

MARVEL®  
COMICS



NOV  
#22

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUG  
AUTHORITY

CABLE

GUEST-  
STARS

ON THE  
EVE OF

DEAD  
RECKONING

KELLY

WILLIAMS

LANNING

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

the latest updates only available at: Viewcomic.com



THE ENLISTED MAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DEMONS HE'LL FACE WHEN HE OPENS HIS EYES IN THE MORNING... HIS FATE IS DETERMINED BY OTHERS...

...AND YET... HE FORGES ONWARD WITHOUT QUESTION...

...DRIVEN BY PRIDE... AND OF COURSE, THE QUEST, THE PRIZE... THE GRAIL.

SIR, NO SIGN OF OUR FIRST BLACK-OUT TEAM, OR ANY ANOMALIES IN OUR PRELIMINARY SCAN OF THE SITE.

PRIORITY ONE, SHUT DOWN THAT DISH. UNTIL THE MITHRAS DIRECTIVE COMES TO FRUITION, NO ONE BUT US WATCHES THE STARS...

...IN SPITE OF THE... RECENT UNPLEASANTNESS... WITH MONTY AND ZOE, I MEAN... WELL... I --

...THE WORLD IS READY FOR THE MESSIAH... BUT THEY'RE NOT READY TO KNOW HE'S ON HIS WAY.

AFTER YOU BLIND THE DISH,  
LOOK FOR TEAM ONE.  
BUT NOT BEFORE.

AFFIRMATIVE.  
CONSIDER OUR SECRET  
KEPT... BY THE WAY,  
SIR... I KNOW IT'S NOT  
EXACTLY PROTOCOL...  
BUT...

WHICH WE'LL EXPLAIN  
IN JUST ONE PAGE, TRUE  
BELIEVER! -- MATT

-- I'M SURE IT WASN'T ARBITRARY... YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REASON AND --SIGH-- I'M TRYING TO SAY THAT YOU STILL HAVE MY CONFIDENCE...

...I KNOW YOU'LL DO THE RIGHT THING, AND I'M PROUD TO WORK UNDER YOU, SIR.

THE GENERAL KNOWS THE GOAL INTIMATELY... AND INSTEAD OF BEING DRIVEN BY IT, WORKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH IT...

LIKE AN ARTIST WHO PULLS A PAINTING OUT OF A CANVAS, THEY ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERTWINED... AND NEITHER EXISTS WITHOUT THE OTHER.

REPORT IN WHEN THE SITE IS SECURE, DIXON OUT.





SHE SURE DID, FOR REASONS WHICH WILL BE EXPLAINED IN JUST TWO PANELS, TRUE BELIEVER!  
--MATT



SO THAT'S WHY! FACE FORWARD, TRUE BELIEVER!  
--MATT





Stan Lee  
presents

# "DEAD RECKONING"

minus  
ONE MONTH  
& COUNTING

# GREAT MEN

A  
CROSS TOWN...IN A  
PRIVATE WAREHOUSE  
IN CHINA BASIN...

...THE KIDS ARE  
ALL RIGHT.

Job Kelly First Man on the Moon  
Anthony Williams Discovered Pencil-cillin  
Andy Lanning Opened Capone's Inkwell  
Matt Hicks Colored Hieroglyphics  
RS & Comicroft/EM Carved the Rosetta Stone  
Matt Idelson Corrected the Constitution  
Bob Harras Knows Stan Personally

IN CONTRAST TO EVERYONE  
ELSE IN THIS STORY, THE  
YOUNG FAMILY OF MISFIT  
MUTANTS WHO LIVE HERE  
KNOWN AS X-FORCE...

...HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITIES  
TO SPEAK OF...AT LEAST FOR  
TONIGHT, ANYWAY.

INSTEAD, THEY CRASH  
HARD AFTER A MARATHON  
OF B-GRADE FLICKS, PIZZA,  
AND SUGAR BUZZ.

A DEAD  
SLEEP.

THE SLEEP OF  
THE INNOCENT.



HEY,  
THERESA...  
LONG TIME, NO  
STALK.

SORRY  
IT'S BEEN A  
WHILE... BUT YOU  
SEEMED PRETTY  
P.O.ED AT ME  
BACK IN IOWA...  
FIGURED YOU  
NEEDED SOME  
"SPACE".

I'M  
SENSITIVE  
LIKE THAT... WELL,  
THAT'S A LIE... BUT  
I KNOW CHICKS,  
AND CHICKS DIG  
"SPACE".

ANYWAY,  
I'M BACK... AND  
HOPING THAT I  
CAN ABSORB YOUR  
MORAL UPBRINGING  
THROUGH OSMOSIS  
AND FIGURE MY WAY  
OUT OF A TOUGH  
SPOT.

I'VE GOT  
THIS GIG WITH  
LL&L... SOMETHING  
BIG THAT COULD  
REDIRECT THE COURSE  
OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
AWAY FROM TALK SHOWS  
AND CHRONIC OBESITY  
AND TOWARDS A  
GOLDEN AGE.

BUT TO  
DO THE JOB  
RIGHT... THEY  
WANT ME TO BE  
A KILLER.

WHILE  
THE REST OF  
THE WORLD  
CHARGES FORWARD,  
OL' WADE WILSON  
PLUMMETS BACK  
TO HIS DIRTY  
ROOTS.

ISSUE #12 --  
MATT

THESE HANDS OF MINE...  
THEY'RE BLOODY... YOU  
KNOW IT, I KNOW IT, THE  
PENCIL PUSHERS AT MY  
HOUSE HIRED ME  
FOR IT...

BUT DOES THAT  
MEAN THEY ALWAYS  
HAVE TO BE THAT  
WAY?

I WANT TO  
DO THE RIGHT  
THING HERE... BUT  
TO DO THE RIGHT  
THING I HAVE TO  
DO SOMETHING  
BAD.

SO WHAT  
DO I DO? HOW  
DO I SATISFY  
DESTINY... AND  
KEEP MY HANDS  
CLEAN --?

ASK A STUPID  
QUESTION...

FFFF

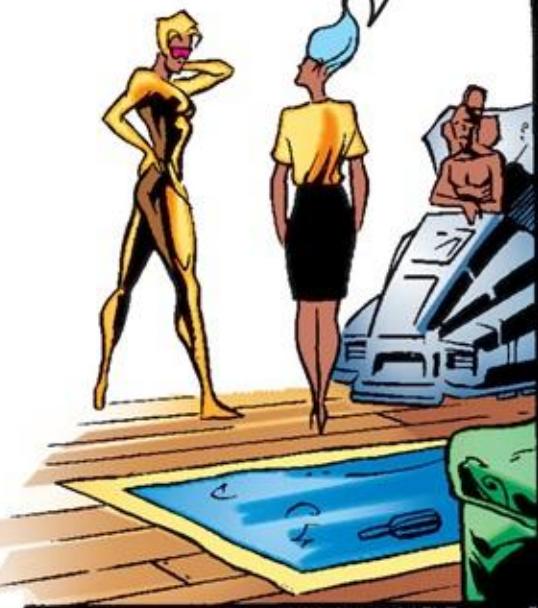




**M**EANWHILE... BACK AT DEADHUT CENTRAL...

THIS IS WRONG... ALL WRONG... HE CAN'T JUST RUN OFF LIKE THIS... I NEED --

YOU NEED TO TAKE A BREATH, SISTER, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO TELL ME WHO'S STANDIN' IN MY LIVING ROOM BEFORE I GET UPPITY.



CONTRARY TO THE SPIN OF HISTORY BOOKS, THE GREAT MEN OF ANTIQUITY WERE MOST OFTEN DESPISED AND FEARED DURING THEIR RISE TO "GLORY."

SEE?

WONDER WHO'S ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

JUST DON'T LOOK AT HIM...

THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT BY THEIR VERY NATURE, GREAT MEN MUST BE FALSE MEN. GREAT MEN NEVER REVEAL THEMSELVES --

-- ESPECIALLY GREAT MEN WITH UNDERLINGS.

Uh... O-O-OVERBOSS, D-D-D--

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE, S-SIR --

THEY MUST PROJECT ONE IMAGE... WHILE STRANGLING THEIR TRUE FEELINGS INTO OBLIVION.

...RIGHT. SHOULDN'T YOU BE SOMEWHERE?

YES... TH-THANK YOU... YES-SOMEWHERE...

THIS DUALITY OFTEN MAKES THEM UNPOPULAR AND DISTRUSTED BY THE ENLISTED...

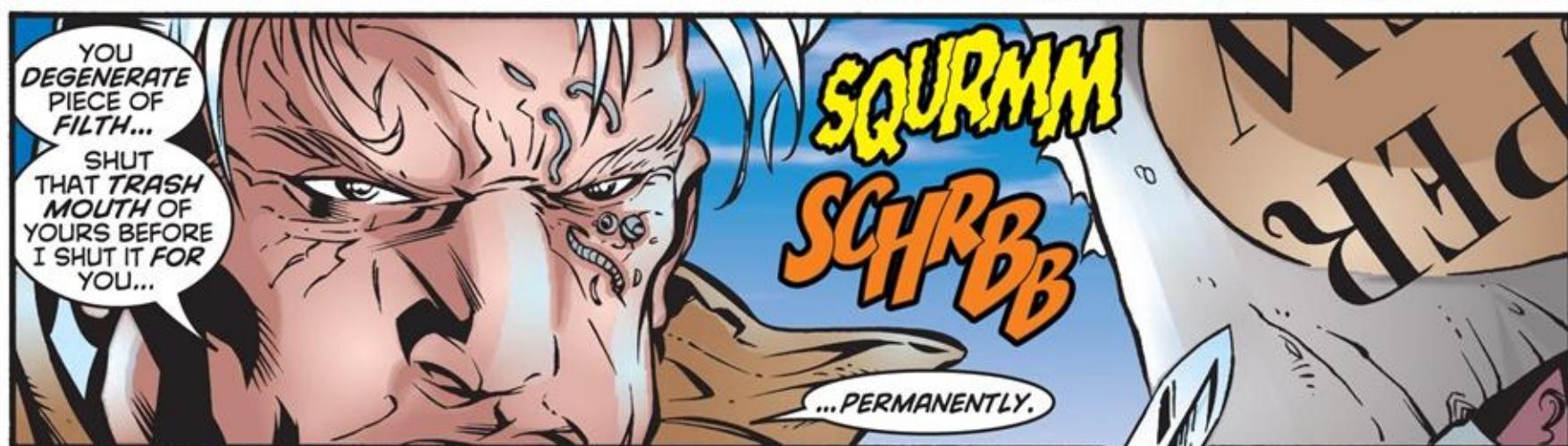
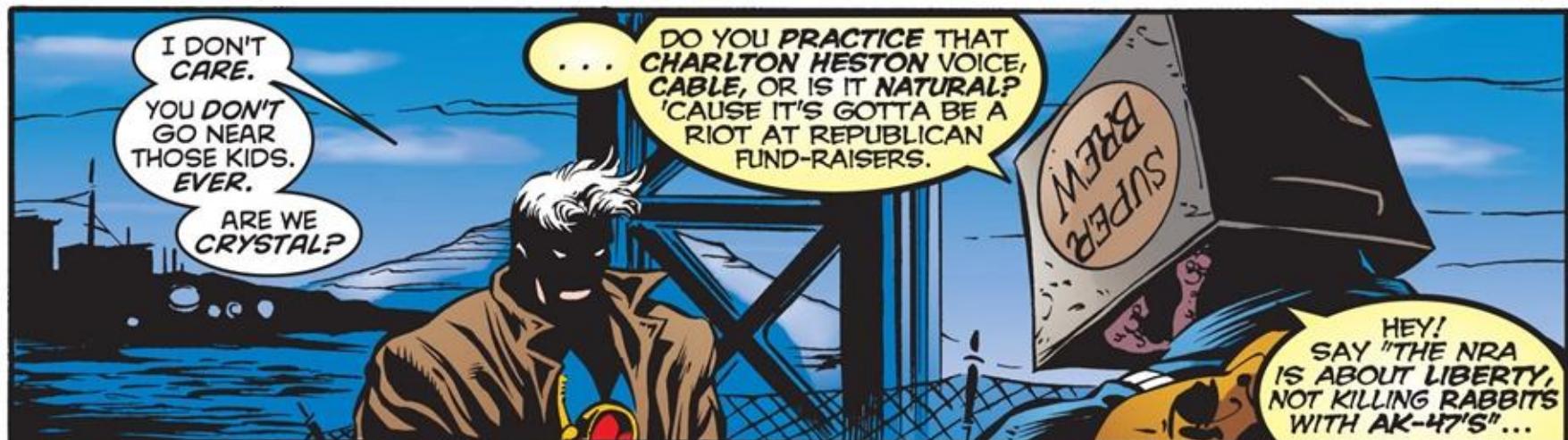
...WHO UNDERSTAND AND THRIVE ON THE LANGUAGE OF TRUTH. LAUGHTER. SCREAMS. TEARS SHED AT WILL.

TRUTH IS THE ENLISTED MAN'S GREATEST WEAPON. YET THE GENERAL CONQUERS THROUGH HALF-TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD.

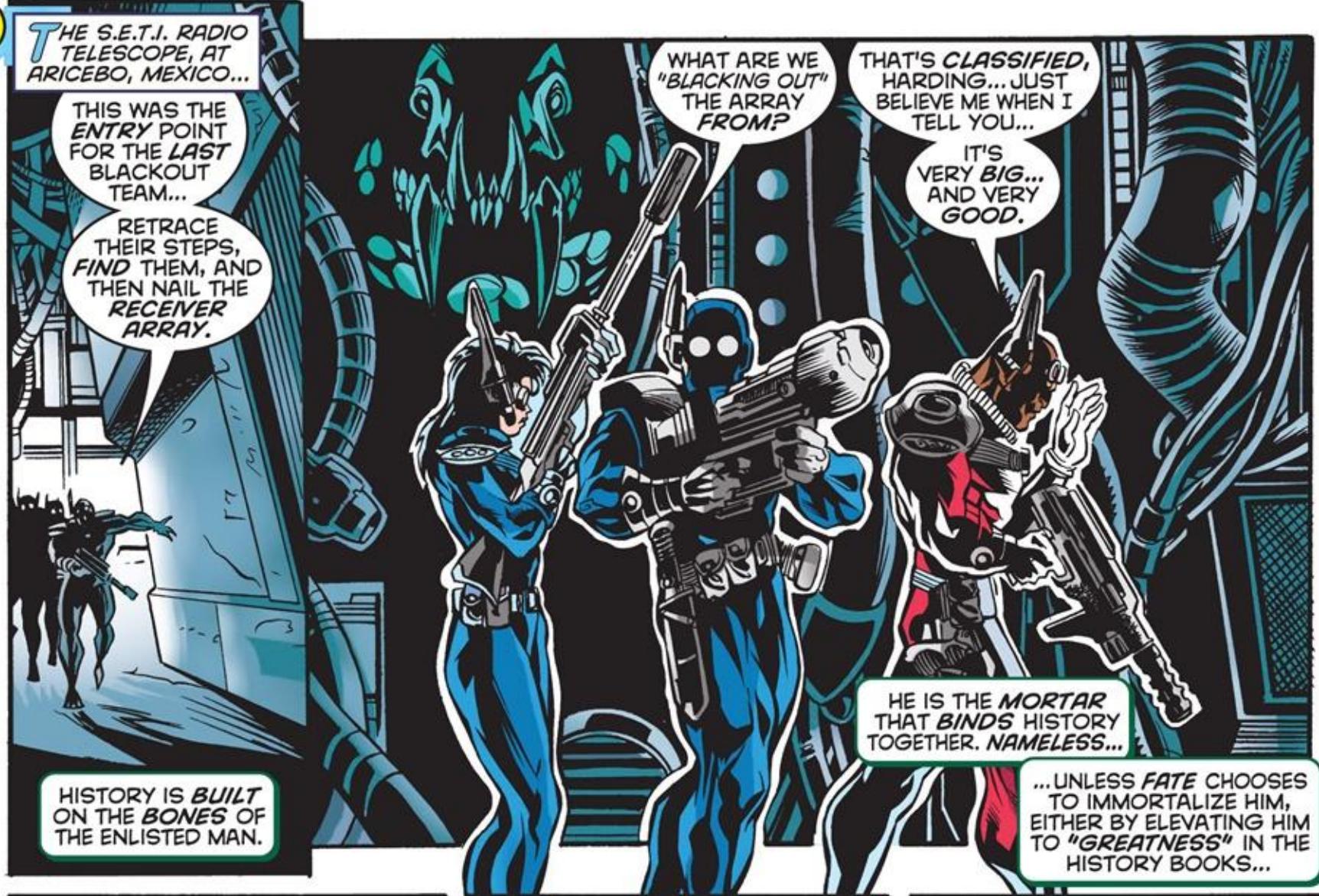
WHO THEN, IS THE GREATER MAN?

SASHHH

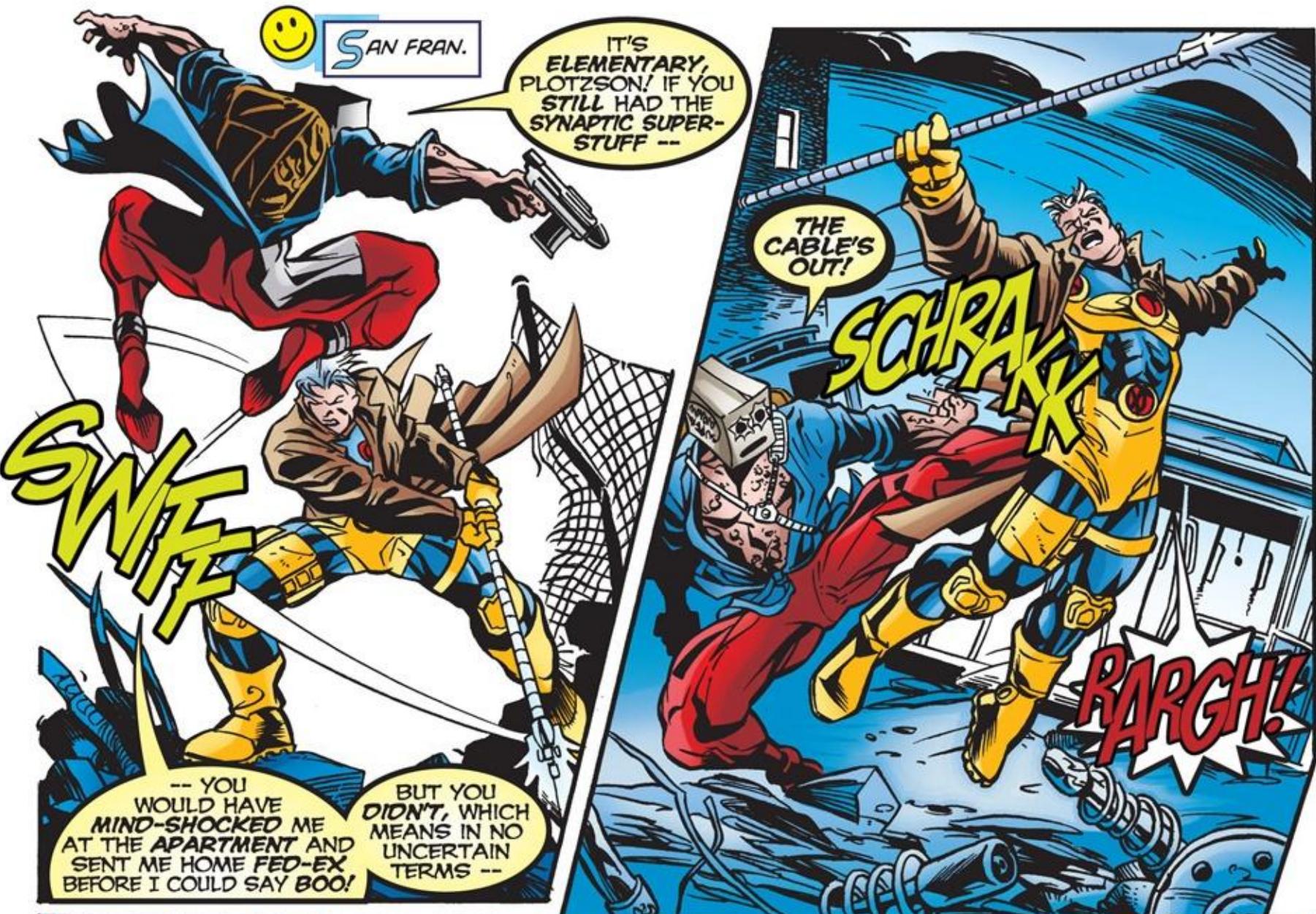
DIXON: We are proud to approve your recommendation that Noah DuBois be enrolled in the Overboss Training Program. He is a promising candidate for appointment and promotion.











THIS WIDDLE PIDDY IS THE MESSIAH, AN' HE'S ON HIS WAY TO EARTH...

DIS WIDDLE PIDDY IS TIAMAT WHO'S OUT TO OUT ICE AFOREMENTIONED PIDDY 'A'...

...AND DIS WIDDLE PIDDY IS DEADPOOL! CHOSEN TO SAFEGUARD THE MESSIAH BY DESTINY AND A BUNCH OF CORPORATE-HIPPIE STAR-WATCHERS WHO THINK I'M GONNA SAVE THE WORLD.

YOUR STAR-WATCHERS OUGHT TO POLISH THEIR TELESCOPES --

SCHRAKK

WHAT THE --

THEY'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN.

TRUST ME ON THIS ONE, WILSON. I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT "DESTINY."

A LIFE LIVED IN PREPARATION FOR A SINGULAR PURPOSE IS A LIFE OF COMMITMENT, DISCIPLINE, ULTIMATE SACRIFICE --

-- IT'S NOT THE LIFE OF A PSYCHOTIC MONSTER WITH A BAD MOUTH.

YOU STUCK UP SON OF A MUTANT --

-- I AM NOT A MONSTER! THIS IS MY SHOT TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT!

MY LAST CHANCE TO BE A HE--

MY FACE.













