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EXILES



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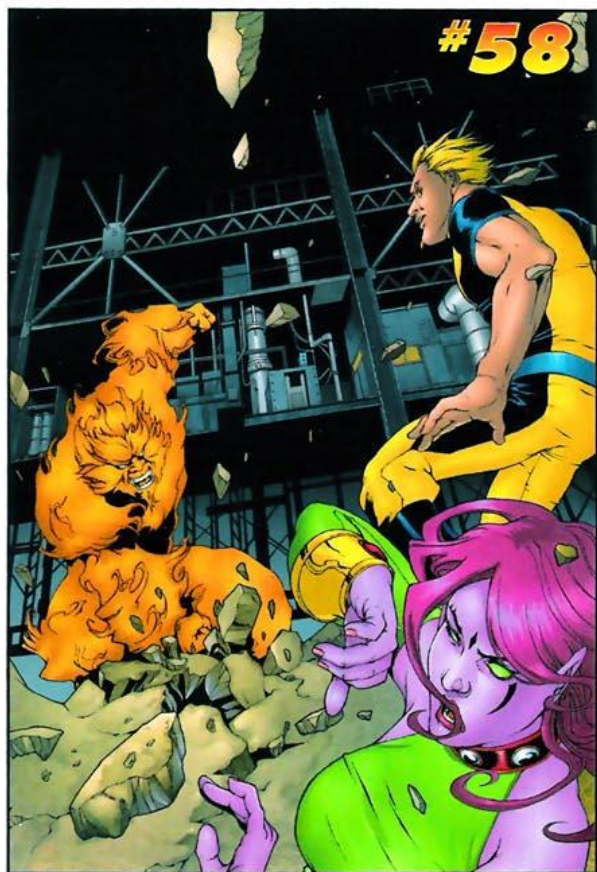
10TH ANNIVERSARY
**AGE of
APOCALYPSE**

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 the Tallus tells them to carry out often call for desperate choices that morally challenge the Exiles as they save each timeline gone wrong.



With Sasquatch possessed by the Great Beast TANARAQ, the Exiles saved Heather Hudson by physically separating her from her hulking alter-ego. Tanaraq was defeated and Heather remained alive, but no longer able to turn into Sasquatch. When the Exiles jumped to the next reality, they were surprised to emerge minus Heather. Her whereabouts are currently unknown.

The five remaining Exiles had arrived on a world they'd visited before—a world ruled by mutant-hunting Sentinel robots. It was here that Blink's foster-father SABRETOOTH had remained to raise a young mutant named DAVID RICHARDS. David's extraordinary power defeated the Sentinels, but despite Sabretooth's best intentions, David had grown up ruthless and murderous. In the end, Sabretooth was forced to slay his adopted son.

The shock of this revelation was topped by the Exiles' new mission: "Kill Mimic." Naturally, they refused to obey, bringing on a visit from a very angry TIMEBROKER, who informed the Exiles they were being sent to a place of punishment...

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"NONE OF US WHO LIVED THROUGH
IT WILL EVER FORGET HUMANKIND'S
DARKEST HOUR--THE

AGE of APOCALYPSE



Son of Ap

BY TONY BEDARD & JIM

MARK MCKENNA
INKER

JC
COLORIST

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERER

RYAN & MOORE
ASSISTANT EDITORS A



"THE MUTANT WAR-CRIMINAL, HIS SON HOLOCAUST, AND THEIR ARMY OF SO-CALLED INFINITES SCARRED THE EARTH LIKE NOTHING BEFORE OR SINCE."

ocalypse

PART ONE OF TWO

W CALAFIORE

NICK LOWE **MIKE MARTS** **JOE QUESADA** **DAN BUCKLEY**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR **EDITOR** **EDITOR IN CHIEF** **PUBLISHER**

"LOOKING BACK ON THOSE TERRIBLE YEARS, THE METHOD TO THEIR MADNESS IS OBVIOUS. ORDINARY HUMANS--'FLATSCANS'-- WERE EXTERMINATED.

"MUTANT CHILDREN, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE DELIVERED TO SINISTER, ONE OF APOCALYPSE'S NOTORIOUS FOUR HORSEMEN.

"THESE YOUNG VICTIMS OF SINISTER'S GENETIC EXPERIMENTS LIVED IN FEAR AND DIED IN PAIN. WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE HORRORS PERPETRATED WITHIN THE WALLS OF THESE BREEDING PENS..."

...AND SO, JUST AS THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS WERE PRESERVED AS A REMINDER THAT WE MUST NEVER AGAIN SINK TO SUCH DEPTHS OF DEPRAVITY--

"THE PENS"
NATIONAL MONUMENT
HISTORIC LANDMARK 7148

--SO, TOO, HAVE THE PENS BEEN KEPT AS A WARNING FROM HISTORY, TO HONOR THOSE WHO DIED HERE, AND TO KEEP THEIR MEMORY ALIVE.

PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED, BUT PLEASE STAY IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS, AND IF YOU FEEL A BIT...OVER-COME, WELL, YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST...

NATIONAL MONUMENT
HISTORIC LANDMARK 7148



BLOONK

WHERE IN THE...?



MISTER CREED...!

YEAH, I RECOGNIZE IT TOO, PUP. NOT SURE I BELIEVE IT, BUT IT SURE SMELLS REAL...



YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WENT THROUGH IN THIS PLACE, TIMEBROKER!

ON THE CONTRARY. I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PAST, BLINK.

WHY'D YOU BRING US HERE, Y' MISERABLE PIPSQUEAK?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, SABRETOOTH-- YOU REFUSED THE LAST MISSION I SENT YOU, SO YOU'RE HERE TO BE PUNISHED.

SOME PUNISHMENT--! WE THOUGHT THIS WORLD WAS TOAST! NOW YOU SHOW US OUR HOME STILL EXISTS!

THIS IS THE BEST NEWS IN AGES! RIGHT, CLARICE?





BOOM!

Whu--?!

WHERE AM I?

HOW DID I GET HERE!



FLAMING SKULL...BAD ATTITUDE...THIS ISN'T ANOTHER GHOST RIDER KNOCKOFF, IS IT?

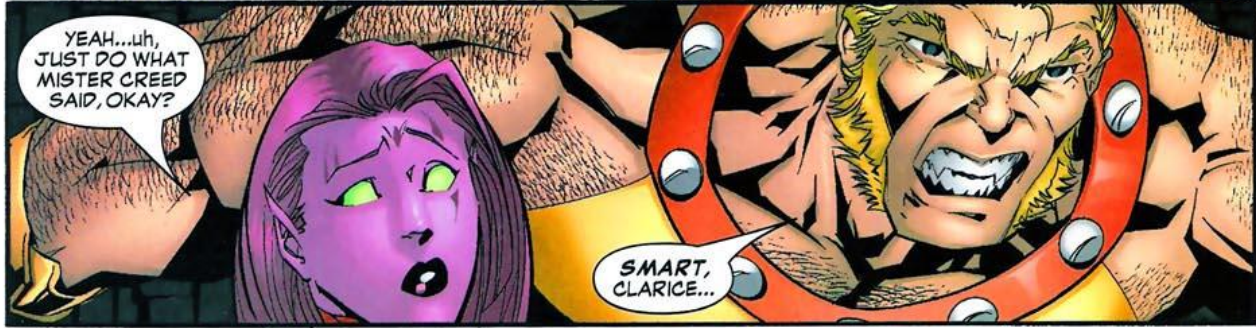
NO, MORPH... IT'S SOMETHING INFINITELY WORSE...



MORPH...? WHY DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? YOUR FELLOW X-MEN OBVIOUSLY DO. DOES THIS MEAN I'M FINALLY HOME?

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, EVERYBODY!

BLINK LEADS THIS TEAM, SABRETOOTH--!



YEAH...uh, JUST DO WHAT MISTER CREEP SAID, OKAY?

SMART, CLARICE...

NO EXIT

HOLOCAUST! MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A MOMENT? THERE ARE SOME STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS I USUALLY GIVE TO PEOPLE IN YOUR SITUATION.

I AM CALLED THE TIMEBROKER, AND YOU, SIR, HAVE BECOME UNHINGED FROM TIME.



YOU ARE HEREBY CHARGED WITH A SOLEMN DUTY-- TO TRAVEL FROM ONE PARALLEL REALITY TO THE NEXT, MENDING BROKEN WORLDS ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS.



I AM THE SON OF MIGHTY APOCALYPSE, AND YOU EXPECT ME TO OBEY YOU?

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA! HOW ABOUT IF I "MEND" THIS REALITY BY REMOVING A FEW PESKY GENE-TRAITORS AND WHOEVER ELSE GETS ON MY NERVES--

--STARTING WITH YOU!

SHRAK!



NOW THEN, BLINK AND SABRE-TOOTH, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME PAYBACK COMING FOR TRYING TO KILL ME...



!

YOU CAN'T HURT ME, HOLOCAUST. I'M JUST A FIGMENT OF YOUR COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS, AFTER ALL.



AND IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU--



--THEN I'M AFRAID I'M FORCED TO SHOW YOU...



"...AMONG THE COUNTLESS REALITIES THAT I WATCH OVER, THIS ONE IS PARTICULARLY FASCINATING...AND DANGEROUS."

"WHEN APOCALYPSE TOOK OVER THE WORLD, HE UNWITTINGLY CREATED A SITUATION THAT ENDANGERED THE REST OF THE MULTIVERSE."

"I HAD HOPED THAT SITUATION WOULD RESOLVE ITSELF WHEN MAGNETO AND HIS X-MEN MANAGED TO DEFEAT APOCALYPSE..."

"...AND THE NUCLEAR BOMBS RAINING DOWN ON HIS MUTANT EMPIRE SEEMED TO ENSURE THAT THE THREAT I SPEAK OF WOULD NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM."

"BUT THE BOMBS NEVER FOUND THEIR MARK. THEY WERE AVERTED, GIVING NORTH AMERICA A NEW LEASE ON LIFE--"

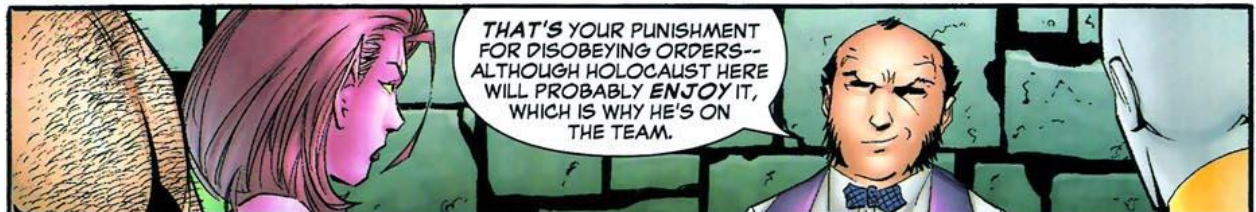
"--AND SPARING APOCALYPSE'S HENCHMAN, SINISTER."



NOT LONG FROM NOW, MAGNETO AND HIS X-MEN WILL CONFRONT SINISTER. THEIR VICTORY WILL MISTAKENLY DOOM THIS WORLD.

THE EFFECT THEY UNLEASH WILL SPREAD LIKE A CANCER, DESTROYING UNIVERSE AFTER UNIVERSE.

YOUR MISSION IS TO STOP THE X-MEN, WHICH MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM.



THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEYING ORDERS-- ALTHOUGH HOLOCAUST HERE WILL PROBABLY ENJOY IT, WHICH IS WHY HE'S ON THE TEAM.



DON'T MESS THIS UP, KIDS, OR IT'S YOUR BUTTS, TOO!

WAIT!



THAT ENTITY... THE TIMEBROKER... WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE... WASN'T IT?

I CAN'T SAY WHY, BUT... I BELIEVE HIM.

YEAH, IT'S TRUE. WE'VE ALL BEEN REALITY-HOPPIN' AND SAVIN' MESSED-UP EARTHS FOR A WHILE NOW.

THIS BRACELET-- THE TALLUS--IS HOW HE KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH US AND TELLS US OUR MISSIONS. YOU STARTIN' TO GET THE PICTURE?



YES, VICTOR, I AM. I HAVE SEEN ANOTHER WORLD. I KNOW THEY EXIST.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN OUR OWN PALTRY VENDETTAS.

WE'D BETTER GET MOVING. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE A JOB TO DO...



JUST KIDDING.

SHRA-KOOOM



BLINK



GYAHHH!

EEEEEEEEEE!

SO SINISTER THINKS HE CAN CLAIM MY FATHER'S THRONE?

HA!

IF APOCALYPSE HAS TRULY FALLEN, THEN THE WORLD IS MINE--SOMETHING THAT USURPER WILL LEARN WHEN I WEAR HIS GUTS FOR A NECKLACE!



NOBODY SAID YOU'RE EXCUSED, HOLOCAUST!

MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO KILL YOU AGAIN, VICTOR--

--YOU HEARD THE LITTLE MAN-- THE CLOCK IS TICKING!

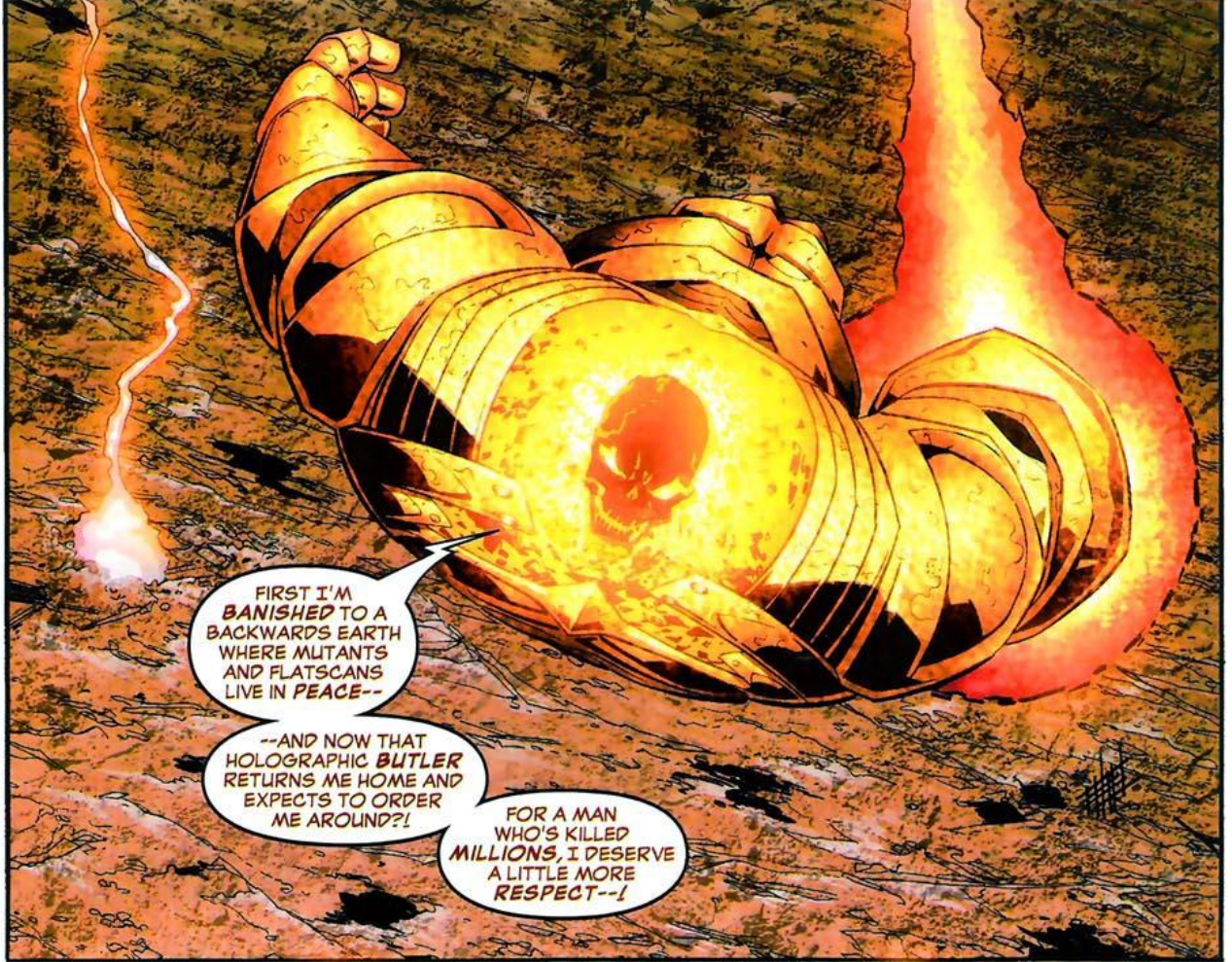


I CAN CATCH HIM! I'M FASTER--

NO, CALL HOLOCAUST IS TOO MUCH FOR ANY ONE OF US!



BLINK'S RIGHT. IT'S GONNA TAKE ALL OF US AT ONCE...



FIRST I'M BANISHED TO A BACKWARDS EARTH WHERE MUTANTS AND FLATSCANS LIVE IN PEACE--

--AND NOW THAT HOLOGRAPHIC BUTLER RETURNS ME HOME AND EXPECTS TO ORDER ME AROUND?!

FOR A MAN WHO'S KILLED MILLIONS, I DESERVE A LITTLE MORE RESPECT--!



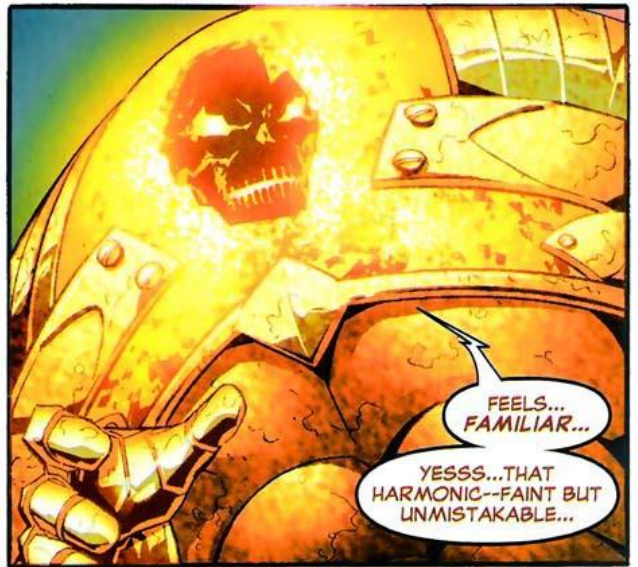
NO MATTER--ALL THAT COUNTS IS THAT I AM HOME AGAIN!

ONCE I DISPOSE OF SINISTER, I'LL HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE X-MEN, NOT TO MENTION CREED AND HIS FRIENDS. I'LL--



Eh?

WHAT IS THAT?



FEELS... FAMILIAR...

YESSS...THAT HARMONIC--FAINT BUT UNMISTAKABLE...



FORGET SINISTER! THIS COULD BE MUCH BIGGER THAN A MERE WORLD TO CONQUER!

U.S. AIR FORCE
RESEARCH POST BRAVO-ECHO

MISTER SECRETARY,
THIS IS GENERAL HUNTLEY.
WE HAVE SOME PRETTY
SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS
TO REPORT...

ABOUT AN HOUR
AGO, WE PICKED UP
TWO NEW CONTACTS
WITH ENERGY PROFILES
MATCHING THE
RESONANCE READINGS
WE GET FROM THE
ITEM.

THAT'S RIGHT.
ONE MINUTE THEY
WEREN'T THERE, THE
NEXT WE'VE GOT
SENSORS TRIPPING AT
THE PENS NATIONAL
MONUMENT.

A SHORT TIME
LATER, ONE OF THOSE
CONTACTS LEFT THE
AREA AT A HIGH RATE OF
SPEED. NOW IT'S ON AN
INTERCEPT COURSE
WITH US.

YES, SIR, I'M WONDERING THE
SAME THING-- WHO ON EARTH
WOULD KNOW WHAT WE'VE
GOT HIDDEN IN HERE? NOT
EVEN THE DIRECTOR OF
MUTANT AFFAIRS IS IN
THE LOOP.

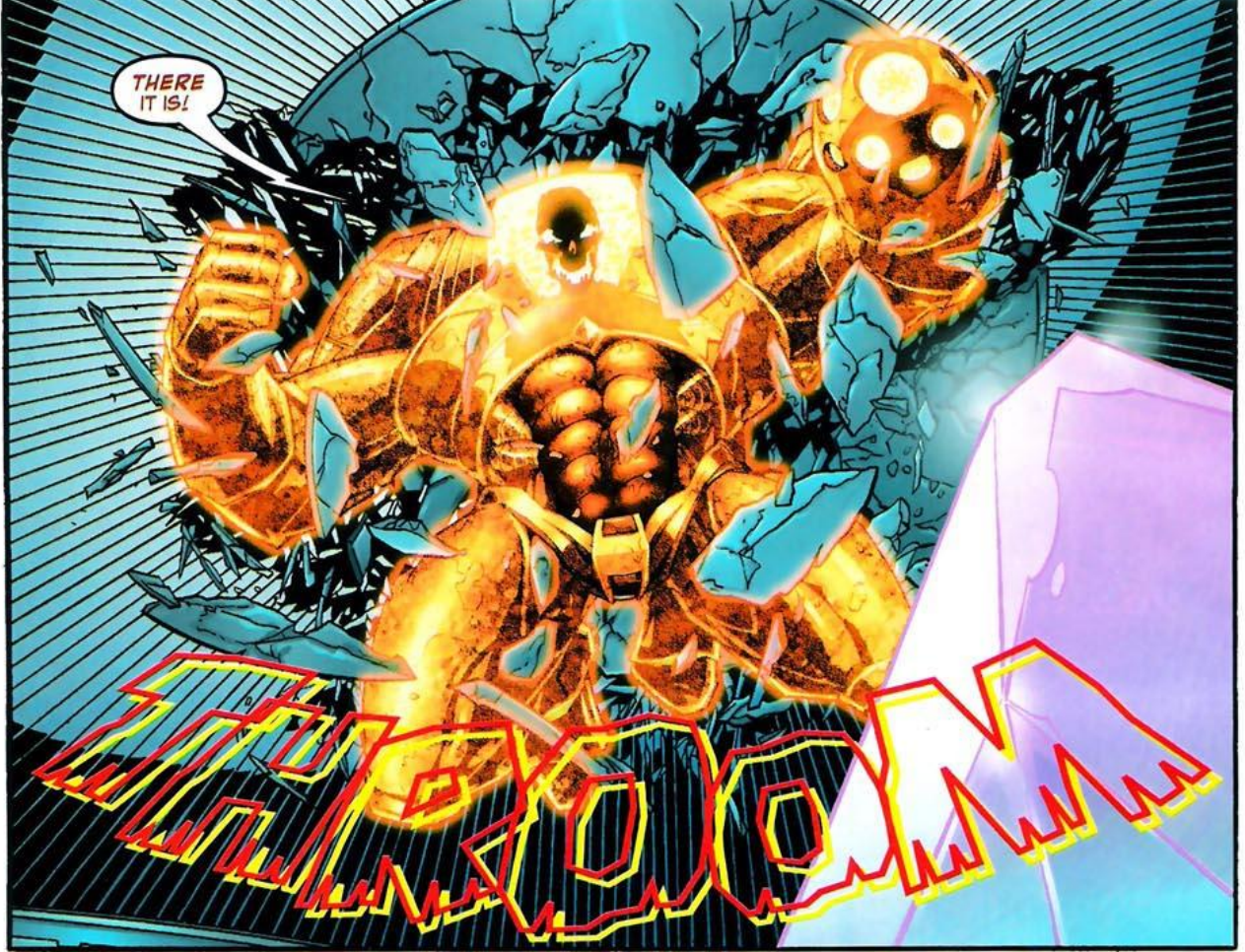
NO, WE CAN'T I.D. IT. AN
AIRCRAFT? MISSILE? MAYBE
WHOEVER OWNED THE
CRYSTAL IS COMING TO GET IT
BACK? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHERE APOCALYPSE FOUND
IT, SO IT'S ANYONE'S
GUESS.

YES, SIR. MISSILE
BATTERIES ARE ARMED.
IF WE'RE LUCKY, IT'LL JUST
BE AN UNMANNED
DRONE.

ACKNOWLEDGED.
IF NEED BE, I'LL
SCUTTLE THE
FACILITY, RATHER
THAN LET IT
BE--

GENERAL!
THE BANDIT JUST
ACCELERATED
THROUGH THE
DEFENSE GRID!
WE'VE GOT
INCOMING!





THERE IT IS!



THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL, I KNEW IT!

...M... M'KRAAN...?



YOU STOLE THIS FROM MY FATHER! YOU STOLE MY INHERITANCE!

...IT...HAS A NAME...?

OF COURSE IT HAS A NAME!



HOLOCAUST--!



WAIT A MINUTE...

...YOU LITTLE HALF-WITS FOUND THIS THING IN THE HOUSE OF APOCALYPSE, AND YOU KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT, BUT...

...YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT IT REALLY IS, DO YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT, MURDERER. A YEAR OF PROBING, AND WE'RE STILL AT SQUARE ONE. SO BEFORE I KILL YOU, TELL ME WHAT THAT BIG ROCK DOES.

BRAVE WORDS FROM A MAN WITH NO ONE TO BACK HIM UP.

I'M NOT BRAVE. I JUST KNOW WE'RE BOTH AS GOOD AS DEAD.

WE PUT AN H-BOMB UNDER THE FLOOR, IN CASE THE CRYSTAL TURNED OUT TO BE SOME KINDA DOOMSDAY DEVICE, OR A GATEWAY TO HELL--OR WHATEVER.

I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT FINALLY GET A FEW ANSWERS BEFORE I PUSH THE BUTTON AND HEAD OFF TO THE BIG P.X. IN THE SKY.

LISTEN CLOSELY, LITTLE MAN. THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL IS A NEXUS OF REALITIES--A PLACE WHERE DIFFERENT UNIVERSES INTERSECT.

MAGNETO WANTED TO USE IT TO CHANGE THE PAST AND UNDO THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE. FOR A TIME I THOUGHT HE'D SUCCEEDED...

"...DURING THE LAST BATTLE, ONE OF THE GENE-TRAITORS STABBED ME WITH A SHARD OF THE CRYSTAL, CASTING US BOTH TO AN ALTERNATE VERSION OF EARTH WHERE APOCALYPSE WAS HELD IN CHECK."



THIS THING IS CONNECTED TO ALTERNATE REALITIES...? GOOD LORD, IF YOU LEARNED TO USE IT, YOU COULD--

CONQUER A THOUSAND OTHER EARTHS? ALTER HISTORY TO WIN EVERY BATTLE?

THOSE WERE POSSIBILITIES APOCALYPSE CONSIDERED BEFORE MAGNETO RUINED EVERYTHING. NOW I HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO CARRY ON HIS LEGACY.



IS THAT DETONATOR STARTING TO FEEL A BIT HEAVY?

WHAT'S... HAPPENING TO ME...?

WEREN'T YOU BRIEFED ON MY MUTANT GIFT, OR DID YOU ASSUME MY ARMOR DID ALL THE WORK?



I WAS BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO CONSUME LIFE-ENERGY.

IN FACT, I'VE BEEN SNACKING ON YOURS SINCE YOU FOOLISHLY ENTERED THIS ROOM.



HOPe THOSE ANSWERS YOU WANTED WERE WORTH IT.

WHUMP



NOW... WHO'S NEXT ON THE MENU?

WAIT! I HAVE INFORMATION YOU NEED! THERE WAS A SECOND CONTACT WITH A RESONANCE FREQUENCY JUST LIKE YOURS!

A SECOND CONTACT...?

LET ME LIVE AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND IT!

OH, I'M PRETTY SURE I ALREADY KNOW WHAT'S PUTTING OUT THAT SIGNAL...



"...THOUGH I'M CURIOUS WHY I DIDN'T *SENSE* IT WHEN IT WAS RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE."



YER NOT LISTENING--! WE NEED TO SPEAK TO MAGNETO IMMEDIATELY! DON'TCHA RECOGNIZE ME? I USEDTA RUN WITH THE X-MEN!

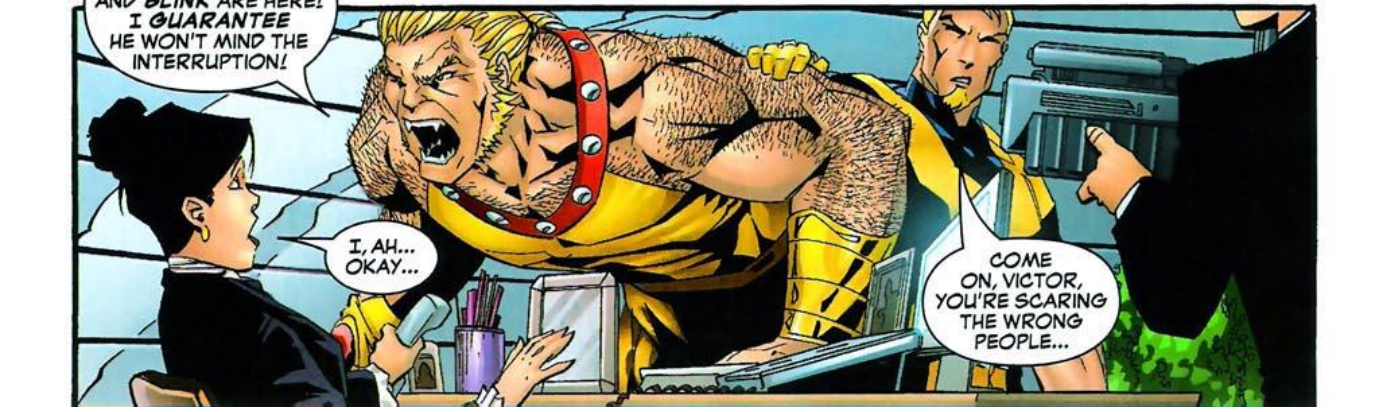
I TOLD YOU, DIRECTOR LENSHERR IS OCCUPIED RIGHT NOW WITH A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

YOU CAN SPEAK WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MUTANT AFFAIRS THIS AFTERNOON, ONCE WE RUN A SECURITY CHECK ON YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS.



LADY, THAT NATIONAL EMERGENCY YOU MENTIONED IS WHY WE'RE HERE! WAITIN' ON YOUR BUREAUCRACY COULD COST US ALL OUR LIVES!

JUST CALL HIM! TELL HIM SABRETOOTH AND BLINK ARE HERE! I GUARANTEE HE WON'T MIND THE INTERRUPTION!



I, AH... OKAY...

COME ON, VICTOR, YOU'RE SCARING THE WRONG PEOPLE...



THAT'S THE SECOND TIME TODAY YOU'VE TRIED TO HOLD ME BACK, RANKIN! NEXT TIME YOU LOSE THAT HAND!

AND DON'T CALL ME VICTOR! SABRETOOTH'LL DO FER YOU!



BAD ENOUGH YOU'RE ALL COZY WITH CLARICE! JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TA BE YOUR BEST BUD!



TIMEBROKER COULDN'T JUST TELL US WHERE TO FIND MAGNETO. THAT'D BE TOO MUCH TO ASK THESE DAYS...

I FAIL TO SEE WHY WE LISTEN TO HIM AT ALL.



THAT LAST MISSION HE GAVE US-- TO "KILL MIMIC"? I DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS A REAL MISSION AT ALL.

SOMETHING'S CHANGED. PERHAPS HE HAS GONE INSANE, I DON'T KNOW, BUT I BELIEVE THE TIMEBROKER JUST WANTS TO WATCH US SQUIRM...

...LIKE A CHILD PULLING THE LEGS OFF A STARFISH ONE BY ONE, JUST FOR THE SHEER SADISTIC THRILL OF IT.



BUT WE CAN'T RISK DOING NOTHING WHEN HE SAID--

BOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?



RUN!

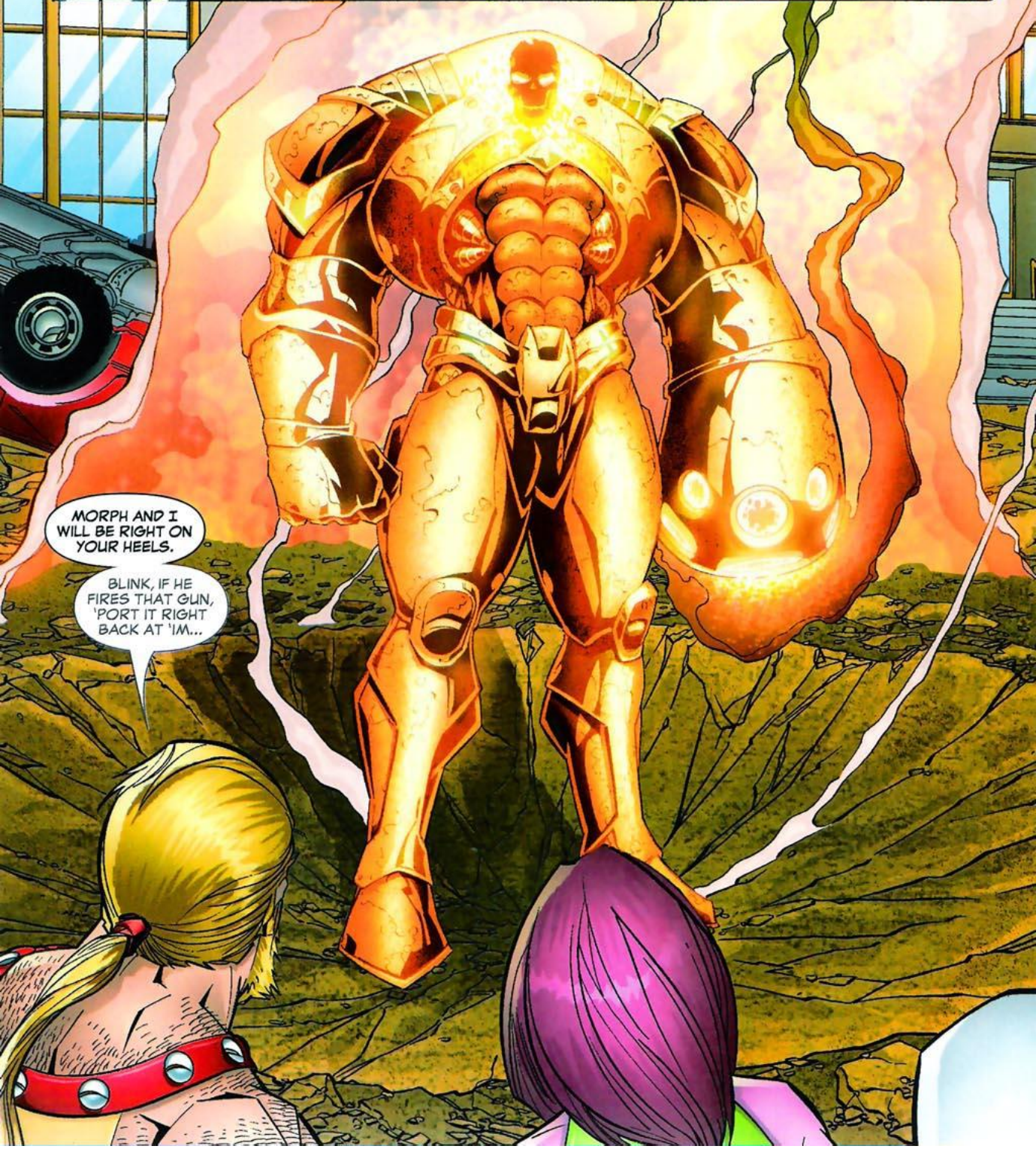
HE'S BACK!

AW, NO...



EVERYONE SPREAD OUT AND--

NAMORAL YOU AND MIMIC HIT FIRST!



MORPH AND I WILL BE RIGHT ON YOUR HEELS.

BLINK, IF HE FIRES THAT GUN, 'PORT IT RIGHT BACK AT 'IM...



WAIT, VICTOR,
THIS TIME I REALLY
DIDN'T COME TO FIGHT.
I'VE MADE A DISCOVERY
THAT CHANGES EVERY-
THING FOR ME AND
FOR YOU.



BETWEEN US,
WE HAVE THE TOOLS
TO BREAK FREE OF THE
TIMEBROKER'S CONTROL
AND GAIN ACCESS TO THE
REST OF THE MULTIVERSE.
WE JUST HAVE TO
COMBINE THEM.

WHAT
TOOLS?

WELL...I HAVE
THE M'KRAAN
CRYSTAL...

...AND YOU
HAVE THE
TALLUS.

AND UNLESS
I'M MISTAKEN, THAT'S
ALL WE NEED TO WIN
BACK OUR LIVES AND
OUR DESTINIES!



⊗NEXT:
AGAINST THE X-MEN!