

WORLD WAR HULK™

IRON MAN®

DIRECTOR OF

MARVEL[®]
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GAGE
GUICE
WHITE



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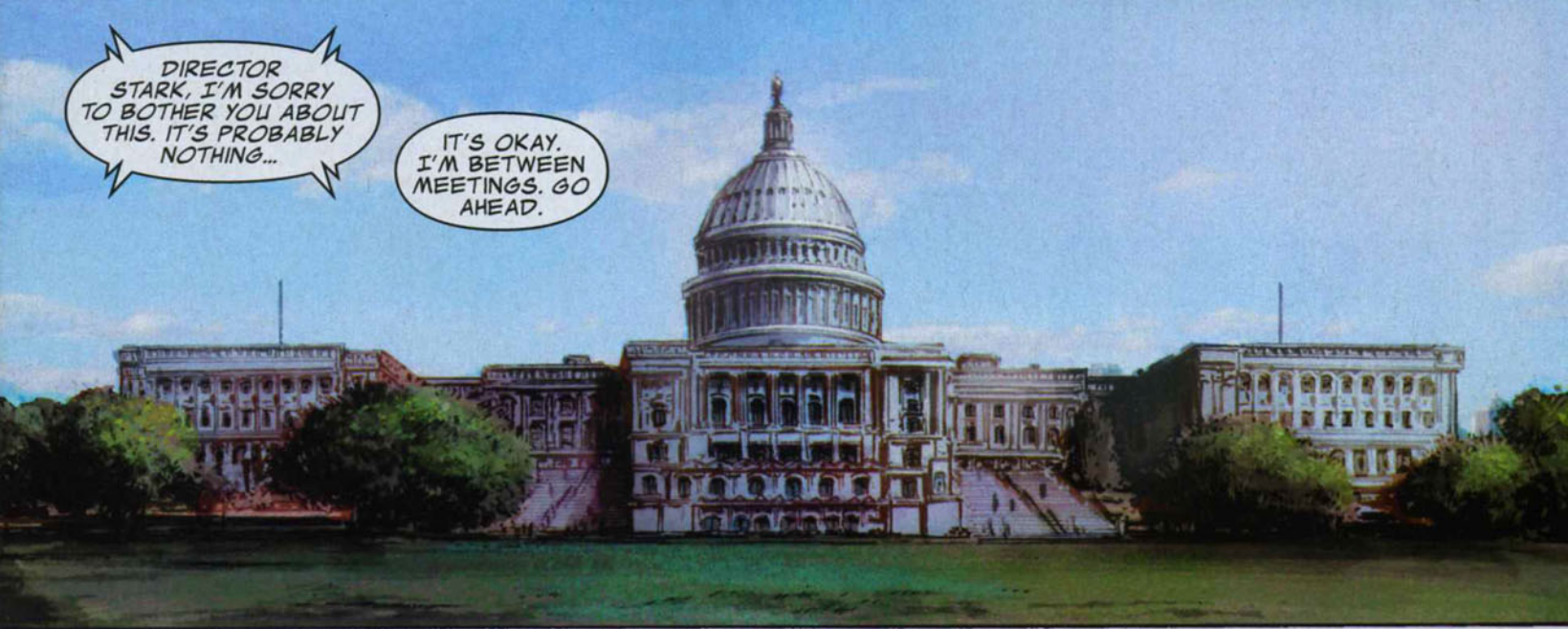
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DIRECT EDITION

DIRECTOR STARK, I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU ABOUT THIS. IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING...

IT'S OKAY. I'M BETWEEN MEETINGS. GO AHEAD.



WE'VE PICKED UP A U.F.O. APPROACHING EARTH. I'M ONLY ALERTING YOU BECAUSE THE TECH DOESN'T MATCH ANY E.T. IN OUR DATABASE.

YOU WERE RIGHT TO CALL. THIS'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PUT OUR NEW SPACE DEFENSES THROUGH THEIR PACES. I'LL CONTROL THEM MYSELF.

SIR, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. YOU'RE BUSY--



NO ONE KNOWS THE TECH BETTER THAN ME, AGENT FLETCHER. BESIDES...

AH, MR. STARK! SUCH AN HONOR TO WELCOME THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D... NOT TO MENTION THE WORLD-FAMOUS IRON MAN!

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED--HOW DO YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM IN THAT SUIT?

...IT'LL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY BRAIN.



WHAT'VE YOU GOT ON THE SHIP SO FAR?

IT'S ALONE, NOT PART OF A FLEET. IF READINGS ARE CORRECT, IT SEEMS TO BE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF STONE. AND, SIR...

...IT'S
BIG.



WHEN BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK DONS DONS SOPHISTICATED STEEL-MESH ARMOR OF HIS OWN DESIGN, HE BECOMES A LIVING HIGH-TECH WEAPON-- THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE.

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

PREVIOUSLY...

In the aftermath of the superhuman Civil War, all individuals possessing paranormal abilities must register their identities with the government. Tony Stark, who helped put this law into place, is serving in the position of Director of the Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate.

While trying to save the life of an innocent, Doctor Bruce Banner was caught in the blast of a gamma bomb and became

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

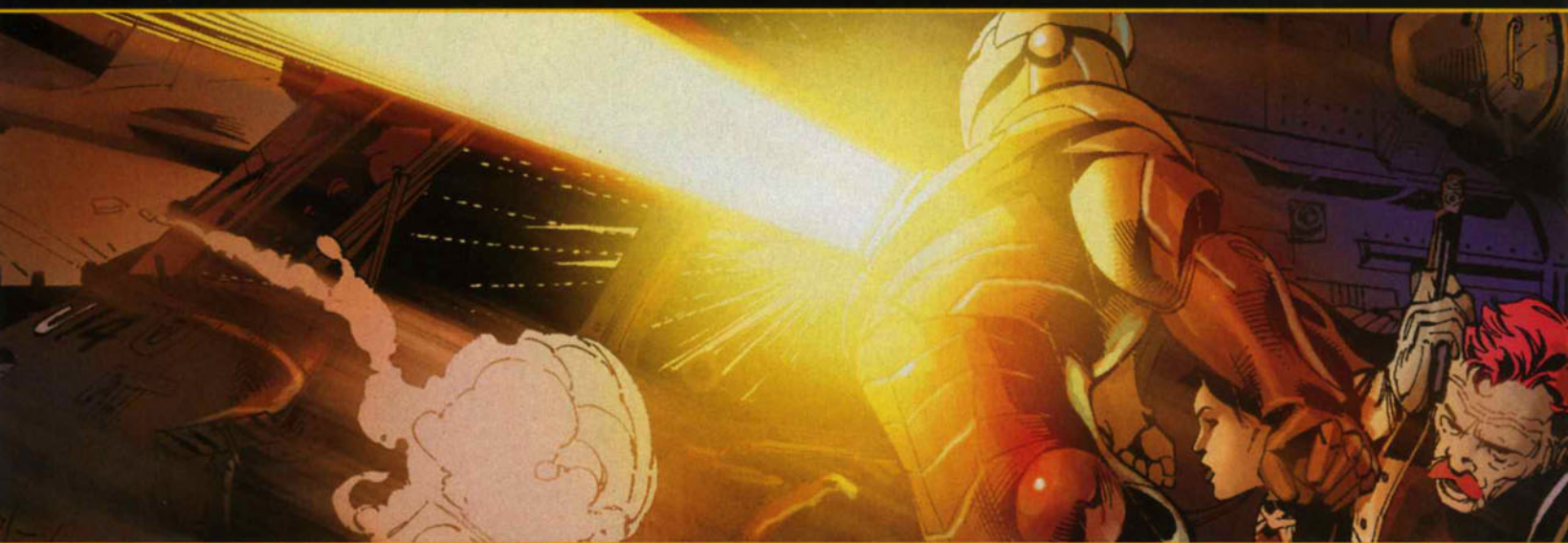
...a rampaging monster with near-limitless power.

Fearing the threat he posed to humanity, Earth's most powerful heroes, including Iron Man, shot Hulk into space.

Landing on a faraway planet, Hulk became an Emperor and fell in love.

But the shuttle that sent Hulk away from Earth exploded, killing millions of people, including Hulk's queen and the baby growing inside of her.

Filled with rage, Hulk and his Warbound warriors have arrived on Earth, to bring revenge upon those he holds responsible for destroying his world...



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**THE STONE SHIP OF THE HULK,
CURRENT RULER OF
THE PLANET SAKAAR.**

MY KING, I'M
READING OBJECTS
APPROACHING.

THE PUNY
HUMANS FINALLY
NOTICED US.

SIRE, ISN'T
THAT ONE OF
YOUR ENEMIES--
THE ONES WHO
BETRAYED YOU?

NO.
THAT'S OLD
ARMOR.

DRONES.
HE'S NOT
IN ANY OF
THEM.

OUR READINGS
CAN'T CONFIRM THAT.
HOW DO YOU--?

THEY'RE
QUIET.

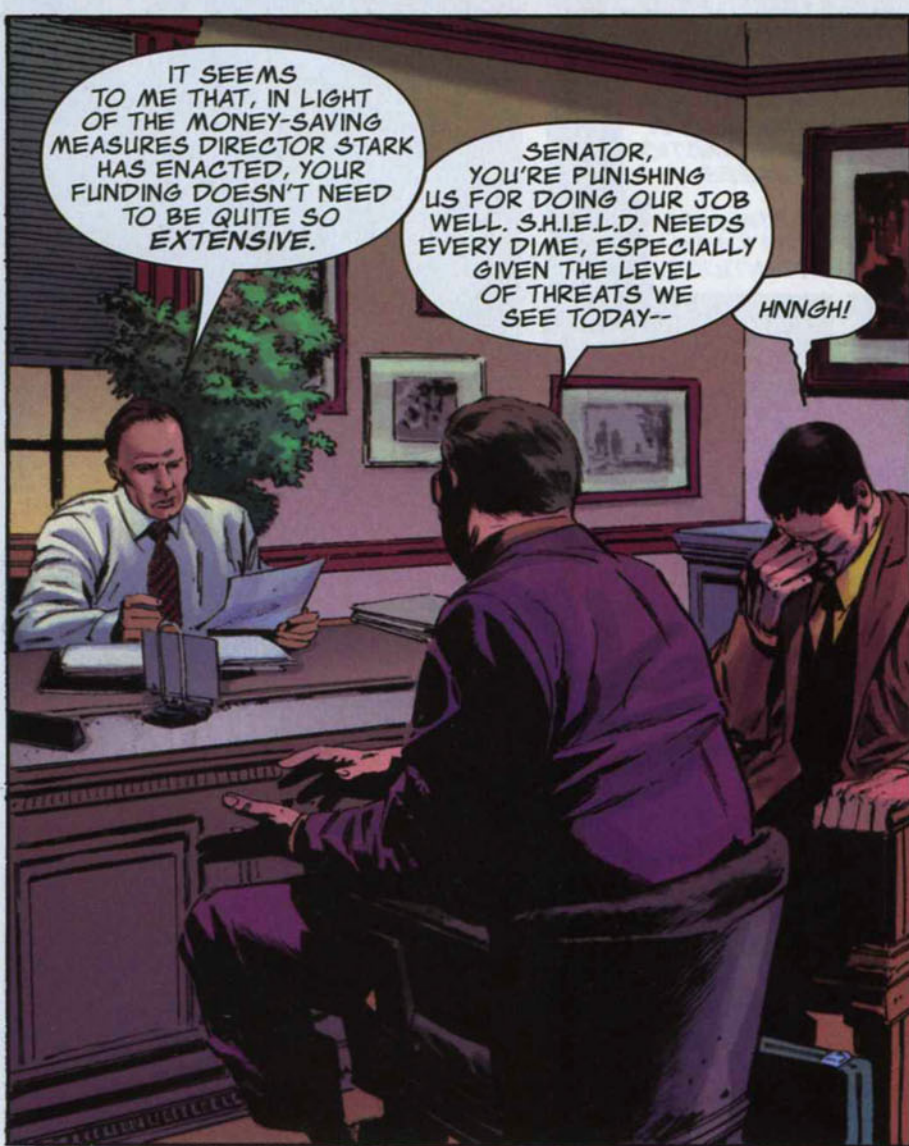
STARK
NEVER SHUTS
UP.

I WAS CHARGING
THE ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE TO TAKE OUT
THEIR SATELLITES. IT
SHOULD AFFECT THESE
DRONES AS WELL.

WAIT--I'M RECEIVING
A TRANSMISSION IN
MULTIPLE GALACTIC
LANGUAGES.

THE EARTHLINGS
WANT TO KNOW
OUR INTENTIONS.

SHOW
'EM.



IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE MONEY-SAVING MEASURES DIRECTOR STARK HAS ENACTED, YOUR FUNDING DOESN'T NEED TO BE QUITE SO EXTENSIVE.

SENATOR, YOU'RE PUNISHING US FOR DOING OUR JOB WELL. S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS EVERY DIME, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE LEVEL OF THREATS WE SEE TODAY--

HNNGH!



MR. STARK? ARE YOU--?

I'M SORRY, SENATOR, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS LATER.

SOMETHING'S COME UP.

THE DRONES ARE
DISABLED, SIRE, BUT
INSTRUMENTS SHOW
THEY'RE REBOOTING.



RAMMING
SPEED.





ALL BUT ONE OF THE REMOTE UNITS HAS GONE OFFLINE.

I KNOW. BUT THE ONE THAT'S LEFT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT.



"AN E.M.P. TOOK OUT THE OTHERS. BUT THE STEALTH ARMOR IS E.M.P.-SHIELDED.

"OUR PRIMARY AIM IS TO FIND OUT WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH AND WHAT THEY'VE GOT. THE STEALTH ARMOR WAS MADE FOR THAT.



"THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT THE ENEMY, THE BETTER EQUIPPED WE'LL BE TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM.

"FASCINATING...THE TECH'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE ENCOUNTERED. IT FEELS...ANCIENT, ALMOST ALIVE...



"THE ARMOR'S ADAPTING TO IT. WE'LL HAVE READINGS ANY--WAIT.

"SOMETHING'S HAPPENING. SOMETHING--"



"DAMN IT."

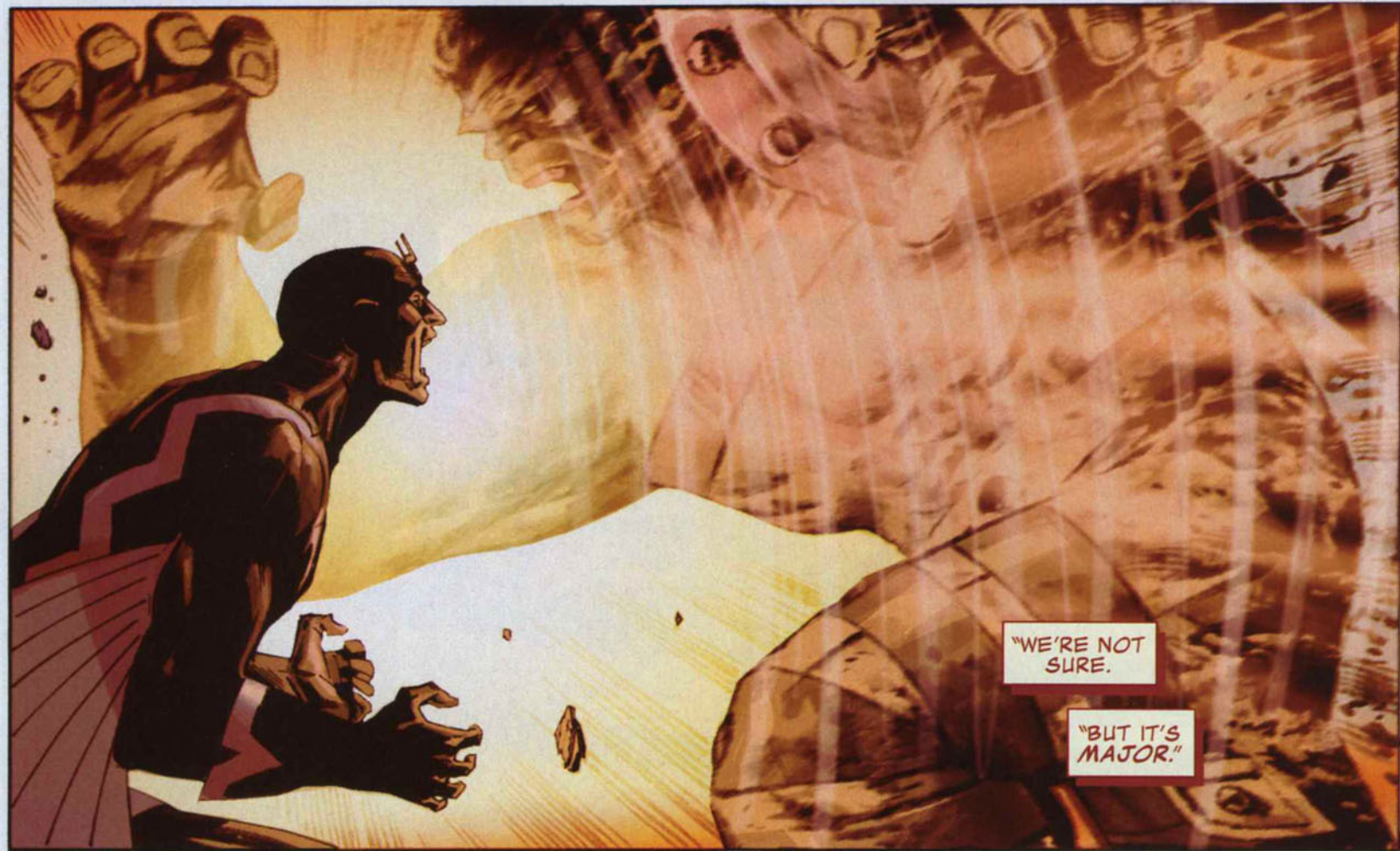


GET ME THE PRESIDENT.

THE OVAL OFFICE.

IT'S REACHED THE MOON, SIR. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING THERE... NEAR THE INHUMANS' KINGDOM.

WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?



"WE'RE NOT SURE."

"BUT IT'S MAJOR."



NOT SURE? IF I DEPLOY NUKES, EVERY LEADER ON EARTH'S GOING TO WANT TO KNOW WHY! YOU BETTER GET SURE!

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. IT'S HIT THE SATELLITES, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU NEED TO GIVE THE ORDER NOW, BEFORE--

TOO LATE...



"...IT'S ALREADY REACHED NEW YORK."



WE'RE AT
CONDITION RED.
ALL UNITS ARE
CONVERGING ON
MANHATTAN.

THEY'VE
GOT AN INTRA-
ATMOSPHERIC WARP
DRIVE. WHO'S
IN THAT THING,
DUGAN?

WELL,
SIR...



...WE'RE ABOUT
TO FIND OUT.

PUNY
HUMANS.

I'VE
COME TO
SMASH.

AND YOU
SHOULD KNOW
WHO'S TO
BLAME.



OH,
NO.

IRON MAN,
MR. FANTASTIC,
DOCTOR STRANGE,
BLACK BOLT.
THEY SHOT ME
INTO SPACE.

SENT ME TO A
PLANET CALLED
SAKAAR. WHERE I
COULD BE CUT-EVEN
KILLED. WHERE THE
EMPEROR MADE ME
A SLAVE. AND THEN
A GLADIATOR.

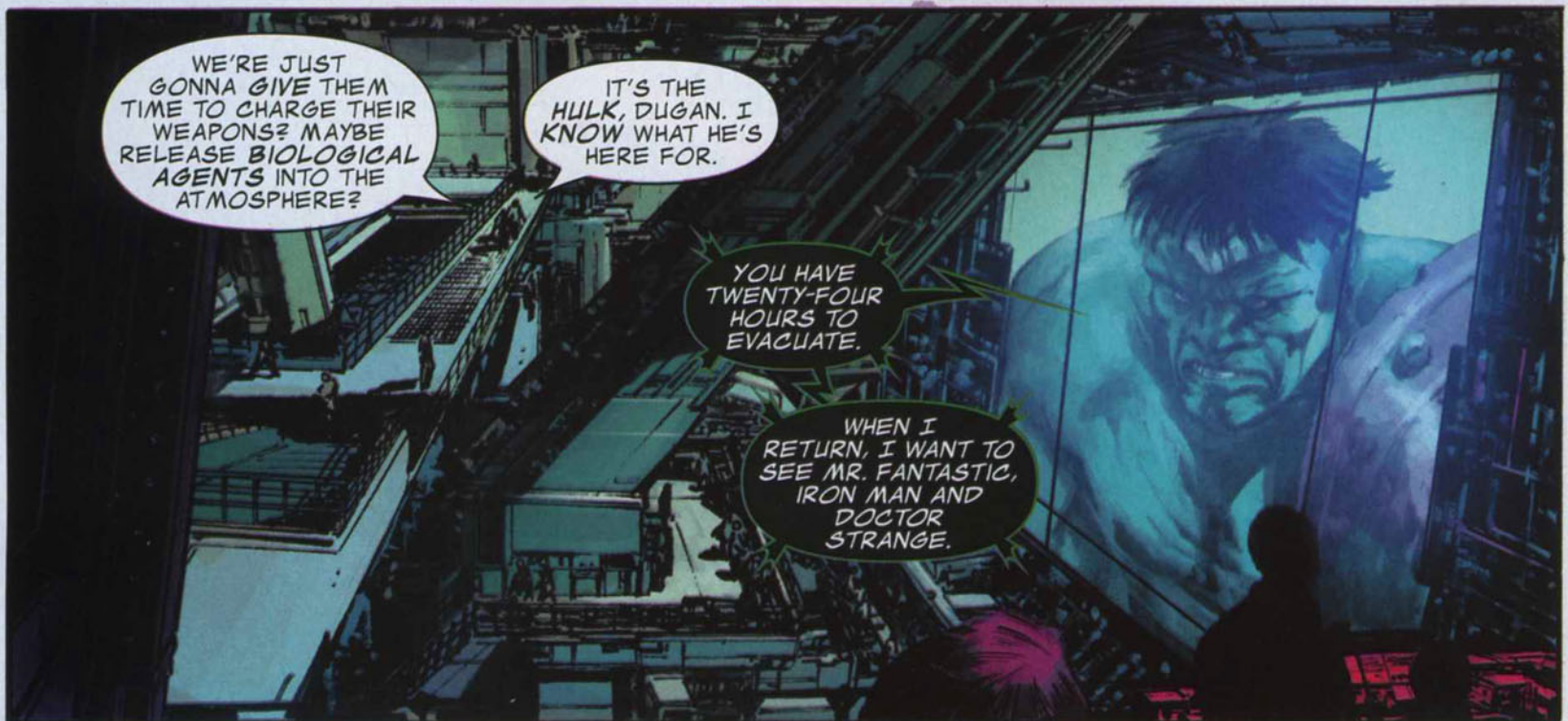
THEY
SENT ME
TO DIE.



BELAY PREVIOUS ORDERS. I WANT ALL UNITS TO TAKE UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. THEY ARE NOT TO ENGAGE THE SHIP.

YESSIR, DIRECTOR STARK.

WHAT?!?



WE'RE JUST GONNA GIVE THEM TIME TO CHARGE THEIR WEAPONS? MAYBE RELEASE BIOLOGICAL AGENTS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE?

IT'S THE HULK, DUGAN. I KNOW WHAT HE'S HERE FOR.

YOU HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO EVACUATE.

WHEN I RETURN, I WANT TO SEE MR. FANTASTIC, IRON MAN AND DOCTOR STRANGE.



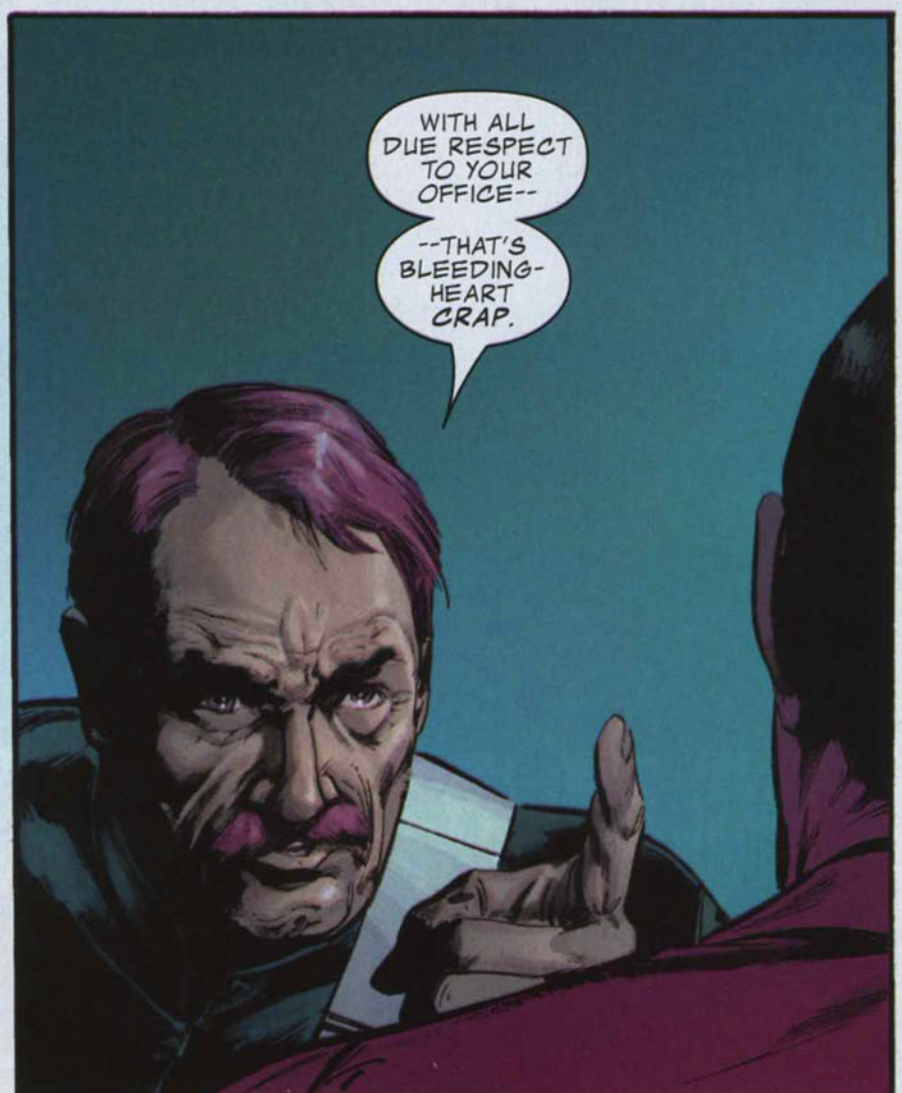
AND IF THEY'RE NOT HERE...

...I'LL DO THIS...

...TO YOUR WHOLE STINKING PLANET.

SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING KILLED PROTECTING YOU.



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO YOUR OFFICE--

--THAT'S BLEEDING-HEART CRAP.

AS IN YOU'RE THINKING WITH THAT BLEEDING HEART, NOT YOUR BRAIN.

IT'S OUR JOB TO TACKLE THREATS LIKE THIS. BESIDES, YOUR DECISION TO SHOOT THAT MONSTER INTO SPACE IS ABOUT THE ONLY ONE EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN S.H.I.E.L.D. BACKS.

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF UNMANNED AND LONG-DISTANCE WEAPONS IF WE NEED THEM, DUGAN. BUT YOU HEARD THE HULK.

HE'S GIVING US TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. IN THAT TIME, OUR AGENTS WILL EVACUATE CIVILIANS FROM MANHATTAN AND TAKE UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

THERE WILL BE NO FIRST STRIKE FROM S.H.I.E.L.D.

YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THAT GREEN PSYCHO AT HIS WORD? DO NOTHING?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID.

LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING. SAY YOU CAN'T STOP HIM BY YOURSELF.

YOU'RE NOT CONSIDERING SURRENDERING, ARE YOU?



ARE YOU CRAZY?

YOU THINK AN ARMY LIKE THAT'S GONNA BE SATISFIED WITH GETTING REVENGE ON A FEW COSTUMED CLOWNS? HELL, WITH JUST MANHATTAN? THAT'S AN INVASION FORCE!

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, DUGAN.

FOLLOW THEM.



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, DUGAN.

WHEN NICK FURY BARKED OUT ORDERS, THEY WERE BASED ON SIXTY YEARS OF LEADING MEN INTO COMBAT. THIS GUY'S A SHOWBOAT--THAT'S ALL HE'S EVER BEEN.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HE DOESN'T GET, LINDSAY. THAT IN THE JOB HE'S GOT NOW, PUTTING HIS OWN BUTT ON THE LINE IS NO LONGER AN OPTION.



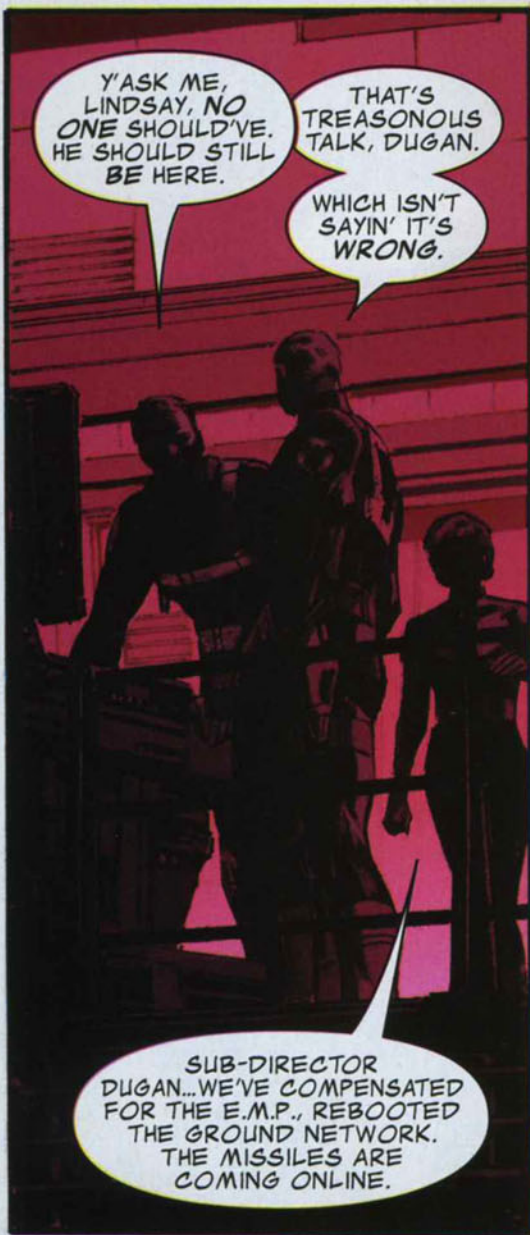
"IF HE GOES DOWN...S.H.I.E.L.D. GOES WITH HIM."



JUST SO YOU KNOW... WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO FEEL THIS WAY.

SURE, SOME AGENTS LIKE THE FANCY FOOD IN THE MESS HALL, THE DAY CARE CENTER, ALL THAT TOUCHY-FEELY CRAP. BUT THE OLD SCHOOL GUYS LIKE YOU AND ME...

...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY A LOT OF US THINK YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN FURY'S PLACE.



Y'ASK ME, LINDSAY, NO ONE SHOULD'VE. HE SHOULD STILL BE HERE.

THAT'S TREASONOUS TALK, DUGAN.

WHICH ISN'T SAYIN' IT'S WRONG.

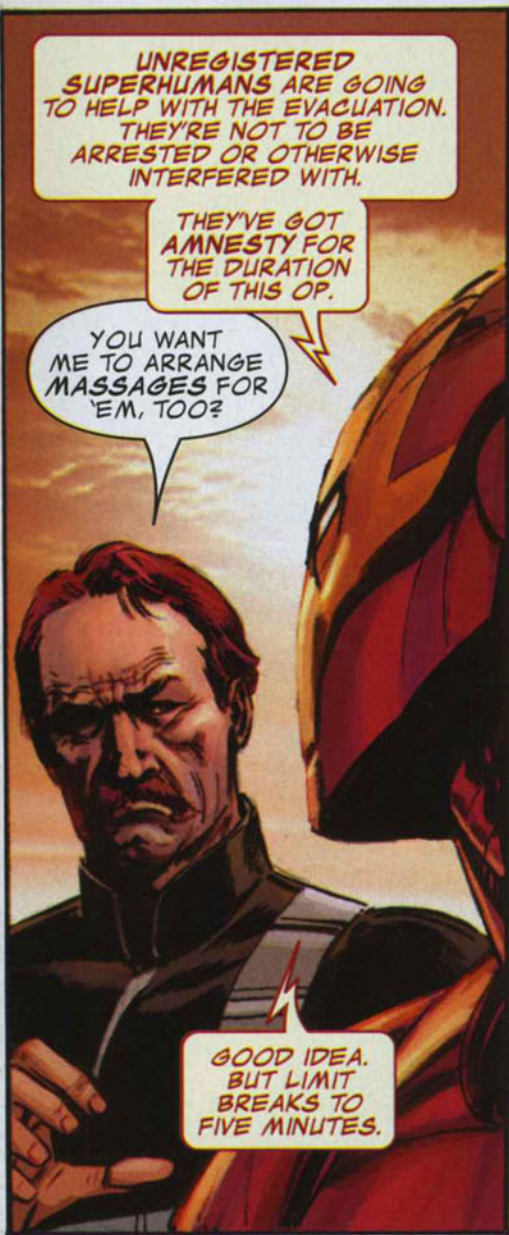
SUB-DIRECTOR DUGAN...WE'VE COMPENSATED FOR THE E.M.P., REBOOTED THE GROUND NETWORK. THE MISSILES ARE COMING ONLINE.



GOOD NEWS. WE GOT A DOZEN NUKES POINTED AT THE HULK'S SHIP; THEY SHOULD BE LAUNCH-READY IN--

EVEN IF THAT WOULD STOP HIM-- WHICH I DOUBT-- WE'RE NOT THERE YET.

MY ORDERS STAND. WE'RE EVACUATING MANHATTAN.



UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMANS ARE GOING TO HELP WITH THE EVACUATION. THEY'RE NOT TO BE ARRESTED OR OTHERWISE INTERFERED WITH.

THEY'VE GOT AMNESTY FOR THE DURATION OF THIS OP.

YOU WANT ME TO ARRANGE MESSAGES FOR 'EM, TOO?

GOOD IDEA. BUT LIMIT BREAKS TO FIVE MINUTES.



WHERE ARE YOU GONNA BE DURING ALL THIS?

REACHABLE. BUT I HAVE TO PAY SOME FOLKS A VISIT. AND AFTER THAT...



...I'LL BE DOING WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

LIGHTS.



CH-CHOOM

THIS PLANET "SAKAAR" THE HULK REFERRED TO ISN'T WHERE WE WERE TRYING TO SEND HIM. HIS ENDING UP THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.

EVER SINCE I LEARNED HE HADN'T REACHED HIS DESTINATION, I'VE BEEN DREADING THIS DAY.



AND PREPARING FOR IT.



**V
V
V
M
M
M**

I'D HOPED THIS
WOULDN'T PROVE NECESSARY...
AND IF IT DID, THAT I'D HAVE
MORE TIME. BUT I KNOW
BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT
THINGS RARELY TURN OUT
THE WAY YOU HOPE.



SO YOU DO
THE BEST YOU
CAN WITH WHAT
YOU HAVE...



...IN WHATEVER
TIME YOU HAVE...



...WITH
WHATEVER
HELP YOU
CAN GET.

ALL RIGHT,
CAGE. IF YOU SAY
THIS IS LEGIT,
I'LL GO.

IT'S FOR
REAL. THESE
DUDES ARE HERE
TO HELP.

THIS
TIME.



AND YOU
HOPE--

--YOU
PRAY--



--THAT
IT'S GOOD
ENOUGH.





FASHH

THIS IS IT. HE'S HERE.

GET THE CIVILIANS BACK AND UNDER THE BARRICADES! SHE-HULK, SAMSON, CAGE, WONDER MAN, MS. MARVEL! I NEED YOU TO KEEP EVERYBODY CLEAR OF THE COMBAT ZONE. THIS IS MY FIGHT!

SENSORS CONFIRM THE CITY'S BEEN EVACUATED. GOOD.



REMEMBER, THE MADDER HE GETS, THE STRONGER HE GETS.

SO DON'T ATTACK UNTIL I'M DONE WITH HIM...

...OR HE'S DONE WITH ME...

BUT NOBODY LEFT DOWN THERE--REGISTERED OR UNREGISTERED, HUMAN OR SUPERHUMAN--IS GETTING HURT.

NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE.



MOTHER O' GOD.

THIS IS TONY STARK. IRON MAN. DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

AND YES, I FIRED THE HULK INTO SPACE. SO IF YOU NEED TO BLAME SOMEONE FOR HIS RETURN... BLAME ME.



SHNK


BUT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE... EVERYTHING I'LL DO TODAY...

...EVERYTHING I'LL EVER DO...



SHHUNK

...I DO TO PROTECT THIS WORLD.



SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME THAT WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW. HE WAS LISTENING.

THAT'S USUALLY THOUGHT OF AS A LESSON FOR CHILDREN. A SIMPLE INJUNCTION TO DO THE RIGHT THING.



BUT THERE'S NOTHING SIMPLE ABOUT IT.



Iron Man stands amidst the wreckage of a destroyed city. In the background, other heroes are seen in a state of distress.

WHEN I PUT ON THIS ARMOR, I TOOK ON MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMAN WAS EVER INTENDED TO HAVE...

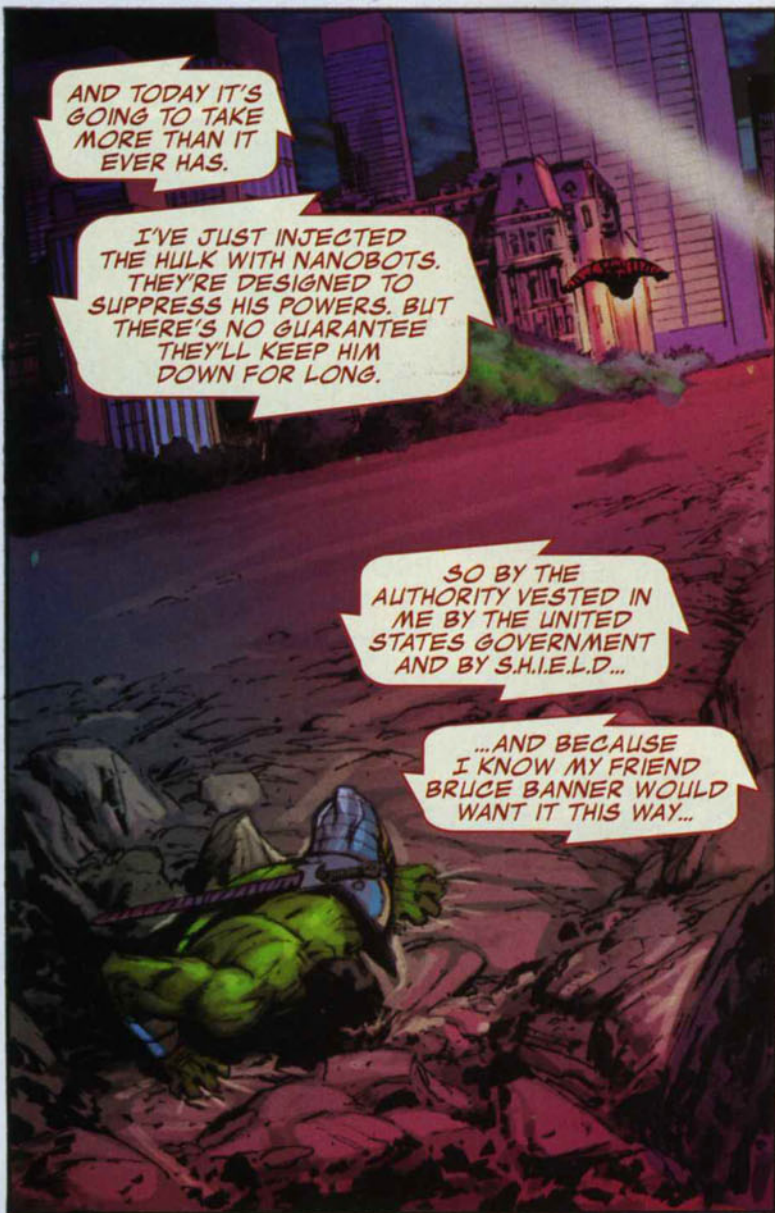
...AND MAYBE MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN MY HEART CAN TRULY BEAR.

BUT TODAY...

...I WILL DO MY JOB.

I WILL PROTECT YOU...

...NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

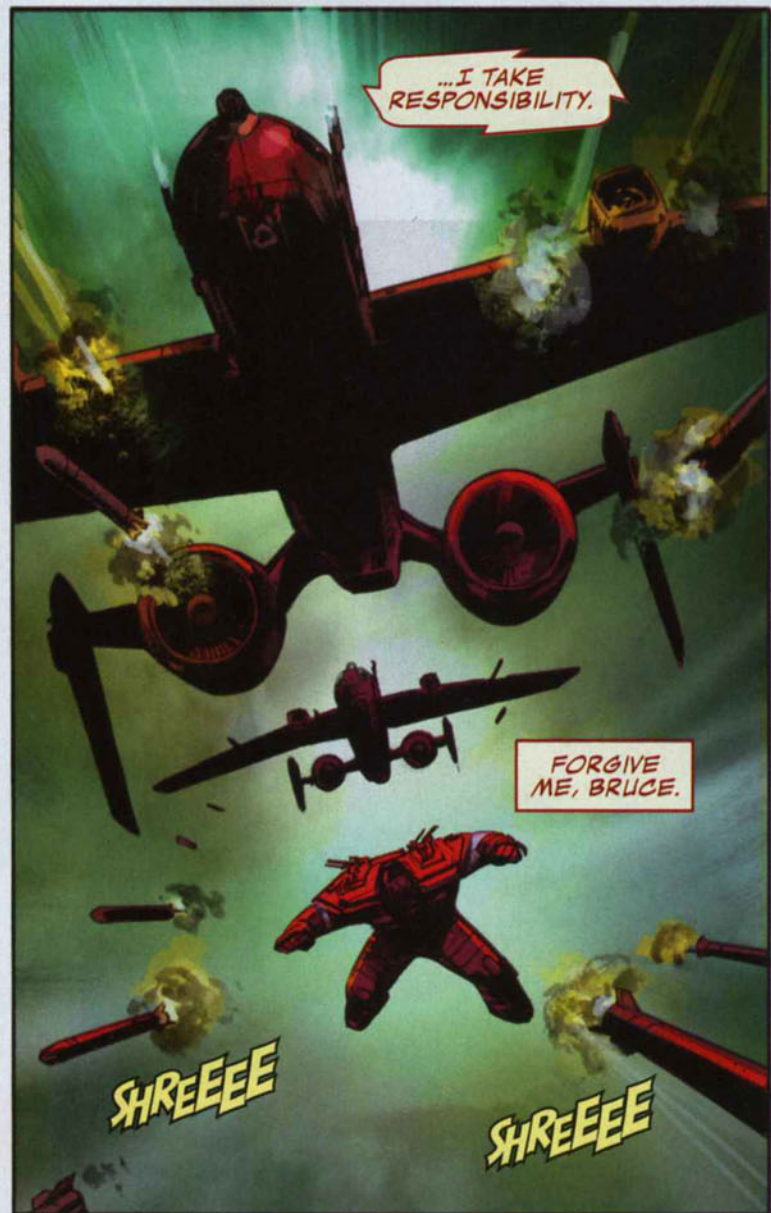


AND TODAY IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN IT EVER HAS.

I'VE JUST INJECTED THE HULK WITH NANOBOTS. THEY'RE DESIGNED TO SUPPRESS HIS POWERS. BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THEY'LL KEEP HIM DOWN FOR LONG.

SO BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND BY S.H.I.E.L.D...

...AND BECAUSE I KNOW MY FRIEND BRUCE BANNER WOULD WANT IT THIS WAY...



...I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.

FORGIVE ME, BRUCE.

SHREEEE

SHREEEE



I NEVER WILL.

BRROOOOMMM



YOU.

OH, HELL.



WELL, TONY,
YOU KNEW
THIS MIGHT
HAPPEN.




IT SEEMED
LIKE THE PERFECT
SOLUTION.


KRAKKABA-
THOOM!




KNEW IT FROM
THE MOMENT YOU
PROPOSED SENDING
THE HULK INTO SPACE.




A PLANET WITH
VEGETATION AND GAME,
BUT NO SENTIENT BEINGS
FOR THE HULK TO HARM.
WHERE HE'D BE LEFT
ALONE, LIKE HE ALWAYS
SAID HE WANTED.




IF IT WAS SO
PERFECT, WHY NOT
TELL BRUCE? OFFER HIM
THE OPTION INSTEAD
OF TRICKING HIM?



BECAUSE HE MIGHT SAY
NO. AND ONCE HE WAS
FOREWARNED, NO POWER ON
EARTH COULD FORCE HIM.



IT WAS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST
DECISIONS I'VE MADE IN MY LIFE.
BUT, AS WITH THE REGISTRATION
ACT, IT WAS A NECESSARY ONE.



SOME PEOPLE AVOID HARD
CHOICES. AS A C.E.O., AS AN
AVENGER, AS DIRECTOR OF
S.H.I.E.L.D... AS A RECOVERING
ALCOHOLIC... I MAKE THEM
ON A DAILY BASIS.



SOME DAYS, IT'S AS SIMPLE
AS NOT HAVING A DRINK.
ON OTHERS, MILLIONS OF
LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.



I DO WHAT I THINK
BEST. WHAT I THINK IS
RIGHT. I MAKE NO
APOLOGIES FOR THAT.



BUT I DO MAKE
A PROMISE: THAT
I'LL FACE THE
CONSEQUENCES.



I MAKE THE
DECISION...

...AND I PAY
THE PRICE.

CRASH!
CRASH!
CRASH!
CRASH!
CRASH!
CRASH!

NEXT:
S.H.I.E.L.D. IN CRISIS!