

**MARVEL**

**5**

LGY#695

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**EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES**

# THE AVENGERS



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The Earth is under attack by the Final Host, a massive army of Dark Celestials who seem to be in league with the Horde bugs pouring out of the center of the planet--and Loki, God of Mischief.

In an attempt to learn more about their enemy, Iron Man and Doctor Strange visited the Eternals, only to find them all dead or dying from self-inflicted wounds. With his final words, Ikaris told Iron Man that only the Unimind can stop the Final Host from fully unleashing the Horde.

Meanwhile, She-Hulk and Thor confronted Odin, who confessed that one million years ago, his prehistoric Avengers vanquished a mad Celestial, invoking the wrath of the First Host. He also led them to a powerful weapon--the blood of Ymir the Frost Giant. But what does all they've learned have to do with the dead Celestial Loki calls the Progenitor?



Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

## "THE SECRET ORIGIN OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE"

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"THE FIRST CELESTIAL  
TO EVER SET FOOT ON  
THE EARTH...DID SO  
FOUR BILLION YEARS AGO...

"...WHEN THIS WORLD WAS  
STILL A THOROUGHLY  
INSIGNIFICANT SPECK  
OF MOLTEN MUD.

"INSIGNIFICANT AND  
UTTERLY LIFELESS.

"THE CELESTIAL CAME,  
NOT BECAUSE OF SOME  
GRAND COSMIC DESIGN  
OR GODLY DESTINY. IT  
NEVER EVEN CONSCIOUSLY  
CHOSE THIS WORLD.

"IT CAME MERELY  
BECAUSE IT FELL.

"IT FELL...

"...BECAUSE IT  
WAS DYING.





"TURNS OUT EVEN AN OMNIPOTENT SPACE GOD GETS SICK NOW AND AGAIN. AND THIS ONE HAD JUST COME DOWN WITH QUITE THE NASTY INFECTION.

"THEY WOULD COME TO BE CALLED THE HORDE. THE CELESTIAL HAD ENCOUNTERED A SWARM OF THE COSMIC LOCUSTS WHILE TRAVERSING DEEP SPACE.



"IN THOSE DAYS, THEY PREFERRED TO FEED ON INFANT WORLDS. BUT THERE WAS EVEN MORE POWER INSIDE A CELESTIAL, THEY QUICKLY DISCOVERED.



"THIS PARTICULAR CELESTIAL WAS NOW HOPELESSLY INFESTED. THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO EVER BECOME DISEASED. PATIENT ZERO.

"IT FELL THROUGH SPACE FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE IT LANDED.



"LANDED IN THE MUCK OF EARTH. WHERE IT VOMITED AND BLEED AND WEPT RADIOACTIVE TEARS.

"AND THEN SLUMPED OVER AND DIED.



"THAT SICKNESS SEEPED INTO THE EARTH, PERCOLATING THROUGH THE SHIFTING SEAS OF PRIMORDIAL ROCK AND LAVA.

"ALONG WITH THE BLOOD AND ROTTING FLESH OF A HIGH-OMNIPOTENT ALPHA CELESTIAL.

"THE INFECTION STEWED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

"THE ENTIRE PLANET BECAME *DISEASED*, FOREVER ALTERING THE EARTH'S EVOLUTIONARY TRAJECTORY.

"TELL ME, *WHY* HAS THIS ONE PARTICULAR, OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE WORLD ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A HOTBED FOR SUPER-POWERED MADNESS?

"WHY IS THE EARTH SO *UNIQUELY ECCENTRIC* WITHIN THE NEAR-INFINITE NUMBER OF PLANETS STREAMING ACROSS THE HEAVENS?

"WHY INDEED?"

"NOT BECAUSE OF ANY GRAND PURPOSE, I CAN ASSURE YOU.

"BUT BECAUSE OF THAT BUBBLING, BLACK PUDDLE OF CELESTIAL *REGURGICATION*. AND THE *MONSTROUS THINGS* THAT WOULD COME SLITHERING OUT OF IT."

"ANY GUESSES AS TO WHAT THOSE MONSTERS WERE. HMMMM?"



THEY WERE YOU!



YES, YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA. YOU AND ALL YOUR MUTATED, GAMMA-IRRADIATED, WEB-SLINGING ILK.

AND THIS IS WHO YOU HAVE TO THANK.

## THE ICY WATERS BENEATH THE NORTH POLE.

THE PROGENITOR.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT.

THE GOD WHO DIED SO THAT YOU MIGHT LIVE.

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME WITH THE HISTORY LESSON, LOKI. I'VE ALREADY LIVED THROUGH ALL THE HISTORY I NEED TO KNOW.

