

"Fully realized and beautifully ominous." — BRAD MELTZER (*THE PRESIDENT'S SHADOW*)



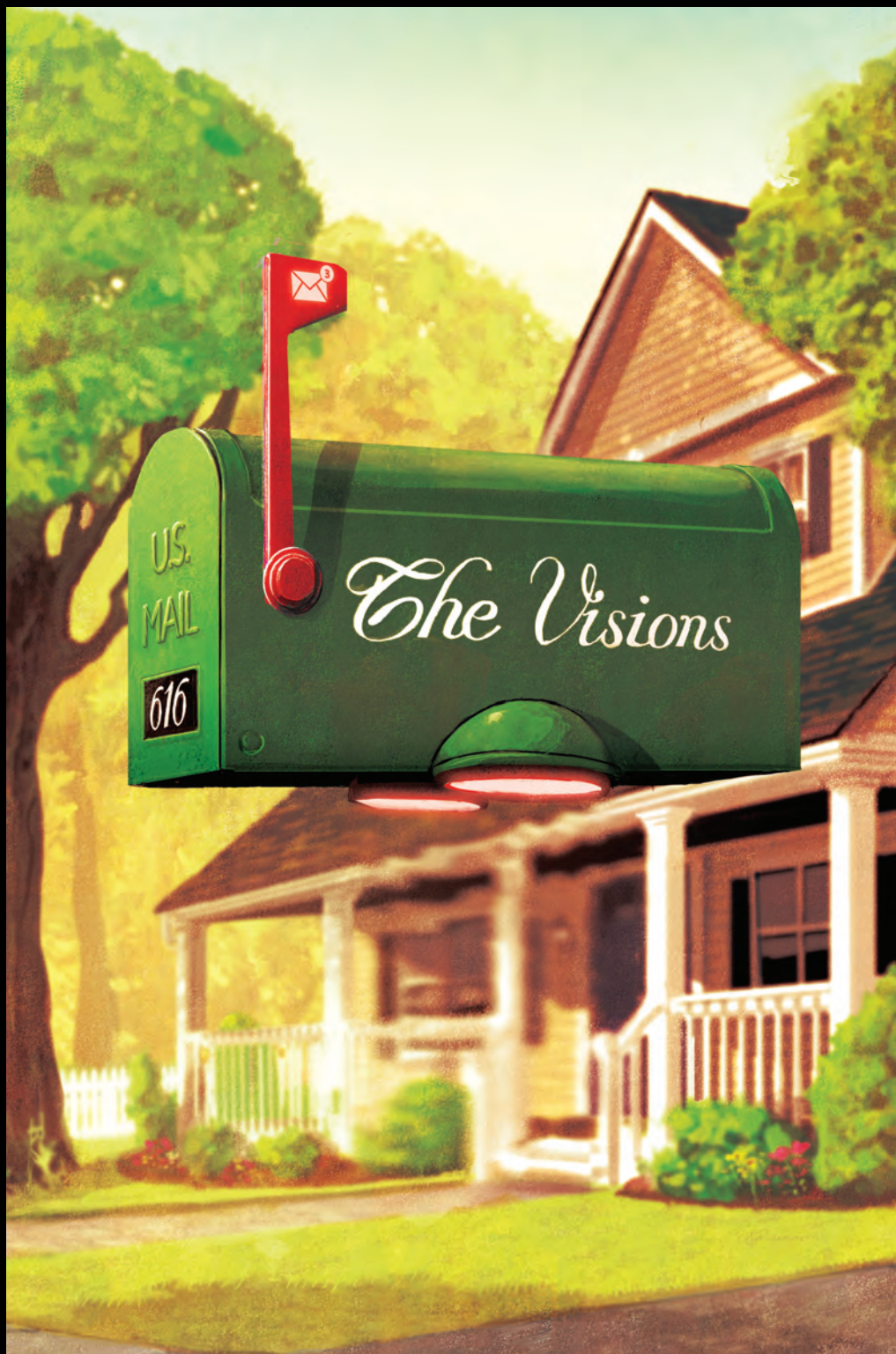
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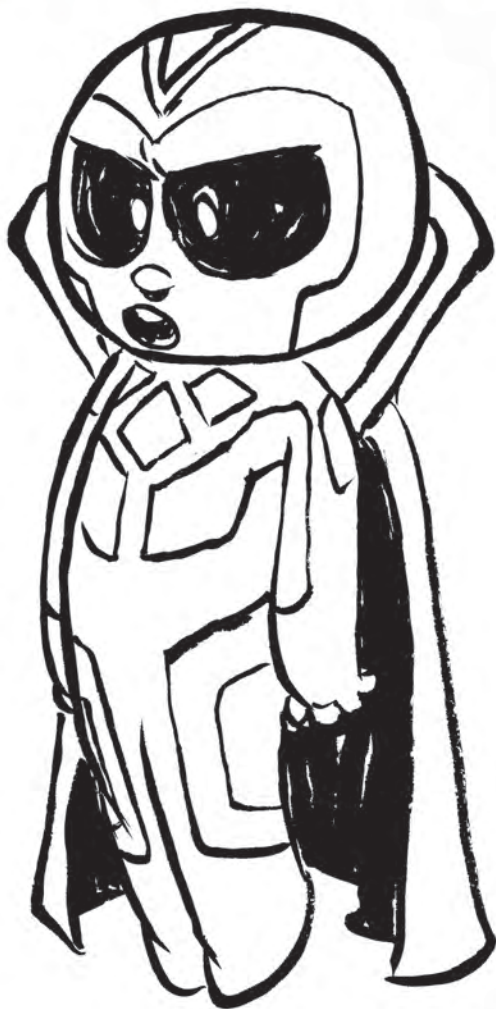
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WELCOME.

THE VISION IS A SYNTHEZOID -- AN ANDROID COMPOSED OF SYNTHETIC HUMAN BLOOD AND ORGANS. HE WAS CREATED BY ULTRON TO DESTROY THE AVENGERS, BUT INSTEAD HE TURNED ON HIS "FATHER," AND HE'S BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SUPER HERO TEAM EVER SINCE.



CHAPTER 1

Tom King
WRITER

Gabriel Hernandez Walta
ARTIST

Jordie Bellaire
COLOR ARTIST

VC's Clayton Cowles
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

Mike del Mundo
COVER ARTIST

Ryan Sook
RECAP PAGE ART

Chris Robinson
ASST. EDITOR

Wil Moss
EDITOR

Tom Brevoort
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Axel Alonso
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Joe Quesada
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

Dan Buckley
PRESIDENT

Alan Fine
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

VISION DIRECTOR'S CUT No. 1, August 2017. Contains material originally published in magazine form as VISION #1-2. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. © 2017 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$6.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40686537. Printed in the USA. DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Operations, Publishing & Partnership; C.B. CEBULSKI, VP of Brand Management & Development, Asia; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vit DeBellis, Integrated Sales Manager, at vdebells@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 05/19/2017 and 05/29/2017 by FRY COMMUNICATIONS, MECHANICSBURG, PA, USA.



IN LATE SEPTEMBER, WITH THE LEAVES JUST BEGINNING TO HINT AT THE FALL TO COME, THE VISIONS OF VIRGINIA MOVED INTO THEIR HOUSE AT 616 HICKORY BRANCH LANE, ARLINGTON, VA, 21301.



MOST OF THE VISIONS' NEIGHBORS WORKED DOWNTOWN, AND THEY TALKED OFTEN ABOUT THE TRAFFIC ON 66 OR LEE HIGHWAY.



ON THE WEEKENDS THEY TENDED TO STAY IN VIRGINIA, THOUGH THEY OFTEN LAMENTED THAT THEY SHOULD GO INTO THE CITY.

THE MUSEUMS ARE SO NICE, AND THE KIDS WOULD HAVE A GREAT TIME.



THE VISIONS' HOUSE WAS LOCATED IN CHERRYDALE, A PLEASANT NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT 15 MILES WEST OF WASHINGTON, D.C.



VERY FEW OF THEM WERE FROM THE AREA ORIGINALLY.

EVENTUALLY, THEY MET SOMEONE AND FELL IN LOVE AND HAD CHILDREN.

MOST HAD MOVED TO D.C. AFTER COLLEGE AND WORKED FOR CONGRESS OR THE PRESIDENT. THEY MADE NOTHING, AND THEY LIVED OFF OF NOTHING.



WITH BILLS TO PAY, THEY LEFT THEIR SMALL GOVERNMENT JOBS; THEY BECAME LOBBYISTS AND LAWYERS AND MANAGERS.

BUT THAT WAS UNIMPORTANT. THEY WERE YOUNG, AND THEY WANTED TO SAVE THE WORLD.

THEY MOVED OUT TO THE SUBURBS FOR THE SCHOOLS.



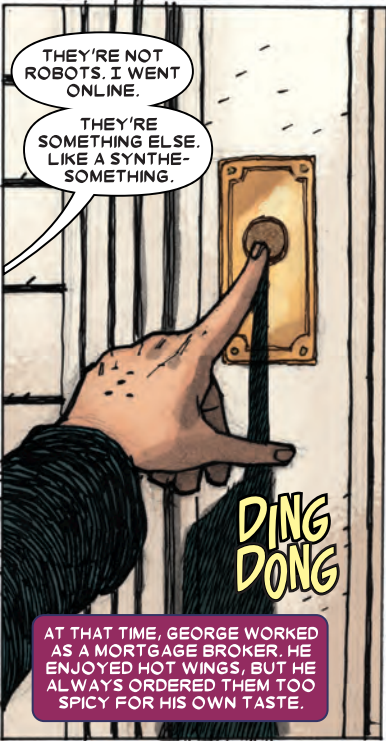
THEY MADE THE COMPROMISES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO RAISE A FAMILY.



CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS. CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE MAKING ME DO THIS.

THEY'RE ROBOTS, NORA. THEY DON'T WANT COOKIES.

BEHOLD GEORGE AND NORA.

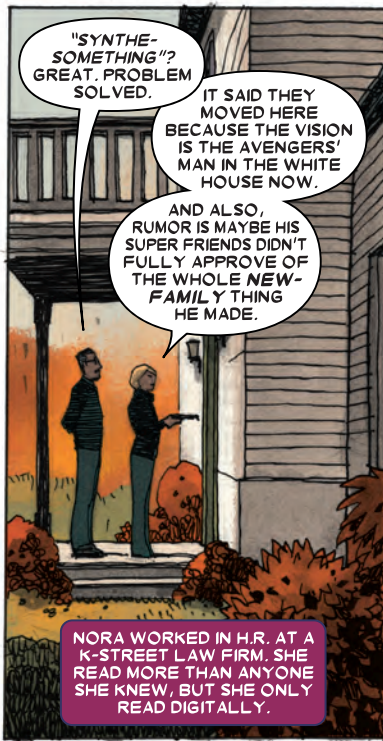


THEY'RE NOT ROBOTS. I WENT ONLINE.

THEY'RE SOMETHING ELSE. LIKE A SYNTHESOMETHING.

DING DONG

AT THAT TIME, GEORGE WORKED AS A MORTGAGE BROKER. HE ENJOYED HOT WINGS, BUT HE ALWAYS ORDERED THEM TOO SPICY FOR HIS OWN TASTE.

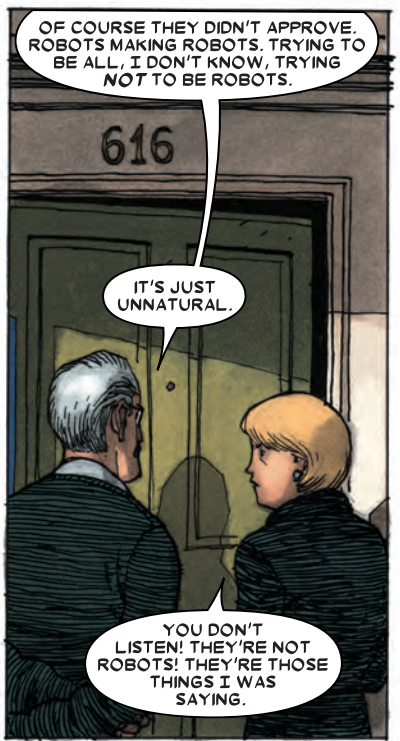


"SYNTHESOMETHING"? GREAT. PROBLEM SOLVED.

IT SAID THEY MOVED HERE BECAUSE THE VISION IS THE AVENGERS' MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE NOW.

AND ALSO, RUMOR IS MAYBE HIS SUPER FRIENDS DIDN'T FULLY APPROVE OF THE WHOLE NEW-FAMILY THING HE MADE.

NORA WORKED IN H.R. AT A K-STREET LAW FIRM. SHE READ MORE THAN ANYONE SHE KNEW, BUT SHE ONLY READ DIGITALLY.



OF COURSE THEY DIDN'T APPROVE. ROBOTS MAKING ROBOTS. TRYING TO BE ALL, I DON'T KNOW, TRYING NOT TO BE ROBOTS.

IT'S JUST UNNATURAL.

YOU DON'T LISTEN! THEY'RE NOT ROBOTS! THEY'RE THOSE THINGS I WAS SAYING.



HONEY, I LOVE YOU, BUT THEY'RE TOASTERS. FANCY, RED TOASTERS.

THEY'RE NOT YOU AND ME. THEY DON'T EAT COOKIES, Y'KNOW?

COOKIES--GOD! FINE, YES, I GOT THEM COOKIES! DOES THIS AFFECT YOU SOMEHOW?

ARE THERE ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF COOKIES IN THE WORLD SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OUT AND DIE? IS THAT IT?

EXCUSE ME?

MAY WE HELP YOU?

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

