



THE RETURN

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR

RATED T+



DIRECT EDITION

JENKINS

\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

RANEY

CIVIL WAR

THE RETURN

A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed which requires all people possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government. Those who do not register are considered criminals. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties. Captain America currently leads an underground resistance movement against the new law.

After a brutal battle, Bill Foster—the anti-registration hero known as Goliath—has been killed. Other members of Captain America's resistance have been captured and brought to the pro-registration faction's holding facility in the Negative Zone. Both sides have retreated in order to regroup and plan their next move.

Meanwhile, across the country, super heroes continue to weigh the cost of registering against the price of freedom...



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BREET! BREET! BREET! BREET! BREET!

"FANTASY ISLAND"
MAXIMUM SECURITY PENAL FACILITY.
THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

...THERE HAS
BEEN A BREACH
IN THE OUTER
ENVELOPE...

...ALL PERSONNEL
ARE ADVISED TO
BEGIN EVACUATION
PROCEDURES
IMMEDIATELY...

...THERE HAS
BEEN A BREACH
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ENVELOPE...

...ALL PERSONNEL
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IMMEDIATELY...

WARDEN?

SIR?

SIR...I NEED
AN ANSWER. WE'VE
LOST CONTAINMENT
COMPLETELY--ALL
PRISONERS ARE FREE
AND OUR SYSTEMS
ARE DEAD IN THE
WATER.

I NEED TO
TELL MY PEOPLE
SOMETHING.

I'M
THINKING.



WARDEN, WE'RE APPROACHING CRITICAL MASS HERE. WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE POSITIVE MATTER UNIVERSE AND ALL OF OUR ESCAPE CONDUITS ARE BLOWN.

ALL AUTOMATED CLOC DRONES ARE NOW OUT OF COMMISSION... AND THE OUTER FIELD IS DETERIORATING.



IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BE DRIFTING TOWARDS THE EXPLOSIVES. WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED FOR THAT KIND OF EXPOSURE. WE'LL BE RIPPED APART.

SIR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION; YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO STANDS A CHANCE--

--I'VE GOT THREE HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN HERE WHO ARE GOING TO DIE IF YOU DON'T ACT FAST!



WARDEN--

I NEED A FEW MINUTES ALONE, PLEASE. JUST GIVE ME TIME TO THINK.



CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS

THE RETURN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL

IT'S
NOT TIME
YET.

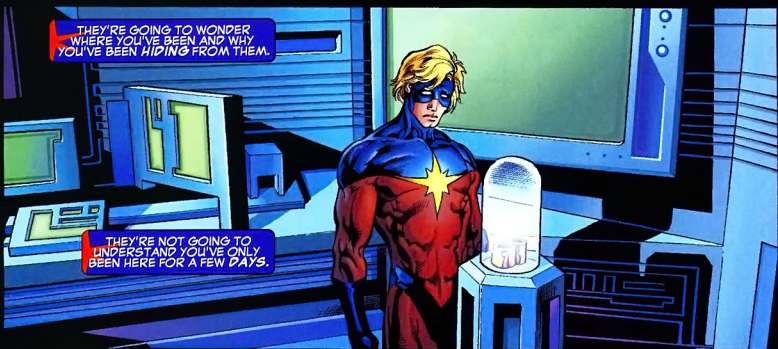
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IT'S TOO EARLY. YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO RETURN TO THE REAL WORLD SO SOON, BUT UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE...

...AS THEY ALWAYS DO.

IF YOU MAKE THIS CHOICE IT'S GOING TO TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN, AND YOU KNOW IT.



THEY'RE GOING TO WONDER WHERE YOU'VE BEEN AND WHY YOU'VE BEEN HIDING FROM THEM.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO UNDERSTAND YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR A FEW DAYS.



FOR YOU, AT LEAST.

FOR THEM, A MATTER OF YEARS.

A LIFETIME HAS PASSED SINCE...



...YOU FLOATED IN NEGATIVE SPACE, MEDITATING.

PONDERING AN OH-SO-IMPORTANT MATTER YOU'VE SINCE FORGOTTEN.

WHY DON'T YOU REMEMBER, MAR-VELL?



SOMETHING DISTRACTED YOU.

IT WAS A MINISCULE
ANOMALY--A CREASE
IN A SEAM OF THE FABRIC
OF TIME AND SPACE.

YOU FELT NOTHING MORE
THAN A MILD CURIOSITY
AS YOU REACHED OUT TO
INVESTIGATE.

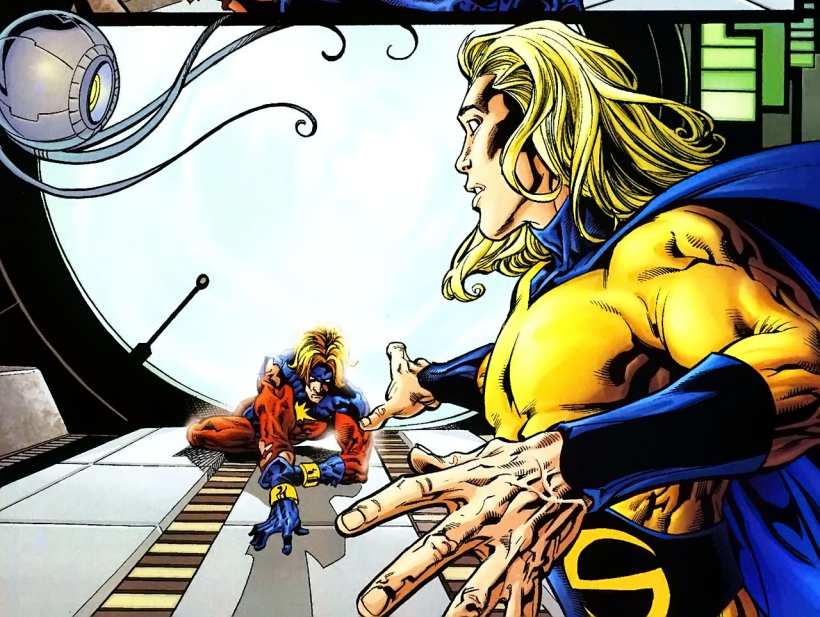
A SURGE OF SUBTLE
ENERGY COURSED
THROUGH YOUR
NEGA-BANDS.

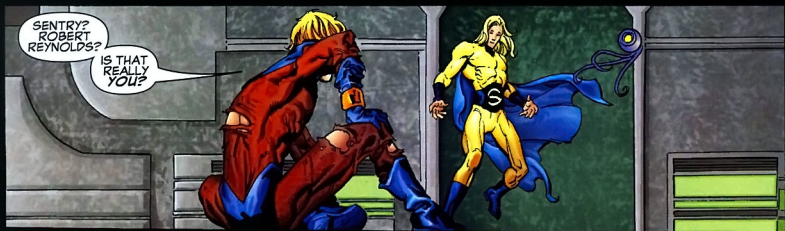


ONLY IN SUCH A MANNER
DOES THE VERY NATURE
OF THE UNIVERSE EVER
TRULY CHANGE.



UHH...





MINUTES LATER HE RETURNED
WITH TWO OTHERS: IRON MAN
AND MISTER FANTASTIC.

THEIR REACTIONS SEEMED
STRANGE AT THE TIME--A
WONDER...YET ALSO AN ODD
KIND OF MELANCHOLY.

FOR TEN FULL MINUTES THEY
SAID NOT A SINGLE WORD.

AT LEAST
NOT TO YOU.



MAR-VELL...WHAT WE'RE
ABOUT TO ASK YOU MAY WELL
BE THE MOST IMPORTANT
QUESTION OF YOUR LIFE.

IT WAS
ABOUT
TIME.

THE QUESTION, THAT
IS--IT WAS ABOUT TIME.

QUITE BY CHANCE--A PURE ACCIDENT--
YOU'D BROKEN THE LAWS NOT ONLY OF
SPACE...BUT OF TIME ITSELF.

SOMEHOW, THEIR EXPERIMENTS TO CREATE A
PORTAL INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE HAD BROUGHT
YOU FORWARD INTO THEIR TIMELINE.

EVEN SO, TIME
WAS RUNNING
OUT, THEY SAID.

AN INCREDIBLE EVENT WAS
OCCURRING IN THEIR WORLD.

SOMETHING OF SUCH MONUMENTAL
IMPORTANCE THAT THEY WERE GOING
TO ASK THIS BIG QUESTION OF YOU.

WE
WANT YOU TO
STAY HERE IN
THE NEGATIVE
ZONE.

WE
WANT YOU
TO RUN THIS
FACILITY.



ROBERT:
I UNDERSTAND THE
RAMIFICATIONS OF
EXISTENCE OUTSIDE
OF MY OWN TIME. AN
OBVIOUS QUESTION
PRESENTS ITSELF:

WHY
DO YOU NOT MAKE
THIS REQUEST OF THE
MAR-VELL OF YOUR
ERA?

MAR, OLD FRIEND...
HISTORY TELLS US THAT
YOU RETURN TO YOUR
TIME NO MATTER WHAT YOU
DECIDE HERE. BUT THE
PARADOX OF TELLING
YOU--



I'M
DEAD
AREN'T
I?



YOU KNOW
I CAN'T ANSWER
THAT, MAR.

HOW DO
I DIE?

TELL ME,
ROBERT.



ONLY IF
WE CAN DEPEND
ON YOU, MAR.
PLEASE... I
NEED YOU.

SOMETHING BEYOND
DESCRIPTION HAS HAPPENED
TO ME SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
IMAGINE A SELF-DETONATING
BOMB WITH A SHORT
FUSE.



YOU'RE THE
ONLY PERSON I CAN
THINK OF WITH THE
MEANS TO PREVENT
THE CATASTROPHE IF
THINGS GO BADLY
WITH ME.

HOW DO I
DIE? I WANT
TO KNOW.


AND MY
EYES... DOES SHE
LIVE?

ANSWER ME,
ROBERT!



PLEASE,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

THIS IS
OUR MOST
DESPERATE
HOUR.



YOU STAYED WITH THEM...
AND LEARNED THE TRUTH.

IT WAS CANCER,
GIVEN TO YOU WHEN EXPOSED
TO A SPECIFIC TOXIN--A NERVE
GAS--DURING A BATTLE WITH
THE DEMENTED HUMAN KNOWN
AS NITRO.

THE SAME MAN NOW
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE
DEAD IN STAMFORD.



ONE DAY YOU NOTICED
YOU WERE SICK.

THE KREE CALLED IT
THE **BLACKEND**.

IT WAS INCURABLE
BY ANY NAME.




YOU MADE YOUR PEACE
WITH ENEMIES AND FRIENDS.

WITH YOUR
BEAUTIFUL ELYSIUS...

...AND WITH
GOD.

YOU DIED AT THE STROKE OF
MIDNIGHT ON TITAN, SURROUNDED
BY THOSE WHO LOVED AND
TRUSTED YOU LIKE NO OTHER.



IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE
NEGATIVE SPACE BREACHES THE
INNER WALLS OF THE PRISON.

YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO
SAVE LIVES. YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO GO BACK *OUTSIDE*.



THE WORLD IS GOING TO
BE A DIFFERENT PLACE. THE
HEROES ARE FRACTURED.

IDENTITIES
ARE KNOWN.

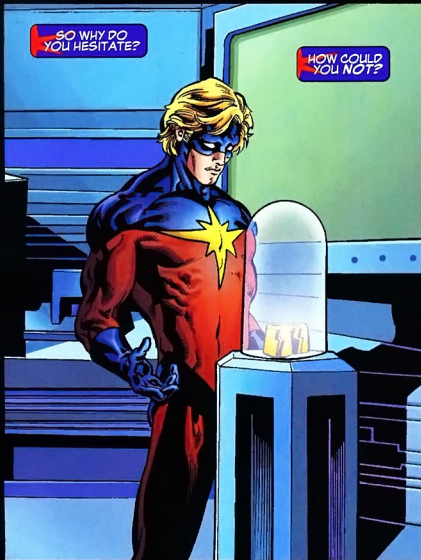


EVERYTHING
HAS CHANGED.

SO MANY ARE GONE,
OTHERS RESURRECTED,
LIKE YOU.



THEY
NEED
YOU.



SO WHY DO
YOU HESITATE?

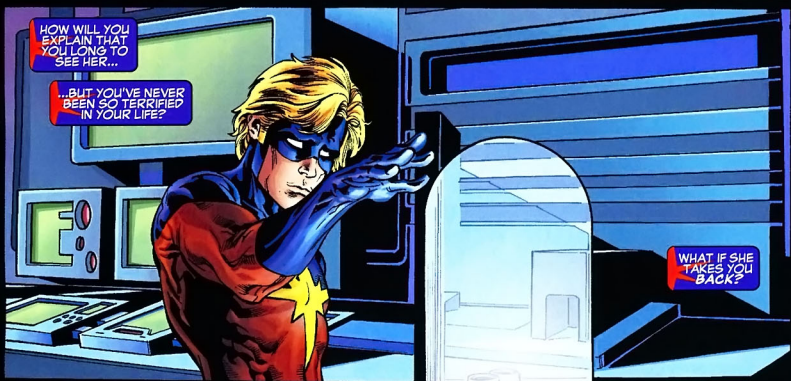
HOW COULD
YOU NOT?



YOU SAW HER JUST
FOUR DAYS AGO IN
YOUR OWN TIME.

FOR HER, YOU DIED IN
FRONT OF HER EYES
A LIFETIME AGO.

WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE
IT'S REALLY YOU? WHAT IF
SHE'S MARRIED ANOTHER?



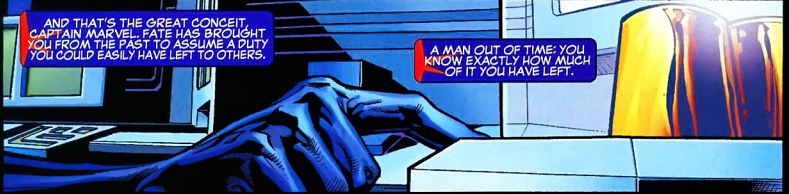
HOW WILL YOU
EXPLAIN THAT
YOU LONG TO
SEE HER...

...BUT YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN SO TERRIFIED
IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT IF SHE
TAKES YOU
BACK?



KNOWING, AS SHE WOULD,
THAT A DEATH SENTENCE
BURNS INSIDE YOUR VERY
CELLS?



AND THAT'S THE GREAT CONCEIT, CAPTAIN MARVEL. FATE HAS BROUGHT YOU FROM THE PAST TO ASSUME A DUTY YOU COULD EASILY HAVE LEFT TO OTHERS.

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE OF CANCER. IN TREMENDOUS PAIN.



YOU'RE GOING TO DIE OF CANCER. IN TREMENDOUS PAIN.

YOU CAN SET YOUR WATCH TO THE TIME AND DATE.



EVEN SO...



...DUTY OUTWEIGHS SUCH PAIN.

IT'S TIME TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

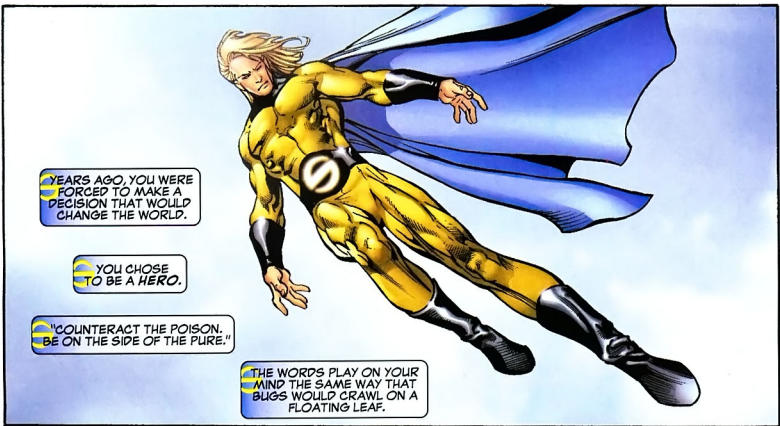
YOU'RE THE FIRST
PERSON EVER...

...TO GET
A SECOND
CHANCE...

...TO MAKE A
FIRST IMPRESSION.



COMING SOON:
CAPTAIN MARVEL #1



YEARS AGO, YOU WERE
FORCED TO MAKE A
DECISION THAT WOULD
CHANGE THE WORLD.

YOU CHOSE
TO BE A HERO.

"COUNTERACT THE POISON.
BE ON THE SIDE OF THE PURE."

THE WORDS PLAY ON YOUR
MIND THE SAME WAY THAT
BUGS WOULD CRAWL ON A
FLOATING LEAF.



NOW, A NEW DECISION OF
EQUAL IMPORTANCE: WHAT
KIND OF HERO ARE YOU
GOING TO BE?

REGISTERED OR
UNREGISTERED?

YOU ALWAYS KNEW
THIS DAY WOULD COME.

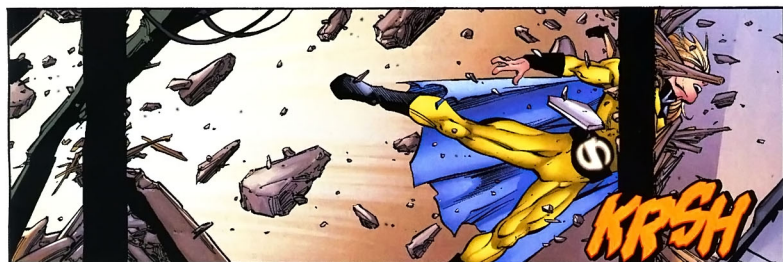
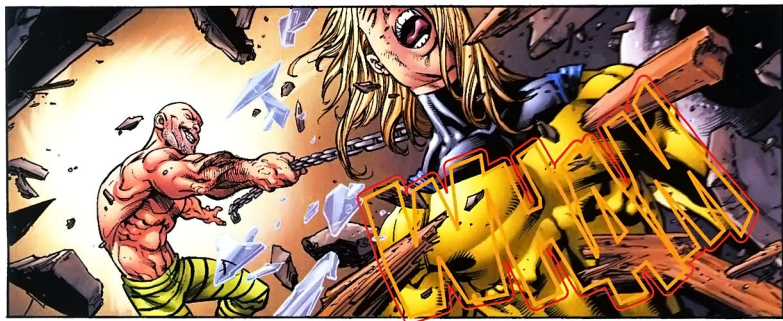
JUST DIDN'T EXPECT
IT TO BEGIN LIKE THIS.

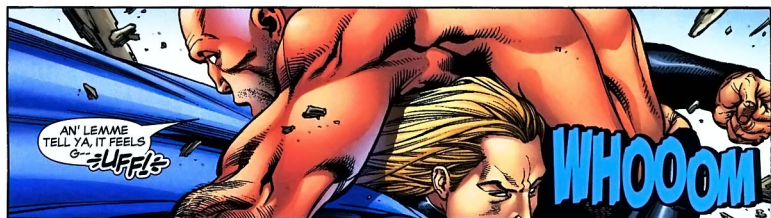
SENTRY
IN

THE DECISION

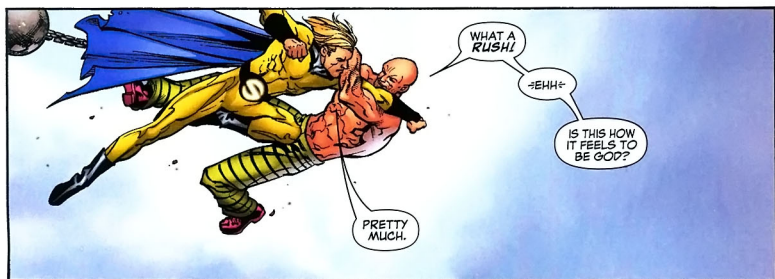
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LETTERS	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER















CREEL MELTS WITH THE POWER OF A MILLION EXPLODING SUNS---ATOM BY ATOM, DISSOLVING INTO PHOTONS AND NEUTRONS AND SOLAR WIND.

YOU ALREADY KNOW HE'LL BE BACK.

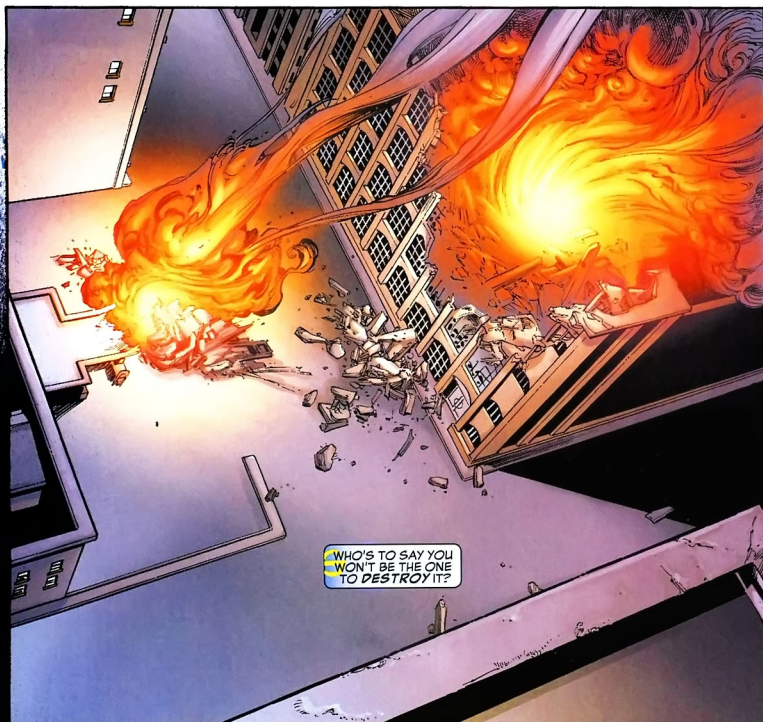


AND WHEN HE COMES
BACK, WHAT KIND OF
WORLD WILL BE WAITING?



WHAT ABOUT YOU,
SENTRY? WHERE
WILL YOU FIT IN?

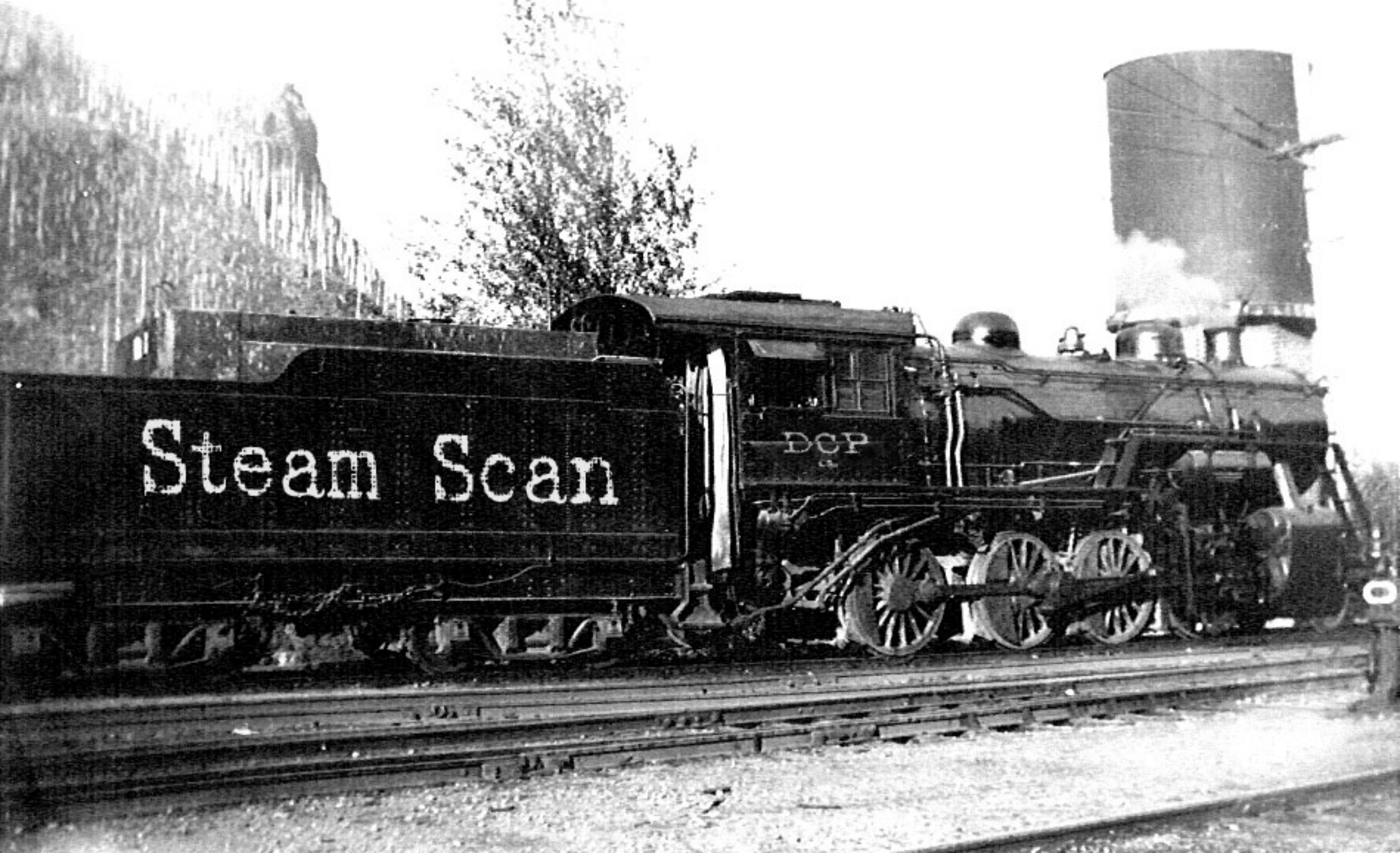
HOW MANY TIMES
WILL YOU HAVE
SAVED THE WORLD?



WHO'S TO SAY YOU
WON'T BE THE ONE
TO DESTROY IT?



THE END



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