

The ultimate team has come together to solve the ultimate problems. Blue Marvel. Spectrum. Black Panther. Captain Marvel. Ms. America. They are...

# THE ULTIMATES<sup>2</sup>

I AM GALACTUS.

ONCE I WAS THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS--NOW I AM THE LIFEBRINGER, SEEDER OF NEW PLANETS.

FIVE OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES--ITS ULTIMATE TEAM--AIDED ME IN BECOMING WHAT I AM. IN TURN, I HELPED THEM ON A MISSION TO GLIMPSE WHAT LIES OUTSIDE ALL THINGS.

ON THAT QUEST, I SPOKE TO ETERNITY, THE PERSONIFICATION OF ALL THAT EXISTS. THE TRUE ETERNITY, OF WHOM EACH UNIVERSE'S ETERNITY IS BUT ONE SMALL FACET.

HE WAS CHAINED, THE COSMOS ITSELF--CAGED.

HE GAVE ME A MISSION--TO LEARN THE TRUTH OF HIS IMPRISONMENT, AND WHAT FORCE LAY BEHIND IT.

TO ASSIST ME, I SENT MY NEWEST HERALD, CONNER SIMS--ONCE THE VILLAIN ANTI-MAN--TO BRING THE ULTIMATES TO MY WORLD-SHIP, TAA II.

BUT THE HIGHER POWERS OF THE COSMOS--IN PARTICULAR, MASTER ORDER AND LORD CHAOS--ARE UNHAPPY WITH MY EVOLUTION IN THE COSMIC HIERARCHY.

I FEAR THEY WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE ME AS I ONCE WAS...



WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, WE HAD NOTHING.

THE DEPRESSION HIT BLACK FAMILIES HARD.

HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT JOB LONG.

MY FATHER WENT FROM A JOB MOST WHITE FOLKS WOULDN'T TOUCH TO ONE THEY ACCUSED HIM OF STEALING.

THERE WERE NO PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, NO TREE, NO TURKEY.

NO HOT CHOCOLATE.  
BUT MY FATHER WAS A MAN WITH A RICH IMAGINATION AND A GIFT FOR ORATORY.

AND EVERY YEAR, HE'D GATHER MY BROTHER AND ME UP ON HIS KNEE...  
...AND TELL US HIS STORIES.

GHOST STORIES. TALES OF THE SEASON.  
TALES OF HAUNTED HOUSES AND RATTLING CHAINS.  
OF MYSTERY AND MAGIC.

THOSE STORIES IGNITED A LOVE OF THE STRANGE AND UNCANNY THAT I'VE NEVER LOST.  
AND EVERY CHRISTMAS, THE MEMORIES RETURN.

MY FATHER'S VOICE, DEEP AND RICH AS SUNKEN TREASURE.  
MY BROTHER'S EYES, WIDE AS MY OWN.  
MY MOTHER'S LAUGH...

...AND THE SNOW FALLING QUIETLY OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.

**TAA II.**  
WORLD-SHIP OF GALACTUS.  
WANDERING THE FAR STARS.

SO.

ANYONE  
WANT TO TELL  
ME HOW IT CAN  
BE *SNOWING*  
IN *DEEP*  
SPACE?

BEATS  
ME.

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WITH ALL THE  
COSMIC EXPERIENCE,  
MAC--EVER SEEN  
ANYTHING LIKE  
THIS ON YOUR  
TRAVELS?

NOT EVEN  
ONCE.

I'LL TELL  
YOU ONE  
THING, THOUGH--  
*WHATEVER*  
THAT IS, IT'S  
NOT SNOW.

**MONICA RAMBEAU.**  
CODENAME: "SPECTRUM."  
LIVING ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY.

**DR. ADAM BRASHEAR.**  
CODENAME: "BLUE MARVEL."  
HUMAN ANTIMATTER REACTOR.

**AMERICA CHAVEZ.**  
SPEED, STRENGTH,  
FLIGHT, PORTALS.

NO, ADAM,  
I MEAN IT'S  
*LITERALLY NOTHING.*  
TINY POCKETS OF  
EMPTINESS. A  
*SOLID ABSENCE.*

LIKE  
TINY FLECKS  
OF SOME OTHER  
SPACE, DRIFTING  
THROUGH OURS.

A UNIVERSE  
THAT ISN'T THERE  
ANYMORE...



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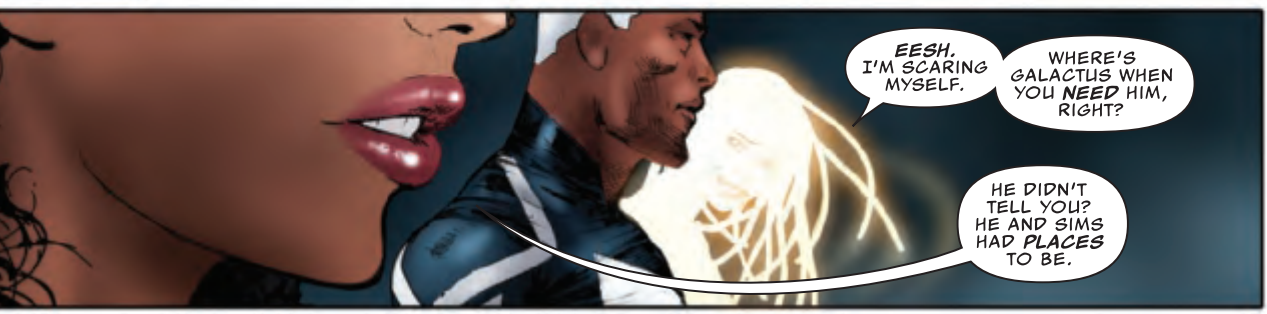
IT IS... *COLD*,  
THOUGH.

I MEAN,  
THIS IS JUST  
A *FEELING*,  
BUT...WELL...

IT'S  
NOTHING.

I DOUBT THAT.  
REMEMBER WHAT  
I SAID ABOUT YOUR  
*COSMIC AWARENESS*?  
YOU MAY BE PLUGGED  
INTO THIS ON A LEVEL  
WE CAN'T BE.

YOU  
SHOULD TRUST  
YOUR--



*EESH*.  
I'M SCARING  
MYSELF.

WHERE'S  
GALACTUS WHEN  
YOU *NEED* HIM,  
RIGHT?

HE DIDN'T  
TELL YOU?  
HE AND SIMS  
HAD PLACES  
TO BE.

"THEY'VE GOT A MEETING."

**CONNER SIMS.**  
CODENAME: "ANTI-MAN."  
HERALD OF LIFE.



GALACTUS...  
WHAT AM I  
SEEING...?!

YOUR COSMIC  
SENSES HAVE  
BEEN AUGMENTED  
TO SPARE FURTHER  
DAMAGE TO YOUR  
MIND, CONNER  
SIMS.

YOU  
ARE NOW  
CAPABLE OF  
FULLY PERCEIVING  
REALITY AT THE  
HIGHEST  
LEVEL--

**GALACTUS.**  
THE LIFEBRINGER.  
SEEDER OF WORLDS.

--THE  
LEVEL OF  
ASPECTS.

WHERE  
SIGNIFIER AND  
SIGNIFIED BECOME  
ONE. WHERE METAPHOR  
AND REALITY MEET.  
WHERE CONCEPTS  
MAKE WAR.

NOW--  
REMAIN SILENT,  
CONNER SIMS.  
BE VIGILANT.

**LORD CHAOS.**

**MASTER ORDER.**

**THE SUPERFLOW.**  
HIGHER SPACE OF  
DREAMS AND VISIONS

**THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.**

"WATCH AND  
LEARN."

BEFORE  
ALL WAS, I  
AM. AFTER ALL  
ENDS, I AM. I  
LIVE, I DIE, I  
LIVE AGAIN.

I WEAR THREE  
FACES, BUT MY  
TRUE FACE IS EVER  
HIDDEN, AND MY  
TRUE NAME NO  
ONE KNOWS.

I AM THE  
LIVING TRIBUNAL  
OF THE EIGHTH  
COSMOS...