

GIANT-SIZE
X-MEN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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68 BIG PAGES

SENSES-
SHATTERING
1ST
ISSUE!

GIANT-SIZE X-MEN



NEW!

DEADLY
GENESIS!

GK
DEC

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

LEN WEIN WRITER & DAVE COCKRUM ILLUSTRATOR / GLYNIS WEIN / JOHN COSTANZA
- CO-CREATORS - colorist letterer



THE GRANDEUR AND
THE GLORY BEGIN
ANew WITH...

FROM
THE ASHES
OF THE PAST
THERE GROW
THE FIRES
OF THE
FUTURE!

SECOND GENESIS!

WINZELDORF, GERMANY:
NESTLED DEEP IN THE
BAVARIAN ALPS, THIS TINY
VILLAGE HAS HARDLY
CHANGED OVER THE
CENTURIES.



IN WINZELDORF,
LIFE IS GENTLE,
PEACEFUL --

--FOR NOTHING EVER HAPPENS
HERE TO DISTURB THE DOMES-
TIC...



...TRANQUILITY?

THIS WAY,
MEN! THE
MONSTER
WENT THIS
WAY!

MONSTER,
IS IT?
THE FOOLS! IT IS
THEY WHO ARE THE
MONSTERS--



--THEY
WITH THEIR
MINDLESS
PREJUDICES!

PERHAPS THINGS WOULD
BE SIMPLER--**SAFER**--
IF I HAD STAYED WITH
DER JAHRMARKT--

--BUT THE LIFE OF
A **CARNIVAL FREAK**
IS NOT FOR ME--
NOT FOR **KURT
WAGNER**!



LET THEM
COME IF THEY
MUST-- LET
THEM TRY TO
KILL ME--!

AT LEAST
IF I **DIE**, IT
WILL BE AS
A **MAN**!



IRONICALLY,
THE ASTONISH-
ING LEAP ALONE
LEADS DOUBT
TO **KURT
WAGNER'S
HUMANITY...**

WE'VE
GOT
HIM
NOW!

COME DOWN,
MONSTER! COME
DOWN-- OR
WE'LL **BURN**
YOU DOWN!



...AND HIS HIDEOUS
HOWLING, LIKE
THAT OF A
BAYING
BEAST,
DENIES IT
COMPLETELY!

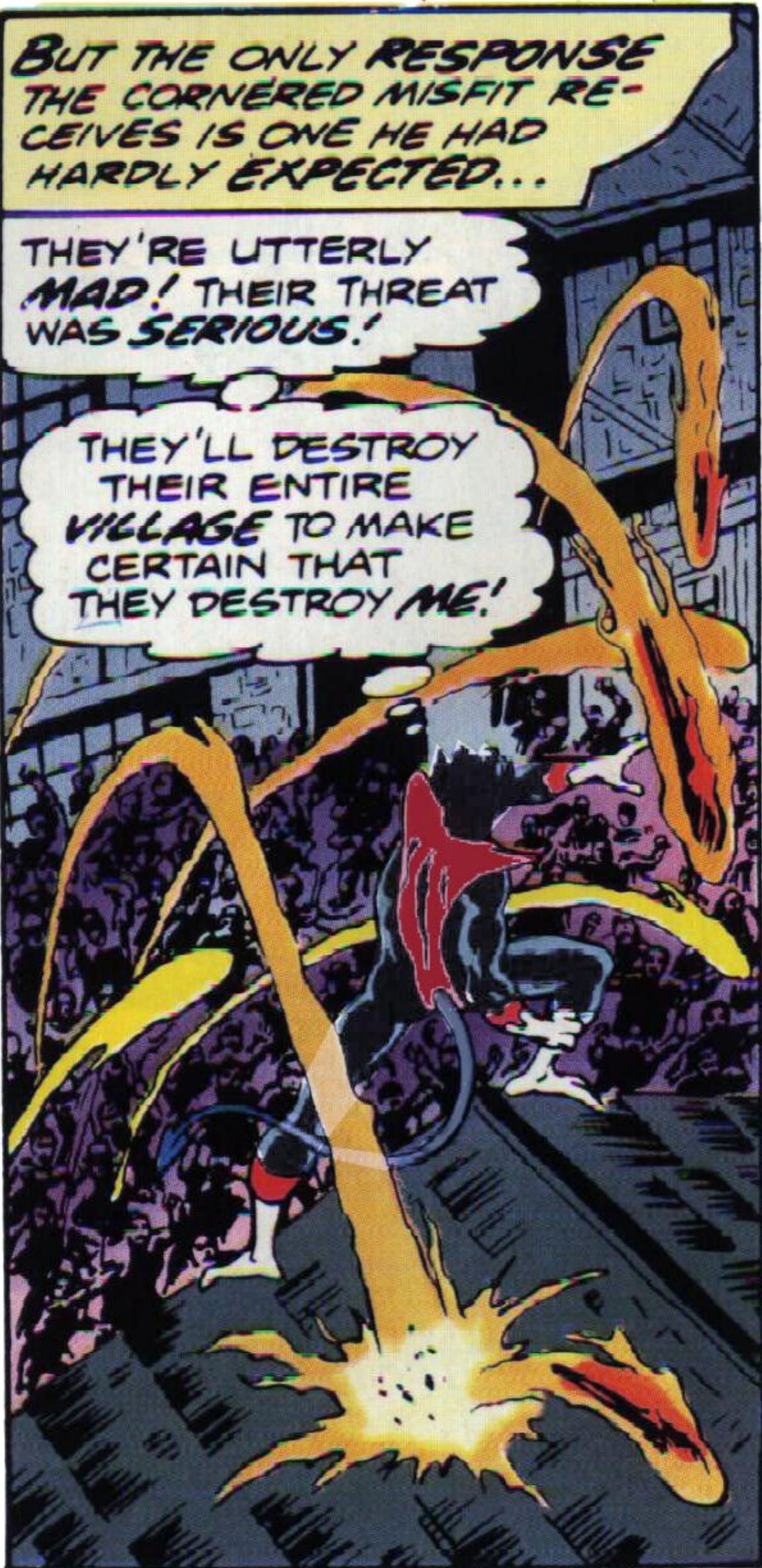
GO AWAY,
YOU FOOLS!
I HAVE DONE
NOTHING!



BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE THE CORNERED MISFIT RECEIVES IS ONE HE HAD HARDLY EXPECTED...

THEY'RE UTTERLY MAD! THEIR THREAT WAS SERIOUS!

THEY'LL DESTROY THEIR ENTIRE VILLAGE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY DESTROY ME!



AND FOR WHAT REASON? I CAME AMONG THEM ONLY TO LEARN--

--YET ALL I'VE LEARNED THUS FAR ARE THE WAYS OF BLIND, UNREASONING VIOLENCE!



WELL, IF THAT IS ALL THAT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE NORMAL WORLD HAVE TO TEACH ME--



--I WILL SHOW THEM THAT I LEARN MY LESSONS WELL!



VERY WELL INDEED!



HOWLING WILDLY, KURT WAGNER PLUNGES THRU THE THICK OF THE MOB--

--UNTIL THE SHEER WEIGHT OF ITS NUMBERS CARRIES HIM DOWN!



WE HAVE HIM! WE HAVE HIM!

QUICKLY--BRING THE STAKE!



NOW, MONSTER-- WE WILL BE RID OF YOU!

NOW WE WILL...

STOP!



AND, REMARKABLY... THEY DO!

VAS...?

TH-THEY'RE NOT MOVING!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?



I HAPPENED TO THEM, KURT WAGNER.

YOU DID... THIS TO THEM? BUT NOW--? WHY?

MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER!



I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D COME HERE TO LEARN, MY FRIEND. I AM A TEACHER. I RUN A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS YOU.

A SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS!



MUTANT? YES... I HAVE HEARD THE WORD.

YOU ARE A MUTANT, KURT.

I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.



CAN YOU HELP ME TO BE NORMAL?

AFTER TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNE, KURT-- WOULD YOU TRULY WANT TO BE?



PERHAPS NOT. I WANT ONLY TO BE A WHOLE KURT WAGNER!

IF YOU CAN MAKE ME THAT, TEACHER... I WILL GO WITH YOU.

QUEBEC, CANADA: FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION.



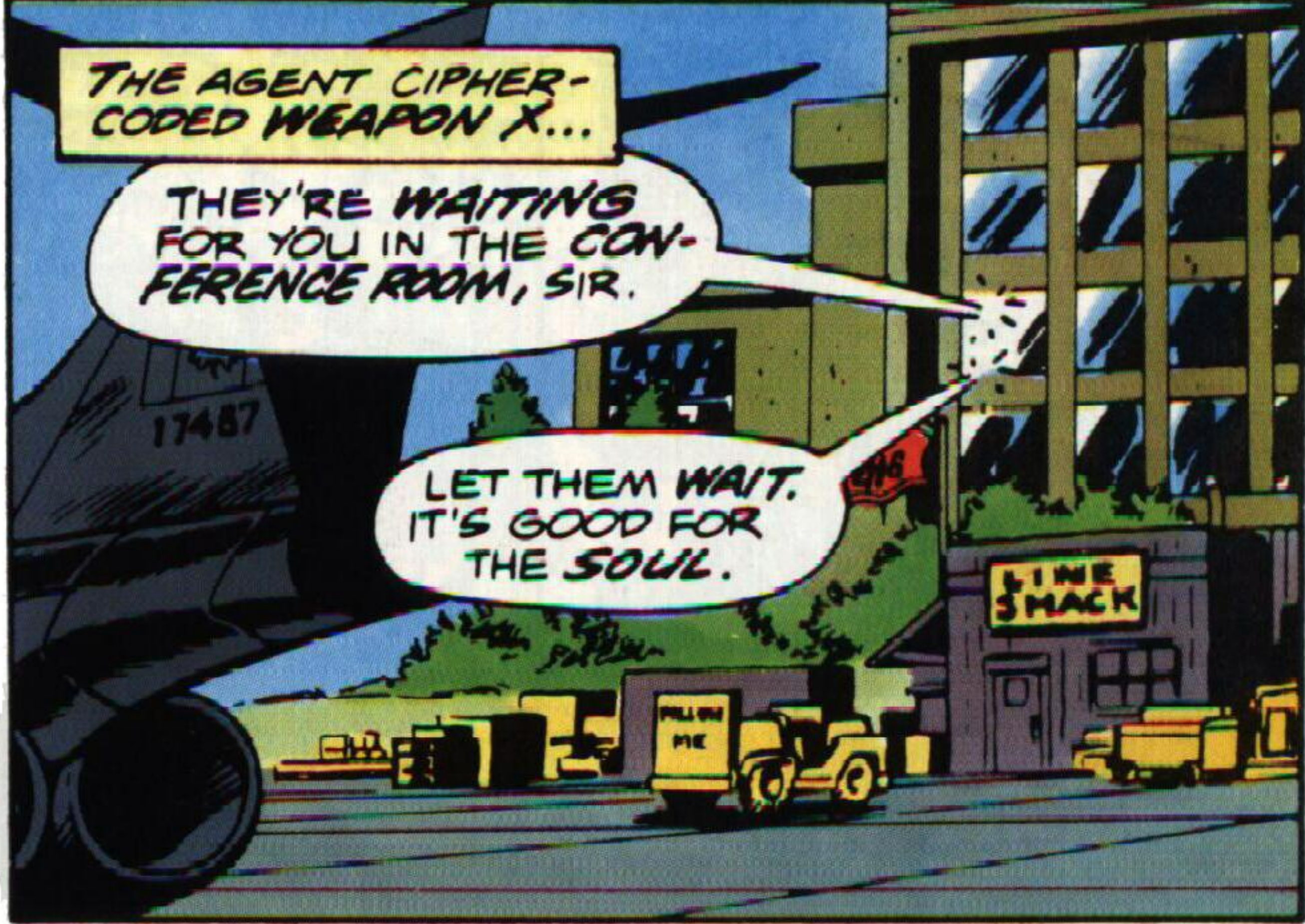
FEWER STILL KNOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.

IT IS THE HOME BASE OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY--AND ITS VERY SPECIAL AGENT.

THE AGENT CIPHER-CODED WEAPON X...

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.

LET THEM WAIT. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.



... BUT BETTER KNOWN TO US AS-- THE WOLVERINE!

ALL RIGHT, GENTS-- I'M HERE!

NOW WHO'S THIS BIGWIG YOU WANT ME TO MEET?



I AM THE BIGWIG, WOLVERINE. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER AT YOUR SERVICE.

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?



AN OFFER, EH? OKAY, PROF-- YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY. WHAT'S THE DEAL?

I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT THEN.

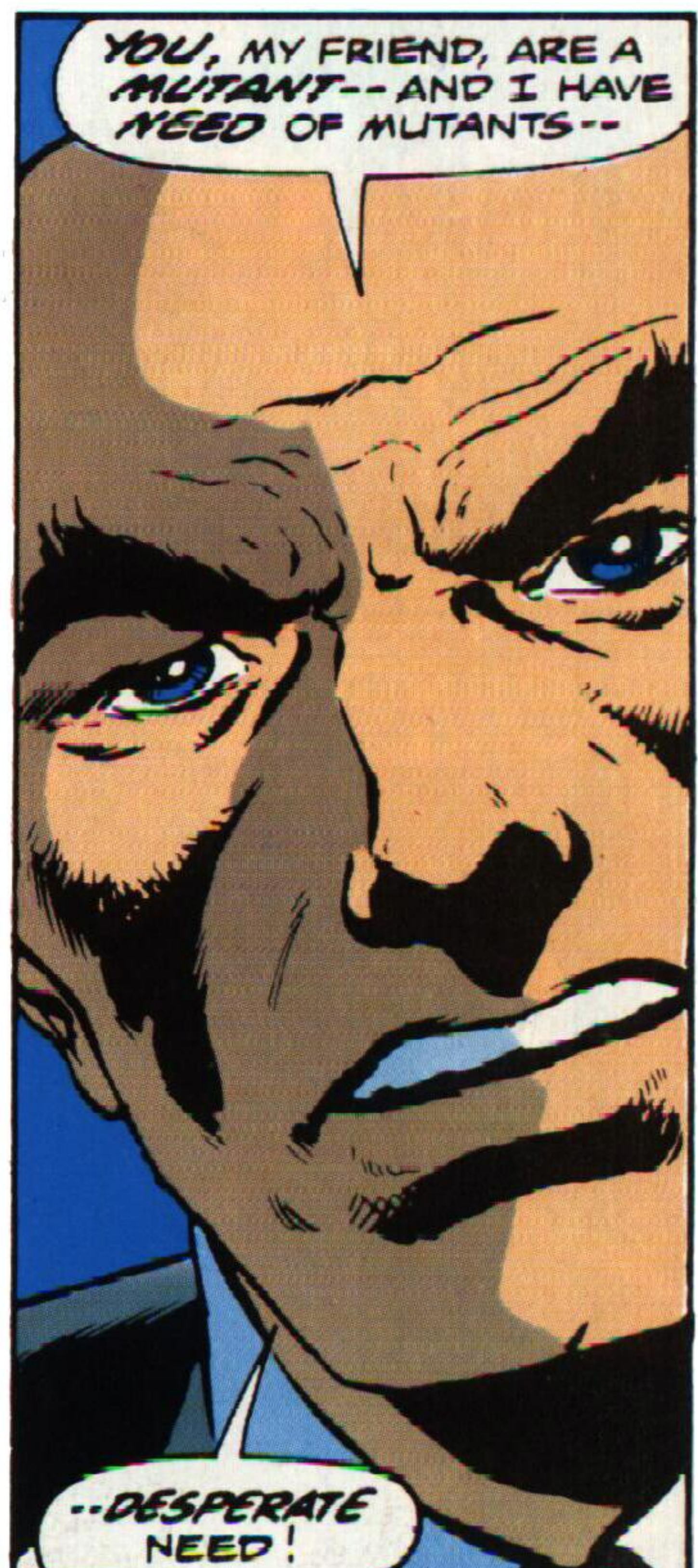
I KNOW OF YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE HULK*-- AND, MOREOVER, I KNOW OF YOUR POWERS.

*IN HULK #181. --LEN.



YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A MUTANT-- AND I HAVE NEED OF MUTANTS--

--DESPERATE NEED!





NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: A VISITOR TO THE GRAND OL' OPRY FINDS HE HAS A VISITOR OF HIS OWN...

BEGORRA!
'TIS PROFESSOR X
HIMSELF NOW.

BANSHEE--
I MUST
TALK
WITH
YOU.

SHORTLY, IN THE BANSHEE'S SHABBY
QUARTERS...

SO THAT'S THE
STORY, IS IT? THEN
SURE AN' I'LL
HELP YE, PRO-
FESSOR.

'T WILL BE
NICE TO TREAD
THE STRAIGHT
AN' NARROW... FER
A CHANGE.

KENYA, EAST
AFRICA: ATOP
A LONELY
KNOLL,
THERE
STANDS
A GREAT
STONE
PORTAL.

"ORORO, GREAT
GODDESS OF THE
STORM," THE
VOICES CRY,
"COME UNTO
US AND EASE
OUR BURDEN!"

MEN COME TO IT IN HU-
MILITY, THEIR VOICES
RAISED IN PRAISE AND SONG--
AND PRAYERFUL SUPPLICATION.

AND WITH THE HOLLOW
PEAL OF THUNDER AND
THE MOAN OF LONELY
WINDS--

-- THE STORM
GODDESS
COMES!

I AM HERE,
MY CHILDREN.
WHAT DO YOU
WISH OF ME?

THERE IS
DROUGHT
UPON THE
LAND, BLESSED
ONE. OUR
CROPS WITHER,
OUR GRASSES
PARCH.

TEN GOATS AND CHICKENS
SHALL WE SLAY IN YOUR
HONOR-- IF YOU WILL ONLY
BRING US RAIN!

HER EYES ARE CRYSTAL
BLUE, AND OLDER
THAN TIME. THEY
SPARKLE AS SHE
ANSWERS...

SAVE YOUR BEASTS,
MY CHILDREN. YOU
NEED THEM
MORE THAN I.

I WILL
DO AS YOU
PLEAD.

HER LIQUID
EYES GROW
DARK THEN--
AND THE SKY
GROWS DARK
AS WELL!



ONCE MORE,
THE HOWLING
WINDS
COME UP--

--AND SWEEP
THE STORM
GODDESS AWAY!



SHE SOARS ALOFT
LIKE AN EBON BIRD,
LIGHTNING LANCING
FROM HER FINGERTIPS,
THE GLOW OF LIFE
SHINING FULL UPON
HER FACE.

SHE IS HAPPY HERE-- ONLY
TRULY HAPPY HERE AMONG
THE ELEMENTS--



--AND THE RAGING SKY,
TOUCHED BY HER HAP-
PINESS...

...WEEPS.



WHEN THE STORM
GODDESS RETURNS
TO EARTH AT
LAST, HER JOY
IS SHARED
BY ALL.

A MOST
IMPRESSIVE
DISPLAY, ORORO...
TRULY
BEAUTIFUL.

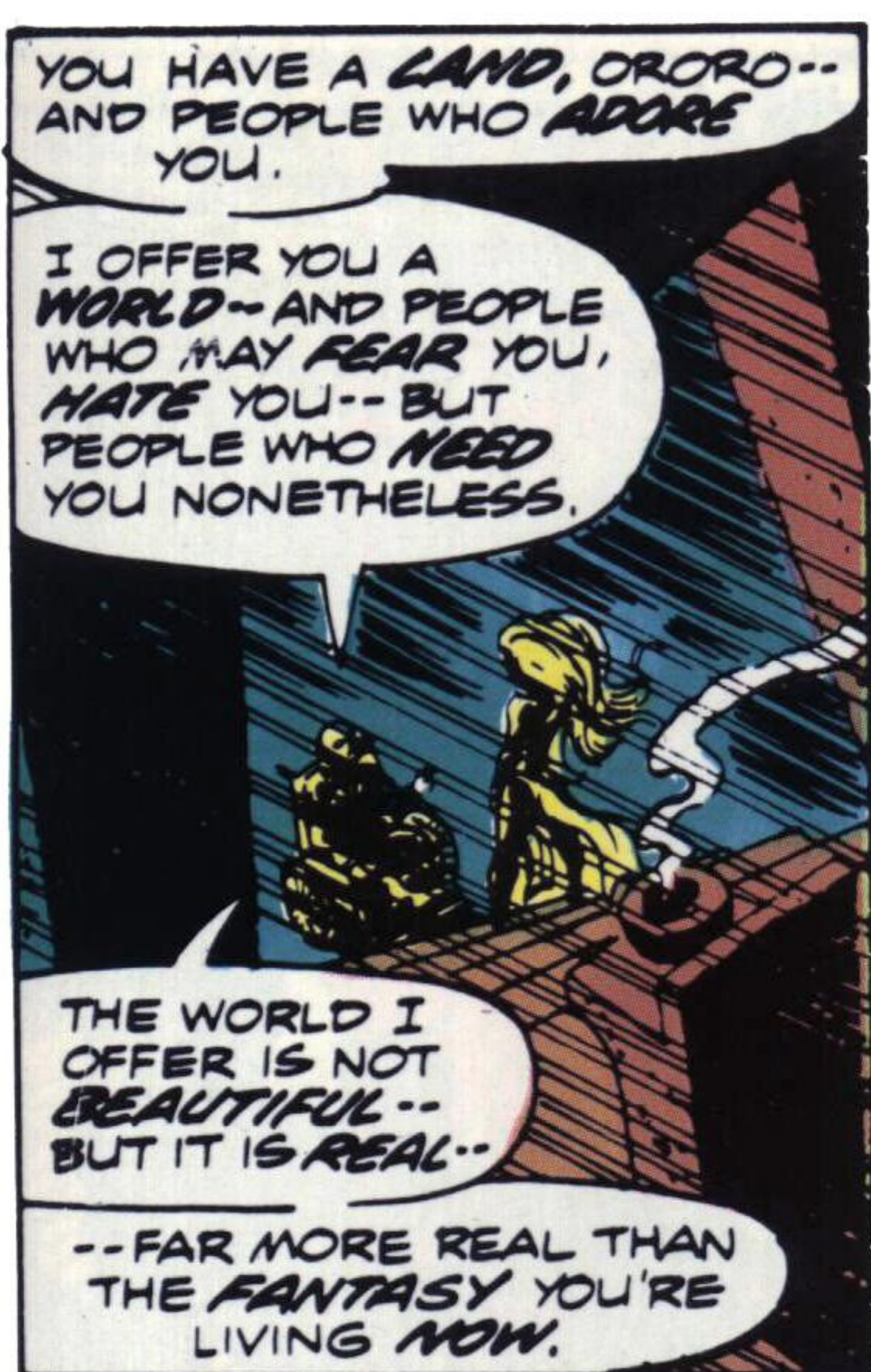


WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT
BUSINESS HAVE YOU IN
ORORO'S LAND?

I AM CALLED
XAVIER--

--AND I HAVE
COME TO MAKE
YOU AN OFFER
I PRAY YOU
WILL NOT
REFUSE.

AN... OFFER?
WHAT HAVE
YOU TO OFFER
A GODDESS?



YOU HAVE A **LAND**, ORORO--
AND PEOPLE WHO **ADORE**
YOU.

I OFFER YOU A
WORLD--AND PEOPLE
WHO MAY **FEAR** YOU,
HATE YOU-- BUT
PEOPLE WHO **NEED**
YOU NONETHELESS.

THE WORLD I
OFFER IS NOT
BEAUTIFUL--
BUT IT IS **REAL**--

--FAR MORE REAL THAN
THE **FANTASY** YOU'RE
LIVING **NOW**.



"YOU ARE NO **GODDESS**,
ORORO. YOU ARE A
MUTANT-- AND YOU HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES.

"**COME** WITH ME, CHILD.
TASTE THE WORLD OUT-
SIDE. YOU MAY FIND ITS
FLAVOR **BITTER**-- OR
SURPRISINGLY **SWEET**."



YOU PRESENT A MOST **PECULIAR**
ARGUMENT--YET I SENSE A DEEP
SINCERITY IN YOUR WORDS.

ALL RIGHT, I
WILL... **COME**
WITH YOU.

PEHPAPS THE TIME HAS
COME FOR ME TO **LEAVE**
THE NEST AT LAST.



OSAKA, JAPAN:
TWO OLD
ACQUAINTANCES
SHARE TEA IN
THE SPLENDID
GARDEN OF
SHIRO
YOSHIDA...

I KNOW YOUR
FEELINGS
TOWARD THE
WESTERN
WORLD,
SHIRO--

--AND I WOULD
NOT HAVE
COME TO
YOU...

...BUT YOU REQUIRE
HELP THAT ONLY
I MAY GIVE!

SO! I
OWE YOU
NOTHING,
PROFESSOR
-- BUT
PERHAPS
I OWE
SOMETHING
TO MYSELF.



PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE
MORE FOR THE WORLD TO
HEAR FROM--
SUNFIRE!



LAKE BAIKAL, SIBERIA: IT HAS
BEEN A **GOOD**
YEAR FOR THE
LST-ORDYNSKI
COLLECTIVE FARM.

THE CROP HAS
BEEN **LARGER**
THAN EXPECTED.
THE **WHEAT**
FILLS THE FIELDS
LIKE AN **AMBER**
SEA--



--AND THOSE WHO **TOIL** IN THE FIELDS
ARE FILLED WITH A FEELING OF
SATISFACTION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF
A JOB WELL DONE--

--AND **FEAR!**

PETER--
LOOK! YOUR
SISTER--!

WHAT
IS...
NO!

PETER RASPUTIN LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK--AND HIS EYES GROW WIDE WITH HORROR!

HE DISCERNS IT ALL IN AN INSTANT;
THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR-- THE
CHILD PLAYING BLINDLY IN ITS PATH--

--AND, WITHOUT HESITATION,
PETER RASPUTIN IS RUN-
NING, LESS PUMPING,
HEART POUNDING--

--THE VERY AIR
AROUND HIM
CRACKLING WITH
THE ENERGY
OF HIS EXERTION--

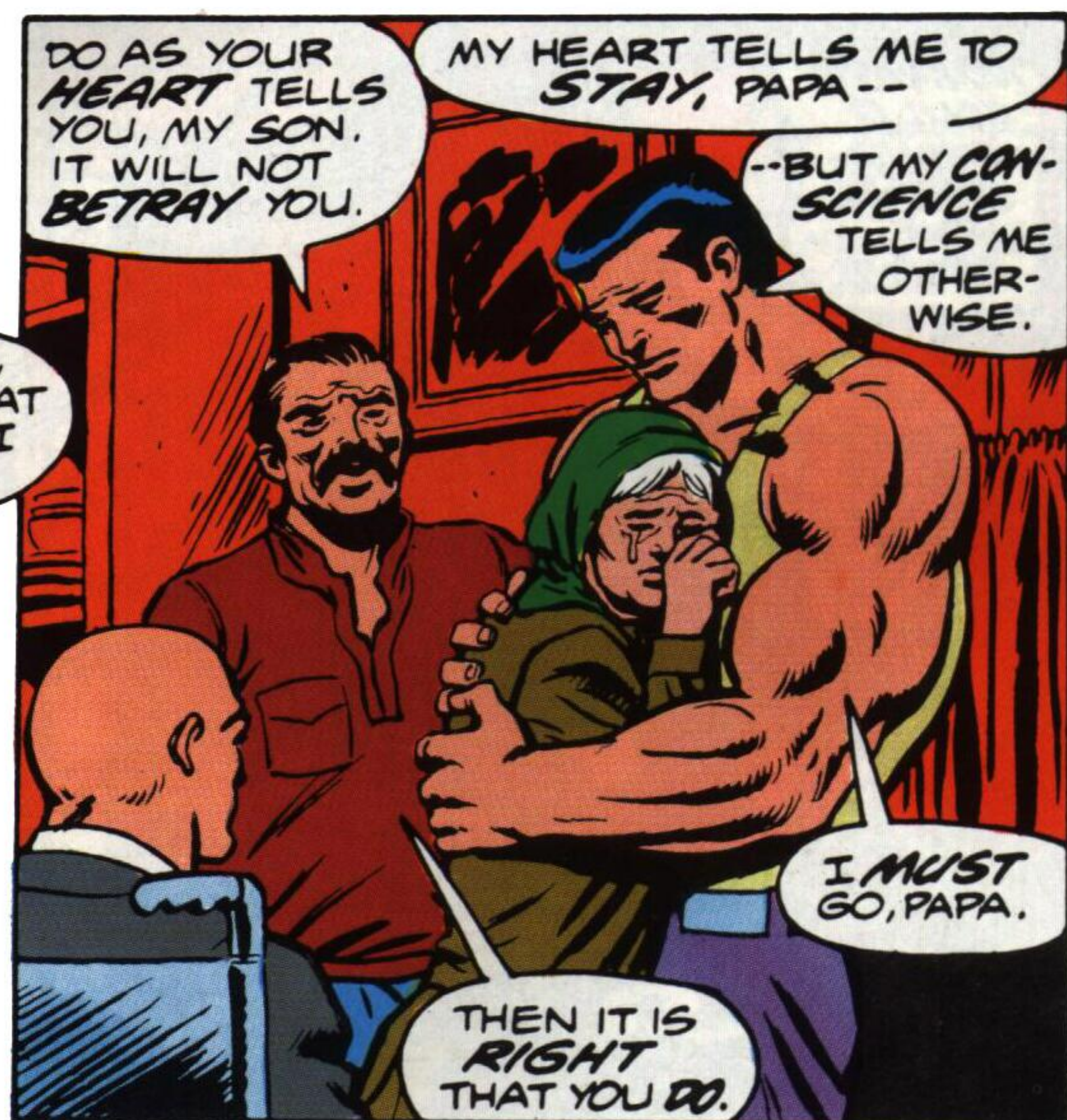
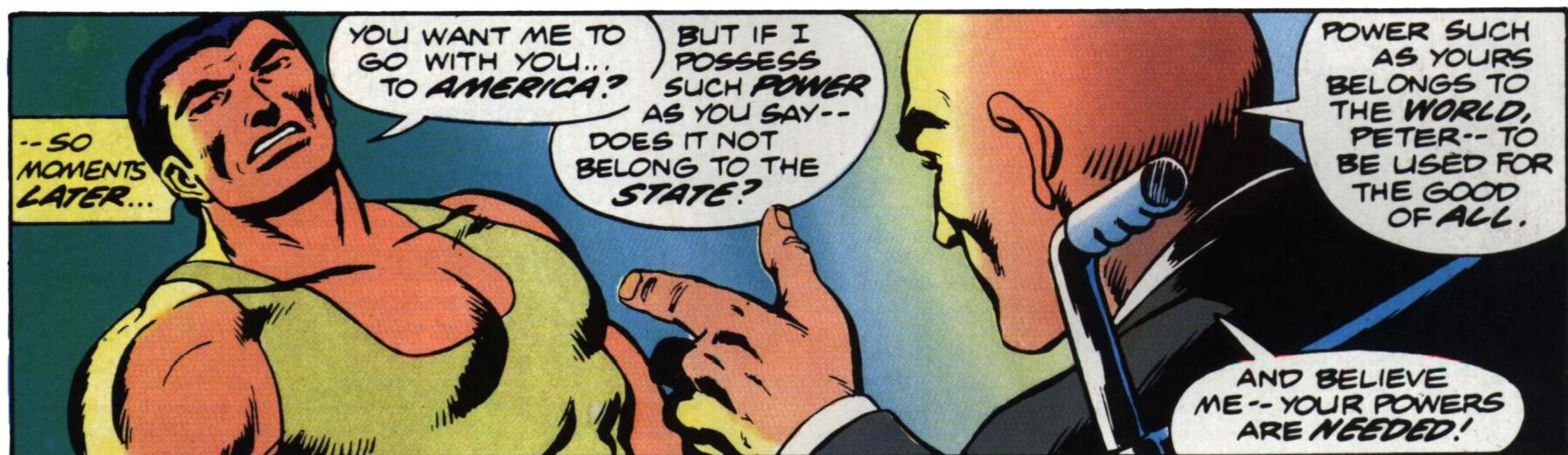
--ENERGY
RELEASED
IN A MOST
ASTONISH-
ING MANNER!

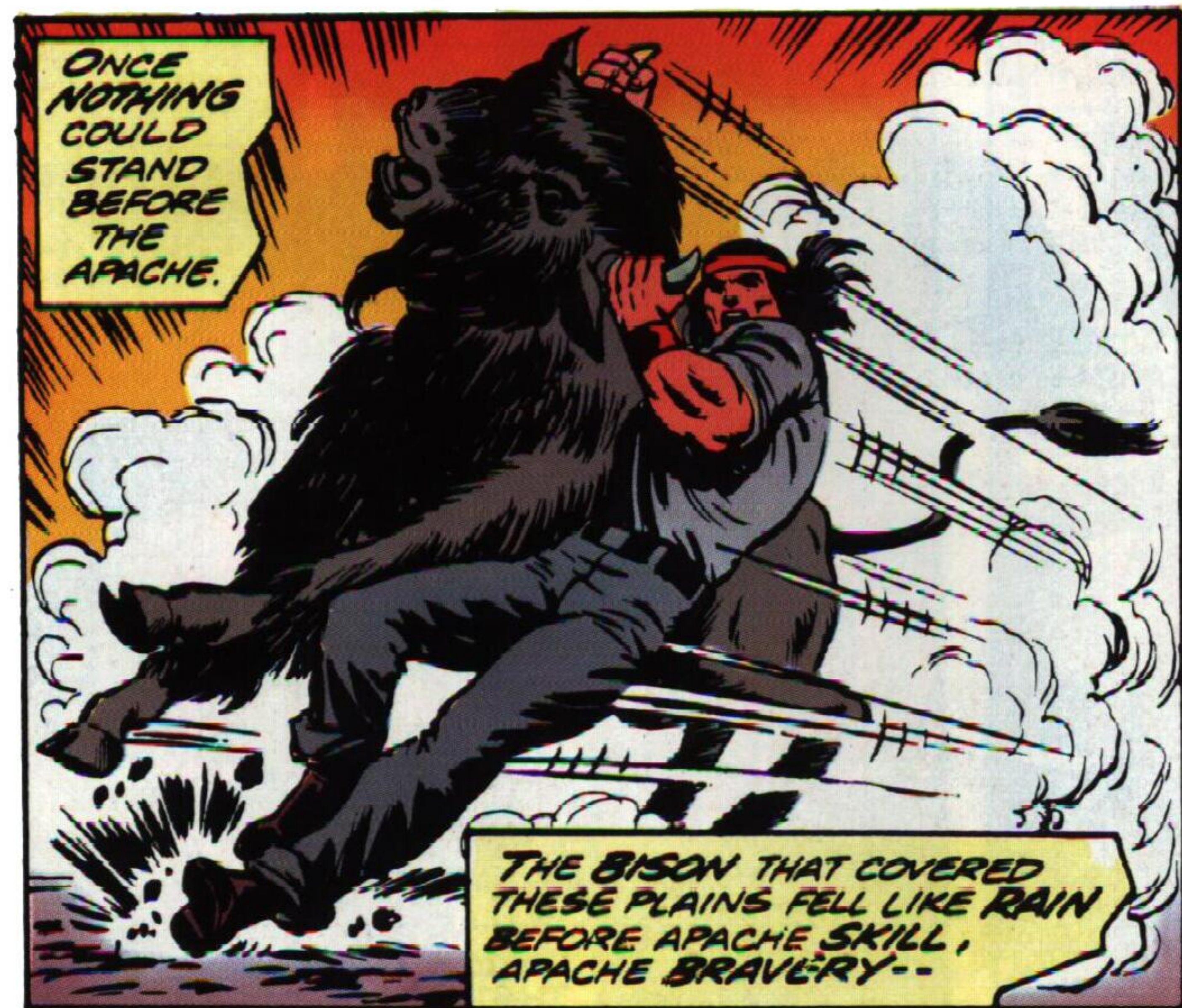
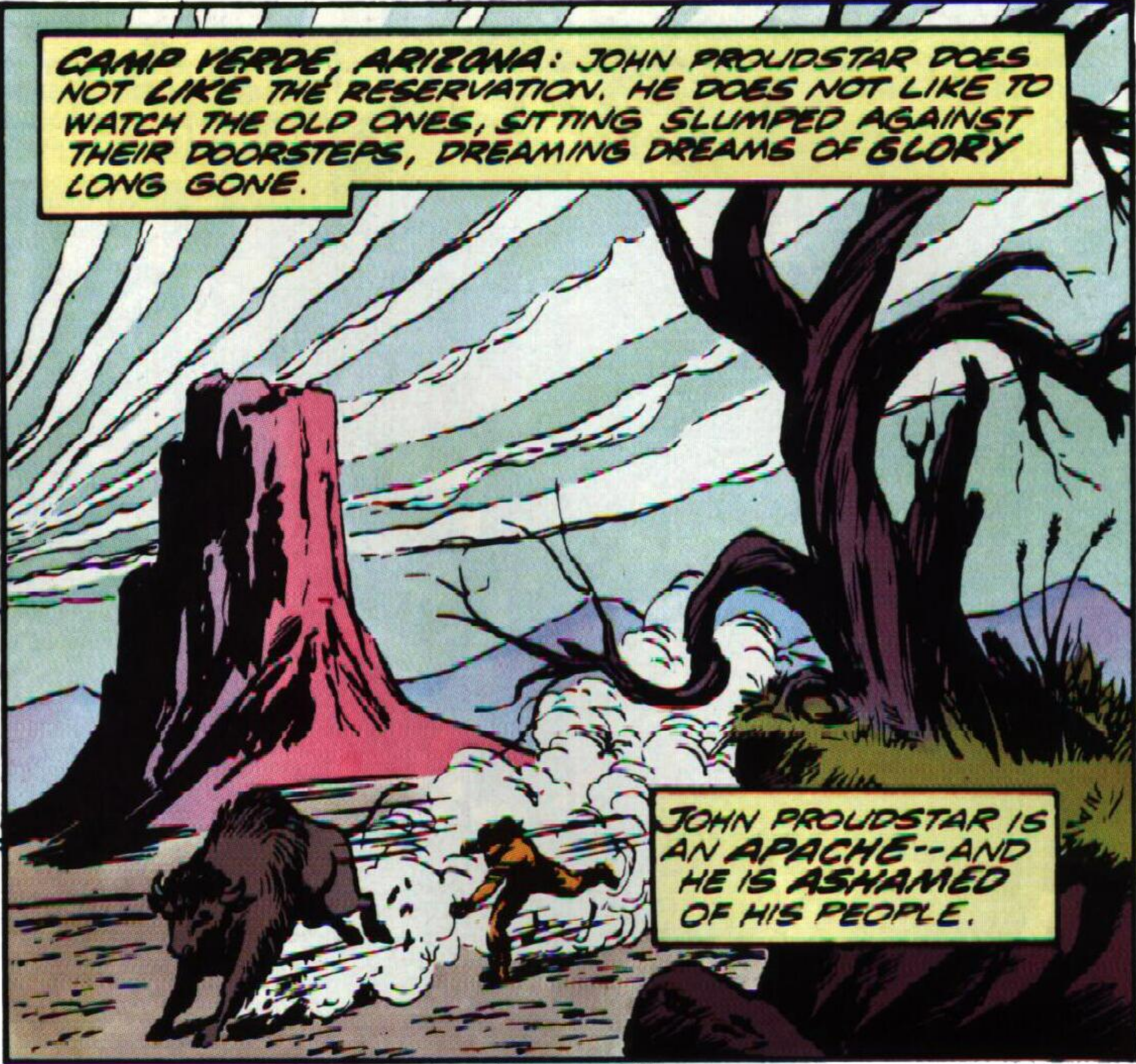
THE ARMORED MA-
CHINE BEARS RELENT-
LESSLY DOWN UPON
THE UNWITTING CHILD--

--AS AN ARMORED
COLOSSUS
SNATCHES HER
FROM ITS PATH!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR PETER RASPUTIN TO
MOVE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--

--THUS HE STANDS HIS
GROUND AS THE RAMPANT
TRACTOR PLUNGES
TOWARD HIM--





AND SUCH A MAN HAVE I
COME **COOKING** FOR, JOHN
PROUDSTAR.



NOW HOW IN BLAZES
DID A **CRIPPLE**
GET WAY OUT **HERE?**
NOT THAT IT
MATTERS
MUCH.



I'VE COME TO HELP YOU
FULFILL YOUR DREAM--
TO GIVE **PRIDE** BACK
TO YOUR PEOPLE.

YOU ARE **SPECIAL**,
JOHN PROUDSTAR.
YOU ARE A
MUTANT.

AND YOU ARE
NEEDED.



AND YOU CAN
STUFF A **CACTUS**,
CUSTER!

THE WHITE
MAN NEEDS
ME? THAT'S
TOUGH!

I OWE
HIM
NOTHING
BUT THE
GRIEF HE'S
GIVEN MY
PEOPLE!



NOW
BEAT
IT!

I OFFER YOU
A CHANCE TO
HELP THE **WORLD**--
AND YOU TURN
YOUR **BACK**
ON ME?

THEN
PERHAPS WHAT
THEY SAY IS
TRUE!



PERHAPS THE APACHE
ARE ALL FRIGHTENED
SELFISH **CHILDREN!**

HO-KAY... THAT
DOES
IT!



AIN'T
NOBODY
THAT
CALLS
ME A
COWARD,
MISTER!

I'M AS GOOD AS
THE **NEXT** GUY--
HELL, I'M
BETTER!

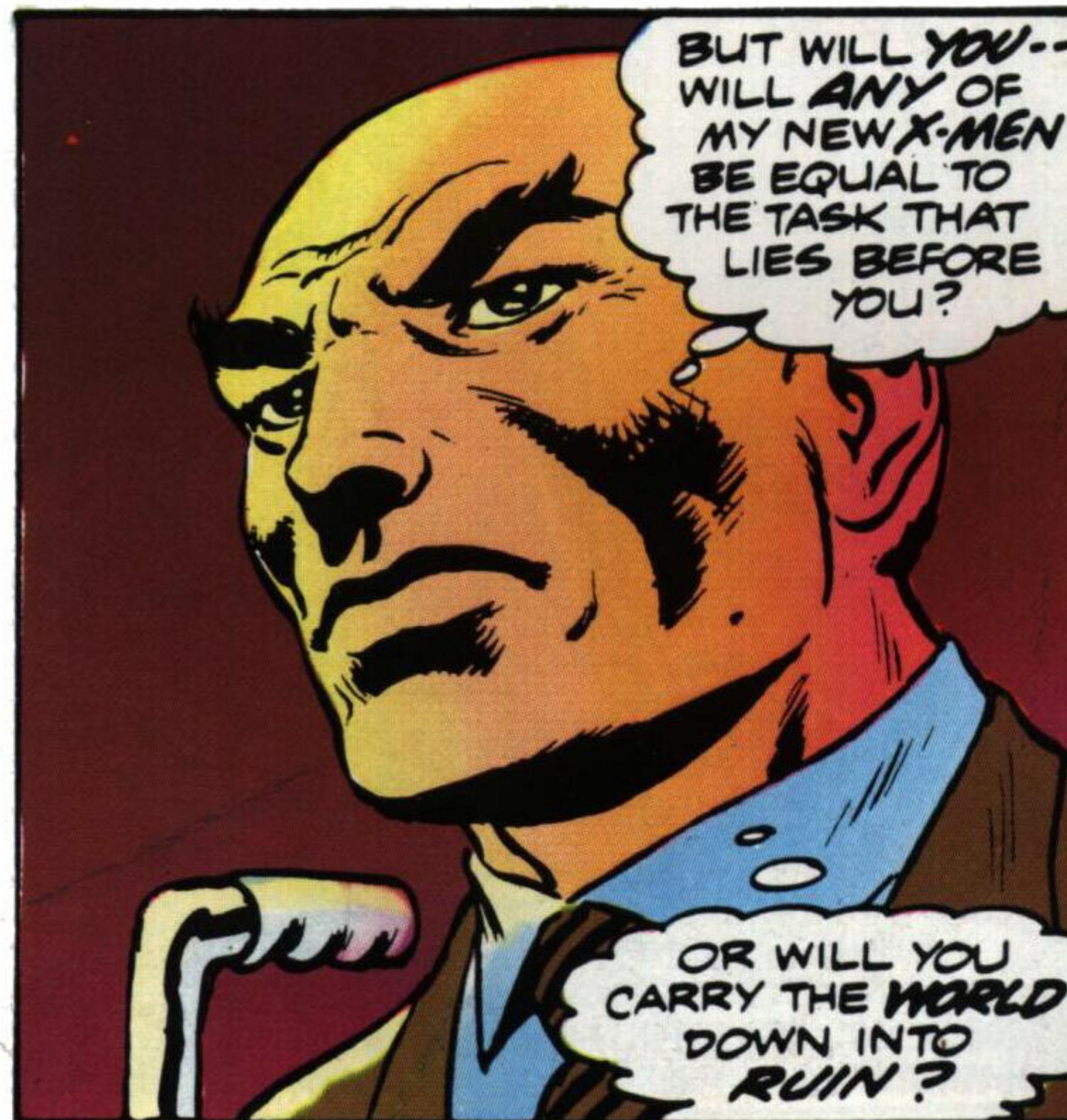
YOU GIVE ME
A CHANCE--
I'LL **PROVE**
IT!

AND YOU WILL **HAVE**
YOUR CHANCE, JOHN.
I **PROMISE** YOU
THAT.



BUT WILL YOU--
WILL **ANY** OF
MY NEW **X-MEN**
BE EQUAL TO
THE TASK THAT
LIES BEFORE
YOU?

OR WILL YOU
CARRY THE **WORLD**
DOWN INTO
RUIN?



CHAPTER

II

"...AND WHEN THERE WAS ONE!"

WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK: THE SCHOOL HAD SEEMED A LATTER-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST-- BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAD CLOSED THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN MERE MINUTES.

NOW PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER SITS, SOMBERLY STUDYING HIS COLORFULLY-COSTUMED HOUSE-GUESTS--

--AND WHATEVER THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AT THIS POINT ARE HIS ALONE TO KNOW.

IN ALL MY LIFE, SUCH CLOTHING AS THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN!

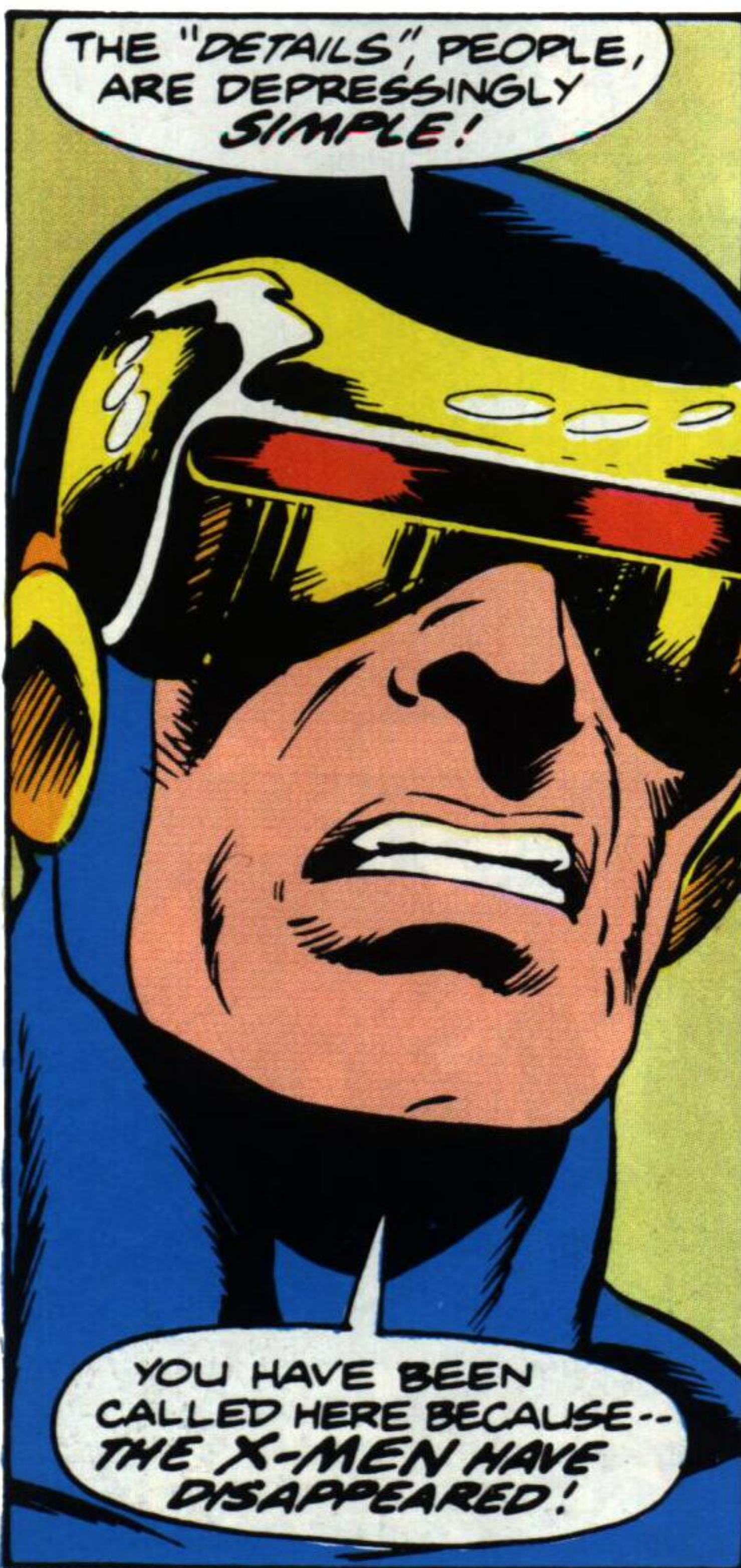
THE COSTUME IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE FIT--PERFECT! BUT HOW DID YOU...?

THE UNIFORMS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES, WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES WHERE NECESSARY.

I OBTAINED THEM FROM A MAN NAMED REED RICHARDS, AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL LEARN MORE OF HIM AND HIS FRIENDS LATER.

BUT RIGHT NOW...





WE'D ALL ANSWERED THE **SIGNAL-ALARM** WITHIN SECONDS: THE PROFESSOR, ANGEL, ICEMAN, MARVEL GIRL, LORNA DANE, MY BROTHER HAVOK, AND MYSELF...

WHAT IS IT, SIR? CEREBRO HAS NEVER REACTED SO VIOLENTLY BEFORE.

WHAT IT IS, SCOTT, IS-- INCREDIBLE!

APPARENTLY, CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A **NEW** MUTANT ON THE ISLAND OF **KRAKOA** IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC--

--A MUTANT SO **POWERFUL** AS TO **DEFY** CLASSIFICATION!

IT SEEMS YOU ALL HAVE **WORK** TO DO, SCOTT...

FIND THAT MUTANT-- **QUICKLY**-- BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FINDS HIM **FIRST**!

YOU HEARD THE PROFESSOR, X-MEN-- IT'S **TRAVELIN' TIME**!

"SHORTLY AFTER, OUR **SPECIALLY-DESIGNED STRATO-JET** ARCED HIGH OVER THE **PATCHWORK COUNTRY-SIDE**--

"--STREAKING TOWARDS AN **UNKNOWN CONFRONTATION**--

"--BUT AT THAT MOMENT, OUR MINDS WERE ON **OTHER THINGS**.

WISH WE COULD'VE CONTACTED THE **BEAST**! HANK MCCOY'S DEXTEROUS DIGITS MIGHT BE--EH--**HANDY** ON A JOB LIKE THIS.

HANK **GRADUATED** THE X-MEN, JEAN. IF HE HASN'T GOT **TIME** FOR US NOW, THAT'S HIS **BUSINESS**.



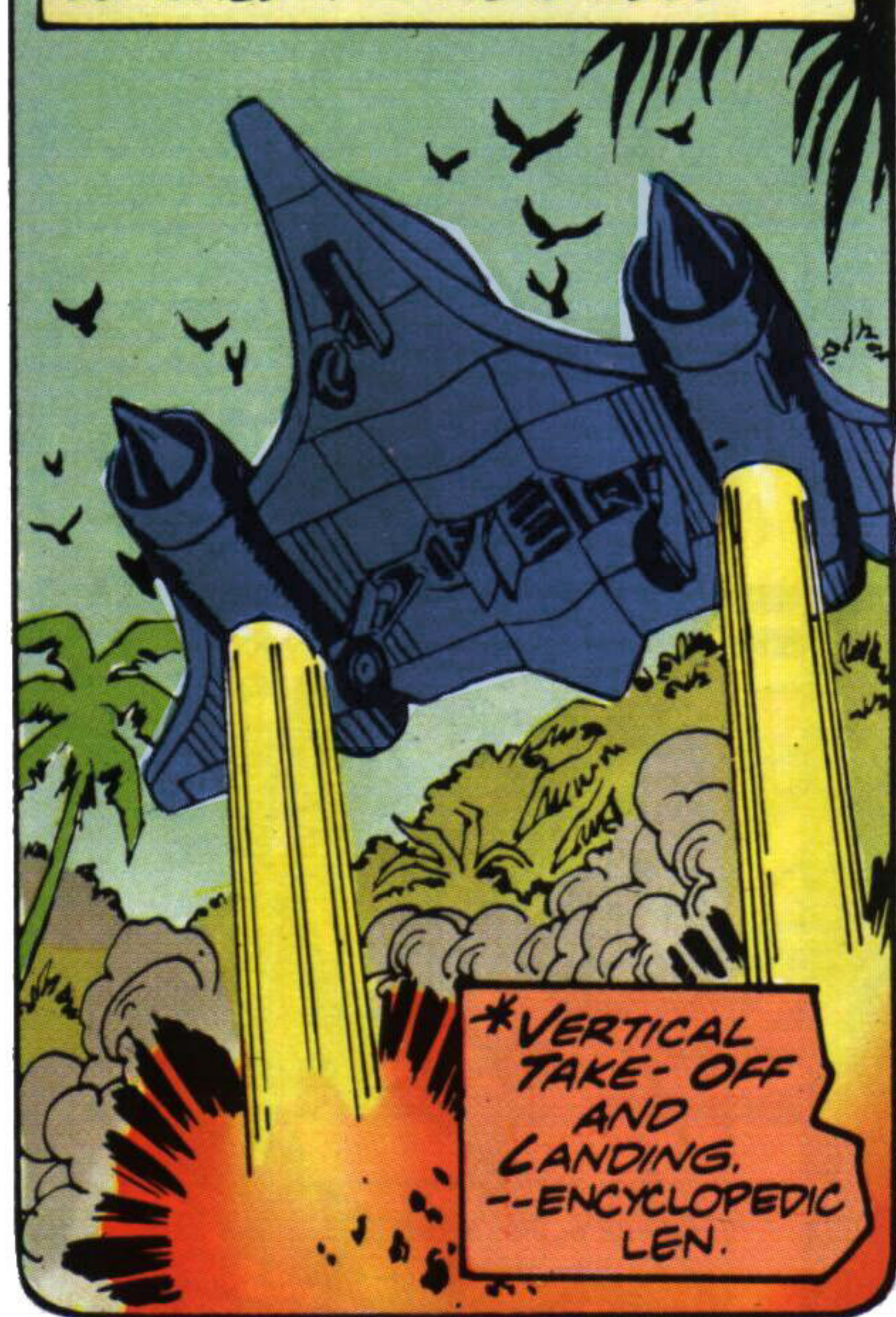
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT BUSINESS OF OUR *OWN* TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT'S *KRAKOA* DEAD AHEAD!

YEECH--YOU'D NEED A SUPER-POWER JUST TO *SURVIVE* ON THAT DESOLATE MUD-BAR.

ENOUGH *BANTER*! STRAP IN FOR *LANDING*!

"WE TOUCHED DOWN MOMENTS LATER, OUR *VTOL** JETS LOWERING US TO EARTH AS GENTLY AS AN INFANT IS LOWERED INTO ITS CRADLE--



**VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING.* --ENCYCLOPEDIA LEN.

"--BUT WE WERE NOT INFANTS--AND THIS WAS DEFINITELY NO *CHILD'S GAME*!

I THINK WE TOOK THE *WRONG* BUS, GANG. THIS PLACE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE *CLEVELAND*.



ALL THE *INSECTS* IN THE AIR-- THE OVERGROWN *JUNGLE*--!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE THIS IS *CLEVELAND*.

I TOLD YOU *BEFORE*, ICEMAN--*SHELV*E THE SNAPPY PATTERN!

WE HAVE A *DIFFICULT* JOB AHEAD OF US, FINDING THAT NEW *MUTANT*--!



MAYBE AN *IMPOSSIBLE* ONE, CYKE-- WHEN YOU CONSIDER WE HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT WE'RE *LOOKING* FOR!

POINT *TAKEN*, ANGEL. LET'S *FAN OUT* AND SEE IF...

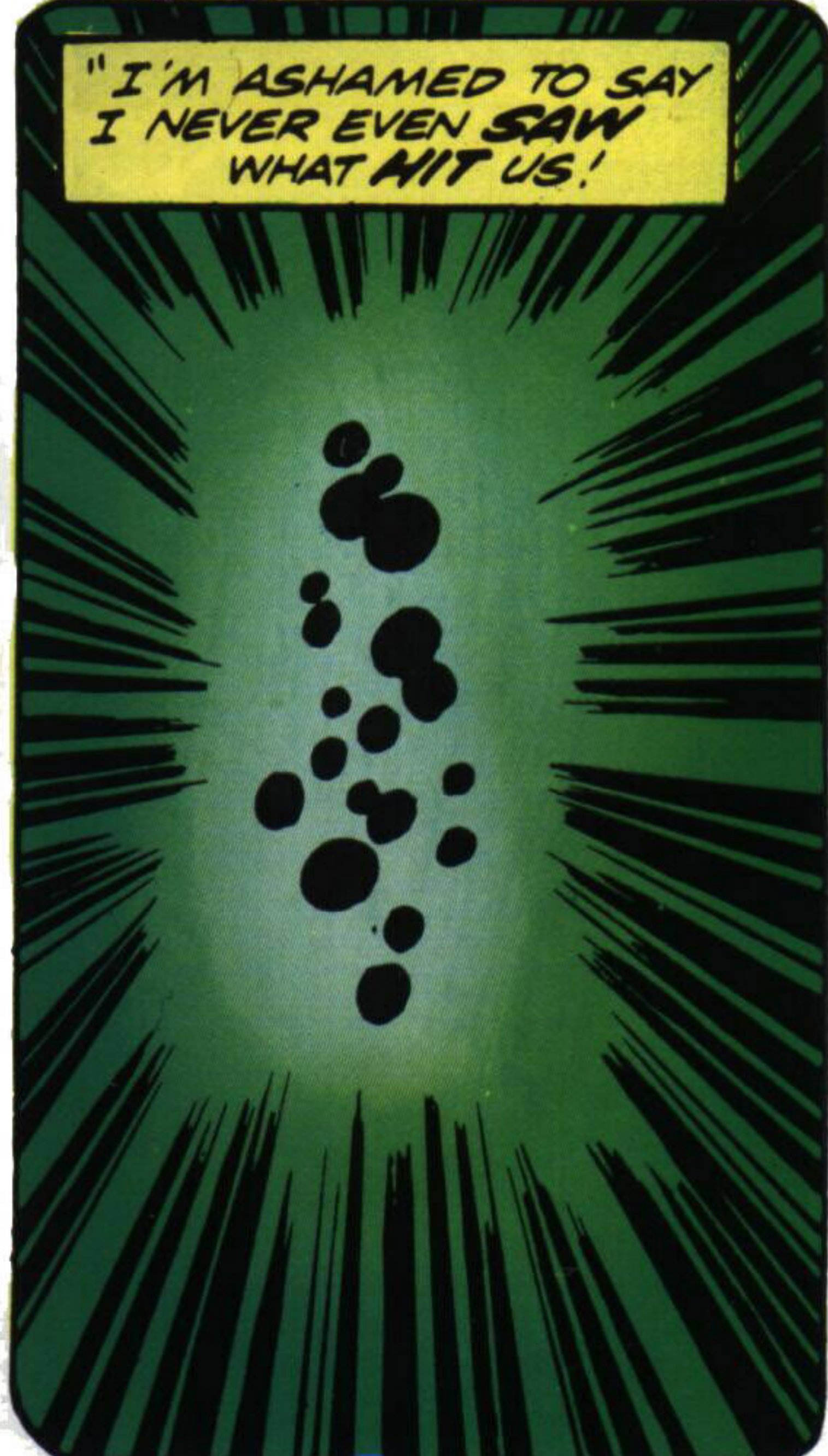


BEHIND US-- L-LOOK! IT'S...IT'S...

QUICK, EVERYBODY-- *SCATTER*!

GET *MOVING* BEFORE WE...

"I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I NEVER EVEN *SAW* WHAT *HIT* US!"



"MY HEAD WAS A THROBBING MASS OF PAIN AND SCREAMING IMAGES WHEN I STRUGGLED AWAKE LORD KNOWS HOW LONG AFTERWARD."



"I DIDN'T REALIZE WHERE I WAS, NOR DID I REALLY CARE. ALL THAT CONCERNED ME WAS..."

MY FRIENDS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER X-MEN?



"AND WORSE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME?"



MY EYES! DEAR HEAVEN, MY EYES--!!

THEY'RE UNCOVERED! THEY'RE...

THEY'RE... NORMAL... POWERLESS!



HOWEVER HARD I TRY, I CAN'T PROJECT MY OPTIC BLASTS!

DID YOU HEAR ME, WORLD? I CAN'T... HUH?



"THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED I WAS BACK ON THE STRATO-JET--"

"--AND I WASN'T IN CONTROL!"

AUTOMATIC PILOT IS JAMMED! CAN'T TURN THIS CRATE BACK TO THE ISLAND--!



"I SPENT THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES POUNDING FUTILELY ON THE CONTROL PANEL, THEN RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE SITUATION AND SAT BACK IN MY SEAT."



"I WASN'T HAPPY BY THE TIME I REACHED WEST-CHESTER--"

"--NOT HAPPY AT ALL!"

SLAMM!

PROFESSOR --I'M BACK!

CYCLOPS!!? WHAT--? WH-WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?



"THE PROFESSOR WAS NO HAPPIER THAN I AFTER I TOLD HIM..."

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THE OTHER X-MEN ARE STILL ON THAT ISLAND--

--AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?



I KNOW NOTHING, PROFESSOR-- EXCEPT THAT SOMETHING ON KRAKOA CURED MY EYES AND DEPOSITED ME BACK IN THAT...

HUH? WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

YOUR EYES, SCOTT-- THEY'RE GLOWING AGAIN--?

QUICKLY, SCOTT-- GRAB SOME PROTECTIVE LENSES!

NO-- NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

YOUR OPTIC POWERS HAVE RETURNED!

"BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EVEN ASK!"

"THE OPTIC ENERGIES THAT HAD CURSED ME SINCE MY EARLY TEENS WERE BACK AGAIN--

--WITH A VENGEANCE!"

"AND THIS TIME THEY WERE SO STRONG, EVEN I COULD NOT CONTROL THEM!"

GROOM!

SKAKK!

THE PROFESSOR MODIFIED ONE OF MY OLD VISORS TO CONTAIN MY INCREASED POWER--

--THEN LEFT ME HERE TO RETRAIN MYSELF WHILE HE WENT IN SEARCH OF YOU!

AND HE FOUND US! SO NOW WHAT?

SO NOW WE GO BACK TO KRAKOA TO FIND THE ORIGINAL X-MEN--

--AND THE MUTANT THAT DEFEATED US!

INCORRECT, CYCLOPS! NOW YOU GO BACK TO KRAKOA-- NOT I!

I WILL HAVE NO PART IN THIS FOOL'S ERRAND!

WHAT..?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUNFIRE-- WE OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO **HELP** YOUR FELLOW MUTANTS AND...

I DO NOT EVEN LIKE MY FELLOW MUTANTS, CYCLOPS!

I CERTAINLY WILL NOT RISK MY LIFE TO HELP THEM!



I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, SUNFIRE-- BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ARGUING!

THE REST OF US HAVE A JOB TO DO-- AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT!



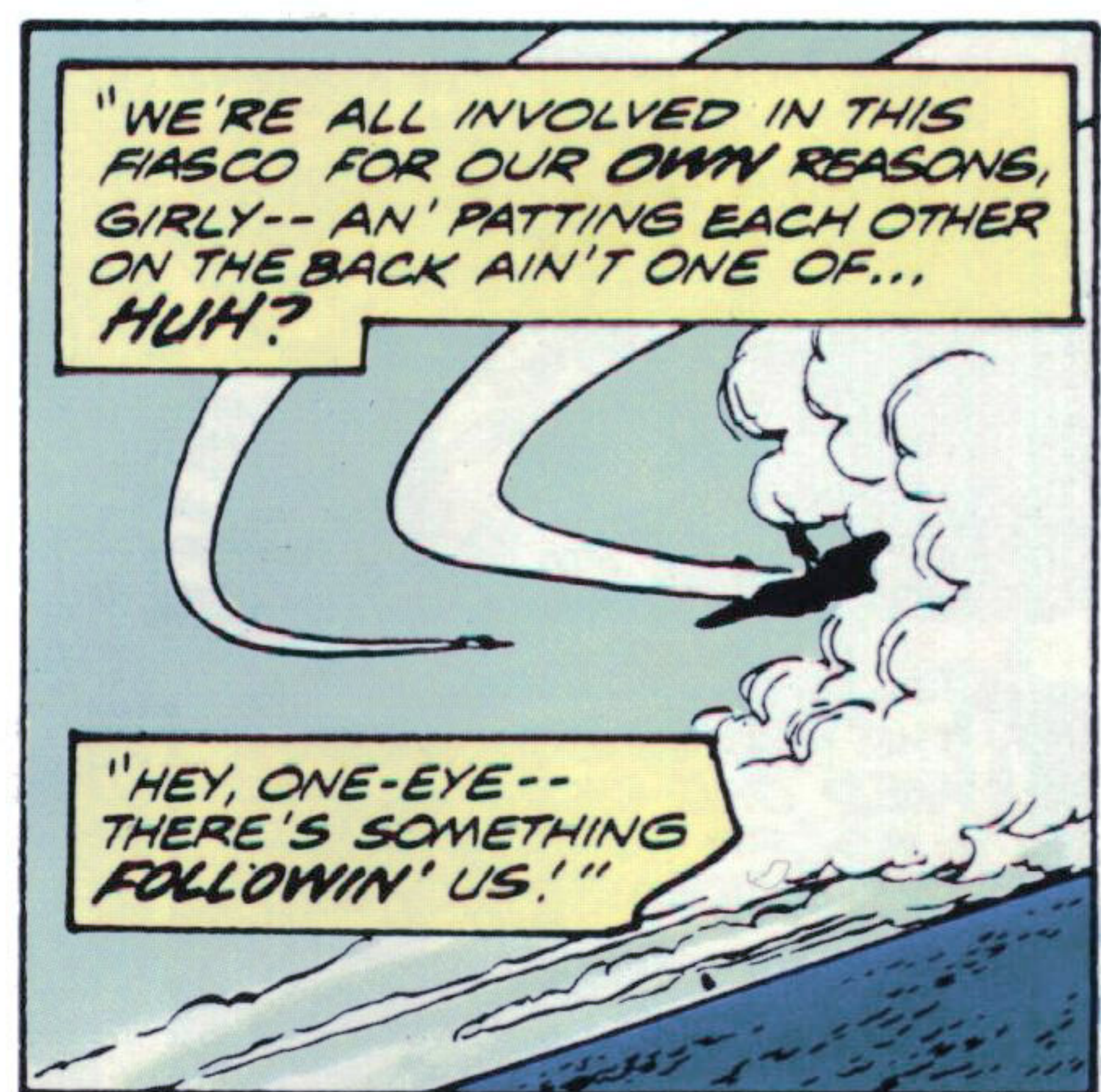
MOMENTS LATER, THE STRATOJET STREAKS SKYWARD-- AND THERE IS ONLY ONE EMPTY SEAT ON BOARD...



IT SEEMS I HAVE HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF **MUTANT CAMARADERIE**-- AND I MUST SAY, CYCLOPS--

-- I DID NOT LIKE IT!

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, SISTER-- BUT THIS GROUP AIN'T EXACTLY A **MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY**!



"WE'RE ALL INVOLVED IN THIS FIASCO FOR OUR OWN REASONS, GIRLY-- AN' PATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK AIN'T ONE OF... **HUH?**"

"HEY, ONE-EYE-- THERE'S SOMETHING FOLLOWIN' US!"



"I SEE IT, GERONIMO! IT'S..."

"WELL, I'LL BE JIGGERED, ONE-EYE-- THE JAP!"

ARE YOU GOING TO **OPEN** THE HATCH, CYCLOPS--

OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FLY ALL THE WAY TO KRAKOA BY MYSELF?



SO--THE PRODIGAL **MUTANT** RETURNS! WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, SUNFIRE-- AFRAID TO GO HOME ALONE?

MY REASONS ARE NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY **OWN**, MISFIT! YOU'D DO WELL TO **REMEMBER** THAT!

ASSAULT FORCE!

AN HOUR PASSES-- TWO HOURS--
UNTIL THE FORSAKEN ATOLL CALLED
KRAKOA LOOMS FULL BEFORE THE
VIEWPORTS...

SO THAT'S WHERE
YOU MISLAID YOUR PARTNERS, HUH?

CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR
TASTE IN VACATION
SPOTS, SUMMERS!

"AND I CAN'T SAY MUCH
FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR,
WOLVERINE! NOR YOURS,
THUNDERBIRD!"

"THE NAME IS
PROUDSTAR,
ONE-EYE!"

"NOT ANYMORE! THE
PROFESSOR HAS GIVEN
YOU ALL CODE NAMES,
GROUP! YOU MIGHT AS
WELL START GETTING
USED TO THEM!"

"NOW THE ASSAULT
TEAMS WILL BE AS
FOLLOWS:

"STORM, YOU AND
COLOSSUS WILL
COME IN FROM THE
NORTH!"

"BANSHEE AND THE
WOLVERINE WILL
MOVE ACROSS FROM
THE EAST!"

'TIS
A PLEASURE
TA BE
WORKIN'
WITH YE,
LADDY.

WHOOPEE.

"SUNFIRE AND THE
NIGHTCRAWLER WILL
START SEARCHING FROM
THE SOUTH!"

NO--
NOT
HIM!

I DID NOT HEAR
CYCLOPS GIVING YOU
A CHOICE, MAN.

THUNDERBIRD
AND I WILL HANDLE
THE WEST END
OF THE ISLAND!

NOW GET
READY,
SOUTH TEAM--
YOUR DROP
IS COMING UP!

I DON'T MUCH
LIKE THE TONE
OF YOUR VOICE,
CYCLOPS!

"WE CAN ARGUE
ABOUT IT WHEN
YOU GET BACK!
NOW-- GO!"

"EAST TEAM
-- GO!"

CRIPES! DO YOU
HAVE TO SCREECH
LIKE THAT?

"NORTH TEAM--

THAT IS
OUR
SIGNAL,
STORM!

COLOSSUS
--NO!



YOU **FOOL**--
YOU CANNOT
FLY!

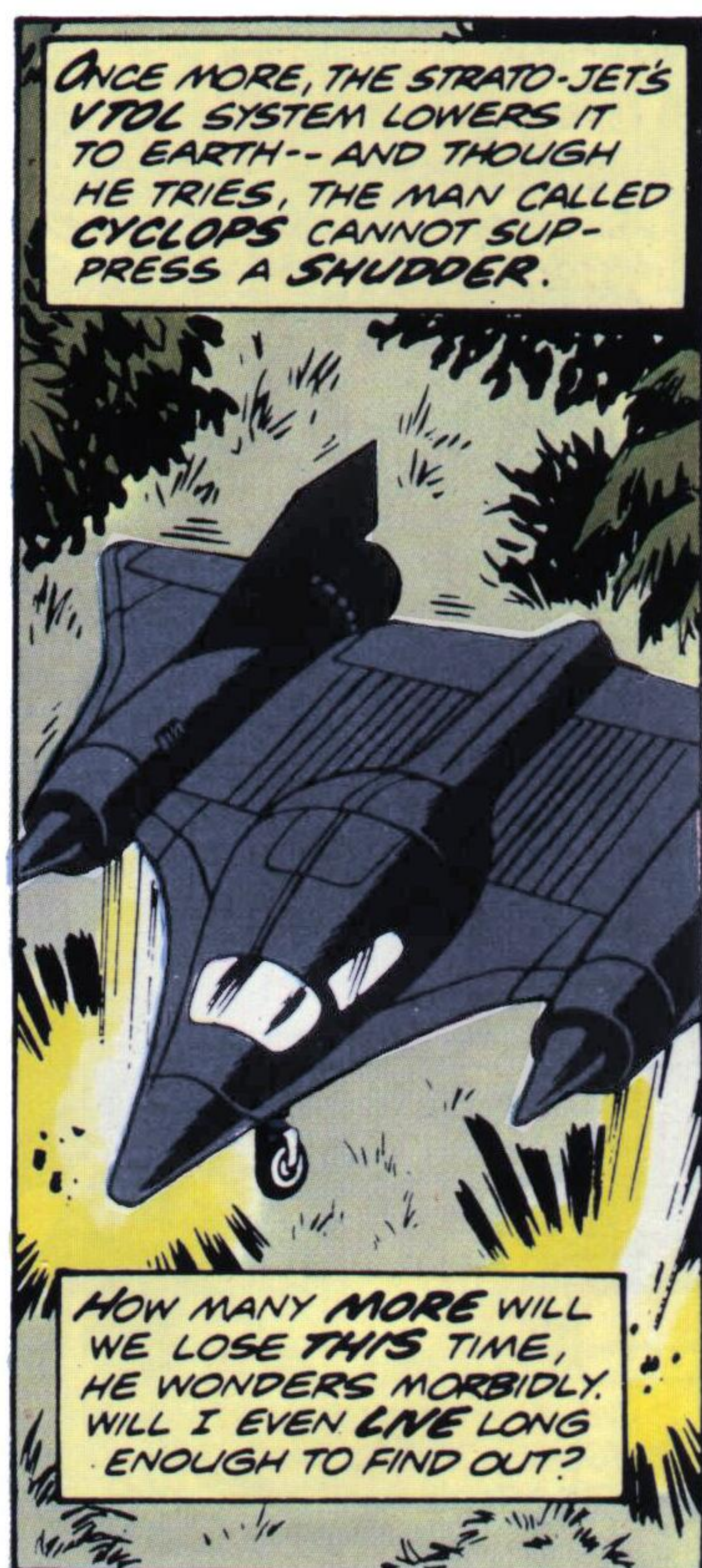
OF **COURSE**
NOT--BUT
I CAN **LAND**
WITH THE
BEST
OF THEM!



THE **CHICK** AND THE **RUSSKIE**
HAVE **LANDED**-- AND IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE **ARGUING**--

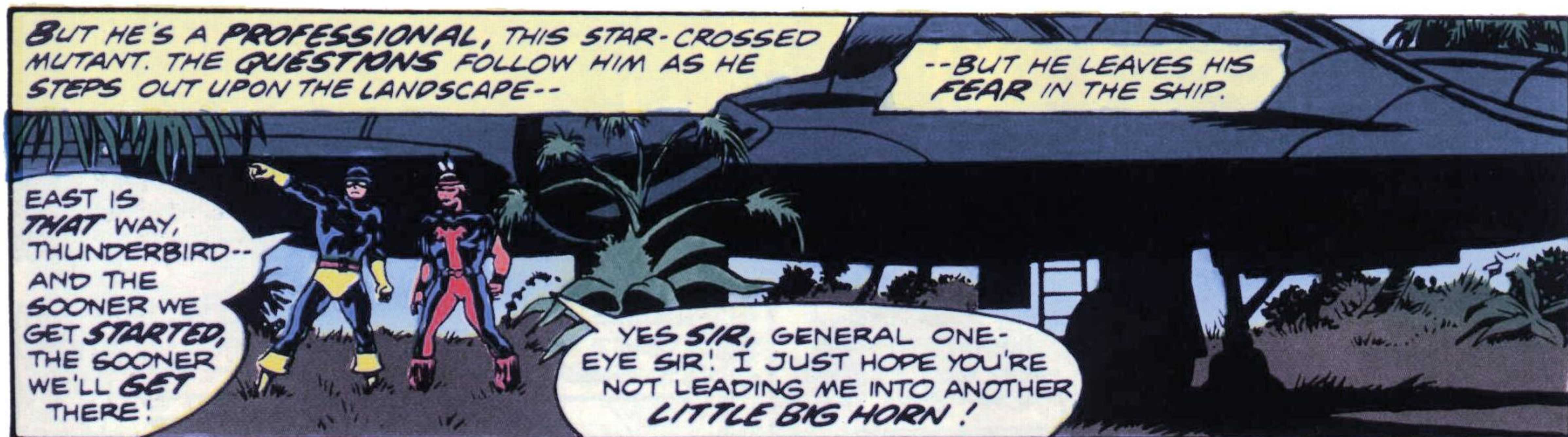
--WHICH IS ABOUT
PAR FOR THIS
OUTFIT!

WE'RE
GOING
DOWN
NEXT,
THUNDERBIRD--
STRAP IN!



ONCE MORE, THE **STRATO-JET'S**
VTOL SYSTEM LOWERS IT
TO **EARTH**-- AND THOUGH
HE TRIES, THE MAN CALLED
CYCLOPS CANNOT SUP-
PRESS A **SHUDDER**.

HOW MANY **MORE** WILL
WE LOSE **THIS** TIME,
HE WONDERS **MORBIDLY**.
WILL I EVEN **LIVE** LONG
ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?



BUT HE'S A **PROFESSIONAL**, THIS **STAR-CROSSED**
MUTANT. THE **QUESTIONS** FOLLOW HIM AS HE
STEPS OUT UPON THE **LANDSCAPE**--

--BUT HE LEAVES HIS
FEAR IN THE **SHIP**.

EAST IS
THAT WAY,
THUNDERBIRD--
AND THE
SOONER WE
GET **STARTED**,
THE SOONER
WE'LL **GET**
THERE!

YES **SIR**, GENERAL **ONE-EYE**
SIR! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE
NOT LEADING ME INTO ANOTHER
LITTLE BIG HORN!



IT'D BE JUST MY **LUCK**
TO BE THE FIRST **INDIAN**
TO GET **MASSA-**
CRED BY...

HOLD IT! I
LEFT THE **MINI-**
CEREBRO UNIT
BACK IN...
HUH?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

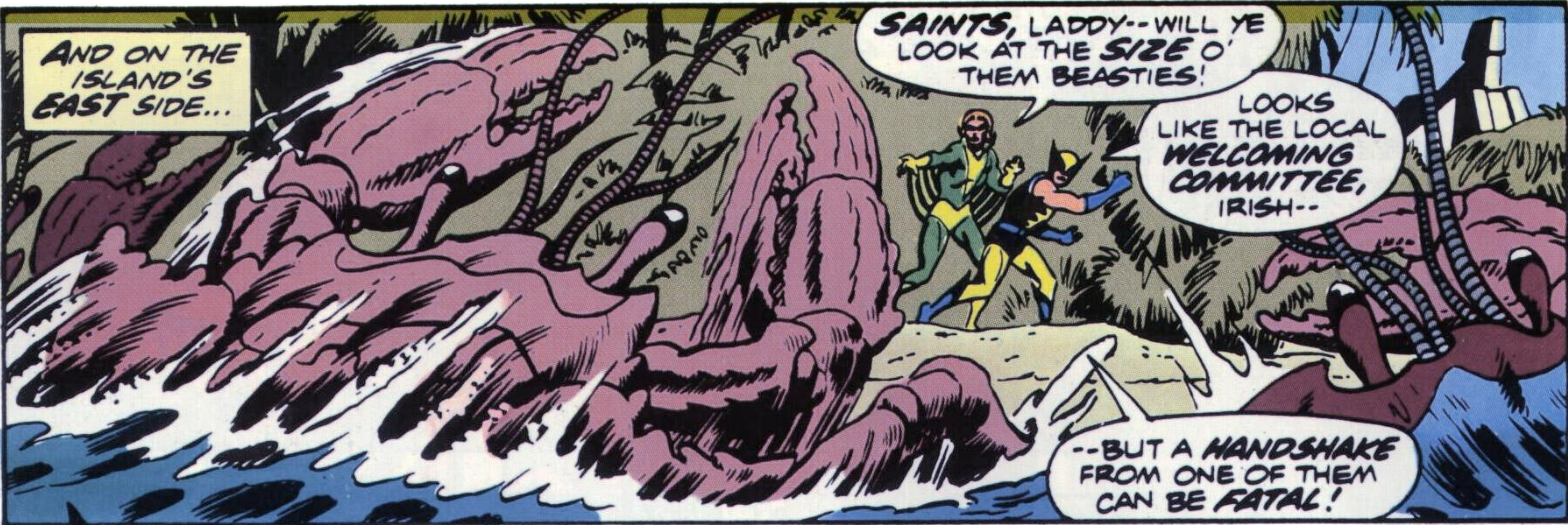
DON'T
BELIEVE
WHAT?



THE
STRATO-
JET--!

IT'S--
GONE!





AND ON THE ISLAND'S EAST SIDE...

SAINTS, LADDY--WILL YE LOOK AT THE *SIZE O'* THEM BEASTIES!

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL *WELCOMING COMMITTEE*, IRISH--

--BUT A *HANDSHAKE* FROM ONE OF THEM CAN BE *FATAL*!



GOOD THING THEN THEY'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES AROUND HERE WITH BIG, SHARP *CLAWS*, ISN'T IT?



THE WOLVERINE HAS *CLAWS* OF HIS OWN--

--AND, IRISH, HE LIKES TO *USE* THEM!

SKRAK

HEY--ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND AROUND *GAWKING*, IRISH--OR ARE YOU GOING TO *HELP* ME?



BUT THE ERIN-BORN MUTANT IS ALREADY *ALOFT*--AND THOUGH HIS *SONIC SCREAM* IS NOT NEARLY SO *FLAMBOYANT* AS HIS COMPANION'S *SLASHING TALONS*.



--IT IS NONETHELESS *EQUALLY EFFECTIVE*!



THE BATTLE IS *VIOLENT*--BUT *BRIEF*!

WELL, LADDY--SURE 'N IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE *DONE* FER THE BEASTIES! WE'D BEST BE GETTIN' ON TO THAT *TEMPLE* WE SPIED A TOUCH BACK.

YEAH. *SURE*. THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP US *HERE*... ANY MORE.



AND SOON...

FAITH! 'TIS GOOD T'BE *SEEIN'* YE ALL AGAIN. 'T WAS A MOMENT THERE I HAD ME *DOUBTS*.

AND YOU WERE NOT *ALONE*.

WELL, MINUTES EARLIER ON THE ISLAND'S NORTH SIDE...

ODD-- I DO NOT RECALL SEEING THAT TEMPLE BEFORE.



WHATEVER YOU SAY, ORORO. YOU ARE SO UNLIKE THE GIRLS IN MY... EH? THAT SOUND...?

COME, COLOSSUS-- LET US BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE!



AN AVALANCHE!



QUICKLY, COLOSSUS-- PERHAPS WE CAN STILL OUTFRAN IT!

IT HAS CHANGED ITS DIRECTION TO FOLLOW US!



HE MOЖET 6 BITЬ! THIS LANDSLIDE CANNOT BE OUTFRAN, ORORO!



THOSE MAD ROCKS CAN NO LONGER HURT ME, ORORO--

THEN IF WE CANNOT AVOID A CONFRONTATION, WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND-- AND DEFEND OURSELVES!



KWUMP!

--BUT FOR THREATENING YOU, I SHALL CRUSH THEM!



"I AM NO LONGER THREATENED."

I THANK YOU, PETER-- BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO PROTECT ME!



AND SHORTLY...

STORM... COLOSSUS... GLAD YOU MADE IT IN ONE PIECE.

BARELY, CYCLOPS... JUST BARELY. I ONLY HOPE THE OTHERS ARRIVE SAFELY AS WELL.

WHILE ON THE ISLAND'S SOUTH SIDE...

THESE BIRDS SEEM DETERMINED TO PREVENT US FROM REACHING THAT STRANGE TEMPLE AHEAD, SUNFIRE!

A REMARKABLE OBSERVATION, MISFIT! YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TALENT FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS!

SKREEE

YOUR SARCASM IS UNCALLED FOR, SUNFIRE! I BEGIN TO THINK THE MUTANT COMMUNITY IS NO MORE HOSPITABLE THAN THE HUMAN... EH?

THAT BIRD-- ABOUT TO RAKE ME WITH ITS TALONS--!

A BURST OF FLAME-- THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE-- AND THE MUTANT CALLED NIGHTCRAWLER--

--IS SUDDENLY ELSEWHERE!

HIS LAUGH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A HIDEOUS HOWL!

YOUR MANNER SEEMS MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE BEASTS YOU SO RESEMBLE, MISFIT!

HOW APPROPRIATE!

BUT SUNFIRE HAS NO NEED OF SUCH PARLOR TRICKS AS YOURS!

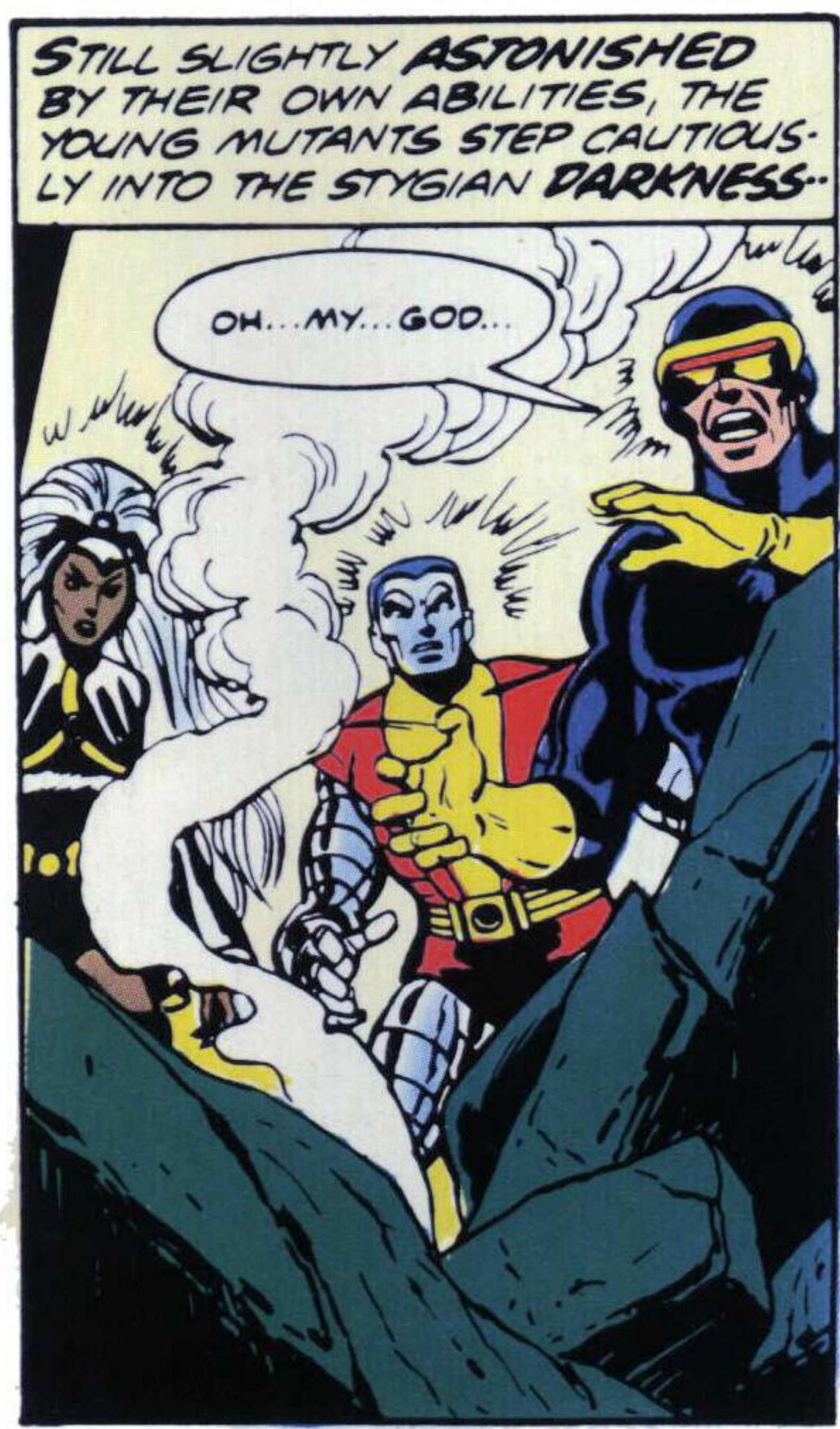
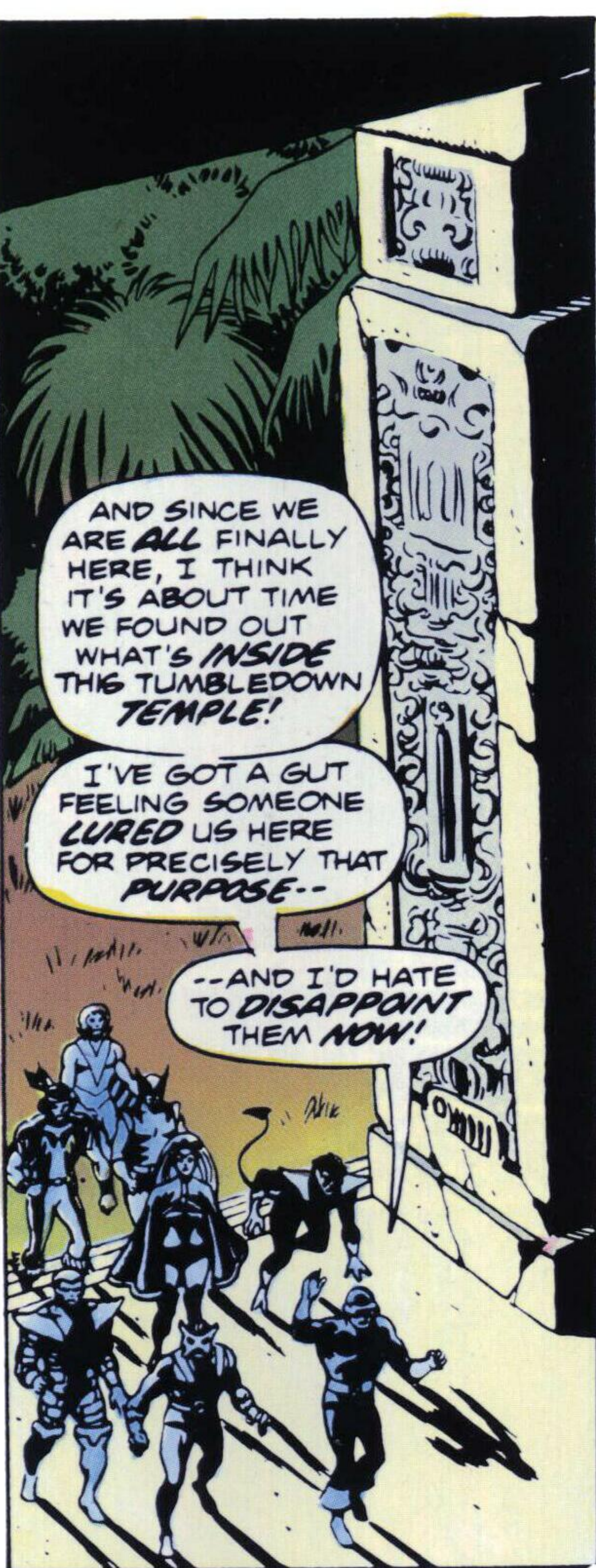
I MUCH PREFER THE DIRECT APPROACH!

YOUR "DIRECT APPROACH," IT APPEARS, HAS LEFT US WITHOUT OPPONENTS, SUNFIRE!

THEN I SUGGEST WE GET ON TO THAT TEMPLE, MISFIT... ASSUMING, OF COURSE, YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!

AND FINALLY... CYCLOPS! HAVE WE KEPT YOU WAITING LONG?

NOT AT ALL! JUST GOT HERE OURSELVES!





WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE *STARING* AT THEM--!

IN PITY'S NAME-- *SET THEM FREE!*



CRIPES! WHAT'S GOING ON? AS SOON AS WE PULLED THESE *TUBES* LOOSE--

--THE PLACE STARTED SHAKING ITSELF *APART!*

QUICKLY THEN-- *CARRY WHOEVER IS CLOSEST TO YOU--*



--AND LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE THIS TEMPLE COMES *DOWN* AROUND OUR EARS!

KROOM!



AND EVEN AS THE ARCAINE TEMPLE TOPPLES INTO RUIN BEHIND THEM...

HEY-- THEY'RE COMING AROUND! MUST NOT HAVE BEEN AS BAD AS...

WHY, CYCLOPS? WHY DID YOU COME *BACK* FOR US?

HUH?



YOU *FOOL*-- DON'T YOU UNDER-*STAND?*

IT WANTED YOU TO COME BACK--AND BRING *OTHERS* WITH YOU! IT WAS ALL A *TRAP*-- AND NOW IT'S--

--*TOO LATE!*



THE *GROUND*-- REARING UP AROUND THE *FALLEN TEMPLE*--!

OF *COURSE!* HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET?

WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND TO LOOK FOR A *MUTANT*...



--BUT THE *MUTANT* IS THE *ISLAND* ITSELF!

KKRRRAWRRR

IMAGES FLOOD MUTANT MINDS
AS THEY STAND ROOTED TO THE
SPOT...

...THE SUN-BURST
BRILLIANCE OF AN
EARLY ATOMIC
TEST...

...WHOSE UNSEEN
RADIATION PERME-
ATED EVERY LIVING
ORGANISM HERE...

...UNTIL THEY GREW
LINKED IN A COLONY
INTELLIGENCE THAT
GAVE THE ISLAND A
LIFE OF ITS OWN...

CHAPTER
IV

KRAKOA...

THE ISLAND THAT
WALKS LIKE A MAN!

BUT KRAKOA GREW
HUNGRY THEN...

KRAKOA FED
UPON THEIR
MUTANT
ENERGIES
AND GREW
HUNGRIER
STILL...

...THUS IT
RELEASED ONE
X-MAN AND SENT
HIM FORTH TO
FIND MORE FOOD...

...WHICH
CYCLOPS
DID!

...A HUNGER
BARELY
APPEASED
WHEN THE
X-MEN
ARRIVED
UPON THE
SCENE...



... AND NOW WE
WILL GO HUNGRY
NO LONGER!

FILTHY
MONSTER, YOU
USED ME--
LIKE A LOUSY
JUDAS GOAT
LEADING
LAMBS TO THE
SLAUGHTER--!



YES, WE USED
YOU, EYELESS
ONE-- AS WE
USED THE CRIP-
PLED ONE WHO
GATHERED
YOU ALL
TOGETHER--

-- AT THE
COMMAND OF
A VOICE ONLY
HIS MIND
COULD HEAR!



BUT THE
TIME FOR
EXPLANATIONS
IS PAST!

NOW
IT IS
TIME
FOR
KRAKOA
TO FEED!

SCATTER,
X-MEN--
QUICKLY--!

ZUUNNGH!

ZZZKKAK



YOU LILY-LIVERS WANT
TO SCATTER, THAT'S
SWELL--

-- BUT THE
WOLVERINE
IS GOING OUT
FOR BLOOD!

WHUMP!



ASSUMING, OF COURSE,
THIS VEGETARIAN
MONSTROSITY
HAS ANY--

-- WHICH IS
DOUBTFUL!

YOUR SOLAR
BLASTS HAVE
NO EFFECT ON
THE THING,
SUNFIRE!




NOR DO MY BOLTS
OF LIGHTNING!


BUT WE MUST
FIGHT ON--
WHATEVER
THE RISK!

MEER WORDS COULD NEVER BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SHEER UNBRIDLED SAVAGERY OF THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWS --





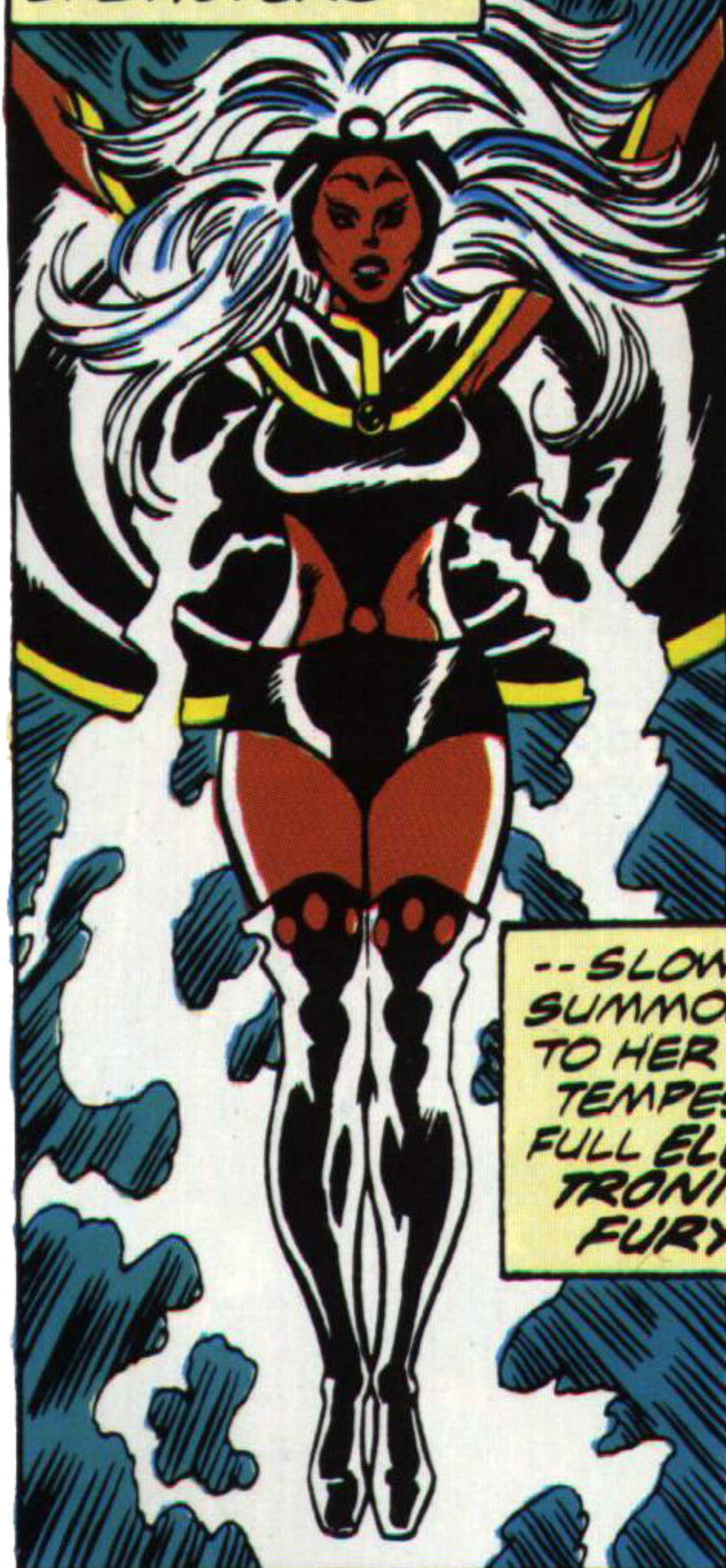
IT IS A WAR FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS--
AS PROFESSOR X WAGES DEADLY
MENTAL COMBAT WITH A CRAZED COM-
MUNITY INTELLECT-- WHILE HIS STUDENTS
RACE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN...



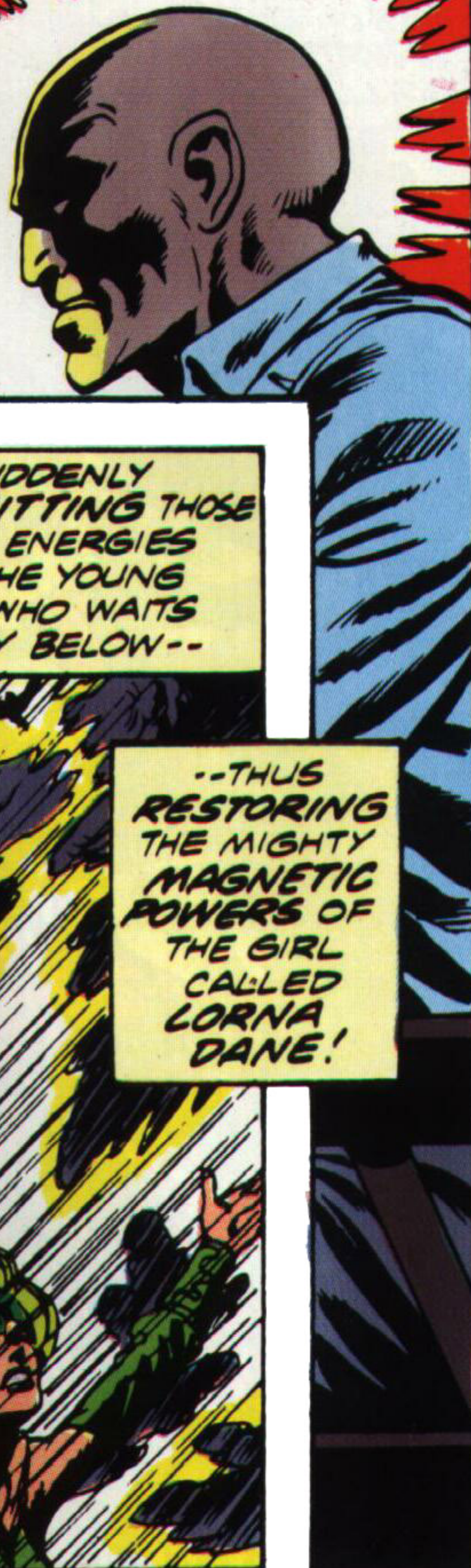
AT CYCLOPS' COMMAND, THE
EYES OF THE
MUTANT CALLED
STORM GROW
DARK ONCE
MORE--

--AND
SHE SOARS
ALOFT ON
THE WINGS
OF THE
WIND!

HIGH ABOVE KRAKOA,
SHE HOVERS--



--SLOWLY
SUMMONING
TO HER THE
TEMPEST'S
FULL ELEC-
TRONIC
FURY--



--THEN SUDDENLY
TRANSMITTING THOSE
SEETHING ENERGIES
TO THE LITHE YOUNG
WOMAN WHO WAITS
ANXIOUSLY BELOW--

--THUS
RESTORING
THE MIGHTY
MAGNETIC
POWERS OF
THE GIRL
CALLED
LORNA
DANE!




--AND LORNA DANE SCREAMS
IN ANGUISH AS HER PHYSICAL
LIMITS ARE REACHED--

--AND
EXCEEDED!

WITHIN
MOMENTS,
THE
CIRCUIT
IS COM-
PLETED--

DON'T
STOP! LORD,
WHATEVER YOU DO--
DON'T STOP!



YOU'VE GOT TO CALL
IT OFF, SCOTT! LORNA
CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND
OF PUNISHMENT!

SHE'LL BE
KILLED!

ALEX-- I
CAN'T!

I CAN'T SACRIFICE
A WORLD TO SAVE
ONE WOMAN,
ALEX--

--EVEN IF
SHE IS
THE
WOMAN
YOU LOVE!

I SWEAR TO
YOU--BROTHER
OR NO
BROTHER, IF
SHE DIES...



THE
REMAINDER
OF HAVOK'S
ANGRY
OUTBURST
IS SLAIN
BY THE
CRACKLING
ROAR OF THE
THUNDEROUS
DOWN-
POUR..



--EVEN AS THE TORREN-
TIAL WATERS LEND LIFE
TO SOMETHING ELSE!

K R
WRAAR

BEGORRAH!
THE BLINKIN'
BEASTIE'S
GETTIN'
STRONGER
NOW!

BUT HOW..?



CYCLOPS, THE
ISLAND'S MIND
HAS SUDDENLY
GROWN MORE
FORCEFUL!



I--I CAN'T
MAINTAIN MY
ASSAULT
ANY LONGER--!

FORGIVE
ME, SCOTT...

...BUT I
FEAR...
YOU'RE...
ON... YOUR...
OWN...



FOOLS! YOU
BROUGHT RAIN
FROM THE SKY TO
DESTROY US--

--BUT IT
SERVES
ONLY TO RE-
PLENISH US--



--AND GIVE US
STRENGTH TO
DESTROY YOU!

BUT AS BEFORE, THE
X-MEN ARGUE THAT
POINT--

--QUITE
STRONGLY!



WE CAN'T HOLD
THAT THING OFF
FOREVER, SCOTT!
IF THE PROFESSOR'S
PLAN DOESN'T
WORK...

WE'LL
KNOW IF IT
WORKS SOON
ENOUGH, JEAN!
GET EVERY-
BODY BACK!

WE'RE
READY TO
BEGIN!

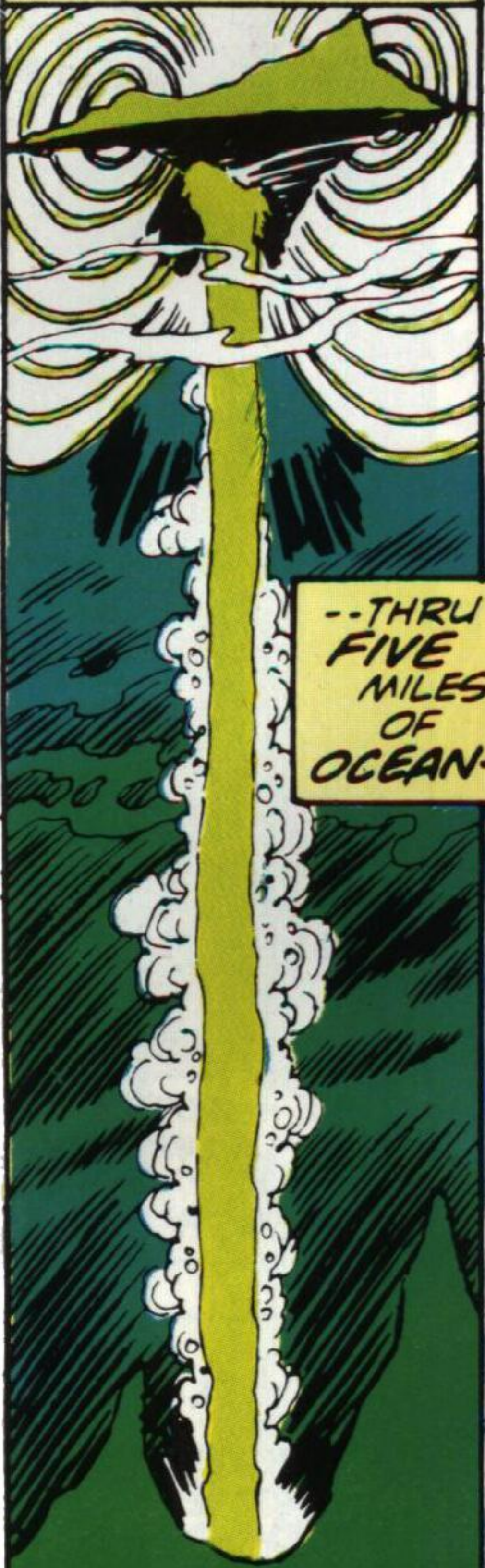


WITH THAT, A SOLEMN SCOTT
SUMMERS TURNS--TO FIND
THAT THE FIGURE OF LORNA
DANE HAS BECOME LOST
WITHIN A CORUSCATING INCAN-
DESCENT TOWER OF SHEER
MAGNETIC FORCE.

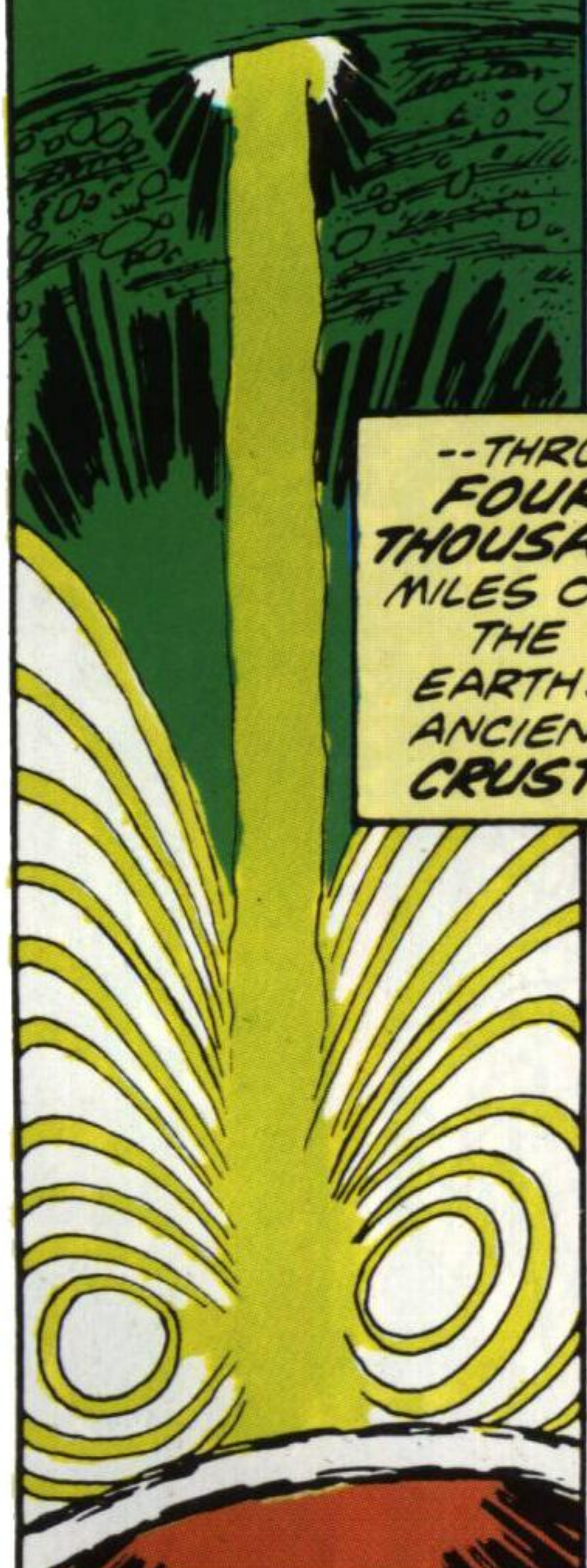
HIS MUTANT EYES
NARROW-- AND A
SINGLE WORD
FORMS UPON HIS
LIPS:

NOW!

WITH ALMOST-INDE-
SCRIBABLE FORCE,
LORNA'S MAGNETIC
ENERGIES ERUPT
DOWNWARD --



--THRU
FIVE
MILES
OF
OCEAN--



--THRU
FOUR
THOUSAND
MILES OF
THE
EARTH'S
ANCIENT
CRUST--

--DOWN-- TO THE
VERY MOLTEN
CENTER OF THE
PLANET ITSELF--

--WHERE ITS EFFECTS ARE
IMMEDIATE--AND VIO-
LENT!



WH-WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO US? WHY
DO WE FEEL
SO STRANGE?

OUR MIND
HURTS SO...
CAN'T RETAIN
OUR HUMANOID
FORM...!

PLEASE...
HELP
US...



IT'S
WORKING--
EXACTLY
AS THE
PROFESSOR
SAID IT
WOULD!

WE'VE ONLY
GOT **SECONDS**
TO CLEAR OUT
OF HERE-- BEFORE
THE **END!**



LORNA'S
TOO WEAK
TO RUN
FOR IT!
I'LL... EH?

THE LADY
DOESN'T NEED
YOUR HELP,
HOTSHOT!
SHE'S IN
GOOD HANDS
FOR A CHANGE!

WHY,
YOU
LITTLE...

ARGUE
LATER--
NOW JUST
MOVE IT!

AND MOVE IT, THEY DO-- AS FEW
OTHER BEINGS ON EARTH
POSSIBLY COULD!



HOLY CROW! WILL
YA TAKE A LOOK AT
THE **BEACH** UP AHEAD?

THIS WHOLE FREAKIN'
ISLAND IS BREAKIN' UP
AROUND US!

AND WITHOUT OUR
STRATO-JET, THERE'S
NO WAY WE CAN GET
FAR ENOUGH FROM
THE ISLAND BEFORE...
HUH?



NEVER
LET IT BE
SAID WE
ICEMEN
AREN'T GOOD
FOR **SOME-**
THING,
ANGEL!

EVERYBODY
GET **ABOARD--**
AND **FAST!**

SWIFTLY, THE DESPERATE X-MEN CLAMBER ABOARD THE CRUDE ICERAFT, THEN HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE--

-- AS THE MUTANT POWERS OF CYCLOPS AND HAVOK PROPEL THE MAKE-SHIFT VESSEL AWAY FROM KRAKOA WITH THE SPEED OF A HURLING HYDROPLANE!

BEHIND THEM, THE WORLD CONVULSES IN CARNAGE-- AS THE RESULTS OF LORNA DANE'S ENERGY-BOLT BECOME APPARENT AT LAST--

-- FOR HER ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED BURST HAS CUT ACROSS THE PLANET'S PRIMARY LINES OF MAGNETIC FORCE-- SEVERING THEM--

-- AND FOR AN INSTANT ABOUT THE ISLAND KRAKOA-- GRAVITY CEASES TO EXIST!

THEN THE EARTH-FORCES COME VIOLENTLY TOGETHER-- AND THE EFFECT IS THE SAME AS SQUEEZING WET SOAP THRU A FIST!

KRAKOA'S DEATH-CRIES RING FOR LONG SECONDS IN THE MINDS OF THE AWESTRUCK X-MEN--

-- THEN A NEW, MORE FRIGHTENING REALITY INTRUDES UPON THE SCENE...

"THE OCEAN IS RUSHING TO FILL IN THE SPACE KRAKOA JUST VACATED--

"-- AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL!"

BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE-- THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD!

QUICKLY, BOBBY-- THROW AN AIR-TIGHT ICE-DOME OVER THIS RAFT!

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE THIS MISERABLE MAELSTROM!

VORACIOUSLY, THE GREAT ICE-BUBBLE IS SUCKED INTO THE WILDLY-SWIRLING MAW--



--AND THOSE WITHIN ARE BATTERED ALMOST SENSELESS AGAINST ITS COLD, UNFEELING WALLS.



THEY VOICE THEIR PAIN ENTHUSIASTICALLY--

--AND THEN THEY ARE GONE!



THE SEETHING WATERS SWIRL CLOSED ABOVE THEIR HEADS-- AND FOR A TIME THE SEA IS CALM.

THE MINUTES PASS INTERMINABLY-- THEN THE HUGE GLEAMING BUBBLE BURSTS THE WATER'S SURFACE--



--AND IS ITSELF BURST IN TURN BY A BEAM OF SCARLET FURY!

FRESH AIR... A WARM SUN... DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL?



YEAH-- THAT! ALMOST FORGOT THE OL' STRATO-JET IS WATERTIGHT!

PADDLE ON OVER WHILE I GO OPEN THE HATCH!

SHORTLY, AS THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKY-WARD...



SORRY WE DON'T HAVE SEATS FOR ALL OF YOU-- BUT THIS PLANE WASN'T DESIGNED TO CARRY SO MANY MUTANTS!

WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR NEXT LITTLE PROBLEM...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?



WE'LL FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE... WHEN THE DOOMSMITH STRIKES!

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CLASSIC X-MEN®



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STAN LEE
PRESENTS

FIRST NIGHT

PROFESSOR CHARLES
XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR
GIFTED YOUNGSTERS--

--ON A SUNNY SPRING
MORNING WHEN ONE ERA
ENDS, AND ANOTHER BEGINS.

PROFESSOR--
I'M BACK!

THIS IS A MOST UNIQUE
INSTITUTION, WITH
MOST UNIQUE STUDENTS--
AMONG WHOM IS
SCOTT SUMMERS,
PERHAPS MORE WIDELY
KNOWN AS THE LEADER
OF THE X-MEN...

CYCLOPS?!



WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE X-MEN?!

OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME, LAD-- THAT WILL BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN YOUR TELLING ME VERBALLY.

LIKE HIS PUPILS, CHARLES XAVIER IS A MUTANT-- BORN WITH POWERS THAT SET HIM FOREVER APART FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF HUMANITY.

HIS GIFT IS TELEPATHY-- THE ABILITY TO "READ" OTHERS' THOUGHTS, AS WELL AS PROJECT HIS OWN...

...AND THROUGH HIS PSYCHIC, HE RELIVES THE LAST FEW DAYS OF CYCLOPS' LIFE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MUTANT PRESENCE HAD BEEN DETECTED ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND OF KRAKOA AND THE TEAM HAD BEEN SENT TO INVESTIGATE IT.

THEY LANDED WITHOUT INCIDENT BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...

BEHIND US-- LOOK!

QUICK, EVERYBODY-- SCATTER!

GET MOVING, BEFORE WE--

CYCLOPS NEVER SAW WHAT HIT HIM.

HIS NEXT RECOLLECTION WAS WAKING ABOARD THE X-MEN'S STRATO-JET. ALONE, ITS CONTROLS LOCKED ON COURSE FOR HOME.

MOREOVER, HIS DEADLY OPTIC BLASTS WERE NO MORE. HOWEVER HARD HE TRIED, HE COULD NOT FIRE THEM!

THE POWER WAS A CURSE FROM THE MOMENT IT APPEARED. NOW, AT LAST, HE WAS FREE.

PROFESSOR, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

YOUR EYES, SCOTT-- THEY'RE GLOWING!

QUICKLY, LAD-- DON YOUR PROTECTIVE LENSES!

NO-- NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

YOUR OPTIC POWERS HAVE RETURNED!

WITH A VENGEANCE.

ZAM!

CAREFUL, SCOTT. KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED WHILE I BIND THEM TIGHT.

THANK GOODNESS YOUR BODY IS IMPERVIOUS TO THE BEAMS' FORCE.

YOUR OPTIC BLASTS HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN AMPLIFIED TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE. I'LL HAVE TO MODIFY YOUR RUBY QUARTZ VISOR TO CONTAIN THEM.

BUT, PROFESSOR-- WHAT ABOUT THE X-MEN?! WE CAN'T--!

ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, MY BOY.

YOU GET YOURSELF WELL. LET ME WORRY ABOUT THE REST.

LATER...

THIS IS THE MOMENT I KNEW WOULD SOMEDAY COME-- AND IN A WAY, LONG DREADED. MY MUTANT DETECTOR, CEREBRO, HAS LOCATED THOSE I SOUGHT.

ONCE I SUMMON THEM, THOUGH, NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN, FOR THE X-MEN AND THE SCHOOL.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.



CYCLOPS IS IN THE DANGER ROOM, PRACTICING WITH HIS NEW VISOR.

HOW ARE YOU PROGRESSING, SCOTT?

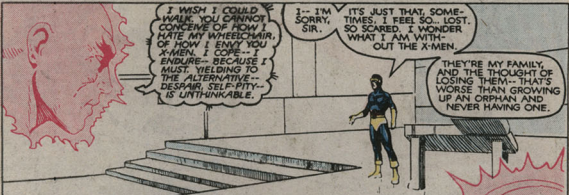
FINE, SIR. THE VISOR WORKS LIKE A CHARM.

THERE IS A BITTER UNDERTONE TO HIS VOICE.

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, LAD?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? I BELIEVED MY NIGHTMARE WAS OVER, THAT-- MIRACULOUSLY-- MY EYES WERE HEALED. AND I COULD MAYBE LIVE A NORMAL LIFE. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

YES, YOU SHOULD HAVE.



I WISH I COULD WALK. YOU CANNOT CONCEIVE OF HOW I HATE MY WHEELCHAIR. OF HOW I ENVY YOU X-MEN. I COPE-- I ENDURE-- BECAUSE I MUST. YIELDING TO THE ALTERNATIVE-- DESPAIR, SELF-PITY-- IS UNTHINKABLE.

I-- I'M SORRY, SIR.

IT'S JUST THAT, SOMETIMES, I FEEL SO... LOST. SO SCARED. I WONDER WHAT I AM WITH-- OUT THE X-MEN.

THEY'RE MY FAMILY, AND THE THOUGHT OF LOSING THEM-- THAT'S WORSE THAN GROWING UP AN ORPHAN AND NEVER HAVING ONE.



AT LEAST THEN, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I WAS MISSING.

I UNDERSTAND.

THERE EXISTS WITHIN HIM SUCH A FUNDAMENTAL SENSE OF BETRAYAL, THAT WALKS HAND IN HAND WITH A SUBCONSCIOUS CERTAINTY THAT HE WILL ALWAYS BE ABANDONED BY THOSE HE LOVES.



PROFESSOR-- THE X-MEN ARE STILL IN DANGER-- WHEN DO WE START THE RESCUE MISSION...?

FIRST I HAD TO GET YOU BACK IN SHAPE, CYCLOPS. NOW COMES THE NEXT STEP--

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHING A ROSTER OF CANDIDATES FOR A BACK-UP TEAM. I INTEND SUMMONING THEM.

IS THAT A SMART IDEA...

...BRINGING TOTAL STRANGERS INTO THE SCHOOL?

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE WE AN ALTERNATIVE?

WINZELDORF, GERMANY:
NESTLED DEEP IN THE
BAVARIAN ALPS, THIS TINY
VILLAGE HAS HARDLY
CHANGED OVER THE
CENTURIES.



IN WINZELDORF,
LIFE IS GENTLE,
PEACEFUL--

--FOR NOTHING EVER HAPPENS
HERE TO DISTURB THE DOMES-
TIC...



...TRANQUILITY?

THIS WAY,
MEN! THE
MONSTER
WENT THIS
WAY!

MONSTER,
IS IT?

THE FOOLS! IT IS
THEY WHO ARE THE
MONSTERS--



--THEY
WITH THEIR
MINDLESS
PREJUDICES!

PERHAPS THINGS WOULD
BE SIMPLER--SAFER--
IF I HAD STAYED WITH
DER JAHRMARKT--



--BUT THE LIFE OF
A CARNIVAL FREAK
IS NOT FOR ME--
NOT FOR KURT
WASNER!

LET THEM
COME IF THEY
MUST-- LET
THEM TRY TO
KILL ME--!

AT LEAST
IF I DIE, IT
WILL BE AS
A MAN!



IRONICALLY,
THE ASTONISH-
ING LEAP ALONE
LEADS DOUBT
TO KURT
WASNER'S
HUMANITY...

WE'VE
GOT
HIM
NOW!

COME DOWN,
MONSTER! COME
DOWN--OR
WE'LL BURN
YOU DOWN!



...AND HIS HIDEOUS
HOWLING, LIKE
THAT OF A
BAYING
BEAST,
DENIES IT
COMPLETELY!

GO AWAY,
YOU FOOLS!
I HAVE DONE
NOTHING!



**BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE
THE CORNERED MUST RE-
CEIVES IS ONE HE HAD
HARDLY EXPECTED...**

**THEY'RE UTTERLY
MAD! THEIR THREAT
WAS SERIOUS!**

**THEY'LL DESTROY
THEIR ENTIRE
VILLAGE TO MAKE
CERTAIN THAT
THEY DESTROY ME!**



**AND FOR WHAT
REASON? I CAME
AMONG THEM ONLY
TO LEARN--**

**--YET ALL I'VE
LEARNED THIS FAR
ARE THE WAYS OF
BLIND UNREASON-
ING VIOLENCE!**



**WELL, IF THAT IS ALL
THAT THOSE WHO DWELL
IN THE MORTAL WORLD
HAVE TO TEACH ME--**



**--I WILL SHOW
THEM THAT I
LEARN MY
LESSONS
WELL!**



**VERY WELL
INDEED!**



**HOWLING WILDLY, KURT
WAGNER PLUNGES THRU
THE THICK OF THE MOB--**

**--UNTIL THE SHEER
WEIGHT OF ITS NUMBERS
CARRIES HIM DOWN!**



**WE
HAVE
HIM! WE
HAVE
HIM!**

**QUICKLY--
BRING THE
STAKE!**



NOW, MONSTER-- WE WILL BE RID OF YOU!

NOW WE WILL...

STOP!

AND, REMARKABLY... THEY DO!

WAS--?

TH--THEY'RE NOT MOVING!



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?

I HAPPENED TO THEM, KURT WAGNER.

YOU DID... THIS TO THEM? BUT NOW--? WHY?

MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER!



I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D COME HERE TO LEARN, MY FRIEND. I AM A TEACHER. I RUN A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS YOU.



A SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS!

MUTANT? YES... I HAVE HEARD THE WORD.

YOU ARE A MUTANT, KURT.



I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.

CAN YOU HELP ME TO BE NORMAL?



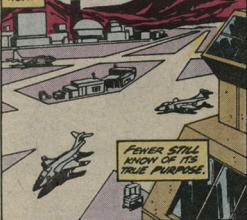
AFTER TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNE, KURT-- WOULD YOU TRULY WANT TO BE?

PERHAPS NOT. I WANT ONLY TO BE A WHOLE KURT WAGNER!



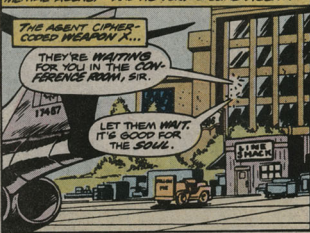
IF YOU CAN MAKE ME THAT TEACHER... I WILL GO WITH YOU.

QUEBEC, CANADA: FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION.



FEWER STILL KNOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.

IT IS THE HOME BASE OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY--AND ITS VERY SPECIAL AGENT.



THE AGENT CIPHER-CODED WEAPON X...

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.

LET THEM WAIT. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

... BUT BETTER KNOWN TO US AS-- THE WOLVERINE!

ALL RIGHT, GENTS-- I'M HERE!

NOW WHO'S THE BIGWIG YOU WANT ME TO MEET?



I AM THE BIGWIG, WOLVERINE. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER AT YOUR SERVICE.

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?



APPARENTLY THE TOP BRASS IS IMPRESSED, WOLVERINE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE PROFESSOR IS HERE TO MAKE YOU SOME SORT OF OFFER!

AN OFFER, EH? OKAY, PROF-- YOU'VE FIQUED MY CURIOSITY, WHAT'S THE DEAL?

I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT THEN.

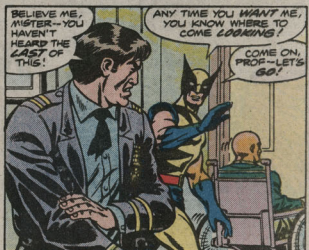


I KNOW OF YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE AVALANCHE AND, MOREOVER, I KNOW OF YOUR POWERS.

YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A MUTANT-- AND I HAVE NEED OF MUTANTS--



--DESPERATE NEED!



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: A VISITOR TO THE GRAND OL' OARY FINDS HE HAS A VISITOR OF HIS OWN...

BESORRA!
'TIS PROFESSOR X
HIMSELF NOW.

BANSHEE--
I MUST
TALK
WITH
YOU.

SHORTLY, IN THE BANSHEE'S SHABBY
QUARTERS...

SO THAT'S THE
STORY, IS IT? THEN
SURE AN' I'LL
HELP YE, PRO-
FESSOR.

'T'LL BE
NICE TO TREAD
THE STRAIGHT
AN' NARROW... FER
A CHANGE.

KENYA, EAST
AFRICA: ATOP
A LONELY
KNOLL,
THERE
STANDS
A GREAT
STONE
PORTAL.

"ORORO, GREAT
GODDESS OF THE
STORM," THE
VOICES CRY,
"COME UNTO
US AND EASE
OUR BURDEN!"

--THE STORM
GODDESS
COMES!

I AM HERE,
MY CHILDREN.
WHAT DO YOU
WISH OF ME?

MEN COME TO IT IN RE-
MILITY, THEIR VOICES
RAISED IN PRAISE AND SONG--
AND PRAYERFUL SUPPLICATION.

AND WITH THE HOLLOW
PEAL OF THUNDER AND
THE MOAN OF LONELY
MINDS--

THERE IS
DROUGHT
UPON THE
LAND, BLESSED
ONE. OUR
CROPS WITHER,
OUR GRASSES
PARCH.

HER EYES ARE CRYSTAL
BLUE, AND OLDER
THAN TIME, THEY
SPARKLE AS SHE
ANSWERS...

SAVE YOUR BEASTS,
MY CHILDREN. YOU
NEED THEM
MORE THAN I.

I WILL
DO AS YOU
PLEAD.


HER LIQUID
EYES GROW
DARK THEN--
AND THE SKY
GROWS DARK
AS WELL.

TEN GOATS AND CHICKENS
SHALL WE SLAY IN YOUR
HONOR--IF YOU WILL ONLY
BRING US RAIN!




ONCE MORE,
THE HOWLING
WINDS
COME UP--

--AND SWEEP
THE STORM
GODDESS AWAY!



SHE SOARS ALOFT
LIKE AN EBON BIRD,
LIGHTNING LANCING
FROM HER FINGERTIPS,
THE GLOW OF LIFE
SHINING FULL UPON
HER FACE.

SHE IS HAPPY HERE-- ONLY
TRULY HAPPY HERE AMONG
THE ELEMENTS--




--AND THE RAGING SKY,
TOUCHED BY HER RAP-
IDNESS...

...WEEPS.



WHEN THE STORM
GODDESS RETURNS
TO EARTH AT
LAST, HER JOY
IS SHARED
BY ALL.

A MOST
IMPRESSIVE
DISPLAY, ORORO...
TRULY
BEAUTIFUL.



WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT
BUSINESS HAVE YOU IN
ORORO'S LAND?

I AM CALLED
XAVIER--

--AND I HAVE
COME TO MAKE
YOU AN OFFER
I PRAY YOU
WILL NOT
REFUSE.

AN...OFFER?
WHAT HAVE
YOU TO OFFER
A GODDESS?

YOU HAVE A **LAND**, **ORORO**--
AND PEOPLE WHO **ADORE**
YOU.

I OFFER YOU A
WORLD--AND PEOPLE
WHO MAY **FEAR** YOU,
HATE YOU--BUT
PEOPLE WHO **NEED**
YOU NONETHELESS.

THE WORLD I
OFFER IS NOT
BEAUTIFUL--
BUT IT IS **REAL**--

--FAR MORE REAL THAN
THE **FANTASY** YOU'RE
LIVING **NOW**.

"YOU ARE NO **GODDESS**,
ORORO. YOU ARE A
MUTANT--AND YOU HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES.

"**COME WITH ME, CHILD.**
TASTE THE WORLD OUT-
SIDE. YOU MAY FIND ITS
FLAVOR BITTER--OR
SURPRISINGLY SWEET."

YOU PRESENT A MOST **PECULIAR**
ARGUMENT--YET I SENSE A DEEP
SINCERITY IN YOUR WORDS.

ALL RIGHT, I
WILL... **COME**
WITH YOU.

PERHAPS THE TIME HAS
COME FOR ME TO **LEAVE**
THE NEST AT LAST.

OSAKA, JAPAN:
TWO OLD
ACQUAINTANCES
SHARE TEA IN
THE SPLENDID
GARDEN OF
SHIRO
YOSHIDA...

I KNOW YOUR
FEELINGS
TOWARD THE
WESTERN
WORLD,
SHIRO--

--AND I WOULD
NOT HAVE
COME TO
YOU...

...BUT YOU REQUIRE
HELP THAT ONLY
I MAY GIVE!

SO! I
OWE YOU
NOTHING,
PROFESSOR
--BUT
PERHAPS
I OWE
SOMETHING
TO MYSELF.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE
MORE FOR THE WORLD TO
HEAR FROM--

SUNFIRE!

LAKE BAIKAL, SIBERIA: IT HAS
BEEN A **GOOD**
YEAR FOR THE
UST-ORDYNSKI
COLLECTIVE FARM.

THE CROP HAS
BEEN **LARGER**
THAN EXPECTED.
THE **WHEAT**
FILLS THE FIELDS
LIKE AN **AMBER**
SEA--


--AND THOSE WHO **TOIL** IN THE FIELDS
ARE FILLED WITH A FEELING OF
SATISFACTION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF
A JOB WELL DONE--

--AND **FEAR!**

PETER--
LOOK! YOUR
SISTER--!


WHAT
IS...
NO!

PETER RASPUTIN LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK--AND HIS EYES GROW WIDE WITH HORROR!



HE DISCERNS IT ALL IN AN INSTANT;
THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR--THE
CHILD PLAYING BLINDLY IN ITS PATH--

--AND, WITHOUT HESITATION,
PETER RASPUTIN IS RUN-
NING, LEGS PUMPING,
HEART POUNDING--




--THE VERY AIR
AROUND HIM
CRACKLING WITH
THE ENERGY
OF HIS EXERTION--




--ENERGY
RELEASED
IN A MOST
ASTONISH-
ING MANNER!

THE ARMORED MA-
CHINE BEARS RELENT-
LESSLY DOWN UPON
THE UNWITTING CHILD.



--AS AN ARMORED
COLOSSUS
SNATCHES HER
FROM ITS PATH.

THERE IS NO TIME FOR PETER RASPUTIN TO
MOVE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--



--THUS HE STANDS HIS
GROUND AS THE RAMPANT
TRACTOR PLUNGES
TOWARD HIM--

--AND HE WONDERS HOW HIS POOR NEIGHBORS WILL EVER AFFORD TO BUY ANOTHER!



THAT, THOUGH, IS A WORRY FOR ANOTHER DAY.



THIS DAY WILL BE FILLED WITH PROBLEMS ENOUGH.

PETER RASPUTIN, I WISH TO TALK TO YOU.



BY NOW, WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION--



--SO MOMENTS LATER--

YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU... TO AMERICA?

BUT IF I POSSESS SUCH POWER AS YOU SAY-- DOES IT NOT BELONG TO THE STATE?

POWER SUCH AS YOURS BELONGS TO THE WORLD, PETER-- TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

AND BELIEVE ME-- YOUR POWERS ARE NEEDED!

"THEN COME. WE WILL TALK OF THIS WITH MY PARENTS."

...AND SO THIS PROFESSOR WANTS TO TAKE ME WITH HIM-- TO TEACH ME HOW TO DEAL WITH MY...MY MUTANT POWERS.

TH-THERE IS WISDOM IN HIS WORDS, PAPA-- BUT I AM HAPPY HERE.

TELL ME, PAPA-- WHAT SHOULD I DO?

DO AS YOUR HEART TELLS YOU, MY SON. IT WILL NOT BETRAY YOU.

MY HEART TELLS ME TO STAY, PAPA--

--BUT MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME OTHERWISE.

I MUST GO, PAPA.

THEN IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU DO.

DO-SHIDANYA, PETER. OUR LOVE GOES WITH YOU.

DO NOT WORRY, MAMA-- I WILL WRITE YOU.

GOOD-BYE, PAPA-- I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD.

WE ARE ALREADY PROUD... MY SON.

CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA: JOHN PROUDSTAR DOES NOT LIKE THE RESERVATION. HE DOES NOT LIKE TO WATCH THE OLD ONES, SITTING SLUMPED AGAINST THEIR DOORSTEPS, DREAMING DREAMS OF GLORY LONG GONE.

JOHN PROUDSTAR IS AN APACHE-- AND HE IS ASHAMED OF HIS PEOPLE.

THE APACHE WERE MEANT TO BE HUNTERS, WARRIORS-- NOT SAD-EYED GIMPERING SQUAWS.

THEY WERE MEANT TO RUN FREE THRU THE CRISP PLAINS GRASSES, THE WIND BLOWING WILDLY THRU THEIR HAIR.

ONCE NOTHING COULD STAND BEFORE THE APACHE.

--BUT NEVER DID ANY BISON FALL LIKE-- THIS!

THERE, HORNED ONE-- DO YOU SEE?

THERE IS STILL A MAN AMONG THE APACHE!

THE BISON THAT COVERED THESE PLAINS FELL LIKE BAIN BEFORE APACHE SKILL, APACHE BRAVERY--

THOOM!

AND SUCH A MAN HAVE I
COME LOOKING FOR, JOHN
PROUDSTAR.



NOW HOW IN BLAZES
DID A CRIPPLE
GET WAY OUT HERE?
NOT THAT IT
MATTERS
MUCH.



DON'T BE
TOO HASTY,
MY YOUNG
FRIEND.

I'VE COME TO HELP YOU
FULFILL YOUR DREAM--
TO GIVE PRIDE BACK
TO YOUR PEOPLE.

YOU ARE SPECIAL,
JOHN PROUDSTAR.
YOU ARE A
MUTANT.

AND YOU ARE
NEEDED.



AND YOU CAN STUFF A CACTUS,
CUSTER!



THE WHITE
MAN NEEDS
ME? THAT'S
TOUGH!

I OWE
HIM
NOTHING
BUT THE
GRIEF HE'S
GIVEN MY
PEOPLE!

NOW
BEAT
IT!

I OFFER YOU
A CHANCE TO
HELP THE WORLD--
AND YOU TURN
YOUR BACK
ON ME?



THEN
PERHAPS WHAT
THEY SAY IS
TRUE!

PERHAPS THE APACHE
ARE ALL FRIGHTENED
SELFISH CHILDREN!

HO-KAY... THAT
DOES
IT!



AIN'T
NOBODY
THAT
CALLS
ME A
COWARD,
MISTER!



I'M AS GOOD AS
THE NEXT GUY--
HECK, I'M
BETTER!

YOU GIVE ME
A CHANCE--
I'LL PROVE
IT!

AND YOU WILL HAVE
YOUR CHANCE, JOHN.
I PROMISE YOU
THAT.

BUT WILL YOU--
WILL ANY OF
MY NEW X-MEN
BE EQUAL TO
THE TASK THAT
LIES BEFORE
YOU?



OR WILL YOU
CARRY THE WORLD
DOWN INTO
RUIN?

SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK--THE SCHOOL SEEMS A MODERN-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST, BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLOSSES THAT COMMUNICATION GAP IN MINUTES.

WE'RE HERE, XAVIER-- ALL DOLLED UP PRETTY AS YOU PLEASE.

NOW TELL US WHY?



THE X-MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED. THUNDERBIRD. IT'S OUR JOB TO FIND THEM...



...AND THE MUTANT RESPONSIBLE.

AND DEAL WITH HIM.

WITHIN HOURS, THE STRATOJET HAS RETRACTED ITS FLIGHT HALFWAY 'ROUND THE GLOBE.

THE NEW X-MEN SPLIT INTO TEAMS, AND BEGIN THEIR SEARCH.



IT'S SOON REWARDED.

FROM THE MOMENT THEY LAND, THEY'RE UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK BY THE ISLAND'S FLORA AND FAUNA.



ONLY AFTER FREEING THE CAPTIVE X-MEN DO THEY DISCOVER THAT THEIR FOE-- THE MUTANT THEY SOUGHT--

--IS **KRAKOA!**

THE ENTIRE ISLAND IS A CONSCIOUS-- AND MALEVOLENT-- ENTITY, A COLONY CREATURE THAT SUSTAINS ITSELF BY DRAINING THE LIFE- ESSENCES, THE SPECIAL ENERGIES OF OTHER MUTANTS.

THAT WAS WHY CYCLOPS HAD BEEN RELEASED-- AS BAIT, A JUDAS GOAT, TO LURE MORE VICTIMS INTO KRAKOA'S GRASP.

BUT THE X-MEN, OLD AND NEW, PROVE MORE THAN ITS MATCH...

... AS THEY COMBINE THEIR POWERS TO HURL THE ISLAND...

... INTO DEEP SPACE.

AND SO, BATTERED, A LITTLE BLOODY, BUT VICTORIOUS, OUR HEROES SET COURSE FOR NEW YORK.

SORRY WE DON'T HAVE SEATS FOR EVERYONE-- THE STRATOJET WASN'T DESIGNED TO CARRY SO MANY PASSENGERS.

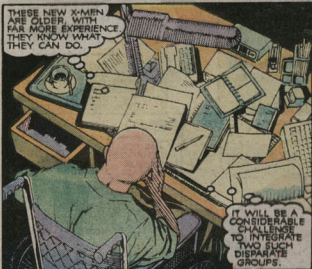
WHICH BRINGS ME TO OUR NEXT LITTLE PROBLEM--

--WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?!

ANGEL'S QUESTION IS RHETORICAL. MEANT MOSTLY IN FUN, BUT IT WEIGHS HEAVILY ON CHARLES XAVIER'S MIND LONG INTO THAT FATEFUL NIGHT.

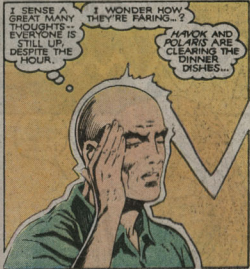
THE ORIGINAL TEAM WERE YOUNGSTERS WHEN WE BEGAN, COMPLETELY UN-VERSED IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS.

MY TASK THEN WAS AS MUCH TO TEACH THEM THOSE BASICS AS MOLD THEM INTO AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE.



THESE NEW X-MEN ARE OLDER, WITH FAR MORE EXPERIENCE. THEY KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO.

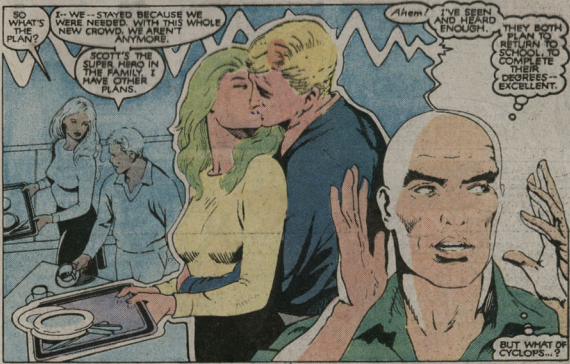
IT WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGE TO INTEGRATE TWO SUCH DISPARATE GROUPS.



I SENSE A GREAT MANY THOUGHTS-- EVERYONE IS STILL UP, DESPITE THE HOUR.

I WONDER HOW THEY'RE FARING...?

HAVOK AND POLARIS ARE CLEARING THE DINNER DISHES...



SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

I-- WE -- STAYED BECAUSE WE WERE NEEDED. WITH THIS WHOLE NEW CROWD, WE AREN'T ANYMORE.

SCOTT'S THE SUPER HERO IN THE FAMILY. I HAVE OTHER PLANS.

Ahem! I'VE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH.

THEY BOTH PLAN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES-- EXCELLENT.

BUT WHAT OF CYCLOPS...?

"HE'S UPSTAIRS--
WITH JEAN GREY..."

BANSHEE'S
PLAYING SOME
WICKED PIANO
IN THE COMMON
ROOM, LOVER.
WHAT SAY WE
JOIN THE PARTY?

I'D LIKE
TO, JEAN,
REALLY--

-- BUT I WANT
TO FINISH MY
AFTER-ACTION
REPORT ON OUR
ENCOUNTER
WITH KRAKOA...

...WHILE THE
IMPRESSIONS
ARE STILL
FRESH.

OUR VICTORY WAS DUE AS
MUCH TO LUCK AS SKILL.
* MORE IMPORTANTLY, I
SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU
AND THE OTHERS BE CAPTURED,
LET ALONE SO EASILY.

THAT
WASN'T
YOUR
FAULT.

FINE--BUT CAN'T
THIS WAIT...?

NO. I'M SORRY, I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
ASKED.

I SEE IT
CAN'T.

IF YOU
CHANGE
YOUR
MIND...

AS LEADER, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY
TO ANTICIPATE SUCH THREATS
AND BE READY TO COPE WITH THEM.
MISTAKES LIKE THAT COULD GET
SOMEONE KILLED NEXT TIME.

"YOU KNOW
WHERE TO
FIND ME.

BUT HE WON'T.

NEVER HAS.
PROBABLY
NEVER WILL.

HE TAKES HIS JOB
SO SERIOUSLY, AS IF
IT'S THE ONLY MEAN-
INGFUL THING IN
HIS LIFE.

I KNOW IT ISN'T. I'M A
TELEPATH-- I'VE SEEN HIS
THOUGHTS. I KNOW HOW
MUCH HE LOVES ME. IT'S
JUST SO HARD FOR HIM
TO EXPRESS IT.

BUT FOR US
TO TRULY BE
TOGETHER--
AND STAY
TOGETHER--
HE'LL HAVE
TO LEARN.

"POOR JEAN. I WISH I COULD HELP-- BUT IN THIS MATTER IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO INTERFERE."

"I KNEW BANSHEE WAS FOND OF COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC. EVIDENTLY, THAT APPLIES TO DIXIELAND AS WELL."

"YOU AN ARTIST THEN, PETER- ME-BOYO?"

"I DRAW, TOVARISCH. BUT NOT VERY WELL."

"THESE ARE FOR MY LITTLE SISTER, ILYANA, A RECORD OF MY ADVENTURES."

"WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING, COMRADE CASSIDY? I HAVE NEVER HEARD SUCH MUSIC."

"THIS, LADDIE-BUCK, IS GOOD OLD 'BOOJEE-WOOJEE,' CLASSIC ROADHOUSE JAZZ."

"NOT BAD, MEIN FREUND."

"BOTH BANSHEE'S PIANO PLAYING..."

"AN' THE NAME IS SEAN."

"...AND YOUR SKETCHES. YOU SHOULD GIVE YOURSELF MORE CREDIT."

"NIGHTCRAWLER!"

"WHO SAID--?!"

"R2ip!"

"FOR SHAME, HERR RASPUTIN!"

"IS THAT ANY WAY TO REACT TO A TEAM-MATE?"

"BOSZHE MOI??!"

"WHAT'S THE MATTER-- NEVER SEEN A DEMON TELEPORT FROM PLACE TO PLACE BEFORE?"



NYET.

Sigh... ANOTHER SHIRT RUINED. AND MY MOTHER IS NOT HERE...

...TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE OR KNIT ME A NEW ONE. PERHAPS COMRADE PROFESSOR XAVIER CAN PROVIDE ME CLOTHES THAT WILL NOT TEAR?



ARE YOU A DEMON, NIGHTCRAWLER?

HE SURE LOOKS THE PART.

AYE, ROBERT, BUT APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING. DON'T CHA KNOW?



GOOD POINT. THIS WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN CONNED BY SUPPOSED FRIENDS WHO TURN OUT TO BE ENEMIES.



WE RISKED OUR LIVES TO SAVE YOURS, ICEMAN. DOESN'T THAT EARN US THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT?

PULL UP A CHAIR, ROBERT. AN' JOIN THE FUN.

KURT, TOSS HIM A BOTTLE.



I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK.

WHAT IS WRONG, COMRADE?

I'M NOT YOUR "COMRADE," RUSSKIE-- THIS IS AMERICA!

I KNOW WHERE I AM, ICEMAN, BUT SUDDENLY I ASK MYSELF WHY I CAME. ARE WE NOT ALL X-MEN--?



YOU CLOWNS FIGURE YOU CAN WALTZ IN AND TAKE OVER, LIKE THE REST OF US DON'T EXIST--

I'M AN X-MAN! AND SO ARE ANGEL AND MARVEL GIRL AND CYCLOPS!

--LIKE OUR FEELINGS, OUR OPINIONS, DON'T MATTER!

WE'RE NOT TRYIN' TO TAKE ANY-
ONE'S PLACE, BOYD. WE WANT
TO BELONG AS MUCH AS YOU.

DON'T WE GET A CHANCE
TO PROVE OURSELVES? OR
IS YOUR MIND MADE UP--
YE'VE SEEN WHAT WE LOOK
LIKE AN' WHERE WE COME
FROM AN' YE DON'T
LIKE IT AN' THAT'S
THAT, eh?

I RESEMBLE A MONSTER, THERE-
FORE I AM ONE? YOU OBJECT
TO PETER'S GOVERNMENT, AND
CONDEMN HIM BY ASSOCIATION?
YOU'RE ALL FOR MUTANT RIGHTS,
BUT ONLY FOR THOSE MUTANTS
WHO FIT YOUR AESTHETIC
AND POLITICAL CRITERIA?

A MOST CHARITABLE
ATTITUDE, HERR DRAKE,
MOST ENLIGHTENED.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I SAID!
YOU'RE PUTTING
WORDS IN MY
MOUTH!!

THEN PROVE ME WRONG.
TAKE MY HAND, AND
PETER'S, AND WELCOME US
WITH AN OPEN HEART.

AS PROFESSOR
XAVIER DID.

SLAM!

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO
COME. WE WILL NEVER BE
ACCEPTED. IN THE MORNING,
I WILL RETURN HOME.

OUR MUTANTCY BRANDS US
AS OUTCASTS, PETER-- ONLY
YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO HIDE
THAT FACT. I'M NOT SO
FORTUNATE, I'VE BEEN
THIS WAY FROM BIRTH.

BUT IF WE KEEP FLEEING
FROM THOSE WHO FEAR
US-- IF WE RACE BACK TO
WHERE WE BELIEVE WE'RE
SAFE, YOU TO YOUR
COLLECTIVE, ME TO
DER JAHRMARKT--
NOTHING WILL
EVER CHANGE.

I INTEND
TO STAY.

ME,
TOO.

I AM
NOT
SURE.

BUT...
I SHALL
TRY.

THE ORIGINAL TEAM HAS SOME HISTORY.



A LOT TO BE PROUD OF.



WON'T BE EASY FOR THEM TO SHARE THEIR PLACE WITH A BUNCH OF HOTSHOT UPSTART OUTSIDERS.



BUT TO TRULY BELONG...

...AS I ONCE DID TO MY TRIBE--

--TO BE BROTHERS, THE WAY THE GRUNTS WERE IN MY OUTFIT DURING THE WAR, THAT'D BE WORTH...

HEYA, ICEMAN!



THIS MANSION IS PRETTY BIG! IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY, HOW'S ABOUT SHARIN' A FEW OF ITS SECRETS?



YOU WANT TO EXPLORE, GO RIGHT AHEAD!

EVERYTHING'S LABELED, YOU CAN'T GET LOST-- ASSUMING YOU CAN READ!



NO NEED FOR AN ATTITUDE, HOMBRE.

JUST TRYIN' TO BE FRIENDLY.

I'M NOT INTERESTED.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, BUSTER!?

I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU HERE, NOT AS X-MEN!

THIS IS OUR HOUSE, OUR LIVES, YOU'RE HORNIN' IN ON!



YOU HAVEN'T THE RIGHT! YOU DON'T BELONG!

WHOOO! NEFF!

SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE HINT-- AND GO!!!



PROFESSOR ASKED US, ICEMAN.

THAT GIVES US THE RIGHT.

WE'RE HERE, WE MEAN TO STAY.



YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT, BOY...

...THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.



OK, BOBBY.

PEOPLES' MINDS ARE AN OPEN BOOK TO ME. BUT KNOWLEDGE DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN UNDERSTANDING.

EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING TOO FAST, LEAVING US NO TIME--OR OPPORTUNITY--TO COPE.

A WEEK AGO, THE ORIGINAL X-MEN WERE THE ONLY X-MEN.

TONIGHT, WE'RE OUTNUMBERED BY A BAND OF STRANGERS.

WE'RE NOT UNIQUE ANYMORE. PERHAPS NO LONGER EVEN NEEDED.

I WONDER IF THAT'S BAD?



LADY AS LOVELY AS YOU SHOULD'N'T EVER FROWN.

WOLVERINE!

YOU STARTLED ME.



ONE OF THE THINGS I DO BEST.

HOW'D HE COME SO CLOSE WITHOUT ME SPOTTING HIM?! I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF HIS THOUGHTS!

BREW?

NO. THANK YOU.



KIND'A MAN I AM, DARLIN', I KNOW WHAT I WANT THE MINUTE I LAY EYES ON IT.

AN' WHAT WOLVERINE WANTS, HE GETS.

HEART'S POUNDIN', JEANNIE-- YOU'RE BREATHIN' AWFUL FAST.

GIVES ME THE IMPRESSION THIS FEELIN'S MUTUAL.

YOU'RE... MISTAKEN.

WANNA BET?

WOLVERINE... NO... PLEASE-- THIS IS A MISTAKE.

THE COLORS ARE
DIFFERENT FROM
ANY SHE HAS
KNOWN.

THERE IS A
YOUTH AND
VIBRANCY TO
THIS LAND THAT
EXCITES HER.

SHE KNOWS THERE ARE
RISKS AND DANGERS-- SUCH
IS ALWAYS THE CASE WHEN
ONE SOARS THROUGH
UNKNOWN SKY.

AFRICA
IS THE
CRADLE
OF LIFE.

AMERICA,
THE LAND
HUMANITY
CAME TO
LAST.

A NEW PLACE,
NEW EXPERIENCES,
NEW CHALLENGES.

BUT SHE
DOES NOT
CARE.

TELL ME,
WHAT'S A
GORGEOUS
ANGEL LIKE
YOU DOING
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS?

SHOULD THAT NOT
BE MY QUESTION...

...ANGEL...

...SINCE YOU
ARE FAR MORE
BEAUTIFUL
THAN I?

FORBEAR,
GENTLE LADY!
I'LL BLUSH!

I BUT
STATE THE
OBVIOUS.

I HOPE
I'M NOT
INTRUDING.
I SAW YOU
TAKE OFF...

...AND GAMBLER
YOU WOULDN'T
MIND SOME
COMPANY.

IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE...

...TO SHARE THE SKY WITH.

SOME-TIMES-- IT'S NO FUN SOARING ALONE.

I AGREE.

IT IS SAD YOUR FRIEND, ICEMAN, IS NOT SO GENEROUS.

HE'S A KID. HE DOESN'T APPRECIATE THE POSSIBILITIES THE WAY I DO.

WHAT POSSIBILITIES?

YOU, STORM. ME, US. MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER, A SYMPHONY OF MOTION AND EMOTION.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

IT'S SOMETHING BETTER EXPLAINED...

...WITH DEEDS, NOT WORDS. STARTING WITH A KISS.

ANGEL-- WHAT IS WRONG?!

WHAT THE--?!

I KNEW IT! I KNEW THAT LITTLE LOWLIFE ROUGH-NECK CREEP WAS GONNA BE TROUBLE!

FROM WHAT MY EAGLE-KEEN EYES CAN SEE SWEETS-- PLENTY!

BUT NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE!



YOU HEARD
THE LADY,
SHRIMP--

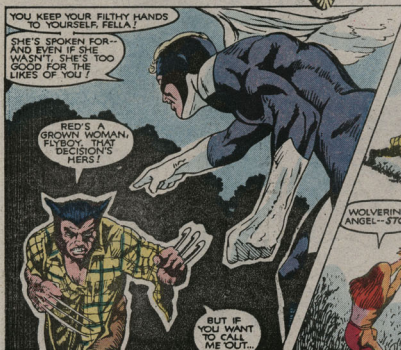
--BACK
OFF!!



YOU OKAY,
JEAN? DID
THAT CREEP
HURT YOU?!

ARE YOU
INSANE,
WARREN?!

WE WERE
JUST
TALKING!



YOU KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS
TO YOURSELF, FELLA!

SHE'S SPOKEN FOR--
AND EVEN IF SHE
WASN'T, SHE'S TOO
GOOD FOR THE
LIKES OF YOU!

RED'S A
GROWN WOMAN,
FLYBOY. THAT
DECISION'S
HERS!

BUT IF
YOU WANT
TO CALL
ME OUT...



I'LL BE
MORE'N
HAPPY TO
OBLIGE!

WOLVERINE,
ANGEL--STOP!

A TELEKINETIC PUSH
SHOULD KEEP THEM APART!



YOU MADE
ME MAD,
ANGEL--

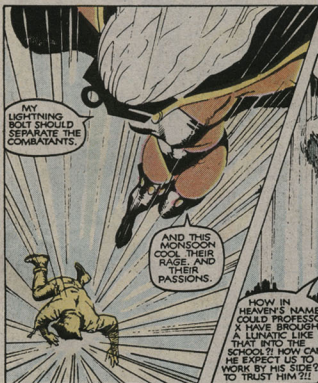
-- NOW
PAY THE
PRICE!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...



HE'S GOING
BERSERK--
I CAN'T
HOLD HIM!

WARREN--
TAKE OFF!
GET AWAY--!



MY
LIGHTNING
BOLT SHOULD
SEPARATE THE
COMBATANTS.

AND THIS
MONSOON
COOL THEIR
RAGE, AND
THEIR
PASSIONS.

THAT LITTLE
GUY'S CRAZY!

HE TRIED TO GUT ME
WITH THOSE CLAWS!

HOW IN
HEAVEN'S NAME
COULD PROFESSOR
X HAVE BROUGHT
A LUNATIC LIKE
THAT INTO THE
SCHOOL?! HOW CAN
HE EXPECT US TO
WORK BY HIS SIDE?!
TO TRUST HIM?!!



HE'S AS READY AND
WILLING TO SLAUGHTER
US AS FIGHT OUR FOES!

YOU CONDEMN EASILY,
ANGEL-- CONSIDERING
YOU STRUCK THE
FIRST BLOW.



WHEN SOMEBODY
TRIES TO KILL ME,
LADY...



... ONE
CHANCE IS
ALL THEY
GET!

WOLVERINE...

GO
AWAY,
RED.

LEMME
BE.



YOU HEARD HIM RIGHT,
JEAN. TAKE THE RUNT
AT HIS WORD. YOU
DON'T NEED THE GRIEF.

FLYBOY'S
RIGHT.

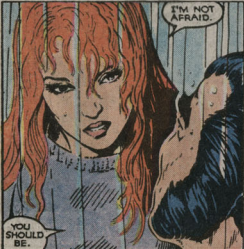


I REALLY AM BAD NEWS, AS
CRAZY AS THEY COME.



AND I
DO KILL.

I'M NOT
AFRAID.



YOU
SHOULD
BE.

I FEEL YOUR
PAIN,
WOLVERINE--
THE ANGUISH
OF BODY AND
SPIRIT-- I
WANT TO
HELP.

SO DOES
PROFESSOR
XAVIER--
OTHERWISE,
WHY BRING
YOU HERE?

I'M GLAD
I MET YOU,
WELCOME
TO THE X-MEN.



DAWN
ALREADY?

→ Sigh! →

TOO MUCH TO DO,
TOO LITTLE TIME.

NO
WAY TO
LIVE.

AGREED. THE NEVER-
ENDING CURSE OF A
WORKAHOLIC.

YOU HAVEN'T
SLEPT, JEAN.

NOT A
WINK.

I MONITORED
YOUR ENCOUNTER
WITH WOLVERINE.
I AM VERY PROUD
OF THE WAY YOU
DEALT WITH HIM
AND WARREN.

I KNOW WOLVERINE HAS ROUGH EDGES-- HE
MAY WELL PROVE THE MOST DIFFICULT AND
DANGEROUS STUDENT I'VE EVER TAUGHT-- BUT
I BELIEVE THE REWARD WORTH THE RISK.

GIVEN TIME, AND CARE, HE HAS THE POTENTIAL
TO BECOME A KEYSTONE OF THE TEAM.

I'M GLAD, I
REALLY HOPE
HE WORKS
OUT. BUT--

-- I WON'T BE
HERE TO WATCH.

THE
CONFLICT
STRIKES SO
DEEPLY?

Ohhhh,
PROFESSOR--
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA.

I THOUGHT THE PATTERNS
OF MY LIFE WERE ALL
NEATLY, PROPERLY ORDERED--
BUT ONE LOOK FROM
WOLVERINE HAS SMASHED
THEM TO BITS.

I LOVE SCOTT, WITH
ALL MY HEART.

BUT I ALSO
CAN'T DENY
THE ATTRACTION
BETWEEN
ME AND
WOLVERINE.

THE
LONGER WE'RE
TOGETHER...

... THE MORE AFRAID
I AM OF YIELDING.

BUT THAT'S
ONLY PART OF
HOW I FEEL.

I NEARLY DIED BATTLING
KRAKOA-- AS I HAVE ON
A SCORE OF OCCASIONS
SINCE YOU FORMED THE
X-MEN. BUT TONIGHT,
SUDDENLY, I FOUND MYSELF
WONDERING WHY I KEEP
COMING BACK FOR MORE.

WHAT OF MY OWN DREAMS AND PLANS-- FOR LOVE, FOR A FAMILY? MUST THEY BE SACRIFICED ON THIS TERRIBLE ALTAR OF RESPONSIBILITY?

DEAR JEAN, IS THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE THE X-MEN'S PURPOSE IS?

HAVE I FAILED YOU SO UTTERLY?

NO!

...I... DON'T KNOW ANYMORE. ANYTHING.

THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SEE AND DO-- A WHOLE WORLD TO EXPLORE THAT KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MUTANTS AND ALIENS AND SUPER-VILLAINS. LATELY, I FIND MYSELF THINKING OF THIS HOUSE AS A CLOISTER, EVEN A PRISON. I'M BOUND HERE. TRAPPED.

HOW CAN HUMANITY COME TO TRUST US, PROFESSOR, IF WE FOREVER HIDE BEHIND THESE WALLS, AFRAID TO DISCOVER IF WE CAN MAKE IT ON OUR OWN.

IT CAN'T. I NEVER MEANT TO KEEP YOU HERE, JEAN. ANY OF YOU.

MUCH AS I WILL MISS YOU.

ALL MY STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF HEART AND CONSCIENCE. AND IF THAT MEANS LEAVING THE X-MEN AND THIS SCHOOL, SO BE IT.

WERE I TO DENY THAT NEED-- THAT HONEST CHOICE-- NO MATTER HOW NOBLE MY REASONS, I'D BE NO BETTER THAN MAGNETO.

I WISH YOU WELL.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE-- SHOULD YOU EVER NEED-- DON'T HESITATE...

OH HUSH, PLEASE HUSH!

I'LL ALWAYS BE ONLY A THOUGHT AWAY.

REMEMBER YOUR OWN LESSONS, PROFESSOR. A MOMENT LIKE THIS SHOULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED AN ENDING...

...BUT A BRIGHT, NEW, WONDEROUS BEGINNING!

AND IT WAS.

NEXT: FIRST FRIENDS!

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X-MEN

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