

Avengers Assemble

Initial Thoughts

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The AC/DC Book

There was a bit in The Avengers movie when Iron Man, having previously bowed out of the Initiative, swooped in in armor and God said, "LET THERE BE AC/DC."

That moment. That's the book.

Jonathan's books are prog rock – Rush, Genesis, Yes. Nine minute tracks, music theory, epic awesome that's heavy on the epic. Ideally, ASSEMBLE compliments that with 3 minute anthems—fist-pumping, head-banging, HELL YEAHs. AC/DC, Sabbath, Scorpions. Not *dumb*, but clean.

The Challenges

The two main challenges are, as I see them:

- To create storylines/foes "big" enough to test the mettle of multiple Avengers, but "contained" enough to wrap up in 1 to 3 issues and not distract from larger plans; and
- To connect the individual arcs with something more compelling than their rosters.

Themes: Internet Celebrity and Teamwork

E pluribus unum – Out of Many, One

The title AVENGERS ASSEMBLE suggests a natural theme that mirrors that of the film – how do these disparate and difficult individuals set aside their own egos and agendas in order to form a functional team?

Internet/Celebrity

I'm also interested in Internet culture, the cult of celebrity, the public aspect of the Avengers work and how each personality manages that. Stark, with his many appetites, would seem the type to crave recognition, adoration... a fandom. Banner, on the other hand, is by necessity intensely private and would likely need to keep doors and windows closed to the opinions of the Internet in order to keep his temper in check. The Widow, steeped in spy culture, would not relish a Black Widow Fan Site. Thor, a God, might enjoy a little contemporary digital worship. And so on.

Potential Storylines

- Science Bros: A famous futurist and longtime friend and colleague of both Stark and Banner disappears the night before he's to give a Ted talk-like

presentation rumored to set contemporary particle physics on its ear. Stark and Banner set out to find him, both as his friends and as Avengers. As it becomes likely that the missing scientist was complicit in his disappearance, a rift forms between Banner and Stark, with each of the rest of the team choosing a side in a *de facto* Amazing Race. Despite Stark's web of satellite access, it's Banner's crew that ends up finding missing man first, culminating in a chase scene up the hanging coffins of China. Neither Banner nor Stark was correct in their assumptions and they'll have to work together or lose the next particle breakthrough to the contemporary iteration of a medieval dragon cult.

- The Widow's Ledger: A Russian woman whose husband was killed by the Widow, calls in her marker. The woman's daughter has fallen victim to a krokodil dealer. When the Widow turns up to dismantle the man's operation (and possibly his anatomy as well) she discovers that this particular strain of the drug is even more sinister than she imagined. AVENGERS ASSEMBLE to wipe out an army of teenage Russian lizard soldiers.
- The Etsy Betsy Spider: Janet Van Dyne, to help her ease herself back into the world, takes up selling some of her designs in a little Etsy shop (as I believe the musician Kim Deal was doing for a while with handmade purses). When a commission for a complex knitwear piece comes from a sick mind, the Wasp finds herself literally in a spider's nest, captured by a woman who hopes to devour her essence and become her. Avengers Assemble to detangle her web.

Summation

- "Quick" 1-3 issue arcs.
- Metal.
- Storylines connected both thematically and with Internet culture element that could, if we chose, end up being threads of larger sweater down the road.