

MARVEL KNIGHTS®

MARVEL
PSR+ 20

MILLAR • ROMITA Jr. • JANSON



WOLVERINE®

**ENEMY
OF THE
STATE**

PART 1 of 6

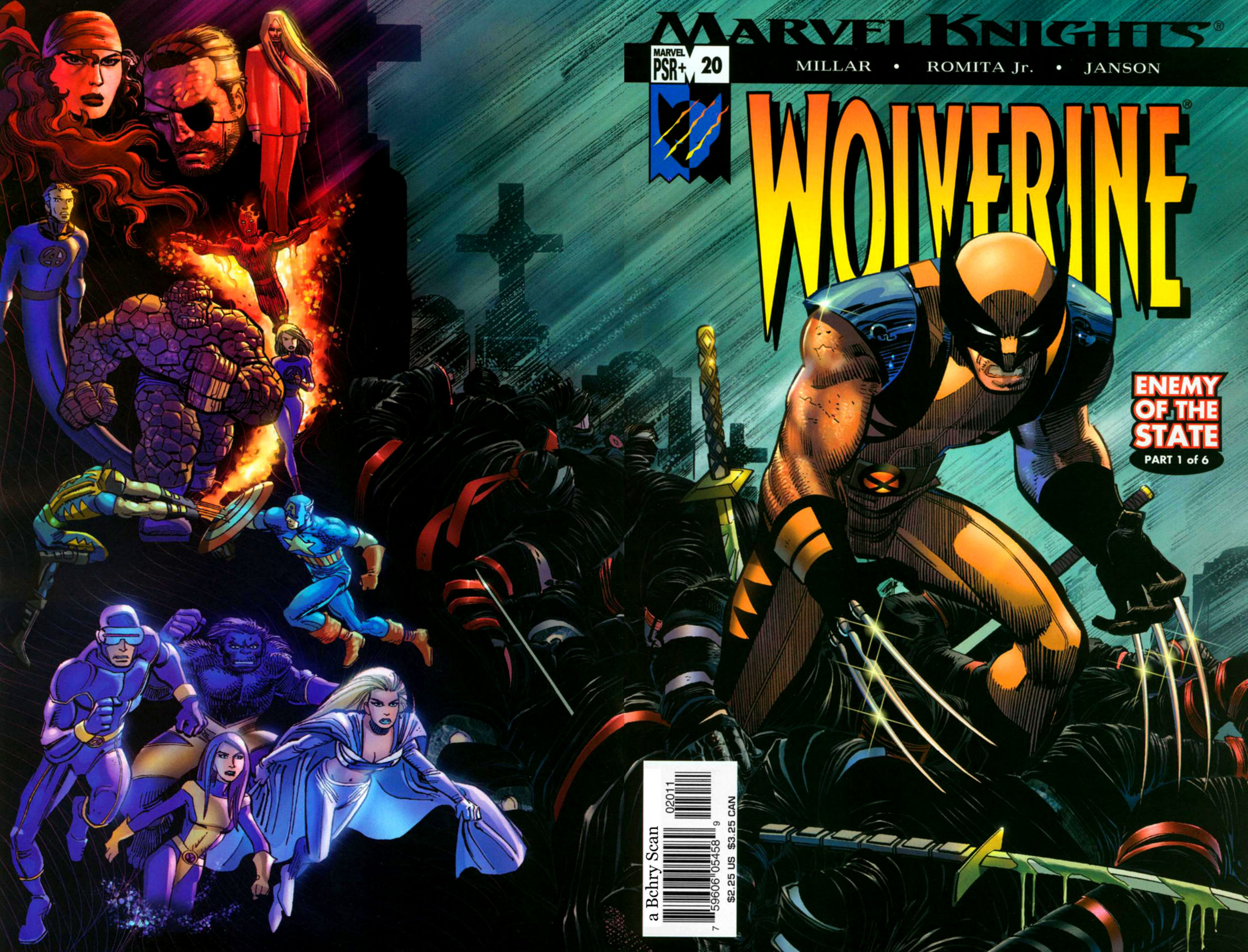
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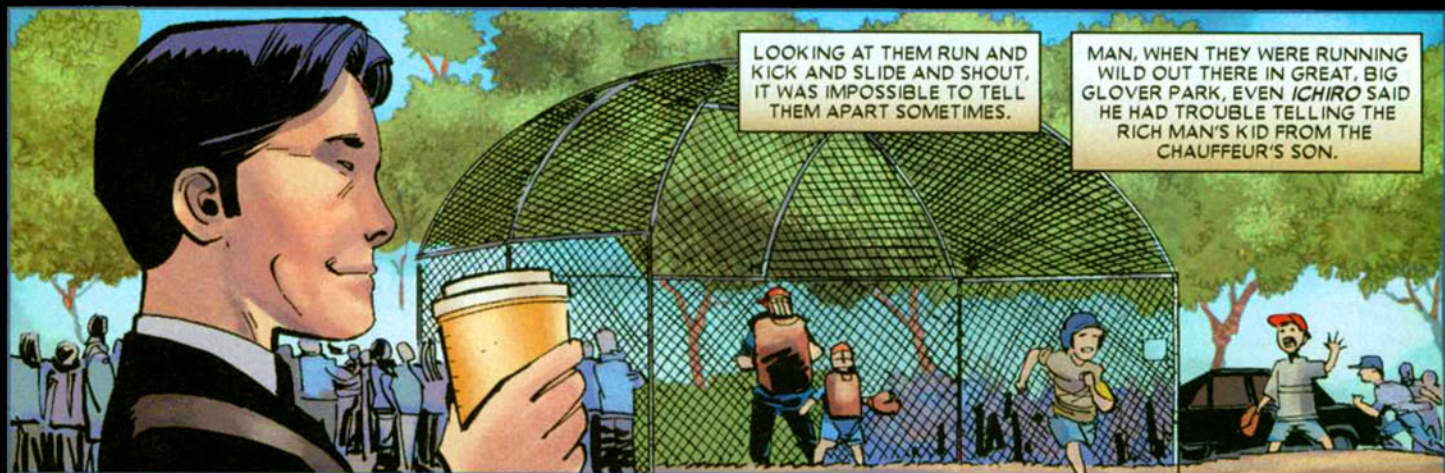
⑥ **MAKASAKI, JAPAN,**
OCTOBER

ICHIRO DROVE A BIG CAR,
BUT HE WAS FAR FROM RICH.
THE RICH GUY ALWAYS SAT
IN THE BACK.

ICHIRO HAD BEEN HIS DRIVER
FOR CLOSE TO FIFTEEN YEARS
NOW, BUT HE WAS PRETTY SURE
THE RICH GUY HADN'T SAID
FIFTEEN WORDS TO HIM IN
ALL THAT TIME.

HIS KID WAS GREAT, THOUGH. THE
KID HAD HIS MOTHER'S EYES AND A
HEARTY LAUGH AND PLAYED
BASEBALL WITH ICHIRO'S BOY
EVERY OTHER SATURDAY ON HIS
WAY BACK FROM MUSIC LESSONS.

ICHIRO GOT A KICK OUT OF SEEING HOW
LITTLE MONEY MATTERS WHEN YOU'RE
TEN YEARS OLD. WHEN HAVING A BALL
AND A BASEBALL MITT WAS ENOUGH TO
MAKE TWO KIDS BEST FRIENDS FOR
AN ENTIRE AFTERNOON.



LOOKING AT THEM RUN AND
KICK AND SLIDE AND SHOUT,
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL
THEM APART SOMETIMES.

MAN, WHEN THEY WERE RUNNING
WILD OUT THERE IN GREAT, BIG
GLOVER PARK, EVEN ICHIRO SAID
HE HAD TROUBLE TELLING THE
RICH MAN'S KID FROM THE
CHAUFFEUR'S SON.



UNFORTUNATELY,
HE WASN'T THE
ONLY ONE.





THE KIDNAPPERS WANTED TEN MILL IN U.S. DOLLARS. A LOT TO FIND EVEN IF HIS OWN BOY HAD BEEN SNATCHED, THE RICH MAN SAID, BUT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S KID? WHAT COULD HE DO EXCEPT APOLOGIZE?



THE COPS WEREN'T MUCH USE EITHER. SURE, THEY TOOK SOME DETAILS, BUT THEY SPELLED HIS NAME WRONG THREE TIMES AND ICHIRO KNEW HE WASN'T WELL-HEELLED ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FOCUSED VERY LONG.



HOURS BECAME DAYS AND DAYS BECAME WEEKS.

AFTER A WHILE, THE COPS WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE HIS PHONE CALLS, AND ALL ICHIRO COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW DIFFERENT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE RICH MAN'S KID HAD BEEN BUNDLED INTO THAT CAR.



HIS SON HAD DISAPPEARED. SNATCHED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND, WHEN IT HIT THE NEWS, EVEN THEY JUST TALKED ABOUT THE RICH MAN.

I TOLD ICHIRO I WAS MAD HE DIDN'T CALL ME RIGHT AWAY.

ENEMY OF THE STATE PART 1

**MARK
MILLAR**
WRITER

**JOHN
ROMITA, JR.**
PENCILS & COVER

**KLAUS
JANSON**
INKS

**PAUL
MOUNTS**
COLORS

**VC'S RUS
WOOTON**
LETTERS

**JENNIFER
LEE**
EDITOR

**AXEL
ALONSO**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**JOE
QUESADA**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**DAN
BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

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I HATE JAPAN.
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

I HATE THE CHERRY BLOSSOM
BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF THE
ONE TIME IN MY LIFE THE PAIN
WENT AWAY ONLY TO COME
BACK TWICE AS BAD.



ICHIRO WAS HER COUSIN. SKINNY,
LITTLE GUY WHO GOT DRUNK ON
TWO BOTTLES OF SAKE AND A SHOT
OF JACK DANIELS. I'VE ONLY SEEN
HIM ONCE SINCE THE WEDDING AND
THAT WAS THE FUNERAL.

HIS VOICE ON THE PHONE
BROUGHT IT ALL FLOODING
BACK: CHAMPAGNE IN THE
HOT SPRINGS, CHOCOLATES
BY THE BAY BRIDGE, MAKING
LOVE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

LIKE I SAID,
I HATE JAPAN.



SUCH A CURIOUS
PLACE, DON'T YOU
THINK? A CHRISTIAN
GRAVEYARD IN THE
HEART OF NAGASAKI.
WE HAVE THE SPANISH
TO THANK FOR THIS,
YOU KNOW.

FIVE HUNDRED
YEARS AGO THEY
CAME WITH THEIR
BIBLES. DO YOU THINK
THEY SAVED THE SOULS
OF THESE CONVERTS?
DO YOU THINK THEY
SING IN HEAVEN NOW
WITH THE ANGELS
AND THE SAINTS?



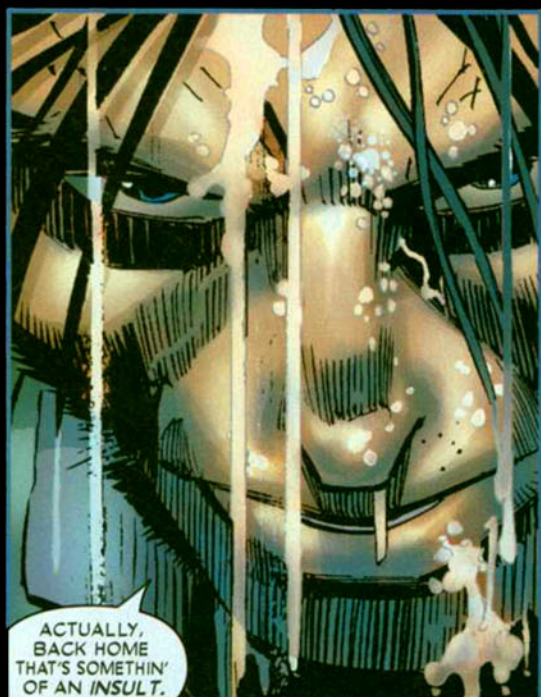
WHERE'S
THE BOY?

SAFE.

BUT WHO
ARE YOU? I WAS
NOT EXPECTING
AN AMERICAN.

WHO AM I? I'M
YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE, THAT'S
WHO I AM.

FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D.
FORMER WEAPON X.
YOU NEVER HEARD
OF THE X-MEN OR
SOMETHING?





THEY'RE DEAD
BEFORE THEY HIT
THE GROUND.

DIDN'T FEEL
A THING.



YASHIMA!



NO
WAY.

NO PULSE.

NO BREATH.



SMELL AS DAMP
AND AS MOLDY
AS EVERYTHING
ELSE SLEEPING
UNDER THESE
GRAVESTONES.



JOINTS SNAPPING
AND POPPING WITH
EVERY MOVE.

THESE THINGS
HAVE BEEN DEAD
FOR AT LEAST
A MONTH.



OLD HAM GONE
BAD ON A HOT
AFTERNOON.

MOZZARELLA
STENCH AT THE
BACK OF MY
THROAT.

IT'S A SETUP.



ICHIRO.
THE KID.

FLYING HALFWAY AROUND
THE WORLD IN COACH JUST
TO SAVE A FEW
BUCKS--

JACKASS
PLAYING
TETRIS--

CRACKING UP AT SOME
BAD ADAM SANDLER
FLICK--



--THE WHOLE
WAY HERE.

I'LL SHOW 'EM
WHERE THEY CAN
STICK THEIR TRAP.



<LOGAN IS
OVERPOWERING
THEM, MASTER. SHOULD
WE STRIKE NOW
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE?>



<NO, I WANT
TO SEE WHAT THE
WOLVERINE CAN
DO. LET THEM TIRE
HIM OUT A
LITTLE.>



GOT TO KEEP IN MIND
THAT NOTHING'S REALLY
CHANGED HERE.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN
THE KID'S IN ANY
LESS TROUBLE.

ICHIRO AND HIS
WIFE AIN'T ANY
LESS AFRAID.



ALL THAT'S DIFFERENT
IS THE ODDS, BUT I CAN
HANDLE THESE ODDS.

THEIR GUTS ARE
STILL SOFT.

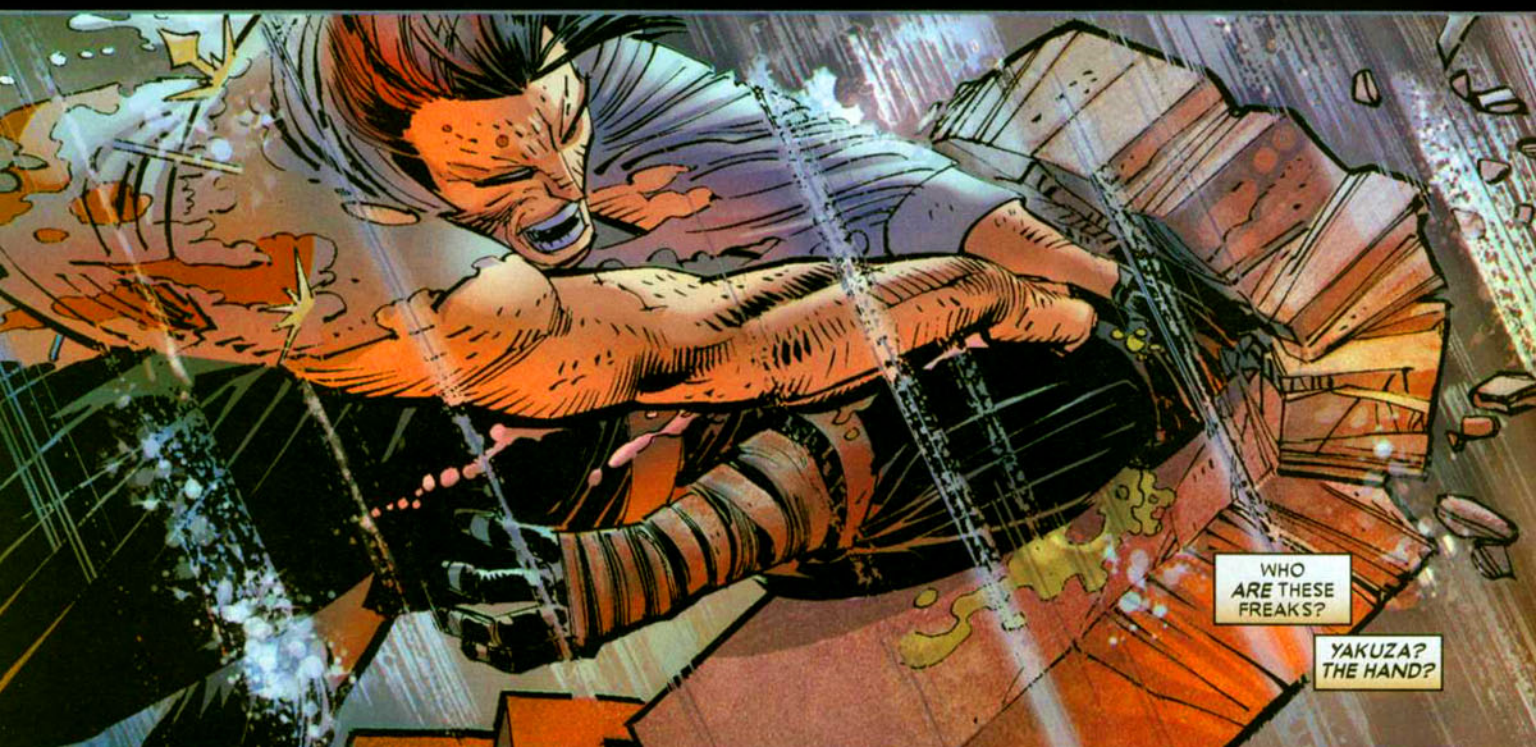
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE
DEAD DOESN'T MEAN
THEY WON'T GO DOWN.

THEIR EYEBALLS
ARE STILL WEAK
SPOTS.



METHANE GAS
HISSES FROM EVERY
OPEN WOUND.

GREEN BLOOD
STICKING TO THE
GROUND.



WHO
ARE THESE
FREAKS?

YAKUZA?
THE HAND?



WHY ALL THE
FUSS JUST TO
SET ME UP?

OH,
NO YOU
DON'T.

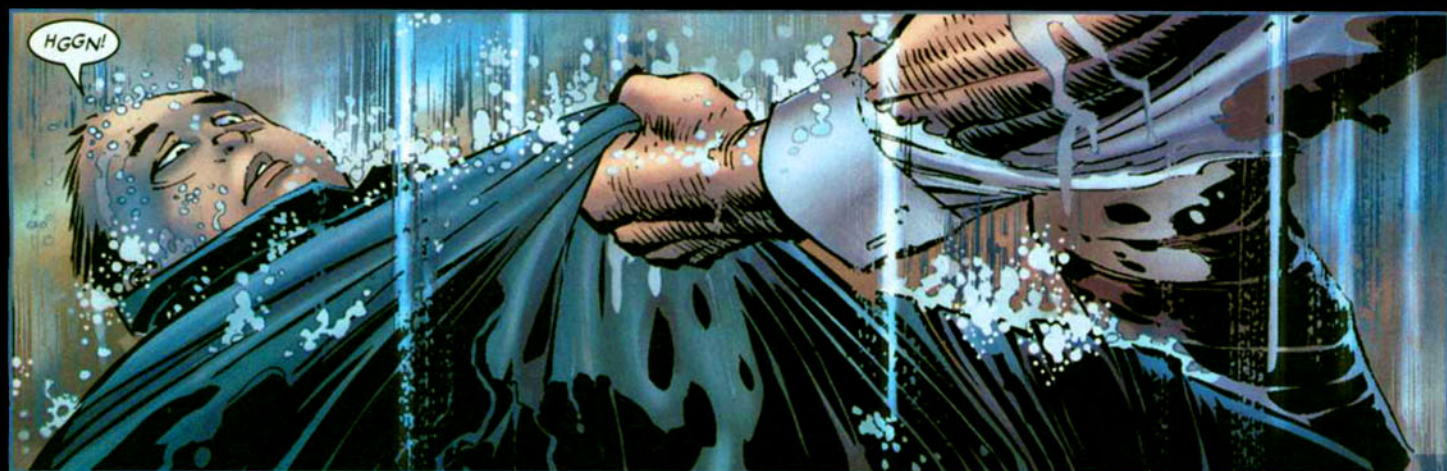
AIN'T AN
ACCIDENT
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE LEFT
BREATHIN'...



PLEASE,
I DON'T
WANT
THIS.

I BET YOU
DON'T. NOW
ONE TIME AND
ONE TIME
ONLY, BUB--

WHERE'S
THE KID?

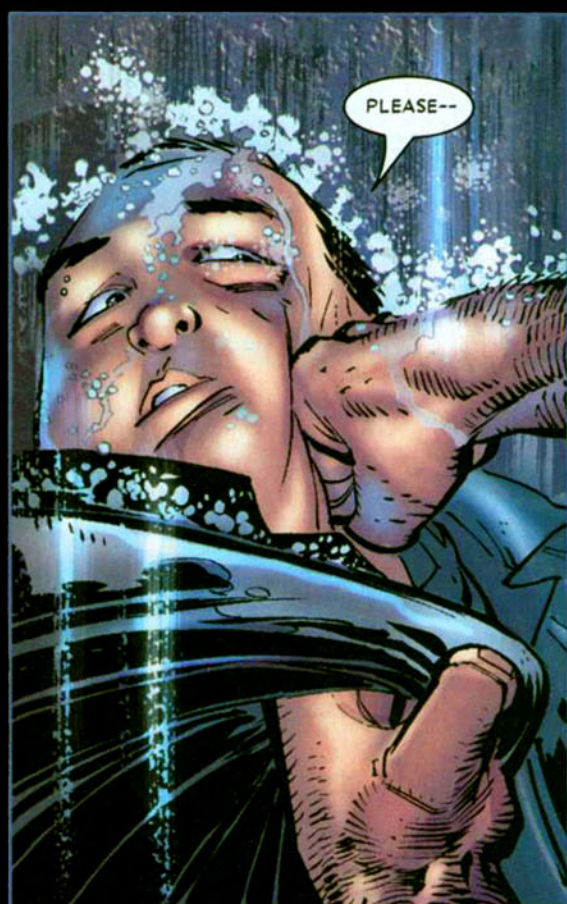


HGGN!



YOU THINK
I'M PLAYING BY
THE RULE-BOOK
HERE? YOU THINK
I'M SUPERMAN OR
SOMETHING?

I DON'T PLAN
ON TOSSING YOU
IN JAIL, BUB. YOU
EITHER GET SMART
AND USE YOUR BRAINS
IN THERE OR LARRY,
CURLY AND MOE
GONNA BE COMIN'
OUT TO PLAY.



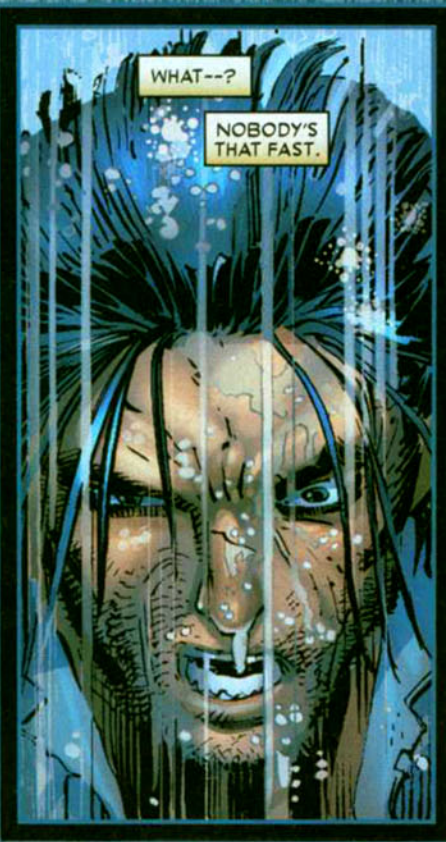
PLEASE--



WHERE
YOU HIDIN'
THE KID?



HHHHHHH!



WHAT--?

NOBODY'S
THAT FAST.



THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

BLADE CLEAN
THROUGH?

NOBODY'S--

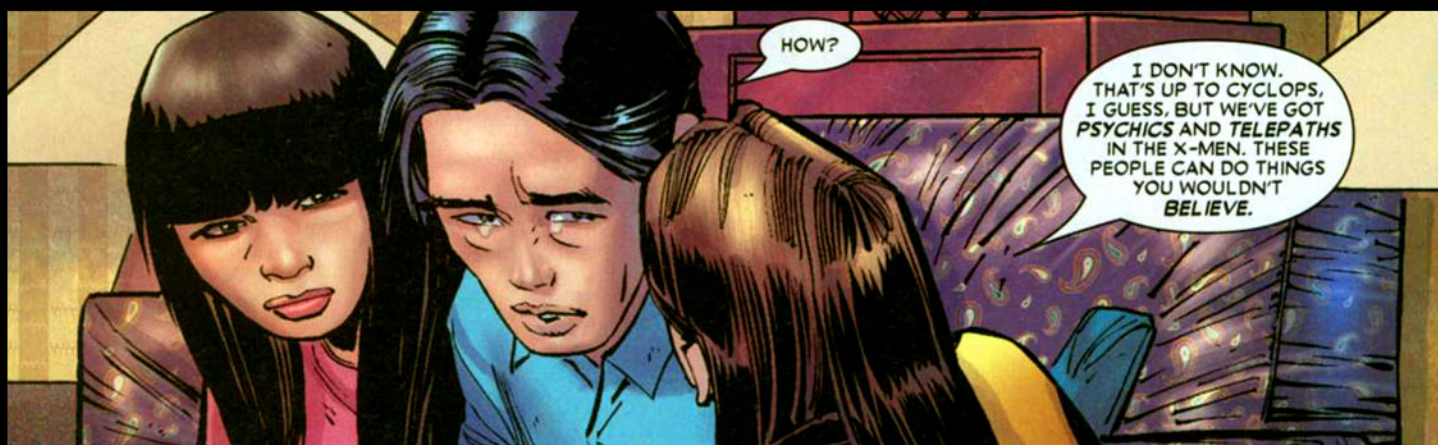






LOGAN, HE WAS ENGAGED TO MY COUSIN, YOU SEE. WE NEVER WANT HIM TO GET HURT. WE DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WOULD VANISH LIKE THIS...

OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T. HOW COULD YOU KNOW HE'D DISAPPEAR? NOBODY'S BLAMING YOU FOR ANYTHING, ICHIRO. WE JUST NEED ALL THE DETAILS SO MY FRIENDS AND I CAN GO LOOKING FOR HIM.



HOW?

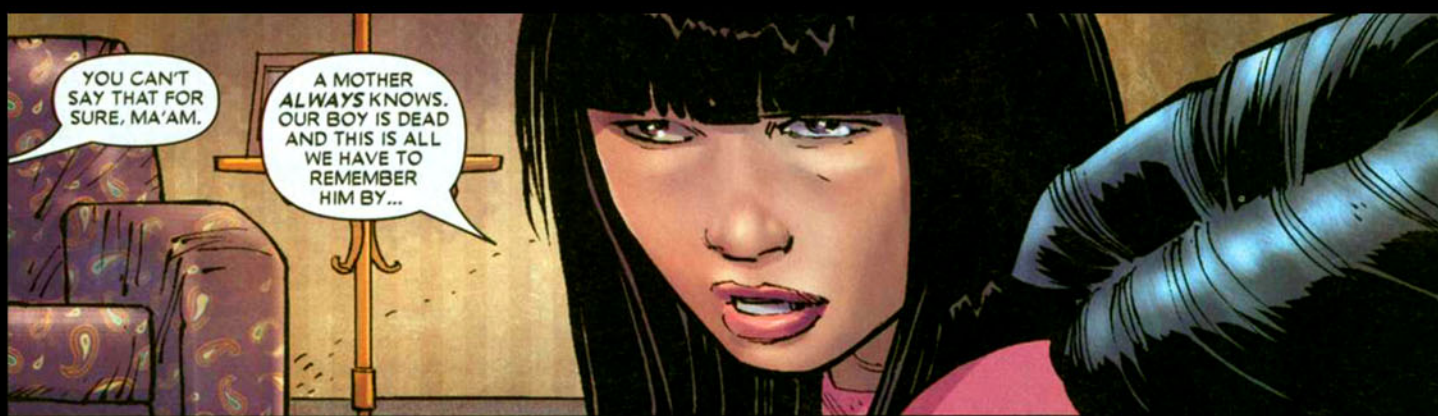
I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S UP TO CYCLOPS, I GUESS. BUT WE'VE GOT PSYCHICS AND TELEPATHS IN THE X-MEN. THESE PEOPLE CAN DO THINGS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.



HE'S DISAPPEARED LIKE THIS BEFORE, YOU KNOW. WOLVERINE HAS A HABIT OF JUST DISAPPEARING ON THESE MISSIONS AND THEN JUST SHOWING UP WHENEVER YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

IF YOUR BOY'S STILL ALIVE OUT THERE--

OUR BOY IS DEAD.



YOU CAN'T SAY THAT FOR SURE, MA'AM.

A MOTHER ALWAYS KNOWS. OUR BOY IS DEAD AND THIS IS ALL WE HAVE TO REMEMBER HIM BY...



...A BOX OF EGGS AND A BASKET OF COOKIES FROM MY HUSBAND'S GENEROUS EMPLOYER.

MINNEAPOLIS. ONE MONTH LATER

YOU KNOW, AS AN EX-ALTAR BOY OF SOME SEVEN YEARS STANDING, I FIND ALL THIS IMAGERY VAGUELY DISTURBING.



HOW MANY RATS IN THE NEST, COLONEL FURY?

THIRTEEN; JUST LIKE ALWAYS. TWO PRIESTS, THREE NUNS AND EIGHT FANATICS HANDPICKED FROM THE LOCAL CONGREGATION.

PLACE JUST ABSOLUTELY STINKS OF THE HAND. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO OPEN THE FILES.



YEAH, BUT WE DID AND WHAT WE FOUND INSIDE WAS PRETTY INTERESTING. SMOKED OUT A PLOT TO TAKE DOWN CAPTAIN AMERICA, TONY STARK, CHARLIE XAVIER, REED RICHARDS...

ALL IN ALL, THEY WERE GOING FOR SIXTEEN KEY FIGURES IN THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY. AND YOU KNOW WHO TOPPED THE LIST?

TELL ME.



MISTER WOLVERINE HIMSELF.



WELL, I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHAT JAPAN WAS ALL ABOUT. ANY IDEA WHO TOOK HIM DOWN? LOGAN'S NOT EXACTLY AN EASY MARK...

FROM WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, THE ASSASSIN IN CHARGE OF THESE STRIKES CALLS HIMSELF THE GORGON.

APPARENTLY, HE'S A MUTANT FROM KYOTO, TAKEN DOWN BY THE LOCAL GANGS EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO AND RESURRECTED BY THE HAND SOME THREE WEEKS LATER.



THE GORGON'S A NINJA-MASTER, CLASS-2 SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND, STUPID AS IT SOUNDS, HAS A MUTANT POWER THAT LETS HIM KILL ANYONE HE MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH.

WORD IS HE BELONGED TO SOME BROTHERHOOD SPLITTER GROUP CALLED THE DAWN OF THE WHITE LIGHT AND ALL INDICATIONS ARE THEY'VE FORMED SOME KINDA PACT WITH THE HAND AND HYDRA GRAND MASTERS.



THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

SO FAR, HYDRA CURRENTLY ENFORCES A NEW LANGUAGE ON THEIR ASSASSINS EVERY SIXTY-SIX DAYS. SO LINGUISTS ESTIMATE ANOTHER WEEK BEFORE THEY COMPLETELY CRACK THESE E-MAILS.



THINK YOU GOT TIME TO COME BACK AND HELP US OUT WITH THIS ONE?

FOR SOMETHING THIS BIG, I'LL MAKE THE TIME.



THIS SMELL AS BAD TO YOU AS IT DOES TO ME?



LIKE A FART IN AN ELEVATOR, ELEKTRA.

LIKE A FART IN AN ELEVATOR.



COLONEL FURY? WE JUST GOT AN A-1 PRIORITY MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL ALERTS. MISS NATCHIO'S CLEARED FOR ABOVE TOP SECRET?

WHAT'S THE SITUATION, SOLDIER?



THEY JUST FOUND WOLVERINE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

⊗ SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, 12 HOURS LATER.

--BURNED UP AND LYING IN A DITCH IN ARGENTINA. NO HAIR, ONE EYE, NINETY-PERCENT BURNS. GROUND-TEAM SAID HE LOOKED LIKE HAMBURGER MEAT.

WHAT ABOUT HIS CAPTORS? HOW DID HE ESCAPE?

DUNNO. *NOBODY* KNOWS. HIS BODY'S HEALING ITSELF DOWN IN *SICK BAY* RIGHT NOW, BUT HE HASN'T OPENED HIS EYES YET. WHATEVER THEY *DID* TO HIM BACK THERE EVEN HAD OUR DOCTORS HEAVING--

I GOTTA SAY, WOLVERINE, YOU'RE NOT LOOKING TOO GOOD, HONEY. THOSE *HYDRA* GUYS REALLY DID A *NUMBER* ON YOU, HUH?

ANTISEPTIC STINK. FOOTSTEPS SQUEAKING ON A HARD WAXED FLOOR. STARCHED LINEN SHEETS CHAFING MY--

HOSPITAL.

WHO *IS* THIS?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M INSULTED.

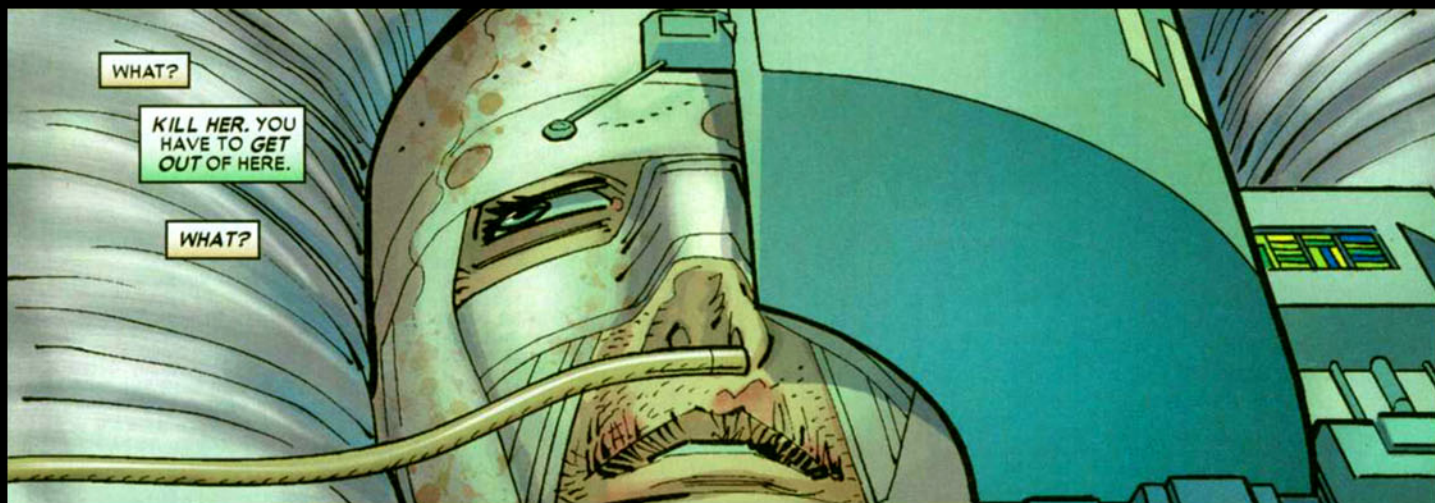
PEROMONES PUMPING. PUPILS DILATING. I THINK SHE KNOWS ME.

THREE OR FOUR YEARS BACK? THE SCORPIO MISSION? THAT NUMBER YOU GAVE ME WAS A FAKE, YOU JACKASS--



I CALLED YOU NEXT DAY AND YOU KNOW WHAT I GOT? THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S RECEPTION DESK. MAN, I CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT NOW, BUT--

KILL HER.



WHAT?

KILL HER. YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WHAT?



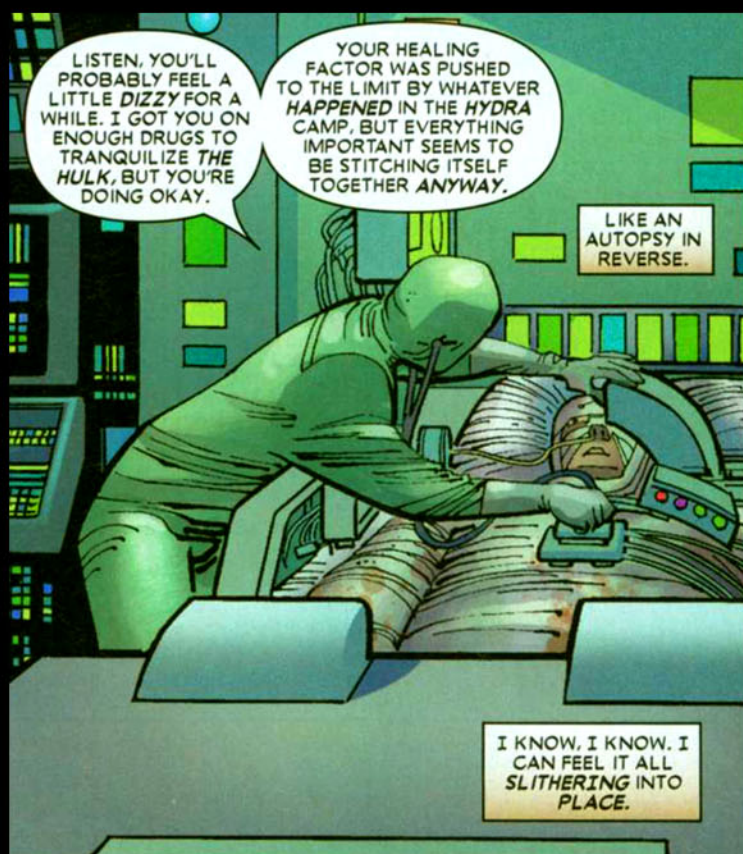
HERE'S WHERE YOU MAKE THE CUTS. NO MESS. NO FUSS.

JUST A QUICK, CLEAN KILL AND THEN YOU CAN...

UH, WOLVERINE? ARE YOU OKAY?

FINE.

ABSOLUTELY FINE. NEVER BETTER.

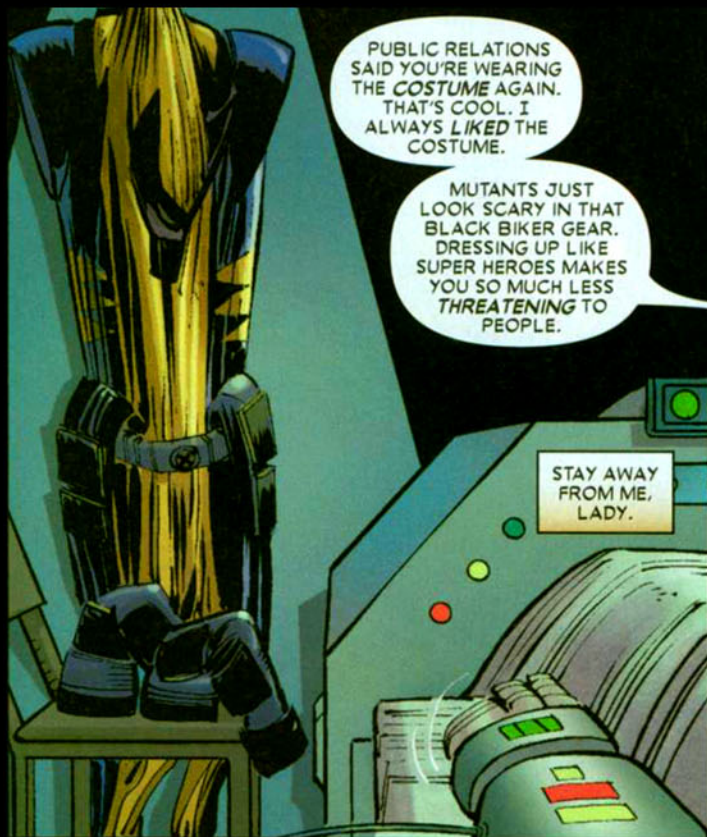


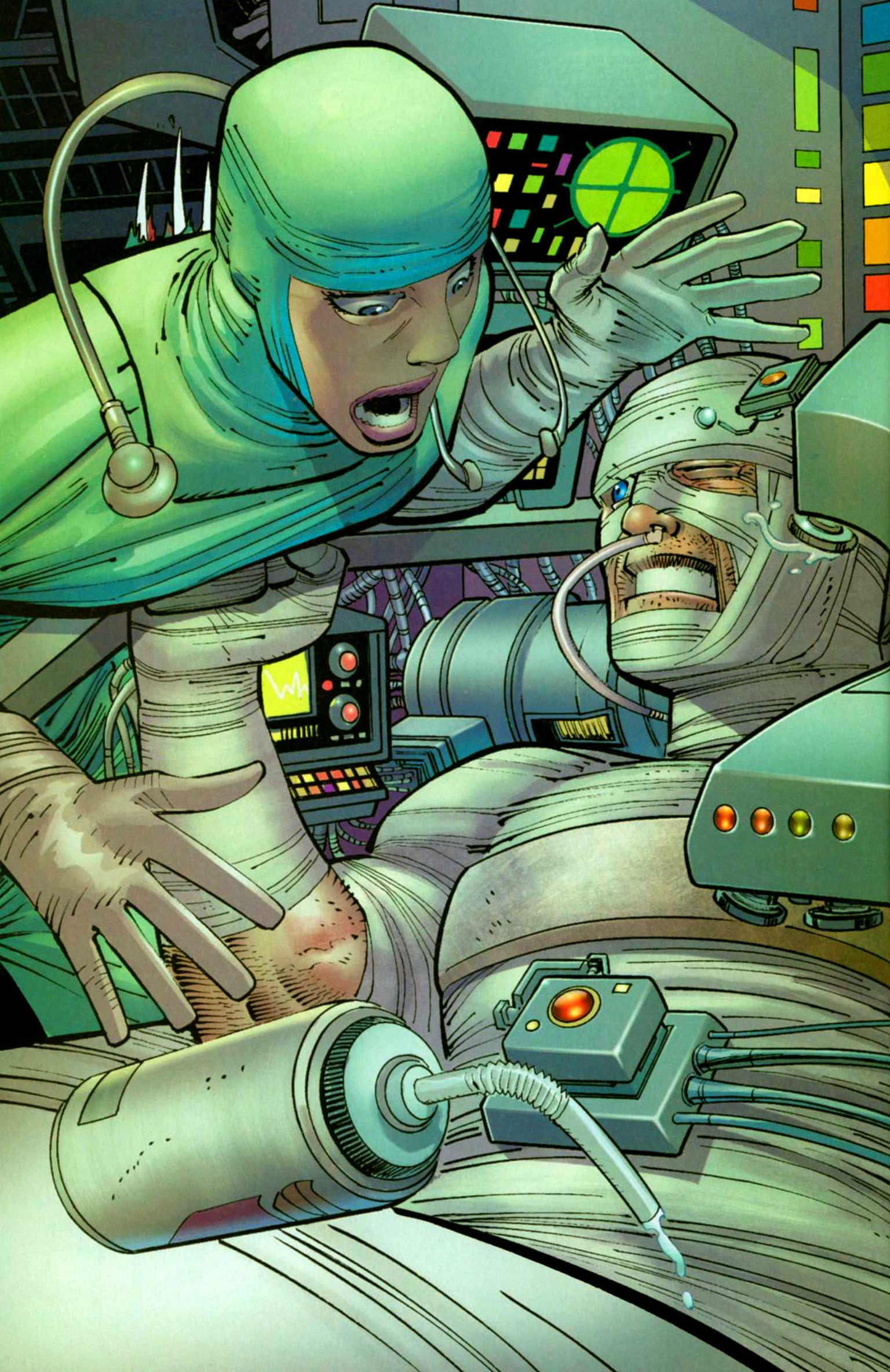
LISTEN, YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY FOR A WHILE. I GOT YOU ON ENOUGH DRUGS TO TRANQUILIZE THE HULK, BUT YOU'RE DOING OKAY.

YOUR HEALING FACTOR WAS PUSHED TO THE LIMIT BY WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THE HYDRA CAMP, BUT EVERYTHING IMPORTANT SEEMS TO BE STITCHING ITSELF TOGETHER ANYWAY.

LIKE AN AUTOPSY IN REVERSE.

I KNOW, I KNOW. I CAN FEEL IT ALL SLITHERING INTO PLACE.

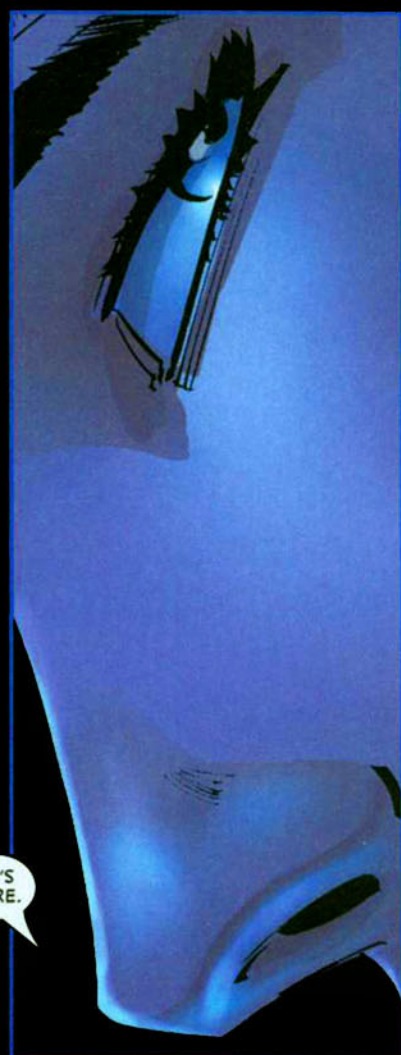
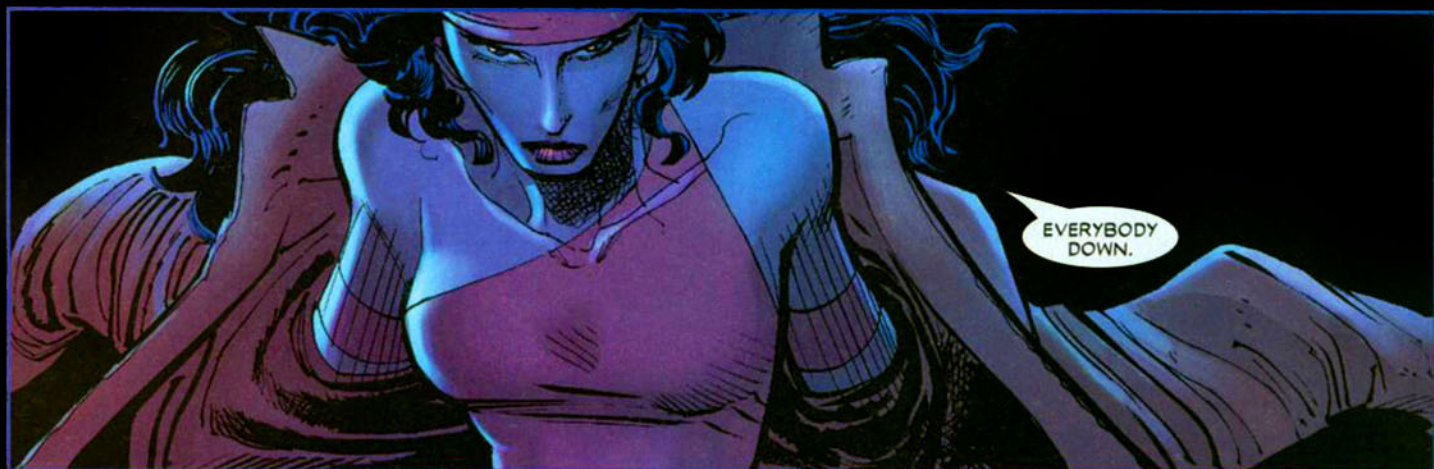
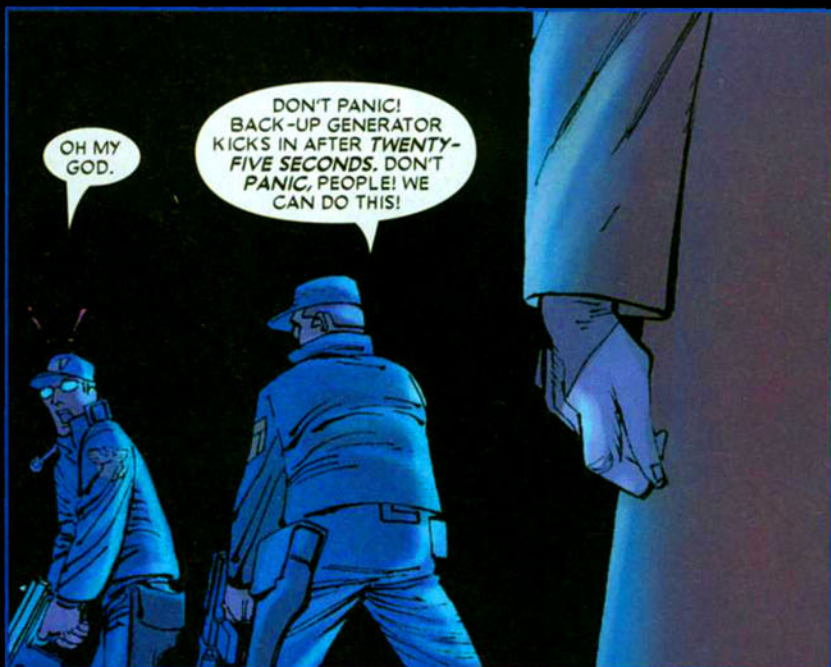
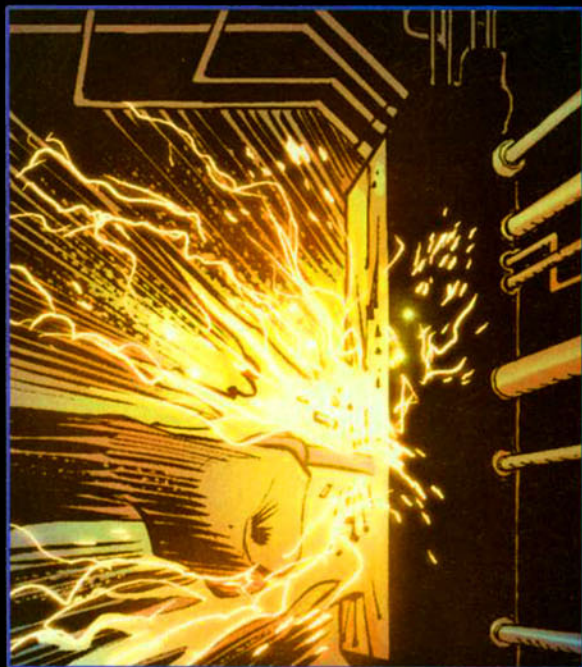






ARROOGA!ARROOGA!ARROOGA!ARROOGA!ARROOGA!ARO





A full-page comic book illustration of Wolverine in a high-tech, industrial environment. Wolverine is shown from the waist up, wearing his iconic black and yellow striped costume with a mask that has pointed ears. He is holding a large, pink, sack-like object in his right hand, which is extended towards the bottom of the frame. His left hand is also visible, with his claws extended. The background is filled with complex machinery, pipes, and structural elements, suggesting a laboratory or a factory. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, emphasizing the metallic textures of the environment and Wolverine's costume. A speech bubble in the top left corner contains the text "HELLO, SWEET-CHEEKS.".

HELLO,
SWEET-
CHEEKS.

⊗ TO BE CONTINUED...

