

MARVEL
PSR 430

AUSTEN
TAN
AVALON

UNCANNY

X-MEN

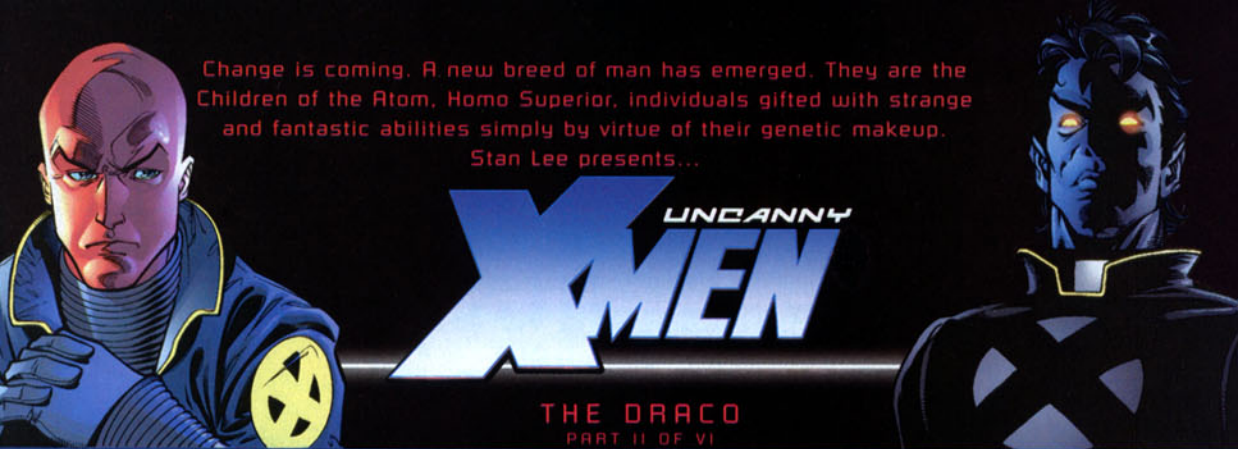


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PART 2



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Former X-Men team leader and current resident teleporter, Kurt Wagner, otherwise known as NIGHTCRAWLER, has never had it easy. With his blue-furred body, fangs and forked tail, Kurt's demonic appearance has continually made him the victim of persecution.

And if he knew the truth behind the incredible circumstances surrounding his birth—that his parents are the mutant terrorist MYSTIQUE and a sinister figure known only as AZAZEL—Kurt would have it even worse.

So when Kurt mysteriously disappears from the XAVIER INSTITUTE, secretly "borrowing" the X-Plane, the X-Men are understandably concerned. PROFESSOR XAVIER informs them that he has been tracking several mutant trails from around the globe, all of which have converged on a single point: the Caribbean island of Isla des Demonas, an island which Kurt visited once before on an archeological expedition with X-Men teammates Havok and Polaris. The trails, however, are discontinuous... indicating more teleporters like Kurt.

When the X-Men follow the trails to their source, they discover a myriad of teleporters—including Kurt and others strangely similar to him—engaged in a chilling and seemingly demonic ritual. But rescuing Kurt will be no easy task. For before any of the X-Men can act, they are accosted by a group of hellish creatures that seem to have sprung from the depths of Hades itself.

SMACK



No, Claude!
DON'T!

HOW
MANY TIMES
DO I HAVE TO TELL
YOU, YOU LITTLE
BRAT--?!

CRACK



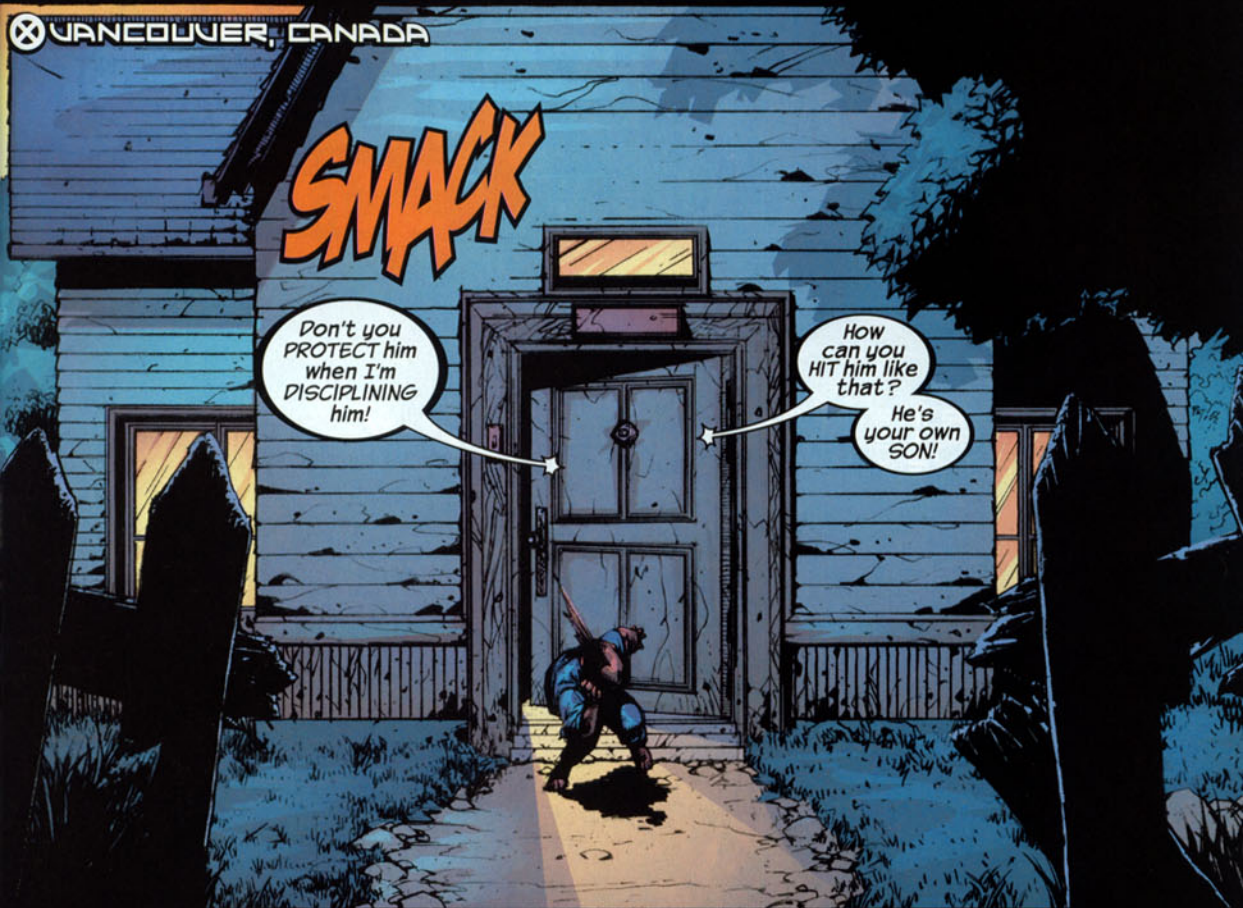
Claude,
he's just
a little
boy--



Let
go of me,
woman--



⑧ VANCOUVER, CANADA





Claude, how can you --

--how can you even SUGGEST such a thing?!

Oh, yeah. I'm *your* son, you miserable piece of--

I could never be so lucky to be anyone else's.



That fish-faced FREAK certainly didn't come from me!

It was WILL, wasn't it?! The guy you worked with!

I NEVER!

How could you --

--I NEVER did such a thing!



Where are you going, woman?!

To see if Sammy--

SIT DOWN!

If we're lucky, that little FREAK won't ever come back!

⊗ THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING HOME OF THE X-MEN



So I'm thinking Annie should join us on our little mind-walk, Professor...



...as a healer, it might prove most informative... don't you think?

Please, Lorna. Don't taunt her.



Charles... I'm not taunting. I'm offering.

Offering a unique opportunity.

You're going into my mind to learn why I've changed, and what's led to my recent--

-- occasionally violent behavior.

Here's a chance for someone who doesn't like mutants --

-- yet works to heal them--

-- to truly understand them better.



Why don't you like mutants, Annie?

Who--?



Oh... Xorn.

Of course, that *would* explain your son Carter's somewhat distant behavior with me.

Racism *is* usually handed down from parent to child.

True, I *have* had some racist beliefs, Xorn. But I've tried *not* to impart them to my son.

Tried very hard.

Of course you have.

Are you here to help me with Lorna, Xorn?

I was hoping --



No.



Some healing I prefer *not* to attempt.

I often find it futile...
...and personally draining.



I am merely here to ask Annie if I might include *Carter* in my special class.

Being that he is, after all, a *mutant*--and by all accounts a very *powerful* one --

--I think the experience would prove *beneficial*.



Well, I, uh --
--I'll talk to Carter about it.

But it's up to *him*, really.



Should it be?



Carter isn't one of the *problem* children, Xorn.

He is with *Annie* as his mother.



Shut up!

He is an extremely powerful mutant who needs *guidance*, Professor.



And he will get it, Xorn. I *promise* you that.

Now if you'll excuse us, we have something very *important* that needs to be dealt with here.



Of course, Professor. I understand.



A mutant with a disregard for human life needs modification--



--while a human with disregard for mutant life assists you.

I apologize for my intrusion.

I do not have--



--I have no "disregard" for any life!



All right, Lorna! You want me inside your head to understand why you've become a killer?!

FINE!

When we're done, you come inside my head and have a look at the flip side of mutant-human relations--



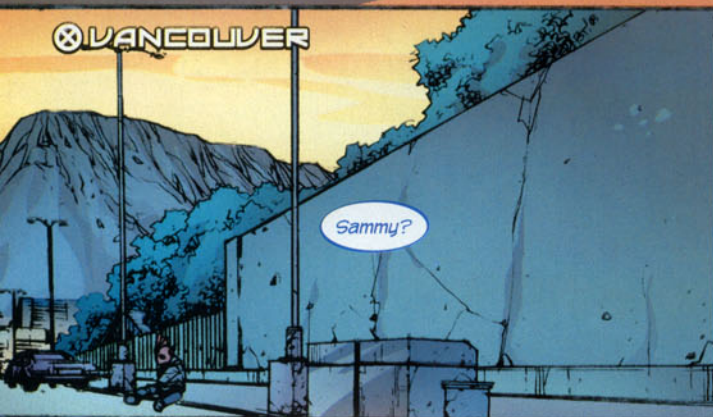
And see how someone can go through hell and still come to this school to help save lives--

-- not take them!



I look forward to it.

⊗ VANCOUVER



Sammy?



Huh--? Carter?

Carter, is that *you*, buddy?



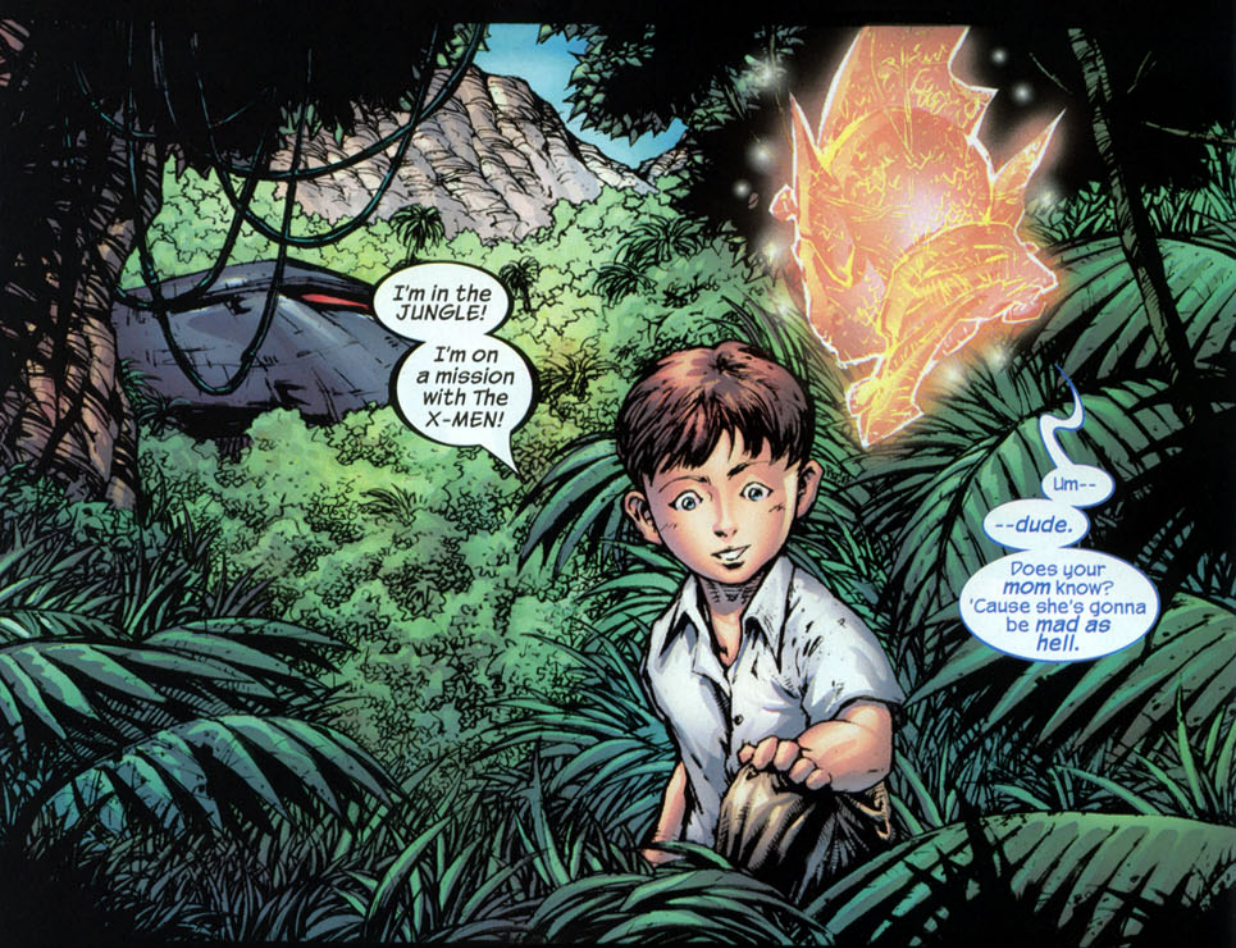
Holy cow, man! This is awesome!

How are you *doin'* this?

I don't know, I just am!

It's kind of like when I went in to help save Alex's mind and stuff. Mutant powers!

Guess where I am, Sammy!



I'm in the JUNGLE!

I'm on a mission with The X-MEN!

Um--

--dude.

Does your mom know? 'Cause she's gonna be mad as hell.



Oh, it's all right. I'm with Alex. He's almost like my dad now, so it's okay.

He's down there with Kurt, the X-Men and a bunch of glowing people.

Dude. Glowing people?

Does Alex even know you're there? I really think you should--

CRACK



✕XAVIER'S

I have Lorna's mind prepared.
Are you ready, Annie?

As ready as I'll ever be.

Sammy?

Hello, Sammy? Are you there?

Young man...who are you and what are you doing here at my dig?

Oh, come on, Annie. Relax.



This is going to be such fun.



What am I supposed to do?

Just relax. Let go of your mind...

...and let *me* do the work.



Okay... I can see...

...I don't know. It looks like a room.

Just relax.



There we go.

Wow, I ---

...where am I?

This is Lorna's mindscape.

Memories viewed through personal interpretation and emotion.



This is incredible. It's so real!

Yes, I suppose it must be to someone who's never been here before.

Now, you said "viewed through personal interpretation." Like therapists using hypnosis, right?

Then how reliable are these "memories"?

Very reliable. I can cut through most of the falsehood and reach the actual stored information, but--

Oh, heavens.

Oh my God!





...I say
we break this
up and get the
elf out of
there...

...before
this gets
really
ugly.

I'm not disagreeing with you, Logan. But *think* about it.

Kurt is obviously not here of his own free will. Something's *manipulated* him into being here.

It's probably been calling him here for a while...

...which I'm sure is why he invited himself along when Lorna and I first came to this island a few weeks back.



We don't know *what* kind of an effect pulling him out of that ring might have on him.

Hell, it might even *kill* him.



Well, we can't just *leave* him there.

We won't.

But let's think of a way to ensure his safety first, and then--

Alex?



It *is* you.

I'm not sure what you people are doing here...

...but I seem to have something that *belongs* to you.



Do you have a problem with seeing that Alex *did* love me once, Annie?

No. Do you have a problem with knowing Alex prefers *me* now to *you*, Lorna--

-- and that this is just a *memory*?

Oh, you're no fun.

I'm taking control of the situation *now*, Lorna.

Fine. Let's get on with it, then.

There. There it is.

I had always wanted to *prove* it to myself, anyway, don't you see?

So I went to Genosha, and I began to believe in Magneto's dream, and it all just-- *happened* after that.

Because once I began to believe, I *had* to know.



I mean, I've always wondered... how could I not?

My powers are the same as his. My real parents died under mysterious circumstances.

I know it was supposedly proven that he wasn't my father, but the one who proved it wasn't trustworthy...and what if the proof was a lie?



All I needed was some genetic material-- a little blood.

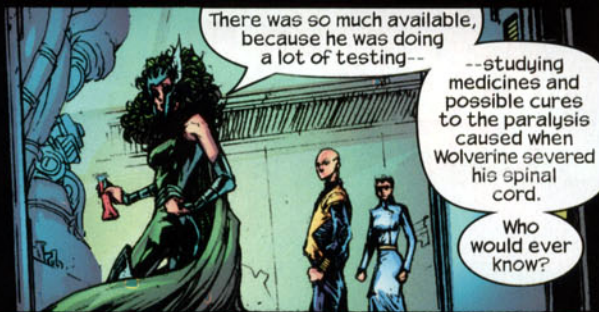
I was already in Genosha. I already had his trust. It would be so easy.



Just a little blood. That's all I needed.

An independent, blind genetic test done by someone without possible hidden agendas--

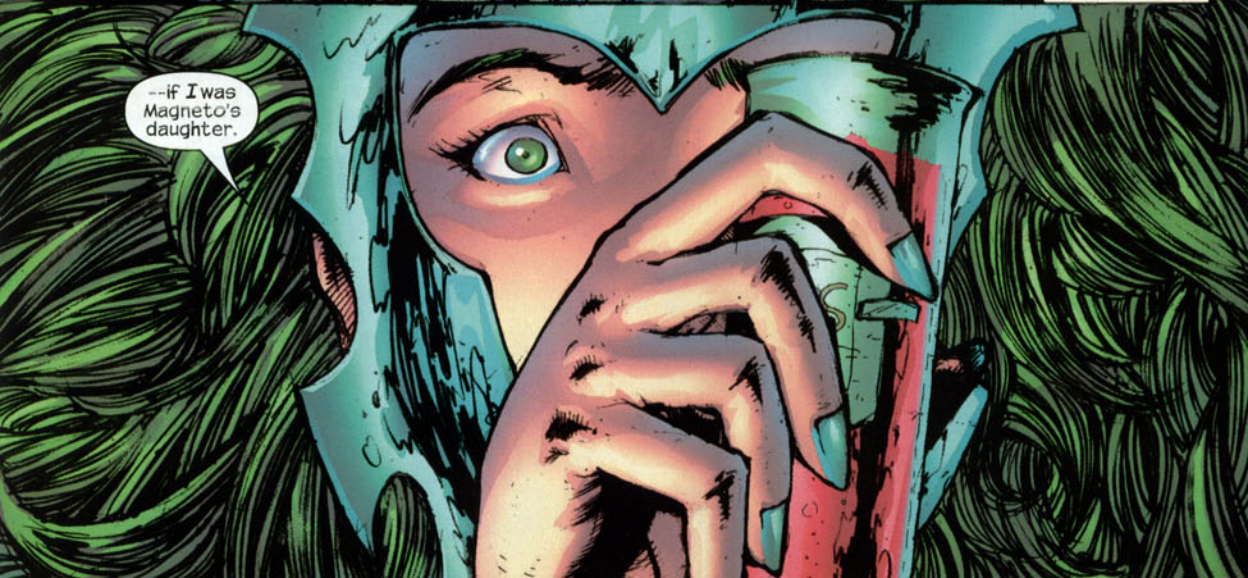
--and I would finally know-- once and for all--



There was so much available, because he was doing a lot of testing--

--studying medicines and possible cures to the paralysis caused when Wolverine severed his spinal cord.

Who would ever know?



--if I was Magneto's daughter.

⊗ MEANWHILE

Carter?!

What th--?
What are you
doing here,
son?

I wanted
to be with
you, Alex.

Carter,
this isn't
safe. Your
mom will
be worried
sick.

Alex, what
exactly is going
on here? What are
you people doing
at my dig site?

Trying to save a
teammate in danger,
Professor...

...but we
happened
across this
strange ritual
going on, and--

Summers!

We gotta
make a *move*
here!

Yeah, Alex,
these guys
are almost
through--

--and
they're
arming
up!



SHBOOM





Professor Dibble, can you get Carter out of--

THUNK

AAH-DAMMIT!



RUN, PROFESSOR!

GET AWAY, NOW!



I CAN'T PULL KURT FREE, ALEX!



WARREN, I MAY EXPLODE WITH
THESE ARROWS, BUT WE STILL
HAVE TO BREAK THAT
CIRCLE!

I'LL DO
IT, ALEX,
BUT--

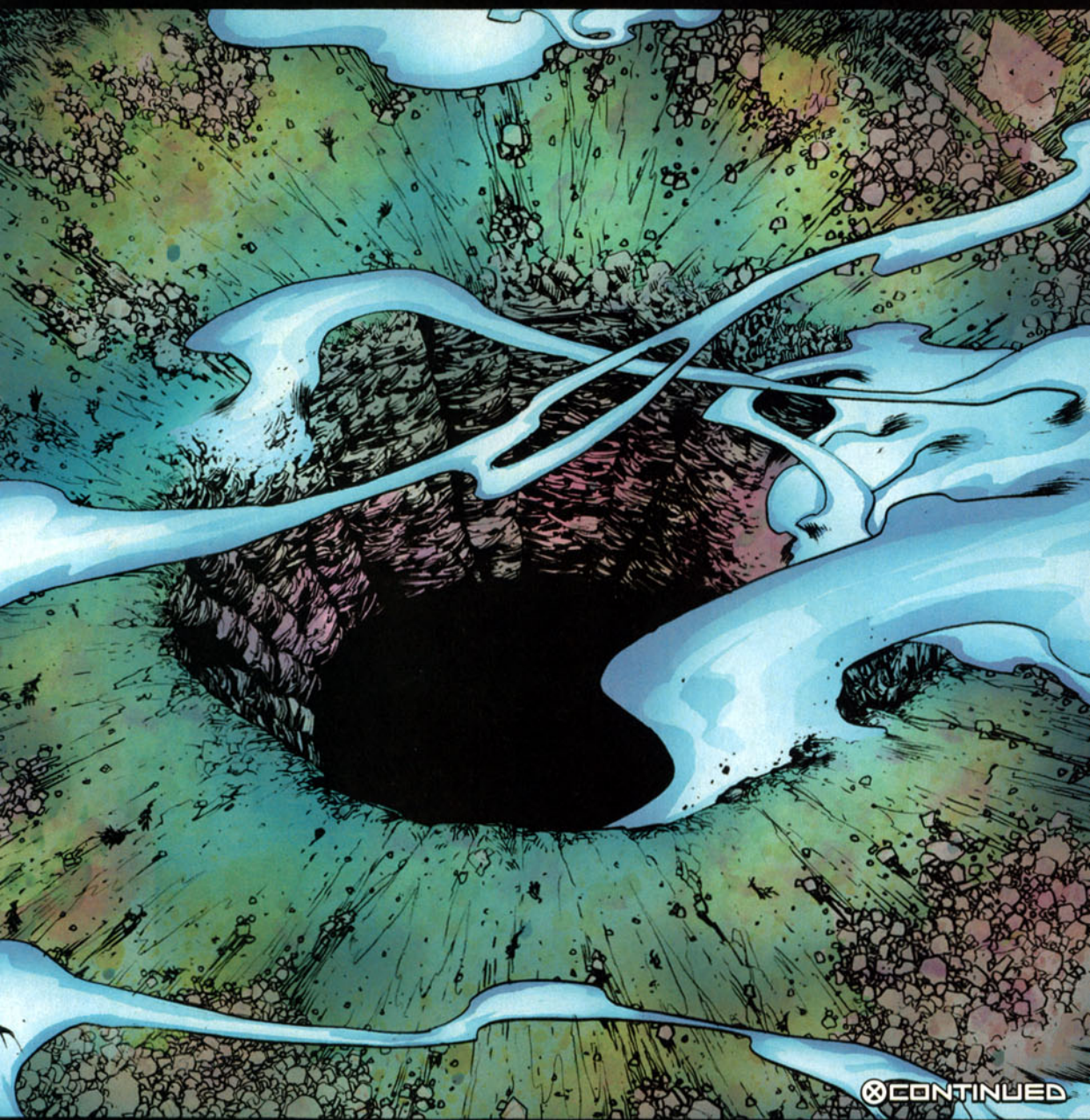
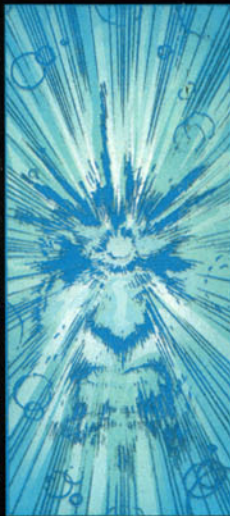
PAWAAAGE!

I'M ALL
RIGHT, WARREN!
THE CIRCLE--

I'M
COMING--

OFF!

VWEEEEEN



⊗CONTINUED