

MARVEL
PG 416

UNCANNY

X-MEN



KIA ASAMIYA
騎麻亞宮
STUDIO TRON

DIRECT EDITION

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AUSTEN
ASAMIYA

Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo Superior, individuals gifted with strange and fantastic abilities simply by virtue of their genetic makeup.

Stan Lee presents...

UNCANNY X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY



NIGHTCRAWLER
Kurt Wagner
Teleportation



ICEMAN
Bobby Drake
Sub-Zero Manipulation



JUGGERNAUT
Cain Marko
Super-strength, Invulnerability



SQUIDBOY
Samuel Pile
Underwater Breathing



STACY X
Identity Unknown
Pheromone Control



The X-Men, a group of heroes with strange mutant powers, are forever sworn to protect a world that hates and fears them. They have been called together by their mentor, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, to fight the never-ending battle of promoting unity between humans and mutantkind.

Their headquarters, the Xavier Institute for Higher Learning in upstate New York, was once Professor Xavier's family estate, but is now a school organized to teach mutants of all ages how to use their powers responsibly.

Recently, there have been some new additions to Xavier's ...

NORTHSTAR, a former member of the Canadian super-group Alpha Flight, was recruited by Professor X to teach at the school. But no sooner did Northstar accept Xavier's offer to join the X-Men than he was immediately injured, landing himself in the infirmary under the care of the new school nurse, Annie Ghazikhanian.

ANNIE, who endured a long, unrequited crush on one of her comatose patients, ended up following that patient to the Xavier Institute when he turned out to be the long-lost X-Man **HAVOK**.

STACY X was a prostitute at a mutant brothel called the X-Ranch long before she came to Xavier's and began joining the X-Men on missions. She's been having a hard time of late fitting in at the school. Her advances toward **RARCHANGEL** have been rebuffed, and on a recent mission, her snake-like skin began shedding out of control.

But the most surprising newcomer of all is the **JUGGERNAUT**, Professor Xavier's step-brother and—until recently—sworn enemy. As the Juggernaut, Cain Marko has tried to kill Xavier on numerous occasions. It was only lately, when his powers were weakened and his will to live nearly destroyed, that Cain began to turn over a new leaf. In a moment of life-or-death under the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, one of Xavier's new students, a young boy named **SAMMY**, swam underwater to save Cain from an untimely end. Shockingly, Professor X ended up inviting his step-brother to make Xavier's his temporary home ...



ANNIE GHAZIKHANIAN
School Nurse



ARCHANGEL
Warren Worthington III
Flight



HAVOK
Alex Summers
(Currently Comatose)
Solar-Generated Plasma Blasts

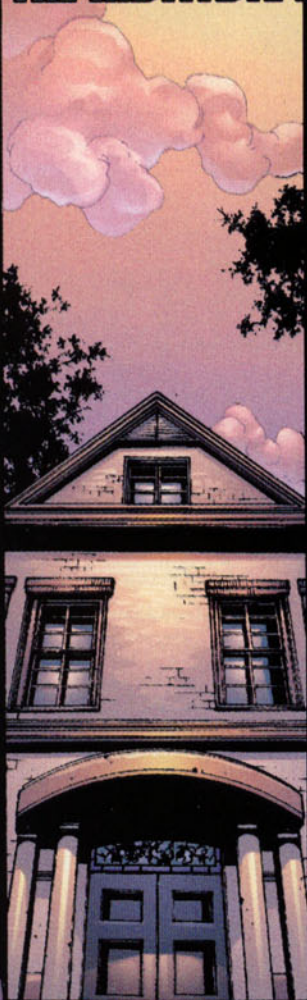


CYCLOPS
Scott Summers
Optic Blasts



PROFESSOR X
Charles Xavier
Telepathy

XAVIER'S MANSION THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING



It's happening just fine, thank you.

Huh --
-- huh --
Hey. How's it happening?
I mean --



"How's it happening"?

I GOT NERVOUS!

That's an X-MAN!

Where did you learn to talk?

Guten abend, gentlemen.



I know that.

What am I, stupid? I go to school here, too.

Night-something.

Night-CRAWLER.

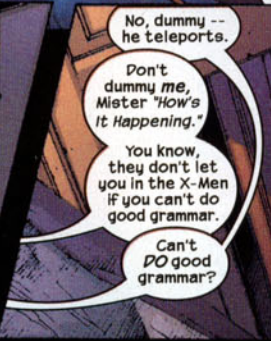
I thought you said you weren't stupid.



What's his power, then?

He walks through walls.

Come in.



No, dummy -- he teleports.

Don't dummy me, Mister "How's It Happening."

You know, they don't let you in the X-Men if you can't do good grammar.

Can't DO good grammar?



Hi, Bobby.

How's it happening?

FEARED AND HATED BY A WORLD
THEY HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT
STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE
UNCANNY
X-MEN

LIVING IN A MANSION

WRITER CHUCK AUSTEN, COLORIST JD SMITH, LETTERER PAUL TUTRONE, ASSISTANT EDITORS MIKE RAICHT & NOVA REN SUMA, EDITOR MIKE MARTS, CHIEF JOE QUESADA, AND PRESIDENT BILL JEMAS PROUDLY WELCOME ARTIST KIA ASAMIYA TO THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

SPECIAL THANKS TO C. B. CEBULSKI AND AKI YANAGI



"How's it happening?"

What is that, Kurt? Some new, hip *slang* or something?

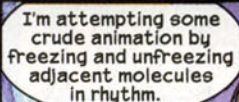
I'm happening good, I think.

How are you?

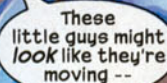
Fine, thanks for asking.

You mind if I ask what you're doing? It's rather *surreal* in here.

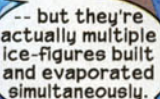
Lovely, but surreal.



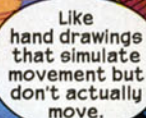
I'm attempting some crude animation by freezing and unfreezing adjacent molecules in rhythm.



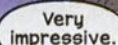
These little guys might look like they're moving --



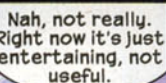
-- but they're actually multiple ice-figures built and evaporated simultaneously.



Like hand drawings that simulate movement but don't actually move.



Very impressive.



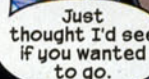
Nah, not really. Right now it's just entertaining, not useful.



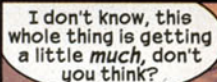
So what's up? You need something or just visiting?



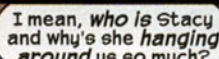
Actually, Stacy wants to go back to the X-Ranch to look for some personal things.



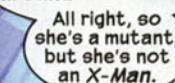
Just thought I'd see if you wanted to go.



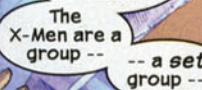
I don't know, this whole thing is getting a little *much*, don't you think?



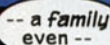
I mean, *who is Stacy* and why's she hanging around us so much?



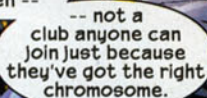
All right, so she's a mutant, but she's not an X-Man.



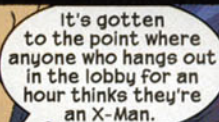
The X-Men are a group -- -- a *set* group --



-- a *family* even --



-- not a club anyone can join just because they've got the right chromosome.



It's gotten to the point where anyone who hangs out in the lobby for an hour thinks they're an X-Man.



The X-Men are Scott, Warren, me, Hank and Jean --
 -- everyone else is just a Johnny-come-lately.



Kurt, I didn't mean --
 -- you're not --

I know, Bobby, I know.
 If you'll excuse me.



Hey, Cain! Where ya goin'?

I gotta get outta this place.
 This place is freak central and it's making my skin crawl.



Aaahh.
I didn't like that, kid.



Look, Sammy, this is a great place for you and everything. But for a guy like me, it's just a freak sh --



SIGH
I just need to get out for a while, okay?
Breathe.

I understand.
I just thought ...

...Xavier said he can't do the enrollment for a couple of hours, so I've got some time, and --



And you think I want you taggin' along with me?





THE INFIRMARY



So that's Cyke's brother in the bed?

"Cyke"? You mean Scott? Cyclops?

Yes. That's his brother, Alex.

Didn't you know?

I don't know anything, Annie. Cyclops hasn't said more than **two words** to me since I've been here.

'Course, I haven't been around much longer than **you**, really.

I didn't know that, Stacy.



Yeah, I know it's hard to believe, but I haven't **ALWAYS** been an ass-kickin' X-Man!



Well, you'll be out kickin' --
-- **butt** --

-- soon enough, because your **skin** is growing back nicely.



Well, that's interesting, 'cause I haven't even **had** skin since I was sixteen.

I've had **scales**.



I learn more about you by the *minute*, don't I?

Scales? Really?

Yeah. I got breasts and scales all within a week of one another.

Kept my stepfather ...

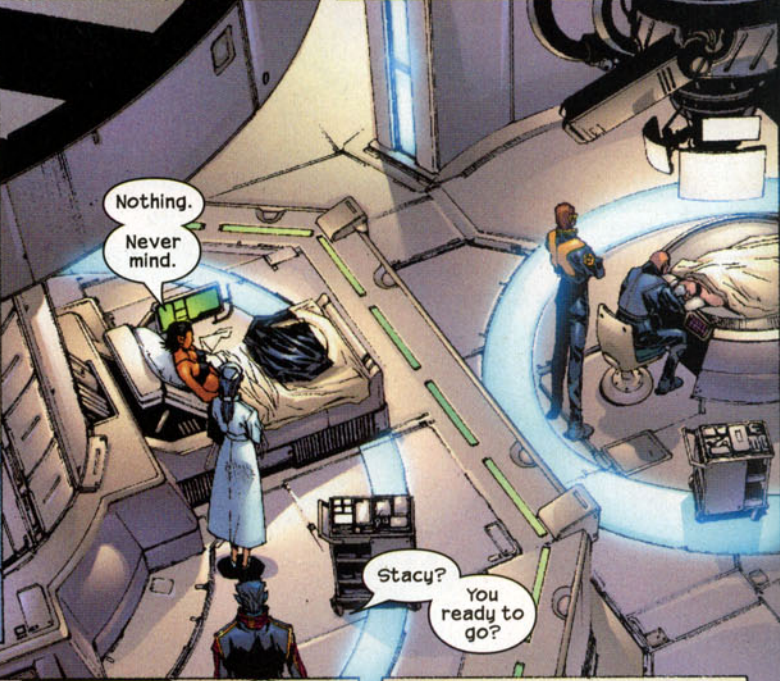


...



Kept your stepfather--?

-- what?



Nothing.

Never mind.

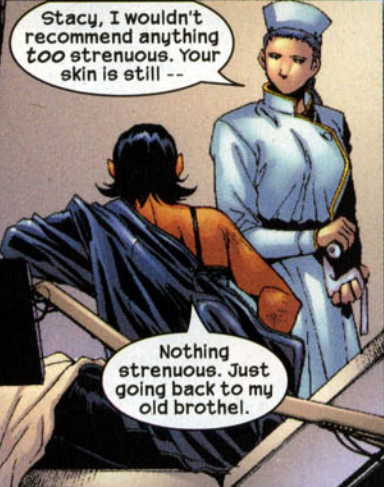
Stacy?

You ready to go?



I got an X-Plane with your name on it, ready to go back home to the X-Ranch.

Great. Let's hit it, Kurt.



Stacy, I wouldn't recommend anything too strenuous. Your skin is still --

Nothing strenuous. Just going back to my old brothel.



You know I used to be a prostitute, right?



No, I, uh ...
... I don't think you mentioned that, either.

Well, I was. A good one.



The first X-Man ever to earn her living on her BACK!

Stacy!

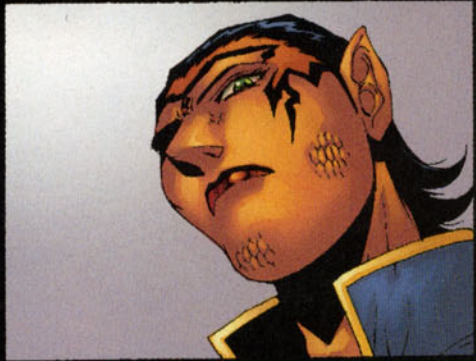


This is the infirmary. Keep your voice down.

If you have a pressing need to perform the "tough-girl" show --



-- do it outside.



YOU GOT IN TROOOUBLE.

Shut up, fuzzy.

Nothing, Scott ...



... I simply can't find Alex's consciousness.

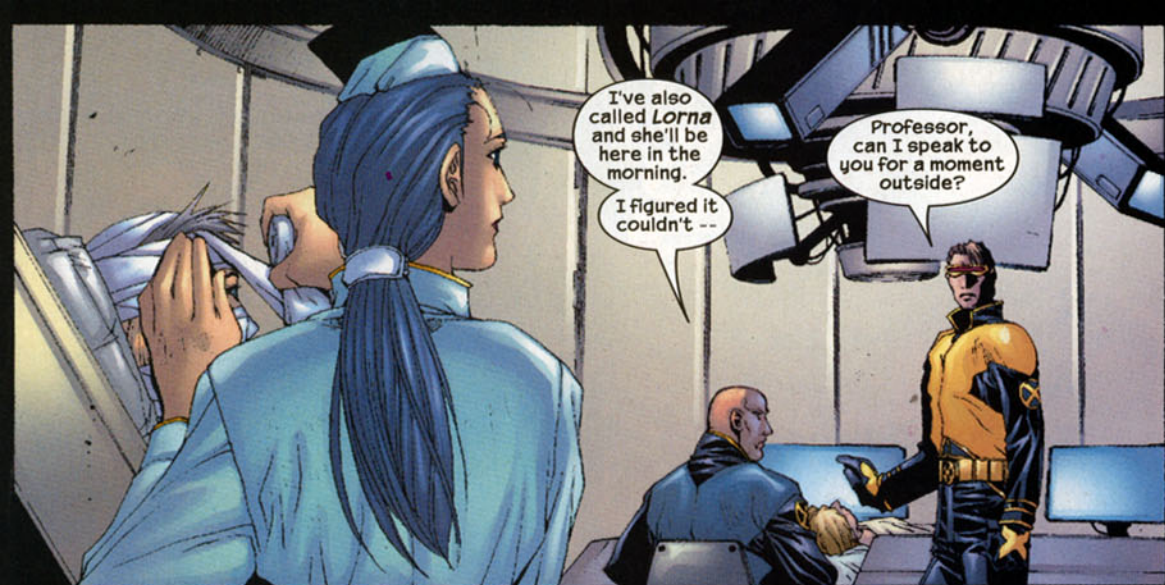
There's a thread of it attached to his brain, but --

Stacy didn't disturb your concentration, did she, Professor?

No, Scott, don't worry. I'm a little more practiced than that.

I'll try again later ... maybe even with Jean and Emma's combined psychic strength.

We'll solve this.



I've also called Lorna and she'll be here in the morning.

I figured it couldn't --

Professor, can I speak to you for a moment outside?



Certainly, Scott.

Annie, I don't think my mouth is injured.



Oh my God! I'm so sorry, Jean-Paul!



Of course, if you'd behaved yourself a few days ago, you wouldn't be here at all.



Oh, don't start with me, girl.

You've been so obviously distracted by Alex The Vegetable that Scott's not even keeping your little secret anymore.



Oddly, he seems to be somewhat understanding --

-- for some reason --

-- of your affection for his comatose brother.

And I'm sure he's outside right now asking the Professor to be more considerate of your feelings in regards to Lorna the "Ex".



Which is all the more confusing to me.

Why?



Well, it makes sense that you'd be attracted to his brother Alex over there --

-- he is handsome.

Quite handsome ...



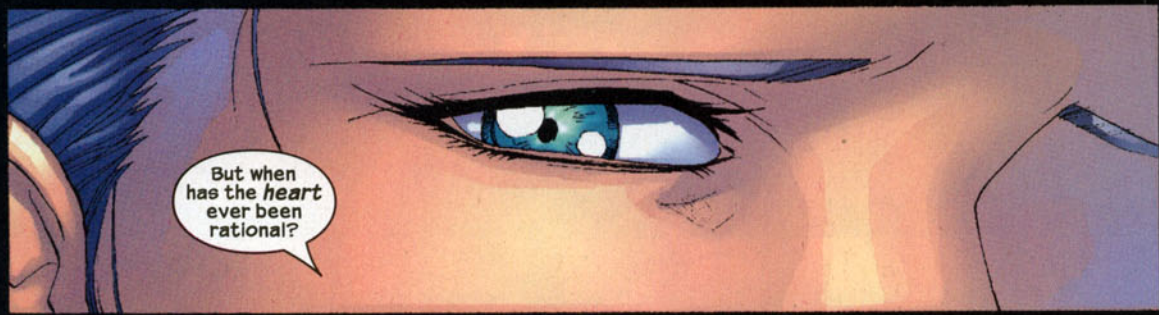
... but you're *in love* with the man when you've never known him as anything more than a *warm corpse*.

This behavior doesn't seem rational to me, and *can't* seem rational to his brother.

Does it seem so to you?



... no.



But when has the *heart* ever been rational?



Maybe I'm just a closet necrophiliac.

Now *there's* an interesting possibility.

THREE MILES OUTSIDE XAVIER'S

So the school seems pretty cool ... I haven't had the chance to settle in much yet --

-- Xavier's been too busy to give me a room assignment or even a tour or anything --

-- but it's the first place I've been where people don't stare at me like I'm a *total freak*.

Mm Hmm.

And then a buncha monkeys flew out my butt and ate the President.

That's great, kid.

So Kurt was telling me that Professor Xavier is your *step-brother* ... and you've spent most of your life trying to *kill* him as the *Juggernaut*.

Why?
Why would you want to do that?

Not really any of your business, now, is it?

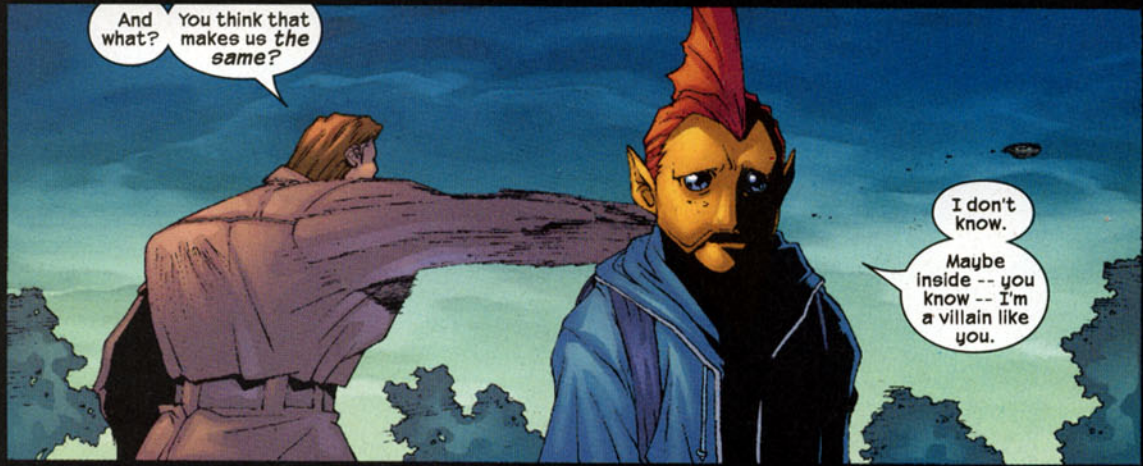
No. I guess not.

I just --

You just what?

Well, I had a *gun*. I was thinking of killing a bunch of kids from my school.

Because they picked on me all the time.



And what? You think that makes us the same?

I don't know.

Maybe inside -- you know -- I'm a villain like you.



That's what you think?

That I'm a villain?



I don't know, I just --



I did what I had to do --

-- what I thought was the right thing for me.

Nobody thinks they're a villain.



Other people **MAKE** you a villain.

XAVIER made me a villain. It's his fault my father died.

MY father.



I tried to make him pay for that, and I'M the villain?!



Dammit, kid!
SEE WHAT YOU MADE ME DO?!



I didn't do anything, Cain --



Oh, what? You're gonna backtalk me now?

Is THAT what you're gonna do?

What are you blaming me for? You always blame people for something you did?



HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME --





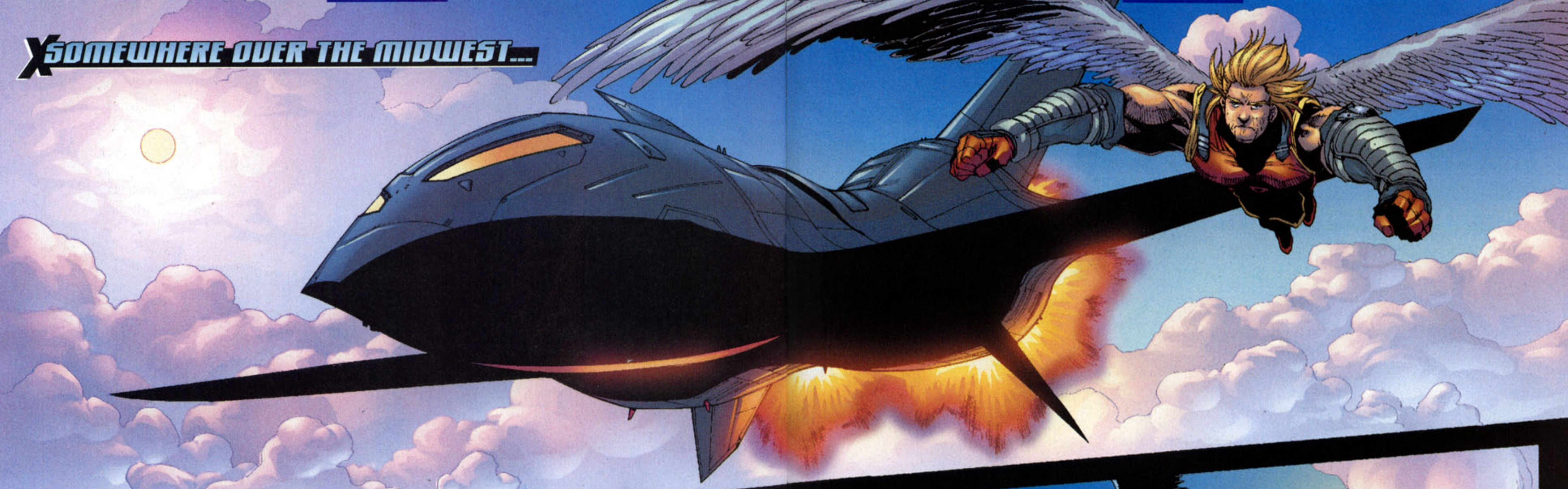
What?
What's wrong,
Cain?

Nothing,
I --



-- I
used to live
here.

X SOMEWHERE OVER THE MIDWEST...



So you're sure he's not avoiding me, Kurt?

Stacy, Warren likes to fly.

Most of the time his wings are all cramped up or folded in.

This is a release for him.

If you say so.

Warren's a very private person --

-- even with his friends --

He just got so weird about that "almost kiss".

Has he got a girlfriend or something who might be jealous?

There was someone Warren loved very much ... Betsy ... but she loved someone else.

He broke up with her, but that didn't mean he stopped loving her.

Not long ago she was killed.

I didn't know.

No reason you should...

-- he's been through things we can only guess at.

CLINK!

CHUNK!

THUNK!

Cain, what are you going to do?

Why'd you put your Juggernaut armor on?



Watch yourself, Sammy.



SHRACK



CRASH



**THOOM-
KREEECH**



SSSSSSSSSSSS



I'll see ya later, Dad.

Yeah, well, don't wait up or anything, Cain.



Cain, what are you looking at?



The past.



You're going to love it.

We're going to go live in a mansion.

But I like it here.

All my friends are here.



You'll make new friends --

-- better friends, from a better class of people.

But what's wrong with my friends?



Now look what you made me do!

You're hopeless!

I didn't do anything, Dad!



CAIN'S ROOM:
NO TRESPASSING

KLICK-KLATCHREEEEEEEK

You want to cry about us moving?!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO CRY ABOUT!

WE'RE GOING TO LIVE IN A MANSION!

YOU HEAR ME?!

AAAAHH!!!!

SLAP!

AAAAH!

**SHU
NCE
H!**

CRASH



So, Stacy ... find anything worth keeping?



A few things.
I found a picture of me and some of the girls.



It's a little burnt, but not bad.

Fat Nancy.

That's what she called herself. We never called her that, though, we loved her too much.

She was so happy to be there, so happy to be sexy --

-- that men would want her --

-- that they'd come back to be with her.



We were all just girls, you know... underneath it all.

Little girls, playing dress-up, being sexy --
-- trailer trash, living in a mansion.

I'm sorry.



The Ranch was like heaven for us, Kurt. We had friends, we had company --

-- we talked about boys and watched romantic movies and had pillow fights --

Pillow fights?



Oh, yeah. Sometimes -- -- late at night --

-- we'd all be lounging around naked and --

Uh -- why don't you tell me what else you found?



All right, but it's nothing that'll get you going like those pillow fights.

Just a few scraps, photos ...
... a bunch of things that don't mean much ...

... to anyone but me.



~Haaah~
~Haaah~
Dust --
-- can't breathe.

Gee, I wonder why?
Are you done yet?



Why --
-- you bored?





No, I just wanna know what you've got against this house.

More than you can ever imagine, kid.



Like what?
I waited this long ... least you could do is fill me in.



Here.
I brought root beer.



So spill about the place.

It ain't the place, kid. It's what it represents.

You were right. I been blaming other people for my mistakes --

-- same way my dad blamed other people --



-- blamed ME --
-- for his.



It's time I stopped blamin', and started appreciatin'.

I mean, look at you and me.

Two poor kids with no friends, no future, no hope -- and because of Xavier ...



... we're goin' to live in a mansion.

TINK!

END