

**SALEM CENTER,
NEW YORK.**
TWO DAYS AGO.

SAMURAI,
DRAGONESS,
FOREARM AND
STROBE...

IMPRESSIVE
WORK,
CYCLOPS...

WHY DO
I SENSE A
"BUT"?

...BUT MY INTEL SAID
YOU HAD OTHER
PRISONERS.

DARK BEAST.
BANSHEE...
HOPE?

YOUR
INTEL WAS
WRONG.

YOU
SURE?

YOU WANT
TO BRING YOUR
SOLDIERS INSIDE
TO RANSACK
OUR HOUSE?

YOU KNOW THIS
ONLY WORKS IF
WE TRUST EACH
OTHER, RIGHT,
SCOTT?

I JUST TURNED MY FELLOW
MUTANTS OVER TO YOU WITH
MY TRUST THAT THEY WON'T END
UP EXPERIMENTED ON BY YOUR
GOVERNMENT, OR WORSE. I'M
COMPLICIT IN ANYTHING
UNTOWARD THAT HAPPENS TO
THESE MUTANTS UNDER
YOUR WATCH.

SO THIS
TRUST YOU KEEP
TALKING ABOUT? IT
FEELS AN AWFUL LOT
LIKE A ONE-WAY
STREET.

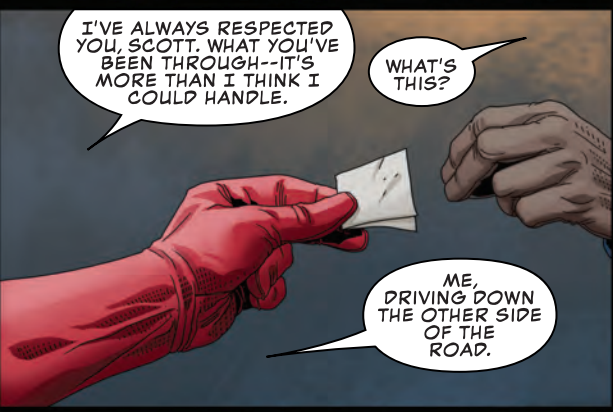


YOU DON'T THINK OF THIS AS YOUR COUNTRY ANYMORE, SCOTT?

I'M A MUTANT, STEVE. ANY COUNTRY I EVER HAD HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME LONG AGO.

I'M SORRY YOU SEE IT THAT WAY.

I'M SORRY YOU DON'T.



I'VE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOU, SCOTT. WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH--IT'S MORE THAN I THINK I COULD HANDLE.

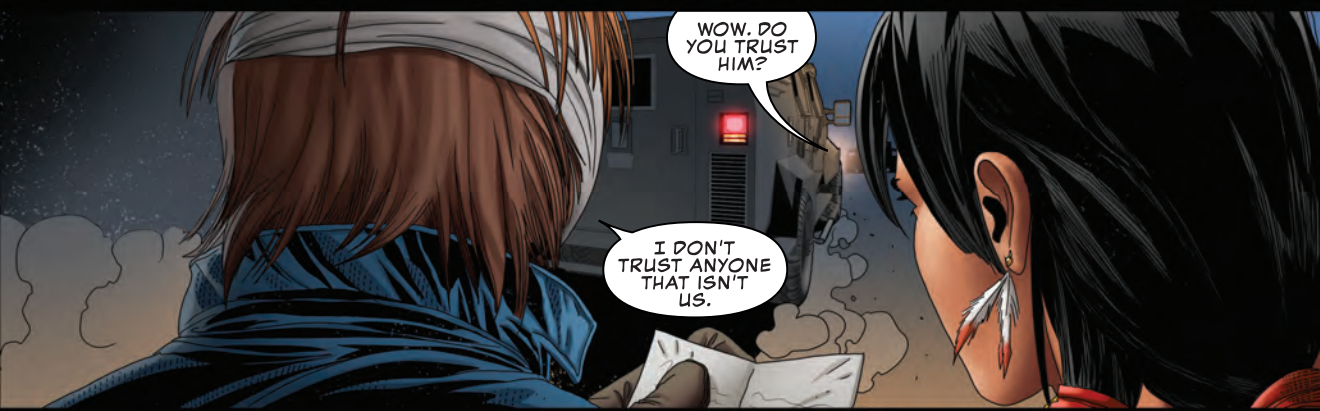
WHAT'S THIS?

ME, DRIVING DOWN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD.



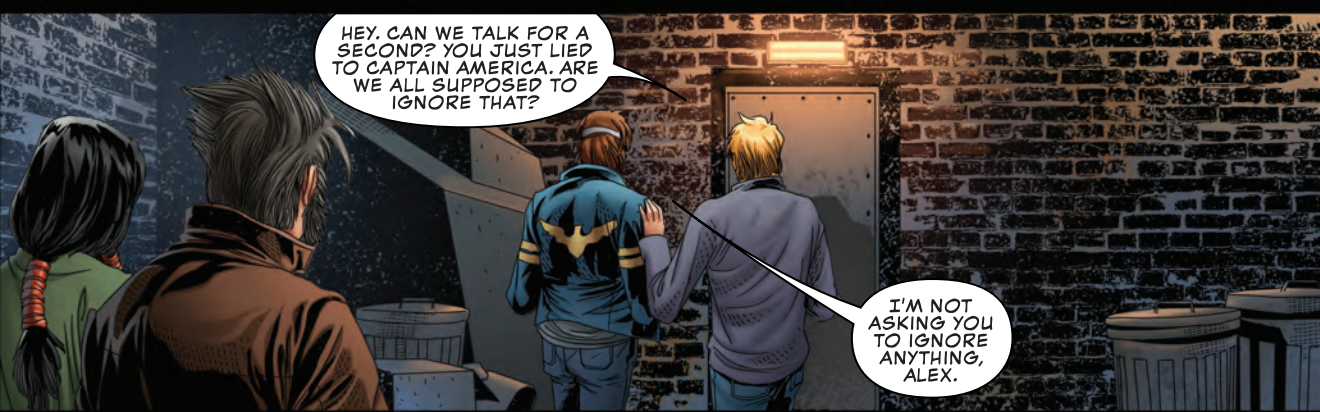
I BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING, GETTING RID OF PROBLEMS THAT YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE BLAMED FOR.

THIS IS A BIG ONE.



WOW. DO YOU TRUST HIM?

I DON'T TRUST ANYONE THAT ISN'T US.



HEY. CAN WE TALK FOR A SECOND? YOU JUST LIED TO CAPTAIN AMERICA. ARE WE ALL SUPPOSED TO IGNORE THAT?

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO IGNORE ANYTHING, ALEX.



WHAT WAS THIS FOR? TO PROTECT HOPE? THE GIRL WHO SHOT YOU IN THE FACE?

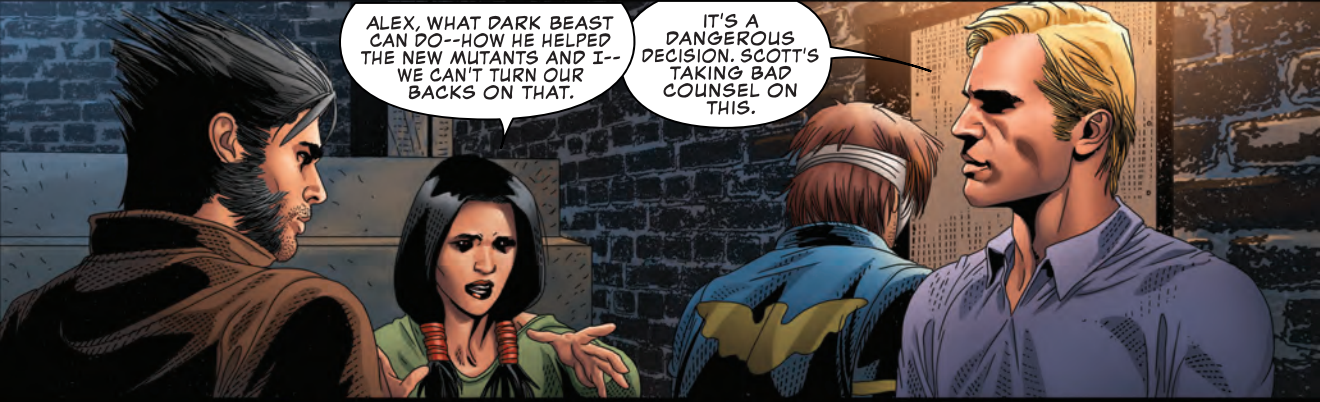
SHE'S CABLE'S DAUGHTER. I CAN'T JUST TURN HER OVER TO--

AND DARK BEAST? WHOSE SCREWED-UP KID IS HE?



HEY, KID. THERE'S A LOT OF TOUGH CHOICES--

DID I @\$\$%#& ASK YOU, LOGAN? I'M TALKING TO MY BROTHER.



ALEX, WHAT DARK BEAST CAN DO--HOW HE HELPED THE NEW MUTANTS AND I-- WE CAN'T TURN OUR BACKS ON THAT.

IT'S A DANGEROUS DECISION. SCOTT'S TAKING BAD COUNSEL ON THIS.



IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? THAT I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO LOGAN OVER YOU?

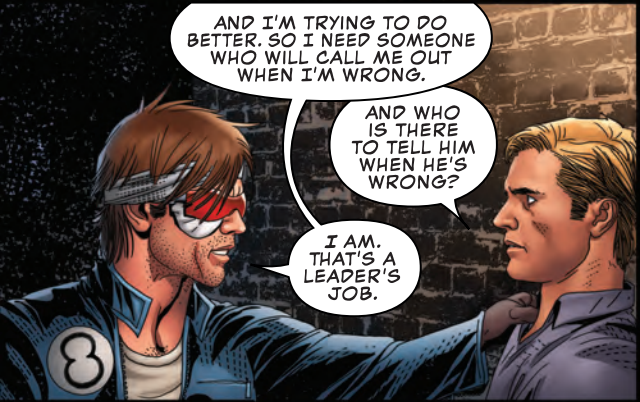
YOU THINK THIS IS ABOUT HURT FEELINGS? &#@%\$ YOU, SCOTT.

YOU KNOW WHY I GO TO HIM FOR ADVICE?

NO. PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD MY BACK, ALEX. SINCE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU. BUT RIGHT NOW... I'M NOT SO SURE I'M RIGHT.

HAVING YOU STAND BY MY SIDE NO MATTER WHAT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME. BUT IT'S DANGEROUS. SO I TURN TO LOGAN BECAUSE WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE. HELL, HE DOESN'T EVEN LIKE ME. BUT I TRUST HIS OPINION.



AND I'M TRYING TO DO BETTER. SO I NEED SOMEONE WHO WILL CALL ME OUT WHEN I'M WRONG.

AND WHO IS THERE TO TELL HIM WHEN HE'S WRONG?

I AM. THAT'S A LEADER'S JOB.



WELL, IF YOU'RE WORRIED I'LL ALWAYS SUPPORT YOU NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T.

THAT WAS MESSED UP. EVERYTHING YOU'RE HAVING US DO IS MESSED UP. YOU SAID IT WAS ALL DIFFERENT NOW. XAVIER'S DREAM IS GONE. THE SCHOOL IS GONE.



SO WHY ARE WE STILL FOLLOWING THE SAME LEADER AFTER WE WERE LED TO RUIN?

...YOU'RE RIGHT, ALEX. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU MORE...

"...IT'S TIME
WE ALL
TALKED."

**CONNALLON AIR FORCE BASE,
EASTERN TRANSIA.**

AND THE
GENERAL
SAYS TO THIS
CHICK--

HANG ON.
YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

YOU'RE
FREAKIN'
OUT, MAN.

YOU
DON'T
HEAR THAT?
IT SOUNDS
LIKE...

GET A
LIGHT DOWN
THERE!

OH MY
GOD!