

AVENGERS

15¢ 81 OCT



MARVEL
COMICS
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AUTHORITY

THE AVENGERS

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT WHETHER
THE SCARLET
WITCH IS DEAD
OR NOT, VISION--

--'CAUSE
IN JUST ABOUT
ONE SECOND,
YOU'RE GONNA
JOIN HER!!

IS THIS THE END OF
A SUPERHERO??
WHEN A LEGEND
DIES!

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

WHEN DIES A LEGEND!

DUSK AND DAWN HAVE BOTH
THE SAME **GREY** CAST ON
SMOG-BOUND MANHATTAN---
AND ONLY CRIMSON STREAKS
IN THE BECLOUDED EAST
PROCLAIM THAT **MORNING**
IS NEAR, AS FIVE AVENGERS
GAZE SADLY SKYWARD
AFTER A FAST-VANISHING
QUINJET---

JUST A FEW SHORT
HOURS AGO, I WOULDN'T
HAVE BELIEVED IT
POSSIBLE!

AREN'T YOU **JUMPING**
THE GUN, CAP? ONLY
THE **VISION** EVER FOR-
MALLY **RESIGNED**
FROM OUR MIDST!

THE ONCE-MIGHTY
AVENGERS... SPLINTER-
ING OFF INTO **SEPARATE**
GROUPS, UNABLE TO
AGREE ON WHICH **FOE**
TO FIGHT!

BUT **GOLIATH**
AND THE **SCARLET**
WITCH, AS WELL,
DID REFUSE TO
ABIDE BY THE
MAJORITY
DECISION!

I'M AFRAID---
I MUST AGREE
WITH **THOR**!

WE MAY HAVE
WITNESSED
THE **BEGINNING**
OF THE **END**
OF THE **AVENGERS**!!

STAN LEE EDITOR • **ROY THOMAS** WRITER • **JOHN BUSCEMA** ARTIST • **TOM PALMER** • **SAM ROSEN**
INKER LETTERER

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MAYBE, IRON MAN!
AND YET, IF WE
HAVE...

THEN PERHAPS
SOMETHING NEW...
SOMETHING NOBLER
SHALL TAKE OUR
PLACE!

BUT COME! FOR,
TIME'S CANDLE
BURNS EVER MORE
DIMLY...

... AND THOSE OF US
WHO REMAIN HAVE
VOWED TO SEEK OUT
THE EVIL GROUP
CALLED ZODIAC!*

NOT ALL
THOSE WHO
REMAIN,
THUNDER
GOD!

*AS WITNESSED
IN OUR LAST
EPOCH-MARKING
ISSUE!
-- STAN.

OR DID YOU FORGET I
UNWITTINGLY **STARTED**
THE DISCORD... BY ANNOUN-
CING THAT I FIRST HAD
STUDENTS AT
MY SCHOOL TO
CONCERN MY-
SELF WITH?

WE'RE NOT LIKELY
TO FORGET **THAT**,
T'CHALLA!

BUT I DOUBT
IF ANY OF US
WOULD
BLAME YOU
FOR YOUR
ACTIONS!

NAY, BLACK PANTHER!
EACH MAN MUST FOLLOW
HIS **CONSCIENCE**...
AND TREAD WHERE IT
WOULD **LEAD** HIM...

IT'S JUST THAT **WE**
FEEL THE MAIN MENACE
IS **ZODIAC**... THE
MOST POWERFUL
INTERNATIONAL **CRIME**
CARTEL OF ALL!

... THOUGH THE WAY
BE LONG AND HARD,
AND A THOUSAND
THOUSAND **DEMONS**
BAR HIS PATH!

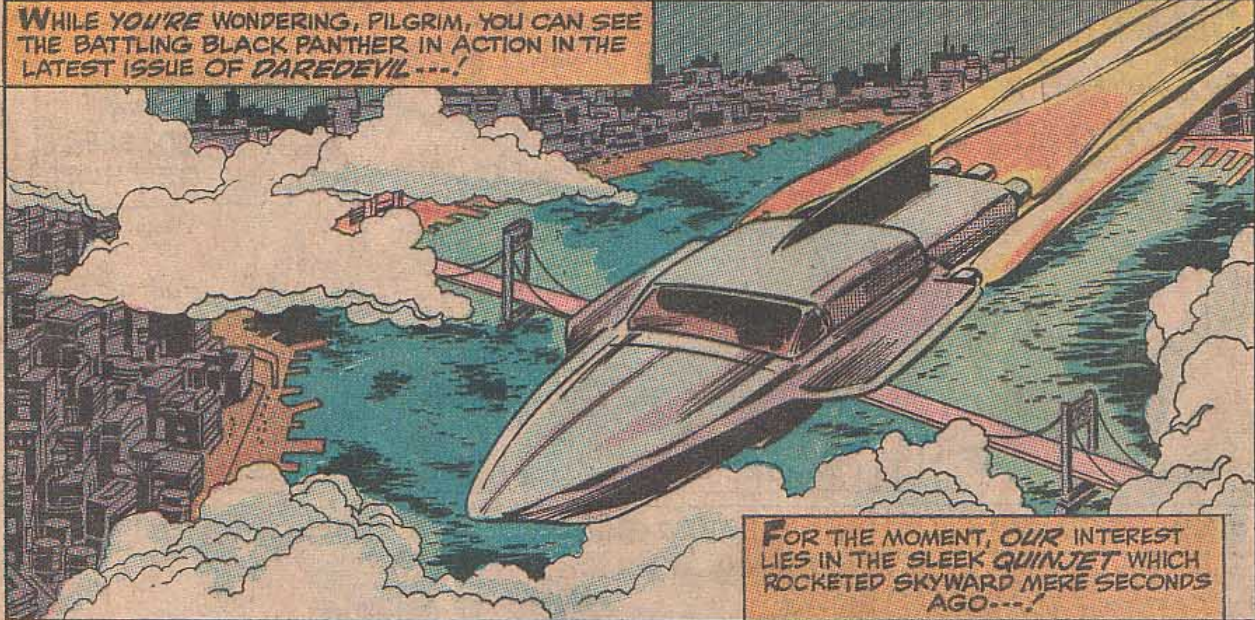
... WHILE I SHALL
CONTENT MYSELF
WITH SAVING A
SINGLE CHILD
FROM A LIFE OF
CRIME AND RUIN!

GLAD TO HEAR YOU
SAY THAT, FELLA!

FAREWELL,
MY FRIENDS!
WE SHALL
SOON MEET
AGAIN!

BUT I STILL
CAN'T HELP WONDER-
ING... IF WE TRULY
SHALL!

WHILE YOU'RE WONDERING, PILGRIM, YOU CAN SEE THE BATTLING BLACK PANTHER IN ACTION IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF *DAREDEVIL*....!



FOR THE MOMENT, OUR INTEREST LIES IN THE SLEEK QUINJET WHICH ROCKETED SKYWARD MERE SECONDS AGO....!

HEY, VIZH--- YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS CRATE!

YOU SURE IT WASN'T *PARNELLI JONES'* BRAIN THEY FED INTO THAT ANDROID CARCASS OF YOURS?

WE HAVE A JOB TO DO, GOLIATH---OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OUR PLEDGE TO RED WOLF?

PERHAPS--- IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU ALL FORGOT IT, AVENGERS!



HUH? NOW WHAT'S THAT FORK-TONGUED REMARK SUPPOSED TO MEAN, PAL?

PRECISELY WHAT I SAID, GIANT ONE!



I KNOW THAT I HAVE SWORN VENGEANCE ON A RICH AND POWERFUL FOE--- THE MAN NAMED *CORNELIUS VAN LUNT*!

STILL, IT IS FAITHFUL LOBO AND I WHO SHOULD STRIKE BACK FOR THE WRONGS HE HAS DONE OUR PEOPLE!

OTHERWISE, I AM NOT WORTHY TO BE THE EARTHLY REINCARNATION OF RED WOLF--- THE ORDAINED RESCUER OF MY TRIBE!



"AFTER ALL, DID I NOT TRACK VAN LUNT HERE TO THE EAST..."

"AND, WAS I NOT FARING WELL AGAINST HIS MOST MURDEROUS HIRELING..."



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"--- WHEN SUDDENLY, LIKE A WRAITH
FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE ---

HALT, MAN-WHO-
WOULD-BE-WOLF!

WOULD YOU
BECOME AS EVIL
AS THE ONE YOU
HAVE PURSUED?

"THEN, WHILE
WE TWO FOUGHT
OUR UNEVEN
BATTLE, MY DES-
PERATE PREY
ESCAPED...!"



AS THE YOUTHFUL INDIAN
FINISHES, A PALL OF
SILENCE DRAPES THE
CRUISING VESSEL---

I AM NOT PROUD OF MY
WORDS--- OF THEIR
SEEMING INGRATITUDE!

IS THIS WHY I ENDED
MY BRIEF SELF-EXILE
FROM THE AVENGERS...
TO HELP ONE WHO
SCORNS OUR AID?

BUT IT IS
RED WOLF
WHO MUST SAVE
HIS PEOPLE--- AND
NONE MUST INTRUDE
UPON THAT DESTINY.

RED WOLF
MAY BE A
HOTHEAD
--- BUT HE'S
GOT GUTS!

I KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE
TO HAVE A
ROUGH ROW
TO HOE---
ALONE!

WHY DID I JOIN THIS
MISSION--- HEEDING A
RASH IMPULSE?

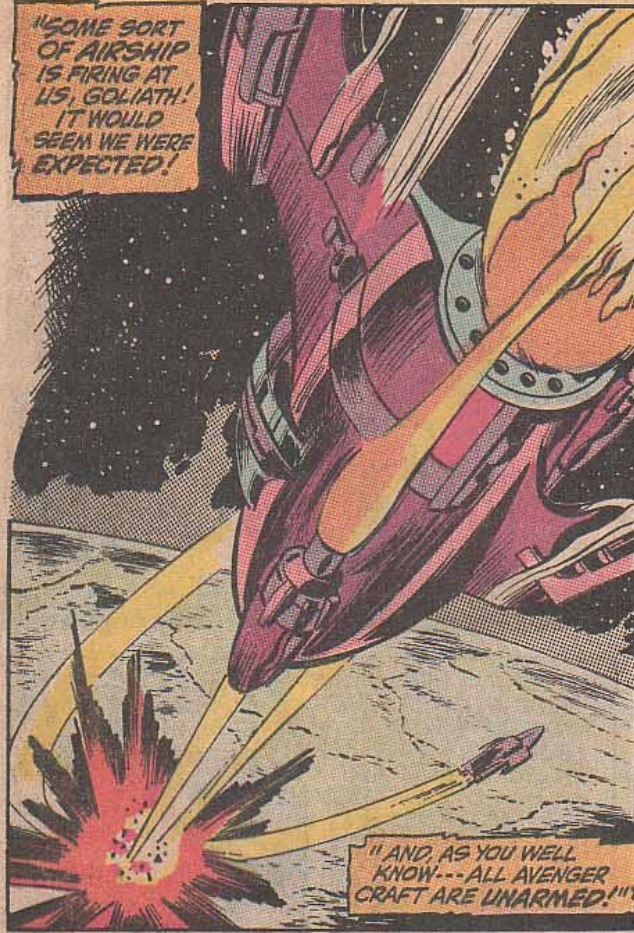
WAS IT
REALLY TO
HELP RED WOLF...
OR FOR SOME DEEPER,
HIDDEN REASON?

...ONE RED-HOT DESERT
COMIN' UP, WOLFIE! AND
IT'S STILL DAWN OUT
HERE---

--- SINCE WE
BEEN FLYIN'
WEST AT BETTER
THAN THE SPEED
OF SOUND!

SAY, MAYBE WE
GOT TIME TO STOP
AT SOME ROAD-
SIDE DINER FOR---





"SOME SORT OF AIRSHIP IS FIRING AT US, GOLIATH! IT WOULD SEEM WE WERE EXPECTED!"

"AND, AS YOU WELL KNOW---ALL AVENGER CRAFT ARE UNARMED!"



YEAH! SO WE PLAY MR. NICE-GUY AGAIN, WHILE EVERY OTHER CRUMB IN THE WORLD TAKES POT SHOTS AT US! I---

LOOK OUT!!

GET IT DOWN, WANDA! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A CHICK--- EVEN ONE WITH A HEX POWER!

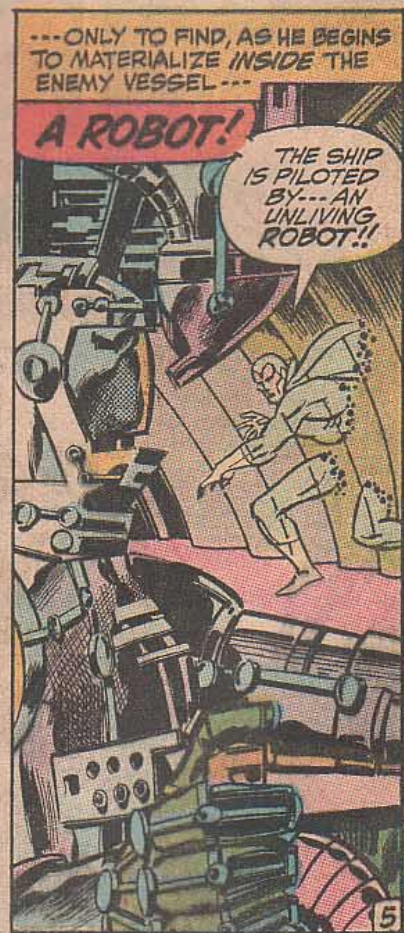
HEY, VISION! WHERE IN BLAZES ARE YOU GOIN'--?



BUT, THERE IS NO ANSWER FROM THE GRIM ANDROID AVENGER---AS, UTILIZING HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL HIS OWN DENSITY, HE PASSES EASILY AND SWIFTLY THRU THE METAL SHELL OF THE WOUNDED FLYER---



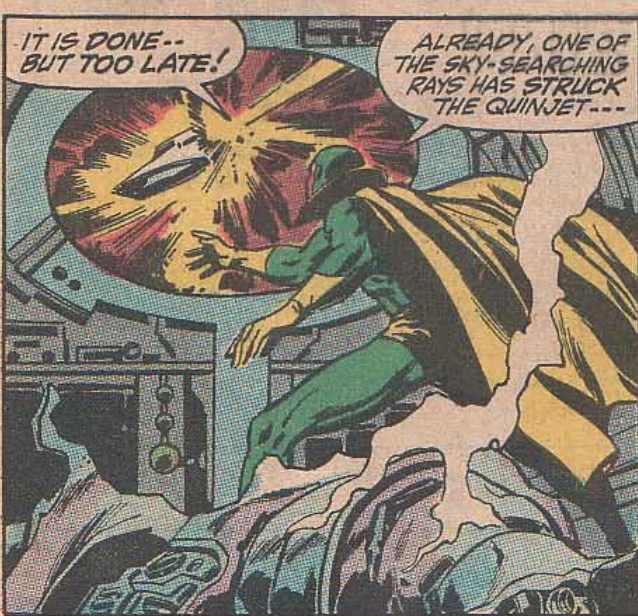
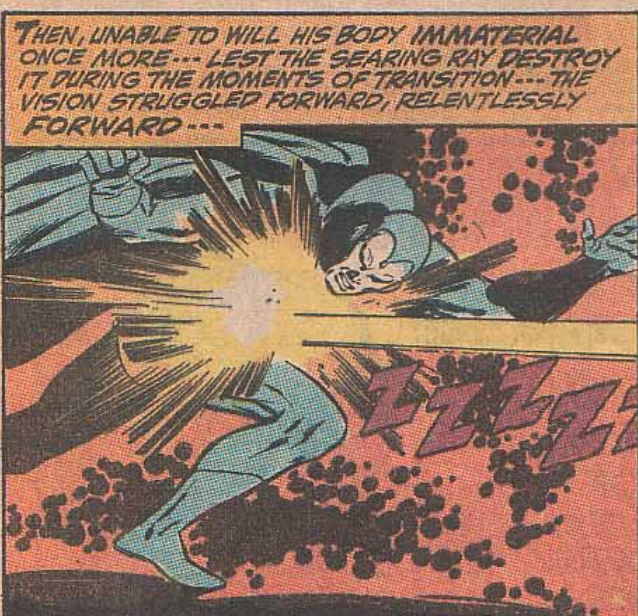
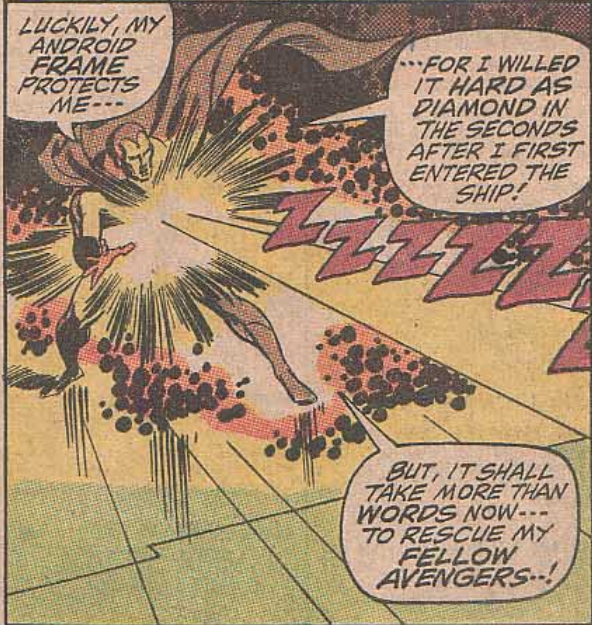
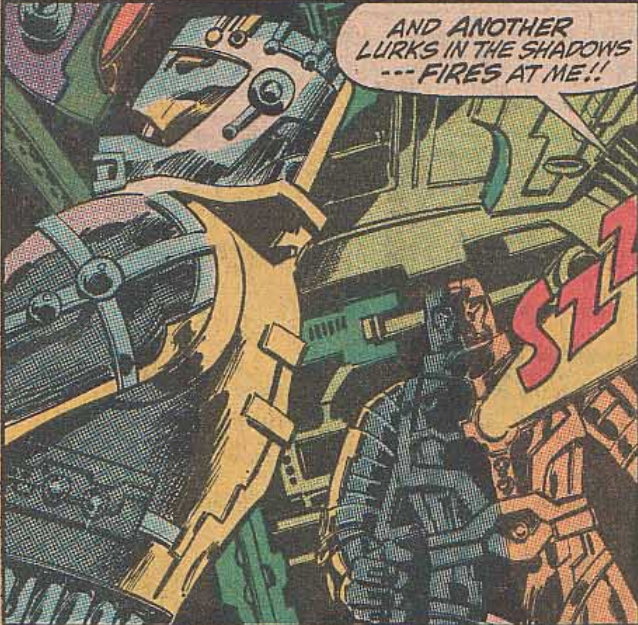
--- AND, LIGHTER THAN THE VERY AIR ITSELF, DRIFTS UPWARD AND INTO THE ATTACKING VEHICLE---



--- ONLY TO FIND, AS HE BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE INSIDE THE ENEMY VESSEL ---

A ROBOT!

THE SHIP IS PILOTED BY--- AN UNLIVING ROBOT!!



SEARCHER #1
TO VAN LUNT: UFO
HAS BEEN DOWNED
--- RETURNING TO
BASE---

THEN VAN LUNT
IS BEHIND THIS
MURDER-MISSION
--- AS I SUSPECTED!

WELL, NEVER
AGAIN SHALL HE
SEND FORTH LIFELESS
ROBOTS IN LIFELESS
MISSILES TO SNUFF
OUT HUMAN LIVES!

SO SWEARS THE
VISION!

DANCING...SWIRLING
... GLOWING... THE
VERY MOLECULES
OF THE AIR ITSELF
ARE DRUNK IN BY
THE REVENGE-MAD
ANDROID, AS IF BY
SOME LIVING
VACUUM---

... UNTIL SO GREAT
BECOMES HIS MASS---
SO INCALCULABLE
HIS WEIGHT--- THAT THE
STRAINING ROCKET IS
PULLED DOWN, DOWN-
WARD BY THE MIGHTY
FORCE CALLED
GRAVITY---

--- TO DIG ITSELF A FIERY GRAVE WHICH SCARS
THE FACE OF THE SUN-SCORCHED DESERT---



ROBOT AND ROCKET ARE
GONE, BUT THE QUESTIONS
REMAIN!

MORE IMPORTANT...
DOES RED WOLF
STILL LIVE? DO
GOLIATH AND
THE SCARLET
WITCH?

IT SEEMS HOPELESS---
BUT I MUST SCAN THE
DESERT FLOOR--- PER-
HAPS TO FIND SOME
TRACE OF---

WAIT! THERE...
ALMOST DIRECTLY
BELOW ME---

WHERE DID
EVEN ONE OF VAN
LUNT'S WEALTH
OBTAIN WEAPONRY
AND ROBOTS OF
SUCH ADVANCED
TYPE?

IS THERE PERHAPS MORE TO THIS
DESERT MYSTERY THAN THE BLOOD-
VENGEANCE OF A MASKED INDIAN?

MEN SAY THAT NO ANDROID CAN POSSESS TRUE EMOTIONS, VISION, AND SOMETIMES YOU BELIEVE THEM--- BUT THEN WHAT MAKES SYNTHETIC BLOOD COURSE MORE SWIFTLY THRU PLAS-TIC VEINS AS YOU BEHOLD---



SHE STILL LIVES! SHE MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THE CENTER OF THIS MAN-MADE LAKE...



YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A MOMENT, WANDA--- BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

I--- DON'T KNOW--- DIDN'T SEE---



---'CAUSE I WAS HOPIN' TO ROUND UP ALL YOU DO-GOODERS IN ONE TRIP!



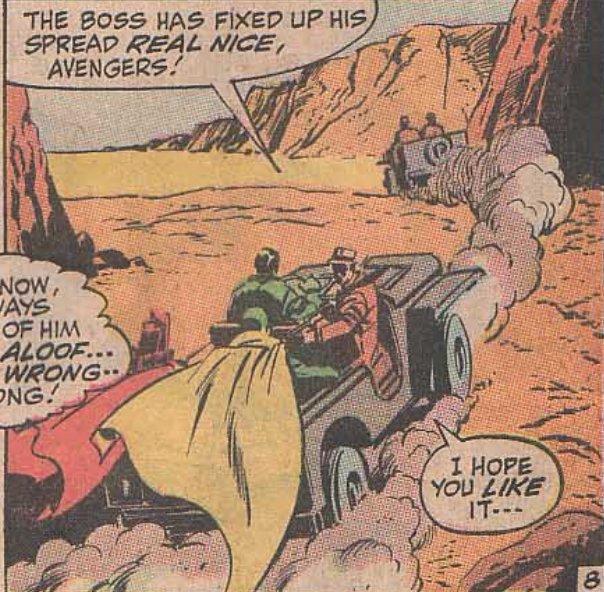
YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND, JASON BIRCH! WE WILL GO WITH YOU!

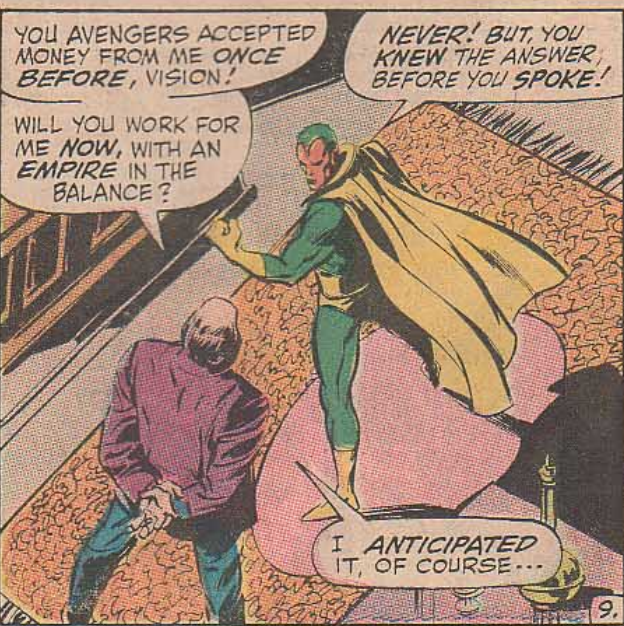
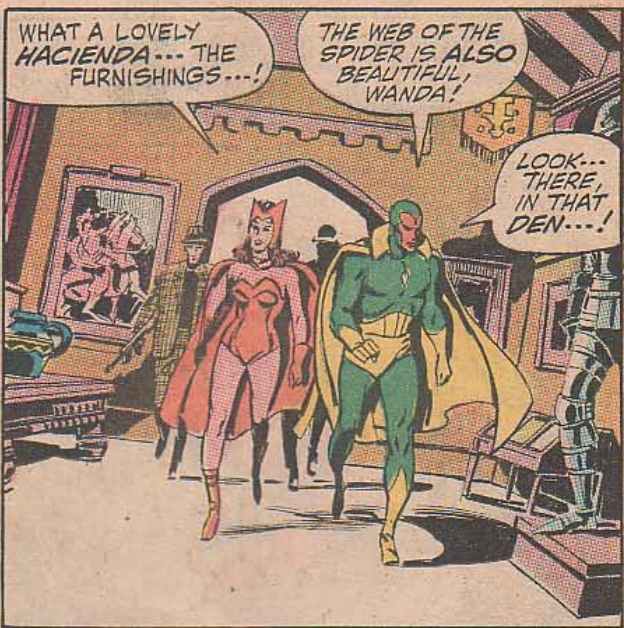
THE VISION COULD DEFY THEM ALL--- AT NO RISK TO HIMSELF!

HE'S SURRENDERING TO SAVE ME, KNOWING I'M STILL TOO WEAK TO USE MY MUTANT HEX POWER!



THE BOSS HAS FIXED UP HIS SPREAD REAL NICE, AVENGERS!





--- WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I'VE
SIGNALLED MY MEN TO TAKE THE
WITCH IN HAND!

THAT ASSURES
YOUR COOPERATION,
AT LEAST!

WANDA!

SHE WON'T BE
HARMED...
AS LONG AS
YOU ACT AS MY
PERSONAL
BODYGUARD!

THEN... I
HAVE NO
CHOICE,
VAN LUNT!

GOOD! FOR I MAY
SOON HAVE NEED OF YOUR
SPECIALIZED POWERS---

"... PARTICULARLY IN THE UNLIKELY
EVENT THAT ANY OF YOUR FELLOW
AVENGERS SURVIVED THAT FIERY
CRASH!"

NO USE, GOLIATH! I
CAN SEE... NO LIVING
THING!

KEEP
LOOKIN',
RED WOLF!

THEY
GOTTA
BE ALIVE!
THEY JUST
GOT TO!

IT IS HOPELESS! WE WILL NEED
THE HELP OF OTHERS TO
SEARCH THE ENTIRE AREA!

I AM STILL
AMAZED THAT
ANY OF US
YET LIVE!

WELL, WHEN
YOU WERE
KAYOED BY
THAT LAST
BLOW-UP---

"... MY TEN-FOOT SIZE
PROTECTED ME A LITTLE,
SO I MANAGED TO GRAB
WANDA, AND---

BOMBS AWAY!
YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER
CHANCE... IF YOU HIT
THAT LAKE BELOW
ON YOUR OWN!

"A COUPLE OF SECONDS LATER,
WE HIT THE WATER... AND I MEAN
HARD!"

"I KNEW I
COULD NEVER
SWIM TO
SAFETY... NOT
AND CARRY
YOU ALONG,
ANYWAY... SO
I USED MY
LAST BIT OF
BRAIN-
STRAIN...

"...TO SHOOT UP TO THIRTY FEET... WHICH WAS MORE THAN OUR LITTLE GO-BUGGY COULD TAKE...!"



"THEN, AS I WAS TAKIN' A COUPLE OF SEVEN-LEAGUE STRIDES TOWARD SHORE..."

THAT DAM--- AND THE LAKE IT MAKES-- SURE SAVED OUR HIDES!

BUT IT'S GOTTA BE THE ONE VAN LUNT BUILT...



AND IF I FIND OUT HE SENT UP THAT ROCKET AFTER US--- I'LL HAMMER IT DOWN WITH MY BARE KNUCKS!

THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY YOU DID NOT EARN YOUR GROWING POWERS, GOLIATH--- BECAUSE ANOTHER MAN CREATED THE FORMULA!

YET, THIS DAY, I KNOW THEY ARE WHOLLY WRONG!

ALL I KNOW, MAN, IS THAT TWO AVENGERS ARE MISSING!



THAT MEANS THIS IS MY SHOW NOW... AS WELL AS YOURS!

AND SOON, AT THE HUMBLE INDIAN VILLAGE WHERE RED WOLF WAS BORN AND BRED...

... YOU SAY YOU HAVE COME TO LEAD US AGAINST THE MAN WHO STOLE OUR LAND-- WHO DAMMED OUR RIVERS!

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE RED WOLF OF WHOM THE LEGENDS TELL?



I KNOW THAT I AM --- AND THAT IS ENOUGH!

IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR US! THERE WAS ANOTHER OF THE PEOPLE WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE EVIL VAN LUNT!

HE WAS TOMMY TALLTREES, MY BROTHER--- AND WE BURIED HIM MONTHS AGO, ALONG WITH OUR HOPE!

EVEN HIS SON WILL HAVE VANISHED!



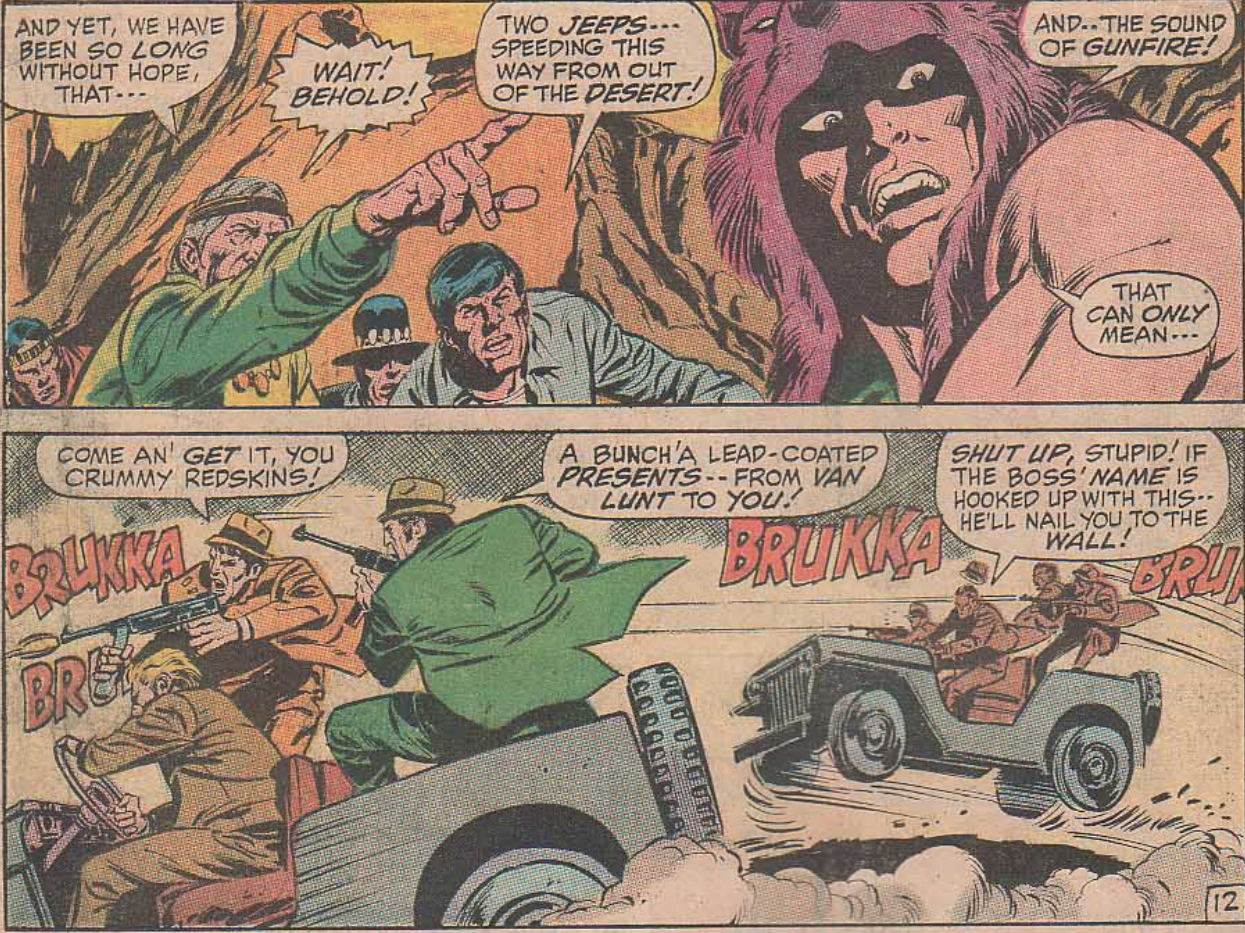
WHERE TOMMY TALLTREES FAILED--- RED WOLF WILL SUCCEED, WITH YOUR HELP!

WE WANT TO BELIEVE YOU, WAYFARER!

I DO NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT THAT I AM--- AN UNCLE TOMAHAWK!



AND YOU DO COME TO US STRIDING BESIDE A SNARLING WOLF---



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☐ I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.

MUST BE SOME A
VAN LUNT'S HOODS
--- COMIN' IN TO
SOFTEN UP THE
INDIANS!

OR ELSE HE'S
AFTER ME
AND RED
WOLF!

EITHER WAY, HIS
BULLY-BOYS ARE
GONNA GET MORE
THAN THEY SIGNED
UP FOR---



--- UNLESS THEY LIKE
TACKLIN' A GUY ROUGHLY
THE SIZE OF KING KONG!!



13

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PEPPER 'IM! HE MAY BE BIG-- BUT HE STILL AIN'T BULLETPROOF!

BUT-- AT THAT SIZE-- IT'D TAKE A MORTAR SHELL TO MAKE A DENT IN 'IM!

THEN LET'S RUN DOWN THAT MASKED RED-SKIN-- AND SPLIT!

THE GIANT AVENGER HAS DONE HIS PART, BY SMASHING ONE CHARGING JEEP!

RED WOLF CAN DO NO LESS...

--- IF HE BE WORTHY TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE TO VICTORY!!

SMASH!

SHEESH! YOU'RE A MEAN MAN WITH A HATCHET, WOLFY!

SPEAK, MAN! VAN LUNT ORDERED YOU HERE, DIDN'T HE?

WHY DOES HE WANT THE INDIANS OFF THIS BARREN LAND? WHY??

YEAH, HE... HE SENT US! BUT-- DON'T KNOW WHY... HONEST...!

NOW IT IS ENOUGH, YOU WHO CALL YOURSELF RED WOLF!

WE HAVE THE PROOF FOR WHICH WE HAVE WAITED! WE WILL BE UNCLE TOMAHAWKS NO LONGER!

WE WILL MARCH BESIDE YOU... TO THE HACIENDA OF THE MAN VAN LUNT!



HOLY JUMPIN' CATS!!

WE'RE IN TROUBLE, BOSS-MAN!



THERE'S ABOUT A ZILLION INDIANS OUT THERE---AND THAT BIG AVENGER IS WITH 'EM!

I EXPECTED THE INDIANS TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST MY RATHER FORCEFUL METHODS--- SOONER OR LATER!

AND I AM HARDLY UNPREPARED!



FOR, THE INDIANS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE AN AVENGER TO PROTECT THEM---

---EH, MY GOOD FRIEND?



VISION-- NO! YOU CANNOT DO WHAT HE DEMANDS!

LET THEM KILL ME! THEY WILL MURDER US BOTH ANYWAY, WHEN WE'VE SERVED OUR PURPOSE!

IF WE HELP THEM---THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT MEN WILL BE ON OUR HEADS!



BUT, THE ANDROID'S ONLY ANSWER IS TO TURN, AND---

VIZH, BUDDY! YOU'RE ALIVE! BUT-- WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' AT SUPER-FINK'S?

THAT I CANNOT EXPLAIN-- BUT YOU MUST LEAVE THESE PREMISES, AT ONCE!

I CAN SAY NO MORE!

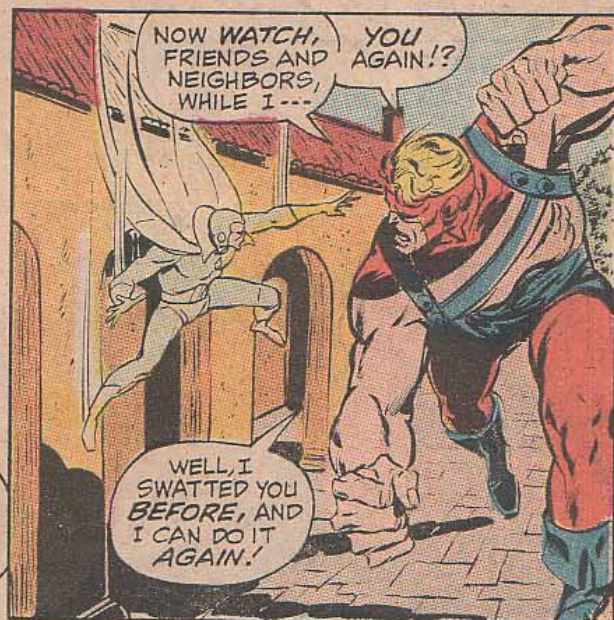
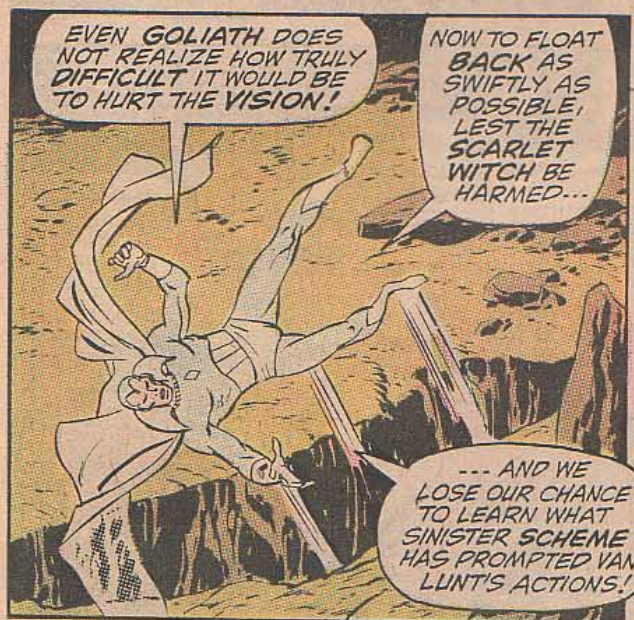
I REPEAT MY WARNING, GIANT!



HUH? THIS IS GOLIATH YOU'RE TALKIN' TO, FELLA--- AND I WAS AN AVENGER WHEN YOU WERE A BUNCH OF CHEMICALS IN A TEST TUBE!

SO DON'T GIVE ME THAT "SAY NO MORE" RUNAROUND!

NOW, WILL YOU AND THE OTHERS LEAVE PEACEFULLY, OR---





---OR MUST I PROVE TO YOU THAT MY FISTS ARE AS PAINFULLY SOLID AS THE REST OF ME?

I BELIEVE YOU, ANDROID-MAN!

BUT YOU'LL STILL HAVE TO PROVE IT TO ME.. IF YOU DON'T STEP ASIDE!



BOSS-- LOOK! UP ON THE DAM--!

NOW WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, JASON?

WHAT CAN BOTHER US-- WITH THE LARGEST AVENGER OF ALL DEFENDING US?

STILL! LET ME SEE....!



GOOD GRIEF! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, YOU SNIVELING FOOL?

SOME OF THOSE INFERNAL SAVAGES ARE ATOP THE DAM!

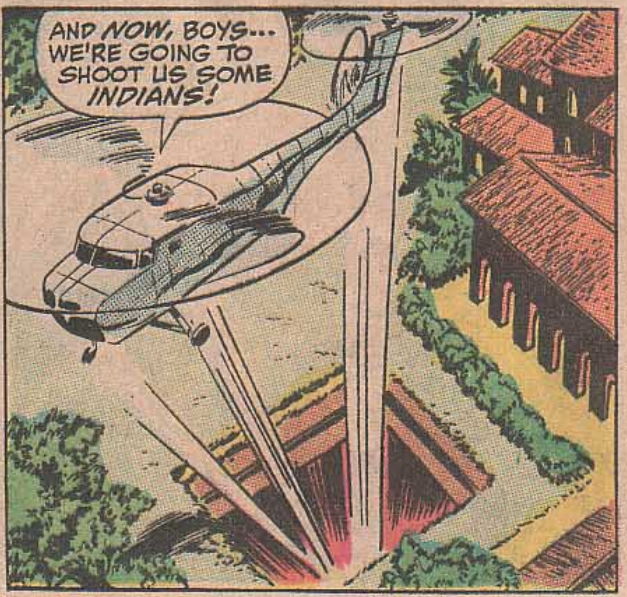
THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO BLOW IT UP!!



THEY'VE ALWAYS HATED THE DAM--- BECAUSE IT DIVERTS RIVERS WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD WATER THEIR LANDS!

AND NOW-- THEY HOPE TO TAKE THINGS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS!

BRING THE GIRL ALONG.. JUST TO MAKE SURE NO AVENGER BOTHERS US!



AND NOW, BOYS... WE'RE GOING TO SHOOT US SOME INDIANS!

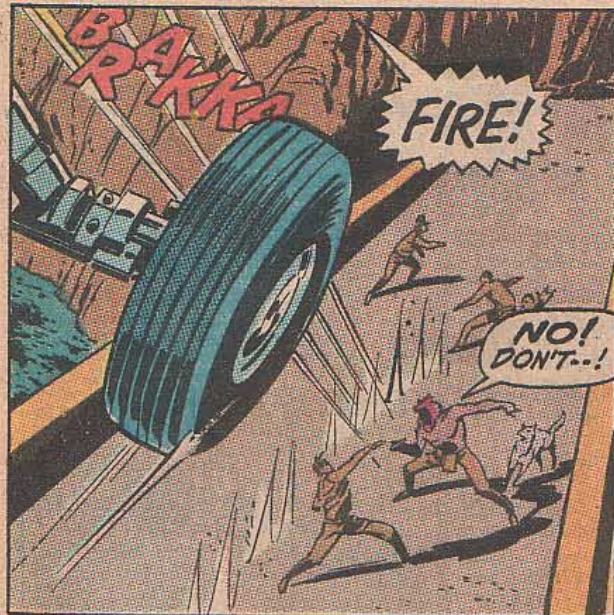


I'VE FELT SO HELPLESS THESE PAST HOURS... AS WEAK AS A KITTEN!

BUT NOW--- I CAN FEEL MY HEX POWER RETURNING!

IF I CAN BUT LOOSEN THESE BONDS...!

ALL RIGHT, MEN---



BRAKKA

FIRE!

**NO!
DON'T--!**



WE WERE RETURNING TO THE VILLAGE-- UNWILLING TO SEE GOLIATH'S BLOOD SHED FOR US!

AND NOW-- VAN LUNT WOULD SLAUGHTER US-- LIKE CATTLE!

AV--
AVENGE,
RED WOLF--
AVENGE--!

**YES--
AVENGE! RED
WOLF SHALL
AVENGE!!**



THIS IS WHERE OL' JASE CAME IN, WOLFMAN!

AND THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OUT-- FOR GOOD!

MOW 'EM DOWN, JASE! THERE'S JUST FIVE OF 'EM!

**POKKA
POKKA
POK**



EVEN VAN LUNT YIELDS TO THE CALL OF BLOOD-LUST!

I AM FREE! MUST RESTORE THE CIRCULATION TO MY CHAFED WRISTS--!



BETTER HURRY, AVENGER-- OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE! TOO LATE, AT ANY RATE, TO SAVE THE LIFE OF RED WOLF--!

BRAKKA

BRAK

BRAKKA

THERE IS-- NO HOPE! BUT AT LEAST I CAN DIE LIKE A WARRIOR!



PERHAPS YOU NEED NOT DIE AT ALL, RED WOLF!

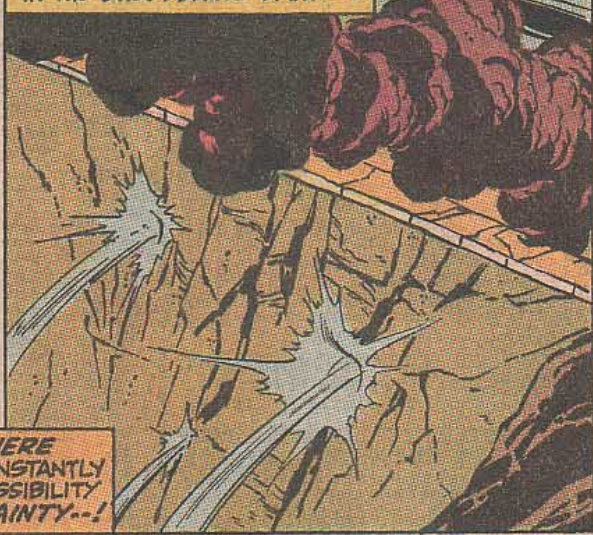
--NOT WHILE THE SCARLET WITCH STILL WIELDS HER AWESOME HEX SPHERE!

WHAT ARE THE ODDS, VAN LUNT, THAT YOUR COPTER WILL SUDDENLY EXPLODE-- ERUPT INTO GEYSERS OF SEARING FLAME?



WHEN THE SINISTER HEX SPHERE SURROUNDS IT--THOSE ODDS INSTANTLY CHANGE FROM A REMOTE POSSIBILITY --TO ALMOST A DEAD CERTAINTY--!

BUT EVEN THE WONDROUS WANDA DID NOT COUNT ON THE GAPING CRACKS WHICH APPEAR IN THE SHUDDERING DAM---



THE WHOLE THING'S GOING TO GO! WE'VE GOT TO--

YOU ARE GOING NO-WHERE, VAN LUNT!

LOBO--ATTACK!!



SNARRRRL

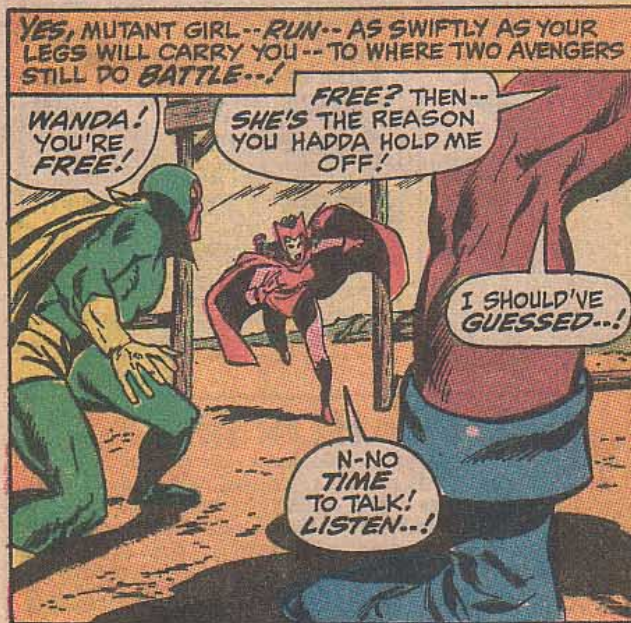
HEAD FOR THE HILLS!



RED WOLF--THE DAM IS COLLAPSING!

THEN--RUN, WOMAN--RUN!

MY WORK HERE--IS NOT YET FINISHED--!



YES, MUTANT GIRL--RUN--AS SWIFTLY AS YOUR LEGS WILL CARRY YOU--TO WHERE TWO AVENGERS STILL DO BATTLE--!

WANDA! YOU'RE FREE!

FREE? THEN--SHE'S THE REASON YOU HADDA HOLD ME OFF!

I SHOULD'VE GUESSED--!

N-NO TIME TO TALK! LISTEN--!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO HEAR, WANDA?



RRUMMBLE
RRUMMBLE

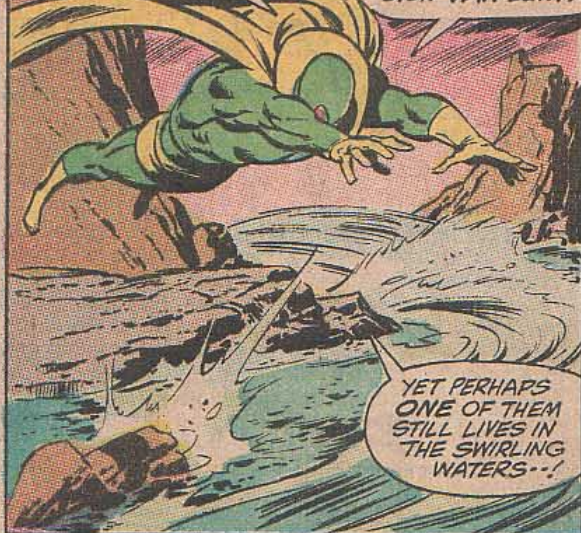
THE NAMELESS, BENUMBING SOUND OF STEEL AND CONCRETE RENDING BENEATH THE PRESSURE OF MILLIONS OF CUBIC FEET OF WATER--?

-- OR THE EVEN MORE TERRIFYING
THUNDER OF THE FINAL, FATAL
COLLAPSE--?



THEY WERE ALL CAUGHT
IN THE CATACLYSM--

RED WOLF--THE
FAITHFUL LOBO--
EVEN VAN LUNT!



YET PERHAPS
ONE OF THEM
STILL LIVES IN
THE SWIRLING
WATERS--!

FOR LONG, BREATHLESS MINUTES,
THE VISION USES HIS MATCHLESS
POWERS TO SCOUR THE NOW-
FLOODED BASIN! THEN---

THIS IS--- ALL
I FOUND!

THE MASK
OF---RED
WOLF!



HE CAME TO HELP YOUR
PEOPLE, OLD MAN! IT IS
YOU WHO SHOULD HAVE IT!

PERHAPS---THOUGH
IT WERE BETTER IF
RED WOLF WALKED
AMONG US ONCE
MORE!

HE DID SAVE US--AND
OUR LAND--- EVEN IN
DEATH!

AND PERHAPS---
HE EVEN
AVENGED THE
MURDER OF
TOMMY TALL-
TREES!



DID I HEAR THE
MENTION OF MY
FATHER'S
NAME?

THIS IS A SORRY
HOMECOMING---
FOR I SEE THE
BODIES OF OLD
FRIENDS WAITING
TO BE MOURNED
OVER BY THEIR
WOMEN!

WILL
TALLTREES!



HUH? BUT THAT'S
RED WOLF---
WITHOUT HIS
MASK!

AND FROM THAT TWINKLE
IN HIS UNCLE'S EYE-- I'M
BETTING THE OLD MAN
SEES RIGHT THRU HIM, TOO!

WELCOME
HOME, MY
CHILD! BUT--
THAT BANDAGE
ABOUT YOUR
BROW--!?

ONLY A
REMINDER---
OF A RECENT
FALL!
UNCLE!



BUT COME, LET US
TALK NO MORE
OF THE PAST---
BUT ONLY OF
THE FUTURE!

THERE IS WORK TO
BE DONE, RECLAIMING
OUR LAND---

---AND
IT IS GOOD
TO BE HOME
AGAIN!



FINIS

NEXT: The SECRET of CORNELIUS
VAN LUNT!