

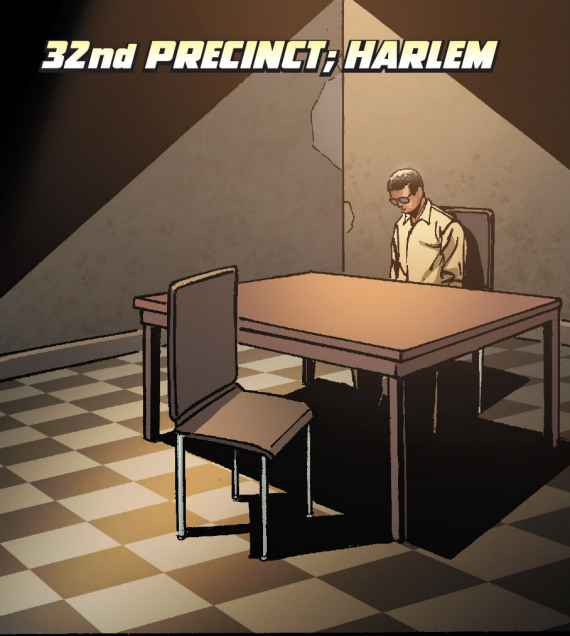
AVENGERS EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CASEY
ROSADO
PALMER
QUINTANA



MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
8 of 8

32nd PRECINCT; HARLEM



DELOVY.

YOU DID
AN EXTREMELY
FOOLISH THING
TODAY.

OH...

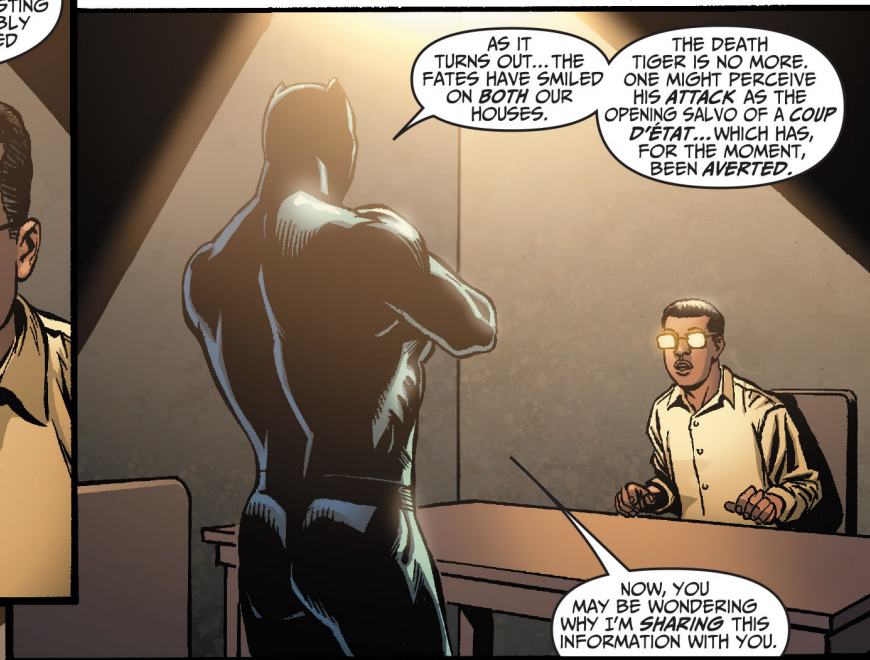
...DAMN.

YOUR *INTERFERENCE* IN THE CONFLICT
YOU WITNESSED--A CONFLICT EXISTING
ON LEVELS YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY
COMPREHEND--COULD'VE ENDED
MUCH *DIFFERENTLY*.



AS IT
TURNS OUT...THE
FATES HAVE SMILED
ON *BOTH* OUR
HOUSES.

THE DEATH
TIGER IS NO MORE.
ONE MIGHT PERCEIVE
HIS ATTACK AS THE
OPENING SALVO OF A *COUP
D'ÉTAT*...WHICH HAS,
FOR THE MOMENT,
BEEN *AVERTED*.

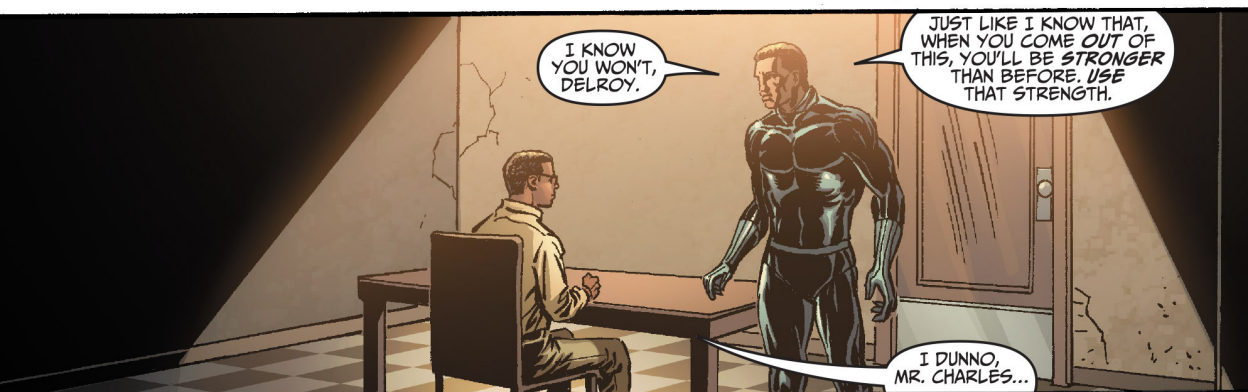
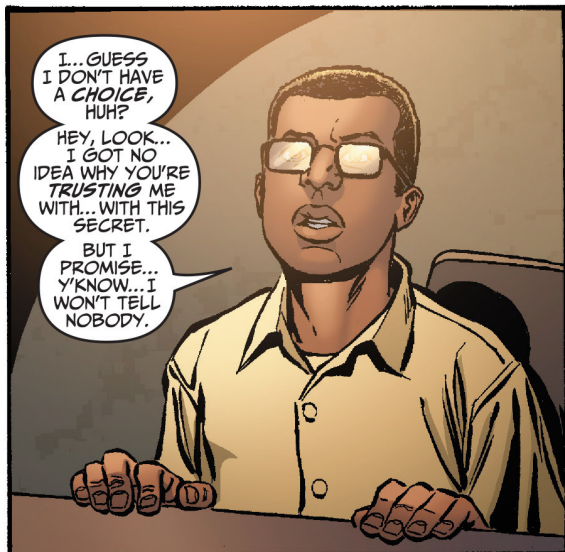
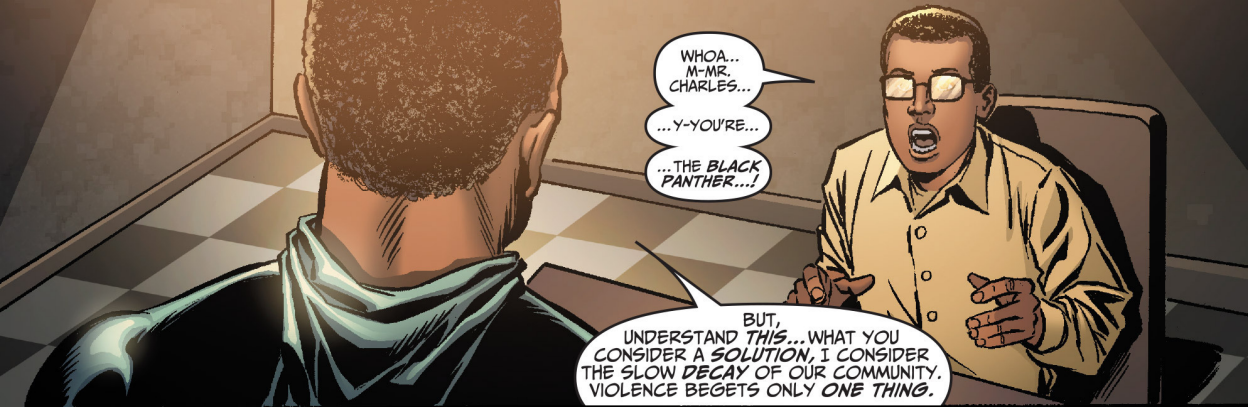


NOW, YOU
MAY BE WONDERING
WHY I'M *SHARING* THIS
INFORMATION WITH YOU.

THE FACT IS...I'M
GRATEFUL THAT YOU FELT
THE NEED TO TRY AND HELP
YOUR HISTORY TEACHER,
"MR. CHARLES"...

...FOR
OBVIOUS
REASONS.



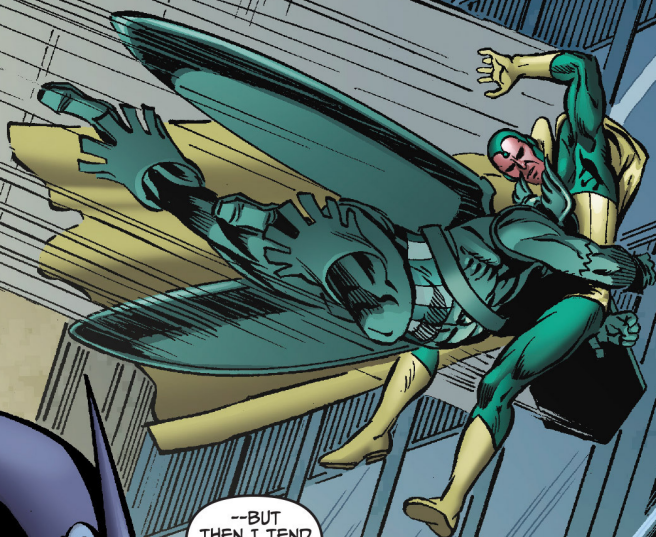


**890 FIFTH AVENUE;
AVENGERS MANSION
NINETY SECONDS EARLIER**



...WELL,
THERE'S OUR
ANSWER, JARVIS.
WE DIDN'T IMAGINE
ANYTHING...

ALTHOUGH
I WOULD'VE PUT MY
MONEY ON AN I.C.B.M.
HITTING THE ROOF OVER
THIS KIND OF PERSONAL
SMACKDOWN
TACTIC--



--BUT
THEN I TEND
TO THINK
BIG...



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



OH, MAN...!

LISTEN, GET ON THE HORN AND
SIGNAL EVERY ACTIVE AVENGER ON
THE LIST. THE SUPER-ADAPTOID'S
NO *PUSHOVER*.

GO.

R-RIGHT
AWAY, MASTER
HAWKEYE...!

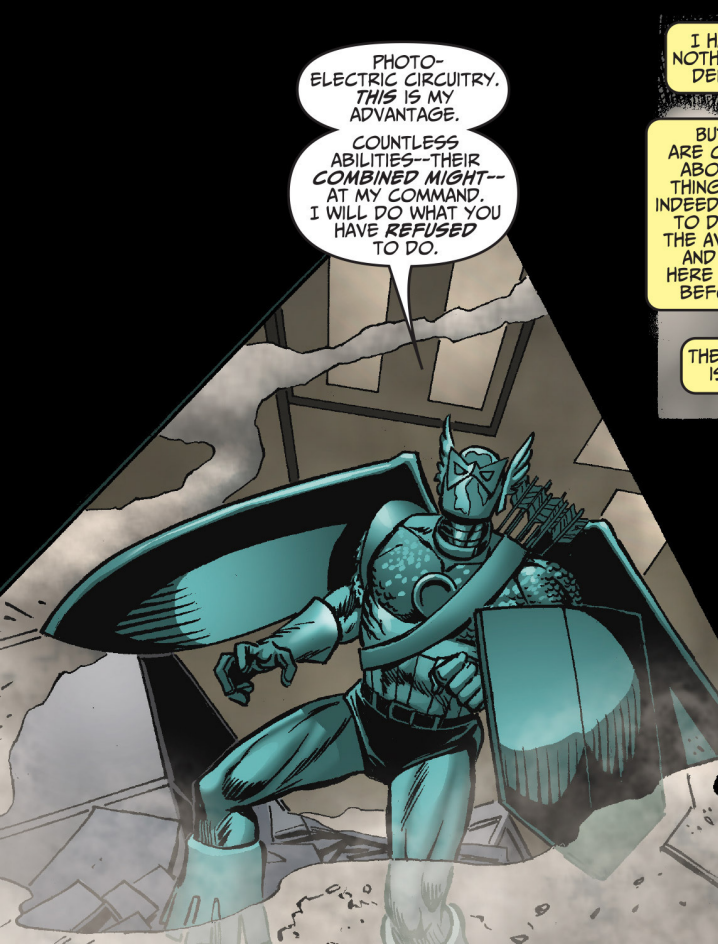
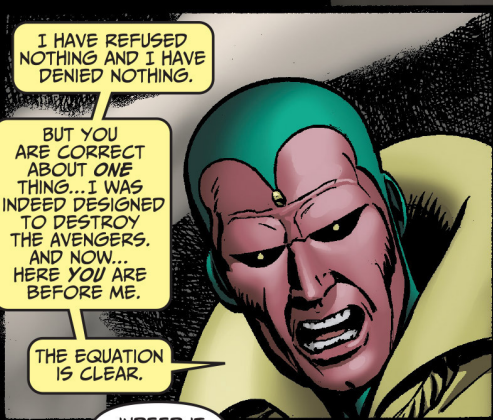


PHOTO-
ELECTRIC CIRCUITRY.
THIS IS MY
ADVANTAGE.

COUNTLESS
ABILITIES--THEIR
COMBINED MIGHT--
AT MY COMMAND.
I WILL DO WHAT YOU
HAVE *REFUSED*
TO DO.



I HAVE REFUSED
NOTHING AND I HAVE
DENIED NOTHING.

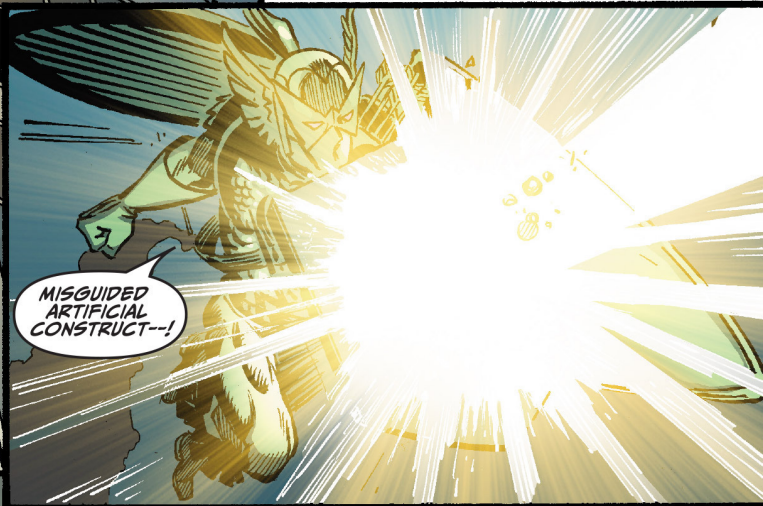
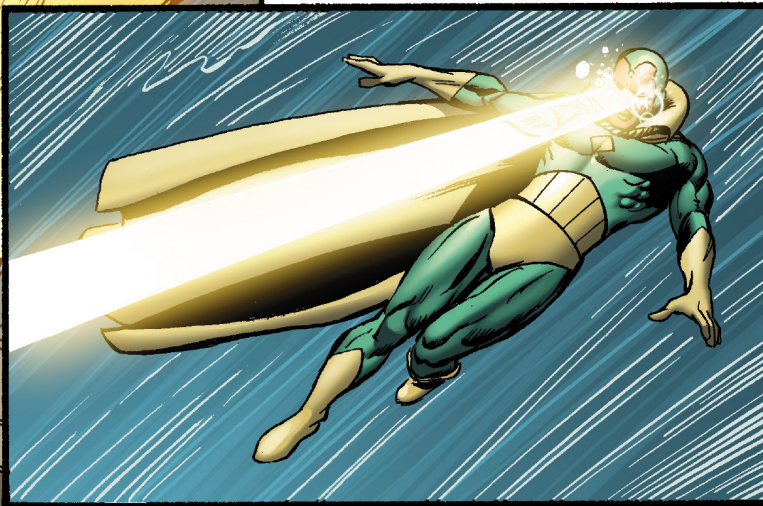
BUT YOU
ARE CORRECT
ABOUT *ONE*
THING... I WAS
INDEED DESIGNED
TO DESTROY
THE AVENGERS.
AND NOW...
HERE *YOU* ARE
BEFORE ME.

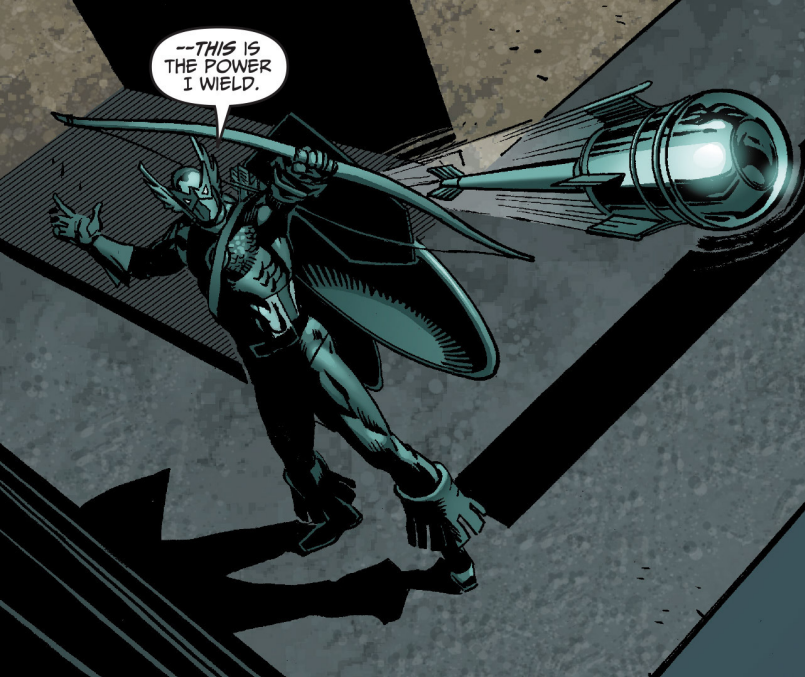
THE EQUATION
IS CLEAR.



INDEED IT
IS, BROTHER
VISION.

CONSIDER
THESE
REPUISORS
A MESSAGE
TO CAPTAIN
AMERICA--





--THIS IS THE POWER I WIELD.



HAWKEYE'S ARROWS POSE NO THREAT TO ME.

I FAIL TO SEE HOW YOURS COULD POSSIBLY--



NO--!



WATCH IT--!

--DON'T WANNA DIE--

GYAHHH--!



SO...YOUR CHARADE EXTENDS TO PROTECTING THAT WHICH YOU DREAM OF BEING!

YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT COMPASSION ARE YOUR WEAKNESS. WITH THE POWER OF YOUR RESIDENT GIANT--

--I AM COMPELLED TO EXPLOIT THAT--!



I'LL
TRAMPLE THIS
WHOLE CITY
INTO DUST!
SMASHED
INTO PULP--



--HUMAN
BLOOD
WAVE--



TRY
NOT TO
PANIC...



...I WILL NOT
ALLOW ANY BLOOD
TO BE SPILT TODAY.

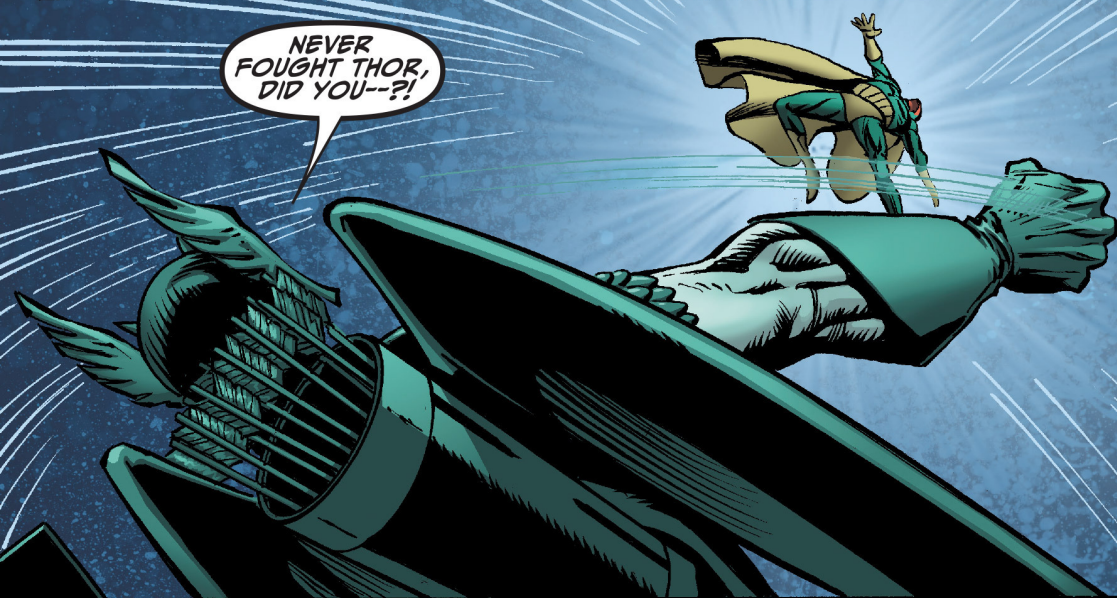
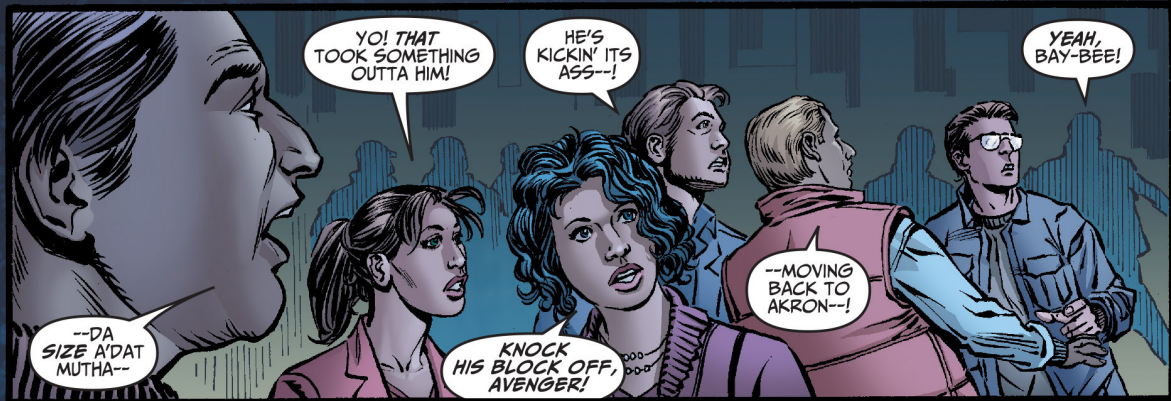


IT'S
POINTLESS,
ROBOT--!

**THIS
PRETENSE OF
PROTECTION
WILL BE YOUR
UNDOING!**



I AM
INCAPABLE OF
PRETENSE.





LET'S
HOPE YOU
WOULD'VE FARED
BETTER AGAINST
THE REAL
AVENGERS--

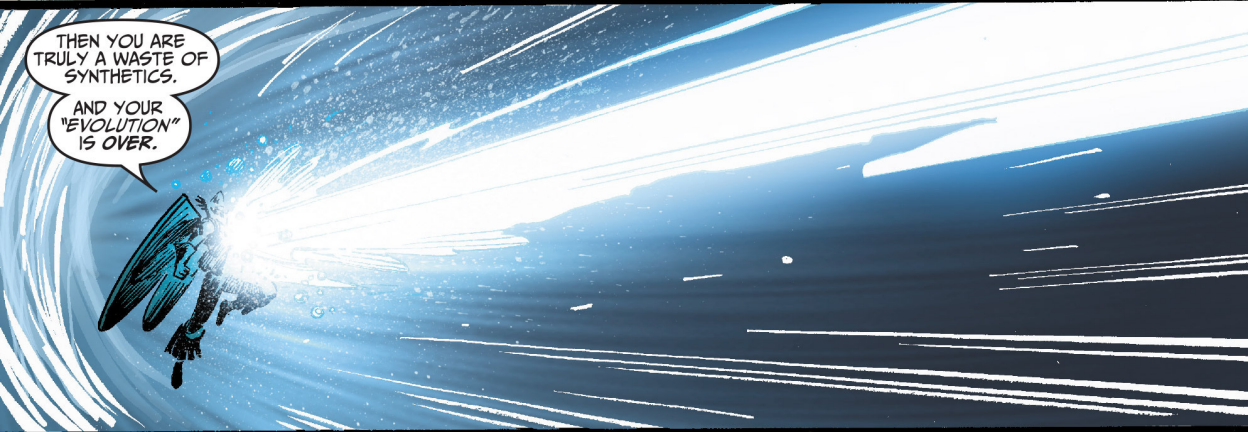


--THIS IS
HARDLY A
CHALLENGE
FOR ME!



I WAS NOT CREATED
TO CHALLENGE YOU,
ADAPTOID.

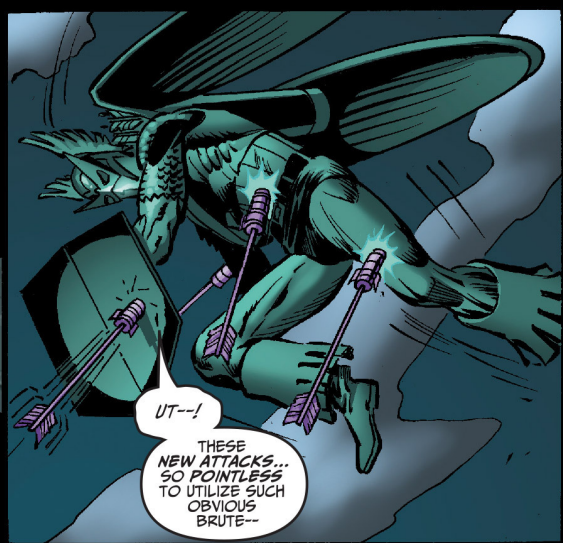
I AM DETERMINED
TO GROW BEYOND
MY ORIGINAL
PROGRAMMING.
TO EVOLVE.

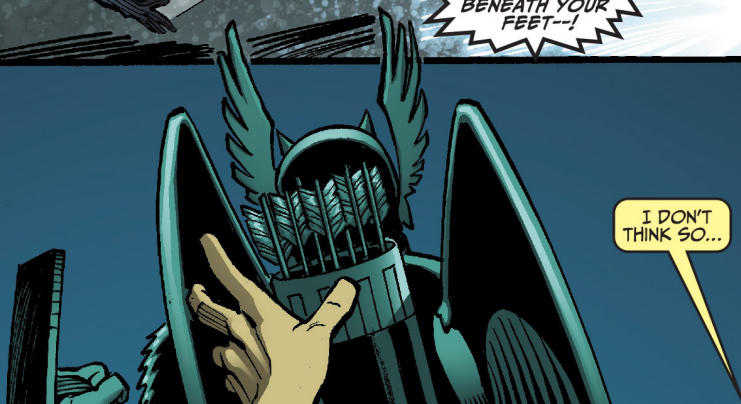
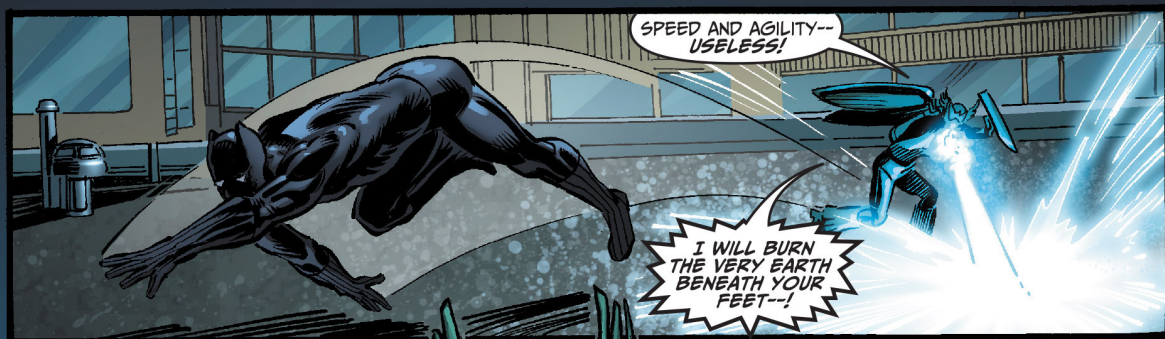
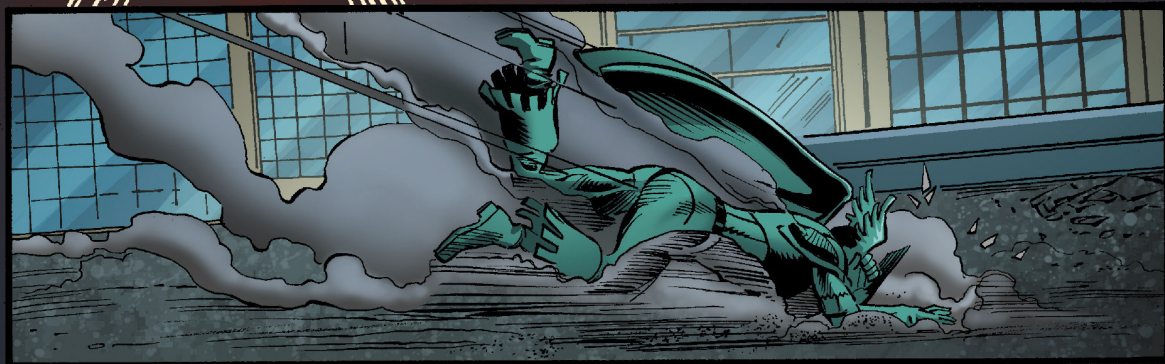


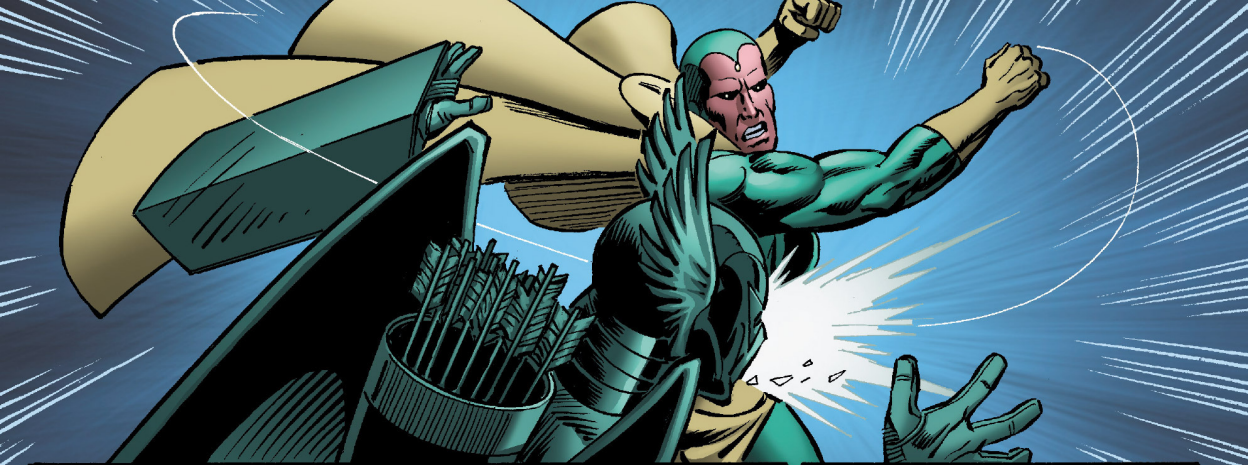
THEN YOU ARE
TRULY A WASTE OF
SYNTHETICS.

AND YOUR
"EVOLUTION"
IS OVER.









YOU OKAY, BAGHEERA?
Y'KNOW, IT'S JUST THE **THREE**
OF US. HIGH-POCKETS
AND HIS LADY--

IT WILL
BE ENOUGH.
WE ARE STILL
AVENGERS....!

HEY, YOU WON'T CATCH ME
ARGUING. DID YOU JUST SEE THAT
HAYMAKER? VISION IS **FIERCE...**



I'LL TAKE
YOUR HEAD
OFF--!



DESPITE YOUR
BLOODLUST, YOU
ARE--LIKE ME--AN
ARTIFICIAL BEING.

BUT I AM BOUND BY **NOTHING**.
AS I HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL
MY BODY'S MOLECULAR DENSITY--

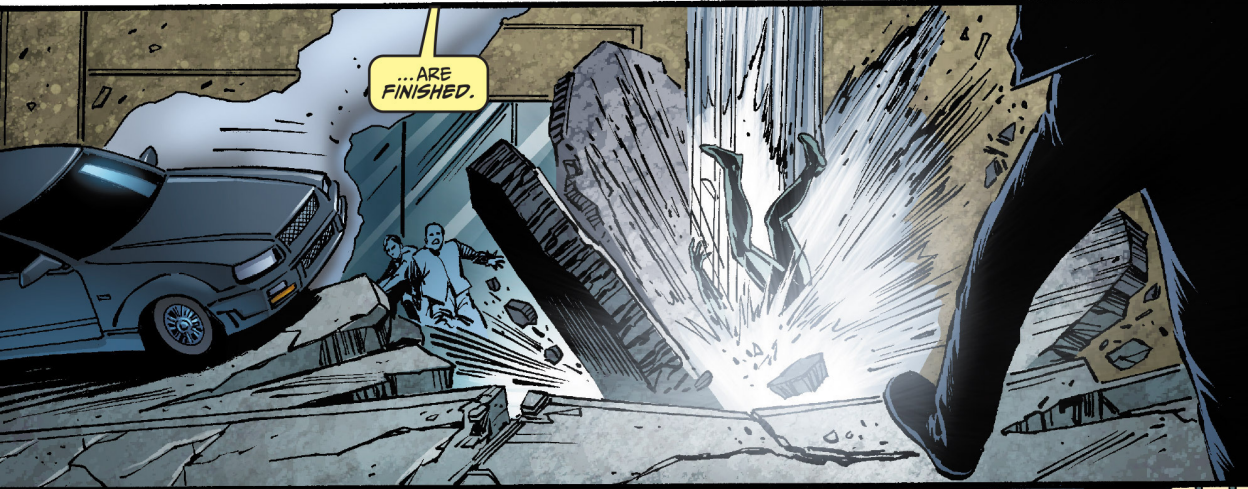


--I WILL ALSO BE
THE MASTER OF MY
OWN DESTINY!



I AM AN AVENGER.

AND YOU...



...ARE FINISHED.



WELL DONE. I ASSUME YOU JUST--

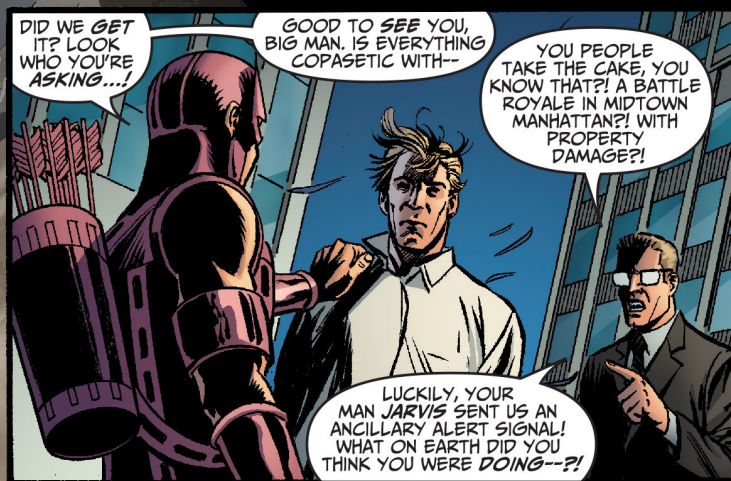
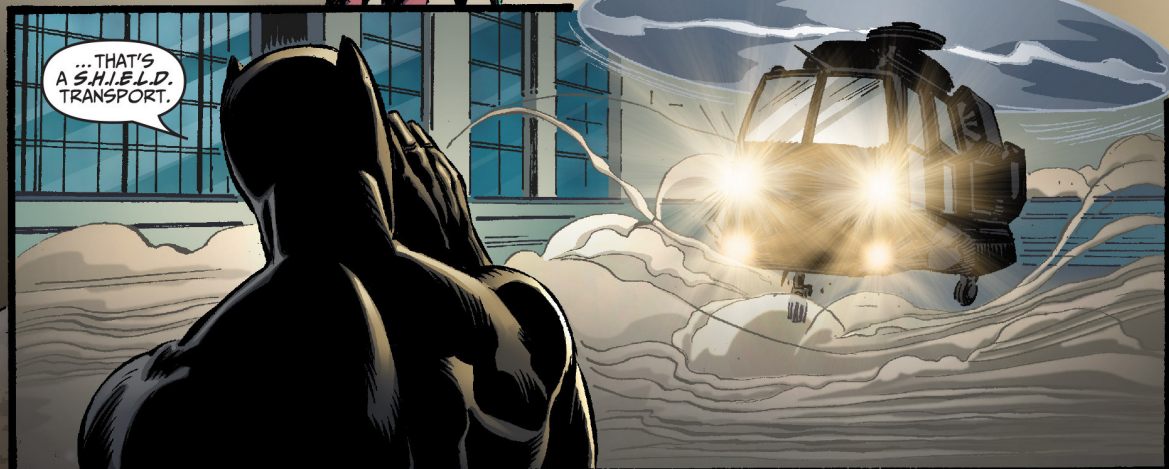
THE SAME PRINCIPLE WE APPLIED IN THE REACTOR CORE OF THE A.I.M. SUPERBASE. I DISRUPTED THE ADAPTOID'S PRIMARY SYSTEMS BEYOND ITS ABILITY TO...ADAPT.

CHECK IT OUT, FELLAS. SAVE THEIR BACON...

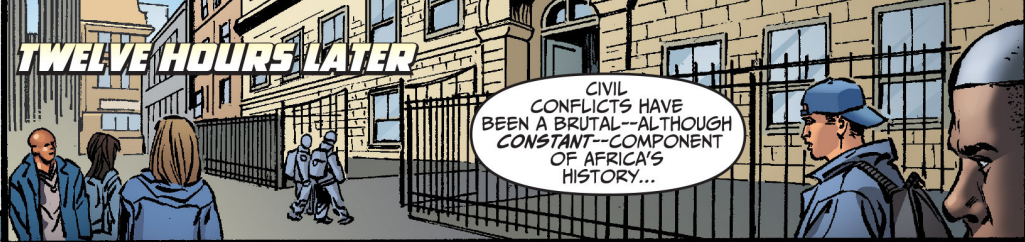
...THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS WILL FOLLOW. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME NEW FANS, VIZH. 'BOUT TIME THEY CAME AROUND, HUH...?

YES...

...PERHAPS I HAVE FINALLY BEGUN TO EARN THEIR TRUST.



TWELVE HOURS LATER



CIVIL CONFLICTS HAVE BEEN A BRUTAL--ALTHOUGH CONSTANT--COMPONENT OF AFRICA'S HISTORY...

...TAKE RWANDA, FOR INSTANCE. MACHETE-WIELDING HUTU MILITIAS. CIVILIANS KILLING CIVILIANS. ONE HUNDRED DAYS. EIGHTY THOUSAND MURDERED.

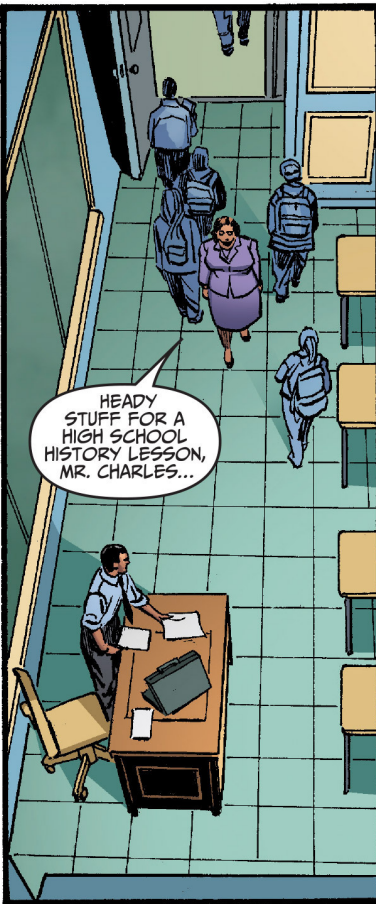
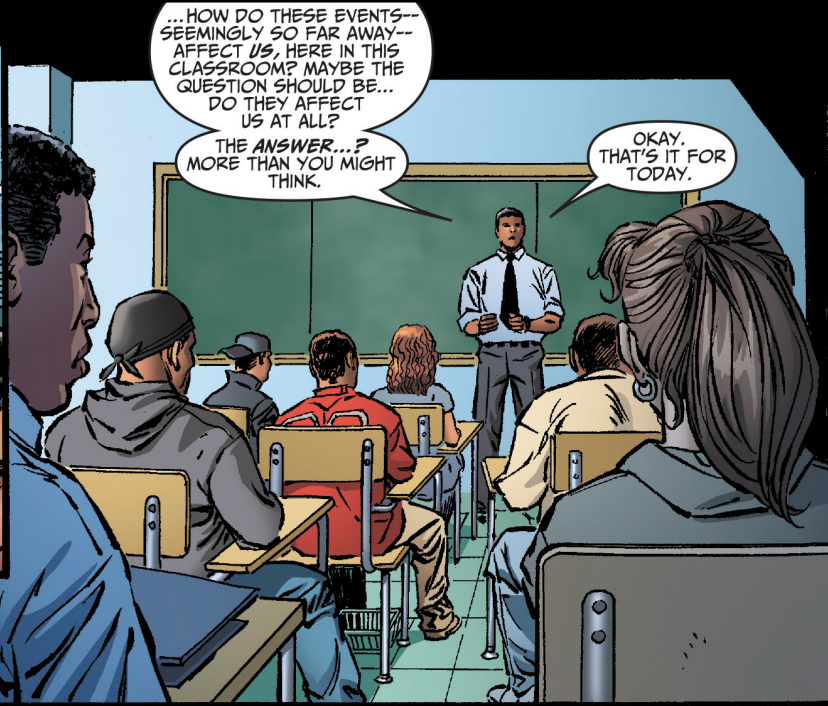
GENOCIDE AT ITS MOST TRAGIC. SO LET'S ASK OURSELVES...



...HOW DO THESE EVENTS-- SEEMINGLY SO FAR AWAY-- AFFECT US, HERE IN THIS CLASSROOM? MAYBE THE QUESTION SHOULD BE... DO THEY AFFECT US AT ALL?

THE ANSWER...? MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

OKAY. THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.



HEADY STUFF FOR A HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY LESSON, MR. CHARLES...



...BUT, CONSIDERING ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS IS IN CUSTODY AWAITING TRIAL, I GUESS I DON'T BLAME YOU.

I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. I WOULDN'T WANT SOMEONE SO NEW AT THIS TO BECOME DISILLUSIONED SO EARLY IN HIS CAREER.

WE SHOULD ALL BEAR SOME MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY HERE, MISS PARKER. AS FOR MY RESOLVE TO TEACH THESE KIDS...

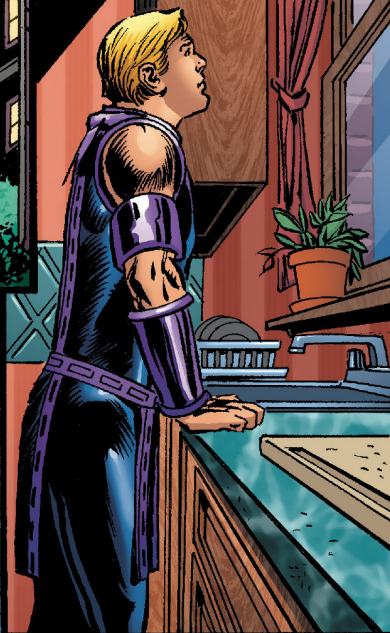


...REST ASSURED, IT'S STRONGER THAN EVER.

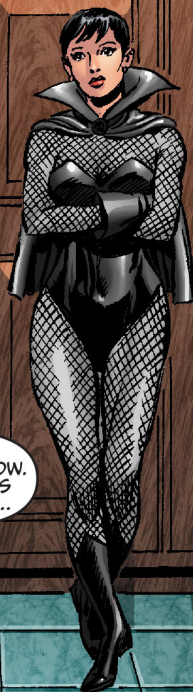


Y'KNOW,
IT TAKES A GUY
LIKE ME A WHILE TO
GAIN THE RIGHT AMOUNT
OF PERSPECTIVE
ON THINGS...

...STILL DON'T KNOW IF I GOT IT. BUT
I DO KNOW I DON'T WANT US FIGHTING
ANYMORE. THINGS ARE COMPLICATED
ENOUGH...



...SO I GUESS
YOU AN' ME AND A BEACH
SOMEWHERE IS TOO LITTLE,
TOO LATE AT THIS POINT,
HUH, 'TASHA...?



IT'S JUST
DIFFERENT NOW.
THE TIMING IS
JUST... WELL...

NICK FURY STILL THINKS HE HAS
TO TALK ME INTO WORKING FOR
HIM. HE DOESN'T KNOW ME...
AS WELL AS YOU DO.

THIS...THIS IS
WHAT I DO. WHAT I'VE
ALWAYS DONE.

LISTEN, I'M SORRY
ABOUT THE STUFF I SAID. AND
HOW I SAID IT. I MEAN, LOOK
HOW FAR WE'VE
COME, BABY...!

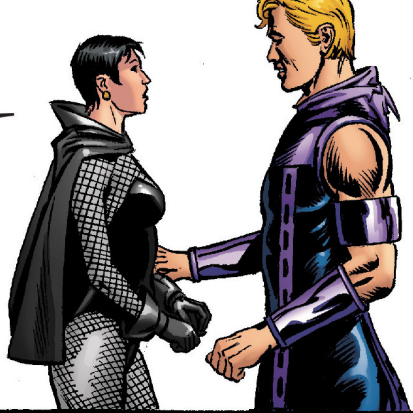
YOU AND ME...
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF
REDEMPTION FOUND ALONG
THE WAY. YOUR S.H.I.E.L.D.
GIG... I GET IT.
I REALLY DO.

AND...I KNOW
ABOUT TIMING,
TOO.

I JUST...
DON'T WANNA
ADMIT IT.

NEITHER DO I, HAWKEYE. BUT... I CAN'T JUST...

C'MON, DON'T. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO --
I MEAN... Y'KNOW...



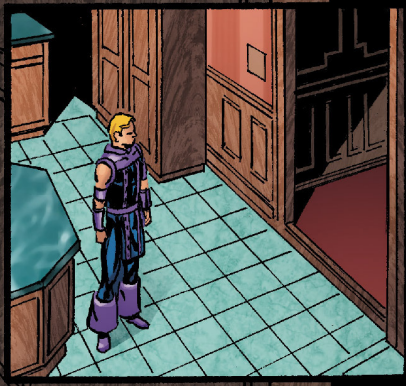
LOOK, I SHOULD--
WELL, I THINK I NEED TO--



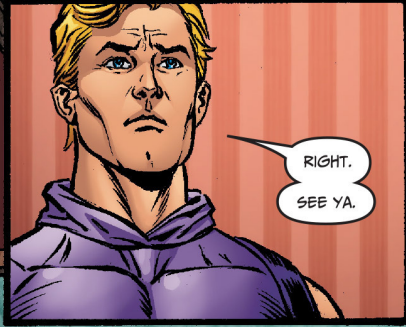
YEAH.



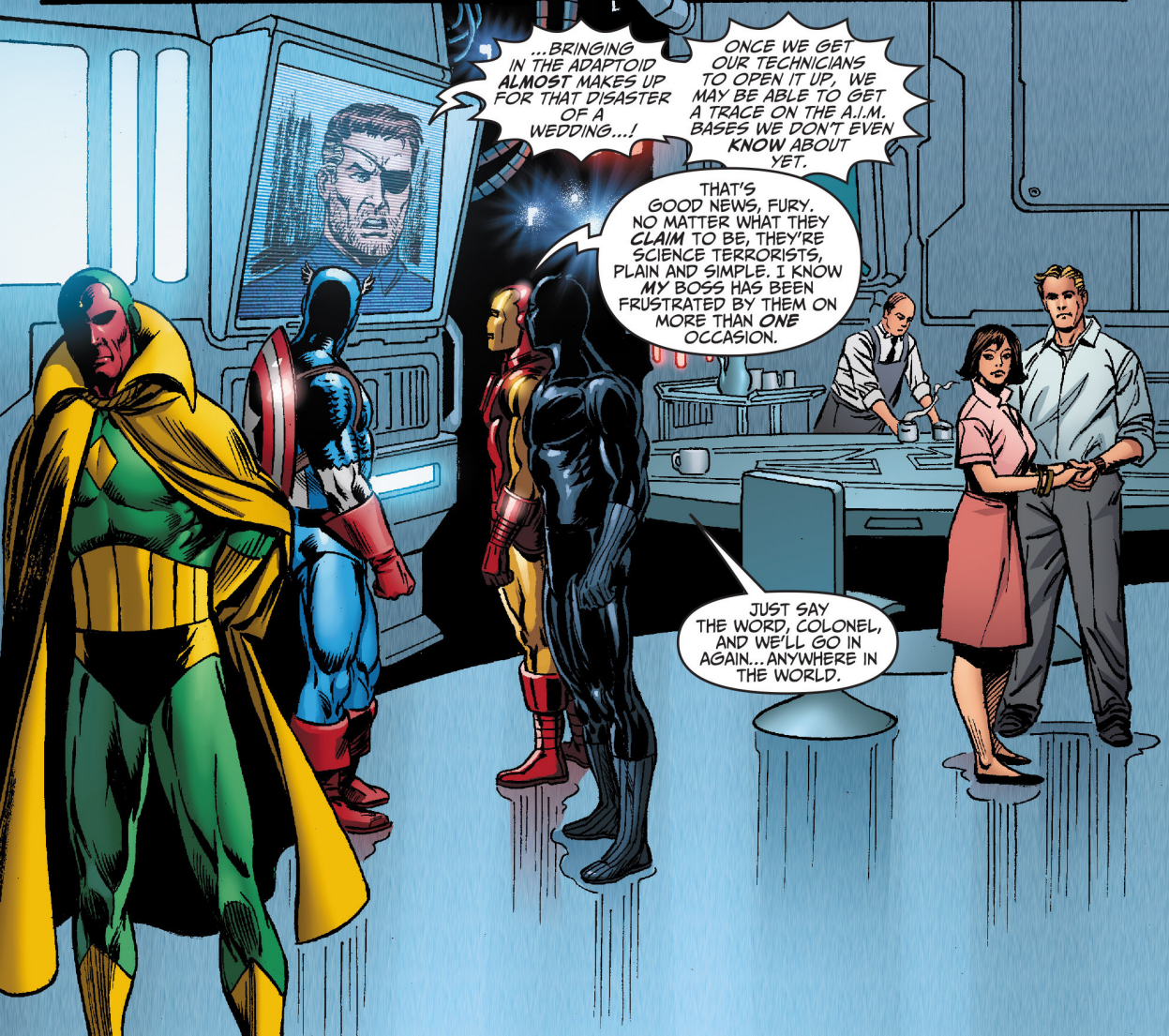
SO... JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

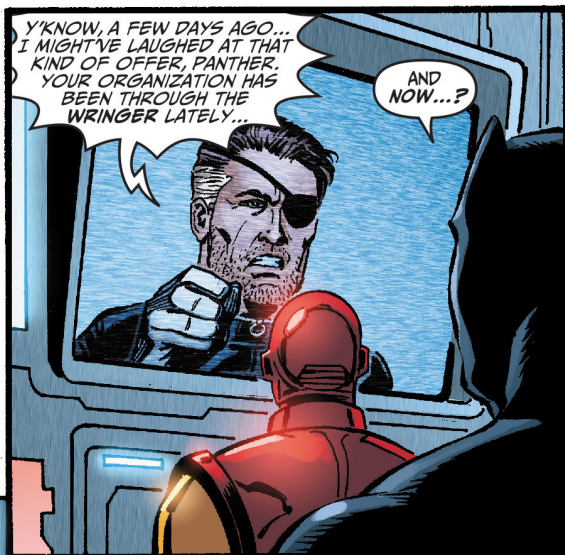


THIS LIFE... IS BITTERSWEET, LOVE. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN. IT PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL BE.
BUT NOTHING IS OVER UNTIL ONE OF US HAS MET OUR BEAUTIFUL REWARD. A MINOR OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD...



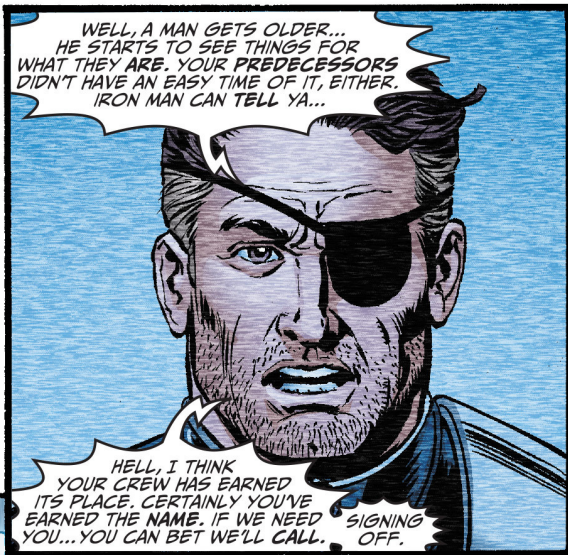
RIGHT.
SEE YA.





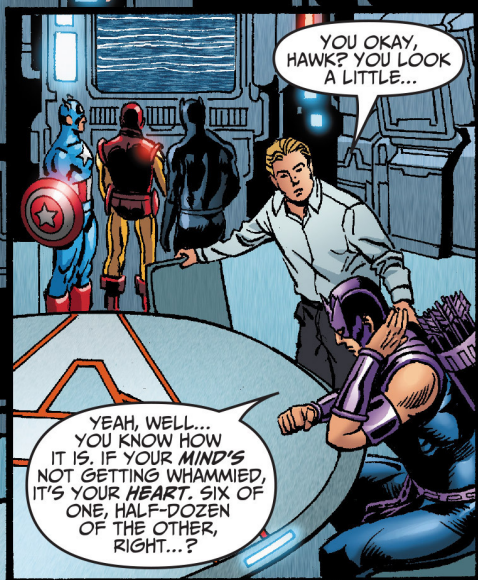
Y'KNOW, A FEW DAYS AGO... I MIGHT'VE LAUGHED AT THAT KIND OF OFFER, PANTHER. YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER LATELY...

AND NOW...?



WELL, A MAN GETS OLDER... HE STARTS TO SEE THINGS FOR WHAT THEY ARE. YOUR PREDECESSORS DIDN'T HAVE AN EASY TIME OF IT, EITHER. IRON MAN CAN TELL YA...

HELL, I THINK YOUR CREW HAS EARNED ITS PLACE. CERTAINLY YOU'VE EARNED THE NAME. IF WE NEED YOU... YOU CAN BET WE'LL CALL. **SIGNING OFF.**



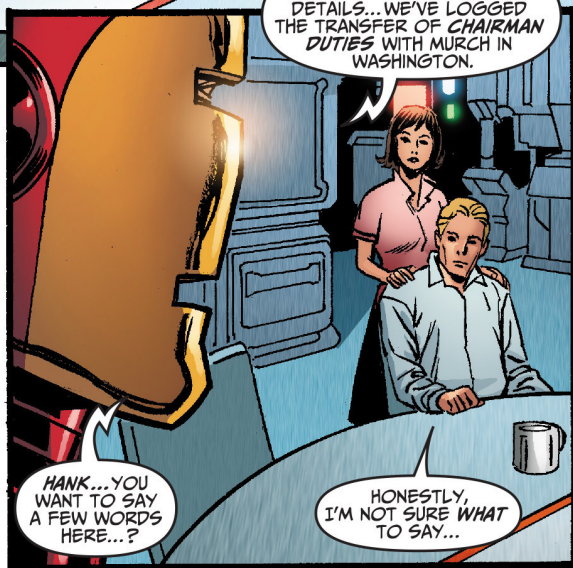
YOU OKAY, HAWK? YOU LOOK A LITTLE...

YEAH, WELL... YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. IF YOUR MIND'S NOT GETTING WHAMMIED, IT'S YOUR HEART. SIX OF ONE, HALF-DOZEN OF THE OTHER, RIGHT...?



ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE... LET'S CONGRATULATE T'CHALLA, HAWKEYE AND THE VISION ON THEIR VICTORY.

WITH GOLIATH AND THE WASP TAKING A SHORT LEAVE OF ABSENCE, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THERE ARE NO **FOUNDERS** ON THE ACTIVE ROSTER. PERSONALLY, I HAVE NO DOUBTS THEY'LL CARRY THE TORCH JUST FINE.



THAT BRINGS US TO A FEW **ADMINISTRATIVE** DETAILS... WE'VE LOGGED THE TRANSFER OF **CHAIRMAN** DUTIES WITH MURCH IN WASHINGTON.

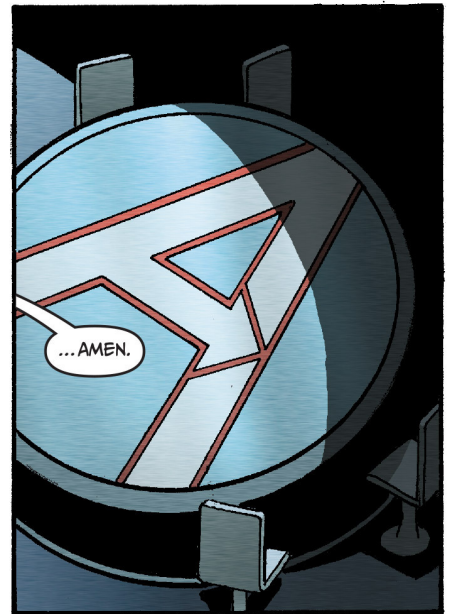
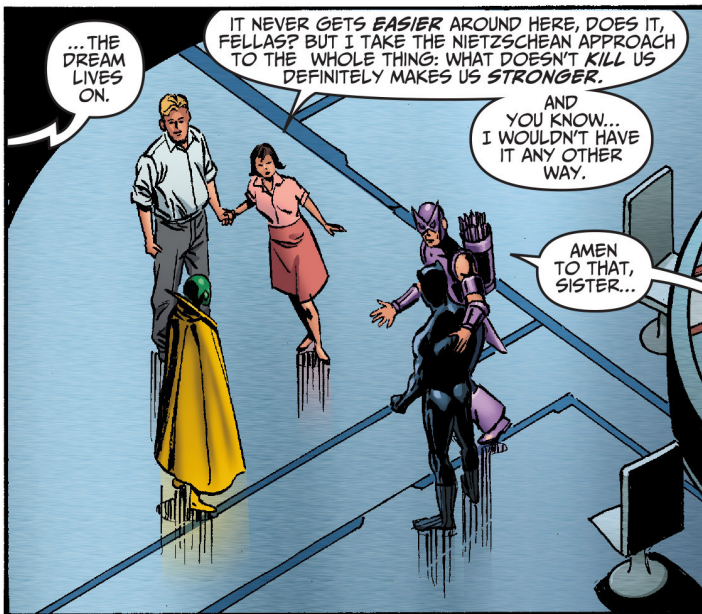
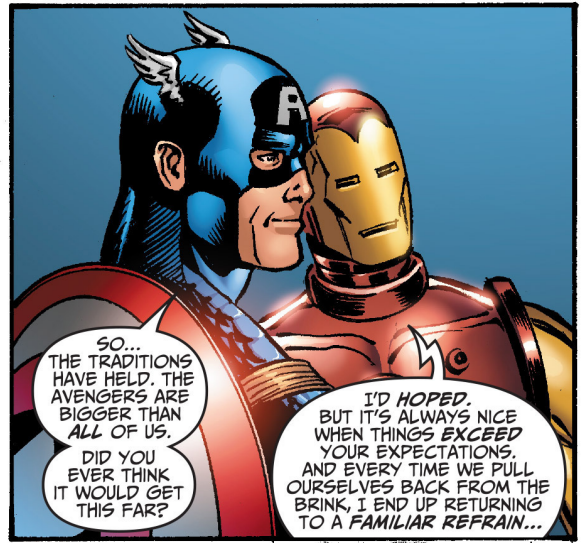
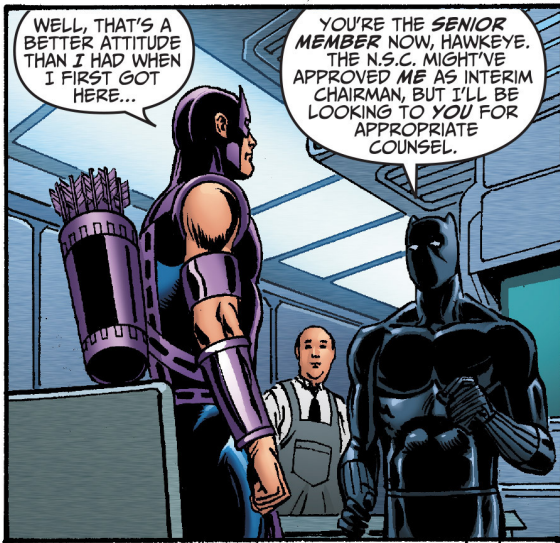
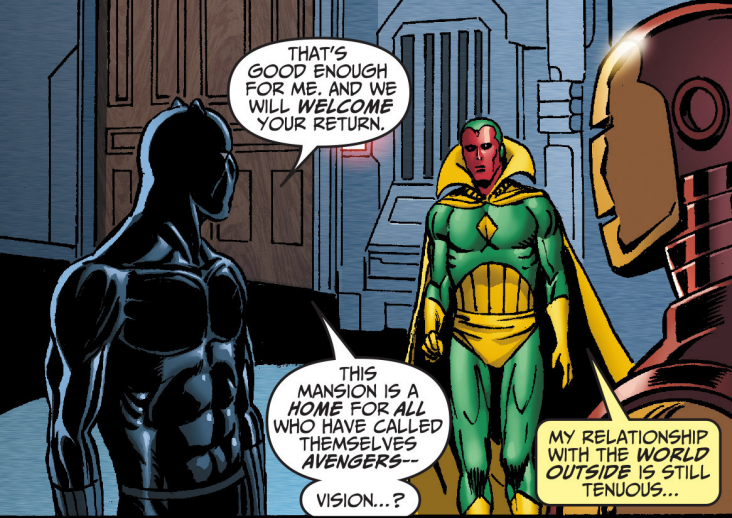
HANK... YOU WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS HERE...?

HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY...



...I REALIZE I PUT YOU ALL THROUGH SOME MEASURE OF **HELL** WITH MY LITTLE... EPISODE. YOU PEOPLE ARE LIKE **FAMILY** TO ME... AND YOU DON'T DO THAT TO FAMILY.

I... WANT YOU TO **KNOW** SOMETHING. I DON'T TAKE WHAT HAPPENED LIGHTLY. WHEN WE **COME BACK**, I SWEAR THAT IT'LL BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.



AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND HEROINES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT. ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN -- TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND! THROUGH THE YEARS, THEIR ROSTER HAS PROSPERED, CHANGING MANY TIMES, BUT THEIR GLORY HAS NEVER BEEN DENIED! HEED THE CALL, THEN -- FOR NOW, THE

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!