

MARVEL

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DEATH OF THE INHUMANS



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DEATH OF THE INHUMANS

CHAPTER TWO: "SPEAK AND DESTROY"



Long ago, the Kree experimented on primitive beings across the universe, resulting in the creation of THE INHUMANS. But prophecy warned of THE MIDNIGHT KING, an Inhuman who would bring about the annihilation of the Kree, so they ended up destroying all but five of the then-fledgling Inhuman tribes. In time, BLACK BOLT of the Inhumans of Earth would come to rule those five tribes.

But now they are nearly all dead. The Kree—their empire having recently been devastated and homeland destroyed—have sent a message to Black Bolt: Join or die. But it is not his own death that strikes fear into Black Bolt's heart: It is the death of his people. For New Arctilan has been wiped out at the hands of VOX, a mysterious Kree soldier seemingly more powerful than any Inhuman. At Vox's hands, Black Bolt's brother MAXIMUS and his faithful companion LOCKJAW are dead, along with so many more.

Now Black Bolt and the Royal Family must decide what their answer will be: Join or die.

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NEW ARCTILAN.
THE REMAINS OF THE ROYAL PALACE.

A DAY AGO, THE KINGDOM OF ARCTILAN
CAME BURNING TO THE GROUND.

AND WITH IT, THE HOPES AND
HEARTS OF FOUR THOUSAND
LOYAL INHUMAN SUBJECTS.



LIKE CHILDREN, SCARED AND WAILING FOR
THEIR MOTHERS IN THE DARK, THESE LOST
INHUMANS LOOKED TO THE HEAVENS FOR
THEIR SAVIOR KING TO COME HOME.

...THE CHILDREN OF
ARCTILAN DIED SCREAMING.



AND WRAPPED ONLY
IN THE ARMOR OF
HIS SILENCE...



AND NOW, AS HEAVY AS IT SITS ON HIS SHOULDERS, BLACK BOLT MEASURES THE LOSS AGAINST THE CHOICE THAT HAS BEEN LAID AT HIS FEET.

THE ULTIMATUM THAT HIS ENEMIES HAVE GIVEN HIM AND HIS PEOPLE.

"JOIN OR DIE."

HE TRIES TO RISE ABOVE THE BOTTOMLESS RAGE THAT WELLS IN HIS THROAT.

Triton
Sterilon
Glass Girl
Naja
Flagman
Maximus

TO FORCE THE PAIN INTO THE SHAPE OF A CROWN INSTEAD OF A SWORD.

TO NOT GIVE IN TO THE SCREAMS THAT CRY FOR VENGEANCE IN THE NAME OF A FURIOUS KING, A GRIEVING BROTHER...

...OR A LOYAL FRIEND.

Triton
Sterilon
Glass Girl
Naja
Flagman
Maximus
Rockjaw



AND YET, WHEN HE LOOKS
BACK ON THIS DAY...



...ON THE CHOICES HE
MADE IN THE SHADOW OF
NEW ARCTILAN'S FALL...



...ON THE ORDERS HE GAVE TO
THOSE HE LOVED AND LOOKED
AFTER...

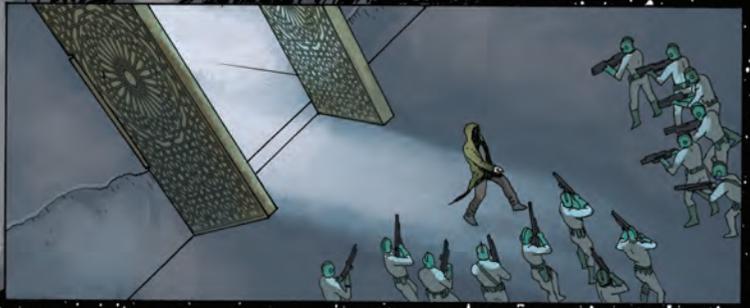


...BLACK BOLT CANNOT
HELP BUT WONDER IF HE
LET THE SCREAMS WIN.



AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT KARNAK THE SHATTERER WAS SENT TO THE RUINS OF THE KREE HOMEWORLD OF HALA...

...TO BEGIN THE TALK OF SURRENDER.



THAT IS FAR ENOUGH, INHUMAN.

