



The fall of the Masters (1 of 2)

Previously

On the cusp of victory! The Masters have used their pyrokinetic HYDRA army and their new asset: the Destroyer to topple SHIELD and take control of many cities in the states, including Gotham. But not all has been smooth for them: they face threats from AIM, now lead by Talia al Ghul, who rescued Spider-man from New York, splinter groups from SHIELD that survived the assault have formed, and Klarion's ring is no longer in their possession, will anything be able to stop them?

Scene 1

Outsiders HQ, London, 21st October 02:00 BST

Doctor Fate awakens with a knocking in his head, he walks to the monitor room as Raven stands there

Raven: It's certainly an improvement over our old base, another part of Alaunus that is likely rubble

Doctor Fate: You cannot blame yourself

Raven: Survivors guilt, even the warriors felt it as they departed Alaunus for the last time. (Doctor Fate holds his head in agony) what's wrong?

Doctor Fate: I'm not sure, there's a knocking in my head (Raven's eyes look as though they're on fire)

Raven: You're being summoned, to Fate Tower; go, I'll alert Dracula (Doctor Fate opens an anchor and passes through it)

Scene 2

Ephemeris-Omega, 02:00 UTC

Arron teleports in

Anarax: Bad news?

Arron: 7 more planets are facing threat of invasion; it's chaos out there, glad I even got this time off

Anarax: I've been detecting an unknown frequency on the transceivers; it's mostly white noise but there's something odd about it, perhaps a code?

Arron: Let me listen (Anarax plays back the white noise) there's some sort of coded message in there

Anarax: I've been working on ways to try and decode it, no luck

Arron: Hmm. Display sound chart (a holographic graph appears) replay message (the message is replayed and the sound waves are displayed on the chart) there's an embedded sound wave underneath all the noise (he stretches his hand out to the graph, clenches his fist and pulls it backwards, revealing an embedded signal) play message

Unknown: 2-0-1-1-2-9-1 (pause) 2-2-1-4-1-1-6-5-1-9-2-0

Anarax: What could that mean?

Arron: Decoder got it as Talia Budapest. Earth (a flurry of news articles appear on his screens) cripes, a lot's happened since the breakout on Earth. S.H.I.E.L.D. has fallen.

Anarax: 3 of the Fantastic 4 found dead in the ruins of Avengers Mansion.

Arron: Guess I'm heading to Budapest then

Scene 3

Police HQ, Gotham City, 20th October 22:00 EDT

HYDRA soldiers have complete control of Gotham City

Oracle: After, you know what happened, the Police Force fell into disarray, there were easy pickings for HYDRA

Batman: Time to take it back (he chokes one of the HYDRA soldiers unconscious, but several others see him)

HYDRA 1: I think we got him (Batman smirks as they unleash flames upon him, Superman zooms in front of him and blocks the fire, taking no damage) cr*p (Superman zooms in and takes them all down within seconds)

Superman: You're welcome

Batman: How many more? (Superman uses his x-ray vision around the precinct)

Superman: 109, shouldn't take me more than 20 seconds

Batman: Leave one (Superman nods and zooms off, Batman stands there and Superman returns with one of the HYDRA goons)

Superman: All the others are out

Batman: (Mumbles beneath his breath) whatever I say, go along with it (Superman nods)

HYDRA 21: I'm not scared of you, I have powers now

Batman: Didn't work to well against him, did it? He could lobotomise you with a thought; I want answers and if you don't talk, I'll lock you in a cell with him

HYDRA 21: We all know Superman doesn't kill (Superman's eyes glow red) no, you're bluffing (Batman looks at Superman and nods, Superman fires his heat vision at the HYDRA soldier's hand) ahh, alright alright!

Batman: Where is Ra's al Ghul?

HYDRA 21: He left after we overran they Mayor's office (Superman analyses his breathing and heart and nods)

Batman: Damn (he punches the HYDRA agent unconscious)

Superman: I want it on record that I wasn't comfortable using your style of interrogation.

Batman: Duly noted but we had to know. You agreed to help me take back Gotham; we may have to cross some lines to do so.

Oracle: Bruce, get to the clock tower, now!

Superman: I heard, let's move (he grabs Bruce and zooms away)

Scene 4

The Playground, Classified, 02:45 UTC

Computer: Authorisation recognised, Doctor Leonard Samson (Samson walks into his base and is soon surrounded by shield agents, including Clay Quartermain and Maria Hill)

Samson: It's OK, Director Fury sent me to help

Maria Hill: What's the code?

Samson: Mockingbird?

Maria Hill: Strike one, 3 strikes and we shoot

Samson: Wait, it was Starbright

Maria Hill: Stand down. It's good to see you, Samson. Apologies for the tough entrance but we can't be too careful now. I was always worried that the Avengers would fail and people would die but S.H.I.E.L.D. has failed and we're all accountable. (Samson looks at her) sorry, we pulled some records from the Baxter Building, all of Reed's work on the serum that transformed the HYDRA soldiers. You're the expert on blood analysis, you've analysed enough of the Hulk's blood, I need you to try and derive something we can use against them.

Samson: Understood, Director Hill (He heads to the lab)

Quartermain: So is this our plan, lay low until we have some tactical weapons.

Maria: Our team is about tactical advantage. We don't have the manpower or the skill to fight these pyrokinetic HYDRA agents without some sort of edge. The good news is this S.H.I.E.L.D. base isn't listed on S.H.I.E.L.D. servers, we're safe here (the doors are blown open and Sportsmaster, Icicle Jr, Blockbuster and Mammoth enter)

Sportsmaster: Not exactly.

Maria: How did you find us? (One of the S.H.I.E.L.D. agents reveals herself to be Madame Rouge in disguise)

Rouge: It was too easy.

Maria: What do you want?

Sportsmaster: We have a proposal for you...

Scene 5

Budapest, Hungary, 05:00 CEST

Arron is scouting the area from the sky

Arron: I've been at this for over an hour, no sign of Talia, or her A.I.M. soldiers

Anarax: I've been looking at the code, there's another layer underneath it 1-3-1-2-6-1-1-8-2-1-1-9

Arron: Lazarus, of course (he brings up a holographic map) Anarax, scan for Lazarus pits, I suspect there's one nearby

Anarax: And you'd be right, I'm uploading it to your holo-map now (a red dot appears on Arron's holo-map)

Arron: It's below the Dunube river; there must be a way to get there

Anarax: More code 1-3-1-2-0-2-0-9-1-1-9 (pause) 3-8-2-1-1-8-3-8

Arron: Mattias Church. (He drops down and picks the lock, he enters the church and sees Spider-man strung up by his own webbing, looking like Jesus on the cross) my god. Spider-man (Talia steps out)

Talia: Nice to see you finally got my signal

Arron: What have you done to him, Talia?

Talia: I've kept him alive, just. The Green Goblin, another fallen master, attacked New York, Spider-man gave everything, and it wasn't enough, so I ended this threat. That was over two weeks ago

Arron: Spider-man would've healed by now

Talia: Not with the drugs I've been giving him, he's got maybe an hour to live in his current state and only the Lazarus pit can save him

Arron: What do you want, Talia?

Talia: I want your help eliminating the threat of the Masters once and for all. (Fade to black)

(Return to picture)

Arron: You want me to help you take down the Masters, so you can take their place?

Talia: Yes

Arron: Hmm, at least you're honest about it; why me?

Talia: Because you have contacts within almost every superhero team on the planet; that force combined with mine, we'll end this before they become out of control. Of course you could say no but you would be damning Spider-man.

Arron: Alright, revive him, I'll help. (They are all teleported in yellow teleport beams)

Lazarus pit

Spider-man is lowered into the Lazarus pit

Talia: Be prepared, the Lazarus may yield some side effects. Raise him up (Spider-man is lifted out of the Lazarus pit, he starts screaming as he breaks free of the binding ropes and attacks the A.I.M. soldiers, he manages to take down 5 of them before he falls unconscious) the effects should subside (Spider-man wakes up)

Spider-man: Feel like I've been run over by a... (He looks around) wow, definitely not in New York any more

Talia: Welcome back to the land of the living, Mr Parker

Spider-man: You know? Wait, how long have I been here?

Talia: Two weeks

Spider-man: Aww man, how am I gonna explain that to...? (Arron places his hand of Spider-man's shoulder) and who are you?

Arron: Spider-man, I'm Arron Redbeard of the Galactic Defence Force, and Vandal Savage has control of 1/3 of the planet. Want to me help me kick his ass for the last time?

Spider-man: How do we get started?

Talia: The Masters are likely using S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Triskelion as their new headquarters. Good luck, I will send my reinforcements in due course.

Arron: Ephemeris. Beam us out (They are teleported out of here)

Talia: Well, that went better than expected (she presses a button which opens a secret entrance to a lab where AIM scientists are giving several AIM soldiers injections of the Goblin formula)

TO BE CONTINUED