

**MARVEL**

# BLACK WIDOW

## PRELUDE



**DAVID • VILLA • SOTOMAYOR**

**LIMITED  
SERIES**

**2 OF 2**

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## **PRELUDE**

### **PART TWO**

Secretary Ross and Councilwoman Hawley of the World Security Council met to discuss the fate of Natasha Romanoff, the former Russian spy turned S.H.I.E.L.D. agent and member of the Avengers, Black Widow. Ross is currently seeking to capture their former operative, but Hawley, whose life was once saved by the Black Widow, is reluctant to turn against their former ally.

Ross and Hawley reviewed Black Widow's complicated history, including her days in the Red Room, a spy training facility, as well as her eventual defection to S.H.I.E.L.D. They also discussed her tenure with the Avengers and her undercover work at Stark Enterprises.

But that was only half of the story...

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**THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE THADDEUS ROSS.**

SO THE BLACK WIDOW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DRAGGED INTO STARK'S ENTIRE CONFRONTATION WITH SOME LUNATIC CODENAMED "WHIPLASH."

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THIS WAS STOLEN...



THE TESSERACT.

YOU KNOW OF IT, COUNCILWOMAN?

OF COURSE. ITS THEFT LED TO THE ALIEN INVASION OF MANHATTAN...

GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SENTENCES COMING OUT OF MY MOUTH NOWADAYS. DIDN'T THE WORLD USED TO BE SANE?

ONCE UPON A TIME.

ANYWAY, SINCE THE TESSERACT EMITTED LOW-LEVEL GAMMA RADIATION, NICK FURY DECIDED HE KNEW WHO COULD TRACK IT...

ONE BRUCE BANNER.

DIDN'T HE USED TO DATE YOUR DAUGHTER?



NOT REALLY SEEING THE RELEVANCE OF THAT QUESTION.

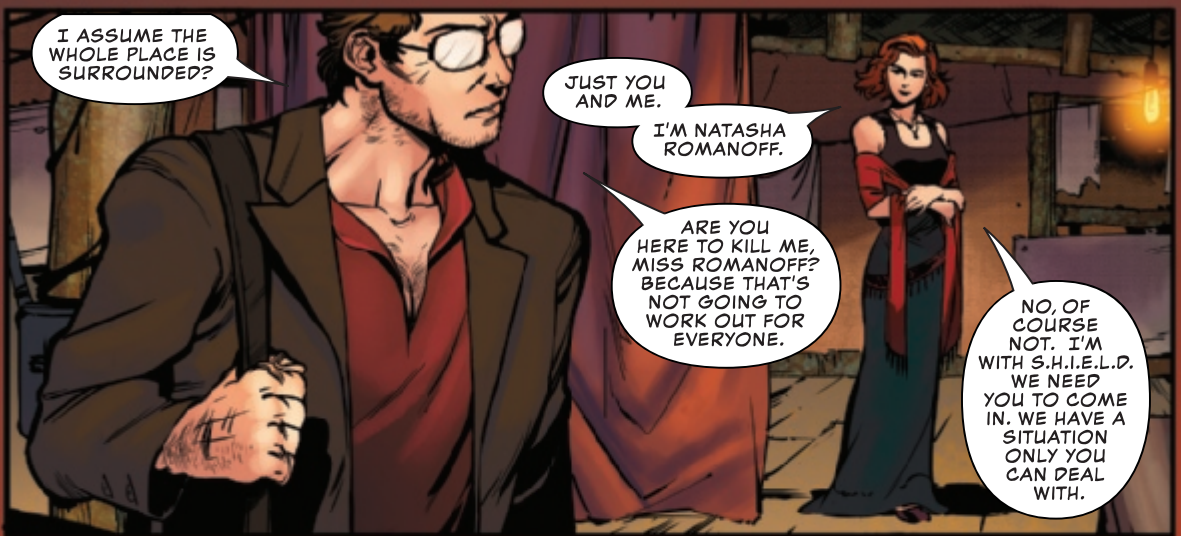
ANYWAY, BANNER WAS KEEPING A LOW PROFILE, HELPING POOR, SICK PEOPLE IN KOLKATA.



"AND FURY SENT IN THE BLACK WIDOW TO ROUND HIM UP."







I ASSUME THE WHOLE PLACE IS SURROUNDED?

JUST YOU AND ME.

I'M NATASHA ROMANOFF.

ARE YOU HERE TO KILL ME, MISS ROMANOFF? BECAUSE THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK OUT FOR EVERYONE.

NO, OF COURSE NOT. I'M WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. WE NEED YOU TO COME IN. WE HAVE A SITUATION ONLY YOU CAN DEAL WITH.



WHAT IF I SAY NO?

THEN I'LL PERSUADE YOU.

WHAT IF THE OTHER GUY SAYS NO?

YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR WITHOUT AN INCIDENT. I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO BREAK THAT STREAK.



WE'RE FACING A POTENTIAL GLOBAL CATASTROPHE.

WELL, THOSE I REALLY TRY TO AVOID.



THIS IS THE TESSERACT. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL ENERGY TO WIPE OUT THE PLANET.

WHAT DOES FURY WANT ME TO DO? SWALLOW IT?

HE WANTS YOU TO FIND IT. TALK TO FURY. HE NEEDS YOU ON THIS.

HE NEEDS ME IN A CAGE.

NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT--



STOP LYING TO ME!!!

BAM





I'M  
SORRY. THAT  
WAS MEAN.

I JUST  
WANTED TO  
SEE WHAT  
YOU'D DO.

SO WHY  
DON'T WE DO  
THIS THE EASY  
WAY, WHERE YOU  
DON'T USE  
THAT...

...AND  
THE OTHER  
GUY DOESN'T  
MAKE A  
MESS.

OKAY,  
NATASHA?



STAND  
DOWN. WE'RE  
GOOD  
HERE.



STANDING  
DOWN.



THOUGHT  
YOU SAID  
IT WAS JUST  
YOU AND  
ME?



CAN'T BE  
TOO CAREFUL.  
WASN'T ANXIOUS  
ABOUT MEETING  
THE OTHER  
GUY.



"OF COURSE, SHE DID  
WIND UP MEETING THE  
OTHER GUY UNDER  
RATHER DANGEROUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

"BANNER APPARENTLY  
HARBORED DISTRUST FOR  
HER, AND THAT BORE ITSELF  
OUT WHEN HIS GREEN ALTER  
EGO, THE HULK, EMERGED  
WHILE SHE AND THE OTHER  
AVENGERS WERE ON THE  
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.



"ANYONE ELSE,  
THE HULK WOULD  
HAVE TORN APART.  
BUT AS SHE'S  
PROVEN REPEATEDLY,  
THE BLACK WIDOW  
IS HARDLY  
ANYONE ELSE.