

8



FRONT LINE™

A MARVEL COMICS™ EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

JENKINS

BACHS

LIEBER

RATED T+



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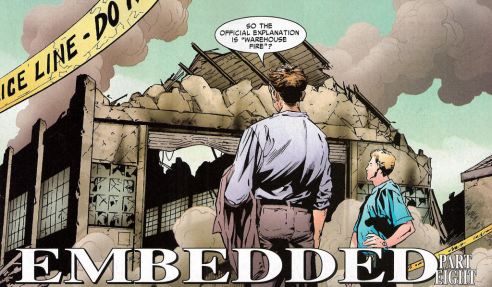
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HEY, I APPRECIATE THE HEADS-UP, DANNY...AND I KNOW YOU GUYS IN COSTUME DIVISION HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRAIGHT WITH ME, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF TELLING ME I CAN'T WRITE WHAT I'VE SEEN?

I'M JUST CLINGING TO YOU IN, OKAY? I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING HERE YOU'D WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FOR LATER, 'CAUSE THIS WAS DEFINITELY NO WAREHOUSE FIRE.

FRANKLY, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT WAS. ALL I KNOW IS WE HAD S.H.I.E.L.D. CRAWLING AROUND HERE ALL AFTERNOON. RIGHT NOW THEY'RE ARGUING WITH THE DA'S OFFICE ABOUT WHO GETS THE CRIME SCENE.

THERE'S SOME KIND OF PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENT BECAUSE OF WHERE THE DEAD PEOPLE ALL ORIGINATE FROM. BUT THE LAW IS THE LAW--THIS IS OUR JURISDICTION.

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, DANNY. LAWS CAN BE CHANGED.





GIVE ME A SENSE OF WHAT I'M LOOKING AT HERE. YOU GUYS ARE SAYING ALL THE VICTIMS WERE FOREIGN?

YUP. SOME KIND OF TERRORIST CELL. ALL ATLANTEANS. WE VERIFIED WITH STARK'S PEOPLE.

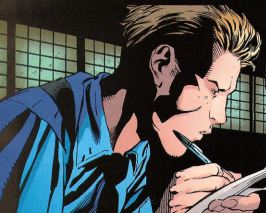


NOW IT DOESN'T TAKE A DETECTIVE TO GUESS THEIR INTENT, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT, BEN. SOME TRUTHS ARE SELF-EVIDENT.

I WORKED NARCOTICS FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE COSTUME DIVISION. AN' ANYONE KNOWS THAT IF YOU FIND A DEAD DEALER THEN THERE'S A LIVE ONE NEARBY WITH TWICE AS MANY DRUGS AN' A SMILE ON HIS FACE.



WAY I HEARD IT, ONE OF THE NEW WARRIORS WHO DIED UP AT STAMFORD WAS SOME PRINCE BISWIG'S SISTER OR SOMETHIN'. SO YOU FIGURE THESE GUYS WERE BEING PUT IN PLACE TO MAKE SOMEONE PAY...WE DON'T KNOW WHO JUST YET.



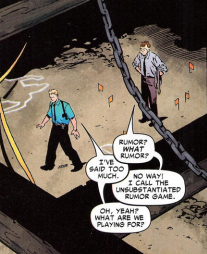
EACH ORANGE FLAG REPRESENTS SOME KIND OF UNKNOWN WEAPON OR DEVICE. THESE PEOPLE BROUGHT A LOT OF HARDWARE WITH THEM. I TALKED TO ONE OF THE WEAPONS ANALYSIS GUYS HALF AN HOUR AGO, AN' HE SAYS THEY'RE ATLANTEAN ALL THE WAY--



WHO'D HAVE THE DRESS AND THE RESOURCES FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS DID?



I HEARD A RUMOR.



RUMOR?
WHAT RUMOR?

I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.

NO WAY!
I CALL THE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOR GAME.

OH, YEAH?
WHAT ARE WE PLAYING FOR?



DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU GOT.
SPILL IT.

I TALKED TO VANESSA OUT OF DISPATCH. SHE HEARD A LOT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. RADIO TRAFFIC COMING THROUGH OUR SYSTEM THAT DAY.

AND?

THIS WAS DONE BY A FRIEND OF YOURS.



DON'T YOU DO THIS TO ME, DANNY GRANVILLE--

OKAY, LOOK... FORENSICS RECOVERED ONE UNEXPLODED DEVICE OF A TYPE AND CHEMICAL CONSTITUENCY THAT CONNECTS IT TO SOMEONE WE KNOW.

WHO?



RHYMES WITH "GREEN GOBLIN."
WHAT DO I WIN?



OSBORN AGAIN? BUT WHY WOULD HE GO AFTER ATLANTEANS? HOW DID HE GET THE INTELLIGENCE ON THEM, FOR ONE THING--?

I GOT ONE MORE ITEM FOR YOU--A REAL KEEPER THIS TIME. BUT YOU GOTTA MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE.



OKAY. ARE YOU STILL SINGLE?





I MEANT YOU, YOU STUP. DID I EVER ASK YOU TO LEAVE JERRY AND SWEEP ME AWAY TO TUSCANY?

ALL THE TIME, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE JERRY ALONE. HE SWEATS OUT HIS BUTT CRACK WHEN HE GETS SCARED AT NIGHT.



YOU SAY THE PRETTIEST THINGS. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

THAT'S STEVE... GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT. I CAN VOUCH FOR STEVE. HE'S GOT SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.



I GO OUT BY THE DOCKS, MISS FLOYD. JUST PICKIN' UP UNBROKEN COKE BOTTLES AN' STUFF. SO THE OTHER DAY, ME AN' MY BUD JIMMY, WE SEE THESE TWO GUYS THROWING A BODY INTO THE RIVER.

#SAUK!

AFTER THE RIPPLES DIE DOWN, I HEAR SOMEONE SAY A NAME. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU.



I ALWAYS HAD GOOD EARS--GOT 'EM FROM MY MOM. SHE COULD HEAR JOE DUSAN HIT A DOUBLE FROM OUTSIDE THE STADIUM IN HER DAY.

I LISTEN A BIT MORE AN' SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHIN' ABOUT MEETINGS YOU IN A MARKET. SOME UNDERCOVER STUFF, OR SOMETHIN'.

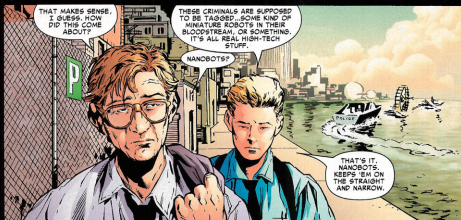


THEN I HEAR ANOTHER NAME: NICK FURY.









THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS. HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

THESE CRIMINALS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TAGGED... SOME KIND OF MINIATURE ROBOTS IN THEIR BLOODSTREAM, OR SOMETHING. IT'S ALL REAL HIGH-TECH STUFF.

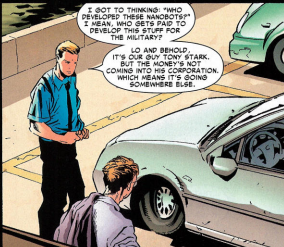
NANOBOTS?

THAT'S IT. NANOBOTS. KEEPS 'EM ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.



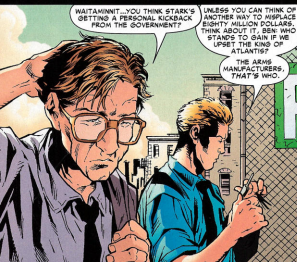
SO AS FAR AS THEY CAN TELL, SOMEONE IN THE ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE PROGRAMMED OSBORN'S BATCH DIFFERENTLY. THEY'RE FINDING EVIDENCE ON A DAILY BASIS--

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE STOCK MARKET?



I GOT TO THINKING: "WHO DEVELOPED THESE NANOBOTS?" I MEAN, WHO GETS PAID TO DEVELOP THIS STUFF FOR THE MILITARY?

LO AND BEHOLD, IT'S OUR GUY TONY STARK. BUT THE MONEY'S NOT COMING INTO HIS CORPORATION. WHICH MEANS IT'S GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE.



WAITAMINIT... YOU THINK STARK'S GETTING A PERSONAL KICKBACK FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

UNLESS YOU CAN THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO MISPLACE EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS. THINK ABOUT IT, BEN: WHO STANDS TO GAIN IF WE UPSET THE KING OF ATLANTIS?

THE ARMS MANUFACTURERS, THAT'S WHO.



WHAT IF THIS WHOLE WAR, THIS WHOLE TIME, WAS ALL ABOUT MONEY?



JUST SO
YOU KNOW,
I'VE GOT
MACE.

RELAX.
I WON'T
HURT
YOU.

NO YOU
WON'T.
BECAUSE
I'VE GOT
MACE.



I PROMISED DOUGIE I'D WATCH
OUT FOR YOU. YOU KNOW
DOUG. HE'D NEVER LET YOU
COME HERE WITH JUST
ANYONE.

I CAN
TAKE CARE
OF MYSELF,
IF I HAVE
TO--

MY
HERO.



YOU'RE A PRETTY FAIR LADY, MISS FLOYD, IF
YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO. I READ THAT
MUTE COLUMN YOU USED TO DO--

THEY'RE
NOT "MUTES,"
STEVIE.

YEAH, RIGHT...
MY FAUX PAS.
ANYWAYS...I
LIKED IT. YOU
WERE PRETTY
FAIR.



SO WHY ARE YOU LOOKING
FOR THESE UNDERGROUND
GUYS FOR ANYWAY? THEY
OWE YOU MONEY?

NO. I
OWE THEM.
IS THIS IT?



OVER
THERE
KEEF



I'M JUST SAYING. AT LEAST YOU
COULD HAVE PICKED SOMEONE
FROM THE SIXTIES--



PROMISE
YOU WON'T
MACE ME.



TO BE CONTINUED...

SO HERE'S
WHAT I WANT
TO KNOW...

ROBBIE BALDWIN--UNREGISTERED
COMBATANT FORMERLY KNOWN AS
SPEEDBALL--TAKES A SLUG POINT
BLANK TO THE ABDOMEN BEFORE
HE CAN TESTIFY TO CONGRESS
ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT
IN THE STAMFORD
MASSACRE.

THE SHOOTER--
A GRIEVING FATHER
OF ONE OF THE
CHILDREN WHO DIED
IN THE STAMFORD
INCIDENT--IS TAKEN
INTO CUSTODY.

ON THE WAY TO
THE HOSPITAL, BALDWIN'S
AMBULANCE DEVELOPS
TWENTY-SEVEN MAJOR
ELECTRONIC MALFUNCTIONS
AND NOSEDIVES INTO
ANOTHER CAR.

THE
AMBULANCE
CONTAINS FOUR
PERSONS. TWO
OF WHOM ARE
KILLED UPON
IMPACT.

TWO OTHERS
ARE EJECTED
FROM THE VEHICLE,
APPARENTLY THROUGH
THIS MASSIVE HOLE
THAT IS SOMEHOW
BLOWN THROUGH
THE ROOF.

ONE OF THESE
PEOPLE POSSESSES
SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.
EVEN SO, THE IMPACT
IS FORCEFUL ENOUGH TO
CATCH HER BY SURPRISE AND
PROVIDE LACERATIONS
TO HER NECK AND
LOWER LIP.

THE ACCUSED PART EIGHT

PAUL
JENKINS
WRITER

STEVE
LIEBER
ARTIST

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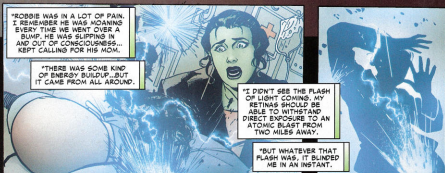
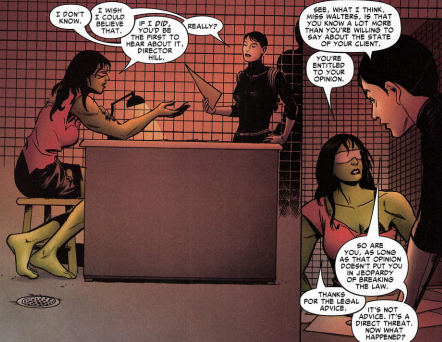


THE SECOND
SURVIVOR IS THOUGHT
TO POSSESS NO SUCH
POWERS, BUT IS FOUND SIXTY
YARDS AWAY ON A GRASS
VERGE, COMPLETELY
UNHARMED.

UNLESS YOU
COUNT THE Gaping
WOUND IN HIS STOMACH
CAUSED BY A GUNSHOT
TWELVE MINUTES
EARLIER.

SO WHAT I
WANT TO KNOW,
MISS WALTERS,
IS WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED OUT
THERE?







WHICH IS WHERE I HAVE TO SERIOUSLY QUESTION YOUR VERSION OF EVENTS, MISS WALTERS, BECAUSE I SERIOUSLY DOUBT AN IMPACT WITH A CAR WOULD SO MUCH AS CAUSE A DENT IN YOUR FINGERNAIL. LET ALONE YOUR PRETTY FACE--

I WAS BLINDED, AND I THINK SOMETHING SIPHONED MY POWERS. OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T HAVE CUT MY LIP. I'LL RECOVER, BUT--

WAS IT BALDWIN?

I DON'T KNOW!



"MISS WALTERS, WE HAVE ANOTHER SEVEN UNIFORMED OFFICERS IN THE HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM SEVERE ELECTRICAL BURNS.

"ONE OFFICER DESCRIBES BEING BLINDED BY A MASSIVE FLASH OF LIGHT COMING FROM ABOVE THE AMBULANCE."



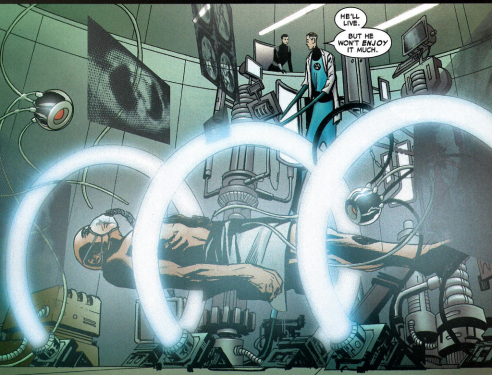
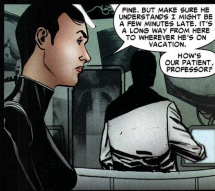
SO TELL ME: WHO TRIED TO BREAK BALDWIN OUT OF JAIL? WAS THIS PREMEDITATED, OR JUST A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY?

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE GOING TO TRY HOLDING ME HERE ON THAT?

I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK OUT OF HERE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, MISS WALTERS. AT ANY MOMENT YOU CHOOSE. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER THREE DAYS OF YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION SINCE THIS REGARDS AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT.



SO GO AHEAD. GIVE ME A REASON TO HOLD YOU AS AN ACCESSORY TO THE TWO EXTRA COUNTS OF INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER I'M ADDING TO MISTER BALDWIN'S CHARGES.





I DOUBT
HE'S ENJOYING IT
MUCH RIGHT NOW.
ANY PERMANENT
DAMAGE?

WE'RE NOT
SURE YET, BUT WE
ARE WITNESSING A
DEVELOPMENT.



GIVE ME SOMETHING
IN SMALL WORDS THAT
I CAN RELAY TO THE
PRESIDENT, DR.
RICHARDS.

HOW DOES
"HYPER-KINETIC
PROXIMAL NEUROPATHY
WITH QUASI-RANDOM
TAUTOMERIZATION"
SOUND?



LIKE IT'LL PRY
OUR COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF'S BRAIN.
TRY ENGLISH...AND
START FROM THE
BEGINNING.

TAKE A
LOOK FOR
YOURSELF.



THE PATIENT IS SUFFERING FROM A VERY SIGNIFICANT ABDOMINAL WOUND, COMPLICATED BY THE TYPE OF BULLET.

THE HANDGUN WAS OLD...HADN'T BEEN FIRED IN YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY FOR ROBBIE, THAT MEANS THE BLUS FRAGMENTED SOON AFTER ENTRY FROM ALMOST POINT-BLANK RANGE.

SOME OF THE SMALLER PIECES ARE NOW PRESSING AGAINST HIS SPINAL CORD.

NOW THIS IS THE PATH THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE TO GET BACK OUT AGAIN. ONE OR TWO FRAGMENTS ACTUALLY LOOGEED INSIDE AN INVERTEBRAL DISC IN HIS LUMBAR REGION.

THERE'S NO PROCEDURE THAT GUARANTEES SUCCESS, DIRECTOR HILL. WE COULD CRIPPLE OR EVEN KILL HIM WITH A MICROSCOPIC MISTAKE.

WHAT ABOUT THESE BLOSS... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ALL THAT?

THEY APPEAR TO BE ONE OF TWO THINGS.

ONE--THEY'RE SOME KIND OF BIOELECTRICAL ACTIVITY SURROUNDING HIS NERVE ENDINGS. THAT ACTIVITY IS LITERALLY SIPHONING BIOELECTRICAL ENERGY FROM HIS SURROUNDINGS AND FEEDING IT INTO HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM.

TWO-- WE HAVE NO IDEA.

606-253763
PHONE: 607-361-1053
FAX: 607-361-1053
607-361-1053

CLOC: PLEASE
SUGGEST A POSSIBLE
CAUSE FOR THE SURGE
ACTIVITY DETECTED AT
MISTER BALDWIN'S
SYNAPTIC NERVE
ENDINGS.

UNDETERMINED,
PROFESSOR RICHARDS.
PATIENT BALDWIN'S
NEUROTRANSMITTER
RECEPTORS ARE
FUNCTIONING
IMPROPERLY.



SPECULATE,
PLEASE...

VERY
WELL. GIVEN
PATIENT BALDWIN'S
MEDICAL HISTORY,
AN AGGRAVATED
MUTATION APPEARS
TO BE TAKING
PLACE.

PATIENT
BALDWIN MAY BE
AWAKENING DORMANT
KINETIC POWERS
OF A TYPE PREVIOUSLY
UNKNOWN, TRIGGERED BY
RESPONSE TO EXTREME
STIMULI.

YOU SEE, DIRECTOR HILL? SOMETHING
WONDERFUL IS HAPPENING TO ROBBIE
BALDWIN.



WHY IS HE STILL UNCONSCIOUS?
IS HE OUT OF THE WOODS?



WELL, YES...
BUT WE CAN'T
REVIVE HIM
YET. HE'D BE IN
TREMENDOUS
PAIN.

I NEED MORE TIME TO
STUDY THE PHENOMENON.
DON'T MAKE ME BEG.

YOU EXPLAIN
THAT REASONING
TO THE FAMILIES
OF THE DEAD AT
STAMFORD,
PROFESSOR.

GIVE HIM
SOME MORPHINE
AND WAKE
HIM UP.





WE CAN'T DO THAT!
WE WON'T BE IN ANY
STATE TO ANSWER
QUESTIONS--

I DON'T
PLAN ON
ASKING HIM
ANY.



TOMORROW AT OH-EIGHT-HUNDRED HOURS,
I'M GOING TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT
AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT WAS RESCUED
FROM A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION BY FOUR
HEROIC POLICE OFFICERS, AT RISK TO
THEIR OWN SAFETY.

I'M GOING
TO TELL HIM THE
PRISONER IS FINE, AND
WILL BE OFFERED NO
SPECIAL TREATMENT,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ADMINISTRATION
PROTOCOLS.



HE'S GOING TO TURN THAT INTO
POLITICS, WHEREBY THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE WILL BE REMINDED THAT
WE ARE JUST AND FAIR, EVEN TO
OUR UNREGISTERED COMBATANT
ENEMIES.

THEY'LL PROBABLY
TALK ABOUT IT ON THE
HILL FOR ANOTHER COUPLE
OF YEARS UNTIL THE
PRESIDENT SAYS GOODBYE
AFTER THE NEXT
ELECTION.

THEN, WE'LL
START ALL OVER
AGAIN.



AND IN THE MEANTIME,
MISTER BALDWIN
WILL BE BACK IN
PRISON.

WHICH IS
EXACTLY WHERE
HE HAS CHOSEN
TO BE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

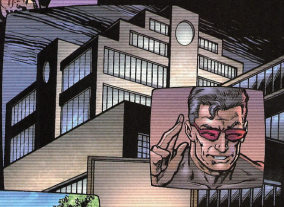


"... AS THE CONFLICT CONTINUES UNABATED, WE'VE SEEN AN EXPONENTIAL RISE IN THE NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES BETWEEN REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED COMBATANTS:

"THREE CIVILIANS KILLED TODAY AFTER THE FORMER COSTUMED HEROINE KNOWN AS CYBERMANCER WAS APPREHENDED DURING AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT A BANK HEIST..."

"...THE ACTOR, SIMON WILLIAMS---ALSO KNOWN AS WONDER MAN---REMAINS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER A DOCKLAND WAREHOUSE BLAZE LATE ON THURSDAY SENT SHOWNERS OF DEBRIS AS FAR AWAY AS QUEENS AND HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

POLICE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE REPORTED SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE FIRE...

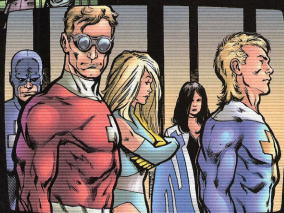


"...WHILE ELSEWHERE, A SEGMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES WATCHDOGS GROUPS DESCENDED UPON CAPITOL HILL TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS OVER APPLICATION OF THE REGISTRATION ACT.

"A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PENSIONS FOR HEROES DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE DISTURBINGLY SMALL TURNOUT, PREFERING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF HEROES' RIGHTS..."

"...AND A DELEGATION OF VISITING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES FROM THE SUB-AQUATIC NATION OF ATLANTIS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE LOWER EAST SIDE WHARF WITHIN MINUTES.

"IN A DEAL BROKERED BY THE EUROPEAN AGENCY, S.H.E., THE ATLANTEANS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCLOSE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WHAT IS INCREASINGLY BEING DESCRIBED AS AN ALL-OUT CIVIL WAR..."





I HEAR YOU THERE, KENNY. SUPPOSEDLY, THE POLITICIANS ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW THE ACT APPLIES TO FOREIGNERS. I GUESS NO ONE THOUGHT OF THAT.

MAN...THAT IS SO MESSED UP.



...AND ON BEHALF OF THE SUPER HEROES OF EUROPE I'D LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNOR, HIS STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ALL FOR COMING AS WITNESSES TO THIS HISTORIC OCCASION.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER MY PREDECESSOR AS RED DRAGON, GARETH THOMAS, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN A BATTLE AGAINST THE VOID.



I HOPE TO SERVICE MY COUNTRY AND THE WORLD BY FOLLOWING THE MANY POSITIVE EXAMPLES GARETH SET OVER HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

TO MY LEFT, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE, FROM BELGIUM, MARCEL DEPLANDRE, WHO WILL FUNCTION AS TRANSLATOR...



SLEEPER CELL PART SIX

PAUL JENKINS WRITER LEE WEEKS BREAKDOWNS LEE WEEKS & NELSON FINISHES SOTOCOLOR'S J. BROWN COLORS VC'S RANDY GENTILE LETTERS MOLLY LAZER & AUBREY SITTERSON ASSISTANT EDITORS TOM BREYVOORT EDITOR JOE QUENADA EDITOR IN CHIEF DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

THE ATLANTIAN DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IMMINENTLY. THEY HAVE REQUESTED A PUBLIC FORUM TO AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ATLANTIAN CUSTOM.

I HARDLY NEED TO REMIND YOU OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, SO PLEASE KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS TO A MINIMUM IF YOU WANT TO GET HOME BY NIGHTFALL.

UH...RED DRAGON, MIKE WILLIAMS FROM THE POST: CAN YOU COMMENT ON WHETHER THIS HISTORIC VISIT TO OUR SHORES IS NO MORE THAN A GLORIFIED PRISONER EXCHANGE AFTER RUMORS OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING ATLANTIAN AGENTS--

THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES MISSIONARIES, MIKE. THIS WAS NO MORE THAN A FACT-FINDING MISSION. THERE WAS NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT THESE PEOPLE BEING HERE. THEY'RE SIMPLY ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR CITIZENS.

THE ATLANTIAN STATE RELIGION IS BASED UPON INTERACTION WITH A LIVING ENVIRONMENT, MUCH LIKE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURE--

HEY...OVER THERE!





I DON'T GET IT... DOESN'T THIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE A POLICY OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS?

DEFENSE. ONE MAN'S TERRORIST IS ANOTHER MAN'S FREEDOM FIGHTER.



AMBASSADOR GOVAN, ON BEHALF OF S.H.E. AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S HERO ORGANIZATION, I WELCOME YOU TO THE SHORES OF THIS FINE CITY.

I AM AUTHORIZED TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BY THIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN SECRETARY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING YOUR CONCERNS.

COMING SOON

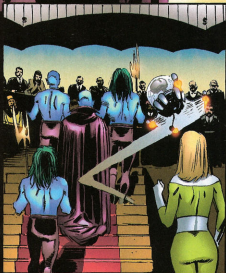


NOW, DID I HEAR THAT RIGHT OR DID WE JUST KISS THEIR BUTTS?

I TALKED WITH OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERT... WE'RE ON A KNIFE-EDGE WITH THESE GUYS. LAST THING WE CAN AFFORD IS ANOTHER FRONT IN THE WAR. HEY... EVEN THE REFUGEES ARE MAD AT US RIGHT NOW.



THANK YOU, AMBASSADOR. I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FORUM, SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF YOUR MISSING CITIZENS. YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.



WHAT IS THAT?



AMBASSADOR SOVAN EXPRESSES HIS GRATITUDE FOR THIS HASTILY ARRANGED FORUM.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO WISHES TO COMMENT ON RECENT REPORTS OF ATLANTIAN CITIZENS DISCOVERED AND ATTACKED. UNPROVOKED. THIS WAS, IN FACT, A PEACEFUL MISSION DESIGNED TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND HUMAN CULTURE.



BILL PRICE, DAILY BUGLE: AMBASSADOR SOVAN, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO ALLEGATIONS THAT ATLANTIAN INTERFERENCE IN OUR REGION HAS DESTABILIZED THE SITUATION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES?

IS IT FAIR TO SAY YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS LARGELY CATALYZED BY THE RECENT DEATH OF YOUR PRINCE NAMOR'S COUSIN AT STAMFORD?



おんがのめい 2395



THE AMBASSADOR ONCE AGAIN REITERATES THAT ANY ATLANTIAN PRESENCE HERE ON THE SHORES OF YOUR SOVEREIGN NATION IS MERELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF STUDY--

HEY, AMBASSADOR! I HAVE A QUESTION!



AND MY QUESTION IS THIS...

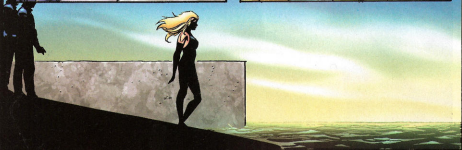
I AM HENRY HAMM...

...HOW FAST CAN A FISH MOVE ON DRY LAND?



BLAM!







TO BE CONTINUED...

The battle of Edgehill, which began on October 16th, 1642, was the first--and some say the bloodiest--of the English Civil War.

The Royalist and Parliamentarian armies met in a massive skirmish on an open field near Kineton, Warwickshire. Most combatants were armed only with pitch forks or cudgels. By day's end, huge swathes of troops lay dead and badly wounded. The bodies were looted for clothes and money and left on the field.

So bloody was the carnage that stories began to surface of the battle being replayed again and again in the skies above Kineton. King Charles the First became intrigued by these tales: weeks after the fight he sent some of his senior officers to investigate and interrogate witnesses.

To his alarm, his men returned, ashen-faced, to confirm that they themselves had seen the grisly battle still raging in the sky. In fact, they had even witnessed the deaths of former friends and colleagues as the battle raged in the clouds.

According to local legend, the Battle of Edgehill continues to replay in the sky each year on the anniversary of the conflict.

THE FIGHTING MAN SHALL FROM THE SUN
TAKE WARMTH, AND LIVE FROM THE GLOWING EARTH;

SPEED WITH THE LIGHT-FOOT WINDS TO RUN,
AND WITH THE TREES TO NEWER BIRTH;
AND FIND, WHEN FIGHTING SHALL BE DONE,
GREAT REST, AND FULLNESS AFTER DEARTH.



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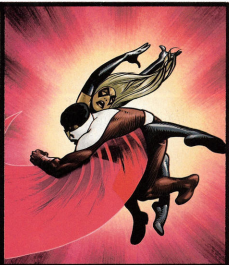
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THE BLACKBIRD SINGS TO HIM, "BROTHER, BROTHER, IF THIS BE THE LAST SONG YOU SHALL SING, SING WELL, FOR YOU MAY NOT SING ANOTHER! BROTHER, SING."



AND WHEN THE BURNING MOMENT BREAKS,
AND ALL THINGS ELSE ARE OUT OF MIND,

AND ONLY JOY-OF-BATTLE TAKES HIM BY THE THROAT,
AND MAKES HIM BLIND,



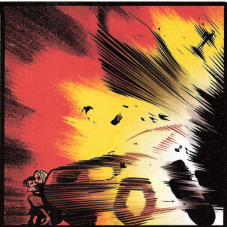


THROUGH JOY AND BLINDNESS HE SHALL KNOW,
NOT CARING MUCH TO KNOW, THAT STILL
NOR LEAD NOR STEEL SHALL REACH HIM, SO
THAT IT BE NOT THE DESTINED WILL.





THE THUNDERING LINE
OF BATTLE STANDS.



AND IN THE AIR
DEATH MOANS
AND SINGS:



BUT DAY SHALL CLASP HIM
WITH STRONG HANDS, AND
NIGHT SHALL FOLD HIM
IN SOFT WINGS.
--JULIAN GRENFELL

