

Spider-Man 91

Chapter 91: Forced Team Up

Feeling some taps on his face, Hulk groggily opens his eyes. The last thing he remembers was losing to the lizard-man-looking thing and then getting hit over and over again without the power to retaliate.

"Wake up, big guy. We got a monster to smash!" A voice says as Hulk sees the spider that he flicked away only moments ago.

Thinking back, maybe he should have taken the spider up on his offer to work together, as only minutes after turning him down, Hulk was getting beaten so badly that he passed out for a brief moment.

The only problem with accepting help from a human is the fact that every human Hulk's ever met has either been deathly afraid of him or attacked him with military-grade weaponry.

Hulk has a very bad opinion of humans and that opinion is completely fair and justified. After all, ever since the day he was 'born', Hulk has had to fight his other half's battles for him. All of those battles against humans.

Those that didn't attack him, cowered in fear or ran away, and that type of treatment to a newborn being certainly won't help in their development.

It's safe to say that the Hulk has some problems.

Not only does he have trust and identity issues, but he was also molded into a racist somehow.

Racist toward the human race to be exact.

He's a giant with the mind of a child but no one has had the opportunity or inclination to ever find all of this out. They were usually too busy running in the other direction or shooting in his direction.

"Come on, big guy. Don't look at me like that..." Peter says with an unseen pout as he sees Hulk's annoyed face. "Let's be friends. We can beat that monster together and get some pizza afterward. My treat?"

"Hulk has no friends!" Hulk exclaims as he sits up and sees Abomination getting back up to his feet as well.

"That's right!" Blonsky yells. "We're practically gods! Friends, family, possessions. All we need is to know who's the strongest and that's me!"

"Hulk is strongest monster." Hulk corrects challengingly as he rushes at Abomination.

"Fine, let's do this the hard way." Peter muttered as he watched Hulk and Abomination go at it once again.

As the two start throwing fists once again, Peter doesn't sit idly by any longer. Looking for an opening, he slips into the brawl and assists Hulk the best way he can.

Using his webs or even his body, Peter redirects attacks that would otherwise hit the Hulk. He didn't need much power to do this. Only agility and dexterity. Both of which Peter had far more than either Hulk or Abomination.

"Annoying insect!" Blonsky yells in fury as Peter kicks his arm at the elbow, causing him to only graze Hulk's chin with his fist. "Go away!"

At this point, Peter has made him miss multiple attacks on Hulk, so Abomination had enough and turned towards the annoyance, ready to take care of him before finishing the fight with Hulk.

"What? Are you mad?" Peter asks condescendingly with a tilt of his head.

This had the exact effect that Peter was hoping for. Blonsky looked to get even more p*ssed off than he was before, as he turned his attacks toward Peter in an instant.

Luckily, Peter was faster and smaller, making him hard to catch. That combined with Blonsky's angered state of mind makes every attack thrown Peter's way fairly predictable.

"Are you sure you're not mad? You seem angry?" Peter antagonizes Blonsky more as he sidesteps a punch that cracks the concrete street upon impact.

Meanwhile, Hulk stood off to the side with a dumb look on his face. All he could think about was how this human wouldn't take no for an answer. He asked Hulk to work together and he refused. He asked to be friends and Hulk refused again.

After his many refusals, the same human just kept showing up and helping him and Hulk didn't like it one bit. In his mind, humans should either run away or attack him. They could do nothing else.

"Maybe you should calm down?" Peter says the forbidden words, which makes Abomination's anger skyrocket to the point of no return.

"You f*cking annoyance! Just die already!" Blonsky screams as he picks up a car and throws it at Peter.

Using his senses and enhanced body, Peter jumps through the already broken window of the car, completely passing through the car without touching it. The car continues to soar passed Peter and straight at Hulk, who was too caught up in his own thoughts to react as the car smashed into his chest.

"Oops..." Peter mutters as he landed and saw Hulk get knocked back by the car. 'What's with these guys and using cars as weapons?'

"Hulk...Angry..." Hulk says angrily as he staggers back while catching the car and tossing it aside. "...HULK SMASH!"

Hulk has had enough of all of this. He only wanted to help and get rid of this monster as his other half wanted, but he was losing and then the spider started getting involved.

Not to mention the two flies (Erik/Tony) that were overhead and interfering in his fight constantly. Whenever they would stray too far from the center of the street, they would be attacked from above until they steered closer to the road once again.

Neither of the two could fly so they had to just take it as they slowly grew used to staying on the road away from buildings.

Hulk had enough and it was time to let all of that built-up anger out. What better way to do so other than violence?

"Aaaaauughhh!" Hulk exclaimed and sprinted over to Peter and Blonsky.

Feeling the ground shake as Hulk grew closer, Peter does the smart thing and slips away just in time for Hulk to collide with Abomination.

Hulk spear-tackled the bigger monster, which sent Abomination tumbling backward and onto a car with Hulk on top of him.

Before Abomination could get his baring back and retaliate, Peter, who was perched at a nearby light post, acted quickly to assist Hulk by shooting constant streams of his webs from his wrists at their enemy downed form.

As the web was sticking into place on Blonsky's arms and legs, Hulk didn't even notice due to his blinding rage. He started raining his large fists down on the face of his enemy just as Abomination did to him earlier before Peter stepped in.

The tables turned as Abomination strained against the webs holding him down, taking fist after fist to the face. The power of these hits was enough to make it feel as if there was some sort of earthquake happening. The ground shook and cracked. Cars, trash cans, rubble, and even the light post that Peter was on shook with every punch that landed on Blonsky's face.

"Aaaugghh! Sleep!" Hulk yelled over and over as he just kept punching away, causing a small crater to form in the street.

At one point, Abomination almost broke out of Peter's webs, but sadly for him, Peter would just add more. That combined with the fact that Blonsky was getting his face beaten in, made it hard for him to think straight after a certain amount of time.

As time went on, Abomination's face started getting more and more mangled as each punch opened a new cut or swelled a new bruise. Soon, Blonsky stopped struggling against the web and seemed to pass out, but Hulk didn't stop.

The attacks continued on the unconscious face of his enemy. Hulk either did not caring or hadn't noticing that he already won the fight.

The question now is should Peter stop him or let Hulk kill Abomination?

'Should I step in?' Peter thought as he and the other Avengers stood by and watched Hulk keep smashing Blonsky's face in.

After a moment of thought, Peter made a decision.

Jumping off the light post and onto Hulk's shoulder, Peter pats the big guy on the head a couple of times before speaking.

"That's enough. You won, big guy." Peter says these simple words, which instantly causes Hulk to stop and look down at his still alive yet mangled enemy.

"Hulk win?" Hulk says as he stands up with Peter still on his shoulder.

At this point, the news helicopters flew a bit lower to get a better shot, and some nearby police officers start pushing into the area as well, both thinking that the situation was over.

The addition of these people set off alarm bells in Hulk's mind, as his only history with armed humans and helicopters was very violent, to say the least.

"Huh?" Hulk grunted as he looked around and thought the worst.

"Hulk calm do..." Peter tries to explain that they were on their side, but he was flicked off of Hulk's shoulder for a second time before he could finish speaking.

With Peter off of his shoulder, Hulk turned and ran off, not wanting to deal with the humans that he thought would attack him at any moment.

Chapter 92: Wrapping Up

Staring at the big fleeing back of the Hulk, Peter sighed and turned to Tony, who just landed beside the unconscious Abomination. His helmet opened as he bends a little to get a closer look at the monster.

"Tony, go follow Hulk." Peter says and instantly receives a reluctant look from Tony, who didn't want to do any grunt work. "Don't look at me like that. Just follow him from a distance and bring Banner back to the tower when he switches back."

Tony sighed as his helmet closed and he flew off to chase after the escaping Hulk. When Tony left, a few police officers came forward.

"Is that thing real?" One of them asks as they look at the sleeping Abomination.

"Is it alive?"

"I don't think our cuffs are big enough for this..."

"Don't worry about it. We'll be taking it into our custody, so you won't have to worry about anything." Peter says to the police as he turns toward Magneto, who was still floating above everyone. "Erik, use the strongest metal in the area to restrain this thing. Feel free to go overboard. We can't have it escaping and destroying another part of the city, after all."

Nodding his head, Magneto uses his powers to draw metal from the nearby rubble in the area and uses that to tie up Abomination in what looked like a complicated bondage style.

"That's very... interesting," Peter says as he recalls seeing something similar in a Japanese p*rn video.

"Thanks." Erik reply's with a smile, knowing full well what Peter was thinking. "I had a lot of practice in my youth."

"Right..." Peter says as he turns to the police officers, who stood around them without a clue as to how to handle this situation. "We'll handle this. If you guys can focus on crowd control, that would be helpful. Keep the media and civilians out of the area."

"Yes, sir." One Officer said and the rest followed suit.

Once Abomination was all tied up and secured and the police had a perimeter in place, news crews and curious civilians started pouring into the area in droves.

Since the news crews couldn't get past the police, they set up outside the barriers and started interviewing witnesses. While this was happening, Peter was talking to Fury over the phone.

"Yeah, have Jarvis give you the location where this thing first appeared and see if there's a lab there or something... Alright, call me back when you have more information." Peter says and hangs up the phone.

"Where are we bringing this guy? We can't just stay here all night." Erik gestures between Abomination and the crowd of onlookers forming around them.

"Take him back to the tower for now. You go ahead of me. I'll catch up in a bit." Peter says as he looks around at the destroyed portion of the city. "Is there anyone left that needs help?"

As Peter thinks out loud, Erik nods his head and flies off with the bound Abomination floating behind him. The news helicopters followed their departure, while the ground news crews stayed behind to continue their interviews and film the destruction.

When Erik left with their prisoner, Peter ran around the area looking for any people in need. Although Magneto and Iron Man did their best to contain the fighting to the streets, that didn't mean buildings weren't damaged or destroyed here and there.

Thankfully, the police were on rescue duty since the beginning of all of this, so not many people needed Peter's help at this point. Using his super hearing to locate survivors of tonight's festivities, Peter delivered injured victims to paramedics.

As he dropped off the last of the injured, the news crews pounced and surrounded him with questions.

"Spider-Man! What was that thing?"

"How did this happen?"

"Was that second monster an Avenger?"

"Spider-Man! Over here!"

"Spider-Man!"

"..."

They were far too excited to even give Peter a chance to speak, so he simply swung away and headed back to the tower.

Along the way, Peter took out his phone and started writing a tweet.

@Spider_Man:

Press conference at Avengers Tower at 7 AM. Don't be late.

The people needed answers and Peter knew it was best to give them swiftly. If you don't do that, those with bad intentions will twist the narrative to support whatever they're trying to sell to the general public.

Arriving back at the tower, Peter found Magneto on the roof with Abomination contorted in metal bondage on the helipad. The news Helicopters were still up above, filming the Abomination this whole time.

"He can't fit inside the building..." Erik explains as soon as Peter arrived.

"Hmm, okay this is something we should've thought about when designing the tower..." Peter said with an exasperated sigh.

"True, we have a detainment floor, but none of the cells are big enough to fit this guy. We need bigger and stronger cells for situations like this..." Erik says matter of factly.

"Okay, let me call Fury and see if he has something for this..." Peter says as he enters the building through the rooftop door.

Peter didn't know how they imprisoned someone as strong as the Hulk in the movies, possibly in an extremely reinforced cell or cryogenic storage.

Peter wasn't sure.

'Killing him would be easier, but that wouldn't be a good idea with the cameras everywhere...' Peter thought as he texted Fury about their problem.

By the time morning came along, Magneto and Abomination were still on the rooftop, but thankfully, a solution was on the way.

Fury had a reinforced cage, similar to the one they used on the Hulk in the Avengers movie. They had it made especially for the Hulk so it should also work on Abomination. It wouldn't be a permanent solution, but it would hopefully be enough for the time being.

As for the laboratory where Abomination was made, Fury found it easily as there was an abomination-shaped hole in the side of the building.

Fury's men were still going through the building, but they already found security footage of Blonsky being turned into the Abomination. Everything was pointing at General Ross, which was good as it gave them someone to blame for all of this.

Dr. Sterns wasn't found in the laboratory, which wasn't good. He appeared to have been affected by whatever made Blonsky into a monster, as his head swelled and grew in the security footage.

10 minutes before the press conference was planned to start, Tony returned with a knocked-out Bruce Banner in his arms. Hulk ran all the way to upstate New York and found a safe location in the woods before reverting back to Bruce.

"I'm going to sleep." Tony said as he dropped Banner onto a nearby couch and walked off tiredly.

"Lucky b*stard..." Peter muttered as he can't sleep until the press conference is over and Abomination is contained.

Standing at a podium in an auditorium on a lower floor of the tower, Peter addressed the plethora of journalists and news cameras.

"I won't be taking any questions today. I'll simply explain what happened and what we know. Today's incident was a tragedy brought on by the mistakes and actions of one man. General Thaddeus Ross wanted to recreate the same thing that made Captain America and failed twice. You all saw both of those failures fighting each other today. Hulk, the big green guy that helped us capture the Abomination on the roof was his first failure. The guy on the roof is the general's most recent failure."

"They were both normal people like you and me, but the General wanted to make them into super soldiers. This is the result of that." As Peter says this, a big screen TV beside him lights up and shows the security footage from the lab.

All in attendance gasped in shock as they watched a normal soldier transform into a giant monster. They couldn't believe that thing used to be a human. After all, everyone thought it was an alien or something in the beginning.

"Every bit of evidence we have points to General Ross, which is why we have him detained already. We'll continue to collect evidence against him before handing him and the evidence over to the US government." Peter says, his image being broadcasted all over the world.

"This was the first mission of the Avengers and I'd say it was a successful one. I'm afraid that's all we have for you today though." Peter says with a wave goodbye as he walks off stage. "Have a good day."

Chapter 93: Virgin

"It was this huge abomination! It fell from the sky and flattened a taxi. I'm pretty sure whoever was inside is dead..." News clips played on the TV in Peter and May's living room. "This Abomination just came out of nowhere and scared me half to death."

May slept through the whole ordeal last night, but as soon as she woke up, she saw a recording of Peter on TV as Spider-Man addressing some sort of monster attack in Harlem that he was involved with. It was crazy for her to watch the footage of the two monstrous entities destroying the city with their battle.

Thankfully, not too many people were hurt, and even fewer were killed, so she wasn't called into the hospital to help out.

It's at times like this that she, and everyone else that loves Peter, worries for his safety. After all, this all started with normal criminals, but recently the types of characters that Spider-Man faces have been ramping upward in quality.

First, it was normal criminals. Then, a man in power armor, and now a literal science fiction monster. It's a miracle that not a single meta-human has tried anything like this yet either.

'When will things go back to normal?' May couldn't help but think as she watched the clips on every news channel.

Although she is happy that Peter is out there saving people, May just sometimes wish that it was someone else out there.

Though, If things like this happened and Peter wasn't a hero, many more people would have been injured and killed last night.

Of course, with the Avengers thing that Peter has been building for these past months, he may not have to be the one handling all of these situations anymore, so things may be looking up in the future.

Not expecting him to be there, May checks Peter's room to see if he was home yet and found him sleeping on his bed in his spider suit. Only his mask was removed on the floor by the bed.

Sighing to herself, May sat at Peter's bedside and played with his hair as she looked down on him with a proud yet worried look on her face.

After finishing with the press conference, Peter waited another hour for the Hulk-proof reinforced cage. Once it finally arrived, Peter wasn't surprised to see an almost replica of what Shield used to hold Loki in the Avengers movie.

Knowing that the Hulk was able to break out of the cage in the movie, Peter had Abomination locked inside with his metal bondage in place and had Magneto use some metal from Stark industries to reinforce the cage even more.

Just to be safe, Abomination's cell was moved into Erik's penthouse for now. Magneto would have a roommate close by until a more long-term form of detainment was made.

Of course, they had to break a hole on the side of the building in order for the cage to get inside, but that would be fixed in a day or two.

With the world informed and Abomination under lock and key, Peter was finally able to return home and sleep. The only one of the Avengers that wasn't sleeping by this point was him and Fury.

Erik went straight to bed as soon as Abomination was plopped down into his living room and everyone else was lucky enough to not have any responsibilities.

Magneto would usually be amongst this group, but his power came in handy today.

Returning home through a portal, Peter texted Tony and told him to work on a good long-term way to contain Abomination when he wakes up. With Tony on it, Peter was sure that this problem would be solved within 48 hours. Possibly soon.

Taking off his mask, Peter hopped into bed and fell asleep as soon as his head touched the pillow.

By the time Peter woke up, it was dark outside and he could feel something on the left side of his chest. Not only that, but Peter could also hear the TV in his room on, which wasn't on when he was awake earlier.

Opening his eyes, Peter turned to see MJ cuddled up next to him with her head on his chest, watching what appeared to be Game of Thrones.

It was a Dothraki sex scene as well...

'I didn't know this world had Game of Thrones...' Peter thought as he turned to see MJ watching the scene with a heated look. Her face was a bit red and she seemed to be very interested in the TV, still probably thinking that Peter was asleep.

"Are you watching porn?" Peter asks with a teasing smile as he snakes his arm around his beautiful girlfriend.

As soon as she hears his voice, MJ freezes in place and turns her head robotically toward Peter. Everything goes silent except the TV as moans from the mating of a Dothraki couple become louder and louder.

Jumping into action, MJ uses the controller to change the channel and a sponge-bob episode begins to play, but she soon lowers the volume.

"P-Peter, it's not what you think..." MJ says as she tries to explain what Game of Thrones is, knowing that Peter doesn't watch much TV.

"I see..." Peter says as he pulls her closer and puts his face into her neck. "You were watching that scene fairly closely though. We haven't done 'that' yet, but I'm ready when you are."

"I-I-I..." MJ didn't know how to answer and soon all cohesive language failed her as Peter began kissing her neck.

"It's okay..." Peter stops and pulls back, resting his head back on the pillow. "Just let me know when you're ready. Unless that time is now?"

Instantly, MJ started shaking her head. She may love Peter at this point, but the thought of sex scared her. She has heard a bunch of awkward first-time stories, not to mention the pain that comes along with it.

Peter was a virgin in his previous life as well, so he was eager to do the deed, but he could wait. His hand is always a viable option after all.

"Alright, we can wait as long as you need." Peter says as he steals the controller and switches the channel back to Game of Thrones.

"What's this show about?" Peter asks as he puts up the volume once again. 'Maybe this universe will end the series better than the last.'

Thankfully, the sex scene was over, so MJ wasn't embarrassed any further.

Ignoring his phone, which blew up with texts from Tony, who was trying to weasel his way out of doing any work, Peter stayed up most of the night and caught up on the latest episode of Game of Thrones with MJ.

MJ's mom didn't have a single problem with her staying the night and May was the same. They both thought that the two were having sex by this point in their relationship, but they were usually watching something or playing games.

Within two days since the Abomination appeared in New York City, Tony came up with a perfect way to detain the big guy.

He created a cryogenic cage that would freeze Abomination's body just as Peter thought. Blonsky would live his life like a paraplegic. His entire body below the neck would be frozen solid, leaving only his head unfrozen.

Normally, this would kill any living creature, as the heart wouldn't be pumping blood anymore, but Blonsky's body is enhanced by a large degree.

"He should be fine... Maybe..." Tony said with a shrug.

"Good enough for me." Peter says with a shrug of his own. "Try to get some blood and tissue samples before locking him up."

"Already done!" Tony says as he opens a nearby lab fridge and shows multiple vials filled with blood and sealed containers of lizard-like skin.

"Good, keep that locked up safe somewhere though. Those samples could be dangerous in the wrong hands." Peter says as he grabs half of the samples for himself.

"Hey, get your own monster parts!" Tony says and fails to take them back, as Peter ducks out of his way and opens a portal.

"Thanks!" Peter says as he steps through the portal and waves as it slowly closed before Tony's eyes. "Good work! Keep it up!"

Chapter 94: Death of a Father

In a rundown apartment in Russia, an elderly man was tucked into a small worn-out discolored bed. His face was turning pale and it was hard for him to keep his eyes open for long periods of time. He coughed regularly and looked to be on his last legs of life.

[Insert picture of Anton Vanko here]

This is Anton Vanko. A former Soviet scientist. Upon moving to the United States of America in his youth, Vanko became partners with Howard Stark at Stark Industries where he and Howard created the first Arc Reactor.

However, when Vanko sold his designs on the black market, Stark had him deported back to Russia, where Vanko spent decades drinking himself to death. The fruit of that labor was showing now.

The alcohol has taken its toll, draining the man's life day by day. Now he's just a husk of his former self, ready to die at any moment and even hoping for it on most days.

The TV at the end of the bed was tuned into a news channel, where Tony Stark was speaking to a news reporter in his Iron Man suit. They were talking about the recent attack in New York from the now officially named Abomination.

As he was watching with a scowl on his aged face, the door opens, and in comes a man about Tony's age.

[Insert picture of Ivan Vanko here]

The relationship between the two men was hard to see, as the alcohol and age have morphed the elderly man's body, but this is Anton Vanko's son, Ivan Vanko. Ivan is a Russian physicist, but it was hard to get a good job in his field as he is the son of a disgraced scientist.

Who would want to hire or work with a man that could steal or sell your research? Ivan isn't his father and wasn't the one to sell blueprints on the black market, but the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.

"That should be you." Anton says weakly from his bed as he shakily lifts his finger towards the TV.

"Don't listen to that crap." Ivan takes a seat at his father's bedside and shakes off his words, as he has heard them a million times by now.

Suddenly, Anton grabs Ivan's hand with two aged hands of his own, grasping them as tightly as he could. Looking down at his father, Ivan could see a tired and apologetic look in his eyes.

"I'm sorry... All I can give you is my knowledge." Anton croaks out his last words.

The sound of coughing fills the room for a brief moment before silence returns and Anton's body stills. He wasn't breathing. His heart wasn't beating and he already looked like a corpse.

Ivan is naturally distraught. His father just died in front of him and all he could hear was Tony Stark's smug voice from the TV at the end of the bed.

Staring at the TV with a vengeful look in his eyes, Ivan pulls out a set of blueprints for an arc reactor and gets to work.

A week after the Abomination incident, the Avengers were surprised to find Blonsky turn back into his normal human form.

He tried to escape from his prison by slipping through with his smaller body, getting the idea from Banner who could switch back and forth as well.

Though, Blonsky seems to have far more control than Banner does.

Blonsky succeeded in changing but failed to escape as his body was still frozen. The cameras picked up on this instantly and Jarvis notified the Avengers.

Since he was being held in Avengers Towers detainment floor, a new cage was swiftly made and Blonsky was loaded in by the end of the day.

There is a silver lining to this change though. Blonsky seemed to become less erratic ever since changing to his human form.

If they can rehabilitate the man, then the Avengers may have a strong member in the future. The council didn't like the idea, but Peter contacted a therapist to come in on schedule to see Blonsky.

Hopefully, he can show good results within a year and Peter can use that to bring this idea to the council once again. It would be hard to disagree at that point.

After going through all of General Ross' facilities, including the one in New York where Abomination was made, Fury brought back mountains of evidence against Thaddeus but that wasn't all he found.

The General's years of work toward perfecting the Super Soldier Serum were now in the hands of the Avengers. Compared to the research Betty gave them, the up-to-date research was leagues ahead.

Five years is a long time after all.

Peter and Tony took a copy of each set of data before calling Banner to talk.

Walking into Tony's workshop after going through multiple layers of security, Bruce found Spider-Man and Tony waiting for his arrival.

Banner has been staying in one of the apartments in the Tower for the past week and found the place very luxurious. Well, anything would be luxurious compared to the room he rented in South America.

Just give the guy some air conditioning and a strong wifi signal and that would be heaven.

"You called for me?" Banner says as he walks in.

"Bruce, take a seat." Tony calls out and gestures to a rolling chair at a computer desk.

"What's this all about?" Bruce asks as he turns his head to Peter. "Are you finally giving me the research Betty gave us?"

"Yes, but we have to get through some things first." Peter says as he taps a button and the video of Abomination being made starts to play on a loop.

"Why are you showing me this?" Banner says as he and everyone else in the world have seen this video a thousand times already.

"Do you know who this is?" Tony says as the video freezes on a full-screen image of Dr. Sterns.

"No idea..." Banner answers after a moment's look.

"That is Dr. Samuel Sterns otherwise known to you as Mr. Blue." Peter informs him.

"What!?" Banner exclaims with an incredulous look on his face.

"It seems like since your last conversation back when we first met, Sterns didn't see any progress in working with you anymore and went to your enemy." Peter says as the video switches to a zoomed-in image of the syringe Sterns used on Blonsky.

"Did you send your blood to Mr. Blue?" Tony asks as Banner's eyes widen upon seeing the image.

"...yes." He answers as realization dawns on him. "Is that my blood in there?"

"Yes..." Peter says as Banner starts cursing and pacing around the room, causing his watch to begin beeping. "Bruce, calm down."

"R-Right..." He says as he forces himself to sit and breathe like a meditating monk.

Once he was finally calm, Peter got straight to the point.

"Listen, I have no problem giving you the research that you need and a place here to work on it, but you need to keep it to yourself. Sterns wasn't captured so he may contact you. If he does, pretend to not know of his involvement and alert us immediately." Peter says as Tony nods along beside him.

"We'll help with your research when we can as well. Your condition is interesting so I don't mind lending a hand." Tony says with an interested look in his eyes.

"Thank you." Banner says sincerely.

With someone as experienced and skilled as Tony Stark helping him, then Banner felt like they had a chance to actually fix himself.

"Personally, I don't think you should get rid of the Hulk." Peter drops a bomb that shocks both Banner and Tony.

"Why?" Bruce says incredulously. "He's a monster."

"A monster that helped us a week ago." Peter corrects with a shrug. "Does he have problems, definitely. Though that's not his fault. You have to look at Hulk like a child. He's been fighting since

his birth. I think that if we use meditation and therapy, you and the Hulk can form a friendly relationship."

"..."

Both Tony and Banner looked at Peter as if he were telling them that the earth was flat.

"Look, I'm not saying you can't continue your research, but maybe give the Hulk a chance while you're at it. You never know. He might just surprise you."

Peter didn't plead this case any further. It would take time for Banner to accept the Hulk. All Peter is trying to do is plant those seeds early on.

Will Banner and Tony find a cure before then? No, Peter didn't believe there is a cure for the Hulk to begin with.

Chapter 95: Avengers SS Program

With Tony and Banner working on curing the incurable, Peter and Fury started focusing on organizing the evidence against General Ross.

The man has a lot of connections in the government, so they wanted to be sure that the evidence was in order and easy to understand. After all, even those in power can be downright idiotic at times.

Almost every day since Peter announced that they had General Ross in custody, different government officials called and tried to persuade them into handing over the General for an internal investigation or some other nonsense.

Peter and Fury knew that these were just excuses to get the General out so they can minimize the damage as much as possible. After all, a high-level military scandal doesn't look good for the US government.

Even Obama called to ask about the situation in depth. He didn't ask for the General to be released or anything, but he would have zero power to do so even if he tried.

The Avengers are sanctioned by the United Nations as a whole, so it would take a big meeting and majority vote for anyone to tell them what to do, which would almost never happen.

It took Peter and Fury a few days to get the evidence put together. They had some help from people like Natasha and Mystique, who offered their help in organizing everything, but most of the work fell on them for the most part.

They separated the evidence into two parts, the evidence that would be released to the media, which would be unclassified information, while the rest would be given to the government.

Of course, Peter and Fury wouldn't be handing over any of the research data on the Super Soldier Serum. Neither of them trusted the idiotic politicians with something that could possibly produce more Hulks or Abominations.

With all evidence gathered, Fury called the military police to come and arrest General Ross, who has been in the Towers detention center all this time. He was imprisoned only a hallway away from Blonsky, who he could hear roaring and growling for the first few days of his detainment.

Thankfully, Blonsky calmed down later on.

Once the military police came and took him away with a flash drive full of carefully organized evidence, Peter tweeted out the unclassified evidence as they planned.

@Spider-Man:

General Thaddeus Ross has been officially detained by military police. Here's some unclassified evidence :)

[Link]

Within minutes of pressing tweet, every news and political commentator pounced like hungry lions. News channels and live streams were going over the evidence live and giving their opinions of the whole situation.

Peter wasn't phased by the attention his actions would receive any more. He could be tweeting about a burger he likes or evidence on a military general, but both tweets would end up being talked about in some way or another.

Stashing his phone away, Peter and Fury watched a military convoy drive off with General Ross in tow.

"Is it done?" Fury asks.

"Yeah, the evidence is public now." Peter says as the convoy turns away and disappears behind a building.

"Good, let's get to the meeting. They're probably waiting for us." Fury says and the two head back inside, taking the elevator up to the higher floors of the tower.

They specifically called a council meeting for when the General would leave, as that would wrap up everything from the Abomination incident.

Arriving at the council room, Fury and Peter found the rest of the council members waiting for their arrival, not knowing the reason for the meeting except Tony, who seemed to vibrate with excitement.

"Finally..." Charles says with a tired sigh. "What's this meeting about?"

Charles has been a very busy man ever since Spider-Man endorsed his school. That was also magnified after taking in Magneto's problem children, who have caused nothing but trouble ever since their first day of school.

The exasperated attitude that Charles was radiating throughout the room was due to those problem children as well.

"Getting straight to the point, the General is gone and now we need to vote on whether to continue his research into the Super Soldier Serum." Peter says as he and Fury take a seat.

Once again, Peter isn't the leader of the Avengers. He may be the one they look to for leadership most of the time, but that doesn't mean he can just make decisions like this without consulting the Council.

"Is there a need for it?" Charles says with a hesitant look in his eyes. "The damage that research has brought far exceeds the good."

"I would disagree..." Fury cuts in with a shake of his head. "World War 2 was won off the back of the Super Soldier Serum. Captain America was a weak and frail man before he was turned into the hero we know today. Don't let the work of a power-hungry idiot ruin what could be a strong force for good."

"I agree." Tony speaks up, wanting to enhance himself so Peter can't make fun of him for not having powers anymore. "We would obviously have to be far more careful than General Ross was. Procedures and safety measures would have to be put in place. Testing would have to start with mice and other animals before getting anywhere near humans."

Everyone in the room was slowly nodding unconsciously as Tony finished speaking.

"Who would we even use the serum on?" Erik asks, almost convinced.

"Those we find worthy and trustable." Peter answers instantly. "Natasha, Clint, Fury, and Tony would be prime candidates. Other candidates can be vetted later on. We may also be able to take it ourselves, but testing would have to be done to see how the serum would interact with our already existing powers. Who knows how the X-gene would react after all."

Tony nods excitedly while Fury looks surprised by Peter's words. He didn't expect to be one of the candidates for the serum but didn't voice any disagreement. Becoming a super soldier would help in his duties for Shield and the Avengers.

Peter also planned to offer this serum to his loved ones. He already has the resurrection elixir, which he plans to give them as well, but that would take time to make the way he wants. The Super Soldier Serum could be a good starting point for them before he can finish the elixir.

After all, with what Peter has planned, his resurrection elixir would be far more powerful than the original.

"As long as we get regulations put in place as Tony described, I have no problem with us making this serum." Erik says in full agreement at this point. "I would also like to add that we don't broadcast this to the world. If others know we can make our own Captain America's at will, then countries, companies, and powers all around the world would come knocking."

"But we can handle that easily." Tony says with an uncaring shrug.

"True, but do we want to deal with it?" Magneto asks with a raised eyebrow. "Everything would be far simpler if this remains between us and those we choose to enhance in the future."

"I agree, let's vote." Peter says and a few moments later a decision was made.

The vote was 4 to 5 in favor of completing the Super Soldier Serum research. The only one to vote against it was Charles, whose vote could probably be attributed to his bad mood.

Though, the vote didn't really matter. Peter knew that Tony and Fury would vote his way, so he already had enough votes to pass before walking into the council room. This was just a formality that needed to be done.

With the vote passed, Peter and Tony decided to move everything Super Soldier Serum related to Tony's workshop. It was the most secure place in the entire tower. Even more so than the detainment floor, which was built to hold super-powered criminals.

Safety regulations were written up and agreed upon by the council, while Peter and Tony agreed to only work on the serum together. Accidents happen as shown by what happened to Bruce, so they decided that it would be better to have two minds keeping track of any possible mistakes the other could or would make.

"HehehahaHAHAHA!" Tony laughed like a madman as he and Peter started working on the serum for the first time.

'Maybe this was a bad idea...'

Chapter 96: Stark Expo

"We'll miss the expo if you don't hurry up..." Peter reminded MJ, who was sitting in her room in front of a mirror doing her make-up.

"I'm almost done. Be patient." MJ says as she follows a youtube tutorial to get her make-up just right.

She wasn't always a fan of intricate make-up, usually going for a more natural look, but that all changed during the past summer. MJ went down a youtube Beauty rabbit hole, which sparked an interest in her. Now she likes to try new techniques and products, which Peter didn't mind.

After all, it was nice to look at when she was done. Peter only wished that she would do it quicker, but doing her make-up became a time of relaxation for MJ. Not only does she enjoy the result but the time spent putting it all on as well.

Not wanting to bother her, Peter whips out his phone and scrolled through Twitter.

Today is the Stark Expo and Peter decided to go and enjoy the night with MJ. Tony invited him to tag along as Spider-Man, but Peter needed some time away from Tony for a night.

They spent the last week locked in Tony's workshop, tirelessly working on the Super Soldier Serum. Tony is a good friend but he can be annoying as hell. Especially when you spend every night with the man locked in a room for hours on end.

He would still go to the expo to support his friend. Just not as Spider-Man, which means he would be able to enjoy the night without any responsibilities, hopefully.

The Stark Expo was an event originally started by Howard Stark to display the latest and greatest technology that could potentially create the future. It's an event where Stark Industries can show off their many prototypes.

Like hover cars and other attractions that would draw in the public.

This years expo is supposed to be very big for Stark Industries, as they have stepped away from their main revenue source, which was arms dealing.

Tony and Pepper want to use this expo to show off the new things Stark Industries would be selling. Though Peter has no idea what that would be.

Probably cell phones and other appliances if Peter had to guess.

The Avengers and Stark Industries may share a building but Peter doesn't have the time or that high of interest to know what they've been working on. Though he would find out today.

"Am I going to meet Tony Stark?" MJ asks as she applies eyeliner.

"No, I'm going as Peter Parker, not Spider-Man. Tony doesn't know my real identity." Peter says with a shake of his head. "Why? Do you want to meet Tony?"

"I mean... Yeah." MJ says with a shrug. "He's your friend so I want to meet him sooner or later. Also, he's Tony Stark..."

"I see..." Peter rolled his eyes at her.

Tony was famous even before he became Iron Man. If Peter could compare his fame to someone from his past life, it would have to be something close to Kim Kardashian. Everyone wanted to hear which model or actress Stark bedded or what scandal ensued soon after.

That behavior has calmed down severely since Tony returned from Afghanistan, but the reveal of Iron Man certainly helped keep the people interested.

"We could try to meet Tony while we're there, but I doubt we'll get past security. Just don't tell him I'm Spider-Man." Peter offers, getting an adventurous smile from MJ.

"Alright, let's infiltrate the expo and meet Tony Stark! We'll see how long it takes before we get kicked out." MJ says with a laugh.

"Well, you better hurry up then. I doubt he'll be there all night." Peter says as he checks the time on the watch she gave him for Christmas.

"I told you we'd make it on time." MJ says as she and Peter watch a brightly lit stage from the back of a large crowd.

After waiting another 20 minutes, Peter and MJ took the subway to the expo. The second they joined the crowd, ACDC started playing over the speakers as an image of Iron Man jumping from a plane played for the crowd to see.

Watching and hearing the rock music blasting, Peter couldn't help but roll his eyes. Tony truly has a boomers taste in music.

Peter couldn't count the number of times he has been subjected to listening to ACDC on repeat while working with Tony, which is one of his friend's most annoying qualities.

As the image of Iron Man falling continued, the crowd looked up and could see something falling from the sky toward the stage. The crowd put two and two together and begins cheering as Tony does your average superhero landing on the stage.

Fireworks start flying and scantily clad woman dance their way onto the stage, surrounding Tony as his mask opens and he smiles at the cheering sea of people.

"Tony! Tony! Tony! Tony!" Pretty much the entire crowd was chanting by this point.

"It's good to be back. You missed me?" Tony says as the crowd goes wild.

"Blow something up!" One guy yelled over everyone else.

"I missed you too. Blow something up? I already did that. I'm not saying that the world is enjoying its longest period of uninterrupted peace in years because of me. I'm not saying that from the ashes of captivity, never has a greater phoenix metaphor been personified in human history. I'm not saying that Uncle Sam can kick back on a lawn chair, sipping on an iced tea because I haven't come across

anyone who's man enough to go toe-to-toe with me on my best day." Tony starts bragging with a smug look.

'Man, his ego has gone through the roof...' Peter thought as he planned to make fun of him for this later. "Do you still want to meet him?"

Seeing Tony in person and hearing Peter's question, MJ couldn't help but second guess herself.

"He is a bit of a tool, isn't he?" MJ comments with a small laugh.

"Yup, that's Tony." Peter nods in agreement. "He's a good guy at heart though."

"Whatever, let's continue the plan." MJ says as she drags Peter through the crowd. "Put your powers to use and help me find the backstage entrance."

"Yes, Ma'am."

After pushing through a crowd of mindless Iron Man fans, Peter and MJ managed to find the entrance that lead backstage. It was guarded by a handful of very big and very armed security. They certainly looked serious and definitely wouldn't just let them pass.

"Come with me." Peter says as he drags MJ to a line of porta potties, where he dragged her into one and locked the door.

"W-What? Ewww..." MJ says as she covers her nose. "It stinks in here."

Without another word, Peter waves his hand and a spell circle appears, attaching to both of them before disappearing.

"What's this about?" MJ asks, not used to seeing Peter do magic very often.

"You said you wanted to meet Tony." Peter says with a shrug as they exit the toilet and walk back to the security. "Just walk by and don't say a word."

The two passed by the security with ease. No one seemed to notice their entrance, which brought a smile to MJ's face.

'This is so cool...' She thought as they maneuvered backstage, looking for Tony.

"Hi. And you are?" Tony says flirtatiously.

After searching for a minute they found Tony and his driver/bodyguard Happy Hogan speaking to a woman.

"Marshal." She replies with a smile and an outstretched Hand.

"Irish. I like it." Tony comments as he shakes her hand.

"Pleased to meet you, Tony." She says as their hands separate.

"Where you from?" Tony asks as Peter and MJ sit back and eavesdrop.

"Bedford." She answers.

"What are you doing here?" Tony asks curiously, as his security would have notified him of her arrival, meaning that she snuck in.

"Looking for you." She says as she reached into her bag and pulls out some papers.

"Yeah? You found me. What are you up to later?" Tony says with a flirty wink, causing Peter to roll his eyes once again.

Meanwhile, MJ found Tony's behavior very entertaining.

"Serving subpoenas." She drops the bomb and hands over the papers.

"Yikes." Tony comments as he avoids touching the papers at all costs.

"He doesn't like to be handed things." Happy says as he takes the papers.

"I see, you're hereby ordered to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee tomorrow morning at 9 am."

Chapter 97: Scheming Senator

After dropping the bomb that Tony was being called to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the woman who called herself Marshal walked out after some more flirtatious words from Tony.

"Excuse me..." She says as she passes Peter and MJ on her way out, which alerts Tony and Happy another visitor.

Peter removed the spell that got them past the guards after getting backstage, so they weren't as stealthy as before.

"Who's there?" Happy asks, annoyed that so many people have somehow made it past security.

"Hi..." Peter takes the lead and walks in with MJ following close behind.

"Let me guess. You snuck in as well?" Happy says, getting a nod from both teenagers.

"Don't tell me you have a subpoena for me as well? What's next? Does the Supreme Court want something too?" Tony jokes, but the annoyance from his last guest's gift was clear to see.

"No, we just came to meet you. Maybe get an autograph, but it seems you have more to worry about than us." Peter acts like a fan, hinting that they heard the earlier conversation.

"Yeah, tell me about it..." Tony says as he looks at Peter weirdly for a moment. "Do I know you?"

"No, I don't think we've met." Peter says with a shake of his head, hiding his shock at how Tony somehow noticed him. "I've been on the news a few times though, so maybe you saw me there."

"Really? What for?" Tony asks curiously.

"I made a popular mobile game." Peter says with a shrug.

"Don't act like it's not a big deal." MJ says, joining the conversation. "He made Candy Crush."

"Ned helped..." Peter shrugged again, not thinking that Tony would care so much about a random mobile game.

"Really? My assistant is addicted to that game." Tony says with an impressed nod. "Whenever I annoy her, she opens Candy Crush and ignores me."

Everyone knows Candy Crush after all. It's the most popular mobile phone game in the world. Even Tony has played the game here and there during times of boredom.

"Well, it was nice meeting you." Peter says as he and MJ make their way toward the door. "We know that you're busy so we'll leave you alone..."

As they were about to leave because Peter didn't feel like risking Tony figuring out that he's Spider-Man any longer, not that he would really mind at this point in their friendship, Tony called out and stopped them in their tracks.

"Wait!"

Peter turns, thinking that Tony may have figured it out.

"You two wanted autographs, right?" Tony says as he grabs some headshots of himself, which were made for this type of occasion. "Here..."

Signing the two photos that made Tony look like a member of a boy band, they took a picture each and left with a quick thank you.

"Nice kids." Happy comments when they were gone.

"Yep..." Tony says as he snatches the subpoena papers from Happy's grasp. "How far are we from D.C.?"

"D.C.? 250 miles."

-Next Day, 7 AM-

Although the Senate Armed Services Committee blindsided Tony by serving his subpoena only one night before he was required to attend the committee meeting, that didn't slow down the media from attending as well.

Tony, Pepper, and Happy arrived just in time, which prompted every camera to turn their way as they entered the committee chambers and took their seats in front of a panel of high-level government officials.

At the head of these government officials was Senator Stern, a senator from Pennsylvania and a covert member of Hydra.

Using his position, Stern is the leading force behind everything happening today. His goal is to convince the American people that Tony Stark is a threat to their safety. Ultimately leading to Tony handing over his Iron Man suit, intending to use it to mass produce power armor for Hydra.

As soon as Tony took a seat, he didn't show a speck of respect for the committee before him. Rather, he took out his phone and started playing Candy Crush, flirting with Pepper every once in a while as well.

"Mr. Stark, could we get started please?" Stern says as he tries for the 10th time to get Tony's attention away from his phone. "Mr. Stark. Please..."

"Yes, dear?" Tony looks up from his phone and answers the senator.

"Can I have your attention?" Sterns asks in exasperation.

"Absolutely." Tony says as he finally sets down his phone.

"Do you or do you not possess a specialized weapon?" Sterns asks.

"I do not." Tony replies with a smirk that digs straight into Sterns' soul.

"You do not?" Sterns replies with an air of disbelief.

"I do not." Tony repeats with an uncaring shrug. "Well, it depends on how you define the word weapon."

"The Iron Man weapon, Mr. Stark..." Sterns finally states what he is after.

"My device does not fit that description." Tony replies with a shake of his head.

"Well... How would you describe it?" Sterns asks.

"I would describe it by defining it as what it is, Senator." Tony says, knowing that this dance they were having was annoying the senator and loved every minute of it.

"As?" Sterns asks, seething on the inside.

"It's a high-tech prosthesis... That's actually the most apt description I can make of it." Tony explains with a smirk.

"It's a weapon, Mr. Stark." Sterns states plainly and clearly.

"Please, if your priority was actually the safety and well-being of American citizens..." Tony starts to rant but Sterns speaks over him.

"My priority is to get the Iron Man weapon turned over to the people of the United States of America." The senator says but before Tony could rebut, the large wooden doors of the committee chambers swung open.

"Does that mean all Americans would be able to buy their own Iron Man suits? Do you want to place them in gun stores next to the M4s and Desert Eagles?" Peter says as he strolls into the room, dressed head to toe in a lawyer-like suit over his spider attire.

The cameras that were once on Tony and the Committee members panned over to show Spider-Mans arrival to all who were watching.

"Yo." Peter greets his friend as he walks over and takes a seat beside Tony.

"What are you wearing?" Tony asks incredulously as he eyes Peter's suit up and down.

"What?" Peter says as he fixes his collar and tie. "I thought you could use some representation."

"Pfft, how did you even know this was happening?" Tony laughs, thoroughly entertained.

"The Spider has many little birds that sing all sorts of tunes..." Peter references the show he has been watching lately.

"Game of Thrones?" Pepper asks from the side.

"Yeah, I've been watching with my girlfriend recently." Peter reveals as he turns to Tony. "I saw some of your Expo last night on TV. Did you refer to yourself as a phoenix personified or was I dreaming?"

This whole conversation was being transmitted around the room for everyone to hear, as many in the room laughed at Peter's question.

"As much as we all love Game of Thrones, we should get back on track." Sterns tries his best to get everyone back on topic, saving Tony from answering an embarrassing question.

"You're right." Peter nods and turns his attention back to the senator. "Tell us more about how you want every American citizen to be equipped with Iron Man suits."

"That's not what I want..." Sterns tries to clarify but Peter cuts him off.

"But it's what you said, Senator." Peter says as he leans back in his chair. "Just to be clear, you don't want the Iron Man suit turned over to the people of the United States of America?"

"No..." Sterns says through gritted teeth.

"Then why did you say so?" Peter says with a smug look under his mask. "Was that all this was about? Can we leave now?"

"No, I merely misspoke." Sterns refuses as he takes a deep breath. "What I meant was to have the Iron Man weapon turned over to the American Government."

"Oh, I see..." Peter says with an understanding nod. "Give me a moment to speak with my client."

Peter turns to Tony and doesn't bother to lower his voice as he speaks for all to hear through the microphone.

"Is it a no or a hell no?" Peter asks, causing Sterns to brow to crease in anger.

"Hell no." Tony says with a smirk.

"I'm afraid my client would have to decline." Peter says as if he were heartbroken to turn the man down. "Tony Stark is Iron Man. To turn over the Iron Man suit would be to turn over himself. He just couldn't do it."

"Look, I'm no expert in weapons but we do have somebody here who is an expert. I'd now like to call Justin Hammer, our current primary weapons contractor" Sterns says as the doors open for a second time.

Chapter 98: Hammer

"...I'd now like to call Justin Hammer, our current primary weapons contractor." Senator Sterns says.

As the big wooden doors swung open, in walked a blonde man with glasses and a very expensive-looking suit. He looked to be in the same age range as Tony, whom he was staring at with a smug smile on his face.

[Insert picture of Justin Hammer here]

Justin Hammer is a military contractor, and the CEO and majority shareholder of Hammer Industries, which had formed a strong business rivalry with Stark Industries. Seeking to improve his own position as a contractor for the US government and get one over on Tony Stark, Hammer is working alongside Stern and attempting to damage the public's view of Tony.

Not to mention the fact that he was promised to be able to study and replicate Stark's Iron Man suit and arc reactor upon their combined success.

Hammer was called as an expert to prove that Tony Stark's ego and his monopoly on his Iron Man armor was now a danger for the United States of America and its people, as part of Stern's attempt to force Stark to give the Iron Man suit technology to the government.

Though, in Peter's opinion Sterns could have chosen a better partner in crime than Justin Hammer.

Whilst overconfident, Hammer is also incompetent in terms of the quality of his technology, some of which are faulty altogether and even dangerous to the user. Even the normal guns that Hammer Industries sells have a 50/50 chance of jamming during usage.

This is why, although, Hammer sees Tony as a rival, Tony doesn't reciprocate that feeling whatsoever. In his eyes, Hammer is nothing more than a wannabe that couldn't make a working piece of tech to save his life.

"Let the record reflect that I observed Mr. Hammer entering the chamber, and I am wondering if and when any actual expert will also be in attendance." Tony comments, causing many to laugh and Hammer to scowl as he made his way up to a podium in front of the panel of government officials.

"Senator, if I may." Hammer says into the microphone, doing his best to ignore Tony's remark. "I may well not be an expert, but you know who was the expert? Your dad. Howard Stark. Really a

father to us all, and the military-industrial age. Let's just be clear, he was no flower child. He was a lion..."

"Senator, did you invite this man, who just admitted to not being an expert, here to monologue about his weird fantasy for Tony's father?" Peter cuts Hammer off before he could continue rambling. "Since he isn't an expert as you've said, maybe he should leave so we can finish this."

Hearing Peter's words, Sterns didn't know how to legitimize Hammer being there anymore, which goes to show that he shouldn't have worked with Justin in the first place. The man is simply incompetent.

Before Sterns could form a rebuttal for Peter's words, Hammer just steamrolled ahead, ignoring the opposition.

"...We all know why we're here. Last year, Tony Stark created a sword with untold possibilities, yet he insists it's a shield. He asks us to trust him as we cower behind it. I wish I were comforted, I really do. I'd love to leave my door unlocked when I leave the house, but this ain't Canada. We live in a world of grave threats, threats that Mr. Stark will not always be able to foresee..."

"You're right, but that's what the Avengers are for, not Tony or Iron Man." Peter cuts him off once again and turns to the senator. "Senator, let's move on from this one. He's obviously not an expert, so I see no point in hearing him ramble any further."

As Peter finished speaking, Tony was smirking like a madman while Sterns and Hammer were turning red from anger.

"The committee would now like to invite Lieutenant Colonel James Rhodes to the chamber." Sterns says through gritted teeth.

Tony's head snaps backward as the doors swing open for a third time and Rhodes walks in wearing his military uniform with an ever-present scowl on his face.

He looked like he didn't want to be here and most likely was ordered to attend by his superiors, but Tony was currently blinded by the feeling of betrayal so he didn't seem to notice.

"I have before me a complete report on the Iron Man weapon, compiled by Colonel Rhodes. Colonel, for the record, can you please read page 57, paragraph four?" Sterns says as Rhodes takes Hammer's place at the podium.

Shuffling through his report, Rhodes finds the exact paragraph and starts reading.

"Very well, 'As he does not operate within any definable branch of government, Iron Man presents a potential threat to the security of both the nation and to her interests.' I did, however, go on to say that..." Rhodes says but the Senator cuts him off.

"That's enough Colonel." Sterns says, getting exactly what he wanted. "You can step away from the podium now."

Rhodes stood rooted to the ground, shocked that the Senator would act so shamelessly with this whole situation.

"This is all very confusing to me because Iron Man is a member of the Avengers. As an Avenger, we operate at a higher level than any single government branch. Although you have the power to summon my good friend Tony here, as he's an American citizen, Iron Man is already a member of an extra-government agency.-"

"-You know, the longer this farce goes on, the more it starts to look like you and that idiot over there-" Peter gestures to Hammer, who sat at the side. "-simply want to take what doesn't belong to you."

"While I agree with you, Spider-Man, we do have a problem." Rhodes says as he digs through a folder and pulls out some pictures of human-like robots. "Intelligence suggests that the devices seen in these photos are, in fact, attempts at making manned copies of Tony's suit. This has been corroborated by our allies and local intelligence on the ground indicating that these suits are quite possibly, at this moment, operational."

Just like in the movie, Tony starts doing something on his phone, which triggers the TVs in the room to light up and start playing videos of different military tests from the pictures that were shown.

"Time for a little transparency. Now, let's see what's really going on." Tony says with a smirk.

"What is he doing?" Stern asks in bewilderment.

"If you will direct your attention to the screens, I believe that's North Korea." Tony says and the robot starts to walk before stumbling and exploding in a fiery mess.

Sterns starts yelling for someone to turn off the TVs and stop Tony from continuing as more and more examples of failed Iron Man copies were shown. All of them ended in destruction.

"No grave threats here." Tony says as the screen changes to a video with Hammer in it this time. "Is that Justin Hammer? How did Hammer get in the game? Look, you're on TV. How exciting!"

The video plays and shows a test pilot in some clunky Iron Man copy. Hammer directs him to twist his body, which causes the armor to overturn and snap the test pilot's spine with a sickening crack. The screams of the poor guy fill the room as Hammer finds the TV's plug and pulls it out.

"Wow. Yeah, I'd say most countries are five or ten years away. Hammer Industries, twenty." Tony states as he sets his phone down.

"I think the point that he's making..." Sterns tries to speak but Tony cuts him off.

"The point is, you're welcome, I guess." Tony stands up with his hands spread.

"For what?" Sterns asks incredulously.

"Because I'm your nuclear deterrent. It's working. We're safe. America is secure. You want my property? You can't have it, but I did you a big favor." Tony says as he turns to the cameras. "I've successfully privatized world peace."

"I've successfully privatized world peace." Tony's image plays on an old TV in a rundown Russian apartment.

Ivan Vanko stands in the center of the room, where his father died before his very eyes, dressed in metal straps and mechanisms with an orange glow on his chest, similar to Tony's arc reactor.

Holding two lightsaber-looking objects in his hands, which were wired to the device on his chest, Vanko presses buttons in each hand, causing the two hilts in his hands to ignite in orange light.

Chapter 99: Poisoning

As Peter portal'd Pepper and Tony back to the Tower in New York, Pepper stepped through the portal with a nervous look on her face. This was one of the very rare occasions that she was able to use Peter's portal.

As she watched the portal close behind them with a look of awe, Tony just strolled through casually and made his way to a nearby minibar, where he poured himself a very large glass of whiskey.

Peter removed the lawyer's suit and found a place to sit while thinking of what today's events mean.

'Iron Man 2...' He thought.

Vanko or Whiplash would come after Tony soon enough. This whole debacle with the Senator and Justin Hammer was like a flag telling him that Iron Man 2 would be happening soon.

Using his intelligence and patience, Vanko vowed revenge against the son of the man that ruined his and his father's lives. His goal is to destroy Howard Starks legacy (Tony) and the Stark family's reputation altogether.

Sadly, Vanko is a pretty low-level villain, and even when he teams up with Justin Hammer, Tony should still be able to handle the situation on his own. Especially since Tony has gone through the Avengers training program and the design of his suit is ahead of what he had in the movie.

Peter would know as they work on his suit together every once in a while.

'Maybe this would be a good test for the more inexperienced Avengers?' Peter thought as he and anyone on the council could probably handle this situation on their own.

Even Fury, who's a human with no powers or advanced armor like Tony, would probably be able to handle this situation if given enough time and recourses.

The only problem is Tony's arc reactor. He is using palladium as the core, which is poisoning him and increasing his blood toxicity as the core degrades. After researching and testing every known element, Tony still could not find one that could work in place of palladium, so he had to remain with what worked, even if it was bad for his health.

Although Tony doesn't need the arc reactor to keep the shrapnel away from his heart, as he had that surgically removed in preparation for meeting Magneto, that doesn't mean the reactor isn't still poisoning his body.

Tony still wears his reactor at all times in preparation for any possible situation that could break out, so he still needs to discover a better element before he kills himself.

Tony would have to make a new element as he did in the movie, which he unceremoniously dubbed Badassium. Thankfully, Peter knows how he figured it out so this can be solved easily.

Taking out his phone, Peter sent everything he knows about Ivan Vanko to Scythe and asked him to track him down. Once Peter has a handle on the situation, he can bring it up to the council and have an Avengers team take care of it or work out some 'chance' meeting between them.

It's the perfect test for them after all.

With that settled, Peter turned to Tony and Pepper who stood by his side and spoke.

"So, Tony. Do you plan to tell us about your most recent problem?" Peter says, causing Tony to freeze mid-drink and Pepper to look at him in confusion.

"What's he talking about, Tony?" Pepper asks as Tony averts his eyes.

"I don't know what you're talking about..." Tony says as he tries to avoid this conversation.

"Okay..." Peter says with a nod as he shoots a web at Tony's shirt and pulls, yanking the billionaire's upper clothes clean off.

As Tony's naked chest was revealed to the world, the veins surrounding the arc reactor, which was still attached to his bare chest, were clearly visible and dyed black like ink.

"What the..." Pepper gasped as she stepped closer to get a better look. "What happened?!"

"It's just some palladium poisoning." Tony says as he covers his chest with his arms and glares at Peter. "I'm working on a fix. There's no reason to worry."

"Why didn't you tell me?" Pepper asks as she moves his arms out of the way and touches the black veins.

"Well, you've been busy with becoming CEO of the company, so I didn't want to add more to your plate." Tony says as he looks away awkwardly.

'Are these two making this an intimate moment somehow?' Peter thought as he watched them interact. 'They should just get together already...'

"That's not an excuse! You're killing yourself! Take it off." Pepper says, knowing that Tony doesn't need the arc reactor as he removed the shrapnel long ago.

"I'd rather not..." Tony says as he backs away.

"Why?" Pepper asks confusedly.

"I just feel naked without it." Tony says as he looks down at the glowing blue object on his chest.

"What? It's killing you..." Pepper states plainly.

"Yes, but I'm working on a solution." Tony says defensively. "Without it, I feel like I'm unarmed. I need to be ready for any dangerous situation."

At this point, it all made sense for Pepper. Tony has some sort of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD). He's acting like a veteran soldier that refuses to part with his service pistol. Peter already knew this from his time spent with Tony and his character in the movies.

"Look, I get it." Peter joins the conversation as Tony puts his shirt back on. "I know that I joke about this a lot, but you don't have powers like the rest of the Avengers, so I understand why you feel so attached to the source of your power. However, you shouldn't be hiding such a huge problem like this. There are many people in the Avengers that are qualified and would be glad to help you, myself included."

Tony has no words to fight back and Pepper nodded alongside every word that came out of Peter's mouth just now.

"...fine." Tony gives up with a tired sigh. "I need help, but I still refuse to remove the arc reactor."

"Tony..." Pepper goes to speak but Peter cuts her off.

"Fine, how much time before the poisoning gets bad?" Peter agrees and asks, causing Pepper to turn to him with an imploring look. "What? He's far too stubborn to see reason. Let's just focus on a fix before it's too late."

"I resent that..." Tony says as he pours himself a new drink.

"You didn't answer the question." Peter says.

"I have about 2 weeks to a month before we have to start worrying." Tony says after sipping his liquor.

"Okay, let's recruit Banner, Charles, and Beast. With a stacked team like that, we'll have a fix for this in no time." Peter says as he takes out a phone and sends a message to the Avengers group text, causing Tony's phone to vibrate.

Pulling it out, Tony reads the text out loud.

""Yo, Tony is dumb and dying. I hereby summon all big brains to the Tower. Get here ASAP before he croaks"" Tony reads the message that was sent to every Avenger with an unamused look on his face. "Seriously?"

"What?" Peter says with a shrug. "You are dumb for keeping this from us and you are dying if we don't figure this out."

"I agree, this was a very stupid thing to hide from us." Pepper starts reaming into Tony as Peter gets up and slowly sneaks away. "I may not be able to help but the Avengers could. You just don't think about anyone else. I mean really how could you... You could have died... Why can't you just... so irresponsible of you..."

Tony was stuck there taking the sharp words from Pepper, while Peter snuck away to relax before they all got to work. Peter could feel the pleading look that Tony was giving him as he left, but simply ignored it and went on his way.

He would have to get used to such treatment when they're in a relationship anyway. It would only get worse at that point.

After sneaking off, Peter made his way through the tower, looking for the model of the Stark Expo that Howard Stark left behind, as it held the secret to making the element Tony needs.

Howard believed it to be the key to limitless, renewable, clean energy. However, limited by the technology of his time, Howard was unable to create the element for himself and instead left the blueprints for the element hidden in the model that Peter is searching for, hoping that his son would complete his creation in the future.

Chapter 100: Howard Stark

Within the next 2 hours, Bruce, Charles, and Henry (Beast) rushed to the top of the Tower with confused and worried looks on their faces. At first, they thought this was a joke, but after getting some more information from Peter and Pepper, they fully understood the problem.

"Why can't you just take it off until we find a replacement?" Banner asks as if it was a simple solution, which it was but Tony was as stubborn as a mule and extremely paranoid from his recent experiences.

"I refuse..." Tony says plainly, guarding his arc reactor against everyone's prying eyes.

"We refuse your refusal." Beast says as he tries to rush at Tony to take it off of him.

Keyword tries...

As soon as Henry's hairy blue form moves toward Tony, the floor opens up and a red and gold piece of tech flies. It attaches to Tony's outstretched hand and turned into a glove, matching the one on his Iron Man suit.

Instantly, the center of his palm glowed blue and fired a blast of energy, which impacted Beast and launched his body across the room.

As Henry impacted the wall, the putrid smell of burned hair fills the room, causing some to cover their noses to block out the smell.

Peter just stood at the side watching the whole situation play out. If Tony wouldn't give up the reactor after Pepper pleaded to him, then he wouldn't give it up for anyone.

Tony wasn't playing around and called the rest of his armor, which shot into the room and attached to his body one piece at a time. The only piece that didn't come was the helmet, leaving Tony's head as the only exposed body part.

"Ugh, my fur..." Henry says as he stands back to his feet and sees the singe marks on his chest.

"Well, don't attack me again and you won't lose any more hair." Tony says as his palm thrusters pulse threateningly.

"I'll keep that in mind..." Henry mutters as he brushes the singed hairs off his chest.

As this was happening, Fury and Natasha walked into the room. Fury held a closed cardboard box in hand as Natasha walked up behind Tony and poked his exploded neck with a needle, injecting him with some sort of fluid.

Out of reflex, the thrusters in Tony's palms fired and hit the floor as he turned to see Natasha with an empty syringe in hand.

"Oh, God. Are you gonna steal my kidney and sell it? What did she just do to me?" Tony begins to panic as he looks around the room in dismay.

"What did we just do for you? That's lithium dioxide. It's gonna take the edge off. It'll help with the pain and discomfort." Fury says, which causes Tony to notice the ease in the pain he's been feeling recently.

"Give me a couple boxes of that. I'll be right as rain. Problem solved." Tony says as he points to the needle in Natasha's hand.

"It's not a cure, it just abates the symptoms." Natasha reluctantly informs him. "You're still poisoned."

"That thing in your chest is based on unfinished technology, Stark." Fury says as he walks forward and hands the box over to Tony, who took it out of reflex.

"No, it was finished. It just wasn't particularly effective until I miniaturized it and put it in my chest." Tony rebuts as he looks down at the box as if to say 'what's this?'

"No. Howard said the arc reactor was the stepping stone to something greater. He was about to kick off an energy race that was gonna dwarf the arms race. Your father was on to something big, something so big that it was gonna make the nuclear reactor look like a triple-A battery." Fury ignores Tony's look and gains the attention of all the scientific minds in the room

"Okay..." Tony says almost unbelievably. "Well, I've tried everything. I doubt there's something the old man saw that I didn't."

"You haven't tried everything." Fury says as he walks to the door.

"What do you mean I haven't tried everything? What haven't I tried?" Tony asks as Peter walks up and takes the box from him.

Tony was too preoccupied with Fury to care as Peter walked over to the couch and started curiously going through the box.

"He said that you were the only person with the means and knowledge to finish what he started." Fury says as he keeps walking away.

"He said that?" Tony asks as Fury stops at the door and turns around. "How do you know my father so well?"

"Howard Stark was one of the founding members of SHIELD. We worked together a lot before his untimely death." Fury reveals, shocking everyone, especially Tony.

"What?" Tony mutter as Fury turns around and leaves.

"I got a two o'clock meeting." Fury calls out with a wave as he rounds the corner and disappears from view.

"Wait! What's with the box?" Tony calls out but Fury doesn't come back.

"So..." Peter says as he looks up from the box and at Tony. "Your dad was a super spy, huh?"

"Shut up, web-head," Tony says in exasperation. "At most my dad was probably just a glorified money and gadget supplier. Trust me, he wasn't some type of James Bond. He was cold, he was calculating. He never told me he loved me. Hell, he never even told me he liked me."

"Sounds like the personality of a busy spy to me..." Peter says jokingly.

"No, more the personality of a busy CEO who took every opportunity to avoid his family and their problems." Tony says as his suit is removed by robotic arms and he walks over to Peter and looks through the box.

"What's all this?" He asks as Charles, Beast, Pepper, and Banner circle around to see as well.

"It's just files from your father's time working on the arc reactor with someone named, Anton Vanko. It's all just files and blueprints." Peter says as he already took a look inside.

"Is that film for a projector?" Charles asks as he sees circular tins, which held old school film for videos.

It took almost an hour, but after going through the box with everyone, Pepper finally arrived with an old-school projector for them to use. She left to find one so that everyone else could go through the box together.

Hooking up the projector, they all sat back and watched but soon felt awkward as the film kept played. It seemed to be the outtakes/bloopers for a video that Howard Stark was filming for the Expo back in the day.

When it got awkward was when Howard suddenly started talking to Tony through the video, as they could all tell that Tony was feeling emotional from it.

"Tony, you're too young to understand this right now, so I thought I would put it on film for you. I built this for you." Howard gestures to the model of the Stark Expo behind him. "Someday you'll realize that it represents a whole lot more than just people's inventions. It represents my life's work. This is the key to the future. I'm limited by the technology of my time, but one day you'll figure this out. When you do, you will change the world... What is and always will be my greatest creation is you, Tony. Remember that."

As the video came to an end, Peter could see the mist appear in Tony's eyes but he did a good job at hiding it.

"That was nice of him." Peter comments as he finds the silence uncomfortable.

"Shut up, Web-head..." Tony uses that moment to laugh and wipe the mist from his eyes without anyone noticing.

"What, you said he was a d*ck, but now I think he was just what the Anime community would call a Tsundere." Peter says, confusing everyone in the room.

"What the hell is a Tsundere?" Bruce asks for everyone.

"Just think of it as someone that has a hard time showing their feelings. They use a hot and cold attitude to mask what they truly feel." Peter explains.

"Or he was just an a*shole..." Tony jokes.

"No, I think that video showed how much your father cared about you." Peter says as he walks up to the projector and rewinds the video. "Now there's only one question."

Peter pauses the video as it shows a good view of the model behind Howard Stark.

"Why is that miniature model so important?"