

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

Dear Community,

A while back I, Luke Cage, along with some of my fellow heroes such as the Falcon (a.k.a. Sam Wilson, the new Captain America—congrats on the new job, Sam!), Power Man, White Tiger, She-Hulk, Blue Marvel and Spectrum reached out to you, the people, to help us all in our quest to help each other. Thus, the new Mighty Avengers were born!

We've had some tough times lately. In an attempt to fight the Red Skull, a spell was cast that inadvertently caused some heroes and villains to...well...not be themselves. Both Captain America and I were affected, and although we've both since regained our senses, in the interim we did some things that caused serious damage and pain to our community.

We will make this right. All we can ask is that you bear with us and continue to give us your feedback and be the supportive, open and engaged community you've always been.

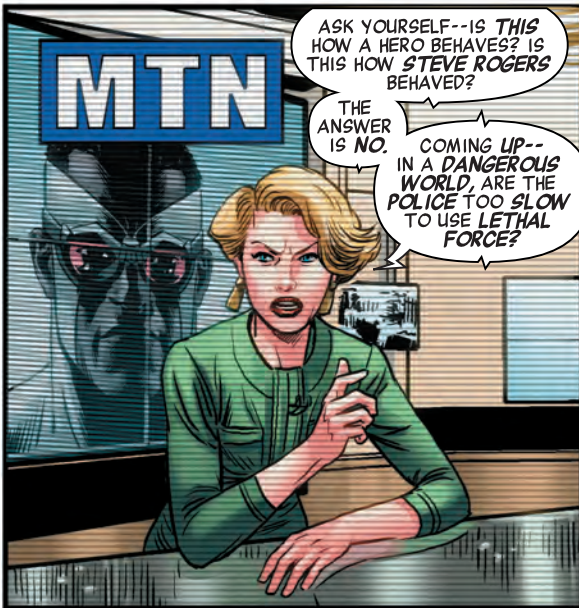
Your Neighbor,

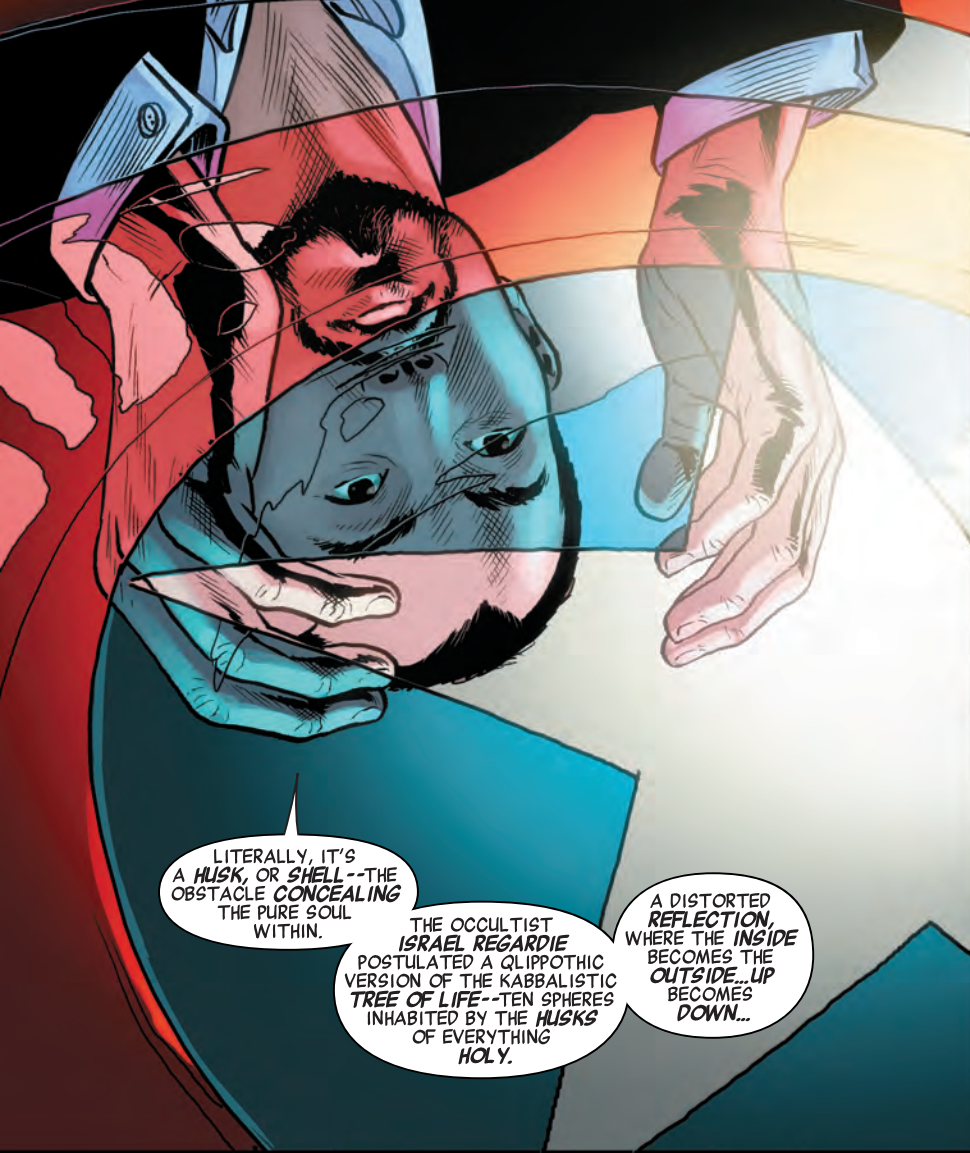
Luke Cage

BRUTAL NEW CAP SCARES CITY

- The new CAPTAIN AMERICA has lately been seen severely injuring the criminals he apprehends, as well as leading a team of Avengers into a public confrontation with the Mighty Avengers team outside their Times Square headquarters. This man definitely does not appear to be your father's Captain America.
- In other news, GIDEON MACE, the criminal known to have been the killer of Mighty Avengers member WHITE TIGER'S parents, was found murdered in an alley in Manhattan. His heart had been removed. Mr. Mace was recently employed by CORTEX Incorporated, owned by Jason Quantrell. CORTEX recently attempted a merger with the Mighty Avengers, but the deal was halted by certain members of the hero team.
- It should also be noted that imprisoned former CORTEX employee BARBARA McDEVITT recently mysteriously disappeared from her holding cell. Whether the two events are related or not has yet to be determined.

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KALUU.
BLACK MAGICIAN.

LITERALLY, IT'S A **HUSK**, OR **SHELL**--THE OBSTACLE **CONCEALING** THE PURE SOUL WITHIN.

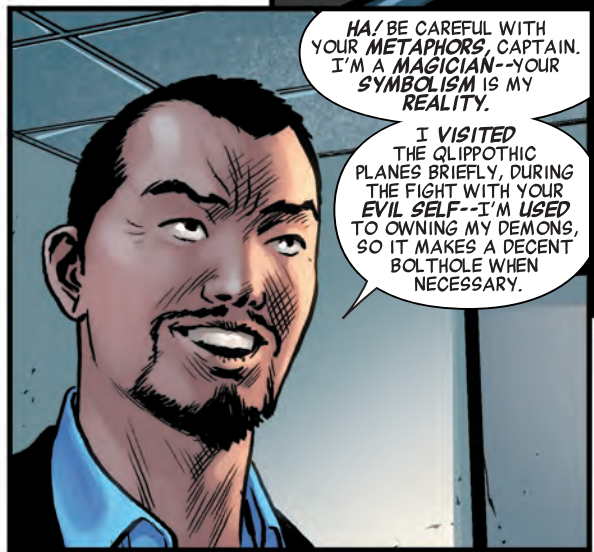
THE OCCULTIST **ISRAEL REGARDIE** POSTULATED A QLIPTOTHIC VERSION OF THE KABBALISTIC **TREE OF LIFE**--TEN SPHERES INHABITED BY THE **HUSKS** OF EVERYTHING **HOLY**.

A DISTORTED **REFLECTION**, WHERE THE **INSIDE** BECOMES THE **OUTSIDE**...**UP** BECOMES **DOWN**...

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TREE

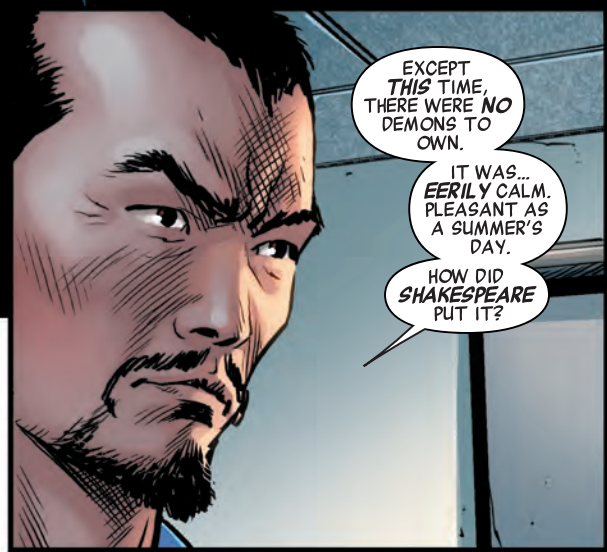
AL EWING WRITER
LUKE ROSS & IBAN COELLO ARTISTS
RACHELLE ROSENBERG COLOR ARTIST

TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERER
LUKE ROSS & RICO RENZI COVER



HA! BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR **METAPHORS**, CAPTAIN. I'M A **MAGICIAN**--YOUR **SYMBOLISM** IS MY **REALITY**.

I VISITED THE QLIPTOTHIC PLANES BRIEFLY, DURING THE FIGHT WITH YOUR **EVIL SELF**--I'M USED TO OWNING MY DEMONS, SO IT MAKES A DECENT BOLTHOLE WHEN NECESSARY.



EXCEPT **THIS** TIME, THERE WERE **NO** DEMONS TO OWN.

IT WAS... **EERILY CALM**. PLEASANT AS A SUMMER'S DAY.

HOW DID **SHAKESPEARE** PUT IT?

THE GEM THEATER.
MIGHTY AVENGERS HQ.

CAPTAIN AMERICA.
RECENTLY DE-INVERTED.

...GOOD
BECOMES
EVIL.

YEAH.

I THINK
I JUST GOT
BACK FROM
THERE.

JAKE THOMAS ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT WITH **WIL MOSS** EDITORS
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

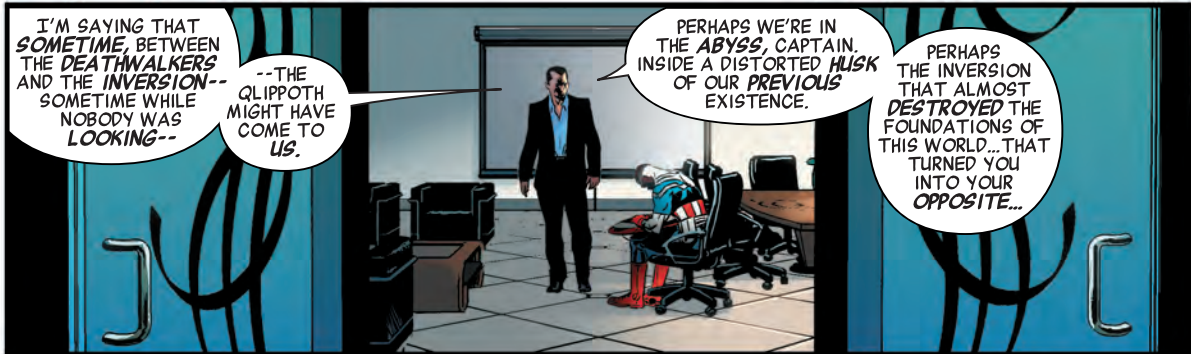
CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY **JOE SIMON** AND **JACK KIRBY**
AVENGERS CREATED BY **STAN LEE** AND **JACK KIRBY**

"HELL IS
EMPTY.

"AND ALL
THE DEVILS
ARE HERE."

THE
TEMPEST,
RIGHT?

WHAT
EXACTLY ARE
YOU SAYING,
KALUU?



I'M SAYING THAT **SOMETIME**, BETWEEN THE **DEATHWALKERS** AND THE **INVERSION**-- SOMETIME WHILE NOBODY WAS **LOOKING**--

--THE **QLIPPOTH** MIGHT HAVE COME TO **US**.

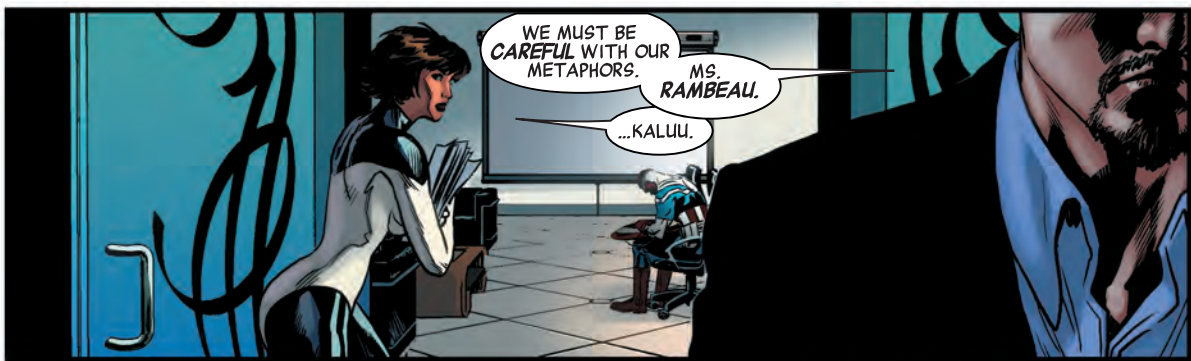
PERHAPS WE'RE IN THE **ABYSS**, CAPTAIN. INSIDE A DISTORTED **HUSK** OF OUR **PREVIOUS** EXISTENCE.

PERHAPS THE **INVERSION** THAT ALMOST **DESTROYED** THE FOUNDATIONS OF THIS WORLD... THAT TURNED YOU INTO YOUR **OPPOSITE**...



...WAS JUST THE **BEGINNING**.

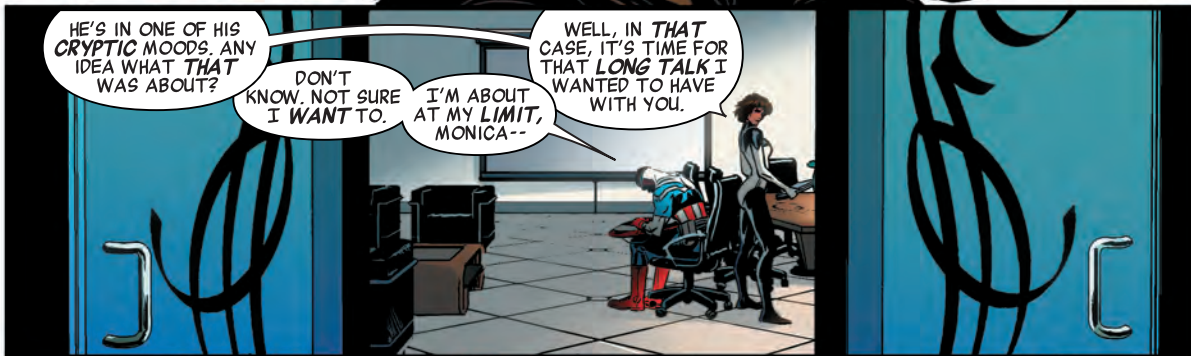
OR PERHAPS I'M SIMPLY BEING **METAPHORICAL**.



WE MUST BE **CAREFUL** WITH OUR **METAPHORS**.

MS. **RAMBEAU**.

...**KALUU**.



HE'S IN ONE OF HIS **CRYPTIC** MOODS. ANY IDEA WHAT **THAT** WAS ABOUT?

DON'T **KNOW**. NOT SURE I **WANT** TO.

I'M ABOUT AT MY **LIMIT**, **MONICA**--

WELL, IN **THAT** CASE, IT'S TIME FOR THAT **LONG TALK** I WANTED TO HAVE WITH YOU.



ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE A **MIGHTY AVENGER**.

OR **NOT**.

SPECTRUM.
TEAM LEADER.