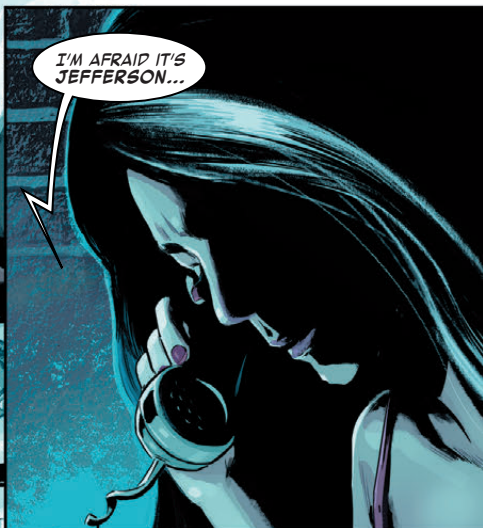


Director Manning  
wakes me at  
FOUR A.M.

I'm usually at the  
office long before  
his alarm clock  
wakes him, so I know  
there's trouble.

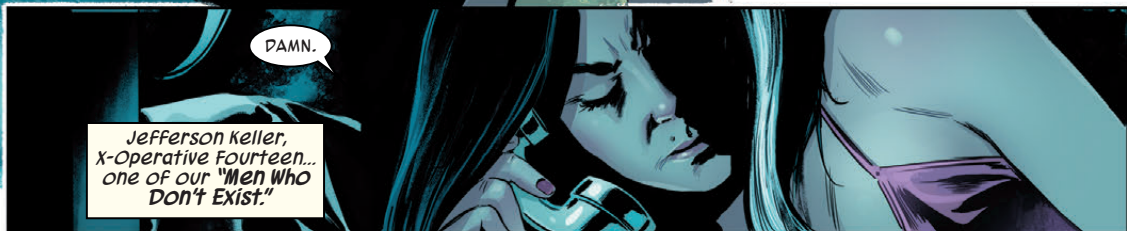


I'M AFRAID IT'S  
JEFFERSON...



DAMN.

Jefferson Keller,  
X-Operative Fourteen...  
one of our "Men Who  
Don't Exist."



Apparently now,  
literally.

I'LL BE  
RIGHT IN.  
SIR.



Damn it all...he  
was my favorite.



And it wasn't just the sex.

I'd used more than a few of the X-Ops for that over the years...



No one enjoys a one-night stand quite like a man about to go on a possible suicide mission.



But Jefferson... he was different.



He made me remember the old days...

...which, in itself, wasn't too difficult...



...but Jefferson made me smile when I thought of them.

And that was a rare thing.

# ARC-7 LONDON HQ - BRIEFING ROOM



...PARIS POLICE WERE **ALREADY** IN THE AREA BECAUSE OF X-14'S OPERATION.

BUT OUR FRIEND AT THE *P.S.T.* KEPT THE MURDER SCENE **CLEAR** UNTIL OUR PEOPLE ARRIVED.



AS YOU CAN **SEE**, X-14 WAS SHOT ONCE, PRIMARY IMPACT IN THE SHOULDER AND FACE.



THE SHOTGUN WAS FIRED AT **CLOSE RANGE**... PROBABLY FIVE OR SIX FEET.



DO WE THINK HE WAS **FOLLOWED**?



I'D FIND THAT **HIGHLY** UNLIKELY, DIRECTOR.

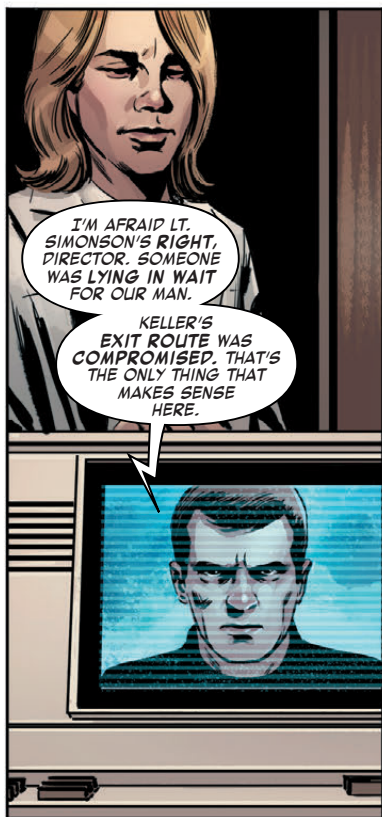
JEFF KELLER WAS **PROBABLY** THE BEST FIELD OP IN THE WORLD.



BUT COLT'S ON THE SCENE, HE MAY HAVE MORE INFORMATION...

LARS, BRING UP X-33.

YES SIR, RIGHT AWAY...



I'M AFRAID LT. SIMONSON'S RIGHT, DIRECTOR. SOMEONE WAS LYING IN WAIT FOR OUR MAN.

KELLER'S EXIT ROUTE WAS COMPROMISED. THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE HERE.



DAMN IT. I WANT A FULL REPORT ON MY DESK WITHIN THE HOUR...

EVERYONE WHO KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT MISSION GOES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE, LIEUTENANT.



EVERYONE...IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

OF COURSE, DIRECTOR. I'LL GET SGT. ROBERTS RIGHT ON IT.



That went about how I expected it to...

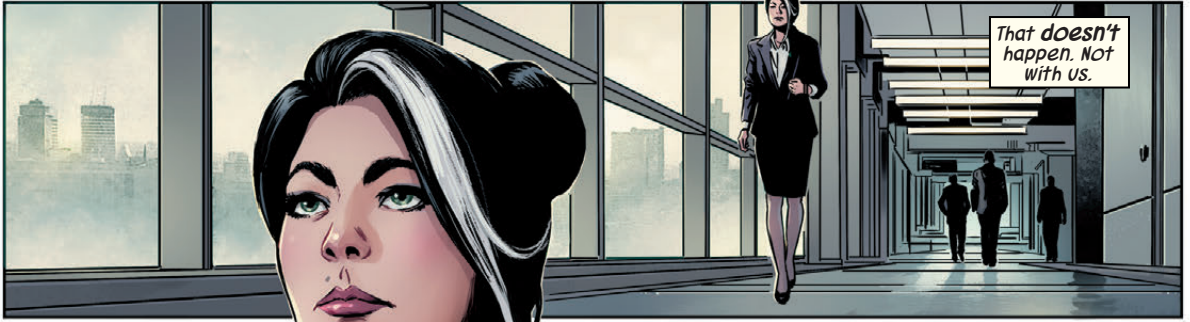
A little too professional... but with a strong undercurrent of anger...



*It's to be expected. We're used to death here, certainly...*

*But losing an X-Operative in the Field is rare.*

*Having one walk into a trap?*



*That doesn't happen. Not with us.*



*Because ARC-7 agents are the best.*



*They're so good most of the intel community has never even heard of us.*



*Or if they have, we're more like a legend...*

*The "secret remnant" of an Allied Espionage Group From World War Two...*