



THE AVENGERS

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AUG.

"THEIR DARKEST HOUR!"
IN WHICH THE MIGHTY AVENGERS BATTLE AMONG THEMSELVES
...WITH THE *ENCHANTRESS*, THE *EXECUTIONER*, AND EVIL
ZEMO WAITING TO PICK UP THE SPOILS!

An
EXTRAORDINARY
MARVEL
EPIC!!



THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"THEIR DARKEST HOUR!"

FEATURING: THE COMBINED MENACE OF...
**THE EXQUISITE
ENCHANTRESS**
THE EVIL
EXECUTIONER and
THE DIABOLICAL
DR. ZEMO

IRON MAN! YOU
CHOSE TO IGNORE
A CALL FROM US SIX
DAYS AGO! * HOW DO
YOU EXPLAIN
THAT DEED??

BETTER SPEAK
UP, MISTER!
WE'RE ALL
WAITING!

AT A
SPECIAL
BOARD OF
INQUIRY
SESSION, THE
AVENGERS MEET
TO CONSIDER A MOST
SERIOUS CHARGE
BROUGHT AGAINST ONE
OF THEIR OWN
MEMBERS!!

AMONG THOSE PRESENT
WE FIND:

THOR
GIANT-MAN
and the **WASP**
CAPTAIN
AMERICA
and **RICK JONES**
AND, THE ACCUSED

MAGNIFICENTLY WRITTEN
BY: **STAN LEE**

MAJESTICALLY ILLUSTRATED
BY: **JACK KIRBY**

MASTERFULLY INKED
BY: **CHIC STONE**

METICULOUSLY LETTERED
BY: **ART SIMEK**

x-739

*AS SEEN IN **IRON MAN #56**--EDITOR.

HotDomains.net

I CAN OFFER NO DEFENSE! I ALLOWED A PERSONAL PROBLEM TO AFFECT MY SENSE OF DUTY!



WE ARE PLEDGED NOT TO PRY INTO EACH OTHER'S PERSONAL LIVES! YET, IF THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO---

NO! THERE IS NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO!

BUT, GOSH, IRON MAN-- IF YOU WON'T LEVEL WITH THEM, HOW CAN THE AVENGERS HELP?

TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW, RICK! THOR AND GIANT-MAN ARE READY FOR THE VOTE!



IRON MAN, WE HAVE REACHED A DECISION!

IT IS A MOST PAINFUL ONE!

WE FIND YOU GUILTY OF FAILING TO ANSWER AN AVENGERS' ALARM!

IT'S WHAT I DESERVE! THOUGH I CAN'T TELL THEM, I HAD ALMOST FOOLISHLY DECIDED TO QUIT THE AVENGERS BECAUSE OF MY INJURED HEART! BUT THEY MUST NEVER KNOW THAT I AM REALLY TONY STARK, WHOSE LIFE HANGS BY A THREAD!

YOU TELL HIM THE SENTENCE, THOR!

YOU ARE HEREBY FROM ALL

SUSPENDED AVENGERS' ACTIVITY AND DUTIES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK! YOU MAY GO NOW!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY IN THE FABLED KINGDOM OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY NORSE GODS, A SIMILAR SCENE IS TAKING PLACE, AS ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD, THUNDERS--

I BANISH YOU BOTH FROM THIS REALM!

YOU ARE SENTENCED TO SPEND YOUR EXILE UPON THE PLANET EARTH!



MY LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON THE EXECUTIONER AND ME!!

QUIET, ENCHANTRESS! WE ARE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES FOR ATTACKING HIS SON, THOR, NOT LONG AGO!*



LET THE WEAPON AND THE HELMET OF THE EXECUTIONER BE STRIPPED FROM HIM!

AND NOW, SEND THEM BOTH ACROSS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE TO EARTH! ODIN HAS SPOKEN!

BAH! AMONG THE WEAK MORTALS OF EARTH, WHAT NEED HAVE I OF MY HELMET OR AX??! MY POWER WILL BE **SUPREME!** PERHAPS THERE I CAN MANAGE TO FINALLY WIN THE HEART OF THE BEAUTIFUL **ENCHANTRESS!**

AT LEAST ON EARTH I'LL BE NEAR THE HANDSOME **THOR** AGAIN! AND THEN, WHO KNOWS...??



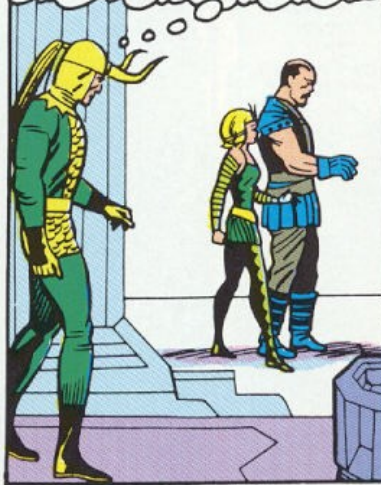
AND SO, IN A CEREMONY OF INCREDIBLE POMP AND PAGEANTRY, THE EVIL **EXECUTIONER** IS DIVESTED OF HIS AWESOME SYMBOLIC AX, AND HIS ALMOST IMPREGNABLE HELMET, WHILE THE EXQUISITE **ENCHANTRESS** ALLOWS HER THOUGHTS TO TURN TO THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD WHOM SHE HAS LOVED FOR AGES! BUT, THERE IS **ANOTHER** WHO WATCHES THE SCENE, WITH GREAT **RELIEF** WELLING UP IN HIS SCHEMING HEART--

--IT IS **LOKI**, THE THUNDER GOD'S SINISTER ARCH-ENEMY!

I AM FORTUNATE THAT ODIN DOES NOT SUSPECT THEY WERE MERELY FOLLOWING MY SUGGESTIONS WHEN THEY ATTACKED **THOR!**

MY PLAN MAY YET SUCCEED! WITH BOTH OF **THEM** ON EARTH, THE ACCURSED **THOR** WILL NEVER BE TRULY SAFE!!

AND SO, THE **ENCHANTRESS** AND THE **EXECUTIONER** CROSS THE ETERNAL RAINBOW BRIDGE, BEGINNING THEIR LONG DRAMATIC EXILE UPON THE PLANET BELOW...



AND SO IT COMES TO PASS...



WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? WHAT'S HOLDIN' UP TRAFFIC??

WHO ARE THOSE TWO?? WHAT ARE THEY ADVERTISIN'??

AND SO, RELUCTANTLY, THE EXECUTIONER ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE LED FROM THE SCENE...



WHAT MANNER OF MEN ARE THESE?? NONE IS CLAD IN BATTLE ARMOR!!

WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE CUSTOMS OF EARTH!

SEE HOW THEY STARE AT ME! THIS CAUSES ME GREAT DISPLEASURE!

LOOK, MAC! HOW YOU AND YOUR LADY FRIEND DRESS IN PUBLIC IS YOUR BUSINESS SO LONG AS YOU DON'T BREAK THE LAW! BUT WHEN YOU START INTERFERIN' WITH THE TRAFFIC AROUND HERE--!

YOU DARE SPEAK THUS TO ME??! QUIET, YOU FOOL! HE IS A GUARDIAN OF THE LAW! IT IS NECESSARY TO OBEY HIM!



AT A GESTURE FROM THE FEARSOME-LOOKING WARRIOR, THE CROWD SCATTERS, INSTINCTIVELY SENSING THE SUPERHUMAN POWER OF THE STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST!



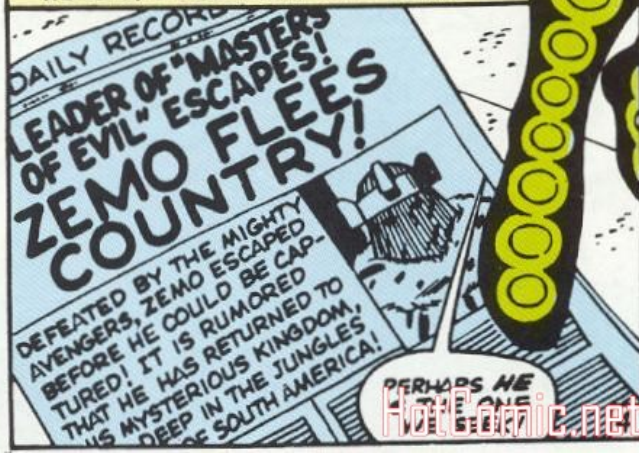
AWAY, PUNY MORTALS!! LET NONE CROWD ABOUT ME! WHERE THE EXECUTIONER WALKS--HE WALKS ALONE!

SEE HOW THEY FLEE! BUT THEY ARE SO NUMEROUS!! THEY ARE AS MANY AS THE SANDS ON THE BEACH!

THIS IS NO GOOD! WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEM-- WE ARE STRANGERS IN A STRANGE WORLD! WE NEED AN ALLY! ONE TO LEAD US-- TO FIGHT WITH US! BUT-- WHO??



AND THEN, FATE STEPS IN, AS THE ENCHANTRESS SEES A HEADLINE ON A NEWSPAPER BENEATH HER FEET...



DAILY RECORD
LEADER OF "MASTERS OF EVIL" ESCAPES!
ZEMO FLEES COUNTRY!

DEFEATED BY THE MIGHTY AVENGERS, ZEMO ESCAPED BEFORE HE COULD BE CAPTURED! IT IS RUMORED TO THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO HIS MYSTERIOUS KINGDOM, DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF SOUTH AMERICA!

PERHAPS HE WILL ONE DAY RETURN...

BUT LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION NOW TO A GYM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, WHERE WE FIND THE COLORFUL CAPTAIN AMERICA BEGINNING ONE OF HIS DAILY WORKOUTS...



MISTER, YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN THE AMBULANCE COMES FOR YOU! BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT--!

ARE YOU SURE THESE ARE THE TOUGHEST WRESTLERS YOU'VE GOT?

ALRIGHT, BOYS! I'M PAYING FOR THIS, SO GIVE ME MY MONEY'S WORTH! LET'S SEE SOME ACTION!!

C'MON, CRUSHER! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH FAST! HE'LL BE A PUSHOV--

OOOOF!



PUT A LITTLE MORE MUSCLE INTO IT, GENTLEMEN! THE ENEMIES I'M LIABLE TO MEET IN THE FUTURE AREN'T APT TO GO EASY ON ME!

C'MON, YOU GUYS! GIVE 'IM WHAT HE WANTS!! PILE ON!!



HEY! WHERE'D HE GO??

LOOK OUT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING??

HE'S LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING!



HERE--I'LL STAY STILL LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GRAB ME! NOW ACT LIKE YOU MEAN IT!

DON'T WORRY, BUD! WE MEAN IT ALRIGHT!

LET'S SHOW HIM HE AIN'T AS GOOD AS HE THINKS, MOOSE!

I'M WITH YA, CRUSHER! GIVE 'IM THE OL' ONE-TWO!!



CAREFUL, BOYS!! THIS IS A NEW MANEUVER I'VE DREAMED UP! HERE IT COMES--!!

WHUMP!

MINUTES LATER...

THANKS, FELLAS! SAME TIME TOMORROW??

YOU KIDDIN'???
IF WE WANT ANY
MORE ACTION, WE'LL
GET IT IN THE RING--
WHERE IT'S SAFE!

LATER, AS THE INDOMITABLE ADVENTURER RETURNS TO HIS QUARTERS WITH HIS YOUNG FRIEND, RICK JONES...

ALL MY
TRAINING--ALL MY
SKILL--AND STILL
I WAS UNABLE TO
SAVE BUCKY YEARS
AGO!*

SAY, CAP-- LOOK
WHAT I JUST
FOUND TUCKED
AWAY IN ONE OF
THE CLOSETS!

*SEE THE AVENGERS #4--EDITOR.

ISN'T THIS THE OUTFIT YOUR
EX-PARTNER, BUCKY, USED TO
WEAR?? LOOK HOW IT FITS
ME! ANYONE WOULD THINK
I'M YOUR PARTNER!

CAP! WHAT'S
WRONG?? WHY ARE
YOU LOOKIN' AT
ME THAT WAY??

TAKE IT OFF!! I
NEVER TOLD YOU
TO WEAR IT!!

BUT, CAP--WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU??
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING--!

GOSH! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
WERE GONNA GET ANGRY!!
ALL I DID WAS--!!

I SAID TAKE
IT OFF!!

DON'T EVER CALL YOURSELF MY
PARTNER AGAIN! I LOST MY
PARTNER!! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MY-
SELF FOR LETTING IT HAPPEN!! AND
I'LL NEVER LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

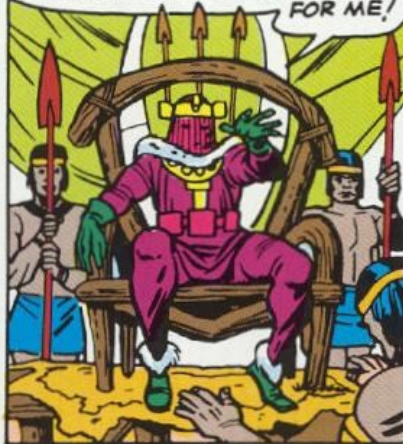
DO YOU THINK I COULD BEAR IT
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU,
TOO! I'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER
PARTNER! I WON'T BE RESPONS-
IBLE FOR ANOTHER LIFE--
NEVER!!

IT WAS ZEMO WHO CAUSED BUCKY'S DEATH! I'LL NEVER REST TILL I'VE FOUND HIM-- DO YOU HEAR?? ZEMO WILL PAY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE!



AND, EVEN AS THE VENGEFUL CAPTAIN AMERICA SPEAKS, THE MAN HE'S REFERRING TO SITS ON A CRUDE THRONE, DEEP IN THE WILDS OF A SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE WHERE HE REIGNS AS UNDISPUTED RULER...

FROM THIS DAY ON, I'M RAISING THE TAXES YOU MUST COLLECT FOR ME!



DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU WORTHLESS FOOLS!! GO TO THE TRIBES-- START COLLECTING MY TRIBUTE! THAT IS ZEMO'S COMMAND!!



FASTER! I MUST HAVE TREASURE! MORE AND MORE TREASURE! I MUST BUY WEAPONS--TROOPS--EQUIPMENT! BEFORE I'M FINISHED, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL PAY HOMAGE TO ZEMO--THE KING!



AND THEN, AS THE EVIL TYRANT EXAMINES THE WEALTH IN HIS TREASURE ROOM...

ZEMO! YOU ARE THE ONE WE SEEK!

WHA--? WHO ARE YOU?? HOW DID YOU GET HERE??

SHE IS THE ENCHANTRESS!! AND I--THE EXECUTIONER!!



ANOTHER ONE! STAY BACK! NO ONE CAN HAVE MY TREASURE!!

MORTAL FOOL! YOUR SO-CALLED TREASURE IS MEANINGLESS TO US!



IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD TO RAGE AGAINST US! OUR VISUAL IMAGES ARE HERE! OUR REAL SELVES ARE IN THE CITY CALLED NEW YORK! WE HAVE COME TO ASK YOU TO JOIN FORCES WITH US!



WE KNOW THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS YOUR MORTAL ENEMY! WE CAN HELP YOU DEFEAT HIM! OUR POWER IS GREATER THAN HIS! AND IN RETURN, YOU CAN HELP US GET OUR REVENGE UPON THOR!

BY THUNDER--I'LL DO IT!



MY OTHER TWO ALLIES, THE RADIOACTIVE MAN AND THE MELTER, ARE STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE, BACK IN AMERICA! BUT, WITH TWO SUCH AS YOU BESIDE ME, I CAN STILL ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING! WE'LL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!

SO BE IT! MY LIMBS THIRST FOR COMBAT!

SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, I'VE GOT TO THINK OF A SCHEME TO MAKE THE MIGHTY THOR MINE!

SEE THE AVENGERS #6--EDITOR.

SOME TIME LATER, GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP PREPARE FOR A SHORT JOURNEY TO NEW ENGLAND TO BEGIN A SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF INSECT LIFE...

WE WON'T BE GONE TOO LONG! IF YOU NEED US, USE OUR SPECIAL RADIO WAVE-LENGTH TO REACH US!

YOU CAN REACH HIM POKING AROUND IN ANT HILLS! AS FOR ME, I'LL BE SHOPPING IN SOME OF THOSE FABULOUS CAPE COD ANTIQUE STORES!

YOU'LL BE TYPING MY RESEARCH NOTES, YOUNG LADY, OR ELSE YOU CAN STAY BEHIND!

YOU, SIR, ARE ABOUT AS ROMANTIC AS THE ROTOR BLADE ON THIS SILLY OL' PLANE!!

DO NOT BE LATE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING! IRON MAN WILL BE WITH US AGAIN!

NOW, I TOO MUST RETURN TO OTHER MATTERS! AND SO, MY FRIENDS, UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING--FAREWELL!

BOY! YOU REALLY BLOW UP A STORM WITH THAT HAMMER OF YOURS, THOR!

STAND BACK, RICK! GIVE HIM ROOM!

LOOKS LIKE SOME GUYS'LL DO ANYTHING TO SAVE PLANE FARE -- RIGHT, CAP?

WE MUSTN'T JOKE ABOUT SUCH A MAN! WE'RE PRIVILEGED TO CALL HIM FRIEND!

LATER, AS THE COLORFUL MASKED AVENGER AND HIS YOUNG COMPANION TAKE A SHORT CUT THRU THE PARK, THEY ARE UNAWARE OF A GRIM-FACED, SILENT STRANGER WHO HAS BEEN PATIENTLY STALKING THEM...

I HAVE TIMED IT PERFECTLY! THIS IS THE CORRECT MOMENT! NOW TO SHOW MYSELF--

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE WAS IN THAT THICKET!

USUALLY I CAN HEAR THE SLIGHTEST FOOT-FALL! IT TAKES A VERY SPECIAL PERSON TO CATCH ME BY SURPRISE!

CAPTAIN AMERICA! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU! IT IS A MOST IMPORTANT MATTER!



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM HANS GRUBERVELT, FORMERLY SECOND IN COMMAND TO THE INFAMOUS DR. ZEMO!

ANYONE WHO WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ZEMO IS AN ENEMY OF MINE! THAT MAKES YOU AN EX-NAZI CRIMINAL, TOO!

CLICK!



WAIT! YOU MUST NOT LOSE YOUR TEMPER! I HAVE COME TO REPENT -- TO UNDO SOME OF THE HARM I DID IN THE PAST!

EASY, CAP! YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND FIGHTIN' GUYS BECAUSE THEY USED TO BE NAZIS!



HE'S MORE THAN JUST AN EX-NAZI! HE'S MY ONE CHANCE TO FIND ZEMO AGAIN! WHERE IS HE HIDING? TALK!!

THAT'S WHY I HAVE SEARCHED FOR YOU! TO TELL YOU-- THE EVIL ZEMO HAS CARVED A SMALL EMPIRE IN AN UNCHARTED AREA OF THE AMAZON JUNGLE! I CAN TELL YOU HOW TO FIND IT--!



SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF HANS GRUBERVELT HAS FINISHED TALKING...

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW! NOTHING CAN SAVE ZEMO FROM ME NOW!

CAP--WAIT!



YOU REMAIN HERE, RICK, AT AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS CONTROL CENTRAL! WHAT I MUST DO NOW, I MUST DO ALONE!

IT WORKED! AND SO THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!



THE ONE CALLED GIANT-MAN WILL BE AWAY FOR DAYS! IRON MAN, TOO, HAS LEFT THE SCENE! AND I HAVE LURED CAPTAIN AMERICA TO A FAR DISTANT LAND!



THAT MEANS ONLY THOR REMAINS! NOW HE WILL HAVE TO FACE THE ENCHANTRESS-- AND THE EXECUTIONER -- ALONE!

LATER...

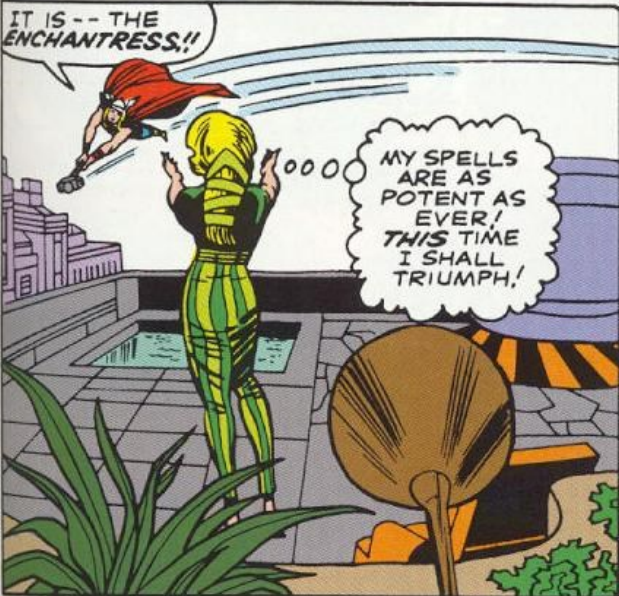
THOR THOR



WHAT IS THAT STRANGELY HAUNTING CALL I HEAR??



IT IS COMING FROM BELOW-- FROM DOWN THERE!!



IT IS-- THE ENCHANTRESS!!

MY SPELLS ARE AS POTENT AS EVER! THIS TIME I SHALL TRIUMPH!



THEN, BEFORE THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD CAN SHIELD HIMSELF...

YOUR WILL IS MY WILL!! I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU MUST OBEY THE ENCHANTRESS!!



SO GREAT IS HIS POWER THAT MY SPELL WILL ONLY LAST FOR BRIEF MINUTES! BUT, ONCE I REINFORCE IT WITH A SPECIAL *BREW*, IT WILL LAST LONG ENOUGH TO SUIT MY PURPOSES!



DRINK, HANDSOME ONE! DRINK DEEP, NOBLE THOR!

I'VE DONE IT! THE REST IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME!



AND, WITH THE AVENGERS SAFELY GONE, THERE WILL BE NONE TO INTERFERE--NONE TO HELP HIM UNTIL MY SPELL IS COMPLETE!

IN THE TIME THAT FOLLOWS, THE EXQUISITE ENCHANTRESS, AIDED BY THE EFFECTS OF HER POWERFUL POTION, WEAVES ONE OF THE STRANGEST SPELLS EVER RECORDED AS SHE CONJURES UP IMAGES OF THE AVENGERS FOR THE CAPTIVE THOR-- IMAGES WHICH MAKE HIM SEE THEM AS EVIL, DANGEROUS MENACES!!



THEN, SHE CAUSES HIM TO SEE HIMSELF AS THE ONLY AVENGING HERO CAPABLE OF HALTING THE THREAT OF THE AVENGERS!! HE THINKS OF HIMSELF AS MANKIND'S LAST HOPE IN BATTLING THE MIGHTY SUPER-TEAM!



OVER AND OVER THE IMAGE IS REPEATED-- GROWING STRONGER EACH TIME--UNTIL IT IS VIRTUALLY BRANDED INTO THE THUNDER GOD'S SUBCONSCIOUS--UNTIL HE FEELS HE MUST SAVE HUMANITY BY BATTLING THE ATTACKING AVENGERS!



AND NOW, MY WORK IS DONE! WHEN THOR AWAKENS, HE WILL FEEL THAT THE AVENGERS ARE HIS MORTAL ENEMIES!

SOON, THERE WILL BE A BATTLE SUCH AS THE PLANET EARTH HAS NEVER KNOWN!! AND, WHEN IT HAS ENDED...



I SHALL DEVOTE ALL MY TALENTS, ALL MY ENERGIES, TO MAKING THIS MOST DESIRABLE OF LIVING BEINGS BECOME MY OWN BELOVED!

AWAKE, THOR! THERE IS MUCH FOR YOU TO DO, THUNDER GOD!



THE PLANET EARTH HOLDS MANY ENEMIES OF MANKIND -- MANY ENEMIES OF YOURS! DO YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE?

OF COURSE!! THOUGH THEY HAVE POSED AS MY FRIENDS -- NOW I TRULY KNOW THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE!



BUT, WHAT OF THESE "FRIENDS" OF THOR'S? ONE OF THEM IS BAILING OUT OVER A DENSE, UNCHARTED PART OF THE AMAZON JUNGLE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...



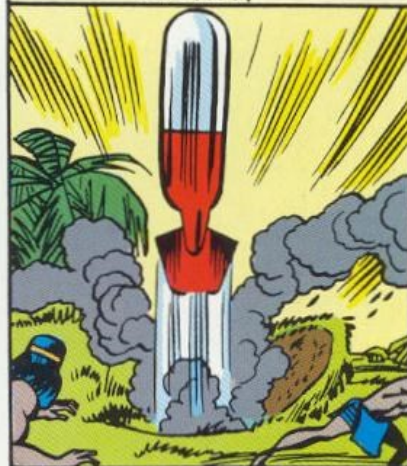
WHEREVER YOU ARE, ZEMO -- I'LL FIND YOU!

AND, HATE-FILLED EYES WATCH FROM THE THICKET BELOW...

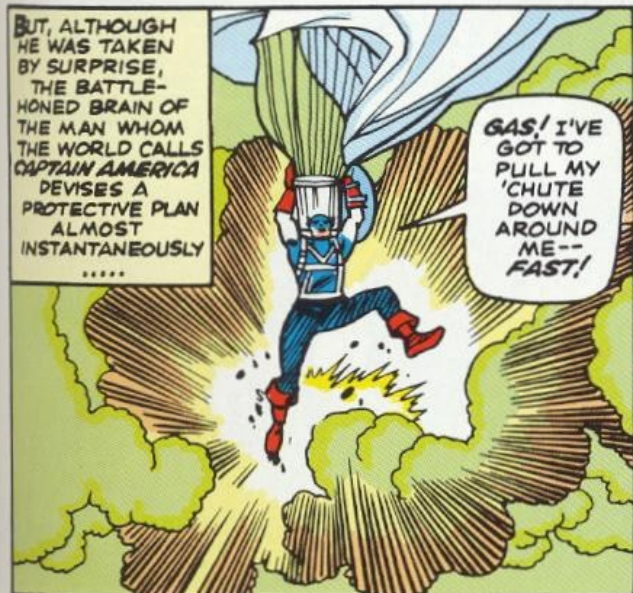
THE EXECUTIONER WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! NOW TO PREPARE FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FINAL DEFEAT!



AT AN IMPERIAL SIGNAL FROM ZEMO, A CONCEALED LAUNCHING SITE IS UNCOVERED, AND A COMPLEX GAS-FILLED MISSILE HEADS FOR THE UNSUSPECTING 'CHUTIST!



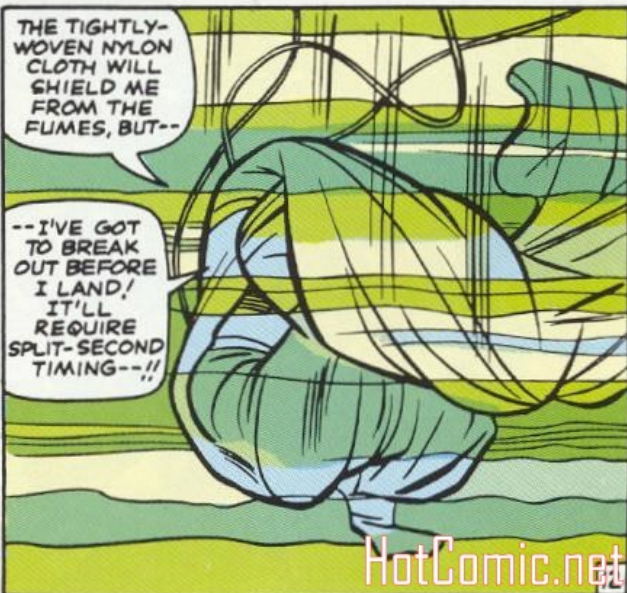
BUT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE BATTLE-HONORED BRAIN OF THE MAN WHOM THE WORLD CALLS CAPTAIN AMERICA DEVISES A PROTECTIVE PLAN ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY



GAS! I'VE GOT TO PULL MY 'CHUTE DOWN AROUND ME -- FAST!

THE TIGHTLY-WOVEN NYLON CLOTH WILL SHIELD ME FROM THE FUMES, BUT--

--I'VE GOT TO BREAK OUT BEFORE I LAND! IT'LL REQUIRE SPLIT-SECOND TIMING--!!





THEN, AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT-- A SLASHING, SHARP-EDGED **SHIELD** CUTS ITS WAY THRU THE CLOTH, AND--

HERE IT COMES-- THE MOMENT OF IMPACT!



WHOOSH!

I DID IT!!



SECONDS LATER...

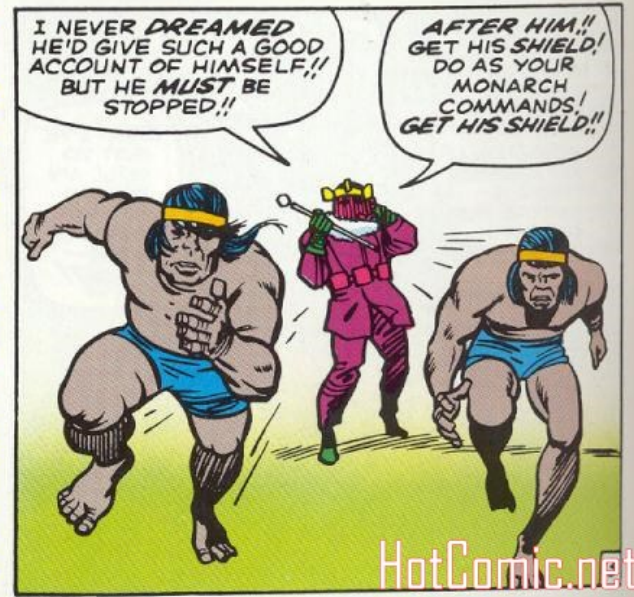
OH NO! I DIDN'T GO THRU ALL THAT, ONLY TO BE BEATEN BY SOME ABORIGINE WITH A POP GUN!!



HERE'S A LITTLE MESSAGE YOU CAN TAKE BACK TO YOUR MASTER! TELL HIM IT'S FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA!!



CLANK!



I NEVER DREAMED HE'D GIVE SUCH A GOOD ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF!! BUT HE **MUST** BE STOPPED!!

AFTER HIM!! GET HIS SHIELD! DO AS YOUR MONARCH COMMANDS! GET HIS SHIELD!!



WHILE, ABOARD THE JET COPTER,...

WHY DO YOU THINK THOR RADIOED US TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY, HANK?

I DON'T KNOW, JAN--BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! I SEE HIM BELOW US!



HE'S COMING TOWARD US! BUT HIS EXPRESSION-- HIS FACE-- SOMETHING'S WRONG!!



JAN!! SHRINK TO WASP-SIZE-- ON THE DOUBLE!! CONDITION RED! THOR'S ATTACKING US!



A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, SHATTERED BY THE FORCE OF THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER, THE JET COPTER FALLS APART, AS THE WASP FLIES TO SAFETY, WHILE...

GIANT-MAN CAUSES HIMSELF TO GROW TO HIS "LARGEST POSSIBLE SIZE, THEREBY HAVING THE SMALLEST, POSSIBLE DISTANCE TO FALL!!



I SAVED MYSELF BY BECOMING FORTY FEET HIGH-- BUT I'VE OVER-EXTENDED MYSELF-- I'M TOO BIG-- TOO WEAK WHILE THIS SIZE!!

I'M EVEN TOO WEAK TO QUICKLY REDUCE MY SIZE... AND HERE COMES THOR!!

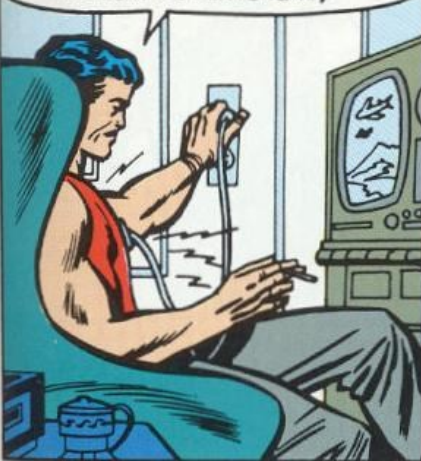


ALL I CAN DO IS FLIP MYSELF OUT OF HIS WAY-- TILL I CAN LEARN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!! HE MUST HAVE GONE MAD!!



AND, NOT FAR AWAY, ANTHONY STARK RECHARGES HIS LIFE-GIVING CHEST DEVICE AS HE WATCHES A TV SHOW AT HOME...

I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH BEING AN AVENGER MEANT TO ME! I CAN'T WAIT TILL MY PERIOD OF BANISHMENT IS OVER, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO REJOIN MY FELLOW ADVENTURERS!



THEN, SUDDENLY-- HE HEARS--

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM WITH AN URGENT BULLETIN-- THE MIGHTY THOR HAS RUN AMOK IN THE HEART OF THE CITY! AT THIS VERY MOMENT HE IS BATTLING GIANT-MAN, ONE OF HIS FORMER ALLIES! NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW--



MOVING LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, THE HANDSOME MILLIONAIRE SWITCHES OFF HIS SET AND DONS THE MOST FAMOUS SUIT OF ARMOR IN THE FREE WORLD...

BANISHMENT OR NO BANISHMENT--THE TIME HAS COME FOR IRON MAN TO ENTER THE SCENE AGAIN!!



MEANWHILE, AS GIANT-MAN'S OVERTAXED, OVERSIZED MUSCLES BEGIN TO WILT UNDER THE SUPERHUMAN STRAIN IMPOSED UPON THEM, THOR CLOSES IN FOR THE FINAL BLOW...



I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE HANK!!

BUT, BEFORE THE AWESOME HAMMER CAN STRIKE, THE WONDERFUL WASP BUZZES AROUND THE ENTRANCED THUNDER GOD, DISTRACTING HIM UNTIL...



AT LAST!! HERE COMES HELP!

AND INDEED HELP IS AT HAND, IN THE DRAMATIC, GLISTENING FORM OF THE POWERFUL IRON MAN!!

I'VE GOT TO GET THOR OFF-BALANCE-- ONLY THE CONCENTRATED BLAST FROM MY MAGNETIC REPULSER CAN DO IT!!



IRON MAN--WHAT IS IT?? WHY IS THOR ATTACKING US?? WHAT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE GONE??



I DON'T KNOW, WASP! BUT I WON'T REST UNTIL I'VE FOUND OUT!!

AND, FROM A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT, THE TWO STRANGE NEWCOMERS TO EARTH WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MELEE WATCH WITH SINISTER SATISFACTION...

PERFECT-- PERFECT!! SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL DESTROY EACH OTHER, JUST AS ZEMO WILL DESTROY CAPTAIN AMERICA!!

BUT WILL HE?? I'D BETTER MAKE SURE ALL IS GOING WELL WITH OUR MORTAL PARTNER!!



HOW FORTUNATE THAT ODIN DID NOT TAKE ALL MY POWERS FROM ME, HERE ON EARTH, THERE ARE STILL MANY FORMS OF ENCHANTMENT AT MY COMMAND, SUCH AS THIS ONE...



BAH!! ZEMO IS A FOOL! LOOK-- CAPTAIN AMERICA STILL LIVES!! HE IS TRAPPED AT THE BOTTOM OF A PIT, BUT HE IS STILL ALIVE!!

HE MUST NOT ESCAPE! ALTHOUGH IT STRAINS MY POWER TO THE NEAR BREAKING POINT, I MUST TRY TO REACH HIM--



IT'S WORKING-- I CAN FEEL IT!! JUST ANOTHER MINUTE MORE, AND I'LL CAUSE A CAVE-IN IN THAT PIT, SEALING HIM WITHIN IT!



BUT, HAVING BEEN TRAINED IN THE FIRE OF MANY BATTLES, THE COLORFUL CRUSADER QUICKLY TURNS EVERY NEW DANGER INTO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE...

BY PROTECTING MYSELF WITH MY SHIELD, I'LL SOON BE ABLE TO USE THESE FALLING ROCKS TO GET OUT OF HERE!



AND FINALLY, WHEN THE CAVE-IN HAS ENDED...

PERFECT!!! THERE ARE JUST ENOUGH ROCKS TO GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CLIMB TO THE SURFACE!



AND NOW TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THE MURDEROUS ZEMO!!!



BUT, ZEMO HAS NOTICED CAPTAIN AMERICA'S NEW APPEARANCE AND QUICKLY BARKS AN ORDER...

THE VIBRA-GUN!! FASTER, YOU LAZY DOLTS!! HIT HIM WITH THE VIBRA-GUN!!



HOWEVER, THE MOST SKILLFUL FIGHTING MAN OF OUR TIME, TRAINED TO MAKE USE OF ANYTHING HE FINDS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, QUICKLY SEIZES THE TOP OF A GIANT FLEXIBLE PALM, BENDING IT BACK AS FAR AS IT WILL GO--

I'VE ONLY SECONDS IN WHICH TO STRIKE!!



BUT THOSE SECONDS ARE ALL I NEED!!



SO FAR, SO GOOD!! NOW TO REACH THAT VIBRA-GUN BEFORE HIS MEN RECOVER!!



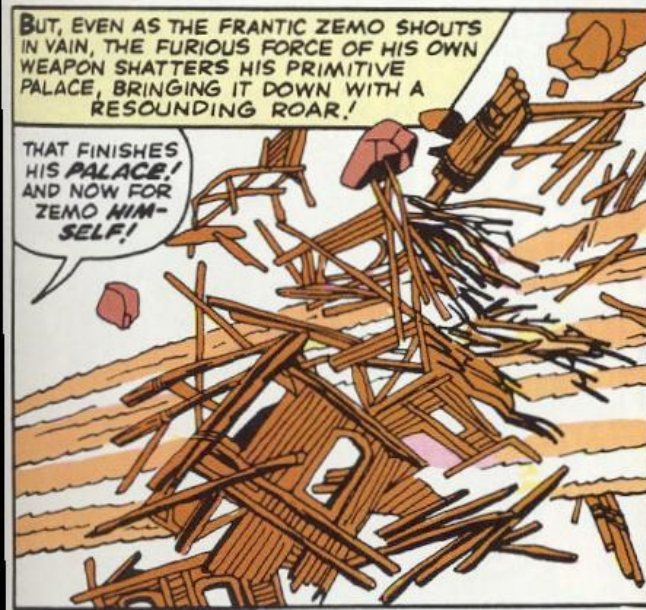
FLEE!! THE MASKED ONE FIGHTS LIKE A DEMON!!

COME BACK, YOU JACKALS!! YOU CAN'T DESERT ME NOW, BACK, I SAY!!



BUT, EVEN AS THE FRANTIC ZEMO SHOUTS IN VAIN, THE FURIOUS FORCE OF HIS OWN WEAPON SHATTERS HIS PRIMITIVE PALACE, BRINGING IT DOWN WITH A RESOUNDING ROAR!

THAT FINISHES HIS PALACE! AND NOW FOR ZEMO HIMSELF!



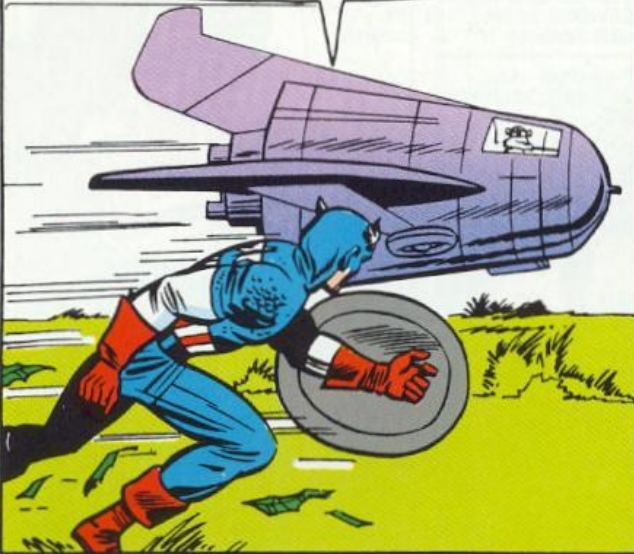
THEN, THE GRIM-LIPPED AVENGER TURNS FROM THE VIBRA-GUN, AND...

FIRST, I'LL MAKE SURE MY SHIELD IS FIRMLY MAGNETIZED TO MY USUALLY HIDDEN GLOVE MAGNETS--

--AND NOW I'LL-- WAIT! THE SOUND OF AN AIRCRAFT BEYOND THOSE TREES!!



HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE ME AGAIN!
HE'S DESERTING HIS KINGDOM-- HIS
SUBJECTS-- HEADING FOR THE
STATES--!



BUT *THIS* TIME HE'S
GOING TO HAVE AN
UNSUSPECTED
PASSENGER!!

THANKS TO THE TRANSISTOR-
POWERED MAGNETS TONY
STARK HELPED ME DESIGN
FOR MY BATTLE SHIELD!



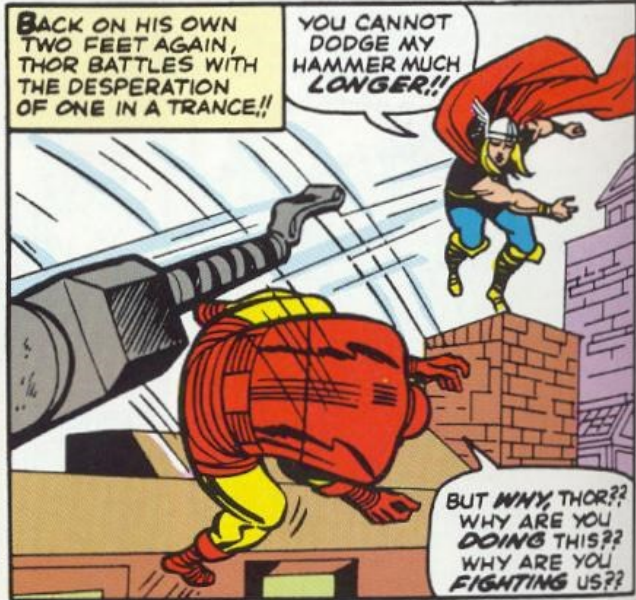
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES TO THE NORTH, IRON
MAN'S REPULSER POWER BEGINS TO WEAKEN AS
THE MIGHTY THOR BREAKS HIS SPIN BY HOOKING
HIS HAMMER ONTO THE NEAREST SOLID OBJECT--!

IT LOOKS *BAD!* CAN'T HOLD
HIM AT BAY MUCH LONGER!



BACK ON HIS OWN
TWO FEET AGAIN,
THOR BATTLES WITH
THE DESPERATION
OF ONE IN A TRANCE!!

YOU CANNOT
DODGE MY
HAMMER MUCH
LONGER!!



BUT *WHY*, THOR??
WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS??
WHY ARE YOU
FIGHTING US??

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD CAN ANSWER,
A REVITALIZED *GIANT-MAN*, DOWN TO HIS FIGHTING
SIZE OF TWELVE FEET AGAIN, LASHES OUT WITH
THE SPEED OF A PYTHON--!

ALL RIGHT, THOR--
IT'S TIME FOR YOU
TO DO SOME
EXPLAINING,
MISTER!



I SHALL DO MY
EXPLAINING
WITH MY
AVENGING
HAMMER--

--WHICH IS RETURNING TO
ME EVEN *NOW!!*





CAN'T STOP HIM FROM CATCHING IT--HE'S TOO STRONG!!



IF HE HITS ME WITH IT, I'M A GONER! I'LL HAVE TO DROP DOWN TO THE LEDGE BELOW--!



BUT, BEFORE THE ENRAGED THOR CAN GIVE CHASE...

HOLD IT, THOR! WE'VE STILL GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS, REMEMBER??

THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER--HE MUST BE UNDER SOME SORT OF HYPNOSIS! AND I'VE AN IDEA HOW TO BREAK THE HYPNOTIC SPELL!!



I MUST TIME IT JUST RIGHT--CATCH THE SUN'S REFLECTION AT THE PERFECT ANGLE--NOW--NOW!!

THAT BLINDING LIGHT--I CAN'T SEE!!!



IT'S WORKING!! HE'S STOPPED--HIS EYES ARE CLEARING! I KNEW THE LIGHT OF THE SUN WOULD DISPEL ANY SORT OF EVIL HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE! HE'S HIMSELF AGAIN!

IRON MAN!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?? IS YOUR WEEK'S BANISHMENT ALREADY ENDED??



AND, OBSERVING FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, WE FIND...

WE FAILED!! THOR IS NO LONGER UNDER MY SPELL!

BAN! IT IS AS I'VE ALWAYS SAID--BRUTE STRENGTH IS THE ONLY ANSWER--THE STRENGTH OF THE EXECUTIONER!



I DARE NOT TELL HIM I FEARED HIS STRENGTH--FEARED HE MIGHT HARM THE HANDSOME THOR--THOR, THE ONE I HOPE WILL SOME DAY BE MINE!

LOOK! A SHIP IS APPROACHING--THE SHIP OF DR. ZEMO!!



QUICKLY, THE ENCHANTRESS GESTURES, AND AT THAT INSTANT, A MYSTIC FORCE SEEMS TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF ZEMO'S SHIP--HEADING IT TOWARDS THE AVENGERS--

MY SHIP!! IT'S NO LONGER UNDER MY CONTROL!! WHO COULD HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS???

IT IS I, THE ENCHANTRESS! I SHALL GUIDE YOU TO THE AVENGERS!

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THERE THEY ARE!!
I'LL GET THEM ALL
AT **ONCE** WITH THE
WITHERING BLAST
OF MY GIANT **STUN**
GUN!



LUCKY FOR ME HE
FLEW AT LOW LEVEL
TO AVOID THE
PROBING OF
RADAR!

AND NOW, IT'S TIME
I **JOINED** MY
"HOST," BEFORE
HE DOES ANY
HARM WITH HIS
SHIP'S
WEAPONS!



DID YOU SEE **THAT??**
IT WAS **ZEMO**-- FIRST
HE FIRED AT US, THEN
HE SUDDENLY CHANGED
COURSE!

NOW THAT MY BRAIN IS
CLEAR ONCE AGAIN, I
REMEMBER! THAT
FEMALE I SAW-- SHE
WAS THE **ENCHANTRESS!**
BECAUSE OF HER
I FOUGHT YOU-- I WAS
ENTRANCED!



EXECUTIONER-- QUICK!! ZEMO IS IN
TROUBLE!! I USED A SIMPLE SPELL TO
BRING THE SHIP HERE, WHERE YOU CAN
AID OUR EVIL PARTNER!! **HURRY!**



I'VE WAITED YEARS
FOR THIS MOMENT,
ZEMO--FOR THE
REVENGE I'M
NOW ABOUT TO
EXTRACT--!

HAH!! MORTAL
FOOL--
YOU
SHALL
HAVE TO WAIT
STILL
LONGER--!!

WITH THE MERE TOUCH OF HIS HAND, THE EXECUTIONER SUBJECTS THE MORTAL CAPTAIN AMERICA TO A PRESSURE EQUAL TO ONE HUNDRED TIMES THE FORCE OF GRAVITY--!!

THIS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM INTERFERING WITH US ANY MORE TODAY! NO HUMAN CAN FEEL IT AND REMAIN CONSCIOUS!!



QUICKLY!! PUT CAPTAIN AMERICA OUT OF THE SHIP! WE'LL NEED ALL OUR SPEED!! THE AVENGERS ARE COMING AFTER US!

HURRY!! THEY'LL REACH US IN SECONDS!!



MOVING WITH SURPRISING SPEED, THE EXECUTIONER LEAVES THE UNCONSCIOUS AVENGER ON THE ROOFTOP AND CARRIES THE ENCHANTRESS INTO ZEMO'S SHIP, BOLTING THE HATCH DOOR SHUT BEHIND HIM!! AND THEN...

WE SAVED ZEMO FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA JUST IN TIME!

NO ONE CAN STOP US NOW!! HERE WE GO!!

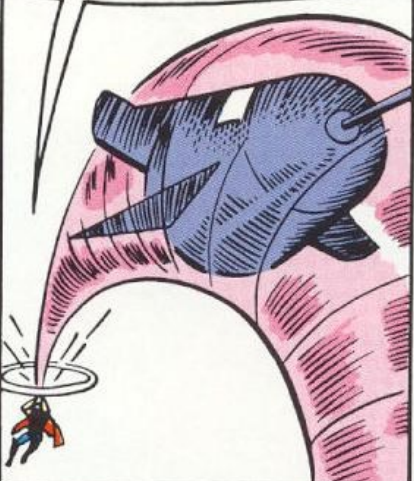


BUT, THE FLEEING TRIUMVERATE OF EVIL FAIL TO RECKON WITH THE AWESOME POWER OF THOR'S HAMMER--AND THE RAGING FURY OF HIS ANGER!!



SPIN, MY MIGHTY MALLET!! SPIN, AND CAUSE AN ALL-CONSUMING SPACE WARP--!

A SPACE WARP BIG ENOUGH TO ABSORB ZEMO'S ENTIRE SHIP, AND THE MERCILESS BEINGS WITHIN IT!



THOR! WHAT DID YOU DO?? WHERE IS ZEMO'S SHIP GOING TO END UP???

NONE CAN SAY!! A SPACE WARP CAN LEAD ANYWHERE --TO A DIFFERENT CITY--OR A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE!!



WHAT ABOUT CAP?? HOW IS HE? HE'S COMING TO NOW! DON'T WORRY--HE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW MINUTES! THAT IS FORTUNATE FOR US! WE SHALL SOON NEED ALL OUR STRENGTH!!



IF THE ENCHANTRESS IS AMONG US, THEN THE EXECUTIONER MUST BE, ALSO! THEIR POWER IS GREATER THAN ANY MORTAL CAN SUSPECT! TOGETHER WITH ZEMO--THEY MAY BE AS STRONG AS WE!



NO MATTER HOW STRONG THEY ARE--WE'LL FIND THEM!! AND WHEN WE DO, NOTHING WILL SAVE THEM --NOTHING!!!



AND WHEN THEY DO, AS INDEED THEY WILL, YOU'LL BE THERE TOO, SHARING ALL THE THRILLS AND EXCITEMENT! THIS IS OUR PLEDGE TO YOU, IN THE NEW MARVEL UNIVERSE!