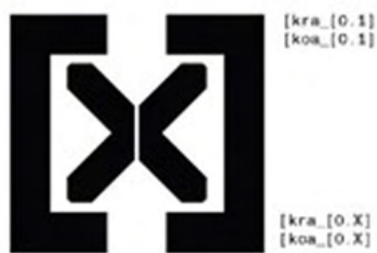


X-Treme

X-MEN



DAVID ISRAEL NUNEZ
JAMES O'REILLY



DEATH'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

Death is a thing of the past on Krakoa, the island nation of mutants. Only mutants that are confirmed dead are added to the resurrection queue.

Xavier's Security Enforcers (X.S.E.) is the Krakoa-sanctioned team tasked with confirming mutant deaths.

They are lovingly referred to as the X-TREME X-MEN.



Adam X



Maggott



Professor X



Vulcan



Mr. Sinister



Pixie



Martinique

I WAS TOLD I WAS CREATED FOR GREATNESS. TO BE SOME KIND OF "SPACE KING."

ONLY FOR SOME *NOBODY* TO SWOOP IN AND TAKE IT ALL AWAY FROM ME...



...AS I LAID OUT IN A BED AT OUR MOTHER OF MERCY HOSPITAL. SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY FIBROSIS. A DISEASE USUALLY DEVELOPED DURING OTHERWORLDLY TRAVEL. OR IN MY CASE, A SIDE EFFECT FROM LIVING ON AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT.

SO MUCH FOR THE "SPACE KING."




A FEW YEARS LATER, AND I SOMEHOW MANAGE TO FIND MYSELF IN AN EVEN WORSE DISPOSITION. WRIST-DEEP IN A BLOODY PULP OF WHAT ONCE WAS A MUTANT KNOWN AS *MASTERMIND*.

IF YOU HAVEN'T GUESSED, YET: I'M ALSO A MUTANT. BLESSED WITH THE ABILITY TO IGNITE OXYGENATED BLOOD. FOR THIS REASON, I CAN SMELL BLOOD IN THE AIR. ALMOST LIKE A SHARK IN THE WATER. I CAN ALSO RECOGNIZE IT.

IT'S HIM.

* SEE THE NOW CLASSIC *CAPTAIN MARVEL (1995) #3*

** ALSO SEE *X-MEN: DEADLY GENESIS*




GIVE ME A MINUTE AND I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT WENT ON HERE.


THAT GUY FEELING UP THE WALL -- THAT'S *MAGGOTT*. MY PARTNER. IF YOU GUESSED THAT HE'S A MUTANT, TOO: THEN YOU WOULD BE RIGHT.

MAGGOTT'S MUTANT NAME COMES FROM THE FACT THAT HIS DIGESTIVE SYSTEM IS MADE UP OF TWO MAGGOT-LIKE CREATURES. (HE LIKES TO ADD AN EXTRA "T" FOR STYLE.)

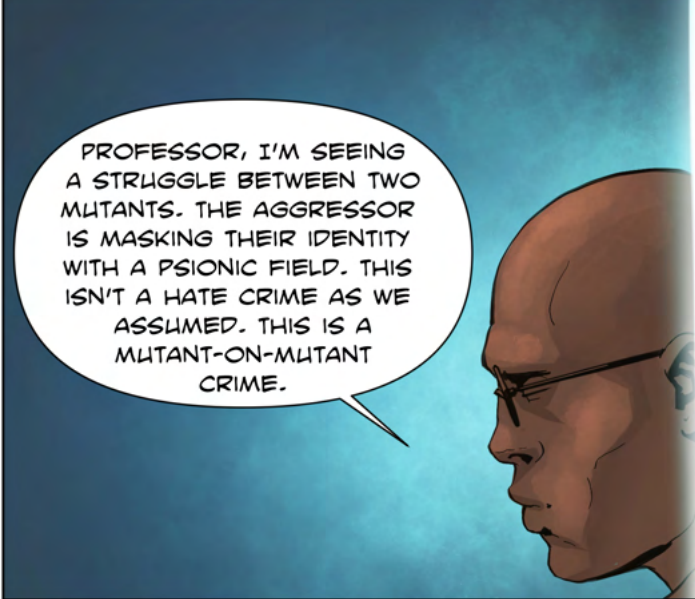
HIS SECONDARY ABILITY ALLOWS HIM TO READ RESIDUAL PSYCHIC ENERGY FROM INANIMATE OBJECTS. HE CAN BASICALLY RELIVE ANY SITUATION AS IF THOUGH HE WERE ACTUALLY PRESENT.



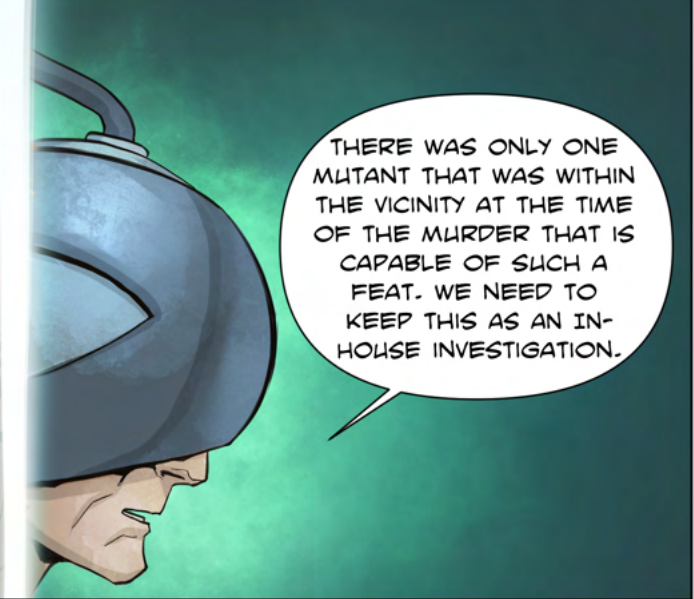
AS MUCH AS I LIKE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MY LIFE, MAGGOTT'S LIFE IS AN ENDLESS STREAM OF TRAGEDIES. MOST RECENTLY, HE DIED IN A MUTANT CONCENTRATION CAMP. ONLY TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE USING MAGIC AND AN ALIEN VIRUS.



AS OUR TASK IS TO CONFIRM A MUTANT'S DEATH IN ORDER TO RESURRECT THEM, MAGGOTT WAS BORN FOR THE JOB.



PROFESSOR, I'M SEEING A STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO MUTANTS. THE AGGRESSOR IS MASKING THEIR IDENTITY WITH A PSIONIC FIELD. THIS ISN'T A HATE CRIME AS WE ASSUMED. THIS IS A MUTANT-ON-MUTANT CRIME.



THERE WAS ONLY ONE MUTANT THAT WAS WITHIN THE VICINITY AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER THAT IS CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT. WE NEED TO KEEP THIS AS AN IN-HOUSE INVESTIGATION.



I KNOW THE PROFESSOR HAS THESE GUYS PSYCHICALLY FROZEN IN PLACE. BUT THEIR GLARES ARE CREEPING ME OUT.

RELAX. THEY WON'T REMEMBER US BEING HERE. AND THEY WILL UNWITTINGLY HANDLE ANY CLEAN-UP. THE PROF REQUESTED A *PROTOCOL 137*.

RIGHT. THEN LET'S HEAD OUT. IT'S TIME TO--



--BURN!


A street scene with a blue car parked on the side. A man in a brown jacket and a black cap is standing near the car, and another man in a yellow jacket is walking away in the background. The scene is set in an urban environment with buildings and a sidewalk.

SO DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SAY "BURN" TO IGNITE BLOOD?

PSYCHIC ENERGY REVERBERATES OFF WALLS LIKE SOUND WAVES. YOU GET A CLEARER IMAGE OF THE ENTIRE SITE. LIKE "PSYCHIC ECHOLOCAATION."

IT'S FOR STYLE POINTS.


WHILE WE'RE GRILLING EACH OTHER ABOUT OUR POWERS: WHY TOUCH THE WALLS INSTEAD OF THE GROUND AROUND THE BODY?

A close-up of a man with a black cap and a brown jacket. He is looking down with a serious expression, holding a dark, cylindrical object in his hand.

AND HOW DO YOUR SLUGS FACTOR INTO THIS ABILITY?

A close-up of the same man with a black cap and a brown jacket. He is looking up with a surprised expression, holding a large slug on his shoulder. There are several other slugs visible on his shoulder and chest.

THEY DON'T. I LEFT *MEENY* AND *MINY* HERE. THERE ARE MY GIRLS!

A close-up of a man with glasses and a black cap. He is looking at a large slug that is being held by another person. The slug has a white, segmented body and large, dark eyes.

SPEAKING OF LADIES, THE PROF IS SENDING SOMEONE TO HELP US SECURE THE PERP.



MARTINIQUE WYNGARDE!



BY THE RIGHTS BESTOWED UPON US BY THE KRAKOAN COUNCIL, YOU ARE HEREBY PLACED UNDER ARREST FOR THE MUTANT MURDER OF JASON WYNGARDE A.K.A. MASTERMIND.



THAT ABOMINATION WAS NOT MY FATHER! IT WAS AN IMPERFECT CLONE CREATED BY ASTRA. I PUT IT OUT OF ITS MISERY. WITH IT OUT OF THE WAY, THE REAL JASON WYNGARDE CAN BE QUEUED UP FOR A PROPER KRAKOAN RESURRECTION.



WE FIGURED YOU'D PUT UP A FIGHT. DON'T BOTHER USING YOUR POWERS. WE BROUGHT SOMEONE IMMUNE TO YOUR MIND GAMES.



HEY, SIS.




OF COURSE SHE'D HELP YOU. SHE NEVER EVEN KNEW OUR FATHER!



I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ARGUE. YOU WILL BE TRIED BY THE KRAKOAN COUNCIL.


FOR KILLING A CLONE!?! A DEFORMED COPY OF DAD!?



HE WAS A LIVING MUTANT.
THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE
YOUR FATE.



ZAP!



"YOU'VE BEEN QUIET THIS WHOLE RIDE.
YOU ALRIGHT, MATE?"



I'VE JUST BEEN THINKING ABOUT
WHAT THAT WYNGARDE GIRL SAID ABOUT
CLONES. AND WHAT MAKES THE MUTANTS
BEING REBORN THROUGH KRAKOA ANY
DIFFERENT? AREN'T THEY JUST CLONES,
TOO?




YOU'RE ASKING SOMEONE WHO CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD THROUGH NEFARIOUS MEANS. AM I *THE REAL DEAL*? IT'S SOMETHING I ASK MYSELF AT LEAST ONCE A DAY. IT'S A QUESTION I SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO. BUT I DON'T.




I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE ALIVE. WHOEVER I AM.




THERE WAS A REASON WYNGARDE'S WORDS HAUNTED ME. SOMETHING THAT WAS REVEALED TO ME BY SOMEONE I HAD CONSIDERED A THREAT TO MY EXISTENCE. UNTIL I FOUND OUT HE MAY HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY VERY CREATION.



ALRIGHT, SINISTER.
I APPRECIATE THE
SPONSORSHIP TO HEAD UP
THE X.S.E. TEAM. BUT
IF YOU THINK THIS IS
GOING TO MAKE US BEST
BUDS, YOU'RE OUT OF
YOUR MIND.



WELL, I WANTED TO PREPARE YOU
FOR YOUR NEW ROLE. YOU'LL
GET A SLIGHT SENSORY BOOST. ALONG
WITH AN INTERNAL BLOOD CATALOG OF
ALL KNOWN MUTANTS. YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO TRACK ANY MUTANT THAT BLEEDS
WITH A HOUND-LIKE PRECISION.



AND WE'RE MORE THAN "BEST BUDS,"
ADAM. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, YOU AND I GO
WAY BACK. I FIGURED NOW WOULD BE AN
OPPORTUNE TIME TO GIVE YOU
A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON ON
YOUR OWN ORIGINS.

LONG AGO, "IMMORTALITY" USED TO HAVE A DIFFERENT MEANING. YOUR PROGENY WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER FOR YOU WHEN YOU PASSED. WHEN MY FIRST SON, **ADAM ESSEX**, DIED BEFORE HE COULD SPEAK, I REALIZED HE'D NEVER HAVE A REAL CHANCE TO DISAPPOINT ME. AFTER ALL, MY AMBITIONS...



EVEN WITH ALL THIS, I WAS DECADES AWAY FROM A VIABLE METHOD OF RESURRECTION. UNTIL I STUMBLED UPON A **MYSTICAL** ALTERNATIVE.



ADAM STANISLAV
ESSEX

Beloved son of
Nathan
and Rebecca

...WERE FAR GREATER THAN A SINGLE LIFETIME COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE. ADAM'S DEATH INSPIRED MY QUEST FOR "IMMORTALITY" IN THE ACTUAL SENSE. MY WORK ATTRACTED **APOCALYPSE**, WHO OFFERED HIS ADVANCED ALIEN TECHNOLOGY AND DATABASE.

IN ORDER TO GET TO THE PHOENIX FORCE, I NEEDED TO GET TO THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL -- WHICH WAS GUARDED BY THE SHI'AR EMPIRE.

I FOUND AN ALLY, IN **ERIK THE RED**. SOMEONE WHO WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO OVERTHROW THE CURRENT SHI'AR DYNASTY, THE **NERAMANI** FAMILY.




IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR CREATION, ERIK WOULD TAKE THE **SUMMERS** PARENTS AWAY AND LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN TO ME. (AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THEY WERE UNDER XAVIER'S WATCHFUL EYE AND I NEEDED TO KEEP MY ANONYMITY.)

THAT'S WHEN I OFFERED A TRADE: I WOULD USE MY EXPERTISE IN GENETICS TO CREATE A MUTANT WITH **NERAMANI** BLOOD TO RIGHTFULLY CLAIM THE THRONE. (UNBEKNOWNST TO ERIK, I USED MY OWN GENES IN THE MIX, SHOULD I WANT TO EVER OVERTHROW THE EMPIRE MYSELF.)



YOU WERE CREATED USING THE LAST REMNANTS OF ADAM ESSEX MATERIAL IN MY POSSESSION. HENCE YOUR BIRTH NAME, **ADAM X**. AND IF YOUR EXPLOSIVE ENERGY POWERS SEEM FAMILIAR, BY THIS POINT, ALL MY GREATEST PROJECTS HAD SOME FORM OF SUMMERS GENES SPLICED IN FOR GOOD MEASURE.

AND IF IT WEREN'T OBVIOUS ENOUGH, I BEGAN SPLICING MY OWN GENETIC MATERIAL INTO THE SUMMERS BLOODLINE. WHICH EXPLAINS THE STARTLING SIMILARITY **GABRIEL SUMMERS** POSES TO YOURS TRULY. IT ALSO EXPLAINS WHY HE HAD A SUDDEN URGE TO FLY INTO SPACE AND OVERTHROW THE SHI'AR EMPIRE. WHAT CAN I SAY? THIS AMBITION: IT'S GENETIC.




THEN GABRIEL SUMMERS DIED.
WE CLONED-- I MEAN, RESURRECTED
HIM. THROUGH KRAKOA. WITH NO MEMORY
OF EVER BECOMING THE SHI'AR EMPEROR.

SO GABRIEL-- VULCAN.
IS MY BROTHER?

WELL, I GUESS THAT
DOES SORT OF MAKE
YOU "BROTHERS." AND
I, YOUR FATHER.

TELL ME ABOUT
THE *ORIGINAL* ADAM.

YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN, ADAM X.
ALTHOUGH BY DEFINITION, YOU ARE A CLONE,
THE DEFINITION OF "CLONES" HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY.
IF YOU WERE TO DIE, KRAKOAN RESURRECTION OF A CLONE
SUCH AS YOURSELF, MAY DILUTE WHAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL.
YOU MAY HAVE NEVER BECOME SHI'AR EMPEROR, BUT IN OUR
LINE OF WORK, DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS
THE END OF YOUR STORY?



SOMETHING SINISTER SAID.
I THINK WE NEED TO GO BACK.
I HAVE A FEELING WE MAY HAVE
MISSED SOMETHING AT
MARTINIQUE'S PLACE.



SINISTER KNEW WHAT MARTINIQUE WYNGARDE WAS HIDING. SOMETHING HER FRESHLY-RESURRECTED FATHER WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF.

SOMETHING THAT I WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM DISPOSING OF.



A GIFT?

A TEST?

WHAT IS IT, ADAM?



THE ORIGINAL VULCAN.

IN A PHOENIX FORCE COCOON.

TO BE CONTINUED...