

X-MEN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP



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THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT

**X-MEN**

NOT A HOAX!  
NOT A DREAM!  
THIS ISSUE  
AN X-MAN  
DIES!

YOU  
MUST  
READ

**WARHUNT!**



STAN LEE  
presents

# THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

CHRIS CLAREMONT • WRITER \* DAVE COCKRUM • ARTIST \* KAREN MANTLO • LETTERER \* MARV WOLFMAN  
LEN WEIN • PLOTTER \* SAM GRAINGER • INKER \* PETRA GOLDBERG • COLORIST \* EDITOR

## WARHUNT!

THESE ARE THE  
NEW X-MEN...



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UNLESS...

IMPACT MINUS 100 SECONDS...

THINK, CYCLOPS, THINK! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!



MEMORIES, FIRST-- FLASHING INSANELY, KALEIDOSCOPICALLY ACROSS CYCLOPS' MIND AS HE FALLS...

... MEMORIES OF HOW THE BEAST HAD CONTACTED THE X-MEN...

... TO TELL THEM THAT COUNT NEFARIA AND HIS ANI-MEN HAD TAKEN OVER NORAD HEADQUARTERS AND GAINED CONTROL OVER AMERICA'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL-- THAT NEFARIA WAS HOLDING THE WORLD FOR RANSOM.

THE X-MEN HAD FLOWN TO STOP HIM, AND NEFARIA HAD SHOT THEM OUT OF THE SKY TWICE.

NOW THE X-MEN ARE FALLING TO THEIR DEATHS, THEIR MISSION A TOTAL WASHOUT.

\*ALL THIS TRANSPIRED LAST 15H-- M.W.



IMPACT MINUS 90 SECONDS-- AND MEMORIES HAVE GIVEN WAY TO ACTION.

STORM! BANSHEE! LISTEN UP, YOU TWO!



EACH OF YOU GRAB A PAIR OF X-MEN AND HEAD FOR THE GROUND. NIGHT-CRAWLER CAN TELEPORT...

BUT I CANNOT, CYCLOPS-- NOT FROM HERE!

WHA-A-AT?!



I CAN TELEPORT, YES. BUT IF I TELEPORT FROM THIS HEIGHT, THE LAW OF CONSERVATION OF ENERGY DEMANDS I MATERIALIZE WITH THE SAME VELOCITY I STARTED WITH...

I WILL BE KILLED REGARDLESS.

DO NOT WORRY, KURT. I CAN CARRY YOU AND COLOSSUS EASILY.





ORRO, NO! I CAN GET DOWN ON MY OWN--!

TAKE THAT БЕЗУМНЫЙ УЕЛОВЕК -- THAT WOLVERINE--

PETER, DON'T BE A FOOL--!

DON'T ARGUE, STORM. THERE ISN'T TIME-- SO BOTH OF YOU GET OUT OUT OF HERE! NOW!!



CYCLOPS, LAD, I HAVEN'T ENOUGH LIFT TO CARRY TWO GROWN MEN...

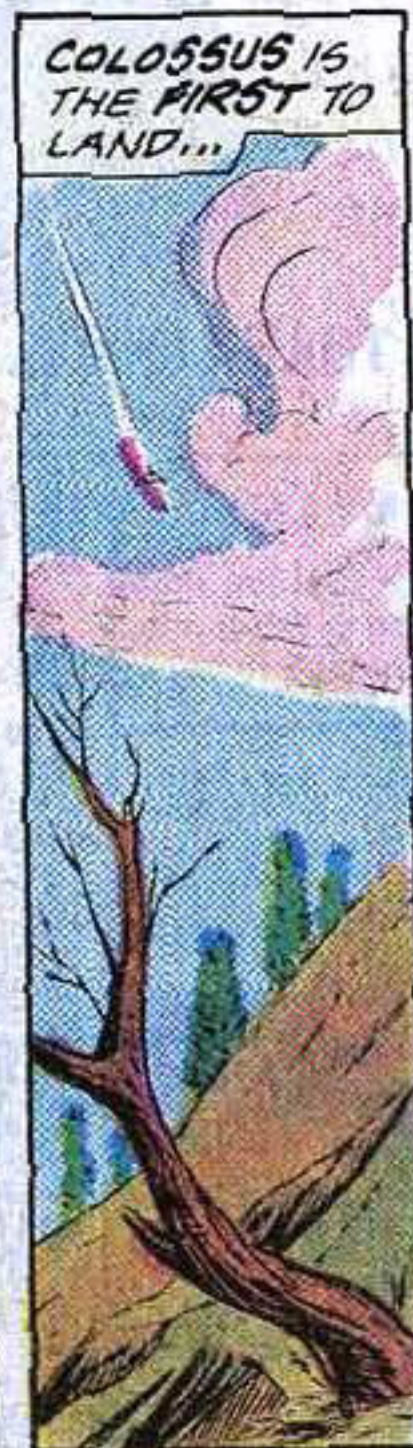
I'M SORRY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK FOR YE.



WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, BANSHEE--

-- JUST DON'T BE TOO LONG, HUH?

IMPACT MINUS 63 SECONDS. AND THE MUTANT CALLED CYCLOPS IS... ALONE.



COLOSSUS IS THE FIRST TO LAND...

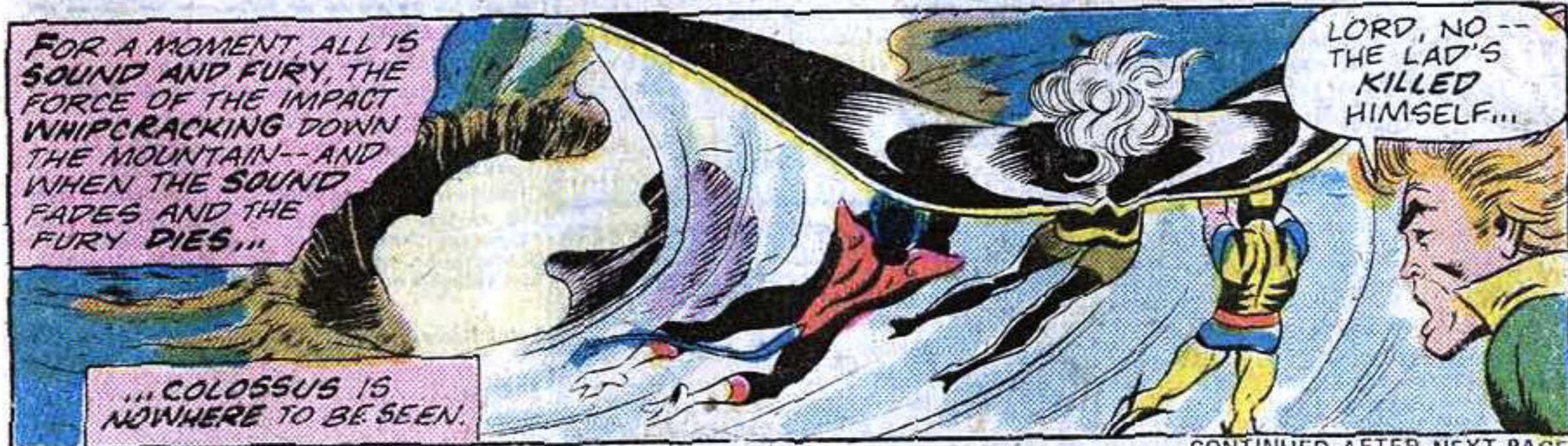


... IF ONE COULD TRULY CALL THIS ...



... A LANDING.

SHKOW!



FOR A MOMENT, ALL IS SOUND AND FURY, THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT WHIPCRACKING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN-- AND WHEN THE SOUND FADES AND THE FURY DIES...

LORD, NO-- THE LAD'S KILLED HIMSELF...

... COLOSSUS IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.





SHEESH--AND THAT NUT HAD THE NERVE TO CALL ME A CRAZY MAN.

PETER, ARE YOU THERE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

PETER?!?



WHY ARE YOU YELLING, ORORO? OF COURSE, I AM ALL RIGHT-- WHY SHOULDN'T I BE?

BUT WHAT KEPT ALL OF YOU...?



IMPACT MINUS 37 SECONDS.

COME ON, BANSHEE, GET THE LEAD OUT.

IF YOU'RE NOT UP HERE SOON, YOU'RE GONNA BE SCRAPING ME OFF THE MOUNTAIN WITH A VERY THIN SPATULA.



IMPACT MINUS 12 SECONDS.

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT, SUMMERS.



IMPACT MINUS 5 SECONDS.

FUNNY, I ALWAYS FIGURED MY NUMBER'D BE UP SOMEDAY--

--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D END LIKE--



GOT YOU!!

--THIISSSSSS!!



YOU KNOW, YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME ABOUT PICKING ME UP, BANSHEE.



AH, LADDIE, DID YE REALLY THINK I'D LET A FOINE BROTH OF A BOY SUCH AS YERSELF GET SPLATTERED ALL OVER THAT COLD, COLD MOUNTAIN...?

THE THOUGHT HAD CROSSED MY MIND.



OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH...

CUT THE COMEDY, BANSHEE. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.













**SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...**

**CROAKER,**  
YOU  
UNMITIGATED  
IDIOT--!!

YOU HAD TO  
TRY AND DEFEAT  
THE X-MAN ON  
YOUR OWN-- YOU  
COULDN'T HAVE  
SUMMONED AID...



WHAT'S THE **HASSLE, BOSS**--  
-- THE **REST OF US** CAN  
GO AFTER THE **MUTIE** AN'  
TAKE HIM **EASY...**

NO.  
LET HIM  
BE.

I HAVE ...**OTHER**  
SURPRISES IN STORE  
FOR THE **X-MEN**.



**DOOMSMITH MINUS 43**  
**MINUTES--** IT DOESN'T TAKE  
**NIGHTCRAWLER LONG** TO FIND  
THE **MISSILE BAY...**

DON'T GO **AWAY,**  
HERR **FROSCH--** I SHOULD  
ONLY BE A **MOMENT.**

... BUT EVEN **THOSE FEW**  
**MINUTES** ARE MINUTES THE  
**X-MEN** CAN ILL AFFORD.



ALL I HAVE  
TO DO IS FIND  
THE **MANUAL**  
**OVERRIDE**  
**CONTROL...**

AH,  
THERE IT IS...



THE **FROG-MAN**  
-- HE'S **GONE!**

**KTAK!**



WITH **BARELY A SOUND,** THE **HEAVY BLAST**  
**DOOR** LIFTS HIGH INTO THE **AFTERNOON**  
**SUNLIGHT...**

**NIGHTCRAWLER!**

ALL RIGHT,  
PEOPLE, WEVE  
GOT OUR **DOOR...**



...LET'S GET  
**INSIDE.**

WE HAVE  
A **PROBLEM,**  
CYCLOPS-- I HAD  
A **PRISONER,** A  
TALKING **FROG-**  
**MAN...**

...BUT... HE  
**ESCAPED.**



CAN'T BE **HELPED,** KURT--  
WE ALL MAKE **MISTAKES--**  
BUT THE **SOONER** WE'RE IN  
THE **COMMAND POST,** THE  
**BETTER.**

SO LET'S  
**MOVE IT,**  
X-MEN.



ALL GOES **WELL,** AT  
FIRST-- **ALMOST TOO**  
**WELL.**

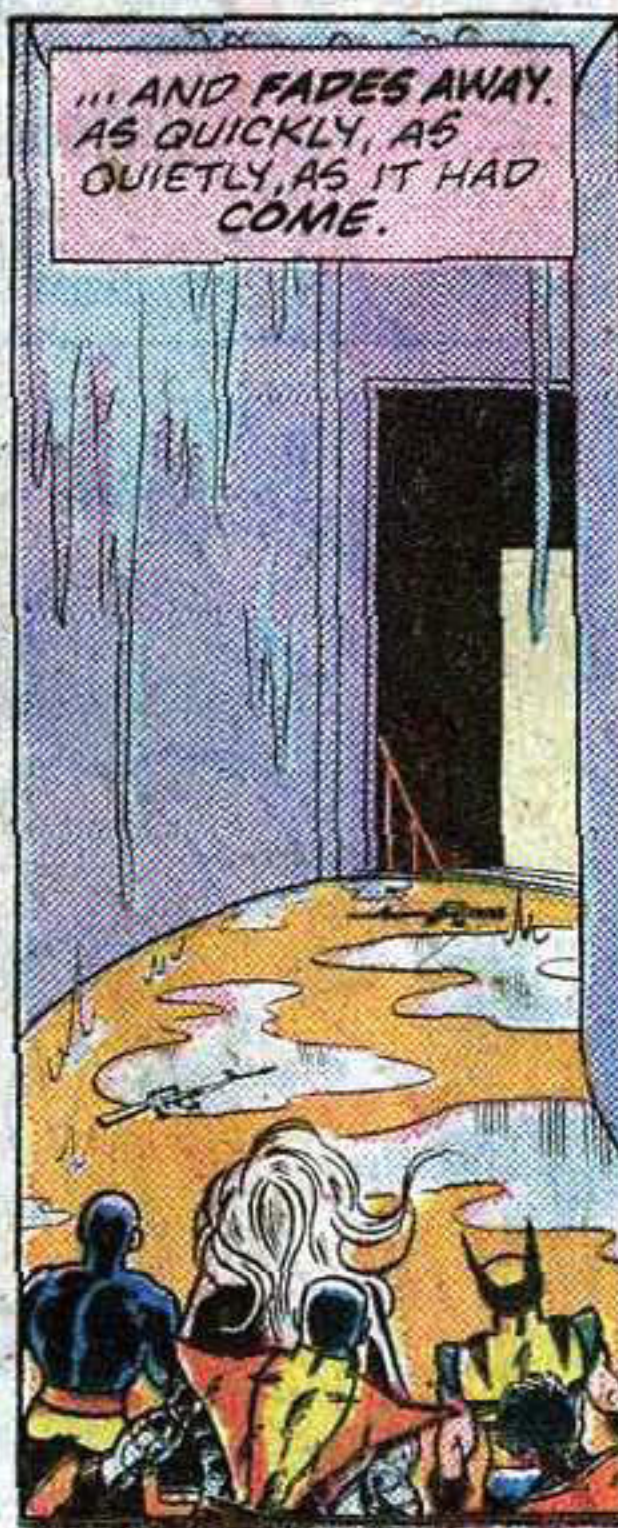
CYCLOPS...  
IS IT MY  
**IMAGINATION,**  
LAD...

...OR IS IT  
GETTIN' A  
BIT **STUFFY**  
IN HERE...?











MAYBE NOT THE SOLDIERS... BUT AIR FORCE SECURITY TROOPS AREN'T THE ONLY THREATS LURKING IN THE VAST SILENT HALLS...

THERE THEY ARE, GORT!

GORT SEES THEM, CATMAN--

...NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

--AND GORT WILL KILL!

BANSHEE, LOOK OUT -- HE'S GONNA THROW MEEEE

WOW

EEEE

THE FIGHT HAS BARELY BEGUN-- AND ALREADY TWO X-MEN ARE OUT FOR THE COUNT. A BAD OMEN.

CYCLOPS-- IT'S THE MAN-FROG I TOLD YOU OF...

AND HE'S GOT THE REST OF NEFARIA'S ANI-MEN WITH HIM...

WE HAVEN'T TIME TO BE GENTLE, X-MEN --SO TAKE 'EM DOWN!

TAKE 'EM DOWN HARD!!

EASIER SAID THEN DONE, CYCLOPS.

BECAUSE--THOUGH BOTH SIDES ARE NUMERICALLY EQUAL...

...THE ANI-MEN ARE FRESH, UNGASSED, EAGER FOR THE KILL-- THE X-MEN ARE NOT.





THUS, IN THE BEGINNING, WEAKNESS, FATIGUE--THE SURPRISE AND FEROCITY OF THE AMBUSH--ALL TAKE THEIR DEADLY TOLL...

... AND THE BATTLE QUICKLY GOES AGAINST THE X-MEN.



AAAARRGKH!!

THAMM!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME HOTSHOT WITH THOSE METAL CLAWS HUH, MUTIE?

WELL MY CLAWS AIN'T FAKE-- THEY'RE REAL--



-- AN' THEY CAN KILL!



NOT WHILE COLOSSUS LIVES!

HUH?! WHO GRABBED MY ARM!?!



I 'GRABBED' IT-- I, COLOSSUS--

KKOTOM!

--AND WHILE COLOSSUS LIVES, THE WOLVERINE WILL NOT BE HARMED!











WAIT A MINUTE--  
WHERE ARE BANSHEE  
AND THUNDERBIRD?

OUT  
COLD--  
THAT  
GORILLA  
WASTED 'EM  
PRETTY  
GOOD.

WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE  
THEM HERE...

WE HAVEN'T TIME  
TO WAKE THEM UP--  
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO  
NEFARIA AND THE  
DOOMSMITH SYSTEM.

NICE THOUGHT, CYCLOPS. BUT  
VALHALLA'S A HUGE COMPLEX,  
THREE CUBIC MILES OF COR-  
RIDORS AND CUBICLES...

... AND BY THE TIME A BODY'S  
FOUND THE PLACE HE'S LOOKING  
FOR, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE...

... TOO LATE.

NO!!

NEFARIA'S LOCKED THE  
DOOMSMITH SYSTEM INTO  
THE SELF-DESTRUCT CIRCUIT...

... IT'S ARMED AND COUNTING  
AND THERE'S NO WAY ON EARTH  
WE CAN SHUT IT OFF IN TIME!

SELF-  
DESTRUCT  
ENGAGED  
T-0.09 MIN.

CUT: TO A PAIR OF VERY  
WEARY HEROES...

OH HH, ME  
ACHIN'  
BACK...

I'M  
THINKIN'  
I'M GETTIN'  
A MITE TOO  
OLD FOR  
THIS SORT  
OF  
ROUGH-  
HOUSE.

SPEAK  
FOR  
YOURSELF,  
IRISH.

LORD ABOVE... WILL  
YE LOOK AT THIS MESS.  
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A  
GRAND AND GLORIOUS  
FIGHT.

YEAH.  
LOOKS LIKE  
THEY DIDN'T  
NEED OUR  
HELP FOR  
ANYTHING--  
IT FIGURES.

CUT AGAIN: TO ONE OF VALHALLA'S  
HANGER LEVELS...

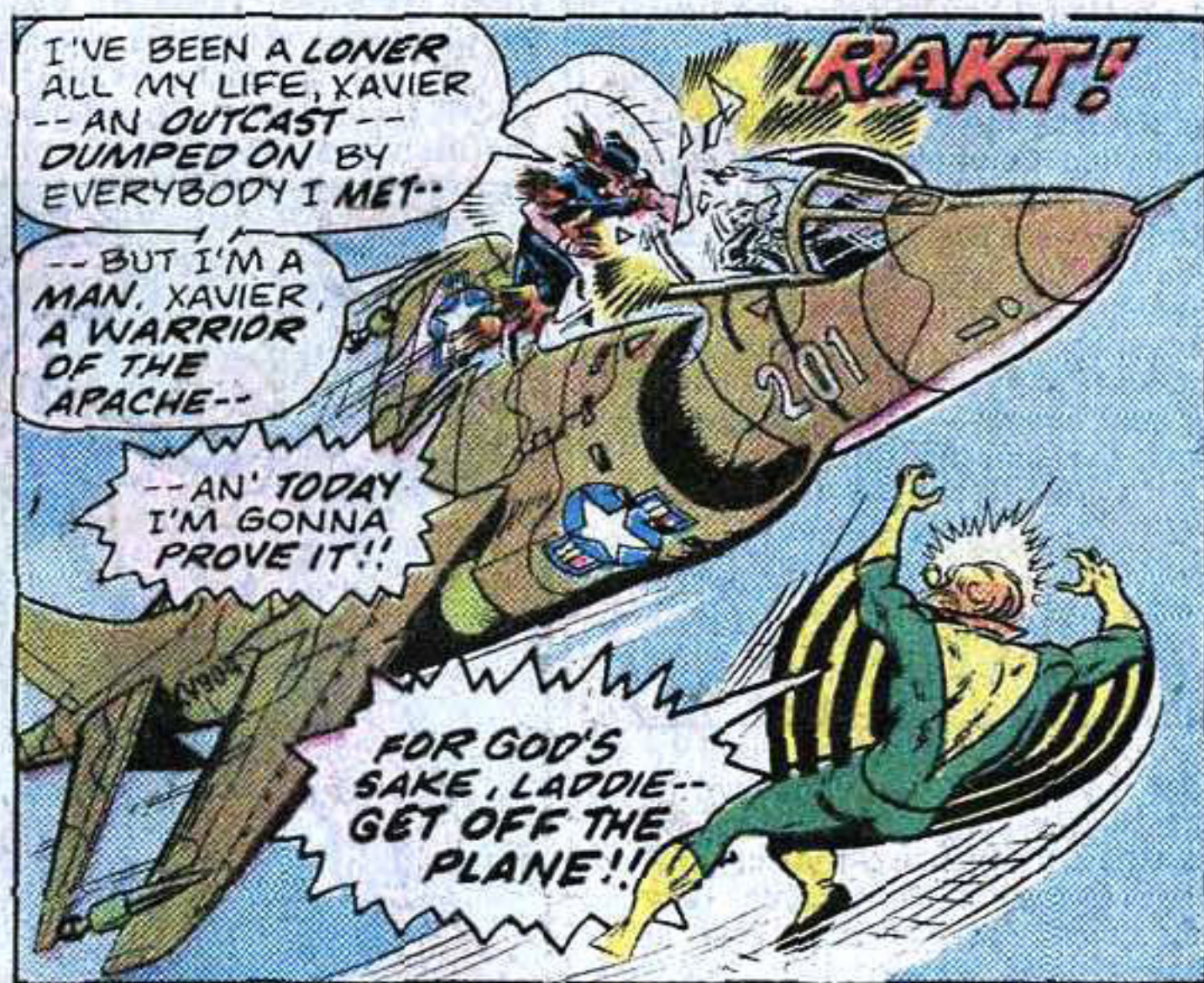
THE FOOLS! THE  
X-MEN THINK COUNT  
NEFARIA IS BEATEN,  
THAT THEY'VE WON--

-- BUT THE  
VERY MOMENT  
OF THEIR 'VICTORY'  
WILL BE THE MOM-  
ENT OF THEIR DEATH  
-- THE MOMENT OF  
NEFARIA'S GREATEST  
TRIUMPH!!











JOHN PROUDSTAR'S HANDS RIP DEEP INTO THE HARRIER'S COCKPIT, RAVAGING CONTROL SYSTEMS, COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC HARDWARE...

THERE THEY ARE!

STORM, GET AFTER THEM! GIVE BANSHEE A HAND!

...RIPPING THE TECHNIC NERVOUS SYSTEM OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT.

IT'S A POUNDING THAT NO PLANE WAS DESIGNED TO TAKE. SOONER OR LATER SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE...

...SOONER OR LATER, SOMETHING DOES.

OH MY GOD.

THUNDERBIRD, NO! GET OUT, BOY--

GET OUT!

CYCLOPS, THE AIRCRAFT, IT'S...

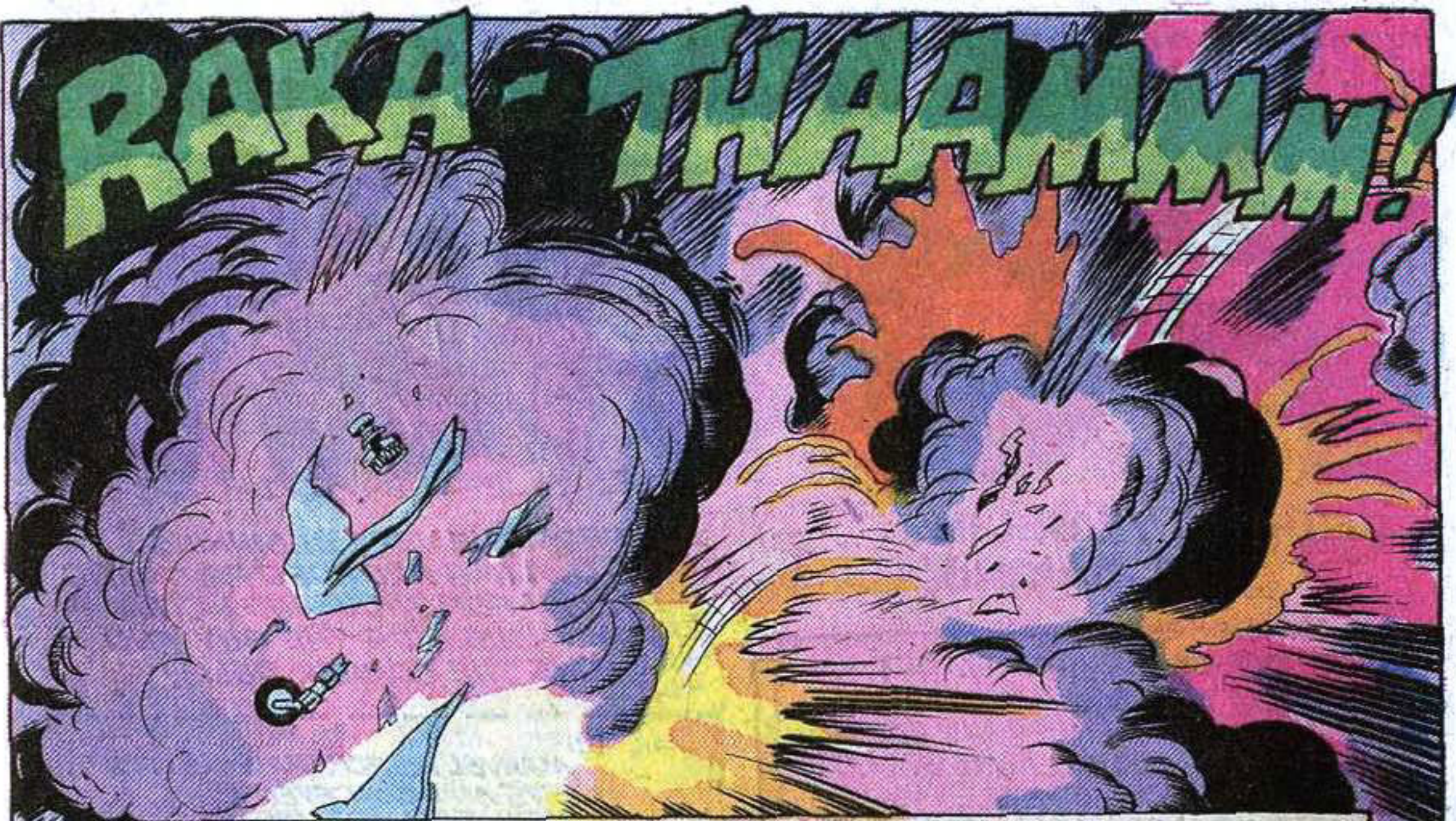
I CAN SEE IT, PETER...

YOU, CYCLOPS... AND ONE OTHER.

THUNDERBIRD--!

NNNOOOO!!





THE SCENERIO ENDS NOW, AS IT BEGAN, WITH THE BREAKING OF CHARLES XAVIER'S HEART -- AND THE TWISTING OF HIS SOUL. FOR, IN THE END, HE COULD NOT DESERT HIS PUPIL -- AND ALL JOHN PROUDSTAR FELT, CHARLES XAVIER FELT AS WELL, WITH ONLY ONE DIFFERENCE...



...CHARLES XAVIER IS STILL ALIVE.

I -- HE -- I BEGGED HIM LADDIE -- I PLEADED WITH HIM...

... BUT HE WOULDN'T GET OFF THE PLANE. HE WOULDN'T GET OFF!!

I KNOW, BANSHEE -- IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

I SUPPOSE IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOME-TIME. HELL, SOONER OR LATER IT HAPPENS TO ALL OF US IN THIS BUSINESS...

... IT COMES WITH THE UNIFORM.

FIN.



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THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT

# X-MEN™

IT'S THE  
**NIGHT** OF THE  
**DEMON!**




BUT IF THE X-MEN CAN'T DEFEAT IT, IT MAY BE  
THE LAST NIGHT OF THE WORLD!



Cyclops, Storm, Banshee, Nightcrawler, Wolverine, Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, **MUTANTS**—feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the **STRANGEST** heroes of all—these are the **X-MEN!**

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS: **THE UNCANNY X-MEN!**



AUTUMN'S COME EARLY THIS  
YEAR--THE SEPTEMBER APPLES  
HANGING HEAVY IN THE ORCHARDS,  
THE TREES ON BOTH SIDES OF  
THE HUDSON RIVER ABLAZE WITH  
A THOUSAND MYRIAD FIRES...

...A THOUSAND MYRIAD  
SHADES OF... DEATH!

YOU KNOW HIM  
WELL, DON'T YOU,  
CYCLOPS--THIS  
DARK ONE,  
THIS GREAT  
DESTRUCTOR--

--YOU AND YOUR FELLOW  
X-MEN HAVE WALKED WITH  
HIM ALL YOUR YOUNG LIVES  
--FLAUNTED HIM, TAUNTED  
HIM, TILTED WITH HIM--  
AND YOU'D ALWAYS GOTTEN  
AWAY UNSCATHED...

...UNTIL NOW.

UNTIL...  
THUNDERBIRD.

CHRIS CLAREMONT - AUTHOR  
DAVE COCKRUM - ARTIST  
SAM GRAINGER - INKER  
DAVE HUNT - LETTERER  
PHIL RACHELSON - COLORIST  
MARY WOLFMAN - EDITOR

WITH A WELCOME PLOTTING ASSIST  
FROM BOISTEROUS BILL MANTLO.



IT'S BEEN WEEKS NOW SINCE THUNDERBIRD DIED,\* AND THE MEMORY STILL HURTS, DOESN'T IT, CYCLOPS...



...THE NAGGING FEELING--THE FEAR--THAT IF YOU'D ACTED DIFFERENTLY, THUNDERBIRD WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY.

\*LAST ISH--  
MARV.

AWAKE OR ASLEEP, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE IMAGES SEARED INTO YOUR MIND'S EYE:

YOU MADMAN --YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!!



IMAGES OF COUNT NEFARIA MAKING A LAST, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO FLEE VAL-HALLA BASE... OF THUNDERBIRD TRYING TO STOP HIM...

FOR GOD'S SAKE, LADDIE-- GET OFF THE PLANE!!

...OF THUNDERBIRD'S FINAL, DEFIANT CRY.



...I'M A MAN, XAVIER, A WARRIOR OF THE APACHE--

--AND TODAY I'M GONNA PROVE IT!!



YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, DON'T YOU, CYCLOPS?



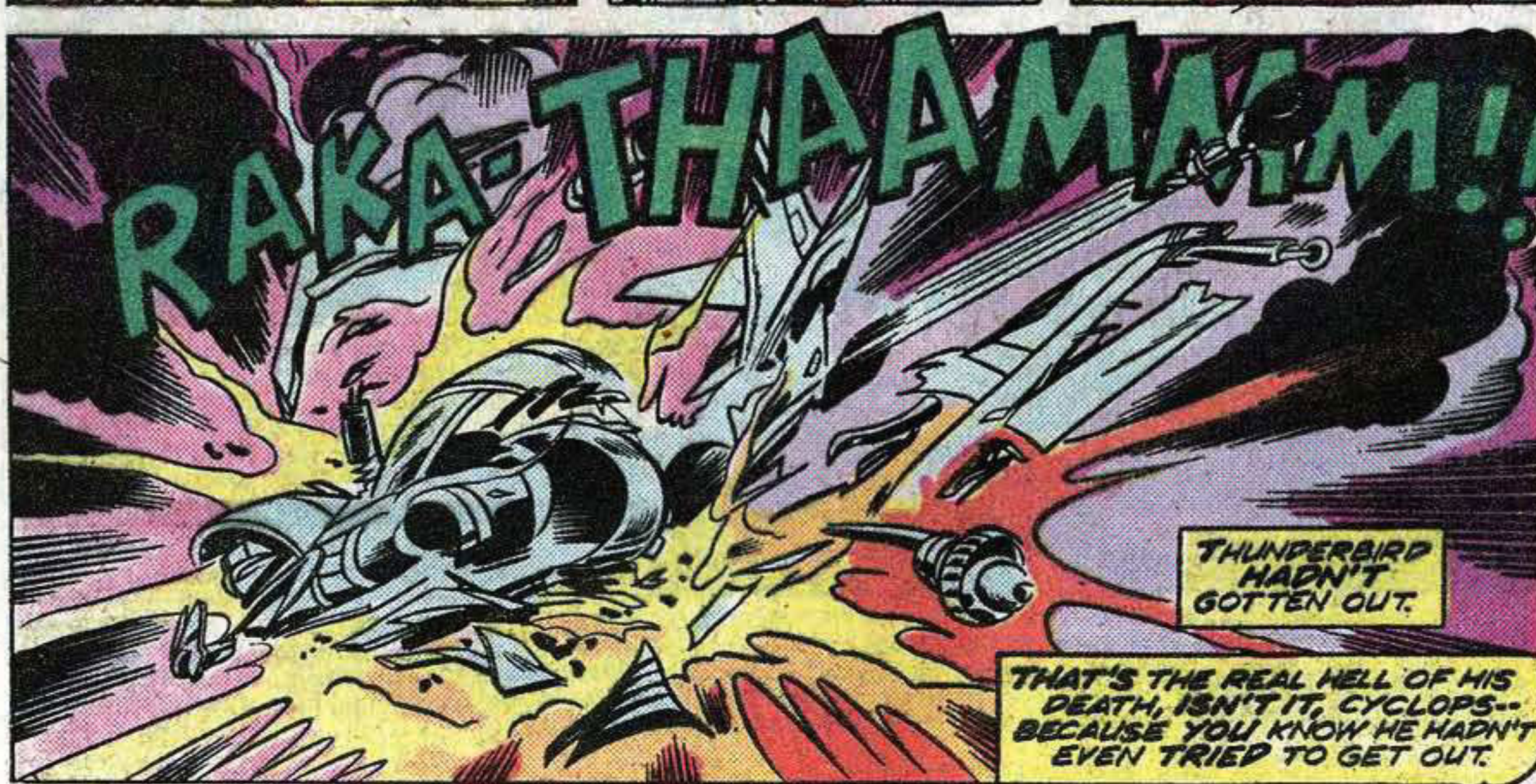
WHOOOM!

AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?

CYCLOPS, THE AIRCRAFT ...IT'S...



I CAN SEE IT, PETER...



THUNDERBIRD HADN'T GOTTEN OUT.

THAT'S THE REAL HELL OF HIS DEATH, ISN'T IT, CYCLOPS-- BECAUSE YOU KNOW HE HADN'T EVEN TRIED TO GET OUT.



YOU AND THE X-MEN  
HAD SAVED THE  
WORLD FROM A NU-  
CLEAR HOLOCAUST--  
BUT YOU'D LOST A  
MAN TO DO IT...



... AND TRY AS YOU  
MIGHT, YOU  
CAN'T BALANCE THOSE  
SCALES, IN YOUR MIND  
OR IN YOUR HEART...

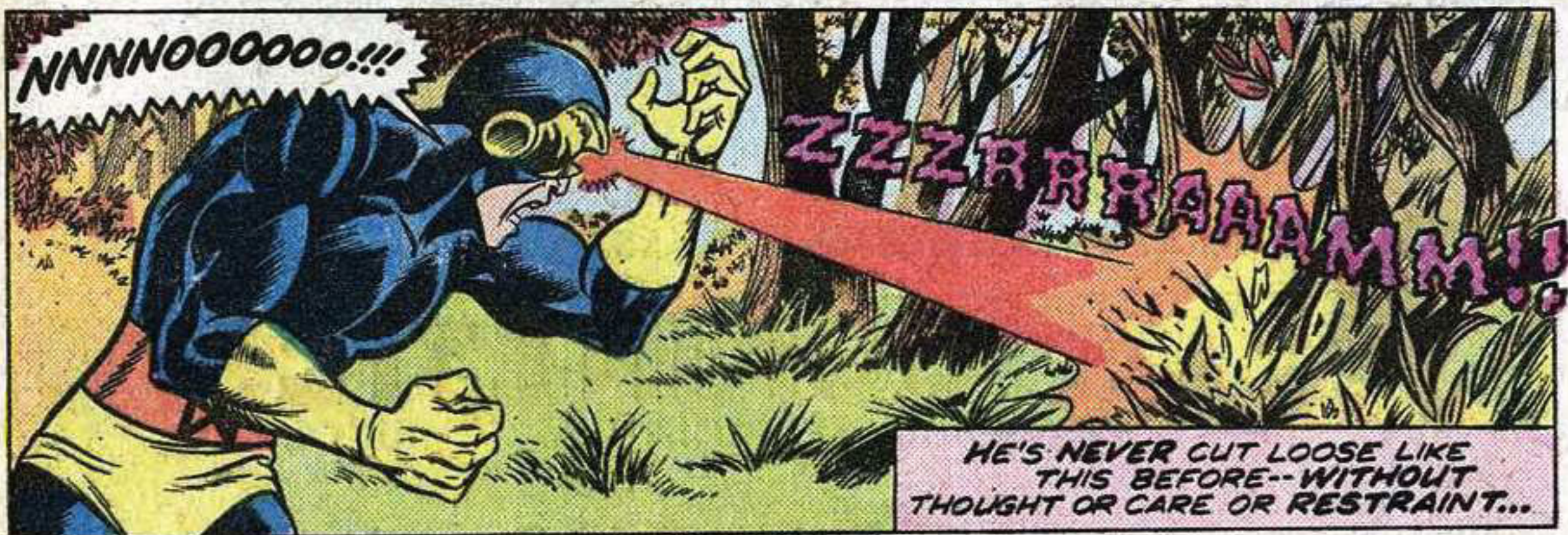
...CAN YOU,  
CYCLOPS?



CAN  
YOU?



CAN  
YOU?!



HE'S NEVER CUT LOOSE LIKE  
THIS BEFORE-- WITHOUT  
THOUGHT OR CARE OR RESTRAINT...



...THE POWER FLOWS  
THRU HIM LIKE  
A THING ALIVE--

--AND FOR THOSE  
FEW MOMENTS  
THERE IS HATRED  
IN HIM, YES, BUT  
THERE IS GLORY  
TOO-- AN UNHOLY  
GLORY, A NEED, A  
...HUNGER...



...BUT THEN THE  
MOMENTS PASS...

...AND SCOTT  
SUMMERS IS  
HIMSELF  
AGAIN.







WAY TO GO, HERO.

I GOT TO **HAND** IT TO YOU, SUMMERS--WHEN THEY WERE GIVING OUT **BRAINS** AND **COMMON SENSE**...

...YOU MUST **NOT** HAVE EVEN BOTHERED TO **STAND ON LINE**-- YOU **KNOW** HOW DANGEROUS YOUR **EYE BEAMS** ARE!



YOU KNEW THE **RULES**-- AND THE **RISKS**-- WHEN YOU GOT INTO THIS GAME...

...ALL THE X-MEN DID, **THUNDERBIRD** INCLUDED.



AND YOU'RE TOP MAN IN THIS OUTFIT, CYCLOPS--YOU **WANTED** THE JOB AND YOU'RE **GOOD** AT IT-- AND NOW YOU'VE GOT TO **PAY THE PRICE**...

...BECAUSE THIS JOB MEANS TAKING **BAD** AS WELL AS **GOOD**. IT MEANS WATCHING YOUR FRIENDS **LIVE**-- AND WATCHING THEM **DIE**...



...AND **THUNDERBIRD** IS **DEAD**, MISTER-- ALL THE **WISHING** IN THE WORLD WON'T **BRING HIM BACK**.

HE'S **DEAD** AND YOU'RE **ALIVE**-- AND THAT'S IT! LIKE IT OR NOT --NO MATTER **HOW MUCH** IT **HURTS**-- THE **REST** OF US HAVE TO GO ON **LIVING**.



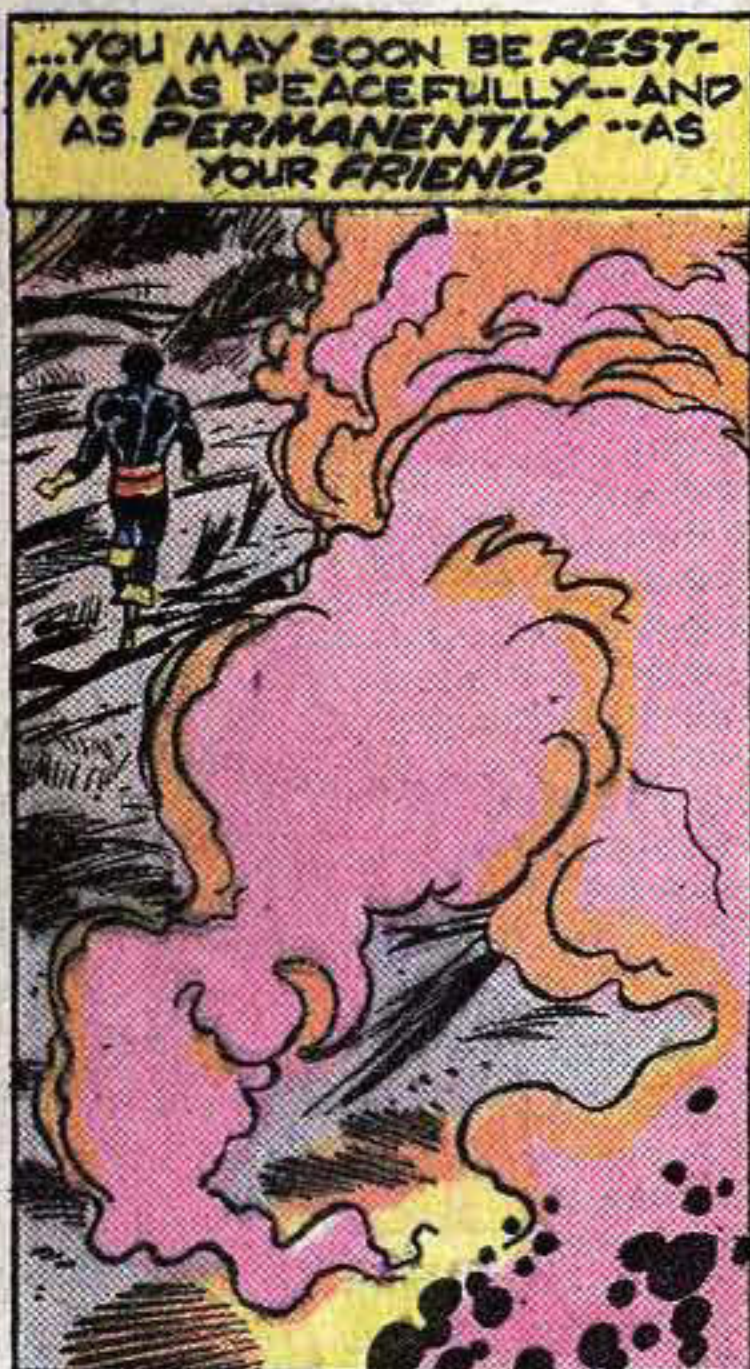
REST IN **PEACE**, JOHN PROUDSTAR...

YOU'VE EARNED **THAT** MUCH, AT LEAST.

SO HAVE YOU, **CYCLOPS**...



...AND IF YOU'RE NOT **CAREFUL**...



...YOU MAY SOON BE **RESTING** AS **PEACEFULLY**--AND AS **PERMANENTLY**--AS YOUR **FRIEND**.













**CUT AGAIN: TO A ONCE-SECRET INSTALLATION SHROUDED DEEP WITHIN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN PRESERVE OF NORTHERN NEW YORK --AND TO WHAT MAY WELL BE...**

THERE'S THE WASHINGTON COURIER, DR. LANG --RIGHT ON SCHEDULE...

ABOUT TIME, TOO.



THEY'VE AGREED THEN--I'VE GOT THE GREEN LIGHT.

NO. NOT YET. THE COUNCIL WANTS A FINAL REPORT --YEA OR NAY --GO OR NO GO--

--AND THEY WANT ME TO GIVE IT TO THEM.



...A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY.

STRANGE --I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT OVER SIX YEARS-- AND NOW THAT IT'S NEARING FRUITION...

...I'M AS NERVOUS AS A FRESHMAN AT FINALS.



MICHAEL! COLONEL ROSSI! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

AM I RIGHT IN ASSUMING YOU'VE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ME?

I HAVE SOME... NEWS, DR. LANG. FOR YOUR EARS ALONE.



YES!!

KIDNAP THEM --SECURE THESE MUTANT SPECIMENS FOR IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION-- SO THAT MANKIND WILL AT LAST KNOW ITS TRUE ENEMY--!



THAT'S WHAT MY WORK IS ALL ABOUT, MICHAEL--

--PROJECT ARMAGEDDON!!

THE FINAL ULTIMATE CONFLICT BETWEEN HOMO SAPIENS AND HOMO SUPERIOR-- BETWEEN MAN... AND MUTANT!



AND YOU'RE AGAINST IT. WE USED TO BE FRIENDS, MICHAEL--WHAT HAPPENED?

THIS HAPPENED-- THIS PROJECT OF YOURS, SIX YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, A BILLION DOLLARS IN ILLEGAL APPROPRIATIONS-- AND FOR WHAT--?

JUST SO YOU CAN KIDNAP A FEW LOUSY MUTANTS?!!



BOLIVAR TRASK KNEW-- HE UNDERSTOOD THE DANGER-- HE POINTED THE WAY--

--HE TRIED TO STOP THE MUTANTS, MICHAEL, AND THEY KILLED HIM FOR IT, HIM AND HIS SON.

YOU THINK I'M EXAGGERATING THE THREAT?

I THINK THERE IS NO THREAT.

WHY? BECAUSE THE ONLY MUTANTS ANYONE KNOWS OF FOR SURE ARE THE X-MEN? NOW WHO'S PLAYING THE FOOL?



BUT THEY WON'T DESTROY ME.

EVERY CONTINGENCY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR--NO DETAIL HAS BEEN SPARED, MICHAEL, NOTHING LEFT TO CHANCE.

THE MUTANTS CANNOT STOP ME-- NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW!

I CAN STOP YOU.

YOU'RE WRONG, STEVE--ALL THE WAY DOWN THE LINE...

NO, MY FRIEND, YOU ARE WRONG. BECAUSE WE ARE THE ANCIENT NEANDERTHALS FACING THE MUTANT CROMAGNON--

--IT IS US OR THEM, KILL OR BE KILLED--THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!

EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, YOUR PROJECT ISN'T THE ANSWER, NOT THESE DAYS --THE COUNTRY COULDN'T SURVIVE YOUR KIND OF MUTANT WITCH HUNT.

PROJECT ARMAGEDDON IS OVER, STEVE; IT'S FINISHED AS SOON AS I GET BACK TO WASHINGTON... I'M JUST SORRY IT HAD TO END LIKE THIS...

SO AM I, COLONEL ROSSI. BECAUSE THAT MEANS YOU MUST NEVER REACH WASHINGTON...

...ALIVE.





IT'S NIGHT NOW, THE QUIET END TO A LONG, STRENUOUS DAY...

...A TIME TO RELAX OVER A GOOD MEAL... A TIME FOR THE X-MEN TO BE FORMALLY INTRODUCED TO THEIR NEW HOUSEKEEPER...



...MRS. MOIRA MACTAGGERT.

SHE'S TO LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE--AND ALL OF YOU--WHILE I'M AWAY.



YOU CUTTIN' OUT ON US, BOSS?

FOR A WHILE, WOLVERINE. EVERY MAN NEEDS A VACATION AT SOME POINT IN HIS LIFE...

...I'VE DECIDED THE TIME HAS COME FOR MINE.



MISTRESS MACTAGGERT--I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGISE FOR ME BRUSQUE MANNER THIS AFTERNOON...

CASSIDY, MA'AM. SEAN CASSIDY. AN' I'D CONSIDER IT AN HONOR, INDEED IF YE'D JOIN ME FER A CUP O' COFFEE...

IT'S NA NECESSARY, MR.... AH...



BANSHEE SEEMS QUITE TAKEN WITH MRS. MACTAGGERT--

WE ALL ARE, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER-- BUT, PROFESSOR, IF YOU ARE SO INTENT ON KEEPING OUR EXISTENCE SECRET FROM THE WORLD...

...WHY REVEAL OUR TRUE NATURE TO THIS ...HOUSEKEEPER?



THAT IS MY AFFAIR, ORORO.

BUT REST ASSURED-- OUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH MOIRA MACTAGGERT. SAFE UNTO DEATH.

BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU SEEN SCOTT ANYWHERE?



ZRRAM

GOOD LORD--THOSE ARE SCOTT'S EYE-BEAMS, BLASTING FULL POWER--

--AND THEY'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE!!















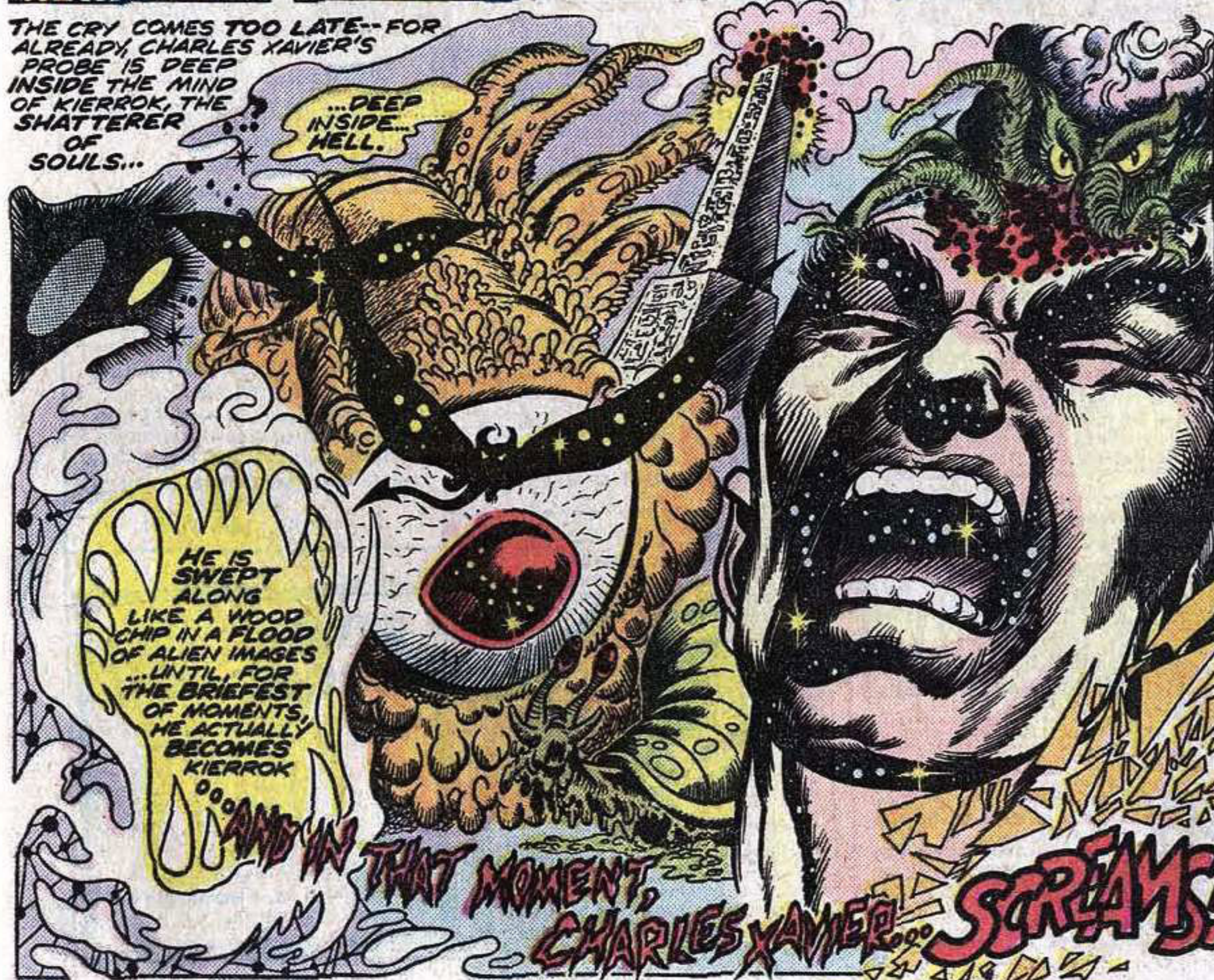




YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING EVEN FUNNIER--?

KIERROK'S NOT DEAD.

HUH--? BUT I--?



THE CRY COMES TOO LATE-- FOR ALREADY, CHARLES XAVIER'S PROBE IS DEEP INSIDE THE MIND OF KIERROK, THE SHATTERER OF SOULS...

...DEEP INSIDE... HELL.

HE'S THE KEY TO THIS BATTLE AND POSSIBLY THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION AS WELL.

I MUST TRY A MINDPROBE BEFORE HE'S FULLY RECOVERED.

PROFESSOR, NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!

HE IS SWEEPED ALONG LIKE A WOOD CHIP IN A FLOOD OF ALIEN IMAGES ...UNTIL, FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS, HE ACTUALLY BECOMES KIERROK

...BY HIM! KIERROK!

I BLASTED HIM A DOZEN TIMES-- FULL STRENGTH-- AND EACH TIME HE REFORMED, STRONGER THAN BEFORE...

...WHILE EACH TIME, I FELT WEAKER.

YOU ALL LOOK...WEAKER. AS IF OUR STRENGTH-- OUR LIFE FORCES WERE SOMEHOW BEING LEECHED AWAY FROM US...

HE'S THE KEY TO THIS BATTLE AND POSSIBLY THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION AS WELL.

I MUST TRY A MINDPROBE BEFORE HE'S FULLY RECOVERED.

AND IN THAT MOMENT, CHARLES XAVIER...

SCREAMS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE







THE NIGHTWIND IS A WELCOME CARESS ON HER BARE SKIN AS SHE SOARS HIGH AND AWAY INTO THE MIDNIGHT SKY...



...SHE IS FREE NOW--  
OF HOUSES, WALLS, PEOPLE  
--OF THE CAGES MANKIND  
BUILDS TO LOCK HIMSELF INTO  
...FREE AND HAPPY AND ALIVE...

...FOR THE MOMENT.

THERE IS THE CAIRN THE PROFESSOR SPOKE OF--AND HE WAS RIGHT. THERE IS EVIL HERE...ANCIENT, MONSTROUS EVIL...



...AN EVIL THAT HUNGERS FOR PREY.



IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO DESTROY IT--

AAARRRGH!



THERE IS NO WARNING-- ONLY A LASH OF BLINDING AGONY DOWN STORM'S BACK AS THE PHANTOM SPEAR STRIKES HOME...

GODS--THE COLD  
--THE COLD!

CAN'T LET THEM HIT ME AGAIN--IF THEY DO, I'M DEAD--!



BUT WHAT ARE THEY--? THEY'RE NOT REAL--THEY'RE JUST THINGS OF SMOKE AND LIGHT--

--THINGS CREATED BY THE CAIRN!



DEMONSPAWN, THEN--CREATIONS OF THE N'GARAI!

WELL--WHATEVER THEY ARE, FROM WHATEVER HELL THAT SPAWNED THEM--THEY'LL FIND STORM NO EASY PREY!



PERHAPS NOT, BUT THE N'GARAI--EVEN MINOR DEMONS--ARE NO MEAN FOES EITHER.

THAT BOLT OF ENERGY FROM THE CAIRN--THERE'S NO TIME TO AVOID IT--









**SIMULTANEITY: IN ONE INSTANT A CAIRN IS RIVEN WITH FIRE AND SACRED WORDS REFORMED-- A CAGE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT FOR- EVER...**

**...AND IN THAT SAME INSTANT, THIRTY MILES AWAY, A DEMON SIMPLY...**



**...CEASES TO EXIST.**



**KIERROK --HE'S...GONE.**

**YES, SCOTT. I THINK THAT STORM HAS DONE HER WORK WELL THIS NIGHT.**

**BUT WHAT WAS HE, PROFESSOR? WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHY'D HE ATTACK US?**



**I DON'T KNOW, SCOTT --I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER KNOW FOR SURE.**

**BUT WHATEVER KIERROK AND HIS KIND WERE--THEY ONCE RULED MANKIND. AND THEY WANT VERY MUCH TO RULE MANKIND AGAIN.**



**WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF KIERROK, SCOTT-- OR OF HIS N'GARAI KIND.**

**GOD HELP US ALL.**

**EPILOGUE: A MINOR THREAD, REALLY --COME TO REST IN AN APPLE OR- CHARD OUTSIDE RED HOOK, NEW YORK.**

**COLONEL ROSSI! MICKEY! MICKEY!!**

**IT'S NO USE, SIR --THEY'RE ALL DEAD --EVERY MAN ABOARD, INCLUDING THE COLONEL!**

**FOR PITY'S SAKE, MAJOR--THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!**



**AND MILES AWAY, A MAN WHO HAS DONE ENOUGH THIS NIGHT, WATCHES THIS SCENE ON HIS COMMAND CONSOLE... AND LAUGHS!**

**I N S E R T E: SOME OLD FRIENDS RETURN AND THE X-MEN SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES LOCKED IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH IN THE SHOCKER WE CALL--**  
**MY BROTHER, MY ENEMY!**