



# EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

**MARVEL**  
PSR 8 of 8

CASEY  
KOLINS  
QUINTANA



# STAN LEE PRESENTS:



WANDA...  
PIETRO...  
WELCOME BACK  
TO AMERICA.  
THE  
FLIGHT OVER  
WAS SMOOTH  
ENOUGH...?



LET ME INTRODUCE  
YOU TO MY ASSISTANT,  
PEPPER POTTS. AND THIS  
IS MY RIGHT-HAND MAN,  
HAROLD HOGAN. WE  
CALL HIM HAPPY.

SO,  
SHALL  
WE...?



I SHOULD WARN YOU...YOUR ARRIVAL ISN'T  
EXACTLY A *SECRET*. WE SIMPLY COULDN'T  
IGNORE THE P.R. OPPORTUNITY--

I'M NOT SURE  
WHAT YOU MEAN,  
STARK. WHO IN THEIR  
RIGHT MIND WOULD  
BE INTERESTED IN--



--US...?

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**SIX HOURS LATER**

SIR? MADAM? IT'S EDWIN JARVIS. I'VE BROUGHT COFFEE.

MAY I ENTER...?

OH...! MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES...!  
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE STILL...  
WELL, THAT IS...  
THAT YOU...

IT'S FINE, MISTER JARVIS...

WE FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO CHANGE INTO OUR UNIFORMS. IF THIS IS TO BE A FORMAL MEETING...

AHHH... BETTER IF THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES ADDRESS YOUR QUESTIONS.

CREAM AND SUGAR, SIR...?

DID THEY SEND YOU IN TO CHECK UP ON US? ARE THEY... UNNERVED BY OUR PRESENCE IN THEIR HOUSE...?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE ARE THE OTHER AVENGERS? THOR... CAPTAIN AMERICA...

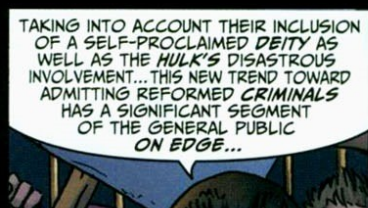
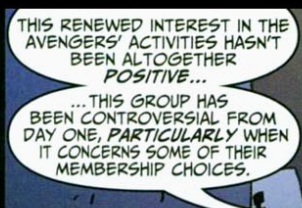
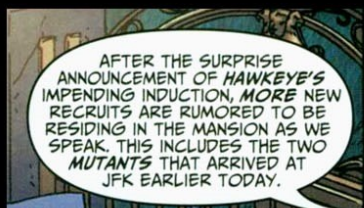
REST ASSURED, YOUNG MAN... THIS IS YOUR HOUSE NOW. AND THE DISTRUST YOU'VE UNDOUBTEDLY EXPERIENCED IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

... DOES NOT EXIST WITHIN THESE WALLS.













WHAT'S...?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT--





--LOOK WHO MADE IT TO THE PARTY!

WELL, CAPTAIN AMERICA...! HOW IS IT THAT YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO SHOW UP AT THE EXACT MOMENT WE NEED YOU THE MOST...?

WHOA...!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO--?

WELCOME BACK, CAP...

...I GUESS WE NEED TO TALK.



# OFFICIAL HARTER

BE IT KNOWN...

at we, the Avengers, ha  
ided together to protect a  
eguard the Planet Earth,  
abitants and resources, fr  
y and all threats -- terrestr  
otherwise -- which are or mi  
ve to be beyond the power  
ventional forces to handle.

at we shall brook no interfere  
the growth of mankind in  
eting its rightfu

at we dedicate  
abishment, growth and  
ervation of peace, liberty,  
ality and justice under law.

I OWE  
YOU ALL AN  
APOLOGY...

... THE WAY  
I RAN OFF WITHOUT  
CONSIDERING THE  
CONSEQUENCES.  
I COULDN'T... WELL,  
THERE'S JUST NO  
EXCUSE...

I CAN  
GUARANTEE...  
IT WON'T HAPPEN  
AGAIN.

CAP... YOUR HISTORY WITH  
ZEMO WAS DEEPER THAN  
ANY OF US WILL EVER  
KNOW. YOU DID WHAT  
YOU HAD TO DO.

THE FACT  
THAT YOU'VE  
RETURNED SPEAKS  
VOLUMES.

WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT,  
I'M A BIT CONFUSED  
AS TO WHAT I'VE  
RETURNED TO...

... I CAN'T  
BELIEVE THAT THE  
TWO OF YOU ARE  
LEAVING...!

I HAVE A  
FEELING THAT  
IRONY IS A  
POST-WAR  
CONCEPT...

I SUPPOSE... NOT ALL OF US ARE  
LEGENDARY FOR OUR RESILIENCE.  
A BRUSH WITH DEATH CAN CHANGE  
YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS.  
BELIEVE ME... IT WASN'T AN  
EASY DECISION.

I SEE.  
AND WHAT  
ABOUT  
THOR...?

TURNS OUT,  
HE WASN'T  
EXAGGERATING  
ABOUT HIS...  
THEOLOGICAL  
HERITAGE.

THERE WERE...  
OTHER THINGS  
WHICH EVENTUALLY TOOK  
PRECEDENCE FOR HIM. I'M  
ASSUMING HE'S MERELY ON  
AN EXTENDED LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE...

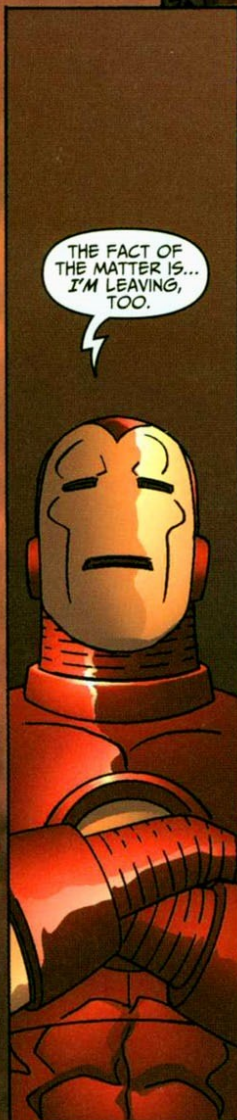




I GUESS  
RICK WAS RIGHT.  
THINGS CHANGE...  
SO QUICKLY.

IRON MAN...  
YOU FEEL  
CONFIDENT THAT YOU  
CAN LEAD THIS NEW  
CONFIGURATION OF  
AVENGERS...?

NOT  
EXACTLY,  
CAP...



THE FACT OF  
THE MATTER IS...  
I'M LEAVING,  
TOO.



YOU'RE...  
WHAT?!

YOU CAN'T  
BE **SERIOUS!**  
THIS IS YOUR...  
I MEAN--

IRON  
MAN...HOW  
CAN--?

I'M SORRY  
I DIDN'T TELL  
YOU TWO **EARLIER.**  
I GUESS I JUST... WASN'T  
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT  
**SURE** OF IT UNTIL  
TONIGHT...  
...WHEN CAP  
SHOWED UP.



I KNOW  
I **STARTED**  
THIS  
THING. BUT I HOPE  
I'M NOT SO **ARROGANT**  
TO BELIEVE THAT IT  
CAN'T GO ON **WITHOUT**  
ME. IT'S GOTTEN  
MUCH **BIGGER**  
THAN THAT.

IT'S TIME  
TO PASS THE  
TORCH...



...TO  
YOU.





ME...?!

THE AVENGERS  
NEED YOU, CAP.  
MORE THAN ANYONE  
ELSE IN THIS  
ROOM.

YOU MAY NOT  
REALIZE IT, BUT SOMETHING  
SIGNIFICANT HAPPENED WHEN WE  
DISCOVERED YOU. WE WERE ON  
THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE.  
YOUR PRESENCE, YOUR SPIRIT...  
IT GALVANIZED US.

IT  
MADE US  
A TEAM.



UNFORTUNATELY,  
IT'S MORE THAN THAT...  
THE GOVERNMENT'S  
RESTRICTION STILL STANDS.  
IF YOU LEAVE...THEY'LL  
STRIP US OF OUR SECURITY  
CLEARANCE BEFORE  
WE KNOW WHAT  
HIT US.

THE  
AVENGERS' ABILITY  
TO OPERATE IN THE  
WAY IT NEEDS TO WILL  
BE CRITICALLY  
CRIPPLED.

I...HEAR YOU.  
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT  
BE EXAGGERATING  
ABOUT THAT BEFORE. I  
FIGURED, AS LONG AS ANY  
FOUNDING MEMBER REMAINED,  
THE N.S.C. COULD BE  
REASONED WITH.  
BUT NOW...



...I DON'T KNOW.  
I MEAN, I NEVER EVEN  
CONSIDERED THE  
POSSIBILITY OF  
LEADING  
THE TEAM...!

AND  
THOSE THREE  
NEW MEMBERS...  
THEY'RE  
CRIMINALS...?



I'M AFRAID I NEED TO TAKE SOME  
RESPONSIBILITY THERE...

I LOOK BACK AT  
THE SITUATION WITH  
THE HULK AS MY OWN...  
PERSONAL FAILURE.  
I SHOULD'VE MANAGED  
THAT ONE BETTER. WITH  
THESE NEW PEOPLE  
ON BOARD, I...  
SUPPOSE I SAW  
ANOTHER CHANCE AT  
REDEMPTION.

THEIRS  
AND MINE.



IF *ANYONE* CAN MAKE THOSE THREE INTO AVENGERS, IT'S YOU. IF *ANYONE* CAN CONVINCE THE *PUBLIC* THAT THEY ARE AVENGERS...IT'S YOU.

THEY *TRUST* YOU. MUCH MORE SO THAN THEY EVER DID ANY OF US. THEY'VE ALWAYS TRUSTED YOU.

FOR THE SAME REASONS THE *GOVERNMENT* MADE OUR A-1 PRIORITY CONTINGENT UPON YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.



IDEALISM AND PRAGMATISM. UNDERSTANDING THEIR *COEXISTENCE* IS THE KEY TO THE AVENGERS' SURVIVAL.



WHAT YOU'RE *ASKING*...IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CONSIDER. FOR *OBVIOUS* REASONS...

EVER SINCE YOU *FOUND* ME... I'VE BEEN *STRUGGLING* TO FIND MY PLACE IN THE WORLD. I'VE MISSED *SO MUCH*...

...AND I *STILL* FEEL LIKE A MAN OUT OF TIME.



BUT...YOU ALL GAVE ME A *HOME*. YOU OFFERED *FRIENDSHIP*. MOST OF ALL, YOU GAVE ME A *PURPOSE*. I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD'VE SURVIVED OTHERWISE.



DON'T YOU *GET IT*, STEVE? YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD IS *HERE*.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU DON'T *NEED* TO CONFORM TO THE WORLD. WE SHOULD ALL STRIVE TO BE MORE LIKE YOU.



COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER *MYSELF*, HON. AND I WOULDN'T BE TOO WORRIED ABOUT ANY OF US LEAVING, CAP...

...AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, *ONCE* AN AVENGER, *ALWAYS* AN AVENGER.




I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENTS, MORE THAN I COULD EVER *EXPRESS*. AND I CAN'T IMAGINE THE AVENGERS *NOT* EXISTING...CERTAINLY NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DECISION I MAKE...

BUT I *STILL*... I JUST DON'T KNOW...





THOSE  
ARE THE OTHER  
NEWBIES...?



SHOULD  
I KNOW 'EM FROM  
SOMEWHERE...?

LET'S  
HOPE  
NOT...



...I'D HATE TO  
IMAGINE YOU EVER  
EXPOSED TO THE  
HORRORS THEY'VE  
EXPERIENCED IN  
THEIR LIFETIMES.



ON THE *OTHER* HAND, PERHAPS  
YOU SHOULD SIMPLY *TALK* TO  
THEM. YOU MIGHT FIND YOU HAVE  
A LOT IN *COMMON*...

... SIR.

RIGHT.



I DIG THOSE THREADS...

...REALLY SHARP.  
I GUESS SUPER HEROES  
DON'T USUALLY *COMMENT*  
ON EACH OTHER'S *FASHION*  
*SENSE*, HUH...?

EXCUSE ME.  
IS THIS *SMALL TALK*  
OR ARE YOU ACTUALLY  
TRYING TO OFFER SOME  
STRANGE *COMPLIMENT*...?



WOW. I DIG THAT *ACCENT*, TOO.  
WHAT IS THAT... LITHUANIAN...?

SO, WHAT...  
ARE YOU FRESH  
OFF THE *BOAT*  
OR--



WHOA--!

HAVE A CARE,  
ARCHER. WHEN YOU  
SPEAK TO MY *SISTER*,  
YOU SHOW THE  
PROPER *RESPECT*.





OH, I SEE. HER *CHAPERONE*.  
I GUESS THAT'S A FULL-TIME JOB...  
BEATIN' OFF THE SUITORS  
WITH A STICK...

ACTUALLY,  
I'M MENTALLY RUNNING  
DOWN THE LIST OF THINGS  
I COULD BEAT YOU WITH. RIGHT  
NOW I'M AT ITEM NUMBER SIX  
*BILLION, TWO HUNDRED-  
TWENTY MILLION--*

FIRST THINGS  
FIRST, SLICK.  
YOU NEED TO GET  
OUTTA MY FACE...

THAT *NEVER*  
HAPPENS--!

HOW THE  
HELL...?!

OH... I GET IT. SCARLET  
WITCH. HEX POWER.  
UNPREDICTABILITY.

PERFECT  
POWER FOR A  
WOMAN...

...AND SECOND OF  
ALL... *EXCUSE ME* FOR  
TRYING TO MAKE A LITTLE  
MAGIC HAPPEN HERE.

LOOK, WE ALL GOTTA WORK TOGETHER,  
SO I'LL TRY TO KEEP MY *HORMONES*  
IN CHECK. FAIR ENOUGH? NO  
*PROMISES*, THOUGH...

SO...  
WHAT'S THE  
DEAL WITH YOU  
TWO...?

OUR  
"DEAL" IS  
SIMILAR  
TO YOURS,  
HAWKEYE...

...MISUNDERSTANDINGS  
AND RESULTING  
*REGRETS* HAVE  
BROUGHT US HERE.  
FOR OUR PAST  
*TRANSGRESSIONS*,  
WE HOPE TO SERVE  
A HIGHER--

*GHAD--!*



NO NEED TO  
SUGARCOAT THE  
TRUTH, WANDA.  
NOT FROM THIS  
LOUT...

WE'VE  
BEEN FUGITIVES  
FOR THE PAST  
FEW MONTHS.  
PRIOR TO THAT,  
WE SERVED IN  
A TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION  
CALLED THE  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF EVIL  
MUTANTS.

DOES THAT  
ANSWER YOUR  
QUESTION...?

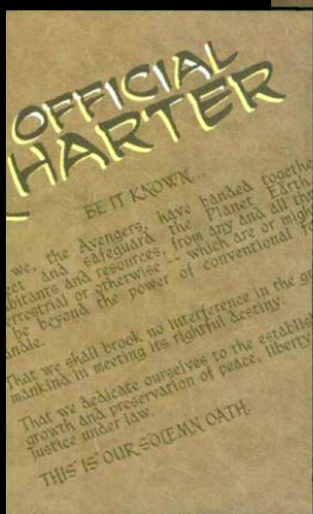
BROTHERHOOD  
OF EVIL MUTANTS.

GOTCHA.

THIS SHOULD BE  
INTERESTING...



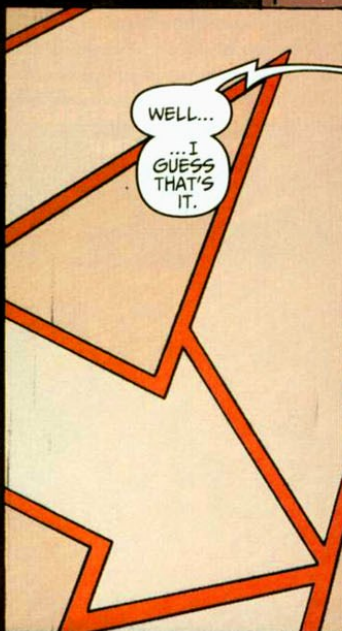












WELL...

...I GUESS THAT'S IT.



HARD TO BELIEVE WE WON'T BE SHOWING UP HERE FOR THE NEXT WEEKLY MEETING...

I INFORMED MURCH OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENT. HIS RESPONSE WAS MUTED, TO SAY THE LEAST.

ALTHOUGH I COULD HEAR HIM SMILING OVER THE PHONE WHEN I TOLD HIM I WAS LEAVING, TOO...



TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST... I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO FEEL LIKE SMILING FOR A WHILE...

S-SORRY...



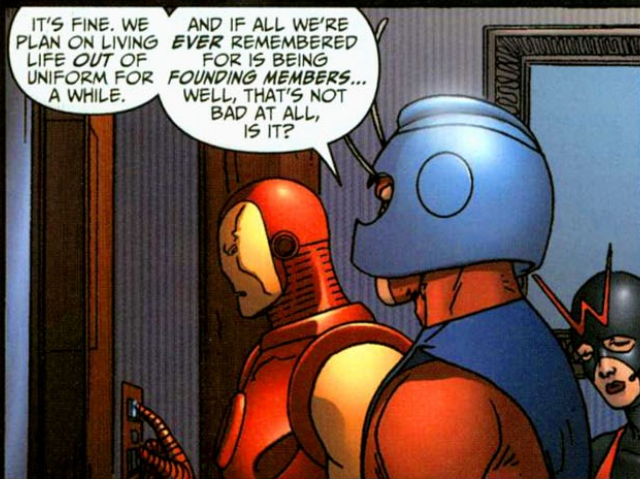
DON'T APOLOGIZE, WASP.

I THINK WE'RE ALL FEELING... A LITTLE AMBIVALENT ABOUT THIS.



...SO I'LL HAVE THE FORMS MESSENGERED OVER. YOU'LL STILL HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES, BUT I'M ASSUMING THEY'LL WANT TO DOWNGRADE YOUR CLEARANCE LEVEL...

I EXPECTED AS MUCH.



IT'S FINE. WE PLAN ON LIVING LIFE OUT OF UNIFORM FOR A WHILE.

AND IF ALL WE'RE EVER REMEMBERED FOR IS BEING FOUNDING MEMBERS... WELL, THAT'S NOT BAD AT ALL, IS IT?

LOOK, I... WANT TO SAY SOMETHING BEFORE YOU'RE BOTH GONE. I DON'T BLAME YOU ONE BIT FOR WANTING TO STEP BACK FROM IT. OBVIOUSLY... SINCE I'M RIGHT HERE WITH YOU.







...LET'S JUST HOPE THEY SEND OVER THE PAPERWORK TOMORROW. I WANT THOSE CONTRACTS SIGNED BY THE TIME THE MARKET CLOSES IN TOKYO...

UNDERSTOOD, MISTER STARK.

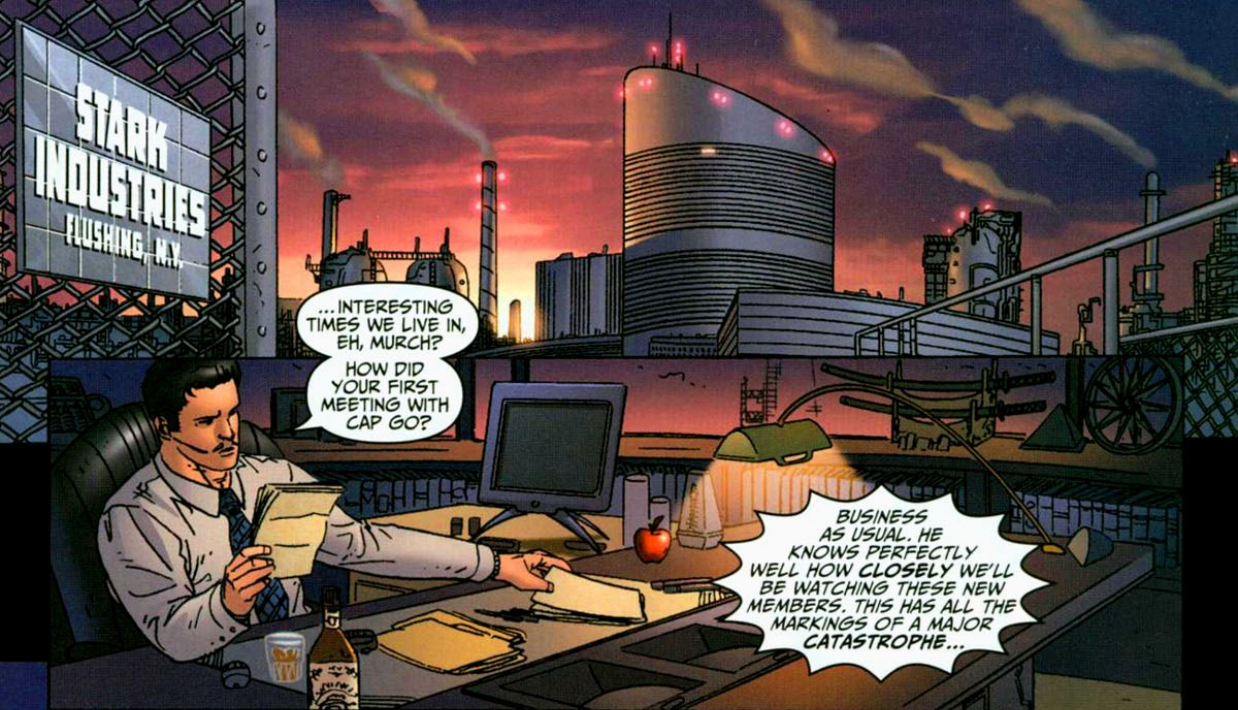
OKAY, PEPPER. I'LL SEE YOU FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HAVE A NICE NIGHT.











...INTERESTING TIMES WE LIVE IN, EH, MURCH?

HOW DID YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH CAP GO?

BUSINESS AS USUAL. HE KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL HOW CLOSELY WE'LL BE WATCHING THESE NEW MEMBERS. THIS HAS ALL THE MARKINGS OF A MAJOR CATASTROPHE...

...BUT THE PRESIDENT'S GOT A LOT OF FAITH IN HIM. RIGHT NOW, I'VE BEEN RELEGATED TO CONFERRING WITH THE MARIA STARK LAWYERS ABOUT SUPER HERO STIPENDS AND TAXABLE INCOME.

BUT, AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU'RE MY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT...NOT THAT FASCIST BODYGUARD OF YOURS...

RIGHT. I GUESS THAT WOULD BE A COMFORT FOR YOU, WOULDN'T IT...?

HAVE FUN WITH MY TAX ATTORNEYS.



...NEW BRA FOR THIS SUPER HERO ORGANIZATION...

...AS THE PRESS GATHERED TO WITNESS THE OFFICIAL UNVEILING OF THE NEW AVENGERS ROSTER...

...A LINEUP THAT INCLUDES TWO FORMER MUTANT TERRORISTS, ALTHOUGH NEWLY-APPOINTED CHAIRMAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, WAS QUICK TO ADDRESS THE OBVIOUS CONCERNS...



NEW AVENGERS LINEUP

...THE PUBLIC HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE WARY OF THIS SITUATION, BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU...

...WE WILL CARRY ON THE PROUD TRADITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE FOUNDERS. WE SHARE THEIR GOALS. WE ONLY ASK FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE OURSELVES IN THE SAME MANNER YOU AFFORDED THE ORIGINAL LINEUP.

I PROMISE YOU...







...WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

AS CAPTAIN AMERICA SHARED THE STAGE WITH HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH... AN UNDENIABLE AURA OF POSSIBILITY COULD BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

## NEW AVENGERS LINEUP



EVEN THE MOST JADED JOURNALISTS WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM ON DISPLAY TODAY...

YOU WERE RIGHT, GIANT-MAN...



...ALL RIGHT. THIS IS FOR YOU--

--AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

EARLIER TODAY



...THE DREAM LIVES ON.

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!**