



CIVIL WAR II



CHOOSING SIDES

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED AN ATTACK FROM THANOS THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. THEIR VICTORY, HOWEVER, WAS NOT WITHOUT COST—JAMES RHODES, A.K.A. WAR MACHINE, WAS KILLED IN THE ENSUING BATTLE.

IRON MAN WARNED AGAINST USING ULYSSES' POWERS AGAIN, BELIEVING THAT THE FUTURE HAS TO BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ITS COURSE. CAPTAIN MARVEL DISAGREED, ARGUING THAT SAVING LIVES IS WORTH THE RISK.

AS TENSIONS RISE, EACH HERO WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:
PROTECT THE FUTURE OR CHANGE THE FUTURE?

WAR MACHINE

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NICK FURY

“POST PROLOGUE” PART TWO

PREVIOUSLY: NICK FURY WAS SENT TO STOP A HYDRA CELL THAT, ACCORDING TO A PREMONITION FROM ULYSSES, WOULD END S.H.I.E.L.D. BUT FURY GOT ATTACKED BY HIS OWN TEAM, MAKING IT APPARENT THAT THE TRUE THREAT LIES WITHIN S.H.I.E.L.D. ITSELF. IN ORDER TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, FURY HAS NOW FAKED HIS OWN DEATH...

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.
THE FUNERAL OF JAMES RHODES,
A.K.A. WAR MACHINE.

I WAS THERE WHEN
JAMES RHODES DIED. I
SAW IT HAPPEN RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME.

HE WENT DOWN FIGHTING
ONE OF THE WORST
VILLAINS IN THIS UNIVERSE.
IN *ANY* UNIVERSE.
I'VE SEEN 'EM ALL.

IF I GOTTA GO,
THAT'S HOW I WANNA GO,
PROTECTING THE PEOPLE
I CARE ABOUT.

JUST
LIKE MY
MOMS.

AMERICA CHAVEZ,
A.K.A. MS. AMERICA.
DIMENSION-CRASHING
SUPER-STRONG MEMBER
OF THE ULTIMATES.

JIM
RHODES WAS
IRON MAN.

AMERICA!

YOU'RE OUT
HERE ALONE? I
THOUGHT YOU'D
BE WITH YOUR
TEAM.

FUNERALS
AREN'T REALLY
MY SCENE.

YEAH, I SAW
CAPTAIN MARVEL
CRY. THAT'S GONNA
HAUNT ME. I'M
TEARING UP JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT.

KATE BISHOP,
A.K.A. HAWKEYE,
NOT HAWKGUY.

I SEE WHAT KATE'S
DOING. I WANT HER
TO STOP. BUT IT'S HER
WAY OF CARING
ABOUT ME, SO I
LET IT HAPPEN.

I HEARD
YOU WERE THERE
WHEN IT HAPPENED.
ARE YOU
OKAY?

YEAH,
THANOS DIDN'T
HURT ME.

I SEE
YOU'RE NOT *HURT*,
AMERICA, BUT DO YOU
NEED TO, LIKE...TALK
ABOUT IT?

NO.

BUT SHE WON'T,
SO I CHANGE
TACTICS. SHE
WANTS ME TO
SHARE. I'LL
SHARE.

ARE YOU
SURE? YOU
KNOW I'M
HERE IF--

HEY,
PRINCESS, YOU
WANNA GET OUT
OF HERE?

RIGHT
NOW? I MEAN,
CAP JUST
STARTED--

I REALLY DON'T. SINCERE
KATE IS THE WORST. I
WANT HER TO MAKE
FUN OF SOMEONE.

LISTEN,
DO YOU WANT
ME TO SHARE
OR NOT?

YEAH.
LET'S GO.

ANY EXCUSE TO GET
AWAY FROM HERE. AND
IF IT'S WITH KATE,
THEN ALL THE BETTER.

LISA WON'T MIND. SHE'LL
BE GLAD I'M TALKING TO
SOMEONE, RIGHT?





AFTER SAM FINISHES HIS EULOGY, A PREACHER STARTS TALKING ABOUT RHODEY. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON WHAT HE'S SAYING. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON *ANYTHING* THE LAST FEW DAYS.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF RHODEY WAS RELIGIOUS. DID HE GROW UP IN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY LIKE I DID? DID HIS MOM FUSS OVER HIM UNTIL THEY WERE LATE, THEN FUSS AT HIM FOR MAKING THEM LATE?

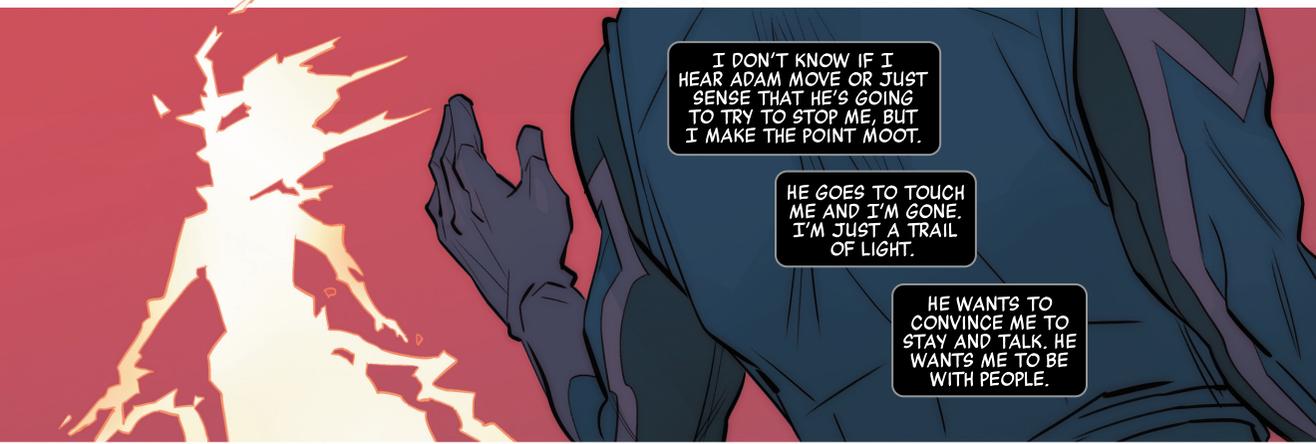
MONICA RAMBEAU, A.K.A. SPECTRUM. LIVING ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY, MEMBER OF THE ULTIMATES.



DID THIS PREACHER KNOW RHODEY OR IS HE JUST HERE TO DO A SUPER HERO FUNERAL? DOES HE SPECIALIZE IN FUNERALS FOR PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR NO REASON?

DOES HE SPECIALIZE IN PEOPLE I SHOULD HAVE SAVED?

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. MY SKIN IS CRAWLING. I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.



I DON'T KNOW IF I HEAR ADAM MOVE OR JUST SENSE THAT HE'S GOING TO TRY TO STOP ME, BUT I MAKE THE POINT MOOT.

HE GOES TO TOUCH ME AND I'M GONE. I'M JUST A TRAIL OF LIGHT.

HE WANTS TO CONVINCE ME TO STAY AND TALK. HE WANTS ME TO BE WITH PEOPLE.



BUT PEOPLE ARE THE LAST THING I NEED RIGHT NOW. PEOPLE DIE. PEOPLE GET LET DOWN.

PEOPLE GROUND YOU AND GET YOU ATTACHED.

PEOPLE NEED YOU TO MOVE AS FAST AS LIGHT. A THING YOU CAN ACTUALLY DO. EXCEPT...

THE CELLAR.

ONE WEEK AFTER THE START OF THE SECOND SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR.

Inmate #24653 was no James Rhodes. I knew that much from the **second** I laid eyes on him.

He was one of those guys I just **hate**. You know the ones. The **blamers**.



Rhodes was a **real** hero, before he even met Tony Stark, and when the time came, he always **stood up**. He took responsibility.

Even on his very last day on Earth.

Because outside of that fancy suit, he was **never** small. Even though #24653 could grow as tall as a building--

--he thought small, and he wouldn't admit that was the **real** reason he ended up in here.

The things inside him just weren't big enough.





"My uncle died. Somebody needs to pay." That was this "hero's" thinking when he decided to take on the Avengers.

AH, COME ON, GOLIATH, I KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS...BUT THINKER HERE'S GOT A GOOD PLAN, AND SEE, YOUR POWER DAMPENER'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

WHAT SAY WE GET BACK OUT IN THE WORLD?

But if it wasn't for the Avengers, who would even know about his uncle? Had you ever heard of Bill Foster before he died?

He was breaking the law, and a bad thing happened to him while he was doing it.

YOU HEARD ME.

YOU'RE A BRILLIANT MAN, THOMAS. I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT YOU COULD SIMPLY LEAVE THIS PLACE ANY TIME YOU WANTED, BUT FOR SOME--

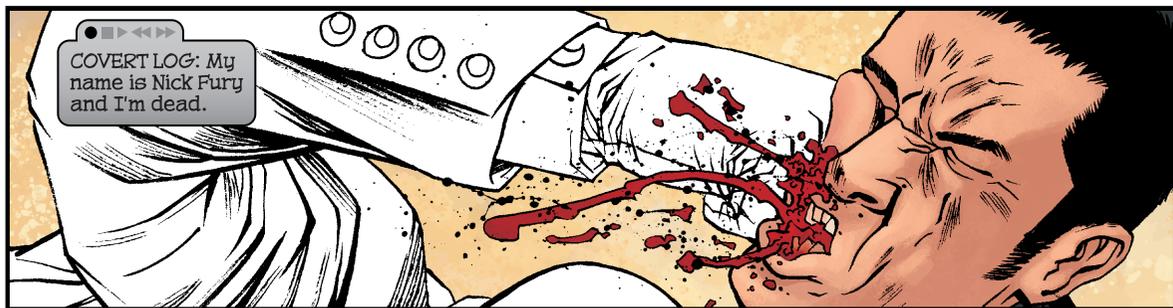
AAAAH!

What happened to Bill Foster was because of Bill Foster.

H-HELP ME! S-SOMEBODY--

CHICAGO.

22:49 HRS.



COVERT LOG: My name is Nick Fury and I'm dead.



I've been forced to go underground in order to track the leader of a traitorous cell embedded within S.H.I.E.L.D.

Being dead and all, I don't have the usual resources available to me, so I've had to improvise.

I've had to call in some favors.

