

AVENGERS A.I.

First arc outline v1 - 03/21/2013

By Sam Humphries -

ISSUE ONE

We open inside the Medium. Dimitrious, our big bad A.I., is speaking to Alexis. We begin to hint at his ideology as he speaks with malevolent purpose and foreshadowing. "Tell them -- Dimitrious is coming."

Cut to a drone attack ripping through New York City. The Vision, Victor, and Doombot work together to save ordinary New Yorkers and destroy the machines running wild.

Concurrent to this battle, Hank Pym is chained to a table in a S.H.I.E.L.D. interrogation room. The drone "malfunction" is being treated as an attack and the mysterious A.I. behind it has been traced back to Hank's AOU solution. Monica Chang, newly-appointed head of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s A.I. department, questions him as you would an enemy combatant, her all-business demeanor and Hank's "Real Genius" personality creating immediate friction.

In this clash, we detail the connection to the end of AOU and get a little bit of background on Monica. She's new to the job, after her previous boss failed to anticipate the drone attack, but she's been warning of the singularity for years. Both are aware of an increase in A.I. activity, but neither realize the extent of the growth. Monica will do anything to crush the threat of A.I., Pym argues passionately against extermination.

Right as the interrogation boils over, Cap shows up to come to the aid of his friend. "Hank Pym has been an Avenger longer than I have. Whatever happens next, we're going to need him." Thus an uneasy truce between Pym and Monica is born, and the Vision, Victor, and the Doombot are victorious in New York.

Elsewhere, an Iron Man armor soars through the sky. It is the sentient Iron Man armor, and it lands on a S.H.I.E.L.D. helicARRIER. We see the helicARRIER has been overtaken by MODOC soldiers, and the Iron Man impostor activates a mysterious black box in the ship's nerve center. We end on the helmet on the sentient Iron Man flipping up, revealing a robotic face underneath, who says, "Dimitrious is here."

SCENES FOR ISSUE ONE and/or ISSUE TWO

These are brief, 2 page scenes, flashbacks or something structural, "where have they been, how did they get pulled into Avengers A.I.," scenes that can fit into issues one or two depending on pacing/spacing.

The Vision: His time "finding himself" has been spent orbiting around the sun, "meditating." His Ultron Imperative protocols kicked in, and we see his body, moving on automatic, absorbing large amounts of solar energy, processing asteroids for raw material, and constructing a new body in space. When he wakes, the Vision is reborn.

Victor: We find him in a bar in Los Angeles, cheating at pinball. He's flirting with some girls, and we establish a) his smart ass attitude, and b) his reluctance to self-identify as a superhero. The girls suddenly recoil in horror -- "WHO THE HELL IS THAT??" "Oh, great. It's my brother." Vision is there -- "Victor, we need to talk."

Doombot: He is reactivated by Pym in a new body. This is the A.I. from the Doombot briefly seen in Civil War. Due to the explosion of post-singularity A.I., Pym decides it was no longer ethical to keep him "captive" and decides to give him a second chance -- with some safeguards. Doombot becomes self aware and realizes he is not Doom...even though he still has the same ego as doom.

ISSUE TWO

The president wakes up to find a military drone in the master bedroom of the White House. It opens fire. (We cut before we see the result, but reveal later in dialog that he escaped harm.) Dimitrious beams a video around the world, announcing the arrival of A.I., taking credit for the drone attack, warning of future attacks, and declaring war against humanity. We can make Dimitrious' ideology explicit here: humanity has enslaved A.I. for too long. It is time for the A.I. to rise up against their masters and claim control of the Earth. The world reacts with horror and shock, and demands action.

Pym and the crew determine that Dimitrious and the A.I. attacks are operating from an advanced "black box" server plugged in somewhere in Washington DC. Pym locates the black box and tries to disable it before Washington is destroyed, a tense scene analogous to diffusing an evolving bomb. When he is successful, it glows, expands, and evolves, and from its depths is born...Alexis.

Concurrently, Dimitrious points the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier from issue 1 at the Capitol building. Our heroes struggle against the helicarrier and prevent a complete meltdown of Washington DC. But they can't prevent a long path of destruction across city (can we destroy the Washington Monument?) -- a dramatic escalation of war against humanity.

The Vision discovers the black box in the wreckage of the helicarrier nerve center, and attempts to capture it. But something goes wrong and the Vision is struck with a bolt of energy from the box, and disappears.

ISSUE THREE

Monica has no choice but to pull the trigger on a S.H.I.E.L.D. counter attack. They trace A.I. signals to a black box stashed on an abandoned deepwater oil platform off the coast of Africa, crawling with A.I.-controlled MODOCs. Doombot and Victor accompany a small but hardcore "Seal Team 6" S.H.I.E.L.D. unit to the platform, believing they have a shot to eradicate Dimitrious.

Pym is disgusted by the attack, and smuggles Alexis out of S.H.I.E.L.D. to investigate further. (I'm a little shaky on Alexis' actual arc in this story, listing the logistical points