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ENEMY
OF THE
STATE

PART 2 of 6

WOLVERINE®



DIRECT EDITION



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WOLVERINE

**"ENEMY OF THE STATE"
PART 2 OF 6**



Previously:

While doing a favor in Japan for an old friend, Logan was ambushed by a hundred undead Hand ninjas and kidnapped by their leader, the deadly and mysteriously powerful mutant known only as the Gorgon.

X-Man Kitty Pryde tries to track Logan down, with no success. Wolverine has disappeared.

One month later, Nick Fury uncovers a Hydra plot to take down a number of high-profile members of the superhuman community. Leading the strikes is the Gorgon, and at the top of the list is Wolverine. The plot is somehow linked to a series of slaughters at local churches, and all signs point to The Hand as the perpetrators. Worse, The Hand and Hydra seem to have formed a pact with the Gorgon's splinter group, Dawn of the White Light. It doesn't look good.

Fury calls on the assassin Elektra for help, hoping her insider knowledge of The Hand will give him the edge he so desperately needs.

Wolverine is finally discovered in South America. Unconscious and barely alive, he is brought to a S.H.I.E.L.D. aircraft carrier to recover. Elektra flies in to assess the situation.

Wolverine awakens with voices in his head. He is on a mission from Hydra, they tell him, and he must obey.

Wolverine goes berserk.

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⑤ S.H.I.E.L.D. AIRCRAFT CARRIER.
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

A RUSH OF BLOOD HITS
THEIR HEADS. GUNS ARE
RAISED. BULLETS TUMBLE
INTO PLACE. BUT IT'S
MUCH TOO LATE--

--THEY'RE SLICED LIKE
LETTUCE BEFORE THEY
CATCH A BREATH TO
SCREAM.







ONLY GOING TO GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS--



RED CONFETTI SPRAYS RIGHT IN MY FACE. ORGANS BURSTING IN THE AIR EVERY TIME I SWING MY FISTS AROUND. I'M--

THAT'S THE WAY.

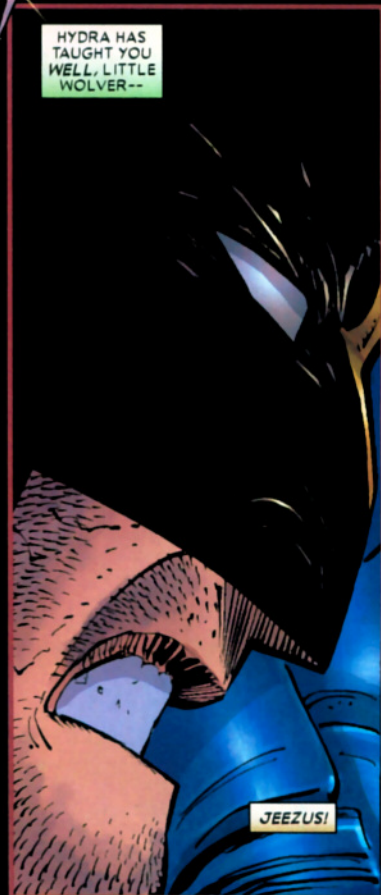
NO.

THAT'S THE WAY.

LIFE IS SUFFERING FORCED UPON US BY A MERCILESS GOD. DEATH IS OUR ONLY REWARD.



NO.



HYDRA HAS TAUGHT YOU WELL, LITTLE WOLVER--

JEEZUS!



RELAX, WOLVERINE. STOP STRUGGLING.

YOUR BODY'S PARALYZED AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY SAI STICKING IN YOUR DELTOID. YOU MIGHT AS WELL LET GO.

ELEKTRA.

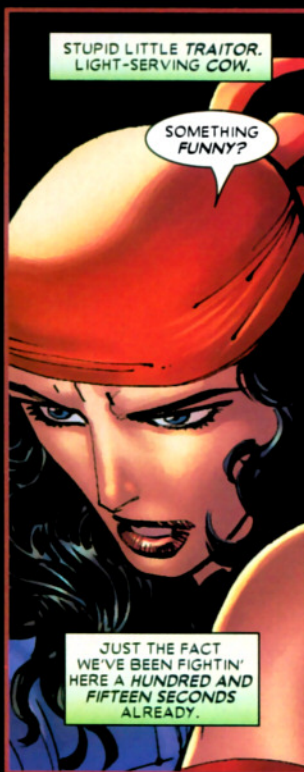


TREACHEROUS LITTLE TURNCOAT.

TRAINED BY OUR LEFT HAND, BUT--

WOLVERINE! THESE THOUGHTS AREN'T YOURS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU'VE JUST BEEN BRAINWASHED BY HYDRA, BUT THAT'S NOTHING S.H.I.E.L.D. CAN'T FIX.

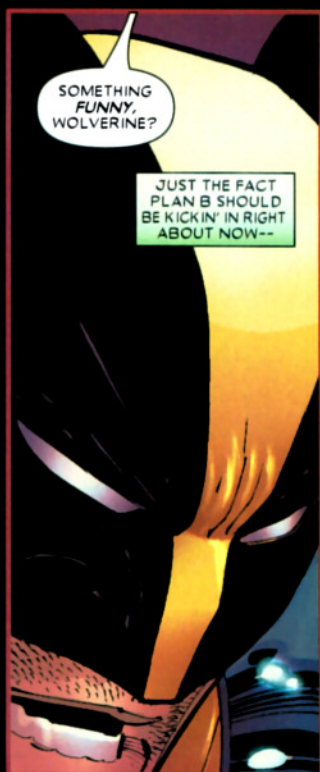
I'M NOT HERE TO KILL YOU. I'M HERE TO HELP. BLINK TWICE IF YOU'RE WILLING TO COOPERATE.



STUPID LITTLE TRAITOR. LIGHT-SERVING COW.

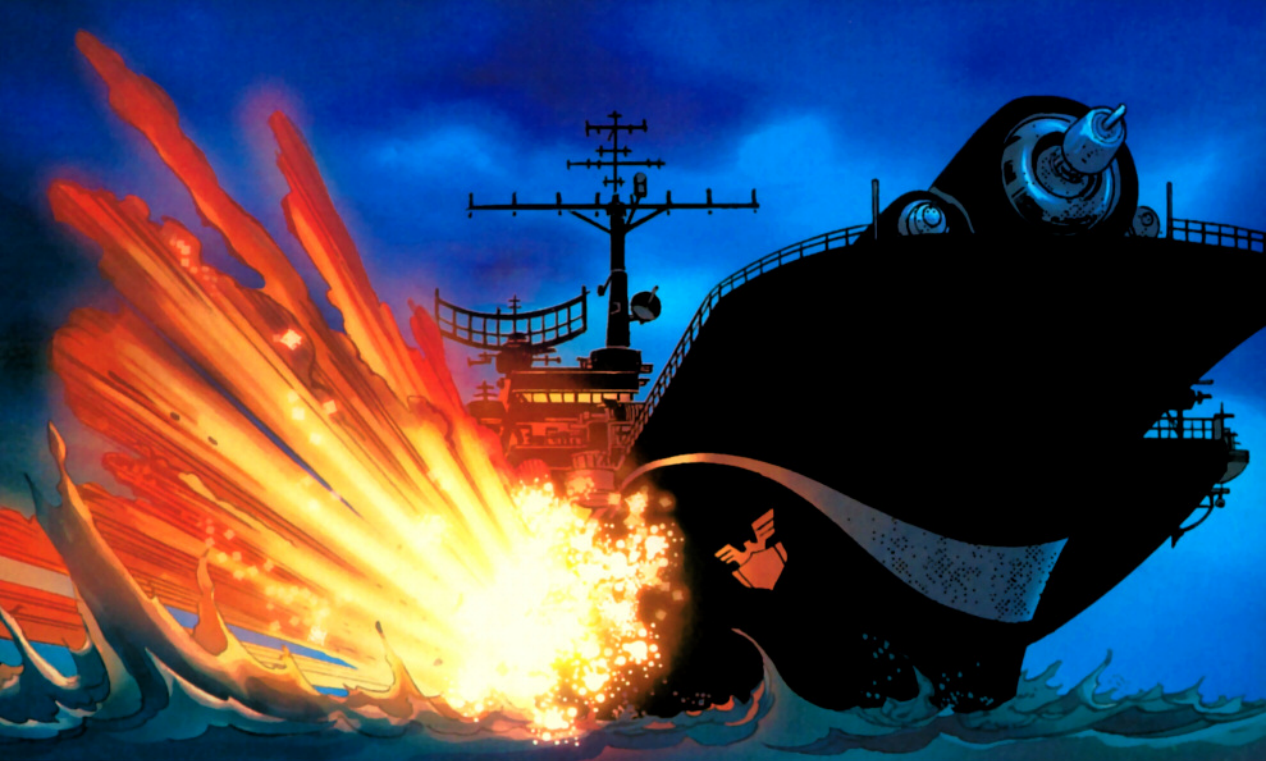
SOMETHING FUNNY?

JUST THE FACT WE'VE BEEN FIGHTIN' HERE A HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN SECONDS ALREADY.



SOMETHING FUNNY, WOLVERINE?

JUST THE FACT PLAN B SHOULD BE KICKIN' IN RIGHT ABOUT NOW--





SAI'S GONE.
PRESSURE'S OFF
THE NERVES--



--ARMS ARE DOING
WHAT THEY'RE
TOLD AGAIN.



NICE
TRY!

RARR!

NECK
WOUND.

BAD ONE.
TOO.

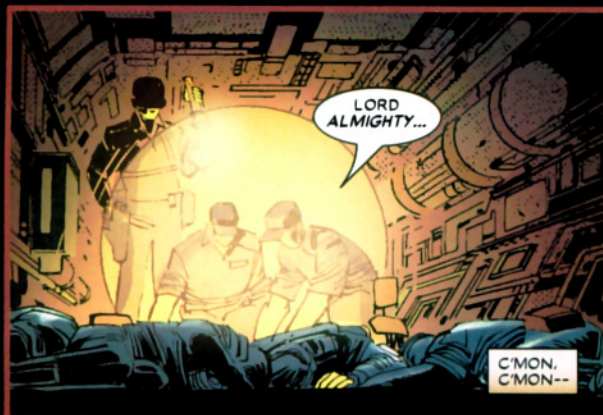
SHE TWISTS
THE KNIVES
JUST TO--

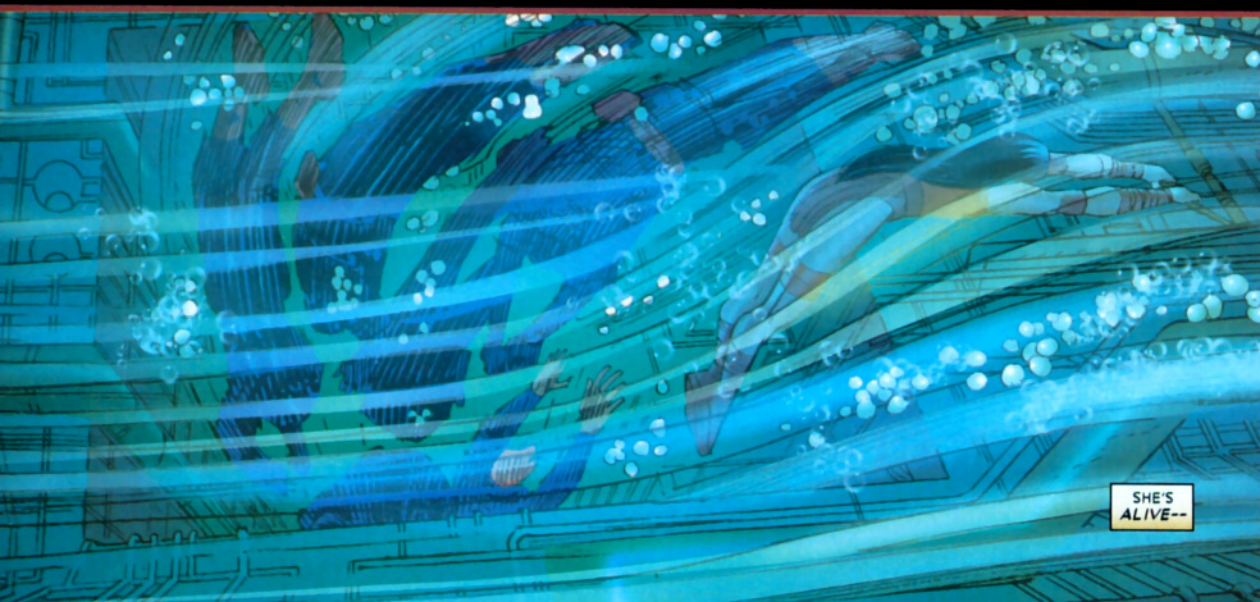


MAN,
SHE'S FAST.

GIVE ME
SOMETHING
MESSY TO
HEAL--

--MAKE IT UGLY
AS SHE CAN.







THE OTHERS WILL BE DEAD, HEADS BASHED AROUND BY HUNDRED-MILE-AN-HOUR WAVES, BUT ELEKTRA ALWAYS MAKES IT. CLAWING HER WAY BACK FROM THE GRAVE--

NAILS SNAPPING. NEVER GIVING UP.



HAVE TO DROWN HER. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

I'M SO SORRY, ELEKTRA.

HOPE IT SLOWS HER DOWN AND GIVES ME A HEAD START AT LEAST.



WOLVERINE! YOU THINK I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS?



YOU THINK A LOCKED DOOR IS GOING TO SAVE YOU?



RADIATION
CONTAINMENT
SUIT



BEAUTIFUL.



SERENE. SILENT.
ALL THAT PAIN AND
CHATTER LOST IN
AN INSTANT.

OH GOD.

CHESTS CRUSHED.
LUNGS FILLED WITH
WATER. HAZY, CRIMSON
HALOS MARKING EVERY
HEAD WOUND.

HELP THEM.

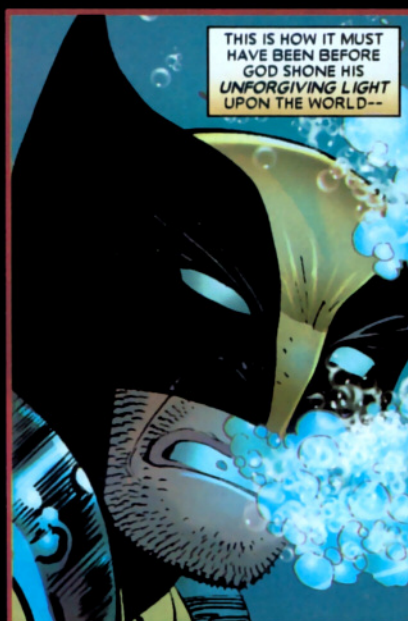
HOW DARK AND
FAMILIAR THIS
ALL FEELS.



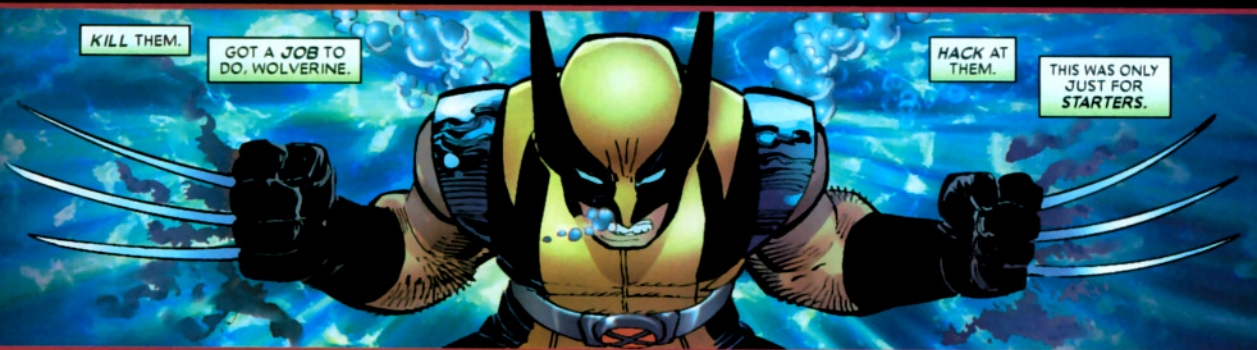
DESPERATE HANDS
LASHING OUT AT
NOTHING--

THIS IS HOW
IT MUST HAVE
BEEN--

GOD HELP
THEM--



THIS IS HOW IT MUST
HAVE BEEN BEFORE
GOD SHONE HIS
UNFORGIVING LIGHT
UPON THE WORLD--



KILL THEM.

GOT A JOB TO
DO, WOLVERINE.

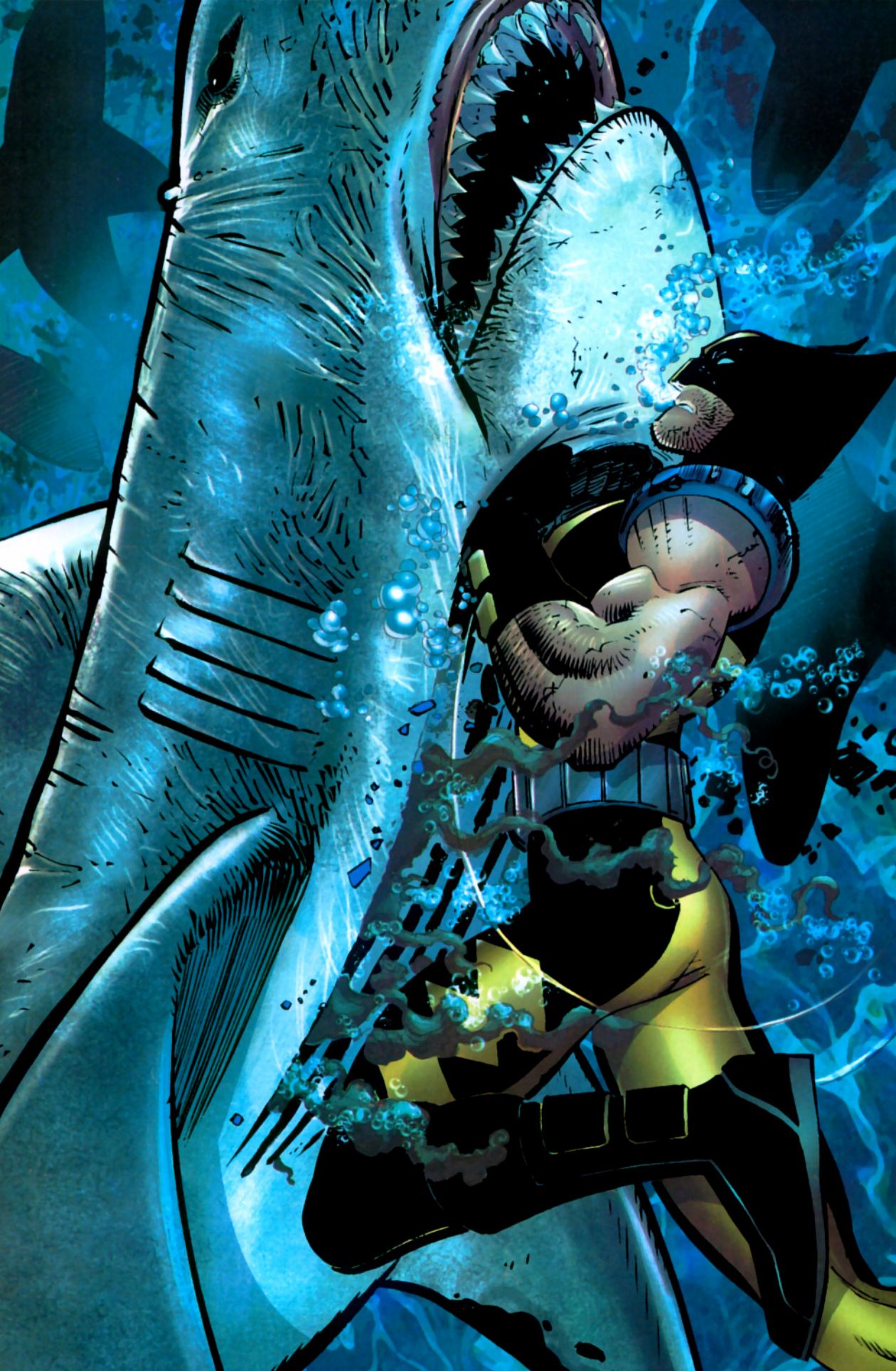
HACK AT
THEM.

THIS WAS ONLY
JUST FOR
STARTERS.



GET OUT OF HERE
AND COMPLETE
YOUR MISSION--

HYDRA
DEMANDS
IT.



FIFTY MINUTES LATER



YOUR SECURITY'S BEEN BREACHED.

WHAT?

CONTACT S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND. FIND OUT IF ANYONE'S HACKED INTO YOUR SYSTEM MAINFRAME.

SHE'S RIGHT.



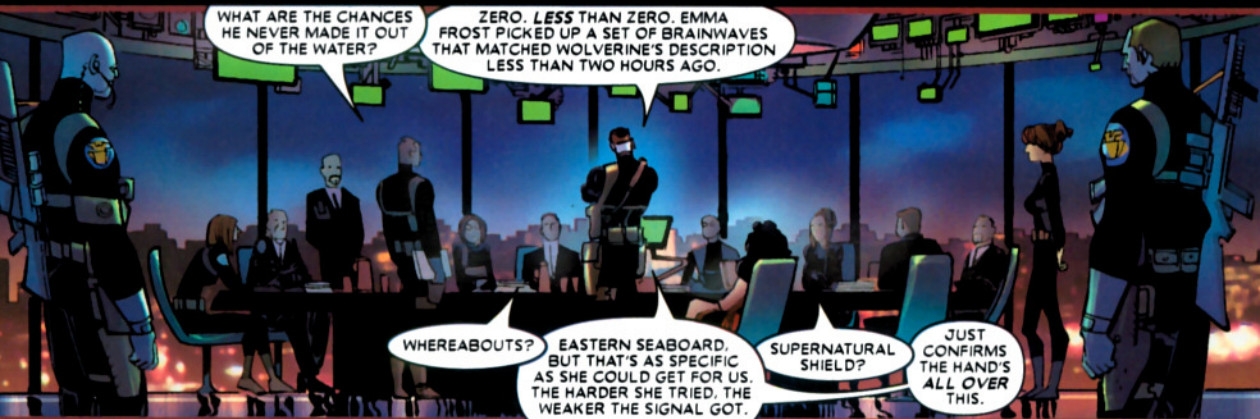
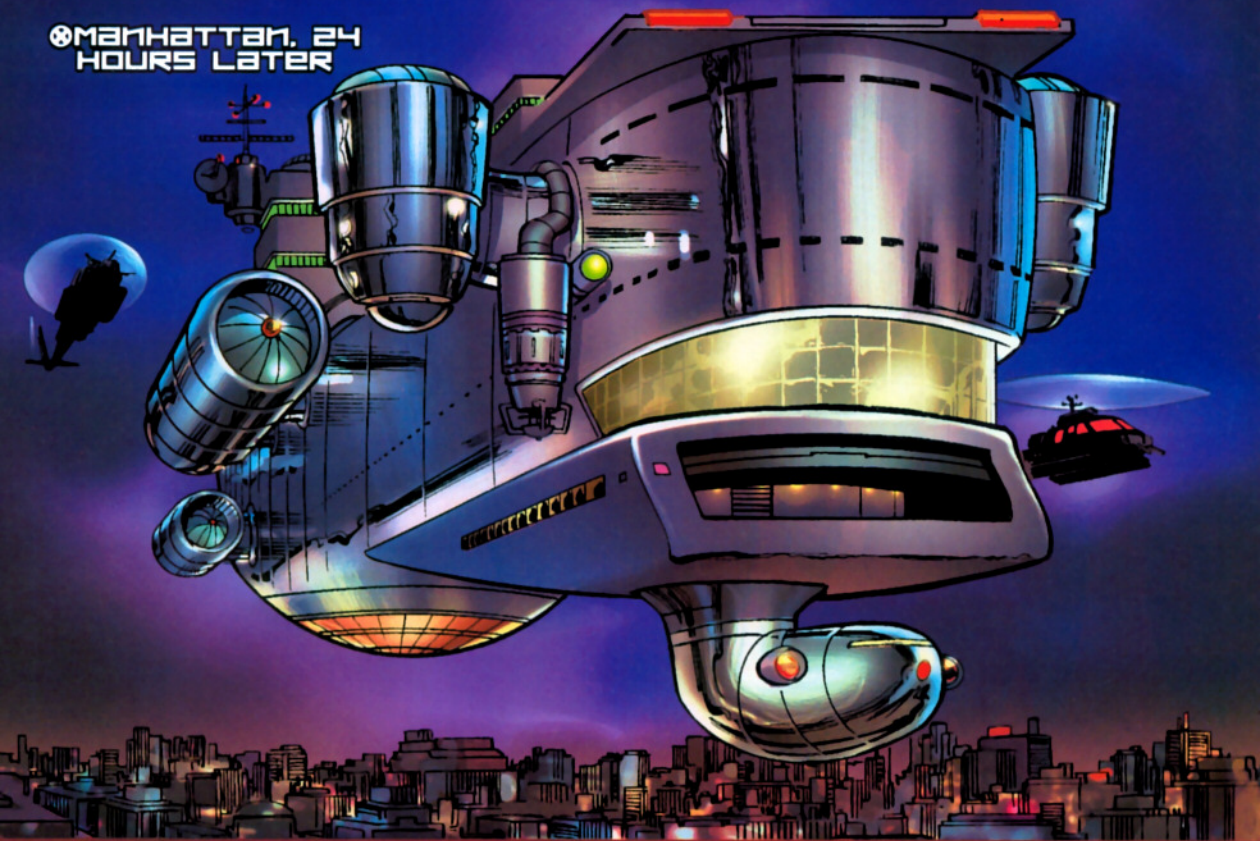
THEY SAID HE'S DOWNLOADED EVERYTHING; DEFENSE CODES, PENTAGON FILES, WHITE HOUSE SECURITY DETAILS...

OF COURSE HE DID. THAT'S WHY HE TRICKED HIS WAY ONTO THE SHIP. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M AFRAID YOU DIDN'T FIND WOLVERINE, GENTLEMEN--



WOLVERINE FOUND YOU.

MANHATTAN. 24
HOURS LATER



WHAT ARE THE CHANCES
HE NEVER MADE IT OUT
OF THE WATER?

ZERO. LESS THAN ZERO. EMMA
FROST PICKED UP A SET OF BRAINWAVES
THAT MATCHED WOLVERINE'S DESCRIPTION
LESS THAN TWO HOURS AGO.

WHEREABOUTS?

EASTERN SEABOARD.
BUT THAT'S AS SPECIFIC
AS SHE COULD GET FOR US.
THE HARDER SHE TRIED, THE
WEAKER THE SIGNAL GOT.

SUPERNATURAL
SHIELD?

JUST
CONFIRMS
THE HAND'S
ALL OVER
THIS.

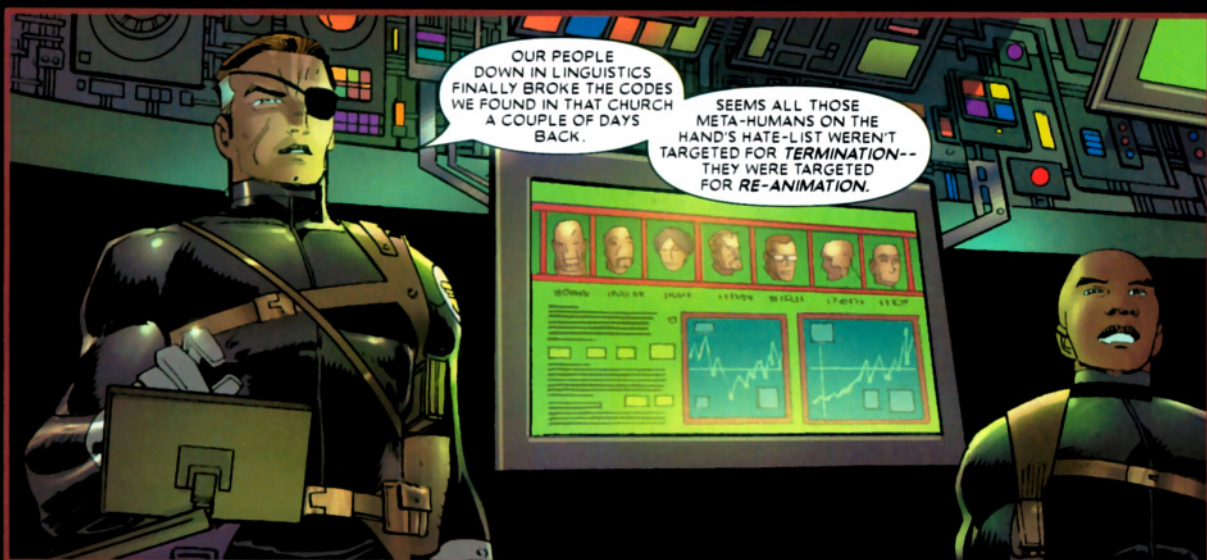
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'D LIKE YOU TO
MEET ELEKTRA NATCHIOS. ELEKTRA'S A
FREELANCE WITH SOME *S.H.I.E.L.D.* LINKS
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOME
SERIOUS HISTORY WITH
THE HAND...

...AS IN WET-JOBS,
ASSASSINATIONS, HITS IN EVERY
MAJOR COUNTRY FROM AZERBAIJAN
TO ZIMBABWE. SHE WAS *TRAINED*
BY THESE PEOPLE AND KNOWS
THEIR *MODUS OPERANDI*
INSIDE OUT.

WHICH
IS?

MURDERING THEIR OPPONENTS
AND BRINGING THEM BACK TO LIFE
AS ASSASSINS IN THEIR
DEATH-CULT.

ONCE THEY'VE KILLED
THEM AND RAISED THEM FROM
THE *DEAD*, THEY'LL PRETTY MUCH
DO WHATEVER THE HAND
TELLS THEM TO.





WHAT ABOUT THE X-MEN? I THOUGHT WOLVERINE'S *PSYCH FILE* SAID HE HAD A THING FOR A COUPLE OF THE *LADIES* DOWN THERE?

SO?

SO ISN'T THAT KINDA DANGEROUS WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A KILLING MACHINE THAT'S BEEN STRIPPED OF ALL *MORALITY*?



GOOD POINT. *COMMUNICATIONS*: I WANT EVERY SUPER HERO *BRIEFED* ON THIS AND *COMPULSORY BODYGUARDS* FOR ANYONE WITH A COMPROMISED I.D.

I BELIEVE THE HINDUS CALL THIS *KARMA*, COLONEL FURY.



EXCUSE ME?

IF YOU TAKE A MAN AND TURN HIM INTO THE ULTIMATE LIVING WEAPON, YOU REALLY CAN'T COMPLAIN WHEN *SOMEONE ELSE* GETS THEIR HANDS ON THE TRIGGER.

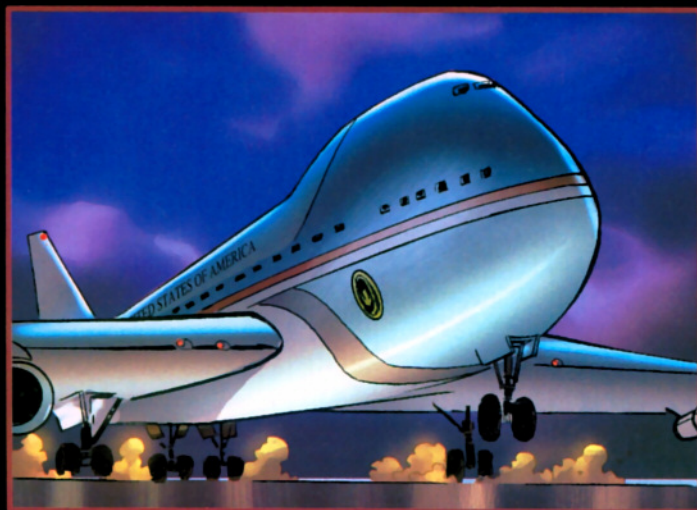
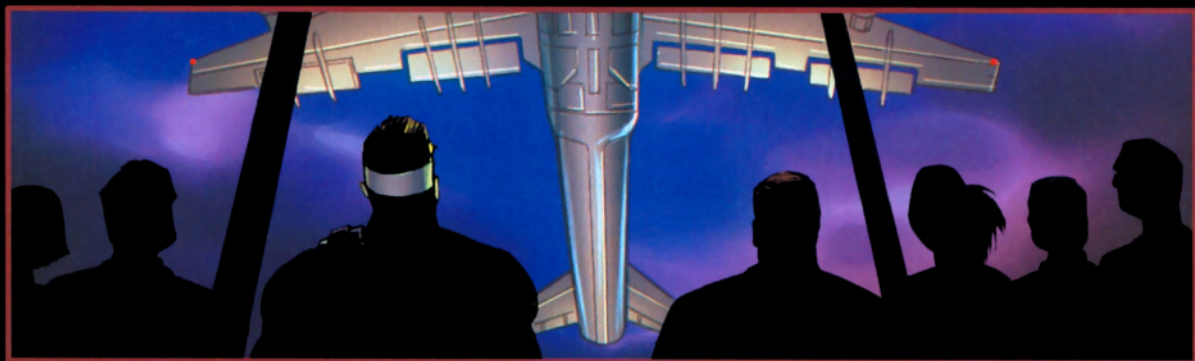


NOT FUNNY.

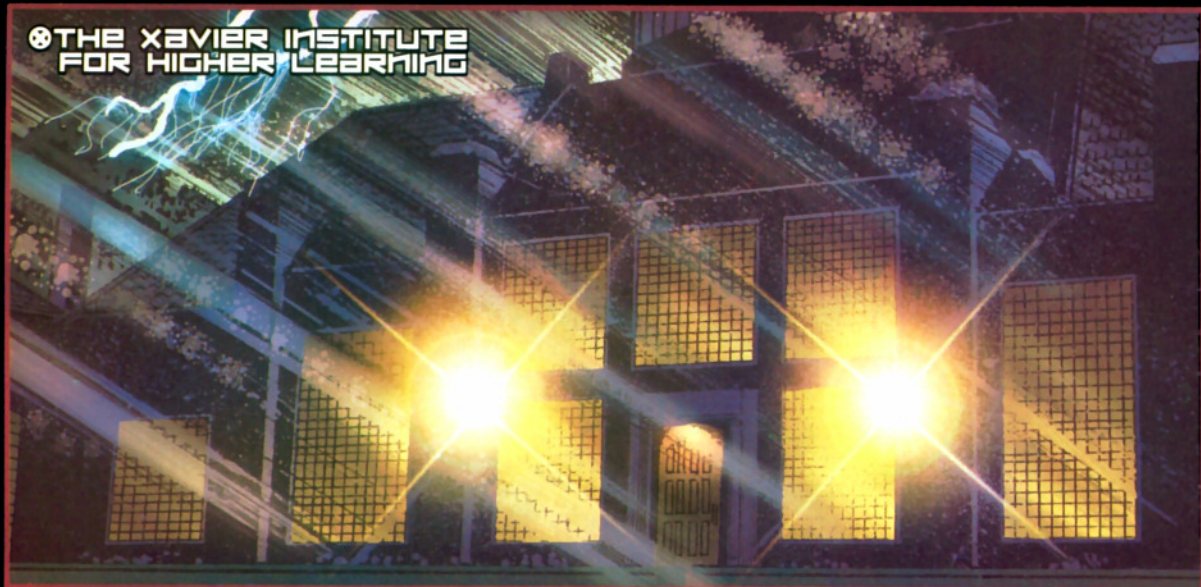
NOT TRYING TO BE.



IS THAT--
IS THAT *AIR FORCE ONE*?



⊗ THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHER LEARNING





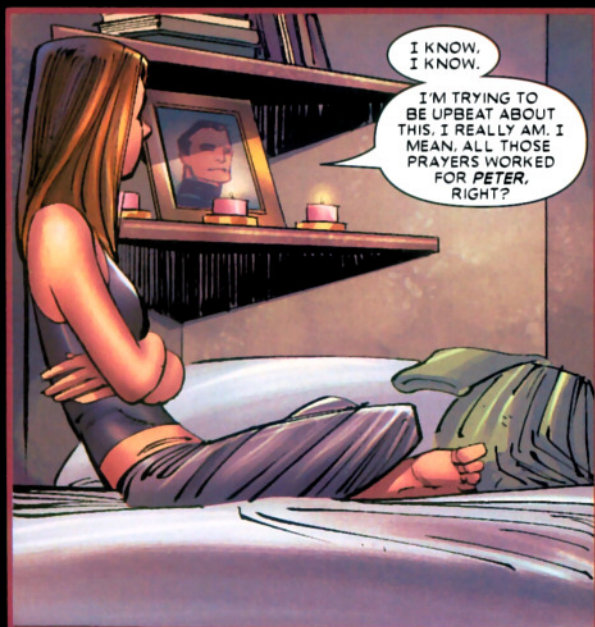
NOW EVERYBODY INTO BED AND GET THESE LIGHTS OUT, HUH? MISS FROST SAID SHE WAS GONNA HAVE YOU GUYS IN A DEEP SLEEP BY 10 P.M. TONIGHT.

CHOP-CHOP.



TEN-TO-ONE ODDS. ORORO! TEN-TO-ONE ODDS BARTHOLOMEW GRICE GETS UP FOR A PEE AND TRIPS EVERY ALARM IN THE BUILDING TONIGHT! JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!

THEY'RE CHILDREN, KITTY. IF WE'RE DOUBLING UP, THINK HOW SCARED THEY'RE GOING TO BE RIGHT NOW.



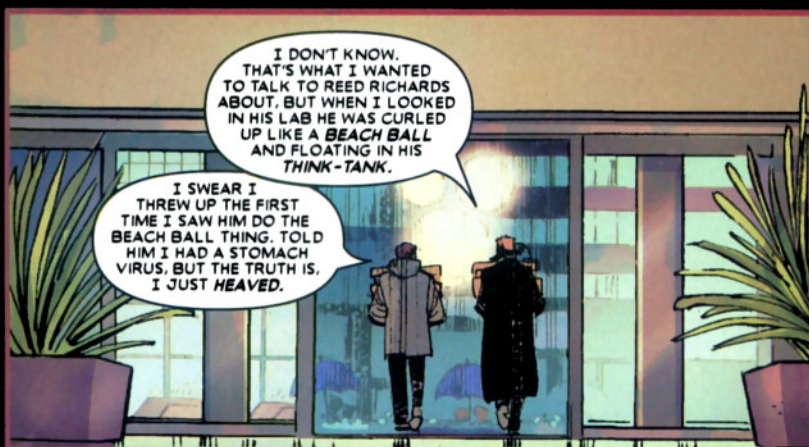
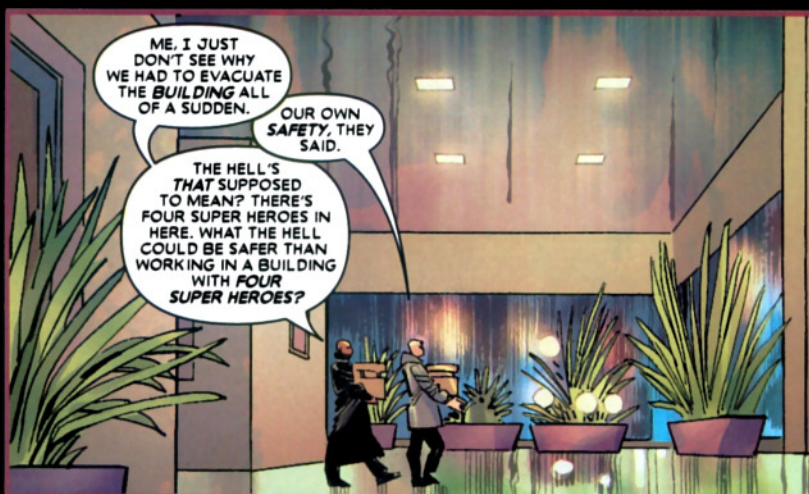
I KNOW, I KNOW.

I'M TRYING TO BE UPBEAT ABOUT THIS, I REALLY AM. I MEAN, ALL THOSE PRAYERS WORKED FOR PETER, RIGHT?

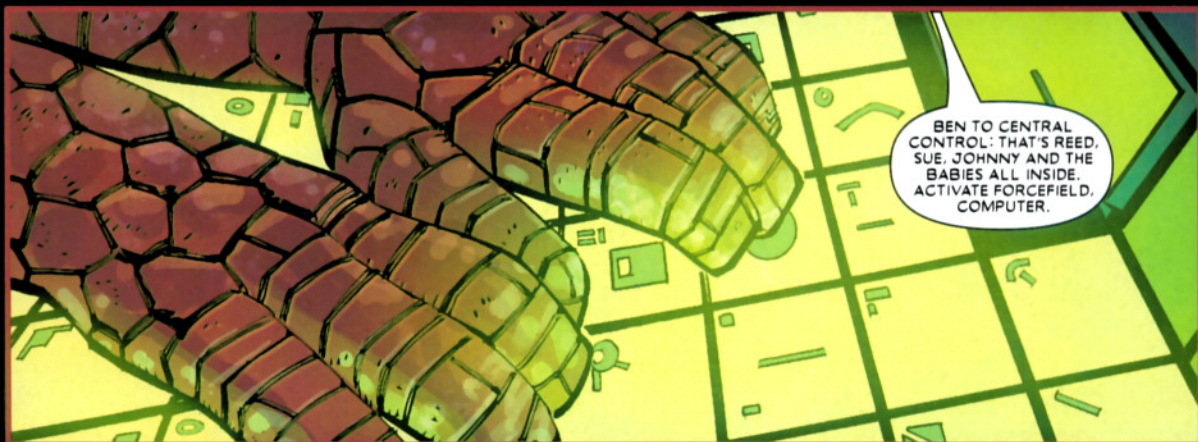
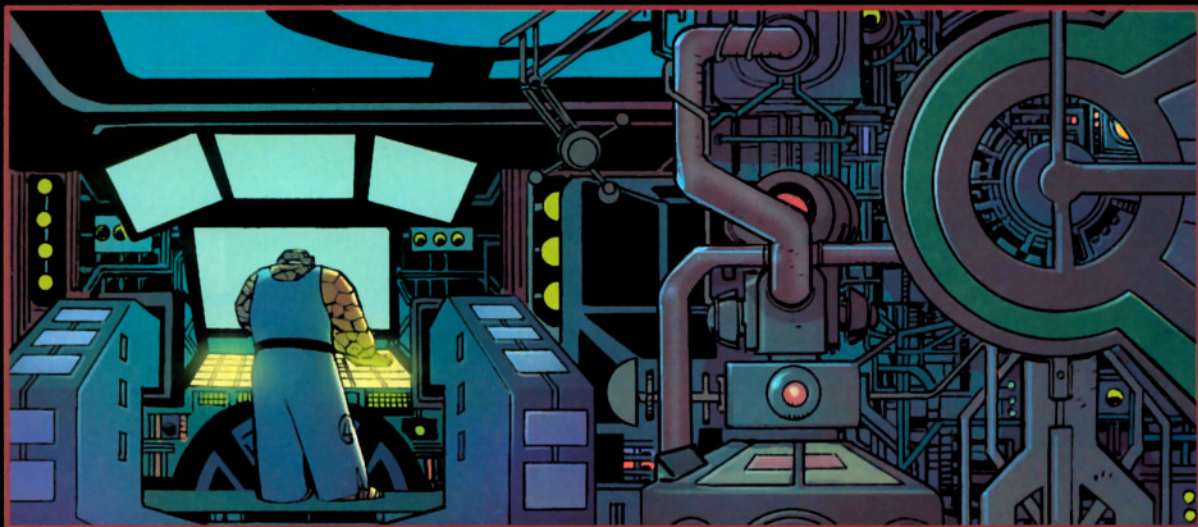


FINGERS CROSSED THEY WORK FOR LOGAN NOW, TOO.

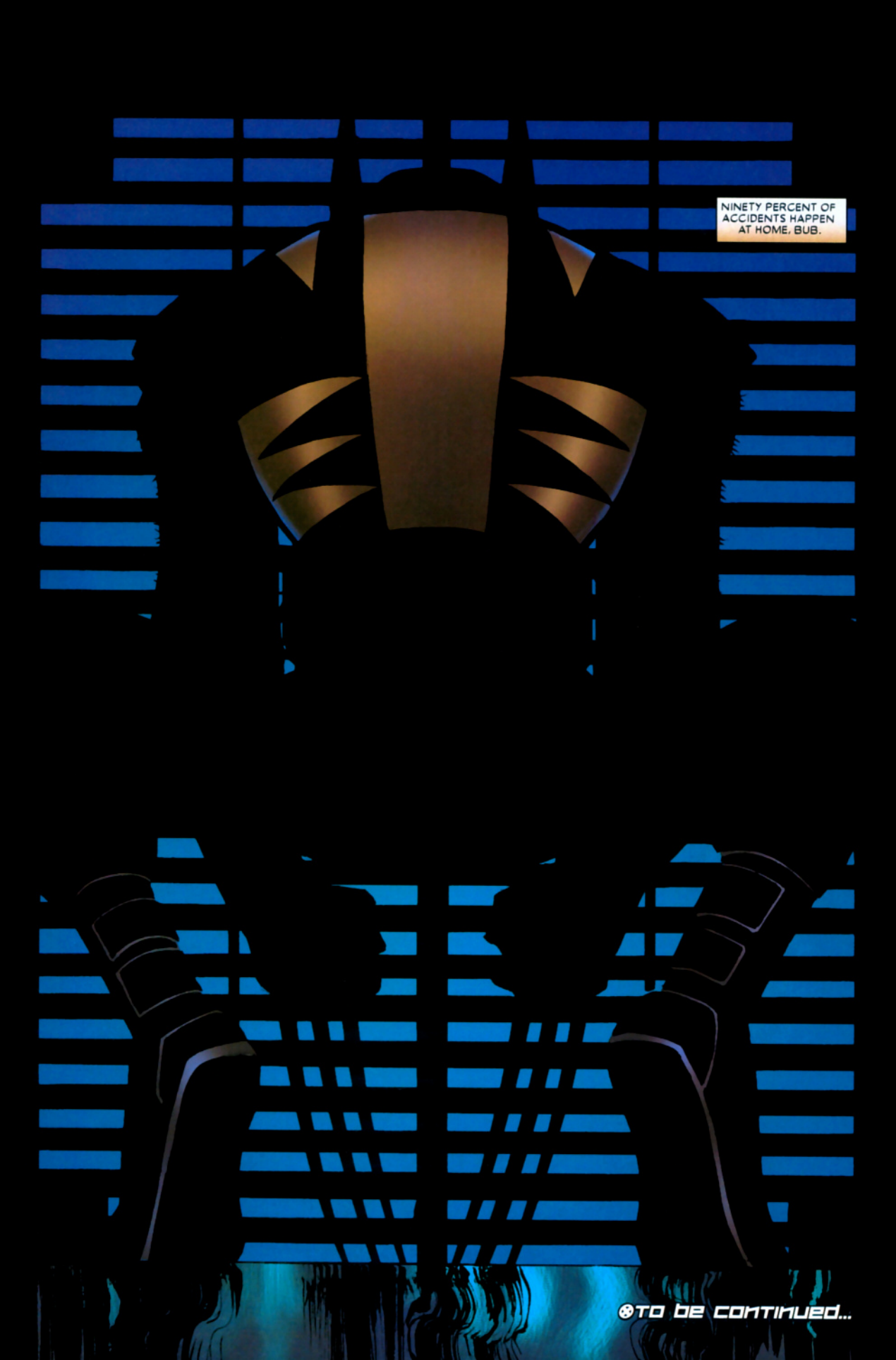
⊗THE BAXTER
BUILDING.
MANHATTAN.







OH YEAH?



NINETY PERCENT OF
ACCIDENTS HAPPEN
AT HOME, BUB.

Ⓢ TO BE CONTINUED...