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BOOK TWO: *INVERSION*

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AVENGERS • X-MEN

AXIS

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PREVIOUSLY...

POSSESSING THE BRAIN OF DECEASED X-MEN FOUNDER PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER—AND THE IMMENSE PSYCHIC POWERS THAT COME WITH IT—THE VILLAINOUS RED SKULL SOUGHT TO RID THE EARTH OF MUTANTKIND. ASCENDING INTO THE TERRIFYING FORM OF RED ONSLAUGHT, HE INITIATED HIS WAR, BROADCASTING HIS INFLUENCE ACROSS THE PLANET. DETERMINED TO PUT AN END TO THIS "WORLD WAR HATE," A SMALL ARMY OF AVENGERS AND X-MEN TOOK THE FIGHT TO THE SKULL AT HIS PRISON CAMP ON THE ISLAND OF GENOSHA...ALONGSIDE THE WORLD'S FIERCEST VILLAINS.



COMPLETELY OUTMATCHED, THE HEROES AND VILLAINS MADE A DESPERATE LAST DITCH EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE RED ONSLAUGHT: SCARLET WITCH AND DOCTOR DOOM USED THEIR MAGICAL ABILITIES TO ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE RED SKULL'S CONSCIOUSNESS AND BRING XAVIER TO THE FORE. BLANKETING GENOSHA IN THEIR SPELL, THE HEROES AND VILLAINS EMERGED ON THE OTHER SIDE TO FIND THE RED SKULL DORMANT. BUT WHILE THE X-MEN WANTED TO REVIVE THE SKULL, HOPING TO BE REUNITED WITH XAVIER, THE AVENGERS INSISTED ON TAKING HIM INTO CUSTODY AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. WITH THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS REKINDLED ONCE MORE, THE AVENGERS AND X-MEN BITTERLY PARTED WAYS...

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INVERSION: CHAPTER 1

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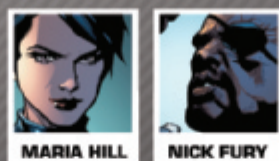
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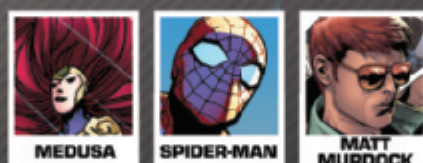
X-MEN



S.H.I.E.L.D.



HEROES



VILLAINS



S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER ILIAD. ABOVE THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

THE STARK SENTINELS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND ARE BEING DISMANTLED.



SKULL'S CAMPS IN GENOSHA HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN.

ALL OF HIS PRISONERS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED, TAKEN TO HOSPITALS OR RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.

WE'RE OFFERING TRAUMA SUPPORT TO ANY WHO REQUEST IT.

WORLD WAR HATE HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.

YEP.

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO HAND THE RED SKULL OVER.

NOW THE HEALING, OR SO THE CLICHE GOES.

CAP, THIS IS ONE OF THE **UGLIEST** THINGS WE'VE ENCOUNTERED GOING BACK AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER.

BUT YOU DID IT.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY APPRECIATES WHAT THE AVENGERS DID, BUT NO ONE IS COMFORTABLE WITH LEAVING THE RED SKULL IN YOUR CARE.

NICE AND SUBTLE APPROACH TO THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, MARIA.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR **SUBTLE**, FURY.

THIS "ELEPHANT" HAS THE **UNGDODLY** PSYCHIC POWERS OF CHARLES XAVIER.

WE'VE BUILT A SPECIAL CONTAINMENT FACILITY TO DEAL WITH HIM.



YOU'RE RIGHT, DIRECTOR HILL--RED SKULL'S THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST DERANGED MONSTER WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

ALL THE MORE REASON HE'LL STAY IN AVENGERS TOWER AND NOT IN SOME RINKY-DINK S.H.I.E.L.D. PRISON.



RINKY-DINK?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PUSH MY BUTTONS, WILSON?



I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR BUTTONS, FLURY.

TONY STARK DEvised A WAY TO KEEP SKULL'S BRAINWAVES TURNED OFF, LOCKED UP IN THE HEART OF AVENGERS TOWER SURROUNDED BY EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

WE'VE GOT SKULL--HE'S SAFE.

NEXT TOPIC.



TONY STARK? THE SAME TONY STARK WHO BUILT THE SKULL'S SENTINELS?

THE SAME TONY STARK WHO HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS?

GOT TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, SAM, A PRISONER OF WAR BEING HELD BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION...



THIS JUST ISN'T HOW THINGS ARE DONE.

MAYBE THEM RIGHT, CAP.

MAYBE IT BETTER IF WE HAND HIM OVER--

I'VE MADE MY DECISION.



AND I DIDN'T INVITE DISCUSSION.



LOOK, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT AND EVERYBODY'S NERVES ARE A BIT... **FRAYED.**

BUT THIS **ATTITUDE...**LET'S JUST ALL GO BACK TO ZERO, OKAY?

LET ME MAKE SOMETHING **PERFECTLY CLEAR** TO YOU, FURY.



I DON'T WORK FOR YOU.

YOU'RE OUT OF LINE, SAM.

COMPORT YOURSELF IN A MANNER BEFITTING YOUR STATION--

MY STATION?!

TWOKK



YOU'VE GOT ME MIXED UP WITH STEVE.



I'M NOT THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA.

C'MON, HULK--WE'RE DONE HERE.



SCARLET WITCH, IT'S CAP.

I'M HERE, SAM.

CALL A MEETING. WE'VE GOT A SITUATION.

AND, WANDA, ONE OTHER THING...



"...DON'T TELL ROGERS."

BUSHWICK, BROOKLYN.

ALL UNITS, GET INTO POSITION.

MOVE IN ON MY COMMAND.



ALL RIGHT, SQUID--THROW YOUR WEAPONS OUT THE WINDOW AND COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

YOU ALREADY BOTCHED THE BANK ROBBERY--KIDNAPPING AN INNOCENT FAMILY IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE!



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

WE'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE, YOU SILLY SCAMP!



WELL, MY TENTACLES, GUESS WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SEND OUT A BODY TO SHOW WE MEAN BUSINESS!

ON IT, BOSS.

**BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA**