

AVS X

ROUND 9

THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS BEEN FRAGMENTED, WITH PORTIONS INHABITING FIVE PROMINENT X-MEN: CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, COLOSSUS, MAGIK AND NAMOR. THEY HAVE USED THAT POWER TO RESHAPE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER, BUT THE ALL-CONSUMING NATURE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE STILL THREATENS TO CORRUPT THEM.

THE AVENGERS HAVE TURNED TO HOPE, THE PHOENIX FORCE'S INTENDED HOST, IN AN EFFORT TO MANAGE THE COSMIC FORCE. CYCLOPS, FRUSTRATED AT THE AVENGERS' ATTEMPTS TO INTERCEDE AND DISRUPT HIS PLANS, BEGAN A WORLDWIDE MANHUNT TO LOCATE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND TAKE THEM OFF THE BOARD.

NAMOR, HAVING LEARNED OF THE AVENGERS' HIDEOUT IN WAKANDA, LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE THE TEAM OF HEROES. THE AVENGERS CAME AT NAMOR WITH EVERYTHING THEY COULD MUSTER AND DEFEATED THE ATLANTEAN KING. HOWEVER, AS NAMOR FELL, HIS PORTION OF THE PHOENIX FORCE WAS DIVIDED UP BETWEEN THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE PHOENIX FIVE, INCREASING THEIR POWER. THE AVENGERS HAVE NOW ALL FALLEN BACK TO THE MYSTICAL CITY OF K'UN LUN, WHERE THEY INTEND TO PREPARE HOPE FOR THE DANGEROUS FIGHT AHEAD.



**JASON AARON, BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, ED BRUBAKER,
MATT FRACTION AND JONATHAN HICKMAN**

STORY

**JASON
AARON**

SCRIPT

**ADAM
KUBERT**

PENCILS

**JOHN
DELL**

INKS

**LAURA MARTIN
W/ LARRY MOLINAR**

COLORS

**CHRIS
ELIPOULOS**

LETTERS

**JIM CHEUNG, MARK MORALES
& JUSTIN PONSOR**

COVER ART

**ADAM KUBERT
& JUSTIN PONSOR & MATT WILSON**

VARIANT COVERS

**JAKE
THOMAS**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

**LAUREN
SANKOVITCH**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**NICK
LOWE**
CONSULTING EDITOR

**TOM
BREVDORT**
EDITOR

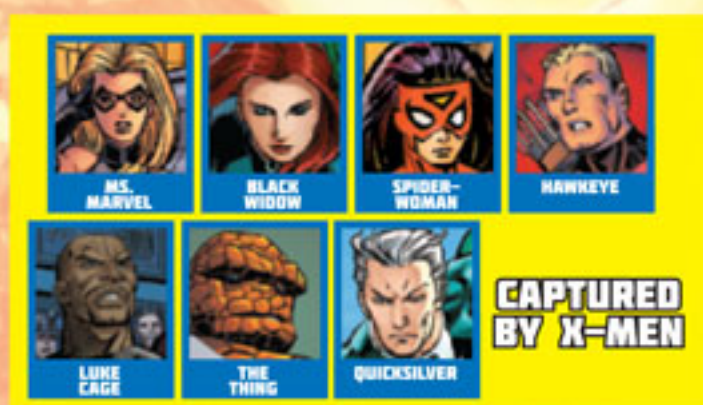
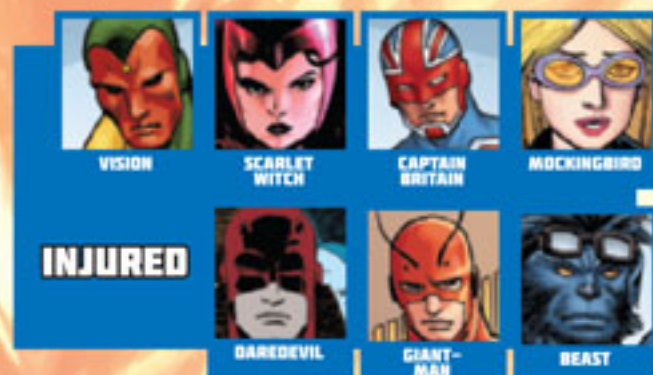
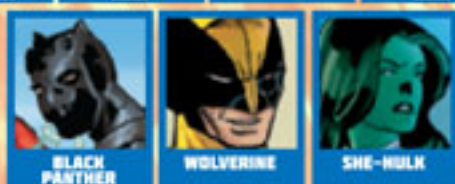
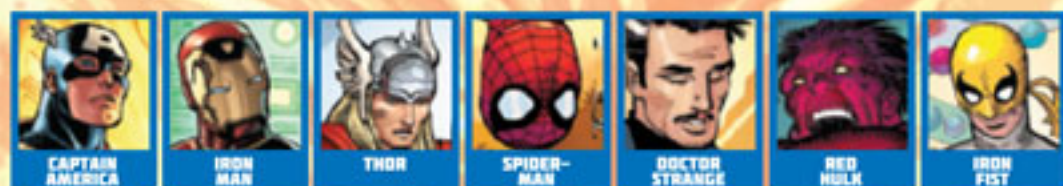
**AXEL
ALONSO**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**JOE
QUESADA**
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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AVENGERS



X-MEN

SEVENTEEN HOURS FROM NOW.

FEEL STICKY. WHY
AM I SO STICKY?

IS THIS...?

THIS IS
BLOOD.

STAY
DOWN.

AR

WHERE DID
ALL THIS BLOOD
COME FROM?

I SAID...

STAY
DOWN.

SOMEONE'S HURT.
BLEEDING. SOMEONE
NEEDS HELP. WHO...

AFRAID...

CAN'T DO
THAT.

YOU
WILL.

OH, WAIT... NOW
I REMEMBER...

WHETHER
YOU WANT
TO OR
NOT.

IT'S MY
BLOO--

KRAK

**NOW,
THE MYSTICAL CITY
OF K'UN LUN.**

IT'S BEEN EIGHT DAYS
SINCE THE FALL OF
WAKANDA. EIGHT DAYS
SINCE WE CAME HERE
WITH OUR TAIL BETWEEN
OUR LEGS.

AND EVERY DAY SINCE,
IT'S ONLY GOTTEN WORSE.

IT'S GOTTEN SO THAT EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT MYSTICAL
PORTAL START TO OPEN, MY HEART SINKS.

I HAVEN'T CRACKED A JOKE IN WEEKS.
THERE'S JUST NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT
THE END OF THE WORLD.

OH, NO, OH,
MAN, HERE THEY
COME.

DON'T BE SO
GLOOMY, YOU ACT
LIKE YOU HAVEN'T
ALREADY BEEN
THROUGH A MILLION
DIFFERENT SCRAPES
LIKE THIS. THE GOOD
GUYS ALWAYS WIN IN
THE END, RIGHT?

TELL THAT
TO MY UNCLE BEN.

WHAT?

NOTHING.
KEEP TRAINING.

THE PORTAL OPENING
MEANS AVENGERS ARE
COMING BACK FROM A
MISSION, OUT SEARCHING
FOR OUR TEAMMATES
WHO'VE BEEN TAKEN
PRISONER BY THE X-MEN.

NEVER ONCE SINCE WE CAME HERE
HAVE THEY COME BACK FROM A
MISSION WITH ANYTHING REMOTELY
RESEMBLING GOOD NEWS.

SMASH...
GONNA SMASH...
SO HARD...

MAYBE
NEXT TIME,
BIG GUY.

AND SOMETIMES...

THEY DON'T COME
BACK AT ALL.

WAIT, IS
THAT IT? THAT
CAN'T BE IT.
WHERE'S...

WE LOST
HIM.



"WE LOST
THOR."

AR