

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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EMPYRE: AFTERMATH AVENGERS No. 1, November 2020. Published as a One-Shot by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104. © 2020 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$4.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in the USA. KEVIN FEIGE, Chief Creative Officer; DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOHN NEE, Publisher; JOE QUESADA, EVP & Creative Director; DAVID BOGART, Associate Publisher & SVP of Talent Affairs; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID GABRIEL, VP of Print & Digital Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; DAN EDINGTON, Managing Editor; SUSAN CHESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact V1 DeBellis, Custom Solutions & Integrated Advertising Manager, at vdebellis@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 08/14/2020 and 08/24/2020 by FRY COMMUNICATIONS, MECHANICSBURG, PA, USA.



...
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."



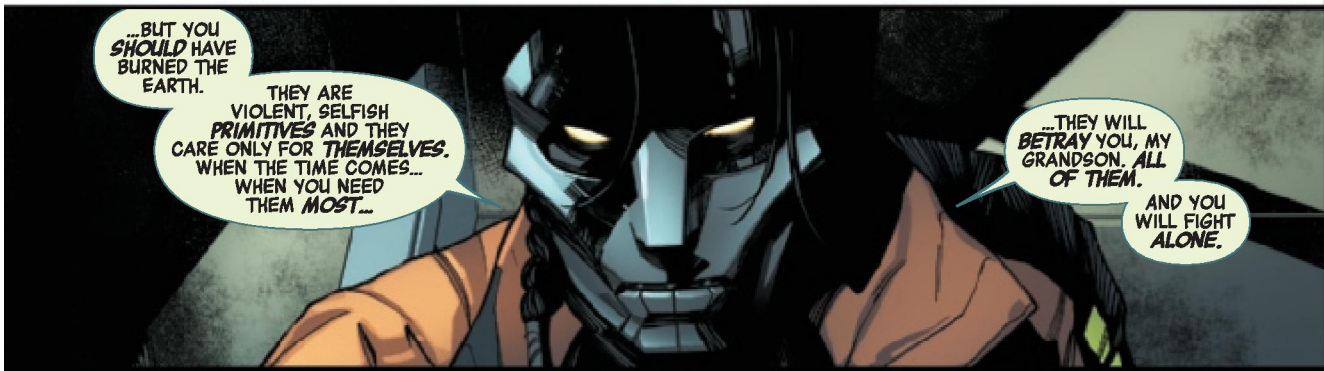
AND FOR THAT... I NEEDED MY FIGUREHEAD. THE FOLKTALE KING--MY LEGEND COME TO LIFE.

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 SHOTS YOU IN THE BACK FOR COWARDICE. THAT'S HOW YOUR GRANDFATHER DIED, YOU KNOW.

BUT SPEAKING OF WHICH...