

# ***RUNAWAYS***

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE**







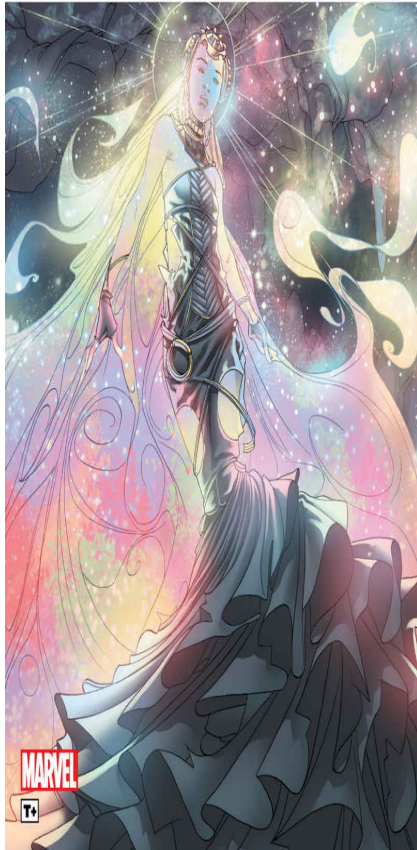
**"THE BEST ORIGINAL CONCEPT FROM  
MARVEL IN THIRTY YEARS."**

— Wizard magazine

The secret super-villain society is back, but this all-new group isn't made up of the Runaways' evil parents. Who are these shadowy players, and what do they want with the Marvel Universe's next generation of heroes?

Plus: When the youngest member of the Runaways is separated from her teammates, Molly Hayes must survive a night alone on the mean streets of Los Angeles! The 11-year-old mutant girl soon hooks up with a new group of runaways, but is their mysterious leader a hero or a villain?

Collecting *Runaways* #13-18 (2006), written by Brian K. Vaughan (*The Last Man*) and illustrated by Adrian Alphona.







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**NICO MINORU**  
Daughter of  
Dark Wizards



**GERTRUDE YORKES**  
Daughter of Time-  
traveling Despots



**CHASE STEIN**  
Son of  
Mad Scientists



**MOLLY HAYES**  
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**VICTOR MANCHA**  
Son of Ultron  
A Killer Robot



**OLD LACE**  
Genetically  
Engineered  
Dinosaur

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At some point in their lives, all kids think that they have the most evil parents in the world, but Nico Minoru and her friends really did.

Discovering they were the children of a group of super-villains known as The Pride, the Los Angeles teenagers stole weapons and resources from these criminals, before running away from home and eventually defeating their parents. But that was just the beginning. Together, the teenage runaways now hope to atone for their parents' crimes by taking on the new threats trying to fill The Pride's void.

The team's youngest member is Molly Hayes, one of the world's last living mutants. While Molly is extremely powerful, the more of her superhuman strength she uses, the more tired she becomes...

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### chapter one

**Brian K. Vaughan**  
Writer

**Adrian Alphona**  
Penciler

**Craig Yeung**  
Inker

**Christina Strain**  
Colorist

**C.B. Cebulski**  
Special Thanks

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Cover Artist

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**RUNAWAYS created by Vaughan & Alphona**

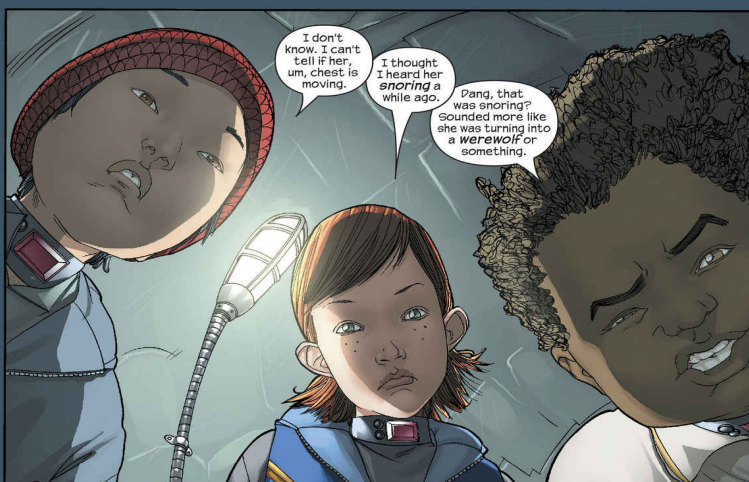
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Wha...?  
Where am  
I? Who *are*  
you guys?

Hi, I'm  
Bob.

That's  
Gordon.

And she's  
Suzy.  
Who the  
hell are  
you?



My  
name...  
My name  
is Princess  
Powerful.



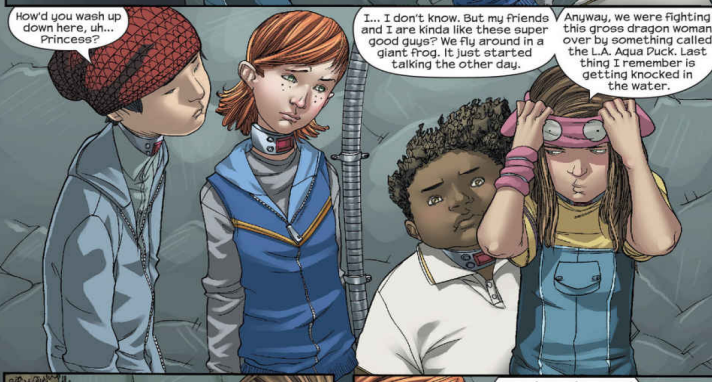
Oh,  
yeah?  
'Cause this  
*hat* belongs to  
somebody named  
*Molly Hayes*.







Gimme that!



How'd you wash up down here, uh... Princess?

I... I don't know. But my friends and I are kinda like these super good guys? We fly around in a giant frog. It just started taking the other day.

Anyway, we were fighting this gross dragon woman over by something called the L.A. Aqua Duck. Last thing I remember is getting knocked in the water.



Yeah, right.

And I'm the son of Black Panther.

Really? Your dad's mask is cool. It has little ears.



Hey, what's this stupid thing choking my neck?

Ah, you might not want to touch that, actually. The Provost put that on after he fished you out of the sewer.

What's a provost?

It's just a fancy name for a kind of teacher.



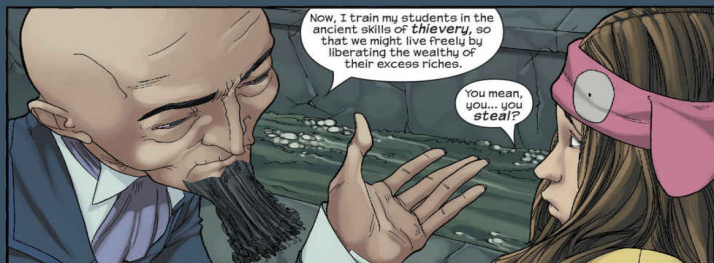
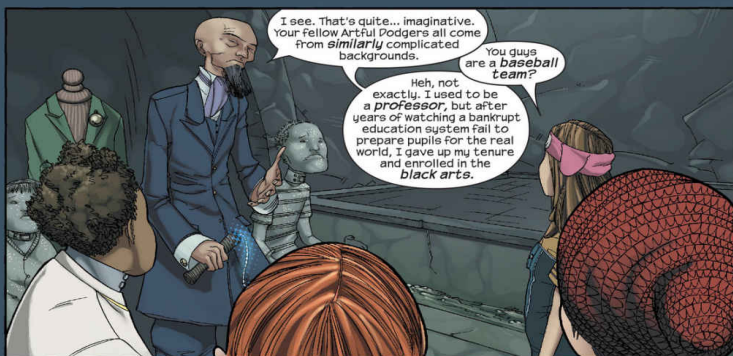


































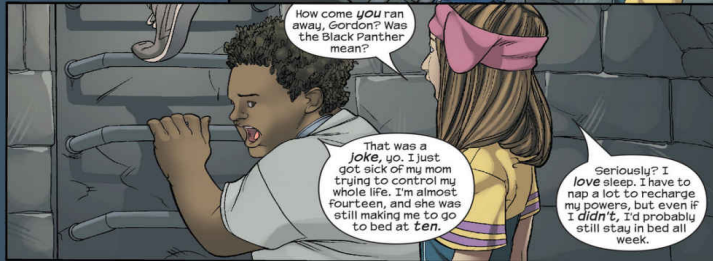
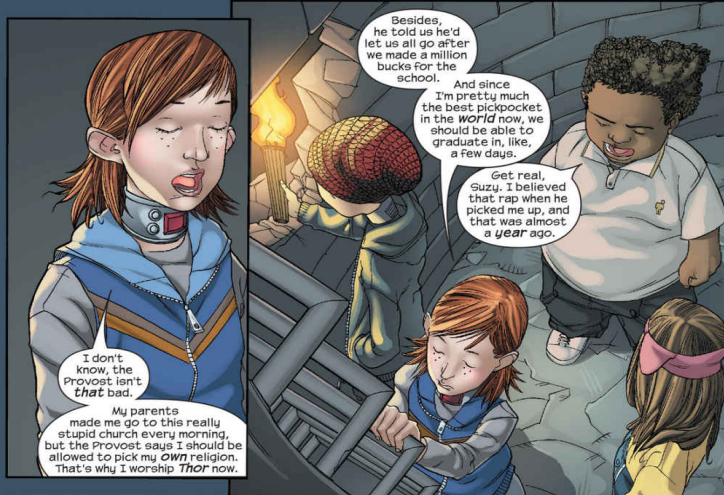






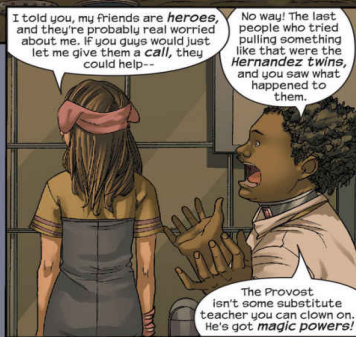








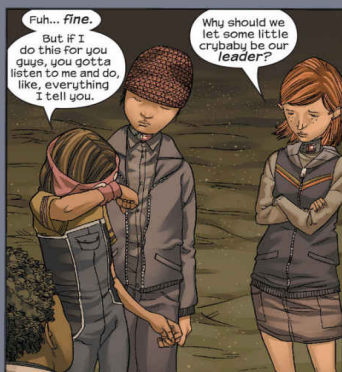




















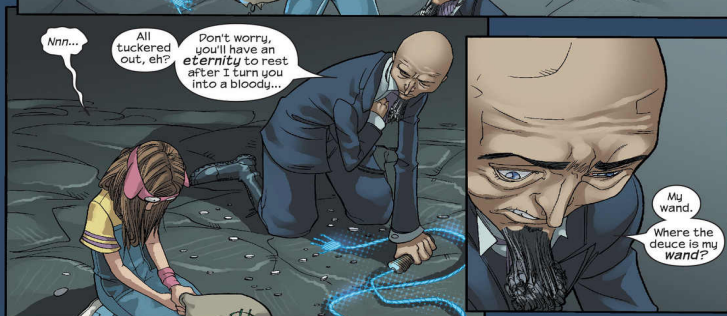














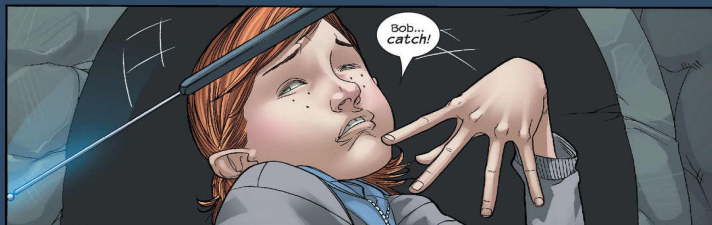






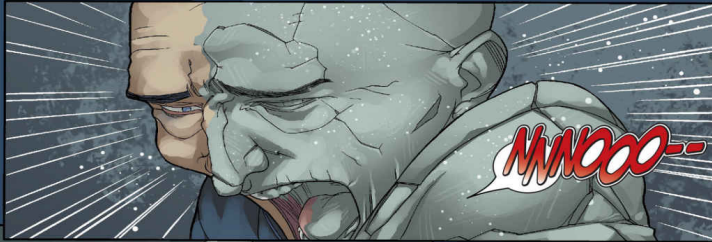














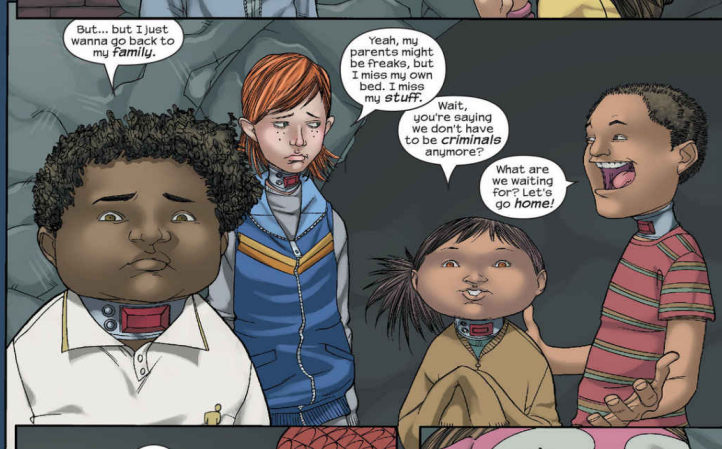












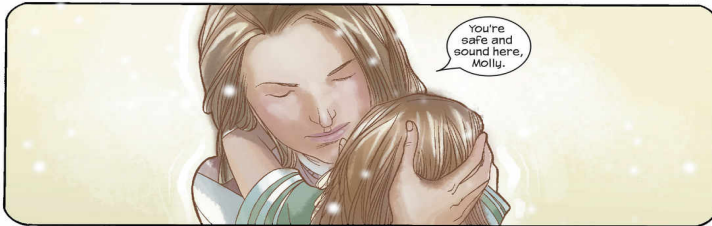
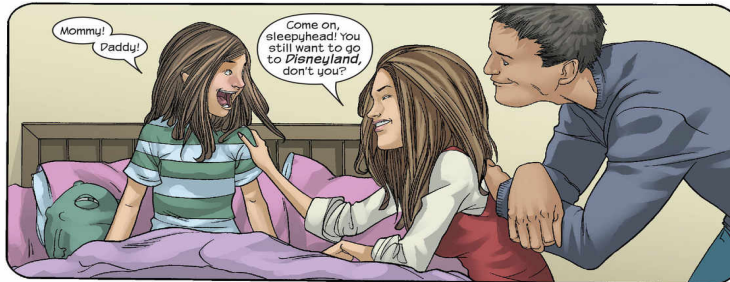
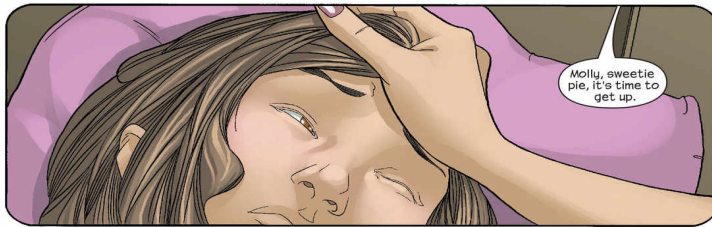




















Next: The Return Of The Pride













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Though less than a year old, the team has already lost two of its original members, including their first leader, Alex Wilder, who was killed after betraying his friends, and alien Karolina Dean, who left the planet with a shapeshifting Skrull in the hopes of preventing an intergalactic war.

In the life of a runaway, the only constant is change.

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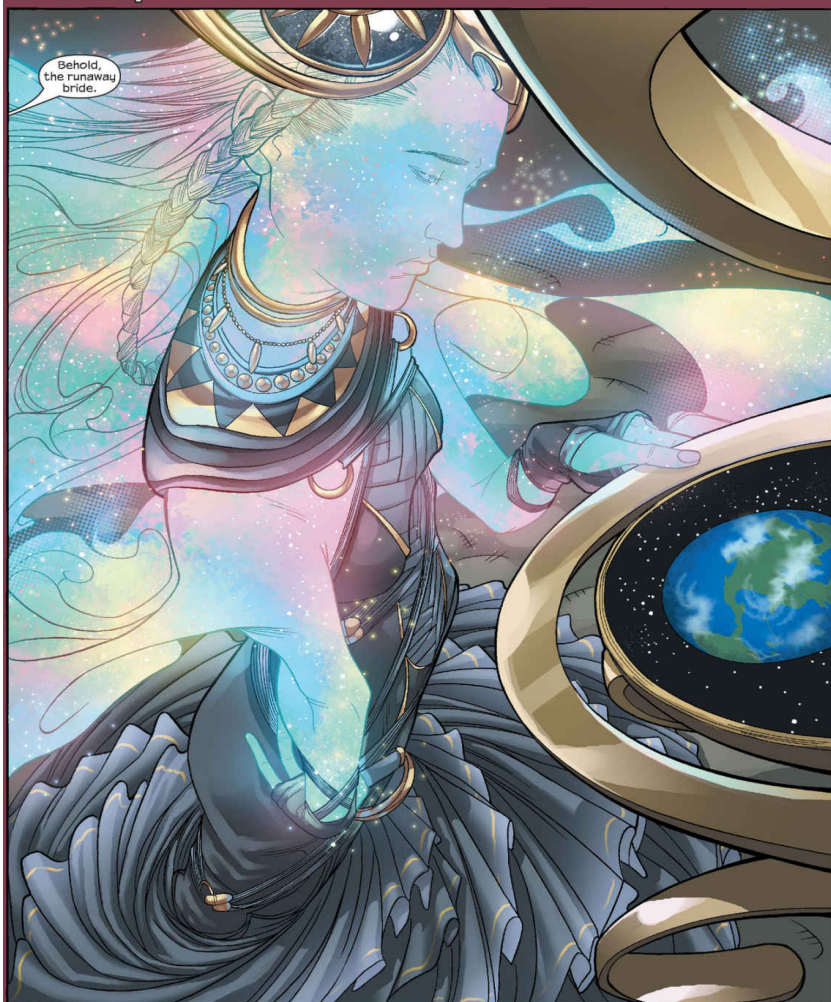
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Tarnax VII  
Yesterday

Behold,  
the runaway  
bride.











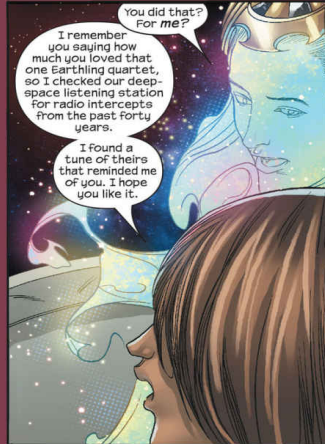
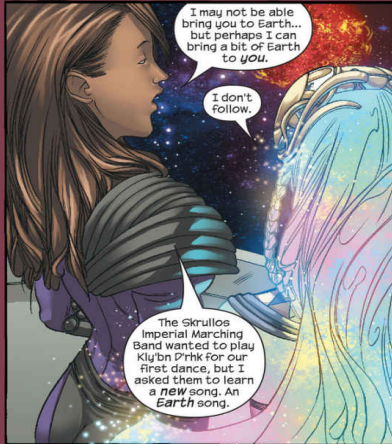
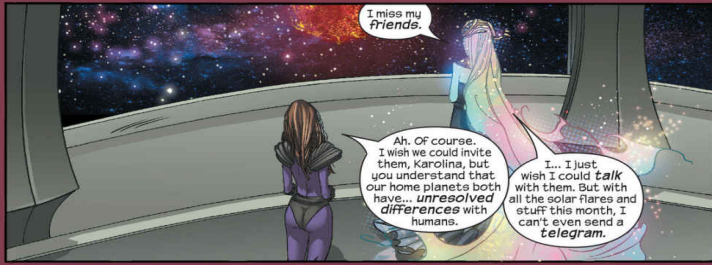








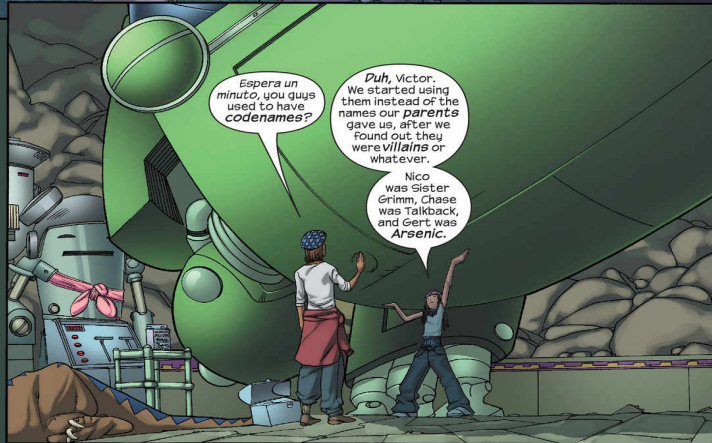








The La Brea Tar Pits  
Today





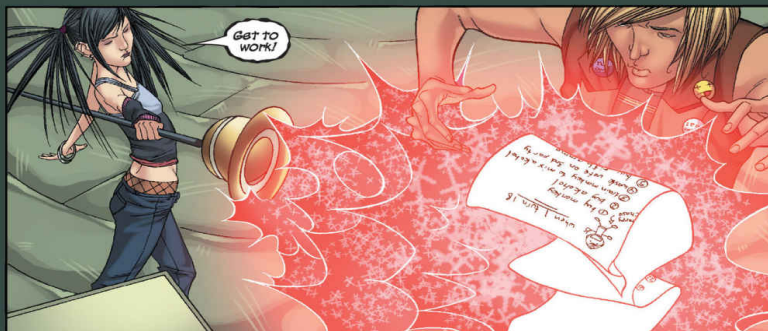








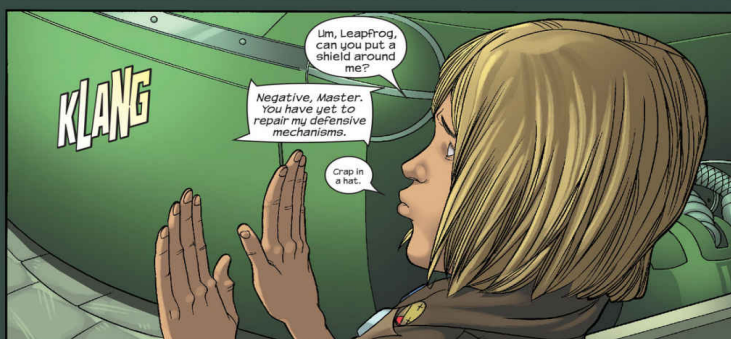






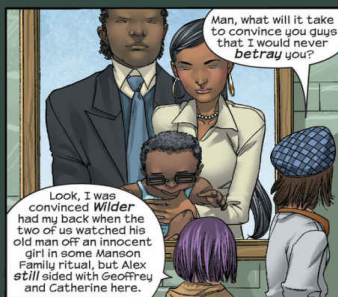
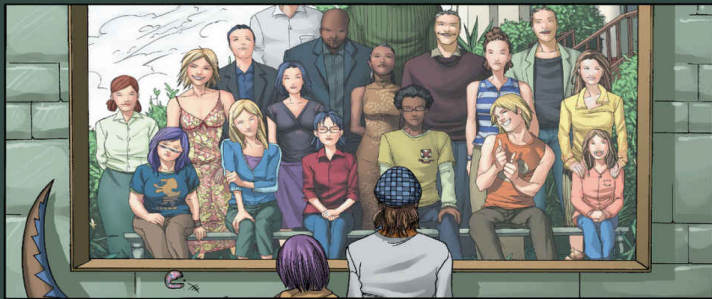












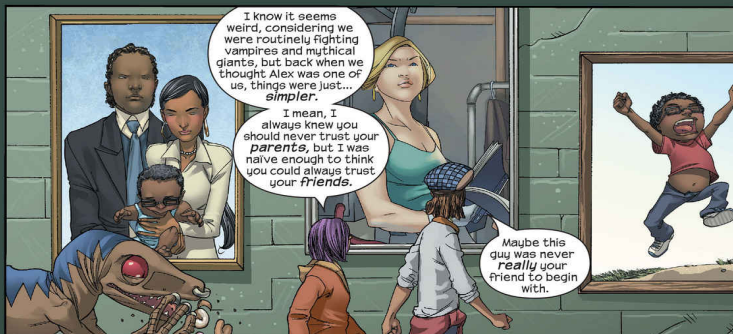






I don't miss *him*, necessarily. I just miss the way things used to *be*.

Maybe it's just because we were too busy running away from our 'rents to notice, but back then, it never felt like there was this *cloud* hanging over us.



I know it seems weird, considering we were routinely fighting vampires and mythical giants, but back when we thought Alex was one of us, things were just... *simpler*.

I mean, I always knew you should never trust your *parents*, but I was naive enough to think you could always trust your *friends*.

Maybe this guy was never *really* your friend to begin with.



Huh, that would almost be *more* depressing.

Whatever. I suppose the only time we ever really get to be happy in life--like, one hundred percent blissful--is when we're little kids.

Because there's less to worry about?



Because we're too *stupid* to know how worried we should be.

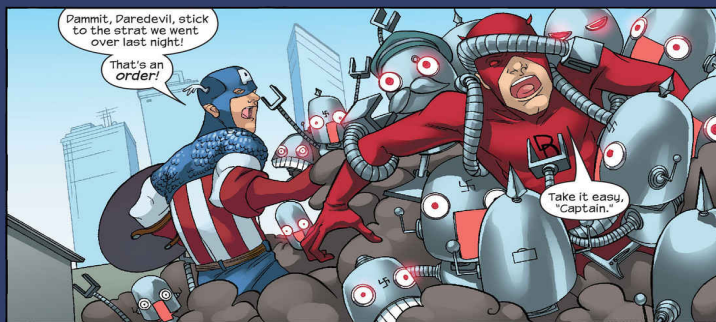






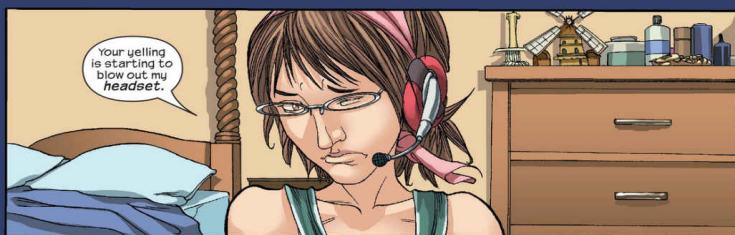
The Wilder Residence  
Malibu, California  
Eighteen Months Ago

You have  
no idea how  
right you  
are.



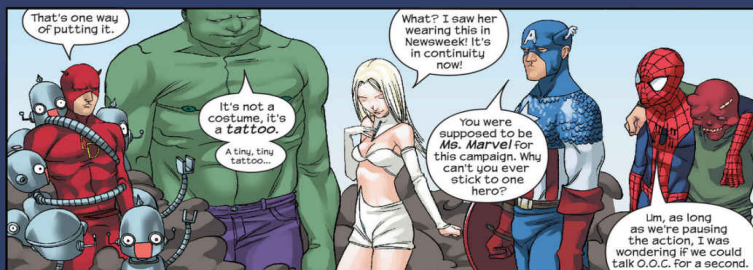
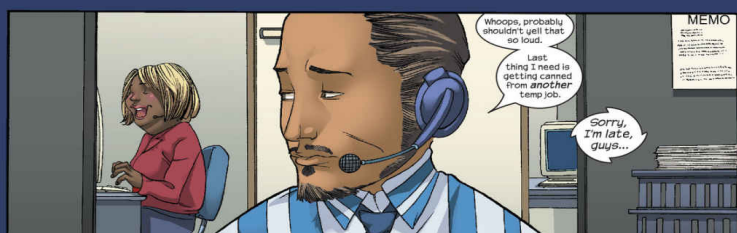








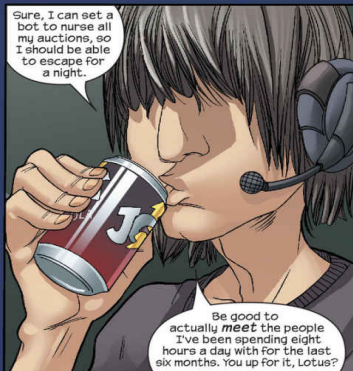






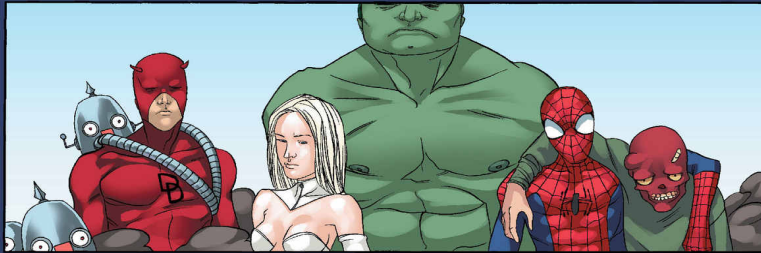






















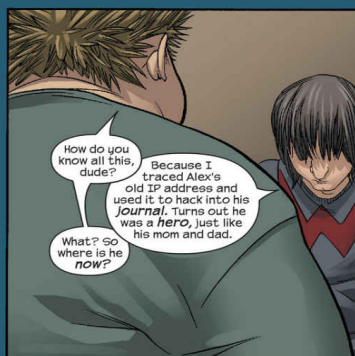


Los Angeles  
Months Later















The Minoru Summer Home  
Months Later

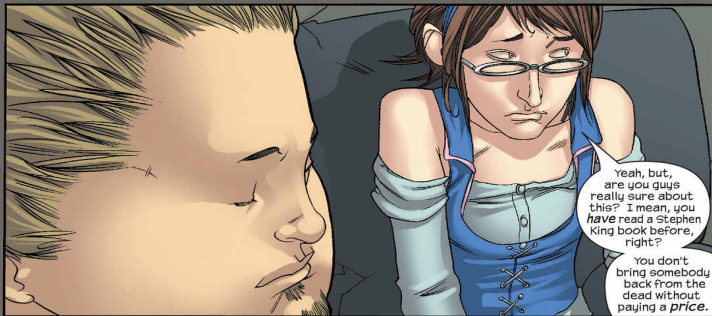


You able to follow  
Alex's map okay,  
Hunter?

Yep, good  
thing the FBI  
was too stupid  
to find *all* the  
Pride's old  
hideouts.

So let's see,  
now we've got the  
Steiner's copy of the Abstract,  
an empty *fuel cell* from the  
Yorkes' time machine, one of the  
Wilders' *daggers*, a *compass*  
from the Peans' hometown,  
the Minoru's *runestone*,  
and a sample of the Hayes'  
*mutant blood*.

That's  
everything,  
right?



Yeah, but,  
are you guys  
really sure about  
this? I mean, you  
*have* read a Stephen  
King book before,  
right?

You don't  
bring somebody  
back from the  
dead without  
paying a *price*.

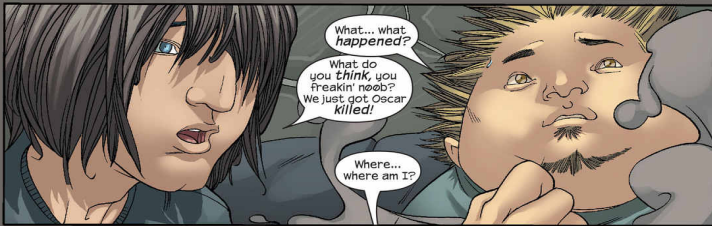
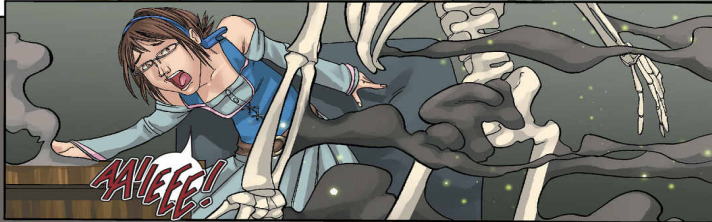
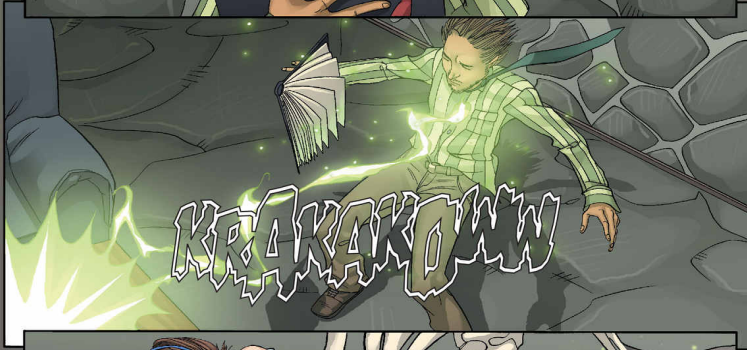
































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Though less than a year old, the Runaways have already lost two of their original members, alien Karolina Dean, who left the planet in the hopes of preventing an intergalactic war, and the team's first leader, Alex Wilder, who was killed after betraying his friends. Unbeknownst to the Runaways, a group of adults from Alex's past online role-playing adventures has formed an all-new Pride in their late friend's honor. Unaware of their predecessors' evil nature, this next-generation Pride attempted to use a combination of science and magic to raise Alex from the dead... only to accidentally bring back a younger version of Alex's father, the evil Geoffrey Wilder.

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### chapter two

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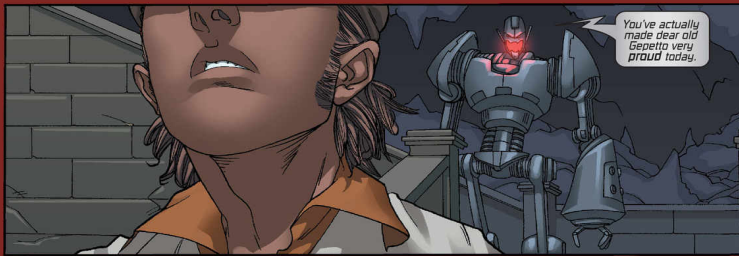








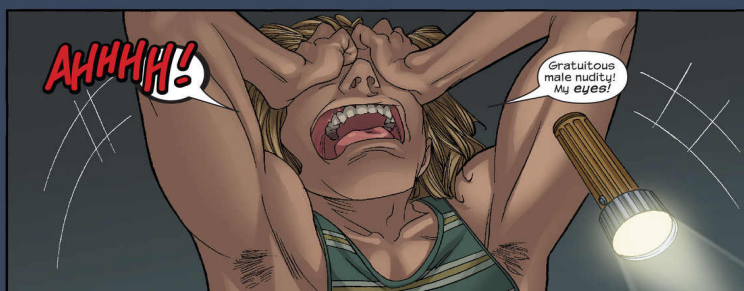
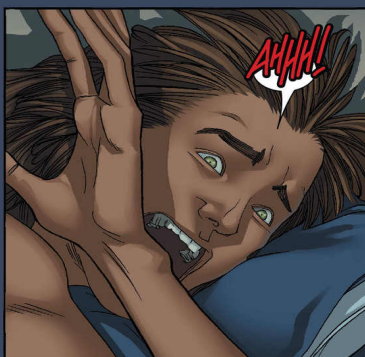






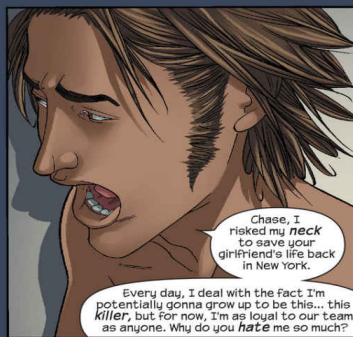




























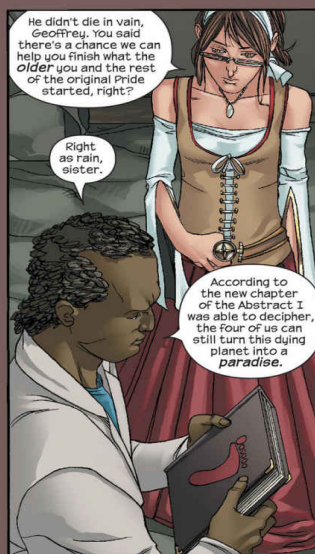












He didn't die in vain, Geoffrey. You said there's a chance we can help you finish what the *older* you and the rest of the original Pride started, right?

Right as rain, sister.

According to the new chapter of the Abstract 1 was able to decipher, the four of us can still turn this dying planet into a *paradise*.



But are you sure everything in *Superbook* there is, you know, *literal*? I hate these brats for what they did to our pal, but does one of 'em really have to *die*?

Casualties are unavoidable in *any* just war, stretch.

And yeah, I may have only been down with the first Pride for a *year* before the three of you dragged me into the future, but it was more than enough time for my 'employers' to teach me how to use this *decoder ring*.



But, if the Abstract's so easy to translate, how come you won't let the rest of *us* read it?

I can't risk anybody else getting hurt, like your boy *Oscar* was when *he* messed with what's in these pages.

In the interest of keeping everybody in one piece, you're just gonna have to have faith in *my* interpretation.



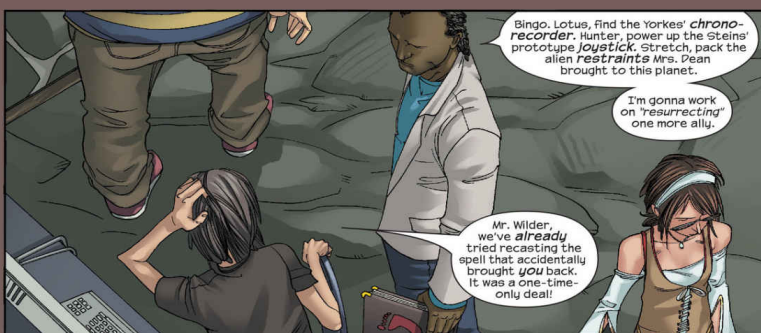
You know we do. It may have been just a game, but we trusted Alex with our *lives* when he was our leader, and his journals say he felt the same way about *you*.

Golden.

Then it's time for our new Pride to move to *Phase Two*.













You  
awake,  
Nico?



Karolina...?



Not if I  
stopped  
eating for  
a month.



Oh, sorry,  
Gert. I don't  
have my stupid  
contacts  
in.

I'm looking  
for Chase. I  
woke up and  
he wasn't next  
to me. You  
seen him?

What's up?









What?  
No.  
I mean,  
why... why  
would I  
have?



Old Lace thought she  
caught his scent  
in here.  
Guess  
she was  
wrong.

RRRRRR



Whatever, he's  
probably hiding out  
downstairs.

Chase hates  
the smell of the  
Purple Haze dye you  
bought me, but if I  
don't leave this goo  
in overnight once  
a week, my roots  
start showing.

That's the  
one thing we  
can't hide,  
huh?  
Our  
roots.



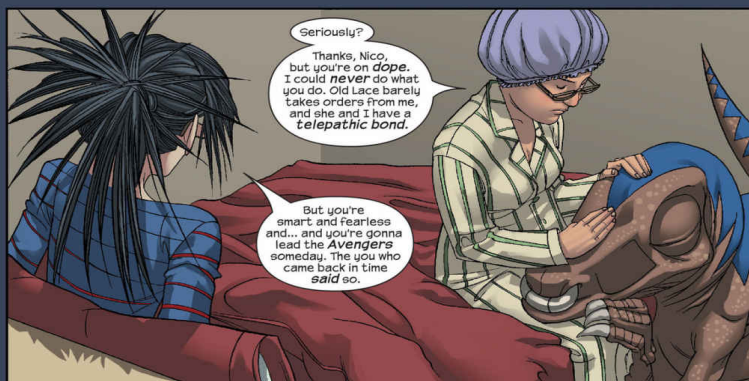
Truer  
words.

Hey, I've  
been thinking, if  
Alex taught me anything,  
it's that being head honcho  
doesn't come with much  
job security.

I thought  
you should know, if  
anything ever happens  
to me... I want *you*  
to be team leader.









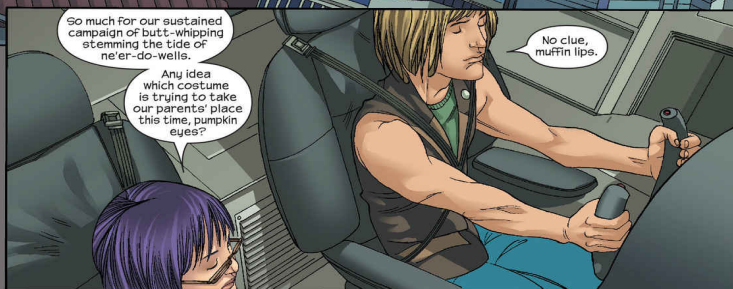












So much for our sustained campaign of butt-whipping stemming the tide of ne'er-do-wells.

Any idea which costume is trying to take our parents' place this time, pumpkin eyes?

No clue, muffin lips.



They're using those pet names ironically, right?

God, I hope so.

It'd be so cool if we got to fight another *animal* bad guy like Rhino or Vulture. I'd give anything to punch a *Giraffe Man*.







Molly, we're going into battle against dangerous criminals, not collecting Pokémon.

I was kidding, Nico.

And Pokémon stopped being cool, like, a hundred years ago.



Sorry, I'm just grumpy 'cause my *mouth* is killing me.

I'm done with the whole cutting thing, so I had to brush until my *gums* bled to get the Staff of One to appear.

Prepare for landing in three... two...



Hey, where's the action?

You sure this is the right place, Leapfrog?

Affirmative, GPS coordinates confirmed, master.



Is it just me, or does this feel kinda déjà vu?

Oh my God. This... this is the same development as the *Wilders'* old mansion.

Yeah, sorry to drag you guys all the way out here.



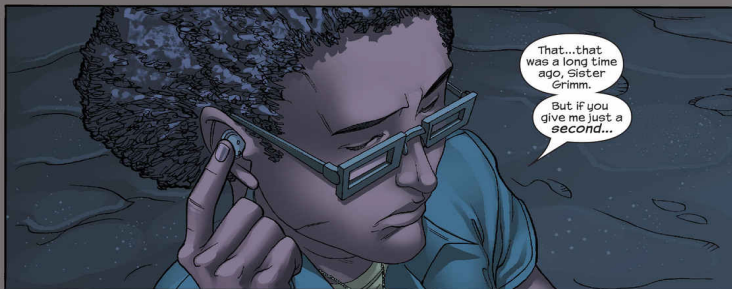




















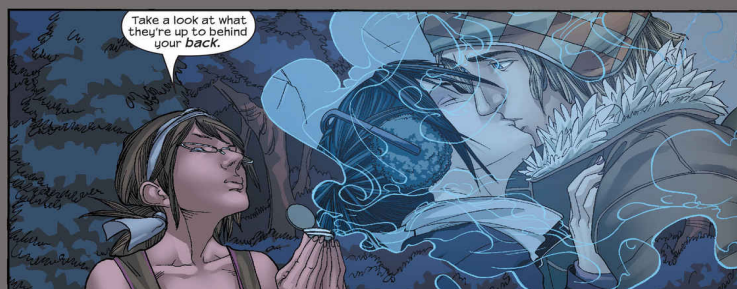
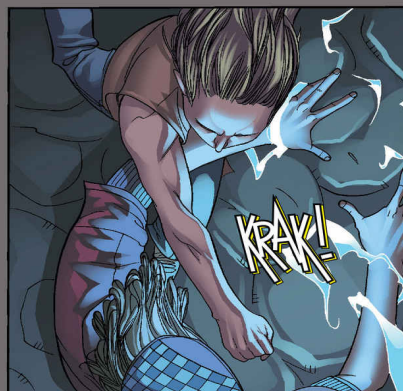






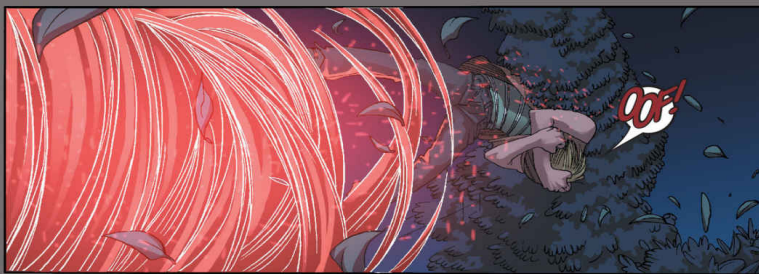
















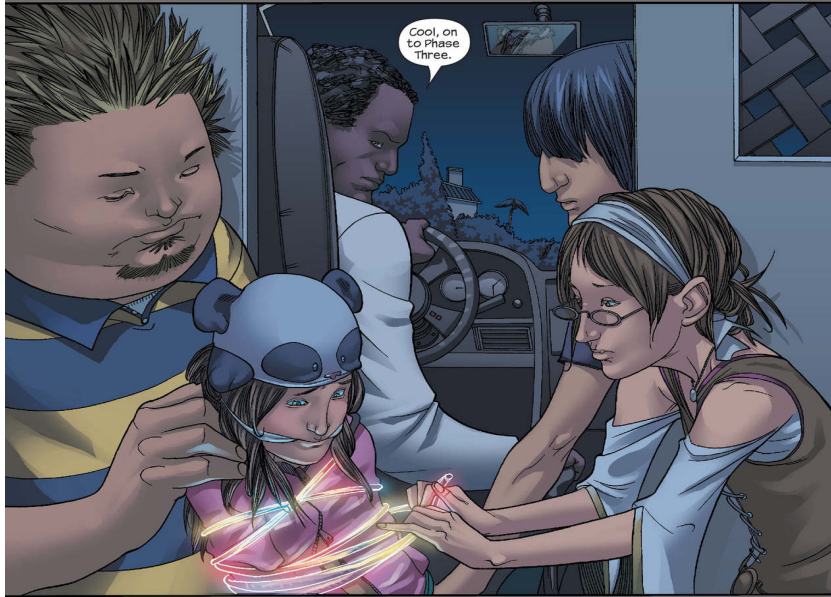








"Molly!"



To Be Continued...







# STREET TEAM

Dear Street Team,

I think it goes without saying that RUNAWAYS is absolutely my favorite comic. It's the favorite comic of everyone who's read it. BKV's writing is superb, and I love the art team's work. I did actually have a question, though.

I read that on Free Comic Book Day there's going to be an X-Men/Runaways team-up. Who is going to write that, and who will the artists be? Also, I heard that there's going to be a Civil War: Young Avengers/Runaways thing. Again, who's going to write and do the artwork on that, and will the regular Runaways continue during the Civil War arc, or will it just be the crossover during summer '06?

Until Chase gets a perfect score on the SAT, Make Mine Marvel!

Your loyal follower,

Tabitha Johnson  
Patchogue, NY

Thanks, Tabitha! BKV here. I will indeed be writing the X-MEN/RUNAWAYS FREE COMIC BOOK DAY SPECIAL, which is being beautifully drawn by the hyper-expressive Skottie Young of NEW WARRIORS fame. And yes, our series will continue full speed during Civil War, while my favorite new writer Zeb Wells joins amazing artist Stefano Caselli for the YOUNG AVENGERS/RUNAWAYS miniseries, with covers by the incomparable Jim Cheung. Teenage super-hero overdose!

Hey Team Runaways,

I just read the latest issue. I'm really glad that the covers are starting to thematically reflect the content of the issues. Don't get me wrong; I've always thought the cover art was great, but it's really nice to be able to flip through the long box and look at a cover and say, "Oh yeah, this was the self-contained issue featuring Molly."

On that topic, I also love a good self-contained story and this was no exception. There's a certain art of compression in getting all the essential story elements into just 21 pages. Vaughan and the gang never disappoint.

That's my two bits, so until Chase becomes a Rhodes Scholar, keep the Runaways coming!

Sam Segrist  
Lincoln, NE

Wow, poor Chase is taking a beating in the sign-offs this month,

Nathan Cosby    MacKenzie Cadenhead & Joe Quesada  
Assistant Editor    Editors    Chief

E-MAIL:mondomarvel@marvel.com (MARK EMAIL "OKAY TO PRINT")

Runaways Street Team c/o Marvel Comics  
417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016

If you don't want your name and address printed, please let us know.  
Letters may be edited for content and length.

huh? Give him a break, the kid's street-smart!

## THE HOT SEAT

In honor of our departing boss, this month's question...WHY IS MACKENZIE THE MOST BESTEST AWESOMEST EDITOR IN THE BIG OL' UNIVERSE, AND WHY ARE WE GOING TO MISS HER?

**BRIAN:** Month by month, deadline by deadline, MacKenzie Cadenhead worked tirelessly to build a safe, dependable Hostel for all-new characters and all-new creators in a world that doesn't always welcome them. I once said that there's a little bit of each of my best friends in all of our Runaways, and Mac is definitely one of those friends. You know that one unique aspect of your favorite Runaway? That's MacKenzie.

**ADRIAN:** Mac was the backbone that I needed to keep me on point during her whole run as editor, and she did it all while being the sweetest person imaginable. All the blessings in the world in whatever you do next, Mac! Gonna miss you!

**CRAIG:** MacKenzie has been there from the beginning of Runaways and is that little spark that makes you keep going, to give that extra effort. Her enthusiasm for the characters is infectious, her love for the book undeniable.

**CHRISTINA:** Anytime I curl up on the couch and eat some pizza while watching a chick flick, I wish Mac were there. Whenever I get close to a deadline, I push myself to get it done because I don't want to disappoint Mac. Every time I think about how hot Jon Stewart is, I think about the cat fight I'd have with Mac over him, and how I'd LOSE to her superior clawing skills... and how I'm ok with that.

When I think about Mac leaving, I feel a little sad and lonely all at the same time. She was not only one of my first editors, she's been my editor on almost ALL of my books, and in working with her, I've learned that she's one of the most amazingly strong independent women I've ever had the luck and pleasure of working with. Mac, you're an amazing member of the sisterhood and a hot lady that I'll always look up to.

You are the Mostest Bestest Editor EVERest!

**RANDY:** When you're the letterer, you come to expect, and even embrace the fact that most people don't even notice your work. This was distinctly not the case with Runaways. MacKenzie never failed to make me, the lonely letterer, feel like an appreciated and valuable part of the team.

**NATHAN:** She gave me my first job in comics, she's the smartest woman I know and you like her even when she's yelling at you.

**NICK:** Because MacKenzie understands the nature, beauty and importance of story better than anyone I've ever known.

Hey Guys!

I wanted to write in to say thanks to the Runaways team. I'd never read a comic book before, but when I caught the promotions for RUNAWAYS when it was first launching, I couldn't resist checking it out. Now I'm completely in love with the medium and have been exploring what else there is to see. RUNAWAYS stands out as my favorite, though. Brian's writing never fails to impress and entertain me, I've enjoyed watching Adrian's art progress so beautifully and there's just something about Christina's coloring that suits the tone of the book so well.

Also, I've always wondered about this line in Vol. 1, Issue 6, where Mrs. Dean says Gert, who could grow up to lead the Avengers, was the one child the Pride always considered "expendable." Does this mean we'll be seeing there's more to Chase than him just being one awesome bad ass?

Thanks again for the great reads monthly and the warm welcome into the comic universe.

Ashley Chapman  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Thanks for the Chase love, Ashley. I wish I could answer your question, but Old Lace hates spoilers, and she's breathing down my neck as I type, so I'm afraid I'll have to give you a "stay tuned."

Dear Brian and Adrian,

I noticed that Wolverine is still not a member of the team. Please fix this post-haste.

Hugs,

Joshua Cottingham  
Los Angeles, CA

You got it, Joshua. Now which Runaway should we kill to make room for the hairy Canuck...?

Keep running,  
BKV

## NEXT ISSUE:













# THE RUNAWAYS



**NICO MINORU**  
Daughter of  
Dark Wizards



**GETRUIDE YORRES**  
Daughter of Time-  
Traveling Despots



**CHASE STEIN**  
Son of  
Mad Scientists



**MOLLY HAYES**  
Daughter of  
Evil Mutants



**VICTOR MANCHA**  
Son of a  
Killer Robot



**OLD LACE**  
Genetically  
Engineered  
Dinosaur

## PREVIOUSLY IN RUNAWAYS:

At some point in their lives, all kids think they have the most evil parents in the world, but Nico Minoru and her friends really did.

Discovering that they were the children of a group of super-villains known as The Pride, the teenagers stole weapons and resources from these criminals, before running away from home and eventually defeating their parents. But that was just the beginning. Together, the teenage runaways now hope to atone for their parents' crimes by taking on the new threats trying to fill The Pride's void. Sadly, the Runaways have already lost two of their original members, alien Karolina Dean, who left the planet in the hope of preventing an intergalactic war, and the team's first leader, Alex Wilder, who was killed after betraying his friends.

Unbeknownst to the Runaways, a group of adults from Alex's past online role-playing adventures has formed an all-new Pride in their late friend's honor. Unaware of their predecessors' evil nature, this next-generation Pride attempted to use a combination of science and magic to raise Alex from the dead...only to accidentally bring back a younger version of Alex's father, the evil Geoffrey Wilder. As part of his secret agenda, this resurrected villain convinces his new allies to help him kidnap young Molly Hayes...

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### chapter three

**Brian K. Vaughan**  
Writer

**Christina Strain**  
Colorist

**Virtual Calligraphy's  
Randy Gentile**  
Letterer

**Joe Quesada**  
Chief

**Nick Lowe**  
Editor

**Adrian Alphona**  
Penciler

**Brad Johansen**  
Production

**Marcos Martin**  
Cover Artist

**RUNAWAYS created by Vaughan & Alphona**

**Craig Yeung**  
Inker

**C.B. Cebulski &  
MacKenzie Cadenhead**  
Special Thanks

**Nathan Cosby**  
Assistant Editor

**Dan Buckley**  
Publisher

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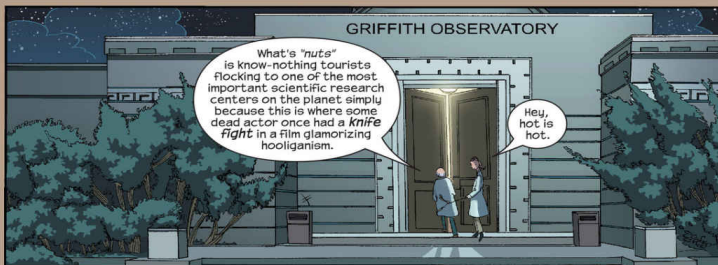
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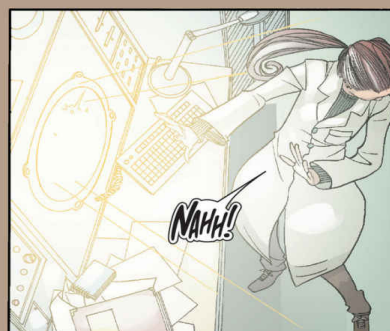
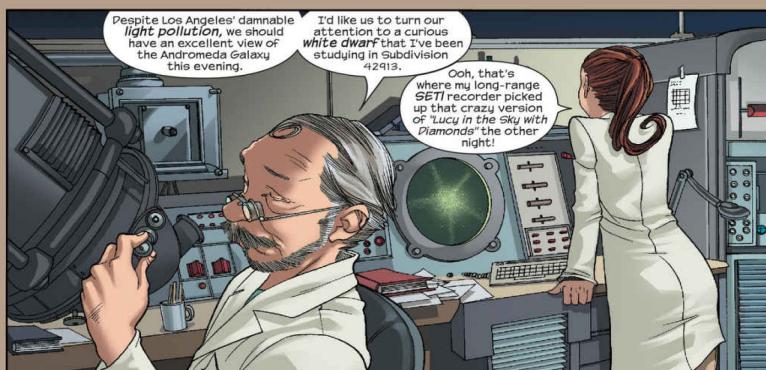


Griffith Observatory  
Los Angeles, California



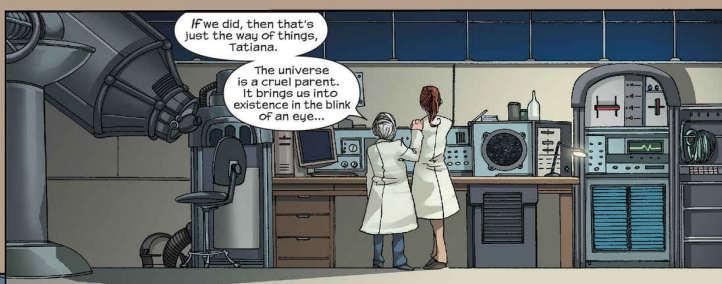
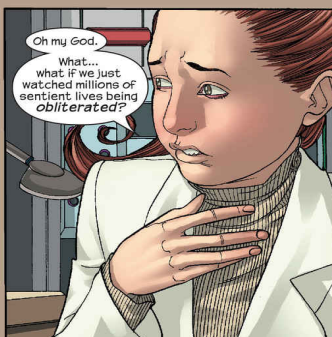
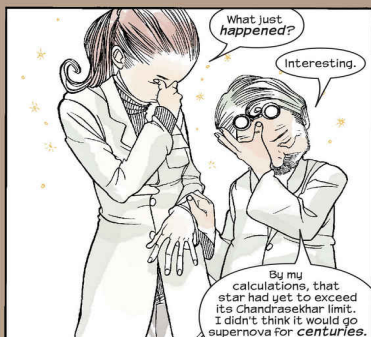












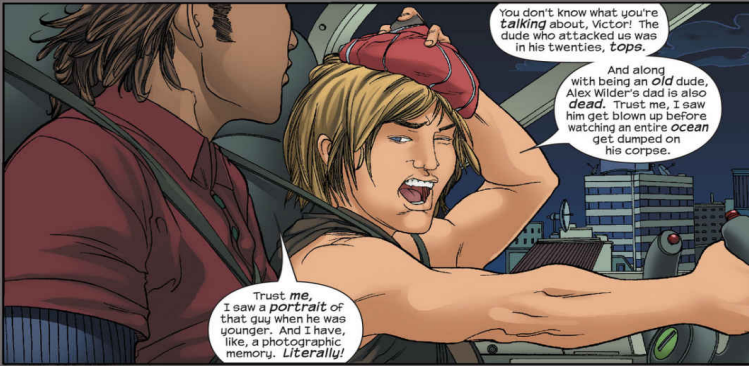








His name  
is Geoffrey  
Wilder.



You don't know what you're  
*talking* about, Victor! The  
dude who attacked us was  
in his twenties, *tops*.

And along  
with being an *old* dude,  
Alex Wilder's dad is also  
*dead*. Trust me, I saw  
him get blown up before  
watching an entire *ocean*  
get dumped on  
his corpse.

Trust me,  
I saw a *portrait* of  
that guy when he was  
younger. And I have,  
like, a photographic  
memory. *Literally!*



He's right, Chase. I'd  
recognize Mr. Wilder's  
baritone anywhere.  
I don't know how, but  
he's definitely the  
one who kidnapped  
*Molly*.

And if I  
hadn't used up the  
Staff of One stopping  
Gert's stupid animal from  
ripping me to *shreds*,  
I probably could have  
*rescued* her.



We're *all* to blame for  
what happened, Hot  
Lips.

So unless  
your little muzzle  
spell is *permanent*,  
I'd watch your big  
mouth.

MRRRRR







Um, I realize we all have some... *personal stuff* to work out, but can we maybe concentrate on *bigger* problems now?

Like, who were those mouth-breathers that helped Wilder grab Molly? And how is the leader of The Pride breathing *at all*?



Probably the same way the old *me* came back from the future a few months ago. Apparently, time travel is the new business class.

Did either of you catch what their getaway vehicle was? They're not driving around in a DeLorean, are they?

No, it was a plain white van, sorta like the one *Chase* used to drive.



Sorta like the one half of L.A.'s *workforce* drives, Nico. Can't believe these losers stole a move from *my* playbook.

Be advised, *master*, your assailants damaged my rear struts before departing. Please return to the Hostel for emergency repair on your next jump.

And you wait until *now* to tell me?

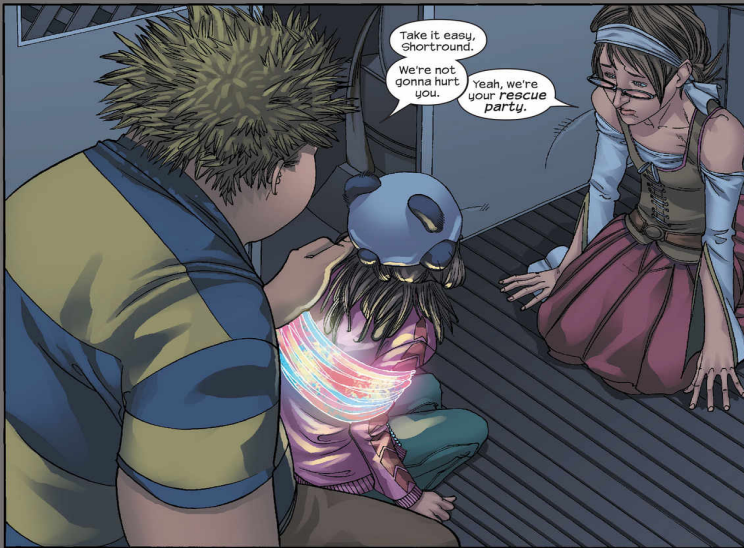


Man, I miss that van...















I know your friends seem like cool people, but they're *villains*. We've been watching them through a hacked feed we got off that *killer android* they recruited.

Nico and the rest of those guys tricked you into believing that your mommy and daddy were bad guys, but they were really *heroes*.

Mmm mmm



Hey, Mr. Wilder. Can Lotus maybe take off the kid's *gag*?



Cool your jets, Stretch. The mutant's still a danger to herself. Best to keep her *controlled* until she dials it down.

But we can't leave her tied up *forever*, Geoffrey.

I mean, what are we supposed to do with Molly now that she's *safe*?

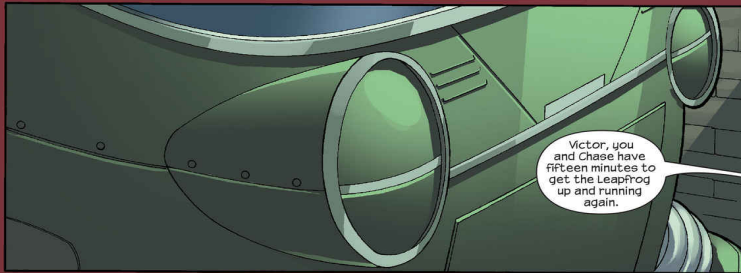


Beats me, Hunter.

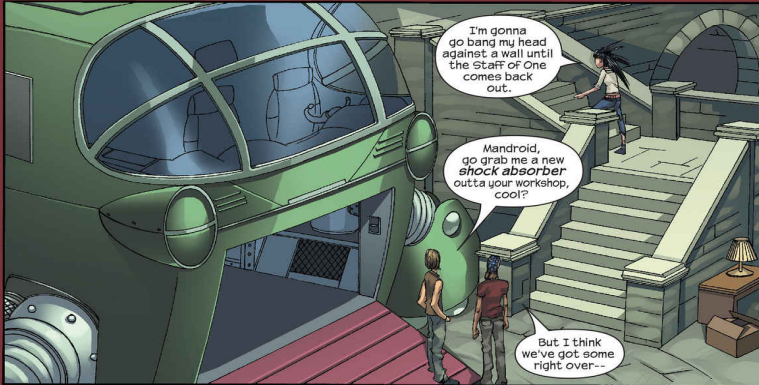
That's why I'm gonna ask a *higher authority*.







Victor, you and Chase have fifteen minutes to get the LeapFrog up and running again.



I'm gonna go bang my head against a wall until the Staff of One comes back out.

Mandroid, go grab me a new *shock absorber* outta your workshop, cool?

But I think we've got some right over--



Vic, please.



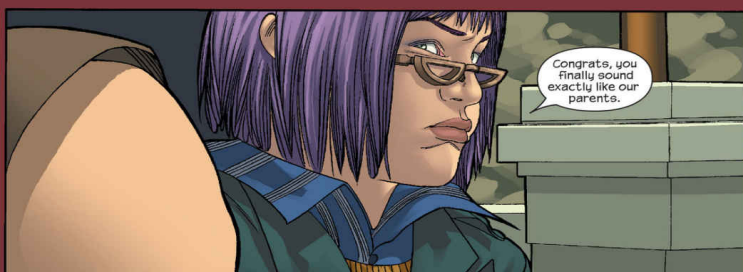
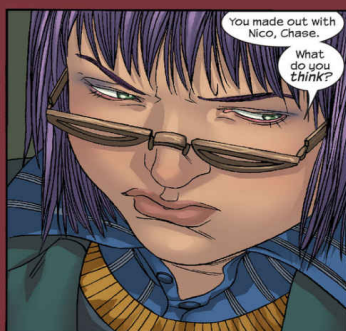
Yeah... um, sure.

I'll be back in a few.















That is so not fair!  
Whatever, this isn't going to work, Chase.



Wait...  
What... what does that mean?



Molly got kidnapped because I let this... this *drama* get to me.

But I'm not allowed to worry about stupid crushes like other kids. We gave up that luxury when we decided to start making up for every awful thing our 'rents did.

Gert, I love you!

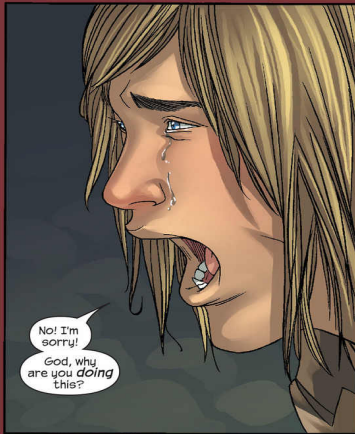


I'm not blind. I know what I *look* like.

I knew it wasn't gonna last forever between me and... *hm*.



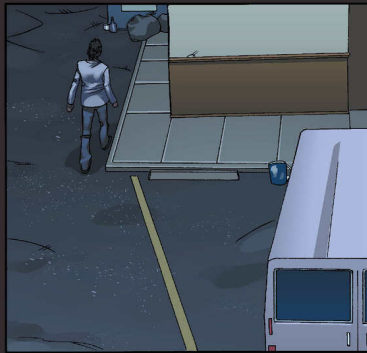
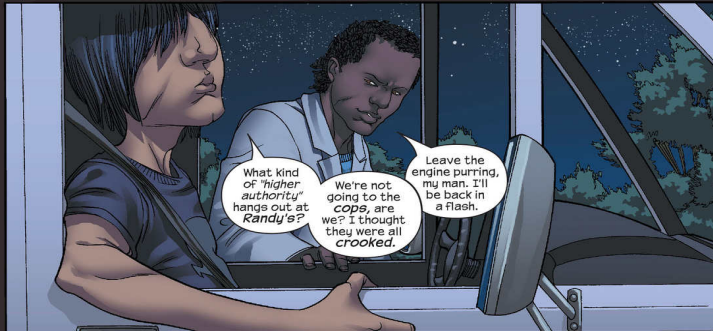




















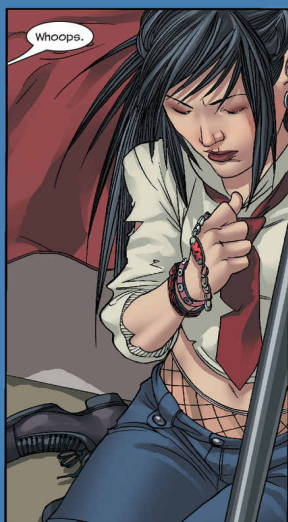
















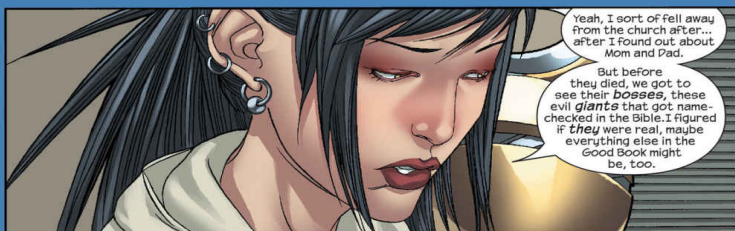


Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving Molly Hayes her strength, and we pray she'll *stay* strong until we can bring her back to the flock.  
Amen.



That... that was really nice.  
I didn't know you were religious.

As religious as a robot can be, I suppose. My mom was a pretty devout Catholic, and that's how she raised me. Or *hardwired* me, anyway.



Yeah, I sort of fell away from the church after... after I found out about Mom and Dad.  
But before they died, we got to see their *bosses*, these evil *giants* that got name-checked in the Bible. I figured if *they* were real, maybe everything else in the Good Book might be, too.



I don't know. I guess I just *want* it to be true. If anything happens to Molly, I... I want to believe there's a better place for her than *this*.

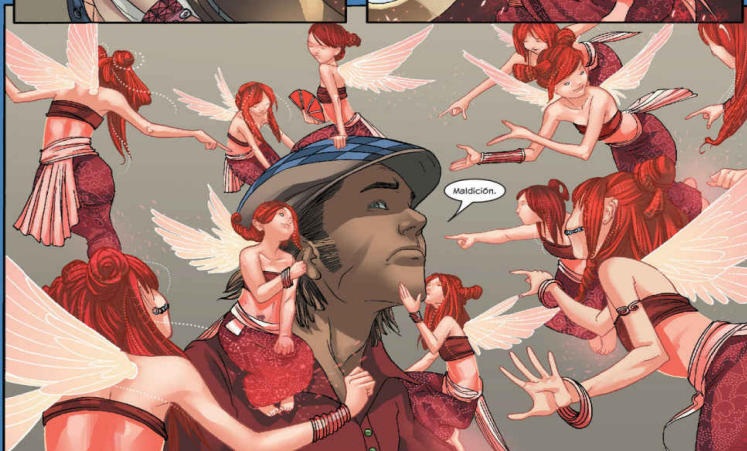
She's not gonna *die*, Nico.

If those people wanted her dead, they would have killed her on the spot. Have faith, we're gonna *find* her.



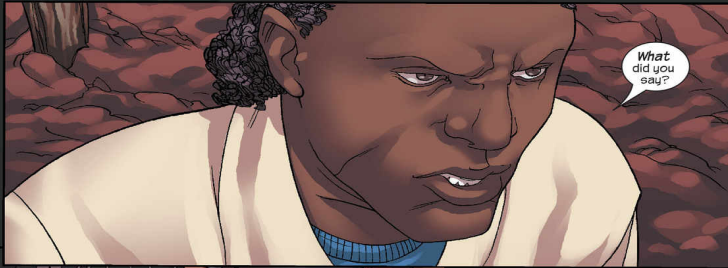












What did you say?



THAT YOU ARE THE REASON WE'RE TRAPPED IN THIS LIMBO, BOY.

Call me "boy" again, Big Brother, and I'll make sure you end up in a much warmer dimension than this.

WE GAVE YOU AND YOUR FELLOW APOSTLES POWER TO HELP US DESTROY HUMANITY AND RESTORE OUR PLANET TO ITS FORMER GLORY. AND YOU SQUANDERED IT.



I didn't squander Jack. The older me did, the one that had grown soft.

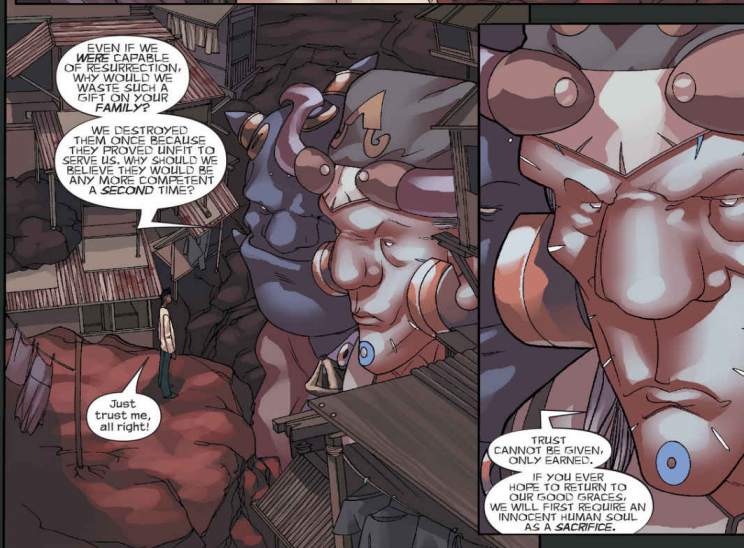
But this is me in my *prime*, and unless you cats have found the juice to start some new pride I don't know about, I'm the only friend you've got.



TELL US WHAT YOU DESIRE, WILDER.















Let's try to be reasonable about this, okay?



The Staff of One doesn't lie. It says Vic's been *spying* for Wilder.

Whoa, let's... let's think about this. Mancha's no *Alex*. He's a solid dude. Maybe there's some kinda wacky explanation for how--

You've got to be kidding me.



After all the times I stuck up for you?

You've been another freakin' *mole* all along?

No! It isn't like that, Gert! You have to believe me!



I don't believe in s\*\*\* anymore.



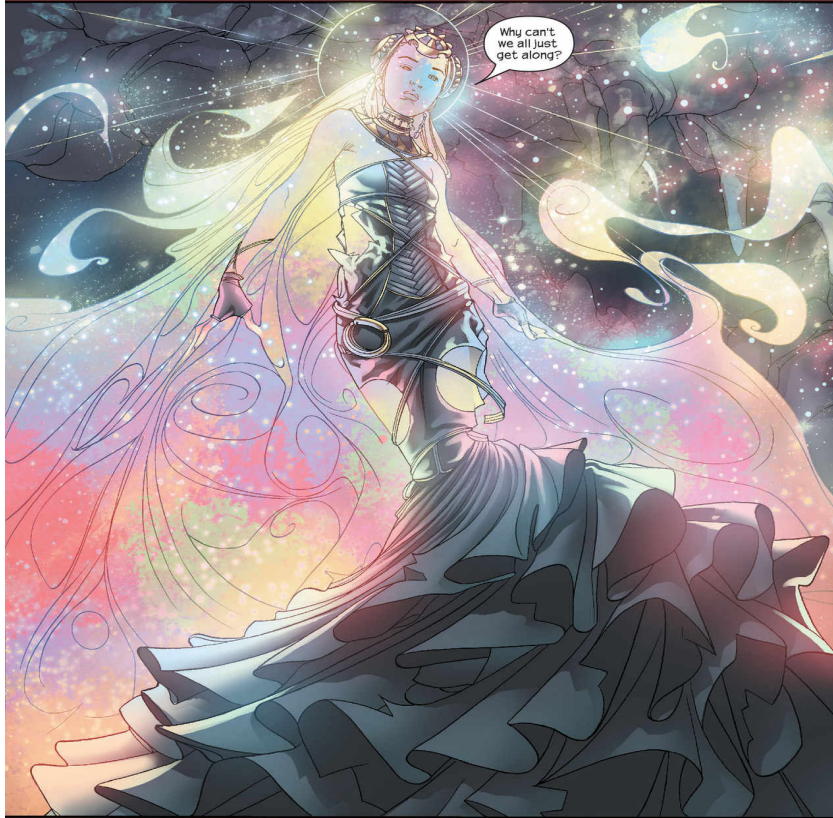












To Be Continued...





# STREET TEAM

Dear Street Team,

First of all, I want to say I am incredibly excited about the upcoming *Civil War: Young Avengers/Runaways* mini-series. I have been begging and waiting to see this match-up along with the rest of the fan base, and am glad to see it is actually happening!

But I am incredibly sad that one of the *Runaways* is going to DIE. When I saw the solicitation in previews, I panicked, and this same week *Runaways* #15 came out so I read it from the perspective that one of these characters will soon die and I fear it is one of my favorites... Nico? Her conversation with Gert about letting her take over as leader should anything happen to her, screams implication that something WILL happen to her! Not to mention the ending of this issue in which Gert finds out about Nico & Chase's kiss, Nico blasts Chase, Old Lace attacks Nico; it's becoming this inner struggle that when Nico dies it will be a huge tragedy because of the bad blood between them before her death. From a writing standpoint, it's brilliant; it would really have a lot of meaning and some obvious build-up to her untimely demise. But from the fanbase standpoint, Mr. Vaughan, Please Please Please don't kill off Nico... and if your hand is really forced and this is obviously already written and laid out in stone so it can't be changed... can you at least give some foreshadowing that she will return? I know her powers are limited and difficult to work with, but maybe something will be set in motion that she can pull a "Phoenix" and recreate herself upon death!

I also saw on the upcoming cover that Karolina will be back, so I'm at least glad for that. And I'm not going to say there is a certain other character that I would rather see dead. Really I feel for each and every one of them and don't want to see any of them go. Nico may be a favorite of mine, but you guys have put so much into these characters that it will be saddening no matter who dies. It's going to be a sad day when I read that issue. This is a true example of art imitating life to the extent that such emotions can be conveyed that we feel for fictional characters in such a way because they are so similar to our own lives and feelings. Again breaking boundaries that comics aren't just for kids and they aren't all fun & games. Great job, guys!

~ Mark McCracken  
Rochester, NY

**BKV here. Thanks for the impassioned words, Mark, but all I can say is that our next story will be called "Dead Means Dead." Sorry.**

I do not write into comics often because I always believe that my favorite books are receiving enough fan mail as it is and the editors don't need my little bit adding to their pile. But then there are books like *Runaways* which just blow me away and I just have to write.

I'll be honest with you and confess that I've only recently discovered the book thanks to the vol.1 hardback which I had to read in one session because the plot was so fast-paced and everything fit together so well. I was dubious whether the concept could continue anymore even though the characters still

## THE HOT SEAT

### WHO IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE TEEN MOVIE STAR?

**BRIAN:** I was never a big teen movie kid, so I'll have to go with the whole preteen cast of *Stand By Me*. That film still devastates me.

**ADRIAN:** Phoebe Cates for me...edges Winona Ryder.

**CRAIG:** First teen that came into my mind was Jonathan Ke Quan from *Temple of Doom/Goonies*. (Although was he a teen yet back then?) Sean Astin was in that as well! Sam... Sam! Although I liked Matthew Broderick in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, too!

**CHRISTINA:** uh... Molly Ringwald... does she count now that she's old and wrinkly? I love John Hughes... *Pre-Beethoven*.

**RANDY:** "Chunk" from *The Goonies*. Why that guy isn't as big as Clooney or Pitt is a shame.

**NATHAN:** John Cusack. *Say Anything...* could and should change everyone's life.

**NICK:** Cory Feldman. The best. From *Goonies*, to *License to Drive* to the finest film of all time—*Dream A Little Dream*. However, I once saw Molly Ringwald on the subway and nearly damaged my junk when I walked into the turnstile while rubbernecking to see her.

had so much potential but vol.2 proved to be even better. The characters are growing, becoming more mature—and there's now this hint of further teen angst in the midst with Chase's possible "murderous" past. Could he be the darkness Cloak feels? I also really like the addition of Victor into the team and I hope he remains on the good side for a good long time. Though Molly with her hats and one-liners still remains my favorite member. Don't let her age too quickly; her innocence is so precious and adorable and she's such a good part of the team's dynamic.

Anyway, keep up the amazing work and tell the powers that be NOT to cancel this book in any way.

Jordan Crisp  
London, England

**Much obliged, Jordan. And no need to fear, our sales have never been better, thanks to new readers like you who are still discovering our original hardcover collection. The Runaways are going to be part of the Marvel Universe for a long, long time.**

Street Team,  
Good job with y'all's 14th ish, guys. Seems like just yesterday I was reading your first 14th issue. I've got that poster of our

favorite super-powered six from one of the comic store promo runs, so I suppose I'm die-hard.

Another title that I read is *MK Black Panther*. Like, about a year ago, Mr. Hudlin and the editing dept. got together and came up with a contest to put together a soundtrack fit for the cowed King of Wakanda. Since then, I've been all sorts of busy making Ultimate-playlists for my fave titles. I hope you guys can print the stuff I came up with, and there isn't any copyright, name-usage stuff. This is what I listen to when I "Run."

- 1) "Angels of the Silences" - Counting Crows (Official Runaways Anthem)
- 2) "Take Me Away" - Fefe Dobson
- 3) "Holiday" - Green Day
- 4) "Father of Mine" - Everclear
- 5) "The Art of Losing" - American Hi-Fi
- 6) "The Runaways" - Anberlin
- 7) "Runaway" - Linkin Park
- 8) "California" - Phantom Planet
- 9) "Father's Son" - 3 Doors Down
- 10) "Way Away" - Yellowcard
- 11) "We Are" - Vertical Horizon
- 12) "All You Wanted" - Michelle Branch
- 13) "Anthem" - Good Charlotte
- 14) "Private Radio" - Vanessa Carlton
- 15) "Someday" - Nickelback
- 16) "Nobody's Home" - Avril Lavigne
- 17) "Defeat You" - Smashmouth
- 18) "Fall Apart" - Sugar Ray
- 19) "Meet You There" - Simple Plan

Until you guys start using a bullet-shaped logo, make mine Marvel.

JWA Harlan  
Crawfordsville, IN

**What, no Del Shannon's "Runaway"? Where's your sense of history, JWA? Sigh, I have finally become the kind of evil adult the Runaways hate...**

Keep running,  
BKV

## NEXT ISSUE:



**Nathan Cosby**  
Assistant Editor

**Nick Lowe**  
Editor

**Joe Quesada**  
Chief

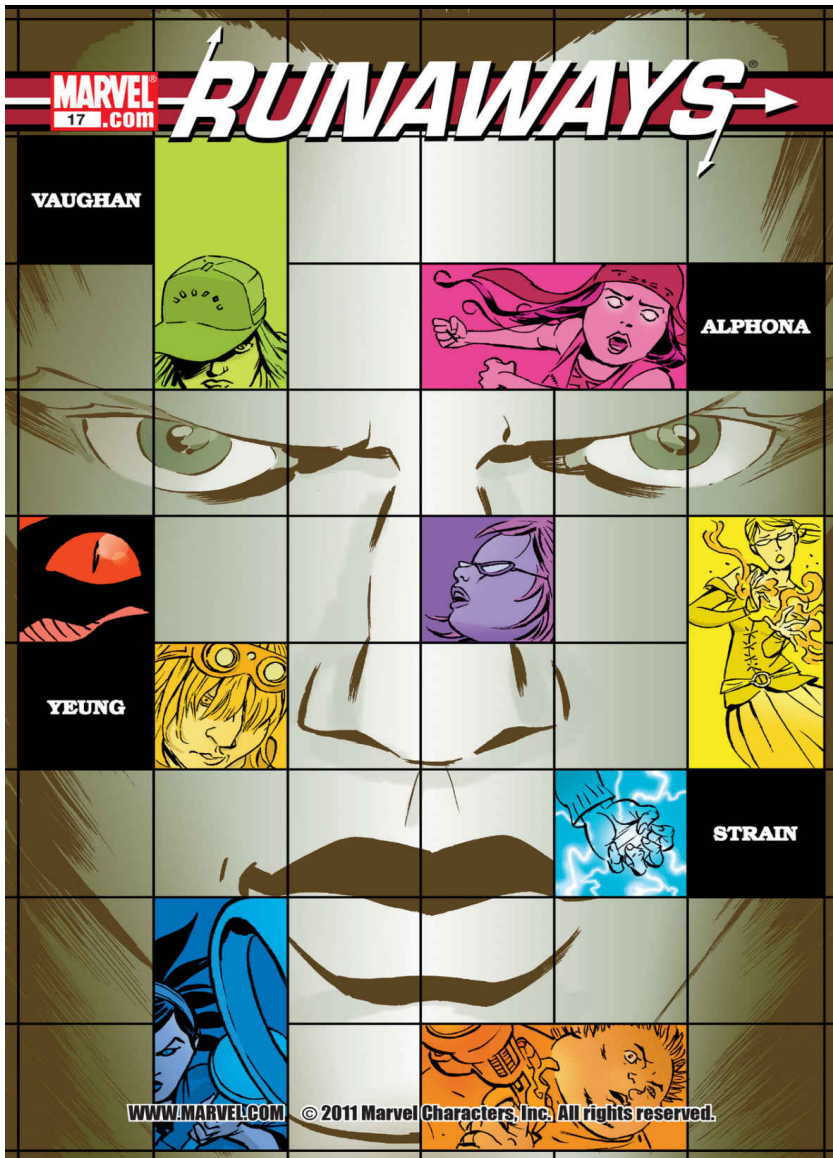
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# THE RUNAWAYS



**NICO MINORU**  
Daughter of  
Dark Wizards



**GETTRUDE YORKES**  
Daughter of Time-  
Traveling Despots



**CHASE STEIN**  
Son of  
Mad Scientists



**MOLLY HAYES**  
Daughter of  
Evil Mutants



**VICTOR MANCHA**  
Son of a  
Killer Robot



**OLD LACE**  
Genetically  
Engineered  
Dinosaur

## PREVIOUSLY IN RUNAWAYS:

At some point in their lives, all kids think they have the most evil parents in the world, but Nico Minoru and her friends really did.

Discovering that they were the children of a group of super-villains known as The Pride, the teenagers stole weapons and resources from these criminals, before running away from home and eventually defeating their parents. But that was just the beginning. Together, the teenage runaways now hope to atone for their parents' crimes by taking on the new threats trying to fill The Pride's void. Sadly, the team has already lost two of its original members, alien Karolina Dean, who left the planet in the hopes of preventing an intergalactic war, and former leader Alex Wilder, who was killed after betraying his friends.

Unbeknownst to the Runaways, a group of adults from Alex's past online role-playing adventures has formed an all-new Pride in their late friend's honor. Unaware of their predecessors' evil nature, this next-generation Pride attempted to use a combination of science and magic to raise Alex from the dead, only to accidentally bring back a younger version of Alex's father, the evil Geoffrey Wilder. This resurrected villain soon kidnaps Molly Hayes, following an emotional battle that turned the Runaways against one another. Just as this powder keg is about to explode, an old friend makes an unexpected return to the Hostel...

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### chapter four

**Brian K. Vaughan**  
Writer

**Virtual Calligraphy's  
Randy Gentile**  
Letterer

**Nick Lowe**  
Editor

**Christina Strain**  
Colorist

**Joe Quesada**  
Chief

**RUNAWAYS created by Vaughan & Alphona**

**Adrian Alphona**  
Penciler

**Tom Valente**  
Production

**Marcos Martin**  
Cover Artist

**Craig Yeung**  
Inker

**C.B. Cebulski &  
MacKenzie Cadenhead**  
Special Thanks

**Nathan Cosby**  
Assistant Editor

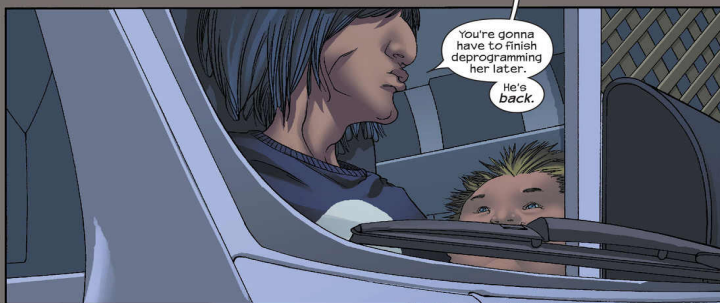
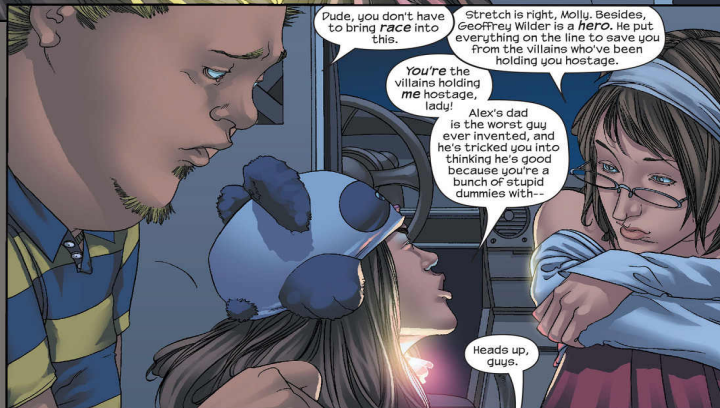
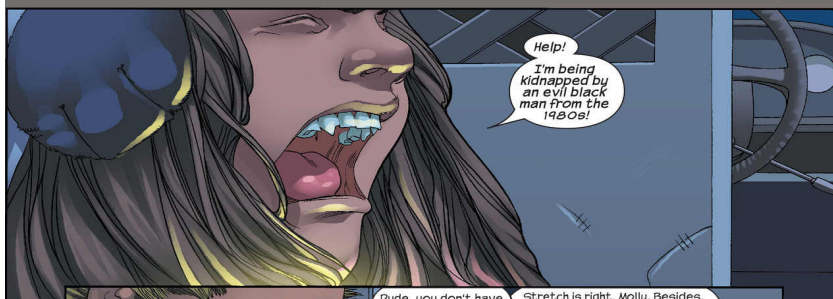
**Dan Buckley**  
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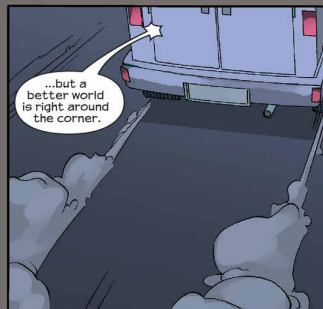
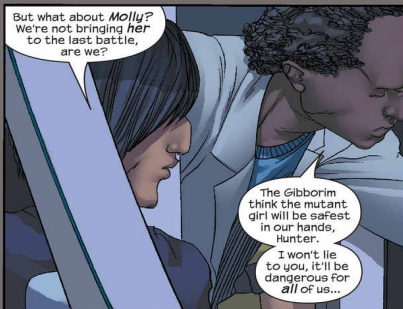
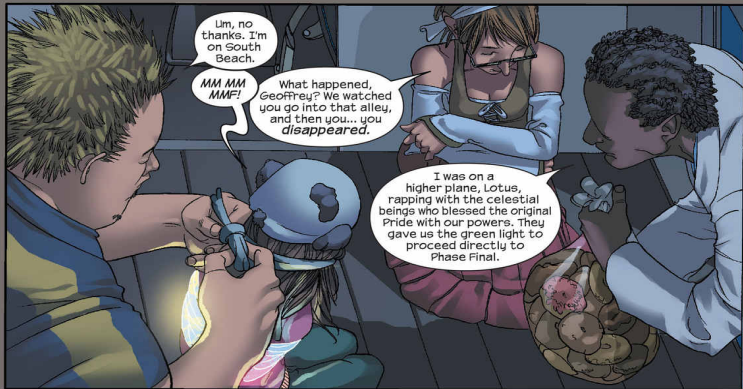
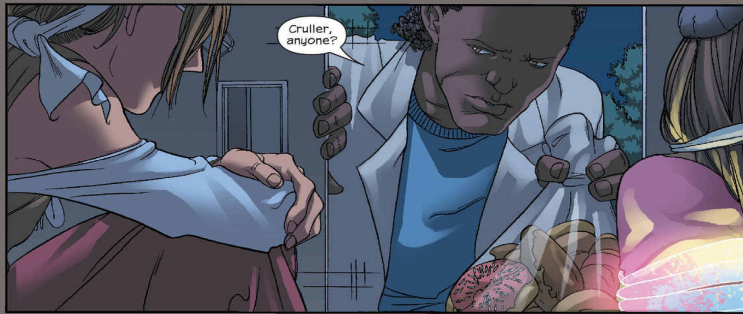








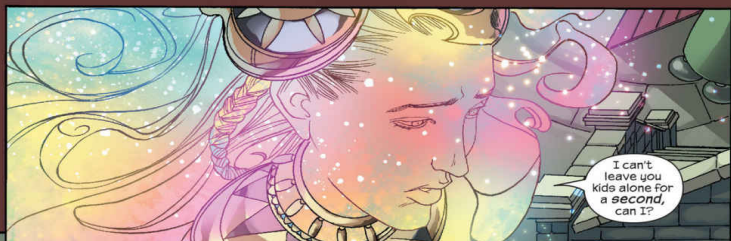






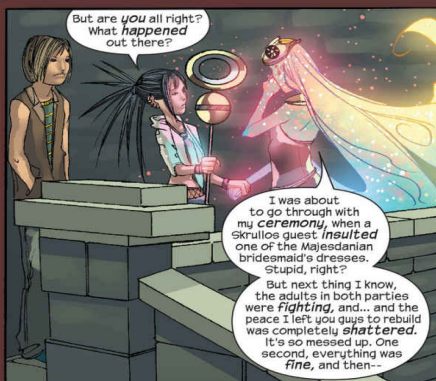




















Either that, or my invisibility skills still need work.



I apologize for the subterfuge, but I didn't wish to interfere with Karolina's reunion, so I--

AAAA! It's the Lizard! Somebody cut his head off!



Forgive me, I forgot that not all of you had an opportunity to see me in my true form when first we met.

It's Xavin, Karolina's betrothed, remember?



I regret that we were forced to leave our galaxy, but our elders had clearly lost interest in negotiation, yes, love?

So you guys are still... together?

Everyone just went insane. We barely escaped Tarnax VII before Xavin's outpost world launched antimatter missiles at Moledane. It... it was horrible.

We crash-landed our escape pod a few miles from the Hostel. I... I don't know if anyone else from our system survived.

















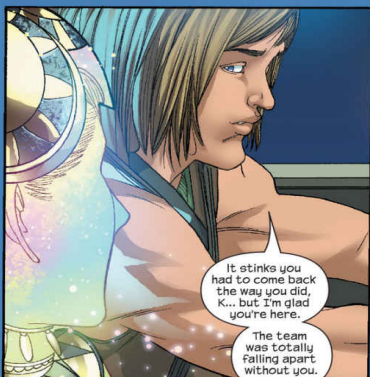




So after Not-So-Old Man Wilder's goon squad spilled the beans about my little screwup with Nico, Gert pretty much dumped me forever.

Oh, Chase. I'm sure she's just scared and... and *confused*. Give her time, she'll come around.

Trust me, you two were *made* for each other.



It stinks you had to come back the way you did, K... but I'm glad you're here.

The team was totally falling apart without you.

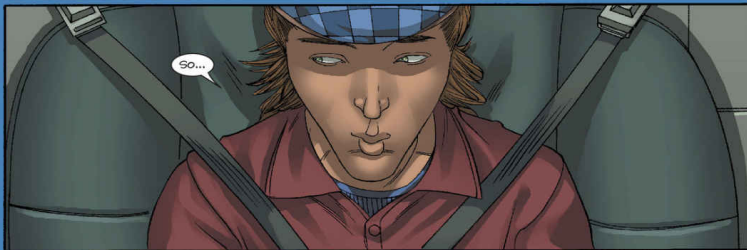


Each of us has been falling apart since day one, Chase.

We just have to find a way to fall apart *together*.

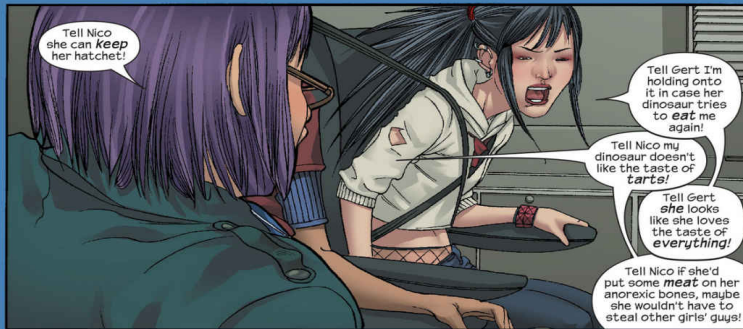




















Recess  
is over.



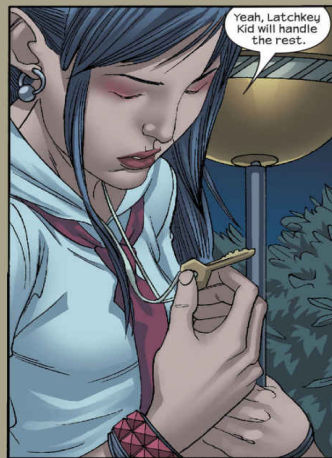
I'm sure  
this will make  
me sound like an  
ignorant barrio kid,  
but aren't "summer  
homes" supposed to  
be... summery?

Nico's parents  
weren't much into  
the bright and  
cheery, Vic.  
Come on,  
let's toss  
the joint.



No sign of their  
wheels.  
Maybe we  
just missed  
them?

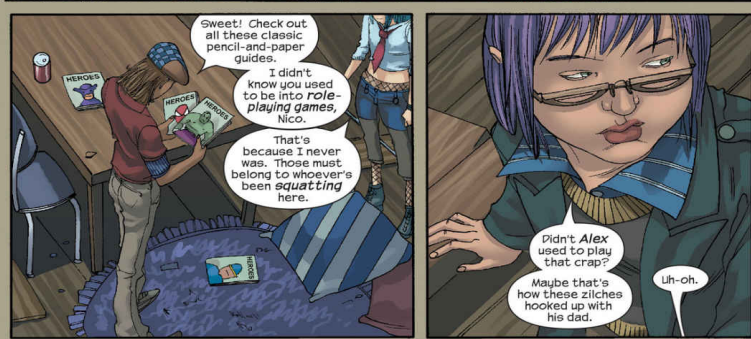
Or maybe  
they're still on  
their way back.  
You should probably  
cloak the Leapfrog,  
Chase.



yeah, Latchkey  
kid will handle  
the rest.



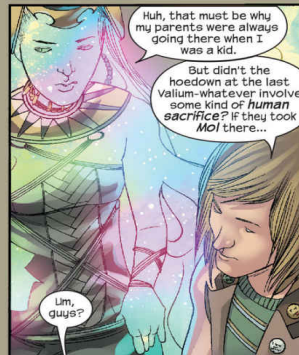
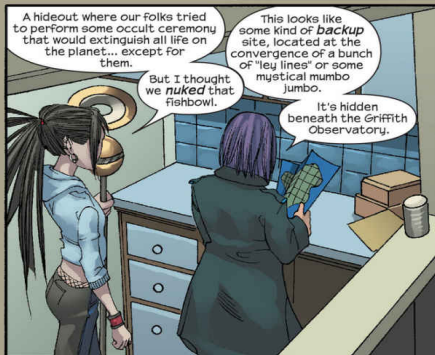
































Hunter, you patrol the west bank. Stretch, you take east.

I'll guard point.



Kinda ironic, huh?

What's that?

It takes a couple of dorks who've spent most of their adult lives hanging out in imaginary universes to make world peace a reality.



I mean, if Wilder's spell works, Alex's journal says we'll eradicate poverty, global warming, terrorism, *war*.

We'll do what every super hero *combined* hasn't been able to pull off.



You're right... we are *so* gonna be on TV.

We should probably come up with *codenames*, huh?

Good idea, Mr. Fat-tastic.





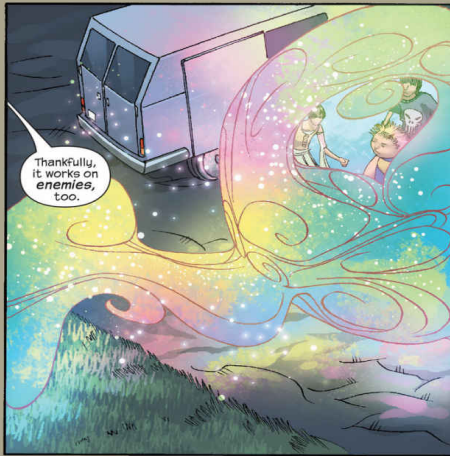




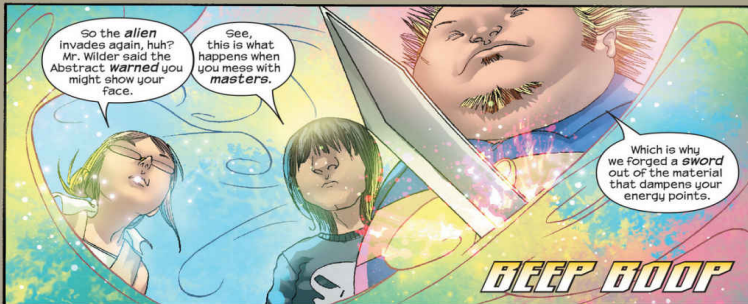




It means  
I picked up a few  
new tricks off-world...  
like how to put an  
**impenetrable shield**  
around my friends.



Thankfully,  
it works on  
**enemies**,  
too.



So the **alien**  
invades again, huh?  
Mr. Wilder said the  
Abstract **Warned** you  
might show your  
face.

See,  
this is what  
happens when  
you mess with  
**masters**.

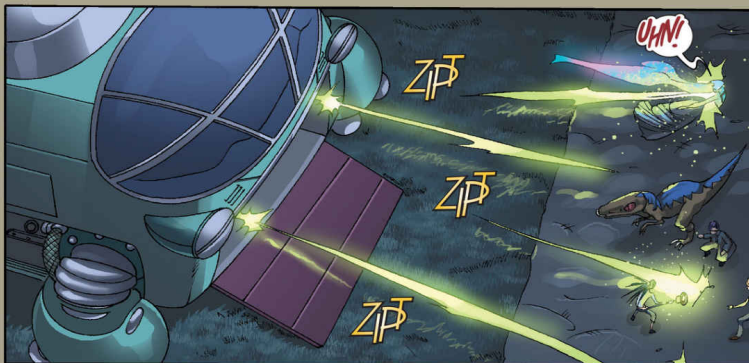
Which is why  
we forged a **sword**  
out of the material  
that dampens your  
energy points.

**BEEP BOOP**



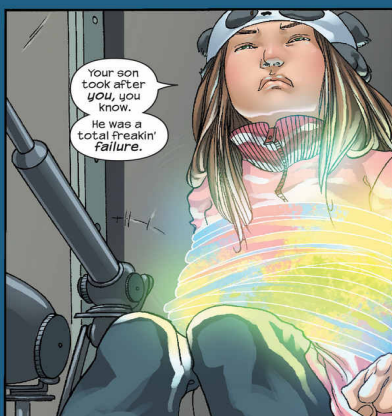


























To Be Concluded...





# STREET TEAM

Dear RUNAWAYS team,

I just would like to point out how much I hate, yet also love, RUNAWAYS. I hate the fact that one of the characters is going to die. Each one of them is so important, so real, so special, that it is appalling for me to lose any of them. This is also why I love RUNAWAYS. You've created characters so vivid and engaging that it hurts to even conceive of one of them passing. This is, I feel, the hallmark of master storytellers at work. Congratulations on securing my monthly three dollars for as long as this book is put out.

On another note, RUNAWAYS got my 13-year-old brother reading instead of playing video games. And I don't mean just comic books--it got him reading. Prying him away from the vid screen is no small task, yet you've done it anyway. Again, my thanks.

Sincerely,  
Matt Murphy  
Boston, MA

Thanks, Matt. We love/hate you, too.

Brian, Adrian, and everyone,

It's a total burn giv' picking one of our beloved RUNAWAYS to die. Mostly, I just want Molly to live. Well, the desperate genius of Chase is lost on a literate audience, but I don't want him to die, either. Gert's got a dinosaur with a septum ring, something that triples her already valuable cynicism. Nico is a Goth Asian in turmoil: there would be too much left unsaid. Karolina can't die, she's just coming back. Victor? I gotta say, I don't want the Tin Man to die, but he's on the low end of the spectrum with this one.

I've got a good idea. Let's just, you know, forget about all this one-member-must-die stuff and put it in the past. I promise I won't bring it up again if you don't. Scout's honor.

J. F. Cooper

Sorry, Coop, failed contract negotiations with our cast means that at least one of the RUNAWAYS will be leaving permanently. I blame their

## THE HOT SEAT

**WHO'S THE ONE COLLABORATOR YOU'D LOVE TO MAKE A COMIC WITH?**

**BRIAN:** Outside of my beloved Team Runaways? I'd have to go with David Mazzucchelli.

**ADRIAN:** Always thought how cool it would be if Woody Allen were to write a comic. I'd so want a piece of that. That won't happen though...

**CRAIG:** Himm, that's a tough one. There are so many I would like to work with. So many talented individuals. Although...I wouldn't mind working with Joe Mad and Jeff Loeb on a project. Hmmm. wonder if they are working on something....D Tee hee.

**CHRISTINA STRAIN:** Chris Bachalo!!! "caff caff" ...please?

**RANDY GENTILE:** The top of my list was always John Romita Sr. and I was lucky enough to letter his work on Amazing Spider #500, so anyone else I mention would be a distant second.

**NATHAN:** Bill Watterson, creator of Calvin and Hobbes! If he wanted to translate the Mayflower Compact into Swahili, I'd be there to help.

**NICK:** I would kill to work with Alan Moore. I just wanted to be the first person to read one of his stories...

agents.

Dear BKV or Editor,

Will we be seeing more obscure Marvel characters brought out of obscurity by the 'Marvel Encyclopedia Robotica' himself, Victor Mancha? I hope so!

Alex  
Laguna Hills, CA  
PS. Please kill Nico.

Ouch, where's all the Nico hatred coming from? Is this THE Alex? Anyway, if you want to see the RUNAWAYS interacting with obscure (and not-so-obscure) characters from the Marvel Universe, be sure to pick up the upcoming YOUNG AVENGERS/RUNAWAYS.

Dear Street Team,

Thank you thank you thank you for bringing Karolina back. I just finished reading Issue 16 and really enjoyed it. Geoffrey Wilder's

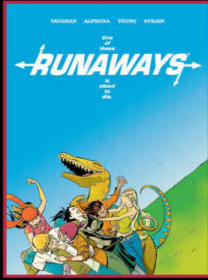
dialogue in his talk with the Gibborim was awesome. Really suited his character well. I have seen the cover to Issue 18 and know that somebody is going to die. No matter who it is it'll suck, but I trust it will be written well. Does fan popularity have anything to do with who dies or were you planning to kill a RUNAWAY every 18 issues? Molly is by far my favorite character in all of comics but if it makes sense for her to be the one who dies then I guess that's just the way of things. I trust your judgment, BKV, so if you keep writing it, I will keep reading it.

Pete

No, I'd say that each of our characters has an equally large following, so fan popularity had nothing to do with deciding which characters will live or die. For Adrian and me, it's only ever about telling good stories. And for those of you who think that I would never hurt Molly Hayes because she's named after my kid sister, don't forget that I named Alex's parents after my own beloved mom and pops, and I had no qualms about blowing them up. No one is safe.

Keep running,  
BKV

## NEXT ISSUE:



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Joe Quesada  
Chief

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VAUGHAN ALPHONA YEUNG STRAIN

One  
of  
these  
**← RUNAWAYS →**  
is  
about  
to  
die.



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# THE RUNAWAYS



**NICO MINORU**  
Daughter of  
Dark Wizards



**GERTRUDE YORKES**  
Daughter of Time-  
Traveling Despots



**CHASE STEIN**  
Son of  
Mad Scientists



**MOLLY HAYES**  
Daughter of  
Evil Mutants



**VICTOR MANCHA**  
Son of a  
Killer Robot



**KAROLINA DEAN**  
Daughter of  
Alien Invaders



**OLD LACE**  
Genetically  
Engineered  
Dinosaur

## PREVIOUSLY IN RUNAWAYS:

At some point in their lives, all kids think they have the most evil parents in the world, but Nico Minoru and her friends really did.

Discovering that they were the children of a group of super-villains known as The Pride, the teenagers stole weapons and resources from these criminals, before running away from home and eventually defeating their parents. But that was just the beginning. Together, the teenage runaways now hope to atone for their parents' crimes by taking on the new threats trying to fill The Pride's void. But the team has already lost one of its original members, former leader Alex Wilder, who was killed after betraying his friends.

Unbeknownst to the Runaways, a group of adults from Alex's past online role-playing adventures has formed an all-new Pride in their late friend's honor. Unaware of their predecessors' true nature, this next-generation Pride attempted to use a combination of science and magic to raise Alex from the dead, only to accidentally bring back a younger version of Alex's father, the evil Geoffrey Wilder. This resurrected villain soon kidnaps young Molly Hayes, following an emotional battle that turned the Runaways against one another. Just as this powder keg is about to explode, alien Karolina Dean returns from a failed mission to space with her new mate, a shape-shifting Skrull named Xavin. Together, the reunited team races to rescue Molly from a sacrificial ritual. But when Wilder draws a handgun, Nico ends up getting sacrificed instead.

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### conclusion

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Writer

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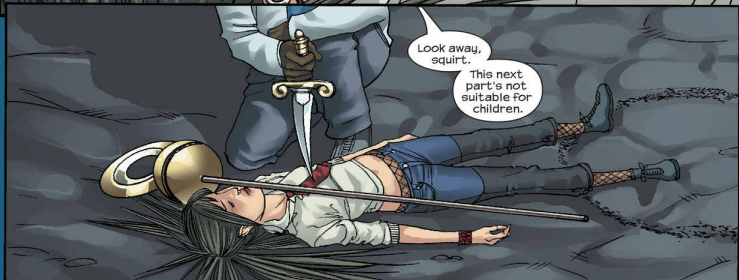
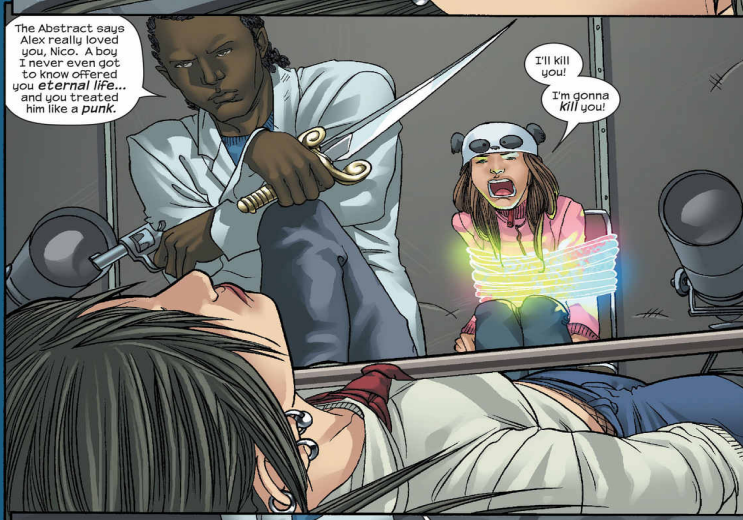
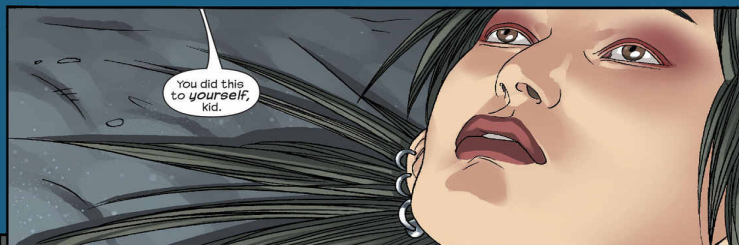
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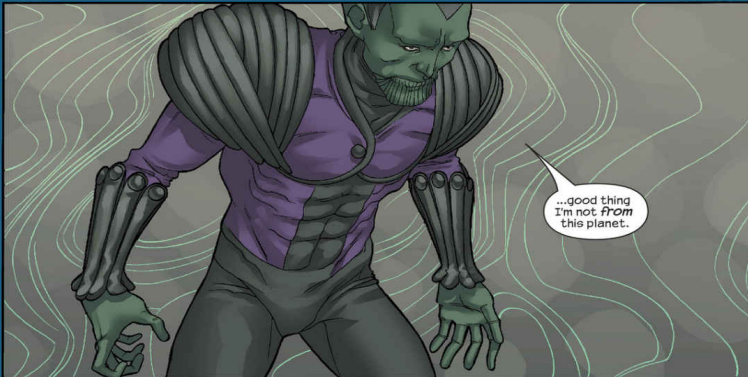






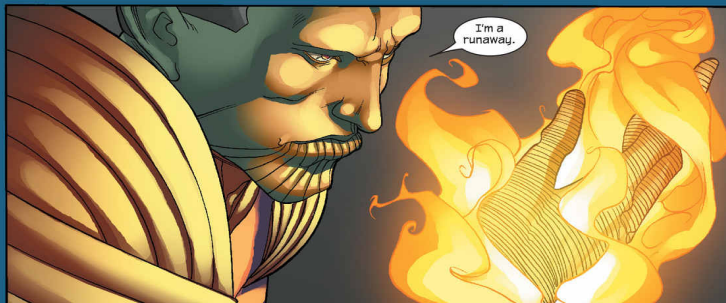














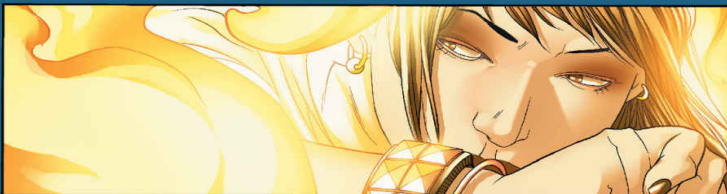
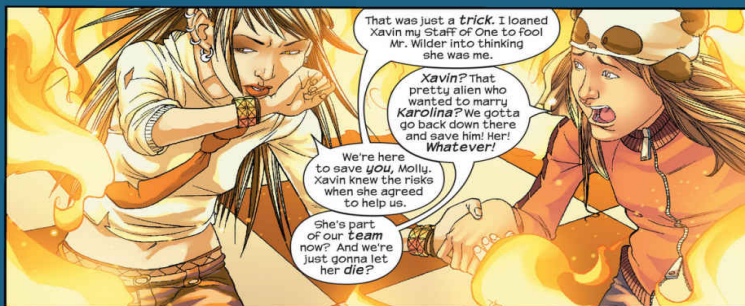






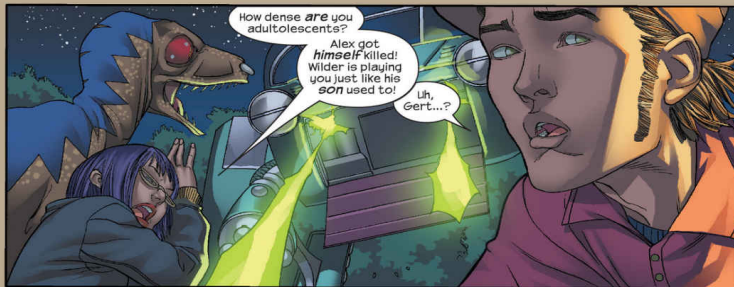
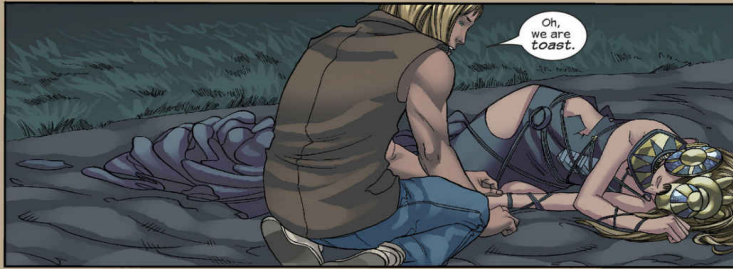














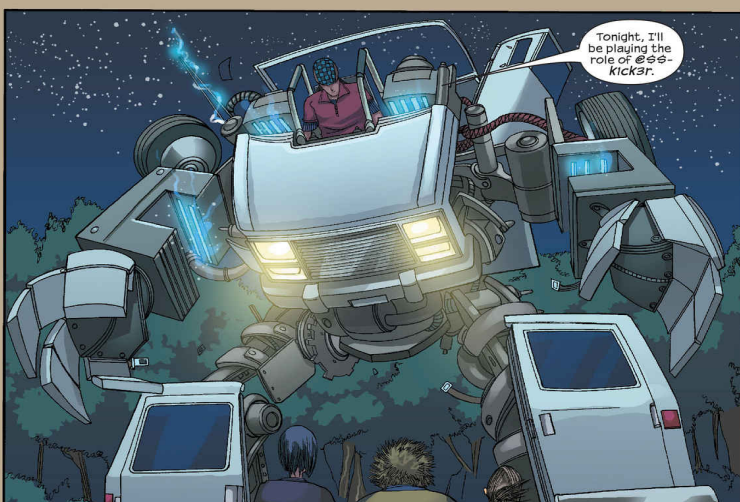






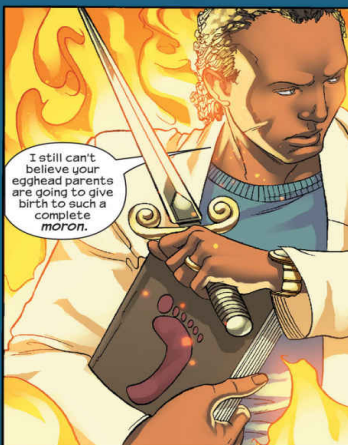
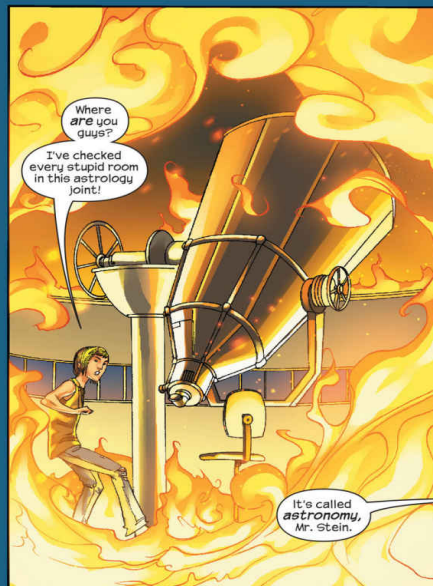






















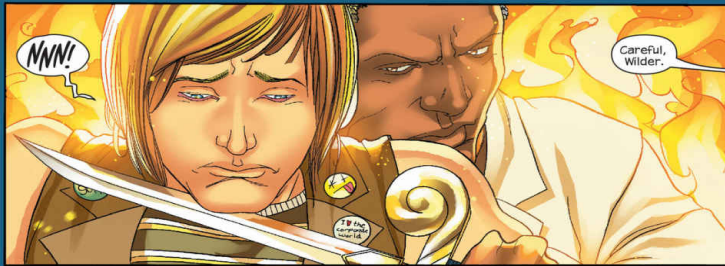


















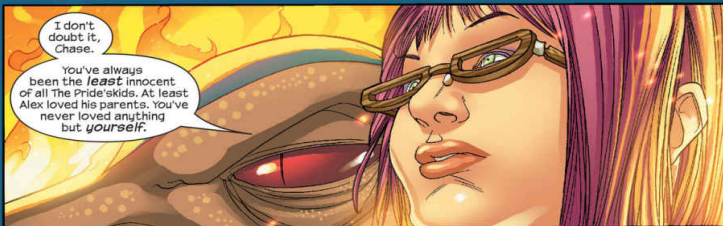
What? You saw what he did in New York, didn't you?

Cheated on me with another girl?



Please, that was just a youthful indiscretion.

Trust me, I've done way worse stuff than that in my life.



I don't doubt it, Chase.

You've always been the *least* innocent of all The Pride skids. At least Alex loved his parents. You've never loved anything but *yourself*.



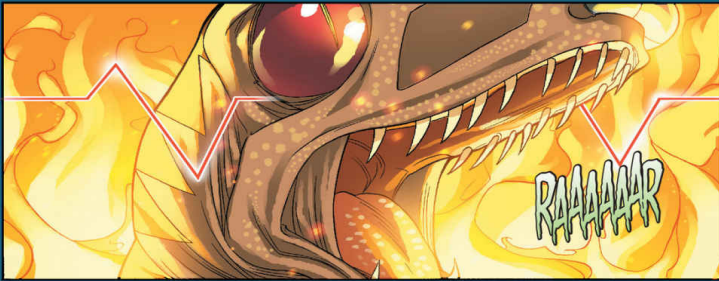
So go ahead, Wilder, slit the jerk's throat. But if you try to cash in his soul, I guarantee that check will *bounce*.

Either way, the second you open Chase's jugular, just know that Old Lace here is gonna open *yours*.

Then it looks like this round belongs to *you*, Gertrude.



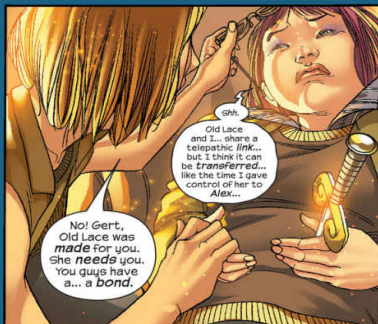






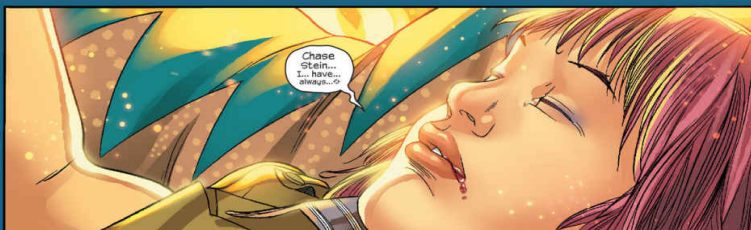
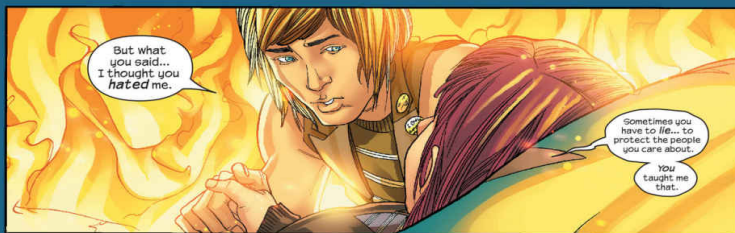






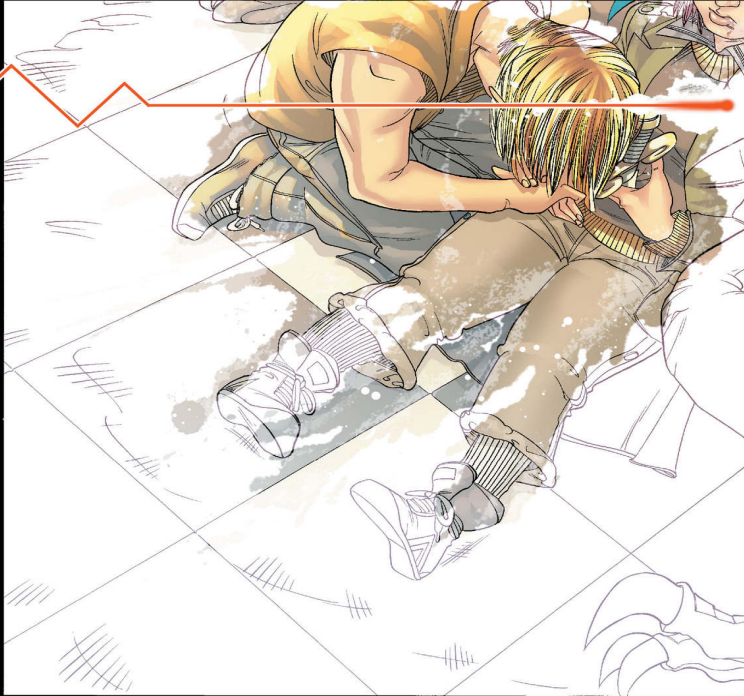








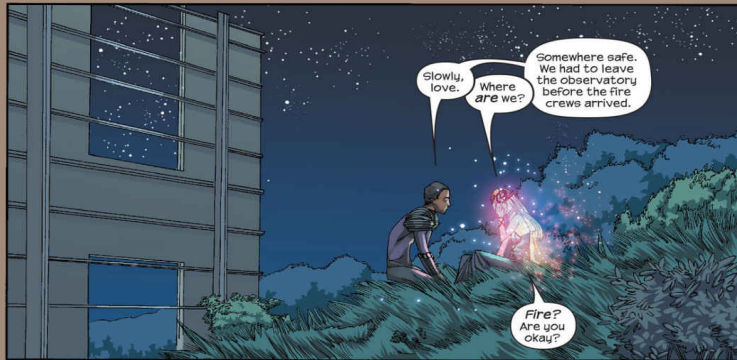
































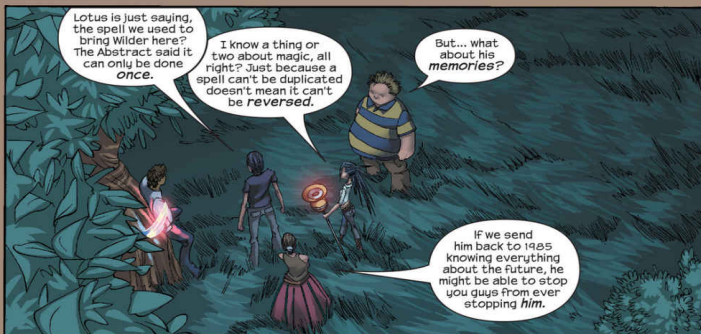
We send him back where he came from.



But--

Look, the only reason I didn't let Chase *kill* you is because we were stupid enough to trust the wrong person once, too.

But we were *kids*. You people are *adults*, and it's time you started acting like it. We're going to do what's *right* here, not just what *feels* right.



Lotus is just saying, the spell we used to bring Wilder here? The Abstract said it can only be done *once*.

I know a thing or two about magic, all right? Just because a spell can't be duplicated doesn't mean it can't be *reversed*.

But... what about his *memories*?

If we send him back to 1985 knowing everything about the future, he might be able to stop you guys from ever stopping *him*.



Then Wilder gets to do the one thing the rest of us never can.  
FORGET.















**NEXT: "Dead Means Dead"**





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