

# BIG TOWN

## 4 Issue Edition

Script 1 38 pages ships Nov 2000	Steve Englehart
--	-----------------

- 1) IM: It's marvelous, guys!  
IM: Just marvelous!  
REED: Ten years ago today...!  
THORR: Thou didst change all Midgard!
- 2) REED: Nuts! I just took my best friend, my girl and her brother off your "Midgard" —  
REED: — and nearly got us all killed.  
IM: But instead, you brought them all back —  
IM: — and inspired the rest of us.
- 3) THORR: With respect, Anthony, we few souls of Asgard —  
IM: I know. You're gods, and you inspired us first. But Reed's a mortal man.  
REED (off): I didn't inspire anybody!
- 4) IM: All of us, partner. We said, "If he can do it, we can do it!"  
REED: Thanks, I think.  
THORR: E'en gods, who saw that thou hadst brought the magick back!
- 5) REED: Thorr — come on —  
THORR: Look upon the world thou'st wrought, O Father of the Fantastic Four!  
THORR: Below us lies thine own—

BIG TOWN—2-3

THORR: **—VALHALLA!**

TITLE: **BIG TOWN**

**ENGLEHART • McKONE • McKENNA Colorist • Letterer • HICKS • QUESADA**

BIG TOWN—4

1) REED (thot): Okay, we inspired people — heroes, and villains. So I had to invent **things to deal with** the villains.

REED (thot): Some of those things had commercial appeal, so why shouldn't everybody benefit from them?

REED: Heroes, villains, the bleeding edge — New York had to grow to hold them all.

2) BLURB: “Starting ten years ago, today...”

DOOM BURST (something telepathic and red): No. Not this moment.

3) DOOM BURST: Reed celebrates today, **but my tenth year as DR. DOOM — the man with no face...**

DOOM BURST: — that anniversary shall be the one the world remembers...

4) DOOM BURST: To you alone can I reveal this dream, because you remember nothing...

DOOM BURST: **“Surfer”!**

4) BLURB: Below him, the supremely-functional Fantastigar settles to a street in Brooklyn —

JOHNNY: Jeez, Reed, where were you? I was getting' worried —

SUE: The brave bridegroom!

SUE: Hi, honey!

THING: “Hi, honey” my orange butt!

5) THING: Ya know I don' like hangin' aroun' in public!

THING (thot): Ten years now — !

THING (thot): Ten years a Thing...

BIG TOWN—5

1) THING (thot): Reed got Suzie — I got nobody, ever again. But at least me 'n' the kid were pals.

THING (thot): Now the kid's gettin' hitched.

JOHNNY: I told them 7, straight up top.

SUE: Still two minutes! Our first meeting, Johnny!

THING: Wearin' costumes!

2) REED: Like it or not, Ben, we're symbols, too.

REED (aside): Fantasticar — 500 up.

SUE: So straighten up your uniform, baby bro.

THING: Symbols you made us, Reed. We didn't have ta go public.

THING: Move, guys.

3) THING: She already loves ya, so even I can't screw that up.

JOHNNY: Good, 'cause you're my best man, Benjy.

THING: What — ?

4) JOHNNY (slightly wavy): Oh...hi, Sally.

SALLY (slightly wavy): Hi, Johnny!

5) THING: Wha'dja say, kid?

SALLY: My family's so anxious, Sue. I told them, when you work in the Baxter Building, you know the FF are, you know, just people —

6) SALLY (off): — but they see you as living symbols.

7) CARLOS: Hello, Mr. Richards. Mrs. Richards. I'm Carlos Juárez.

ANGÉLICA: Angélica.

REED: Reed and Sue, please.

SUE: Sally's told us so much about you two.

SALLY: You don't need that coat here, Ben.

THING: 'M all right, Sal.

BIG TOWN—6

1) JIMMY: I'm Jimmy, Mr. Richards.

REED: Reed, please.

JIMMY: Sorry. Part of my training.

SALLY: Jimmy's in the X Squad, Reed.

REED: I know. Good for you, son!

2) JOHNNY: This is Sally's older brother, Frank.

JOHNNY: He's Deputy Administrator at the Urban Development Office.

FRANK: Reed.

FRANK: I help approve what gets built.

3) FRANK: Lots of work these past ten years.

REED: I just did what seemed right at the time.

REED: But I'd just as soon forget all that when I'm with family.

4) JIMMY: Well, some of us are more here than others.

SUE: They've forgotten us completely.

CARLOS: Johnny's a fine boy, Reed. You and Sue raised him right.

REED: More accurately, we just got out of his way, Carlos.

THING: I'm the one pounded sense in 'im!

5) JOHNNY: What's this on your face, sweetie? What happened?

SALLY: No big thing.

JOHNNY: C'mon! You can't fool me.

SALLY: Is this how you're going to be as a husband?

ANGELICA: Sally — ?

6) SALLY: It's nothing! I just wanted to get Frankie a present — an old brick, from the old New York.

SALLY: They have them in the Newark Borough...

BIG TOWN—7

1) JOHNNY (off): Oh. Newark...

SALLY: It was noontime —

2) BLURB: “ — and even though the city’s three times what it was, STARKARS get there from midtown in under 6 minutes.

3) BLURB: “Newark used to be tough, but it’s been rebuilt like the rest of the new boroughs —

BLURB: “ — thanks to Reed — and thanks to my big brother!

BLURB: “So I wanted to get Frankie a brick.

SIGN: SPIDER-MAN **Brand**

**SPIN A WEB OF DREAMS!**

4) BLURB: “So I didn’t think it was ‘tough’ anymore —

BLURB: “So I cut down an alley...

DIFFERENT BLURB [color: orange]: “Oh, man!”

5) BLURB: “Where I met the Mutts...”

DIFFERENT BLURB [color: orange]: “All five?”

BIG TOWN—8

1) BLURB: “Beast —

BLURB: “Deva —

BLURB: “Grrl —

BLURB: “Psych —

BLURB: “ — and Ice.

BLURB: “Yep. Five. Right in front of me.

2) PSYCH: Purse inspection, short-dark-and-far-from-home.

SALLY: Fine. It’s yours.

BLURB: “You always told me not to argue.”

DIFFERENT BLURB [color: orange]: “Thank God I did, baby!”

3) BEAST: Pshaw! Five mutants in the prime of their powers, and you wish to deprive us  
of utilizing same?

GRRL: Maybe she’s got some false courage in the bag, Beast.

ICE: If so, it’s probably money.

4) DEVA: Midtown girl — come to buy something in the cheap neighborhood —

BEAST: Oh ho! She works for the FF!

BEAST: But the FF’s elsewhere now — “Soledad Juárez.”

5) SALLY: Who needs ’em?

ICE: Psych — !

BIG TOWN—9

1) ICE (off): The **X Squad!**

BLURB: “Naturally, I keyed on Rack and Ruin!”

2) SALLY: The one that’s tall-dark-and-in-your-face?

SALLY: That’s my brother, Mutt.

3) SHOOTING STAR: Careful, Jimmy! Psych’s eye-blasts —

JIMMY: Won’t save him after he messed with Sally, Vicky!

PSYCH: Back off, cop! Your powers are artificial!

PSYCH: Ours are real!

SALLY: You need my artificial courage, Psych?

4) STAR: RACK 'EM UP, X SQUA — *Unngh!*

PSYCH: Ha! You missed!

RACK: Nope!

SFX: WHOK!

BIG TOWN—10

1) RUIN: Jimmy racks 'em and I ruin 'em!

RACK: Sure, Professor X and Dr. Pym gave us our powers —

RACK: — but we work at this!

2) ICE: Scramble, Mutts!

PSYCH: This is our turf, Squad!

BEAST: You're just squad-ders! We'll still be here when you're gone!

3) BRUNETTE: Which is what they hate, of course. They could have been Avengers —

MONSTER: — but they took the wrong turn, and now they're screwed, blued, and tattooed.

4) JIMMY: I know somebody else who took a wrong turn.

SALLY: The city's changed so much. I forgot there are people who'll always feel like outsiders.

RUIN: Like me, if I don't get one of those hugs.

5) JIMMY: No way, Flash. My big sister just got engaged — to the Human Torch!

RUIN: No way.

BIG TOWN—11

- 1) SALLY: And you should have seen the world's biggest hero-fan back off.  
JIMMY: Way.
- 2) JOHNNY: There are guys who burst into flame when they stand up to baddies, but we can't be everywhere.  
JOHNNY: You guys who do it technologically are the real heroes, Jimmy.  
JOHNNY: But now that I think of it, why don't we do something about the street punks sometime, Reed?
- 3) REED: A town as big as this has to have a structure, Johnny. We've fought mutants, like Magneto's "brotherhood," and we will again.  
REED: But the NYPD has always held the streets.
- 4) REED: When they were being overwhelmed six years ago, they acted — hiring Xavier and Pym, both experts, to devise super-cops who could cope.  
JIMMY: Pop carried a badge. I'm just following in his footsteps.
- 5) JOHNNY: And like I say, you X-guys do a great job.  
REED: Everybody's congratulating the FF, but we've all been in this together — with a chance for a prolonged golden age. There are moments in history when great leaps can be made, and this is one.  
FRANKIE: Like a wave everybody's riding.  
JIMMY: You bet.
- 5) ANGÉLICA: Sometimes, I can't believe you're really here, Sue.  
SUE: Nonsense.  
ANGÉLICA: No, I mean — here in a Puerto Rican household.  
SUE: Non and sense.  
SUE: We're all part of this Big Town, Angélica. What Reed, Ben, and I care about is that Johnny's getting a wonderful girl.
- 6) ANGÉLICA: You make me laugh, Sue. Every girl in town would kill to marry Johnny. He's like our...prince.  
SUE: Let's just say they're both blessed and let it go at that.

BIG TOWN—12

1) SUE: Their babies will be so beautiful, with her dark hair.

ANGÉLICA: Oh no, his blond hair!

ANGÉLICA: You never had any children, did you, Sue?

2) SUE: No.

3) SUE: No...

ANGÉLICA: Um...well, they can be a handful, let me tell you. Three! My God!

ANGÉLICA: You're so lucky!

4) CARLOS: ...so I saw on SH-1 that you had a dust-up this afternoon, too, Reed.

ANGÉLICA: Now aren't you more comfortable without your coat, Ben?

THING: Yeah. Heck...

REED: That channel is ninety percent hype, Carlos.

5) REED: It's like the companies that licensed Spider-Man before he retired. People will make a dollar off anything.

CARLOS: So it wasn't you and the Avengers against the Silver Surfer and Doctor Doom's Knights of Doom?

6) REED: Well, yes, it was, but we're here to celebrate Sally and Johnny.

SUE (off): Then they should know how wonderful Johnny is.

7) SUE: Let me tell you about that battle...

REED: Now, Sue...

BIG TOWN—13

- 1) BLURB: “We were having lunch — a late lunch —  
BLURB: “We were hoping to make this week a vacation, to tell you the truth —  
SUE: ... it’s going to be strange, having another woman in the family...
- 2) BLURB: “When —  
SFX: ARANNNARANNNARANNN  
THING: Wun’dcha know it?  
SUE: “Out of the family room —
- 3) BLURB: “ — into the transporter —
- 4) BLURB: “ — up to the Fantasticar that’s always waiting.  
BLURB: “But this was going to be a short trip —
- 5) BLURB: “ — 20 blocks, to the other end of Freedom Plaza.  
BLURB: “Avengers Mansion.  
THING: Ya’d think they cud at least get a skyscraper!
- 6) THING: It’s demeanin’, fightin’ for anything t’ree-stories tall!  
REED: Shhh, Ben!

BIG TOWN—14

1) REED: **Here comes the opposition!**

SWORD: The Surfer!

THORR: The Knights of DOOM!

SWORD (BIG): *AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!*

2) SWORD: Hawkeye! Blue Carny Nine!

HAWK: You got it, boss-man!

HAWK: You just take 'er easy.

3) SWORD: "Easy"?!? In the midst of twenty mini-Iron Man's?!!

MOCK: Infuriating, isn't he?

4) HAWK: I heard that, Mocky!

HAWK: But before you an' my best buddy start bawlin' in each other's arms —

IM: Less talk, more action, everybody!

5) THING: Well, gee, if ya say so, Mr. Iron Man, sir —

THING: — I'll kick a tin butt or two!

SWORD: Find your own, Thing!

**SWORD: Hey! I'm a hippie!**

BIG TOWN—15

1) TORCH: Is your leader ever serious, Panther?

BP: The word you want is “devil-may-care.”

BP: **T'Cha!** I can almost reach the connections —

TORCH: **Here** —

2) TORCH: — let me turn up his thermostat!

BP: He's yours, young warrior.

TORCH: For about five seconds!

3) TORCH: Then he's gonna wanna cool off!

SFX: **SSKRAKK!**

4) TORCH: **C'mon!** **There's more where that came from!**

TORCH: **Unless you're an all-Avengers kinda guy.**

BP: **Avengers, perhaps** —

BP: **Thorr, no!**

5) THORR (thot): The Panther-King doth glare upon me yet again —

THORR (thot): — but 'tis mystery for the morrow.

THORR (thot): I must needs master a warrior's wits —

BIG TOWN—16

1) THORR (thot): — to confront the Silver Surfer!

THORR: Norrin Radd, all of Midgard doth know and understand that thou art a prisoner of Doctor Doom —

THORR: — a prisoner within the walls of thy mind as surely as anyone locked behind bars.

2) THORR: Thou knewest me once! Thou knowest now that I am Thorr, God of Thunder! Heed what I say unto thee!

THORR: Heed!

THORR: Thou'rt free — free to soar the — if thou but say'st it so!

THORR: Say it — NOW!

3) [silent]

4) SURFER: I serve only the master.

THORR (thot): The power of Doom — !

THORR (thot): How many more days must we abide its craggy horrors?

5) **WORD:** You'd think Doom would get tired of losing men, **Tin Man**.

IM: I think it's just beta testing, **Swordsman** — on his suits and on us!

6) **WORD:** Pit his hybrid metals against ours?

IM: Exactly.

IM: I'm thinking of billing him.

**WORD:** Forget it, Rusty! I'd do this for free!

BIG TOWN—17

1) WASP: Listen to those **guys!**

WASP: The playboy of the Western World, and **his immediate predecessor!**

**SUE: Which one's which?**

2) WASP: **Oh, the Swordsman's the real player now.** Iron Man's mellowed a little.

WASP: A little.

SUE: Don't stop now, girlfriend!

3) REED (thot): Ten years ago today — I made my girl the Invisible Girl.

REED (thot): — Ironically thrusting her straight into the spotlight.

REED (thot): Thank God she loves it, like her brother! Otherwise...

4) DOOMBURST: Come to me, my knights!

DOOMBURST: Avengers — Fantastic Four — the night shall fall when your unjust war upon Latveria shall be returned tenfold!

SWORD: Save it for the **citizens**, Vic!

5) DOOMBURST: No — I'm afraid I prefer to rule men.

BIG TOWN—18

1) DOOMBURST: The night shall fall when all the world shall know one will!

DOOMBURST: The will of Doctor Doom!

SWORDSMAN (spoken — not a sound effect): Yawn.

TORCH: If he were as tough as he talks, he'd quit hiding behind diplomatic immunity!

2) SWORD: He can hide or he can march naked up Broadway! It won't make any difference in the end!

THORR: Not whilst the Fantastic Four — **and** —

THORR (BIG): *AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!*

3) SUE: So Reed's right — it wasn't much.

SUE: But if you'd seen Johnny riding those Knights down like a rodeo bulldogger...

4) SUE (**thot**): — or seen Iron Man give Jan's hand a squeeze afterward...

SUE (**thot**): But that's another story.

THING (**thot**): ...or seen what I seen aroun' the corner o' the mansion...

THING (**thot**): But that ain't for Johnny's fam'ly.

JIMMY: Sometimes, when we're very lucky, my X Squad gets to have a taste of that!

5) THING (thot): There they were — Hawkeye an' that Mockingbird babe —

THING (thot): — the one come over from S.H.I.E.L.D. —

BIG TOWN—19

1) SFX: KRAK!

MOCK: What in the — ?

MOCK: Harley Doggett?

2) MOCK: I thought you were still with Colonel Fury —

HARLEY: Doom pays better, Bobbi!

MOCK: But for how long?

3) HARLEY: Long enough to ice the both of you!

HAWK (thot): Moves too fast in that suit — !

MOCK: Let him go, Harley!

4) HARLEY: You're a hell of an op, Bobbi, but you're no more a super-hero than I am!

HARLEY: I, however, have the armor!

5) MOCK: And I, however —

6) MOCK: — have this cable from the mansion's power grid!

SFX: ZZAXX!

HAWK: Mocky!

7) HAWK: You killed 'im!

MOCK: It was him or you, Hawky!

HAWK: But Avengers don't kill!

MOCK: Only one loves you.

8) THING (thot): **Now that's a woman!**

BIG TOWN—20

1) BLURB: Dinner conversation continues — in fact, it never stopped — and the two families, soon to be united, grow quickly closer. Then the last piece of mud pie's put away, chairs are sliding back...

BLURB: The group splits into smaller conversations.

CARLOS: — sure, I could have rebuilt, Reed, but I was born in this house.

REED: It's good, Carlos.

REED: I loved the old town, too — and I'm responsible for most of the changes...

2) REED: Sorry. Broke my own rule about talking shop.

CARLOS: No, but you're right.

CARLOS: Excuse me for saying so, but we've lost something in the process.

3) REED: You can say anything you want to me, Carlos.

CARLOS: Well, I was NYPD until the guys that held the streets had the streets change on 'em.

CARLOS: Maybe it was bein' a cop, but I was pretty set in my ways.

4) CARLOS: Life changed real fast once it got rollin', Reed.

REED: I never imagined it would do what it did.

CARLOS: Who could? Hey, it's cold tonight. Let's go back in.

5) REED: I hope things are going more smoothly these days, Carlos.

CARLOS: They are, Reed. "Change is gonna come," right?

CARLOS: It's not your fault.

6) REED (thot): Fault...?

BIG TOWN—21

- 1) FRANKIE: Sorry — couldn't help overhearing. Don't mind Pop, Reed.  
FRANKIE: New York has been growing since the Man-a-hat-a's sold it in 1624.  
REED: **No, Frank, I don't hear enough of that.**
- 2) FRANKIE: Hey, New York will never be perfect. If it were, it wouldn't be New York.  
FRANKIE: But we're managing the changes.  
REED: **I hear you.**
- 3) REED: And some things never change.  
FRANKIE: Including my having to work overtime.  
FRANKIE: I'll see you later, Reed —  
FRANKIE: It's been an amazing evening.
- 4) BLURB: And so ten o'clock settles over the Big Town — in cozy Brooklyn and ravishing midtown.  
BLURB: Including the Latverian embassy...
- 5) BLURB: Including its shielded command center...  
BLURB: ...and **Magneto**...  
BLURB: ...the **Hulk**...  
BLURB: ...the **Red Skull**...  
BLURB: ...**Namor, Prince of Atlantis**...  
BLURB: ...**three identical Ultrons**...  
BLURB: ...and Doom!
- MAGNETO: Call it a trial if you will, doctor. I call your attack a failure.

## BIG TOWN—22

1) MAGNETO: My Brotherhood, striking surreptitiously, is far more effective than blatant force.

SKULL: **Gypsies** have always struck surreptitiously — but power rules the world.

2) MAGNETO: The six of us represent great power, yet we do not rule.

SKULL: Power for **parlor tricks?** Learn the power of the Aryan race, mutant —

3) DOOM: Fools! Stop this at once!

DOOM: The power in this town threatens all of us, and if we do not hold together we will be consigned to the scrap heap of history!

4) MAGNETO: I have never conceded your right to dictate to me, Doom!

MAGNETO: **Nor to lay hands upon me!**

5) ULTRON 1: We're all sovereign in our way, Magneto —

ULTRON 2: — but it does not take multitasking to follow the logic here.

6) ULTRON 3: I have three bodies but just one brain.

ULTRON 3: Unity secures power!

7) DOOM: I agree with every word, Ultron! But Doom settles his own scores!

MAGNETO: There is plenty of time for unity after I impose it!

BIG TOWN—23

1) HULK: Too much talk!

HULK: Shut up!

NAMOR: Should you seek true power, you share the room with the true prince of Atlantis, which was old when the mountains of Europe still knelt in the sea.

NAMOR: None here will accept another's domination, but the choice is strict equality among ourselves —

2) NAMOR: — or strict and open war with Reed Richards.

MAGNETO: Equality — with Doom as leader.

3) DOOM: None of you — not even Namor — can live in New York without fear of arrest.

DOOM: I alone hold sovereign status — I alone provide a base from which to strike.

HULK: Talk English, or —

4) MAGNETO: I will never submit. The thing is impossible.

DOOM: My "thing" — victory — is eminently possible...Magneto.

5) DOOM: Your "thing" — paranoia — should see that we both know the way to domination. I shan't leave us astray.

HULK: Doom kicks butt!

MAGNETO: Is this — ?

DOOM: Please.

6) FRANKIE: Good evening, Doctor Doom.

FRANKIE: I've thought a lot about your offer — and tonight I saw your point, too clearly.

7) FRANKIE: Reed Richards must die!

BIG TOWN—24

1) BLURB: Eleven o'clock strikes hollowly from Old St. Mary's...echoing off the satellite spires...as the party in Brooklyn fragments further...

JOHNNY: Bye, you two. Don't stay out too late!

SUE: I wish I could still drop a curfew on that boy.

REED: He and Jimmy — and Sally, evidently — can take care of themselves.

REED: Besides, you and I were young once, too. And I remember —

SUE: Oh, Reed —

2) BLURB: “ — my darling, I love you!”

SALLY: Did they like us, Johnny? “Really, really like us”?

JOHNNY: Heck, yes, they did!

3) JOHNNY: Sally — Jimmy — your family's great. There's no problem there.

SALLY: I'm so glad!

4) SALLY: I was more worried about your family, with my working for them —

JOHNNY: I told you you were nuts.

5) JOHNNY: Who'd want a wife who just lies around eating bon-bons?

SALLY: I've never lain around a day in my life.

JIMMY: I can testify to that, Johnny.

JIMMY: You sure you know what you're getting into here?

BIG TOWN—25

1) JIMMY: But this is where I slice. See you guys later.

SALLY: Bye, Jimmy! Rack 'em and Ruin 'em!

JOHNNY: See ya, Jimmy.

2) JIMMY (thot): Crowded! Every night! Boy, if people only knew — !

3) JIMMY (thot): But y'know they can't know, Jimbo.

JIMMY (thot): People today live faster, go farther than ten years ago, but they're still  
people —

4) JIMMY (thot): — and people never want to live in a cop's world!

JIMMY (thot): — Especially now that bad guys go farther, too.

5) X: You are late, Jimmy.

X: Your meeting with the Torch's family went well?

HANK: Typical of you to think of the Fantastic Four as “the Torch's family,” Charlie.

HANK: Okay, X-Squad! That's good — really good — for now!

HANK: Go hook up with them, Jimmy.

BIG TOWN—26

- 1) NAMOR (fades away): I AM NAMOR, Prince of four-fifths of the globe  
SPEEDBALL: And so you were, while the hologram ran.  
WRECKER: But “Namor” couldn’t beat us!
- 2) FROM BOX (italic): *Ruin — you had the clearest mind, and so the greatest control.*  
FROM BOX (italic): *Shooting Star, Wrecker, you did well, but don’t fall in love with simple skill! Tactics! Tactics!*
- 3) HANK: Speedball, I’ve seen better. Be here at 1100 for extra work.  
SPEEDBALL (italic): *Can we make it 1000, Doctor P? I know I’m sort of stuck, and I want to work through it!*  
X: 1000 it is, Robbie.
- 4) SPEEDBALL: I’m trying so hard, Flash —  
FLASH: Hey, we’re not worried.  
SPEEDBALL: Really?
- 5) FLASH: Really, man.  
FLASH: The X Squad’s a team, all the way to the end.
- 6) HANK: We hone their minds and bodies, Charlie. We gird them in the highest of tech from Stark Armor.  
HANK: I just wish we had one mutant like that gang in Jersey.  
X: No argument, Hank.

BIG TOWN—27

1) X: But only a few are born to the future. Most must choose it.

X: Like Jan.

HANK (cheerfully): Exactly like Jan.

2) HANK: Ever since I shrank to near-nothingness, and faced death by ant —

HANK: — I've preferred coaching to playing.

3) HANK: While Jan's the ultimate player.

HANK: Her drug of choice is adrenaline, and mine's Earl Grey tea, with milk.

HANK: So why fight it? We each get what we really want.

4) X: Then why stay married, Hank?

HANK: It's silly, I know —

5) BLURB: “ — but we love each other.”

6) JAN: That was great, Tony.

TONY: You were great, Janny.

TONY: But I can't help feeling...

7) JAN: Don't.

JAN: Hank and I have a strange marriage, but it works!

BIG TOWN—28

1) JAN: He likes to use his brain and I like to use my body.

TONY: You'll pardon me, Jan, but your husband's a dork.

JAN: Take that back, Tony.

TONY: Hey! It was a compliment.

2) JAN: To me, but not Hank. And I'm telling you, he's my husband.

JAN: He works with people who will never be Avengers, but risk their lives anyway —

JAN: — so we have time to do this.

3-4) JAN: We need his X Squad, or we'd go crazy!

TONY: Well, you and your marvelous husband are darn lucky I'm not looking for a wife...

BLURB: "It's not the Avengers way!"

5) HAWK: Killing a man! Never, never deliberately — !

MOCK: I was a spy long before I was an Avenger, Clint!

MOCK: And I did what I had to do to save you!

6) HAWK: There's always another way.

MOCK: You're going to quibble about how I saved your life —

HAWK: Yes, I am. I don't know what kind of outfit Nick Fury runs, but we are champions, Bobbi! Pros!

7) HAWK: We don't pretend! We're exactly what we seem to be! That's why people trust us!

MOCK: "People" didn't see a thing.

BIG TOWN—29

1) HAWK: And you think that makes it all right?

MOCK: What I think, Mr. Hawkeye, is that we're all charged with keeping people safe

—

MOCK: — yes, even you, you big jerk —

MOCK: — and that your being dead for a scruple wouldn't help the world in any way.

MOCK: I've been trained to be discrete. No one but the Thing saw it.

2) HAWK: Listen! I'm glad you saved my life! Really, I am!

HAWK: What I'm saying is, shock the suit, not the guy —

MOCK: Then you get the shock through the suit, as his spasm cracks your neck.

3) HAWK: Avengers find a way, Bobbi!

MOCK: Then maybe I shouldn't be an Avenger! Maybe joining was a mistake!

MOCK: Maybe this marriage was a mistake!

4) **HAWK:** Maybe it was!

**HAWK:** Maybe it darn well was!

5) HAWK (thot): The Avengers made me a man. She makes me complete!

HAWK (thot): I can't choose!

6) THING: Get that blasted car down here, Reed!

REED: Before you even finish talking, Ben.

SUE: Good night, Carlos — Angélica.

ANGELICA: Drive home safe, Sue.

BIG TOWN—30

1) BLURB: **Midnight.**

JOHNNY: You tired of walking, baby?

SALLY: No way! Things are just getting going down here!

SALLY: We're so lucky to be in the midst of this!

2) SALLY: How else would I have found my hot man?

JOHNNY: I love you, Sally.

SALLY: I love you, Johnny.

3) OFF: But love blinds you — or is it perhaps sheer arrogance?

SALLY: Oh hell!

SALLY: Not twice in one day!

4) STORM: **Behold the Brotherhood!**

BIG TOWN—31

1) JOHNNY: Get behind me!

TORCH: FLAME ON!

WOLVY: Fire's good, Torch!

2) WOLVY: Cauterizes the wounds!

QUICK: He is mine, Wolverine!

3) TORCH: Come and get 'em, Quicky! Fireballs fresh and hot!

4) WITCH: Fear not, my brother! The Scarlet Witch is with you!

5) WOLVY: And both of you are blockin' me!

6) WOLVY: He's gettin' away!

QUICK: Have you forgotten Storm?

BIG TOWN—32

- 1) TORCH: I'll never forget her, after last time!  
TORCH: So I've got the heat to withstand her monsoon!  
STORM: You're hindered by your woman!
- 2) TORCH: Touch my woman —  
TORCH: — and we all stop having fun!
- 3) TORCH: Nobody threatens her ever! You hear me?  
TORCH: Don't worry about a thing, honey!
- 4) HAVOK: You make me want to hurl —  
HAVOK: — superhero!
- 5) HAVOK: **So I will!**

BIG TOWN—33

1) SALLY: Johnny!

SALLY (thot): The gun — !

2) QUICK: Now watch!

3) QUICK: Speed kills!

SALLY: Not —

4) FROM ROOF: — if I can help it!

5) QUICK: Turn! Descend!

WOLVY: I can't see past the edge!

WOLVY: Did she — ?

BIG TOWN—34

1) WOLVY: She did — !

REED: Magneto picked a particularly bad night to send you out, Brotherhood!

QUICK: These people are old! They cannot match us!

2) WITCH: Invisible Woman! You're putting on weight!

SUE (thot): Tripled my mass! But I can still vanish —

SFX: CRUMP!

3) QUICK: You'll not win tonight!

REED: I've already won tonight.

4) REED: Nothing you can do can spoil it!

5) REED: I regret the name now —

REED: — but my powers are still fantastic!

BIG TOWN—35

1) HAVOK: Get your minds in the game or we're finished!

WITCH: You're not our leader, Havok!

WITCH: Are you hurt, Pietro?

QUICK: Just — destroy them, Wanda!

2) SALLY: Johnny! Johnny — come on!

JOHNNY: Tha' guy...

JOHNNY: ...hits like a bomb...

3) JOHNNY: **Big orange bomb...**

4) THING: Don'tcha worry 'bout a **\_**, kid!

THING: I'll save yer tender hide!

WOLVY: Jeez! I can't break yer skin!

5) THING: Yeah. See, yer like an animal, Wolverine!

THING: It ain't much, but it's somethin'!

6) THING: Me, I ain't no animal, veg'table, or mineral!

THING: I'm a Thing!

7) THING: A THING!

BIG TOWN—36

1) TORCH: Thanks, Benjy! I got it now!

STORM: You escaped my downpour, but it's the least of my skills!

2) TORCH: And I've love to see them all, Storm —

TORCH: — but Johnny Storm's a little streamed about you guys not payin' attention!

TORCH: HANDS OFF MY GIRL!

STORM: Updrafts — too strong even for me —

3) TORCH: Do one thing and do it well, that's my motto!

TORCH: Let me show you my fire-twirl!

BLURB: “Now you don't see me, Witch — !”

4) SUE: Now you do!

SUE: But not the force field that locks up your hexes!

WANDA: No! I can disrupt it —

WANDA: — given time —

5) THING: Ding!

THING: Time's up.

BIG TOWN—37

1) THING: Now that's the way ta **celebrate!**

SALLY: Nobody beats the Fantastic Four!

REED: Make it "five," Sally.

SUE: It's a new era.

2) JOHNNY: I can't tell you guys how glad I am you feel that way.

REED: Sally faced danger twice today, and prevailed, even though she has no powers.

SALLY: I just have a family that does.

3) REED: **You and everyone else has our family, and the Avengers, and others —**

REED: **— sworn to make certain you're safe.**

REED: **But you fired the flare.**

4) THING: It ain't the powers that make the hero, Sally. It's the guts.

SUE: Now, you two get on about your business.

5) THING: We'll get these guys locked up.

REED: Take the car, kids.

JOHNNY: How about it, baby?

SALLY: Flying in the F-Car? Let me think...

BIG TOWN—38

1) SALLY: Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes!

JOHNNY: Hang on, then!

JOHNNY: You know I love speed!

2) SALLY: And I love you.

JOHNNY: I love you, baby.

3) SALLY: Heat me up, Mister Torch!

4) REVERSE BLURB (white on black): Just a couple of crazy kids — and all that entails —  
when

HULK & SUBBY STRIKE!

Next Ish!