

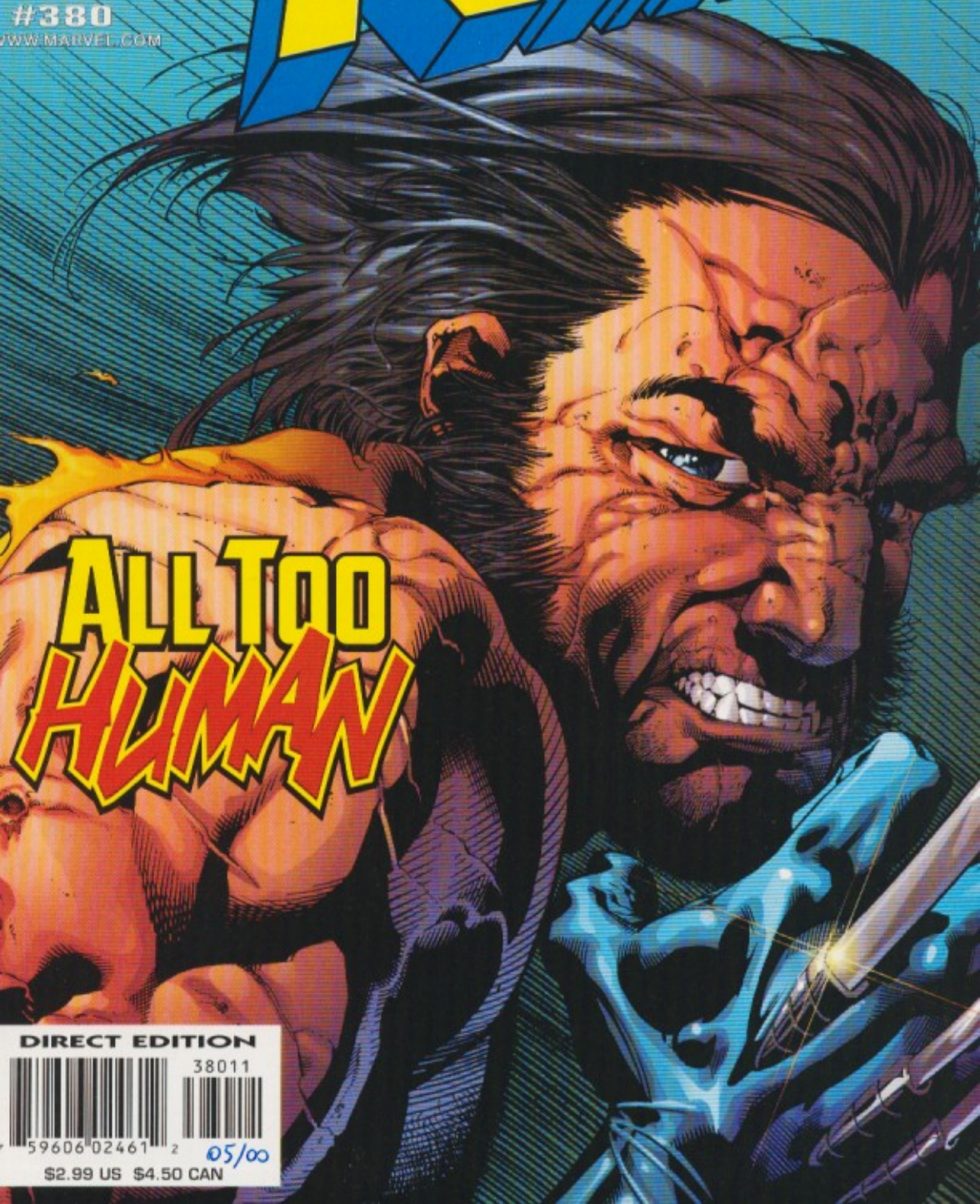


THE UNCANNY



X-MEN[®]

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ALL TOO HUMAN

DIRECT EDITION

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THEY WERE BORN MUTANTS -- POSSESSING POWERS OF A GENETIC ORIGIN WHICH MADE THEM OUTCASTS OF SOCIETY. BUT ONE MAN -- PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER -- BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER TO LEARN TO USE THEIR UNIQUE GIFTS IN THE SERVICE OF A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM.

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

HEAVEN'S SHADOW

"THIS IS THE FACE OF EVOLUTION GONE WILD. EVERY GENETIC POSSIBILITY -- THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS OF POTENTIAL CHROMOSOMAL CODE PATTERNS --

"-- ALL BEING EXPLORED IN A SINGLE GENERATION.

"EACH INDIVIDUAL'S UNIQUE D.N.A. SEQUENCES RECONFIGURING THEMSELVES, SECOND BY SECOND, IN A CEASELESS EFFORT TO CREATE A PERFECT COMBINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SURVIVAL..."

"...A FINISHED PRODUCT, IF YOU WILL.

"THIS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER -- CONSIDERING THAT NATURE ITSELF CONTINUES TO EVOLVE AS WELL, MAKING CONSTANTLY CHANGING DEMANDS OF EVERY SPECIES ON EARTH.

"AND THESE GENOSHAN MUTATES ARE ONLY THE FIRST TO SUFFER BEYOND MEASURE FOR IT."

**ALAN DAVIS PLOT TOM RANEY PENCILS TERRY KAVANAGH SCRIPT SCOTT HANNA INKS
BRIAN HABERLIN COLORS AS & COMICRAFT'S SAIDA & WES LETTERS
MARK POWERS EDITOR BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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THE HUMAN MAGISTRATES OF GENOSHA HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE MUTATE POPULATION'S CURRENT LACK OF POWERS TO ATTEMPT A COMPLETE EXTERMINATION OF THEIR SUPER-HUMAN "PROBLEM," WITHOUT THE INTERFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

BUT ICEMAN AND I WERE ABLE TO SMUGGLE THIS OUT, WITH THE AID OF LORNA DANE AND MAGNETO.

DUE TO THEIR EXTENSIVE PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITIONING AND THE ESSENTIALLY ARTIFICIAL NATURE OF THEIR INITIAL MUTATION, THE BIOLOGY OF THE GENOSHAN MUTATES IS UNDOUBTEDLY LESS STABLE THAN THE REST OF TERRESTRIAL LIFE...

...BUT ALL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT THE EVENTUAL, EVEN IMMINENT, FATE OF EVERY LIVING ORGANISM ON EARTH.

EVOLUTION IS MEANT TO BE A FLUID RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF A FLUID ENVIRONMENT, BUT IT'S ALSO MEANT TO BE A DEMANDINGLY SLOW PROCESS -- EFFECTIVE OVER THE LONG-TERM ONLY.



AND SO IT WAS, HENRY.

UNTIL SOME HELP FROM... ABOVE.

HELP NO ONE EVER ASKED FOR.

BUT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S MUTATION-NEUTRALIZATION PROGRAM, HOWEVER AUTHORITARIAN AND EXTREME, WAS MOTIVATED BY A GENUINE CONCERN FOR ALL HUMANITY --

-- A NOT ALTOGETHER UNREASONABLE FEAR THAT MAN AN' MUTANTS WOULD EVENTUALLY DESTROY EACH OTHER.

OR SO WE BELIEVED, AT LEAST.

ENOUGH TO ACCEPT HIS ENFORCED EQUALIZATION UNTIL WE INVESTIGATED THE PHENOMENON MORE THOROUGHLY.

"SO I FINALLY TOOK THE TIME TO EXPLORE THE MAN HE ONCE WAS MORE CLOSELY, HOPING TO FIND SOME CLUE THAT MIGHT LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM AND HIS PRESENT MOTIVES..."

"WHAT I FOUND WAS A RECORD OF HIS EARLY DAYS AT UNIVERSITY, FORGING FURIOUSLY FORWARD THROUGH THE LARGELY UNCHARTED WILDERNESS OF GENETIC SCIENCE. HE WAS ALL BUT ALONE IN SUCH NEW FRONTIERS, AT THE TIME..."

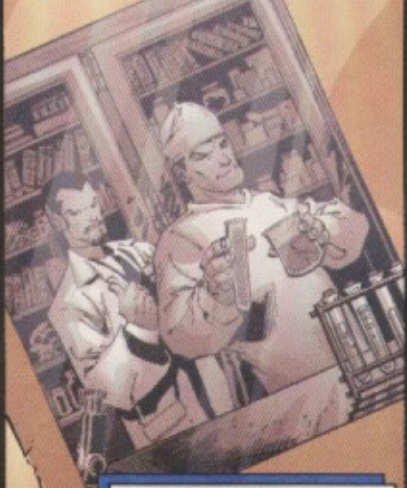


YET OUR ANALYSIS HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE SOURCE OF THE PROGRESSIVE BIO-DEGENERATION IS MOST DEFINITELY A NEW EMISSION-SIGNATURE FROM THE EVOLUTIONARY'S SATELLITE-ARRAY...

...ROUTED DIRECTLY FROM THE ORBITING SPACE STATION HE CALLS HOME.



"...OR, BARRING THAT, A WEAKNESS TO EXPLOIT. A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST HIM.



"...EXCEPT FOR A MAN NAMED ESSEX, WITH WHOM HE VERY WELL MAY HAVE INTERACTED."



GIVEN THE FIELD OF STUDY, AND THAT NAME, THE LIKELY CONCLUSION IS THAT THIS COLLEAGUE WAS, IN TRUTH --

MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE AS ONE OF HIS INSANE EXPERIMENTS, I SUPPOSE.

NO ARGUMENT THERE, BOBBY, BUT WE CAN'T 'XACTLY BE SURE YET...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

WITHOUT OUR POWERS, KITTY, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT...?

WE ARE STILL X-MEN, KURT.

SO --?! HOW'S IT REALLY MATTER WHO'S RESPONSIBLE, ANYWAY --?

WE SHOULD CONTACT THE AVENGERS AND FANTASTIC FOUR, IF NOTHING ELSE -- ALERT THEM TO THE STATE OF AFFAIRS --

AND SO WE WILL, STORM.

BUT THOSE HEROES MAY VERY WELL BE INVOLVED IN THEIR OWN CRISES...

SINISTER?!

O' COURSE -- DIS WHOLE SICK SCHEME REEKS O' DAT MADMAN'S TWISTED AMBITIONS...



...SO I SUGGEST WE GET MOVING.

MY CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT EVERY LIVING THING ON THE PLANET --

-- WILL BE MUTATING BY WEEK'S END.

GAINED DURING THEIR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE SKRULLS -- NANK.

UNLESS WE ACT QUICKLY.

EVEN WITHOUT OUR MUTANT ABILITIES, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO AVERT SUCH A CATASTROPHE HERE AT OUR FINGER-TIPS.

PETER'S GOT A POINT, GUYS! WE'RE SITTING ON A STOCKPILE OF ACCUMULATED ALIEN HARDWARE® THAT WE'VE HARDLY HAD A CHANCE TO ANALYZE.

IT'S A LONG SHOT, AT BEST...

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT, LEBEAU.

AS EVER, FRIENDS, WHERE THERE IS A WILL --



"-- THE X-MEN WILL FIND A WAY!"

IN THE END, YOU WERE ALL TOO HUMAN.

MY ONLY MISTAKE WAS TURNING MY BACK ON YOU, ESSEX...

...SUSPECTING AS I DID THE DEPTH OF YOUR SECRETS ALL ALONG... THE DEVILS YOU MUST HAVE DEALT WITH TO SURVIVE SO LONG PAST YOUR TIME.

THIS IS YOUR OWN FAULT, WYNDHAM. DESPITE THE UNDENIABLE BRILLIANCE OF THE SCIENCE AT WORK HERE...

...YOUR VISION HAS BEEN LIMITED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. ALWAYS FOCUSED ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE EXPERIMENT RATHER THAN THE EXPERIMENT ITSELF, CLOUDED BY SOME INESCAPABLE CONNECTION TO THE RATS IN THEIR MAZES.

YOU SIMPLY AVOIDED THE QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS YOU FEARED.

ONLY ONE OF THE MANY ERRORS OF CONSEQUENCE, HERBERT...

...NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS A DISGUSTING LACK OF DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES BUILT INTO THIS ENTIRE TRANSMISSION NETWORK.

A VULNERABILITY I CANNOT LIVE WITH, I'M AFRAID.

ONCE MY GLOBAL MUTATION EFFECT BEGINS TO MANIFEST IN THE GENERAL POPULACE --

-- WE CAN ANTICIPATE THE IMMEDIATE INTERFERENCE OF ANY NUMBER OF EARTH AGENCIES. THE AVENGERS, SHIELD, THE FANTASTIC FOUR...

...SO I'LL NEED AN ARMY OF YOUR NEW MEN BY THEN, RAPIDLY EVOLVED FROM THE LOWER LIFEFORMS YOU'VE GOT ON BOARD.

NEVER...

...I'LL NEVER REVEAL HOW IT'S DONE, ESSEX...

...I WON'T HELP YOU!

BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HINDER ME, EITHER, NOT WHILE YOU'RE TRAPPED WITHIN THAT STASIS TUBE.

AND YOU SHARED ENOUGH SECRETS WITH "DR. ESSEX" FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO DEDUCE THE REST NOW. IT WILL TAKE SLIGHTLY LONGER THIS WAY, I ADMIT --



"... BUT EXPERIMENTING ON THE FLORA AND FAUNA IS MY PASSION, AFTER ALL."

RAVEN DARKHOLME, PLEASE.

MS. IRENE ADLER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, IN REGARD T' THE PENDING AFFIDAVITS RELATIN' T' HER UPCOMIN' PRELIMINARY --

YES, THANK YOU...

...AH!! HOLD.

AH!! TAKE ALL THE TIME AH CAN GET, ACTUALLY. RAVEN'S FACING A HALF-DOZEN LIFE SENTENCES EASILY FOR THE CRIMES SHE COMMITTED AS MYSTIQUE, BUT NOW, WITHOUT HER MUTANT SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS...

...SHE'S HELPLESS, ALONE, AND THOUGH I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT -- TERRIFIED.

IT'S ONLY BEEN A LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK, AND SHE'S ALREADY AT THE EDGE OF HER ROPE, TELLIN' ME T' BREAK HER OUT O' JAIL.

AH KNOW THE WOMAN WHO RAISED ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ALIVE, AND AH KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS KIND O' CONFINEMENT'S DOIN' T' HER.

SO HOW'M AH SUPPOSED T' TELL HER THAT --

RAVEN...?

"SOMETHING'S COME UP" --?

"DON'T DO ANYTHING" --?!

HOW DARE YOU, "MS. ADLER"?! HOW DARE YOU CALL HERE, USING THE NAME OF A WOMAN WE BOTH LOVED --

-- A WOMAN WHO LOVED YOU LIKE THE MOTHER YOU NEVER HAD --

-- TO TELL ME YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR... OTHER FAMILY ONCE AGAIN?! NOW, WHEN I NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER...

SAVE THE EXCUSES, LITTLE GIRL, I'VE HEARD THEM ALL FROM YOU BEFORE. BUT THIS TIME, I PROMISE YOU...

...IS THE LAST TIME!

SLAM

"WEIRD."

"I MEAN, GEARIN' UP T' DEFEND THE WORLD FROM A THREAT IT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTS..."



...NOTHING NEW THERE. BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN NOBODY HATES AND FEARS US WHILE WE'RE DOING IT...

BECAUSE WE ARE NO LONGER MUTANTS.

BUT IF WE SUCCEED IN OUR MISSION...

WE WILL BE MUTANTS ONCE MORE.

HATED AND FEARED BY EVERYONE WE RESCUED.

WEIRD, INDEED.

I LONG AGO RECONCILED AND ACCEPTED WHO I WAS...

...THIS BIOLOGICAL CONVERSION -- IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SUPERFICIAL COSMETIC CHANGE. AND THE COST IS FAR TOO HIGH.

...AS WELL AS MY MUTANT AGILITY AND STAMINA -- MY SPEED AND STRENGTH --

...WERE ALL FACETS OF MY BEING THAT I HAD TAKEN FOR GRANTED. WITHOUT THEM, I AM NOT THE SAME MAN AT ALL.

...THE BOY SHE RECENTLY STARTED DATING.

THE FIRST BOY TO TRULY SEE SARAH, CLEANSED OF THE CONSTANT AGONY AND ANGER THAT ACCOMPANIED HER MUTATION. FREE OF THE CEASELESSLY GROWING BONES WHICH SERVED AS A SHELL...

...BUT ALL WE CAN DO IS FACE EACH CRISIS AS IT COMES, TOGETHER.

AND I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT, EVEN TO MYSELF...

...THAT I SECRETLY WELCOME THIS ONE. THIS REASONABLE EXCUSE --

...FOR MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO RESTORE OUR NATURAL TALENTS, WHATEVER ELSE MAY COME. I UNDERSTOOD KURT'S POINT COMPLETELY. LOSING MY EMPATHY WITH THE ELEMENTS...

NOW WE HAVE TO FIND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OUTLETS FOR HELPING PEOPLE. AM I WRONG, REGRETTING THAT?

NO, KATZCHEN. THAT IS WHAT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND. IT IS OUR NATURE TO BE MUTANTS...

...HOW COULD WE BE "CURED" OF WHAT WE WERE BORN TO BE?

SHE DEARLY WANTS TO RETAIN HER NEW "HUMANITY," BUT SHE ALSO WANTS TO SAVE HUMANITY AT LARGE, ESPECIALLY ONE PARTICULAR HUMAN.

BRAD...

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, SARAH HAS GROWN IMMEASURABLY FROM HER TIME AMONG "ORDINARY" PEOPLE. SHE HAS GAINED SO MUCH FROM HONEST INTERACTION WITH OTHERS, FOUND SO MUCH WITHIN HERSELF...

...THE BOY SHE RECENTLY STARTED DATING.

THE FIRST BOY TO TRULY SEE SARAH, CLEANSED OF THE CONSTANT AGONY AND ANGER THAT ACCOMPANIED HER MUTATION. FREE OF THE CEASELESSLY GROWING BONES WHICH SERVED AS A SHELL...

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...MY VERY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE WORLD THROUGH ITS WEATHER -- AGAIN -- HAS BEEN LIKE THE LOSS OF ONE OF MY SENSES...

...AND ALL THE REST SUFFER FOR IT, AS WELL. LIFE AS A HUMAN NOW SEEMS SO LIFELESS, SO FLAT AND DULL --

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PRINCESS.

...MY VERY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE WORLD THROUGH ITS WEATHER -- AGAIN -- HAS BEEN LIKE THE LOSS OF ONE OF MY SENSES...

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SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PRINCESS.

...MY VERY PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE WORLD THROUGH ITS WEATHER -- AGAIN -- HAS BEEN LIKE THE LOSS OF ONE OF MY SENSES...



WOLVERINE --?!

NO MORE THAN YOU'RE STORM ANYMORE, 'ORORO.

WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU, LOGAN -- CALLING ALL YOUR OLD HAUNTS IN MADRIPOOR, CONTACTING YUKIO IN JAPAN --

-- BUT YOU VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN...

...AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?!

ADAMANTIUM POISONIN', ADVANCED STAGES.

->HHK->
->HKKK->

AN' NO WAY T' FIGHT IT WITHOUT MY MUTANT HEALIN' FACTOR.



WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO US IMMEDIATELY, OLD FRIEND? TO GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT FOR YOU --

-- TO FORCE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY TO UNDO WHAT HE HAD DONE --

AN' SPOIL ALL THE FUN FOR THE REST O' YOU...?

I WASN'T ABOUT T' RUN THE RISK O' ROGUE AN' MARROW ENDIN' UP AS UNTOUCHABLES AGAIN.



BUT I'VE BEEN KEEPIN' AN EYE ON THIS PLACE ANYWAY, JUST IN CASE...

->HHKKK->
->HHAK HHK->

... YOU NEED ME.

AN' ALL THE INCREASED ACTIVITY 'ROUND HERE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS TELLS ME SOMETHIN' S' 'BOUT T' GO DOWN.

UP, ACTUALLY.



TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM YOUR FATE AND WORSE, WE ARE PREPARING TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT ON THE EVOLUTIONARY'S SANCTUM IN THE SKY, AND PERHAPS EVEN CONFRONT THE MAN WHO WOULD BE GOD HIMSELF.

BUT YOU ARE CLEARLY TOO WEAK TO JOIN US, LOGAN.

I'M DYIN', GIRL...



... BUT Y' BETTER BELIEVE I'M GOIN' DOWN FIGHTIN' EVERY STEP O' THE WAY!

GENOSHA, OFF THE COAST OF MADAGASCAR...

*SITUATION'S DETERIORATING BY THE SECOND.

"THE HUMAN MAGISTRATES HAVE SECURED THEIR HOLD ON THE CAPITAL CITY, AND FROZEN ALL INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION FOR THE NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, EFFECTIVELY LOCKING DOWN THE ENTIRE GENOSHAN POPULACE --

"-- WHILE THE MILITARY COMPLETES THE PURGE.

"THE MOUNTAIN FACTIONS STOPPED TRANSMITTING YESTERDAY, AND WE LOST THE LAST OF THE COASTAL RESISTANCE AN HOUR AGO. FOR ALL WE KNOW NOW..."



...WE'RE THE LAST MUTANTS LEFT ALIVE ON THIS ISLAND.

DON'T YOU MEAN EX-MUTANTS, POLARIS?

THIS ENTIRE PIT'S BEEN MUTANT-FREE FOR OVER A WEEK...

...LESS YOU COUNT THE HOME-GROWN!

MORE AND MORE OF THE LOCAL MUTANTS ARE STARTING TO METAMORPHOSE FASTER AND FASTER, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!

WHATEVER THE PROCESS AT WORK HERE, IT APPEARS TO BE ACCELERATING...



KK-K-K-

RRR-RRR...

...AND IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME FOR THE REST OF US.

AMELIA'S RIGHT.

IT WAS FOOLISH TO HAND OVER OUR ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE TO DRAKE AND MCCOY. YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED THE X-MEN, MAGNUS...

...THEY'RE POWERLESS TO HELP HERE, AND WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SEE THEIR GREATEST ENEMY DESTROYED.



ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN ADMITTEDLY-LIMITED INTELLIGENCE, CORTEZ...

...REPORTS INDICATED THAT WE ALL LACK OUR MUTANT POWERS AT PRESENT--

-- AND AS SUCH, YOU ARE PARTICULARLY USELESS TO ME AT THE MOMENT, WHICH YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER

THE X-MEN ARE HARDLY POWERLESS, I ASSURE YOU. THEY WILL FIND A WAY TO SUCCEED...



"...OR THEY WILL DIE TRYING."



IS IT JUST ME, FOLKS...



...OR DOES ANYONE ELSE FEEL REALLY, REALLY SICK?

CHALK IT UP TO **G-FORCE NAUSEA**. A COMMON ENOUGH RESPONSE TO HIGH-SPEED VERTIGO AND RAPID GRAVITY DEPRESSURIZATION THAT I'D ONLY READ ABOUT UNTIL NOW, SOMETHING WE'D ALL BEEN SPARED, AS MUTANTS...

...BUT OUR HUMAN METABOLISMS ARE APPARENTLY NOT QUITE AS **RESILIENT**. AND THIS SHIP TRAVELS FAR FASTER THAN ANY STANDARD TERRESTRIAL CRAFT...

...SO THE EFFECTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY INTENSIFIED.

OR IT'S THE EVOLUTIONARY'S **NEUTRALIZATION NETWORK**, HANK. MAYBE **PROXIMITY** TO THE SOURCE CONCENTRATES ITS IMPACT ON OUR SYSTEMS.

POSSIBLE...



...BUT HIGHLY UNLIKELY, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

I'VE PROGRAMMED THE SHUTTLE TO TAKE US DIRECTLY TO THE SPACE STATION --





-- WHILE MAINTAINING AS MUCH DISTANCE AS PRACTICAL FROM THE BROADCAST SATELLITES.

PREDICTABLE. BUT I'M RATHER PLEASED WITH THE X-MEN'S PERSISTENCE ON THIS OCCASION, WYNDHAM.

THE ONE DRAWBACK TO HIJACKING THIS GRAND SCHEME OF YOURS WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING TRACK OF XAVIER'S BROOD AMIDST THE INEVITABLE CHAOS...

NO...

"...BUT THAT IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM.

"AND THIS PRESENTS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE HUMANIZED MUTANTS' PERFORMANCE AGAINST MY RECORDS OF THEIR EMPOWERED MUTANT STATES.



KZZZ

"TO TEST THEM PERSONALLY..."





"...ONE LAST TIME."

OH MY STARS AND GARTERS.



WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT GOIN' ON, HARDWARE-WISE --

BUT THIS... THIS...

STAY FOCUSED, BOYS AND GIRLS.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THESE GENERATOR CONDUITS BACK TO THE MAIN REACTORS.

AND IF WE'RE GOING TO STAND ANY CHANCE AT ALL AGAINST THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, SINISTER, OR WHOEVER ELSE IS INVOLVED IN THIS MESS...

...WE HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE POWER TO THE NEUTRALIZATION ARRAY POST HASTE, AND KEEP IT SHUT DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR OUR MUTANT POWERS TO RETURN.

THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T PACKIN' EXPLOSIVES WILL COVER THOSE WHO ARE...



...BUT SOMETHIN STINKS HERE, MCCOY. WE GOT NO CHOICE O' WHICH WAY T' GO -- ALL THE OTHER ROUTES ARE BLOCKED.

AS IF WE'RE BEING HERDED, LIKE RATS IN A --



TRAP!

I WAS GOING TO SAY "MAZE," SARAH...



GRRWR



...BUT YOU GET THE POINT.

THE EVOLUTIONARY'S NEW MEN ARE ANYTHING BUT, TEAM!

THEY'RE NOTHING MORE OR LESS THAN A HIGHLY EVOLVED MENAGERIE OF PREDATORY ANIMALS ALL IN THE THRALL OF THEIR "CREATOR."



DON'T HOLD BACK!

SSHK

MAGNIFICENT. SAVAGE, RUTHLESS, DRIVEN...

ZAAK

RAAWR!

POW



...THIS IS EVOLUTION IN ACTION. AN ENDLESS CONTEST, WITH SURVIVAL ALONE AS THE PRIZE TO THE WORTHIEST.

MADNESS...

IN A MATTER OF DAYS, PERHAPS SOONER, THE ENTIRE EARTH WILL BE COVERED IN BATTLES SUCH AS THIS...

"...AS MORE AND MORE WILDLY MUTATING NEW SPECIES EVOLVE TO JOIN IN THE FINAL STRUGGLE OF FORCED ADAPTATION."



UKKI!

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED THREE TO ONE --

ROGUE?!



AND MOST OF OUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS IN SUCH CLOSE QUARTERS.

OVER HERE, I'M PICKIN' UP SINISTER'S YOU TWO. SCENT FROM AN AIR DUCT DOWN THIS WAY.

HIS "SCENT" --?



THAT IS IRRELEVANT, LOGAN. THE PLAN IS TO TRY AND REACH THE STATION'S POWER CORE AND ATTEMPT TO DEACTIVATE IT...

WHEREVER SINISTER IS, THE CONTROLS ARE THERE, TOO.

MAKES SENSE TO ME, ORORO.



BUT OUR TEAMMATES --

ARE GONNA HAVE T'HOLD THEIR OWN FOR A WHILE. DRAWIN' ATTENTION AWAY FROM US FOR JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER...

"NATURAL SELECTION HAD ALREADY BEEN INTERRUPTED, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, BY THE SOCIAL INFLUENCE OF CIVILIZATION..."



...AND STAGNATION HAS SET IN, BUT NOW, WITH ALL THE WORLD AS ITS PETRI DISH ONCE AGAIN...

GARANTEE THIS MUCH, SINISTER...
...IT WON'T BE YOU!



...JUST IMAGINE THE BEING THAT WILL ULTIMATELY TRIUMPH OVER EVOLUTION ITSELF, IN THE END!

PERHAPS NOT, WOLVERINE...
...BUT IT WILL MOST CERTAINLY NOT BE YOU, EITHER.
ALTHOUGH WOODLAND RODENTS ARE A DECIDEDLY HARDY STOCK -- AS I KNOW YOU CAN ATTEST TO --
-- AND THOROUGHLY FEROCIOUS IN THEIR PRIME...
...THEY'RE REALLY QUITE LOW ON THE FOOD CHAIN.



YEAAR--!



CALL OFF THE DOGS -- AND CATS, BATS, WHATEVER -- NOW, SINISTER!

SHADOWCAT, BEWARE...



...BEHIND YOU --

IN CASE YOU FAILED TO NOTICE, X-MEN...
...I WAS EXPECTING YOU.

GLUUPPH



AND I PREPARED ACCORDINGLY.
YOUR INGENUITY IMPRESSES ME, AS USUAL -- YET I REMAIN ONE STEP AHEAD, AS ALWAYS --



... NOT A CHANCE IN --

KZAAAKKZ

LOGAN --!

I C-CANT HELP HIM, CANT EVEN GET NEAR HIM --

-- NOTHING HUMAN COULD SURVIVE THAT BARRAGE, NOTHING HUMAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE IT FOR THIS...

NOTHING HUMAN.

SHRRIIRRE
...AND SO'S MY PHASING ABILITY.
SHRRIIRRE

STORM, LISTEN TO ME!

THAT WAVE OF SICKNESS THAT WASHED OVER US ALL EARLIER...

THAT'S IT --! IT HAS TO BE --

SHRRIIRRE

-- LOGAN'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR HAS KICKED IN AGAIN...

...AS WE MOVED IN BEHIND THE NEUTRALIZATION SATELLITES --
-- IT WAS THE START OF OUR POWERS RETURNING!

No--!

CONSIDERING MY OWN IMMUNITY TO THE MUTATION ARRAY WHILE HERE, PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE PRESUMED THE SAME OF ALL WITHIN THE ACTUAL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE...





...BUT SUCH TRIFLING OVERSIGHTS ARE EASILY CORRECTABLE, EVEN AT THIS LATE STAGE.

AND IF THAT IS THE VERY BEST YOU CAN MANAGE TO MUSTER BY NOW, MY DEAR --

Z-JTT



KZZZ Z-JTT

IT'LL DO JUST FINE, SUCKER.



STORM'S LITTLE SNAP, CRACKLE, AN' POP BOUGHT ME MORE 'N ENOUGH TIME T' DO WHAT I DO BEST...

STOP, FOOL!

MAJOR DAMAGE!

THOSE ARE THE COMMAND CIRCUITS FOR...

SHIIIIIIII

POOM

POOM

IT'S OVER, LOSAN.



THE ENTIRE MUTATION ARRAY CRASHED AND BURNED. LOSAN... IS HE...?

HE'LL LIVE, ORORO, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY AS CLOSE AS HE'S EVER COME TO DEATH.

YOU ALMOST BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE WITH THAT ONE, CANUCKLEHEAD.

WASN'T THAT... THE PLAN...?



MEIN GOTT, HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS...

HIS HEALING FACTOR HAS ALREADY KICKED IN. STILL, HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND QUICKLY.

HE'LL SURVIVE THIS... WE ALL WILL.

JUST PROMISE THERE'S ROOM FOR PETS THIS TIME AROUND, THOUGH. 'CAUSE NOW THAT THESE CRITTERS ARE DOWN T' SIZE AGAIN, THEY'RE ALL SO FREKIN' CUTE --

-- I COULD EAT 'EM RIGHT UP...

UNFORTUNATELY, X-MEN, WHILE I WAS DEVOLVING YOUR ATTACKERS BACK TO THEIR PRIMAL STATES, THE MAN YOU CALL SINISTER MADE HIS ESCAPE FROM THE STATION...



DON'T SAY IT. ...ABOARD YOUR SHUTTLE.

SACRE' --

HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A THREAT OF SUCH MAGNITUDE IN THE FIRST PLACE, EVOLUTIONARY...

IF I HAD NOT SUPPLIED THE MECHANISM TO CHANGE THE WORLD? YES...

...I AM FULLY AWARE OF MY CULPABILITY IN ALL THIS, DESPITE MY BEST INTENTIONS.



BUT ALL I CAN OFFER NOW ARE MY APOLOGIES AND TRANSPORTATION BACK DOWN TO EARTH.

BUT HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU NOW, WYNDHAM? AFTER YOU WENT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE JUST TO PUNISH US FOR BEING WHAT WE ARE...

...FOR TRYING TO LIVE UP TO WHAT NATURE ASKED OF US?!

IF WOLVERINE HADN'T FRIED YOUR SATELLITE SYSTEM IN TIME --

HE DID NOT. WOLVERINE SHORT-CIRCUITED THE CONTROL CONSOLE FOR THE STASIS TUBE THAT CONTAINED ME...



...I DESTROYED MY LIFE'S WORK.

I FINISHED DESTROYING IT. MORE ACCURATELY, WITH JUST THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.

THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE FOR YEARS.



BUT I AM, AFTER ALL...
...ONLY HUMAN.

I NEVER INTENDED TO PUNISH ANY OF YOU. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT, AND GLOBAL GENETIC ORDER IS AUTOMATICALLY RESTABILIZING EVEN AS WE SPEAK...

...REACTIVATING THE CHROMOSOMAL X-FACTOR IN EVERY MUTANT ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET.



BY THE ETERNAL --!

KRRR



NO-NO-NO-NO...



YESSS...



YIEEE!

"QUIET FRIDAY, JAKE. ROLL CALL CAME UP CLEAN THE FIRST TIME, BELIEVE IT OR NOT -- EVEN CELLBLOCK 6 WENT DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT TONIGHT."

I ACTUALLY GET TO KNOCK OFF A FEW MINUTES EARLY, FOR ONCE.

HAVE A GOOD ONE THEN, SHIRL.

WONT BE EASY WITHOUT YOU, BIG GUY...

...BECAUSE ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW IS TO TEAR OFF YOUR FAT FACE AND --

AWOOOGA AWOOOOGA

FIRST THINGS FIRST, THOUGH. PRISON CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR ME...

...BUT JAKE MYERS -- RIVERLAKE DRIVE, OSWEGO, SWING SCHEDULE B...IS THE VERY LEAST OF MY OFFENDERS. THOSE WHO BETRAYED WHAT LITTLE TRUST I HAD, WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF RECENT...VULNERABILITIES...

"...WILL PAY IN WAYS I HAVE NOT EVEN BEGUN TO IMAGINE YET."

H-HOLY...

HE TORE APART EVERYTHING WE HAD WITH A GLANCE -- ALL OUR WEAPONS, OUR TANKS --

RETREAT WHILE YOU STILL CAN, HUMANS...

...SURRENDER IS NOT AN OPTION!

FALL BACK, PEOPLE -- FALL BACK --



MAGNETO'S
RETAKEN THE
CAPITAL!

GENOSHA FOR
MUTANTS!

FOR
MUTATES!



MAGNETO! MAGNETO! MAGNETO!
MAGNETO! MAGNETO! MAGNETO!

YOU
EARNED THIS,
MAGNUS.

WE'VE
BEATEN BACK
THE MAGISTRATES,
THE MUTATE
TRANSFORMATIONS
SEEM TO BE IN
REMISSION --

AND WE ARE
ONCE AGAIN FREE TO
BEGIN REBUILDING THE
HOME WE'VE ALL BEEN
FIGHTING FOR, VOUGHT --



-- AND IT IS MERELY
THE BEGINNING.

IF ONLY ALL
OUR ENEMIES
WOULD BE SO
BOLD.

SEE TO
CORTEZ AND THE
REST OF YOUR FELLOW
ACOLYTES NOW, AMELIA.
THERE'S STILL MUCH
LEFT TO DO...



...TOMORROW.

EXTREMELY
IMPRESSIVE.

I
COULD HARDLY
HAVE CREATED
A STRONGER,
MORE SOLID
PRESENCE
MYSELF --



-- EVEN IF
MY BATTLE
WOUNDS HAD
HEALED BY
NOW.

TEK

CREDIT
WHERE
CREDIT'S DUE,
MAGNUS...




...I'VE GOT
AN EXCELLENT
TEACHER.

AND A
STATE-OF-THE-
ART IMAGE-
INDUCER.



AND SO
MUCH MORE,
LORNA.
SO MUCH
WE'VE BARELY
BEGUN TO
EXPLORE...



"...THE POSSIBILITIES ARE
TRULY ENDLESS NOW."

NEXT ISSUE:

WE'RE BACK! BETTER & BOLDER THAN EVER!
THE MUCH-WOUND, LONG-ABSENT,
SUPER-SPECTACULAR RETURN OF:

CHRIS CLAREMONT

(WITH HIS PALS ADAM KUBERT
AND TIM TOWNSEND!)