

# WHAT-IF?

MARVEL

1

THE

# X-MEN

HILL  
MILONOGIANNIS  
EDWARDS  
ROSENBERG

```
WERE01100011  
01111001 01199010  
01100101 01110010  
01110000 01110101  
01191110 01101011
```

```
** //SYS.ERROR
```

```
<C:> EXIT.APP
```

```
** //SYS.UPDATE
```

```
<C:> RUN
```

```
EXE/SUBROUTINE
```

```
.EXE/men
```





# WHAT IF?

MARVEL

1

THE

# X-MEN

HILL  
MILONOGIANNIS  
EDWARDS  
ROSENBERG

WERE01100011  
01111001 C1198C19  
01100101 01110010  
01110000 01110101  
01101110 01101111

\*\* //SYS.ERROR

<C:> EXIT.APP

\*\* //SYS.UPDATE

<C:> RUN

EXE/SUBROUTINE

EXE/men









```
ERROR
ERROR
ERROR
ERROR
UNRECOGNIZED COMMAND IN CONFIG.SYS
ERROR IN CONFIG.SYS LINE 8
C:\> DISK REFORMATTING
C:\> DISK REBOOTING
LOGINS SUCCESSFUL
.EXE/GENE CONFIGURED AT A220 15 D1 H1
```

IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY, AN INTERCONNECTED NEURAL NETWORK WAS DEVELOPED THAT ALLOWED MENTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BIO-MODIFIED USERS IN A NEUTRAL SIMULATED ENVIRONMENT CALLED "CYBERSPACE"

AS MORE AND MORE OF DAILY COMMERCE AND COMMUNICATION MOVED TO DIGITAL AVENUES, THE USE OF CYBERSPACE GREW EXPONENTIALLY WHILE REAL-WORLD ENVIRONMENTS LANGUISHED. CYBERSPACE WAS COMMODIFIED AT EVERY LEVEL THROUGH THE USE OF SECURITY PROTOCOLS THAT PREVENTED USER MODIFICATIONS AND BRAIN DEATH

EVENTUALLY, SOME CYBERSPACE USERS DISCOVERED THEY HAD THE ABILITY TO BREAK THESE PROTOCOLS AT WILL. THEY POSSESSED SPECIAL GENETICS DUBBED THE EXE GENE

```
0B20:0000 CD 20 FF 9F 00 9A EE FE-1D F0 4F 03 84 05 8A 03 .....D.....
0B20:0010 84 05 17 03 84 05 25 04-01 01 01 00 02 FF FF FF .....%.....
0B20:0020 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF-FF FF FF FF 28 05 4E 01 .....C.O.
0B20:0030 44 0A 14 00 18 00 20 0B-FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 .....D.....
0B20:0040 05 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0B20:0000 CD 20 FF 9F 00 9A EE FE-1D F0 4F 03 84 05 8A 03 .....D.....
0B20:0010 84 05 17 03 84 05 25 04-01 01 01 00 02 FF FF FF .....%.....
0B20:0020 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF-FF FF FF FF 28 05 4E 01 .....C.O.
0B20:0030 44 0A 14 00 18 00 20 0B-FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 .....D.....
0B20:0040 05 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0B20:0050 CD 21 CB 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 20 20 20 .....J.....
0B20:0060 20 20 20 20 20 20 20-
0B20:0050 CD 21 CB 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 20 20 20 .....J.....
0B20:0060 20 20 20 20 20 20 20-00 00 00 00 00 20 20 20 .....
0B20:0070 20 20 20 20 20 20 20-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0B20:0080 00 00 20 20 20 53 45 54-20 42 4C 41 53 54 45 52 .. SET BLASTER
0B20:0090 3D 41 30 0D 64 64 72 65-73 73 2E 20 20 46 6F 72 =AO.DDRESS. FOR
0B20:00A0 20 65 78 61 6D 70 6C 65-3A 0D 20 6F 6E 20 4E 54 EXAMPLE: ON AT
0B20:00B0 56 44 4D 2C 20 73 70 65-63 69 66 79 20 61 6E 20 UDM, SPECIFY AN
0B20:00C0 69 6E 76 61 6C 69 64 0D-20 6F 6E 6C 79 2E 0D 00 INVALID. ONLY...
```

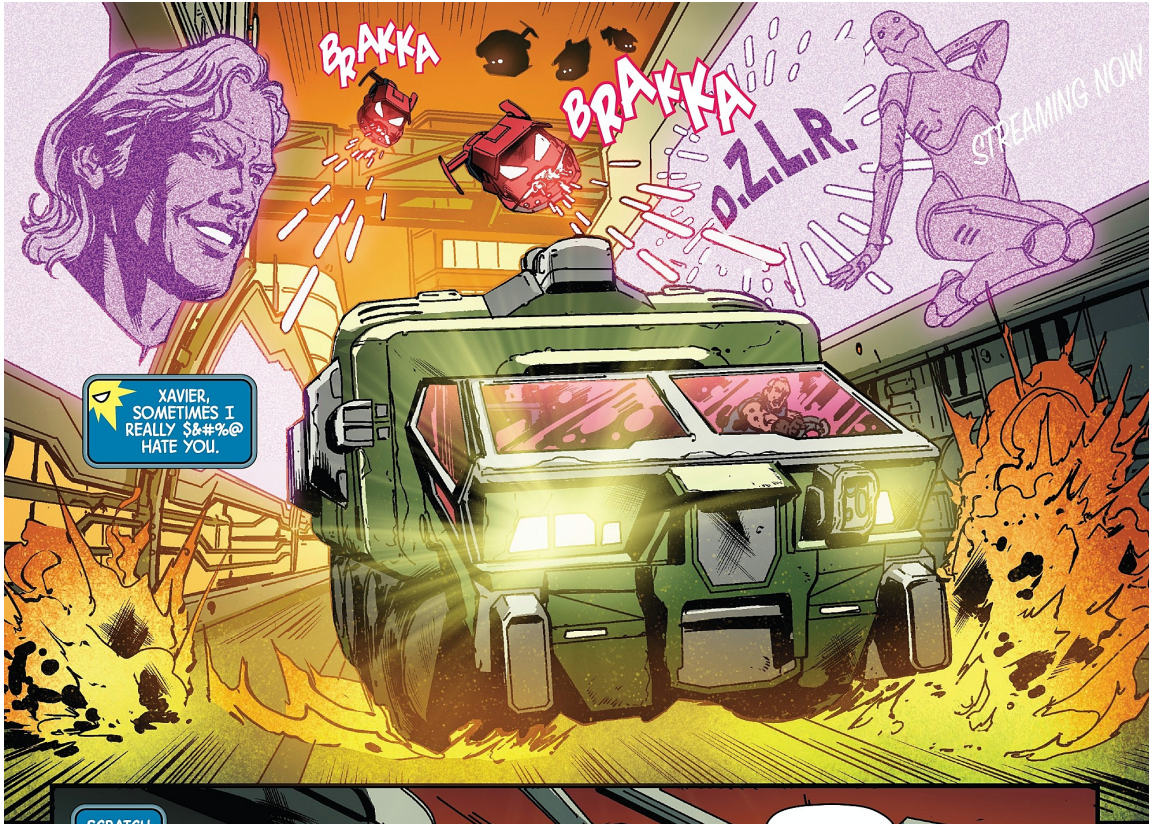
SOURCE CODE///BRYAN EDWARD HILL  
GRAPHICS///NEIL EDWARDS & GIANNIS MILONOGIANNIS  
HEXCODE///RACHELLE ROSENBERG  
SYS.ADMIN///VC'S CLAYTON COWLES  
COV.JPG///RAHZZAH  
VARCOV.JPG///JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER

SYS.ICONS///ANTHONY GAMBINO  
MALWARE DETECTED///CHRIS ROBINSON  
UKE.MP3///JORDAN D. WHITE  
ADMINCONTROLLER.EIC///C.B. CEBULSKI  
ADMINCONTROLLER.CCO///JOE QUESADA  
ADMINCONTROLLER.PREZ///DAN BUCKLEY  
ADMINCONTROLLER.EXECPROD///ALAN FINE  
SPEC.THX///ABE ERSKINE  
X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

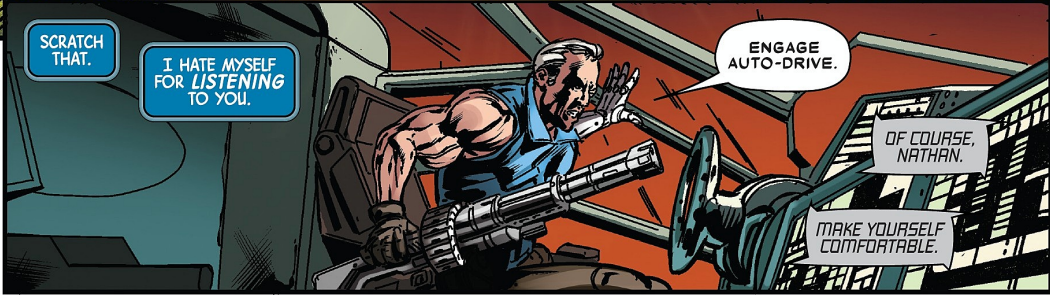








XAVIER, SOMETIMES I REALLY \$&#-%@ HATE YOU.



SCRATCH THAT.

I HATE MYSELF FOR LISTENING TO YOU.

ENGAGE AUTO-DRIVE.

OF COURSE, NATHAN.

MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.



IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, DOMINO.

GET IT DONE QUICK, GIRL.



THIS JOB'S A PSYCHO RUN.

ALL RISK. NO REWARD.

THE NEXT TIME CHARLES XAVIER TELLS ME HE NEEDS TO SAVE THE WORLD...









...I'M GONNA  
REMINDE HIM THIS  
WORLD ISN'T  
\$#@%#&@  
WORTH IT.







**HOURS AGO...**

YOU WANT US TO DO WHAT?

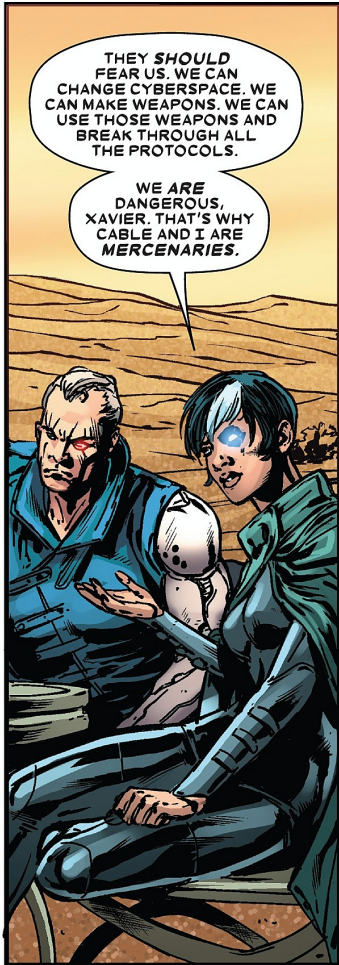
SOMEONE CREATED A NIMROD VIRUS TO TARGET ERIK IN CYBERSPACE. HE'S HIDING FROM IT. TRAPPED THERE NOW.

I NEED YOU TO INTERFACE. DESTROY NIMROD AND SAVE ERIK'S MIND.

WHY?

ERIK IS THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON BORN WITH THE EXE GENE. HIS TECHNOLOGY POWERS 90% OF CYBERSPACE. HE'S A SYMBOL OF HOW WE CAN HELP THE WORLD, HOW WE CAN LEAD IT.

IF CORRUPTED, HE BECOMES A SYMBOL OF WHY THEY SHOULD FEAR US.



THEY SHOULD FEAR US. WE CAN CHANGE CYBERSPACE. WE CAN MAKE WEAPONS. WE CAN USE THOSE WEAPONS AND BREAK THROUGH ALL THE PROTOCOLS.

WE ARE DANGEROUS, XAVIER. THAT'S WHY CABLE AND I ARE MERCENARIES.



NIMROD WAS CREATED BY A GOVERNMENT THAT WANTS TO EXTERMINATE US. IT WON'T JUST KILL ERIK. IT'LL CHANGE HIM. CORRUPT HIM. WHATEVER CRIMES THEY WANT TO USE HIM TO COMMIT, WE'LL ALL BE BLAMED FOR IT.

WE'RE ILLEGAL NOW. IF NIMROD IS SUCCESSFUL, WE'LL BE HUNTED.

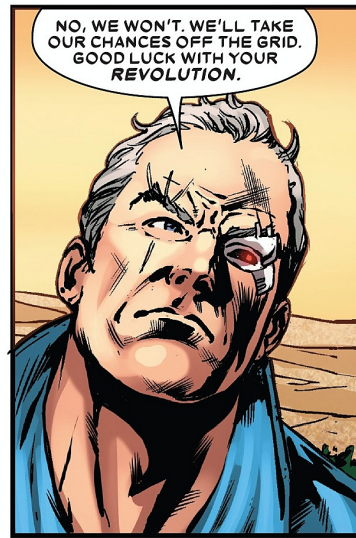
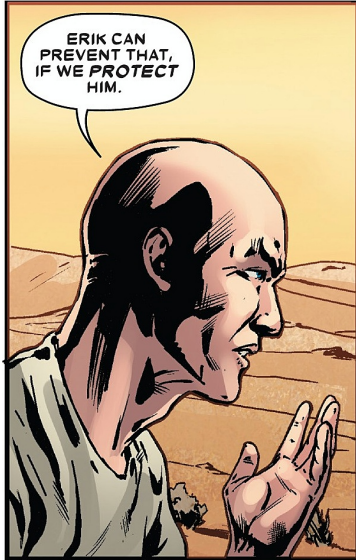


THEN WE'LL HUNT THEM BACK.

THE WAY THE WORLD IS TURNING, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT. AND BY FIGHT, I MEAN KILL.













XAVIER IS RIGHT, CABLE!

WE'RE MERCENARIES. THIEVES. KILLERS. WE DO THINGS FOR MONEY.

YOU WANT TO BE A HERO WITH HIM? STAY HERE AND HIDE IN THE DESERT. I'M GOING BACK TO L.A., GETTING A BOWL OF RAMEN. I'LL SAVE YOU A BEER.

NATHAN, I WOULD DO THIS MYSELF--

--BUT I'M DYING.



WHAT DID YOU JUST DO, XAVIER?

WAIT. DYING HOW?



MY MUTATION HAS EVOLVED. I CAN ENTER A NEURAL INTERFACE WITHOUT CYBERSPACE, BUT IT'S BREAKING DOWN MY NERVOUS SYSTEM. THE PRICE OF EVOLUTION.

MY LEGS HAVE GONE. IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE. I NEED YOUR STRENGTH, NATHAN.



XAVIER, A DYING MAN SHOULDN'T WASTE HIS TIME TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD.

BUT I GUESS WE ALL OWE YOU AT LEAST ONE FAVOR, DON'T WE?



I'LL GET IT DONE.

THEN YOU AND ME ARE EVEN.

AND DON'T EVER PUT WORDS IN MY MIND AGAIN.



















MY NAME IS **ERIK LEHNSHERR**. WELCOME TO MY INTRODUCTION OF **OUR FUTURE**.

THE **EXE** GENE IS A NATURAL BYPRODUCT OF THE WORLD WE'VE MADE. WE CREATED **CYBERSPACE**.

AND **CYBERSPACE** EVOLVED US.



ALL **EXE** IDENTIFIED NEED TO REGISTER WITH THEIR PREFERRED OFFICE.

REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY.

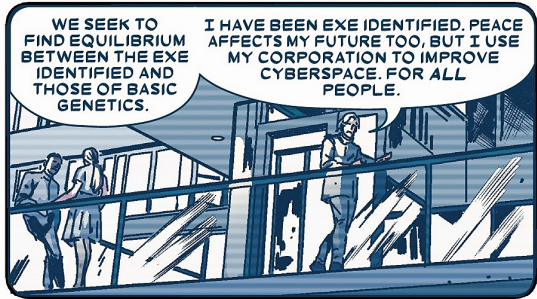


I REALIZE THAT **CYBERSPACE** AFFECTS ALL OF OUR LIVES. THE SAFETY OF IT IS PARAMOUNT TO A FUNCTIONING SOCIETY.

**EXE** GENETICS ALLOW USERS TO BREAK ITS LAWS, FORMAT IT AS THEY SEE FIT. THE FEAR OF THEM, OF PEOPLE LIKE ME, IS UNDERSTANDABLE.



VIOLENCE IN **CYBERSPACE** IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE. **LEHNSHERR TECH** REMINDS CITIZENS TO REMAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.



WE SEEK TO FIND EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE **EXE** IDENTIFIED AND THOSE OF BASIC GENETICS.

I HAVE BEEN **EXE** IDENTIFIED. PEACE AFFECTS MY FUTURE TOO, BUT I USE MY CORPORATION TO IMPROVE **CYBERSPACE**. FOR ALL PEOPLE.



VIOLATION.



THE VIOLENT ENFORCEMENT OF THE **STRYKER ACT** PUTS US ALL AT RISK. IT'S THE PROLOGUE TO REVOLUTION.



VIOLATION.

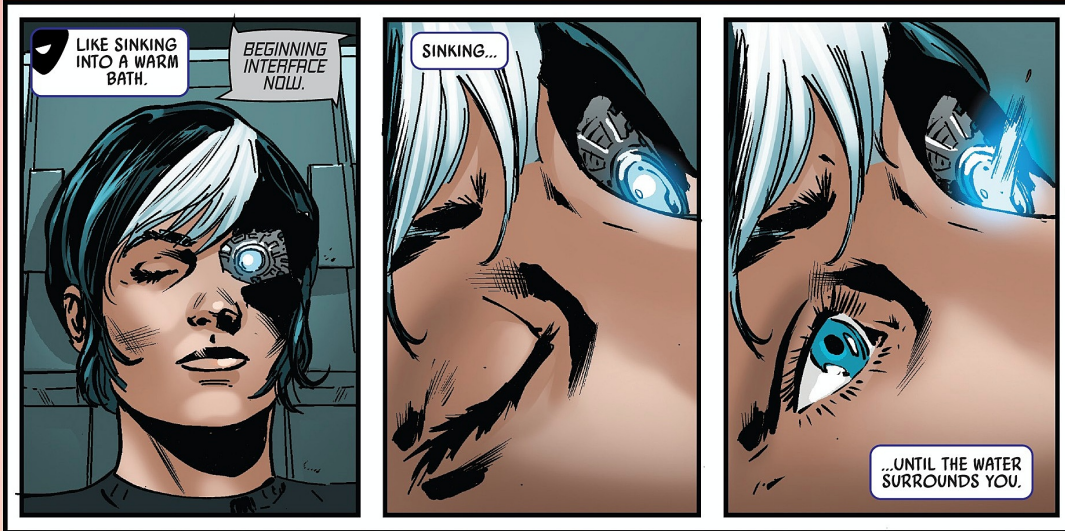


I HAVE SHARED MY TECHNOLOGY. NOW I ASK THE WORLD, **EXE** AND **BASIC**, TO SHARE THEIR TRUST WITH ME. REPEAL THE **STRYKER ACT**. END THE AGE OF FEAR.

MY NAME IS **ERIK LEHNSHERR** AND I BELIEVE IN OUR FUTURE.







I'M IN.

FOR MOST PEOPLE--*POOR* PEOPLE--CYBERSPACE IS DESIGNED BY CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS.

YOU GO THERE TO SHOP, DATE, ENTERTAIN, DISTRACT. YOU'RE MONITORED. AT WORK AND PLAY.

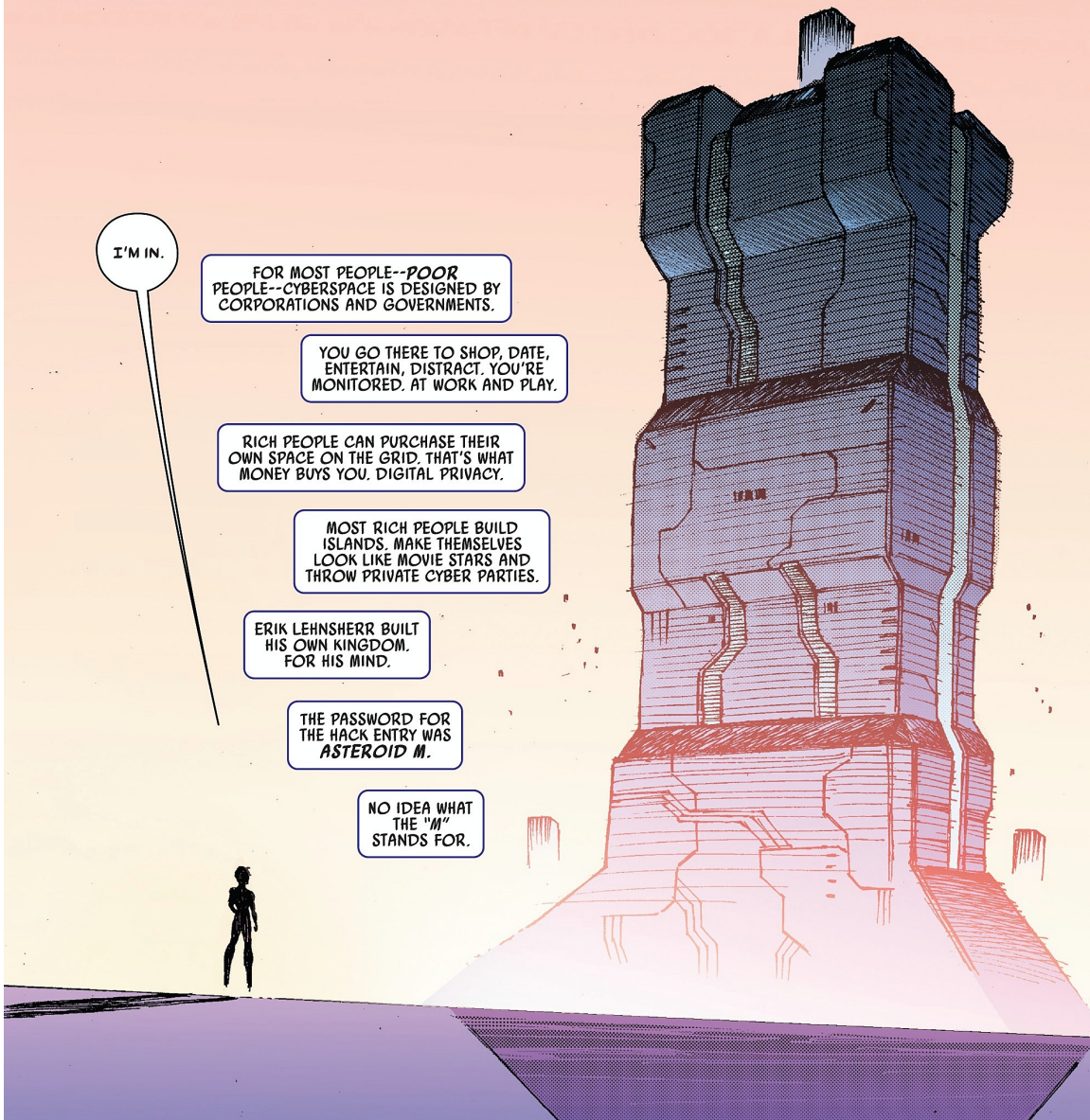
RICH PEOPLE CAN PURCHASE THEIR OWN SPACE ON THE GRID. THAT'S WHAT MONEY BUYS YOU. DIGITAL PRIVACY.

MOST RICH PEOPLE BUILD ISLANDS. MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK LIKE MOVIE STARS AND THROW PRIVATE CYBER PARTIES.

ERIK LEHNSHERR BUILT HIS OWN KINGDOM. FOR HIS MIND.

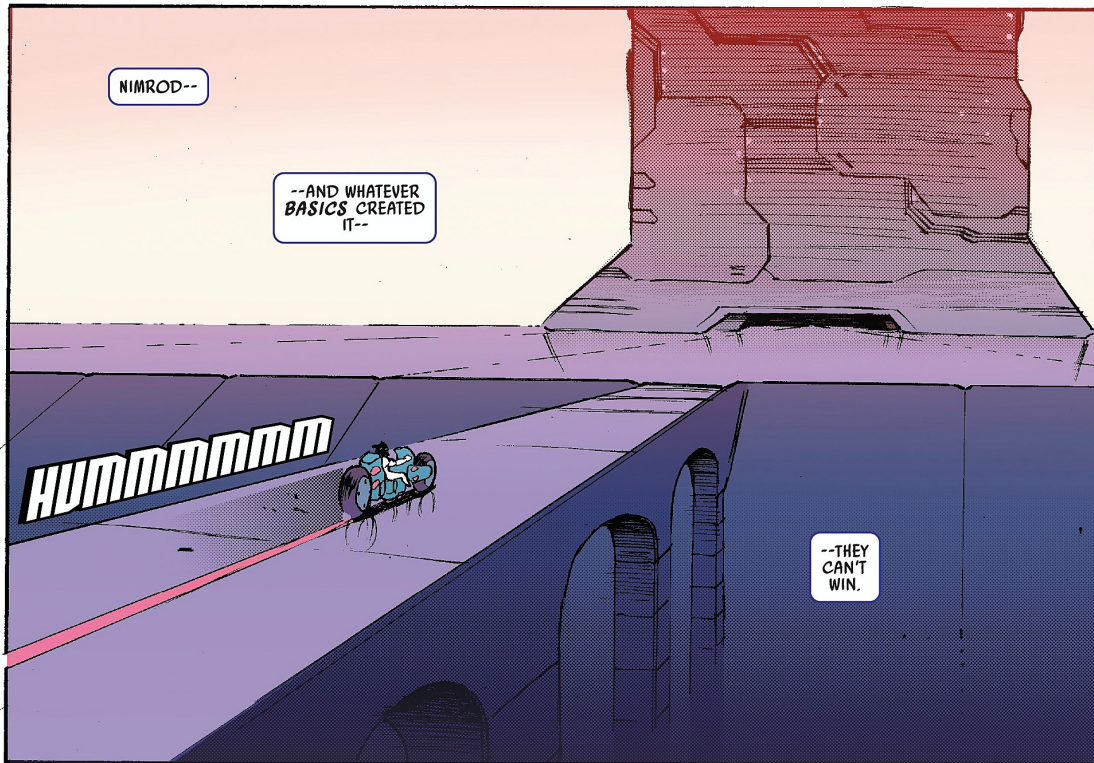
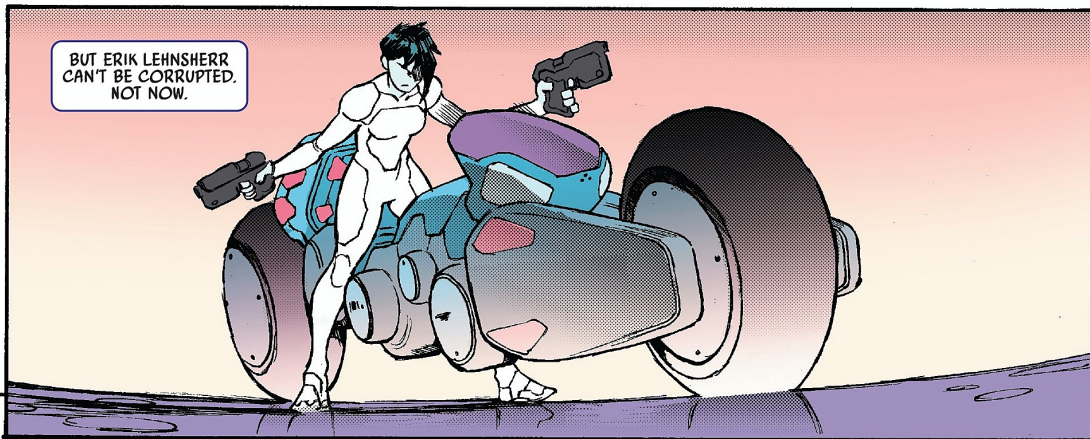
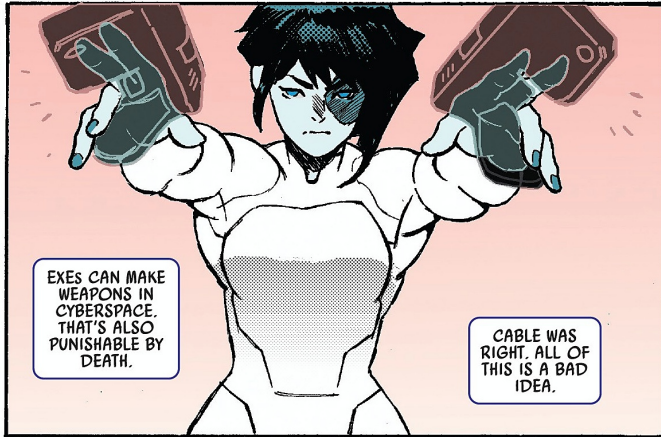
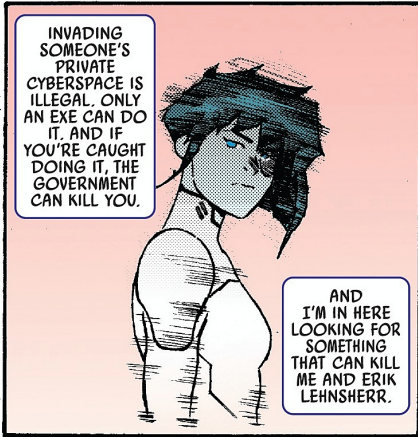
THE PASSWORD FOR THE HACK ENTRY WAS *ASTEROID M.*

NO IDEA WHAT THE "M" STANDS FOR.



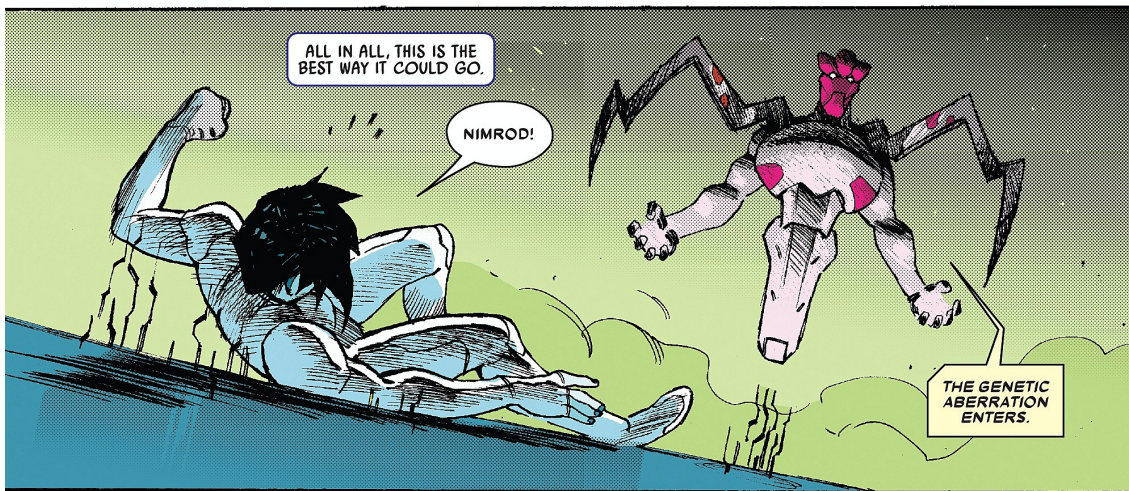
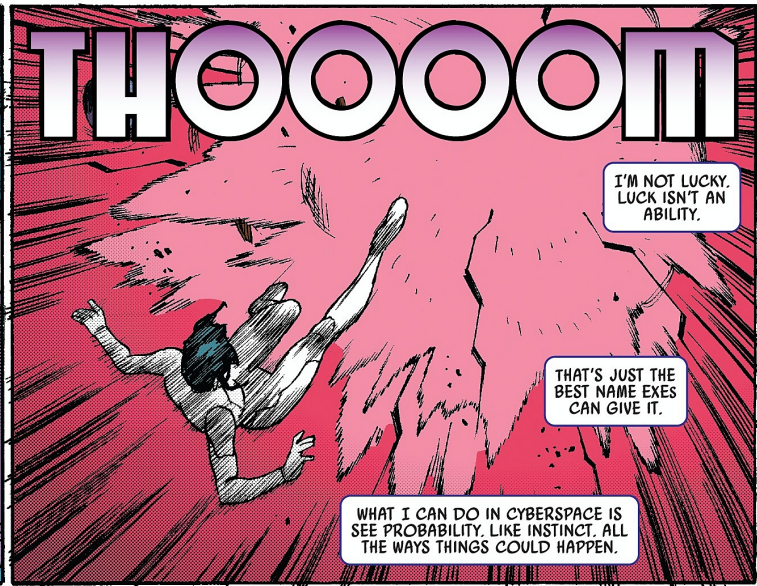
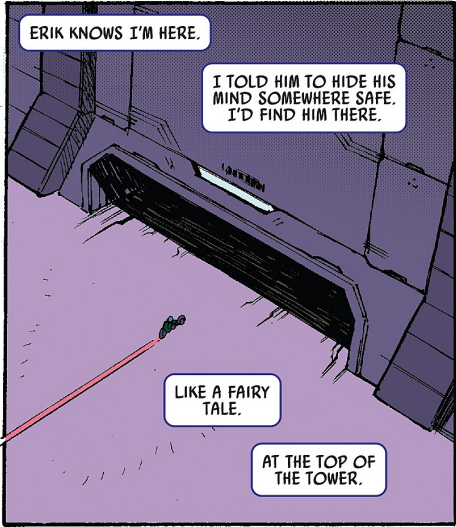






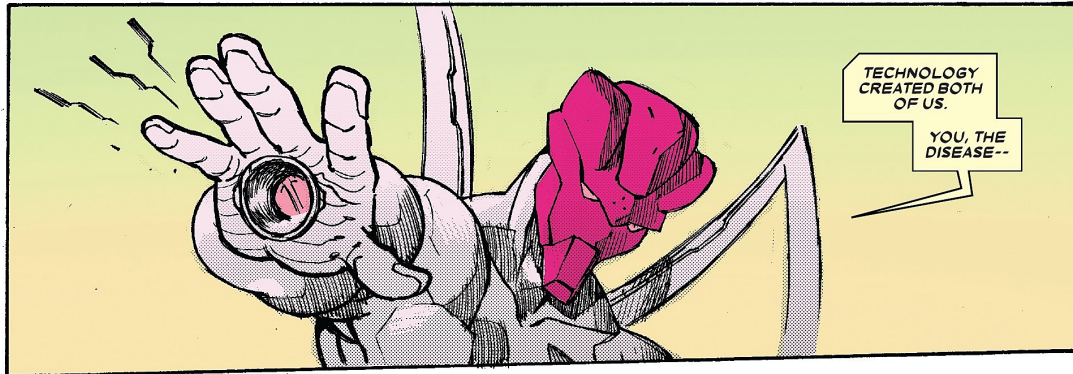






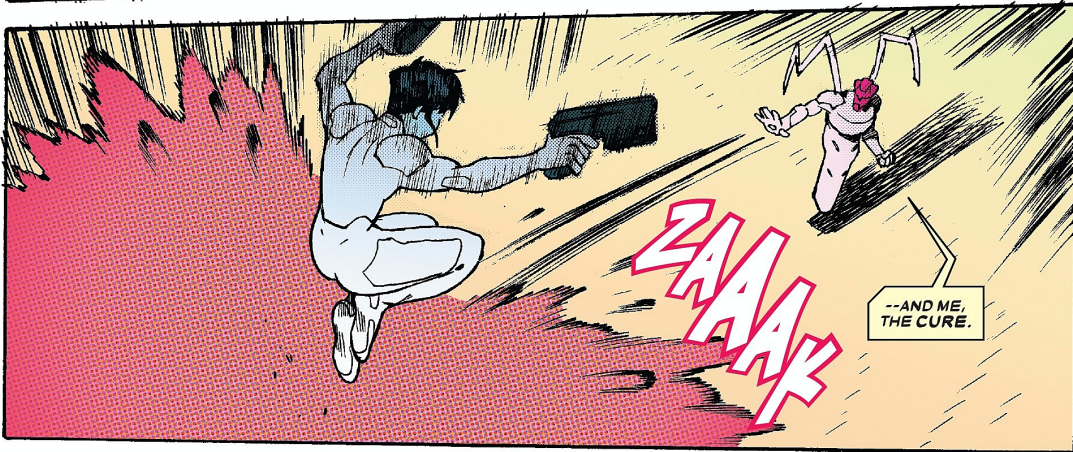






TECHNOLOGY  
CREATED BOTH  
OF US.

YOU, THE  
DISEASE--



--AND ME,  
THE CURE.



EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

EXECUTE  
REPLICATION.

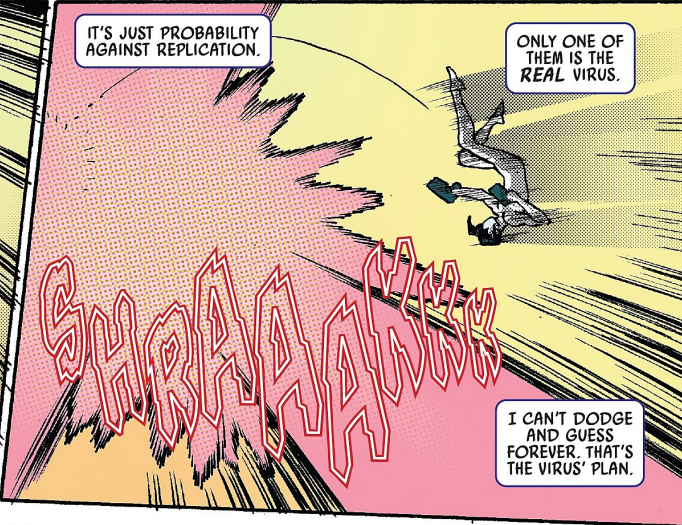
EXEC  
REPLIC







THIS IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE LUCK, BUT IT'S NOT.



IT'S JUST PROBABILITY AGAINST REPLICATION.

ONLY ONE OF THEM IS THE REAL VIRUS.

I CAN'T DODGE AND GUESS FOREVER. THAT'S THE VIRUS' PLAN.



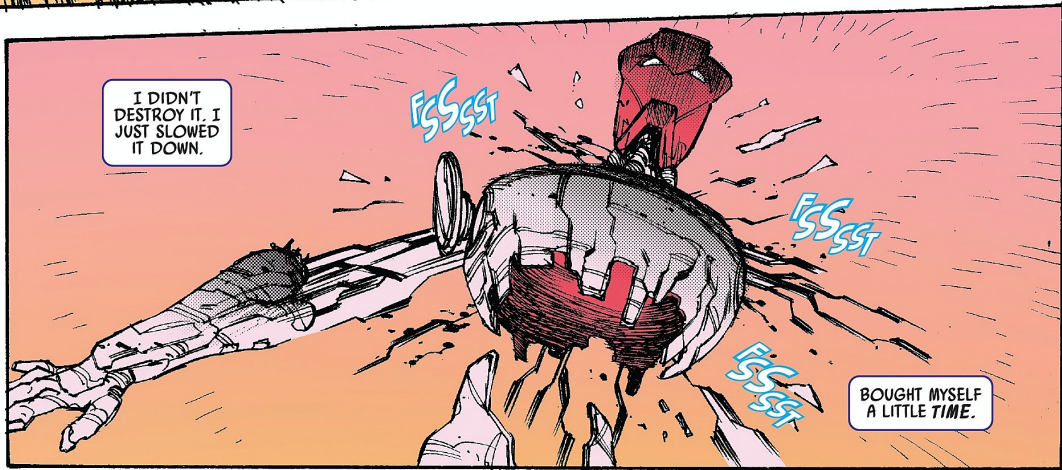
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS.

THERE'S A ONE-IN-SEVEN CHANCE I TAKE THE RIGHT SHOT.



MY POWER IS TO MAKE THAT OUTCOME--

--THIS REALITY.

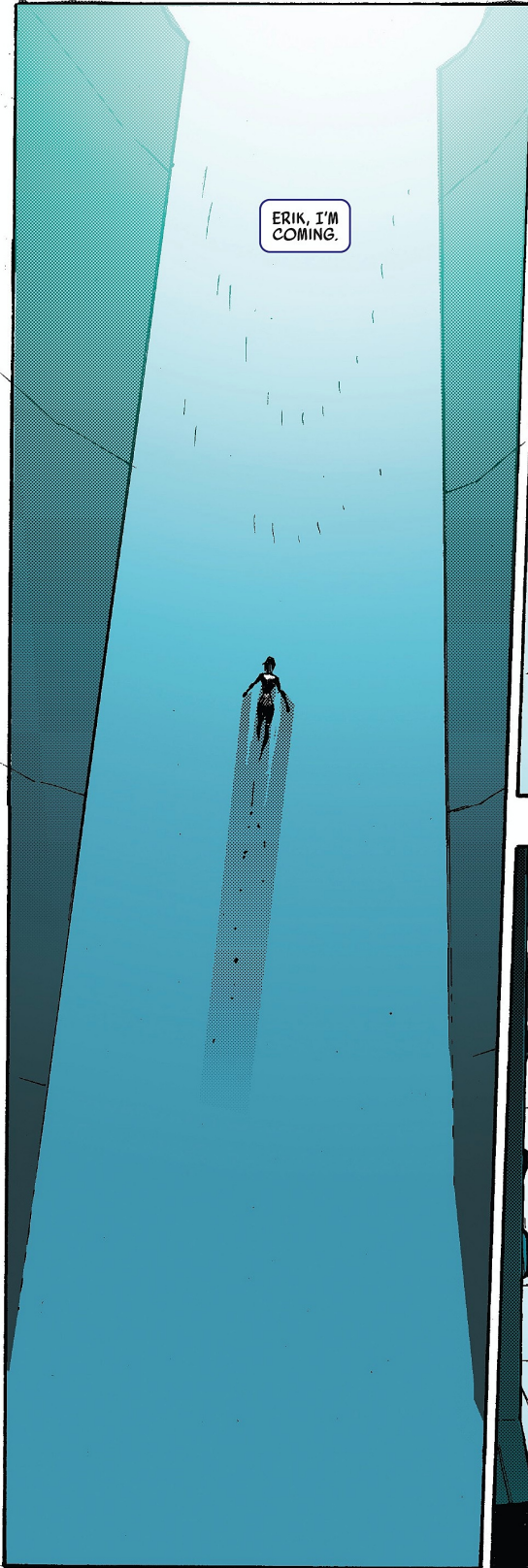


I DIDN'T DESTROY IT. I JUST SLOWED IT DOWN.

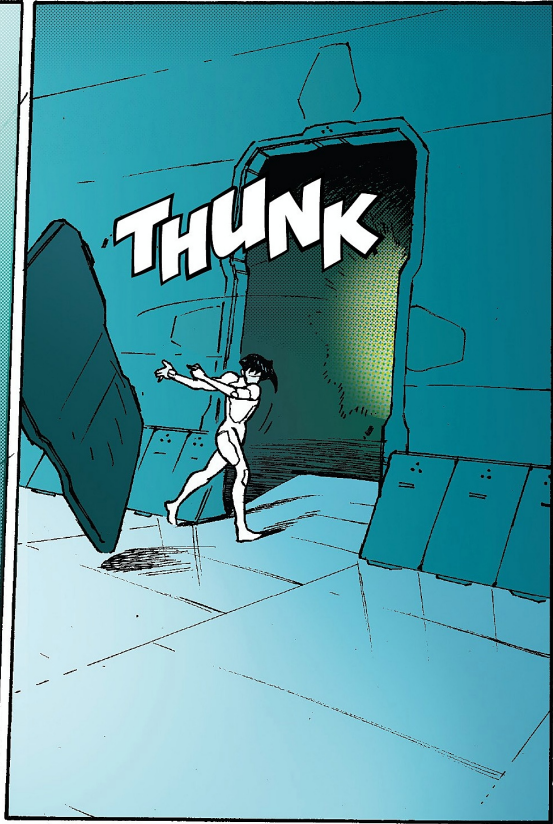
BOUGHT MYSELF A LITTLE TIME.







ERIK, I'M  
COMING.



THUNK

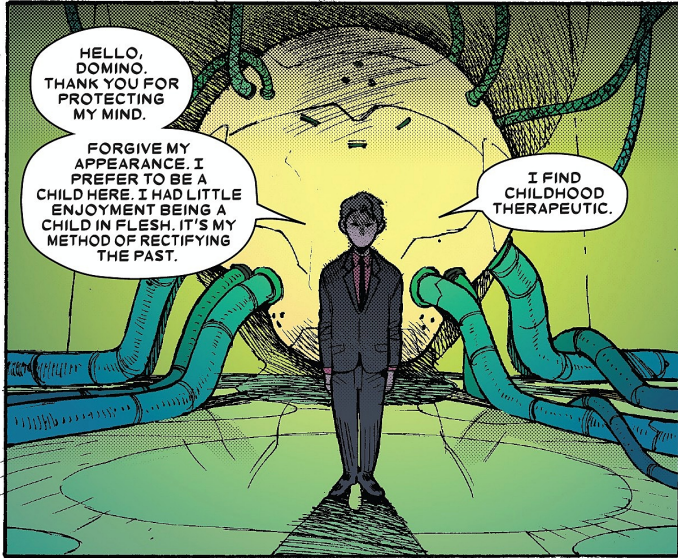


LEHNSHERR! NIMROD IS GOING INTO  
SELF-REPAIR. WE DON'T  
HAVE MUCH...

...ERIK?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING?







HELLO, DOMINO. THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING MY MIND.

FORGIVE MY APPEARANCE. I PREFER TO BE A CHILD HERE. I HAD LITTLE ENJOYMENT BEING A CHILD IN FLESH. IT'S MY METHOD OF RECTIFYING THE PAST.

I FIND CHILDHOOD THERAPEUTIC.



WE'RE NOT SAFE, ERIK. WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF CYBERSPACE. TRACK DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO SENT NIMROD IN THE REAL WORLD.

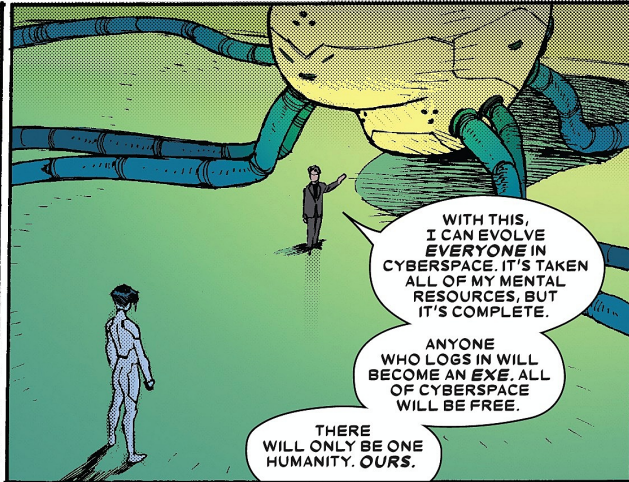
NO, WE DON'T. I JUST NEEDED A LITTLE TIME TO FINISH.

FINISH WHAT, ERIK?



EVOLUTION.

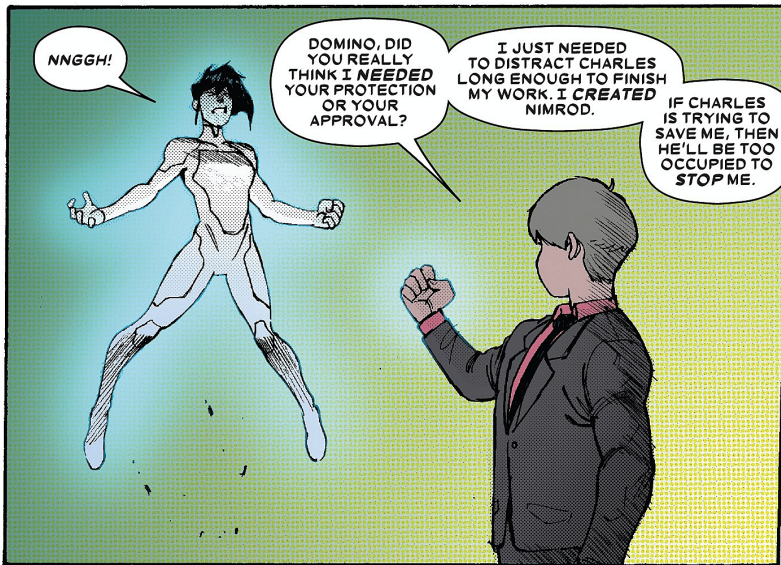
THE END OF DIFFERENCE IS THE END OF CONFLICT, DOMINO. XAVIER WANTS TO AVOID A WAR, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR WAR.



WITH THIS, I CAN EVOLVE EVERYONE IN CYBERSPACE. IT'S TAKEN ALL OF MY MENTAL RESOURCES, BUT IT'S COMPLETE.

ANYONE WHO LOGS IN WILL BECOME AN EXE. ALL OF CYBERSPACE WILL BE FREE.

THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE HUMANITY. OURS.

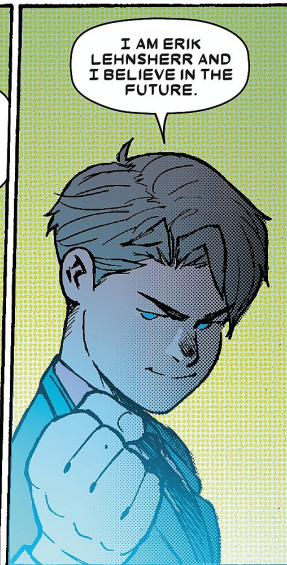


NNGGH!

DOMINO, DID YOU REALLY THINK I NEEDED YOUR PROTECTION OR YOUR APPROVAL?

I JUST NEEDED TO DISTRACT CHARLES LONG ENOUGH TO FINISH MY WORK. I CREATED NIMROD.

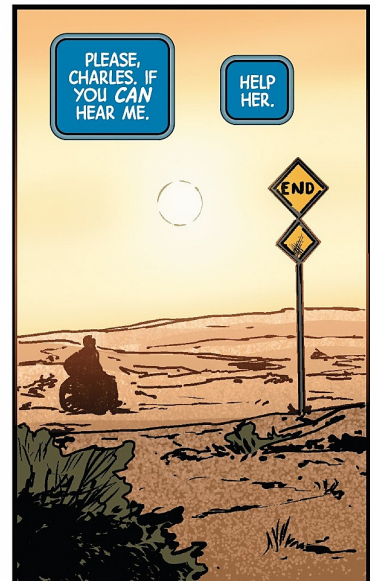
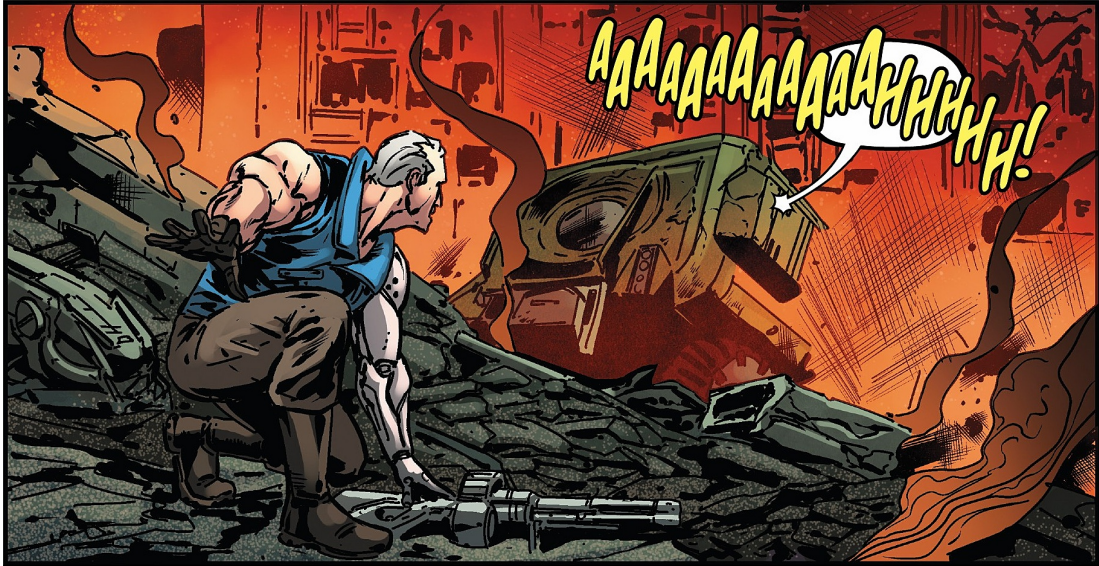
IF CHARLES IS TRYING TO SAVE ME, THEN HE'LL BE TOO OCCUPIED TO STOP ME.



I AM ERIK LEHNSHERR AND I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE.









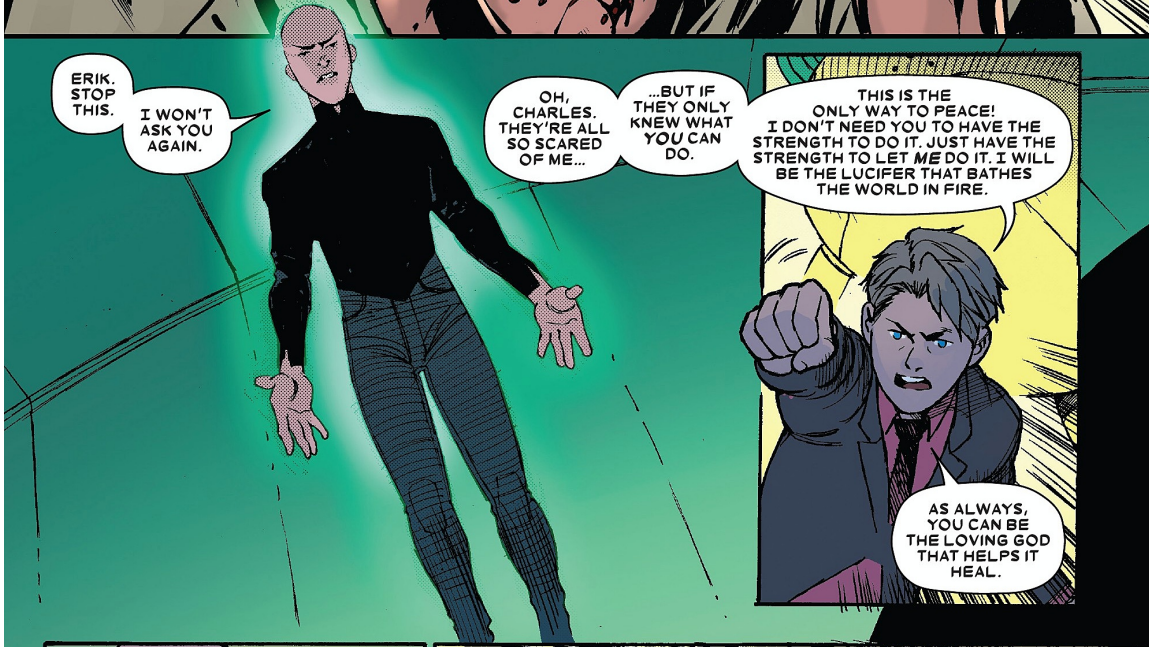




WE OWE YOU, XAVIER. FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN FOR US.

BUT DOMINO BELIEVES IN YOUR DREAM. SHE RISKED HER LIFE FOR IT.

AND YOU OWE HER TOO.



ERIK. STOP THIS.

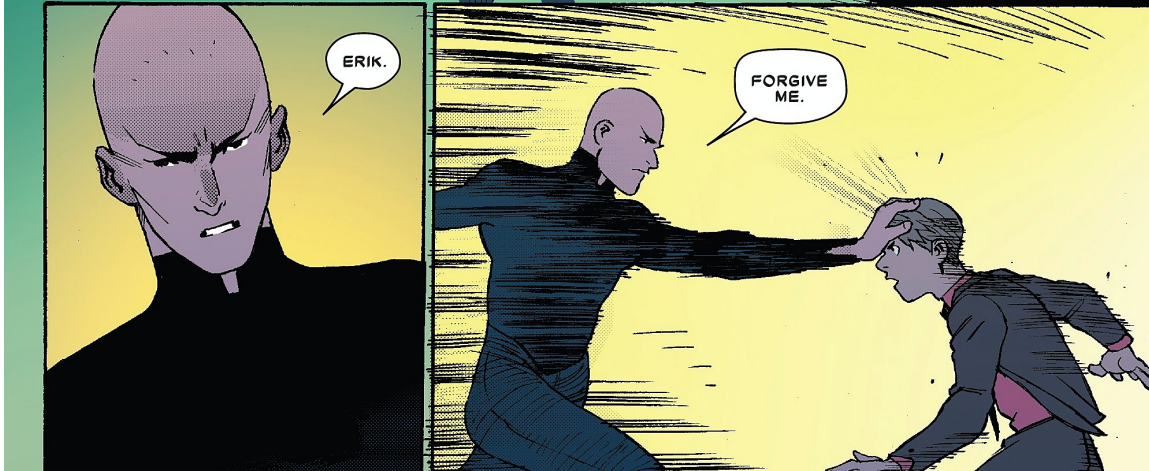
I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN.

OH, CHARLES. THEY'RE ALL SO SCARED OF ME...

...BUT IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT YOU CAN DO.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO PEACE! I DON'T NEED YOU TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO IT. JUST HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LET ME DO IT. I WILL BE THE LUCIFER THAT BATHES THE WORLD IN FIRE.

AS ALWAYS, YOU CAN BE THE LOVING GOD THAT HELPS IT HEAL.

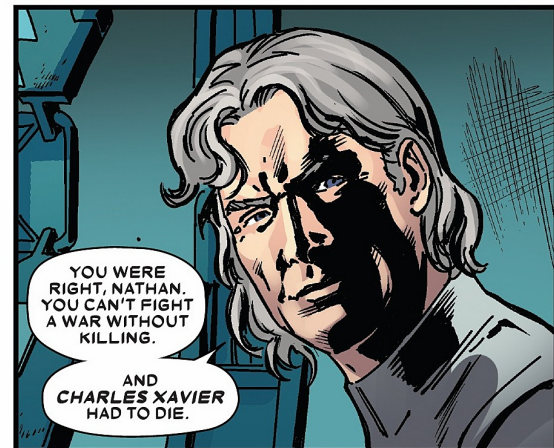
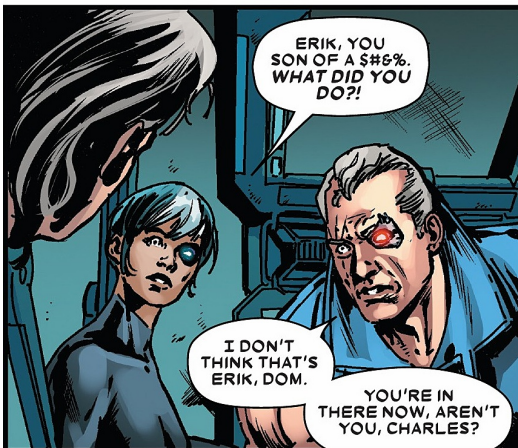
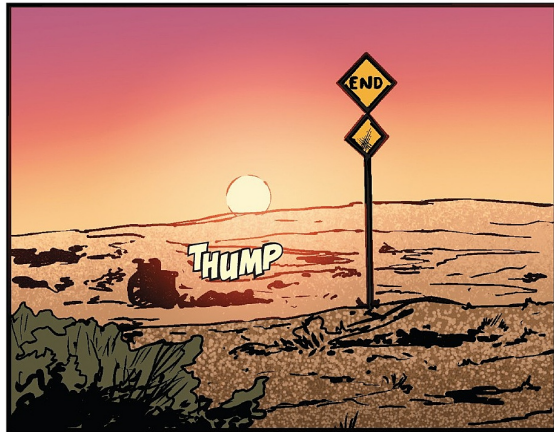
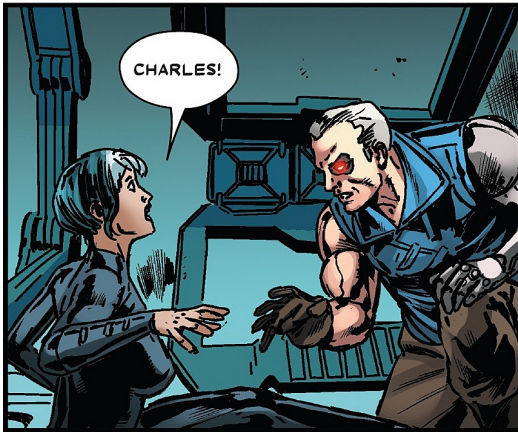
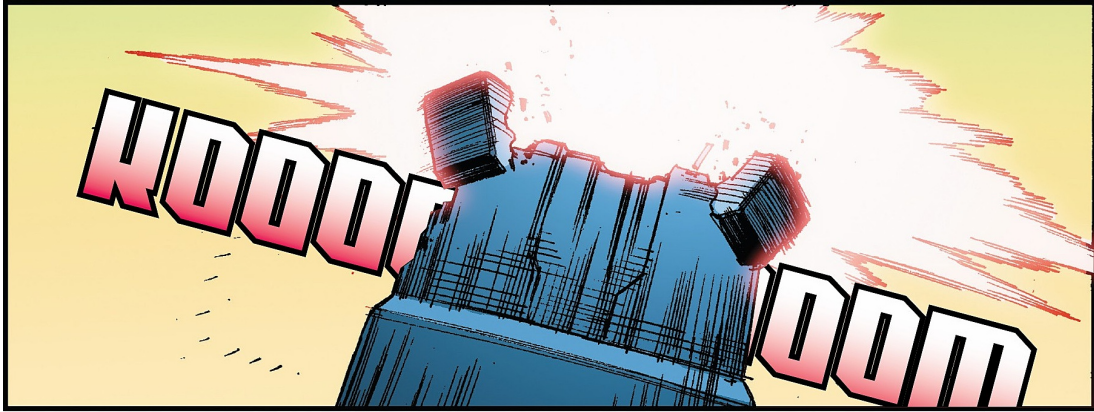


ERIK.

FORGIVE ME.







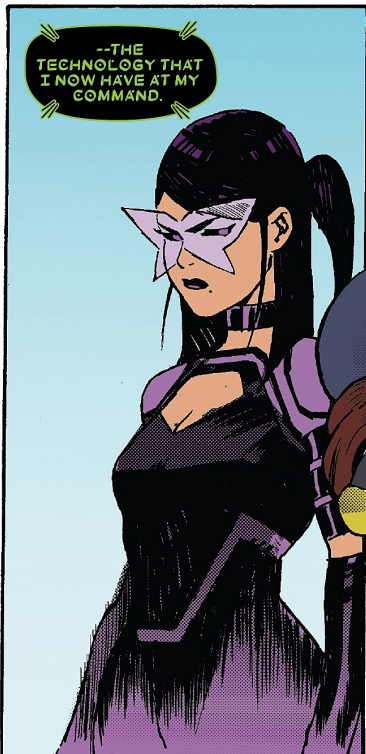




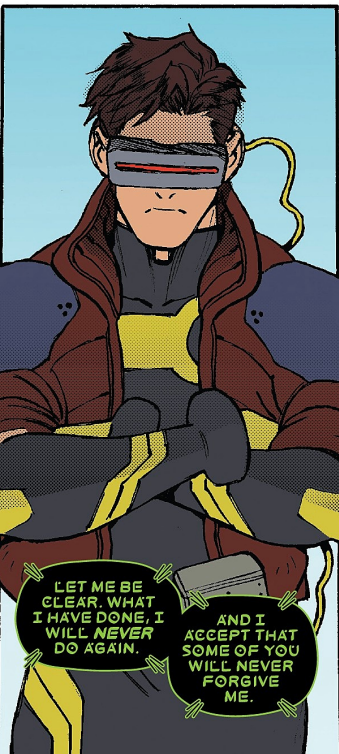


I'LL NEED YOU TO STAND WITH ME. NO MORE HIDING. NO MORE RUNNING.

WE WERE EVOLVED BY TECHNOLOGY--



--THE TECHNOLOGY THAT I NOW HAVE AT MY COMMAND.



LET ME BE CLEAR. WHAT I HAVE DONE, I WILL NEVER DO AGAIN.

AND I ACCEPT THAT SOME OF YOU WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME.



LET ME BE THE SIN-EATER. I HAVE DONE AN UNFORGIVABLE THING, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK THAT PATH.

FROM THIS POINT ON--







--I AM ERIK LEHNSHERR.

AND I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE.

END TASK.





## JUBILEE

**REAL NAME:** Jubilation Lee

**PARTIAL HISTORY:** Jubilee was born into an affluent family. As a child her parents granted her anything she asked for. Jubilee found out early on that she was gifted with the EXE gene when her parents bought her her own private corner of cyberspace. It was a shock to her and her friend Alison, whom she was playing tag with in her cyberspace playground, when she accidentally threw a pixel blast that barely missed Alison. Jubilee, naturally, was excited about her newfound powers but had to keep it a secret because she knew how her parents felt about the EXEs they heard about in the news.

Growing up Jubilee was uninterested in her parents' wealth so she kept the fact that she was rich from her friends and would spend most of her time at the digital marketplace or the arcade app store with other teenagers. When in cyberspace, she uses the screen name "Jubilee" and would use her pixel manipulation to put on light shows for her friends in secret.

Although Jubilee was having fun with her powers, she was constantly faced with the feeling that she could be putting them to better use. Even though Jubilee was wealthy she was not oblivious to the fact that EXEs were being discriminated against. She didn't think it was fair that because of her family's status she had been able to shelter herself from the prejudices that so many others had to deal with every day. She also didn't like that her parents were so much against EXEs.

**HEIGHT:** 5'2"

**EYES:** Brown

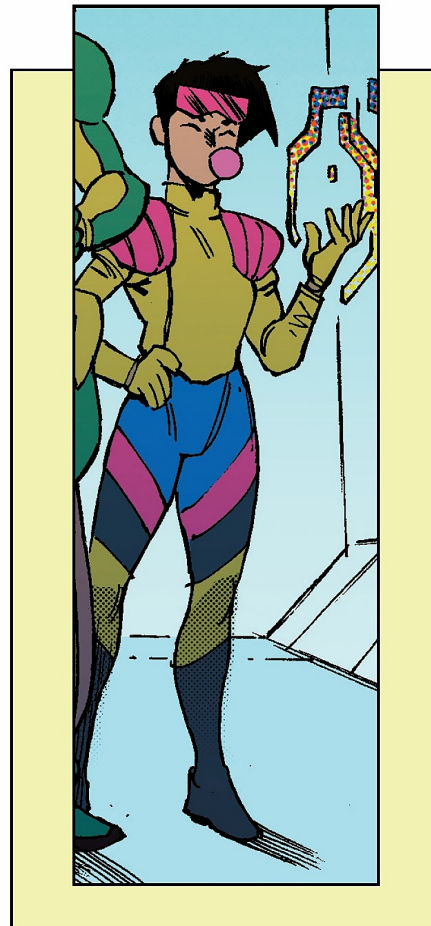
**HAIR:** Black

**SUPER-POWERS:** Manipulates the pixels around her and change them to any form. This includes but is not limited to pixel blasts that shoot from her hands, forming pixelated weapons, and blacking out the pixels in the surrounding area.

*Art by Giannis Milonogiannis & Rachelle Rosenberg*

She decided to tell her parents who she was in the flashiest way she could. During her father's important company press conference that was being streamed all throughout cyberspace, Jubilee jumped in front of the camera and in big, bright, pixelated letters she wrote "Join the Revolution" before blacking out all the pixels in the area and making a getaway.

Jubilee has joined the revolution in hopes that she can do her part in helping EXEs in any way that she can. Jubilee's parents have spared no expense in getting their daughter back, but she is determined to stay away from them and continue her fight for equality. ■



*Special thanks to Christopher Holmes*





## ROGUE

**REAL NAME:** Anna Marie

**PARTIAL HISTORY:** Rogue was born into a commune that had remained off the grid and did not use cyberspace. Growing up she was taught that humans did not need cyberspace and that everything humans needed to survive was already provided by nature. Rogue lived a sheltered childhood. Her parents and the rest of the commune, afraid of what the outside world had become, made efforts to curb Rogue's curiosity about society. However, as Rogue grew older she began to wonder if the outside world was as bad as her parents taught her it was.

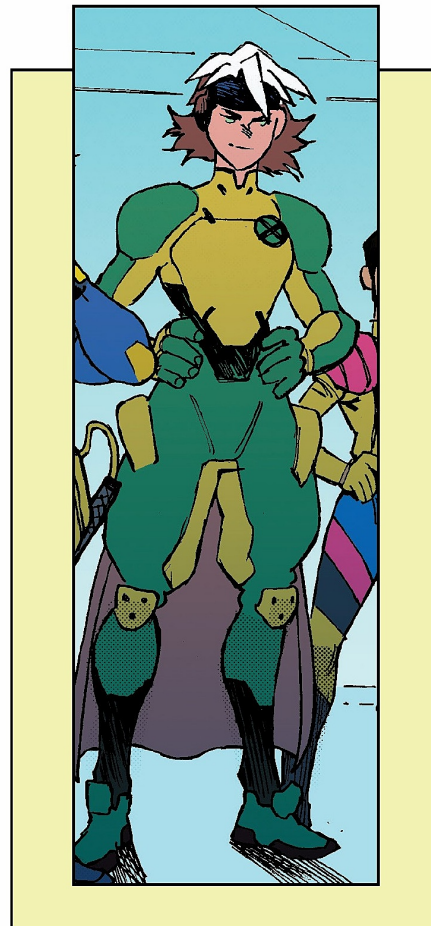
Rogue began to sneak away from the commune to experience for herself what the outside world was like. The more of the outside world that she experienced, the less she wanted to be a part of the commune. When she would sneak away she felt free and grew enamored by all of it. She tried new foods, saw movies and even met some new people. She eventually began to hang out with a boy whose name was Cody Robbins. Cody began to gain Rogue's trust, and after some time he convinced her to travel with him to cyberspace, where he quickly realized that she had the EXE gene after she involuntarily absorbed all of the credits from an ATM just by touching it.

Upon returning to the commune after her trip into cyberspace, she was found out by her parents and was ousted from the group. No longer having a family and a place to call home, Cody persuaded her to drop her birth name and join him, and his group, in their mission to steal from the rich by hacking into cyberspace.

Rogue joined Cody and quickly became a valuable asset to the group due to her ability to instantly download files, and store

them, just by touching the databanks. In the beginning, Rogue was only tasked with hacking into peoples' bank accounts, but seeing her potential, Cody started asking her to access more important files that belonged to some of the most powerful corporations in the world, like Roxxon and Oscorp, which would later be sold to third parties. Rogue was under the impression that what she was doing was right and that her actions only affected the rich who were targeted, but she soon began to realize that it also affected people with the EXE gene.

Each time she and Cody succeeded with their plans she felt the discrimination against those with the EXE gene only grew. Rogue felt responsible for the increased prejudice against the EXEs and no longer wanted to be a part of Cody's missions. After escaping from Cody's group, and draining all of their bank accounts, Rogue now wants to use her powers for good and to try to help all EXEs. ■



**HEIGHT:** 5'9" (Approximately)

**EYES:** Green

**HAIR:** Brown (and white)

**SUPER-POWERS:** The ability to absorb data through touch. She can also store an infinite amount of the data that she absorbs, in her mind.

*Art by Glannis Milonogiannis & Rachelle Rosenberg*

*Special thanks to Christopher Holmes*





\*\*TRANSMISSION TERMINATED\*\*

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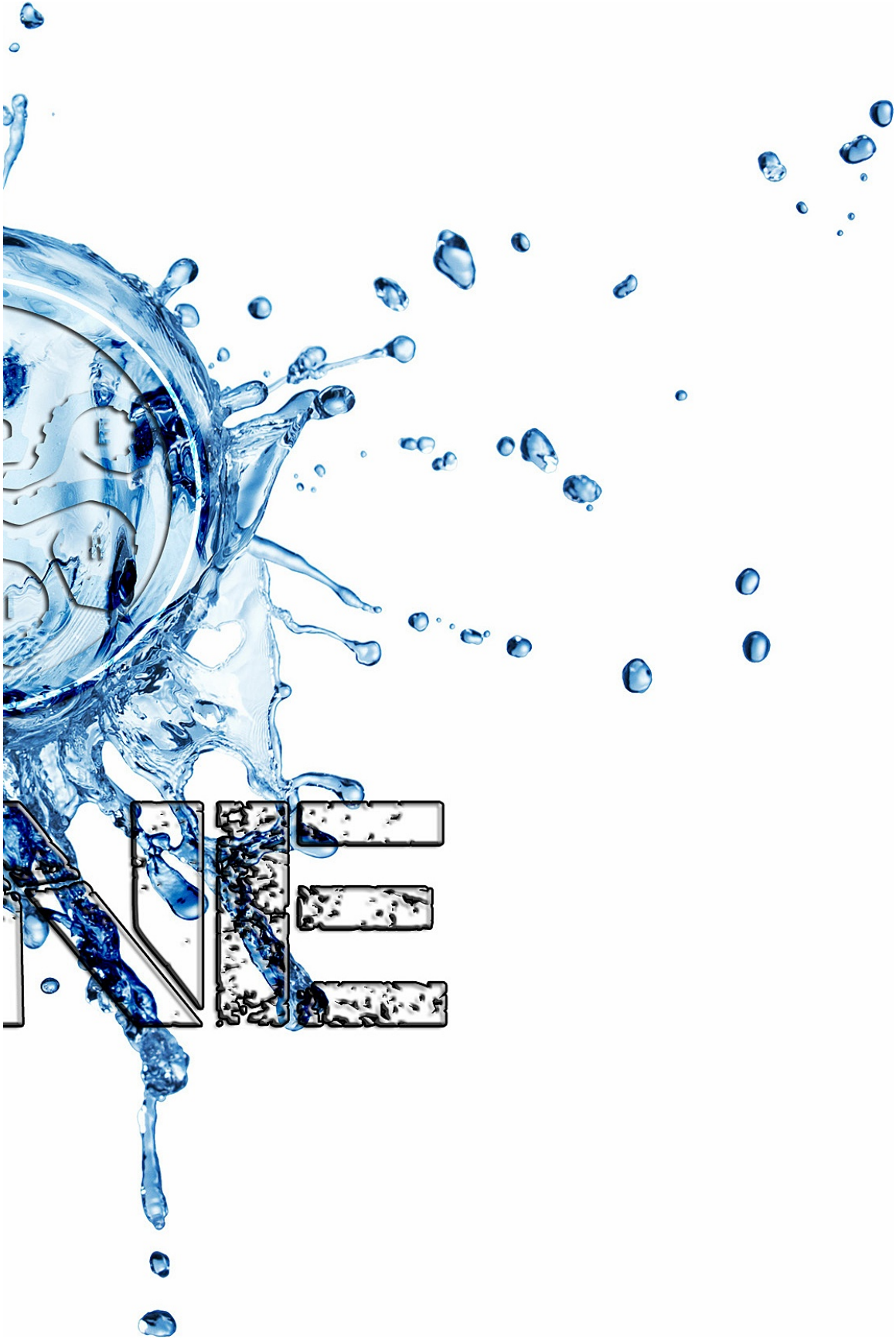












NE

