

MARVEL[®]

PG 419

AUSTEN

ASAMIYA

UNCANNY

WOLVES MEN[®]

**DOMINANT
SPECIES**
PART THREE



DIRECT EDITION



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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo Superior, individuals gifted with strange and fantastic abilities simply by virtue of their genetic makeup.

Stan Lee presents...

UNCANNY X-MEN

DOMINANT SPECIES, PART III

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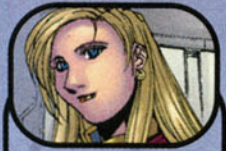
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PREVIOUSLY



ARCHANGEL
Warren Worthington III
Flight



HUSK
Paige Guthrie
Skin Manipulation



HAVOK
Alex Summers
(Currently Comatose)
Solar-Generated Plasma Blasts



ANNIE GHAZIKHANIAN
School Nurse



CARTER GHAZIKHANIAN
Annie's son
Untapped Mental Ability



The X-Men, a group of heroes with strange mutant powers, are forever sworn to protect a world that hates and fears them.

A squad of X-Men — ARCHANGEL, HUSK, NORTHSTAR, and WOLVERINE — are called to the scene of a murder, where a group of young humans were killed by what appear to be werewolves. Left at the scene of the crime is the slogan: HOMO-SUPERIOR IS RISING! When Wolverine follows the scent of the werewolves to LOBO TECHNOLOGIES, a subsidiary of Archangel's family corporation, the X-Men find themselves facing a vicious group of werewolves led by MAXIMUS LOBO. Lobo and his followers consider themselves the inheritors of the Earth; natural selection will ensure that mutants like the X-Men will not survive against them.

LOBO and the werewolves attack the X-Men, critically wounding Wolverine. Northstar uses his power of superspeed to rescue Wolverine and carry him back to the Xavier Institute infirmary.

Back at the infirmary, the long-lost X-Man HAVOK still lies in a coma. And when his estranged ex-girlfriend POLARIS arrives to find the school nurse, ANNIE GHAZIKHANIAN, appearing to attack him, she uses her powers of magnetism to threaten Annie with sharp knives. Annie holds her ground. Her young son, Carter, a mutant telepath with growing skill, plunges into Havok's mind in an attempt to revive him, but Carter becomes lost and falls unconscious. Although Annie has fallen for her comatose patient, Havok, she loves her son more. She will fight to save her son, even against the powerful Polaris.

Meanwhile, back at Lobo Tech, Archangel and Husk are left to fend for themselves against the pack of wolves. Hurt and desperate, Archangel flies off with an unconscious Husk in his arms. Unable to carry her very far, Archangel falls to the ground. They lay bleeding in each other's arms, apparently dying from their wounds...



POLARIS
Lorna Dane
Magnetic Control



JUGGERNAUT
Cain Marko
Super-strength, Invulnerability



NIGHTCRAWLER
Kurt Wagner
Teleportation



SQUIDBOY
Samuel Pile
Underwater Breathing



MAXIMUS LOBO
Mutant Werewolf
Leader of the Dominant Species

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING

HOME OF THE X-MEN



Annie!
Annie!



THE INFIRMARY

Annie,
Logan needs
help! He--



What's
going on
here?

NEAR WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

I'm having the
strangest dream...

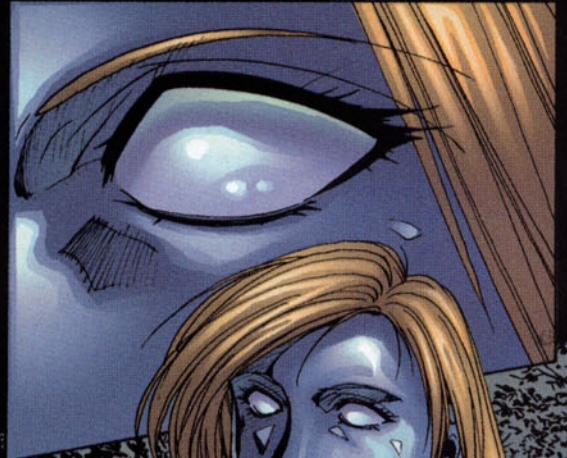
Nnnnhhh...



Warren?

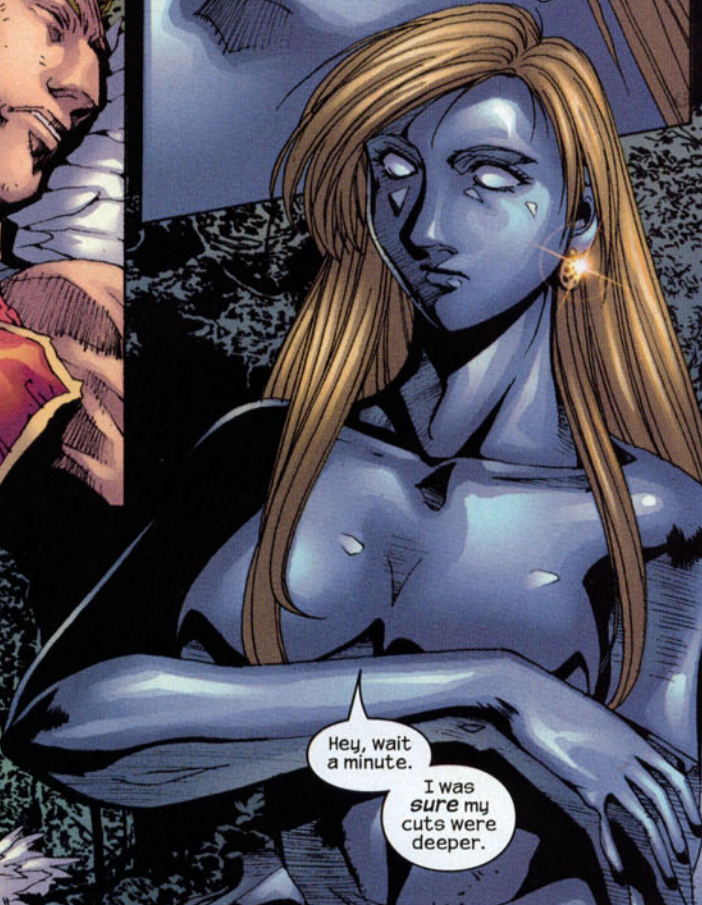


I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to roll you over and--



Okay. You're breathing, at least.

And neither of us is *bleeding* anymore, so I guess--



Hey, wait a minute.

I was *sure* my cuts were deeper.



Step away, Northstar.

This is none of your concern.

I will do no such thing--

--Polaris--

--isn't it?

Annie is my friend. And what concerns her, concerns me.

Lower the knives.



This woman was beating Alex's head against the table when I came in--



She's lying, Jean-Paul.

And I believe you.

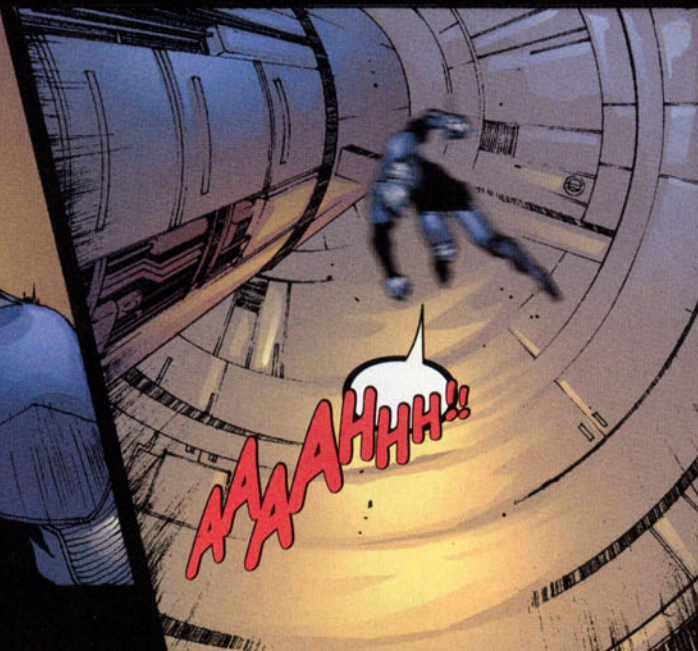
Polaris, I don't know you well--



You don't know me at all, Northstar.



NNHHH!



AAAHHH!!



You accused me of lying.

I really don't appreciate being judged by a lesser species.



I can't believe Alex ever loved anyone like you...



HEY!



WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, LADY?

Lorna?



Did she **HURT** you, Annie? Or Carter?

No, she--



JUGGERNAUT?

What the hell is he doing here?



Pulping your **BRAINS** if you hurt Annie or her kid in any way!

Put the **helmet** on, Juggernaut...



...and I'll give you a demonstration in the power of magnetism.

You and **MAGNETO** on your **BEST DAY** couldn't--

Lorna, Cain-- I think you **both** need to calm down a bit.



What's he **doing** here, Professor Xavier? In your **home**?

I **invited** him. But we can discuss that later.

Please, Lorna-- **power down**.



Lorna?

We'll sort it all out, Lorna. I promise.



I'm...
...Charles, I...
That's a girl. Calm down.
It's just seeing Alex like that...
...after missing him *so much*...
...and being *away* from each other for *so long*...

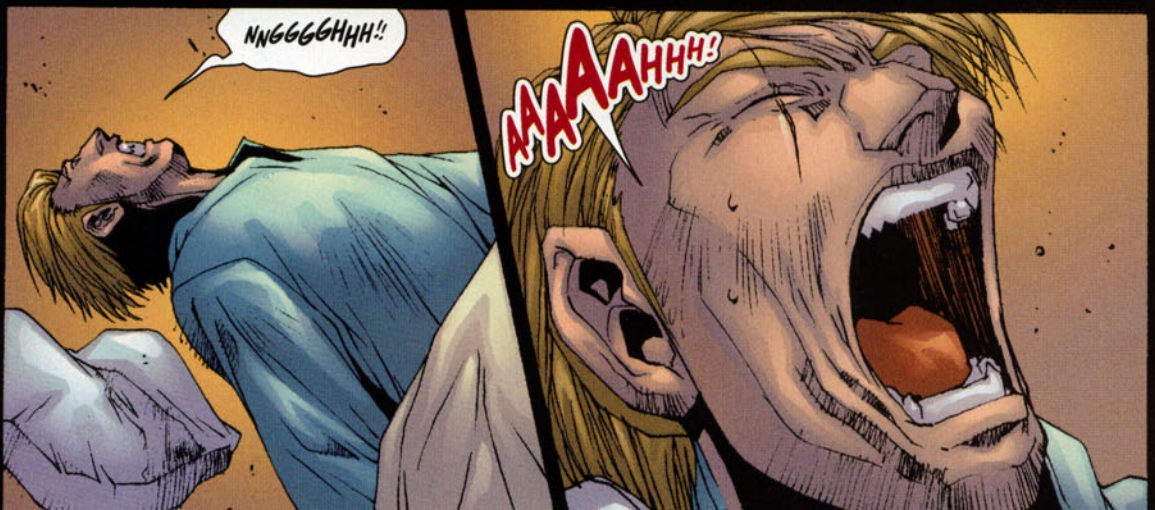



Oh, God, Alex...
Come BACK to me, my love!
Now, Lorna, don't get all worked up again. We're doing everything--




NNNNNNHHH!!

AAAAHHH!!





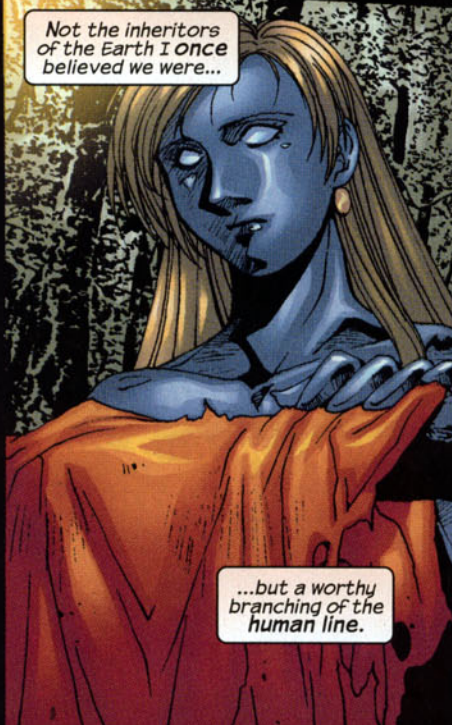
My name is Paige Guthrie, and I am a mutant.




I say that as if I were an alcoholic, but it's not like that.

I'm proud of what I am.

I'm part of an elite group of people.



Not the inheritors of the Earth I once believed we were...



We each have "gifts" as Professor Xavier teaches us to call them.

Powers.

...but a worthy branching of the human line.

Mine has to do with my skin.

Most people don't realize that the outer layer of their skin is dead.

It is.

My "gift" allows me to alter the density of my inner layer of skin--

--flash fry the dead, surface layer of epidermis--

--and then peel it away like an old sunburn.

The end of a continuous upwelling of cells from beneath the surface ending in keratinized death.

Something unusual about the bioelectric discharge that dislodges the "husk" of old skin, though--

--is that it also destroys my clothing.

ALL of my clothing.

No one knows it, but when I change my form and run around fighting bad-guys--

--I'm naked to the world.

The way God made me.

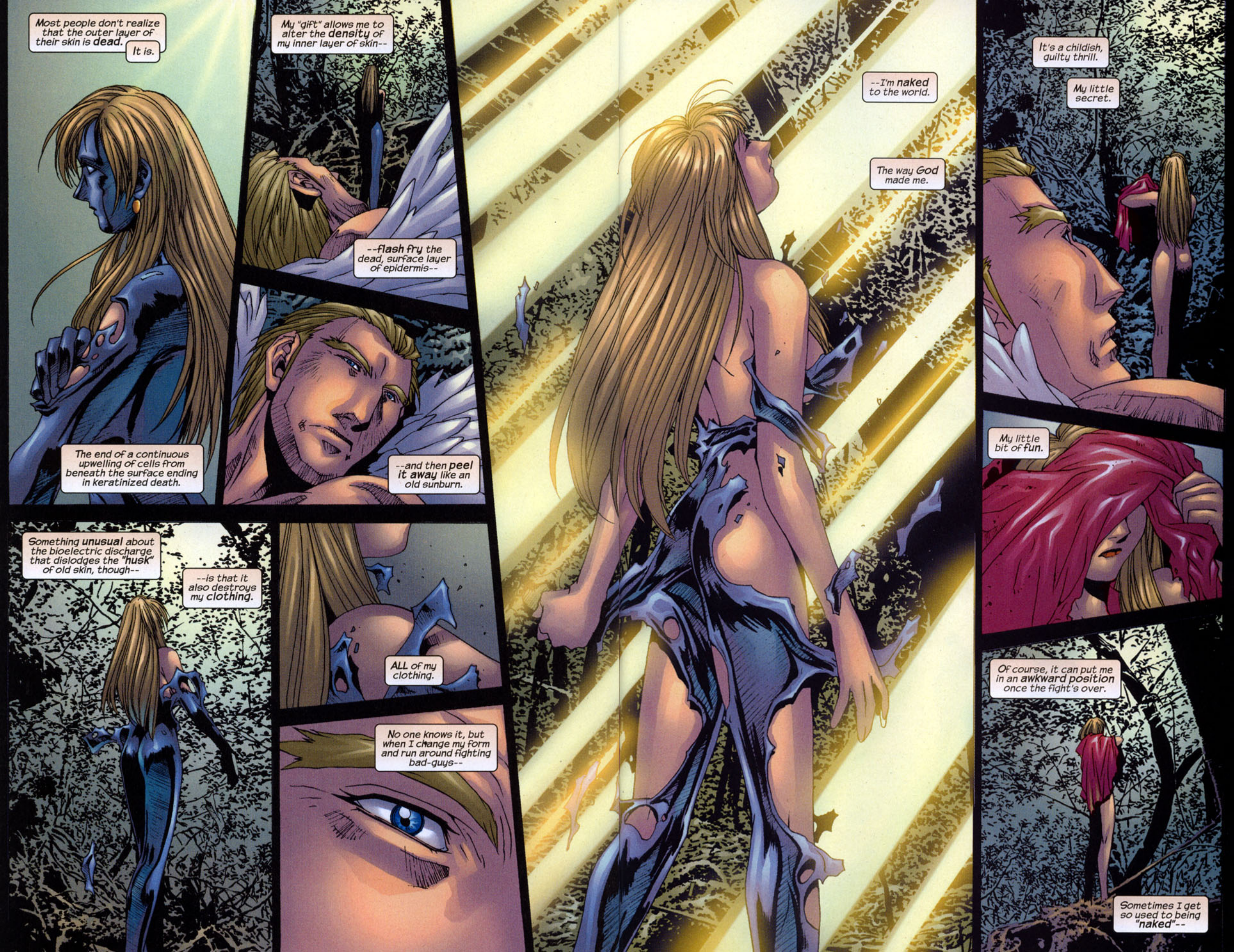
It's a childish, guilty thrill.


My little secret.

My little bit of fun.


Of course, it can put me in an awkward position once the fight's over.

Sometimes I get so used to being "naked"--






--that I forget there
might be **others** around
when I revert back.

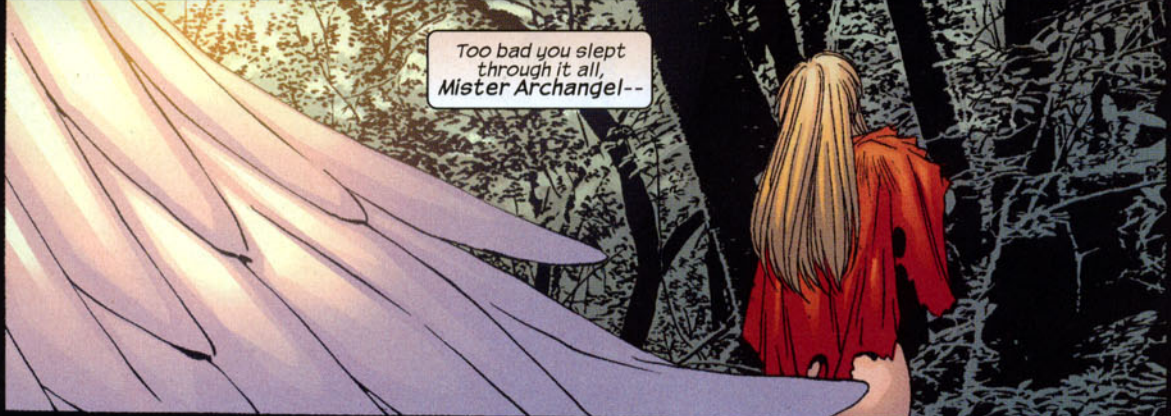


Of course--


--in some
cases--




--I might not
mind being seen.



Too bad you slept
through it all,
Mister Archangel--



--Warren
Worthington
the Third.



Who knows where
it might have led?



...



I'm...
...I'm
out?



My God, I'm--
Where's Carter?



Who's Carter?

Carter's my son.



Alex, it's me--
Lorna.

Carter's over here,
Alex.
In the bed next
to you.



Help me,
Annie, I'm a
little...

Oh, God...
Carter?

I've got
you.



Carter,
buddy?



Hey, little man. Is that your *body*?

You're younger than I *thought* you'd be.

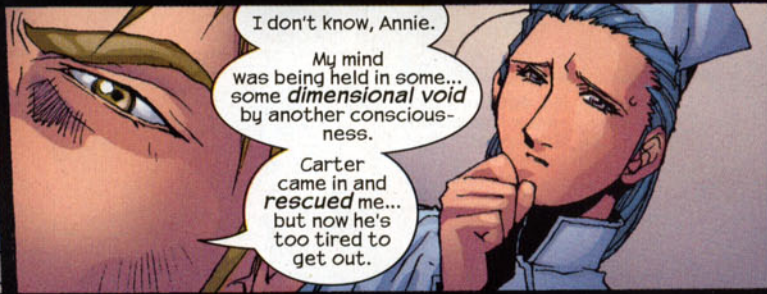
You looked like a big-time *super hero* in the void, there.

Follow my *voice*, and come on out of there, all right?

You were almost there, buddy.



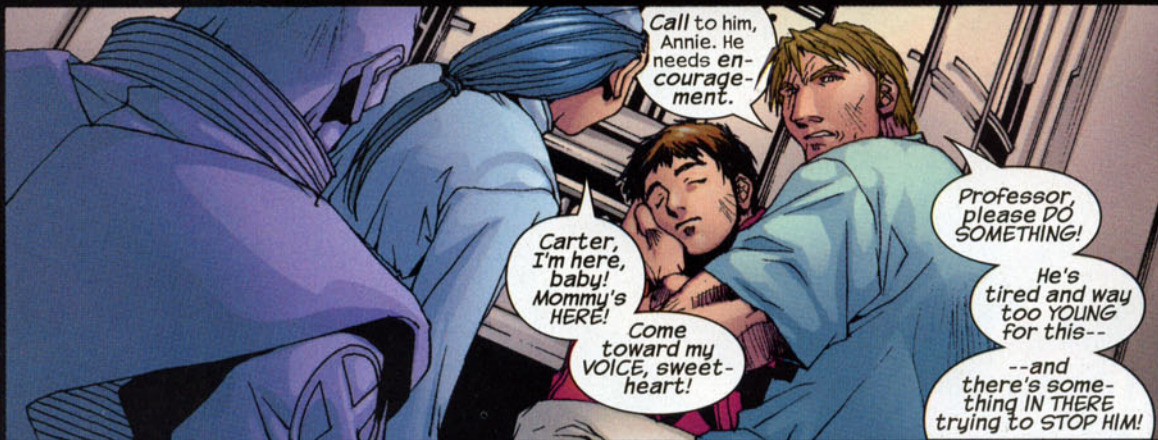
Oh, God, Alex... what's *happening* to him?



I don't know, Annie.

My mind was being held in some... some *dimensional void* by another consciousness.

Carter came in and *rescued* me... but now he's too tired to get out.



Call to him, Annie. He needs *encouragement*.

Carter, I'm here, baby! Mommy's *HERE!*

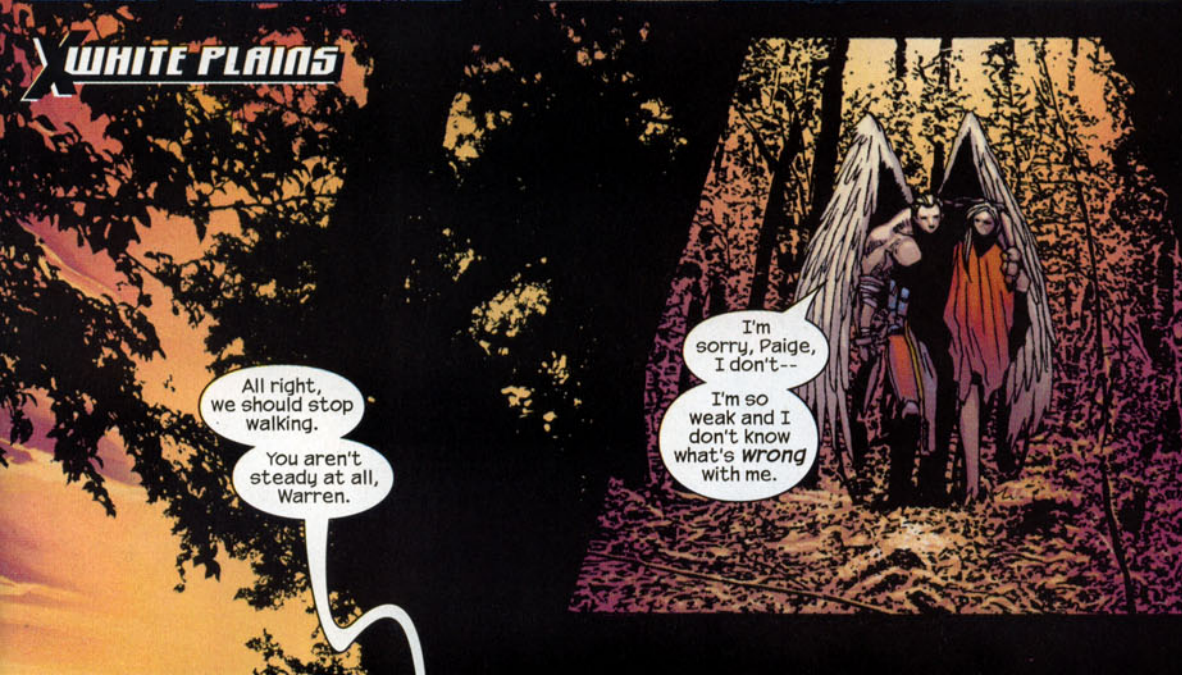
Come toward my *VOICE*, sweet-heart!

Professor, please *DO SOMETHING!*

He's tired and way too *YOUNG* for this--

--and there's something *IN THERE* trying to *STOP HIM!*

WHITE PLAINS



All right, we should stop walking.

You aren't steady at all, Warren.

I'm sorry, Paige, I don't--

I'm so weak and I don't know what's *WRONG* with me.

It's all right...
...whatever caused you to heal, you probably still lost a lot of blood.

You're a wonderful person, and I would have felt **terrible** if I'd been the cause of--

I thought you were **dead**, Paige.

I feel so **guilty** about having gotten you into this.

Oh, be quiet.

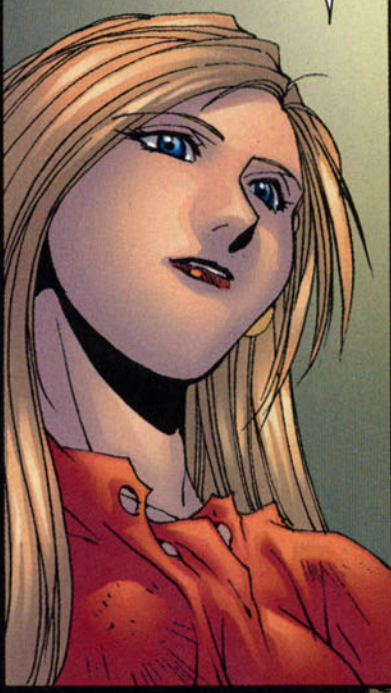
It's not like I didn't know the job was **dangerous** when I took it, super-chicken.

You know, you're kind of an **enigma** to me, Warren Worthington the Third.

On the one hand, you're an **X-Man**.

You're handsome, and sweet, and charming...

Why, thank you.



But on the other hand, you're an ecologist's **worst nightmare**--

--a wealthy, fat-cat polluter of the environment who allowed a mutant like **Maximus Lobo** to form a power structure right under your nose.

You've completely shook my faith in the concept of "**homo-superior**".



"Shaken," Paige.

"Shaken" my faith, and I--

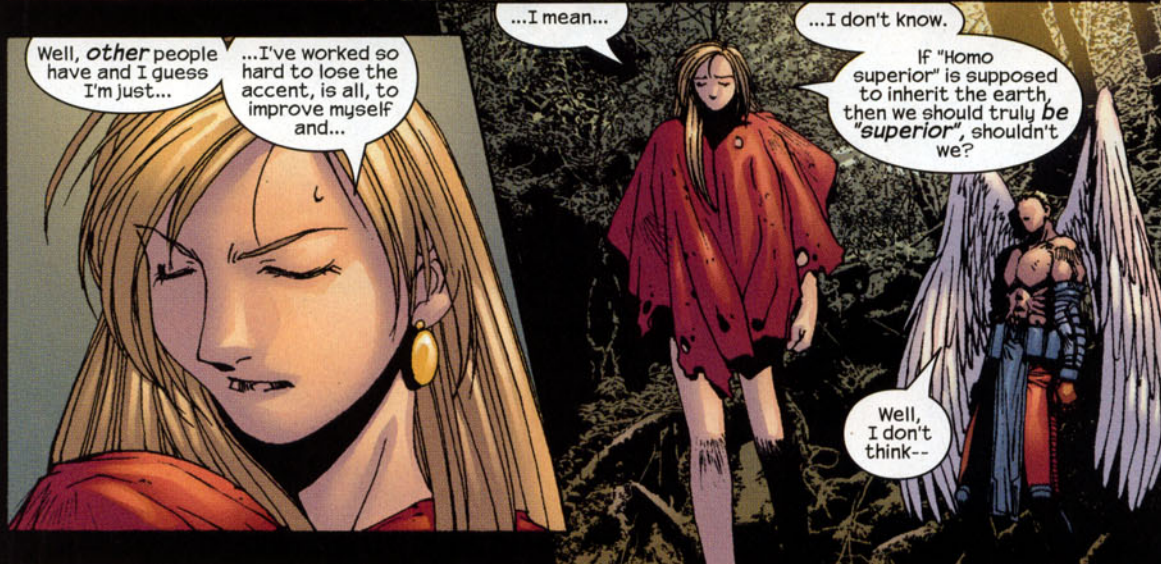


Oh, shut up! I'm from Kentucky, all right?

It doesn't mean I'm stupid.

Paige, relax.

I never said you were stupid.



Well, *other* people have and I guess I'm just...

...I've worked so hard to lose the accent, is all, to improve myself and...

...I mean...

...I don't know.

If "Homo superior" is supposed to inherit the earth, then we should truly be *superior*, shouldn't we?

Well, I don't think--



We should be *above* the petty in-fighting, and prejudices, and backward thinking of Homo sapiens, shouldn't we?



But *WE* aren't!

It's just basic evolution.



Mutants are preying on one another because they're *supposed* to prey on one another--

--until *one* group rises to the top or achieves equilibrium.

But Paige--



Don't you see? These wolf people have banded together--

--and soon the "Angel" people will band together, the "Husk" people, the "Wolverine" people, the "Ice" people--

--and then we'll all be at war!

"Survival of the fittest."

Are you finished yet?

Can I talk now?



When I was unconscious, I had this dream about your old girlfriend, Betsy...

...she told me to say good-bye and tell you that you were following the wrong path with her...

...which I think symbolically means--

Betsy said what to you?



You were following the wrong path.

Say good-bye.

Oh, my God.

Oh, my God.

Dammit.

Dammit.

Survival of the fittest!

THE INFIRMARY



Come on, little man, you're so close, now!
We're **DONE PLAYING**, all right?!

Carter, honey, follow my VOICE!



Carter? It's Professor Xavier. You remember me, don't you?

Carter, buddy!

Carter, sweetheart, it's MOMMY.



Cain, what's going on? What are they doing?

Sammy, you're askin' the wroooong guy.

Carter? It's Professor Xavier. You remember me, don't you?

IT'S ALMOST GOT ME!

MOMMY, HELP ME!



I'm coming, Carter, HANG ON!
We'll get you out of this!



I'M SCARED, MISTER XAVIER, I'M SO SCARED!
PLEEEEEASE!

I'm here now, son. Can you REACH me?



I can't--
--it's REALLY HARD!

You're doing splendidly, Carter!

Just a LITTLE FURTHER!



Good man!



NO!



YOU--
--WON'T--
--HAVE--
--THIS--
--BOY!

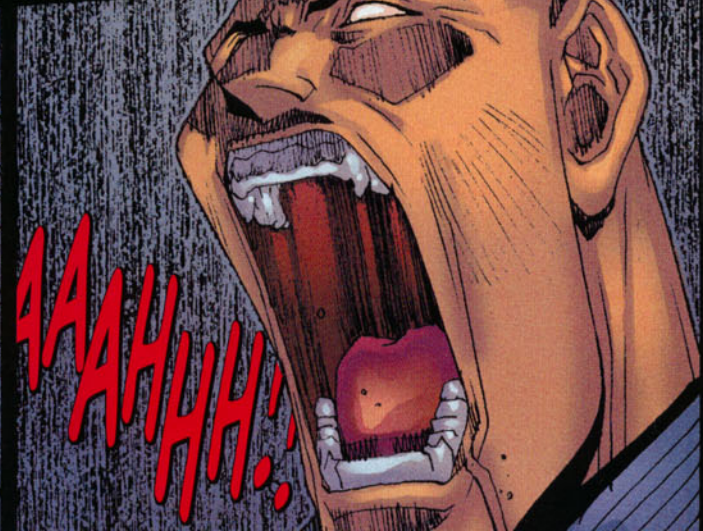


AAAHHH!!

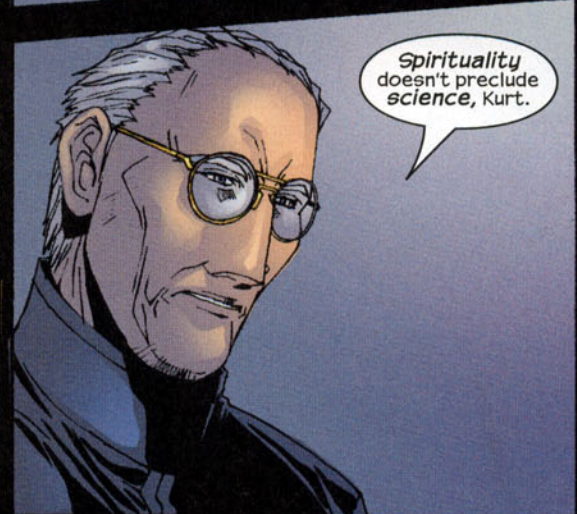


Professor?

Oh my God...



AAAHHH!!



I know that.

And I know that a priest can have views that *differ* from standard Church doctrine--

--but I've been having these *nightmares* lately, and--

--I haven't read my daily Office--

--my breviary--

--in almost a *month*.

I see.

As you know, Kurt, Monsignor Dolan is fond of saying that the *first thing* to go when a priest is in trouble--

--*is* the daily reading of the breviary.

And I *am* in trouble, Father.

Because I can no longer justify the repression of...

...*desire*.

And the recent troubles in the Church have, I assume, helped to *spur* on this line of...

...*introspection*?

Yes.

The Church has meant so much to me--

--*given* so much to me.


But these nightmares, the *meaning* I give them--

--and the path I'm on now as a leader of the *X-Men*--

--make me *question* everything I once accepted on *faith*.



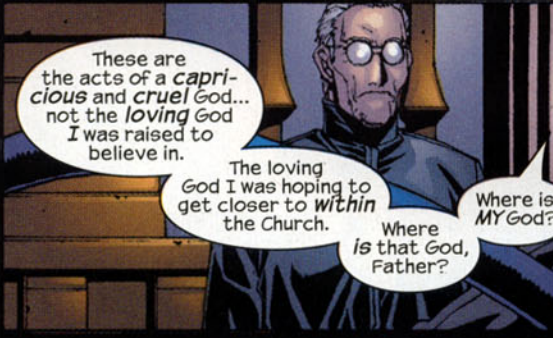
Question
in *what way*,
Kurt?



Why would
God give me the desire
to be a priest, *and*
the desire to be with
women?

Why would
God give uncontrollable,
explosive powers to an
innocent boy that would
ultimately kill him in the
most *horrible* of
ways?

And why
would God evolve
mankind into some-
thing *new*, something
different, but not
something universally
better?




These are
the acts of a *capricious*
and *cruel* God...
not the *loving* God
I was raised to
believe in.


The loving
God I was hoping to
get closer to *within*
the Church.

Where
is that God,
Father?

Where is
MY God?



The God
that is appalled and
angered, and *steps*
in to protect the
helpless...



...when his
priests act out
sins of aggression
against *innocent*
children?





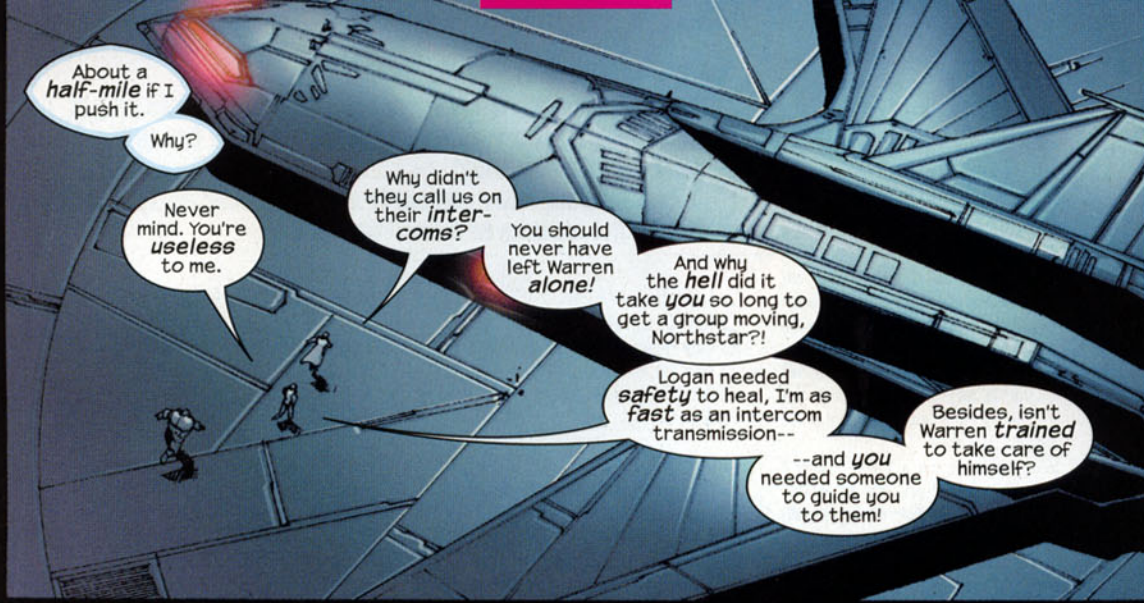
You know the way out, Kurt.



Hello, Warren?
Bobby?
Anybody?

Any X-Man out there with a communicator on?

Nightcrawler, it's Northstar!
How far can you teleport?



About a half-mile if I push it.

Why?

Never mind. You're *useless* to me.

Why didn't they call us on their *inter-coms*?

You should never have left Warren *alone!*

And why the *hell* did it take *you* so long to get a group moving, Northstar?!

Logan needed *safety* to heal, I'm as *fast* as an intercom transmission--

Besides, isn't Warren *trained* to take care of himself?

--and *you* needed someone to guide you to them!



Trained or not, he's a brother to me, and if anything *bad* happens to him--

--I'll *kill* you.



What did you say to me?



HELLO! ANYBODY!

THIS IS PAIGE GUTHRIE ALSO KNOWN AS HUSK!



PLEASE HELP US!

WARREN'S DOWN AND THE WOLVES ARE KILLING US!



REPEAT: WE'RE BEING *SKIRK*!

X TO BE CONTINUED...