

The ultimate team has come together to solve the ultimate problems. Blue Marvel. Spectrum. Black Panther. Captain Marvel. America Chavez. They are...

# THE ULTIMATES<sup>2</sup>

I AM THE NEVER QUEEN, SHE WHO IS ALL POSSIBILITY. I AM WHAT MIGHT BE, FOREVER OUTSIDE WHAT IS, AND FROM THERE, I SEE ALL.

FIRST THERE WERE THE ULTIMATES-- FORMED BY CAROL DANVERS TO SOLVE COSMIC PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECAME PROBLEMS. THE IMPOSSIBLE WAS WHERE THEY STARTED--

--BY SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF GALACTUS, THE WORLD-EATER. TOGETHER, THEY CURED HIS HUNGER, EVOLVING HIM INTO HIS TRUE ROLE AS LIFEBRINGER.

ON A LATER MISSION, GALACTUS-- AND THE ULTIMATES-- DISCOVERED THAT ETERNITY, HE WHO IS THE MULTIVERSE, WAS IN CHAINS.

THE ULTIMATES DISBANDED-- THEN RE-FORMED, AGAINST THE WISHES OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, TO SOLVE THIS NEW MYSTERY AS A SECRET TEAM.

HOWEVER, THEY WERE BEING MONITORED BY A SECOND GROUP-- THE TROUBLESHOOTERS-- WHO TRACKED THEM DOWN AND ENGAGED IN COMBAT--

--DURING WHICH ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS, RODSTVOW, REVEALED HIMSELF AS SOMETHING MONSTROUS... WITH DARK INTENTIONS FOR THE COSMOS.

MEANWHILE, ON THE HIGHER PLANES, THE ASPECTS OF REALITY ARE AT WAR.

ON HEARING THE LIVING TRIBUNAL'S JUDGMENT THAT ALL THINGS WERE NOW POSSIBLE, CHAOS AND ORDER MURDERED HIM--

--THEN MERGED INTO THEIR OWN LAW, SELF-NAMED LOGOS, EXECUTED THE GODLIKE CELESTIALS--

--AND RESTORED GALACTUS' HUNGER, MORE POTENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

SOMETHING IS BEHIND ALL THIS. SOMETHING CHAINED ETERNITY. SOMETHING CORRUPTED ORDER AND SET RODSTVOW LOOSE ON EARTH.

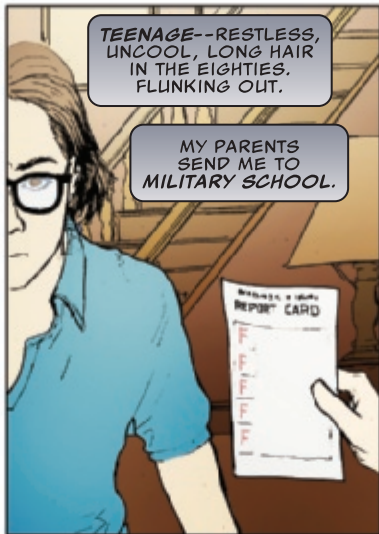
I FEAR SOON WE WILL KNOW WHAT...





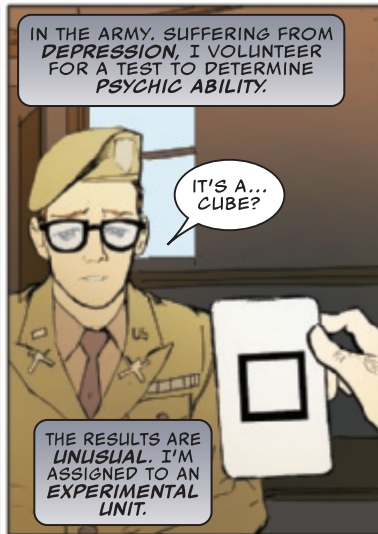
MY NAME IS PHILIP NELSON VOGT.

AND HOW DID I GET HERE?



TEENAGE--RESTLESS, UNCOOL, LONG HAIR IN THE EIGHTIES. FLUNKING OUT.

MY PARENTS SEND ME TO MILITARY SCHOOL.



IN THE ARMY, SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION, I VOLUNTEER FOR A TEST TO DETERMINE PSYCHIC ABILITY.

IT'S A... CUBE?

THE RESULTS ARE UNUSUAL. I'M ASSIGNED TO AN EXPERIMENTAL UNIT.



THE FIRST ETERNITY BATTALION. THE NAME SEEMS OMINOUS, BUT THE WORK FEELS RIGHT. IMPORTANT.

I MAKE FRIENDS WITH A MAN NAMED JAMES TENSEN. I FINALLY BELONG.

ONE DAY, DURING A SEEMINGLY ROUTINE DEPLOYMENT IN TRANSIA

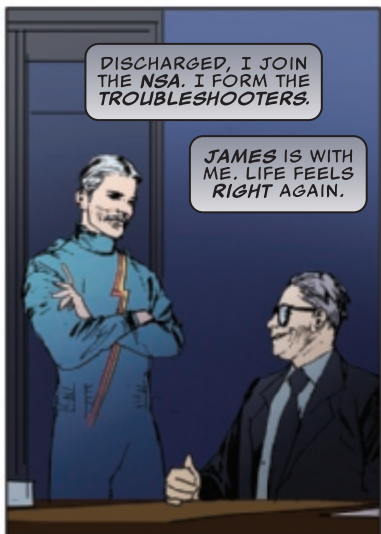
SOMETHING

HAPPENS



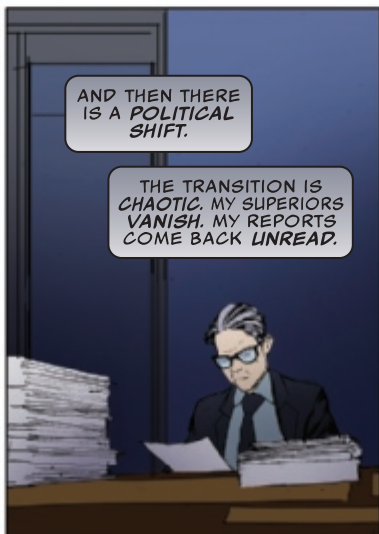
WHEN THEY FIND ME, MY HAIR IS WHITE. I'M TOLD THERE ARE ONLY TWO SURVIVORS.

WE DON'T TELL THEM ABOUT EMMETT.



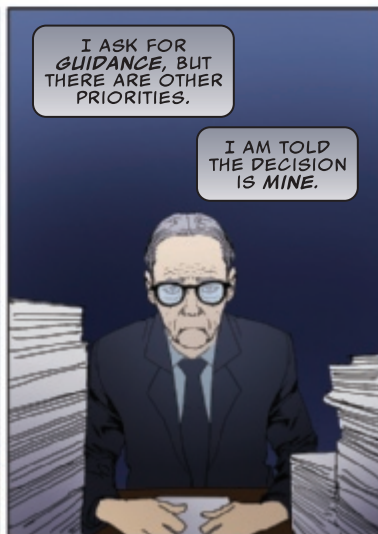
DISCHARGED, I JOIN THE NSA. I FORM THE TROUBLESHOOTERS.

JAMES IS WITH ME. LIFE FEELS RIGHT AGAIN.



AND THEN THERE IS A POLITICAL SHIFT.

THE TRANSITION IS CHAOTIC. MY SUPERIORS VANISH. MY REPORTS COME BACK UNREAD.



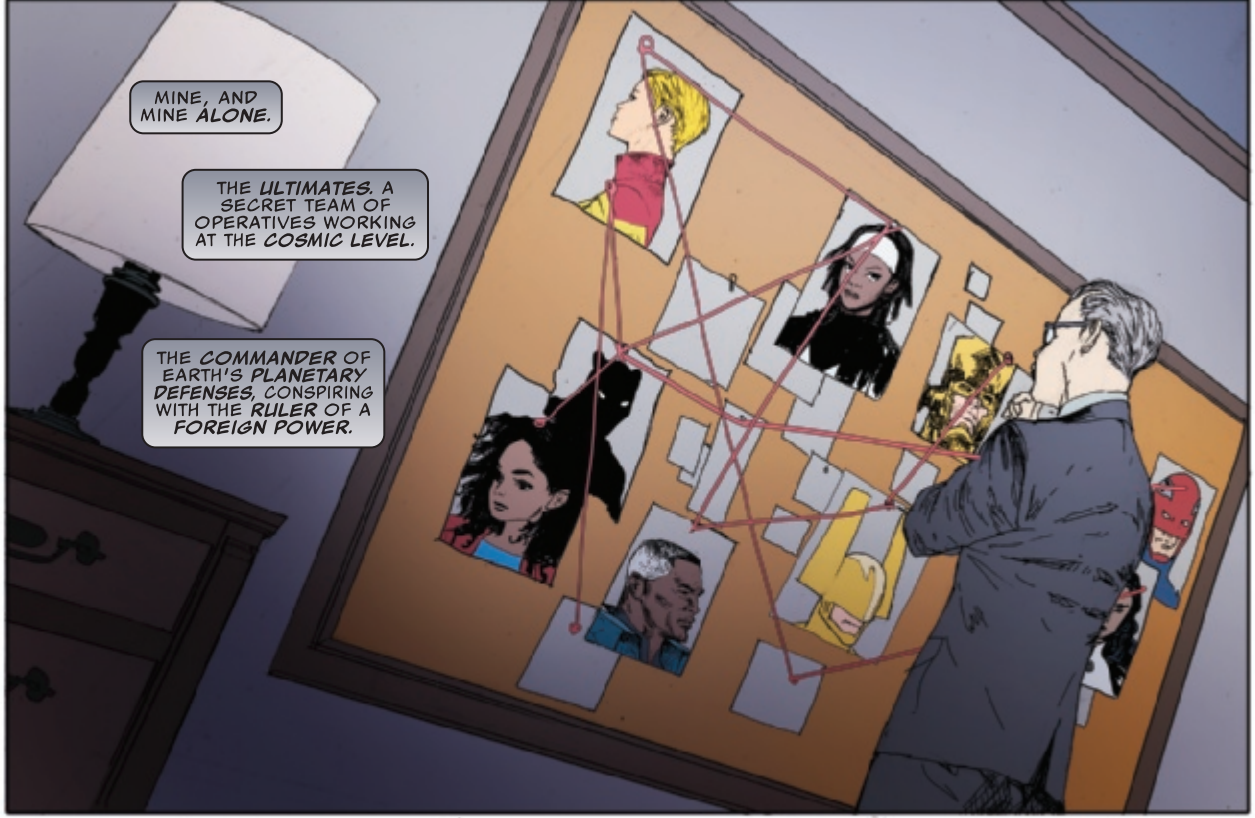
I ASK FOR GUIDANCE, BUT THERE ARE OTHER PRIORITIES.

I AM TOLD THE DECISION IS MINE.

MINE, AND  
MINE ALONE.

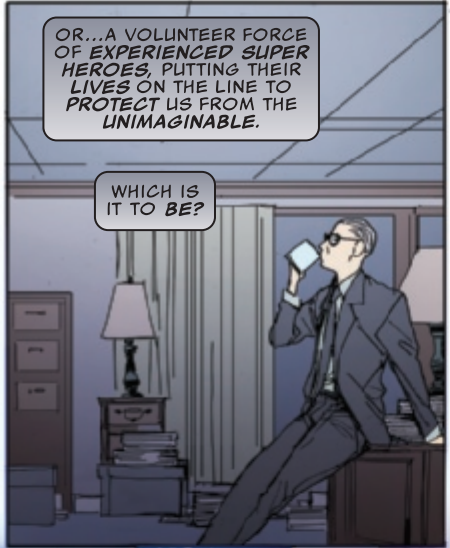
THE ULTIMATES, A  
SECRET TEAM OF  
OPERATIVES WORKING  
AT THE COSMIC LEVEL.

THE COMMANDER OF  
EARTH'S PLANETARY  
DEFENSES, CONSPIRING  
WITH THE RULER OF A  
FOREIGN POWER.



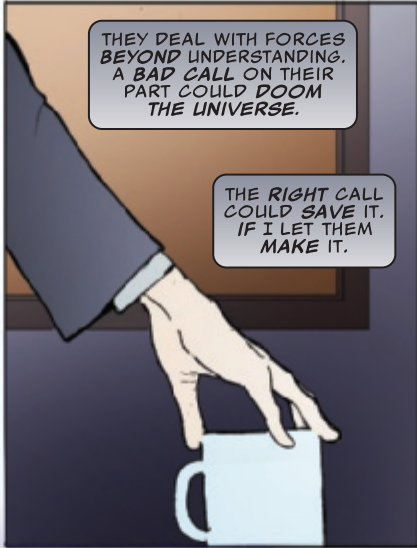
OR...A VOLUNTEER FORCE  
OF EXPERIENCED SUPER  
HEROES, PUTTING THEIR  
LIVES ON THE LINE TO  
PROTECT US FROM THE  
UNIMAGINABLE.

WHICH IS  
IT TO BE?



THEY DEAL WITH FORCES  
BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.  
A BAD CALL ON THEIR  
PART COULD DOOM  
THE UNIVERSE.

THE RIGHT CALL  
COULD SAVE IT.  
IF I LET THEM  
MAKE IT.



I AM PHILIP NELSON  
VOGT. THE DECISION  
IS MINE. MINE ALONE.

WHICH IS  
IT TO BE?



AND HOW DID  
I GET HERE?



AND IN THE DARKNESS OUTSIDE...SOMETHING LAUGHS.



AT THE DEAD CELESTIALS.



AT THE CORPSE OF COSMIC JUSTICE.



AT LIFE CORRUPTED INTO DEATH.

IT LAUGHS.

AND IT WILLS ITS HELPERS ON.



I HEAR YOU.

WE WILL GO BACK...