

DARK AVENGERS

H A W K E Y E

Issue 1 of 5

by

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Second Draft

PAGE 1

1) BIG! The Dark Avengers come CHARGING toward us, all fired up and ready for battle! In the foreground is HAWKEYE (alias Bullseye), his bow drawn with a high-tech arrow ready to fire; WOLVERINE (alias Daken) close beside him, claws out, fierce; ARES, full-on, loving it, wielding his ax and a round black shield with skull icon; black costume SPIDEY (alias Venom) swings in on a line of black webbing; MS MARVEL (alias Moonstone) flies overhead. Leading the charge in flight is IRON PATRIOT (alias Norman Osborn).

They are charging toward us down Liberty Street in lower Manhattan, though we don't need to worry about establishing the location until the next page. This should be a real grabby, in-yer-face image. Let's hit the ground running!

FLOATING TEXT

Lower Manhattan, New York

IRON PATRIOT

(jagged)

Avengers --

(link)

ASSEMBLE!

NAME CAPTIONS

IRON PATRIOT

SPIDER-MAN

WOLVERINE

MS. MARVEL

ARES

HAWKEYE

2) Reverse the angle to show what the Avengers are charging towards: a GIANT HULK-BUSTER ROBOT is stomping towards the iconic Federal Reserve Bank at 33 Liberty Street (get refs). The Hulk-Buster is an all-new S.H.I.E.L.D. design; 100 feet tall, with a lone human pilot inside the heavily-armored cockpit. Destruction all around; cars tossed aside like tin toys; buildings smashed and burning; people running and screaming.

MS MARVEL

Rogue Hulk-Buster --

(link)

-- and it's heading for the Federal Reserve!

PAGE 2

1) Iron Patriot hovers in the air; the repulsor-pads in his armored palms glow, ready to fire. He has swooped up in front of Ms Marvel, blocking her line of fire --

IRON PATRIOT

*When I give the order to assemble,
that means everybody!*

(link)

*Where the hell are Captain Marvel
and The Sentry?*

MS MARVEL

Out of the way, Norman! You're
blocking my line of fire--!

2) Iron Patriot FIRES twin energy blasts from his repulsor-pads --

IRON PATRIOT

The eyes of the world are on me.

(link)

*Let them see that surplus Stark
junk is no match for superior
Oscorp weaponry!*

3) The energy blasts RICOCHET off a square-ish ENERGY SHIELD which has suddenly snapped into existence a few feet out from the armored hull of the mecha --

FX

FZZANGG

4) The blasts bounce back and BLAST into Iron Patriot, SMASHING him backwards into Ms Marvel!

MS MARVEL

(jagged)

OOOF!

5) Iron Patriot and Ms Marvel CRASH backwards through the wall into an office building!

PAGE 3

1) High angle. Standing in the street, Hawkeye takes careful aim with his bow. Ares crouches close by, deflecting a laser blast with his shield; battle-ax gripped in his other hand, waiting for the opportune moment to strike. Both cool and dynamic.

ARES

Methinks our so-called leader is more glory-hunter than tactician.

(link)

An army fights as one, or falls as many!

HAWKEYE

Speak for yourself, Ares.
Personally I'm not exactly what you'd call the "all for one" type...

2) Hawkeye appears in the crosshairs of the Hulk-Buster's high-tech TARGETING DISPLAY. He fires his arrow right at us --

ON-SCREEN TEXT

THREAT LEVEL: MINIMAL

TARGETING...

3) Hawkeye's arrow lodges right into the barrel of the Hulk-Buster's swivel-mounted blaster-cannon --

FX

THOK

4) The blaster cannon EXPLODES!

FX

FDDAMM

5) WOLVERINE LEAPS off the roof of a wrecked car toward us, claws out, screaming in berserker rage --

WOLVERINE

(jagged)

RRAAAAAAGH!

PAGE 4

1) Widescreen! Low angle, looking up from close behind Hawkeye as he FIRES another arrow up at the head of the Hulk-Buster, which looms over us menacingly. This arrow has a magnetic grapple-head attached to a line. We can see Wolverine laboriously clawing his way up the Hulk-Buster's leg. It's a slow climb, and he still has along way to go. Ares slashes at the other leg with his battle-ax. Venom shoots black webbing at the Hulk-Buster's arm, but it breaks easily.

HAWKEYE

That's it, Wolvie. Waste your time,
keep it distracted...

2) Hawkeye's grapple-line retracts, zipping him up into the air towards the Hulk-Buster's head --

HAWKEYE

... While I kill it.

3) Hawkeye lands nimbly as a cat on top of the Hulk-Buster's armored "head" section.

HAWKEYE

If this thing's S.H.I.E.L.D. tech,
there'll be a crash-rescue
system...

4) Extreme close inset. Hawkeye crouches on the hull, twisting a small circular latch set flush against the armor plating: a hand-grip that can be pulled out and swiveled 90 degrees. Next to it is a hazard notice: DANGER! EXPLOSIVE BOLTS!

HAWKEYE

Heh. Saps.
(link)
Guess they assumed the Hulk
wouldn't be smart enough to figure
this out...

5) Hawkeye turns away, shielding his eyes as the top section of the Hulk-Buster cockpit BLOWS OPEN with explosive bolts!

FX

POOM

PAGE 5

1) Mecha-Pilot's POV. Hawkeye stands silhouetted at the lip of the now-exposed cockpit canopy, aiming an arrow down at us...

HAWKEYE
Good news, bad news.
(link)
Good news is, Hawkeye doesn't kill
people in cold blood.

2) Close on the Mecha-Pilot, looking comically shit-scared. He's a lowly member of a rather third-rate domestic terrorist cell.

MECHA PILOT
And... And the bad news... ?

3) Extreme close on Hawkeye, grinning evilly as he aims an explosive arrow RIGHT AT US--

HAWKEYE
I'm not Hawkeye.

4) Extreme close inset. The Mech Pilot yanks the "D-ring" EJECTION SEAT handle between his legs, marked with black-and-yellow hazard chevrons and the word EJECT --

MECHA PILOT
(off-panel above)
And I'm not stickin' around!

5) Hawkeye DIVES aside as the ejection seat ROCKETS up past him on a pillar of flame!

HAWKEYE
(jagged)
Yaaagh!
(link)
Son of a--

1) Low angle, looking up past Iron Patriot, who crouches in the rubble in the wrecked office building, staggering to his feet. He looks up at the ejector seat rocketing up into the sky --

IRON PATRIOT

*Don't lose him! I want him brought
in alive for enhanced
interrogation!*

2) High angle, looking down on Hawkeye. He FIRES an explosive arrow right up at us, grim --

HAWKEYE

Sorry Patriot, your signal's
breaking up...
(link; small text)
... And I haven't killed anyone all
week.

3) The ejector seat EXPLODES with the pilot still in it! The parachute flutters away, its cables snapped by the blast--

FX

BOOOM

4) Small inset. High angle, close on Hawkeye, looking up at us with a thin smile of evil satisfaction.

HAWKEYE

Better.

5) Hawkeye DIVES off the mecha like an Olympic high-diver, just as Wolverine, Ares and Venom clamber up onto the head section, late to the party --

ARES

Where are you going? The battle has
but begun--!

HAWKEYE

Fight's over.
(link)
See you kids back at the clubhouse.

PAGE 7

1) Widescreen. The crippled mecha begins to TOPPLE OVER...

2) Inset. Wolverine YELLS, hanging on for dear life as the mecha falls --

3) Widescreen. Iron Patriot and Ms Marvel hover in the air, watching...

MS MARVEL

What about the innocent bystanders?

IRON PATRIOT

The what?

4) Inset. Down among the log-jammed traffic, innocent bystanders look up and SCREAM as a huge shadow looms over them...

5) Widescreen. The mecha SMASHES down into the mass of cars and commuter buses, CRUSHING them!

6) Inset. Hawkeye, grinning nastily, crouches on a high lamp-post jutting out from the corner of the Federal Reserve Bank (see refs).

HAWKEYE

Oops.

1) LATER. High, wide, aerial establishing shot. Emergency services have moved in and are swarming over the scene of devastation around the fallen mecha. Ambulances, fire trucks, body bags. A big crowd of reporters and TV news crews. It's a circus.

BEN URICH
(from scene)
Ben Urich, Front Line News.
(link)
If you don't mind me asking --
since when do the Avengers kill...?

2) Move in on reporter BEN URICH, who is interviewing Hawkeye in a quiet spot away from the rest of the crowd. Hawkeye crouches on the roof of a wrecked car, or a pile of rubble. Urich holds out a digital recorder to catch Hawkeye's words.

HAWKEYE
You mess with the bull, you get the
horns. What, you think Captain
America never killed a Nazi?
(link)
Killing's an art. And that makes me
Picasso.

3) Urich frowns and cocks his head, growing thoughtful and slightly suspicious...

BEN URICH
Wait a second...
(link)
Do I know you?

4) Urich's POV. Hawkeye smiles nastily. But his eyes aren't smiling; they're locked onto ours with an evil, steely glint. He ignores the voice coming from off-panel...

IRON PATRIOT
(from off-panel)
Hawkeye.

5) Iron Patriot hovers in the air nearby, glaring down at us disapprovingly.

IRON PATRIOT
I'll handle the press.

1) Later. Impressive low-angle upshot. Iron Patriot stands atop the smouldering wreckage of the mecha, as if he's the one who brought it down. It's a calculated photo opportunity; TV news cameras and press reporters cluster around him. Armed H.A.M.M.E.R. troopers keep watch from the sidelines.

IRON PATRIOT

Thirty-six innocent Americans lost their lives in this cowardly attack.

(link)

Let this be a lesson to us all. Domestic terrorists like Tony Stark will stop at nothing in trying to divide our nation. To break our will...

(link)

Yet they will not succeed. We stand united as one in the face of their cowardice and treachery!

2) Ben Urich steps forward from the press crowd, holding out his digital recorder.

BEN URICH

Do you have any actual evidence that Captain America was behind this? Or are we supposed to just... take your word for it?

3) Close on Iron Patriot, scowling down at us.

IRON PATRIOT

Ben Urich. Once again sowing the seeds of mistrust and paranoia.

(link)

I'm disappointed to see you're still allowed to peddle your lies in public.

4) Two-shot, looking down at Urich and the crowd from up behind Iron Patriot. Urich doesn't blink; ballsy. Iron Patriot gestures to the H.A.M.M.E.R. troops.

BEN URICH

What a country, *huh*?

(link)

So what makes you call this a terrorist incident rather than, say, a bank robbery?

(link)
That thing was heading for the gold
reserve -- and it didn't actually
kill anybody 'til your so-called
Avengers dropped it on a bus.

IRON PATRIOT
Get him out of here.
(link)
National security.

5) As Urich is manhandled backwards into the crowd by H.A.M.M.E.R. troops, he continues to face Osborn (off-panel) with a calm, steely defiance.

BEN URICH
I was right about you, Osborn.
(link)
I was always right about you.

1) Widescreen establishing shot of AVENGERS TOWER and lower Manhattan, majestic beneath a clear blue sky.

HAWKEYE
(from Avengers Tower)
Cut the crap, Osborn.
(link)
You didn't invite me onto this team
because I'm kind to children and
small animals.

2) Close on Hawkeye, looking right at us. His eyes are cold and hard behind the mask. Leave room for a big speech.

HAWKEYE
Look, we got a good thing going
here. I get it.
(link)
In my hands, any object is a deadly
weapon -- but you want me to limit
myself to a bow and arrow? Fine...
(link)
You want me to run around in this
stupid outfit and pretend to be
some kind of hero? Fine...
(link)
But if you ever expect me to hold
back...

3) Same angle. He pulls the mask off, revealing his bald head and the Bullseye-logo scar on his forehead. His cold gaze still levelled right at us.

HAWKEYE
... Then you don't know me at all.

4) Widen to reveal the scene: Norman Osborn sits behind the huge desk in his high-tech office in Avengers Tower (check DARK AVENGERS for refs?). He pinches the bridge of his nose, eyes squeezed shut, trying to contain his exasperation. Hawkeye lounges in a comfortable armchair, facing him. He shrugs, unconcerned. Floor-to-ceiling windows give a breathtaking view of Manhattan.

NORMAN OSBORNE
You killed three dozen innocent
civilians, Bullseye.
(link)
Live on national television.

HAWKEYE

That wasn't me. That was...
gravity.

(link)

Besides, they had it coming.
Rubberneckers.

5) Norman, exasperated --

NORMAN OSBORNE

Will you try to get it thought that
thick, adamantium-laced skull of
yours -- we're the Avengers now!

(link)

We're supposed to save lives!

1) Hawkeye leans forward intently, wryly amused. He can't believe what he's hearing.

HAWKEYE

Wait a second. I don't believe this -- you're actually buying into this hero crap...?

(link)

Man, all this time I just assumed you were playing an angle!

2) Hawkeye's POV. Norman stands and jabs an accusing finger at us. His manner is cold and hard and very serious. Leave plenty of dead space for the yadda yadda.

NORMAN OSBORNE

I saved this planet from becoming the new throne-world of the Skrull Empire.

(link)

I have been embraced by its people, and they have entrusted me with their security.

(link)

I have finally achieved the rightful recognition that has been denied me my whole life -- and I'm damned if I'm going to let one lone psychopath toss it all away!

3) Hawkeye returns the gaze, equally cold and hard. These psychos are scariest when they're calm...

HAWKEYE

Better watch where you're pointing that finger, Osborn.

(link)

Unless you want to see it snapped off and inserted into your ocular orbit.

4) Norman almost smiles. At least his mouth does; one side slanting up wryly. But there's cold murder in his eyes. Like he might snap and flip out any second.

NORMAN OSBORNE

Are you actually trying to threaten me?

5) Hawkeye relaxes, smiles, and shrugs it off. Like, whaddaya gonna do?

HAWKEYE

Relax your crack, Normie. All I'm saying is, last I heard, you're the one on the cocktail of anti-psychotic meds, not me.

(link)

Remember, I was the one had to step in and save the day when you wiggled out in Thunderbolts Mountain.

1) Norman steps over to the window, gazing out with his hands clasped behind his back. His composure regained. Surveying his domain.

NORMAN OSBORNE

Bygones. Let's not dredge up the past. It's the future that concerns me now.

(link)

You're no boy scout, Bullseye. I wouldn't have recruited you if you were. But there have to be boundaries.

2) Closer. Norman turns to face us from the window.

NORMAN OSBORNE

You'll have plenty of opportunities to work off your... instinctive urges once we find out who was behind the Federal Reserve attack.

(link)

... Which would be somewhat easier if you hadn't vaporized our only potential informant.

3) Hawkeye has heard enough. He heads for the door.

HAWKEYE

I ain't your puppy-dog, Osborn. Don't try and put me on a leash.

(link)

I'm the world's greatest assassin. I expect credit for my kills.

4) View from the doorway. As Hawkeye walks toward us, Norman speaks to him from the background.

NORMAN OSBORNE

Just don't blow this for me, Bullseye. Or you'll very swiftly find yourself kicked out of the Avengers...

5) Reverse angle. View from behind Hawkeye as he approaches the door. He pauses at the threshold, half-turning to look back over his shoulder. Stopped in his tracks by what he hears. Not afraid, but pissed-off, containing his impulsive urge to murder...

NORMAN OSBORNE
(from off-panel)
... And into an unmarked grave.

PAGE 13

1) NIGHT. Masked again, Hawkeye runs the rooftops of New York, LEAPING across an alleyway. We're in a bad part of town. Slum tenements. Water towers. Fire escapes. Daredevil country.

FLOATING TEXT
Meat Packing District

2) Hawkeye crouches on the corner of a rooftop like a gargoyle, looking down at us. He smiles slyly.

3) Hawkeye's POV, looking out at the rooftop parking lot of a six-floor PARKING STRUCTURE across the street, below him. Dimly lit. Not many cars. A lone woman walks across the lot to her car, which is parked next to an unmarked white van.

4) Wide. Move in on her. A smartly-dressed businesswoman, middle-aged but good looking. She looks around warily as she opens the door of her car, which is parked right beside the white van. We can tell from her expression that she knows this isn't a safe place for her to be at night.

5) Close! She is suddenly GRABBED from behind! A black glove closes over her mouth --

BUSINESSWOMAN
MMMPH!

1) Widen to reveal she has been grabbed by a seedy-looking MUGGER ("BAKER"), who is pulling her backwards towards the open side door of the white van. His two colleagues (let's call them ABLE and CHARLIE) help him try to manhandle her into the van. She's kicking and thrashing as best she can, but she's overpowered --

ABLE
Get her into the van!

BAKER
(assailant)
Easy, sugar. More you struggle,
worse this is gonna be for you.

CHARLIE
Gonna have us a little party, yes
we are...

2) The woman jabs her elbow hard into Baker's face, breaking his nose, and manages to struggle loose as he yelps in pain --

BAKER
AAGH!

BUSINESSWOMAN
I'm-- I'm a police officer!
(link)
M-My partner's gonna be here any
second--!

3) Baker nurses his bleeding nose. Able pulls a gun on us, smiling with sadistic glee.

ABLE
What, do you think I look like an
idiot?

4) SAME ANGLE. Baker BOGGLES in shock as an ARROW SLAMS through Able's skull; in one side and out the other, just above the ears, like a fake arrow-through-the-head you get from a joke store. But this is no Steve Martin gag...

FX
POK

5) HAWKEYE crouches on the low retaining wall on the edge of the parking lot roof, grinning nastily, bow in hand.

HAWKEYE

Yes. Yes, I do.

PAGE 15

1) Baker reaches into his jacket for his handgun. Charlie already has a .45 in each hand, snarling --

BAKER

Holy Anna! He killed Chuckie--!

CHARLIE

What kinda psycho brings a bow to a gunfight--?

2) Big, dynamic image! Hawkeye LEAPS as he simultaneously FIRES TWO ARROWS right at us!

3) Charlie drops both guns as the two arrows PIN the palms of each of his hands to the side-panel of the van, as if in a gesture of surrender. He SCREAMS in pain --

FX

THDUNK THDUNK

CHARLIE

(jagged)

AAAAGH!

4) Baker starts to raise his own hands in surrender -- but he's still holding his gun. He looks terrified --

BAKER

O-okay! I s-surrend--

5) An arrow SLAMS into his open mouth, the tip popping out where his spine meets the base of his skull. Wide-eyed surprise.

FX

THWOK

1) Worm's-eye upshot. Hawkeye stands over the body of Baker, which lies prone in the extreme foreground with the arrow tail sticking straight up into the air from his open mouth...

HAWKEYE

Y'know, I think I may be warming to this whole bow-and-arrow thing.

2) The Businesswoman hugs herself, hyperventilating, shaky, coming down from the adrenaline rush. Hawkeye has come over to her, and puts a reassuring hand on her shoulder. Every bit the square-jawed hero.

BUSINESSWOMAN

Oh my gosh.

(link)

Oh my gosh.

(link)

I can't believe... If you hadn't come along...

HAWKEYE

Easy, ma'am. It's the just the adrenaline wearing off.

(link)

Just take a deep breath. You can relax now. I'm, uh...

(link)

I'm a hero.

3) Hawkeye's POV. She looks up at us with big, grateful eyes.

BUSINESSWOMAN

You-- You're that Hawkeye, aren't you? I think what you people do is just wonderful!

(link)

My son Billy, he's the biggest Avengers fan you can imagine. He was so hyper when he saw your boss on TV this morning!

4) Her POV. Hawkeye's eyes suddenly go dangerously cold and hard.

HAWKEYE

My what?

5) She rummages around in her purse, completely oblivious to the offense she has just caused.

BUSINESSWOMAN

Could you-- I'm sorry, I know it's
silly, but could I-- Could I
possibly trouble you for an
autograph?

(link)

It would mean so much to him...

6) Charlie stands with both bloody hands still pinned to the van,
yelling in outrage --

CHARLIE

Autographs? Ya gotta be kiddin' me!

(link)

I need medical attention here, I'm
bleedin' ta death--!

1) Two-shot, angle on the Businesswoman as she hands Hawkeye a nice old-fashioned gold-nibbed fountain pen that she's fished out of her purse.

HAWKEYE

Nice pen.

BUSINESSWOMAN

Billy gave it to me for my birthday. He must have spent like a hundred dollars on it.

HAWKEYE

He sounds like a great kid.

(link)

I wish I could see the look on his face when he finds out how much this pen is going to be worth tomorrow.

2) Two-shot, angle on Bullseye.

BUSINESSWOMAN

Tomorrow... ?

HAWKEYE

Yeah.

(link)

Bullseye memorabilia goes for crazy prices on eBay.

3) Close on the Businesswoman. She frowns, confused...

BUSINESSWOMAN

Bullseye? But I thought you were Hawk--

4) Reverse angle. View from behind her as Hawkeye viciously STABS the pen into her eye socket!

FX

SHUKK

5) Close on the Businesswoman, slack-jawed, almost disappointed-looking, with the pen jutting out of one ruined eye-socket, deep enough to penetrate into her brain. She is already dead; her body just hasn't caught up with the fact yet.

1) She crumples like a sack of leaves. CHARLIE, still pinned to the van, boggles wide-eyed at the horror of it; crying, disbelieving --

CHARLIE

Oh God.
(link)
Oh God.

2) Hawkeye comes close, smiling, nonchalant.

HAWKEYE

I hope you've learned a valuable life lesson here today. "*Crime doesn't pay*," maybe? Something patronising and moralistic, anyway.
(link)
Kind of thing Daredevil would come out with. Man, I want to kill that guy so bad...

3) POV looking over Hawkeye's shoulder at the weeping Charlie.

CHARLIE

Y-you killed her, man! You just murdered her in cold blood--!

HAWKEYE

Isn't that what you were going to do? Once you'd had your fun?
(link)
You and your buddies...?

4) ABLE and BAKER lie dead at Hawkeye's feet.

HAWKEYE

(from off-panel above)
And look what happened to them.

5) Close on Charlie, weeping and begging. He thought he was the bad guy; now he finds he's just a random victim in a Hannibal Lecter movie.

CHARLIE

Please don't kill me. Please.
You're an Avenger, right? Just hand me over to the cops, man. I'll do my time, I'll go straight, just don't kill me, please...

1) Hawkeye peers out over the edge of the low parapet wall around the edge of this sixth-floor parking lot, looking down at the street far below.

HAWKEYE

Tell you what. I can hear sirens
down below...

(link)

You want me to drop you off with
the police?

2) Close on Charlie, desperate.

CHARLIE

Hell, yeah! I swear, I'll never do
anything bad again, I swear!

3) Close on Hawkeye, smiling coldly.

HAWKEYE

You know what?

(link)

I believe you.

4) Extreme close inset. Hawkeye leans in and jams an arrow down against the van's gas pedal, wedging the other end against the underside of the dashboard.

CHARLIE

(from off-panel)

Hey, what-- What are you doing...?

5) Extreme close inset. Hawkeye slips the gear-shift into REVERSE.

CHARLIE

(off-panel)

N-No! No--!

PAGE 20

1) Wide. Hawkeye watches as the van RACES backwards across the rooftop lot, with Charlie still pinned to the side!

CHARLIE
(jagged)
NNNNNOOOOOOOOOOOO--!

2) The van SMASHES through the low retaining wall --

3) Charlie SCREAMS as he falls, still pinned to the van as it tumbles down towards the street, six floors below --

4) BIG! The van EXPLODES at it hits a couple of POLICE CARS speeding to the scene! The fireball blossoms out, lifting the cars off the ground --

PAGE 21

1) Hawkeye looks down over the edge, with his boot up on the broken wall and his elbow rested on his knee. Grinning, devilishly under-lit by the flames of destruction.

HAWKEYE

Bullseye.

2) High angle. Hawkeye looks down at the dead bodies at his feet.

3) Close. He yanks the arrow out of Baker's mouth.

4) Close. With the sharp arrow-tip, he carves the crosshair BULLSEYE symbol into Baker's forehead.

5) Low angle, looking up at Hawkeye from the floor. He looks down at us with a look of grim satisfaction, the bloody arrow in his hand.

HAWKEYE

That's all I ever wanted, Norman.
(link)
Credit for my kills.

6) Hawkeye suddenly looks up, scowling at something high up off-panel --

HAWKEYE

Uh-oh.

PAGE 22

1) TV-screen inset. Same angle as previous; Hawkeye looks up at us with the bloody arrow in his hand, dead bodies at his feet. Caught red-handed on camera.

TV REPORTER
(from off-panel)
Holy mother of God...

2) FULL PAGE SPLASH. A TV NEWS HELICOPTER hovers in the air close above us; POX NEWS logo on the side. A CAMERAMAN sits in the open doorway, filming us on camera. His REPORTER leans out behind him, staring down at us in disbelief. Realizing how much trouble they're suddenly in...

TV REPORTER
Tell me we're broadcasting live.

FLOATING TEXT
TO BE CONTINUED!