



UNCANNY AVENGERS

COUNTER-EVOLUTIONARY PART 4

THE AVENGERS UNITY SQUAD COMBINED X-MEN AND AVENGERS TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT MUTANTS AND HUMANS COULD WORK TOGETHER, BUT NOW IT'S FALLING APART. AFTER DISCOVERING THAT MAGNETO MAY NOT BE THEIR FATHER, THE TWINS QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH TRAVELED TO A DOPPELGANGER PLANET CALLED COUNTER-EARTH TO LOOK FOR ANSWERS. THE UNITY SQUAD'S ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW THEM BACKFIRED, AND ITS MEMBERS WERE SCATTERED ACROSS A WORLD RULED BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY—A RUTHLESS ENTITY SET ON CREATING GENETIC PERFECTION AT ANY COST.

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS EMERGED VICTORIOUS AT EVERY TURN. HIS PLANT CREATURES SWALLOWED UP CAPTAIN AMERICA, HIS MEN CAPTURED AND EXPERIMENTED ON ROGUE AND SABRETOOTH, AND QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH WERE DEFEATED BY LUMINOUS, A CREATION OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY WITH BOTH OF THEIR POWERS. WITH THE AVENGERS OUT OF THE WAY, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS SET HIS SIGHTS ON DESTROYING LOWTOWN, THE LAST REFUGE OF HIS REJECTED CREATIONS...



QUICKSILVER



SCARLET WITCH



ROGUE



CAPTAIN AMERICA



DOCTOR VOODOO



THE VISION



SABRETOOTH

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M I CAN STILL TASTE THE BILE.

I WEPT, TERRIFIED--

BURN THE WITCH!

KILL HER BEFORE--

BEFORE WHAT, HOMO SAPIENS?!

--MORE FOR PIETRO'S SAKE THAN MY OWN.

ONCE AGAIN, IT WAS MY FAULT.



HE CAME AS IF CONJURED.

A DEVIL OFFERING A FAUSTIAN HOPE.

SHE IS NO WITCH.

IF I KNEW THEN WHAT MAGNETO HAD IN MIND FOR US--

--THE HELL WE'D ENDURE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS CRUSADE--

SHE IS A MUTANT. ONE OF THE CHOSEN.



--I WOULD HAVE LET THE MOB HAVE ITS WAY.

THE FIRST OF MANY TO SUPPLANT YOU ALL.

AT LEAST THEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN FREE--

--FREE FROM THE NIGHTMARES
AND REGRETS HE SHACKLED
TO MY SOUL.

Counter-Earth.

CITADEL OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

ELEVATED
HEART RATE.

CAFFEINE
ADDICTION.

INSOMNIA.

NEUROSIS.

SELF-DOUBT.

MUST MY
FAILURES PUT
THEMSELVES ON
PARADE?

YOUR
FAILURES?

THERE
ARE EVOLUTIONARY
MISSTEPS ON THE WAY
TO GREATNESS.

MISSTEPS
LIKE THE BOTH
OF YOU.

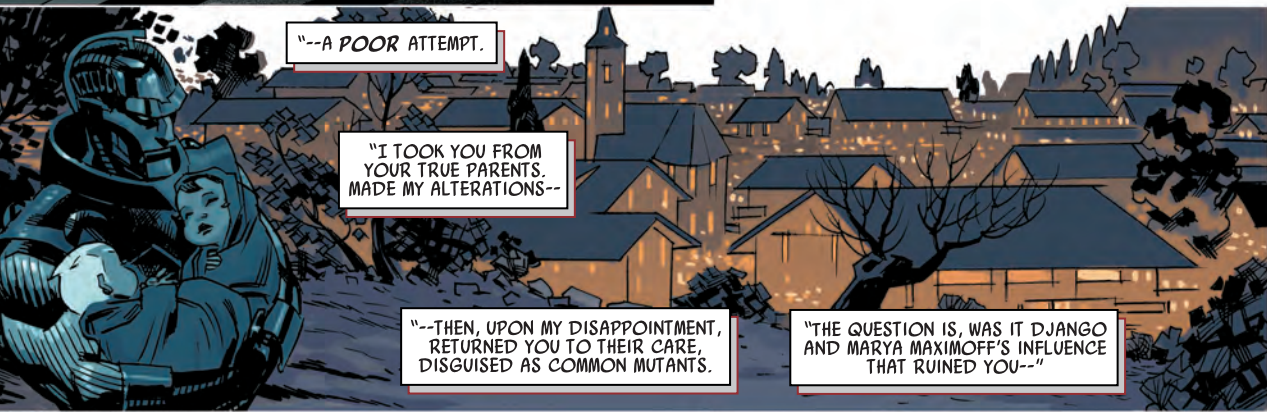




YOU...
...YOU'RE OUR FATHER?



DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
IS THE CARPENTER BEHOLDEN TO EVERY CHAIR, THE BAKER TO HIS MORNING BREAD?
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER A QUESTION--



--A POOR ATTEMPT.

"I TOOK YOU FROM YOUR TRUE PARENTS. MADE MY ALTERATIONS--

--THEN, UPON MY DISAPPOINTMENT, RETURNED YOU TO THEIR CARE, DISGUISED AS COMMON MUTANTS.

"THE QUESTION IS, WAS IT DJANGO AND MARYA MAXIMOFF'S INFLUENCE THAT RUINED YOU--"



--OR DID I FAIL SO COMPLETELY IN YOUR CREATION?

HE'S LYING, WANDA.

I...I DON'T THINK HE IS.



HALF-TRUTHS AND MISDIRECTION!
WHAT KIND OF AN ANSWER IS THIS?!



AN HONEST ONE.

IN TRUTH, YOU ARE NO LOST PRINCE.

SHE IS NO FAIRYTALE HEROINE.

AND THERE IS NO LONG LOST FAMILY HERE WHO LOVES YOU.

BUT TAKE SOLACE KNOWING THAT YOUR LIVES HAD SOME MEANING--

"--FOR WITHOUT YOUR FAILINGS I COULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED THE PERFECTION OF THE DAUGHTER I WANTED ALL THESE YEARS."

LOWBORN SCUM!

YOU DARE TO DRAW BREATH AGAINST THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S LAWS?!

ZAP

BZAP

ZAK

YOU'VE EARNED A FAR LESS MERCIFUL FINAL HOUR BATHED IN MY PERFECTLY ORCHESTRATED CHAOS.

SPLITTING YOUR ATOMS!

YERGHAAH!

GAKK--!

BRANCOOM

GHERAGHH--!

YOUR ONLY VALUE WAS TO OFFER INSIGHT THROUGH YOUR FAILINGS--AND YOU OUTLIVED EVEN THAT.

IF LIFE'S VALUE WAS MERELY DEFINED BY ITS GENETIC PERFECTION, LUMINOUS, HOW COULD IT RESULT IN SUCH A COLD MONSTER AS YOU?

SAYS THE REJECTED SON, CAST DOWN FROM FATHER'S GRACE.

ZAK

ZAK

ZAP

SAYS SOMEONE WITH A DAMNED SOUL!