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EXILES

**WORLD
FUTURE
IMPERFECT
TOUR**

RATED A



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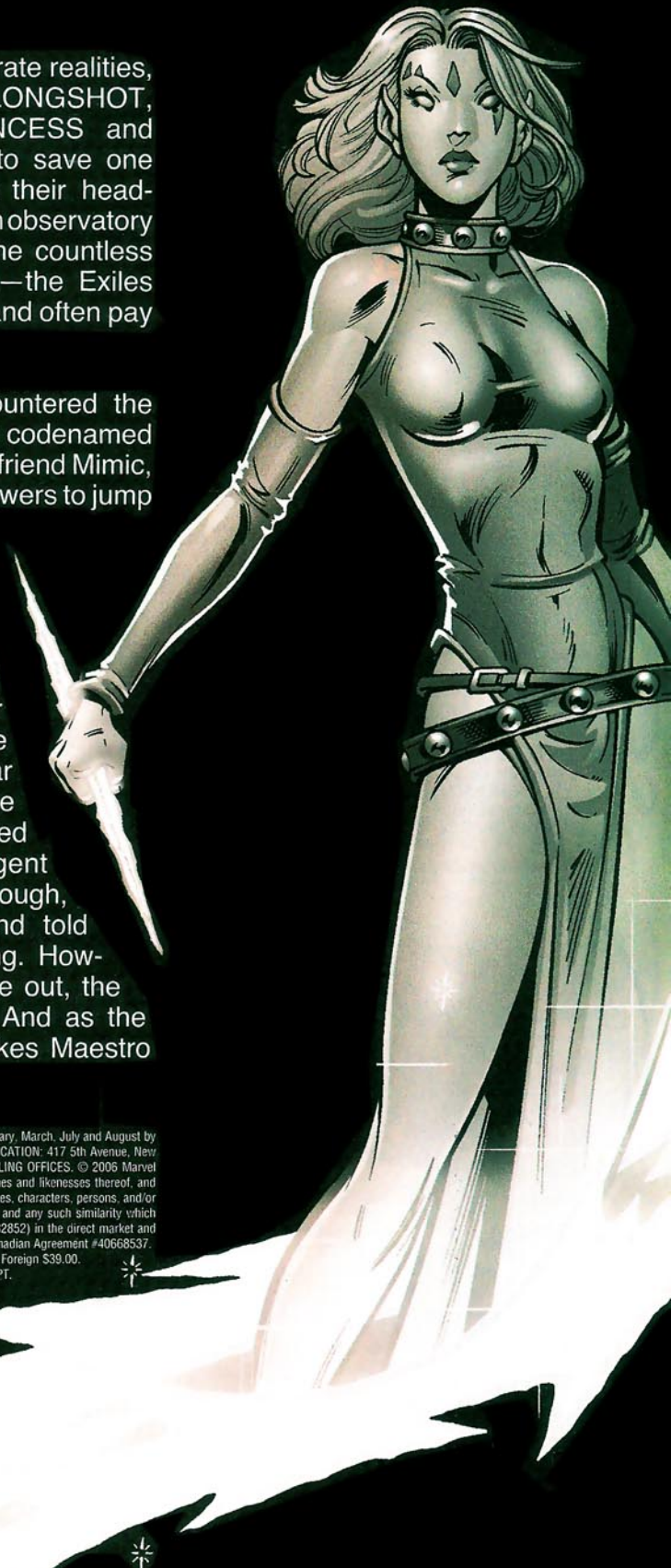
DIRECT EDITION

Previously in EXILES:


Gathered together from their own separate realities, BLINK, SABRETOOTH, MORPH, LONGSHOT, SPIDER-MAN 2099, POWER PRINCESS and HEATHER HUDSON risk their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. From their headquarters in the "Crystal Palace"—an alien observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities that make up the Multiverse—the Exiles undertake their world-saving missions and often pay a terrible price.

Such was the case when they encountered the body-snatching, reality-warping mutant codenamed PROTEUS. After murdering Blink's boyfriend Mimic, Proteus used his own nearly limitless powers to jump to other universes in search of new victims. The Exiles have pursued him ever since.

In the futuristic world of 2099, Proteus took over the invulnerable body of HULK 2099 and used its massive power to fend off an attack by the Exiles. He then traveled to a world where nuclear wars nearly wiped out all of existence and the people that remain are ruled by another Hulk—a brutal, intelligent Hulk, called MAESTRO. The Exiles, though, were one step ahead of Proteus and told Maestro that Proteus would be coming. However, during the melee that soon broke out, the Exiles accidentally attacked Maestro. And as the Exiles are about to find out, no one likes Maestro when he's angry!



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"CONGRATULATIONS,
IT'S A BLOB."

I WAS BORN WITH FULL-BLOWN
MUTANT POWERS--AN EIGHT-POUND
LUMP OF WHITE GOO THAT CRIED LIKE
A BABY AND FLOWED LIKE MERCURY.

I FIGURED OUT AS A TODDLER THAT
MY PARENTS WERE HAPPIER IF I KEPT
A NORMAL HUMAN SHAPE. AND I'M
NOTHING IF NOT EAGER TO PLEASE.




BY THE TIME I STARTED
SCHOOL, I'D PERFECTED
THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY-
NEXT-DOOR LOOK.




BUT AT HOME, ALONE WITH
MY FOLKS, I'D RELAX AND
JUST BE ME.

I WASN'T BEING A PHONY,
OR ASHAMED OF WHO I
WAS. IT WAS SIMPLY LESS
AWKWARD THAT WAY.



I HAD A KNACK FOR BEING
WHAT EVERYONE WANTED.

EVERYTHING CAME
EASY FOR ME. SCHOOL,
SPORTS, FRIENDS...



AND THEN MOM DIED
OF LUNG CANCER WHEN
I WAS THIRTEEN. THERE
WAS NOTHING EASY
ABOUT THAT.

IT BROKE DAD. HE JUST
GOT SO...SERIOUS, AND
THE HARDER I TRIED TO
CHEER HIM UP, THE MORE
HE WITHDREW.

MY CLOWNING AROUND FINALLY GOT SO OVER-THE-TOP THAT DAD PACKED ME OFF TO BOARDING SCHOOL. AT LEAST HE PICKED THE RIGHT ONE.

YEARS LATER, I ACTUALLY EARNED A MASTERS IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING AT XAVIER'S. SOMETIMES PEOPLE FORGET THEY REALLY ARE A SCHOOL.



I ALSO EARNED A UNIFORM AND A CODENAME: MORPH, LEADER OF XAVIER'S JUNIOR SUPER-TEAM, THE NEW MUTANTS.

NOW, THOSE KIDS APPRECIATED A GOOD LAUGH.



NEXT, I GRADUATED TO FULL-FLEDGED X-MEN STATUS.



I WAS EVEN A BELOVED MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS. I GOT MORE FAN MAIL THAN CAPTAIN AMERICA!

ALL OF IT CAME SO EASY...



...UNTIL THE DAY I GOT DRAFTED INTO AN ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE REPAIR SQUAD CALLED THE EXILES...AND NOTHING'S BEEN EASY EVER SINCE.



**WORLD
FUTURE
IMPERFECT
TOUR**

PART 2 OF 2

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KRUNCH

→ARHI←

AND THAT'S OUR VERSION OF SPIDER-MAN. WE PICKED HIM UP A COUPLE OF UNIVERSES AGO.

I HARDLY KNOW THE GUY, BUT I'D HATE TO SEE HIM GO JACKSON POLLOCK ALL OVER THE WALL.

THE EVIL HULK THERE CALLS HIMSELF THE MAESTRO. WE WARNED HIM THAT PROTEUS WAS COMING TO STEAL HIS BODY.

NATURALLY, HE ENDS UP TRYING TO KILL US.

WE ALWAYS END UP FIGHTING ALL THE WRONG PEOPLE. THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES WAS WRITTEN JUST FOR US...

SKRAK-KK



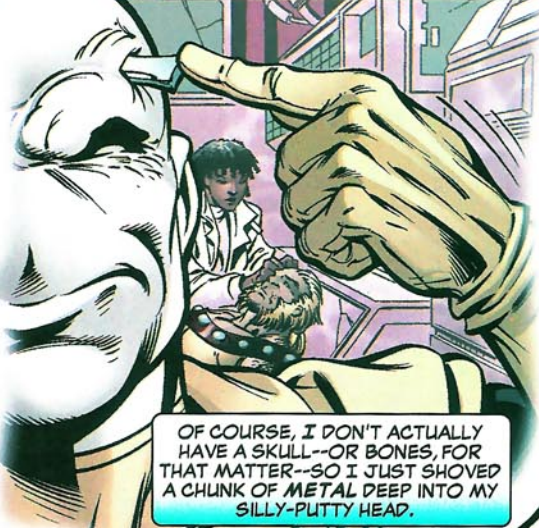
CASE IN POINT--OUR RUNNING BATTLE WITH PROTEUS. WE START OUT TRYING TO REUNITE A FAMILY AND END UP FACING THE SCARIEST MUTANT EVER.



HE'S A SERIAL KILLER WHO STEALS PEOPLE'S BODIES AND USES THEM UP, ONE AFTER THE OTHER. HIS ONLY WEAKNESS IS METAL.

PROTEUS RIPPED OUT THE HEART OF OUR TEAM WHEN HE SNATCHED MIMIC'S BODY AND LEFT IT A DEAD, DRIED-OUT HUSK.

AFTER THAT, HEATHER CAME UP WITH THE BRIGHT IDEA OF IMPLANTING A STRIP OF SURGICAL STEEL IN OUR SKULLS TO KEEP PROTEUS OUT.



OF COURSE, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE A SKULL--OR BONES, FOR THAT MATTER--SO I JUST SHOVED A CHUNK OF METAL DEEP INTO MY SILLY-PUTTY HEAD.

ANYHOW, WE'VE CHASED PROTEUS ACROSS FIVE REALITIES, FROM ONE STOLEN BODY TO THE NEXT.



HIS LATEST "SHELL" BELONGED TO THE HULK OF 2099 A.D. IT'S BEEN HIS LONGEST-LASTING, MOST DANGEROUS FORM YET.

BUT NOW HE WANTS TO TRADE UP TO THE UNLIMITED STRENGTH OF THE MAESTRO'S BODY. NO WAY CAN WE LET THAT HAPPEN.



~urk~

YOU ACTUALLY TRIED TO SCRATCH ME? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I AM?!

POWER PRINCESS IS NEW TO OUR CREW. SHE'S THE GENIUS WHO SAID WE SHOULD TEAM UP WITH MAESTRO.



BLINK HAS A BETTER IDEA-- REMOVE THE BIG GUY SO WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON OUR REAL TARGET-- PROTEUS-- WHO'S BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE IN HERE.



HA!



BLOONK

EH?



WHAT HAVE I DONE--?



AW, DID PRECIOUS VAPORIZE HER LITTLE FRIEND?

ACTUALLY, SHE TELEPORTED SABRETOOTH, WHICH COULD BE VERY BAD IF SHE MEANT TO BLINK THE MAESTRO TO THE SOUTH POLE, OR THE OCEAN FLOOR...

...OR SOMEWHERE
EVEN WORSE.

I...

I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK!

BLINK

WHO'S
NEXT?

...UNH...

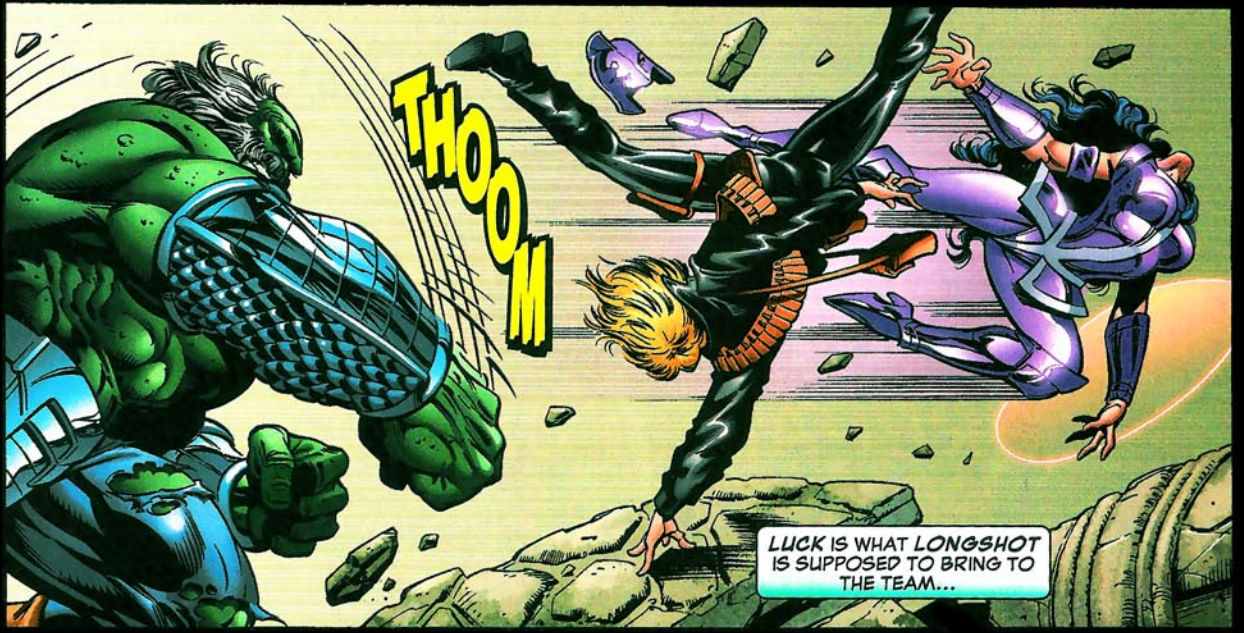
...SAVE
A DANCE
FOR ME...

...SHKKE...
HARD TO...
BREATHE...

YOU'VE GOT
INTERNAL INJURIES.
STAY PUT.

MAYBE WE
SHOULD'VE
WARNED HIM
THAT IF IT
WEREN'T FOR
BAD LUCK,
WE'D HAVE NO
LUCK AT ALL.

SPIDEY ACTUALLY
VOLUNTEERED
TO JOIN OUR TEAM,
WHICH, FOR A
GENIUS SCIENTIST,
WAS NOT THE
SMARTEST MOVE.



LUCK IS WHAT LONGSHOT IS SUPPOSED TO BRING TO THE TEAM...



...BUT YOU HAVE TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO HIM FOR ANY TO RUB OFF.



C-CAN YOU... H-HEAR ME... MISTER CREEP...? P-PLEASE DON'T DIE...!

hkk... k-k...&



BLOONK



ISN'T THAT SWEET?

THWAK

=WHUNG=

GET YUIR
BOGGIN' HANDS
OFF MY GIRL!

IT TAKES ME HALF A
SECOND TO REMEMBER
WHY PROTEUS WOULD
SAY THAT.

HE STILL CARRIES
THE STOLEN
MEMORIES OF
EVERYONE HE EVER
BODY-SNATCHED,
INCLUDING MIMIC.

HE MAY BE DEAD, BUT HIS LOVE
FOR BLINK WAS STRONG ENOUGH
THAT IT JUST SAVED HER LIFE.

ARRHH!



THE EXILES
TOLD ME YOUR
WEAKNESS,
PROTEUS!



YOU MAY BE THE
FIRST MAN I EVER
KILL WITH MY
ELBOWS...



WAIT.

IF THE
MAESTRO CAN
KILL PROTEUS,
THEN LET HIM.

IF NOT,
AT LEAST
THEY'LL WEAR
EACH OTHER
DOWN.



YE HAVE
TAE HIT ME
FIRST!





'COURSE, THOSE TIN SLEEVES OF YUIRS WILL HAVE TAE COME OFF FIRST...

SHWUP

BAD ENOUGH THAT HE STEALS BODIES, BUT PROTEUS CAN ALSO WARP THINGS WITH HIS MIND, FLESH, BONE, STEEL... NOTHING WITHSTANDS HIM.



**ZARK
ZARK
ZARK
ZARK**



OCH, HOW COULD I FORGET THE MAESTRO'S WORTHLESS PALACE GUARDS?

KEEP FIRING! BACK HIM AWAY FROM THE BOSS!

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...

...GUNS AREN'T MUCH GOOD WHEN THE LAWS OF PHYSICS GET TURNED AGAINST YOU.

GYAHH!

AIEEE!

NOW, ABOUT THOSE SLEEVES.

shwmp
shwmp

THIS...CAN'T HAPPEN...TO ME...!

WE'VE ONLY FOUND ONE WAY TO STOP PROTEUS'S REALITY-WARP, BUT IT'S A DOOZY...


LONG-SHOT!




PROTEUS,
I CANNOT
ALLOW THIS.

AN' WHAT'S
TAE KEEP ME
FROM JUST
SMASHIN'
YE?

THAT'D
BE ME!




I'M PRAYING HE USED UP MOST OF HIS HULK-STRENGTH, OR THIS'LL BE A VERY SHORT FIGHT.



YE LOOK TOUGH ENOUGH, MORPH, BUT IT'S ALL FOR SHOW, ENNIT?




THROOM



HE'S TRYING TO TURN ME INSIDE OUT. FEELS SICK--LIKE MAGGOTS IN MY VEINS.

Y'KNOW, IF I HAD VEINS...



KRAK

FOR A GUY WHO WEIGHS EIGHTY POUNDS, THAT LONGSHOT IS FEARLESS.

UP THIS CLOSE, HE CANCELS OUT THE REALITY-WHAMMY.



FINE! IF I
CANNAE BEAT YUIR
LUCK-POWER--

--I'LL JUST
TAKE IT FOR
MYSELF!

AGHH!

DO ALL OF
YE HAVE THOSE
BLEEDIN' METAL
IMPLANTS?!



HE'S HURT...
VULNERABLE...IF
I CAN JUST--



NO, NO, NO.

GOTTA
THINK
FAST--

--PUT SOME
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
ME AND--







THIS IS SOO MUCH BETTER'N WHAT I CAME FOR!

MOST BODIES START WASTIN' AWAY THE MOMENT I JUMP IN, BUT THIS ONE FEELS DIFFERENT...



AND, LOOK! I CAN BE KEVIN MACTAGGART AGAIN!

D'YE KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE SEEN MY OWN FACE?!

WHO'D'VE THOUGHT MORPH WAS THE GLASS SLIPPER I'VE BEEN SEARCHIN' FOR?



I CAN BE ANYONE...



...PREY ON ANYONE...



...AND NEVER GET CAUGHT!



GET OUT OF HIM!

I THINK NOT, LONGSHOT.

I'D SAY THIS ONE'S A KEEPER.



IT'S YUIR LUCKY DAY, MAESTRO, I'LL NOT BE NEEDIN' YE AFTER ALL!



I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TAE BE AN' PEOPLE TAE DO...



VOORRRP--



NO...
THIS...
SHOULD'VE
WORKED...THE
PLAN WAS
SOUND...

...WE HAD A
STRONG ALLY...
THE ELEMENT OF
SURPRISE...

WE'RE EXILES,
PRINCESS. **NOTHIN'**
GOES ACCORDIN'
TO PLAN.



GET OUT
OF MY HOUSE
AND PRAY YOU
NEVER MEET
ME AGAIN!



SHUT UP,
MAESTRO, BEFORE
I BLINK YOUR FAMILY
JEWELS TO THE
MOON.



YOU SOUNDED
LIKE YOU MEANT
THAT, PUP.

WHY
WOULDN'T I,
VICTOR?



PROTEUS HAS
TAKEN TWO OF US
NOW! I SWEAR TO
YOU, NEXT TIME IT'S
HIM OR ME.



⊗ NEXT:
THE FINAL STOP OF
"WORLD TOUR"!

REALITY CHECK

MAY ON-SALE
2006
X-MEN TITLES

UNCANNY X-MEN 473: Discover the reason for Pyslocke's resurrection! Discover it!

X-MEN: THE 198 5: It's the barn-burning end to the 198! Death, betrayal, and optic blasts await you inside this issue!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 28: Get the door, it's Domino! She's here to stop Deadpool from assassinating some guy. Is it Anthony Michael Hall? No.

NEW EXCALIBUR 7: Black Tom is back! I hope he doesn't leaf us again! Get it? Leaf!

WOLVERINE: ORIGINS 2: Wolverine is in bad trouble. Here's a hint why—he has to fight Nuke! (Well, that's a little more than a hint.)

SENTINEL SQUAD O*N*E 5: The squad gets their final assignment—The X-Men!

X-MEN THE END: BOOK THREE 5: Professor X and Cassandra Nova combine bodies. (Dude, that's your sister!)

STORM 4: Storm and Black Panther think naughty thoughts!

NEW X-MEN 26: Stryker's ready to strike. Disappointingly, Elixir's not ready to elix. Plus, Nimrod's totally in this issue!

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE/DRACULA 4: Apocalypse and Dracula are fighting again. But don't worry, even though they're mad at each other, that doesn't mean they've stopped loving you. Now go to your room!

EXILES 80 & 81: All right. Two things: One, Proteus takes out another teammate! Two, the Exiles are off to the Heroes Reborn Universe! Satisfied?

X-MEN: FAIRY TALES 1: Ever wanted to see X-Men characters in Japanese fairy tales? Yes? Well, have we got the book for you!

WOLVERINE 42: Wolverine + Civil War + Humberto Ramos = a great comic!

X-FACTOR 7: The team mourns over the death of a close friend...meanwhile, Layla Miller knows stuff!

NEXTWAVE: Agents of H.A.T.E. 5: It's a fact. Nextwave was nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1958.

X-MEN 186: The finale to *Blood of Apocalypse!* What will be Gambit's fate?!

Hey, there, fellow reality-rangers. Tony Bedard here, ready to answer more of your mail!

Hi Reality Check,

I just found out you guys were using Longshot, so I picked up your book for the first time, and I gotta say, it's really good. I hope you keep Longshot around. I do have one request: can you guys PLEASE stop drawing Longshot with a mullet? He's my favorite Marvel character and he needs his 'do updated. Give him shoulder-length hair that's all one length.

Anywho. Keep up the good work!
Keith Patrick
Atlanta, GA.

Hi, Keith. As a former Atlantan, I'm surprised you disapprove of the mullet. Isn't that, like, the official haircut of NASCAR Nation? Or maybe it's just that I came of age in the Big '80s, when mullets were actually cool. No, really, they were! Anyhow, both Jim and Paul have been struggling to bring that mullet into the 21st Century, and I don't think it's quite as "Joe Dirt" as it once was. But also remember that Longshot is an alien, so cut the kid some slack on his hair-don't.

Reality Check,

So now that the World Tour is coming to an end, what's next for the Exiles? Are they going to continue on their journey or are some of them going home? I don't mean to stay, but just going to their home worlds to visit. Or will there be more chaos and the loss of more team members? Was Calvin Proteus' last Exile victim? And is there any chance of them going back to 616 to find Nocturne and reunite Longshot with his long-lost love?

Christian Holstein
Glendale, AZ

Christian, I don't see us heading back to 616, er – in the way you expect. And something tells me Proteus hasn't claimed his final victim yet. As for what's coming up after World Tour? Well, you should plan on wearing black for issue #83. And soon after that, we'll be seeing post-modern Wolverines doing things we haven't seen them do in a long time. What's that mean? Heck, I don't know...but still: stay tuned!

Dear Reality Check,

The World Tour storyline is great so far, but with all rumors going around, I'm a little worried. I wasn't too happy when you killed off Mimic, but I think it's great

you got new members on the team like Longshot and it's nice to see Spider-Man 2099.

1) Is it true that the Exiles will gain a new team member from Earth 616 and if they return there, then why don't they pick Nocturne up as well and drop her back home?

2) Is Proteus the cause as to why Earth 616 is so messed up with the depowered mutants? It would explain a lot and it'd be nice to see things get back to normal on Earth 616; well, at least as normal as it gets.

3) And how are Beak and Angel doing?

Well, that's about it for now. I only pray that Morph and Blink make it through the World Tour story. Until next time, make mine Marvel!

Jeremy Zajac
Syracuse, NY

Jeremy,

1) Why don't you pick up Nocturne? She's waiting for you in NEW EXCALIBUR. Ha!

2) Scarlet Witch is the reason things are so messed up on 616. Proteus is the reason things are so messed up in EXILES.

3) Beak and Angel have put on a Marvin Gaye album, locked the door, and the kids aren't allowed to bug them for at least another twenty minutes!

Thanks for asking, dude. Peace, Love and Hair-grease!

Tony B.

NEXT-ISSUE:



**HEROES
REBORN AGAIN!**

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