

**MARVEL**  
PG 425

AUSTEN  
TAN  
AVALON

UNCANNY

# X-MEN<sup>®</sup>

**SACRED VOWS** 1 OF 2



DIRECT EDITION



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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo Superior, Individuals gifted with strange and fantastic abilities simply by virtue of their genetic makeup.

Stan Lee presents...

# UNCANNY X-MEN

Sacred Vows Part I of II

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## PREVIOUSLY



**HAVOK**  
Alex Summers  
Solar-Generated Plasma Blasts



**POLARIS**  
Lorna Dane  
Magnetic Control



**ARCHANGEL**  
Warren Worthington III  
Wings, Flight



**NIGHTCRAWLER**  
Kurt Wagner  
Teleportation



**ICEMAN**  
Bobby Drake  
Sub-Thermal Control



**CYCLOPS**  
Scott Summers  
Optic Blasts, X-Men Leader



**JEAN GREY**  
Telepath, Telekinetic



**WOLVERINE**  
Logan  
Healing, Adamantium Claws



**JUGGERNAUT**  
Cain Marko  
Super Strength, Invulnerability



**ANNIE GHAZIKHANIAN**  
School Nurse

The brutal "Holy War" between the X-Men and the anti-mutant group known as the Church of Humanity has ended in a violent conflict on the sun-swept plains of Montana. After enduring fierce fighting, the team struck a lethal blow to the racist organization and destroyed its insidious plans to ignite a mutant holocaust.

Returning to New York, the X-Men shift their attention to two of their teammates: Alex Summers and Lorna Dane. Alex, the long-time X-Man known as Havok, and Lorna, known as Polaris when in uniform, are ready to exchange wedding vows in a beautiful celebration at the Xavier mansion. But troubling signs between the couple have surfaced.

Alex, who finally awoke from a coma to rejoin the team, has had a difficult transition from comatose patient to X-Man. He's suddenly been thrust into a world where old allies are dead, strange alliances have been formed and once-bitter enemies now freely walk the grounds of the school. Adding to the duress of his readjustment has been the hastily planned wedding with Lorna, as well as the intense feelings he's suddenly developed for Annie, the young human nurse who took care of him during his illness.

Lorna, his bride-to-be, has also undergone a radical transformation, having watched 16 million mutants massacred on the Island nation of Genosha a few months ago. Her new, hardened demeanor—clearly a result of surviving this destruction—was illustrated in the heat of battle with the Church, when she didn't hesitate to turn the "priests'" gunfire back on them in a torrential downpour of bullets.

Although Alex has remained silent about his feelings for Annie, the strong bond between the two has been clear to everyone else in the mansion—including Alex's brother, Scott Summers, code-named Cyclops.

As the wedding approaches, the X-Men prepare to celebrate the wedding of their close friends...finally ready for a day of joy instead of bitter conflict...





Annie?

Oh, Alex.  
Hi.

What are you  
doing up here?  
Don't you have a  
million **wedding**  
things to do?

Chairs to  
set up? Caterers  
to berate? In-laws  
to reassure?

In-laws to  
"reassure"?

What, don't  
you think any  
woman's parents  
would be *glad* to  
have me as a  
son-in-law?

Well, I  
know *my* Mom  
would.

Hell,  
she'd probably  
**wrestle** me  
for you.

But Lorna's  
parents are  
rich, and it's  
been my  
experience  
that--

Go on.

What *is*  
your experience,  
Annie? No one  
knows much  
about you...

Or  
*Carter*,  
for that  
matter.

Who are  
you? Where  
did you and  
your son come  
from?

Who is this  
*mystery nurse*  
that took care of  
me when I was just  
an unresponsive  
*vegetable*?









# Sacred Vows

1 of 2





⊗ THE XAVIER INSTITUTE  
FOR HIGHER LEARNING,  
THE NEXT DAY

Then  
can you just  
leave Sammy a  
**MESSAGE**  
for me?

WHY  
NOT?

**WHY  
NOT?!**

I feel  
sorry for  
the guy,  
really.

Cain and  
Sammy had  
become *pretty  
good pals* in  
what seemed a  
mutually beneficial  
relationship...

Seeing  
Juggernaut  
here, living at  
the mansion,  
Kurt--

-- it's like  
I landed in an  
*alternate  
reality* or  
something.



What harm is  
there in just  
leaving him a  
**MESSAGE?**

Look, I have  
things to do for  
the *bachelor party*,  
Alex ... and the catering  
plans seem to be  
going fine.

Why  
don't we just  
meet later, a  
little before  
seven?

Sounds good,  
Scottie.

And thanks  
for everything,  
big bro.

Hey,  
what are  
*best man's*  
for?

OH  
YEAH?!

Well you'll  
take **THIS**  
message!











Are you here for Lorna Dane's bachelorette party?

Yes, Annie Ghazikhanian-- but, um--

-- I mean, I was *invited*, yes, but--



Oh, okay. As long as you're from Xavier's--



-- well then I can just *be* me.

Let me show you to the table.



Oh! I, uh--

Whoa.



Yeah, being a low-level *shape-shifter* comes in handy here in town--

-- you know, when *Low-genes* come in and we don't want to *freak* them out.

The Robin serves both Low-genes and mutants, but we have a separate section for each-- just in case.

Um, listen. Wait.





I-- I don't really feel like going to this bachelorette party, if I'm really being *honest* with myself.

How about if I just get a table in the corner and you can bring me a virgin pina coloda, please?

Oh, certainly. That's perfectly fine.

My shift is ending, though, and I have another job to get to, so I'll just tell your waitress about the drink.

Is this table all right?

She can sit over here with *me*, if she wants--



-- at the "runner-up" table.

Bobby!



... personally, I don't know what everyone sees in Gambit. He's *cute*, but--

Oh, please, Jean!

He's a *dish*! Isn't he, Northstar?

A spicy *Cajun* dish with some *seriously* hot buns.

Yeah, but you're not supposed to *notice* those things anymore, Lorna.

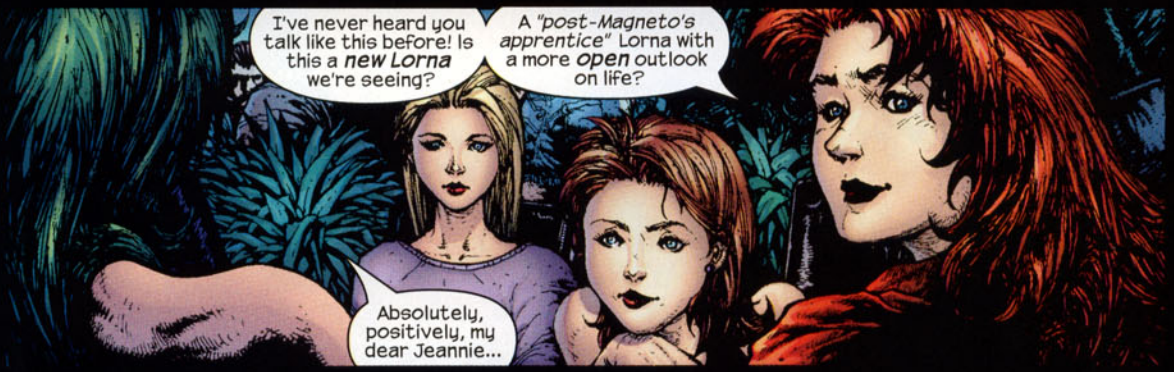


I'm getting married, Jubilee, not *surgically attached*.

And if Rogue had any sense, she'd take two aspirin, put on a power inhibitor and go *right* to bed--

Lorna!

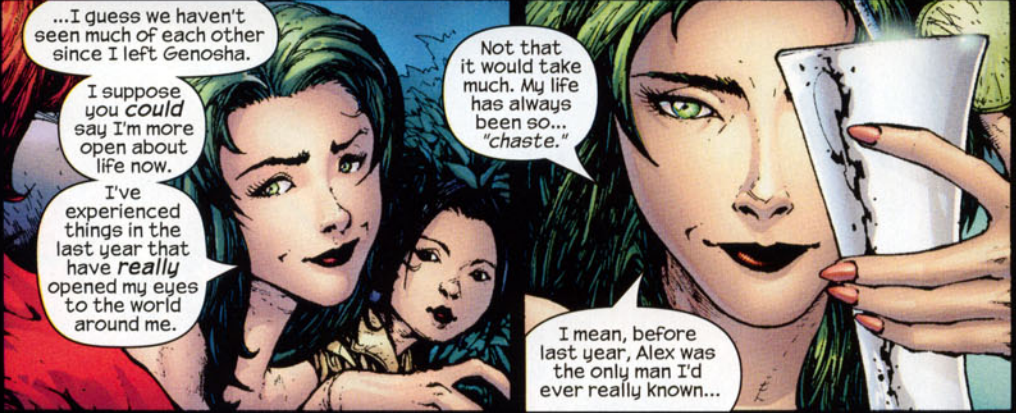




I've never heard you talk like this before! Is this a *new Lorna* we're seeing?

A "post-Magneto's apprentice" Lorna with a more *open* outlook on life?

Absolutely, positively, my dear Jeannie...



...I guess we haven't seen much of each other since I left Genosha.

I suppose you *could* say I'm more open about life now.

I've experienced things in the last year that have *really* opened my eyes to the world around me.

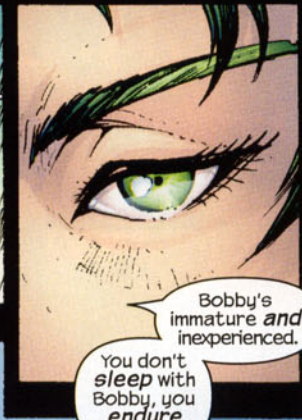
Not that it would take much. My life has always been so... "*chaste*."

I mean, before last year, Alex was the only man I'd ever really known...



But--  
-- are you saying that when you were dating *Bobby*, you never--

No, Jean-Paul. Never.



Bobby's immature and inexperienced.

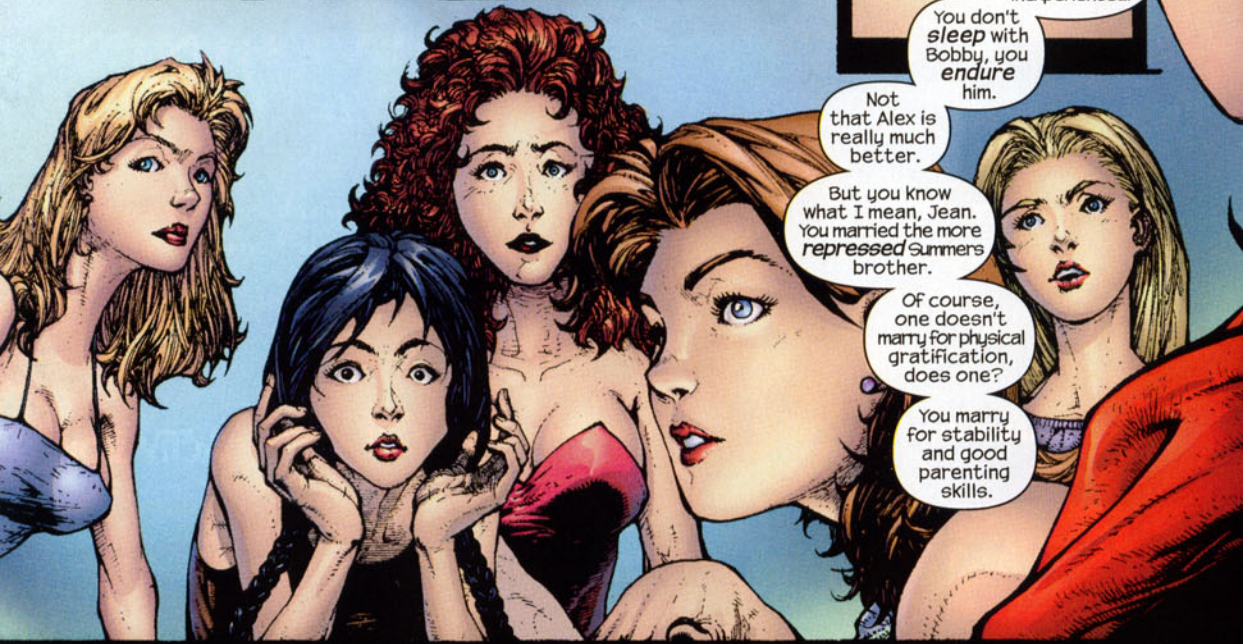
You don't *sleep* with Bobby, you *endure* him.

Not that Alex is really much better.

But you know what I mean, Jean. You married the more *repressed* Summers brother.

Of course, one doesn't marry for physical gratification, does one?

You marry for stability and good parenting skills.







You marry for genes.

Excuse me, but is there someone here making the mistake of getting married tomorrow?



Oh--  
--my--  
--GOD!



My own little Gambit?

Jean, this is so perfect!

I should have known, you little mind-reader!



And here I was sure you were going to get me one that looked like Xavier!



You're asking me--

--to sit down with you, Bobby Drake-iceman?

I just said so, didn't I?





Sure, but why?

What are you going to do to me?

Relax, would you? I can be nice.

I've known this wedding was coming ever since Alex came back, and between that and turning into solid ice the other day, well...

...I've been a little on edge lately. I don't really dislike you, you know?



I've actually admired the quickness of your wit.

Not many people besides Kurt can keep up with me.



Yeah, well, you're not so bad yourself there, "Iceman."

Though you seem to have lost your wit tonight.

Not that I can blame you, though, based on who the bride is.

It's quite the talk of the school...

Man, you just can't keep a secret around Xavier's, can you?



Let's see.

Everyone knows I don't like mutants.

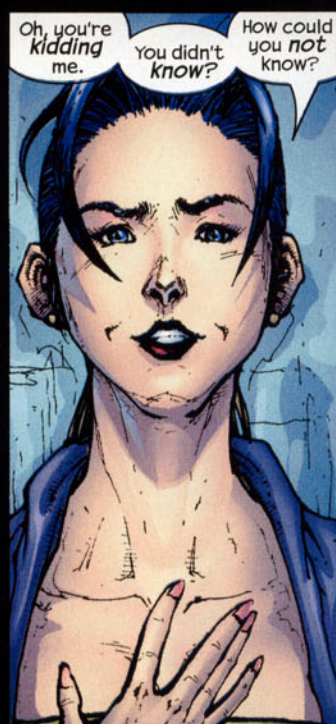
Everyone knows I have a thing for Alex.

Everyone knows you used to date Lorna.

Everyone thinks Northstar and I are dating, even though he's openly homosexual--



Northstar is gay?



Oh, you're kidding me.

You didn't know?

How could you not know?





Well, I--  
--how should I know?  
It's not like we're--

--I mean--  
--oh my God, that's so funny--



You're a homophobic.



I am not!

You're a homophobic and a racist.

A RACIST?

Where the hell did THAT come from?



I am not NOW, nor have I EVER BEEN a RACIST, lady!

How could you even say something like that to me?

I'm a mutant living in a world that *hates* mutants! No one understands oppression more than *me*, and--

You are so full of it.



It all makes *sense* now. Something the waitress said when I came in...

"Low-genes". I thought she meant "fad pants".

But you have a *term* for non-mutants.

You didn't want me, a "Low-gene", stitching you up in the infirmary that day I arrived...

... and you're hiding that "*second mutation*" thing that's happening under your shirt because...



...because there's three kinds of evolution-- aren't there, Bobby Drake, ICE-man?

"Low-genes"... twenty-four-seven mutants like Kurt...

... and people in between, like *you*.



And you don't *want* to be a twenty-four-seven or a "Low-gene"!

You want to be a mutant who can *pass* as a "Low-gene" when he needs to.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have someplace *else* to be.



OXAVIER'S

I've never  
been much for  
public speaking,  
so let me just  
say...

...TO MY  
BROTHER,  
ALEX!

Thank you,  
everyone. Old  
friends...  
... and  
new.

TO  
ALEX!

I missed you  
while you were  
gone, Alex.

And I'm  
glad to have  
you *back*.

But as much  
fun as you are  
to *look at*--

--Kurt, if you  
please?













Do a *nun* for my friend here!

Anything with *red hair* for the man to my left!

Or something *under-age* for my friend with the wings!

Tigra!  
Tigra!  
Tigra!

All right, all right, one at a time!

What the hell was *that* all about, Scott?

Huh?

I mean, you think that was *funny*? Is *that* it?

Making a mockery of someone as *sweet* as Annie just because she's a little caught up in an *ex-patient*?

I mean, *really*, Scott! How do you think *she'd* feel if she found out about this?

It would probably upset her.

Almost as much as you getting married to Lorna.

I don't even--

--what are you trying to say to me? That I should be with Annie? That I want Annie?

I don't even *know* her, Scottie!



Almost--  
--as much.



But you still got up on that table to protect her honor...

...didn't you, Alex?





# THE ROBIN



Annie!

Annie, wait!

I'm not a racist, okay?

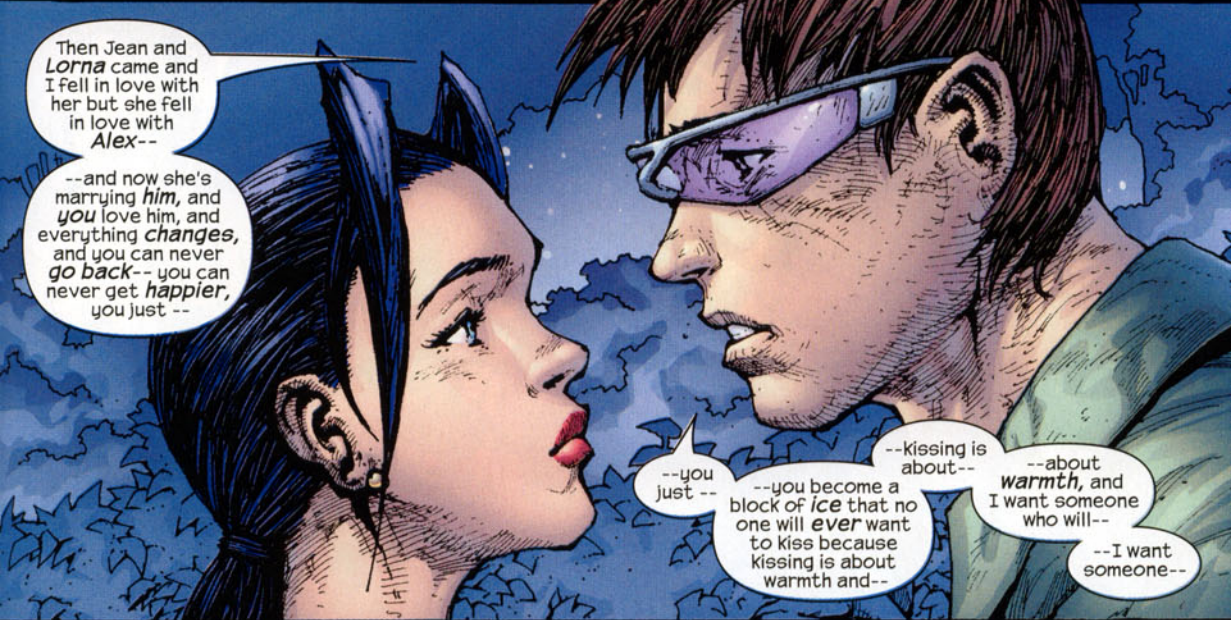
I'm just--

--I'm just unhappy.



I was never happier than when the school was *new*--

--and Warren and Scott and Hank and I were there all alone with Xavier in our little *boys* club.



Then Jean and Lorna came and I fell in love with her but she fell in love with Alex--

--and now she's marrying *him*, and *you* love him, and everything *changes*, and you can never *go back*-- you can never get *happier*, you just --

--you just --

--you become a block of *ice* that no one will *ever* want to kiss because kissing is about warmth and--

--kissing is about--

--about *warmth*, and I want someone who will--

--I want someone--





✕XAVIER'S, THE NEXT DAY



... and then she went in back with the guy and we never saw her for the rest of the night!

With the stripper dressed like Gambit?

Oh God, Paige, you have got to be joking.

You gonna say anything, Scottie, or are you just gonna let me stew?





No, you're just gonna let me stew.

All right. Fine.

You noticed Bobby and Annie, didn't you?



See? She found someone.

So you were wrong, you know. She doesn't love me, obviously.



And I don't love her.

I mean, you know, how *could* I? I don't even know her, no matter *what* you say.

I was just floating in a black void with no hope, and no--

--dreams--

Your bride approaches.



I see.

What, you think I can't see her coming?

Where's the *music*? There should be music.

God, it's hot today!



What is it about me and Bobby *anyway*, huhn?

First Lorna, now Annie.

What do you mean, "first Lorna, now Annie"?



Well, Bobby was in love with *Lorna* for a while, and then--

--I mean, now Annie, but I'm not--

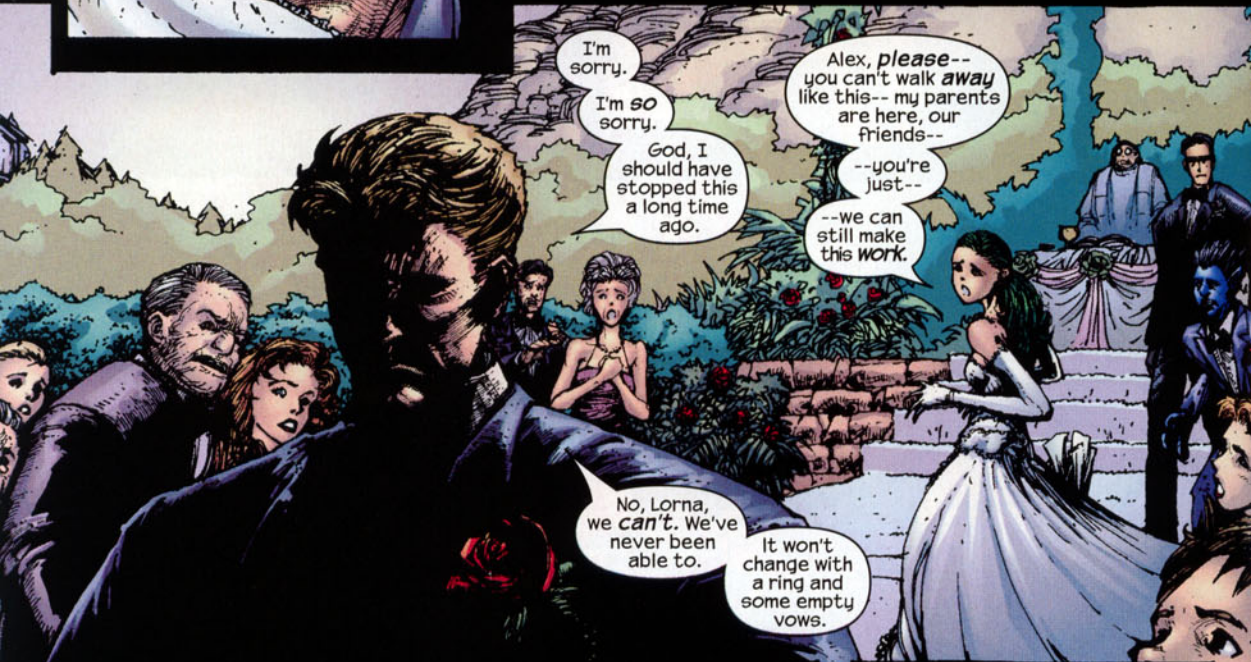
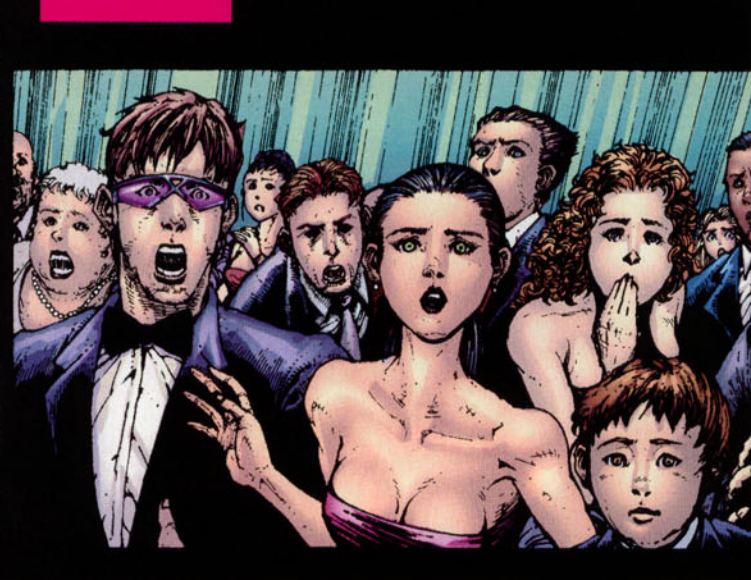


--I'm not--





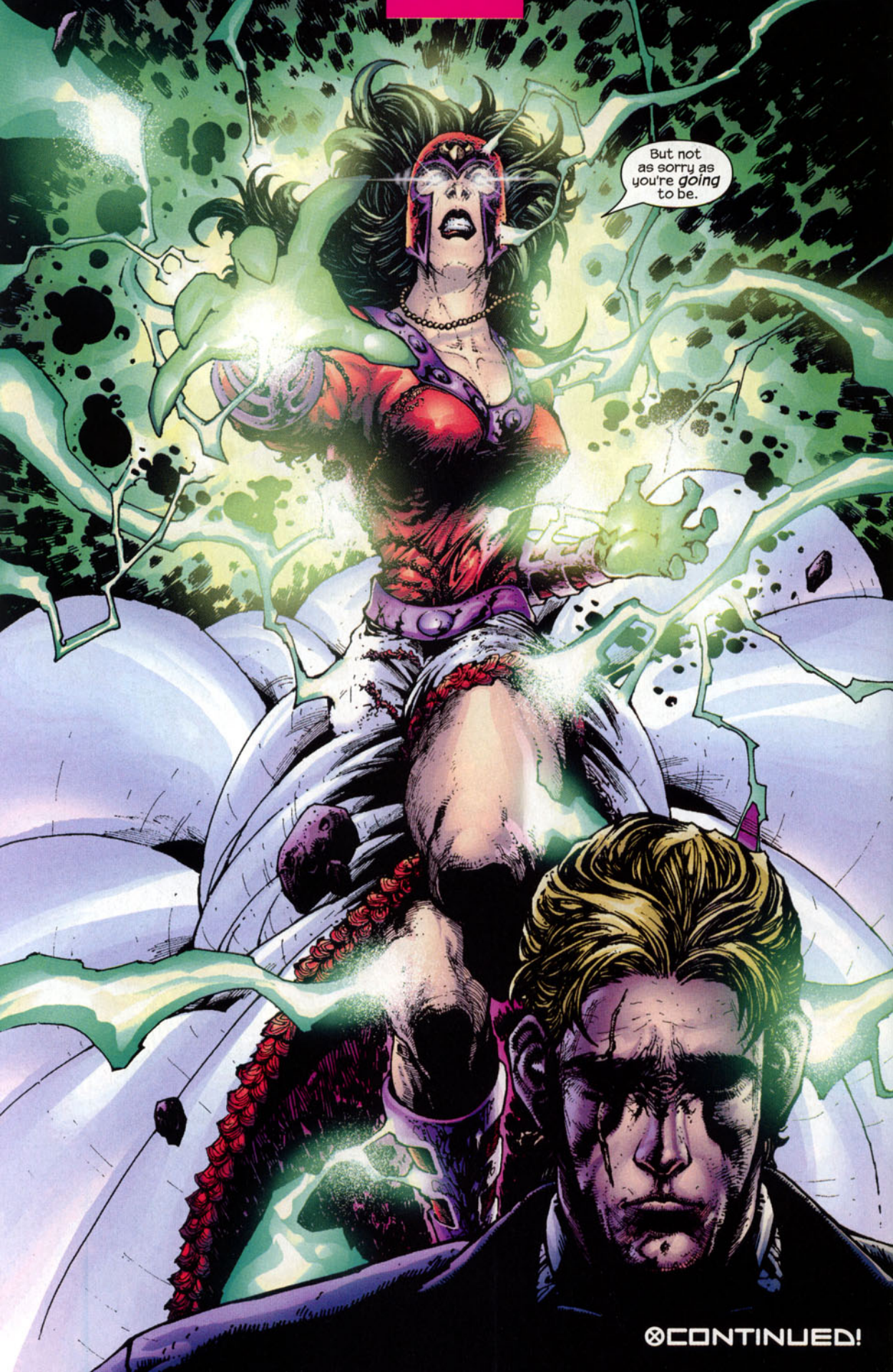












But not  
as sorry as  
you're going  
to be.

⊗CONTINUED!