

MARVEL® COMICS

EXILES

2

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THE
SACRIFICE





Her name is Lorraine Denosta, but everyone calls her Lorf.

She only felt a *little* pain when it happened.



Her son *Michael* didn't want to come downtown with his mother. Instead, he wanted to watch *television*.

But she didn't feel *comfortable* leaving him home alone.



Truth be told, it wouldn't have made *any* difference. They only live *three miles* away from downtown...

SIX STRANGERS, EACH AN X-MAN FROM A DIFFERENT REALITY, BROUGHT TOGETHER TO INSURE THAT LIFE AS WE KNOW IT DOESN'T CEASE TO EXIST! BLINK — TELEPORTER; MIMIC — POWERED BY HIS REALITY'S X-MEN; MAGNUS — SON OF MAGNETO AND ROGUE; THUNDERBIRD — SUPER-STRENGTH AND SENSES; NOCTURNE — DAUGHTER OF NIGHTCRAWLER; AND MORPH — SHAPE-CHANGING FUNNY MAN. DESTINED TO FIX THE KINKS IN THE CHAINS OF REALITY, STAN LEE PRESENTS THE

EXILES

SINS OF THE FATHER

...and it hit everyone within a five mile radius.

Phoenix, Arizona.

Charles Xavier walked into the middle of the city and unleashed the most powerful *mindblast* he could summon.

After years of imprisonment, he finally allowed that rage to take form.

"Comatose and possibly brain dead..." would be the repeated phrase on the news reports.

"The final head count is still under way but it's estimated at a quarter of a million people."

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And it's all their fault.





Blink and a team of alternate reality castaway mutants have been forced into a mission.

They hop from reality to reality, righting the wrongs, and setting each timeline back on its true path.

In this reality, where superbeings have been either eradicated or confined, this group of Exiles were told by their mysterious Tallus to "Find the one who would lead you... your greatest teacher."

It seemed a no-brainer to the heroes here assembled:

Blink.

Nocturne.

Thunderbird.

Magnus.

Morph.

But after finding the devastation that had been wrought, Morph was the first one to say it out loud...

"...I guess we weren't supposed to free Professor Xavier after all, huh?"



This is their first mission and they have only caused the worst disaster in this world's history.

And it weighs more heavily on some than others.



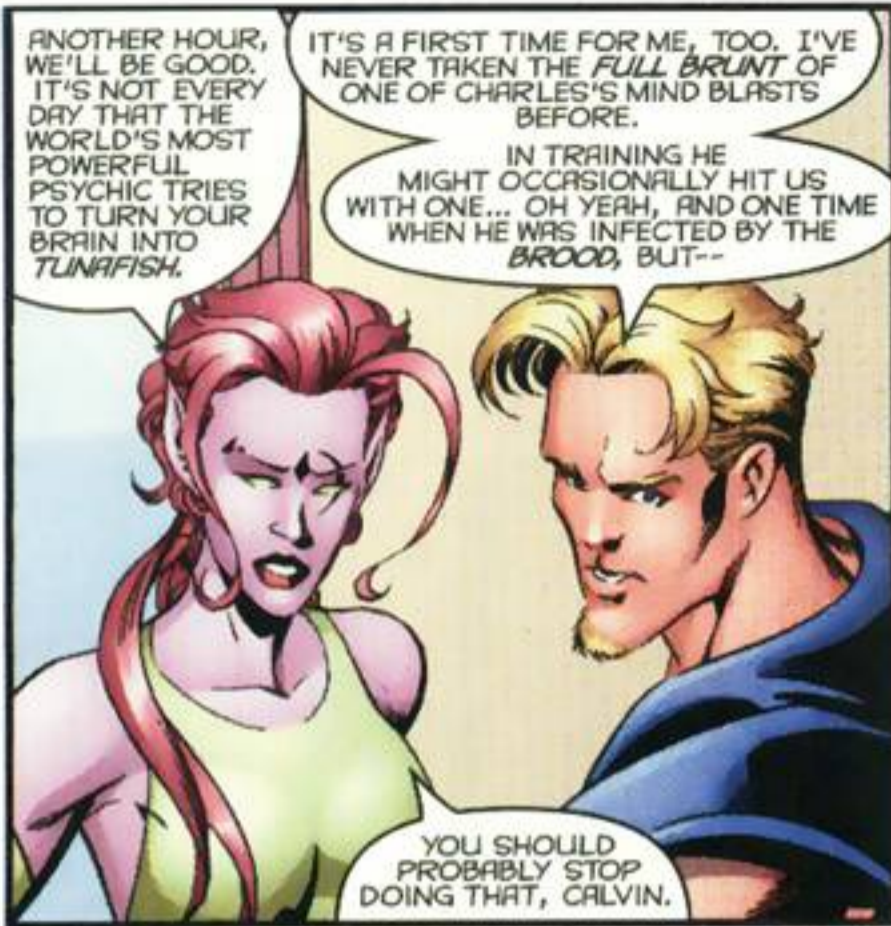
YOU RECUPERATE FAST.

NOT AS FAST AS YOU, MIMIC.

WELL, NOT ALL OF US ARE BLESSED WITH WOLVERINE'S RAPID HEALING FACTOR, CLARICE.

I ONLY HAVE HALF ITS POTENCY, BUT IT'S STILL A LOT.

WE SHOULD GET MOVING SOON. HOW ARE THE OTHERS?



ANOTHER HOUR, WE'LL BE GOOD. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL PSYCHIC TRIES TO TURN YOUR BRAIN INTO TUNA FISH.

IT'S A FIRST TIME FOR ME, TOO. I'VE NEVER TAKEN THE *FULL BRUNT* OF ONE OF CHARLES'S MIND BLASTS BEFORE.

IN TRAINING HE MIGHT OCCASIONALLY HIT US WITH ONE... OH YEAH, AND ONE TIME WHEN HE WAS INFECTED BY THE *BROOD*, BUT--

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STOP DOING THAT, CALVIN.



DOING WHAT?

THIS ISN'T YOUR CHARLES XAVIER. THIS ISN'T THE MAN WHO TRAINED YOU, OR LED YOU.



THIS IS A MAN OF *INCREDIBLE POWER* WHO HAS EITHER BEEN DRIVEN MAD, OR PERHAPS *ALWAYS WAS*.

WE'VE UNLEASHED HIM UPON THIS WORLD AND NOW WE'RE OBLIGATED TO STOP HIM.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE, CLARICE...?

...HOW CAN WE...

... I JUST NATURALLY ASSUMED THAT IT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE CHARLES... I NEVER THOUGHT ANY VERSION OF HIM WOULD BE CAPABLE OF DOING *THIS*... I...



IT'S *OUR MESS* NOW, MIMIC. AND WE HAVE TO *FIX IT*.

THIS TIME, WE'LL JUST MOVE MORE *CAUTIOUSLY*.

The Mountridge facility.
One hundred miles off the coast of New York City.

"THEY'RE ALL DEAD?"

"NOT DEAD. JUST SLEEPING. IN COMAS OR SOME DAMN THING..."



...WASHINGTON SAID IT MIGHT BE A WHOLE MOVEMENT. THAT'S WHY WE'RE ON FULL ALERT. THOSE FREAKS MIGHT HEAD UP HERE AND WANT TO FREE SOME OF THESE OTHER ANIMALS.

MAN, I'D HATE TO SEE THIS MENAGERIE--



THUMP!



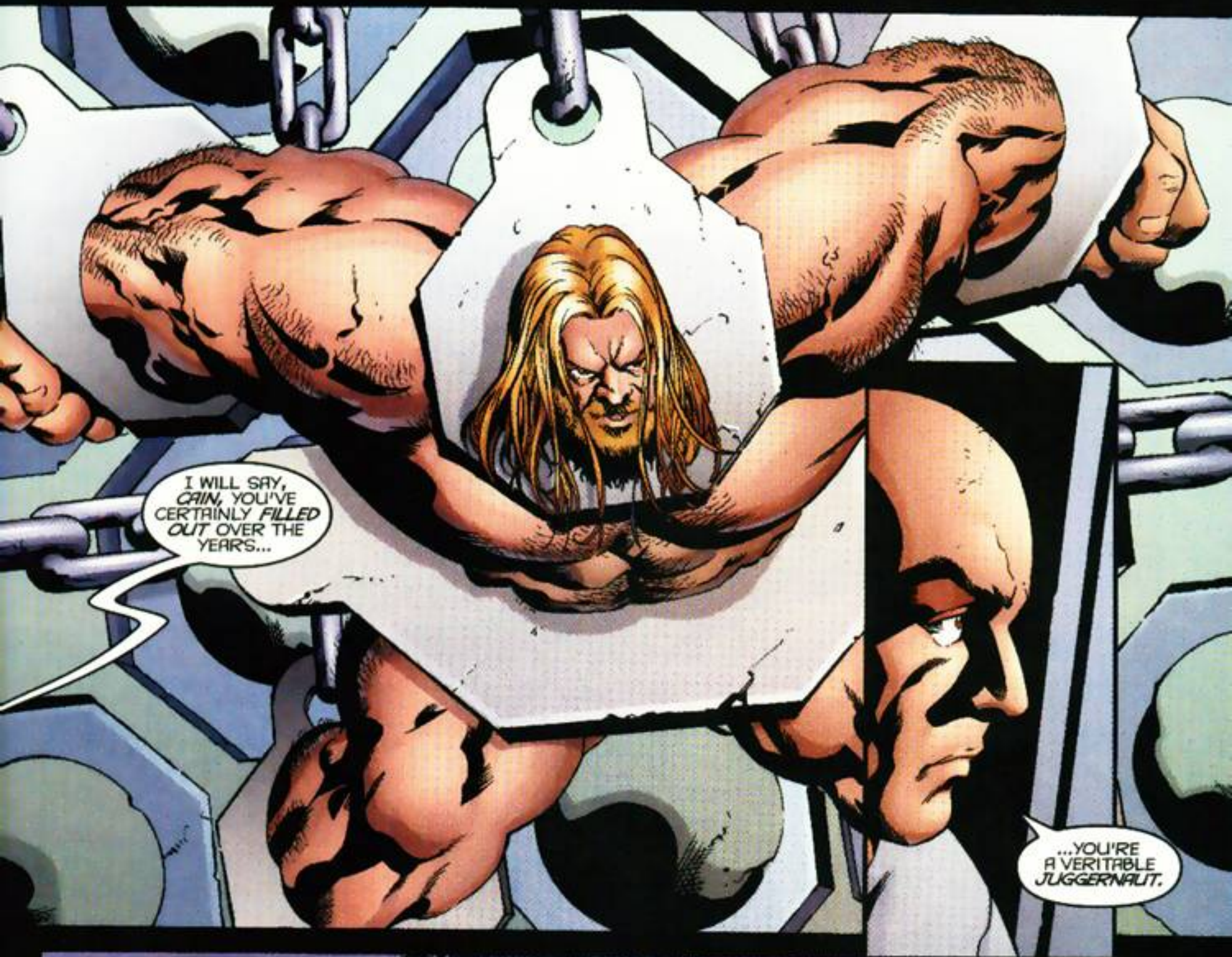
DON'T MIND ME, GENTLEMEN, I'LL JUST HELP MYSELF... AS SOON AS I FIND THE ONE OF YOU WHOSE MIND HAS... AH, THERE IT IS...



...THE KEY CODE.



GOOD GOD... WAS I IN AS BAD A SHAPE AS THIS? I HOPE I SMELLED BETTER.



I WILL SAY, CAIN, YOU'VE CERTAINLY FILLED OUT OVER THE YEARS...

...YOU'RE A VERITABLE JUGGERNAUT.

Among many questions the team pondered was one of "technology".

The prison that held Xavier was much more *advanced* than one would assume for a world without a *Reed Richards*, *Tony Stark*, or *Bruce Banner*.

Suggestions were made.

Conclusions were drawn.



And another *Cerebro* was formed to track down the possibles.



Then they found him.

Feelings ran mixed between disappointment and complete rage.

Because in each of their worlds...



...Forge had been one of them.

THEY'LL... BE HERE FOR... YOU SOON... SENSORS EVERYWHERE...



SENSORS, DETECTORS AND ALARMS MADE OF METAL.

DON'T WORRY. YOU COULDN'T PHONE FOR PIZZA IF YOU WANTED TO.

MY, MY, MY, MR. FORGE... YOU'VE BUILT YOURSELF QUITE THE DIGS.

IS THIS PART OF THE BENEFITS PACKAGE OF BEING THIS GENERATION'S DR. MENGELE?



NOW, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW. YOU WILL TELL US--

OR?

OR FIRST WE LET NOCTURNE BACK AT YOU...

...THEN WE MAY LET THE METALLURGIST GENTLEMAN NAMED MAGNUS BEHIND ME BOIL THE IRON CONTAINED IN YOUR BLOOD.



AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO WHAT THUNDERBIRD WILL DO TO YOU.



FINE...
I'LL TELL
YOU WHAT YOU
WANT TO
KNOW...

There was a quick explanation of
who these "rogue mutants" actually
were, and what they sought.

But Forge wasn't very
forthcoming at first.

Then Thunderbird promised
to crush both his artificial leg
and hand into a metal ball.

He began opening
up after that...



He could provide them with the
very devices that enabled this world
to confine and/or exterminate an
entire race.

Tracking instruments.

Power dampeners.

But most
importantly--
information.

AND THE
"TEACHER," THE
"ONE WHO WOULD LEAD" ...
I THINK THAT'S PRETTY
OBVIOUS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE
MAN WHO WANTED TO BAND
TOGETHER ALL THE POWERED
BEINGS AROUND THE WORLD...
AND PEACEFULLY AT
THAT.



ERIK
LEHNSHERR...
THAT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN AN ALIAS
THOUGH. HE
MOSTLY WENT BY
A CODE NAME--
MAGNETO.



HE'S
THE ONE
WHO IS
SUPPOSED
TO...? I
DIDN'T--

WHERE DO
WE FIND HIM,
FORGE?



The New York Stock Exchange.
The center of the world's commerce.

Until today...

BA-BOOOOM!



When the **XMEN** appeared.

Newly escaped from maximum security facilities.

Charles Xavier.

His stepbrother, Cain Marko.

Johnny Storm, former adventurer turned super-being turned convict.

Jessica Drew, known in some worlds as Spider-Woman.

The mysterious Domino.

And young Mr. Starsmore, Chamber.



AND WE CAN HELP YOU ALL IF YOU STOP THIS INSANITY! SLAUGHTERING HUMANS IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PERSECUTION!

LEAVE WITH US NOW!!

DAMN IT!

HE'S WEARING *DISRUPTERS!* I CAN'T HIT THEM FROM A DISTANCE!

APPARENTLY OUR REFUGEES FROM THESE ALTERNATE REALITIES HAVE BEEN SEEING THE SIGHTS!

A VISIT TO THAT BACK-STABBING, FASCIST, COWARD FORGE I ASSUME!

DID FORGE TELL YOU WHAT HE HELPED DO TO US?!

THE SLAUGHTER! THE EXPERIMENTS! THE CHILDREN MURDERED BEFORE THEY EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO LIVE!





I KNOW OF TORTURE!

BUT YOU ATTACK INNOCENTS! WHAT HAVE THESE PEOPLE DONE TO YOU?!



THEY SAT IDLY BY AND LET IT ALL HAPPEN! THEY VOTED FOR LAWS TO STERILIZE US! TO TERMINATE OUR PREGNANCIES! TO IMPRISON US ALL!!



THESE WALL STREET MONKEYS?! NAH! THEY JUST CRUSH DOT-COMS AND DRESS POORLY!

I MEAN, THE SOLID-COLOR TIE THING HAS TO GO.

CHOK!



CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT WE ARE AT WAR?

WE MUST TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM, MEET THEIR TERROR WITH OUR OWN!

BRAAAAAA
AKKKKK



ENOUGH TALK!!

THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN JOINING US-- THEY ONLY WANT TO STOP US! THEY'RE AS BAD AS FORGE!

KILL 'EM !! KILL 'EM ALL!!

FOODS H!

I AGREE! THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER! MORPH! NOW!

BOOOO

SURE, WHILE I'M HALF-DRESSED HERE.

BRRRR

AAAAHHH!
A DAMPENER!!

TZAAAT



One hundred miles off the coast of Tahiti.

I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY TRANSMISSIONS. THE DETENTION FACILITY MUST BE JAMMING THEM. PERHAPS WHEN WE GET CLOSER...

WE'RE TOO VISIBLE FLYING IN. I'M GOING TO TRY AND TELEPORT AGAIN. WE CAN GET TO THE PRISON A LOT SOONER AND--

NO! YOU NEARLY HAD A SEIZURE WHEN YOU TRIED TO 'PORT INLAND. FORGE SAID THAT THE "POWER SCRAMBLERS" BEAMING OFF THE PRISON AREN'T SOMETHING TO MESS AROUND WITH.

WE'RE LUCKY THAT MAGNUS IS ABLE TO WORK THROUGH THEM!

BARELY. I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAINTAIN CONTROL.

THERE. THERE'S THE PRISON.

I'LL GO IN LOW.

NO. YOU COME IN FROM ABOVE. LAND IN THE YARD.

IS THAT WISE?

I DON'T THINK IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE, MAGNUS.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S AROUND...

FORGE LIED. MAGNETO ISN'T HERE. THERE'S NO ONE HERE. THIS ROCK IS ABANDONED.

OR EXPLODED-- WAIT. I'M INTERCEPTING A RADIO RELAY...

...IT SAYS THE PRISONERS ARE STILL HERE, BUT THE SECURITY OFFICERS EVACUATED OVER TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

God in heaven.

There won't be enough time...



WHAT IS IT, MAGGIE? WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S A TRAP.

THE PRISONERS ARE LOCKED IN DOWN BELOW.

THE WHOLE FACILITY IS SET TO SELF-DESTRUCT.



AND THEY'RE GOING TO BLOW IT UP WITH AN ATOMIC BOMB.



WE'VE GOT TO GET EVERYONE OUT! CALL MIMIC! WE'LL NEED THE WHOLE TEAM!

AND THOSE BLUEPRINTS OF THE MAXIMUM SECURITY LEVEL, MAGNUS, PUNCH THOSE--

THERE WON'T BE TIME.



WHAT!

HEY!

YOU'LL BE SAFE ON THE BEACH. I'LL TRANSPORT THE PRISONERS.

AND SHIELD EVERYONE FROM THE BLAST.



MAGNETO'S NOT MY FATHER.

BUT ALL THE SAME...

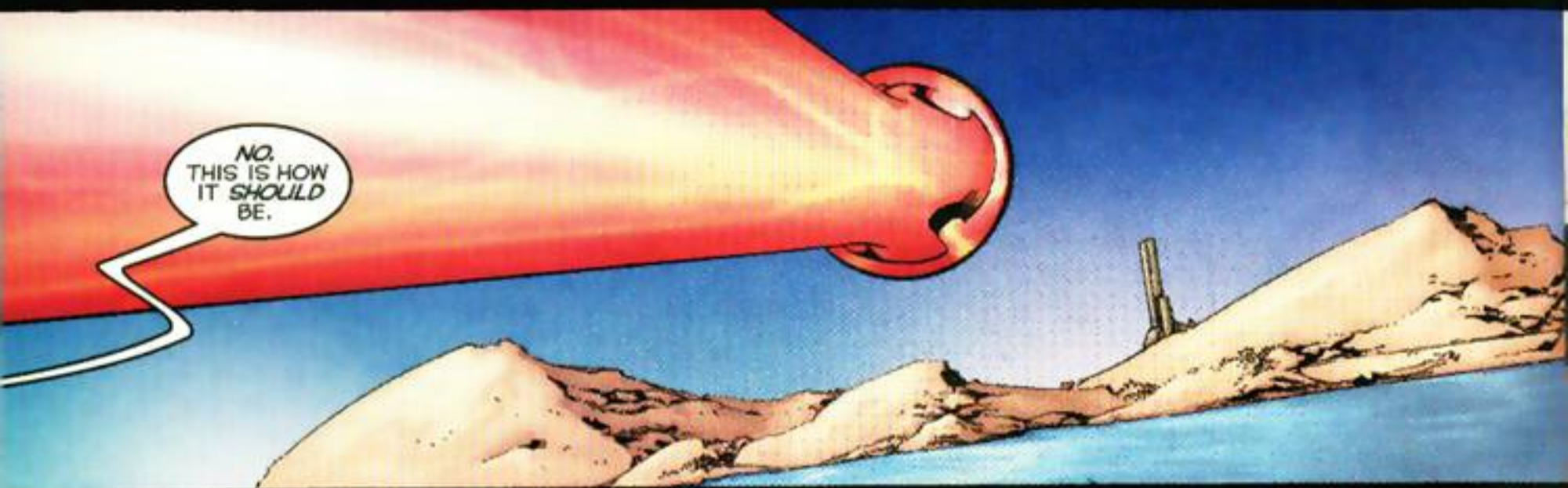
...PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM WHO I WAS.

IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR.



NO! MAGNUS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE!

HEY!! STOP THIS!!



NO, THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE.



"IT IS FATE."

CHOK!

LAY DOWN, MARKO!

DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO KILL YOU!



NO ONE DIES! YOU HEAR ME, JOHN-- NO ONE!

THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH ATROCITY ALREADY, AND SOME IN OUR WAKE!

BA-KAM!!



OH, I DON'T KNOW, BIG GUY! I COULD USE A LITTLE DESTRUCTIVE-TYPE HELP!

LIKE RIGHT-FREKIN'-NOW! VOLCANO CHEST HERE IS BURPING AT ME!!

HOAAAARRRCH



THANK YOU!

Y'SEE? THAT WASN'T SO HARD AND DISTASTEFUL!

BWAH!



YOU'RE REALLY HANDY FOR A SCARY, MOROSE, BRINGER-OF-DEATH TYPE, YA KNOW?!

SHUT UP.

SHUTTING UP!



STOP SQUIRMING-- I'VE ALMOST GOT IT!

CUT, DAMN YOU! I WILL NOT BE LEFT HELPLESS LIKE THIS! IT WEAKENS ME THE LONGER IT HAS CONTACT!



THERE!

AT LAST!



NO, CHARLES. IT'S OVER.

CRASH!



WE'RE NOT TAKING YOU BACK TO THAT PRISON-- BUT WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO BRING HARM TO ANYONE ELSE!

CLEAN UP TIME, LADIES! THE BIG FINISH!



NO!

AAAH!

AAAUGH!

YES. WE WILL FINISH THIS.



LOOK AT YOU, CALVIN! PATHETIC!

YOUR THOUGHTS SHOW THAT EXISTENCE OF YOURS! HOW IDYLIC! HOW QUAIN!

AND YOU LOOK AT ME AND SEE SOME CRIPPLED, SURROGATE FATHER FIGURE!

I AM SO SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU!!



Please, Professor... don't do this...

...in my world you were my teacher... my father...



"...it doesn't have to end this way."



They represent some of the *best* of their breed. They are the *heroes*.



And they will *change* this world.



They have been given a *new life*.

At the expense of *one*.

CHARMING.

AN A-BOMB MADE COMPLETELY FROM *PLASTIC* COMPONENTS.

APPARENTLY, FATHER, THEY FEARED YOU, MOST OF ALL.

YOU'LL PROVE THEM WRONG, DAD.



I AM THE *NECESSARY* EVIL TO BRING ABOUT THE *GREATER* GOOD!

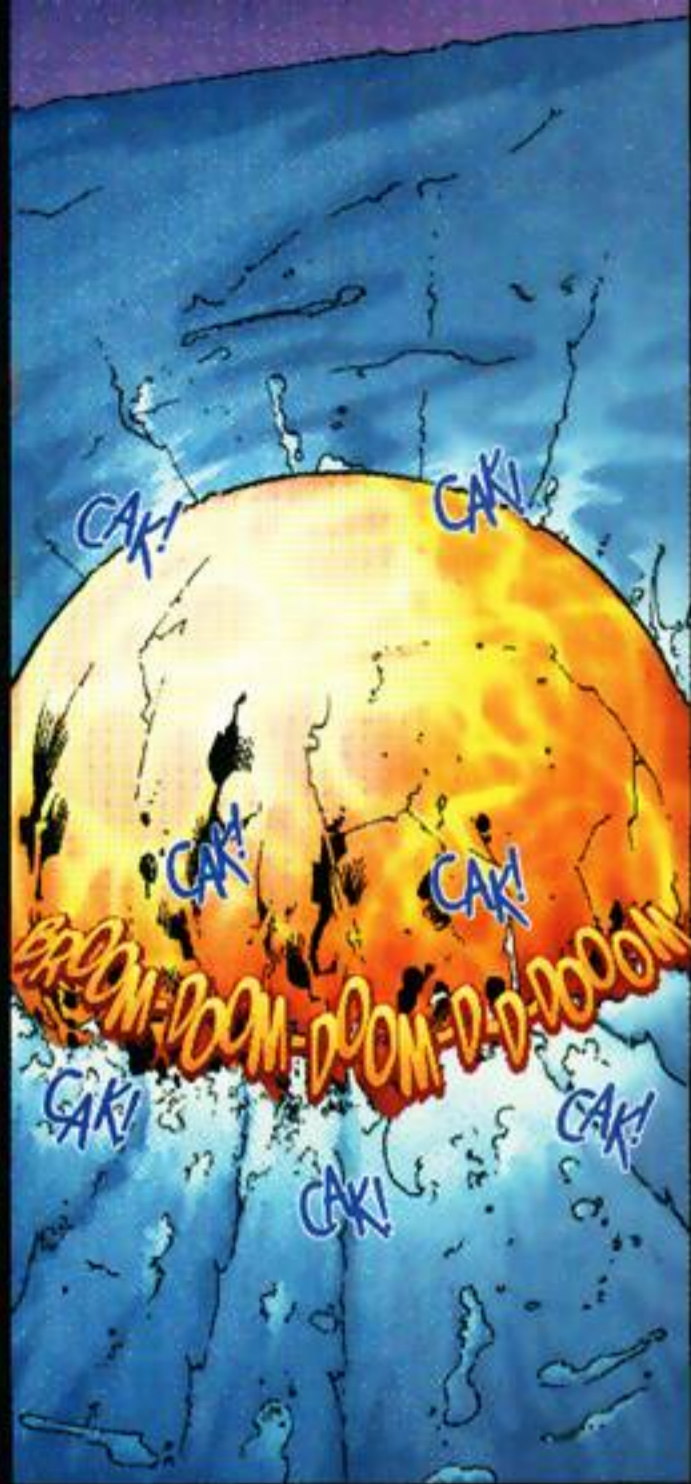
THIS HOLOCAUST WILL END BECAUSE OF *MY* WILL!

ANY SON WOULD RECOGNIZE HIS *FATHER'S* VISION!!

I know my father's vision.

WHU--?





"...IT'S WHAT HE WOULD HAVE DONE."





THERE WERE NO REMAINS?

YES.

NO. HE WAS AT THE EPICENTER OF THE BLAST. IT IS ASTOUNDING HE WAS ABLE TO CONTAIN IT AND SAVE US ALL. A SACRIFICE THAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED.

MAGNUS, YOU SAID HIS NAME WAS...?



HOW IRONIC THAT WE BEAR SIMILAR ...

IN YOUR WORLDS, DID I HAVE A CONNECTION TO THIS YOUNG MAN?



NO. BUT HE WAS A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOURS.

IN MY WORLD, YOU WERE A TEACHER.

WE ALL FOLLOWED YOUR EXAMPLE.



THEN I WILL HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THAT REPUTATION.

WE HAVE MUCH TO DO, EVERYONE.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

WELL, MAGNETO WILL LEAD THEM.

HIS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO WORK WITH HIS PSYCHICS TO LINDO THE COMATOSE POPULACE OF PHOENIX.



HE MEANT US, CALVIN.

DO WE GET TO LEAVE? GO HOME? WHAT?

I MEAN, WE DID A PRETTY MISERABLE JOB. MAGNUS GOT KILLED AND A COUPLE OF HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE VEGETABLES.



BLEEK

AND WHAT ABOUT THE TIMELINE OF MAGNUS'S REALITY? DID HE SET THINGS RIGHT? IF HE COULD DIE, THEN--

HEY!! NEW CHICK ON DECK!



UH... HI, I'M MARIKO, MARIKO YASHIDA, SUNFIRE, THE TIMEBROKER SENT ME.

I'VE ALSO BECOME "UNHINGED FROM TIME..."

I'M YOUR NEW TEAM MEMBER.



WOW. "OUT WITH THE OLD..." THANKS FOR THE GRACE PERIOD...



HE ALSO SAID WE WERE READY TO MOVE ON... AND IT WOULD HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY.



IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, ISN'T HE JUST FULL OF ANSWERS!

BLEEEENK!



BLEENK!

BE SILENT, LORD CHAMBERLAIN!



MAN, THOSE TRIPS MAKE ME NAUSEOUS. CLEAR ME A WIDE BERTH. I MAY RALPH.

BLINK, WHERE ARE WE? WHAT DOES THE TALLUS SAY?

YES, WHAT...

Wait. This can't be...

I KNOW YOU ARE SINCERE-- BUT THE RISK IS TOO GREAT.



MY GOD-- IT IS. WE'RE HERE.

IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?

WE'RE WHERE? WHAT IS IT?

LILANDRA-- WAIT! JEAN GREY ARIN'NN HAELAR!

WE'RE AT--

THE TRIAL OF PHOENIX!



NEXT: FROM PHOENIX, AZ TO PHOENIX!