

MARVEL®
COMICS



CAT TRAP PT 1 OF 2



DEADPOOL

#44

WWW.MARVEL.COM

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUGUST
2012



PRIEST
CALAFIORE
HOLDREDGE



GUEST-STARRING
BLACK PANTHER™
AND THE
AVENGERS®

WWW.MARVEL.COM © 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

the latest updates only available at: viewcomic.com

DEADPOOL #44



MARVEL

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
WWW.MARVEL.COM

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

the latest updates only available at: viewcomic.com



The story thus far:

Although KING T'CHALLA of Wakanda, my CLIENT, was finally out of his COMA, he was still too WEAK to move about on his own. Dr. Tambak confined him to a zero-G transport, which the client immediately took down into the TECHNO-JUNGLE.

A Stanley Kubrick-James Cameron NIGHTMARE, the Techno-Jungle was an eerie shadow world, a city beneath the city of Central Wakanda. An impossible MAZE jammed with tangles of fiber optic cabling and high-tech devices.

Very few people were AUTHORIZED to be down there (least of all me -- EVERETT K. ROSS, U.S. State Department schlub). Any poor slob dumb enough to find his way down there could wander, lost, for WEEKS before dying of dehydration.

There was NO LIGHT. No SKY to navigate by. No "You are HERE" arrow signs posted. There was only a jigsaw of interlocking tunnels that had no rhyme or reason to most anyone but the king himself--

--which fairly MIRRORED my client's personality.

THE KING AND I

Until the recent COLLAPSE of the Wakandan economy, he was one of the world's RICHEST and most technologically proficient men. Bill Gates meets Shaka Zulu.

He was KING of one of the most technologically advanced countries in the WORLD. I'd known him for quite a while now, but the man was still a MYSTERY to me.

He was, ultimately, a bit UNKNOWABLE. Compassionate eyes that told you absolutely NOTHING about what he was thinking.

He did most everything for his own reasons. Like the jungle cats his religion deified, he was a CUNNING man, always three steps ahead of his enemies.

Which, I supposed, was why he was THERE.

An informed GUESS was the best anyone could ever do. It was possible, given his humiliating LOSS of Killmonger's TRIBAL CHALLENGE--

--that the client had gone to the Techno-Jungle for some PRIVACY. It may have been the tribal equivalent of hiding under the BED.

In an effort to THWART Erik Killmonger's challenge, the client had DISSOLVED his political government and CRASHED the Wakandan economy.

The rule of LAW thus became TRIBAL over POLITICAL. And, while the client was still KING, his loss of Killmonger's challenge STRIPPED him of his most IMPORTANT role--

--that of CHIEFTAIN.

King T'Challa of Wakanda was NO LONGER The Black Panther...

...thanks, largely, to ME...

ENTER, MY LORD!

His NEXT move was ANYBODY's guess... ☺

TAKU-- MY MOST LOYAL FRIEND AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION--

--HAVE YOU FOUND HER YET?

NO SIGN OF HER, MY LORD.

THIS MAY BE A HOAX-- A MISDIRECTION ON KILLMONGER'S PART.

Malice

I DOUBT IT.

BROTHER VOODOO WAS ALMOST FATALLY WOUNDED-- HIS THROAT CUT BY AN UNSEEN ASSAILANT--

--WHO TOLD VOODOO HER NAME--

--MALICE, KILLMONGER'S PROTÉGÉ.

A DEADLY, MANIACAL, GENETICALLY-ENHANCED WOMAN WITH VAST STRENGTH AND UNERRING ACCURACY.

IT STANDS TO REASON: IF KILLMONGER HAS RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE-- SO HAS SHE.

NONE OF THE MANSION'S INTERNAL SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP ANYONE MATCHING MALICE'S DESCRIPTION, MY LORD.

VOODOO DID NOT SEE HER, BUT ONLY HEARD HER WHISPER HER NAME AS SHE VANISHED.

KILLMONGER RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE RADICALLY CHANGED, TAKU. IT IS POSSIBLE MALICE IS AMONG US--

--AND WE DO NOT HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHO OR EVEN WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR.

ALSO, N'JADAKA IS AT AVENGERS MANSION. IRON MAN CONTINUES TO CALL-- WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM--?

NOTHING.

THE MAN HE IS CALLING FOR NO LONGER EXISTS...

SHROUDED IN STOLEN IDENTITIES AND CLANDESTINE SECRETS, THE MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. HERO? VILLAIN? SOCIOPATH? DEADPOOL MAKES HIS OWN RULES AND PLAYS BY NOBODY'S GAME. HE IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS CONFINED TO A WORLD OF CONSTRICTING ORDER; BLASTING DOWN THE FOURTH WALL BRICK BY BRICK! STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DEADPOOL

CATCHTRAP

(Or: "Wakanda Merc Are You?")

The OTHER half of this story began in a secret luxury condo built under Soho.

A place most anybody BUT the cops could find, especially if they were looking for...

DEAD-POOL

ALL
RIGHT...
...NOBODY
MOVE OR
THE PUPPET
GETS IT!



By:

J. STORYTELLERS
Priest n' Calafiore

Jon Holdredge
INKING

Chris Eliopoulos
LETTERING

Shannon Blanchard
COLORIST

Mike Marts
EDITOR

Bob Harras
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE USUAL

Not much is known about the mercenary named DEADPOOL, but what little IS known will make your HEAD explode.

Here's my BEST shot at it:

END OF THE LINE, RAT-BOY.

ALAS! AND WOE IS ME! DAKI IS UNDONE!

Deadpool was once a top-flight mercenary named Wade Wilson who volunteered for Canada's WEAPON X program in hope of finding a cure for his CANCER.

GET REAL, BUG-FACE! I'M THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT!

What he GOT was an advanced, rapid HEALING FACTOR--

--and peeling, deformed skin that looked a lot like the Mole Man in a thong.

YOU AND ME ARE GONNA DO GREAT THINGS TOGETHER, WADE! BUT, FIRST--

What little I could find on Deadpool lists him as certifiably INSANE--

--which made him a perfect match for his new client--

--WE NEED TO DO A LITTLE HOUSE-CLEANING...

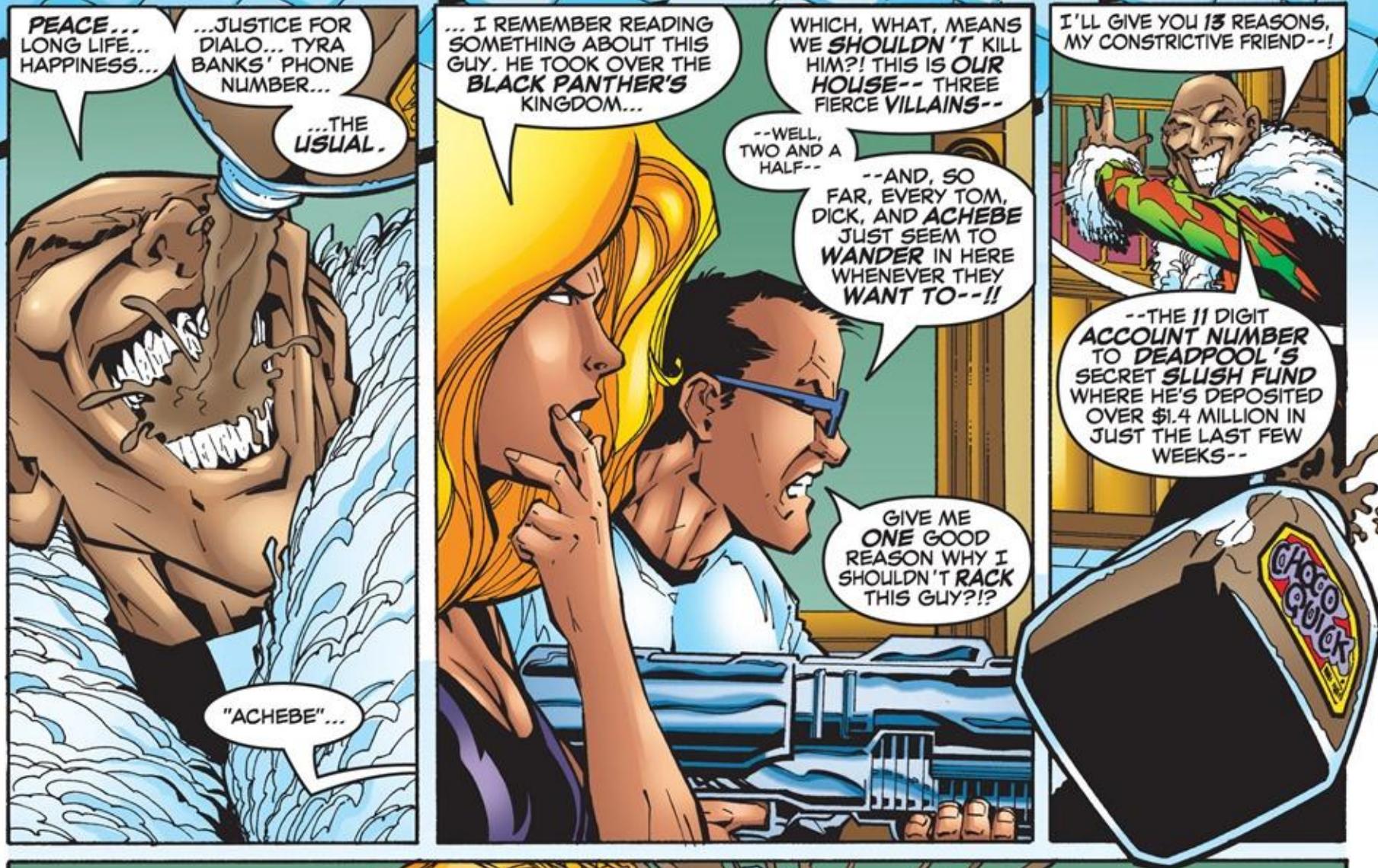
The Reverend Michael Ibn al-hajj Achebe once chased a man 8 miles across the desert just because the guy had sold his wife a pair of SHOES.

A KOOK of the FIRST order, Achebe once took over Wakanda by coup de etat and then FLED the country after the Black Panther returned. ☠

I TRUST YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, MR. WILSON!

DAKI CAN BE... MOST ENTERTAINING! HOWEVER, YOU DO REALIZE--

No one had seen him OR his hand puppet in MONTHS.





EARTH'S MIGHTIEST GAUDILY-DRESSED FASCISTS

Of COURSE it was a set-up.

The leopard's name wasn't Ukatana-- it was PREYY. And he didn't belong to Achebe, but to a VERY scary guy named Erik KILLMONGER--

--current CHIEFTAIN of the Wakandan PANTHER CLAN. A rank that entitled him to call himself--

BLACK PANTHER

AMAZING-- A GUY COULD GET TO LIKE THIS!

SO-- PREYY IS COMPLETELY DOMESTICATED--?

AFTER A FASHION--

No, I don't know what that means, either...

--NOT SO DOMESTICATED AS SOCIALIZED, I SUPPOSE. LET'S JUST SAY PREYY AND I HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING.

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY WITH YOU AVENGERS.

WELL-- NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT, PANTHER--

CALL ME ERIK.

--OKAY, ERIK--

--BUT YOU ARE, TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, A VILLAIN.

WHICH IS STUPID. I'VE NEVER HARMED ANYONE OUTSIDE OF A LEGITIMATE TRIBAL CONFLICT.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU AREN'T IN RESTRAINTS RIGHT NOW. IT'S LIKE, OKAY, YOU'RE A VILLAIN--

--BUT ARE YOU BLACK PANTHER'S VILLAIN OR EVERYONE'S VILLAIN?

ANTHONY STARK

--WELL, THAT'S THE QUESTION, NOW, ISN'T IT?

I MEAN, MEMBERSHIP SHOULD CERTAINLY BE OUT-- WE VOTED IN A PERSON, NOT THE OFFICE OF BLACK PANTHER--

--BUT, SHOULD WE LOCK THIS GUY UP?

THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS T'CHALLA LOST A TRIBAL CHALLENGE TO THIS GUY. IF THE PANTHER DIDN'T ARREST KILLMONGER--

--YES-- WHY SHOULD WE? I SEE YOUR POINT, IRON MAN. STILL--

--ERIK KILLMONGER HAS BEEN IMPLICATED IN ONE OR TWO OTHER CRIMES--

I KNOW, GOLIATH, I'VE FOUGHT AGAINST HIM BEFORE... BUT THERE'S NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE. THE MAN HAS BEEN DEAD SO OFTEN, MAKING A CASE AGAINST HIM IS PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE.

SO, WHAT, WE JUST LET HIM PLAY FRISBEE--?

WHY NOT, WASP? AT LEAST WE KNOW WHERE HE IS.

STILL NO WORD FROM PANTHER--?

--BUT, WHO THE BLAZES KNOWS WHAT T'CHALLA IS UP TO THESE DAYS? ONLY THING I'M CERTAIN OF IS --

--WE'RE ON OUR OWN WITH KILLMONGER.

I SUPPOSE WE COULD TURN HIM OVER TO THE I.N.S. DOES TRIBAL CHIEFTAIN COUNT AS A HEAD OF STATE--?

PERHAPS THE REAL QUESTION SHOULD BE--

NOTHING'S GOTTEN THROUGH SINCE HE DISSOLVED HIS GOVERNMENT. IF IT WERE ANYONE ELSE, I'D GUESS THIS WAS A MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE--

--TO PROTECT OUR SECURITY INTERESTS, I'VE ACQUIRED ALL THE OUTSTANDING SHARES OF WAKANDA DESIGN GROUP-- THE FIRM THAT PROVIDES OUR QUINJETS AND OTHER TOOLS.

I'D SELL THEM ALL TO T'CHALLA-- IF I COULD GET AHOOLD OF HIM.

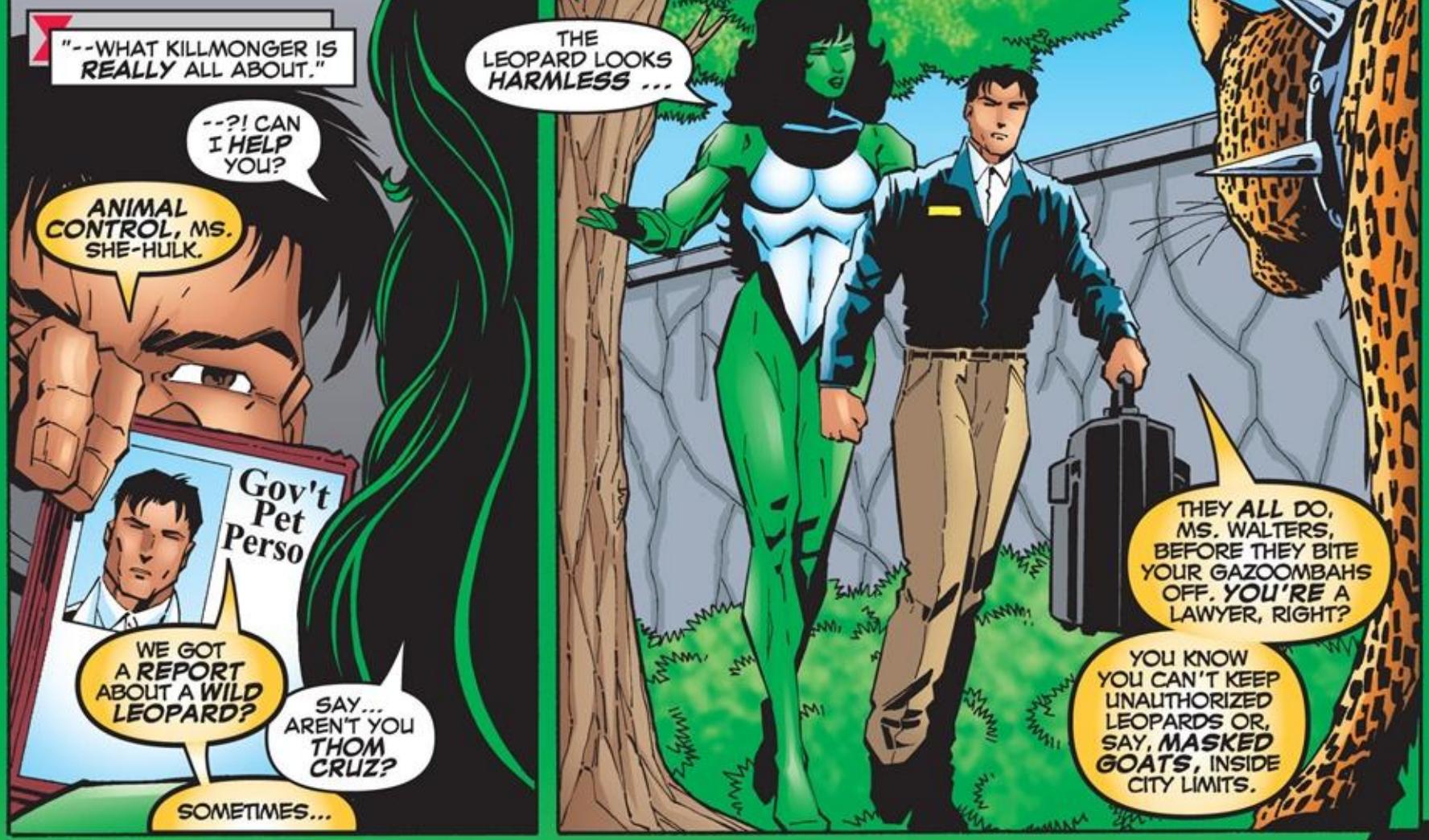
SO, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS--

I.N.S. = IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE - M.I.K.E.

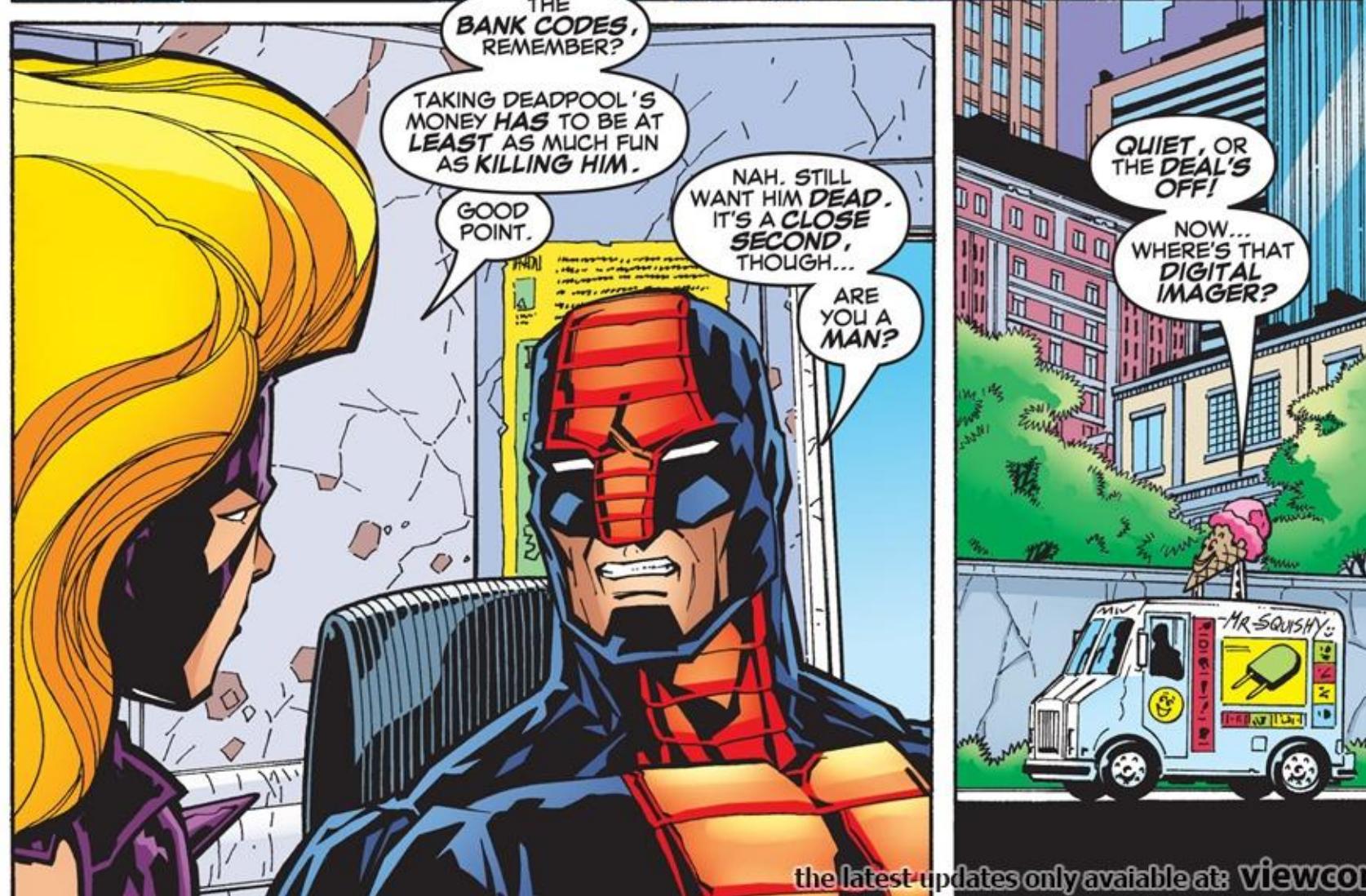
--WHY ARE WE TRYING SO HARD? IS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF THIS GUY?

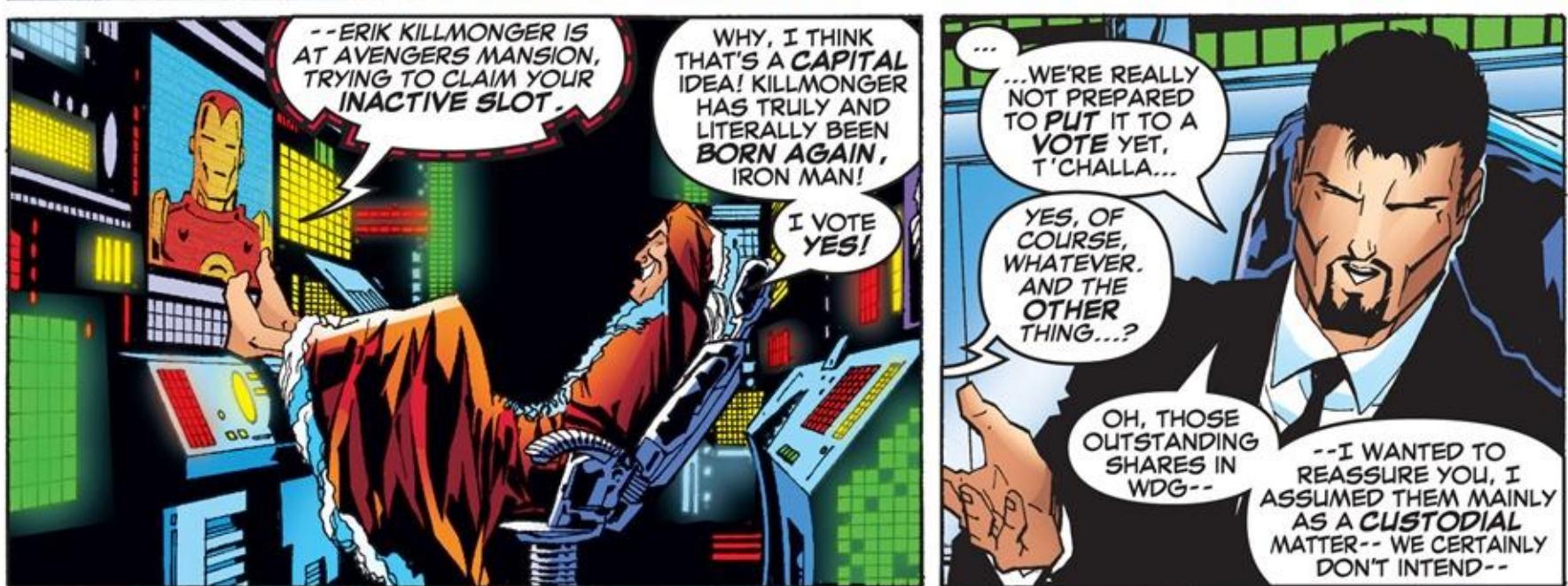
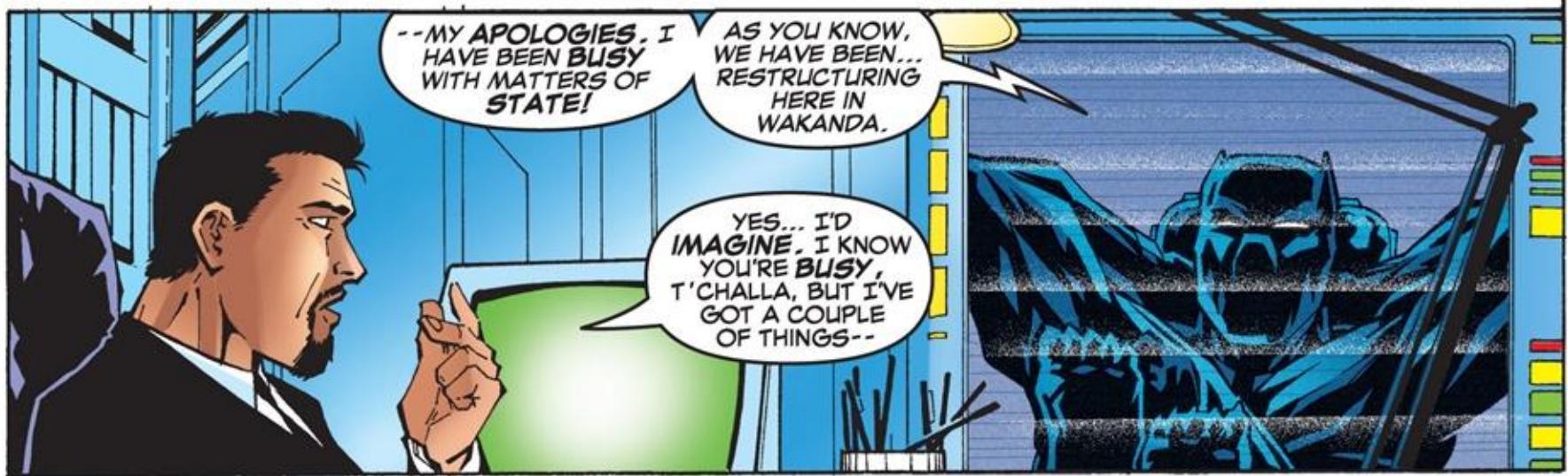
THE WORST THING HE'S DONE IS LET HIS LEOPARD MAKE A MESS ON THE LAWN. I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

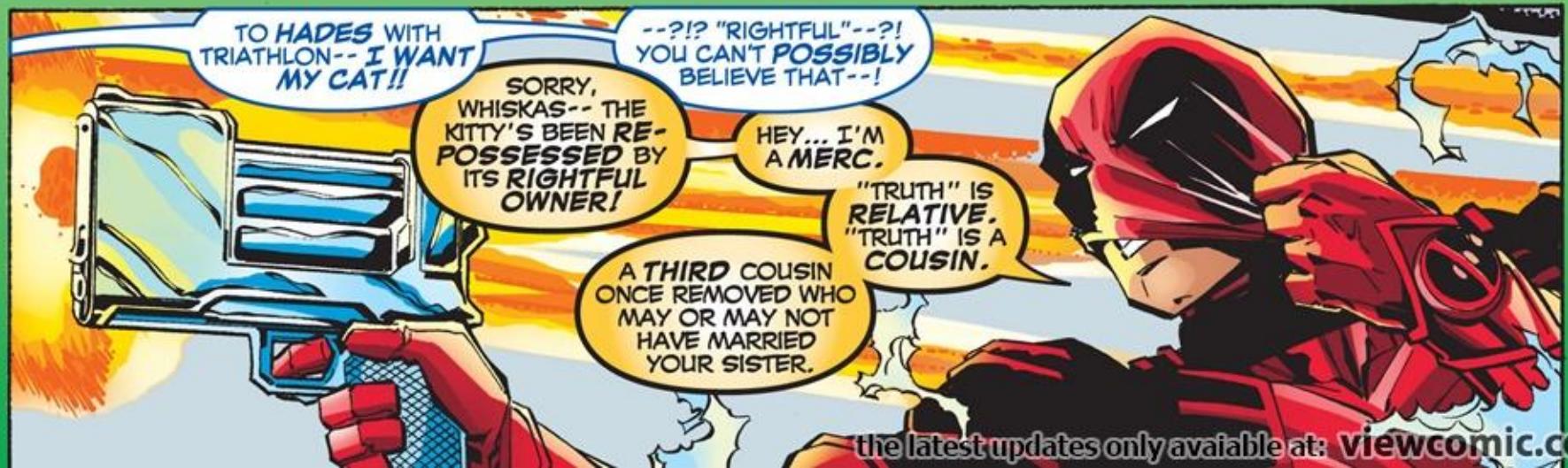
LET KILLMONGER PLAY HIS HAND. SOONER THAN LATER, WE'LL KNOW--

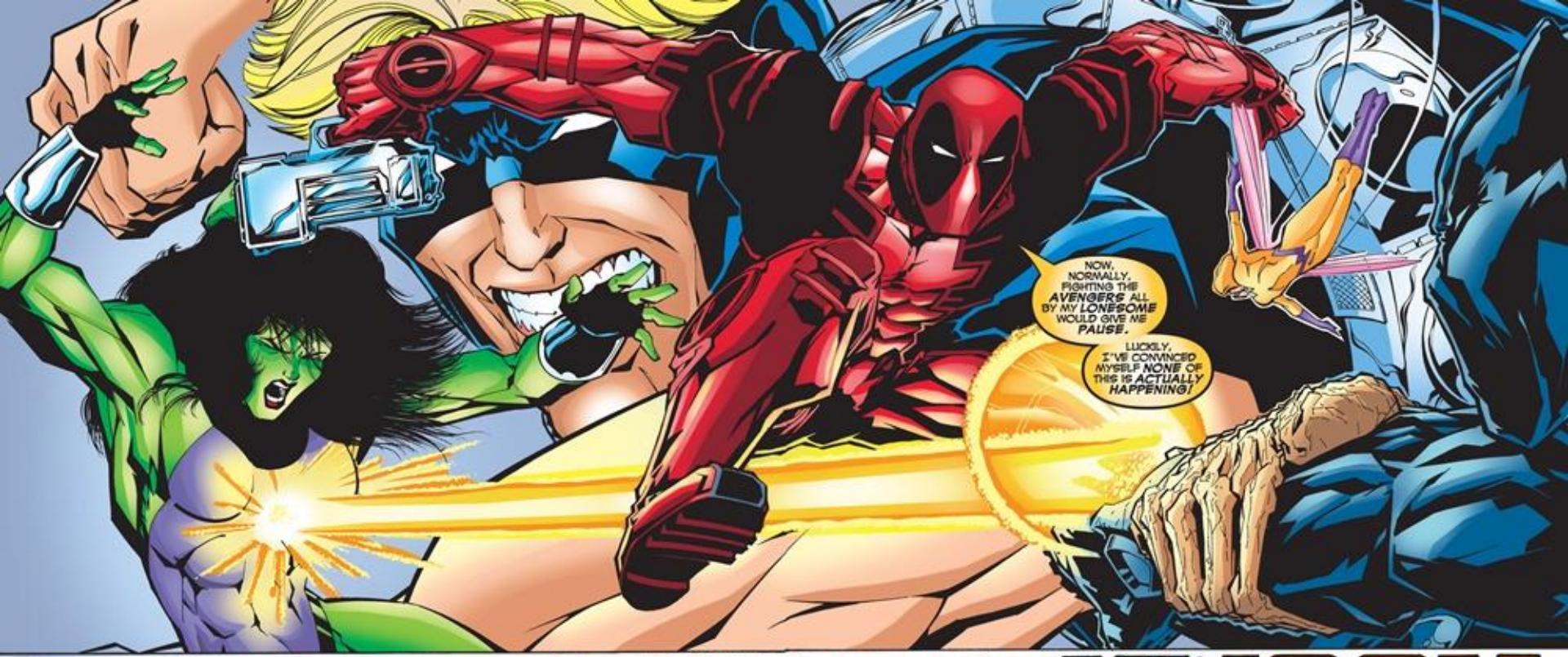












the latest updates only available at: viewcomic.com











