

X-MEN: FEAR THE BEAST

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Sometimes to stop a monster, you have to become one.

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BLACK SCREEN.

A cold wind swirls in the background.

FADE IN:

EXT. SNOWY WILDERNESS - DAY

Falling snow causes a near WHITEOUT.

SUPER: "He who makes a beast of himself gets rid
of the pain of being a man..."

- Samuel Johnson

We move through the trees at a slow rate.

The camera begins to shake. It bounces in a distinct rhythm,
as if it were riding a bull.

The camera is actually a POV of a tall creature sprinting
through the woods!

Its warm breath fogs the camera as it gains on a fleeing
BLACK TAILED DEER.

EXT. LOG CABIN - DAY

A serene landscape surrounds the small cabin.

SEELAH (18), a dark skinned Inuit male, chops wood near the
shed. He looks serious, not one to engage in fun.

His sister, BUNKEI (8), is the exact opposite. She plays
with a volleyball near the forest's edge.

Bunkei throws the WHITE BALL into the air and catches it.
The simple act amuses her.

The child's joy seems to agitate Seelah. He swings his axe
more forcefully.

The wood splinters, hitting him in the eye. Seelah drops the
axe in anger. Bunkei giggles as she throws the ball higher
and higher.

SEELAH
Hey, cut it out!

Bunkei catches the ball and looks at Seelah. There's
movement in the brush behind her!

A Deer leaps out and sprints across their property. Bunkei watches it run, then resumes tossing the ball.

Seelah storms toward his sister. He catches the ball and kicks it deep into the woods.

Bunkei falls silent, her eyes well up with tears.

BUNKEI

Mom!

SEELAH

Stop crying, Bunkei.

The angry teen hikes into the woods as tears freeze on Bunkei's cheeks.

Seelah's boots CRUNCH in the fresh snow, it's the only sound emanating from the woods.

Seelah's CRUNCHING boots come to a sudden stop.

Bunkei stares into the woods, looking nervous.

BUNKEI

Seelah?

A CHILLING SCREAM fills the air! Followed by a THUD.

BUNKEI

Mom!

THE CABIN

AHNAH (37), a dark skinned beauty, steps out of the cabin. She wipes a skillet with a rag.

AHNAH

What is it Bunkei?

Bunkei's volleyball rolls down the hill, it's covered in red Blood! Bunkei SCREAMS.

The camera ZOOMS along the path of the volleyball, rushing into the woods.

CUT TO INTRO CREDITS:

FADE IN:

EXT. SECLUDED TOWN - DAY

SUPER: "ONE MONTH LATER..."

The rural town is covered in snow. Several vehicles are parked outside the town's largest building... the bar.

All of the cars are a decade old and heavily dented -- no one is prospering in this neck of the woods.

EXT. GRUFF BAR - DAY

ETHAN (41), a sturdy lumberjack, exits the bar. The unkempt man staggers to the edge of the bar's porch.

Ethan UNZIPS his pants and pisses on the white snow. He grins as steam rises into the air.

Ahnah and Bunkei walk down the street. The strong woman drags a sled full of fresh fish. Bunkei wears a heavy backpack.

Ethan glares at them, still pissing.

ETHAN

We don't need any fish.

Bunkei moves closer to her mom. They enter the local supply store.

SHERIFF JOE ADAMS (45), a fit country fella, exits the courthouse across the street.

SHERIFF JOE

Take it around back, Ethan.

ETHAN

Just finishing up, Joe.

The Sheriff shakes his head as Ethan ZIPS his pants.

INT. SUPPLY STORE - DAY

MR. ED JONES (72), bald and charming, stands behind the counter. Ahnah and Bunkei approach him with their fish.

MR. JONES
Mornin' Ahnah.

AHNAH
Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES
What do we have today?

AHNAH
Forty-six pounds.

MR. JONES
Let me check the freezer.

Mr. Jones walks to the corner, he opens a giant freezer.

MR. JONES
Looks like I've got a few left... I
could take half of them.

AHNAH
These are good fish, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES
I'm sure they are, but good fish
still rot.

AHNAH
Please, take all the fish. Whatever
you can pay, I'll take it.

Mr. Jones looks sympathetic, he reaches into the cash register. He hands Ahnah three twenties.

Ahnah takes the money, she loads the fish into the freezer. Bunkei stares at the peppermint candy jar on the counter. Mr. Jones takes notice.

MR. JONES
Do you like sweets?

Bunkei nods, still very shy.

MR. JONES
(winks)
Have a treat.

Mr. Jones opens the jar. He hands her two candies.

BUNKEI
Thank you.

Bunkei puts one of the peppermints in her mouth. She offers the other piece of candy to Mr. Jones.

BUNKEI
You want one?

MR. JONES
(grins)
You keep it, I've got plenty.

Ahnah grabs her sled and heads for the door.

AHNAH
Come on, Bunkei.

Mr. Jones smiles as they exit his store. He bends down and works below the counter.

The bell attached to the entrance RINGS. Mr. Jones stands up, still smiling.

MR. JONES
Forget something?

His smile vanishes when he spots three gruff-looking locals.

Ethan leads the group. He's followed by DAVE (39), a red bearded man built like a rhino, and another "Townie."

ETHAN
I thought we agreed you were done trading with the savages.

MR. JONES
That was before she lost her son.

Dave lifts the lid on the freezer. He spits on Ahnah's fish.

ETHAN
I don't remember any handouts when my old man lost the sawmill.

Ethan takes out his knife, he cleans under his fingernails.

ETHAN
As I recall, you wouldn't even buy his furs... you said the Inuits made a better deal.

MR. JONES
That was a long time ago, Ethan.

Ethan taps the knife against his lips, it looks like he's thinking about killing Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones glances at the Townie, he sees a pistol tucked into the front of his pants.

ETHAN

I think it's best if you took some time off... for their sake.

All three men glare at Mr. Jones. He senses the danger.

MR. JONES

I'll close up when you leave.

ETHAN

Good man.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

Ahnah and Bunkei walk along the snow covered road.

Sheriff Joe's brown SUV pulls up beside them. He rolls down the driver's window.

ROSCOE, his K-9 partner, sits in the passenger's seat.

SHERIFF JOE

You girls want a lift?

Bunkei grins, she steps toward the vehicle. Ahnah puts her hand on Bunkei's shoulder, stopping the girl.

BUNKEI

(whines)

Mom.

AHNAH

Walking is good for the mind,
Bunkei.

(to Sheriff)

Thank you for the offer, Sheriff.

SHERIFF JOE

(sympathetically)

Ahnah, if there's anything I can do--

AHNAH

--We'll be fine, Joe.

Sheriff Joe nods. Bunkei watches the trees behind the SUV.

TREE LINE POV

Something appears to be watching them.

INT. SHERIFF'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

Joe hands Ahnah a can of BEAR MACE.

SHERIFF JOE
 You girls keep this with you, I
 don't want you venturing into the
 woods without it.

AHNAH
 We won't.

Sheriff Joe nods as he rolls up his window. Roscoe stares
 out the passenger's window. He GROWLS.

SHERIFF JOE
 (strokes the dog)
 Whoa. Easy, bud.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The SUV drives off -- Ahnah and Bunkei resume their walk.

BUNKEI
 Can I carry the spray?

AHNAH
 Would that make you feel better?

Bunkei nods, Ahnah hands her the spray. They continue toward
 their cabin.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

Bright billboards. The packed sidewalks move faster than the
 congested streets.

A yellow SCHOOL BUS stands out in the sea of cars.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - NIGHT

Forty MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS sit silently on the bus. A PINK
 GIRL (9) sleeps with her head against the window.

JUBILEE sits in the back, playing a handheld 1980's Nintendo
 GAME AND WATCH.

Suddenly, SHRIEKS are heard outside.

THUD. THUD. THUD. THUD. Four heavy impacts SHAKE the Earth.

The children glance at the fleeing people. Nervous chatter erupts.

Jubilee stands up, she looks toward the front of the bus.

JUBILEE

Raven?

RAVEN, in human form, gets out of her seat.

RAVEN

I'll check it out.

She approaches the BUS DRIVER (50's).

BUS DRIVER

Looks like we got company.

Raven sees something that makes her jaw drop. She clicks the "X" transponder on her jacket collar. It BLINKS.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Four Metal ATTACK-BOTS move through downtown New York. The Bots have giant round bodies with laser cannons on every side.

Each machine is supported by three retractable legs, like a tripod. The legs are equipped with giant tires, allowing them to roll through the streets.

Bystanders flee as the Bots roll over their vehicles.

The LEAD ATTACK-BOT stops just shy of the school bus.

Six BLACK CLOTHED SOLDIERS repel from the lead Bot's hull. They carry assault rifles. Their helmets read, "F.O.H."

ATTACK-BOT LOUD SPEAKER

The Friends of Humanity ask that you exit the bus calmly with your hands up.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

Jubilee stands next to Raven and the driver.

JUBILEE

What are we gonna do?

RAVEN
Stay with the students, I'll handle
this.

Raven exits the bus, Jubilee looks even more concerned.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Raven exits the bus with her hands in the air. A Black
Clothed Soldier steps forward.

SOLDIER
It's her!

The soldier fires at Raven. She dives behind a van for
cover, followed by hundreds of bullets.

Raven groans as one enters her thigh. Blood sprays onto the
street.

The lead Attack-Bot aims its laser cannon at the van. Raven
is helpless.

BOOM. The van EXPLODES -- Raven's body rolls across the
pavement. We move in on her lifeless eyes.

Jubilee attacks the lead Bot with her firework powers. They
do zero damage.

The lead Attack-Bot aims at the school bus--

BANG! A RED ENERGY BLAST drills the LEAD ATTACK-BOT, its
tires roll backwards.

SCOTT SUMMERS races toward it in his X-Men garb. The
machine's outer hull is scorched from his first attack.

STORM, JEAN GREY, and BEAST race behind their leader.

SCOTT
Fan out!

The X-Men separate as Scott presses his visor. The RED PULSE
of energy cuts the Bot in half!

A nearby Attack-Bot turns its cannon on Scott. It fires!

Jean sees the fast moving laser blast. She grunts with all
her strength, sending her powers toward it.

Jean's powers push the laser to the right, causing it to
miss Scott entirely. The laser destroys an empty bench.

CRACK! Lightning strikes the hull of the closest Attack-Bot.

Storm's eyes SHINE white as the lightning travels through the machine, severing its mechanical limbs.

The Attack-Bot activates its hidden jet engines. Its round hull rises into the sky.

Suddenly, fierce winds slam the Bot into a nearby building. It catches fire and EXPLODES. Jean catches the falling debris with her powers. The pedestrians flee for shelter.

BEAST rips the back door off the school bus.

BEAST

Everybody out!

The young mutants climb down as Jubilee races toward them.

JUBILEE

Hank, they're comin--

A laser blast eviscerates Jubilee and the cars surrounding her. Beast sees the Attack-Bot, he ROARS in anger.

Beast sprints toward the Bot as Soldiers repel from it.

Jean uses her powers to rip the ropes loose. The soldiers fall fifty feet to the ground. They don't move.

BOOM. BOOM. The Attack-Bot shoots LASERS at Beast.

The Blue X-Man dodges the lasers by leaping through the air. He kicks off a light pole and lands on the Bot's front leg.

BOOM! Rubber ropes wrap around Beast's blue body. He falls toward the street.

The ropes restrain Beast's entire body. He squirms as three BUFF SOLDIERS race toward him. They carry ROPE SHOTGUNS with TASERS on their barrels.

The soldiers jab Beast with their tasers. He ROARS, struggling to break free.

BOOM! A RED ENERGY BLAST knocks one soldier to the ground. The others dive for cover as Beast bites through the rope.

Beast tackles the closest Buff Soldier. He hurls him into his friend, then leaps on top of both men. His animal side takes over as he delivers thunderous blows.

THE SKY

A yellow ENERGY BLAST hits Storm in the back.

She falls thirty feet and lands on a closed dumpster. Her dazed body rolls off the lid and onto the sidewalk...

Storm is barely conscious as five FOH Soldiers sprint toward her. Scott spots the soldiers, he raises his hand to his visor--

An enemy soldier grapples with Scott, he can't use his eyes.

Scott glances back at Storm and then at Jean. She's in the sky, fighting the remaining Attack-Bots. There's no way she can help.

Scott turns to Beast, he's the closest to Storm.

SCOTT
Hank, help Storm!

Beast continues to claw the soldiers. He ignores Scott.

SCOTT
Ha--

The Soldier knees Scott's stomach as the five FOH soldiers surround Storm. She looks up as the soldiers aim their guns at her head.

Everything FREEZES.

COMPUTER (V.O.)
Simulation Terminated.

The city disappears as the session ends, revealing the expansive blue danger room.

Raven approaches the X-Men, Storm is slow to get to her feet.

RAVEN
Are you alright?

STORM
Give me a minute.

Scott, Jean, and Beast join the group. Raven gets in Beast's face.

RAVEN
What the hell got into you?

BEAST
What?

RAVEN
Storm needed you, Scott was screaming.

BEAST
I didn't hear him.

RAVEN
That's right, cause you got pissed and lost control. It's not the first time it's happened.

SCOTT
She's got a point.

JEAN (V.O.)
Stay out of it, Scott.

Scott turns to Jean. She gives him a mean look.

RAVEN
When Beast takes over, you're reckless.

BEAST
Maybe you should run the simulation, since you're such a team player.

RAVEN
You got something say, come out and say it.

BEAST
Say what, that you're a reformed traitor who thinks she's better than everyone?

Raven throws a punch at Beast! The X-Men gasp as everything FREEZES!

Beast stares at Raven's fist. It's inches from his face.

BEAST
You eavesdropping, Charles?

XAVIER (V.O.)
Actually, that was Jean.

Beast's eyes move to the Redhead. They make eye contact.

XAVIER (V.O.)
Why don't you come upstairs so they
can finish?

BEAST
(to Jean)
Thanks.

Jean nods as Beast exits the Danger Room. After several seconds, the X-Men unfreeze!

Raven's wild punch hits nothing. At first she's confused, then she's pissed.

RAVEN
Charles!

INT. BASEMENT ELEVATOR - BLUE HALLS - DAY

Beast injects the anti-mutation serum into his arm, he transforms into Hank McCoy.

Hank has short stubble growing on his face, he looks more unkempt than usual.

Hank slides on his glasses as the door opens.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Hank turns the corner and almost walks into Xavier's wheelchair.

XAVIER
Excuse me, Hank.

The Professor continues down the hall, looking serious. Hank follows.

XAVIER
There's a tsunami headed for the
west coast of Africa. I'm sending
the team to help evacuate.

HANK
Do you need me to--

XAVIER
--No, they'll be fine.

Hank stops walking -- Xavier rolls away from him, the increasing distance a metaphor for their relationship.

EXT. XAVIER'S MANSION - DAY

Hank collects the mail from the school's giant mailbox.

The sign on the gate reads, "Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters."

A loud RUMBLE catches Hank's attention. The BLACKBIRD rises into the air and ZOOMS off at supersonic speed.

Hank glares at the fleeing Jet. He snorts.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Xavier wears the cerebro headgear.

SCOTT (V.O.)
(through speaker)
Coordinates are locked in, we'll be
there in six hours.

Xavier presses a button on the command console.

XAVIER
Best of luck, Scott. I'll monitor
your progress with Cerebro.

SCOTT (V.O.)
Thanks, we'll probably need a
translator.

XAVIER
Indeed.

INT. XAVIER'S STUDY - DAY

Hank sorts through the mail, placing the majority on Xavier's desk.

A thick Tan Envelope catches Hank's eye.

INSERT - DR. PAUL CARTIER'S ENVELOPE

The penmanship is poor -- written by a trembling hand.

Blood is visible on the envelope.

THE STUDY

Hank raises the envelope to his eyes.

XAVIER (O.S.)
Student loans again?

Hank jumps, Professor X is right behind him.

HANK
I liked it better when you had the
squeaky chair.

XAVIER
I liked it better when I could
walk. I'm sorry for pulling you out
like that Hank, but Raven's right.
You have a tendency to...

Hank opens the letter and reads it. Hank looks troubled.

XAVIER
... is something wrong, Hank?

HANK
This isn't right.

Hank storms out of the room.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - HANK'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hank enters his science themed bedroom (insert trek/wars memorabilia). He searches through a tall filing cabinet as Xavier rolls into the room.

Hank procures ten letters and a VHS tape.

HANK
Do you think someone else could
have written this letter?

Hank hands Xavier the newest letter and an older one from the same person.

The older letter features magnificent penmanship. The recent letter is sloppy, written by a shaky hand.

XAVIER
It certainly looks different. Who
is Dr. Paul Cartier?

Hank slides the VHS into his TV.

HANK

He's like me.

TV SCREEN

DR. PAUL CARTIER (50's), an older man with buzzed hair, sits in front of his small laboratory. Picture James Spader in a white lab coat.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Dr. McCoy, thank you for giving me a moment of your time. My name is Dr. Paul Cartier. I apologize for not delivering this speech in person, but I find seclusion to be the best alternative to my... condition.

Dr. Cartier takes a drink of water, he seems quite calm.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I was first made aware of my mutation when my wife and I were running late for a benefit. She took a sharp corner and our tires lost traction. The vehicle careened off the embankment.

Dr. Cartier pauses, the memory is difficult to revisit.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

We both survived the impact, but the physical trauma triggered my mutation. My mind blurred as I became this voracious creature. I wasn't completely present, only fragments of details remain... but, I remember my wife's screams. She screamed as the white beast ate her.

Dr. Cartier looks away from the camera. He bites his lip.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

When I came to, I was covered in blood. No clothes, no trace of Nora. Not even her bones, Dr. McCoy. I couldn't even bury my wife. I had to file a missing persons report.

(scoffs)

(MORE)

DR. PAUL CARTIER (cont'd)
 The depravity of my actions haunts me every second that I'm awake. I fear that I might transform again. I've seen you on the news, in your blue form. I can only assume that we suffer from a similar condition.

Paul picks up a box full of ice. A smaller box rests inside.

DR. PAUL CARTIER
 I've mailed a blood sample for you to study. I don't have a telephone, but my return address is included with the letter. I hope that you can help me, Dr. McCoy. Because hope is all that I have left.

The screen turns BLACK.

XAVIER
 Why didn't you tell me about this?

HANK
 I didn't think I needed permission to help someone. My mutation-suppression serum is compatible with his condition.

XAVIER
 How often are you shipping it?

HANK
 I only sent one dose. Paul's got his own lab. He synthesizes it there.

XAVIER
 This letter is very strange. I think it's time I checked in on Dr. Cartier.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - CEREBRO - DAY

Cerebro's doors open -- Xavier rolls down the classic walkway. Hank follows him.

XAVIER
 You said Swan Hills?

HANK

In Alberta.

Xavier slides on the headgear. Cerebro comes to life!

Xavier scans Northern Canada. We see flashes of wilderness and cabins in Swan Hills. Hank watches in awe.

XAVIER

I can't find him, I'm widening my search.

HANK

To what?

XAVIER

The world.

BOOM! The projection expands as Xavier searches all the mutants in existence.

We see rapid images -- thirty per second.

After some time, Charles removes the helmet. He turns to Hank, looking sad.

XAVIER

I'm sorry, Hank. He's gone.

HANK

What do you mean he's gone?

XAVIER

His mind is no longer active.

HANK

What if he's changed again?

XAVIER

I suppose his animal mind could be beyond my ability to recognize. However, it's more likely that he's either dead or unconscious.

HANK

I'm going up there.

Hank heads for the exit -- Xavier wheels after him.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - BLUE HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

XAVIER

Do you really think it's wise to
rush off without the other X-Men?

HANK

If someone's attacked Paul, he
needs help.

XAVIER

What if you're right about the
transformation?

HANK

I'll plan accordingly.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - BLUE LAB - DAY

Hank fills a large Titanium container with numerous devices.

He loads four blood bags into the refrigerated portion and
stacks it onto a bulky device, shaped like a 90's Boom Box.

XAVIER

I see you've finished the
Hypersonic Transmitter.

HANK

At thirty thousand hertz, it's
above the human hearing range, but
within that of most animals.

XAVIER

What happens when you get his
attention?

Hank loads a small vial of green liquid into a silver rifle.

HANK

Mutation suppressing darts,
released upon impact.

XAVIER

I'll ready the spare jet.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - JET HANGAR - DAY

Hank climbs into the small X-Jet and starts its engine. Xavier watches from the tarmac.

XAVIER (V.O.)

Be sure and speak with the woman who lives in the cabin outside the town. the edge of town. Out of everyone in the Swan Hills, she's the only one whose mind I couldn't enter. She may know something about Dr. Cartier.

Hank nods at Xavier through the cockpit window. The jet rises as the roof opens.

EXT. XAVIER'S MANSION - DAY

Hank's jet shoots into the clear blue sky.

INT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Ahnah sews on the couch. Bunkei stares out the frosted window. She looks worried.

BUNKEI

Why can't we move?

AHNAH

We have no money to move, Bunkei. Besides, our place is here. Like our ancestors before us.

Bunkei doesn't respond, she stares out the window.

AHNAH

I know things have been hard without your brother, but we'll manage.

Ahnah looks up, she sees the fear on Bunkei's face.

AHNAH

Bunkei, are you listening?

BUNKEI

I'm afraid of the Wendigo. It only eats human flesh.

AHNAH

Bunkei, that's nonsense. Our ancestors made up hundreds of stories and legends. They were for passing time, not frightening little children. Come sit with me.

Bunkei moves away from the window. She sits down beside her mother. Ahnah hands her a needle and thread.

AHNAH

It's time you learned how to sew.

BUNKEI

What if I don't like it?

AHNAH

No one likes it, but it's a skill you'll need one day. Watch me.

Ahnah demonstrates the proper way to thread a needle.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

A massive grizzly bear wanders through the dense trees. Its warm breath is visible in the bright moonlight.

Ahead, a thick clump of snow falls from a tall tree. The bear looks up... it GROWLS, exposing its teeth.

The tree shakes violently, more and more snow falls to the ground.

A loud ROAR comes from the tree -- something leaps out of it! The creature battles the bear. We can't make out its features.

The bear is no match for its enemy.

Another bear ROARS, rushing to the aid of its mate.

The bears attack the creature from both sides. The massive creature HOWLS as it slaughters the animals.

INT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Ahnah and Bunkei look up from sewing. The HOWL echoes...

BUNKEI

Mom!

AHNAH

It's nothing, Bunkei. Go to bed.

Bunkei heads to bed as Ahnah moves to the window. She stares into the darkness, looking unsettled.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Ethan moves silently through the snow, he carries a high powered rifle.

The hunter spots large pawprints in the snow.

ETHAN

There you are...

Ethan continues up the snowy hill. When he reaches the top, he freezes in his tracks.

ETHAN

Mother of God.

Gallons of blood cover the frozen ground. Two seemingly dead bears lie on their stomachs -- nose to nose. Pieces of bone stick out of their fur.

Ethan's jaw hang open, his eyes can't look away from the gory mess.

A branch SNAPS in the distance -- Ethan raises his rifle!

He breathes fast, searching for a target...

After a few seconds, Ethan lowers the weapon. He jogs away from the bears.

EXT. CLEARING IN FOREST - DAY

Hank unpacks his supplies from the X-Jet. He wears heavy winter clothing and his facial stubble is slightly thicker.

Hank puts the Metal X container on a sled, he drags it toward town.

EXT. SECLUDED TOWN - DAY

Hank drags his equipment past Mr. Jones' supply store. The front doors are locked with chains.

A large sign reads, "TEMPORARILY CLOSED."

INT. MOTEL - OFFICE - DAY

Ethan and DARRELL (52), a slim looking smoker, trade stories beside the coffee maker.

DARRELL
You hear about that cage fighter up
in Laughlin City?

ETHAN
Nope.

DARRELL
Guy won ten matches in a row.

ETHAN
Horse shit.

DARRELL
That's what they're saying.

ETHAN
Well, it ain't as good as my story.

Hank enters, he approaches KAYLA (20's), the motel receptionist.

HANK
I'd like a room for the night.

KAYLA
It's thirty a night or eighty for
the week.

HANK
I'll take a week. Is cash alright?

KAYLA
Sure.

Hank glances at the two locals.

DARRELL
There's no way that happened.

ETHAN
I'm tellin' ya, it happened. Two
dead bears, practically nose to
nose.

DARRELL
You were drunk.

ETHAN

I was tipsy at best. I know what I saw.

HANK

What did you see?

Ethan and Darrell look at Hank. They size him up.

DARRELL

Whatever you're selling, we don't need it.

HANK

I'm no salesman, but I'd be very interested to see what you saw.

ETHAN

See, he believes me.

HANK

Could you take me to the bears?

ETHAN

For thirty bucks.

Hank frowns, he looks inside his wallet.

HANK

I've got twenty.

ETHAN

That'll work.

KAYLA

You're in 111.

Kayla slides the key to Hank. Her eyes land on his odd X-MEN "X" WATCH.

HANK

Thanks.

(to Ethan)

I'll be out in a minute.

ETHAN

Sure thing, slick.

INT. HANK'S MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Hank opens the door to the bare-bones room. Its tiny window has numerous cracks.

HANK

I think I got overcharged.

Hank stows his equipment in the far corner. He retrieves his sample kit and exits the room.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - DAY

Ethan hikes with a high powered rifle. Hank follows close behind. He carries his sample collection kit, which looks like a sophisticated lunchbox.

ETHAN

You brought all that junk and no rifle?

HANK

I guess I'm old fashioned.

Ethan taps his hand against his rifle.

ETHAN

This is old fashioned.

Ethan leads Hank to a clearing. They reach the top of the hill-- the bears are gone!

ETHAN

What the hell?

Ethan's eyes land on two thick trails of blood.

HANK

It looks like something moved them.

ETHAN

What the hell kind of animal can move two bears?

HANK

One that's bigger.

Hank kneels down in the snow. The blood trails are to his left and right.

HANK

(murmurs)

It used the corpses to cover its tracks.

Hank opens his sample collection kit. He slides a rectangular device into the bloody snow.

The device BEEPS as its clear plastic tip turns red. Hank ejects the plastic tip into his collection kit.

He dips the device into the other long streak of blood. The device BEEPS and he stores the sample in the kit.

Hank leans forward, his eyes notice tiny red specks in the center of the snow.

The specks are BRIGHT RED compared to the other long streaks. Hank carefully collects the sample.

HANK

We should follow the trail.

Hank closes his collection kit and looks back. Ethan is long gone. Hank snorts. He follows the blood trail.

RUSHING STREAM

Hank arrives at a fast moving stream. The blood trails end at the water's edge.

POV BEHIND TREES

SOMETHING watches Hank. It SNORTS.

RUSHING STREAM

Hank looks around, he can sense something nearby. Hank jogs away from the stream.

CLOSE UP ON THE STREAM'S WATER

We see the reflection of the sky in the water.

A bulky white form appears in the reflection. The fast moving water blurs the image.

A giant white paw SPLASHES the water. Red specks of blood are visible on the paw.

EXT. DR. PAUL CARTIER'S HOME - DAY

A metal fence surrounds the two story house. The fence is covered in lightning bolt symbols.

Hank approaches from the dirt road. He notices a "No Trespassing" sign with claw marks on it.

The large black mailbox reads, "Dr. Paul Cartier." Hank opens the lid, it's filled with mail.

BACKYARD

A giant hunk of fence is missing. It appears that an eight foot tall monster ran through it....

HANK

That's disconcerting.

Hank walks through the opening. The back door looks brand new, unlike the rest of the house.

Hank KNOCKS on the door.

HANK

Paul, it's Hank McCoy. Are you in there?

Hank twists the doorknob. It's locked.

FRONT YARD

Hank walks up to the older door. This one matches the house.

He tries the doorknob -- BUZZ!

The doorknob shocks him! Hank groans as he lets go.

HANK

Must not be my day.

Hank looks toward the East. He sees smoke rising.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

Smoke billows from Ahnah's tall chimney. Hank approaches from the tree line. He spots a tree with missing bark.

Four horizontal cuts are visible, potentially claw marks.

Hank looks down at the snow, it appears to have been disturbed. It's as if someone used a broom to sweep away pawprints.

EXT. LOG CABIN - DAY

Hank approaches Ahnah's porch. He notices a wet broom by the door.

Hank bends down and touches the thick bristles. He plucks a long white hair from the broom.

Hank adds it to his collection kit. He knocks on the door...

HANK

Hello?

Hank glances to the left. He sees Bunkei peeping through the window shades.

Someone pulls Bunkei away from the window.

HANK

I just wanna ask a few questions,
then I'll be on my way.

Ahnah barely opens the door, she looks through the crack.

AHNAH

Who are you?

HANK

I'm Dr. Hank McCoy. What's your
name?

AHNAH

I'm Ahnah, this is private
property. What do you want?

HANK

I'm trying to locate a colleague of
mine, Dr. Paul Cartier.

Ahnah's face reacts negatively to the name.

AHNAH

What do you want with him?

HANK

Do you know him?

Ahnah doesn't respond, she stares at Hank.

HANK

I'm afraid he's in trouble, Ahnah.
Do you know where I could find him?

AHNAH
Try his house.

HANK
No one's home. Paul mentioned that he'd been seeing weird pawprints in the snow. Have you noticed anything strange like that?

Ahnah hesitates -- she's on the verge of opening up.

BUNKEI (O.S.)
Mom, tell him.

AHNAH
(to Bunkei)
Quiet, Bunkei.
(turns to Hank)
I haven't seen anything.

HANK
Ahnah, I saw claw marks on that tree.

Hank points to the tree, Ahnah refuses to look.

HANK
You didn't see them when you were sweeping the snow?

AHNAH
(stutters)
I, I can't help you. It's best you go back to New York.

HANK
New York?

Ahnah realizes that she said too much, revealing her abilities.

AHNAH
Good luck with your search, Dr. McCoy.

Ahnah shuts the door in Hank's face. Hank exhales in frustration -- he walks off.

Ahnah watches Hank through the window.

EXT. MAIN STREET - GLOOMY DAY

Bystanders watch Hank as he crosses the road. He stands out in his expensive winter clothing.

BOOM!

A gunshot echoes from the forest.

Hank spins toward the noise, on high alert.

Birds fly out of the trees! Hank waits... nothing emerges from the woods.

SCARRED MAN (O.S.)
You'll get used to that.

Hank turns to his left. A SCARRED MAN (40's) sits on the back of a pickup truck whittling wood. The man has horrible posture, hunched over with shaky hands.

He wears a cheap hat that covers his forehead and eyes. A wooden cane rests beside his left leg.

HANK
Excuse me?

SCARRED MAN
You ain't from around here, are ya?

HANK
No, just passing through.

Hank heads for the motel. The Scarred Man watches him closely.

SCARRED MAN (O.S.)
You lookin' for what killed that
boy?

Hank turns back to face him.

HANK
Someone died?

SCARRED MAN
Presumed dead, no one could find
the body... like those bears you're
after.

HANK
Who told you about that?

SCARRED MAN

No one "told" me anything, I use my ears.

The Scarred Man lifts his cap, revealing that he's nearly blind. His eyes and forehead have deep scars.

SCARRED MAN

They're all I got left.

The Scarred Man returns the hat to his head. Hank moves closer to the mysterious man.

HANK

What else have you heard?

SCARRED MAN

I know it's name.

The Scarred Man puts tobacco in his mouth.

SCARRED MAN

The Inuits call it Wendigo, the cannibal spirit of the forest. They say it travels through whispers in the night air, hunting for fresh meat.

HANK

You believe that?

The Scarred Man tilts his hat back, exposing the scars. They resemble a giant animal's claw.

SCARRED MAN

Seeing is believing.

HANK

You've seen it?

SCARRED MAN

(slight nod)

I'll never forget that noise.

The Scarred Man breathes in and out, making loud BLOWING noises. It's a scary performance.

SCARRED MAN

That's how it sounds, got blow holes like a whale.

(spits on the ground)

Good thing I wasn't worth eatin'.

The Scarred Man emits a sinister laugh. Hank looks unsettled, he backs away from him.

HANK
Thanks for your help.

Hanks heads for the motel.

SCARRED MAN (O.S.)
It's got your scent, boy!

The Scarred Man makes the BLOW HOLE NOISE. Hank ignores him.

INT. HANK'S MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Hank inserts the blood samples into his portable GENETIC SEQUENCER. It performs a chemical analysis on the samples.

INSERT - MACHINE'S SMALL SCREEN

"Analyzing..."

"Sample One Sequencing Complete."

"Genetic match: Grizzly Bear."

"Sample Two Sequencing Complete."

"Genetic match: Grizzly Bear."

"Sample Three Sequencing Complete."

"Genetic match: Unknown."

MOTEL ROOM

Hank frowns. He uses tweezers to lift the long white hair out of his bag. He clips off a small strand, it falls into a small tube.

Hank squirts a dissolving solution into the tube. He loads it into the Genetic Sequencer.

INSERT - MACHINE'S SMALL SCREEN

"Analyzing Sample Four..."

"Sample Four Sequencing Complete."

"Genetic match: Unknown. "

The machine BEEPS Twice.

"Sample Four and Sample Three are Identical."

MOTEL ROOM

Hank turns his wrist over, revealing the bottom of his X-WATCH.

Hank clicks the X symbol and it BLINKS.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - CEREBRO - SAME

Professor X wheels down the blue runway and slides on his helmet.

XAVIER
You rang, Hank?

INTERCUT - THE CONVERSATION

HANK
It looks like I was right.

XAVIER
Have you seen the creature?

HANK
No, just a hair and some blood near the slaughtered grizzly bears.

XAVIER
Can you kill a grizzly bear, Hank?

HANK
(pissed)
Are you trying to be funny?

XAVIER
I'm trying to gauge your ability to defend yourself, should your plan go awry.

HANK
It won't come to that.

XAVIER
I wish I shared your certainty. Any luck with the townspeople?

HANK
I met with Ahnah, but she was less than receptive. I think she has abilities similar to yours.

XAVIER

That would explain her mental block. What about Dr. Cartier's house?

HANK

The place was locked up tight. I'll try and gain access tomorrow.

XAVIER

I don't like this, Hank. I wish the team were there with you.

HANK

I'll be fine, professor.

Xavier turns his head. He looks serious.

XAVIER

I'll check in later.

Hank glances at the Titanium Refrigerator labeled "X." He rubs his hand over it.

HANK

Hopefully I don't need you.

EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY

MONTAGE - HANK SETS UP MOTION SENSORS

-- Hank nails the sensors to tree trunks and light poles.

-- He places some on the isolated houses.

EXT. PARKING LOT - EDGE OF TOWN - SUNDOWN

A flickering street light.

WIDE SHOT

Hank is the lone figure under the whimpering light. He sets up the Hypersonic Equipment in the safety of the open space.

The closest establishment is the Gruff Bar on the corner.

Ethan and Dave walk past Hank as they head for the bar.

Ethan reacts warmly to the young man. Dave maintains his cold stare.

ETHAN
There's the bear hunter.

DAVE
He don't look like a hunter.

Ethan hits Hank on the back, it's more forceful than friendly. Hank gives him a look.

ETHAN
How'd you fare out there, slick?

HANK
The trail went cold.

ETHAN
Probably for the best.

Ethan heads for the bar -- Dave's feet remain firmly planted in the ground. He glares at Hank.

Hank maintains eye contact with Dave, not blinking.

ETHAN (O.S.)
Come on Dave, Charlie's waiting.

Dave snorts, then heads for the bar. Hank watches him enter the establishment, then returns to his equipment.

There's a circular radar (imagine a submarine's sonar) and a dial that reads, "Signal Strength."

The Signal Strength dial is turned all the way to the left.

It reads, "Zero Percent."

HANK
Let's see if I can get your
attention without pissing off every
dog and cat in town.

Hank turns the knob to "10 Percent."

Hank rubs his cold hands together, carefully watching the radar. Nothing....

Hank opens a LONG CANISTER to his left. It houses his SERUM RIFLE. Hank raises it to his shoulder.

He opens the chamber, revealing a massive dart filled with GREEN LIQUID.

Hank puts the rifle back in the canister. His eyes return to the radar.

TIME LAPSE -- SUNSET TO NIGHT

Hank stands outside, his body shivers in the frigid weather.

He stares at the radar. Still Nothing....

The Signal Strength is set at "25 Percent."

Light and laughter come from the nearby bar. The place is packed. No one remains on the street.

Hank's eyes move to the warm bar. He turns the signal strength down to "Zero Percent" and jogs inside.

INT. GRUFF BAR - NIGHT

Hank enters the booming party. He sees Dave standing near a collection jar.

DAVE
Five dollar cover.

HANK
I just need to use the restroom.

DAVE
Five dollars.

Hank pays him and heads for the back.

Dave's muscular hand grabs Hank's shoulder, halting him.

HANK
(pissed)
What's your problem?

DAVE
I.D.

Hank digs through his wallet and shows him his New York Driver's License.

Dave lets go and Hank weaves through the crowd.

BATHROOM DOOR

Hank waits outside the single stall restroom. The Emergency Exit is to his right. Hank knocks on the door.

OLD DRUNK (O.S.)
Hold your horses!

HANK
(under breath)
I should've pissed outside.

EXT. GRUFF BAR - CONTINUOUS

A CLOAKED PERSON sneaks up to Hank's equipment. The person's hand touches the Signal Strength Dial.

It goes from "Zero" to "100 Percent."

Dogs BARK in the background. The barks grow louder every second, building the tension....

The person cleans off the frosted RADAR SCREEN.

Still Nothing....

BEEP.

Something appears on the edge of the Radar.

EXT. DARK FOREST - NIGHT

A dark image races across the snow -- it's the monster!

We can't see it clearly, it's moving too fast.

The Dogs BARK louder than before. One of Hank's motion sensors blinks on the nearby tree.

EXT. GRUFF BAR - CONTINUOUS

The person stands over the Radar, watching the dot move closer. BEEP....BEEP...BEEP..BEEP.BEEP!

The person runs away! Seconds later, a giant claw SMASHES through Hank's Hypersonic machinery.

The BEEPING stops, but the trouble is just beginning.

INT. GRUFF BAR - NIGHT

Hank returns to the bar's main area. The blaring country music attacks his ears.

Someone spills beer on Hank's jacket.

HANK

Ah jeez.

Hank heads for the front door. Ethan and Dave block his path.

DAVE

What's your hurry, stranger?

HANK

I need to piss.

ETHAN

(points)

The bathroom's that way.

HANK

It's occupied.

Dave invades Hank's personal space.

DAVE

Your license says you're a Yankee,
what you doin' this far North?

HANK

It's a personal matter.

ETHAN

Most folks don't find the snow to
their liking.

HANK

I'm not most people.

The music stops and the lights go out!

ETHAN

Dammit Charlie, you kicked the
breaker.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

I did not!

Dogs BARK outside, Hank looks concerned.

BOOM! The sound of thunder comes from the back of the
building.

Hank runs toward the back door, fighting through the crowd.

HANK

Move!

BOOM! The door shakes!

OLD DRUNK (O.S.)

I said it's occupied!

Hank arrives at the back door as the monster kicks it down!

The door drills Hank, knocking him through the closed bathroom door.

We only get a glimpse of the creature as it moves past.

The townspeople scream as Wendigo wreaks havoc!

He throws tables into people -- people into tables -- people into people.

Everyone races for the front door. The mass hysteria causes a bottleneck.

The BARTENDER (50's) aims his shotgun at Wendigo.

Wendigo grabs the shotgun barrel and flings it across the room. The Bartender sails through the air, still hanging on.

BATHROOM

The pile of loose debris rises into the air.

A ROAR -- Beast emerges from the loose boards. He races into the main area.

Two drunks are thrown across the room.

Beast dodges their flailing bodies, he races toward his off-screen nemesis.

A four-legged table ZOOMS toward Beast!

Beast soars through the air -- his powerful blue form flies through the table with ease.

The two half-pieces shoot in opposite directions.

Beast ROARS as he slams into what we can see of the giant white Monster!

Wendigo is significantly larger than Beast. That's all we can make out from the darkness.

Beast grabs the monster's arm. His sharp teeth bite into Wendigo's flesh.

Wendigo HOWLS -- its free hand slugs Beast in the face.

Beast flies across the room. The confused townspeople attack him too.

ETHAN

Get the freak!

Beer bottles and chairs fly at Beast. Wendigo escapes through the rear exit.

Beast jumps to his feet. He throws the nearest attacker across the room.

Dave races at Beast with a knife. Beast kicks Dave in the chest. He slams into Ethan as Beast jumps through the closest window.

EXT. GRUFF BAR - NIGHT

People flee from Beast as he checks on his destroyed equipment.

He picks up the LONG CANISTER -- the SERUM RIFLE is gone!

BEAST

No, no!

A bloodcurdling HOWL comes from the edge of the woods.

Beast sees Wendigo. He races after him on all fours.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Beast races through the woods, moving at full speed on all fours. His eyes are locked on the ground, following the white creature's pawprints.

The pawprints suddenly STOP.

Beast jumps up -- his eyes scan the woods.

Beast sees a huge hunk of BARK missing on a tree to his right. It's twenty feet off the ground.

Beast looks to the left -- another tree is missing bark.

Beast backs up, he wants a running start.

BEAST POV

Beast ROARS as he runs forward.

Beast leaps into the air -- he soars toward the tree with the missing bark.

Beast kicks off the tree -- he zooms toward the next tree.

Beast kicks off it, following Wendigo's path.

Beast lands on the bank of a fast moving stream.

FAST MOVING STREAM

Beast stares at the ground. Four large pawprints move toward the water. Wendigo's trail is cold....

Beast's eyes search the surrounding forest. The rushing water makes it hard to hear.

A tree branch SNAPS behind him.

Beast spins around -- no visible movement.

Beast lets out a low growl, exposing his teeth. His back is to the rushing water.

Wendigo silently emerges from the water, we see its massive full frame for the first time!

In one quick move, it grabs Beast by the ankles.

Wendigo jerks Beast before he can react.

Beast's stomach slams into the soft ground. He digs his claws into the ground. He won't budge.

Wendigo GROWLS, the creature tugs even harder!

Beast's claws fly out of the ground, holding clumps of dirt.

Wendigo slings Beast into a tree!

Beast hits the tree face-first. His body slides down the trunk, he doesn't move.

Wendigo cautiously approaches Beast.

We see its massive white body. It's a hell of a sight.

Wendigo's abdomen has six AIRHOLES, three on each side.

The expelled breath is visible in the cold night air.

Wendigo picks Beast up by his ankles. He's limp.

Wendigo claws Beast's chest -- no reaction.

BANG! BANG!

Rifles rounds drill the tree behind Wendigo.

Wendigo growls, it hurls Beast downstream and jumps at the shooters.

BANG! BANG! The men scream!

BEAST POV

We see the starry sky getting closer and closer, then it slowly starts to move farther and farther away.

SPLASH -- we land in the water. It's loud!

The water moves incredibly faster.

The camera shakes -- signifying that Beast is awake. His left paw reaches out and grabs a thick rock!

Beast's watch is still attached to his thick blue wrist.

Beast's head slips underwater. He sees red blood exiting his wounds.

SHORE

Beast crawls to the shore. The hint of sunlight is visible over the tall hills.

A long trail of blood follows Beast's body. Beast hits the bottom of his X-WATCH and rolls onto his back.

We move in on the BLINKING X SYMBOL.

FADE TO BLACK:

Silence.

XAVIER (V.O.)
(echoed)
Hank... can you hear me?

AUDIO MONTAGE:

The Loud BOOM of Wendigo's knock on the bar door.

Wendigo HOWLS, The SPLASH of water--

The noises repeat, building to a crescendo. Then silence.

FADE IN:

INT. LOG CABIN - DAY

Hank lies on his back. He's battered, bruised, and in human form.

An IV of "A+ Logan's Blood" hangs from a coat stand.

It delivers liquid healing to Hank's right forearm.

Hank appears naked, only a sheet covers his lower body. Hank opens his eyes and looks to his right.

Bunkei sits on a stool beside the couch. She appears fascinated with Hank.

BUNKEI

He's awake!

Ahnah exits the kitchen with a cup of green tea. She seems more compassionate this time.

AHNAH

Here, drink this.

Ahnah helps Hank lift his head. He sips the beverage.

HANK

Thank you.

AHNAH

How do you feel?

HANK

Pretty rough.

Hank realizes that Bunkei hasn't stopped staring at him. He makes eye contact.

HANK

Hello.

BUNKEI

Hi. I'm Bunkei.

HANK

It's nice to meet you, Bunkei. I'm Hank.

BUNKEI
Are you gonna turn blue again?

HANK
If I do, it'll only be from
bruising.

Hank glances at the IV.

HANK
How many infusions have I had?

AHNAH
This is your second. I just started
it an hour ago.

HANK
How did you know this would help
me?

AHNAH
Your friend told us.

HANK
My friend?

Bunkei's eyes move to her left, she stares at empty space.

BUNKEI
It's ok, you can talk to him now.

Xavier appears in front of Hank.

XAVIER
Sorry to keep you waiting, Hank.
The young girl is rather taken with
me.

Bunkei leans forward, she whispers to Hank.

BUNKEI
What's he saying?

Xavier chuckles and Hank grins.

HANK
He says you're sweet.

Bunkei turns red -- she can't help but smile.

XAVIER
I'll spare you the Q and A, seeing
as I've already viewed your
memories.

HANK
It wasn't pretty.

XAVIER
I'd say that's putting it mildly.
Get some rest, Hank. I'll be in
touch.

Xavier disappears... Bunkei's eyes light up as she looks at
an invisible person across the room.

BUNKEI
Bye!

Ahnah sits down beside Hank.

AHNAH
I'm making lunch if you're hungry.

HANK
I'm starving.

AHNAH
Good.

HANK
Thank you for helping me, Ahnah.
I'm not used to such kindness from
strangers.

AHNAH
Perhaps you've been around the
wrong people.

Hank glances at his science gear in the corner.

HANK
How did you get my equipment?

AHNAH
I used your room key. You're lucky
it stayed in your pocket.

HANK
I don't feel lucky.

AHNAH
Let me finish cooking. Bunkei will
keep you company.

The young girl stares at Hank.

BUNKEI
Blue's my favorite color.

HANK
You've got good taste.

Bunkei giggles and Hank smirks.

INT. LOG CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Ahnah places steaming fish on the table.

Bunkei is already seated, she bites into the hot fish.

Hank enters the kitchen wearing tight pants and a tight shirt. He drags the coat stand/IV with him.

Logan's blood continues to supply Hank's body with healing.

He looks less bruised than before. Hank's facial hair is becoming a short beard.

Ahnah pulls out Hank's chair for him.

HANK
Thanks.

The X-Man eases into the chair.

AHNAH
I hope the clothes aren't too uncomfortable, they belonged to my son.

HANK
They're perfect. You'll have to thank him for me.

A silence falls over the table. Bunkei stops eating, she looks upset.

AHNAH
Seelah died last month.

HANK
I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

Bunkei gets up and runs to her bedroom.

AHNAH
Bunkei!

The bedroom door slams shut -- Ahnah shakes her head.

AHNAH

She blames herself for what happened to Seelah.

HANK

Why?

AHNAH

He was looking for her toy when it attacked him... she's too young for such guilt.

HANK

When you say it, you mean...

AHNAH

The white monster. You were right about me.

HANK

You can read minds?

AHNAH

The females in our family, we have what is known as the mind's eye. When we're around others, we get certain feelings and insight. Bunkei does not have it yet, but she will.

HANK

How do you know Dr. Cartier?

AHNAH

(heavy exhale)

Paul helped rebuild our roof after the fire.

Ahnah takes a photo off the wall and hands it to Hank.

INSERT - THE PHOTO

It shows several cabins, turf huts, and families living near Ahnah's property. It was a vibrant Inuit community.

THE KITCHEN

AHNAH

Our house was the only one that survived.

HANK

I don't understand how the fire
could spread through the snow.

AHNAH

The fire was spread by man. I knew
as much from my abilities, but that
is not proof.

Ahnah shakes her head as she places the photo on the wall.

AHNAH

We have done nothing to them...
they want us gone because we are
different.

HANK

I know the feeling... so, you met
Paul after the fire?

Ahnah nods, she sits down beside Hank.

AHNAH

He was a kind man, and I was
grateful for his help.

Ahnah notices that Hank hasn't taken a bite.

AHNAH

Please, eat.

HANK

I don't want to be rude.

AHNAH

You are not rude, please...

Hank eats his fish.

AHNAH

We went many months without seeing
each other. When spring arrived, I
went to check on him.

INSERT - GLIMPSES OF THE MEMORY

Paul answers the door, looking disheveled.

AHNAH (V.O.)

When Paul came to the door, I knew
something was wrong. He looked
lost, like his soul had been eaten
away.

KITCHEN

Ahnah fights back tears.

AHNAH

I saw into Paul's mind, Hank. I saw the darkness and it scared me. That was the last time I saw him.

(wipes eyes)

A week later, he killed my son.

Hank puts his hand on top of Ahnah's. She takes his hand and holds it. They make eye contact.

AHNAH

He must be stopped, Hank... for good.

HANK

Ahnah, Paul needs help.

AHNAH

(angrily)

He doesn't deserve help, he's a monster.

Hank lets go of Ahnah's hand, he's saddened by her words.

HANK

Am I a monster?

AHNAH

Don't try that, Hank. You are not like him, you are in control.

HANK

It's not always so easy.

Hank takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes.

HANK

Ahnah, Professor Xavier is the most powerful telepath I know. He tried to read Paul's mind, but it's gone. He has no control over this creature.

AHNAH

Then why did he transform?

HANK

I don't know.

Ahnah and Hank sit in silence, neither makes eye contact.

AHNAH

What are you going to do?

HANK

I'll go back to Paul's house, see what I can find out.

AHNAH

We will come with you.

HANK

Ahnah, I it's not safe.

AHNAH

Until the creature lies breathless,
no place is safe.

Hank locks eyes with Ahnah, he nods.

INT. GRUNGY BAR - LAUGHLIN CITY - DAY

A large crowd surrounds the metal cage at the center of the room. Thick cigar smoke hangs in the air.

People CHEER and BOO as a YOUNG BRUTE (29) steps into

THE CAGE

The MANAGER (50's) locks the cage door behind him, there's no escape.

The Young Brute bounces on his feet, full of energy. He has more tattoos than sense.

YOUNG BRUTE

Come on, let's go!

A shirtless man stands in the opposite corner with his back to the fighter. His fit body is covered in sweat.

The Young Brute throws several jabs to stay loose. He moves toward the center of the ring.

YOUNG BRUTE

What you waiting for?!

His opponent takes a long drag of his cigar, he turns to face the Young Brute. It's WOLVERINE.

WOLVERINE

Easy kid, you'll get your shot.

Wolverine drops the cigar and steps on it. He cracks his neck as he walks toward his opponent.

XAVIER (V.O.)
Logan...

Wolverine freezes in his tracks. His calm demeanor is gone.

XAVIER (V.O.)
You don't know me, but I need your help.

Wolverine's eyes search the crowd for the voice. All of the noises blur together.

THUD. THUD. THUD.

Wolverine's ears pick up three quick STEPS.

He ducks, dodging a haymaker from the Young Brute.

The wild punch's momentum carries the Young Brute past Wolverine.

Wolverine kicks him in the ass, which sends the Young Brute face-first into the cage wall.

The crowd laughs at the Young Brute, making him even more pissed.

Wolverine's eyes search the crowd, still looking for the voice.

XAVIER (V.O.)
I'm not there, I'm in New York.

WOLVERINE
(whispers)
How?

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - CEREBRO - SAME

Xavier sits inside Cerebro, wearing the headgear.

XAVIER
I'm a mutant like you, Logan, and I need your help.

INT. GRUNGY BAR - THE CAGE - SAME

Wolverine blocks two punches and kicks his opponent in the stomach. He slides across the cage floor on his ass.

WOLVERINE

I'm kinda in the middle of something.

More laughs from the crowd. Beer bottles CLANG against the cage.

XAVIER (V.O.)

I'm afraid this takes precedence.

The Young Brute leaps to his feet.

YOUNG BRUTE

Is that all you know how to do?
Kick like a girl?

Wolverine locks eyes with his opponent -- that was the wrong thing to say.

Wolverine roars as he SPEARS the Young Brute into the floor!

Wolverine is on top of him before he can react.

The ripped mutant delivers a series of jaw shattering punches. The Young Brute lies helpless on the cage floor.

The BELL rings, ending the fight. A few CHEERS are heard, the rest are loud BOOS.

Wolverine grabs his shirt and jacket. The claws on his right hand shoot out as he slices the lock off the cage door!

Wolverine kicks the cage open and retracts his claws.

The patrons shout obscenities as he walks past him. Several beer bottles fly toward Wolverine. He ducks. Then--

A cacophony of THUDS is heard as the spectators drop to the ground.

Wolverine glances around, clearly impressed.

XAVIER (V.O.)

Is that better?

WOLVERINE

Not bad.

Wolverine heads for the exit as a side door opens. A JANITOR (60s) enters with a broom. He looks at the knocked out crowd, then at Wolverine.

WOLVERINE
Sorry about the mess.

Wolverine exits -- the Janitor looks perplexed.

INT. WOLVERINE'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Wolverine opens the door and throws his things into the truck's floorboards. He climbs into the driver's seat.

XAVIER (V.O.)
Drive South.

WOLVERINE
Listen bub, I'm not doing shit
until you tell me what's going on.

XAVIER (V.O.)
A mutual friend of ours is in
danger.

WOLVERINE
I don't have friends.

XAVIER (V.O.)
You did, before you lost your
memory.

INSERT - FLASHES OF IMAGES

The Adamantium procedure, Stryker smiling, Wolverine howls in pain.

WOLVERINE'S TRUCK

Wolverine comes back to the present.

XAVIER (V.O.)
I'll explain on the way.

Wolverine thinks over his options. He nods as he inserts the car keys and turns them. The truck doesn't start.

Wolverine tries the key again. No luck.

WOLVERINE
You any good with cars?

XAVIER (V.O.)
Not in the slightest.

WOLVERINE
Figures.

Wolverine pumps the gas pedal as he turns the key. The engine tries to start... it succeeds!

Wolverine puts the truck in drive and speeds down the road.

XAVIER (V.O.)
Let's start with January 1973.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Darrell leads a group of five heavily-armed hunters. They walk shoulder to shoulder through the forest.

The lone female walks on the far right, she moves faster than the burly men.

The hunters are armed with machine guns and rifles. The female hunter points to her right and the group stops.

Massive claw marks on visible on the tree's bark, they continue up the tree.

The Hunters raise their rifles--

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

They fire at the top of the tree!

Thick branches fall as bullets decimate the tree limbs.

Something massive leaps out of the tree! It zooms through the air.

The Hunters scramble after it, firing all the way!

WENDIGO POV

The animal GRUNTS as it kicks off the thick tree trunk.

It flies through the air, heading for the next tree.

Upon impact, Wendigo slides down about four feet. It takes a moment for its claws to catch.

FOREST FLOOR

The Hunters continue to fire.

One stops to reload. A second Hunter runs out of ammo. Two more stop to reload!

Only one hunter fires at the tree. CLICK. He's out.

A ROAR!

The woman and three of the men rush to reload their weapons.

Darrell runs for his life!

WENDIGO POV

The creature leaps down from the tree. Within seconds, it slaughters the woman and three hunters.

Blood flies onto the screen -- the white snow looks like a red Jackson Pollock painting.

The camera bounces in rhythm as Wendigo races on all fours.

The monster closes in on the fleeing hunter.

Darrell looks back and screams. He stumbles and falls.

He rolls onto his back and sits up -- Wendigo dives on him!

A shrill scream fills the air!

EXT. DR. PAUL CARTIER'S HOME - DAY

Hank walks through the gaping hole in the backyard fence. Ahnah and Bunkei follow him.

Hank approaches the back door. He kicks it. THUD. Not even a dent.

Hank looks pissed. He kicks it again.

INT. DR. PAUL CARTIER'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

A loud THUD -- the back door rattles.

An animal's GROWL -- followed by an even louder THUD!

The door vibrates.

Another THUD -- the whole house vibrates!

BOOM!

Beast kicks the door down. The blue animal is ready for battle.

Beast leaps into the kitchen -- his eyes scan the room.

Dirty dishes and a few ants. That's it.

Ahnah and Bunkei follow him inside.

BEAST

Wait here.

Beast searches the rest of the house. He returns.

BEAST

No one's home.

Beast injects his arm with his serum. He transforms back into Hank McCoy.

INT. DR. PAUL CARTIER'S HOME - THE LAB - CONTINUOUS

Hank and Ahnah enter the cluttered laboratory.

The walls and work stations are covered with 1980's computer equipment, glass spectrometers, test tubes, and jugs of chemicals.

Hanks stops short of the chemical station.

HANK

I don't know what these chemicals are, it might not be safe.

Ahnah turns to Bunkei.

AHNAH

Stay in the hall, Bunkei.

Bunkei stays back as they search the lab.

Hank's eyes land on a SMALL CASE and a VHS TAPE.

A note reads, "For Hank."

Hank picks up the video. He turns to Ahnah.

HANK

If you need to step out--

AHNAH

--I'm fine. Play it.

Hank puts the VHS tape into the nearby TV.

TV SCREEN

Dr. Paul Cartier sits in his private lab. He stares into the video camera.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

This will serve as entry one in my video log. I plan to chronicle my life in isolation and the effectiveness of Dr. McCoy's mutation suppression serum.

Dr. Cartier picks up his remote and clicks stop. Static fills the frame.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier is visible, this time with a slight beard.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Entry number two. It's been six months since my first entry. I've found that long term use of Dr. McCoy's serum leads to bouts of depression and mood swings. Although without a control group, I can't be sure that it's not just me. I will of course continue treatment and hope for the best.

Dr. Cartier picks up his remote and clicks stop.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier sits in front of the screen wearing warm winter clothes.

It appears that he's been outside. Paul seems more upbeat.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Entry number three. I made a friend today... her name was Ahnah. She lives on the edge of town, like me. She's got a daughter and a son, who's clearly territorial. I don't know why, but I wanted to run home and makes this video. How about that?

Dr. Cartier picks up his remote and clicks stop.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier sits in front of the screen.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Entry number four. I've enjoyed spending time with Ahnah. She's an incredibly strong woman... gifted in warmth and spirit. I can see her spirit in Bunkei. I'm thinking about making dinner for them. Might do the house some good to have company.

Dr. Cartier picks up his remote and clicks stop.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier appears on screen. He looks disheveled, unhinged.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Dinner was canceled. Ahnah said she was feeling under the weather, but I think it was the son. He doesn't really like me. A shame, I was starting to feel... human again. Is this entry five or six? I can't remember.

Dr. Cartier's head slumps. He clicks stop.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier appears before the screen. He wears jeans and a stained tee shirt.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Nora stopped by today, it's been months since I've seen her. Did I say, Nora? I meant Ahnah....

(shakes his head)

Needless to say, I wasn't at my best.

Dr. Cartier takes a deep breath and slowly exhales.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Today was rough.

Dr. Cartier clicks stop on the recorder.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier appears in front of a giant metal cage.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I've constructed this cage to hold the beast once I transform. I've reverse engineered a mutation inducing compound from Dr. McCoy's serum. I plan to study its effects on my alter ego.

Dr. Cartier holds up a small case filled with orange vials.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I will inject three vials and record the result.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier appears onscreen in tattered clothes.

The entire lab is a wreck. It looks like a tornado ripped through it.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I got out of the cage...

Dr. Cartier picks up the small case filled his orange steroid compound. His right hand grabs three orange vials. It shakes ever so slightly.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

Three vials made my head cloudy, but I was still present. I must say, it was quite a rush. Being free of my memories, running through the snow.

A smile appears on Dr. Cartier's face. He doesn't notice.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I plan on using four vials next time....

He clicks stop.

CUT TO NEXT ENTRY:

Dr. Cartier sits in front of the screen. He seems very depressed, not himself.

His left hand firmly grasps his right wrist, trying to inhibit his hand tremors.

His right hand shakes incessantly.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

This is my final entry. I hope that you will be the one to see this, Dr. McCoy. If not, I hope that you see it one day.

(takes a deep breath)

I am the Wendigo monster, the eater of human flesh. No amount of medication is going to change what I've done. As long as I'm human, I'll carry this... burden with me. But to be the animal, Hank, it's something to aspire to. No fear of judgment, no second guessing, just one central idea. Survival.

Dr. Cartier holds up a bloody knife.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I've found that death will not come to me. Frankly, I've explored that option twice. My only remaining option is to accept my genetics, Hank. If God has a plan, I've been ignoring it for far too long.

Dr. Cartier looks straight into the camera.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I know this must come as a shock to you, hearing that your serum was used improperly. I hope in time you can forgive me.

Paul struggles to hold back tears.

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I'm ready, Hank... to live without guilt or regrets. Can you imagine that, Hank? No regrets.

Paul picks up a small CASE (the same CASE that Hank found beside the VHS tape).

DR. PAUL CARTIER

I've left this case for you. It holds the remaining doses of my compound. You can study it, or destroy it, but I implore you to consider giving it a try. These woods are big enough for the both

(MORE)

DR. PAUL CARTIER (cont'd)
of us. Why not embrace your true
self? Don't fight nature, Hank.
(sinister delivery)
Nature always wins....

THE LAB

Hank stares at the screen, looking stunned. The tape freezes on Dr. Cartier's face.

Tears run down Ahnah's face as she grabs the case of Dr. Cartier's steroid compound.

AHNAH
This is the answer, Hank.

She opens the case, exposing its four orange vials.

AHNAH
Fight fire with fire.

HANK
I don't want to be like him, Ahnah.
I don't want to lose control.

AHNAH
On the video, he said that he could
still think clearly with three
injections. You could try using
two.

HANK
Even if this is Dr. Cartier's
compound, there's no way of knowing
if it's the same concentration. For
all I know, he's doubled or tripled
the potency.

AHNAH
Do you trust him?

HANK
No I don't trust him! This man took
my serum and turned it into a
weapon. The deaths he's caused,
your son, that's on me.

AHNAH
No Hank, it's not your fault.

Hank turns his back to her, he's guilt-ridden.

HANK

Because of me, he's become even more dangerous.

AHNAH

Then you should use his compound against him.

HANK

What if I'm just as dangerous as he is? I could kill people, Ahnah!

AHNAH

You couldn't do that, Hank--

HANK

--You don't know that!

Hank slams his fist against the table!

The SKIN on the back of his hand turns LIGHT BLUE.

Ahnah falls silent, she places the case of injections on the table.

AHNAH

We should get back.

Hank nods as Ahnah joins Bunkei in the hall.

Hank's eyes return to the TV.

INSERT - TV SCREEN

Dr. Paul Cartier's face is frozen on the screen.

THE LAB

Hank picks up Dr. Cartier's case of mutation enhancing injections and exits the room.

INT. HUNTING LODGE - DAY

A rabid mob gathers inside the large room. Hundreds of dead animals are mounted to the walls.

The townspeople are armed with an assortment of rifles, shotguns, and pistols.

Ethan talks with Kayla near the fireplace as Dave races into the lodge. The muscular man is out of breath.

DAVE
They're dead!

A hush falls over the crowd.

ETHAN
Who's dead?

DAVE
Darrell, Shelia, that thing got the
whole group!

The level of CHATTER rises, the townspeople are angered and
scared.

ETHAN
Everybody calm down, we don't need
to go hunting for that freak. We
know where he is.

Ethan looks to Kayla, she steps forward. We see the SCARRED
MAN standing in the background. He remains tranquil.

KAYLA
Early this morning, I saw the
Inuit woman go through "its" room.
She took its bags with her.

ETHAN
The Inuit scum is a mutant
sympathizer! She's housing the
animal that killed our friends!

The crowd ROARS -- they're ready for battle.

ETHAN
If you harbor a fugitive in this
town, you're just as guilty as they
are!

The crowd roars, "Yeah!"

ETHAN
How much blood has to be spilled
before we do something about it?

DAVE
No more!

ETHAN
Tonight, we take the fight to them!

The crowd roars -- Ethan nods, fueled by hatred.

INT. LOG CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Hank takes a steamy shower, the hot water runs down on his bruised back. Hank rinses the shampoo from his hair.

Hank's X-WATCH sits on the bathroom sink, beside two vials on Dr. Cartier's steroid compound.

Hank steps out of the shower and dries off with a towel.

He picks up the steroid vials... he stares at them, then drops them into the trash can.

Hank exits the room, leaving his X-WATCH on the sink.

INT. LOG CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ahnah sews in the living room while Bunkei wiggles her toes in front of the fireplace.

Hank exits the bathroom in fresh clothes. He rubs a towel through his wet hair.

AHNAH
Feeling better?

HANK
Much better, thank you.

Hank sits down on the couch. He takes a sip of green tea.

AHNAH
Are you staying here tonight?

HANK
If you'll have me.

AHNAH
(nods)
Bunkei and I feel safer when you're here.

Bunkei smiles at Hank. He grins.

HANK
The rest of the X-Men should be here by morning.

AHNAH
I look forward to meeting your friends.

HANK

Have you given any thought to
joining us at the school?

Bunkei looks excitedly at her mother.

AHNAH

Perhaps one day...for now, our
place is here.

Bunkei can't help but look disappointed.

HANK

Well, you're always welcome at
Xavier's school. I can promise you
that.

Hank reaches out and touches Ahnah's hand.

AHNAH

Thank you, Hank.

Ahnah smiles as she looks into Hank's bright eyes, it's a
romantic sight.

Bunkei giggles from across the room.

AHNAH

What?

BUNKEI

He wants to kiss you.

HANK

(blushes)

I didn't think she could read
minds.

AHNAH

She can sense feelings...

Hank clears his throat, in his usual nerdy way.

HANK

It's starting to feel a little warm
in here.

Bunkei and Ahnah smirk.

BUNKEI

Kiss her!

AHNAH

Bunkei, don't be so demandi--

Hank leans in and kisses Ahnah's soft lips. Ahnah's eyes instantly close, enjoying the moment.

Bunkei stands up and grins, it's a perfect moment.

CRASH! A flaming arrow flies through the cabin's window.

It drills Bunkei in the thigh!

The young girl screams as she drops to the ground.

Her skin SIZZLES!

AHNAH

Bunkei!

Ahnah rushes to her daughter as Hank picks up the couch. He shoves it against the broken window.

THUD! THUD! THUD! More arrows drill the couch.

BUNKEI

Mom, it hurts!

Ahnah snaps off the end of the arrow. She struggles to stop Bunkei's bleeding.

Someone breaks another window. He sticks his rifle inside the house!

AHNAH

Hank!

Hank sees the rifle's barrel. It's less than five feet from him.

Hank grabs the barrel and shoves it toward the ceiling.

BOOM! The gun blows a hole in the ceiling.

Hank gives a powerful jerk and the rifle slides across the floor.

ERIC (30's), tall and muscular, jumps inside. He runs at Hank with a knife.

Hank braces for the impact. BAM! Eric slams into Hank, knocking him against the wall.

Eric grapples with the X-Man, his strength overpowers him. Hank groans as Eric's knife digs into his shoulder.

CLANG!

Ahnah slams a Cast Iron Skillet against Eric's head.

Eric drops, his blood pools on the floor.

Hank groans as he pulls out the knife. Bunkei points at the hole in the roof. Flames are visible!

BUNKEI

Fire!

EXT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

The house is completely ablaze. An ARCHER fires flaming arrows at the roof.

Ethan stands at a safe distance with binoculars.

ETHAN

Send 'em in.

Numerous Hunters surround the house with high powered rifles and shotguns.

INT. LOG CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Smoke rises in the living room. Hank carries Bunkei to the corner. Ahnah follows him.

HANK

Stay low, I'll be back!

Hank races down the hall as bullets drill the cabin.

Ahnah grabs the cloth that she was sewing. She wraps it around Bunkei's bleeding thigh, making a tourniquet.

AHNAH

This is gonna hurt, child.

Ahnah pulls the tourniquet tight -- Bunkei SCREAMS.

HALLWAY

BOOM! BANG! CRACK!

Bullets fly through the wood in front of Hank.

He slides into the bathroom on his knees.

Hank reaches for his X-WATCH on the sink--

BANG! A stray bullet destroys the watch. Hank drops to his stomach, barely avoiding the onslaught of rounds.

Hank's eyes move to the bathroom trash. He knocks it over and reaches inside.

Hank pulls out the two steroid vials.

Hank removes the tip from the first vial, exposing its tiny needle. He hesitates for a split second, then shoves the needle into his bleeding shoulder.

The long needle injects the ORANGE LIQUID into his bloodstream. Hank screams in pain. His pupils dilate.

HALLWAY

Hank slowly crawls toward Ahnah and Bunkei, he's turning green in the face.

LIVING ROOM

Hank tries to stand but falls to his knees. He looks deathly ill.

Hank injects the second vial into his leg. His hands turn GREEN.

Hank crawls three feet, then collapses into the puddle of blood beside Eric's body. The blood appears to be coming from Hank.

BUNKEI

Mom, he's hurt!

Bunkei crawls toward Hank.

AHNAH

Bunkei!

Ahnah follows her brave daughter through the smoke. Bunkei coughs, struggling to breathe. They reach Hank and rock him back and forth.

AHNAH

Hank, can you hear me?

HANK

(barely audible)

I'll draw them away... get Bunkei out.

Hank appears to stop breathing.

AHNAH

Hank, Han--

BOOM! HUNTER #2 and HUNTER #3 kick in the front door. They both wield shotguns.

They see Hank on the floor, he appears dead. They immediately relax.

HUNTER #2

Looks like Eric got the freak.

HUNTER #3

Too bad he didn't finish the job.

Ahnah and Bunkei retreat into the far corner. The Hunters close in on them.

Ahnah steps in front of Bunkei, trying to shield her.

AHNAH

What's wrong with you?! This is our home!

HUNTER #2

Ain't nothing wrong with us!

HUNTER #3

We ain't the ones that brought in that freak!

THE FLOOR

Hank's green face turns blue -- the transformation starts!

THE FAR CORNER

Hunter #3 pulls out a long hunting knife.

HUNTER #3

You brought this on yourself, darling.

In the background a MASSIVE BLUE FORM RISES.

It's a silent predator, on the verge of a kill...

It's MEGA-BEAST!

Mega-Beast is NOTHING like its predecessor. Darker, twice as massive, a true force of nature.

Saliva drips from his massive teeth. Bunkei's eyes move to Mega-Beast.

A low GROWL is heard, like lion.

The two hunters spin around, it's too late!

Mega-Beast wraps its massive hands around their entire faces.

The Hunters can't breathe. They drop their weapons and pull on Mega-Beast's fingers.

They try to scream -- no luck. Mega-Beast lifts them off the ground. Their legs kick and their arms flail.

The men stop moving and Mega-Beast drops them.

Ahnah picks up a shotgun. She doesn't aim at Mega-Beast, but she wonders if she should.

Mega-Beast takes a step forward. They flinch in fear.

Mega-Beast bends down, he's inches from the girls.

The creature growls, then turns around and jumps through the burning window.

Mega-Beast is too big to fit, his body destroys most of the wall.

EXT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Mega-Beast lands twenty feet from the house. He leaps again, traveling another forty feet.

A hunter aims his rifle at Mega-Beast -- it's too late. Mega-Beast lands on top of him, crushing his body.

Mega-Beast ROARS as bullets drill the nearby snow. He jumps again, shooting off like a rocket.

ACROSS THE PROPERTY

Ethan stands with a group of seven men. He lowers his binoculars.

ETHAN

What in God's name?

HUNTER (O.S.)

Shoot it!

The other hunters fire at Mega-Beast.

NEAR THE HOUSE

Mega-Beast gallops through the snow. His right hand picks up a heavy rock and hurls it at a Hunter.

The rock drills the Hunter in the stomach. He groans as it knocks him ten feet!

The Hunter flies into another Rifleman. The impact sends the Rifleman to the ground.

His gun fires! BANG!

The Rifleman's bullet hits another Hunter in the ass!

The ass-shot Hunter groans as he drops to his knees.

Mega-Beast scoops him off the ground and uses him as a human shield. Mega-Beast sprints toward the next Shotgun Shooter.

The man fires his shotgun -- it drills Mega-Beast's human shield.

The Ass-shot Hunter squeals like a girl.

Mega-Beast grabs the Shotgun Shooter by throat.

He runs with two bodies in front of him. One in each hand.

EXT. SNOW COVERED HILL - NIGHT

VRRRRM! VRRRRM! Loud motors REV!

Three Black SNOWMOBILES zoom across the snowy landscape.

Gun shots echo in the night air as they zoom toward the billowing smoke over the hill.

INT. LOG CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Ahnah looks through the massive hole in the wall.

She has a kitchen cloth wrapped around her nose and mouth.

Mega-Beast ZOOMS across her eyeline. A HUSKY HUNTER trails the X-Man. He raises his rifle to his shoulder, preparing to fire.

Ahnah raises her Rifle -- she fires!

BANG! A headshot! The Husky Hunter drops dead.

EXT. LOG CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Two Hunters stand side by side. They fire their pump action shotguns.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! They unload on Mega-Beast.

Mega-Beast runs toward them, using his human shields as protection.

BOOM! BOOM! CLICK!

HUNTER #4 is out of ammo!

HUNTER #4

Shit!

HUNTER #5 keeps firing. Mega-Beast gains on them!

HUNTER #4 struggles to reload, his shaky hand drops a shell in the snow.

HUNTER #5

Hurry up!

Hunter #4 bends down to pick it! A loud ROAR causes him to look up--

HUNTER #4

(softly)

Shit.

Mega-Beast sails toward the Hunters, kicking both men in the chest. Mega-Beast lands on top of both of them.

His claw-feet latch onto the hunters' thick winter jackets. Mega-Beast runs with the men underneath his feet, like they're human snow skis!

Each violent step is accompanied by a loud SCREAM!

This stops after four steps. The men go limp.

A scream comes from the burning cabin.

Mega-Beast spins around. He sees two men firing at Ahnah!

Mega-Beast roars. He hurls both of his human shields at the men.

Both bodies SLAM into the two attackers. They zoom toward the cabin.

INT. LOG CABIN - CONTINUOUS

THUD! THUD! The bodies crash against the outside wall.

Bunkei hides behind Ahnah. The little girl looks up at the ceiling. The ceiling CRACKS!

BUNKEI

Mom!

Ahnah looks up as the roof collapses! Flaming boards fall toward them. Ahnah shoves Bunkei out of the way.

She covers her head as the debris hits her.

BUNKEI

Mom!

Bunkei crawls toward the debris pile. She coughs as she lifts the smaller boards off the pile.

One of the boards is covered in flames, it burns her hand!

Bunkei grimaces as she lets go.

Bunkei takes two deep breaths and grabs the burning wood with renewed vigor. She throws it to the side.

Bunkei grapples with a larger, heavier board. She grunts as the roof CREAKS above her. It breaks her concentration.

The house could fall any second!

BUNKEI

Mom, help me!

Bunkei grunts as she lifts the heavy board. The board rises into the air -- Ahnah emerges!

She's covered in black soot but unharmed.

Bunkei scales the debris and hugs her mother.

AHNAH

Come on, we have to get out of here!

Ahnah stumbles into the kitchen and reaches behind the refrigerator.

She retrieves a long item wrapped in a heavy rug.

AHNAH

This way.

Ahnah leads Bunkei out the door as the room caves in!

EXT. LOG CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Ahnah and Bunkei flee their burning home. Ahnah pulls Bunkei along, her injured leg slows her down.

ACROSS THE PROPERTY

Mega-Beast's giant fists pummel someone's head into the ground.

BANG! BANG!

SHOTS zoom over Mega-Beast's head.

One shell drills its shoulder. Mega-Beast ROARS!

Three armed men approach on snowmobiles. Mega-Beast hurls a rifle at the left Snowmobile.

BOOM! It drills the driver's face. He rolls off the snowmobile and the vehicle slows to a stop.

The remaining two snowmobiles ZOOM toward Mega-Beast, firing their automatic rifles.

Mega-Beast lifts the dead human off the ground and twirls him in the air.

Mega-Beast hurls the corpse at the right Snowmobile. The corpse spins with a circular rotation, like a deadly helicopter blade.

The snowmobile driver swerves to avoid the speeding body.

His Snowmobile slams into the other Snowmobile. Both spin out of control!

The first snowmobile collides with a tree. Instant death. The other crashes into a rock.

The impact sends the driver into the air. He lands on his back and groans.

A shadow appears over him -- something high in the sky.

MEGA-BEAST POV

Fifty feet in the air, Mega-Beast zooms toward the attacker on the ground. The attacker sees Mega-Beast and SCREAMS. He covers his face as Mega-Beast ROARS.

Mega-Beast lands on the man, delivering one hell of a punch.

NEAR THE CABIN

Ahnah drags Bunkei to safety. Gunshots ECHO in the air.

BUNKEI
Mom, I'm scared!

AHNAH
Keep running!

JEEP LIGHTS shine on Ahnah and Bunkei.

Dave speeds toward them in a Military Jeep.

JEEP DRIVER POV

His hands are at 10 and 2 on the steering wheel. He's on a direct course for Ahnah and her daughter.

A loud ROAR in the distance.

An airborne Snowmobile flies toward his windshield.

DAVE
Shit!

He cuts the steering wheel -- barely missing the object.

The Jeep does a 270 degree spin! Dave saves it, regaining traction.

He floors the gas -- gaining on Ahnah and Bunkei.

DAVE
I got you now...

Another Snowmobile comes flying at the Jeep. It lands just short of front bumper.

The Jeep flips into the air!

SLOW MOTION

Loose coins fly in front of Dave's face.

MEGA-BEAST POV

We see the Jeep flipping in the air! It's coming straight toward the camera!

Two massive blue arms shoot out! Mega-Beast catches the Jeep!

Dave's forehead SLAMS into the windshield. It CRACKS.

ACROSS THE PROPERTY

Ethan and his fellow hunters watch in horror.

NEAR THE HOUSE

Mega-Beast GROWLS as he folds the Jeep into a metal cube! Just like a junk yard machine.

ACROSS THE PROPERTY

Ethan drops his binoculars, he's stunned.

Blue Lights FLASH in the distance -- we hear the Sheriff's SIREN. Many of the remaining hunters flee!

The Sheriff's headlights land on Mega-Beast. The creature ROARS, then races into the woods.

Ethan watches as his troops run to their trucks.

ETHAN

(pissed)

Where are you going? Cowards!

Ethan looks back at two of the younger hunters. They stand their ground.

YOUNG HUNTER

We're with you.

ETHAN

Come on!

Ethan and the two Hunters race into the woods after Mega-Beast.

NEAR THE HOUSE

Sheriff Joe's SUV pulls up to the burning cabin. He exits the vehicle with his gun drawn.

SHERIFF JOE
 (under breath)
 God almighty.

Joe runs toward the flaming cabin. He yells through the broken window.

SHERIFF JOE
 Ahnah? Bunkei?

AHNAH (O.S.)
 Sheriff!

Joe spins around -- his gun aimed at the girls. He recognizes them and instantly lowers it.

Ahnah carries an unconscious Bunkei. The young girl looks deathly pale.

SHERIFF JOE
 Ahnah, what happened?

AHNAH
 Men attacked us! We barely escaped.

SHERIFF JOE
 Are you hurt?

AHNAH
 No, but Bunkei's been hit.

Sheriff Joe takes Bunkei from Ahnah. He loads her into the passenger's seat of his SUV.

SHERIFF JOE
 Get in, I'll get you to the hospital.

AHNAH
 I can't come.

SHERIFF JOE
 I'm not leaving you here.

AHNAH
 My place is here. Yours is with my daughter.

Sheriff Joe runs to the driver's door.

SHERIFF JOE
 I'm coming back for you.

AHNAH

Go!

Sheriff Joe floors the gas -- the SUV zooms toward the main road.

Ahnah runs in the opposite direction. She picks up the long item wrapped in the rug and sprints toward the woods.

The cabin burns in the background.

EXT. DARK FOREST - NIGHT

Mega-Beast runs on all fours, moving deep into the forest. A bullet DRILLS the tree bark on his left.

Mega-Beast veers right, running faster. He leaps over a fallen log, soaring through the air.

Mega-Beast kicks off a thick tree trunk and sails thirty feet to his right, making his trail impossible to track.

TALL SHALE ROCK

Mega-Beast lands near the giant rock. It provides cover from the hunters.

Mega-Beast leans against the flat side of the rock. He breathes fast, struggling to recover from the battle.

Mega-Beast looks up at the night stars. Bright moonlight shines on the forest.

Mega-Beast rubs his right shoulder. He looks at his paw, it's covered in blood.

Mega-Beast shakes his head, fighting to remain conscious.

A branch SNAPS behind him! Mega-Beast perks up, his head slowly rises above the rock. His eyes scan the trees for movement.

To his right, a bush RUSTLES. Mega-Beast stares at it... waiting.

Nothing emerges.

Mega-Beast picks up a loose rock and hurls it at the bush. A skunk sprints out. Mega-Beast snorts.

A loud HOWL permeates the night air.

Mega-Beast's eye dart in every direction, he's on edge.

From behind, we see something flying through the air. It's small at first, but it quickly grows in size.

Wendigo's monstrous form is outlined by the moonlight!

It soars toward Mega-Beast's backside!

The blue X-Man is completely unaware!

Wendigo is seconds from impact -- its sharp claws at the ready!

BOOM!

A brownish blur tackles Mega-Beast from the side, knocking him out of the way!

Wendigo lands on the ground. Its claws cut into the rock (right where Mega-Beast's head would've been).

A soft THUD!

Wendigo looks down -- a grenade lands at its feet!

The monster jumps as the grenade detonates!

BOOM!

A cloud of dust fills the air.

DOWNHILL

Mega-Beast and Wolverine tumble down the steep slope.

Wolverine's Adamantium claws shoot out of his hands. He stabs the ground and comes to a halt.

Mega-Beast slams into a tree. The bark CRACKS. Mega-Beast jumps up, he takes an aggressive stance.

Wolverine walks toward him. He wears his brown and yellow uniform.

WOLVERINE

Easy fella.

Mega-Beast GROWLS, displaying his primal rage. The blue monster circles Wolverine, preparing to strike.

Wolverine retracts his claws, he raises his hands.

WOLVERINE
Charles, a little help?

Mega-Beast GROWLS, he SNORTS warm air.

XAVIER (V.O.)
(distorted sound)
Hank, can you hear me?

Mega-Beast shakes his head, he's confused.

INT. XAVIER'S MANSION - CEREBRO - SAME

Xavier sits at Cerebro, he looks emotional.

XAVIER
Your mind is fragmented, but I can
still see you.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Mega-Beast HOWLS, covering its ears with its paws.

XAVIER (V.O.)
(echoes)
Your mind is fragmented
(clearer)
but I can still see you.

HANK (V.O.)
(confused)
Professor?

XAVIER (V.O.)
(less distortion)
Yes, Hank. Come back to us. Clear
your mind.

Mega-Beast puts its paws over his ears.

XAVIER (V.O.)
Breathe Hank, you're in control.

Mega-Beast takes several deep breaths, he calms down.

A flock of birds flies overhead. Wolverine's eyes search the trees. He SNIFFS the air, Wendigo is close!

WOLVERINE
Anytime now, kid.

HANK (V.O.)
 What's going on?

XAVIER (V.O.)
 You're in the forest with Logan.
 Dr. Cartier's creature is coming
 for you.

Mega-Beast's eyes land on Wolverine.

MEGA-BEAST
 (deep voice)
 Logan?

WOLVERINE
 Now you're talkin' some sense.

ACROSS THE HILL

Ethan spots Mega-Beast. The blue monster stands still. Ethan grins, he spits tobacco juice on the ground.

HUNTER
 Now I got you.

He raises the high powered rifle to his shoulder.

RIFLE SCOPE POV

The sights hover on Mega-Beast's chest--
 Suddenly, HOT BREATH fogs up the scope.

SIDE ANGLE

Ethan's head slowly turns to the left -- Wendigo is right beside him!

GROUND

The rifle lands on the snow. We hear a loud ROAR and a human SCREAM. Red blood splatters onto the snow.

DOWNHILL

Wolverine glances in the direction of the scream. He looks back at Mega-Beast.

WOLVERINE
 We good?

Mega-Beast stands straight up -- his posture is relaxed.

MEGA-BEAST

We're good.

Wendigo HOWLS in the distance. Wolverine SNIFFS the air.

WOLVERINE

Follow me.

Wolverine leads Mega-Beast deeper into the woods.

EDGE OF THE TREE LINE

Wolverine and Mega-Beast crouch by the trees. They stare into an open field. Nothing moves.

Wolverine rubs his cold naked arms.

MEGA-BEAST

Isn't it a little cold for no sleeves?

WOLVERINE

Bite me.

Mega-Beast ROARS, he attempts to bite Wolverine's shoulder. Wolverine throws his forearm up, blocking him.

WOLVERINE

Hey!

Mega-Beast pulls back, he shakes his head.

MEGA-BEAST

I've gotta get off these steroids.

Wolverine SNIFFS the air.

WOLVERINE

He's close.

MEGA-BEAST

What's the plan?

WOLVERINE

Kill it and go inside. It's too damn cold.

MEGA-BEAST

(remorseful)

I wish we could save him.

WOLVERINE

He doesn't seem too interested in saving us.

Wolverine walks out into the clearing.

MEGA-BEAST

Logan, what are you doing?

Wolverine's Adamantium blades shoot out of his hands. He CLANGS his claws together, screaming a warrior's cry.

A demonic ROAR comes from the distant tree line.

WOLVERINE

Now we're talking.

The distant bushes shake -- heavy footsteps get LOUDER and LOUDER.

WOLVERINE

Come on you bastard.

A grizzly bear emerges, racing toward Wolverine.

WOLVERINE

Well hell...

Wolverine braces for the speeding bear, raising his fists like Muhammad Ali.

Four soft THUDS to his left. Wendigo moves toward Wolverine at lightning speed!

The monster slams into Wolverine, taking him to the ground. They slide for thirty feet.

EDGE OF THE WOODS

Mega-Beast races toward them, he leaps into the air.

THE CLEARING

Wendigo sees Mega-Beast coming. He BACKHANDS the blue animal.

Mega-Beast flies toward the stampeding bear.

THUD! Mega-Beast collides with the grizzly. The bear bites into the back of Mega-Beast's neck.

Mega-Beast fights to pull the bear's jaws apart.

Wendigo claws at Wolverine's face. Wolverine shields his face with his muscular forearms.

Wendigo's attack is relentless. Flesh flies off Wolverine's arms -- his Adamantium Ulna bones SHINE in the moonlight.

SPARKS fly as Wendigo's claws scrape against Wolverine's Adamantium bones.

EDGE OF THE WOODS

Two HUNTERS step into the moonlight. They aim at Wendigo.

BANG! BANG! The first round enters Wendigo's shoulder. The other nicks its ear.

Wendigo HOWLS in pain. The monster hurls Wolverine at the hunters.

EDGE OF THE WOODS

Wolverine's heavy body slams into the men, killing them.

Wolverine stands up, his forearm bones are still visible.

Wolverine picks up one of the hunter's rifles. The barrel is bent to the right.

Wolverine drops it. He picks up the second rifle and aims at Wendigo.

The white wolf races toward Mega-Beast and the grizzly bear.

Wolverine pulls the trigger -- CLICK. Nothing.

WOLVERINE

Fuck me.

Wolverine drops the gun. He watches as his forearms regenerate tissue. He's ready for round two!

Mega-Beast GROWLS as he pries the grizzly's jaws apart.

He sees Wendigo racing toward him! Mega-Beast jumps straight up as Wendigo dives at him!

Wendigo tackles the bear as Mega-Beast lands on Wendigo's back!

He claws at Wendigo's throat as the grizzly bites into Wendigo's knee.

Wendigo snaps the bear's neck and flings it over his back.

The grizzly's corpse SLAMS into Mega-Beast. After three hits, Mega-Beast lets go -- he's disorientated.

Wendigo hurls the bear at Mega-Beast. It knocks him on his ass.

With Wendigo distracted, Wolverine slides in behind it.

His Adamantium claws slice through the back Wendigo's right knee.

Its tendons snap and Wendigo drops to its knees.

Wolverine ROARS as he stabs the monster's chest.

Wendigo swipes at Wolverine's head.

He ducks, delivering a flurry of claw-punches.

Wendigo howls in pain as Wolverine appears to slaughter it. He walks off as Wendigo slumps over.

Mega-Beast stands up as Wolverine peels back his mask.

WOLVERINE

He's all yours, bub.

Wolverine walks off -- Mega-Beast stares at the wounded monster.

Wendigo's cuts heal... it stands up!

MEGA-BEAST

(nervously)

Logan...

Wolverine turns around -- his face says, "You gotta be kidding me."

WOLVERINE

Well, Shit.

Wolverine pulls his mask over his face.

WOLVERINE

Throw me at its head.

MEGA-BEAST

Why?

WOLVERINE

So I can cut it off.

Mega-Beast's eyes move from Wolverine to Wendigo.

MEGA-BEAST
You sure about this?

WOLVERINE
No, but I'm cold. Throw me.

Mega-Beast grabs Wolverine's ankles and hurls him at Wendigo. Wolverine leads with his claws as he soars through the air.

Wendigo ducks!

Wolverine zooms into the forest!

Trees CRACK in the distance, it sounds as if Wolverine traveled for miles.

EXT. SAWMILL - NIGHT

Wolverine's battle cry gets exponentially louder as he flies through the trees.

His maimed body slams into the outside of the secluded sawmill.

Tall stacks of logs and heavy machinery surround the property.

Ten feet to Wolverine's right is the large opening for loading trucks.

EXT. CLEARING IN FOREST - NIGHT

Wendigo breathes faster and faster, its rage building!

The monster's abdomen expels warm breath through its six airholes. It growls at Mega-Beast.

The two creatures stare at each other. Each waiting on the other to make the first move.

MEGA-BEAST
I'm sorry, Paul... but this has to stop.

Mega-Beast races toward Wendigo. The white monster pulls its arm back, preparing to strike!

Seconds before impact, Mega-Beast leaps into the air!

The blue X-Man performs a front flip.

Wendigo SWIPES at Mega-Beast's head -- its claws miss by a single inch!

As Mega-Beast flips over Wendigo, his blue feet latch onto Wendigo's head!

Mega-Beast grunts -- he flings Wendigo into the sky.

The white wolf ZOOMS over the forest trees.

EXT. SAWMILL - CONTINUOUS

Wolverine's body heals as he gets to his feet.

He hears a loud CRASH as Wendigo soars into the sawmill through the truck loading area.

Numerous metal CLANGS are heard. Suddenly, the sawmill's machinery comes to life.

The conveyor belts carry logs into the facility. Loud saws BUZZ as they cut through the wood.

WOLVERINE

Perfect.

Wolverine cautiously enters the building.

INT. SAWMILL - CONTINUOUS

The loud noises make it hard to track the animal. Wolverine sees drops of blood on the sawdust covered floor.

He follows the trail around the corner--

Wendigo leaps down from a stack of logs. It wraps a metal chain around Wolverine's neck.

Wendigo's foot digs into Wolverine's back. It tugs on the chain with all its strength.

Wolverine can't breathe! His right hand shoots up and his claws slice through the chain.

Wolverine swings wildly at the creature--

It leaps backwards, dodging the strike.

Wolverine runs at the white wolf. Wendigo picks up a log and hurls it at him.

Wolverine jumps just high enough to miss the log!

His feet kick off the log -- he ZOOMS toward Wendigo.

Wendigo raises its forearms to protect its face.

Wolverine's claws stab the monster's forearm! The tips of his claws are visible on the other side of Wendigo's arm!

Wendigo howls as Wolverine kicks off its chest, freeing his claws.

Wendigo's arm heals as it leaps onto a conveyor belt.

The creature GRUNTS, using its leg strength to jump into the rafters above them.

WOLVERINE

Show off...

Wolverine races to the wall, he uses his claws to climb to the rafters.

Mega-Beast sprints into the sawmill. He sees Wendigo in the rafters. Mega-Beast leaps off the wall and lands in front of Wendigo.

RAFTERS

Mega-Beast and Wendigo battle above the roaring equipment. Mega-Beast lands several blows and Wendigo backpedals.

Wendigo leaps toward a tall structural beam. Mega-Beast leaps after it -- big mistake!

Wendigo's claws grab the beam, he uses it to swing his body back around toward Mega-Beast.

BOOM! Wendigo's feet drill Mega-Beast's chest.

Mega-Beast falls sixty feet and lands beside the largest saw in the building.

Its massive blades spin at an incredible rate!

Wolverine reaches the rafters. He charges at Wendigo, carefully navigating the slender beams.

Wendigo spots him and ROARS! It throws loose metal parts at Wolverine.

Wolverine dodges the first tool. The second and third hit him, causing him to lose his balance!

Wolverine leaps toward the nearest beam.

His hands grab onto the rusted metal and the beam gives slightly.

Wolverine glances at the beam's edges. The loose bolts are barely holding it together.

A loud ROAR--

Wolverine looks up to see Wendigo sailing toward the beam.

WOLVERINE

Shit.

Wolverine lets go as Wendigo lands on the beam!

The beam SNAPS!

Wendigo and the beam press against Wolverine's chest as he falls through the air.

CLANG! Wolverine lands on a sliding conveyor belt. Wendigo and the heavy beam rest on top of his chest!

Wolverine grunts, his arms are pinned by the heavy beam. He can't move!

The conveyor belt moves toward a BUZZING SAW!

WOLVERINE

Hank!

Wendigo salivates over Wolverine's pinned body, he pulls his arm back to swing--

An airborne FORKLIFT collides with Wendigo, sending him across the room!

Mega-Beast leaps into the air and lands over Wolverine.

WOLVERINE

Get this thing off me.

Mega-Beast bends down to lift the heavy beam.

BOOM! The damaged Forklift flies into Mega-Beast, sending him across the room.

Wolverine exhales in frustration, still pinned.

WOLVERINE

Goddammit.

The conveyor belt moves Wolverine closer to the BUZZING SAW!

Wendigo leaps over Wolverine and grabs the dazed Mega-Beast.

Wendigo hurls him forcefully into the air. Mega-Beast sails through the rotted roof and into the night sky!

Seconds later, Mega-Beast crashes through the roof (ten feet past the first hole).

He lands on a MASSIVE CONVEYOR BELT that carries whole trees through the sawmill.

The eighty-foot-high conveyor belt ends above above a giant INDUSTRIAL WOOD MULCHER. The logs fall straight down to their demise.

A dazed Mega-Beast rubs his bloody forehead.

THUMP! Wendigo lands several feet behind Mega-Beast.

The creature lifts up one of the tree trunks, it tries to push it onto Mega-Beast.

Mega-Beast leaps to his feet, he pushes against the other side of the tree trunk. It's a battle of pure strength.

Wendigo HOWLS, its mouth salivates as it SNAPS at Mega-Beast's paws.

Mega-Beast constantly moves his hands, fighting to keep the tree upright.

GROUND FLOOR

Ahnah rushes into the sawmill. She sees Mega-Beast fighting Wendigo. She raises her STOLEN SERUM RIFLE.

WOLVERINE (O.S.)

Hey! Over here!

Ahnah turns to see Wolverine -- his head is inches from the saw on the conveyor belt!

Ahnah races to the control panel and hits the EMERGENCY STOP button!

The conveyor belt stops seconds before Wolverine would've gotten a bad haircut.

CONVEYOR BELT BATTLE ABOVE THE MACHINERY

Wendigo forces the log past its tilting point, it's about to fall onto Mega-Beast...

BANG! A serum dart drills Wendigo's neck.

The Monster howls as its body trembles. It lets go of the tree trunk.

Mega-Beast forces the tree off the conveyor belt, not realizing that it falls toward Ahnah!

Ahnah doesn't see the danger, she fires a second dart into Wendigo's abdomen. It enters one of its airholes!!

Wendigo drops to its knees, it HOWLS in pain.

GROUND FLOOR

The tree trunk slams into a pile of logs to Ahnah's left, it knocks them loose!

The logs speed toward her!

Ahnah dives behind a METAL CONTROL PANEL near the wall. She barely fits!

The logs SLAM into the control panel, shoving it against the wall.

Ahnah moans, she's being crushed by the weight.

CONVEYOR BELT BATTLE ABOVE THE MACHINERY

Mega-Beast punches the shrinking Wendigo monster, the white wolf struggles to fight back.

Mega-Beast catches Wendigo's arm and hurls the creature toward the end of the conveyor belt.

Wendigo disappears over the ledge!

Mega-Beast leaps to the end of the conveyor belt. He sees the White Wolf's leg wrapped around a metal chain. It dangles over the industrial wood mulcher.

Mega-Beast watches as Wendigo's transformation reverses! Its white hair falls off as its long snout retracts.

The fangs in its mouth return to human teeth.

Dr. Cartier returns to himself, he gasps for breath.

MEGA-BEAST

Dr. Cartier, can you hear me?

Dr. Cartier squints up at Mega-Beast.

DR. PAUL CARTIER
Dr. McCoy?

Dr. Cartier's shrinking size causes his leg to slip free from the loop in the metal chain.

MEGA-BEAST
Paul!

Dr. Cartier's left hand grabs onto the chain. His grip is the only thing keeping him from being shredded into a thousand pieces.

MEGA-BEAST
Use two hands, I'll pull you up.

Dr. Cartier looks down at the machinery below his feet. He grabs the chain with two hands as Mega-Beast pulls him toward the conveyor belt.

AHNAH (O.S.)
Hank, help! I can't breathe!

Mega-Beast and Dr. Cartier turn to see Ahnah. She's pale in the face, barely visible between the wall and the crushed control panel.

MEGA-BEAST
Hang on, Paul. I'll come back for you.

Mega-Beast wraps the chain around a nearby beam. The chain SNAPS!

Dr. Cartier screams as Mega-Beast dives for the chain, barely grabbing onto its end.

Dr. Cartier dangles six feet above the loud mulcher. His left hand is the only thing holding him to the chain.

Dr. Cartier makes eye contact with Mega-Beast.

DR. PAUL CARTIER
Save Ahnah, Hank.

Mega-Beast frantically pulls on the chain, dragging Dr. Cartier away from the industrial mulcher.

MEGA-BEAST
I can save you both.

DR. PAUL CARTIER
 Monsters can't be saved, they can
 only be stopped.

MEGA-BEAST
 (pulling faster)
 Don't do this!

AHNAH (O.S.)
 (weakly)
 Hank!

DR. PAUL CARTIER
 Take care of her, Hank.

MEGA-BEAST
 No!

Dr. Cartier closes his eyes and releases the chain. He falls into the wood chipper.

Its loud blades REV UP, completing the task.

Mega-Beast leaps across the room. He presses his legs against the wall and pushes against the crushed control panel.

Mega-Beast grunts, finally creating enough space for Ahnah to crawl out.

She gasps for breath, but appears unharmed.

MEGA-BEAST
 Ahnah, are you ok?

AHNAH
 (softly)
 The nightmare is over.

WOLVERINE (O.S.)
 Hey, over here.

STATIONARY CONVEYOR BELT

Mega-Beast lifts the heavy beam off Wolverine's chest. Wolverine looks over his bloody companion.

WOLVERINE
 You alright?

Ahnah joins the two X-Men, she leans on Mega-Beast.

AHNAH
We will be.

Wolverine pats Mega-Beast on the arm as he walks off.

WOLVERINE
You owe me one.

MEGA-BEAST
I think we're even.

Wolverine smirks as he exits the sawmill. Mega-Beast turns his attention to Ahnah.

MEGA-BEAST
Where did you find my rifle?

AHNAH
(looks away)
I've always had it.

MEGA-BEAST
Why?

AHNAH
I didn't want you to save him, not
after what he's done.

Mega-Beast's eyes move to the wood mulcher.

MEGA-BEAST
At least his pain is over.

Ahnah wraps her arms around Mega-Beast's neck. He carries her outside.

EXT. SAWMILL - CONTINUOUS

The cold wind blows as they exit the sawmill.

A JET engine HUMS in the distance. Mega-Beast looks up, he sees the Blackbird!

MEGA-BEAST
That seems about right...

The Blackbird descends from the sky. Its black hull fills up the screen.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. LOG CABIN - DAY

The X-Men perform chores outside of Ahnah's rebuilt cabin.

Scott stacks the logs on a flat stump and Wolverine chops them with his middle claw.

Nightcrawler transports the chopped wood to the side of the house where Jean stacks it.

Xavier rolls up to Wolverine in his wheelchair. He wears a heavy coat and a toboggan.

XAVIER

Logan, it's nice to see you.

WOLVERINE

I thought you'd be taller.

Xavier smirks as he approaches him. Jean glances away from her stacking duties, she's clearly taken with Wolverine.

XAVIER

I suppose we've got some catching up to do.

WOLVERINE

I think you've given me enough to mull over, between time travel and robots.

XAVIER

I understand it can be difficult to process. When you're ready, you're welcome at the mansion.

Wolverine glances at Jean. She smirks, then returns to work. It's clear Wolverine has his eye on her.

WOLVERINE

Maybe in a few years.

Scott watches as Wolverine climbs into the pickup truck. Scott looks down at an axe.

SCOTT

I guess I'll finish.

Scott picks up the axe and chops the wood.

FRONT OF CABIN

Ahnah's left arm rests in a sling. She and Bunkei stand in front of their rebuilt cabin. Hank approaches the cabin in his human form.

AHNAH

You have some incredible friends,
Hank.

Hank watches them work together to help Ahnah and Bunkei.

HANK

Yeah, I do...

Bunkei runs forward and hugs his legs.

BUNKEI

Don't go...

Hank rub the back of Bunkei's head as she looks up at him.

HANK

You aren't tired of me yet?

Bunkei shakes her head "No."

Xavier rolls up and gets their attention. Bunkei steps back.

HANK

Professor, this is Ahnah and
Bunkei.

XAVIER

It's a honor to meet you in person.

AHNAH

The honor is mine. Your people are
truly kind.

XAVIER

We take great joy in helping
others, both mutant and human.

BUNKEI

Are you really here?

XAVIER

(extends hand)
Take my hand.

Bunkei squeezes Xavier's hand.

BUNKEI
You're cold.

XAVIER
Next time I'll remember my gloves.

Bunkei grins as Ahnah surveys the generosity of the X-Men.

XAVIER
You can rest easy tonight, your
neighbors won't be bothering you
anymore.

Ahnah is confused by Xavier's words.

AHNAH
What makes you believe this?

XAVIER
I've altered their memories. As far
as they know, your cabin was never
harmed and the Wendigo creature is
still a fantasy.

BUNKEI
(astonished)
You can do that?

HANK
There's not much he can't do.

Bunkei walks closer to Professor X, she appears emotional.

BUNKEI
Can you help me?

XAVIER
I can try.

Bunkei seems a little uncomfortable

BUNKEI
I don't wanna remember how my
brother died. Can you fix me?

Xavier looks sympathetic, his eyes move to her mother.

Ahnah nods... Xavier wipes a tear from Bunkei's eye.

XAVIER
There's no need to cry.
Everything's going to be fine.

EXT. LOG CABIN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Seelah chops wood near the cabin. Bunkei throws her volleyball in the air.

Seelah glares at his sister, he yells at her!

XAVIER (V.O.)
Your brother was a kind man.

The memory distorts, we see Seelah smiling at his sister.

XAVIER (V.O.)
But he had to go away... to help
people.

We see the bloody ball in the snow. The memory distorts.

Seelah walks out of the woods with the clean ball. He throws it to his younger sister. She giggles as they play together.

NEAR THE CABIN

Seelah hugs his mother and Bunkei. He wears a military uniform.

They wave as he drives off in a military Jeep.

EXT. LOG CABIN - PRESENT DAY

Xavier strokes the young girl's cheek.

XAVIER
Now rest...

Bunkei collapses into Hank's arms. He carries her into the cabin.

AHNAH
You're a good man professor, you
and your X-Men will always be
welcome on my land.

XAVIER
That is very kind. Hank mentioned
that you had some innate abilities.
If you ever want to develop your
telepathy further, you and Bunkei
have a place at my school.

AHNAH

I'll keep that in mind.

Hank returns from inside as the X-Men make their way to the Blackbird. Xavier notices that the work is complete.

XAVIER

I suppose it's time we venture home. Take care, Ahnah.

AHNAH

You too, Professor.

Xavier rolls off as Hank turns to Ahnah.

HANK

I guess this is goodbye.

AHNAH

My door is always open to friends.

HANK

Well, I, uh, look forward to catching up...

Ahnah softly chuckles.

HANK

What?

AHNAH

You're thinking about kissing me.

HANK

And that's funny?

Ahnah moves in and softly kisses him.

AHNAH

Don't be a stranger, Hank.

HANK

(blushes)

I'll see what I can do.

INT. BLACK BIRD - DAY

Hank climbs inside with his bags. The rest of the X-Men stare at their smitten friend.

SCOTT

What's got you smiling?

Hank makes eye contact with Jean as he sits down. She grins, having told everyone what happened.

XAVIER (V.O.)

Buckle up everyone.

EXT. BLACKBIRD - CONTINUOUS

The sound of THUNDER as the Blackbird's engine roar to life.

The engine's exhaust blows snow into the air. It rises into the sky and flies over the dense forest.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

The SCARRED MAN watches the Blackbird fly home. He stands with normal posture, not like before... holding one of Dr. Cartier's ORANGE STEROID VIALS.

The Scarred Man smirks, exposing his jagged teeth as his facial scars disappear -- he is MR. SINISTER.

THE END.