

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

**\$2.50 US**

**\$3.15 CAN**

**1**

**DEC**

**UK £1.85**

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



AUTHORITY



**AT  
LAST!**

**THE CAJUN  
X-MAN  
IN HIS OWN  
LIMITED SERIES!**



CREOLE MOTHERS IN THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS TELL THE STORY OF THE STRANGE, DARK MAN WHO ROLLS IN WITH THE FOG OFF THE MISSISSIPPI ONCE EVERY SEVEN YEARS.

THE LEGEND IS USED TO FRIGHTEN BAD LITTLE CHILDREN.

FEW PEOPLE HAVE EVER ACTUALLY LAID EYES UPON THE STRANGER.

BUT ALL WHO HAVE GROWN UP ON THE STREETS REMEMBER THE TALES, HEARD ON THEIR MOMMA'S KNEES.

TALES OF...

...THE  
TITHE  
COLLECTOR.

HE WALKS THE STREETS TRAVELED BY FEW BUT THE MOST FOOLHARDY OF TOURISTS.

FAR AWAY FROM BOURBON STREET AND THE SOUND OF THE JAZZ BANDS.

IT HAS BEEN SEVEN YEARS.

TIME FOR ANOTHER "BUSINESS TRANSACTION."

WOE TO ANY WHO INTERFERE WITH THE TITING.

"THE TITHE COLLECTOR IS GOIN' GET YOU IF YOU DON'T BE GOOD, CHILD!"

REMEMBER YOUR MOMMA'S WORDS...

... AND LIVE!





YOU THINK IT'S HIM?

OUI!

FORGET THE GIRL!

SPREAD THE WORD...

...THIS IS GUILD BUSINESS!

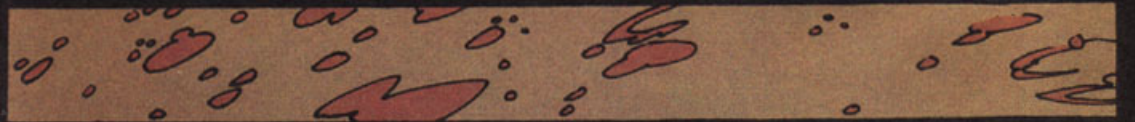
"EVERY-ONE GETS OFF THE STREET TILL IT'S OVER!"

GO! AND SAY A PRAYER TO THE SAINTS THAT IT IS FINISHED QUICK AND CLEAN!



KRAK

KRAK



QUICK AND CLEAN, MAGGOTS OF THE STREET!



IT IS THE WAY OF THE ASSASSIN'S GUILD!

THE PEACE IS OFF!

TIME FOR ALL THE THIEF FAMILIES TO DIE!

AND THE GIFT OF THE TITHE COLLECTOR WILL BE OURS!



# TITILLATING

HOWARD  
MACHIE

STORY • ART

LEE  
WEEKS

KLAUS  
JANSON

INKS

BUCELLATO  
COLORIST

STARKINGS  
LETTERER

HARRAS  
EDITOR

DeFALCO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**X** AVIER'S SCHOOL FOR  
GIFTED YOUNGSTERS,  
WESTCHESTER,  
NEW YORK.

A LATE NIGHT  
TRAINING  
SESSION IN THE  
X-MEN'S  
DANGER  
ROOM.

TWO OF THAT NUMBER,  
GAMBIT AND ROGUE,  
ARE BEING PUSHED  
TO THE FURTHEST  
LIMIT OF THEIR  
MUTANT SKILLS.

TENSION IN  
THE ROOM  
IS RUNNING  
HIGH.

ONLY SOME  
OF IT IS DUE  
TO THE  
TRAINING  
SESSION.

GAMBIT CREA  
BY CHRIS CLAREM  
AND JIM LEE

GAMBIT™ No. 1, No. 1, December 1983. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Holtzman, Group Vice President; Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 367 Route Avenue, SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10008. Published monthly. Copyright © 1983 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.15 in Canada. GST #R12303802. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, or organizations in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This product may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. GAMBIT™ (including all permanent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive blue-and-white design) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. Printed in Canada.



**BAKOOM**

GOTCHA!  
AND  
NOW...

...HOLD  
TIGHT,  
THERE!

I'LL  
BE HAVING  
YOU FREE  
AND FLYIN'  
AGAIN  
PRONTO!

'SCUSE  
ME,  
SUGAH...

"IF I DON'T  
NEED--

--OR WANT--

YOUR  
HELP!

**WHOOM**

TOO  
LATE,  
PETITE

...BUT  
DON'T WORRY,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
THANK  
ME!

THOUGH...  
YOU, ME  
AND A CANDLE-  
LIT  
DINNER  
WOULD BE --

YOU WON'T  
BE GETTING  
ANY  
THANKS  
FROM ME,  
GAMBIT!

NOW  
WATCH  
YOUR  
MOUTH...

...AND  
YOUR  
BACK!



MEAN-  
WHILE...

WHEN THE  
MOMENT IS  
RIGHT...

... A MAN WILL  
BREACH THE  
X-MANSION'S SECURITY.

AND EVEN  
IF THE  
MUTANT  
TEAM KNEW  
HE WAS  
COMING...

THERE IS LITTLE THAT THE  
COULD DO TO STOP HIM

INCREASING  
PROGRAM  
INTENSITY.  
LEVEL  
SIX.

ENGAGE.

YOU  
SURE  
ABOUT  
THIS,  
STORM?

EMOTIONS BEEN  
RUNNIN' HIGH  
BETWEEN THE  
CAJUN AND  
ROGUE.

GIVEN  
THEIR  
UNRESOLVED  
ROMANTIC  
STATUS...

... DON'T  
YOU  
THINK  
WE'RE  
PUSHIN'  
IT?

THAT'S  
THE POINT  
OF THE EXERCISE,  
WOLVERINE.\*

WE  
MUST  
KNOW  
IF --

DON'T GET PREACHY  
ON ME, OROO. I KNOW  
THE DRILL ABOUT SEEIN' IF  
THEY CAN CUT IT AS PART OF THE TEAM.

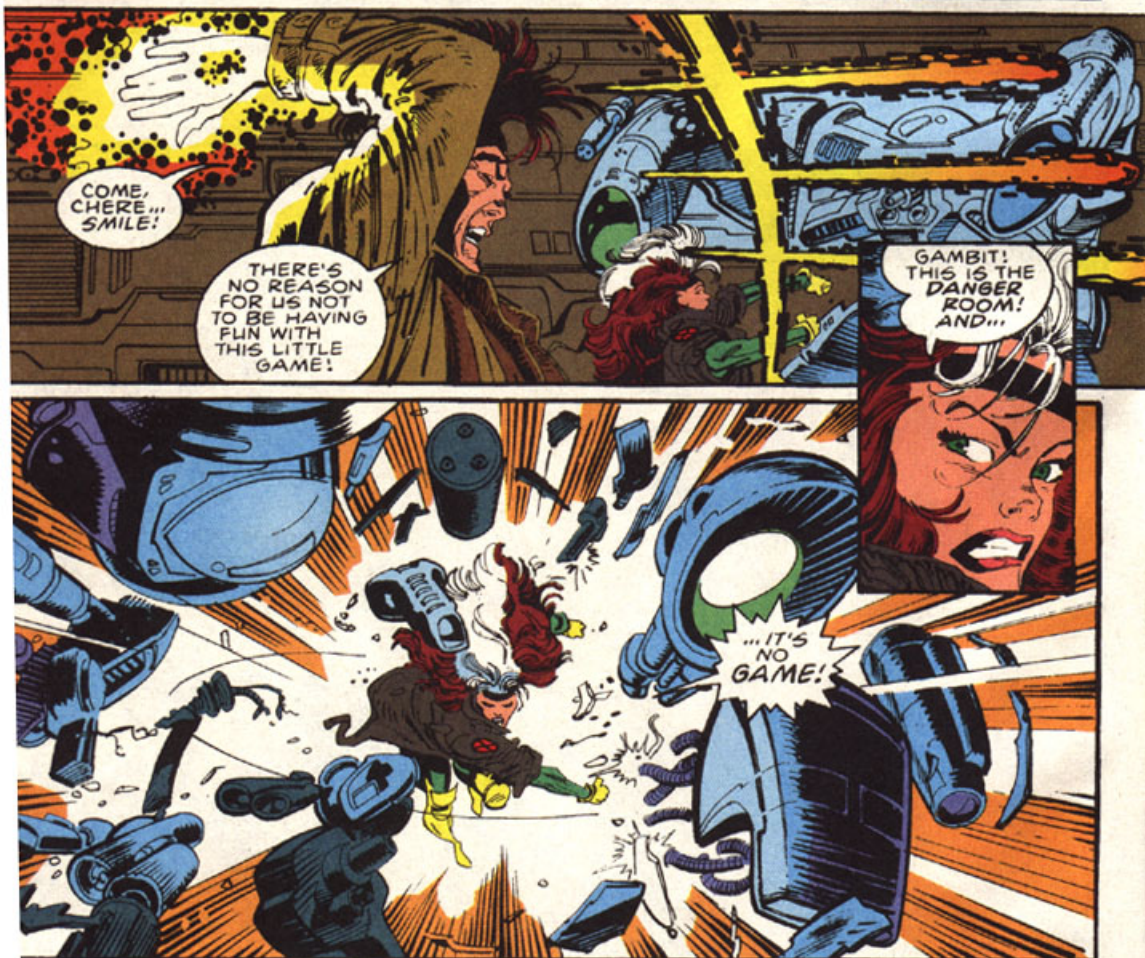
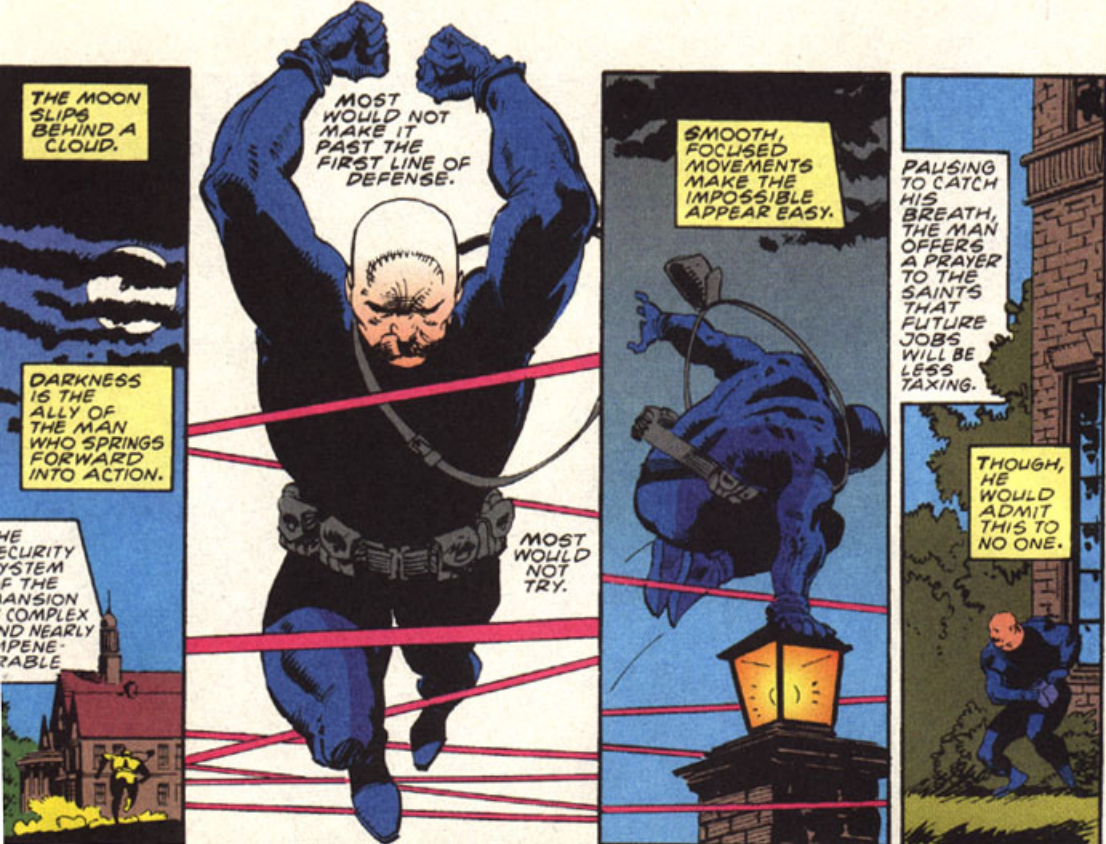
I STILL  
THINK IT'S  
MIGHTY  
COLD.

BUT  
NECESSARY.

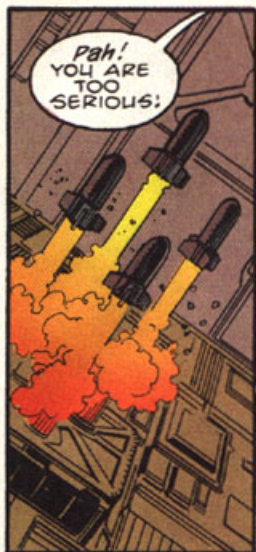
WE'LL  
SEE.

\* THESE EVENTS  
TAKE PLACE BEFORE  
WOLVERINE # 75.









Pah!  
YOU ARE  
TOO  
SERIOUS!



LIFE  
IS A  
GAME!

AND,  
IF YOU  
GIVE ME  
THE  
TIME...

...AND  
THE  
OPPORTUNITY...

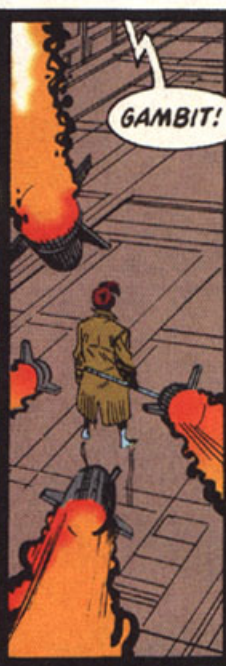


... I'LL  
SHOW  
YOU...

... YOU ...



GAMBIT!  
INCOMING!  
BEHIND  
YOU!



GAMBIT!



REMY!



SOMETHING HAS  
GONE WRONG. I  
AM INITIALIZING  
TERMINATION  
SEQUENCE--

NOT  
SO FAST,  
DARLIN'.

YOU  
WANTED  
TO SEE HOW  
THEY  
OPERATE  
UNDER  
COMBAT  
CON-  
DITIONS...



"...LET IT PLAY. THEY  
CAN HANDLE IT."

**FWAKKOOOM**

SEQUENCE  
END.

TOLD  
YA.

NOW  
ISN'T  
THIS A  
COZY  
LITTLE  
TÊTE A  
TÊTE  
CHERE?

LOVE  
TO STAY  
HERE ALL  
DAY,  
BUT...

"...IT'LL  
HAVE TO  
BE 'NOTHER  
TIME

WE  
GOT  
COMPANY.

GAMBIT,  
WHAT...?





THE SHADOWS OF THE MANSION REACH OUT AND EMBRACE THE INTRUDER.

HE MAKES NO SOUND...



...DISTURBS NOTHING.



...AS HE SILENTLY SLIPS THROUGH THE STILL NIGHT.



HIS PASSAGE IS NEARLY IMPERCEPTIBLE.



UNTIL...

Tsk!  
Tsk!



NOT GOOD ENOUGH, M'FRIEND.

NO MOVES.

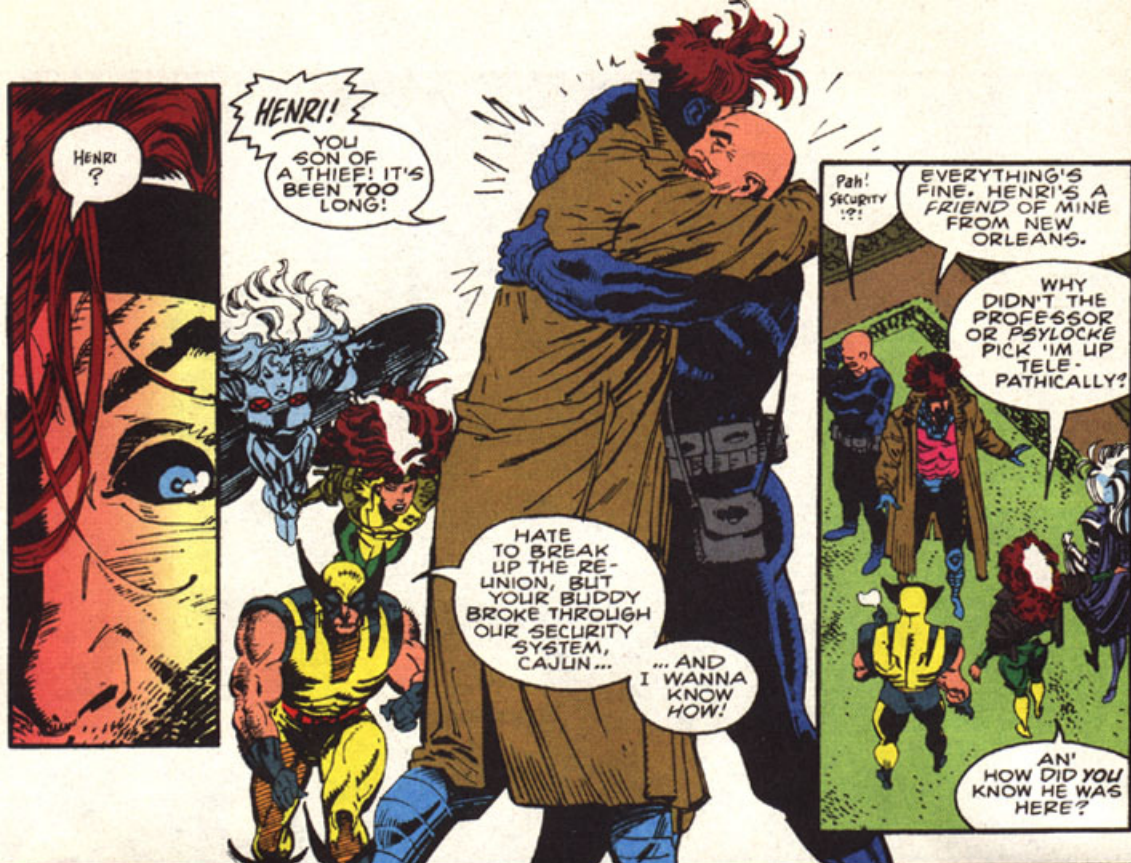
WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO LOSE YOUR HEAD, NEH?

PUT DA CARD AWAY, REMY!

YOU STILL A THIEF, I HOPE...

...NOT AN ASSASSIN!













I GOT  
THEIR  
SCENT.


TWO OF 'EM,  
HEADING  
TOWARD  
SALEM  
CENTER.



WE CAN  
CATCH  
THEM  
EASY.

NO.

I GO  
ALONE.



THIS IS  
A FAMILY  
MATTER.

HENRI  
LEBEAU  
WAS MY  
BROTHER!




I'M GOIN'  
WITH  
HIM!

WE  
ALL  
SHOULD!

WOLVERINE!  
WHAT?!

NO,  
DARLIN',  
WE  
STAY.



IT'S WHAT HE  
WANTS.

THE CAJUN'S  
GOTTA HANDLE  
THIS HIM-  
SELF.

IT'S A  
BLOOD  
DEBT.

AND I  
PITY  
THOSE  
ON THE  
RECEIVING  
END!



NEW ORLEANS.

IN A CHAMBER, FAR BELOW THE DARK COBBLE-STONE STREETS OF THE FRENCH QUARTER...

...THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE THIEVES BUILD GATHER AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR COMING EVENTS.

THE TITHE COLLECTOR OF OUR BENEFACTRESS WILL SOON ARRIVE. THE CEREMONY WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW.

ALL OUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SENT WORD TO RETURN WITH THEIR TRIBUTE.

FOR SOME, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TASTING OF THE ELIXIR.

I PROPOSE THAT REMY LEBEAU BE PERMITTED TO ACCEPT IT THIS YEAR.

NO DISRESPECT, JEAN-LUC, BUT REMY?

HE IS YOUNG, BRASH, IMPULSIVE AND NOT TRULY ONE OF OURS.

LET US SEE IF HE EVEN HAS THE COURTESY TO HONOR HIS FAMILY WITH HIS PRESENCE.

LET US SEE.

PARIS, FRANCE...

THE WOMAN NAMED CANDRA GAZES OUT UPON THE CITY OF LIGHTS.

IN HER LONG LIFE, SHE HAS SEEN MANY NEW LIGHTS ADDED TO THE PARISIAN SKYLINE.

FOR SHE IS MUTANT WITH THE ADDITIONAL GIFT OF LONG LIFE.

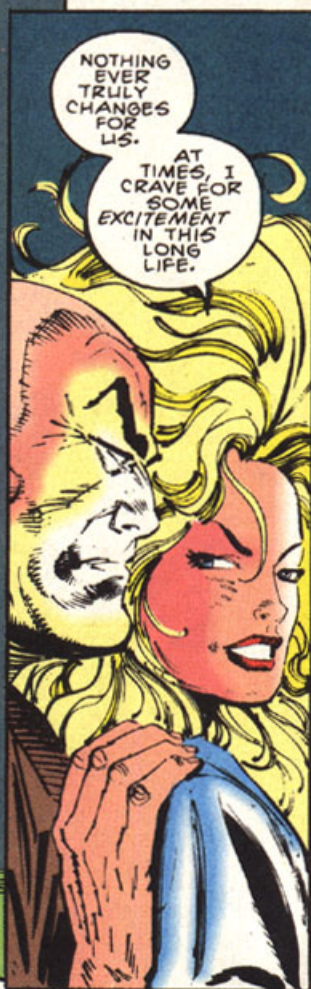
SHE IS AN EXTERNAL.





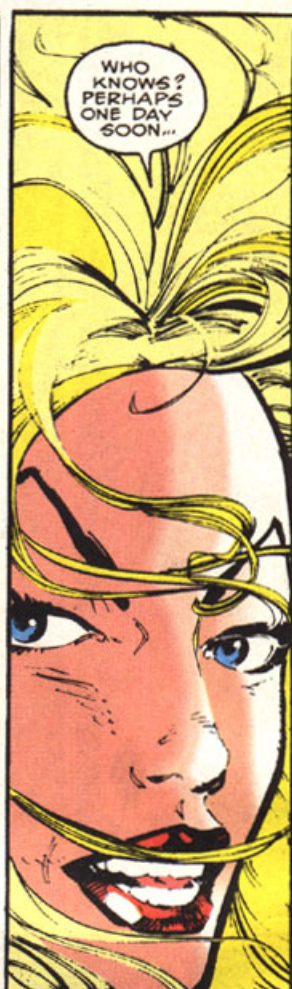
EVERY-  
THING  
GOING AS  
PLANNED,  
BEAUTIFUL  
ONE?

IT  
ALWAYS  
DOES,  
GIDEON.



NOTHING  
EVER  
TRULY  
CHANGES  
FOR  
US.

AT  
TIMES, I  
CRAVE FOR  
SOME  
EXCITEMENT  
IN THIS  
LONG  
LIFE.



WHO  
KNOWS?  
PERHAPS  
ONE DAY  
SOON...



THE WOODS  
OUTSIDE  
SALEM CENTER...

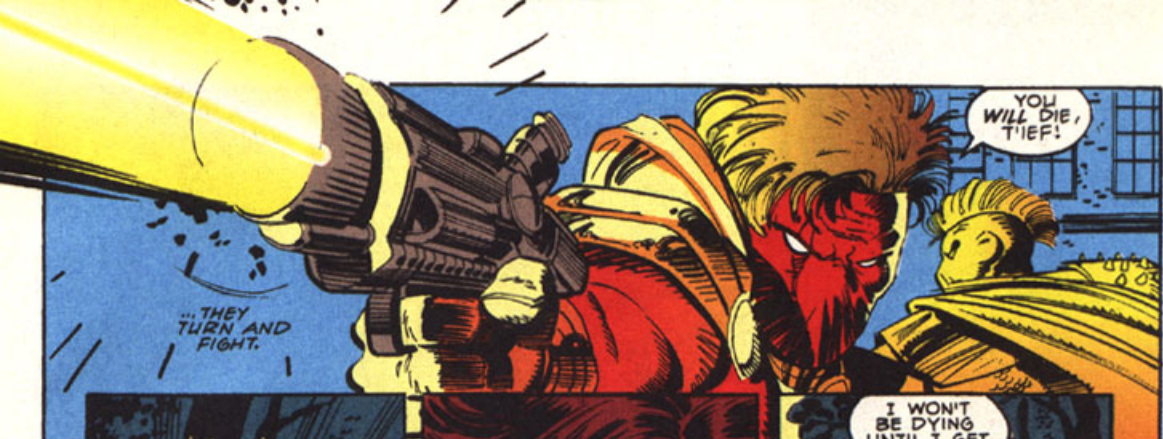
...ASSASSINS  
FLEE INTO THE  
NIGHT.

ADRENALINE  
COURSES THROUGH  
THEIR BODIES AS  
THEY SEEK TO  
EVADE THEIR  
PURSUER.



AND WHEN  
EVASION  
DOES NOT  
WORK...









AH! NOW  
WE PLAY  
HIDE-AND-  
SEEK?



Hmmm!



STEEL REINFORCED  
DOOR...

...AND  
A HEAVY  
DUTY  
LOCK.



A  
FORMIDABLE  
OBSTACLE...



...IF  
YOUR  
PURSUER  
WAS NOT  
A  
THIEF...



...AND A  
MUTANT.



PICKING  
A LOCK  
WAS NEVER  
SO EASY.



IF  
NOT SO  
SUBTLE!

ARE YOU  
WAITING  
IN THE  
DARK FOR  
ME, AS-  
SASINS?

I'M  
COMING.





THE OCCUPANTS OF THE X-MANSION MOURN THE PASSING OF A THIEF THEY NEVER KNEW.

... AND FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF ONE WHOM THEY CALL THEIR OWN.



HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, KID.

THERE'S MORE TO THE CAJUN THAN ANY OF US REALLY KNOWS.



I LOVE HIM, WOLVERINE.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TELEPATH TO HAVE FIGURED THAT ONE OUT, DARLIN'.

THIS THING HE'S DOING TONIGHT... HE'S GOT TO DO IT ALONE.



BUT AFTER TONIGHT, DON'T LET HIM BE ALONE AGAIN.

THERE'S SOMETHIN' BETWEEN YOU TWO.

MARIKO AND I HAD THE SAME.

DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT...



... 'CAUSE WITH THE LIKES OF US, THEY NEVER ARE.





WHERE  
ARE Y'ALL  
HIDIN',  
MURDERERS?

YOU  
GOOD AT  
KILLIN'  
FROM A  
DISTANCE...

...HOW  
'BOLT  
TRYIN' IT  
UP CLOSE  
AND  
PERSONAL  
?



I'M  
WAITIN'...



COWARDS!

WRAP



LOOK  
HERE... YOU  
FINALLY  
DECIDIN'  
TO CLIMB  
OUT OF THE  
DARK  
PLACES.



FIGURIN'  
YOU CAN  
HANDLE ONE  
THIEF,  
EH?

WELL...



...LET  
THE CARDS  
FALL WHERE  
THEY  
MAY!





CARDS  
WERE  
NOTHIN'  
BUT A  
DIS-  
TRACTION

...I WANT  
YOU TO SEE  
EVERYTHING  
YOU GETTIN'  
HIT  
WITH.

YOU'LL  
KNOW  
WHERE  
EVERY BLOW  
IS COMIN'  
FROM...



...A  
CHANCE  
MY BROTHER  
NEVER  
HAD!



COME,  
KILLERS!

WE'RE  
NOT DONE  
YET!









No!

YOU WON'T BE STEALIN' MY HONOR AGAIN!

JULIEN --



--DON'T!



LOOKIN' PALE, REMY.

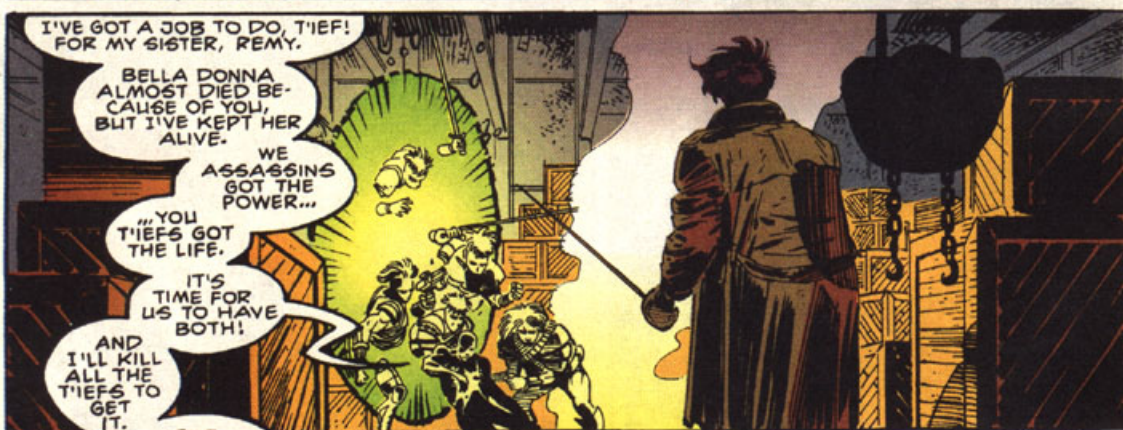
KNOW THAT IT IS ME, YOUR WIFE'S BROTHER!

YOU WON'T BE KILLIN' ME AGAIN, MON AMI! I AM HERE TO STAY!



JULIEN! THE PORTAL IS OPEN...

... LET'S RETURN!



I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, TIEF! FOR MY SISTER, REMY.

BELLA DONNA ALMOST DIED BECAUSE OF YOU, BUT I'VE KEPT HER ALIVE.

WE ASSASSIN'S GOT THE POWER...

... YOU TIEFS GOT THE LIFE.

IT'S TIME FOR US TO HAVE BOTH!

AND I'LL KILL ALL THE TIEFS TO GET IT.

FOR MY SISTER, FOR ME, FOR ALL ASSASSIN'S!

STAY AWAY FROM NEW ORLEANS, TIEF AND STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER...

... OR DIE WITH THE REST OF YOUR STINKIN' FAMILY!

BELLA DONNA...

... ALIVE?





LATER...

HOW?

WE  
ALL SAW  
HER DIE!\*

# X-MEN  
-B.H.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, GAMBIT?  
FIRST YOUR BROTHER,  
NOW BELLA DONNA... IS  
IT ALL TIED IN TO  
THIS T'ING THING?

CAN'T  
BE ANSWERIN'  
THAT YET,  
PETITE. DON'T  
KNOW THAT I  
WOULD IF I  
COULD.

I'LL  
BE LEAVING  
FOR NEW  
ORLEANS TO  
GET SOME  
ANSWERS.

YOU  
NEED A HAND THERE,  
CAJUN...

...I'M  
ALWAYS UP  
FOR A ROAD  
TRIP DOWN  
TO THE BIG  
EASY!

THIS  
T'ING IS  
FAMILY,  
LOGAN.

I  
UNDER-  
STAND.

WE ARE  
YOUR FAMILY  
AS WELL,  
GAMBIT...

...AND I  
AM NOT COM-  
FORTABLE WITH  
YOUR GOING  
OFF ON YOUR  
OWN.

HE  
WON'T BE  
TRAVELLIN'  
SOLO,  
PROFESSOR!

AH'LL  
BE WITH  
HIM ALL  
THE  
WAY.





NO.

YOU THINK  
Y'ALL ARE  
MAN  
ENOUGH  
TO STOP  
ME?

SOMEDAY  
YOU'LL FIND OUT  
JUST HOW MUCH  
OF A MAN I  
AM, THERE!  
UNTIL THEN...

...COME IF YOU  
WANT, BUT KNOW  
I AM GOING TO  
FIND OUT IF  
BELLA DONNA,  
MY WIFE, IS  
ALIVE.

AND YOU  
BETTER BE  
REAL SURE  
YOU'RE UP TO  
THIS ONE,  
THERE!

THERE  
ARE SOME  
T'INGS ABOUT  
ME THAT YOU  
MAY NOT WANT  
TO LEARN!

I'LL  
TAKE  
THE  
CHANCE  
ON THAT  
ONE,  
SUGAH!

**G**RAB YOUR BABIES,  
CREOLE MOTHERS.

SHUT YOUR  
DOORS AGAINST  
THE SPREADING  
FOG.

THE TITHE  
COLLECTOR WALKS THE  
STREETS.  
OF THE  
FRENCH  
QUARTER.

BEWARE...

...THE  
TITHING  
TIME.

**TO BE  
CONTINUED**