

printed circuits

96 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Marvel,

So here I am again reading the glorious life of Iron Man and the crummy life of Tony Stark. There are some really great points made in this issue. For instance: I like the idea of the handsome playboy falling in love with the scarred Madame Masque. And that dream sequence was fabulously fantastic. As for Jasper, well, when I saw the cover I thought I'd finally see him in a S.H.I.E.L.D. uniform, but no dice. I did enjoy the idea of one lone agent holding Iron Man to a deadlock. Just for the sake of realism, I think that with Jasper's deep depression and feelings of failure and loss, he should attempt suicide. (Don't get me wrong, I like Jasper as much as does any other Marvelite. Besides, who says he has to succeed?)

Heh! I know Tony will win out over Midas but, for the first time in IM's history I began to feel that the man within the tin suit was really Tony Stark. Thanks for the Jack of Hearts, and for that strange ending. So, until Iron Man rusts, make... ah, *crud!* I'm not gonna repeat that corny old line. So I'll just leave with, "aloha!"

Greg Gallant
Box 1071, Tilbury, Ontario
Canada N0P 2L0

Suicide's a bit more extreme than we had in mind, Greg, and, if you managed to read IRON MAN #106, you know by now the resolution of Jasper's depression—and if you caught IRON MAN #107, you know that everything came out in the wash. We just want to say here that we're sorry we didn't have room for our lettercol last ish, due to an expanded storyline (the *real* reason is that Bill just wanted to script one more glorious Carmine Infantino page), but this ish brings us back up to date.

Y'know, Bill M.,

The sad thing is that Tony Stark has always owned a *majority interest* in SI, not a *controlling interest*. Even if we grant that Midas is alive (he's not, you know), there's no way he could take over SI legally.

Nice story. Too bad you can't make it work.

Dennis Mallonee
4085 Nobel Drive
San Diego, CA 92122

Y'know, Dennis... we explained by IRON MAN #107 that Midas *didn't* take over legally but that, by paying loans due and large debts owed by Tony (because he, Midas, had sabotaged the devices which would have made money for SI, thus costing Tony more and more capital and plunging him deeper into debt) he could bite *into* Tony's majority interest. The rest was easy, and explained. He simply threatened and blackmailed the rest of SI's stockholders to acquire their stock as well. Thus Midas did own a majority interest—but, again, not legally. Second—Midas is *not* dead, again as we explain in IM #107. So, while we appreciate your being concerned enough to want to correct what you saw as flaws in our storyline, we just want to point out that that storyline hadn't been completed—with all the pieces in place—until after IM #104, the issue you are commenting on. Got it?

The following missive came in the form of a comic strip, beautifully rendered, but, alas, non-reproduceable. So we here quote it verbatim, text without pictures, and thank the author while we most sincerely apologize:

SOME STARK COMMENTS:

Well, Bill, it's been awhile since I wrote. Once, with all your fill-ins and *Sons of the Tiger*, you showed a great deal of promise. Of late, however, I've been disappointed, particularly

with IRON MAN, a book you handled extremely well on fill-in status. But, as a regular—nothing. IRON MAN #100 was embarrassingly mediocre. True, the team of Tuska and Esposito was hardly inspiring, but...

Then came IRON MAN #103, and I loved it. Was it a fluke, or...?

NO! I Not so! I just read IRON MAN #104—*Triad*—and, despite Tuska/Esposito, it was the most *memorable* IM tale in literally *years!* I loved it! Not much to criticize, really. Let's just say I heartily approve of all these new ideas you've injected into the book commencing with this series. Hopefully, Iron Man/Madame Masque will be a permanent team. Like DD and Natasha. It's never been done. Keep it going. Don't *ruin* it, their love affair is *fresh*, and somehow more mature than most in comics. Stark's honesty with Whitney was extremely refreshing. No Peter Parker/Mary Jane bullfeathers here. The implications of their intimacy was appreciated as well. This was the most realistic love affair in comics in many a moon. Strangely enough, only Howard and Bev compare. But so help me, Mantlo—if this is a *DOOMED* affair, I'll train my REPULSORS on you!!

Sitwell acted weird this issue, but doesn't love make us *all* weird? I never was fond of Jasper, anyway. Madame Masque's another story, though. The two—both wearing masks—can be quite poignant. You can make some nice statements about beauty with this affair, "Skin deep", and all. Glad to see you delving into Stark's past—long overdue.

Don't STOP! I Give Stark a *life* beyond Stark International! I'm looking forward to Marianne Rodger's reappearance, as long as it isn't a *love* interest. I also have to add that I like both Midas and his scheme, and would like to see the Jack of Hearts in his own book. He has a lot of potential, and he looks awfully nifty in color.

Fred G. Hembeck
65 Frank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE RED HORDES, TWO ELECTRONICALLY-POWERED ARMS SEIZE WONG-CHU, LIFTING HIM EASILY AS THEY WOULD A TOY!



IRON MEMORIES
The evil Wong-Chu, from
TALES OF SUSPENSE #39.

**STILL
MORE**

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**AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT..**

UH.. BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING ELSE, HOW CAN IRON MAN #107 BE THE END OF A SIX PART SAGA IF IT BEGAN IN #103???

YOU TAKING MATH LESSONS FROM THE HULK AGAIN, BILL?

REGARDLESS, THE MIDAS SAGA WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE SEQUENCE IN OVER 90 ISSUES!

NO LIE!

ESPECIALLY PLEASING WAS MARIANNE RODGERS' ROLE IN ALL THIS.

ALL THAT FORESHADOWING THE PAST MONTHS-- I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D BE INVOLVED IN THIS STORYLINE!

A NICE SURPRISE.

IRON MAN HAS BEEN A LONER FOR FAR TOO LONG, AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MADAME MASQUE IS REFRESHINGLY ADULT, AND PROMISES TO PROVIDE FUEL FOR MANY MORE GOOD STORIES!

UNLESS YOU KILL HER OFF, YOU FOOL!

AND OF COURSE I'LL VOTE 'YES' FOR THE JACK OF HEARTS--

HE LOOKS AWFUL SPIFFY IN COLOR!!

BY THE WAY, WHERE WAS THE WHITE TIGER?

EVERYONE ELSE FROM THE MANTLO REPERTORY COMPANY WAS THERE!!!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO KEITH POLLARD UNLEASHED!

DELVE SOME MORE INTO STARK'S PAST.

STEER AWAY FROM THE HEART PROBLEM-- IT'S A HOARY CLICHE'!!

AND, OH YEAH--

AS A CORNERSTONE OF THE MARVEL MYTHOS, IRON MAN IS FINALLY GETTING THE TREATMENT HE JUSTLY DESERVES!

--USE SHELLHEADS' ROLLER SKATES MORE!!

BRAVO, BILL MANTLO!!

BEST, FRED G. HEMBECK
66 FRANK AVE.
YAPHANK, N.Y.
11980.

