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X-MEN GRAND DESIGN

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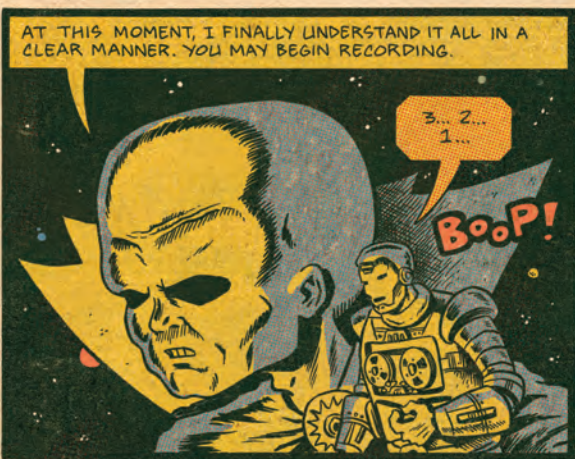
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"MUTANT" IS OFTEN VERBALIZED AS A PEJORATIVE TERM, EVEN THOUGH THE VERY BASIS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION REQUIRES MUTATION FOR ADAPTING TO NEW, HARSH CONDITIONS.



FOR THE SAKE OF SELF-PRESERVATION, GENETICALLY MUTATED "PARA-HUMANS" WOULD ROUTINELY OVEREXTEND THEMSELVES TO KEEP IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE MASSES.



THE TENSION BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS WAS PALPABLE FOR CENTURIES, BUT PREJUDICES LARGELY REMAINED UNDER THE SURFACE, UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY IN THE 1900s WHEN EVERYONE'S WORST NIGHTMARES WERE REALIZED.



IN JUST A FEW HOURS THE NOTORIOUS MUTANT **NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING TENS OF THOUSANDS AND DISPLACING MILLIONS IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY.



EXTREME FEAR SEEMS TO HAVE EASE IN BLURRING THE VISION OF OTHERWISE REASONABLE PEOPLE.



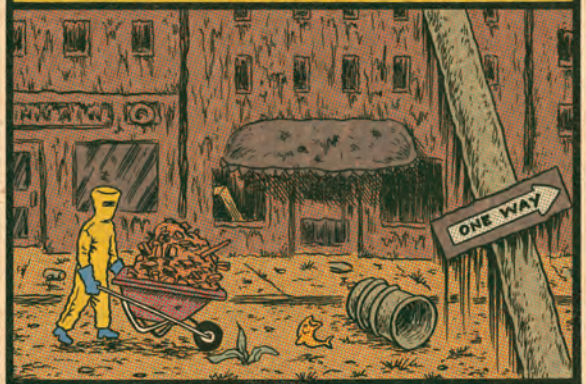
ON THE 50TH NIGHT NEW YORK REMAINED SUBMERGED UNDERWATER, THE IDEALISTIC HEROES OF THE TIME CONCEDED THAT THERE WERE NO MORE SURVIVORS TO LOCATE AND THEIR MISSION TRANSFORMED...



NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO DIVERT THE PUTRID, STAGNANT, POISONOUS WATER FROM THE CITY UNTIL A PAIR OF SCIENTISTS, SHARON AND BRIAN XAVIER, DEVELOPED A TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION TO THIS CATASTROPHE.



IT ONLY TOOK A FEW DAYS TO DRY OUT THE AREA, BUT IT TOOK MORE THAN A DECADE TO GET NEW YORK CITY BACK INTO SHAPE.



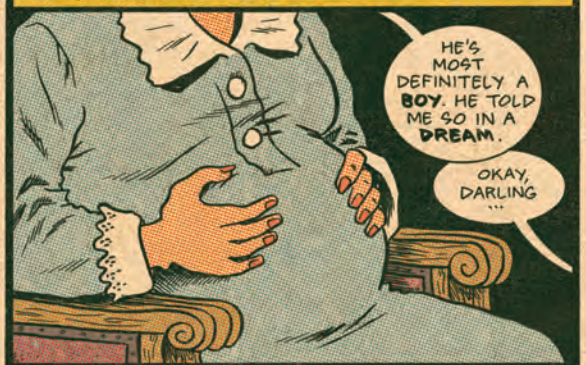
THE XAVIERS' GENIUS WAS HANDSOMELY REWARDED WHEN THE WEAPON MANUFACTURER STARK INDUSTRIES BOUGHT THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND KEPT THEM ON RETAINER.



THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SOON COMMISSIONED STARK ON A PROJECT TO SPLIT THE ATOM FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE FIRST PHONE CALL HOWARD STARK MADE WAS TO THE XAVIERS.



DESPITE ALL THEIR INTELLIGENCE, THE YOUNG COUPLE NEVER CONSIDERED THE EFFECT THAT THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT WOULD HAVE ON THEIR OFFSPRING.



WITHOUT EVEN BRINGING **MUTANTS** INTO THE EQUATION, **HUMANITY** HAS HAD NO TROUBLE FINDING CONFLICT AMONGST EACH OTHER. EVERY GENERATION SEEMS TO DEFINE THEMSELVES BY THE WARS OF THEIR ERA.

