

WORLD WAR HULK™

MARVEL®

13

HEROES FOR HIRE



**WELLS
MANN
PALLOT
ANDERSON**

RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

DIRECT EDITION

Burglars at your door?
Interdimensional portal open in your basement, spewing out unspeakable
and evil minions?

Call

HEROES FOR HIRE



MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



BLACK CAT



SHANG-CHI



TARANTULA



HUMBUG



PALADIN

EVIL PLAN

Moon Power

Real quick: Humbug's
psycho, cover

Helpful advice: When aliens come to take over the world, DON'T kill one of them, cover yourself in their blood and try to sneak from experience now) they'll ship. Because (and I speak from experience now) they'll likely beat the ever-living *@#% out of you and tie you up while deciding whether to:
a) Kill you quickly.
b) Kill you slowly.

Wolver

Fearing the threat of a gamma bomb and becoming a gamma bomb and became...
Landing on a faraway planet...
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...
Filed with rage, Hulk and his Warbound warriors have landed on Earth to bring revenge upon those he holds responsible for destroying his world...

HEROES FOR HIRE
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HEROES FOR HIRE Toys...
TAN LEE, Chairman...
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THE HULK'S STONE SHIP.



HAVE YOU TOLD THE HULK OF OUR PRISONERS, MIEK?

THEY SLAUGHTERED A HIVELING AND MASKED THEIR SCENT WITH HIS BLOOD. THIS DOES NOT CONCERN HULK.



WHAT HAVE YOU PLANNED FOR THEM?

THEY ARE BEING WASHED TO AVOID ANY FURTHER...CONFUSION, KORG. THEN THEY'LL HAVE THE PAIN THEY'VE CAUSED RETURNED TO THEM TENFOLD.



CAREFUL, MIEK.
WE'RE HERE FOR JUSTICE, NOT JUST REVENGE.



I KNOW, ELLOE. BUT THESE PRISONERS HAVE HURT THE HIVE.



THEY GET BUG JUSTICE.

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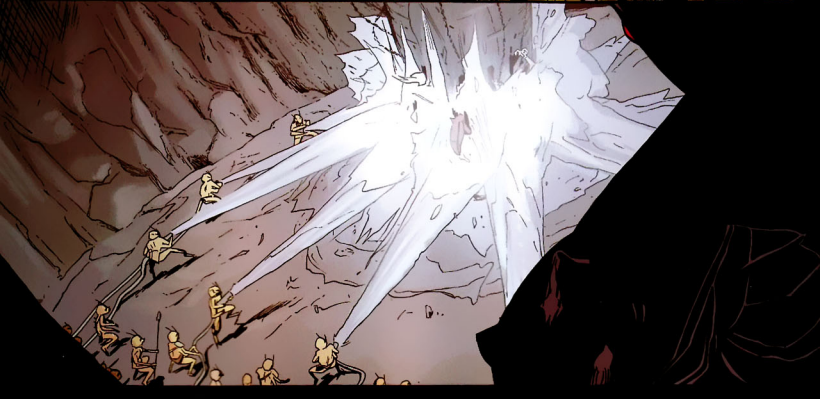
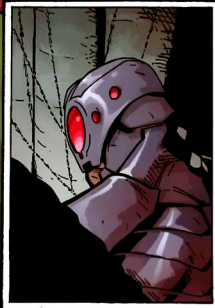
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THEY OBEY YOU. YOUR GIFT IS IMPRESSIVE INDEED.



I WONDER IF YOU'D BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE ME, IF GIVEN ENOUGH PRACTICE.



I WOULD NEVER THINK TO TRY, MY QUEEN.



GOOD. WE'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE MIEK OF THAT, OF COURSE, BUT THAT CAN WAIT...



...FOR NOW, HE'LL STAY BUSY WITH YOUR "FRIENDS."



MISTY!

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING--

UMPH!



YOU ARE PRISONERS NOW, WHILE MIEK HATCHES THE NERVE-MAGGOTS.

FOR THE MURDER OF OUR BROTHER YOU WILL WEAR THE PAIN-SKIN.



"THE PAIN-SKIN"?

THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

CLANG!

##%#!



THIS WALL'S STRONGER THAN STEEL, BUT IT LOOKS BIOLOGICAL...LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF INSECT SHELL.

WHICH MAKES ME WONDER WHERE OUR RESIDENT BUG EXPERT, HUMBUG, IS.



HE DISAPPEARED RIGHT BEFORE WE WERE DISCOVERED BY THE SHIP'S GUARDS.

YOU MEAN RIGHT AFTER HE TOLD US THEY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE HERE.

EXACTLY.




THAT @###! THIS WHOLE THING WAS HIS IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NO. NO. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WITH COLLEEN, I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS TEAM, AND I LED US ONTO A SPACESHIP FULL OF ALIEN SUPERMEN BECAUSE A MALADJUSTED SHUT-IN WHO CAN TALK TO ROACHES SAID IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.



NO, MISTY, HE SAID THAT THE BROOD QUEEN WAS PLANNING ON POPULATING EARTH WITH HER PROGENY. WE HAD TO TRY.

DID WE?

YOU DO REALIZE HUMBUG IS THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH A POWER OTHER THAN BEING ABLE TO PUNCH THINGS, RIGHT?



WE HAVE NO BUSINESS FIGHTING SPACE-ALIENS!

WE'RE THE HEROES "FOR HIRE." WHAT ARE WE DOING TRYING TO SAVE THE PLANET?



WHAT THE @###! ARE WE DOING ON A SPACESHIP?



#@%*,
SHANG, YOU
SHOULD BE
DEAD.

MY EARS
ARE RINGING
FROM THE IMPACT OF
THAT PUNCH YOU
BLOCKED.

I WAS
ABLE TO FOCUS MY
CONCENTRATION BEFORE
IMPACT. I DISTRIBUTED
THE TRAUMA EQUALLY
OVER MY BODY.



HOW DID
YOU KNOW YOU'D
SURVIVE IT.
I DIDN'T.
BUT YOU
KNEW YOU HAD
A CHANCE,
RIGHT?



ARE...ARE
YOU TRYING TO
GET YOURSELF
KILLED?
OF
COURSE
NOT.
REALLY? IN
THE SAVAGE LAND,
YOU WOULD HAVE LET
THOSE CREATURES KILL
YOU BEFORE YOU'D
PERMANENTLY INJURE
ONE.



ON THIS SHIP...
YOU STAYED TO FACE
THE ALIEN ALONE...
KNOWING YOU COULDN'T
DEFEAT HIM.

WHAT'S GOING
ON? BE HONEST
WITH YOURSELF,
AT LEAST.

MARIA, IT'S
COMPLICATED.
IT...





IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I KILLED A MAN.



WHAT?

I WAS IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN NAMED LEIKO WU. WE WERE...PASSIONATE. I WAS BLIND TO THE FACT THAT THIS PASSION INFECTED MY BATTLES AS WELL.

I KILLED IN COMBAT... FREQUENTLY.



WHEN OUR PASSION LEFT, I SAW WHAT I'D BECOME. I TURNED TO TAOISM AND BECAME A MONK, SWEARING OFF CARNAL PLEASURES... HOPING TO QUIET THE MURDERER INSIDE ME. THEN...THEN I MET YOU.

AS MY LUST FOR YOU GREW, SO DID THE VIOLENCE IN MY HEART. I LOST CONTROL FIGHTING THE HEADMEN... THEN AGAIN IN THE SAVAGE LAND WHEN WE...WE...



I'M SORRY. A MONK DOES NOT SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS.

A MONK? SHANG, YOU ARE A MAN! THIS "LUST FOR WOMEN" IS PART OF YOU. IT'S NATURAL.



AND WHAT OF MY LUST FOR BLOOD...IS IT ALSO NATURAL?

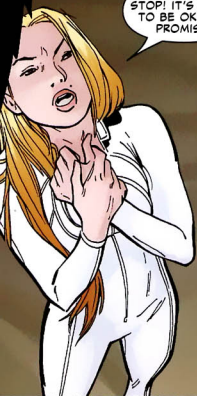
THAT IS WHY I FEAR YOU, MARIA...

I FEAR YOU HAVE REVEALED THE KILLER INSIDE ME.

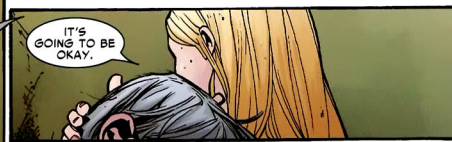


**EEEE
EEEE
Aii!**

MOONBOY,
STOP! IT'S GOING
TO BE OKAY...I
PROMISE!



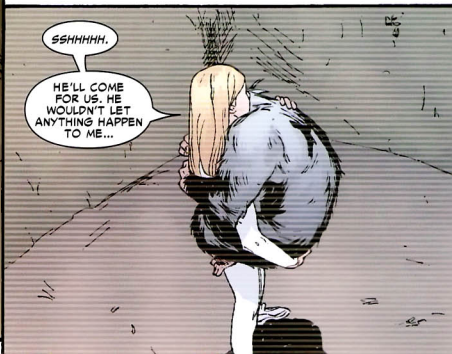
THERE
YOU GO.



IT'S
GOING TO BE
OKAY.



HUMBUG'S
STILL OUT THERE
SOMEWHERE.
DON'T WORRY...



SSHHHHH.

HE'LL COME
FOR US, HE
WOULDN'T LET
ANYTHING HAPPEN
TO ME...

"...HE'S GOT A BIGGER CRUSH ON ME THAN YOU DO."

SHE KNEW.

GIVE THEM NO MORE THOUGHT, HUMBUG.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY...FRIENDS.

A HIVELING WAS KILLED. MIEK WILL PUNISH THEM ACCORDING TO HIS PEOPLE'S CUSTOMS.

WHICH ARE?

WE ARE PREPARING CATACOMBS UNDER THE EARTH-PLACE "MADISON SQUARE GARDENS." MIEK WILL HATCH THE NERVE-MAGGOTS THERE.

ONCE ATTACHED TO YOUR FRIENDS, TIME WILL SLOW AS THEY ENDURE PAIN FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY.

ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS?



OF COURSE NOT. THE HUMAN WORLD NEVER WELCOMED ME. BUT I DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T LET THEM GO. THEY ARE NO THREAT TO US.

THEY ARE ALL A THREAT TO US, HALF-KIND. THE EARTH MAMMALS WILL NEVER ACCEPT INSECTS AS AN EQUAL SPECIES.

THAT IS WHY WE MUST MAKE A NEW WORLD IN THE CATACOMBS BELOW. ONE WHERE WE MAY PROSPER.



AND I CAN BE PART OF THIS WORLD?

YES...MORE OF A PART THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. YOU ALONE HOLD THE KEY TO OUR PLAN...

YOU ALONE MAY--

INTRUDER!





YOU INVADE BROOD'S QUARTERS?! K-K-K-K!



YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS.

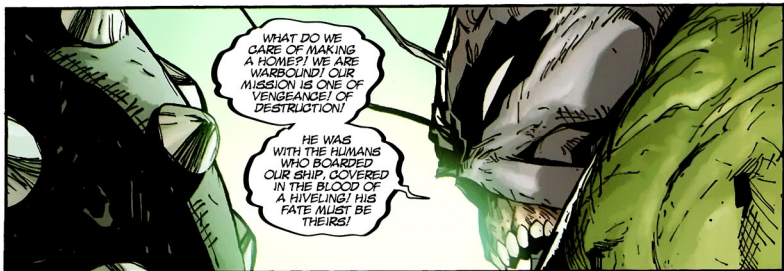
GKKK



MIEK, NO! HE HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY EARTH'S HIVE-MIND!



HE IS THE KEY TO MAKING A NEST ON THIS PLANET!



WHAT DO WE CARE OF MAKING A HOME?! WE ARE WARBOUND! OUR MISSION IS ONE OF VENGEANCE! OF DESTRUCTION!

HE WAS WITH THE HUMANS WHO BOARDED OUR SHIP, COVERED IN THE BLOOD OF A HIVELING! HIS FATE MUST BE THEIRS!



ONE...ONE OF OUR NUMBER...OVERREACTED. ACTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE REST. THERE IS NO NEED TO PUNISH ALL.



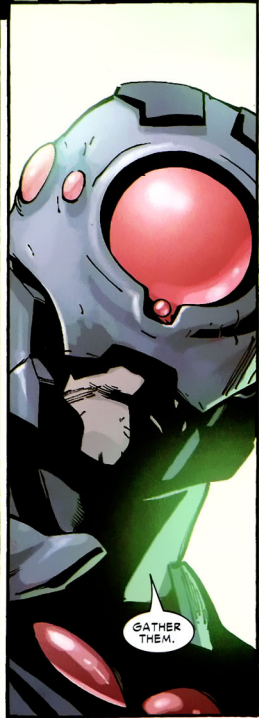
MIEK, WE CAME HERE FOR JUSTICE.

SSSSSS...

THEN HOW CAN WE KNOW WHICH ONE TO HURT?



THAT'S EASY...



GATHER THEM.

"I WILL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHO DID IT."

WELL, THEN...



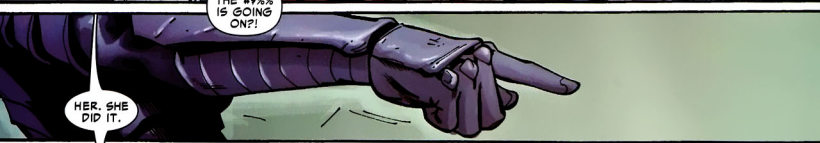
WHICH OF YOUR NUMBER KILLED THE HIVELING.

H-HUMBUG? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



WHAT THE #%% IS GOING ON?!

HER. SHE DID IT.



SHE SLAUGHTERED THE HIVELING.

W-WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?





TAKE HER TO
THE CATACOMBS. SHE
SHALL BE MEAT FOR THE
NERVE-MAGGOTS.
RETURN
THE REST TO
EARTH.

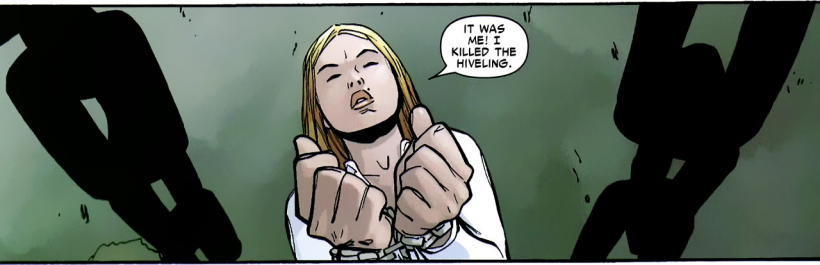


NO!!

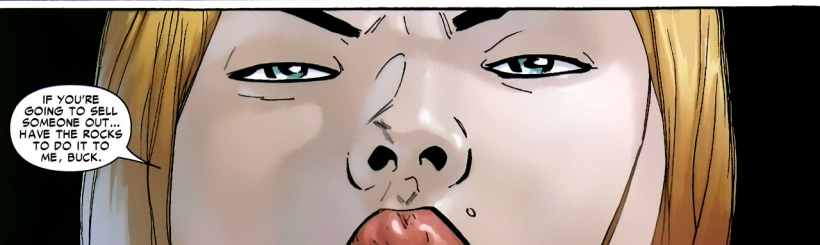
NO! IT WAS HIM!
HUMBUG, I'M GOING
TO KILL YOU
FOR THIS...



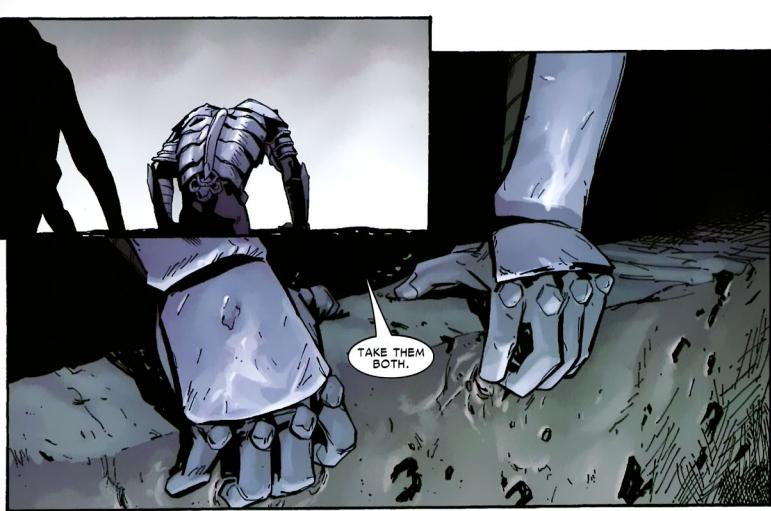
WAIT!!



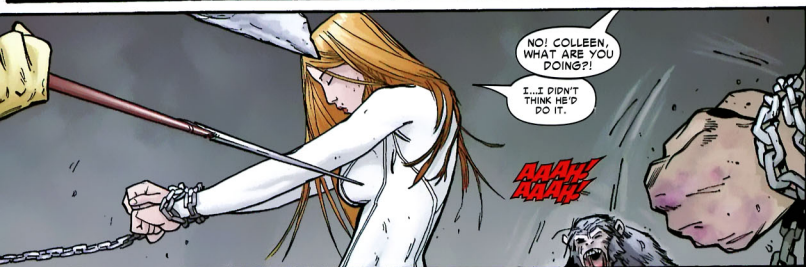
IT WAS
ME! I
KILLED THE
HIVELING.



IF YOU'RE
GOING TO SELL
SOMEONE OUT...
HAVE THE ROCKS
TO DO IT TO
ME, BUCK.



TAKE THEM BOTH.



NO! COLLEEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I...I DIDN'T THINK HE'D DO IT.

AAAAH



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU, BUCK?!



WHAT ARE YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED...

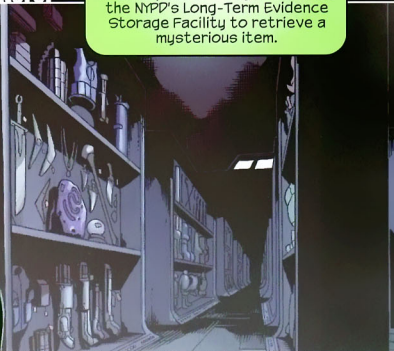
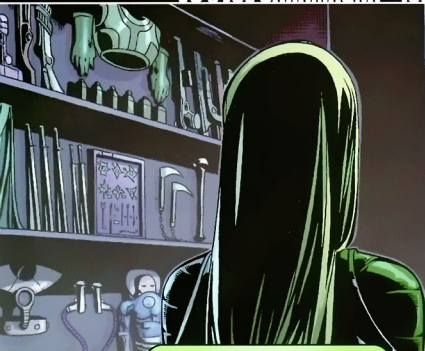


While
WORLD WAR
rages outside...

...S.H.I.E.L.D. has clandestinely sent their undercover super-agent
Scorpion
and her poison "stinger" arm into the NYPD's Long-Term Evidence Storage Facility to retrieve a mysterious item.

BRAD ANDERSON – colorist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA – letterer



But Scorpion was followed by
PALADIN
S.H.I.E.L.D. has ordered her to terminate him to preserve her mission's secrecy...

IRENE LEE & RICH GINTER – production
NATHAN COSBY – assistant editor



FOR THE FIRST SIXTEEN YEARS OF MY LIFE, I HAD NO REASON TO THINK I WAS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A NORMAL TEENAGER.

THEN MY FREAKY POISON STINGER ARM SUDDENLY DECIDED TO ACTIVATE ITSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING DANCE...



...KILLING MY BOYFRIEND, GREG.

IT WAS LIFE ON THE RUN AFTER THAT, UNTIL S.H.I.E.L.D. FOUND ME.



I'VE LEARNED TO CONTROL MY STINGER A LOT BETTER SINCE THEN.

FOR EXAMPLE, I EVEN MANAGED TO SUBDUDE THE HULK IN AUSTRALIA BY USING THE STINGER TO ABSORB THE AMBIENT GAMMA RADIATION GIVEN OFF BY HIS BODY...

...TURNING IT INTO A GAMMA TOXIN THAT TEMPORARILY INCAPACITATED HIM.*

BUT THE ONE THING I'VE NEVER, EVER DONE SINCE THAT STUPID DANCE...

...IS KILL.

GOT ANY ORGANS THAT MAKE YOU BULLETPROOF, HON?

NO? Tsk.

KIND OF AN OVERSIGHT, DON'T CHA THINK?



S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.

YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, SCORPION! IT'S YOU OR HIM!



'CAUSE WITH A SWITCH, THIS GUN FIRES TEFLON-COATED .30AE ROUNDS THAT WILL MAKE YOUR SKULL DO A CONVINCING IMPRESSION OF CREME BRULEE.

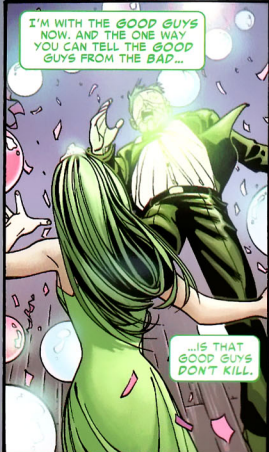


CLICK!

THIS SWITCH, RIGHT HERE.



I'M WITH THE GOOD GUYS NOW, AND THE ONE WAY YOU CAN TELL THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE BAD...



...IS THAT GOOD GUYS DONT KILL.

DO IT, CARMILLA! DO IT!

FINISH HIM!



SO NOW WHAT I NEED FOR YOU TO DO IS BE A GOOD GIRL AND LET ME WALTZ RIGHT OUT OF HERE...





クウッダッダッダッ!!



THUD!



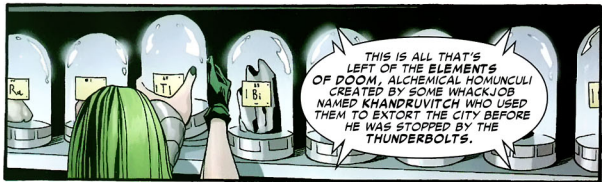
NAGAYOSHI, WHAT WAS THE TARGET ITEM NUMBER, AGAIN?

NAGAYOSHI?



UH...
#2147Z, R-ROW
FOURTEEN--

FOUND
IT.



THIS IS ALL THAT'S
LEFT OF THE ELEMENTS
OF DOOM, ALCHEMICAL HOMUNCULI
CREATED BY SOME WHACKJOB
NAMED KHANDRUVITCH WHO USED
THEM TO EXTORT THE CITY BEFORE
HE WAS STOPPED BY THE
THUNDERBOLTS.



ALL WE
CARE ABOUT,
THOUGH, IS #81:
THALLIUM.

USE
THAT SPECIAL
ATTACHMENT WE
ADDED TO YOUR
GAUNTLET TO
ABSORB IT.

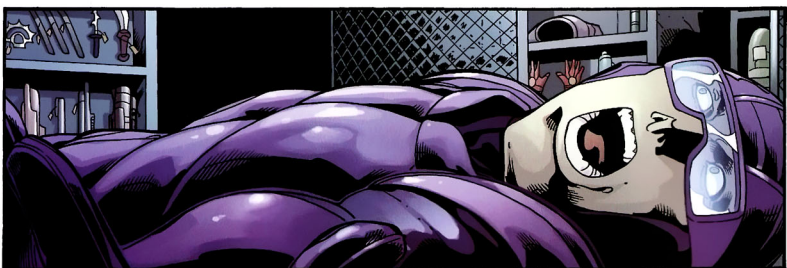
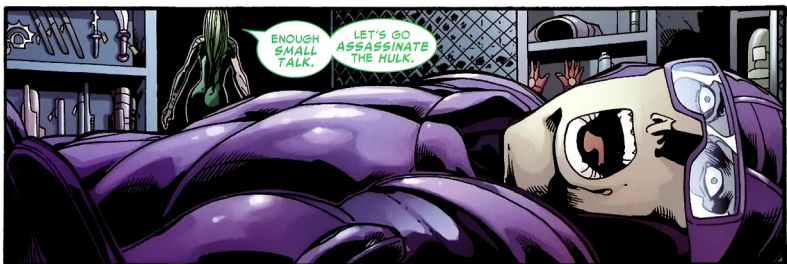
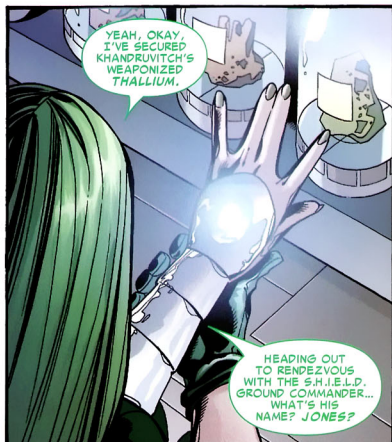


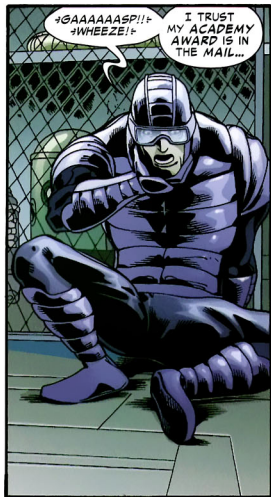
THALLIUM
IS ONE OF THE
DEADLIEST TOXINS
IN ALL OF NATURE. IT
GETS INTO THE POTASSIUM
UPTAKE PATHWAYS OF
THE BODY, DISRUPTING
ITS CELLULAR
PROCESSES.



"IN YOUR NEXT GO-AROUND
WITH THE HULK, YOU'LL RELEASE
A GAMMA-IRRADIATED THALLIUM
POISON THAT WILL MUTATE WITH THE
CREATURE...GETTING STRONGER
THE MORE HE FIGHTS IT.

"YOU'LL
USE HIS OWN
STRENGTH TO
KILL HIM."





!GAAAAASP!!
!WHEEZE!:

I TRUST
MY ACADEMY
AWARD IS IN
THE MAIL...



...AGENT
SAREVA.

NO, BUT I'VE JUST
ARRANGED TO HAVE
YOUR PAYMENT WIRED
TO THAT CAYMAN ISLANDS
ACCOUNT NUMBER
YOU GAVE US. WHICH,
I PRESUME, IS WHAT
YOU'D PREFER
ANYWAY.

THANKS
AGAIN FOR
TAKING THIS
CONTRACT ON
SUCH SHORT
NOTICE, MR.
"PALADIN."

WELL, BETWEEN
RUSH FEES AND
THE DOUBLING OF MY
PRICE FOR THROWING A
FIGHT, IT'S BEEN QUITE
THE LUCRATIVE
JOB...

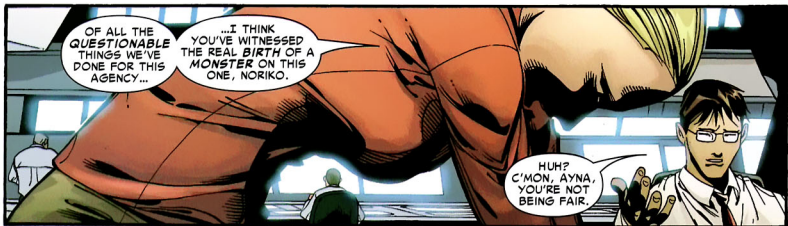


...BUT !GRUNT!
I STILL FEEL LIKE I
UNDERCHARGED.

YOUR
EGGHEADS WERE
RIGHT--WITH MY
ENHANCED STRENGTH,
I WAS ABLE TO
SURVIVE YOUR GIRL'S
STRONGEST STING--
BUT BARELY.

FOR A SKINNY
CHICK SHE PACKS
QUITE A WALLOP. I HAVE
YET ANOTHER REASON
TO BE GLAD I'M NOT
THE HULK.

PALADIN SIGNING
OFF.



OF ALL THE
QUESTIONABLE
THINGS WE'VE
DONE FOR THIS
AGENCY...

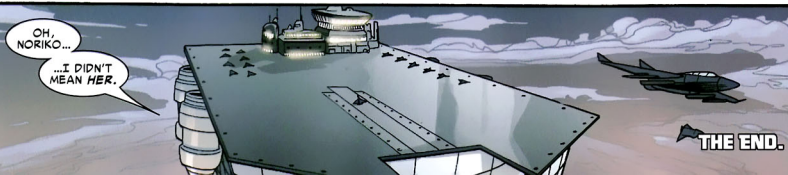
...I THINK
YOU'VE WITNESSED
THE REAL BIRTH OF A
MONSTER ON THIS
ONE, NORIKO.

HUH?
C'MON, AYNA,
YOU'RE NOT
BEING FAIR.



"YOUR ORDERS WERE
TO PROVE WHEN PUSH
CAME TO SHOVE
SCORPION COULD PULL
THE TRIGGER ON
A SANCTION.

"SHE'S S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
ACE IN THE HOLE--
SHE'S GOING TO SAVE
NEW YORK FROM THE HULK--
THAT DOESN'T MAKE
HER A MONSTER."



OH,
NORIKO...

...I DIDN'T
MEAN HER.

THE END.