

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD:

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF
WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS
GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

CIVIL WAR

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SIX YEARS AGO.
PROJECT 42:

"I THINK THEY BOTH
THOUGHT IT WOULD
END THERE.

"THE FINAL BATTLE
IN IRON MAN'S HIDDEN
PRISON.


**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**

"CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD
SPRING HIS ALLIES FROM
THE CELLS, AND STARK
WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
RETALIATE.

"OR ONE OF IRON MAN'S
COUNTER-MOVES WOULD
SUCCEED, AND HIS SIDE
WOULD PREVAIL.

"EITHER WAY,
REALLY.

"NO WAR LASTS
FOREVER.



"THE WHOLE THING STARTED OVER SOMETHING CALLED THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT. ULTIMATELY, IT WAS ABOUT MASKS.

"WHO COULD WEAR THEM, WHO COULDN'T--WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE. WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE.

"SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE DIED WHEN SOME INEXPERIENCED HEROES TOOK ON A GROUP OF BAD GUYS WHO WERE OUT OF THEIR LEAGUE.

"SIX HUNDRED DEAD. SIXTY WERE CHILDREN.

"WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE? WHOSE FAULT WAS IT?"

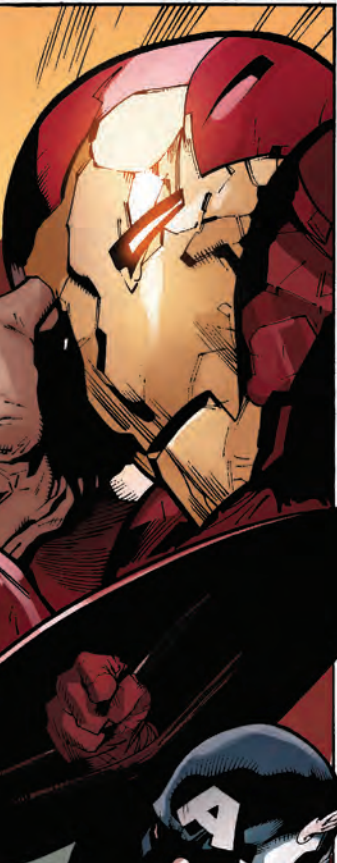
"THAT'S WHERE IT STARTED. IT ALMOST SEEMS QUAINT NOW--EVEN TO ME.

"BUT NOT EVERYONE AGREED WITH STARK.

"STEVE ROGERS, FOR ONE. HE SAW THE S.H.R.A. AS A VIOLATION OF THE INHERENT PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY UPON WHICH THE NATION WAS FOUNDED.

"IRON MAN'S PEOPLE CALLED IT REGISTRATION. CAPTAIN AMERICA CALLED IT ENLISTMENT. NO. CONSCRIPTION. HE CALLED IT WRONG.

"AND SO THE BATTLE BEGAN.



"THE NEW LAW--THE S.H.R.A.--
DREW A LINE IN THE SAND. YOU
WANT TO OPERATE AS A SUPER-
POWERED PERSON? YOU REGISTER.
YOU TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.
YOU GET TRAINED.



"AND THEN, BUT
ONLY THEN, CAN
YOU FIGHT.

"TONY STARK SPEARHEADED
THE WHOLE THING, AND I CAN
SEE WHY IT APPEALED TO HIM.
THE ORDER. THE SAFETY.



"THEY DID WHATEVER THEY COULD
TO WIN. STARK HIRED MERCENARIES--
PEOPLE YOU MIGHT EVEN CALL
VILLAINS. CAP WORKED WITH THE
PUNISHER. STRANGE ALLIES
ON BOTH SIDES.

"PLANS WITHIN PLANS. TRICKS,
BETRAYALS, SACRIFICES, EVEN
POOR BILL FOSTER'S DEATH.
AND THEN...IT WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE THE FINAL BATTLE,
IN THAT PRISON.

"ONE LAST FIGHT, AND
THEN THEY'D FIND A WAY
FORWARD--A PATH TO
KEEP FIGHTING THE
REAL VILLAINS.

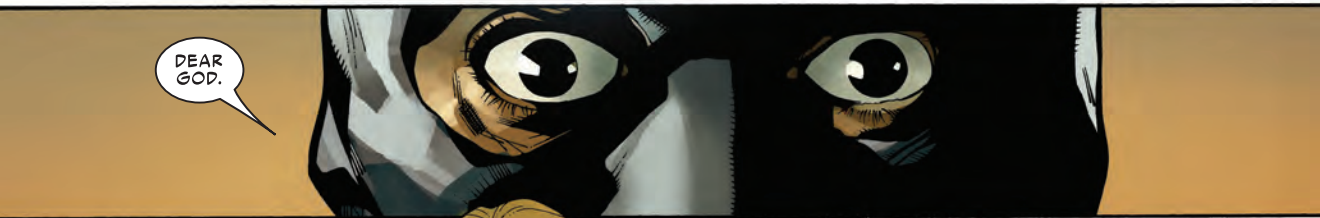
"I MEAN...THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS
WORKED BEFORE. NO PROBLEM WAS
SO BIG THAT IT COULDN'T BE SOLVED
BY A BIG PILE OF SUPER HEROES.



"THEY WERE SO WRONG."

ARE YOU IN, T'CHALLA?

ALMOST, DAGGER. THE PRISON SECURITY SYSTEMS STARK INSTALLED ARE *SOPHISTICATED*, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN A PORTAL TO GET US ALL OUT OF HERE, IF I CAN JUST--



DEAR GOD.



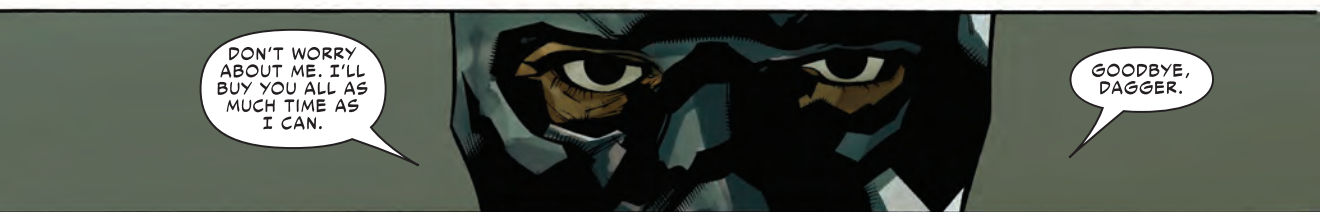
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

IRON MAN RIGGED THE ENTIRE PRISON WITH A SELF-DESTRUCT. HE JUST ACTIVATED THE SYSTEM! HE MUST HAVE A WAY OUT FOR HIS PEOPLE...BUT HE'S GOING TO DESTROY THIS PRISON WITH CAP AND THE REST OF US IN IT.



GO, DAGGER--NOW! GET TO CLOAK. HE CAN TELEPORT EVERYONE OUT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL BUY YOU ALL AS MUCH TIME AS I CAN.

GOODBYE, DAGGER.