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WOLVERINE®

**ENEMY
OF THE
STATE**
PART 4 of 6

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WOLVERINE

"ENEMY OF THE STATE" PART 4 OF 6

Wolverine — X-Man, former Weapon X, former S.H.I.E.L.D. operative — has been captured by the enemy and brainwashed. The world's deadliest living weapon has fallen into the wrong hands.

Now an instrument of evil, Wolverine answers only to the alliance that's formed between Hydra, The Hand, and a splinter group of the Brotherhood known only as the Dawn of the White Light. The Dawn is led by the deadly Gorgon, a mutant with the power to kill anyone who locks eyes with him.

Their plan is to target the most powerful meta-humans in the world. They will first kill, then resurrect them as members of their death-cult...just like they did to Wolverine.

Col. Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. puts the entire super-human community on red alert. The highest security measures are taken. But not soon enough for the Fantastic Four.

Wolverine infiltrates the Baxter Building and downloads Dr. Reed Richards' latest brilliant inventions so Hydra can develop them into weapons. Among them is the *terraformer*, a tiny machine with the capability to physically transform ecological landscapes.

Not Mr. Fantastic, the Invisible Woman, the Human Torch — not even the Thing can contain Wolverine. They escape with their lives...but so does Wolverine, whose next Hydra mission is to mount a major terror campaign throughout the country. He's already hacked into the S.H.I.E.L.D. mainframe and is in possession of its most highly classified defense intelligence.

First up, an assault on the heart of the American banking industry and Stark Enterprises, home of Iron Man...



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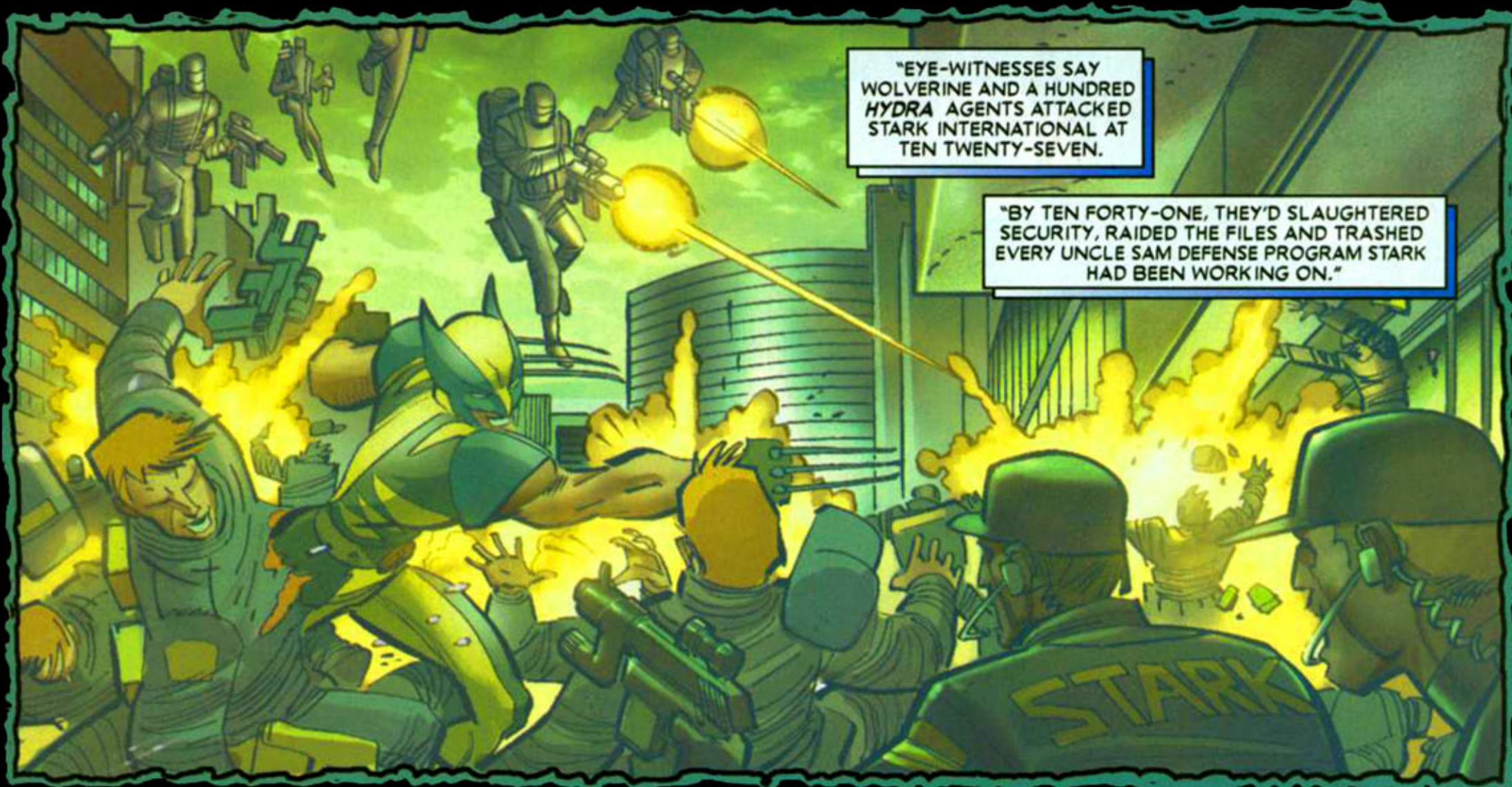
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HE KILLED HIM, COLONEL FURY. WOLVERINE JUST KILLED SPIDER-MAN.

WE DUG HIS BODY OUT OF THE RUBBLE TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

WHAT?



"EYE-WITNESSES SAY WOLVERINE AND A HUNDRED **HYDRA** AGENTS ATTACKED STARK INTERNATIONAL AT TEN TWENTY-SEVEN.

"BY TEN FORTY-ONE, THEY'D SLAUGHTERED SECURITY, RAIDED THE FILES AND TRASHED EVERY UNCLE SAM DEFENSE PROGRAM STARK HAD BEEN WORKING ON."



IRON MAN OUT OF TOWN?

BILDERBERG MEETING IN **HELSINKI**, BUT SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP AND DID WHAT HE COULD AND...

WELL, THERE WAS A **HUNDRED** OF 'EM, COLONEL. PLUS **WOLVERINE**. THEY SAID SPIDEY'S GUTS WERE HANGING OUT LIKE **SPAGHETTI**.



"WHAT'S WEIRD IS THAT AFTER DOING ALL THIS, WOLVERINE SPOTS THIS LITTLE DOG, AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE DOES? AFTER MURDERING ALL THESE PEOPLE?

"HE PATS IT ON THE HEAD LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPENED AND THE DOG LICKS HIS HAND AND HE'S **SMILING**, SIR."



WHAT KINDA SICK FREAK TAKES TIME OUT TO PAT A DOG AFTER MURDERING TWENTY, TWENTY-FIVE SECURITY PEOPLE?

AN ANIMAL LOVER?

WOLVERINE IN **COSTUME** WHEN HE PULLED THIS ATTACK?

STUCK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB IN THAT BANANA-COLORED THING. PROFILERS FIGURE HYDRA IS KEEPING THEM IN SPANDEX FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE.

CAN'T BELIEVE SPIDER-MAN WOULD TAKE THEM ON ALONE LIKE THIS, ELEKTRA. I TOLD THEM ALL TO STAY IN PAIRS UNTIL S.H.I.E.L.D. GOT A GRIP ON THIS SITUATION.

SPIDER-MAN'S OVER HERE, SIR.

TRIED OUR BEST TO PATCH HIM UP, BUT NOTHING WAS *CONNECTED* IN THERE ANYMORE. GOT HIM TALKING FOR A MINUTE, BUT EVEN HE'D GIVEN UP.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS ISN'T SPIDER-MAN.



SO WHAT'S HE DOING WEARING SPIDER-MAN'S MASK?

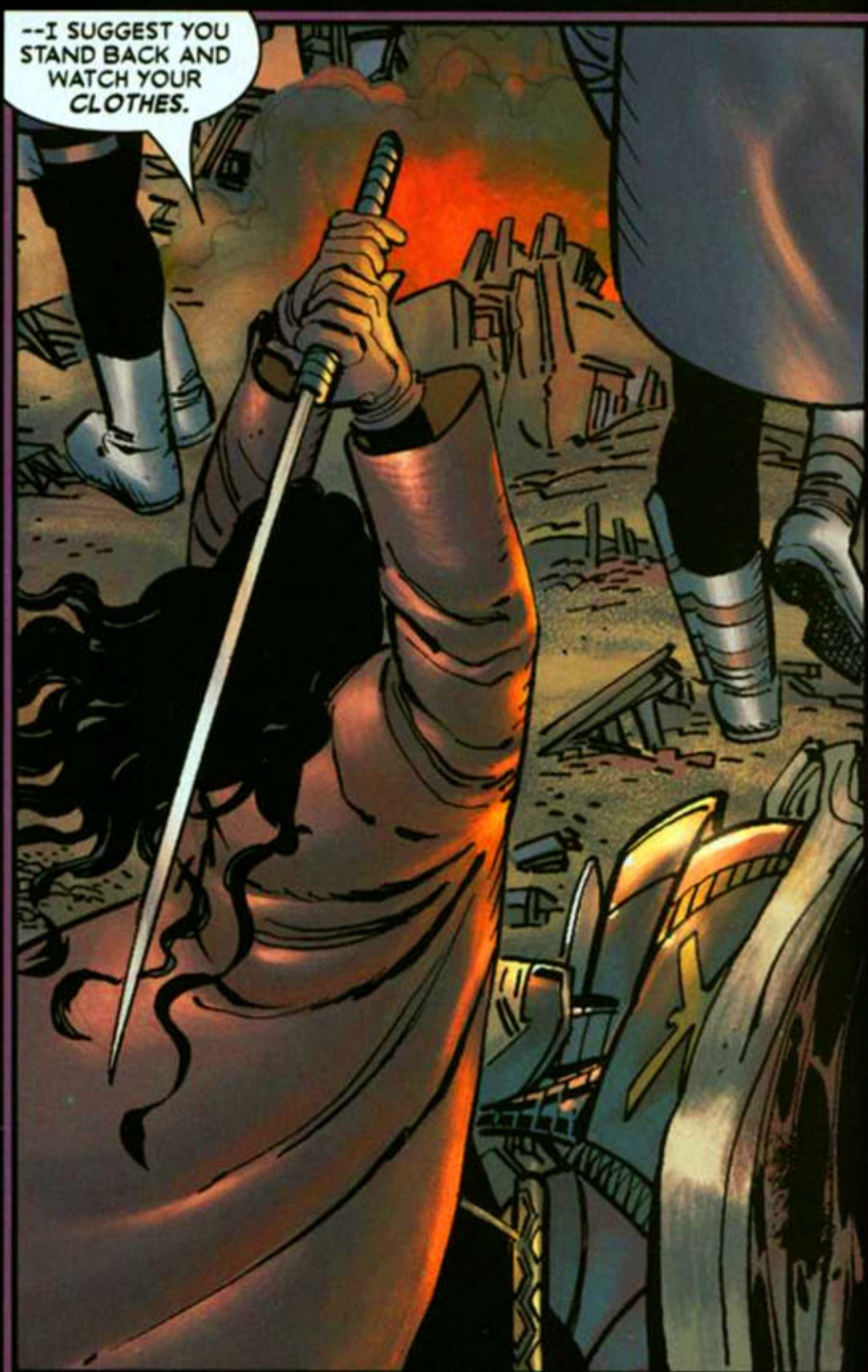
THAT'S NOT SPIDER-MAN'S MASK. SPIDER-MAN'S MASK'S GOT THE WEBS AND THE BIG BUG EYES. THAT'S WHAT'S-HIS-NAME FROM *SLINGERS*.

THE HORNET.

RIGHT: THE HORNET.



POOR GUY GOES DOWN IN THE LINE OF FIRE AND NOBODY EVEN GETS HIS NAME RIGHT.



NEW YORK

MY NAME IS
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS.

I AM A FREELANCE ASSASSIN
WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. AND
THEY'RE PAYING ME MORE IN A
SINGLE DAY THAN THEY PAY
THEIR PRESIDENT IN AN
AVERAGE YEAR.

WOLVERINE HAS BEEN
OUT THERE FOR FIVE
WEEKS NOW. FIVE WEEKS
AND EIGHTEEN
SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS.

I MARK HIS INCIDENTS ON
A MAP WITH RED PINS AND IN
GREEN PINS I MARK WHERE
THE HAND TRIED TO TAKE
DOWN SUPER-PEOPLE JUST
LIKE THEY TOOK DOWN
WOLVERINE.

OF COURSE, THEY COULDN'T DO
THIS ON THEIR OWN. THAT'S WHY
THEY STRUCK A DEAL WITH THE
HYDRA GRAND-MASTERS AND
THE DAWN OF THE WHITE LIGHT.

ALL THE CRAZIES WORKING
TOGETHER, ALL TAKING ORDERS
FROM WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER
AS HE TRIES TO HANG ONTO HIS
TOTTERING HYDRA POSITION.

JUST
LEAVE THE
TROLLEY OVER
THERE.



HOW MANY PLACES WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SET, MA'AM?

NO GUESTS. JUST ME.

BUT THERE'S TWELVE DIFFERENT MEALS HERE.

THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT YET.

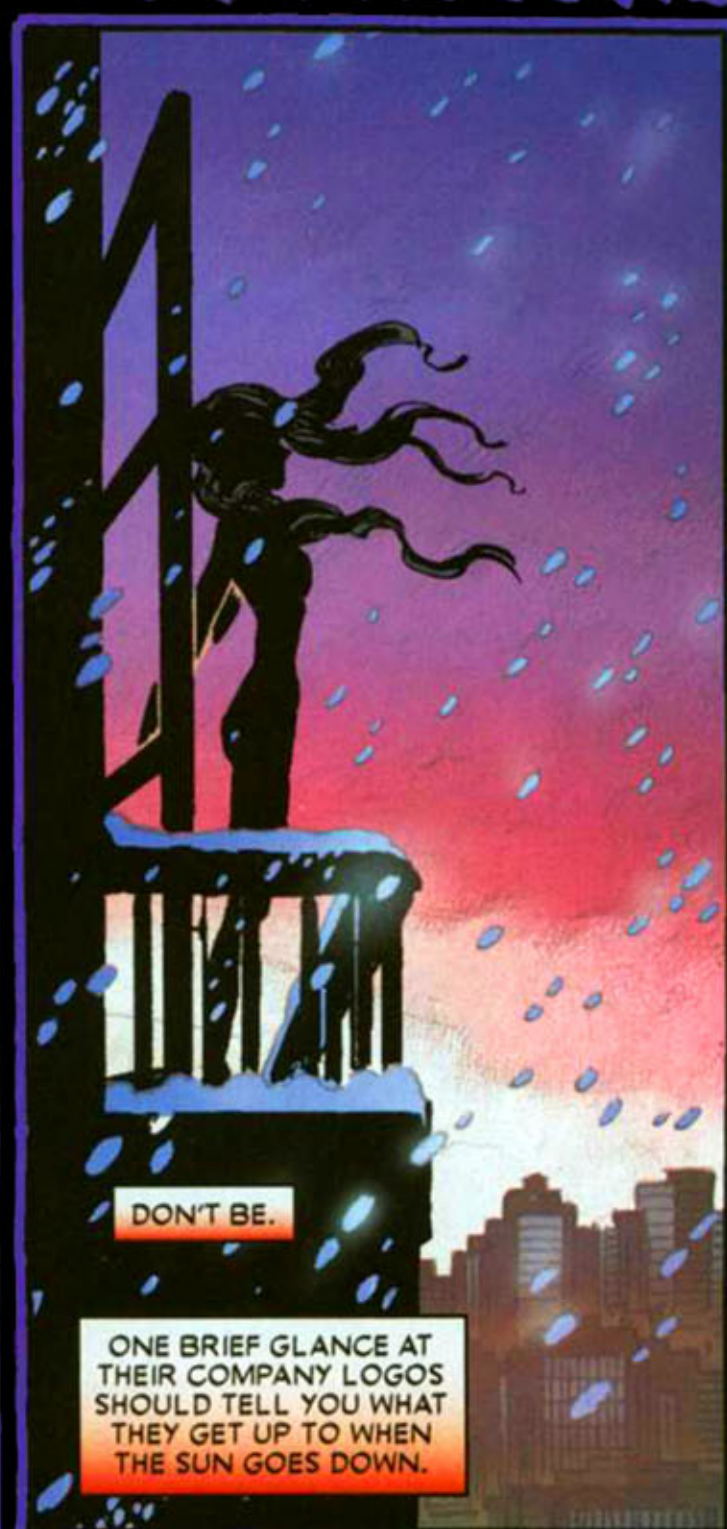
ELSBETH VON STRUCKER IS THE BARON'S THIRD WIFE AND THE FOURTH RICHEST PERSON ON THE PLANET. UNTIL THREE WEEKS AGO, WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE EXISTED. THAT'S HOW SMART SHE IS.

THEY SAY SHE'S A HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD AND HAS NUMBERED FOUR KINGS AND THREE PRESIDENTS AS HER LOVERS. SHE'S ALSO BEEN FUNDING HYDRA SINCE 1957.




ELSBETH IS A SATANIST, A CHESS GENIUS AND AN OLD, OLD FRIEND OF MADAME BLAVATSKY. I'M TOLD SHE WAS EVEN THE CASH BEHIND SOME OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CORPORATIONS.

SURPRISED THEY'RE SATANISTS?




DON'T BE.

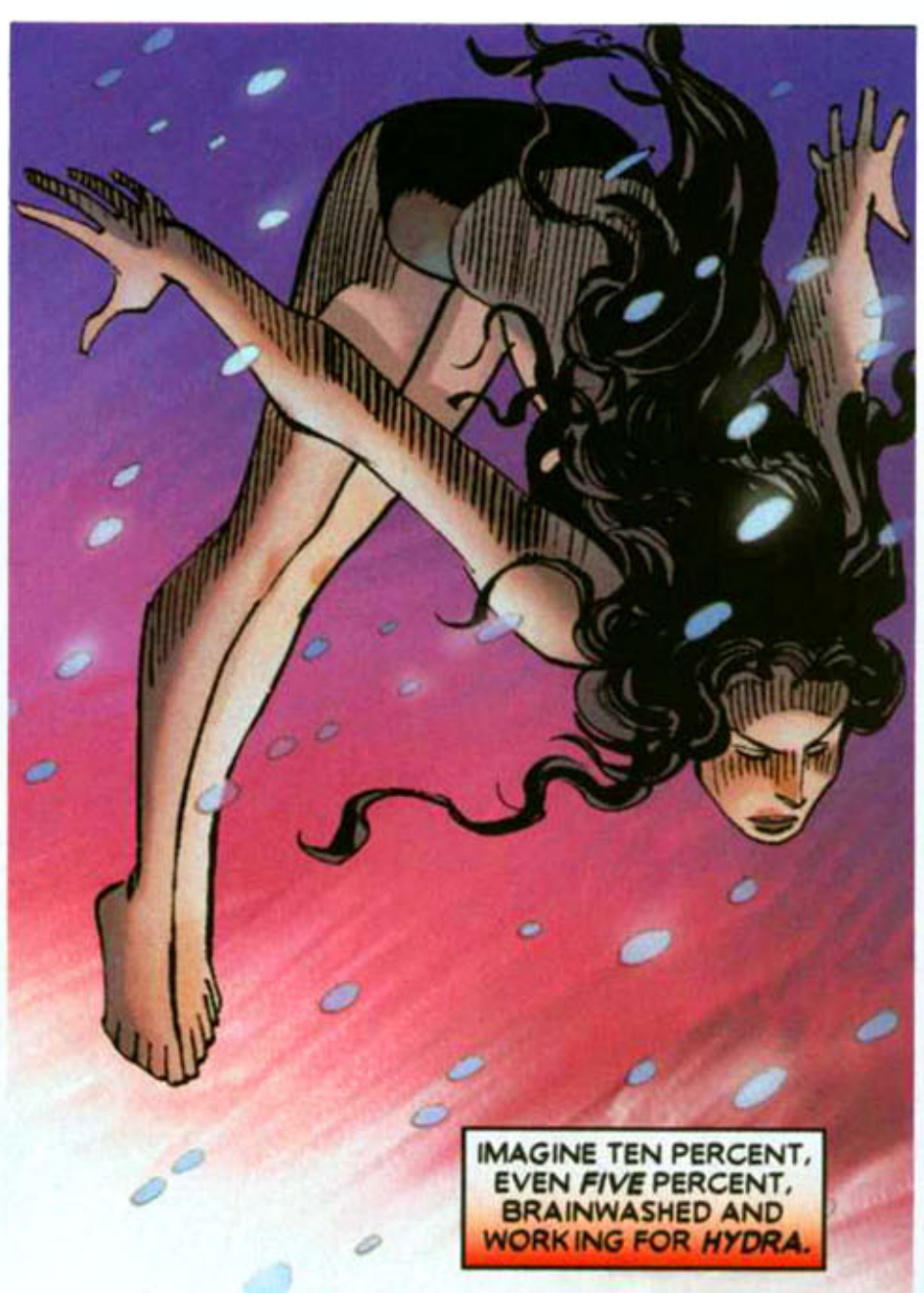
ONE BRIEF GLANCE AT THEIR COMPANY LOGOS SHOULD TELL YOU WHAT THEY GET UP TO WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.



STRUCKER'S ON THE WAY OUT AND HE KNOWS IT, TOO. EVEN *ELSBETH* IS PUSHING FUNDS ELSEWHERE. THAT'S WHY HE'S GOING FOR BROKE WITH *WOLVERINE* AND THE OTHERS.



OFFICIAL S.H.I.E.L.D. ESTIMATE IS FOUR THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED *COSTUMES* IN THE U.S. AS OF LAST SUMMER.



IMAGINE TEN PERCENT, EVEN FIVE PERCENT, BRAINWASHED AND WORKING FOR *HYDRA*.

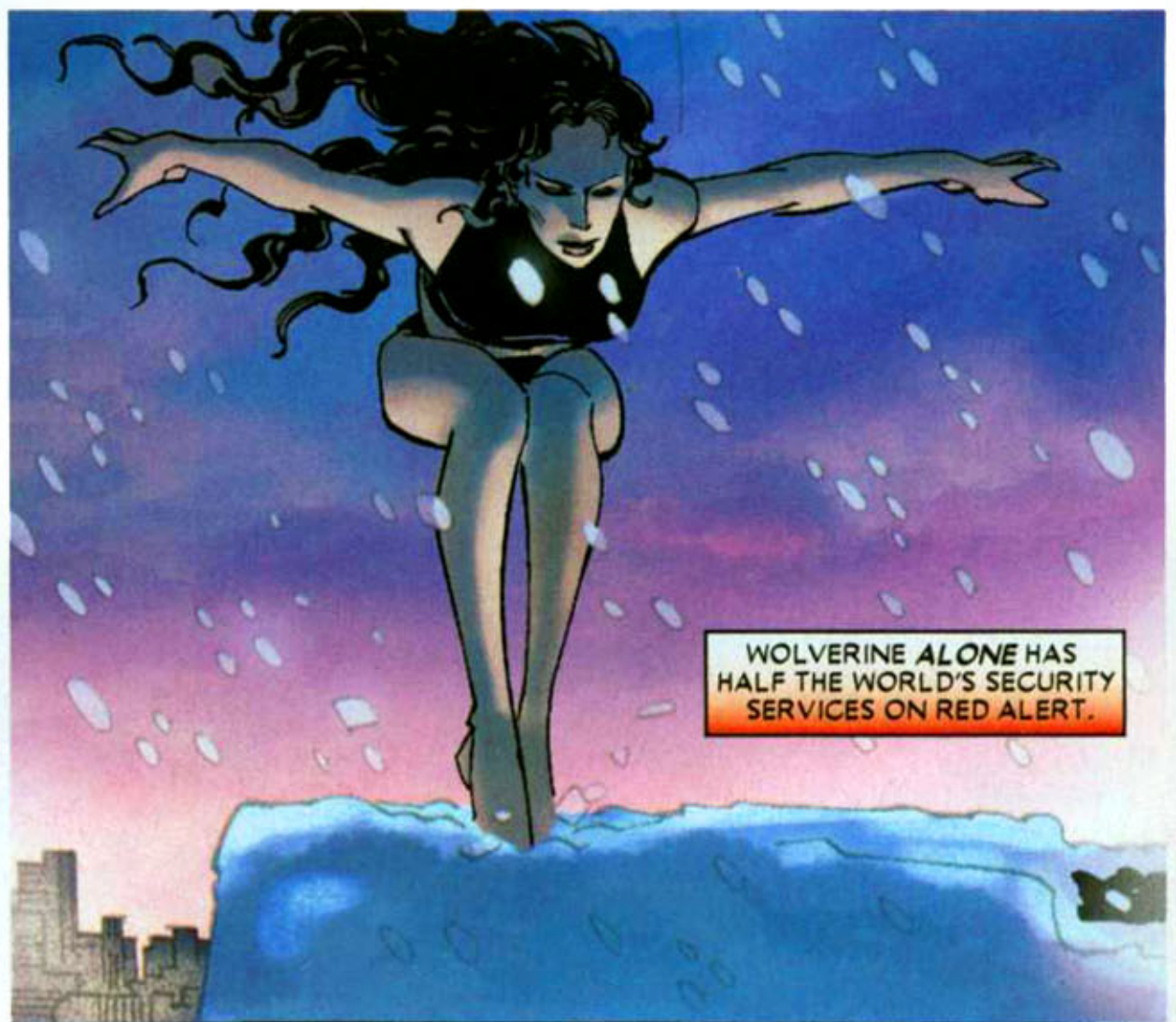


THE *HULK*?

THE *THING*?

CAPTAIN *AMERICA*?

CYCLOPS?



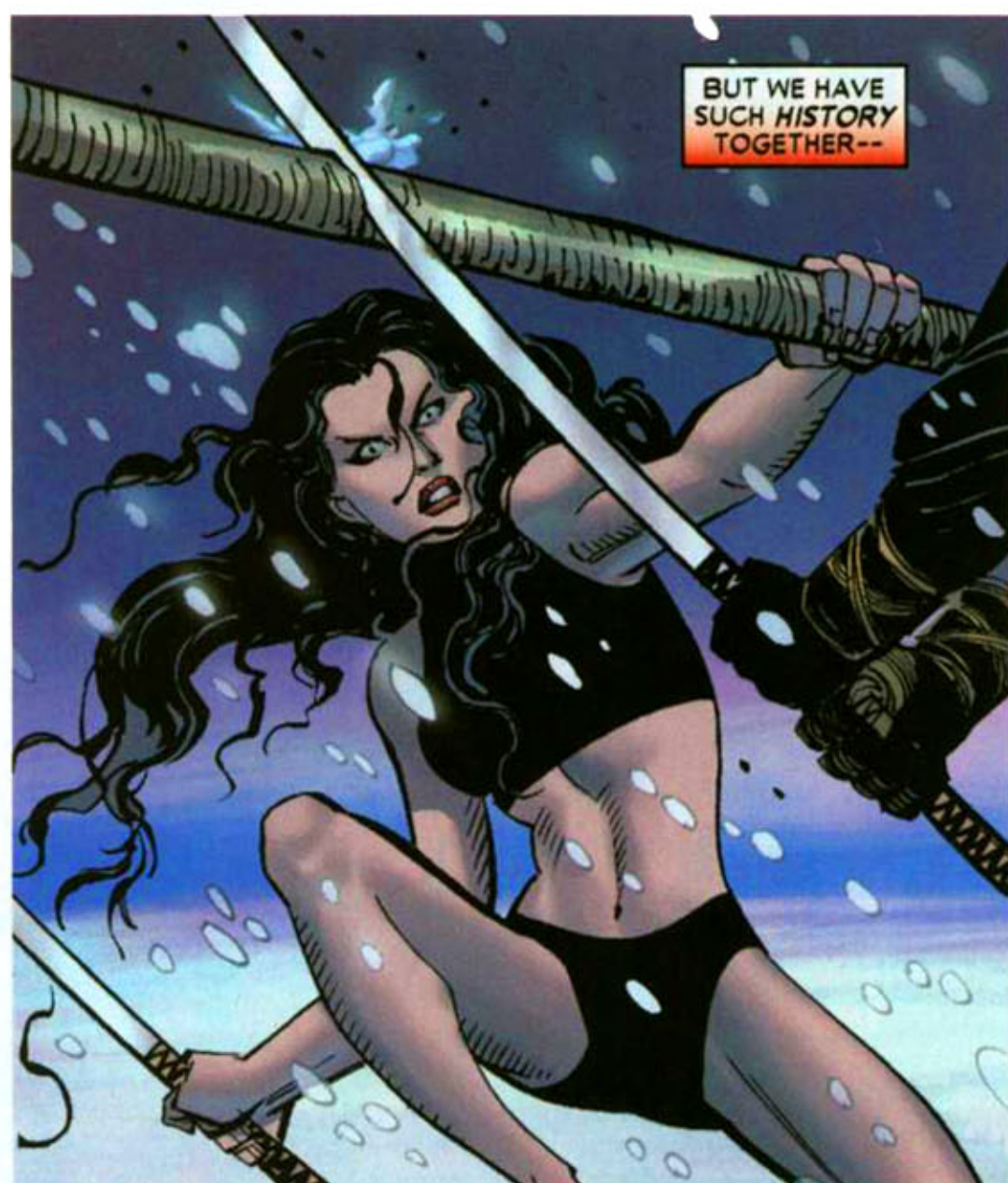




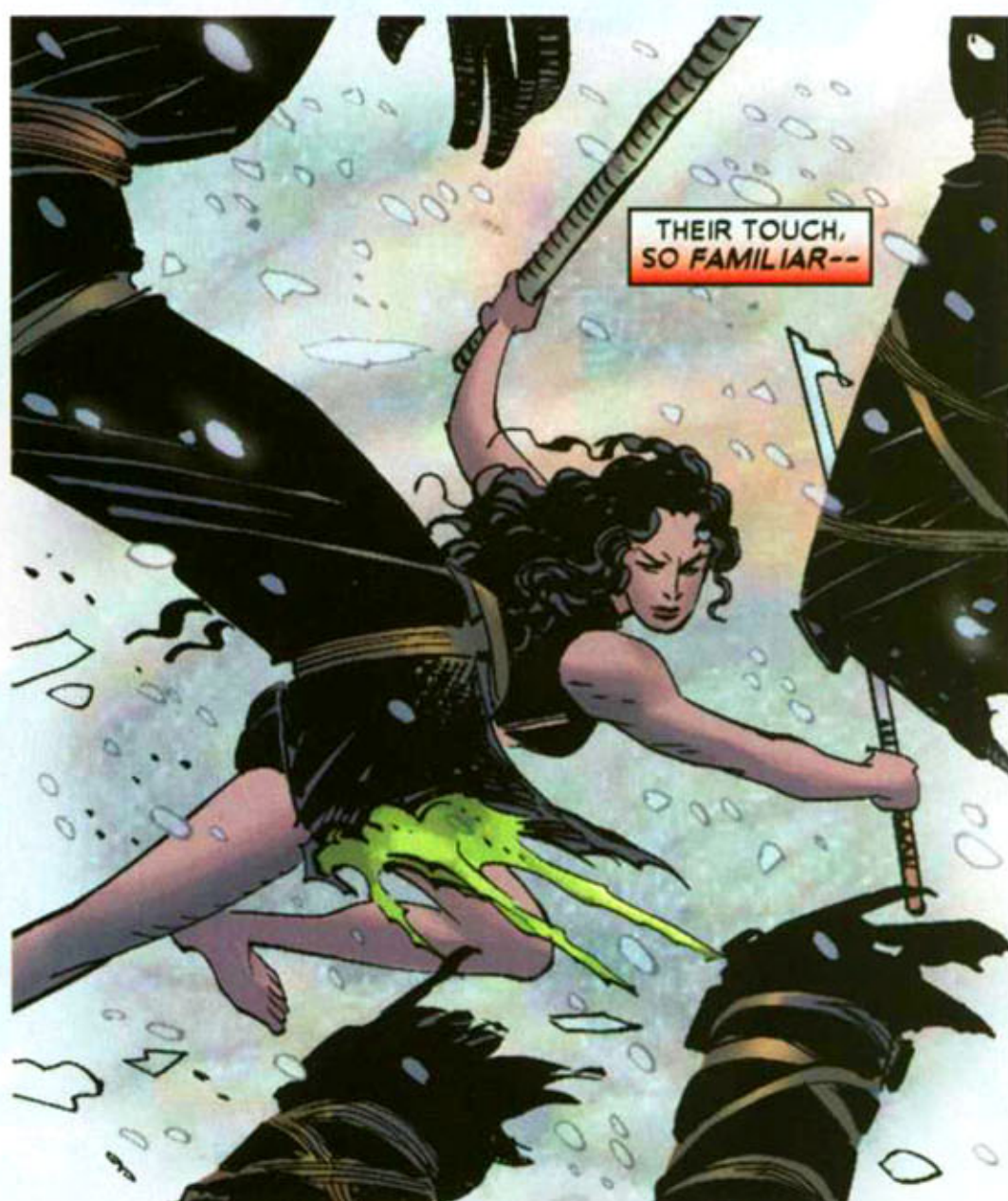
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

I'VE HAD BETTER.

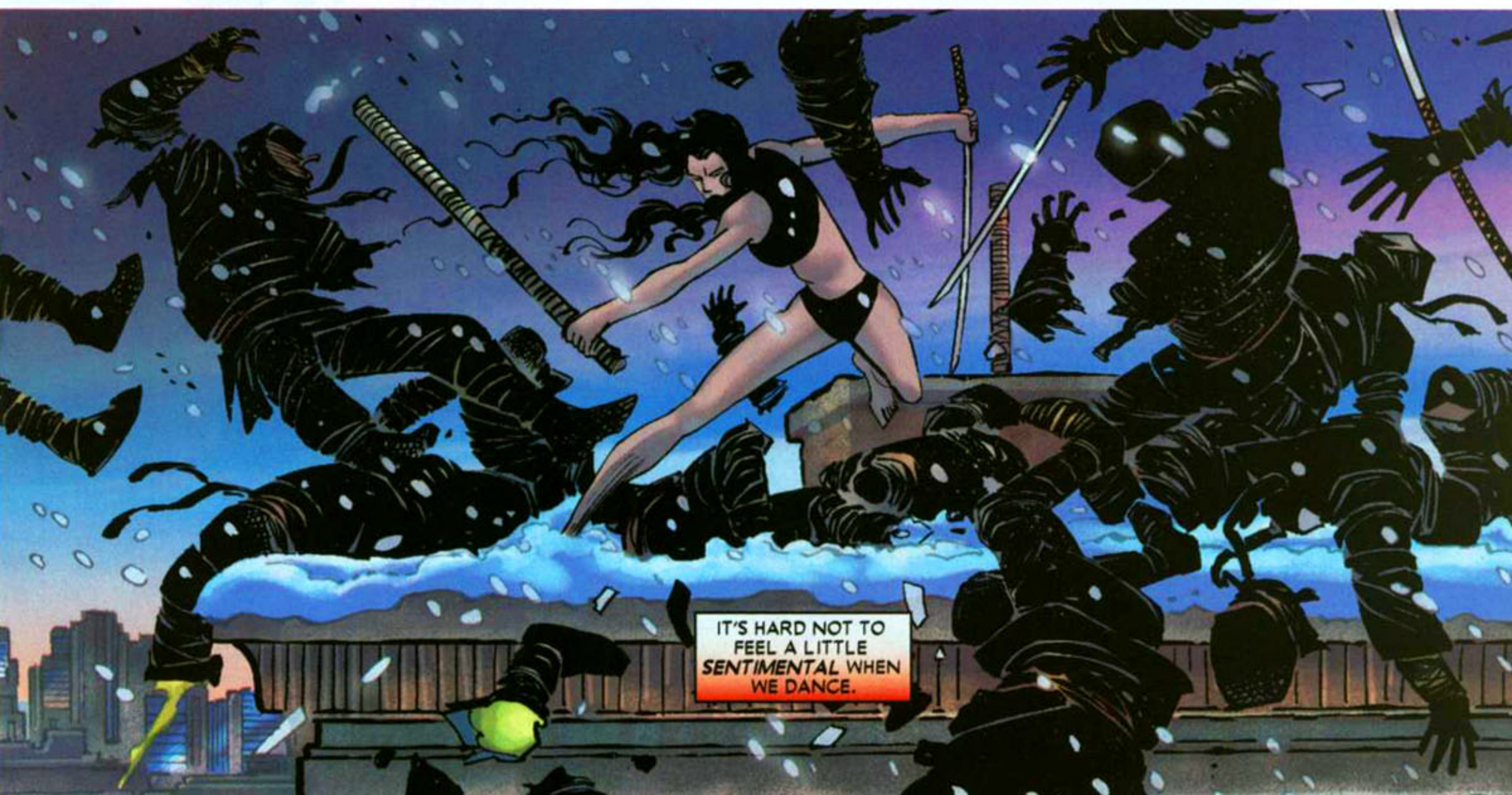
I'VE HAD BIGGER.



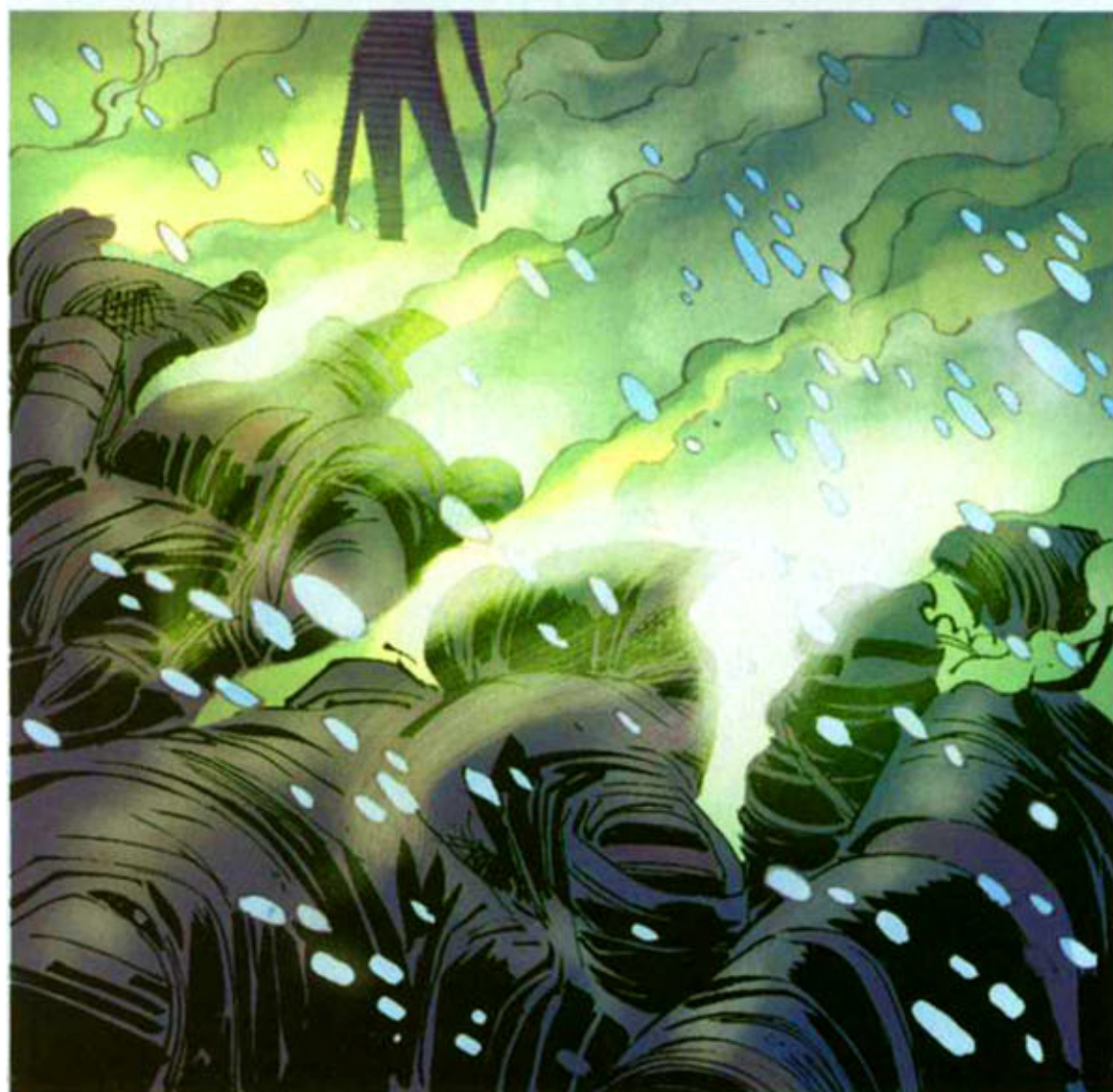
BUT WE HAVE SUCH HISTORY TOGETHER--



THEIR TOUCH, SO FAMILIAR--



IT'S HARD NOT TO FEEL A LITTLE SENTIMENTAL WHEN WE DANCE.



THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING

I'M ASSUMING
YOU CAUGHT THE
NEWS, EMMA?

JUST THE PICTURES OF THE
CATHEDRAL EXPLODING. ANY
IDEA HOW MANY CASUALTIES?

ESTIMATES ARE BETWEEN
FORTY AND FIFTY, BUT
MIRACULOUSLY, NO FATALITIES. I
KNOW IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING
TO YOU, BUT I JUST CAN'T GET MY
HEAD AROUND LOGAN ACTUALLY
DOING STUFF LIKE THIS.

STILL, AT LEAST S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP
THIS **BLANKET-BAN** ON THE
NEWS AGENCIES FROM
MENTIONING HIM BY
NAME.

OH, DON'T BE SUCH AN IDIOT,
KITTY. THEY AREN'T DOING THIS
FOR US. THEY JUST DON'T WANT
PEOPLE SEEING HOW INEPT
THEY ARE OR HOW HUGE THE
PROBLEM IS.

PETER SAID YOU'VE
MET THIS GUY THEY'RE
ALL TALKING ABOUT.
THIS JAPANESE MUTANT
FROM THE DAWN OF THE
WHITE LIGHT.

BRIEFLY.

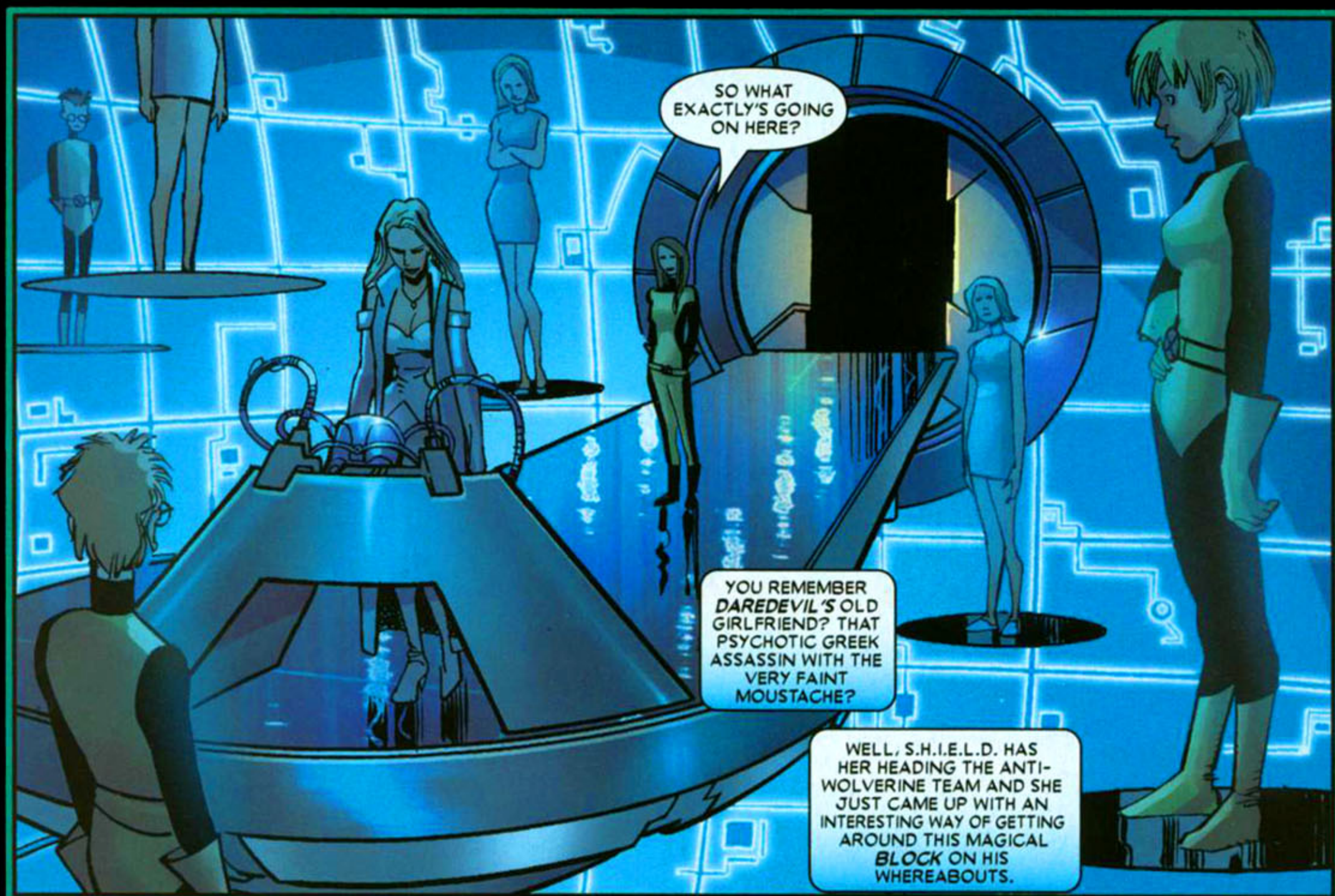
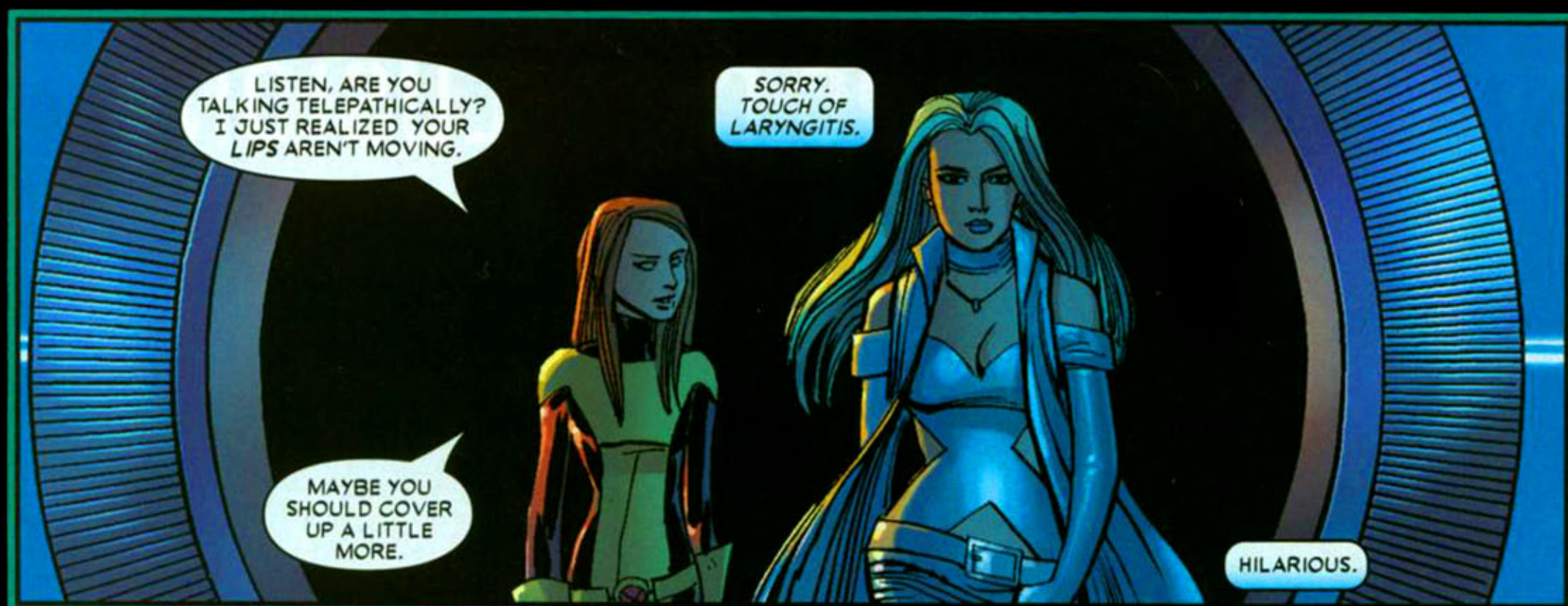
THE GORGON HAD A
THING GOING WITH A FRIEND
OF MINE IN KYOTO WHEN HE
WAS TWELVE AND SHE WAS
THIRTY-EIGHT. HE WAS A
LUNATIC THEN, BUT HE'S
FAR WORSE NOW.

THEY MAKE THE
BROTHERHOOD LOOK
RESPECTABLE. THEY
JUST LAUGHED ABOUT
MAGNETO.

THEY DON'T WANT TO
REPLACE US OR ENFORCE
THEIR MANIFESTO. THEY'RE
JUST ANTI-LIFE. HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD THE STORY
OF HOW HE JOINED
THE HAND?

NOPE.

LUCKY
YOU.



⊗GEORGETOWN,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

From the diary of
Wolfgang Von Strucker:

She has ignored
me all evening.



Even when I opened
up the child's throat
and held him over her
handmade bowl she
refused to catch
my eye.



Even when the room was naked
and frenzied, the savages playing
on their baby-skin drums, my
hand and mine alone was the only
thing she would not touch.

Three months she has been in
Europe. Three months since she
has seen her husband and yet
she stands there, sniggering
and flirting, talking to the boy.



Such a cold thing, this
young bodyguard of mine.
Why does she touch him
every time she laughs?

Why does she HURT
me like this?

EXCUSE ME FOR
SNORTING, WOLFGANG,
BUT THE GORGON WAS
JUST TELLING ME ABOUT
ALL YOUR LITTLE
PLANS.





WHAT PLANS, ELSBETH?

THESE TERROR ATTACKS UPON THE WEST. THIS **TERRAFORMER** YOU PLAN TO BLACKMAIL THEM WITH.

AND?

WELL, IT'S ALL SO **DESPERATE**, DON'T YOU THINK? LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED MAN BUYING A BRIGHT RED SPORTS CAR.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? FORGING THIS ALLIANCE HAS LED TO OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL **HYDRA** CAMPAIGN IN OVER HALF A CENTURY.



OH, WOULD YOU LISTEN TO HIM? HE'S SO WRAPPED UP IN ALL HIS OLD WAYS HE CAN'T EVEN **SEE** WHAT A DINOSAUR HE'S BECOME.



YOU'RE A CREATURE OF THE **COLD WAR**, WOLFGANG. YOU JUST WANT ONE CRUEL SYSTEM REPLACED BY ANOTHER WHEN THE **FASHIONABLE** IDEOLOGY IS THE END OF ALL THINGS.

SATAN SENT US THE **MUTANTS** TO DO HIS WORK. CHILDREN OF THE ATOM TO USHER IN HIS APOCALYPSE AND RETURN THE EARTH TO A LIFELESS **TRANQUILITY**.



I'M TURNING THEIR **PROTECTORS** INTO **MONSTERS**, ELSBETH. BY THE END OF THE MONTH, I'LL HAVE CRIPPLED EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

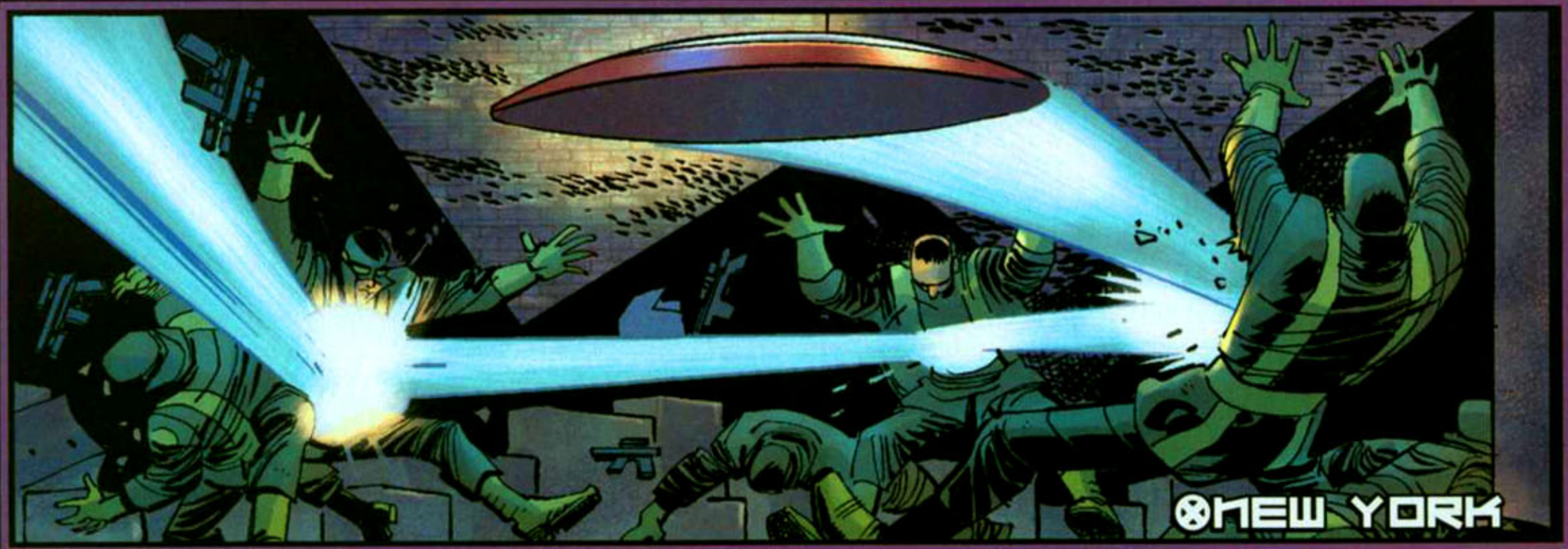
THE LAST, DESPERATE GASPS OF AN OLD MAN. I CAN SEE WHICH WAY THE WIND'S BLOWING IN THIS ORGANIZATION.



ARE YOU GOING TO BED?

YES, BUT NOT WITH YOU.

JUST BE A DARLING AND PLAY "**DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG**," WOULD YOU? WAGNER ALWAYS HELPS ME RELAX WHEN I'M MAKING LOVE.



NEW YORK

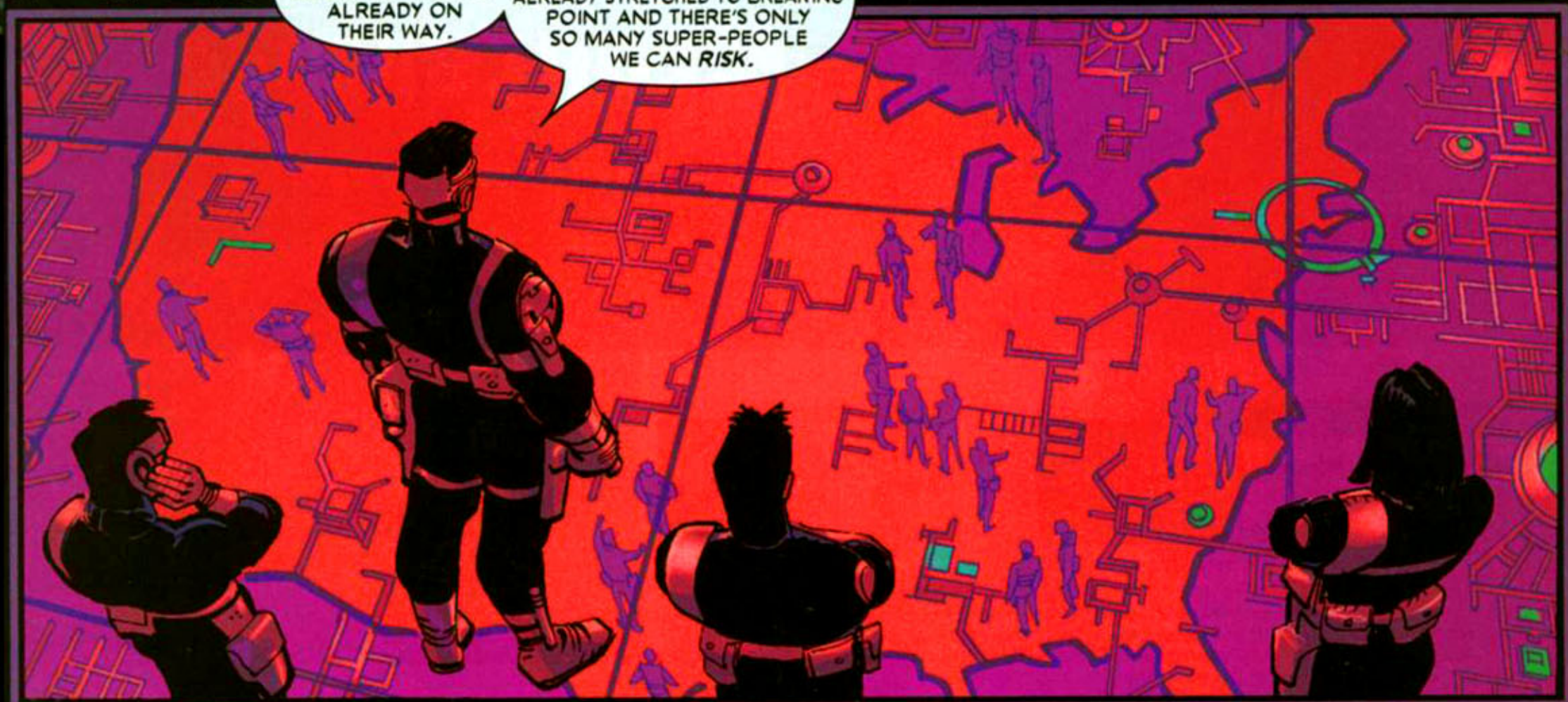


CAPTAIN AMERICA
TO NICK FURY *DIRECT*;
SECURITY CODE *FRED
ASTAIRE-NINETEEN
THIRTY-EIGHT*.

*THE FALCON AND I
JUST BUSTED ANOTHER
HYDRA CELL, NICK. FIFTY-
EIGHTH AND THIRD, INSIDE
THE LOCAL GIRL SCOUT
HALL, THE FILTHY
ANIMALS.*

GOT A LOCK
ON *SATELLITE*, CAP.
CLEAN-UP CREW'S
ALREADY ON
THEIR WAY.

YOU BELIEVE HOW MUCH
THEY'VE RAISED THEIR *GAME*
THIS WEEK? MANPOWER'S
ALREADY STRETCHED TO BREAKING
POINT AND THERE'S ONLY
SO MANY SUPER-PEOPLE
WE CAN *RISK*.





THE LESS WE USE THE **BETTER**, NICK. EVERY CAPE WE SEND OUT THERE TO **LOOK** FOR THEM IS ANOTHER POTENTIAL **GIFT** FOR THE HAND.

I SAY WE JUST DO WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING, COLONEL: KEEP THE BIG GUNS UNDER LOCK AND KEY AND LET THE **STREET GUYS** CLEAN THIS UP.



ANYTHING ON **WOLVERINE**?

BLEW UP **THREE BANKS** AND A **CREDIT UNION** IN A SINGLE AFTERNOON. **SKEWERED SIX COPS** AND RELEASED A GAS BOMB ON A NAVAL LINER TOO, BUT GET THIS--



"ATM SECURITY CAMERAS CAUGHT HIM **NIXING** AN ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HELPING THE **VICTIM** TO HER FEET AFTER **BUTCHERING** THE ATTACKERS."

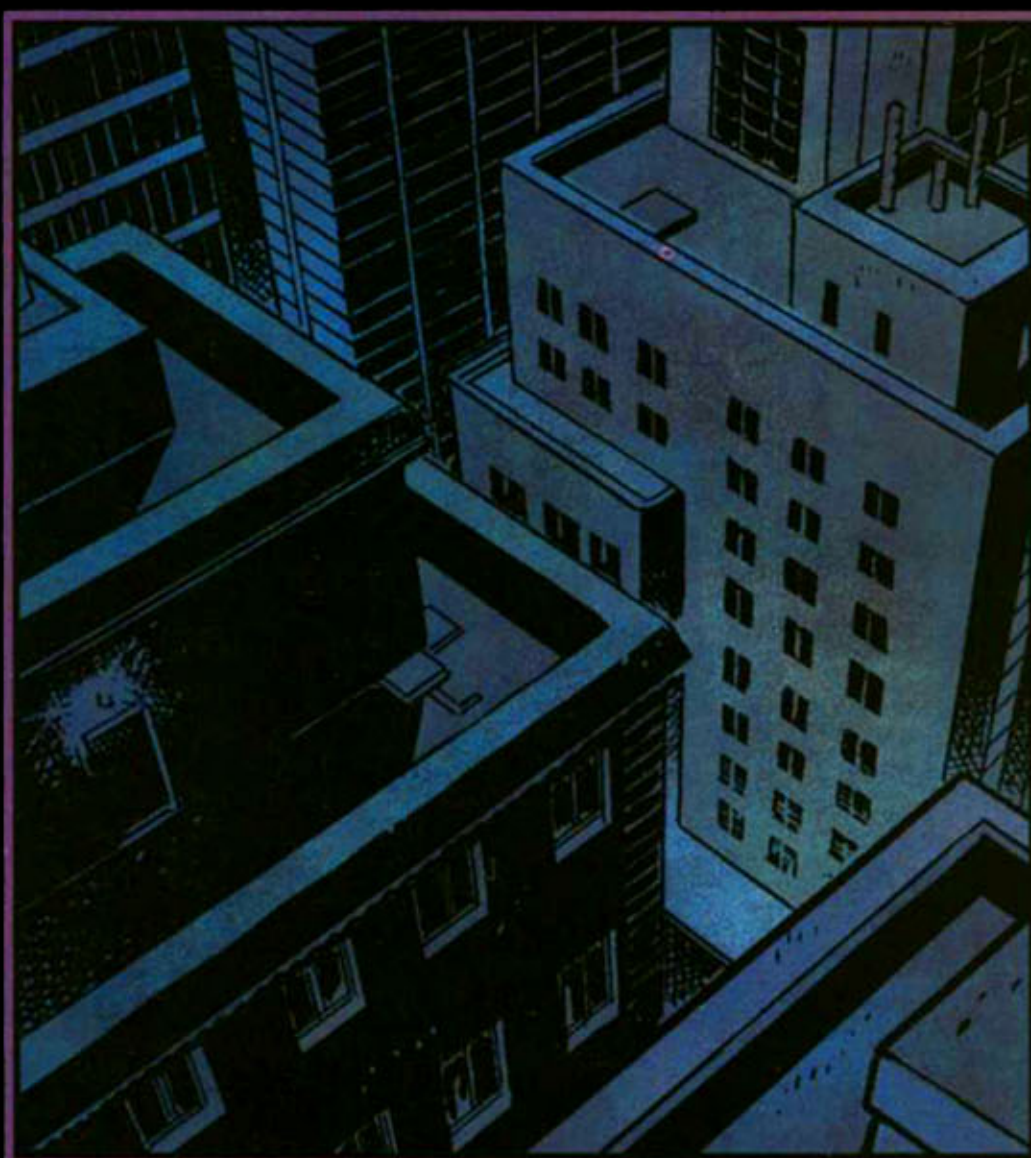
"THAT'S ONE GOOD DEED FOR EVERY FIVE **ATROCITIES** THIS WEEK. ANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT HE'S UP TO HERE?"

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN **TURMOIL**, NICK. THE GOOD MAN INSIDE IS DOING WHAT HE CAN AGAINST ALL THAT **HYDRA BRAINWASHING**.



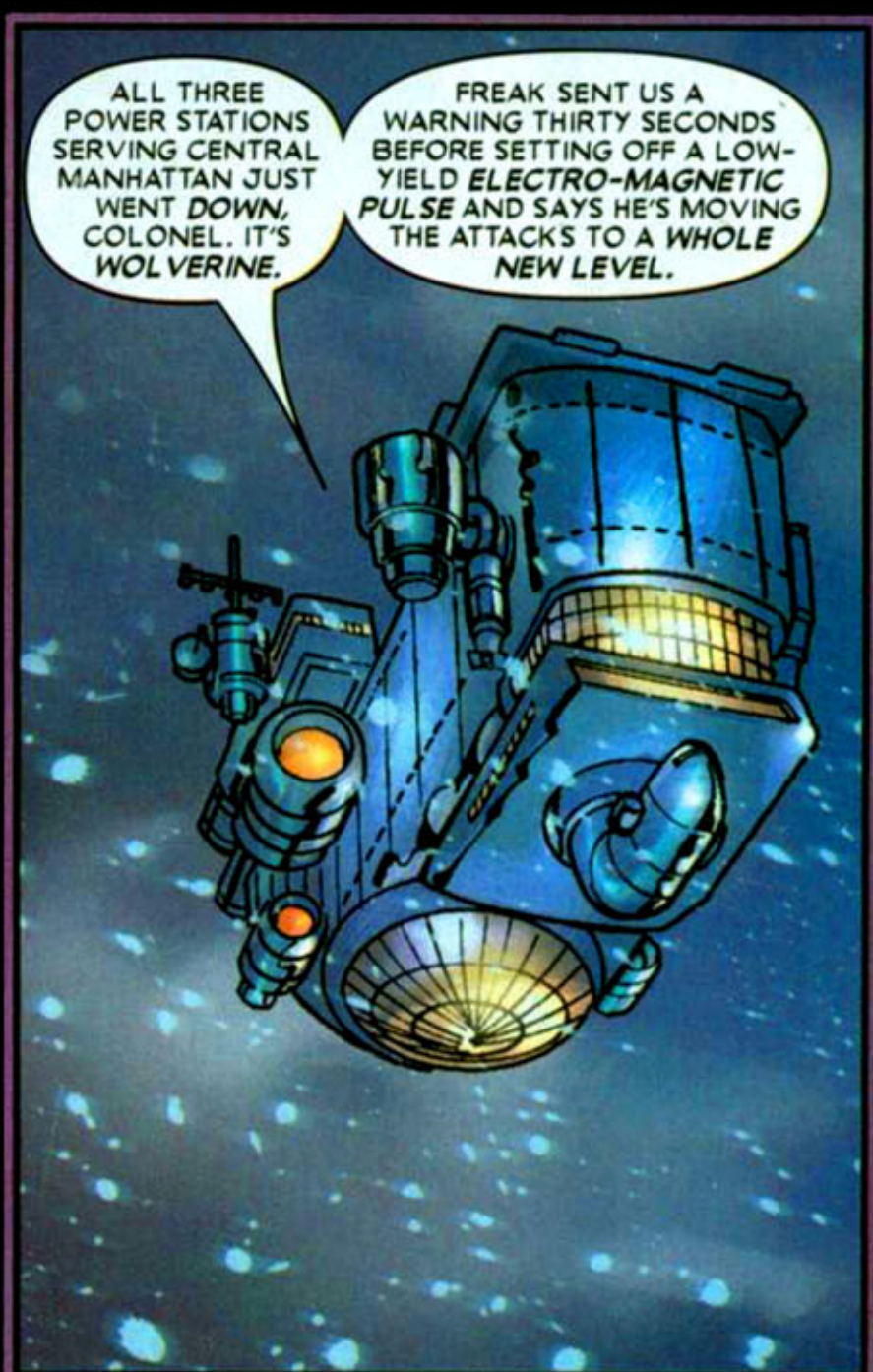
YEAH, WELL, HE AIN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH, **BUD**.

REPORTS JUST IN OF AN ARSON ATTACK ON MANHATTAN'S MAIN I.R.S. COMPLEX AND THE **PSYCHICS** ARE SAYING HE'S TWO WEEKS AWAY FROM A MAJOR ACT OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM.





WHAT
THE--?



ALL THREE
POWER STATIONS
SERVING CENTRAL
MANHATTAN JUST
WENT DOWN.
COLONEL. IT'S
WOLVERINE.

FREAK SENT US A
WARNING THIRTY SECONDS
BEFORE SETTING OFF A LOW-
YIELD **ELECTRO-MAGNETIC**
PULSE AND SAYS HE'S MOVING
THE ATTACKS TO A **WHOLE**
NEW LEVEL.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

HE SAYS
HE WANTS A
BIG-NAME
PARTNER.



MATT MURDOCK'S PLACE.
DAREDEVIL'S PAD.

SWANKY FOUR-STORY BROWNSTONE
IN THE HEART OF HELL'S KITCHEN. MUST
BE WORTH TWO OR THREE MILL, BUT
NOTHING HE CAN'T AFFORD AS A
PARTNER IN THAT FANCY LAW FIRM.

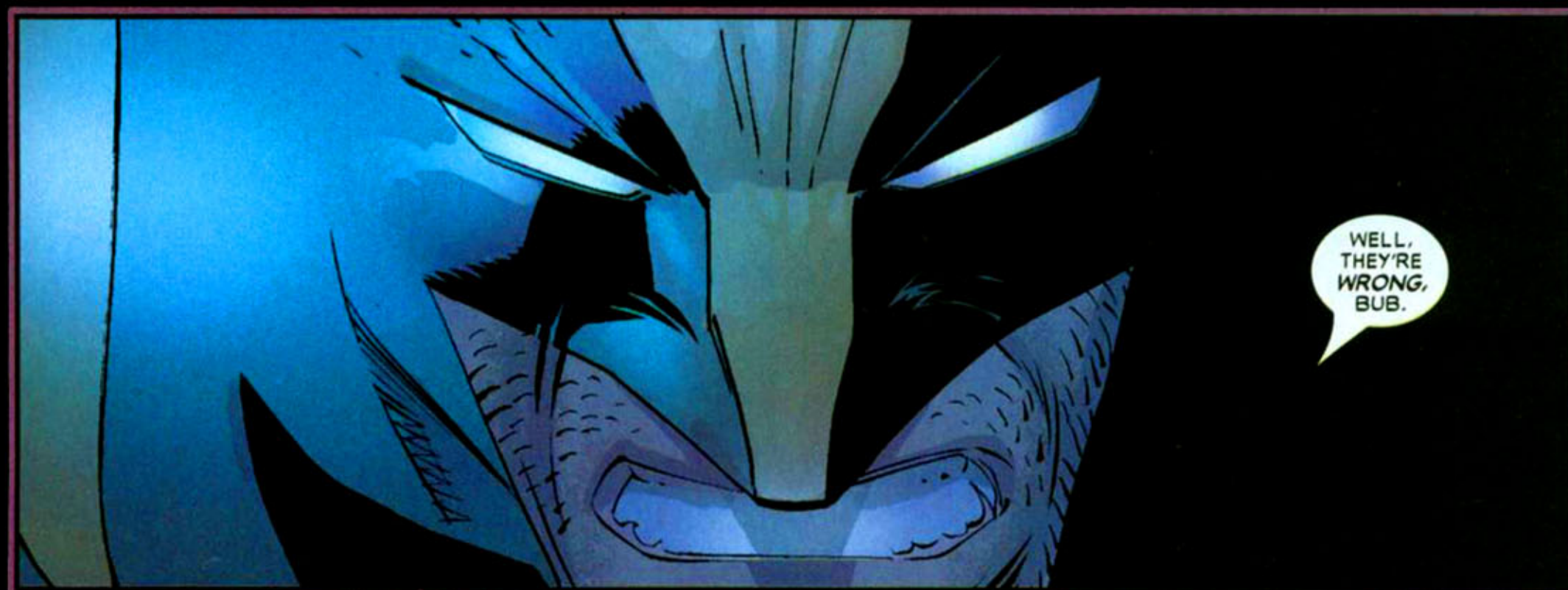
MURDOCK'S BEEN BLIND
SINCE HE WAS TWELVE YEARS
OLD, BUT DON'T FEEL SORRY
FOR HIM OR ANYTHING.


HE CAN HEAR, SMELL,
TASTE AND TOUCH
BETTER THAN ANYONE
ELSE ON THE PLANET.

BLACK WIDOW SAID HE
COULD HEAR A PIN DROP
FROM A BLOCK AWAY
AND SHE WASN'T
SMILING, EITHER.

A PIN FROM A BLOCK
AWAY. YOUR BREATH
FROM A MILE. THAT'S
HOW CAREFUL WE HAVE
TO BE AS WE SLIP INTO
THIS WAY-TOO-TIDY
PLACE HE LOVES WITH
ALL HIS HEART.

QUIETER THAN A
PIN DROPPING--

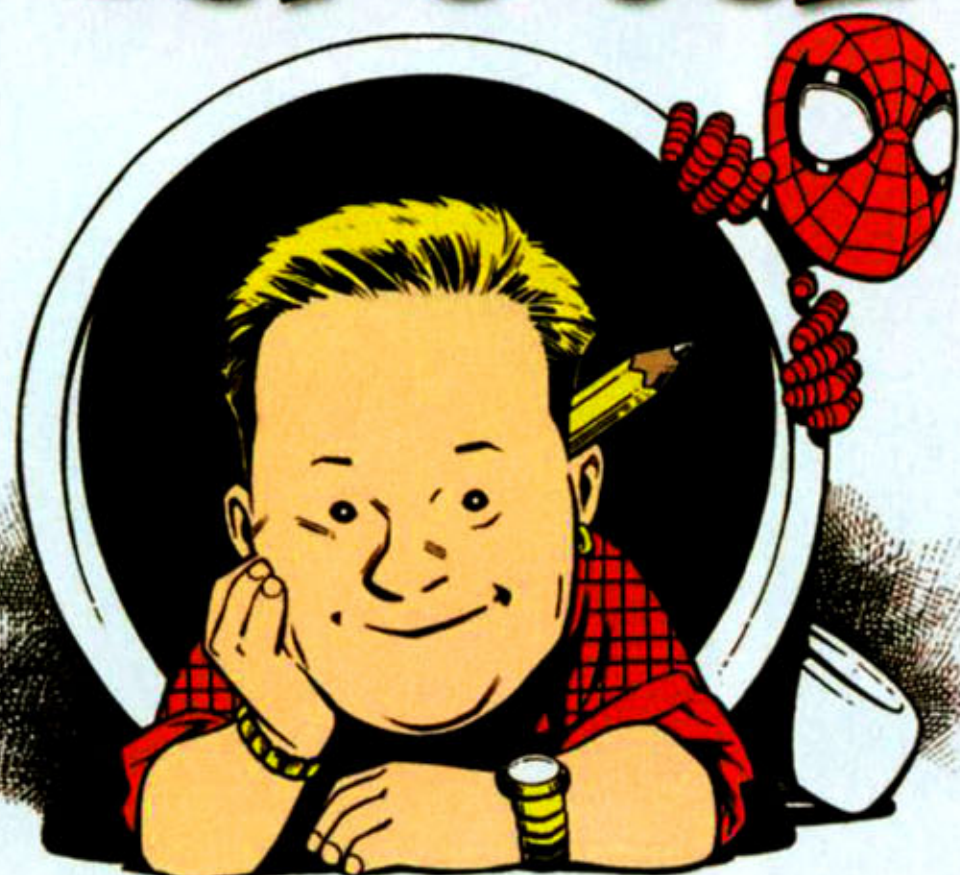




THE HAND'S
BEEN AFTER YOU
FOR A LONG, LONG
TIME.

⊗ TO BE CONTINUED...

CUP O' JOE



HEY, GANG, I'm back!

Welcome to my new "Cup O' Joe" soapbox! As always this column will be dedicated to helping guide you, our marvelous Marvel True Believer, to the coolest comic consumables currently crashing comic shops near you!!!

This month begins a little initiative we're calling "Marvel Next." What's "Marvel Next" you ask? Well, in this and subsequent months we'll be focusing on some next generation Marvel characters who we feel will in short time become major new staples within the Marvel Universe. This month we're focusing on the extremely popular X-23...

Ripped from the pages of the unbelievably popular NYX series and out of the world of Uncanny X-Men leaps X-23 into her first solo book. This mini series written by Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost and illustrated by Billy Tan will set the record straight about this young lady who is quickly becoming the "it" character in the world of X-Men. This book is going to be *pistol hot*!

Speaking of heat, I have to mention a few white hot creators this month, who will be affecting some familiar faces. We've got famed Brit scribe Peter Milligan taking over X-Men, the Hulk-Man himself, Peter David taking over, well... The Hulk, and Greg Pak and Greg Land on Phoenix Endsong! Phew, that's a lot of incredible talent, how do you guys deal with it all, I'm exhausted.

See ya in
the funnybooks,
JQ
EEK!

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