

MARVEL
COMICS

DEC • 319



X-MEN
DELUXE

THE UNCANNY

X
MEN



DIRECT EDITION



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\$1.95 US \$2.95 CAN

Ething

SHE'S BEEN CALLED ROGUE FOR ALMOST AS LONG AS SHE CAN REMEMBER.

CERTAINLY BEFORE SHE'D EVER EVEN HEARD OF THE X-MEN...

... THE TEAM OF SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS OF WHICH SHE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER.



TA DA!
SO,
ROGUE...

... WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

AH THINK
IT'S BREATHTAKIN',
SUGAH.

TO SOME,
HE IS BOBBY
DRAKE.

OTHERS
CALL HIM THE
ICEMAN...

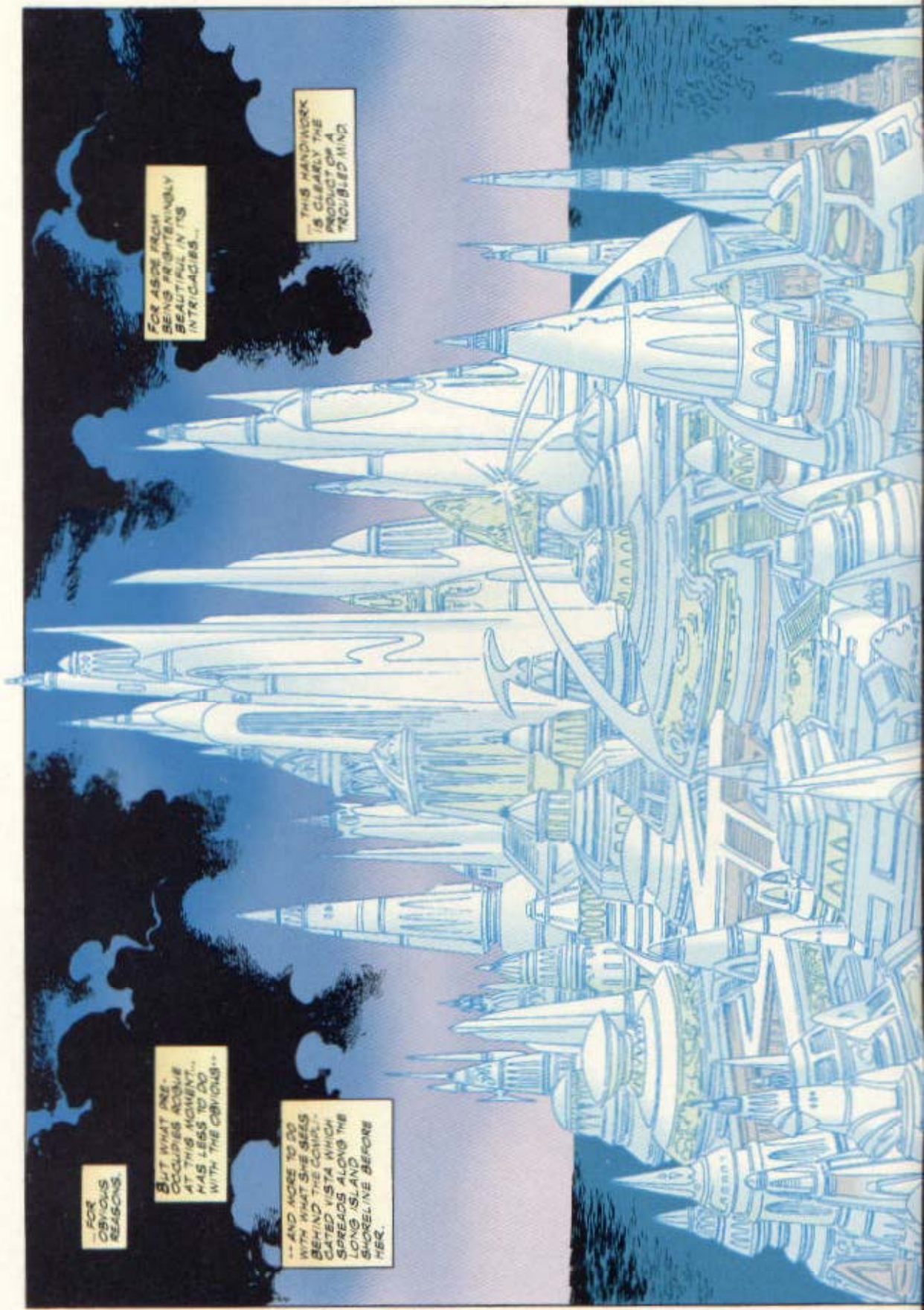
FOR
OBVIOUS
REASONS.

BUT WHAT SHE
OCCUPIES ABOVE
AT THIS MOMENT...
HAS LESS TO DO
WITH THE OBVIOUS--

-- AND MORE TO DO
WITH WHAT SHE SEES
BEHIND THE COMPLEX--
CALLED VISTA WHICH
SPREADS ALONG THE
LONG ISLAND
SUNBELT LINE BEFORE
HER.

FOR ASIDE FROM
BEING PRIGHTENINGLY
BEAUTIFUL IN ITS
INTRICACIES...

THIS HANDWORK
IS CLEARLY THE
PRODUCT OF A
"TROUBLED MIND"





BOBBY...
AH DON'T MEAN
I'BE GETTING
PERSONAL AND
ALL...

BUT...
...IS THERE
ANYTHING Y'ALL
WANT T' SAY?

SOMETHIN'
ON YOUR
MIND?

NOT A
THING.
WHY?

STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN
IN

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

SCOTT LOBBELL STEVE BOTTING
WORDS GUEST PENCILER
DAN GREEN & TIM TOWNSEND
CHRIS & JUDITH GER HONKINSON
BUCCELLATO/BECKON/NICKS
COLORISTS
BOB MARZAG - EDITOR
TOM D'ALDO - EDITOR IN CHIEF



JUST...
SEE, I USED
TO COME HERE
AS A KID.

ME
AND MY
DAD.

MOM WASN'T
A BIG FAN OF
HIS AFTER-
DINNER
CIGAR.

AND
DAD?

DAD WAS
NEVER REALLY
A BIG FAN
OF ME.

"TADA! SO
POPS...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?"

"ABOUT
BUILDING SAND
CASTLES?" HE
ASKED. "I
THINK IT'S HARDLY
A SKILL THAT'LL
SERVE YOU WELL
IN LIFE, ROBERT."



"A MAN
DOESN'T GET
ANYWHERE IN
THIS WORLD BY
DREAMING, BOY...
BY MAKING
CASTLES IN
THE SAND."



MY
DAD.
WHAT A
CHARMER,
HUH?

HOW
OLD WERE
YA --
-- WHEN YA
REALIZED HE
WAS WRONG
?



WHO
EVER SAID
HE WAS
WRONG?



SINCE EMMA FROST TOOK OVER MY BODY FOR A NIGHT--

-- IT'S OBVIOUS TO EVERYBODY THAT I'VE BEEN KIND OF A SLACKER OVER THE YEARS.



BOBBY, THE WHITE QUEEN PUSHED YOUR ICE POWERS TO THEIR LIMITS. WHAT SHE DID COULD HAVE KILLED YA IF --

BUT I DIDN'T DIE, ROGUE.

INSTEAD, I HAD MY FACE RUBBED IN THE FACT I HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING UP TO THE FULL POTENTIAL OF MY MUTANT POWERS.

AND FOR THE LIFE OF ME...



... I DON'T KNOW WHY.



THE XAVIER INSTITUTE

GRAYMALKIN LANE

SERVING AS THE SECRET HOME OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN, IT HAS--

--OVER THE YEARS--

-- BEEN THE SITE OF MORE THAN ONE LIFE-THREATENING CONFLICT OR ANOTHER.

-- THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF A BO-BLAST.

OTHERS ARE AS SUBTLE AS A DREAM.



MOST ARE PUNCTUATED BY THE DEAFENING ROAR OF EXPLOSIONS...



DREAM



ODD. IN REALITY, I'VE BEEN FROM ONE END OF THE UNIVERSE TO





THEN REALITY INTRUDED.

YOU WENT ON TO BECOME "PROFESSOR X," A VOICE OF SANITY IN AN INSANE WORLD...

...AND I BECAME "MAGNETO," NAME ENOUGH TO INSPIRE FEAR AND LOATHING IN ALL WHO WOULD OPPOSE ME.

NOT ALL, ERIC. DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT HAS GONE BETWEEN US, I'VE NEVER HATED YOU.

I'VE BEEN ANGRY, YES.

DISAPPOINTED? CERTAINLY.

IF THE TRUTH WERE KNOWN, I'VE EVEN PITIED YOU FROM TIME TO TIME.



BUT IF I MIGHT BE HONEST...?

IF NOT IN YOUR OWN DREAM, THEN WHERE?

IRONICALLY, OVER THE DECADES, I HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION TO FULFILL MY DREAM--

--FROM THE STRONGEST, MOST DEDICATED MAN I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

YOU, ERIC LENSCHERR.

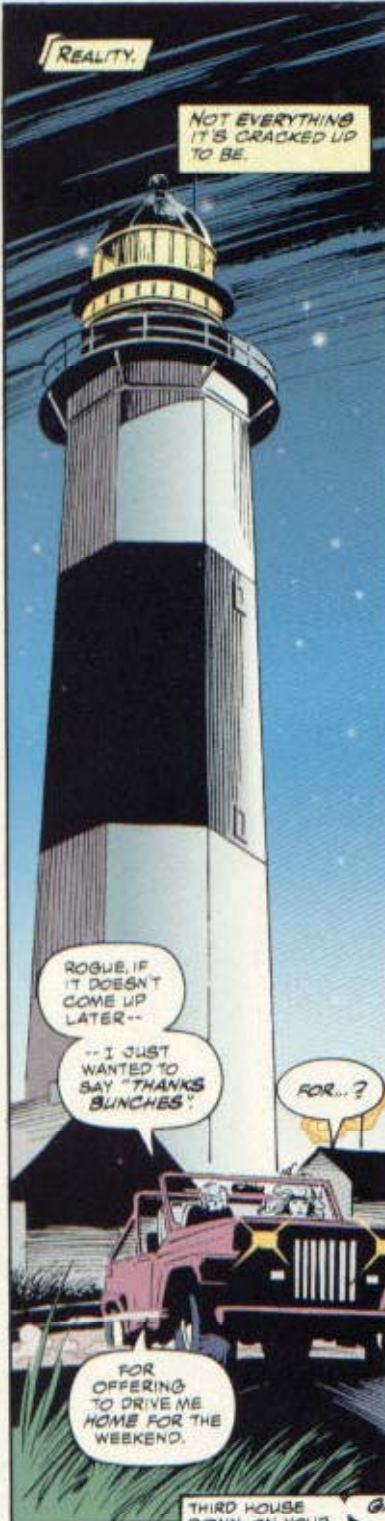


THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO SAY, CHARLES. BUT...

...HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT LIFE--WHAT THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE--



--IF I HAD NEVER BEEN AROUND TO INTERFERE IN YOUR PLANS?



REALITY.

NOT EVERYTHING IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.

ROGUE, IF IT DOESN'T COME UP LATER--

-- I JUST WANTED TO SAY "THANKS BUNCHES".

FOR...?

FOR OFFERING TO DRIVE ME HOME FOR THE WEEKEND.



I REALLY NEEDED THIS DOWN TIME.

VISIT THE FAM. CLEAR MY HEAD.

NO PROBLEM, SUGAH. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN MY LIFE--

SEE THE UPCOMING ROGUE LIMITED SERIES FOR DETAILS. --BOB



-- AH CAN STAND A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM THE HOMESTEAD.

IT'S RIGHT UP HERE.



PERSONALLY? I THINK HE'S A JERK.



WHY? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



THIRD HOUSE DOWN, ON YOUR LEFT.

GAMBIT.

I THINK HE'S A JERK THE WAY HE LEADS YOU ON-- PLAYS WITH YOUR HEAD.



COURSE, I'M THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD TO GIVE ADVICE ON RELATIONSHIPS, BUT...

REMY DOES NOT PLAY WITH MY HEAD.



OH, PLEASE...

C'MON, ROGUE-- IT'S NOT LIKE THE TWO OF YOU LIVE IN A CAVE SOMEWHERE. IT'S A SMALL HOUSE-- FOR A MANSION.



WHATEVERS BETWEEN ME AND GAMBIT IS BETWEEN ME AND GAMBIT!

OF COURSE IT IS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT ALLOWED TO CARE ABOUT YOU.

LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS.

HE HITS ON YOU? FORGETS TO MENTION HE HAS A WIFE?

FORGETS TO MENTION WHEN SHE COMES BACK TO LIFE AGAIN?



FORGETS WHEN--

SIGH-- AN SEE YOUR POINT.

NOT TOO PATHETIC, HUM?



THERE'S NOTHING PATHETIC ABOUT WANTING TO BE LOVED, ROGUE.



WHY, BOBBY DRAKE--

--THAT WAS ALMOST PROFOUND.



ARE YOU TWO FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF NEIGHBORS?

WHA--?!

THAT LIGHT...?



SO, TELL ME, LOVE BIRDS--

-- ARE YOU TWO GOING TO BE JOINING US FOR DINNER, DESPITE THE FACT YOU'RE THREE HOURS LATE...

... OR WILL YOU BE GOING STRAIGHT ON TO YOUR ROOM?

WE WERE TALKING, POPS.

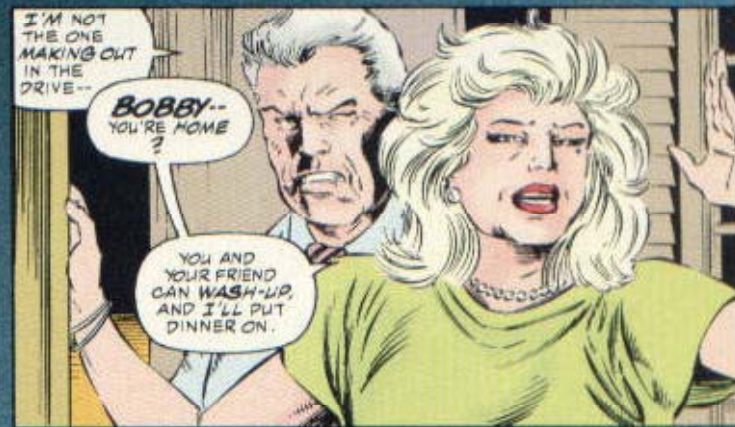


ROGUE AND I ARE JUST FRIENDS.

DID I MENTION HE WAS A CHARMER?

EARLIER, YEAH.

YOU WOULDN'T MIND PRETENDING TO BE POLITE, DAD? JUST FOR A NIGHT?



I'M NOT THE ONE MAKING OUT IN THE DRIVE--

BOBBY--
YOU'RE HOME?

YOU AND YOUR FRIEND CAN WASH-UP, AND I'LL PUT DINNER ON.



SURE, MOM, BE RIGHT IN.

OH THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.

OH THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.

THEY'RE YOUR PARENTS, NOT THE SENTINELS.

SHUSH, WILLIAM-- AND GO SET THE TABLE.





I THINK YOU KNOW, BETTS.

AND I MEAN IT MORE SO THAN I'VE EVER MEANT ANYTHING BEFORE.

WHICH IS PRETTY SURPRISING WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.

WHAT? THAT YOU CAN BE SINCERE?

OUCH.

I'M TEASING.

I GUESSED.

YOU WERE SAYING--?



YET, IT ALL FEELS SO RIGHT.

DOESN'T IT?



NO.

IT FEELS PERFECT.



JUST THAT I'M SURPRISED BY THIS...
--BY 'US.'



SIR... MADAM...?

WILL THAT...

...BE...

...ALL?



Shmooch

DOES IT COUNT AS RUNNING OUT ON THE BILL--

--IF YOU ACTUALLY OWN THE PLACE?



I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE...

...IF EVERYTHING'S A BIT DRY, I TRIED TO KEEP IT ON THE STOVE, BUT--

IT WAS OUR FAULT, MA'AM... WE HAD SOME LAST MINUTE STUFF TO DO, AND WE WERE A LITTLE LATE GETTING STARTED.

A "LITTLE" LATE?

YOU WERE AN HOUR LATE 'COURSE, FOR BOBBY, THAT'S TECHNICALLY EARLY.



LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE "SAVING THE WORLD"?

NOT THE ENTIRE WORLD, DAD--NO.

JUST WESTCHESTER.

SUPPOSE NO ONE OWNS A RAZOR IN Westchester?

I GUESS WE SHOULD JUST BE GRATEFUL YOU DIDN'T BRING THAT TOPAL GIRL AROUND AGAIN.

HER NAME WAS OPAL, DAD.

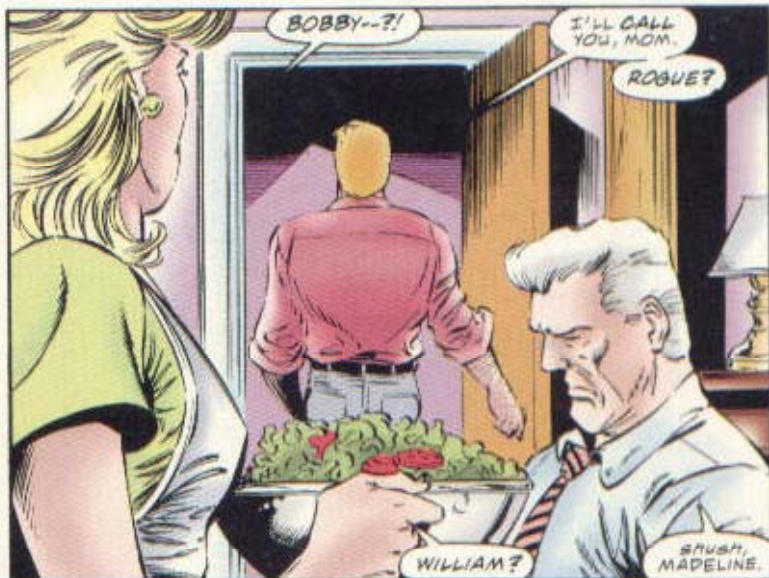
WITH AN "O"?

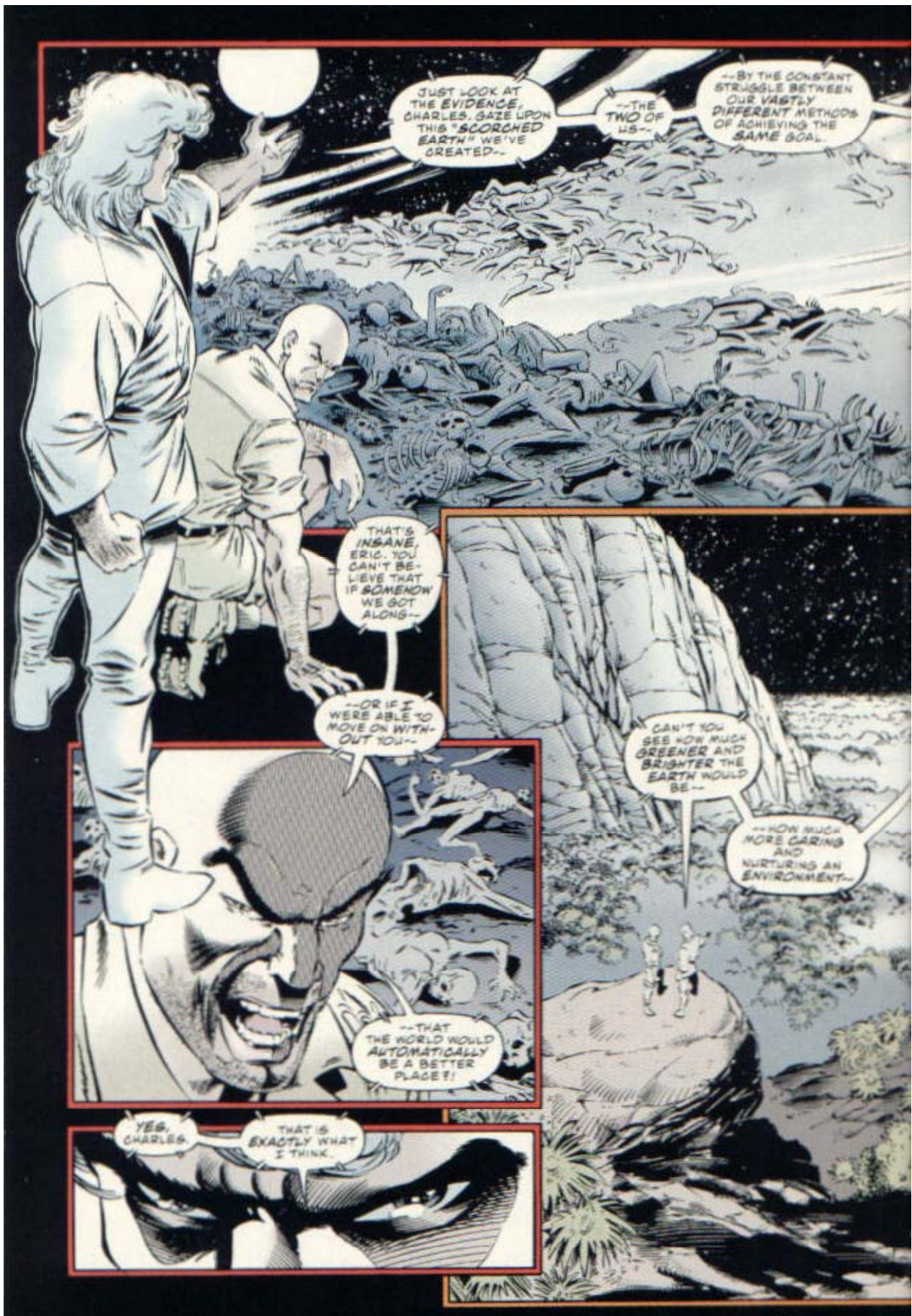
AND THE WAY YOU CARRY ON, SO HELP ME--

--IT'S A WONDER I INVITE ANYONE HERE.









JUST LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE, CHARLES. GAZE UPON THIS "SCORCHED EARTH" WE'VE CREATED--

--THE TWO OF US--

--BY THE CONSTANT STRUGGLE BETWEEN OUR VASTLY DIFFERENT METHODS OF ACHIEVING THE SAME GOAL.

THAT'S INSANE, ERIC. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IF SOMEHOW WE GOT ALONG--

--OR IF I WERE ABLE TO MOVE ON WITHOUT YOU--

CAN'T YOU SEE HOW MUCH GREENER AND BRIGHTER THE EARTH WOULD BE--

--HOW MUCH MORE CARING AND NURTURING AN ENVIRONMENT--

--THAT THE WORLD WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE A BETTER PLACE!

YES, CHARLES.

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I THINK.



AS THE WORLD IS ENGULFED BY THE FLAMES OF IGNORANCE AND INTOLERANCE, HOW DO THE TWO MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS ON THE PLANET SPEND THEIR TIME?

WE FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES WHEN WE COULD BE SAVING THESE PEOPLE-- ENLIGHTENING OUR GENETIC BROTHEREN.



...IF ONLY I HAD NEVER GOTTEN IN THE WAY OF YOUR DREAM?

IF, INSTEAD OF A DECADE OF CONFLICT, THERE HAD BEEN A DECADE OF PEACE OF COOPERATION?

BUT WE CAN'T KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO TAMPER WITH WHAT WAS--

--RATHER, WE CAN ONLY FORCE WHAT IS TO BE!



NOW, SEE--

...THAT'S WHERE I THINK YOU'RE WRONG, FATHER.

on my god

O-DAVID?





MR. WORTHINGTON, I'M SHOCKED.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING DANCING.



BUT WE ARE, MISS BRADDOCK.

IS IT MY FAULT I WANT THE ENTIRE DANCE FLOOR TO OURSELVES?

AS THE BELLS OF SAINT PATRICK'S RING IN THE DISTANCE~

--THIS YOUNG WOULD-BE COUPLE HOLD EACH OTHER CLOSE.

FOR A MOMENT, THE PAIN AND SUFFERING~



--THE FEAR AND LOATHING THAT OFF-DEFINES THEIR LIVES AS MUTANTS, IS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN.

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS.

AREN'T WE OBLIGATED TO WHINE AND FRET AND COME UP WITH ONE REASON AFTER ANOTHER WHY WE SHOULDN'T BE TOGETHER?

OF COURSE.

AND I SHOULD REVEAL I'M YOUR UNCLE'S CLONE FROM AN ALTERNATE REALITY...



...AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DIE AND COME BACK TO LIFE A FEW DOZEN TIMES.



WHAT DO YOU SAY WE TRY SOMETHING REALLY RADICAL...

LET'S JUST SEE WHERE THIS INCREDIBLE ATTRACTION LEADS US.

...AND CUT TO THE CHASE?

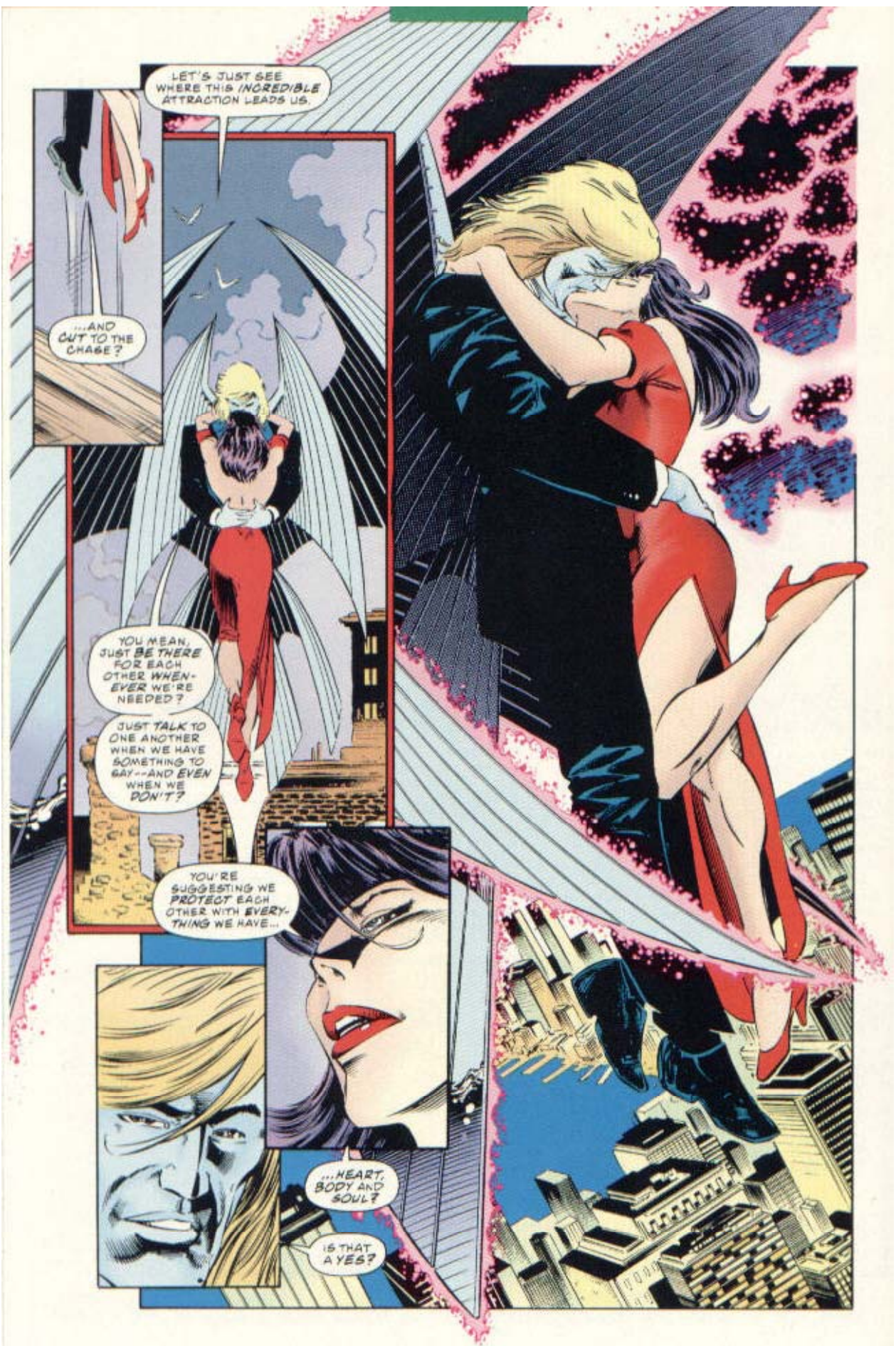
YOU MEAN, JUST BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER WHENEVER WE'RE NEEDED?

JUST TALK TO ONE ANOTHER WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY--AND EVEN WHEN WE DON'T?

YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE PROTECT EACH OTHER WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE...

...HEART, BODY AND SOUL?

IS THAT A YES?





MONTAUK, LONG ISLAND



I JUST DON'T GET IT.

IT'S CALLED STUPIDITY, SUGAH.

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO MAKE SENSE.

THE COLOR OF A PERSON'S SKIN-- THEIR RELIGION...

...BAD GENES... IF YA WANT TA HATE A BODY BAD ENOUGH, ANY REASON'LL DO YA.



BUT... MY WHOLE LIFE, I'VE TRIED TO ACCEPT EVERYONE FOR WHO THEY ARE.

EVEN BEFORE I GOT MY POWERS, Y'KNOW -- BEFORE I LEARNED I WAS DIFFERENT...



... I WAS ALWAYS THE GUY WHO MADE FRIENDS WITH THE NEW KID IN CLASS.

THIRD GRADE? I BEAT UP THE CLASS BULLY BECAUSE HE WAS PICKING ON THE SMALLER KIDS.



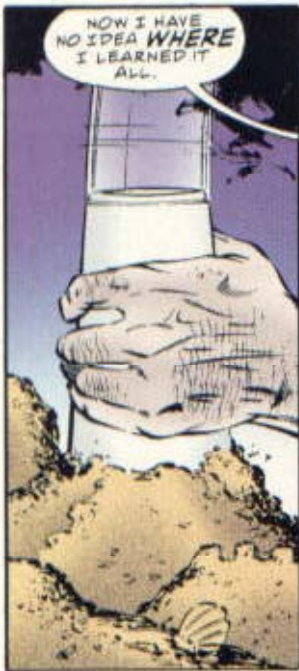
WANT TO HEAR THE FUNNY PART?

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT I LEARNED ALL THAT FROM MY PARENTS.

FROM MY DAD.



AND NOW...?



NOW I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I LEARNED IT ALL.



TADA! NOW FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH.



DONE. READY TO MOTOR?

LET'S.

BOBBY, JUST FOR THE RECORD--YOUR DADDY WAS WRONG.

WHAT HE SAID, ABOUT AN IMAGINATION BEIN' WORTHLESS?



IT'S THE ONLY WAY ANY OF US HAVE O' DREAMIN' OF A BETTER WORLD.

YEAH, WELL...



...APPARENTLY, DAD WAS WRONG ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE...



SIR?!

PROFESSOR, WAKE UP!

NORMALLY, I'D LET YOU RECLINE ACCORDINGLY, CONSIDERING THE HOUR--

--BUT I AM HERE IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SOMNOLENTLY-INSPIRED PSIONIC CALL FOR AID!

WHU--?!

HANK?! YOU WOKE ME...?

...BROKE HIS GRIP?

THANK YOU.

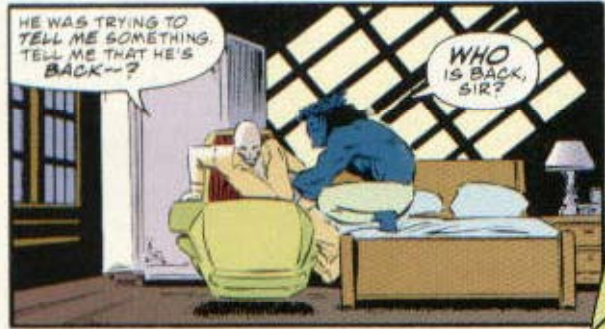


SO WHO DID IT, CHARLES? WHO ATTACKED YOU?

THAT'S JUST IT, HANK-- HE DIDN'T ATTACK ME AT ALL.



ASSUMING HE'S SOMEHOW MANAGED TO HEAL HIMSELF-- TO HURL HIMSELF BACK FROM DEATH'S DOOR.



HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING. TELL ME THAT HE'S BACK--?

WHO IS BACK, SIR?



MY SON. DAVID HALLER.

LEGION.

BUT WHICH VERSION OF HIS MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES ARE WE DEALING WITH, PROFESSOR?



I'M AFRAID IT IS MUCH WORSE THAN THAT, HANK.

BENEATH HIS RAGE, I FELT A STRONG SENSE THAT DAVID WAS AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF WHOLE.

AS IF ALL THE TIME HE'D SPENT IN A COMA HAD SOMEHOW ALLOWED HIM TO ... MELD HIS MIND BACK TOGETHER?

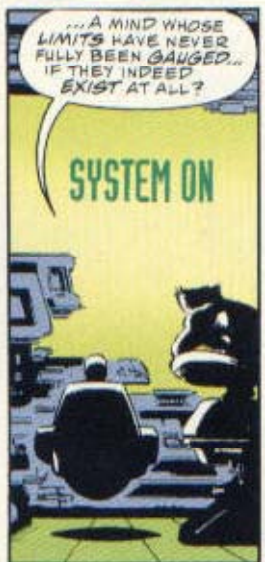
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE'VE KNOWN HIM, HE MIGHT BE A COMPLETE ENTITY.



PARDON THE PRESUMPTUOUS POSTULATING, BUT--

--ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

GOOD? A MIND PERHAPS MORE POWERFUL THAN MY OWN...



... A MIND WHOSE LIMITS HAVE NEVER FULLY BEEN GAUGED... IF THEY INDEED EXIST AT ALL?

SYSTEM ON



A MIND WIELDED BY A DESPERATE, UNSTABLE BOY ON SOME MYSTERIOUS MISSION?



NO, HANK. I WOULDN'T QUALIFY THAT AS A "GOOD" THING.



WELL, SURE-- WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...

NEXT MONTH:
LEGIONQUEST
PART ONE!