

A EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CASEY
ROSADO
PALMER
QUINTANA



JOHNSON

**A SECRET A.I.M. BASE NORTHEAST
OF THE RATAAN ISLANDS.**

JOE CASEY writer • **WILL ROSADO** pencils • **TOM PALMER** inks
WIL QUINTANA colors • **COMICRAFT** letters • **MOLLY LAZER & AUBREY SITTERSON** assistant editors
TOM BREVDORT editor • **JOE QUESADA** editor in chief • **DAN BUCKLEY** publisher

DETENTION
LEVELS ARE JUST
AHEAD--

--COMMAND
CENTER IS THREE
LEVELS UP...!

NO DOUBT
THERE'S STILL
A FEW A.I.M. CREEPS
SCURRYING AROUND
THIS PLACE--

--CASE IN
POINT.

LEAVE IT TO
ME, AVENGERS.
I'M LOCKED AND
LOADED TO--

HAWKEYE,
DON'T.

WHAT'S
YOUR BEEF,
PANTHER...?!

WE CAN'T
WASTE TIME HERE.
WE NEED TO KEEP
MOVING.

ALREADY,
I HAVE A FEELING
WE'VE MISSED OUR
CHANCE TO ENSNARE
THE SUPER-ADAPTOID...

PERHAPS ONE OF US
SHOULD AID GOLIATH
IN HIS CONFRONTATION
OUTSIDE--

NOT YET,
VISION. HE WANTS US
ALL HERE UNTIL WE
COMPLETELY SECURE THE
BASE. HE'S CHAIRMAN, SO
IT'S HIS CALL. BESIDES...

...HANK CAN
TAKE CARE OF
HIMSELF.





...THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...

...THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...



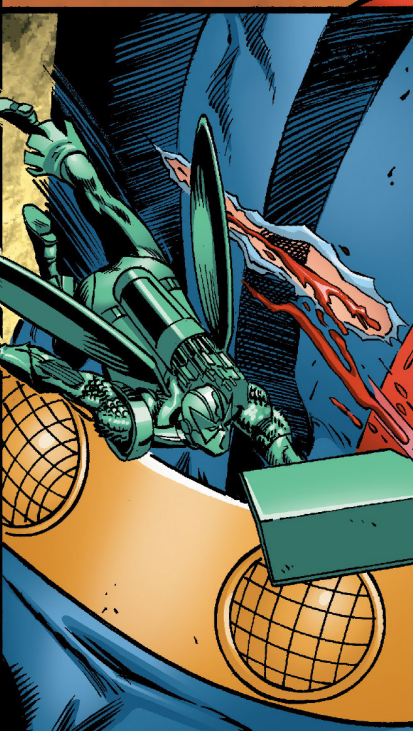
I WAS A SCIENTIST...



...SEARCHING
FOR TRUTH...



...NOW ALL I AM--
ALL I'VE BECOME--
IS JUST ANOTHER--



YEEAAARRRGH!!



JAN...I CAN'T...

...THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...

...I DON'T KNOW...
WHO I AM ANYMORE...

...BUT I DON'T
NEED TO KNOW...



...I JUST NEED...

...TO FIGHT...

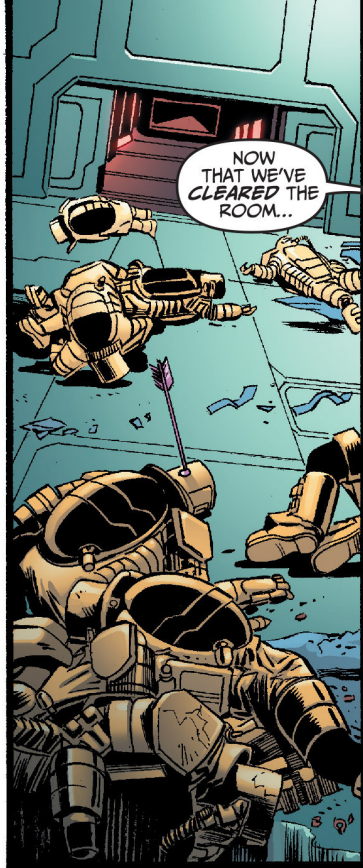


...TO DESTROY...

...TO KILL...

...I'M A HERO...

...I'M AN
AVENGER...



NOW
THAT WE'VE
CLEARED
THE ROOM...



...WE CAN USE
DIRECT TERMINAL
ACCESS TO FIND THE
SUPER-ADAPTOID. IF
IT'S EVEN STILL
HERE...!

NO SCIENTIST
SUPREME UP IN THIS
JOINT. I THOUGHT WE
MIGHT GET LUCKY AND
MAKE A MAJOR
BUST...



...BUT I GUESS IT'S SAFE
TO CALL IN THE CLEAN-
UP CREW, HUH?

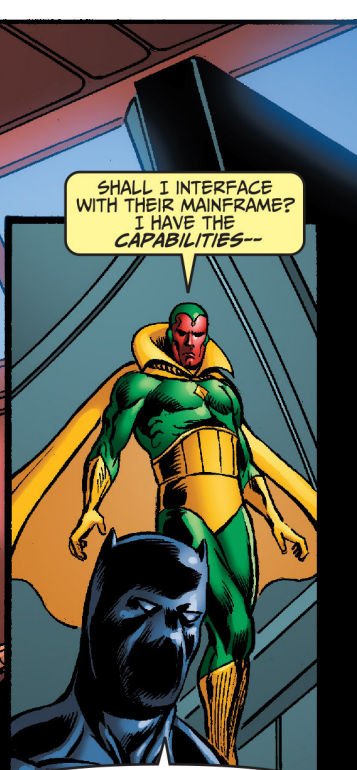
FURY!
YOU READIN'
ME...?



FURY--

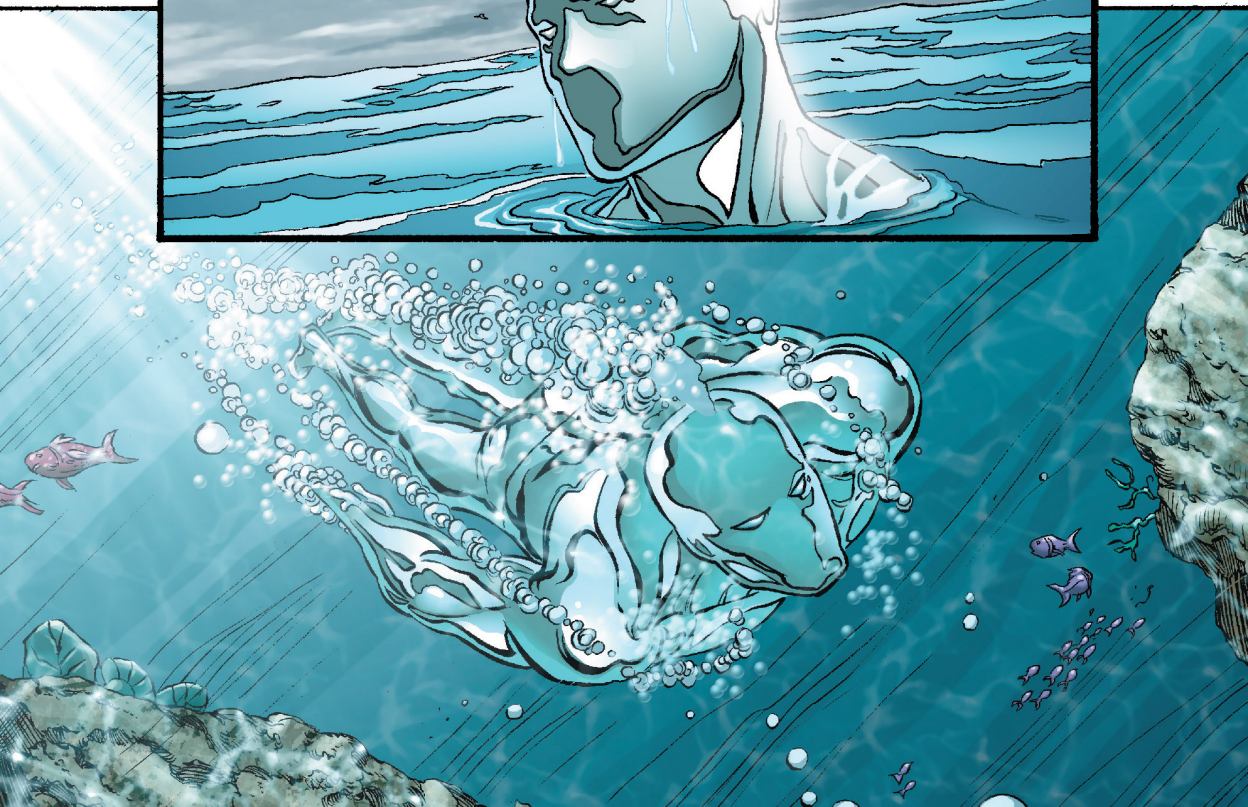
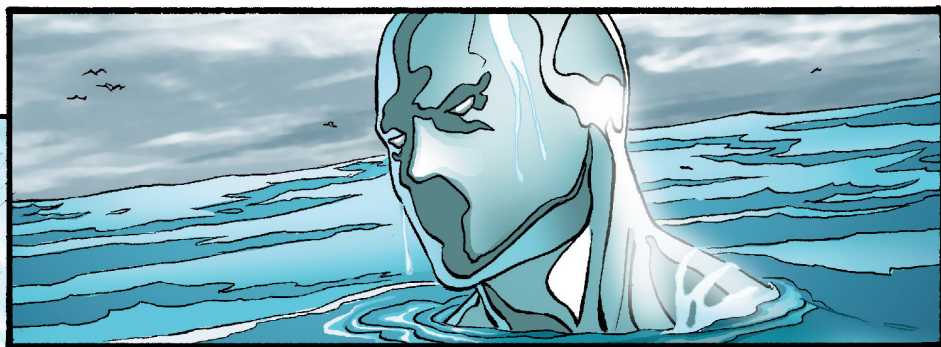
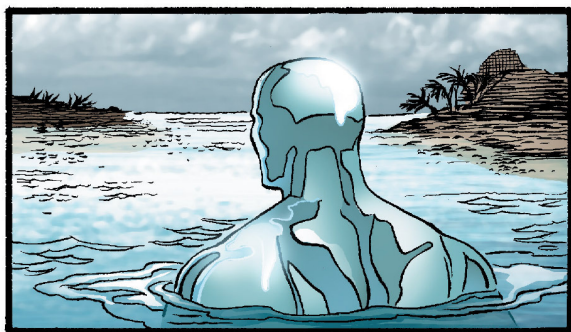
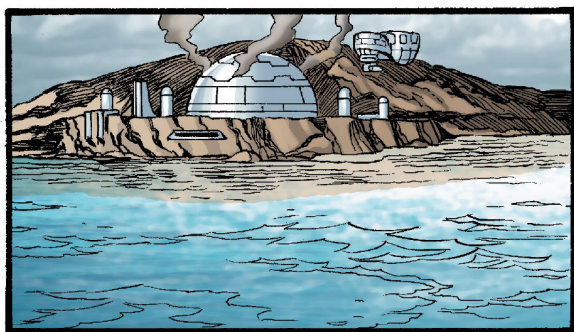
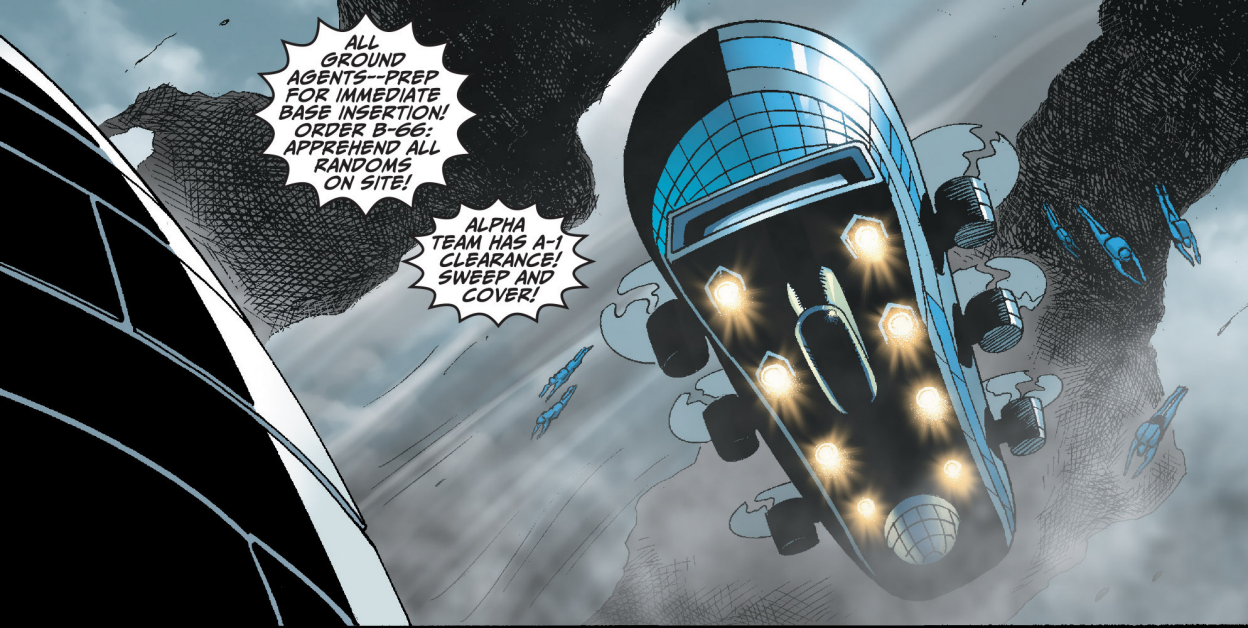
I'VE GOT YA,
AVENGER. LOUD AND
CLEAR. HOLD IT
A SEC...

OKAY, PEOPLE...
THEY'RE AT THE
COMMAND CENTER.
I NEED THE LATEST
SAT SCANS! AND
WHAT'S THE ETA ON
THE RESPONSE
TEAM--?!



SHALL I INTERFACE
WITH THEIR MAINFRAME?
I HAVE THE
CAPABILITIES--

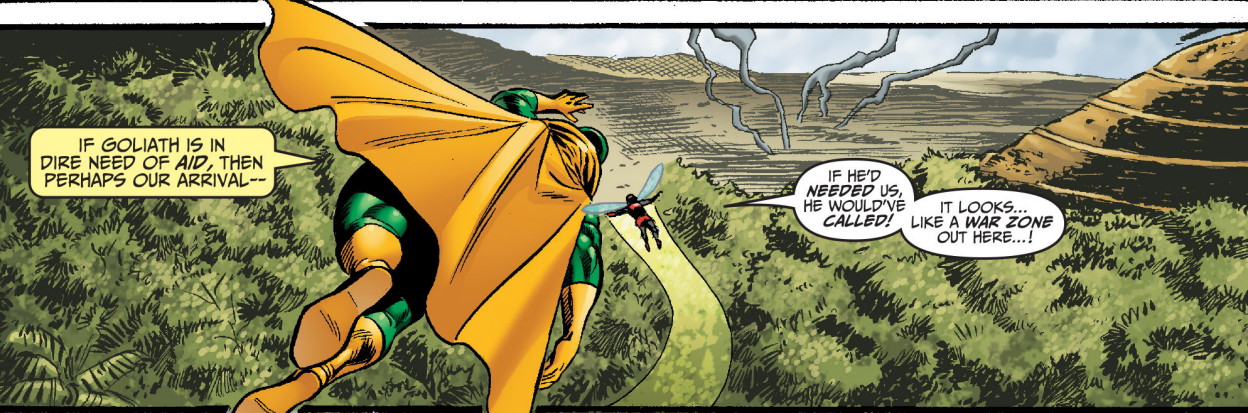
NOT NECESSARY,
VISION. I JUST USED THE BASE'S
OWN SECURITY SYSTEMS TO DO
A WIDE SWEEP. IT'S NOT HERE.
I DOUBT
S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL BE TOO
PLEASED WITH A JOB HALF-DONE...





--COULDN'T
RAISE HANK ON HIS
EARPIECE...

...WE
NEED TO FIND
HIM--!



IF GOLIATH IS IN
DIRE NEED OF AID, THEN
PERHAPS OUR ARRIVAL--

IF HE'D
NEEDED US,
HE WOULD'VE
CALLED!

IT LOOKS...
LIKE A WAR ZONE
OUT HERE...!



I DON'T BELIEVE I
WAS SUGGESTING
THAT HE WAS--

VISION! I DON'T
EVEN WANT TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
WEREN'T SUGGESTING!
HANK'S OUT HERE...
AND I'M SURE HE'S--

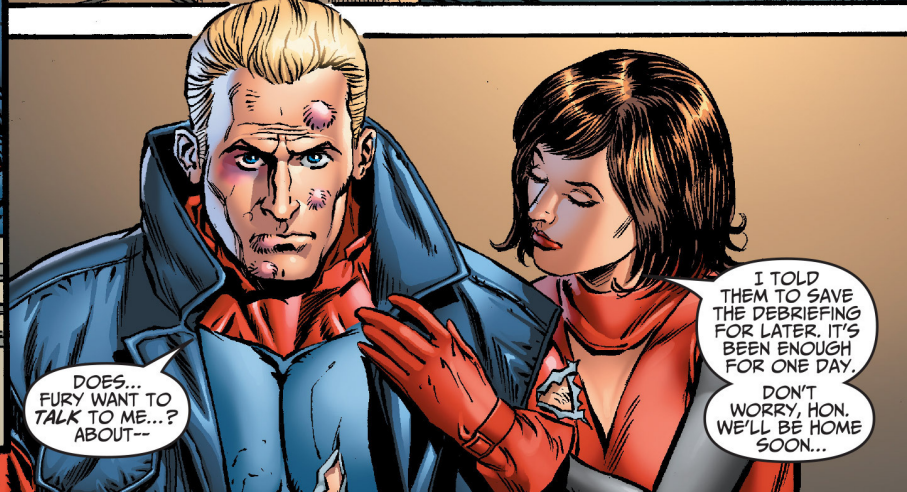
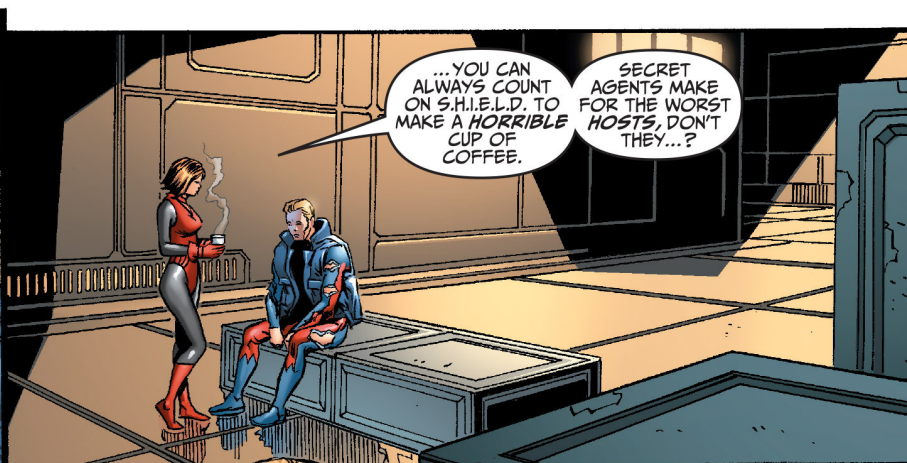
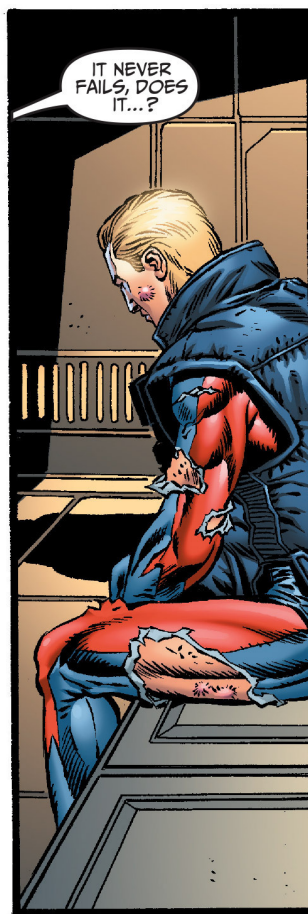
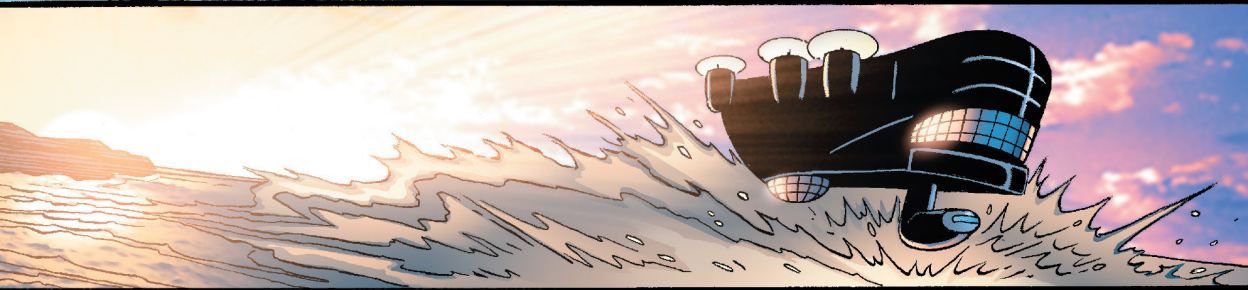
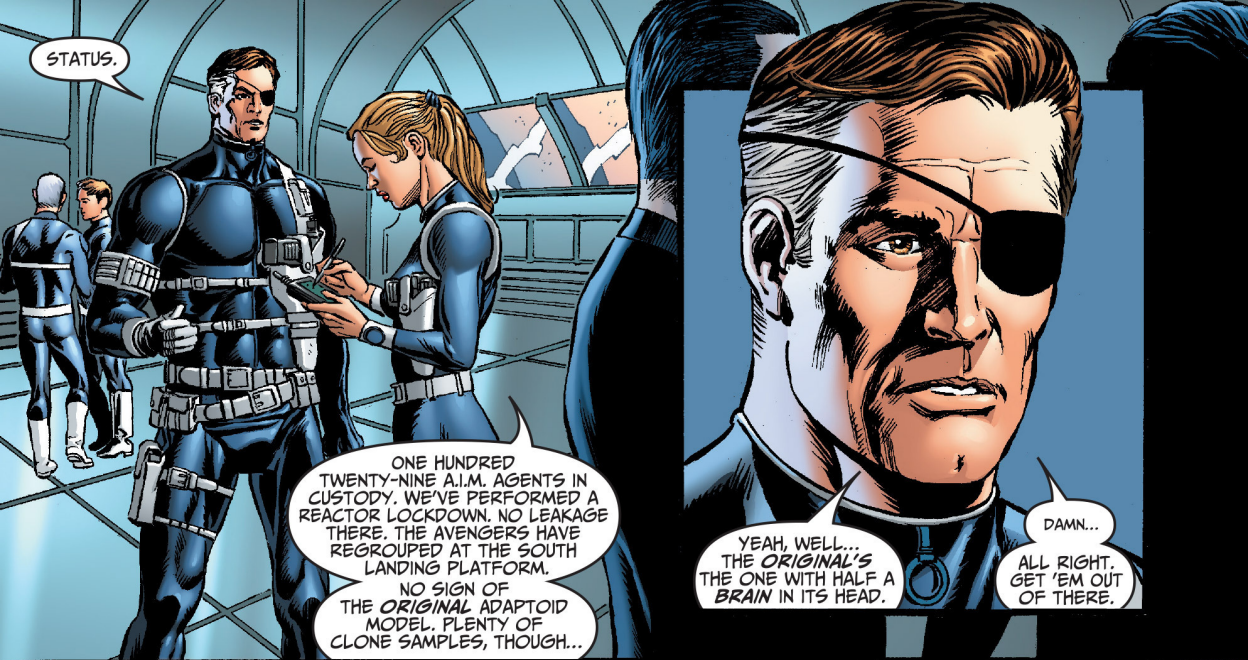


--FINE.



OH MY
GOD...!
HANK...?!







I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY...

...I KNOW HOW MISS VAN DYNE LOATHES THE GOVERNMENT'S IDEA OF CAFFEINATED BEVERAGES.

GOD BLESS, JARVIS.

WE NEED TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE MARIA STARK FOUNDATION...REQUISITION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ONE QUINJET...

I THINK THAT'S MY CUE...



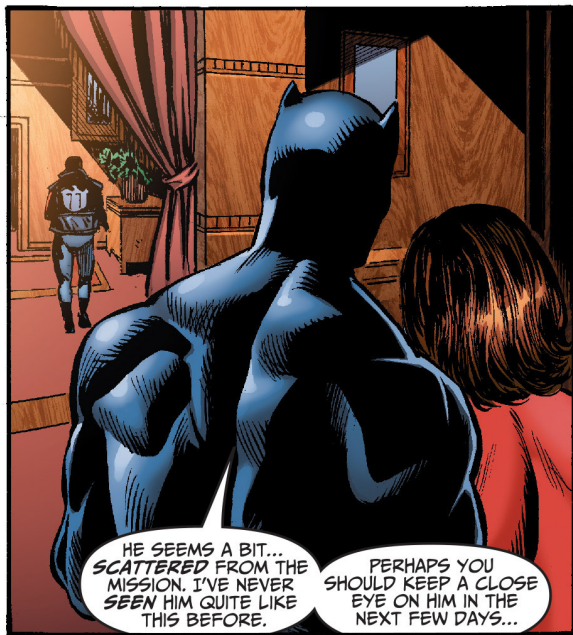
...I'VE GOT A LITTLE RENDEZVOUS I NEED TO MAKE DOWNTOWN. SOMEBODY BUZZ ME IF AND WHEN THE ADAPTOID POPS ITS HEAD OUT OF HIDING.



PANTHER...

...I'VE GOT TO BE HERE EARLY FOR THE MEETING NEXT WEEK. DO YOU THINK WE COULD TALK...IN PRIVATE...?

ABSOLUTELY. HAWKEYE AND I WERE PLANNING A TECHNICAL TRAINING SESSION THAT MORNING, SO I'LL SEE YOU THEN.



HE SEEMS A BIT... SCATTERED FROM THE MISSION. I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM QUITE LIKE THIS BEFORE.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS...

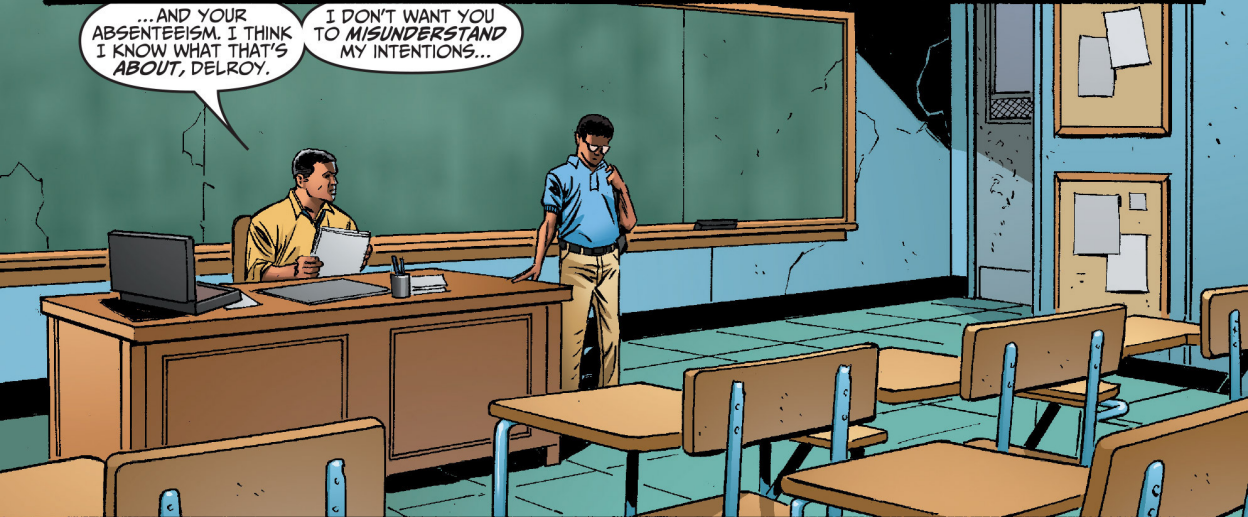


RIGHT... WELL...
...I'LL DO THAT.



...AND YOUR ABSENTEEISM. I THINK I KNOW WHAT THAT'S ABOUT, DELROY.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS...



...I'M HERE TO TRY AND HELP. THAT'S ALL. YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE HERE. I GET IT.

BUT YOU CAN'T LET FEAR TRIP YOU UP LIKE THIS. YOU'RE HERE FOR A REASON... TO LEARN. AND YOU'RE NOT AS DIFFERENT AS YOU THINK YOU ARE...



IF YOU NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE, COME TO ME. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME, WE CAN FIND YOU SOMEONE WHO--

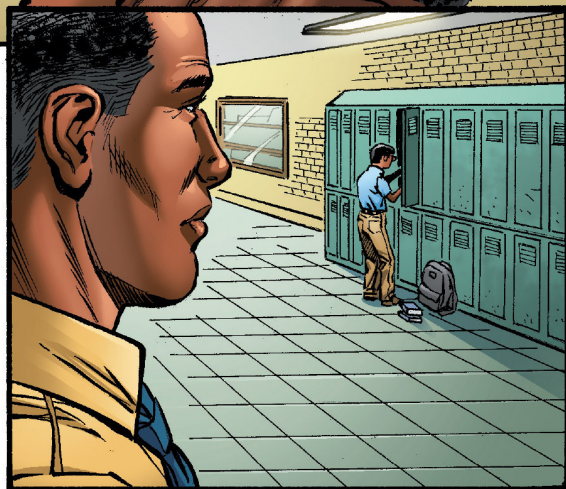
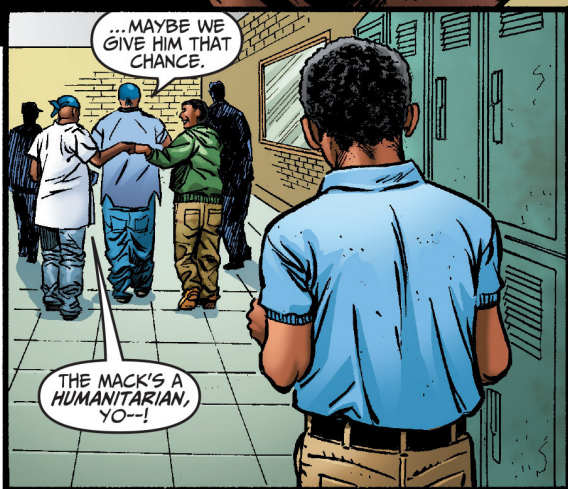
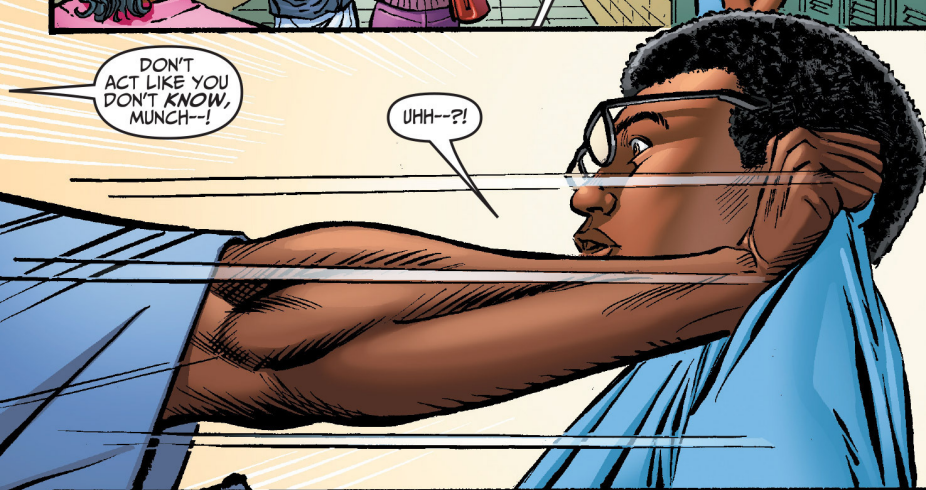
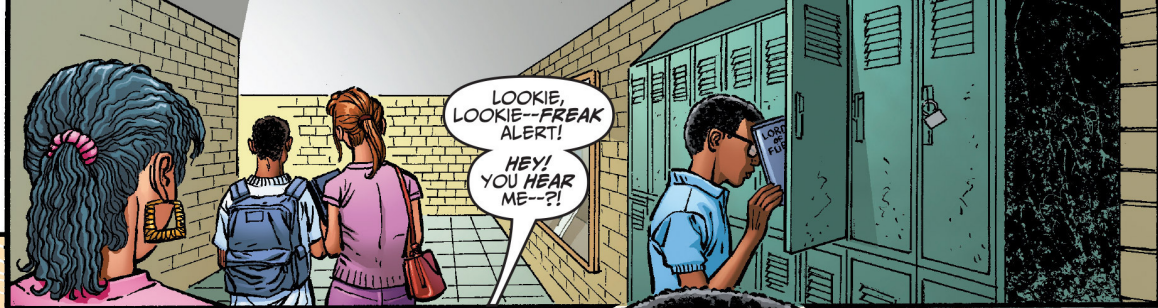
SURE... YEAH...
LOOK, CAN I GO NOW...?

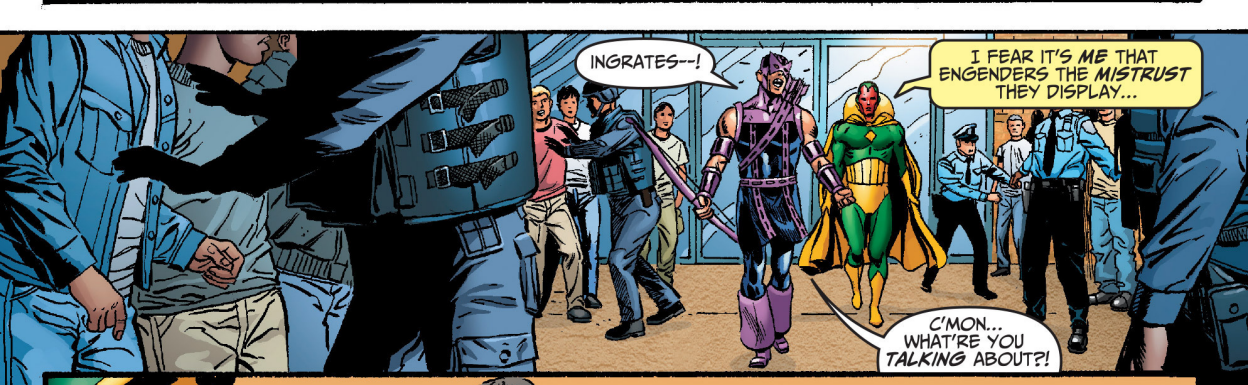


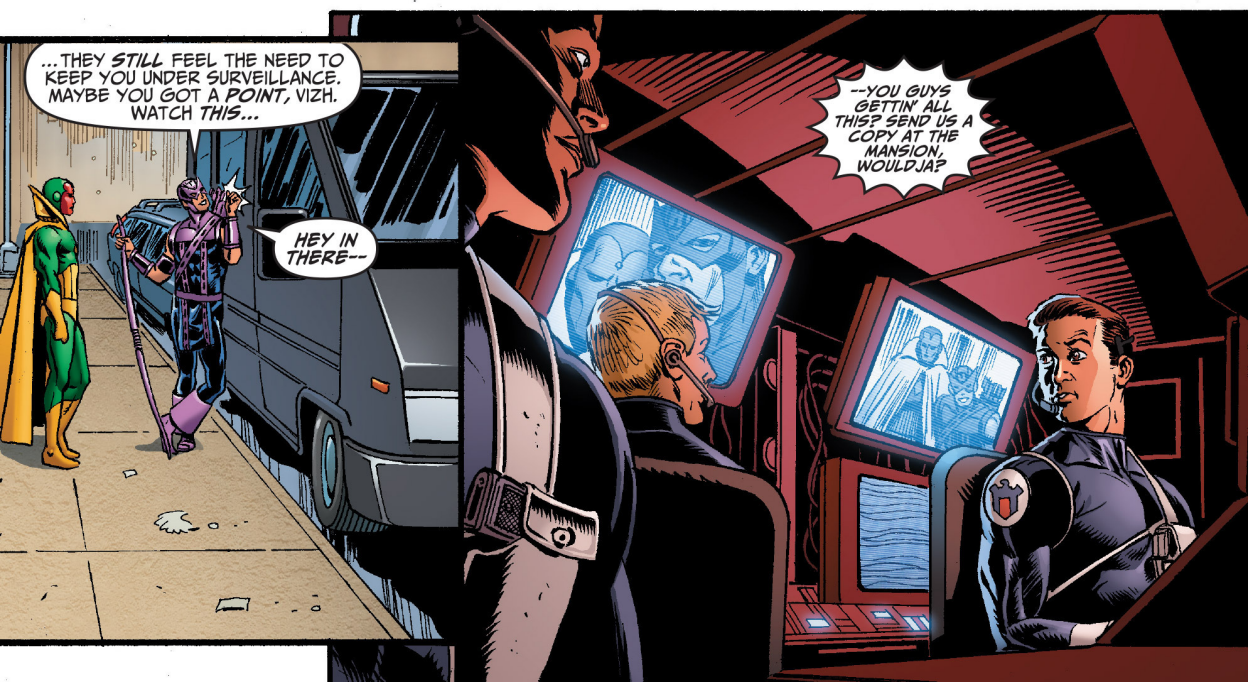
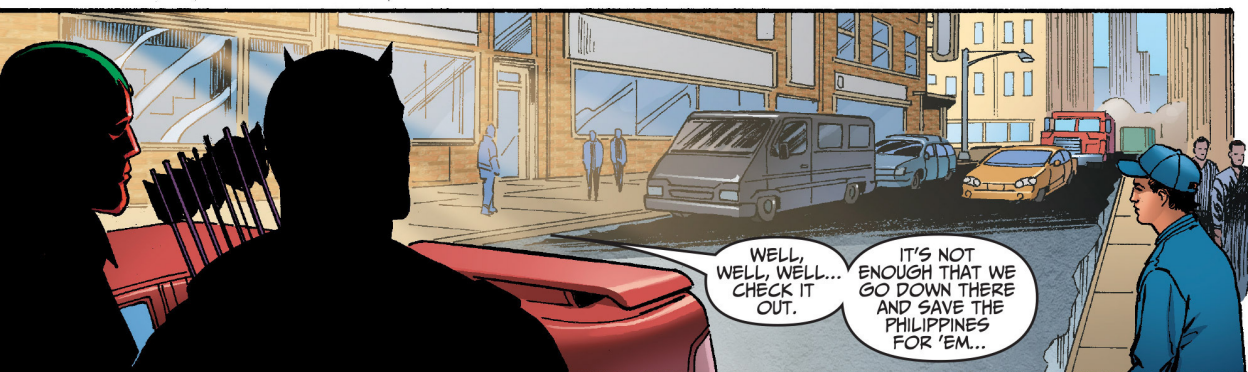
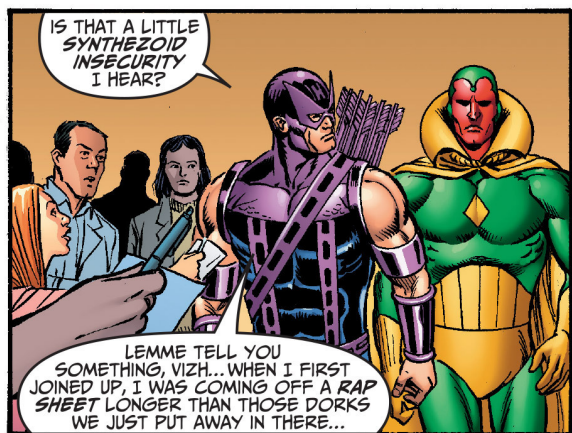
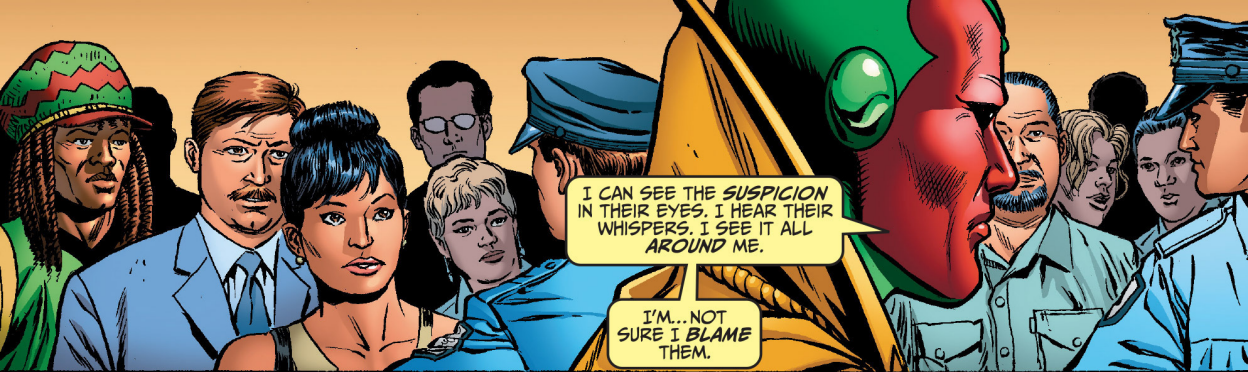
CERTAINLY. I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE LATE FOR YOUR NEXT CLASS.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, DELROY...



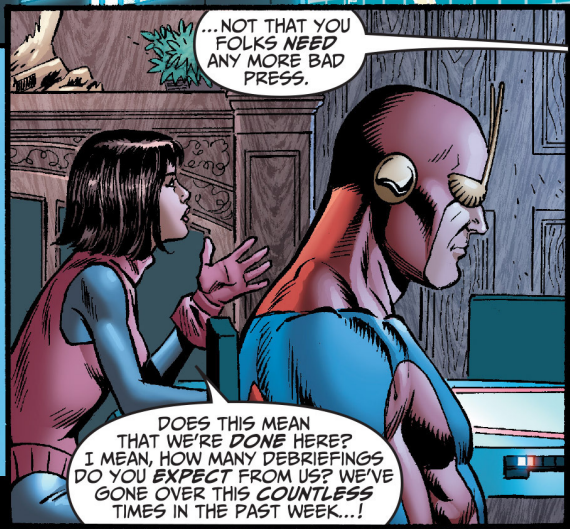






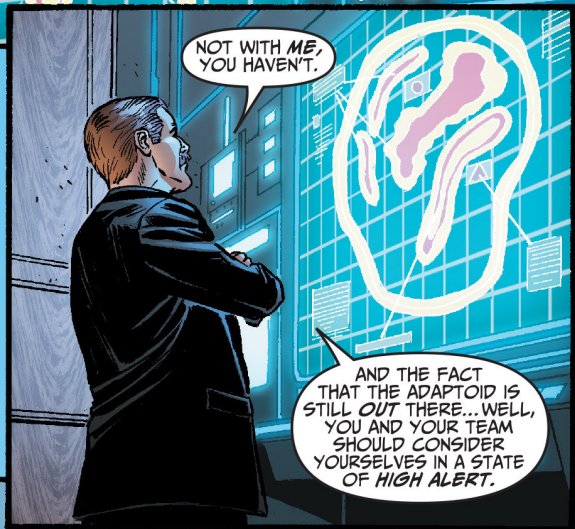


I HOPE YOU ALL UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THIS ONE OUT OF THE PAPERS...



...NOT THAT YOU FOLKS NEED ANY MORE BAD PRESS.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE'RE DONE HERE? I MEAN, HOW MANY DEBRIEFINGS DO YOU EXPECT FROM US? WE'VE GONE OVER THIS COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST WEEK...!



NOT WITH ME, YOU HAVEN'T.

AND THE FACT THAT THE ADAPTOID IS STILL OUT THERE... WELL, YOU AND YOUR TEAM SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELVES IN A STATE OF HIGH ALERT.

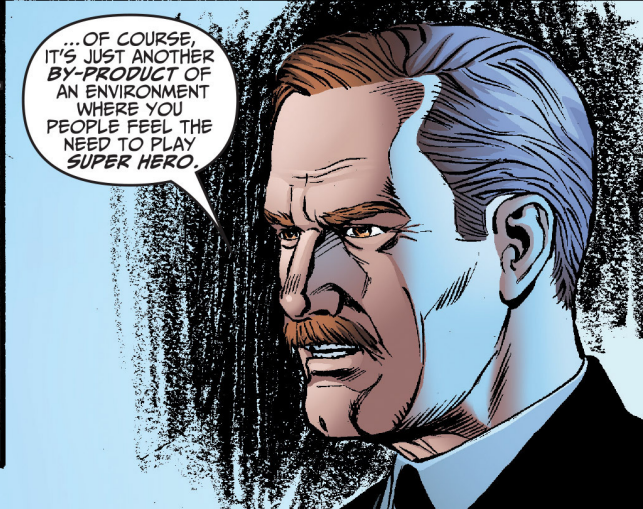


THE PRESIDENT AGREES WITH NICK FURY'S ASSESSMENT. CORRALLING THE ADAPTOID SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A TOP PRIORITY...

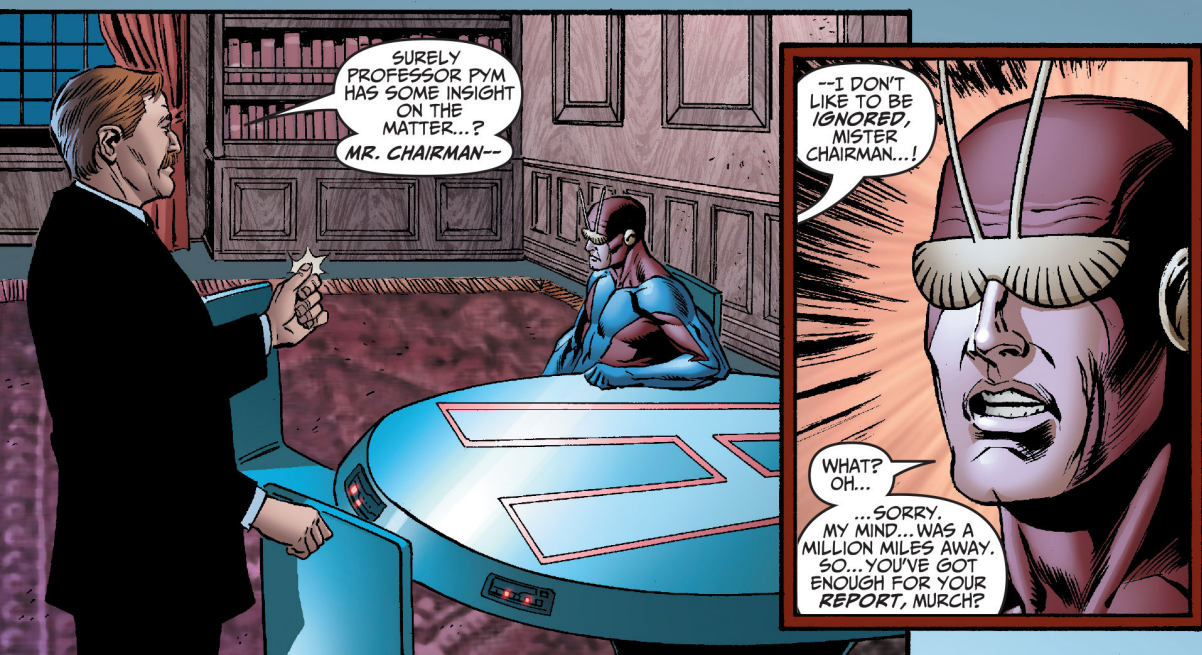
...IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO KEEP IT FROM FALLING BACK INTO A.I.M.'S HANDS.

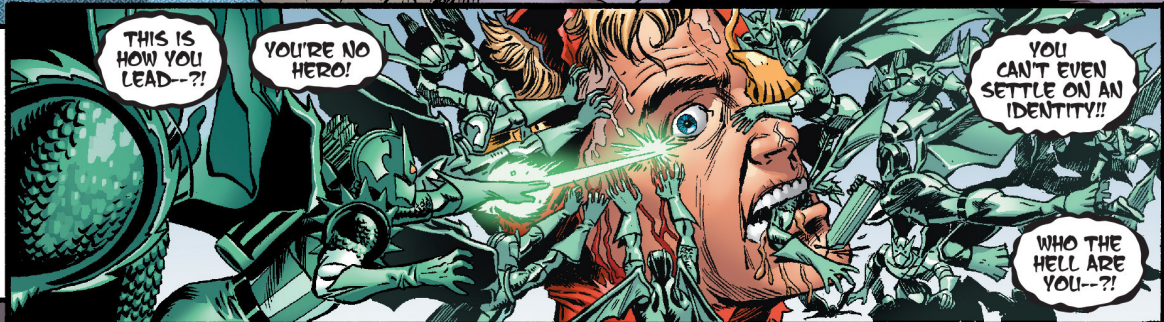
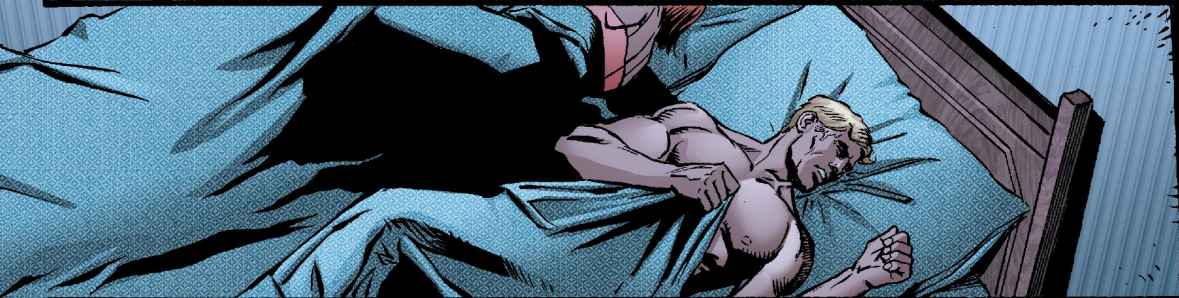
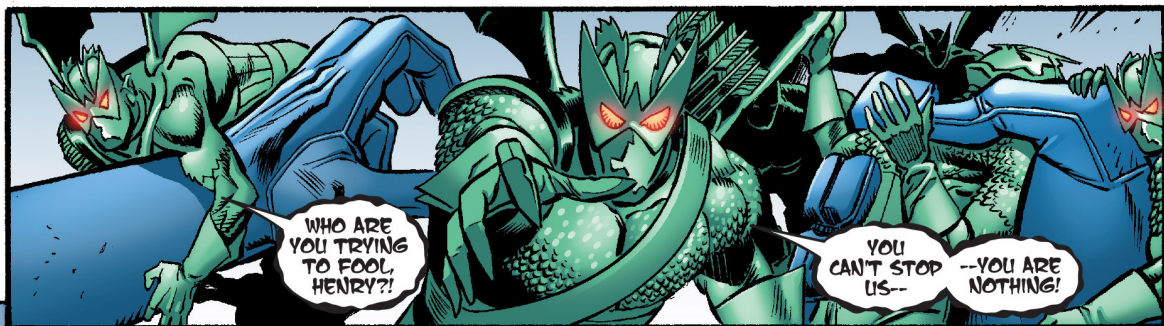


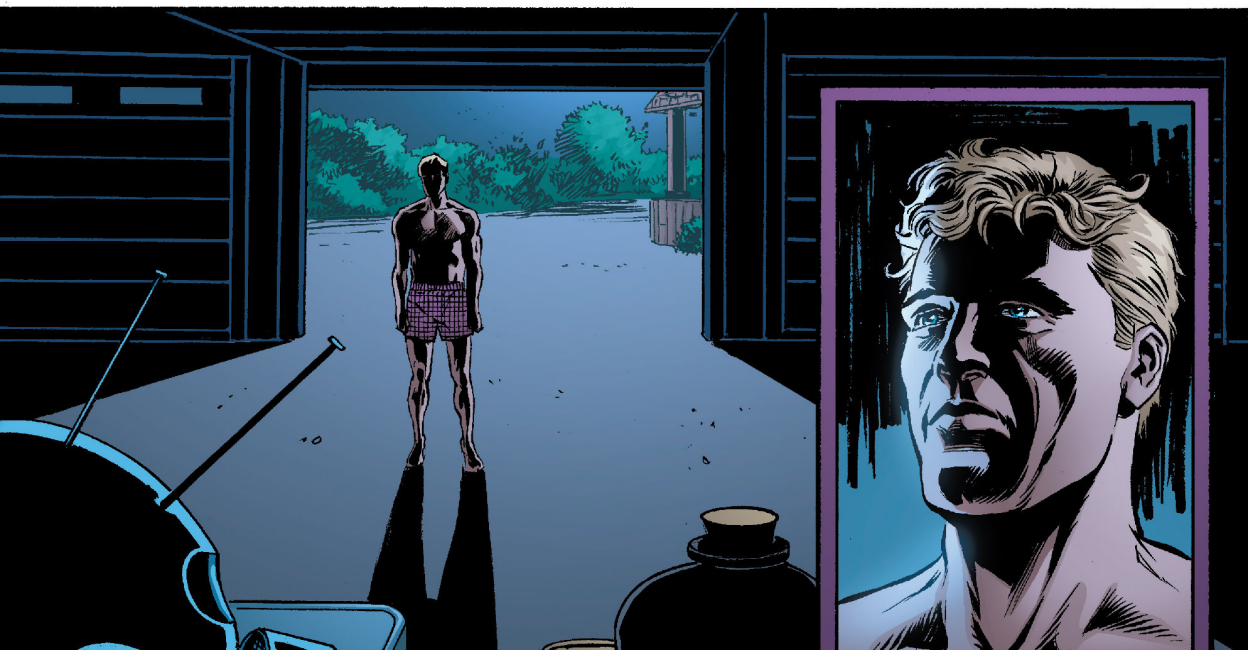
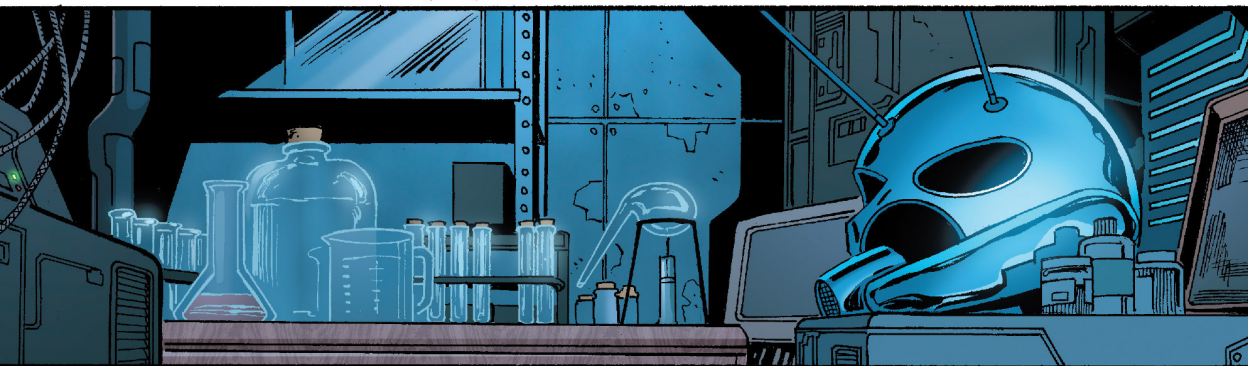
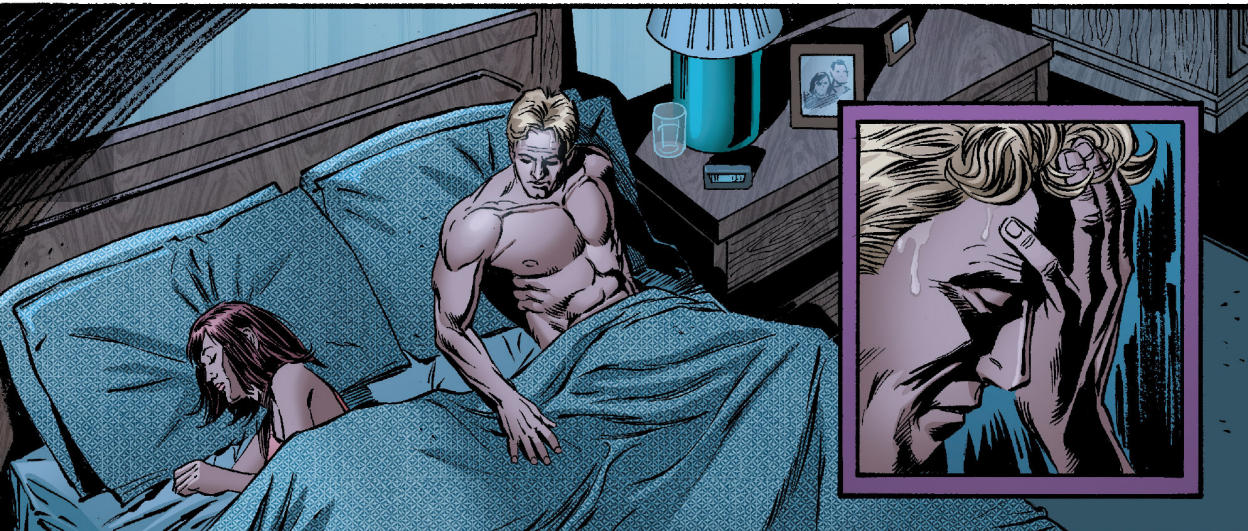
SCIENCE TERRORISTS ARE A NEW LEVEL OF THREAT FOR US...

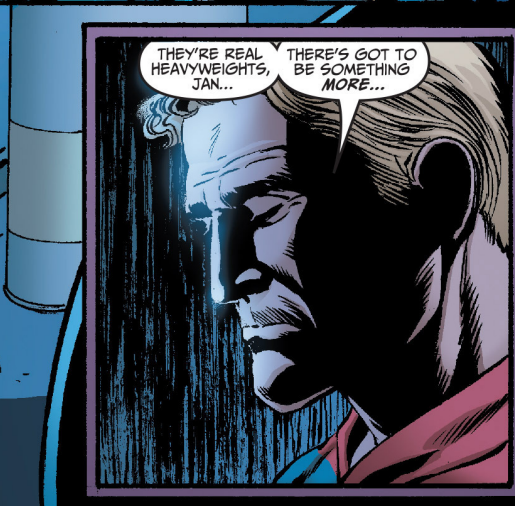
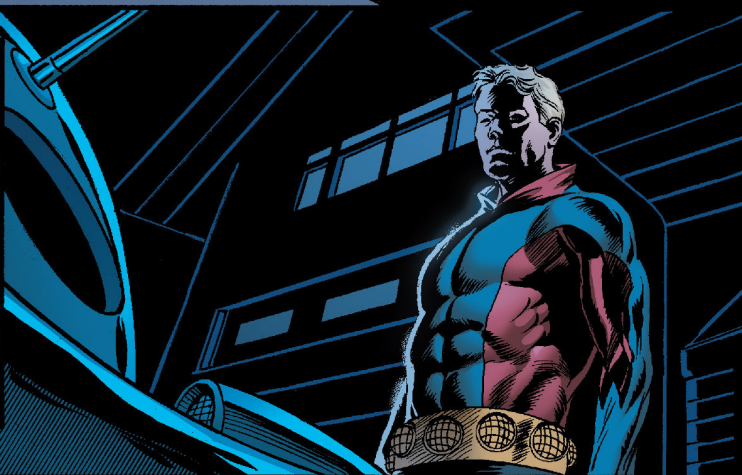
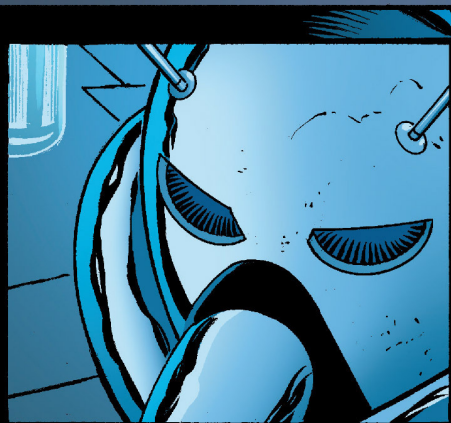
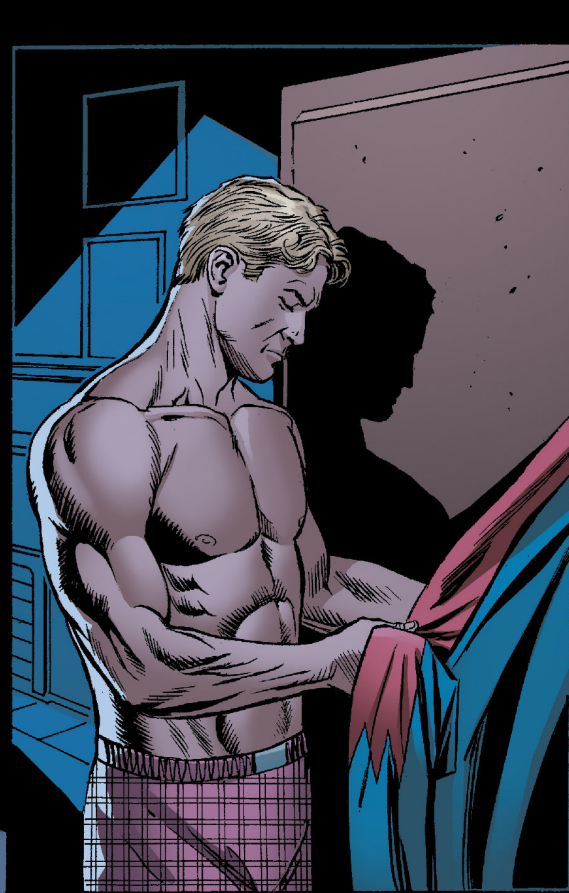
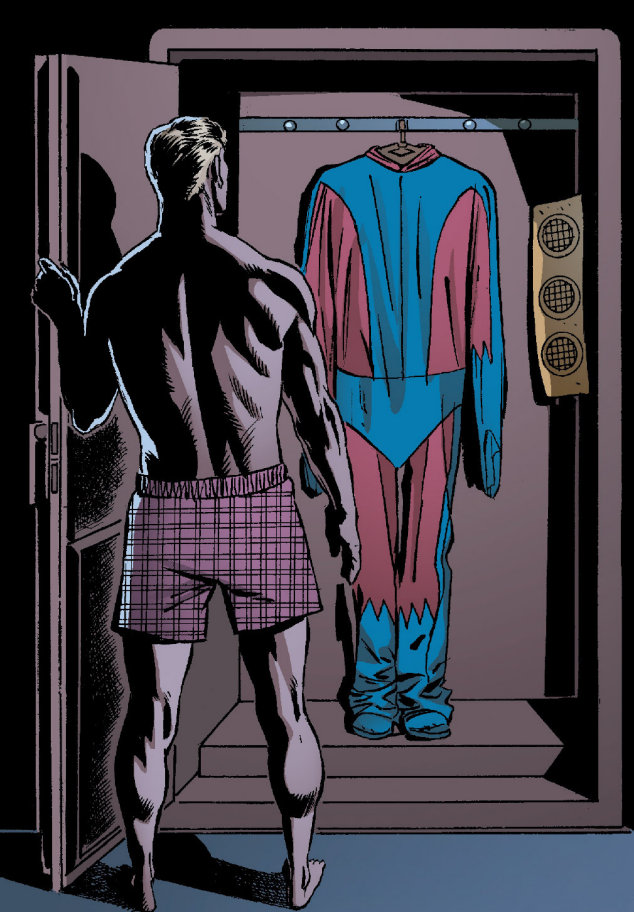


...OF COURSE, IT'S JUST ANOTHER BY-PRODUCT OF AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU PEOPLE FEEL THE NEED TO PLAY SUPER HERO.









THEY'RE REAL
HEAVYWEIGHTS,
JAN...

THERE'S GOT TO
BE SOMETHING
MORE...

