

50c 149
SEPT
02461

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN™

AND THE **DEAD**
SHALL BURY THE
LIVING!



Cyclops. Storm. 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!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

DAVE
'COCKRUM' &
JOE
'RUBINSTEIN'
ARTISTS

JANICE, GLYNIS, LOUISE, SUZANNE, TOM
'CHIANG', 'OLIVER', 'JONES', 'GAFFNEY', 'DEFALCO'
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR REPRINTED CHIEF

AND THE DEAD SHALL BURY THE LIVING!

TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, CHARLES XAVIER IS A BRILLIANT, ICONOCLASTIC SCIENTIST AND TEACHER, ONE OF THE FOREMOST AUTHORITIES ON HUMAN GENETICS, FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IN SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.

A SELECT FEW KNOW THAT HE IS ALSO A MUTANT--PROBABLY THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH ON EARTH--AND THAT HIS SCHOOL SERVES AS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BAND OF MUTANT SUPER HEROES, ESTABLISHED BY HIM IN PART TO PROTECT HUMANITY FROM THE DEPREDACTIONS OF OUTLAW MUTANTS.

OVER THE YEARS, THE UNCANNY X-MEN HAVE HAD THEIR SHARE OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE, TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY. OF LATE, XAVIER HAS BECOME CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL SOON FACE THEIR GREATEST TEST...

...AGAINST THE ONE FOE THE CURRENT TEAM HAS NEVER DEFEATED.

MAGNETO!

ORIGIN UNKNOWN. ALTHOUGH HIS FEATURES ARE CAUCASIAN, PROBABLY NORDIC--ANTECEDENTS UNKNOWN. MASTER OF MAGNETISM, ABLE TO MANIPULATE AWESOME ENERGIES WITH CHILDISH EASE. UNLIKE ME, HE BELIEVES THAT HOMO SAPIENS AND HOMO SUPERIOR CAN NEVER LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

ALREADY, MUTANTS ARE FEARED AND HATED SIMPLY BECAUSE WE EXIST. IF WE DO NOT CONQUER AND SUBJUGATE HUMANITY, MAGNETO PROPOUNDS, WE WILL BE DESTROYED. AND WHEN THAT VICTORY IS WON...

MAGNETO MEANS TO RULE THE WORLD THAT IS LEFT.

HE WAS THE FIRST "EVIL" MUTANT THE X-MEN FOUGHT, AND TO THIS DAY, REMAINS OUR DEADLIEST ENEMY.

"--CYCLOPS, BEAST, ANGEL, ICE-MAN AND MARVEL GIRL--WHEN HE ATTACKED THE CAPE CITADEL MISSILE BASE, ACTING WITH EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE AND SKILL...

"WHEN NEXT WE FOUGHT, MAGNETO HAD GATHERED HIS OWN TEAM--A BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, CONSISTING OF MASTERMIND, THE TOAD, QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH.

I HAD JUST FORMED THE ORIGINAL TEAM--

MY PUPILS DROVE HIM AWAY.

EACH BATTLE ENDED WITH HIS DEFEAT.

"ONE SUCH--AT THE HANDS OF HIS OWN MUTANT CREATION, ALPHA--RESULTED IN HIS FORCED REGRESSION TO INFANCY. I THOUGHT THEN THAT HIS THREAT WAS ENDED FOREVER.

BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE.

ALIEN SCIENCE RESURRECTED HIM, RESTORED HIM TO ADULTHOOD EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE.

OUR LATEST CONFRONTATION--THIS TIME INVOLVING THE "NEW" X-MEN--OCCURRED IN AN INSTALLATION BURIED BENEATH AN ACTIVE ANTARCTIC VOLCANO. ALL CONCERNED WERE FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE WITH THEIR LIVES.

SINCE THEN, NOTHING'S BEEN HEARD FROM MAGNETO. WHY THEN AM I SO CERTAIN THAT HE IS PLANNING SOME DEVILTRY? I HAVE NO PROOF, ONLY MY INSTINCTS...

YET I'M SURE I'M RIGHT. I HAVE COME TO KNOW THE MAN -- HOW HE FEELS AND THINKS -- AND TO REALIZE THAT IN A GREAT MANY WAYS, IN 700 MANY WAYS...

...MAGNETO AND I ARE UNCOMFORTABLY ALIKE.

HINA, PROFESSOR! HAVE I GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

MY DATA SCREENS -- MY COMPUTERS -- WHAT?!

KITTY!

PREEEEE-SSENTING-- THE ALL NEW, ALL DIFFERENT, ALTOGETHER STUNNING--SPRITE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, PROFESSOR? PRETTY SNAZZY, HUH?

I REALLY HATE THAT CLUNKY OLD UNIFORM YOU GAVE ME. IT'S POSITIVELY ANTIQUE! I FIGURED I'D MAKE SOME IMPROVEMENTS AND...

KATHERINE PRYDE! HOW OFTEN HAVE I TOLD YOU...

...THAT I AM NEVER TO BE DISTURBED WITHOUT PERMISSION WHEN I AM WORKING. BY PHASING THROUGH THE WALL, YOU COMPLETELY DISRUPTED THE COMPUTER'S CIRCUITRY.

ALL THE DATA I HAD ON-SCREEN AND IN TEMPORARY STORAGE WHEN YOU ENTERED HAS BEEN IRRETRIEVABLY LOST!

I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR.

AN INDIVIDUAL COSTUME HAS TO BE EARNED. IT IS AWARDED AT GRADUATION, NO SOONER, PLEASE GO, KITTY. I HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO.

I'M A WHIZ AT COMPUTERS. I COULD HELP YOU...

YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE QUITE ENOUGH.

I WILL NOT TELL YOU AGAIN, CHILD. LEAVE. NOW!

AND THIS TIME, USE THE DOOR!

I GET THE HINT, PROFESSOR!

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO USE HIS MENTAL POWERS TO FORCE ME OUT. ISN'T HE AWARE THAT AT CLOSE RANGE, HIS TELEPATHIC SHOUTS HURT PUNLESS... THAT WAS HIS INTENTION...

NEARBY, KITTY'S FELLOW X-MEN ARE BUSY REPAIRING THE SCHOOL'S DANGER ROOM, A TASK THEY ARE BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WILL NEVER END.

ISN'T AMERICA WONDERFUL, MY FRIENDS? WHERE ELSE COULD A WOMAN REVERED AS AN AFRICAN GODDESS BECOME A MECHANIC INSTEAD?

SYSTEM FOUR CHECKS, KURT.

DANKE, ORORO. THAT'S FOUR DOWN AND A THOUSAND TO GO.

GUYS, I KNOW THIS MAY BE HERESY, BUT WHY BOTHER?

THE DANGER ROOMS SUPPOSED TO TRAIN US TO HONE OUR POWERS AND SKILLS, BUT THE ELF AND I ACCOMPLISH THAT WITH OUR IMPROVISED HUNTS AND THEY'RE A HECKUVA LOT MORE FUN!



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS WIN. I MUST OWE YOU A COUPLE OF DOZEN CASES OF BEER...

TWENTY-NINE TO BE PRECISE, AN' WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE--NAMESLY BREW AN' BROADS--



--I AM VERY PRECISE

THE ROOM'S PURPOSE IS FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THAT, WOLVERINE--AND INTEGRAL TO THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE X-MEN.



WELL, LOOK WHO'S PHASING THROUGH THE CEILING!



HULLO, KITTEN!

HMMM--SHE LOOKS MISERABLE. I WONDER IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE OUTRAGEOUS CLOTHES SHE'S WEARING.

SHE NEEDS CHEERING UP--AND WE COULD USE A BREAK OURSELVES. THE OPPORTUNITY IS TOO GOOD TO LET PASS. WHEN KITTY PHASES, THE MOLECULES OF HER OWN BODY SLIP BETWEEN WHATEVER SHE'S MOVING THROUGH--WHETHER STEEL OR AIR.

BUT WHEN SHE WALKS ON AIR, SHE DOESN'T BECOME COMPLETELY IMMATERIAL. A STRONG GUST OF WIND, AND A CLAP OF THUNDER SHOULD SHATTER HER CONCENTRATION. THROW HER OFF-BALANCE.



STORM'S PURVIEW IS WEATHER, AND IT TAKES ONLY A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION FOR THOUGHT TO BECOME REALITY.

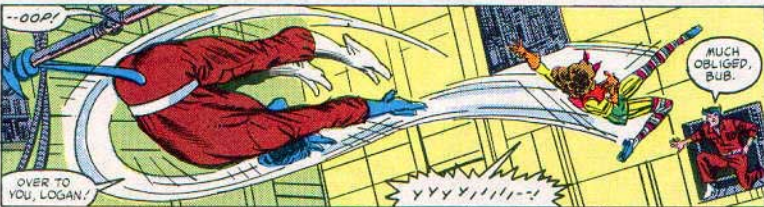
APPROPRIATELY STARTLED, KITTY
BEGINS TO FALL.

BUT THE OTHER X-MEN HAVE PICKED UP STORM'S CLUE.
NIGHTCRAWLER MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.



RELAX YOUR BODY, KATZCHEN, AND I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW WE USED TO DO THIS IN THE CIRCUS!

ALLEZ--



THEIR DEPARTURE IS DELAYED UNTIL EVENING WHEN CHANCES OF DETECTION ARE MINIMAL, BUT BY MIDNIGHT...



... THEY ARE STREAKING SOUTH OVER THE ATLANTIC SOARING AT HYPERSONIC SPEED ALONG THE EDGE OF SPACE ITSELF, ABOARD THEIR SOLE REMAINING CRAFT-- A SPECIALLY MODIFIED SR-71 BLACKBIRD.

THEIR DESTINATION IS THE BOTTOM OF THE EARTH.

THIS IS A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION, NOTHING MORE. BUT SUPPOSE WE FIND SOMETHING?

SUPPOSE WE FIND MAGNETO?

WHAT CAN THE FOUR OF US DO?



I WISH ANGEL WERE HERE. WE COULD USE HIS EXPERIENCE. WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE HE LEFT THE MANSION AFTER OUR ARGUMENT ABOUT WOLVERINE. HE BELIEVES THAT LOGAN IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE AN X-MAN. I BELIEVE WE MUST ACCEPT WOLVERINE IN SPITE OF THE DANGER.



*LAST ISH --LOUISE.

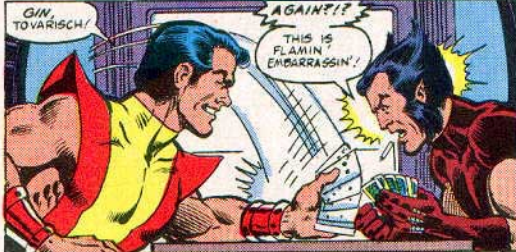


I HOPE THIS ESTRANGEMENT IS NOT PERMANENT, BUT I FEAR THE CHASM THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN US IS TOO WIDE, TOO DEEP.

GIN, TOVARISCH!

AGAIN?!

THIS IS FLAMIN' EMBARRASSIN'!



WOULD YOU CARE FOR ANOTHER GAME?

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? I KNOW WHEN I'M BEIN' HUSTLED. THE WAY YOU PLAY CARDS, PETEY, I'M GLAD I NEVER TAUGHT YOU POKER.



I AIN'T USED TA LOSIN'. I THINK I'LL DROWN MY SORROWS IN A BREW AND SANDWICH CHASER. ANYONE ELSE WANT MUNCHIES?

HOLY--!



SURPRISE, SURPRISE-- LOOK WHO'S SNOOZIN' IN THE STORAGE LOCKER!

RISE 'N' SHINE, PUN' KIN!

HMMRLFF...?

HEY!

LEGGO OF ME, YOU BIG BULLY!

WATCH THE MOUTH, KID! GURP, I BELIEVE WE HAVE HERE WHAT IS REFERRED TO IN THE TRADE AS A STOWAWAY!

KITTY!

WHAT IN THE GODDESS' NAME ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SHE DECIDED TO COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE?

THAT ISN'T FUNNY, KURT.

I'M AN X-MAN, AREN'T I? AND THIS IS AN X-MEN MISSION. WHY SHOULD I GET LEFT BEHIND?

BECAUSE YOU'RE AN X-MAN IN TRAINING.

WELL, NO ONE SAID I COULDN'T GO.

KITTY, THE MUTANT WE'RE AFTER IS MAGNETO. COMPARED TO HIM, THE ENTIRE HELLFIRE CLUB...

...IS NOTHING BUT A COLLECTION OF FIFTH-RATE AMATEURS.

I AM SORELY TEMPTED TO TURN THIS AIRCRAFT AROUND AND TAKE YOU HOME, YOUNG WOMAN, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE NEARLY REACHED OUR DESTINATION. BUT THE PROFESSOR SAID THAT TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE.

KITTY, THIS IS NOT A GAME!

I KNOW.

DON'T BE ANGRY, ORORO.

BESIDES, THIS IS A SCOUTING MISSION. WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

LITTLE ONE, I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU HURT OR KILLED--OR US HURT OR KILLED--BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.

STORM?

YES, NIGHTCRAWLER?

PARDON MY INTERRUPTION, BUT WE'VE ARRIVED.

THAT'S A LIVE VOLCANO!

TRUE, KITTY. MAGNETO'S OLD BASE IS BURIED BENEATH IT.

HOW DO WE GET INSIDE?

ON OUR LAST VISIT, KATZCHEV--ABOARD A FLYING CARNIVAL WAGON--MAGNETO DROPPED US RIGHT INTO THE CALDERA...

...AND WE FLOATED DOWN THROUGH A THOUSAND METERS OF MOLTEN LAVA.

YOU'RE... KIDDING? AREN'T YOU?

KURT, WE AREN'T GOING TO DO THAT, ARE WE?

WHAT'S A MATTER, PUN' KIN? HAVIN' SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TAGGIN' ALONG?

TAKE THIS PARKA, KITTY. YOUR OLD COSTUME MAY HAVE BEEN... UNATTRACTIVE, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS INSULATED.

THERE'S THE TUNNEL.

THANKS, KURT. STORM, WHAT'S THAT?

WHEN THE WALLS WERE BREACHED AND LAVA FLOODED MAGNETO'S COMPLEX, WE WERE SEPARATED.

THE FOUR OF US, PLUS CYCLOPS AND BANSHEE, DESCENDED TO THE SAVAGE LAND, WHILE PHOENIX BLASTED AN ESCAPE ROUTE TO THE SURFACE FOR HERSELF AND THE BEAST.

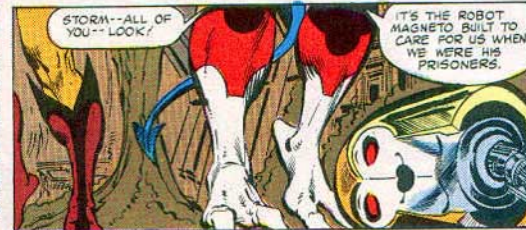
X-MEN
#13--
L

EACH GROUP MISTAKENLY THOUGHT THE OTHER WAS DEAD. IF ONLY WE'D STAYED TOGETHER... IF ONLY...

WOLVERINE, YOU HAVE THE KEENEST SENSES. YOU TAKE THE POINT.

GOTCHA, STORM, I'M-- KID, YOU'RE STILL WEARIN' THOSE FLAMIN' ROLLER-SKATES!

NO PROBLEM, WOLVERINE! I'M WALKING ON AIR, NOT THE SNOW. THEY DON'T BOG ME DOWN.





ALMOST THERE--
HEAT, FUMES
AFFECTING ME!
IT'S SO HARD
TO BREATHE!

REACH, MAN
--REACH!

IMAGES COLLIDED IN HER MIND,
GAROKK'S EYES MURDERING THE
ANCIENT TERROR WITHIN HER.
WITHOUT MEANING TO, SHE
HESITATED.

...AND
WAS
LOST.

AARRGH!

IN THAT INSTANT, STORM WAS
NO MORE. THERE WAS ONLY
ORORO, A CHILD...

...WHOSE PRIVATE-
HELL
WAS--AND
IS--THE
FEAR OF
DYING
ALONE
BURIED IN
THE DARK.

THAT WAS
MONTHS
AGO.

YET THE MEMORIES ARE AS FRESH,
AS CLEAR, AS IF IT HAD ONLY JUST
HAPPENED.

IT DOES NO GOOD
TO TELL MYSELF I
TRIED MY BEST. I WAS
... AFRAID. AND BE-
CAUSE OF MY FEAR, A
MAN DIED.

OR SO I
THOUGHT.

THERE'S NO ONE NEARBY, COULD
IT BE A... GHOST? WORSE,
COULD I BE IMAGINING THINGS?

I'D BEST USE
MY RADIO MICRO-
TRANSCIVER TO
CHECK WITH THE
OTHERS.

WOLVERINE, ARE
WE ALONE DOWN HERE?
HAVE YOUR ENHANCED
SENSES SPOTTED ANY
THING... UNUSUAL?

NEGATIVE, STORM. HEARD
NOTHING, SEEN NOTHING.
SMELT NOTHING--! CEPT
US, OF COURSE.

THIS PLACE IS AS QUIET
AS A TOMB.

THANK
YOU.

I WISH THAT MADE
ME FEEL MORE
REASSURED.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?

ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

PETER, THIS WHOLE PLACE IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY!

IT IS HUGE, TOO--COVERING EIGHT CUBIC KILOMETRES. SOON AFTER OUR BATTLE WITH MAGNETO, LAVA EXPLODED THE MAIN POWER GENERATORS. WE ASSUMED THE BLAST DESTROYED THE ENTIRE COMPLEX.

SO MUCH FOR THAT THEORY.

UHHMM--I WONDER HOW MUCH REMAINS INTACT?

BEATS ME--BUT IF SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE, I CAN COVER A LOT OF GROUND IN RECORD TIME. I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.

I AM A MAN WHO KNOWS HIS LIMITATIONS.

LOOK! NO MORE TUNNEL.

WANT ME TO PHASE THROUGH AND SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

NO. FEEL THE WALL. IT IS HOT. I THINK THAT BEYOND IT IS MOLTEN LAVA.

RIIIGHT--THE VOLCANO.

I WILL CONTACT STORM...

...TELL HER WE'VE FOUND NOTH-- --UNNNNGHH!

PRACTICING WHAT--HOW NOT TO BREAK YOUR NECK?

POOW! YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS! CAN YOU DO BETTER?

PETER!

SOMEONE HIT HIM --BUT WHO?!

NO!

BEHOLD, CHILD
THE RUIN OF A
LIVING GOD!

BEHOLD--
GAROKK!!

GEEZ!

I AM KEEPER OF THIS PLACE,
CHARGED--NAY, CONDEMNED--
BY MAGNETO TO DEFEND IT AGAINST
ALL INTRUDERS.

DO NOT RESIST ME,
CHILD, OR ATTEMPT TO
ESCAPE. NEITHER WILL
SUCCEED. I OFFER
A QUICK DEATH.

THANKS
A
LOT!



I HOPE YOU WON'T
BE TOO UPSET...

...IF I
TURN YOU
DOWN.

THE CHILD--
PASSING RIGHT
THROUGH ME
AHHRRR!



I HURT HIM, BUT *NOW?* I'VE PHASED
THROUGH PEOPLE BEFORE AND THEY
NEVER FELT A THING; WHY WAS
GAROKK DIFFERENT?!



PETER--WAKE
UP! C'MON, MOVE!
PLEASE!

I CAN'T RAISE
ANYONE ON MY RAPID
--THERE'S TOO MUCH
STATIC.

NEVER HAVE... I EXPERIENCED
SUCH SENSATIONS. YOU WILL...
PAY FOR THAT, CHILD, WHEN I
SMASH THIS WALL...



...I WILL
SURVIVE
THE LAVA
FLOW...

...AND
COLOSSUS
MIGHT
SURVIVE...

... BUT WILL YOU?!



ORORO!

THAT SCREAM-- KITTY!
THERE'S A PRESSURE SHIFT
IN THE AIR-- SOMETHING'S
PUSHING IT TOWARDS ME.



AND THE
TEMPERATURE IS
SHOOTING UP--
OH, GODDESS
NO!

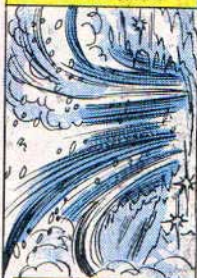
THE SHIELD WALL
MUST HAVE BEEN
BREACHED. LAVA
IS FLOODING THE
COMPLEX.

KITTY--!
IF SHE WAS
IN ITS PATH...



I CANNOT
SOLELY THINK
OF MY DEAR ONE.
I MUST ACT TO
SAVE US ALL.
I'LL PULL IN A
WIND FROM
OUTSIDE...

"... GENERATING THE
HIGHEST SPEEDS AND
LOWEST TEMPERATURES
POSSIBLE..."



"... AND HURL IT UP THE
TUNNEL AT THE LAVA
FLOW!"

CRIPES! THE LEAST
STORM COULDA' DONE
BEFORE WHIPPIN' UP
A HURRICANE...



... WAS GIVE US A LITTLE WARNIN'! HANG ON!
TIGHT, PAL. YOU FEEL THE HEAT FLASH BEFORE
THE WIND STARTED? IF THERE'S LAVA IN THE
TUNNELS AN' SHE'S TRYIN'
TA STOP IT...

... THERE'S NO
TELLIN' *NOW* MUCH
POWER SHE'LL
NEED!

SOONER THAN EITHER X-MAN
EXPECTS, HOWEVER, THE TEMPEST
ENDS--AS ABRUPTLY AS IT BEGAN.

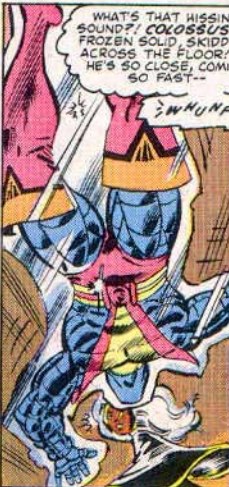
EVERYTHING IS COATED IN ICE. IT
IS SO... BEAUTIFUL. AND THE LAVA
FLOW HAS COOLED AND SOLIDIFIED.
WE ARE SAFE.

BUT WHAT
OF PETER AND
KITTY?



WOLVERINE!
NIGHTCRAWLER!
I NEED YOUR HELP!

WHAT'S THAT HISSING
SOUND? COLOSSUS!
FROZEN SOLID, SKIDDING
ACROSS THE FLOOR!
HE'S SO CLOSE, COMING
SO FAST--



WHUNFFIE





IS SHE HURT?

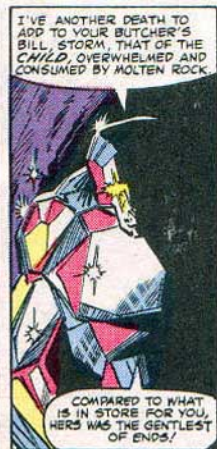
STUNNED.

YOU ANY GOOD AT CLIMBING ICE?

I'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL I TRY, WHY?



FIND COVER, ELF. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.



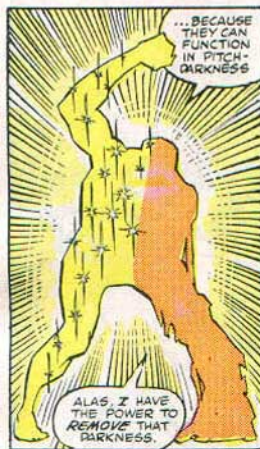
COMPARED TO WHAT IS IN STORE FOR YOU, HERE WAS THE GENTLEST OF ENDS!



UNCONSCIOUS, STORM? WHAT A PITY. YOU'RE MAKING THINGS TOO EASY FOR ME.

THE CHILD IS DEAD, AND YOU AND COLOSSUS LIE HELPLESS BEFORE ME. THAT LEAVES **TWO** OF YOUR PARTY UNACCOUNTED FOR.

NO DOUBT THEY ARE ALREADY MOVING INTO POSITION TO ATTACK ME. THEY THINK THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE...



...BECAUSE THEY CAN FUNCTION IN PITCH-DARKNESS

ALAS, I HAVE THE POWER TO REMOVE THAT DARKNESS.



HALF OUR Foe's BODY IS FORMED OF MISSEAPEN ROCK. THE OTHER OF CRYSTAL-- AND THAT HALF IS GLOWING LIKE A STAR!



THE ICE FORMATIONS CREATED BY STORM'S BLIZZARD ARE ACTING LIKE MIRRORS, LIGHTING EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY AS BRIGHT AS DAY!

IT'S BLINDING ME--

--LEAVING ME NOWHERE TO HIDE!

I SEE YOU, NIGHTCRAWLER!

AND WHAT GAROKK SEES--HE SLAYS!



GAROKK! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD YOURSELF?



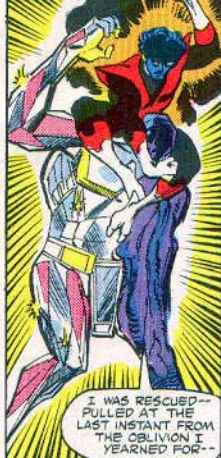
YIKES! THE DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS HE FIRES FROM HIS EYES HAVE LOST NONE OF THEIR POTENCY.

AS THE ENERGY BOLT SLICES TOWARDS HIM...

BAMF

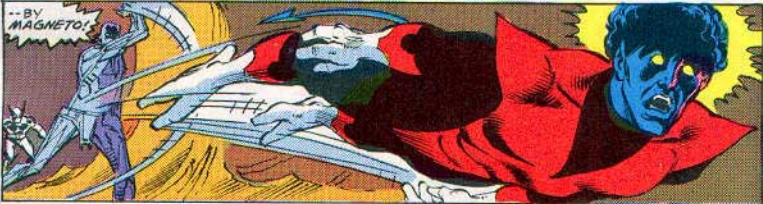
...NIGHT-CRAWLER TELEPORTS FROM THE CEILING...

...TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE GAROKK CAN'T BLAST HIM...



I WAS RESCUED--PULLED AT THE LAST INSTANT FROM THE OBLIVION I YEARNED FOR--

--BY MAGNETO!



YOUR ACCURSED CLAWS CANNOT HARM ME, CRETIN.

HE AIN'T KIDDIN'! WHERE I TAGGED HIM--



BUB, IF ETERNAL PEACE IS WHAT YOU CRAVE--

--I'LL BE MOREN HAPPY TO OBLIGE YOU.



--HIS CRYSTAL SKIN REGENERATED ITSELF ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!

MEANWHILE, NEARBY...



AIR!!

I'M IN THE CAVERN AGAIN, AND ... AND I'M-- ALIVE!

I TOOK THE DEEPEST BREATH I COULD AND PHASED BEFORE THE LAVA HIT ME. I WAS SO SCARED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!



BUT I DIDN'T DIE, AND THAT WAS WORSE...

... BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I DIDN'T DARE LET MY CONCENTRATION LAPSE...



... EVEN THE TINIEST BIT.

MOVING THROUGH THE ROCK WAS LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH MUD...



... BUT I MADE IT OUT. I SURVIVED!



I--WOWW!!

OF ALL THE SILLY, CARELESS, LAUGHABLE, DUMB THINGS TO DO-- ESPECIALLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS! GETTING AROUND ON SKATES IS A LOT HARDER THAN DAZZLER MAKES IT LOOK.



I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING-- NO VOICES, NO SOUNDS OF A FIGHT.

THAT'S BAD, IF THE X-MEN HAD BEATEN GAROKK...

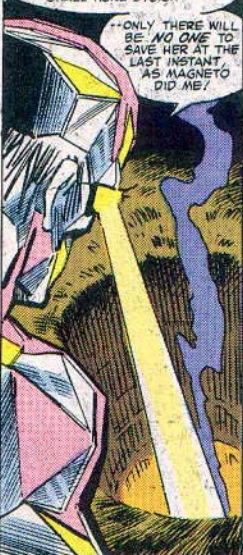
... THEY'D BE OVER HERE LOOKING FOR ME. IF HE'S BEATEN THEM...



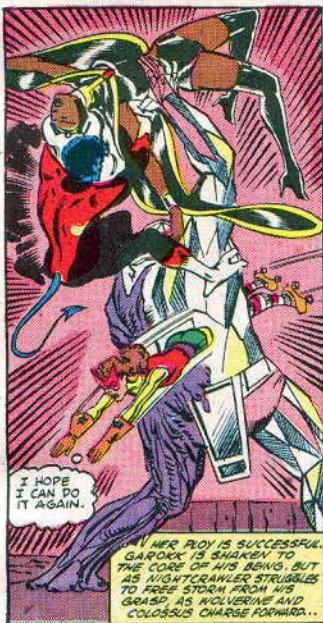
... I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE THE DAY.

AS KITTY MOVES SILENTLY-- SKATING ON AIR--INSTEAD OF THE FLOOR-- TOWARDS THE COMPLEX'S CENTRAL CHAMBER...

THERE, IT IS DONE. A MINIATURE VERSION OF THE PIT INTO WHICH I FELL MONTHS AGO. INTO IT, I SHALL HURL STORM--



--ONLY THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO SAVE HER AT THE LAST INSTANT, AS MAGNETO DID ME!



ARE YOU, CERTAIN, WOLVERINE? I CANNOT SEE ANYTHING.

NOT SURPRISIN'. STORM'S COSTUME'S NON-REFLECTIVE BUT I HEARD A WOMAN'S VOICE-- A GROAN.

STORM? WHY DOES SHE NOT ANSWER?

ORORO!

SHE PROBABLY CAN'T ANSWER, PETER. ONE OF US HAS TO GO DOWN AFTER HER. I THINK I'M THE BEST CHOICE. NIGHTCRAWLER WILL BE AS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE IN THOSE SHADOWS AS STORM, WHILE ALL THE SHINY STUFF ON MY COSTUME OUGHT TO REFLECT OUR FLASHLIGHT'S BEAMS FOR QUITE A WAY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, WOLVERINE? GUYS?

GO WITH IT, PUN'KIN. AN' GOOD LUCK.

THANKS.

THIS IS SO WEIRD.

A YEAR AGO, I WAS YOUR BASIC SUBURBAN TEEN-AGE WHIZ.

NOW LOOK AT ME.

I WONDER WHAT THE GANG IN DEERFIELD WOULD SAY IF THEY KNEW --OH!

I FOUND HER!

SHE'S ALIVE, BUT UNCONSCIOUS! AND ON A REAL TINY LEDGE! THE SLIGHTEST MOVE COULD KNOCK HER OFF! I'LL NEED NIGHTCRAWLER'S HELP...

IF THE MISFIT WERE TO ARRIVE IN AN INSTANT, CHILD...

...HE WOULD STILL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE YOU.

GAROKK!

INSTINCTIVELY, AS GAROKK LUNGES FORWARD, KITTY PHASES--HER BODY BECOMING AS EPHEMERAL AS SMOKE...

YI!!

...AND THEN THE MAN-TURNED-GOD--TURNED-DEMON SCREAMS...

...AS HE LOSES HIS PRECARIOUS BALANCE AND PLUMMETS TO THE END HE HAD SO GLEEFULLY MEANT FOR STORM.

IT IS A SIGHT, A SOUND, A MEMORY THAT WILL HAUNT KITTY PRYDE FOR THE REST OF HER DAYS.

THE LEDGE--
CRUMBLING!

CAN I PHASE AND
WALK ON AIR WHILE
CARRYING SOMEONE?
I DON'T KNOW--AND
THIS IS NO TIME TO
TRY TO FIND OUT.

NO ROPE, KATZCHEN, AND
I CAN'T CLIMB UP EITHER.
THE ROCK WALL'S TOO
FRAGILE AND **CRUMBLY**
TO SUPPORT MY WEIGHT.
I'M AFRAID I'VE NO
CHOICE...

...BUT TO
RETURN WITH
ORORO...

...THE WAY
I CAME!

KURT! LENIN'S
GHOST--HIS
SCREAMS.

CATCH HIM,
PETEY.

THE STRAIN OF
TELEPORTING
WITH STORM
MUST HAVE NEARLY
KILLED YOU, MY
FRIEND.

BAMF

THROW ME A ROPE,
GUYS--**FAST**--
OR WE'LL FALL!

I WILL ENSURE
THAT YOUR PAIN--
AND SACRIFICE--WERE
NOT IN VAIN.

THE TOSS DID THE
TRICK, BIG FELLA.
THEY'RE SAFE.

LATER, ABOARD THE BLACKBIRD, AFTER KITTY
REJOINING THE TEAM, AND STORM AND NIGHTCRAWLER
BEGIN TO RECOVER FROM THEIR ORDEAL...

MAGNETO WENT TO...CONSIDERABLE
TROUBLE TO...EXCAVATE AND
PROTECT HIS COMPLEX.

I THINK THOSE FACTS ALONE CONFIRM
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S FEARS. MAGNETO IS UP
TO SOMETHING.

YEAH? BUT WHATT? AN'
WHEN IS HE GONNA
STRIKE? AN' WHERE? AN'
MOST IMPORTANT OF
ALL, DARLIN', WHEN
MAGGY FINALLY
MAKES HIS
MOVE...

HOW THE BLAZES ARE
WE GONNA **STOP** HIM?

ROUGHLY 5,000 MILES NORTH-
WARDS, ON AN ISLAND IN THE
HEART OF THE BERMUDA
TRIANGLE, WE FIND SCOTT
SUMMERS, STORM'S PREDECESSOR
AS THE X-MEN'S LEADER.

YESTERDAY, LEE FORRESTER
AND I FACED DEATH FROM
EXPOSURE, THIRST, STARVATION.
NOW, WE HAVE FOOD, CLOTHES,
AND SHELTER--



--AND OUR
SITUATION
COULDN'T
BE MORE
DESPERATE.

BECAUSE THE MAN WHO
SAVED US IS THE X-MEN'S
OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE--
MAGNETO. HE DIDN'T RE-
COGNIZE ME UNDER MY
BLINDFOLD, AND LEE DIDN'T
BLOW MY "COVER," BLESS
HER, WHEN I GAVE HIM A
FALSE NAME.

IF HE LEARNS MY
TRUE IDENTITY, I'M
AS GOOD AS
DEAD!



AH...M...E

LEE--?

PRINCESS LEE, IF THIS OUTFIT IS ANYTHING
TO GO BY. I WISH YOU COULD SEE ME,
BUT I'M KIND OF GLAD YOU CAN'T.



I'VE
FELT MORE
DRESSED
SKINNY-
DIPPING!



I THINK I KNOW
THE FEELING. I MUST
LOOK PRETTY BIZARRE
MYSELF.

YOU
LOOK
LOVELY.

HOW ARE YOU
HOLDING UP?



FINE, CONSIDERING MY NEAR-
TOTAL IGNORANCE OF THE
SITUATION. SCOTT, WHAT
IS GOING ON HERE?
WHY DOES MAGNETO
SCARE YOU SO?

I'LL TELL
YOU LATER.
'TIL THEN,
TRUST ME,
PLEASE.

GOOD MORNING.
I TRUST YOU
BOTH SLEPT
WELL.



VERY WELL, THANK YOU.

EXCELLENT. BY THE
WAY, CYCLOPS,
YOU MAY REMOVE
THAT RIDICULOUS
BLINDFOLD IF YOU
WISH...

SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN
MY... GUEST, YOUR
VAUNTED OPTIC BLASTS
WILL NOT FUNCTION. YOU
ARE QUITE HELPLESS--
AND COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY.

NEXT
ISSUE

A WORLD HELD
HOSTAGE, WITH ONLY
EIGHT LIVES STANDING
BETWEEN IT AND
ENSLAVEMENT!
IN 30 DAYS!

I, MAGNETO!