
Episode 439 – Still no zombies

It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts.

“But I think the real question we need to address is this,” Rebecca considered as she entered the room, Tsuneo with her. “Is Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles furry, or merely furry-adjacent?”

“The big philosophical debate for our time,” he agreed. “I’d be tempted to say ‘adjacent’ simply because it got more than just funny talking animal people.”

“He has a point there,” Dan added as he and Rick entered. “It’s got ninjas, robots, aliens, time wizards and other strangeness. Only a small part of that is actual furry stuff.”

“So here’s the real question,” Rick spoke up. “What about Biker Mice?”

“Moving right along,” Tsuneo replied, carefully avoiding the question, “what brought that to mind?”

“I was thinking about the last fic,” Rebecca admitted, “Especially in regards to the other crossover fics that we have reviewed here.”

“And besides the fact that they are all bad, did you reach any conclusions?” Tsuneo asked.

“Now obviously I admit that we’re only halfway through the fic so far and, as such, things may change.”

“Chances?” Dan asked, cocking an eyebrow.

Rebecca pondered for a second, before admitting “Okay, none. But so far, one thing has stuck with me,” she explained. “And that is that there is no reason at all for it to be a crossover.”

“I see what you mean,” Dan nodded. “There’s been an utter lack of actual Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles content so far.”

“Plus the fic’s basically using April as a one-for-one replacement for Jean Grey,” Rick noted, “Which isn’t helping its case, given that it keeps drawing attention to this fact.”

“Direct comparisons to the character you’re replacing are not a good move,” Tsuneo pointed out.

“So in short, it’s got no reason at all to be a crossover,” Tsuneo concluded.

“Exactly,” Rebecca agreed. “Which then brought me to my next conclusion; so far all of the crossover fics we have covered here have no reason at all to actually be crossovers.”

“Interesting,” Tsuneo nodded. “Now I have to think about this in context.”

“Well I’m immediately thinking of Transformers Earth’s Mightiest Heroes,” Dan spoke up. “I mean, while yes, there were plenty of Transformers in it, they didn’t actually do anything that required them to be there.”

"Right," Rick agreed. "All they did was fight other Transformers. Take that out and you would just have an MCU fic that has a lot of meetings and one guy who knows a lot about one abandoned school in Iowa."

"In fact, if anything the Transformers seemed to detract from the plot," Tsuneo offered. "The writer needed to put them into scenes and acknowledge their presence, only to not actively do anything with them that required them to be there."

"Plus the crossovers generated plenty of plot holes in and of itself," Dan noted. "What with each side being somehow unaware of the other's world-shattering events."

"So that's not only not a crossover, but also one where the crossover actively hurt the fic," Tsuneo noted. "Interesting."

"Speaking of Transformers crossover fics, what about Escapism, that Fallout crossover thing?" Rick asked. "I mean, that fic had only one purpose, and that was to showcase the author's creepy robot girl OC. The Transformers were kind of redundant to the story."

"When you need to scale them down to human size and then never have them transform anyway, it does seem like you're trying to write around them," Dan agreed. "Like they're inconvenient to your plot as giant shape-changing robots or something, which is kind of the whole premise."

"And while Jack and Miko were central to the story, there was no reason for them to be Jack and Miko in the first place," Tsuneo nodded. "And on top of that they were so stupidly out of character to the point where they might as well have been OCs."

"Which means that's three now with pointless crossovers," Dan considered. "Which reminds me of Urban Hunter, that supposed Bubblegum Crisis/Predator crossover."

"You mean then one with no Knight Sabers in it whatsoever?" Tsuneo nodded. "Because I can see the flaws in that one immediately."

"If I recall, mostly it was about Quincy shouting at his underlings because of some act of industrial espionage while Leon pretended to be cool," Dan pondered. "All of which could have been done in any pseudo-cyberpunk setting."

"Or a modern setting, really," Rick added, "Because the fic was mostly just Predator 2 with some BGC set dressing."

"Looking further back there was Macross the Transformers Saga," Tsuneo considered, "Which was an effort at a full fusion level crossover."

"I had honestly forgotten all about that one," Dan admitted.

"Probably because it was so forgettable," Tsuneo continued. "Really all it did was replace the Zentraedi with Decepticons, but didn't actually change things at all."

"We do a lot of Transformers crossovers, don't we?" Dan noted.

"We do," Tsuneo nodded. "And they are all very much pointless."

"Almost like giant shape changing space warrior robots are difficult to write around or something," Rebecca noted.

"The more I think about it, the closest thing we've had to effective crossovers were the various Arealia comics we read as B-Team reviews," Rick considered. "Which was about two poorly-defined fetishy characters teaming up to fight the stupid bad guy of the day."

"Being honest, they sound pretty awful," Tsuneo commented.

"They are," Rick nodded, "And yet they also are the crossovers that have made the best use of the actual crossover."

"I'm really not sure what to make of that," Tsuneo sighed.

"And yet it's the truth of the matter," Rebecca noted. "The most banal and least creative of these enterprises actually do the best job of utilising their premise."

"Good morning everyone," The Voice began, crashing into the conversation.

"And good morning to you too, Bixolio," Rick replied.

"You what?" Dan asked.

"It's TMNT and crossover related," Rick explained. "I thought that it would be relevant to what we were covering today."

"I shall take your word for it then," Dan sighed. "And no, that was not an invitation for an explanation."

"And so before we lose this one into the weeds," Tsuneo sighed, "What do you have for us today?"

"Well today I have the second half of Mutants versus Zombies," the Voice noted.

"Second half," Rebecca noted, "Not the conclusion."

"Is it ever?" Tsuneo asked.

"Will it have actual Zombies in it?" Rick asked.

"Well you'll need to read the fic for that," the Voice replied.

"He means no," Dan replied, while Rick nodded.

"And, as always, once it's done, I'll ask you for your reviews," the Voice finished.

"So if it doesn't have Zombies then we can bring that up," Rick noted. "Because you know it's going to lose points for that."

"Like it had any to begin with," Tsuneo added as he took his place on the couch.

"Well no," Rick added as he and the others joined him, "But it's possible that it might get some along the way?"

"Really?" Dan asked.

"No," Rick finished as the big screen turned on, converting the world over to script format.

> Chapter 6: In the Danger Room

Dan: Highway to the danger room

> I was telling Casey about the X-men in the living room

Rick: [April] ...and so she laid a whole pile of eggs and they hatched into a bunch of bird/bug hybrid kids...

Rebecca: [Casey] You guys are too weird. I'm going to go hang out with my friend the gecko instead.

> until Kitty showed up. "Hey," I smiled at her. She smiled back. Casey winked at her.

Tsuneo: She looked nauseous.

> "Hey guys." I noticed her cheeks became a rosy-red before she turned to cover them.

Rebecca: Blushing seems to be everyone's only reaction in this fic

> "Logan wants to see you." I told her.

Rick: [Kitty] So, were you going to come and find me or something?

Dan: [April] No.

> "But, you'll have to find him. I don't know where he is." I added.

Tsuneo: So how did you know me wanted to see you?

> "Funny, I was going to tell Casey the same thing." Kitty said.

Rick: Kitty was going to tell Casey that Logan wanted to see Kitty

> "Why would he wanna see me?" He asked.

Rebecca: Small matter of the rent. Supertech mansion doesn't pay for itself.

> "Probably wants to see if you can be useful to the team or not." Kitty said.

Dan: But this is the same team that had Ink on it, so you're probably good.

> "He does that to all the new people." She added.

Rick: Logan is a ferocious gatekeeper

> "Well, lets go?" Casey said, holding out his arm for her to take. "Umm, yeah, sure." Kitty replied,

Rebecca: Giving him a look usually reserved for Toad.

> leaving me by myself hoping that Logan won't force the truth out of Casey.

Tsuneo: Logan was warming up his tongs

> Forge came in. "Hey, April." He smiled. "Hey, aren't you supposed to be somewhere?"

Rick: Something about ninja turtles, maybe?

> I asked.

> "Yeah, but I took care of that. Now I just need to fix the damage that Logan has caused this time in

> the danger room when he's done." He told me.

Rebecca: So in this fic Logan's an abusive jerk and total creep

Tsuneo: Seems to be the case

Rebecca: And yet the author is fawning all over him

Tsuneo: It's strange how that works

> "You might want to wait some more, Casey and Kitty are both going to see him." I said. Making him

> gulp in fear,

Dan: Forge lives in constant terror of his workmates

> "I need a vacation." He sighed, walking out.

Rick: The wah-wah is basically assumed at this point

> I was all alone again...

> (At the danger room: Logan's POV)

> "Freeze program." I said. Taking off my blind fold to see Kitty and Casey standing there.

Tsuneo: And he sighs and puts it back on.

> "Red said you wanted to see us." He said. "Yeah, but not now." I grunted in annoyance.

> They were still there.

Dan: [Wolverine] Uh, end program? Dang, didn't work.

> "Fine, last night cerebra got a hint at Night Crawler's position."

Rick: He's working as a Sandwich Artisan at Subway

Dan: I can only assume that he needs some sort of full-body hair net

> I sighed.

Tsuneo: So, April's their resident telepath, right? The one using Cerebra.

Dan: Yep.

Tsuneo: She would have been the one to find him then, right?

Dan: Checks out.

Tsuneo: And they were both just with April, weren't they?

Dan: Uhuh.

Tsuneo: So... Why didn't she tell them before?

Dan: Process, man. You've got to follow the process.

> "Finally! Where is he?" Kitty said. "I don't know,

Rick: [Kitty] But you just said –

Rebecca: [Wolverine] I say a lot of things, okay?

> now why don't you go help Hank with the search?" I replied.

Tsuneo: [Casey] I gave up living in a sewer for this?

> "Resume program." Kitty said before phasing out of the room.

> "Wait, what?" Casey asked before we both got hit by a hammer...

Tsuneo: Haha, concussion is funny

> AN: I decided to make this one short because hey,

Dan: Writing is hard and junk.

> in the episode "XCalibre" Kurt doesn't really go re-join the X-men,

Tsuneo: And since writing your own story means slavishly following the episodes...

> instead he just goes to Genosha with a bunch of mutants... Plus I thought it was

> funny when Kitty told the program to resume before poor Logan had the chance to put his blind fold
> back on...

Rebecca: That rare moment where providing context adds nothing

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> Chapter 7: When You Leave Casey in Charge

Dan: I foresee hijinks

> I groaned in annoyance when Logan told me that I was in charge because he had something better
> to do.

Rebecca: Kitty Pryde hates taking responsibility

> But because I needed to run a few errands.

Rick: Ring isn't going to throw itself into Mount Doom

> I knew found Casey talking to April.

Tsuneo: [Kitty] I spoke in fragments. They were unrelated. I like applesauce.

> I cleared my throat. They turned to me. "Hey, Forge, whats up?" Casey asked.

Dan: [April] We thought you were Kitty.

Rebecca: [Forge] Yeah well, it didn't change POV since the last chapter...

> "Well... I need to run a few errands soo...

Rick: He needs to go down to the shops for some milk, bread, eggs, power converters and a flux capacitor.

> Can you be in charge while I'm gone?" I asked. "Sure." He smiled.

Rebecca [Kitty]: I mean, you're completely new here, don't know anyone and I barely know you, but I see no problems with leaving you in charge of our secret superhero base

> "Thanks. Here's a list." I handed him a list of things he needed to do.

Rick: And remember, Krarkoa gets cranky if he doesn't get his walkies

> "Bye!" I exclaimed. Running to the nearest spa there was...

Dan: -old Finnish guys with birch leaves.

> (Casey's POV)

> "Now, Casey, you have to make sure everything goes alright. No messes."

Rick: First two things on the list are to clean the Professor's collection of antique vases and to check their supply of explosives.

> April said to me when I told her that Forge left me in charge.

Tsuneo: Any reason they didn't leave April in charge? She has whole days of seniority.

[Pause]

Rebecca: Not mentioning any of the far more established X-Men they've been bringing back to the mansion?

Tsuneo: Goodness no, why would I do that?

> I looked at the list. It was long, and I had more important things to do than deal with a long list.

Dan [Casey]: Forum users won't rage at themselves, you know

> So I threw the list somewhere in the living room. "My first rule as being in charge is that everyone
> gets to do what they want!" I exclaimed.

Rebecca: Casey has always wanted his own anarchist commune

> Bobby ran into the kitchen. "So, does that mean I can run
> around throwing snow balls at people in the mansion?" He asked with a grin. "Sure." Bobby ran off
> creating ice in his hands.

Dan: [Casey] This sounds like a good idea and absolutely nothing can go wrong with it at all.

> "Casey!" April slapped the back of my head.

Tsuneo: I'm starting to assume that's her response to anything he does. Or says. Or his mere presence.

> I rubbed it. "Easy, red, I'm just setting down some rules."

Rick: [Casey] Uh, rule two! No hitting Casey!

> I shrugged. Kitty came in looking like she just went through a blizzard.

Dan: A rare case of indoor frostbite

> "C-Casey... C-can I t-turn Bobby... I-into an i-i-ice cube?"

Tsuneo: Is that one of your powers?

Rebecca: Yes, but it only works on Bobby. Weird power, I know

> She asked through chattering teeth. "I
> don't see why not." I smirked, winking her way. She turned and walked out.

Rick: Bobby's body would eventually be found buried at the bottom of the garden

> Scott walked in. "Why is Bobby throwing snow balls at everyone?" He demanded with his arms
> crossed.

Rebecca: [April] Oh, no. This is your mess, you deal with it.

> "Forge left me in charge, so you can do what you want." I said. "How about you act like
> your age instead?" He replied.

Dan [Casey]: Wait, how old am I meant to be anyway?

> "Or," I created a rock from the ground. Throwing it at him.
> He created a huge hole at the front door. I laughed.

Tsuneo: Property destruction is hilarious

> We heard thunder. Bobby ran in with his butt smoking (no pun intended)

Rebecca: Nor detected.

> "AAAH! STORM! I'M SORRY!" He yelled running off again. "COME
> BACK HERE YOU TULIP-KILLER!"

Dan: As insults go, that one's a bit of a head-scratcher

> Storm yelled, flying after him.

Rick: At this point we might as well add in a cartoon mouse and a continually looped background.

> "SAVE SOME ASS KICKING FOR ME!" Kitty called. Running after the two of them.

Dan: Antics!

> Me and April got hit by Bobby's snow balls, Kitty and Storm got hit also. We ran to them. "You guys
> alright?" April asked.

Tsuneo: [Storm] Seriously, they're just snow balls.

> "I'll be all right when I have electrocuted Bobby into a crisp!" Strom exclaimed.

Rebecca: I'm really seeing that refined, goddess-like grace here

> Flying after Bobby again. "I like snow but not when its from him!" Kitty groaned.

Tsuneo: She has a strict no-Bobby rule

Rebecca: It's a good rule.

> "Blame, Casey, he's in charge." April said.

Rick: [April] I mean, I usually just blame Casey anyway.

> "So you allowed him to throw snow balls at us?" Kitty gritted her teeth.

> Scott finally got back in here.

Tsuneo [Scott]: Sorry about that. I was dead in the future hanging out with my cyborg clone son.

> "Casey! What the hell is wrong with you!?" He growled at me.

Dan: I don't know, I think he's meant to be a Gambit stand-in.

> Hank came in. "Why in the world is Arora chasing after Bobby?" He asked us quizzically.

Rick: He killed her tulips.

[Pause]

Rick: Look, I can only go off what the fic gives me.

> April pointed to me. "Forge left him in charge." Kitty growled.

Tsuneo: [Storm] For the love of Arishem, why?

> "And I've been doing a good job." I smiled.

Dan: [Casey] Please ignore the screaming.

> Arora
> must've created a lightning storm to hit Bobby because it created debris from the walls and
> windows.

Rebecca: The smell of burning flesh was a bit of a giveaway

> "Oh my stars and garters!" Hank gasped. "If Logan was here, he wouldn't be happy about this."

Rebecca: Only if it interfered with his drinking.

> He
> added. "Hey, where the hell is he anyway?" April said. little debris from the ceiling came falling
> down.

Dan: Normally they need Juggernaut to trash the place, but so far they're doing great without him.

> Bobby finally stopped running, but he looked like burnt toast.

Rebecca: Bobby Drake has apparently turned into Yosemite Sam

> "At least Storm finally caught up with Bobby." I grinned sheepishly.

Tsuneo: At least she got to wreak bloody vengeance on Bobby.

> "Naptime." He said. Falling to the ground.

Rick: Haha, it's funny because he's suffering severe burns

> Arora came in after. "It took me a while. But I finally caught him." She breathed heavily.

Tsuneo: Storm needs to lay off the pepperoni rolls

> "Nice job, Casey, you just made this place look like a house party gone crazy!"

Rebecca: The sort of party that people get electrocuted at, of course

Dan: Not the worst kind of party.

> Red glared at me. Bobby's head got up quickly.

Dan: Great, now we've got Zombies

Tsuneo: That would imply that there are Zombies in this Zombie fic

Dan: This is also true

> "This is a house party?" He asked. "Might as well be, this place is a
> disaster!" Kitty sarcastically stated. "Then where is the music?" I joked.

Tsuneo: Doing his level best to make the situation worse.

> Bobby soon got up, pulling
> out his iPhone. He set it on the counter. Then the song "My House" by Flo Rida came on at full
> blast.

Rick: A Sentinel attack cannot happen fast enough,

> "BOBBY! TURN IT DOWN!" Scott yelled. "What? I can't hear you!" He yelled back.

Tsuneo: Probably Cyclops' entire contribution to this chapter.

Rebecca: For once, Cyclops is the lucky one.

> "Come on,
> Kitten, lets dance." I grabbed both of Kitty's arms and dragged her to the middle of the living room,
> dancing with her in my arms, she smelled nice.

Rebecca: And it goes straight from stupid to creepy in nothing flat.

> "Casey! Put me down!" Kitty yelled.

Tsuneo: Couldn't you just phase out of his grip?

> I didn't listen to her while I was spinning her around, the song soon change to "Bad Blood" by Taylor
> Swift. I accidently tripped over Kitty's feet, making me land face first onto her breasts.

Rebecca: Oh good. Glad to see they're injecting some class into this affair.

> I got out
> easily, but earned a slap in the face from Kitty. The song stopped as soon as she pushed me off
> her.

Dan: Anyone would think she didn't like being forced to dance.

> April threw a phone at me. I answered it.

Rick: She was aiming at his head.

> "Hello?" I asked. "Hey Casey, I just want you to know that
> I'll be back in five minutes. Bye." Forge said. "Bye." I replied. Hanging up.
> "Well?" Kitty asked. "Forge will be back in five minutes." I said.

Tsuneo: People repeating their phone conversations is an acceptable substitute for dialogue

> "Damn. Your dead!" Scott yelled at
> me. "Chill, dude, this has happened to him before." April said.

Rick: He frequently gets killed.

> "Really?" Arora asked.
> I nodded. "So what do we do?" Kitty questioned, raising an eyebrow at me. "Storm, Scott, April; your
> with me.

Tsuneo: [Casey] We'll be going out for coffee while the rest of you losers clear this up.

> Kitty, Bobby and Hank; you take care of cleaning the walls." I said.

Tsuneo: And repairing the huge holes in the walls?

Rick: Just put some pot plants against them, nobody will notice.

> "And if we have to, call someone for damage control.

Dan: How about calling Damage Control? It's kind of their thing and all

> Now lets move!" I added. And we went to work. It took us a while

Rebecca: Bobby was trying to delay Forge in a series of wacky sitcom hijinks.

> but we finally fixed the mansion. With the help of a former X-man also.

Tsuneo: What Maggot was doing there was another matter.

> We all made sure to not make it obvious that we nearly destroyed the place.

Rick: They swept all the burnt rubble under the rug.

> With help from Warren again also.

Rick: His powers of having metal wings and healing blood helped clean up the mansion

> He told us it didn't cost anything for us.

Tsuneo: Warren is not the best businessman

> Forge opened the door to see that the place was all clean.

Dan: Please ignore the burnt carpet and caved-in ceiling.

> "Wow, the mansion has never been this clean since Logan joined."

Rebecca: Logan strikes me as the sort of guy who leaves piles of unwashed plates in the sink and wears the same pair of underpants for as long as he can

> He whistled. "Nice job guys." He added. "Thanks." Bobby said...

> (Logan's POV)

> I went through the front door. I smelled the air, something didn't seem right.

Tsuneo: The huge hole in the door might have been a giveaway

> Everyone saw me.

> "Well speak of the devil, what happened?" April asked me. "Its a long story." I said.

Dan: And that's how Storm ended up married to the head of state on an African nation.

> "Does it go with a long shower? You smell like a cat!"

Rick: He got stuck on the bus next to Tigra.

> Casey groaned, covering his nose. I rolled my eyes at him.

Dan: [Wolverine] Coming from the guy who hung around in a sewer.

Tsuneo: [Casey] It was a clean sewer!

> "So this is what I get for saving the school." I muttered.

Rebecca: Saving it from...

Rick: Well himself, of course.

Rebecca: Of course.

> Walking to my room.

> When I got to the door I noticed April from the corner of my eye. "What?" I asked. "I, umm, wanted to

> know what happened to you..." She said, blushing. "Got attacked by a bunch of animals."

Rebecca: And by that he means that he and Sabertooth wrestled in the snow again.

> I told her.

> "And I don't mean that I had a bar fight." I winked at her. Walking into my room and closing it...

> AN: Please don't be mad at me for not making this about the "Wolverine Vs. the Hulk" episode,

Dan: Oh, right, no. Totally happy that instead of an epic throwdown between two massive superheroes, we got... Well, this.

> I just wanted to make a funny chapter

Tsuneo: And if you see any humour, please let me know

> since the show is so serious, so why not let it have some humor,

> even a little adult humor too? Like the part when Casey landed onto Kitty's tits.

Rebecca: Joss Wheedon approves. And if you disagree he'll lock you in a cupboard.

> Lets hope she doesn't kill him on the next chapter!

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> Chapter 8: The Kiss

Rick: The famous sculpture by Rodin?

> I knocked on Kitty's door, holding Arora's roses in my hands. She let me borrow them after I asked
> her.

Tsuneo: Yes, he borrowed roses from her garden with the intent to return them

> She opened it, crossing her arms on her chest. "What are these for?" She demanded.

Rick: [Casey] Light snack, maybe? Make 'em into a smoothie?

> "These mean that I'm sorry, about what happened yesterday,

Dan: You're sorry? We had to read it

> and I wanna make it up to you." I said.

> She took the flowers from my hands. "Well, these are a start." She said.

Rebecca: Casey realised that he was only just starting the rep grind

> "That's just the beginning." I

> grinned. "Really? Then are you going to ask me out?" She asked, giving me an odd look.

Rick: Since she's a telepath, it could be a literal death glare.

> "Well, you wanna go... Y'know... Grab a bite to eat?" I said hopefully,

Tsuneo: She doesn't want a date. It's just that there's nothing to eat in the mansion

> she looked at the flowers then at me.

Rebecca: [Kitty] Frankly, I prefer the flowers.

> "Sure. I'm starting to get hungry." She shrugged.

Dan: And that's the only reason she agreed.

> "Great. I know a restaurant downtown that we could go to."

Rick: Knowing Casey, it probably features a mechanical puppet band

> I grinned happily. "We can get there faster on my ride. If you want." I told her.

Tsuneo: No, she was planning to walk across upstate New York, just like when she was chasing that car.

> "Sure.

> Just let me get dressed." She said. Closing the door of her room. I went and did my victory dance
> behind her door.

Rick: Which included far too much twerking.

> Soon heading to my room to get dressed...

Rebecca: Casey had decided to ask her out while only wearing his boxer shorts

> (At the kitchen: April's POV)

> A few minutes later I saw Casey in a dark-brown jacket with a dark-blue shirt inside and some blue
> jeans on, he wore some black sneakers,

Tsuneo: Any reason why his clothes weren't described before?

> and for once his hair wasn't in a bandanna.

Dan: He wore it to his grandmother's funeral. It wasn't a good look

> And it was neat and clean too. "Why are you all dressed up like that?" I asked him.

Rebecca: Assuming that casual streetwear is 'dressing up'

> "I'm going on a date." He grinned at me. "Who's the lucky girl?" Logan asked.

Rebecca: Logan, it's the twenty-first century. You can't make those assumptions

> Walking in. "Kitty, she's already in her room changing." Casey said.

Tsuneo: [Wolverine] That's why I heard crying.

> "I just have to wait a bit until she comes down here." He added.

Rebecca: And, after the next glacial epoch...

> "Finally, you're actually taking a girl seriously." I said.

> "I take girls easily!" Casey exclaimed. "You flirted with me a couple of times, but then gave up." I
> reminded him of when we first met and when he saved me from the Krang.

Rick: Usually it's Casey reminding her, at least three times a day

> "I didn't give up. I just, didn't feel like doing it anymore." He glared at me angrily.

Rebecca: Careful, Casey. You're getting very close to posting a manifesto on Reddit there

> I just rolled my eyes at him. "So you'll just be making a move on Kitty?" Logan gave him a dry look.

Dan: [Wolverine] Just have her home by nine, and no time travel on the first date.

> "No, we're just going to have lunch together." He exclaimed. "Breakfest," I corrected him.

Rick: Fine, brunch. Are you happy?

> "What ever!" He gave me a dirty look.

Rebecca: Mealtimes are serious business around here.

> "Watch it, bub." Logan growled at him. "What're you gonna do to me old man?"

Dan: Gonna chase me off your lawn, old man?

> Casey challenge

> with a teasing smirk. Logan snarled at him, releasing his claws. Casey's hands turned into fire.

Rebecca: April rolls her eyes and gets the fire extinguisher again.

> "I'm the best there is at what I do, kid," Logan snarled. "And what do you do? Fuck virgin's?" Casey

> glared at him in anger.

Tsuneo: As insults go, that one really failed to land

> His eyes turning to a fiery-orange color. I got between them before they

> tried anything. "That's enough!" I looked at Logan to Casey.

Dan: Oh, it was enough long ago.

> "Casey, you have your problems." I told him,

Rick: Missing teeth, bad hair and a love of shouting 'ooga booga'

> turning to Logan again. "And you have yours too." I said.

Rebecca: A wacky world of repressed memories

> Logan put his claws back while Casey's eyes and hands turned back to normal.

> Kitty finally came down.

Rick: [Kitty] Alright, I guess I've put this off as long as I can.

> She was wearing a light-pink knee length dress. With some hot-pink high

> heels. Her hair was all curly with two pink hair-clips that won't cover her face.

Tsuneo: As opposed to the normal, face-covering style of hair clips.

> "How do I look?" She asked. Casey didn't say any words.

Dan: [Casey] You are saying words now. But I cannot say words. Because words are hard.

> "Nice dress." Logan commented. "Thank you." She smiled at him.

> Then she turned to me. "You look lovely." I added. She nodded to me.

Rebecca: [April] Way too good for Casey, of course.

Rick: [Kitty] Of course.

> "Lets go?" She asked Casey, snapping him out of his thoughts.

Dan: [Casey] Duhuh, pretty.

> "Huh? Oh... Yeah. Lets go." He offered his arm for her. She took it and they left.

> Leaving me with Logan. "When can I slash his face to pieces?" He asked me.

Rebecca: He can't stand the idea that other people might be happy.

> "You get used to him after a few years of living with him." I said.

Tsuneo: Until then, every day is utter misery

> Remembering the times when Casey used to piss me off

> to no end! "That long? He seems worse than Summers." Logan laughed.

Dan: Because Casey Jones and Scott Summers are so much alike.

Rick: Well they do have awkward relationships with redheads

Dan: And beyond that?

Rick: I got nothing.

> "I know, there was even those few times when he and Donnie used to fight a lot because they both

> liked me." I laughed with him. "Really?" Logan said.

Tsuneo: Quietly resolving to find who Donnie was and then kill him to be sure

> I nodded. "Hey, how did you meet your old team anyway?" He added.

Rick: It was a Tinder date. Not even the worst one she's ever been on either.

> I started from when I didn't have telepathy and these men called the

> Krang kidnapped me and my dad,

Dan: Except they were alien blobs. Did she mention that?

> the Krang tried to turn my dad into a soldier but the guys stopped him,

Tsuneo: So he got turned into a bat-thing instead. Victory, I guess?

> but they saved me, my dad was still with them.

Rick: [Wolverine] You guys have a lousy track record.

> "Wow, did you ever see him again?" Logan said. "Yeah, but then he got turned into a creature that I

> never saw again."

Rebecca: She saw him again except that she never saw him again

> I told him, also telling him about the time my dad nearly killed me.

Dan: Wolverine is really, really sorry he asked.

> "And your

> friends?" He asked. I finished the story of my past by telling him how a team mate of mine named

> Karai killed our mentor

Rick: It turns out that the evil ninja was evil.

> and betrayed us by joining the Foot.

Dan: [Wolverine] Ninjas from the Foot Clan, huh? Let me tell you about my friend Matt.

> We never saw her again, but we all decided to disband. "Wow, thats one sad story," he said. "I know." I sighed.

Rebecca: [April] I get so many free drinks off it.

> "I just hope they're alright."

Tsuneo: But it's not like she'd made any effort to actually find out

> I added. Hoping that one day I'll see them again, like I did before I met Logan and became an X-man.

Rick: But now she's just kind of forgotten about them and moved on.

> "But, I'm also glad that it happened." I told him.

Dan: She's so glad her father got turned into a horrific mutant

> "But your story sounds horrible!" Logan exclaimed,

Rebecca [April]: And we haven't even gotten to the part where Earth exploded.

Dan [Logan]: I can imagine that'd be... wait, what?

> surprised by my sudden tone of voice. "Why the hell would you be glad?" He asked. "Because then I wouldn't have met you." I smiled at him.

Rick: [April] So many people suffered along the way, but it's cool.

> He rolled his eyes, smirking at me though. "That sounded corny." He told me. "I don't care, its true." I said...

Tsuneo: Being self-aware doesn't excuse bad writing, fic

> (Downtown: Kitty's POV)

> It was a great brunch.

Rick: See?

Dan: Okay, I'll give you that one

> Casey and I made jokes during our date.

Tsuneo: Kitty hasn't stopped laughing since he asked her out. Casey doesn't get it.

> I was having a great time. Maybe he wasn't the much like Bobby after all.

Rebecca: Well, he's actually in to you, so there is that.

> My phone started ringing. I answered it. "Whats up?" I asked.
> "Shadow Cat, we need you and Casey in the jet now! We need you guys!"

Tsuneo: They need them and they need them.

> April exclaimed through the phone.

Dan: [Kitty] Oh, thank god.

Rick: [Casey] Wait, what?

Dan: [Kitty] Nothing!

> "Whats the problem?" I said. "The Brotherhood!

Rick: They've got a giant airship full of Power Armour and everything

> They're using a very powerful mutant to destroy all of the MRD bases, we need you guys now!

Rebecca: [Kitty] I mean, that's not strictly a bad thing, is it?

Tsuneo: [April] Kitty!

Rebecca: [Kitty] We can let them destroy a few, right?

Tsuneo: [April] People are dying!

Rebecca: [Kitty] Just one? Pretty please?

> Your uniforms are in the jet.

Dan: [Kitty] You keep spares on the jet?

Rebecca: [April] Wolverine might have raided your closet.

Dan: [Kitty] Oh, ew!

Rebecca: [April] He raided Casey's too, if that's any help.

Dan: [Kitty] I guess?

> We'll pick you up at the parking lot." She added. "We're on our way." I said, hanging up.

Dan: Mutant attack is not the worst excuse I've seen to get out of a date

> "What is it?" Casey asked. "We have to leave. Can you pay? I left my purse at the mansion." I said.

> When the waiter brought the bill. He nodded. Handing him the money.

Dan: Mutants versus Zombies!

> "Keep the change!" He added, and we went to the parking lot...

> (At the parking lot)

> We made it to the parking lot.

Tsuneo: And what a long and arduous journey it was

> "Casey," I told him. "Yeah?" He asked me. "I had fun today." I said. I

> decided to kiss him. Not on the cheek, but on the lips. He kissed back.

Rebecca: April's standing on the Jet's entry ramp, impatiently tapping her foot.

> I let go before things got heated between us.

Rick: Just ask Warren and Husk about that sometime

> "Thank you." I smiled at him. "I should ask you out more often." Casey grinned.

Dan: [Kitty] I should get interrupted by mutant attacks more often.

> "You done yet?" We heard Bobby ask from the landing area. We ran in...

> (April's POV)

> "He's too unstable!" I exclaimed. "Storm, we need your help!" Logan yelled. "I'm on it!" She
> exclaimed, creating a hurricane for the guy,

Tsuneo: That guy, in that place

Rick: Thank you fic for making everything so clear

> he soon exploded,

Rick: [Nitro] Ah, boom.

> making us cover our eyes.

> When it stopped we opened them again. I ran to Arora's side, "are you OK?" I asked her. She
> nodded...

Rebecca: Well that was a gripping and intense sequence

> (Back at the institute: Logan's POV)

> "You had fun?" I asked the two of them, noticing that they were holding hands.

Tsuneo: We just saved countless lives, but many had already been lost. The Brotherhood have
pushed human/mutant relations to an all-time low. But no, hey, they had fun.

> "Obviously," Casey smirked at me. Kitty let go of him. "I'll go ahead and change." She said,

Rebecca: [Kitty] And wash, like, forever.

> leaving me with him. "So,

> what do you think? I got a shot with her?" Casey asked. "You just kissed her." I said.

Dan [Casey]: Wait, is that what that thing was?

> "So, is that a yes?" He replied. "I might not be Kitty's dad,

Rick: With how convoluted his backstory's gotten, I wouldn't rule it out

> but I guess so." I shrugged.

> "Well, what about you?" He said. I gave him a look. "What do you mean?" I asked.

Rebecca: [Casey] I mean, you and me... I got a shot?

Dan: [Wolverine] I am way too sober for this conversation.

> "I mean, have

> you kissed April." He answered. "What? No, why did she want me to?" I rolled my eyes at the

> thought of kissing her...

Rebecca: The fear of cooties was always on his mind

> Not that I'd mind... "Well you should, before another guy gets in your way." He told me.

Dan: [Wolverine] No offense bub, but my life's a bit more complicated than that.

> April walked in. "Who'll get in Logan's way?" She asked. "Donnie getting in Logan's way of asking
> you out." Casey smirked. She blushed. "Why did you let him join this team."

Tsuneo: It was your idea. Stop trying to pass the buck here.

> I groaned, walking to my room...

> ----

> Chapter 9: Polaris

Rick: Hey Polaris, who is your daddy and what does he do?

> I had to run from the zombies chasing after me.

Rebecca: So, zombies

Tsuneo: Presumably they are fighting mutants

Rebecca: I think you might be asking a bit too much here

> But unfortunately, I was trapped to a dead end. The

> zombies caught up to me. I thought I was done for until I noticed a rope ladder dangling next to me.

> I grabbed it quickly. Climbing to the top as fast as I could

Dan: Presumably zombies have no idea how ladders work

> while my heroes were flying me away.

> I finally made it to the top of the helicopter to see some mutants there.

Rick: Fred Hamster, Slithe and Mammoth the Destroyer

> "Thank you." I smiled at

> them. "Your welcome," the pilot said. "I am Charles Xavier." I told her through telepathy.

Tsuneo: Okay, so whose point of view is this meant to be from?

> "April O'neil Howlett." She replied. "That's my daughter, Maria." She added. I looked to my side

Dan: I think it's from everyone's.

> to see a child who looked to be at least sixteen. She did have her fathers hair.

Rick: It was unfortunate, but they did what they could with it

> "So, does your father happen to be Logan?" I asked April. "Yes, he went off with what was left of the

> team to try and stop Magneto and Karai, but they were too late." She replied.

Rebecca: And what exactly do a ninja heiress and a mutant supremacist have that brings them together?

Rick: A love of silly metal helmets.

> "Logan promised to come back for us when he won." She added,

Dan: The mutant equivalent of claiming you're going to the shops for some cigarettes

> I could tell by the tone of her voice that it was painful

> to talk about what happened to her husband.

Rebecca: Don't worry. He'll likely come back in the next crossover event.

> "I never saw him again after, and I swore that I would never fall in love with anyone because he still

> had a place in my heart." She sighed.

Rebecca: April came to rue that choice when she ended up on an island populated by nothing but hunky shirtless men

> "How were you able to survive?" I asked, deciding to change the subject.

Dan: [Charles] I mean, seriously I didn't ask for your life story...

> "Maria and I found this safe place for mutants

Tsuneo: But only Mutants. Those filthy Inhumans are on their own

> when we were chased by the zombies too." April explained.

Rebecca: [April] If it's not one thing, am I right?

> "I'm sure you'll like it too." I nodded in response. But even if the future now isn't so wonderful, I knew
> that my X-men will be able to change it...

Rick: Yeah, but if you try to do that, you'll cause Hitler to win. Those are the rules.

> (Somewhere)

Rick: I don't know where. Looks tropical. Let's say Hawaii. Mmm, hula girls.

> The helicopter stopped when we got inside of a place. "Where are we?" I asked.

Tsuneo: You're out of luck, the narration doesn't seem to know either.

> "Genosha, what's left of it." April replied. "Magneto?"

Dan: Cerebro

> I asked. "He's long since been dead,

Rebecca: And if you don't believe us, just ask that Xorn guy

> his daughter Polaris rules it now."

Rick: She contested the will and ended up cleaning out Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch.

> She said. We got out of the plane. Maria was still in there.

Rebecca: [Maria] Yep, that's me. Just over here, existing and stuff.

> Polaris flew to us. "Your highness." April bowed.

Dan: I'm glad to see that she's not letting the position go to her head

> She looked at me. "April, who the hell is he?" She
> demanded angrily. "This is Charles Xavier," April replied.

Rick: You know, greatest advocate for mutant rights ever, your father's best friend/mortal enemy...

> "I understand if your angry at him-" Polaris tied me up with metal.

Tsuneo: Okay, I get that you're a little peeved.

> "You will be sent to the dungeon." She said.
> "Your highness, please! Give him a chance!" April exclaimed. Polaris turned to her. "Why should I?"
> She demanded. "He's the reason why my father is dead!" She yelled.

Dan: Look, they had a little tiff and it escalated.
Rick: The entire history of the X-Men, right there.

> "He might, but he's a good man, just like your father was."

Tsuneo: For very generous definitions of 'good'

> April told her. "I will allow you to send me down there your majesty."
> I said to Polaris. "What? Are you insane?" April exclaimed.
> "I just have one request." I told Polaris.

Dan: He wants a wheelchair-accessible dungeon

> "May I ask what it is?" She said. "I wish to be able to still
> contact people from the future, I believe they can help stop this future." I replied.

Dan: Wait, aren't they in the future?
Rick: Yeah, and he wants to contact people from his future.
Dan: You mean the future of the future.
Rick: Right.
Dan: So why doesn't he call this the present, since he's living in it?
Rick: Because it's the bad future.
Dan: And that's why he..
Rick: Look, I don't make the rules. Okay?

> "We will try our
> best, Xavier, but I will have my best guards keeping an eye on every move you make."

Rebecca: Sadly her best guards are Blob and Avalanche.

> Polaris agreed. Freeing me from my metal bind. "I understand." I replied...

Rick [Xavier]: I want to use my considerable mental powers to breach the fabric of time, space, death
and reality
Rebecca [Polaris]: Alright, but no funny business.

> ----

> Chapter 10: What Happens in Genosha Stays There

Dan: But be sure to get your shots no less

> Vanda was very beautiful.

Dan: Guest narration by Dracula.
Rick: You know that Kitty Pryde once fought Dracula?
Dan: Everyone fought Dracula.

> I was glad I came here to Genosha. Until a lady named Dust told me about its dark secrets,

Tsuneo: Like how much they charge for the hotel wifi

> and now I'm trying to contact the X-men about this place.

Rebecca: That whole Genoshan magic's worn off, and now he just wants to leave.

> I made it to the communication tower, but Vanda broke it.

Rick: Vanderful. Now vat?

> "It doesn't have to be this way, Kurt,

Dan: I don't even know what way it is.

> what my father is doing is for the greater good of mutantkind." She told me.

Rebecca: He's building an army of evil mutants for purely peaceful purposes.

> "Tell zat to ze vuns he's holding prisoner!" I said angrily.

Tsuneo: Oooh, is it time to quickly exposit some backstory?

Dan: Hopefully not in that accent.

> "I'm sorry Kurt, I wish you understood. I really do." She said sadly. Her hand turned into red.

Rebecca: Is that like, a condition? Do you need someone to look at it?

> I quickly bamfed out of there, into the vater. I knew zat I had a long vay to go...

Dan: Well, nothing for it but to start swimming and hope that a pirate ship shows up or something

> (Back at the institute: Mystique's POV)

> I went to the elevator, letting James go to stairs. As soon as I got out I turned into James,

Rick: Doing that made her feel all funny in the pants

> walking

> towards my son. He was trying to tell me something. But I kicked him in the face,

Dan: The best way to deal with awkward family discussions

> making him fall asleep.

Rick: You go snooze now

> Turning back to my own self.

> I soon carried Kurt away from the mansion before anyone saw the two of us...

Tsuneo: No disguise?

Dan: I suppose by the time you're carrying an unconscious blue guy out of his home, it doesn't much matter what you look like.

> -----

Rick: Wait, that was a chapter?

Dan: It was an incredibly compressed summary of two scenes from a particular episode, so I guess that counts.

> Chapter 11: Telepathy

> AN: I decided to call this one just "Telepathy" because I couldn't think of anything else other than

> "Past Discretions".

Rebecca: We won't steal the title of the episode, just everything else.

> But I have decided to instead think of a plotline and chapter name, why don't you do it instead?

Tsuneo: It took us a while, but we've hit the 'write the fic for me' stage.

Dan: I feel like this was inevitable

> If you have a good looking plot and a nice chapter name, then I'll use it and in return

> I'll put a thanks in my "AN's" with your username next to it.

Rebecca: Write your fic for you in exchange for a thanks in an author's note? How could I say no!

> I hope you guys can help me, my brain is counting on you!

Rick: Or, you know, you could just have an actual plot for the fic planned out in advance.

Dan: I think that's asking a bit much

> Charles was telling me how I shouldn't bother dealing with my memories.

Tsuneo: Because absolutely nothing locked away in there could ever come back to haunt you.

> But I really wanted to so after I got out of the astral plane I went to go find April...

Rick: Astral plane is his term for the John.

> (April's room)

> I knocked on April's door. She opened it.

Dan: SUPER ACTION!

> "Hey, so how did your talk go?" She asked me. "Not so good." I told her.

Rick: [Wolverine] Three assault charges and a DUI.

Tsuneo: [April] That's not bad for you.

> "I was hoping you could help." I added. "Alright. Lets get started." Allowing me to

> go into her room.

Rebecca: As opposed to all the times he'd broken in there to watch her sleep

> I sat on her bed. "Alright. Now just relax and let me take over." She said.

Tsuneo: Next thing you know, he's streaking through the quad again.

> Setting both her hands on the sides of me head. I noticed her blush at how close she was to me.

Dan: His strong bodily funk was getting to her

> Then we started, and then we started breathing heavy.

Rebecca: April's used to hearing this on the other end of her phone.

> "So... What did you see?" I asked her. "Only two mountains close to each other.

Rick: Logan has weird sexy dreams about the Himalayas

> Sorry about that." She replied sheepishly while blushing again. I
> thought it was kind of cute how I always seem to make her blush.

Rebecca: The word 'repetitive' comes to mind

> "Better than nothing." I shrugged.

Tsuneo: Well, mountains. That's a passable simulacrum of progress if you squint hard enough.

> "Thanks." I walked out of her room to go to the library...

> ----

> Chapter 12: Where is Jean?

Dan: Dead, in the future, in space, or combinations thereof

> AN: Hey! Its me again! In this chapter I would like to thank hughjackmanlover

Rick: Hi, I am totally a real reader with a totally real name

> for the idea for this chapter! Thank you sooo much!

Rebecca: Idea is a relative term.

> I walk in through the doors the next day to find April in her room. I cleared my throat. She turned to
> see me. "Hey Logan," she smiled.

Tsuneo: I see we forgot about the knocking thing again.

> "Hey." I said. "So, did you find anything?" She asked me.

Rebecca: [April] Well, they're mountains. [Pause] Sorry. I was hoping for more.

> "Alitte, thanks for helping though." I replied. Soon remembering what Casey told me.

Dan: Something about not eating hockey pucks

> "So, you wanna, go out?" I asked her. She turned to me again. "You mean, like on a date?" She
> said.

Rick: [Wolverine] I was thinking we get into a fight and see what happens.

> "Yeah, so you in or what?" I responded. She was about to say something before Scott came
> into her room.

Tsuneo: Captain Buzzkill

> "Oh, um, hey Scott." She said.

Dan: Looks like you're in this fic after all.

> "Hey, Summers, you mind going some where else? I just asked her something." I demanded
> angrily.

Rebecca: Hey, he's got just as much right to storm into April's room as you do.

[Pause]

Dan: So, none.

Rebecca: Yup, none at all.

> He soon grabbed April by the arm and led her out of her room. "Wow, looks like you lost."

Rebecca: I think we're all losers here

> Casey told me as soon as he saw Summers walking away with April.

Dan: [Wolverine] Remind me why you're even here?

Rick: [Casey] Some kind of Gambit surrogate? Honestly, I don't know either.

> "I asked her out first. Summers already has a girlfriend." I grumbled.

Tsuneo: You know, blonde, white outfit, terrible taste?

> "Really? It looks like he asked her out first." He grinned devilishly. I rolled my eyes at the kid.

Tsuneo: Scott and Logan never saw a redhead that they didn't immediately fight over. That's why they were banned from the Orang-utan exhibit at the zoo

> "Don't you have to go chase after Kitty?" I demanded angrily, soon walking to my room to think
> alone...

Dan: [Casey] I would, but for some reason whenever I go near her, her powers go out of control and she drops through the floor.

> (Some where: April's POV)

Rebecca: Let's say they're in the Scottish Highlands, because it's really pretty there.

> I was riding with Scott on Logan's motorcycle.

Dan: Scott made sure to check it out of the car pool first.

> "When I said you could call me if you want to talk. I

> didn't mean drag me away from a guy who was trying to ask me out!" I told him angrily. Hey, Logan
> just asked me out.

Rebecca: Her brain finally caught up

> The same guy I've been having a crush on since day one and yet Scott gets in
> the way before I could even say yes!

Tsuneo: Consider it a blessing in disguise

> "Sorry, but I needed help to find Jean, you know, just in case I get ambushed."

Tsuneo: And nobody else could help you with this

Rebecca: They all claimed to be busy at once

> He said, not really sounding sorry, but I sighed. Knowing he had a point.

Rick: [April] I mean, you still could have asked.

> "Where are we going?" I asked him.

> "Someone told me they knew where Jean was.

Tsuneo: [Cyclops] That's why I notified the entire team about this lead on our missing member.

> We just have to meet them at an abandoned warehouse." He told me.

Dan: PS this is totally not a trap at all

> It took us a few hours to get to the warehouse. After we did we got off of the motorcycle. I followed

> after Scott into the warehouse to meet Karai.

Rick [Karai]: You have fallen right into my obvious trap! [Pause] Also I am in this fic now

> She looked at us with a smirk.

> "Nice to see you again, April," she said. "Same to you," I gritted my teeth.

Tsuneo: [April] You think you could have told me this was your contact?

Rick: [Cyclops] She's a ninja. We get involved with a lot of ninjas. It's hard to keep track of who's who.

> "Well? Where is Jean?"

> Scott asked. "Sorry, don't know." She shrugged. I soon realized that Karai set us into a trap.

Tsuneo: Really?

Dan: Brilliant observation there.

> The Foot soon came around.

Rick: Don't you hate it when ninjas drop by unannounced?

> So did Magneto. "You guys remember Magneto, right?"

Rebecca: Sorry, doesn't ring any bells.

> She said. Scott and I got ourselves ready for battle.

Tsuneo: [Cyclops] Are these the robot ninjas or not? I can never remember.

> "Is Shredder here?" I glared at her. "Nope, he's become one of the zombies."

Rick: The regular one, the four-armed one or the one with crab claws?

> She answered. "He was a failed experiment,"

Rebecca: Shredder was found to cause cancer in laboratory mice

> Magneto added. "But don't worry, after we defeat you. You'll become our new lab rats.

Tsuneo: Their usual supplier can't keep up with demand, and frankly this is cheaper.

> "Karai added. "Foot, attack!" She yelled, and we all went into battle.

> Scott used his heat vision to attack them

Dan: Because of his heat vision, he was known as Firehead.

> while I used my mind powers.

Tsuneo: It would be kind of weird if they did it the other way around.

> I soon used my telepathy to attack most of the Foot.

Rick: She shot them with mind bullets

> I turned to see that Karai was about to shoot a dart at Scott. "Look out!" I
> exclaimed, taking the shot for him, everything turned black...

Tsuneo: Well, guess that's it. Short fic, but at least it's a tidy end...

> (Logan's POV)

Tsuneo: Ah, dammit.

> After we found April and Cyclops on the floor knocked out.

Rebecca: [Wolverine] Don't ask how we found them, because I totally wasn't stalking her at all.

> We took them with us back home. I stayed by April's side as she was asleep.

Rick: April's new mutant power is a restraining order.

> I noticed her eyes opening up. She turned her head to
> me. "Hi," I helped her sit up. "Are you ok?" I asked her worriedly.
> "I'm fine, a little wounded but fine." She told me with a small smile. "What about Scott?" She soon
> said. "He's fine, still sleeping." I replied.

Tsuneo: So the bad guys ambushed you, revealed their plans, knocked you out and then left you there on your own, otherwise unharmed. Brilliant.

> Soon turning serious. "But, don't try shit like that again, alright?" I said.

Rebecca: Never try to help anyone. Got it.

> "If something happened to you," I sighed. "I wouldn't forgive myself."

Dan: [Wolverine] I mean, I'd get over it... Probably pretty soon.

> I turned my head away from
> her to look at the ground. When Hank told me what had happened to April I wanted to rip Scott's
> face to shreds. But I knew that wouldn't do anything to help her.

Tsuneo: He still considered doing it anyway

> "Logan, look at me," April said. I refused. So I felt her soft hand make me face her again. I saw that
> she had a small smile on her face.

Dan: She's had a good day out, what with the ninjas and the fighting and everything.

> "Stuff like this has happened to me before.

Rick: Honestly, she gets kidnapped a lot

> Casey too. But I appreciate what your doing for me. Just don't be over-protective. OK?"

Dan: Logan, now might not be the time to tell her about the surveillance team you've got tailing her

> She said. I nodded. She leaned forward to kiss my cheek. Soon sitting back on her bed.

Rebecca: [April] While you're at it, could you get me some more pillows or something?

> "Does that make you feel better?" She asked me softly. I soon held her hand up to my lips. Kissing
> it gently. Then setting it back on the bed.

Tsuneo: Then adjusting her blanket. Pulling up. Then letting it go.

> "Goodnight." I said. Leaving her room after...

> AN: OK, I know what I said on the previous chapter,

Rick: You couldn't think of a better title.

> but then my mind suddenly got back to work

Tsuneo: This fic suggests otherwise

> so sorry if you want to help me out but I think I'll take care of the rest.

Dan: Back to stealing chunks of episodes it is.

> But if you want to give me some ideas on the next chapters then I won't stop you...

Rebecca: I can write this fic fine on my own, but please send help

> ----

> Chapter 13: Lullaby For a Monster

> AN: Warning, this chapter might be short,

Rick: I think we're a bit past that point

> so please don't be mad but this episode was mostly about trying to calm down Tildie,

Dan: And we can't possibly make our own plots, as the previous chapter proves.

> so sorry, I'll try to make longer chapters in the future!

Tsuneo: No need to on our account

> This kid was going crazy!

Dan: Baby goats are the worst

> Most of the X-men were asleep because of her. Only Rogue and I were left.

Rebecca: [Rogue] Apparently, I am back in this fic.

> "Now what?" I asked her. "Sorry 'bout this." She told me. I started to lose consciousness...

> (Next day)

> As soon as I woke up I noticed everything was back to normal, and everyone was doing there usual
> business.

Rick: Iceman was hitting people with snowballs, Storm blasted him through a wall... Usual business.

> I just stood next to the door to the backyard while Rogue and Tildie were playing around.

Rebecca: Well Tilde, better enjoy it before you become Wallpaper

> Logan came up next to me. "Blamming yourself again?" I asked.

Tsuneo: Oh yes, I'm sure he's devastated by the happiness and tranquillity around them.

> "How could you tell?" He asked. "Just guessed." I shrugged.

Rick: [April] It's kind of your default mood.

> "But you shouldn't, you did lots of great things." I told him. "Like?" He said.

Rebecca: [April] Offscreen things.

Tsuneo: [April] Things from the episodes that don't make the cut.

> "You brought the X-men back together," I replied.

Dan: Did he? Did he really?

> Turning to him. "Sometimes, it takes one step at a time to become victorious,"

Dan: [Wolverine] Usually, all it takes is stabbing a guy.

> I added, turning back to Tildie and Rogue.

Tsuneo: So you adapted the episode by basically skipping over its entire plot.

> I felt an arm set itself onto my shoulders, pulling me close.

Rick: Arm-Fall-Off Boy in a surprising cameo!

> Logan kissed my head.

> "Thanks, April, means a lot." He smirked. I set my head onto his muscled chest.

Rebecca: [April] Have you ever considered waxing?

Dan: [Wolverine] Grows right back.

> "That's what friends

> are for." I replied, we stood there in silence, looking at what was in front of us right now.

Rebecca: Both feeling kind of awkward and waiting for the other one to say something

> Not the

> past, not the future, but instead it was the present, and I was happy to be in it with the man who was

> holding me...

> -----

> Chapter 14: Record Year

> AN: Sadly, this is another short chapter.

Tsuneo: As the author, you are obviously powerless to correct this.

> I know, I've been really lazy lately, but the chapters will be longer, eventually...

> April was trying to get Nord to remember who Kristie was.

Rick: Have you tried Googling them?

> She soon opened her eyes, turning to us.

> "Good news. I made sure to get him to remember who you are. Kristie." She said.

Rebecca: They're right, that was a short chapter.

> "But the bad news is that his memories will be like Logan's."

Dan: So you'll have a sudden urge to go wrestle Sabertooth in the snow

> She added. Nord soon sat up. Turning to me and Kristie. The kid walked to her fathers arms.

Tsuneo: This is touching. [Pause] By the way, who the hell are these people and what do they have to do with anything?

> April and I left to give them some time. I grabbed her arm. Making her turn to me.

Tsuneo: In broken. Chunks. Of sentences.

> "Your welcome." She smirked. "I never said thank you." I grinned. Soon letting go of her arm.

Dan: [Wolverine] I'm called the Wolverine, not the Perfect Gentleman.

> "You didn't have to." She giggled cutely. Turning around, we noticed a blue swirl.

Rebecca: Don't you hate it when tears in the fabric of space and time sneak up on you like that?

> "What the hell?" I said. It soon engulfed the two of us...

> -----

> Chapter 15: It Awakens

> I woke up to see a girl with red clothes

Tsuneo: Well that really narrows it down.

Rick: Until someone says otherwise, I'm going to assume that this is Blazer from the Justice Machine

> and a blue devil.

Dan: As well as Zauriel

> I got up. The girl turned to me. "Who are

> you?" She asked. "I was about to ask you the same." I replied.

Dan: [April] Didn't you summon us with that blue swirly thing?

Rebecca: [Scarlet Witch] Honestly, I'm as confused as you are.

> "I'm April O'Neil." I added. "Kurt Wagner." The blue-devil replied.

> "Scarlet Witch." The girl said.

Rebecca: [April] How come you're the only one using a codename?

Dan: [Scarlet Witch] Well, do you have a codename?

Rebecca: [April] It's uh... Pending.

> "Do you know where we are?" I said. "Nein, but I do know who brought us here." Kurt said.

Dan: A cheap package tour.

> "Spiral. She is a mutant zat seeks mutants for somebody." He added.

Rebecca: So what you're saying is that she works for a recruitment firm

> "Spiral? Wasn't she the pirate who was capturing mutants on
> their way to Genosha?" Scarlet asked. He nodded.

Tsuneo: Just assume that all of this happened and move on

> "After I stopped her, she said it wasn't over." Kurt added. "She is a woman of her word, I guess."

Tsuneo: Exposition exposition?

Rebecca: Exposition exposition exposition.

Tsuneo: Exposition.

> I shrugged. We all soon saw a floating head, with metal clips all over his face.

Rick: The dreaded evil mutant Faceclip

> The man looked like he needed a trip to the spa.

Tsuneo: Well that is a completely random and utterly meaningless comparison. Thanks.

> "Welcome my esteemed guests!" He yelled.

Dan: It's the worst fate possible!

Rick: What's that?

Dan: They've won a cheap package tour!

Rick: Gasp!

> "Rejoice, for the three of you have been specially chosen to compete in this weeks exciting episode
> of Mojo's Hunting Grounds!"

Rick: I'm guessing this isn't a barista-themed game show

> Scarlet didn't like the sound of that.

Tsuneo: Really? Because I'd be delighted to be forced into some guy's off-brand Hunger Games.

> "You abducted me for a game?" She demanded, sounding beyond the word "angry".

Rebecca: She was all the way up to mildly annoyed

> "Are you out of your mind?!" She looked like

> she was going to murder Mojo. "Don't provoke him!" Kurt said.

Dan: Any reason why not?

Rick: I don't know, there could be a sweet sponsorship deal in this.

> Mojo soon told us what he wanted from us. "Do you have any idea who I am?" She demanded.

Rick [Magmar]: No, I've never heard of you. Now what do you want?

> "Don't you know how to calm down?" I asked her.

Dan: Better watch it before she goes all 'no more mutants' on you.

> "Oh absolutely. I know exactly who you are." Mojo replied.

Rebecca: [Mojo] You're that girl with the stuff who did that thing one time.

> "You two are the damsels! The destruction! The drama for this riveting episode!"

Rick: I'm just saying that Scarlett Witch is probably the last person you want to use as a hostage

> His ugly face got replaced by a commercial ad for the episode we were in.

Tsuneo: And wouldn't you know it, they spoiled the end

> There were parts where Kurt was fighting, and they managed to get Scarlet's name wrong.

Rick: Spell it with a second 't' and it's the GI Joe character

> "That's Scarlet Witch, you stupid freak!"

Rebecca: I dunno, Red Wiccan has a nice ring to it.

> And I don't need protecting!" She yelled. "And she's not ze love of my life." Kurt added.

Dan: April quickly purges all her "Wanda Wagner" fics.

> Scarlet looked back at him while he looked to the ground quickly.

Tsuneo: Careful, Kurt. That's a quick way to get yourself erased from history

> I rolled my eyes at the two of them.

Rebecca: [April] Um, hello? Life or death situation here!

> Soon realizing that Logan was with me before we got sucked down here!

Dan: It took a while to register, but she finally noticed his existence.

> Before I could ask Mojo where Logan was, his head disappeared.

Tsuneo: ...off the screen, right? You meant his head disappeared from the screen?

Rick: Let's just assume that and move on.

> The three "hunters" started shooting at us.

Rebecca: I'm just going to assume one of them is Elmer Fudd

Rick: Why not? He is a legit Batman villain

> Kurt grabbed Wanda and I and teleported us somewhere.

Rick: For want of any direction, I'll assume that they teleported to one of the last surviving dine-in Pizza Huts

> We all fell to the ground. "I tell him I don't need protecting, and you protect me."

Dan: [Nightcrawler] I am right here, you know.

> Scarlet glared at him annoyed. "How does that make me look?"

> "It's not protecting, it's helping; there's a difference." Kurt protested. "You guys bicker all you want.

> I'm gonna go search for Logan." I glared at the two of them. "Logan? As in ze Wolverine?"

Rick: He works as a weasel wrangler at a wild west waterpark in Walla Walla, Washington
Tsuneo [Kurt]: Now you are doing that on purpose

> Kurt asked me suddenly. Making me wonder how he knew who Logan was.

Tsuneo: Didn't you already establish he was a former X-Man?

Rebecca: The idea's taking a while to process

> "How do you know who he is?" I said to him. "He's a friend." Kurt replied.

Rebecca: [April] Whoah, don't say that around him! He's liable to hurt you.

Tsuneo: [Nightcrawler] No, no, I meant he's a friend. It's the accent.

Rebecca: [April] Oh, I understood.

> "We need to keep moving." He added. "Why?" Scarlet asked as soon as we started running again.

Dan: [April] Um, guys trying to kill us?

Rebecca: [Scarlet Witch] Yes, and?

> "You want to fight for Mojo's entertainment?" I asked her. "But we're being hunted down like animals
> for a sick sport!"

Tsuneo: At least, we have to assume they are. Really the fic hasn't given us much to go on so far.

> Scarlet argued. "Yeah, but we fight in a war between mutants and humans.

Dan: [April] This is like, a side quest at best.

> I don't think Mojo fits in either," I told her while we kept running.

Rick: She's pretty sure that Mojo's a type of potato

> Kurt teleported to the enemy who was about to shoot us.

Rick: For a lack of any description of this enemy, I'm going to simply assume that it is Transformer
Enemy.

> But he got blocked out by some type of

> sphere. "Never mind!" He quickly exclaimed, we started running again.

Tsuneo: This chapter's mostly going to be running aimlessly in the woods, isn't it?

Dan: Nah, there's going to be some sudden inexplicable cliffs, then the three of them will be scared of
a guy April's already beat one-on-one.

Tsuneo: Just as long as they're not still on a spaceship.

> Scarlet got hit by an invisible dome.

Dan: Spherical or geodesic?

Rick: If we could see it, we'd know

> I helped her up. "Are you OK?" I asked her. She nodded. I let go of her so she could stand up.

Tsuneo: [Scarlet Witch] Seriously, who just leaves invisible domes lying around?

> "Can you teleport us out of here?" I asked turning to Kurt. "Not without seeing what's on the other
> side."

Rebecca: And that's how he ended up lost in the studio backlot

> He said. "Maybe I can help." Scarlet said. Her right hand glowed a light-red glow that showed
> us what was on the other side.

Tsuneo: She has all the power of Google Street View

> I was surprised to see nothing but water! "Under water?" Kurt looked at the scene in disbelief.

Tsuneo: That's my default expression for this fic.

> I
> heard the hunters minds. "Behind you!" I exclaimed. Quickly using my telepathy to throw the blast of
> their ray guns at themselves.

Dan: 'I have powers and something happened' is my takeaway from that.

> Soon the sky turned into a shade of red.

Rick: Great, now it's Crisis on Infinite Earths. Could it get any worse?

> The hunters we K.O'd ran for their lives, as if they were running from the Predator.

Rick: I would be genuinely surprised if there wasn't an X-Men versus Predator crossover in the
nineties

> We soon heard snarling, and out of the bushes came Logan, I blushed a crimson-red at the sight of
> him without his shirt on.

Rebecca: At this point, April is being played by a cartoon wolf

> His muscular chest was bare, leaving him in only his jeans,

Dan: She had never seen so much chest hair in her life.

Rebecca: Kurt had never seen so much chest hair in his life.

> his face looked like Mojo's. Except his skin was the same.

Tsuneo: His face looked like Mojo's and it looked like Mojo's.

> "Logan, its me Night Crawler. You know, Elf?"

Rick: Crappy Christmas movie with Will Ferrel? You know the one

> Kurt asked
> him, trying to wake him up. I soon realized how Kurt knew who Logan was. He was a former X-men
> member!

Tsuneo: It took her a while to reach the obvious conclusion

> "I don't think your ringing any bells." I said.

Rick: Not even sleigh bells? I mean, he is an Elf and all.

> Logan snarled at us dangerously. We all started running again.

Dan: I feel like some Yakkity Sax could improve this scene

Rick: To be far, it improves every scene

> I felt like I was running for eternity.

Tsuneo: The backdrop had looped several times already.

> Exhaustion was building up inside me rather quickly. I turned my
> head to see Logan still hot on my trail.

Rick: Given that he was chasing her, would this make it Logan's Run?

Rebecca: You already made that joke

Rick: I know, but it was too good to pass up

> I decided to stop what I was doing. Logan stopped. Only a few feet away from me.

Dan: Well, look at that. No point in running in the first place.

> "Logan, I know your not in control of your actions.

Tsuneo: His controller is unplugged

> But I know your there." I said. He released his claws before pouncing on me.

Tsuneo: How do they even know he's been mind controlled?

Rebecca: Well, he's been relentlessly following around April and jumping on her, so... No clue, really.

> I quickly dodged. He turned to me. "April O'Neil, your friend!"

Rebecca: The person you've been creepily stalking since the start of the fic

> I exclaimed. Kurt came to my aid. "April, vat are you
> doing?" He asked me in shock. "Trying to get him to become the Logan I knew." I said.

Dan: Before he went full ani-Vaxxer

> Soon an idea formed in my head.

Rebecca: [April] If only one of us had the power to reach inside his mind and fix it. [Pause] Well, I'm out of ideas.

> "We need to find an exit!" I told him. "But ze only vay out is by vater!" He exclaimed.

Rick: And you don't want to know what Nightcrawler smells like when he gets wet.

> I grabbed his hand without further protest, quickly running to find an exit of some sort.
> We finally found one.

Tsuneo: [Bored] Wow. That was such an arduous task.

> It kind of reminded me of the door to Sandy's house on the Spongebob show.

Tsuneo: A comparison that is both very specific and completely useless

> Kurt tried to open, but he failed miserably. I tried to open it also but I couldn't either.

Dan: All the while Ghost Flame and Black Flame are laughing at them

> Scarlet finally caught up with us. "What are you two doing here?" She asked.

Tsuneo: [April] Not getting stabbed?

Dan: [Scarlet Witch] Good plan.

> "Finding an exit." I said simply. "Its hard to open but I've got an idea." I told them.

> I pushed Scar into some bushes. "You'll thank me later." I said.

Rick: [Scarlett Witch] Honestly, I could probably just turn him inside out or something.

Dan: [April] We don't want to do that! He's my friend!

Rick: [Scarlett Witch] Sweetie, I saw you two together. I'd be doing you a favour.

> "Vat are you-"

> "HEY LOGAN!" I called out. He finally came. "Your bait." I turned to Kurt. He turned into a very dark

> pale.

Tsuneo: However that works

Rebecca: I can only assume that the author isn't even looking at their work

> "Good luck!" I told him, joining Scarlet in the bushes.

Dan: Following her scent, Logan ignores Kurt and goes straight for the bushes.

Tsuneo: This plan seemed better in her head.

> When Logan's claws met at the last latch to the door. Kurt joined us in the bushes.

Rick: I'm pretty sure something just happened, but I have no idea what it was.

> Soon water started pouring. Kurt teleported us to a tree.

> As the water kept pouring in Logan kept climbing the tree to try and kill us.

Rebecca: Bad news, Wolverine's still trying to kill us. Good news, we'll probably drown first.

Tsuneo: This plan definitely seemed better in her head.

> I decided to finally find a way to calm him down, or at least try to.

Dan: Probably something you should have thought about before now

Rick: She was probably distracted by the door

> After I reached his level he growled at me. "I'm sorry about

> this." I told him, quickly forcing my lips onto his.

Rebecca: April was later forced to do a Workplace Consent course

> His lips felt soft and warm against mine. I wished that I could kiss him forever.

Rick: I guess at this point they're equally creepy for each other

> But I knew that I had to let go.

Dan: Somehow in this she did not get stabbed.

> As soon as I did, I noticed that the thing that was on his head fell into the now ocean floor.

Tsuneo: By the way, that was always there

> "A-April?" Logan asked. His eyes turned back to normal. But he soon became unconscious.

Rick: Have we hit our quota of "snooze" lines yet?

> Good thing I caught him before he could fall into the ocean.

Rebecca: Given the metal skeleton, he must weigh a ton

> Night Crawler came to my side to help me get Logan to safety...

Dan: [Scarlet Witch] Hooray, I'm helping.

> (Logan's POV)

> After I woke up and saw April in trouble, I helped her and the other woman out of the ugly guy.

Rick: Judgemental much there?

> As

> soon as we made it to the top Magneto pointed sharp metal spikes at the three of us. Luckily Wendy
> got him to stop.

Tsuneo: Yes, the powerful mutant with the ability to warp the fabric of reality, Wendy

> "Alright, so somebody mind telling me what the hell happened?" I asked, rubbing my head.

Rick: [Raises hand] I second that motion.

Dan: [Raises hand] Thirded.

> Soon touching my lips after. "And who did I kiss?" I added.

Dan: In the background Nightcrawler looks kind of sheepish

> "Mojo kidnapped us for entertainment." April told me.

Rick: Which for Wolverine is basically every Tuesday

> "What about the kiss?" I asked. Soon April's

> lips found their way to mine. She let go as soon as I started to enjoy it.

Rebecca: Wanda makes gagging noises in the background.

> "Sorry, I had to do it to knock some sense into you." She blushed.

Tsuneo: Did she consider using her considerable telepathic powers?

Rick: Or failing that, what about a cartoon mallet?

> "Can I have an encore?" I replied hopefully. "After you went

> berzerk on us, no way!" She told me.

Dan: She only makes out with raging berserkers

> "I can hear you!" Elf exclaimed. "So, bet ya wanted some of that scarlet cutie."

Rebecca: Wolverine's just begging to be zapped into the cornfield, isn't he?

> I grinned wolfishly.

> The jet came. Casey came down. "Who's the Smurf?" He asked. "Kurt Wagner."

Dan: BAMFy Smurf

> He told him.

> "Casey Jones." He replied.

Rick [Casey]: I used to be in this fic.

> "Well, lets go home." April said quickly. Walking into the jet. Elf and I following after...

Tsuneo: [Casey] Oh, and if anyone can tell me where we rescued you from and how we knew you were there, that would be swell.

> AN: Well, hope you guys enjoyed that chapter!

All: We didn't

> April: I have a few questions.

> Me: Sure, shoot.

Tsuneo: [April] What are the metafictional implications of my directly questioning the authour?

Dan: It's just a bit, go with it.

> April: In future chapters, will Logan and I get to go out on a date?

Rick: Yes, but it will be interrupted by a Sentinel attack

> Me: Well, this story is mostly about you guys so why not?

Rebecca: It's not like there's any other kind of plot.

> April: And will there be any M rated chapters?

Dan: No, Monet St. Croix will not appear in this fic.

> Me: Depends, why?

> April: Just wondering because you can never tell with Logan, right?

Rebecca: You never know when he might just flip out and gruesomely disembowel someone

> Me: Right, anyway, I'll try and make longer chapters for this story.

Tsuneo: Remember that we've had ones that were only two paragraphs long

> I want to see some love for this story people!

Dan: Is the author holding the fic hostage?

> April: Maybe you should pair Logan with someone else?

Rick: [April] Please?

> Me: Oh hell no!

Rebecca: You're the author proxy here, April

> Anyways, see you later!

> -----

> Chapter 16: Master Mold

Rick: Master Mold is what you find on the cheese at the back of the fridge

> I'll have to thank Tattoo Sky for this idea, much appreciated!

Dan: Tattoo Sky sounds like a brand of exclusive gin.

Rick: Tattoo Sky. For when you can't write your fic yourself.

> April used her telekinesis to get me out of my cell,

Tsuneo: That's nice. Who are you and where is this?

> and the two of us with young Maria

Rick: She had promised her father that she would rebuild the Blazing Aces.

Rebecca: Well Rick, you just won obscure. Let's just end the fic now.

> ran to the badlands where we were chased by zombies.

Dan: The what now?

Tsuneo: You know, zombies? In the title of the fic and all.

Dan: Oh yeah, right. Of course. Zombies, should have figured.

[Pause]

Dan: Were they –

Tsuneo: No, they weren't in the fic before.

> "If only we'd have stopped Master Mold!" April exclaimed. "Whats Master Mold?"

Dan: The heir to the Mold estate and fortune

> I asked.

Rebecca: Ah, obviously our POV character is the mutant Exposito.

> "Oh, the reason why these motherfuckers are chasing after us." Maria replied.

Dan: Maria got that from her dad, didn't she?

Rebecca: Sadly, she got her hair from her dad, too.

> "I'd scold you if these zombies weren't after us." April sighed.

Tsuneo: Things that the fic probably should have filled us in on from the start

> Using her telekinesis to get them to

> stop. "Master Mold was supposed to be a system that tried to hunt mutant kind all down for the

> MRD.

Rick: Just casually explaining while holding off a zombie horde.

> But there was some kind of fluke in the system that turned those formerly people into the

> mindless flesh-eaters that are chasing us today."

Rebecca: Which is the sort of bug that should have been found during testing

> She added. Soon letting go of the zombies, they seemed to be asleep.

Rick: She told Maria the zombies were just resting, and would be moving to a farm upstate.

> "Quick, they won't be sleeping for long!" Maria exclaimed.

Dan: Soon they'll be up and want to be fed

> We started running some more, this time we ran into a safe shelter. "Who was the cause?"

Tsuneo: Corporate wanted to rush it out for Christmas.

> I asked them. "An old traitorous friend named Karai, or as she calls herself, the Silver Serpent,"

Rick: She defeated both the Supreme Serpent and the Silver Samurai in a title unification bout

> April

> replied. "She, with the help of Magneto mixed this thing called mutagen into Master Mold's system,

Tsuneo: As a result, Master Mold failed to pass FDA inspection

> the very reason why those zombies are chasing us." She added.

Dan: So hang on, Magneto wanted it to turn mutants into zombies? That doesn't make sense.

Rick: Eh, it was just Xorn all along.

> "The X-men tried stopping it, but we weren't strong enough."

Rebecca: They only had Eye-Boy, No-Girl, Glob Herman and Beak on the roster that day.

> Maria went further inside. "Maria! Wait!

> You don't know what's on that other side!" April exclaimed.

Rick: The worst part of a Zombie apocalypse is the lack of proper signage

> She and I went after the young girl only

> to find her taking something out of her backpack. It was part of cerebra.

Rick: One of the key components of the MASS Device

> "But... How did you-" I started.

> "Listen, old man, if you expect me to be living in this shithole again

Dan: Again?

Rebecca: Yeah, this is their summer bunker. They move here every June.

> then you have no damn idea how wrong you are."

Tsuneo: That was also what Maria said to her landlord

> She interrupted. Shoving it towards me. I placed it on my head. Making contact with Logan...

> (Xavier Institute, Present Day: Logan's POV)

> I came into the basement as fast as I could to see Charles where he was.

Dan: In charge, as always

> But he was calling for me again. I went towards it. Allowing him to talk to me.

Tsuneo: He did it very slowly. And in short fragments.

> "Whats up, Chuck?" I asked. "You must stop Master Mold." He told me. Master what now?

Rebecca: Wolverine tried to think back to the briefings, but all he could remember was being out of Molson lager.

> "Whats that?" I said. "The reason why the zombie
> apocalypse has started." He explained. "Logan, Karai and Magneto have joined forces

Tsuneo: Because a Mutant Supremacist and a ninja clan are going to have so much common ground

> to try and destroy Master Mold, you must stop them!" He added.

Dan: Stop them? Hell, go help them.

> Karai? Ain't that the girl April's been telling me about?

Rebecca: Something something betrayed her team killed her foster father something.

> "We'll take care of it, Chuck." I told him. Soon I got out of the astral plane

Rick: He immediately turned his astral phone back on and headed to astral baggage claim

> and back to the real world

Dan: Demonstrably not true.

> where I turned to see April. She quickly
> blushed. "I... Uh... I was looking for the bathroom." She said.

Rick: [April] Totally not watching you sleep!

> I smirked, crossing my arms at her. "You ain't real good at lyin', red," I winked.

Tsuneo: At this point they're both stupidly horny for each other, so why not just say it rather than drawing it out even longer?

Rebecca: Given the way the fic's been written so far, would you actually want that?

Tsuneo: Well when you put it like that...

> "And your not so perfect at saying whats on your mind."
> She rested her hands on her hips. I walked towards her. "Why tell ya when you can read my mind."
> I stated.

Dan: By the way, they've got a world-ending event to stop. But y'know, no rush or anything.

> April soon had a smirk of her own. "Challenge accepted." Soon she started reading my mind.

Dan: Mostly it was him trying to remember his lines for Boy From Oz

> After a few minutes she let go. "Well?" I asked.

Rebecca: [April] Well, it was 90% beer and most of the rest was ice fishing.

> She closed the gap between us and kissed me. I started licking her lips,

Rick: She'd just finished off a cottage pie and he was hoping to get a taste.

> begging for entrance until something interrupted us. Making April let go. She
> pulled a turtle shell out of her pocket.

Dan: She keeps it on her at all times in case a Mario Kart race suddenly breaks out

> Looking at it her eyes widened. "April? Everything ok?" I asked her.

Rebecca: [April] Something about a Master Mold? Obviously not important.

> "We'll have to finish this later, bye!" She exclaimed. Running off somewhere. Damn,
> almost had her.

Rebecca: Well that didn't sound creepy in the slightest
Tsuneo: God no

> I went to my room to go head to the showers...

Rick: Time for a cold shower and to think about baseball again

> ----

> Chapter 17: I Love You

> Hey guys! Sorry if I haven't updated in forever, but before this story gets started, I'd like to thank all
> of the people who have liked my joint accounts sequel Agent Belcher: Missons of Love and
> Teamwork. So thanks, and thanks to the only person who ever liked Agent Belcher: The Missing
> Daughter.

Rebecca: Guilt tripping for reviews. It's how fanfic culture works

> So hope you enjoy this new chapter.

Tsuneo: You know who you are

> I ran as fast as I could to where the guys were.

Dan: It was three old guys playing cards, complaining about how they built this place as miners.

> They told me to meet them at the old pizza place we used to go to hang out.

Rick: And so they went to the world's last Pizza Hut, located in Orange in rural Australia

> As soon as I walked through those doors I was met with the same old smell
> of pizza toppings.

Dan: The place hadn't been cleaned in years

> I walked inside further to be met with some teenagers eating pizza's. "Mikie! Save some pizza for
> April!" I was confused. "Guys?" I asked. They all turned to me, grinning as if they were small
> children.

Rebecca: Preschool mutant ninja turtles

> "April!" Donnie smiled. Hugging me tightly. I hugged back. "Donnie." Tears welded my eyes.

Tsuneo: She had to get a cutting torch to open them again.

> "Its so good to see you again." I sobbed. "You too, if only it really were us," Leo said.

Rick: We're actually the adolescent radioactive samurai terrapins

> Opening my eyes. I caught sight of my friend smirking.

Dan: Dude, you're not meant to give away the ambush before the ambush.

Rick: Sorry Steve. I am the worst ninja.

> I tried letting go of Donnie. "I can't believe you fell for it." Raph

> laughed. They turned into ninjas all of a sudden.

Dan: Cosplay ninjas, the worst type

> Using my telekinesis, I threw 'Donnie' to the ground. "Get her!" I started running like crazy out of the
> parlor. I found a nearby taxi. Running towards it. "TAXI! TAXI!" I yelled.

Tsuneo: And this is why you give your super-vehicle and remote summon.

> Running to it. "Excuse me,

> sir, but can you take me to-" "Sorry, lady, but I'm done for the day." He said using a thick country

> accent.

Rick: Country hick cab driver is now my favourite character

> The taxi drove off.

Tsuneo: Did we just run into a bit?

Dan: I have no clue.

> I started cursing. "彼女がそこにいました！"

Rebecca: How do you turn subtitles on in a fanfic?

> I heard one of the ninjas yell. I

> started running again. "なぜあなたは一人で私を残すことはできませんか。" I asked.

Tsuneo: Yes. Next question.

Rick: I did always wonder.

> I turned my head to find the ninjas still after me. I ran to a corner, only to find a dead end. Turning

> around, the ninjas caught up with me. I gulped. Nervous as hell. "P-please," I begged. "Just leave

> me alone!" What a terrible night not to leave my weapons back at the mansion.

Rebecca: So she had her weapons on her?

Rick: Well she didn't not have them.

> A ninja walked up to me. "あなたは戦いに欠かせない" He said.

Tsuneo: You wash that potty mouth of yours out, young man

> "W-what fight?" I was scared now.

Dan: If only she was some kind of mutant with telekinetic powers or something.

Rebecca: Or even a trained ninja herself.

> The ninja said nothing, just blew dust on me, everything became blurry, falling to the ground with a

> thud, everything turned black.

Rick: It was black and blurry

> (Xavier Institute, Nighttime: Logan's POV)

> I drove my motorcycle to the mansion. Sniffing the air to find something wrong.

Dan: They're out of beer.

Tsuneo: He can tell that by smell?

Dan: His senses are finely tuned.

> Taking off my helmet I walked through the door.

> Sniffing the door to find... ninja's?

Dan: Ninjas all use the same brand of deodorant. That's how he could tell

> Looking to the stairs to find they attacked Bobby first,

Rebecca: Ninjas were frozen to the bannisters in a variety of amusing poses.

> walking

> some more to lead myself to the kitchen to see Hank getting knocked out the old fashioned way,

Rick: With an old timey wooden mallet

> Jones tried to stop them but was knocked out, Kitty tried phasing through the table

Tsuneo: Presumably successful, since that point isn't picked up.

> Arora got

> attacked from behind while shooting lightning at a ninja, Scott blasted someone through the pans

> before getting hurt.

> Trying to smell the air desperately,

Dan: Realising that Iceman had croppdusted the room

> I tried finding April. I could find her in the kitchen. I ran to her

> room, but she wasn't in there either. I started getting worried.

Tsuneo: Also, all his colleagues have been disabled.

Rick: But, April!

> Where the hell could she be?

Rebecca: Hey, she has a life outside of just hanging around in the mansion.

Tsuneo: Does she? Be honest here.

Rebecca: Well, now that I think about it...

> I heard some noises. I ran to find Rogue tied to a chair with a bag over her face.

Dan: Oh no! Her secret weakness!

Tsuneo: At least it's not a bucket of water.

> I removed the bag.

> Rogue breathed a breath of relief. "Logan!" She gasped. Unleashing my claws, I freed Rogue from

> the chair.

> "Are you alright?" I asked her. "Yeah but everyone's gone!" She said.

Rebecca: Wait, they are?

Tsuneo: I thought he was just finding them all lying about the mansion or something.

> "They've been taken." She added.

Dan: And why didn't they take you?

[Rick shrugs]

> "We'll get them back." I growled. "One of them knew you, Logan." Rogue said.

Dan: They went to hairdressing school together

> Walking

> beside me. "He said. "He said you'll never see the X-men again unless you fight him, tomorrow."

> Rogue mentioned.

Rick: This is the ninja equivalent of 'meet me in the schoolyard after class.'

> I finally realized what was going on.

Rebecca: Ninjas. [Pause] Took him a while.

> "Where's April?" I demanded.

Tsuneo: [Rogue] I'm fine, thanks for asking.

> "She told me she was heading to

> this pizza parlor downtown to meet some old friends." Rogue said.

> "But what's goin' on?" She demanded. "Who is this guy?" I snarled. "The Silver Samurai,"

Dan: He's on loan from the San Diego Police Department for no real reason

> I turned to her, noticing Harada's scent behind my friend.

Rebecca: Harada smells of equal parts machine oil and cherry blossoms.

> I started walking to my room, suiting up. "Suit up,

> we're leaving." I told Rogue, she ran off to change.

Dan: [Rogue] Are we going to rescue our friends?

Rick: [Wolverine] What? No, ninjas took all the beer. We need to restock.

> We headed outside, I hopped onto my motorcycle. "Logan, what the hell is goin' on!? Who are these
> people?" Rogue asked.

Dan: Ninjas.

> "What do they want from you?"

Dan: Also, ninjas.

Tsuneo: Just what, ninjas?

Dan: Ninjas are a great, all-purpose answer.

> Ignoring her, I turned the key to start up my

> bike. Rogue turned off the engine and took the key from him. "Rogue, give!" I growled menacingly.

Tsuneo: Don't make me disembowel you, young lady

> "Not until you tell me what this is all about!" She argued. "A woman," I sighed. "Seriously?" Rogue
> gasped. I told her everything from how I fell in love with a woman named Mariko to how I lost her to
> Harada.

Dan: Blah blah blah love of my life, turned into a killer cyborg. You know. These things happen

> Rogue gave me my keys back. Riding behind me, I turned on the engine and we drove off.

Rick: He turned the engine on behind himself.

> (Somewhere: April's POV)

Rick: Ooh, can we say it's a steam bath in Norway?

Tsuneo: Sure, why not?

> I opened my eyes, looking around, I found nothing but darkness. Where am I? What is happening?
> Why am I here?

Tsuneo: [April] What is my purpose in life?

> "You have awoken." A voice said, walking towards me I saw a man in a samurai
> suit made of silver metal.

Rick: And not even the one she's used to

> "W-who are you?" I demanded, trying to stand up. The man laughed. "Try all you may, but you are
> held captive." The samurai said.

Rebecca: So she used her considerable telekentic powers to free herself and then knock him out

Tsuneo: True, that would make sense

> I could feel his triumphant smirking as he looked down upon me as I felt like a helpless damsel.

Rebecca: [April] Hooray, I'm helping.

> "You are of importance to me, I have been beaten before. And I wish for vengeance!"

Rick: Nobody beats him at Jenga and lives.

> He said. "Why do I have to do with this revenge plan?"

Tsuneo: [Silver Samurai] I mean, I'm kind of threatening your life here...

> I asked, becoming less interested in what he had to say.

Dan: When your hostage finds you boring then maybe you're doing something wrong

> "You of all people should know, have you not heard of Logan-san?" The samurai asked.

Rick: [April] Short guy, really hairy, trust issues?

> Logan-

> san... I looked at him in horror. "You monster!" I yelled at him. "How could you do such a thing?"

Rebecca: Whatever the hell it is you did

> Holding me captured!" I exclaimed. "It is the only way I can have my honor back and become leader
> of the yakuza clan." The samurai said.

Tsuneo: A Samurai leading a Yakuza clan. You have no idea how this works, do you?

> "And your not the only one kidnapped." He mentioned. Oh no! Not the X-men too!

Dan: [April] I um, assume. It's not like I know where they are or anything.

> "Logan-san has defeated me before, once I defeat him now, I shall have my honor restored." He
> said.

Rebecca: Silver Samurai talks like somebody doing a mocking impersonation of a weeabo.

Dan: This means he's in character

> "You won't get away with this! Logan will stop you!" I yelled.

Tsuneo: [Silver Samurai] I... I mean, the idea is to get him here so he tries, but... Yeah, I guess.

> "Well... if you believe in that brute

> so much, then he will not mind if I offered to give your head to my niece." He said. Niece?

Rick: His brother Frank Samurai's daughter, Sally

> "Yes, I am sure Karai would love to add you decapitated head to her collection.

Dan: [April] Hold on, can we skip back to her being your niece?

Rebecca: [Silver Samurai] There were arranged marriages, it's a whole clan thing... Look, it's complicated.

> Along with her,

> turtle brothers." The samurai added. Tears welled my eyes again. "No! She didn't!" I exclaimed.

> "Yes, now you do not have a family anymore." The samurai said.

Tsuneo: By the way, the Turtles were killed off-screen by a filler villain.

> "Enjoy your final hours of life, my

> dear, for once I defeat Logan-san in front of your very eyes, I will cut off your head while he

> watches." He added.

Rick: I'll kill him, then make him watch as I kill you. [Pause] Okay, this plan has some flaws.

> Walking away leaving me crying.

Rebecca: [April] Hooray, I'm helping.

> "You will pay," I muttered darkly, I was going to get my revenge on Karai for the death of the guys.

> (Tomorrow Morning: Logan's POV)

> I was in my traditional robes,

Rick: In the absence of any context, I'm going to assume he means he's dressed like a Franciscan Monk

> ready for battle. As soon as I got there I found Harada, but he wasn't

> alone, there were a few ninja's, Mariko, and April...

Tsuneo: The rest of the X-Men he captured are somewhere, I guess.

> but she was all tied up.

Dan: She's in the X-Men, wears yellow and gets tied up a lot. Sure you're not thinking of Jubilee instead?

> I caught her eyes, they were full of fear and sadness.

Tsuneo: And no small degree of boredom.

> Whatever Harada did to her, I was gonna make sure he wasn't living.

>"Please! I beg of you! Do not do this!" Mariko begged Harada.

Dan: [Silver Samurai] Honey, we talked about this. You always wanted me to aim for a promotion, and the best way to do that is by killing my deadliest rival.

> He ignored her, "Are you ready to watch your loved ones die, Logan-san?" Harada asked me,

Rick: [Wolverine] I mean, if you're including Scott in that, then maybe.

> giving me a genuine devilish smirk. My eyes widened, no wonder April was scared.

Rebecca: [April] Hooray, I'm helping.

> Now I'm gonna kill him. "Fight!" The judge declared.

Dan: Fortunately there was someone present to referee this duel to the death

> We brought out our swords, clashing together.

> Our swords clinking together in a perfect fighting synch.

Rebecca: C'mon, is this a sword fight or a dance off? I wanna see some blood!

> "My wife's eyes are on you, Logan." Harada said. "They always have been." He sneered. I might not
> love Mariko anymore, but I wasn't gonna let her get harmed by him.

> Harada laughed. "You know, Logan-san, the truth is that I only married Mariko only so you do not!"

Rick [Harada]: Really, we fight all the time, our home life is hell and we're both in therapy. Totally worth it to get at you though

> He smirked. With a primal yell, he striked at me with enough force to make me fall to the concrete. I
> groaned in pain. "Logan!" April screamed.

Dan: At some point you have to realise his whole plan is to kill someone who's basically unkillable using just a sword.

> I found my strength in me, using it, I stood up, using my sword to make Harada fall along with his
> helmet that was a few feet away from him. "Last chance, Harada," I growled, I stood over him with
> the tip of my sword pointed at him. "Yield!" His eyes glowed bright blue.

Dan: The Spice must flow

> "The Silver Samurai yields to no man!" He yelled.

Rick: So what happens if he fights the Doom Patrol?

[Pause]

Rebecca: Doom Patrol.

Rick: Okay, fair answer

> "No!" Mariko and April cried. Harada kicked me, making me fall to the ground as his sword glowed
> the same color as his eyes.

Rebecca: He has a plug-in hybrid sword.

> This was it, never thought it would happen.

Tsuneo: You never thought you would fight a guy in silver armour with a glowing blue sword

> I turned to April, "I love you." I said to her.

Rebecca: [April] Eyes on the fight, ya dumbarse!

> Turning my head I closed my eyes, ready to die.
> "Enough!" I opened my eyes to see that it was over, all of it.

Tsuneo: The fic had ground to a screeching halt.

> "This fight is forfeit." The man with a mask said.

Rebecca: You know, the one that has totally been there all along

> He explained that Harada cheated and he got disgraced from the clan.

Tsuneo: He cheated at being a ninja and was thrown out of ninja school

> The ninja's took an unconscious Harada out.

Dan: Also, he got knocked out. At some point. I guess. Heck, I don't even care anymore.

> "An the X-men?" I asked.
> "You have shown honor in battle, Logan-san." He said. "Your friends shall be returned within the
> hour.

Rick: Three weeks later they were still waiting for their X-Men claim to be processed

> Release her." He nodded to them. They untied April,

Rebecca: [April] Hooray, I'm helping.

> she ran over to me. Wrapping her arms
> around my neck tightly. I wrapped mine around her waist. We stayed that way for a while.

Dan: [Mariko] Yeah, um, okay. Not awkward at all. You two keep at it, I'll just see myself out. Of my own house. Yeah.

> "I heard what you said." April whispered.

Tsuneo: [April] And no, I can't spot you beer money until Wednesday.

> "I almost thought you were going to die, but I'm glad your safe." She sighed. She then told me what
> Harada said to her.

Rebecca: About him and Logan in the hot springs that one time.

> Harada was lucky that the ninja's got to him first.

Rebecca: It's cute that she has a crush on the blood-soaked vengeful killer

> "I'm so glad your safe," I said. "The same with you." She told me, I held her face in my hands.
> Looking into her blue eyes. "I love you too." She said. Smiling softly. My eyes widened, but then I
> grinned. With my eyes closed, I leaned into her, I could hear April's heart beats quickening. Our
> breathing stopped.

Dan: They suffocated on the spot

> Our lips finally met, damn, her lips tasted great. I pulled April closer to me to deepen the kiss. Her
> hands were playing with my hair

Rebecca: [April] Wow, so greasy. Do you ever wash?

> as mine were rubbing her back softly. Air called for us.

Tsuneo: Oh, and also you foster family were killed by your former friend. Little details, you know.

> We let go, looking at each other's eyes. I could see love in them. We smiled at each other. Letting
> go of each other, I wrapped an arm around her shoulder. "Lets go home." I said to her.

Rebecca: We're just going to assume the rest of the team is alright, and just leave it at that.

> (Next Day: April's POV)

> Wow, what a crazy night,

Rick: Full of zany assaults, kidnappings and attempted murder

> as soon as the whole team was back in the mansion, Logan explained to
> us why we were kidnapped.

Dan: [Storm] No problem, I usually blame you for this sort of thing

> Afterwards we were all going back to our usual business.

Tsuneo: They were remarkably casual about the fact that their secret superhero lair had been
effortlessly invaded

> I told Casey what happened to me. "Seriously!? How could she?" He exclaimed,

Dan: I mean, betraying you and killing your foster father was fine, but this is too much

> his hand turning into fire. "Casey! Wait, we'll get back at Karai!" I exclaimed.

Tsuneo: [Casey] First we'll like, steal her credit card, then order a whole bunch of pizzas on it...

> "But if we want her to pay for her crimes then we'll do it together."

Rick: Vengeance is a team goal

> I added. Giving him a serious look. He nodded, his hands turning back to normal.

> "So, what's up with the old man? Ever since this morning he's had this light in him, as if he died and
> went to heaven." He said.

Rebecca: Oh, he did. He's an X-Man; happens all the time

> I blushed. "Something happened between you two, huh?" He smirked.

Dan: The term 'murder boner' comes to mind

> "Well, maybe." I teased. "What is it? Are you guys dating now?" Casey asked.

Rick: [April] I went with him to a dive bar last night, so I guess you could call it that.

> "Fine, last night, after Harada was taken away by the yakuza, Logan and I kissed." I sighed.

Rebecca: Because nothing turns a girl on more than being used as a pawn in somebody's vengeance trip

> "Seriously!?" Kitty exclaimed. We turned to her. "How long have you been there?" Casey asked.

Rick: [Kitty] Trust me, way too long.

> "Long enough to hear that April and Logan are dating now." Bobby grinned.

Tsuneo: You two don't have lives of your own, do you?

> "Now your making me wish that I took a video of you kissing!" He added.

Dan: He's so jealous of April right now

> "I bet it was really hot." Casey smirked. I blushed. "Casey!" Kitty smacked him in the arm. Logan
> walked in. "So, is it true? You and April are dating?" Bobby asked.

Rick: Why not just broadcast it through the mansion already?

> Logan looked at me with a smile. "Yeah, we're dating." He said.

Rebecca: Getting kidnapped counts as a date, apparently

> Walking over to me and holding my
> hand in his. I swear my face couldn't get any redder as everyone kept teasing about us the whole
> day.

Tsuneo: Also your foster family are dead. But you know, little things and all.

With that final comment, the big screen turned off, reverting the world to prose format. "And that was the non-definite, un-ending to Mutants versus Zombies," Tsuneo considered. "A fic that less featured zombies as suggested that they might possibly exist at some point in time and space."

"Well it did introduce the idea into the story," Rebecca admitted. "Of course it then immediately dropped it, so I'm not sure if that's actually any sort of progress."

"And Karai was there," Dan noted, "So you know, crossover and all."

"Not that she had any reason to be there," Rick countered. "She could have been, well, anyone for the amount of impact that she had on the story. Certainly she could have been any number of given X-Men villains and it wouldn't have changed a thing"

"Although really, did it make any sense for her to be there at all?" Dan asked. "Magneto's a mutant supremacist who, at his core is super-disdainful of humans. So why would he be working with a group of human ninjas? What is he getting out of all this?"

"Maybe they were ninja consultants who were on a work for hire basis?" Rick suggested. "Because really, I have nothing otherwise."

"It doesn't really make much sense," Tsuneo agreed. "Which is a real problem for the fic; when it's trying to be its own material, it gets very stumbly and awkward. But when it adapts existing material, the fic either does simple one-for-one replacement that add very little or simply skips over things that the writer has no idea what to do with."

"Speaking of awkward, I need to issue the fic a firm 'settle down,'" Rebecca noted. "Yes, it's pretty common in these fics for the writer to say 'yeah, that character's hot, I'd do them' though a proxy character."

"But this one takes it a tad further," Dan smirked.

"Just a bit," Rebecca nodded. "April and Logan are basically acting like a pair of horny teenagers who spend all their time lusting after each other and thinking with their pants. They're stupid, and yet the author is clearly being authentic in their writing."

"And yet that's about the only characterisation the fic had," Tsuneo noted.

"It is," Rebecca nodded. "Take that how you may."

"As always, you seem to have a lot to say about the fic," the Voice interjected.

"Oh, we're just getting started," Dan replied.

"Well then I'd love to hear your reviews of the fic," The Voice continued.

Dan nodded his agreement. "Well, we did ask at first why this was even a crossover. And y'know what, I have even less idea why it was after this section. For the longest time there's no mention of any TMNT elements, beyond the character names for April and Casey. And I say just names, because what do you know, they bare no resemblance to the actual Turtles characters. Both of them are just stand-ins, inexplicably so, for Jean Grey and Gambit.

"Unfortunately, it did wind up calling back to TMNT characters but in the worst way possible. Karai has somehow flipped from 'redeemed villain' to 'cackling murderer' for no explainable reason. And the Turtles, the actual lead characters of the source the crossover comes from, are killed off-screen to provide revenge motivation for April. It's wildly out of character for everyone, so much so that it would have been better on all counts to divorce the fic's characters from their supposed TMNT originators.

"To really nail it home, the crossover element doesn't get any play in the plot whatsoever. While this is mostly because it's following the show, it's also because whenever Karai is brought up that it's completely redundant and nonsensical. Supposedly she teamed up with Magneto, despite being an anti-mutant villain and him being a mutant supremacist, but that's solely in backstory for the bad future which Magneto could have easily been responsible for himself. Even her only appearance accomplishes nothing as she knocks out April and just leaves her unharmed for no real reason. It's as if the fic wanted to remind us it was an actual crossover; something that was far too easy to forget."

"Of course, there's another reason why I'm asking 'why April'," Rebecca continued. "Let's be blunt here, April O'Neil is barely April O'Neil in this fic. She's a stupidly horny loner Zombie Hunter with a

variety of as the plot needs them mental powers who is basically made the second in command of the X-Men for no real reason and effortlessly solves every problem she comes across. None of that fits with the existing character of April O'Neil."

"She's only April O'Neil in as far as she has red hair and is connected to the Ninja Turtles, something that, as Rick noted above, is basically irrelevant to the plot anyway. So why did the author write her as April? Why not write her as Jean Grey? Or for that matter, why not make her an entirely original character to begin with, because that likely would have probably made more sense than completely reshaping an existing character to fit their needs."

"This iteration of April is a basic Possession Sue, acting as the author's proxy while still supposedly being a canon character," she concluded. "They have all the perks of the job; superpowers, being the center of everything, getting a canon character as their love interest, all wrapped in the semblance of an existing character while not actually being them in any way, shape or form."

"I'll admit, the fic was actually pretty hard to get through," Tsuneo said. "Less because of the content, but more because of how the content was handled. It's not just that it was based on the 'Wolverine and the X-Men' cartoon, but relied very heavily on events of particular episodes. Now not only is that not a way to structure your fanfic, it was also very badly managed in the writing of the fic."

"See, it alternates between two problems. The first is when the fic leans heavily on the events of the actual episode. In this case, it assumes that the reader knows the episode and what's happening in it, so barely bothers to establish locations, events or anything like that. If you don't know precisely where the action was taking place, or for that matter what was even happening in a given scene of the cartoon, then you were pretty lost as the fic wouldn't help you. These sections can barely be read alone, which is a huge problem."

"The alternative was when it goes off on its own material. Problem here is, despite it being divorced from the cartoon, the authour again makes no efforts to fill in the blanks. It's again very shaky and disjointed, with even less idea of what's happening because there's no source material to fall back on. It doesn't help that the authour doesn't have any direction or confidence in the fic, so events don't naturally connect to each other and nothing is solidly established. Worst part is when chapters trailed off, and the show was used as an excuse – nothing relevant happened in that episode, so the authour couldn't be bothered writing around it. Really, I wonder why the authour could be bothered writing their own fic at all."

"So," Rick began. "Let's talk Zombies."

"The fic begins with the title 'Mutants versus Zombies,'" he continued. "It introduces April as a zombie hunter. It talks about her past experiences with hunting zombies alongside the Ninja Turtles. And the whole idea that zombies could be lurking and ready to strike at any moment is bought up in the narrative. All of which brings me to my next point. There are no zombies in this fic."

"Now yes, there's the implied Zombie Apocalypse in the flash-forward bad future parts of the fic, true, but that wasn't exactly an on-screen thing," he continued. "And the idea that Karai and Magneto had teamed up to make zombies. And yet, we never actually have any zombies or for that matter, zombie hunting. Not only that, but the fic seems to completely drops the whole zombie element for much of its length before stumbling back to it late in the game as it was clearly running out of puff."

"So then that brings me around to my point; why did the writer include zombies in the first place?" Rick asked. "They added nothing, they barely were a part of the plot and there was no need for April to have zombie hunting as a part of her life as, once again, she never once hunted a zombie. And while yes, there was the future sections, that could once again be your stock Sentinel Apocalypse or anything else."

"There you go, Voice," Tsuneo finished. "The fic had a flawed premise, a flawed execution, didn't include part of its title in the actual content and had a possession sue that had no reason to even be the character that they were."

"And thank you as always for your reviews,' the Voice finished. "Once again they will be used to help pick future subjects."

"The perils of machine learning," Rebecca sighed. "You put crap in and you get crap out."

"But we are done, right?" Dan asked. "There's no secret seventeenth chapter with actual zombies in it, is there?"

"We are, yes," the Voice finished. "And I'll see you all next time."

"I'm thrilled," Rebecca sighed. "Well no. No I'm not."

"I mean we do have a crap track record so far," Dan noted. "But it feels like we're batting particularity badly with the crossovers."

"Agreed there. And, I know I am going to regret this," Tsuneo admitted, "But I am curious about something you mentioned earlier, Rick."

"Shoot."

"You bought up the various comic book crossovers that you'd read in your B-Team reviews," Tsuneo continued, "And how they were more effective crossovers then the fics we've read."

"Low bars to clear and all, but yeah."

"That made me curious as to what actually happened in those crossovers."

"Well let's see..." Rick sat back as he began counting off his fingers. "First there was Warrior Nun Areala and Glory in which the two titular characters teamed up with each other and fought a bad guy."

"Pretty straightforward, but I can see how it would work," Tsuneo nodded. "And yes, I can also see how that is more effective most of the crossover fics we've read so far."

"Then after that was Warrior Nun Areala and Razor," Rick continued. "That one featured the two titular characters teaming up with each other to fight a bad guy."

"That seems... again, a bit shallow, but yeah, it makes sense."

"And then finally there was Razor and Warrior Nun Areala," Rick noted. "And yes, it was a completely different comic."

"What happened in that one?"

"The two titular characters fought each other then teamed up to fight a bad guy."

"So in short..." Tsuneo considered. "These three comics featured basically the same shallow plot just with the names changed."

"Pretty much."

"And yet they make better use of the crossover element then the crossover fanfics that we've reviewed."

"That they do."

"It says an awful lot," he admitted. "And I'm not sure that I like it."

"It is a bit like that, isn't it?"

Author's notes:

This is one of those fics where I just have to ask myself 'why' at every stage. Why is it a crossover? Why is it supposedly about zombies when there aren't any in it? Why even use April if you're just going to have her be a one-for-one replacement for Jean Grey in the first place? And, most importantly, why write this fic when it's clear that you don't have any plans for it at all and feel the necessity to recap episodes simply to fill time? I feel that if you can't answer these sorts of questions before you start then you probably should stop there and then. Which, by the way, would mean that there would be a lot less fanfic out there and that would not be a bad thing at all.

Next time, Crossover Season continues

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Mutants Vs Zombies written by Fire Starter118

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)
Tsuneo Tateo and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Lack of zombies? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

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> "COME BACK HERE YOU TULIP-KILLER!"