

X-MEN BATTLEWORLD

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS
BATTLEWORLD!

FIVE YEARS AGO, THE INFERNO CONSUMED NEW YORK CITY. ILLYANA RASPUTIN, INFECTED BY ITS DARK ENERGIES, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE DARKCHILD, BECOMING RULER OF THE INFERNO'S DEMON HORDES. TO CONTAIN THE INFERNO, MANHATTAN WAS QUARANTINED AND SEALED OFF.

ONCE EVERY YEAR, PIOTR RASPUTIN, THE MUTANT COLOSSUS, VENTURES INTO THE HELLISH LANDSCAPE TO TRY TO RESCUE HIS SISTER, ILLYANA. EVERY YEAR HE HAS FAILED.

THIS YEAR, COLOSSUS IS DETERMINED TO WIN.

BUT NOW, ALL SEEMS LOST...BOOM BOOM IS DEAD, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO DARKCHILD'S PET--A MONSTER SHE USES TO TELEPORT OUT OF LIMBO--AND COLOSSUS'S MISSION TO SAVE HIS SISTER IS A FAILURE.

THE DARKCHILD, NOW IN FULL POSSESSION OF A DEMON ARMY, HAS TAKEN OVER THE OUTER BOROUGHS, FORCING CYCLOPS AND THE REMAINING X-MEN TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES AFTER HEAVY LOSSES.

THE ONLY HOPE OF BEATING DARKCHILD, AND POSSIBLY SAVING HER SOUL, IS FOR COLOSSUS TO TEAM UP WITH THE GOBLIN QUEEN, MADELINE PRYOR, TAKING UP HIS SISTER'S POWERFUL SOULSWORD AND CRUSHING THE DEMON ARMY. BUT WHERE DO THEY START?

DENNIS HOPELESS - *WRITER*
JAVIER GARRÓN - *ART*
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR - *COLORS*
VC'S JOE SABINO - *LETTERS*
JAVIER GARRÓN and ROMULO FAJARDO JR. - *COVER ART*
CHRISTINA HARRINGTON and XANDER JAROWEY - *ASSISTANT EDITORS*
KATIE KUBERT - *EDITOR*
AXEL ALONSO - *EDITOR IN CHIEF*
JOE QUESADA - *CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER*
DAN BUCKLEY - *PUBLISHER*
ALAN FINE - *EXECUTIVE PRODUCER*
X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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ILLYANA WAS ALWAYS SO SMALL.

AND YET, AFRAID OF NOTHING.

SHE HAD HER **BIG BROTHER** TO KEEP HER SAFE.

THAT WAS MY JOB. MY ONLY JOB.

AND I COULDN'T DO IT.



ALL THESE YEARS SPENT CRAWLING THROUGH HELL TRYING TO MAKE IT RIGHT.

FIGHTING TO BRING MY SISTER HOME SAFELY.

I UNDERSTOOD THE TERRIBLE ODDS. I **KNEW** THAT I MIGHT DIE TRYING.

BUT IT NEVER ONCE OCCURRED TO ME TO WORRY--



--ABOUT KEEPING MY HOME--



--SAFE FROM MY SISTER.

CAN YOU FEEL IT, BAMFY?

THAT CRACKLE OF ENERGY IN THE AIR LIKE THE SKY MIGHT SPLIT OPEN AT ANY MOMENT?

MY POWER IS GROWING. MY INFLUENCE EXPANDING.

THERE IS NO WAR HERE.

MY DEMON HORDE IS NOT SIMPLY TAKING THE OUTER BOROUGHS BY FORCE...

NO LIVING SUGAR 5:00 PM



...WE'VE SWALLOWED THEM WHOLE.

RAAWR!

HRRRGH...



MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, CREAMS!

HA!

SMOOSH

PEOPLE HAVE A LOT TO SAY ABOUT DEMONS.



THEY CALL US SADISTIC ABOMINATIONS WHO DELIGHT IN SUFFERING.

OR SOULLESS INHUMAN GHOULS.

EVIL MADE FLESH.

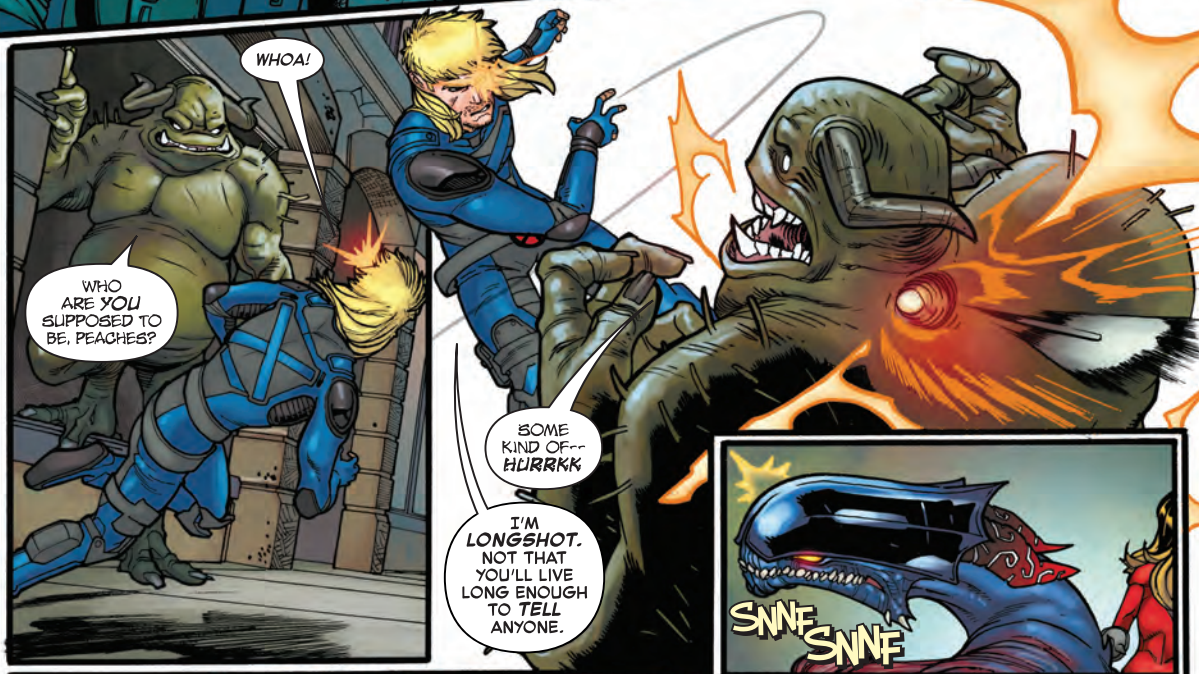
AND THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY CORRECT, BUT...

...MMM, STRAWBERRY.



THERE SHE IS.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN--
DARKCHILD.

...AT LEAST WE
KNOW HOW TO HAVE
A GOOD TIME.



WHO A!

WHO ARE YOU
SUPPOSED TO
BE, PEACHES?

SOME KIND OF--
HURRRK

I'M
LONGSHOT.
NOT THAT
YOU'LL LIVE
LONG ENOUGH
TO TELL
ANYONE.

SNNE
SNNE



THAT'S A
RISKY PLACE TO
POP A SQUAT,
PALLY.

I TAKE IT
YOU'RE FEELING
LUCKY?

ALWAYS.



HEH.
LOOK.
AT. THIS.



I WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE LAW TO SHOW UP.

ILLYANA RASPUTIN, DARKCHILD, IF YOU PREFER.

MY NAME IS STEPHEN STRANGE. I AM SHERIFF OF AGAMOTTO AND THE RIGHT HAND OF DOOM.

OH, I KNOW.



I ASSUME YOU'VE COME TO TAKE MY TOYS AWAY?

ON THE CONTRARY, GOD DOOM PREFERS NOT TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE DAY-TO-DAY CONFLICTS OF HIS DOMAINS. BARONS ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP THEIR OWN PEACE.

BARON SUMMERS SEEMS TO HAVE FAILED THE DOMAIN OF LIMBO.

I'VE COME TO OFFER YOU HIS JOB.

HAHA HAHA!

ACCEPTED.



OH...

...THAT'S NOT GOOD AT ALL.