

# UNCANNY X-MEN

## poptopia

4 OF 4



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IN ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, A TABLOID REPORTS THAT POP SINGER SUGAR KANE IS CARRYING THE CHILD OF A SUSPECTED MUTANT.

HER ALBUM SAT AT THE TOP OF THE POP CHARTS... RECENTLY A MEDIA DARLING FOR HER UNORTHODOX PUBLIC BEHAVIOR, AND YET, THIS LATEST RUMOR HAS ENGENERED A TREMENDOUS BACKLASH AGAINST A CELEBRITY WHO COULD SEEMINGLY DO NO WRONG IN THE EYES OF HER FANS...



**MUTANT PREGNANCY?**

SOUNDCAN IS ALREADY REPORTING A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN SUGAR'S OVERALL ALBUM SALES AS NEWS OF HIS POSSIBLE PREGNANCY SPREADS...



**POP MUTANT BABY?**

SUGAR HAS NO COMMENT ON THESE VICIOUS RUMORS. HER MALE FRIEND IS NOT A MUTANT! HE IS... THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT THAT HAS... WELL, DISFIGURED HIS... THAT IS...

JUST GET THAT BLEEDIN' MIC OUT OF MY FACE!

IT WAS WORKING... IT WAS WORKING...!

SUGAR, THEY WRITE THIS STUFF ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME...

A STADIUM TOUR SPONSORED BY OKAY COLA MAY BE IN JEOPARDY AS WELL...

NOT LIKE THIS.

IF THE SOFT DRINK COMPANY FEELS THE CONTROVERSY IS TOO GREAT...

DON'T BE NAIVE, JON. HANGIN' 'ROUND A MUTANT IS TOLERATED. HAVIN' HIS BABY...

...WELL, I GUESS THAT'S NOT.



FEARED & HATED  
BY A WORLD  
THEY HAVE SWORN  
TO PROTECT

the  
clash

MURT WAGNER  
SAS  
NIGHTCRAWLER  
WELSPONTATION  
SLLRsh

LOSAN  
SAS WOLVERINE  
HEALTHY FACTOR  
SUSPENSUM  
LSCW SKELETON

JONATHAN  
STARKMORE  
SAS CHAMBER  
WID tLSTs





PREVIOUSLY... Chamber's relationship with the Welsh teen singer, Sugar Kane, has taken a dark turn as the press breaks a story of Sugar's alleged pregnancy. Meanwhile, in the service tunnels of the London tube system, Mister Clean continues his hunt for the small group of homeless mutants that survived his initial attack. Luckily, the X-MEN have found them first...

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BOBBY DRAKE  
SHE ICEMAN  
COLD TEMPERATURE  
ORGANIC ICE CONTROL

WARREN WORTHINGTON III  
SHE ARCHANGEL  
FLIGHT DUE TO NATURAL WINGS



# BENEATH LONDON

SHE IS INDEED BEAUTIFUL...

I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME DELIVER...

NONSENSE. I REGRET THE CONFLICT THAT FOLLOWED.

HAD THINGS NOT ESCALATED, WE MIGHT HAVE INTERCEPTED THAT BUTCHER BEFORE HE GOT TO YOU...



AS FAR AS THE GENERAL VICINITY'S CONCERNED, WE'RE ALONE.

MISTER CLEAN'S NOT A MUTANT, Y' KNOW...

I'M AWARE, BOBBY. I'VE GOT THIS THING TRACKING ANY AND ALL SIGNALS.



SO, WHO EXACTLY DO WE HAVE HERE... AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING DOWN HERE?

THIS IS DOUBLE HELIX.

THEY SAY TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE...

...WELL, DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR, MATE.

MY NAME'S CARLA. I'M THE BABY'S GODMOTHER.



THEY CALL ME **THE BURNING PUDDLE**. ACIDIC PERSPIRATION IS THE CROSS I BEAR. FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T SHAKE HANDS...

THIS IS MY MOTHER, **SACCHARINE**.

WHERE I BURN... HER SWEAT IS LIKE SUGAR...

HENCE THE **FLIES**. I PAY 'EM NO MIND...

I CAN BREATHE UNDERWATER IF I WANT TO. I RARELY WANT TO...

AND THE BABY'S NAME...?

I... HAVEN'T NAMED HER YET.

I CAME DOWN HERE LAST YEAR. MY FOLKS CAST ME OUT WHEN MY **GILLS** GREW IN.

FIGURED IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE NO ONE WOULD COME AFTER ME...

LOGICAL, IN THEORY...

WE'VE BEEN LIVING DOWN HERE FOR **THREE YEARS**. HAD TO BUST ME MUM OUT OF A GOVERNMENT FACILITY.

GUESS THE WORD GETS AROUND THAT THERE'S **SANCTUARY** DOWN HERE. OR, AT LEAST, THERE WAS...

WE'RE GOING TO **HELP YOU**, HARMONY...

JUST GET US **OUT OF HERE** BEFORE HE FINDS US.

HE'LL HAVE TO GET THROUGH **US** FIRST.

HE'S JUST THE **LATEST** IN A LONG LINE OF EXTERMINATION NUTS. THEY HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED YET.

TELL THAT TO OUR FRIENDS...

# REGENCY

SUGAR! COMMENT ON THE PREGNANCY?!

SUGAR! IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL--?!

--OR AN INSECT?!

SUGAR! WILL YOU BREAST-FEED THE MUTANT SPAWN?!

SUGAR! DO MUTANTS HAVE BIGGER--

SUGAR! LOOK THIS WAY!

SUGAR! WILL YOU HAVE AN ABORTION?!

PULL BACK THE HOOD, SUGAR! WE CAN'T SEE YOU!

HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU, SUGAR?!

SUGAR! IS YOUR RECORD COMPANY DROPPING YOU?!

SUGAR! WILL YOU KEEP SEEING THE MUTIE, NOW THAT YOU'RE CARRYING HIS BABY?!

SUGAR! RESPONSE TO THE PROTESTS?!

SUGAR! WILL YOU STILL DRINK OKAY COLA?!

GIVE US A QUICK FLASH FOR PAGE THREE OF THE SPORT--!

SUGAR! HAS THE ROYAL FAMILY CONTACTED YOU?!

LIKE RUNNIN' THE GAUNTLET...!

HEY! GET AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW! HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH ALREADY?!

SORRY...

SIM... WE COULDN'T HAVE GONE IN THE BACK WAY?!

HEY, JON... CAN YOU TURN DOWN THE LIGHTS FOR A SEC? I DON'T NEED A REMINDER...!

SUGAR, I...







NEUTRALIZATION.

CHECK.



EVACUATION.

CHECK.

WAIT...  
DON'T.



SUGAR--!



NO!  
IT'S ALRIGHT!  
LET HER GO WITH THEM!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!  
YOU JUST STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!  
AND DON'T TALK TO ANY REPORTERS--!



# THE UNDERGROUND SERVICE TUNNELS

TELL ME SOMETHING... IS "THIS LIFE" STILL ON THE AIR...?

WHAT IS THAT... A TV SHOW? I DUNNO, MAN... I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE...

I THINK MUM NEEDS A BREATHER. CAN WE STOP FOR A SECOND...?

SO, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO EGG AND MILLIE, THEN...?

THIS IS TAKING LONGER THAN IT SHOULD...

PROBLEM, KURT. SCANNER'S BEING JAMMED ON ALL FREQUENCIES...

ALRIGHT, FOLKS... IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE A STAND HERE.

BOBBY...

I'M HERE.

DON'T SWEAT IT, KURT. WE CAN TAKE THIS GUY EASY.

WE BOTH KNOW HE'S THIRD-RATE, AND HE WON'T AMBUSH US TWICE.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS PROTECTING THESE PEOPLE. I DON'T WANT THEM GETTING CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.

WELL, WELL... WELL...

...SURPRISED TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT...

...THOUGHT I'D CLIPPED THOSE WINGS FOR GOOD.

NOT LIKELY, BUTCHER.

ICEMAN YOU'RE UP.



I'D MUCH RATHER PUT THIS DIRTBAG ON ICE...

...BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.

PRIORITIES... RIGHT, KURT?



THAT'S GONNA KEEP ME OUT...?

I DON'T THINK SO.



YOU LOOK LIKE YER PRETTY HANDY WITH THAT SPARKLER...



...SO BURN ME.

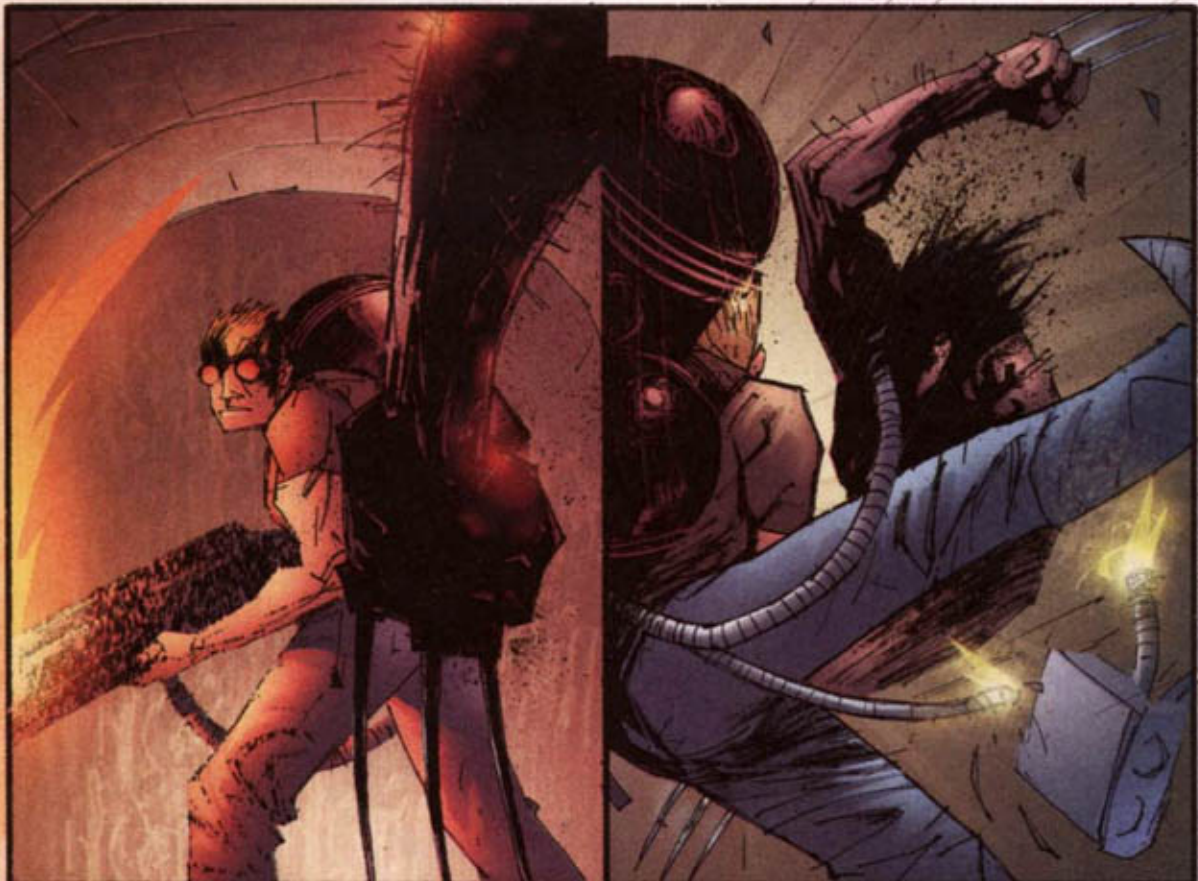
WITH PLEASURE.



BEAUTY.  
AND  
THE COUP DE  
GRACE...







THINK YOU CAN CUT ME?

PLANNIN' ON IT.











...WE'VE GOT A QUESTION FROM THE AUDIENCE FOR OUR GUEST-- AND SUGAR KANE'S MANAGER-- SIM CUMMINGS...

WELL, NOTHING HAS BEEN PROVEN YET ON THE SUBJECT OF SUGAR'S CONDITION, BUT AS A HYPOTHETICAL, I THINK IT'S OUR DUTY AS HUMAN BEINGS TO CURTAIL THIS SO-CALLED "EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS" BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY--



WILL SUGAR GET AN ABORTION?



UMM... SIR...?

THIS ROOM IS... ERRR... NO LONGER BEING PAID FOR BY MISS KANE.

WHAT...?



YOU NEED TO... VACATE THIS ROOM IMMEDIATELY.

I'VE BEEN CHARGED TO INFORM YOU... TO PLEASE USE THE BACK SERVICE ENTRANCE WHEN LEAVING...



SURE...  
...WHATEVER YOU SAY...



YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

WE COULD TAKE YOU BACK TO CHARLES XAVIER'S INSTITUTE...



I DON'T THINK SO, MISTER WAGNER...

THIS WILL TAKE US OUT TO THE SUBURBS... WIMBLEDON, RICHMOND, WHEREVER... AT LEAST WE'LL BE OUT OF LONDON...

CAN HE STILL FIND US?

I DOUBT IT...



...SCANNER'S WORKING AGAIN. MISTER CLEAN'S SIGNAL HAS DISAPPEARED.

I GUESS WOLVERINE MADE IT DOWN HERE AFTER ALL...



HUH...  
...I OWE LOGAN A BEER.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?

I'M TIRED, BOY...  
...TIRED OF THE VIOLENCE.



THIS IS YOUR LIFE? ALL THIS CONFLICT?

WE ARE COMMITTED TO A CAUSE, HARMONY. IT IS A GOAL THAT WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED SO EASILY.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT... YOU'VE KNOWN BLIND HATRED. WE MIGHT NOT RESPOND IN KIND, BUT WE MUST BE VIGILANT.



NO DISRESPECT INTENDED BUT, FOR US, BEING A MUTANT ISN'T A FASHION STATEMENT... NOR A MISSION...

...IT'S A BURDEN.

THE LINE STARTS HERE, PAL.

THIS ISN'T A FUN GIG.

NO ONE IS JUDGING ANYONE. I THINK WE'VE ALL HAD ENOUGH OF THAT IN OUR LIVES...

TRUE.

I THINK WHAT WE'RE SAYING IS THAT WE'RE GRATEFUL. BUT WE'RE NOT CUT OUT TO JOIN A CRUSADE. WE ARE JUST LOOKING FOR A BIT OF PEACE, I SUPPOSE...



THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, MISS CARLA.

...TO TRY AND ENSURE THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO FIND IT.



WE WON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE. YOU HAVE GIVEN US THAT CHANCE. YOU'VE GIVEN MY BABY A CHANCE...

...BY THE WAY, I'VE DECIDED ON A NAME.

OH?

I'VE NAMED HER HOPE.

HAS A NICE RING TO IT, EH?



INDEED, LIEBCHEN.

POP SINGER SUGAR KANE HAS VOLUNTARILY CHECKED HERSELF INTO A BRITISH INTELLIGENCE FACILITY WHERE IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT SHE IS NOT, IN FACT, PREGNANT AS EARLIER REPORTS SUGGESTED.

SEEN HERE, THIS GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION HAS BEEN A HOT SPOT FOR MUTANTS STUDIES SINCE THE MUIR ISLAND FACILITY LOST ITS FOUNDER, DOCTOR MOIRA MACTAGGERT.

SUGAR'S MANAGEMENT CONFIRMS THE SINGER IS FILING A LAWSUIT AGAINST SEVERAL LONDON TABLOIDS FOR DAMAGES AND DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER.



GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE OKAY...  
ALTHOUGH, I FIGURED YOU WERE. I'VE SEEN THE NEWS...

SIM SET THE WHOLE ABDUCTION-THING UP. HE SAID IT NEEDED TO BE DRAMATIC TO CONVINCHE THE PUBLIC I WAS...

...CLEAN.

IT WASNT SUPPOSED TO PLAY OUT LIKE THIS, JON.



I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, Y'KNOW, DON'T LET THE CHARTS FOOL YOU. I WAS ON MY WAY OUT.

COLBY LEE'S PARTY... I NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN IN THERE ON MY OLD GOOD GIRL REP...

MY IMAGE NEEDED AN EDGE. YOU GAVE ME ONE.



YOU USED ME...

LOOK... MY "CAREER" DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A SHELF LIFE IF I DON'T EVOLVE! TEEN POP IS SO SIX MONTHS AGO! AND I WON'T END UP IN THE "WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW"-FILE!

AND DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT, JON! YOU KNOW YOU DID!



MAYBE...

...I NEVER WANTED TO BE A STAR, SUGAR. I NEVER CARED ABOUT HOW FAMOUS YOU ARE...

...BUT, I JUST... WANTED TO BELONG SOMEWHERE.



NO ONE "BELONGS" HERE, JON. I SOLD MY SOUL TO GO PLATINUM...

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. FIND A HOME... A REAL HOME... IF YOU CAN...



# HEATHROW

WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE...  
...THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE LEFT ALREADY.

WOULD I DO THAT?



YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER, MAN...

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, DRAKE. YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHER GUY.



MISTER CLEAN--?

AIN'T A PROBLEM FOR ANYONE ANYMORE...



FAIR ENOUGH, MEIN FREUND.

I'M SO READY FOR SOME AMERICAN COW MEAT...

SHOULD WE STOP AT A DRIVE-THRU, BOBBY...?




I REALIZE THIS TRIP HAS NOT BEEN A RAGING SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF OUR INTENDED RETRIEVAL OF--

VERY FUNNY. DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE IT HERE. I MEAN, A NICE PLACE TO VISIT, BUT COME ON...


GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE...?





SHE...  
REALLY DIDN'T WANT  
ME. YOU'VE PROBABLY  
SEEN THE PAPERS. AS SOON  
AS I BECAME A CAREER  
LIABILITY, SHE BLOODY  
WELL CHANGED  
HER TUNE.


I THOUGHT  
THIS TIME WOULD  
BE DIFFERENT. I  
GUESS YOU WERE  
RIGHT...



YOUR PAIN BRINGS  
US NO PLEASURE,  
JON. NOR DOES BEING  
CORRECT ABOUT  
YOUR SITUATION.



HEY, MAN...  
YOU'RE BETTER  
OFF WITH US,  
ANYWAY. WE  
NEVER GO OUT  
OF STYLE.



I DUNNO... HE MAY BE MORE  
TROUBLE THAN IT'S WORTH...

STOP  
TEASING HIM,  
LOGAN. THIS WAS  
MEANT TO BE.

TELL HIM  
THAT...



THIS AINT A STEP  
BACKWARDS,  
KID. TAKE IT FROM  
SOMEONE WHO  
KNOWS...

BESIDES, YOU  
GOT BETTER  
TASTE THAN  
BUBBLEGUM,  
ANYWAY...

I NEVER  
LIKED HER  
MUSIC...



WE EACH  
COMMIT OURSELVES  
IN OUR OWN WAY.  
WE EACH LEARN OUR  
LESSONS. PERHAPS  
YOU'VE LEARNED  
YOURS.

SO YOU MAY NOT  
QUITE UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I MEAN WHEN I  
SAY THIS, JON...

...BUT  
WELCOME HOME,  
MEIN FREUND.

"HOME..."

...WE'LL  
SEE.

END