

MARVEL

ISSUE

21

WOOD • BARBERI • VLASCO • ABURTOV

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN

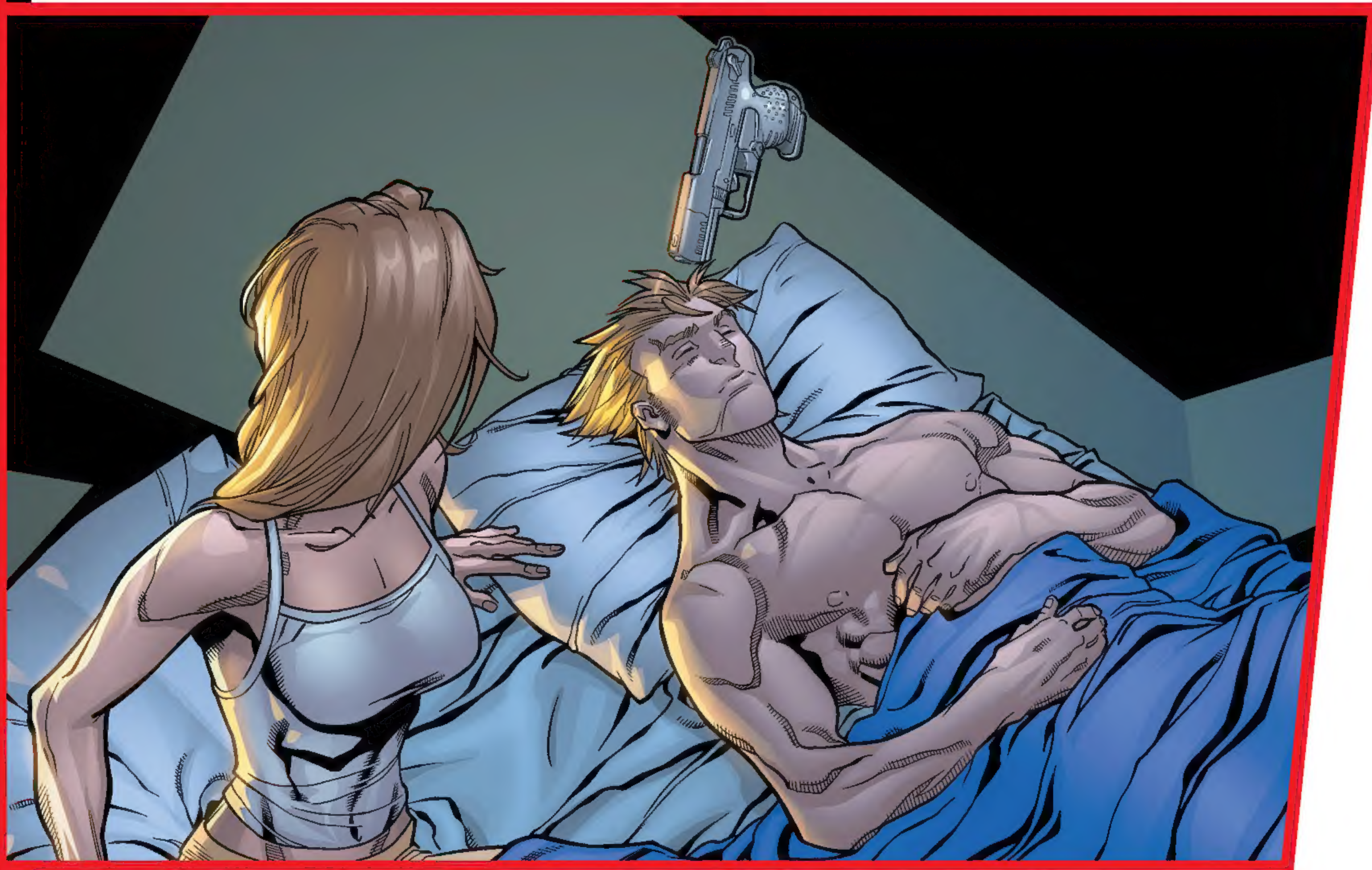


RESERVATION



LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS ARE HATED AND FEARED MORE THAN EVER, ONE GROUP OF YOUNG HEROES HAS BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT BACK.

ULTIMATE COMICS **X-MEN**



PREVIOUSLY:

Utopia was supposed to be mutantkind's chance at building an independent and secure society but the reality has been far from perfect. The land is irradiated, the arid climate makes it impossible to cultivate crops and hot-headed Mach Two has been stirring up a rebel faction to take down Kitty Pryde.

Luckily, Storm, Blackheath and Zero have solved the vegetation problem. They have created a sentient seed that adapts and flourishes, regardless of conditions. With Tony Stark's guidance, Kitty Pryde has decided to give the seed to the world as a peace offering.

But will the world accept their gift?

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UTOPIA.

What has America given the world? An *example*.

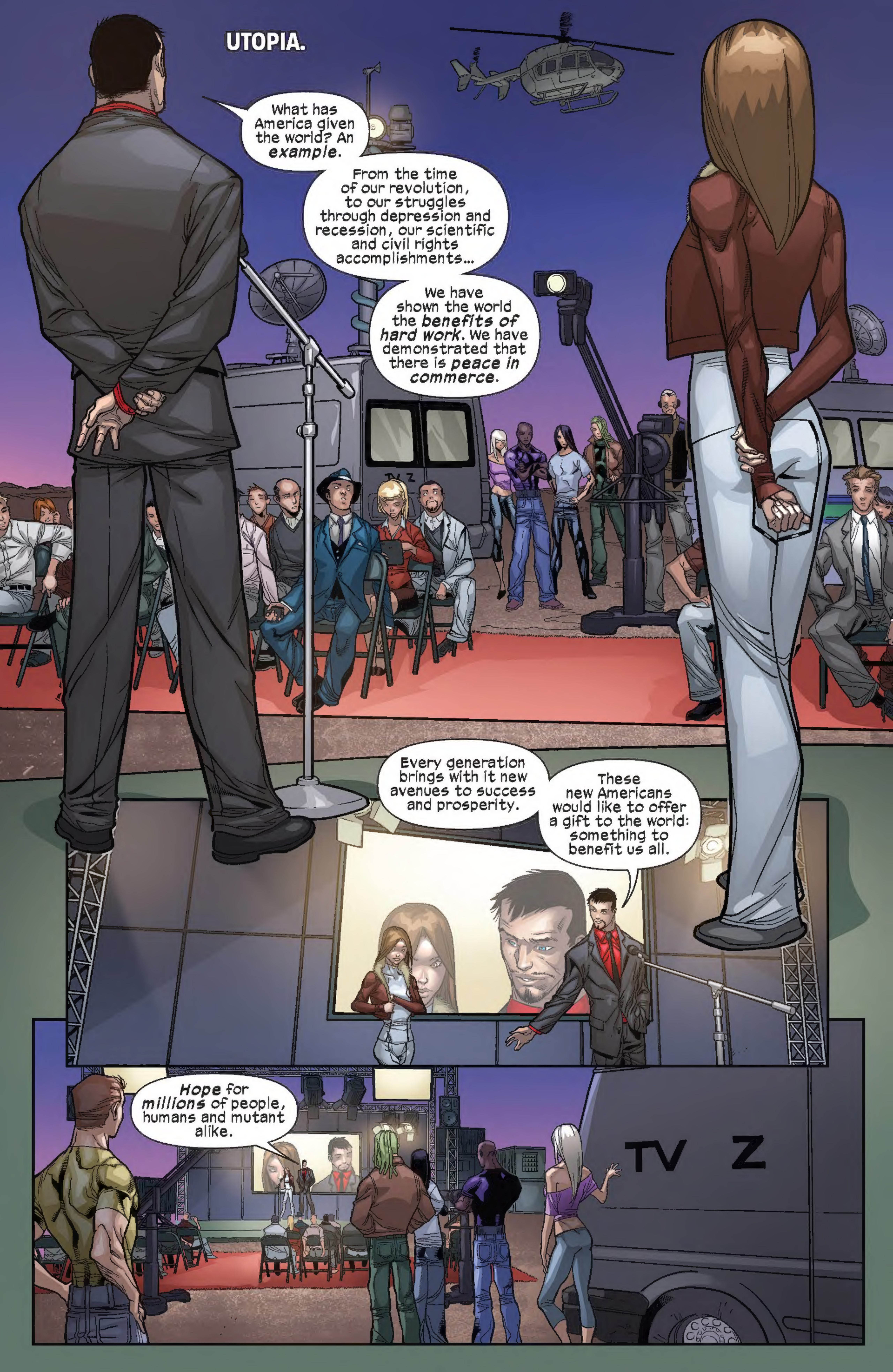
From the time of our revolution, to our struggles through depression and recession, our scientific and civil rights accomplishments...

We have shown the world the *benefits of hard work*. We have demonstrated that there is *peace in commerce*.

Every generation brings with it new avenues to success and prosperity.

These new Americans would like to offer a gift to the world: something to benefit us all.

Hope for millions of people, humans and mutant alike.





But I have spoken long enough. It's time you met an extraordinary young woman.

Ladies and gentlemen, the symbol of a new era of global change.



Go ahead, introduce yourself.

I'm Kitty Pryde.



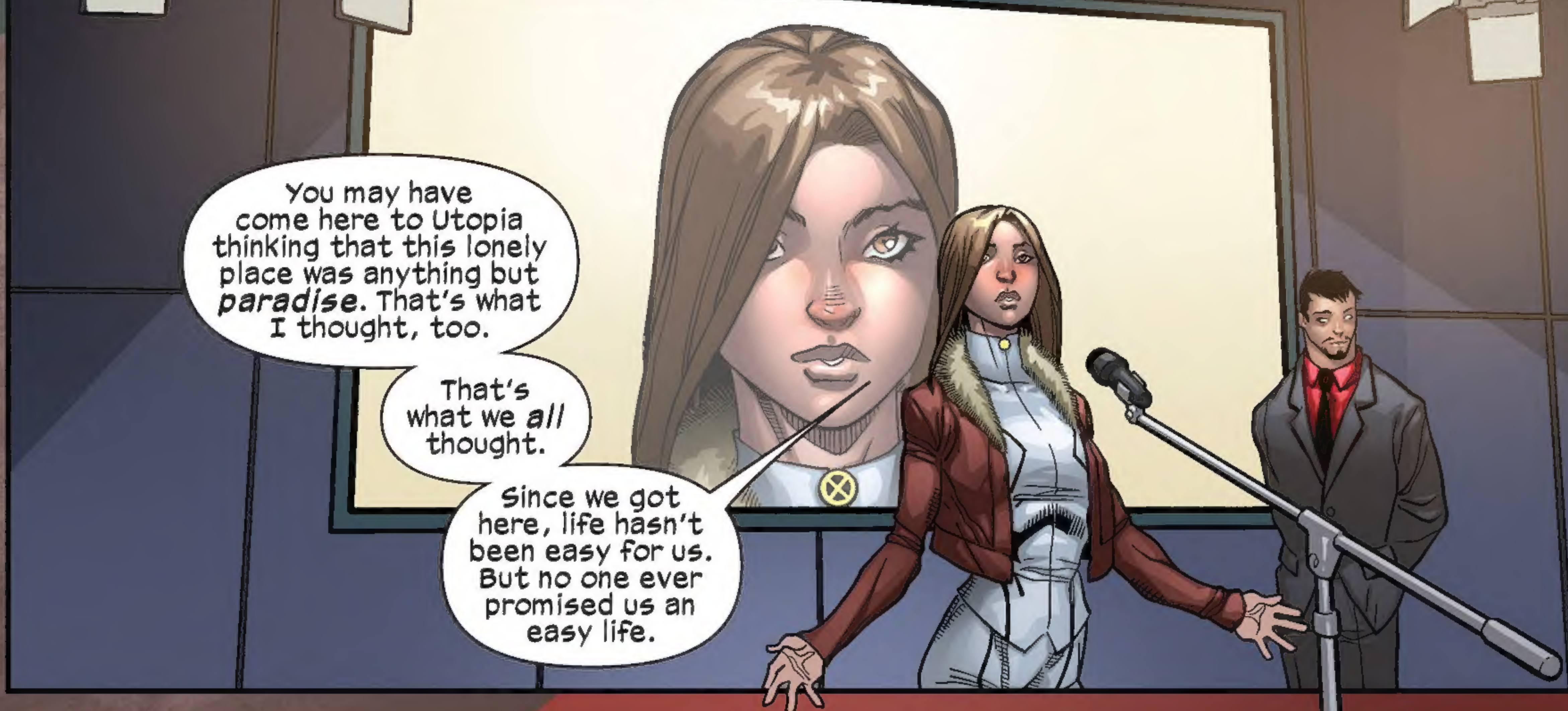
And Mr. Stark is right. We have something amazing to offer the world. You might see it as an olive branch and it is, in a way.

It's also a seed.



I can't believe he made it all about her. *She* did it? *She's* the hero? Storm, you and Blackheath and Zero are just as much to--

Shh. I want to hear.



You may have come here to Utopia thinking that this lonely place was anything but *paradise*. That's what I thought, too.

That's what we *all* thought.

Since we got here, life hasn't been easy for us. But no one ever promised us an easy life.

**BOBBY DRAKE
AKA ICEMAN.**

JIMMY HUDSON.

So much of
the conflict in
the world happens
when resources
are scarce.

**ORORO MUNROE
AKA STORM.**

**NOMI BLUME
AKA MACH TWO.**

**BETSY BRADDOCK
AKA PSYLOCKE.**

**KENJI UEDO
AKA ZERO.**

Here in Utopia,
we have some of
the most talented,
unique and capable
people *anywhere*. We
used those talents
to come up with
a solution.

How many
times can you
fight the same fight?
A wise man once told
me, you have to put
down the gun.

Which means
you have to let go
of *prejudices*.

I believe that
the world can be
changed.

I believe
that an act of
charity is a seed that
can sprout into
goodwill.

So that's
what we're offering
the world.

RESERVATION X PART THREE

WOOD/BARBERI/YLASCO/ABURTOV

This is a seed that grows in any climate.

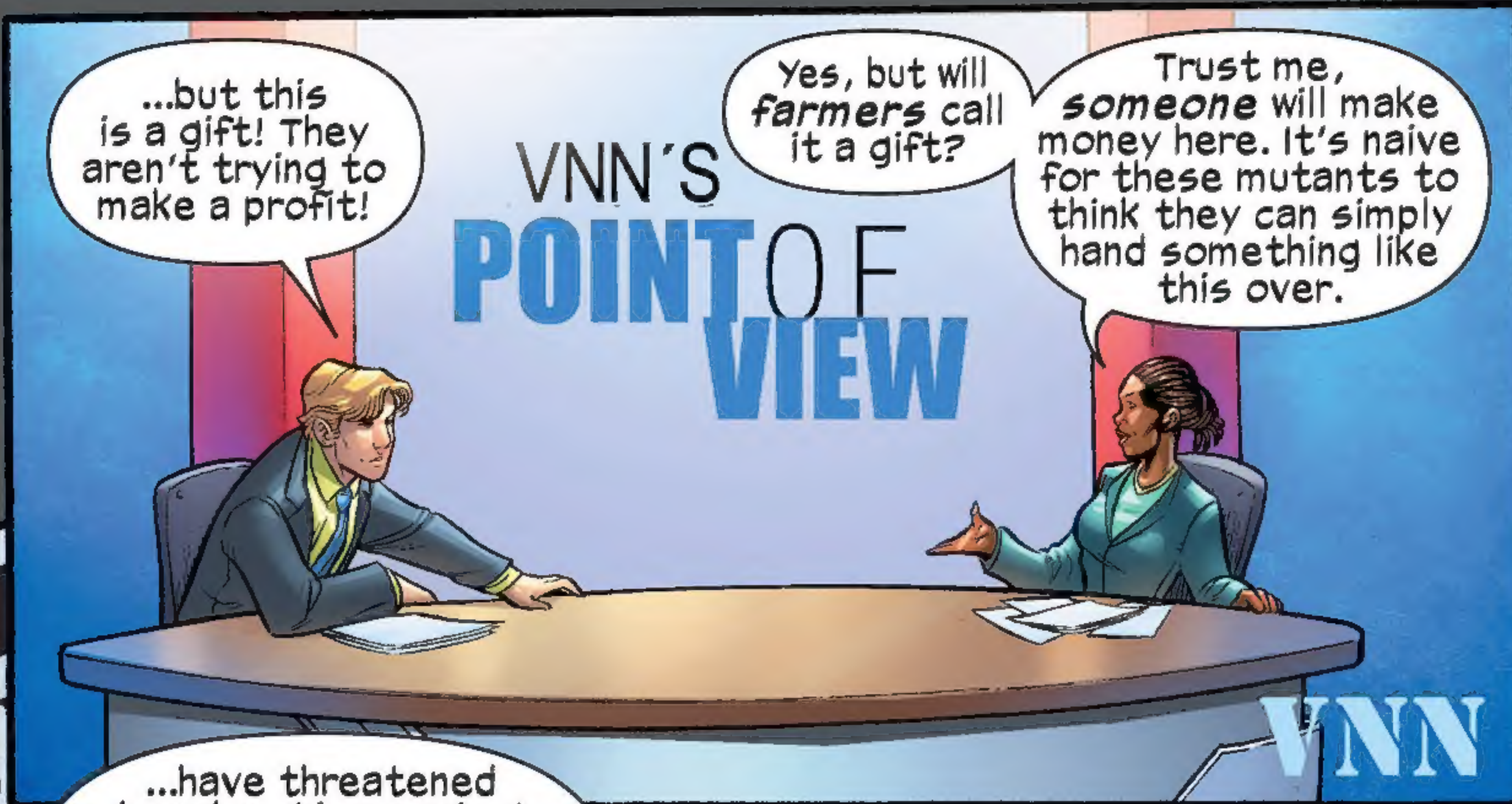
A seed that immediately adapts to any conditions, programs itself according to its surroundings. A seed that can thrive in any type of soil.

We've named it the "sentient seed."

And it will end world hunger.



SPECIAL EDITION
DAILY BUGLE
 New York's Finest Daily Newspaper
MUTANT REVELATION
SEED OF CHANGE?



...but this is a gift! They aren't trying to make a profit!

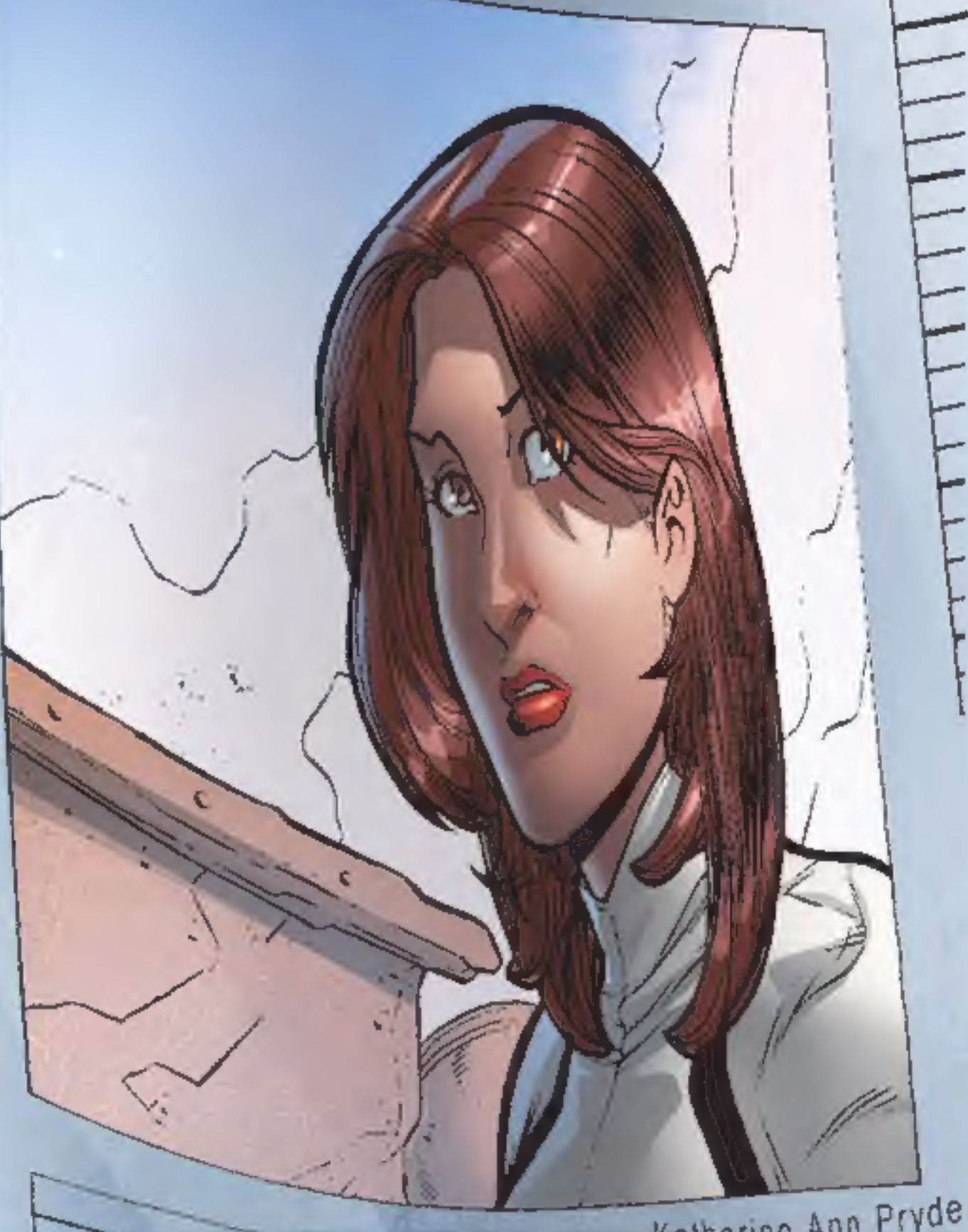
Yes, but will farmers call it a gift?

Trust me, *someone* will make money here. It's naive for these mutants to think they can simply hand something like this over.

VNN'S
POINT OF VIEW

...have threatened *legal action* against the mutants for the dangerous "mutant seed," the food from which they believe could be *harmful* to humans.

According to one expert, it may even turn *children* into mutants...



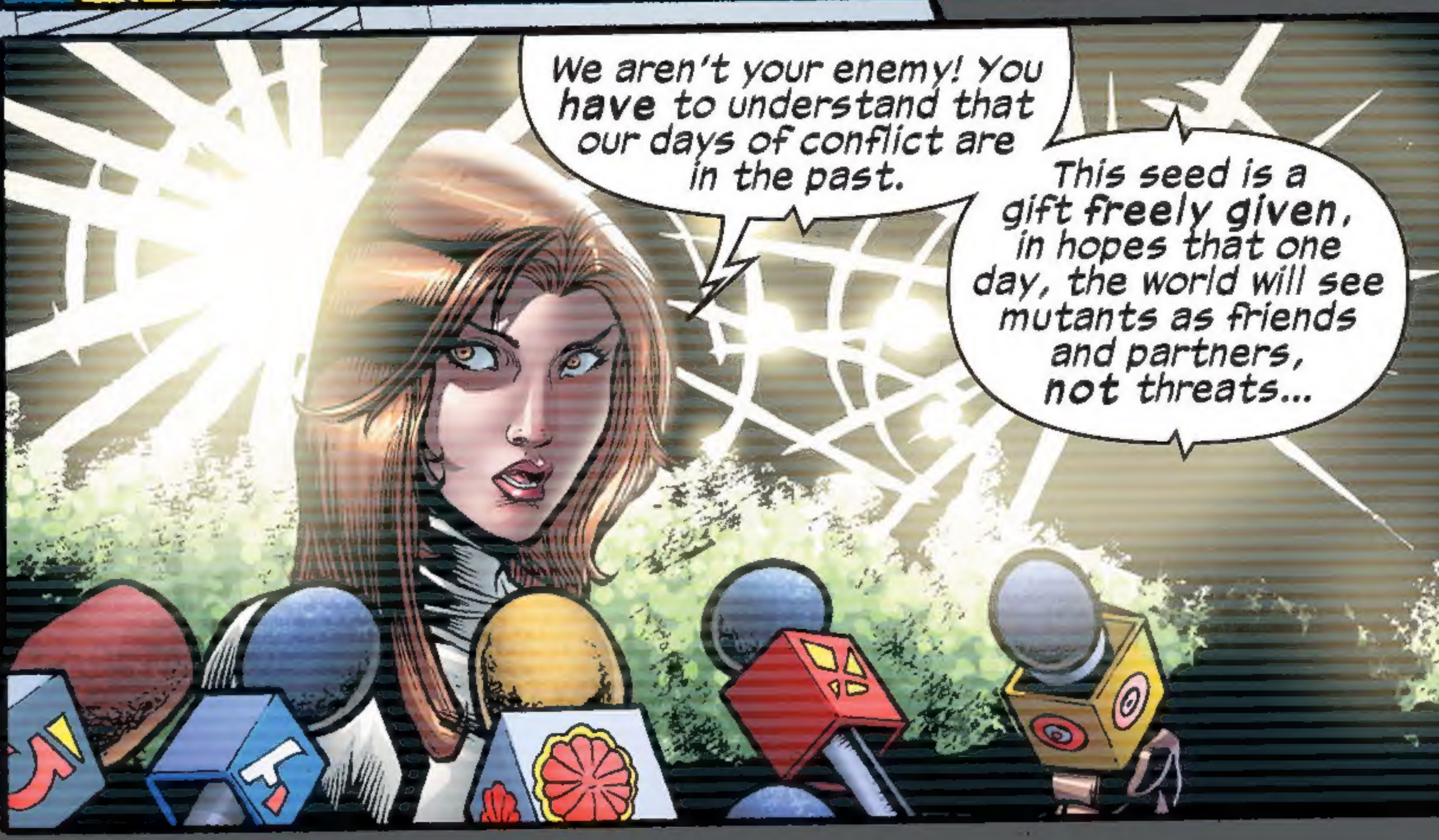
Katherine Ann Pryde



...Tony Stark telling the press that Stark Industries will perform any necessary testing before distributing the seed...

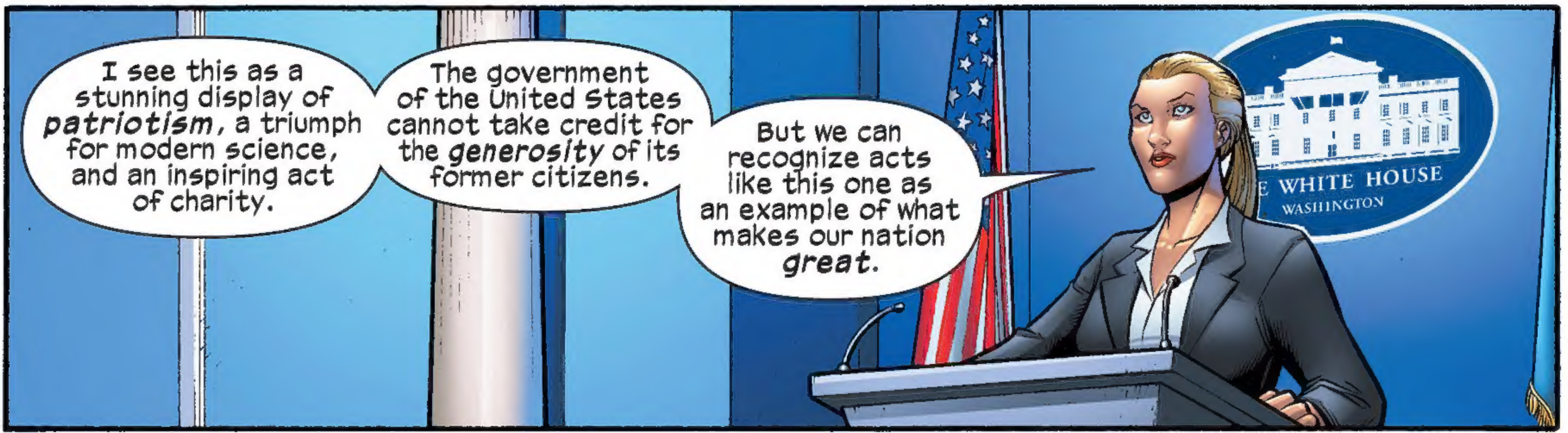
Honestly, everyone wins here.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE SEED'S REVELATION · PRESIDENT ROGERS ADDRESSES TH



We aren't your enemy! You have to understand that our days of conflict are in the past.

This seed is a gift freely given, in hopes that one day, the world will see mutants as friends and partners, not threats...



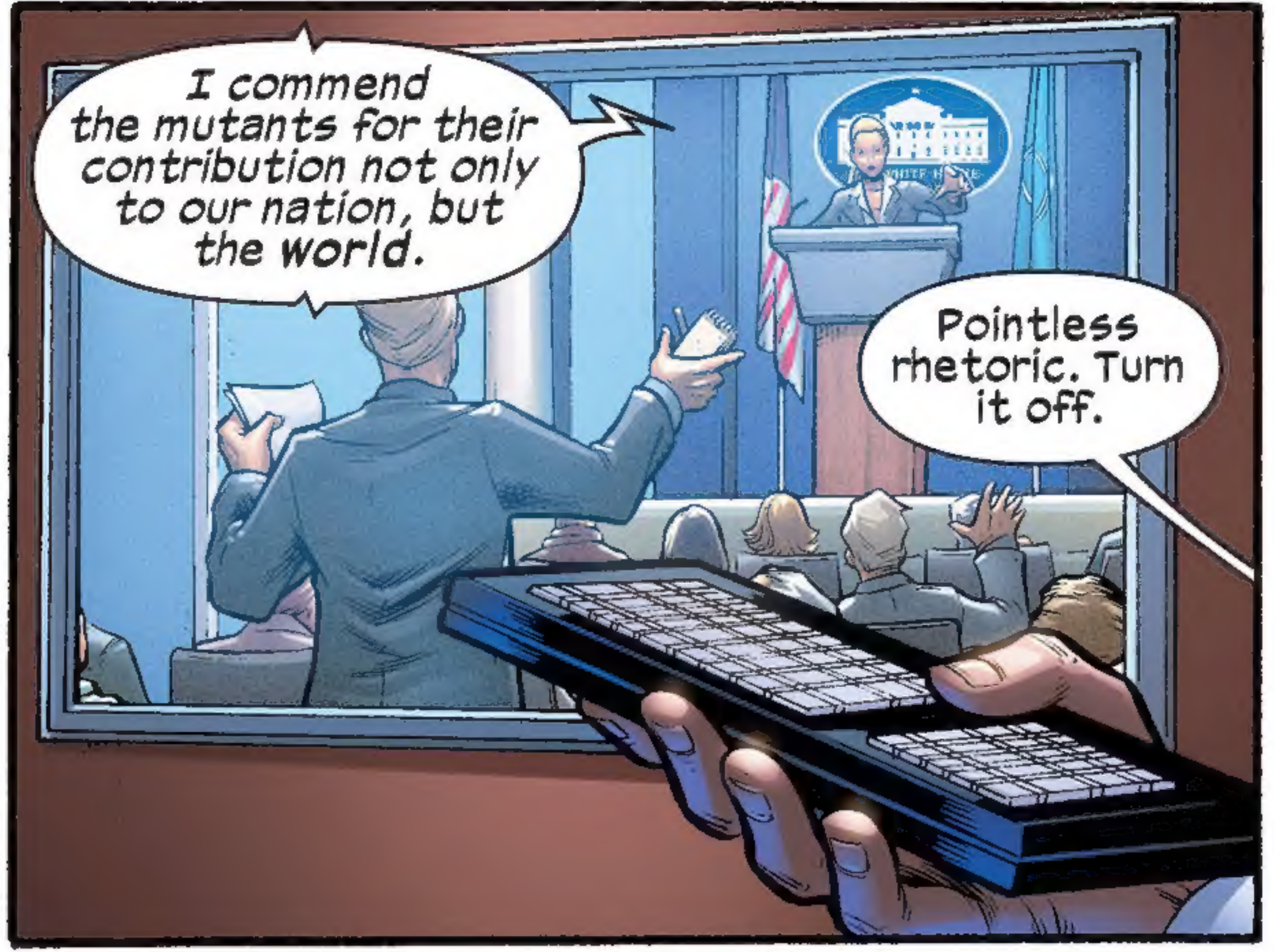
I see this as a stunning display of patriotism, a triumph for modern science, and an inspiring act of charity.

The government of the United States cannot take credit for the generosity of its former citizens.

But we can recognize acts like this one as an example of what makes our nation great.

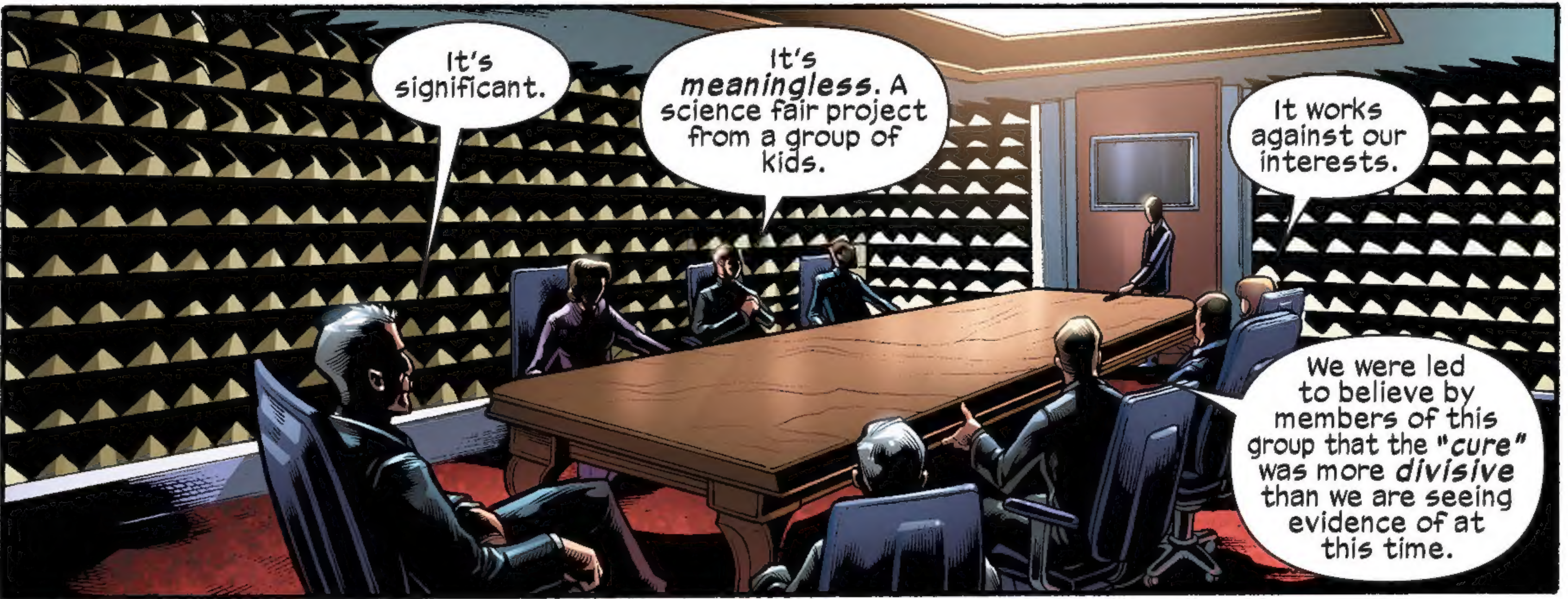


Ms. Danvers, as chief of staff to President Rogers, what do you think about the economic impact of the seed?



I commend the mutants for their contribution not only to our nation, but the world.

Pointless rhetoric. Turn it off.



It's significant.

It's meaningless. A science fair project from a group of kids.

It works against our interests.

We were led to believe by members of this group that the "cure" was more divisive than we are seeing evidence of at this time.

We cannot proceed as planned with a volatile mutant population.

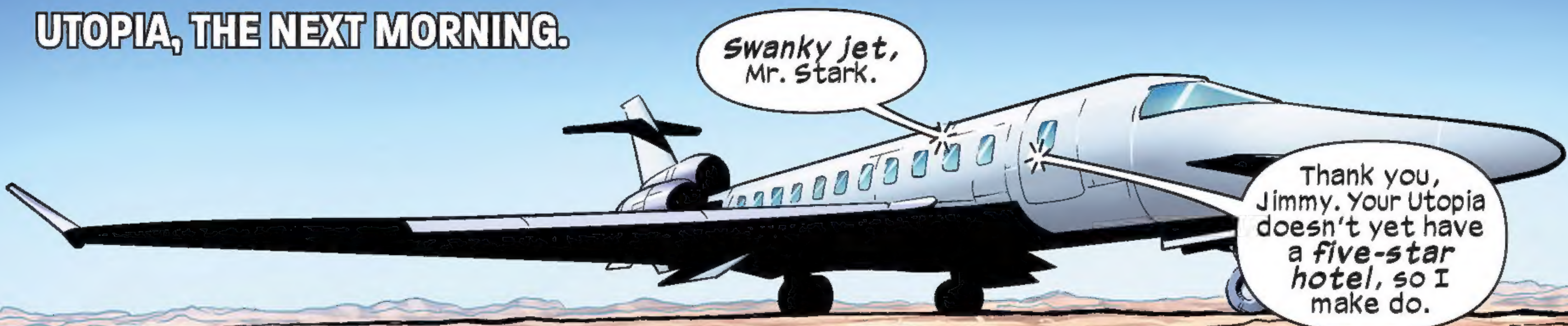
This reservation should have brushed them into the shadows. Did we not believe they would dwindle and disappear?

For God's sake, there are, what, all of twenty of them left?

We can make it fewer...



UTOPIA, THE NEXT MORNING.



Swanky jet, Mr. Stark.

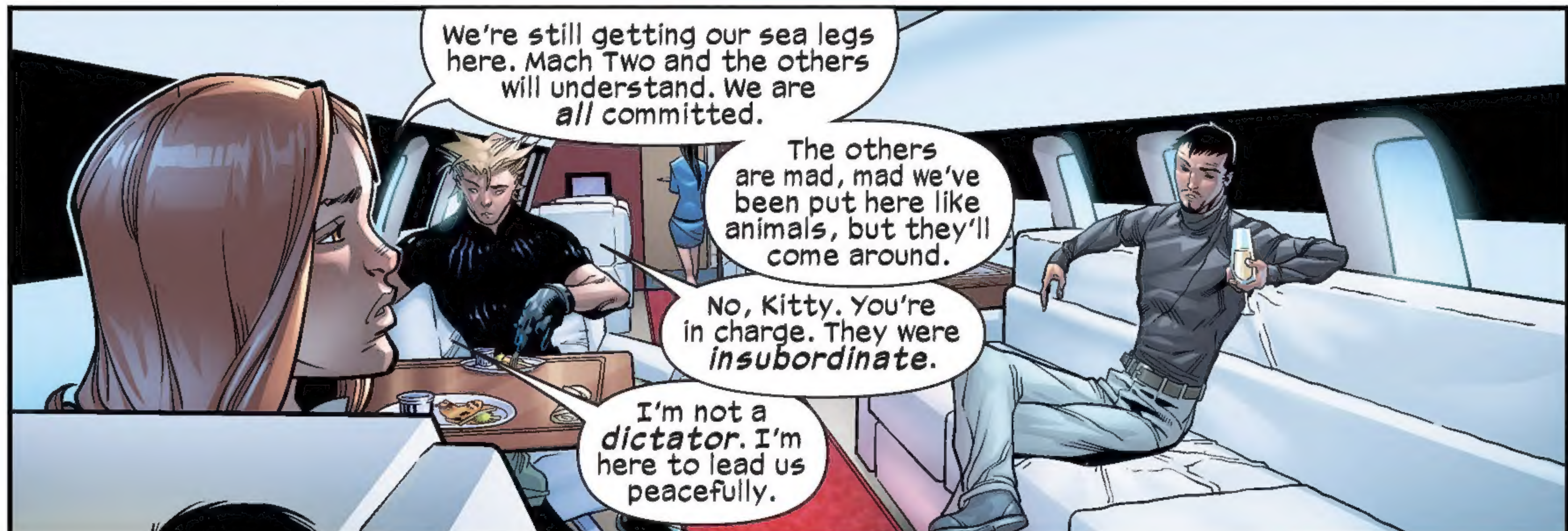
Thank you, Jimmy. Your Utopia doesn't yet have a *five-star hotel*, so I make do.



Although, after the events of the day, who knows how far you may rise? Remember, the charitable hand needs a *strong arm*.

We've done the world a favor, Mr. Stark. We don't need to be a military entity.

What I mean is being willing to *defend yourself*. Perhaps even from internal threats which I hear, you've already had.



We're still getting our sea legs here. Mach Two and the others will understand. We are *all* committed.

The others are mad, mad we've been put here like animals, but they'll come around.

No, Kitty. You're in charge. They were *insubordinate*.

I'm not a *dictator*. I'm here to lead us peacefully.



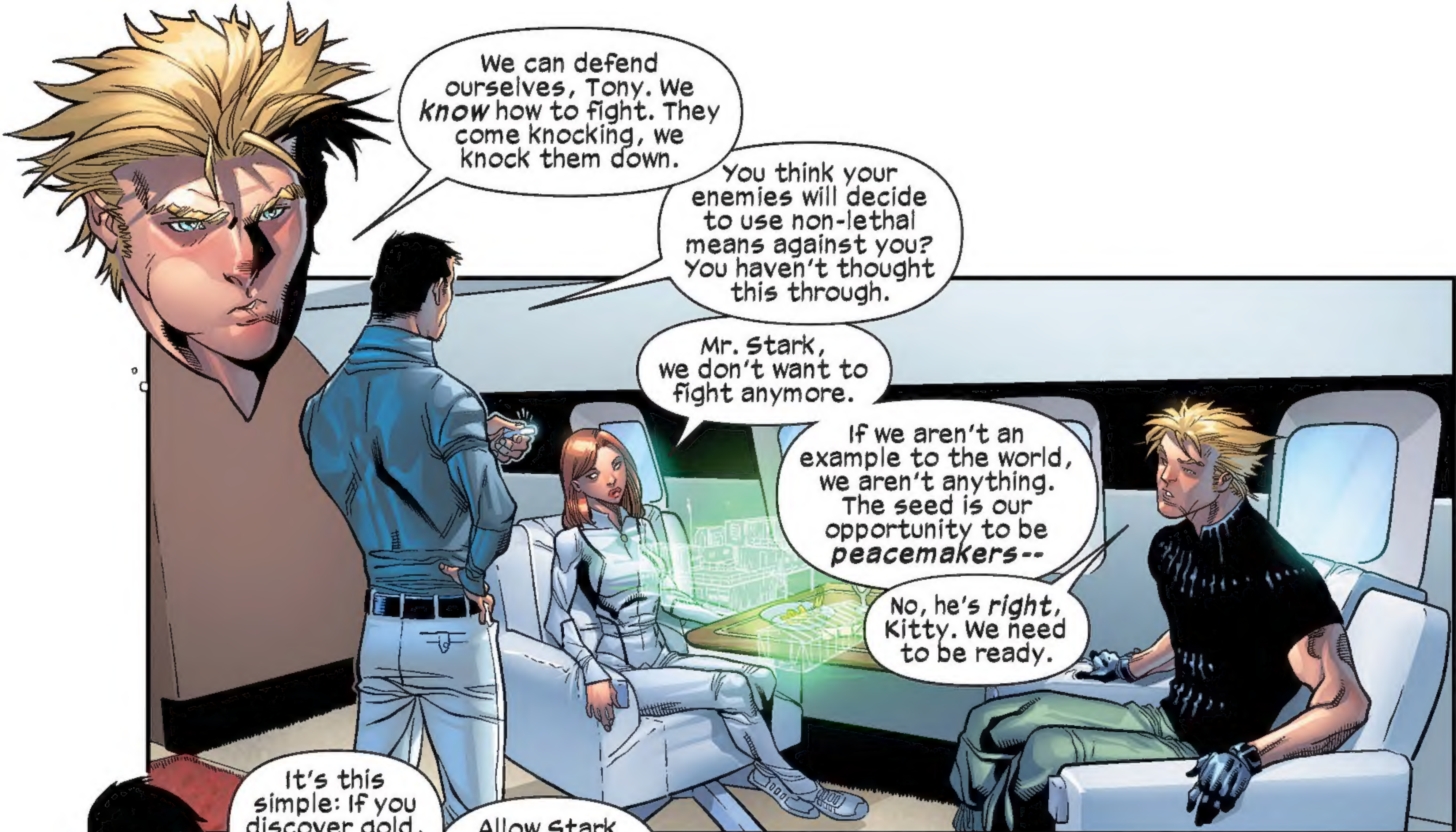
That's fine, Kitty. Your internal politics I leave to you but like it or not, this seed makes you a *major player* in the world's markets. You must be savvy.

You must be prepared for *backlash*.



If we prepare for battle, then we invite war.

War, Kitty, never *waits* for an invitation.



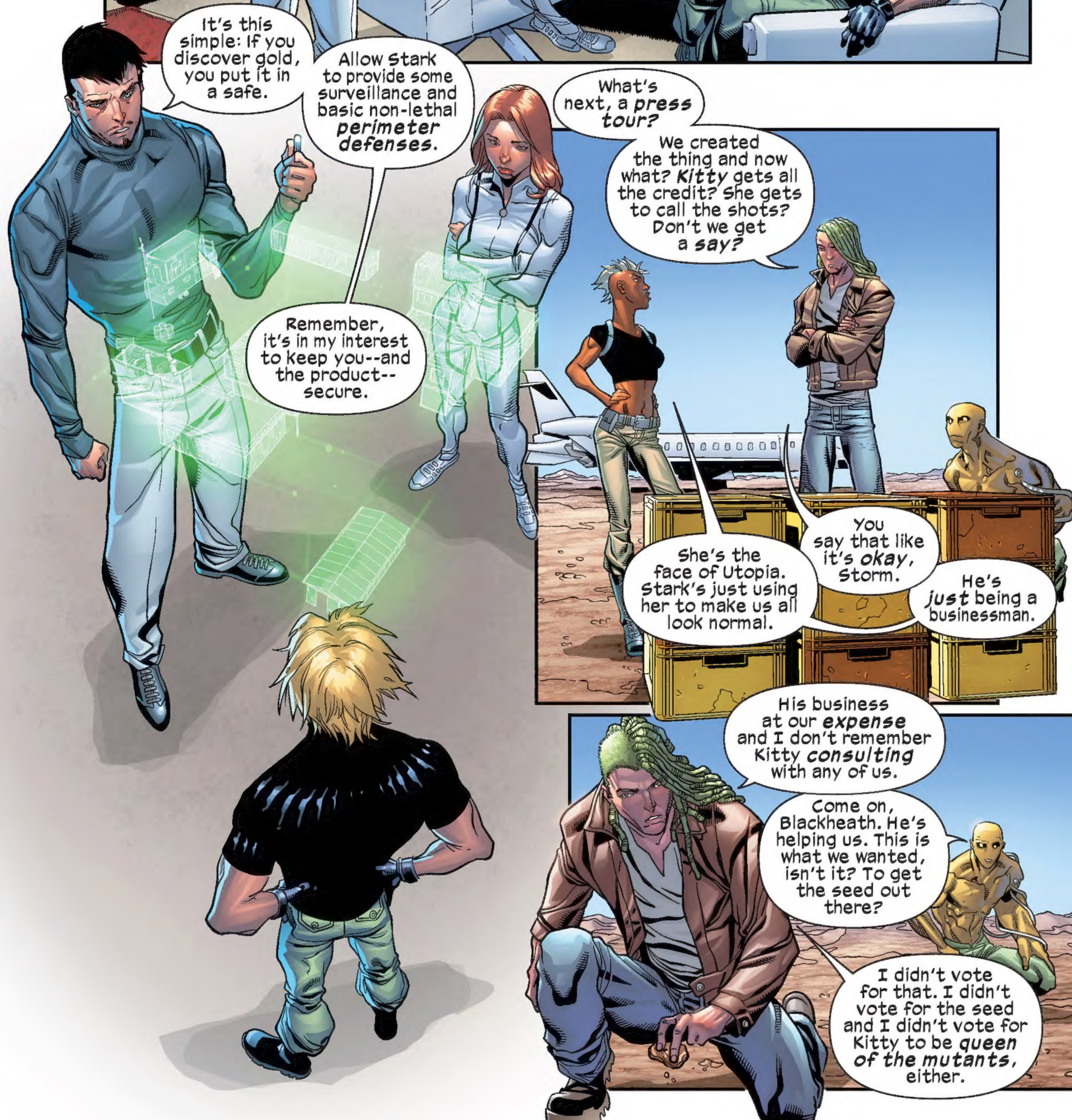
We can defend ourselves, Tony. We know how to fight. They come knocking, we knock them down.

You think your enemies will decide to use non-lethal means against you? You haven't thought this through.

Mr. Stark, we don't want to fight anymore.

If we aren't an example to the world, we aren't anything. The seed is our opportunity to be peacemakers--

No, he's right, Kitty. We need to be ready.



It's this simple: If you discover gold, you put it in a safe.

Allow Stark to provide some surveillance and basic non-lethal perimeter defenses.

What's next, a press tour?

We created the thing and now what? Kitty gets all the credit? She gets to call the shots? Don't we get a say?

Remember, it's in my interest to keep you--and the product--secure.

She's the face of Utopia. Stark's just using her to make us all look normal.

You say that like it's okay, Storm.

He's just being a businessman.

His business at our expense and I don't remember Kitty consulting with any of us.

Come on, Blackheath. He's helping us. This is what we wanted, isn't it? To get the seed out there?

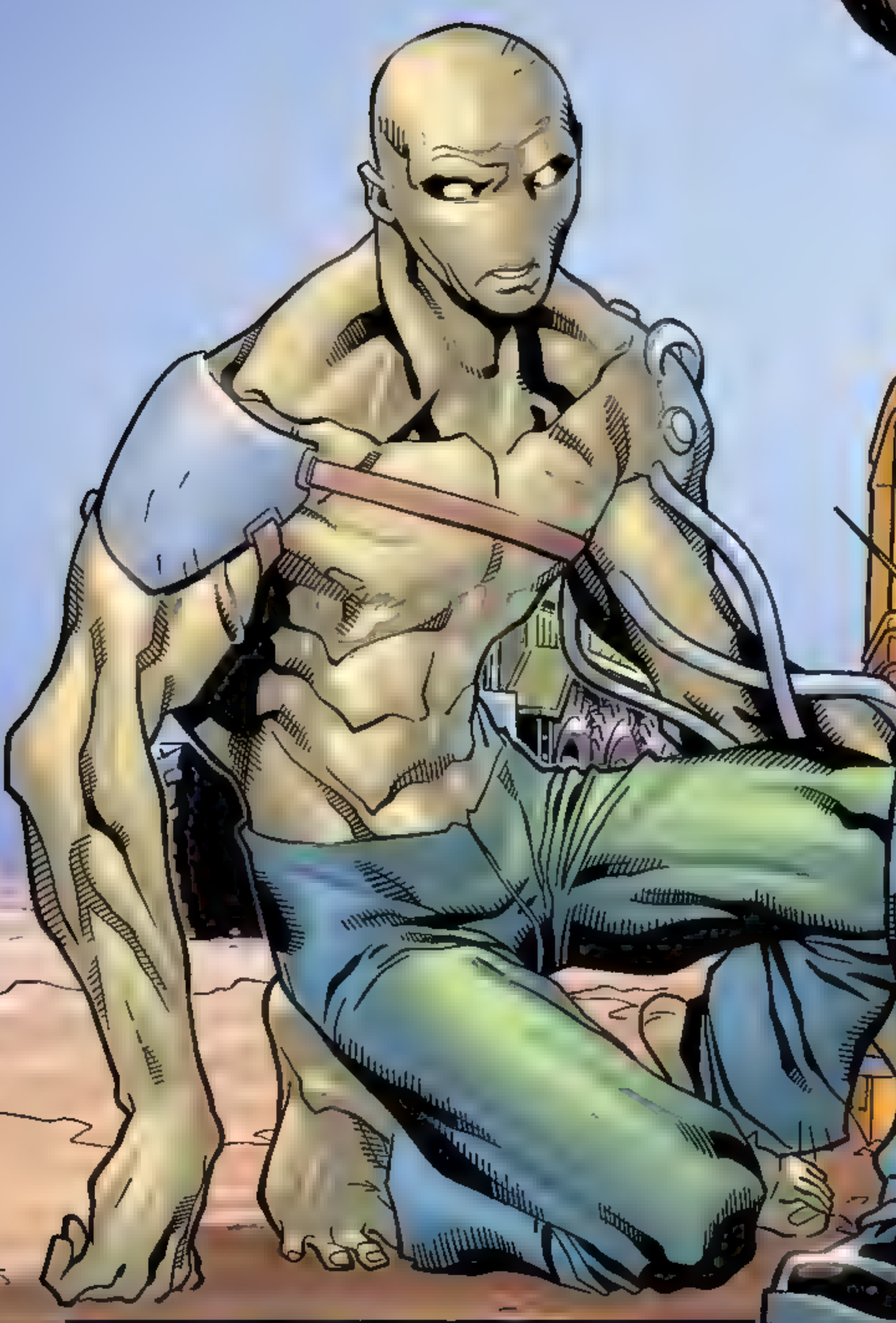
I didn't vote for that. I didn't vote for the seed and I didn't vote for Kitty to be queen of the mutants, either.



Well it doesn't matter, anyway. The point was to help to make peace. To share this with the world.

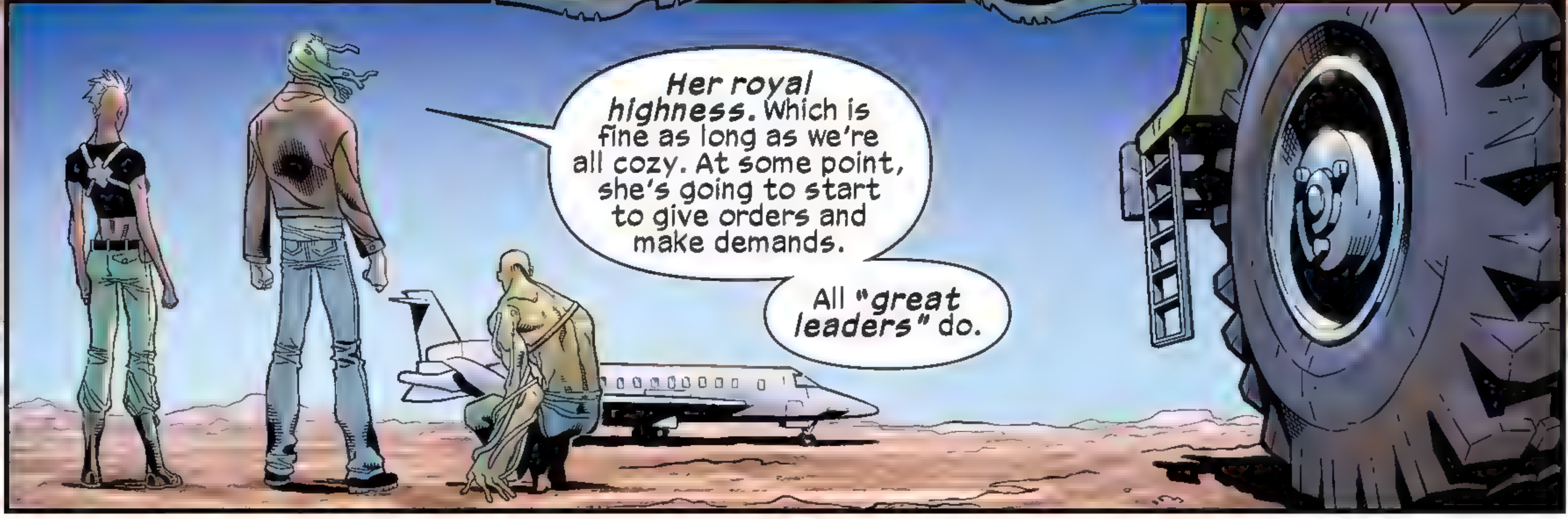
Bah. Peace is *your* silly ideal, Zero. Who *cares* about peace? Did the world reach out and offer it to us? *No*.

Bitter, bitter man.



You were in the same camps as me, Storm. Maybe I'm bitter but I call it just being *realistic*. The world was content to look the other way while we were *abused*.

Until Kitty came along.



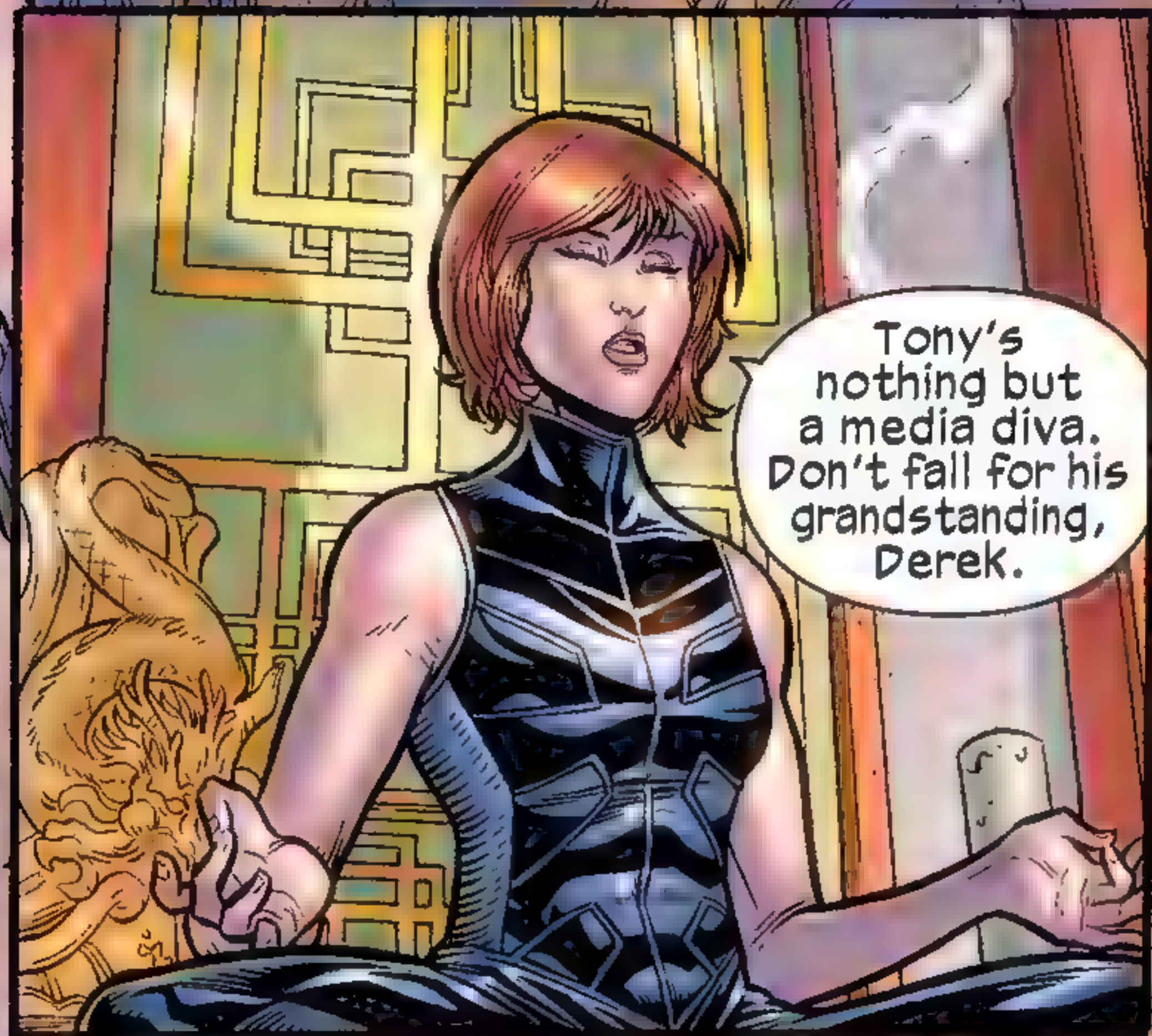
Her royal highness. Which is fine as long as we're all cozy. At some point, she's going to start to give orders and make demands.

All "*great leaders*" do.

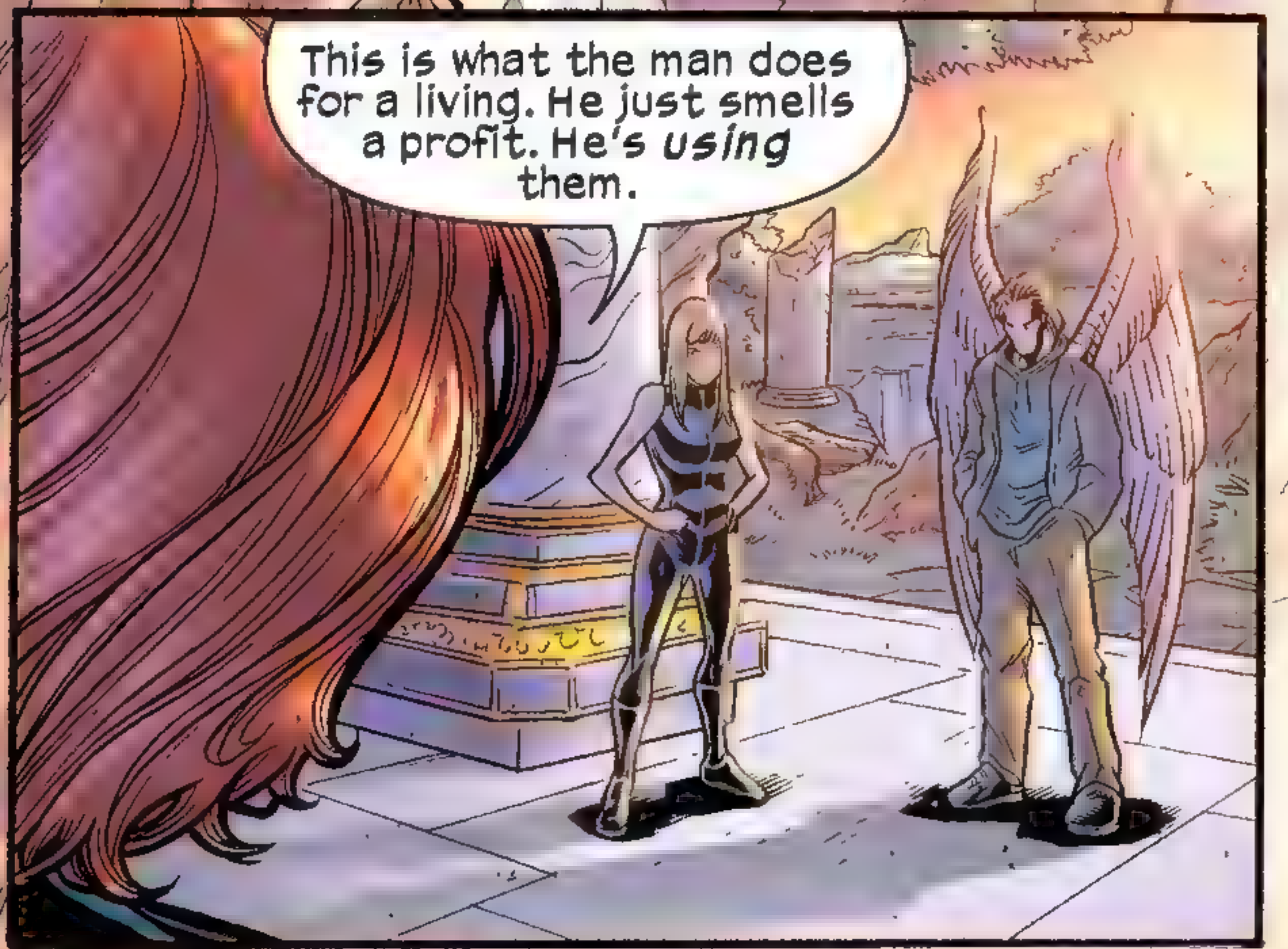
TIAN.

"Tony Stark is still in Utopia."

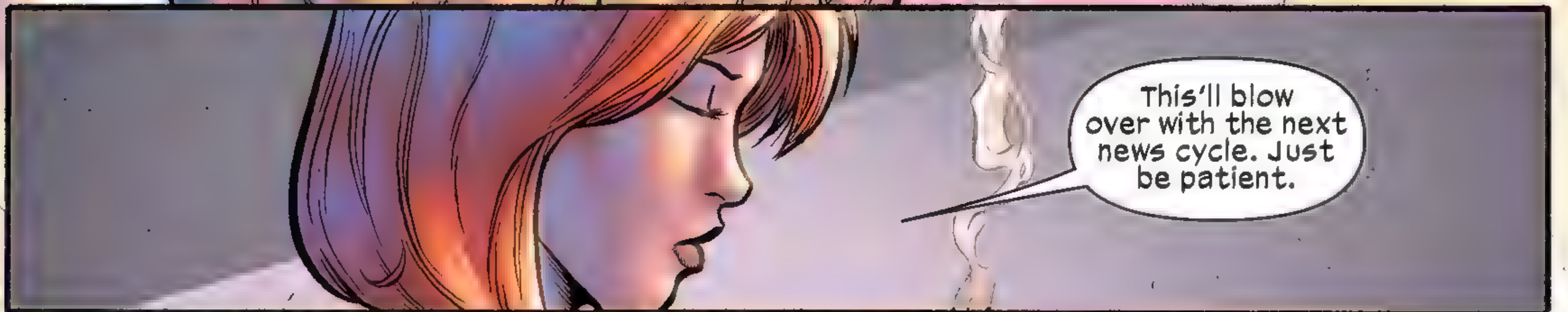
"He's trying to help Kitty and the others."



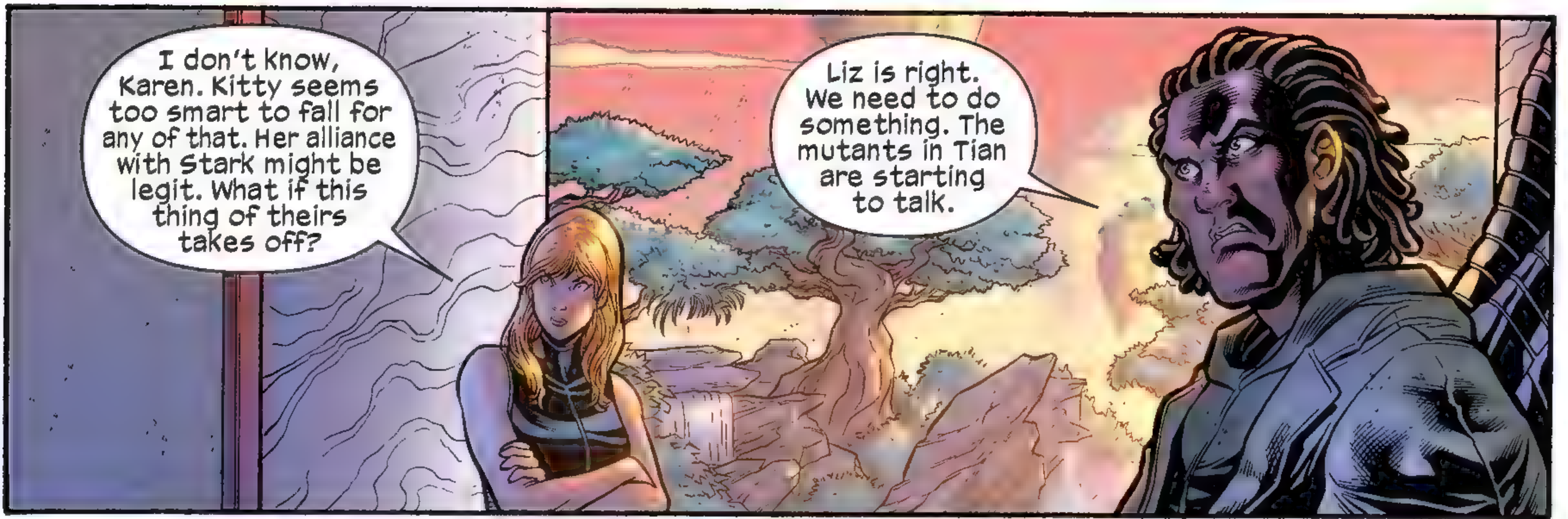
Tony's nothing but a media diva. Don't fall for his grandstanding, Derek.



This is what the man does for a living. He just smells a profit. He's *using* them.

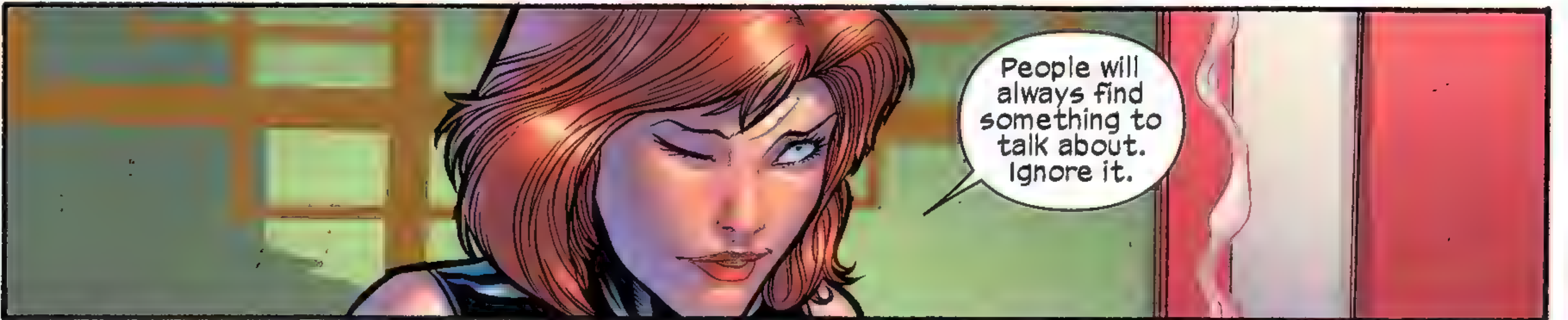


This'll blow over with the next news cycle. Just be patient.

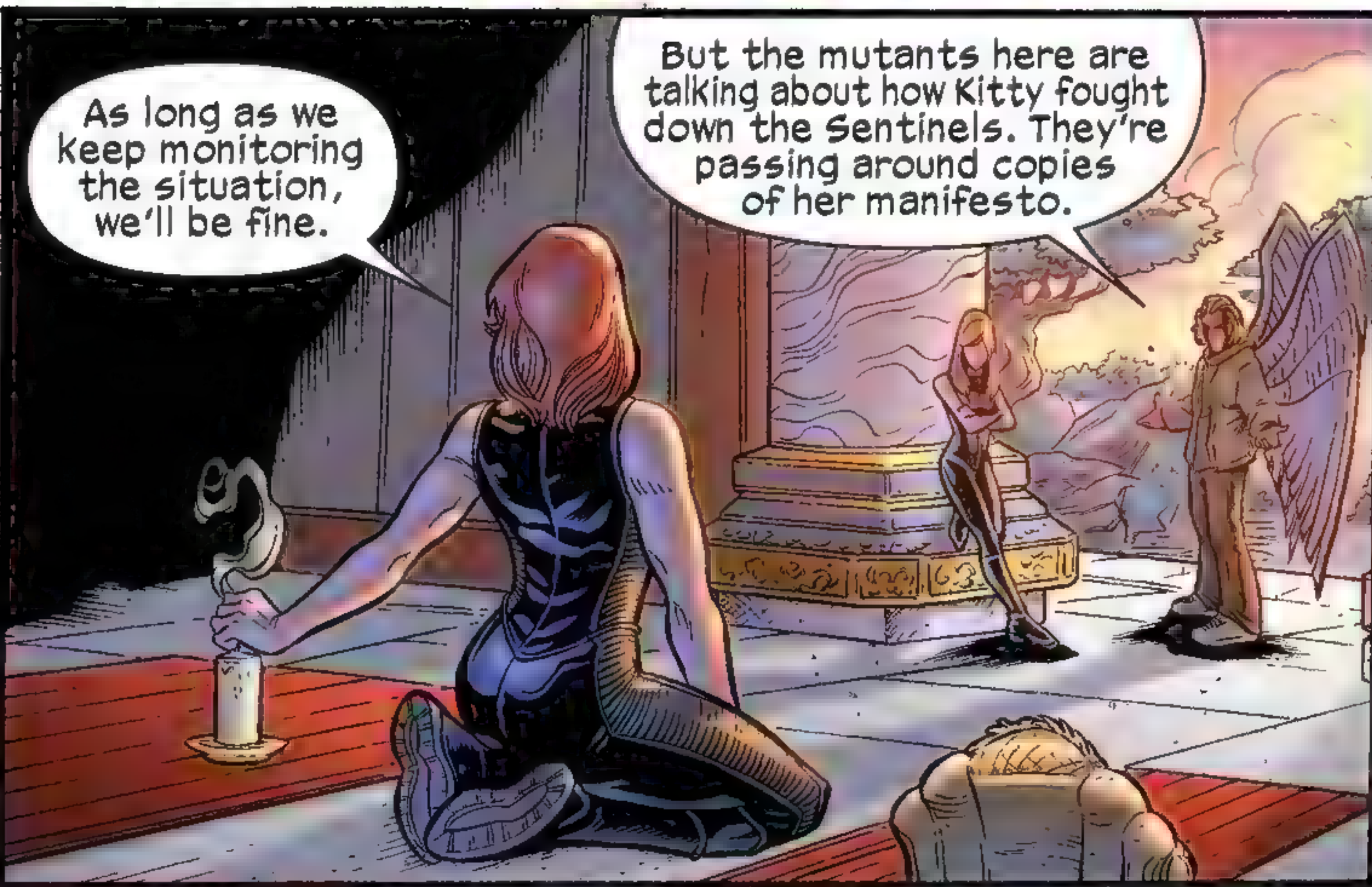


I don't know, Karen. Kitty seems too smart to fall for any of that. Her alliance with Stark might be legit. What if this thing of theirs takes off?

Liz is right. We need to do something. The mutants in Tian are starting to talk.

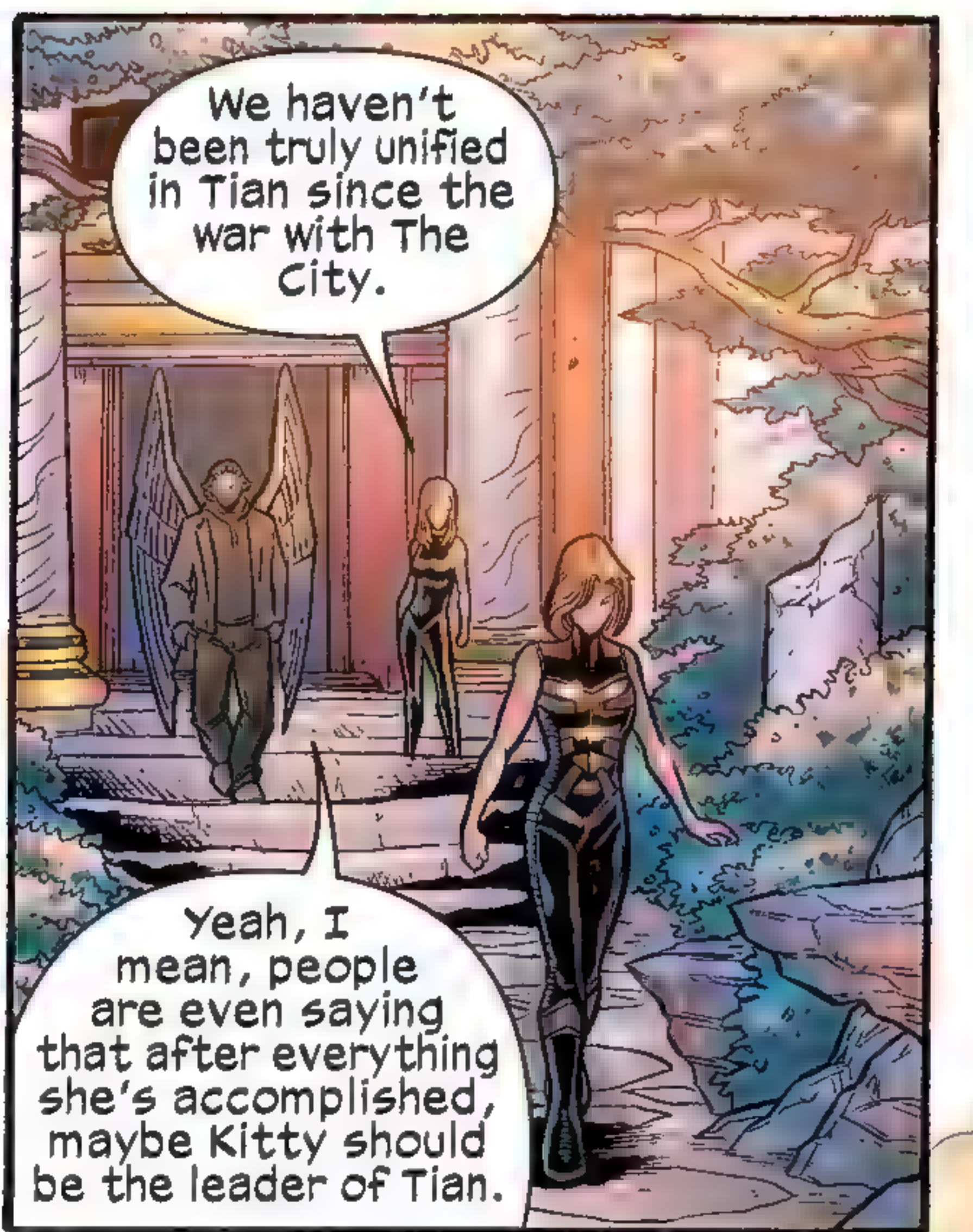


People will always find something to talk about. Ignore it.



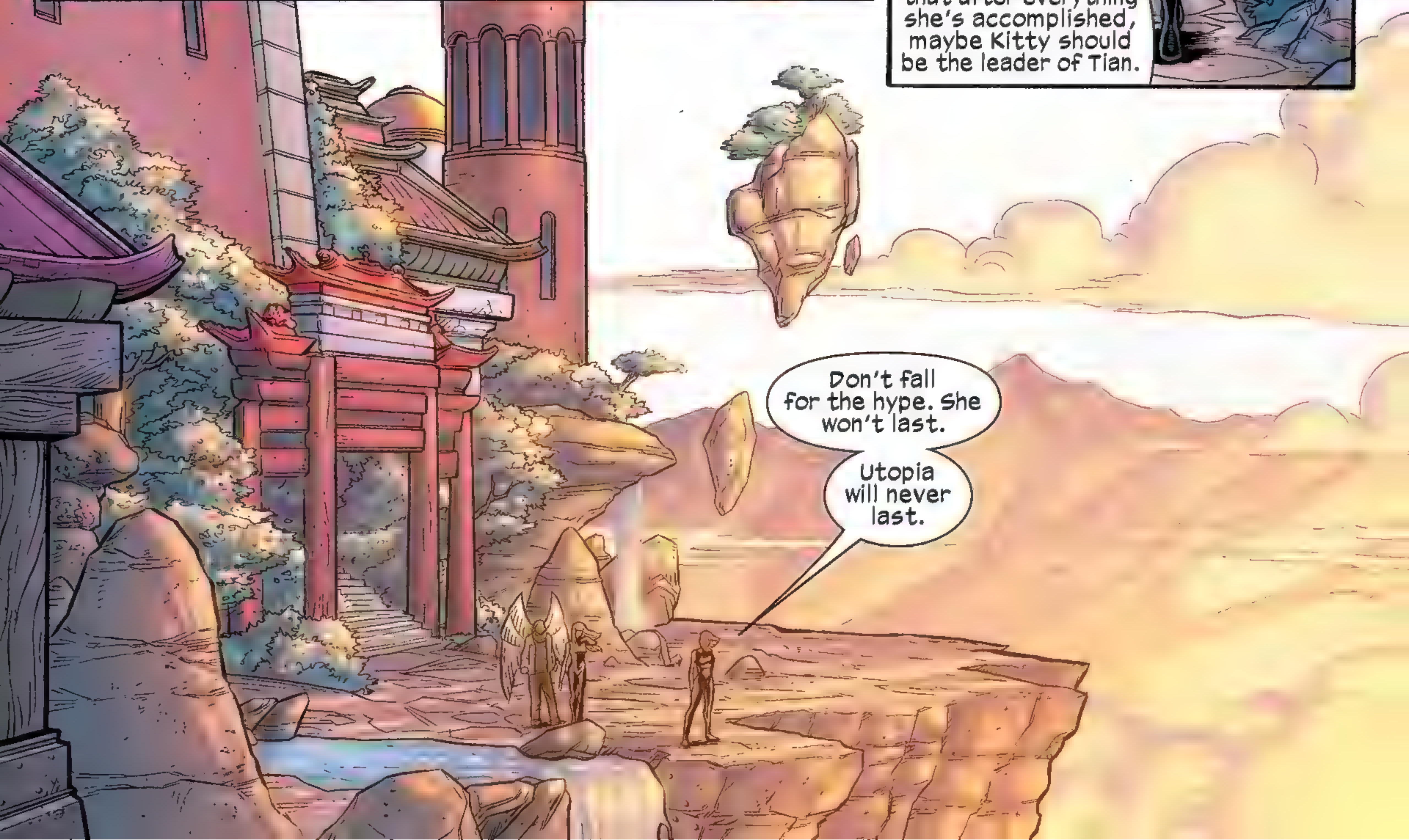
As long as we keep monitoring the situation, we'll be fine.

But the mutants here are talking about how Kitty fought down the Sentinels. They're passing around copies of her manifesto.



We haven't been truly unified in Tian since the war with The City.

Yeah, I mean, people are even saying that after everything she's accomplished, maybe Kitty should be the leader of Tian.



Don't fall for the hype. She won't last.

Utopia will never last.

UTOPIA.

The humans cast us out to a patch of dry rock and now Kitty makes them a peace offering?

It's *disgusting*.

We shouldn't have stopped fighting the humans.

We should have *beaten* them. Beaten them until they were in the ground, and then we should have *kept* beating them.

If we had bled them dry we wouldn't be meeting in *ditches*, would we? We could *cast them* out wherever we liked.

And now our self-elected "*leader*" invites them to the dinner table.

I assume you have better ideas?

I'm thinking.

We can't rush into anything. We have to lay this trap carefully.


If you can suppress her phase powers, why wait? What are we sitting around for?

I would *happily* provide a distraction until--

No.

Just killing her does what? We're just the bad guy punks then.

We need to humiliate her. We need to *discredit* her.



I've been communicating with someone who can help.


She's en route now and if we can turn her, it'll be the key to unravelling Kitty's world.



Kitty is a *traitor*, both to our kind and to our future.


She's not one of us.

If revenge on the humans is our plan, Kitty's gotta get taken care of first. We need to get her out of the way.



You don't have to remind me...

...Kitty Pryde's been holding me back since New York City.

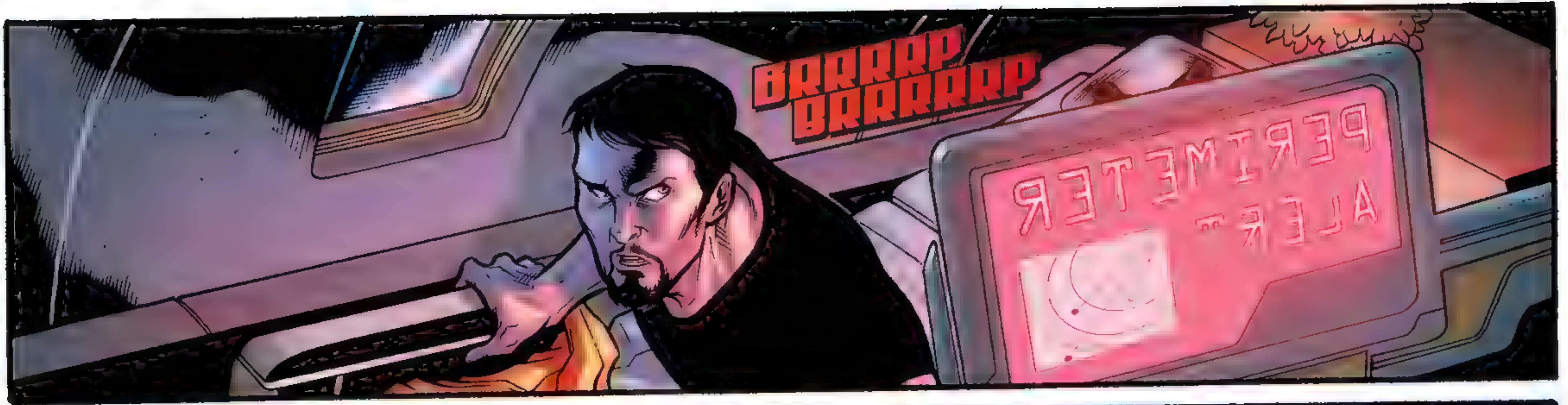


LATER.



CHK CHK CHK CHK





You gentlemen picked the wrong jet to sneak up on.

What the...?

I can't see!

I just disabled your infrared, gents. Sorry about that.

That's why you're seeing static instead of me kicking your butts.



BANG

No, no
no no!

Stop
fighting!

**SCOTT WRIGHT
AKA MICROMAX.**

**GARAB BASHUR
AKA BLACK BOX**

What were you thinking
bringing a *gun* to a
knife fight?

Everybody, stop
fighting!

Kitty,
they're too busy
shooting at us to
listen to you!

**BANG
BANG
BANG**

BANG

I'm not a
fan of mercenaries
who shoot at non-
combatants. In
fact I'm a--

PING

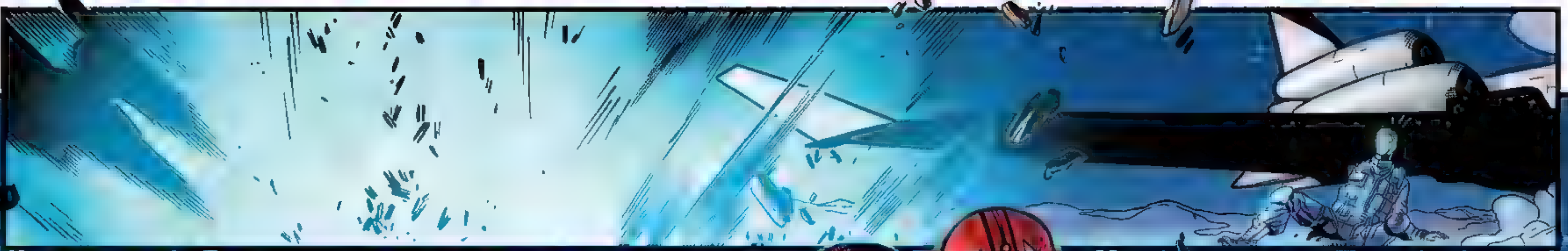
STARK INDUSTRIES

PING

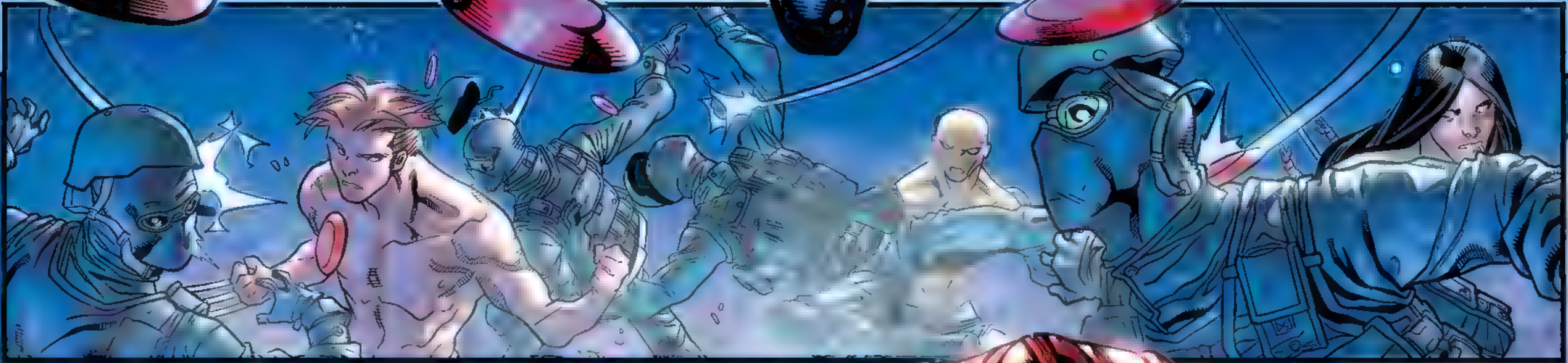
PING



Shooting at Kitty was one thing.



But. That's. My. Favorite. Jet.



No. It's all wrong. No!

We had a deal. We have a deal for protection!

Where is our protection? Captain America promised that the integrity of our borders would not be compromised.

Who sent you?

Answer her or these claws will go right through your head.

You.

This was a refuge! We were building peace! And you, you *slashed* and *cut* and *fought*!

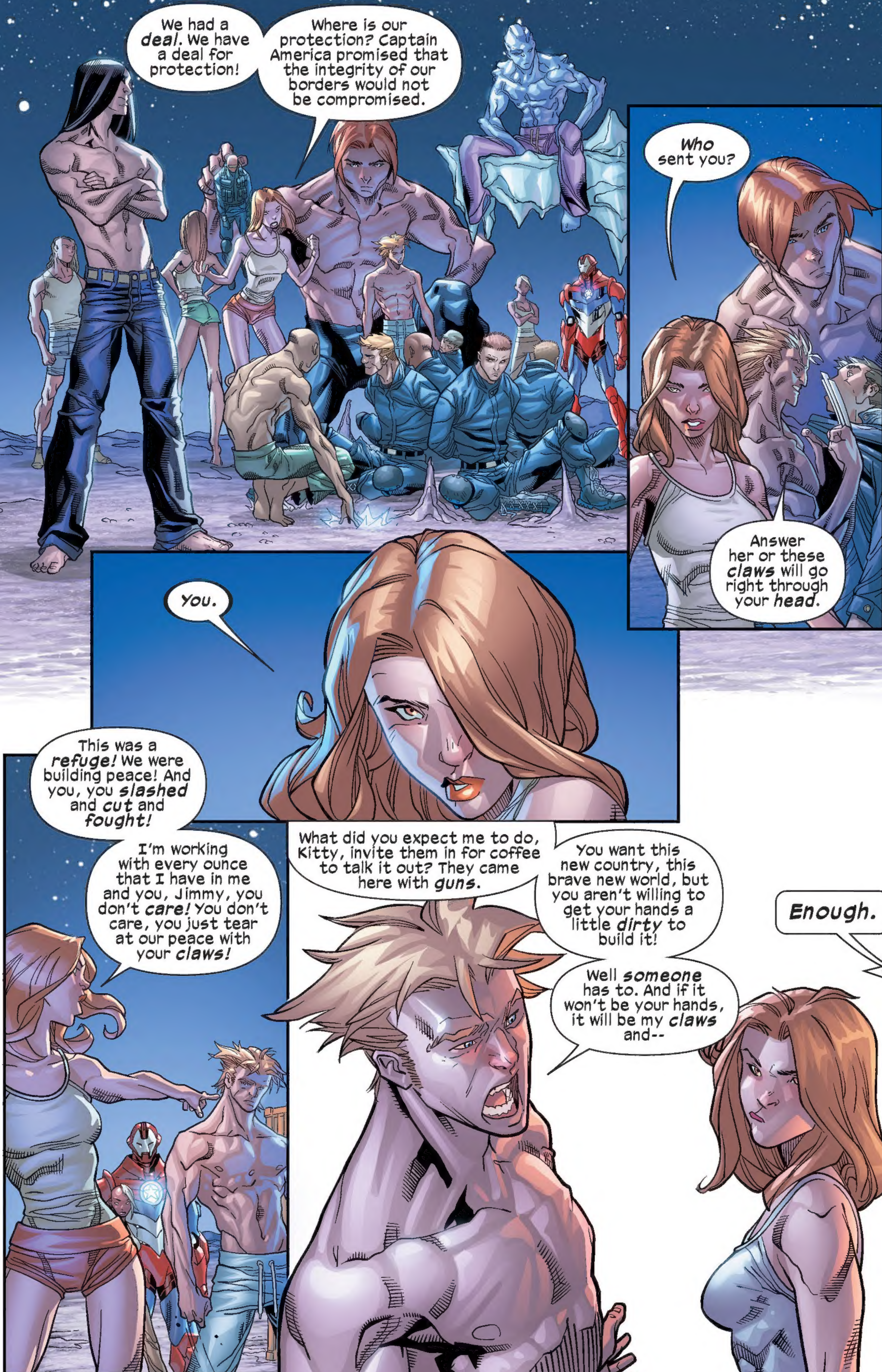
I'm working with every ounce that I have in me and you, Jimmy, you don't *care*! You don't care, you just tear at our peace with your *claws*!

What did you expect me to do, Kitty, invite them in for coffee to talk it out? They came here with *guns*.

You want this new country, this brave new world, but you aren't willing to get your hands a little *dirty* to build it!

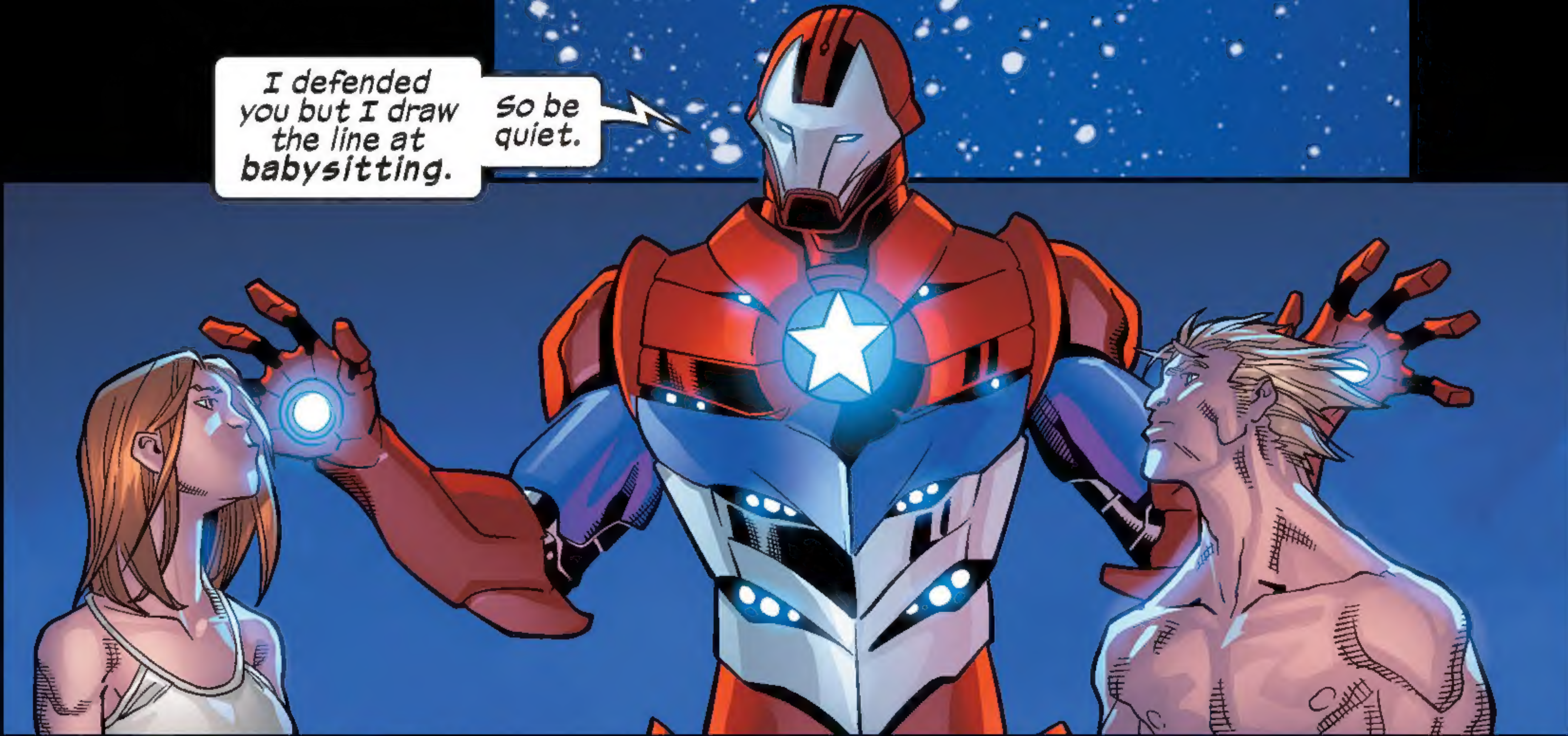
Enough.

Well *someone* has to. And if it won't be your hands, it will be my *claws* and--



I defended you but I draw the line at babysitting.

So be quiet.

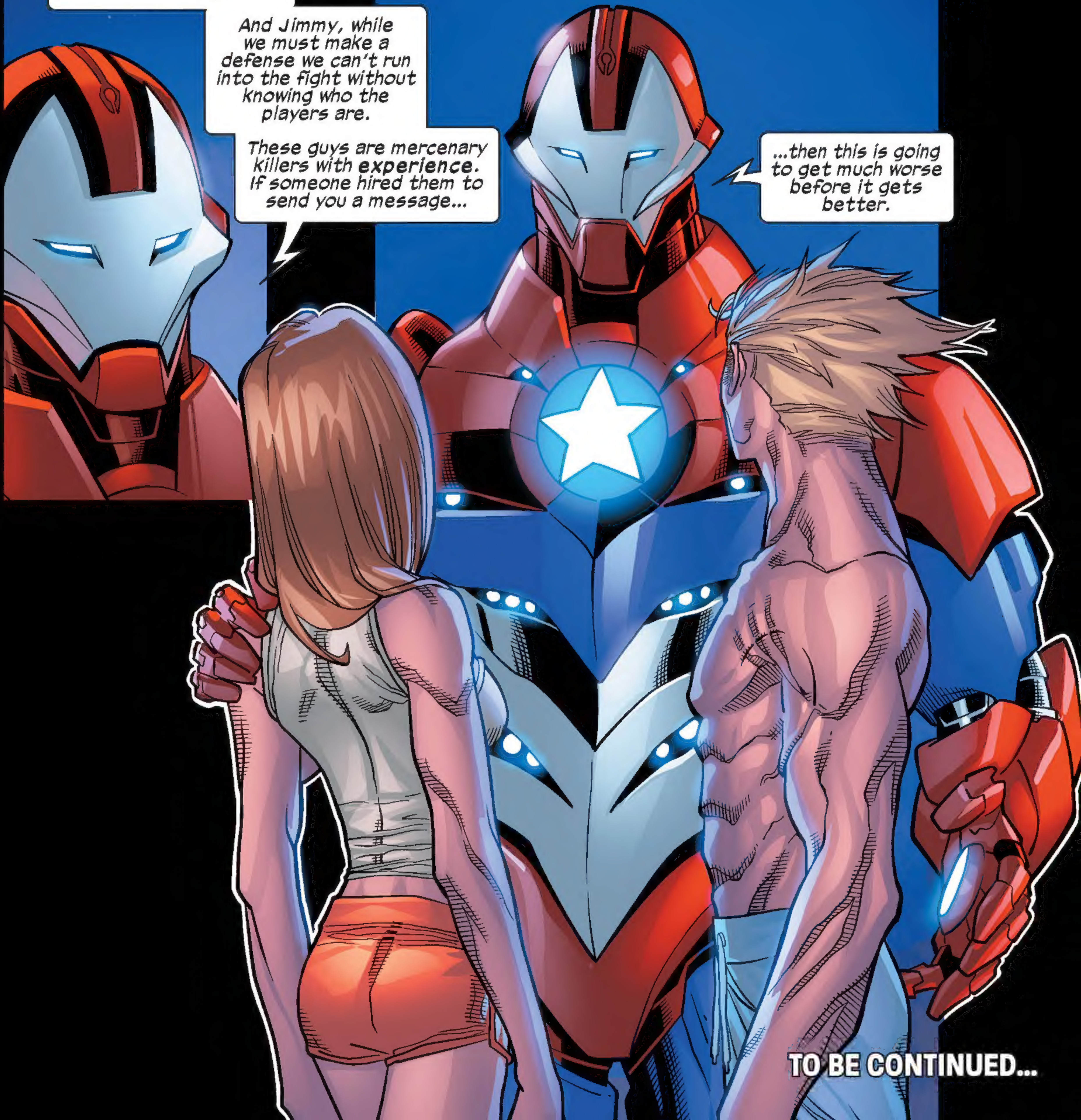


There are people in history who have changed the world, Kitty. If you want to be one of them, you need to know that change doesn't come easily.

And Jimmy, while we must make a defense we can't run into the fight without knowing who the players are.

These guys are mercenary killers with experience. If someone hired them to send you a message...

...then this is going to get much worse before it gets better.



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



**ULTIMATE COMICS
ULTIMATES #19
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**ULTIMATE COMICS
SPIDER-MAN #19
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