

future imperfect

In Dystopia, the heroes of old are mere legends, and the inhabitants of the domain live under the strict rule of their lord and master, Baron MAESTRO...but not for long. A small band of rebels seeks to overthrow his authority.

Among those who fight is the mutant warrior Ruby Summers. Ruby, who had taken to wandering the desert on the outskirts of DYSTOPIA, came across a man claiming to be the legendary Odin! In the hopes that the former god would advance their cause against Baron Maestro, Ruby led the weakened man to the revolt's underground base only to discover that "Odin" was just Maestro in disguise!

The leader of the anti-Maestro revolt, Major Thaddeus Ross a.k.a. the THING, duked it out with Maestro but was soon apprehended and taken to Maestro's palace!

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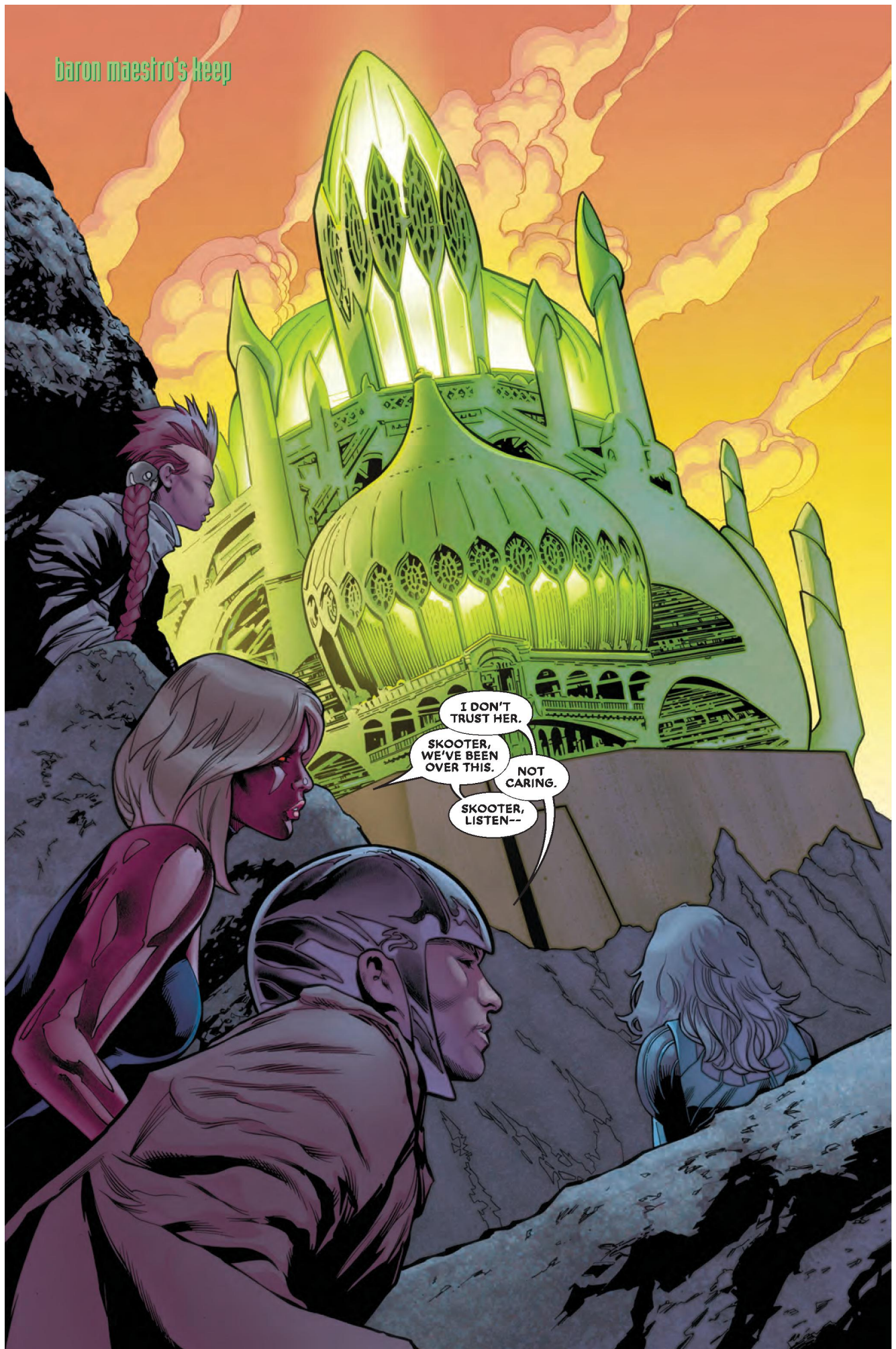
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BATTLEWORLD

baron maestro's keep



I DON'T TRUST HER.

SKOOTER, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS.

NOT CARING.

SKOOTER, LISTEN--



WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU, RUBY? YOU GOT ZERO CRED WITH ME!

YOU LED THE MAESTRO RIGHT TO US! RIGHT TO US!

WELL, YOU THOUGHT *WRONG*, DIDN'T'CHA?!

I THOUGHT HE WAS ODIN...



AND NOW HE'S GOT MAJOR ROSS LOCKED UP AND DOING WHO-KNOWS-WHAT TO 'IM! THAT'S ASSUMING THAT HE'S EVEN STILL ALIVE!



AND NOW YOU WANT US TO TRUST ONE OF HIS DOGS OF WAR TO LEAD A TROOP RIGHT INTO THE MAESTRO'S LAP?

I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY...

NOT SOUNDS! *IS!* CRAZY!



I JUST GOT DONE RELOCATING ALL THE PEOPLE WE GOT STASHED UNDERNEATH! AND NOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST MARCH RIGHT INTO THE MAESTRO'S HOUSE? UNDER HER GUIDANCE? WHY?



BECAUSE I'M ALL YOU'VE GOT.



JANIS?

LAYLA SAVED RUBY WHEN SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO, SKOOTER.

I'M GETTING A SOLID VIBE OFF HER.

AND BESIDES, SHE'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, NOT IF WE WANT TO SPRING THE BOSS.



~SIIIIIGH~

I'M GONNA REGRET THIS, BUT OKAY. I'LL GATHER A GROUP OF OUR BEST GUNS.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?



THERE'S A BACK ENTRANCE TO THE CASTLE. IT'S USED TO DUMP OUT THE CORPSES OF PEOPLE THE MAESTRO DISPOSES OF.

I'LL OPEN IT FOR YOU AND YOU SNEAK IN THAT WAY.

THEN I'LL LEAD YOU TO YOUR BOSS AND WE FREE HIM.



AND THEN WE GO FOR THE MAESTRO.

THAT'S THE PLAN.

I LIKE THAT PART.

later



ARE THEY IN?



THEY ARE.

AND YOU REALLY THINK RUBY AND HER CREW CAN TAKE DOWN THE MAESTRO, LAYLA?



SHHHHH!

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

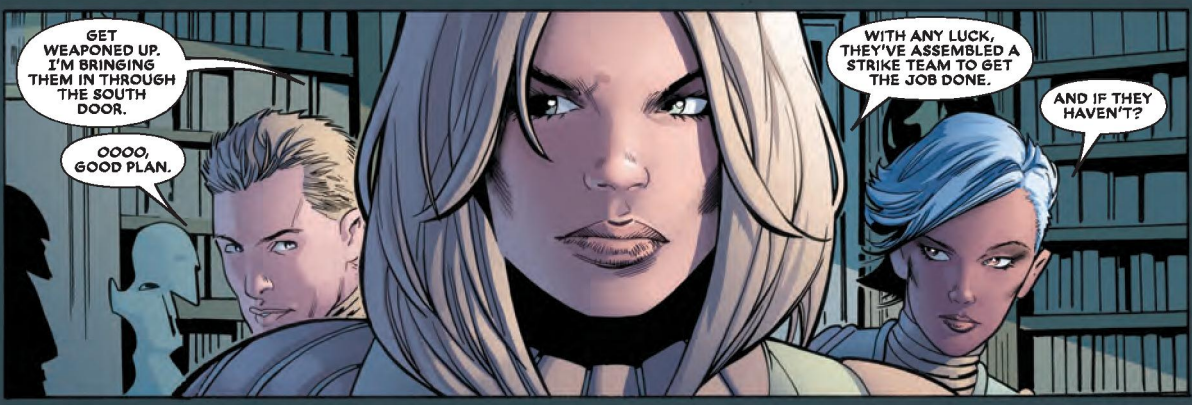


DAMMIT, LINGON. KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! THE MAESTRO HAS EARS EVERYWHERE!

YOU AND DWAYNE HAVEN'T BEEN TALKING TO ANYONE, HAVE YOU?

NO, I SWEAR! DWAYNE--?

NADA.



GET WEAPONED UP. I'M BRINGING THEM IN THROUGH THE SOUTH DOOR.

OOOO, GOOD PLAN.

WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'VE ASSEMBLED A STRIKE TEAM TO GET THE JOB DONE.

AND IF THEY HAVEN'T?



THEN TODAY IS A GOOD DAY TO DIE.