

**MARVEL**  
PSR 443

AUSTEN  
LARROCA  
MIKI

UNCANNY  
**X-MEN**

SAVANA



DIRECT EDITION



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**OF DARKEST NIGHTS** 2 OF 2



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

OF DARKEST NIGHTS 2 of 2

## PREVIOUSLY



**PROFESSOR X**  
Charles Xavier  
Telepathy



**WOLVERINE**  
Logan  
Adamantium Claws/  
Healing



**POLARIS**  
Lorna Dane  
Magnetic Control



**SCARLET WITCH**  
Wanda Maximoff  
Hex Bolts



**QUICKSILVER**  
Pietro Maximoff  
Super-Speed



The X-MEN are reeling from the worst blow in their history. Their home, the XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING, has been reduced to rubble. The city of New York and its many famous landmarks are in ruins, with hundreds of people killed in the destruction. And one of the most beloved of their numbers, JERK GREY, is dead. All of this was done by the X-Men's greatest foe, the mutant master of magnetism, MAGNETO.

Magneto himself was killed in the battle with the X-Men by WOLVERINE. But the damage Magneto has inflicted upon the Earth remains. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, once Magneto's closest friend, finds himself torn between disgust at Magneto's actions and the desire to honor his dead friend. Xavier has brought Magneto's body to the island nation of Genosha, a land that Magneto once ruled, to give the man a proper burial — much to the anger of both WOLVERINE and NICK FURY. The small funeral threatens to get even more tense with the arrival of Magneto's three children: QUICKSILVER, SCARLET WITCH, and POLARIS — who only recently discovered who her father was...

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TARA DAKIDES

Tara Dakides  
5 time X Games medalist

**Souper Hand**  
Soup

Great taste you take with you.  
Just heat, sip and go.



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Polaris.

I-it's Polaris,  
Quicksilver and  
Scarlet Witch...the  
children of  
Magneto!

--don't  
do that.  
Get up.

Polaris...  
our queen.

No,  
don't--







But with Magneto gone, you are Genosha's ruler now.

Magneto named *you* as his heir.



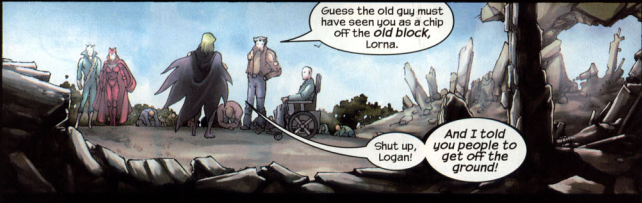
Named *her* as his heir?! What about *us*?!

Now, now. Let's not be quick-tempered, Pietro.

Do you really want to be his heir after all he just did to New York?



Oh. Good point.



Guess the old guy must have seen you as a chip off the old block, Lorna.

Shut up, Logan!

And I told you people to get off the ground!



'Ey, you have to admit...you have been wrestling with a darker, more "Magneto" side lately.

There's a lot more to it than just philosophy, Logan.



Is there, Charles? Is there, really?

I hope you understand, Professor, that these people are not *wrong* for how they feel towards Magneto--

--in *spite* of his recent destruction of New York.

Good and bad are not *always* mutually exclusive...are they, Charles?

Have you ever heard of the "*Stockholm Effect*"?

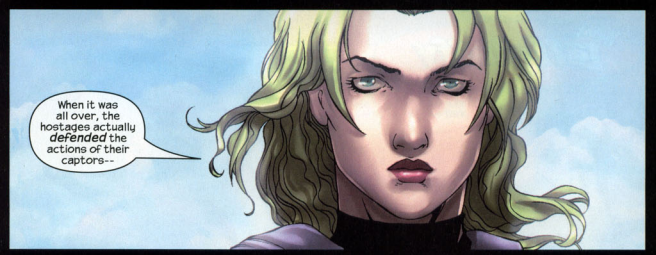
Hostages who develop attachments to their captors.

Yes.


Although it's much more *complex* than that.

In the early seventies, two ex-convicts held three women and a man hostage during a robbery in Stockholm, Sweden.

They held them hostage for *six days*.




When it was all over, the hostages actually *defended* the actions of their captors--



--two of the women even became *engaged* to the men who had held them and threatened their lives.



There are many *theories* for this...



...emotional transference. Misidentification of kindnesses. Emotional damage on the part of the captive.



Perhaps on some level, *all* of these are true.



Would you like to hear *my* theory?

We all want romance. Love. Tenderness.

Passion.

We want the *adrenaline rush* of the bad, and to still believe that good wins out over evil...

...that *good* people must be incapable of doing *bad* things.

Which we all know is a load of *junk*.

Good and bad often come wrapped in the *same package*, don't they?

We just lean one direction or the other, depending on circumstances and personality.

Sometimes good people do *bad* things, and more importantly in this case, sometimes bad people will do *good* things.

When Alex died--or when I believed him to be dead--I was a bit... *lost* for a while.

*Magneto* took me in, and trained me to use my powers.

He was a teacher and a mentor...and he was very *good* to me.

"The hostage perceives what she misidentifies as small kindnesses from her captor--

"...despite the ongoing terror."





There are those who believe compulsory *schools* create this kind of environment.



Any school environment may *feel* that way at times, Lorna...

...but the overall benefits or harms are dependent *entirely* upon the vision of whoever is in charge.



And who determines *which* vision is the *correct* one, Charles?



Mutants *died* here on Genosha because--on some level--*human beings* are at best, blissfully *ignorant*, and at worst, *racists*.

Their leaders call the attacks by the Brotherhood, the Big Brother Watchers of Asgard hovering above New York, the loss of innocents in Magneto's rampage--crimes against *humanity*.



As they alternately sign legislation that funds the building and selling of weapons--

--including the *Sentinels* that destroyed this island--

--that they, or someone they can blame, will eventually unleash upon *us*.

Their dead are inviolate. Pure. *Sacrosanct*. To harm them is to invite war and destruction.

Our dead are "unfortunate." "Sad." Or worse, "collateral damage," and must be worked out through diplomacy.



Magneto was right, Charles. On some level, they want us dead...or they would see the hypocrisy in what they do.

It's not really the "bad" people we have to fear most, is it?



You teach us compassion. The sanctity of all life.

You fight for change and understanding, for mutants to be seen as equals in this world.



But look around you, Charles. What if you're wrong?

What if the world cannot understand?



Yes, Cassandra Nova did this.

But the tools were provided by human beings.

So who is to blame? And who will now protect us from their hypocrisy and naiveté?

Magneto was a "bad" man. But did he deserve this?

Did any of those who lived here and followed him?



Was he wrong to lash out at New York?

To open the eyes of the suffering we have experienced?





Yes.

Oh, really?

Are you sure?

I have never been otherwise.



You posit that because we have been hunted, hounded *and* murdered-- that this somehow *excuses* us to cause pain and suffering to others?


It does *not*.

You wonder that because people are *oblivious* to the part they may play in the grand scheme of horror--

--that somehow, in order to awaken them to our plight, their lives are *forfeit*?

They--are--*not*.






You wonder if I've *missed* something that Magneto picked up on, and that I am wrong to believe in peaceful solutions and coexistence?



I am not.

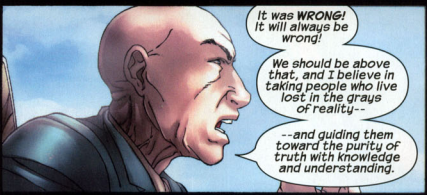


If you question that determination, you have only to look into the faces of the suffering survivors who have lost *loved ones*--

--to know *unequivocally* if it is right to inflict that kind of horror on another.



Magneto got their *attention*, but they are too hurt and angry to *listen*! To *hear* our message!




It was *WRONG!* It will always be wrong!

We should be above that, and I believe in taking people who live lost in the grays of reality--

--and guiding them toward the purity of truth with knowledge and understanding.



Right or wrong--



To eliminate those lost in the gray is terrorism in the face of terrorism, evil in the face of evil--

--it is immoral, unconscionable, AND WILL LEAD ONLY TO MORE AND GREATER VIOLENCE!

**RIGHT OR WRONG, I DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IN THAT KIND OF WORLD!**

--I have made my choice, know it to be the right one, and I will not condone--



I will not condone--



Well played.

I wasn't playing, Logan.



What?

Whaddaya mean, Lorna? You--

The humans of New York were **complicit**--

--knowingly or otherwise--

--in the murder of the Genoshan population.



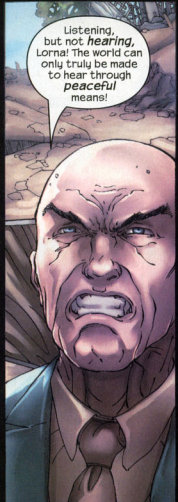
You're gettin' a little **irrational** now, darlin'.

What do you do if someone's trying to **kill** you, Wolverine?



You want to make them **aware**.

Well, Magneto **made** them aware, didn't he? And the world is certainly listening **now!**



Listening, but not **hearing**, Lorna! The world can only truly be made to hear through **peaceful** means!



This isn't "Civil Disobedience," Charles!

This isn't Henry Thoreau sitting in a pasture or jail cell thinking he can figure out the world by isolating himself **FROM** it.

Synch and Skin and Colossus are all **DEAD** because of humans--

Synch and Skin--







THEY  
KILLED  
SYNCH!



THEY  
KILLED  
SKIN!

ON THE  
X-MEN'S  
FRONT  
LAWN!

*SHING!*



ELANG SPANG

ELINK

ARE YOU  
READY TO  
DIE,  
CHARLES?!

Lorna--!



ARE YOU  
READY TO  
GIVE  
THAT MUCH FOR  
YOUR CAUSE?!

Go,  
Pietro.  
Now!

*SKUNCH*



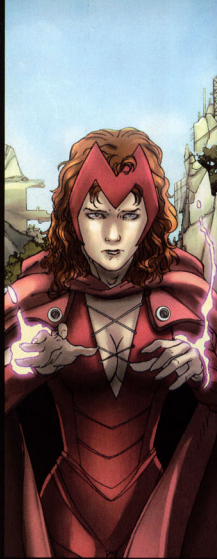
There is  
power in  
peace,  
Lorna!



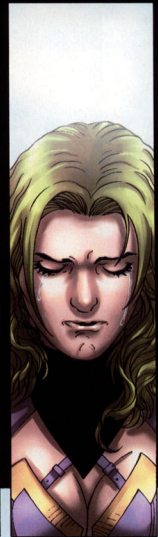
A minority is  
only powerless  
while it conforms to  
the majority! It is  
irresistible--

Racism  
didn't end  
when your  
students  
died!









I want change for the better *now*, not after you're dead and martyred.

You're our mentor and our teacher and our father. You mean *everything* to all of us.



We love you. I love you.

Can't you even fight for your *own survival*?



Not if it means *others* must suffer or die.

No.





Fine.



GAAAAEEEEEEEEHHH

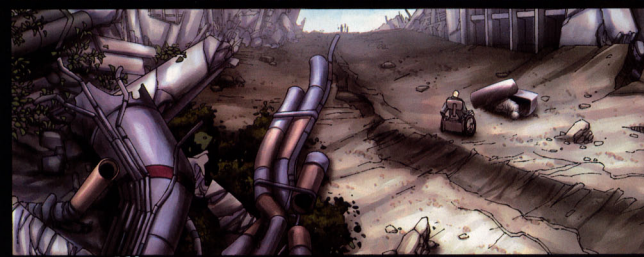
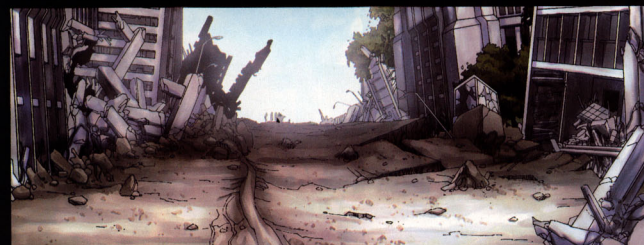






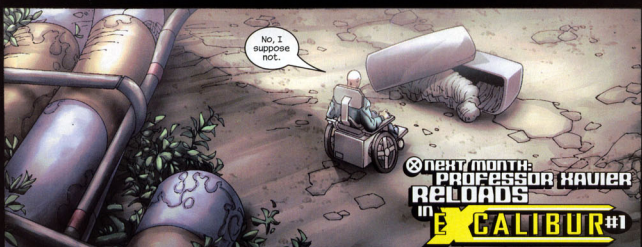








Well.  
I don't know that there's anything left to say, do you, Erik?



No, I suppose not.

⊗ NEXT MONTH:  
**PROFESSOR HAVIER  
RELOADS**  
in **EXCALIBUR** #1

# X-MAIL

Hey, X-Nation!

Mike Marts here, your humble X-editor.

First off a big thanks to all of you readers who have stuck with us through thick and thin, through the highs and the lows, through all the ups and downs. We appreciate your continued loyalty and longtime support, and we're thankful that you've helped to make the X-Men franchise *the place to be* in comics. And for those of you just joining us—believe me, the ride has only just begun!

Next month marks one of the most important moments in X-Men history as we ReLoad our creative weapons and take fire at the industry at large. We have a lot of surprises in store—some big, some small—but all exciting!

To start off, we have two new X-Men titles debuting—ASTONISHING X-MEN by Buffy creator Joss Whedon and Wizard Top 10 artist John Cassaday, and NEW X-MEN by

the *New Mutants* writing team of Nunzio DeFelippis & Christina Weir and former *Emma Frost* artist Randy Green. Add those two titles, and Chuck Austen and Salvador Larroca moving over to X-MEN, and you have a foundation solid enough to stand strong for years to come.

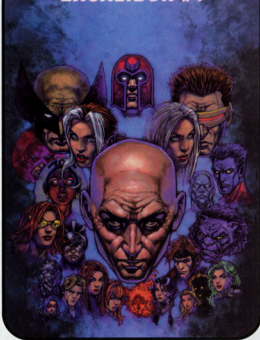
But the thrills don't stop there. We also have the debut of two other titles—EXCALIBUR, written by the "X-Man" himself, Chris Claremont, and illustrated by *Mystic's* Aaron Lopresti; and Marvel Knights' DISTRICT X, by two extremely creative guys new to the X-fold, David Hine and David Yardin!

A few other creative changes in store include new writer Tony Bedard and artist Mizuki Sakakibara on EXILES, Sean McKeever joining artist Manuel Garcia as the new writer of MYSTIQUE, and Tom Mandrake pairing with writer Frank Tieri as the new artist of WEAPON X.

And if that's not enough, we have all sorts of other goodies...roster change-ups, new storyarcs beginning, new characters debuting, old favorites returning, villains to tremble at, several surprises we don't even *dare* to mention...oh yeah, and the return of the costumes!

Plus, right here in the pages of UNCANNY X-MEN, we have the triumphant return of two creators long associated with the X-franchise—Chris Claremont and Alan Davis! Next issue begins a great new era of X-ellence (sorry, bad pun) that you won't want

## EXCALIBUR #1



to miss! Chris and Alan have plenty of surprises in store!

See ya in the funny pages, and be sure to let us know how we're doing!

—Mike Marts, the "X-Father"

## UNCANNY X-MEN #445



## NEXT ISSUE:



**Claremont!  
Davis!  
X-Men ReLoad  
Begins!**

**Be here May 5th for  
"The End of History"  
Part 1 of 4!**

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