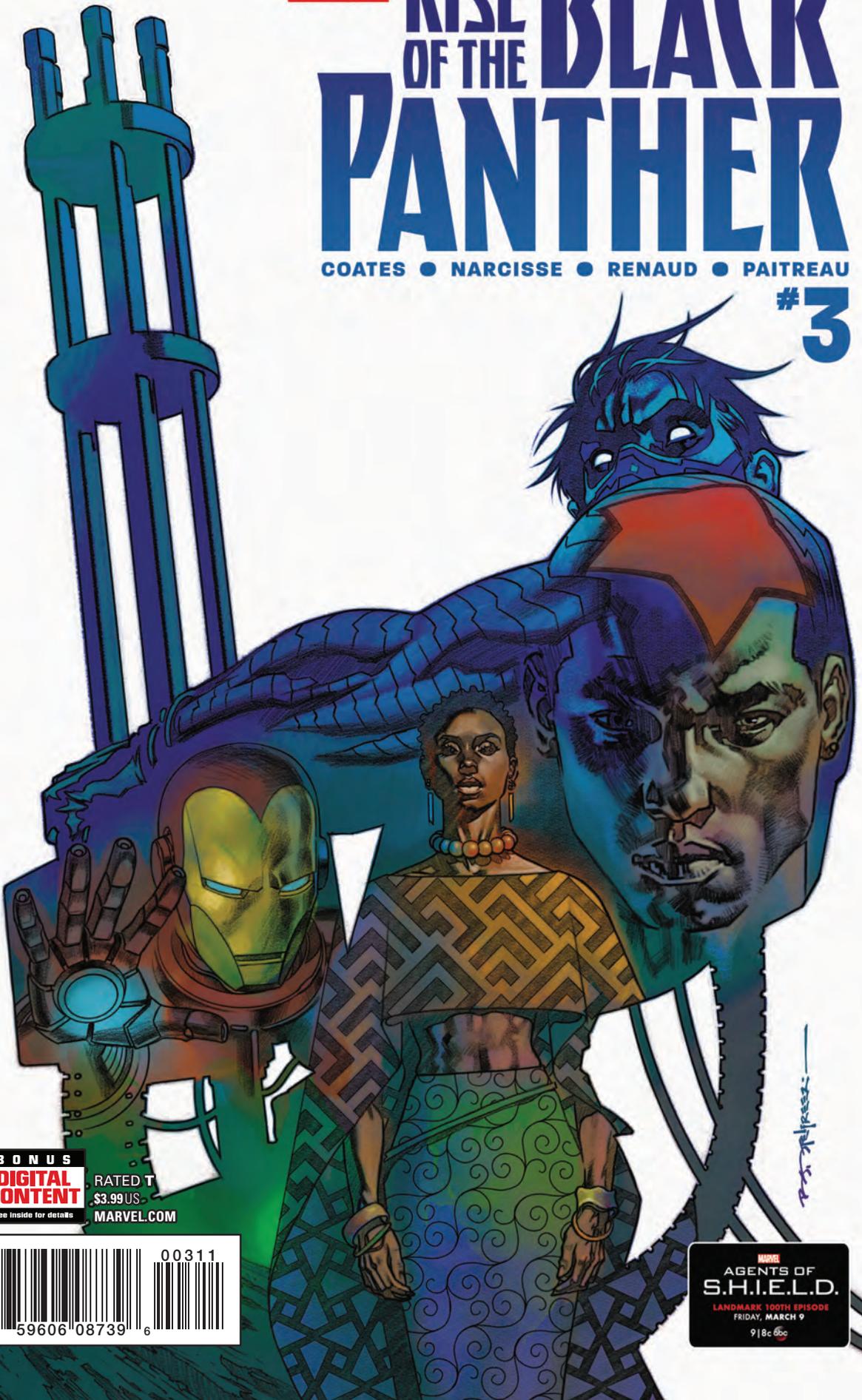


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RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER

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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 also the Great Sacred Mound of Vibranium, the source of a rare, ultra-durable metal that absorbs energy and vibration.

In his first days as king, T'Challa has already thwarted an evil plot by Wakanda's hostile neighbor Niganda with the help of Namor the Sub-Mariner, ruler of the undersea kingdom of Atlantis. Reasoning that Wakanda's isolation makes it a target for such aggression, T'Challa has embarked on a decision that will change his nation's history forever.

"MR. FOLLOW FOLLOW"

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RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER No. 3, May 2018. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. **BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** © 2018 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO RISE OF THE BLACK PANTHER, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com.** DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOHN NEE, Publisher; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Operations, Publishing & Partnership; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vii DeBellis, Custom Solutions & Integrated Advertising Manager, at vdobellis@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. **Manufactured between 02/09/2018 and 02/19/2018 by FRY COMMUNICATIONS, MECHANICSBURG, PA, USA.**

**BLACK
PANTHER** created by
**STAN LEE &
JACK KIRBY**

NOW

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT A NEW COUNTRY SUDDENLY APPEARS ON THE WORLD MAP, BUT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING. TODAY, THE EAST AFRICAN NATION OF WAKANDA...

FURY! WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT THIS OBVIOUSLY HOSTILE NATION RUN BY A BLUNCH OF--

I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, SENATOR KELLY, BUT THERE'S A LITTLE THING CALLED "PRIORITY SECURITY CLEARANCE," AND YOU DON'T HAVE IT...

...INTRODUCED ITSELF TO THE WORLD IN DRAMATIC FASHION, REVEALING A SEEMING PARADISE TEEMING WITH TECHNOLOGICAL MARVELS. MANY OF THE KINGDOM'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES...

T'CHALLA, YOU NAIVE FOOL. YOU INVITED THEM IN?!

...ARE BUILT USING VIBRANIUM...

BETCHA THESE LOWLIFES WISH THEY WERE LIVING THERE! DON'T YOU, LUCAS?

...A MYSTERIOUS SUPER-MINERAL FOUND ONLY IN WAKANDA. IN A SPEECH THIS MORNING...

...KING T'CHALLA OF WAKANDA SAID THAT HE'S ENDING CENTURIES OF SECRECY...

...SO THAT HIS COUNTRY CAN HELP USHER IN PEACE AND PROGRESS AROUND THE WORLD. RESPONSE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY...

...HAS RANGED FROM CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM TO SKEPTICAL DISBELIEF.

WOW, WE'RE AT M.I.T., BUT THEY'RE THE ONES WITH FLYING CARS!

HOME... I CAN FINALLY GO HOME.

ONE WEEK AGO

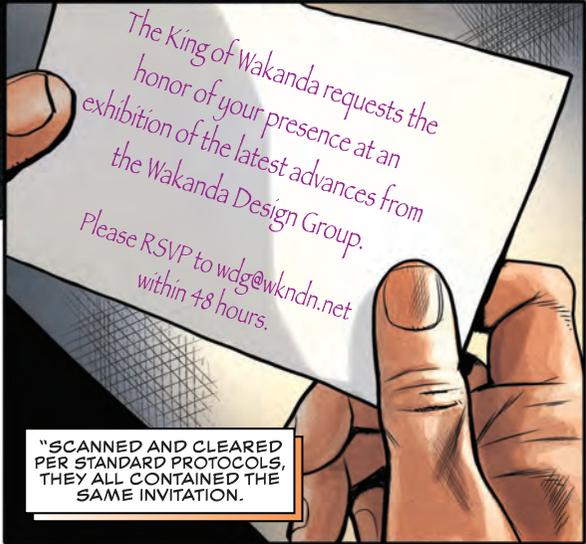
RUN IT ALL DOWN FOR ME AGAIN, AGENT SITWELL...



THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER

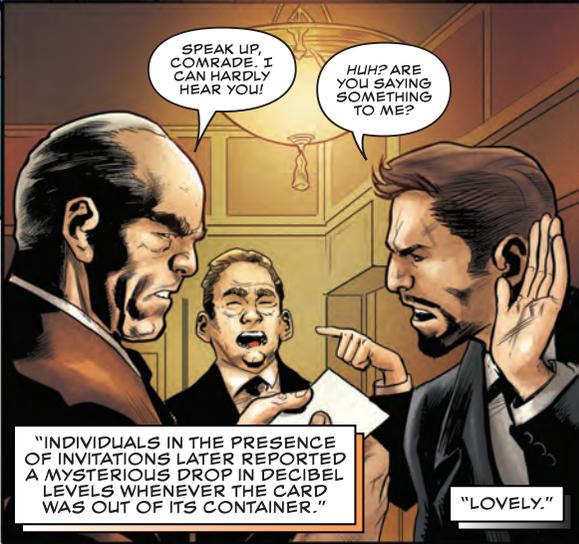
...JUST SO I KNOW WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO SEND SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD INTO.

WELL, AGENT WOO, 48 HOURS AGO, ALL OVER AFRICA, EMBASSY OFFICES OF ALL FIVE PERMANENT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COUNTRIES RECEIVED PACKAGES.



The King of Wakanda requests the honor of your presence at an exhibition of the latest advances from the Wakanda Design Group.
Please RSVP to wgdg@wknkn.net within 48 hours.

"SCANNED AND CLEARED PER STANDARD PROTOCOLS, THEY ALL CONTAINED THE SAME INVITATION."

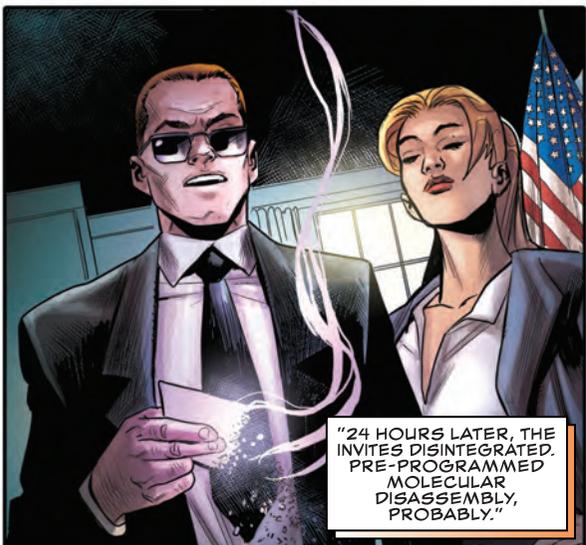


SPEAK UP, COMRADE. I CAN HARDLY HEAR YOU!

HUH? ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING TO ME?

"INDIVIDUALS IN THE PRESENCE OF INVITATIONS LATER REPORTED A MYSTERIOUS DROP IN DECIBEL LEVELS WHENEVER THE CARD WAS OUT OF ITS CONTAINER."

"LOVELY."



"24 HOURS LATER, THE INVITES DISINTEGRATED. PRE-PROGRAMMED MOLECULAR DISASSEMBLY, PROBABLY."



"ALL THIS FROM A PLACE WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE."

"CORRECT, SIR. SEARCH STRINGS FOR 'WAKANDA' RETURN WITH 'WAKENED.' LOOKS LIKE DATA IS BEING TWEAKED IN TRANSIT."

"BUT THOSE RIGS ARE DOUBLE-ENCRYPTED!"

"I KNOW."

THE WAY I SEE IT, SITWELL, THIS KING TUH-THULAH IS THROWING A BIRTHDAY PARTY.

SIR?

WHOEVER DOESN'T ACCEPT THIS FREAKY INVITATION MISSES OUT ON THE CHANCE TO GET A GOODY BAG. AND WE ALL WANT GOODY BAGS, RIGHT?

L/M, YES, WE DO?

AND BASED ON WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT THIS FAIRY-TALE KINGDOM, THESE GOODY BAGS ARE GOING TO BE AMAZING.

"SO NONE OF THESE COUNTRIES WANT TO BE THE ONE TO NOT GET A GOODY BAG--"

"OH, I GET IT! THIS IS A METAPHOR, FOR THE TECH..."

"--WHICH IS WHY DIPLOMATS FROM THE FIVE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD ARE CURRENTLY BOARDING A MYSTERY PLANE TO THE LAND OF THE WAKENED."

"RIGHT. THE EMAIL RESPONSES-- WHICH ALSO DISAPPEARED-- ASSURED THEIR SAFETY AND SPECIFIED NO MILITARY PERSONNEL, NO ESCORTS. ONLY AMBASSADORS AND SUPPORT STAFF."

"BUT MR. STARK SAID HE'D SEND HIS BODYGUARD OVER..."

"I GUESS HE'S A MAN OF HIS WORD--LOOK OUT THE WINDOW."

"ANY LUCK REACHING THE FANTASTIC FOUR OR ANYBODY ELSE WHO CAN MAKE LIGHTNING COME OUT OF THEIR NIPPLES?"

"MOST ACTIVE-DUTY AVENGERS ARE OFF-PLANET, AND PROFESSOR RICHARDS AND FAMILY ARE UNREACHABLE."

IRON MAN TO S.H.I.E.L.D.:

I'VE GOT VISUAL ON THE PLANE. IT'S PICKING UP SPEED AT AN INSANE RATE BUT SENSORS SHOW NO SIGNS OF VIBRATION OR HEAT INCREASE. WHAT'S THAT THING MADE OF?

JUST HANG BACK, IRON MAN. WE DON'T WANT TO SPOOK THIS T'CHALLA GUY.

THE PLANE...IT'S... JUST GONE. NO VISUAL AND NONE OF MY SENSORS CAN PICK IT UP!

"WE ARE SO FIRED, AREN'T WE, SIR?"

"WELL, FURY, GABE JONES AND THE REST OF THE OLD HOWLERS ARE ON A FISHING TRIP. SO YOU HAVE TIME TO PACK UP YOUR DESK AT LEAST, SITWELL..."

AT THIS SPEED, THEY'LL BE HALFWAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN 30 MINUTES! DIVERTING ADDITIONAL POWER TO THRUSTERS...



EXCUSE ME, MADEMOISELLE, ERM, WAKANDA? COULD I HAVE SOME WATER?



I AM DORA MILAJE, A WARRIOR BORN. I DO NOT SERVE REFRESHMENTS. YOU MAY ASK KIMOYO FOR YOUR WATER.

AH, UH, OKAY THEN.



YOU MUST BE KIMOYO. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO GET SOME WATER?

I AM NOT KIMOYO. KIMOYO IS ALL AROUND YOU. SPEAK AND KIMOYO WILL ASSIST.



ERR, HELLO, KIMOYO?



BONJOUR, MADAME. QUE PLUS-JE FAIRE POUR VOUS?

JE VOUDRAIS UNE BOUTEILLE DE L'EAU, S'IL-VOUS-PLAIT.



OH!

AMAZING. VOICE RECOGNITION LIKE THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE YEARS AWAY.

VRRT