

--PROBABLY SPENT HIS FIRST CHECK ALREADY.

TONY!

MISTER STARK!

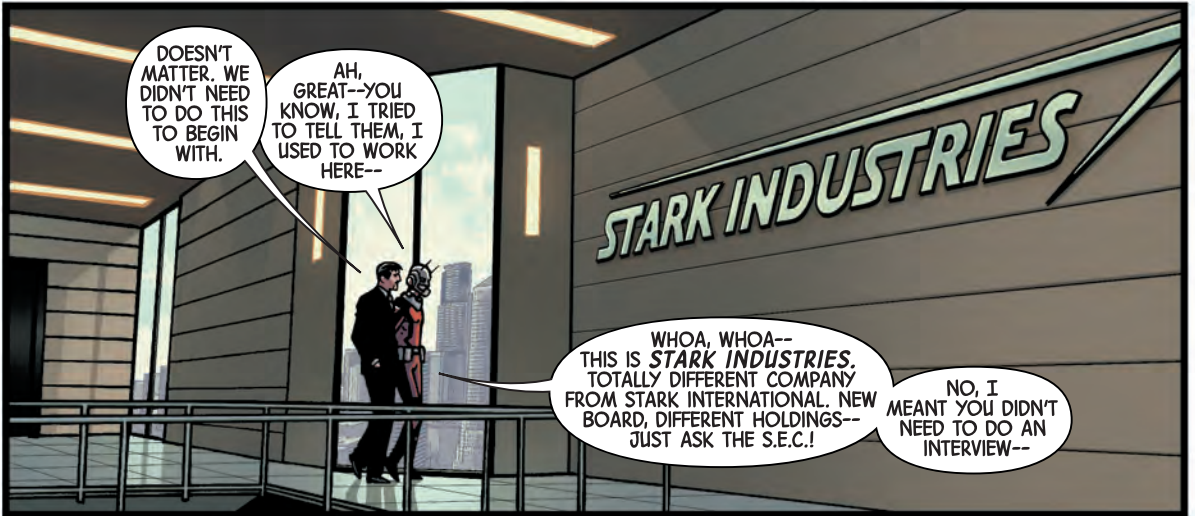
FELLAS.

I THINK I CAN TAKE THIS ONE FROM HERE, OWEN.



YOU WORE THE COSTUME TO THE INTERVIEW?

I DON'T REALLY HAVE A SUIT RIGHT NOW, PER SE--



DOESN'T MATTER, WE DIDN'T NEED TO DO THIS TO BEGIN WITH.

AH, GREAT--YOU KNOW, I TRIED TO TELL THEM, I USED TO WORK HERE--

WHOA, WHOA-- THIS IS **STARK INDUSTRIES**, TOTALLY DIFFERENT COMPANY FROM STARK INTERNATIONAL. NEW BOARD, DIFFERENT HOLDINGS-- JUST ASK THE S.E.C.!

NO, I MEANT YOU DIDN'T NEED TO DO AN INTERVIEW--



BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET THE JOB.



WAIT, WHAT?



YEAH, THE INTERVIEWS ARE JUST FOR SHOW. LEGAL STUFF. I'VE ALREADY HAND-PICKED MY FINALISTS.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M PERFECT FOR THIS! "HEAD OF SECURITY SOLUTIONS, A NEW DEPARTMENT AT STARK INDUSTRIES" THAT'S **ME**--

I MEAN, WHO KNOWS HOW TO NOT GET YOUR STUFF STOLEN BETTER THAN THE GUY WHO USED TO STEAL YOUR STUFF?



YEAH, I GET THE RATIONALE, BUT--LOOK, SCOTT, WE GO BACK AWAYS, AND TO BE HONEST--I LIKE YOU. ALWAYS HAVE.

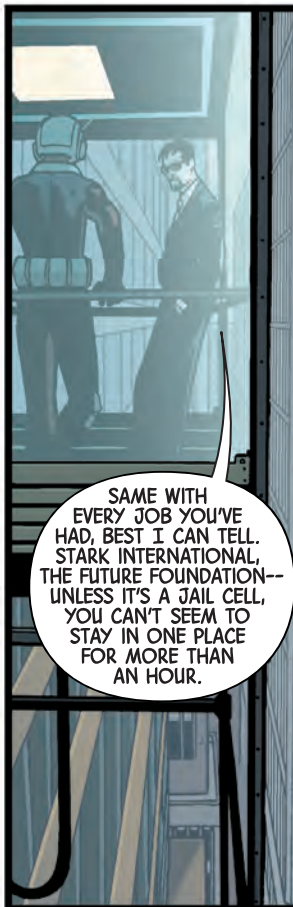
BUT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING IN THERE, ABOUT THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR--HOW IT NEVER STUCK?

DOES THAT GUY KNOW YOU BUG HIS OFFICE?

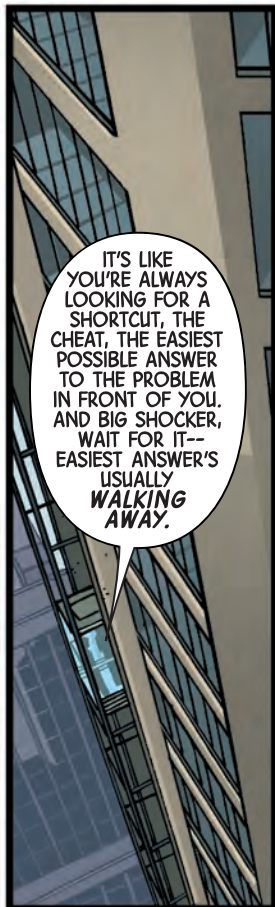


DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS, PAL, BUT--THERE'S A COMMON FACTOR THERE...

YOU.



SAME WITH EVERY JOB YOU'VE HAD, BEST I CAN TELL. STARK INTERNATIONAL, THE FUTURE FOUNDATION-- UNLESS IT'S A JAIL CELL, YOU CAN'T SEEM TO STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR.



IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A SHORTCUT, THE CHEAT, THE EASIEST POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM IN FRONT OF YOU. AND BIG SHOCKER, WAIT FOR IT-- EASIEST ANSWER'S USUALLY WALKING AWAY.



POINT IS, I NEED SOMEONE I CAN DEPEND ON HERE, SCOTT. SOMEONE I CAN *TRUST*. YOU'RE SERIOUSLY ASKING ME TO DO THAT?

TONY, PLEASE...I--I GET THAT I'VE FLAKED BEFORE. I KNOW. BUT MAN, DON'T ASK ME TO GET INTO IT, JUST TAKE MY WORD FOR IT--

I NEED THIS.



→SIGH←--FINE. YOU'RE LUCKY I'M A SUCKER FOR A SECOND CHANCE STORY. OR SEVENTEENTH CHANCE AS IT MAY BE.

I'M HOLDING A LITTLE COMPETITION-- A TRIAL EVALUATION OF SORTS--FOR THE CANDIDATES. I CAN GET YOU THAT FAR, AND WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THERE. NO OFFENSE, THOUGH, SCOTT--



I'M NOT BETTING ON YOU.