



THE AVENGERS

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MCG

THE
GRIM
REAPER!

THE MAN WHO
KILLED
THE AVENGERS!

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!™

"DEATH CALLS FOR THE ARCH-HEROES!"

WITH FELINE SILENCE, THE SHROUD OF NIGHT FALLS OVER THE WAITING CITY... AS A STRANGELY CATLIKE FIGURE SCALES THE SHEER SIDES OF THE AVENGERS MANSION, AND STANDS MOMENTARILY BATHED IN THE IRRIDESCENCE OF A FULL MOON---

NO LIGHT...
NO SIGN OF LIFE...
DO I DETECT
WITHIN THESE GREY
WALLS?

THUS, IT IS BEST
THAT I ENTER
IN STEALTH...

...A STEALTH
SUCH AS NONE
BUT THE PANTHER
CAN ACHIEVE!

Featuring:
PERHAPS
THE MOST MACABRE
MANIFESTATION OF
VILLAINY OF ALL:
**THE GRIM
REAPER!**

AND NOW, HEED THE EXHORTATIONS OF
STAN LEE, EDITOR
ROY THOMAS, WRITER and
JOHN BUSCEMA, ARTIST...
(NOT TO MENTION THOSE OF **VINCE COLLETTA**, INKER, AND **SAM ROSEN**, LETTERER)...

READ...ENJOY...AND REMEMBER...!!

HIS SKILLED FINGERS MANIPULATING A HIDDEN LOCK, THE DARK-CLAD PANTHER OPENS THE DOMED SKY-LIGHT, AND...

LUCKILY, I LEARNED THIS ALTERNATE MANNER OF ENTRANCE FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA--

...AFTER OUR RECENT CLASH WITH THE IMPOSTOR WHO CLAIMED TO BE ZEMO!*

*AS TRIUMPHANTLY CHRONICLED IN THE PREMIERE ISH OF CAP'S OWN MAG!
...STAN THE MAN.

BUT, THERE IS STILL SOME MYSTERY HERE... WHICH MUST BE SWIFTLY SOLVED!

I RADIOED THE AVENGERS OF MY ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK ONLY AN HOUR AGO, AND...

WAIT! THAT ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE SOUND..!

THE NEXT SECOND, ONLY THE WAKANDA CHIEFTAIN'S LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES SAVE HIM FROM INSTANTANEOUS DOOM, AS...

DEADLY LASERS... STRIKING THE VERY SPOT WHERE I STOOD BUT A MOMENT AGO!

ONLY ONE WITH THE SPEED OF THE BOUNCING CHEETAH COULD HAVE EVADED THEM!

IS THIS HOW THE AVENGERS GREET THOSE WHO COME TO JOIN THEM...

...WITH BEAMS DESIGNED TO DESTROY??

BUT, NO! STEVE ROGERS TOLD ME ALL THEIR GUARDIAN DEVICES ARE SET ONLY TO STUN!

STILL, I SHALL LEARN WHO HAS ACTIVATED THEM AGAINST ME--

... AS SOON AS I LEAP OVER THESE RAYS TO FREEDOM!

YET, ALMOST AT ONCE...

THIS IS MADDENING!

I'M STILL IN SOME SORT OF TUNNEL... WRAPPED IN DARKNESS!

STILL, THE FAINTEST GLEAM OF LIGHT IS A SHINING BEACON TO MY EYES!

I SHALL FOLLOW THE TUNNEL... NO MATTER WHERE IT LEADS!

THEN, SUDDENLY, BEFORE A SINGLE STEP
CAN BE TAKEN...

I'M CAUGHT...
BETWEEN TWO
LARGE TUBES!

THAK!

ANOTHER OF THE
AVENGER PRO-
TECTIVE DEVICES...
MENTIONED BY
CAPTAIN
AMERICA...
...WHICH I
FORGOT, IN
MY HASTE!

THIS ONE,
HOWEVER, POSES
NO MENACE...
BUT IS MEANT
MERELY TO
RESTRAIN!

IT ALSO SERVES
AS A SHAFT...
THRU WHICH I CAN
SPEEDILY REACH
THE VERY NERVE
CENTER OF THE
BUILDING!

BY BRACING
MY BACK
AGAINST
ITS SIDES
AS I
MOVE, I
CAN REACH
THE BOTTOM
WITHIN
SECONDS...

...WHERE THE TRANSPARENT
PLEXIGLASS IS AT ITS WEAKEST!

KRAASH!

AND, NO
MATTER
WHAT
LIES
BEYOND...

THE
PANTHER
IS READY!

BUT, EVEN ONE WHO HAS FACED THE RAMPAGING
LION... WHO HAS FOUGHT SATANIC FOES ALONG-
SIDE THE FANTASTIC FOUR... IS UNPREPARED
FOR WHAT NEXT GREETS HIS STARTLED EYES...

WHAT IN THE NAME
OF THE TIMELESS
JUNGLE WHICH
SPAWNED ME..?

IT'S... UN-
BELIEVABLE!!

THE
AVENGERS...
DEAD!!

INSTANTLY, THE AGILE AFRICAN LEAPS TO THE SIDE OF THE NEAREST UNMOVING FORM...

I DARED HOPE I WAS WRONG...

THAT, SOME-
HOW, IN THE GLOOMY DARK-
NESS, MY EYES HAD
DECEIVED ME... MY
JUNGLE-TRAINED
SENSES ERRED!

BUT, THERE IS
NO PULSE...
NO SLIGHTEST
BREATH...!

HOLD!
SOMEONE
JUST
ENTERED
THE ROOM!

WHO...??

A MOMENT LATER, BRILLIANT LIGHT FLOODS THE CHAMBER... BEFORE EVEN THE PANTHER CAN REACT...

SOME SORT OF
WEAPON...
AIMED TOWARDS
ME!

IN MY CONCERN,
I WAS CARELESS!

THAT YOU WERE, MY
MYSTERIOUS MASKED
FRIEND...

AND NOW, NO AMOUNT OF FALSE
ANXIETY WILL PULL THE WOOL
OVER THE EYES OF AN AGENT
OF SHIELD!

YOU'RE HEREBY UNDER
ARREST... FOR THE
MURDER OF THOSE
THREE
AVENGERS!

BUT, I ARRIVED HERE ONLY SECONDS BEFORE
YOU DID... AND DISCOVERED THEM,
JUST AS THEY ARE...

BEFORE YOU GO ON,
IT'S MY DUTY TO
WARN YOU OF YOUR
CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS!

SAVE YOUR
EXCUSES!
JASPER SITWELL
WASN'T BORN
YESTERDAY!

STAND
AGAINST THE
WALL... WHILE
I CONTACT THE
POLICE!

STUNNED INTO MOMENTARY INACTION, THE JUNGLE PRINCE DOES AS HE IS BIDDEN, AND, WITHIN ONE MINUTE...

I'M AFRAID YOU HEARD ME CORRECTLY, INSPECTOR!

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WITNESS THE MURDER!

BUT, I'VE APPREHENDED THE KILLER...A HOODED ASSASSIN WHO CALLS HIMSELF...THE PANTHER!

NO, I NEVER HEARD OF HIM, EITHER!

IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE FEAT TO WREST MY CAPTOR'S GUN FROM HIM...

YET, I SENSE THAT MY BEST RECOURSE IS A WAITING GAME!

HOWEVER, THE PAIR ARE NOT KEPT WAITING FOR LONG...

ALL RIGHT, SONNY, YOU CAN PUT AWAY THAT FANCY POPGUN NOW!

I'D PREFER TO WE'LL TAKE OVER...NOW THAT YOU TURNED OFF THE AVENGERS' GIZMOS TO LET US IN!

BE ADDRESSED AS AGENT SITWELL, INSPECTOR... RATHER THAN SONNY!

THE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND...BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

THAT STORY YOU HANDED OUT ON THE PHONE...WAS IT ON THE LEVEL?

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN!

WHO WOULD HAVE DARED ATTACK THEM...IN THEIR OWN HEADQUARTERS?

BUT, THE THREE UNMOVING FORMS NEARBY SPEAK A MESSAGE TOO GRIM TO BE IGNORED...AND SO...

JUST STAND STILL, MASKED MAN...IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

THE PANTHER SHALL MAKE NO MOVE TO ESCAPE...

NOT UNTIL HE LEARNS THE ANSWER TO THIS MADDENING RIDDLE!

IT'S FORTUNATE I WAS HERE ON AN ERRAND FOR TONY STARK...WHO GAVE ME A SPECIAL KEY TO THE FRONT DOOR!

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THE AVENGERS...MY LONG-TIME IDOLS...BUT NOW--

SHIELD WILL SEE TO IT YOU'RE KEPT UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY, PANTHER...UNTIL YOUR TRIAL!

AND BELIEVE ME, HE'S GONNA NEED ALL THE PROTECTION HE CAN GET...

...WHEN THE CITY FINDS OUT HE'S MURDERED THREE OF THE AVENGERS!

EASY, SAM! WE'RE PLAYIN' THIS BY THE BOOK!

FIRST, I WANT TO SEE WHAT MR. COOL LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT THAT MASK!

YOU HEARD HIM, MISTER... TAKE IT OFF!

OKAY, SO YOUR MUG ISN'T ON ANY **MOST-WANTED** POSTERS I KNOW ABOUT!

YOU GOT ANYTHING TO **BACK UP** YOUR STORY TO SITWELL THAT THE **AVENGERS INVITED** YOU HERE, LAUGHING-BOY?

MY **GIVEN** NAME, INSPECTOR, IS **T'CHALLA**... CHIEF OF ALL THE **WAKANDAS**!

AND I BELIEVE I CAN **PROVE** MY STORY... IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME TO THAT VAULTED **DOOR** OVER THERE!

LEAD THE WAY, T'CHARLIE...

BUT MOVE SLOW, HEAR?

CAPTAIN AMERICA SAID THIS **DOOR** OPENS TO A CERTAIN **COMBINATION**... ONE HE GAVE ME ONLY A **FEW DAYS** AGO...

THE MAIN **MEETING** ROOM IS BEYOND--! BUT THE **COMBINATION** DOESN'T WORK! THE **DOOR** WON'T OPEN!!

WILL **WONDERS** NEVER CEASE? SO NOW **CAP'S** YOUR ALIBI, IS HE?

IT MAY TAKE US **WEEKS** TO TRACK DOWN THAT **GLOBE-HOPPIN'** MASKED MAN!

C'MON! TELL THE REST OF IT TO THE **JUDGE**!

AT THAT MOMENT, A NEW AND TOTALLY **UNEXPECTED** ARRIVAL ENTERS... ONE TO WHOM THE **SHOCKING** SCENE IS PERHAPS MOST **TRAGIC** OF ALL...!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS **NATASHA** IS... BUT SHE HAD AN **AVENGERS' PRIORITY** CARD!

AND NOBODY, BUT **NOBODY**, QUESTIONS ONE OF THOSE!

I CAME BACK FROM MY VACATION... TO FIND... **THIS**...

OH, **HAWKEYE**... MY BELOVED... **THIS** CAN'T BE TRUE! IT **MUSTN'T** BE!

HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED? **HOW?**

I'M AFRAID WE JUST GOT HERE, **LADY**!

TRY ASKIN' THAT GUY OVER THERE...

...THE ONE WITH THE **GLASSES**!

THEN, AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION BY THE YOUNG **SHIELD** AGENT...

NO, I... I NEVER HEARD **HAWKEYE**... OR ANY OF THEM... SPEAK OF ANYONE CALLED... THE **PANTHER**!

DON'T APOLOGIZE, MISS!

I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY...

FORGIVE ME FOR... BEING A **WOMAN**, MR. SITWELL... BUT, **HAWKEYE** AND I HAD A **QUARREL** WHEN I LAST SAW HIM...

AND NOW...

BUT, AT LEAST WE SEEM TO HAVE... YOUR LOVED ONE'S **MURDERER**!

WITHIN MINUTES, THE **PANTHER** IS **WHISKED AWAY** IN A SPEEDING **PATROL** CAR...

IT WAS **MEANT** FOR ME TO BE THOUGHT THE **AVENGERS' KILLER**! OF THAT I'M **CERTAIN**!

TURNED **QUIET** ON US, PAL?

OR JUST THINKIN' UP SOME NEW **ALIBIS**?

MUST THINK THINGS THRU BEFORE I MAKE MY **MOVE**!

BUT, EVEN AS T'CHALLA THINKS, THE WORLD AT LARGE HEARS...AND JUDGES...

...HERE'S A **NEWS FLASH**...RECEIVED BY THIS STATION ONLY MOMENTS AGO...!

THREE OF THE FAMED **AVENGERS**... ARE **DEAD!**

A MYSTERIOUS MASKED FIGURE HAS BEEN **ARRESTED** AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE **PANTHER!**

HE...HE'S **KIDDIN'!** HE'S GOTTA BE!

ELSEWHERE, IN A DARKENED ALLEYWAY, A STAR-SPANGLED SENTINEL HEARS THE INCREDIBLE NEWS ON A **CAR RADIO**...

HANK...JAN...HAWKEYE... ALL KILLED IN ONE FELL SWOOP?

AND THE **PANTHER**... AN ACCUSED **ASSASSIN**?

I JUST RETURNED FROM BATTLING THE **SLEEPER**... INTENDED TO VISIT THEM... WHEN I STOPPED TO BATTLE THESE **PETTY THUGS!**

AND NOW, THEY'RE **DEAD!** ...AND MY NEW-FOUND FRIEND BELIEVED **GUILTY?!**

YET, IT IS SOON OBVIOUS TO STARTLED VIEWERS EVERYWHERE THAT THIS IS **NO HOAX**...

...I **REPEAT**: THE AVENGERS KNOWN AS **HAWKEYE, GOLIATH,** AND THE **WASP** ARE **DEAD**... APPARENTLY **MURDERED**...

IT ISN'T **POSSIBLE!** I SAW THEM ONLY **DAYS AGO**... HELPED HANK PYM REGAIN HIS **GROWING POWERS!**

MUST FINISH THESE DELICATE ADJUSTMENTS ON MY **TEST-ROBOT** RIGHT AWAY...

...SO I CAN INVESTIGATE... AS **IRON MAN!**

WITHIN THE HOUR, A **SPECIAL EDITION** STOPS EVEN THE NOBLE **GOD OF THUNDER**...

THEIRS WERE THE SPIRITS THAT KEPT THE NAME OF THE AVENGERS **ALIVE**...

...TILL THEY THEMSELVES WERE... **NO MORE!**

EXTRA DAILY
3 AVENGERS MURDERED!

WOULD THAT THIS DREAD NIGHT HAD NE'ER **FALLEN!**

HOWEVER, SOMEWHERE IN THE STUNNED CITY, ONE VOICE THERE IS WHICH IS RAISED IN EXULTANT **TRIUMPH**...

MY PLAN **SUCCEEDED**... TO THE FINAL **DETAIL!**

THAT WHICH HAS BEEN **DULY SOWN**, SHALL NOW BE **HARVESTED**, BY THE MAN WHO **KILLED** THE TRIO OF **AVENGERS**...

I... THE **GRIM REAPER!!**

FOR THE PRESENT, IT SUITS MY SCHEME THAT THE LUCKLESS **PANTHER** BE THOUGHT THE MURDERER... FOR, THOSE THREE DEATHS ARE ONLY THE **FIRST** I SHALL ACCOMPLISH!

AND, THE SUPREME **IRONY** OF ALL IS THAT THE **TRUE** MURDERERS SHALL BE... THE **AUTHORITIES** THEMSELVES...

...IN A WAY THAT THEY CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE!!

THEN, AS A STARTLED NATION **GRIEVES**... AND AS THE PREVIOUS PANEL'S ENIGMATIC WORDS YET RING IN OUR EARS... THE VENEMOUS **GRIM REAPER** LETS HIS THOUGHTS STRAY BACK A MERE **HOUR** IN TIME...

THERE IS THE HATED BUILDING WHICH I SEEK... DIRECTLY BELOW!

MY ATTACK MUST BE **SUDDEN... SWIFT... TOTALLY UNEXPECTED!**

AND, IT MUST BEGIN... **NOW!**

IN HIS MIND'S EYE, HE SEES A HEAVILY REINFORCED **HALL** LOOM BEFORE HIS JET-EQUIPPED PLATFORM... RELIVES AGAIN THE MOMENT WHEN HE LIFTED HIS WEIRD, OMINOUS **SCYTHE**, AND...



WHAT IN THE NAME OF...??

SOMEBODY... JUST BLASTED A KING-SIZE HOLE... IN OUR WALL!

BUT...WE'RE SEVERAL STORIES HIGH...!

THE ELEMENT OF **SURPRISE**, FOOLS...MY **SECOND** MOST POTENT WEAPON!

THE **OTHER** YOU SHALL LEARN IN A MOMENT...

...WHEN THE **GRIM REAPER** WREAKS HIS AWESOME **VENGEANCE!**

VENGEANCE? YOU MUST BE SOME KIND'A FULL-TIME **PSYCHO!**

NONE OF US EVER LAID EYES ON YOU BEFORE!

GOTTA STALL 'IM FOR A FEW SECONDS!

HANK AND JAN WERE HIT HARDER BY THE EXPLOSION THAN I WAS...AND NEED A CHANCE TO RECOVER!



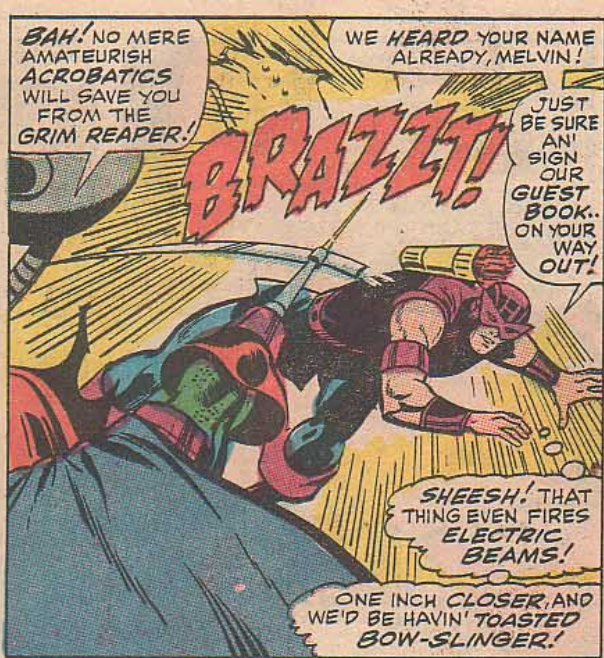
YOU ARE NOTHING TO ME, ARCHER! IT IS THE OTHER TWO I WANT!

THEREFORE, I SHALL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY QUICKLY...WITH ONE BOLD STROKE!!

AND, HE ALMOST DID!

WHRAAK!

THIS GUY KNOWS HOW TO SWING THAT SCYTHE!



BAH! NO MERE AMATEURISH ACROBATICS WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE GRIM REAPER!

WE HEARD YOUR NAME ALREADY, MELVIN!

BRAZZT!

JUST BE SURE AN' SIGN OUR GUEST BOOK.. ON YOUR WAY OUT!

SHEESH! THAT THING EVEN FIRES ELECTRIC BEAMS!

ONE INCH CLOSER, AND WE'D BE HAVIN' TOASTED BOW-SLINGER!



YOU'VE DONE YOUR BIT, HAWKEYE!

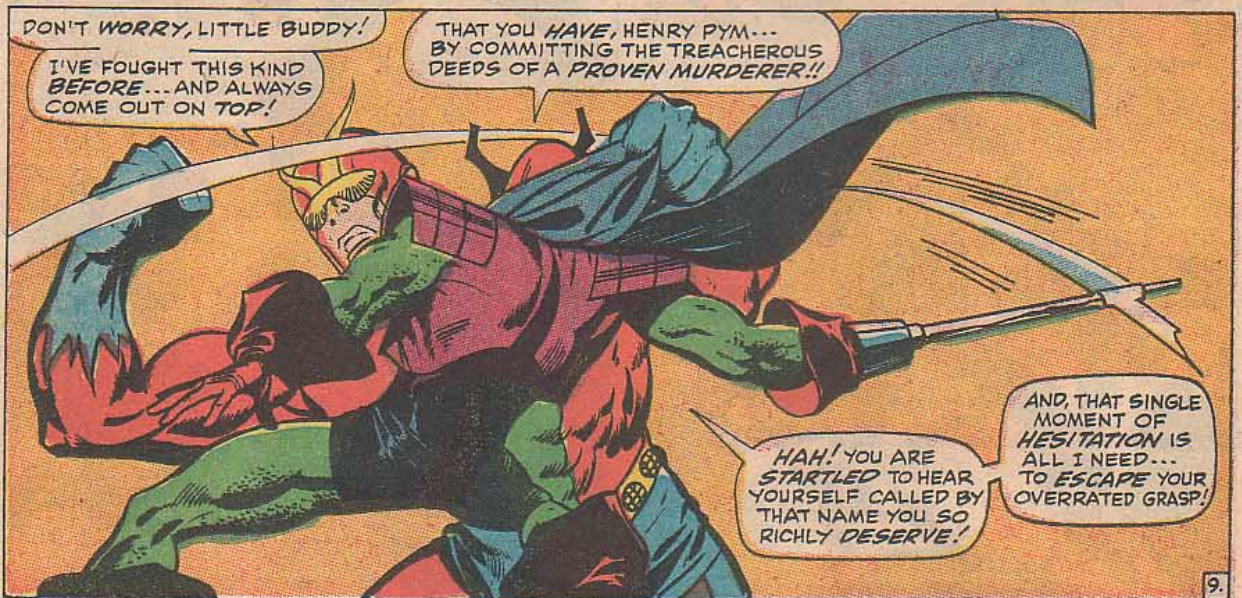
NOW, LET OL' HIGH-POCKETS HAVE A WHIRL!

GOLIATH!!

WATCH OUT FOR THAT FIG-STICKER OF HIS, MAN-MOUNTAIN!

I'M BETTIN' IT'S GOT MORE GIZMOS THAN I'VE GOT ARROWS!

YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS?



DON'T WORRY, LITTLE BUDDY!

I'VE FOUGHT THIS KIND BEFORE...AND ALWAYS COME OUT ON TOP!

THAT YOU *HAVE*, HENRY PYM... BY COMMITTING THE TREACHEROUS DEEDS OF A *PROVEN MURDERER*!!

HAH! YOU ARE STARTLED TO HEAR YOURSELF CALLED BY THAT NAME YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE!

AND, THAT SINGLE MOMENT OF HESITATION IS ALL I NEED... TO ESCAPE YOUR OVERRATED GRASP!

YOU SEE, GOLIATH? THE GRIM REAPER IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD!

WHO WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A MERE SCYTHE TO SPIN SO SWIFTLY THAT IT MOMENTARILY BECOMES A PROPELLOR?

WHIRRRR!

...A PROPELLOR WHICH SLASHES THRU THE VERY CEILING OVER-HEAD... GIVING ME ROOM TO FIRE AT YOU!

THAT GADGET WON'T HOLD YOU ALOFT FOR LONG, FELLA...

AND WHEN YOU COME DOWN...

WHEN HE COMES DOWN, IT'S HAWKEYE'S TURN AT BAT AGAIN, TALL-SOCKS!

WH...?? IT'S STILL SPINNIN' SO FAST, MY ARROWS CAN'T GET THRU!

KAK KAKKA KAK

DO YOU THINK I WOULD DARE BEARD YOU IN YOUR VERY LAIR, CLOWN...

...IF I HAD NOT SPENT LONG MONTHS IN PREPARATION... TO ASSURE MY REVENGE OF SUCCESS?

REVENGE? REVENGE ON WHO, YOU MADMAN... AND FOR WHAT?

SPARE ME YOUR PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE, ALL OF YOU!

HIS ARMOR PROTECTS HIM FROM MY WASP'S STINGS... BUT MAYBE I CAN DISTRACT HIM...

I HAVE ALREADY TRIED YOU... FOUND YOU GUILTY!

ALL THAT REMAINS... IS YOUR EXECUTION!

THWAK!

DUCK, PARTNER!

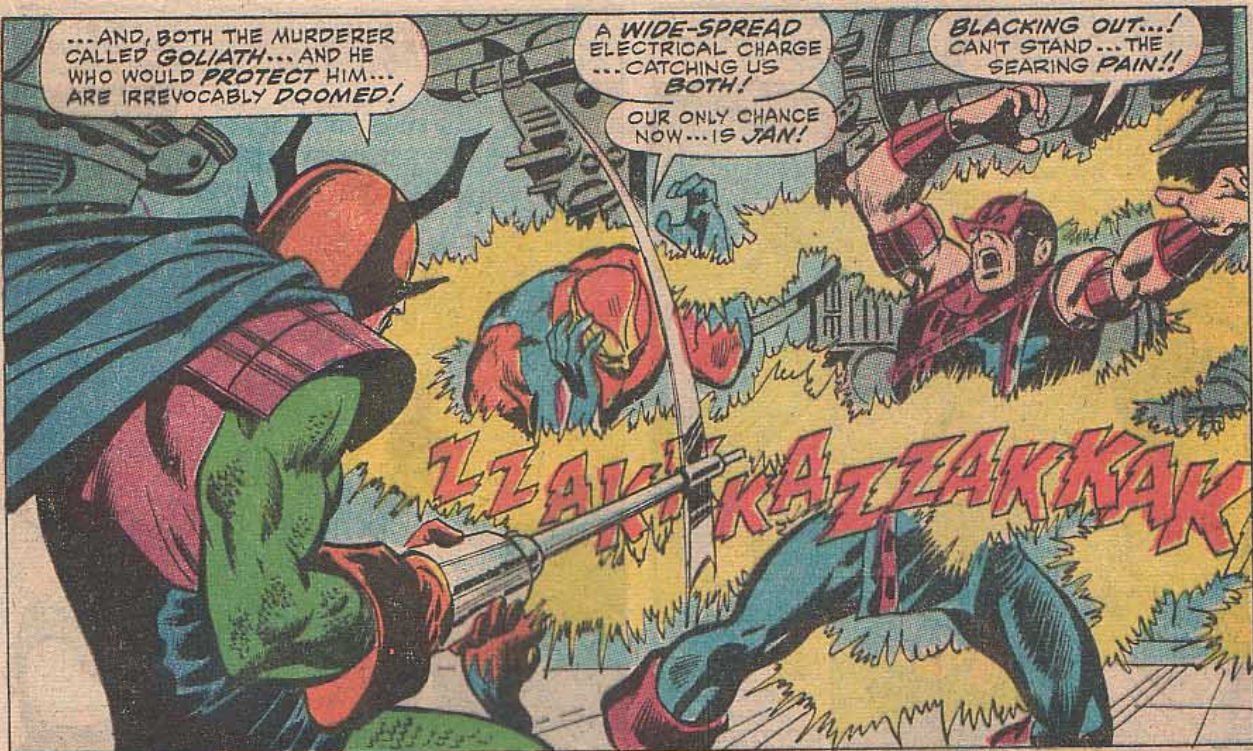
I HEAR YA TALKIN'!

NOW, LET'S TAKE THAT NUT... TOGETHER!

SUPPENSE, A HOARSE, ALMOST MANIACAL LAUGH FILLS THE COMPUTER-STUPID CHAMBER...

TOGETHER? THAT'S JUST HOW I WANTED YOU, FOOLS!

NOW, A MERE TOUCH OF THIS STU ON MY DEATH-DEALING SCYTHE, AND...



...AND, BOTH THE MURDERER CALLED GOLIATH... AND HE WHO WOULD PROTECT HIM... ARE IRREVOCABLY DOOMED!

A WIDE-SPREAD ELECTRICAL CHARGE... CATCHING US BOTH!

BLACKING OUT...! CAN'T STAND... THE SEARING PAIN!!

OUR ONLY CHANCE NOW... IS JAN!



BUT, THE LOVELY AVENGING HEIRESS IS NOT SPARED THE FATE OF HER CLOSEST COMRADES...

HANK AND HAWKEYE... DIDN'T KNOW I WAS FLYING JUST ABOVE THEM!

THAT CHARGE OVERCAME... MY MENTAL SIZE-CONTROL! I'M... GROWING LARGER AGAIN...!

ZZIKK!



THEN, AS THE LAST OF THE TRIO SLUMPS INTO UN-CONSCIOUSNESS...

YOU CANNOT HEAR ME... ANY OF YOU...

YET, I AM THE ONE Foe YOU HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST!

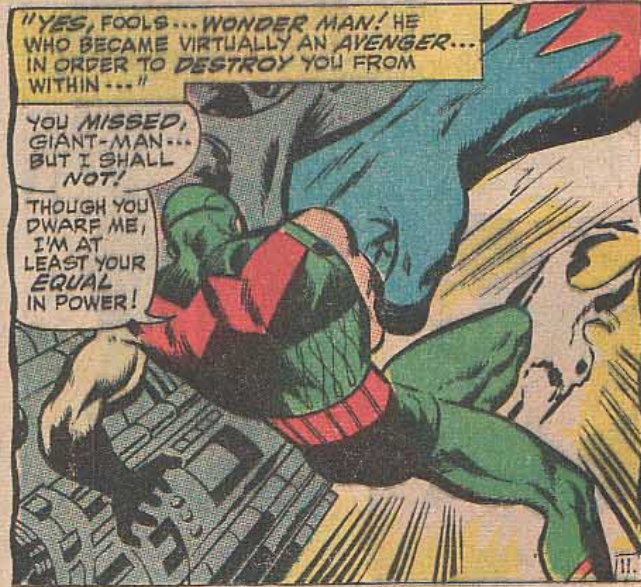
FOR, I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF DEATH... AND I STRUCK IN THE NAME OF JUST VENGEANCE!



"IF YOU COULD HEAR ME, I WOULD ASK YOU TO REMEMBER ONE CALLED... WONDER MAN...!"

GET HIM! HE'S AN AGENT OF ZEMO!

*OUR ONCE-IN-A LIFETIME HERO-VILLAIN FROM ISH #9!
... SMILEY.



"YES, FOOLS... WONDER MAN! HE WHO BECAME VIRTUALLY AN AVENGER... IN ORDER TO DESTROY YOU FROM WITHIN..."

YOU MISSED, GIANT-MAN... BUT I SHALL NOT!

THOUGH YOU DWARF ME, I'M AT LEAST YOUR EQUAL IN POWER!

"IN EVERY WAY, HE PROVED **MIGHTIER** THAN THE ONES WHO OPPOSED HIM! YET, BY SOME TRICKERY, HE WAS **DEFEATED... POISONED!**"

"AND THOSE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES **AVENGERS** STOOD BY AND WATCHED HIM **DIE... AND DID NOTHING TO SAVE HIM...**"

"THIS I KNOW, FOR **SIMON WILLIAMS... WONDER MAN... WAS MY BROTHER!**"

HOWEVER, WE'LL HAVE TO LET THE TANGLED SKEIN OF FATE REMAIN TWISTED A BIT LONGER... AS, RETURNING TO THE **PRESENT--**

IF HE'S REALLY AN **AFRICAN PRINCE** LIKE HE SAYS, WE CAN'T **BOOK HIM!**

THIS'D BE A **JOB FOR THE U.N.!**

SURE... BUT WE'VE GOT JUST HIS **WORD** ON THAT!

I CAN'T FIND THIS **WAKANDA** PLACE ON ANY **MAP!**

NOR SHALL HE... FOR ITS **LOCATION IS SECRET!**

BUT, I'VE ACCOMPLISHED MY **PURPOSE** IN ALLOWING MYSELF TO BE BROUGHT HERE...

THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL THE **VENEMOUS RANCOR** IN HIS SOUL POURED OUT, THE **GRIM REAPER** GESTURES ONCE MORE WITH HIS MYSTERIOUS **SCYTHE**, AND...

THAT WHICH MY WEAPON HAS DONE, IT CAN **UNDO!**

ITS **ELECTRICAL POWER** SHALL NOW **RESTORE** THIS CHAMBER!

FOR, I HAVE **PLANS** IN MIND... PLANS THAT SHALL DESTROY THE **OTHERS** WHO LET MY BROTHER **DIE...**!

AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR THE **PANTHER** TO PROWL THE CITY ONCE MORE...

...TO LEARN IF THE **GNAWING SUSPICION** WHICH FILLS MY MIND... IS THE **SENSES-STAGGERING TRUTH!**

KRAASH!

HE'S MAKING A **BREAK** FOR IT!

AND HE MOVES LIKE **GREASED LIGHTNING!**

WITHIN MOMENTS, A GASPING, GAPING CROWD HAS FORMED ON THE STREETS OUTSIDE THE STATION... CREATING A SECOND HAZARD FOR THE POLICE...

THE GUY WE HEARD ABOUT ON TV--HE'S GETTING AWAY!

WHILE HE'S ON THE LOOSE, NOBODY'S SAFE!

IF ONLY THAT SHIELD AGENT HADN'T CUT OUT SO SOON... WAIT!!

THERE'S THE PANTHER... ON THAT LEDGE!

I HAD HOPED TO ELUDE THEM... BY SCALING THIS ALMOST SHEER WALL!

BUT NOW...

KTAHK

YOU'RE TRAPPED, PANTHER... SO SURRENDER!

THIS IS THE ONLY WARNING BURST YOU'RE GETTING!

PTHKK

BRAKKA

THE POLICE HAVE HIM CORNERED! HE'S GOTTA GIVE UP, OR... LOOK!!

HE... HE'S JUMPING... TOWARDS THE NEXT BUILDING!

HE LEAPS LIKE SOME JUNGLE BEAST... LIKE A REAL PANTHER!

BUT, IT'S TOO FAR! NOTHING THAT LIVES COULD JUMP THAT DISTANCE--!

FOR A FLEETING ETERNITY, THE HORRIFIED SPECTATORS AND POLICE BELOW HOLD THEIR BREATH... WHILE, HIGH ABOVE, TAUT MUSCLES STRAIN, ACHINGLY...

AND THEN...

HE MADE IT!!

THERE ARE A DOZEN EXITS FROM THAT BUILDING! WE'LL NEVER COVER THEM ALL IN TIME!

THE MAN WHO MURDERED THE AVENGERS... HAS **ESCAPED!!**

BUT, MINUTES LATER, AS A JUNGLE JUGGERNAUT RACES THRU THE BACK ALLEYS OF NEW YORK...



THE CROWDS ARE **WRONG!** THE AVENGERS' KILLER **HASN'T** ESCAPED!

NOR SHALL HE.. WHILE THE **PANTHER** IS FREE TO STALK HIM!

AND, I BELIEVE I KNOW JUST WHERE HE IS!

--BEHIND THE VAULTED DOOR THAT WOULD NOT OPEN--

--IN AVENGERS HQ ITSELF!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING CITY...



SOON... **VERY SOON...** THE OTHERS WHOM I SEEK WILL COME TO ME... AND I SHALL BE **WAITING...**

HERE, IN THE **AVENGERS'** OWN SECRET-STUDD MANSION!

THOR... **IRON MAN... CAPTAIN AMERICA...** ALL MUST FALL BEFORE MY **DEATH-DISPENSING SCYTHE!**

ONLY THEN CAN THE SOUL OF MY BROTHER, **WONDER MAN**, REST IN PEACE!



SO THAT'S YOUR MOTIVE... AN **IN-SANE REVENGE!**

AND, TO CARRY IT OUT, YOU'VE DEVISED A WEAPON WHICH CHILLS THE VERY **SOUL!**

BUT, I FOUND ANOTHER **ENTRANCE** HERE--ONE SUCH AS ONLY I COULD USE!

THE **PANTHER!!**



YES, ASSASSIN... THE **PANTHER**, HE WHOM YOU WISHED TO **DIE** FOR YOUR UNSPEAKABLE CRIME!

BUT NOW, WHO-EVER YOU MAY BE, YOU'LL **PAY** FOR YOUR OWN DEEDS!

FLIT!

FOOL! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

I AM THE **GRIM REAPER...** MINE IS THE **SACRED SCYTHE OF JUSTICE..!**

JUSTICE, MY FRIEND?

PERHAPS...
THE CRAZED
JUSTICE OF A
MADMAN!

UNNNHHH!

DON'T... STRIKE
ME... PLEASE!

I DID
ONLY...
WHAT I
HAD TO
DO...!

THEN, RISE... AND I'LL
TURN YOU OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES FOR
TREATMENT!

I HAVE NO
DESIRE TO DO
BATTLE WITH
A TWISTED
MIND...!

BUT, A SINGLE
HEARTBEAT
LATER...

THIS, THEN, IS THE
WORTH OF A PLEDGE
IN THE PLACE WHICH
MEN CALL
CIVILIZED!

A TREACHEROUS
BLOW... THAT
FEW COULD
HAVE
AVOIDED!

DID YOU
TRULY THINK
TO HUMBLE
ME, DOLT...

I, WHOSE
SCYTHE HOLDS
THE POWER TO
SLAY A THOUSAND
COSTUMED CLOWNS?

AS LONG AS HE HOLDS THAT SHARP-
BLADED WEAPON, THE ADVANTAGE IS
HIS!

MUST TAUNT
HIM... CAUSE HIM
TO ACT EVER MORE
RECKLESSLY!

YOU SPOKE
OF AVENGING
YOUR BROTHER'S
DEATH, REAPER!

YET, THE
OFFICIAL REPORT
SAID HE WAS
KILLED BY
ZEMO...

SLASH!

...AND
THAT HE DIED
SAVING THE
AVENGERS!

IT WORKED! IN HIS RAGE, HE SWINGS WILDLY!

RRRIIP!

YOU LIE, ARROGANT ONE! IT'S THE AVENGERS WHO ARE THE MURDERERS!

WHAT...?? YOU LEAP TOWARDS ME... WHEN YOU MIGHT HAVE FLED!

TRULY, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS MAD... NOT I!

THOUGHT I SAW AN OPENING... A CHANCE TO REACH HIM!

BUT... HE WAS FASTER... THAN I THOUGHT...!

BRAK!

YOU ARE A WORTHIER FOE THAN I HAD IMAGINED... ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE MADE A DANGEROUS AVENGER!

INSTEAD, YOU SHALL DIE... AT MY LEISURE!

AARRHH! MY SHOULDER...!

YOU ARE INDEED A FOOL, PANTHER!

I INTERCEPTED YOUR EARLIER MESSAGE TO THE AVENGERS... AND SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOU APPEAR THEIR KILLER!

YET, YOU YOURSELF COULD HAVE ESCAPED, INSTEAD OF COMING HERE...

...HERE, WHERE YOU SHALL PRECEDE THEM ALL IN DEATH!

ALL? YOU SPEAK AS IF THE AVENGERS... ARE ALIVE!

BUT, YOU KILLED THEM! I SAW THEM...!

YOU SAW, DOLT, WHAT I WANTED YOU...
AND THE POLICE...TO SEE...

THREE SEEMINGLY
LIFELESS FORMS...
YET EACH ACTUALLY
LIVING, HIS VITAL
PROCESSES MERELY
SLOWED TO A
VIRTUAL STAND-
STILL!

THE ACTUAL
PHYSICAL
TOUCH
OF MY
SCYTHE DID
THE DEED...
AND ONLY MY
BLADE CAN
UNDO IT!

BUT, SOON, A
PERIOD OF THREE
HOURS SHALL HAVE ELAPSED
... AND IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO REVERSE ITS EFFECTS!

THEN, THE AVENGERS ARE ALIVE... ALIVE!!

MUST OBTAIN THAT SCYTHE...
SAVE THEM BEFORE THEY'RE
BEYOND HELP!

THE PAIN IN
MY SHOULDER
...IS ALMOST
UNBEARABLE!
BUT, MUST STRIKE
...NOW!

NO! IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

THE STUN-RAY
SHOULD HAVE
WEAKENED
YOU... INTO
ABJECT HELP-
LESSNESS!

NOT QUITE, EVIL ONE... THANKS TO
THE SECRET JUNGLE HERBS... FROM
WHICH MY PANTHER POWERS ARE
DERIVED!

AND N... LOOK OUT!
YOU ARE FALLING...
ON THE BLADE OF
YOUR OWN WEAPON...!

NO...
NO...!
UNNNHH!

FOR A MOMENT, THE WOUNDED
CHIEFTAIN STANDS GAZING
DOWN AT THE WRITHING, PAIN-
WRACKED GRIM REAPER...
AND THEN...

I'LL RETURN
TO HELP HIM...
IF I POSSIBLY
CAN!

BUT, MY FIRST
LOYALTY IS
TO THOSE
HE WOULD
HAVE SEEN
DESTROYED!

MUST HURRY...
TO THE PLACE
WHERE THE
AVENGERS
HAVE BEEN
TAKEN!

AND, IN AN INCREDIBLY SHORT SPAN OF TIME...

THE BODIES WERE
SENT TO THIS
HOSPITAL...

...AS IF SOMEONE
SENSED THE
UNCANNY NATURE
OF THEIR SUPPOSED
DEATHS!

STILL, NO
ONE WOULD
ACCEPT MY
STORY...THE
TALE OF AN
ACCUSED
MURDERER...

THUS, THE PANTHER
MUST ACT OUT THIS
LIFE-AND-DEATH
DRAMA...ALONE!

IF ONLY THE
THREE AVENGERS
ARE TRULY ON THE
TOP FLOOR...
AS THE RADIO
REPORTS SAID...

SMAASH!

CHARLIE... LOOK! THAT PANTHER GUY... HERE
JUST LIKE THEY SAID HE MIGHT BE!

BUT, HE'S MOVIN' TOO
FAST FOR ME TO
GET A BEAD ON HIM
WITH THIS SPECIAL
RIFLE!

MAYBE
SO... BUT
HE'S HEADIN'
STRAIGHT
FOR THE
AVENGERS!

AND, THERE'S
NO WAY OUTTA
THAT ROOM...
SO WE GOT 'IM!

THERE THEY ARE...
BEHIND THIS THICK
DOOR, AS I
SUSPECTED!

BUT, THEY LIE SO STILL...
THEIR FACES LIKE DREAD
MASKS OF DEATH!

DID MY
MANIACAL
FOE MERELY
TAUNT ME
WHEN HE SAID
THEY LIVED?

KRAK!



QUICKLY, THE PANTHER PROVIDES THE BRIEFEST OF EXPLANATIONS...AND, SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

THE GRIM REAPER...GONE! THEN, HE WASN'T DYING, AFTER ALL!

HE MERELY SENSED DEFEAT... AND FAKED A MORTAL WOUND TO AVOID CAPTURE!

IF I EVER GET MY MITTS ON THAT SICKLE-SWINGIN' CREEP...

NO NEED TO DRAW US A PICTURE, PARTNER!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU'LL GET ANOTHER CRACK AT HIM...BEFORE LONG!

BUT SOON, EVEN SUCH THOUGHTS OF RETRIBUTION ARE TEMPORARILY SHELVED...AS AN HISTORIC EVENT TAKES PLACE...

...AND SO, WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT...AND CAPTAIN AMERICA...VOTING AYE, I DECLARE THE DECISION UNANIMOUS!

T'CHALLA, SON OF T'CHAKA... WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS!

CAP RADIOED US ALL ABOUT YOU, T'CHALLA!

NOW WE'RE BACK TO FIGHTING STRENGTH AGAIN!

I SHALL ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE WORTHY OF HIM WHOM I REPLACE, JANET VAN DYNE!

YET, WHAT OF THE OTHERS OF WHOM I HAVE HEARD...HERCULES... QUICKSILVER...THE SCARLET WITCH?

THE SON OF ZEUS HAS RETURNED TO TIMELESS OLYMPUS...JUST AS THOR, IRON MAN, AND CAP RESIGNED TO PURSUE THEIR OWN PRIVATE DESTINIES!

ALL THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AVENGERS ARE ENSHRINED IN GLORY...UNMATCHED IN THE ANNALS OF ADVENTURE!

TO FIND THEM...TO LEARN IF THEY ARE NOW FRIEND OR FOE...THAT IS THE TASK WE MUST NOW SET OURSELVES!

THEN, LET THE WORD GO FORTH...THAT TODAY, YOU HAVE GAINED A NEW ALLY...

ONE WHO HAS GIVEN UP A THRONE, THAT HE MAY BETTER SERVE A GREATER KINGDOM...THE WHOLE OF MANKIND ITSELF!

FOR, NOW THE PANTHER IS TRULY AN AVENGER!!

PERHAPS THE MOST TOTALLY UNEXPECTED FOES OF ALL... THE EXTRAORDINARY

X-MEN!

NEXT ISH!

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