

Marvel's The Avengers

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Level 2

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Introduction

“You want to use the Avengers?” a man from S.H.I.E.L.D. asked. “You know that they’re dangerous.”

“They’re strange—maybe crazy,” Fury said. “But I think that they’re our only hope.”

Agent Nick Fury is talking about a very difficult and dangerous job. The U.S. agency S.H.I.E.L.D. had the Tesseract on Earth and wanted to use its great power. But Loki—an angry fighter from Asgard—took the Tesseract. He is also planning to attack Earth.

Who can protect Earth? Who can save its people and its cities? Who can find the Tesseract and take it from Loki? For Nick Fury, there is only one answer: the Avengers. They are all great fighters, but with very different powers. Will they help? He doesn’t know. And before he can ask them, he has to find them.

Marvel’s The Avengers is a 2012 movie with many great people in it. Robert Downey Jr. is Iron Man, Chris Evans is Captain America, Mark Ruffalo is the Hulk, Scarlett Johansson is the Black Widow, Jeremy Renner is Hawkeye, Chris Hemsworth is Thor, Tom Hiddleston is Loki, and Samuel Jackson is Agent Fury.

People around the world loved the movie. *Avengers: Age of Ultron* followed in 2015, and *Avengers: Infinity War* in 2018.

An aerial night view of a city with a glowing blue cube in the center. The cube is surrounded by city buildings and streets, and a red vertical bar is positioned to its left. The text 'LBRIS' is overlaid on the top left, and 'We know books' is overlaid on the top right.

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A Dangerous Plan

In a world a very long way from Earth, Loki stood in front of the Other. The Other looked into his eyes and spoke.

“The Tesseract is waking up,” he said. “It is in a *little* world—the world of men. They want to use its power, but we have plans for it. Your job is this. Take it from them and bring it here to us.”

“And why will I do that for you?” Loki asked.

“Because *we* helped *you*. You were angry when your brother Thor threw you out of your home on Asgard. We taught you many things, and we gave you your power—the scepter in your hand.”

“Of course I was angry,” Loki shouted. “I wanted Asgard, but Thor took it from me.”

“Forget Asgard,” the Other said. “You can have Earth—and with the Tesseract, my people can take many other, greater worlds.”

“But first,” Loki said, “your Chitauri spaceships have to help *me* take Earth. I will open the portal through space from the Tesseract for them. With your help, I will fight and win. When Earth is mine ... *then* I will bring you the Tesseract.”

“Bring it to us,” the Other said slowly, “or be very afraid.”



The Power of the Tesseract

"Everybody out! Leave the building now and get away!"

People started to run outside. In the streets around the large building, they jumped into their cars and drove away as fast as possible.

"How bad is it?" Agent Fury shouted to Coulson, another agent.

The two men worked for S.H.I.E.L.D.

In a room below that building, S.H.I.E.L.D. protected the Tesseract. The agency had important plans for the Tesseract's great power, but now there was a problem.

"We don't know, sir," Coulson answered.

"What does Selvig say?" Fury asked.

"Dr. Selvig wasn't in the room when the Tesseract came on. We're not doing any tests on the machine, so he doesn't understand it. The Tesseract's power is getting stronger all the time. It's very dangerous, so we got the workers out."

Fury found Selvig. The doctor understood the Tesseract better than anybody.

"Talk to me, Selvig. What's happening?" Fury shouted.

"The Tesseract came on, sir, and I can't stop it," Selvig answered. "When I turn it off, it comes on again. I can't do anything with it."

"Where's Agent Barton?" Fury asked. Barton came and talked with him. "What's the problem here, Barton?" Fury asked. "Did you see anybody near the Tesseract?"

"Nobody went near it," Barton told him. "The problem's not here on Earth. It's at the other end."

"The other end?"

"Yes. You know that the Tesseract's a portal—a doorway to the other end of space. The door's now open at the other end. Somebody—or something—is coming down!"

The Tesseract made strange noises. The agents watched and waited.

Suddenly, there was an explosion of blue light. When the explosion ended, a tall man stood in front of them with a scepter in his hand. It was Loki.

Loki smiled, and it was not a pretty smile.

"Sir, please put down your weapon!" Fury called.

Loki looked down at his scepter. Then he looked up again and laughed. He ran at the agents. Their guns couldn't hurt Loki and he quickly killed many of them with his scepter.

Agent Barton was down. Loki ran to him and touched him with the end of his scepter. Barton's eyes slowly turned blue. Now Barton was Loki's man.

Fury watched. Without Barton, they had a problem. "I have to get the Tesseract out of here," he thought.

Quickly, he took the Tesseract from its big machine and put it in a small box. Then he moved away.

"Stop!" Loki said. "I want that, and I came a long way for it. I am Loki, of Asgard ..."

Selvig knew the name. "Loki, brother of Thor!" he said.

"We have no fight with your people," Fury said to Loki.

"Fight? Do you think that I'm afraid of *you*?" Loki said. "I'm going to take this world and make it mine. Make it easy for me and there will be no fighting."

He turned suddenly to Selvig and touched him with his scepter. Now Barton *and* Selvig worked for Loki.

There was thick blue smoke everywhere.

"We have to leave, sir," Barton told Loki. "This place is going to explode. Fury wants us to stay here and talk. Then we'll all die."

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"I am Loki, of Asgard ..."