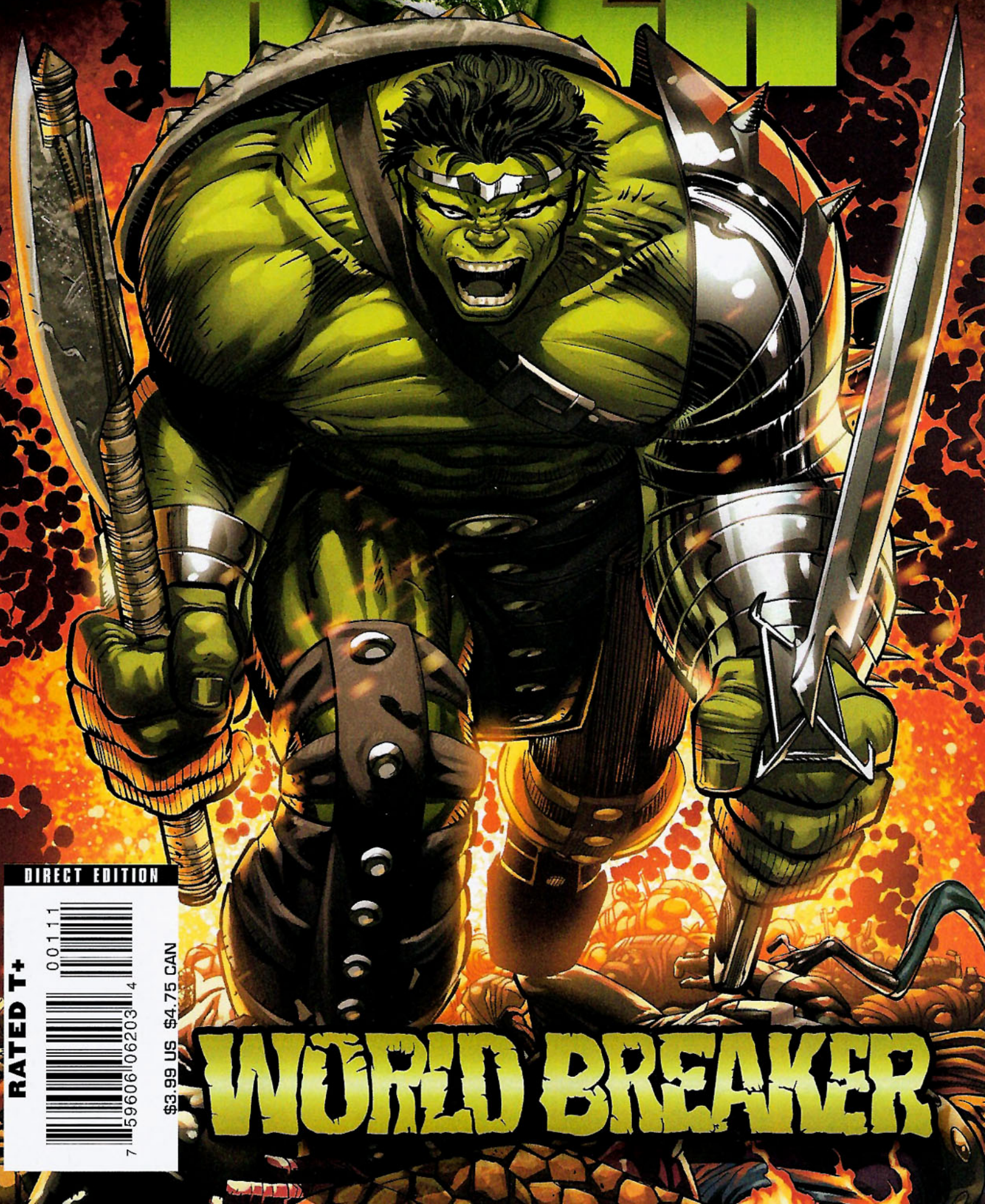


# PROLOGUE WORLD WAR HULK

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# WORLD BREAKER



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 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 set course for Earth, to bring revenge upon those he holds responsible for destroying his world...

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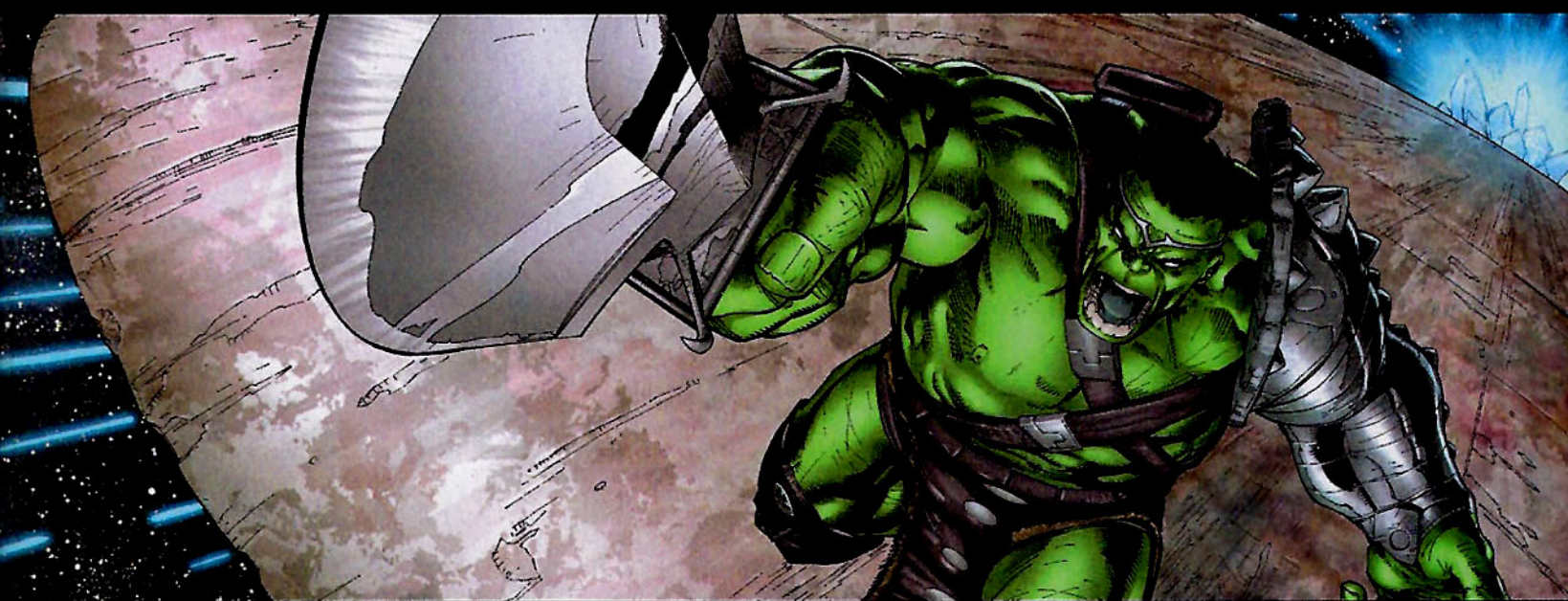
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THEY HAD NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING LIKE IT...AND BEING  
A RACE OF BOTTOM-FEEDERS,  
OF SCAVENGERS WHO HAVE  
WANDERED THE SYSTEMS FOR  
MILLENNIA...THAT'S SAYING A LOT.

IT WAS A GREAT STONE  
STARSHIP, HURTLING  
THROUGH THE VOID.

ALL THEY KNEW  
ABOUT IT FOR  
CERTAIN WAS  
ONE THING...

THEY HAD  
TO HAVE IT.

THEY ASSUMED THAT  
IT WOULD PRESENT  
NO GREAT DIFFICULTY  
TO KILL EVERYONE ON  
BOARD.

THEY ASSUMED  
THAT THEY WERE  
INVINCIBLE.

THEY ASSUMED THAT THE  
GREEN GIANT, PERCHED  
IMMOBILE ON THE BOW  
OF THE SHIP, WAS SOME  
SORT OF STATUE.



THEY  
ASSUMED  
WRONG.

THERE IS NO  
AIR IN SPACE.

BECAUSE OF THAT,  
HE COULD NOT ASK  
THEM WHO THEY ARE.

AS IT HAPPENS, HE  
HAS NO NEED OF  
THEIR NAMES, EITHER.

HE WADES THROUGH  
THEM WITH A SWORD  
THAT HE ALSO DOES  
NOT REQUIRE.

HE IS THE EYE OF ANGER...  
THE WORLD BREAKER...THE  
GREEN SCAR, TWO-HANDS,  
HARKANON, HAARG, HOLKU...

HE IS  
HULK...

BUT ALL OF THAT IS  
NOT IMPORTANT. ALL  
THAT MATTERS...ALL  
THAT REALLY MATTERS...

...IS THAT HE  
IS VERY...

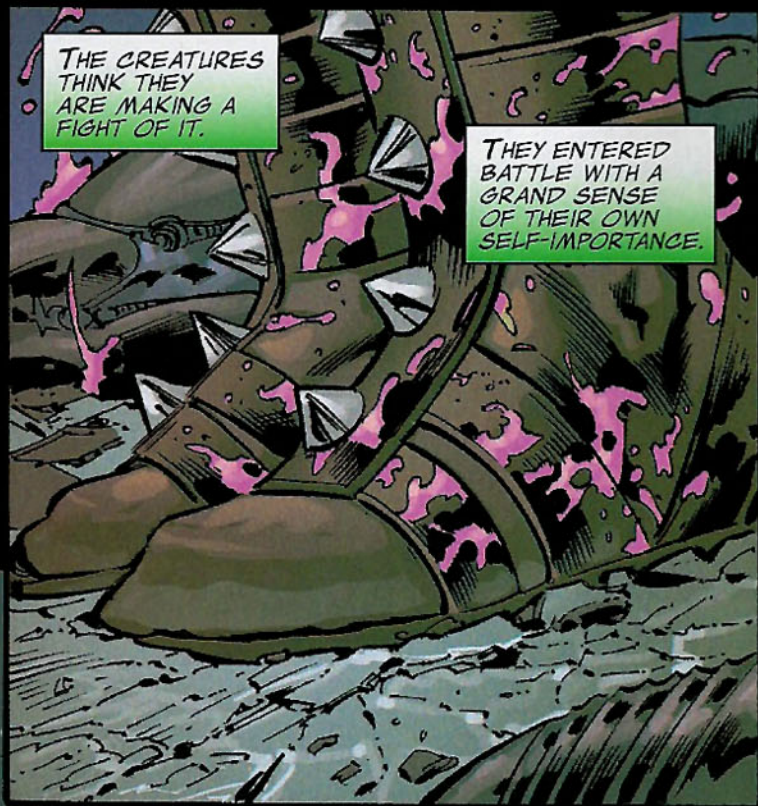
...VERY...

...ANGRY.

**WORLD WAR**  
**HULK**  
**WORLD BREAKER**

**"CASUS  
BELLI"**





THE CREATURES  
THINK THEY  
ARE MAKING A  
FIGHT OF IT.

THEY ENTERED  
BATTLE WITH A  
GRAND SENSE  
OF THEIR OWN  
SELF-IMPORTANCE.



AS SPACE FILLS WITH  
THEIR BLOOD, HANGING  
IN GLOBULES ALL  
AROUND, NONE OF THEM  
IS AWARE THAT THEY ARE,  
IN FACT, SO COSMICALLY  
UNIMPORTANT...

...THAT THE HULK  
DOESN'T EVEN  
SEE THEM.



WHAT HE  
SEES...

...ARE HIS TRUE  
ENEMIES.

**DOCTOR STRANGE,**  
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS...

**MISTER FANTASTIC,**  
LEADER OF THE  
FANTASTIC FOUR...

**IRON MAN,**  
THE ALTER EGO  
OF BILLIONAIRE  
INDUSTRIALIST  
TONY STARK...

**BLACK BOLT,**  
KING OF THE  
INHUMANS.

COLLECTIVELY, THE  
MOST FORMIDABLE  
MINDS ON EARTH.

INDIVIDUALLY, EACH  
AND EVERY ONE OF  
THEM ARE DOOMED  
INsofar AS THE  
HULK IS CONCERNED.





THEIR DECISION TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE CONFINES OF EARTH WAS THEIR SOLUTION TO THE LONG-STANDING HULK PROBLEM... A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE.



HAVING THE GALL TO PRETEND THAT THEY WERE ACTING OUT OF A SENSE OF COMPASSION, THEY TRICKED THE HULK ONTO A STAR-SPANNING VEHICLE AND SHOT HIM INTO SPACE.



HE LANDED ON A FAR-OFF WORLD CALLED SAKAAR, A PLANET OF UNPARALLELED FEROCITY, WHERE VALIANT GLADIATORS BATTLED TO SURVIVE IN ARENAS FOR THE PLEASURE OF THE OPPRESSIVE RED KING.

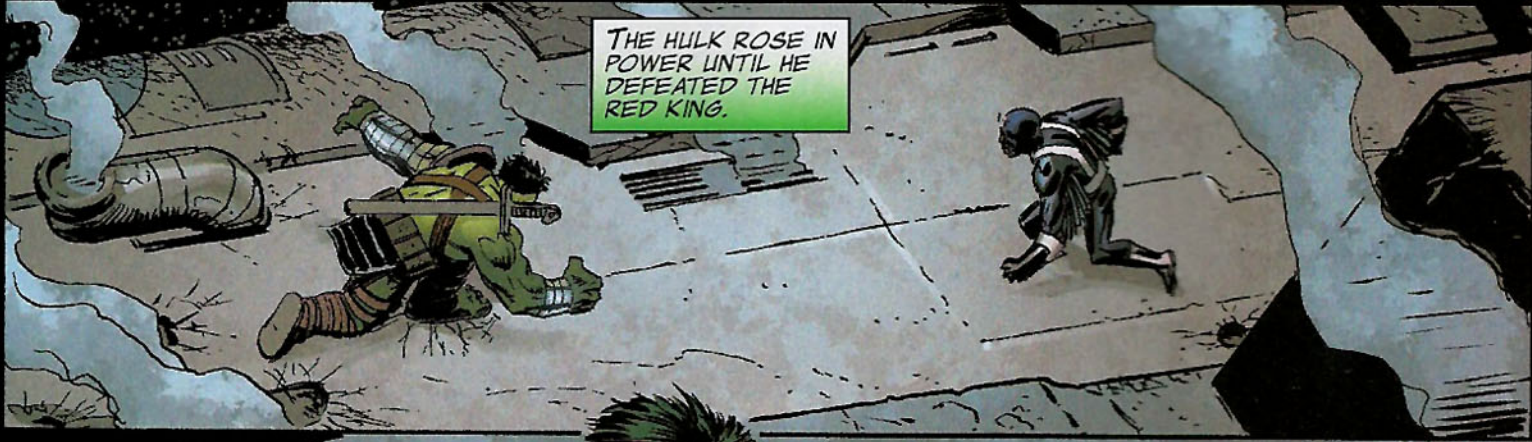


THE HULK BECAME ONE OF THOSE GLADIATORS, BONDING WITH A MOTLEY GROUP OF BEINGS WHO BECAME WARBOUND...




...PLEGGED TO FOLLOW EACH OTHER INTO THE BLAZES OF HELL.





THE HULK ROSE IN  
POWER UNTIL HE  
DEFEATED THE  
RED KING.




HAILED AS THE  
LIBERATOR...THE  
SAKAARSON...HE  
WAS MADE RULER.




HE HAD  
A QUEEN,  
CAIERA.

HE HAD A  
CHILD ON  
THE WAY.


HE HAD  
A LIFE. HE  
WAS HAPPY.



AND THEY TOOK  
IT ALL AWAY  
FROM HIM.



A DOOMSDAY DEVICE,  
COURTESY OF HIS HUMAN  
TORMENTORS...AN EXPLOSION  
OF WHITE LIGHT...AND SHE  
WAS GONE. HIS KINGDOM  
WAS GONE. ALL OF WHAT HE  
GAINED WAS GONE.



ALMOST  
ALL

HIS RAGE  
REMAINED.

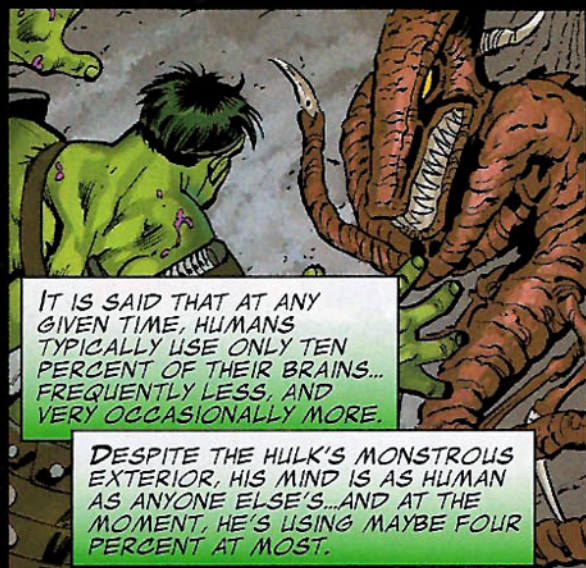
AND HIS  
WARBOUND  
REMAINED.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
THE FORMER...



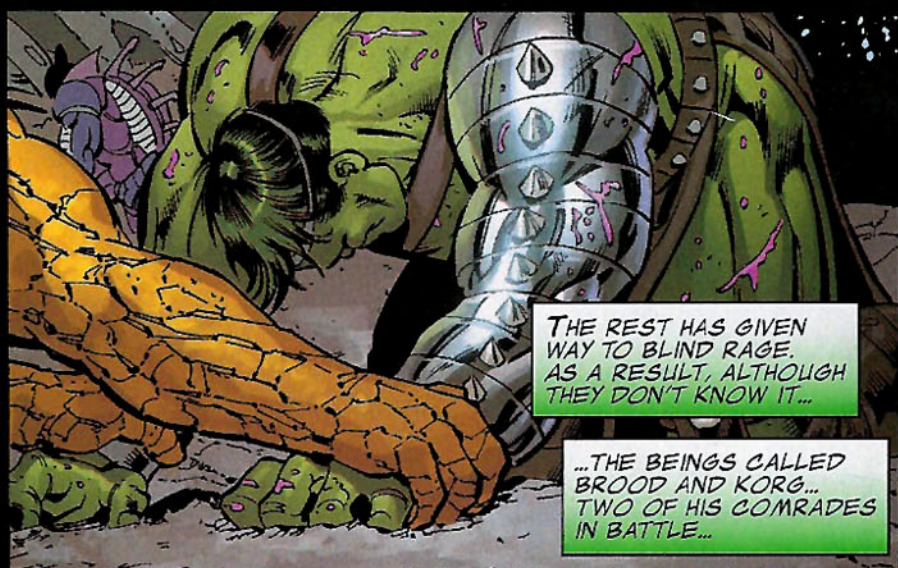


...IS PROVING  
PROBLEMATIC  
FOR THE LATTER.



IT IS SAID THAT AT ANY  
GIVEN TIME, HUMANS  
TYPICALLY USE ONLY TEN  
PERCENT OF THEIR BRAINS...  
FREQUENTLY LESS, AND  
VERY OCCASIONALLY MORE.

DESPITE THE HULK'S MONSTROUS  
EXTERIOR, HIS MIND IS AS HUMAN  
AS ANYONE ELSE'S...AND AT THE  
MOMENT, HE'S USING MAYBE FOUR  
PERCENT AT MOST.



THE REST HAS GIVEN  
WAY TO BLIND RAGE.  
AS A RESULT, ALTHOUGH  
THEY DON'T KNOW IT...

...THE BEINGS CALLED  
BROOD AND KORG...  
TWO OF HIS COMRADES  
IN BATTLE...



...HAVE NEVER  
BEEN AS CLOSE TO  
DEATH AS THEY ARE  
AT THIS MOMENT.

AND THEN SOMETHING...  
INSTINCT, OR PERHAPS  
JUST PURE LUCK...



...CAUSES THE  
ABSENTEE  
SIX PERCENT  
TO REACTIVATE.



AND THE HULK SEES  
CLEARLY, AND FOR  
POSSIBLY THE FIRST  
TIME IN HIS LIFE...

...THE HULK  
KNOWS  
SHAME.





GREAT.

EVEN WHEN I WIND UP AT A SLEAZY MOTEL, PEOPLE FIND YOU AND TRY TO SAVE YOUR SOUL, WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT.

WHAT THE...

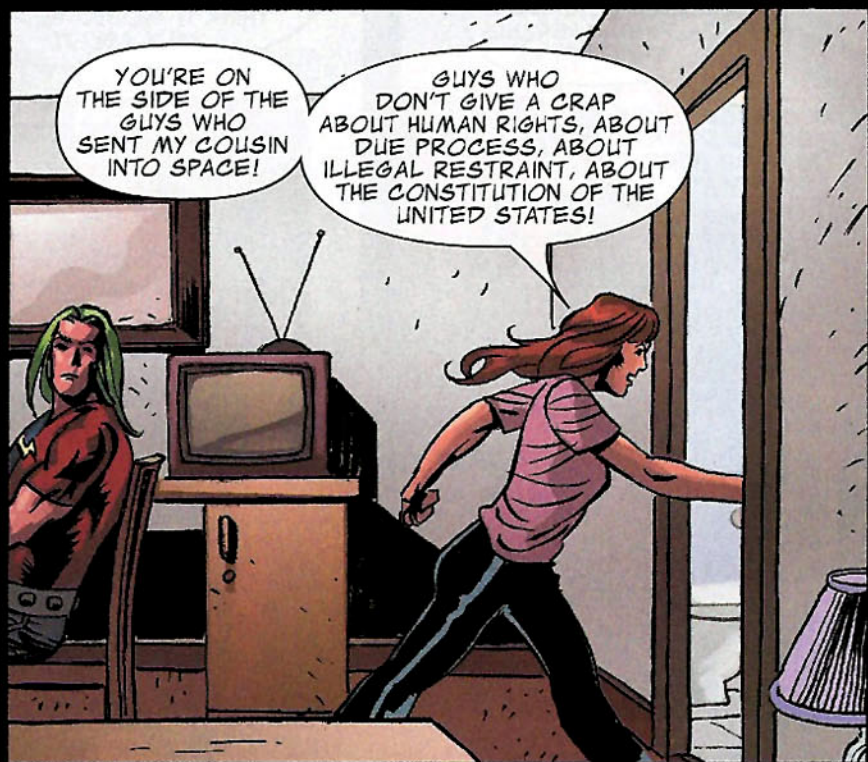
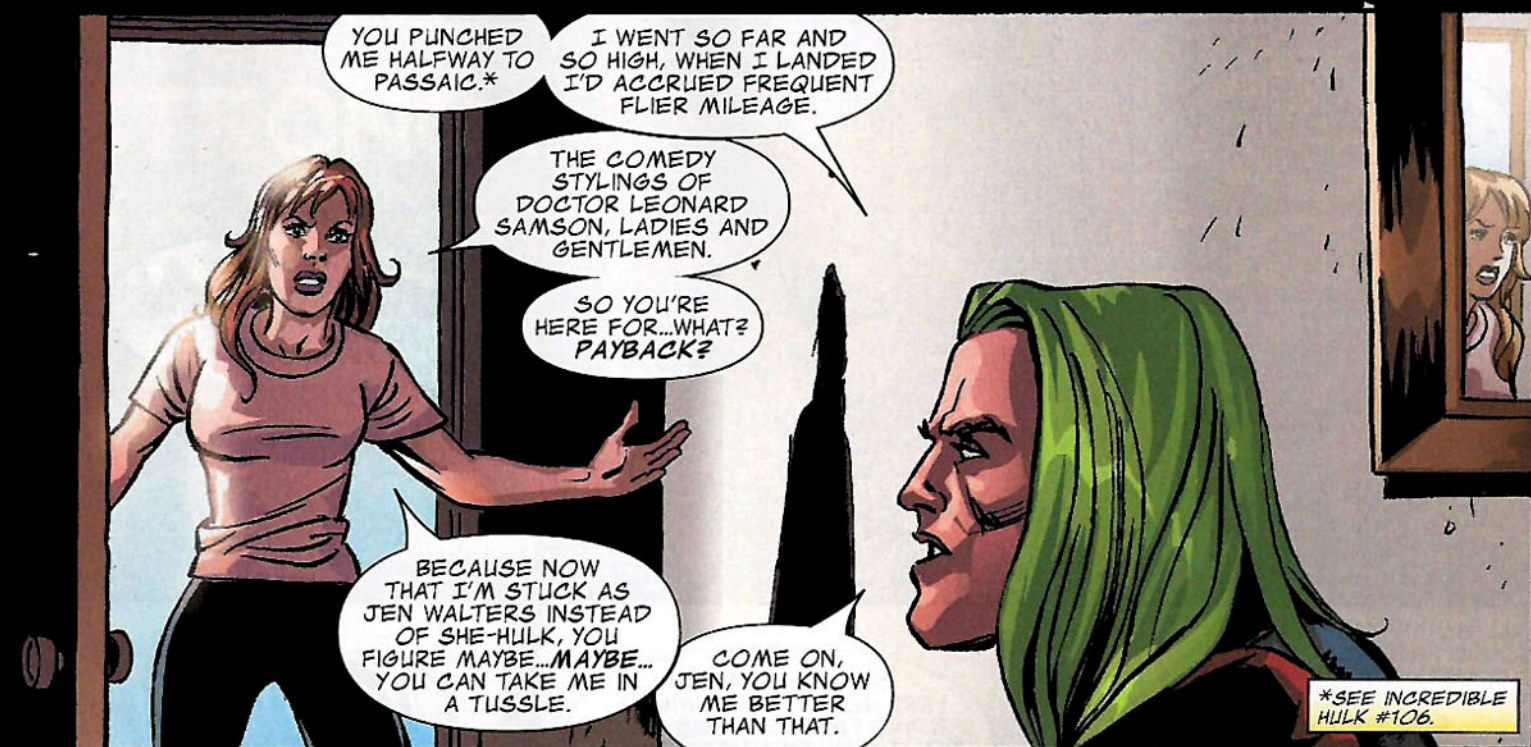
WHOEVER'S IN THERE... YOU ARE SO MESSING WITH THE WRONG PERSON!

YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA OF THE HURT I COULD LAY ON YOU!

OHhhh... I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

FIRST-HAND, YOU MIGHT SAY.









JEN, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG TIME. CERTAINLY OUT OF RESPECT TO ALL THAT--

THAT'S THE THING THAT TORQUES ME THE MOST, LEONARD. YOU PLAYED ON THAT RELATIONSHIP!



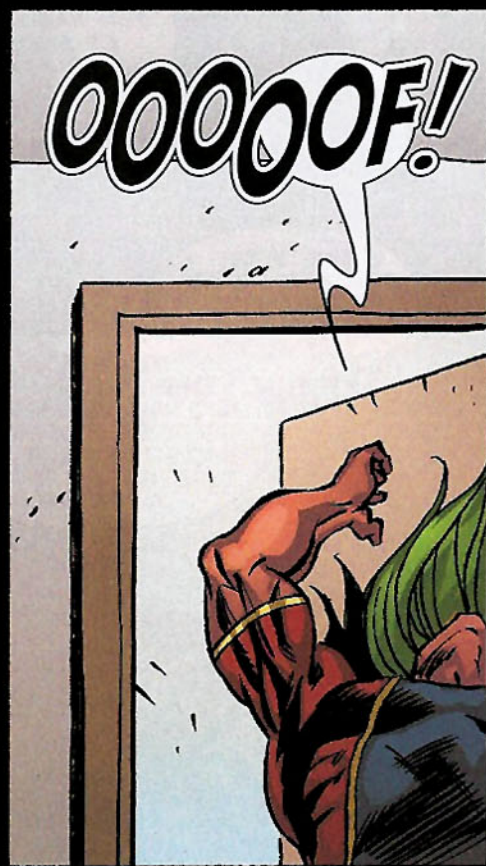
ALL SO THAT YOU COULD HELP REED RICHARDS TRY AND CATCH AMADEUS CHO!

CHO IS USING YOU, JEN. YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW DANGEROUS THAT BOY IS.

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES. HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND ME HERE, ANYWAY?



S.H.I.E.L.D. THEY'RE VERY GOOD AT THE WHOLE "FINDING PEOPLE" THING. LOOK, JEN... I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH WHAT YOU'RE FEELING. I THINK IT WOULD HELP TO TALK ABOUT--



OOOOOF!



YOU TALK. ME, I'M GOING TO CALL THE FRONT DESK AND REPORT YOU FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING. MAYBE YOU WANT TO GRAB A SODA WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE COPS TO COME.

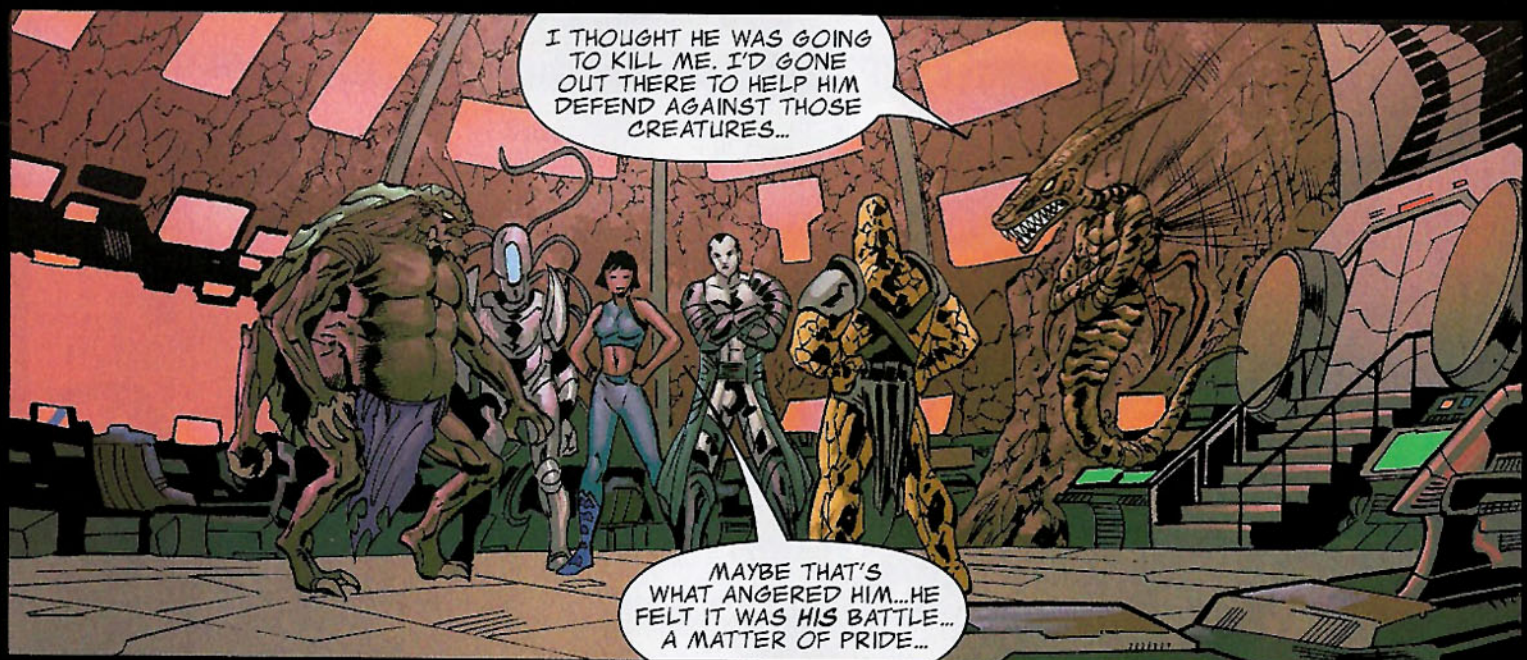


THE FRONT DESK LET ME IN HERE AFTER I SHOWED THEM A LETTER FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. THE SODA IDEA SOUNDS GOOD, THOUGH.





THIS DOES NOT SOUND GOOD.



I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME. I'D GONE OUT THERE TO HELP HIM DEFEND AGAINST THOSE CREATURES...

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT ANGERED HIM... HE FELT IT WAS HIS BATTLE... A MATTER OF PRIDE...



NO, ELLOE, I SAW HIS FACE... THE WILDNESS IN HIS EYES...

GREENSKIN WASN'T SEEING ME... OR THE BROOD.

THEN WHAT WAS TWO-HANDS SEEING?

I SUSPECT, MIEK...



...HE WAS SEEING THE FACE OF HIS ENEMY. OF THE HUMANS WHO DESTROYED CROWN CITY...

DESTROYED HIS LIFE.

I'VE SEEN OTHER WARRIORS WHO BECAME BLINDED WITH RAGE OVER THEIR OPPONENTS.



THEY WERE A DANGER...

TO THEIR COMPANIONS...

...AND TO THEMSELVES.



THEIR... COMPANIONS, YOU SAY?

NOT REALLY LIKING THE SOUND OF THIS.





SO...SO, KORG, YOU'RE SAYING...WHAT? THAT HULK CANNOT BE TRUSTED?

THAT, IN THE THROES OF BATTLE, HE COULD TURN ON US?



"HAS." NOT "COULD"...HAS. DID. AGAINST THE BROOD.

HIS RAGE IS UNDERSTANDABLE, I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST HIM.

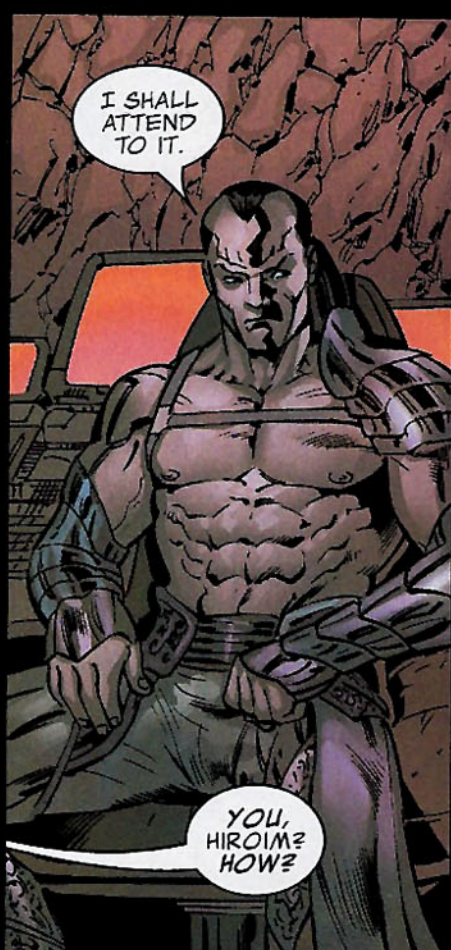
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HURT FEELINGS SO MUCH AS BROKEN BODY PARTS.



WHAT DO WE DO THEN?

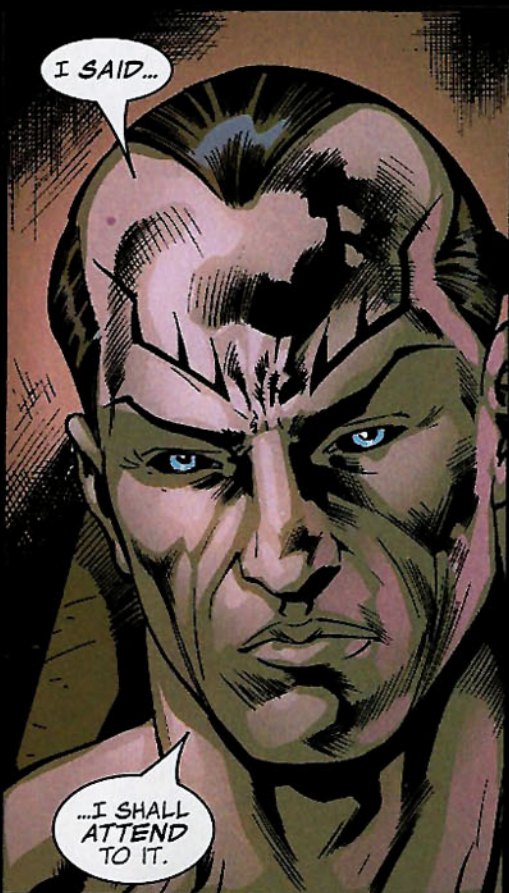
NOTHING. WE ARE WARBOUND. WE CANNOT DESERT HIM.

I'M NOT SUGGESTING WE DO. BUT IF HE CAN'T EVEN TELL FRIEND FROM FOE...



I SHALL ATTEND TO IT.

YOU, HIROM? HOW?



I SAID...

...I SHALL ATTEND TO IT.



I WASN'T DEAF! I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO REPEAT--

OHhh, NEVER MIND.





HOLKU...  
WE MUST  
SPEAK, YOU  
AND--



--I



LATER.

NOW.

I SAID  
LATER.

AND  
I SAID  
NOW.



AND I  
SAID--



NOW.



...





YOU NEARLY  
KILLED THE  
BROOD.

YEAH.

IF  
NOT FOR  
KORG...

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT? AN  
APOLOGY?

YOUR RAGE IS  
YOUR GREATEST  
ASSET, HOLKU...  
WHEN IT SERVES  
YOU.

BUT NOW  
IT THREATENS TO  
WORK AGAINST YOU.  
TO OVERWHELM YOU.

IT WILL EITHER  
LEAVE YOU  
VULNERABLE  
TO ATTACK...

LET 'EM  
COME.

...OR  
THREATEN US,  
AS IT ALREADY  
HAS.

OKAY.  
SO?



YOU MUST KNOW  
THE FACES OF THOSE  
WHOM YOU WOULD  
ATTACK.

YOU MUST  
KNOW THE  
REASONS FOR  
LAUNCHING THE  
ATTACK.

I KNOW  
THOSE.



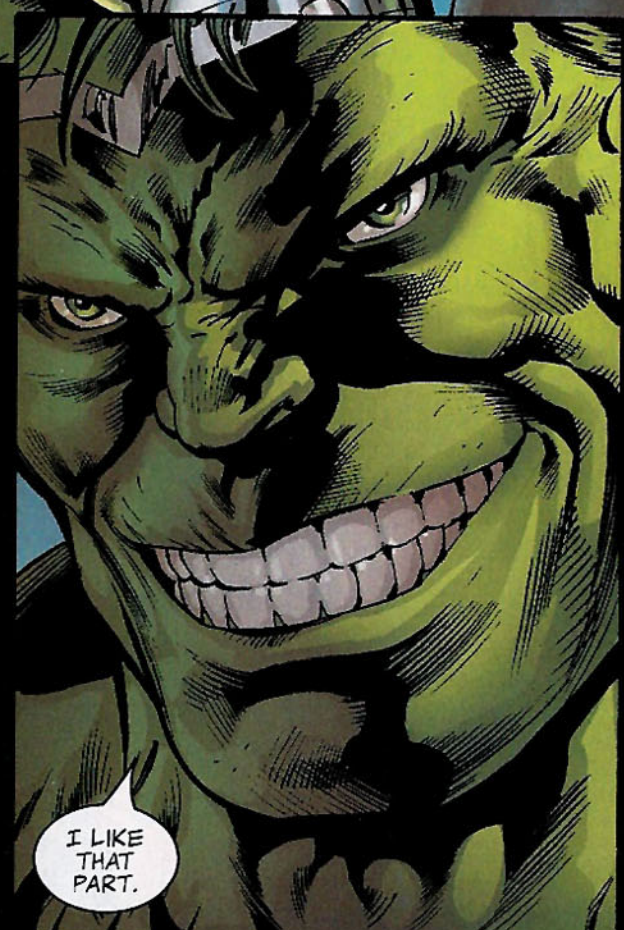
BUT  
YOU MUST  
KNOW THEM  
HERE.

YOU KNOW  
THEM HERE IN  
YOUR HEART...

...WHERE THE  
FIRE OF YOUR  
FURY BURNS.

KNOW THEM  
HERE...SO YOU CAN  
CONTROL YOUR RAGE,  
RATHER THAN ALLOWING  
IT TO CONTROL YOU.  
CONTROL IT...AND  
USE IT...

...TO  
DESTROY  
THEM ALL.

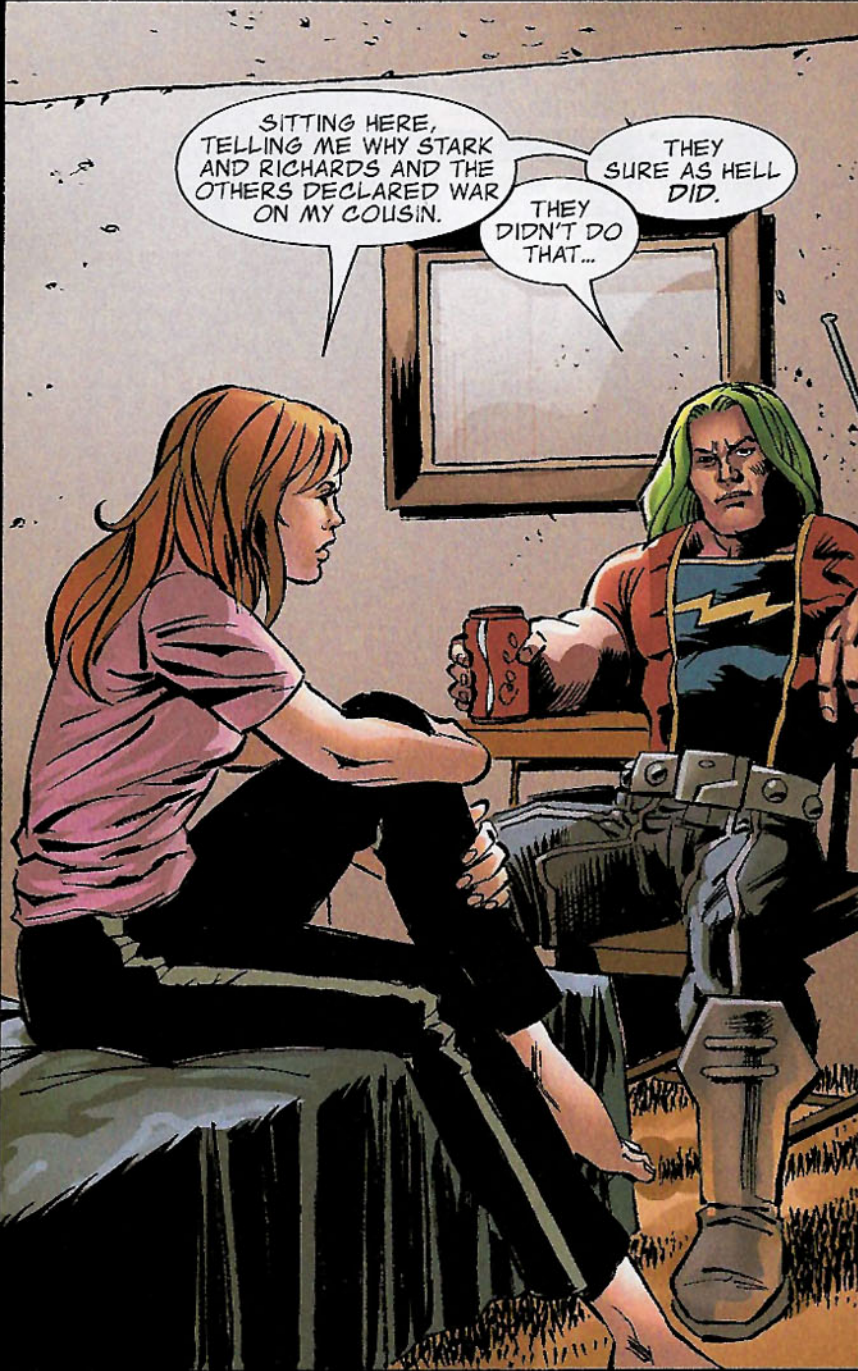


I LIKE  
THAT  
PART.





I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL, LEONARD.



SITTING HERE, TELLING ME WHY STARK AND RICHARDS AND THE OTHERS DECLARED WAR ON MY COUSIN.

THEY DIDN'T DO THAT...

THEY SURE AS HELL DID.



THEY KIDNAPPED HIM. TRANSPORTED HIM. BANISHED HIM. DEPRIVED HIM OF DUE PROCESS.



CASUS BELLI.

WHAT?



LATIN. THE INCIDENT THAT PROVIDES A REASON FOR GOING TO WAR.

STARK AND RICHARDS SHOT HIM INTO SPACE. IF THAT ISN'T CASUS BELLI, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS. AND WHEN HE GETS BACK...



WHEN HE GETS...?

JEN...HE'S NOT COMING BACK. I HAVE THAT ON VERY RELIABLE AUTHORITY.

AND AS FOR "CASUS BELLI," IT WAS THE HULK WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT AGES AGO.



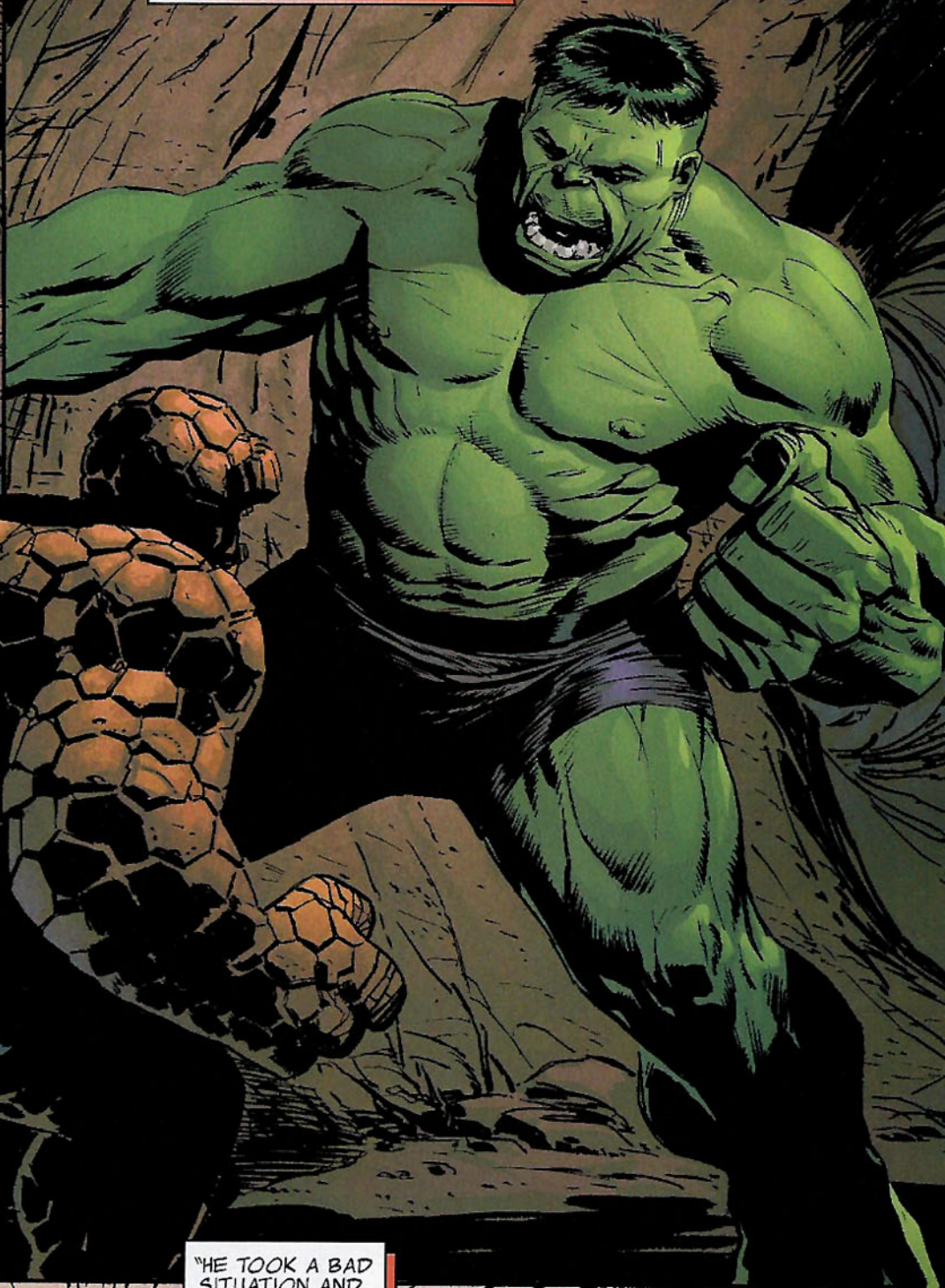
YOU WANT TO EXCORIATE REED RICHARDS? THE HULK ATTACKED RICHARDS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR THE VERY FIRST TIME THEY MET.



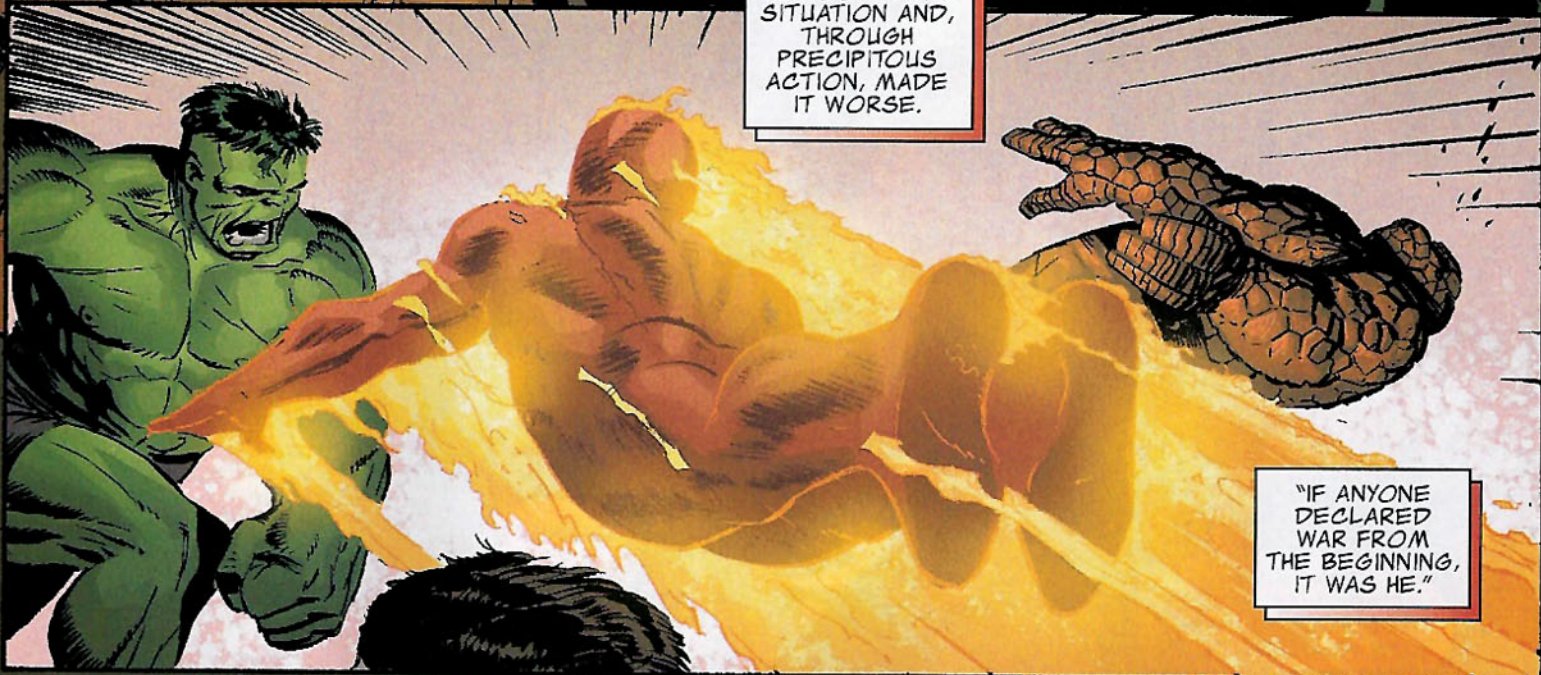


"THEY'D BEEN CALLED IN BY THE ARMY TO INVESTIGATE A SABOTEUR. THE ARMY SUSPECTED THE HULK WAS INVOLVED...BUT REED WAS DETERMINED TO FIND THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER."

"BRUCE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO TRANSFORM INTO THE HULK, VIA A GAMMA RADIATION GUN, AND PICK A FIGHT WITH THEM."

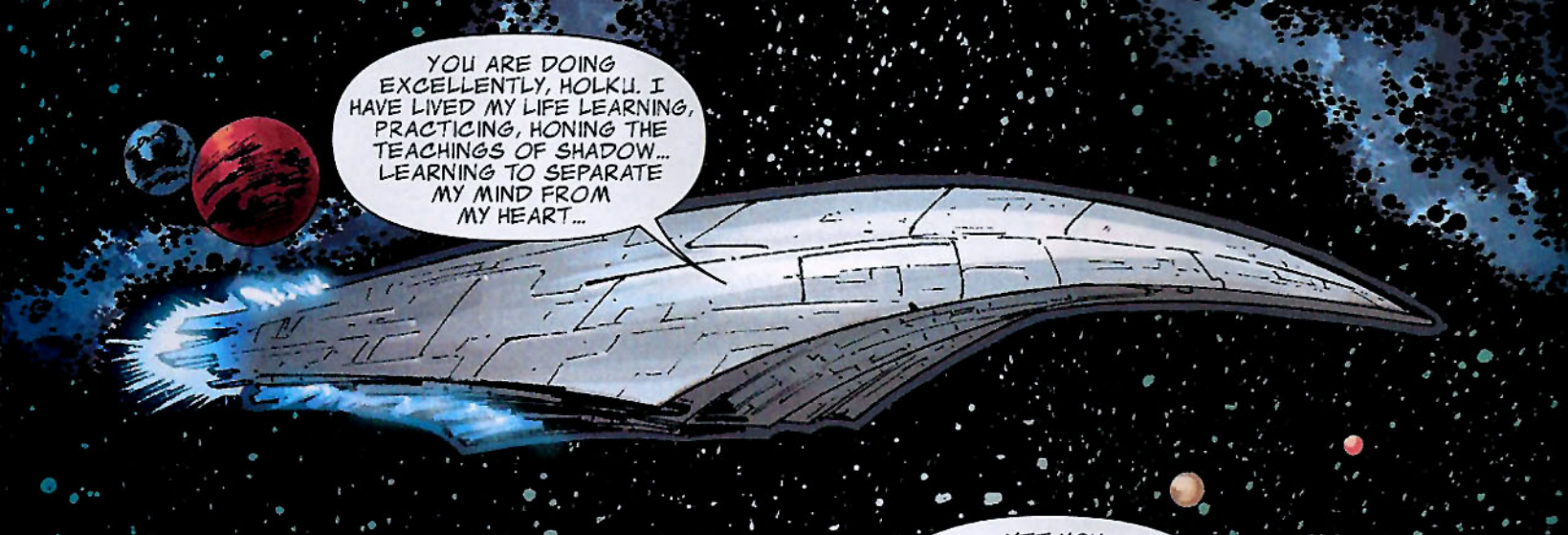


"HE TOOK A BAD SITUATION AND, THROUGH PRECIPITOUS ACTION, MADE IT WORSE."




"IF ANYONE DECLARED WAR FROM THE BEGINNING, IT WAS HE."





YOU ARE DOING  
EXCELLENTLY, HOLKU. I  
HAVE LIVED MY LIFE LEARNING,  
PRACTICING, HONING THE  
TEACHINGS OF SHADOW...  
LEARNING TO SEPARATE  
MY MIND FROM  
MY HEART...



...YET YOU  
MASTER THE  
MEDITATIVE TECHNIQUES  
EFFORTLESSLY. ONE  
WOULD **ALMOST** THINK  
YOU WERE **ACCUSTOMED**  
TO BEING OF  
TWO MINDS.

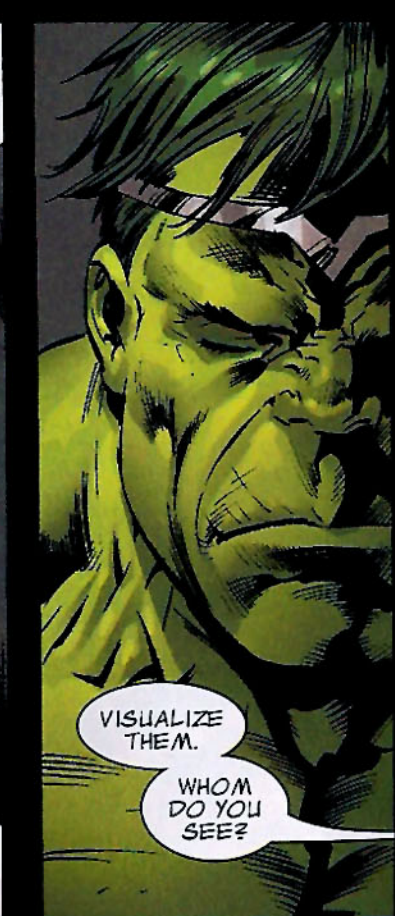
ALMOST.



NOW...

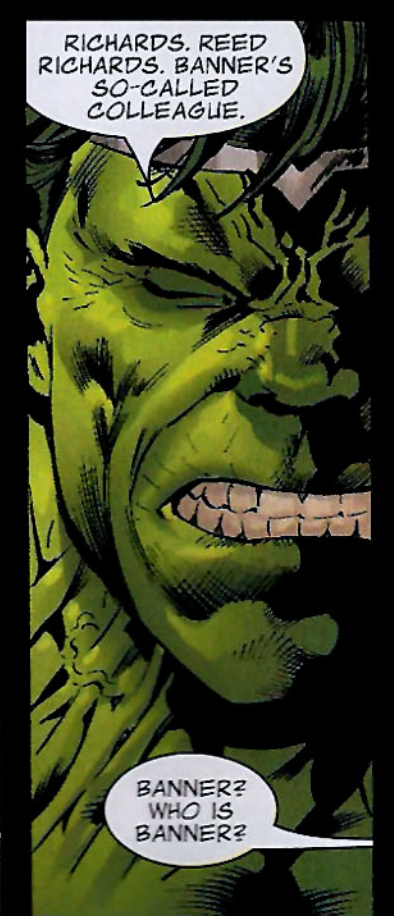
SUMMON THE  
REASONS FOR THE  
ENMITY BETWEEN  
YOU AND YOUR  
OPPONENTS.

THEIR FINAL  
ATTACK WAS MERELY  
THE CULMINATION. SEE  
NOW WHAT LED TO IT.




VISUALIZE  
THEM.

WHOM  
DO YOU  
SEE?



RICHARDS. REED  
RICHARDS. BANNER'S  
SO-CALLED  
COLLEAGUE.

BANNER?  
WHO IS  
BANNER?



HE'S PLINY.  
BUT HE HAD  
BRAINS.



"BANNER TRIED TO TELL  
THE GOVERNMENT I WASN'T  
A SABOTEUR. BUT RICHARDS  
JUST SAT THERE, SMILING.  
SMUG. DOING WHAT THEY  
SAID...JUST LIKE ALWAYS.

"I KNEW I  
HAD TO FIND  
THE SABOTEUR  
MYSELF.

"RICHARDS AND HIS  
FRIENDS WANTED TO  
BELIEVE I WAS  
GUILTY. THEY DID  
EVERYTHING THEY  
COULD TO TAKE  
ME DOWN.



"AS IF THEY  
COULD.



"AS IF  
ANYBODY  
COULD.





"IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CAUGHT. BUT RICHARDS AND HIS FRIENDS BASKED IN THE GLORY...



"...AND LEFT ME BEHIND TO BE HOUNDED BY THE ARMY.



"BUT THEY CAME BACK LATER, AGAIN AND AGAIN...TRYING TO DESTROY ME...



"AND FAILING. ALWAYS FAILING."

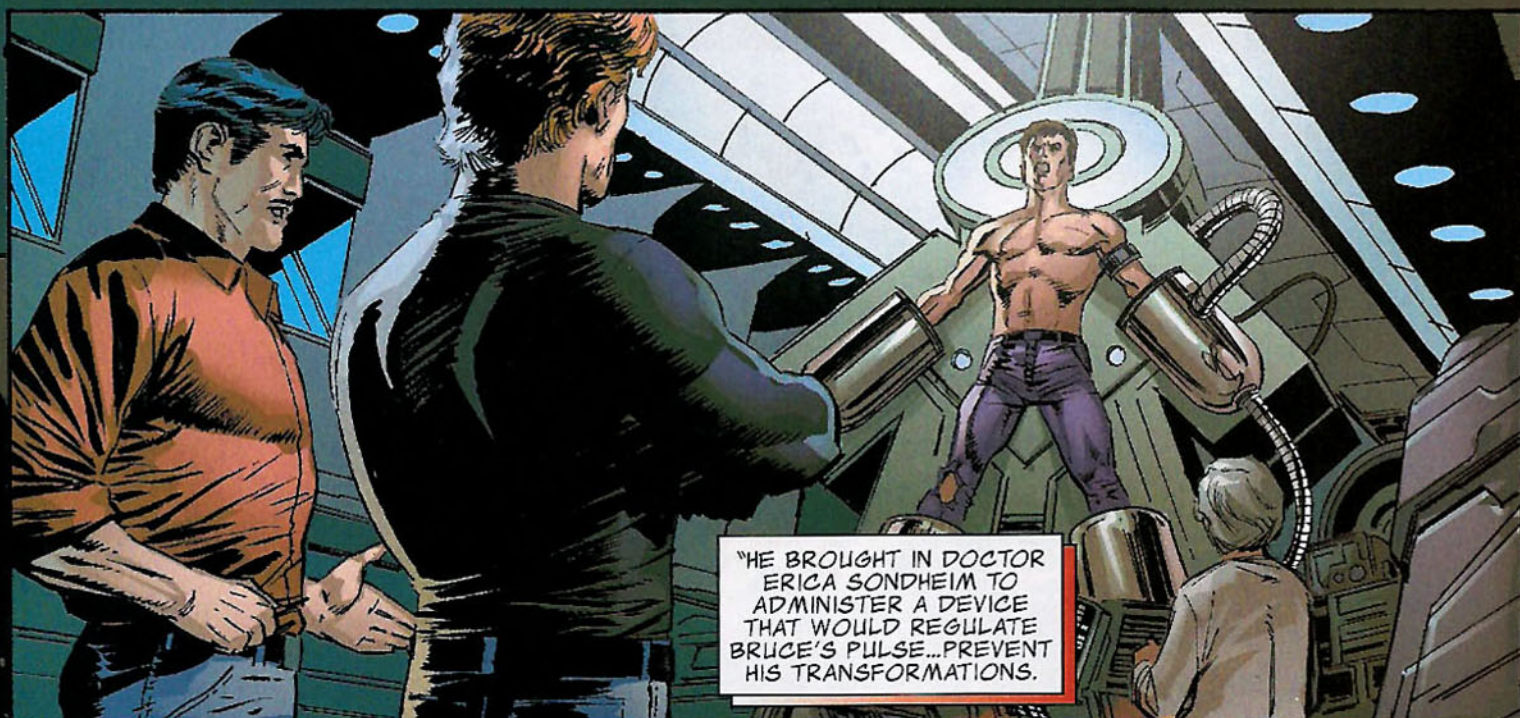




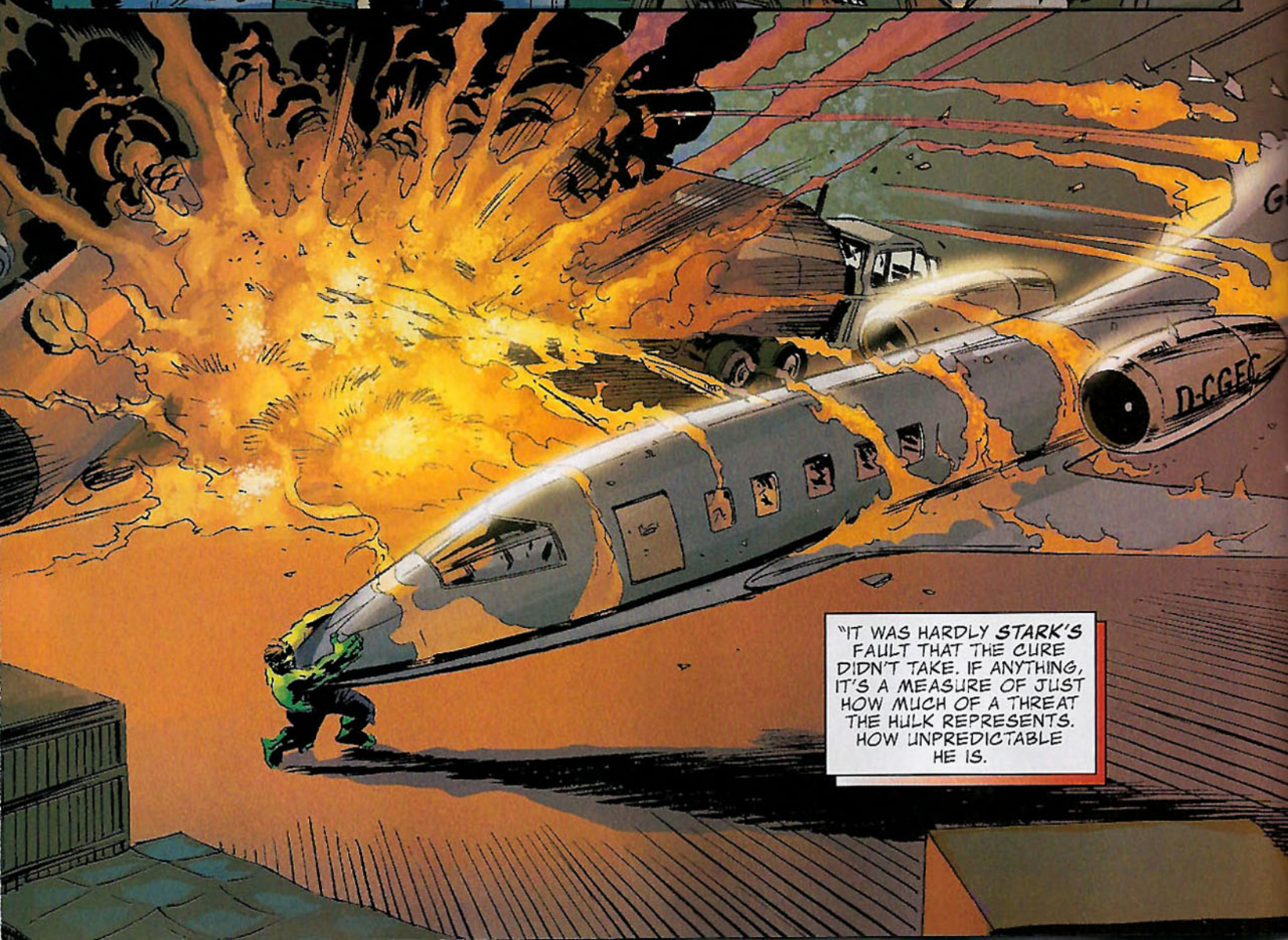
YOU'RE **FAILING** TO CONVINCE ME OF ANYTHING, LEONARD, OTHER THAN THAT YOU'VE GOT THE COMPANY LINE DOWN PRETTY WELL.

WHO WROTE YOUR SCRIPT FOR YOU? WAS IT REED RICHARDS? OR MAYBE TONY STARK?

NOW THAT'S NOT FAIR, JEN. TONY STARK WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND TRYING TO HELP BRUCE.



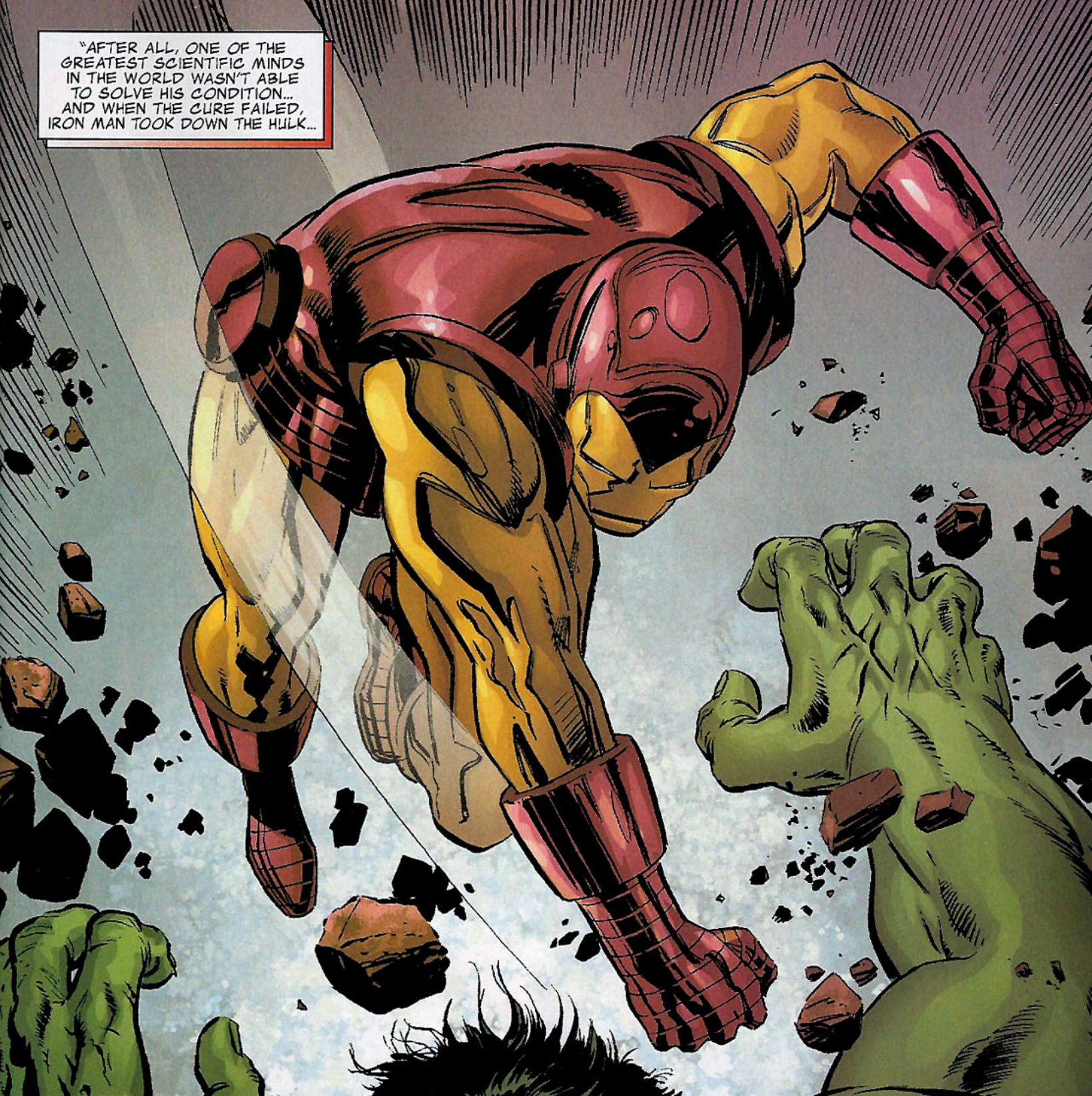
"HE BROUGHT IN DOCTOR ERICA SONDEHM TO ADMINISTER A DEVICE THAT WOULD REGULATE BRUCE'S PULSE...PREVENT HIS TRANSFORMATIONS.



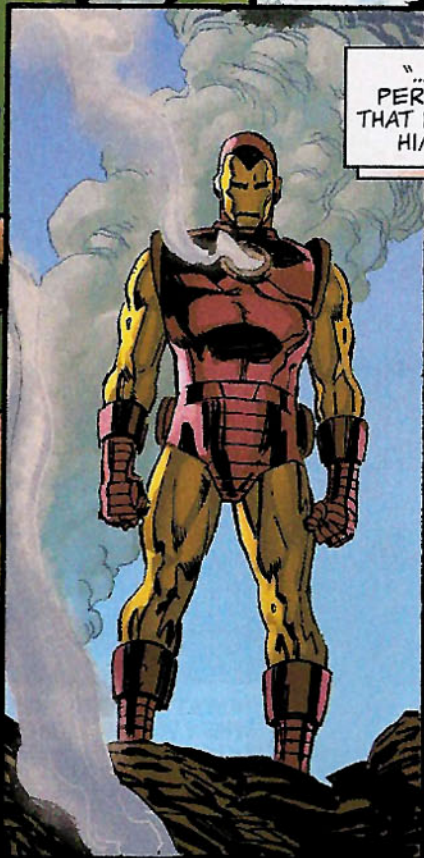
"IT WAS HARDLY **STARK'S** FAULT THAT THE CURE DIDN'T TAKE. IF ANYTHING, IT'S A MEASURE OF JUST HOW MUCH OF A THREAT THE HULK REPRESENTS. HOW UNPREDICTABLE HE IS.



"AFTER ALL, ONE OF THE  
GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS  
IN THE WORLD WASN'T ABLE  
TO SOLVE HIS CONDITION...  
AND WHEN THE CURE FAILED,  
IRON MAN TOOK DOWN THE HULK..."



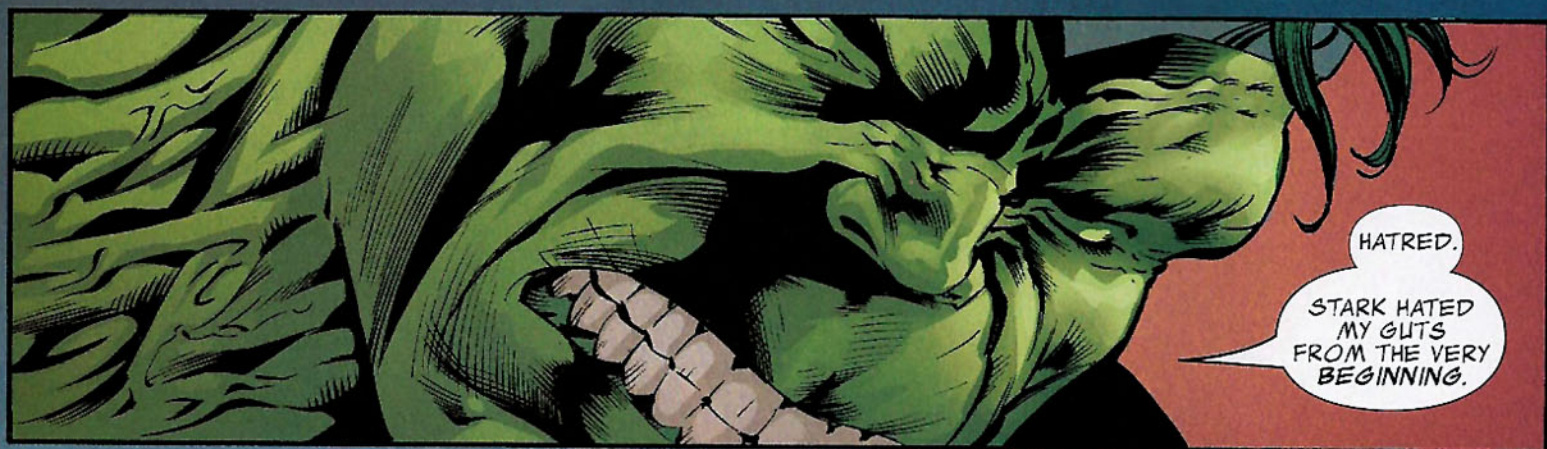
"...AT GREAT  
PERSONAL RISK  
THAT NEARLY COST  
HIM HIS LIFE."



"AS MUCH PERSONAL ENMITY  
AS YOU MAY BE BEARING FOR  
STARK RIGHT NOW, YOU CAN'T  
DENY THAT--WHEN IT COMES  
TO THE HULK--TONY'S ALWAYS  
HAD ONE THING ON HIS MIND..."







HATRED.  
STARK HATED  
MY GUTS  
FROM THE VERY  
BEGINNING.

"WE WERE SUPPOSED  
TO BE TEAMMATES.  
WARBOUND. BUT HE WAS  
ALWAYS AFTER ME.



"FIRST HE ATTACKED  
WHEN A GOD NAMED  
LOKI MADE IT SEEM  
LIKE I'D GONE ON  
A RAMPAGE.



"AND IN ALMOST NO TIME AT ALL, FELL FOR THE SAME STUNT WHEN SOME IDIOT CALLED THE SPACE PHANTOM POSED AS ME.

"AND IT WASN'T JUST THAT HE ATTACKED ME. IT WAS WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE DID."

YOU'RE A MENACE!

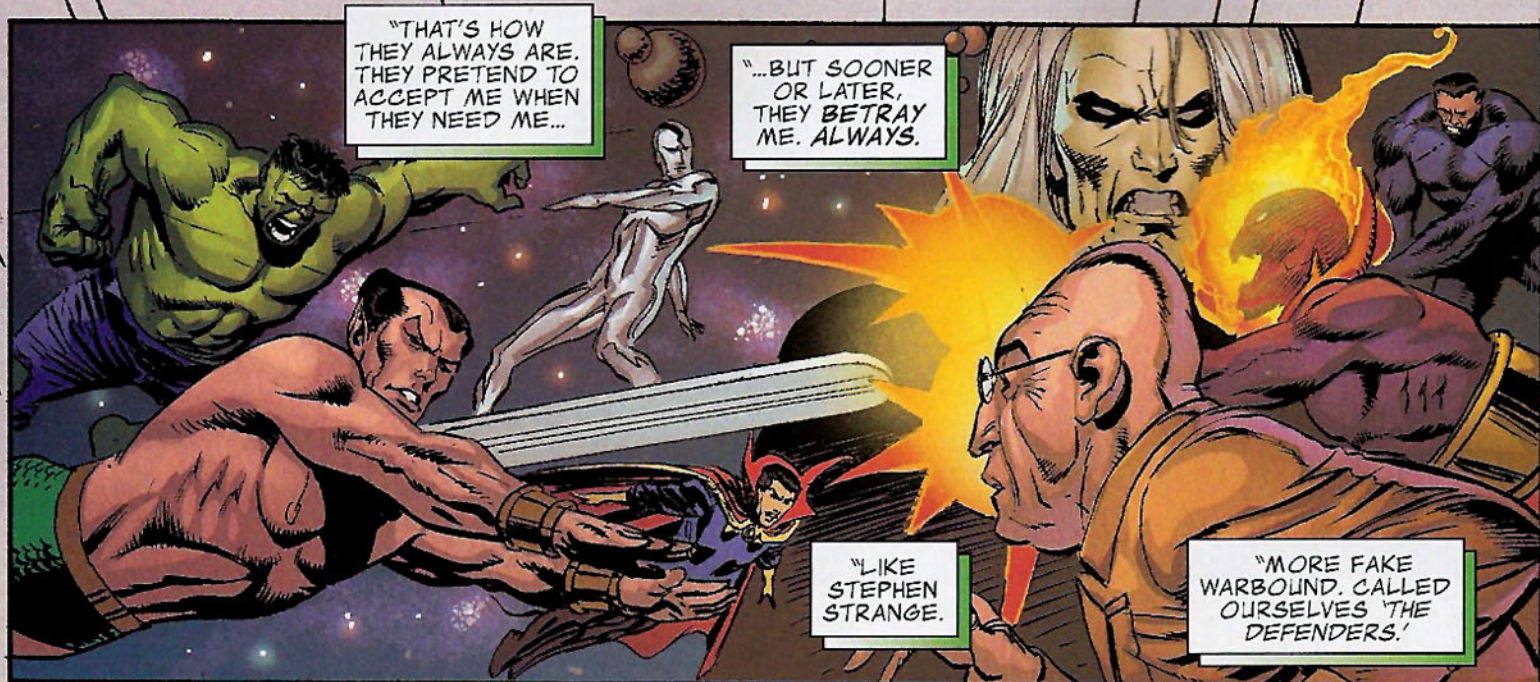
TOO DANGEROUS TO RUN AROUND LOOSE!

YOU'VE HAD THIS COMING FOR A LONG TIME!

YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF!





"THAT'S HOW  
THEY ALWAYS ARE.  
THEY PRETEND TO  
ACCEPT ME WHEN  
THEY NEED ME..."

"...BUT SOONER  
OR LATER,  
THEY BETRAY  
ME. ALWAYS.

"LIKE  
STEPHEN  
STRANGE.

"MORE FAKE  
WARBOUND. CALLED  
OURSELVES 'THE  
DEFENDERS.'"



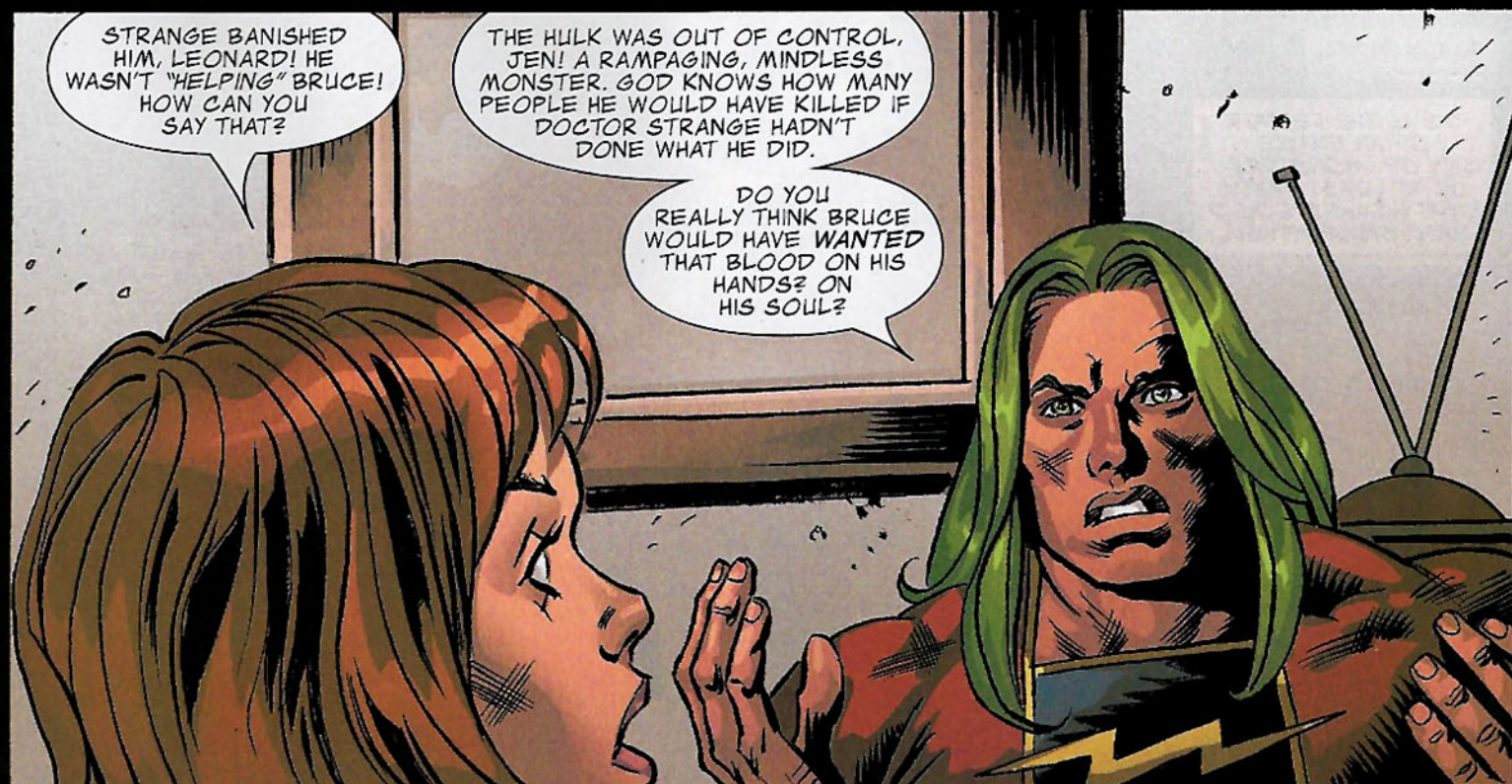
"YOU MET ONE OF  
THEM BACK ON SAKAAR  
IN THE ARENA. HIS NAME  
WAS THE SILVER SURFER.  
THE ONLY ONE OF THE  
BUNCH WORTH A DAMN.

"AS FOR DOCTOR  
STRANGE, WELL...IT'S NO  
SURPRISE HE WORKED  
WITH STARK AND  
RICHARDS TO EXILE  
ME INTO SPACE..."


"WHEN I WAS  
GOING THROUGH A...  
HARD TIME...HE DIDN'T  
TRY TO HELP ME LIKE  
YOU HAVE..."

"NO...HE  
BANISHED ME TO AN  
INTERDIMENSIONAL  
CROSSROADS."










"BLACK BOLT..."

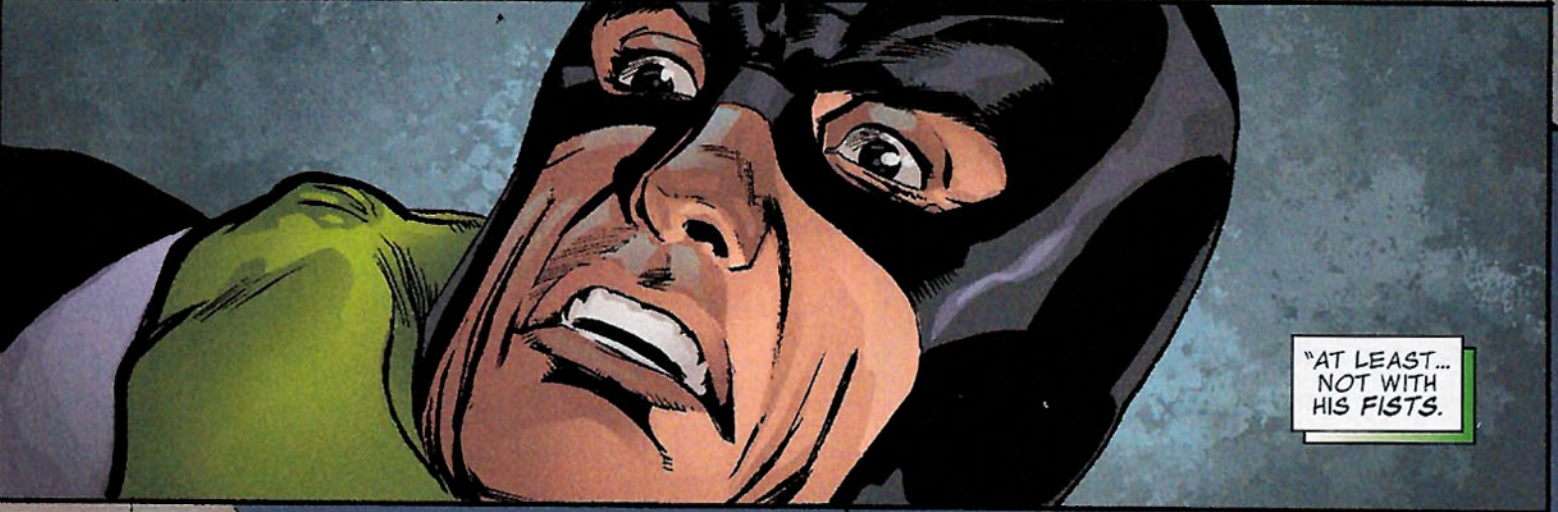
"HE IS THE LEADER  
OF AN ENTIRE  
CITY OF 'MONSTERS'...  
OR AT LEAST THAT'S  
WHAT HUMANS WOULD  
HAVE CALLED THEM."

"DID THESE INHUMANS  
WELCOME ME TO  
THEIR HOME ON  
EARTH'S MOON? NO."


"THEY ATTACKED ME  
AND ATTACKED ME...UNTIL  
THEIR LEADER, BLACK BOLT,  
STEPPED IN...AND THEN HE  
CAME AFTER ME."



"HE WAS STRONG...  
BUT NOT STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
DEFEAT ME..."



"AT LEAST...  
NOT WITH  
HIS FISTS."



"HIS POWER IS IN  
HIS VOICE. IT'S...  
OVERWHELMING,  
LIKE A BILLION  
SONIC WAVES."

"HE'S THE ONLY  
ONE WHO COULD HAVE  
STOPPED ME...AND THEY  
ALL KNOW IT."

ACTUALLY,  
GREENSKIN...

...WE MAY  
BE ABLE TO  
USE THAT TO OUR  
ADVANTAGE.





ALL YOU'VE TRIED TO DO... ALL ANY OF YOU HAVE TRIED TO DO, IS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BRUCE...

...AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. TO MAKE ME SIDE WITH YOU AGAINST HIM, EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN DONE TO ME.

JEN, I THINK IF YOU'LL JUST...

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY PLACE, LEONARD. IN FACT...GET THE HELL OUT OF MY LIFE.

ALL YOU'VE MANAGED TO DO IS REMIND ME WHAT A ROTTEN DEAL BRUCE HAS GOTTEN...

IF ANYONE HAS GOTTEN A "ROTTEN DEAL," JEN, IT'S THE HULK. BUT THAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM, ISN'T IT. THE ONE YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT.

I THINK SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, BRUCE BANNER STOPPED BEING THE REAL PERSONALITY...PRESUMING HE EVER WAS.

THE HULK WASN'T SOMETHING BRUCE TURNED INTO. BRUCE WAS SOMEONE THAT THE HULK HID BEHIND.

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN BRUCE IS DAMNED LUCKY THAT REED, TONY, THE OTHERS...

...HE'S DAMNED LUCKY THEY DIDN'T DO FAR WORSE TO HIM THAN EXILE HIM.

AND HE'S GOING TO DO FAR WORSE TO THEM WHEN HE RETURNS FROM EXILE.

YOU'VE MADE YOUR CASE, LEONARD, AND I'M TOSSING IT. CASUS BELLI, COURTESY OF YOUR GOOD FRIENDS, IS GOING TO LAND YOU ALL HIP-DEEP IN WORLD WAR HULK.

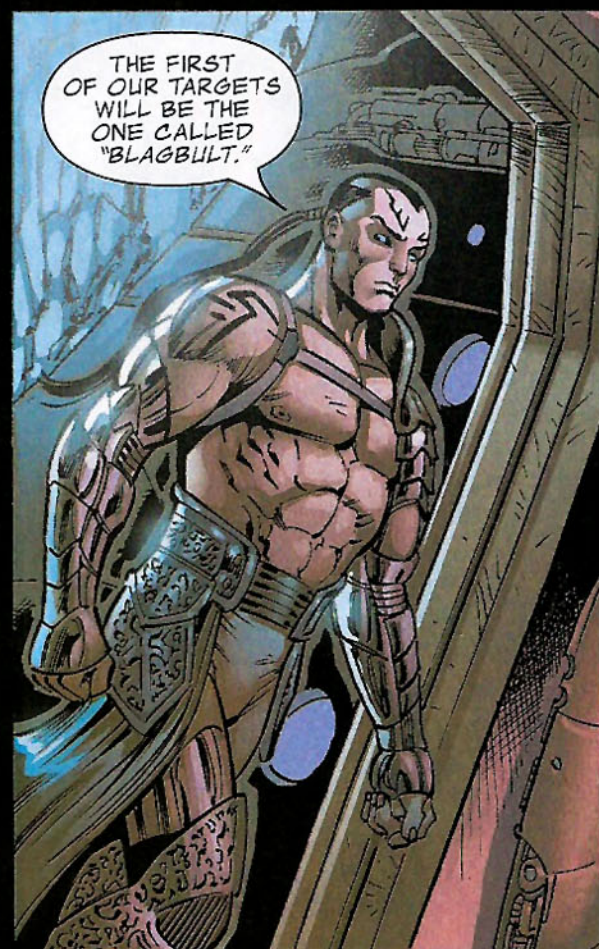
AND WHEN IT STARTS, GOD HELP YOU...

...BECAUSE I CERTAINLY WON'T.





WELL?



THE FIRST OF OUR TARGETS WILL BE THE ONE CALLED "BLAGBULT."



"BLAGBULT"? WHAT SORT OF NAME IS THAT?

IN MY LANGUAGE, IT MEANS, "SHE WHO URINATES UNCONTROLLABLY." WHY WOULD SUCH A ONE CONCERN US?



ACCORDING TO HOLKU, BLAGBULT CAN ANNIHILATE ARMIES WITH MERE SPOKEN WORDS.

SO WHEN WE DISPATCH HIM AND PARADE HIS BODY BEFORE THE OTHERS, THEY WILL KNOW THEIR CAUSE IS HOPELESS.

MERE SPOKEN WORDS, EH? A CHALLENGE. ANY THOUGHTS AS TO HOW WE DEFEAT SUCH A ONE?



GREENSKIN HAS MEDITATED LONG AND HARD UPON THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF ALL OUR ENEMIES.

WE HAVE SPOKEN...WE HAVE PLANNED...AND I WILL NOW IMPART ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE TO YOU.



BEFORE  
YOU DO...WHAT  
OF HOLKU  
HIMSELF?

WHAT IS HIS...  
STATE?

IS HE  
**FOCUSED?**  
WILL HE PRESENT  
A THREAT  
TO US?



I DO NOT  
BELIEVE SO, NO.  
THERE IS...**MORE** TO  
HIM...THAN I THINK  
EVEN WE FULLY  
SUSPECT.


HIS UNBRIDLED  
FEROCITY CAME  
FROM RAGE  
SO BOUNDLESS,  
THAT IT WAS  
UNCONTROLLED.

THE MEDITATION  
HAS FOCUSED HIS...  
**INNER SELF**, AS IT WERE...  
AND HIS ANGER IS NOW  
**BRIDLED**, BUT NO  
LESS POTENT.

HE KNOWS  
HIS ENEMIES FOR  
WHAT THEY ARE,  
AND IS FIRM IN THE  
RIGHTNESS OF  
HIS ACTIONS.







THERE IS A PROPHECY  
FROM AN ANCIENT  
HUMAN NAMED HOSEA...

IT SPEAKS OF INCURRING THE  
WRATH OF AN ALL-POWERFUL  
BEING, WARNING THAT THOSE  
WHO SOW THE WIND SHALL  
REAP THE WHIRLWIND.

THAT SHOULD BE  
REMEMBERED, ALONG  
WITH ONE OTHER PIECE  
OF INFORMATION THAT  
BEARS REPEATING.

IT IS SAID THAT AT ANY GIVEN  
TIME, HUMANS TYPICALLY USE  
ONLY TEN PERCENT OF THEIR  
BRAINS...FREQUENTLY LESS,  
AND VERY OCCASIONALLY MORE.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE VERY RARE  
OCCASIONS--WHEN JEN WALTERS,  
DEEP IN EXHAUSTED SLUMBER,  
SITS UP WITH A BURST OF INSIGHT...  
INTUITION...PREMONITION...

IT'S HAPPENED TO ALL OF  
US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER,  
AND NOW IT HAPPENS TO JEN  
WALTERS, AND IT TELLS HER...

OH MY  
GOD...HE'S  
ON HIS  
WAY.

THE SAME SORT OF INSTINCT THAT  
TELLS YOU, FOR INSTANCE, A LOVED  
ONE IS IN DISTRESS WHEN YOU  
COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW...

CASUS  
BELLI.

LET THE  
WAR  
BEGIN.



The MINI MARVELS present...

# THE ILLUMINATI and the INCREDIBLE HULK in "ROUND TRIP"

written and illustrated by

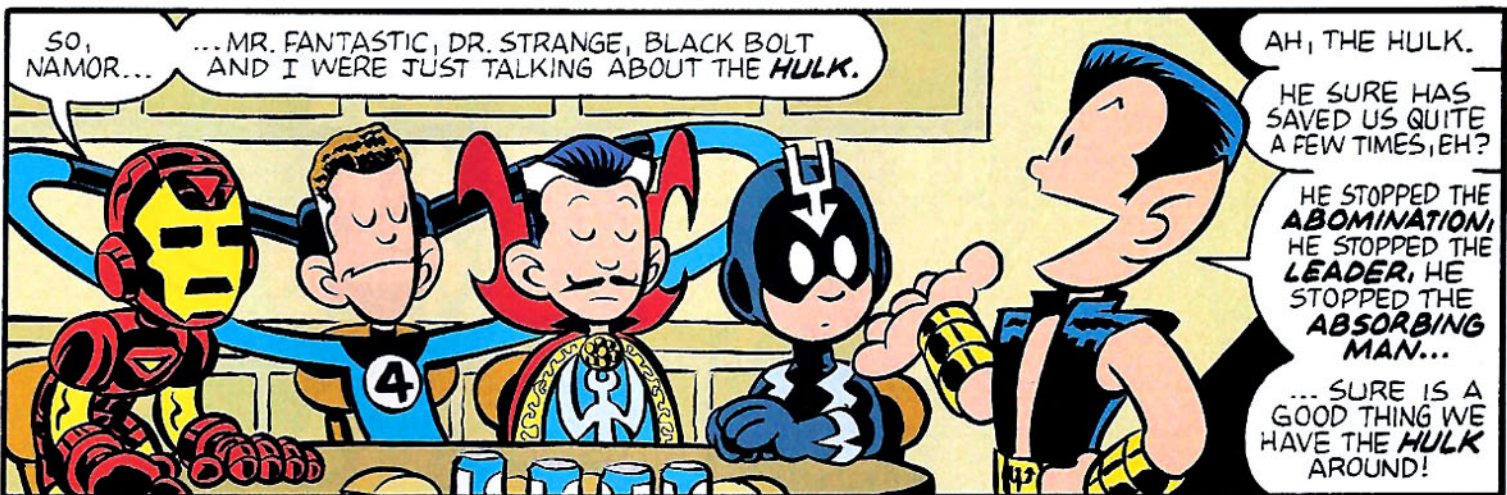
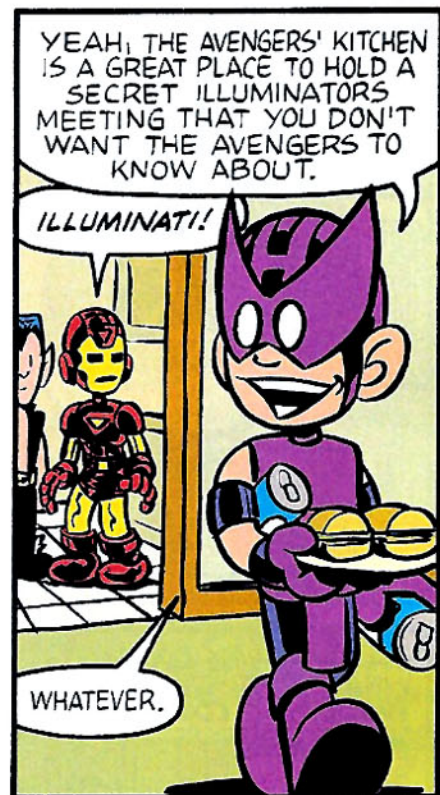
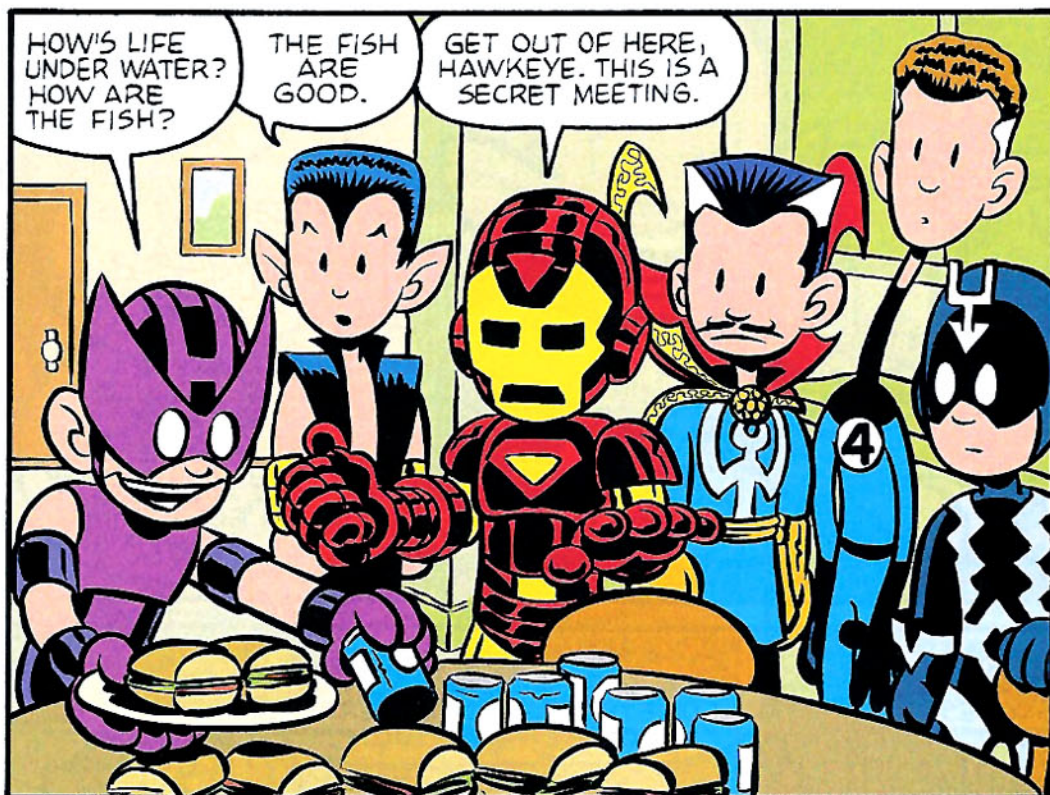
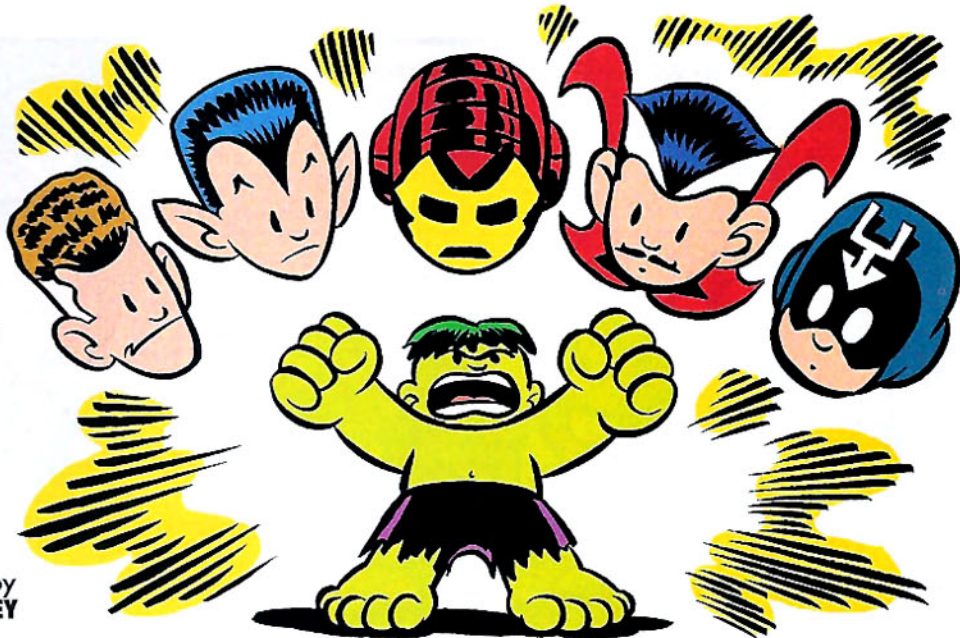
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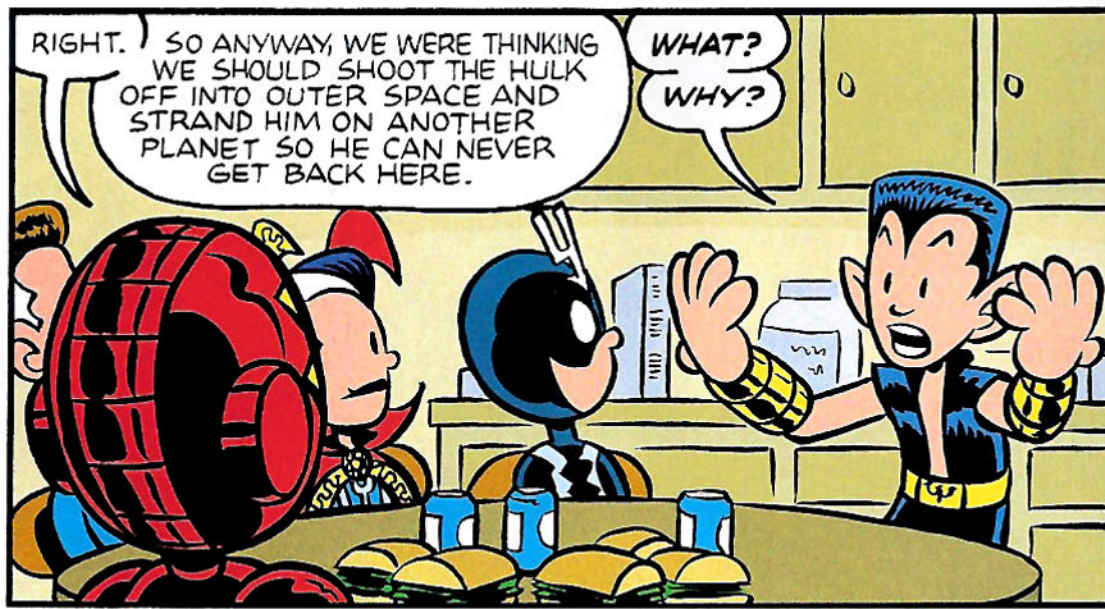
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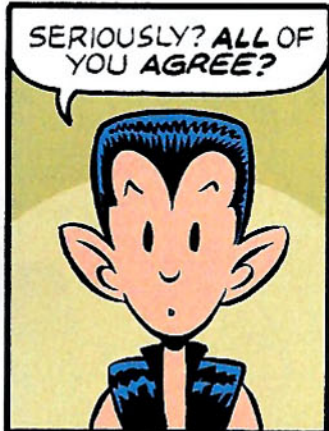


RIGHT. SO ANYWAY, WE WERE THINKING WE SHOULD SHOOT THE HULK OFF INTO OUTER SPACE AND STRAND HIM ON ANOTHER PLANET SO HE CAN NEVER GET BACK HERE.

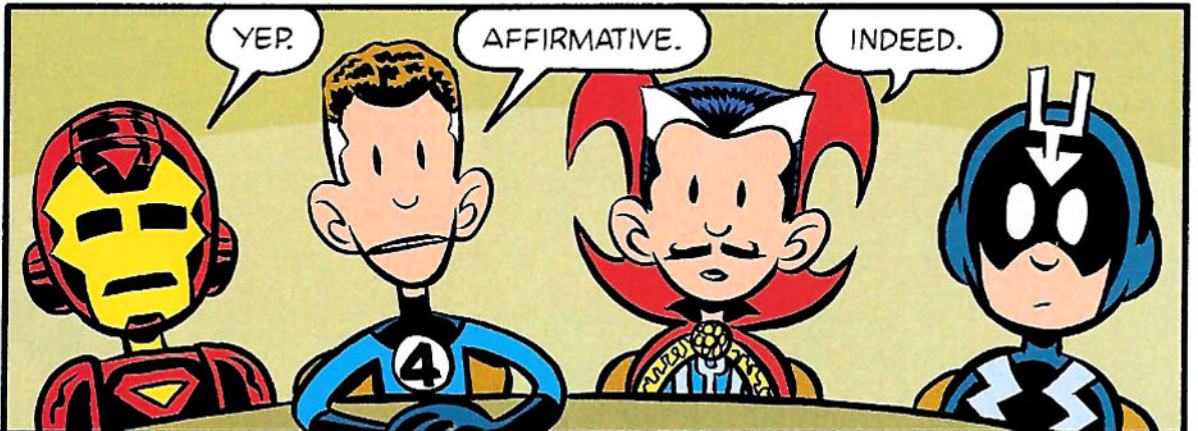
WHAT?  
WHY?



HE'S ALWAYS **BREAKING** STUFF...AND **RAMPAGING**. AND GOING ON **RAMPAGES**. HE'S TOO **DANGEROUS**.



SERIOUSLY? ALL OF YOU AGREE?



YEP.

AFFIRMATIVE.

INDEED.



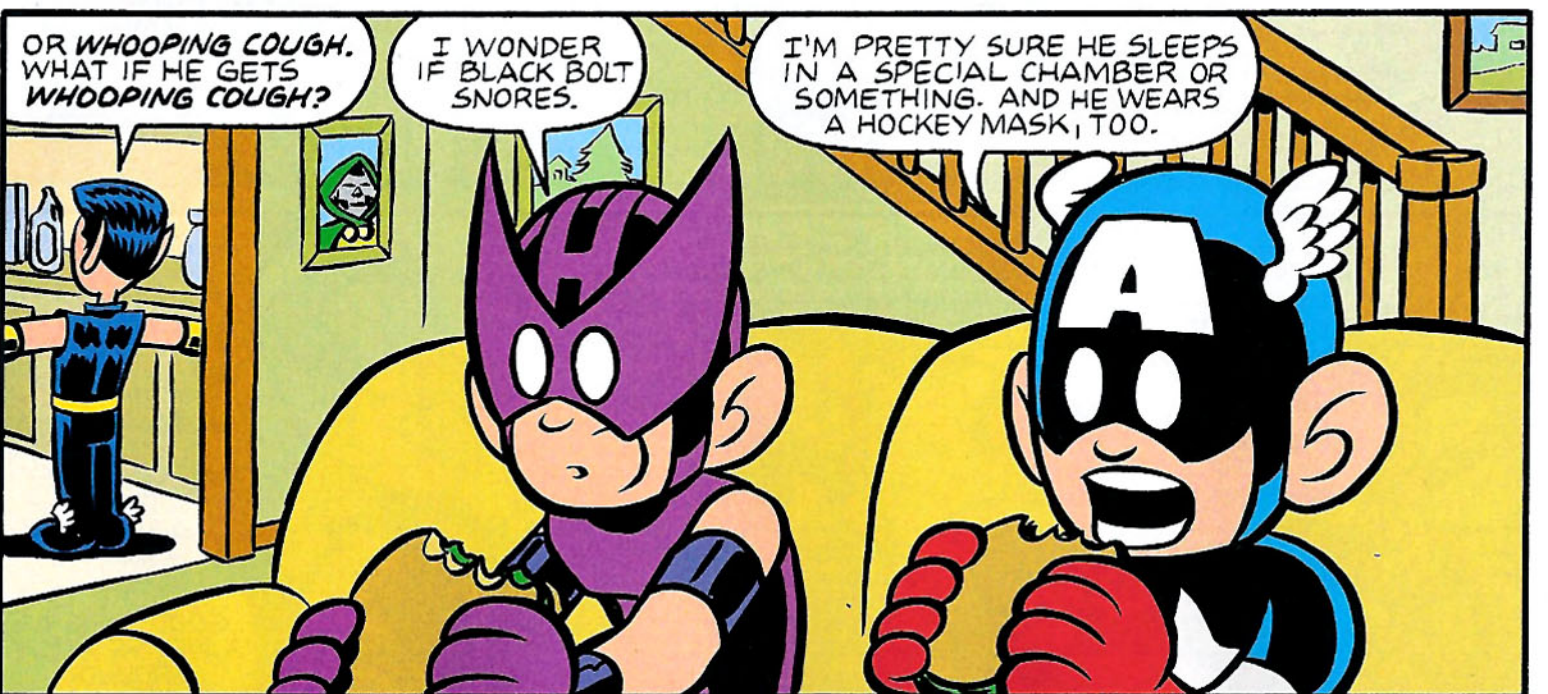
OKAY, WHAT ABOUT **BLACK BOLT**?

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT **HE'S** THINKING?

THE GUY NEVER **TALKS**.

Y'KNOW, BECAUSE HIS MEREST **WHISPER** COULD DESTROY A **CITY**.

MAYBE WE SHOULD SHOOT **HIM** INTO SPACE! JUST IN CASE HE GETS THE **HICCUPS** OR SOMETHING, **RIGHT?**

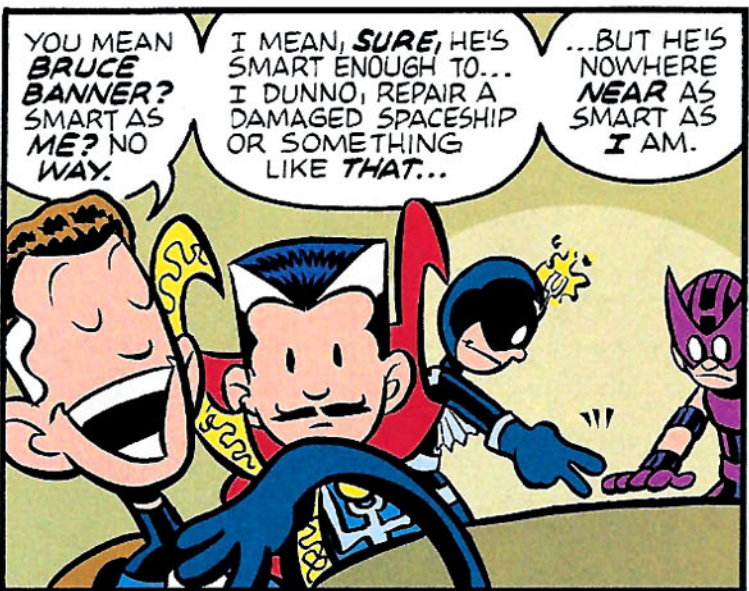
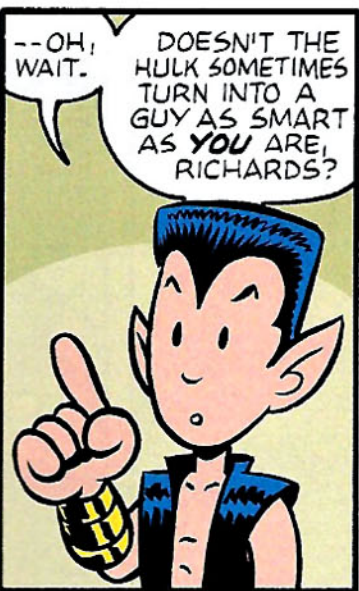
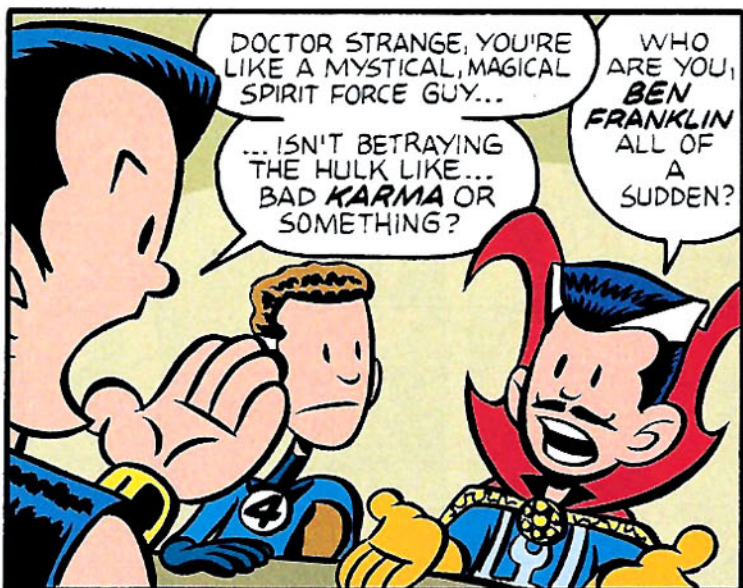
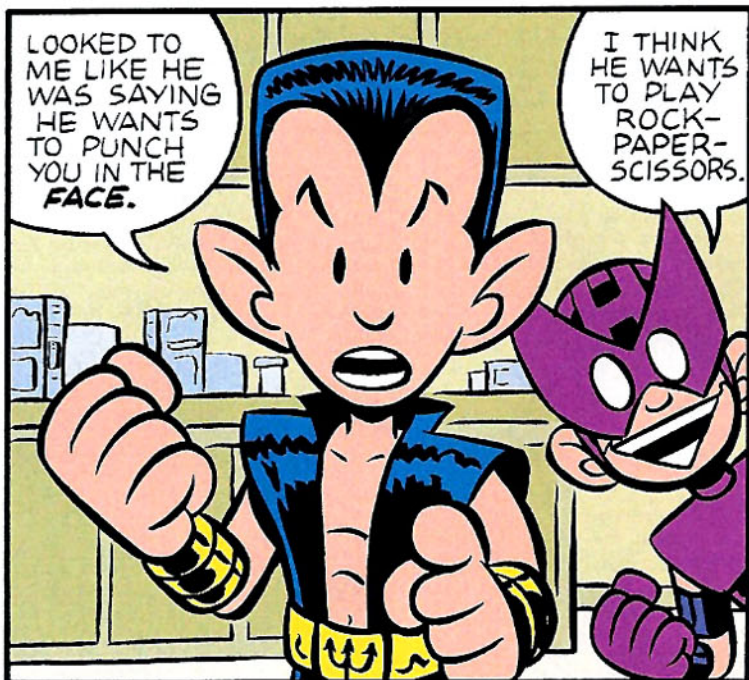
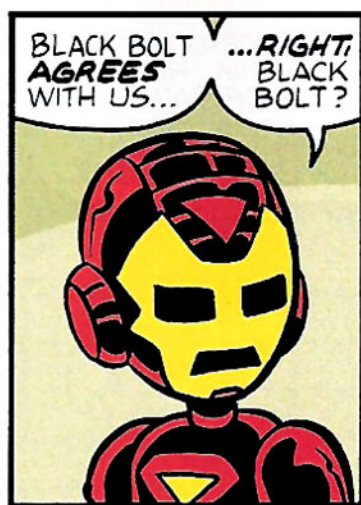


OR **WHOOPIING COUGH**. WHAT IF HE GETS **WHOOPIING COUGH**?

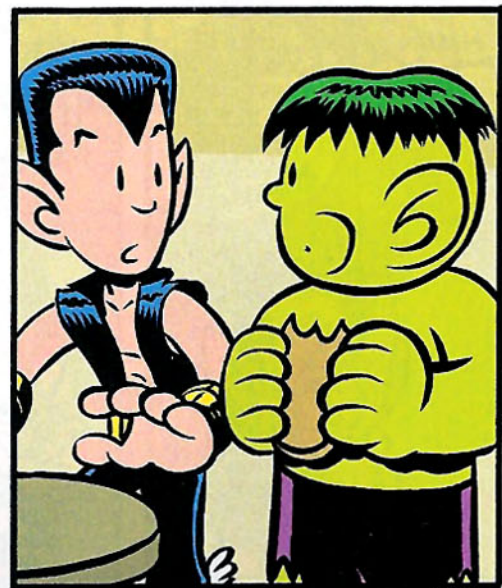
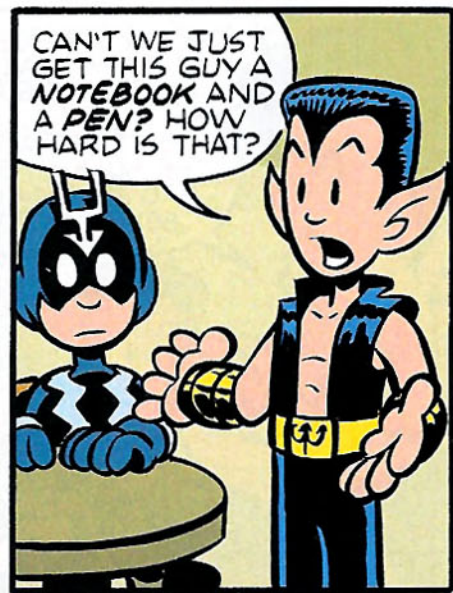
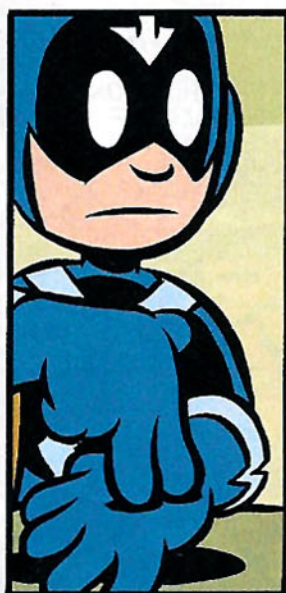
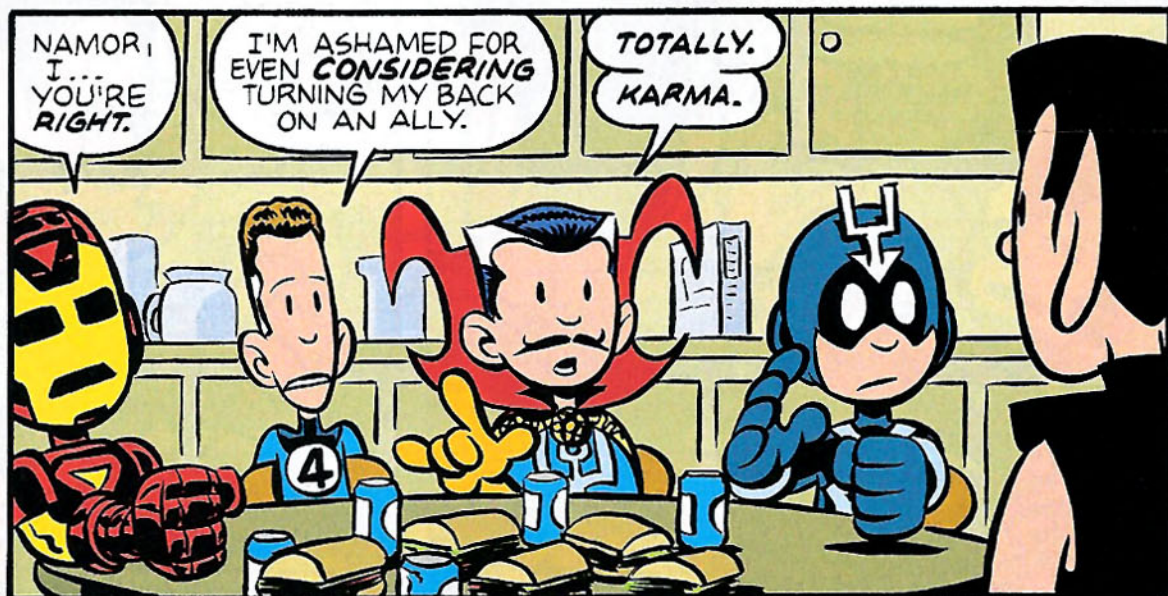
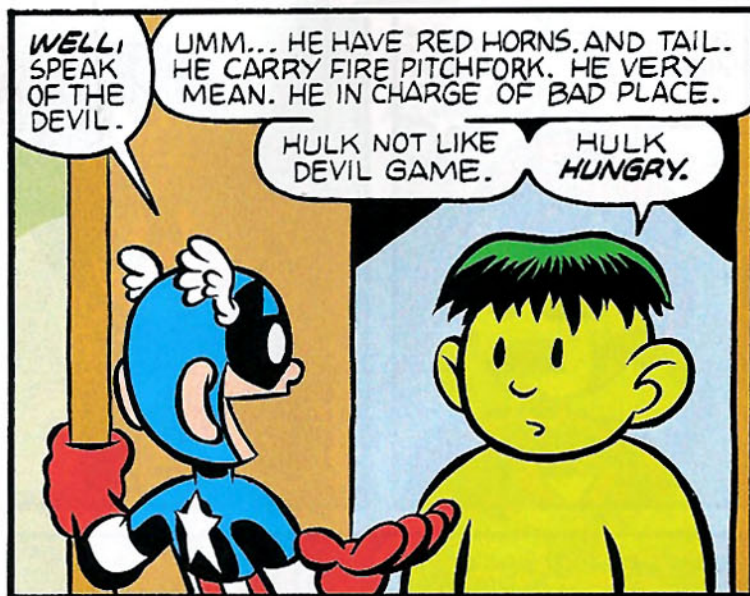
I WONDER IF **BLACK BOLT** SNORES.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE SLEEPS IN A SPECIAL CHAMBER OR SOMETHING. AND HE WEARS A **HOCKEY MASK**, TOO.

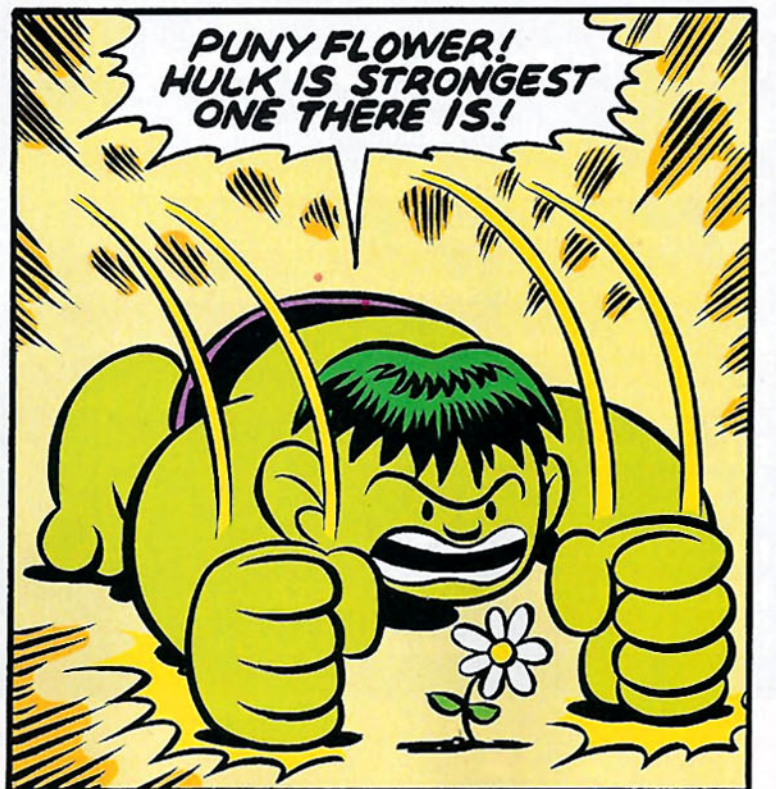
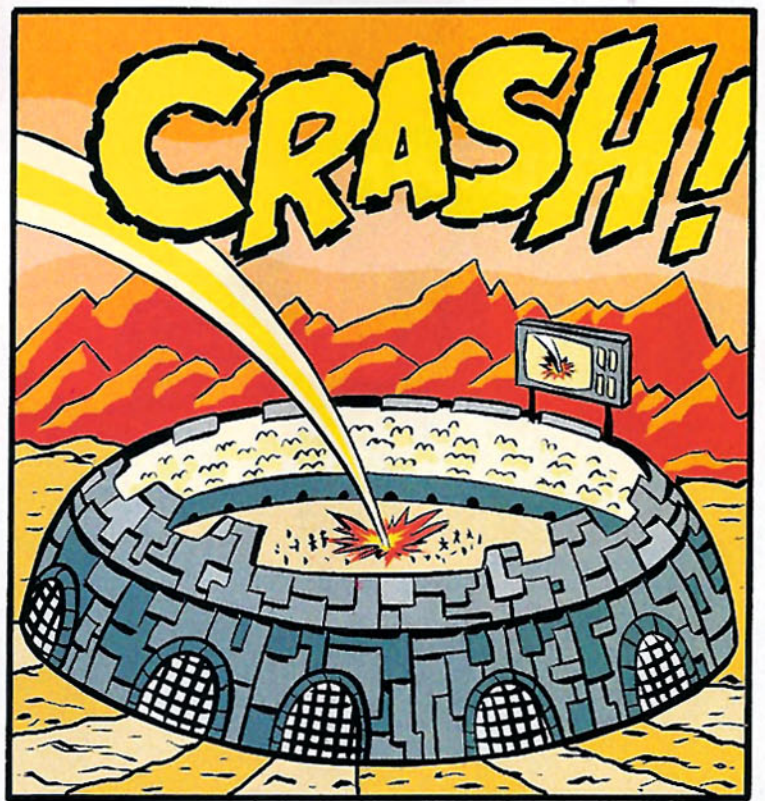
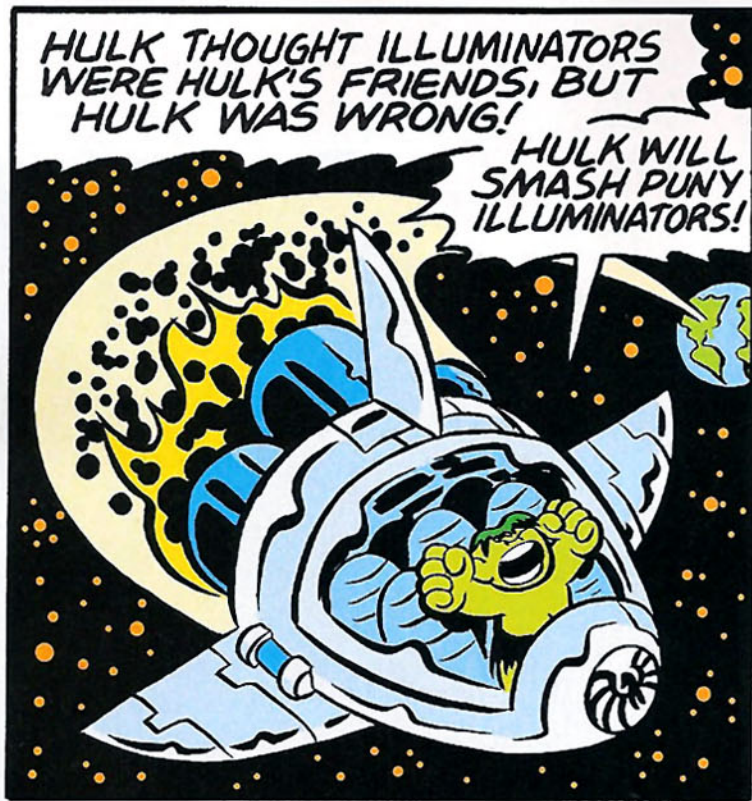




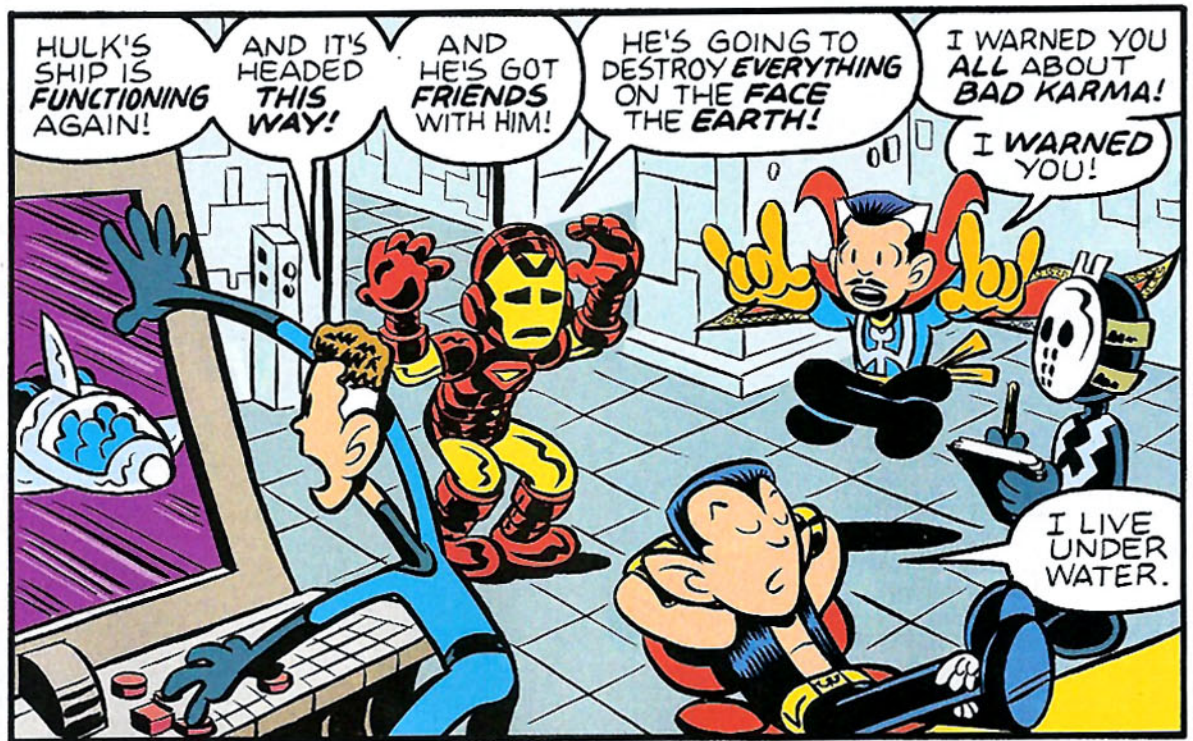
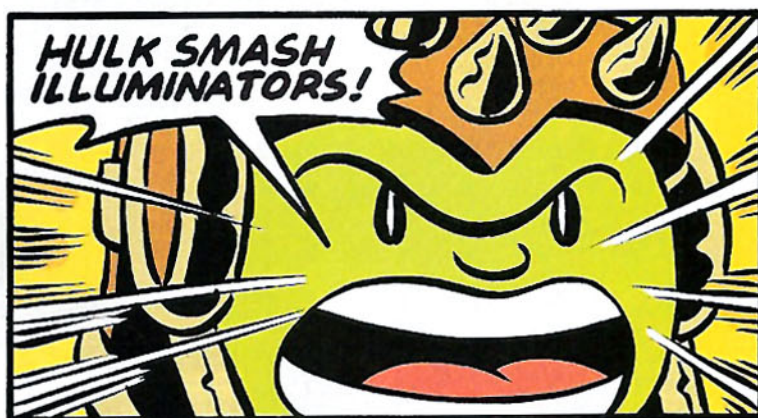
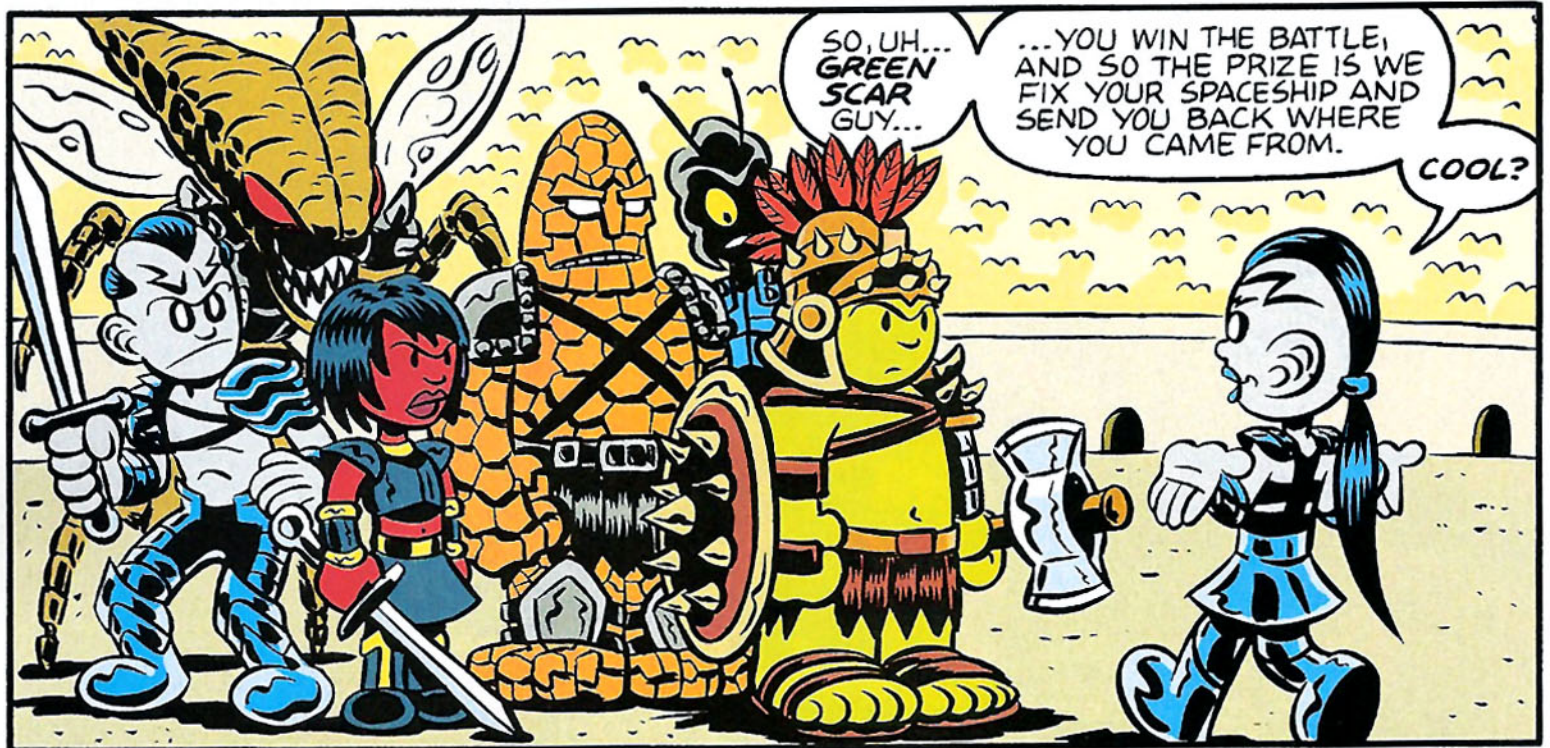












TO BE CONTINUED...?





JUST TELL US WHERE YOU ARE, AMADEUS. WE CAN BE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN AN HOUR.

WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME AT MY HOUSE? NO, WAIT, THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK... BECAUSE YOU **BLEW IT UP.**

## MASTERMIND EXCELLO

Greg Pak - Words  
Takeshi Miyazawa - Art  
Christina Strain - Colors  
Dave Lanphear - Letters  
Nathan Cosby - Assistant Editor  
Mark Panaccia - Editor  
Joe Quesada - Editor in Chief  
Dan Buckley - Publisher



WE DIDN'T DO THAT, AMADEUS. THAT WAS THE ENEMY.

THE "ENEMY"? HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK I AM?

NOT VERY. YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO GET ON OUR RADAR. SMART ENOUGH TO SLIP THROUGH OUR PERIMETER. SMART ENOUGH TO CALL ME ON A LINE WHICH THREE ROOMFULS OF OUR TOP PEOPLE CAN'T SEEM TO TRACE.

TO BE PRECISE, WE THINK YOU'RE THE SEVENTH SMARTEST PERSON ON THE PLANET.

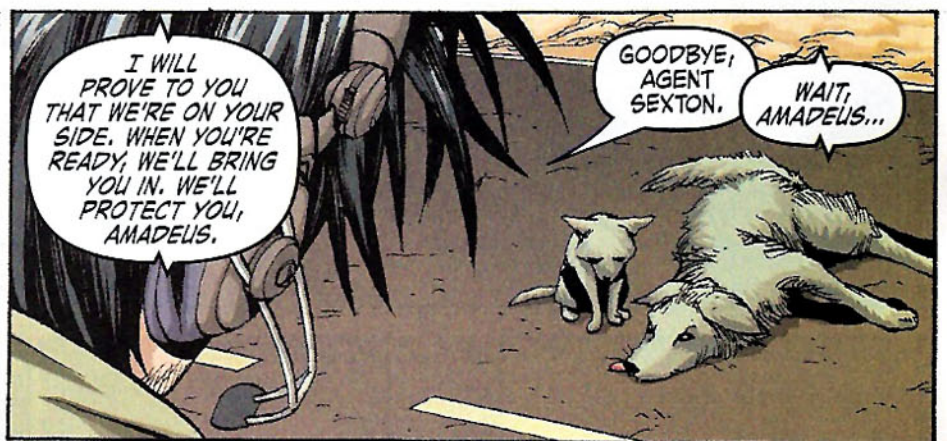
WHICH IS WHY WE WANT YOU TO WORK FOR **US**. AND WHY THE **ENEMY** WANTS YOU DEAD.



IF YOU KNOW HOW SMART I AM, YOU KNOW THERE'S NO CONCEIVABLE WAY I CAN TRUST YOU BASED ON THE INFORMATION I HAVE RIGHT NOW.

...

ALL RIGHT, AMADEUS. THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH. ALL I'M ASKING IS THAT YOU **LAY LOW AND GIVE ME TIME.**



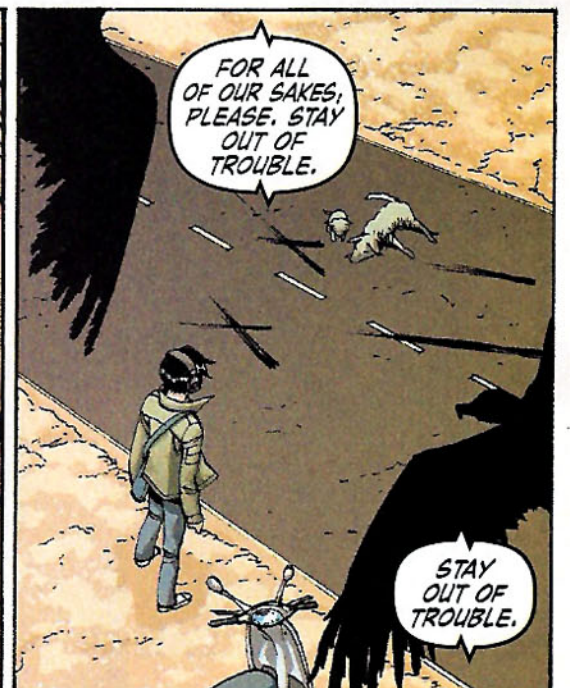
I WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE. WHEN YOU'RE READY, WE'LL BRING YOU IN. WE'LL PROTECT YOU, AMADEUS.

GOODBYE, AGENT SEXTON.

WAIT, AMADEUS...



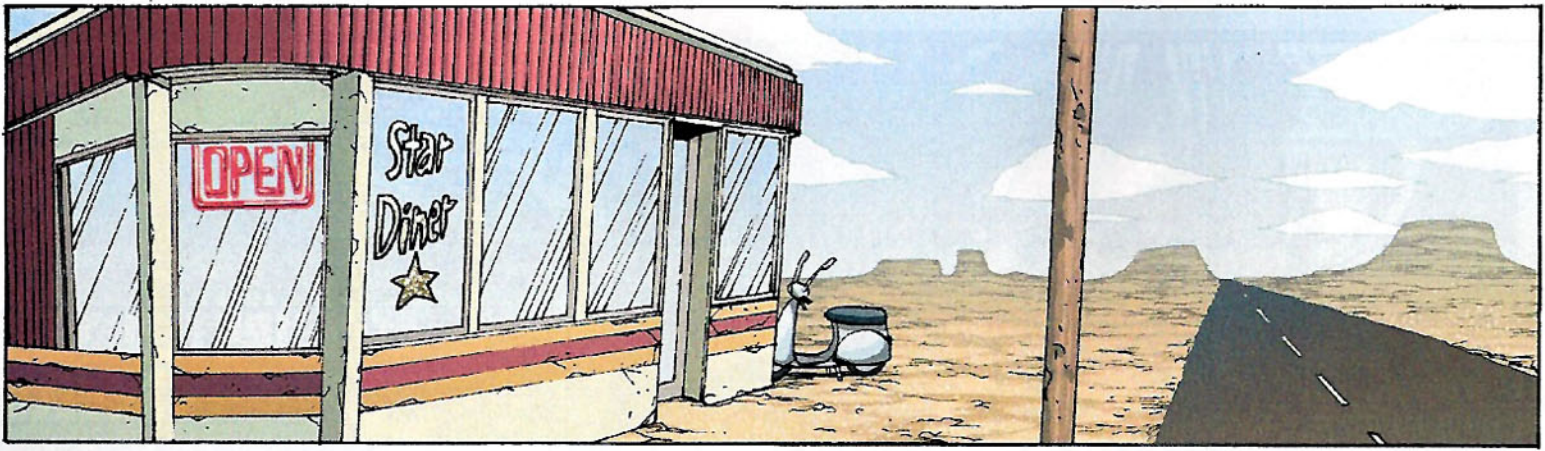
IF THEY CATCH YOU, THEY'LL USE YOU TO DESTROY THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT.



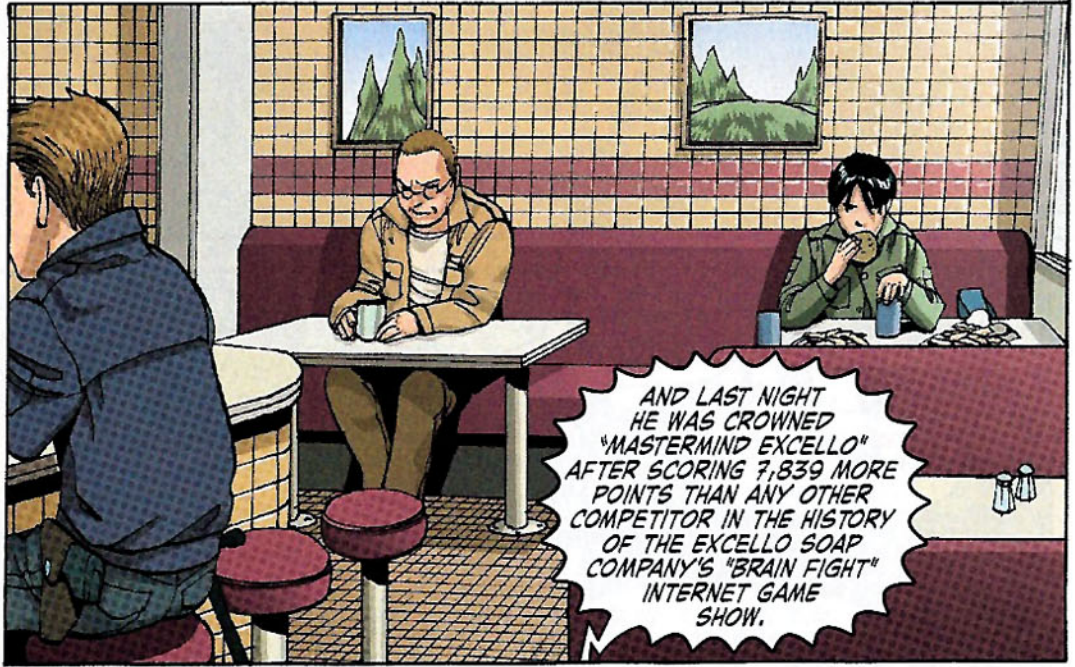
FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES, PLEASE. STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

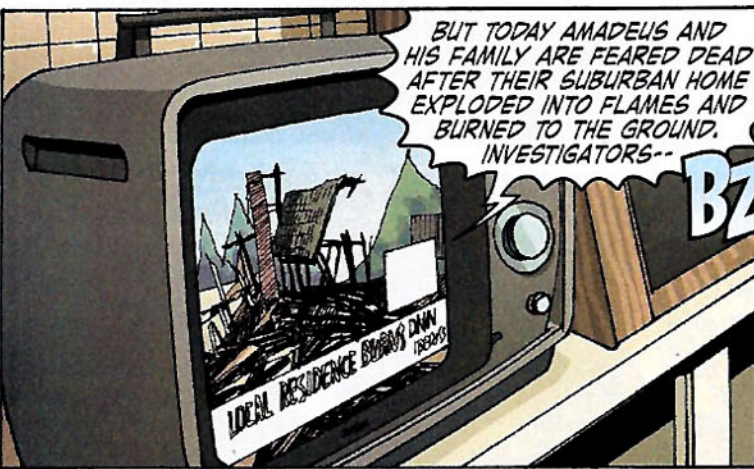




HIS NAME  
IS AMADEUS  
CHO.

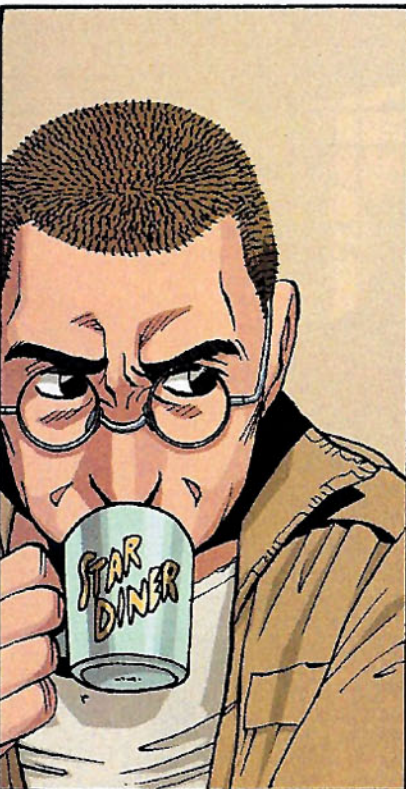


AND LAST NIGHT  
HE WAS CROWNED  
"MASTERMIND EXCELLO"  
AFTER SCORING 7,839 MORE  
POINTS THAN ANY OTHER  
COMPETITOR IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE EXCELLO SOAP  
COMPANY'S "BRAIN FIGHT"  
INTERNET GAME  
SHOW.



BUT TODAY AMADEUS AND  
HIS FAMILY ARE FEARED DEAD  
AFTER THEIR SUBURBAN HOME  
EXPLODED INTO FLAMES AND  
BURNED TO THE GROUND.  
INVESTIGATORS--

BZZZZZZZZ



HEY, KID!





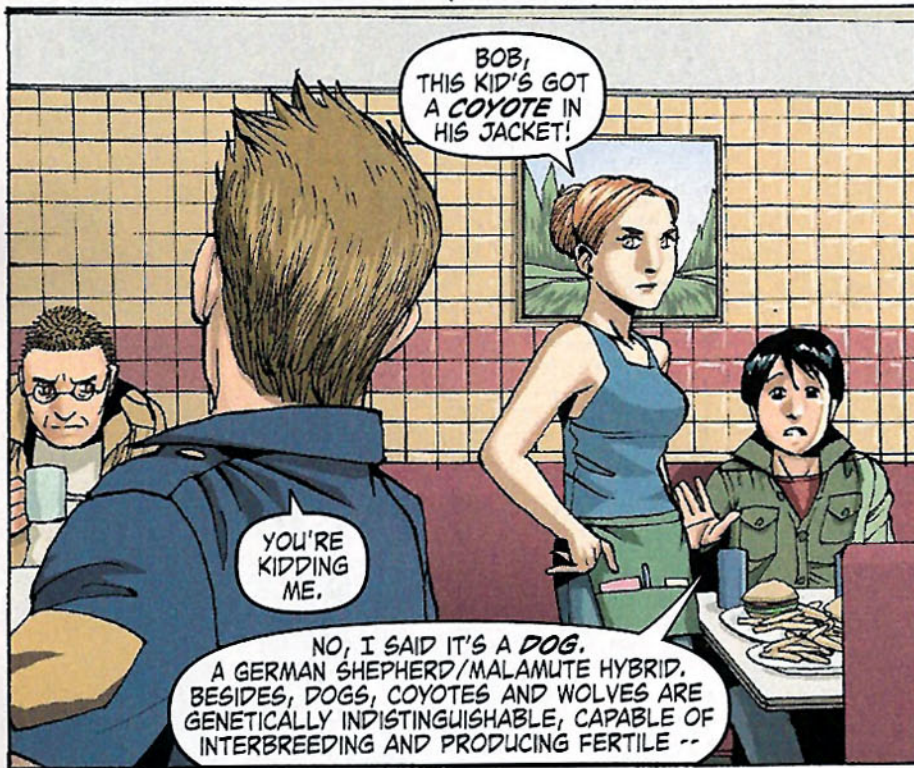
NO DOGS ALLOWED.



OH, YEAH, SORRY. I'LL TAKE HIM OUT--

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. IS THAT--IS THAT A COYOTE PUP?

NO, NO. IT'S A DOG. MY DOG. HIS NAME'S--



BOB, THIS KID'S GOT A COYOTE IN HIS JACKET!

YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

NO, I SAID IT'S A DOG. A GERMAN SHEPHERD/MALAMUTE HYBRID. BESIDES, DOGS, COYOTES AND WOLVES ARE GENETICALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE, CAPABLE OF INTERBREEDING AND PRODUCING FERTILE --



KID, THIS ISN'T FUNNY. WE GOT A RABIES ALERT ON TUESDAY.

--OFFSPRING. THAT MAKES THEM TECHNICALLY THE SAME SPECIES, SO THERE'S REALLY NO REASON TO--

NOW PUT HIM DOWN.



PUT HIM DOWN.

...

DON'T BE STUPID.

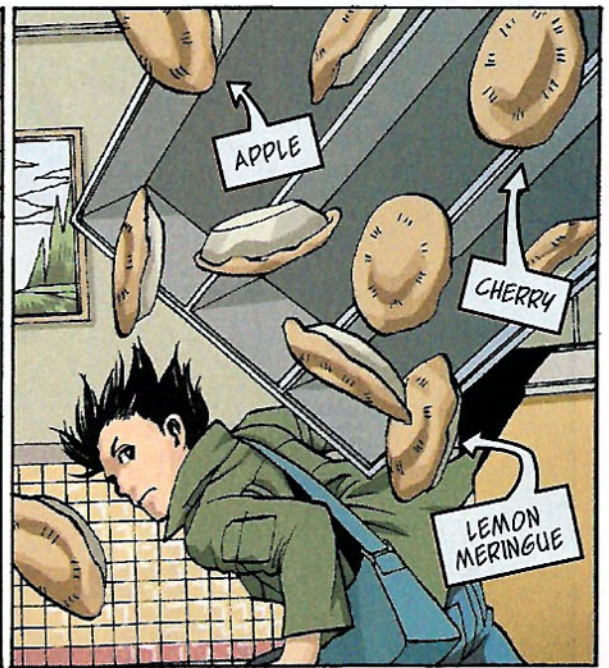


I'M NOT STUPID.

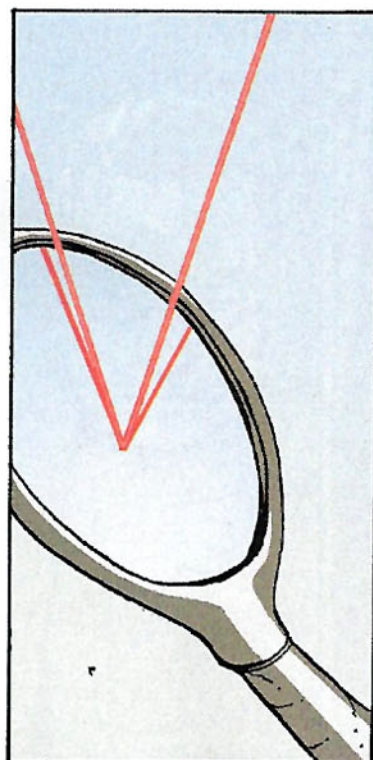
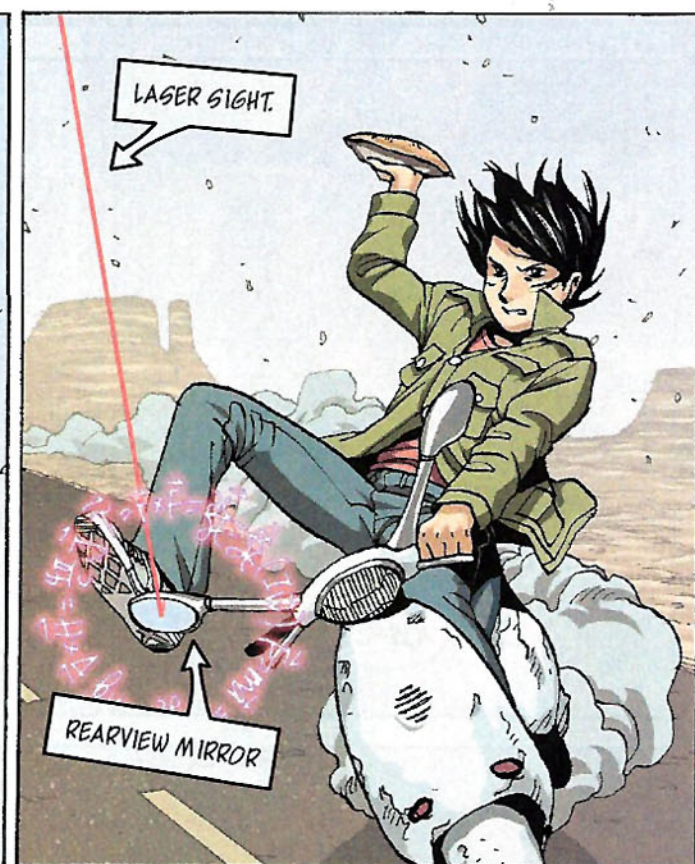




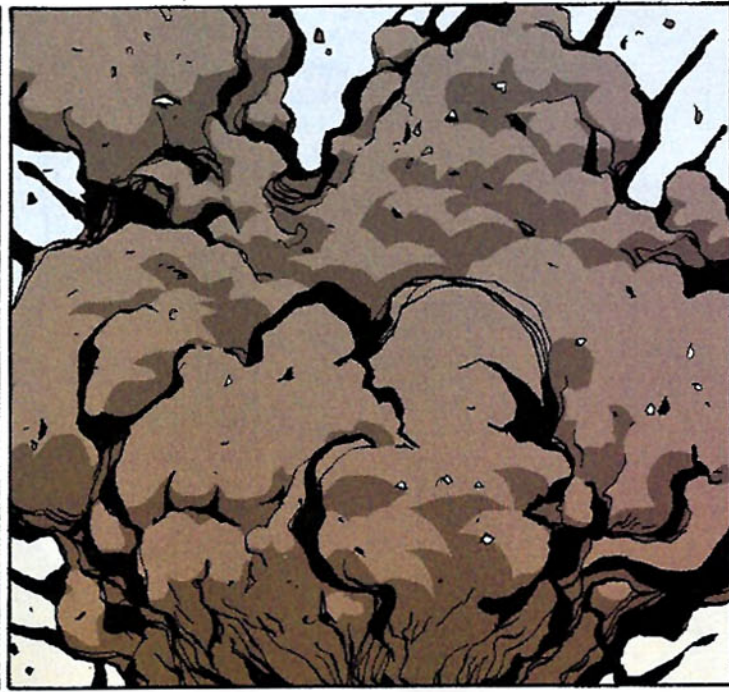
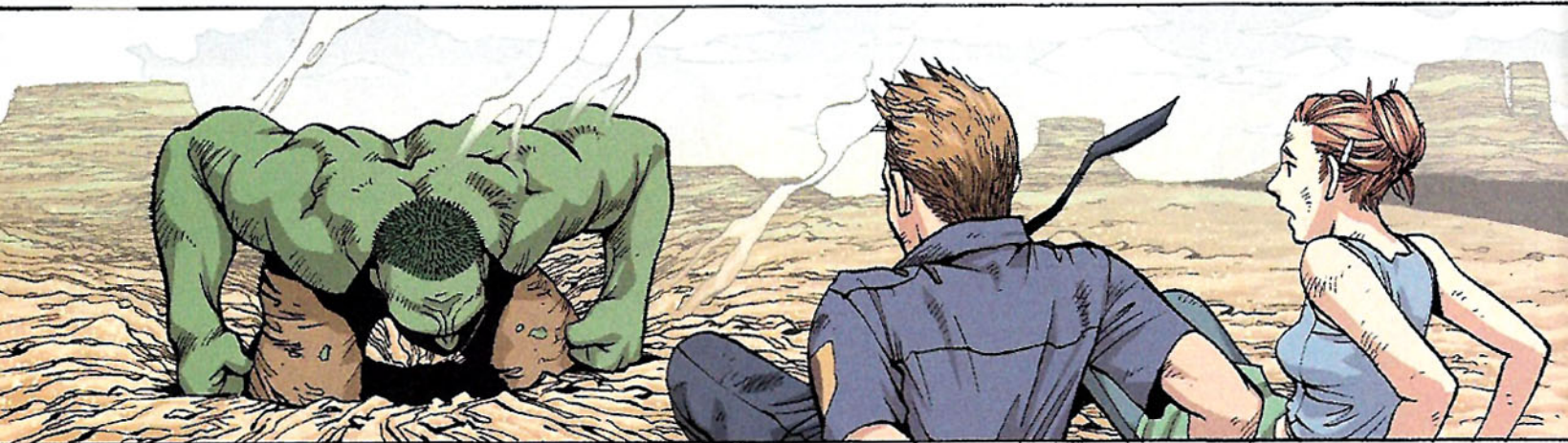




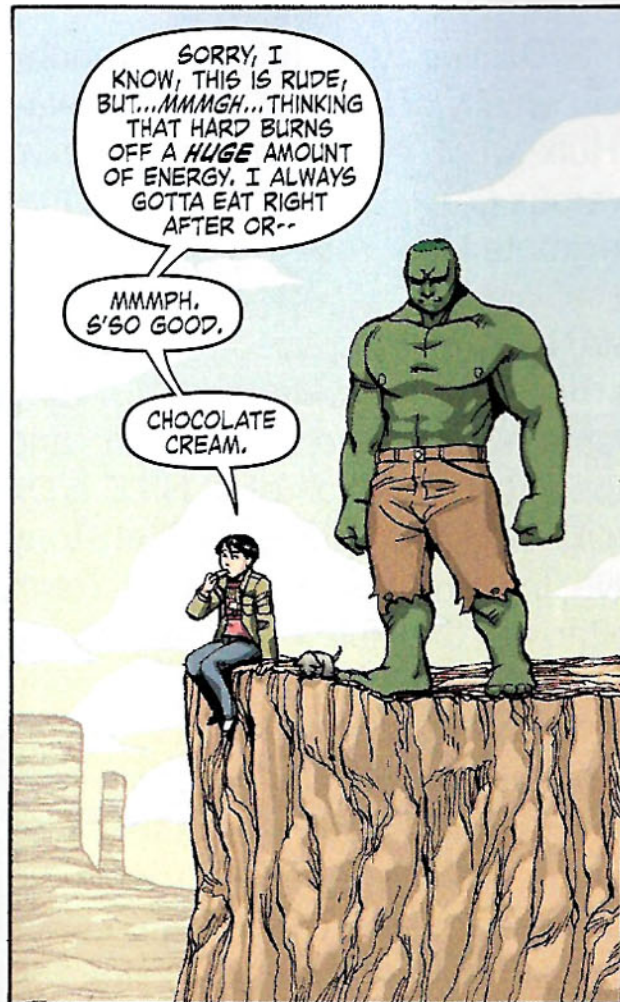








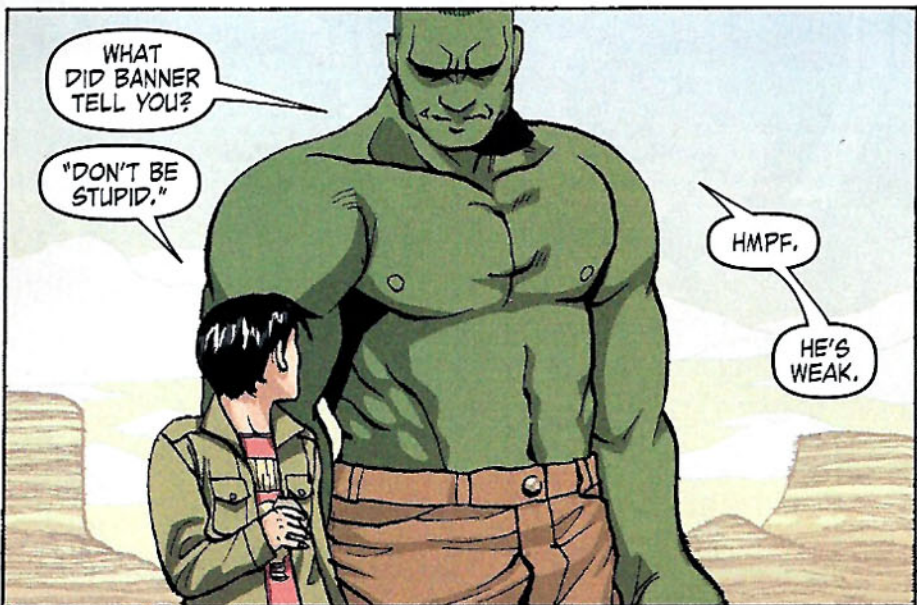




SORRY, I KNOW, THIS IS RUDE, BUT...MMMGGH...THINKING THAT HARD BURNS OFF A *HUGE* AMOUNT OF ENERGY. I ALWAYS GOTTA EAT RIGHT AFTER OR--

MMMPPH. S'SO GOOD.

CHOCOLATE CREAM.



WHAT DID BANNER TELL YOU?

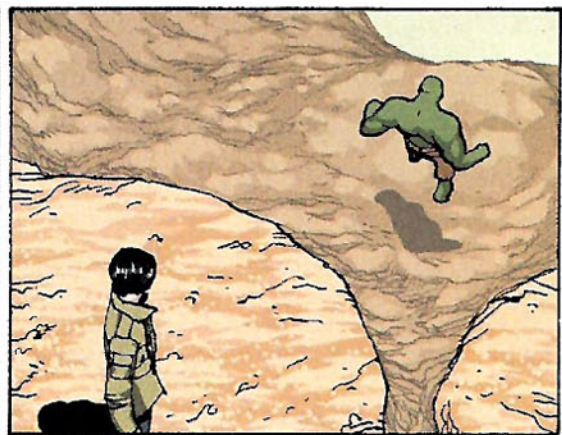
"DON'T BE STUPID."

HMPF.

HE'S WEAK.

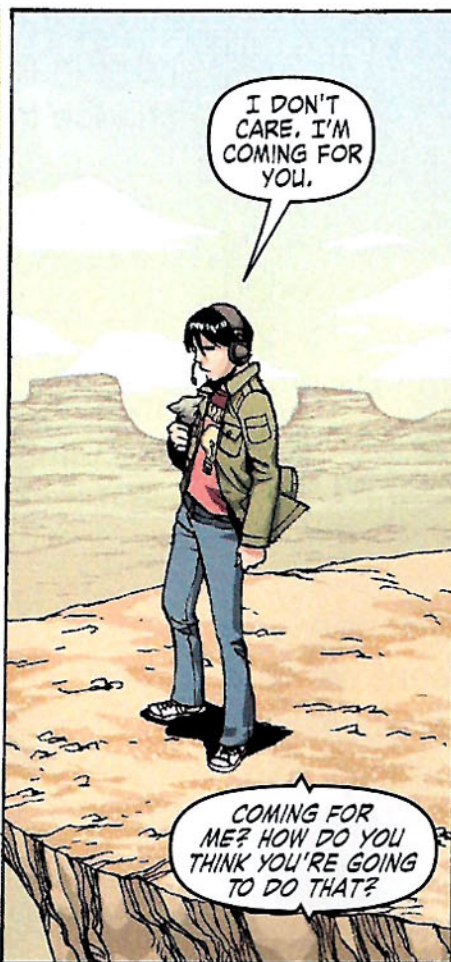


NOT LIKE US.



HELLO, AGENT SEXTON.

AMADEUS? THANK GOD. LISTEN--THAT WASN'T US. I SWEAR TO YOU.



I DON'T CARE, I'M COMING FOR YOU.

COMING FOR ME? HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT?



I'M SURE I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

THE END...?