



HE WAS
THE GREATEST
AMONG US.

THE ONE WE LOOKED
TO, TO LEAD US
AND TO GUIDE US.



WE WERE
WRONG.

WE'D LOST OUR WAY.
Mired in corruption
and a thirst for power,
divided by infighting, we'd
forgotten our calling.



AND IN THAT
MOMENT, AT OUR
WEAKEST, INSTEAD OF
CHALLENGING OURSELVES,
INSTEAD OF MAKING
THINGS RIGHT--

--WE SIMPLY GAVE HIM MORE
POWER AND MORE AUTHORITY.
IT WAS EASIER TO LET HIM DO
THAT WHICH WE WERE TOO
WEAK TO DO OURSELVES--



--AND *THIS*
IS THE PRICE
WE PAID.

STEVE--



--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SORRY, SHARON, JUST... THINKING.



I DON'T BLAME YOU--THIS IS PRETTY OVERWHELMING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S **WORSE**-- THAT I'M LOOKING AT **THREE** BLINKING RED DOTS ON THE **TROUBLE** MAP--

--OR THAT ALL THREE ARE THINGS WE'VE SEEN COMING FOR MONTHS AND **STILL** COULDN'T FIND THE WILL TO STOP.



I'VE SEEN BAD BEFORE, BUT-- THIS FEELS **DIFFERENT**. THIS FEELS LIKE THE **END**.

NO--



--THIS IS **NOT** HOW THE WORLD ENDS.

LET'S TAKE THEM ONE AT A TIME.



RIGHT. THE CHITAUURI INVASION FLEET HAS FINALLY ARRIVED--TRILLIONS OF THEM. EXPERTS ARE TELLING US THEY COULD ELIMINATE 90 PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION WITHIN **FOUR HOURS** IF THEY MAKE LANDFALL.

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, OUR BEST SOLUTION--THE PLANETARY DEFENSE SHIELD-- WAS TAKEN OUT AT ITS MAIN STATION BY A **HYDRA SUICIDE BOMBER** HOURS AGO. WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE CONNECTION THERE.



BUT WE HAVE AN ANSWER. CAPTAIN MARVEL-- HOW ARE THINGS IN THE STARS?

WELL, IF THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION, I'M HAPPY TO REPORT WE'RE DOING IT THE RIGHT WAY--



DIE WITH YOUR BOOTS ON, PEOPLE!



THERE'S TOO MANY OF THESE DAMN THINGS, CAP--WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM BACK FOR LONG.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO CORRAL THEM FOR NOW--FUNNEL THEM WHERE WE WANT THEM TO GO--



--LET QUASAR TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

"AS A STOPGAP, SHE'S PRETTY AMAZING, BUT SHE CAN ONLY KILL AS FAR AS SHE CAN SEE, AND THESE THINGS STRETCH BACK FOR PLANETS."



I SURE COULD USE A GIANT IMPENETRABLE FORCE-FIELD SURROUNDING THE EARTH ABOUT NOW...

I HEAR YOU, CAROL. JUST HOLD TIGHT. YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW--



"--I'VE GOT TWO OF OUR BEST PEOPLE ON IT."

TONY, RIRI, HOW ARE WE DOING DOWN THERE?

WELL, I CAN TELL YOU THAT NOTHING IS COLOR-CODED PROPERLY. BEYOND THAT? IT'S GOVERNMENT WORK, SO I CAN'T BE SURE HOW MUCH IS DAMAGE FROM THE BOMBING AND HOW MUCH IS DUE TO SHODDY CONTRACTS.

WE'LL GET IT UP AND RUNNING, SIR. HE'S JUST BEING--

--HIM. TRUST ME, I KNOW, MS. WILLIAMS. BETTER THAN ANYONE.



WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS THERE. LET'S LOOK AT THE NEXT PROBLEM--

RIGHT--



"--NEW YORK IS BURNING."



LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, AN ARMY OF SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS SWARMED ONTO THE STREETS OF MIDTOWN. DOZENS OF THEM, WITH ONE THING IN COMMON--

--THEY WERE ALL INMATES IN MARIA HILL'S LITTLE REALITY-WARP COSMIC CUBE PRISON...

"...PLEASANT HILL."

CITIZENS OF NEW YORK! I AM GRAVITON, AND YOU HAVE BEEN LIED TO.

S.H.I.E.L.D., YOUR SO-CALLED PROTECTORS, WHO CLAIM TO BE ON THE SIDE OF GOOD, HAVE COMMITTED AN UNCONSCIONABLE CRIME.

THEY CREATED A SECRET PRISON, WHERE OUR INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHTS WERE TRAMPLED UPON-- WHERE THEY FORCIBLY REWROTE OUR LIVES AND TOOK OUR FREE WILL--



--AND WHEN IT ALL CAME CRASHING DOWN, INSTEAD OF ADMITTING WHAT THEY HAD DONE--THEY SOUGHT TO HIDE THE TRUTH FROM YOU--FROM ALL OF US!



KNOW THAT IT IS THEIR SINE YOU DIE FOR NOW!



WE'RE MOBILIZING RESPONSES IN WAVES.

AND THE FIRST ONE IS ALREADY IN THE FIELD.



ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS, DEFENDERS! SHOW THESE SUCKERS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY MESS WITH OUR CITY!

WHICH THEY DO ALL THE TIME.

BUT THEY SHOULD STOP.



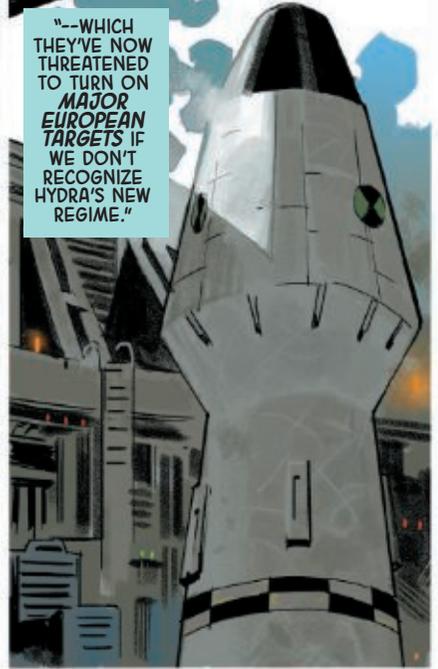
AND THEN THERE'S OUR OBJECTIVE.



"HYDRA FORCES INVADED THE CAPITAL CITY OF SOKOVIA, AND THE GOVERNMENT FORMALLY SURRENDERED, HANDING THE KEYS OVER--

"--INCLUDING THE LAUNCH CODES FOR SEVEN PREVIOUSLY-THOUGHT-DESTROYED SOVIET-ERA NUCLEAR ASSETS--

"--WHICH THEY'VE NOW THREATENED TO TURN ON MAJOR EUROPEAN TARGETS IF WE DON'T RECOGNIZE HYDRA'S NEW REGIME."



TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, OUR BASE IN THE AREA-- HELICARRIER CRESCENT-- FELL OFF RADAR AND OUT OF RADIO CONTACT TWO HOURS LATER.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY RADIATION MARKINGS, AND SATELLITES ARE BEING WEIRDLY UNCOOPERATIVE, BUT THE FEAR IS HYDRA TURNED ONE OF THE WARHEADS ON IT--

"--SO WE'RE SENDING IN THE BULK OF OUR FLEET-- INCLUDING *ILIAD* HERE-- TO CONFIRM VISUAL AND PUT A STOP TO ALL THIS. ONE SHIP FOR EVERY WARHEAD WE KNOW OF--

"--NEVER LET IT BE SAID WE'RE NOT THOROUGH."

HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A MASTER STRATEGIST--BUT FREED FROM COMPASSION AND MERCY, THIS WAS HIS MASTERPIECE.





IT WAS A PERFECT ATTACK.

ALREADY DIVIDED, WE FOUND OURSELVES PULLED IN SO MANY DIRECTIONS AT ONCE--



--THAT OUR BEST WAS NO LONGER ENOUGH.

WE HAD STOOD FOR SO LONG, WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO FALL--



--BUT FALL WE DID.

THIS IS HOW WE WERE OVERWHELMED, AND OVERRUN.



THIS IS HOW WE WERE BETRAYED.