



THE AVENGERS

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12¢ 54
IND. JULY

THE
NEW
MASTERS
OF
EVIL!



Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"...AND DELIVER US FROM"
THE **MASTERS OF EVIL!**

THIS NEW
PROTECTIVE
DEVICE
WORKS
PERFECTLY,
TOO, HANK!

I STEPPED
BENEATH THE
DARK LIGHT
--AND EACH
HAND WAS
CAUGHT IN A
VISE!

GREAT! WITH
ALL THE
VILLAINS
WHO'VE GOT
IN HERE
LATELY--

THIS PLACE
WAS STARTIN'
TO LOOK
LIKE OPEN
HOUSE!

THAT'S
FOR SURE!

Featuring:

THE FAR-OUT
FANTASY HERO
WHO HAS TAKEN
MARVELDOM BY
STORM--THE
BLACK KNIGHT!

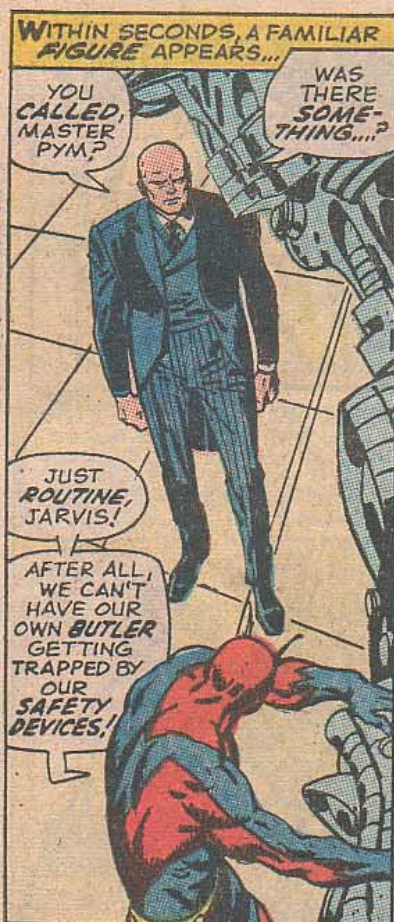
ANOTHER PANORAMIC PANOPLY
OF PANELS FROM THE
POWER-PACKED PENS OF:

STAN LEE.....EDITOR
ROY THOMAS.....WRITER
JOHN BUSCEMA...ARTIST
AND
GEORGE TUSKA...INKER

NOT TO MENTION THE
PANDEMONIAC PEN OF
ARTIE SIMEK.....LETTERER

THEN, THERE'S
ONLY ONE
PERSON LEFT
TO FILL IN
ABOUT THESE
NEW TRAPS!

JARVIS!



UH, HERE'S WHERE WE PART, MISS VAN DYNE!

I MUST CATCH THE UPTOWN SUBWAY!

I'M VISITING MY MOTHER... IN THE BRONX!

SEE YOU, JARVIS!

RIGHT NOW, FRANKLY, I'M RATHER GLAD THAT CHARLES DIDN'T SHOW!

IT'S SUCH A LOVELY DAY--JUST MADE FOR WALKING!

AND, SINCE I'M NOT WEARING MY WASP COSTUME, I WON'T ATTRACT ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION!

A FEW STOPS MORE, AND HE IS STANDING IN A CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOOD... ON A CERTAIN STREET...

I WAS BROUGHT UP ON A BLOCK JUST LIKE THIS...!

HOME TEAM
10101210
1011101

THAT COULD BE MY TEAM'S SCORE ON THAT WALL... A LONG TIME AGO!

BUT, THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH... MY MISSION TODAY!

SOON, HOWEVER, AS A STRANGELY CHANGED JARVIS JOINS THE LEGIONS OF STRAP-HANGERS...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD THE WASP I WAS HEADING UPTOWN!

IF SHE HAD SEEN ME ENTER THE DOWNTOWN SIDE INSTEAD--

STILL, WHY SHOULD SHE HAVE LOOKED BACK AT A NOBODY LIKE ME?

HERE'S WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR--IN THIS OLD CONDEMNED BUILDING!

YES, IT'S CONDEMNED--BUT NO MORE SO THAN THE FACELESS MASSES WHO HAVE GROWN TO MANHOOD IN SUCH TENEMENTS!

I HOPE NO ONE SAW ME ENTER HERE!

YET, AFTER ALL, WHO PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO... A BUTLER?

NEXT, THE MAN KNOWN AS JARVIS DESCENDS A METAL LADDER... TO FACE TWO GRIM STEEL DOORS...



...WHICH AUTO-MATICALLY SLIDE OPEN FOR HIM....!

THEN, AS HE STANDS BEFORE ANOTHER BARRIER, HE SEEMS TO PAUSE--AS IF MAKING A FATEFUL DECISION...

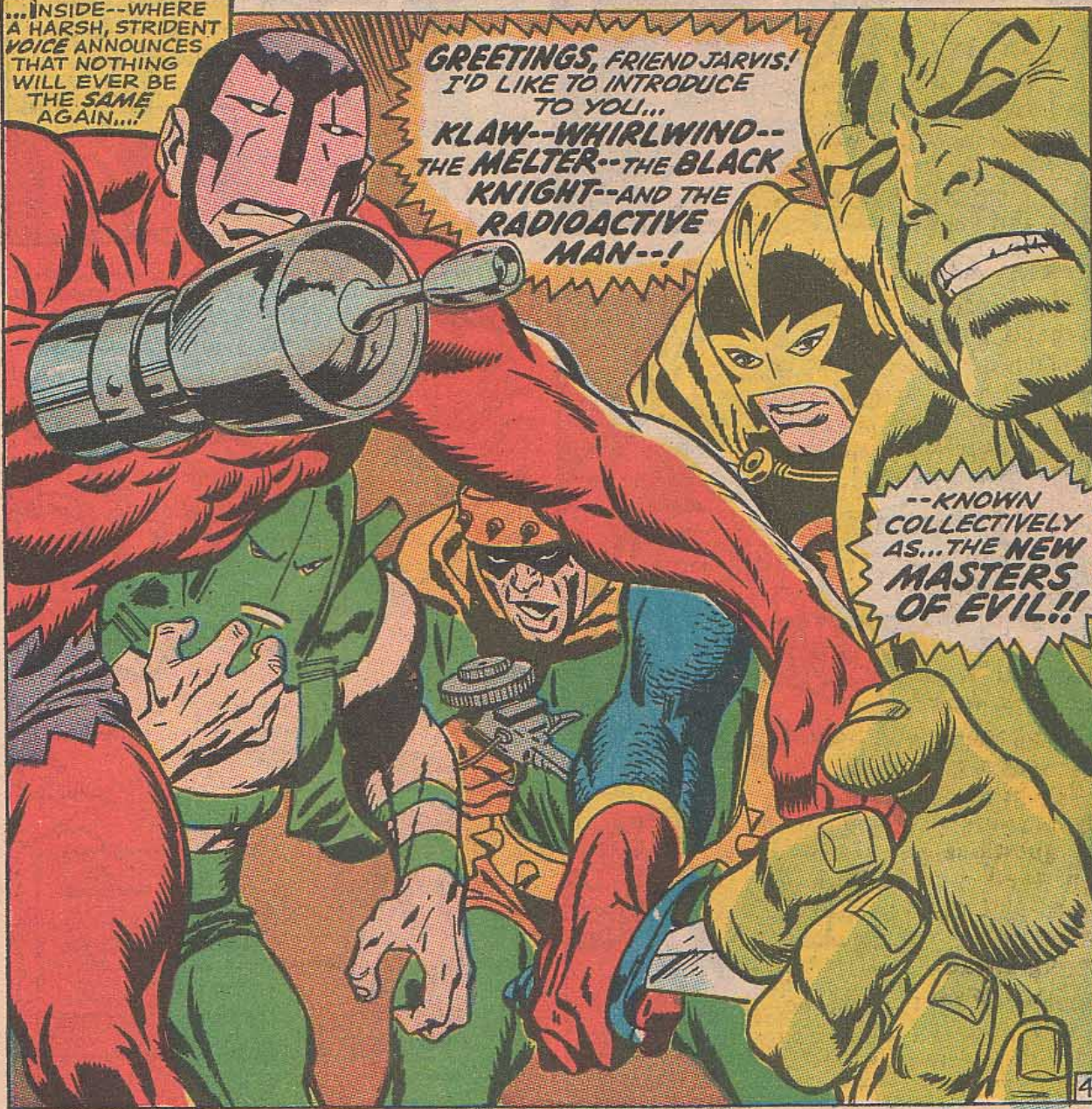


SCARCELY A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, HE PULLS OPEN THE FINAL DOOR...



...AND STEPS INSIDE...

...INSIDE--WHERE A HARSH, STRIDENT VOICE ANNOUNCES THAT NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN....!



GREETINGS, FRIEND JARVIS!
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE
TO YOU...
**KLAW--WHIRLWIND--
THE MELTER--THE BLACK
KNIGHT--AND THE
RADIOACTIVE
MAN--!**

-- KNOWN
COLLECTIVELY
AS...THE NEW
**MASTERS
OF EVIL!!**

SUDDENLY, AT A SHARP SPOKEN **COMMAND**, THE ASTONISHING ARRAY OF FIGURES **PART--** REVEALING AN OMINOUS **SEATED FORM** BEHIND THEM...

AND I, BUTLER, AM HE WHO CONTACTED ALL SIX OF YOU-- ONLY DAYS AGO!

I--WHO HAVE NO **FACE**...NO **NAME**...NO **IDENTITY**, SAVE THAT OF--

--THE **CRIMSON COWL!**

WHAT YOU CALL YOURSELF IS **YOUR BUSINESS!**

ALL I KNOW IS, YOU'VE OFFERED ME **GOOD MONEY** TO BRING YOU CERTAIN INFORMATION--AND I'VE **BROUGHT IT!**

NOW, WHERE'S MY **PAY-OFF?**

IN DUE TIME, JARVIS... IN **DUE TIME**...!

I DON'T LIKE IT, COWL!

THE AVENGERS' BUTLER, COMING IN FROM OUT OF LEFT FIELD--!

HOW CAN WE BE SURE IT ISN'T A **TRAP?**

IT'S **NO TRAP**--AND YOUR MASKED LEADER **KNOWS IT!**

I'M NOT CERTAIN HOW HE LEARNED THAT I NEEDED MONEY FOR A SPECIAL **PURPOSE**, BUT--

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I **DID**-- THAT IS **ENOUGH!**

EVERY MAN HAS HIS **PRICE**--AND I FOUND **YOURS!**

WORDS-- WORDS! I'M FED UP WITH MERE **TALK!**

IF WE DON'T MOVE **SOON** AGAINST THE AVENGERS, THE **KLAW** SHALL SEEK HIS **REVENGE** ALONE!

"FOR, I CARE LESS THAN **NOTHING** ABOUT THE AVENGERS! IT IS **T'CHALLA** WHOM I WANT--HE WHO IS NOW CALLED THE **BLACK PANTHER**..."

"IT WAS **HE** WHO, WHEN A MERE CHILD, TURNED MY OWN **SONIC WEAPON** AGAINST ME-- CAUSED AN **EXPLODING GUN** TO **SHATTER** MY HAND--!"

*IN F.F.#53!--SUCINCT STAN,

"AND, TEN YEARS LATER, IT WAS HE WHO RUINED MY PLANS TO SEIZE HIS LAND'S STORES OF PRECIOUS **VIBRANIUM**..."

YOU BROUGHT THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** HERE-- TO DEFEAT ME!

FOR THAT, YOU MUST DIE!

I THINK NOT, MURDERER!

"FASTER THAN I COULD HAVE DREAMED, HE LEAPED TO THE **POWER SWITCH**, AND--"

MY **CONVERTER**--IT'S BEING BLOWN APART!

IT HAS TO END THIS WAY--IN THE NAME OF **JUSTICE**!

"YET, AS THE VICTORIOUS **PANTHER** LEAPED TO SAFETY, I MADE AN **EQUALLY FATEFUL** MOVE..."

IT IS THE **SOUND TRANSFORMER** WHICH GIVES ME THE POWERS THAT MY **SONIC CLAW** POSSESSES!

NOW, I SHALL SEE WHAT IT WILL DO--TO THE **HUMAN BODY** ITSELF!

I **SURVIVED** A STRANGE METAMORPHOSIS-- INTO THE AWESOME BEING OF **SOLIDIFIED SOUND** WHICH YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

THE ONE CALLED THE **CRIMSON COWL** HELPED ME ESCAPE FROM **PRISON**-- AND PROMISED ME **VENGEANCE** ON THE ACCURSED **BLACK PANTHER**!

PERHAPS I SHOULD START BY KILLING YOU-- WHO ARE HIS **BUTLER**!

NO--NO! I--I CAME TO **HELP** YOU...!

HELP US? HOW COULD A WEAKLING LIKE YOU HELP... THE **RADIOACTIVE MAN**?

"UNLIKE **KLAW**, I WAS A MEMBER OF THE **ORIGINAL MASTERS OF EVIL**-- RECRUITED BY THE MYSTERIOUS **ZEMO** BECAUSE MY BODY HAD THE POWER TO **REPEL** THE OTHERWISE **INVINCIBLE HAMMER OF THOR**..."*

SURPRISED, FOOL?

AGAINST ME, YOUR MIGHTY WEAPON IS NOTHING BUT A CHILD'S TOY!

*HE WAS INTRODUCED IN **THOR #93**, AND BATTLE OUR EVER-LOVIN' ASSEMBLERS IN **AVENGERS #6**! --SAY-IT-ALL STAN.

"BUT, THOUGH THE IMMORTAL AVENGER WAS HELPLESS AGAINST ME, I HAD RECKONED WITHOUT THE SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW OF IRON MAN..."

WHEN ANY RADIATION TOUCHES ITS PHOTO-ELECTRIC CELLS, IT EJECTS A RAPIDLY-UNWINDING SPOOL OF LEAD FOIL--

"THEN, SWIFTLY ATTACHING THE COILS WHICH BOUND ME TO AN INFLATABLE, LEAD-COATED BALLOON..."

THIS TRANSISTOR-POWERED EJECTOR I INVENTED OUGHT TO STOP YOU COLD, HOT-SHOT!

--AS YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY NOTICED!

YOU MAY HAVE CAPTURED ME FOR THE MOMENT--

IT'S WRAPPING ITSELF-- AROUND ME--AS IF IT'S ALIVE!

BUT, ONE DAY, I SWEAR THE AVENGERS WILL BE SORRY THEY EVER HEARD OF THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN!

I JOINED THIS RE-GROUPING OF THE MASTERS OF EVIL BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME ESCAPE MY RADIATION-PROOF CELL, COWL--

STILL, IF WE DON'T ATTACK AT ONCE--

--AND BECAUSE YOU PROMISED THAT OUR NEXT VICTIMS WOULD BE THOR AND IRON MAN!

YOU'RE TOO IMPATIENT, MY FRIEND!

YOUR OLD ALLY, THE BLACK KNIGHT, SPEAKS WISELY!

HE KNOWS I WOULD SCARCELY HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE IF I HAD NOT DEvised SOME INFALLIBLE PLAN...

WELL THEN, LET'S HEAR IT, MISTER...BECAUSE THE MELTER ISN'T TOO LONG ON GRATITUDE FOR HELPING ME BREAK PRISON, EITHER!

I NEED NO MAN'S AID, MELTER... AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, WHIRLWIND? DID THE COWL HELP YOU OUT, TOO?

ON THE CONTRARY, I AM THE CHAUFFEUR OF JANET VAN DYNE--THE WASP!

BUT, I WANT NO ONE TO KNOW THAT--

LEAST OF ALL THAT SPINELESS, WEAK-LING, JARVIS!



BUT, WE'RE WASTING TIME!

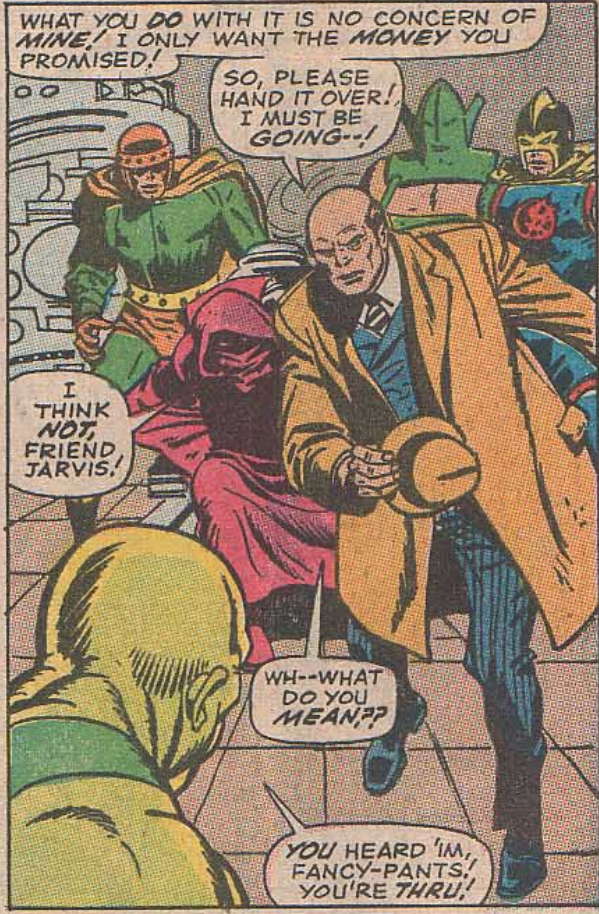
HERE ARE THE PLANS YOU WANTED!

THEY LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING, BUT--

THEY ARE THE REAL THING, MELTER!

THE FLOOR-PLAN OF THE AVENGERS' NEW PROTECTIVE DEVICES!

WHAT WE CAN'T DO WITH THAT!



WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS NO CONCERN OF MINE! I ONLY WANT THE MONEY YOU PROMISED!

SO, PLEASE HAND IT OVER! I MUST BE GOING--!

I THINK NOT, FRIEND JARVIS!

WH--WHAT DO YOU MEAN??

YOU HEARD 'IM, FANCY-PANTS! YOU'RE THRU!



THEN, AS THE FEARFUL BUTLER TURNS BACK TOWARDS THE SCARLET-ROBED FIGURE AT THE CENTER OF THE ROOM, HE SUDDENLY GASPS--

THAT GUN! YOU--YOU NEVER INTENDED TO KEEP OUR BARGAIN!

NO--NO! DON'T! I-- UNNNH!

IT FIRES ONLY GASEOUS PELLETS, FOOL!

BUT, THEY WILL SUFFICE!



LEAVE HIM WHERE HE LIES, ALL OF YOU--AND GO!

YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE TO MEET--AT PRECISELY MIDNIGHT!

UNTIL THEN, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN!

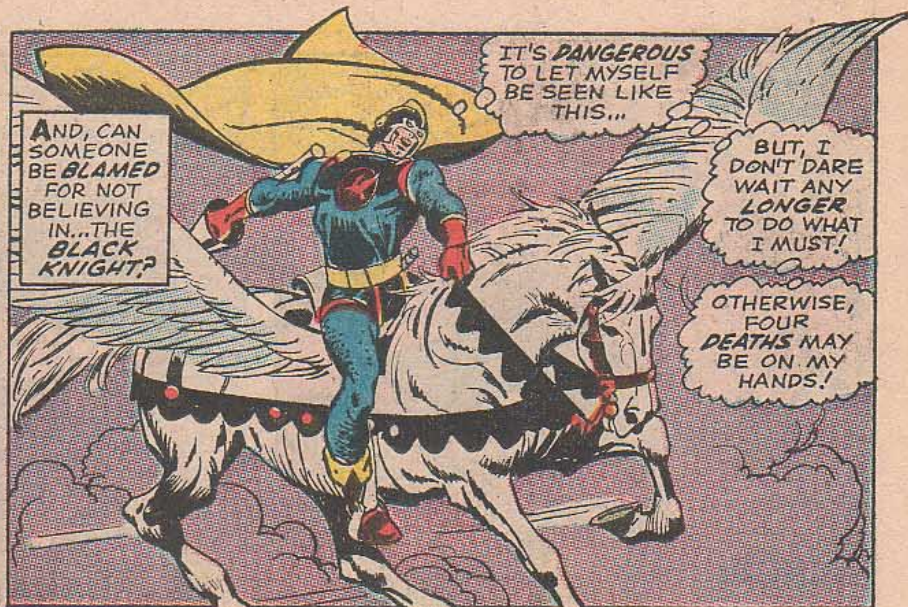
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT TURNCOAT, JARVIS?

HE'S STILL BREATHING!

I SAID THAT I WILL DISPOSE OF HIM!

NOW DEPART--AND KEEP OUT OF SIGHT!

AS DARKNESS FALLS, HOWEVER, ONE OF THE SINISTER SEXTET IS DEFINITELY NOT HIDDEN FROM PUBLIC VIEW...



AND, CAN SOMEONE BE BLAMED FOR NOT BELIEVING IN...THE BLACK KNIGHT?

IT'S DANGEROUS TO LET MYSELF BE SEEN LIKE THIS...

BUT, I DON'T DARE WAIT ANY LONGER TO DO WHAT I MUST!

OTHERWISE, FOUR DEATHS MAY BE ON MY HANDS!

"HOW QUIETLY IT ALL STARTED...WITH A LETTER ADDRESSED TO MY LATE UNCLE...THE ORIGINAL, VILLAINOUS BLACK KNIGHT..."

AS UNCLE NATHAN'S LEGAL HEIR, ONE THING I INHERITED WAS THE KEY TO HIS POST-OFFICE BOX!

BUT, THIS LETTER IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE!



IT'S AN INVITATION --TO JOIN SOMETHING CALLED "THE NEW MASTERS OF EVIL!"

LOOK, OFFICER-- IN THE SKY!

IT'S A MAN ...ON A WINGED HORSE!

TRYIN' TO CONVINCE ME YOUR EYESIGHT'S BAD, HUH?

SO NATURALLY YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT FIRE PLUG!

FOR MY MONEY, YOU'VE JUST BEEN STARIN TOO HARD AT MOBILGAS SIGNS!

"MY CURIOSITY AROUSED, I ARRANGED A MEETING WITH...THE CRIMSON COWL..."

YOU ARE YOUNGER THAN I EXPECTED, BLACK KNIGHT!

AH! I SEE YOU HAVE SPIRIT!

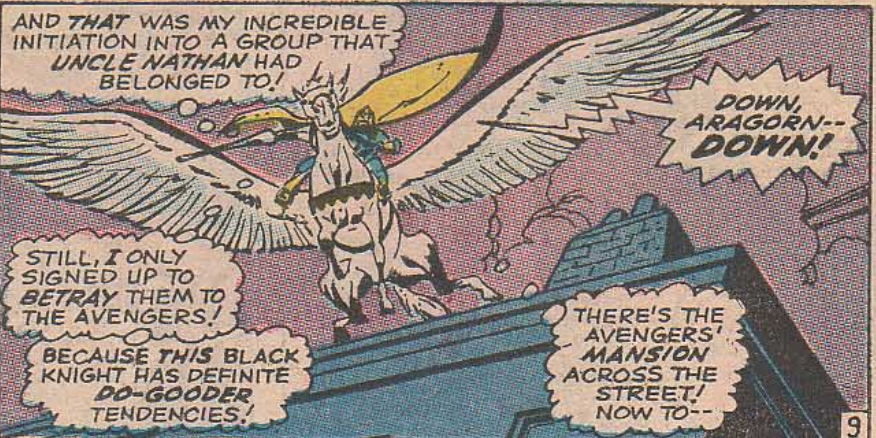
VERY WELL! YOU MAY JOIN US!

SHOULD MY MOTHER HAVE PHONED YOUR MOTHER?



AND THAT WAS MY INCREDIBLE INITIATION INTO A GROUP THAT UNCLE NATHAN HAD BELONGED TO!

DOWN, ARAGORN-- DOWN!



STILL, I ONLY SIGNED UP TO BETRAY THEM TO THE AVENGERS!

BECAUSE THIS BLACK KNIGHT HAS DEFINITE DO-GOODER TENDENCIES!

THERE'S THE AVENGERS' MANSION ACROSS THE STREET! NOW TO--



THE NEXT
MOMENT,
WITH A
FLURRY OF
WING AND
HOOF...



THE
KNIGHT
WANTED
ALL OF
US TO
ATTACK
HIM--

--SO THAT
FLYING
HORSE
OF
HIS COULD
GET AWAY!

DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE!!!
STOP
IT!

I CAN'T!
CAN'T GET A
CLEAR SHOT
AT IT--!

DON'T DESPAIR, FRANTIC ONE...THE FAITHFUL
PINIONED STEED ISN'T GOING FOR A POSSE
...BUT, IT IS SEEN JUST THEN BY ONE OF
THE EVER-WATCHFUL AVENGERS...

...WHICH IS JUST WHAT
OUR ARTHURIAN STALWART,
EXPECTED, OF COURSE!

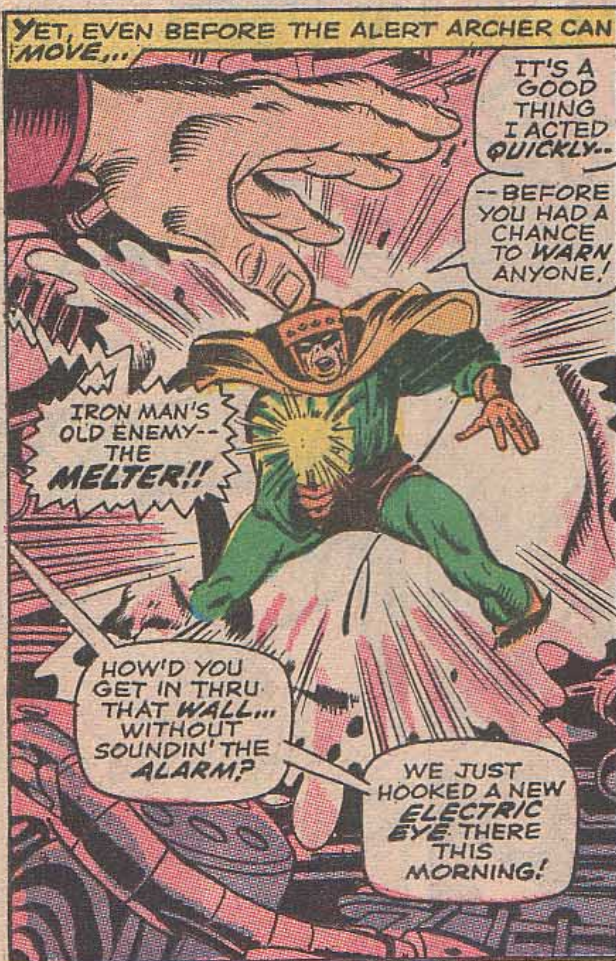


I THOUGHT
I SAW A
WINGED
HORSE
LAND ON
THAT
ROOFTOP
A FEW
SECONDS
AGO!

BUT THEN,
WHERE'S
THE
BLACK
KNIGHT,
UNLESS--

MAYBE I'D
BETTER DO
THE
AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE
BIT--NOW!

YET, EVEN BEFORE THE ALERT ARCHER CAN
'MOVE...



IT'S A
GOOD
THING
I ACTED
QUICKLY--

--BEFORE
YOU HAD A
CHANCE
TO WARN
ANYONE!

IRON MAN'S
OLD ENEMY--
THE
MELTER!!

HOW'D YOU
GET IN THRU
THAT WALL!!!
WITHOUT
SOUNDIN' THE
ALARM?

WE JUST
HOOKED A NEW
ELECTRIC
EYE THERE
THIS
MORNING!

WE'LL TELL YOU
LATER, BOWMAN--
IF WE FEEL LIKE
IT!



WE?
THEN,
THERE'S
MORE
LIKE
YOU?

GOTTA
CLUE
IN THE
OTHERS
--FAST!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING,
AVENGER--EVER AGAIN!

OH YEAH! NOT IF YOUR
AIM AINT ANY BETTER
THAN YOUR MANNERS,
MISTER!

I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU GOT
IN HERE WITHOUT
KNOCKIN'--

BUT, YOU'RE NOT
GOIN' OUT
AGAIN--UNLESS
I CARRY YA!

AND, SO
IT WOULD
SEEM,
FOR--

AARRHH!

SWAK!

GOT 'IM--
THOUGH NOT
BEFORE HE
GOT OFF A
SECOND SHOT!

STILL, WHAT
DIFFERENCE
DOES THAT
MAKE--IF
HE'S DOWN?

ON THE CONTRARY, HAWKEYE,
IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE
IN THE WORLD--TO YOU!

BOMF!

UNNNH!

LUCKILY, HIS
STUN-ARROW
STRUCK ME
AFTER I HAD
FIRED AT THE
MACHINERY
OVER HIS HEAD!

NOW, HE'S
DOOMED--
ALL BECAUSE
I WAS ABLE
TO CATCH
HIM BY
SURPRISE,
THUS GAIN-
ING THE
ADVANTAGE!

IF MY
FELLOW
FELONS
ARE
DOING
AS WELL,
WE CAN'T
MISS!

WHILE, IN THE MANSION'S MULTI-VEHICLED GARAGE...

GOING FOR A SPIN, PANTHER?

HMMM...I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE MASK--

BUT THE TONE IS FAMILIAR!

YOU PICK UP OUR AMERICAN VERNACULAR QUICKLY, MY AFRICAN FRIEND!

A PITY YOU WON'T BE AROUND MUCH LONGER!

HE'S GETTING READY TO SPRING AT ME...I CAN SENSE IT!

FROM YOUR LIGHTNING VELOCITY, I'D SAY YOU WERE THE AVENGERS' OLD ENEMY--THE WHIRLWIND!

BUT, WHATEVER YOUR SPEED, YOU'LL FIND THE BLACK PANTHER A MOST UNCOOPERATIVE VICTIM!

LUCKILY, I WAS WEARING MY COSTUME ALL ALONG!

THIS CAR-COAT MERELY HAMPERED MY MOVEMENTS!

WH--? CAN'T SEE--!

AND, THE NEXT SECOND...

KL'K!

HE TORE THRU THAT WALL LIKE PAPER!

BUT, LET'S SEE HOW HE FARES ...IN THE DARK!

SO, YOU FOOL--YOU THINK YOUR CATLIKE POWERS WILL SAVE YOU, EH?

YOU'LL SOON LEARN HOW USELESS THEY ARE AGAINST WHIRLWIND!

MUST WATCH MYSELF...I NEARLY CALLED T'CHALLA BY NAME!

DON'T WANT TO GIVE AWAY MY IDENTITY--JUST IN CASE I FAIL!

YET, WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT FAILING?

I KNOW THIS GARAGE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!

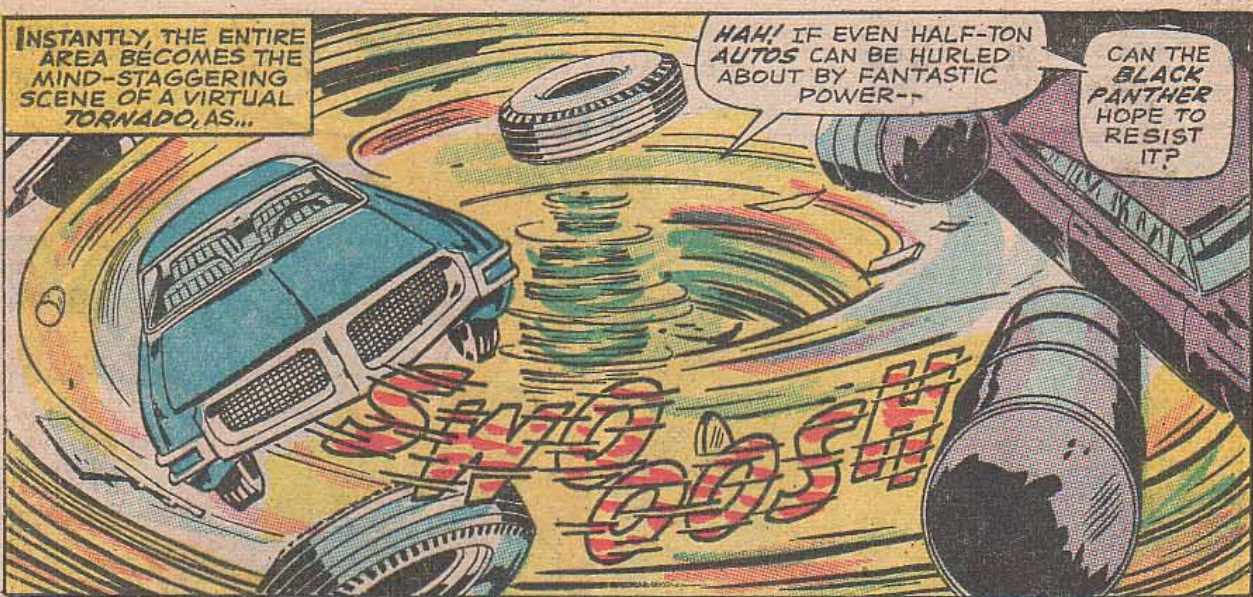
AS THE WASP'S CHAUFFEUR, I DIDN'T NEED JARVIS' CHART TO TELL ME THE ONLY EXIT IS CLOSED--

--OR WHAT I COULD ACCOMPLISH BY WHIRLING ABOUT-- LIKE THIS!

INSTANTLY, THE ENTIRE AREA BECOMES THE MIND-STAGGERING SCENE OF A VIRTUAL TORNADO, AS...

HAH! IF EVEN HALF-TON AUTOS CAN BE HURLED ABOUT BY FANTASTIC POWER--

CAN THE BLACK PANTHER HOPE TO RESIST IT?



AND, AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED...



I'M LIKE A STRAW... CAUGHT IN A VIOLENT CYCLONE...!

MUST GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING... BEFORE I GET DIZZY...AND PASS OUT!

SO, THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, FRIEND PANTHER!

I'LL JUST MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU...

--BY STOPPING, ON THE PROVERBIAL DIME!



UNNNH!- COULDN'T FORESEE HIS ABILITY TO STOP SO SUDDENLY...MAKE ME LOSE ALL SENSE OF BALANCE!

CAN'T STOP MYSELF...FROM SLAMMING INTO THE W--

AAARRRH!-



BUT, EVEN AS A SECOND AVENGER FALLS BEFORE THE UNEXPECTED ONSLAUGHT OF THE FOREARMED FOURSOME, LET'S SEE HOW THE WINSOME WASP IS FARING...

THAT SOUND-- LIKE A THOUSAND SHRILL SIRENS!

AND, SOMETHING JUST TORE A GAPING HOLE IN MY WALL!



NOT WHAT, JANET VAN DYNE...BUT RATHER WHO!

IF MY NAME WOULD MEAN NOTHING TO YOU, PERHAPS MY FACE WOULD...



...THE FACE OF KLAU--

--GREATEST FOE OF THE ACCURSED BLACK PANTHER!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE PANTHER, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG ROOM!

BUT, DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU...!

BAH! A MERE WISP OF A GIRL IS NO OPPONENT FOR ME--AS I PROTESTED TO HIM WHO IS OUR NOMINAL LEADER!

THERE IS NO NEED EVEN FOR ME TO WASTE A SONIC BLAST ON YOU--!

I GUESS NOT...

...BEING AS HOW I'M SO DEFENSELESS AND ALL!

KWA!

MMFFF!-

CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD BECAUSE HE DIDN'T REALIZE I KNEW SOME JUDO!

BUT NOW, I'D BETTER SCAT...AND WARN THE OTHERS!

DO WHAT YOU WILL, FEMALE--

YOU STILL HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST... KLAU!

SLAM!

OH!! HE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN MY WAY!

COULDN'T STOP...IN TIME TO AVOID IT!

SLEEP TIGHT, SMALL ONE!

WHEN YOU AWAKEN, IT SHALL BE FOR... THE FINAL TIME!





BUT, THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE...

CLOSE, FELLA... BUT NO CIGAR!

DID YOU FORGET MY POWER TO GROW--

--ENABLING ME TO STEP OVER YOUR SPOUTING ADHESIVE?



THEN, YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO TAKE CAPSULES IN ORDER TO CHANGE SIZE?

CAPSULES?!

BOY, HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR A LONG TIME!



YES... THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR FELLOW DO-GOODERS!

THAT'S WHY I MUST HAVE REVENGE! I-- UNHHH!

WOKK!

ARE YOU TALKING MORE NOW-- AND ENJOYING IT LESS?



THEN, AS THE SUPER-VILLAIN RECOVERS FROM HIS INTENDED VICTIM'S COUNTERATTACK...

CAN'T TOUCH HIM... WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF TO EXCESSIVE RADIATION!

BUT, THESE PROTECTIVE GLOVES SHOULD COME IN HANDY!

THAT'S NOT WHAT HAS ME WORRIED, THOUGH!

RADIOACTIVE MAN WOULDN'T HAVE STRUCK ALONE! WHAT ABOUT MY FELLOW AVENGERS--?



STILL, I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER...

YOU MISSED, AS WELL!

AND, YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE--



--NOT IF I CAN GET ONE CLEAR SHOT AT YOU!

THEN YOU WON'T GET THAT SHOT, FRIEND!

CLIMBING UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL WON'T HELP YOU ANY, EITHER!

BECAUSE, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GROW TO MY MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 25 FEET...

AND I'M RIGHT BACK ON THE SCENT AGAIN!

PERHAPS SO, AVENGER--

BUT, WHILE YOU WASTE TIME CHASING ME... WHAT DO YOU THINK IS BEFALLING YOUR DEAR, BELOVED WASP?

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK ANY OF YOU CAN SURVIVE AGAINST THE NEW MASTERS OF EVIL?

SO YOU'RE STILL TOUTING THAT NAME AROUND, EH?

LET ME WARN YOU --IF ANYONE'S HARMED JAN--

I'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO MY 10-FOOT SIZE TO FOLLOW HIM!

MUST HURRY! JAN'S LIFE MAY BE AT STAKE--!

WHILE, NOT FAR AHEAD OF THE PURSUING GIANT...

HAH! I KNEW THAT RUSE WOULD WORK!

KLAW MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE CAPTURED THE WASP BY THIS TIME, AS WE PLANNED!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HENRY PYM THINKS HE HAS...

AND THAT WILL BE HIS ULTIMATE DOWNFALL!

THEN, AS THE RADIOACTIVE MAN TURNS TO MAKE HIS STAND...

NOW, YOU WALKING STOCKPILE, WE'LL FINISH THIS OFF FAST--

WAIT-- THAT SHADOW ABOVE ME...

...IS ONE OF YOUR OWN PROTECTIVE DEVICES, DOLT!

HE TRICKED ME... INTO BLUNDERING BENEATH ONE OF OUR OWN TRAPS!

I'M CAUGHT-- BUT WHY DIDN'T IT SNARE HIM?

I CAN GUESS THE FUTILE QUESTION YOU'RE ASKING YOURSELF, GOLIATH!

WE HAD PREVIOUSLY CALCULATED THAT MY RADIOACTIVITY WOULD CANCEL OUT THE ELECTRIC EYES WHICH ACTIVATE THE MECHANISM!

AND NOW, RATHER THAN BORE YOU WITH FURTHER EXPLANATIONS--

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE SINISTERLY SUCCESSFUL QUARTET ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE **CENTRAL CHAMBER** OF AVENGERS HQ...

WELL, I SEE YOU CAPTURED YOUR **PREY**, KLAW! DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL **BIG AND BRAVE?**

DON'T LET YOUR VICTORY OVER AN ADDLE-BRAINED ARCHER GO TO YOUR HEAD, MELTER!

OTHERWISE, YOU MAY FORCE ME TO SHOW YOU WHAT **REAL POWER** IS!

NO NEED TO GET IN AN **UPROAR**, KLAW!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS... **WE WON!**

MAYBE SO, CRUMB... BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE AN **EGGHEAD** TO FIGURE OUT THAT YOU COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN US SO EASY WITHOUT **INSIDE HELP!**

CALM YOURSELF, MY FRIEND!

WHO WAS IT? **WHOP?**

THE PANTHER'S RIGHT, HAWKEYE!

WE'RE HARDLY IN A POSITION TO **DEMAND** ANSWERS JUST NOW!

YOU'VE SIZED UP THE SITUATION **ADMIRABLY**, PYM!

JUST THE SAME, OUR LEADER--THE **CRIMSON COWL**--TOLD US HE HAD A MESSAGE FOR US ALL AS SOON AS WE HAD **TRIUMPHED!**

HE EVEN KNEW WHICH **CHANNEL** TO ACTIVATE ON YOUR SCANNER!

EVEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE COWL'S **MOTIVES** ARE!

OR WHO HE IS, BENEATH THAT HOOD!

WAIT! HIS IMAGE IS **APPEARING!**

AND, EVEN AS KLAW SPEAKS IN A LOW WHISPER, AN AWESOME **FIGURE** FORMS...

I CAN SENSE YOU HAVE OPENED THE PROPER **CHANNEL** TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME!

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN YOUR MISSION WAS **SUCCESSFUL**... AS I **CALCULATED!**

BUT, WHY THE BIG INTEREST IN CAPTURING THE **AVENGERS**, COWL?

NOW THAT WE'RE **VICTORIOUS**--WE THINK WE'VE GOT A RIGHT TO **KNOW!**

ANGRILY, A VOICE FROM THE SCREEN LASHES BACK AT THE QUESTIONERS... AS A GLOVED HAND REACHES OUT...

YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS-- NOT AS LONG AS YOU ARE MY HIRELINGS!

BUT, BECAUSE I DESIRE THE AVENGERS TO KNOW WHO ENGINEERED THEIR DISMAL DEFEAT--

--I SHALL REVEAL THE TRUE NATURE OF HIM WHOSE COMMANDS YOU CARRIED OUT!

THE CRIMSON COWL--WHO GAVE US ALL OUR ORDERS--WAS A **ROBOT!!**

THAT MUST BE WHY HE STAYED SEATED ALL THE TIME!

THEN, WHO WAS THE REAL COWL--THE ONE WHO JUST UNMASKED THE ROBOT?

AND, NO SOONER IS THE STARTLED QUERY RAISED, THAN COMES THE SENSES-STAGGERING ANSWER...

NOW, AVENGERS-- AS WELL AS YOU WHO MISTAKENLY CALL YOURSELVES THE MASTERS OF EVIL--

GAZE ON THE VISAGE OF HIM WHO IS TRULY THE GREATEST SUPER-VILLAIN OF ALL!!

THAT FACE-- IT'S EVIL BEYOND ALL BELIEF--YET, I RECOGNIZE IT!

THE REAL CRIMSON COWL IS NONE OTHER THAN-- **JARVIS!**

**NEXT ISH:
THE LIVING
H-BOMB!**

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