

MARVEL

EXCALIBUR™



forging the sword

EXCALIBUR



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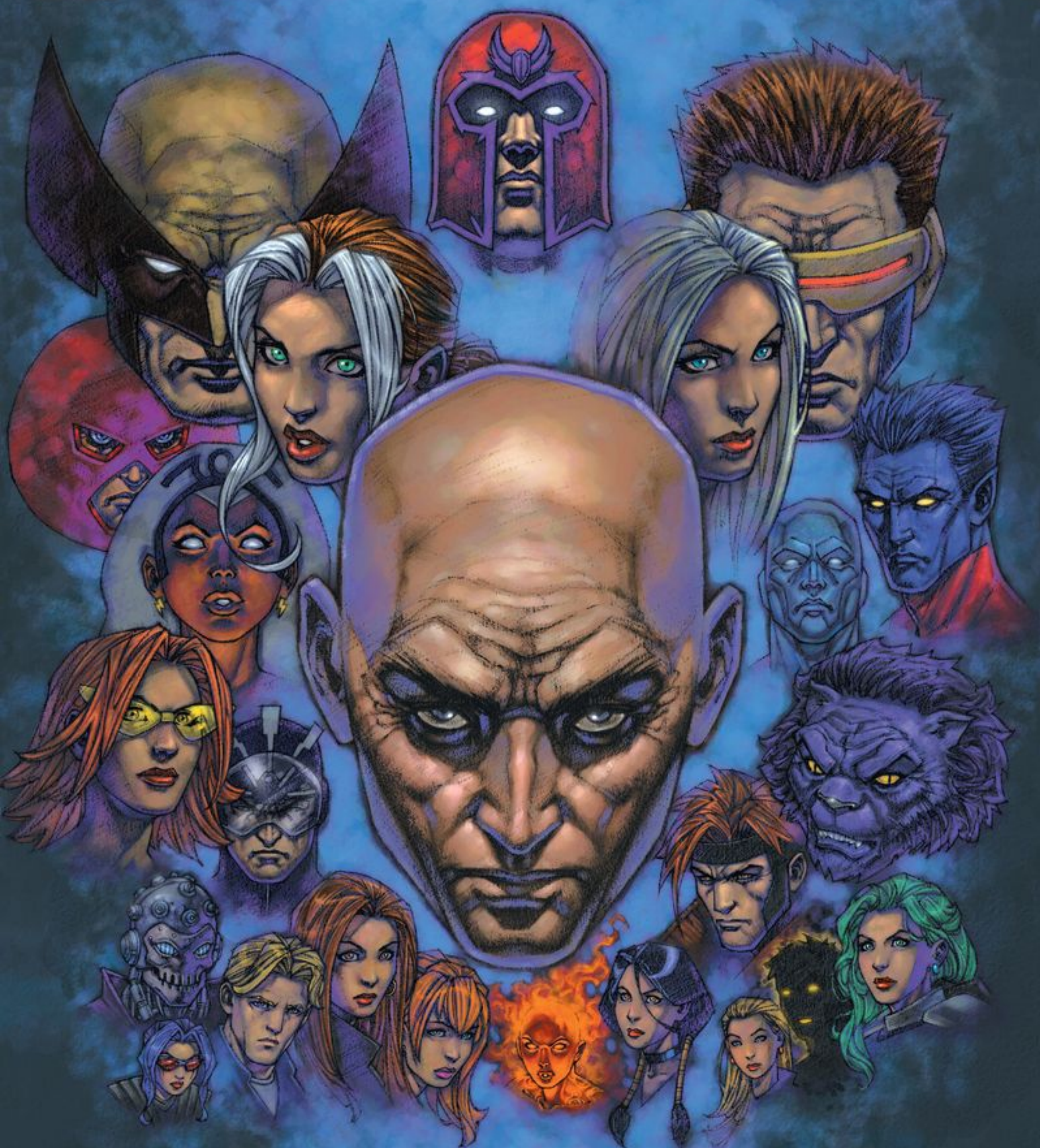
1

CLAREMONT

LOPRESTI

ADAMS

EXCALIBUR™



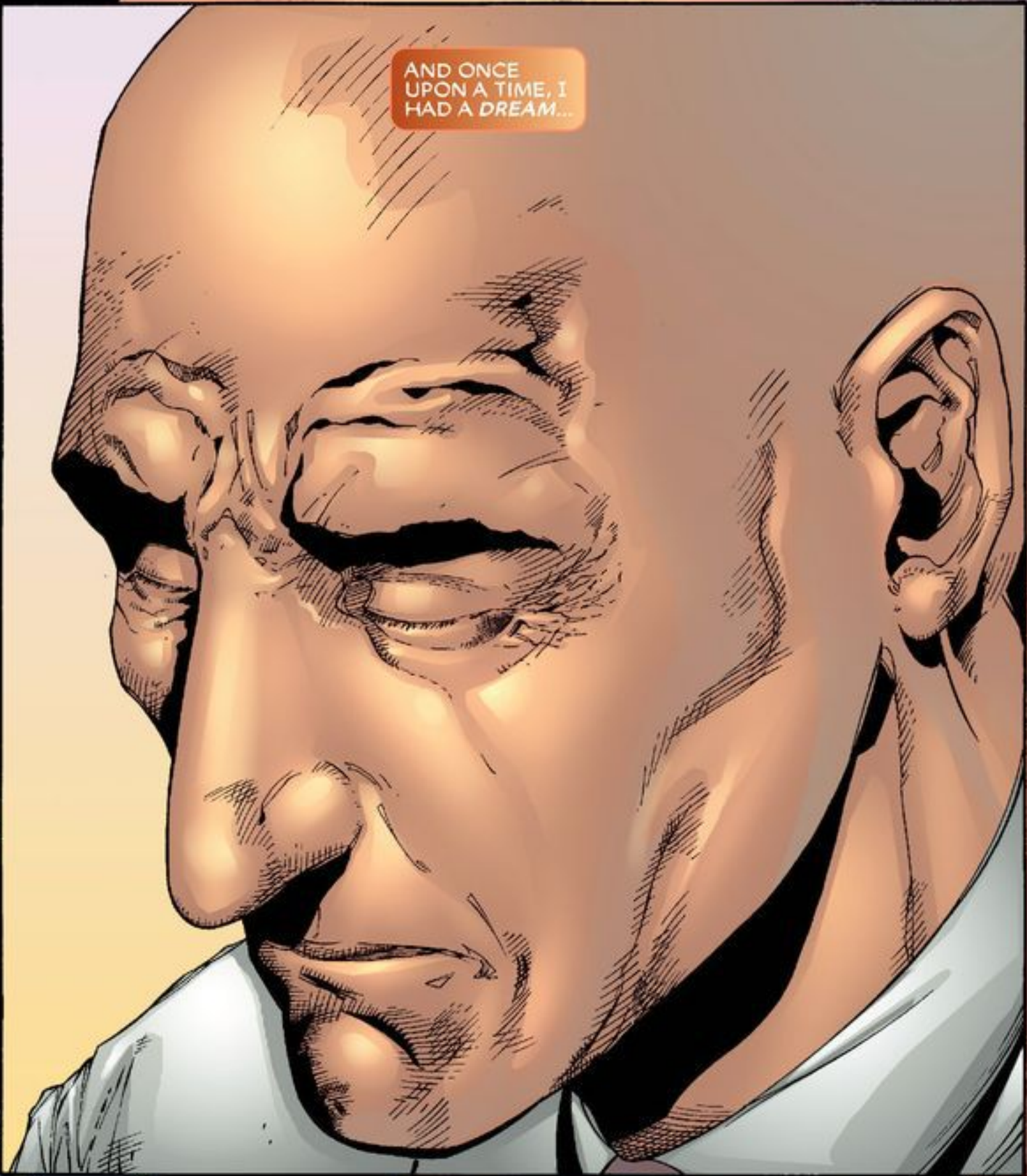
THE **DREAM** LIVES ON!

Andy Park

A large, dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders, facing right, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise sky with soft orange and pink clouds.

MY NAME IS *CHARLES XAVIER*.

I AM A *MUTANT*.

A large, detailed comic book illustration of Charles Xavier's face. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a white shirt. His eyes are closed, and he has a serene, almost tearful expression. The lighting is soft, coming from the left, highlighting the contours of his face. The background is a warm, orange-hued sky.

AND ONCE
UPON A TIME, I
HAD A *DREAM*...

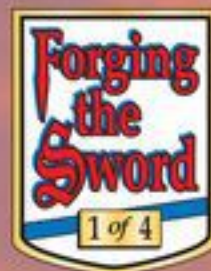
A close-up comic book illustration of Charles Xavier's eyes. They are a striking, vibrant blue, looking directly forward with a calm but intense gaze. The surrounding facial features are partially visible, showing the bridge of his nose and the corners of his eyes.

...OF A
WORLD
WHERE ALL
EARTH'S
CHILDREN,
BOTH
MUTANT
AND
BASELINE
HUMAN,
MIGHT LIVE
TOGETHER
IN *PEACE*.



Marvel
PROUDLY
presents the
FIRST issue of
EXCALIBUR
By Chris
Claremont
and
Aaron
Lopresti

PAINT IT BLACK!



THIS ISN'T IT.

THIS IS TODAY'S
REALITY.

Greg Adams Inker Liquid! Colors Tom Orzechowski Letterer
Stephanie Moore & Cory Sedmeier Assistant Editors Mike Marts Editor Joe Quesada Editor in Chief Dan Buckley Publisher

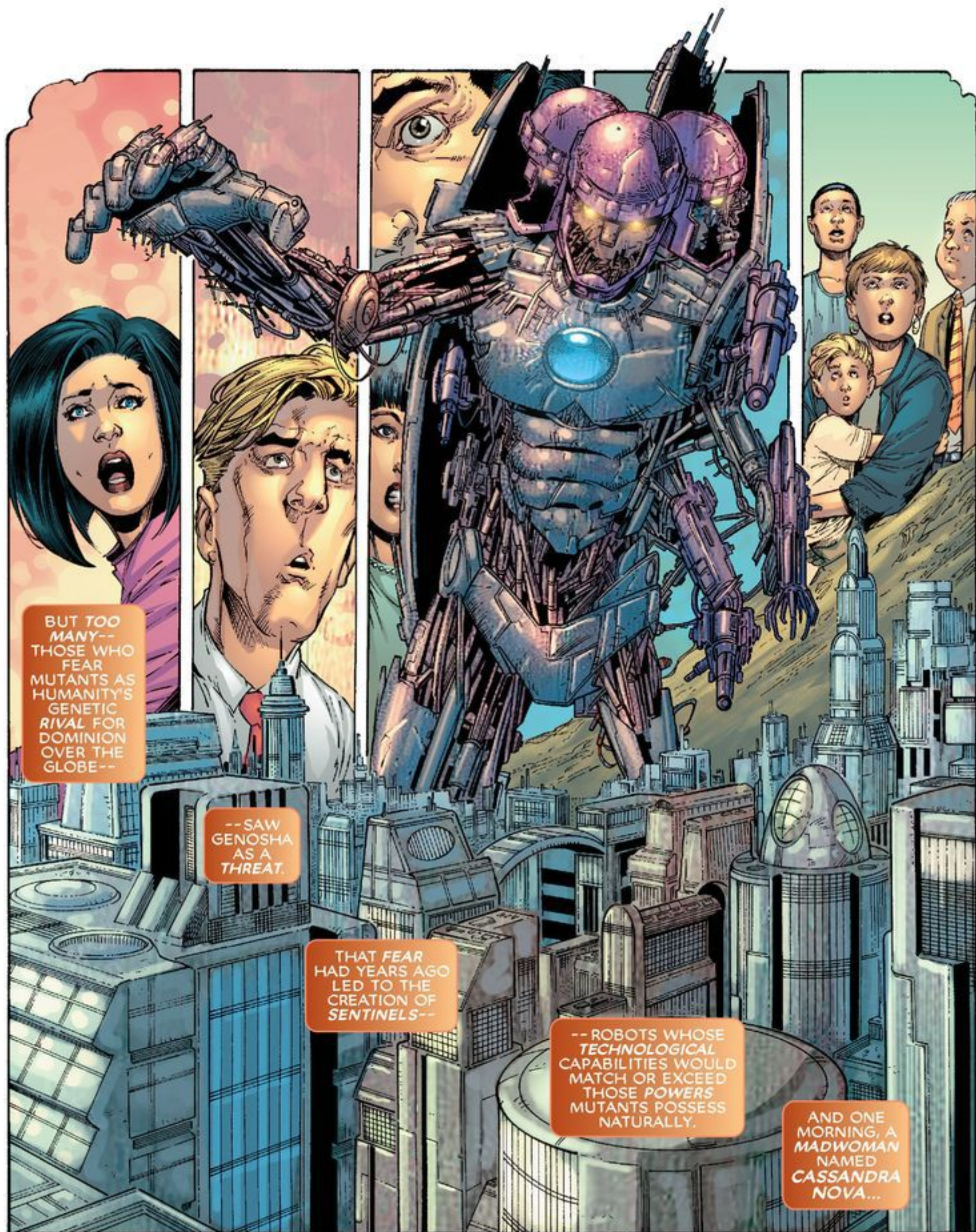
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THE
ISLAND
NATION OF
GENOSHA,
JUST OFF
THE EAST
COAST OF
AFRICA.



IT HAD BECOME THE
SELF-PROCLAIMED
MUTANT HOMETLAND,
PRESENTING ITSELF
TO THE WORLD AS A
SANCTUARY AND A
PLACE OF HOPE.





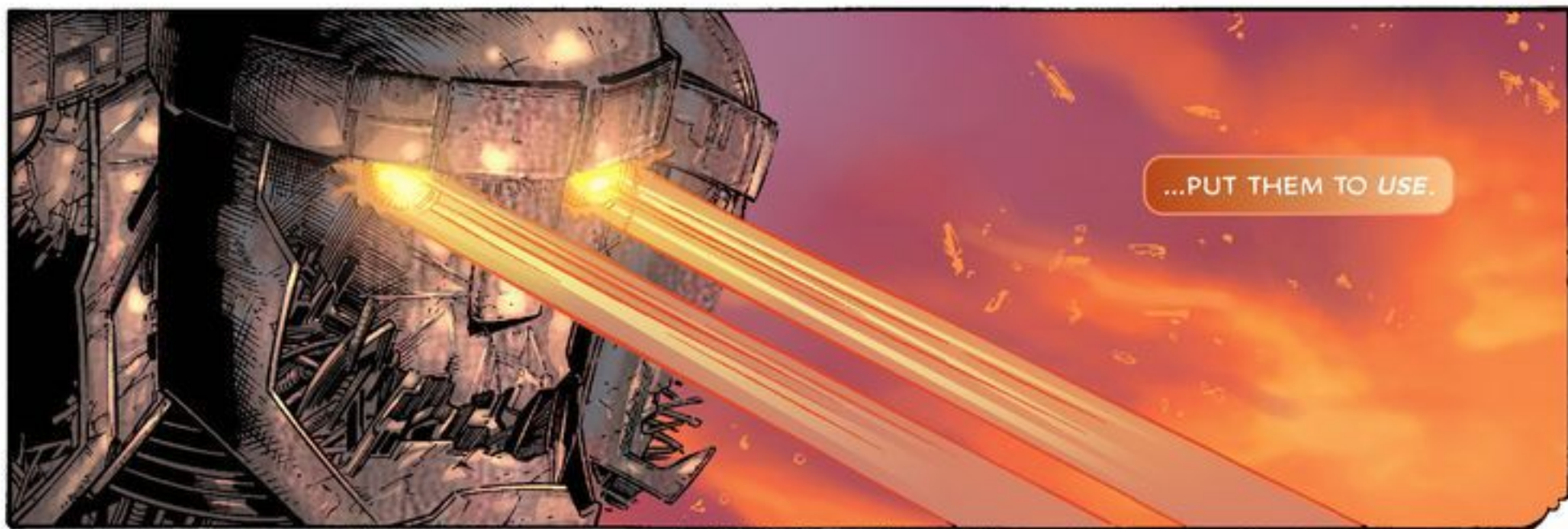
BUT TOO
MANY--
THOSE WHO
FEAR
MUTANTS AS
HUMANITY'S
GENETIC
RIVAL FOR
DOMINION
OVER THE
GLOBE--

-- SAW
GENOSHA
AS A
THREAT.

THAT FEAR
HAD YEARS AGO
LED TO THE
CREATION OF
SENTINELS--

-- ROBOTS WHOSE
TECHNOLOGICAL
CAPABILITIES WOULD
MATCH OR EXCEED
THOSE POWERS
MUTANTS POSSESS
NATURALLY.

AND ONE
MORNING, A
MADWOMAN
NAMED
CASSANDRA
NOVA...



...PUT THEM TO USE.



THE MEGA-SENTINEL'S REACH ENCOMPASSED THE ENTIRE ISLAND, BUT THE BULK OF GENOSHA'S POPULACE LIVED HERE, IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL, HAMMER BAY.



IN A MATTER OF HOURS, THEY WERE ANNIHILATED.

AND THEIR COUNTRY, ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED AND PROSPEROUS ON EARTH, UTTERLY RUINED.

ALMOST AS CONTEMPTIBLE AS THE ATTACK ITSELF HAS BEEN THE GLOBAL RESPONSE.



ASIDE FROM SOME PERFUNCTORY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AID, THE GREAT POWERS HAVE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY DUMPED THE BURDEN OF ASSISTANCE ONTO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE I'VE FOUNDED, THE X-MEN AND X-CORP.



IN EFFECT, GENOSHA IS UNDER QUARANTINE.

GETTING IN IS HARD.



GETTING OUT, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

THEY'RE FAR MORE WORRIED ABOUT A TERRORIST RESPONSE FROM ANY SURVIVORS.

THOSE CONCERNS HAVE LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORDON SANITAIRE AROUND THE ISLAND.





I DON'T HAVE
PATIENCE FOR
THAT KIND OF
FOOLISHNESS.

I'VE BEEN
TO WAR.

I KNOW
FIRSTHAND
THE COST.

WHAT
MATTERS
HERE ISN'T
IDEOLOGY,
OR POLICIES.

WHAT
MATTERS ARE
PEOPLE IN
DESPERATE
NEED.

AND THOSE
WITH THE
MEANS--
AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY
THE *WILL*--
TO HELP.

OH!

THAT SO
TOTALLY--
HURTS!



HUBRIS, THY
NAME IS
"CHARLEY."

BEEN AN AGE
SINCE I'VE TRIED
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS SOLO.



MY TELEPATHY'S GROWN
TOO SOFT, TOO
DEPENDENT ON DEVICES
LIKE CEREBRA TO AMPLIFY
MY NATURAL POWER.

I DON'T
LIKE
LIMITS.

AND IN
THIS PLACE,
I CAN'T
AFFORD
THEM.



MY
NICKNAME IN
COMBAT WAS
THE "GOOD
SHEPHERD".

THE
"BOOK" ON
ME WENT
LIKE THIS--IF
YOU WERE
LOST...



...I'D
FIND YOU,
AND BRING
YOU HOME
SAFE.

AFTER A
LIFETIME, THAT
HASN'T REALLY
CHANGED.



INSTEAD OF TROOPERS BEHIND ENEMY LINES...



...I LOOKED FOR YOUNG MUTANTS.



OUR ABILITIES GENERALLY MANIFEST DURING ADOLESCENCE.

WHICH MAKES AN ALREADY TRAUMATIC SEASON IN OUR LIVES EVEN MORE HAIR-RAISING.

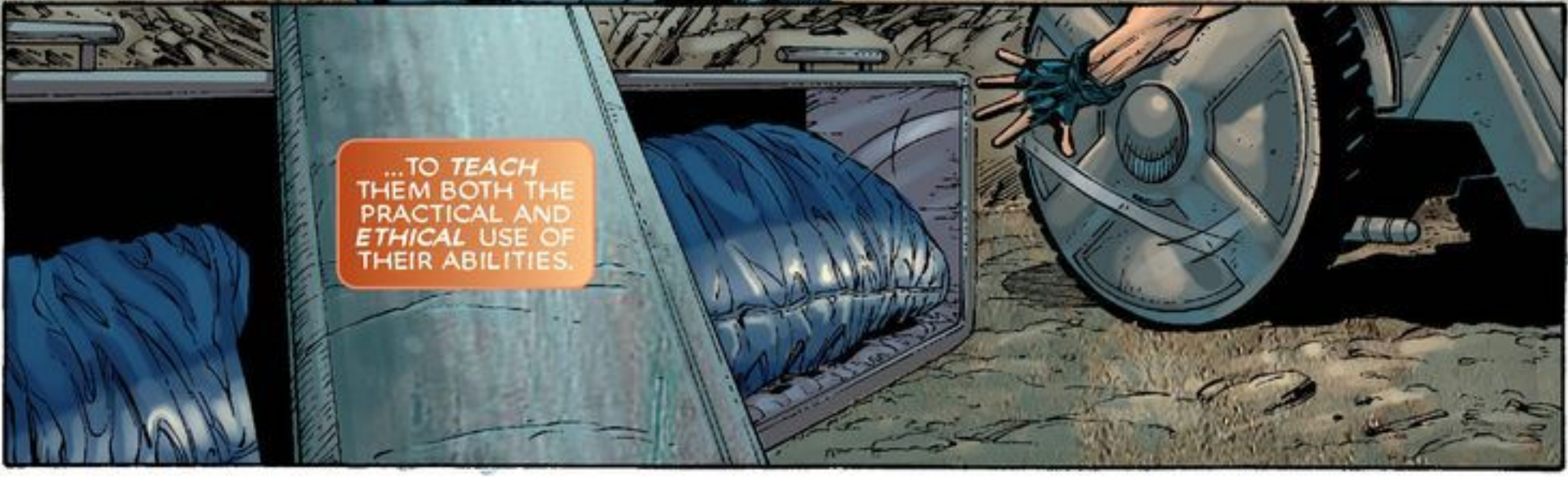
FOR SOME OF US, WHOSE POWERS DIRECTLY AFFECT THE MATERIAL WORLD...



...THIS TRANSITION IS ACTIVELY DANGEROUS.



THESE CHILDREN NEEDED SOMEONE TO HELP THEM THROUGH THE PROCESS...



...TO TEACH THEM BOTH THE PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL USE OF THEIR ABILITIES.



CONDITIONS
HAVE
CHANGED HERE
MARKEDLY
SINCE MY
LAST VISIT.



TECH WORKED
THEN, EVEN
HIGH-ORDER
ELECTRONICS.



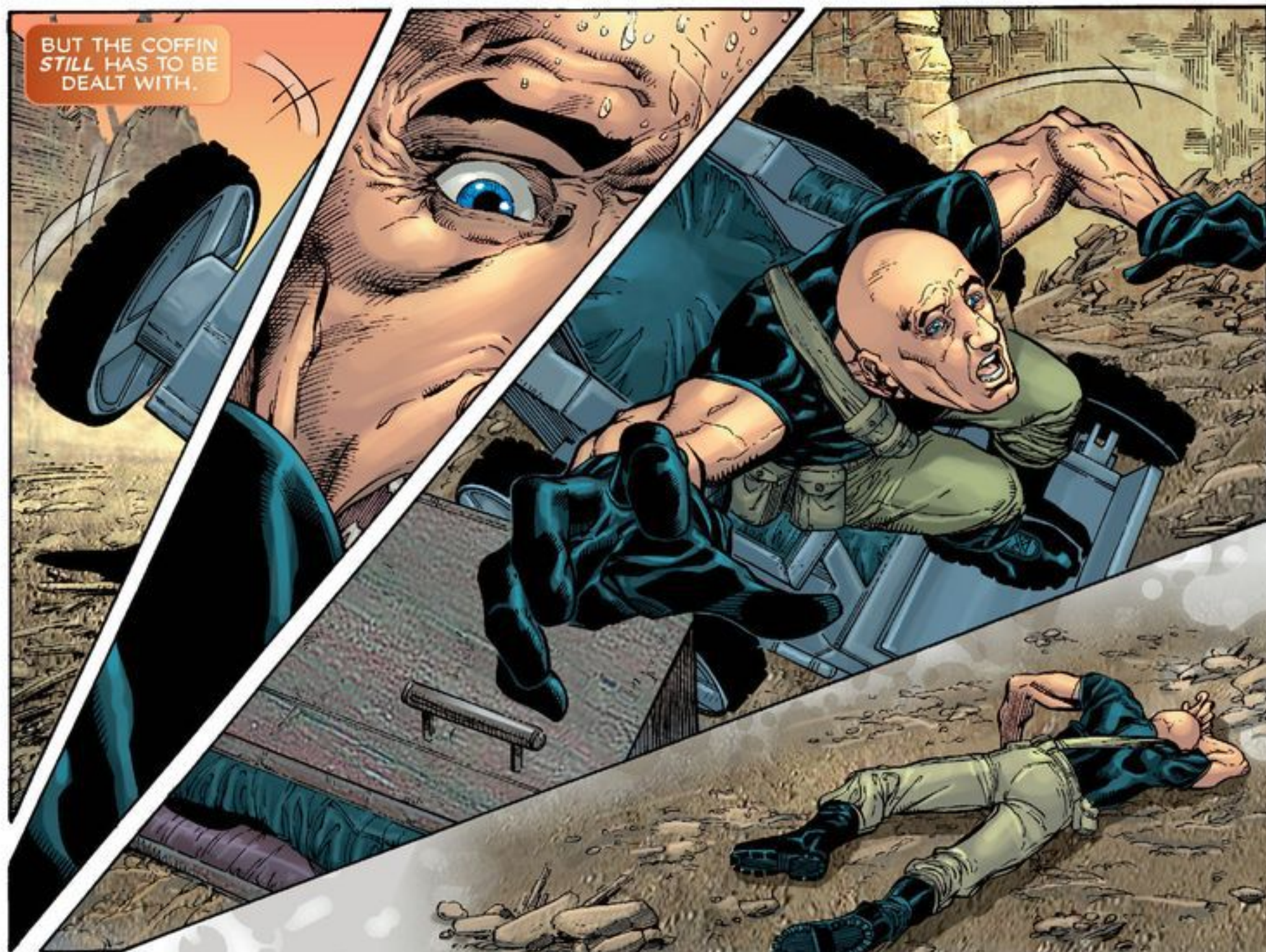
APPARENTLY,
NO LONGER.



I CHOSE A
MAJOR COFFIN...

...MAINLY TO
CARRY THE
EQUIPMENT
I NEEDED.

AND NOW
THAT I'M HERE,
MOST OF IT
WON'T WORK!



BUT THE COFFIN
STILL HAS TO BE
DEALT WITH.



THERE REALLY HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY.

POOR WEE BUNNY...

...THERE'S NEVER A TELEKINE AROUND WHEN Y' REALLY NEED ONE.

SHOW SOME RESPECT, IF YOU PLEASE, TO THE GREATEST MUTANT MENTALITY ON THE PLANET.

WHATEVER.

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A GHOST?

FAIRLY LOADED QUESTION IN THIS PLACE, CHARLEY.

GENOSHA HAS GHOSTS T' SPARE.

NO OFFENSE, BUT MOIRA MACTAGGART SHOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM.

YOU DIED HALF A WORLD AWAY FROM HERE.



I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

THE WAY YOU SEE ME IS THE WAY YOU REMEMBER ME BEST.

FROM WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AN' IN LOVE...

...AN' OUR WORLD WAS RICH WI' POSSIBILITIES.



THIS
ISN'T HOW
I THOUGHT
THINGS WOULD
TURN OUT.



WELCOME
T' THE
CLUB.

D'YOU THINK
THIS IS A
MISTAKE?



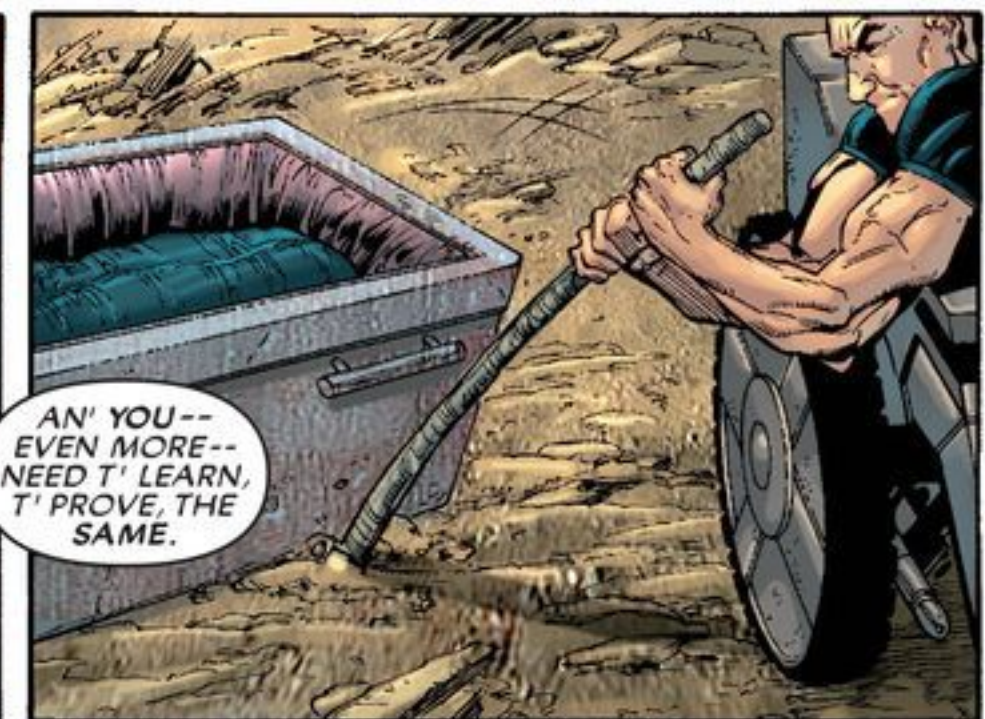
ABANDONING
MY STUDENTS,
MY SCHOOL, THE
X-MEN--?

I THINK AFTER
ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED...

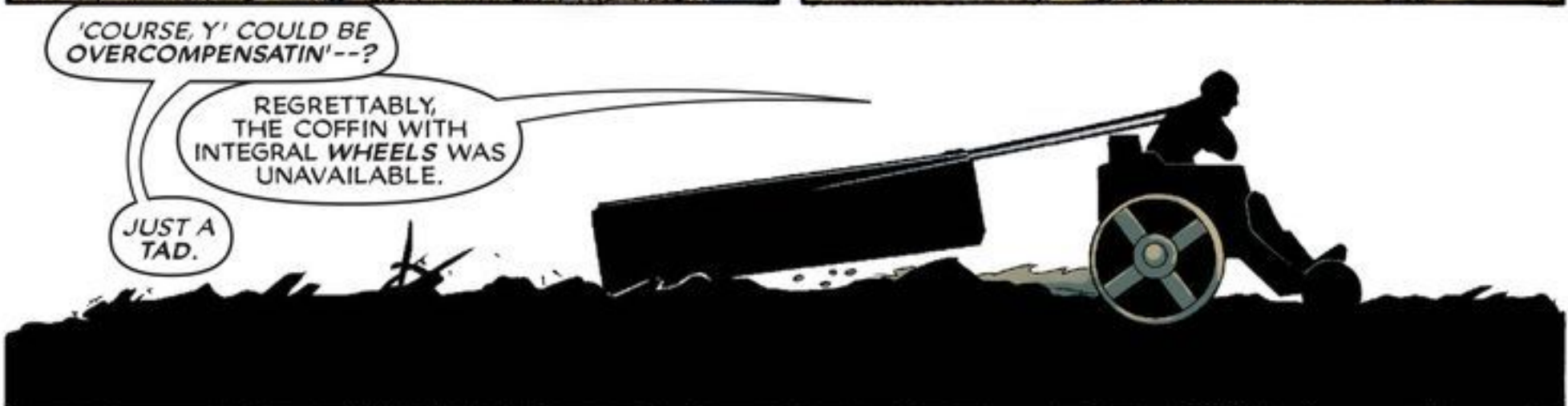
...Y'
BOTH
NEED TIME T'
HEAL.



THEY NEED T'
LEARN T' TRULY
GET ALONG
WI'OUT YOU.



AN' YOU--
EVEN MORE--
NEED T' LEARN,
T' PROVE, THE
SAME.



'COURSE, Y' COULD BE
OVERCOMPENSATIN'--?

REGRETTABLY,
THE COFFIN WITH
INTEGRAL WHEELS WAS
UNAVAILABLE.

JUST A
TAD.



I HAVE NO
ARGUMENT
FOR HER.

BUT SOME
THINGS HAVE
TO BE DONE.



UNUS--
IS IT
TRUE?

DOES THAT COFFIN
REALLY CONTAIN THE
BODY OF OUR LORD
MAGNETO?



THAT'S
THE
BUZZ.



LIKE
THIS KIND'A
PENANCE
WILL MAKE
THINGS
RIGHT.



LET'S GO TEACH BALDY
WHO REALLY OWNS
THIS TOWN!

AN' THIS
ISLAND!



WHAT'S
SO FUNNY,
CHARLES?



UNUS NEVER
COULD KEEP HIS
THOUGHTS TO
HIMSELF.



"UNTOUCHABLE,"
PERHAPS.
UNDETECTABLE,
ALMOST NEVER.



KRUNK!



OW!



CHARLEY,
WHY ARE
Y' DOIN'
THIS?



YOU'RE A
PROJECTION OF
MY SUPER-EGO,
REMEMBER?

YOU
ALREADY
KNOW THE
ANSWER.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT
CASSANDRA NOVA.

IT'S THE SURGE
IN MUTANT
MANIFESTATIONS
WE'VE SEEN THIS
PAST YEAR.

WHA' UNUS
SAID ABOUT
"PENANCE"? THA'S
TOTAL
BOLLOCKS!

THIS
WASN'T YUIR
FAULT.



ALL OUR PROJECTIONS
SUGGESTED A GRADUAL
EVOLUTION IN THE
HUMAN GENOME,
CHARLEY.



WE WERE
WRONG,
MOIRA.

I DON'T
LIKE BEING
WRONG.

MAKES Y'
FEEL HUMAN,
DOES IT, MY
SON?



LOOK
AROUND,
MOIRA.

BEHOLD
ACTION AND
REACTION.



LITERALLY OVERNIGHT,
MUTANTS GO FROM A
MINISCULE TO A *DEFINABLE*
PERCENTAGE OF THE
HUMAN POPULATION.

SOMETHING
PROVOKED THAT
SURGE.



THE
BACKLASH IS
BEFORE OUR
EYES.



NOT EVEN
COCKROACHES
SURVIVED.



SUPPOSE
WE WERE
WRONG
ABOUT
OTHER
THINGS?

SUPPOSE MUTANTS
AREN'T THE CULMINATION
OF THE EVOLUTIONARY
PROCESS, THE CREST OF
A COMING NORM...

...BUT SOME
ABERRATION?

HOW
THEN WILL
NATURE
DEAL WITH
US?



IN THE
END, MY
LOVE, WE
ALL COME
OUT THE
SAME.

DO WE? I
WONDER.

TELL ME,
"WICKED",
WHAT DO YOU
THINK?



CRAP CRAP
CRAP!

HE SAW
ME! HOW DID
HE SEE ME, I
WAS SO
CAREFUL!



I AM
SO TOTALLY
BUSTED!



I'M A
TELEPATH,
CHILD.

RIGHT
NOW, YOU'RE
"HEARING" MY
PROJECTED
THOUGHTS.

POPULAR BELIEF, AND
RECENT EVENTS TO THE CONTRARY,
THERE'S REALLY VERY LITTLE
THAT HAPPENS AROUND ME THAT I
DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

I AM...

I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.

WHERE
ARE THE
X-MEN?



LIVING THEIR
OWN LIVES, I
SUPPOSE...I'M HERE
QUITE ALONE.



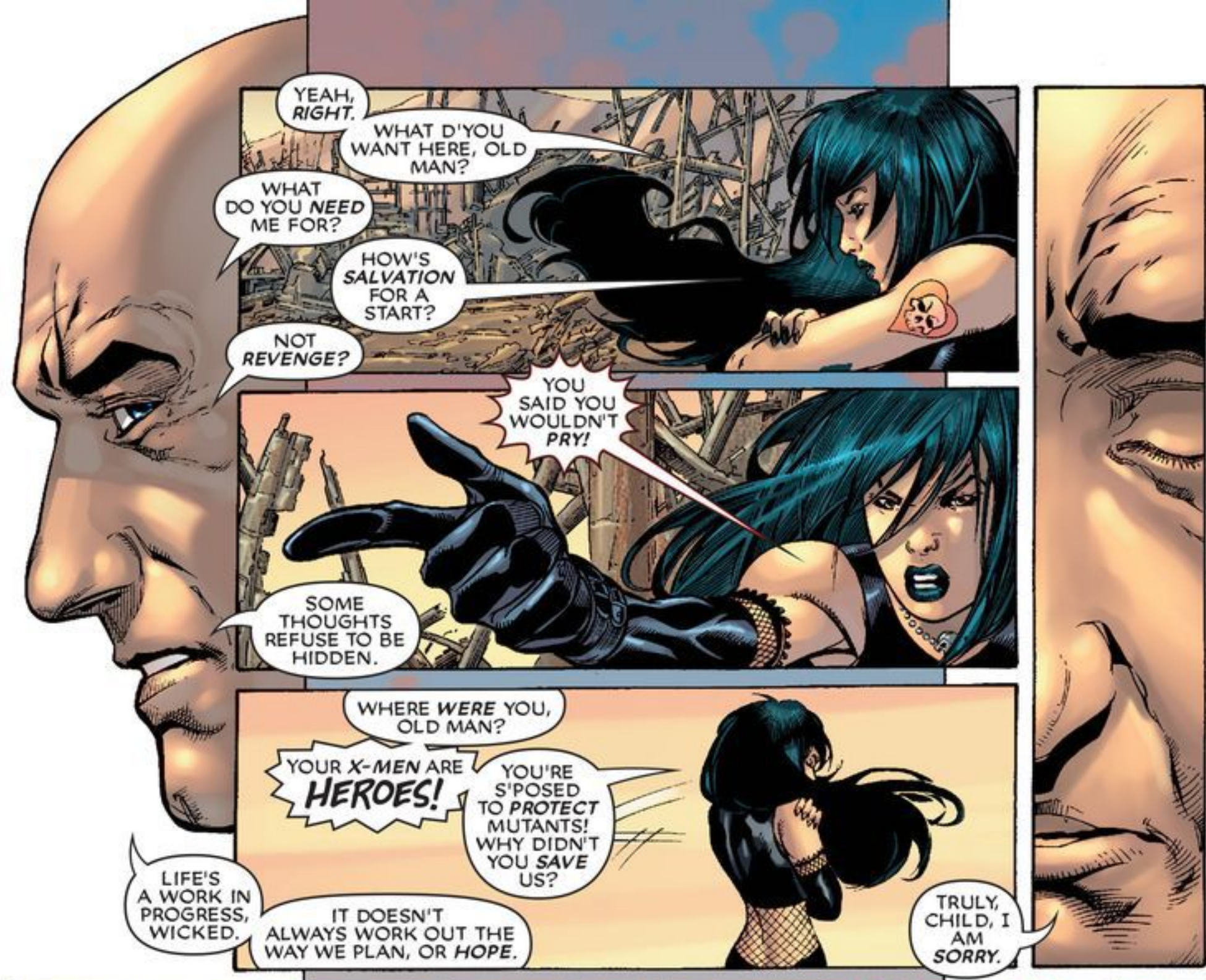
WHAT MADE
YOU CHOOSE A
NAME FOR
YOURSELF LIKE
"WICKED"?

IF
YOU'RE SO
POWERFUL,
YOU HAVE TO
ASK?



I PREFER
TO RESPECT
THE PRIVACY OF
OTHERS.

HAVING POWERS
MEANS ASSUMING
THE OBLIGATION
TO USE THEM
RESPONSIBLY.



YOU DON'T WANT TO BE OUTSIDE AFTER DARK.

AN' YOU'LL SURE NEVER GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT 'EM!

DON'T WORRY, THEY WON'T HURT YOU.

I KNOW, YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE.

WHAT'S THAT S'POSED T' MEAN?!

MERELY THAT YOU POSSESS, ALONG WITH COURAGE AND STYLE, A SENSE OF HONOR.

YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO WOULD ATTACK A LONE STRANGER...

...ESPECIALLY ONE WHO COMES IN PEACE.

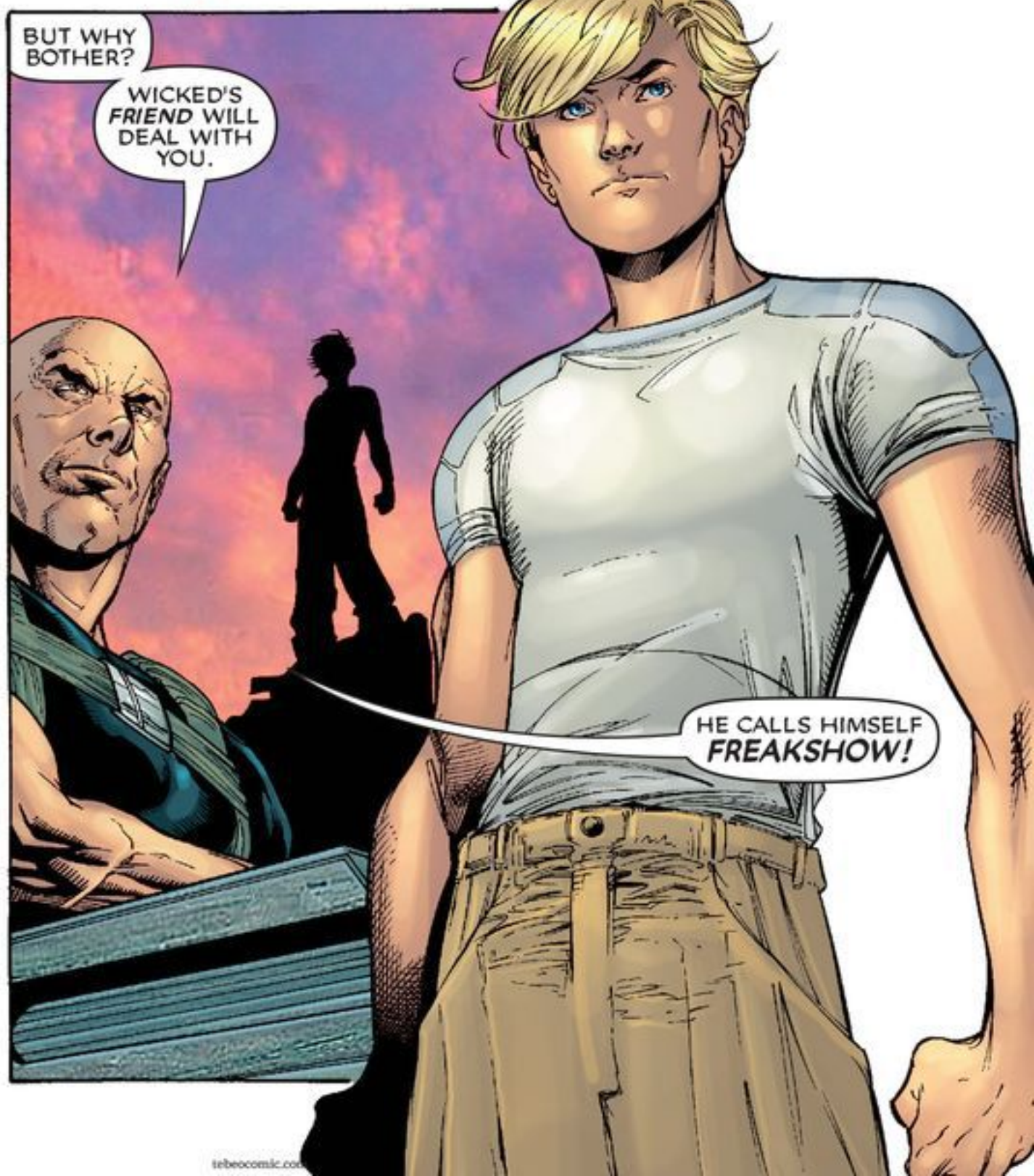
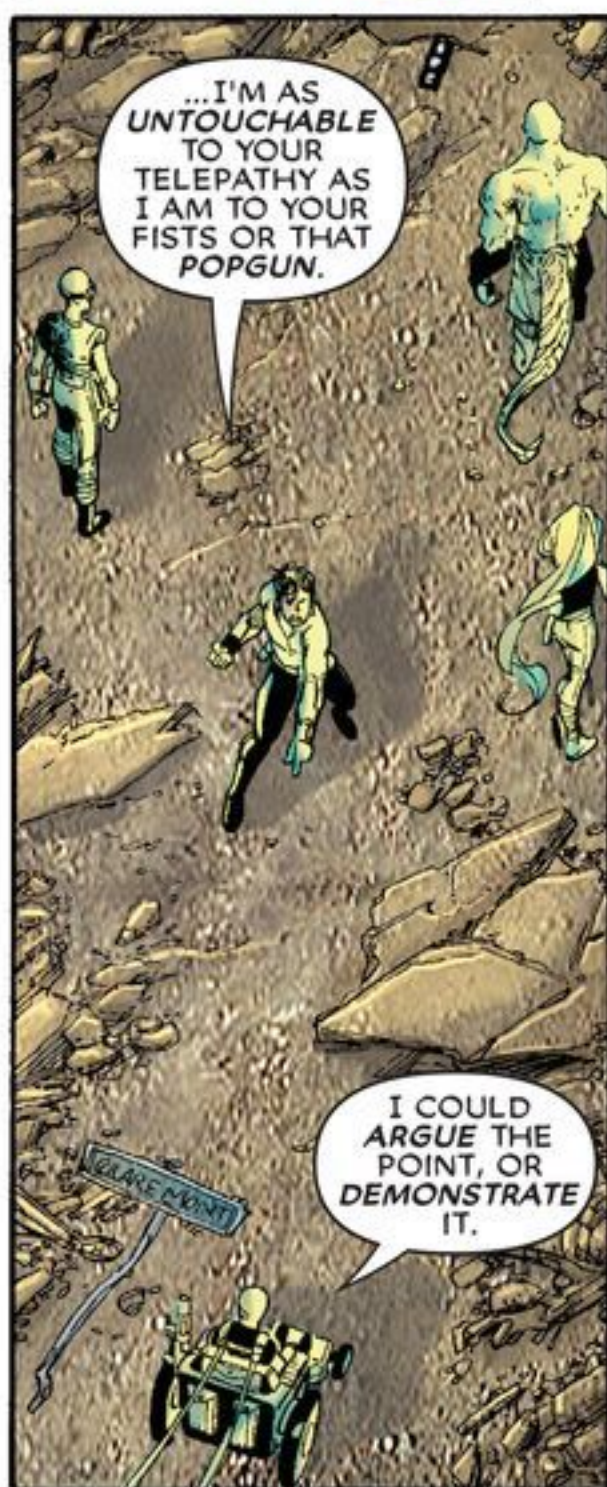
UNLIKE SOME I MIGHT NAME.

GOT THAT STRAIGHT, BALDY!

RIP HIM UP, BOYS.

LEAVE HIM NAKED AS THE DAY HE WAS BORN!









UTTERLY
HARD-
CORE!

ACTUALLY,
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.



I'M
REALLY
SORRY.

I COULDN'T
THINK OF
WHAT ELSE
TO DO.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



UNUS'S NAME
DESCRIBES HIS
POWER QUITE
COMPLETELY. HE
IS PROTECTED
BY A PERSONAL
FORCE FIELD.

THIS EXPERIENCE
MAY PROVE SOMEWHAT...
DISQUIETING ...



...BUT HE'LL
EMERGE
PHYSICALLY
UNHARMED.

AND SINCE HE
POSSESSES RELATIVELY
NORMAL PHYSICAL
STRENGTH, ALL HE CAN
DO IN RETURN...

...IS
CAUSE
A BIT OF
A TUMMY
ACHE.



I JUST WISH HE'D
STOP WIGGLING!

I'LL
HELP YOU
COPE WITH
THAT.

BUT
I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL BE
STUCK AT THIS
SIZE FOR THE
DURATION.



PIECE OF
TOE-CHEESE
HAD IT
COMING.

WELL, ONE
CAN ALWAYS
HOPE HE'LL
PROFIT FROM THE
EXPERIENCE.



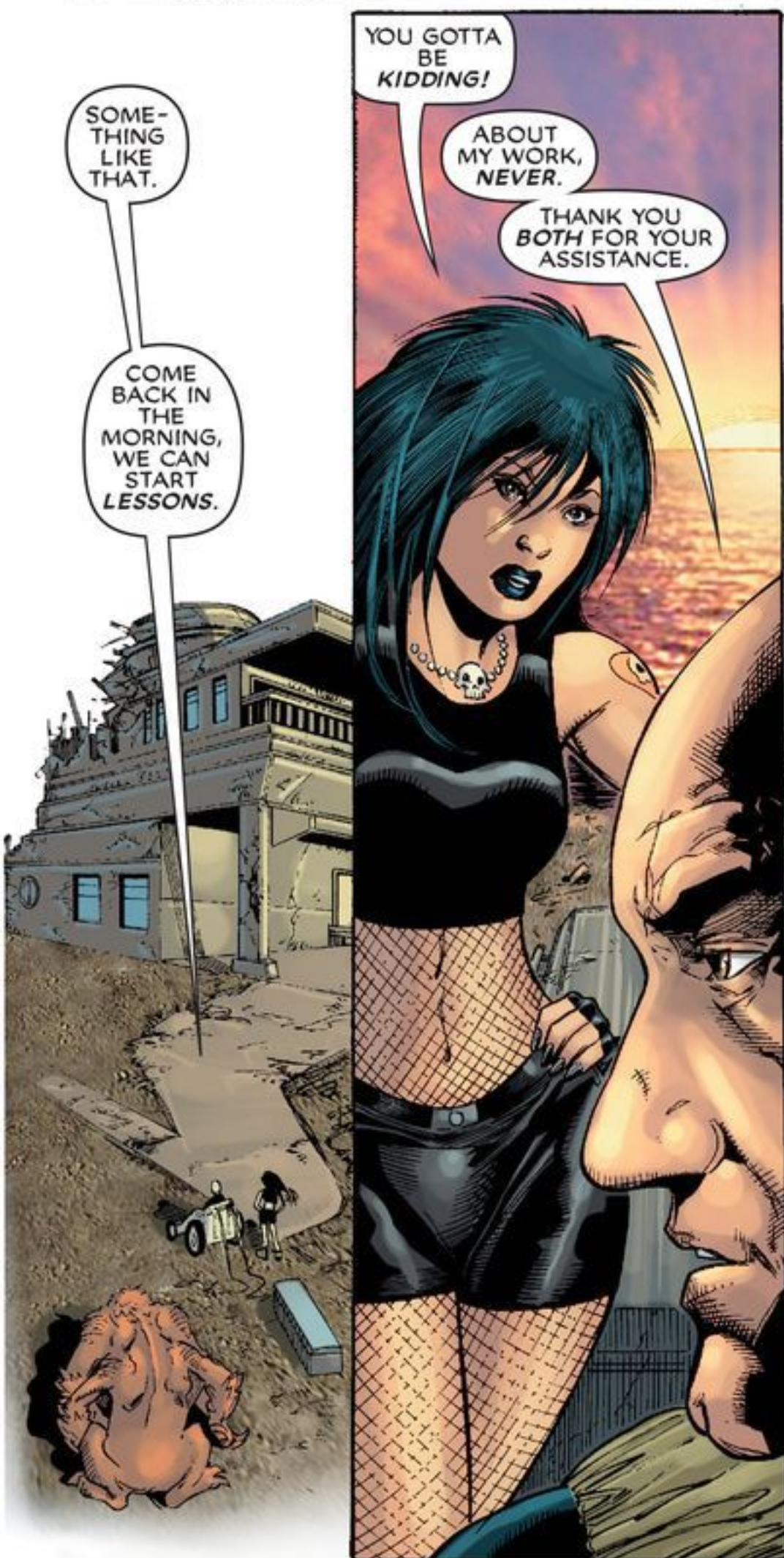
BUT
KNOWING
UNUS, I
DOUBT IT.



WHY ARE YOU HERE, PROFESSOR?

I'M A TEACHER, FREAKSHOW.

YEAH, RIGHT. AND WHAT, THE X-MEN WERE YOUR OUTREACH PROGRAM?



SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

COME BACK IN THE MORNING, WE CAN START LESSONS.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

ABOUT MY WORK, NEVER.

THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.



YOU'VE MADE THIS DAY MUCH... EASIER.

USED TELEPATHY, DID YOU, TO GET YOUR OWN WAY?

THEY'RE BOTH EXHAUSTED. I MERELY MADE THE THOUGHT OF BED...

...IRRESISTIBLE.

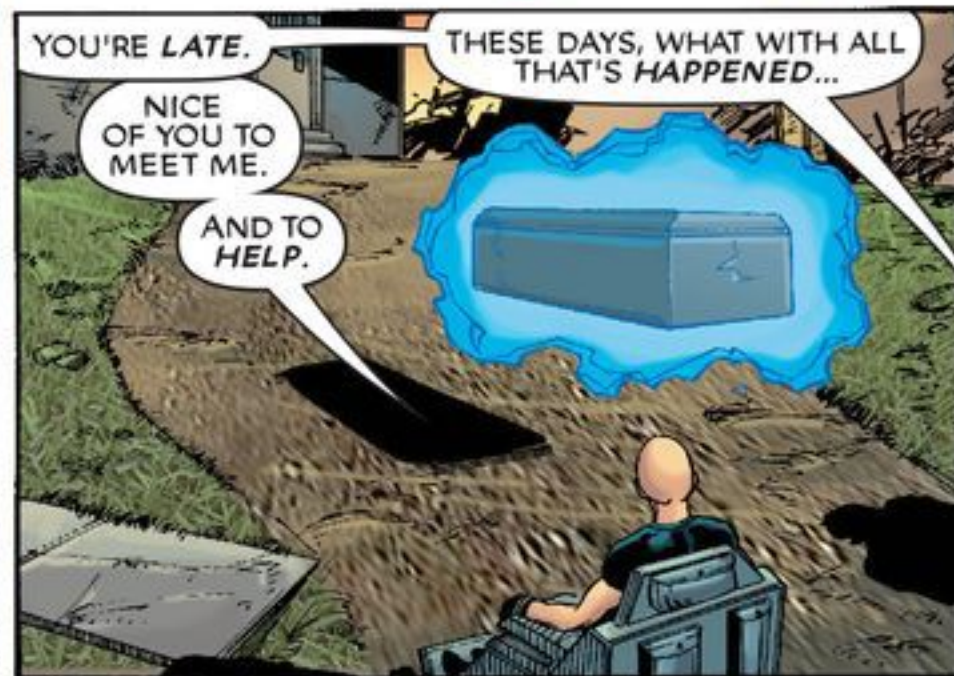


YOU'RE LATE.

NICE OF YOU TO MEET ME.

AND TO HELP.

THESE DAYS, WHAT WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED...





Next:
With
a
Little
Help
from
my

FRIENDS!

SWORD STROKES



EXCALIBUR #2

X-MEN RELOAD BEGINS!

UNCANNY X-MEN #444: Chris Claremont and Alan Davis return to the book that started it all!

EXILES #46: Debuting the new team of Tony Bedard and Mizuki Sakakibara!

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE: X-MEN 2004: The comprehensive guide to X-Men: ReLoad. Because you demanded it!

ALPHA FLIGHT #3: Hijinx ensue! By Scott Lobdell and Clayton Henry.

DISTRICT X #1: All-new Marvel Knights X-Series starring Bishop!

MYSTIQUE #14: Sean McKeever! Manuel Garcia! ReLoad Madness!

WEAPON X #23: The ReLoad debut of new series artist, Tom Mandrake!

EMMA FROST #11: Emma's trapped by the mob! Who will save her?

X-MEN #157: Chuck Austen and Salvador Larroca ReLoad X-Men!

NEW X-MEN: ACADEMY X #1: It ain't easy being a mutant, and it's harder training to be an X-Man!

EXCALIBUR #1: New Professor X ongoing by Chris Claremont and Aaron Lopresti!

EXILES #47: The Exiles vs. the Fantastic Four in the Marvel U!

ASTONISHING X-MEN #1: A new era begins! By Joss Whedon (TV's *Buffy*) and superstar John Cassaday!

MYSTIQUE #15: Mystique vs. a killer mutant duo!

WEAPON X #24: Part 2 of an action-packed ReLoad adventure!

STEPHANIE MOORE
CORY SEDLMEIER
ASSISTANT EDITORS

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NEXT ISSUE:

**GUESS WHO'S
JOINING
PROFESSOR X
AND MAGNETO
ON GENOSHA?**

MARVEL

2

CLAREMONT

LOPRESTI

ADAMS

EXCALIBUR

TM



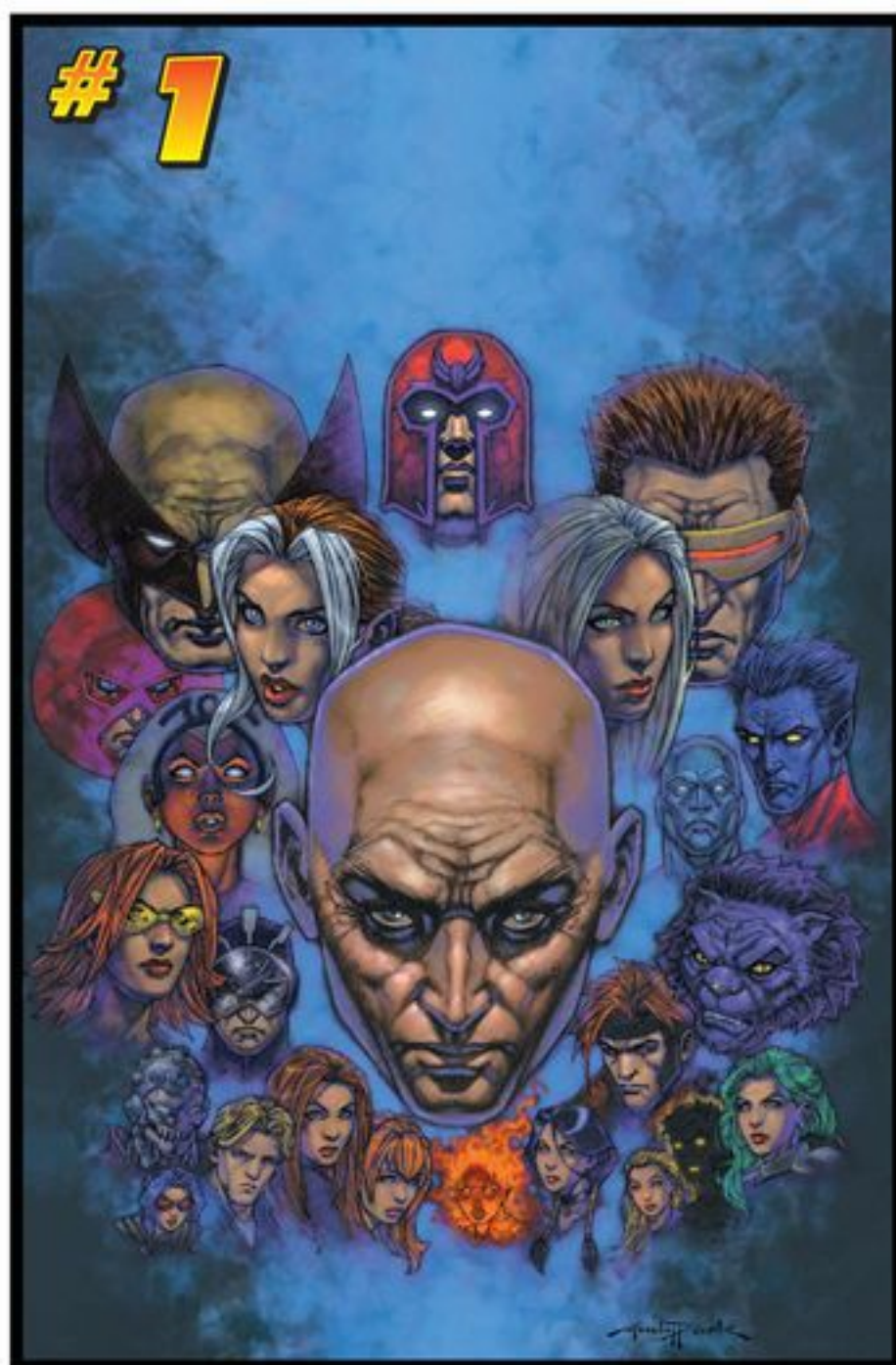
Andy Park

HE'S BACK!

EXCALIBUR

"FORGING THE SWORD"

PREVIOUSLY



PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, founder of the mutant super hero team known as the **X-MEN**, has left the X-Men and his New York home for the island nation of **GENOSHA** following the death of his onetime friend and frequent enemy, **MAGNETO**. Once a prosperous, technologically advanced country populated almost entirely by mutants, Genosha was recently decimated—along with all 16 million mutants who called it home. Its destroyer was none other than **Cassandra Nova**—Xavier's twin sister. Now, it is nothing but rubble and a few refugees who hide among its ruins.

Xavier finds that not everybody on Genosha is happy he's there—for instance, **UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE** and his gang, who threaten him. But to his defense come two young mutants—**WICKED** and **FREAKSHOW**. Xavier learns he has both friends and enemies on Genosha.

When Xavier reaches his dwelling, he is greeted by his new housemate, a man the entire world believes to be dead...

HAMMER BAY,
GENOSHA.

A FEW SHORT YEARS
AGO, HAMMER BAY WAS
RATED ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL AND LIVABLE
CITIES ON EARTH.



IT'S YOUR
MOVE,
CHARLES.

TO WALK ITS STREETS WAS TO
BE TRANSPORTED HEADLONG
INTO THE FUTURE.

I SUPPOSE, IN THAT
SENSE, NOTHING
HAS CHANGED.

MERELY THE
KIND OF FUTURE
IT REPRESENTS.

I GOTTA STOP,
WICKED.

WHASSAMATTA,
FREAKSHOW,
SOMETHING YOU
ATE?

DON'T
MAKE
FUN, IT
HURTS!

IT'LL
PASS.

THIS IS
YOUR LAST
WARNING!

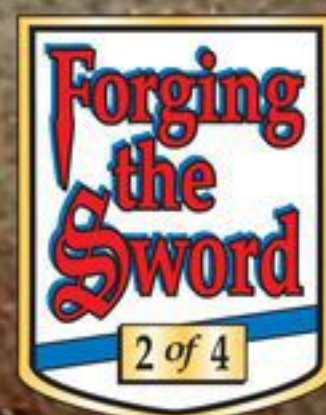
RETURN TO
SHORE, OR WE
WILL OPEN
FIRE!

WE JUST
WANT TO
CATCH SOME
FOOD!

OUR
PEOPLE ARE
STARVING!

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT
AND AARON LOPRESTI



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QUEEN'S
ROOK PAWN TO
PAWN FOUR.



THAT'S...
UNCONVENTIONAL,
CHARLES.

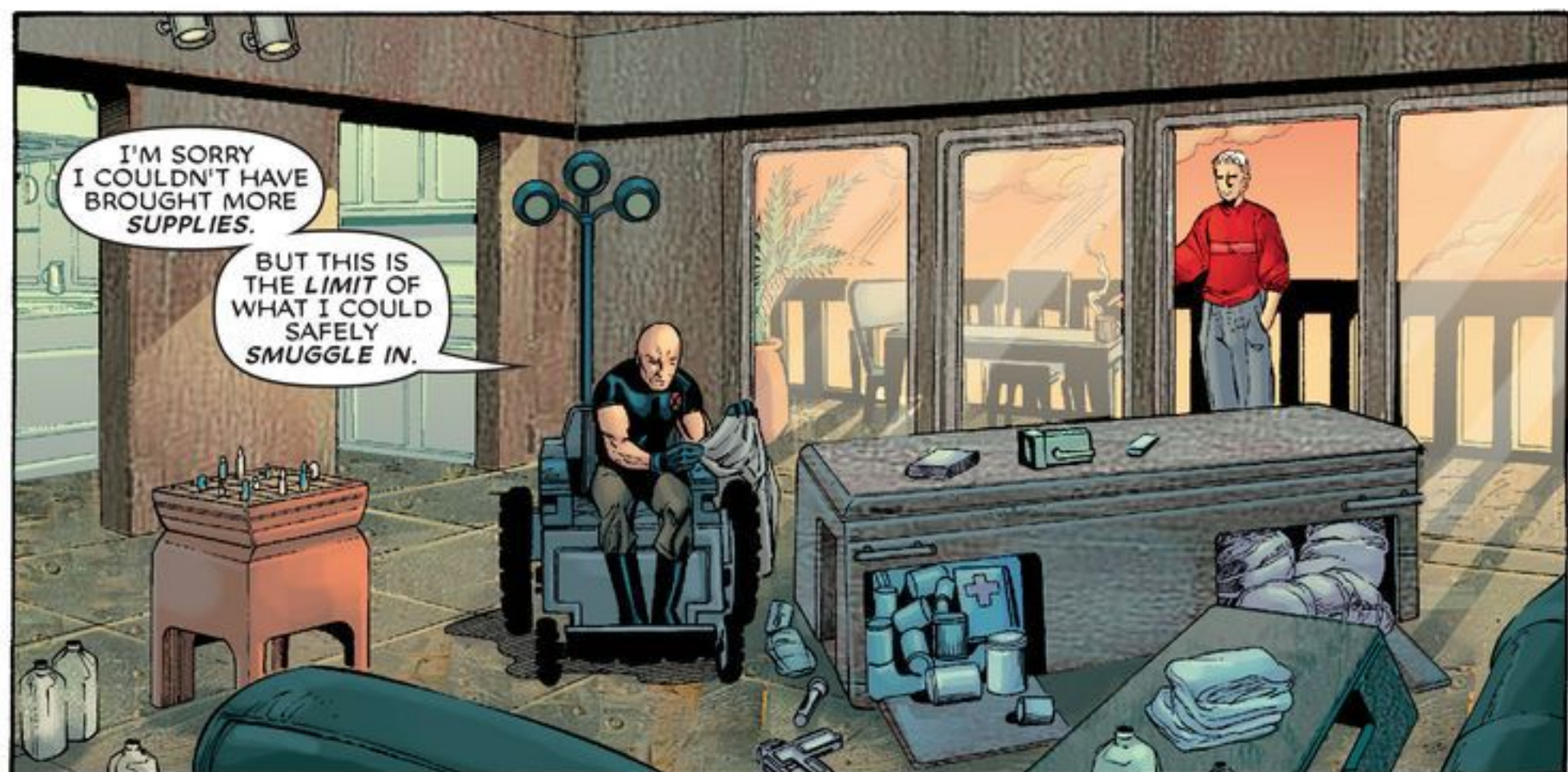
OR
DO YOU
JUST NOT
CARE?



YOU KNOW
ME BETTER
THAN THAT,
ERIK.

I ALWAYS
PLAY TO
WIN.





I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T HAVE
BROUGHT MORE
SUPPLIES.

BUT THIS IS
THE *LIMIT* OF
WHAT I COULD
SAFELY
SMUGGLE IN.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
IMPRESSED BY YOUR
RESOURCEFULNESS.

I WASN'T
ALWAYS A
TEACHER.

WE BOTH
HAVE
SHADOWS
ON OUR
SOULS.



ANY
IDEA WHO
THIS IS IN
THE
COFFIN?

NOK!



WELL...
SUPPOSEDLY
YOU.



AH. WELL.
HOW...
CONVENIENT.



YOUR IMPOSTER TOLD ME
HIS SECONDARY MUTATION
WAS TO ALWAYS COME BACK
FROM THE *DEAD*.

HMPH.
PREVIOUSLY THE
HIGH-EXCLUSIVE
PROVINCE OF MS.
JEAN GREY.

WHOEVER
HE WAS,
HE KILLED JEAN.

JUST
FOR
SPITE.

I--I
DIDN'T
KNOW.



CHARLES,
I'M SO
SORRY.

SHE WASN'T
THE **ONLY**
CASUALTY.

THE LATEST
DEATH COUNT
IN NEW YORK IS
OVER 5,000.

SLAUGHTERED WHOLESALE,
SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY
WEREN'T MUTANTS, AS A
DEMONSTRATION OF WILL
AND OF **POWER**.



AND
THEY THINK
ME CAPABLE
OF SUCH A
THING?

DO
YOU THINK
ME CAPABLE
OF SUCH A
THING?



WELL, YOU DO
HAVE A CERTAIN...
REPUTATION.



**NOT FOR
THIS!**



**RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE**

NO--
NOT FOR
THIS.



ERIK--
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?



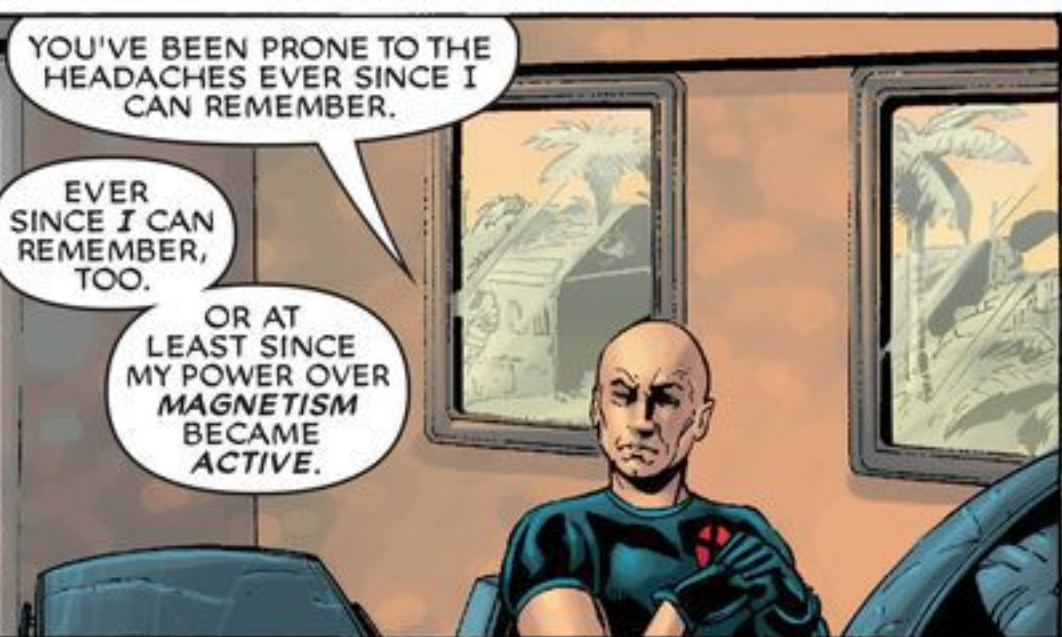
JUST... JUST A
HEADACHE.



NATURE'S
REMINDER TO
ME TO KEEP
MY TEMPER.



ALSO AN
EXCELLENT
INCENTIVE NOT
TO USE MY
POWERS.



YOU'VE BEEN PRONE TO THE
HEADACHES EVER SINCE I
CAN REMEMBER.

EVER
SINCE I CAN
REMEMBER,
TOO.

OR AT
LEAST SINCE
MY POWER OVER
MAGNETISM
BECAME
ACTIVE.



MOIRA MacTAGGART
AND I DISCUSSED
THAT OFTEN.

IT WAS
SOMETHING SHE
WORKED ON WHILE
YOU WERE IN HER
CARE. SHE HAD A
THEORY--

DON'T
GO THERE,
CHARLES.



I KNOW
YOU LOVED
THE
WOMAN...

...BUT MY MEMORIES OF THOSE
DAYS AND THE GOOD, LATE DOCTOR
ARE NOT FOND.



IT'S JUST, HOW CAN YOU WIELD THE ENERGIES YOU DO, ON THE SCALE YOU DO...

...WITHOUT AN EQUIVALENT COST TO THE BODY?



YOU'D THINK NATURE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SHE DESIGNED US.

UNLESS WE TRULY ARE AN EVOLUTIONARY WORK-IN-PROGRESS.



"HOMO SAPIENS NOT-QUITE SUPERIOR"?

THAT'S A BIT CRUEL, EVEN FOR HER.



IT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE SUDDEN PREVALENCE OF SO-CALLED "SECONDARY" MUTATIONS.



DON'T YOU THINK?

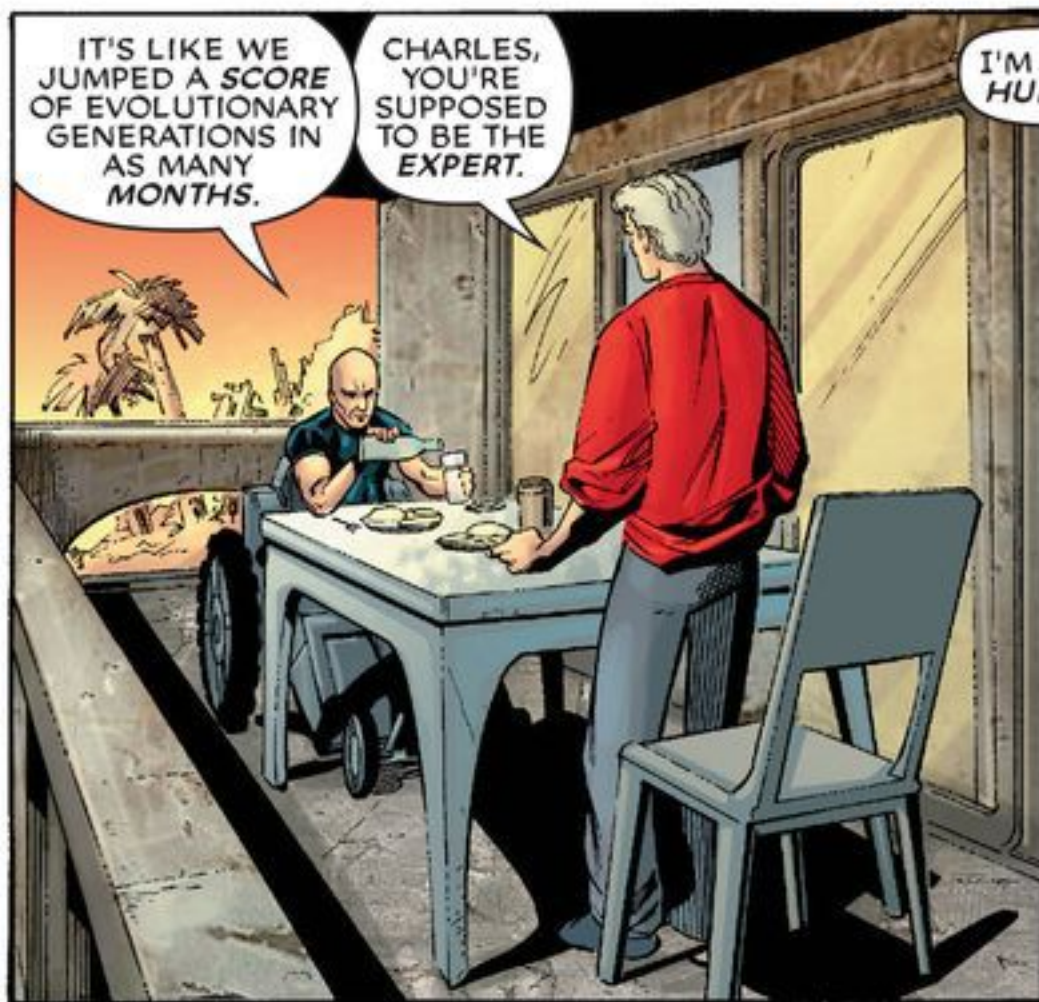


BUT IS THE MUTANT GENOME TRULY SO FLUID, CHARLES?



I DIDN'T THINK SO.

BUT THEN, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SO MANY MUTANTS WOULD MANIFEST SO QUICKLY.





THE GREAT
POWERS OF THE
WORLD KNEW THAT,
YET THEY DID
NOTHING.

BECAUSE
THEY NEEDED
THE GOODS AND
SERVICES AND
TECHNOLOGY
THAT GENOSHA
PROVIDED...

...AND
THEY WERE
AFRAID OF THE
CONSEQUENCES
OF ANY
CONFRONTATION
IF THOSE SLAVES
COULD BE RE-
CONFIGURED AS
WARRIORS.



I TOOK MY
REPUTATION AS A
MONSTER AND BLACK-
MAILED THE UNITED
NATIONS INTO GIVING
THIS BLIGHTED LAND
TO ME.

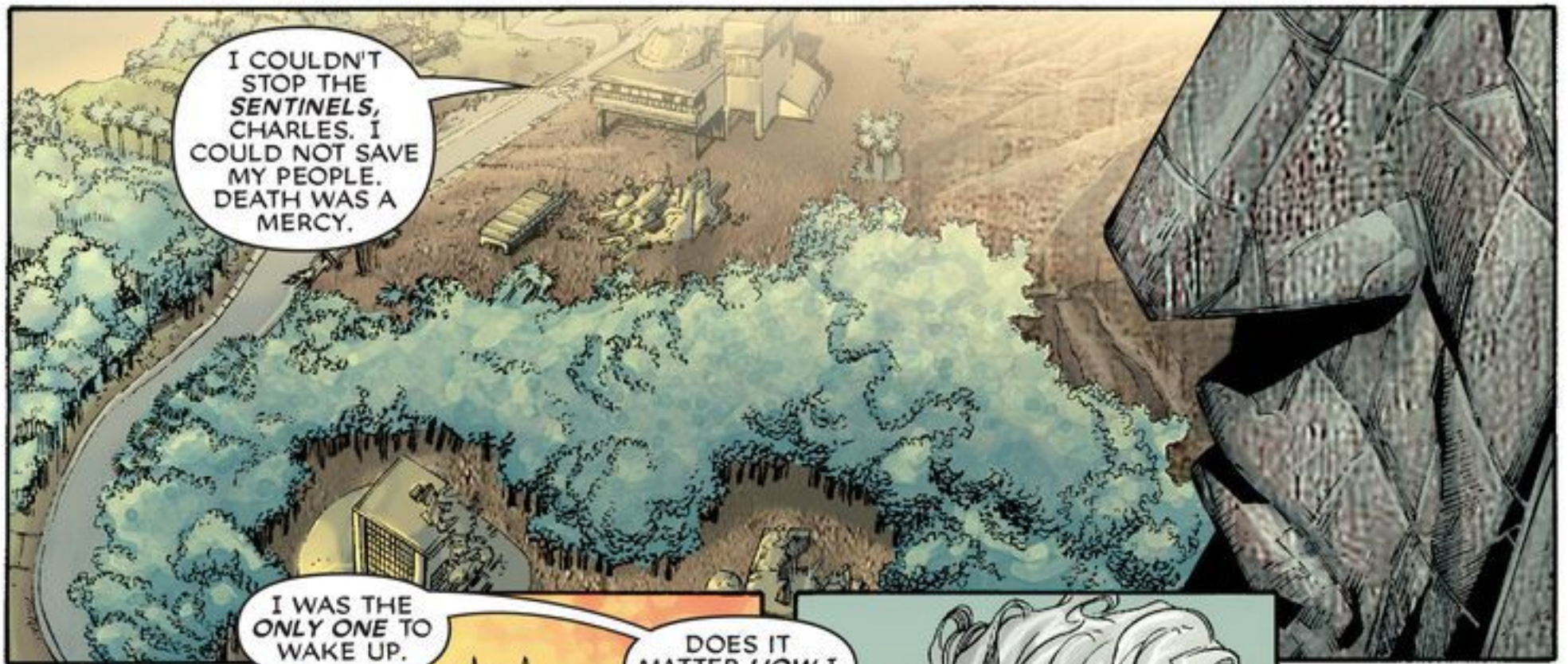


I HOPED
TO BUILD
SOMETHING
LASTING,
SOMETHING
OF VALUE.



I WANTED
TO MAKE MY
CHILDREN
PROUD.

THEN
A REAL
MONSTER
FELL
FROM THE
SKY AND
TURNED MY
DREAM TO
ASHES.



I COULDN'T STOP THE SENTINELS, CHARLES. I COULD NOT SAVE MY PEOPLE. DEATH WAS A MERCY.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO WAKE UP.

DOES IT MATTER HOW I SURVIVED?



THE PAST CANNOT BE CHANGED, MY FRIEND. ONLY THE PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE LIE WITHIN OUR HANDS.



MAKES ME WONDER, AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY, ABOUT WHAT'S WAITING IN THE WINGS.

HERE ON GENOSHA, OLD FRIEND, WE HAVE MORE PRESSING CONCERNS.



SUCH AS HOW TO SUSTAIN THE PRECIOUS FEW OF US TO HAVE SURVIVED.

WE NEED FOOD, WE NEED SHELTER, WE NEED MEDICAL SUPPLIES--OR AT LEAST A MUTANT WITH HEALING POWERS.

MOST OF ALL, WE NEED HOPE!



AND ONCE YOU GOT ALL THAT, SPORT, WHAT THEN?





CALLISTO?!

WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE, CHARLEY?

YOU AN' MAGNETO HAVE THIS LITTLE CAPER PLANNED FROM THE START OR ARE YOU JUST IMPROVISING?



WHY ARE YOU HERE, CALLISTO?

"OFFICIALLY", I'M RECRUITIN' FOR THE ARENA.

UNOFFICIALLY, STORM ASKED ME TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

NOT JUST TO YOU AN' TO THIS SORRY PIECE O' WORK BUT TO THE X-MEN, AS WELL? YOUR STUDENTS?

YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE THE BRAINS, CHARLEY!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT THIS THROUGH?

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THEY FIND YOU TWO TOGETHER?

WE ALL HAVE REGRETS IN OUR LIVES, MY DEAR.

WE EACH IN OUR OWN WAY SEEK TO BALANCE THOSE SCALES.



LIKE I BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.

I'M NOT FIGHTING YOU, CALLISTO.



LIKE YOU'D HAVE A PRAYER.

THESE ARE CERAMIC BLADES.



CALLISTO HAS A CONSIDERABLE NATURAL RESISTANCE TO TELEPATHY, ENHANCED BY MY OWN TRAINING.

BLESS MY SOUL!

I CAN'T USE MY MENTAL POWERS TO STOP HER.

FORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE TO.



THIS IS WICKED'S DOING.

WE MET EARLIER TODAY, A YOUNG GIRL WHO CAN MANIFEST THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD AND DRAW STRENGTH FROM THEM.



AND CONSIDERING HOW MANY DIED ON GENOSHA, THAT'S A PHENOMENAL RESERVOIR OF POWER.

HOWEVER, CALLISTO'S MARTIAL ABILITIES ARE UNSURPASSED.



WHILE SHE CAN (RARELY) BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE...



...ACTUALLY
DEFEATING HER IS
ANOTHER MATTER
ALTOGETHER.

CALLISTO'S
A BORN
WARRIOR.

THE KEY TO HER MUTANT
POWER IS THE ABILITY
TO IMMEDIATELY INTUIT
THE SOLUTION TO ANY
TACTICAL PROBLEM.



WHATEVER THE
ODDS, SHE'LL FIND
A WAY TO WIN.









THIS IS UNUS, WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE UNTOUCHABLE.

HE POSSESSES A NATURAL FORCE FIELD THAT PROTECTS HIM FROM ANY HARM.

BUT HE'S JUST DISCOVERED THAT'S NOT ALWAYS AS GREAT AN ASSET AS IT SOUNDS.

THAT THIS... UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WAS ENTIRELY HIS OWN FAULT, OF COURSE, DOESN'T ENTER INTO IT AT ALL.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, KID!



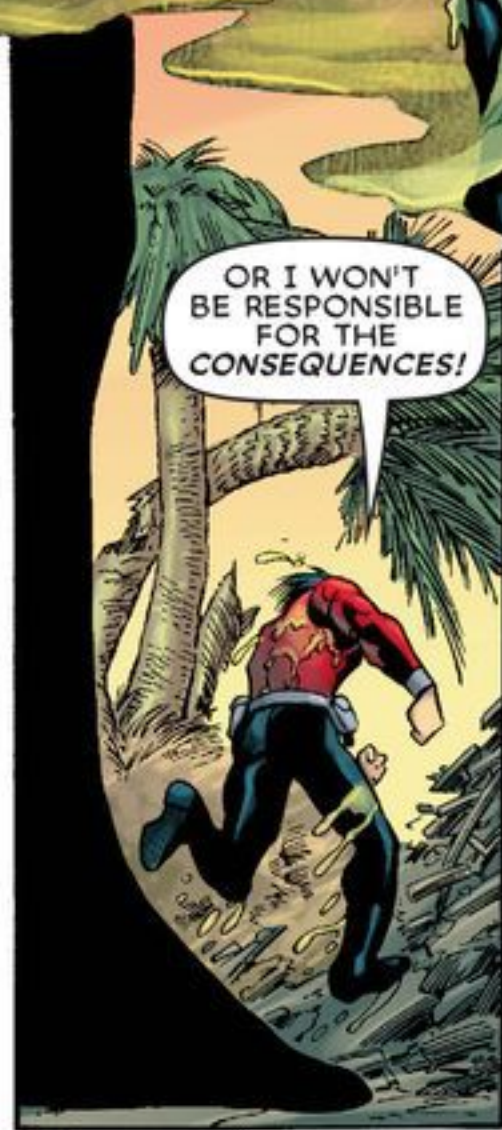
I'M REALLY SORRY, MR. UNUSCIONE.

BUT EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST--!



DON'T YOU COME NEAR ME, FREAKSHOW!

XAVIER-- KEEP YOUR PET FREAK ON A LEASH!



OR I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES!



THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING, UNUS.





ONCE MORE, THAT
FLUID MUTANT
GENOME.

CERTAINLY
MAKES YOU
WONDER.



WICKED,
THAT'S---THAT'S
MAGNETO!

THEY
SAID HE WAS
DEAD!

AS FAR
AS I'M
CONCERNED,
HE *SHOULD*
BE!



AND
WHY IS
THAT,
CHILD?

LOOK
AROUND
YOU!
HAVEN'T
YOU GOT
EYES TO
SEE?!

THIS
WAS YOUR
COUNTRY! WE
WERE YOUR
PEOPLE! HOW
COULD YOU
LET US BE
DESTROYED?!



FOR WHAT IT'S
WORTH, WICKED,
YOU HAVE MY
WORD---

--I
WON'T LET
IT HAPPEN
AGAIN.



A GOOD
BEGINNING,
MY OLD
FRIEND.

BUT WHAT IS
MORE IMPORTANT IS
THAT, TOGETHER...

...WE CAN
TRY TO BUILD
SOMETHING
BETTER.



HIT ME!

WHAT'RE YOU ALL-- DEAF?!

OR JUST PLAIN GUTLESS?!



HIT ME!

THOOM!

IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?!

C'MON, WHO'S NEXT?!

TRAKK!



YEAH, oh YEAH!

WHO'S UNTOUCHABLE?!

WHO'S DA MAN?!

BEFORE I'M DONE, THE KID IS DEAD!

BALDY XAVIER IS DEAD!

GENOSHA IS MINE!



SWORD STROKES



EXCALIBUR #3 **"FORGING THE SWORD" Part 3 of 4**

STEPHANIE MOORE
CORY SEDLMEIER
ASSISTANT EDITORS

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
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MARVEL

3

CLAREMONT

LOPRESTI

ADAMS

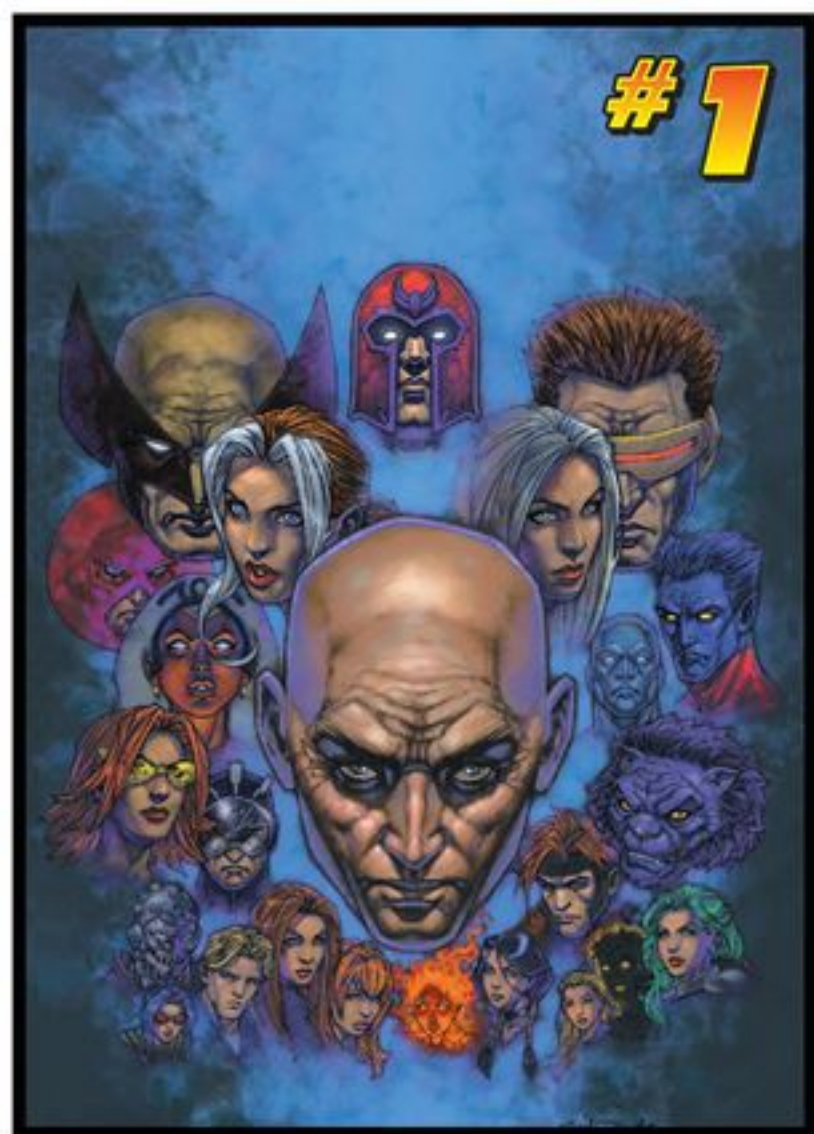
EXCALIBUR™



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EXCALIBUR

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Back in the hideout of Unus and his gang, a young mutant named HUB has infiltrated their group...for reasons not yet clear. She is contacted by a comrade, HACK, who tells her that Genosha has become the target of an OMEGA SENTINEL...a cybernetically-enhanced human that is programmed to annihilate all mutants!

GENOSHA.

ONCE UPON A TIME, HAMMER BAY WAS CONSIDERED AMONG THE LOVELIEST CITIES IN THE WORLD.

IT CONSIDERED ITSELF THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT WAS CUTTING EDGE AND NEW.

ITS CITIZENS LIKED TO BOAST THEY WERE TOO BUSY BUILDING THE FUTURE TO CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH THE PAST.

HERE WAS A LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY.



AND THEN...

...WITHOUT ANY WARNING AT ALL...

...WITHOUT ANY MERCY...

...BUT I THOUGHT I'D LEFT THOSE DAYS BEHIND.

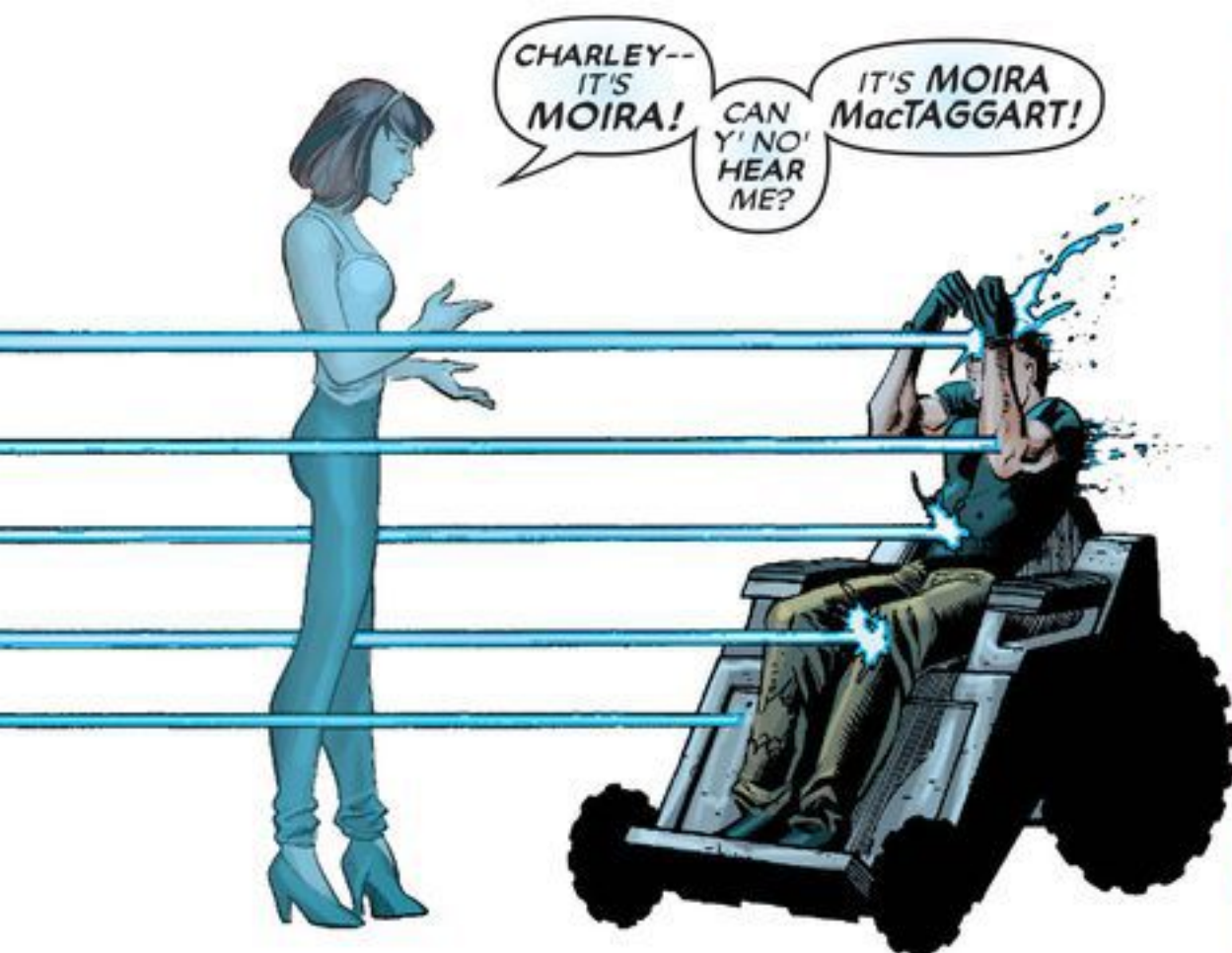


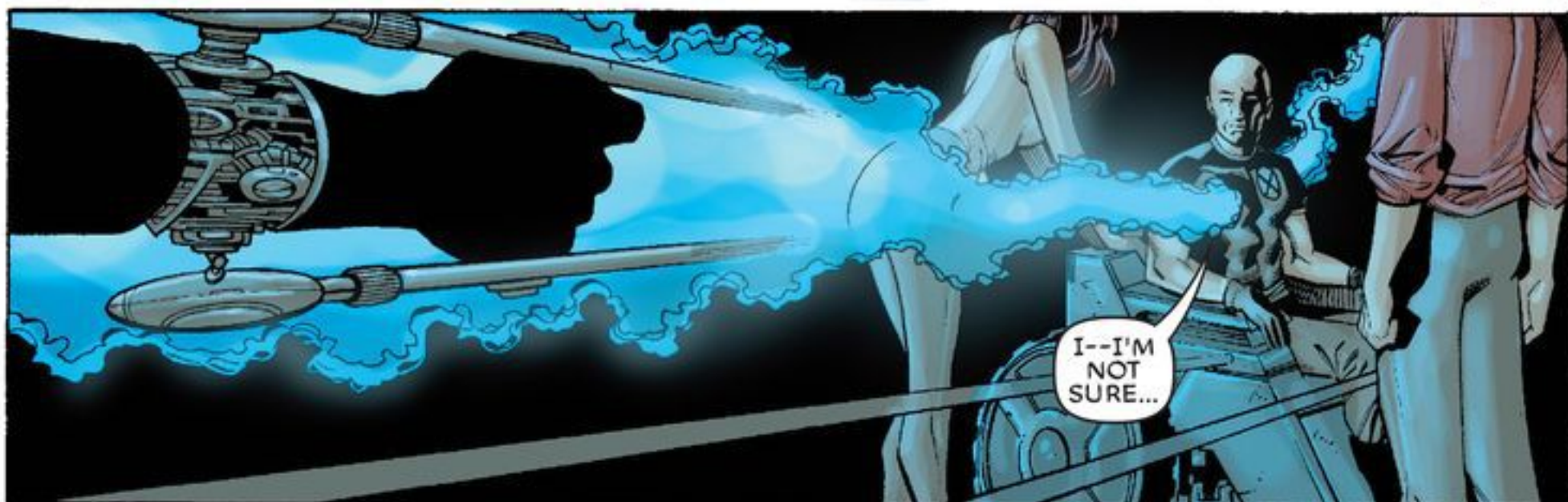
...IT WAS
ALL TAKEN
AWAY!

WILD THINGS

Stan Lee
Presents
EXCALIBUR
**Forging
the
Sword**
3 of 4









LATER...

I MUST HAVE INADVERTENTLY SYNCED WITH ANOTHER TELEPATH...

...THE SENTINEL'S IMAGE CAME FROM THAT MIND.



IT WAS SO PRIMAL, SO POWERFUL, SO...OVERWHELMING...

...MY OWN MIND MADE IT REAL.



I COULDN'T FIGHT BACK, I COULDN'T ESCAPE. THE AGONY WOULDN'T END.



I WAS PROMETHEUS ON THE ROCK, BEING FOREVER TORN TO PIECES BY ZEUS'S EAGLES AND REBORN, TO DIE AGAIN AND AGAIN...



...AND AGAIN.



AN ACCIDENT, DO YOU THINK, OR A DELIBERATE ATTACK?

EITHER WAY, WE GOTTA FIGURE IT'S SOMEBODY WITH MAJOR POWER.

YES, ONE WOULD THINK SO, CALLISTO.

CAN YOU LOCK IN ON IT, CHARLES?



WHOEVER, WHEREVER, THEY'RE GONE.



ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A PALPABLE SENSE OF DREAD.

I THINK THIS VISITATION REPRESENTS A VERY REAL AND IMMINENT THREAT.



HACK--
YOU HORRIBLE
LITTLE
TOERAG--
--WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!



ZZ
ZAMP!



OUTBOUND
FROM MUMBAI...

YO, HACK,
YOU SURE THIS IS
AN AIRPLANE?

ANTONOV-225
MYRIA, BIGGEST
CARGO-CARRIER IN
THE WORLD.

SHE'S
RUSSIAN,
LEASED FROM
AEROFLOT.

PICKED
THAT FROM
THE PILOTS'
BRAINS,
DIDJA?

THAT, BUT
NOT MUCH
MORE.

THEY'VE
DEALT WITH
TELEPATHS.
THE PLANE'S
FULL OF PSI-
SHIELDS.

SO LESSEE
WHAT THEY
GOT THAT'S SO
IMPORTANT.

CAN
YOU "HACK"
THEIR
HEADS?

NOT TOO
WELL, THEY'RE
BOTH IN DEEP
STASIS.

THE GUY'S
NAME IS
SHOLA.

OUTSTANDING

HE'S
GENOSHAN--
AND A
COMBAT
TELEKINE!

WHAT
ABOUT THE
BABE?

KARIMA
SHAPANDAR.

INDIAN
NATIONAL
POLICE.

OMEGA
SENTINEL.











I WARNED YOU.
NEVER TRY TO FIGHT A TELEPATH.

THEIR SHIELDS. I WANTED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR MINDS...

...BUT I FRIED THEM INSTEAD!



HACK, YOU INCREDIBLE FLATSCAN--



--THIS IS REALLY NOT HELPING!



ZAM



WHAT?!

BOOM



I DON'T
WANNA DIE I
DON'T WANNA
DIE I DON'T
WANNA DIE



STOP
CRYING, YOU
NINNY, YOU'RE
POSITIVELY MILES
ABOVE THE
GROUND!

SPREAD
YOUR ARMS AND
LEGS, START SKY-
DIVING, YOU'LL
LOVE IT.

I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK!



AUGH!



SHAME
ABOUT THE
FIGHT.

I WAS
JUST GETTIN'
STARTED!

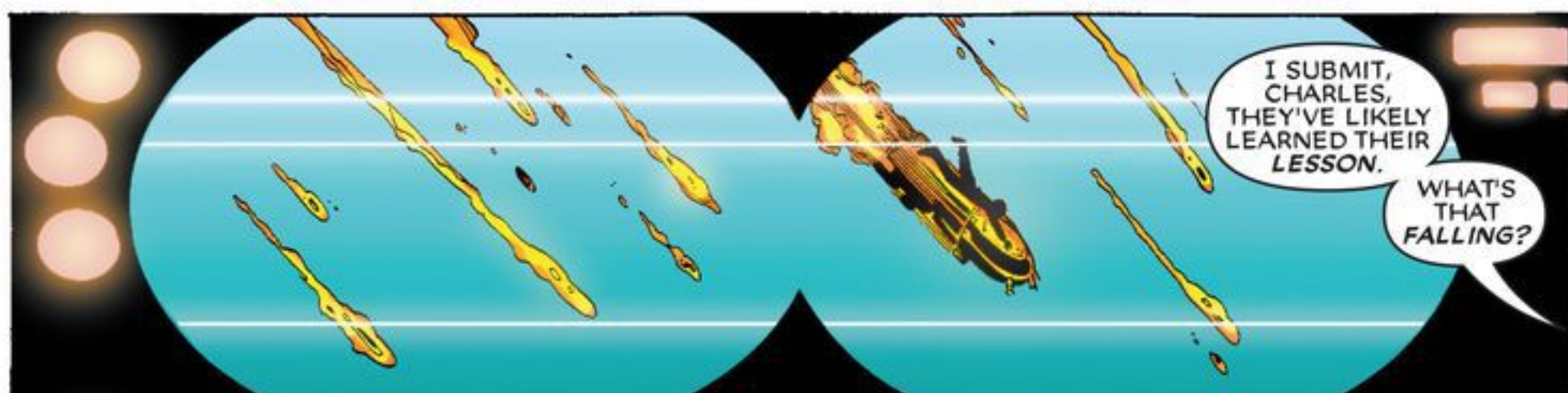


RIGHT
NOW, WE
HAVE OTHER
PRIORITIES.



I CAN'T
'PORT HIM
OUT, YOU'LL
HAVE TO
CRACK THE
CASING.







CALLISTO, I NEED MODULE 7.

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE--!



THIS--?!

PERFECT.



POSITIVELY PAVLOVIAN,
YOUR RESPONSE TO
CERTAIN *STIMULI*.

SUCH
PREDICTABILITY
WILL BE
THE *DEATH* OF
YOU.



A CROSS I'LL
GLADLY BEAR,
OLD FRIEND.

CALLISTO,
THERE'S A
*BODY-
HARNESS* AS
WELL.



THIS
IS CUTE.

THE
SHACKLES
ATTACH TO
HARD-POINTS
ON MY OWN
RIG.

IF
YOU DON'T
MIND
CARRYING
ME--?



ERIC--?

IS THAT AN
INVITATION,
CHARLES, OR A
COMMAND?

I CAN'T
DO THIS
ALONE.

THEN THERE'S
HOPE FOR
YOU YET.

I'LL
MAKE MY
OWN
WAY.



RACE
YA!





WHAT'S THIS?

AIRPAKS.

ESSENTIALLY, ARTIFICIAL GILLS. AS FAR AS BREATHING IS CONCERNED, WE CAN STAY SUBMERGED INDEFINITELY.

WHY THE URGENCY?

THE MAN WE SAW IS DEAD. I FELT THAT HAPPEN ON IMPACT.

BUT I'M SENSING A WOMAN IN THAT CANISTER.



HER THOUGHTS ARE FRAGMENTED AND CHAOTIC...

...BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY ALIVE!



DR. PAVLOV, I REST MY CASE.

YOU'RE NOT COMING, CALLISTO?

I THINK I'M NEEDED MORE UP HERE.



I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE TRUSTS YOU, MAGS. HEAVEN KNOWS WHY.

DON'T MAKE EITHER OF US REGRET THAT.



EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, CALLISTO, HE REMAINS MY FRIEND.





NEXT:
**Hard
RAIN!**

SWORD STROKES

Dear Sword Strokes:

Let me start by saying that I'm really excited to see EXCALIBUR back on the shelves once more. Seeing Chris Claremont writing this title again reminds me of way back when I first started reading comics, and reminds me why I still do. Aaron Lopresti's art is well suited to the air of this book. He does a great job of visually depicting the war torn landscapes of Genosha.

Seeing the "ghost" of Moira MacTaggart was a bit of a shock and, interestingly enough, leaves one to wonder about the state of Professor X's sanity. Plus, I'm glad to see that some of the locals aren't very happy to see the Prof either. As far as Wicked and Freakshow...it's really just too early to tell whether or not I'm going to like these characters at all.

However....

I can honestly say I'm soooooo severely annoyed by the ending! I realize that one does want an eye popper for an ending. Something unexpected...but C'MON, PEOPLE! Chris, what are you doing?! Magneto is alive?!

HE WAS DECAPITATED! In front of all of New York, his head was quite clearly severed from the rest of his body. And I don't care how many magnetic fields he can create...he's dead. Please let him stay that way!

Dale J Yadow
New Hartford, New York

Dale, allow us to direct your attention to a favorite Sherlock Holmes quotation of ours: "When you have ruled out the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how unlikely, must be the truth." Well, it's impossible that a guy who was decapitated could be alive. Therefore...

Well, by now you've read #2, so you now know that the man who was decapitated in New York was not the real Magneto, but an imposter.

Dear Sword Strokes,

All in all, I found the debut issue of this exciting new series quite entertaining. Chris Claremont managed to establish the setting—the ruins of Genosha—and the character of Professor Xavier quite well, but there's still precious little to indicate in what overall direction this series will be heading.

The unusual thing is that we're starting out with just one character, Professor X, rather than a full team of characters, and from there we get to watch as the cast grows with the progressing storyline. That truly is the markings of a fresh start—not just for Professor Xavier, but for the readers as well. There's something about this book that gives me a feeling of being in on the ground floor of something potentially huge. Whatever Claremont has in store, I'm in for the ride.

Naturally, the high point of the issue was seeing (the one, true?) Magneto alive and well at the end of the issue. This development sure managed to stay a well-kept secret until it was sprung on us, and I, for one, am jumping with excitement for the next issue. I can hardly wait to find out how this is possible.

Another thing that intrigued me was Xavier's speculation that something—or someone?—provoked the surge in mutants' percentage of the human population. I am also excited to see where this might go.

Last, but not least, some praise for the artwork. Aaron Lopresti shows a lot of promise and is a good choice as the artist of this series. Please keep him on it for as long as possible.

Michael C.T. Andersen
Denmark

Michael, you're certainly right to think you're in on something huge here...we can't go into too much detail, but suffice it to say EXCALIBUR is going to be ground zero for some major happenings in the X-universe in upcoming issues, so don't go anywhere.

Dear Sword Strokes,

I'm reeling over EXCALIBUR #1!

I always imagined a title that would solely focus on Professor X...the character has developed such an immense depth over the years that it was inevitable fans would eventually see him spin off into his own series, but Marvel has outdone itself with the spectacular final page! Was Magneto's death completely staged, and to what ends? I'm very excited by the potential storylines that have opened up.

Is Professor X looking to re-establish a new School for Gifted Youngsters on Genosha? With the X-Men off taking care of business in their other titles, perhaps the time has come for Charles Xavier to revisit his dream and jump-start it. I'm thrilled to see Chris Claremont at the reins of this project and the artwork by Aaron Lopresti is wonderful! Among the new X-Men: Reload titles, EXCALIBUR stands alone—and I can't wait to see what comes next!

JC Alvarez
New York City

While we wouldn't say it's Professor X's plan to open a new School for Gifted Youngsters on Genosha, it's certainly true that his goals are educational. On the one hand, he's here to mentor young mutants like Wicked and Freakshow, but he's also here to teach the people of Genosha how to build a society—how to coexist peacefully and be self-sufficient. So in a sense, the whole island is his School.

That's it for this month! See you in thirty!

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NEXT ISSUE:
THE
MAGISTRATES
ATTACK!

MARVEL

4

CLAREMONT

LOPRESTI

ADAMS

EXCALIBUR™

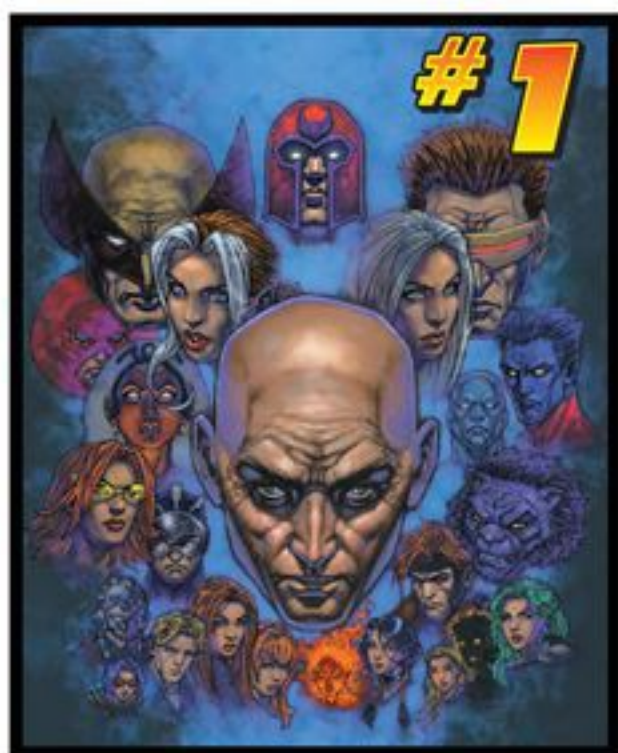


Tracy Fark

PREVIOUSLY

EXCALIBUR

"FORGING THE SWORD"



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In the house he now shares with Magneto, Xavier has a sudden and horrifying vision: an Omega Sentinel, come to kill him. Elsewhere, Hub and Hack have learned that the Omega Sentinel is aboard an aircraft now approaching Genosha. With their feral friend, PURGE, they use Hub's powers to teleport to the plane, where they discover two metal capsules: one containing a telekinetic Genoshan mutant named SHOLA INKOSE, and the other an officer of the Indian National Police named KARIMA SHAPANDAR—the Omega Sentinel. And guarding this precious cargo is a host of MAGISTRATES—the former, human rulers of Genosha.

In the ensuing fight, the plane is destroyed and the two coffins plummet into Hammer Bay. Xavier, Magneto and the kids rush to survey the damage—only to find an armed force of Magistrates descending on Genosha!

HARD RAIN

Stan Lee
Presents
EXCALIBUR
By Chris Claremont
and
Aaron Lopresti

Forging
the
Sword
Conclusion

HAMMER BAY
CAPITAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF
GENOSHA

MAGISTRATES!

WHAT ARE
THEY DOING
HERE?! WHAT
DO THEY
WANT?!

THIS
ISN'T FAIR,
FREAKSHOW!
GENOSHA'S
OUR
COUNTRY
NOW!

SO
MAYBE
THEY
WANT IT
BACK!

WE'RE
MUTANTS,
WICKED!

THEIR
JOB IS TO
MAKE US
SLAVES!

OR
KILL
US!

Greg Adams Inker, Transparency Digital Colors
Tom Orzechowski Letterer, Stephanie Moore & Sean Ryan Assistant Editors
Mike Harris Editor, Joe Quesada Editor in Chief, Dan Buckley Publisher



I DUNNO WHAT BROUGHT THESE IDIOTS BACK...

...BUT WE'RE GONNA MAKE 'EM PAY!

GENOSHA USED TO BE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED NATIONS ON THE PLANET.

BUT ALL THAT WEALTH AND POWER WAS BUILT UPON A FOUNDATION...

...OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MUTANT SLAVES.

THE MAGISTRATES KEPT THE PEACE ON THE ISLAND.

THEIR PRIMARY MISSION WAS TO DEAL WITH ANY MUTANT WHO RESISTED OR TRIED TO ESCAPE.

CHOMP!



THAT REGIME
WAS EVENTUALLY
OVERTHROWN,
HOWEVER...



...AND MAGNETO
PROCLAIMED THE NEW
REPUBLIC A MUTANT
HOMELAND.

WHICH IN TURN
WAS DEVASTATED
BY THE MEGA-
SENTINEL ATTACK.

WITH
THE
ISLAND
ONCE
MORE UP
FOR
GRABS...



...IS IT ANY
WONDER THE
PREVIOUS
RULERS ARE
EAGER TO
STAGE A
COUNTER-
REVOLUTION?



YANK!

WHEN THAT
DAY COMES,
WE WILL
OF COURSE
RESIST.



THE
QUESTION IS,
WILL WE--
CAN WE--
PREVAIL?



BOO-YAH,
SUCKERS!
WHO WANTS
A PIECE O'
ME?!

WHASSAMATTA,
YOU THINK THESE
SUITS MAKE YOU
TOUGH?

YOU
THINK
THESE
SUITS MAKE
YOU
SCARY?



WELL, I'M
SHAKIN' IN
MY BOOTS---
NOT!



YOU
WANT TOUGH,
FLATSCANS, YOU
WANT SCARY--
THINK OF
PURGE.







ONE COCOON FELL IN THE HARBOR. THE OTHER LANDED NEARBY.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT...

...THAT THE MAGISTRATES'LL START A SMALL WAR TO RETRIEVE THEM.



CALLISTO--?!

**ZAMA
ZAMA
ZAMA**



SHE'LL BE OKAY.

NO NEED TO CRY, WICKED, SHE'LL BE SAFE.

SHE'S GOT YOUR SPIRITS TO PROTECT HER.



MORE THAN 16 MILLION PEOPLE DIED ON GENOSHA.



THE SPIRIT OF EVERY ONE IS WICKED'S TO COMMAND.

FREAKSHOW IS A MEGAMORPH.

WHEN HE ASSUMES ONE OF HIS ALTERNATE SHAPES...



...HE MANIFESTS APPROPRIATE POWERS AS WELL.



HEY,
WICKED! HEY,
CALLISTO!

I THINK
I FOUND THE
COCOON!



WHOHW!



Ommmmmm

YEARRRGH!



I DON'T GET IT--
HOW CAN THEY
BEAT HIM?

SAME WAY
CHARLEY DID--
THEY GOT
CREATIVE. THEY
GOT NASTY.

A FORCE
FIELD WON'T
PROTECT
UNUS AGAINST
A BARRAGE
OF SONIC
PULSES!



AND
NOW
THEY'RE
AFTER
US!



WICKED--
CALLISTO--
THERE'S
SOMEONE
INSIDE!



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE
WAS TRYING TO OPEN
THE COCOON.

BUT
SOMEONE ON
OUR SIDE, OR
THEIRS?

RETRIEVAL TEAM
ALERT-- OBJECTIVE
COMPROMISED!



FREAKSHOW, THE
BUILDING--!



KLIK



WICKED, CAN
YOUR GHOSTS DO
ANYTHING--?!

I DON'T
KNOW--! I NEVER
IMAGINED--!





MEANWHILE, BACK
UNDER HAMMER BAY...



HOW
ARE THINGS
TOPSIDE?

TAKING
A SURPRISING
TURN FOR THE
BETTER.



WE
FOUND
AN ALLY IN
ONE COCOON.
PERHAPS IN
THE OTHER
ONE--?!

CHOOM!

NO SUCH
LUCK, OLD
FRIEND!

IT
APPEARS
YOUR
NIGHTMARE
IS COMING
TRUE!





ZAMP!







YOU'RE
SERIOUS?

ABSOLUTELY.



WELL,
THEN--

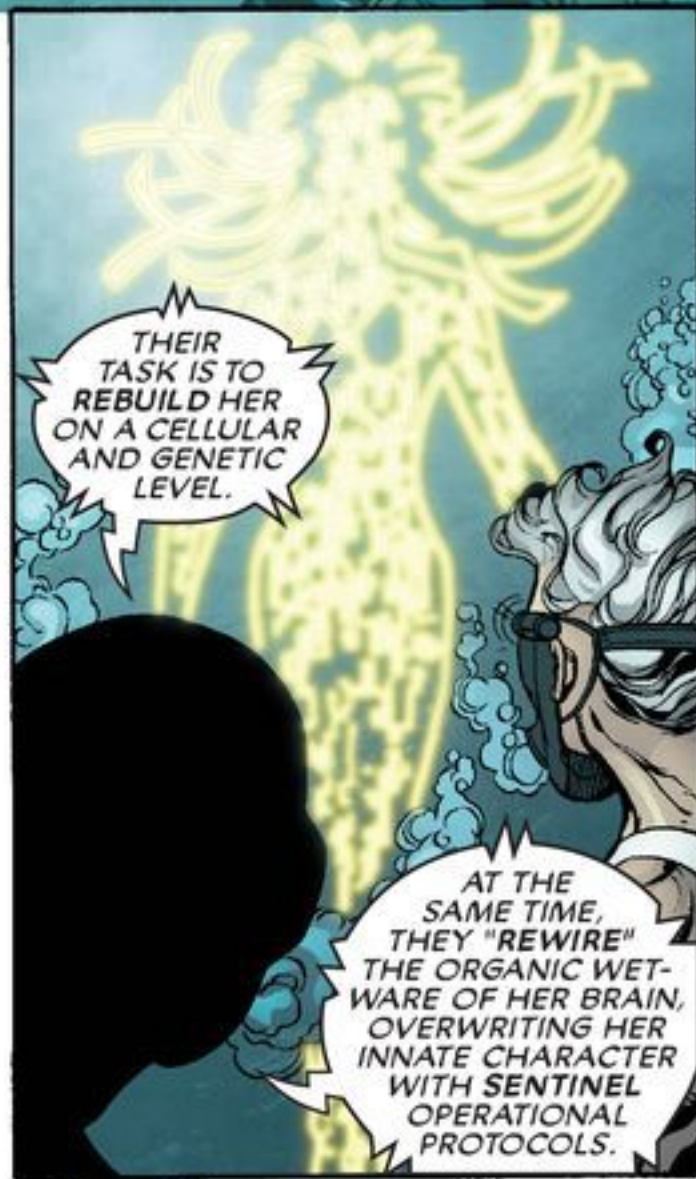
--SHE'LL HAVE
A BETTER CHANCE
IF WE WORK
TOGETHER.



I HAVEN'T
SEEN THAT KIND OF
FIRE IN YOU IN A
LONG TIME.

ANY
IDEAS TO GO
ALONG WITH
IT?

SHE'S BEEN
INFECTED BY
NANNITES.



THEIR
TASK IS TO
REBUILD HER
ON A CELLULAR
AND GENETIC
LEVEL.

AT THE
SAME TIME,
THEY "REWIRE"
THE ORGANIC WET-
WARE OF HER BRAIN,
OVERWRITING HER
INNATE CHARACTER
WITH SENTINEL
OPERATIONAL
PROTOCOLS.



CAN WE PURGE
THE NANNITES?

THE
HARDWARE
MODIFICATIONS
ARE TOO
ADVANCED.

WE
CAN'T CHANGE
HER BODY
BACK.



HER
BRAIN,
THEN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

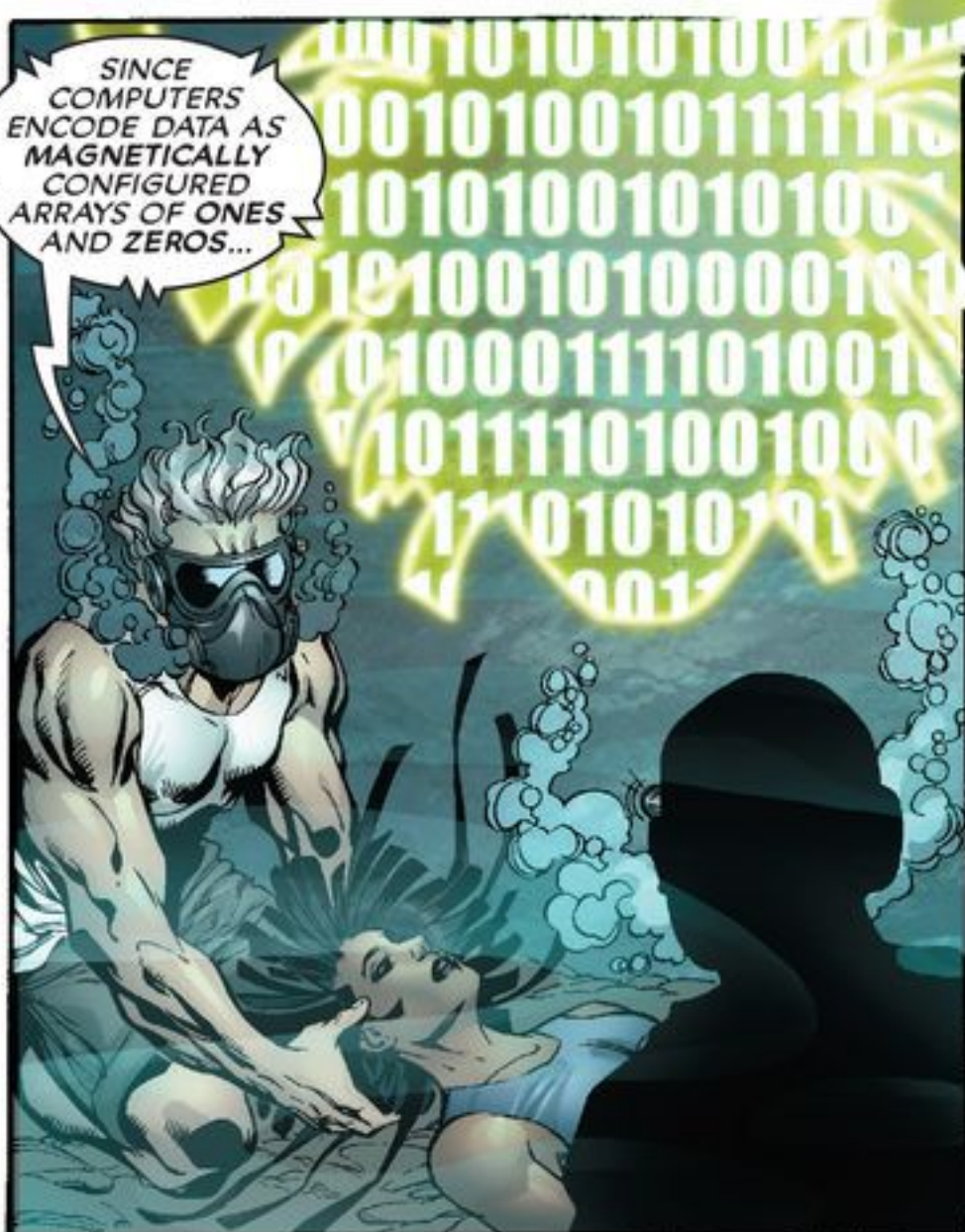
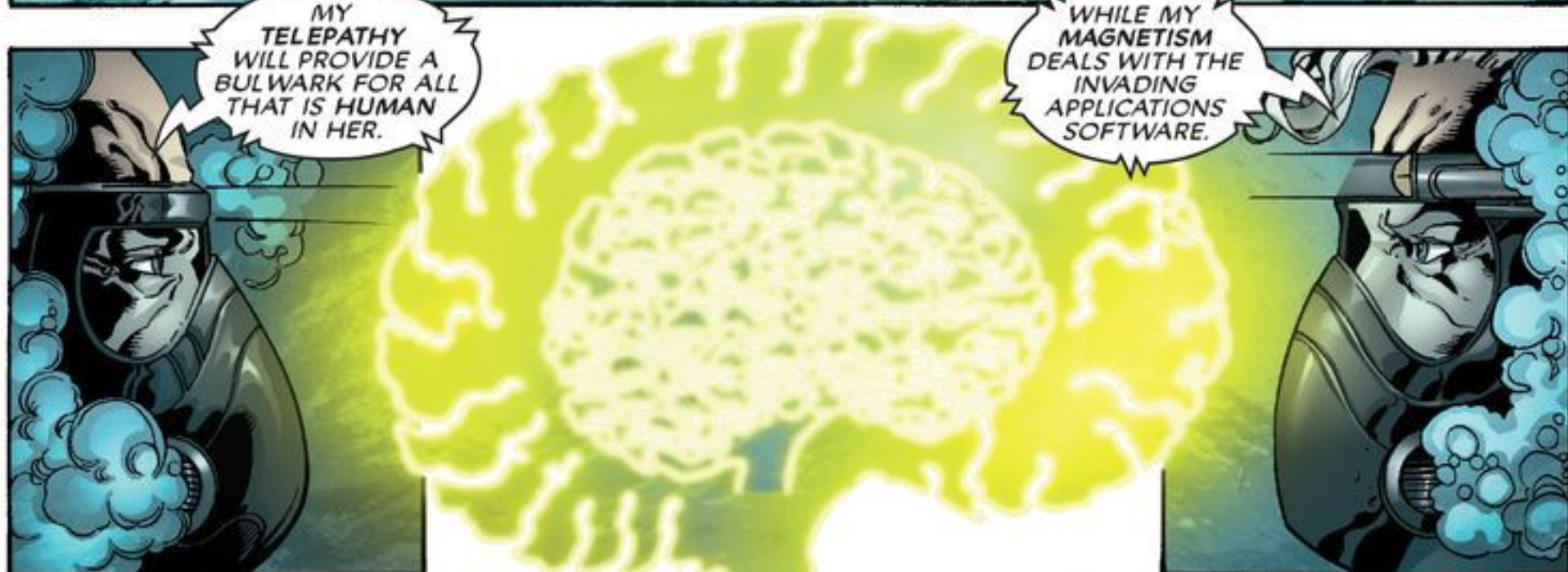
I'M THE
MASTER OF
MAGNETISM,
YES?



YOU THINK
IT'S ALL REVERSING
THE PLANETARY
MAGNETIC POLES
AND SUCH?

I'M ALSO
A LIVING
M.R.I.

AND
HERE'S
A REAL-TIME
PICTURE OF
KARIMA'S
BRAIN.





WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LOOKS CLEAN TO ME.



ACID TEST, THEN.



I'M RELEASING MY HOLD ON HER INTERNAL SYSTEMS.



AND I ON HER PSYCHE.

OH!



IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY--



--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?!

AT ROUGHLY THAT
MOMENT, BACK ASHORE...

SKBRAM!

NO OFFENSE,
CHARLEY, BUT IF
YOU'VE GOT YOUR
TELEPATHIC
"EARS" ON...

...WE
NEED SOME
SERIOUS
HELP!

WHO
ARE YOU
PEOPLE?

I LIVE
IN CHICAGO
NOW, HOW'D
I GET
HERE?

ASK
THEM.

YOU IN ANY
CONDITION TO
FIGHT?

LADY,
I CAN'T
EVEN
STAND.

UP
TO ME,
THEN.



BABOOM! PARAD BOOM!

EVERYBODY
DOWN, DOWN,
DOWN!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

WOW,
WHO'S
THAT?!

WHO-
EVER SHE
IS, I'M GLAD
SHE'S ON OUR
SIDE!

AFTERMATH...

DON'T YOU HEAR SO GOOD, BALDY?

YOU TURN THOSE MAGISTRATE PRISONERS OVER TO ME!

THEY'LL BE TREATED ACCORDING TO THE GENEVA PROTOCOLS, UNUS.

AND DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO THE LAW.

NEWSFLASH, CHUCK.

THERE'S NO LAW HERE!

THEN LET ME BE THE FIRST TO ESTABLISH SOME.

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?





UNUS DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE
YOU.

VERY
FEW DO
ANY-
MORE...

...SEE IF
YOU CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHY.

MAKE
ALL THE
PRONOUNCEMENTS
ABOUT LAWS YOU
WANT, OLD
FRIEND...



...YOU STILL HAVE TO
BE **STRONG** ENOUGH--
IN SPIRIT AS WELL AS
PHYSICAL MIGHT--TO
ENFORCE THEM.

AND
THAT
MAKES
YOU JUST
ANOTHER
BULLY
BOY.

A
BETTER
BREED OF
UNUS.



OR MAGNETO?

OR
MAGNETO.

I CAN
LIVE WITH
THAT.

A **BENEVOLENT**
DESPOT REMAINS A
DESPOT, CALLISTO. AND
SUCH POWER
ULTIMATELY **CORRUPTS**
EVEN THE **BEST**.



I CHIDE YOU
AS **DREAMER** AND
IDEALIST BUT IN
TRUTH I THINK I'M
JUST **JEALOUS**.

I HAVE
BEEN **FEARED**,
OCCASIONALLY
EVEN
RESPECTED...



...BUT
I **CANNOT**
PROVIDE
WHAT IS
REQUIRED
HERE.

I **CANNOT**
INSPIRE.

AND I
CANNOT
DO IT
ALONE.

ALONE, MAGNETO OR I PROBABLY COULD HAVE DESTROYED KARIMA, AND VERY LIKELY HAVE DEFEATED THE MAGISTRATES.

VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION ALWAYS SEEM TO COME SO EASILY TO EVEN THE BEST AMONG US.



BUT TOGETHER, WE FOUND A BETTER WAY.



THAT PARADIGM MAY WORK AS WELL FOR A NATION AS FOR A PERSON.

WILL YOU HELP?



NEXT:
Food Fight!

SWORD STROKES

X-MEN TITLES

X-FORCE 1: The legend returns! Liefeld and Nicieza!

UNCANNY X-MEN 447: The final battle with The Fury!

EXILES 50 and 51: The Exiles vs. The Brotherhood of Mutants!

ALPHA FLIGHT 6: Can Alpha Flight destroy the Plodex?

X-MEN UNLIMITED 4: Juggernaut and Emma Frost!

X-MEN: THE END 1 and 2: The epic saga of the final days of the X-Men!

DISTRICT X 4: Bishop tries to get a deadly drug off the streets!

EMMA FROST 14: A man from Emma's past returns!

WEAPON X 27: Sabretooth vs. Sinister! 'Nuff said!

X-MEN 160: Can the X-Men stop Xorn from destroying the world?

NEW X-MEN: ACADEMY X 4: Which team will take the gold?

ROGUE 2: Rogue returns to her childhood home!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 6: The muscles and the mayhem!

WOLVERINE: THE END 5: The story that began in ORIGIN!

WOLVERINE 18: Wolverine, Sabretooth, and the mysterious Native!

ASTONISHING X-MEN 4: The issue *everyone* will be talking about!

EXCALIBUR 4: The fight for control over Genosha!

MYSTIQUE 18: Mystique takes on DermaFree!

X-STATIX 26: Spectacular series finale!

Welcome back to Sword Strokes! This month, we've got *all three covers* for the next EXCALIBUR story arc to show you! Be sure to check out Part 1 of "FOOD FIGHT", on sale next month!



NEXT ISSUE:

**DANGER...
FROM
WITHIN
AND
WITHOUT!**

STEPHANIE MOORE
SEAN RYAN
ASSISTANT EDITORS

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

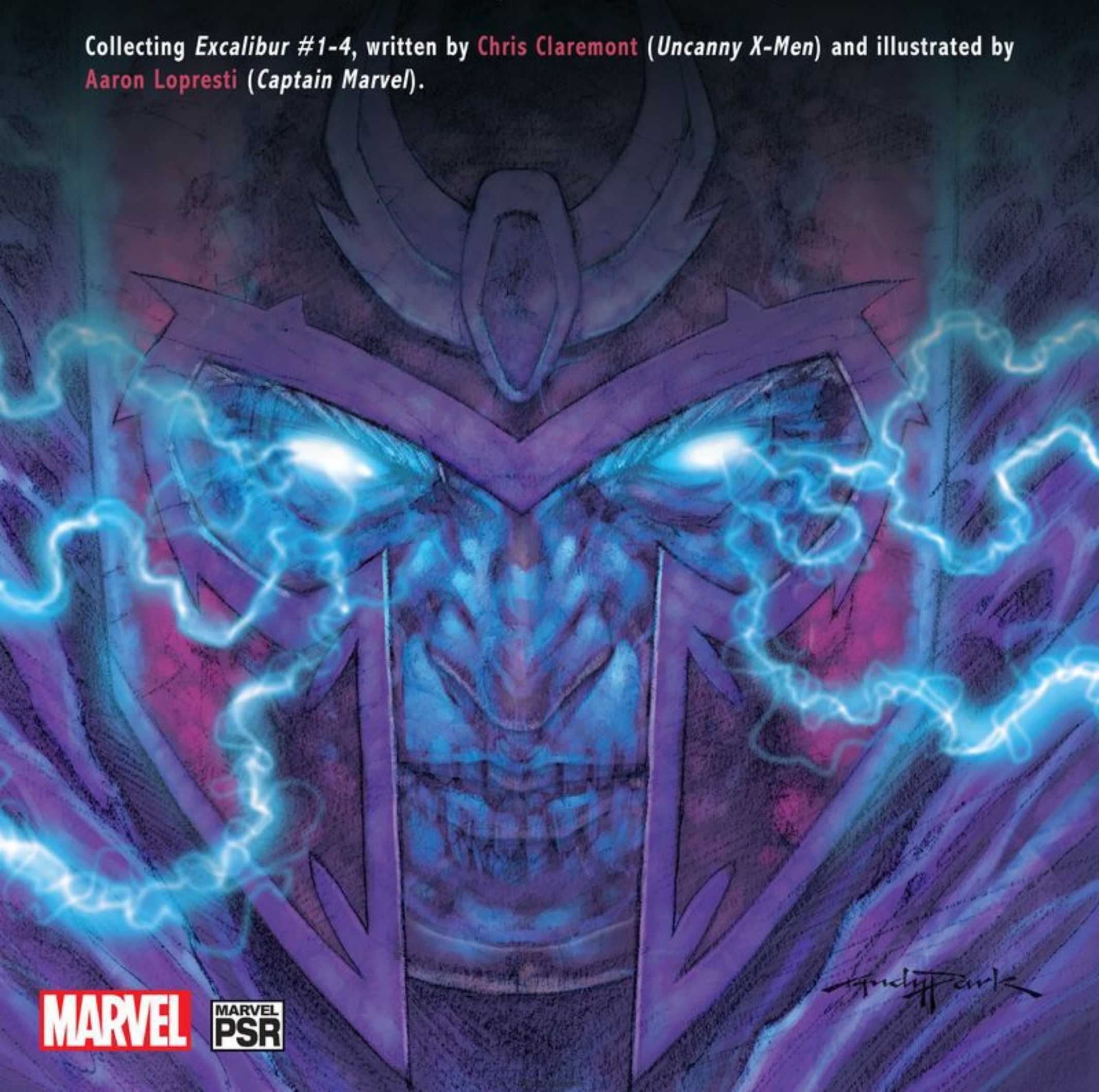
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE SWORD IS DRAWN!

The island of Genosha was once a thriving nation of mutants, built from the ground up by Magneto, Master of Magnetism. Then, one day, an apocalyptic attack killed every man, woman and child, and reduced an entire society to rubble within hours. Now, Professor Charles Xavier – legendary founder of the X-Men, and the man who dreams of peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants – has come to Genosha with one intention: to rebuild a nation from its ashes. But certain people would prefer that Genosha stay destroyed – and are willing to kill to make sure that the nation of mutants doesn't rise again!

The Magistrates were once the human rulers of Genosha...and now they want it back! Professor X and his ragtag team find their first major test as they're faced with an attack from all sides, but some unlikely allies wait in the wings as well. This is the moment when Xavier's Dream hangs in the balance, and the team must decide whether they will draw the sword and accept the challenge...or surrender in the fight for mutantkind!

Collecting *Excalibur* #1-4, written by **Chris Claremont** (*Uncanny X-Men*) and illustrated by **Aaron Lopresti** (*Captain Marvel*).



MARVEL

**MARVEL
PSR**

Andy Park