

X-MEN BLACK

MARVEL

1

WILLIAMS
BACHALO

PLUS:
APOCALYPSE

THOMPSON
NADLER
BORGES
ROSENBERG

RATED T+



Emma Frost

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X-MEN BLACK

HEIRESS. EDUCATOR. WORLD-CLASS TELEPATH. A DIAMOND SHINING
AMONGST THE DREARY...

Emma Frost

"HUNGER IS PRODUCTIVE"

LEAH WILLIAMS **WRITER** CHRIS BACHALO **PENCILER** FAUCHER, VEY, LIVESAY, TOWNSEND, MENDOZA, & BACHALO **INKERS** ANTONIO FABELA, DAN BROWN, CARLOS LOPEZ & CHRIS BACHALO **COLORISTS** VC's CORY PETIT **LETTERER**

J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & SABINE RICH **COVER ARTISTS** SALVADOR LARROCA & GURU-eFX **VARIANT COVER ARTISTS** CHRIS ROBINSON **ASSISTANT EDITOR** JORDAN D. WHITE **EDITOR**



APOCALYPSE "DEGENERATION" conclusion

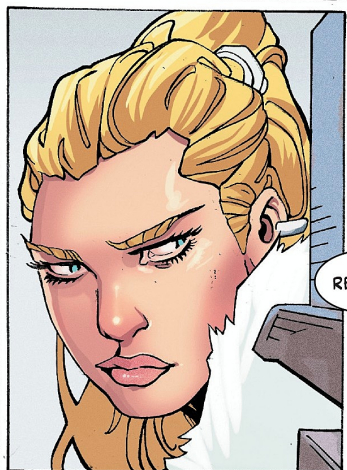
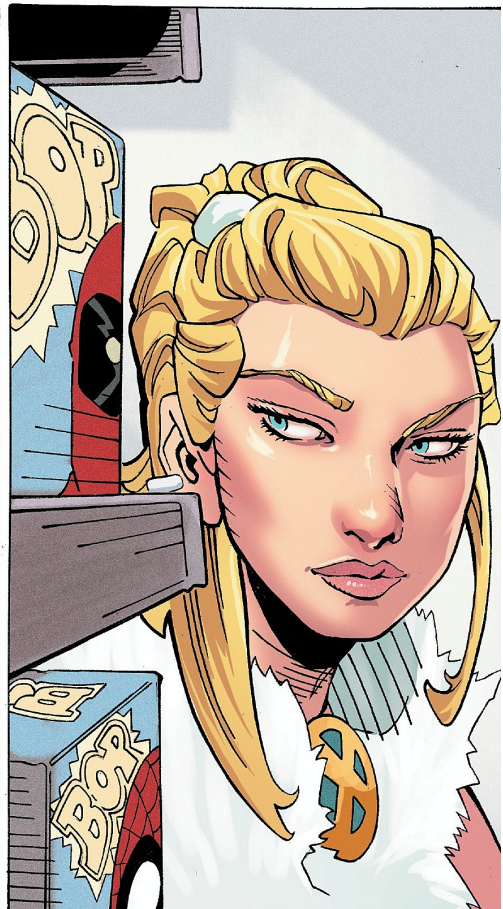
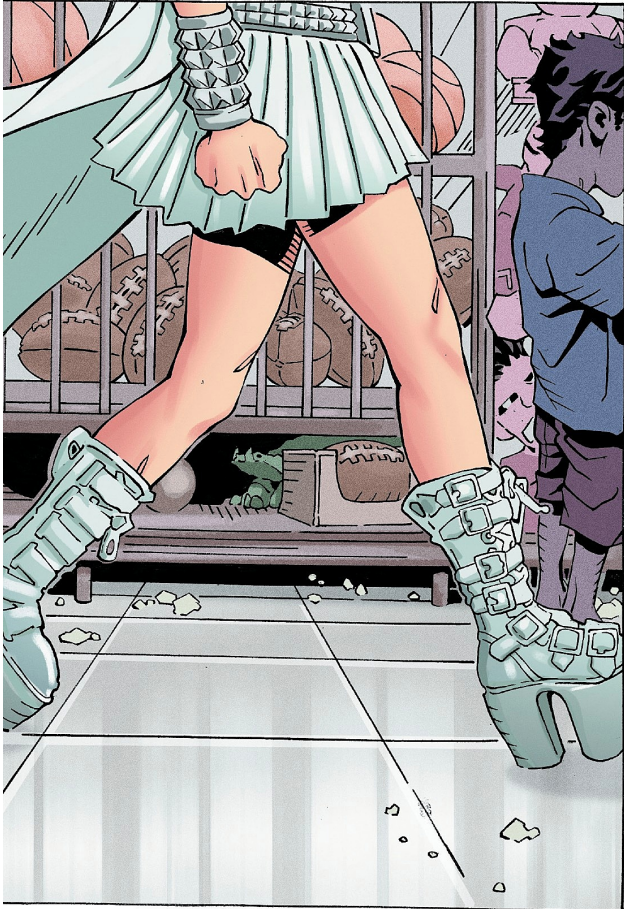
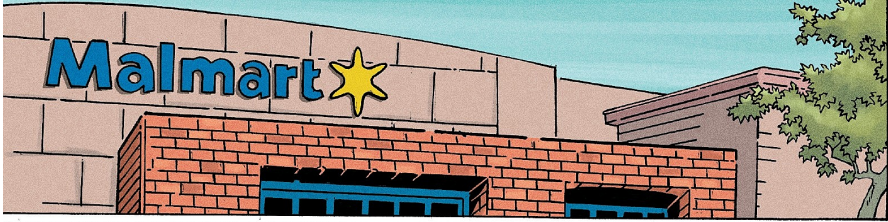
ZAC THOMPSON & LONNIE NADLER **WRITERS** GERALDO BORGES **ARTIST** RACHELLE ROSENBERG **COLORIST** VC's CORY PETIT **LETTERER**

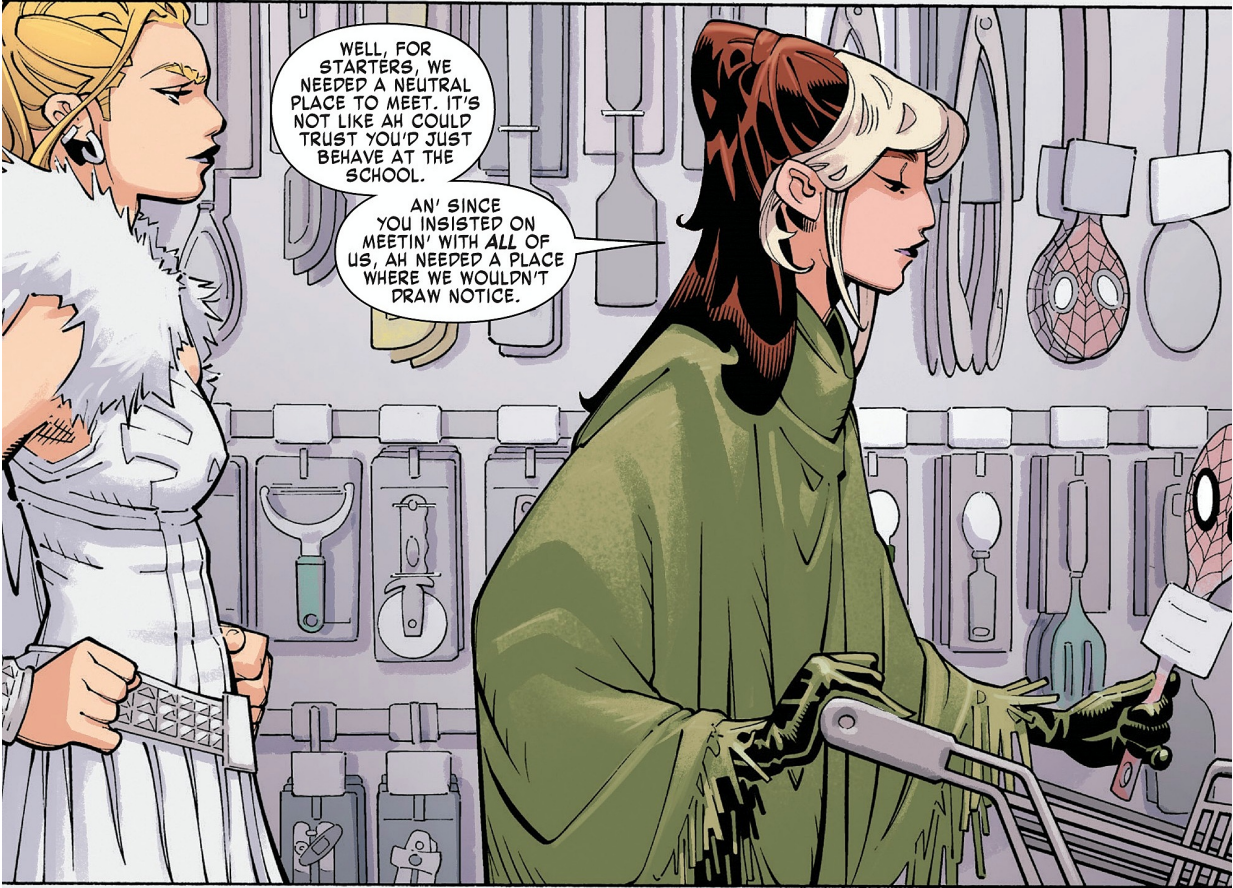
JAY BOWEN & ANTHONY GAMBINO **GRAPHIC DESIGNERS** CHRIS ROBINSON **ASSISTANT EDITOR** DARREN SHAN **EDITOR**

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X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY

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WELL, FOR STARTERS, WE NEEDED A NEUTRAL PLACE TO MEET. IT'S NOT LIKE AH COULD TRUST YOU'D JUST BEHAVE AT THE SCHOOL.

AN' SINCE YOU INSISTED ON MEETIN' WITH ALL OF US, AH NEEDED A PLACE WHERE WE WOULDN'T DRAW NOTICE.



SEE, WE FIT RIGHT IN HERE.



AND, SUGAR, LISTEN--



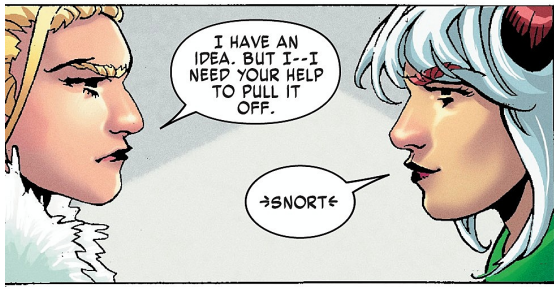
--AH JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUNNY.



FINE.

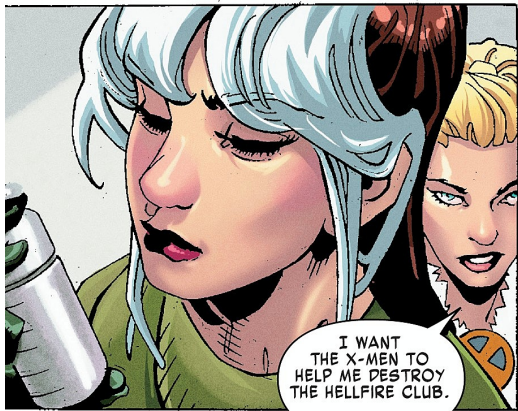


IF YOU-- IF YOU LOOK AT EVERYTHING THAT'S GONE WRONG FOR MUTANTS LATELY, EVEN IF THE MOTIVES AND MEANS WERE DIFFERENT, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IT CAN ALL BE CONNECTED TO ONE ORGANIZATION.



I HAVE AN IDEA. BUT I--I NEED YOUR HELP TO PULL IT OFF.

→SNORT←



I WANT THE X-MEN TO HELP ME DESTROY THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

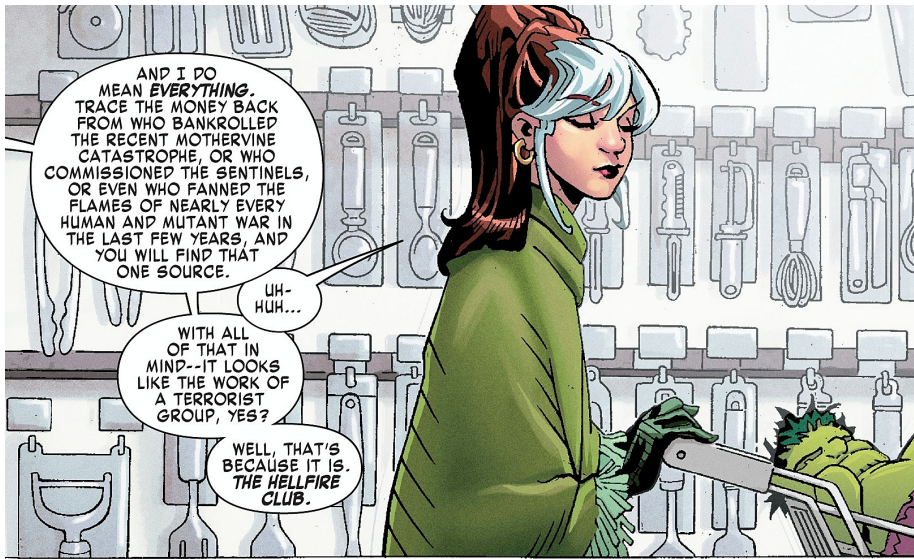


FOR GOOD.



I...DO REALIZE HOW RIDICULOUS THIS MUST SOUND COMING FROM ME OF ALL PEOPLE, BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ME.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THE WHIMS OF A FEW RICH MEN TO CONTINUE THROTTLING THE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS.

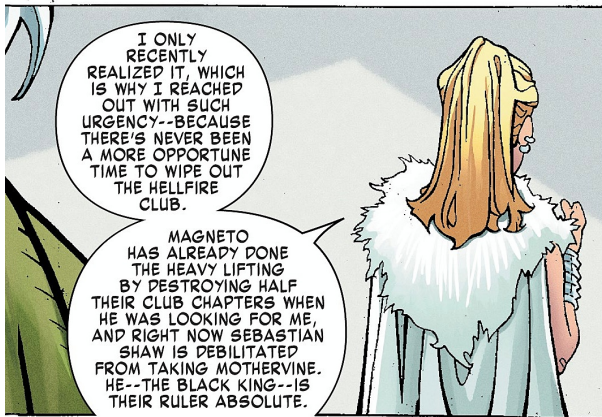


AND I DO MEAN **EVERYTHING**. TRACE THE MONEY BACK FROM WHO BANKROLLED THE RECENT MOTHERVINE CATASTROPHE, OR WHO COMMISSIONED THE SENTINELS, OR EVEN WHO FANNED THE FLAMES OF NEARLY EVERY HUMAN AND MUTANT WAR IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND YOU WILL FIND THAT ONE SOURCE.

UH-HUH...

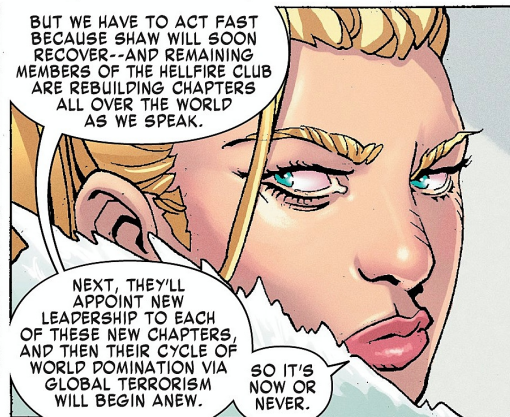
WITH ALL OF THAT IN MIND--IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORK OF A TERRORIST GROUP, YES?

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS. **THE HELLFIRE CLUB**.



I ONLY RECENTLY REALIZED IT, WHICH IS WHY I REACHED OUT WITH SUCH URGENCY--BECAUSE THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME TO WIPE OUT THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

MAGNETO HAS ALREADY DONE THE HEAVY LIFTING BY DESTROYING HALF THEIR CLUB CHAPTERS WHEN HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME, AND RIGHT NOW SEBASTIAN SHAW IS PEBILITATED FROM TAKING MOTHERVINE. HE--THE BLACK KING--IS THEIR RULER ABSOLUTE.



BUT WE HAVE TO ACT FAST BECAUSE SHAW WILL SOON RECOVER--AND REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB ARE REBUILDING CHAPTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD AS WE SPEAK.

NEXT, THEY'LL APPOINT NEW LEADERSHIP TO EACH OF THESE NEW CHAPTERS, AND THEN THEIR CYCLE OF WORLD DOMINATION VIA GLOBAL TERRORISM WILL BEGIN ANEW.

SO IT'S NOW OR NEVER.



THEY **MUST** BE STOPPED.

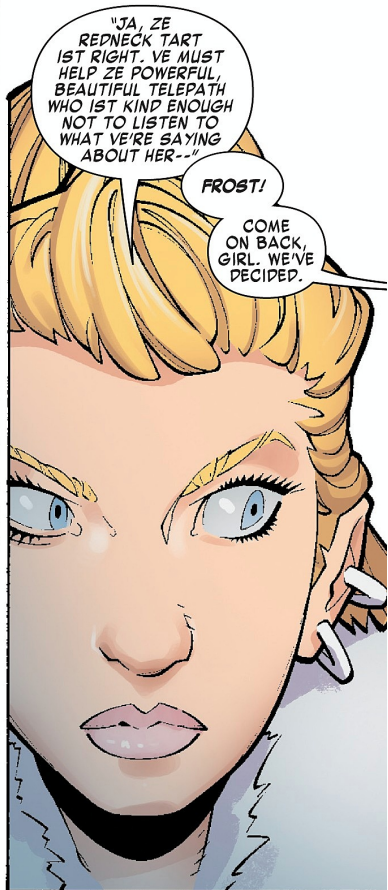


GO WAIT OVER THERE.

AH NEED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE TEAM.



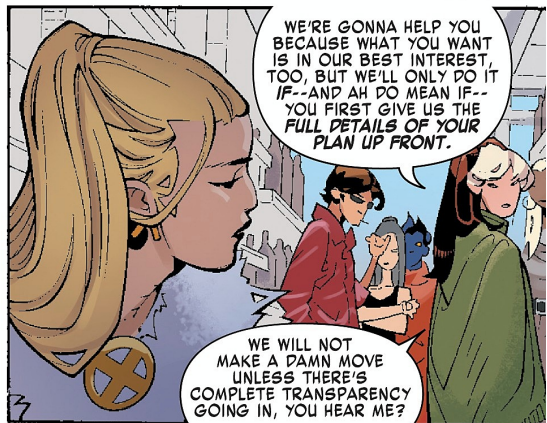
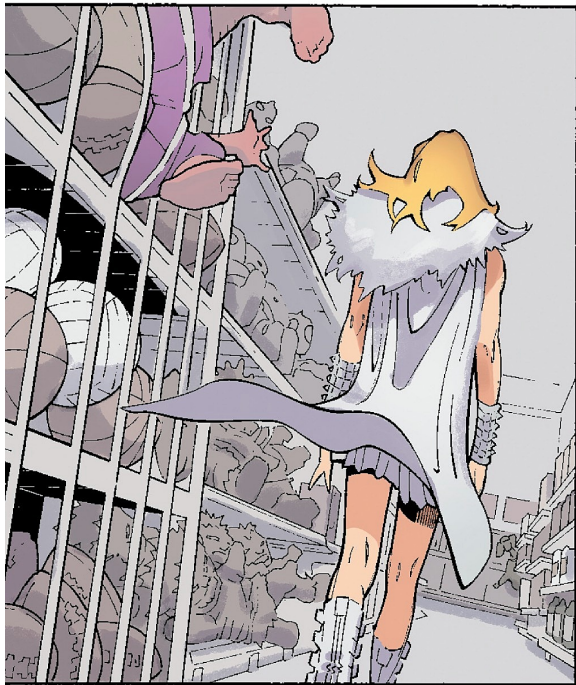
"WELL AH DO DECLARE, IT SURE SEEMS LIKE A 'GOOD OL' PLAN TA LI'L OL' ME!"



"JA, ZE REDNECK TART IST RIGHT. VE MUST HELP ZE POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL TELEPATH WHO IST KIND ENOUGH NOT TO LISTEN TO WHAT VE'RE SAYING ABOUT HER--"

FROST!

COME ON BACK, GIRL. WE'VE DECIDED.



WE'RE GONNA HELP YOU BECAUSE WHAT YOU WANT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST, TOO, BUT WE'LL ONLY DO IT IF--AND AH DO MEAN IF-- YOU FIRST GIVE US THE FULL DETAILS OF YOUR PLAN UP FRONT.

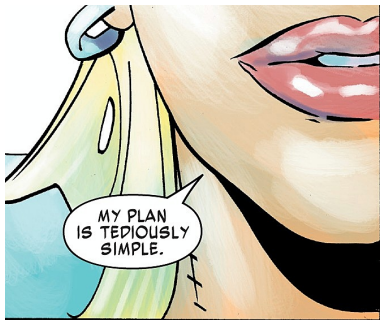
WE WILL NOT MAKE A DAMN MOVE UNLESS THERE'S COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY GOING IN, YOU HEAR ME?



I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING ELSE. I--

THANK YOU, ROGUE. THANK YOU. ALL OF YOU. SINCERELY.

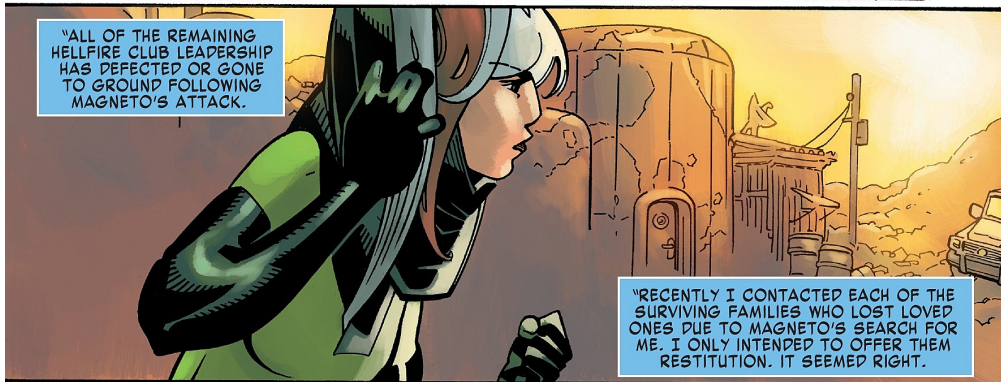
YEAH, YEAH. SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?



MY PLAN IS TEDIOUSLY SIMPLE.

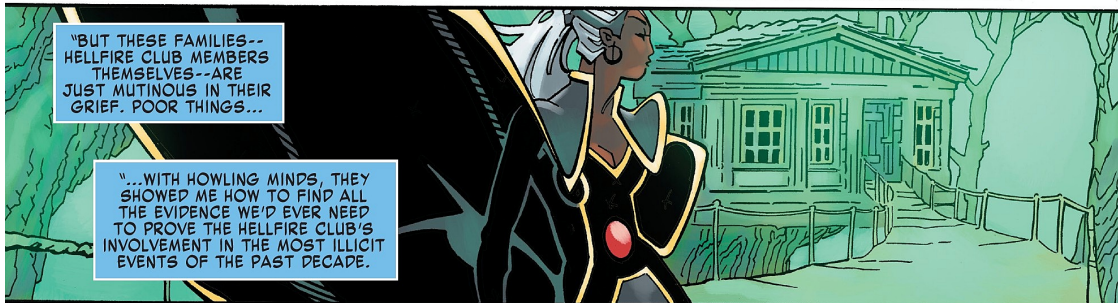


"DIVIDE AND CONQUER."



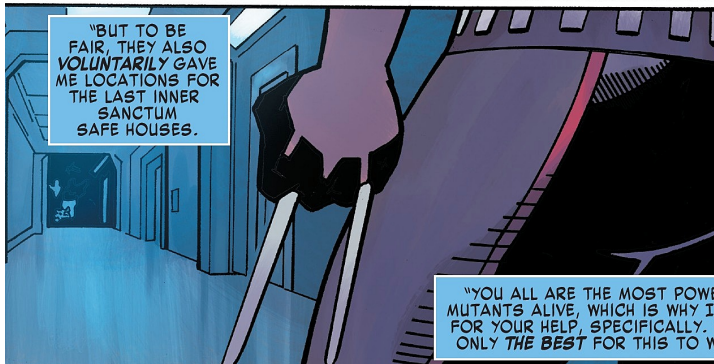
"ALL OF THE REMAINING HELLFIRE CLUB LEADERSHIP HAS DEFECTED OR GONE TO GROUND FOLLOWING MAGNETO'S ATTACK."

"RECENTLY I CONTACTED EACH OF THE SURVIVING FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES DUE TO MAGNETO'S SEARCH FOR ME. I ONLY INTENDED TO OFFER THEM RESTITUTION. IT SEEMED RIGHT."



"BUT THESE FAMILIES--HELLFIRE CLUB MEMBERS THEMSELVES--ARE JUST MUTINIOUS IN THEIR GRIEF. POOR THINGS..."

"...WITH HOWLING MINDS, THEY SHOWED ME HOW TO FIND ALL THE EVIDENCE WE'D EVER NEED TO PROVE THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE MOST ILLICIT EVENTS OF THE PAST DECADE."



"BUT TO BE FAIR, THEY ALSO VOLUNTARILY GAVE ME LOCATIONS FOR THE LAST INNER SANCTUM SAFE HOUSES."

"YOU ALL ARE THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS ALIVE, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED FOR YOUR HELP, SPECIFICALLY. I NEED ONLY *THE BEST* FOR THIS TO WORK."



"A SYNCHRONOUS ATTACK. WE WIPE OUT EVERY LAST LEADER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB IN ONE GO, DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO DETAIN THEM ALL AT ONCE."

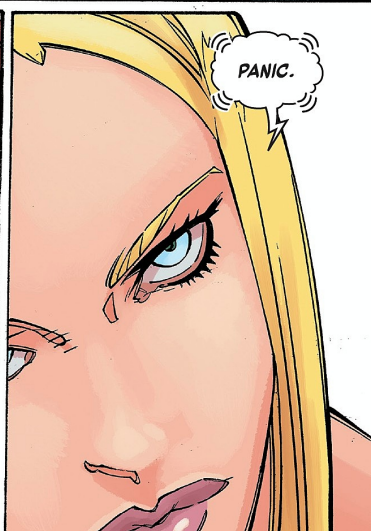
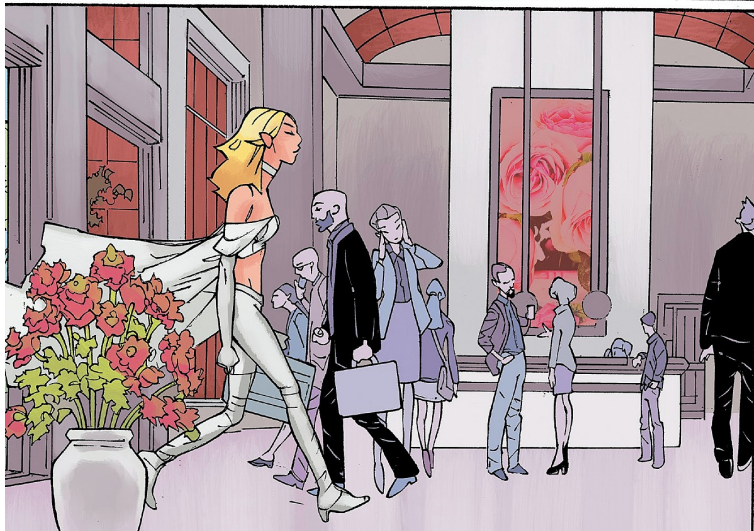
"AS FOR MY PART IN THIS PLAN..."

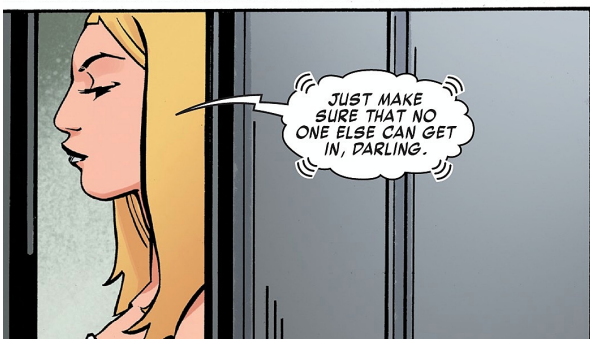
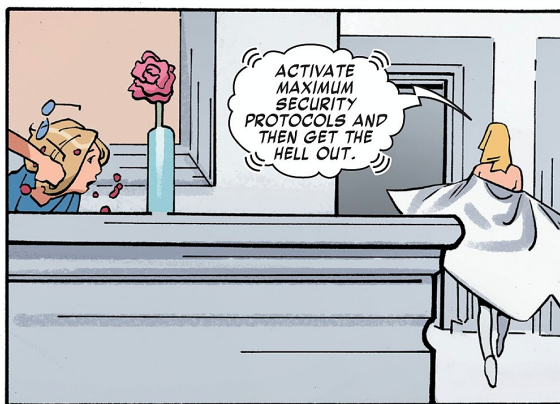
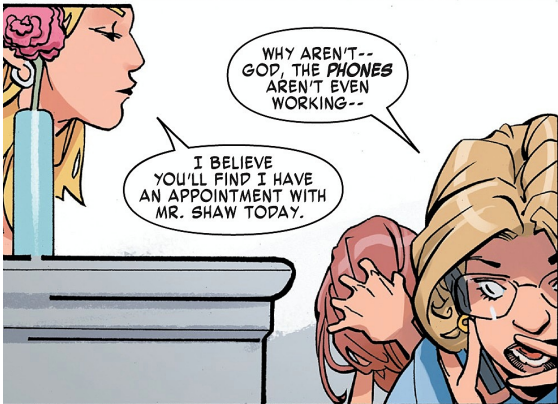


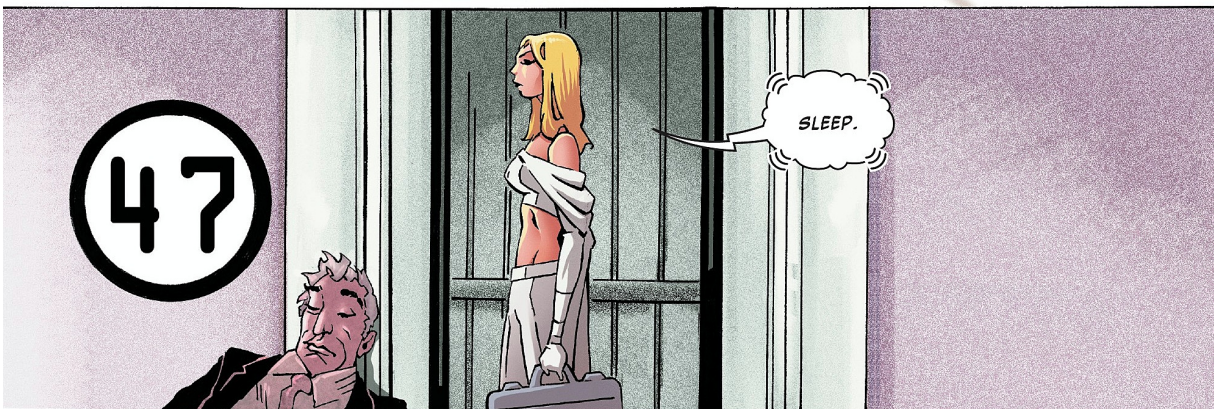
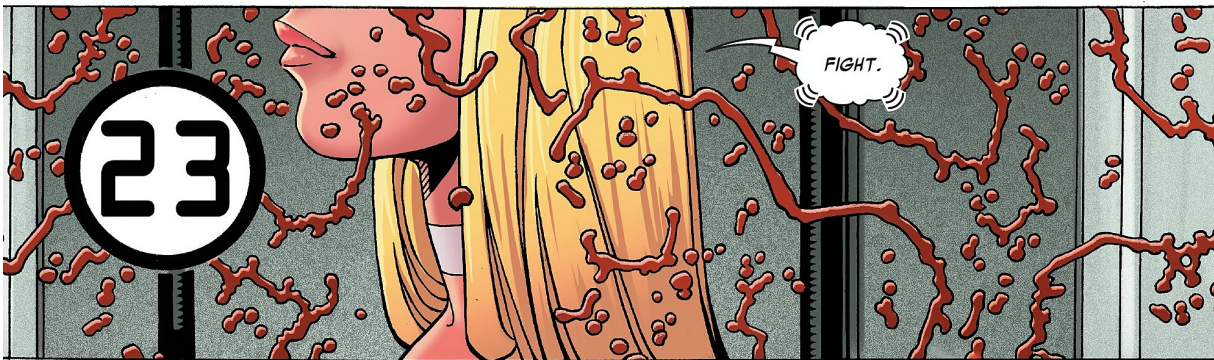
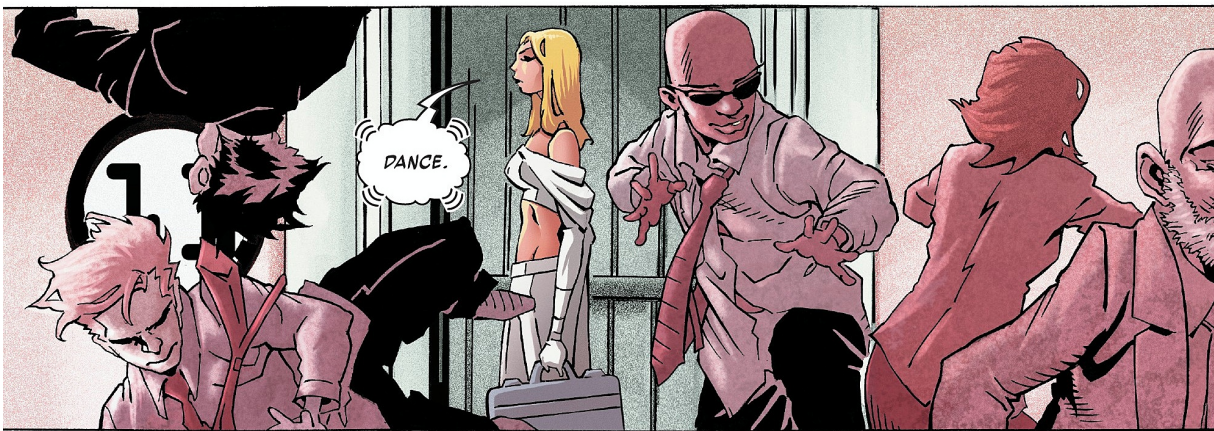
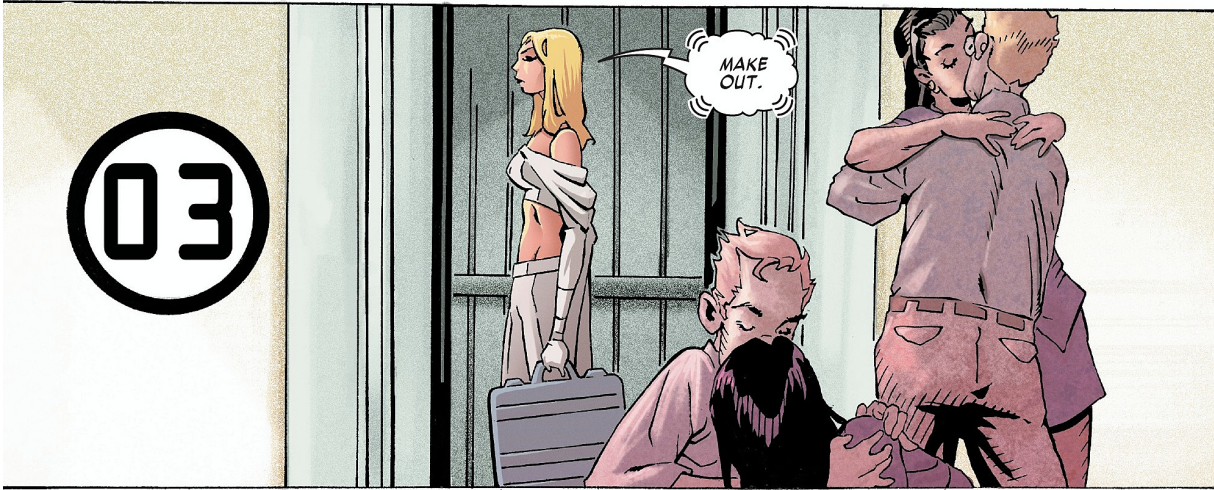
"...I THINK IT ONLY MAKES SENSE I TAKE DOWN SEBASTIAN SHAW ALONE."

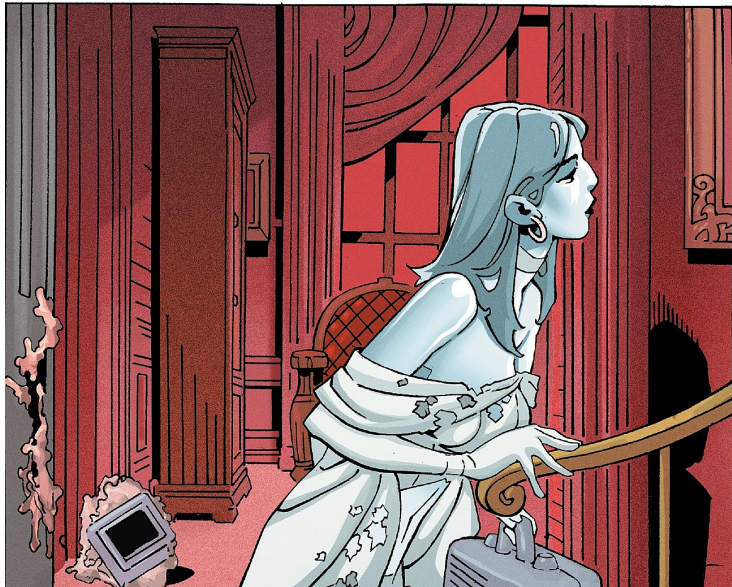
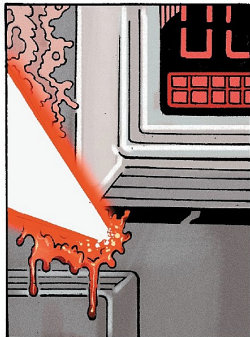
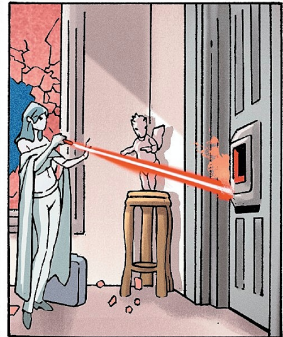
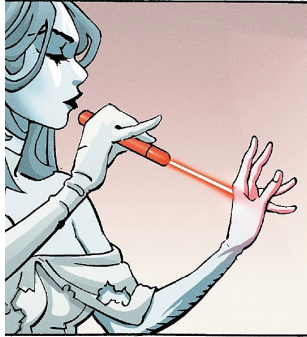
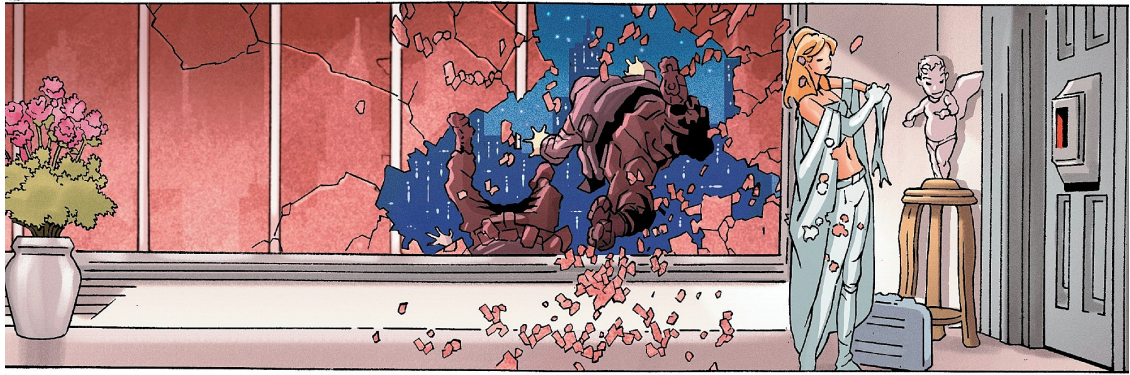
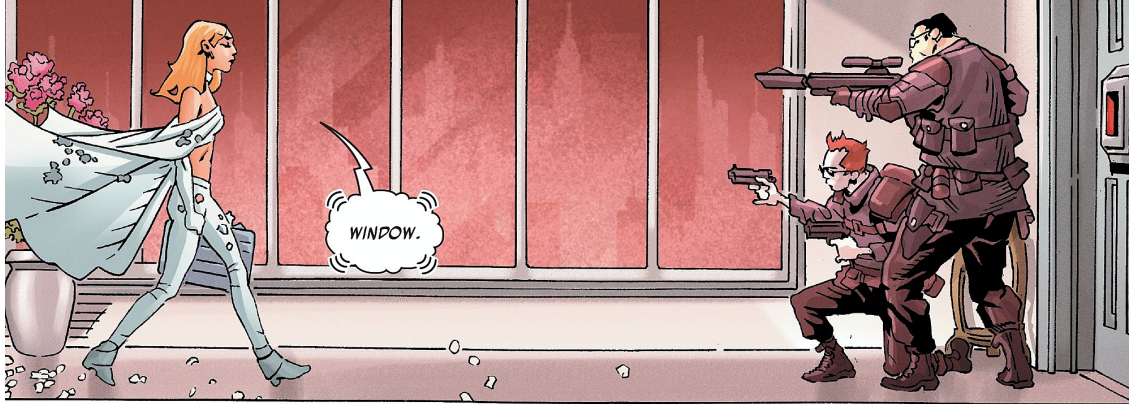


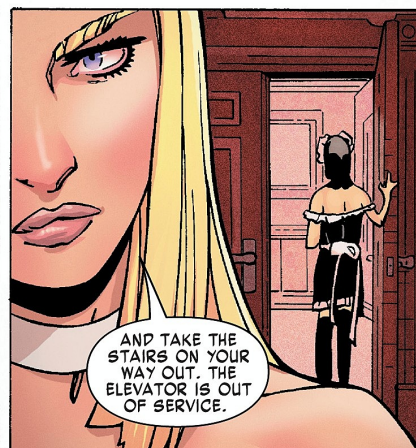
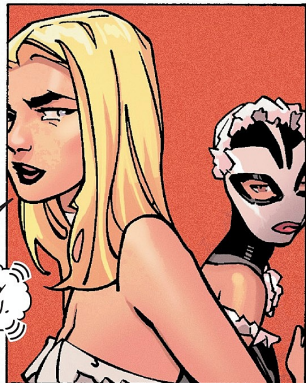
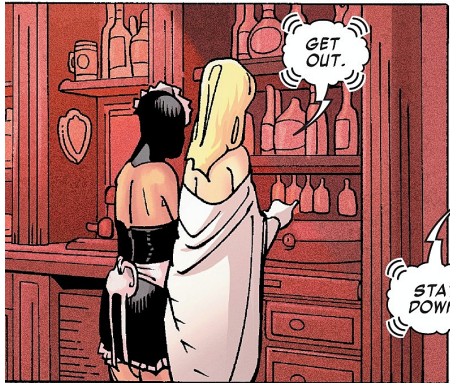
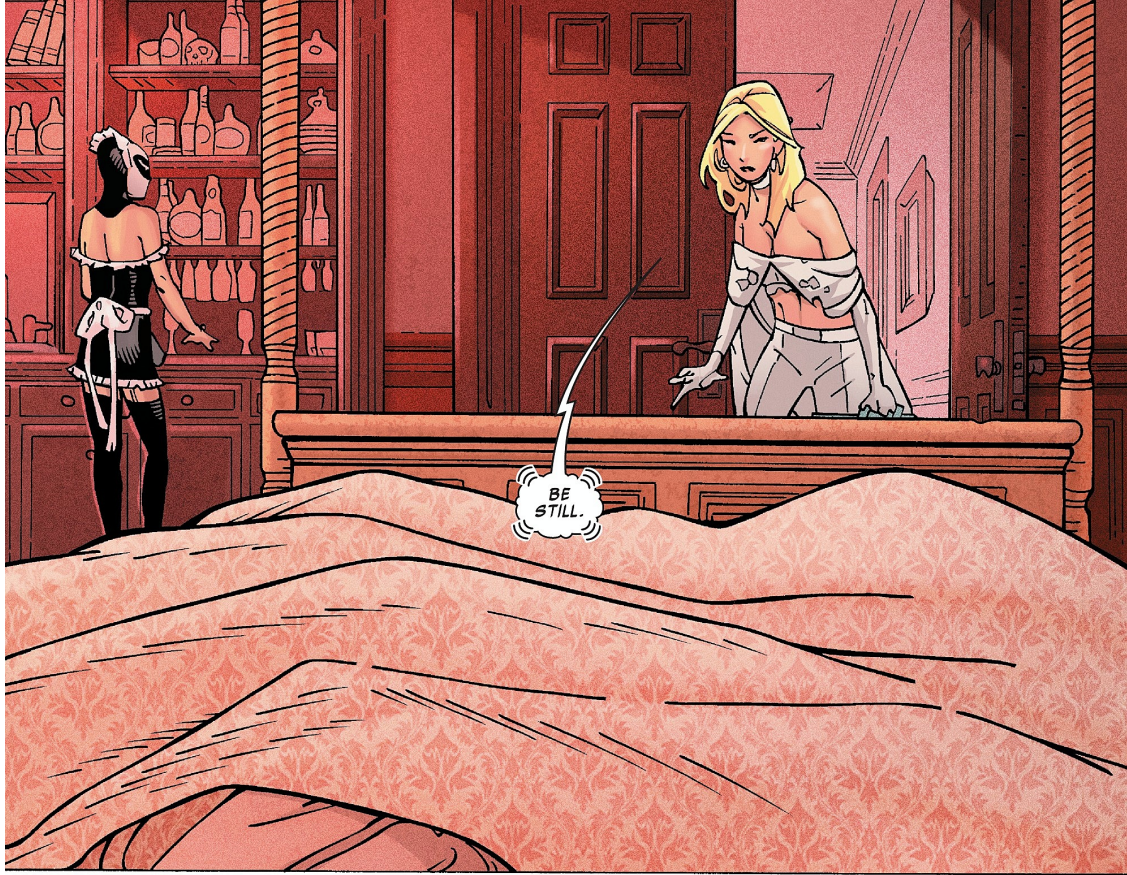
"I'M BY FAR THE MOST FAMILIAR WITH HIS CURRENT LOCATION."

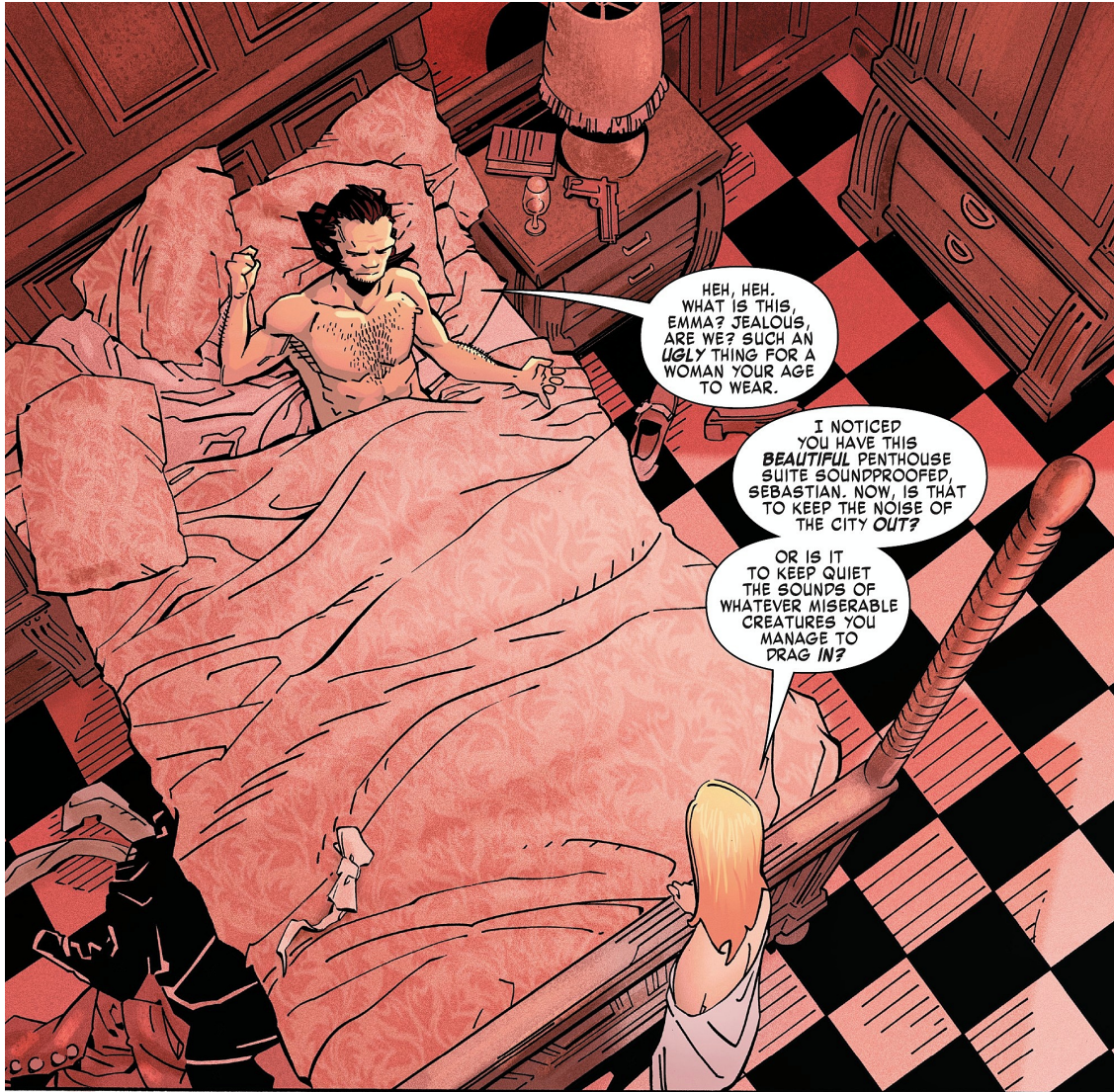












HEH, HEH.
WHAT IS THIS,
EMMA? JEALOUS,
ARE WE? SUCH AN
UGLY THING FOR A
WOMAN YOUR AGE
TO WEAR.

I NOTICED
YOU HAVE THIS
BEAUTIFUL PENTHOUSE
SUITE SOUNDPROOFED,
SEBASTIAN. NOW, IS THAT
TO KEEP THE NOISE OF
THE CITY OUT?

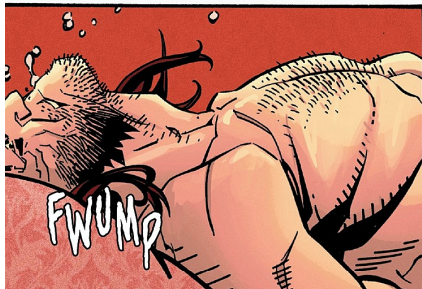
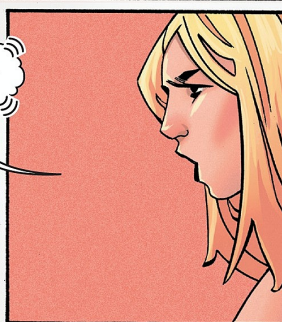
OR IS IT
TO KEEP QUIET
THE SOUNDS OF
WHATEVER MISERABLE
CREATURES YOU
MANAGE TO
DRAG IN?



SO WHAT
IS THIS ALL
ABOUT,
THEN?



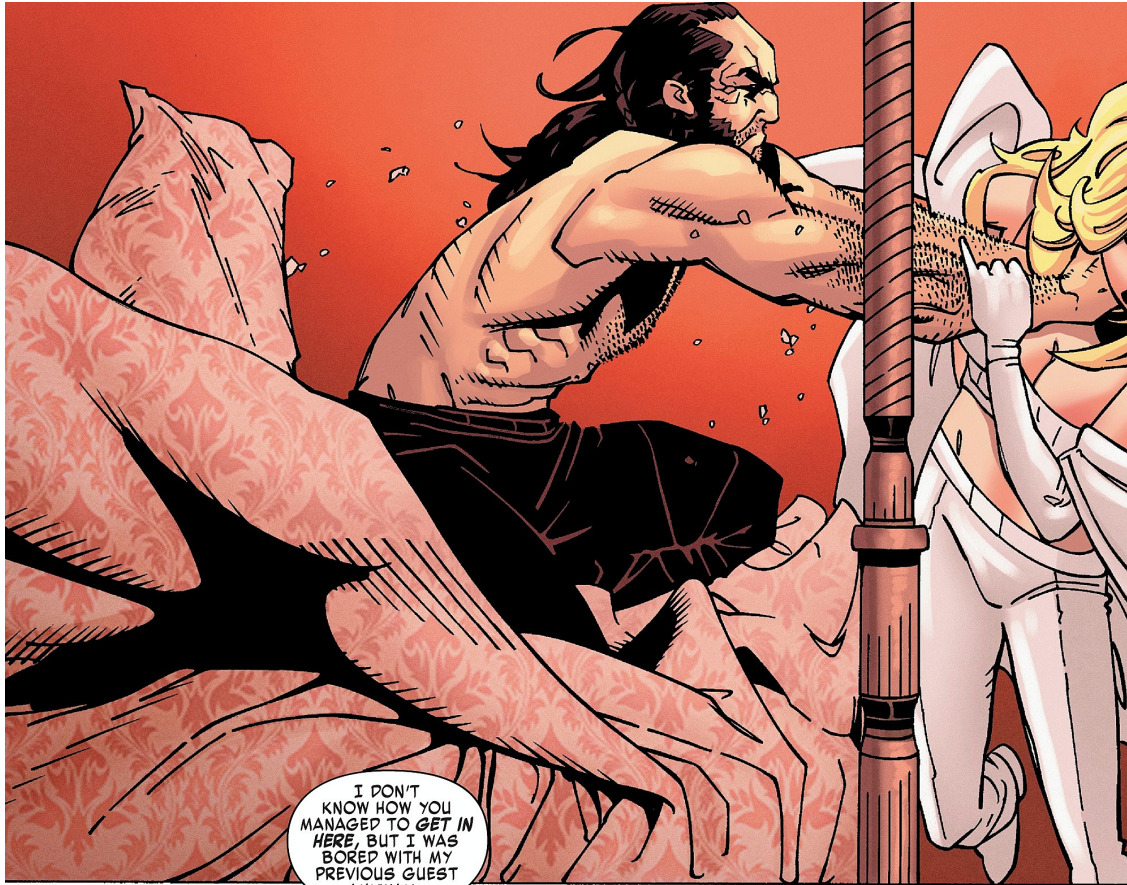
DON'T.
MOVE.



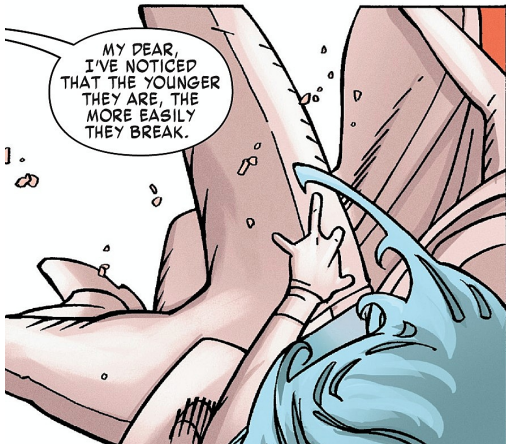
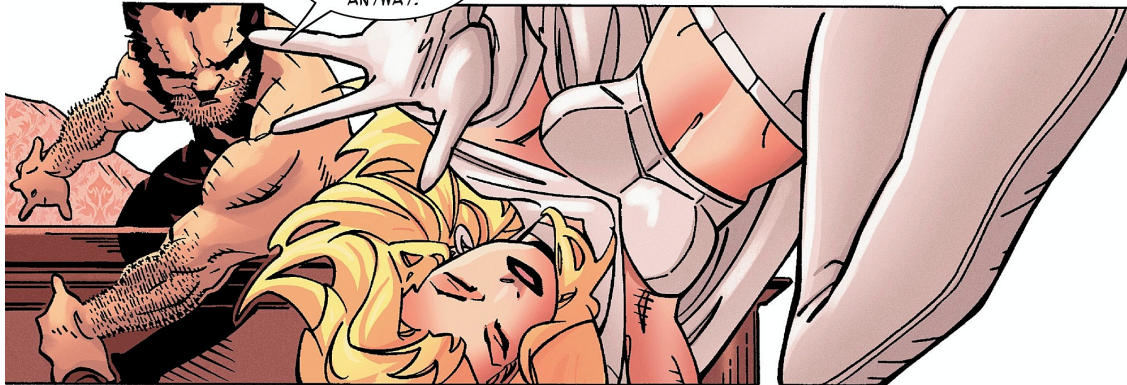
FWUMP



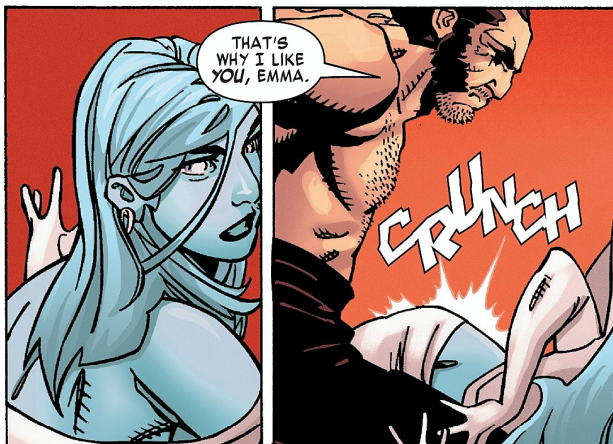
LET'S
BE CIVIL,
EMMA.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO GET IN HERE, BUT I WAS BORED WITH MY PREVIOUS GUEST ANYWAY.



MY DEAR, I'VE NOTICED THAT THE YOUNGER THEY ARE, THE MORE EASILY THEY BREAK.



THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU, EMMA.

CRUNCH



LOOK AT YOU. NOT EVEN A SCRATCH.



I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER TOLD YOU HOW MAGNIFICENT YOU ARE LIKE THIS.

YOU ARE ACTUALLY FLAWLESS...



THAK



THAK



THAK
THAK



THAK



THAK



I'M TIRED OF YOU.
→PANT←

I WANT TO CRACK YOU OPEN →PANT← AND WEAR LITTLE EMMA DIAMONDS EMBEDDED IN MY RING.

I BOUGHT A DIAMOND SAW. →PANT← I WONDER... WHEN I CHISEL CHUNKS OF DIAMOND FROM YOU AND FORCE YOU TO LEAVE THIS FORM, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR OTHER BODY? WILL IT BE FULL OF NEW HOLES TOO?



→PANT←

I'M TIRED OF EVERYTHING.



THIS WAS ALWAYS YOUR PROBLEM, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE TOO HASTY, EMMA!



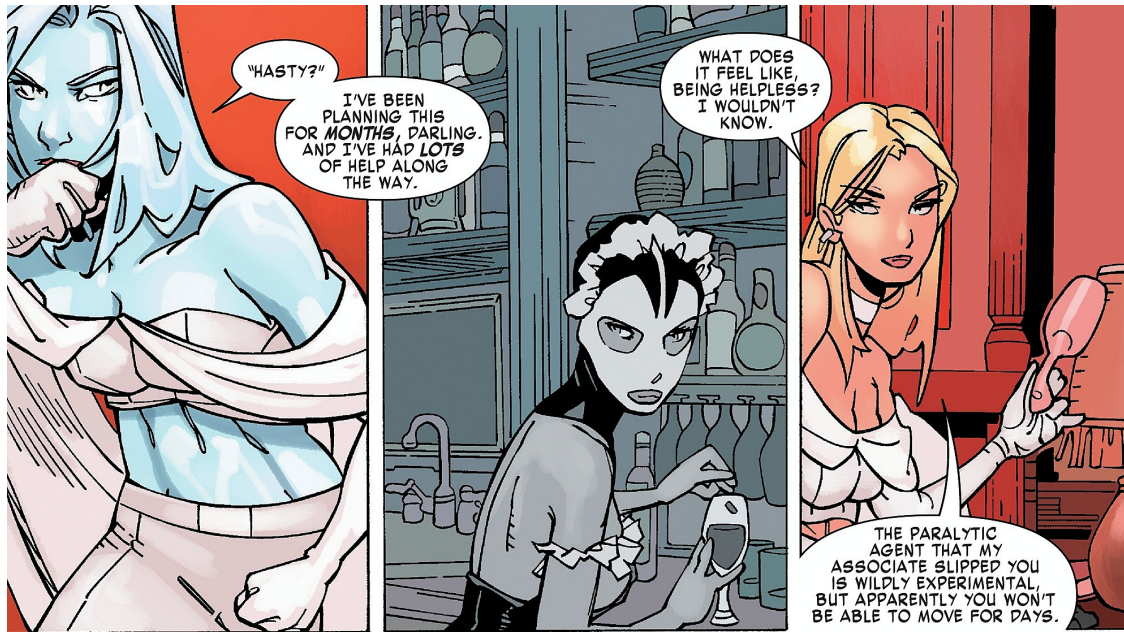
WHUH--?!



HA HA HA HA... HA...

HA HA HA HA... HA...

HA HA HA HA... HA...



"HASTY?"

I'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR MONTHS, DARLING. AND I'VE HAD LOTS OF HELP ALONG THE WAY.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE, BEING HELPLESS? I WOULDN'T KNOW.

THE PARALYTIC AGENT THAT MY ASSOCIATE SLIPPED YOU IS WILDLY EXPERIMENTAL, BUT APPARENTLY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE FOR DAYS.



WHICH IS GOOD, BECAUSE I'M SUDDENLY QUITE CURIOUS ABOUT JUST HOW MUCH KINETIC ENERGY YOU CAN ABSORB BEFORE YOU BURST INTO A BLOOD MIST.

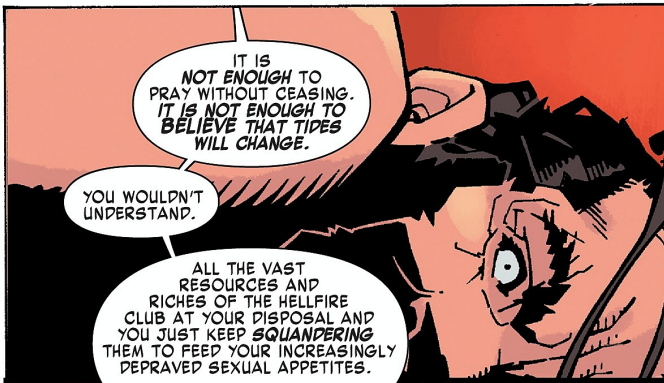


LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE BECOME, INSULATED UP HERE IN YOUR GILDED FORTRESS, ONLY VIEWING WHAT GOES ON BELOW THROUGH A LENS, PERVERTING THE WORLD IN YOUR OWN IMAGE. PATHETIC.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE WORLD IS REALLY LIKE ANYMORE?



I'LL TELL YOU--



IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT TIDES WILL CHANGE.

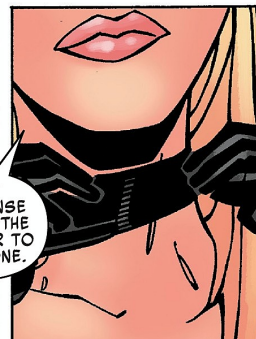
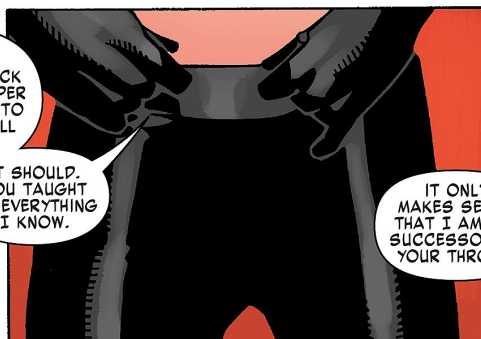
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

ALL THE VAST RESOURCES AND RICHES OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB AT YOUR DISPOSAL AND YOU JUST KEEP SQUANDERING THEM TO FEED YOUR INCREASINGLY DEPRAVED SEXUAL APPETITES.



DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL POWERFUL TO PLUCK ME OFF THE STRIPPER POLE AND PUT ME TO WORK FOR YOU ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?

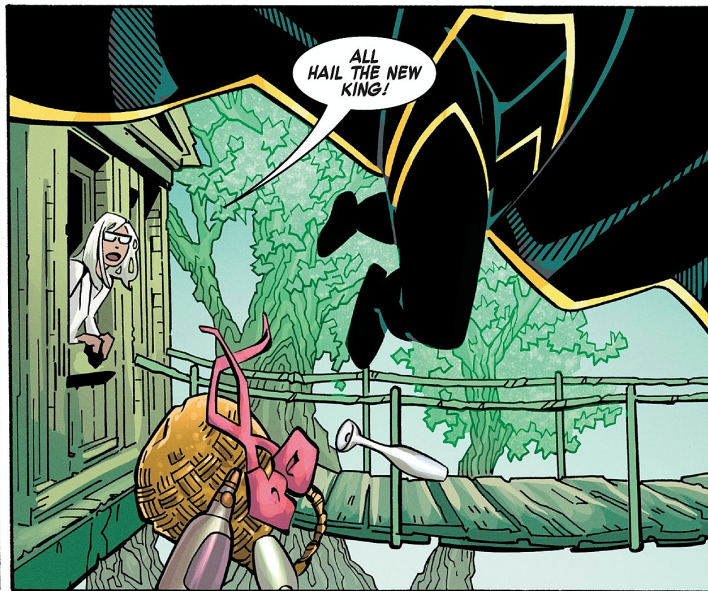
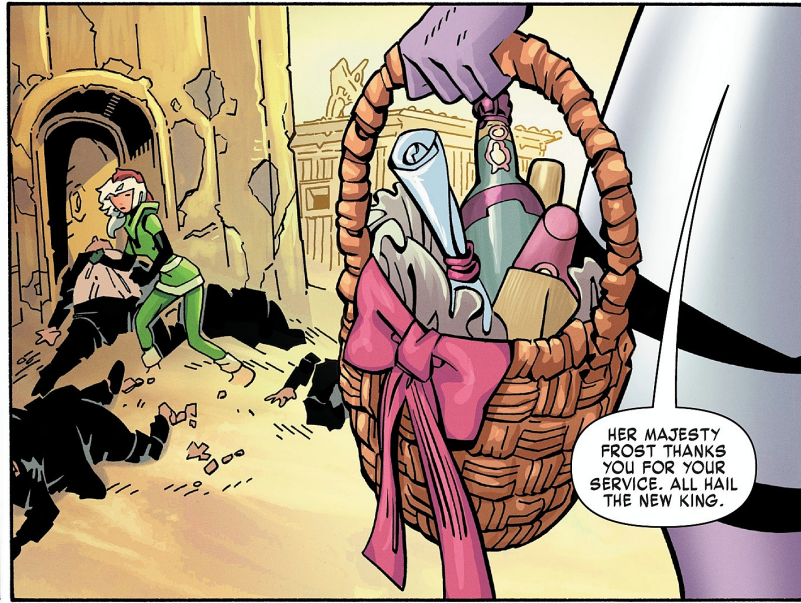
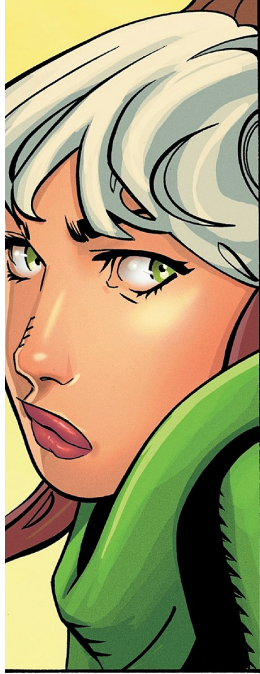
IT SHOULD. YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW.



IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT I AM THE SUCCESSOR TO YOUR THRONE.

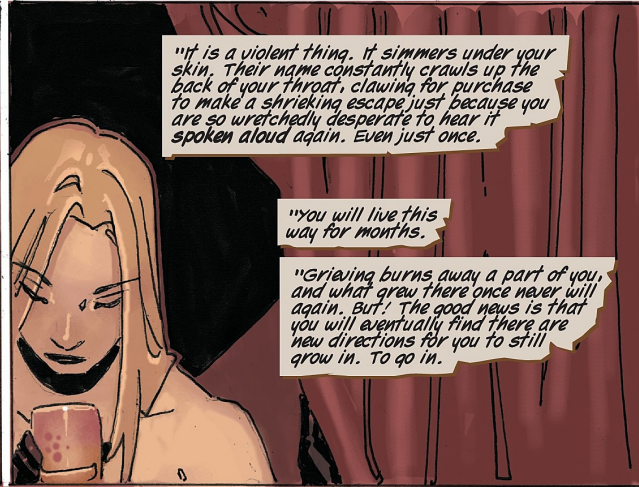


SAY HELLO
TO THE NEW
BLACK KING,
DARLING.





"Here is what I've learned about grief."



"It is a violent thing. It simmers under your skin. Their name constantly crawls up the back of your throat, clawing for purchase to make a shrieking escape just because you are so wretchedly desperate to hear it spoken aloud again. Even just once."

"You will live this way for months."

"Grieving burns away a part of you, and what grew there once never will again. But! The good news is that you will eventually find there are new directions for you to still grow in. To go in."



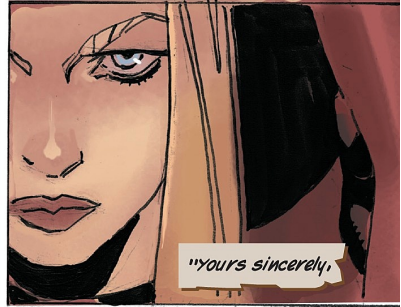
"In this way, sorrow's method of self-immolating can actually be quite beautiful."



"As I sat with more and more grieving members of the Hellfire Club, I realized that we were all just hungry for one thing: change."

"I've been asked to provide that."

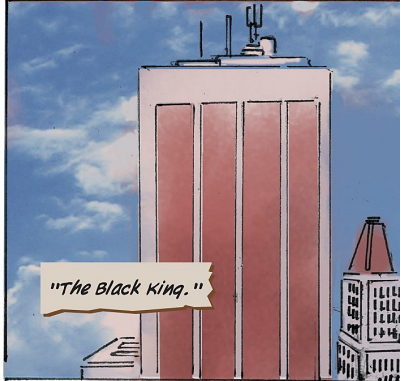
"Everything that I said to you about the Hellfire Club was true. What has changed is that it is now under new management. Thank you for understanding."



"Yours sincerely,"



"Emma Grace Frost,"



"The Black King."



BODIES ARE *FRAIL*,
AND YET THEIR ABILITY
TO *ADAPT* TO THEIR
SURROUNDINGS IS
NOTHING SHORT OF
MAGNIFICENT.



MY FLESH WAS STRETCHED,
BROKEN, BUT NOW
REBUILT ON COMMAND.



MY BONES WERE
BROKEN AND YET
THEY HEALED
INSTANTLY.

I AM THE
EMBODIMENT OF
NATURAL SELECTION.

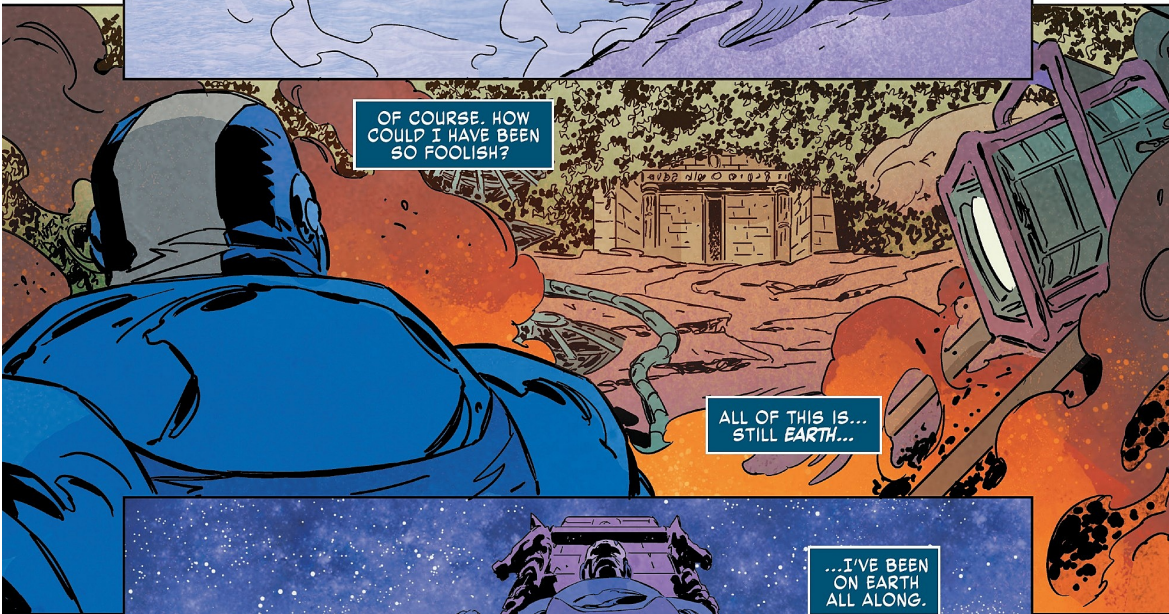
BUT ALSO A
PRODUCT OF IT.



BIOLOGY CAN NEVER BE
SEPARATED FROM ITS
PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS.
THEY ARE INTERTWINED.



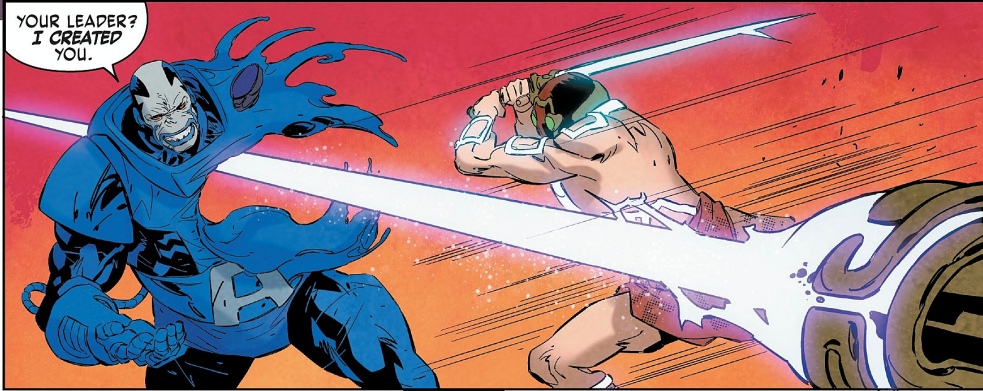
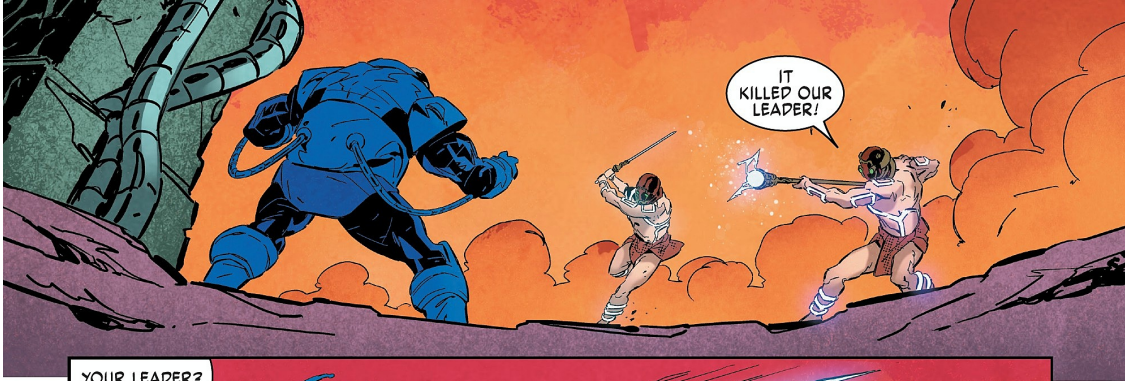
OF COURSE. HOW
COULD I HAVE BEEN
SO FOOLISH?

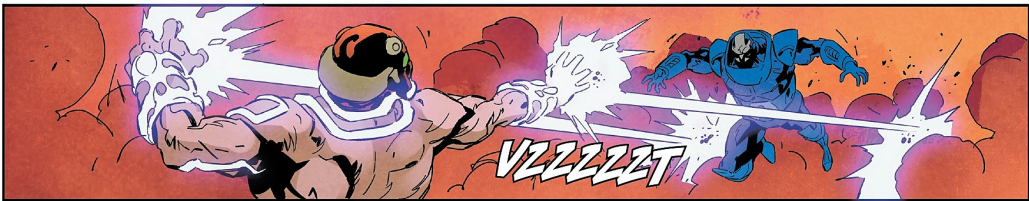


ALL OF THIS IS...
STILL EARTH...

...I'VE BEEN
ON EARTH
ALL ALONG.







ASTOUNDING... IT'S NOT JUST THEM. THIS FECKLESS RACE.

THE FINCH. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE...

IT IMBUED MY SUPERIOR GENETIC MAKEUP WITHIN EVERY MOLECULE ON THIS ISLAND.

I REGRET EVER FEELING FEAR. EVERYTHING HERE IS SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO BECOME ME.

POOR IMITATIONS. ECHOES OF A MISCALCULATED EXPERIMENT...

APCALYPSE IN

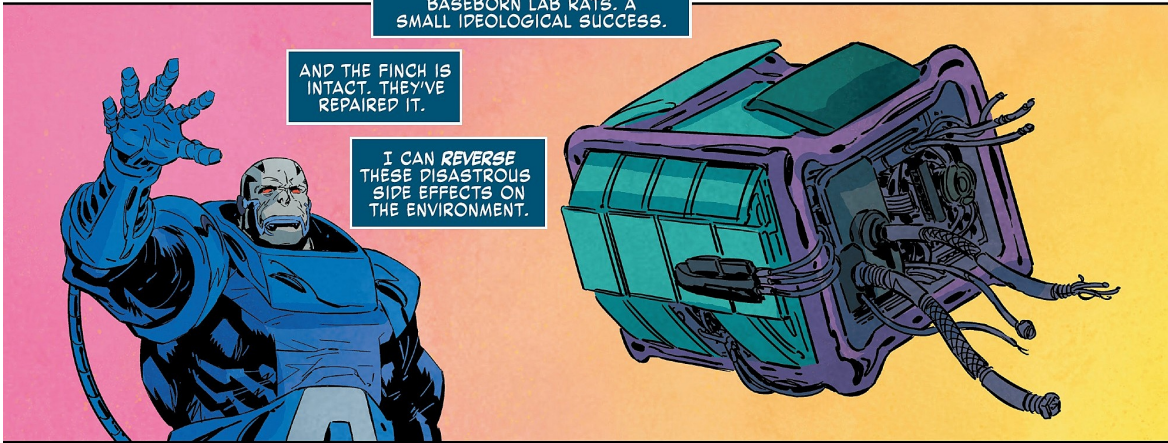
DEGENERATION

PART 5 OF 5



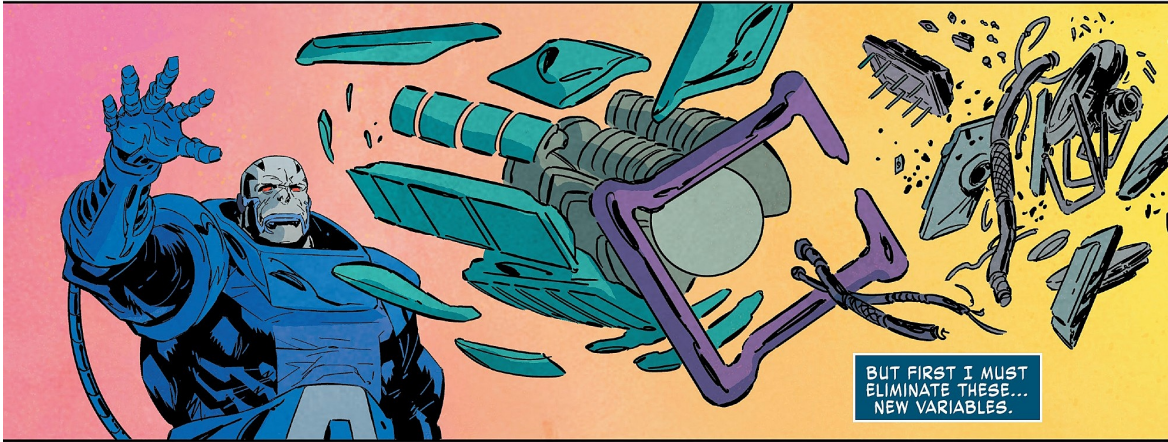
...BUT NOT AN ABJECT FAILURE AFTER ALL.

EVEN IN MY MOST PATHETIC STATE, I WAS ABLE TO OUTWIT THESE BASEBORN LAB RATS. A SMALL IDEOLOGICAL SUCCESS.



AND THE FINCH IS INTACT. THEY'VE REPAIRED IT.

I CAN REVERSE THESE DISASTROUS SIDE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.



BUT FIRST I MUST ELIMINATE THESE... NEW VARIABLES.



EVERY ONE OF THEM MUST PERISH BY MY OWN HANDS.

SOME TASKS CANNOT BE LEFT TO TECHNOLOGY.

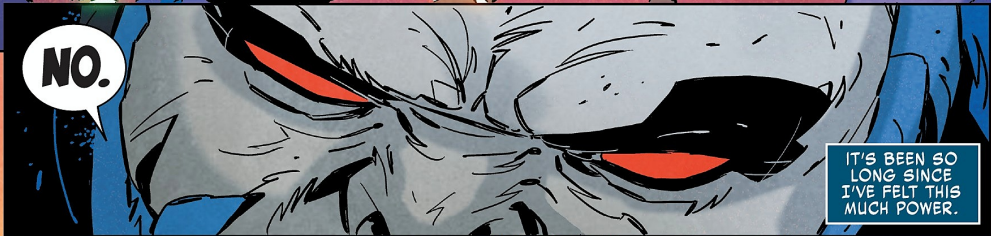
FACE US!



IF NOTHING ELSE, SPARRING WITH THESE PEONS WILL PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE TESTING GROUND FOR MY NEW BODY.



DON'T WE DESERVE TO LIVE?!



NO.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE FELT THIS MUCH POWER.



I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF, LIKE ANUBIS WAKING UP FROM HIS SLUMBER.

SUBLIME AS YOU ARE...

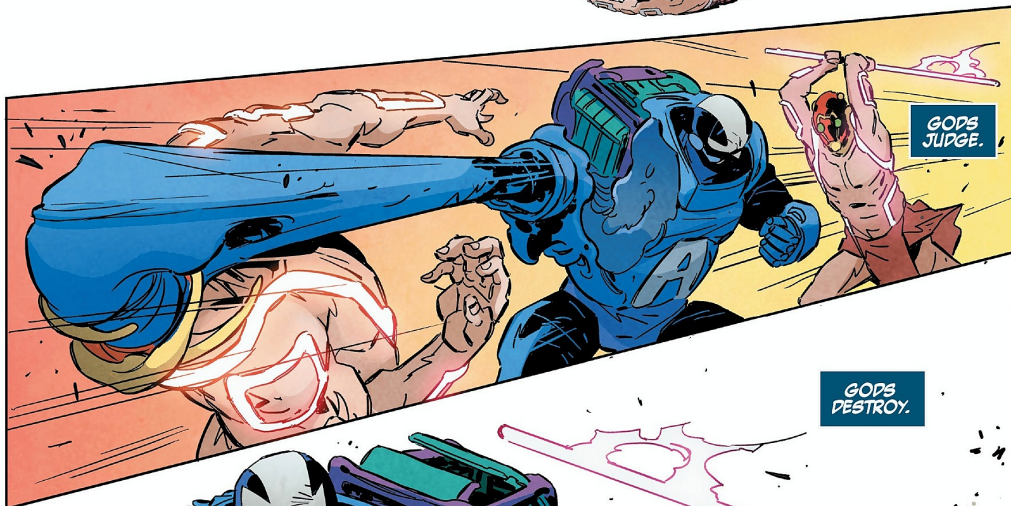


...YOU PROVED UNWORTHY.

ONLY I AM FIT TO SURVIVE.

I AM THE MUTANT MESSIAH. I AM THE APOCALYPSE. I AM A GOD.

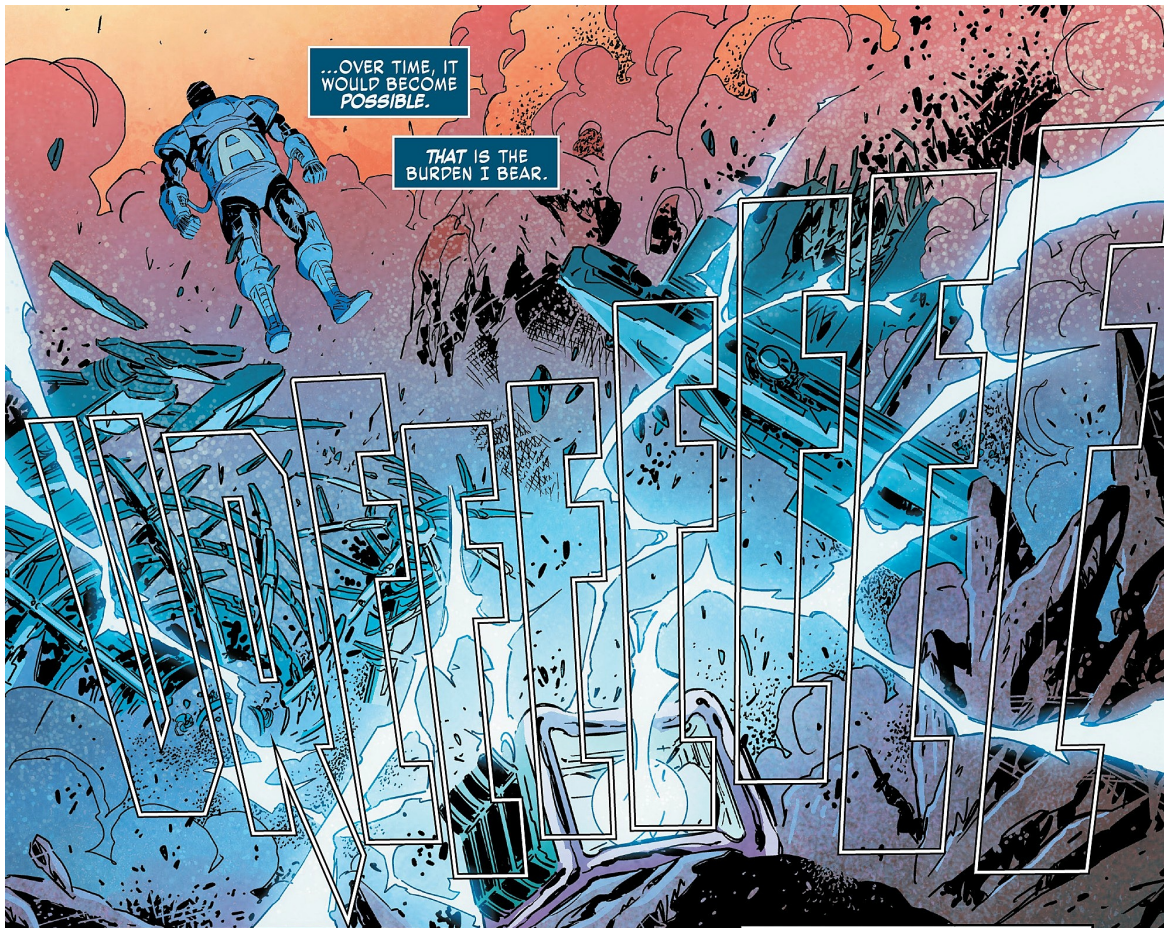
GODS
CREATE.



GODS
JUDGE.

GODS
DESTROY.



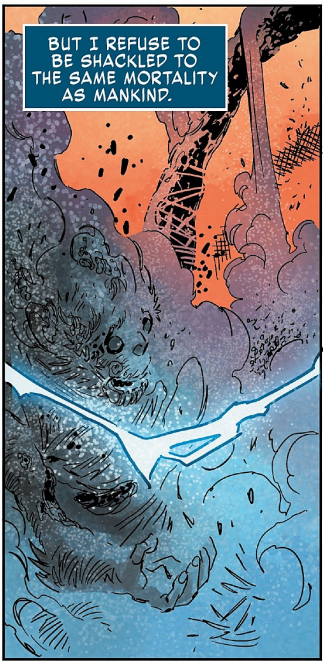


...OVER TIME, IT
WOULD BECOME
POSSIBLE.

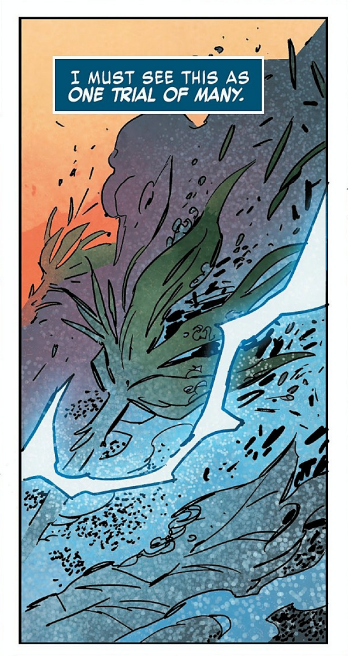
THAT IS THE
BURDEN I BEAR.



MY BODY, THOUGH
RENEWED,
WILL EVENTUALLY
DETERIORATE LIKE
ALL THE OTHERS.



BUT I REFUSE TO
BE SHACKLED TO
THE SAME MORTALITY
AS MANKIND.



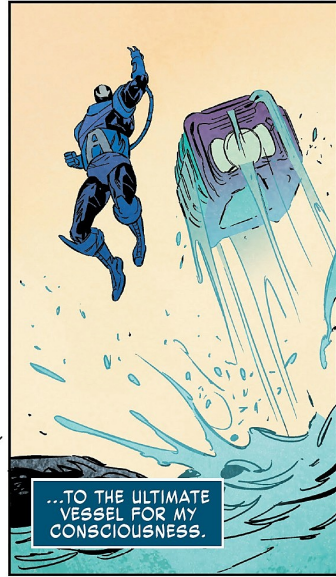
I MUST SEE THIS AS
ONE TRIAL OF MANY.



A CHAOTIC ERROR
THAT WILL ONE DAY LEAD
TO UNDERSTANDING...



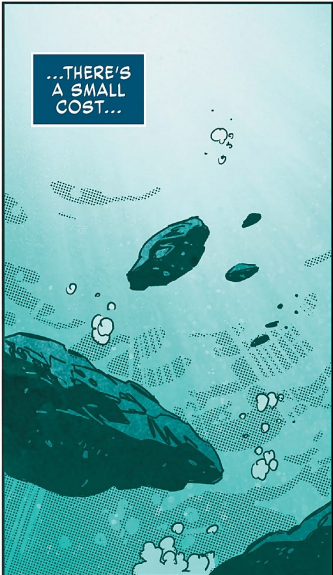
...TO
ORDER...



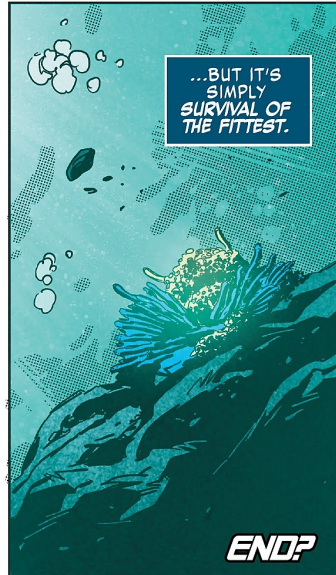
...TO THE ULTIMATE
VESSEL FOR MY
CONSCIOUSNESS.



LIKE ANYTHING
WORTHWHILE...



...THERE'S
A SMALL
COST...



...BUT IT'S
SIMPLY
SURVIVAL OF
THE FITTEST.

END?

COMING SOON...

UNCANNY X-MEN #1 NOVEMBER



UNCANNY X-MEN #2
NOVEMBER



UNCANNY X-MEN #3
NOVEMBER



UNCANNY X-MEN #4
DECEMBER





