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IBAN COELLO
MATT YACKEY**

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VENOMIZED

THE POISONS--A MULTIVERSAL SPECIES THAT HARVESTS SYMBIOTES AND CONSUMES THEIR SUPERHUMAN HOSTS--HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS ON PRIME EARTH.

THE POISON INCURSION BEGAN AT THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY, WHERE THEY CLASHED WITH VENOM AND THE X-MEN, POISONING JEAN GREY AND MAKING HER LOYAL TO THE HIVE.

WITHOUT THE TIME TO EVEN MOURN JEAN, VENOM ORDERED THE X-MEN TO RETURN TO EARTH AT MAXIMUM SPEED, FEARING A FULL-SCALE INVASION.

BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED, VENOM AND THE TEAM CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH A DOZEN HEROES, ALL OF THEM ALREADY FORCED TO BOND WITH ALIEN SYMBIOTES...

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF VENOMIZED TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY THOR.

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WHAM!



SO... THAT'S HOW WE'RE GONNA DO THIS, WEBS.



EVERYONE CALM DOWN!

I WOULD HOPE THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'D ALL EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF BEING ON THE SAME SIDE.

A SYMBIOTE *INVASION* AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE *VENOM* HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT?!



IT'S ALL RIGHT, HANK.

STEP ASIDE.

THIS IS HAPPENING.



I'M AFRAID IT IS NOT.



YOU'LL BOTH STAND DOWN AND SOMEONE WILL OFFER AN EXPLANATION...

...OR I'LL COMPRESS MY MAGNETIC FIELDS UNTIL YOU FIND YOURSELVES LIVING AS ONE FUSED ENTITY FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.



IT TROUBLES ME THAT I FIND MAGNETO'S METHODS BOTH EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE IN THIS MOMENT.

WHAT SAY YOU, W/LADY THOR?

AYE, HERCULES.



WE TRIED TO GET HERE BEFORE THEM... BEFORE THEY ATTACKED.

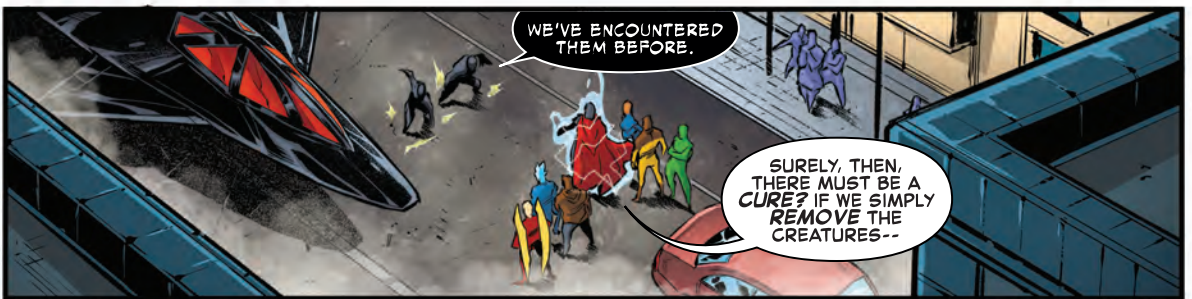
THESE CREATURES-- THE POISONS-- USE ALIEN SYMBIOTES TO STEAL PEOPLES' POWERS--



NOT JUST YOUR POWERS. YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR BODY. THEY TAKE EVERYTHING.

THEY'LL STRIP YOU OF YOUR SYMBIOTES AND EAT YOU ALIVE TO FUEL THEIR TRANSFORMATION INTO SOMETHING NEW. MONSTERS LOYAL ONLY TO THE HIVE.

AND NOW THEY'RE HERE.



WE'VE ENCOUNTERED THEM BEFORE.

SURELY, THEN, THERE MUST BE A CURE? IF WE SIMPLY REMOVE THE CREATURES--



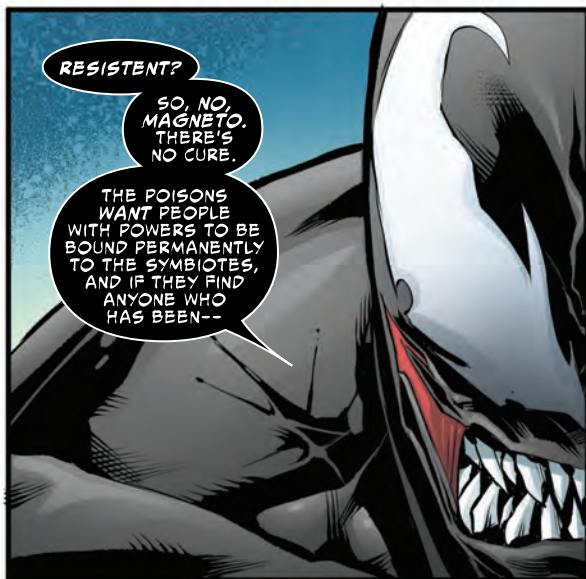
I'VE TRIED, BUT THESE SYMBIOTES ARE... DIFFERENT.

THEY'VE BEEN ALTERED OR SOMETHING.

ALTERED?

HOW?

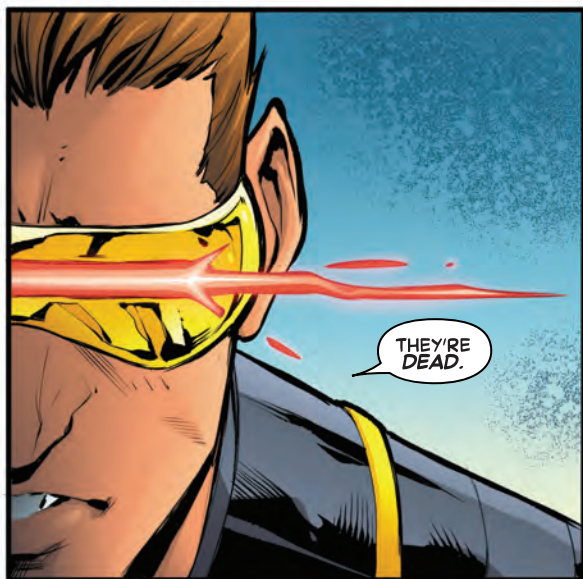
I DUNNO ABOUT THE REST, BUT THIS ONE IS RESISTANT TO SONIC VIBRATIONS.



RESISTENT?

SO, NO, MAGNETO. THERE'S NO CURE.

THE POISONS WANT PEOPLE WITH POWERS TO BE BOUND PERMANENTLY TO THE SYMBIOTES, AND IF THEY FIND ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN--



THEY'RE DEAD.



WAIT, SCOTT...

WHERE'S JEAN?

THEY GOT HER, JIMMY.

SHE'S GONE...



...AND I CAN STILL HEAR HER SCREAMING IN MY HEAD.



THESE...POISONS... ATTACKED THE XAVIER INSTITUTE.

IF THEY WANT PEOPLE WITH POWERS THEY'LL NOT SOON FORGET THE YOUNG MUTANTS THEY FOUND THERE.

WE MUST GET THIS NEW INFORMATION TO KITTY PRYDE AND GET HER STUDENTS TO SAFETY...SO WE HAVE TIME TO DEVISE A PLAN OF COUNTER-ATTACK...

...SO WE HAVE TIME TO GRIEVE.



I MIGHT KNOW SOMEWHERE WE ALL CAN HOLE UP.

IF NOTHING ELSE...THEY'VE GOT EXPERIENCE WITH SYMBIOTES...

"AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET."

MANHATTAN BRIDGE.

PLEASE! EVERYONE! GET BACK IN YOUR VEHICLES!

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE IF YOU'RE NOT BEHIND THE WHEEL!

FORGET THE CARS! LEAVE THEM!

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE NEWS?! THE SUPERS ARE ATTACKING EACH OTHER ALL OVER THE CITY--AND WE'LL BE NEXT!

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MISS! NO ONE'S TURNING ON ANYONE.

GET BACK IN YOUR CAR, ALL RIGHT?

WE'LL MAKE SURE THINGS STAY SAFE OUT HERE.

NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, D-MAN.

WHAT IS IT, RAGE?

NOT SO SURE THAT ANYONE'S SAFE ANYWHERE!