

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
PSR 3 of 5

X-MEN®

PHOENIX

ENDSONG

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Previously in X-MEN: PHOENIX ENDSONG

Once, a powerful cosmic entity called the PHOENIX FORCE assumed the form of a mutant woman named JEAN GREY and destroyed an entire alien civilization. The X-MEN united against her, and with its bodily death, the Phoenix Force seemed banished for good. Jean Grey herself lived on, eventually married and looked forward to a long and happy life.

But the Phoenix Force persisted in the depths of space...and unfortunately, Jean Grey died in a battle with one of the X-Men's greatest adversaries.

Now, weakened and driven insane, the Phoenix has returned to Earth and resurrected Jean Grey against her will. Assuming the form of Jean's body, the Phoenix searches for the missing piece it believes will restore its shattered self: Jean's former husband, SCOTT SUMMERS, a.k.a. CYCLOPS.

Cyclops decides that in order to avoid another cosmic catastrophe, the X-Men must look past their love for their former teammate and destroy the Phoenix Force once and for all.

Meanwhile, in the hallowed halls of the Xavier Institute, an Omega-level telepath named QUENTIN QUIRE has himself experienced a resurrection of sorts, and searches out the young woman he loves, SOPHIE, one of the identical telepathic quintuplets calling themselves the STEPFORD CUCKOOS.

But Sophie, too, is dead.

Quentin attempts to restore Sophie to life, but fails. Perhaps, he reasons, the Phoenix Force can help him...

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SCOTT?

ANYBODY?

HELLO?

GREAT.

THIS IS YOU,
ISN'T IT, JEAN?
PUNISHING ME FOR
MY SINS?

ALL RIGHT. I
STOLE YOUR HUSBAND.
BUT HE'S HAPPIER NOW.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T
YOU? YOU'RE PRACTICALLY
INFINITE, PART OF THE
WHOLE DAMN
UNIVERSE...

...CAN'T YOU
FORGIVE ME? CAN'T
YOU JUST LOOK INTO MY
SOUL AND SEE THE...SEE
THE LOVE THERE?

JEAN?

GOD, I
SOUND LIKE AN
IDIOT.



STILL NOTHING FROM THE MANSION, ORORO. NO COMMUNICATION AT ALL-- CONVENTIONAL OR TELEPATHIC. SOMETHING'S **WRONG**.

DARK PHOENIX HAS RETURNED, KURT. EVERYTHING'S **WRONG**.

WE SHOULD GO BACK HOME.

YES...



...RIGHT AFTER WE DEAL WITH THE GIANT ALIEN **SPACESHIP**.





ACH... ...I MISSED.

NOT YOUR FAULT. THEY MOVED.



WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WANT?

IF THEY WERE HERE TO EXTERMINATE ALL **MUTANTS** AGAIN, THEY WOULD HAVE ATTACKED US ALREADY.

I THINK THEY KNOW **DARK PHOENIX** HAS RETURNED. I THINK THEY'VE COME FOR **JEAN**.

WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM.

YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO **STOP** THEM.



PERHAPS. OR PERHAPS WE'LL HAVE TO **HELP** THEM.

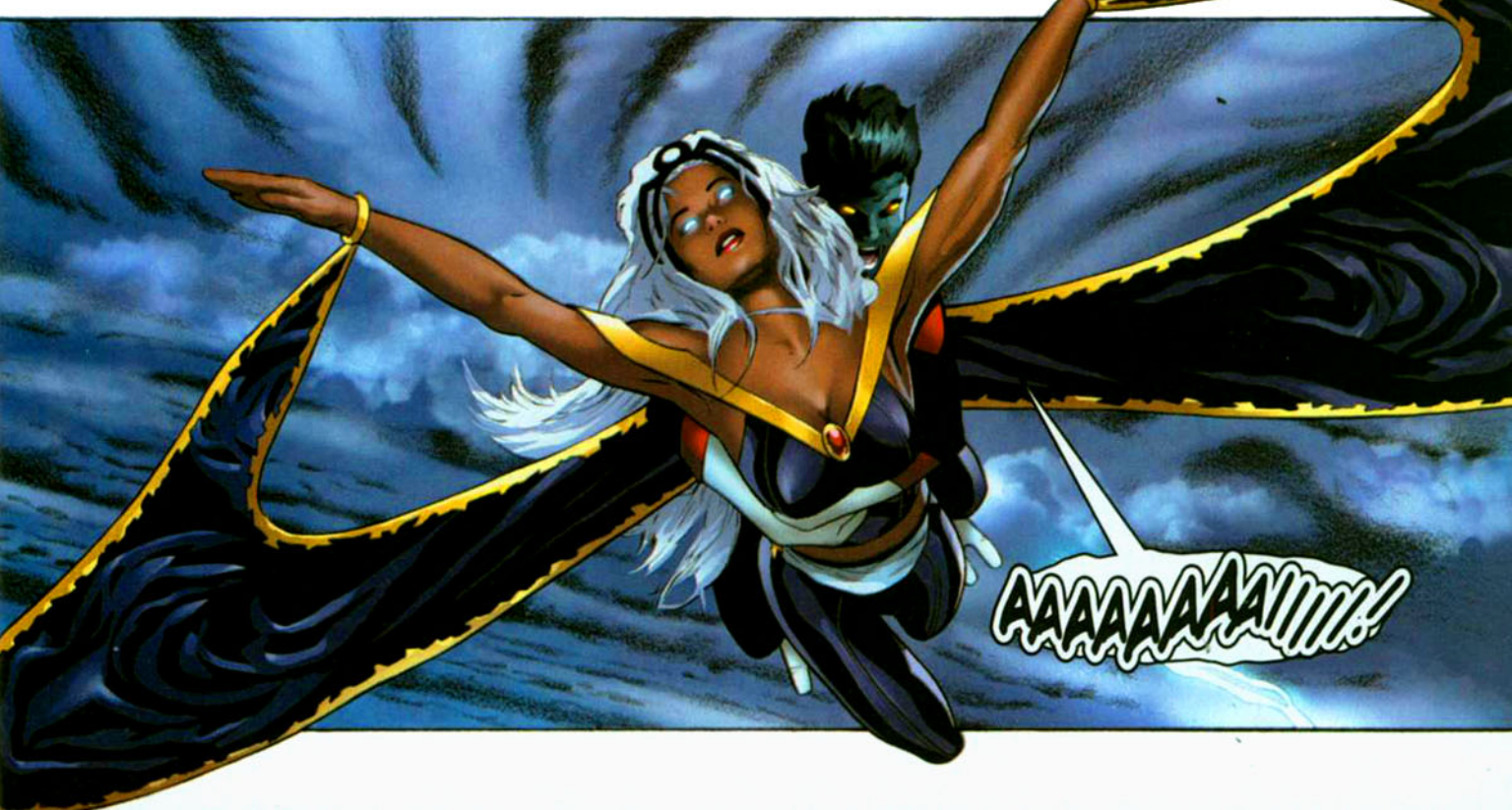


ARE YOU READY FOR THAT, **KURT**?



THINK ABOUT IT.

AND HOLD TIGHT.



AAAAAAAAAIIIIII!



THIS IS SO PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF EMBARRASSING. IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, JEAN, WHY DON'T WE JUST FIGHT?

OF COURSE, YOU'D ATOMIZE ME WITHIN NANoseconds, SO I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SUGGESTING THIS, BUT MAYBE I'M GOING A LITTLE INSANE BEING FROZEN IN THE DARK WITH NO IDEA WHEN OR IF I'LL EVER SEE OR HEAR ANOTHER PERSON'S FACE OR THOUGHT EVER AGAIN SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF--



AAAAH!

EMMA?



SCOTT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE. STAY THERE--I NEED YOU IN CEREBRA.

WHERE'S JEAN?



IT WASN'T JEAN AT ALL...IT WAS QUENTIN QUIRE. HE RECONSTITUTED HIMSELF, SMASHED HIS TANK, TELEPATHICALLY FROZE US ALL IN OUR TRACKS. CAN YOU FIND HIM?

QUENTIN, THAT LITTLE RUNT...YES, HIS ENERGY'S OFF THE CHARTS. HE'S HEADING NORTH... INCREDIBLY FAST.

THIS ISN'T COINCIDENCE, SCOTT. HE'S AN OMEGA-LEVEL MUTANT, JUST LIKE JEAN--

HANK, GET THAT EGG IN THE JET, ALONG WITH ANY EQUIPMENT YOU NEED TO FINISH IT.

CHECK.

--SHE MUST HAVE BROUGHT HIM BACK FOR SOME--



AAAAGH!!

EMMA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ANGEL... SCREAMING IN MY HEAD... MESSAGE FROM LOGAN...





WE FOUND HER.





"WE COULD HAVE **USED** HIM, SCOTT."

"I KNOW, WARREN. I'D WANT HIM AT MY SIDE IN ANY OTHER FIGHT. BUT HE HAD A CHANCE TO KILL DARK PHOENIX THE **LAST** TIME AROUND."

"AND HE **PULLED** HIS PUNCH."



HE WASN'T THE **ONLY** ONE.

WE CAN'T MAKE THOSE KINDS OF MISTAKES AGAIN. OR **ALL** OF US--EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON THIS PLANET--COULD PAY THE PRICE.



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. MAYBE IT'S REALLY **JEAN** WE'RE FACING. MAYBE WE CAN **REACH** HER. MAYBE WE CAN **SAVE** HER.



AND MAYBE YOUR FEARLESS LEADER KEEPS INSISTING IT'S **DARK** PHOENIX BECAUSE HE'D RATHER FIGHT A **MONSTER** THAN FACE HIS **WIFE**.



I'LL PROBABLY FEEL GUILTY OVER THE WAY I HANDLED MY MARRIAGE WITH JEAN 'TIL THE DAY I DIE.



BUT THAT DOESN'T AFFECT THE FACT THAT I **KNOW** JEAN GREY, FUNDAMENTALLY AND FOREVER, AND WILL ALWAYS **HONOR** HER, IN LIFE AND DEATH.

WHICH MEANS I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST AND FOREMOST, JEAN WAS A **HERO**.



AND RIGHT NOW, IF SHE'S REALLY IN THERE, SHE'S **FIGHTING** THE PHOENIX LIKE A **CHAMP**, JUST LIKE LOGAN SAID. AND THAT'S WHY **WE'RE** THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THIS JOB.



ALL OF US **COMBINED** COULD **NEVER** BEAT THE PHOENIX IN A STRAIGHT FIGHT. BUT JEAN KNOWS US. SHE TRUSTS US. AND SHE'S GOING TO GIVE US THE **OPPORTUNITY** TO DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.



AND WE BETTER BE READY TO **TAKE** IT.



FUNNY
LITTLE MAN.



I AIN'T
LAUGHIN',
DARLIN'!

HA.



WHY DON'T
YOU JUST **FINISH**
IT, THEN?



OH, I WILL...



...BUT NOT YET.



I FEEL HIM COMING. BUT HE'S STRONG THIS TIME. HE'S BUILT A WALL. HE KNOWS WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.



IF I KILLED YOU, HE'D KNOW IT'S OVER. HE'D BOMB ME FROM THE AIR.

BUT I NEED TO SEE HIM. FACE-TO-FACE.

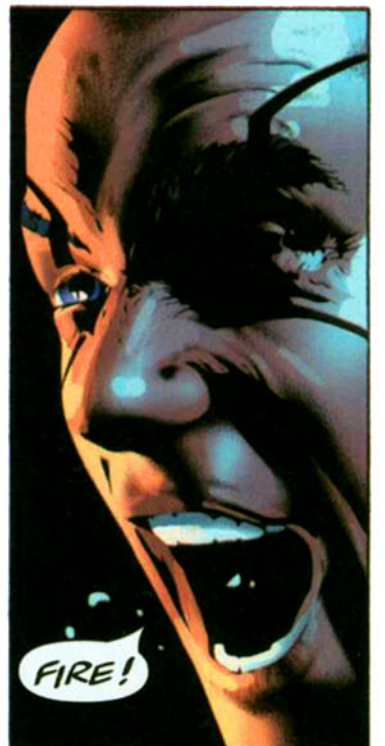
LOOK INTO HIS EYES.



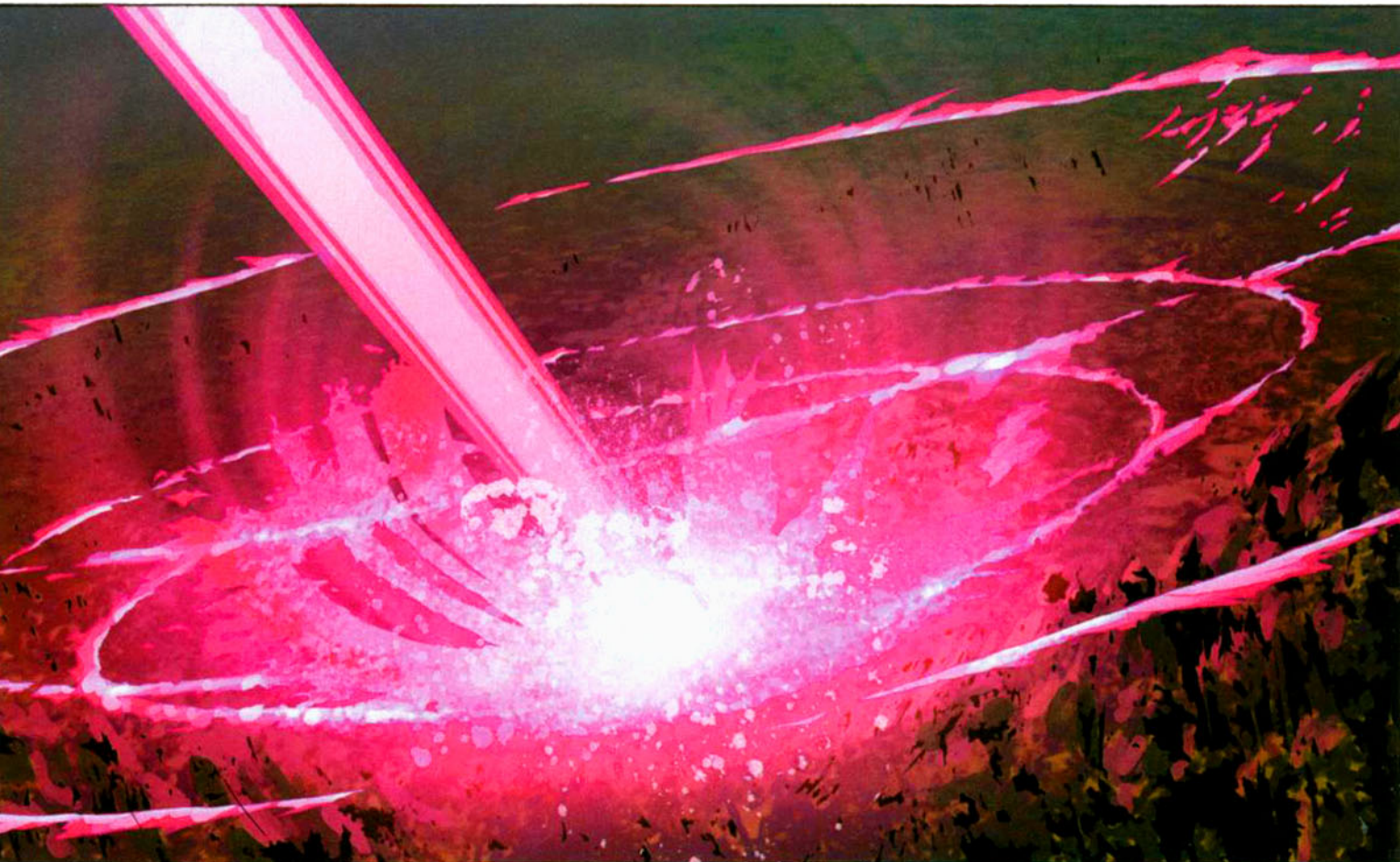
YOU CAN'T DIE YET.

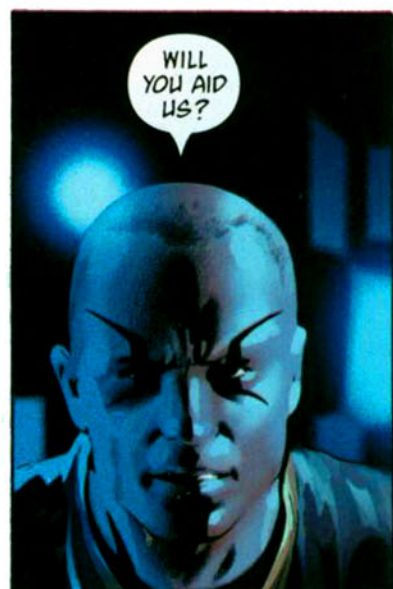


ARGHHH!











WE WERE PREPARED TO DESTROY DARK PHOENIX--BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT SHE'S DONE. BUT QUENTIN QUIRE IS INNOCENT.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING...

THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE. AS A POTENTIAL HOST, HE COULD--

BY YOUR REASONING, WE SHOULD KILL ANY MUTANT WITH PSYCHIC POWERS AND OMEGA POTENTIAL.



YOU'RE INSANE.

NO, JUST TYPICAL. LITTLE MEN WITH THEIR BIG GUNS ALWAYS--



SCOTT, THE CUCKOOS... IN CEREBRA... THEY'VE FOUND...



COMMANDER, THEY'RE FLEEING!

HEADED WHERE?



THAT IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.

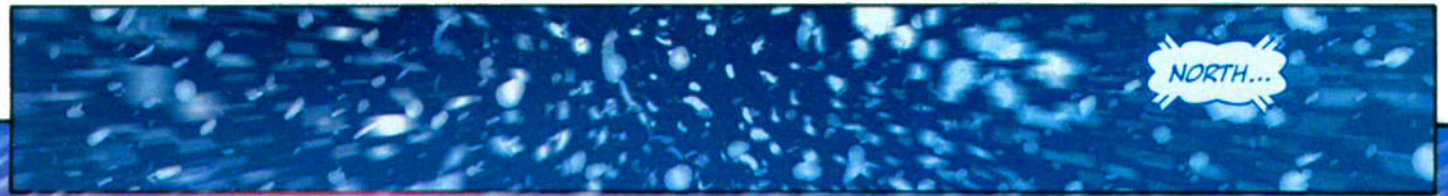
WE AGREE THAT QUENTIN QUIRE MUST BE CAPTURED. BUT HE WILL NOT BE KILLED.

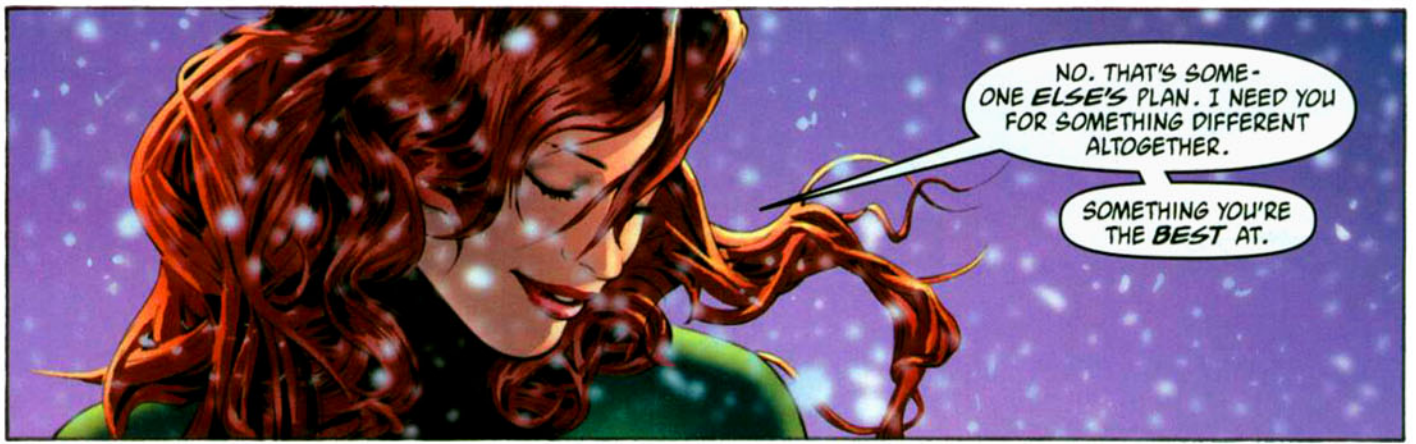
NOW, WILL YOU HELP US...

BAMF



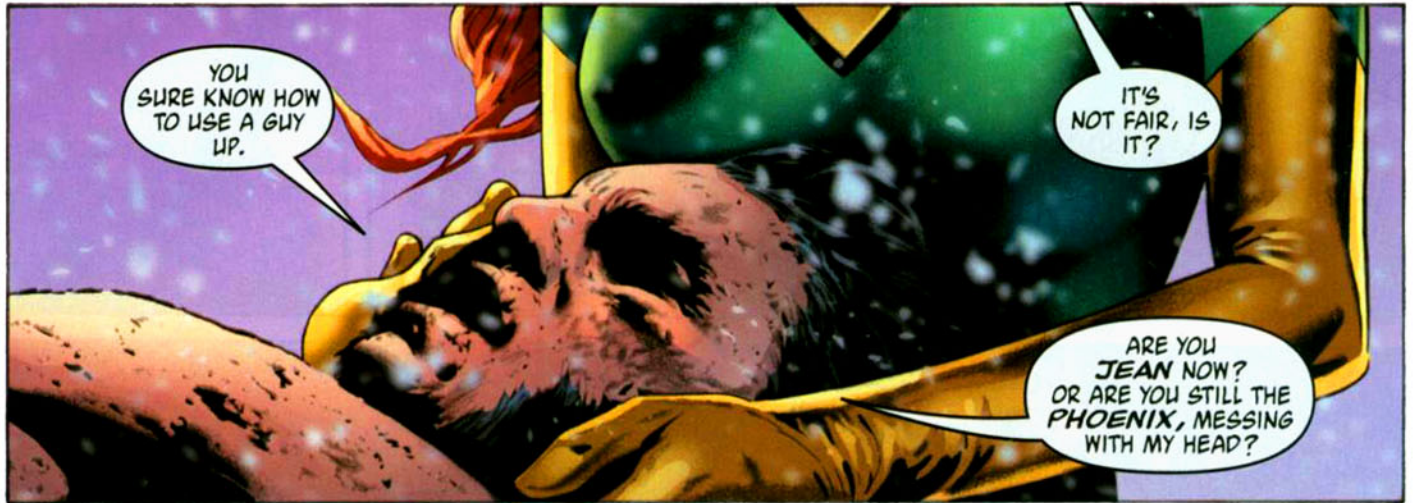
...OR SHOULD I TEAR THIS SHIP FROM THE SKIES?





NO. THAT'S SOME-ONE ELSE'S PLAN. I NEED YOU FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT ALTOGETHER.

SOMETHING YOU'RE THE **BEST** AT.



YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO USE A GUY UP.

IT'S NOT FAIR, IS IT?

ARE YOU **JEAN** NOW? OR ARE YOU STILL THE **PHOENIX**, MESSING WITH MY HEAD?

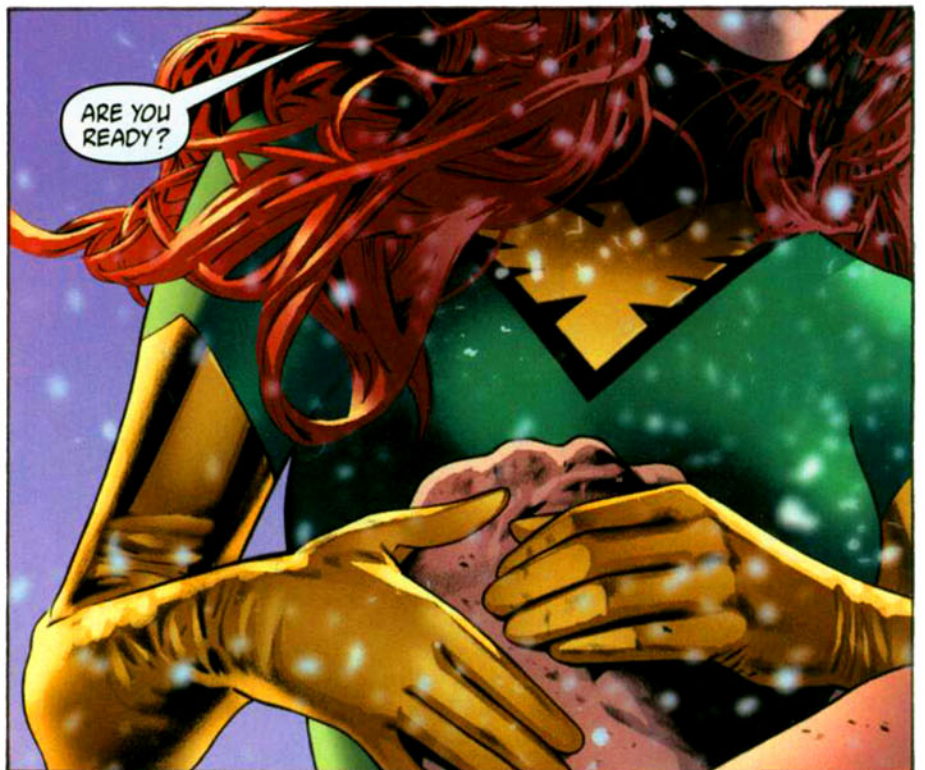


I'M ALWAYS JEAN. AND I'M ALWAYS THE **PHOENIX**.

BUT...

I DIED. I **SCATTERED** IN A TRILLION DIRECTIONS. AND THEN I STARTED TO **PULL TOGETHER** AGAIN, OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOT ROOM. BUT I'M STARTING TO SEE NOW. PARTS OF ME...PARTS OF ME NEVER CAME HOME.

I'M OUT OF **BALANCE**. I NEED TO TRY AGAIN.

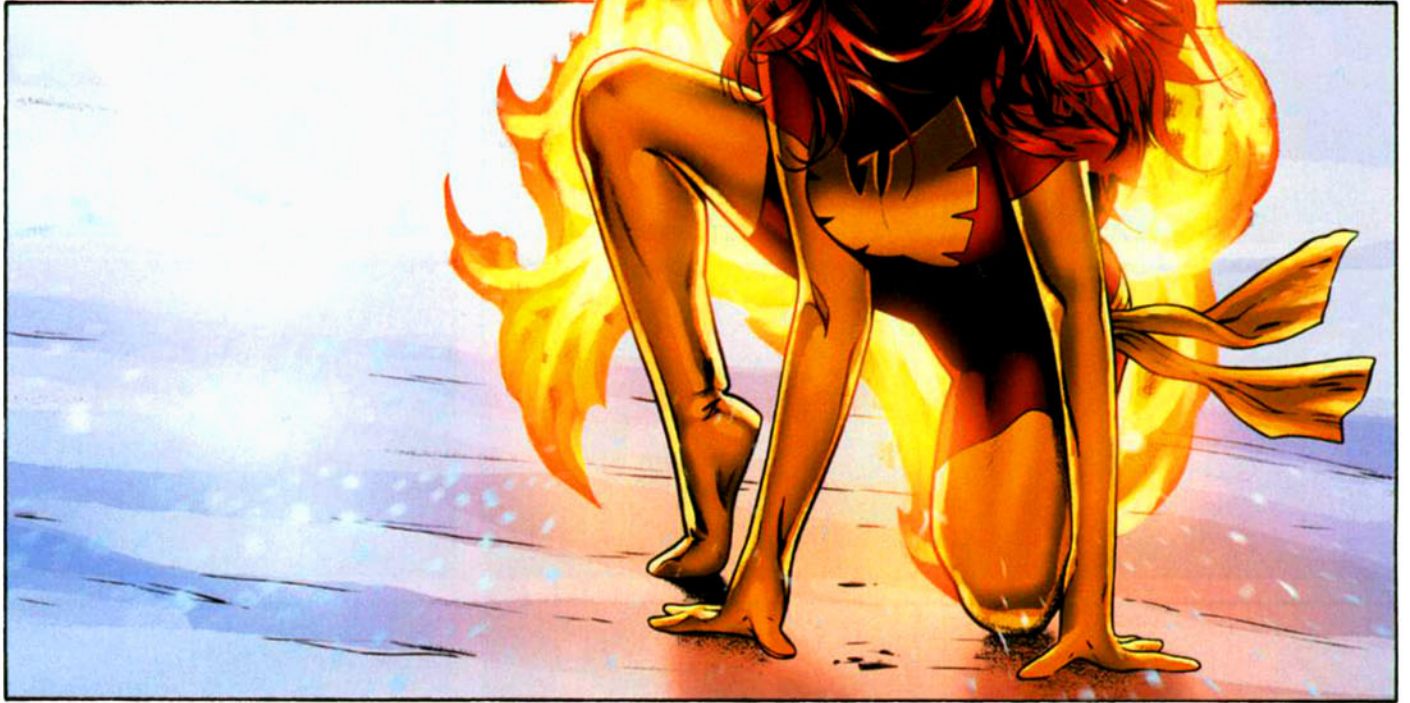


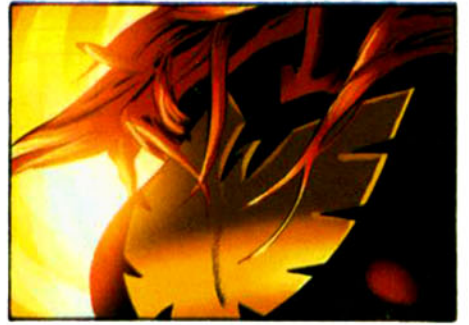
ARE YOU READY?



SNIKT













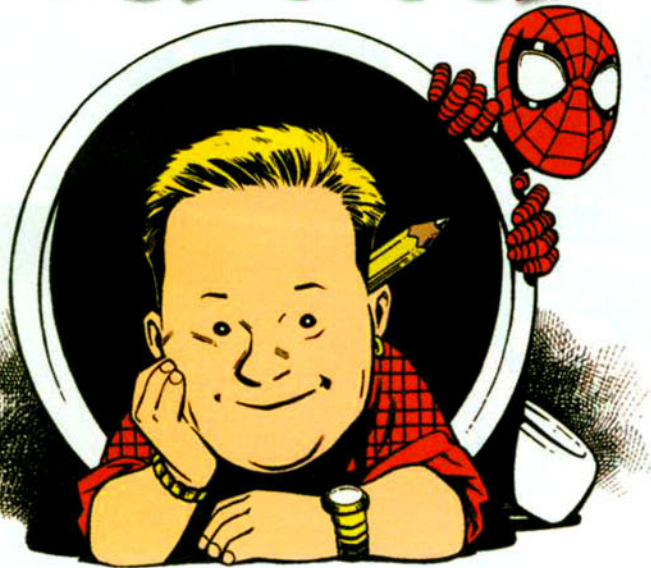
AAAAA
GGGG
HHH!

JUST
OPEN YOUR
EYES.



TO BE CONTINUED...

CUP O' JOE



Big news, True Believers!

I recently had a dizzying discussion about **BLACK PANTHER** with a rabid reporter from the New York Times. That's right, bunky, the world's most premier and respected newspaper is covering our newest release chronicling the adventures of T'Challa and the wondrous world of Wakanda!

So, from the pages of the Times of New York to the boulevards of Hollywood we shall go. The start of '05 will bring us not one, but two West Coast luminaries who'll be sinking their celluloid teeth into the world that is Marvel. Acclaimed scribe and director Reginald Hudlin (*House Party*, *Boomerang*, *Bernie Mac Show*) and certified Marvel genius John Romita, Jr. promise us a **BLACK PANTHER** story for the ages, and I personally guarantee you all that there will be events happening in **BLACK PANTHER** that will effect the Marvel U in **MAJOR** ways in the months to come.

Then from the movies we jump to TV where renowned writer Allan Heinberg (*The O.C.*, *Sex and the City*) gives us the newest title in our "Marvel Next" initiative and what has been called the most anticipated comic of 2005, **THE YOUNG AVENGERS!** Joining Allan is "Young Gun," Jim Cheung (hey, say that ten times fast, it's fun and it rhymes). Mark my words, this will prove to be Jim's breakout title and everyone's favorite comic by year's end! It's already mine!

Speaking of "Marvel Next," let's not forget the return of Brian K. Vaughan and Adrian Alphona's critically acclaimed **RUNAWAYS**, you cats have been asking for it and here it is, so enough with the letters already! And finally, before I pass out from hyperventilation, let me introduce another brand new edition to the Marvel U, **LIVEWIRES** by the legendary Adam Warren.

Whoa, I need to sit down!





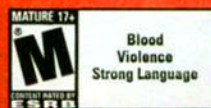
See ya in
the funnybooks,
JQ
EEK!

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