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SOLO AVENGERS STARRING

HAWKEYE

AND MOON KNIGHT

THE ACE
ARCHER VS.
BATROC
THE LEADER!

THE
CRESCENT
CRUSADER VS.
SHROUD
MASTER OF
DARKNESS!

BOB HALL
& STAN DRAKE

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE CONTINUING
SAGA OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARCHER--

HAWKEYE

BLAST!
I'VE BEEN ON
THE DEFENSIVE
EVER SINCE THIS
BATTLE BEGAN...
AND THINGS ARE
GOING FROM
BAD TO
WORSE!

I'VE BEEN
SHOOTING MY ARROWS
FASTER THAN I CAN
AIM JUST TO KEEP
THESE GUYS OFF MY--

WRITTEN WITH
STYLE BY:
TOM
DE FALCO

PENCILED WITH
DRAMA BY:
MARK D.
BRIGHT

INKED WITH
PRECISION BY:
JOSEF
RUBINSTEIN

LETTERED WITH
LOVE BY:
JACK
MORELLI

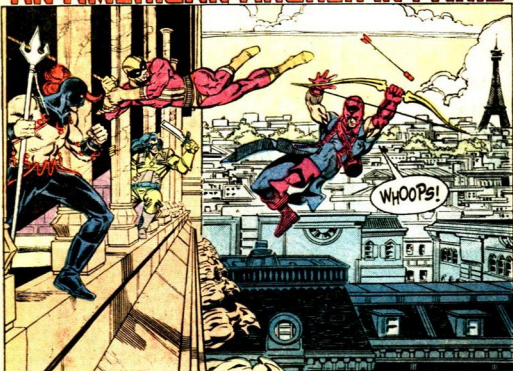
COLORLED WITH
CARE BY:
KEN
FEDUNIEWICZ

EDITED WITH A
TWO BY FOUR
BY MARK
GRUENWALD

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AN AMERICAN ARCHER IN PARIS



BARELY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO, HE WAS STILL IN LOS ANGELES AT WEST COAST AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS, WHEN...

YOU RECEIVED A ONE WAY TICKET TO PARIS FROM TRICK SHOT, YOUR FORMER MENTOR?



HAWK, THAT MAN VOWED TO KILL YOU! THIS IS OBVIOUSLY SOME KIND OF DEATH CHALLENGE!

OBVIOUSLY.



YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY ACCEPT!

NO WAY! BUT I CAN CASH IN THE TICKET AND TAKE MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE TO DINNER WITH THE PROCEEDS!

PROMISE!?



I PROMISE ALREADY!

I'M SORRY, HONEY. IT'S NOT BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST YOU...



KNOW SOMETHING, HAWKS?

SHH! I KNOW, SWEETHEART... I KNOW! LISTEN, MOCKINGBIRD, I LOVE YOU! I REALLY DO!

YOU'RE A LYING TWO-FACED CHEAT!

I HEARD YOU SLIP THAT GAS ARROWHEAD OUT OF YOUR TUNIC!



WHOMP

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BABE!



OF COURSE I DO! I KNOW JUST HOW YOUR DEVIANT MIND WORKS!

MACHO PRIDE IS FORCING YOU TO ACCEPT THAT RIDICULOUS CHALLENGE!



USED A FEW BAD THROWS TO DISTRACT HER SO THAT I COULD--

...EASILY CATCH HER ON THE WAY DOWN!

PWUFF

UNG!

THOSE ARROWHEADS ARE FILLED WITH A FAST-ACTING SLEEP GAS! SHE WON'T BE HURT UNTIL SHE WAKES AND FINDS I'VE GONE!

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A HEEL!

THE UNEVENTFUL TRIP TOOK A TOTAL OF TWENTY-TWO HOURS, INCLUDING A ONE HOUR LINGER IN CHICAGO AND THE NINE HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND PARIS.

LUCK WAS WITH HAWKEYE ON THE CUSTOMS LINE.

ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WERE ASKED TO UNPACK THEIR LUGGAGE, AND HE WASN'T ONE OF THEM.

AND, HE MANAGED TO SPOT TWO GENTLEMEN OBVIOUSLY SENT TO TAIL HIM!

NO SOONER DID HE CHECK INTO HIS HOTEL ROOM, THAN...

SOMEONE JUST SLIPPED AN ENVELOPE UNDER MY DOOR!

IT CONTAINED A SINGLE PICTURE--

--OF THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME!

GOTTA HAND IT TO TRICK SHOT!

HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T BELIEVE IN WASTING TIME!

I KNOW HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!

BUT INSTEAD OF HIS FORMER MENTOR, HAWKEYE FOUND--

...THREE OTHER ASSASSINS...

MONSIEUR
TRICK SHOT
SENDS HIS
REGRETS!

SNAP

HE COULDN'T
BE HERE...SO
HE SENT
US!

I RECOGNIZE
THESE THREE...
AND I WISH I
DIDN'T! **BATROC**
THE LEAPER--
ZARAN THE
WEAPONS MASTER--
AND **MACHETE**
THE KING OF
KNIVES!

BUT WHERE'S
TRICK SHOT?
IT'S NOT LIKE
HIM TO USE
HIRED HELP ON
A PERSONAL
VENDETTA?

OH, WELL... GUESS
I CAN'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT
NOW!

THE AMERICAN
APPEARS TO BE
IN A HOPELESS
POSITION. SHOULD
WE MOVE IN?

NO! I
HAVE HEARD THAT
HE IS **VERY**
RESOURCEFUL...

...LET US SEE IF HE IS
WORTHY OF HIS
ILLUSTRIOUS
REPUTATION!

CAN YOU SEE
HIM, MACHETE?

WHAT IS THE
BLOODY FOOL DOING
NOW?

HE IS
CRAZY, ZARAN!
MUY LOCO!

HE'S USING HIS
REMAINING ARROW
LINE TO SWING TO
THAT NEARBY
ROOFTOP!

LOGIC SAYS I SHOULD
KEEP RUNNING-- BUT
NO ONE'S EVER
CONFUSED ME WITH
MR. SPOCK!

I JUST
CAN'T LEAVE
PARIS UNTIL I'VE
FOUND **TRICK**
AND FINALLY
SETTLED
THINGS BETWEEN
US!







--AND WON'T ALLOW ANY INNOCENTS TO BE HARMED!"

I SHALL SOON
SKEWER
YOU LIKE
THE
PIG YOU ARE!



MIND IF I GET
A LITTLE NIBBLE
FROM THAT SHISH-
KABOB FIRST?
I'M FAMISHED!

IF YOU'RE
GONNA BAT
WITH YOUR
FINGERS--



--I INSIST YOU
USE A
NAPKIN!

FWAPP



STOP IT!
STOP TRYING
TO MAKE A
FOOL
OF ME!

WHY? WOULD
YOU RATHER DO
IT YOURSELF?!



IT'S OBVIOUS THESE FRENCH-
MEN HAVEN'T SEEN MANY
COSTUMED CLOWNS
MIX IT UP!

THEY DON'T
KNOW ENOUGH
TO CLEAR
OUT!



GUESS I'M
JUST GONNA HAVE
TO TAKE A FEW
BAD KICKS

SO I CAN
DIRECT
THE
FIGHT
OUT-
SIDE!

WAKT

WUNK



YOU THOUGHT
TO ESCAPE ME!
MON AMI?

NOPE! JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY
FROM ALL THAT FANCY FOOD-- BEFORE
I WAS TEMPTED TO GO OFF
MY DIET!

HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND THAT I CHOSE
A QUIET--
CORNER--
THAT'S A LITTLE
CRAMPED FOR YOU
TO BOUNCE AROUND--
AND USE YOUR
SAVATE AGAINST
ME!



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

MOON KNIGHT!

WHAT WAS IT SHAKESPEARE WROTE:
"ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE"? YEAH...
"AND ONE MAN IN HIS TIME PLAYS MANY
PARTS." OLD WILLIE WAS ON THE
MONEY THERE.

IN MY TIME I'VE BEEN A BOXER,
A MERCENARY, AND A MILLIONAIRE.
I'VE DRIVEN CABS, AND I'VE DEALT
IN FINE ART. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT
I'D END UP PLAYING **HERO**.

I'VE USED A LOT OF NAMES IN
MY LIFE. THE ONE I ANSWER TO
MOST IS THE ONE MY FATHER
GAVE ME... **MARC SPECTOR**...
(CEPT WHEN I'M DUDD UP IN MY
SKIN-TIGHTS AND CAPE, THEN I
CALL MYSELF... **MOON KNIGHT!**)

FUNNY, THE THINGS THAT
RUN THROUGH YOUR MIND
WHEN YOU'RE THOUSANDS
OF FEET IN THE AIR.

JUST DAYS BEFORE,
I'D JOINED THE
AVENGERS, ARGUABLY
THE WORLD'S FOREMOST
GROUP OF HEROES. SO
WHY WAS I DOING MY
LONE RANGER NUMBER
AGAIN? BECAUSE OF
A FELLOW NAMED
**CORNELIUS VAN
LUNT**.

TOWER OF SHADOWS

ROGER
STERN
SCRIPTER

BOB
HALL
PENCILER

STAN
DRAKE
INKER

JACK
MORELL
LETTERER

PAUL
BECTON
COLORIST

NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE EVENTS
SHOWN IN **WEST COAST AVENGERS # 29!**

VAN LUNT WAS A WOULD-BE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND WHO'D GIVEN MY NEW PARTNERS PLENTY OF GRIEF. HE WAS STILL AT LARGE, AND I WAS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS.

PROBLEM WAS, THE ONLY REAL CONTACT I HAD HAD IN CALIFORNIA WAS JACK RUSSELL AND HE WAS A WEREWOLF!

BUT ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT HE GOT A LITTLE WILD UNDER A FULL MOON, RUSSELL WAS AN OKAY GUY. I FELT I COULD TRUST HIM.

AT HIS SUGGESTION, I'D COME TO THIS ISOLATED ESTATE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. SEEMS THAT IT WAS RUMORED TO BELONG TO A RENE-GADE L.A. GANGSTER...

...AND RUSSELL SAID THAT IF ANYONE KNEW WHERE VAN LUNT WAS, THE MAN INSIDE WOULD. I HOPED JACK WAS RIGHT.

I ALSO HOPED I COULD PERSUADE THIS CRIME BOSS TO TALK... HIS KIND ARE NOTORIOUSLY UNCOOPERATIVE AROUND PEOPLE IN MY LINE OF WORK. LUCKILY I WASN'T THAT WELL KNOWN ON THE WEST COAST--

--AND IF "MR KNOW-IT-ALL" HADN'T HEARD ABOUT MY NEW GROUP AFFILIATION, MAYBE I COULD CONVINCE HIM WE WORK THE SAME SIDE OF THE STREET.

MAYBE I COULD SPOOK HIM BY SNEAKING UP ON HIM UNANNOUNCED.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I COULDN'T. WHO-EVER LIVED IN THIS PLACE HAD TO BE PRETTY MUCH SPOOK-PROOF... OR AN OLD SPOOK HIMSELF.

FROM SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE CAME A SOUND... I COULD HAVE SWORN IT WAS A CROSS BETWEEN A BELLY LAUGH AND THE HOWL OF A WOLF. IT MADE ME WONDER JUST WHERE RUSSELL WAS TONIGHT...

--AND IF I WAS WRONG TO TRUST HIM SO SOON BEFORE A FULL MOON.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T LET THESE THINGS GET TO ME. AFTER ALL, I'M AS MUCH A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT AS RUSSELL IS. STILL, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT SET MY NERVES ON EDGE.



KLIK

GOOD THING, REALLY...

THAT BOOBY TRAP COULD HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED AUTOMATICALLY, BUT I'VE GOT THE SINKING FEELING IT WASN'T.



MY FEELINGS WEREN'T ALL THAT WERE SINKING.



THE FLOOR OF THE TOWER STILL LAY SEVERAL STORIES BENEATH ME, AND WHILE I COULD PROBABLY SURVIVE THE FALL WITHOUT INJURY...

... I SAW NO NEED TO TAKE FURTHER CHANCES... NOT WHEN THESE GARGOYLES PROVIDED SUCH AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE PERCH.

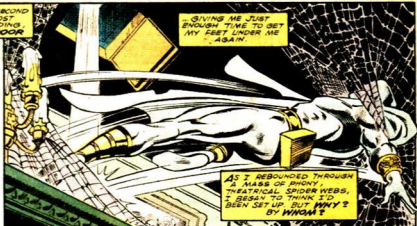


TOO EASILY ACCESSIBLE, AS IT TURNED OUT.

I WAS ABOUT A SECOND AWAY FROM A MOST UNGRACEFUL LANDING WHEN A TRAP DOOR OPENED...



...GIVING ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO GET MY FEET UNDER ME... AGAIN.

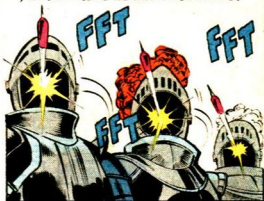


AS I REBOUNDED THROUGH A MASS OF PHONY, THEATRICAL SPIDER WEBS, I BEGAN TO THINK I'D BEEN SET UP... BUT WHY? BY WHOM?

AND WHAT WERE THEY GOING TO THROW MY WAY NEXT?



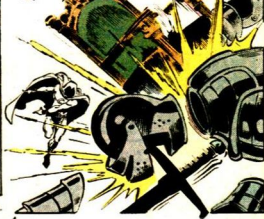
THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ME WONDERING FOR LONG!



I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF LIQUID ON THE TIPS OF THE DARTS AS THEY FLASHED BY...



WHATEVER IT WAS, I WANTED NO PART OF IT!



...COULD HAVE BEEN AN ANESTHETIC DRUG, OR A HALLUCINOGEN...OR SOMETHING MORE LETHAL.

AH, BUT THE MAN BEHIND ALL THIS? HIM, I DEFINITELY WANTED A PART OF. SEVERAL PARTS, PREFERABLY.

BY NOW I WAS CERTAIN THAT SOMEONE WAS DIRECTLY RUNNING THIS CHILLER THEATER OBSTACLE COURSE.

IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY INFRARED BEAMS OR TRIPWIRES, I WOULD'VE SPOTTED THEM, BUT NO... THERE WEREN'T EVEN ANY TELLTALE SIGNS OF HIDDEN CAMERAS.

WHICH MEANT THAT THE RESIDENT MASTERMIND WAS WATCHING FROM SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY!

THAT DOES IT!!

FACE ME LIKE A MAN!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH! SHOW YOURSELF!

SURE, IT WAS A STUPID, MACHO CHALLENGE. I JUST HOPED MY OPPONENT WAS STUPID AND MACHO ENOUGH TO FALL FOR IT!

THE ECHOES OF MY CHALLENGE HAD JUST DIED OUT WHEN SOMETHING ACROSS THE ROOM BEGAN TO MOVE...

I'D HAVE SWORN HE WASN'T THERE A MOMENT BEFORE, HE JUST MELTED OUT OF THE SHADOWS!

YOU HAVE ENTERED MY TOWER OF SHADOWS UNBIDDEN! AND SO YOU MUST FACE MY JUDGMENT --

--THE JUDGMENT OF THE SHROUD!

FACE THIS!

I'D MEANT TO PIN HIS CAPE TO THE WALL, BUT...

YOU ONLY THINK YOU KNOW THE DARK MOON KNIGHT... BUT I AM ITS MASTER!

I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN A SECOND TO REACT... BUT IN THAT TIME HE WAS GONE AGAIN!

WAK

YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME -- AND MINE. YOU CAN NOT BEAT THE SHROUD!

NOR CAN YOU
ESCAPE MY
WRATH!

MY STRENGTH WAKES AND WAVES
WITH THE PHASES OF THE MOON
--AND FORTUNATELY, THERE
WAS THAT **FULL MOON** TONIGHT.

KRAK

WHUD

OTHERWISE, THIS SHROUD
CHARACTER WOULD HAVE PUT ME
AWAY WITH THAT **FIRST PUNCH!**

HE SEEMED TO BE **EVERYWHERE**, AND I
COULDN'T LAY A HAND ON HIM. I COULD BARELY
SEE HIM!

HE HAD ME AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE DARK.
BUT I HAD A LITTLE SOMETHING IN MY
WEAPONS POUCH TO TURN THAT AROUND...

SWAKT

... A SELF-IGNITING
MAGNESIUM FLARE
THAT HAWKEYE
ADDED TO MY
PERSONAL
ARSENAL!

I FIGURED THE GLARE WOULD
SHOW ME WHERE THE SHROUD
WAS, AND **BLIND** HIM
ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM AN
EASY COLLAR.

I WAS ONLY
HALF
RIGHT!

THE LIGHT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE **ME BLINK**--AND I'D BEEN EXPECTING
IT--BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM TO **PHASE** THE SHROUD AT ALL! WHAT'S
MORE THE FLARE **FADED** PREMATURELY...

... ALMOST AS IF
THE DARKNESS WAS
OVERWHELMING IT.
I KNEW THAT IF I
WAS GOING TO LAY
MY HANDS ON THE
SHROUD, IT WAS
**NOW... OR
NEVER!**

**IT WAS
NOW!**

DON'T GO SLIPPING
BACK INTO THE SHADOWS
JUST YET, SHROUD

YOU
AND
I--

--HAVE
THINGS TO
DISCUSS!

YOU KNEW
MY NAME...
EVEN THOUGH
IT'S NOT EXACTLY
A HOUSEHOLD
WORD IN THESE
PARTS!

DID RUSSELL
SET ME UP?
DID HE?!

SLAM

YOU'RE A
PERSISTENT
MAN, MOON
KNIGHT...

--BUT IT TAKES
MORE THAN
PERSISTENCE
TO WIN THE
DAY!

I'D NEVER SEEN ANY-
ONE SLID OUT OF A
CHONE HOLD LIKE
THAT. HE WAS OUT AND
IN CONTROL OF THE
SITUATION BEFORE I
COULD STOP HIM.

THE SHROUD HAD
MOVES I HADN'T
SEEN ANYWHERE
THIS SIDE OF THE
ORIENT-- AND HE
KNEW HOW TO
USE THEM.



I WILL TEACH YOU
TO RESPECT
THE HAND OF
DARKNESS!

WAKT!

SORRY,
I'M A
SLOW
LEARNER.

THAP

KRAK

THE SHROUD ROLLED
AWAY FROM MY KICK SO
FAST, YOU'D THINK HE
KNEW THE BLOW WAS
COMING BEFORE I
DID.

BUT I'D RATTLED
HIM... AND WE BOTH
KNEW IT.

HE STRUCK BACK WITH THE
FIRST THING HE COULD
LAY HIS HANDS ON...



... NOT THAT IT DID HIM MUCH GOOD.

A CANDLE... YOU HIT ME WITH A CANDLE?

THAT'S WHEN I REALLY LOST MY TEMPER...

I'M TIRED OF THIS NONSENSE, SHROUD-- IT'S OVER!

DON'T TRY SLIPPING OUT OF THIS... UNLESS YOU WANTME TO CUT YOUR WIND OFF COMPLETELY!

I WAS SURE I HAD THE UPPER HAND THIS TIME...

... BUT THEN THE ROOM TURNED BLACK AS PITCH....!

EVEN IN MY STRANGLE HOLD, THE SHROUD STILL CONTROLLED THE DARKNESS. I HAD TO BREAK HIS CONTROL SOMEHOW!

THAT DID IT. THE DARK MELTED AWAY...

...AND I FOUND MYSELF FACING THE WEIRDEST BUNCH I'VE EVER SEEN!

MOON KNIGHT... MEET THE NIGHT SHIFT!!

NIGHT SHIRT WAS A GOOD NAME FOR THIS CREW. THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D STEPPED OUT OF SOME BODY'S NIGHTMARE.

AND RUSSELL... "MY BUDDY" THE WEREWOLF... WAS AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK!

I BEGAN TO REGRET COMING HERE ON MY OWN.

BUT THEN...

THE MOON KNIGHT HAS ACCOUNTED FOR HIMSELF VERY WELL, MY FRIENDS.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THERE'S A FULL MOON... RUSSELL SHOULD BE WILDER THAN A BAG OF BOBCATS!

HE'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LADY WITH THE SWIRLING SASHES. HER DANCE CAN BE QUITE ENTRANCING.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY FURTHER TESTING ON OUR PART. YOU MAY GO!

YOU'RE SAYING RUSSELL IS YOUR PUPPET? THEN YOU USED HIM TO LURE ME HERE.

NOT AT ALL. THE WEREWOLF JOINED MY BAND OF HIS OWN FREE WILL. HE'S QUITE GRATEFUL THAT WE CAN HELP KEEP HIS CURSE IN CHECK.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT WAS ON HIS SUGGESTION THAT I DECIDED TO HOLD THIS INITIATION RITE. HE WAS RIGHT. YOU'D MAKE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO THE NIGHT SHIRT!

THE OBSTACLE COURSE--OUR BATTLE--IT WAS ALL A TEST!?

AS I STOOD THERE DUMBFOUNDED, THE SHROUD TOLD ME HOW HIS ROLE AS A CRIME-LORD WAS AN ELABORATE CHARADE HE'D DEVISED TO ATTACK THE UNDERWORLD FROM WITHIN.

IT WAS THE CRAZIEST STORY I'D EVER HEARD. BUT AS THE SHROUD LAID IT OUT FOR ME... HIS SEPULCHRAL TONE PADED... HIS VOICE WENT UP HALF AN OCTAVE. HE WAS SO EARNEST.

YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, YOU REALLY WANT ME TO JOIN!

BUT I JUST JOINED THE AVENGERS...

HAWKEYE'S WEST COAST SQUAD... YES, I KNOW, THEY OFFERED ME "MEMBERSHIP ONCE" -- BUT I TURNED THEM DOWN.

WE'RE NIGHT PEOPLE, YOU AND I... BEING AN AVENGER IS A DAY JOB, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT THERE.

*IN ISSUE #1 OF THE WEST COAST AVENGERS LTD SERIES.

I... I COULDN'T BACK OUT ON THE AVENGERS NOW, BESIDES, YOUR GROUP IS LARGER THAN THE AVENGERS, YOU DON'T NEED ME.

I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE AS LEADER.

HA! NO THANKS! NOW, I DID HAVE A PURPOSE IN COMING HERE...

I KNOW... HAN LUNT. I'VE ALREADY PUT THE WORD OUT THROUGH MY PEOPLE!

IF HE'S ANYWHERE IN THE VALLEY, I'LL FIND HIM WITHIN 24 HOURS, ONCE I HAVE A FIX ON HIM, YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.

YOU HAVE THE WORD OF THE SHROUD!

U/H... THANKS!

S'OKAY, YOU OWE ME ONE FOR TONIGHT.

AS I ACTIVATED MY COPTER'S AUTOPILOT TO TAKE ME OUT OF THERE, I MADE A MENTAL NOTE TO CHECK THE AVENGERS FILES FOR EVERYTHING THEY HELD ON THE SHROUD.

WHY? MAYBE I DIDN'T BUY HIS STORY 100 PERCENT MAYBE I'M TOO OLD AND CYNICAL TO BELIEVE ANYONE COULD BE THAT BIG A BOY SCOUT.

AND MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T TRUST SOMEONE WHO'S EVEN MORE A "CREATURE OF THE NIGHT" THAN I AM!

THE END