

RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER #4

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RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER

For centuries, generations of fierce warrior monarchs have held the title of Black Panther, a mantle of spiritual and political leadership in the African country of Wakanda. Thanks to the lineage of Black Panthers, the country has remained secluded and unconquered. Wakanda is home to secret technological advancements and contains the Great Sacred Mound of Vibranium, source of a rare, ultra-durable metal that absorbs energy and vibration.

As the new king of Wakanda, T'Challa has done something no Black Panther ever dared: He has invited outsiders to the hidden country. When the diplomatic visit brought an attack by the mysterious Winter Soldier, T'Challa used the chaos to leverage Wakanda's acceptance into the United Nations.

During his visit to the U.N. headquarters in New York, he encountered Wakanda refugee N'Jadaka (who had taken the name Erik while living in New York) and happily invited him home. But on returning to Wakanda, T'Challa found the infamous Doctor Doom sitting on the royal throne.

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BLACK PANTHER created by
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



DOOM, TYRANT
RULER OF
LATVERIA.

DOOM, WOULD-BE
SUBJUGATOR OF
EARTH.



DOOM. A MAN SAID TO
HAVE RIPPED TIME AND
SPACE APART IN THE
NAME OF CONQUEST.

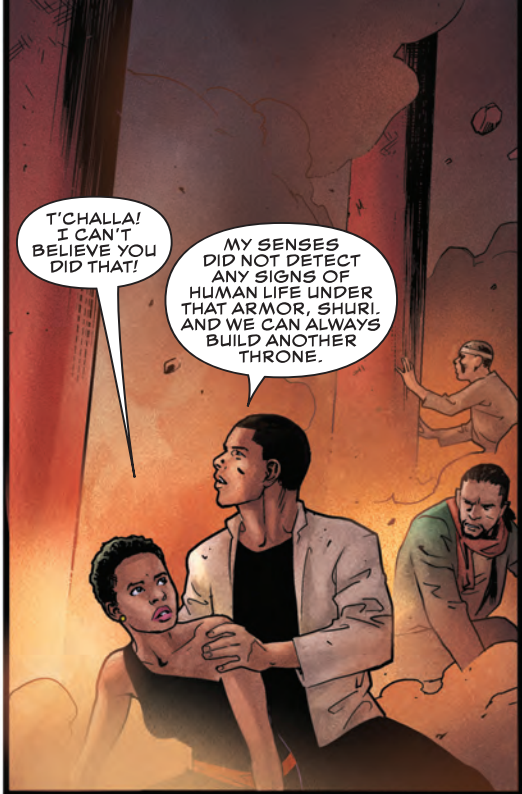


WHEN I SEE HIM
THERE--ON THE
THRONE MY
FOREFATHERS
MADE GREAT
WHERE AZZURI
AND MY FATHER
RULED FROM--



--IT'S CLEAR
WHAT I NEED
TO DO.





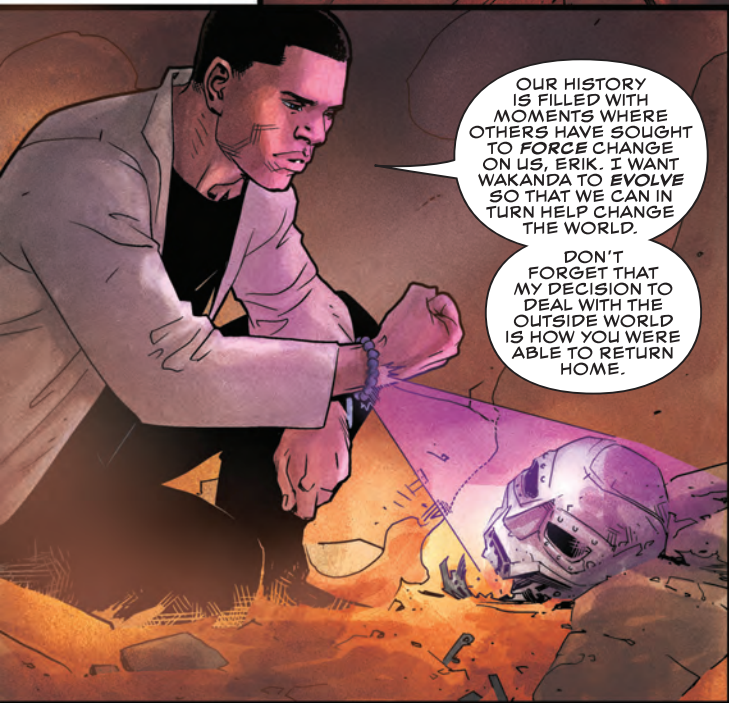
T'CHALLA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!

MY SENSES DID NOT DETECT ANY SIGNS OF HUMAN LIFE UNDER THAT ARMOR, SHURI. AND WE CAN ALWAYS BUILD ANOTHER THRONE.

LORD T'CHALLA, I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT ME BACK HOME, BUT ALL THIS TUMULT UNSETTLES ME.

REVEALING THE REALM TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, INVITING THEM HERE, AND NOW THIS?

PERHAPS I'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. WHAT KIND OF KING DESTROYS HIS OWN THRONE?!



OUR HISTORY IS FILLED WITH MOMENTS WHERE OTHERS HAVE SOUGHT TO FORCE CHANGE ON US, ERIK. I WANT WAKANDA TO EVOLVE SO THAT WE CAN IN TURN HELP CHANGE THE WORLD.

DON'T FORGET THAT MY DECISION TO DEAL WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO RETURN HOME.

YOU'VE HAD EXPERIENCES THAT NO OTHER WAKANDAN HAS HAD. I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT THEM SOON. BUT NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME, I ASK YOU THIS--HOW CAN YOU USE THEM TO HELP WAKANDA?

I WILL THINK ON THIS, MY KING.



I HAVE URGENT MATTERS THAT NEED MY ATTENTION, ERIK. MY MOTHER AND UNCLE WILL SEE TO GETTING YOU SETTLED IN.

SOON



HERE'S A SET OF GEOPOSITIONING COORDINATES THAT MATCH LATVERIA'S LOCATION, SHURI, ALONG WITH AIR TRAFFIC CALL SIGNS TO BE USED IN LATVERIAN AIRSPACE.

SO DOCTOR DOOM, SCOURGE OF MILLIONS, WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'LL COME OUT AND PLAY?

DON'T MOCK, SISTER. I'VE NEVER SEEN A.I. PROGRAMMING INTEGRATED SO INTRICATELY INTO EVERY LEVEL OF A HARDWARE BUILD. DOOM'S CREATED SOME KIND OF MULTIPHASIC CODING LANGUAGE...

AND THAT MEANS WHAT, O MIGHTY T'CHALLA, DESTROYER OF CHAIRS?



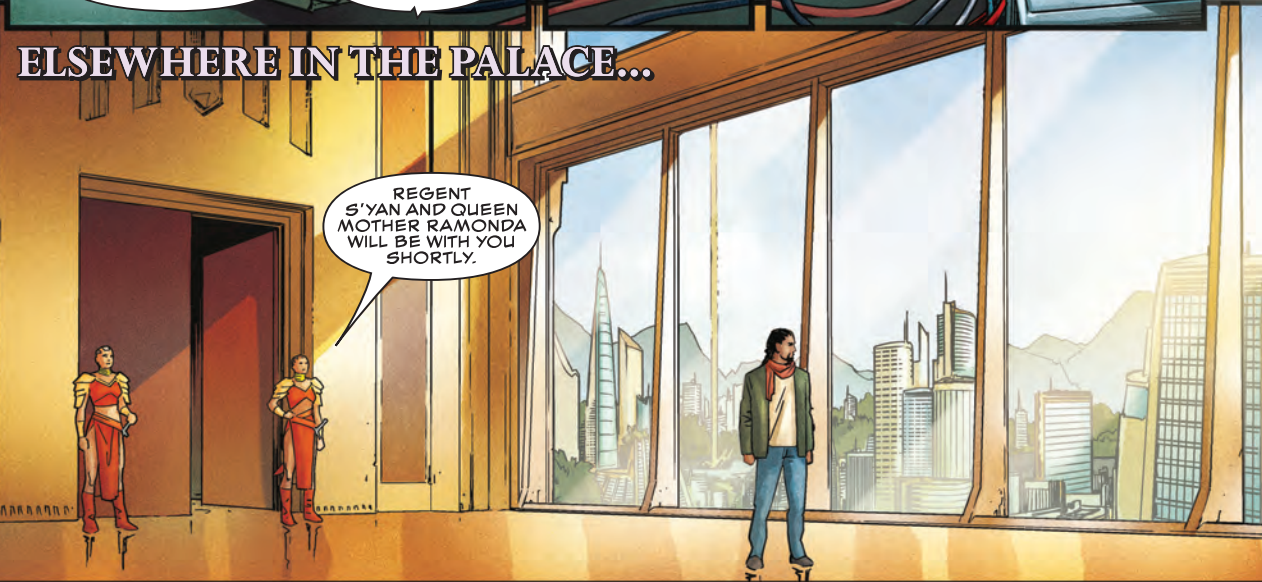
IT MEANS DOOM'S CODE RUNS ON A SELF-ITERATING LOOP, LEARNS FROM THREATS, AND ADAPTS COUNTERMEASURES ACROSS AN ENCRYPTED NETWORK.

CHARMING. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU CAN REFUSE THIS RATHER IMPOLITE INVITATION, EH, BROTHER?

WE ARE BOTH LEAVING FOR LATVERIA IN AN HOUR. PACK YOUR THINGS IN THE SPECIAL LUGGAGE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON.

GUESS THAT'S A "NO."

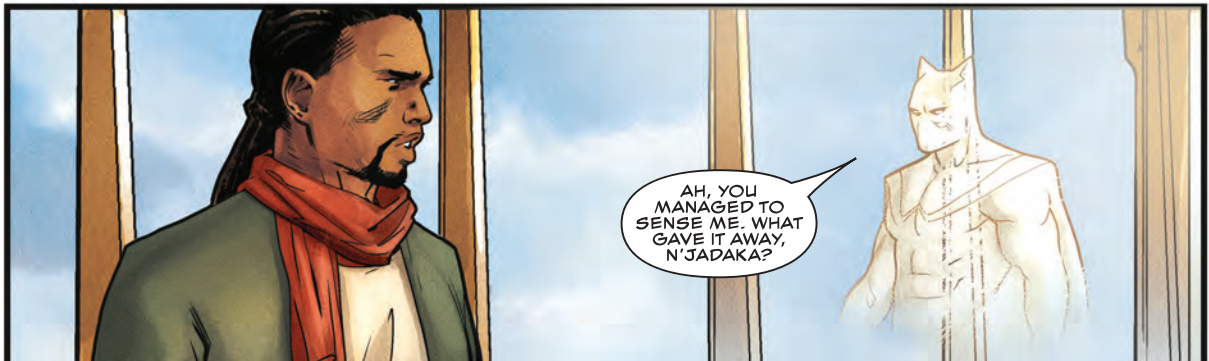
ELSEWHERE IN THE PALACE...



REGENT S'YAN AND QUEEN MOTHER RAMONDA WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.



... WHO'S THERE?



AH, YOU MANAGED TO SENSE ME. WHAT GAVE IT AWAY, N'JADAKA?

IN STRONG LIGHT, EVERY FIVE SECONDS THERE'S A WAVE OF SHIMMER THROUGH YOUR SUIT'S LIGHT DISTORTION ZONE.

YOU STILL HAVE THE INSTINCTS OF A TRUE WAKANDAN, THEN.

I LEARNED TO BE ACUTELY AWARE OF MY SURROUNDINGS OUT IN THE WORLD. IT MEANT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.



AS BEFITS SOMEONE WHO SURVIVED LIFE OUTSIDE THE REALM FOR SO LONG, DO YOU REMEMBER WHO I AM?

YOU ARE HUNTER, THE MAN CALLED THE WHITE WOLF.

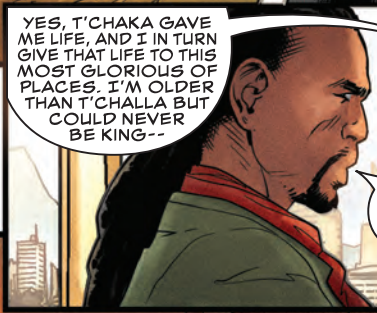
AND WHAT IS MY STORY?



"THE GREAT KING T'CHAKA RAISED YOU LIKE A SON AFTER A PLANE CRASH OUTSIDE THE NORTHERN BORDER KILLED ALL OTHER PASSENGERS."



"YOU GREW TO BECOME THE HEAD OF THE HATUT ZERAZE, THE NATION'S SECRET SECURITY DIVISION WHO DEFEND THE REALM IN THE BLOODIEST OF WAYS."

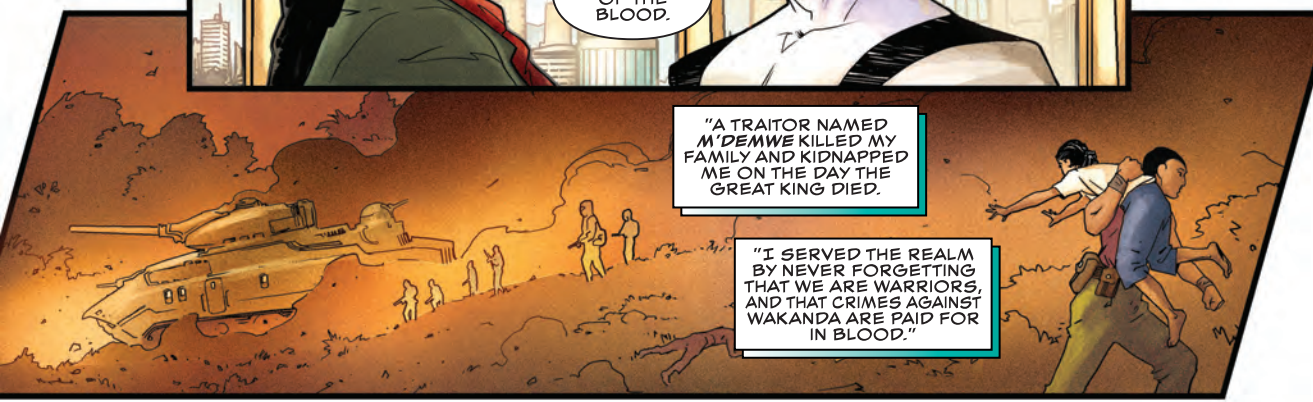


YES, T'CHAKA GAVE ME LIFE, AND I IN TURN GIVE THAT LIFE TO THIS MOST GLORIOUS OF PLACES. I'M OLDER THAN T'CHALLA BUT COULD NEVER BE KING--

--BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF THE BLOOD.



YET I SERVE IN OTHER WAYS. AND YOU, N'JADAKA, WHAT IS YOUR STORY? HOW WILL YOU SERVE WAKANDA?



"A TRAITOR NAMED M'DEMWE KILLED MY FAMILY AND KIDNAPPED ME ON THE DAY THE GREAT KING DIED."

"I SERVED THE REALM BY NEVER FORGETTING THAT WE ARE WARRIORS, AND THAT CRIMES AGAINST WAKANDA ARE PAID FOR IN BLOOD."

