

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES™

MARVEL
PSR 1 of 8



**CASEY
KOLINS
HOLLOWELL**



Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

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...PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, I'VE SENT A COPY OF THE BY-LAWS TO AGENT MURCH.

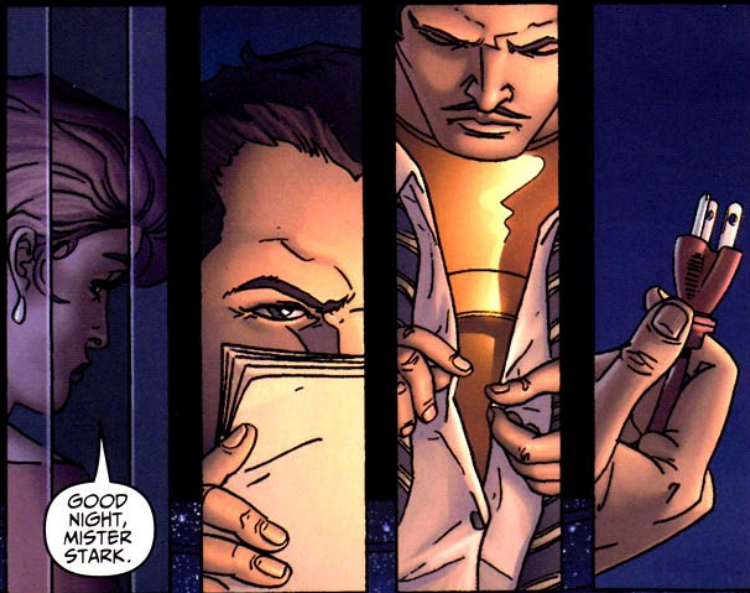
THE ORIGINAL WAS SENT BY ARMED COURIER TO THE MANSION...

FANTASTIC, THANK YOU, PEPPER.

REMEMBER, YOU STILL NEED TO MEET WITH MISTER CATON IN ACCOUNTING ON THE FUNDING ISSUE.



GOOD NIGHT, MISTER STARK.



... EVEN MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS NEW ENDEAVOR, IN WHICH FIVE SUPER-POWERED BEINGS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO BAND TOGETHER IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO COMMENT LATER TONIGHT...

C'MON, VINNIE... TIME FOR A GUT CHECK.

ONE SHOT? ALL YOUR BALLS... IN ONE SHOT?!
YOU GOT A BET, BARTON.



TED BAILS IS LIVE ON FIFTH AVENUE. TED...?

MIA, BEHIND ME SITS THE MANSION BUILT IN 1932 BY HOWARD STARK... NOW OWNED BY HIS GRANDSON, ANTHONY, CEO OF STARK INDUSTRIES.

STARK'S BODYGUARD HAS, SO FAR, BEEN THE PUBLIC FACE OF THIS NEWLY ANNOUNCED ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS BEING A FOUNDING MEMBER. OTHER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ARRIVING THROUGHOUT THE DAY...

THE MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL KNOWN ONLY AS THOR ARRIVED AT THE MANSION THIS AFTERNOON, BUT HIS APPEARANCE PALED IN COMPARISON TO WHO SOON FOLLOWED...

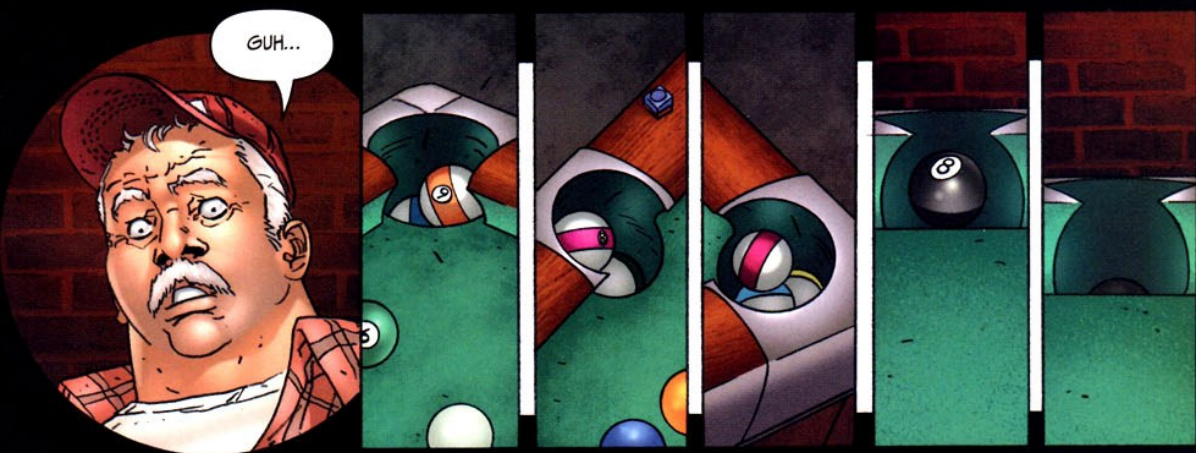


EARLIER TODAY



TOO EASY...

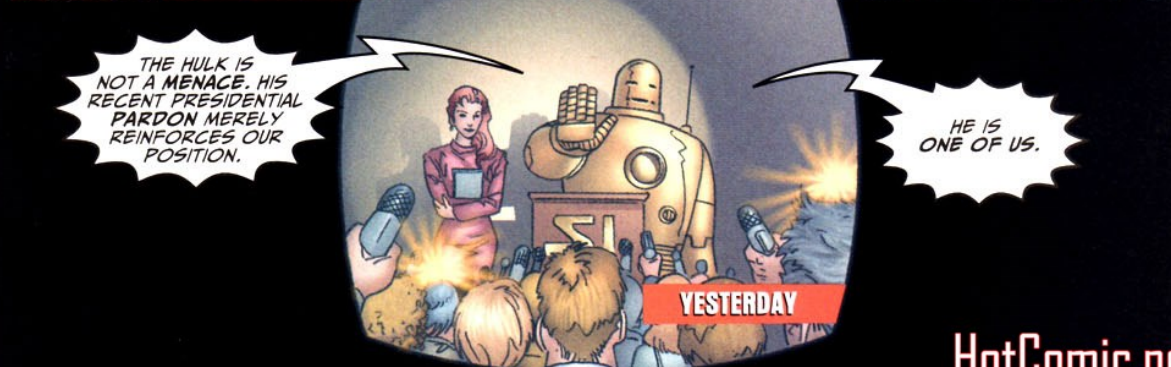
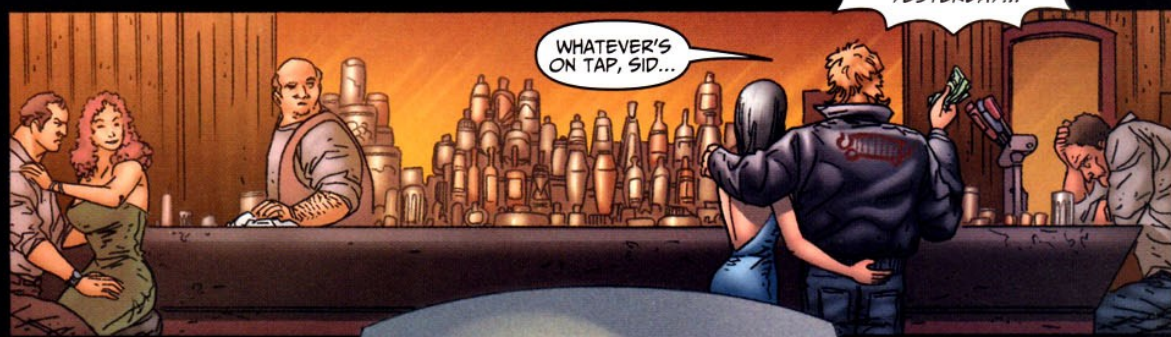




PERHAPS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL MEMBER WAS CAPTURED IN THIS AMATEUR VIDEO FOOTAGE AS HE LITERALLY LANDED ON 71ST STREET...

THE HULK HAS HAD SEVERAL RUN-INS WITH THE U.S. MILITARY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND A RECENT RAMPAGE IN A DETROIT AUTO PLANT SEEMED TO SERVE AS THE CATALYST FOR THIS GATHERING. STILL, HIS APPEARANCE AT THIS MEETING IS SURE TO RAISE EYEBROWS...

...THIS, DESPITE IRON MAN'S ASSURANCES DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT STARK INDUSTRIES YESTERDAY...



THE HULK IS NOT A MENACE. HIS RECENT PRESIDENTIAL PARDON MERELY REINFORCES OUR POSITION.

HE IS ONE OF US.



WE'RE WILLING TO STAKE OUR BURGEONING REPUTATIONS ON HIS VIRTUES AS A HERO...

BAD MOVE, TINHORN.



HERE YA GO, CLINT.

SO, HOW 'BOUT IT, SID? THINK THESE GUYS ARE ON THE LEVEL...?



YOU FIRST.

WELL, I'M NOT SURE I'M INTO THE WHOLE ELITIST VIBE THEY'VE GOT GOING ON. THE MANSION... STARK'S BODYGUARD SPEARHEADING THE THING...



POLITICAL PUNDITS ARE OFFERING THEIR ANALYSIS...

IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, KID. THAT IS **SERIOUS POWER** HOLING UP IN THAT HOUSE. WHO'S TO STOP 'EM FROM, I DUNNO... **TAKIN' OVER COMPLETELY?!**

YOU GONNA TAKE 'EM ON...?!



NOW THAT'S PESSIMISTIC.

Y'KNOW, THEY MIGHT JUST BE AS ALTRUISTIC AS THEY SAY THEY ARE.

THAT'D BE SOMETHING...



...AND THEIR HOPE IS THAT, IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE'LL ALL LEARN MORE ABOUT EXACTLY WHO THESE "AVENGERS" ARE.

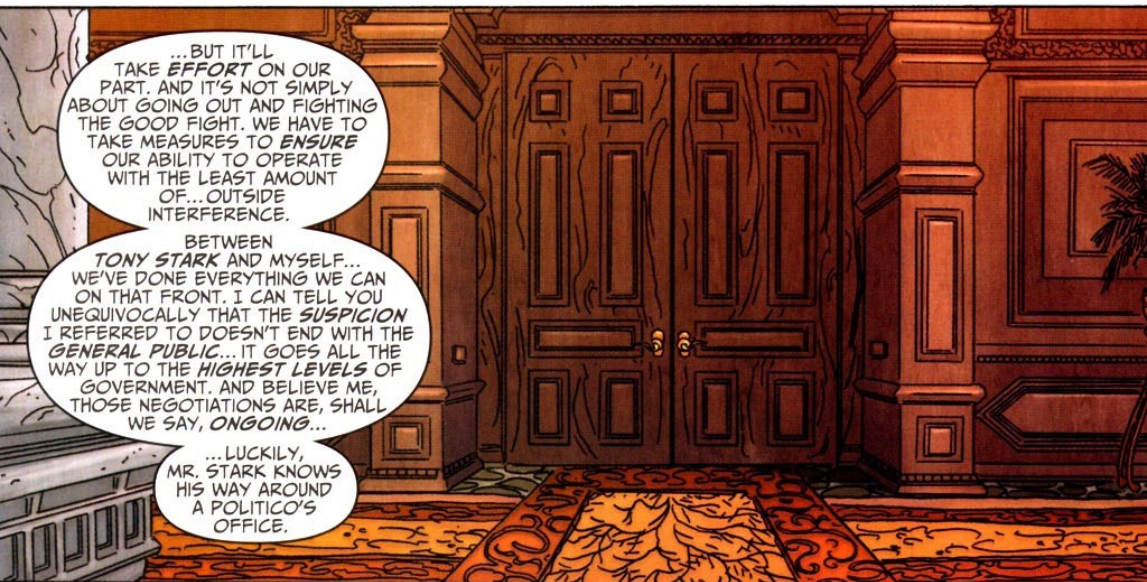
RIGHT NOW, WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW MUCH...



I'M SURE WE'RE ALL AWARE OF WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT US. THEY'RE **SUSPICIOUS**, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

SUSPICIOUS ABOUT OUR **INTENT**... SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS **MEETING**... HECK, THEY'RE SUSPICIOUS OF **US**. WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE TO WIN THE PUBLIC'S **TRUST**.

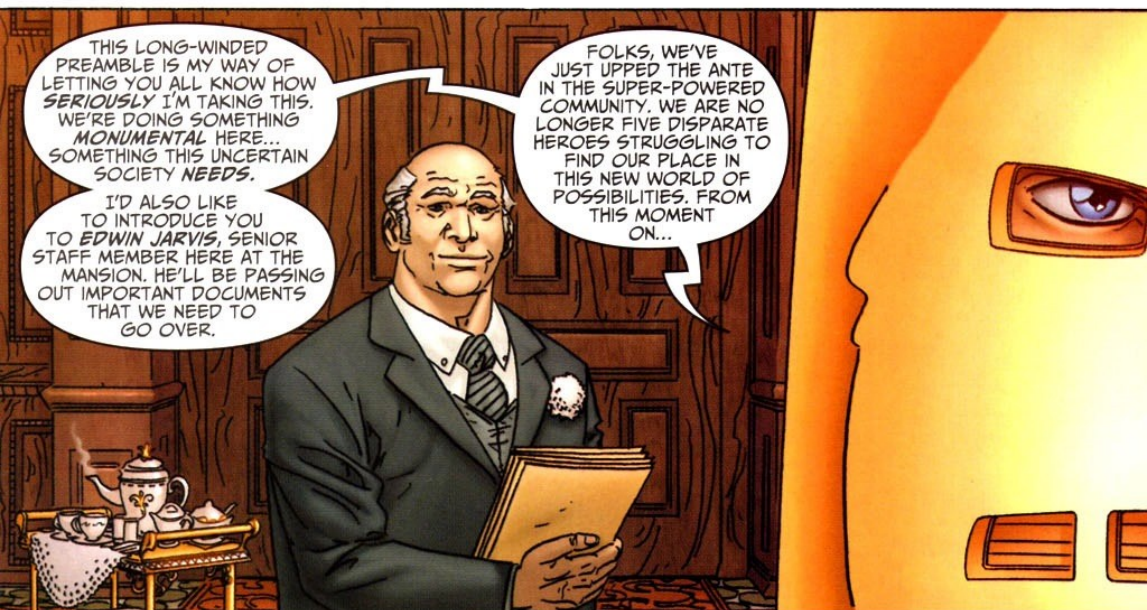
I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT'LL COME IN TIME...



...BUT IT'LL TAKE **EFFORT** ON OUR PART. AND IT'S NOT SIMPLY ABOUT GOING OUT AND FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT. WE HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO **ENSURE** OUR ABILITY TO OPERATE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF...OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

BETWEEN **TONY STARK** AND MYSELF... WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN ON THAT FRONT. I CAN TELL YOU UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE **SUSPICION** I REFERRED TO DOESN'T END WITH THE **GENERAL PUBLIC**...IT GOES ALL THE WAY UP TO THE **HIGHEST LEVELS** OF GOVERNMENT. AND BELIEVE ME, THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE, SHALL WE SAY, **ONGOING**...

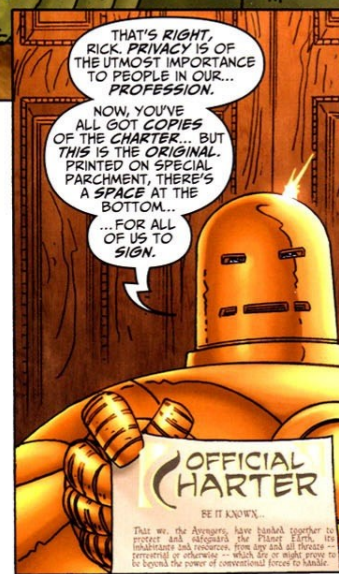
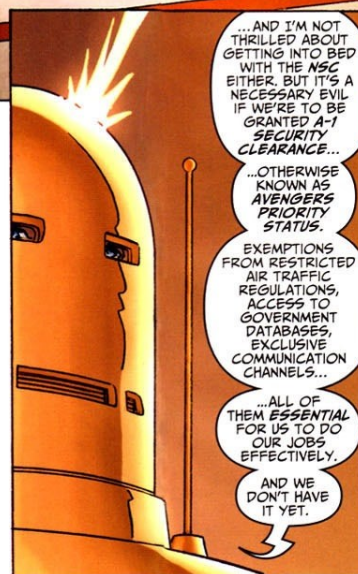
...LUCKILY, MR. STARK KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND A POLITICO'S OFFICE.



THIS LONG-WINDED PREAMBLE IS MY WAY OF LETTING YOU ALL KNOW HOW **SERIOUSLY** I'M TAKING THIS. WE'RE DOING SOMETHING **MONUMENTAL** HERE... SOMETHING THIS UNCERTAIN SOCIETY **NEEDS**.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO **EDWIN JARVIS**, SENIOR STAFF MEMBER HERE AT THE MANSION. HE'LL BE PASSING OUT IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THAT WE NEED TO GO OVER.

FOLKS, WE'VE JUST UPPED THE ANTE IN THE SUPER-POWERED COMMUNITY. WE ARE NO LONGER FIVE DISPARATE HEROES STRUGGLING TO FIND OUR PLACE IN THIS NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES. FROM THIS MOMENT ON...

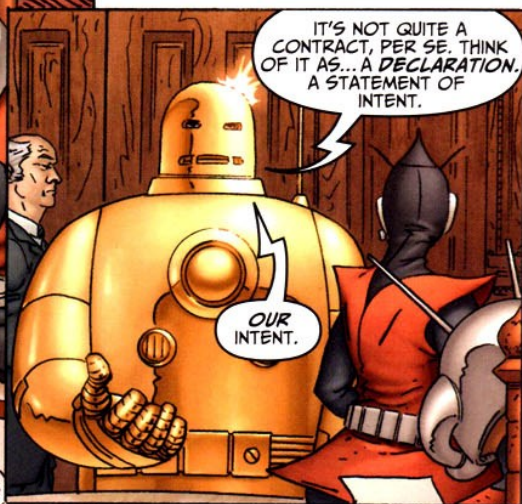




WASP...?

THERE.
MUCH
BETTER.

I WAS JUST
WONDERING...IS
THIS LEGAL?
I MEAN, BY SIGNING
A BINDING
CONTRACT --



IT'S NOT QUITE A
CONTRACT, PER SE. THINK
OF IT AS... A *DECLARATION*.
A STATEMENT OF
INTENT.

OUR
INTENT.



ANT-MAN?
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?



YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT
ME TO READ THAT FOR
YOU, BIG GUY...?

SHUDDUP.

SO, WHAT
IS OUR INTENT,
RUST-POT?

'TIS
OBVIOUS.



WE SHALL COMBAT THE
FOES NO *SINGLE* WARRIOR
COULD EVER WITHSTAND.
NO MATTER THE *PERSONAL* COST,
'TIS OUR *DESTINY* TO PROTECT
THOSE IN NEED... THE INNOCENT,
THE MEAK... ON *THIS*
WORLD...

...AND
WORLDS
BEYOND.



UHHH...

RIGHT.

THAT'S...
CERTAINLY
ONE WAY TO
PUT IT.



WELL, I'M CONVINCED.

THE SOONER
WE CAN GET PAST
THESE ADMINISTRATIVE
HASSLES, THE SOONER
WE CAN GET TO WORK
FOR REAL.

HAND OVER
THAT PEN WHEN
YOU'RE DONE,
HANDSOME.



THANK YOU
BOTH.
I'M ANXIOUS
TO GET STARTED,
TOO.

ONCE I GET
BACK TO THE NSC, OUR
COMPUTER SYSTEMS
WILL GO ONLINE,
ALLOWING US TO
CONSTANTLY MONITOR
ACTIVITY WORLDWIDE...



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS
ARE REALLY DOING IT.
AFTER DETROIT, I SURE
WOULDN'T HAVE FIGURED
ON ALL THIS...!

BUT IT'S GONNA
BE AMAZING...
AND TO THINK IT ALL
STARTED WITH MY
DISTRESS
CALL...!

SO...
I GOTTA WRITE...
MY NAME...?



AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE
ATTENDANT CELEBRITY THAT'LL
COME WITH THIS JOB.

I MEAN, BETWEEN TONY STARK
ON THE BUSINESS SIDE AND OUR
VERY OWN NORSE GOD, WE'VE
GOT A PRETTY PHOTOGENIC
CREW HERE...



WASP, I CAN UNDERSTAND
THE LURE OF FAME, BUT
WE NEED TO KEEP THINGS
IN PERSPECTIVE.

AND I DON'T WANT TO
SEE ANYONE SIGNING ANY
ENDORSEMENT DEALS.
THAT'S NO WAY TO EARN
THE PUBLIC'S TRUST.



YOU MEAN,
LIKE WORKING FOR
STARK INDUSTRIES,
MAYBE...?

YOUR
CONVICTION
DOETH INSPIRE ME,
IRON MAN.

LET THIS DAY
COMMEMORATE A
GREAT UNDERTAKING,
AS WE EACH EARN
OUR PLACE IN
VALHALLA.



BIG TALK,
FANCY PANTS.

FACT IS,
WE AIN'T EVER
GONNA GET THAT
TRUST... FROM
ANYONE.

AND
I AIN'T SIGNIN'
SQUAT.



DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM.

I'LL SIGN HIS NAME...

HEY!

YOU AIN'T MY AGENT, JONES!



DON'T BE STUPID, HULK.

THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR YOU. UNLESS YOU WANT TO SPEND THE MAJORITY OF YOUR TIME SPARRING WITH THE MILITARY...!



WHO YOU CALLIN' "STUPID"?

HEY... C'MON, MAN--

YOU WANNA LOSE THOSE HANDS, KID?



DON'T YOU GET IT?! WE'RE GOING TO BAT FOR YOU! STAKING OUR REPUTATION ON --

WHO ASKED YA TO?

THIS BEHAVIOR...



... 'TIS EGREGIOUS.

THOU SHALT BOTH STAND DOWN.

THOR...

STAY OUTTA THIS, CURLY. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AN' --

HUH.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

I DO NOT VOICE MY OPINION TWICE, BRUTE.

I DON'T NEED THIS... FROM ANY OF YOU.



=>KOFF!<=

=>KAFF!<=

SORRY ABOUT THAT, FOLKS. HE GETS... EMOTIONAL SOMETIMES. IF HE DIDN'T, HE WOULDN'T NEED ME HANGING AROUND, MAKING SURE HE DOESN'T SCREW UP AGAIN...

HE'LL COME AROUND, THOUGH. I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT. THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT...

LET'S HOPE SO, RICK...

I THINK THAT'S OUR CUE, IRON MAN.

I WOULDN'T CALL THIS MEETING A TOTAL DISASTER. THERE'S ALWAYS A LEARNING CURVE TO THESE THINGS. LET US KNOW WHEN THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARE UP AND RUNNING... I WANT TO NETWORK WITH MY LAB...

UNTIL NEXT TIME...!

"NOT A TOTAL DISASTER."

DON'T SWEAT IT. THIS IS LEGENDARY, MAN.

HEY...

...WHERE'D THOR GO?

=>SIGH<=

MEETING ADJOURNED.



INTERESTING
READING,
JARVIS...?



VERY
INTERESTING,
SIR.

I CAN'T
TELL
IF THAT'S
SARCASM
OR NOT.

JUDGING BY
THAT MEETING,
I WOULDN'T
BLAME YOU IF
IT WAS...



CERTAINLY NOT.

IF I MAY, SIR...
FOR FIVE HEADSTRONG
PERSONALITIES TO FIND
COMMON GROUND IS A
FEAT IN ITSELF. AND NOT
AN EASY ONE...

THAT'S
FOR SURE...



TWO INSECT
HEROES... ONE WHO
CLAIMS GODHOOD...
A LOUD-MOUTHED,
UNCONTROLLABLE
THUG...

... AND A RICH
INDUSTRIALIST'S
BODYGUARD.

QUITE
THE MIX,
EH?



I'LL PLACE
THIS IN THE MAIN
STUDY.

IT'S... A NOBLE
DOCUMENT, SIR. IT WILL
SURELY SERVE TO
INSPIRE OTHERS.



I HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

CRESSKILL, N.J.



WELL, I DOUBT THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED AS OUR FINEST HOUR...

I THINK WE GOT A LOT DONE, HANK. WE SIGNED THE CHARTER, WE TOURED THE MANSION...



SURE.

I THINK I'M GOING TO HEAD INTO THE LAB FOR AWHILE. YOU GO ON TO BED, THOUGH...

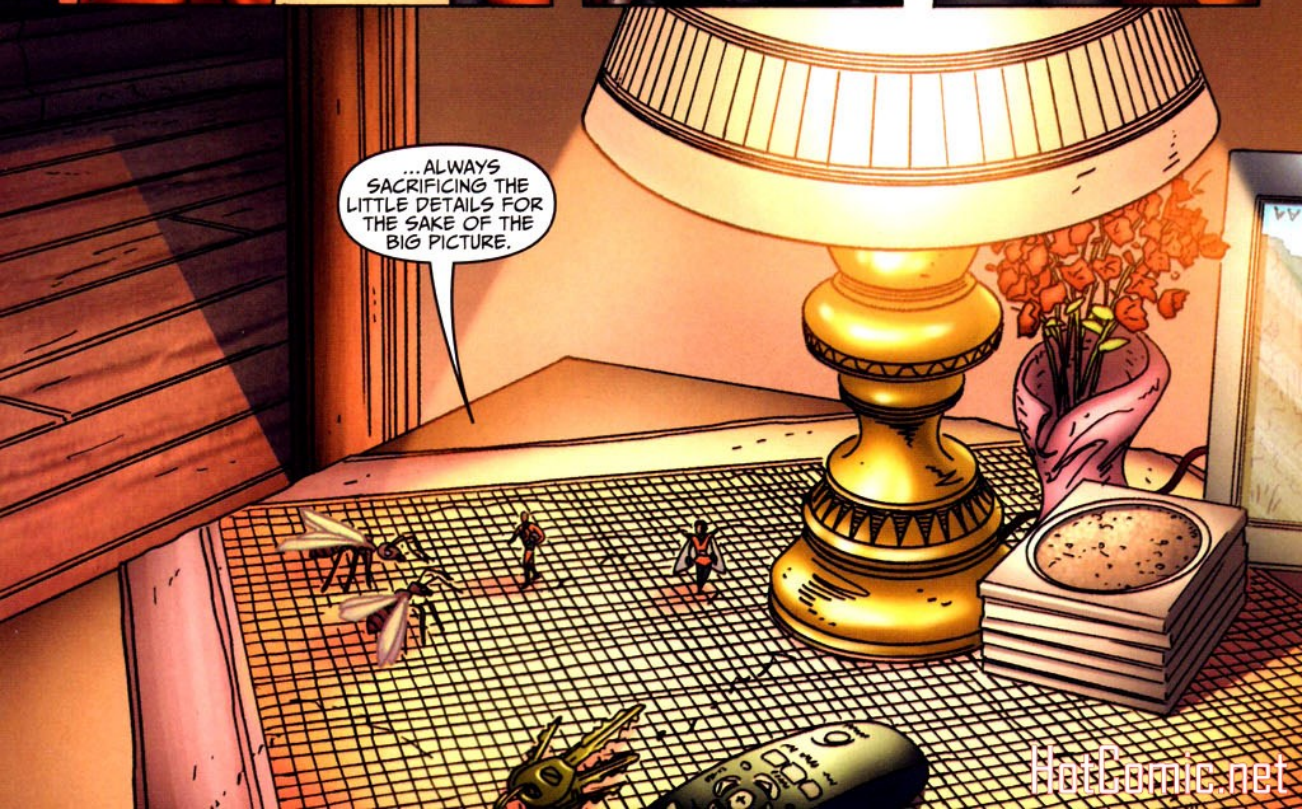


TYPICAL WORKAHOLIC.

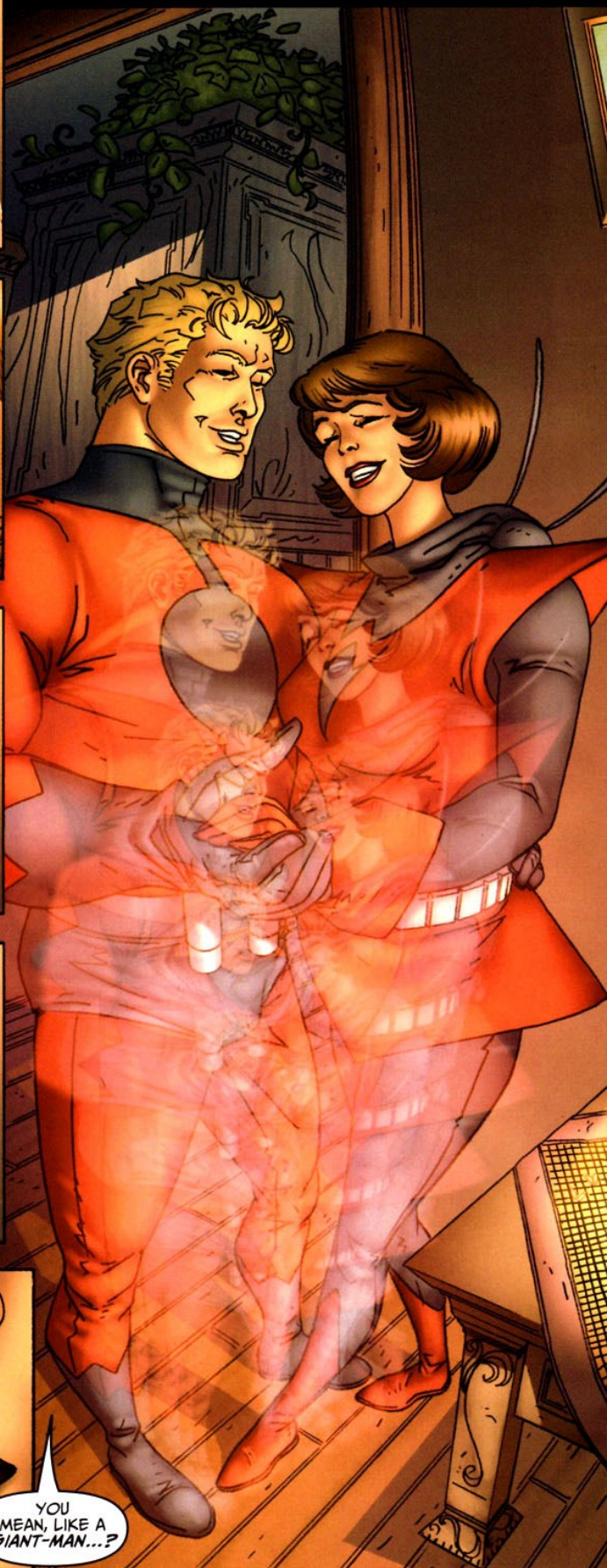
DARN IT, HANK! WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHEN I LOOK THIS AWFUL...!

THAT SKULLCAP WRECKS MY HAIR!

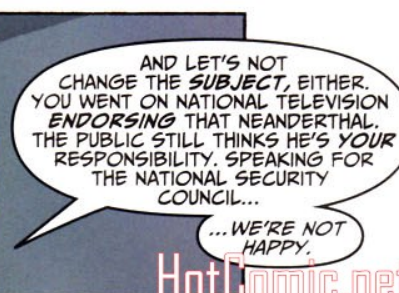
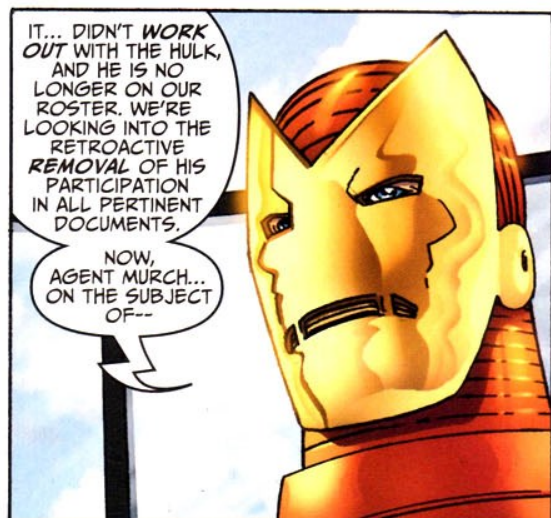
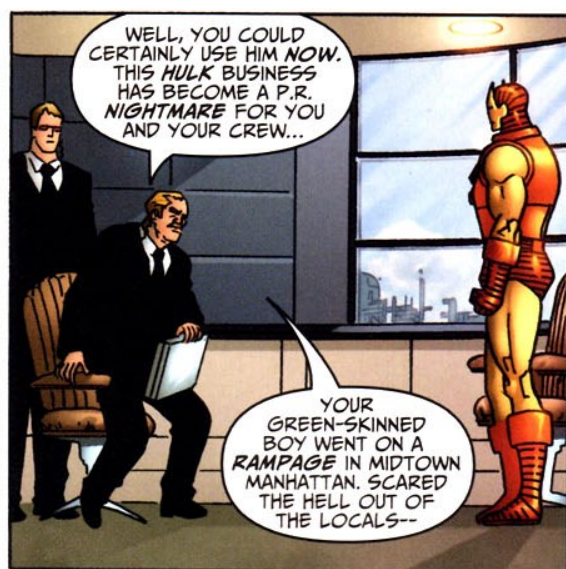
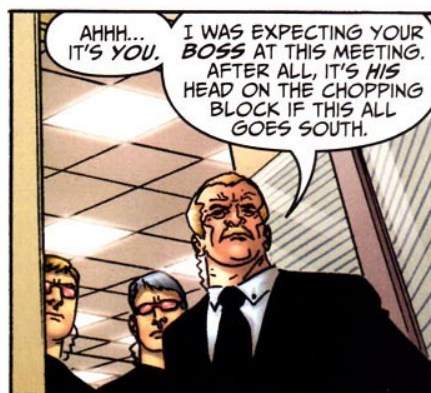
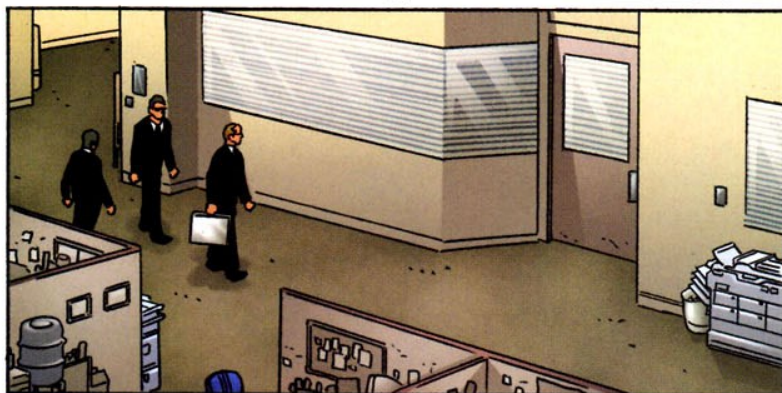
SORRY, JAN. YOU KNOW ME...

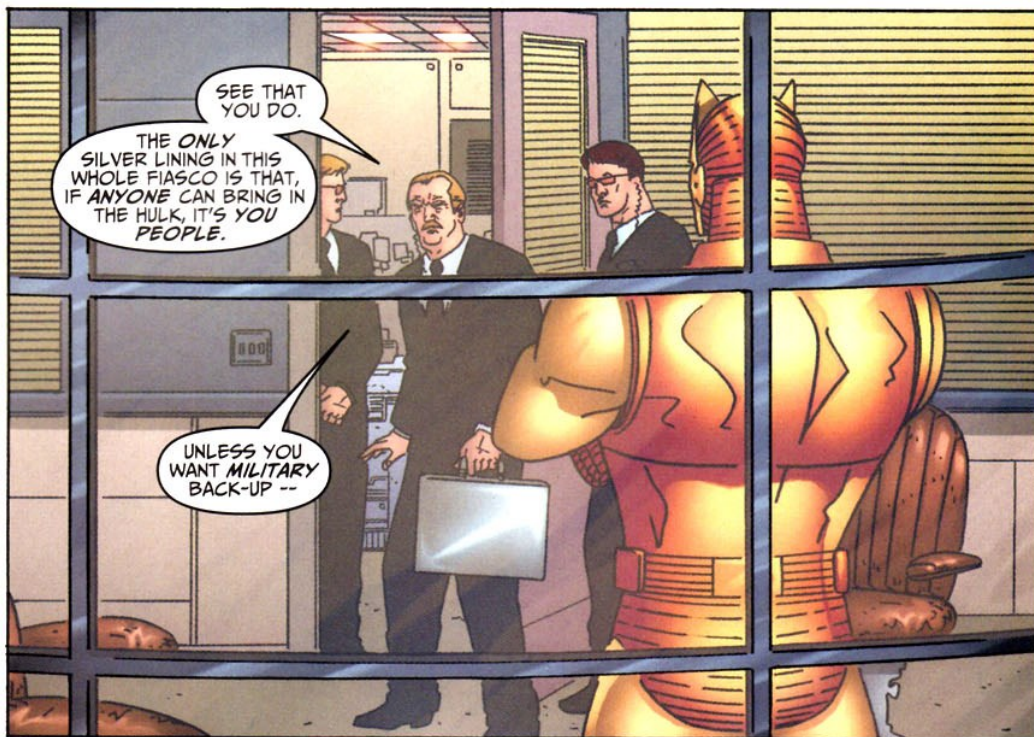


...ALWAYS SACRIFICING THE LITTLE DETAILS FOR THE SAKE OF THE BIG PICTURE.



STARK INDUSTRIES; TWO WEEKS LATER







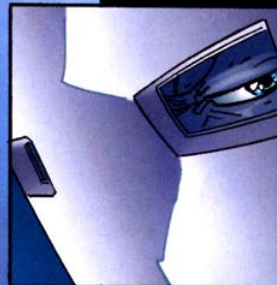


--THE HULK IS NOT A MENACE. HIS RECENT PRESIDENTIAL PARDON MERELY REINFORCES OUR POSITION. HE IS ONE OF US.

WE'RE WILLING TO STAKE OUR BURGEONING REPUTATIONS ON HIS VIRTUES AS A HERO...



FURTHERMORE, LET ME SAY--



HEY THERE...

...WE DID THE BEST WE COULD. HE'S... A SAVAGE... THERE WAS HARDLY A MOMENT TO BREATHE--

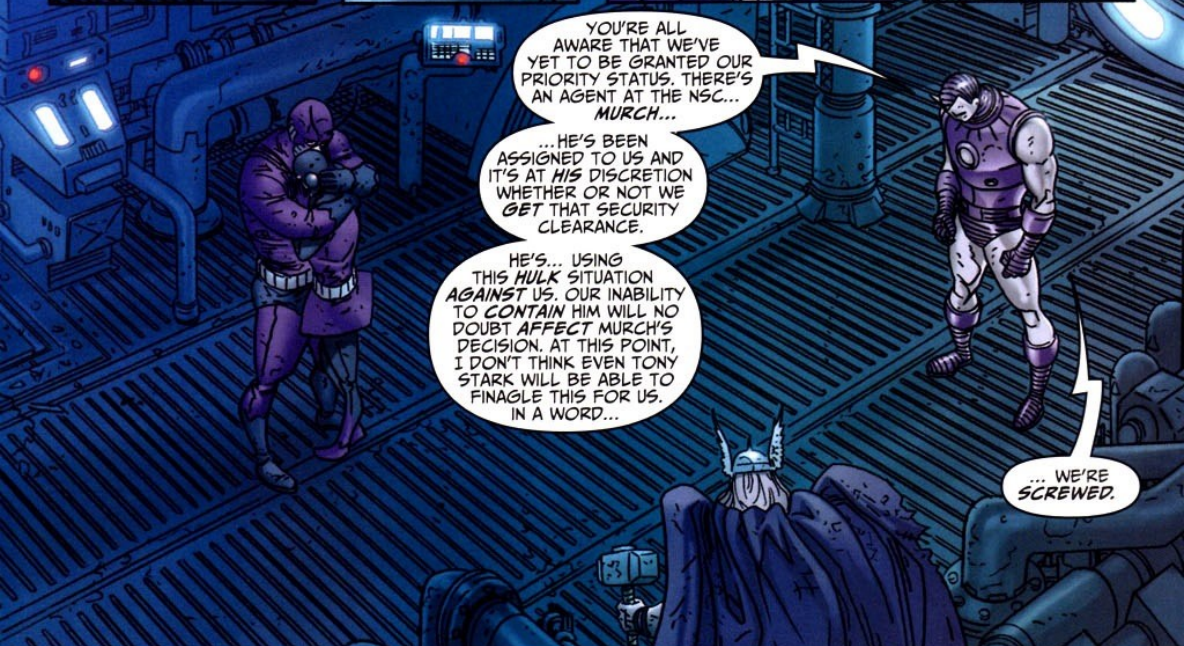
DON'T PATRONIZE ME--!

WHOA--!

I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME --

GIANT-MAN...







THEN...
PERHAPS THIS
ALLIANCE WAS
MADE IN
HASTE...



WHAT?!



YOU DIDN'T JUST SAY
THAT...! DON'T YOU
REALIZE THIS IS TOO
IMPORTANT TO GIVE
UP ON NOW?!

I MEAN, WHAT
KIND OF "GOD"
ARE YOU?!

DO NOT
TEST ME,
WOMAN --



DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT IT,
THOR. SHE'S RIGHT AND
YOU KNOW IT. TRY USING
YOUR HEAD FOR
A MINUTE --

THY TONE IS
INSULTING.

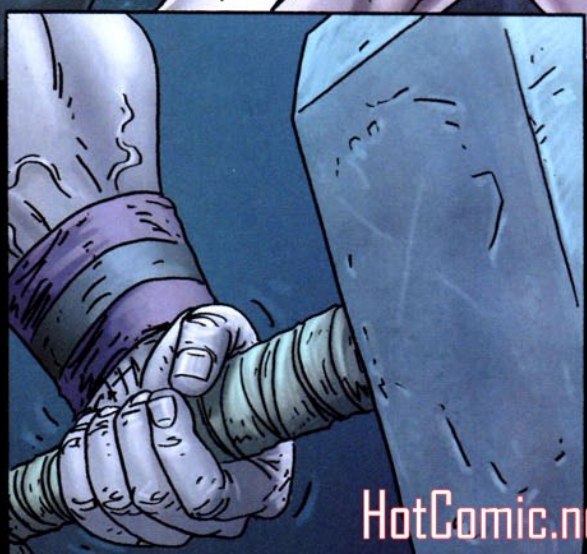
I DO NOT
ALLOW SUCH
DISRESPECT.



IS THAT A FACT?
Y'KNOW, THAT **HAMMER**
DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT
TO LORD YOURSELF OVER
ANYONE IN HERE!



UNLESS YOU
PLAN ON USING
THAT THING ON
ME NOW...





I...
... WILL NOT
FIGHT YOU.



THANK
GOD.

LOOK...
MAYBE I CAN
RIG A GAMMA
TRACER TO GET A
BEAD ON THE
HULK'S MOVEMENTS
BEFORE THE REST
OF YOU HAVE SOME
KIND OF
MELTDOWN--



HEY, JUST BECAUSE
YOU AND YOUR BOSS
ARE LETTING THE NSC
RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER
YOUR BLOATED
EGOS--

BACK OFF,
ANT--I MEAN--
GIANT-MAN!
JUST WHO
THE HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU--



**BREEP!
BREEP!
BREEP!**



THAT ALARM...
THE SONAR
NET...

IS...
SOMETHING OUT
THERE...?

WHAT
THE--?!

PORT SIDE...
AHEAD ONE
HUNDRED
METERS...

IT'S NOT
MARINE LIFE.
SPECTRAL ANALYSIS
IS PICKING UP...



I DON'T
BELIEVE IT.



TO BE CONTINUED

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