



DYING WAS A
SIMPLE, PERFECT
MOMENT.

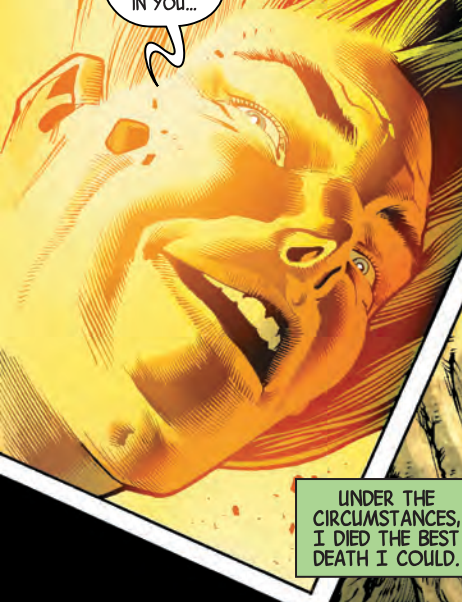
M.O.D.O.K. AND THE
LEADER HAD SPLIT MY
PERSONALITY INTO WARRING
FACTIONS, BRINGING OUT
MY DARKEST IMPULSES.

UNDER THEIR CONTROL,
I'D BETRAYED, MANIPULATED,
EVEN **MURDERED**
MY OLDEST FRIENDS.


BUT WHEN THE END CAME, I
PLAYED THE **HERO** ONE
MORE TIME. **DOC SAMSON**
SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE
THE WORLD FROM EVIL.

BRUCE,
ONE LAST
THING, FROM
YOUR DOC.

I
BELIEVE
IN YOU...



UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES,
I DIED THE BEST
DEATH I COULD.



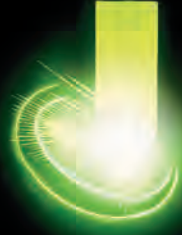
I EVEN GOT AN **EPILOGUE**.
A DREAMLIKE FINAL ADVENTURE
AGAINST THE KING OF CHAOS
FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD.

A TRIUMPHANT
FAREWELL BEFORE
THE **DARKNESS**.

AND IN THE DARKNESS, I WAITED.

FOR WHAT WOULD COME NEXT.

BUT WHEN THE DOOR OPENED...



...IT LED ME BACK TO WHERE I'D BEEN.

SUDDENLY, MAGICALLY ALIVE AGAIN. AS IF NOTHING HAD EVER CHANGED.

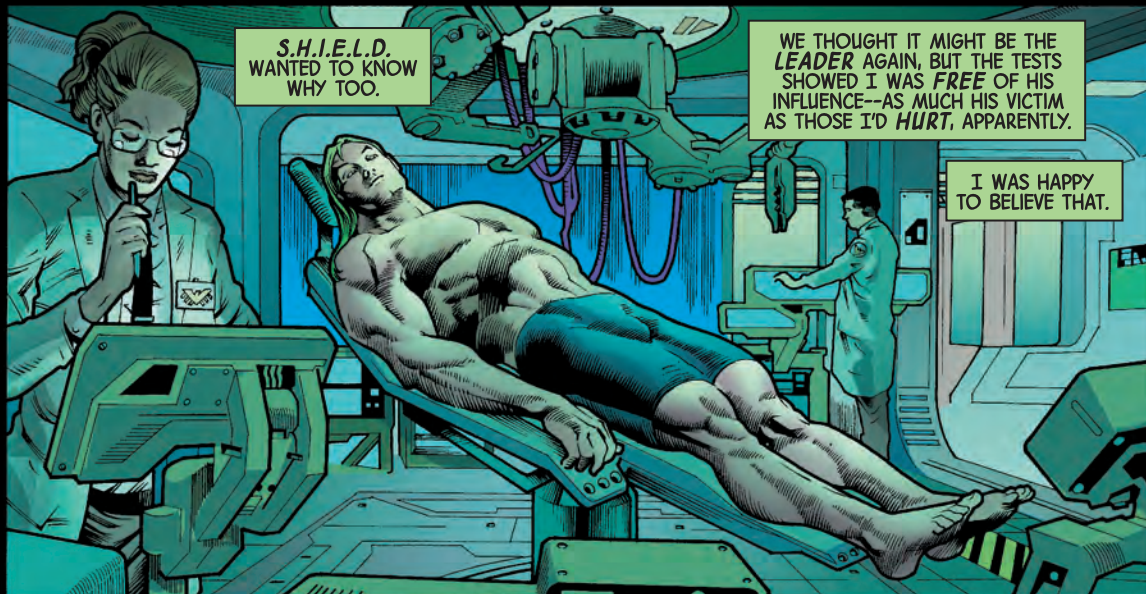
LORDY--

SORRY TO STARTLE YOU.

DO YOU HAVE A PHONE I COULD USE?

AND I HAD NO IDEA WHY.





S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTED TO KNOW WHY TOO.

WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE THE LEADER AGAIN, BUT THE TESTS SHOWED I WAS FREE OF HIS INFLUENCE--AS MUCH HIS VICTIM AS THOSE I'D HURT, APPARENTLY.

I WAS HAPPY TO BELIEVE THAT.



BUT STILL, NOBODY COULD ANSWER THE LARGER QUESTIONS.

WELL... MAYBE YOU WEREN'T DEAD ALL THE WAY.

DOESN'T THAT HAPPEN SOMETIMES? WITH YOU HEROES?



I SUPPOSE...

WHY WAS I ALIVE AGAIN? WHAT WAS THE MEANING BEHIND IT?

IT TORMENTED ME.



I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE I WAS BACK AT FIRST.

S.H.I.E.L.D. KNEW, OBVIOUSLY--TONY STARK, CAROL DANVERS. BUCKY BARNES, OF ALL PEOPLE.



BUT I NEVER MADE THE CALL TO MY FRIENDS. I DIDN'T CALL RICK, OR BETTY.

OR BRUCE.



HE WAS IN A FRAGILE PLACE.

AMADEUS CHO HAD DRAINED BRUCE'S GAMMA ENERGY--CURING HIM. HE BECAME THE HULK IN BRUCE'S PLACE.



BRUCE'S REACTION HAD BEEN...*STRANGE*. TONY SAID HE SEEMED FINE, BUT...

...I DEBATED GOING TO SEE HIM. *CONFRONTING* HIM THE WAY NOBODY ELSE WANTED TO.

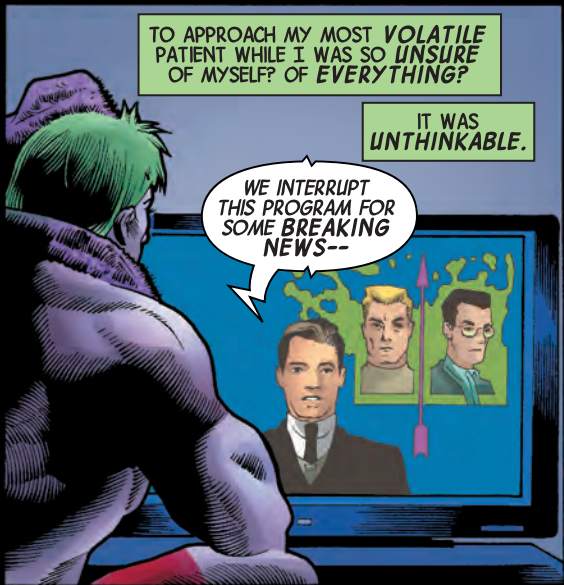


BUT I REMEMBERED MY *JUNG*. THE ANALYST'S HANDS MUST BE AS CLEAN AS THE *SURGEON'S*. THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IS A *MUTUAL JOURNEY*, WHERE EACH AFFECTS THE OTHER...

GROPING THROUGH A WORLD SUDDENLY WITHOUT *LIGHT*. SEARCHING FOR A SINGLE FLICKERING *FLAME*...

...AND WHAT WAS I NOW? NOT A HEALER. A *DEAD MAN*.

LEONARD COHEN SONGS OF LOVE AND HATE



TO APPROACH MY MOST *VOLATILE* PATIENT WHILE I WAS SO *UNSURE* OF MYSELF? OF *EVERYTHING*?

IT WAS *UNTHINKABLE*.

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR SOME *BREAKING NEWS*--



AND THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.