

MARVEL
PSR 2

ROB LIEFELD
FABIAN NICIEZA

WY-FORCE



DIRECT EDITION



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\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

LIEFELD
NICIEZA
YACKEY

CABLE. DOMINO. CANNONBALL. WARPATH. MELTDOWN. SHATTERSTAR. SUNSPOT. CHILDREN OF THE ATOM. BORN AS MUTANTS. WITH FANTASTIC POWERS— BOUND TOGETHER AS SOLDIERS— FIGHTING A DIRTY WAR FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THEIR SPECIES! STAN LEE PRESENTS:

X-FORCE in THE SPECTRE OF THINGS TO COME

IT WAS A TIME FOR MEN OF PEACE.

WHEN SWORDS WERE BETTER REPLACED BY PLOWSHARES.

HE HAD SEEN WHAT HAD BEEN AND WHAT COULD BE.

FOUGHT AND SACRIFICED FROM FARM FIELDS TO GALAXIES FAR AWAY.

AND YET THIS WAS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES WHERE HE FELT LIKE HE BELONGED.

HE IS SAM GUTHRIE, THE MUTANT BIO-PROPELLANT KNOWN AS—

CANNONBALL!

A FARMER. A FIGHTER. A FRIEND.

HITTIN', HOOTIN' AN' HOLLERIN' AS CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ROB LIEFELD
EVERYTHING BUT...

FABIAN NICIEZA
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X-CORP EARNINGS
BOUGHT HIM THIS
KENTUCKY FARM.



RECENT X-MEN FIGHTING
BOUGHT HIM INJURY,
AND SOME MUCH
NEEDED DOWNTIME.

THOUGH HE WISHES OTHERWISE,
THE BATTLE FOR MUTANT RIGHTS
IS A DEBILITATING LIFESTYLE.




BEING BORN DIFFERENT, WITH
POWERS THAT SEPARATE HIM
FROM HUMANITY, HAS BEEN
BOTH GIFT AND BURDEN.

HE HAS SEEN SO MANY THINGS
TORN DOWN, LIVES LOST AND
LANDSCAPES SCARRED--



--THAT FOR SAM,
THE PERFECT WAY
TO HEAL--



--IS TO HELP
MAKE NEW LIFE
GROW.

THE CROPS WILL ONLY COME IN STRONG IF HE HAS THE TIME TO TEND THEM.

HE COULD DO THAT...STAY HERE... AVOID THE NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS... MUTANTS AND MUTANTS...

...AND ALIENS AND CLONES AND GENETIC EXPERIMENTS AND TIME-TRAVELERS AND...



...AND AVOID THE FACT THAT HE HASN'T FELT RIGHT ABOUT HIMSELF IN A LONG, LONG TIME.

FOR TOO LONG, SAM HAS LOOKED FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PROVIDE HIS LIFE'S DIRECTION.

IT HAD FELT RIGHT.

THERE WAS A TIME HE WOULD HAVE SET HIS OWN PATH...HE HAD BEEN THE LEADER, AFTER ALL.

AND EVEN THOUGH HE'D BEEN LEADING OTHERS ON A ROAD TOWARDS HELL...



...IT HAD BEEN PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.



MMM FASH!

I GUESS DOWNTIME'S OVER...





THE AIR.

THAT'S THE FIRST
THING HE NOTICES.




INSIDE A BARN, EVEN
STIFLED BY THE SMELL
OF MANURE, HAY
AND WOOD...

...THE AIR
SMELLS
CLEANER.

IT WILL TAKE MANKIND SEVERAL
MORE CENTURIES TO GIVE ITS AIR
THE COPPER TASTE OF BLOOD
AND ELECTRIC OZONE SCENT
THAT HE IS USED TO.



HOW RIDICULOUS,
HE THINKS...



...THAT HE'S COME BACK
SO FAR TO FIGHT FOR THE
RIGHT TO BREATHE THAT
MISERABLE AIR...

TIMECODE:
CONFIRM.

TEMPORAL WASH
POINT CONFIRMED.

POTENTIAL LINEAR
DIVERGENCES SORTED...
CONFIRMED CLEAR.

TIMECODE:
TRACK
QUARRY.



TARGET DESIGNATE: SAMUEL
GUTHRIE/CANNONBALL/THE
MESSIAH OF MASAOR/THE
LIONHEART OF GRAYMIL--

JUST TELL
ME WHERE
HE IS!

ELEVEN METERS
TO YOUR RIGHT.

ELEVEN--?



GRMM

BRRRTHRUUUU!

STAB
HIS EYES!

IT REALLY IS THE
LIONHEART?!

MISTER,
NORMALLY AHD
ASK FOR NAME,
RANK AN' SERIAL
NUMBER--

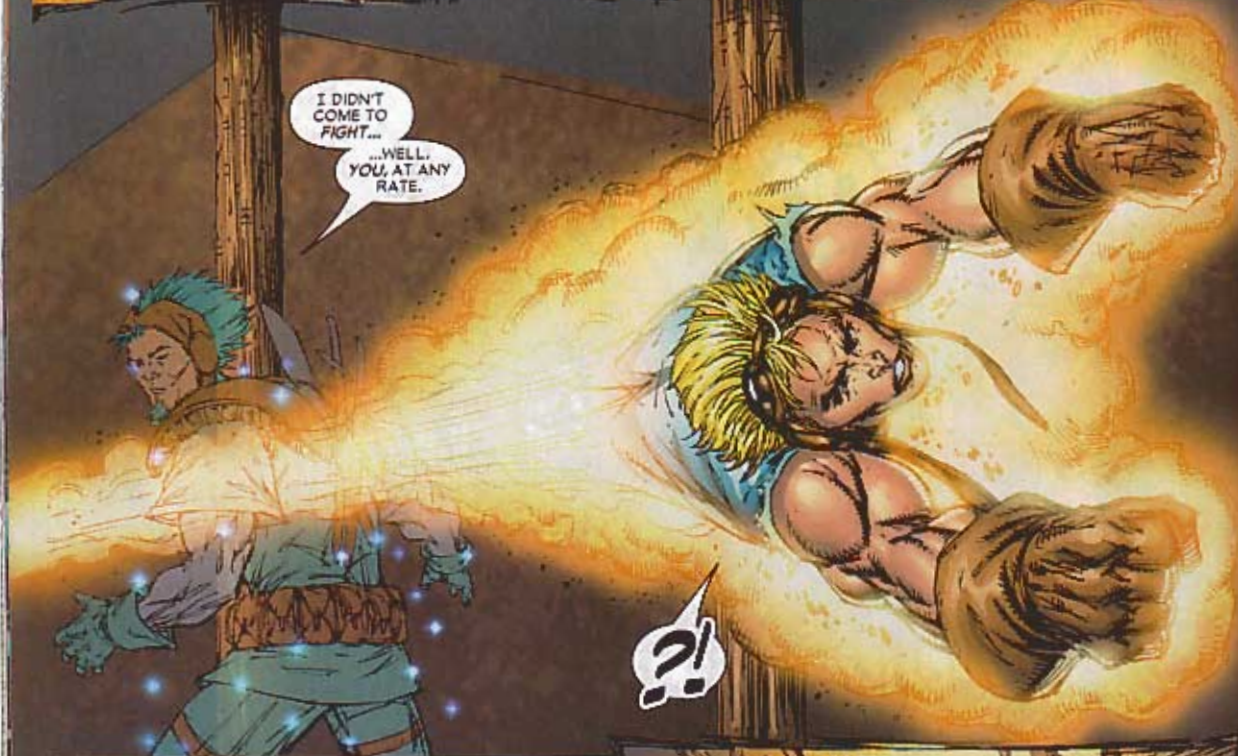
--BUT
FRANKLY--



--AH
JUS' DONT
CARE!



YOU'RE
YOUNGER THAN
I PICTURED.
AND THAT
TANGLE OF HAIR...
THE VIDS ALWAYS
SHOWED YOU WITH A
CLEAN TOP...



I DIDNT
COME TO
FIGHT...
...WELL,
YOU, AT ANY
RATE.

?!



THOUGH IF
YOU WANT A
SQUALL, TO TEST
ME AND ALL THAT,
THEN I'D BE
HONORED.

WAIT A
MINUTE...



... "STAB HIS
EYES" ...
... "THE
VIDS" ...



YES. I AM FROM THE FUTURE.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME AH'M GONNA SAVE TH' WORLD AGAIN...

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WHICH WILL BE. STONE TODAY IS STILL STONE TOMORROW.

YOUR DESTINY HAS BEEN FORGED.

WHITE NOISE. JUS' BREAK IT DOWN SO A COW COULD UNDERSTAND...

THAT'S FUNNY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FUNNY.

IT'S A DRY WIT.



MY NAME IS JON SPECTRE...

...AND I NEED YOUR HELP AGAINST A TERRIBLE THREAT TO HOMO SAPIENS AND HOMO MUTATIS ALIKE.

A THREAT... NOW, OR SOMETIME IN YOUR FUTURE?

BOTH.

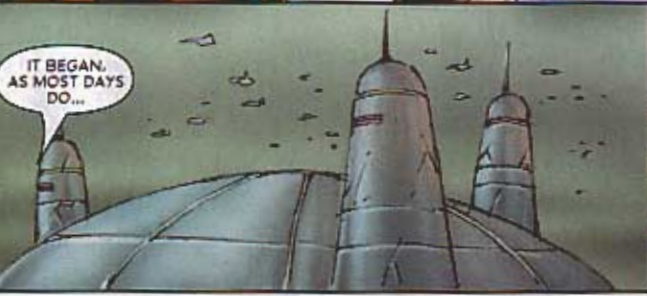
A MUTUAL ENEMY OF OURS... AND A MUTUAL FRIEND...

CABLE.

THE DAYSPRING. SEER OF HOPE. HARBINGER OF DOOM.



IT BEGAN, AS MOST DAYS DO...



...WITH A CALL
TO BATTLE...

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT
TO THE ASKANI COUNCIL,
WE HAVE HIDDEN FOR TOO
LONG--THE TIME HAS
COME FOR ACTION!

"NATHAN DAYSRING
ASKANI'SON, YOU KNOW
HIM AS CABLE, SOLDIER,
SAVIOR, DAMNABLE
FOOL."

THE TRUCE
WHICH HAS SERVICED
OUR ISOLATION HAS
ALSO NURTURED
OPPORTUNITY FOR
OUR FOES!

EN SABAH NUR
RECOVERS FROM
DAMAGE DONE TO HIS
STRONGHOLD. GROWING
TROOPS LIKE WEEDS
IN THE CRACKS OF
HOPE.

THE ALLIANCE OF
HUMANITY HAS USED
THIS TIME TO CREATE
IMPROVED GENETIC
RECOMBINANTS--
MODIFIED HUMANS.
ALTERED TO BECOME
THE VERY THING THEY
CLAIM TO OPPOSE...

...US...MUTANTS...
WE WHO HAVE SAT
AROUND PRAYING FOR
PEACE AND LICKING
OUR WOUNDS WHILE
BLINDLY WAITING FOR
SLAUGHTER!

"HE HAD A WAY, I'LL GIVE
HIM THAT. STIR YOU UP, GET
YOU TO JUMP HEADLONG
INTO A RAGING MAELSTROM
AND LEAVE YOU HAPPY
ABOUT DYING."

AND SLAUGHTER WILL COME...
FOR THE SKORNN HAVE BEEN
FOUND. AND SOON...THEY WILL
BE AWAKENED.

YOUR
VOICE? YOUR
WILL?

THEN YOU
MUST EARN THE
RIGHT TO SERVE,
DAYSPRING!

YOU SPEAK
OF SOFTNESS, OF
HIDING. AND YET,
YOU ACCEPTED
THAT TRUCE.

I AM IN THE
SERVICE OF THE
COUNCIL.

"THAT'S ALL HE NEEDED
TO SAY. YOU'LL COME TO
LEARN. THE WORD 'SKORNN'
TO A MUTANT IS LIKE SAYING
'SALT' TO A SLUG.

WE CAN NOT
WAIT FOR THE
DELUGE BEFORE
WE STRIVE TO
SWIM!

WE MUST
GATHER THE
PROTECTORATE
UNDER ONE
VOICE. ONE
WILL--

YOU HAVE
PRAYED. YOU HAVE...
LICKED YOUR WOUNDS...
AND MANY WE KNOW
ARE THE SCARS THAT
BLED YOUR SPIRIT
DRY.

YOU WANT
TO LEAD US INTO
WAR...THEN PROVE
YOU ARE STILL A
WARRIOR!

"THE PROTECTORATE
COUNCIL GUARD ARE--
WILL BE--THE NASTIEST
OF THE NASTY. THEY HAVE
TO BE TO PROTECT THE
MOST PEACEFUL OF
OUR KIND.

"BUT WHEN
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT CABLE..."

"...WELL, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A WHOLE 'NOTHER LEVEL OF UGLY NEED TO FEED OFF VIOLENCE!

YOU CHOOSE YOUR PSIMITAR.

A FOCUSED MANIFESTATION OF YOUR TELEPATHIC AND TELEKINETIC GIFTS.

AN INTERESTING CHOICE AGAINST THE COUNCIL GUARD.

I DON'T NEED TO FEEL THEIR EMOTIONS--

--I NEED TO FUEL MINE!


SHAK!

"I WATCHED FROM THE GALLERY. I HELD MY MOM'S HAND TIGHT. I WAS SCARED.

"A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS WHISPERED BY MOST PEOPLE IN HUSHED TONES OF FEAR OR AWE.


"BUT EXCITED, TOO, BY THIS LUMBERING, ANGRY TANK OF A MAN.

"BUT A MAN I ALWAYS KNEW AS UNCLE NATE!"




"I'D NEVER SEEN
HIM FIGHT UNTIL
THAT DAY..."

"...THOUGH MY
FATHER HAD TOLD
US STORIES."



"I JUST DIDN'T KNOW...
I'D BEEN BORN AND
RAISED DURING THE
TRUCE..."



"...I DIDN'T KNOW
THAT FIGHTING
COULD BE SUCH A..."

"...BEAUTIFUL
THING."

"I KNOW BETTER NOW, LIONHEART.
I'VE SEEN WHAT REAL FIGHTING DOES
TO REAL FLESH AND BLOOD AND BONE.

"I CAME TO REALIZE
LATER THAT CABLE'S
PERFORMANCE WAS
CHOREOGRAPHED
ENTERTAINMENT, AS
MUCH AS ANYTHING.

"THE COUNCIL
GUARDS..."





"...WERE NOT
FLESH AND BLOOD
AND BONE.



"THEY WERE
MACHINES MADE
OF METAL AND
SYNTHETICS,
PROGRAMMED
TO FIGHT..."



"...AND MAYBE,
THOUGH I NEVER
FOUND ANY
PROOF..."

"...PROGRAMMED
TO LOSE?"

IT IS
DONE.

SO IT
IS.

DO THE FIRES
OF BATTLE STILL
BURN INSIDE OF
ME, ASK ANI
COUNCIL?

SADLY FOR
YOU, DAYSPRING,
THEY RAGE AS
UNTO AN
INFERNO.



I DON'T DO
IT BECAUSE I WANT
TO, COUNCILMAN--
BUT BECAUSE I
HAVE TO!

MARTYRDOM
ILL SUITS YOU,
ASKANISON.

I ONLY MARTYR MY FREEDOM,
COUNCILMAN, SO THAT ALL WILL
NOT BECOME AS UNTO THIS
PROTECTORATE GUARD--





--SOULLESS
CONSTRUCTS
ENSLAVED TO THE
COMMANDS OF
THEIR MAKERS--

--RATHER
THAN BEINGS
BORN AND
RAISED OF
FREE WILL!

YOU FIGHT
SO OTHERS
MIGHT NOT.

ALWAYS.

YOU
DIE SO THAT
OTHERS MIGHT
LIVE.

IF
NEED
BE.

THE ASKANI
PREACH OF PEACE
IN OUR TIME, BUT
ONLY AS A RESULT
OF PEACE IN OUR
MINDS.

HOW DO YOU
RECONCILE THAT
DICHOTOMY AND
STILL FACE
YOURSELF IN
THE MIRROR,
DAYSPRING?

YOU SPEAK
OF FREE WILL, YET
CONSIGN MANY TO
THEIR SLAUGHTER
WHO ARE GIVEN
NO CHOICE IN
THE MATTER.


I DON'T LOOK
IN MIRRORS ANYMORE,
COUNCILMAN...THE
REFLECTION IS NEVER
WHAT I WANT
TO SEE...

AS FOR
GATHERING AN
ARMY, MEN AND WOMEN
OF CONSCIENCE HAVE
LONG MADE THE DECISION
TO FIGHT AND SACRIFICE
FOR A GREATER
CAUSE.

I DO NOT INSTIGATE
OR INITIATE WAR. I
SEEK MEN OF ACTION
WILLING TO WAGE
BATTLE FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW.


LET THEM
COME...OF THEIR
OWN FREE
WILL...





"AND OF COURSE, THEY
CAME... MEN AND WOMEN
OF CONSCIENCE..."

"...NAMES THAT EVERY
CHILD OF MY TIME
LEARNED BY ROTE..."



...TETHERBLOOD,
DAWNSILK, ADAM
SPECTRE, LARK,
SEPULCHER--
SO MANY MORE...

...FANNING THE EMBERS OF
MANKIND'S INDOMITABLE
SPIRIT, A FIRE THAT HAS
ALWAYS BURNED DURING
SIMILAR CALLS TO ARMS.

*A FIRE THAT CONSUMES
FLESH AND SOUL ALIKE...
TURNING HOPE TO ASH...
TAKING LIVES...

*...TAKING MY FATHER...
WHO DIED IN THE CAUSE
OF CABLE'S QUIXOTIC
QUEST FOR PEACE.

"WHO DIED BECAUSE HE
BELIEVED IN A MAN WHO
BELIEVED THAT IT WAS
A TIME FOR ACTION.

"BELIEVED IN A MAN
WHO DIDN'T REALIZE
THE VERY ACTION HE
INITIATED--"

--NEARLY DESTROYED ALL LIFE ON EARTH!

DON'T PUSH MY BUTTONS, SHATTERSTAR.

I PLEAD MEA CULPA FOR RECRUITING YOU...

ARE YOU SAYING YOU MADE THE WRONG CHOICE, CABLE?

WE JUST SO RARELY HEAR YOU ADMIT YOUR MISTAKES.

BUT HOW DOES ANY OF THIS AFFECT US NOW, CABLE?

ROBERTO AND I BOTH HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO X-CORP-- ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THEY'VE COME UNDER ATTACK.



I HELPED YOU ON THE UNDERGROUND GIG AGAINST WEAPON X, CABLE. BUT I'M NOT SO INTO OPEN-MOUTHED YELLING AND SNARLING AGAIN...

TABITHA-- MELTDOWN--

--THIS ISN'T A LIFE CHOICE--IT'S A MISSION. I NEED PEOPLE I CAN TRUST--

--YOU, WARPETH, SUNSPOT--WE HAVE HISTORY.

HISTORY BUILDS THE FUTURE.





AND SPEAKING OF WHICH...

YOU KNOW HIM, NATHAN? WELL, DUH, HE'S WEARING CHRONAL PARTICLES LIKE A VELOUR SUIT, SO YOU MUST KNOW HIM.

HIS NAME IS JON SPECTRE, DOMINO.

HE'S TROUBLE NO MATTER WHAT TIMELINE HE'S HAUNTING.

WELL, HE'S ALSO IN KENTUCKY... WITH SAM!



NOT GOOD.

IS THIS GUY PART OF THAT HELIX GROUP WE SMACKED ON MOUNT XIXABANGMA?

YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SAY THAT WORD.

AND NO, HE'S NOT.

THEN WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH SAM?

HE'S FROM THE FUTURE... IS THIS MORE OF THAT HIGH LORD NONSENSE THE EXTERNALS ONCE PUT US THROUGH?

OUR ALLY IS
THREATENED. THE
REASONS DON'T
MATTER!

SHATTY'LL FIND
ANY REASON TO STICK
HIS KNITTING NEEDLES
IN SOMEONE'S GUTS.
BUT I GOTTA AGREE
WITH HIM.

AND SINCE I
CAN'T FEEL MY FEET,
I'D IMAGINE YOU
FEEL THE SAME WAY,
TOO, DOM...



BODYSLIDE
PREPPED--

CRUD. I
FORGOT HOW
MUCH I HATE
THIS...

BOTH!

THE
FIGHTING OR THE
TELEPORTING?

IT WON'T
BE MUCH
OF A FIGHT,
TABITHA--

--BECAUSE
SPECTRE WON'T
KNOW WHAT HIT
HIM!

AND X-FORCE WON'T
BELIEVE WHO HITS
BACK...

CANNONBALL
VS.
CABLE!

'NUFF SAID!