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EXILES



DIRECT EDITION



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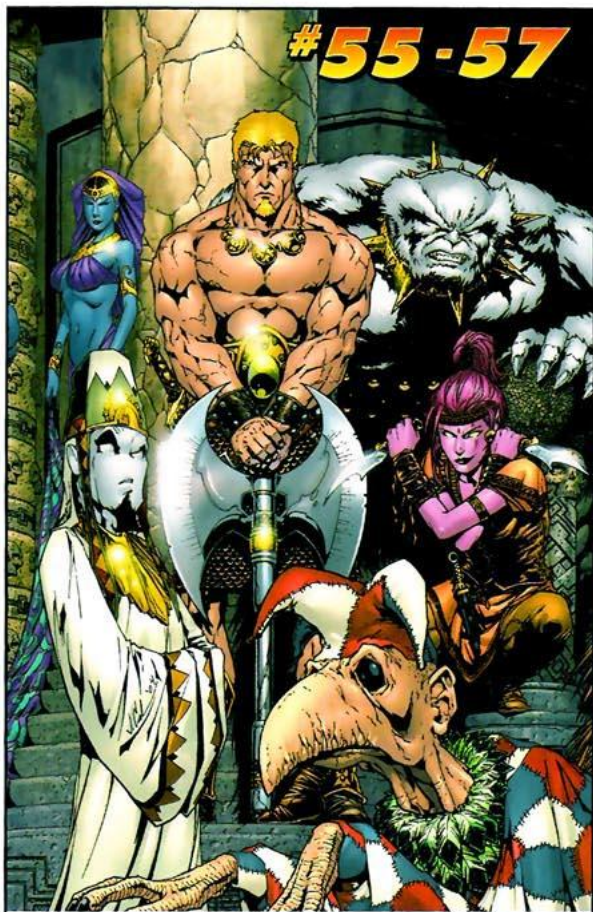
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Parallel universes. Alternate realities. Some are like the world we know, others completely different. And a few especially tragic realities are damaged, twisted and downright dangerous. That's where you'll find the EXILES—a team of mutants who repair the broken links in the chains of time, restoring the cosmic balance.

EXILES

PREVIOUSLY

Plucked from their own separate realities, BLINK, MIMIC, MORPH, SASQUATCH, NAMORA and BEAK travel from one flawed version of Earth to the next, setting things right so they can return to their former lives. Their guide on this dimension-hopping quest is a mysterious bracelet talisman known as the "Tallus." But the missions it gives them often call for desperate choices, challenging the Exiles' morality even as they save each timeline gone wrong.



The Exiles arrived in a world where the ancient Hyborean wizard KULAN GATH had remade New York into a kingdom of swords and sorcery where mutants and science-heroes were trumped by supernatural beings. In their darkest hour, the Exiles learned Sasquatch's power sprung not from gamma radiation as they had believed, but from one of the mythical Great Beasts of the North—a creature called TANARAQ!

Fully possessed by the evil Tanaraq, Sasquatch slew Kulan Gath, but it seems that Sasquatch's human alter ego, HEATHER HUDSON, might be lost forever. Finally, the Exiles found a way to save Heather from Tanaraq's grip, but only at the cost of her Sasquatch powers.

With Heather once again an ordinary human, the Exiles moved on to their next mission, not realizing that they're headed back to a reality they've visited before, where everything about their lives as Exiles is about to change forever!

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⊗ A WORLD AWAY,
JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

I LOST
HIM!



DON'T GIVE
UP! WE CAN
STILL FLUSH
HIM OUT!

FWOOOSH

FWUMP



CUT IT OUT,
SMOKEY! YOU'RE
GONNA GET ONE
OF US KILLED!!

THERE
HE IS!





THERE'S SABRETOOTH!



YAHHH!



YOU'LL PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID, MURDERER!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE EVER TRUSTED YOU!



RRRRRRHARRR!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, TRAITOR!

YOU DON'T HAVE A FRIEND LEFT IN THE WORLD!

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH

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...THIRD FLOOR--
SPORTING GOODS
AND LINGERIE!

BLOONK!







--MUCH!

TZOT



IMPERIUS REGINA!

WE GOTTA WORK ON THAT BATTLE CRY, NAMORA.

HOW 'BOUT 'E PLURIBUS UNUM"?!
"VENI, VIDI, VICIOUS"?

"COGITO, ERGO SUM-BODY'S GETTIN' THEIR BUTT KICKED"...?



FALL BACK! IT'S A TRAP!

WE'LL SETTLE THIS LATER, SABRETOOTH!



WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, MIMIC? WHY ARE WE PROTECTING SABRE-TOOTH?!

EASE UP, BEAK. WE KNOW THIS SABRETOOTH--HE'S LIKE A FATHER TO BLINK...

...RIGHT, CLARICE?

Um... WELL, YES--

EXCEPT, SOMETHING HAPPENED LAST TIME YOU TWO SAW EACH OTHER, DIDN'T IT?

SOMETHING SO BAD MY OWN GIRLFRIEND STILL WON'T TELL ME, EVEN THOUGH I'VE ASKED FIVE OR SIX TIMES SINCE YOU CAME BACK TO US.

Um... YOU'RE LOSING ME, SIR.




"Y'SEE, BEAK, THERE WAS ANOTHER GROUP OF EXILES. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES WEAPON X, AND SABRETOOTH WAS THEIR LEADER.

"A WHILE BACK, BOTH OUR TEAMS ARRIVED ON THIS WORLD, WHERE SENTINEL ROBOTS KEPT ALL MUTANTS IN PRISON CAMPS.

"BUT OUR MISSION WASN'T TO BEAT THE SENTINELS.



"THE TIMEBROKER WANTED US TO FIND AND KILL A MUTANT KID NAMED DAVID RICHARDS BEFORE HE COULD GROW UP TO MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE HERE."




BUT INSTEAD OF WHACKING A SIX-YEAR-OLD BOY, WE COMPROMISED WITH THE TIMEBROKER-- SABRETOOTH STAYED BEHIND TO RAISE THE KIDS RIGHT SO DAVID RICHARDS WOULDN'T GO PSYCHO.


THE REST OF US KEPT DIMENSION-HOPPING, AND EVEN THOUGH THIS PLACE WAS CRAWLING WITH SENTINELS, I ALWAYS ASSUMED SABRETOOTH WAS BETTER OFF PARTING WAYS WITH WEAPON X...



...A FEW MISSIONS LATER, THE TIMEBROKER SAID CLARICE HAD SERVED HER TIME AS AN EXILE AND HE WAS SENDING HER HOME.




ONLY YOU DIDN'T GO HOME. YOU GOT SENT BACK HERE WITH YOUR PRECIOUS MISTER CREED, AND EVERY TIME I ASK WHY, IT'S "I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT."



SO WHAT THE SCREAMIN'-BLUE-HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!

WHO WERE THOSE MUTANTS WE JUST FOUGHT? AND WHERE'S THE RICHARDS KID?



VERY WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THIS MUTANT CHILD. I AM MORE CONCERNED BY THE ABSENCE OF SASQUATCH.

OR AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED IN ALL THE COMMOTION THAT SHE DID NOT ARRIVE WITH THE REST OF US?



BUT I...I COULD'VE SWORN HEATHER LEFT WITH US...!

HEATHER?

DID SHE GET STUCK BETWEEN WORLDS? IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE?

MISS HUDSON FORFEITED HER SASQUATCH POWERS. PERHAPS SHE IS OFF THE TEAM BECAUSE SHE'S OF NO FURTHER USE TO US.

THOUGH, BY THAT REASONING, THE BIRD-BOY WOULD NEVER HAVE JOINED.



SO IF SHE'S OFF THE TEAM, WHERE'S HER REPLACEMENT? THERE'S ALWAYS SIX OF US, RIGHT?



UNLESS... SABRETOOTH MAKES SIX...?

HEY, PUP, YOU GONNA LET GUMBY GUESS ALL NIGHT LONG?

ME, I'D ASK THE TALLUS... IF I STILL HAD ONE.



FINE.

TALLUS, WHAT HAPPENED TO HEATHER?

NO ANSWER? OKAY, THEN, WHY ARE WE HERE? WHAT'S OUR MISSION?





HEY, YOU MESS WITH HIM, YOU MESS WITH US.

I CAN TRADE PUNCHES WITH THE HULK.



AWW... CLARICE WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF I HURT HER FRIENDS, ANYWAY.

'SIDES, WHAT YER ASKIN' ABOUT IS SOMETHIN' ONLY BLINK CAN TELL YOU HERSELF.

SHE'S SUFFERED ENOUGH, AND I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT ANY WORSE BY OPENIN' MY YAP BEFORE SHE'S READY.



SHOULDN'T WE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SENTINELS?

NAH, THEY'RE ALL SCRAP NOW.



TO YOU IT ONLY SEEMS LIKE MONTHS SINCE YOU BEEN HERE. FOR ME, TWENTY YEARS HAVE PASSED.

IN FACT, THAT MUTANT LYNCH MOB YOU CHASED AWAY USED TO BE THE LITTLE RUNTS WE FREED FROM THE CAMPS...



TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT WHILE WE'RE FINDING CLARICE.

YOU WANT ME TO TAG ALONG WITH YOU?



ACTUALLY, NO. BUT IF ANYONE KNOWS THE PLACES SHE LIKED BEST ON THIS GODFORSAKEN EARTH, IT'S YOU.

SO I GUESS YOU'RE ELECTED... UNLESS YOU WANT HER OUT THERE ALONE WITH YOUR KILLER CLUB SCOUTS STILL ROAMING AROUND?



THE REST OF YOU STAY IN THIS AREA, BUT KEEP OUT OF SIGHT, OKAY?

JUST GET BACK HERE IN ONE PIECE, CAL!



TWENTY YEARS, HUH? WHY'D TIME PASS QUICKER FOR YOU THAN IT DID FOR US?

I DON'T MAKE THE RULES, I JUST GET SCREWED BY 'EM.



LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY.

I AGE SLOW, SAME AS LOGAN. SAME AS YOU WILL, IF YOU KEEP WHAT YOU MIMICKED OFF HIM.

NOW HEAD NORTH, AND POUR ON THE SPEED, WILLYA?



THERE'S A PATCH OF FOREST COMIN' UP. CLARICE HID THERE AFTER THE THING WITH DAVID.

WHAT THING WITH DAVID?



SHE'LL TELL YA WHEN SHE'S READY. NOW SHUT UP WHILE I SNIFF 'ER OUT.

I CAN TRACK HER FROM HERE. YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.

DON'T BE STUPID! I KNOW HOW YER MIMIC POWER WORKS--THE MOST YOU COULDA ABSORBED IS HALF'A WOLVERINE'S ENHANCED SENSES.

AND ALL OF HIS CLAWS.


FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD...!

LET'S JUST SPLIT UP BEFORE YOU FORCE ME TO GUT YA!

SNIKT

⊗ FIVE HOURS LATER




Mister Creed, a muscular man with blonde hair and a yellow and black outfit, stands in a forest with a group of children. A woman with pink hair and a green dress is also present. A bright yellow and purple energy bolt is visible on the right side of the panel.

"SINCE THE DAY WE LEFT HIM HERE, MISTER CREED DID HIS BEST TO RAISE DAVID RICHARDS AND HIS FRIENDS.

"HE'D RESCUED ME FROM MISTER SINISTER WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND BROUGHT ME UP AS AN X-MAN. IF ANYONE COULD TEACH THESE KIDS TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, HE WAS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB.


Mister Creed is shown in a dark, destroyed urban environment. He is surrounded by several children who look up at him with concern. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a night or a very dark day.

"THE FIRST FEW YEARS WERE THE TOUGHEST. THE BEST HE COULD DO WAS TO KEEP THEM FROM GETTING SHOT.

Mister Creed is engaged in a close-quarters battle with a large, white, mechanical robot. He is using his fire powers, with bright orange flames erupting from his hands. The robot has a large, open mouth and is firing energy blasts.

"THEN CAME PUBERTY, AND THEIR POWERS BLOOMED. MISTER CREED SAID THAT AFTER HIDING FOR SO LONG, FIGHTING BACK WAS ACTUALLY FUN.

"BUT HE WAS ALWAYS MINDFUL OF THE FATE THE TIMEBROKER PREDICTED FOR DAVID-- THAT HIS POWER WOULD ONLY BE MATCHED BY HIS RUTHLESSNESS.

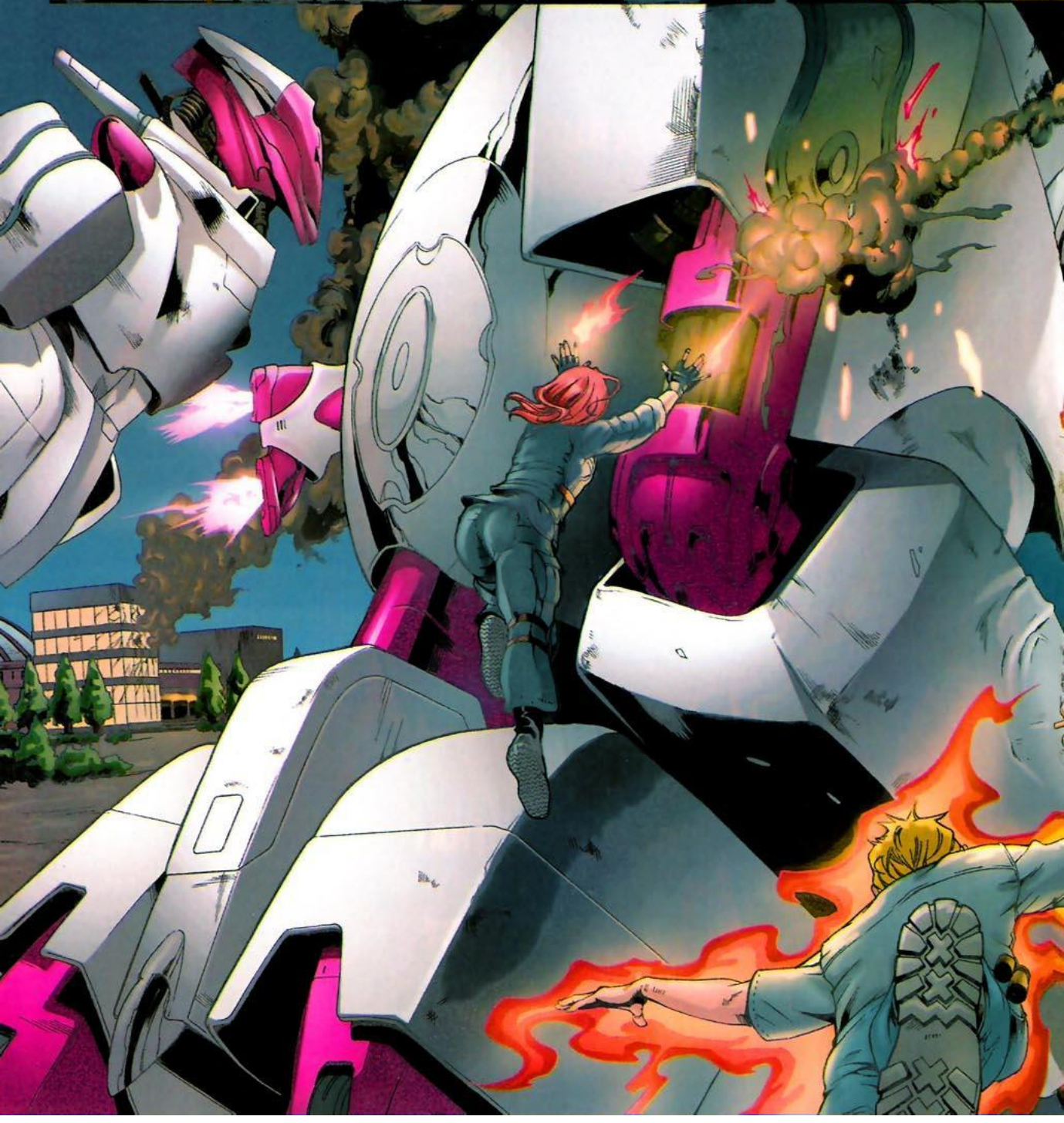
A close-up shot of Mister Creed and a young boy. The boy is looking intently at Mister Creed, who has a serious expression. The boy's hand is glowing with bright yellow and orange flames, mirroring the fire powers of the X-Men.

"OVER THE YEARS, MISTER CREED HAD COME TO LOVE THAT BOY. BUT WHAT IF LOVE WASN'T ENOUGH? WHAT IF HE TURNED OUT LIKE ALL THE TYRANTS WE'D FOUGHT AGAINST?"

"IN THE END, MISTER CREED HAD TO DO WHAT ALL GOOD PARENTS DO--TRUST THEY DID THEIR BEST, THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY.

"THE LAST THING THESE GUYS EXPECTED WAS FOR ME TO POP IN ON THE EVE OF THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE LAST SENTINEL NODE IN NORTH AMERICA.

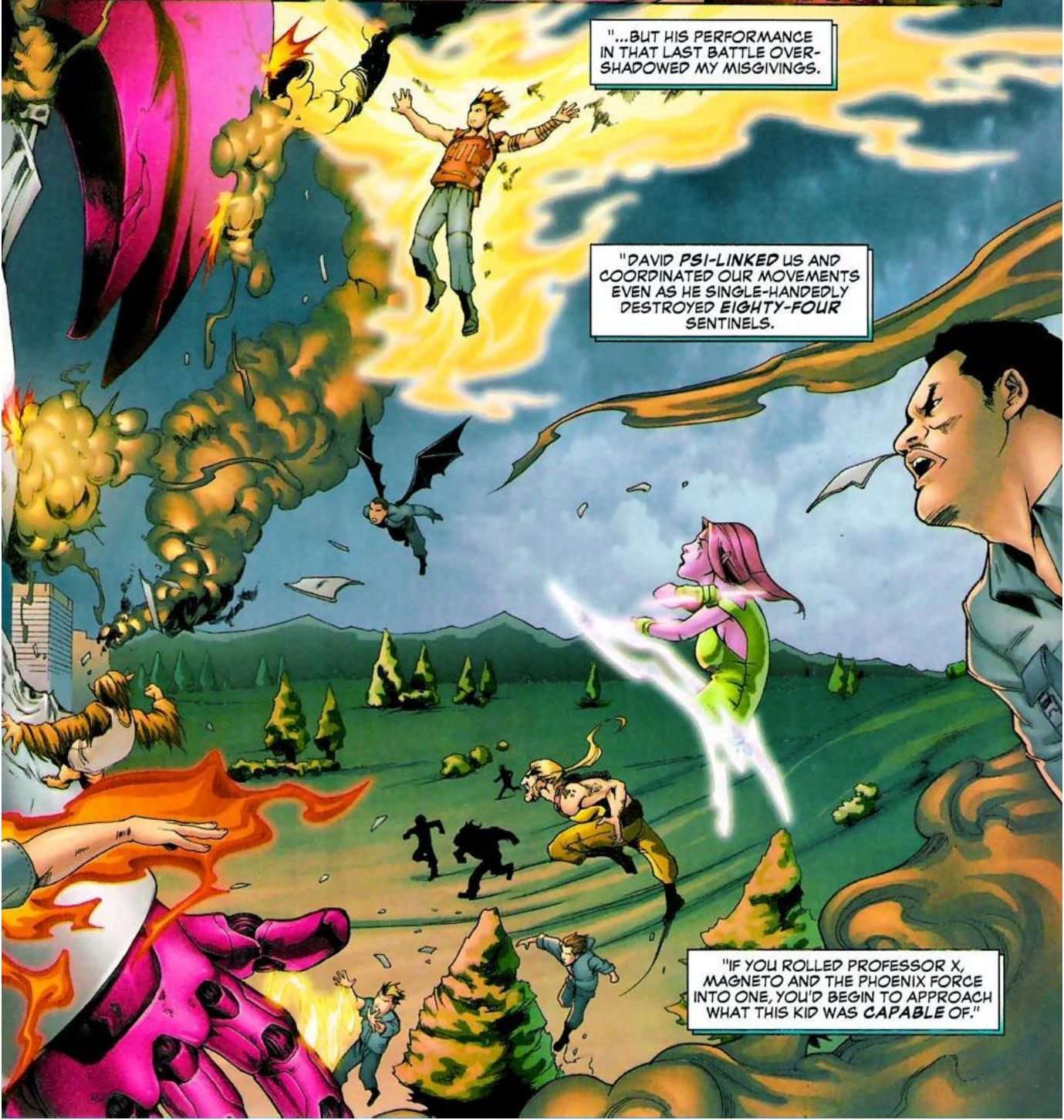
"HE WATCHED PROUDLY AS DAVID ORCHESTRATED THE DECADE-LONG SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF SENTINEL FACTORIES AROUND THE WORLD.





"DAVID THOUGHT I WAS A SPY. HE FORCED HIS WAY INTO MY MIND TO SEE IF I COULD BE TRUSTED."

"THAT TELEPATHIC INVASION WAS MY FIRST WARNING THAT SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG WITH DAVID RICHARDS..."



"...BUT HIS PERFORMANCE IN THAT LAST BATTLE OVERSHADOWED MY MISGIVINGS."

"DAVID PSI-LINKED US AND COORDINATED OUR MOVEMENTS EVEN AS HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED EIGHTY-FOUR SENTINELS."

"IF YOU ROLLED PROFESSOR X, MAGNETO AND THE PHOENIX FORCE INTO ONE, YOU'D BEGIN TO APPROACH WHAT THIS KID WAS CAPABLE OF."

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE THINGS WENT WRONG. MAYBE BOYS JUST DEVELOP DIFFERENTLY. MAYBE DAVID WAS NEVER GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE I DID, NO MATTER WHAT MISTER CREED DID FOR HIM."

THIS IS IT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! WE LOST MANY ALONG THE WAY, BUT TODAY WE'VE FINALLY TAKEN OUR WORLD BACK FROM THE MACHINES!

TOMORROW, WE FINISH THE JOB!



WHAT...THERE'S MORE SENTINELS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE?



THE EARTH IS DISEASED. THE SENTINELS ARE ONLY A SYMPTOM!

ONCE YOU SEE THE TRUE CAUSE, YOU'LL KNOW WHY WE HAVE TO ERADICATE IT!



HEY--!


LET GO OF HER!

"SINCE THE DAY HIS POWERS BLOOMED, THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO COULD SAY 'NO' TO DAVID..."



SHRAKT

"...NOW EVEN THAT LAST BIT OF RESTRAINT WAS GONE."



"I TRIED TO SHIELD MY MIND, BUT IT WAS LIKE PUTTING UP AN UMBRELLA AGAINST A HURRICANE."

"SOMEHOW, HE HIJACKED MY OWN ABILITY TO TELEPORT. I TRIED, CAL...BUT I COULDN'T STOP HIM."



"WE REAPPEARED IN A REINFORCED BUNKER BURIED A MILE BENEATH WEST VIRGINIA."

"IT WAS TWO OR THREE TIMES FURTHER THAN THE LONGEST JUMP I'VE EVER MADE--AND A BLIND JUMP, TO BOOT--BUT MY LIMITATIONS MEANT NOTHING TO DAVID."



WELCOME TO STRATEGIC SENTINEL COMMAND. TURNS OUT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HUMANS WERE STILL BEHIND THE ROBOTS AND THE CAMPS.

I FOUND THEM A MONTH AGO AND TRAPPED THEM DOWN HERE WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SAFE.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?





WE WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO THE WORLD...

...THEN WE'LL ELIMINATE EVERY LAST FLATSCAN ON THE PLANET SO THEY CAN NEVER FOLLOW IN THESE PEOPLE'S FOOTSTEPS.

UH--!



IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE MUTANTS FROM NOW ON!

THE FREAKS SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH!

NO!



HE MADE ME TELEPORT PEOPLE IN HALF...INTO WALLS AND EQUIPMENT...FUSE THEM TOGETHER WITH EACH OTHER...STUFF I'D NEVER THOUGHT TO DO IN MY WORST NIGHTMARES...

I KEPT FIGHTING TO BREAK HIS MENTAL GRIP...BUT ALL MY BODY WOULD DO WAS WHATEVER HE COMMANDED.

AND I BEGAN TO HATE MISTER CREEP FOR NOT DEALING WITH THAT MONSTER BACK WHEN WE HAD A CHANCE.



HE MADE HER KEEP ON KILLIN' FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE I CAUGHT UP WITH 'EM. I RIGGED AN OLD INHIBITOR COLLAR TO MASK MY APPROACH.

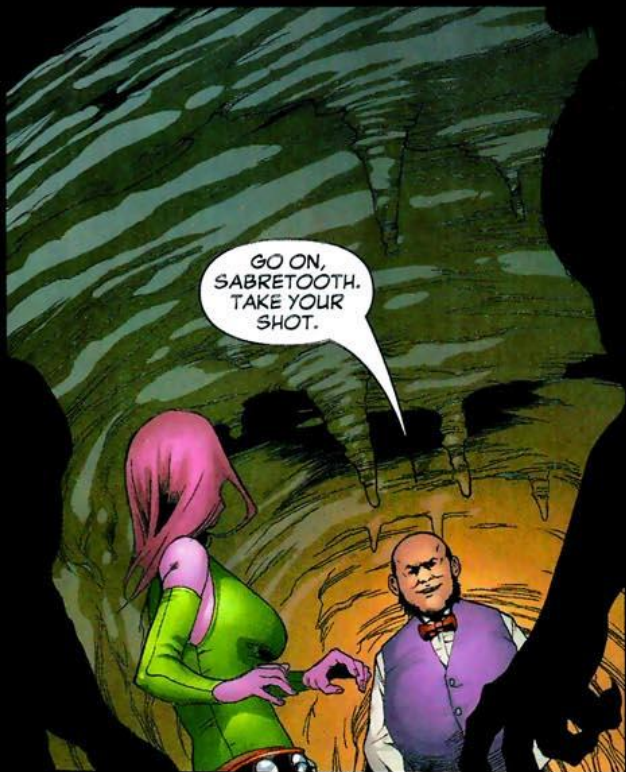


YOU'D THINK RIPPIN' THE HEART OUT OF A KID I SPENT TWENTY YEARS RAISIN' WOULD BE PUNISHMENT ENOUGH FOR ME...

...BUT **NOTHIN'** CAN SETTLE THE SCORE FOR WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH...







GO ON, SABRETOOTH. TAKE YOUR SHOT.



BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T CARRY OUT THE MISSION, THIS EARTH WILL SURELY END!



SHOVE IT, TIMEBROKER. I SPENT THE LAST COUPLE DECADES HERE, AND I'M PRETTY SURE THE PLACE AIN'T WORTH SAVIN'.



'SIDES, CLARICE LOVES THIS FEEB. I'D RATHER DIE A THOUSAND TIMES THAN TAKE THAT FROM HER.

Y'KNOW, FOR A SABRETOOTH, YOU'RE A SICKENING PANSY. HOW'D THEY EVER PICK YOU FOR THIS JOB, ANYWAY?



WHATEVER. REFUSE ORDERS, AND YOU GET PUNISHED.

SOMETHING'S CHANGED...YOU'RE NOT THE SAME. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WAS EVEN A REAL MISSION.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, ANYWAY. WE QUIT, TIMEBROKER.

WE'RE DONE.



YOU CERTAINLY ARE.

⊗NEXT:
RETURN TO THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE!

REALITY CHECK

FEBRUARY ON SALE 2005 X-Men Titles

X-MEN UNLIMITED 7: Two great stories in the wonderful Unlimited tradition!

ALPHA FLIGHT 12: The exciting series conclusion! Can Alpha Flight set things right before the end of their final issue?! They darn well better!

EXILES 59: Just what was Blink up to during her absence from the Exiles those many months ago? Find out here!

UNCANNY X-MEN 455 & 456: These are the issues they'll be talking about for months! The X-Men face a strange new enemy...and reunite with an old friend! Featuring art by Alan Davis!

X-MEN/FANTASTIC FOUR 3: It's the X-Men and Fantastic Four versus...the X-Men and Fantastic Four?!

DISTRICT X 10: Bishop and Ismael crawl ever closer to solving the mystery of the monster under the streets of Mutant Town.

GAMBIT 7: New story arc! Zombies overrun New Orleans, and only Gambit can stand in their way!

ASTONISHING X-MEN 8: Whedon and Cassaday continue their Astonishing tale!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 12: All of your questions will finally be answered! Yes, all of them!

NEW X-MEN 10: New storyarc! Prodigy learns the price of getting what you ask for. Featuring guest-artist Paco Medina!

MYSTIQUE 24: The unforgettable series conclusion! But will everyone walk away from it alive?!

NIGHTCRAWLER 6: Can Kurt find out what the ghosts haunting the New York subway want before they cause more tragedy?

X-23 3: X-23 goes on her first mission...to assassinate a U.S. presidential candidate!

X-FORCE: SHATTERSTAR 1: In the aftermath of Rob Liefeld's smash X-Force series, Shatterstar finds himself fighting for his life on the island of Madripoor! Featuring art by Marat Mychaels!

X-MEN 167: Milligan and Larroca's second explosive issue! The X-Men may think they've saved the day, but the trouble's barely gotten started.

WOLVERINE 25: The awesome conclusion to Mark Millar and John Romita Jr.'s first arc! You won't believe the end!

JUBILEE 6: It's the action-packed finale you've been jonesing for! Guest-starring Wolverine!

X-MEN: PHOENIX - ENDSONG 3: The return of the Phoenix continues to wreak havoc upon the lives of the X-Men! Featuring art by superstar Greg Land!

ROGUE 8: Rogue goes to Japan! And she's madder than a March hare at the X-Men's old ally, Sunfire! By Tony Bedard and Karl Moline!

EXCALIBUR 10: What horror has been hiding in the tunnels under Genosha?



Blink and Sabretooth come home as THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE returns! Be sure not to miss this special two-part EXILES storyarc entitled "Son of Apocalypse"--with both issues shipping in March! And to whet your appetite just a little bit more, we've provided these four pages from EXILES #60 for your viewing enjoyment! On sale in just one month!



NEXT ISSUE:



RETURN TO THE
AGE OF APOCALYPSE!

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