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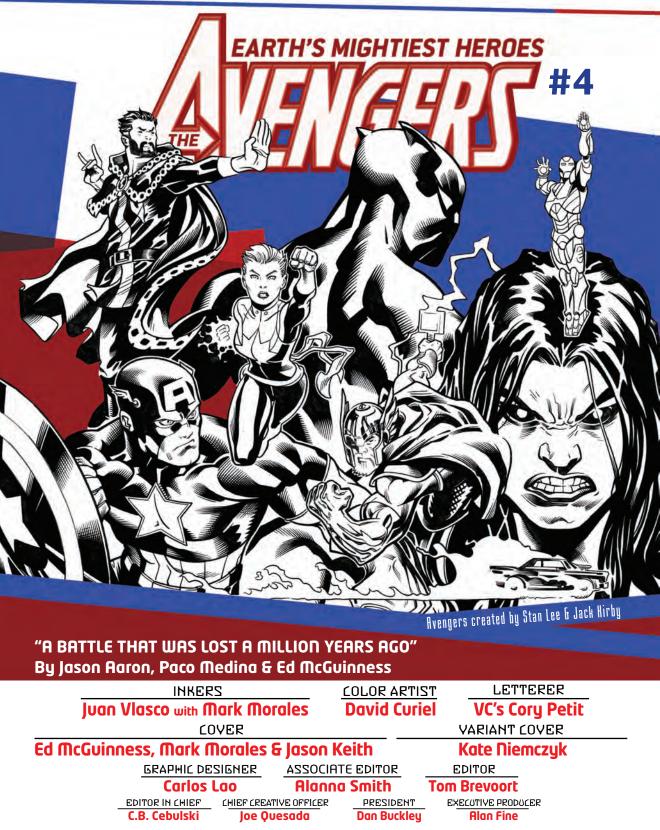
AARON • McGUINNESS • MEDINA • VLASCO • MORALES • CURIEL

FARTH'S MIGHTLEST HEROES



One million years ago, an impossible assembly of gods, mutants and monsters led by Odin vanquished a mad Celestial, and the First Host was sent to Earth in retaliation.

A million years later, the Avengers reassembled as the Final Host of Dark Celestials marched on Earth, led by Loki, God of Mischief. While Thor and Hulk traveled to Old Asgard to get answers about Odin's involvement in the invasion, Loki has brought a captive Captain America to the body of a dead Celestial known as the Progenitor. According to Loki, this Progenitor is not only the father of the Avengers...he's the father of all superhumans.



"AGAMOTTO LITERALLY INVENTED THE IDEA OF THE SURLY WIZARD WHO SPEAKS IN POMPOUS RIDDLES.

> "I FOUND HIM SO FREQUENTLY INFURIATING, I STILL SWEAR HE HAD SOME **TROLL** IN HIS LINEAGE.

> > "WHAT THE STARBRAID LACKED IN WITS, WHICH WAS DAMIN NEAR EVERYTHING, HE MADE UP FOR WITH PURE COSMIC MIGHT.

"THE **RIDER** WAS A FRIGHTENED BOY WITH A DEVIL WHERE THERE'D ONCE BEEN A SOUL.

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"THE **PANTHER** WAS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER SOME MANNER OF VIBRATING ROCK OR SOME SUCH, AND THE FIRST TO BEGIN TO UNLOCK ITS MANY SECRETS. NEVER HAVE I BEEN MORE IMPRESSED BY A MORTAL. "The **Phoenix.** She was... A good Friend...For many years. even long after the others had turned to dust. and that's...All I care to say about her.

> "I NEVER MUCH CARED FOR THE IRON FIST. ANY OF THEM, FOR THAT MATTER. NEVER TRUST ANYONE FROM KUN-LUN. I SHOULD HAVE BURNED THAT WRETCHED DRAGON'S NEST TO THE GROUND WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

"AND THEN THERE WAS **ME.** THE DASHING YOUNG **ALL-FATHER** OF **ASGARD.** WITH A POWERFUL YET... **TEMPERAMENTAL** HAMMER.

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> "We were a ragged assortment, to be sure. But there at the Dawn of man, we were all that midgard **HAD**. And we saved it more times than I can count.

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"Perhaps one time too many."



