

**MARVEL**

PSR 5 of 8

CASEY  
KOLINS  
QUINTANA

# AVENGERS EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES™



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# STAN LEE PRESENTS:

## THE BRONX

...IF HE REFUSES TO COMPLY, I'LL CALL YOUR BUILDING SUPER, AND WE'LL MAKE SURE IT GETS FIXED.

IF YOU INSIST, SON.

YOU LOOK TIRED. I HOPE THAT MR. STARK ISN'T WORKING YOU TOO HARD.

WELL, MOTHER, I'M NOT QUITE WORKING FOR MR. STARK ANYMORE. THAT IS... I AM, BUT IN A DIFFERENT CAPACITY... ACTUALLY...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME, EDWIN?

ERRR...

I... THINK WE'RE READY FOR THE CHECK...

...AND YOU COOK FOR THESE STRANGE PEOPLE?

AMONG OTHER THINGS, YES. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WATCHING TELEVISION, MOTHER? THE NEWS PROGRAMS...?

YOU KNOW I ONLY WATCH PUBLIC TELEVIS --

HOLD UP, GRANNY.

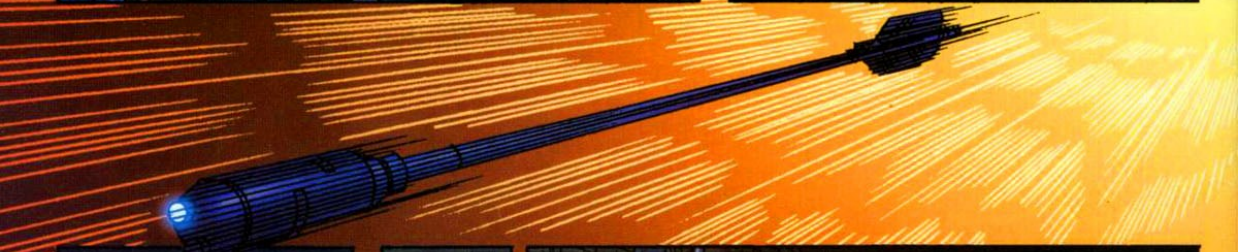
OH--!

'DIS Y'LUCKY NIGHT.


NO--!

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... WHEN YOU  
TALK TO THE COPS  
ABOUT THIS, TELL 'EM  
THAT HAWKEYE WAS  
THE GOOD GUY,  
WILLYA?


I DON'T  
NEED ANY MORE  
BAD PRESS.



"HAWKEYE"...?

YOU TWO  
OKAY...?

Y'KNOW,  
I USUALLY DON'T  
MAKE IT UP HERE TO  
THE BRONX... GUESS  
IT WAS FATE,  
HUH...?



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

THANK  
YOU.



HEY,  
DON'T MENTION IT.  
IT'S ALL PART OF THE  
JOB... NO MATTER WHAT  
THE FUZZ THINKS  
ABOUT ME...

YOU  
FOLKS TAKE  
CARE.



WAIT--!  
PLEASE...



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ALL  
MEN WEAR  
MASKS.

**NEW JERSEY**

THIS IS THE  
WAY OF THE WORLD.  
WE CLOAK OURSELVES IN  
THOSE THINGS THAT WOULD  
BEST PROVIDE FOR US.  
BUT, AS I SAY, THEY ARE  
ALL MERELY MASKS.  
RESPECTABILITY...  
NOBILITY...

...HEROISM.

BUT BEHIND  
THESE MASKS...  
WE ARE ALL OF  
ONE FACE.

IF YOU TRULY  
BELIEVE THAT,  
NEFARIA...  
...YOU'RE  
MORE TWISTED  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.









C'MON--  
THIS WAY!

WE'RE RUNNIN'  
IN CIRCLES, JONES!  
QUIT ACTING LIKE YOU  
CAN GET US OUTTA  
THIS DUNGEON--!



YE OF  
LITTLE  
FAITH--  
WHOA---!

RICK!

DIDN'T WE  
TELL YOU TO  
STAY AWAY  
FROM THIS  
PLACE?!



I KNOW,  
I KNOW!

LOOK... WE  
JUST WANTED TO HELP.  
YOU KNOW NEFARIA'S  
A SICKO! AND WITH ALL  
THE MILITARY BUILDUP  
OUTSIDE, WE FIGURED  
YOU GUYS--




ALL RIGHT, FINE.  
YOU CAN EXPLAIN  
LATER. RIGHT NOW,  
WE'VE GOT  
TO--  
OH,  
GOD--!

THERE  
THEY  
ARE--!







IT'S FUNNY  
HOW LIFE TURNS  
OUT...

...WHO WOULD  
THOUGHT I'D BE  
SHOWING THE AVENGERS'  
BUTLER A LITTLE BIT OF  
LIFE ON THE WRONG  
SIDE OF THE TRACKS,  
HUH...?

INDEED.

YOU...  
EAT HERE  
OFTEN?

DECENT FOOD FOR THE RIGHT PRICE.  
I'M NOT EXACTLY MAKING A MINT  
IN THE "ROBIN HOOD"  
GAME SO FAR...

BESIDES, IT'S IN  
MY BEST INTERESTS  
TO KEEP A LOW  
PROFILE...

WELL, THEN...  
AREN'T YOU EVEN  
SLIGHTLY NERVOUS...?  
YOUR UNIFORM...

AHHH, NONE  
A' THE DRUNKS IN  
HERE ARE PAYIN'  
ANY ATTENTION.

AND EVEN  
IF THEY WERE,  
THEY WOULDN'T  
CARE, I THINK  
WE'RE OKAY.

I SEE.

SO, THIS  
CLANDESTINE  
LIFESTYLE SERVES  
SOME PURPOSE  
FOR YOU.

YOU'RE  
RUNNING  
FROM THE  
LAW...?





YOU  
COULD SAY  
THAT.

THE COPS AND I...  
WELL, THEY'RE LABORING  
UNDER A BIT OF A  
MISUNDERSTANDING.

ONE OF MY FIRST  
OUTINGS... I BUSTED UP  
A JEWELRY HEIST. COPS  
SHOWED UP... THOUGHT I  
WAS PART OF IT...



I EVEN HAD A FEW RUN-INS  
WITH YOUR BOY, IRON MAN...  
NOW THERE WAS A BIG  
MISUNDERSTANDING.

I GUESS...  
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE  
OUT OF HAND. I STARTED OUT...  
WELL, I WANTED TO DO THE WHOLE  
HERO THING, Y'KNOW...? DO WHAT  
YOU GUYS DO. MAYBE NOT ON  
THAT SCALE, BUT I WANTED  
TO DO MY BIT...



CRAZY  
WORLD OUT  
THERE...

YES,  
IT IS. VERY  
MUCH SO.

HEY, LOOK...  
I AIN'T CRYIN' ABOUT IT.  
I'LL DO WHAT I DO, AND  
IF I GOTTA TAKE A  
FEW LUMPS, THEN  
SO BE IT.

I KNOW WHAT  
I'M ABOUT. I KNOW I'M  
NO CROOK. I JUST THOUGHT...  
I'D END UP BEING PART OF  
SOMETHING. INSTEAD, I'M OUT  
HERE PRETTY MUCH  
ON MY OWN...

AH,  
WHATEVER.  
LEMME JUST  
PAY THE CHECK  
AND WE CAN GET  
THE HELL OUTTA  
HERE...

PLEASE.  
ALLOW  
ME...



# MANHATTAN

...BUT CAN YOU **BLAME** ME? I MEAN, JARVIS... YOU SHOULD **SEE** THIS WOMAN...!

YOUR DESCRIPTION PAINTS QUITE THE PICTURE...

...BUT SURELY YOU SEE THAT THIS AFFAIR HAS **CONTRIBUTED** TO YOUR CURRENT DILEMMA.

WELL, SURE. WHADDYA WANT ME TO SAY...? GUILTY AS CHARGED. BUT THE **SEX--**

IF I MAY... HOW **SERIOUS** ARE YOU ABOUT YOUR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER? AND DON'T **HUSTLE** ME. I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR BRAVADO. HONESTLY, IT DOESN'T HELP YOUR **CAUSE** AT ALL...

YEAH...

...WELL, BEING A **LOUDMOUTH** WORKS FOR ME, OKAY? I'M PRETTY MUCH RESIGNED TO THE FACT THAT I'LL NEVER GET A ROOM IN THE **MANSION**, ANYWAY...

...SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY BRING ME ALL THE WAY UP HERE? TO RUB MY **NOSE** IN IT...?

NOT EXACTLY, MR. HAWKEYE. I'VE ACTUALLY GOT SOMETHING **ELSE** IN MIND...





THOR!  
DON'T--!

CONNIVING  
VILLAIN! THOU SHALT  
TASTE THE STONE  
OF MJOLNIR!

I SHALL  
GRIND YOUR BONES  
INTO MIDGARD  
DUST!

COMPANY!  
SECURE THE  
AREA!

MOVE IT!  
MOVE IT!  
MOVE IT--!

NO--!

HERE WE GO...  
I'VE HACKED INTO  
NEFARIA'S ENCRYPTED  
FILES. HARD DRIVE'S  
SELF-CORRUPTING,  
BUT I THINK I'VE  
PUT A FREEZE  
ON IT.  
JUST GIVE  
ME A FEW  
MORE SECONDS  
HERE...

SIR!

THIS  
HIM?

SOMEBODY GET ME  
CAPTAIN AMERICA SO  
WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT  
THE HELL'S GOING  
ON HERE...!

GIANT-MAN...?

IT'S FINE.  
I DID AN INFO  
DUMP BEFORE  
THE SYSTEM  
CRASHED.

THIS DATA  
CONFIRMS NEFARIA'S  
STATUS AS HEAD  
OF THE MAGGIA...









OH, MY  
GOD...!

...IT...  
HAPPENED  
SO FAST...  
NEFARIA'S  
GOONS...  
THEY...

S-SHE...

...GOT  
SHOT.



# EAST TRANSIA, EUROPE







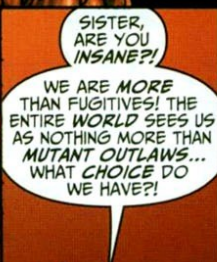
LUCKILY, WE'VE COVERED OUR TRACKS WELL. I'M SURE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE...

FROM HERE, WE CAN CROSS THE BORDER INTO ROMANIA BY DAWN--

PIETRO, PLEASE...



...HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE TO LIVE AS FUGITIVES...?



SISTER, ARE YOU INSANE?!

WE ARE MORE THAN FUGITIVES! THE ENTIRE WORLD SEES US AS NOTHING MORE THAN MUTANT OUTLAWS... WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?!



I UNDERSTAND. I REALLY DO. BUT WE'RE NOT CRIMINALS...

...WE DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS.



YOU'RE RIGHT, WANDA.

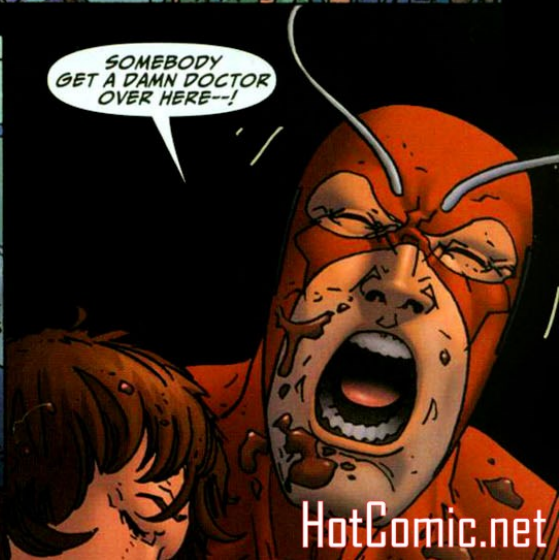
BUT I'M AFRAID WE'VE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS. NO MATTER WHAT OUR INTENTIONS MAY BE...



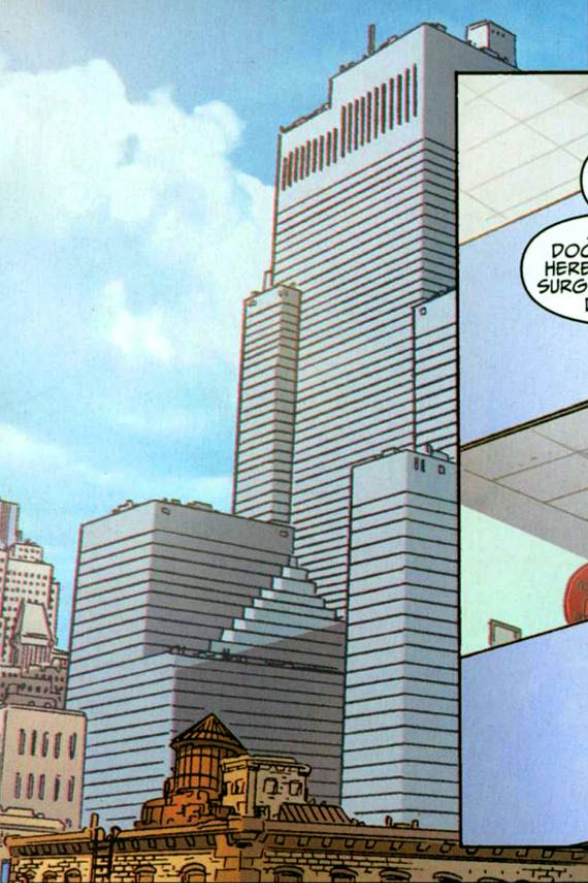
...THEY WILL NEVER ALTER THEIR PERCEPTION OF US. TO THEM...

...WE ARE PURE EVIL.









OKAY, I'VE GOT THE LATEST...  
...NOW THAT DOCTOR SVENSON'S HERE, THE WASP IS IN SURGERY. ALL WE CAN DO...IS WAIT.



I SUPPOSE SO.  
SHE'S CRITICAL, BUT SVENSON'S THE BEST IN HIS FIELD.



I HONESTLY NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS...

WE'VE GOT STRENGTH IN NUMBERS. THAT WAS THE WHOLE IDEA HERE. I SUPPOSE I FIGURED...TOGETHER, WE MIGHT JUST BE UNTOUCHABLE.



SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN PRETTY GOOD AT OUR JOB. BUT IS LOSING ONE OF OUR OWN TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY...?



I THINK I NEED SOME AIR--

CAP... WAIT.









I'VE NEVER FELT THIS KIND OF... PAIN BEFORE. I'VE NEVER...**HATED** LIKE THIS...

AND I'VE NEVER WANTED TO ENACT THE KIND OF **RETRIBUTION** THAT EVEN HAUNTS MY DREAMS...!



IT'S AS THOUGH THE CHOICE HAS COME DOWN TO ZEMO'S **LIFE...OR MY OWN SOUL.**

I NEED TO **MAKE THAT CHOICE...**



...AND I NEED TO **MAKE IT SOON.**



DEAR GOD...!



THERE IS NO **DISHONOR** IN ANGUISHING OVER A **LOVED ONE...**





...BUT NEITHER MORTAL NOR GOD HAS YET DECIDED HER FATE. IN MATTERS SUCH AS THESE...

...ONE MUST HAVE FAITH.

IS THAT... SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER...?



NAY, AVENGER. 'TIS MERELY THE TRUTH.

THE GATES OF VALHALLA HAVE WELCOMED MANY A NOBLE WARRIOR. WHEN THE WASP'S TIME COMES, SHE WILL HAVE HER SEAT IN THE GREAT HALL...

...BUT MINE INTUITION TELLS ME THIS IS NOT HER TIME.



YOU'VE GOT A HELLUVA NERVE, THOR!

TO STAND IN HERE AND PLAY THAT PIOUS "GODHOOD" ACT WHEN MY JAN COULD BE IN THERE DYING!



'TIS NO ACT.

AND I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CALL UPON THE ALL-FATHER TO INTERVENE IN MATTERS WHERE MY TEAMMATES ARE CONCERNED.







THE  
"ALL-FATHER"...  
SURE...

WELL, THAT'S  
A REAL **RELIEF**,  
THOR... BUT I'D  
RATHER DEAL WITH  
**REALITY**, IF YOU  
DON'T MIND.



I SWEAR, IF SHE **SURVIVES**...  
I'LL GET HER AWAY FROM  
ALL THIS **MADNESS**...

SHE NEVER  
WANTED THIS LIFE.  
DEAR LORD...  
PLEASE...!



THOU WOULDST  
**REJECT THY DESTINY**?  
YOUR PLACE--**BOTH** OF YOU--  
IS AMONG **WARRIORS** OF  
EQUAL METTLE.



**FORGET IT!**  
I DON'T NEED  
YOUR EMPTY  
**PLATITUDES!**

Y'KNOW...  
YOU CLAIM TO BE  
A "GOD", BUT I DON'T  
SEE YOU STEPPING UP  
TO PERFORM ANY  
**MIRACLES** HERE--!



≡AHM--≡

AM I...  
INTERRUPTING  
SOMETHING...?



DOCTOR SVENSON!  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
WITH JANE?

TELL  
ME--



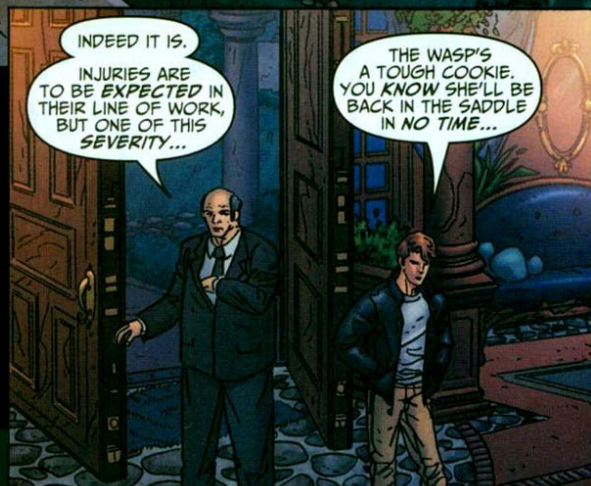
S-SHE'S IN  
**RECOVERY** RIGHT  
NOW...



THE  
OPERATION WAS  
**SUCCESSFUL**.

SHE'S  
GOING TO  
BE **FINE**.









YOU ARE  
BUT A MEANS  
TO AN END.