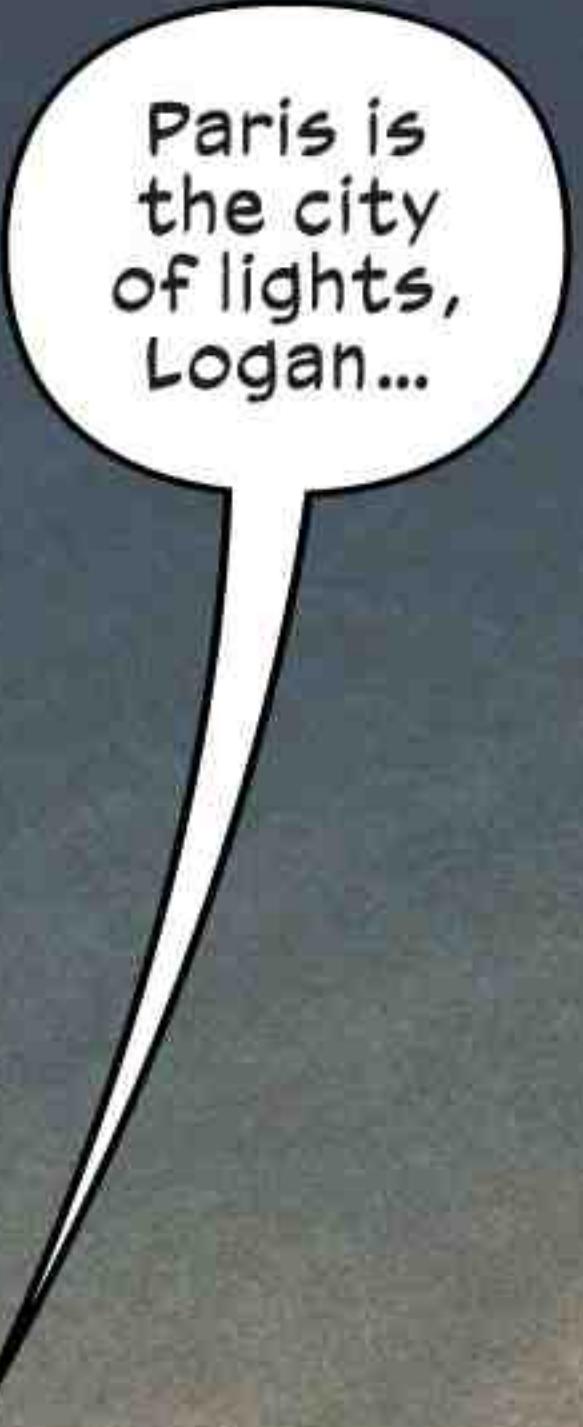




PERCY
EATON
MAYER
JUNIOR
WILSON

MARVEL
12
LGY#354

PARENTAL ADVISORY



Paris is
the city
of lights,
Logan...

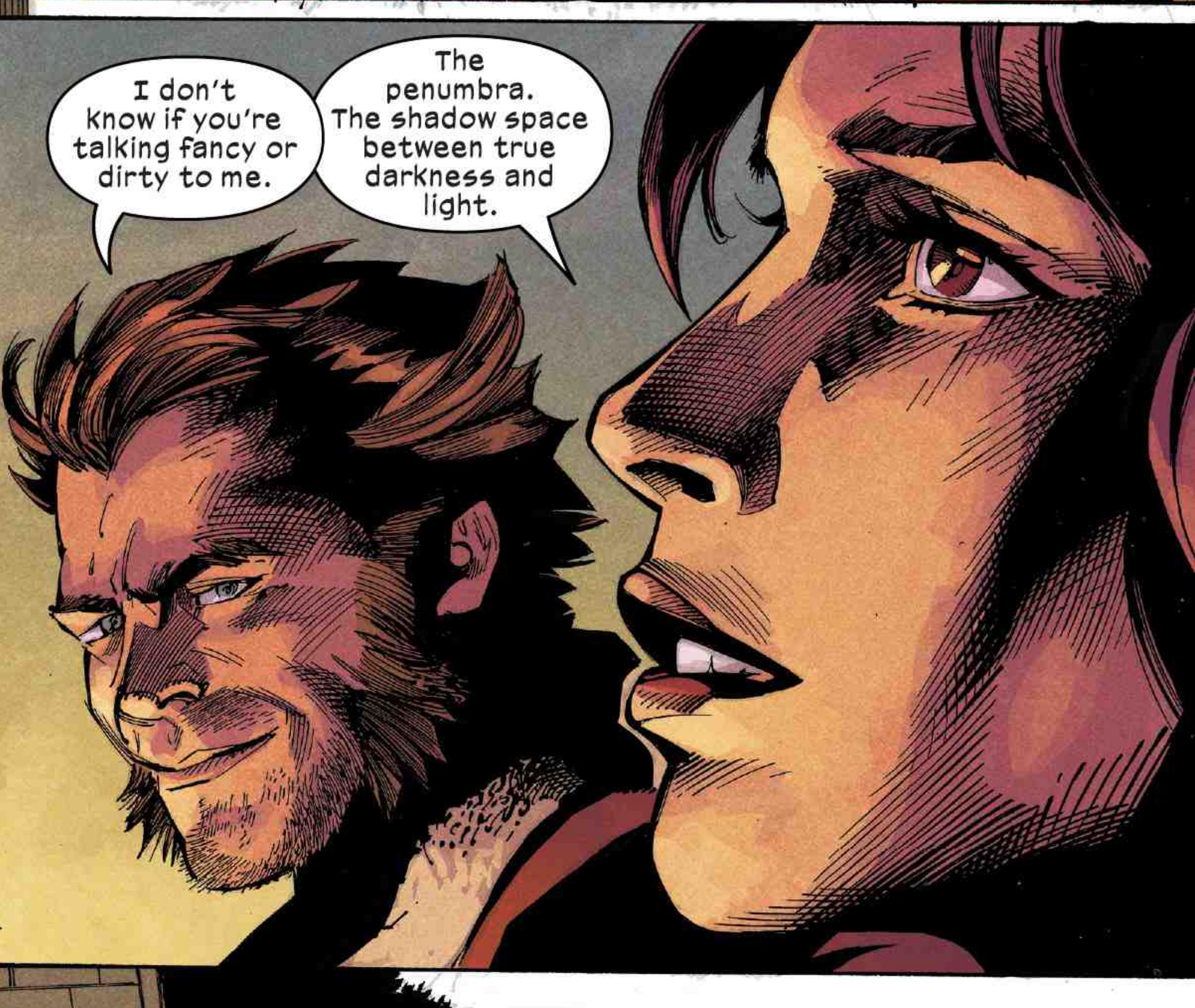


...but I
feel as though
I am living in the
pénombre.



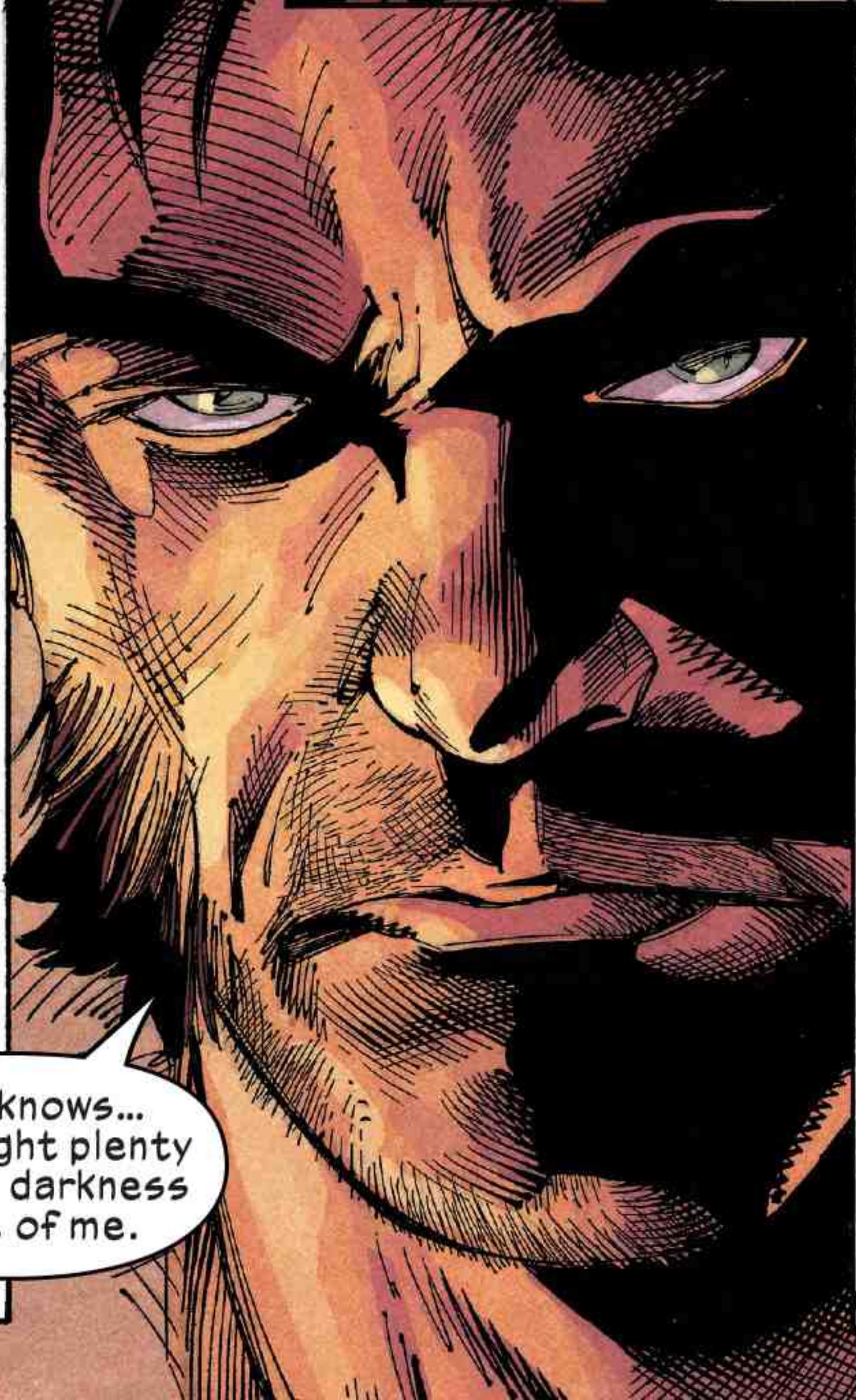
I don't
know if you're
talking fancy or
dirty to me.

The
penumbra.
The shadow space
between true
darkness and
light.



Not
quite human,
not quite
vampire.





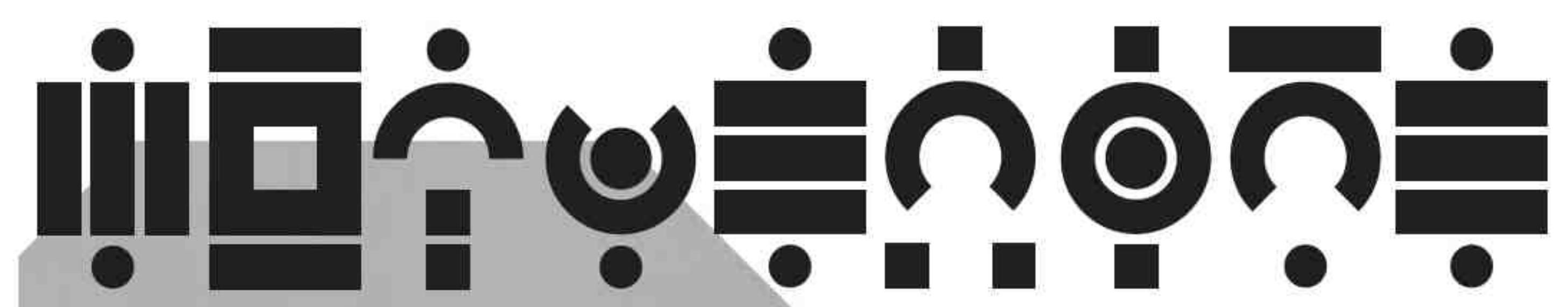


...when
fighting
monsters!

FATHER
COLE!

SNIKT

SNIKT



WOLVERINE X_12

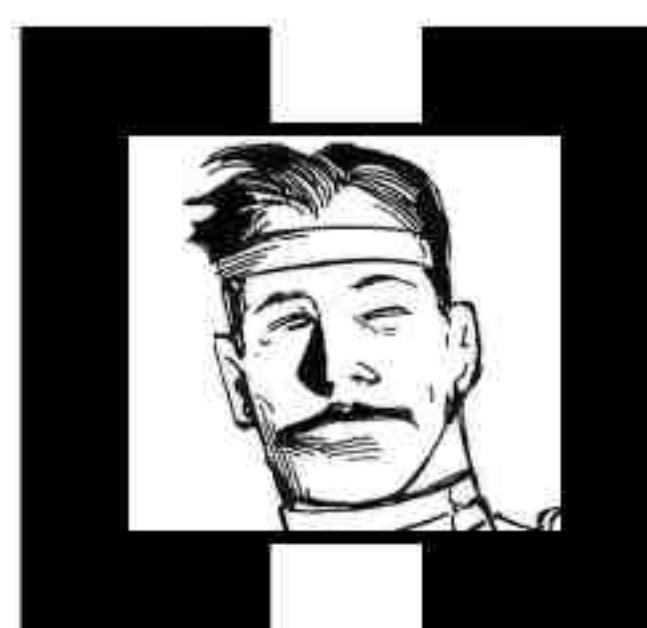
BLOOD IN THE BANK

The Vampire Nation has been amassing power and resources under the leadership of Dracula. Among these resources: samples of Wolverine's blood, use of which allows the vamps to daywalk. Now Wolverine is out for blood. To take the fight directly to Drac, Wolverine sought out Louise, his friend in the vampire-hunting Nightguard -- but was stunned to find she seems to be becoming a vampire herself!

Meanwhile, Beast and X-Force have been tracking the mutant traitor Omega Red, who has been aiding Dracula in his plot...



Wolverine



Forge



Beast



Louise



Dracula



Omega Red

[ISSUE TWELVE] PENUMBRA

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SCOT EATON [PENCILER]

JP MAYER with OREN JUNIOR (PGS. 15-20) [INKERS]

MATTHEW WILSON [COLOR ARTIST]

VC's CORY PETIT [LETTERER]

TOM MULLER [DESIGN]

ADAM KUBERT & FRANK MARTIN [COVER ARTISTS]

JONATHAN HICKMAN [HEAD OF X]

NICK RUSSELL [PRODUCTION]

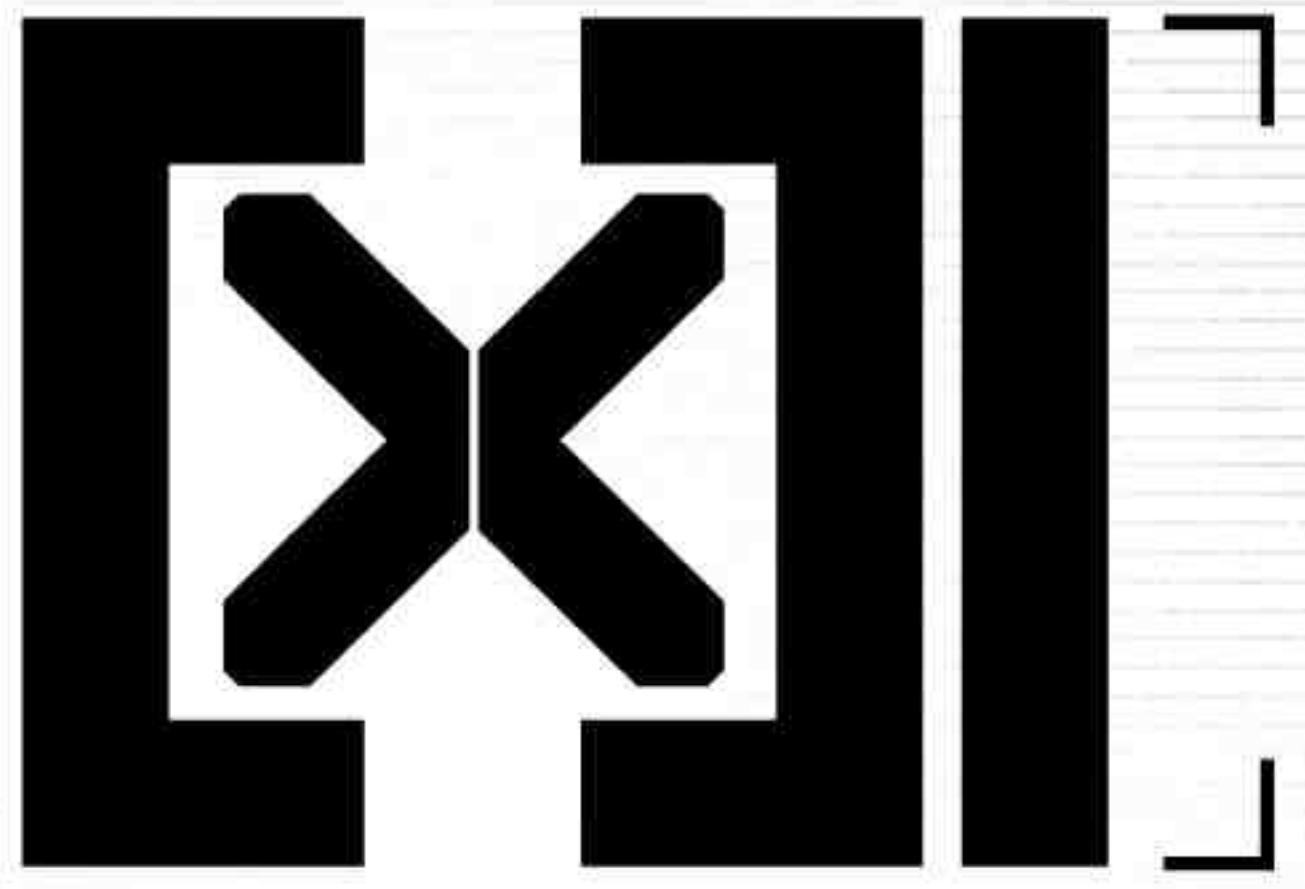
LAUREN AMARO [ASSISTANT EDITOR]

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X-FORCE: EVIDENCE LOG

Notebook: Dr. James Boggs, Don of Microbiology, Oxford University

To say that the blood sample -- culled from the mutant known as Wolverine -- is abnormal would be an understatement. Its complexity is unguessable on a number of levels, and if I spent the next ten years studying it, I don't know that I would --

But what am I even saying? I don't have ten years. I don't know that I have ten days. And Timothy...poor Timothy... I daresay he might not last another ten hours.

Help me.

The antigen structure is unlike any other I've encountered. If a normal blood cell is a cardboard box -- simple, flexible, but sturdy in its structure -- Wolverine's is a brick house of many rooms and hallways with a fireplace roaring at its center.

I can hear him. Always. Whispering in my ear. Dracul.

Disease- and temperature-resistant, the muscular antibodies aggressively stand up to and wipe out any foreign intrusion. The exogenous polypeptides defy categorization. The hemoglobin count is an astonishing 30 grams per deciliter, so that one could say he is carrying around in his veins a nuclear arsenal of protein.

I see him in the mist oozing across the campus green, in the rat scurrying through the alley, in the bat clinging to an attic rafter. Dracul. His name is my command.

If only I could study the source himself, if only I could sample his bone marrow, things might be different. The answer -- to what some might call a veritable fountain of youth -- is in his stem cells.

Help me.

The lifespan of a standard red blood cell is 120 days. The lifespan of a vampire's is roughly one day. Whatever power comes with their virulence weakens the RBC membrane. The swift degradation of hemoglobin requires constant transfusion. A kind of daily dialysis. Thus their permanent thirst. They have to refresh their systems or they will collapse.

I saw a fly on a windowsill earlier today. I snatched it and shoved it in my mouth before I knew what I was doing.

An infusion of Wolverine's blood controls the standard antagonistic effects of phosphatidylserine, CD47, infrared, visible, and ultraviolet light. And the bloodclocks manage to replicate -- poorly but serviceably enough -- the liver and spleen, creating a sustainable environment, prolonging the healing factor's potential.

He's going to kill me soon. Please, God, forgive me for helping him.

I'm no cheerleader.

But she needs to realize that if you look at all my yesterdays...



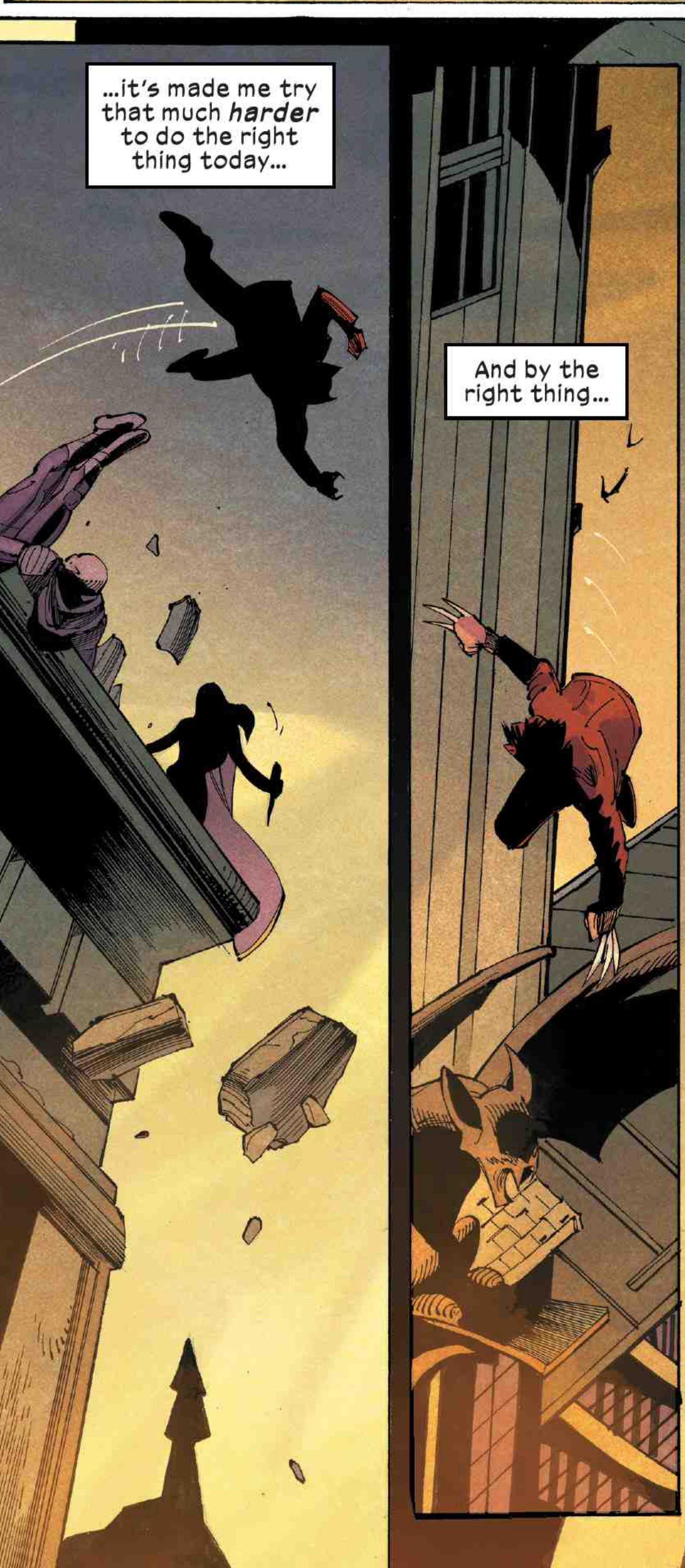
...if you look at all the times I've lost control...



...if you look at the bad blood I've spilled...



...it's made me try that much harder to do the right thing today...



And by the right thing...



...I of course mean stab the ones that deserve stabbing.



She's still got a choice and a chance to be one of the good guys.

That's enough, Louise.

Listen to me.

Because my voice...is an echo of the voice...already whispering inside you.



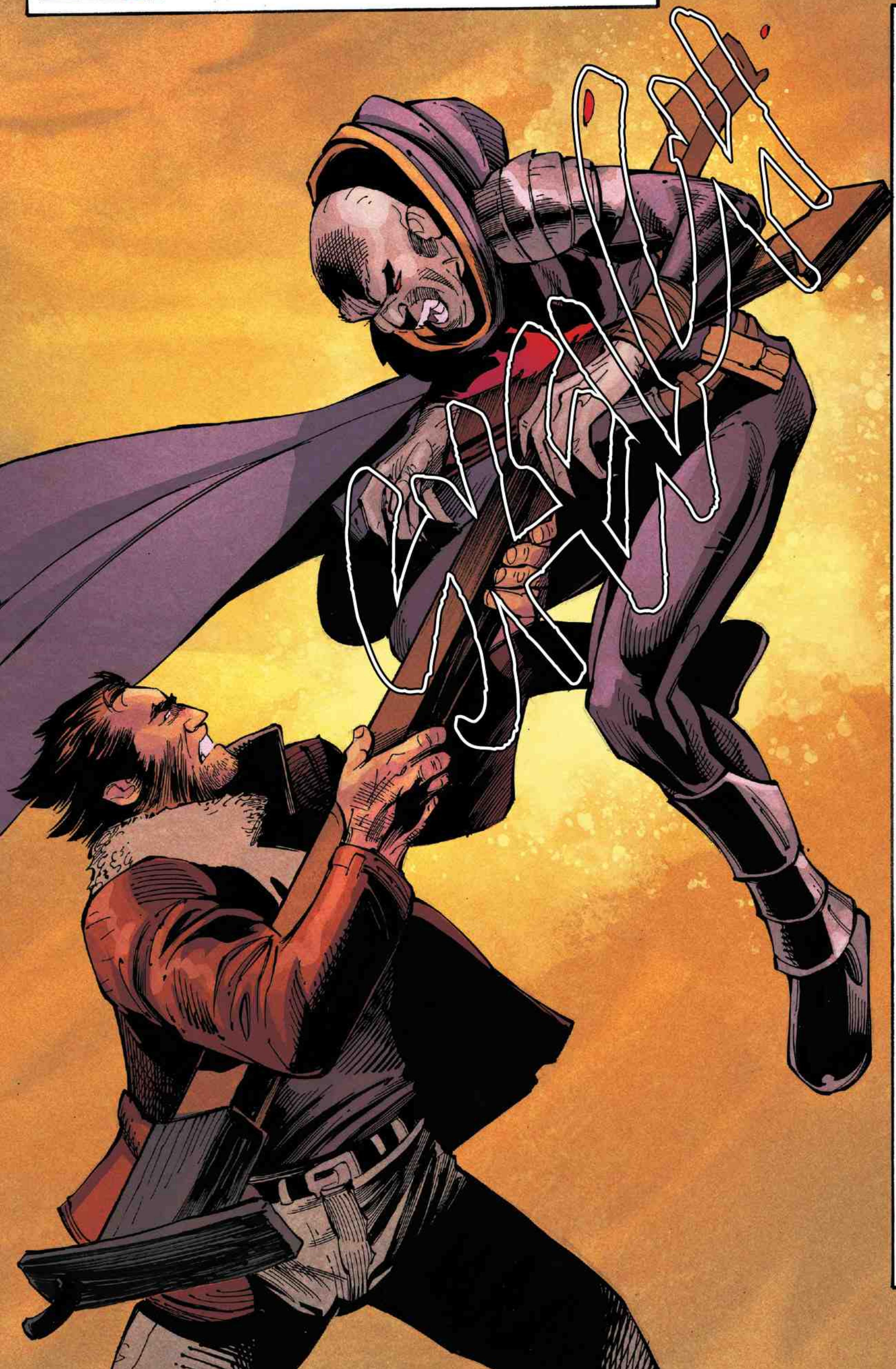
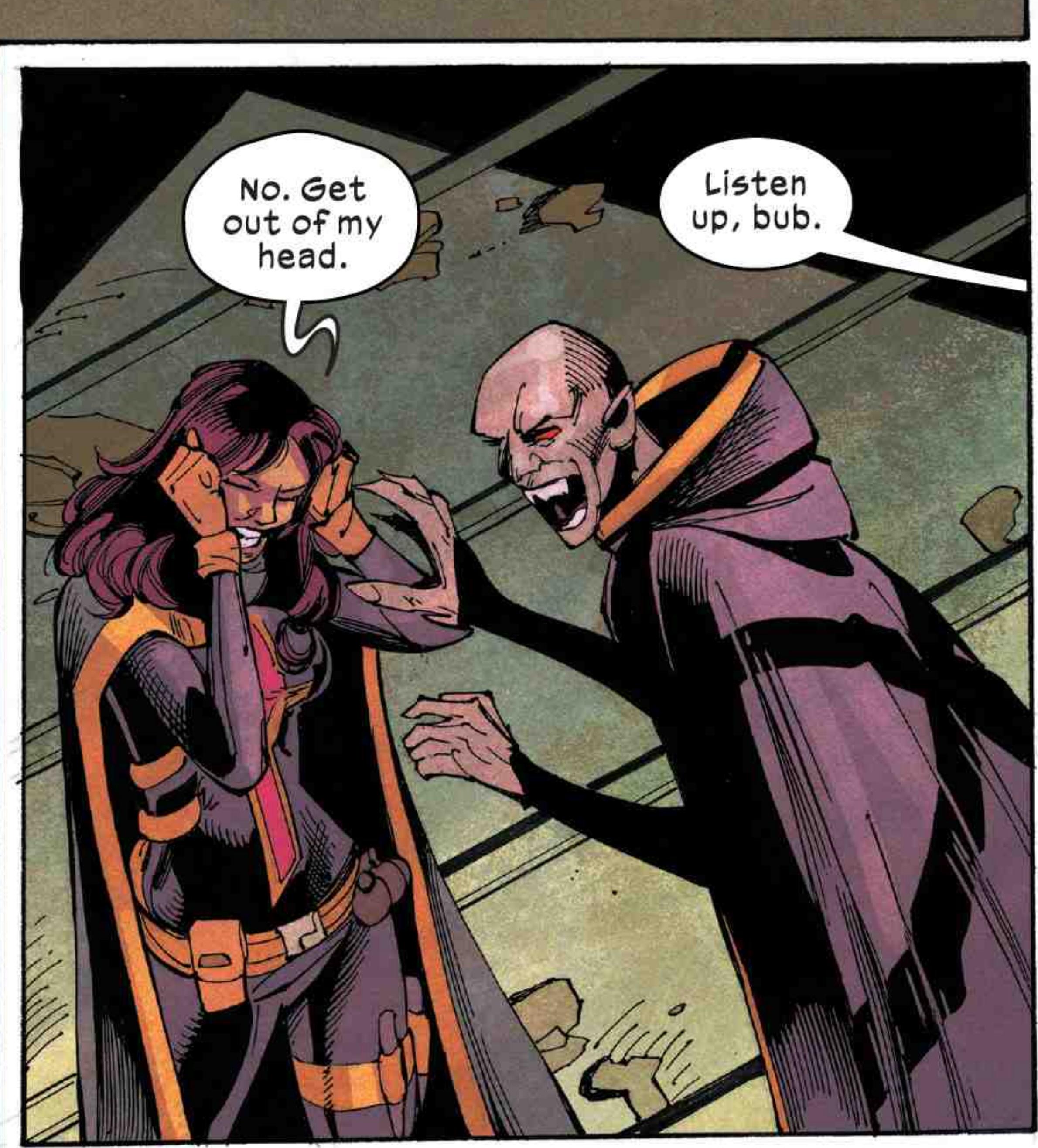
Yes. Yes, that's right. You hear him. He's in all of us.

Dracul.

I'm here to invite you to join the new Nightguard.

Help me secure Wolverine, and you will be rewarded.





Make him be quiet.

He won't stop whispering, Dr. Boggs.

Oxford University.

And he's telling me...

...to drink!

Trust that I'm going to do everything I can to remedy what's happened, Timothy.

After Dracula came to me... after he demanded I help him develop a blood serum...

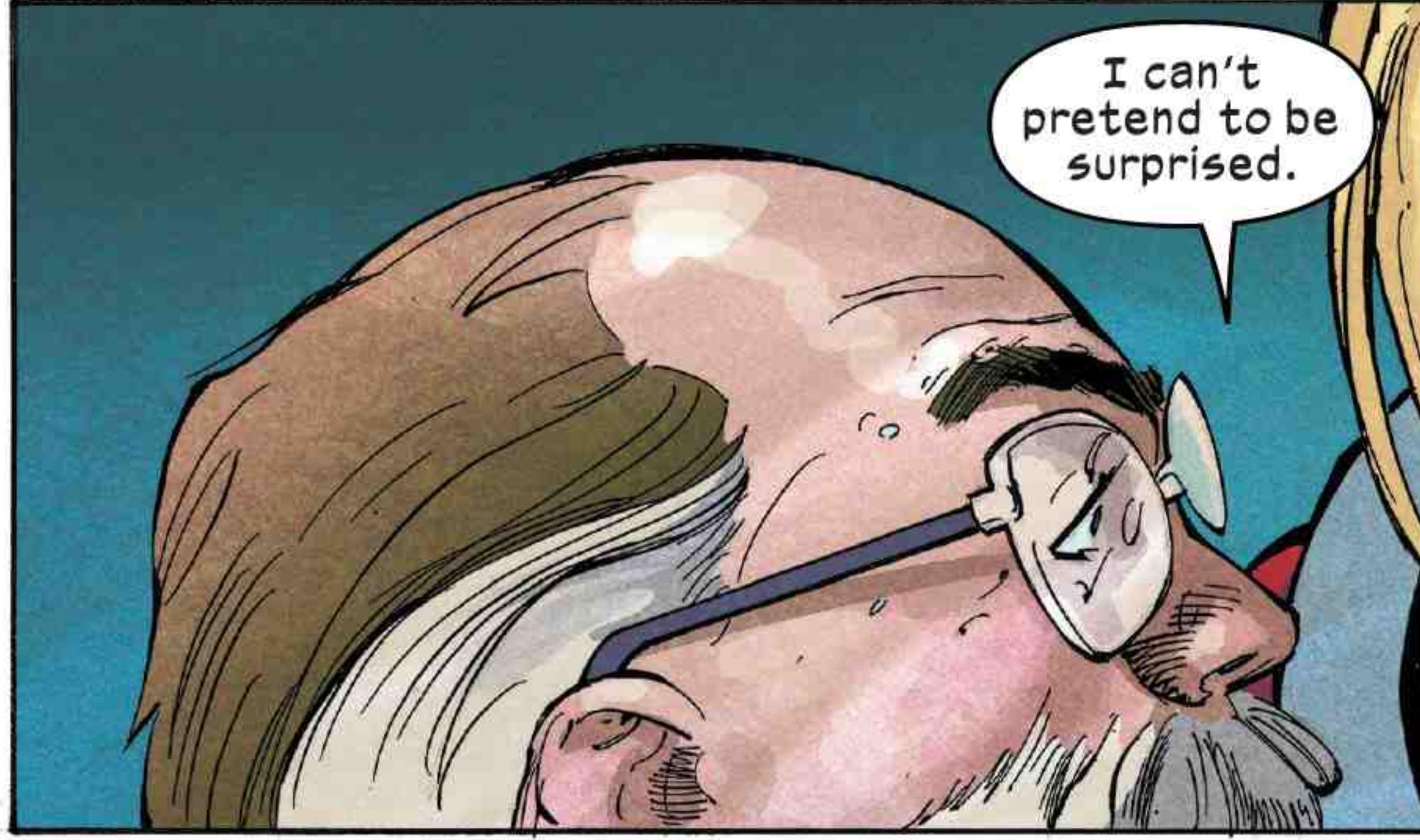
...I should have assigned you to a different lab.

It was selfish of me. I couldn't do the work without your help.

Here it comes...just a little bite.

Just a little bite!





I can't pretend to be surprised.



Then why are you doing this? Why help Dracula if you know you're as good as dead?

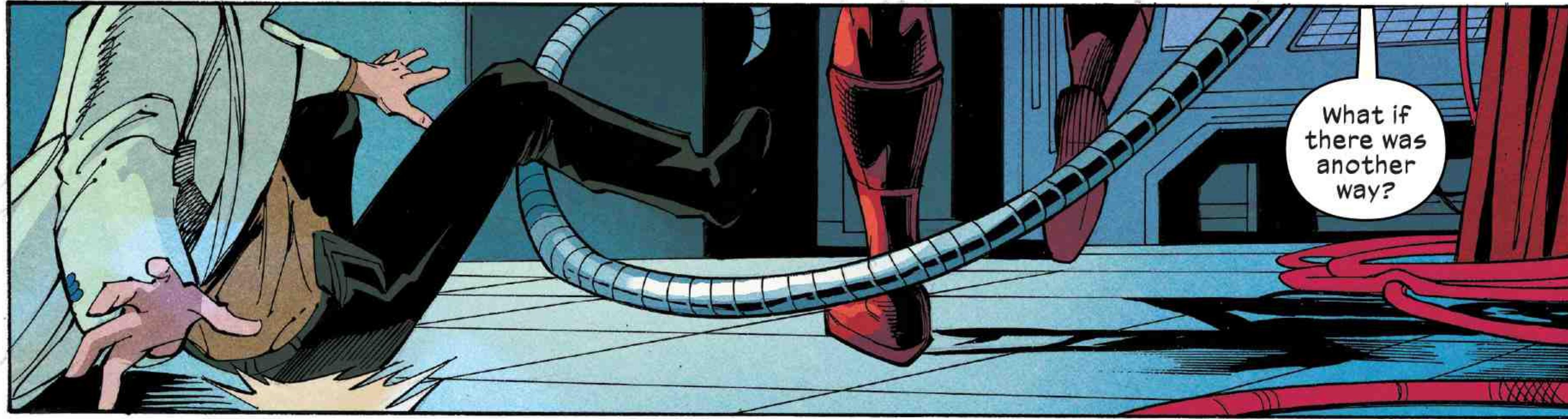


I first agreed to help... because I'm a coward.

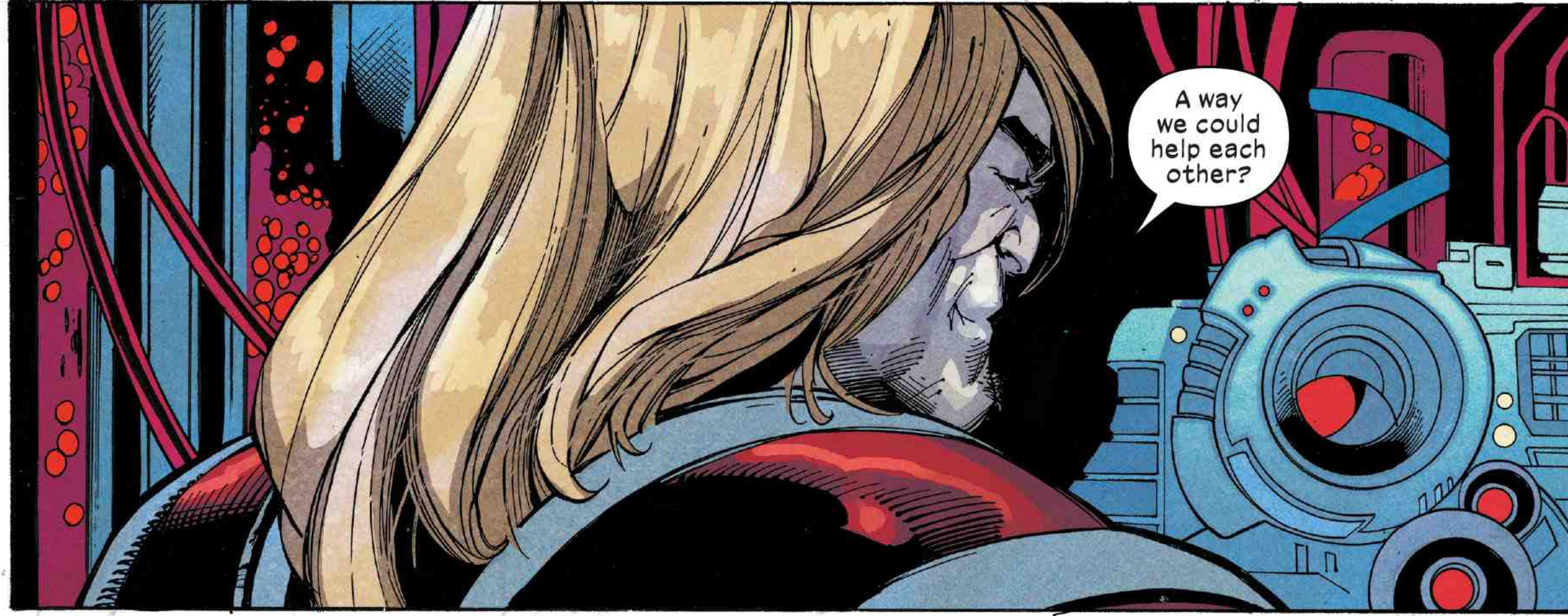
But now... I have to save him, even if I can't save myself.



What if I told you...
...you could do both?



What if there was another way?



A way we could help each other?

The Armory.
Krakoa.

I brought Louise to Krakoa, to the Healing Gardens.

But Dr. Reyes said there was nothing she could do. Not with medicine, not with a transfusion.

She said she wished she could wrap a force-field around Louise and keep her safe.

And that gave me an idea.

You must really give a \$#%& about this one.

We both want the same thing.

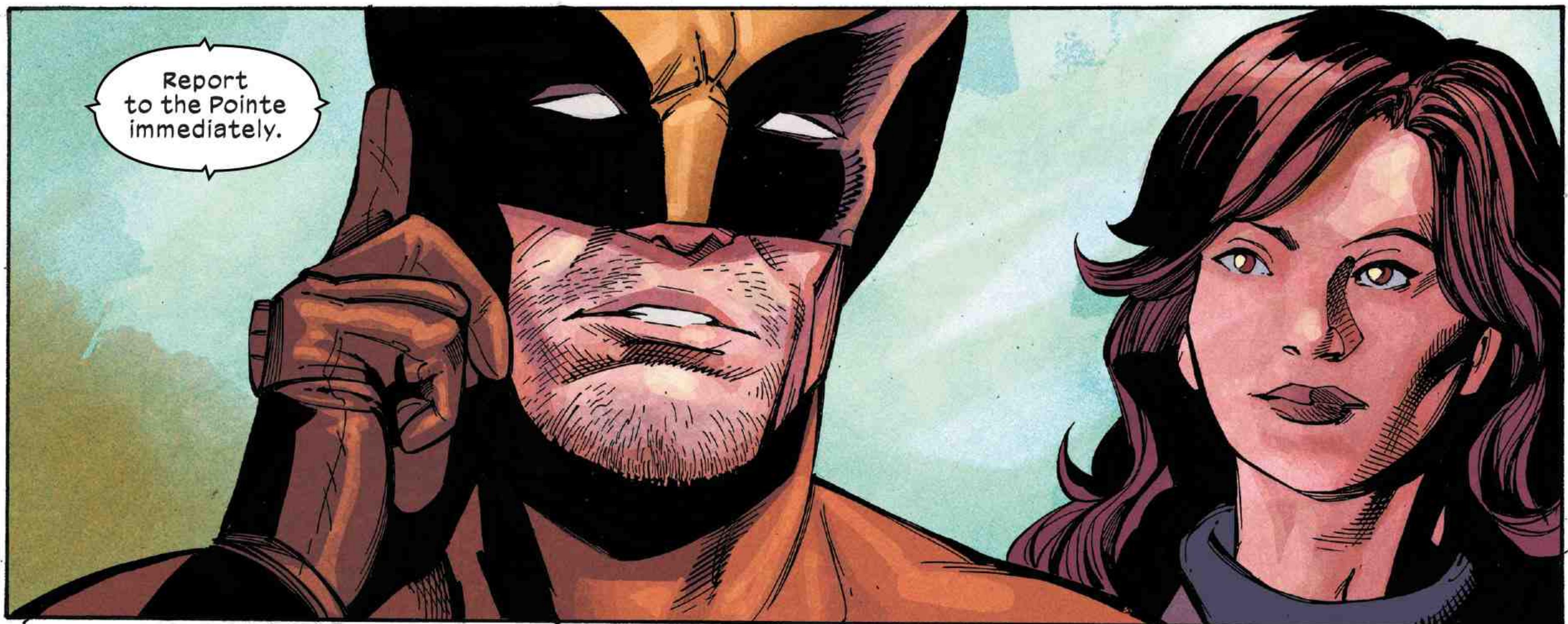
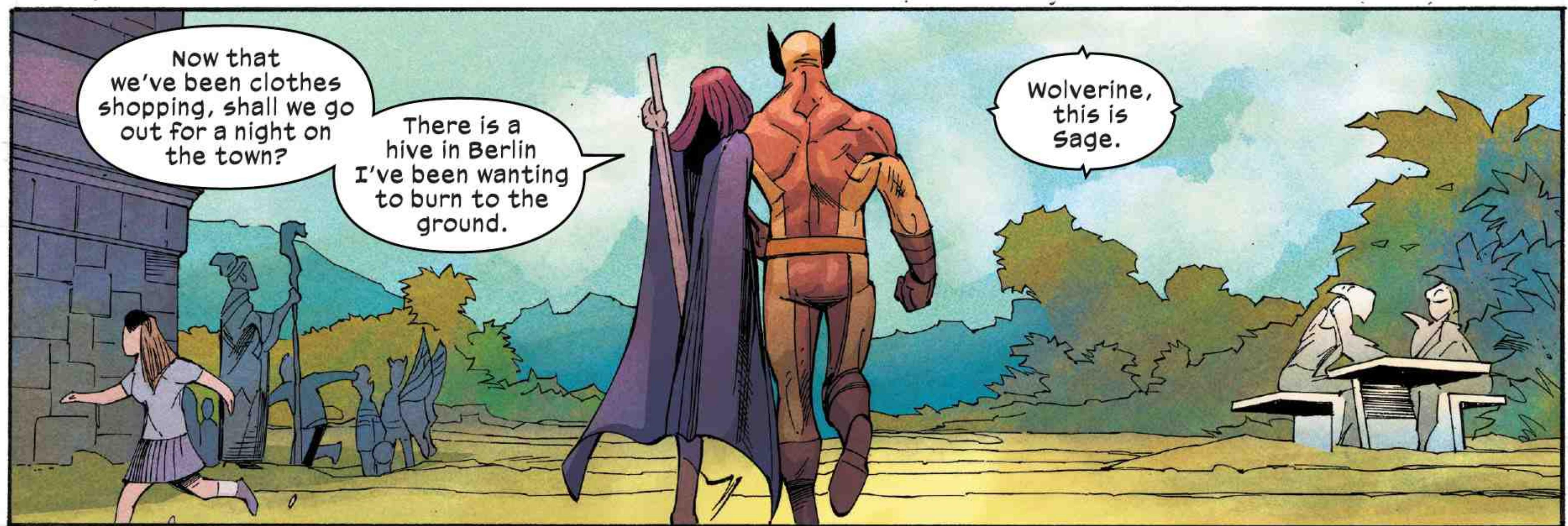
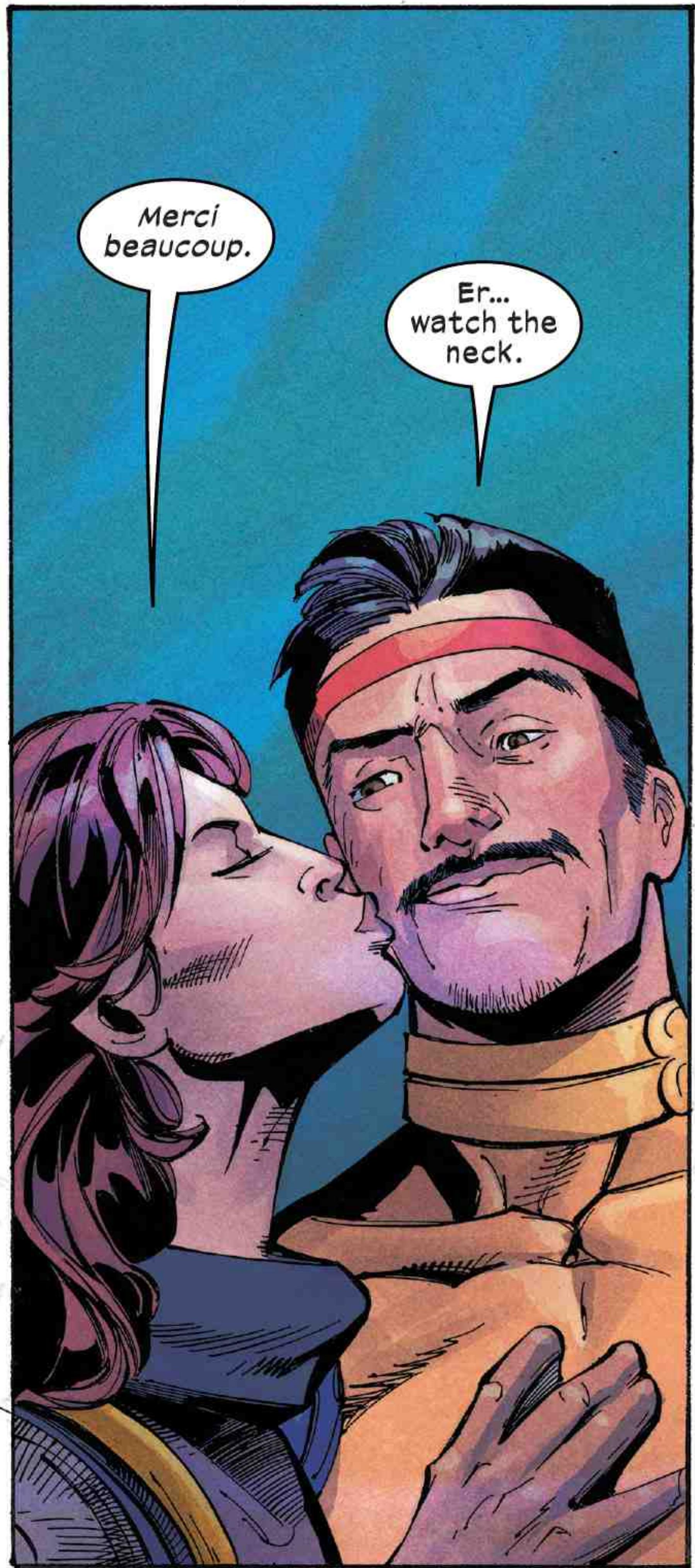
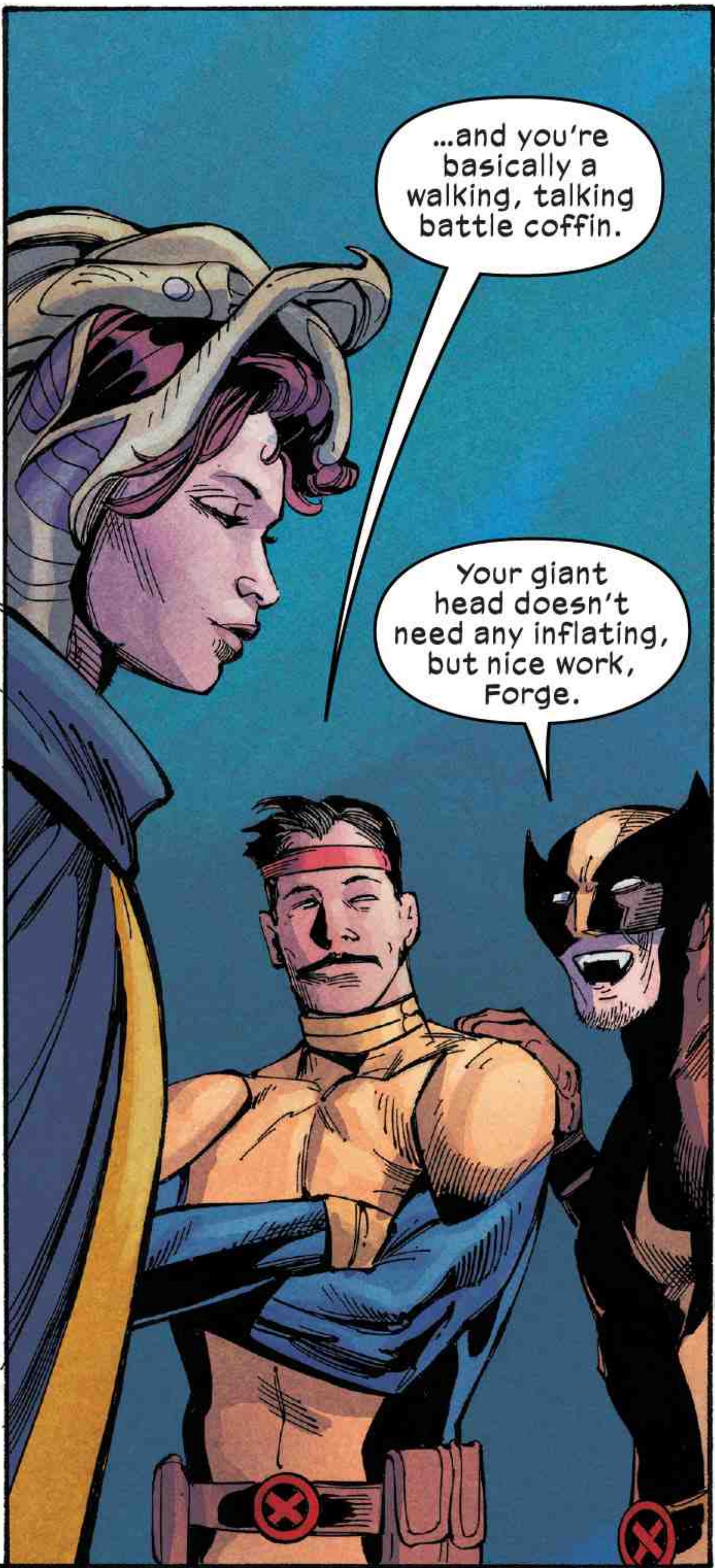
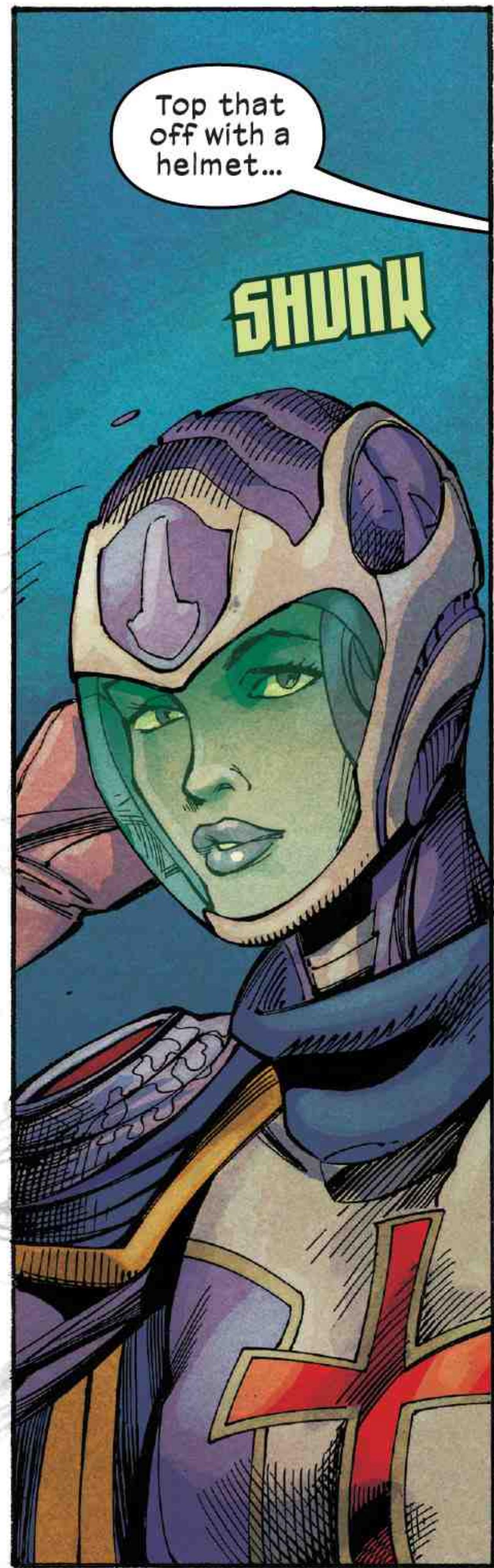
Oh, I bet you do.

How do I look?

You look like you're wearing a brilliantly constructed *sunblock bio-suit* lined with a *porous bone marrow* that helps generate blood cells, slowing your need to feed.

And let's not forget the accessories...

...including this UV-laced sword that should carve the worm-infested liver out of any vamp.



The Pointe.

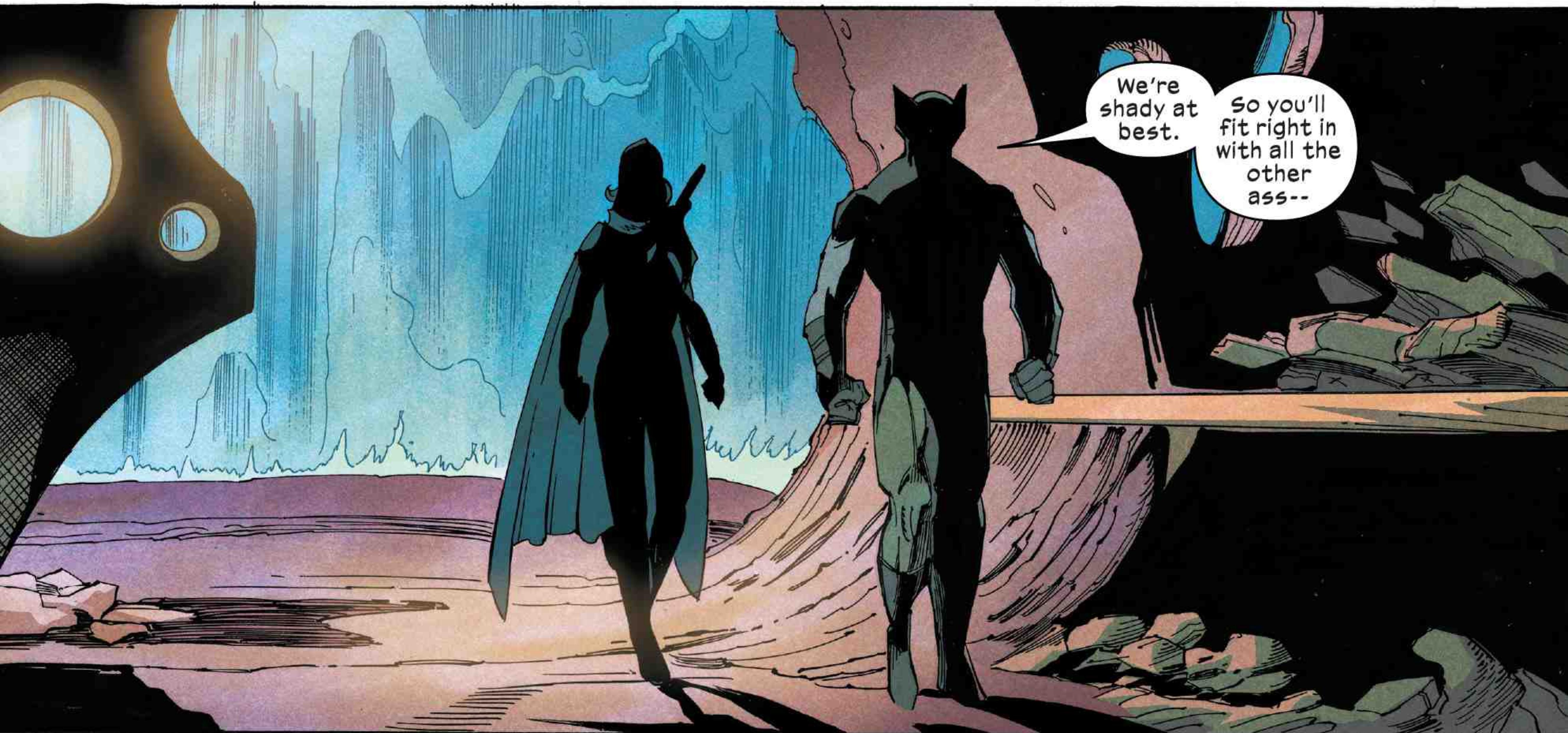
Logan...if X-Force is the mutant C.I.A., then maybe I shouldn't come with, no?

You can't trust that I can be trusted.



We're shady at best.

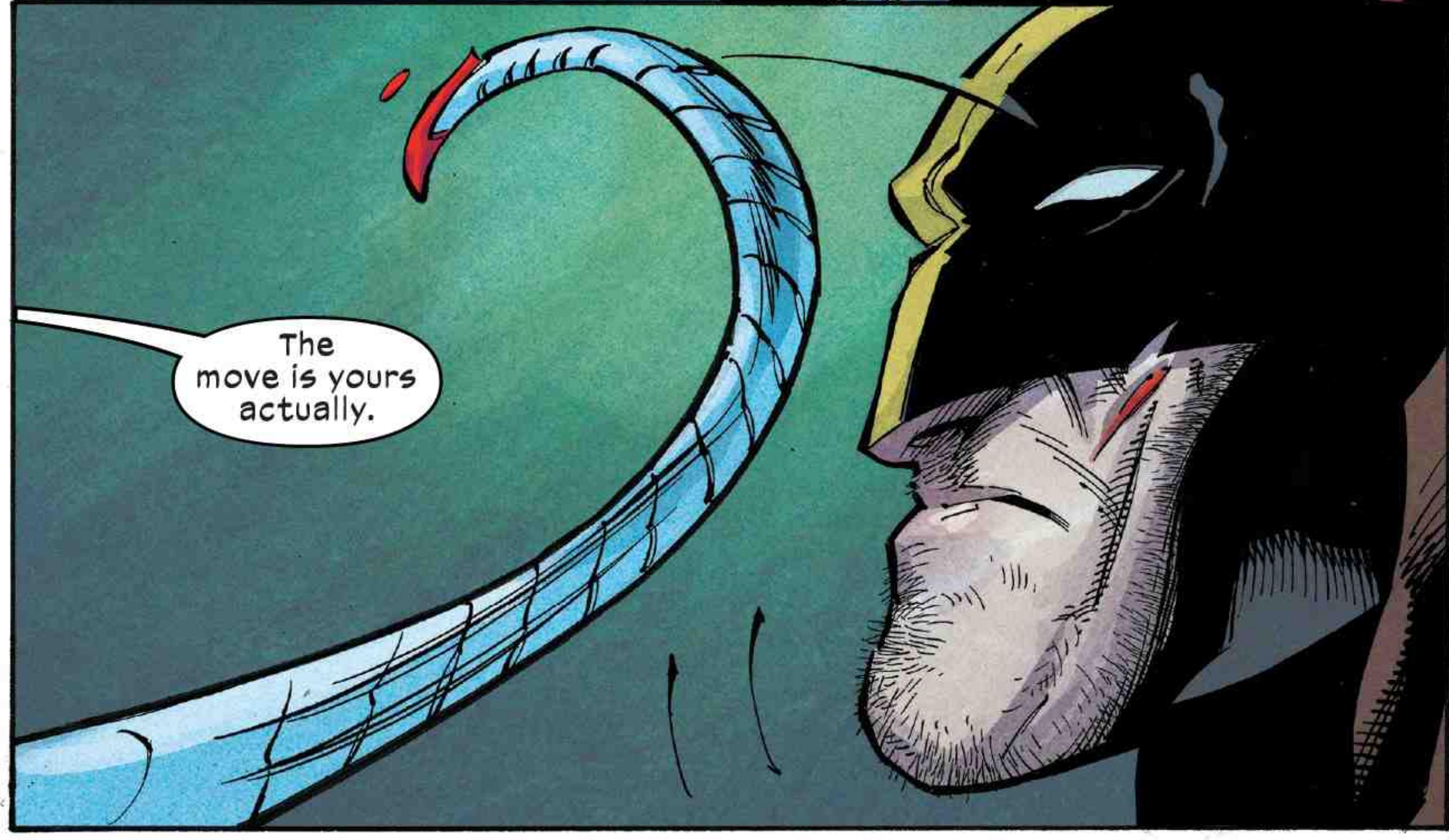
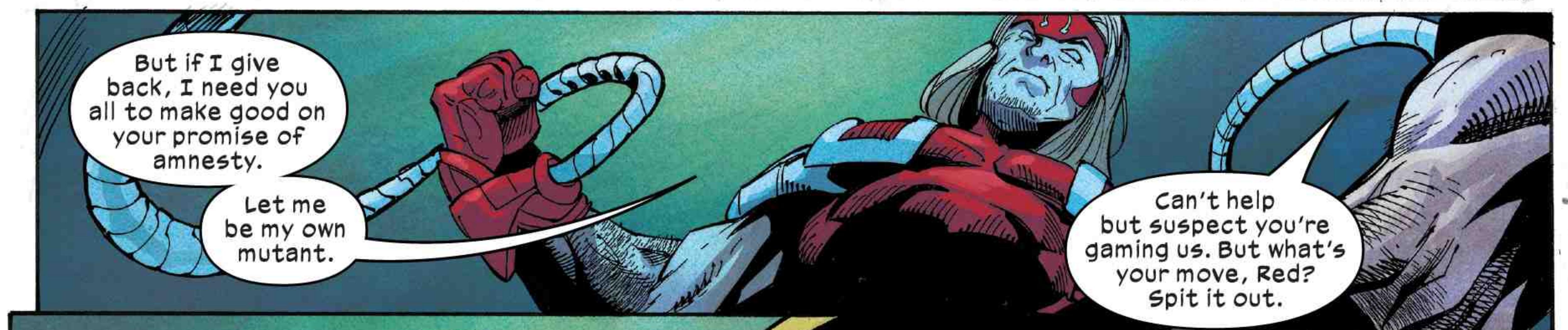
So you'll fit right in with all the other ass--



--assassins? Is that what you were going to say?

The #%^& is he doing here?





The catacombs of Paris.
A few days later...

We've lived
in the shadows
long enough.



I was
the first
experiment.

A taste
of his blood
allowed me to
walk in full
sunlight for
a day.

Then I
developed the
bloodclocks, a
portable transfusion
device that preserved
and pulsed out
blood cells.



And with another sample
from Wolverine, I shared
the gift of daywalking
with others.

I
took these
risks--

--daring
the sun and
the wrath of
the mutant
nation--
--in hopes
of sharing
this gift with
you.

Now
it's your
turn.



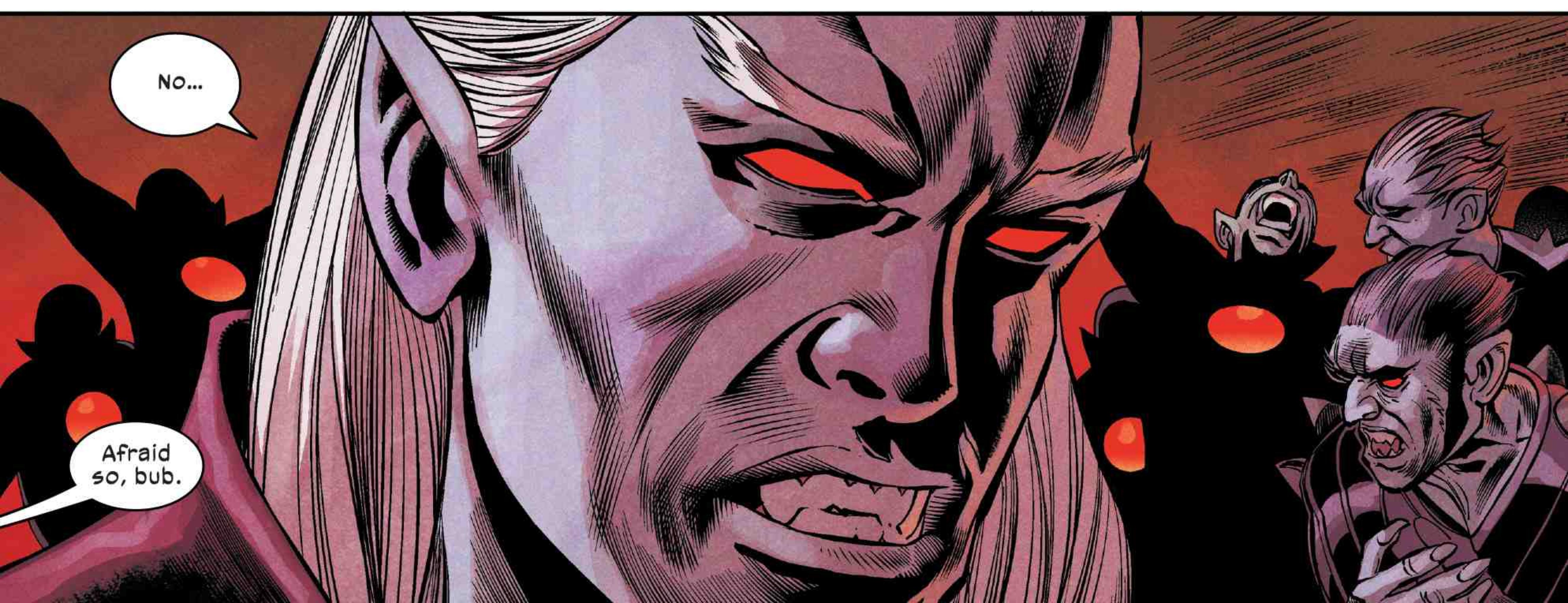
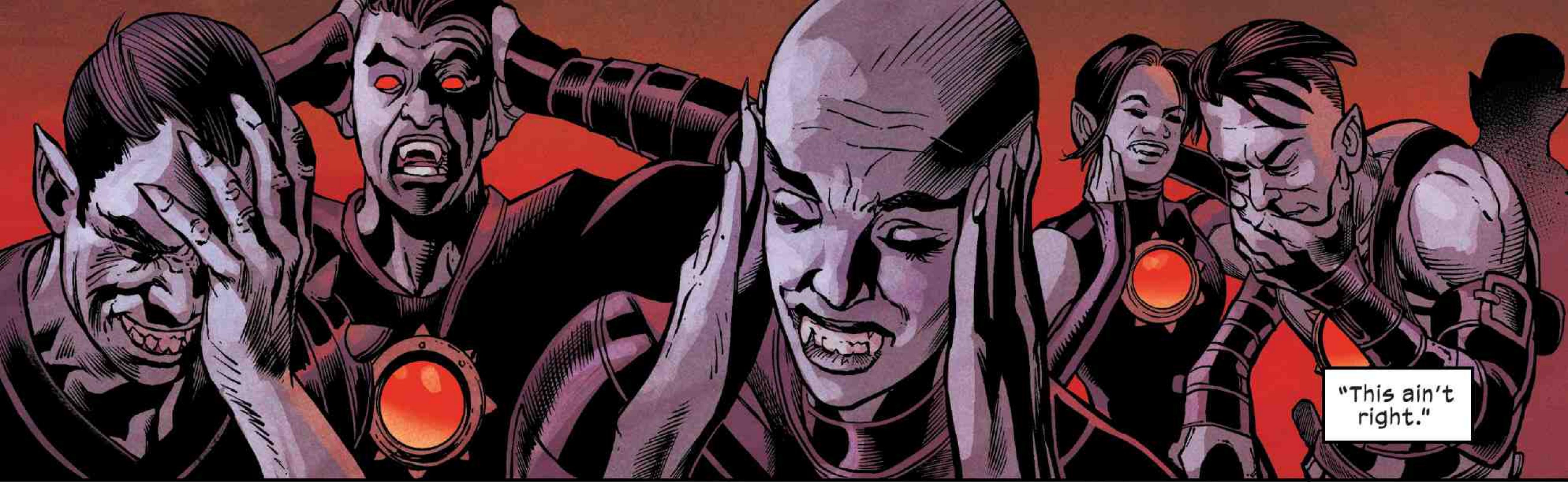
Wolverine
is ours.

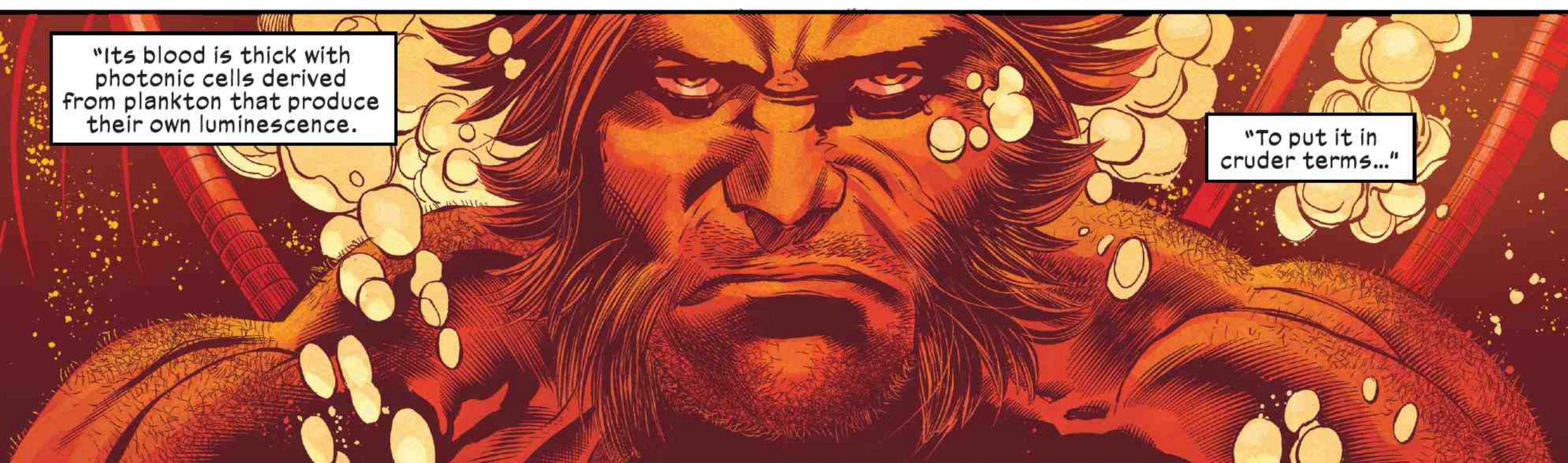
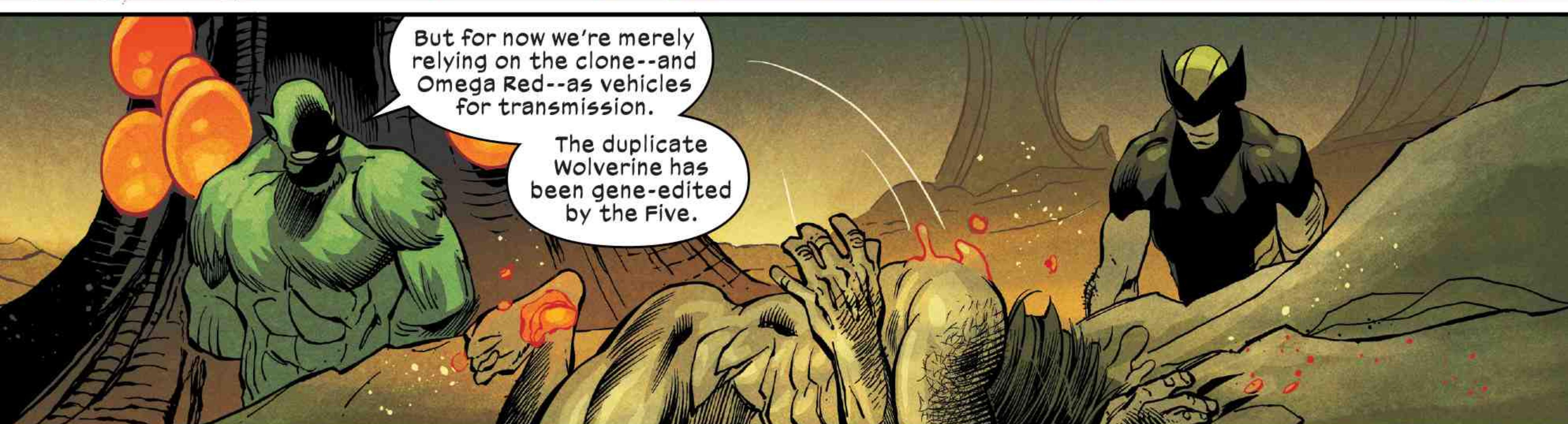
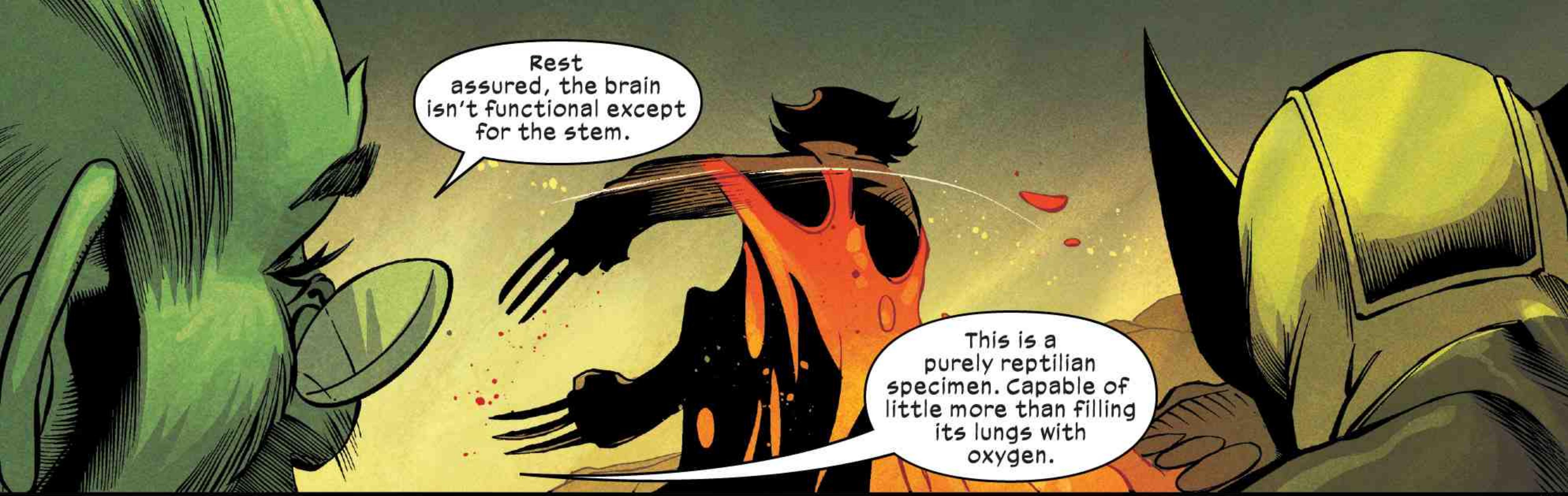
And
now, so is
the day.

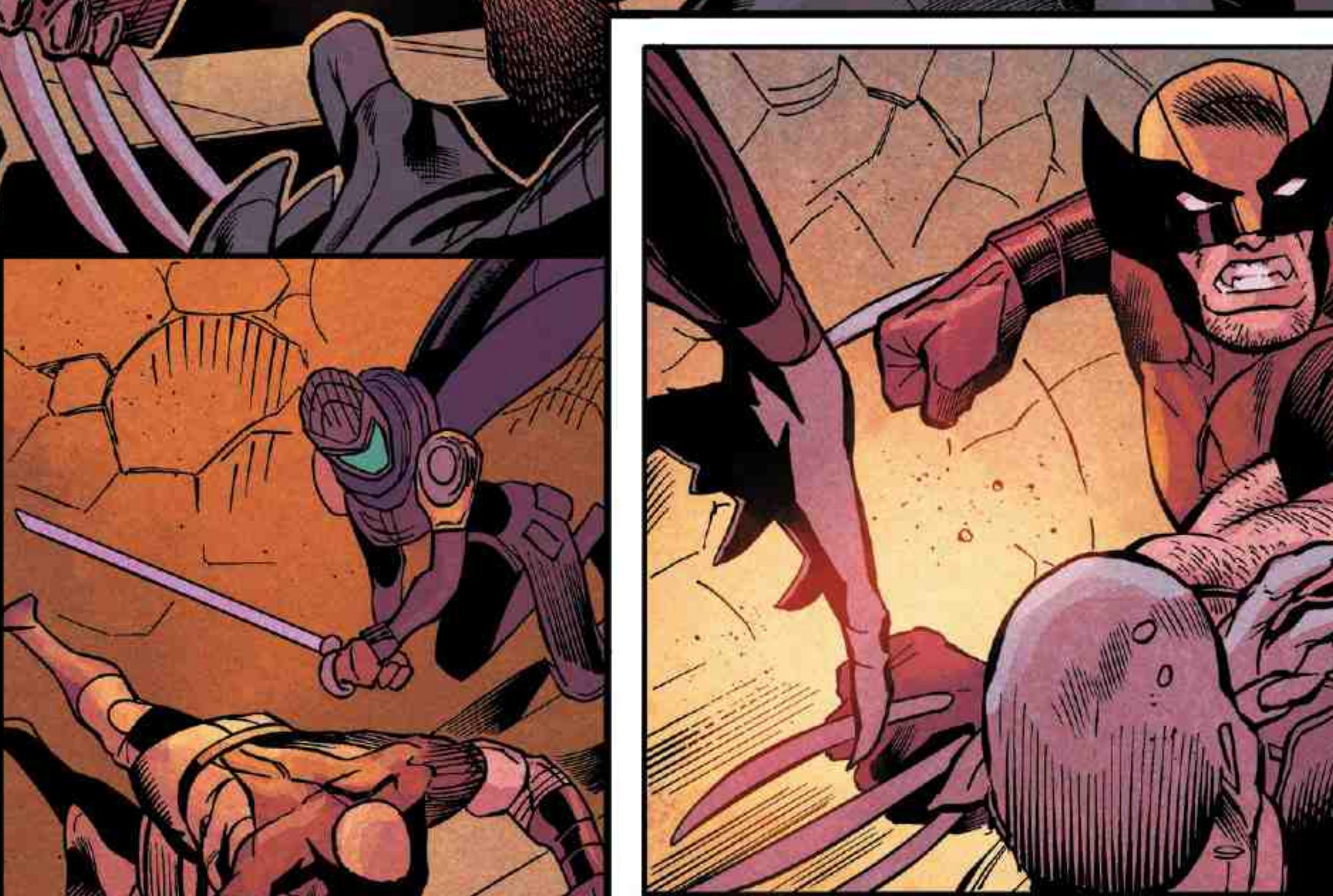


Soon,
all of my
children will have
access to this
privilege.

But for
now, the *chosen*
among us will have
access to this
private blood
bank.









[wolv_[0.12]
[erine_[0.12]

Not sure what I hate more:
vegetables, whiners, or
#@\$% vampires.

-- WOLVERINE



[wolv_[0.XX]
[erine_[0.XX]



[wolv_[0.12].....]
[erine_[0.12].....]

[Wolverine_alpha.]

Later.
The Kingdom of Sevalith
in the realm of Otherworld.

When we had it out with Arakko in the tournament...we learned some things.*

Sevalith might be the realm of the vampires, but they're not like ours.

*In the instant classic X of Swords crossover!
--Meta Mark

All the bloodsuckers on Earth, yourself included, come from the same inbred strain-- Dracula's.

That's why he's in your head. He calls you his children, but really you're his slaves.

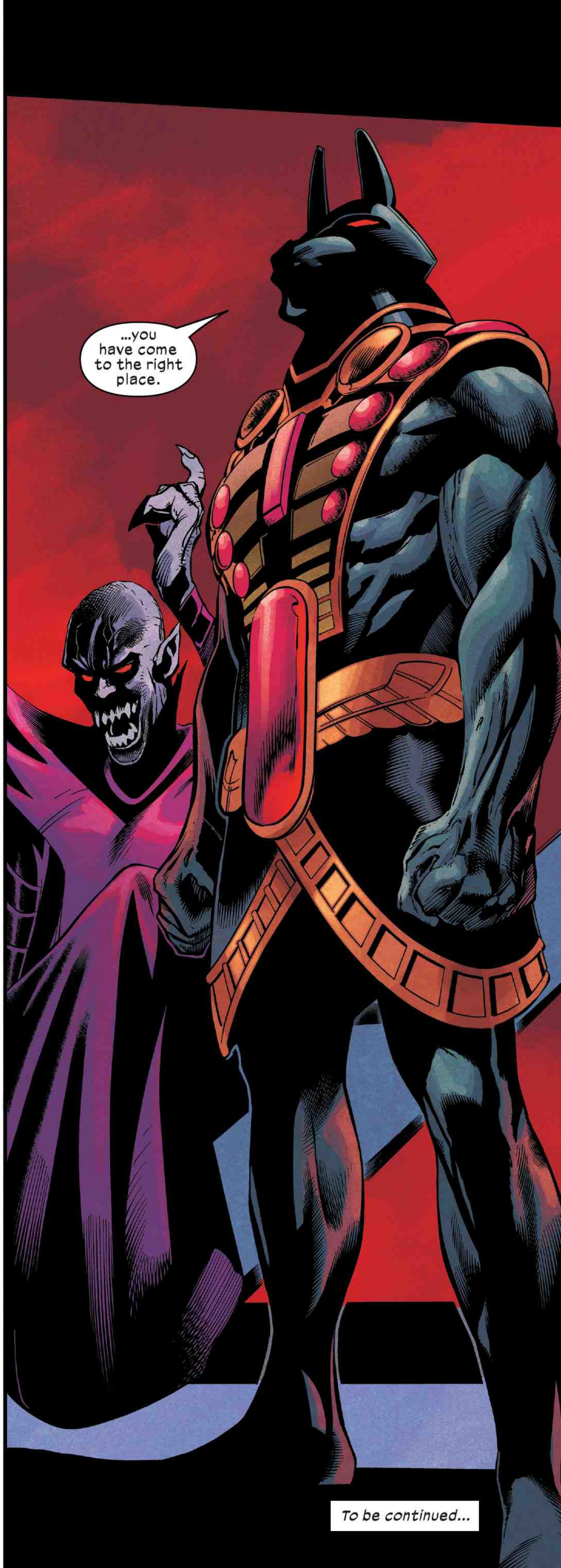
The vampires of Sevalith are more Sophisticated. Superior by design.

They aren't defined by their hunger, just like they aren't owned by one name.

They can even birth their own in blood wombs.

We go to them and we tell them that Dracula is building an army...

...they're going to consider him an insult to their kind, a rank beast humping the leg of immortality.



To be continued...

COMING SOON:



•:•:•:•:•

•:•:•:•:•
•:•:•:•:•
•:•:•:•:•

[kra_[0.0]...]
[ko_a_[0.0]...]
[00_wolverine_.12]

KRAKOA IS FOR ALL MUTANTS:

HELLIONS #11:

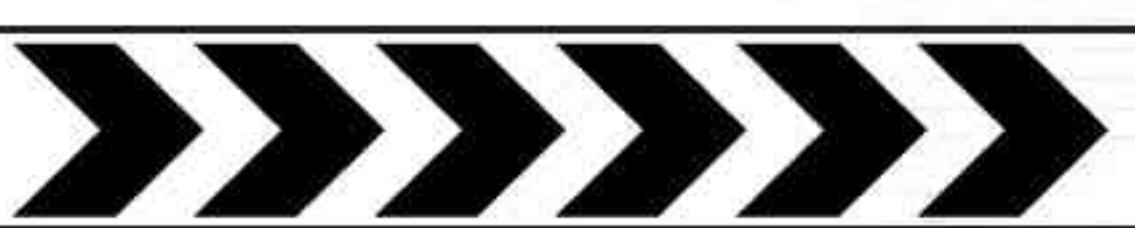
MARAUDERS #20:

CHILDREN OF THE ATOM #3:

X-CORP #1:

X-FACTOR #9:

WAY OF X #2:



WOLVERINE #12:

NEW MUTANTS #18:

X-MEN #20:

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MY NAME IS
JEAN GREY.

NOW...

