



FORTUNATELY SPYCRAFT NEVER LEAVES YOU, NOT REALLY. IN FACT, I HAVE TO WORK TO TURN IT OFF.

SO THIS...HAVING TO SNEAK INTO NEW ORLEANS AS SOMEONE ELSE? IT'S ALMOST LIKE COMING HOME AGAIN.

HMMM. ANOTHER CLICHÉ.

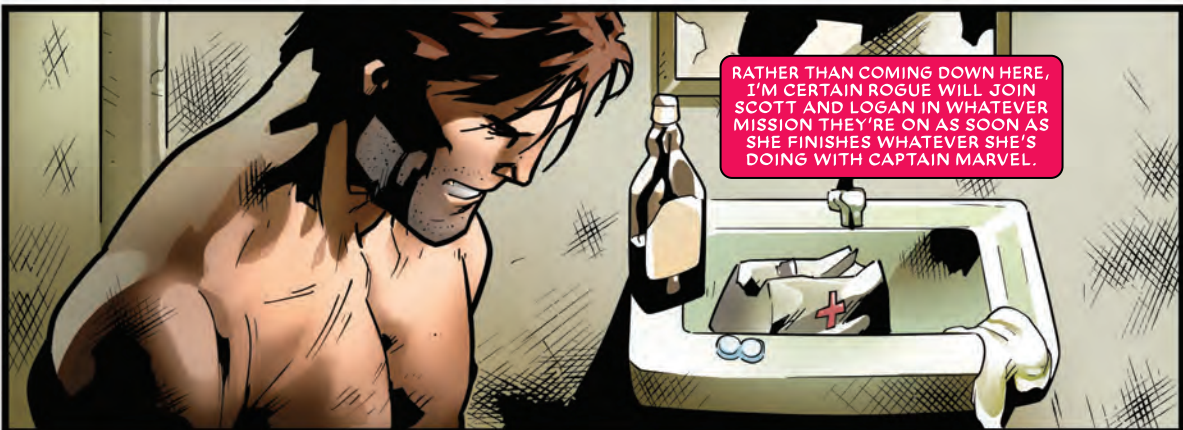


A night scene showing the exterior of a two-story motel. A sign on the side of the building reads "Le Grand Motel". The building has a classic mid-century modern style with a flat roof and large windows. A car is parked in front of the motel.

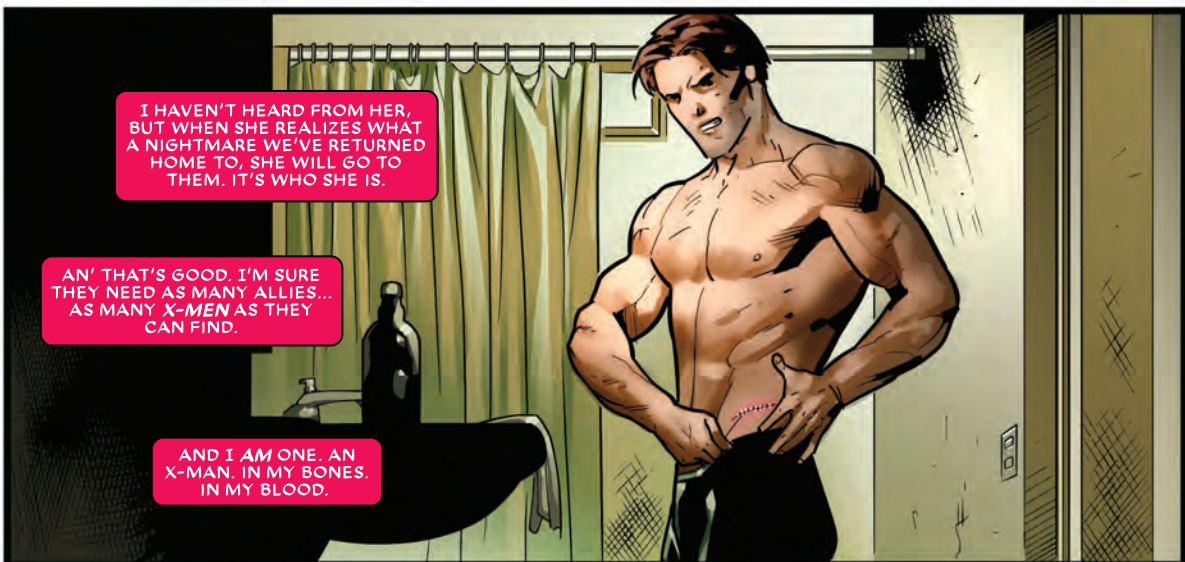
I FEEL TORN
IN HALF.

PART OF ME IS DESPERATE T'SEE
CYCLOPS AND WOLVERINE. SHAKE
THEIR HANDS, WELCOME THEM
BACK FROM THE DEAD. JOIN THEIR
FIGHT, FOR IT'S MY FIGHT TOO.*

*SEE UNCANNY
X-MEN (2018) #11!
--DS



RATHER THAN COMING DOWN HERE,
I'M CERTAIN ROGUE WILL JOIN
SCOTT AND LOGAN IN WHATEVER
MISSION THEY'RE ON AS SOON AS
SHE FINISHES WHATEVER SHE'S
DOING WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL.




I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER,
BUT WHEN SHE REALIZES WHAT
A NIGHTMARE WE'VE RETURNED
HOME TO, SHE WILL GO TO
THEM. IT'S WHO SHE IS.

AN' THAT'S GOOD. I'M SURE
THEY NEED AS MANY ALLIES...
AS MANY X-MEN AS THEY
CAN FIND.

AND I AM ONE. AN
X-MAN. IN MY BONES.
IN MY BLOOD.



BUT I'M ALSO...
SOMETHING
ELSE.



THAT OTHER HALF OF ME I MENTIONED? IT'S A THIEF... "KING OF THIEVES," IN FACT, AND THAT HALF NEEDS T' BE HERE...DEEP IN THE BELLY OF THE THIEVES GUILD.*

*SEE GAMBIT (2013) #17! --DS



THERE'S BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF. BUSINESS I HAVE PUT OFF FOR FAR TOO LONG.



FSSSSSWWWWSSSS

AND BUSINESS THAT HAS CHANGED WHILE I WAS AWAY.



BOOM

THE X-MEN ARE DEAD...MOST OF THEM AT LEAST. OTHER MUTANTS ARE DEAD TOO. STILL MORE ARE IN HIDING, BEING HUNTED. PEOPLE ARE RUNNIN' SCARED.



AND FRIGHTENED PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS. NOT JUS' TO OTHERS BUT TO THEMSELVES.

TRUTH IS, RIGHT NOW IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER...FOR EVERYONE.

TKKKK



YOU SIMPLY DON' TAKE SOMETHING
AS BIG AS THE X-MEN OFF THE TABLE
WITHOUT CAUSING A RIPPLE EFFECT
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

AN' PART OF THAT WORLD
INCLUDES THE THIEVES
AND ASSASSINS GUILDS.


THEY BEEN RUNNIN' ALL
SORTS OF THINGS ON THE
DOWN LOW FOR CENTURIES...
BUT, LIKE ANYONE, THEY'RE
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR
MORE POWER.

AND MY CONTINUED ABSENCE
AS "KING OF THIEVES" HAS
LEFT A PARTICULARLY
CRITICAL POWER VACUUM.

AN ENTITY AS POWERFUL AS
THE GUILDS...THEY SEE A
WEAKNESS, THEY GON' TAKE
THEIR SHOT. BELLA DONNA
WARNED ME OF AS MUCH
WHEN SHE CRASHED OUR
PARTY WEEKS AGO...

...AN' I KNEW SHE WAS
RIGHT...BUT EVERYTHING
THAT HAS HAPPENED IN
THE WORLD SINCE THEN
HAS ONLY MADE THINGS
WORSE.*

*MR. & MRS. X #6! --DS



WE HAVE A
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY
NOW...ONE DAT MAY
NEVER COME AGAIN. BUT
IF WE DON' ACT NOW, AN'
DECISIVELY, AN' AS ONE,
DEN WE WILL HAVE
WASTED IT.

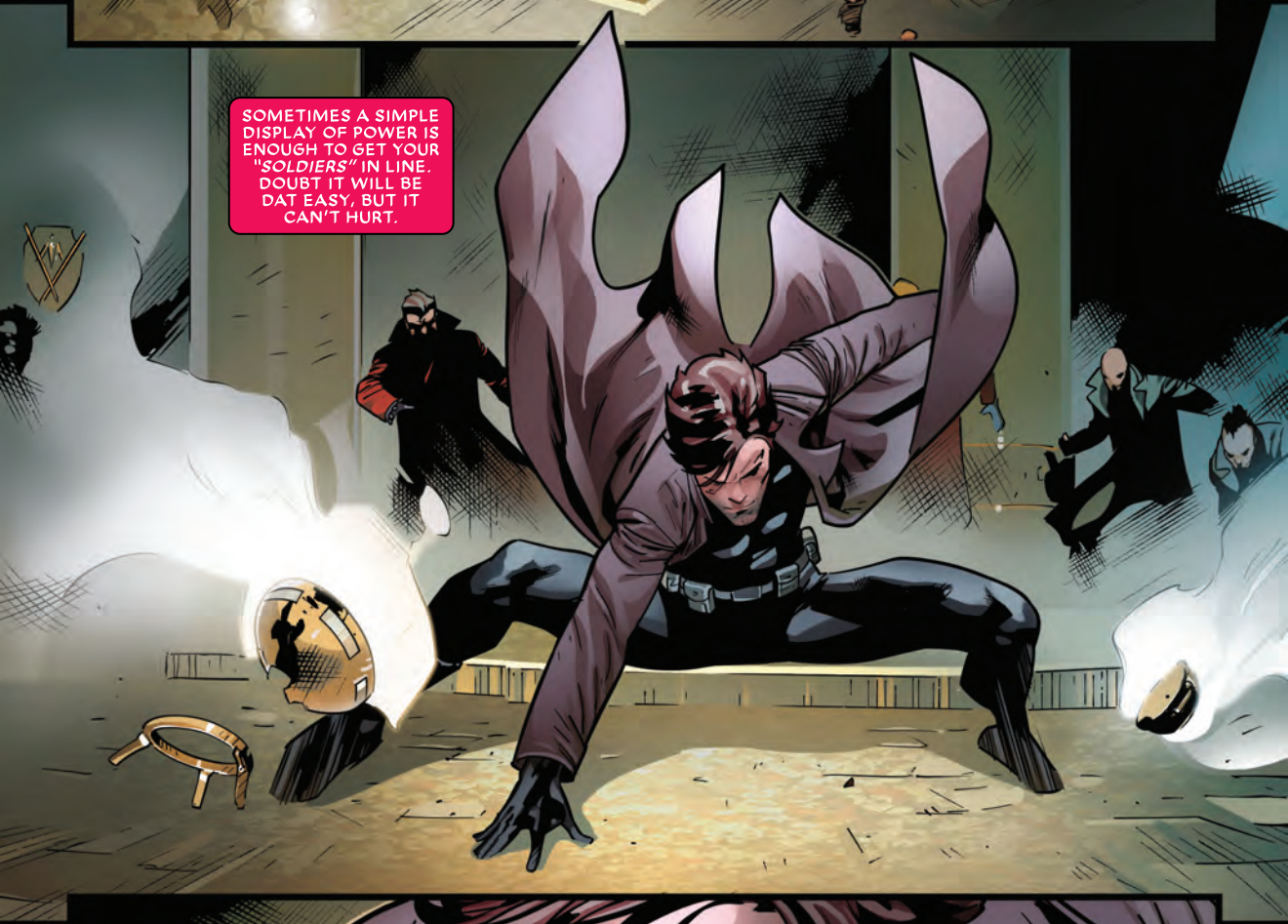
THE X-MEN
ARE DEAD.
GAMBIT IS DEAD.
OUR TIME IS
NOW.

DAT'S LAURENT'S VOICE...A
CARDINAL THIEF TRYING TO
STEAL MY CROWN? NOT
TERRIBLY SURPRISING. WE
ARE *THIEVES*, AFTER ALL.

COUPLE A WAYS TA PLAY
THIS ENTRANCE. ONE'S ON
DE SUBTLE SIDE. OTHER
IS MORE DRAMATIC...



I GO FOR THE
DRAMA. HAS
MORE STYLE.



SOMETIMES A SIMPLE
DISPLAY OF POWER IS
ENOUGH TO GET YOUR
"SOLDIERS" IN LINE.
DOUBT IT WILL BE
DAT EASY, BUT IT
CAN'T HURT.



AS USUAL,
MES FRERES...
REPORTS OF MY
DEATH HAVE
BEEN GREATLY
EXAGGERATED.