

MARVEL

WOOD • ASRAR • VLASCO • BELLAIRE

ULTIMATE COMICS™

ISSUE

25

NATURAL RESOURCES

X-MEN



**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:

Kitty Pryde's magnum opus, Utopia, might actually have a fighting chance. The mutants have used the sentient seed to turn Utopia into a functioning biosphere. Mutant refugees from all over the country have begun to come out of hiding, showing up at Utopia's doorstep eager to find a home that will finally accept them.

But Kitty and her friends shouldn't get too comfortable. There are still threats on the horizon.

Political officials in Washington, claiming that mutants are US property, have made moves to legally nullify President Cap's treaty and capitalize on mutant patents. Jean Grey, shedding her pseudonym, has decided to take Tian's espionage one step further and see Utopia with her own eyes. And on top of that, has Jimmy been secretly meeting with Mach Two's rebel crew?

With all of these enemies around her, who's left for Kitty to trust?

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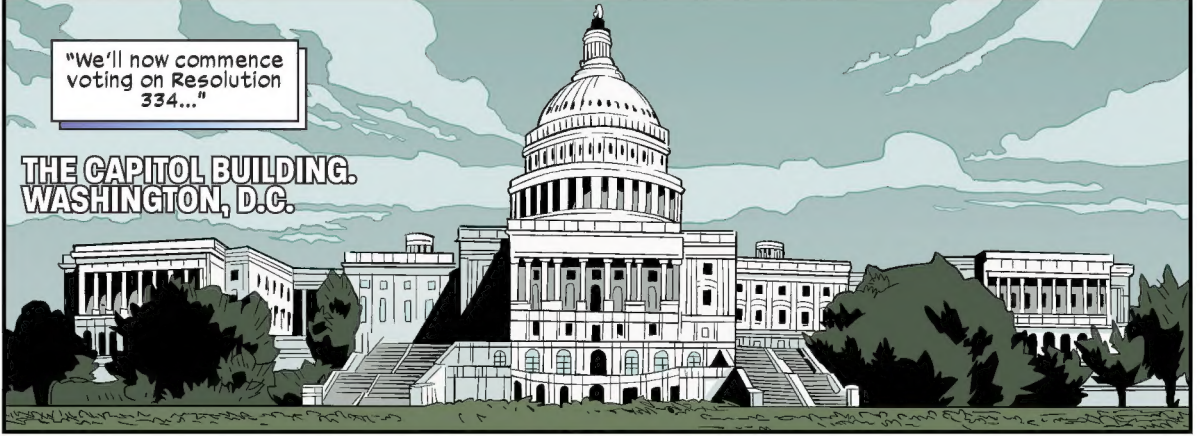
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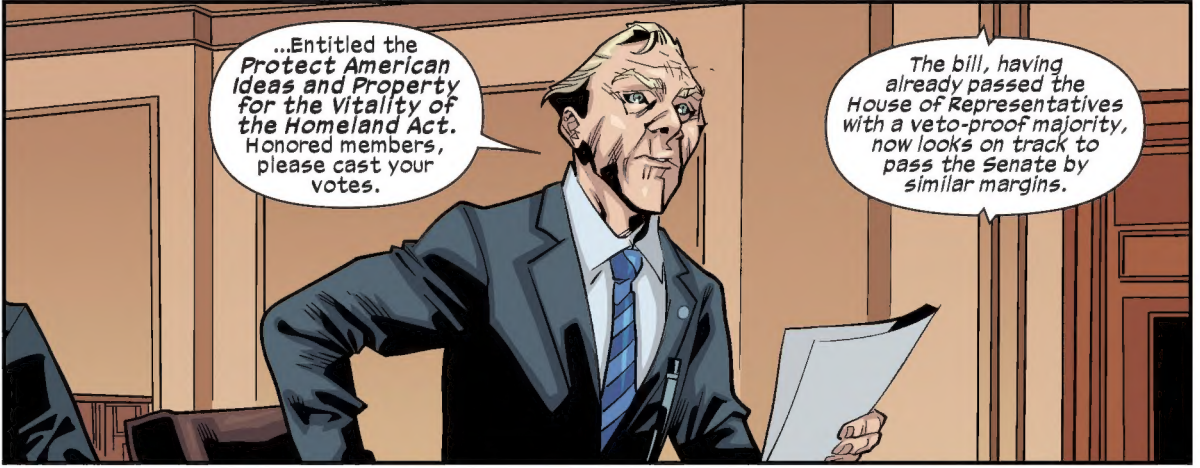
"We'll now commence voting on Resolution 334..."

THE CAPITOL BUILDING.
WASHINGTON, D.C.



...Entitled the *Protect American Ideas and Property for the Vitality of the Homeland Act*. Honored members, please cast your votes.

The bill, having already passed the House of Representatives with a veto-proof majority, now looks on track to pass the Senate by similar margins.



YEA 93 MAY 7

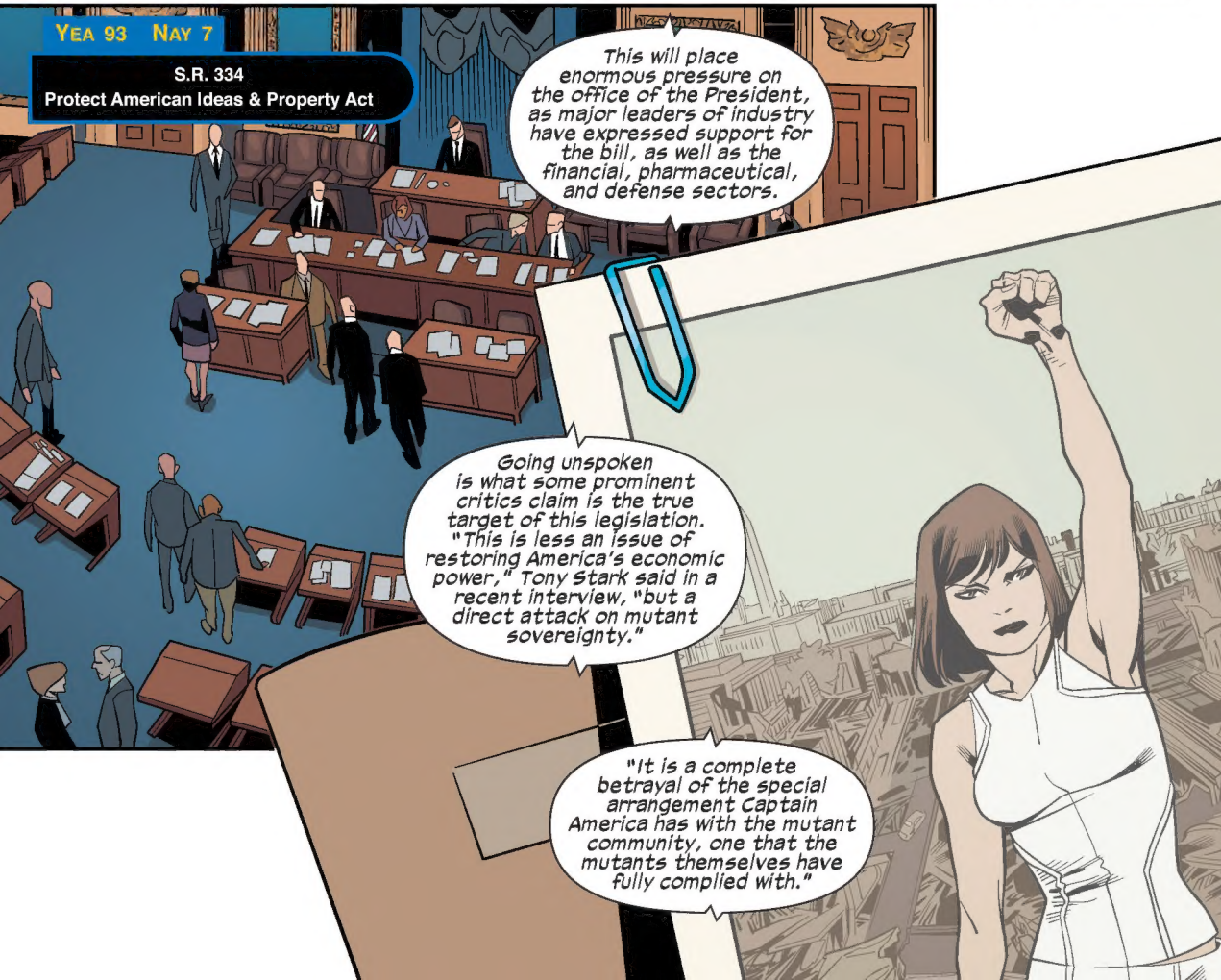
S.R. 334

Protect American Ideas & Property Act

This will place enormous pressure on the office of the President, as major leaders of industry have expressed support for the bill, as well as the financial, pharmaceutical, and defense sectors.

Going unspoken is what some prominent critics claim is the true target of this legislation. "This is less an issue of restoring America's economic power," Tony Stark said in a recent interview, "but a direct attack on mutant sovereignty."

"It is a complete betrayal of the special arrangement Captain America has with the mutant community, one that the mutants themselves have fully complied with."





AMARA AQUILLA
aka MAGMA.



SHOLA INKOSÌ



KITTY PRYDE



JIMMY HUDSON
aka WOLVERINE



NOMI BLUME
aka MACH TWO



MARIAN CARLYLE
aka ROGUE



ORORO MUNROE
aka STORM



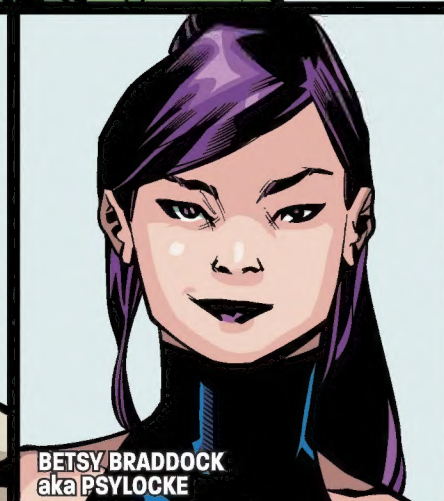
HISAKO ICHIKI
aka ARMOR



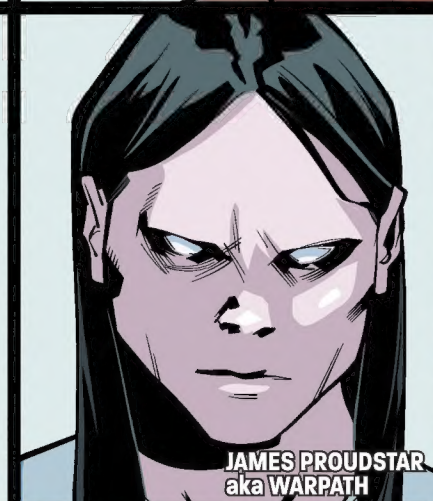
SCOTT WRIGHT
aka MICROMAX



KENJI UEDO
aka ZERO



BETSY BRADDOCK
aka PSYLOCKE



JAMES PROUDSTAR
aka WARPATH



SAM SMITHERS
aka BLACKHEATH



GARAB BASHUR
aka BLACK BOX



***NATURAL
RESOURCES
PART TWO***

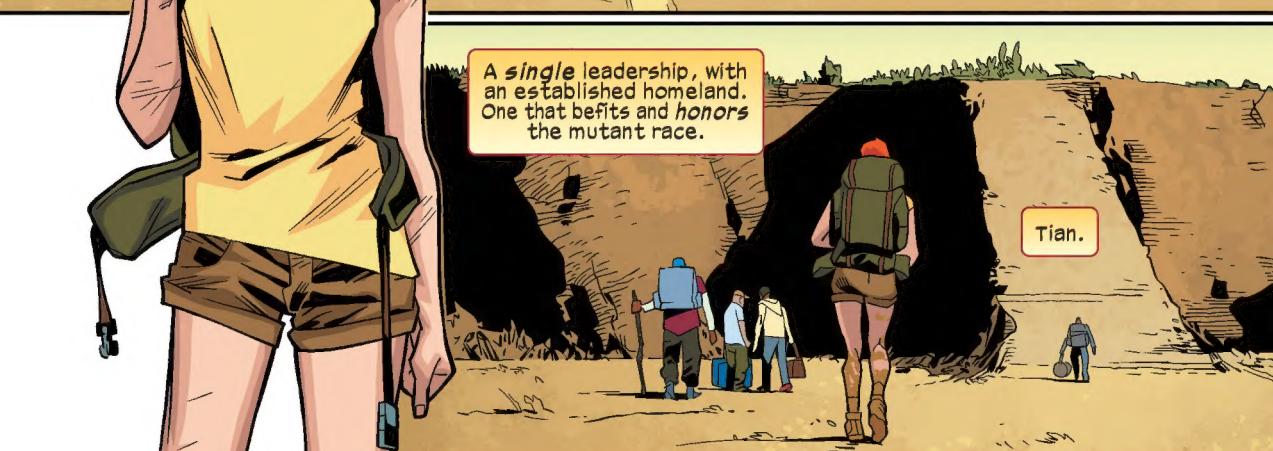
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VLASCO BELLAIRE



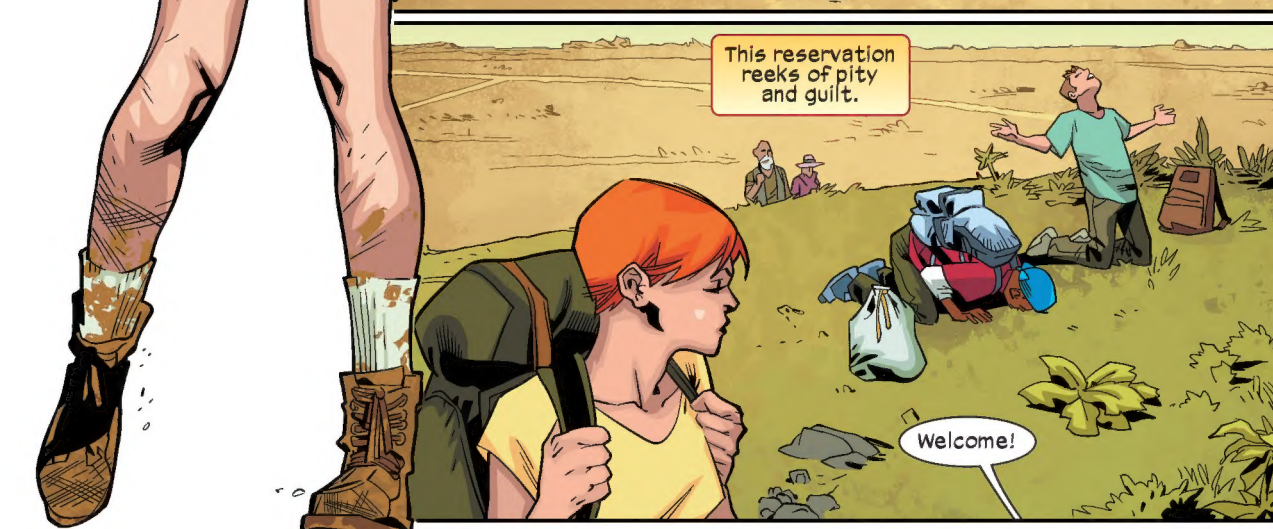
My name is Jean Grey.

I was Karen Grant for the longest time. Karen suited my needs, but times have changed. The times call for strong mutant leadership.



A single leadership, with an established homeland. One that befits and honors the mutant race.

Tian.



This reservation reeks of pity and guilt.

Welcome!



Not having second thoughts, I hope?

I'm Magma, by the way.



I know!

No...I just can't believe it. I can't believe I'm here.



I still feel that way *every single morning* when I wake up. It's, like, *amazing* here.

So let me tell you how it works, 'cuz I know you must be exhausted.

You can shower and change and eat, and we have temporary housing set up for new arrivals. We feel it's important not to rush getting you a permanent home, since most people like to help build theirs.

The sentient seed is involved in that process as well, believe it or not. She-- I call her a she-- is sorta in charge of how we use the trees and stuff.

You live in trees?

You haven't heard?

Where are you from, anyway?





From everywhere, it seems. I've been moving around a lot. My name's Jean.

I've heard about Utopia, but it's so amazing I had to assume it was all rumor and wishful thinking.

Magma?

It feels like *anything's* possible here.



Kitty, omg! You have to meet Jean!

...Jean?

Cutting my hair wasn't going to hide the real me.

So this is where the *real* disguise comes into play.



Hi.

I feel that moment of confusion fade away as she realizes she has no idea who I am.

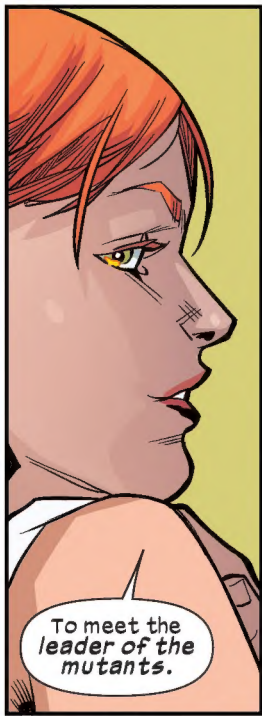


Welcome to Utopia. I hope you--



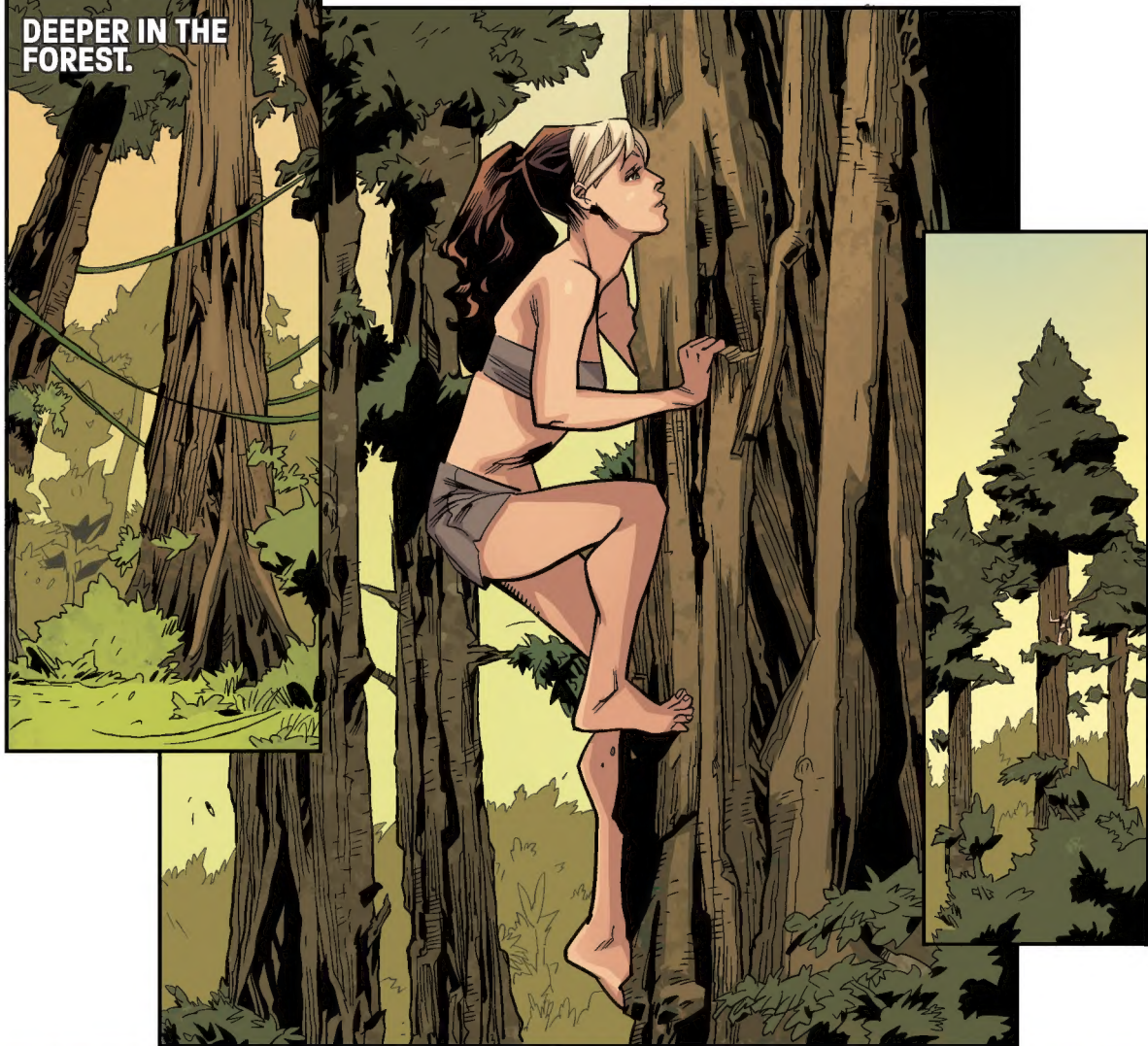
Oh!

I'm sorry, you...you have *no idea* what it's like to actually *meet* you.



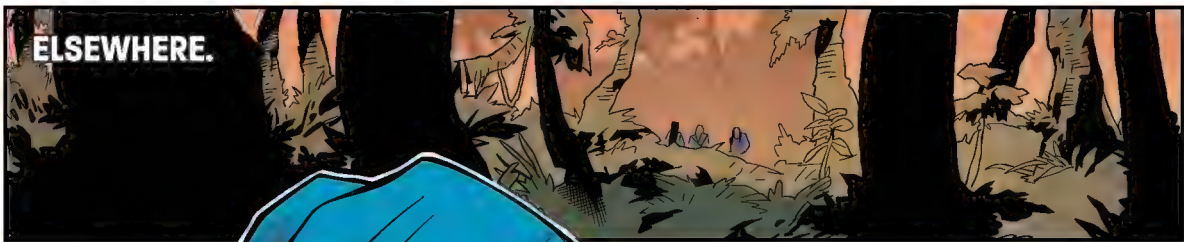
To meet the *leader of the mutants.*

DEEPER IN THE FOREST.





ELSEWHERE.



...
What?

You heard right, Nomi.



Yeah, that's right, Psylocke. Pry away, dig deep. You can see I'm not hiding anything.

James Hudson came to us with a totally valid proposal and I accepted.

On my behalf?

On everybody's behalf!



All the mutants, us as a group. Our collective protection.

I fought with Hudson in the liberation, and he's a solid dude. I don't like Kitty any more than you do, but I can work with claw-boy.

And there'll be a time when we'll all have to stand together to defend our nation.



That's all we agreed to.

wait, wait, wait, wait...

"...you agreed to team up?"

I'm not asking you to do anything now. I just need to know I can count on you.

We're the warrior class here. The protectors of the women and the kids. I love Kitty Pryde...

...But I can't buy into her pacifist philosophy. I'll support her all the way up until the point I can't.

I'll fight anyone, to the death if need be, to save Utopia.

You know you sound like **Mach Two** right now.

You sure you don't wanna **defect**, Hudson?

Don't joke.

Mach Two's a child. Kitty used to basically babysit her in the tunnels back in New York. Nomi **worshipped** her.

At some point she decided Kitty wasn't living up to whatever ideal Nomi has in her head, and to her that's worth pitting us against one another.

Don't let a temper tantrum bring down Utopia.

Look, all you have to do is agree to a common defense. That's **all** I'm asking.





Yeah, okay.
We can agree
to that.

If it comes
down to it, we're
on your side,
Hudson.

But since you're
gonna be the secret
muscle behind Kitty's
peaceful facade, you
make sure it never
gets to that point.

She's playing a dangerous
game, with the seed and
Tony Stark and her
stupid press
conferences.

She
thinks she's
untouchable.

Maybe.

But
that's why
I'm there.

And hey, come
to think of it, I *am*
going to ask you to
do something now.

Return the
handgun Mach
Two stole from
Kitty.

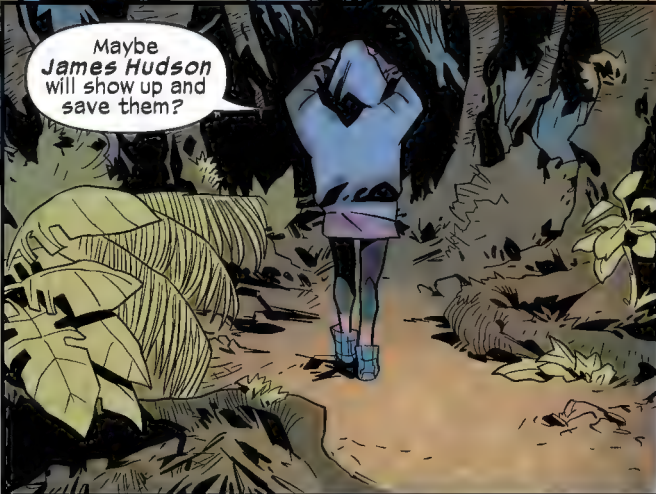
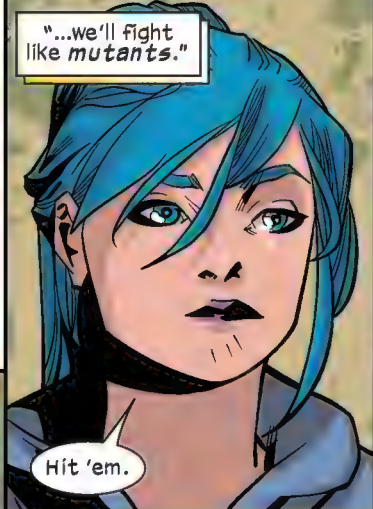
Why?

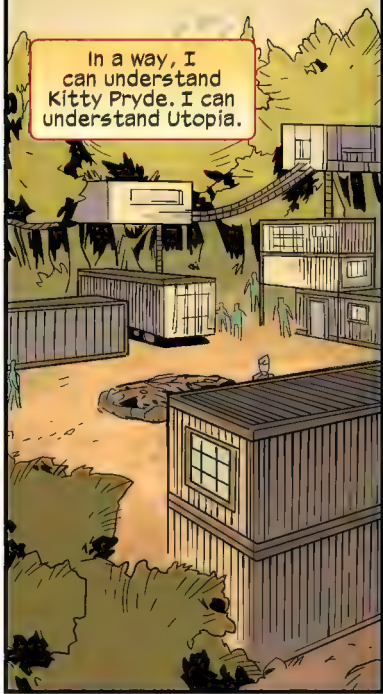
A gesture.
For me, not for
Kitty. And I'll
owe you one.

What are
you going to
do with it,
then?

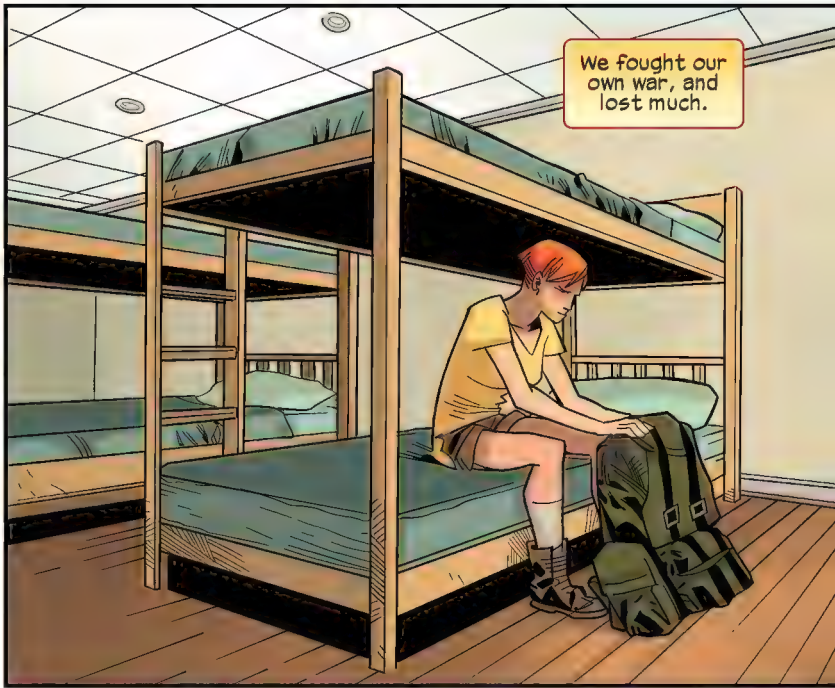
Get rid of
it, for good. It's
a disaster waiting
to happen, that
thing.

Next time
we fight for our
freedom, we won't
fight the way
humans do...

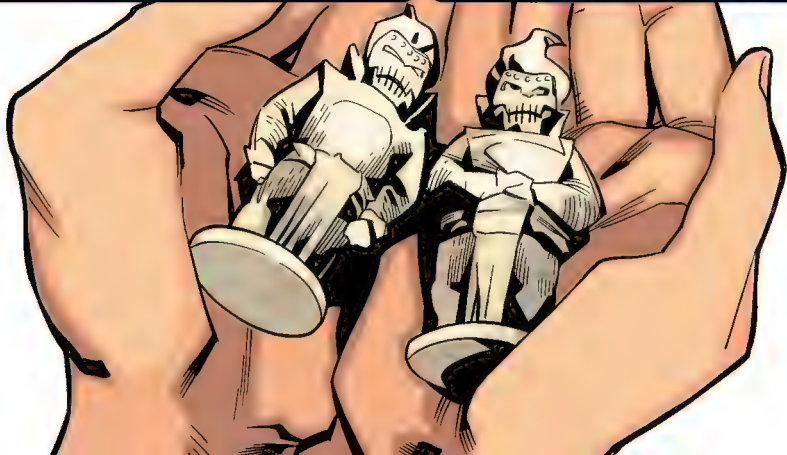




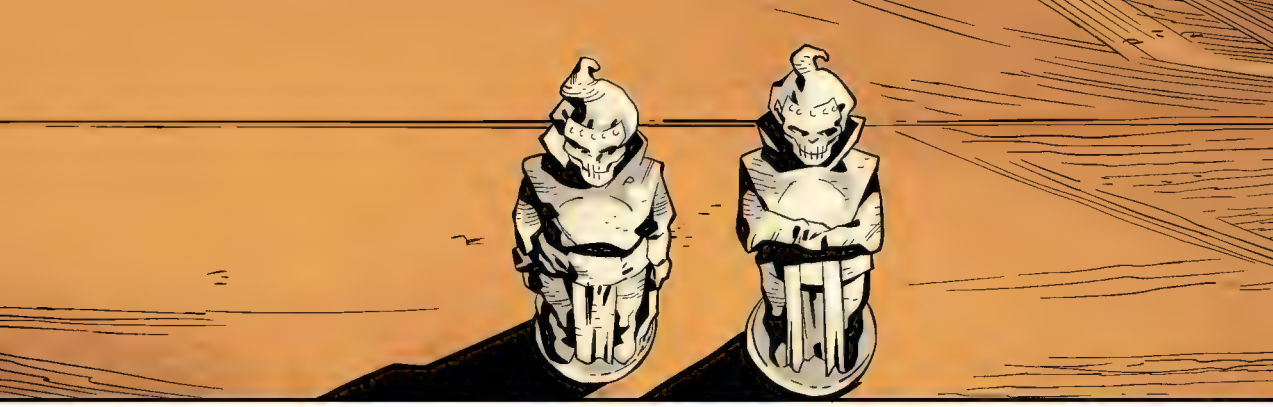
In a way, I can understand Kitty Pryde. I can understand Utopia.



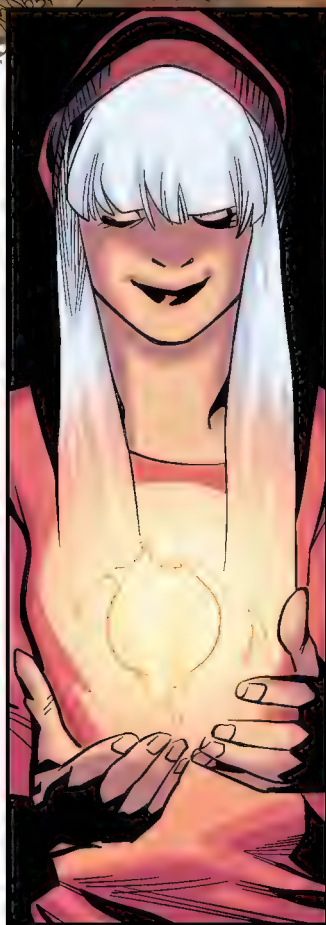
We fought our own war, and lost much.



We lost much indeed.



All hail
Tian.



We were lucky with our original twenty. Our abilities were well suited to the task at hand.

Task?

Creating Utopia.

It's the way she says that word, "Utopia," it's less a proper name than a description. It's small 'u' Utopia.

She thinks she's created a literal paradise.



Of course, then we were just trying to secure the basics: food, water, shelter.

We had no idea.

Her arrogance is repulsive.



So what's your ability? Or do you have more than one?



Careful. Guard your identity.

Just the one: telekinesis.

Really?



We can use you. We lost our telekinetics. They're with the others, the ones who rejected Utopia.

Rejected *you*, you mean. I know all about Mach Two. The emotions flooding your brain right now, Kitty... you should be in therapy.




Is this some kind of interview?

In a way.

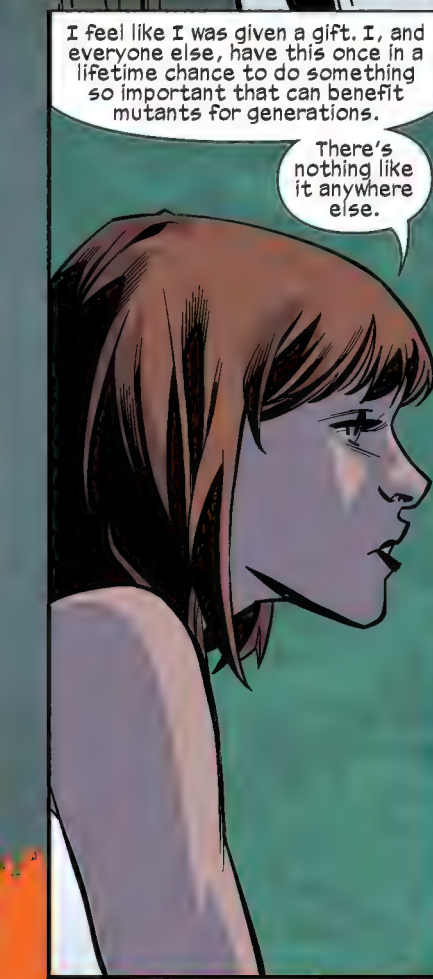


We're a collective. A community. We all bring something to the table, and we all benefit from each other's strengths.




You make it sound like everything works perfectly, that it's so ideal.

It should be.




I feel like I was given a gift. I, and everyone else, have this once in a lifetime chance to do something so important that can benefit mutants for generations.

There's nothing like it anywhere else.

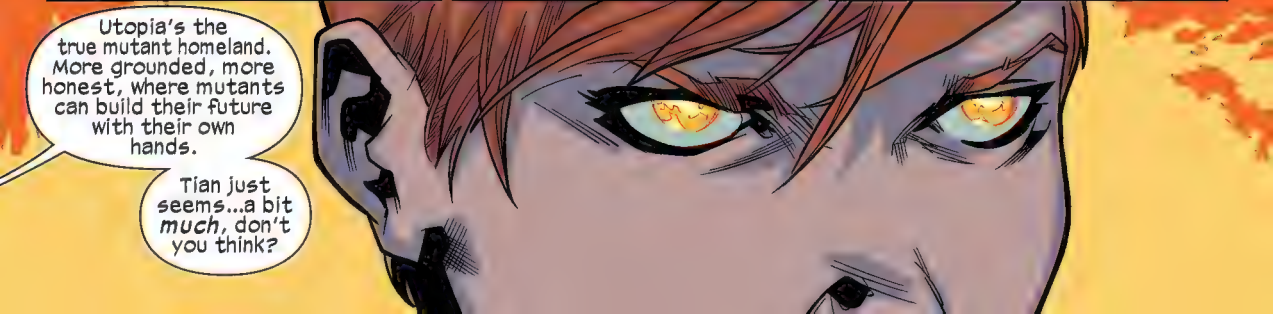


What about Tian?



Oh, yeah, Tian. Tian's not really the same thing at all, is it? It's more of a kingdom, a walled garden, a playground for Xorn and Zorn, right?

I have a hard time imagining scores of refugees knocking on their doors.



Utopia's the true mutant homeland. More grounded, more honest, where mutants can build their future with their own hands.

Tian just seems...a bit *much*, don't you think?



...Stop...

Lover, I can't.

You forget you have no secrets from me.



Shola...?!

Alive.



You have no respect for Nomi.

...I support... the cause...

That's not enough. We've chosen sides. Mach Two needs your support.

The true power is *never* at the top.

So suck up to the little blue-haired monster so you and I can get to work.



...She's just a kid...

Warpath, look at the big picture. Think of your meeting with James Hudson.

Kitty Pryde is just a figurehead. James knows that. He's taking steps.



U.S. ARMY BASE
SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
80 MILES NNW OF UTOPIA.

Unbelievable.

Never seen a
commander-in-chief
so unwilling to take
command.

Is there
trouble, General
Ross?

Not for
us, we have our
authorization.
Are your men
ready?

Standing by. Let
me remind you
this operation
is a domestic
one and as such
is under my
jurisdiction.

I got no
problem with you
Feds taking point
on this. But let
me tell you one
thing...

...I'm not going to stand around
while another Waco or Ruby Ridge
goes down. This "Utopia" is an
embarrassment to the
country. To the world.
This is America.

My youngest
daughter sees
that girl leader of
theirs on TV and it's
all I can do not to
put a round through
the set.



So if those mutants so much as twitch at us, you order your men clear.

All right, men, *move out!*

Operation Natural Resources is a go!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



**ULTIMATE COMICS
ULTIMATES #22
ON SALE NOW!**



**ULTIMATE COMICS
WOLVERINE #2
ON SALE NOW!**



**ULTIMATE COMICS
SPIDER-MAN #21
ON SALE NOW!**