

KAZAKHSTAN.
SEMIPALATINSK TEST SITE, A.K.A. THE POLYGON.

LEVELS ARE STILL SAFE THIS CLOSE TO THE BUNKERS.



THE GREEN MAN'S COUNTER TELLS HIM SO.

THE WOMAN REMARKS THAT **SOMETHING** MUST BE MAKING THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE ILL.



THE GREEN MAN SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS. HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP PRETENDS IT CARES. THE PREVIOUS REGIME CERTAINLY DID NOT.

THE WOMAN, NERVOUS ABOUT UNSEEN ENERGIES AROUND HER, SAYS THAT IT'S EASY FOR HIM TO SAY.

THE RESOLUTION GAVE HIM AN IMMUNITY TO RADIATION.



THE MAN JOKES THAT IT'S MUCH HARDER TO GET A SUNTAN NOW. HE IS ABOUT TO ASK HER WHAT MUTANT POWERS HIS PARTNER RECEIVED, BUT THEN SNORTS AT ITS OBVIOUSNESS.

HE'S NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO WHERE HIS FOOT FALLS.



AFTER THE CRUNCH OF FRAIL BONES BREAKING, THE ONLY OTHER SOUND IS THE SHARP INTAKE OF BREATH FROM THE WOMAN.



AND THEN THE GENTLE PATTERN OF A TINY BODY IMPACTING THE DUSTY EARTH.

AND THEN ANOTHER. AND ANOTHER. AND ANOTHER.



THE MUTANTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MISSION, INTIMATELY AWARE OF WHAT IS MAKING THE LOCAL RESIDENTS WEAKER WITH EACH PASSING DAY. BUT THEY ARE FOREVER UNABLE TO SHARE THE INFORMATION.

THE RESOLUTION BESTOWED MANY GIFTS. GIFTS OF ANGEL WINGS AND FISTS OF FLAME AND VOICES THAT CAN COMMAND BEASTS.

BUT NONE ARE GREATER THAN THE GIFT THE TONGUE OF CZERNOBOG LAVISHES UPON THEM.

NONE ARE GREATER THAN DEATH.



NEW YORK CITY.
GREENWICH VILLAGE.

THEY SAY THESE ARE PERFECT PAYS.

THE BRIGHT DISEASE

THEY SAY YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE CHILDREN WE RAISE.

BUT WHO TAKES CREDIT FOR BABES BORN IN TUBES?

WHO TAKES CREDIT FOR OUR LIVES LIVED IN CUBES?

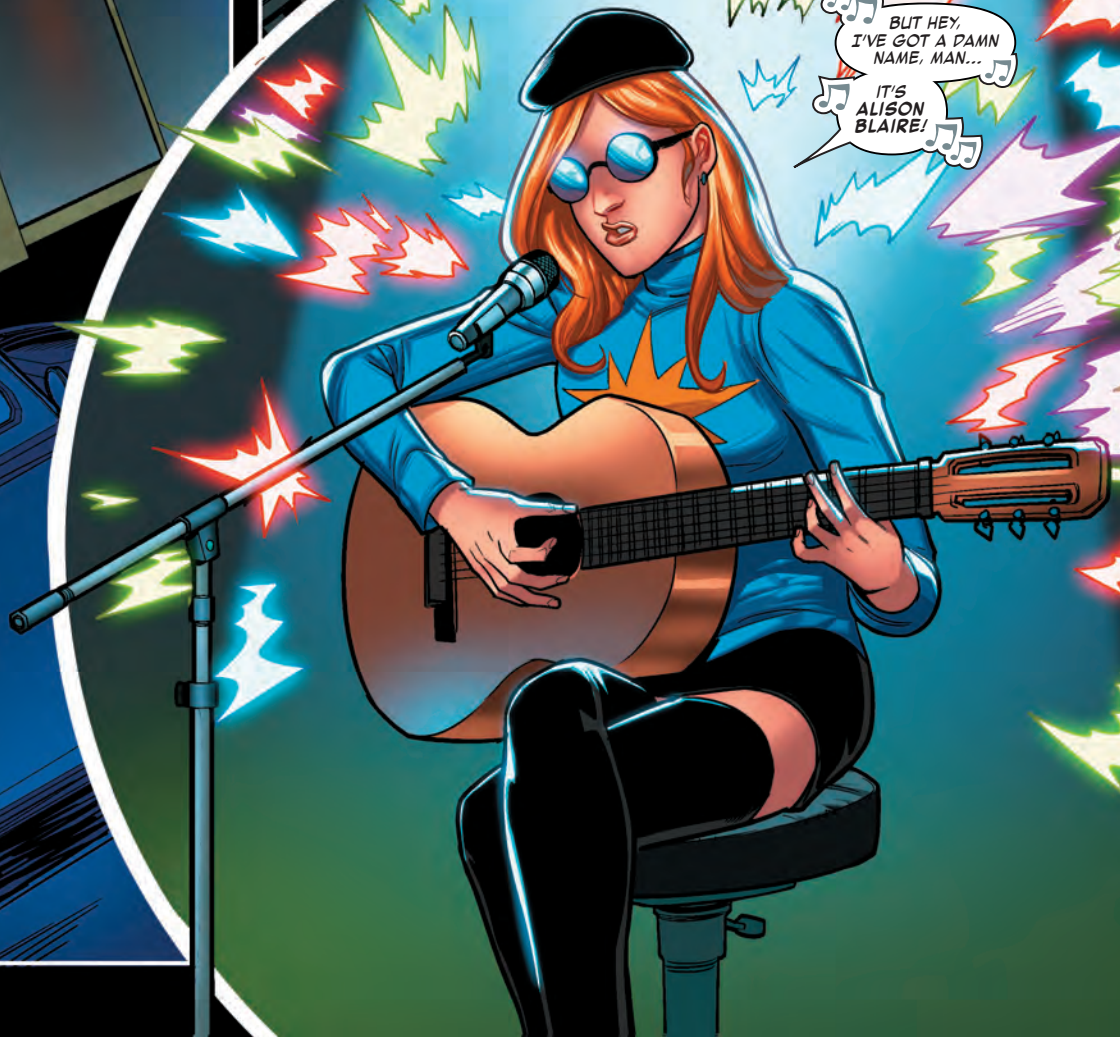
TELL ME I'M BETTER OFF ALONE. BETTER OFF UNIQUE.

TELL ME NO ONE'S LONELY WHEN EVERYONE'S A FREAK.

YOU CAN'T SEE ME, YOU COVER YOUR EYES TO THE GLARE.

BUT HEY, I'VE GOT A DAMN NAME, MAN...

IT'S ALISON BLAIRE!





THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THIS NEXT SONG IS--

DAZZLER.

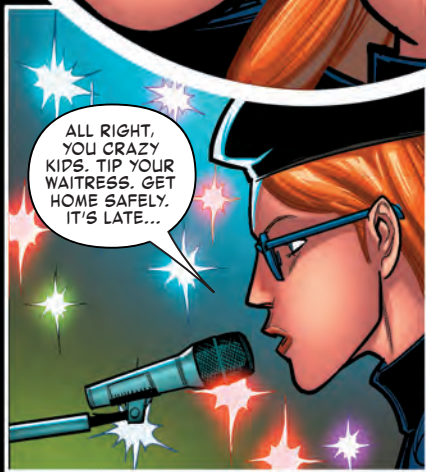
IT'S ABOUT THE STARS WE CAN'T--

DAZZLER. NOW.



CAN THIS WAIT, MURSHIP? I'VE GOT A PACKED HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS.

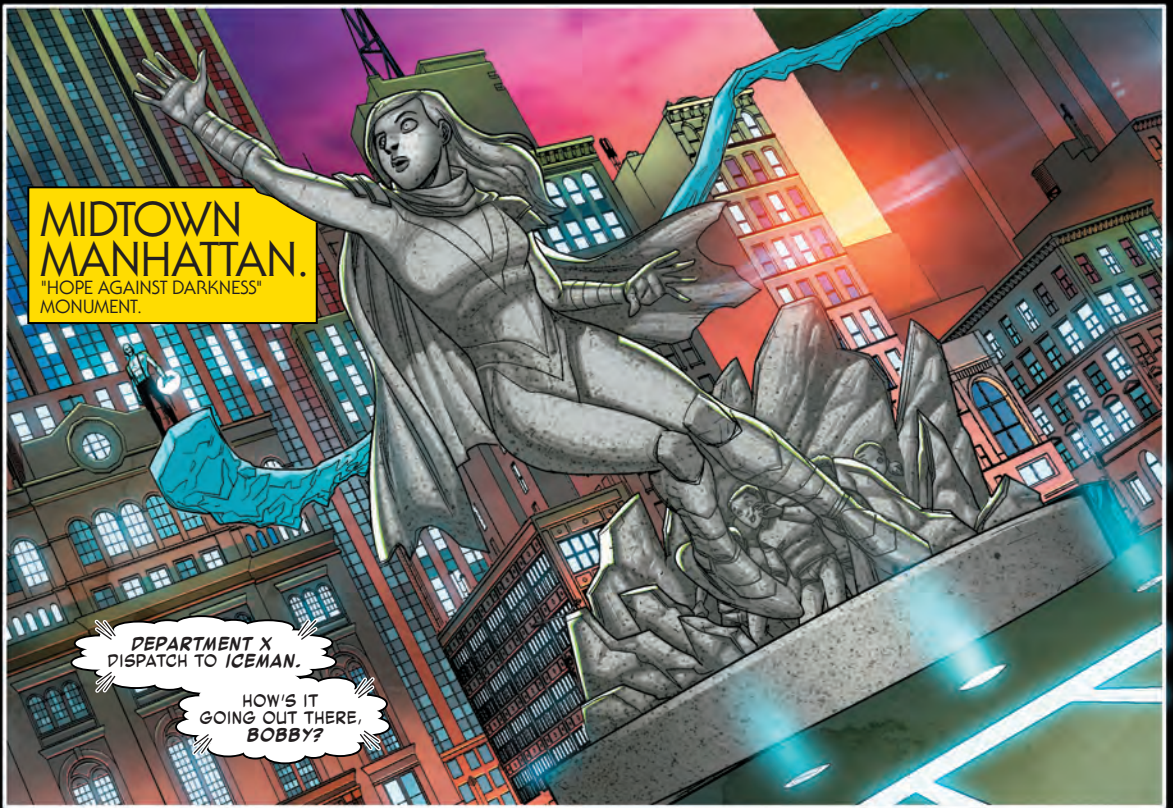
IT CANNOT.



ALL RIGHT, YOU CRAZY KIDS. TIP YOUR WAITRESS. GET HOME SAFELY. IT'S LATE...



...AND ALL THE LIGHTS ARE OUT.



**MIDTOWN
MANHATTAN.**
"HOPE AGAINST DARKNESS"
MONUMENT.

DEPARTMENT X
DISPATCH TO ICEMAN.

HOW'S IT
GOING OUT THERE,
BOBBY?



JUST PASSED
THE MONUMENT,
BETSY. CAN YOU
SCAN FOR
MINDS?

ALL
CLEAR. YOU
OKAY?



GOT A
SHIVER DOWN
MY SPINE THERE FOR
A SECOND. BUT HEY,
I'M MADE OUT OF
ICE, RIGHT?



HEADING
BACK. DON'T PUNISH
ANY DISSIDENTERS
WITHOUT ME.

HNT.