

Natasha Romanoff is an ex-KGB assassin, an ex-agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., and a sometime Avenger. She has tried to use her unique skill set to atone for her past, but atonement is not erasure. Sooner or later, the past comes prowling back.

BLACK WIDOW

As a child, Natasha Romanoff was trained by the Headmistress of the Red Room to be a brutal killer. Recluse, the Headmistress' daughter, remained ever in Natasha's shadow. After years of harboring a deadly grudge, Recluse is ready to break her rival once and for all. She has used her young wards from the new Red Room, called the Dark Room, to infiltrate a S.H.I.E.L.D. base and begin a self-destruct sequence that would destroy all of S.H.I.E.L.D. and kill thousands while Natasha watches.

This story takes place before the events of CIVIL WAR II #8.

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ONCE UPON
A TIME, NATASHA,
YOU INSULTED ME.
YOU DEGRADED
ME.

YOU
TURNED
YOUR **BACK**
ON ME.

AND NOW
YOU'RE ON
YOUR **KNEES**
BEFORE ME...AS
IT **SHOULD**
BE.

-:KKKTTKK:-



YOU'LL ...
BE ON...

-:HKKKH:-

...ON THE
GROUND...
WHEN THIS
IS...



...OVER?
IT'S **ALREADY**
OVER.

THIS
IS HOW
S.H.I.E.L.D.
DIES.

ON YOUR
WATCH.



SIX GIRLS WITH SIX KEYS THAT MUST BE TURNED AT THE EXACT SAME INSTANT--

--TO ACTIVATE S.H.I.E.L.D.'S ULTIMATE FAIL-SAFE, DESTROYING ALL OF ITS DATA, ALL OF ITS EQUIPMENT. HELICARRIERS WILL PLUNGE FROM THE SKY, AGENTS WILL DIE MID-MISSION.

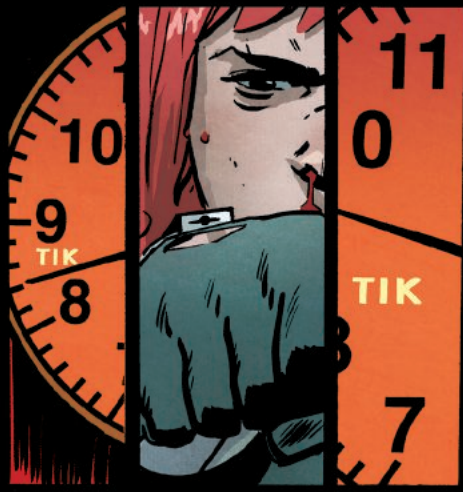
STILL, YOU CAN STOP THIS... IF YOU SIMPLY HONOR YOUR TRAINING.

THEY'RE WATCHING THE CLOCK. THEY ACT WHEN IT REACHES 12. IF ANY ONE OF THEM MISSES BY EVEN A SPLIT SECOND, NOTHING HAPPENS. SO...

...KILL ONE. IT'S YOUR ONLY OPTION. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE.

KILL ONE TO SAVE THOUSANDS.

JUST LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS.



ANY ONE. FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS. I'VE SET YOUR STING TO LETHAL.

YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

CHOOSE.









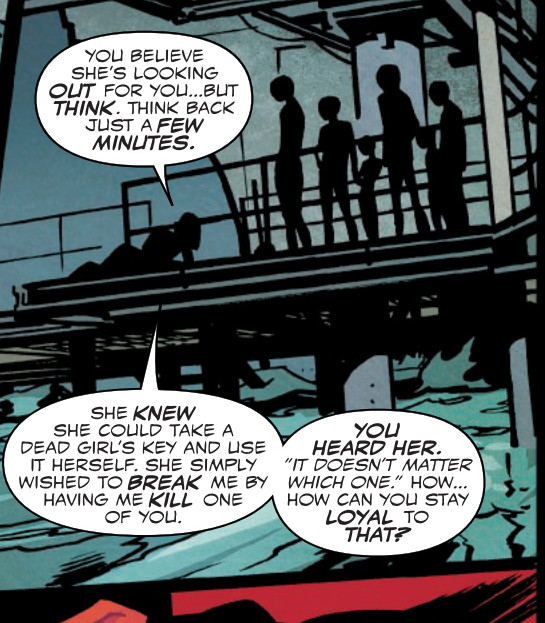
NNNNHH

TAKE HER.
SHE IS AT OUR MERCY.



NO. LISTEN TO ME.

WE ARE ALL AT RECLUSE'S MERCY.



YOU BELIEVE SHE'S LOOKING OUT FOR YOU...BUT THINK. THINK BACK JUST A FEW MINUTES.

SHE KNEW SHE COULD TAKE A DEAD GIRL'S KEY AND USE IT HERSELF. SHE SIMPLY WISHED TO BREAK ME BY HAVING ME KILL ONE OF YOU.

YOU HEARD HER. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE." HOW... HOW CAN YOU STAY LOYAL TO THAT?



...



GET AWAY FROM THEM!