

MARVEL
COMICS

THE UNCANNY



X-MEN

\$1.25 US
\$1.50 CAN
303
AUG
UK 95p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IF YOU
READ ONLY
ONE
X-TITLE
THIS MONTH..
THIS ISSUE
MUST
BE IT!



BAKE

DIRECT EDITION
30311
7 59606 02461 2

JUBILEE...

... ARE YOU IN HERE?

THOUGH VOICED IN GENUINE CONCERN, JEAN GREY'S QUESTION RINGS AS HOLLOW AS THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS UPON THE COLD METAL FLOOR.

FOR THE TRUTH IS, SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE JUBILEE IS...

... HOW LONG SHE'S BEEN HERE...

... WHY THE GIRL CHOSE THE PROFESSOR'S READY ROOM...

... AND EXACTLY WHAT HER YOUNGEST TEAMMATE IS THINKING.

SHE KNOWS THESE THINGS BECAUSE SHE IS A MUTANT--

-- BORN WITH THE POWER TO READ MINDS, AND TELEKINETICALLY MOVE OBJECTS WITH MERE THOUGHTWAVES.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TIMES IN HER LIFE-- FIRST AS MARVEL GIRL...

... LATER AS A GENETIC TEMPLATE TO THE COSMIC ENTITY CALLED THE PHOENIX...

... THAT JEAN HAS FELT BLESSED BY THE ABILITY TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH ANOTHER'S MIND.

TO SHARE THEIR PAIN, THEIR JOY--

-- THEIR FEELINGS OF HOPELESSNESS, OF HAPPINESS.

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.



I KNOW, I KNOW--

"THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS! ALL OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS STORED HERE!"

"IF YOU WANT SOMEPLACE TO SUK-- TRY THE DANGER ROOM!"

YOU'RE LIKE, NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO READS MINDS, YA' KNOW.

NOT AT ALL, BUT I'M APPARENTLY MUCH BETTER AT IT THAN YOU ARE.

THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY AFTER...

... AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME TO WILT AND START BLUBBERIN', FORGET IT.

I DON'T DO THAT CRYIN' THING.

But...

-- IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINKIN', I CAN SUM IT UP IN TWO WORDS...

... LIFE STINKS.

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE UNCANNY X-MEN

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

SCOTT LOBDELL
WRITER
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS JOE ROSAS
LETTERER COLORIST
BOB HARRAS TOM DE FALCO
EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF
RICHARD BENNETT
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST
DAN GREEN
INKS PGS. 8, 14-18



YES, SOMETIMES IT DOES.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT?

WHY?

IS TALKING ABOUT IT GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING?



NOT EVEN
A LITTLE,
JUBILEE.

THE ONLY THING
THAT MIGHT CHANGE,
IS THE WAY YOU FEEL
ABOUT WHAT YOU--

--WHAT
ALL OF
US--

--HAVE
JUST GONE
THROUGH.



FINE!

THEN YOU START--
MS. SALLY JEANREY
RAPHAEL -- TELL ME
WHAT **YOU'RE**
FEELING!



FAIR
ENOUGH.

I'M SAD.
HURT. ANGRY.

FRUSTRATED.

BUT MOSTLY
CONCERNED.

ABOUT
ME?

YES.
ABOUT YOU.

I...



.. I DON'T KNOW
WHY I SHOULD'DA
BEEN SURPRISED
BY EVERYTHING
THAT WENT
DOWN ..



--IT'S NOT LIKE WE DIDN'T SEE IT COMING A MILE AWAY.

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO PSYCH YOURSELF UP...



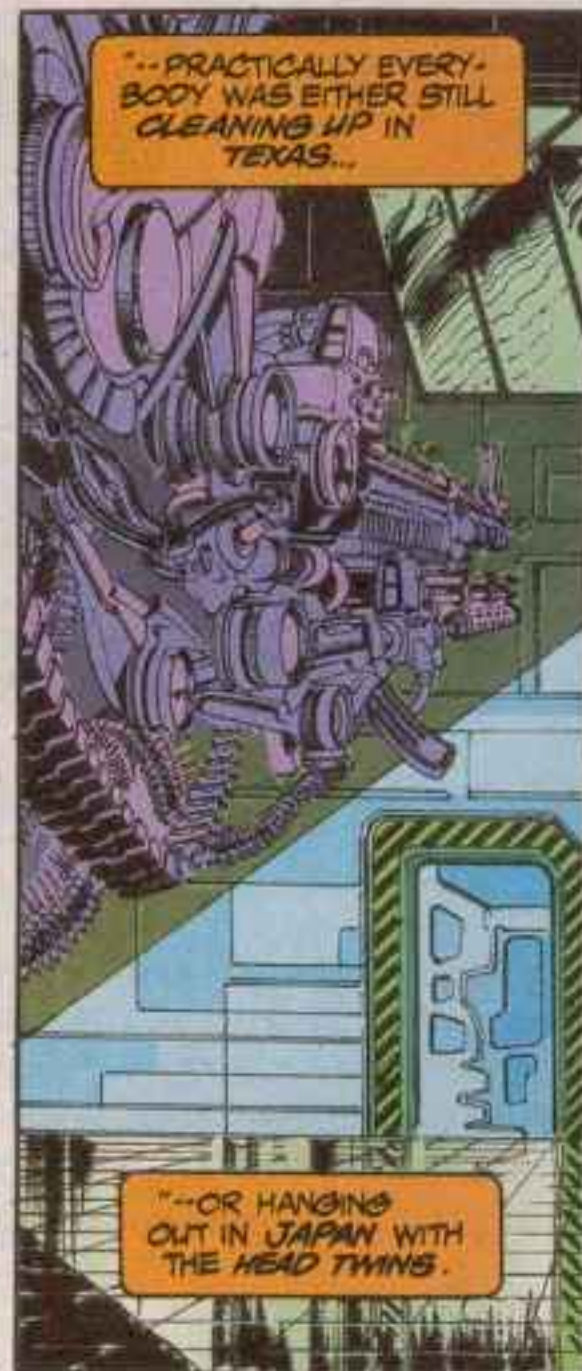
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SAY TO YOURSELF, I CAN HANDLE THIS, YA' REALLY CAN'T.

"IT'S LIKE MAKING ALL YER STOMACH MUSCLES TIGHT 'CAUSE YOU'RE EXPECTING A PUNCH TO THE GUT--"



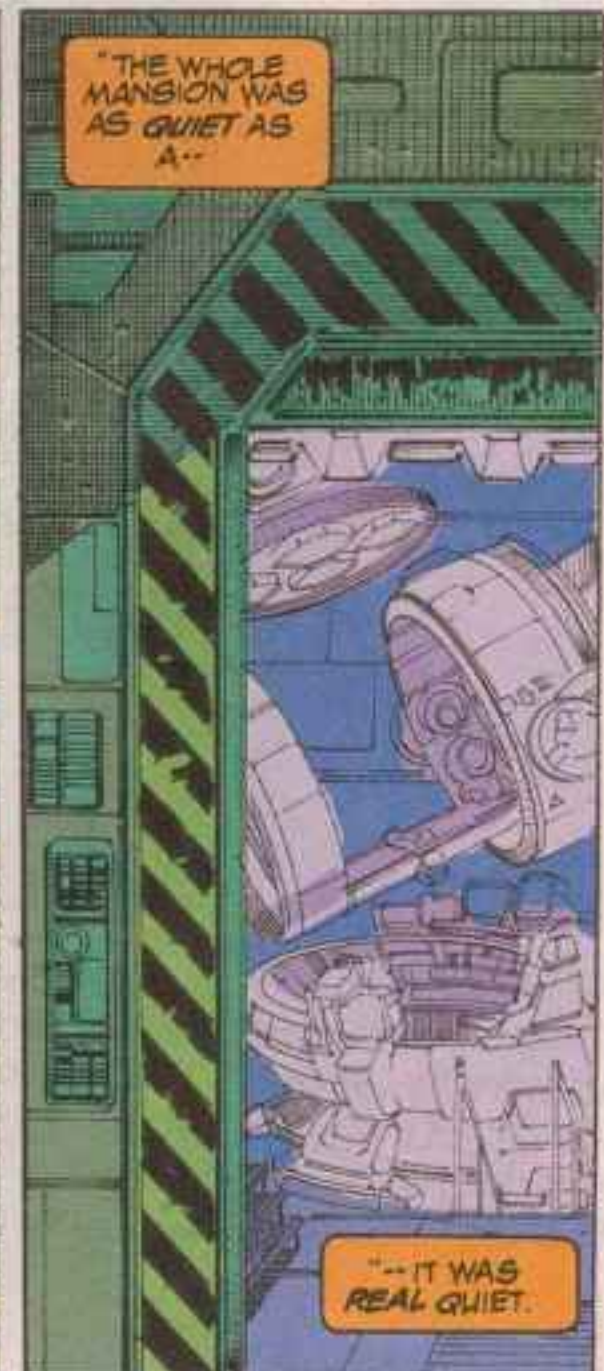
...THEN AT THE LAST SECOND, LIFE DECIDES T'KICK YA' IN THE TEETH INSTEAD.

"I MEAN, IT WAS JUST--WHAT, SIX HOURS AGO--"



...PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY WAS EITHER STILL CLEANING UP IN TEXAS...

...OR HANGING OUT IN JAPAN WITH THE HEAD THINS.



"THE WHOLE MANSION WAS AS QUIET AS A--"

...IT WAS REAL QUIET.

"CEPT IN THE MED-LAB."

"THAT'S WHERE EVERYBODY WAS HANGIN' ON ACCOUNT OF THE PIM-UH..."

"... ON ACCOUNT OF ILLYANA BEIN' SICK AND ALL."

"ME AND HER WERE IN THE SICK BED PART, WHILE DOC MASTAGBERT AND THE PROF WERE BUTTIN' HEADS OVER WHAT TO DO FOR PETER'S SISTER."

I DINNAE MEAN T'BE SO NEGATIVE, CHARLES-- BUT THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE.

WE NEED A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THIS INFORMATION WE HAVE CONCERNING THE CHILD'S GENETIC DETERIORATION, AND BARRING THAT--

--WE NEED A MIRACLE.

ONCE THE GOLD TEAM RETURNS FROM DALLAS WITH FORGE, I AM CERTAIN WE CAN-- AT THE VERY LEAST-- FIND SOME TREATMENT TO ARREST THE PROGRESS OF THIS... DISORDER.

"CERTAIN," ARE YE?

WHERE THERE'S LIFE, MOIRA...

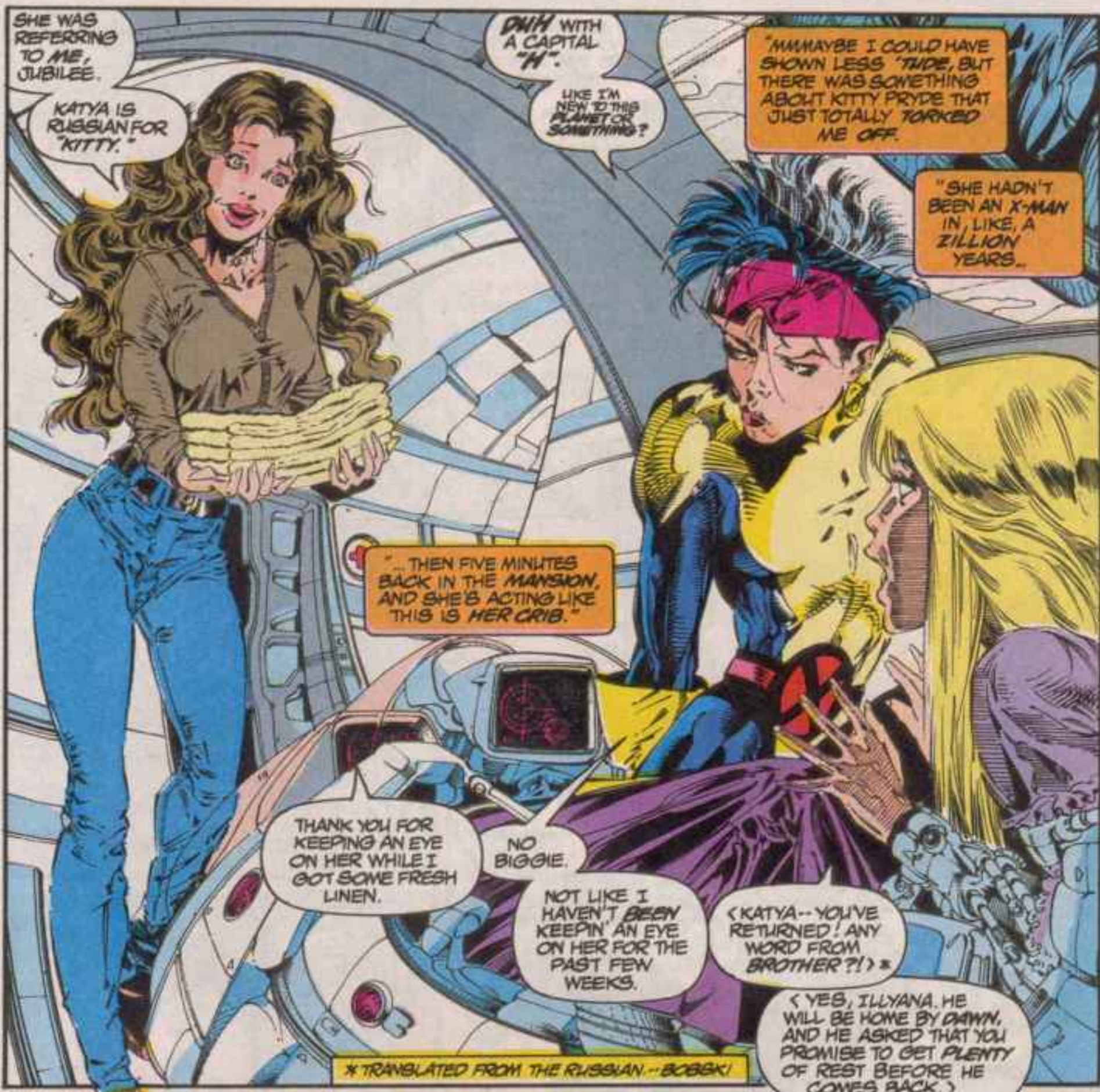
UNMM, AUF WIEDERSEHEN... ACCH, GESUNDHEIT. SAUERKRAUT.

"... BUT THE BIGGEST SMILE OF THE NIGHT WASN'T EVEN MINE..."

"HERE I WAS SCORIN' MAJOR POINTS WITH MY BI-LINGUALISM--"

KATYA!

"KATYA," WHAT?



SHE WAS REFERRING TO ME, JUBILEE.

KATYA IS RUSSIAN FOR "KITTY."

DUH WITH A CAPITAL "H".

LIKE I'M NEW TO THIS PLANET OR SOMETHING?

"MAYBE I COULD HAVE SHOWN LESS 'TIDE', BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT KITTY PRYDE THAT JUST TOTALLY TORKED ME OFF.

"SHE HADN'T BEEN AN X-MAN IN, LIKE, A ZILLION YEARS."

"... THEN FIVE MINUTES BACK IN THE MANSION, AND SHE'S ACTING LIKE THIS IS HER CRIB."

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING AN EYE ON HER WHILE I GOT SOME FRESH LINEN.

NO BIGGIE.

NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN KEEPIN' AN EYE ON HER FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

< KATYA-- YOU'VE RETURNED! ANY WORD FROM BROTHER?! >

< YES, ILLYANA. HE WILL BE HOME BY DAWN, AND HE ASKED THAT YOU PROMISE TO GET PLENTY OF REST BEFORE HE COMES BACK. >

* TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN -- BOBSKI



"I DIDN'T HAVE CLUE ONE WHAT THEY WERE TALKIN' ABOUT--"

"-- BUT IT WAS CLEAR KITTY JUST BEIN' THERE PAINTED ILLYANA FIVE SHADES OF HAPPY."

"WHICH IS THE PART THAT I DON'T GET..."

- KITTY'S OLD, LIKE-- WHAT-- SIXTEEN, SEVENTEEN?

ILLYANA IS BARELY SEVEN, YET THE TWO OF 'EM ACT LIKE THEY'RE THE BESTEST BUDS IN THE WORLD.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR. FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE. TOTALLY ALIGNED.

THEY GO BACK A LONG WAY.

THERE WAS A TIME, WHEN ILLYANA WAS OLDER THAN SHE IS NOW...

...WHEN SHE AND KITTY WERE CLOSER IN AGE.



-- IT'D BE EASIER IF I SHOWED YOU.

YER LOSIN' ME, RED.

NOT SURPRISING HERE--

I REALIZE YOU'RE NOT A BIG FAN OF STUDYING, BUT ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE X-MEN'S PAST-- IN ALL ITS INCARNATIONS-- IS IN THE ARCHIVES.



FROM THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS HERE AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS--

-- THROUGH THE SECOND GENERATION X-MEN, TO X-FACTOR, AND THE--

-- THE PRE-X-FORCE DUDES, THE NEW MUTANTS... I'M NOT A TOTAL SHIRK.

SO WHO'S THE HOT-LOOKING BLONDE?



MAYBE I SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING...

-- WHEN ILLYANA WAS FIRST BROUGHT TO THE STATES AS THE LUNATIC ASSASSIN ARCADE'S HOSTAGE, WE--

HER I RECOGNIZE!



DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THIS, OR NOT?

SWEEESH, SQUEE ME FOR BREATHIN'!

AFTER AN UNFORTUNATE ENCOUNTER WITH AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL WARLORD CALLED BELASCO, ILLYANA EMERGED FROM "LIMBO--"

--SEVEN YEARS OLDER, HER MUTANT ABILITY TO CREATE TELEPORTATION DISCS FULLY DEVELOPED..



... BUT HER CHILDHOOD SHATTERED.

ALTHOUGH SHE JOINED AND WORKED WELL WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSOR'S NEW MUTANTS--

-- SHE'D ALWAYS FELT AS IF SHE, AS SHE PUT IT, WAS "AN OUTSIDER AMONG OUTSIDERS."

MAYBE IT WAS THEIR AGE--

--MAYBE THEIR MUTUAL FEELINGS ABOUT NOT QUITE FITTING IN...

... BUT SHE AND KITTY BECAME THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

INSEPARABLE.



EVEN AFTER ILLYANA REVERTED BACK TO HER ORIGINAL AGE...

... AFTER SHE WAS RETURNED TO HER PARENTS IN RUSSIA...

... KITTY MADE IT A POINT TO STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH CARDS AND LETTERS.

EVEN THOUGH THE KID HAD NO MEMORIES ABOUT THEM BEIN' FRIENDS?



EVEN THOUGH

? HUNH?

COOL.



LOOK, IF YOU WANT TO GO CHECK ON PETER OR -- LIKE SOMEONE IMPORTANT...

NOW YOU WERE SAYING? KITTY HAD ARRIVED AND WAS WATCHING OVER ILLYANA--

I'M ALREADY DOING THAT, JUBILEE.



"RIGHT. OKAY. SO I'M FEELIN' AS USEFUL AS A SEAT BELT ON A PAIR O' ROLLER BLADES--"

"--AND THINKIN' AT LEAST THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE SOME KIND OF ENCOURAGIN' WORDS."

"HE WASN'T BEIN' RUDE OR NOTHIN', I COULD TELL."

WHAT'S THE PROB, DOC? HOW MUCH LONGER IS SHE GONNA BE HACKIN' AND WHEEZIN' HERSELF TO SLEEP.

...EVERY...
...NIGHT?

"HE JUST DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING--"

"...IT WAS LIKE HE COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO CHOKE OUT THE WORDS."



"NOT THAT HE HAD TO."

"IT WAS ALL RIGHT THERE ON HIS FACE."



"NO MATTER WHAT THEY DID, THEY WEREN'T GONNA PULL IT OFF..."

"... 'CAUSE ILLYANA WAS DYIN'."

"THERE WAS NOTHIN' ANY-ONE COULD DO ABOUT IT."



LOOK... PROFESSOR... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.



IS IT?



I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THAT.

WHATEVER ILLYANA HAS CONTRACTED--

--HOWEVER SHE CONTRACTED IT--

--BEGAN BY ATTACKING HER BODY ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL... CENTERING IN ON HER NUCLEIC ACIDS...

...THE PURINE AND PYRIMIDINE BASES OF HER RECOMBINANT DNA ARE DETERIORATING AT AN INCREDIBLY ACCELERATED PACE. POLYMERASE PRODUCTION HAS PRACTICALLY CEASED.

AT THIS POINT, WE CAN'T EVEN STOP THE PROGRESS OF THIS VIRUS...

...LET ALONE HEAL THE DAMAGE ALREADY DONE.



"I FELT MAJORLY BUMMED FOR THE GUY."

"IT'S ONE THING IF AN X-MAN BUYS IT IN THE SLUGFEST DU JOUR..."

"...BUT SHE'S JUST A KID."

"SNOW WHITE."

"LIKE, SHE WAS JUST BEIN' PUNISHED FOR BEIN' A MUTANT..."

"...AND HE'S THE FATHER OF ALL MUTANTS."



"I WANTED TO, I DON'T KNOW... HUG HIM."

"TELL HIM NOT TO BLAME HIMSELF."

"THAT EVERYTHING WAS GONNA BE OKAY."

"INSTEAD, I LEFT."



SEEMIN' AS NOBODY NEEDS ME FOR NOTHIN', I'M GONNA GO TO BED.

RIGHT NOW.

IN MY ROOM.

BY MYSELF.

WITH NOBODY ELSE.

DEET ME!



JUBILEE, WAIT A MOMENT.

WHA'S UP? IF YER LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY T' MAKE A BENE JERRY'S RUN, YOU'RE OUTTA LUCK.

HARDLY.

ILLYANA WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH SHE APPRECIATES YOU LOOKING AFTER HER.

SHE WAS HOPING YOU COULD STAY AWHILE-- GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

WITH YOU PROVIDING THE SUB-TITLES?

WAW! SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



UMMM, YEAH. SURE.

I GOTTA FEW MINUTES TO SPARE.

< SAME THANKS YOU FOR HELPING HIM TALK >

SHE SAID...

"IT WAS THEN THAT I GUESS MAYBE I KINDA REALIZED THAT KITTY MIGHT NOT BE HALF THE DWEES I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS."

"COURSE, NO SELF-RESPECTING TEEN I KNOW WOULD CALL HERSELF KITTY."



"WHAT WAS IT-- AN HOUR... TWO?"

"SITTIN' THERE ON THE BED, YAKKIN' AND WHISPERIN' AND--"

"--DON'T EVER TELL ANYBODY THIS, 'CAUSE I'LL DENY IT--"

"--AND GIGGLIN'."

"...GAND, I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY GIGGLED!"

"EVERYTHING SEEMED, ALMOST FOR A HALF OF A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT, LIKE THAT EVERYTHING WAS 'NORMAL'."

"TRUTH? IT WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME SINCE MY TWELFTH BIRTHDAY, THAT I FELT LESS LIKE A MUTANT--"

"...AND MORE LIKE A GIRL."

"AGAIN."

"I KNEW IT COULDN'T LAST."

FITZROY'S INJURIES NECESSITATED HIS RELEASE TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, CHARLES

AND FORCE'S STATUS WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAS DISSUADED THE AUTHORITIES FROM ARRESTING PETER FOR THE ASSAULT.*

*SEE LAST ISSUE --B.H.



THEN I SHOULD EXPECT YOU HOME BY DAWN?

YES IT IS TO BE HOPED OUR RETURN WILL CALM PETER..

...HE IS HIGHLY AGITATED...



...AND CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SISTER.

AS ARE WE ALL, ORORO.



AS ARE WE ALL.

KLR



"BEFORE ANYBODY KNEW WHAT HAPPENED--"

"--EVERYTHING JUST CURDLED."

"UH, PROF-- WE COULD USE A HAND HERE."

"WHEECH! CA CHWH PR BRU"

"SHE'S GONE INTO COMPLETE RESPIRATORY ARREST! HER LUNGS HAVE SHUT DOWN!"

"HURRY, MOIRA SHE CAN'T BREATHE!"

CRACK!

"ONE CC OF NOREPENEPHRINE, MOIRA-- IMMEDIATELY!"

"GIVE DR. MACTAGBERT ROOM TO WORK, KATHERINE!"

"A... COUGH HOUKKT PDR.?"

"(HE'LL BE HERE SHORTLY, SNOWFLAKE.)"

"SO DID WE, AT FIRST!"

"APPARENTLY IT WASN'T CONTENT WITH FEASTING ON HER MUTANT GENES."

"THERE, CHILD-- REST EASY."

"(HOLD ON-- PLEASE... JUST HOLD ON.)"

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! I THOUGHT THIS VIRUS ONLY AFFECTED HER MUTANT POWERS-- LATENT OR OTHERWISE."



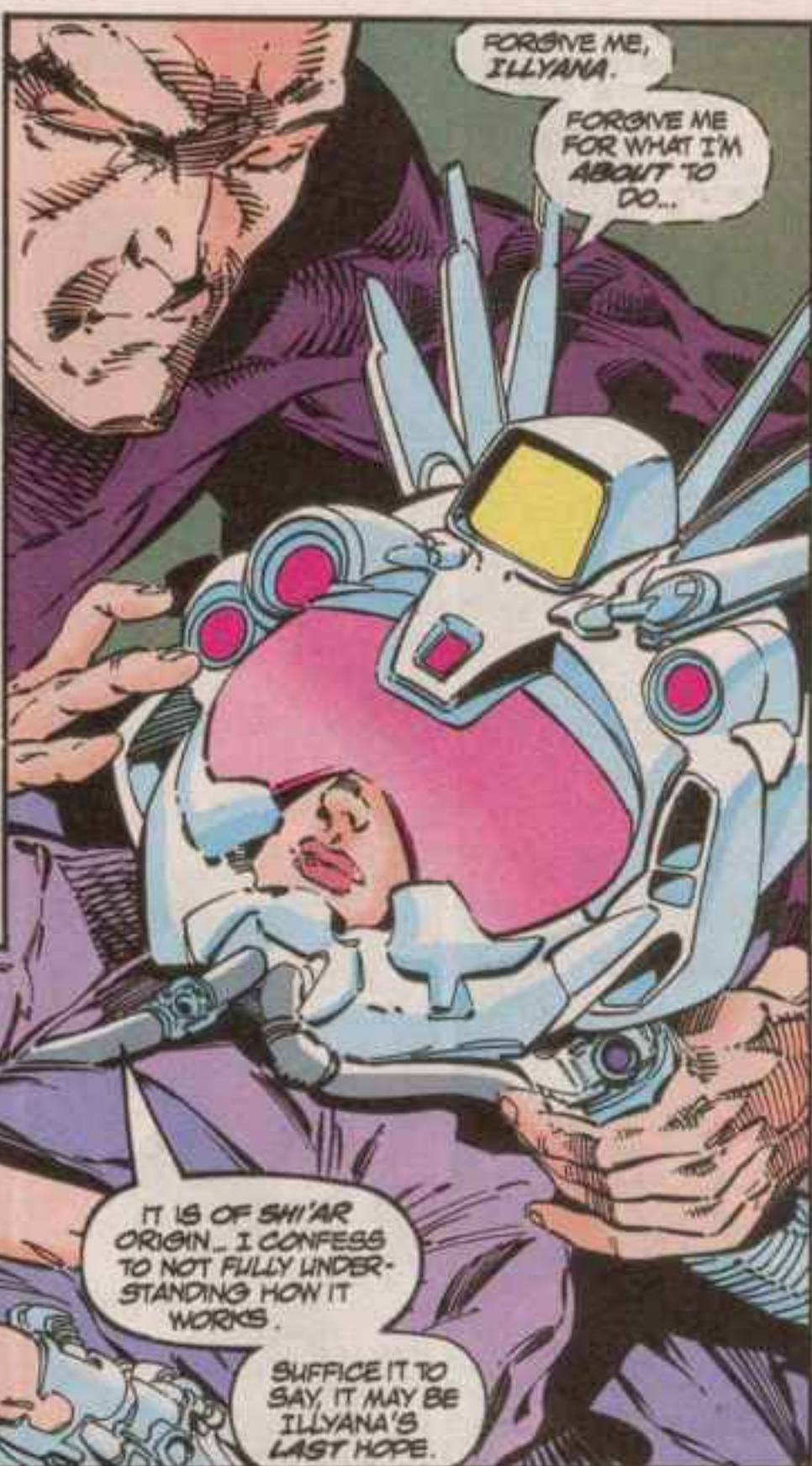


"LOOKIN' AT HER LIKE THAT --

"--CRYIN' OVER HER BESTEST FRIEND..."

"... I GUESS I WAS EMBARRASSED FOR BEIN' JEALOUS IN THE FIRST PLACE."

"THAT LOOK IN HER EYES WAS LIKE SOMEBODY WATCHIN' THEMSELVES DIE."



FORGIVE ME, ILLYANA.

FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...



TH-THAT DEVICE, PROFESSOR... WHAT IS IT?!

IT IS OF SHI'AR ORIGIN... I CONFESS TO NOT FULLY UNDERSTANDING HOW IT WORKS.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY, IT MAY BE ILLYANA'S LAST HOPE.



THEN 'TIS NO HOPE AT ALL, CHARLES!

YE KNOW FULL WELL THIS MOLECULAR COHESION UNIT WILL DO NOTHING MORE THAN MAINTAIN HER GENETIC INTEGRITY AT ITS CURRENT STATE!

I REFUSE TO LET YE DOOM THIS CHILD TO A LIFE IN A COMA!

AND I, MORA--I REFUSE TO SIT BACK AND DO **NOTHING!**



INSTEAD...



INSTEAD YOU'RE GOING TO SENTENCE HER TO--TO "THIS"?

TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO THINK?

WITHOUT THE CAPABILITY TO SMILE...

... WITHOUT THE CAPACITY FOR LOVE?



SIR, ILYANA WAS MY BEST FRIEND IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

I... I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HER AND SHE--

--SHE'D DO THE SAME.



AND THAT "ANYTHING" INCLUDES KNOWING WHEN TO HOLD ON...

WHEN TO...

--LET GO.



"ABOUT THEN, I JUST KIND OF PHASED OUT."

"DEATH AND DYING WAS NEVER A BIG DINNER TOPIC IN SOUTHERN CAL."

"WHILE THE THREE OF THEM TALKED IT OUT AMONGST THEMSELVES, I..."



"... I DID SOMETHING KIND OF..."

"... I GUESS THE WORD IS, 'STRANGE'?"



"HERE THEY ARE..."

"... DEBATIN' OVER WHETHER THEY SHOULD HELP HER LIVE OR..."

"... OR NOT..."

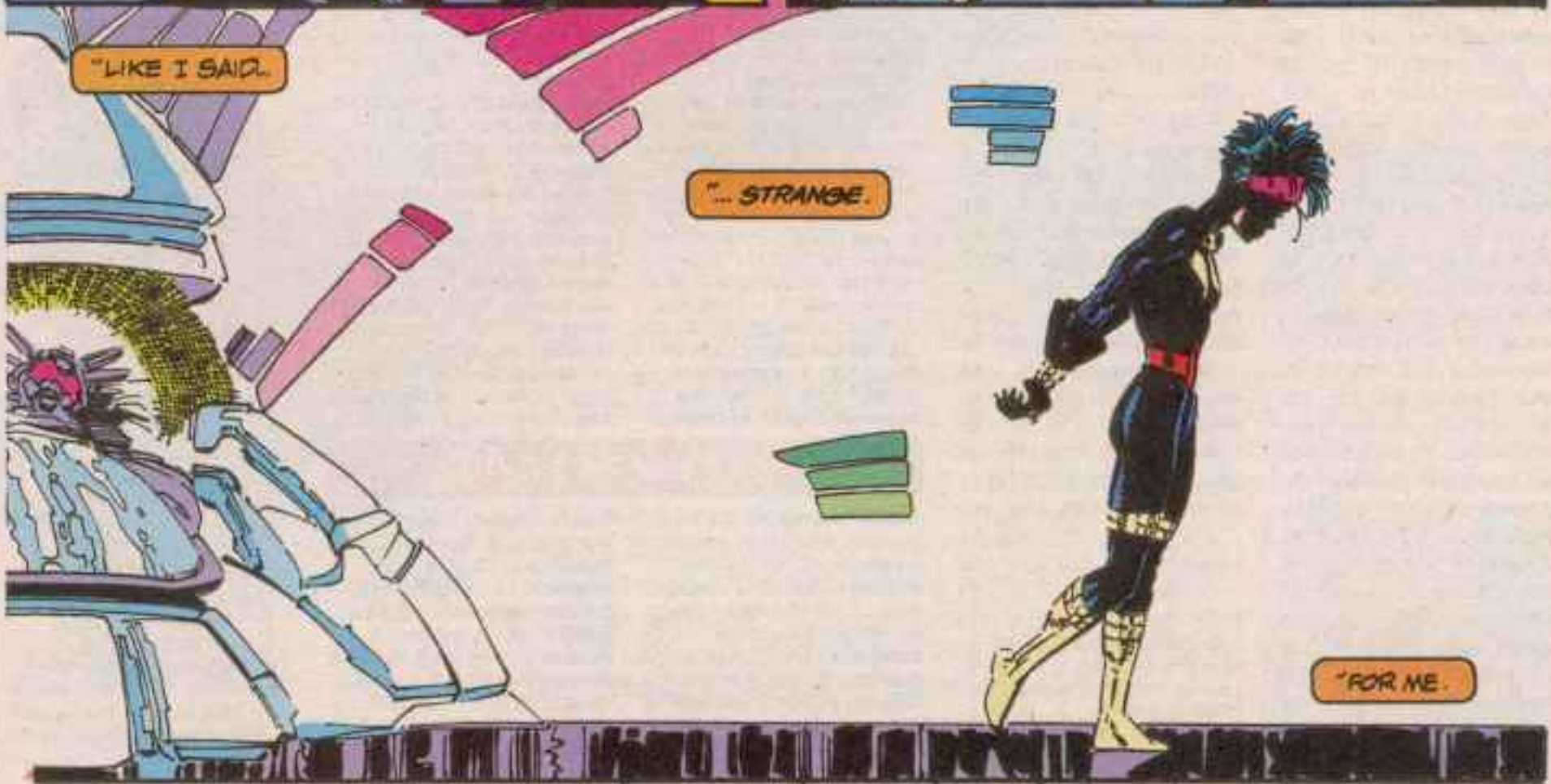


"... AND THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF IS HELPIN' HER WITH HER STUPID OLE' DOLL."



"I MEAN, IF I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HER BETTER..."

"... I GUESS I WAS WILLIN' TO SETTLE FOR MAKIN' HER HAPPY."



"LIKE I SAID..."

"... STRANGE..."

"FOR ME."



"BEIN' SELFLESS ALWAYS TAKES A LOT OUT OF ME..."

"... SO I FOUND THINGS TO DO IN THE KITCHEN TO KEEP BUSY TILL THE HEAVY STUFF WAS OVER."



"BY THE TIME I GOT BACK, I GUESS I MISSED MOST OF THE EXCITING STUFF."



"THE DOCTORS GRIMM WERE KNEE-DEEP IN LAST MINUTE SCENARIOS, AND--"

"--KITTY AND ILLYANA WERE BOTH IN LALA LAND."

"I GUESS I COULDA JUST LEFT 'EM TO SLEEP --"



"-- BUT I FELT THAT SHE SHOULDN'T BE ALONE WHEN..."

"I JUST FELT SHE SHOULDN'T BE ALONE JUST THEN."



"I START READING WHERE KITTY DOZED OFF."

"YEAH, SO IT WAS IN ENGLISH. BIG DWP."

"IT WAS THE THOUGHT."

"TAKING THE LITTLE GIRL IN HER ARMS SHE FLEW UP WITH HER IN BRIGHTNESS AND JOY, HIGH, SO HIGH--"



"--AND THERE WAS NO COLD, OR HUNGER, OR SORROW--"

"--FOR SHE WAS WITH GOD."

"FROM THE LITTLE MATCHGIRL BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN"



"I WANNNA TELL YA THINGS'RE GONNA BE OKAY..."

"... BUT, ALL I CAN DO IS BE HERE FOR YA."

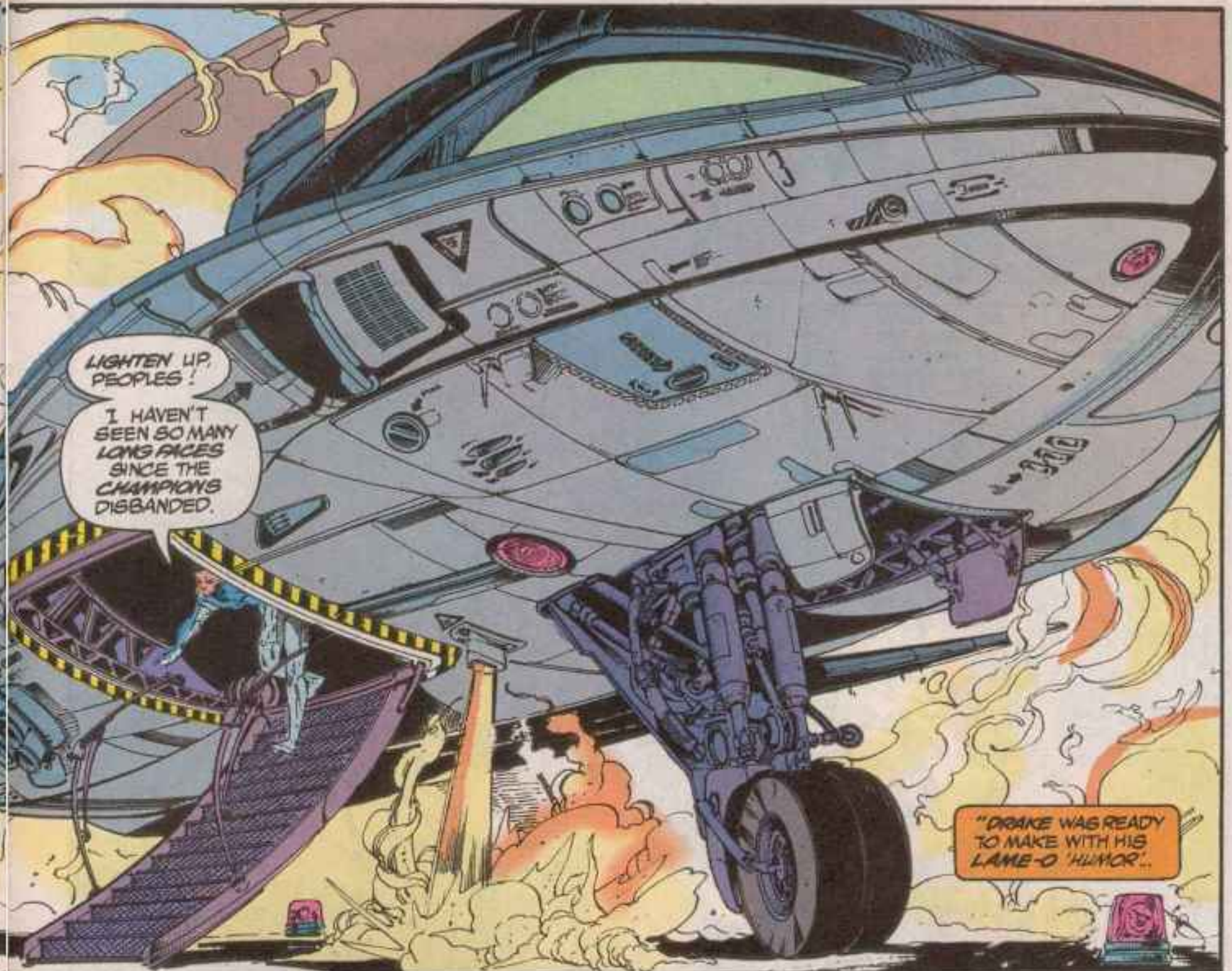
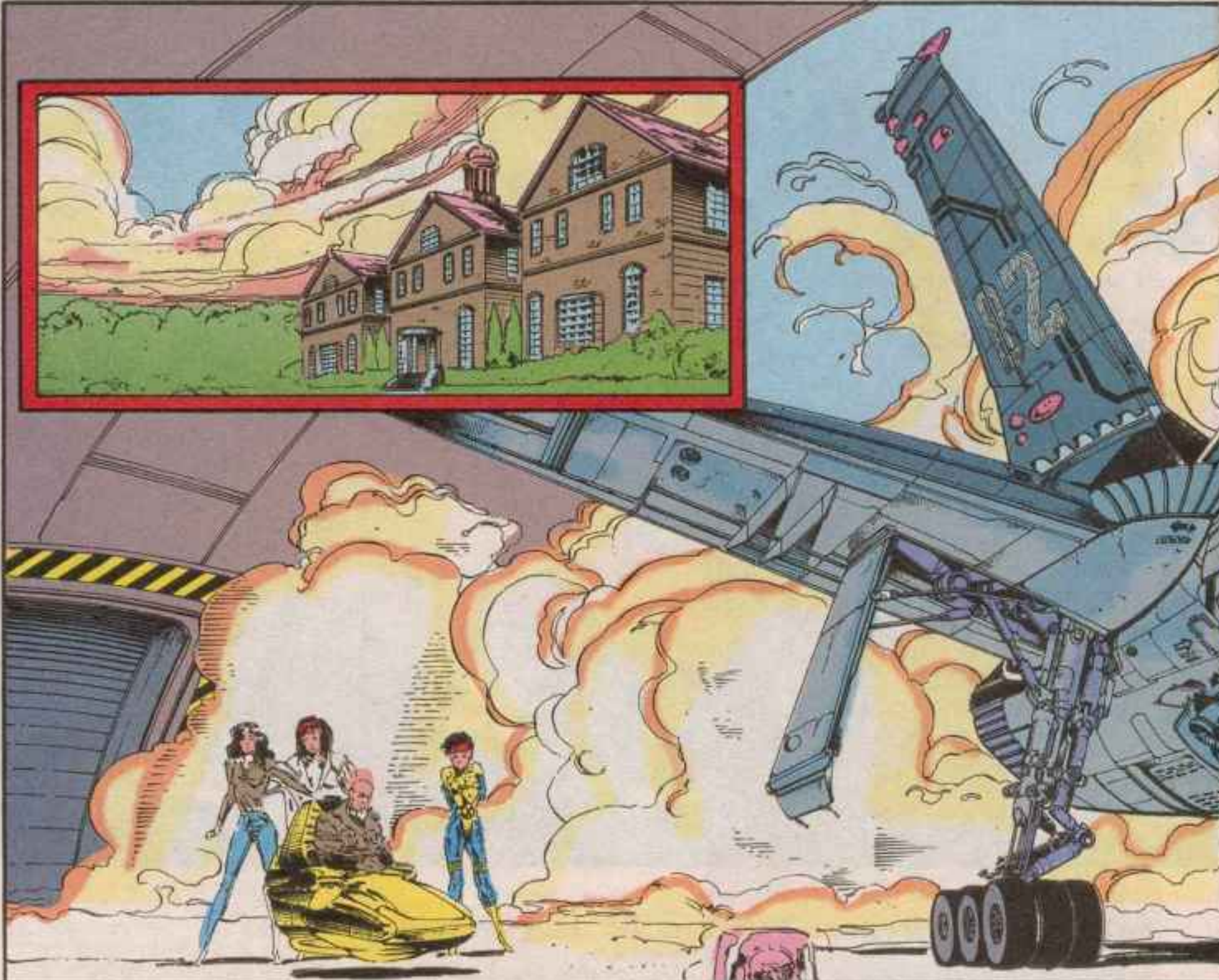


"I HOPE..."

"... THAT'S ENOUGH."



"I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THEN."



LIGHTEN UP, PEOPLES!
I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY LONG FACES SINCE THE CHAMPIONS DISBANDED.

"DRAKE WAS READY TO MAKE WITH HIS LAME-O HUMOR..."



"... WHEN HE SNAGGED A CLUE."

"PETER?"

"I DON'T THINK HE EVEN SAW IT COMIN'."

WHILE EVERYONE IS GATHERED HERE-- WHO IS LOOKING AFTER MY SISTER?
IF I CAN'T TRUST ANY OF YOU TO ATTEND TO HER NEEDS IN MY ABSENCE, THEN PERHAPS I SHOULD NOT LEAVE HER IN YOUR CARE?



PETER?
SON--



I'M SORRY.
WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD.



"THE BIG GUY DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND."

"NO REACTION AT ALL."

"DIDN'T SOB."

"DIDN'T PUNCH ANYBODY."

"DIDN'T EVEN TURN AROUND..."



THE TIME
WE SPEND
IN BETWEEN...

... TIME SPENT
ALIVE, SHARING,
LEARNING...

... TOGETHER...

... IS ALL THAT
MAKES LIFE
WORTH LIVING.



END

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TOM TALKS

Hello, again!

A funny thing happened to me the other day at my friendly neighborhood comic book store. I was struck by a most uncanny revelation while looking over our ever-increasing competition. Large X's seemed to overflow the comic book racks, sweeping across them like an unstoppable tidal wave.

Sure, I realize that Marvel publishes X-MEN, UNCANNY X-MEN, CLASSIC X-MEN, X-MEN UNLIMITED, X-MEN ADVENTURES, X-FORCE and a few dozen other X-titles whenever time permits, but I'm not talking about our titles.

I'm referring to all of the other guys who are publishing comics featuring big X's plastered across their covers. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I guess Marvel must be the most flattered comics company of all!

Curious as to how much praise our illustrious imitators wanted to heap on us, I spent an enjoyable few minutes flipping through their titles, and noting other similarities. It was great fun! Not only did I instantly spot half a dozen berserk, healing-factored, clawed individuals, but I also saw a couple of red, white and blue shield slingers as well!

Needless to say, we here at mighty Marvel are thrilled by all of the kind and thoughtful attention. It just goes to show, we blushing admit, that our comics are still the standard by which all others are judged!

And speaking of judging, I think this calls for a contest! Every time you spot a character or comic book title which is obviously based on one of ours, I'd like you to send a letter to us ... and to the other publisher. We'll award Official Marvel No-prizes to the best letters, and I'm certain that the other publishers will have some kind words for you as well.

Mail all entries to:

The Mighty Marvel Mimic Contest
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

As for the other publishers, mail their entries to:

The Mighty Marvel Mimic Contest
c/o Their name and address

(And tell them that Two-fisted Tom sent you!)

The purpose of this contest is to have a little fun, not to insult or embarrass any one of our captivating copiers. Please keep your letters polite and clever. There's never an excuse for rudeness!

Thanks for being there!

Tom D.
Tom D.

Here we are, several weeks into the summer, and we haven't done one of those traditional "ode to summer" pages yet.

So we asked our creative folk how their characters would spend their summer vacations if super heroes



were allowed to take a holiday. Here's, what they had to say.

Ultra-prolific writer **Gerry Jones** gave us two answers. "Wonder Man would do 'Death of a Salesman' in summer stock. It would be the first time where instead of just dying, Willie Loman would go off in an ionic blast." As for Hulk 2099, whom Gerry writes every three months in 2099 UNLIMITED, "He would go down to the lifeless sands of polluted California, and basking under the irradiated skies of the ozoneless future, toast himself to a golden green!"

Gerry's partner on **WONDER MAN**, penciler **Jeff Johnson**, has a different acting gig in mind for Simon Williams. Jeff said Wonder Man would spend his summer "guest-starring on 90210!" (Sounds like a dangerous job! That Shannon Doherty is one tough customer!)

AKIRA translator **Jo Duffy** said that the cast of that series would most likely "visit and destroy by telekinesis various lovely cities around the world."

The writing duo of **Pat Mills** and **Tony Skinner** write two of the 2099 books. (Together, that makes 4198!) These trav-

el agents of the future have lots of activities lined up for their characters. Noted Pat and Tony, "Punisher 2099 would open up another wing of his Punishment Hotel — building a bigger sewer for more scum. And Ravage would go on safari and wrestle lions and head-butt rhinos."

Ron Goulart, who comes to us from the alternate future of **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKORLD**, said of the hero of that book, "Jake Cardigan doesn't take vacations. The last time he tried, five separate Tek cartels tried to ambush him!"

Wet behind the ears **NAMOR** scribe **Glenn Herdling** said the one true Sub-Mariner would "go to Sea-World to spend his vacation with a few relatives!"

Finally, we have **MAD DOG** artist **Ty Templeton**, who said that Bob McCay's classic canine hero would "do one of two things: he'd either go on a good will tour of the fire hydrants of New England, or he'd recuperate from a particularly unpleasant de-worming!"

We don't know about you, but this page has given us lots of neat ideas on how to spend our own vacation!

THE BULL'S EYE by Rick Parker



HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- AKIRA #36:** Back by popular demand!
- AVENGERS: TERMINATRIX OBJECTIVE #1 OF 4:** With Thunderstrike, USAgent and War Machine!
- BARBIE FASHION #33:** Barbie hits the night notes at a jazz festival!
- BLACK AXE #6:** Black Panther guest-stars!
- CONAN SAGA #78:** Conan, Red Sonja, and lustful vampires!
- DANCES WITH DEMONS #1:** It's Frontier-ific!
- DEATH'S HEAD 2 #10:** Beginning DH-2's origin!
- DEATHLOK #27:** Siege is going over the edge!
- DOCTOR WHO: CLASSIC COMICS #9:** These reprints are like time machines to the past!
- DR. STRANGE #57:** Urthuna wants to go to war!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #380:** Ben Grimm wants Doc Doom dead!
- FEUD #3 OF 4:** The Skids invade Stoker Castle!
- GHOST RIDER ANNUAL #1:** Introducing Night Terror, a vicious vampire!
- GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #14:** Big changes for Blaze!
- HELLSTORM #6:** Some girls are more trouble when they're dead!
- HOKUM & HEX #1:** A deep cut from Clive Barker's *Razorline*!
- THE INCOMPLETE DEATH'S HEAD #9 OF 12:** DH battles Doctor Who!
- THE INFINITY CRUSADE #4 OF 6:** Silver Surfer is transformed!
- IRON MAN #296:** Tony and Rhodey go at it like a couple of Rock'em Sock'em Robots!
- LAWDOG #5:** He won't roll over for anyone!
- MARVEL SPOTLIGHT:** Complete checklist of next month's Marvels!
- MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #34:** Thunderstrike stats!
- METEOR MAN #2 OF 6:** MM reborn!
- MOON KNIGHT #54:** The Shadowkeep demon revealed!
- THE 'NAM #84:** War is over! This series has been discharged! Move out!
- NEW WARRIORS #39:** Super-Nova is gunning for regular Nova!
- PUNISHER 2099 #8:** Jake ain't afraid o' no Fear Master!
- PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #58:** Ghost Rider and Daredevil guest-star!
- SILVER SURFER #84:** Surf meets his dead parents!
- SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #204:** Rematch with Tombstone!
- WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKORLD #13:** Concluding "Warbride!"
- THOR #466:** Thor battles Drax!
- INFINITY CRUSADE crossover!**
- JOE KUBERT'S TOR #4 OF 4:** He's the mighty Tor!
- USAGENT #4 OF 4:** The final secret of Scourge revealed!
- VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE # 2 OF 3:** With Punisher and Pyre!
- WHAT THE? FALL SPECIAL:** Meet Spider-Ham 2099!
- X-FORCE #26:** Cable gets de-regulated!
- X-MEN CLASSIC #87:** Colossus and Juggernaut in a barroom brawl!
- X-MEN UNLIMITED #2:** One human can kill Magneto!

C-RECRIMINE C AND D COUNTIES ALTAR GIRLS PRODUCT TAMPERING MILL HUNKY CULTURAL CARNIVORE CATEGORICAL REPRESENTATION DIGITAL DINOSAURS HOLDING PATTERN HAUTUPTHERE RETRO SPECTIVE TRAUMA ALLEY OOP POLITICS OF VIRTUE BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER SUPRACHIASMATIC NUCLEUS PAN TROGLODYTE

35 GETAWAY SPECIALS SMART MONEY NICHE MARKETING SPACE ADAPTATION SYNDROME KATA-KANA HIDDEN BIAS AGRICULTURAL RUN-OFF WHISTLE BLOWING LITTLE LULU FORCED PERSPECTIVE