



GENERATION X

95

MONDO THRILLS! MONDO X-CITEMENT!

MARVEL COMICS ALL NEW X-MEN SPECIAL EVENT
NOVEMBER

THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

THE BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAPTER.

YOU
WANT
ME.

YOU
WANT ME
SO MUCH THAT
IT **BORES**
ME.

Of Leather & Lace

LOBDELL/
LOEB
Story

WOOD/
McMANUS
Breakdowns

LIGHTLE
McMANUS
SIENKIEWICZ...

PANOSIAN
J. RUSSELL and
CHALONER
Finishes

MORESHEAD/
KALISZ
Colors

RICH and DAVE
at COMICRAFT
Letters

MARK and BOB
*Editor and
Chief*

ADMIT
IT...

... AND
WE CAN GO
ON FROM
THERE.

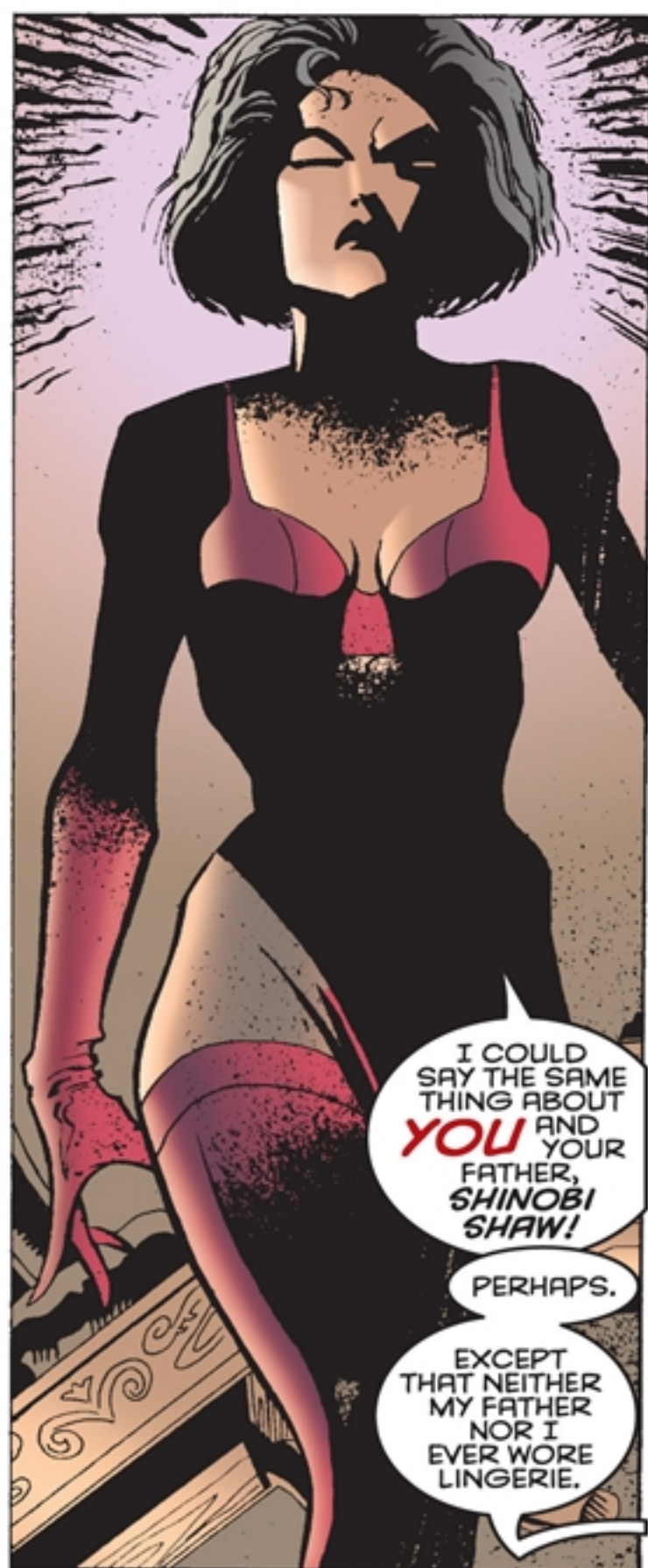


IT WOULD SEEM TO ME, MS. FROST --

CORDELIA, PLEASE.

-- CORDELIA, THAT YOU MANAGED TO INHERIT YOUR SISTER EMMA'S PENCHANT FOR LINGERIE...

... YET NONE OF HER CLASS.



I COULD SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT **YOU** AND YOUR FATHER, **SHINOBI SHAW!**

PERHAPS.

EXCEPT THAT NEITHER MY FATHER NOR I EVER WORE LINGERIE.



SO YOU SAY.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, SHAW:

I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO BRING YOU A MUTANT -- AND A POWERFUL ONE, AT THAT.

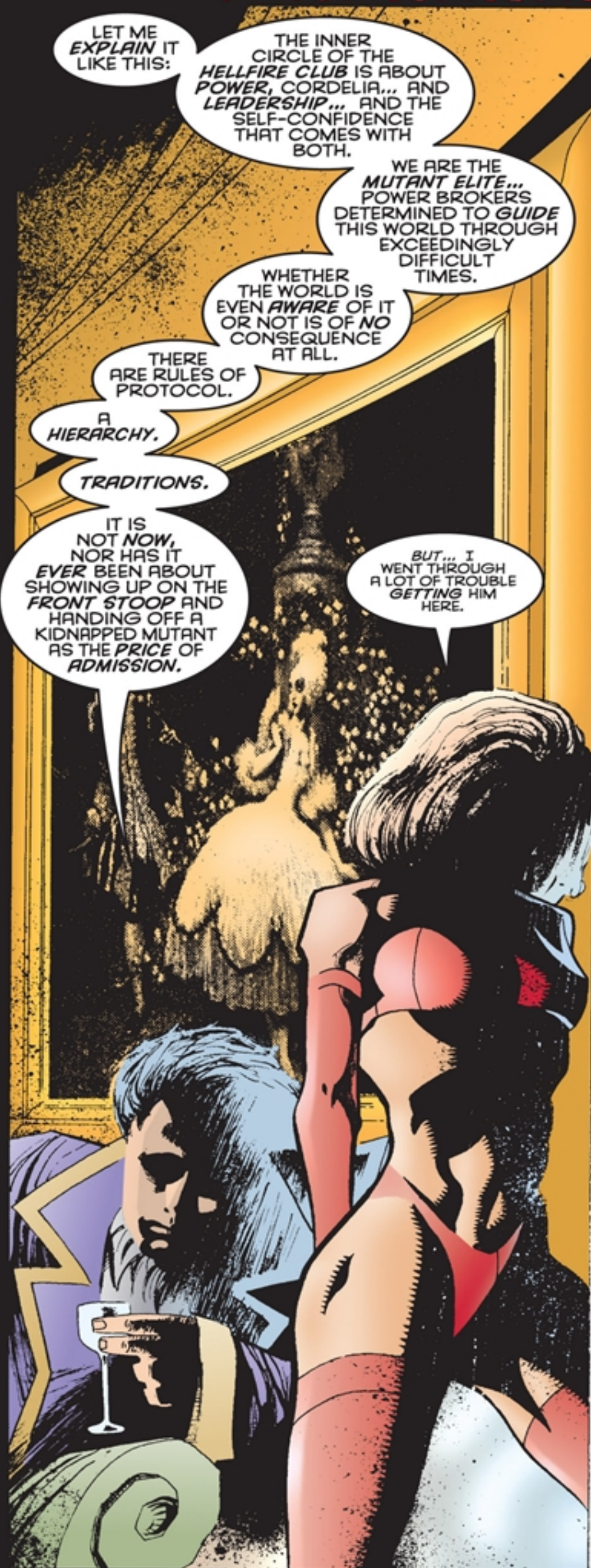
NOW, I **DEMAND** YOU GIVE ME THE SEAT VACATED BY MY SISTER WHEN SHE STEPPED DOWN AS THE **WHITE QUEEN!**



OR WHAT, CORDELIA -- YOU'LL HOLD YOUR BREATH UNTIL YOU TURN **BLUE?**

I'M ALMOST SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, SHAW. STOP TALKING TO ME LIKE I'M A CHILD.

I WILL, THE MOMENT YOU STOP BEHAVING LIKE ONE.



LET ME
EXPLAIN IT
LIKE THIS:

THE INNER
CIRCLE OF THE
HELLFIRE CLUB IS ABOUT
POWER, CORDELIA... AND
LEADERSHIP... AND THE
SELF-CONFIDENCE
THAT COMES WITH
BOTH.

WE ARE THE
MUTANT ELITE...
POWER BROKERS
DETERMINED TO GUIDE
THIS WORLD THROUGH
EXCEEDINGLY
DIFFICULT
TIMES.

WHETHER
THE WORLD IS
EVEN AWARE OF IT
OR NOT IS OF NO
CONSEQUENCE
AT ALL.

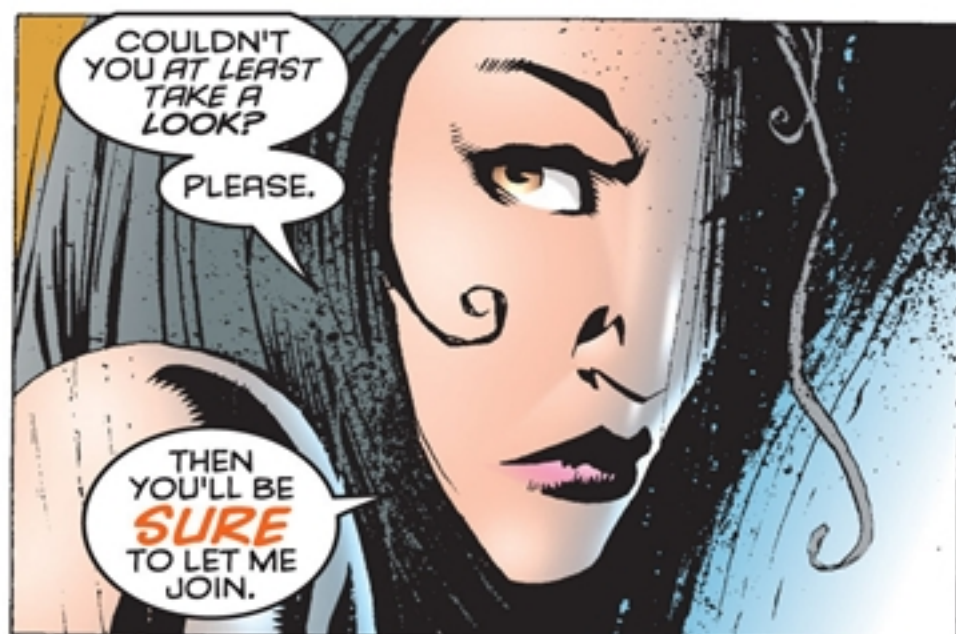
THERE
ARE RULES OF
PROTOCOL.

A
HIERARCHY.

TRADITIONS.

IT IS
NOT NOW,
NOR HAS IT
EVER BEEN ABOUT
SHOWING UP ON THE
FRONT STOOP AND
HANDING OFF A
KIDNAPPED MUTANT
AS THE PRICE OF
ADMISSION.

BUT... I
WENT THROUGH
A LOT OF TROUBLE
GETTING HIM
HERE.



COULDN'T
YOU AT LEAST
TAKE A
LOOK?

PLEASE.

THEN
YOU'LL BE
SURE
TO LET ME
JOIN.



WHY
DO I GET THE
IMPRESSION YOU
DIDN'T HEAR A
WORD I JUST
SAID?

I'M NOT
DENSE.

JUST
PERSISTENT.

LIKE A
TOOTHACHE,
I SEE.



BUT.
I'M
HERE.

YOU'RE
HERE.

YOUR
MUTANT IS
HERE.



LET'S
HAVE A
PEEK.

KLIK

WHARRRA KLIK

HMP.

I'D
VENTURE
TO SAY
"IMPRESSIVE,"
BUT,
FRANKLY --

-- NO ONE
EVER MAKES
THEIR *BEST FIRST*
IMPRESSION WHILE
HANGING UPSIDE
DOWN AND
UNCONSCIOUS
IN A *STASIS*
CHAMBER.

IT'S
A GOOD
THING HE *IS*
RESTRAINED,
SHAW.

I'M
TELLING YOU,
THE GUY IS A
POWER-
HOUSE.

AND THIS
POWERHOUSE,
CORDELIA -- DOES
HE HAVE A
NAME?

MONDO.

HIS NAME
IS MONDO, AND HE'S
CAPABLE OF TAKING OUT
ALL OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB
AND THE BROTHERHOOD
OF EVIL MUTANTS
AND THE
X-MEN --

-- WITH-
OUT EVEN
BREAKING A
SWEAT.

IS
THAT
SO?

IF HE
IS *THAT* MUCH
OF A THREAT --
HOW DID HE COME
TO FIND HIMSELF
SO... *INDISPOSED*,
AS IT WERE?

BECAUSE
MAYBE
I'M MUCH SMARTER
AND SHREWER AND
MORE CALCULATING
THAN I
LOOK?

YOU'D
HAVE TO
BE.

☪

CURRENTLY, THE
POSITION OF
WHITE QUEEN
IS *FILLED*.

PERSONALLY,
I'M IN THE MARKET
FOR A --

NOT
THAT IT
MATTERS.

YOU
DON'T WANT
TO GO THERE,
SHAW.

TRUST
ME.

RELAX,
CHILD. I'M
TEASING.

SO
TELL ME
ABOUT
MONDO.

AS
NEAR AS
I CAN TELL,
HE'S
POTENTIALLY
AN "OMNI-
MORPH."

THAT IS,
HE'S *CAPABLE*
OF *ABSORBING*
ANY
LIVIN' --

PINE

-- HUH?
WHAT WAS
THAT,
SHAW?

SECURITY,
APPARENTLY,
WE'RE
UNDER --

-- ATTACK.

YES.
I'D SAY
THIS
QUALIFIES
AS AN
ATTACK.

YOU
CAN PROTECT
YOURSELF BY
BECOMING
INTANGIBLE --

-- I'LL
TAKE CARE
OF MY-
SELF --

AND
THEN?

IT IS
THE HEIGHT OF
RUDENESS TO KILL
A GUEST -- EVEN AN
UNINVITED ONE --
WITHOUT FIRST
HEARING WHAT
THEY HAVE
TO SAY.

I'M
NOT ABOVE
BEING
RUDE.

FRIENDS
OF YOURS,
SHAW?

ALL MY
FRIENDS
KNOCK.

THEY
CLEARLY
OUTGUN US. IF
THEIR INTENT WAS
TO **KILL** US, THEY
WOULD HAVE MADE
THE **ATTEMPT**
BY NOW.

REALLY?
THEN HOW
DO YOU EXPLAIN
WHAT **SHE'S**
DOING?

IT'S
CALLED A
HOLOGRAM,
CHILD.

DON'T
CALL ME --



SHAW.



BARRINGTON.

AM I
INTERRUPTING
ANYTHING?

BABY-
SITTING.
TAKE A
SEAT.



THANK
YOU, BUT
I MUST BE
GOING.

OF
COURSE...

... I'LL
BE TAKING
THE MUTANT
AS WELL.



HEY, SHINOBI --
SHOW SOME
INTESTINAL
FORTITUDE,
HUH?!

YOUR
MYSTERY DATE
JUST FADED AWAY...
AND THE REST OF
HIS ENTOURAGE
IS CARTING OFF
OUR PRIZE!

FEEL
FREE TO
STOP
THEM!

I
PREFER
LIVING.

UN.
BELIEVABLE.



NOW
WHAT DO WE
DO?

NOT
"WE" --
YOU.

IF *I*
WERE YOU --
AND MERCIFULLY,
I AM NOT -- I'D
BE *ANGRY*.

I'D DO
ANYTHING I
COULD TO GET
HIM BACK.



7 DAYS LATER, AT
XAVIER'S SCHOOL
FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS.

THE BERKSHIRE
MOUNTAINS --

-- ALSO IN
MASSACHUSETTS.

WHERE THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
MUTANTS TRAIN IN
THE USE OF THEIR
POWERS...

... AMONG OTHER
THINGS.

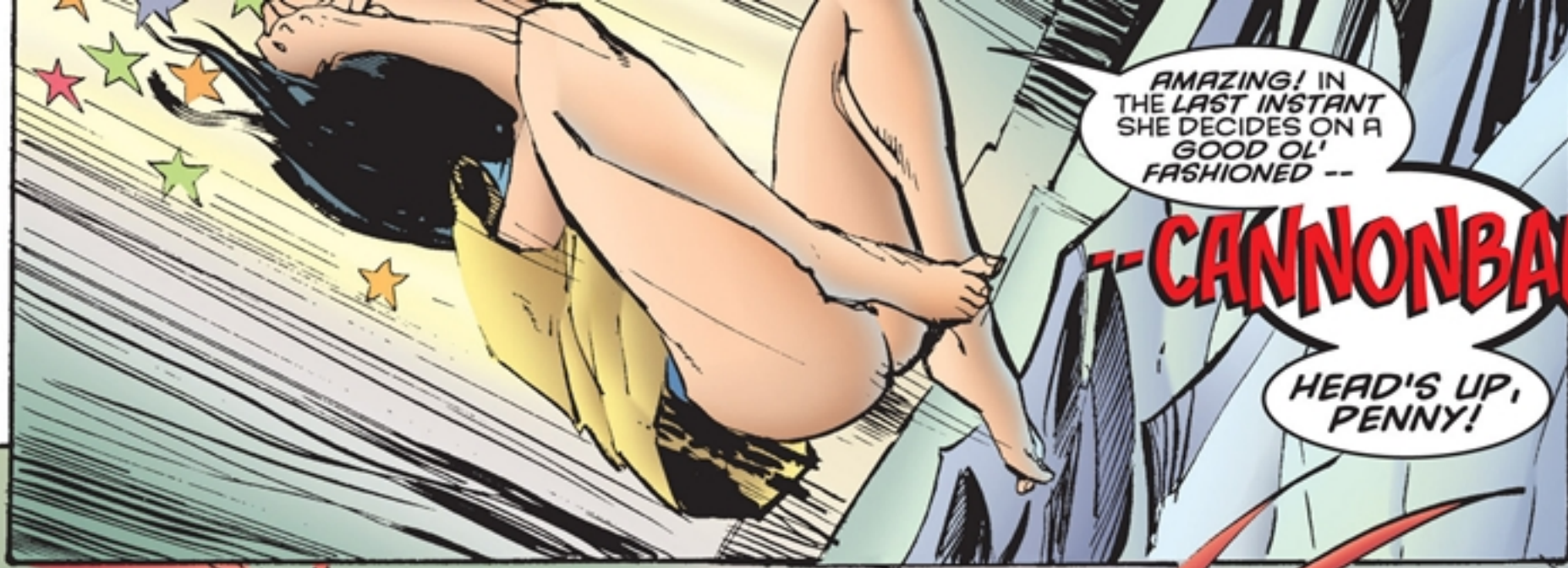
THE
CROWD IS
BREATHLESS, AS
JUBILATION LEE
ATTEMPTS
A **QUADRUPAL**
TWIST INTO
A **ONE-EIGHTH**
GAINER...

... WITH
JUST A "PINCH"
OF HER **TRADE-**
MARKED **MUTANT**
PYROTECHNICS
FOR EFFECT.

DEGREE
OF DIFFICULTY:
POINT
INFINITY!

SPROING





AMAZING! IN THE LAST INSTANT SHE DECIDES ON A GOOD OL' FASHIONED --

--CANNONBALL!

HEAD'S UP, PENNY!

"PENNY".

SHORT FOR PENANCE...

... A NAME APPARENTLY GIVEN TO HER BY THE MYSTERIOUS GATEWAY --

-- ON THE EVENING HE DROPPED HER BROKEN BODY HERE AT THE SCHOOL. •

SPLOOSH

IT APPEARS SHE'S NEVER SEEN A SWIMMING POOL BEFORE...

... OR IF SHE HAS, SHE'S LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN IT...

... AFTER YEARS OF BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY THE SINISTER MUTANT CALLED EMLATE.

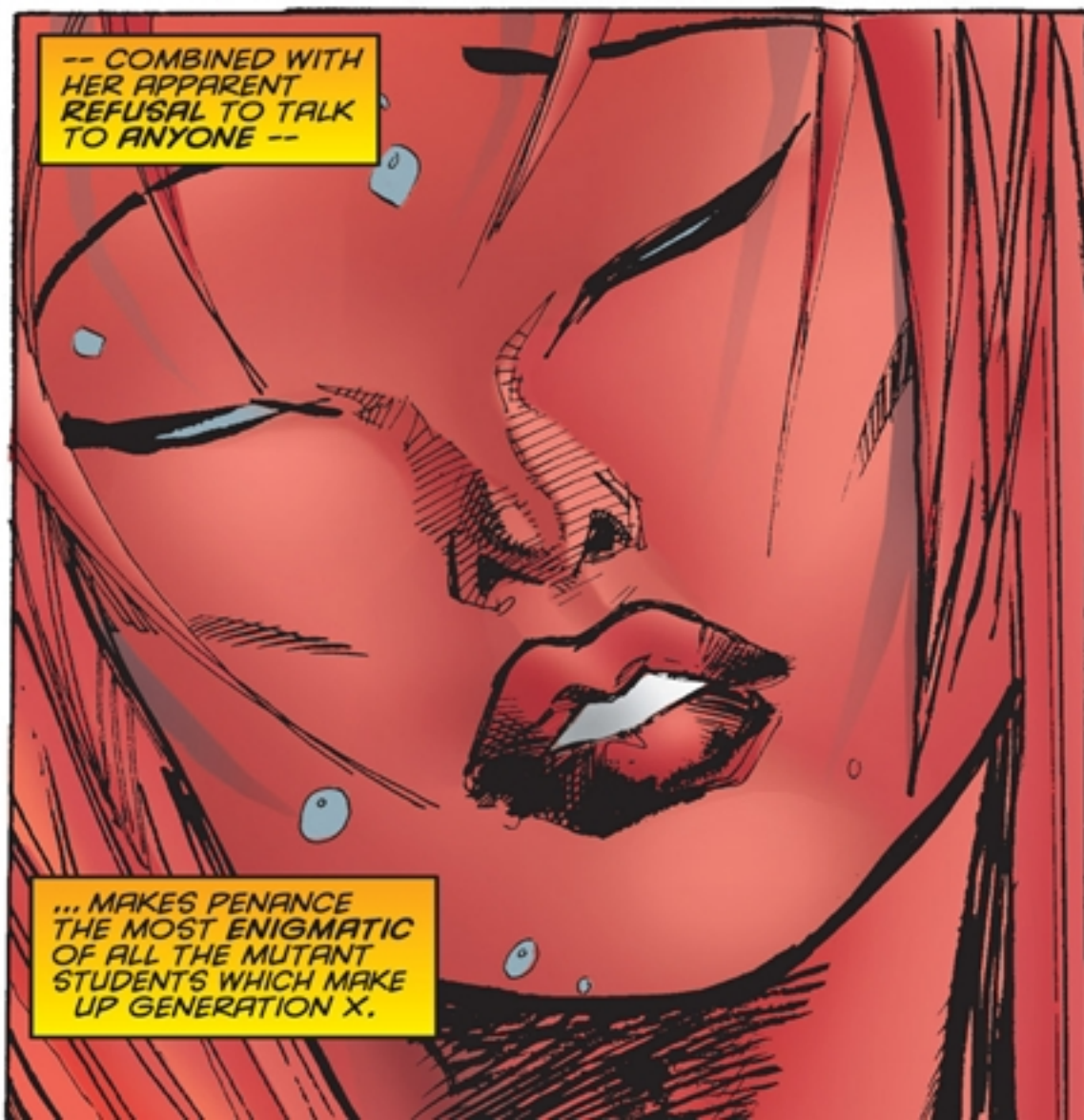
THE CLASSIC
GENERATION
X #1
-- MARK

BUT HER DIAMOND-HARD SKIN --

-- WHICH CUTS AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH --

-- COMBINED WITH HER APPARENT REFUSAL TO TALK TO ANYONE --

... MAKES PENANCE THE MOST ENIGMATIC OF ALL THE MUTANT STUDENTS WHICH MAKE UP GENERATION X.





HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

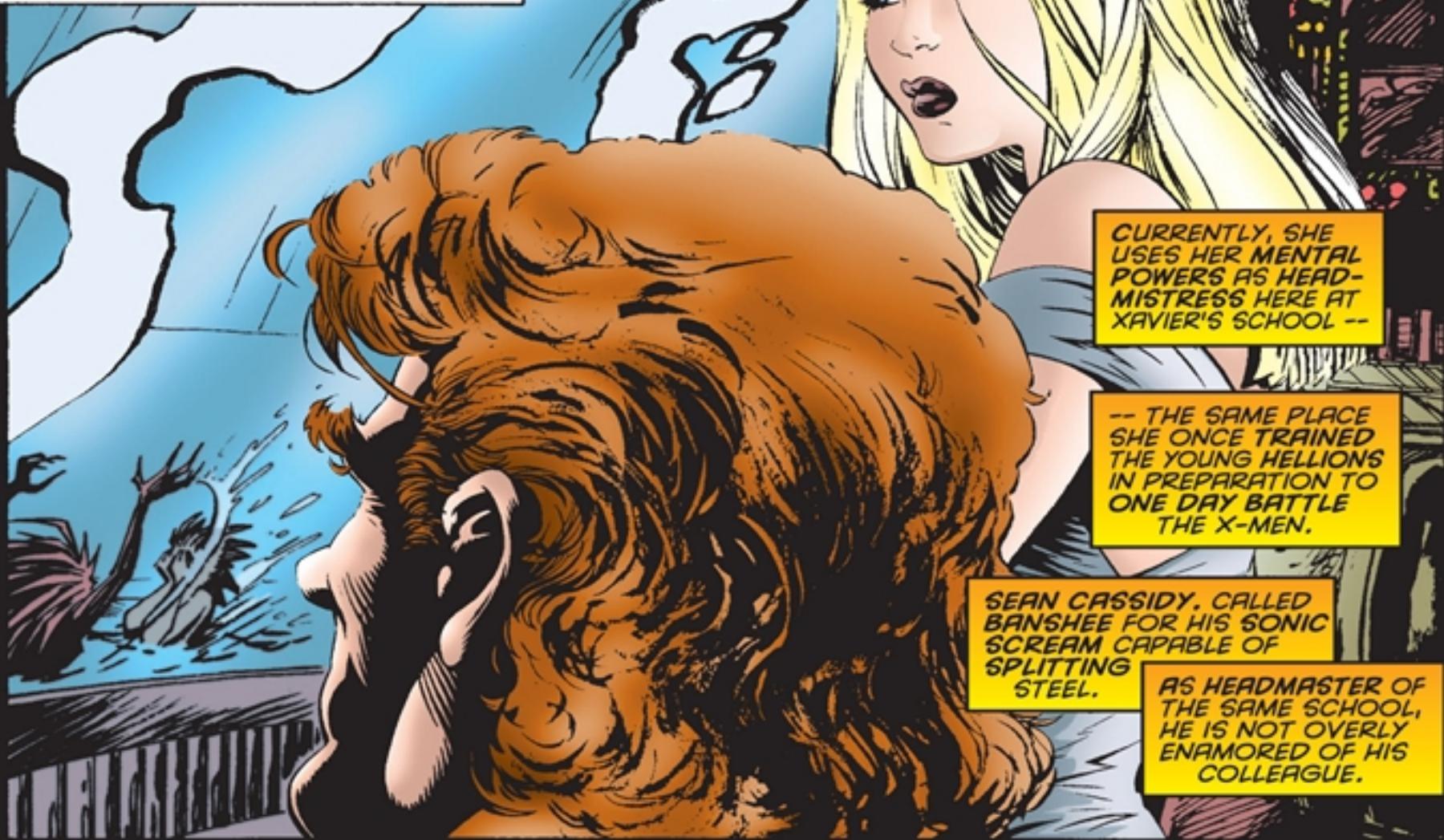
WILL
YE LOOK AT
THE TWO OF
THEM,
EMMA?

IT
DOES ME
HEART GOOD
TO SEE THAT EVEN
THOUGH THE ONE
DOESNAE SPEAK
A WORD O'
ENGLISH --

-- THE
TWO OF 'EM
ARE CARRYIN'
ON LIKE THEY'RE
PRACTICALLY
SISTERS.

NOT
ALL
SISTERS
GET ALONG,
SEAN.

EMMA FROST.
FORMERLY,
THIS TELEPATH
WAS WHITE
QUEEN OF THE
INNER CIRCLE
OF THE
HELLFIRE CLUB.



CURRENTLY, SHE
USES HER MENTAL
POWERS AS HEAD-
MISTRESS HERE AT
XAVIER'S SCHOOL --

-- THE SAME PLACE
SHE ONCE TRAINED
THE YOUNG HELLIONS
IN PREPARATION TO
ONE DAY BATTLE
THE X-MEN.

SEAN CASSIDY, CALLED
BANSHEE FOR HIS SONIC
SCREAM CAPABLE OF
SPLITTING
STEEL.

AS HEADMASTER OF
THE SAME SCHOOL,
HE IS NOT OVERLY
ENAMORED OF HIS
COLLEAGUE.



YOU ASK ME --
I THINK JUBILEE
TREATS HER
MORE LIKE A
PET.



OUCH,
WOMAN.

I
THINK YE ARE
READIN' A
LITTLE MORE
INT' --



SOMEBODY --
-- **ANYBODY..?!**

HELP!



SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH
PENANCE!

SHE
SCREAMS
WITHOUT
MAKING A
SOUND...

... THRASHING
ABOUT AS IF
CAUGHT IN THE
GRIP OF A
WAKING
NIGHTMARE.

AND WHILE JUBILEE
LIKES TO THINK
HERSELF CAPABLE
OF HANDLING ANY
SITUATION...

ARE YE
DAFT,
LASS?!

HER
DIAMOND
SKIN
COULD'VE
CUT YE!

DUH.

AND
THANKS.

PENA --

... HER CONCERN
FOR HER FRIEND
MOMENTARILY
CLOUDS HER
JUDGMENT...

BUT WHAT
ABOUT --?

I'LL CALM
HER DOWN
PSYCHICALLY.
BUT --

-- AS I
LEARNED
LAST TIME I
ENTERED
HER
MIND...

... HER
THOUGHTS
ARE SOMEHOW...
DIFFERENT.

NONE-
THELESS,
THIS
SHOULD
DO IT.



THERE YOU HAVE IT...

DON'T WORRY, JUBILEE, WE'LL FIGURE IT ALL OUT.

WE'LL GET HER TO THE MEDICAL CENTER AND RUN A FEW TESTS...

... THEN CROSS-REFERENCE THE INFORMATION WITH THE RESEARCH DATA BASE ON MUIR ISLAND.

BEFORE YE KNOW IT, THE LASS WILL BE FINE, AND --

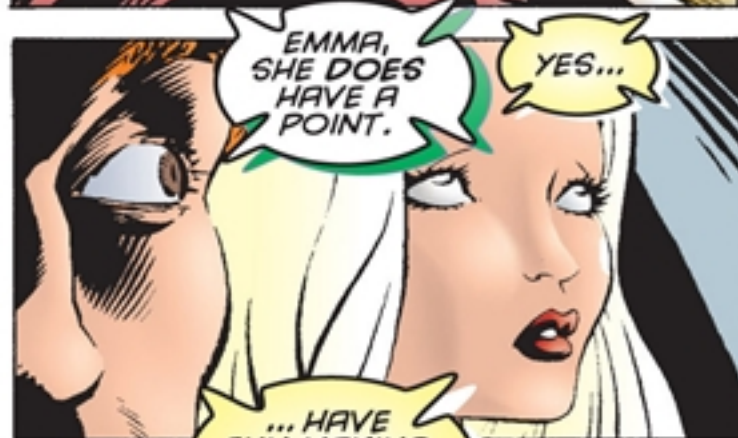


HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, SEAN?! SHE'S BEEN HERE FOR WEEKS NOW, AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW ZIP ABOUT HER!

SHE HASN'T EVEN SPOKEN A WORD TO US --



-- SO WHERE DO YOU GET OFF SAYING SHE'S GONNA BE OKAY?!



EMMA, SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.

YES...

... HAVE FUN MAKING UP AN ANSWER.



THE FRONT FOYER
AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL.

DING
DONG

WHOA.

ANGELO ESPINOSA
IS NOT NORMALLY
AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.

THEN
AGAIN --

-- HE'S NOT USED
TO OPENING THE
FRONT DOOR TO
THE SIGHT OF A
BEAUTIFUL YOUNG
WOMAN LOOKING
SOFT AND
VULNERABLE.

BUT THE MUTANT
CALLED SKIN WAS
RAISED ON THE
STREETS...

... AND CAN INSTANTLY
RECOGNIZE WHEN A GIRL
IS TRYING TOO HARD.



SNIFF
SNIFF

HOLA,
CHICA --
CAN I
HELP
YOU?

I HOPE
SO. MY NAME
IS CORDELIA.
I'M LOOKING
FOR EMMA
FROST...

... MY
SISTER.





DID YOU SAY --?!

HI! PAIGE GUTHRIE.

I'M ONE OF YOUR SISTER'S STUDENTS HERE AT XAVIER'S.

WON'T YOU COME IN...

... AND IF ANGELO CAN HOLD HIS JAW UP LONG ENOUGH TO TELL HER YOU'RE HERE --

-- I'M SURE SHE'LL BE JOINING US SHORTLY.

I... SNIFF SNIFF... HOPE SO.

YOU SEE, IT'S BEEN... YEARS... SNF SNF.

MY SISTER AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN WHAT **ANYONE** WOULD CONSIDER... SNF SNF... "CLOSE".

WHERE I COME FROM, THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY, CORDELIA.

SHE'LL BE ALONG.

ANGELO?

EMMA'S GOT A SISTER?

FETCH, ESPINOSA -- NOW!!



YES... P-PLEASE GET HER.

IT'S ABOUT A FR-FRIEND OF MINE... SNF SNF.

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE -- SNF SNF -- AND DEATH.

SOMEWHERE ALONG
THE BOSTON HARBOR...

I
DON'T
LIKE
THIS.

AT
ALL.

AFTER
EVERYTHING
BARRINGTON
HAS DONE TO
US OVER THE
YEARS, I'D
LIKE TO
HOPE --

-- WE'D
BE A LITTLE
MORE SENSITIVE
TO THE PLIGHTS
OF OTHER
MUTANTS?

IN A
PERFECT
WORLD, PERHAPS.
BUT THIS ISN'T
A PERFECT
WORLD...

... SO WE
FOLLOW
ORDERS?
FINE.

EVEN
IF WE
KNOW --

-- THEY'RE
WRONG?
YES.

NOW
COVER
ME.

CH-
CHAH

ONCE WE
TRANSPORT
HIM...

... TO
BARRINGTON...

... WE
CAN...

... WE
CAN...

WE CAN
WHAT?!

WE CAN
NOTHING.

HE --
OR IT -- IS
GONE?!

Prolog

UM...
YOU WANT TO
RADIO THIS INTO
BARRINGTON?
TELL HIM --

-- WE LOST
"MONDO"?

THANKS,
NO...

... YOU
CAN TELL
HIM!

BLIP

BLURP

BRRPPPP

ALO!

DON'T
MEAN TO
BE RUDE,
BUT --

-- HAVE
YOU SEEN A
FRIEND OF
MINE?

CORDELIA
FROST. MY
AGE.

YEAH,
TALL.

CUTER'N
A COCONUT
AND TWICE AS
SWEET.

LAST
THING I
REMEMBER,
SHE WAS
SWIMMING IN
THE OCEAN,
THEN--

-- THEN
I'M HERE
LOOKING
FOR HER!

UM...
PLAN
B?

PLAN
B.

KILL
IT.

OR AT
LEAST
"MAIM
IT!"

"MAIM"?

DOESN'T
SOUND
HEALTHY.

ZZAK! ZLAT!

LOOK
OUT, YOU --
URN!

UHN --
IDIOT!

AN INSTANT LATER,
THE YOUNG SAMOAN
INSTINCTIVELY RE-
FORMS HIS MUTANT
FRAME.

THAT
WAS LESS
THAN
CORDIAL.

WHICH
ONLY MAKES
ME **SURER** THAT
I'M NO LONGER
ON THE
ISLAND...

... TRYING
TO **TRACK**
DOWN MY
BEST
FRIEND.

BAD
DAY FOR
SOMEONE. I'M
NOT SO NAIVE
I DON'T KNOW
WHEN I'VE BEEN
KIDNAPPED.

PROBABLY
BY THE **SAME**
PEOPLE THAT
TOOK
HER.

SO,
LET'S
SEE --

-- WHAT
WE CAN
SEE.

WHOR.

SO
THIS
IS WHAT THE REST
OF THE WORLD
LOOKS
LIKE?

AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...

... CORDELIA FROST STRIDES THROUGH THE BIO-SPHERE.

NICKNAMED "THE GROTTO" -- IT IS PURPORTEDLY AN ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE MEMBERS OF GENERATION X CAN TRAIN.

THIS IS SO LIKE YOU, EMMA.

I COME HERE TO HAVE A SIMPLE CONVERSATION AND YOU'VE GOT ME TRAIPSING THROUGH SOME SWAMP.

IT ALSO SERVES AS THE LIVING QUARTERS FOR TWO OF GENERATION X'S NEWEST AND YOUNGEST MEMBERS --



ARTIE -- WHO HAS THE MUTANT ABILITY TO LITERALLY PROJECT THOUGHTS --

LEECH WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK YOU, ARTIE.

LEECH NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE, EITHER!

-- AND LEECH -- WHO CAN TEMPORARILY "DAMPEN" ANY MUTANT'S POWERS HE COMES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO.



WHO --?

I SWEAR, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE.



THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...



POKING YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, CORDELIA?



HOW LITTLE THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

NAILS ON A CHALKBOARD.

BUT, IF CORDELIA IS GOING TO PULL THIS OFF --

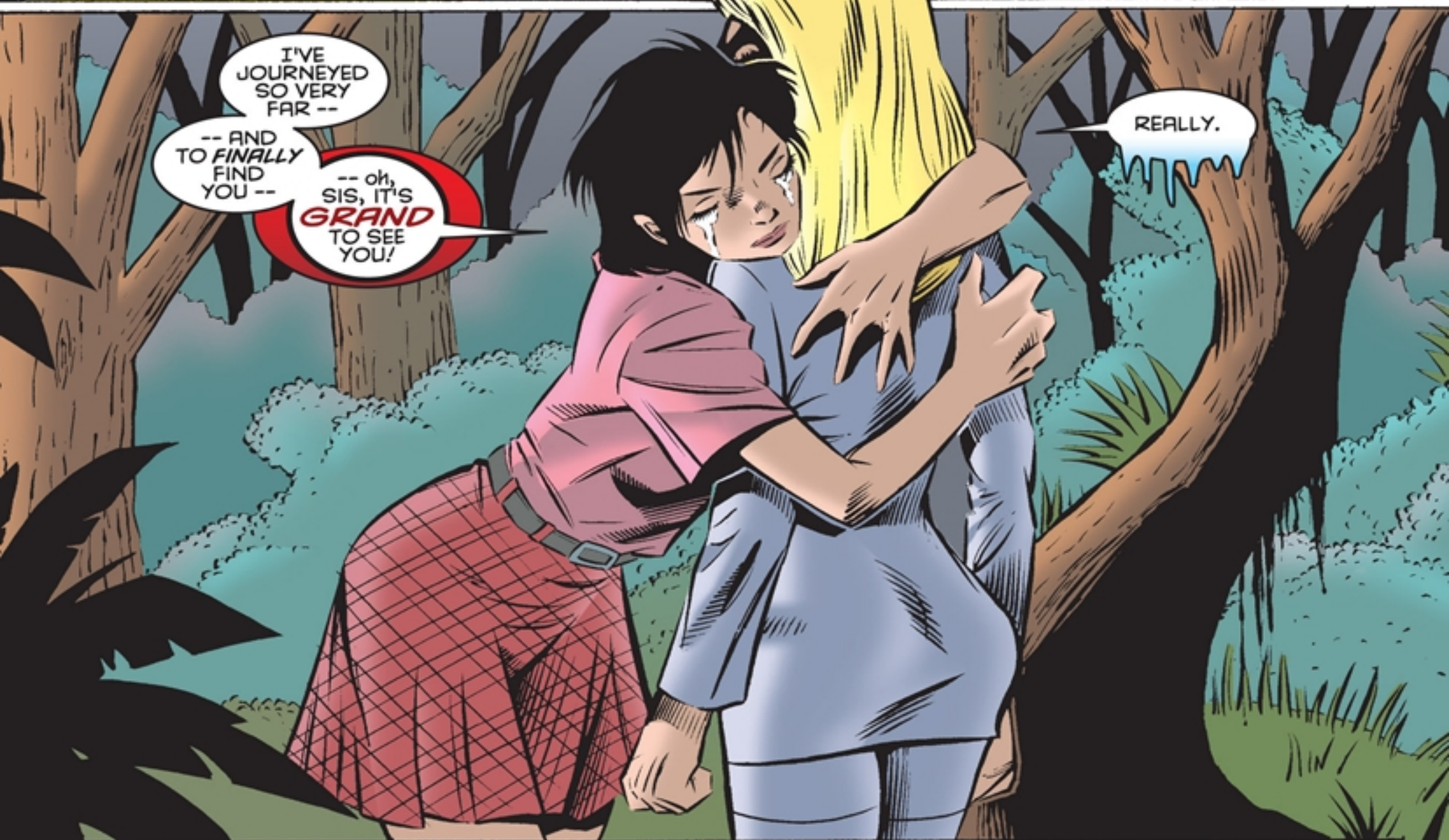


-- SHE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET HER SISTER GET TO HER.

NOT YET, ANYWAY.

EMMA?

IS IT REALLY YOU?!



I'VE JOURNEYED SO VERY FAR --
-- AND TO FINALLY FIND YOU --

-- oh, SIS, IT'S **GRAND** TO SEE YOU!

REALLY.



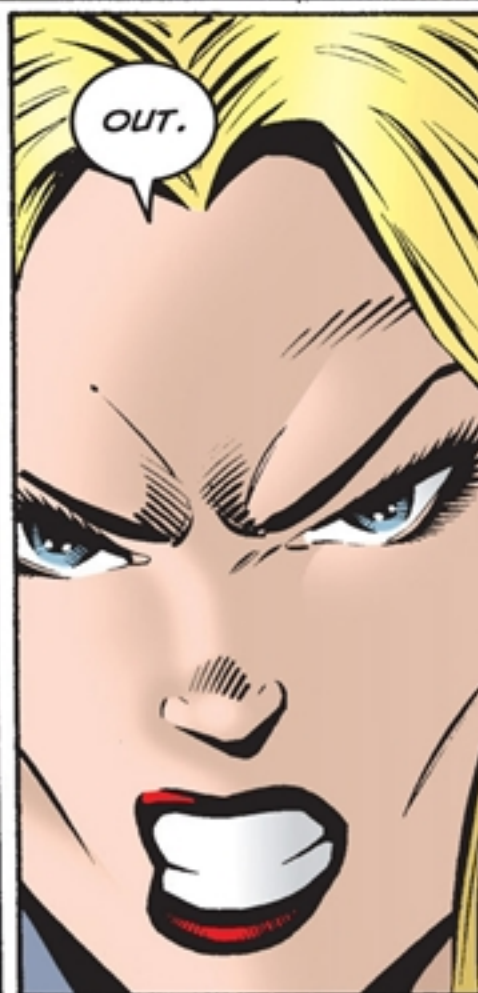
I HAVE A SCHOOL TO RUN, CORDELIA.

WHICH MEANS I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WHATEVER LITTLE GIRL GAMES YOU'RE PLAYING.

EITHER SPIT IT OUT OR GET OUT.

WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE MY DEAREST --



OUT.

AND NEXT TIME, CALL BEFORE COMING.

SO I CAN BE UNAVAILABLE.



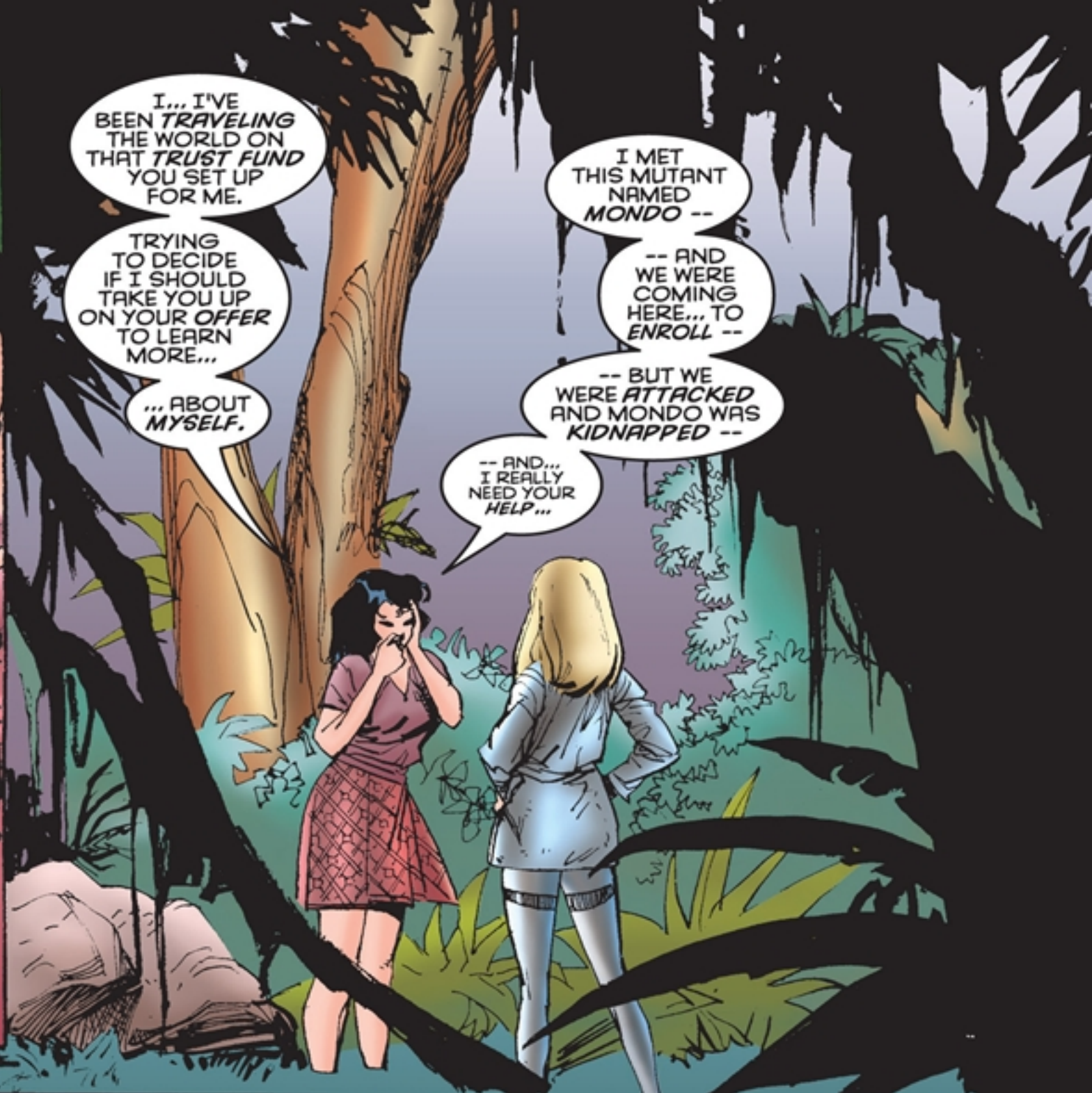
WAIT!



I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO NOT SHOOT STRAIGHT WITH YOU.

YOU... ALWAYS WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME.

GO ON.



I... I'VE BEEN TRAVELING THE WORLD ON THAT TRUST FUND YOU SET UP FOR ME.

TRYING TO DECIDE IF I SHOULD TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER TO LEARN MORE...

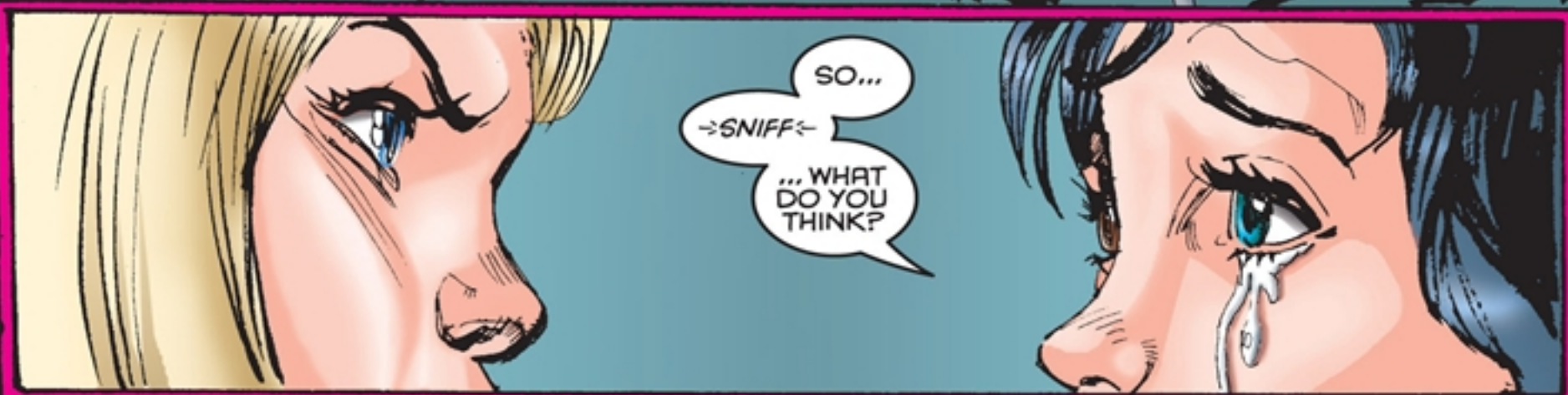
... ABOUT MYSELF.

I MET THIS MUTANT NAMED MONDO --

-- AND WE WERE COMING HERE... TO ENROLL --

-- BUT WE WERE ATTACKED AND MONDO WAS KIDNAPPED --

-- AND... I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP...



SO...

→SNIFF←

... WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I THINK --

-- I WISH MY TELEPATHIC POWERS WORKED ON YOU...

... BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

HOWEVER, I DO KNOW YOU.



AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE --

-- COME TO ME --

-- UNLESS YOU ABSOLUTELY HAD TO.

SO, LET'S GO FIND THIS... MONDO.

AND FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY UP TO.

I SWEAR --

SAVE IT. "SIS".

QUINCY
MARKET IN
THE BOSTON
HARBOR...

HATE
STEALING
WHAT DOESN'T
BELONG TO
ME --

-- BUT I
HAVE TO WEAR
SOMETHING
WHILE I SCOUT
FOR CORDELIA.

BUT
WHERE TO
START?
WHERE TO
START?

HMMP.

MOURI
ASSURED
ME THE SHIRTS
I GOT WERE
CUSTOM
MADE!

BUT
THAT GUY
IS WEARING
AN IDENTICAL
ONE...

... COMPLETE
WITH... A
PRICE
TAG?!

EEEEEE!

STOP!
THIEF!

SOMEONE --
ANYONE --
STOP THAT
MAN!!

WHOA.

A
REWARD
FOR WHO-
EVER...

... STOPS
THAT
MAN!

BLAMBLAM
BLAM

PTING

PTING
PTING



CITIZENS!
STEP AWAY FROM
THE SUSPECT AND
CLEAR THE
AREA!

THIS IS
A FEDERAL
MATTER!

HUH?



IT'S
JUST A
SHIRT AND
SOME
SHORTS...

... AREN'T
THEY OVER-
REACTING
JUST A
BIT?

EVERY-
BODY. STAY
COOL.

WE
CAN WORK
THIS
OUT.

WHAT-
EVER THIS
IS...



LOOK OUT! THEY'RE SHOOTING!

IT'S JUST LIKE WACO!

SORRY, FOLKS, BUT THE WHOLE AREA IS CLOSED.

SOME SORT OF DISTURBANCE.



CLOSED?

YOU MEAN, CLOSED TO EVERYONE BUT US, DON'T YOU?



... OF... COURSE, MA'AM.



YOU GO RIGHT ON AHEAD.



WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY, Ms. FROST?

I MEAN, TELEPATHICALLY CHANGING THAT MAN'S MIND...!



MY SISTER ISN'T EXACTLY KNOWN FOR HER...

... SUBTLETY.

XAVIER'S.

THE INTENSIVE
CARE UNIT...

... WHERE, LYING
AMIDST ALIEN
SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY,
THE MUTANT CALLED
PENANCE IS
COMATOSE.

UNAWARE
SHE HAS...
A VISITOR.

JONOTHON
STARSMORE.

CHAMBER.

TWO
OF A KIND,
LUV.

YOU
AND ME...
OUTSIDERS
EVEN AMONG
OUT-
SIDERS.

MUTANTS
ONE STEP
REMOVED FROM
BEIN'
MONSTERS,
RIGHT?

LAD?

'T WAS
NICE O' YE
TO VISIT WITH
TH' WEE
LASS.

I
WASN'T
VIS --
...

HOW
IS
SHE?

I
CANNAE
SAY, LAD,
NOT FOR
SURE.

BUT
ME BEST
GUESS
IS...

... SHE'S
GETTIN'
WORSE.



IT'S
EMPLATE...
INIT?

'TWOULD
SEEM SO,
AYE.

BUT SINCE 'TIS
NAE LIKELY HE'LL
BE HELPING US
ANY TIME
SOON...



... I PUT
IN A CALL TO
A FRIEND O'MINE,
SOMEONE WHO
SPECIALIZES IN
MUTANT
PHYSIOLOGY.

BNH

THAT
MUST BE
HER
NOW.



DOCTOR MOIRA
MacTAGGERT.

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING
DIRECTOR OF THE MUIR
ISLAND MUTANT
RESEARCH
FACILITY...

... AND FORMER
FULL-TIME LOVE
OF SEAN CASSIDY.

SEAN.

MOIRA.

"FRIEND,"
eh?

I'LL
LEAVE YER
TO YER... FRIEND...
GOV'NOR.



YOU'RE
LOOKING
LOVELY,
MOIRA. ARE
YE FEELING
WELL?

ALL
THINGS
CONSIDERED,
LOVE.

ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED.



WE'RE NOT GOING TO *HELP* YOU FIND *ANY-ONE*!

WE'RE HERE TO *ARREST* YOU!

THAT WOULD MAKE IT *ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT* TO SEARCH FOR CORDELIA.

MAYBE YOU CAN ARREST ME *AFTER* WE'VE FOUND HER?



ENOUGH TALK! SHOW US YOUR *HANDS*!

THEY ARE *RIGHT HERE* ON THE END OF MY *WRISTS*, AS ALWAYS.



DON'T GET *CUTE*, KID -- THESE *ENERGY SHACKLES* CAN EITHER *RESTRAIN...* OR THEY CAN *HURT. BAD.*

IN *THAT CASE...*



... I'D RATHER *NOT* BE WEARING THEM AT ALL.

THANK YOU, *NO.*



YOU'RE REALLY *STARTING* TO GET *ANNOYING*, KID!

ME? IMAGINE HOW I AM *FEELING.*

THE *CLOCK* IS *TICKING*, MONDO --

CH-CLIK

-- AND WE'RE UNDER ORDERS TO BRING YOU IN... *DEAD OR ALIVE!*



DING DING DING. TIME'S UP.

BILL, CAN WE HAVE ANOTHER CONTESTANT?

WHO THE --

'ALO!

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE THING, BWW.

YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.

WE'RE FORTUNATE, CORDELIA --

-- THAT YOU LEFT ENOUGH PSYCHIC RESIDUE ON YOUR FRIEND --

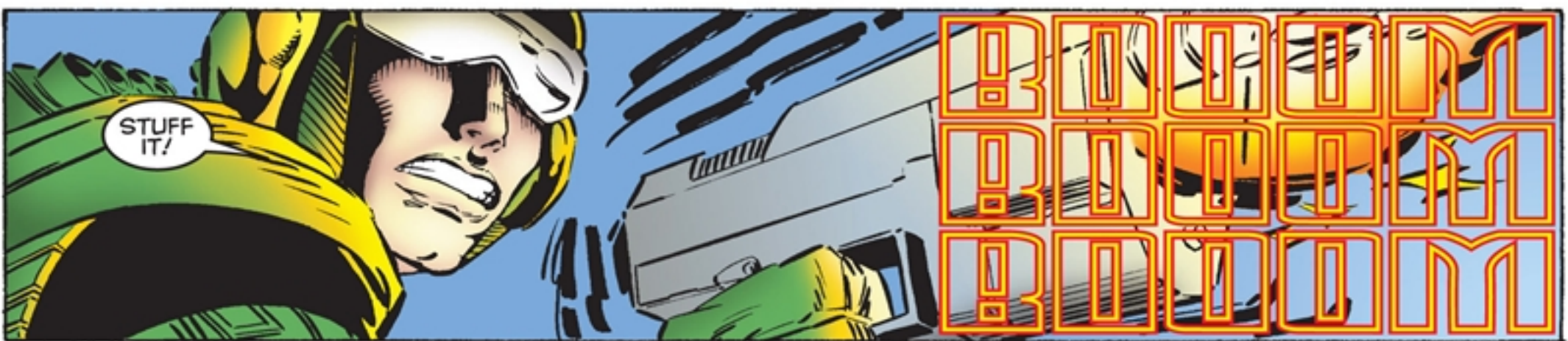
-- THAT I WAS ABLE TO TRACK HIM AS QUICKLY AS WE DID.

SO, SYNCH... ARE YOU GONNA LEND A HAND WITH YOUR MUTANT AURA OR WHAT?

I'M PACING MYSELF, JUBILEE.

DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND STEP BACK FROM THE BOY.

QUICKLY!

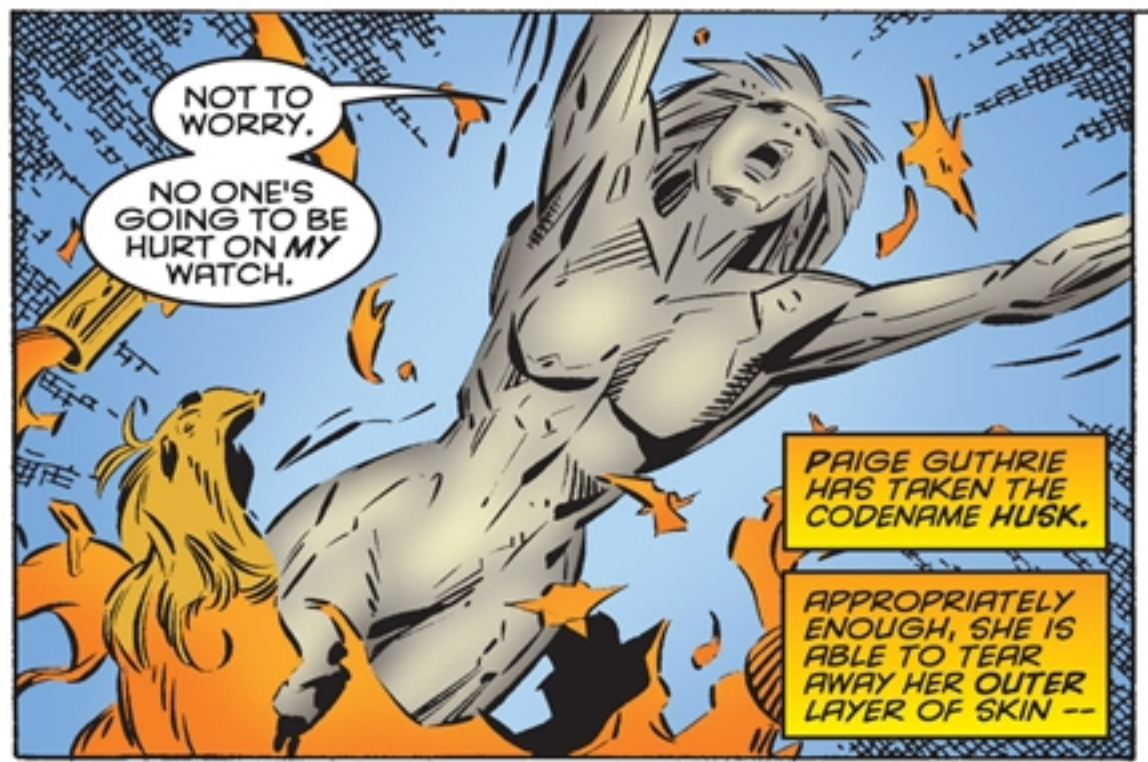


STUFF IT!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM



Um.
GANG?
DO WE HAVE
A "PLAN B"?



NOT TO WORRY.
NO ONE'S GOING TO BE HURT ON MY WATCH.

PAIGE GUTHRIE HAS TAKEN THE CODENAME HUSK.

APPROPRIATELY ENOUGH, SHE IS ABLE TO TEAR AWAY HER OUTER LAYER OF SKIN --



BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

-- REVEALING VARIOUS OTHER PHYSICAL FORMS UNDERNEATH.

IN THIS CASE, IMPENETRABLE STONE!



NOW, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE, HUSK.

DIGUSTING...

... BUT IMPRESSIVE.

I.C.U.

-- ACCORDING
T'ALL THE INFORMATION
WE'VE GATHERED AT THIS
POINT, AYE. 'TIS NOT
THAT PENANCE HAS
DIAMOND-HARD
SKIN...

... AS
MUCH AS SHE'S
ESSENTIALLY
"CONTRACTED" HER
SKIN AROUND HERSELF
SO TIGHTLY AS
TO ALMOST
ATROPHY HER
MUSCLES.

AS IF
THE POOR WEE
LASS IS SO AFRAID
O' THE WORLD
AROUND HER...
SHE'S WITHDRAWING,
LITERALLY,
INSIDE
HERSELF.

I
WOULDNEA
HAVE GUESSED
THAT IN A
MILLION
YEARS.

AYE,
WELL -- I AM A
PROFESSIONAL
AFTER ALL,
MAN.

IMAGINE HOW MUCH
MORE'N I'D BE ABLE
TO FIGURE IF'N YE'D
DROP YUIR NEW
CHARGES BY FOR
A CHECK-
UP..?

... LIKE
I'VE BEEN
ASKIN'
YE TO.

FOR
WEEKS.

AND DON'T THINK I
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT
EVERY DAY, 'TIS JUST
YOU'RE SO BUSY
WITH...

... WITH...

SAY IT,
SEAN.

C'MON,
LOVE -- YE
CAN SAY
IT.

... WITH
TH' BLEATIN'
LEGACY
VIRUS!

THERE,
WOMAN --
I'VE SAID IT
ALOUD!

ARE YE
SATISFIED?!



I... I'M SORRY, MOIRA.

IT'S JUST THAT -- I CANNAE BEAR T'THINK YE'VE... CONTRACTED THE CURSED DISEASE!

A DISEASE WHICH WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO KILL MUTANTS.

IT... TEARS ME UP INSIDE.

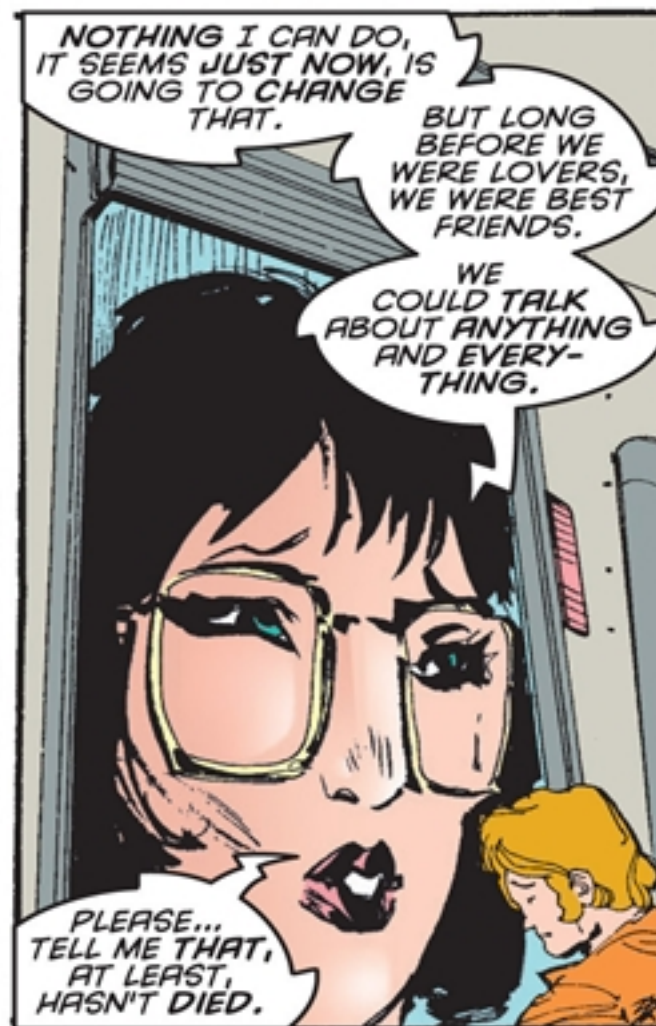


I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, SEAN. BELIEVE ME.

BUT NOT TALKING ABOUT IT -- IGNORING IT -- ONLY MAKES IT HURT WORSE.



SEAN, I'M DYING.



NOTHING I CAN DO, IT SEEMS JUST NOW, IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT.

BUT LONG BEFORE WE WERE LOVERS, WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.

WE COULD TALK ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

PLEASE... TELL ME THAT, AT LEAST, HASN'T DIED.



NEVER, WOMAN.

NOT SO LONG AS THERE IS BLOOD IN ME VEINS.



THERE... NOW THAT'S ENOUGH O'ALL THAT FUSS AND BOTHER AND RAW SENTIMENTALITY.

I TRUST YE'LL BE SENDING ME ALL THE INFORMATION YE HAVE ON EMPLATE AS WELL -- FOR CROSS REFERENCES?

WHA --? AYE... AYE, OF COURSE, RIGHT AWAY.

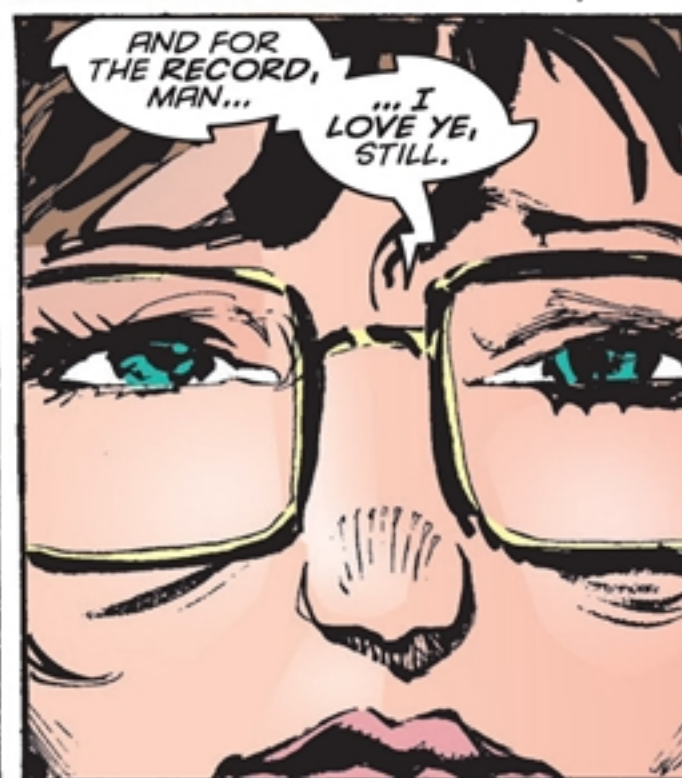


THANK YE, MR. CASSIDY.

NOW, IF N' YE NEED ME FOR ANYTHING...

BUT...

... YE KNOW WHERE T'FIND ME.



AND FOR THE RECORD, MAN...

... I LOVE YE, STILL.



KLIK

AYE, WOMAN.

AN' I LOVE YE AS WELL.

AN' I ALWAYS WILL.

Uh-oh.

GAS
TANK.

KA

BOOM

NOT
TO WORRY.
I'VE GOT
YOU.

AH
DON'T KNOW
WHAT POWERS
YA GOT AS A
MUTANT,
BUT --

-- AH
THINK WE'D SURE
APPRECIATE IT IF'N
YOU'D START
USIN' 'EM!

ENOUGH.

YOU
CAN DIE
RIGHT
HERE
OR --



I TRY TO BE A PATIENT MAN, MAN. BUT --

-- EVEN I HAVE MY LIMITS.

HE MELTED INTO THE SIDE-WALK!

THUPP

BAM



YOU PEOPLE HAVE PASSED THEM!

THBUMP

SPWIIIT



MY FRIEND CORDELIA IS BETTER!

URK!

CALL IT IN, YOU TWO! CALL IT IN!



UNIT THREE TO BASE, SIR...



"... WE HAVE A SITUATION HERE!"

SOMEPLACE ELSE,
NOT FAR AWAY.

I
WOULD HAVE
USED THE WORD
"CRISIS",
MYSELF.

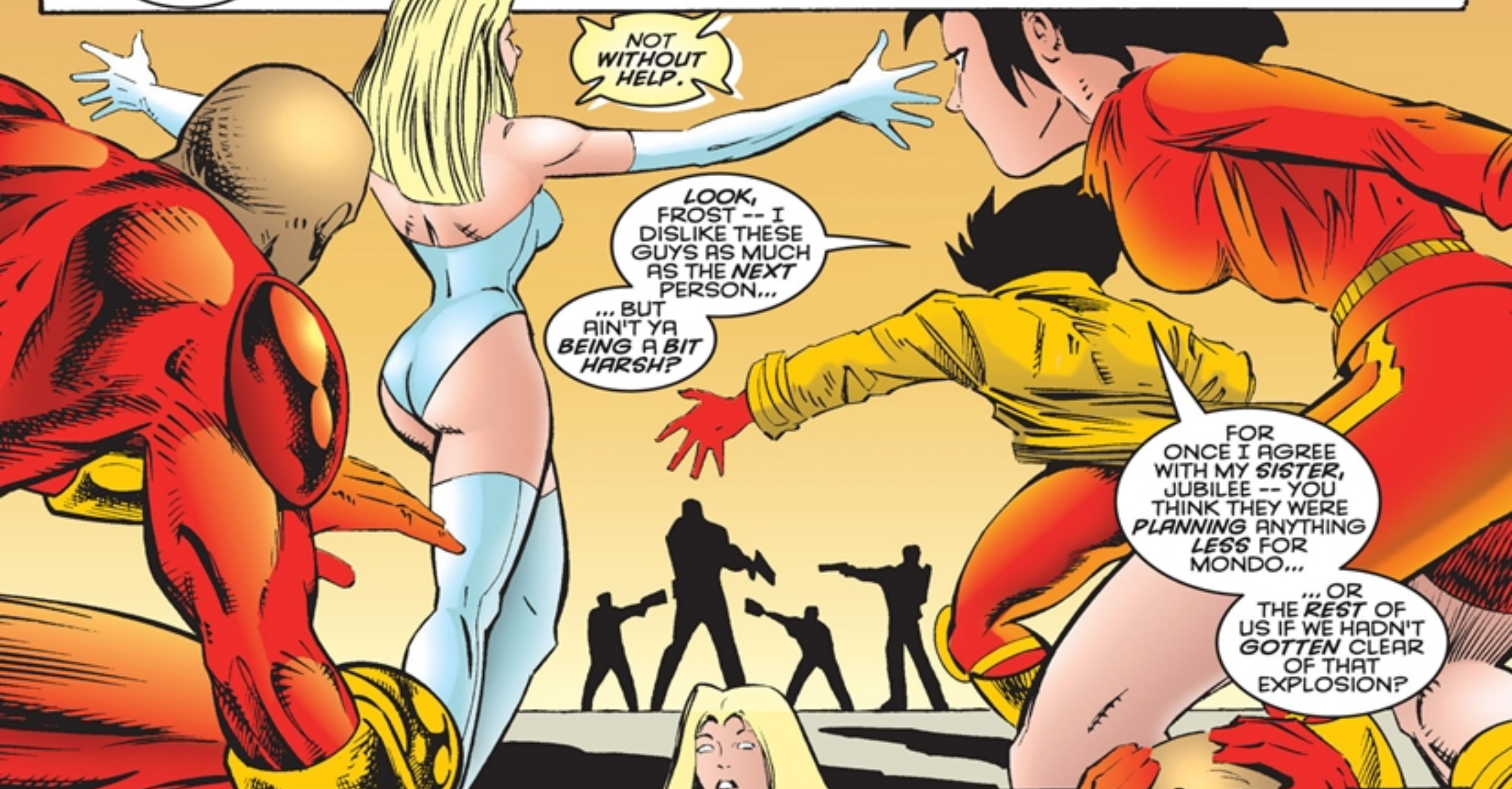
VERY
DISAPPOINTING,
LADIES AND
GENTLE-
MEN.

ESSENTIALLY
A MILK RUN, AND
MY HIGHLY-TRAINED
CADRE IS CARRYING
ON LIKE A BUNCH
OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN.

WHICH
PLACES ME IN
THE UNENVIABLE
POSITION...

...OF
DECLARING
RECESS!

KLECK









SO.

ALL IN ALL,
THAT WAS
PRETTY FUN...
NO?

GRANTED
IT WAS NO
DAY ON THE
BEACH,
BUT...

... WHAT IS,
REALLY?



NOTHING,
EXCEPT *MAYBE*
A DAY ON THE
BEACH.

LOOK,
I'M SORRY ABOUT
EVERYTHING THAT'S
HAPPENED...



HAHAHAHA

PLEASE,
CORDELIA --
DO I
LOOK *STUPID*
TO YOU?!

WHA --?!
DOES HE
SUSPECT I
SET HIM UP?



I DON'T *BLAME*
YOU FOR *WHAT*
HAPPENED TO ME --
FOR ME GETTING
KIDNAPPED AND
TAKEN AWAY FROM
THE ISLAND.

THINGS
HAPPEN.

LIFE
HAPPENS.

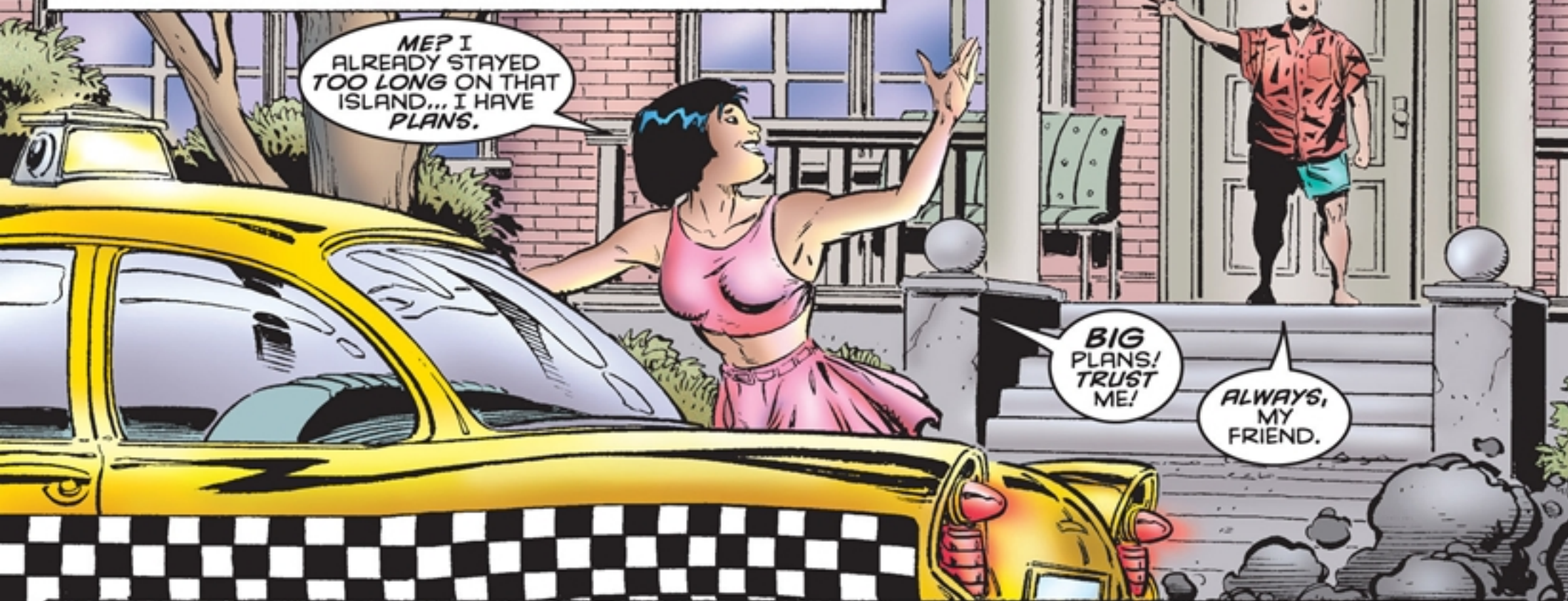
IT IS
NOT FOR US
TO JUDGE THE
WHAT AND
WHY.

YOU'RE...
NOT MAD?



YOU ARE
MY FRIEND,
CORDELIA.

I KNOW
YOU WOULD
NEVER DO
ANYTHING
TO HURT
ME.



OF ALL THE YOUNG
MEMBERS OF
GENERATION X...

...THESE TWO MAY BE THE
FARTHEST APART IN TERMS
OF POWERS (SHE'S BRILLIANT,
SUPER-STRONG AND CAN FLY.
IN A WORD... PERFECT.
HE BARELY CONTROLS HIS
DISTENDED SKIN.)...

...PAST (MONET SAINT CROIX
WAS RAISED A PRIVILEGED
CHILD OF ALGERIAN ROYALTY;
ANGELO ESPINOSA GREW UP
IN LOS ANGELES'S BARRIO.)...

...AND PERSONALITY.

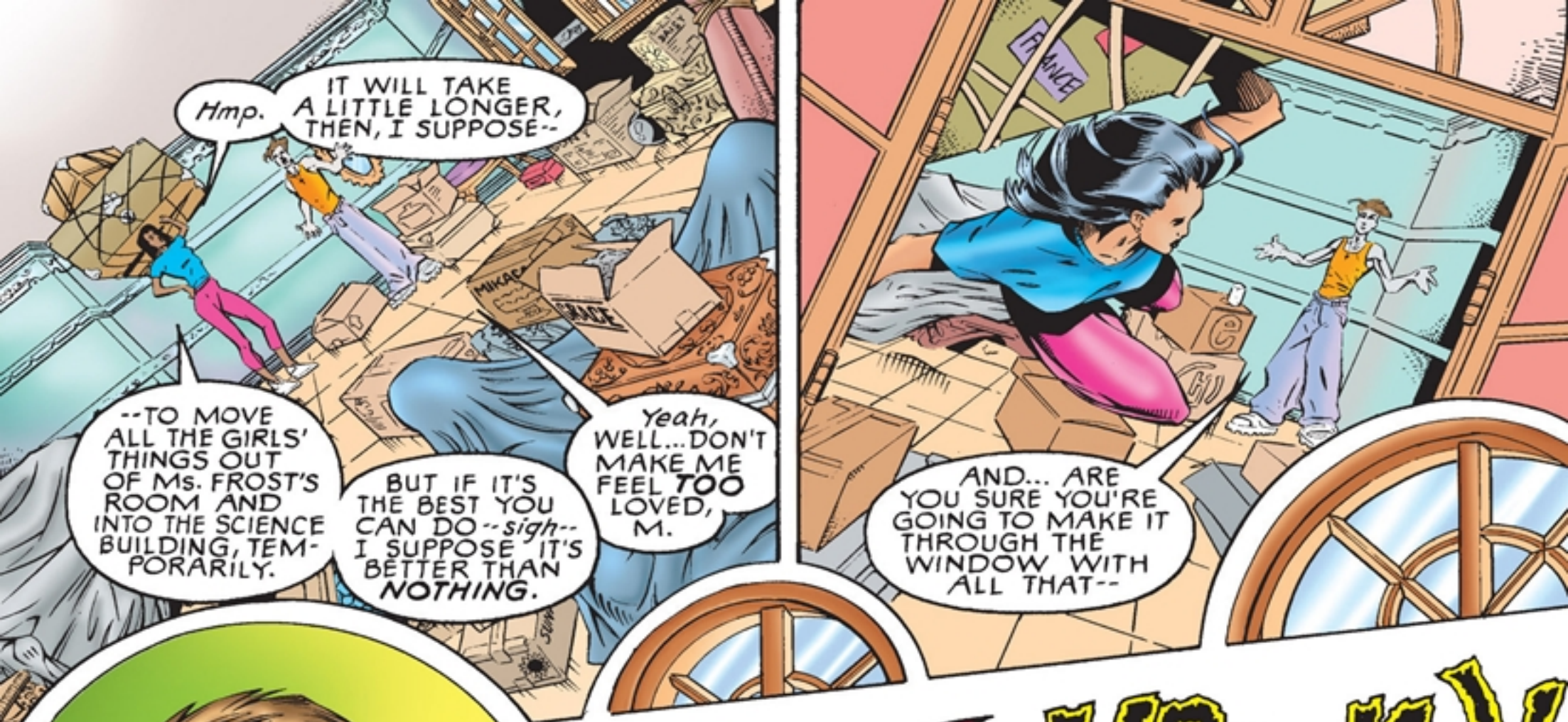
SI VOUS
PLAIT,
ANGELO?

BE A
DEAR AND
HAND ME
THAT OTHER
BAG OVER
THERE?

YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME, CHICA
...SI?

IT'S *Eurgh*!
ALL I CAN DO
TO LIFT THIS
ONE!





Hmp.

IT WILL TAKE
A LITTLE LONGER,
THEN, I SUPPOSE--

--TO MOVE
ALL THE GIRLS'
THINGS OUT
OF MS. FROST'S
ROOM AND
INTO THE SCIENCE
BUILDING, TEM-
PORARILY.

BUT IF IT'S
THE BEST YOU
CAN DO--SIGH--
I SUPPOSE IT'S
BETTER THAN
NOTHING.

Yeah,
WELL...DON'T
MAKE ME
FEEL TOO
LOVED,
M.

AND... ARE
YOU SURE YOU'RE
GOING TO MAKE IT
THROUGH THE
WINDOW WITH
ALL THAT--



--STUFF?

SPAKKA KRUNCH!



Um.

GOOD
CALL.

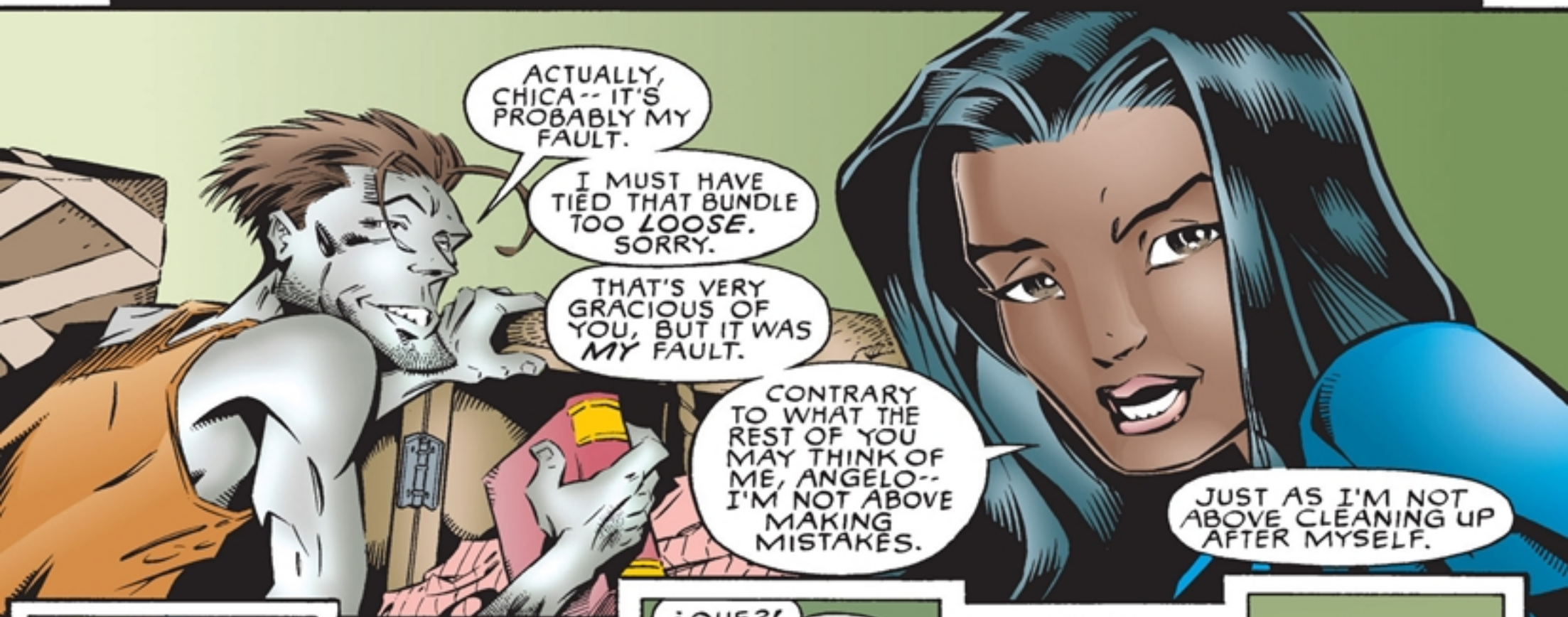
IT'S YOUR
TIMING YOU
HAVE TO
WORK ON.

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO GET ALL
BENT OUT
OF SHAPE IF
I LAUGH,
ARE YOU?

I'D BE
SURPRISED
IF YOU
DIDN'T.

BUT AT
LEAST HAVE
THE DECENCY
TO WAIT
UNTIL I LEAVE
THE ROOM
SO YOU CAN
DO SO
BEHIND MY
BACK.

SKOTIE
IRVINE



ACTUALLY, CHICA-- IT'S PROBABLY MY FAULT.

I MUST HAVE TIED THAT BUNDLE TOO LOOSE. SORRY.

THAT'S VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU, BUT IT WAS MY FAULT.

CONTRARY TO WHAT THE REST OF YOU MAY THINK OF ME, ANGELO-- I'M NOT ABOVE MAKING MISTAKES.

JUST AS I'M NOT ABOVE CLEANING UP AFTER MYSELF.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

I'M TRYING TO WARM UP TO HER.

WE ALL ARE.

¿QUE?!

THIS BOOK--

--IN HER BELONGINGS WHEN THEY SPILLED OVER...?

MADRE DE...

I SHOULDN'T DO THIS.

NO HOW. NO WAY. NO EXCUSES.

BUT I WILL.

I MEAN, WHAT *BETTER* WAY TO ACTUALLY GET TO KNOW SOMEBODY-- ESPECIALLY A GIRL...

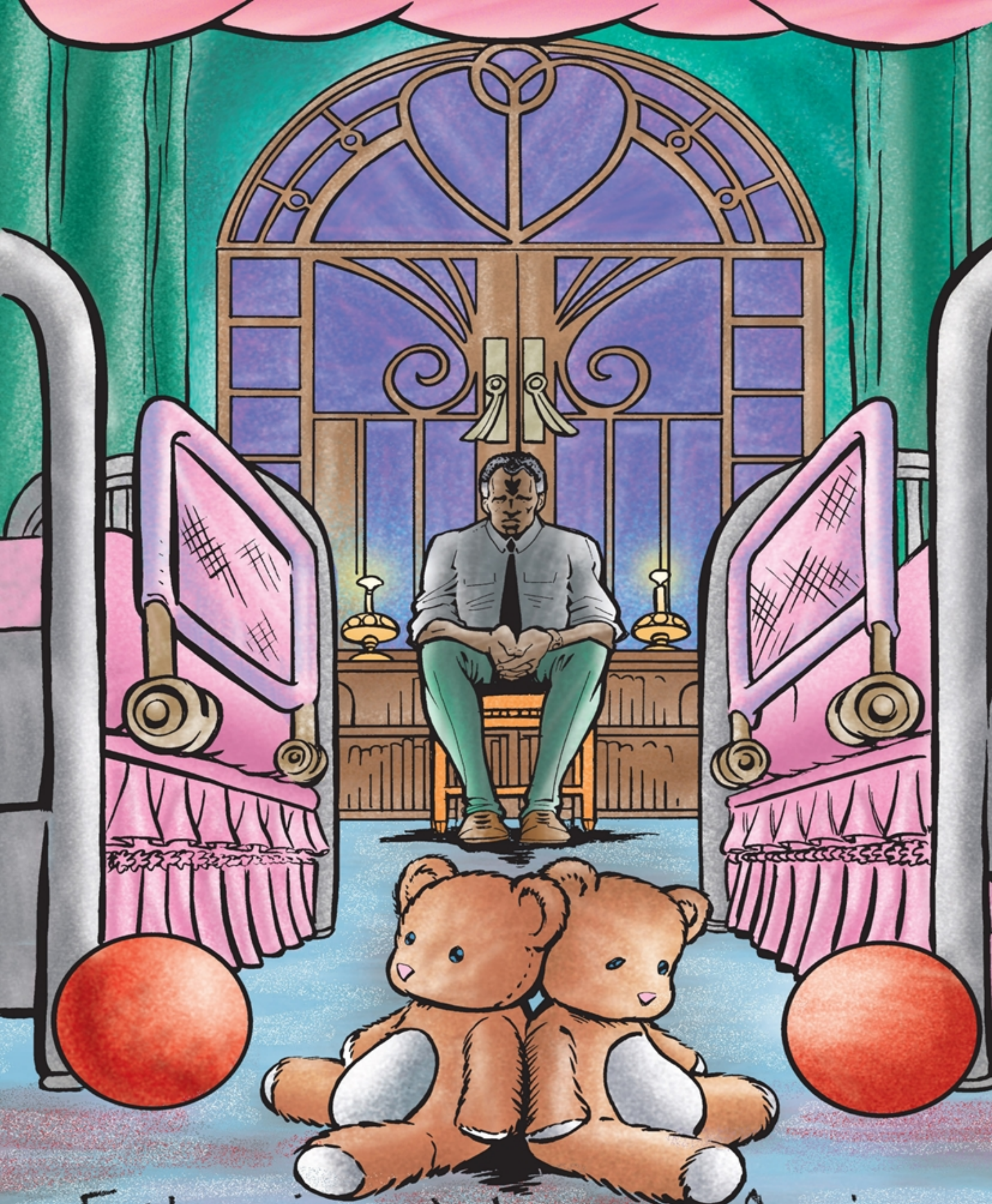


...THAN
TO READ
HER
DIARY?

I ALMOST
HATE MYSELF
ALREADY.

THE VERY PERSONAL AND VERY PRIVATE JOURNAL OF MONET SAINT CROIX

With help from SCOTT LOBDELL,
JEFF MATSUDA, VINCE RUSSELL, RURIK TYLER,
J.T. Babcock, Dana Moreshead, Mark Powers & Bob Harris



Father is sad today. Again.
Good. It is his fault, after all.



It rained
today. Hard.
Things To Do: Get a new Governess.



Arrived at the school today. Naturally, everyone was glad to see me. It will take a while, but I know I can help them.

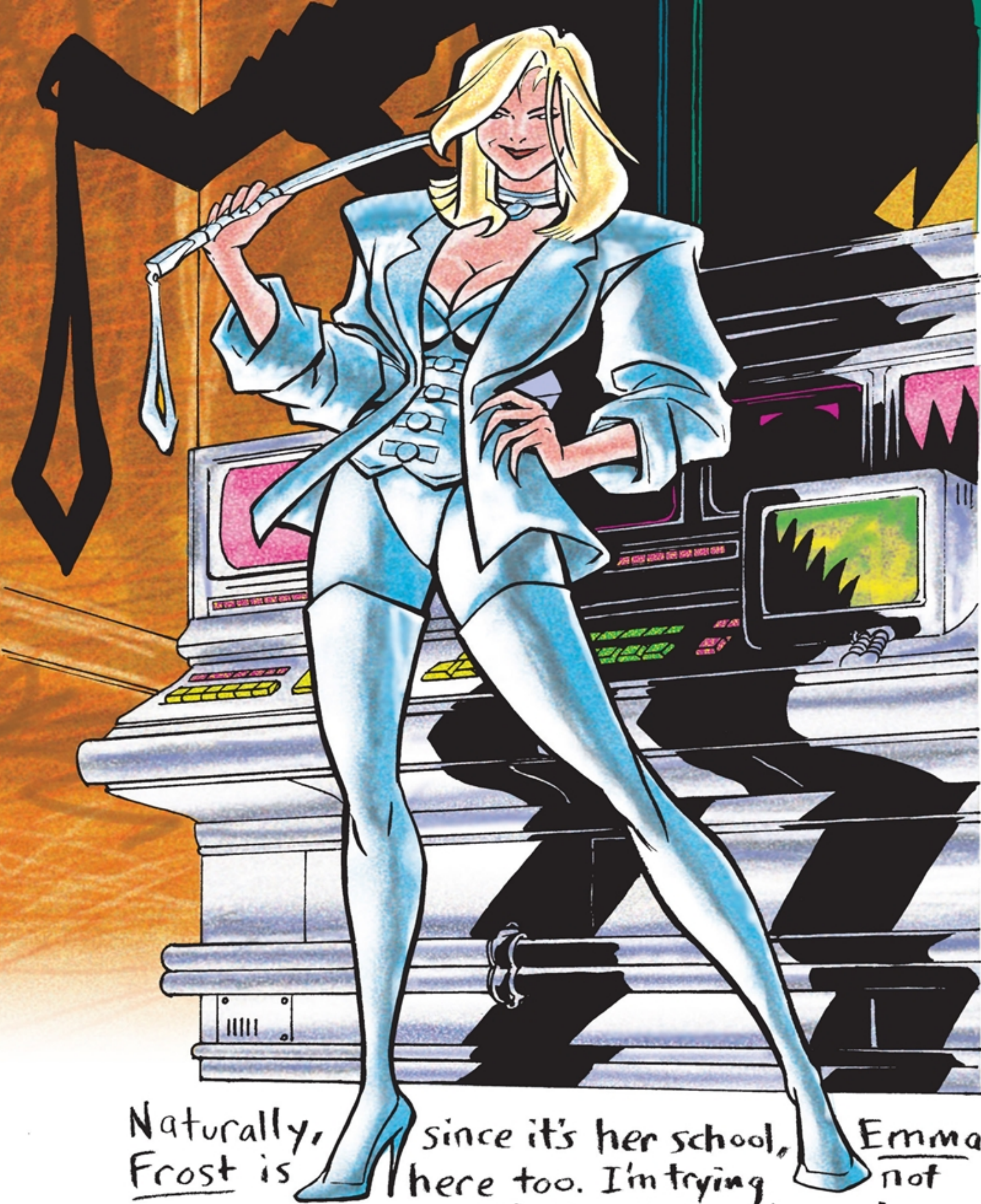


The BIO-
SPHERE is an
interesting
place.

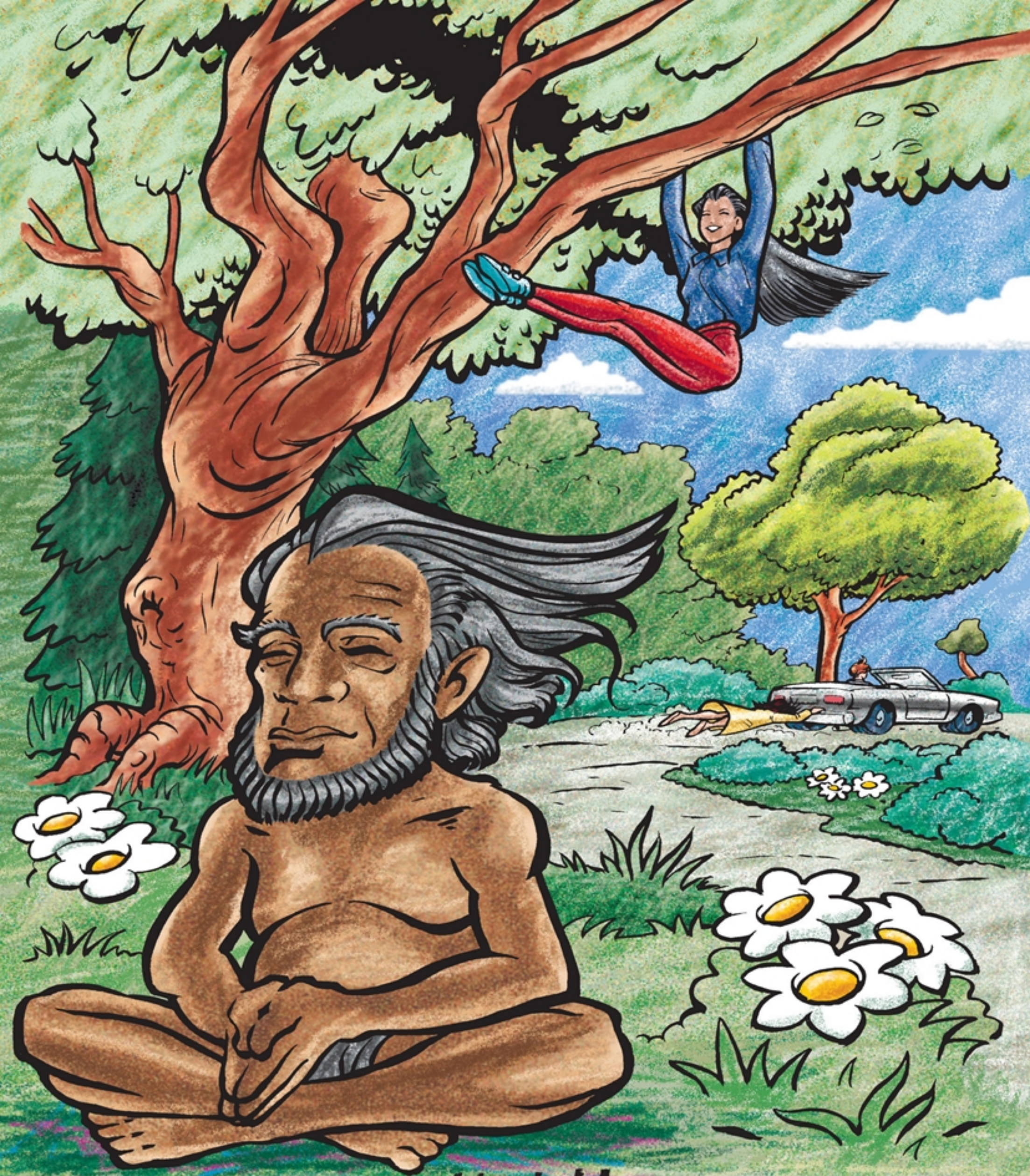
Mr. Cassidy seems
quite proud of it. It would be rude of
me to make improvements right away.



Skin and Synch arrived.
They are nice, but they lack maturity.



Naturally, since it's her school, Emma Frost is here too. I'm trying not to dislike her until I get to know her. I think she doesn't like me too much.



I was Surprised that Mentor arrived today. It seems like it's been a long time (everything seems longer...now.)
I knew why he was here.



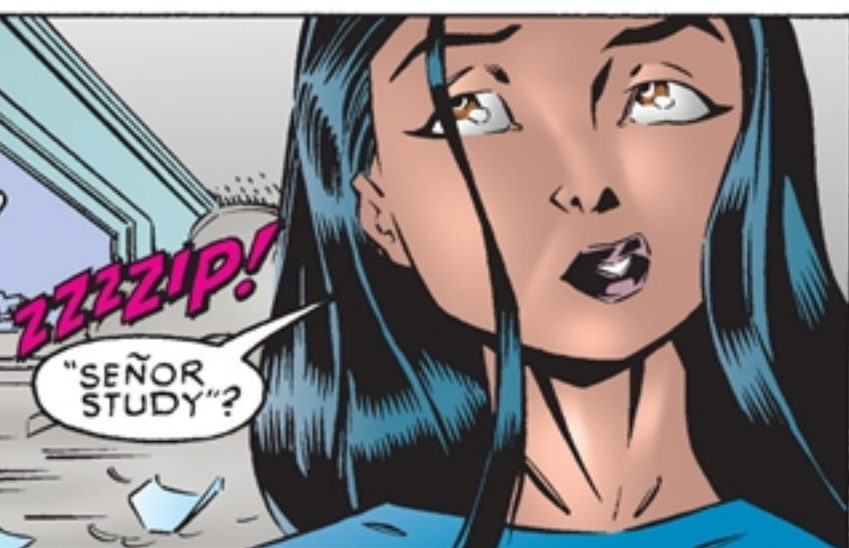
At the airport,
we met Chamber,
I will try not to
be scared, but
he's scary looking. Plus, I feel
sorry for him.



It would have been a good first day
...except for him. He almost ruined
everything, like he probably always
does...



When we got home, we found some body called Penance. She looked worse than I expected.





I HOPE THAT WAS HIS VERSION...

...OF A...



... JOKE?

DID HE JUST...?



hmm. HOW INTERESTING.

ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A FOSSIL.

AND DIRT, TOO.

CARUMBA-- WHAT A FIND!

NOT VERY POLITE OF HIM, NO.

BUT SO WHAT IF HE DID?

HE'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO TELL THE OTHERS HE READ MY *DIARY*...



...AND, FRANKLY, HE'S NOT *CLEVER* ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT THE SAINT CROIX FAMILY SECRET...

...ON HIS OWN.



END