

In a world where being born a mutant is a crime, there's only one place where children with super-powers are safe – the Jean Grey School for Higher Learning! Here, students from across the planet and galaxy learn to focus what makes them special into a tool that can be used to make the world a better place. And when trouble strikes the students, they can count on support from their faculty, a group of super heroes known as...



# PREVIOUSLY...



After the events of **AXIS**, a number of both heroes and villains alike have been altered, causing them to act in a different manner than they normally would. Among those affected are **X-MEN** headmistress **STORM** and the rebellious young telepath, **QUENTIN QUIRE**.

With the relationship between the two never being a good one to begin with, it has further been strained following **QUIRE**'s defection from the **JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING** to the villainous **HELLFIRE CLUB**, which is now led by its latest Black King, wealthy sociopath **KADE KILGORE**.

As the **HELLFIRE CLUB**'s annual Black Party nears and a confrontation between the two awaits, the question one must ask is this...how will their apparent role reversals affect this latest encounter?

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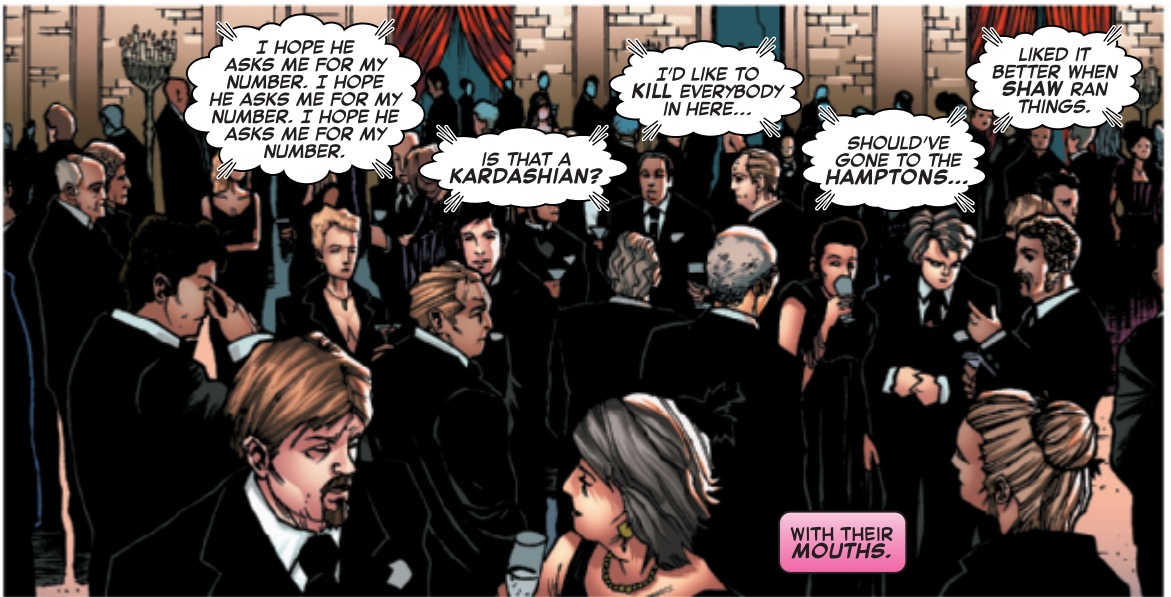


HE'S HOT.

SHE'S HOTTER.

WHAT'S A GUY GOTTA DO TO GET A DRINK AROUND HERE?

TALK, TALK, TALK.



I HOPE HE ASKS ME FOR MY NUMBER. I HOPE HE ASKS ME FOR MY NUMBER. I HOPE HE ASKS ME FOR MY NUMBER.

I'D LIKE TO KILL EVERYBODY IN HERE...

LIKED IT BETTER WHEN SHAW RAN THINGS.

IS THAT A KARDASHIAN?

SHOULD'VE GONE TO THE HAMPTONS...

WITH THEIR MOUTHS.



I MAKE MORE MONEY THAN HIM--

I WONDER IF EMMA FROST IS HERE.

SHOTS!

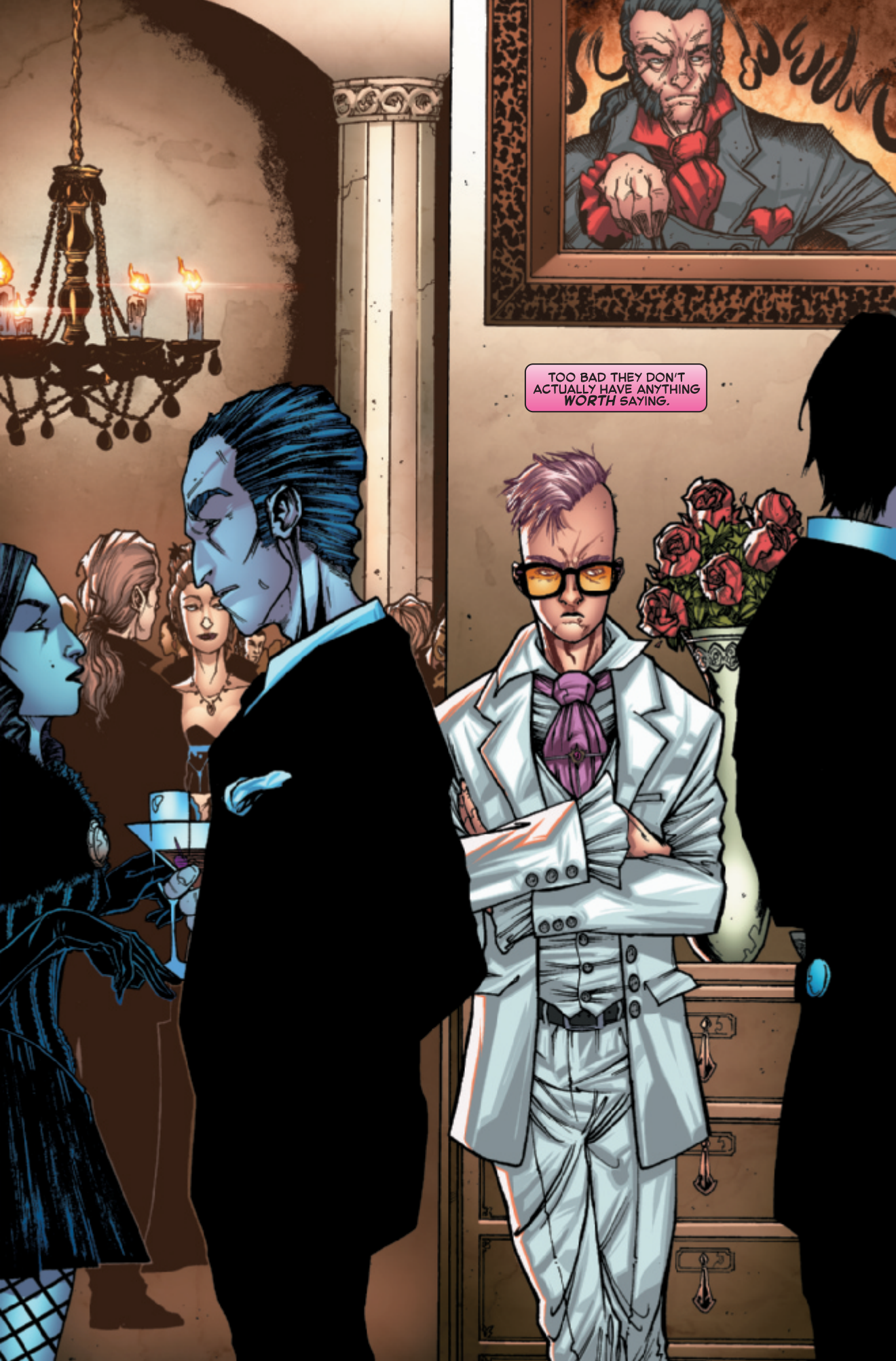
HOW'D SHE GET IN?

I HATE THAT GUY...

I'M PRETTIER THAN HER.

I THINK I'M GONNA YAK--

AND IN THEIR MINDS.



TOO BAD THEY DON'T  
ACTUALLY HAVE ANYTHING  
WORTH SAYING.

# THE HELLFIRE CLUB

THE HELLFIRE BLACK PARTY.

TONIGHT  
BLACK  
PARTY

A PARTY SO EXCLUSIVE  
**NORMAN OSBORN**  
GETS LEFT STANDING  
AT THE DOOR.

USED TO BE A TIME WHEN  
I WOULD'VE KILLED FIVE KITTENS  
AND A PUPPY TO BE INVITED.  
IF NOTHING ELSE JUST TO  
SCREW WITH THESE RICH  
SPOILED **BASTARDS**.



LIKE LETTING IT SLIP TO THIS  
LOVING COUPLE THAT HE'S  
GIVING IT TO HER OWN **SISTER**  
AND IT'S ALL HE CAN THINK  
ABOUT DOING RIGHT NOW...



...OR PUTTING A SUBLIMINAL  
THOUGHT INTO THIS GUY'S MIND THAT  
CRACKING THAT BOTTLE OF MOËT  
OVER THAT BOUNCER'S HEAD WOULD  
BE A RATHER NOVEL IDEA...



...BUT NO...  
I DON'T FEEL  
LIKE DOING  
THAT RIGHT  
NOW. OR  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT.

NOT LATELY,  
AND I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
**WHY**.



AND ALL I CAN  
THINK ABOUT,  
QUITE FRANKLY...



...IS WHAT WOULD OUR HOSTS...



...THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB...



...BLACK KING, KÁDE KILGORE...



...WHITE KING, MANUEL ENDUQUE...



...BLACK BISHOP, MAX FRANKENSTEIN...



...AND WHITE QUEEN, WILHELMINA KENSINGTON...



...THINK IF THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT MY SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART?

BEHAVING YOURSELF, QUIRE?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA...

YEAH. WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO END UP ON PAGE SIX.

AGAIN.

MISBEHAVING IN THE PAPERS IS 5000 LAST WEEK, QUIRE.



SAYS THE PEOPLE WITH A V.I.P. ROOM IN FRIGGIN' DEMONIC LIMBO.

BUT OF COURSE I'M BEHAVING, GUYS. WHY WOULDN'T I BE?

NEED I REMIND YOU-- YOU TRASHED THE LAST HELLFIRE CLUB PARTY YOU WERE AT.

YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY PARTY, NO LESS.\*

\*DIDN'T YA READ WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN #9? --K.K.



AND LEFT WOLVERINE A BLOODY MESS, LET'S NOT FORGET THAT!

WELL, THE BLOODY-MESS-WOLVERINE PART WASN'T SO BAD.

RATHER LIKED THAT BIT, ACTUALLY.



OF COURSE, YOU'D HAVE TO DIG HIM UP IF YOU WANT A REPEAT PERFORMANCE. MAYBE FRANKENSTEIN HERE CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT.

DON'T LOOK AT ME. THAT'S ONE MONSTER EVEN I WOULDN'T WANT TO BRING BACK!