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THE DAILY BUGLE,
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CHINATOWN.

THE PROBLEM
WITH WAR IS
THAT IT'S
SO BIG.

AND YET THE
IDEAS BEHIND
IT ARE ALWAYS
SO SMALL.



WHICH SUITS THE
WARMONGERS
JUST FINE.

BECAUSE WHILE THERE
ARE MILLIONS OF US
WATCHING...WE'RE
ALL LOOKING IN THE
WRONG DIRECTION.

OWW!
HEY--!

DON'T TURN
AROUND. DON'T EVEN
FLINCH. JUST KEEP DOING
WHAT YOU'RE DOING AN'
YOU'LL BE JUST
FINE.



THAT'D BETTER BE A GUN
IN MY BACK, PAL. WHO
MIGHT YOU BE?

NO
ONE YOU
KNOW.

FINE. SO
WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

FOR YOU
TO SHUT UP
AND LISTEN.



YOU'RE WRITING
THE WRONG STORY,
FLOYD. THAT GROUP
OF HEROES YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR IS JUST
AN URBAN LEGEND.

YOU MISHEARD
WHAT WAS SAID
AT THAT MEETING.



I KNOW WHAT I HEARD.
CAPTAIN AMERICA'S PUTTING
SOME KIND OF UNDERGROUND
GROUP TOGETHER.

THAT PERSON
DOESN'T EXIST
ANYMORE. HE HAS
A DIFFERENT LIFE.
THEY ALL DO. YOU
WON'T FIND
THEM.

BUT SOMEONE
THINKS YOU WILL.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE
BEING FOLLOWED.
THAT'S HOW THEY
FOUND THE MEETING
YOU WENT TO.



IF THEY DON'T EXIST,
YOU'RE GOING TO AN
AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE
TO PROTECT THEM,
BOSS--

THERE'S NO
SINISTER MOTIVE BEHIND
THE ACT, LADY. THEY'RE
JUST TRYING TO REGULATE
DISOBEDIENCE AND STOP
THE NUT-JOBS FROM KILLING
INNOCENT CIVILIANS. BUT
THEY'RE SCREWING IT UP.



YOU DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE WHAT'S GOING
ON. YOU'RE SO FAR FROM THE TRUTH YOU NEED
A COMPASS AN' TAXI FARE.

SO WHAT
IS GOING
ON?

WHY DON'T
YOU LOOK UP
AN' FIND OUT FOR
YOURSELF?







BEN, WE CAN'T EXACTLY GO AROUND CLAIMING OSBORN SIGHTINGS. THAT'S NOT THE STORY WE'RE TRYING TO TELL.

WHY NOT, IF IT'S TRUE?

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES, URICH! YOU THINK I'M MADE OF MONEY?



IT WAS OSBORN, JONAH--I'D STAKE MY LIFE ON IT. HE FINAGLED HIS WAY OUT SOMEHOW.

MAYBE IT'S TIED INTO THE ACT--MAYBE HE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY HERE...I DON'T KNOW. BUT I KNOW WHAT I SAW. IT WAS HIM, AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON MY FACE!



AN' YOU'RE CERTAIN ABOUT THIS--?

CHIEF! WE JUST GOT WORD FROM IRON MAN'S PEOPLE: OSBORN'S RIGHT THERE IN THE SLAMMER...RIGHT WHERE HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

INDEPENDENT WITNESSES VERIFIED IT AN HOUR AGO. COULDN'T BE YOUR GUY.



NO! THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK, URICH? I THINK THAT PLAIN-AS-DAY NOSE OF YOURS JUST GOT SMUDGED--



THE ALTERNATIVE NEWS ROOM

THIS IS PRETTY AMAZING STUFF, SALLY. CAN WE GET VERIFICATION?

FROM WHO? UNREGISTERED HEROES AREN'T EXACTLY ADVERTISING THEIR WHEREABOUTS AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THEIR MEETING, NEIL.

OKAY...YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN GO WITH IT.

JERRY...CAN YOU GET THIS INTO PREPRESS? FRONT PAGE... THROUGH LINE ON PAGE FIVE.

NO SWEAT.

SO D'YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW THIS MYSTERIOUS CONTACT OF YOURS KNEW ABOUT THE MEETING HIMSELF? WAS HE THERE?

I FORGOT TO ASK. I NEVER GOT HELD UP WITH A BANANA BEFORE.

FINE. LET'S JUST STICK TO THE STORY. THE REST WILL WORK ITSELF OUT--

HEY! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

WHERE IS HE?





YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING YOU GET TO CHOOSE. THIS IS AN EXECUTIVE ORDER YOU GET TO COMPLY WITH.

HEY! BACK OFF!



FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY. I GAVE YOU YOUR CHANCE.

PUT YOUR HANDS OUT, BOTH OF YOU--WRISTS TOGETHER, PALMS UP.

SALLY FLOYD AND NEIL CRAWFORD... YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS AND HARBORING THE IDENTITY OF AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. ANYTHING YOU DO SAY MAY BE HELD AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY...



TO BE CONTINUED...

PRISONER
OUT!

ALL PRISON
STAFF BE
ADVISED: PRISONER
EXITING THE MAIN
FORECOURT!

ATTEN

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THE ACCUSED PART FIVE

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COME BACK REAL
SOON, BABY-KILLER.
'CAUSE THIS HAS
BEEN FUN--

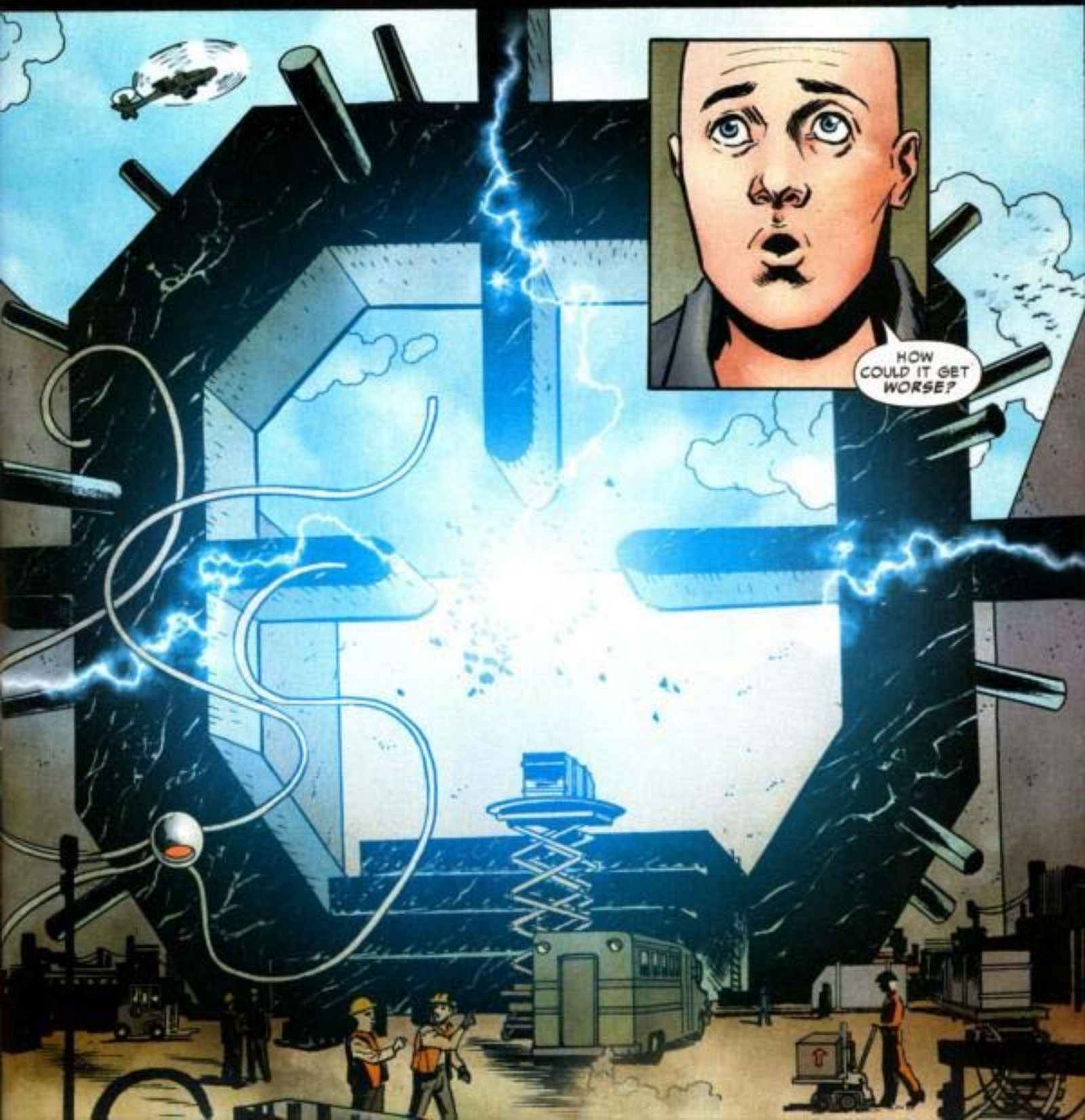
THE PLEASURE
WAS ALL MINE,
CHUCKLES. I'M
COUNTING
THE HOURS.

KISSES!
-MWAH!-

BACK
BEHIND THE
LINE, TOOMEY!
NOW!

ROBBIE?
ARE YOU
OKAY?











SO...WHO KNOWS ANY GOOD JOKES? DUDE...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU KNOW A FEW RIB-TICKLERS.

"I JUST FLEW IN FROM ANCIENT EGYPT, AND BOY, ARE MY ARMS TIRED!"



WHERE IS THE NEGATIVE ZONE, ANYWAY? I HOPE IT'S NOT NEAR CLEVELAND.

IT'S NOT NEAR ANYTHING. IT MAY NOT EVEN BE A PLACE, IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

IT'S MORE LIKE A STATE OF BEING. VERY APROPOS.



WELL, IT CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN CLEVELAND...THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING...



MAN...IT'S LIKE THIS WHOLE SYSTEM IS AUTOMATED. WHY D'YOU THINK THEY'D ENTRUST ALL THESE PEOPLE TO ROBOTS?

BECAUSE THE NEGATIVE ZONE DOES THAT TO SOME PEOPLE.

DOES WHAT?



I CAN'T BE HERE.

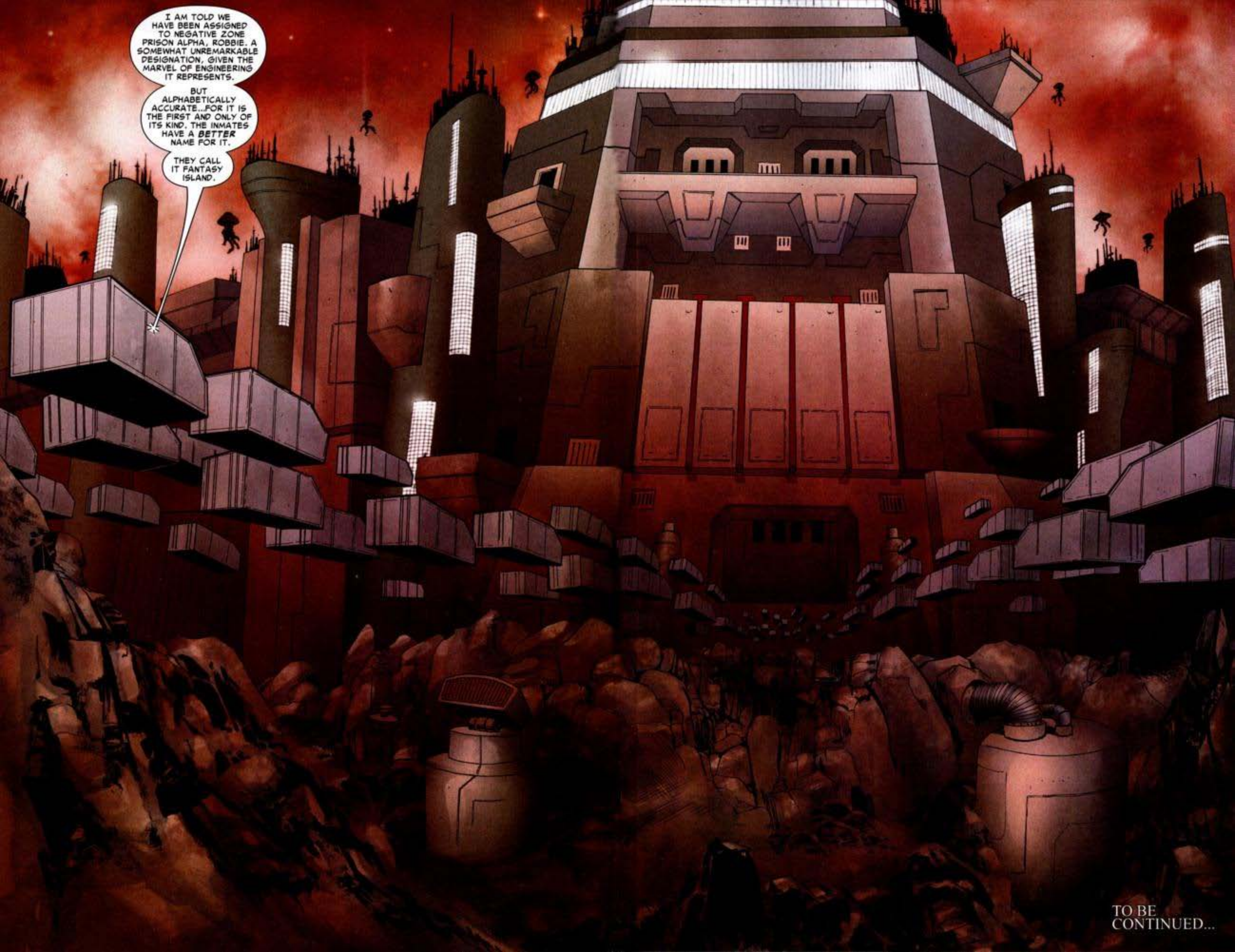
I'M GOING TO DIE BEFORE I SEE MYSELF AGAIN.



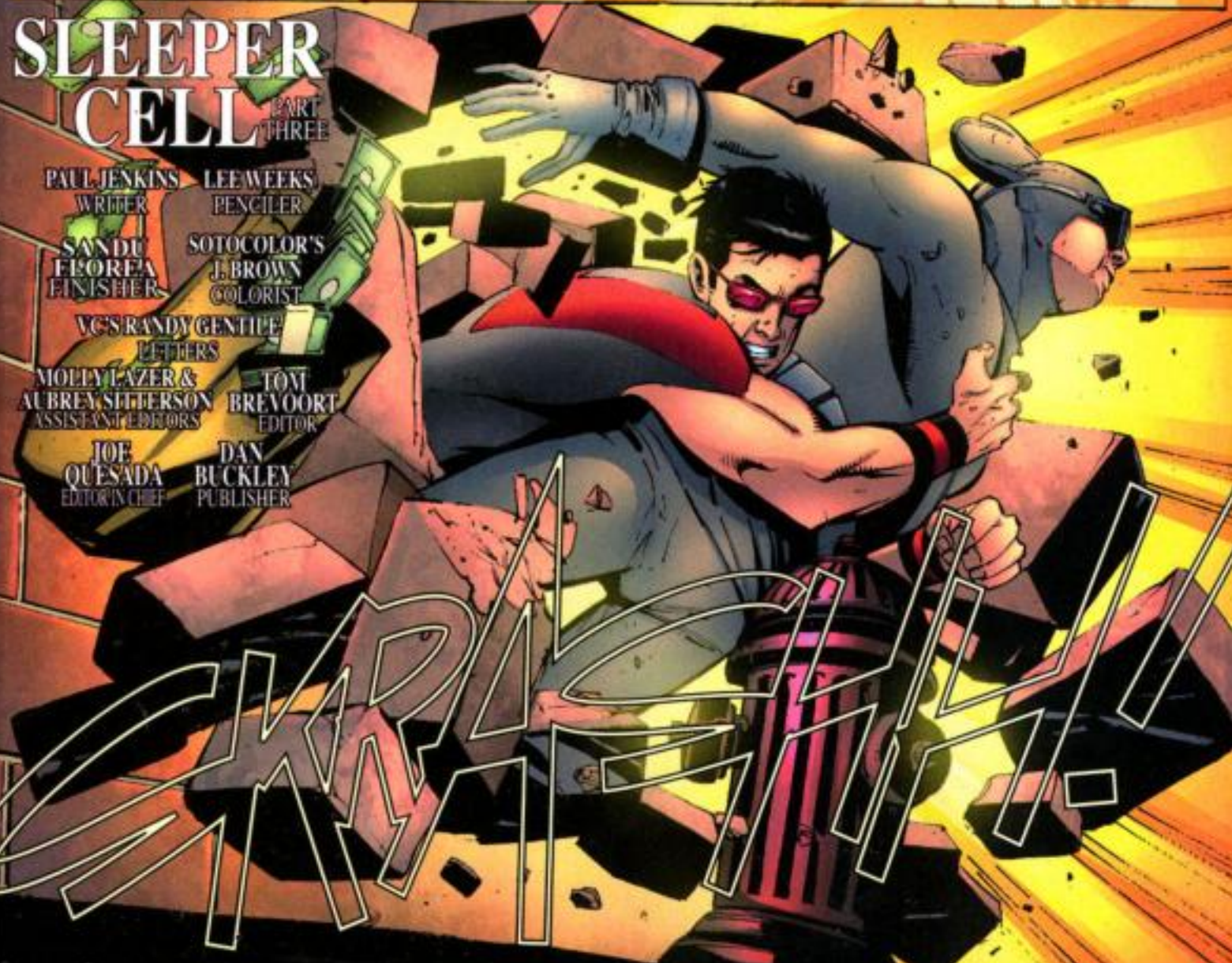
I AM TOLD WE
HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED
TO NEGATIVE ZONE
PRISON ALPHA, ROBBIE. A
SOMEWHAT UNREMARKABLE
DESIGNATION, GIVEN THE
MARVEL OF ENGINEERING
IT REPRESENTS.

BUT
ALPHABETICALLY
ACCURATE...FOR IT IS
THE FIRST AND ONLY OF
ITS KIND. THE INMATES
HAVE A BETTER
NAME FOR IT.

THEY CALL
IT FANTASY
ISLAND.



TO BE
CONTINUED...



SLEEPER CELL PART THREE

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PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES AND PRODUCE YOUR REGISTRATION I.D. CARD.

NO PROBLEM, OFFICER. I'M APPREHENDING A COSTUMED CRIMINAL KNOWN AS THE RAT. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR A RECENT STRING OF ARMED ROBBERIES.

PERPETRATOR WAS SEEN EXITING FIRST UNITED BANK AFTER INCAPACITATING A SECURITY GUARD.



I'M GOING TO REACH SLOWLY INTO MY SIDE POCKET. MY REGISTRATION CARD IS LAMINATED, TYPE A-3.



AND JUST SO YOU'RE FOREWARNED, I'LL PROBABLY BE OPERATING IN THIS SECTION OF MANHATTAN FOR THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.



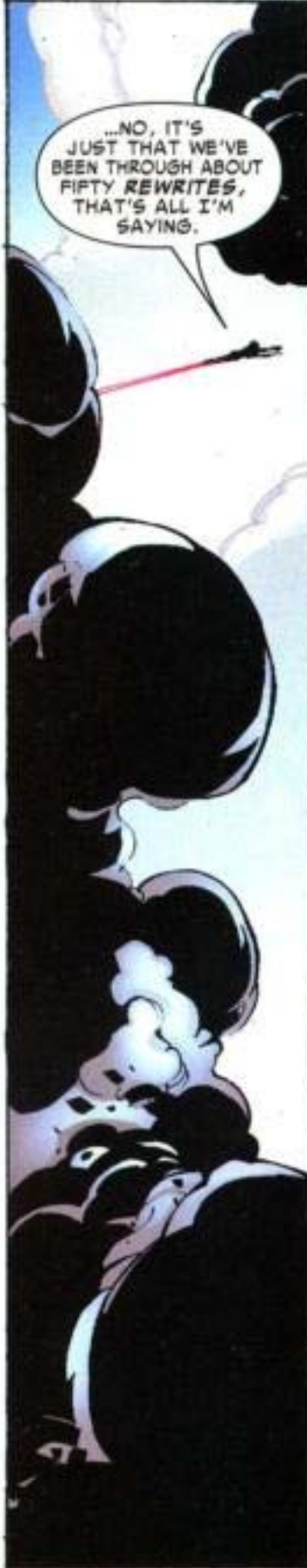
THANK YOU, WONDER MAN. EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER.

YOU'LL BE CONTACTED WITHIN TEN BUSINESS DAYS TO SCHEDULE A COURT APPEARANCE. ALL CONTACTS WILL BE MADE ANONYMOUSLY VIA ENCRYPTED E-MAIL.

GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE, FELLAS--



...AND CUT!



...NO, IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ABOUT FIFTY **REWRITES**, THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.



I KNOW WE'RE DOING THIS AS AN INFORMATION SPOT, BUT IT'S ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE AN ACTION PIECE. I MEAN, "NOW I DON'T PLAY SO NICE"? WHO WRITES THIS CRAP?



WELL, IT'S JUST NOT **REALISTIC**, NEIL. I'D NEVER INTERACT WITH A LOW-LEVEL GUY LIKE THIS RAT CHARACTER. I'M TOO POWERFUL.

WARDROBE HAD HIM DECKED OUT LIKE SOME VILLAIN FROM A "KEYSTONE KOPS" MOVIE. I MEAN, THEY PRETTY MUCH GAVE HIM A BAG TO CARRY WITH "LOOT" WRITTEN ON THE SIDE!



NO...I'M JUST SAYING IT'D BE NICE IF THEY COULD GET A SCRIPT FROM SOMEONE WHO'D ACTUALLY BEEN AROUND A **SUPER HERO** BEFORE.

LOOK...I GOTTA JET, OKAY? WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING--



SOMETHING WRONG, JILL?

THE USUAL. THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WANTS A CONFERENCE CALL TOMORROW AT NOON. AND YOU HAVE SOME VISITORS.



CAN'T DO. TELL THEM TO RESCHEDULE. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING ANGELINA FOR THAT P.E.T.A. THING AT FOUR--

I CANCELLED.

WHAT? WHY?





IT'S NOT OFTEN I GET A VISIT FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, AGENTS?

MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS, SIR. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.



THIS IS ALL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, OF COURSE...AND WE'LL EXPECT YOUR COOPERATION IN THAT REGARD.

WE'VE HAD A DEVELOPMENT OUT ON THE EAST COAST OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS: SOMETHING OR SOMEONE DISTURBED A SUBJECT WE'VE HAD UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.



YOU'RE LOOKING AT PHOTOS OF A MAN KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS ONLY AS "JOE." UP UNTIL TWO DAYS AGO, JOE WAS THE SOLE PROPRIETOR OF AN AQUARIUM STORE IN MANHATTAN.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THIS MAN IS ACTUALLY AN UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE WORKING FOR A FOREIGN CONCERN. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THIS PARTICULAR OPERATIVE MAY PRESENT AN EXTREMELY ELEVATED THREAT TO OUR SECURITY.



IF YOU'LL LOOK AT THE DOSSIER, YOU'LL SEE "JOE" HAS HAD A NUMBER OF ALIASES OVER THE YEARS--

I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOUR TRAIN OF THOUGHT, AGENT. WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?



YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR SKILL SET, SIR.

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU AT THIS TIME.

WELL...I'M
FLATTERED. BUT
I'M SURE THERE
ARE OTHERS FAR
MORE QUALIFIED
THAN I--

ALL OTHERWISE
OCCUPIED. WHICH
IS WHY WE'RE
HERE.

WHAT KIND OF
THREW ME WHEN WE
CHECKED OUT YOUR FILE, SIR, WAS
HOW YOU DYED YOUR HAIR. I MEAN,
I SAW A COUPLE OF YOUR FILMS--
NOTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT,
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME
SAYING--

--BUT I NEVER
FIGURED YOU AS ONE
TO DYE THEIR HAIR. IT
WAS WEIRD WHEN I SAW
IT IN THE FILE.

AND WHAT OTHER
"INFORMATION" DID
YOU FIND ON ME
IN YOUR FILE?

PRETTY STANDARD STUFF, MOSTLY.
NAME, ADDRESS, SOCIAL...STUFF
LIKE THAT. THERE WERE A FEW
DISCREPANCIES IN THE TAX
RECORDS OF YOUR SECOND
CHANCES FOUNDATION. THAT
CONCERNED US.

I'LL BET IT DID. AND WHEN DID
YOU GET THE IDEA TO USE THESE
"DISCREPANCIES" TO BLACKMAIL
ME INTO WORKING FOR
YOU?

WE'RE NOT BLACKMAILING YOU,
SIR. THERE'S A LOT OF UNFINISHED
BUSINESS FROM EVERYONE'S PRE-
REGISTRATION DAYS. WE'RE JUST
TRYING TO HELP CLEAN IT
UP, IS ALL.

YOU'RE TALKING TEN
TO FIFTEEN FOR EACH COUNT
OF EMBEZZLEMENT THAT REMAINS
UNACCOUNTED FOR. WE'RE WILLING
TO SAY GOODBYE TO THAT FILE,
AND IN RETURN WE'RE ASKING
FOR YOUR HELP.

SO IT'S NOT
STRICTLY BLACKMAIL
IF YOUR SUPERIORS
AUTHORIZED IT?

NO...IT'S CALLED "COOPERATION."
WE DIDN'T MAKE THE ACT. WE
JUST WORK BY THE RULES.

DON'T PLAY
DUMB WITH ME.
YOU KNOW DAMN
WELL I DIDN'T
SIGN UP FOR A
DRAFT--

READ THE
FINE PRINT,
SIR.

THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT YOU SIGNED
UP FOR.



JUST READ THROUGH THE DOSSIER, MISTER WILLIAMS. YOU'LL NEED TO KEEP THIS ATTACHED FOR THE DURATION OF THE MISSION. WE'LL BRIEF YOU FULLY AFTER YOU'VE DIGESTED ALL THE MATERIAL.

AND WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE TO THIS?



THEN YOU'RE FREE TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN, SIR.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT AFTER YOUR P.E.T.A. BANQUET TO COORDINATE THE DETAILS.



JUST LOOK THROUGH THE DOCUMENTS, SIR. THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING. WE'RE LOOKING AT A COUPLE OF DAYS, TOPS.

BESIDES... ISN'T THIS SORT OF THING THE EXACT REASON WHY YOU SEWED THAT COSTUME OF YOURS IN THE FIRST PLACE?



WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT.


TO BE CONTINUED...

The Battle of Secessionville was fought near Charleston, South Carolina on June 16, 1862. It was the North's first major effort to take Charleston. During this battle, two brothers named James and Alexander Campbell fought on opposite sides--James as a Lieutenant in the Confederate army and Alexander as a Color Sergeant in the 79th Highlander Regiment. The brothers only later learned that they had fought directly against each other at Secessionville. The Charleston Courier called the two brothers "another illustration of the deplorable consequences of this fratricidal war."

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**DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER**






JAMES CAMPBELL
TO HIS FEDERAL
BROTHER--
AUGUST, 1862:

"I WAS ASTONISHED TO HEAR
FROM THE PRISONERS THAT
YOU WAS COLOR BEARER OF
THE REGIMENT THAT ASSAULTED
THE BATTERY AT THIS POINT
THE OTHER DAY.



COLOR
SERGEANT!
MOVE THOSE
COLORS UP
THAT PARAPET,
MAN!



"I WAS...DURING THE
WHOLE ENGAGEMENT
DOING MY BEST TO
BEAT YOU(.) BUT I
HOPE YOU AND I WILL
NEVER AGAIN MEET
FACE TO FACE BITTER
ENEMIES ON THE
BATTLEFIELD(.)"



