

**MARVEL**  
PSR 55

BEDARD  
CALAFIORE  
McKENNA

# EXILES



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**BUMP IN THE NIGHT** 1 of 3

Parallel universes. Alternate realities. Some are like the world we know, others completely different. And a few especially tragic realities are damaged, twisted and downright dangerous. That's where you'll find the EXILES—a team of mutants who repair the broken links in the chains of time, restoring the cosmic balance.

# EXILES

## PREVIOUSLY

Plucked from their own separate realities, BLINK, MIMIC, MORPH, SASQUATCH, NAMORA and BEAK travel from one flawed version of Earth to the next, setting things right so they can return to their former lives. Their guide on this dimension-hopping quest is a mysterious bracelet talisman known as the "Tallus." But the missions it gives them often call for desperate choices, challenging the Exiles' morality even as they save each timeline gone wrong.



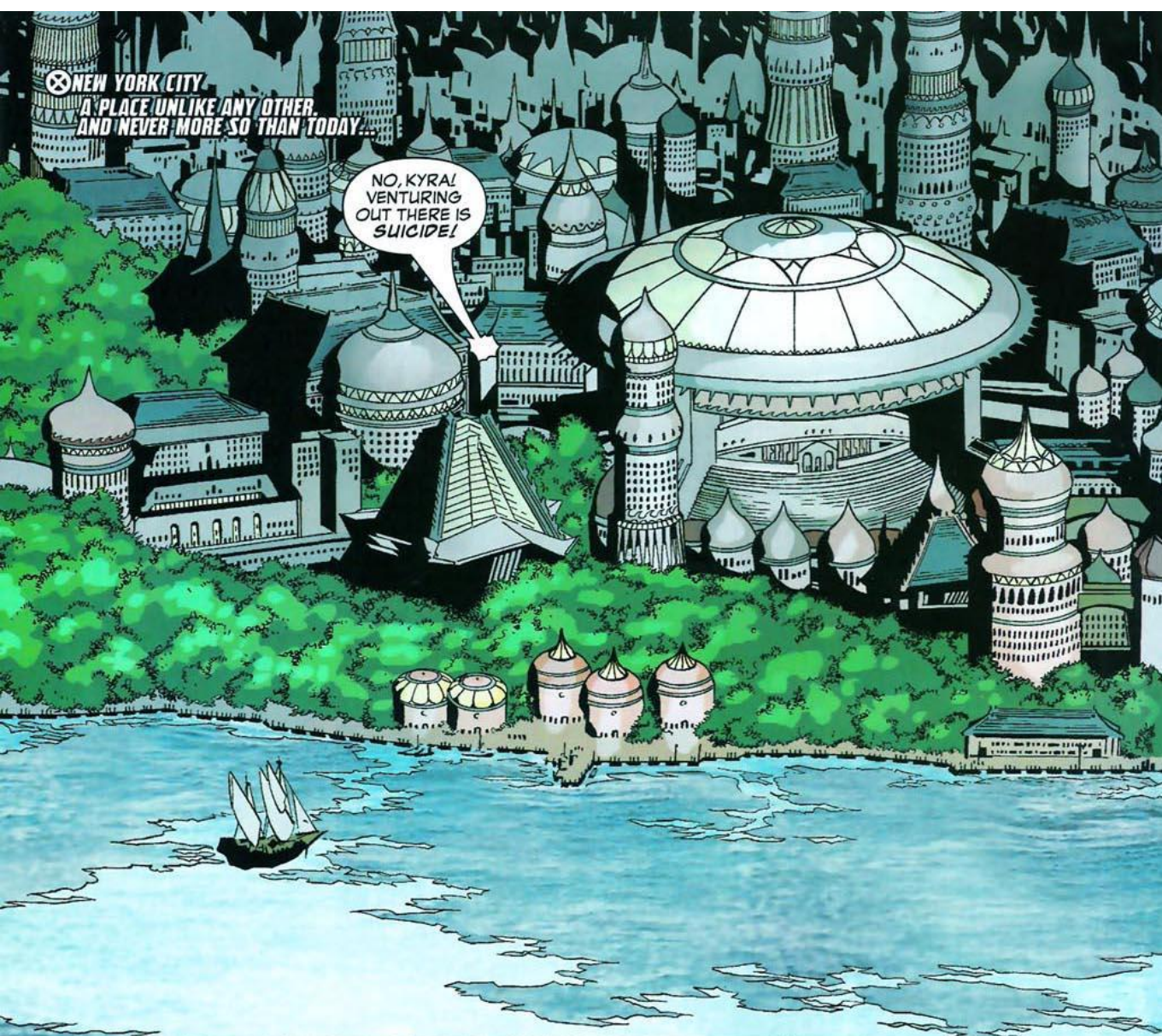
After clashing with an evil version of Mimic and his BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS, then taking on the cosmic power of EGO THE LIVING PLANET, the Exiles weren't sure what to make of their next challenge—purchasing a cheese danish. Nevertheless, they bravely bought the breakfast item and promptly teleported on to the next world in need of saving. Thus, they missed the chain of events set off by their portentous purchase—an escalating series of events, which saved that Earth from an alien invasion. Such is the nature of the Exiles' missions, tipping the dominoes of destiny from disaster to deliverance.

Now our heroes are faced with a much tougher challenge. No sooner did the Exiles arrive in their new reality than they were mystically transformed into sword-wielding warriors, thieves, clerics, and jesters. Do the Exiles even remember who they are, and if not, how will they ever carry out their mission and save the world, much less themselves?

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⊗ **NEW YORK CITY**  
A PLACE UNLIKE ANY OTHER,  
AND NEVER MORE SO THAN TODAY...

NO, KYRAL  
VENTURING  
OUT THERE IS  
SUICIDE!



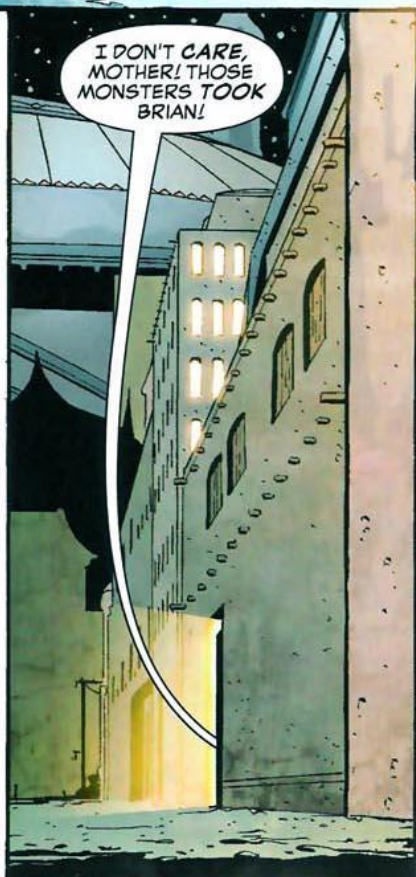
I DON'T CARE,  
MOTHER! THOSE  
MONSTERS TOOK  
BRIAN!

HOW CAN I GREET  
ANOTHER SUNRISE  
IF MY LITTLE BOY IS  
DEAD?

AND JUST HOW  
WILL YOU SNATCH  
HIM BACK FROM THE  
NIGHT WATCH?

I'M  
NOT SURE,  
MOTHER...  
BUT SAVE  
HIM I  
SHALL.

WE'LL  
BOTH  
BE HOME  
SOON...



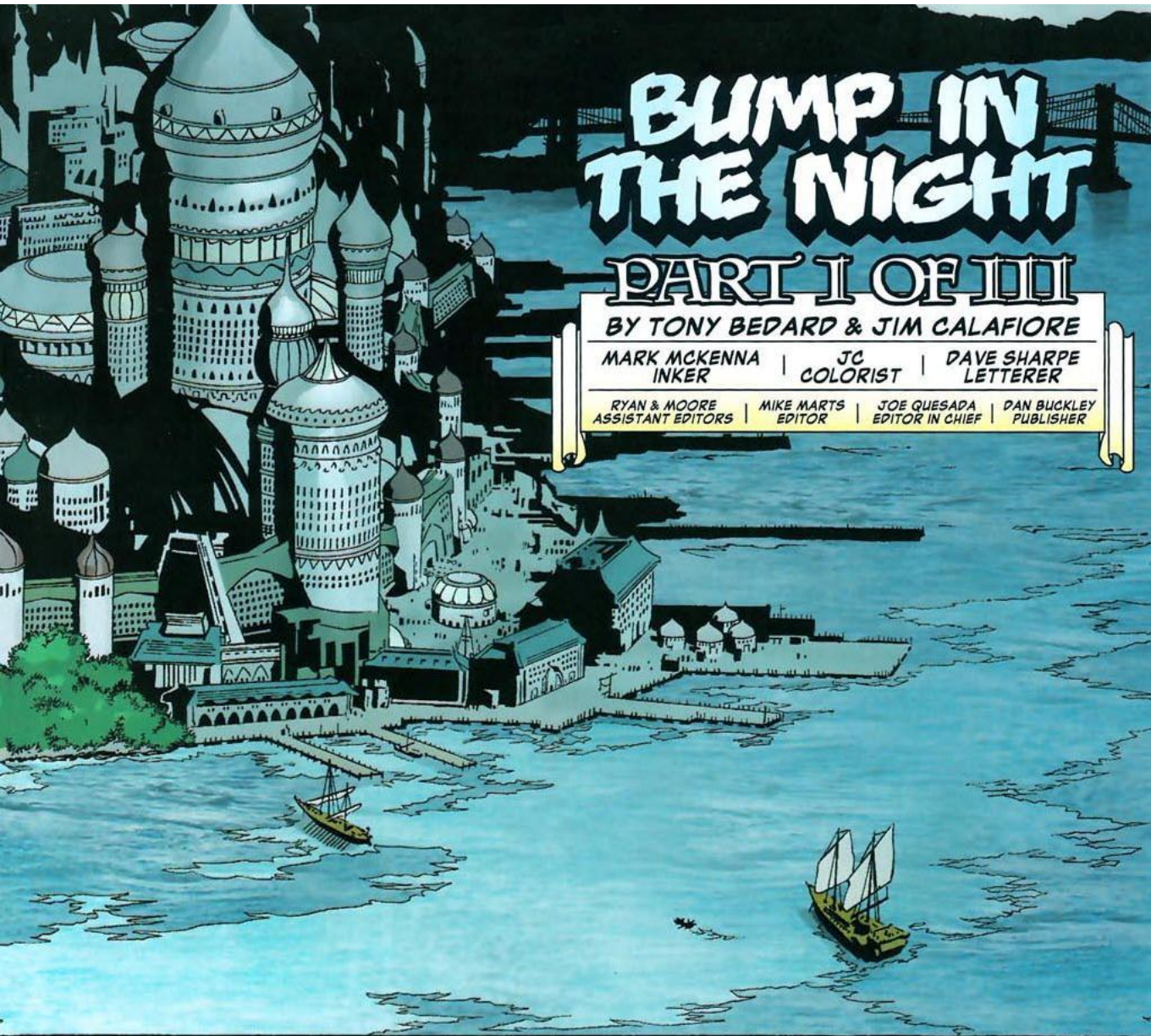
# BUMP IN THE NIGHT

## PART I OF III

BY TONY BEDARD & JIM CALAFIORE

MARK MCKENNA | JC | DAVE SHARPE  
INKER | COLORIST | LETTERER

RYAN & MOORE | MIKE MARTS | JOE QUESADA | DAN BUCKLEY  
ASSISTANT EDITORS | EDITOR | EDITOR IN CHIEF | PUBLISHER





I STILL LIKED IT BETTER WHEN CALLISTO WAS CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD...



MIND YOUR TONGUE. IF THE NEW MASTER THINKS YOU WERE ONE OF CALLISTO'S CADRE, HE'LL CRUCIFY YOU, TOO!

NOW LET US FIND US A FEW CURFEW-BREAKERS BEFORE CAPTAIN RUSSELL DEEMS US TOO LAZY FOR NIGHT WATCH!



**KRASH**

YOU HEAR THAT?

AYE. WE'LL HAVE SOME SPORT WITH THE POOR SOULS BEFORE THROWIN' 'EM IN THE DUNGEON...



**AHH!**

SHADES OF HADES!



**EEEYAAAGHHH!**



**WEN-DI-GOOOO!**



=CRUNCH=...  
SHWUIMPF-SMAK...  
=GULP=...

=SOB=



...=HFF=...

...=HFF=...



**SHWPFEE**

**NO!**



LORD MORBIUS--!

P-PLEASE...I HAVE A SON...

I'M SURE YOU DID...



...BUT IF THE MASTER CLAIMED HIM, YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO HE IS GONE.

GOOD PEOPLE IN THE TAVERN! HELP ME!



BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, HELP ME!

FOR PITY'S SAKE--!

TOO LATE... TOO LATE...



YOU SHOULD BE HOME SPAWNING YOUR NEXT BRAT, NOT OUT HERE SLAKING MY THIRST!



EEEEEEEEEE...

...ER...

...AND THAT, HONORED PATRONS, IS WHY WE WARN ALL OF OUR GUESTS TO, AH, NEVER BREAK CURFEW!

PROBABLY SOME CUTTHROAT GETTING HIS JUST DESSERTS. YES... NOW, WHO WANTS AN ALE ON THE HOUSE?!

AYE!

AYE!

AYE!

SO THAT'S THE JOB YOU THINK WE SHOULD TAKE, SIR CALVIN? CUTTING DOWN CURFEW-BREAKERS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT?

WHAT OTHER HONEST WORK IS THERE FOR FREEBOOTERS LIKE US, LADY CLARICE? BETTER WITH THE VIZIER'S GUARD THAN AGAINST THEM.





WE COULD JUST LET HER STEAL WHATEVER WE NEED. SHE IS, AFTER ALL, A MASTER THIEF.

I FIND YOUR JEST IN POOR TASTE, MORPH. YOU MIGHT TAKE A LESSON IN HUMOR FROM THE REAL JESTER.



THERE IS A REASON WHY "THE BEAK" IS UNEMPLOYED, CALVIN, BUT I TAKE YOUR MEANING.

WELL, OUR HONEST CAREER BETTER START TOMORROW. NAMORA'S GOLD TRINKETS ONLY FETCHED US ROOM AND BOARD FOR TONIGHT.



YES, THE QUEEN OF FAIR ATLANTIS SURRENDERS HER VALUABLES FOR THE GOOD OF ALL. NOW WHAT OF SELLING YON BRACELET ON CLARICE'S ARM?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT WILL NOT COME OFF! I DON'T KNOW WHY, OR EVEN HOW I GOT STUCK WITH THIS UGLY THING, BUT IT WILL NOT LEAVE MY ARM.

I...I FEAR IT'S HAUNTED, OR CURSED. THE VOICES I KEEP HEARING...



ENOUGH, CLARICE. SHOULD SOMEONE OVERHEAR SUCH TALK, THEY'LL TOSS US OUT OF THE TAVERN.

LET'S ALL GET SOME REST AND FIND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT ON THE MORROW.

ASSUMING HEATHER SURVIVES THAT LONG.

...I'LL LIVE, MORPH...LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS.



THAT'S THE SPIRIT, HEATHER.





~sniff~

~sniff~



NEAT CLAWS. REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I KNOW. I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NICER THAN HE IS...



I AM NOT ESPECIALLY KIND TO ASSASSINS.

WHOA, WHOA... YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! I WAS SENT HERE BY SOMEONE WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP!



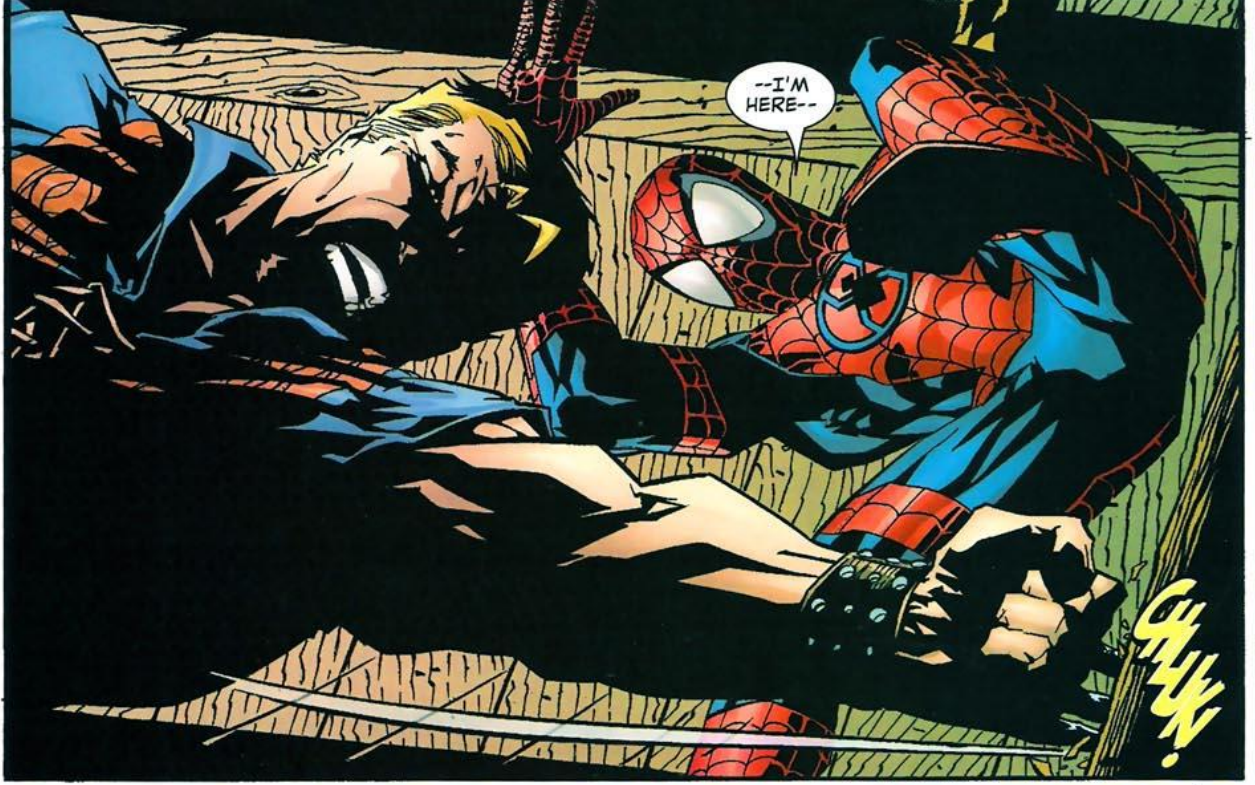
HE...



HEY!



I SAID--





...SO UP UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO, THIS ISLAND-CITY WE'RE IN WAS A PLACE CALLED MANHATTAN.

IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SEE NOW, BUT IT WAS ALL TRANSFORMED BY AN ANCIENT WIZARD I FOUGHT A WHILE BACK. HE REALLY HATED ME FOR THAT...

...HIS NAME IS KULAN GATH.



HIS MASTER SPELL TOOK US BY SURPRISE. IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, MY BEAUTIFUL SKYSCRAPERS AND BROWNSTONES ALL TURNED INTO FORTRESSES AND MINARETS.

CARS TURNED INTO CHARIOTS, STREETLIGHTS TURNED TO TORCHES, GUNS TURNED INTO SWORDS... YOU GET THE IDEA...



"...ALL EXCEPT FOR ME, YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN."

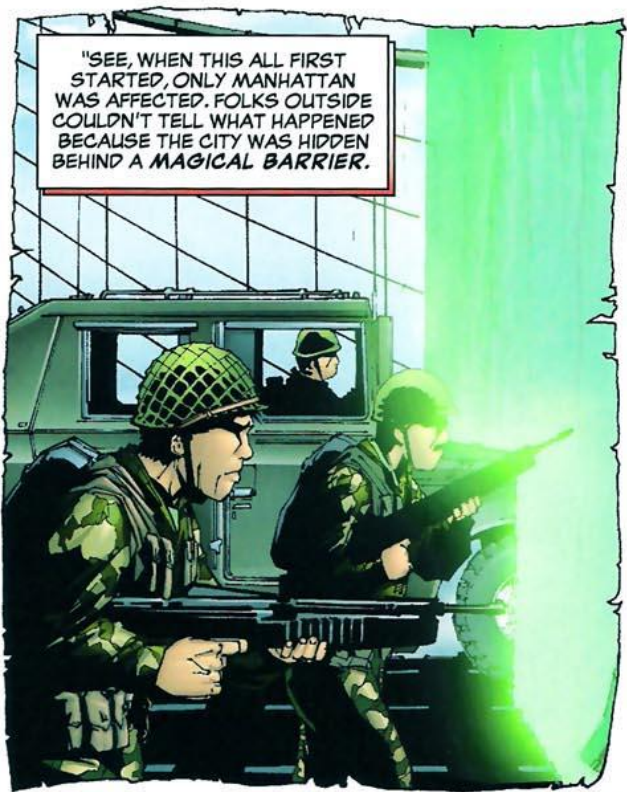
"THAT WAS THE PUNCHLINE TO KULEY'S BIG MAGIC TRICK. I'M THE ONLY GUY IN TOWN WHO CAN REMEMBER WHAT THE BIG APPLE USED TO BE LIKE..."



...I GUESS HE FIGURED ONCE HE CAUGHT AND TORTURED ME TO DEATH, AT LEAST I'D KNOW WHY HE WENT TO THE TROUBLE.

BUT...THE MASTER'S NAME ISN'T "KULAN GATH."

NOT ANYMORE IT ISN'T.



"SEE, WHEN THIS ALL FIRST STARTED, ONLY MANHATTAN WAS AFFECTED. FOLKS OUTSIDE COULDN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE THE CITY WAS HIDDEN BEHIND A MAGICAL BARRIER."



"ANYONE WHO **CROSSED** WAS INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED, AND NOT JUST THEIR CLOTHES AND EQUIPMENT--THESE PEOPLE FORGOT THEIR FORMER LIVES AND IDENTITIES."



NOW EVERYBODY WHO COMES HERE, INCLUDING YOU, BELIEVES THAT THINGS WERE ALWAYS LIKE THIS!

THIS FOOL'S TALE GROWS MORE FANCIFUL WITH EVERY WORD.

RIGHT. I'M THE FANCIFUL ONE.



TELL ME--HOW DID THE BUNCH OF YOU START HANGING OUT TOGETHER?

I, AH...

YOU DRAW A **BLANK** EVERY TIME YOU TRY TO REMEMBER MORE THAN A FEW WEEKS AGO, RIGHT? NOW LET ME **FINISH**...



"KULAN GATH ROUNDED UP ANYONE IN TOWN WHO HAD SPECIAL POWERS, AND USED HIS MAGIC TO BRING OUT THE WORST IN THEM.

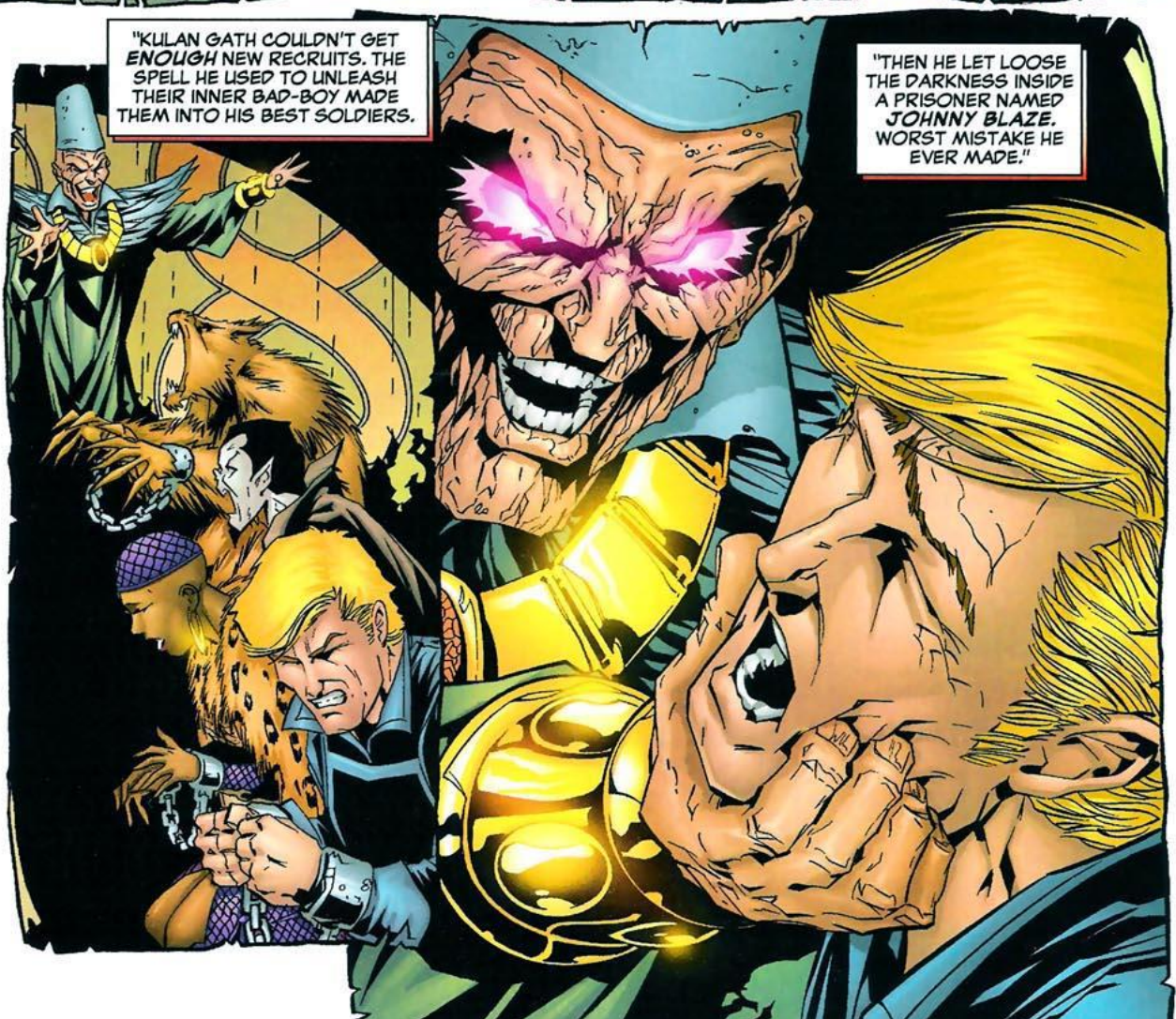
"I'VE SEEN AVENGERS, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS AND MORLOCKS ON THE VIZIER'S GUARD, DOING THINGS MORE AWFUL THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE...


"...MEANWHILE, SUPERNATURAL BEINGS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE DRAWN HERE, LIKE NEW YORK HAD BECOME A MAGNET FOR BADNESS.



"KULAN GATH COULDN'T GET ENOUGH NEW RECRUITS. THE SPELL HE USED TO UNLEASH THEIR INNER BAD-BOY MADE THEM INTO HIS BEST SOLDIERS.

"THEN HE LET LOOSE THE DARKNESS INSIDE A PRISONER NAMED JOHNNY BLAZE. WORST MISTAKE HE EVER MADE."






"THE OLD SOURPUSS NEVER IMAGINED THAT WITHIN THIS POOR GUY MIGHT DWELL SOMETHING EVEN WORSE THAN HIMSELF."

"INSIDE BLAZE HID A DEMON WHICH WE USED TO CALL 'GHOST RIDER.' HIS REAL NAME IS ZARATHOS, AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE MASTER SPELL EVEN BETTER THAN KULAN GATH DID."


"THE MINUTE ZARATHOS SNATCHED THAT AMULET OFF KULEY'S NECK, HE BECAME THE NEW MASTER."



BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT WE CAN FIGHT BACK. COME WITH ME AND I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO DEPOSE ZARATHOS AND HIS GOON SQUAD.

BUT... WHY ASK US?

ONE--BECAUSE YOU'RE NEW HERE, SO THE VIZIER'S GUARD HASN'T RECRUITED YOU YET...



...AND TWO-- BECAUSE MY PARTNER IS VERY INTERESTED IN THAT BRACELET-THINGIE ON YOUR ARM THERE, PINKY TUSCADERO.



⊗MEANWHILE...

THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
CAUGHT IN YOUR  
TEETH.

'DIGO...?

I DON'T KNOW...  
A KNUCKLEBONE? AN  
EYEBALL? JUST PICK IT  
OUT AND MAKE YOURSELF  
PRESENTABLE.

YOU CAN WASH THE BEAST  
FROM STEM TO STERN. IT  
SHAN'T BRING BACK THE TWO  
GUARDS HE DEVOURED  
EARLIER.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN  
BOTHER TO HIDE THEIR  
BONES, AND YOU LEFT ME  
NOTHING TO SNACK ON.  
WHY NOT JUST SPIT IN MY  
FACE, YOU WORTHLESS  
HEAP OF HAIR?

'TIS MY  
FAULT, CAPTAIN  
RUSSELL. I SHALL  
ENDEAVOR TO KEEP  
A TIGHTER REIN  
ON--

SHUT UP,  
MORBIUS. I DON'T  
CARE HOW YOU  
KEEP YOUR PET  
IN CHECK.

I DO CARE THAT  
ANOTHER NIGHT HAS  
PASSED WITH KULAN  
GATH STILL AT LARGE.  
THE MASTER DOES  
NOT LONG TOLERATE  
SUCH FAILURE.



THE FAILURE IS YOURS, JACK RUSSELL! MORBIUS SHALL NOT BEAR THE BLAME FOR YOUR INCOMPETENCE!

WEN-DI...



I THINK YOUR SKINS NAILED TO THE CITY GATES WILL MOTIVATE THE OTHERS TO SEARCH HARDER...



WEN-DI-GOOO!



HRRRRRR--



--RAHHRR!

=URK=



!

I COULD WATCH YOU THREE RIP EACH OTHER UP ALL MORNING, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO INDULGE IN BLOOD SPORT.



YOU KNOW I NEED KULAN GATH HIMSELF ON MY SACRIFICIAL ALTAR IN ORDER TO MAKE HIS MASTER SPELL GLOBAL.



YOU KNOW THIS, AND YET YOU WOULD RATHER SQUABBLE THAN CAPTURE MY ENEMY.

AND NOW A NEW ELEMENT HAS ARRIVED IN MY DARK KINGDOM. SOMETHING I CANNOT QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON. SOMETHING... ANOMALOUS...



NEWCOMERS BROUGHT IT HERE. I COULD HAVE LOCATED THEM BY NOW IF WENDIGO HAD NOT EATEN XAVIER AND CALIBAN...

...BUT WITHOUT THEIR TALENT FOR HOMING IN ON POWER PEOPLE, WE MUST FIND THEM THE HARD WAY.

REST ASSURED, GATH IS LOOKING FOR THEM, TOO. SURELY HE SENSES THE OBJECT THEY BROUGHT...THE THING THAT SENDS RIPPLES ACROSS THE FABRIC OF REALITY...

...YOU WILL FIND THESE STRANGERS BEFORE KULAN GATH DOES. YOU WILL BRING THEM HERE BY TONIGHT.



YES, MASTER.

WENDIGO.

YES, MASTER.

FAIL ME IN THIS, AND I SHALL TURN YOUR OWN CRIMES AGAINST YOU...

...AND YOU WILL BEG FOR DEATH RATHER THAN SUFFER MY PENANCE STARE...

⊗ ELSEWHERE...

WE SHOULD'VE LEFT HEATHER BACK AT THE TAVERN.

...UNHH...

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SAFE THERE. DON'T WORRY, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FURTHER TO GO.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER, ANYWAY? SHE SICK OR SOMETHING?

ONLY SINCE WE ARRIVED IN THIS CITY.

AND I SHALL MOST LIKELY JOIN HER IN ILLNESS SHOULD WE SPEND MUCH LONGER IN THIS VILE BILGE WATER.

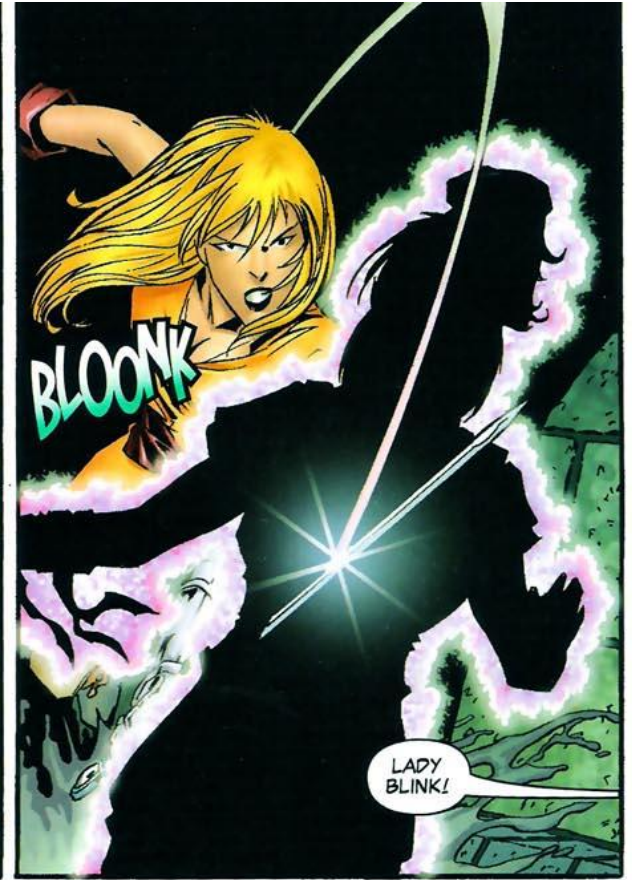
WHY DOES THIS FRIEND OF YOURS HIDE DOWN HERE? I THOUGHT MOST OF THE VIZIER'S GUARD USED TO LIVE IN THESE TUNNELS.

THE MORLOCKS, YEAH... THIS WAS THEIR HOME ONCE. 'COURSE, THE SEWERS WEREN'T QUITE SO RUSTIC BEFORE EVERYTHING WENT ALL DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS...

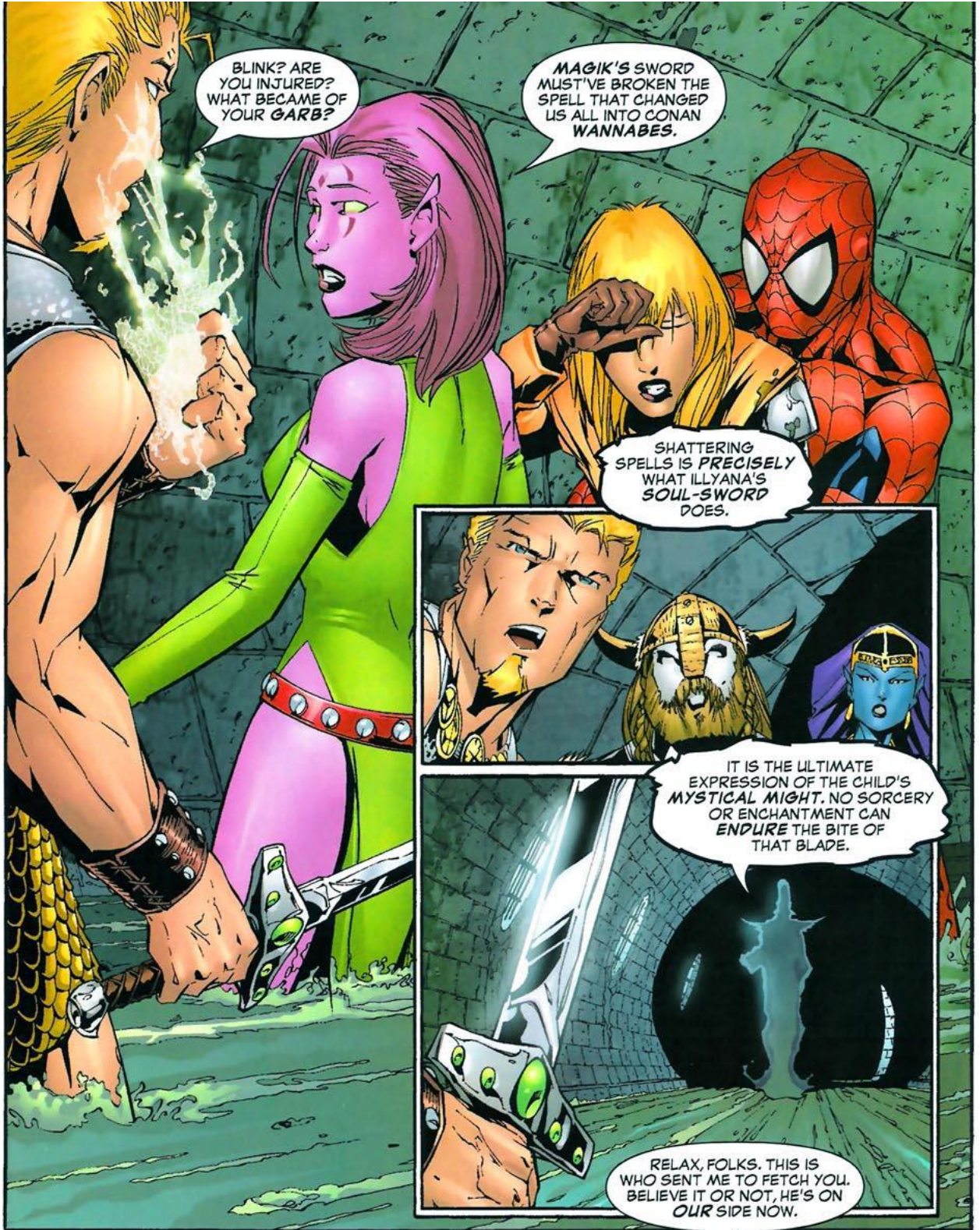
AFTER ZARATHOS TOOK OVER, THE OLD CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD TRIED TO ASSASSINATE HIM.

HER NAME WAS CALLISTO, CHIEF OF THE MORLOCKS. THEY ALL ENDED UP BURNED ALIVE DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE, BUT I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...









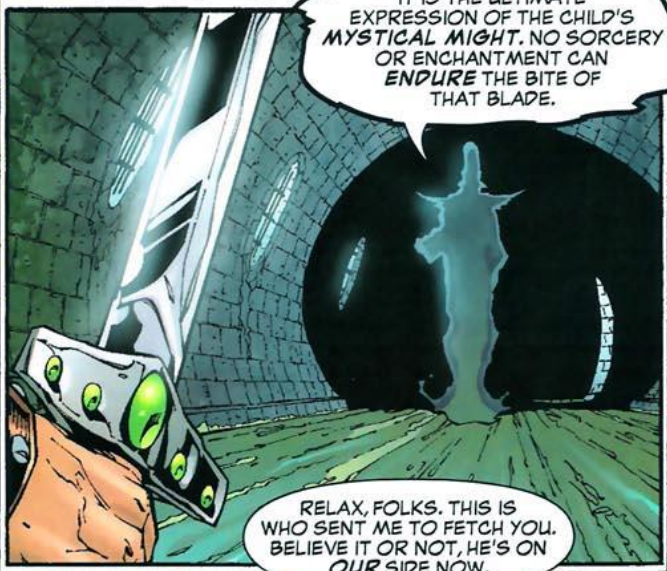
BLINK? ARE YOU INJURED? WHAT BECAME OF YOUR GARB?

MAGIK'S SWORD MUST'VE BROKEN THE SPELL THAT CHANGED US ALL INTO CONAN WANNABES.

SHATTERING SPELLS IS PRECISELY WHAT ILLYANA'S SOUL-SWORD DOES.



IT IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF THE CHILD'S MYSTICAL MIGHT. NO SORCERY OR ENCHANTMENT CAN ENDURE THE BITE OF THAT BLADE.



RELAX, FOLKS. THIS IS WHO SENT ME TO FETCH YOU. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HE'S ON OUR SIDE NOW.



IT'S TRUE. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THIS ONCE YOU'RE ALL FREE FROM THE MASTER SPELL...



...BUT NOW THAT I'M REALLY ME AGAIN, THE TALLUS CONFIRMS IT--OUR MISSION HERE IS TO PUT THIS CREEP, KULAN GATH, BACK ON HIS THRONE!

INDEED, FOR THE ONE WHO NOW OCCUPIES THAT SEAT WOULD BRING TO THIS WORLD CRUELITIES EVEN I HAVE NEVER DREAMED OF!

⊗ NEXT: TEMPLE OF DOOM



# REALITY CHECK

## DECEMBER 2004 X-Men Titles

**UNCANNY X-MEN 453:** The hunt for Sage continues—in the sewers of Paris! Guest artist Andy Park!

**ASTONISHING X-MEN 7:** First issue of a new story arc from Whedon and Cassaday!

**X-MEN/FANTASTIC FOUR 1:** Fantastic Four. X-Men. Pat Lee. 'Nuff said!

**EXILES 55, 56, & 57:** It's three times the Exiles as our reality-hoppin' heroes face off against Kulan Gath!

**ALPHA FLIGHT 10:** Attack of the Boxes!!

**X-MEN UNLIMITED 6:** It's Ladies' Night! Enjoy two stories about the women of the X!

**GAMBIT 5:** Guest-starring Wolverine!

**X-MEN THE END 6:** The explosive climax to Book One!

**SABRETOOTH 4:** Has Sabretooth finally lost it? And how could you tell?

**DISTRICT X 8:** What lurks beneath the streets of Mutant Town, and what can Bishop do to stop it?

**X-FORCE 5:** Stab our eyes! Guest-starring the Fantastic Four!

**EMMA FROST 18:** Final issue! How will it all end? You'd be a fool to miss this!

**X-MEN 165:** Chris Claremont and Salvador Larroca bring you an X-Men holiday tale!

**NEW X-MEN 8:** What horror is hiding in the shadows of Xavier's? The New Mutants are about to find out—the scary way!

**ROGUE 6:** Rogue must make the most difficult choice of her life!

**CABLE/DEADPOOL 10:** The bone-crushing conclusion to "The Burnt Offering!"

**JUBILEE 4:** Dude, where's HER car? Jubilee searches for her teacher's stolen car in the seedy streets of L.A.!

**WOLVERINE 23:** What was that? You want more awesome? You got it! And who the heck is the Gorgon!?

**EXCALIBUR 8:** Who is the surprise mystery guest on Genosha?

**MYSTIQUE 22:** The Department of Homeland Security zeroes in on Mystique!

**NIGHTCRAWLER 4:** The heart-pounding conclusion to "The Devil Inside"!

Hiya, Readers. Tony Bedard here, back to respond to your comments and answer your questions about everybody's favorite cosmic repairmen...

Dear Reality Check,

I've been a loyal reader of EXILES since the beginning and I love the addition of Beak to the team. I have a few things I would like to see in these pages that would make them even more enjoyable for me.

1) I would like to see Exile Mimic meet the Marvel Prime Mimic.

2) I would like to see Mimic change powers more often. One of the fun things about using such a character is the ability to play with different combinations of powers. I know Mimic traded Angel's powers for Northstar's, but how about switching a few others around? The original Mimic at first had all the powers of the original X-Men. How about working with the various powers of the Exiles? At least have him mimic more of the powers of the limitless Marvel characters he encounters. This would also let the artists have some fun with Mimic's appearance.

3) Turn Beak into a real super hero! We've got Morph for the slapstick; let Beak actually hit a few things with that bat.

Thanks for the good times, looking forward to more.

Ken Lindgren

Some very good suggestions there, Ken. Let me tackle them in order:

1) I don't have any plans for the Exiles to return to the "prime" continuity soon. I think they work best in other realities. However, I, too would like to see the "prime" Mimic again. And if things work out, we just might see him show up in another Marvel series I'll be starting on in a few months. Stay tuned for more...

2) This is a real good idea, and I promise I'll look for more opportunities to do this. I think Mimic has such a good power set right now that I didn't see much need to mix it up, but I don't want to get lazy with him, either. Hmm...you got the gears turnin' in my head, Ken.

3) Beak's big moment is coming soon, but the best thing about him is how *underwhelming* he is. X-Men are usually so glamorous and powerful. What I loved about Beak to begin with was how unattractive and ungainly he is. Still...his big moment is coming, I promise.

Dear Reality Check,

I'm one of your mild-mannered Marvel Fans, and I've just recently picked up a copy of EXILES, but I haven't been able to form an opinion. (I've only read 2 issues, so I really can't.) Though I have to admit, Namora and Blink are hot and something about Sasquatch just makes me want to hug her. (She's just like a big teddy bear.)

Also, is there any chance that Xorn will join the Exiles? (Please say yes.)

Anonymous

Sorry, Anonymous, but Xorn's helmet on Beak's head is about as close as we'll get to seeing Xorn join the team. Heck, I'm still trying to figure out what the deal is with Xorn, anyway. I mean, I thought I was the one with a black hole for a brain. Guess I'm just a "Xorn loser." On the other hand, we do have some roster changes just around the corner, including one *very* exciting new Exile whom you already know and love joining the fun in issue #59.

Dear Reality Check,

I have a few questions.

1) Will the Exiles hop into one of their own realities?

2) Are we going to see more issues that focus on one character?

3) What would happen if the Exiles go up against themselves in a weird, flipped out dimension?

Make Mine Marvel,  
(Name Withheld)

Dear Name (or should that be Mr. Withheld?),

I have a few answers.

1) Yes! Two of them will! Don't miss issue #60, or you'll be kicking yourself.

2) Yeppers! Sasquatch gets her spotlight issue in issue #58. Sort of. And Blink looms large in issue #59. Kinda.

3) I'm not exactly sure what you mean, but the weird, flipped-out version of Tony Bedard is already hard at work writing that story, so keep reading this book (and buy an extra copy for a friend!)

That's it for now, folks! But before I sign off, I just want to extend my humble thanks to Mizuki Sakakibara and Jim Calafiore for turning my hackneyed scripts into outstanding artwork! One of these days they'll wise up and bump me off the book. Until then, Make Mine EXILES!

## NEXT ISSUE:



**THE EXILES  
GO MEDIEVAL  
ON YA!**

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