

AVENGERS EMPYRE AFTERMATH



The Kree and Skrull empires united under Emperor Hulkling to fight a common enemy: the Celestial Messiah Quoi and his plantlike Cotati. The Cotati wanted more than justice for the crimes the Kree and Skrulls committed against them—they wanted to exterminate all animal life, starting with Earth! Working alongside Emperor Hulkling, Earth's heroes managed to both repel the Cotati invasion and defeat renegade forces within the Kree/Skrull alliance. Quoi and the Cotati have surrendered, but no war is without its casualties. Now the Avengers are left to pick up the pieces...

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...
SO YOU LEFT MY MOTHER TO DIE.

YOUR OWN DAUGHTER...



INSTEAD OF RISKING THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE? OF COURSE I DID, "EMPEROR HULKING."

I DID WHAT ANY RULER WOULD HAVE DONE--ANY RULER WITH THE WILL TO TRULY RULE. TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES...

WOULD YOU RATHER WE BOTH HAD PERISHED IN A FAILED TRANSLOCATION-- AND THE SKRULL EMPIRE WITH US?



OR WOULD YOU RATHER I BURNED YOUR MOTHER IN FRONT OF YOU, AS YOUR PET SUPER-SKRULL DID?

MY APOLOGIES-- FOSTER MOTHER. SHE ONLY RAISED YOU, PERHAPS YOU DON'T CARE...



MY LIEGE, I--I REGRET--

SAVE IT. JUST... SAVE IT, KL'RT.

YOUR TURN'S COMING.



MY LIEGE.

AND THEN? HOW DID EMPRESS R'KILL BECOME TANALTH THE PURSUER?

HOW DID YOU END UP LEADING THE KREE...?



WITH EASE.

THERE WAS A TANALTH, OF COURSE--A PRISONER OF WAR, LONG DEAD IN OUR DUNGEONS. HER SHAPE WAS ON FILE.

POWER SKRULL TECHNOLOGY ALLOWED ME TO MIMIC HER STRENGTH AND SPEED. THE ONLY PROBLEM WOULD BE MASKING MY SKRULLIAN DNA...

...AND THIS TREATMENT WILL SOLVE THAT PROBLEM, YOUR MAJESTY.


LIKE THE IMAGE INDUCERS OF THE SHI'AR-- BUT OPERATING AT THE NANOSCALE, MENTALLY CONTROLLED.

HIDING YOUR TRUE SELF FROM THE STRONGEST OF SCANS. SHOWING ONLY WHAT YOU WISH TO SHOW...

THIS TECHNOLOGY-- DO OTHERS KNOW OF IT?

WITH TARNAX IV GONE? ONLY THOSE IN THIS ROOM.

UM... WHY DO YOU ASK?



"AS TANALTH, I RETURNED TO HALA, WITH WILD STORIES OF HEROISM BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

"I PASSED EVERY GENE TEST THEY GAVE ME--GAVE THEM SECRETS KNOWN ONLY TO SKRULL ROYALTY-- AND WAS PROMOTED TO PURSUER.


"AND SLOWLY, MY RISE THROUGH THE RANKS BEGAN..."



I'LL BET. HOW MANY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL?

NOT AS MANY AS YOU'D THINK.

IT WAS A TIME OF CHAOS-- THE INHUMAN TAKEOVER, THE DESTRUCTION OF HALA, THE KREE CIVIL WAR...



"RONAN'S DEATH AND THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE'S DEFECTION TO THE REBELS LEFT A POWER VACUUM I COULD FILL.

"THEN IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF WAITING..."

"...FOR THE RIGHT ENEMY.



"FOR AN EXCUSE TO BRING THE POWER OF THE KREE AND THE GLORY OF THE SKRULLS TOGETHER--AS ONE--

"--AS THEY SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE BEEN."



AND FOR THAT... I NEEDED MY FIGUREHEAD. THE FOLKTALE KING--MY LEGEND COME TO LIFE.

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THE LEGEND WOULD BE TRUE...



I DO RESPECT YOU, DORREK. PERHAPS... PERHAPS MY WAY IS WEAKNESS, AND YOURS IS STRENGTH. WE SHALL SEE.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED...

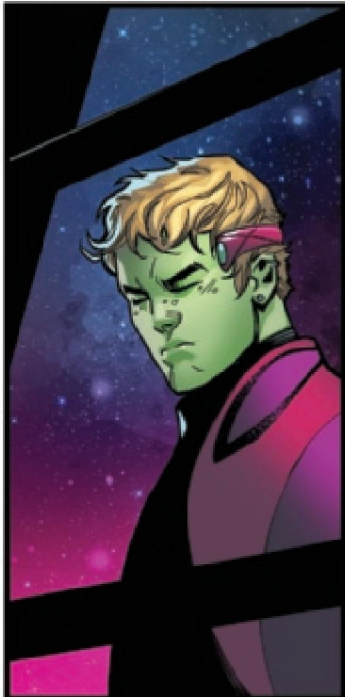


...BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE BURNED THE EARTH.

THEY ARE VIOLENT, SELFISH PRIMITIVES AND THEY CARE ONLY FOR THEMSELVES. WHEN THE TIME COMES... WHEN YOU NEED THEM MOST...

...THEY WILL BETRAY YOU, MY GRANDSON, ALL OF THEM.

AND YOU WILL FIGHT ALONE.



...NAH. I'M NEVER ALONE.



WELL, I HOPE YOUR CONSORT NEVER SHOOTS YOU IN THE BACK FOR COWARDICE. THAT'S HOW YOUR GRANDFATHER DIED, YOU KNOW.

BUT SPEAKING OF WHICH...