

COMICS



JULY
#18

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY

FROM 'POOL'S
TORTURED
PAST--

POOL

--COMES
THE ONE
FOE HE
MUST
DEFEAT...
AJAX!

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KELLY

McDANIEL

LIVESAY

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iSOTO!



THE ALPS.

A WEEK'S CLIMB FROM THE OPULENT SPAS AND SKI COMPOUNDS OF THE IDLE RICH...



EXACTLY ONE HALF OF AN ICY BREATH AWAY FROM THE POINT WHERE THE LAND KISSES THE SKY.

THIS IS A PLACE OF EXQUISITE BEAUTY, UNFORGIVING CLIMATE, AND UTTER ISOLATION...



IN OTHER WORDS... "HEAVEN" FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS MADE "GETTING LOST" A WAY OF LIFE.



ILANEY BRÜKNER IS A TRUE ADEPT OF THE ART OF RETREAT.

RETREAT INTO HERSELF, INTO BAD RELATIONSHIPS, INTO THE BOTTLE... THESE WERE THE TECHNIQUES ILANEY DABBLED WITH TO MASTER HER CRAFT.



WHEN THESE METHODS INEVITABLY FAILED TO SHIELD HER FROM THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF REAL LIFE, SHE TOOK THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP...

AND WITHDREW COMPLETELY FROM THE COLD, HARD WORLD... EXCHANGING IT FOR COLD, HARD SECLUSION.

TAP TAP

PARDON ME, SIR OR MADAM! I'M SELLING ICE MAKERS, AND YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR A NO OBLIGATION, AT LOG CABIN DEMONSTRATION!

SHE SHOULD HAVE PICKED A HIGHER MOUNTAIN.





PAYBACK PART ONE:

KARMIC RELIEF

JOE KELLY WALTER McDANIEL LIVESAY CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
HELL HUNGER ANGER ANIMALITY

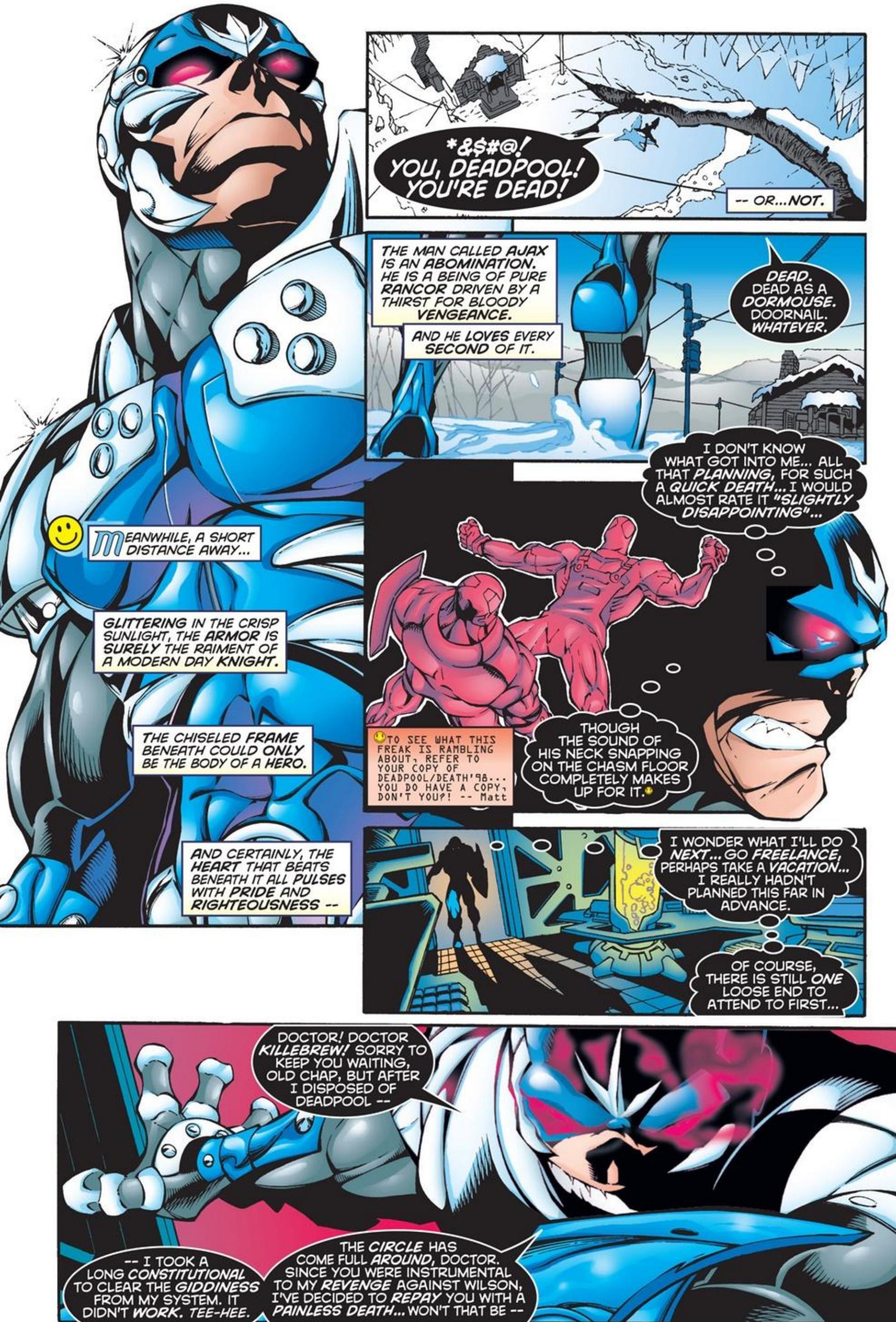
DIGITAL CHAMELEON RS/COMICRAFT/EM
TRANQUILITY&RAPTURE LEARNING&REALIZATION

MATT IDELSON
COMPASSION

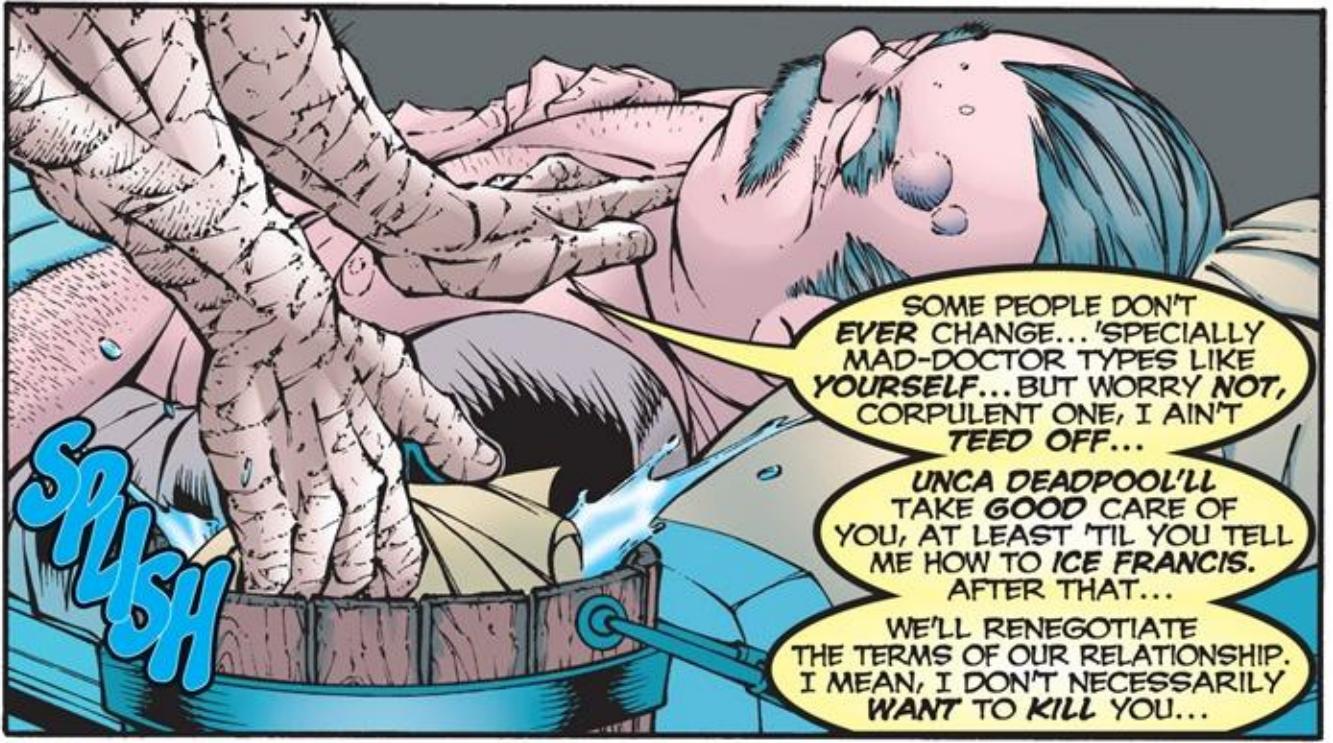
BOB HARRAS
ENLIGHTENMENT

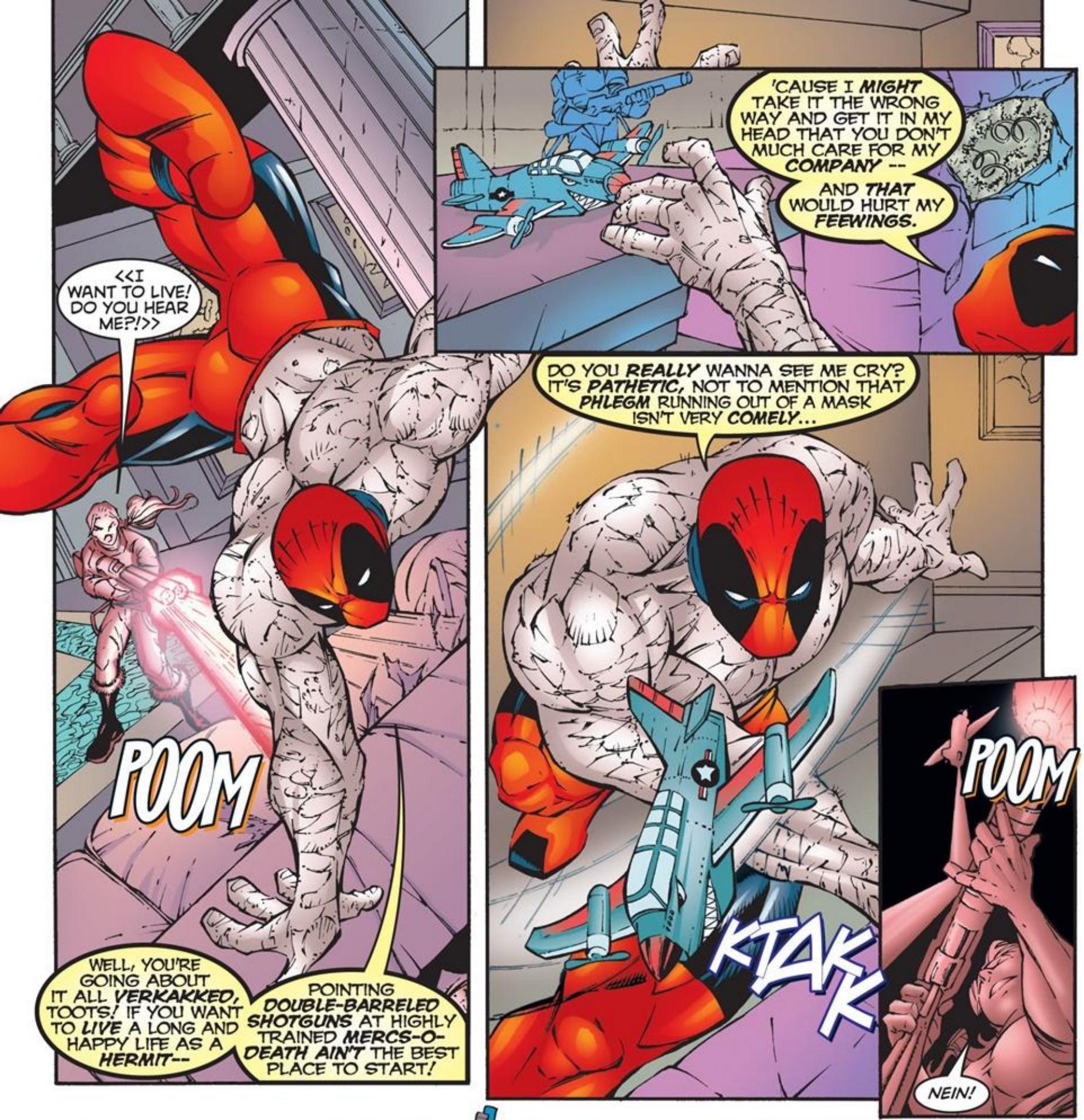
...WELL,
THAT DEPENDS ON
HOW HOSPITABLE
YOU'RE FEELING
TODAY...

AND IF YOUR
BATHROOM IS
HEATED.















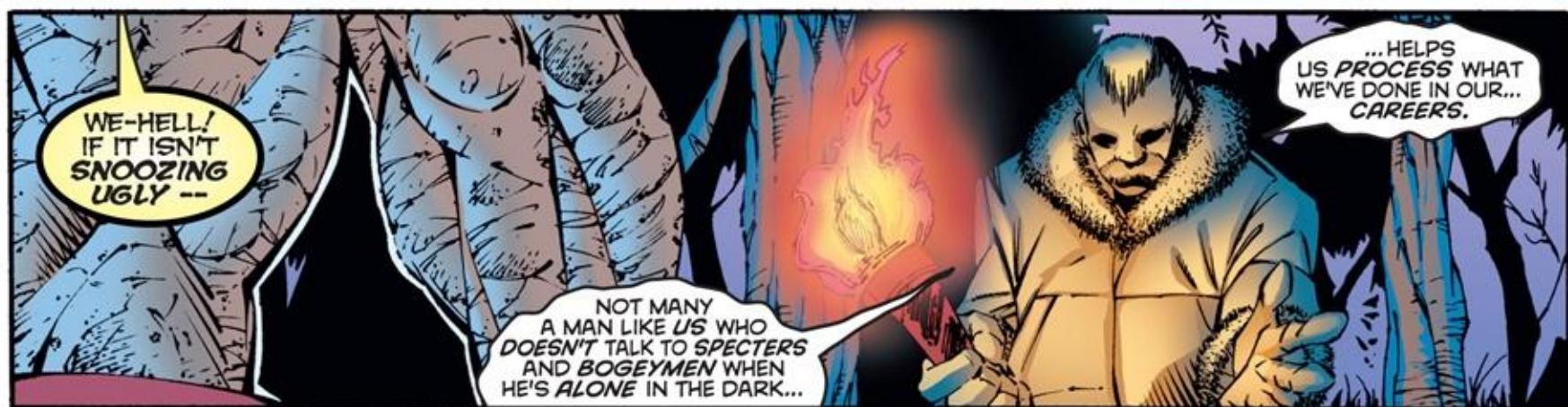
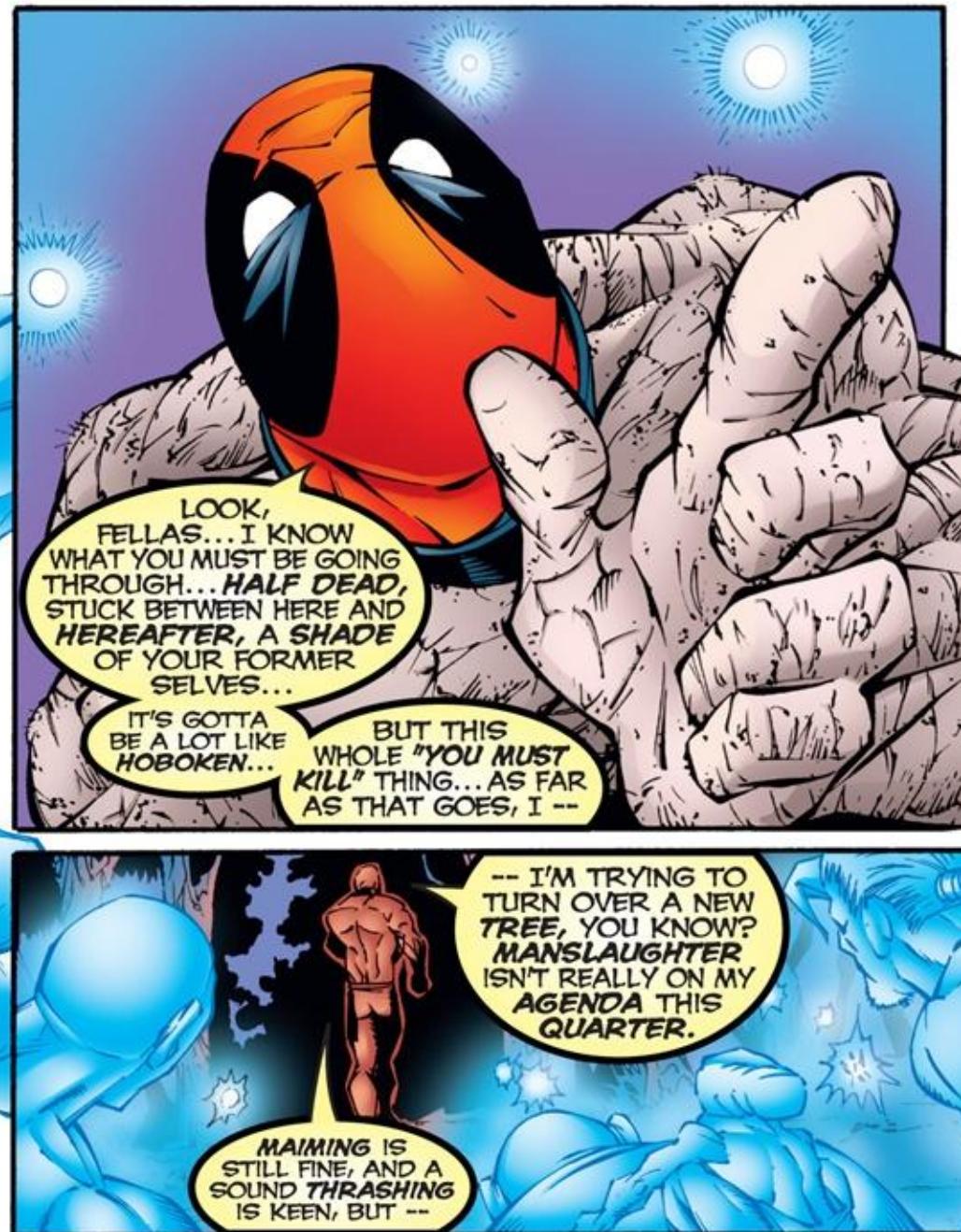








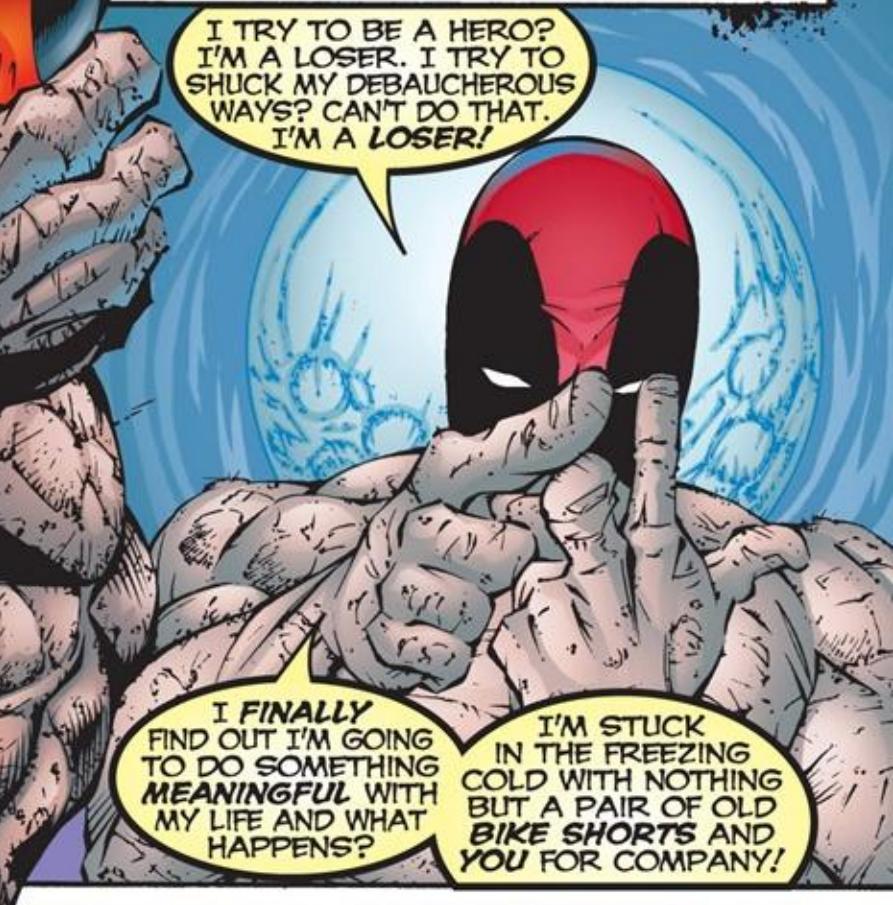
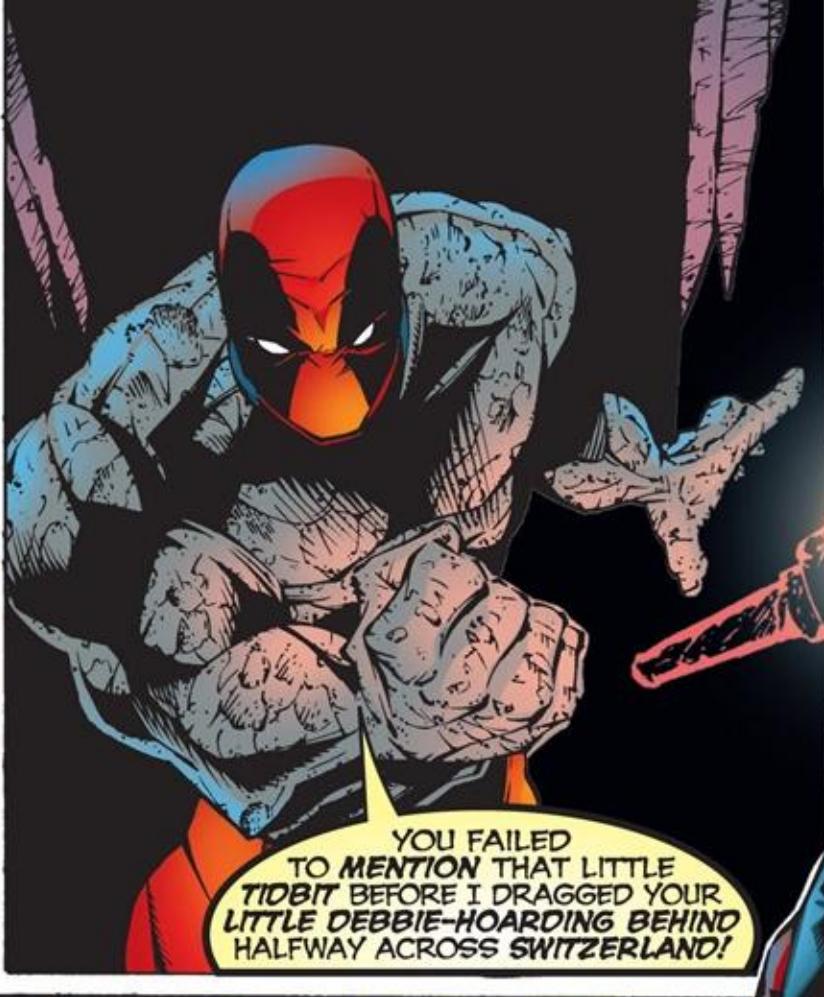












SHE DOES NOT NEED TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH TO KNOW THAT THINGS FOR HER TRAVELING PARTNERS HAVE JUST GONE HORRIBLY WRONG.

THE TIMBRE OF THEIR VOICES... THE LOOK IN DEADPOOL'S EYE... THAT TIGHTNESS IN HER CHEST.

IT'S TIME FOR ILANEY BRUKNER TO RUN AND HIDE... AGAIN.

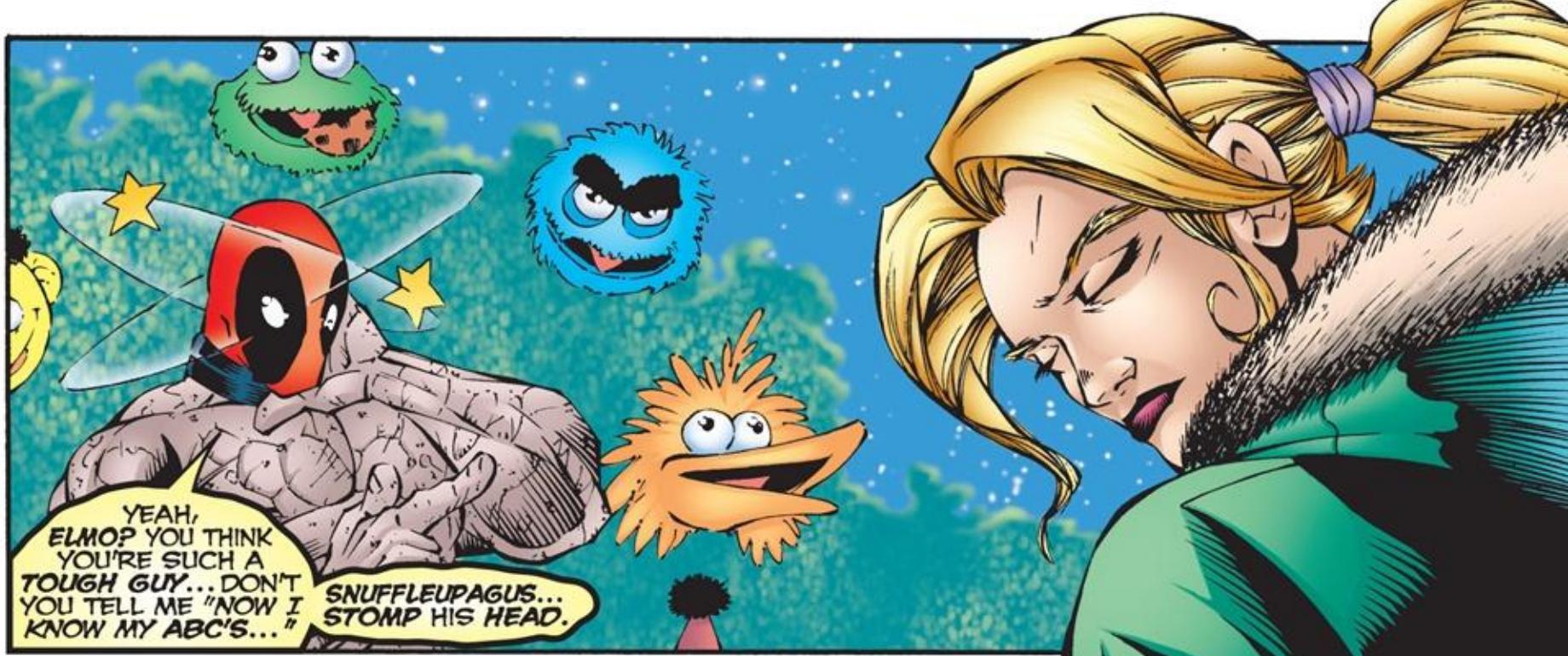
THIS TIME, HOWEVER... THERE ISN'T ANYWHERE LEFT TO RUN... NO FINAL LINE OF DEFENSE TO FALL BACK TO... NO LAST RETREAT.

THOUGH THERE IS A CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.

IF THE INSTINCT FOR FLIGHT... CAN BE REVERTED TO FIGHT.

I CAN'T BAIL ON THIS ONE, DON'T YOU GET IT?! HE HAS TO PAY!

NOT LIKE THIS!





GATHER 'ROUND, BOYS.
THE TIME OF OUR
RETRIBUTION IS
AT HAND...

SOMEONE'S
ABOUT TO
DIE.

NEXT
DEATH, FREEDOM AND A LESSON TO LIVE BY...