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76p

MAGNETO
WALKS THE
EARTH!"



THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!™

"MAGNETO WALKS THE EARTH!"

ACROSS THE INFINITE, FATHOMLESS
VOID OF SPACE-- ON A GRIM, GREY
WORLD WITHOUT A NAME-- STANDS
THE VENGEFUL ENTITY KNOWN AS...
MAGNETO!

AND
THAT, TIGER,
IS ALL YE
KNOW, OR
NEED TO
KNOW--FOR
NOW!!

I--THE MOST POWERFUL
MUTANT OF ALL--EXILED
FOREVER TO THIS DESOLATE,
FORSAKEN PLANETOID--
WHEN I SHOULD BE
CONQUERING THE
UNIVERSE ITSELF!

NO!! SUCH A
MOCKERY CANNOT
BE! I MUST--I
SHALL ESCAPE--
SOON!!

STAN LEE
PROUDLY PRESENTS
AND POLISHES YET
ANOTHER
**ROY THOMAS-
JOHN BUSCEMA**
TWO-MAN TRIUMPH!

(WHAT'S MORE,
HE EVEN GOT
GEORGE TUSKA
TO INK IT, AND
L.R. GREGORY
TO LETTER IT!)

YOU'LL
FREE US,
MASTER!
THE FAITHFUL
TOAD HAS
FAITH IN
YOU!

MY ONLY
QUESTION
IS--
HOW?

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WHAT? YOU SNEILING, SYCOPHANTIC DOLT! YOU DARE TO QUESTION ME--THE DESTINED DESTROYER OF HUMANITY--THE GREATEST OF THE HOMO SUPERIORS?

BEWARE, FOOL--LEST I TIRE OF EVEN YOUR ENDLESS FAWNING!

Y-YES, MASTER!



FOR DAYS NOW, I HAVE DETECTED EVER-STRONGER MAGNETIC RAYS--BEING BEAMED THRU SPACE FROM EARTH!

I KNOW NOT THEIR PRECISE SOURCE--BUT TODAY, THEY SHALL BE OUR MEANS OF ESCAPE!

BUT, MASTER, WHAT ABOUT--THE STRANGER?



YOU BRAINLESS, MISERABLE WRETCH!

I WARNED YOU NEVER TO MENTION THE INFERNAL NAME OF THE STRANGER TO ME!

HE MAY HAVE TWICE IMPRISONED ME ON THIS BARREN PLANET*--BUT, DO YOU TRULY IMAGINE THAT HE CAN FOREVER HOLD ME HERE--?

--I, WHOSE LITTE CONTROL OVER THE FORCES OF MAGNETISM ALLOWS ME TO MOVE AND SHAKE THE VERY MOUNTAIN ON WHICH WE STAND?

PLEASE, MASTER--DO NOT BE ANGRY! DO NOT HARM YOUR MOST LOYAL SERVANT!

THERE IS NONE THAT MAY LONG KEEP MAGNETO AGAINST HIS WILL--NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY STRANGER!

*AS DRAMATICALLY RE-ENACTED IN X-MEN #S 11 AND 12! --SCORE-KEEPER STAN.



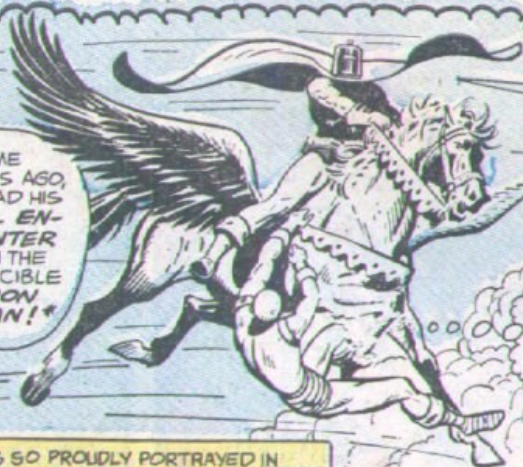
MEANWHILE, MEASURELESS MILES AWAY, ON THIS SPINNING SPHERE WE CALL **EARTH**--IN A CERTAIN INFAMOUS **CASTLE** WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSPLANTED TO THE SHORES OF THE UNITED STATES--WE FIND THE **SOURCE** OF THOSE FATEFUL MAGNETIC BEAMS...



MY LATE **UNCLE**--PROFESSOR NATHAN GARRETT--LED A STRANGE **DOUBLE LIFE**--AS A BIOLOGIST AND AS THE SUPER-CRIMINAL CALLED...THE **BLACK KNIGHT**!

SOME MONTHS AGO, HE HAD HIS **FINAL ENCOUNTER** WITH THE INVINCIBLE **IRON MAN**!

*AS SO PROUDLY PORTRAYED IN **TALES OF SUSPENSE #73!**
--SENTIMENTAL STAN.



FALL, BLAST YOU, YOU METAL-SHELLED LOU!

WHY DON'T YOU FALL?

TOO WEAK--TO FLY! MUST MAKE MY PLAY... NOW!!

USING THE LAST SURGE OF HIS DEPLETED **TRANSISTOR POWER**, IRON MAN PULLED BOTH WINGED HORSE AND RIDER **EARTHWARD**, UNTIL--



THE **CINCH** ON MY STALLION'S SADDLE--IT **BROKE!**

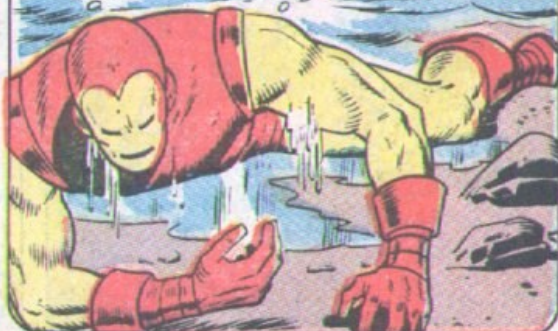
IF I FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT--I'M **DOOMED!**

ALMOST NO POWER LEFT! I ONLY HOPE--I CAN BREAK MY **OWN FALL!**

"FORTUNATELY FOR THE **GOLDEN AVENGER**, HE EVADED **DEATH** BY PLUMMETING INTO A **STREAM** FAR BELOW--AND HIS **LIGHTWEIGHT ARMOR** ENABLED HIM TO SWIM TO **SHORE**..."

IF MY **ARMOR**--HAD BEEN JUST A FEW POUNDS **HEAVIER**--I'D NEVER HAVE **MADE IT!** CAN **HARDLY MOVE NOW--!**

THE **BLACK KNIGHT** FELL SOME DISTANCE AWAY! BUT--DID HE **SURVIVE**, TOO?



"LATER, HE FOUND MY **UNCLE'S CLOAK**--BUT THE **BLACK KNIGHT** WAS NEVER **HEARD FROM AGAIN**--AT LEAST NOT BY **MANKIND AT LARGE**..."



"THE REST OF THE WORLD KNOWS THAT **PROFESSOR GARRETT** IS **DEAD**--BUT NOT THAT HE WAS THE MENACE KNOWN AS...THE **BLACK KNIGHT!**"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



A SHORT TIME LATER, AS HAWKEYE KEEPS A PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT WITH HIS BELOVED NATASHA...

CAP... NO LONGER AN AVENGER! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY!

MATTER OF FACT, I ALMOST WISH I HADN'T!

HAWKEYE... WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TEN WORDS TO ME SINCE YOU GOT HERE!

TALK, TALK, TALK! IF I'M NOT BENDING YOUR EAR WITH SWEET NOTHIN'S EVERY SECOND, YOU START FEELIN' NEGLECTED!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, CAP JUST QUIT THE AVENGERS AND I GOT OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

CAP--QUIT? I... I'M SORRY! I... DIDN'T KNOW...!

NUTS! SHE'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT HER FAULT!

ME AND MY BLASTED TEMPER! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS FINALLY LEARNIN' TO CONTROL IT--!

WELL, THERE'S NOHIN' I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW!

I'D BETTER JUST SPLIT-- TILL I CAN SIMMER DOWN ENOUGH TO APOLOGIZE!

HAWKEYE, MY DARLING... WAIT!--HE'S GONE!

SLAM!

NOW THAT I'M NO LONGER A SUPER-HEROINE--THE AVENGERS ARE A PART OF HIS LIFE I CAN'T SHARE!

I WONDER... DOES HE REALLY LOVE A GIRL NAMED NATASHA... OR ONLY THE BLACK WIDOW?

WHILE, IN A FASHIONABLE LIMOUSINE BEING DRIVEN TOWARDS THE NEAREST AIRPORT, HENRY PYM IS ALSO LOST IN THOUGHT...

THE AVENGERS WILL SURVIVE-- AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE! BUT, IT WON'T EVER BE THE SAME--!

HANKS REALLY DOWN IN THE DUMPS! IT'S A GOOD THING WE ALREADY HAD THIS VACATION PLANNED!

FASTER, CHARLES! WE CAN'T GET TO LAS VEGAS TILL WE GET TO THE PLANE!

YES, MISS VAN DYNE!

SOON--TOTALLY UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE JUST BEEN CHAUFFEURED BY THE SINISTER WHIRLWIND--THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION...

SEE IF YOU CAN MUSTER A SMILE, BIG MAN, FOR THE TRANSPORTATION I'VE ARRANGED!

IT'S GREAT, JAN! BUT, WHY DID YOU CHARTER AN ENTIRE PLANE?

CHARTER? WHO CHARTERED IT? I BOUGHT IT, LOVER!

HE ALMOST DOOMED THE SUPER-POWERED PAIR LAST ISH, REMEMBER? --FOOTNOTE-- WEARY STAN.

AND NOW, TO COMPLETE OUR TITANIC TAPESTRY, LET US MOMENTARILY JOIN THE UNCONQUERABLE HERCULES, ALREADY THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY...

MY HEART IS HEAVY AT THE DEPARTURE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA--

YET THE DECISION WAS HIS TO MAKE-- AND OURS TO ACCEPT!

MOREOVER, IN SO DOING, HE HATH GIVEN HERCULES THE COURAGE TO DO THAT WHICH HE HATH LONG DESIRED TO DO!

'TIS FORTUNATE THAT HAWKEYE DID INSTRUCT ME IN THE PILOTING OF THIS AERO-CAR!

ERE LONG, A LONELY, LEGENDARY FIGURE SWIFTLY SCALES THE SOARING HEIGHTS OF MOUNT OLYMPUS...

--WITH ONE BURNING THOUGHT UPPERMOST IN HIS DETERMINED MIND!

SINCE I HAVE BEEN NAMED AN AVENGER, ONLY ONE THING REMAINS TO MAR MY JOY--MINE UNHAPPY EXILE!

I MUST NOW FACE MY FATHER ZEUS-- AND WIN BACK MY PLACE AS FIRST AMONG HIS HONORED SONS!

THEN, AND ONLY THEN, MAY I BE CONTENT TO REMAIN ON EARTH-- BECAUSE IT BE BY CHOICE!

THEN, IN A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME, AS HERCULES REACHES THE SUMMIT OF THE PONDEROUS PEAK...

'TIS PASSING STRANGE! THERE, BEFORE ME, LIES MINE ETERNAL ANCESTRAL HOME!

YET, I BEHOLD NO SIGN OF LIFE--NAY, NOR HEAR THE ACCUSTOMED SOUND OF RIOTOUS REVELRY!

I MUST HIE ME CLOSER-- AND LEARN WHAT HATH OCCURRED!

BUT SOON, THE INVINCIBLE FRAME OF THE PRINCE OF POWER RECOILS IN SHOCK AT THAT WHICH AWAITS HIM AMIDST THOSE SHIMMERING SPIRES...

NO! BY THE STYGIAN SHADES OF PLUTO--- IT CANNOT BE!

OLYMPUS--
IS
DESERTED!!

THE GLEAMING PALACE OF ZEUS-- THOSE HALLOWED HALLS WHERE GODS HAVE E'ER TROD-- STANDS AS EMPTY AS AN UNTILLED FIELD!

THE NEXT MOMENT, OVERCOME BY THE STUNNING SIGHT BEFORE HIM, THE MIGHTIEST OF OLYMPIAN WARRIORS SINKS TO THE STAIRS IN SOLITARY DESOLATION --YET NOT QUITE IN DESPAIR...

HERE-- AMONGST THESE PROUD MONUMENTS TO GLORIES PAST-- SOME DIRE EVIL MUST HAVE BEFALLEN MY FELLOW IMMORTALS!

IT CANNOT BE OTHERWISE-- FOR, THEY WOULD NEVER ABANDON ETERNAL OLYMPUS OF THEIR OWN ACCORD!

AND, HERCULES MUST LEARN WHAT OCCURRED ATOP THIS TOWERING PEAK--THOUGH IT TAKE ALL ETERNITY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

HOWEVER, UNLIKE HERCULES, WE MERE MORTALS MUST NOW RETURN TO THAT MYSTERIOUS CASTLE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE...

NORRIS-- COME HERE--QUICKLY!

THE MAGNETIC RAYS ARE COMING SO FAST--I CAN'T HANDLE THE RECEIVER ALONE!

WE MUST BE ON THE VERGE OF A FINAL BREAK-THRU--!

COMING, DR. WHITMAN!

HE SAYS "WE"-- BUT IT'S HE WHO WILL HOG ALL THE CREDIT!

BUT, WHY SHOULD HE? IT IS I WHO HAVE DONE THE REAL WORK-- WHICH THE WORLD WILL IGNORE!

WHY SHOULD I BE FORGOTTEN-- WHEN FAME AND RICHES MAY BECKON TO ME?

HURRY, NORRIS! I NEED YOUR HELP! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

I'M WAITING FOR NOTHING-- NOW!

THEN, ACTIVATE THE ELECTRO-STABILIZER BEFORE--

UHHNN!

THAT WAS YOUR FINAL COMMAND TO ME, WHITMAN!

YOU'LL NEVER ORDER ME TO DO ANYTHING-- EVER AGAIN!

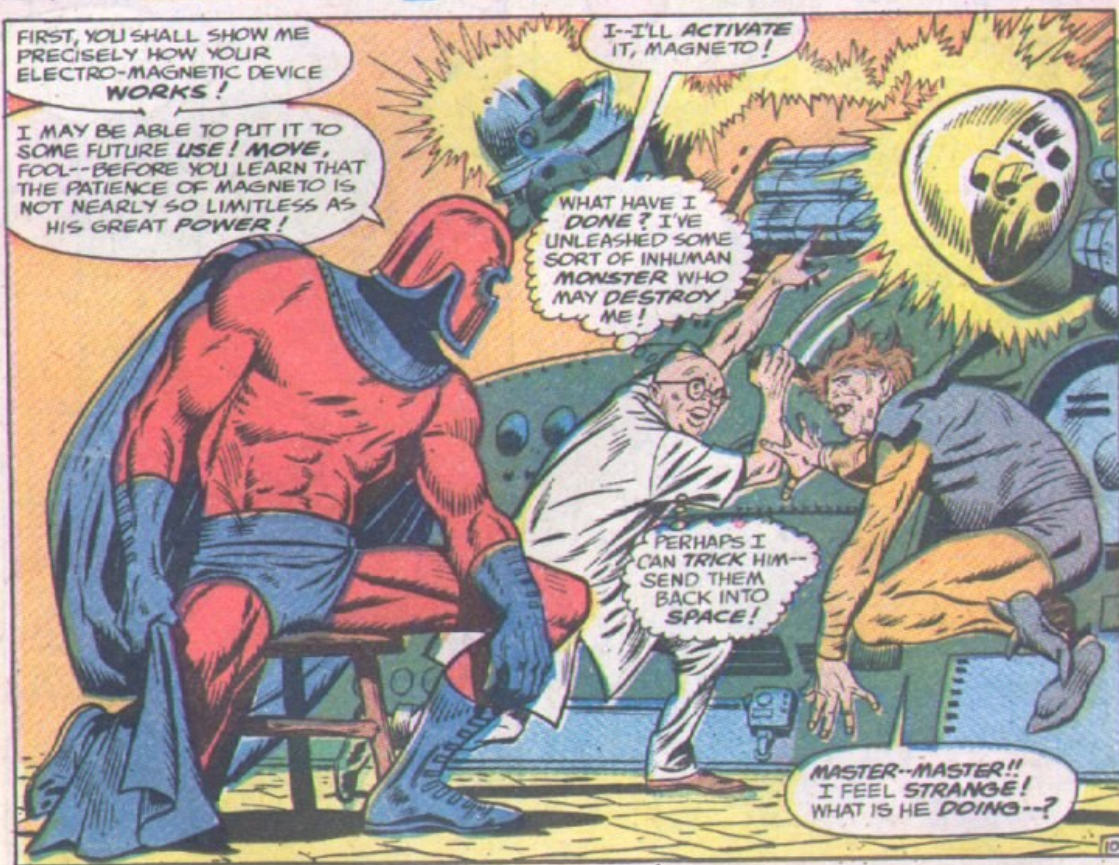
THWAK!

HE IS UNCONSCIOUS! NOW, THE HERO-WORSHIPPING MULTITUDES WILL HONOR ME AS THE ONE WHO USED MAGNETIC RAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUTER SPACE!

IT IS NOTHING BUT TWO WEARY TRAVELERS, FOOL... WHOM YOU HAVE SUMMONED HERE!

I'LL DISPOSE OF HIM, AND-- WAIT! THAT SOUND!

A VOICE-- OUT OF NOWHERE! BUT, WHO--??





HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN, YOU GROVELING GARGOYLE, THE SUPREME PLAN WHICH FILLED MY THOUGHTS DURING OUR LONG EXILE IN SPACE?

DURING ALL THOSE MONTHS, I WAITED ONLY FOR THE DAY OF ESCAPE--SO THAT I COULD ONCE MORE FORM... THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!

THE BROTHERHOOD-- YES!! THOSE WERE HAPPY TIMES INDEED, MASTER!

BUT, THERE WERE OTHERS WITH US THEN! QUICK-- SILVER--THE SCARLET WITCH--AND THE EVIL MASTERMIND!

WE MAY OVERLOOK MASTERMIND FOR THE PRESENT--BUT NOT PIETRO AND HIS BEAUTIFUL SISTER!

WELL DO I REMEMBER OUR FIRST MEETING...



"IN SEARCH OF OTHERS WHO MIGHT POSSESS MUTANT POWERS SIMILAR TO MINE, I CAME UPON A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE HEART OF EUROPE! AS I NEARED IT, I BEHELD BUILDINGS IN FLAMES--AND HEARD FEARFUL CRIES--!"



OUR HOMES-- THEY SUDDENLY BURST INTO FLAME... FOR NO REASON!

NO! THERE IS A REASON-- THE STRANGE GIRL WHO CAME TO OUR VILLAGE... ONLY YESTERDAY!

SHE HAS THE EVIL EYE! SHE IS A WITCH! IT MUST BE SO!

SHE MUST BE DESTROYED!



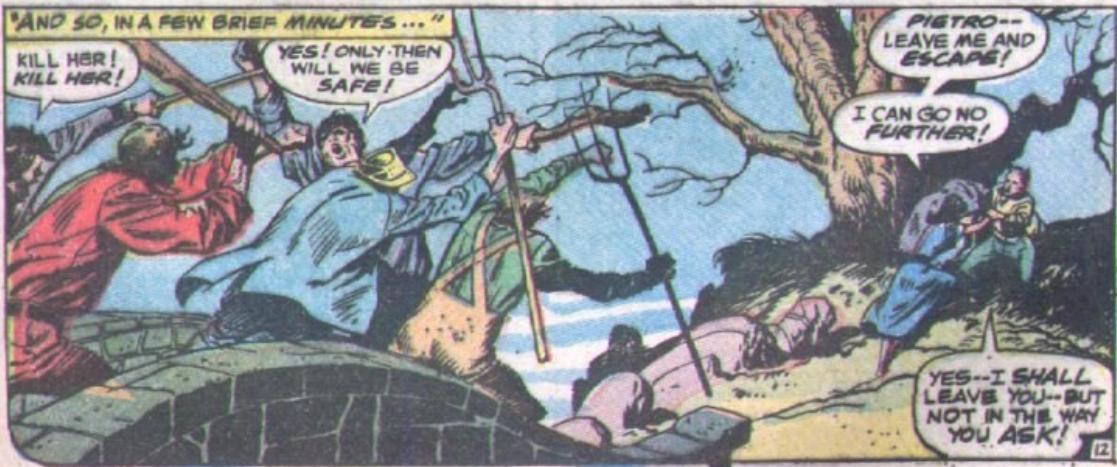
"AND SO, IN A FEW BRIEF MINUTES..."

KILL HER! KILL HER!

YES! ONLY THEN WILL WE BE SAFE!

PIETRO-- LEAVE ME AND ESCAPE!

I CAN GO NO FURTHER!



YES--I SHALL LEAVE YOU--BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU ASK!

"THEN, BEFORE MY VERY EYES, THE SILVER-HAIRED YOUTH STREAKED FORWARD LIKE A HURLING ROCKET..."



"YET, THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM--EVEN FOR THE VALIANT PIETRO..."



"BUT, THE NEXT SECOND, BEFORE ANOTHER FRENZIED WORD COULD BE UTTERED--OR ANOTHER SUPERSTITIOUS BLOW STRUCK--"



"IT WAS I WHO HAD DEFLECTED THE MAKESHIFT WEAPONS OF THE HUMAN FOOLS--AND NOW IT WAS I WHO STEPPED FROM THE SHADOWS..."



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SUDDENLY, EVEN AS QUICKSILVER WHIRLS ABOUT, A GROTESQUE, GARGANTUAN FIGURE APPEARS...

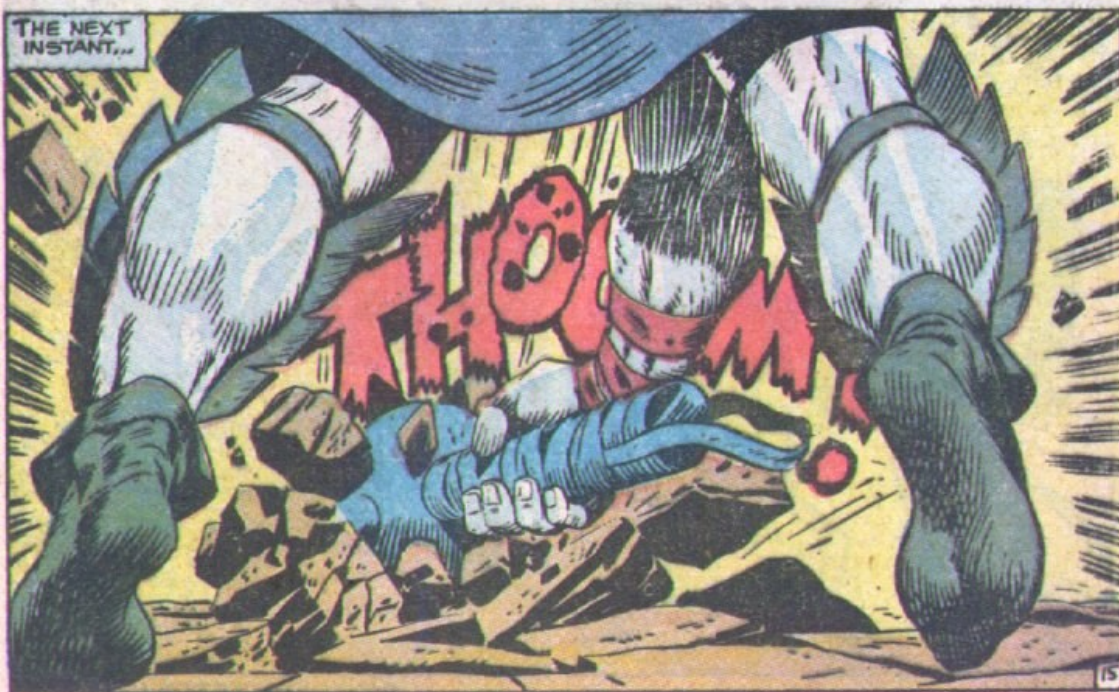
A GIANT--ENCASED IN ARMOR-- AND ARMED WITH A DEADLY MACE!

NO, WANDA-- THAT IS NO HUMAN GIANT!

LOOK AT ITS GLEAMING SILVER FLESH! IT'S A ROBOT--A MASSIVE CREATURE OF UNLIVING METAL!

YET--FOR THAT VERY REASON-- ALL THE MORE DANGEROUS!!

THE NEXT INSTANT...





IT MISSED--
BY MERE
INCHES!

I MUST RACE BEHIND IT--
TRY TO FIND SOME WAY
TO DE-ACTIVATE IT! IT
MUST HAVE A **POWER**
SOURCE SOMEWHERE--
BUT WHERE??

THERE ARE NO **MECHANICAL**
JOINTS--NOR DO I
HEAR THE SOUND OF ANY
MOTORS WHIRRING
INSIDE IT--!



ALAS, LITTLE DOES PIETRO SUSPECT THAT THE **TRUE** SOURCE OF THE LETHAL ROBOT'S ENERGY IS NOT **WITHIN** ITS METALLIC FRAME--BUT RATHER **ABOVE**, IN THE SULLEN SHADOWS OF A DARKENED **BALCONY**...

HAH! QUICKSILVER MOVES MORE
SWIFTLY THAN **EVER**! AND NOW, WE
SHALL TRY THE **POWERS** OF THE
SCARLET WITCH!

HOW **CLEVER**
OF YOU, MASTER,
TO TEST THEM
IN THIS WAY!

AFTER ALL, WE MUST
BE CERTAIN THAT
THEY'RE STILL **WORTHY**
TO BECOME OUR
ALLIES!

WAIT,
MASTER!
LOOK WHAT
THE **ACCURSED**
FEMALE
IS DOING...!



MY **HEX** POWER
DOESN'T SEEM
TO AFFECT THE
MONSTER
DIRECTLY!

AND--THERE'S
NO PLACE I CAN
HIDE--NOWHERE
I CAN **RUN**!

JUST ONE
HOPE--
THAT **HUGE**
CHANDELIER
OVERHEAD--!



YOU DID IT,
WANDA! YOU
BROUGHT THE
CHANDELIER
CRASHING
DOWN
ON IT!

MY CONGRATULATIONS
TO BOTH OF YOU--YOU
PROVED TO ME THAT
YOUR **MUTANT** POWERS
ARE STILL AT THEIR
HEIGHT!

I SHALL
THEREFORE
ALLOW YOU
TO **SERVE**
ME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



MAGNETO!!

I SUMMONED YOU HERE, TRUE-- BUT SCARCELY FOR MERE DISTRACTION!

IT IS TIME FOR THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS TO LIVE AGAIN-- WITH QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH AS MEMBERS!

THEN, YOU HAVE RETURNED TO EARTH-- AND LURED US INTO A DEADLY TRAP FOR YOUR OWN INSANE AMUSEMENT!

YOU'RE MAD! WE'RE NO LONGER CRIMINALS-- BUT MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

MY SISTER SPEAKS FOR US BOTH, MAGNETO!

SO--DURING MY ABSENCE, YOU HAVE BETRAYED THE CAUSE OF HOMO SUPERIOR-- BY JOINING A BAND OF INFERNAL HOMO SAPIENS!

BUT, KNOW THIS-- IF YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE AS AVENGERS-- YOU SHALL ALSO DIE AS AVENGERS!



ROBOTS-- ATTACK!

NEXT, AT A SINGLE DRAMATIC GESTURE BY MAGNETO, THE VERY CASTLE SEEMS TO COME ALIVE WITH AWESOME, WEAPON-WIELDING FORMS-- AS ANCIENT SUITS OF MEDIEVAL ARMOR SHAKE OFF THE GATHERED CENTURIES AND CHARGE FORWARD...



THEIR SOLE, UNSPOKEN GOAL: THE DESTRUCTION OF QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH!

BUT, THE EVIL ONE HAS RECKONED WITHOUT THE BLINDING, BLUDGEONING SPEED OF THE METEORIC MUTANT...

BACK, YOU MINDLESS MINIONS OF LIFELESS METAL!

SWOOM!

IT'S MAGNETO I AM AFTER--AND HE THAT I SHALL VANQUISH!

THEN, SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

ONLY THESE TWO REMAIN--UNBOWED BY THE POWERFUL VORTEX I CREATED!

MUST TIME MY NEXT MOVE--TO THE SPLIT SECOND!!

AND, TIME IT HE DOES!

KRAAK!

THEY MISSED ME--AND SMASHED INTO EACH OTHER! THAT SHOULD FINISH THEM!



THEN, THE HARS, GRATING
VOICE OF MAGNACE ECHOES
THRU THE GRIM, GREY HALLS
OF GARRETT CASTLE--AS
THE MALEVOLENT MAGNETO
ONCE MORE WALKS THE
EARTH!!

IT HAS ALL BEEN WORTH IT--
THE STARK, ENDLESS DAYS
ON THAT FORSAKEN PLANET...
THE DISGRACE OF MY
LONELY EXILE--!

FOR NOW, I HAVE
RETURNED-- AND
THE DAY OF HOMO
SUPERIOR SHALL
SOON DAWN ON AN
UN SUSPECTING
WORLD!

YES, MASTER!
WE SHALL SHOW
THEM! WE'LL
SHOW THEM
ALL!!

**NEXT
ISH:**

**ALL THIS, AND THE
BLOCK-BUSTING
BLACK KNIGHT
TOO! 'NUFF SAID!**

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