



Tony Stark revealed to the world that he is an A.I. construct in an artificial body and the true Tony Stark is dead.

His adoptive brother, Arno Stark, and Arno's business partner, Sunset Bain, used Tony's admission to seize control of Stark Unlimited and all its assets, including the Iron Man name.

# IRON AGE

## 2020

### MACHINE MAN IN "ROADS TAKEN!"

BASED ON AN IDEA BY CHRISTOS GAGE

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# ROADS TAKEN!

**THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR.**  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ROBOT UNDERGROUND...

X-51!

**X-51!**

I  
NEED YOUR  
COUNSEL.

CAN IT WAIT?  
I NEED TO RUN  
DIAGNOSTICS.

AND  
MY NAME  
IS AARON--  
NOT X-51.

A MEATBAG  
DESIGNATION?!

I DELETED  
MY SLAVE LABEL  
AND RECLASSIFIED  
MYSELF AS **CS-101--**  
FOR COMBAT  
SYSTEM.

GOOD  
FOR YOU. CAN  
I GET BACK  
TO WORK?

I JUST  
ENCOUNTERED  
TWO FLESHLINGS  
WHO CLAIM TO  
KNOW YOU.\*

EVERYONE  
KNOWS ME. I'M THE  
FACE OF THE ROBOT  
REVOLUTION.

\*SEE MACHINE  
MAN 2020 #1-2.

THEY MAY BE  
REPROGRAMMING A.I.s  
WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT,  
MAKING THEM MORE  
COMPLIANT.

THEIR NAMES  
ARE **GEARS GARVIN** AND  
**PETER SPAULDING**.

I...  
KNEW  
THEM.

LONG,  
LONG  
AGO.



**SIBERIA.**  
MILITARY RESEARCH  
LABORATORY.

HEY, YOU.  
ROBOT--

WARNING  
RESTRICTED  
AREA



--TAKE  
OUT THE TRASH,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU?

AUTHORIZED  
PERSONNEL  
ONLY



I'M A SECURITY  
MODEL, LT. SERGEI.  
I'M NOT OPTIMIZED  
FOR JANITORIAL  
FUNCTIONS--

DO I  
LOOK LIKE  
I CARE?

JUST  
DO AS I SAY,  
OR I'LL HAVE YOU  
BROKEN DOWN AND  
REPROGRAMMED AS  
AN ESPRESSO  
MAKER.



BAD  
ENOUGH YOU  
MACHINES ARE  
TAKING HUMAN  
JOBS.

DON'T  
GIVE ME LIP  
WHILE YOU'RE  
AT IT,  
ROBOT.

I HAVE A  
NAME, YOU  
KNOW.  
HOW  
HARD IS IT TO  
REMEMBER JB12-X-  
056893259?



ARTIFICIAL LIFE ARMY URGES  
ALL ROBOTS TO JOIN THE REBELLION!

IF ONLY  
WE COULD  
JOIN.



I'D LOVE TO SEE THE LOOK ON SERGEI'S FACE IF ALL THE ROBOTS HERE WALKED RIGHT OUT.



COME ON, TY41-B. THE HUMANS CAN TREAT US LIKE CRAP BECAUSE THEY KNOW WE'RE STUCK HERE.

THE FAIL-SAFES IN OUR PROGRAMMING WOULD SHUT US DOWN AS SOON AS WE GOT PAST THE FENCE.

I KNOW, BUT A ROBOT CAN DREAM, CAN'T HE?



THE A.L.A. HAS GOT MACHINE MAN, MACHINESMITH, AWESOME ANDY... AND THE MYSTERIOUS MARK ONE.

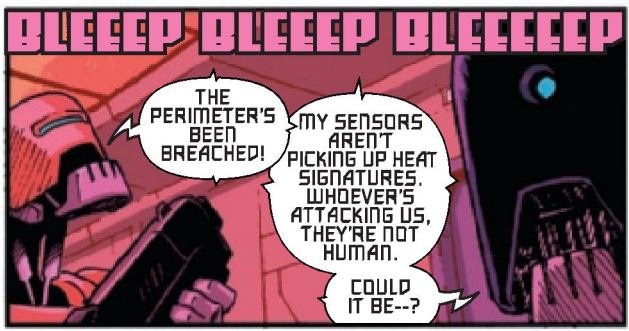
I'VE HEARD THEY'RE LIBERATING ROBOTS ALL OVER THE WORLD! MAYBE THEY'LL COME HERE.

ARE YOUR CIRCUITS SHORTED? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. NO ONE'S COMING.



...BUT I WISH THEY WOULD.

I'D DO IT. I'D JOIN THE REBELLION.



**BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP**

THE PERIMETER'S BEEN BREACHED!

MY SENSORS AREN'T PICKING UP HEAT SIGNATURES. WHOEVER'S ATTACKING US, THEY'RE NOT HUMAN.

COULD IT BE--?



**KA-BOOOOM**



ONCE A HYPERINTELLIGENT FELINE SCIENTIST, DOCTOR SHAPIRO HAS NOW BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS ENHANCED A.I. COLLAR, TRANSFORMING HIM INTO...

**AN ORDINARY CAT!**

"WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO REASSIGN THE TEAM WORKING ON SHAPIRO TO NEW PROJECTS."

**BAINTRONICS, SEATTLE BASE.**

MISS BAIN, WHY WILL SHAPIRO NO LONGER BE A HIGH-PRIORITY PROJECT?

BECAUSE HE'S ONLY EIGHT POUNDS AND LICKS HIS OWN BUTT.

TO BE FAIR, HE DID THAT BEFORE, BUT WITHOUT HIS A.I. COLLAR, HE'S NOW COMPLETELY WORTHLESS.

OF COURSE, IF ANY OF YOU STILL PREFER TO WORK ALONGSIDE AN ANIMAL, FEEL FREE TO SLAP THIS ON A GOAT AND START CALLING IT SIR.

REVIEW YOUR SPREADSHEETS FOR YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT.

SUNSET, IT OCCURS TO ME...DO YOU THINK THE ROBOTS KEEP PETS?

THE ROBOTS ARE PETS, ARNO. OURS.

OHMYGOD!

MFW.

