMWORK MEANS!



HAH!

THIS IS THE RICHEST JEST OF ALL!

MY CHALLENGE HAS SET THE AVENGERS AGAINST EACH OTHER!

BUT NOT FOR LONG, SMALL FRY!

WE'RE GONNA HAVE THIS OUT NOW...

AS SOON AS I SHOW WASPIE I MEAN BUSINESS!



WE HAVE **TOLERATED** YOUR ANGER, GOLIATH... BECAUSE YOU WERE **DISTRAUGHT** OVER YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH!

BUT NOW, IT IS TIME TO **CLOSE RANKS!**

YOU LEAD THE FIRST ASSAULT, PANTHER...

THEN I'LL SHOW WHAT MY NEW **STINGERS** CAN DO!



ALAS, MY FRIENDS, IT IS FAR TOO LATE FOR SUCH TACTICS!

GOLIATH'S HEAD-STRONG DIVERSION HAS ALREADY SERVED ITS PURPOSE!

ZZZZZZ

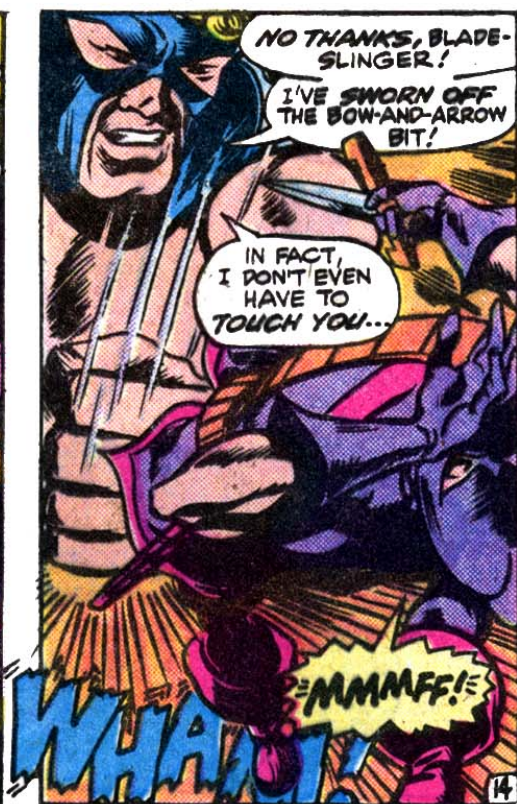


FOR, YOU'LL FIND THAT MY GADGET-LADEN SWORD PACKS A CERTAIN STING ALL ITS OWN!

AAARRHH!

THAT FINISHES THEM!

NOW FOR THE DUEL I CAME FOR...!

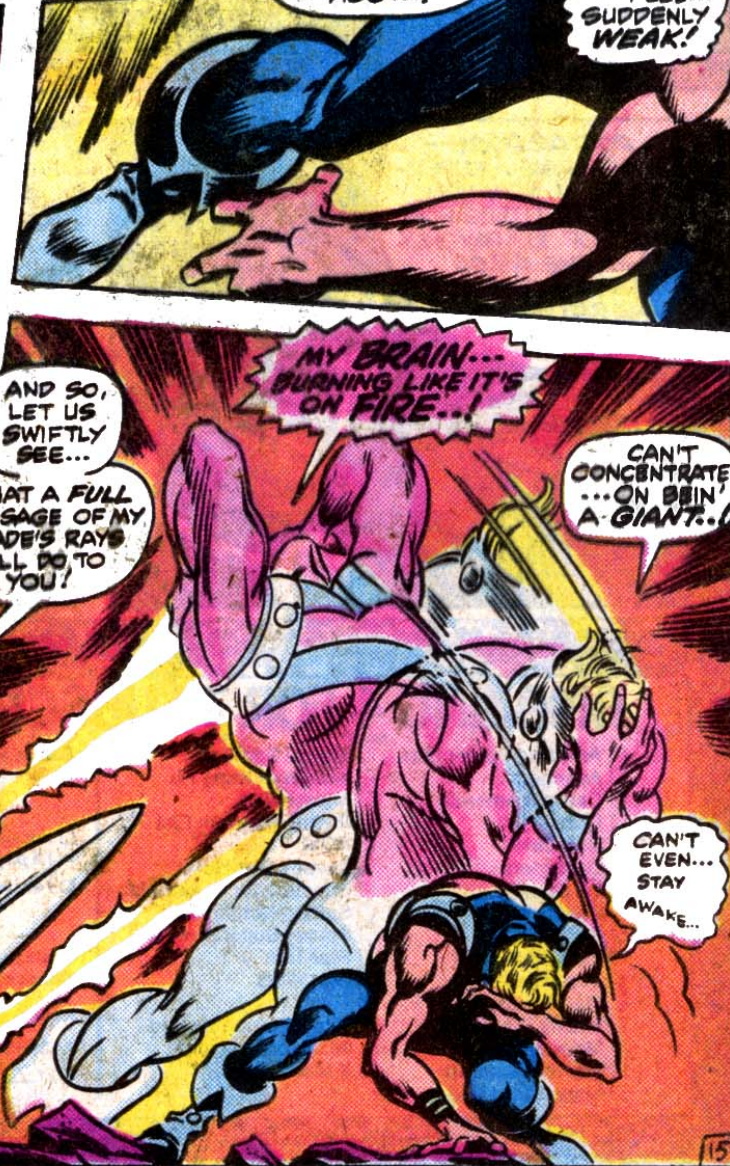
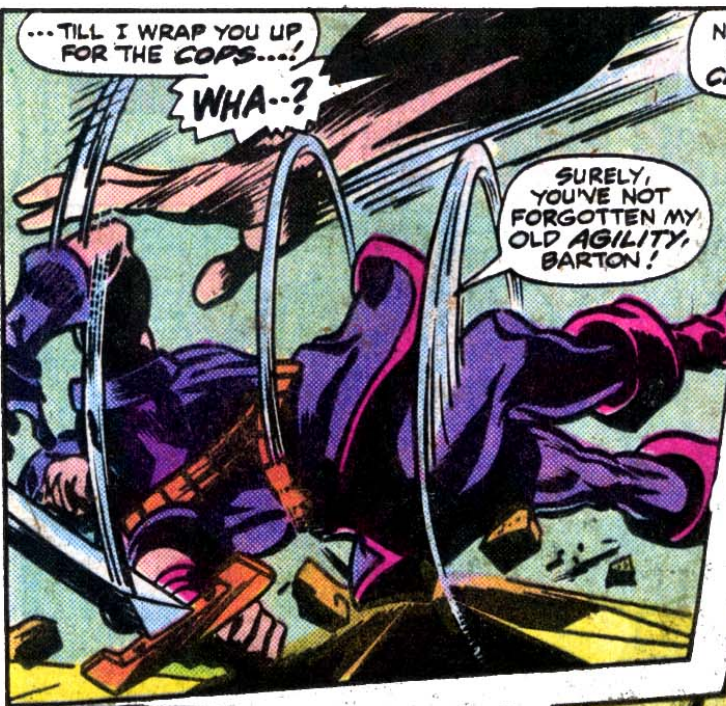


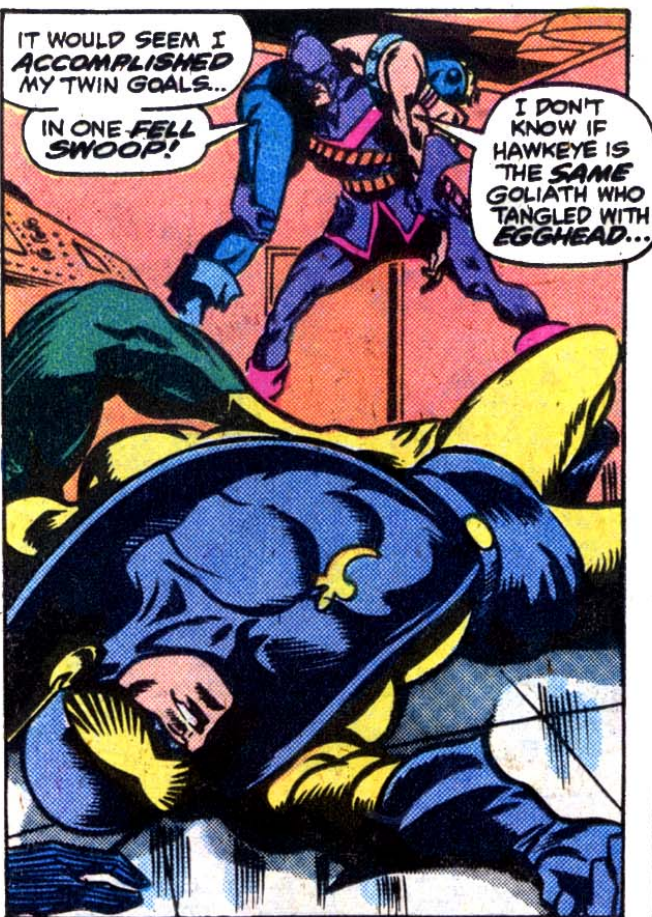
NO THANKS, BLADE-SLINGER!

I'VE SWORN OFF THE BOW-AND-ARROW BIT!

IN FACT, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TOUCH YOU...

WHAM! **MMFF!**





IT WOULD SEEM I ACCOMPLISHED MY TWIN GOALS...

IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

I DON'T KNOW IF HAWKEYE IS THE SAME GOLIATH WHO TANGLED WITH EGGHEAD...



BUT, THAT'S HARDLY MY WORRY!

I WAS HIRED TO BRING THE AVENGER CALLED GOLIATH TO HIM...

AND THAT IS JUST WHAT I AM DOING!

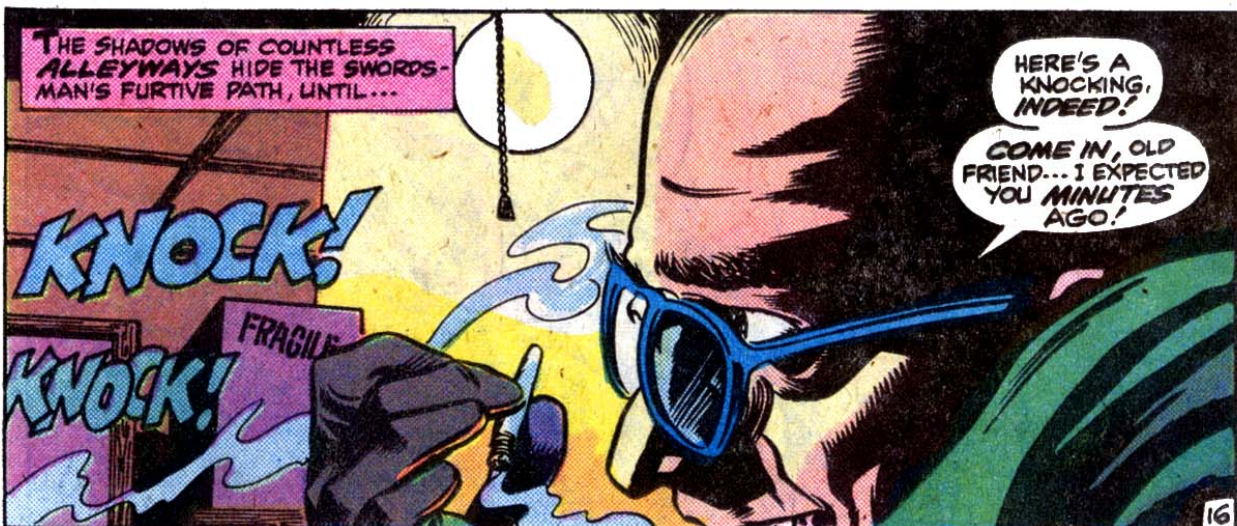


THERE IS ONLY ONE DISQUIETING NOTE IN MY VICTORY...

I WISHED TO CROSS WEAPONS WITH CLINT BARTON...

TO PROVE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT IT IS I WHO AM STILL THE MASTER...

NOT THE CRUDE UPSTART WHO CALLED HIMSELF HAWKEYE!!



THE SHADOWS OF COUNTLESS ALLEYWAYS HIDE THE SWORDSMAN'S FURTIVE PATH, UNTIL...

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

HERE'S A KNOCKING, INDEED!

COME IN, OLD FRIEND... I EXPECTED YOU MINUTES AGO!



BUT, YOU HAVE ONLY ONE AVENGER!

I THOUGHT YOU'D CAPTURE **HAWKEYE** FOR YOURSELF!

AS DID I, TILL I LEARNED...

HE AND **GOLIATH** ARE NOW ONE AND THE SAME!

BUT, ENOUGH SMALL TALK!



YOU **BOUGHT** MY SWORD... HIRED ME TO BRING **GOLIATH** TO YOU!

I **DID**...AND NOW I WANT MY **REWARD**!

IN...DUE TIME, MY FRIEND!

BUT FIRST, YOUR WORDS **PERPLEX** ME!

I MUST KNOW IF THE MAN YOU'VE BROUGHT IS, INDEED, **HENRY PYM**!



...OR ELSE THE TIME IS OUT OF JOINT... AND YOU ARE BOTH OUT OF **LUCK**!

TO COIN A PHRASE!

EGGHEAD'S LEAVING OVER ME...

AND WHEN HE **UNMASKS** ME... FINDS OUT I'M NOT **HANK**...

I'VE **HAD** IT!

UH OH!

LOOKS LIKE I **WOKE UP** JUST IN TIME...

TO HEAR MY OWN **OBITUARY**!

STILL TOO WEAK... TO TURN ON THE **GROWING**!

IT'D TAKE A **MIRACLE** TO HELP ME NOW!



AND THEN...SUDDENLY... ONE GLINT-EDGED **MIRACLE**...!

SO, YOU'D MAKE VEILED THREATS TO ME, WOULD YOU?

WHEN I COULD **CARVE** YOU LIKE A **TURKEY**!

SKO



AND, I
MAY DO JUST
THAT!

YOU FORCE
ME TO TAKE
ARMS AGAINST
A SEA OF
TROUBLES...



AND, BY
OPPOSING...



...END
THEM!



SHEESH!
THOSE TWO ARE SO
BUSY GOING AT EACH
OTHER...

THEY'VE
FORGOTTEN
I'M ALIVE!

IF YOU DODGE
MY BARE BLADE,
COWARD...

I'LL USE ITS
LETHAL RAYS,
INSTEAD...



DON'T FLAUNT
YOUR GIMMICK-
LADEN SWORD
AT ME, FOOL!

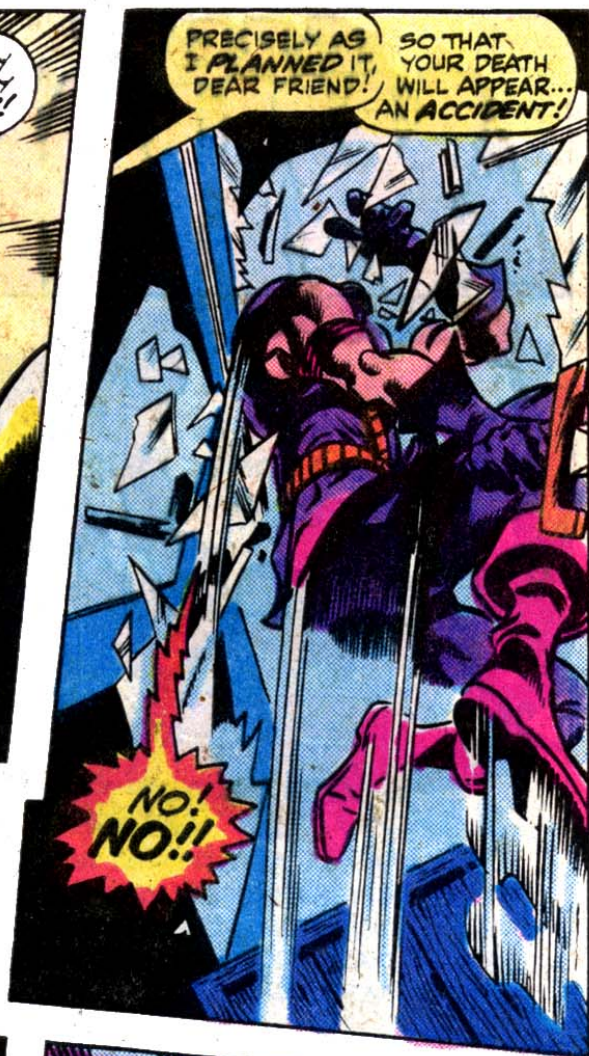
OR, YOU
SHALL SOON
FIND THAT ITS
RAYS HAVE
MERELY
LIGHTED
FOR YOU...



...THE WAY
TO DUSTY
DEATH!!

A STUN-
BLASTER...
HIDDEN ON
YOU!

THOSE
BURSTS...
FORCING ME BACK...
BACK...!



PRECISELY AS
I PLANNED IT,
DEAR FRIEND!

SO THAT
YOUR DEATH
WILL APPEAR...
AN ACCIDENT!

NO!
NO!!



THE WINDOW-
LEDGE...ALL
THAT SAVED ME!

BUT...
CAN'T
HOLD ON...
MUCH
LONGER...

OUTTA
MY WAY,
BALDY!

SWORDY'S
A RAT-FINK...
BUT I GOTTA
HELP 'IM!

YOU'LL
HELP NO
ONE,
CLOWN...

EVEN IF I MUST
RESORT TO...
MURDER
MOST FOUL!

HELPP!!



MISTER, I MAY
NOT BE GREAT
SHAKES ON
QUOTES...

BUT SOMETHIN'S
ROTTEN IN
DENMARK...AND
IT'S YOU!!

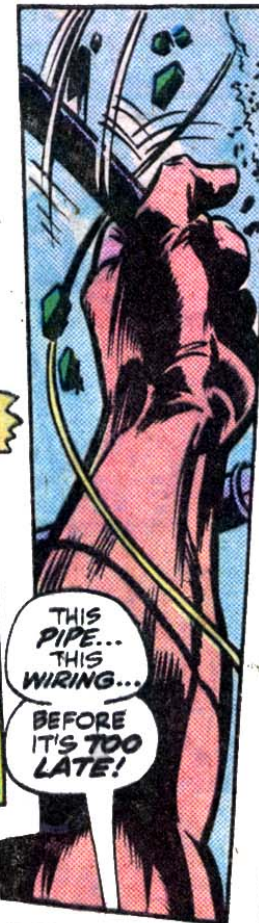
FLICK!



NOW, HANG ON, SWORDY, WHILE I--

HE LET GO!!

GOTTA USE MY BELT...

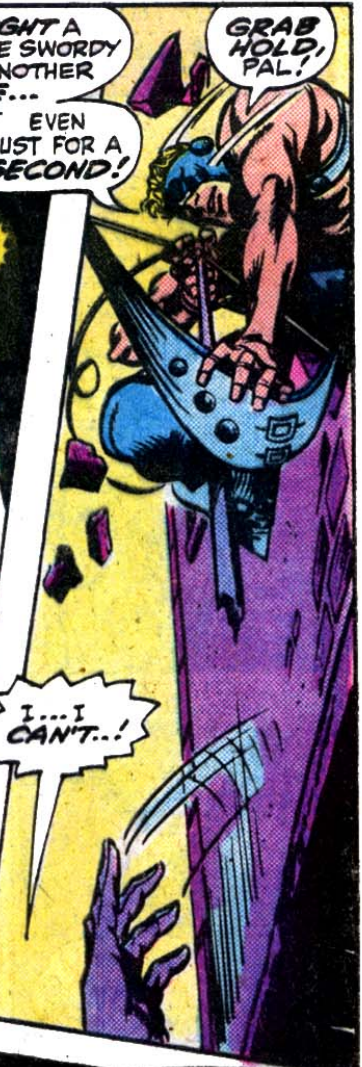


THIS PIPE... THIS WIRING... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



I KIND'A THOUGHT A NIMBLE JOE LIKE SWORDY WOULD GRAB ANOTHER LEDGE...

EVEN JUST FOR A SECOND!



GRAB HOLD, PAL!

I...I CAN'T...



I GOT A FEELIN' YOU CAN, RAT...

WHEN YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT...

AND IT DID!

YOU SAVED ME...WITH A MAKESHIFT ARROW!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF THE MASTER!



BIG DEAL!

THAT, AND A DIME, WILL GET ME A BAD CUP OF COFFEE!

WHAT MATTERS IS, I'VE GOT THE GUY WHO CAUSED MY BROTHER'S DEATH!

AND MAYBE, WHEREVER BARNEY IS...I'VE MADE UP FOR GIVIN' UP ON HIM...

MAYBE... JUST A LITTLE...!

The END