

MARVEL

26

ZUB
DUNBAR
WOODARD

BECAUSE THE WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES!

CHAMPIONS



RATED T+
\$3.99 US



7 59606 08607 8

BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!

When society became disillusioned with its heroes, the next generation made a vow to do better. To make a difference. To change the world. They are the...

CHAMPIONS



MYSTIC MARVEL



SHADOW-SPIDER



SAMUEL ALEXANDER



BRAWNHAMMER



VIVID VESSEL



LADY IRONHEART



WICKED WASP



SNOWGORE



WARRIORS OF THE WEIRD PART 2

THE CHAMPIONS TRAVELED TO AFRICA TO INVESTIGATE A CONTAMINATED WATER SOURCE, AND FOUND THEMSELVES UNDER ATTACK BY THE MYSTERIOUS MAN-THING! MOST OF THE CHAMPIONS MANAGED TO ESCAPE UNSCATHED, BUT WASP AND A POWERLESS SAM ALEXANDER WERE DRAGGED THROUGH A PORTAL TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

THE CHAMPIONS TRIED TO FOLLOW THEM USING A DEVICE CALLED THE SIEGE PARALLEL, BUT IT SCATTERED THEM THROUGHOUT WEIRDWORLD AND GRANTED THEM NEW, FANTASTICAL IDENTITIES. ONLY IRONHEART REMEMBERS WHO SHE IS--BUT CAN SHE MAKE HER TEAMMATES REMEMBER THE CHAMPIONS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE TO FIND A WAY HOME?

JIM ZUB

WRITER

MAX DUNBAR

ARTIST

NOLAN WOODARD COLOR ARTIST **VC's CLAYTON COWLES** LETTERER & PRODUCTION **SEAN IZAAKSE & MARCIO MENYZ** COVER ARTISTS

ROB LIEFELD & ROMULO FAJARDO VARIANT COVER ARTISTS **ALANNA SMITH** ASSOC. EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR **C.B. CEBULSKI** EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **DAN BUCKLEY** PRESIDENT **ALAN FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

TWO WEEKS AGO, EARTH TIME.
EAST AFRICA, THE VILLAGE OF MBALI.

MY
DRONES HAVE
SWEEPED THE AREA AND
THEIR READINGS ARE
QUITE EVIDENT--NOVA
AND THE OTHER
CHAMPIONS WERE
HERE.*

DO
NOT LIE TO ME
AGAIN, OR THE
CONSEQUENCES
FOR YOU AND YOUR
VILLAGE WILL BE
QUITE DIRE, DR.
HASINA.

*THE MASTER INJECTED SAM WITH A TRACKING AND
MONITORING DEVICE, AS SHOWN IN CHAMPIONS #23.

<YOUR FRIENDS
HAVE POWERFUL
ENEMIES.>***

<THE
CHAMPIONS
DID NOT
CAUSE THIS,
NAISER.>

WE
DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE
YOUNG HEROES
WENT, PLEASE
LEAVE US IN
PEACE.

***TRANSLATED FROM SWAHILI.

CAN YOU ANALYZE
AND REPLICATE THE
ENERGY SIGNATURE
WE DETECTED?

EXTRAPOLATING
AND ENERGIZING.

INTRIGUING.

ENTER, MAKE
A QUICK SWEEP
AND REPORT.

YES, MY
MASTER.

ZWISH

DRONE UNIT-0518 HAS
BEEN GONE FOR PRECISELY
30 MINUTES.

FINE. I'LL
PERSONALLY
INSPECT THIS
ANOMALY.



INCREDIBLE!

WHATEVER
ACTS AS A
BATTERY FOR
THIS FIELD OF
ELECTRICITY
MUST BE
QUITE--

ROOOOOOAR

--LARGE.

TEN MINUTES LATER.

YOU WERE A
WORTHY CHALLENGE,
STRANGE BEAST, BUT
I AM THE MASTER.

ONCE I RETURN WITH MORE
DRONES I'LL--

VW/P

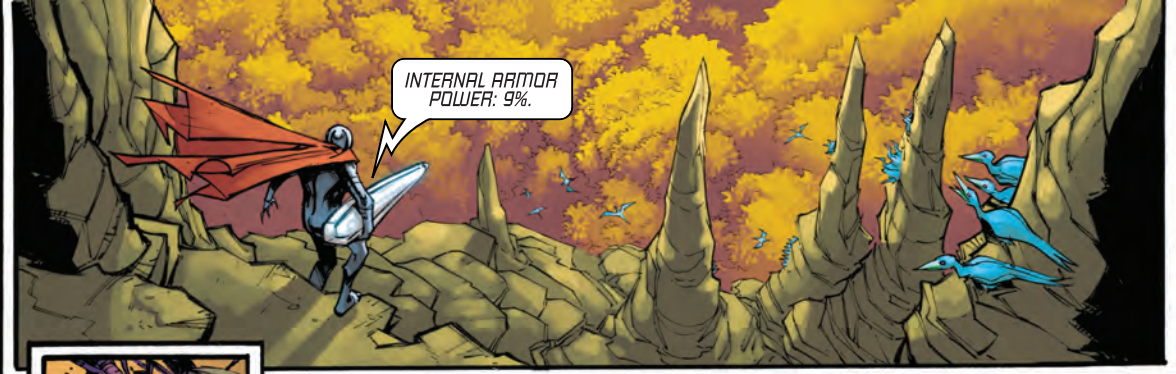
HHMM...

THIS MAY
HAVE BEEN A
MISTAKE.

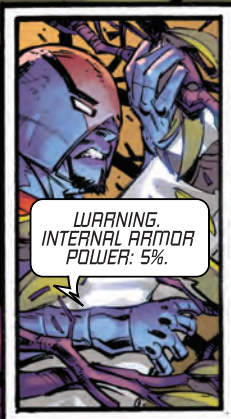
SUBJECT: NOVA
SIGNAL RECEIVED.

INTERESTING...
I WONDERED
WHERE HIS SIGNAL
HAD GONE.

INTERNAL ARMOR
POWER: 17%.



INTERNAL ARMOR
POWER: 9%.



WARNING.
INTERNAL ARMOR
POWER: 5%.



TARGET:
NOVA.

HELLO
THERE...

WE--WE'RE
LOST...CAN'T
REMEMBER
HOW WE GOT
HERE.

MY
FRIEND HAS A
FEVER.



DO--DO
I KNOW YOU?
YOU SEEM
FAMILIAR...

YES,
MY CHILD. YOUR
APPEARANCE HAS
CHANGED, BUT YOUR
VOICE IS QUITE
RECOGNIZABLE
TO ME...



ZZORCH

STAY
BACK!



INTERNAL
ARMOR
POWER: 87%.

DON'T WORRY, MY
BOY. YOU'RE SAFE
NOW.

I'M
HERE TO
HELP.

NOW,
WEIRDWORLD
TIME.

FOOOOSH

WHOA---!

AND JUST
LIKE THAT,
WE'RE PAST THE
ENTRANCE
GATES...

OKAY,
MILES, THIS IS
IMPORTANT.

LADY
IRONHEART, I
TOLD YOU TO STOP
CALLING ME THAT. MY
NAME IS "SHADOW-
SPIDER."

FINE,
WHATEVER...
SHADOW-SPIDER,
WE STEPPED THROUGH
SOMETHING CALLED THE
"SIEGE PARALLEL"
AND ALL OF US
CHANGED!

EXCEPT
YOU.

YEAH, WELL...**SORT OF!** I GOT THIS
ARMOR, BUT I STILL REMEMBER
WHERE WE CAME FROM!

YEAH, I
REMEMBER STUFF
TOO...**YEARS** OF
ROBBING THIEVES
AND NOBLES.

I ALSO REMEMBER STORIES
ABOUT YOU, LADY IRONHEART.
YOU'RE THE PALADIN OF TRUTH,
SAVING PEOPLE AND BEING
CHIVALROUS.

WHY
DENY YOUR OWN
LEGEND WITH THIS
NONSENSE?

IT'S... **REAL!**
NOT.

THIS PLACE
IS MESSING WITH
YOU AND MESSING
WITH TIME!

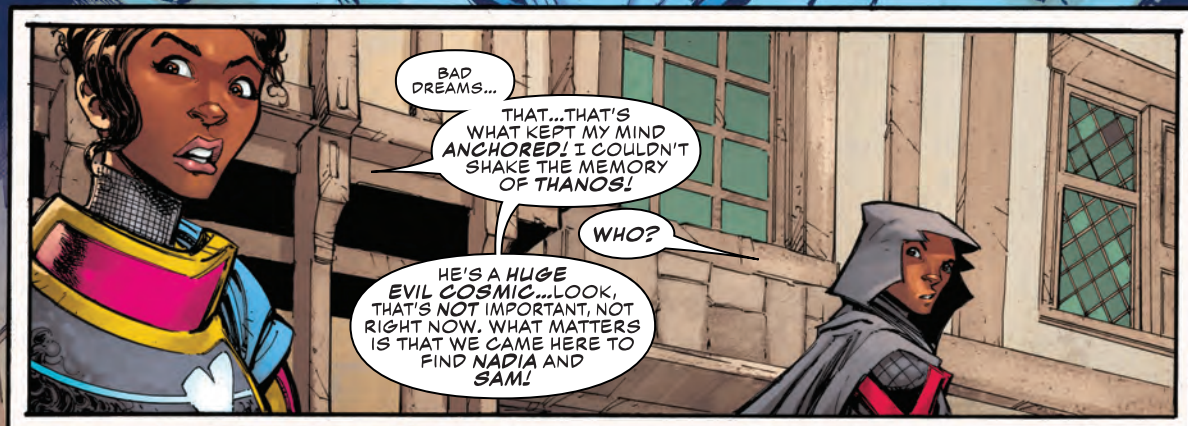
CLEARLY THE STRESS OF BEING
A GREAT HERO HAS YOU
RATTLED.

LOOK AROUND.
THERE'S TREASURE AND
GLORY TO BE FOUND.

SHAKE THOSE
BAD DREAMS OUT
OF YOUR HEAD AND GET
BACK TO WHAT
MATTERS.



YOU ARE NOTHING.



BAD DREAMS...

THAT...THAT'S WHAT KEPT MY MIND ANCHORED! I COULDN'T SHAKE THE MEMORY OF THANOS!

WHO?

HE'S A HUGE EVIL COSMIC...LOOK, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, NOT RIGHT NOW. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE CAME HERE TO FIND NADIA AND SAM!

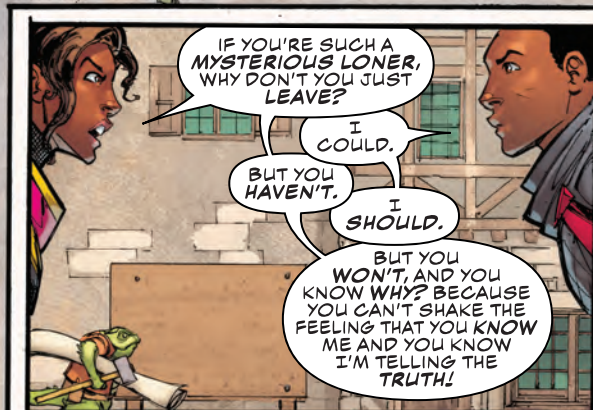


WHO?!

OUR FRIENDS!

I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS. MY ONLY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ME.

AS LONG AS I'M TAKEN CARE OF, THEN EVERYTHING IS JUST FINE.



IF YOU'RE SUCH A MYSTERIOUS LONER, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE?

I COULD.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T.

I SHOULD.

BUT YOU WON'T, AND YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT YOU KNOW ME AND YOU KNOW I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!



THIS WHOLE "LONE WOLF" THING YOU'RE DOING HERE... IT'S A LIE! THIS ISN'T WHO YOU ARE!

MY SPIDER-CLOAK DISAGREES.



I--

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM



UH...