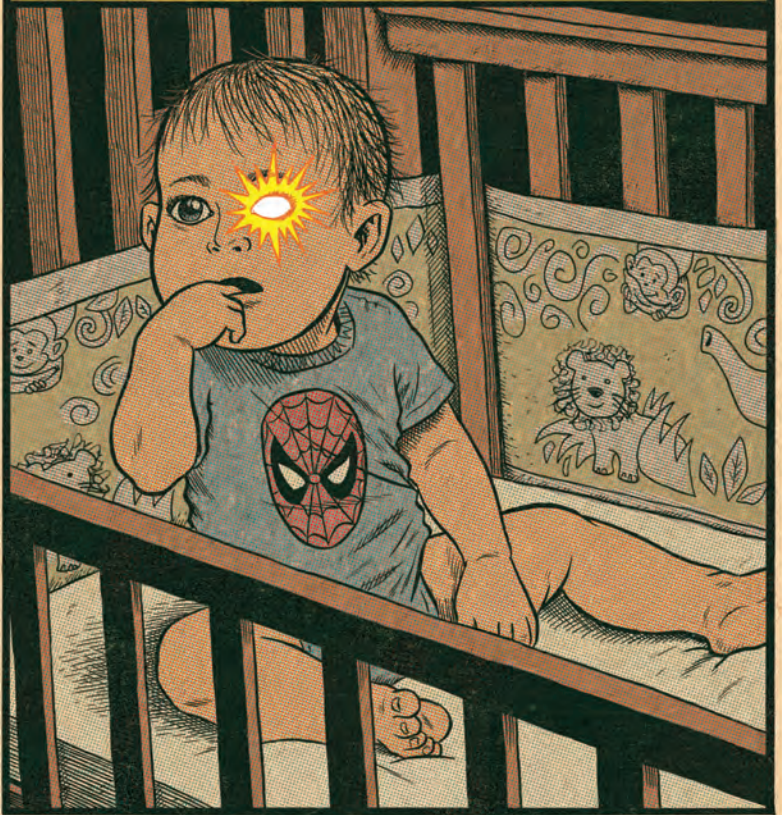


ONE PERSON WAS THE INDIRECT CATALYST FOR SO MUCH MAIMING, MURDER AND DEVASTATION THAT THE X-MEN WERE NEVER ABLE TO TRULY RECOVER.



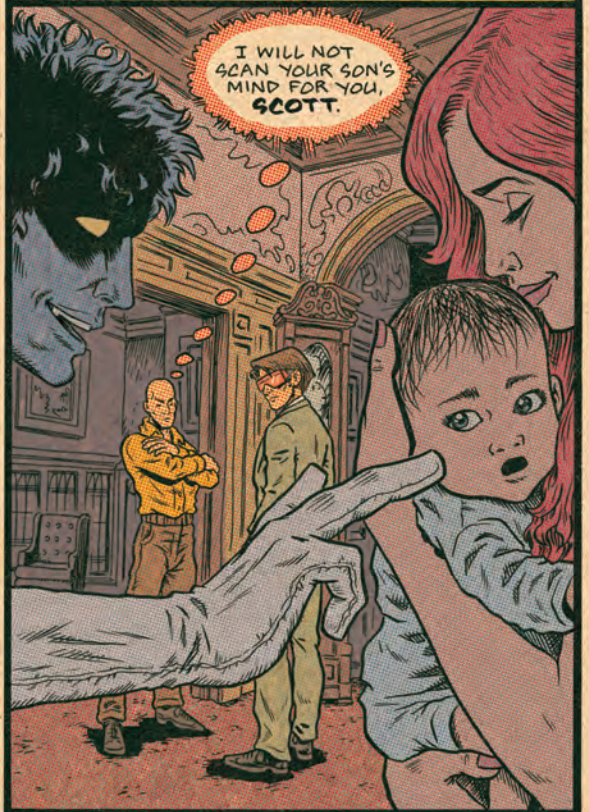
HIS NAME IS **NATHAN CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS** AND MOST OF THE HORROR WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY.



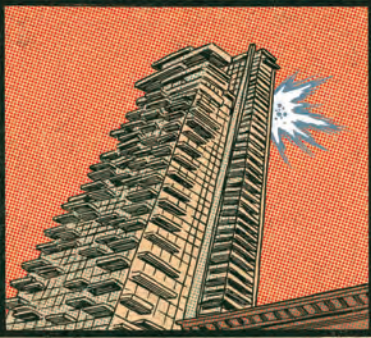
HIS MOTHER, **MADELYNE PRYOR**, HAS BEEN EXCITED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE **NATE** TO HIS DE FACTO EXTENDED FAMILY...



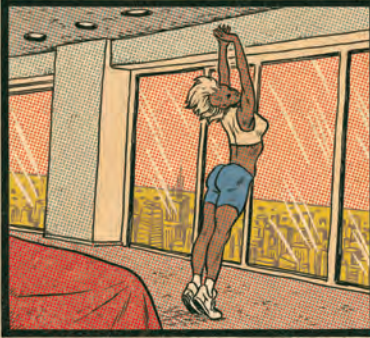
**SCOTT SUMMERS** HAD HIS OWN REASONS FOR BRINGING THE BOY TO THE MANGION.



**FREEDOM TOWER**, THE HOME BASE FOR **FORGE**, THE MUTANT WITH THE GIFT TO BUILD ANYTHING HE CAN IMAGINE. ALMOST.



SINCE CONTRIBUTING TO THE NULLIFICATION OF **STORM'S** MUTANT ABILITY, HE'S BEEN HELPING HER RECOVER HERE.



TODAY **STORM** DECIDES SHE FINALLY WANTS TO LEAVE THIS BEDROOM AND **FREEDOM TOWER** FOR GOOD.



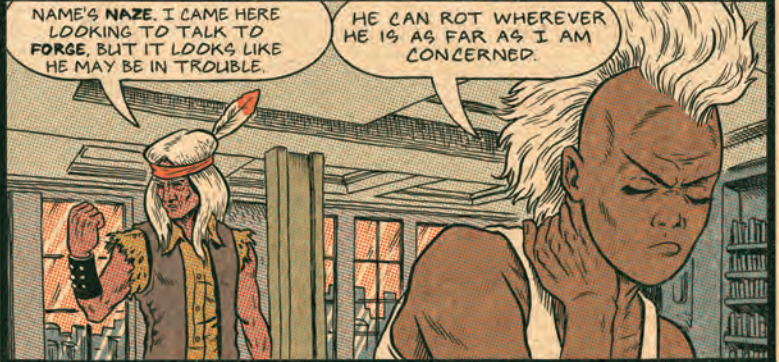
SHE WAS PARTIALLY MOTIVATED TO GET OUT OF BED BECAUSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, **FORGE** DIDN'T CHECK IN ON HER AT 10AM. LIKE CLOCKWORK. NOW SHE KNOWS PERHAPS WHY.



**STORM** WOULD NEVER ADMIT THE DISAPPOINTMENT IN LEARNING HER SAVIOR WAS SOMEONE OTHER THAN **FORGE**.

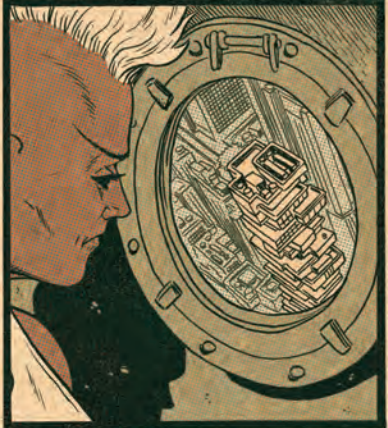
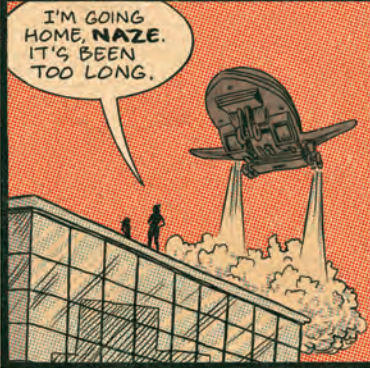
NAME'S **NAZE**. I CAME HERE LOOKING TO TALK TO **FORGE**, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE MAY BE IN TROUBLE.

HE CAN ROT WHEREVER HE IS AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED.



2 HOURS AFTER ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE **X-MEN**.

I'M GOING HOME, **NAZE**. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.



A FEW DAYS AFTER STORM'S RETURN TO THE MANSION.

...I'VE BEEN ACTING AS LEADER WHILE PROFESSOR X IS PREPARING MAGNETO'S SUPREME COURT DEFENSE.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, ORORO, I CAN GIVE SCOTT THE DIAPER-CHANGING TRAINING HE DESPERATELY NEEDS. HA HA.

MADDY, I NEED TO KEEP MY POST HERE UNTIL STORM... GETS HER... BEARINGS BACK.

YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU TOO, SCOTT.

ORORO IS ON THE MEND, MADDY.

SAY WHAT EVERYONE IS ALREADY THINKING, SCOTT...

"WHAT GOOD IS SHE WITHOUT HER MUTANT GIFT?" LET'S FIND OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM.

THE DUELING LEADERS AGREE ON THE SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CONTEST.

BONK!

HMMM?

CONCEDE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN TO ME IF YOU EVER WANT THIS BACK.

PRIVATELY, MADELYNE SWEARS SHE WILLED THAT OUTCOME INTO BEING.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION...

A SUDDEN REVELATION HAS FALLEN INTO MY LAP REQUIRING SOME DRASTIC ACTION.



"FOR ME TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I MUST, A MASSACRE MAY BE IN ORDER. DO YOU ACCEPT?"

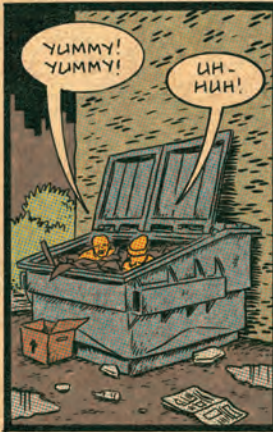
DOIN' WHAT WE LOVE AN' GETTIN' PAID FER IT?

SOUNDS LIKE THE 'MERICAN DREAM, MISTER SINISTER.



YUMMY! YUMMY!

UH-HUH!



PIZZA. PIZZA.

YEPPERS.



BLAM!

BOGGY?



WELL, NO ONE EVER ACCUSED 'EM OF BEING BRAIN SURGEONS.



MOMENTS LATER IN THE ALLEY, THE HEART OF THE MORLOCKS' HOMESTEAD.

AW, GEMMA, DON'TCHA GET IT?

YOU LED 'EM STRAIGHT TO US!



MISTER SINISTER AND SCOTT SUMMERS RECEIVED THE SAME ALARMING INFORMATION SIMULTANEOUSLY VIA DIFFERENT SOURCES...



THE CALLER I.D. SAID REED RICHARDS.

HI, SCOTT.

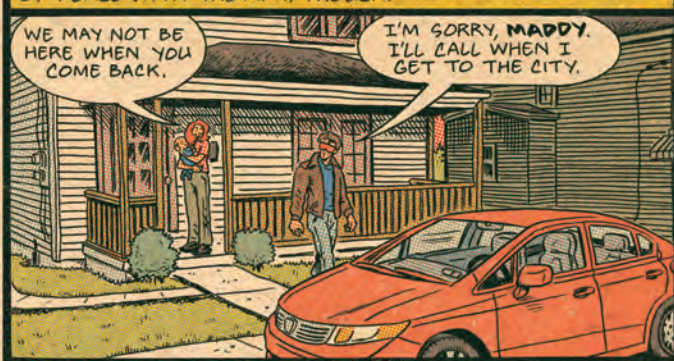
A QUIET, PEDESTRIAN LIFE WAS NEVER IN THE CARDS FOR CYCLOPS.

DOWN DEEP, MADELYNE KNEW THAT LIFE WOULD BE THIS WAY WITH SCOTT. SHE DID THINK SHE MIGHT GET A YEAR OR TWO OF PEACE WITH THE MAN, THOUGH.



EXPLAIN YOURSELF! YOU OWE US THAT!

WHAT DOES THE FANTASTIC FOUR WANT WITH YOU?



WE MAY NOT BE HERE WHEN YOU COME BACK.

I'M SORRY, MADDY. I'LL CALL WHEN I GET TO THE CITY.

MADELYNE ISN'T SURE WHERE SHE AND NATHAN ARE GOING ONCE THEY LAND. SHE SIMPLY REFUSES TO SPEND ANY MORE TIME IN THAT EMPTY HOUSE.



I COULD USE A HUG WHEN WE TOUCH DOWN, LITTLE GUY. WE HAVE A DEAL?

THOSE WERE HER LAST MUSINGS BEFORE SHE SPENT ALL ENERGY FOCUSING ON THE SINGLE FAILED AIRPLANE ENGINE.



I KNOW, NATHAN.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO STRETCH SOON.



SHE WALKED AWAY FROM A PLANE CRASH ALONE ONCE BEFORE. SHE WILL NOT ACCEPT BEING THE SOLE SURVIVOR THIS TIME AROUND.



Please... Thank God...

My baby...



Please call for...



...help...

**BLAM!**  
**BLAM!**