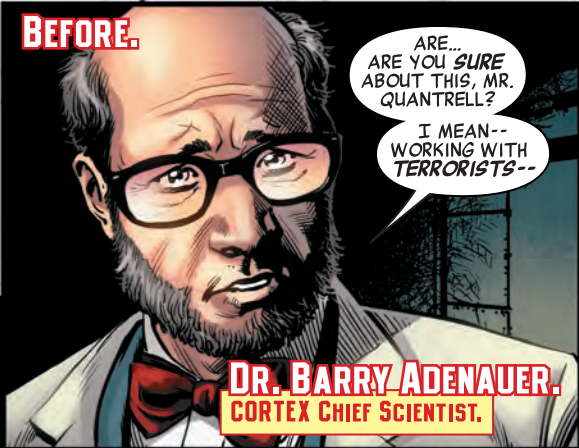


BEFORE.



ARE...
ARE YOU **SURE**
ABOUT THIS, MR.
QUANTRELL?

I MEAN--
WORKING WITH
TERRORISTS--

DR. BARRY ADENAUER.
CORTEX CHIEF SCIENTIST.



WHAT
TERRORISTS?

THESE FOLKS ARE
A **LEGITIMATE**
TECHNOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
FIRM, BARRY.

JASON QUANTRELL.
CORTEX CEO.



RIGHT,
FELLAS?

JAWOHL,
MEIN FÜHRER!

**W.E.S.P.E.--WEIRD-ASS EUROPEAN
SCIENTIFIC/PHILOSOPHICAL EXTREMISTS.**
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT REALLY STANDS FOR.

BUT THEY TOTALLY ARE TERRORISTS.



SEE?
ANYWAY,
IT'S NOT
LIKE THEY'RE
HYDRA--



NEIN! VE
HATE HYDRA!
HYDRA ARE
POOPY
MEN!

ZEY ARE
NAZIS! VE ARE
NIHILISTS!

VE
BELIEVE IN
NOTHING!



BARRY--I WANT
TO CONFIDE IN
YOU FOR A SEC.
CAN I DO
THAT?

UM...

THINGS
HAVE BEEN A
LITTLE ROUGH
LATELY.



QUICKFIRE--
OUR BEST
SECURITY
ASSET--IS
IN JAIL.*

THANK
GOD SHE KEPT
HER MOUTH
SHUT.

TEXTILE™--
WHICH WOULD HAVE
BEEN OUR STARKPHONE--
IS DEAD IN THE WATER.**
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
IN INVESTMENT,
GONE.

SEE *MIGHTY
AVENGERS #5 AND
**IRON MAN: FATAL
FRONTIER.--TOM



MEANWHILE, THESE
GUYS JUST HAD THEIR
WHOLE ORGANIZATION
SMASHED TO
PIECES.

SUPER-
SCIENTISTS,
GOING CHEAP--
WITH THE KIND
OF TECH THAT'LL
PULL CORTEX
BACK FROM THE
BRINK.



WE NEED ONE
KILLER PRODUCT,
BARRY. ONE THING
NOBODY ELSE IS
DOING. JUST
ONE.

AND THEN
CORTEX CAN
TAKE ON THE
WORLD.



I, UH, I HEARD **ADAM BRASHEAR** WAS WORKING ON PORTAL TECH--

DO NOT MENTION THAT NAME!

IXNAY ON THE ASHEAR-BRAY. THEY'RE TOUCHY.



ANYWAY, BRASHEAR'S TOO WORRIED ABOUT SAFETIES. PEER REVIEW. DOING IT BY THE BOOK.

WHICH IS WHY THESE LITTLE VON BRAUNS ARE GOING TO GET IT TO MARKET FIRST, CHEAPEST AND BEST. HISTORY BELONGS TO THE WINNERS, BARRY.

EVERYONE'S GOT A PHONE, BUT NOBODY REMEMBERS **ELISHA GRAY**.



HOW'S IT COMING, GENTS?

JA, JA. THE GATEWAY IS READY, HERR QUANTRELL.



VE HAFF DONE SO MUCH MIT YOUR INVESTMENT, MEIN HERR. DOKTOR SKORPION WOULD BE SO HEPPY NOW.

ZE GATE VILL OPEN WIDE, AND REACH FAR.



HEH, WELL, ACROSS THE ROOM IS FINE--

ACROSS THE ROOM? SUCH SMALL VISION!

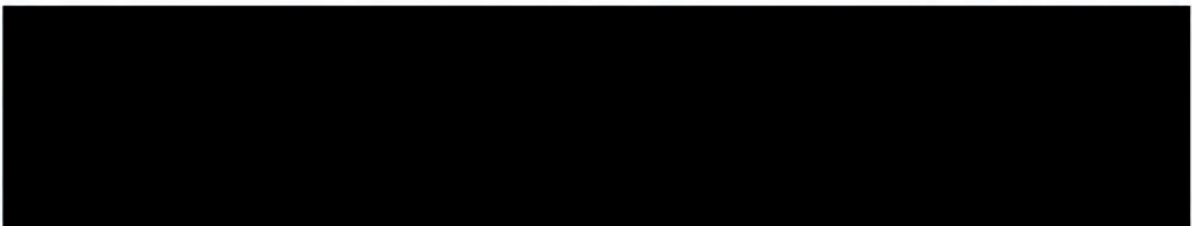
YOU MUST LEARN TO BELIEVE, MEIN HERR!



BELIEVE IN NOTHING!

FOR NOW NOTHING COMES!

NOTHI--



Now.

JASON QUANTRELL'S OFFICE.

BUT HE DID LOOK.

JASON QUANTRELL LOOKED *BEYOND* THE TEMPORAL/HISTORICAL/"TRUE" EVENT-STRUCTURE OF THIS UNIVERSE.

HE LOOKED *OUTSIDE*.

AND WE LOOKED BACK INTO HIM.

HOT in CONTINUITY

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