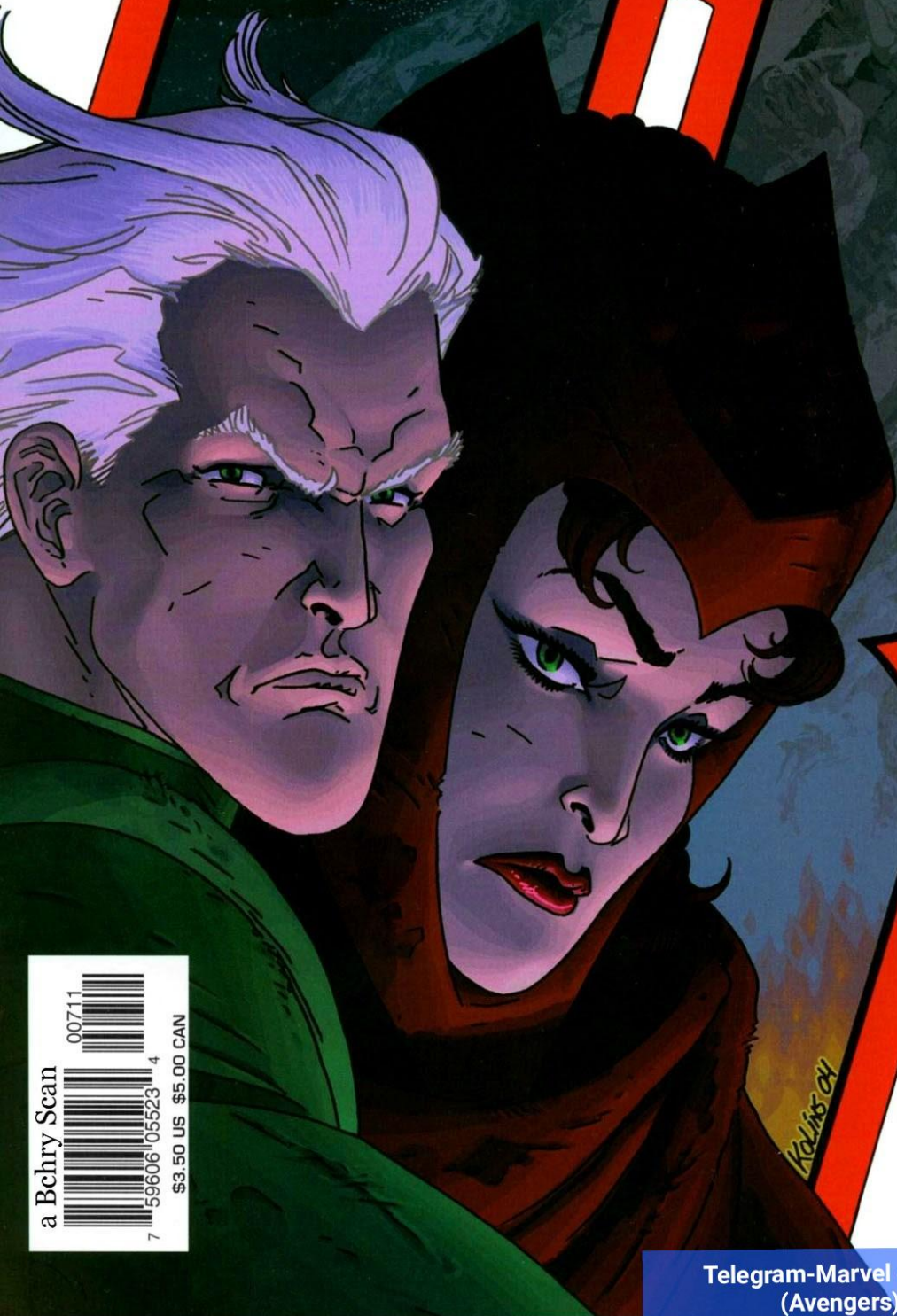


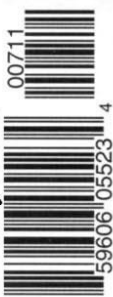
**MARVEL**  
PSR 7 of 8

CASEY  
KOLINS  
QUINTANA

# EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES™



a Bchry Scan



00711  
7 59606 05523 4  
\$3.50 US \$5.00 CAN

Telegram-Marvel comics  
(Avengers)

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

HotComic.net



# STAN LEE PRESENTS:

## AVENGERS MANSION

JARVIS--!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN HERE?! ARE YOU--

MMMGOLLFFN--!

SKAF--!

ALL THIS SMOKE--!

NONE OF OUR PERIMETER ALARMS WERE ACTIVATED. THAT MEANS--

THAT'S RIGHT, PROFESSOR OBVIOUS...

...THAT MEANS YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW I GOT IN HERE.

BET THAT DRIVES YOU NUTS.

Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes No. 7, April, 2005. Published Miniseries except semi-monthly in January, February, March and April by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 10 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016. © 2005 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$3.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$5.00 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in Canada. AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; ALAN FINE, President & CEO of Toy Biz and Marvel Publishing; DAN CARR, Director of Production; ELAINE CALLENDER, Director of Manufacturing; DAVID BOGART, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534.













YOU... WANT TO JOIN THE AVENGERS...  
YOU'RE SERIOUS...?

AS A HEART ATTACK. ALL THAT STUFF BEFORE... TO CALL IT A CASE OF "WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME" REALLY DOESN'T DESCRIBE HOW MESSED UP THINGS GOT. THERE'S A LOT I'D LIKE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR... IF I CAN.



SO, UHHH... WHERE'S CAPTAIN AMERICA...? I THOUGHT HE LIVED HERE--

OKAY, LOOK... WE NEED TO TAKE A MOMENT AND PROCESS THIS IN PRIVATE. THIS IS... NEW TERRITORY FOR US.

JARVIS, WOULD YOU MIND...?

N-NOT AT ALL, SIR...



...AS LONG AS HE LEAVES HIS WEAPONS HERE.

NO PROBLEM, JEEVES--

MY NAME... IS JARVIS.

THAT'S WHAT I SAID.



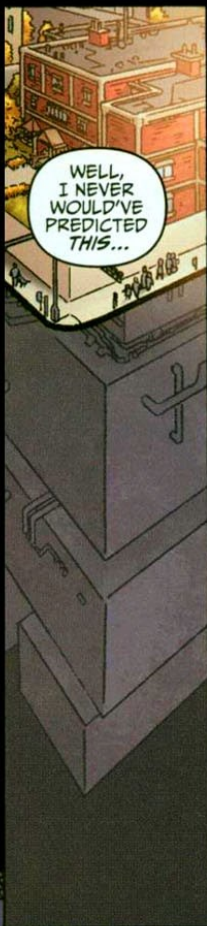
Y'KNOW, I GOTTA ADMIT... I THOUGHT IT'D BE TOUGHER TO GET INTO THIS PLACE. I GUESS IT'S JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THINGS NOT BEING WHAT THEY SEEM. HOPE YOU FOLKS REMEMBER THAT.

ANYWAY...



...LEAD ON, JEEVES.





WELL, I NEVER WOULD'VE PREDICTED THIS...



...WHO KNEW HAWKEYE HAD A CONSCIENCE...?

OKAY, IRON MAN... WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THIS GUY? MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS HE ON THE LEVEL...?

WELL, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS ANTICS HERE TONIGHT, I THINK IT'S STILL SAFE TO SAY THAT HE AND I HAVE HAD A...CHECKERED HISTORY.



WE HAD A FEW RUN-INS AT STARK'S MAIN FACTORY. THE LAST TIME...HE WAS RUNNING WITH A FEMALE SPY. MAYBE HE WAS JUMPING THROUGH HOOPS FOR HER...



I COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE, THOUGH...

CRIMES OF PASSION, EH? I SUPPOSE I CAN RELATE...

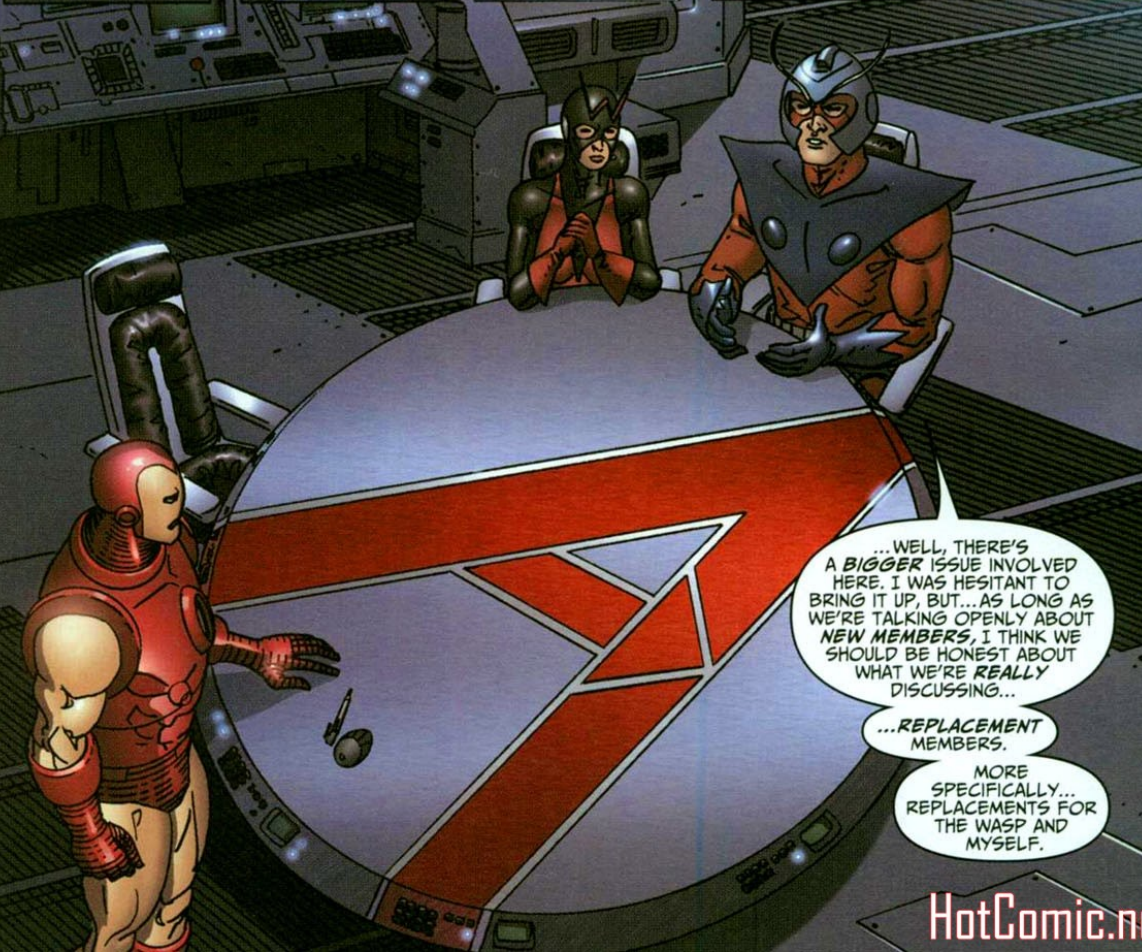
SO, HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING...COULD HE HANDLE PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS...?



I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED TO ADMIT... HE CERTAINLY HELD HIS OWN AGAINST ME EVERY TIME WE GOT INTO IT.

TRUTH IS... HE'S GOT A FEW SPECIALIZED ARROWS THAT MAKE HIM PRETTY FORMIDABLE.

HMMM...

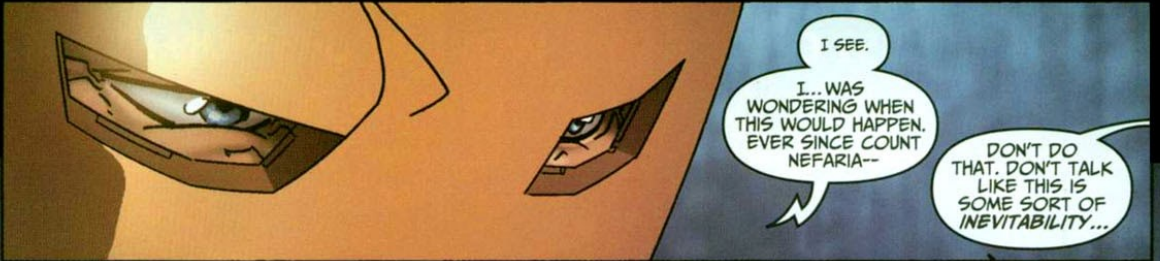
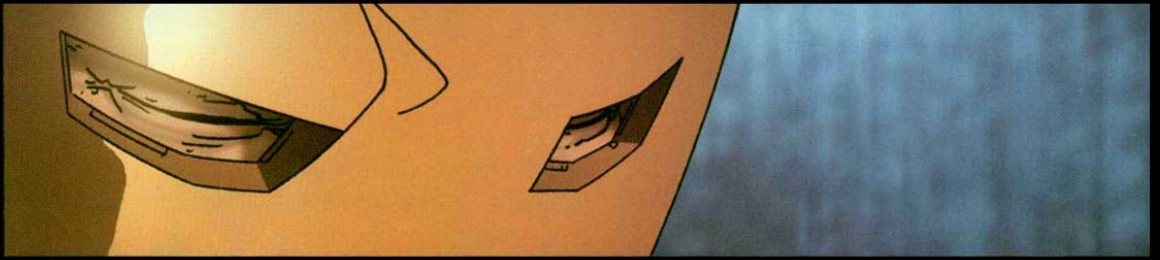


...WELL, THERE'S A BIGGER ISSUE INVOLVED HERE. I WAS HESITANT TO BRING IT UP, BUT...AS LONG AS WE'RE TALKING OPENLY ABOUT NEW MEMBERS, I THINK WE SHOULD BE HONEST ABOUT WHAT WE'RE REALLY DISCUSSING...

...REPLACEMENT MEMBERS.

MORE SPECIFICALLY... REPLACEMENTS FOR THE WASP AND MYSELF.





I SEE.

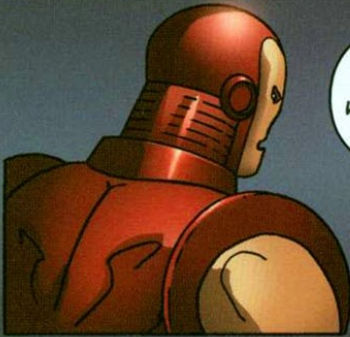
I... WAS  
WONDERING WHEN  
THIS WOULD HAPPEN.  
EVER SINCE COUNT  
NEFARIA--

DON'T DO  
THAT. DON'T TALK  
LIKE THIS IS  
SOME SORT OF  
INEVITABILITY...

... SINCE DAY  
ONE, THERE'S NO  
ONE THAT TAKES THIS  
MORE SERIOUSLY THAN  
WE DO. THIS WHOLE THING--  
ALL OF IT--THIS IS A  
DREAM WE SHARE  
WITH YOU.

BUT AFTER  
THE WASP...  
I MEAN...

... SHE  
ALMOST  
DIED...!



THIS JOB IS  
ALL ABOUT RISKING  
OUR LIVES, GIANT-MAN.  
YOU KNOW THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT.  
I DO KNOW THAT.  
BUT I ALSO HAVE  
A RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THE SAFETY  
OF MY  
PARTNER...



THE FACT IS...  
EVERYONE ELSE HAS  
BAILED. BUT WE STAYED.  
NOW WE JUST... NEED  
TO TAKE A STEP BACK.  
FROM ALL OF THIS. AT  
LEAST FOR A LITTLE  
WHILE...

AND  
DON'T BLAME  
HER. THIS WAS  
MY CALL.

I'M...  
SORRY,  
IRON MAN.  
I WISH  
THAT--



YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO  
ME, WASP. NEITHER ONE  
OF YOU DO. AND YOU'RE  
RIGHT. ABOUT THOR...  
ABOUT CAP...

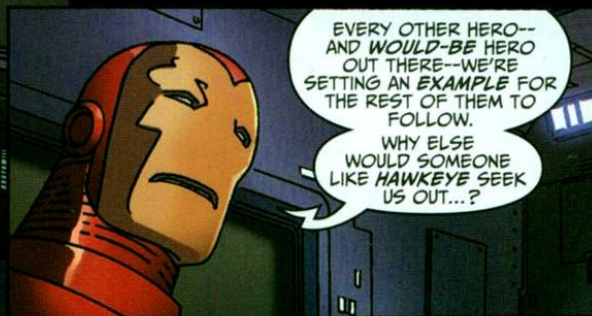
CAP'S  
DEFECTION  
IN PARTICULAR  
IS GOING TO HAVE  
THE N.S.C. CRAWLING  
STRAIGHT UP OUR  
NOSES. I... START  
TO WONDER...

... IF THIS  
IS EVEN WORTH  
CONTINUING.















**BOLIVIA**



CAP...?





WHEN I SAW...  
THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN  
COME DOWN...

I MEAN...I  
THOUGHT YOU'D  
BEEN--

NO.



JUST  
ZEMO.



LOOKS  
LIKE I GOT  
WHAT I CAME  
FOR...



EVER SINCE  
I SAW HIM AGAIN IN  
MANHATTAN...I'VE BEEN  
CONSUMED WITH  
THIS MOMENT. NOT  
JUSTICE...

...REVENGE.

IT...  
DOESN'T FEEL  
LIKE I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD.





RICK...  
ARE YOU  
OKAY...?

OH,  
SURE...I'M  
GOOD. N-NO  
SWEAT.

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU...?  
YOU THOUGHT  
THIS WOULD BE  
DIFFERENT...?



I SUPPOSE  
IT'S JUST...  
...NOT WHAT I  
EXPECTED.



'CAUSE YOU'RE  
BETTER THAN  
THAT. DON'TCHA  
GET IT?  
LOOK...THIS  
SCUMBAG KILLED  
YOUR PARTNER.  
HE GOT EXACTLY  
WHAT HE  
DESERVED...BUT  
I KNEW YOU'D  
NEVER ACTUALLY  
PULL THE  
TRIGGER...!



I'D BE...  
MORE CREEPED  
OUT IF...YOU  
DIDN'T...THINK  
THAT...

...NNNN...  
...P-PERFECTLY  
NORMAL...



IT'S ALL  
RIGHT, SON.  
I'VE GOT  
YOU.

...H-HUMAN  
BEHAVIOR...

YOU  
FOUGHT HARD.  
YOU WERE BRAVE.  
YOU GAVE YOUR  
LIFE FOR YOUR  
COUNTRY.

YOU'VE  
EARNED YOUR  
PEACE.



GOODBYE,  
BUCKY.





THANKS, MIA. I'M LIVE IN THE MEDIA ROOM OF AVENGERS MANSION, WHERE A HASTILY ARRANGED PRESS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE JUST MINUTES AGO.

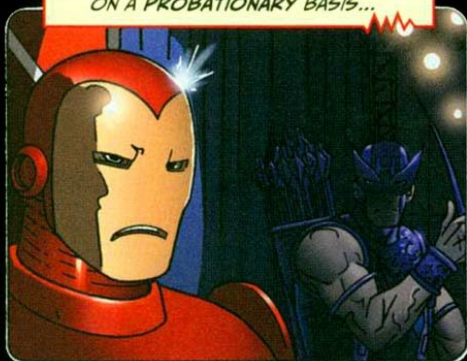


THIS IS WHAT IRON MAN HAD TO SAY TO GATHERED REPORTERS...



THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. THERE'S A LOT OF RUMORS FLYING AROUND, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D LET YOU ALL IN ON THE TRUTH BEHIND RECENT INTERNAL EVENTS.

PENDING A SERIES OF THOROUGH INDUCTION PROCEDURES AS WELL AS EXECUTIVE CONFIRMATION, WE ARE ANNOUNCING THAT HAWKEYE WILL BE JOINING THE AVENGERS...INITIALLY ON A PROBATIONARY BASIS...



IS IT TRUE THAT HAWKEYE'S GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD--?

ONE AT A TIME, PLEASE...

WHERE ARE THOR AND CAPTAIN AMERICA? ARE THEY--



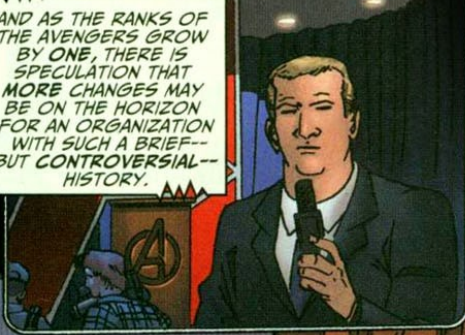
YOUR PRESS PACKETS WILL DETAIL HAWKEYE'S PAST RECORDS, INCLUDING HIS NSC APPLICATION FOR CLEMENCY, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL VIGILANTE ACT BEING DEBATED RIGHT NOW IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.

ALL HE ASKS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC...IS A CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF AS THE REST OF US HAVE.



THIS REPORTER HAS LEARNED THAT LAWYERS FROM THE MARIA STARK FOUNDATION ARE ARGUING ANY OUTSTANDING WARRANTS THAT THE BOWMAN MAY HAVE AGAINST HIM, WHILE MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE PRESS PAINT A VIVID PICTURE OF A POSSIBLY MISUNDERSTOOD HERO...

AND AS THE RANKS OF THE AVENGERS GROW BY ONE, THERE IS SPECULATION THAT MORE CHANGES MAY BE ON THE HORIZON FOR AN ORGANIZATION WITH SUCH A BRIEF-- BUT CONTROVERSIAL-- HISTORY.



**ARE YOU INSANE?!**

**JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE?!**







YOU SCHEDULE A **TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE** TO ANNOUNCE A **NEW MEMBER**--A **KNOWN FELON**, NO LESS-- WITHOUT CHECKING WITH ME?!

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU'RE OPERATING IN A **VACUUM** HERE?!



SOMETHING MUST'VE **RUSTED** IN THAT **IRON SKULL** OF YOURS! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE **HULK**--!?

THE **SECOND** WE GRANTED YOU **A-1 PRIORITY STATUS**...YOUR TENDENCIES TOWARD **INDEPENDENT THOUGHT** **CEASED** TO EXIST!

YOU CAN'T ALLOW A **BLATANT SECURITY RISK** ON THIS TEAM!



WAIT... DID I SAY "**CAN'T**"?! YOU **WONT**!



YOU **CROSSED THE LINE**, MISTER! AND NOW... YOU'RE **ALL GOING** TO SUFFER THE **CONSEQUENCES**--! COME TO THINK OF IT...

...MAYBE A **SECURITY RISK** IS **EXACTLY** WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND! WHEN THE **PRESIDENT** GETS THROUGH WITH YOU PEOPLE...!

THAT'S **ENOUGH**, MURCH.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?!

YOUR **POWER TRIP'S** OVER.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU UNDERSTOOD WHO'S **REALLY** CALLING THE SHOTS WHERE THE **AVENGERS** ARE CONCERNED...





IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE OPENLY *DISDAINFUL* OF EVERYTHING WE'VE TRIED TO *DO* HERE... NOW YOU QUESTION OUR *MOTIVES*?!



N-NOW WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE--



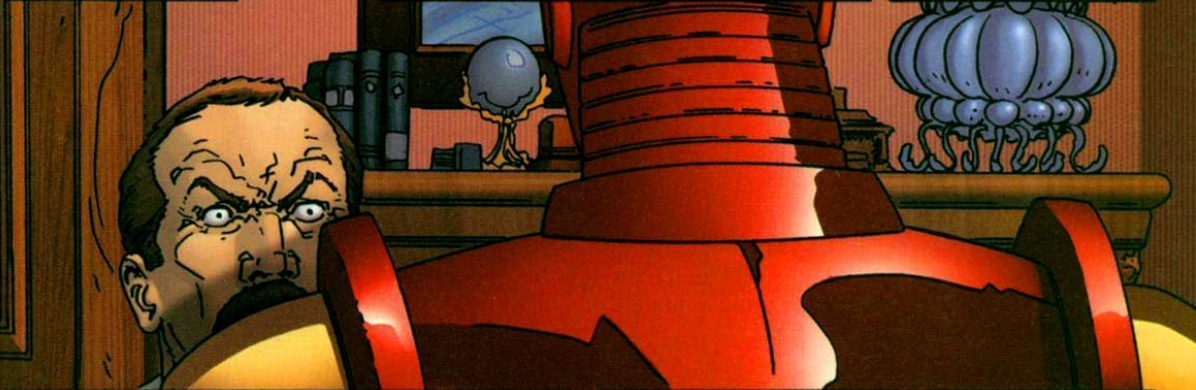
I'M NOT DONE.

YOU WANT TO TAKE US ON? YOU WANT TO TRY AND *PREVENT* US FROM DOING OUR JOB? YOU WANT TO INVOLVE THE *PRESIDENT* IN WHAT I *GUARANTEE* WILL BE THE *MESSIEST PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE* ANY OF YOU WILL EVER EXPERIENCE?!

BELIEVE ME, THINGS WILL END BADLY...



...BUT NOT FOR US.



≡AHEM!≡ WELL...

THREATEN ME ALL YOU WANT, IRON MAN. THE FACT IS... THAT *PUBLIC TRUST* YOU VALUE SO HIGHLY? HOW LONG WILL IT LAST IF YOU'RE ALLOWING *CRIMINALS* TO SERVE ON YOUR ROSTER?!

YOU SEEM TO FORGET... WE HAD TO EARN THEIR TRUST, JUST LIKE *HAWKEYE* WILL. I WASN'T LYING DURING THAT PRESS CONFERENCE...!



BY THE WAY... THIS IS JUST THE *BEGINNING*.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?



TWO MORE POTENTIAL RECRUITS HAVE GOTTEN IN TOUCH.

IF YOU THOUGHT *HAWKEYE* WAS A CURVE-BALL...





## LONDON; THREE DAYS LATER

GOOD MORNING.  
I'M **TONY STARK**...  
HERE ON BEHALF OF THE  
MARIA STARK FOUNDATION,  
THE ORGANIZATION  
THAT FUNDS THE  
AVENGERS.

PIETRO AND  
WANDA MAXIMOFF...  
THIS IS SPECIAL AGENT  
MURCH FROM  
THE NSC.

I APOLOGIZE FOR  
THE CLOAK-AND-DAGGER  
CIRCUMSTANCES. NEEDLESS  
TO SAY, WE'RE STILL TRYING  
TO WORK OUT A FEW  
DETAILS HERE--

SPARE ME YOUR  
CONDESCENSION,  
STARK.

I THINK I  
KNOW EXACTLY  
WHAT YOU AND THIS  
GOVERNMENT  
STOOGE ARE  
THINKING.

I CAN  
SEE THE  
JUDGMENT IN  
BOTH YOUR  
EYES--

PIETRO...  
PLEASE...

STARK...  
I TOLD  
YOU...!

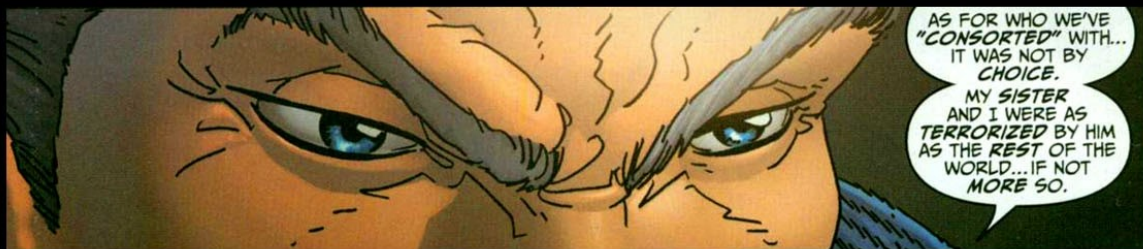
ARE YOU REFERRING  
TO THE MUTANT ISSUE?  
OR THE FACT THAT YOU'VE  
BEEN CONSORTING WITH  
A KNOWN WORLD  
TERRORIST?

WANDA...?  
ARE YOU--?

I THINK I'M  
UNDERSTANDABLY  
NERVOUS, MR. STARK.  
BUT I--WE--DO  
APPRECIATE THE  
STEPS YOU'VE  
ALREADY TAKEN  
TO HELP US.

CALM DOWN,  
PIETRO. I WOULDN'T  
BE HERE IF THE  
AVENGERS DIDN'T  
WANT THIS TO  
WORK.



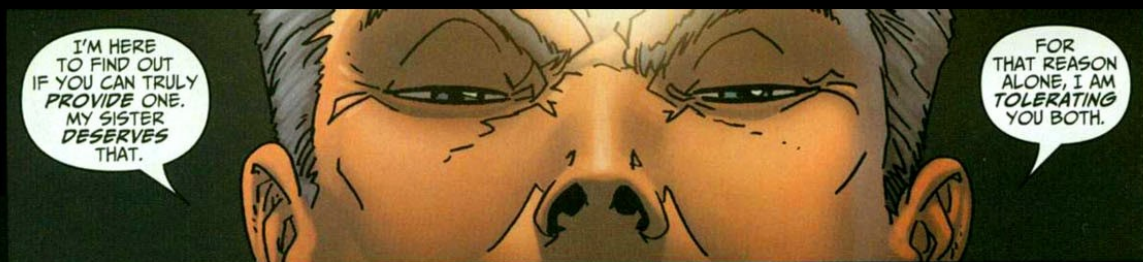


AS FOR WHO WE'VE  
"CONSORTED" WITH...  
IT WAS NOT BY  
CHOICE.  
MY SISTER  
AND I WERE AS  
TERRORIZED BY HIM  
AS THE REST OF THE  
WORLD...IF NOT  
MORE SO.



FORCED TO COMMIT CRIMINAL ACTS IN  
THE NAME OF HOMO SUPERIOR...  
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST HUMANITY  
THAT WERE NEVER OURS...

WE WERE  
BORN GYPSIES.  
WHAT THAT MEANS...  
IS THAT WE'VE NEVER  
KNOWN A HOME.



I'M HERE  
TO FIND OUT  
IF YOU CAN TRULY  
PROVIDE ONE.  
MY SISTER  
DESERVES  
THAT.

FOR  
THAT REASON  
ALONE, I AM  
TOLERATING  
YOU BOTH.



...

RIGHT...



WELL...  
THAT'S FINE,  
PIETRO...

OKAY,  
THEN... WE'VE  
GOT A BIT OF  
PAPERWORK TO  
GO THROUGH  
HERE...



INSURANCE  
FORMS...NON-DISCLOSURE  
AGREEMENTS...PERSONAL  
INDEMNITIES...

BASICALLY,  
A LOT OF RED  
TAPE THAT THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT  
INSISTS ON.



AS PROBATIONARY AVENGERS, YOU'LL BE GRANTED SOME OF THE HIGHEST **SECURITY CLEARANCE** IN THE U.S., AND THEY DON'T GRANT IT LIGHTLY. SO, WHEN YOU GET A **CHANCE**... JUST GIVE THOSE DOCUMENTS A--



--READ. A-HA...

...WELL, YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT A **GENETICS PROFESSOR** OVER AT COLUMBIA VOUCHES FOR YOU BOTH. IS THERE SOME **CONNECTION** THERE THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF...?



THEY'RE SAYING THAT THE AVENGERS AREN'T SUPPOSE TO BE HERE.

YES, I AGREE.

UHHH... I DON'T THINK IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS TO BE KEEPING **SECRETS** AT THIS POINT.



UNLIKE **MOST** OF THE ROSTER, WE'VE GOT YOUR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES ON RECORD...

...SO IF I WERE YOU--

IF YOU WERE **ME**, YOU'D ALREADY BE **BORED** BY HOW AGONIZINGLY **SLOW** A SPINELESS PENCIL-PUSHER CAN BE WHEN VERBALIZING HIS **PARANOIA**. YOUR TYPE OBVIOUSLY HAS NO PLACE IN THE COMPANY OF **HEROES**...



WELL PUT.

OKAY, AGENT MURCH... WOULD YOU MIND **EXCUSING** US FOR A BIT?



WE REALLY NEED TO GET SOME WORK DONE HERE...

WH-WHAT--?!





SON OF  
A...



THANK YOU,  
MR. STARK. THAT  
MAN WAS...

DON'T  
MENTION IT.  
I FEEL THE  
SAME WAY.

SO, YOU'RE SURE  
YOU WANT TO KEEP  
THE SAME COSTUMED  
IDENTITIES...?

I'M CERTAIN  
WE COULD THINK  
OF ALTERNATE  
CODENAMES--



YOUR CONCERNS ARE  
VALID, MR. STARK. BUT  
WE'RE NOT SEEKING  
PROTECTION...

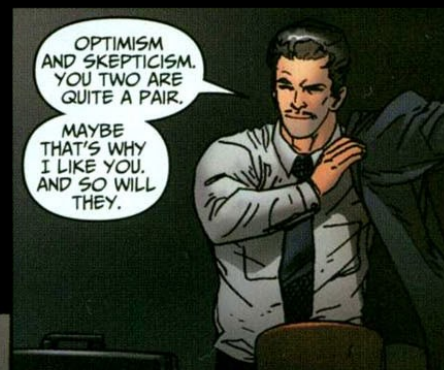
WE HAVE NO  
DESIRE TO HIDE  
WHO OR WHAT WE  
ARE. NOT FROM  
HIM...NOT FROM  
ANYONE.

WHAT WE  
WANT...IS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
SHOW THAT NOT ALL  
MUTANTS ARE EVIL.  
THE AVENGERS  
CAN HELP US  
DO THAT.



IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME  
SINCE WE'VE DARED TO TRUST  
ANYONE. BUT I THINK  
WE'RE READY TO.

THAT  
REMAINS TO  
BE SEEN,  
SISTER.



OPTIMISM  
AND SKEPTICISM.  
YOU TWO ARE  
QUITE A PAIR.

MAYBE  
THAT'S WHY  
I LIKE YOU.  
AND SO WILL  
THEY.



"THEY"  
MEANING THE  
OTHER AVENGERS,  
STARK?

LET'S NOT  
GET AHEAD OF  
OURSELVES. WE'VE  
YET TO MEET THEM  
FACE-TO-FACE...





I'LL BET YOU ENJOYED KICKING ME OUT OF THE ROOM LIKE THAT.

MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW, AGENT MURCH.

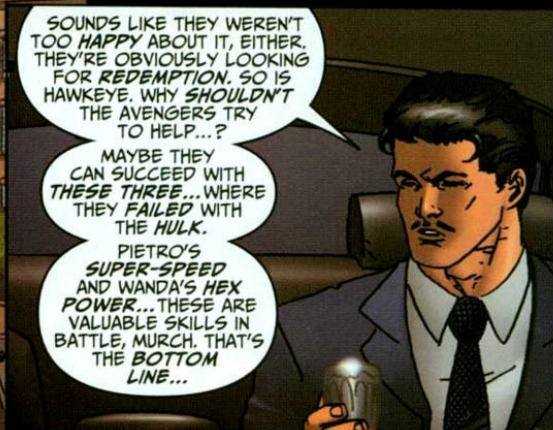
NOT THAT I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST IRON MAN, BUT ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE REST OF THEM ARE FINE WITH HAVING MUTANTS ON BOARD...?!



SO PIETRO WAS RIGHT. YOU ARE PREJUDICED.

I'M SAYING A FRIEND OF MINE HAD A SON THAT WAS KILLED AT CAPE CITADEL!

THOSE TWO WERE RUNNING AROUND WITH THAT LUNATIC MAGNETO FOR MONTHS!



SOUNDS LIKE THEY WEREN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT, EITHER. THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR REDEMPTION. SO IS HAWKEYE. WHY SHOULDN'T THE AVENGERS TRY TO HELP...?

MAYBE THEY CAN SUCCEED WITH THESE THREE...WHERE THEY FAILED WITH THE HULK.

PIETRO'S SUPER-SPEED AND WANDA'S HEX POWER...THESE ARE VALUABLE SKILLS IN BATTLE, MURCH. THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE...



I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD AGREE TO ALL THIS...!

PATRIOTISM DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY EQUAL CONSERVATISM.



CAP'S ALWAYS GONE HIS OWN WAY.

FOLLOWED HIS OWN CONSCIENCE...









**JOE CASEY - WRITER**  
**SCOTT KOLINS - ART**  
**WIL QUINTANA - COLORS**  
**RS & COMICRAFT - LETTERS**  
**SCHMIDT, WILEY & LAZER - ASST. EDITORS**  
**TOM BREVDORT - EDITOR**  
**JOE QUESADA - EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
**DAN BUCKLEY - PUBLISHER**

**USA**  
**W**

**NEW AVENGER**  
**Marksman Announced**  
**As Newest Member**

