

ULTIMATE NIGHTMARE™

ISSUE
1



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MARVEL®



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PSR**

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Gathered by mutant psychic Professor Charles Xavier, THE X-MEN are soldiers for his dream of coexistence between normal humans and mutants like them.

Formed by General Nick Fury and led by Captain America, THE ULTIMATES are a small but lethal army created to protect humanity against all the new rising threats to the world.



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ULTIMATE NIGHTMARE

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The Tungus River Valley



Tunguska











Ground Zero, Vladimir. This is where it happened.

We're the first outsiders to walk here in twenty-three years.

I'm still not convinced this is safe, Grigori.



Did that Evenk shaman frighten you, little Vlad?

All the reports we've read say this is poisoned ground. People get sick here.

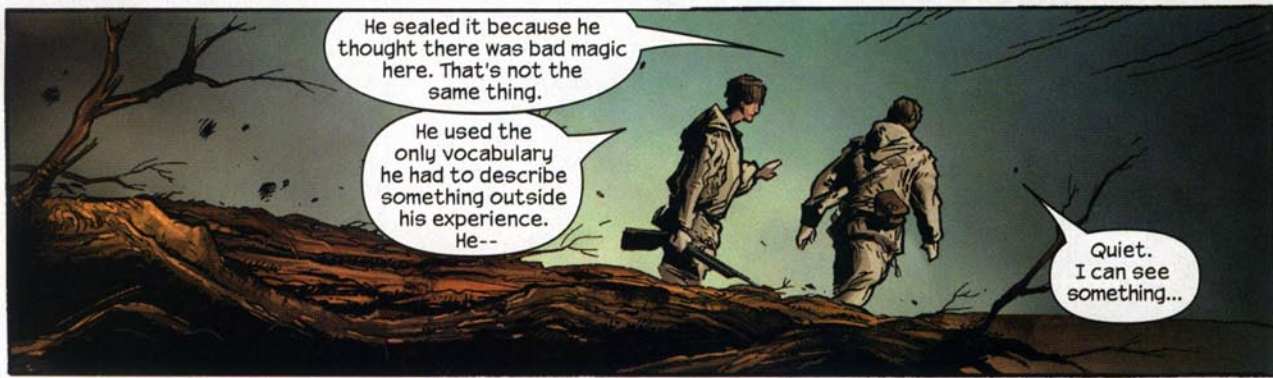
That's why the Evenk tribal chief sealed the area.



He sealed it because he thought there was bad magic here. That's not the same thing.

He used the only vocabulary he had to describe something outside his experience. He--

Quiet. I can see something...



...my God.

What is that?





Yo!
Something
wrong with
the telly!

I've told you
a million times,
my name isn't Yo,
I'm your mother,
and I don't fix
televisions.

I'm missing
the Posh Spice
video!



You ought
to write them
a letter to
thank them,
then.

And I've got
to tell you, I
might not be
with it any more,
but I don't think
white girls from
North London
get to say "Yo".

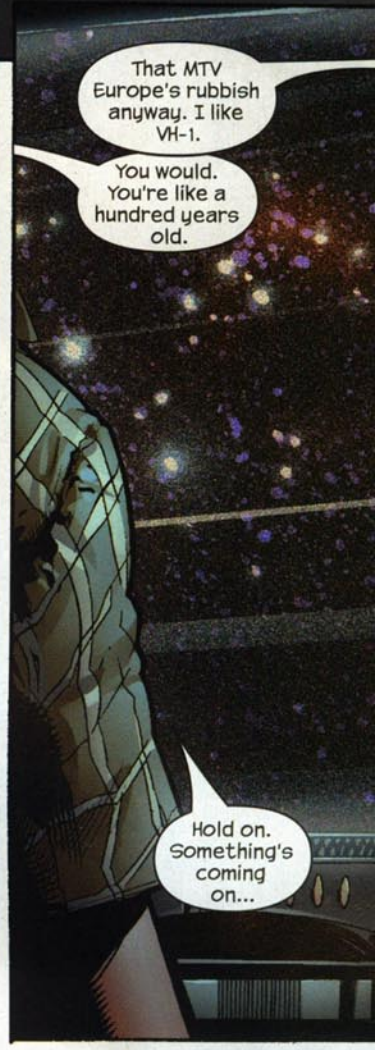
Change the
channel. Maybe
the cable box is
up the spout
again.



Oh,
thanks,
dude.

I'll give
Uncle Ray a
ring, he might
know how to
fix it.

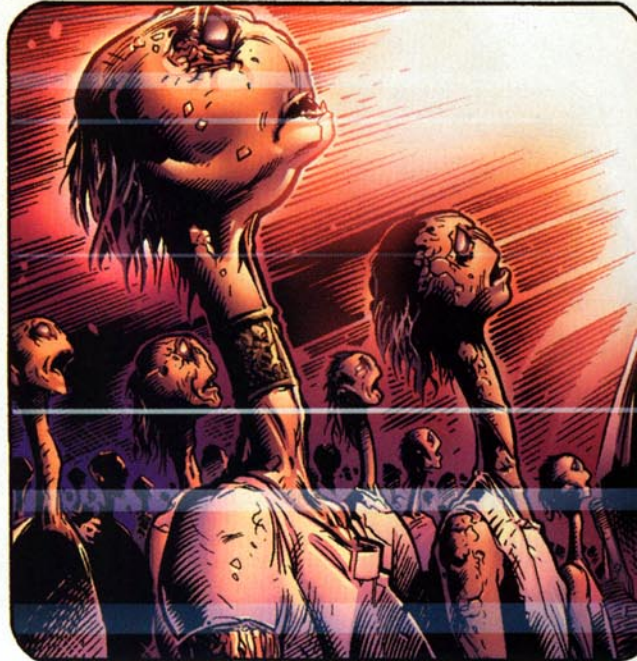
It was
Uncle Ray who
spilled beer in
it in the first
place.



That MTV
Europe's rubbish
anyway. I like
VH-1.

You would.
You're like a
hundred years
old.

Hold on.
Something's
coming
on...



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

no

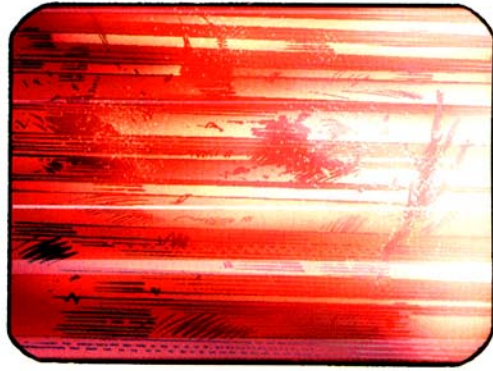
no
escape

no
escape

it
comes

and
there's no
escape

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



all the stars
go out



*you
are already
dead*

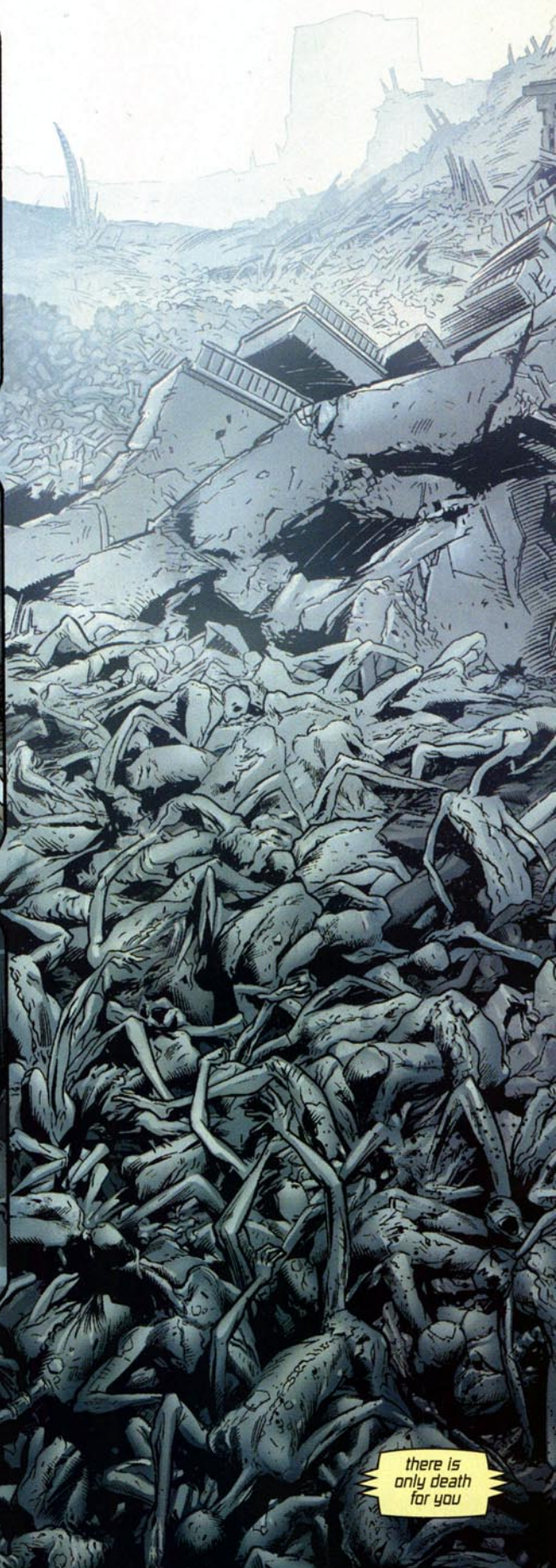


*it comes
and you are
all dead*



*we are
all dead*

listen



*there is
only death
for you*



there is only small life

then there is this

we he I send this tell this warn this



there is only horror now

there is only death now



Aaron? Aaaaaaron! It is time for beer!

Beer is good. It's like a food group and stuff.

beer = w00t



Hit it a little too hard there, Chad.

I don't know my own strength. I am Hercules.

door = 0wnz0r3d



Is that the bath running? Sounds like it's overflowing.

This is Aaron, dude. No way that's a bath.

Aaron = teh suck







Professor?

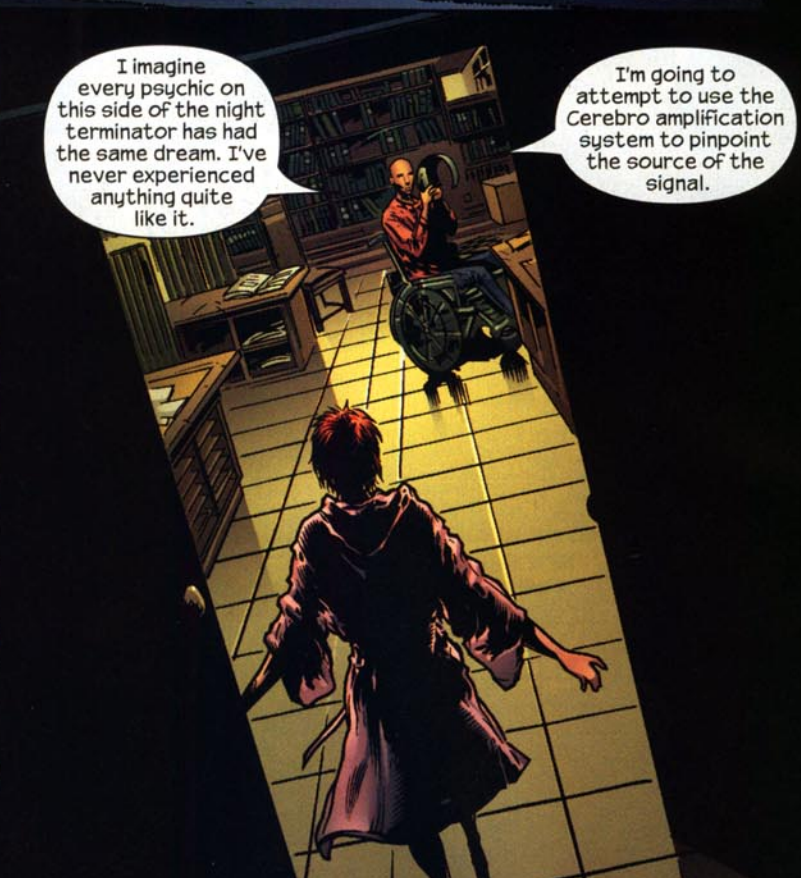


Professor
Xavier?

The library,
Jean.



I dreamt
it too.



I imagine
every psychic on
this side of the night
terminator has had
the same dream. I've
never experienced
anything quite
like it.

I'm going to
attempt to use the
Cerebro amplification
system to pinpoint
the source of the
signal.



It felt like... like someone was playing me a recording, almost.

Indeed. Surreal as the sequence was, it had the authentic tenor of direct experience. It's not an artificial construct.

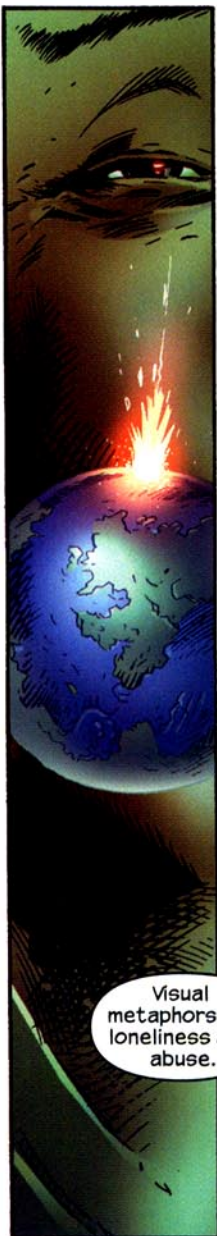
Is it an attack?



I don't think so. I think it's a cry for help.

Perhaps... imagine a traumatized teenager, X-factor positive and emerging into full-blown *homo sapiens novus*.

Trying to communicate what they've experienced, but filtered through the fantasies they've evolved to cope.



Visual metaphors for loneliness and abuse.



Young, scared, confused, and the most powerful broadcast telepath we've ever encountered...




...there.



Jean, I'd like you to wake up Logan and Peter.


We've a rescue mission to mount.

The Triskelion:
NYC Base of The U.S.
Superhuman Defense
Initiative



Obviously, we have to find the perpetrator and force them to cease and desist.


With extreme prejudice if necessary.



We're into the third day of these broadcasts, and stuff is starting to *happen*, you know? These things, they're getting to people.


Eight times in the last twenty-four hours alone, they've broken over all TV and radio channels--

-- and they turn up in every language on Earth. How does that work?




And the cell phones. These things are hacking into the phone network. And the Internet is a mess.

I've been given my orders. Whoever's broadcasting needs to be stamped on. We've been cleared to go in.



And that is the end of the good news.



It's coming from *Russia*.

The Tunguska region of Russia, in fact. Which is kinda like Siberia without the nice parts.

And I am telling you, I did not go through a Cold War and in fact *end* the Cold War to have a *massively* destabilizing terrorist communications attack emerge from *Russia*!



However.

We've been requested to go in gently and quietly. Apparently we don't want to upset Mr. Putin.

Mr. Putin, he say "I know nothing." He's approved a small exploratory force, nothing more.



So this is it?

Captain, it's me and you. And the Black Widow here, because I want a Russian speaker--

And I get to hear more about how you put Yankee boot to Russian backside and pulled the Berlin Wall down with your bare teeth, General Fury?



-- and one more.

Tony? Tony's the brains.

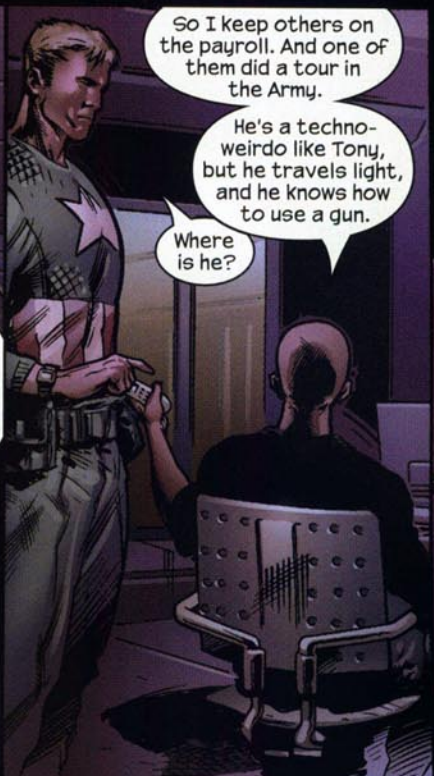
Yeah, but he's also useless in a firefight unless he's piloting Iron Man, and I don't have clearance for the hundred-man support crew Iron Man needs to fly.



But he's the science guy. We'll need a science guy, right?

I like Tony. Everyone likes Tony. He's a friendly little freak of nature, you know?

But one day he's going to pull his weak sister act at the wrong moment and he's going to get capped. And then we'll be without a double-brained freak of nature.



So I keep others on the payroll. And one of them did a tour in the Army.

He's a techno-weirdo like Tony, but he travels light, and he knows how to use a gun.

Where is he?



According to geolocation, he's in the Amazon.

So I'm going to get him on the phone.



Hello?

Yeah, this is Sam Wilson.

You've gotten me on a satphone in the middle of pygmy country and you want me to hold?





TO BE CONTINUED...