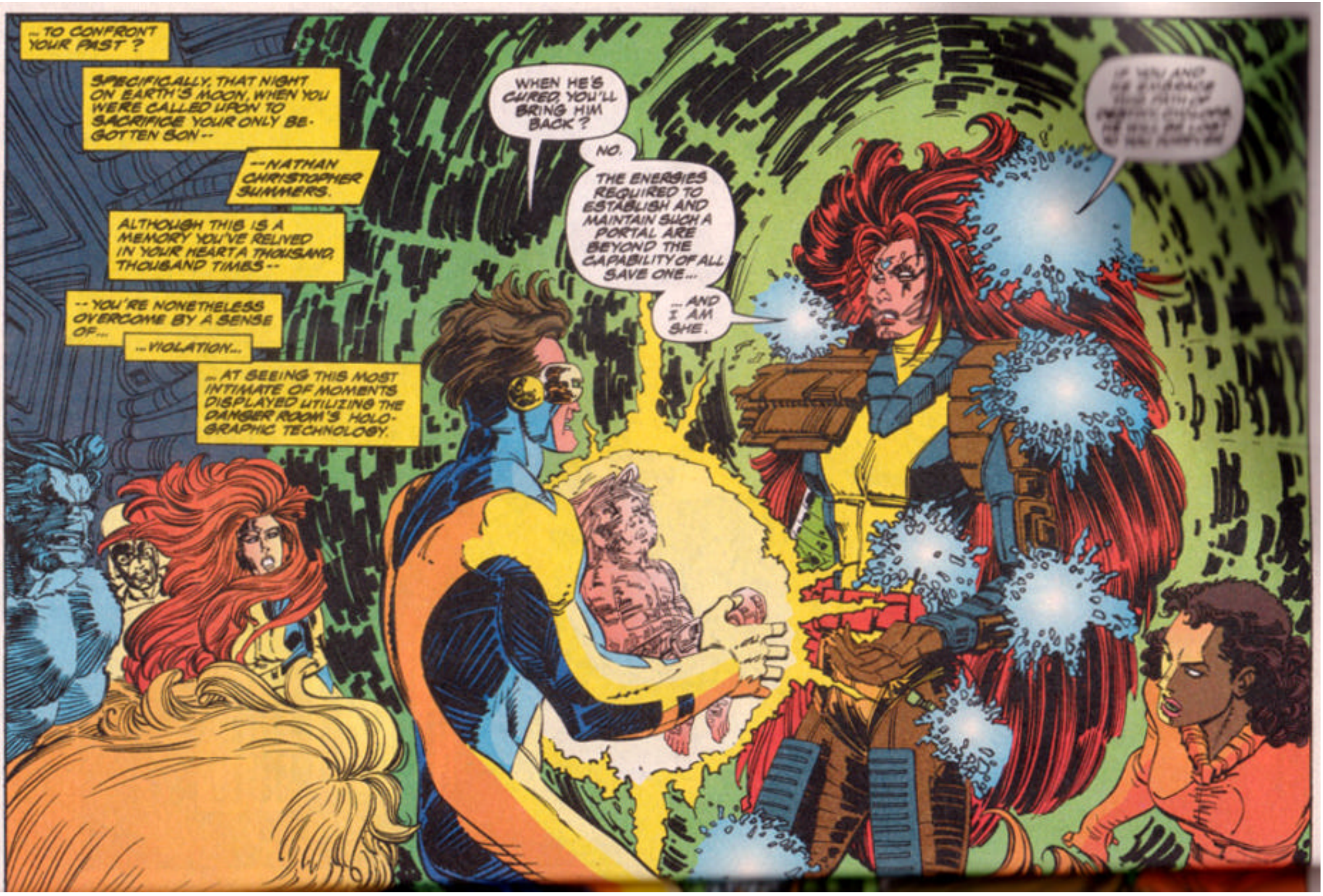
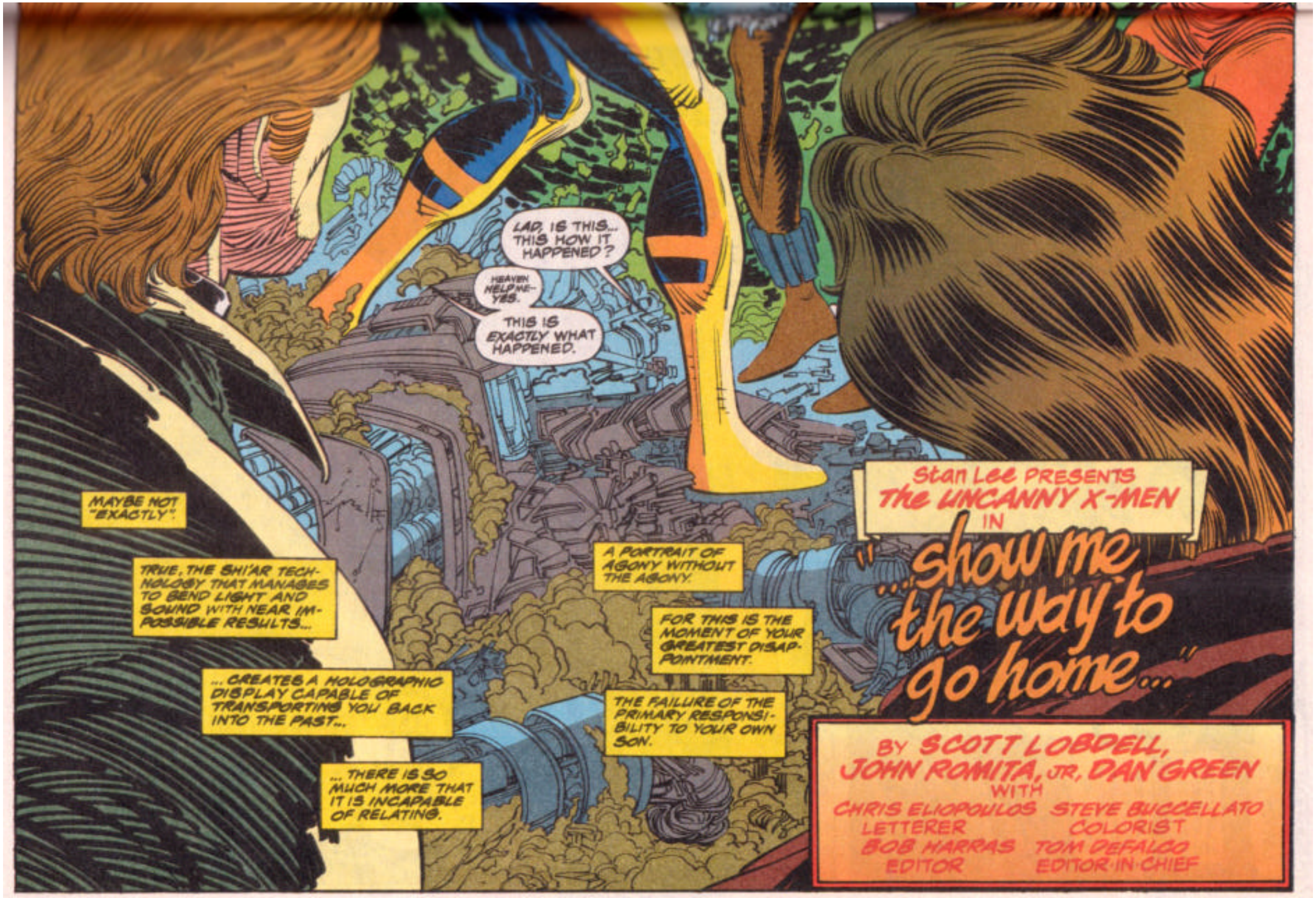
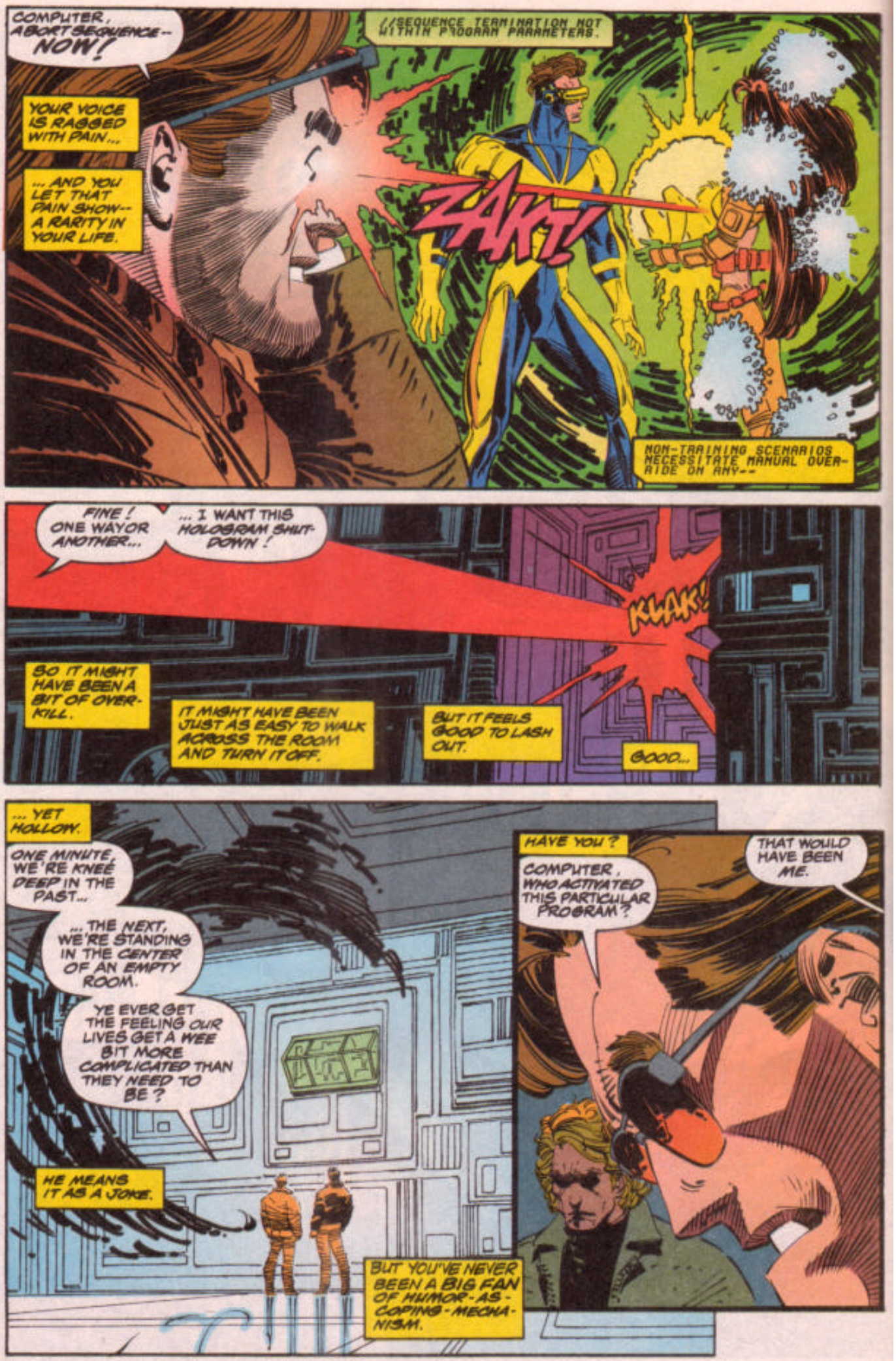
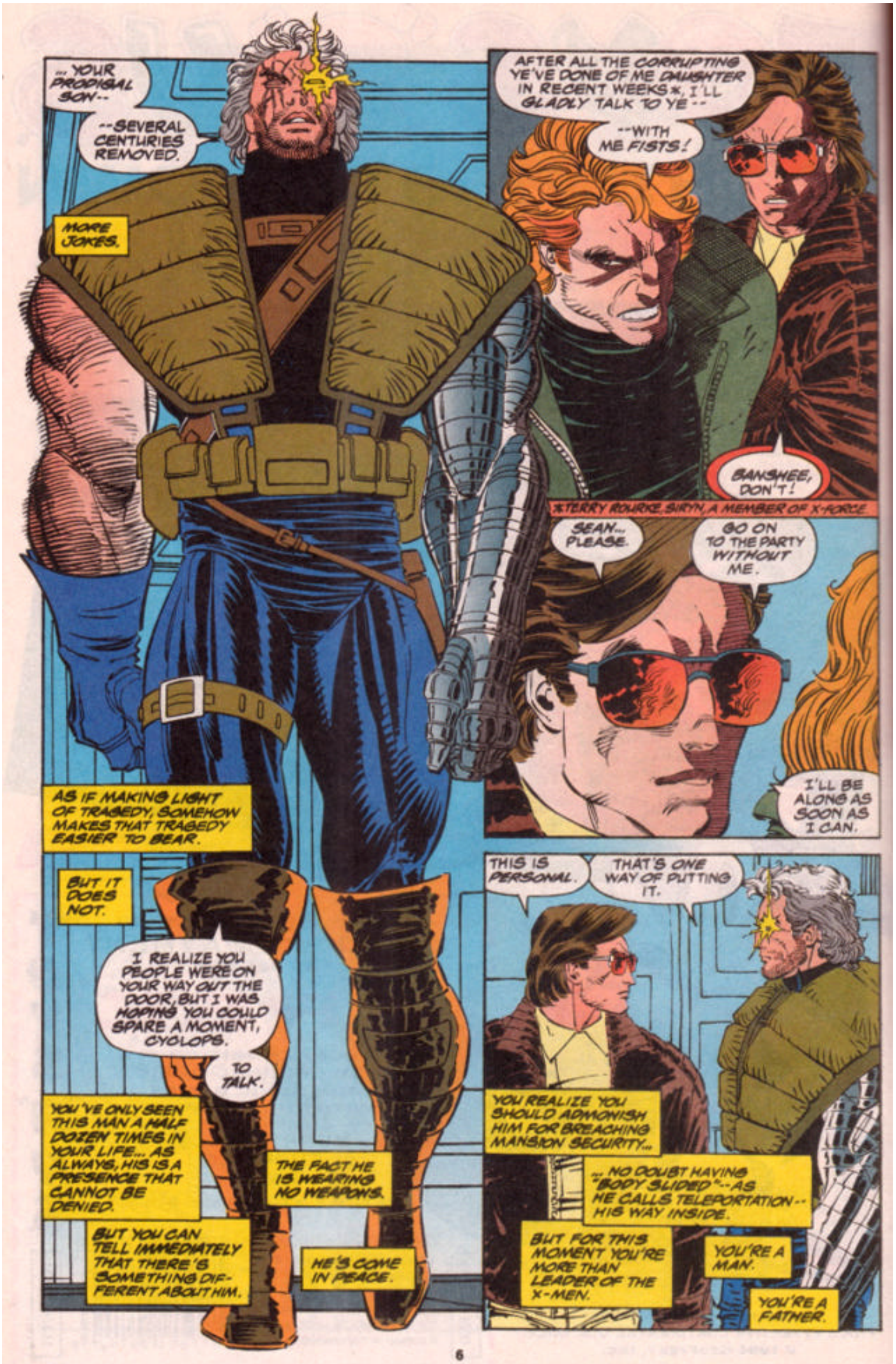
MARVEL COMICS
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
$1.95 US
$2.45 CAN
310
MAR
UK £1.50
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CABLE--
CYCLOPS--
ALONE--AGAINST THE
X-CUTIONER!
Rougher

UNCANNY X-MEN® Vol. 1, No. 310, March, 1994. (ISSN #0274-5372) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.45 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00; foreign $27.00; and Canadian subscriber must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. X-MEN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO UNCANNY X-MEN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in Canada.

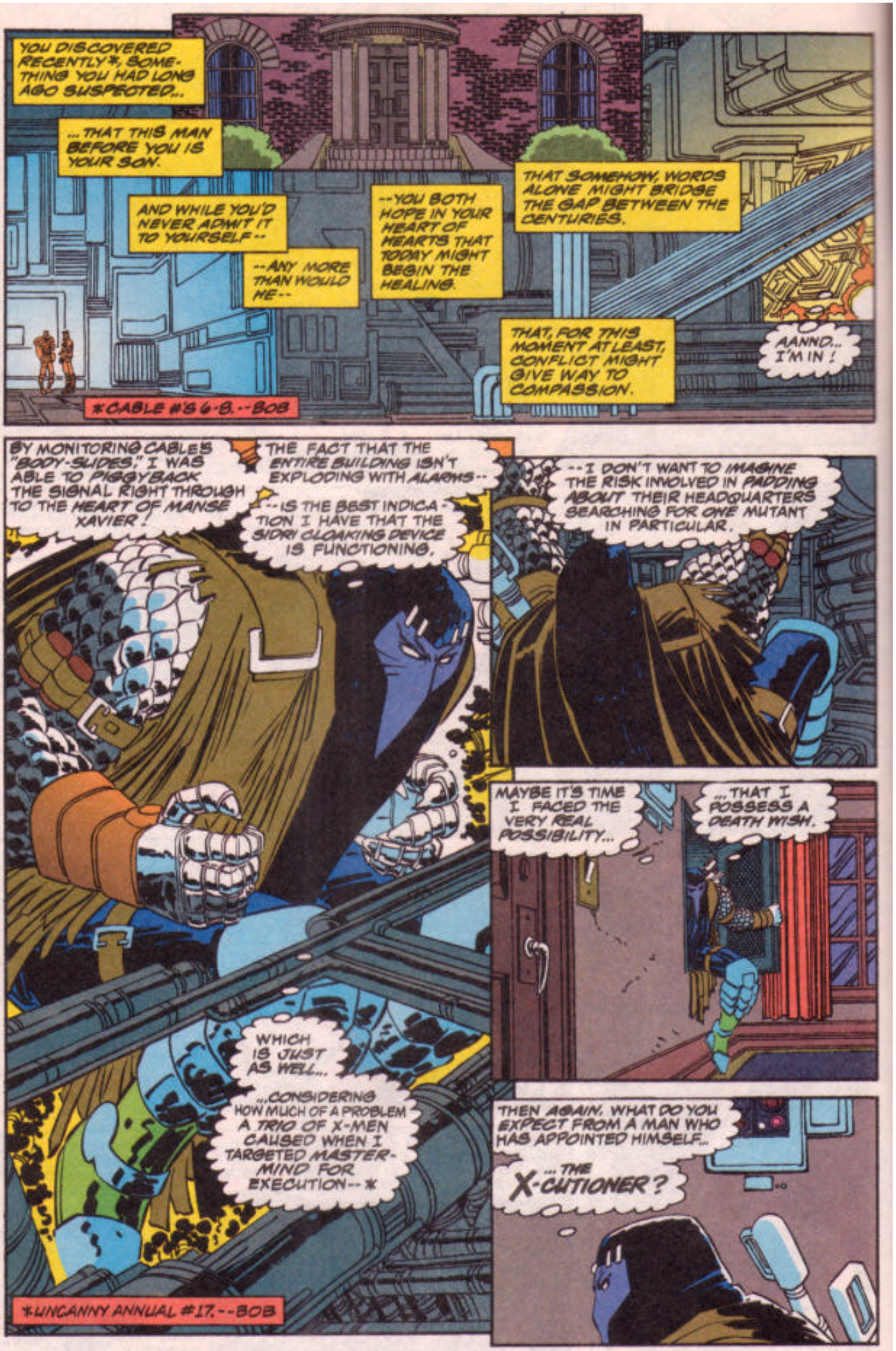

...TO CONFRONT YOUR PAST?
SPECIFICALLY, THAT NIGHT ON EARTH'S MOON, WHEN YOU WERE CALLED UPON TO SACRIFICE YOUR ONLY BE-GOTTEN SON--
--NATHAN CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS.
ALTHOUGH THIS IS A MEMORY YOU'VE RELIVED IN YOUR HEART A THOUSAND THOUSAND TIMES--
--YOU'RE NONETHELESS OVERCOME BY A SENSE OF...
...VIOLATION...
...AT SEEING THIS MOST INTIMATE OF MOMENTS DISPLAYED UTILIZING THE DANGER ROOM'S HOLO-GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY.
WHEN HE'S CURED, YOU'LL BRING HIM BACK?
NO.
THE ENERGIES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN SUCH A PORTAL ARE BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF ALL SAVE ONE...
...AND I AM SHE.


LAD, IS THIS... THIS HOW IT HAPPENED?
HEAVEN HELP ME— YES.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
MAYBE NOT "EXACTLY".
TRUE, THE SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY THAT MANAGES TO BEND LIGHT AND SOUND WITH NEAR IMPOSSIBLE RESULTS...
...CREATES A HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING YOU BACK INTO THE PAST...
... THERE IS SO MUCH MORE THAT IT IS INCAPABLE OF RELATING.
A PORTRAIT OF AGONY WITHOUT THE AGONY.
FOR THIS IS THE MOMENT OF YOUR GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT.
THE FAILURE OF THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR OWN SON.
Stan Lee PRESENTS
The UNCANNY X-MEN
IN
"...show me the way to go home..."
BY SCOTT LOBDELL, JOHN ROMITA, JR, DAN GREEN
WITH
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS LETTERER
STEVE BUCCELLATO COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF


COMPUTER, ABORT SEQUENCE-- NOW!
//SEQUENCE TERMINATION NOT WITHIN PROGRAM PARAMETERS.
YOUR VOICE IS RAGGED WITH PAIN...
... AND YOU LET THAT PAIN SHOW-- A RARITY IN YOUR LIFE.
ZAK!
NON-TRAINING SCENARIOS NECESSITATE MANUAL OVERRIDE ON ANY--
FINE! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
... I WANT THIS HOLOGRAM SHUT-DOWN!
KLAK!
SO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT OF OVER-KILL.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUST AS EASY TO WALK ACROSS THE ROOM AND TURN IT OFF.
BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO LASH OUT.
GOOD...
... YET HOLLOW.
ONE MINUTE, WE'RE KNEE DEEP IN THE PAST...
... THE NEXT, WE'RE STANDING IN THE CENTER OF AN EMPTY ROOM.
YE EVER GET THE FEELING OUR LIVES GET A WEE BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THEY NEED TO BE?
HE MEANS IT AS A JOKE.
BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A BIG FAN OF HUMOR-AS-COPING-MECHANISM.
HAVE YOU?
COMPUTER, WHO ACTIVATED THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM?
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME.


... YOUR PRODIGAL SON--
--SEVERAL CENTURIES REMOVED.
MORE JOKES.
AFTER ALL THE CORRUPTING YE'VE DONE OF ME DAUGHTER IN RECENT WEEKS*, I'LL GLADLY TALK TO YE --
--WITH ME FISTS!
BANSHEE, DON'T!
*TERRY ROURKE, SIRYN, A MEMBER OF X-FORCE
SEAN... PLEASE.
GO ON TO THE PARTY WITHOUT ME.
I'LL BE ALONG AS SOON AS I CAN.
AS IF MAKING LIGHT OF TRAGEDY, SOMEHOW MAKES THAT TRAGEDY EASIER TO BEAR.
BUT IT DOES NOT.
I REALIZE YOU PEOPLE WERE ON YOUR WAY OUT THE DOOR, BUT I WAS HOPING YOU COULD SPARE A MOMENT, CYCLOPS.
TO TALK.
YOU'VE ONLY SEEN THIS MAN A HALF DOZEN TIMES IN YOUR LIFE... AS ALWAYS, HIS IS A PRESENCE THAT CANNOT BE DENIED.
THE FACT HE IS WEARING NO WEAPONS.
BUT YOU CAN TELL IMMEDIATELY THAT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM.
HE'S COME IN PEACE.
THIS IS PERSONAL.
THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
YOU REALIZE YOU SHOULD ADMONISH HIM FOR BREACHING MANSION SECURITY...
... NO DOUBT HAVING "BODY SLIDED"--AS HE CALLS TELEPORTATION--HIS WAY INSIDE.
BUT FOR THIS MOMENT YOU'RE MORE THAN LEADER OF THE X-MEN.
YOU'RE A MAN.
YOU'RE A FATHER.

A BAR IN GREENWICH VILLAGE...
UNBELIEVABLE! WE CAN COUNT ON THE GUY TO LEAD US INTO THE SHADOW OF THE VALLEY OF DEATH...
...AND BACK...
...BUT WHEN WE NEED HIM MOST, HE MANAGES TO MUCK UP HIS OWN SEND-OFF!
THAT'S OUR SCOTT, ROBERT--A STUDY IN CONTRADICTIONS.
PERSONALLY, HANK, I TAKE IT AS A GOOD SIGN.
MR. SUMMERS GETS COLD FEET AT THE LAST MINUTE, AND SUDDENLY JEAN GREY HAS ONE LAST CHANCE--
--TO BECOME MRS. WARREN WORTHINGTON III.
EVER THE ETERNAL OPTIMIST, MEIN FREUND?
EVER, KURT.
PARDON ME FOR BEING DENSE, BUT I WAS HOPING ONE OF YOU COULD EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ME.
THE FLOOR IS YOURS, BISHOP.
I'M A LITTLE UNCLEAR ON WHAT THIS "BACHELOR PARTY" THING IS ALL ABOUT.
AS YOU KNOW, I WAS RAISED SOME SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE FUTURE--
OH? I HADN'T HEARD.
--ECHEM-- WELL
MARRIAGE WAS DISCOURAGED BY THE X.S.E.-- THE RATIONALE BEING ONE SHOULD DEDICATE ONE'S LIFE TO ONE'S WORK.
TELL ME, DOES HE GO ON LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME?
SIGH 'FRAID SO.
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE CLOSEST CORRELATION TO A BACHELOR PARTY WOULD HAVE BEEN "THE PASSING." IT IS, OF COURSE, ONLY AN APPROXIMATION. THE TWO EVENTS HAVE AS MANY DISSIMILARITIES AS THEY DO SIMILARITIES.
IN THE FUTURE, WHEN-- UHHM
SO HELP ME, IF I HEAR ONE MORE WORD ABOUT "THE FUTURE..."!
YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE FUTURE, B.
YOU LIVE HERE AND NOW!
LET IT GO-- IT'S GETTING TIRED, DUDE!
WHAP!
AHEM WHAT BOBBY IS SAYING, BISHOP, IS "THERE'S NO FUTURE IN THE PAST"-- EVEN IF, IN YOUR CASE, THE PAST HAS YET TO COME.
I THINK I'M GETTING A HEADACHE.
I THINK I'VE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHY SCOTT IS LATE...
UNLIKELY.


YOU DISCOVERED RECENTLY*, SOMETHING YOU HAD LONG AGO SUSPECTED...
...THAT THIS MAN BEFORE YOU IS YOUR SON.
AND WHILE YOU'D NEVER ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF--
--ANY MORE THAN WOULD ME--
--YOU BOTH HOPE IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS THAT TODAY MIGHT BEGIN THE HEALING.
THAT SOMEHOW, WORDS ALONE MIGHT BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE CENTURIES.
THAT, FOR THIS MOMENT AT LEAST, CONFLICT MIGHT GIVE WAY TO COMPASSION.
AANND... I'M IN!
*CABLE #'S 6-8.--BOB
BY MONITORING CABLE'S "BODY-SLIDES," I WAS ABLE TO PIGGYBACK THE SIGNAL RIGHT THROUGH TO THE HEART OF MANSE XAVIER!
THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE BUILDING ISN'T EXPLODING WITH ALARMS--
--IS THE BEST INDICATION I HAVE THAT THE SIDRY CLOAKING DEVICE IS FUNCTIONING.
--I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE THE RISK INVOLVED IN PADDING ABOUT THEIR HEADQUARTERS SEARCHING FOR ONE MUTANT IN PARTICULAR.
MAYBE IT'S TIME I FACED THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY...
...THAT I POSSESS A DEATH WISH.
WHICH IS JUST AS WELL...
...CONSIDERING HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM A TRIO OF X-MEN CAUSED WHEN I TARGETED MASTERMIND FOR EXECUTION--*
THEN AGAIN, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM A MAN WHO HAS APPOINTED HIMSELF...
...THE X-CUTIONER?
*UNCANNY ANNUAL #17.--BOB

I GOT THE INVITATION TO THE WEDDING
SO TELL ME-- WHAT'D YOU HAVE IN MIND? YOU WERE MAYBE EXPECTING ME TO CARRY THE RINGS?
I CAME TO SAY IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO MAKE AMENDS FOR DUMPING YOUR ONLY SON SOME TWO THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE FUTURE--
--YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START SMALL.
MAYBE A BASEBALL GAME? A STROLL IN THE PARK?
I HARDLY "DUMPED" YOU, NATHAN!
LETTING GO OF YOU WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISION I'D EVER MADE IN MY LIFE!
I WAS YOUR FATHER... AND THAT MEANT DOING ANYTHING IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU FROM THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS THAT WAS DESTROYING YOU!
ANYTHING, UP TO AND INCLUDING, LOSING YOU TO ASKANI WHO AP-PARENTLY KEPT HER WORD.
SAVE IT, "DAD"-- WE BOTH SAW THE HOLOGRAPHIC SIMULATION.
YOU MADE THE CHOICE AS DISPASSIONATELY AS EVERY OTHER COMMAND YOU'VE EVEN GIVEN IN YOUR LIFE!
YOU'RE THE CONSUMMATE LEADER-- ALWAYS GOING WITH YOUR FIRST, BEST INSTINCT AND NEVER LOOKING BACK...
...NEVER ONCE QUESTIONING YOUR DECISION, OR THE IM-PACT IT WOULD HAVE ON THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO...
...THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON MY LIFE!
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?! DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE A DAY HAS PAST THAT I HAVEN'T WONDERED IF I'D DONE RIGHT BY YOU?!
YOU DIDN'T LOOK ALL THAT SHAKEN UP IN THE HOLOLOG.
COMPUTER.
///RUNNING
OPEN PERSONAL LOG, SUMMERS, ENTRY: NATHAN CHRISTOPHER.
///ACKNOWLEDGED.
/// ACCESSING...

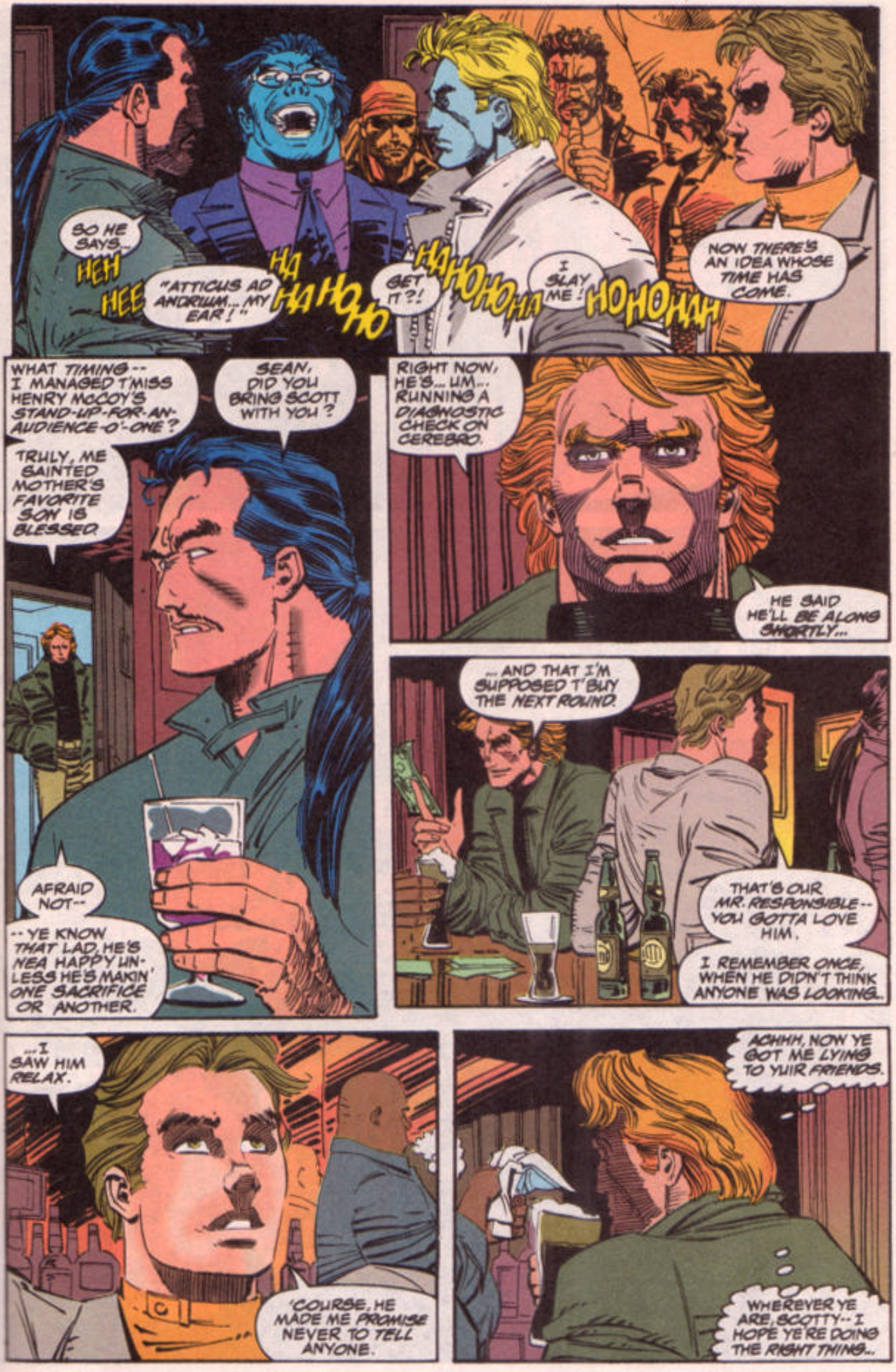
NEW YORK...
"...ANYONE HERE WHO CAN SHOW JUST CAUSE WHY THIS MAN AND WOMAN SHOULD NOT UNITE IN THE HOLY BONDS OF MATRI-MONY--
"--LET THEM SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD THEIR PEACE..."
HMMMM, "JUST CAUSE"... "JUST CAUSE"...
DOES "UN-REQUITED LOVE" FALL UNDER THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF "JUST CAUSE?"
WHO ARE YOU KIDDING, WARREN? NO ONE COULD BE HAPPIER FOR JEAN AND SCOTT THAN--
SO TELL ME, MES AMIS...
...WHATCHU T'INK OF THE PROFESSOR'S DECISION TO ALLOW SABRETOOTH TO LIVE AT DE MANSION?
REMY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR CONNECTION WITH CREED IS ALL ABOUT--AND TO BE FRANK, I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE.
EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES, GAMBIT-- A SKELETON OR TWO IN THEIR CLOSET THEY'RE NOT OVERLY PROUD OF.
WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THE PAST, IT'S OBVIOUS SABRETOOTH LIVING WITH US DURING HIS TREATMENT IS MAKING YOU NERVOUS.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT--THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
...IF NOT, THEN LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.
I'VE BEEN AT THIS TOO LONG TO BUY INTO ALL THIS CLOAK AND DAGGER, DIVIDE AND CONQUER NONSENSE.
"I.D."? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
PRIVATE PARTY OR NOT, I STILL NEED TO SEE SOME I.D. THAT SAYS YOU'RE OVER TWENTY-ONE.
UH, SURE... IT'S... OUT IN THE CAR.
FINE. GO GET IT.
THE BEER'LL KEEP.
SO, TELL ME, MES AMIS...

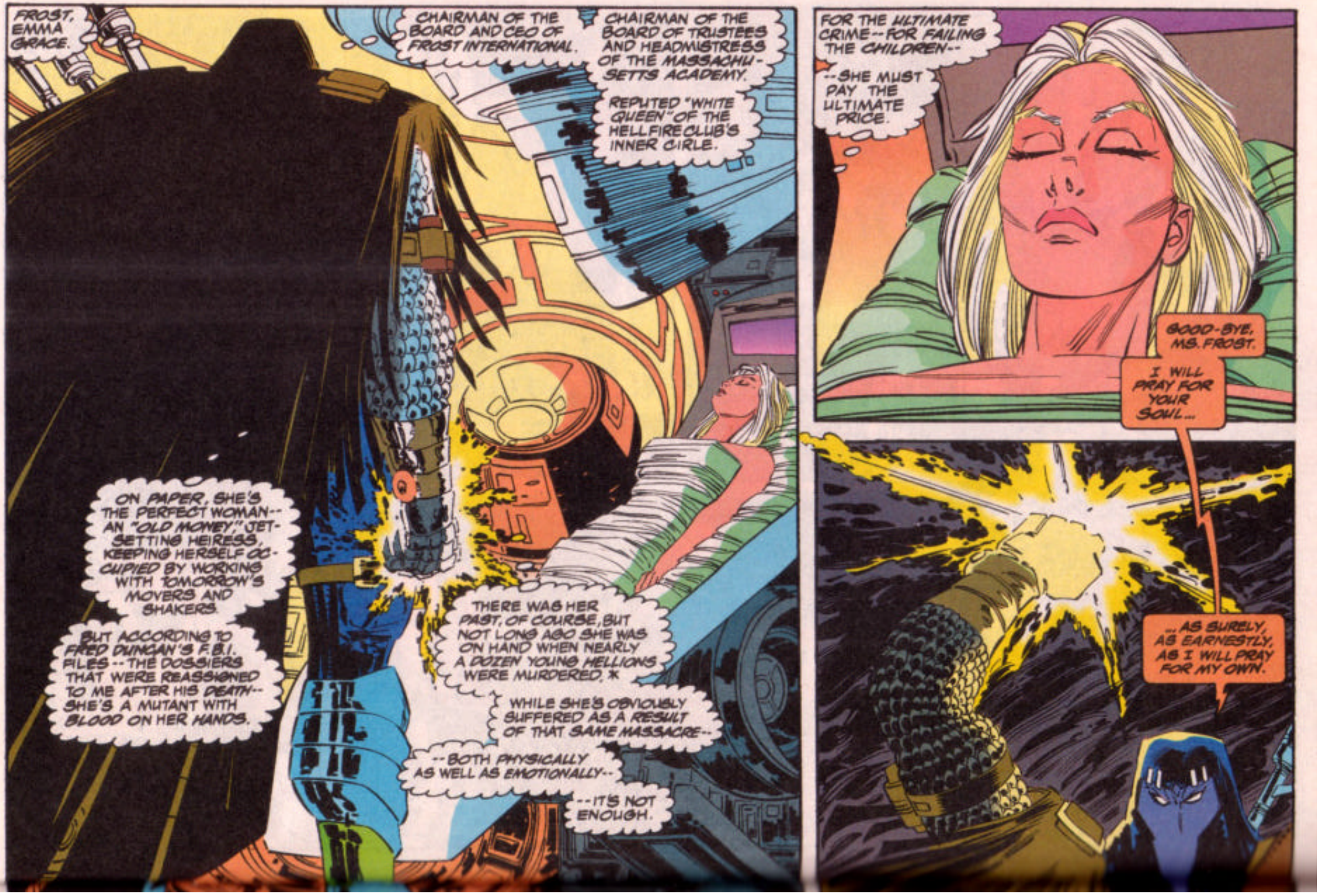
"...WHATCHU THINK OF THE PROFESSOR'S DECISION TO ALLOW SABRETOOTH TO LIVE AT DE MANSION?"
SNFF
SNFF
S'FUNNY.
I RECOGNIZE CYCLOPS'S SCENT.
'BOUT TEN FEET AWAY FROM...
SNFF
...SKIN... "METAL"...
...CABLE!
BUT WHO'S THIS?
MED-LAB.
I.C.U.
RECOGNIZE THE NAME, BUT THE OTHER...?
SNFF
WHATDOYA KNOW, BOYS AND GALS--WE GOT US AN UNINVITED GUEST!

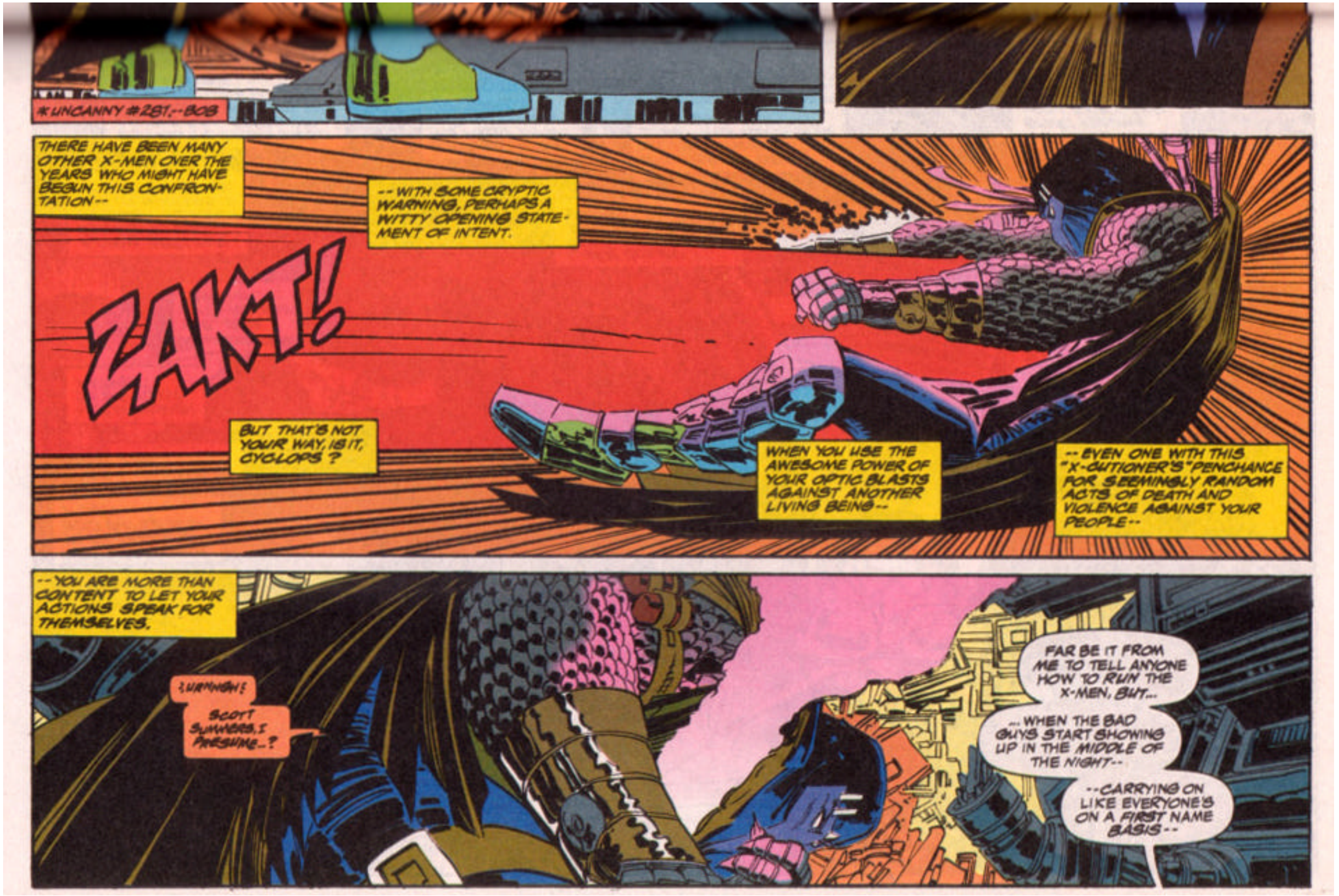
IS THERE A POINT TO ALL OF..
SHUT UP.
///AUDIO:
SCOTT, PLEASE... YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.
YOU CAN DO THIS IN THE MORNING. AFTER YOU'VE RESTED.
///VISUAL:
WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN THE PAST THIRTY-SIX HOURS.
ALL THE MORE REASON I NEED TO UPDATE X-FACTOR'S FILES WHILE THE DETAILS ARE FRESH IN MY MIND.
COMPUTER, CONTINUE...
WITH APOCALYPSE REDUCED TO CINDER, WE WERE OPERATING UNDER THE MISCONCEPTION WE HAD WON.
AT THIS POINT, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE VIRUS RAVAGING NATHAN CHRISTOPHER'S BODY WOULD ULTIMATELY...
~KILL HIM.
IT WAS NECESSARY. I RELINQUISHED CONTROL OVER THE CHILD IN ORDER TO...
STRIKE THAT.
SCOTT?
GOD FORGIVE ME...
DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF.
YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO IN ORDER TO--
EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE, I RISK EVERYTHING TO SAVE A WORLD FULL OF PEOPLE WHO FEAR AND HATE US!
ZAKT!

IT WAS AT THIS POINT I... G-GAVE UP...
...MY...
...I...
I'M HIS FATHER, JEAN.
WHEN HE NEEDED ME MOST-- THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO PROTECT HIM!
YET WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING MY ONLY SON-- I'M USELESS! I FAILED NATHAN!
I SHOULD HAVE DIED BEFORE I GAVE HIM UP...
...I SHOULD HAVE DIED, BECAUSE IT HURTS TO MUCH TO GO ON WITHOUT HIM!
I WISH I COULD SAY THAT MAKES EVERYTHING DIFFERENT.
BETTER.
BUT I'M SORRY, THIS DOESN'T CHANGE ANY-THING.
NO.
I DON'T IMAGINE IT WOULD.

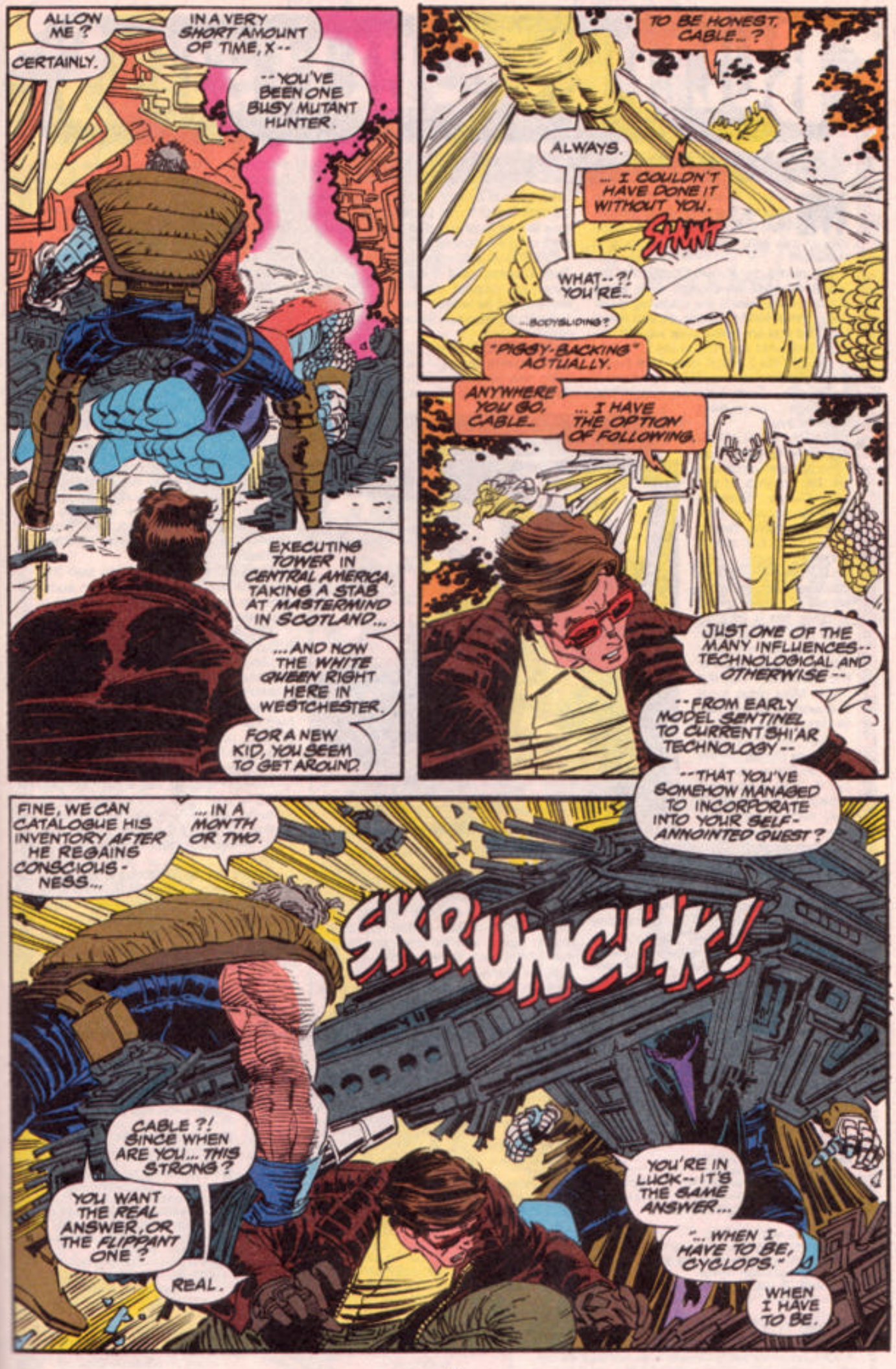
CYCLOPS! JUST THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW YOU GOT COMPANY!
SABRETOOTH?! HERE AT THE MANSION?!
IT'S A LONG STORY.
BETTER TELL IT QUICK THEN, 'CAUSE RIGHT NOW SOMEONE'S TRAIPSING AROUND OUR HUMBLE ABODE...
...WITH ENOUGH PERSONAL ARMAMENTS STRAPPED TO HIS BODY TO TURN THIS PLACE INTO A PARKING LOT!
NOT THAT I'D EVEN BRING IT UP IF I DIDN'T LIVE HERE AN' ALL.
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THIS WHEN THE MANSION SECURITY HASN'T ALERTED US?
THERE ARE LOADS N' LOADS O' WAYS TO FOOL COMPUTERS, ONE-EYE.
T'AIN'T POSSIBLE TO HIDE FROM OLE' SABRETOOTH.
ASK ANYBODY.
WHERE'S THE INTRUDER?
MED LAB. AND BOYS...?
...HAPPY HUNTING.


SO HE SAYS...
HEH HEE
"ATTICUS AD ANDRIUM... MY EAR!"
HA HA HO HO
GET IT?!
HA HO HO HA
I SLAY ME!
HO HO HAH
NOW THERE'S AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME.
WHAT TIMING -- I MANAGED T'MISS HENRY McCOY'S STAND-UP-FOR-AN-AUDIENCE-O'-ONE?
SEAN, DID YOU BRING SCOTT WITH YOU?
TRULY, ME SAINTED MOTHER'S FAVORITE SON IS BLESSED.
RIGHT NOW, HE'S... UM... RUNNING A DIAGNOSTIC CHECK ON CEREBRO.
HE SAID HE'LL BE ALONG SHORTLY...
AFRAID NOT--
-- YE KNOW THAT LAD, HE'S NEA HAPPY UNLESS HE'S MAKIN' ONE SACRIFICE OR ANOTHER.
... AND THAT I'M SUPPOSED T' BUY THE NEXT ROUND.
THAT'S OUR MR. RESPONSIBLE -- YOU GOTTA LOVE HIM.
I REMEMBER ONCE, WHEN HE DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WAS LOOKING...
...I SAW HIM RELAX.
'COURSE, HE MADE ME PROMISE NEVER TO TELL ANYONE.
ACHHH, NOW YE GOT ME LYING TO YUIR FRIENDS.
WHEREVER YE ARE, SCOTTY-- I HOPE YE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING...


FROST, EMMA GRACE.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND CEO OF FROST INTERNATIONAL.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND HEADMISTRESS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY.
REPUTED "WHITE QUEEN" OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INNER CIRLE.
ON PAPER, SHE'S THE PERFECT WOMAN-- AN "OLD MONEY," JET-SETTING HEIRESS, KEEPING HERSELF OCCUPIED BY WORKING WITH TOMORROW'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS.
BUT ACCORDING TO FRED DUNCAN'S F.B.I. FILES -- THE DOSSIERS THAT WERE REASSIGNED TO ME AFTER HIS DEATH-- SHE'S A MUTANT WITH BLOOD ON HER HANDS.
THERE WAS HER PAST, OF COURSE, BUT NOT LONG AGO SHE WAS ON HAND WHEN NEARLY A DOZEN YOUNG HELLIONS WERE MURDERED. *
WHILE SHE'S OBVIOUSLY SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THAT SAME MASSACRE--
--BOTH PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS EMOTIONALLY--
--IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
FOR THE ULTIMATE CRIME--FOR FAILING THE CHILDREN--
--SHE MUST PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE.
GOOD-BYE, MS. FROST.
I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR SOUL...
...AS SURELY, AS EARNESTLY, AS I WILL PRAY FOR MY OWN.

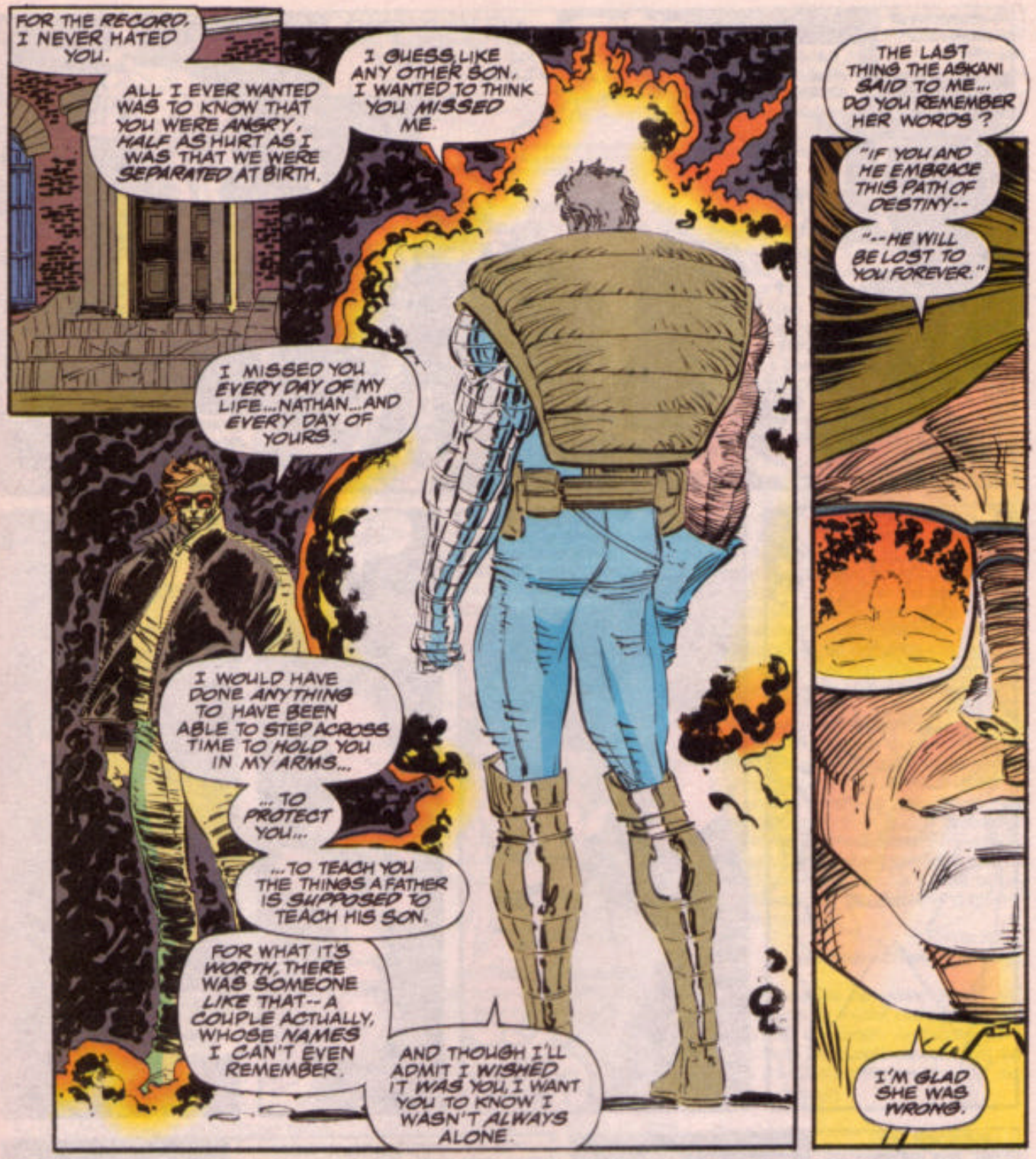

#UNCANNY #281.--BOB
THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OTHER X-MEN OVER THE YEARS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEGUN THIS CONFRONTATION--
--WITH SOME CRYPTIC WARNING, PERHAPS A WITTY OPENING STATEMENT OF INTENT.
ZAKT!
BUT THAT'S NOT YOUR WAY, IS IT, CYCLOPS?
WHEN YOU USE THE AWESOME POWER OF YOUR OPTIC BLASTS AGAINST ANOTHER LIVING BEING--
--EVEN ONE WITH THIS "X-CUTIONER'S" PENCHANCE FOR SEEMINGLY RANDOM ACTS OF DEATH AND VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUR PEOPLE--
--YOU ARE MORE THAN CONTENT TO LET YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.
WARNING!
SCOTT SUMMERS, I PRESUME--?
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO TELL ANYONE HOW TO RUN THE X-MEN, BUT...
...WHEN THE BAD GUYS START SHOWING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--
--CARRYING ON LIKE EVERYONE'S ON A FIRST NAME BASIS--

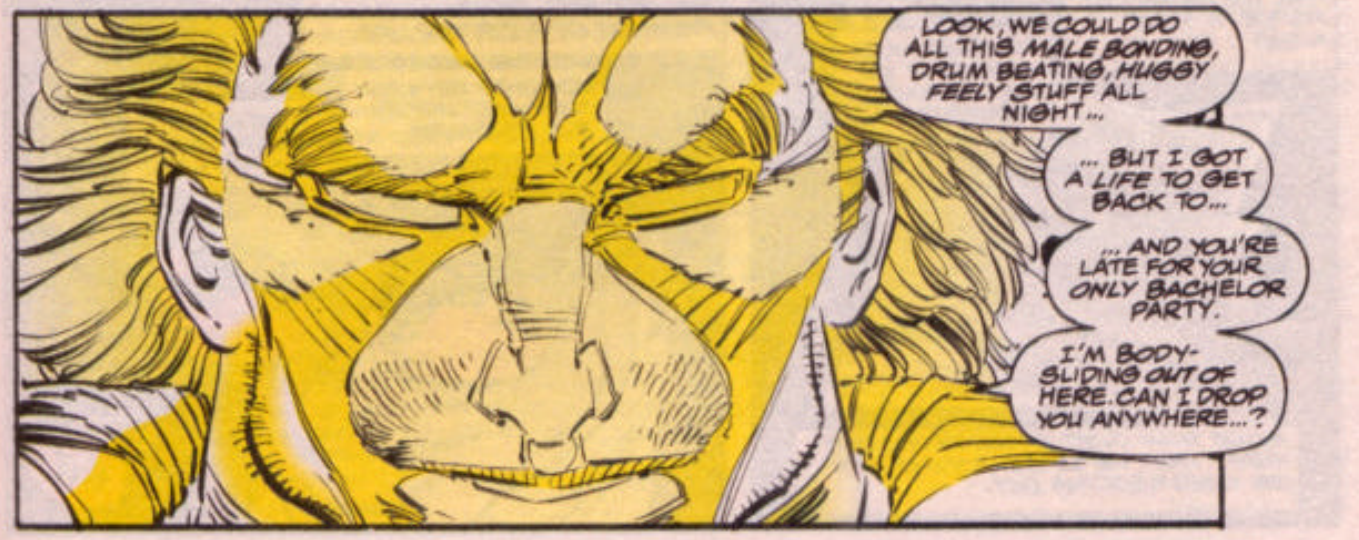
-- I THINK IT'S TIME YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CHANGING THE LOCKS ON THE FRONT DOOR.
I'LL TAKE THAT UNDER ADVISEMENT, CABLE.
HOW ODD IT FEELS, TO BE CHARGING INTO BATTLE WITH A SON--
--WITH YOUR SON--
--OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR FATHER.
YES, ODD... BUT VAGUELY FAMILIAR.
A FAMILIARITY THAT COMES, NO DOUBT, THROUGH THE REALIZATION THAT THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE.
THAT ALL THE SACRIFICES, ALL THE SOUL SEARCHING... THE SECOND GUESSES AND WHAT IFS... HAVE LEAD TO THIS MOMENT.
A MOMENT WHEN THE FIRST X-MAN AND-- ARGUABLY-- THE "LAST"...
... ARE JOINED TOGETHER IN BATTLE AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY.
WHETHER YOU STAND OR FALL -- WIN OR LOSE--THIS PARTICULAR CONFRONTATION...
... YOU REALIZE YOU'RE ENTERING INTO IT AS SOMETHING MORE THAN MERE COMRADES...
... BUT AS FATHER AND SON.
AS FAMILY.
AND SUDDENLY, YOU START FEELING VERY BADLY FOR THE X-CUTIONER.

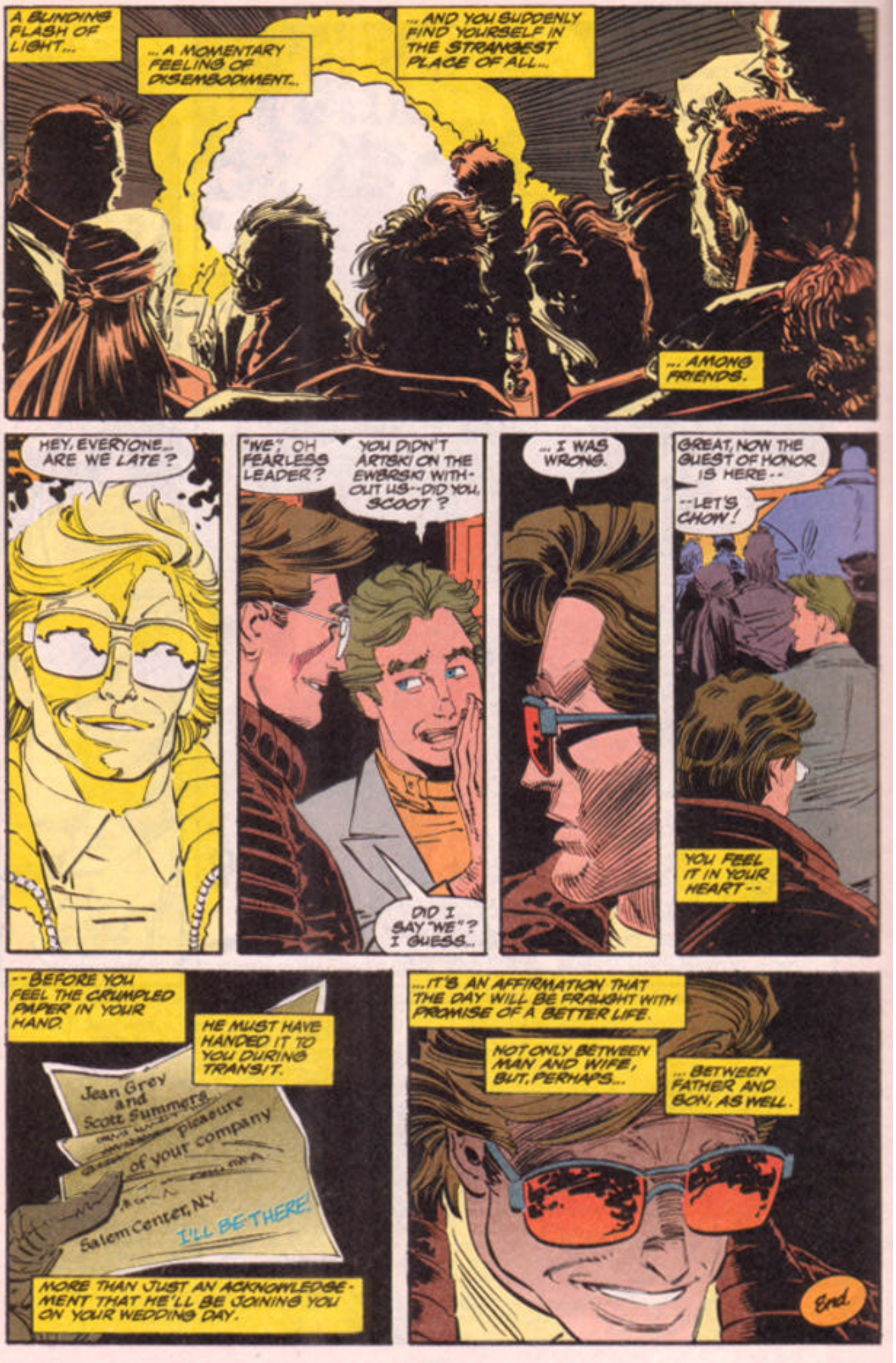

ALLOW ME?
CERTAINLY.
IN A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, X--
--YOU'VE BEEN ONE BUSY MUTANT HUNTER.
EXECUTING TOWER IN CENTRAL AMERICA, TAKING A STAB AT MASTERMIND IN SCOTLAND...
...AND NOW THE WHITE QUEEN RIGHT HERE IN WESTCHESTER.
FOR A NEW KID, YOU SEEM TO GET AROUND.
TO BE HONEST, CABLE...?
ALWAYS.
...I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.
SHUNT
WHAT--?! YOU'RE...
...BODYSLIDING?
"PIGGY-BACKING" ACTUALLY.
ANYWHERE YOU GO, CABLE...
...I HAVE THE OPTION OF FOLLOWING.
JUST ONE OF THE MANY INFLUENCES-- TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHERWISE --
--FROM EARLY MODEL SENTINEL TO CURRENT SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY--
--THAT YOU'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR SELF-ANNOINTED QUEST?
FINE, WE CAN CATALOGUE HIS INVENTORY AFTER HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
...IN A MONTH OR TWO.
SKRUNCHK!
CABLE?! SINCE WHEN ARE YOU... THIS STRONG?
YOU WANT THE REAL ANSWER, OR THE FLIPPANT ONE?
REAL.
YOU'RE IN LUCK-- IT'S THE SAME ANSWER...
"...WHEN I HAVE TO BE, CYCLOPS."
WHEN I HAVE TO BE.

COVER ME, CABLE! WHILE MOST OF EMMA'S INJURIES ARE PSIONIC IN NATURE--
-- THE DAMAGE TO HER BODY HAS REQUIRED CONSTANT MONITORING. IF THAT'S DISRUPTED...
...SHE'D DIE, I SUPPOSE. AND ?
ISN'T THIS THE SAME WOMAN WHO TRIED TO KILL THE X-MEN ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION ?
PRECISELY.
YOU STRIKE AS ONE, AND JUST AS YOU PREDICTED...
... THE X-CUTIONER NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.
ZAKT!
GADUNK!
MORE THAN REASON ENOUGH TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF--
QUITE THE RESILIENT TYPE, AREN'T YOU ?
FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN HE TELEPORTS OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE GET A CHANCE TO PUT HIM DOWN FOR GOOD.
YOU'RE ON.
WHAT'D I TELL YOU ?
YOU OWE ME TEN.
SHUNT!

AGAIN WITH THIS WOMAN.
TELL ME, SCOTT, WHY DO I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT EVEN IF THIS X-CUTIONER GUY HAD STAYED--
--IF HE WERE HURT, YOU'D BE LOOKING AFTER HIM, TOO?
THE DAY WE STOP SHOWING COMPASSION FOR OUR ENEMY, NATHAN--
--IS THE DAY WE BECOME THE ENEMY.
"THE DAY WE..."?
HMMM?
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?
I WOULDN'T KNOW.
LOOK, ABOUT WHAT WE WERE SAYING BEFORE...
...THAT WAS BEFORE.
FACT, MY WHOLE LIFE--PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE--WAS "BEFORE."
DURING MOST OF THAT TIME, I RESENTED THE THOUGHT OF YOU NOT BEING THE PERSON I IMAGINED YOU'D BE WHEN I WAS A KID.
TURNS OUT, YOU'VE BEEN THAT PERSON ALL ALONG.
A PERSON I'M PROUD TO KNOW, AND PROUDER STILL TO BE ABLE TO CALL YOU...
...MY FATHER.


FOR THE RECORD, I NEVER HATED YOU.
ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE ANGRY, HALF AS HURT AS I WAS THAT WE WERE SEPARATED AT BIRTH.
I GUESS, LIKE ANY OTHER SON, I WANTED TO THINK YOU MISSED ME.
I MISSED YOU EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE...NATHAN...AND EVERY DAY OF YOURS.
I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STEP ACROSS TIME TO HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS...
...TO PROTECT YOU...
...TO TEACH YOU THE THINGS A FATHER IS SUPPOSED TO TEACH HIS SON.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THERE WAS SOMEONE LIKE THAT--A COUPLE ACTUALLY, WHOSE NAMES I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER.
AND THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WISHED IT WAS YOU, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I WASN'T ALWAYS ALONE.
THE LAST THING THE ASKANI SAID TO ME... DO YOU REMEMBER HER WORDS?
"IF YOU AND HE EMBRACE THIS PATH OF DESTINY--
"--HE WILL BE LOST TO YOU FOREVER."
I'M GLAD SHE WAS WRONG.


LOOK, WE COULD DO ALL THIS MALE BONDING, DRUM BEATING, HUGGY FEELY STUFF ALL NIGHT...
... BUT I GOT A LIFE TO GET BACK TO...
... AND YOU'RE LATE FOR YOUR ONLY BACHELOR PARTY.
I'M BODY-SLIDING OUT OF HERE. CAN I DROP YOU ANYWHERE...?


A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT...
...A MOMENTARY FEELING OF DISEMBODIMENT...
...AND YOU SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELF IN THE STRANGEST PLACE OF ALL...
...AMONG FRIENDS.
HEY, EVERYONE... ARE WE LATE?
"WE"? OH FEARLESS LEADER?
YOU DIDN'T ARTISKI ON THE EWBRSKI WITHOUT US--DID YOU SCOOT?
DID I SAY "WE"? I GUESS...
...I WAS WRONG.
GREAT, NOW THE GUEST OF HONOR IS HERE--
--LET'S CHOW!
YOU FEEL IT IN YOUR HEART--
--BEFORE YOU FEEL THE CRUMPLED PAPER IN YOUR HAND.
HE MUST HAVE HANDED IT TO YOU DURING TRANSIT.
Jean Grey and Scott Summers
pleasure
of your company
Salem Center, N.Y.
I'LL BE THERE!
MORE THAN JUST AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT HE'LL BE JOINING YOU ON YOUR WEDDING DAY.
...IT'S AN AFFIRMATION THAT THE DAY WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH PROMISE OF A BETTER LIFE.
NOT ONLY BETWEEN MAN AND WIFE, BUT, PERHAPS...
...BETWEEN FATHER AND SON, AS WELL.
End.