

JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES FOUGHT FOR THE U.S. DURING WORLD WAR II AS BUCKY. THE TEENAGE SIDEKICK OF CAPTAIN AMERICA. THEN HE FOUGHT FOR SOVIET RUSSIA AS A BRAINWASHED ASSASSIN CODE-NAMED THE WINTER SOLDIER. THEN HE FOUGHT TO HONOR HIS MENTOR'S LEGACY WHEN HE BRIEFLY SERVED AS CAPTAIN AMERICA. NOW BUCKY BARNES FIGHTS FOR EVERYONE. HE IS "THE MAN ON THE WALL," CLANDESTINELY PROTECTING EARTH FROM ALL THREATS WITH HIS PARTNER, DAISY "QUAKE" JOHNSON.

THE MOST RECENT THREAT APPEARED TO BE THE LOKI FROM THE FUTURE. DEAD-SET ON WREAKING HAVOC WITH HIS PRESENT SELF AND MOVING DRUGS ON THE SIDE. BUCKY WAS SHOT BY HIS OLDER SELF WITH A BULLET FULL OF THE DRUG ILLIUM, WHICH PROVIDED A HALLUCINOGENIC ENCOUNTER WITH LOKI HIMSELF. THE TRICKSTER POINTED BUCKY TOWARDS ILLIUM'S SOURCE PLANET, MER-2-BOW, TO CONFRONT ITS QUEEN. WHEN BUCKY RECONVENED WITH DAISY, SHE NEGLECTED TO MENTION THE SURPRISE GUEST WHO HAD DROPPED BY...BUCKY FROM THE FUTURE!

BUCKY BARNES: THE WINTER SOLDIER

CHAPTER THREE: ROMANCING SPACE

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BUCKY
BARNES, MEET
VENTOLIN
XTAL.

WHAT
IS SHE?

SHE'S
PAO'REE.

NEVER
HEARD OF
THEM.

A RACE OF
VERY PROGRESSIVE
TELEPATHS THAT IS GROWING
TOWARDS BEING THE *DOMINANT*
SPECIES IN THEIR GALAXY. PARTIALLY,
IT SEEMS, BECAUSE THEY'RE
NEARLY 100% COMPOSED
OF ALMOST-COMPLETE
PACIFISTS.

WHAT
DID SHE
DO?

THEORY BEING
THAT ONE DEAD
PAO'REE IS BETTER
THAN MILLIONS
DYING LATER.
GOT IT.

ACCORDING
TO FURY'S FILES,
SHE WANTS TO *ABOLISH*
MONARCHY ON *MER-Z-BOW--*
AND THAT WOULD *DESTABILIZE*
THE ENTIRE *REGION*. A WAR WITH
OTHER RACES WOULD BE
IMMINENT. IT WOULD
SPREAD TOWARDS US
LIKE *CANCER*.

HIS
WORDS. NOT
MINE.

IT'S A
TRICKY MORAL
TERRITORY.

PUT
THAT ON MY
GRAVESTONE,
DAISY.



WHERE'S THE GREAT REZTOR?

LAST I SAW HIM, HE WAS IN THE STRATEGY ROOM TRYING TO COPULATE WITH THE REPLICA OF THAT SKRULL SHIP YOU PUT TOGETHER.

NOT THAT ONE.

THAT ONE.

DID YOU STOP HIM?

NOPE.

WHY NOT?

I WAS TOO BUSY POSTING IT ONLINE. DON'T WORRY, MY IP IS CLOAKED. NO ONE WILL KNOW.

"DAISY JOHNSON'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS JOB ARE SECOND TO NONE." NICK FURY'S WORDS. NOT MINE.

OH, PLEASE. YOU LOVE ME.

I'M...JUST EXCITED.

ABOUT?

YOU'LL SEE SOON.



OVER THE COURSE OF NINE DAYS,
THREE SHIPS APPROACH THE PLANET.

THREE SHIPS,
SHIELDED.

THREE SHIPS, READY
TO DESCEND.

ONLY ONE
OF THIS
UNIVERSE.

PLANET MER-Z-BOW,
SECTOR 6.

PAO'REE POPULATION:
1.5 BILLION.

MAJORITY OF THE PAO'REE
POPULATION IS TELEPATHICALLY
INTERCONNECTED--AND PACIFIST
UNLESS SERIOUSLY THREATENED. THE
PAO'REE CAN NOT YET READ THE MINDS
OF OTHER STAR RACES, BUT THEY ARE
EXPECTED TO REACH THAT CAPABILITY
IN APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY YEARS.

IT IS SAID THAT THIS EVOLUTIONARY
GROWTH IS A MATTER OF COMBINING
WILL, IMAGINATION AND INTENT.

THERE IS NO PROOF FOR THIS, BUT AS THE GREAT PAO'REE PHILOSOPHER
ONEOHTRIX C-LARK GRO-WLS G'ARDEN STATED, THERE IS PERHAPS
NO SCIENTIFIC WAY OF MEASURING BELIEF, AND THAT'S PERFECTLY OKAY.

THE SHIELDS ARE ON, SHE SAYS.

THEY BARELY HAVE ANY DEFENSE SYSTEMS, SHE SAYS. PACIFISTS, SHE SAYS.

I ADMIT. I WAS WRONG ABOUT THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS PART.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT LIFE PURPOSE, HUMANS?

I WOULD REALLY LIKE A WARM MEAL THAT IS NOT SPACE SNACKS. AND MAYBE A NICE DATE. AS FOR MY LIFE PURPOSE, I'M SORT OF IN A SEARCH MODE RIGHT NOW.

I WOULD LIKE A HOT SHOWER. THE BOILER ON THIS SHIP IS BROKEN. LIFE PURPOSE IS CLASSIFIED.

WE CAN OFFER YOU MANY WARM SHOWERS AND GOOD MEALS AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE TO LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS BEHIND.

UH, AND ...

...WHAT IS A "DATE"?