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rogue

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FIONA AVERY • AARON LOPRESTI • RANDY EMBERLIN

CHARLES XAVIER'S
SCHOOL FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS.

IDENTITY CONFIRMED.
PROFESSOR XAVIER:
ACCESS GRANTED.
OPENING ROGUE FILES.

SUBJECT: ROGUE.
MUTANT POWER: ABILITY
TO ABSORB THE MEMORIES,
KNOWLEDGE, TALENTS, AND
PHYSICAL ABILITIES OF
OTHER HUMAN BEINGS,
BY TOUCH.

WHEN ROGUE FIRST CAME TO LIVE
WITH US, IT WAS A DIFFICULT TIME FOR
ALL OF US BECAUSE HER ABILITIES
FRIGHTENED THE OTHERS. BUT IT WAS
MY OBLIGATION TO LOOK AFTER HER,
WITHOUT HER KNOWING HOW MUCH.

TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, ABANDONED PEOPLE
SEEM DISINTERESTED, DISENCHANTED. BUT MY
TELEPATHIC ABILITY ALLOWS ME A SIGHT FEW
OTHERS HAVE. I COULD SENSE A RIVER OF ANGER
BENEATH ROGUE'S FROZEN INDIFFERENCE.

ROGUE?

I NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN
WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES
FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW.
SO, I BROUGHT YOU
SOME NEW ONES.

TOMORROW
I WILL TAKE YOU
OUT AND WE WILL
BUY AN ENTIRE
FALL WARDROBE.

BUT IN ORDER
TO GET TO THE
ANGER AND MAKE
A CHANGE, FIRST
YOU HAVE TO
CARE.

THANKS,
STORM...

THEY WILL
BE WHATEVER
CLOTHES YOU
WANT.

SURE.
WHATEVER YOU
THINK IS BEST.
I'M IN YOUR
HANDS NOW.

ALL
RIGHT... GOOD
NIGHT, THEN.



HOW IS SHE?

AS WELL AS ANY ORPHAN CAN BE. IT IS HARD FOR HER. SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE, PROFESSOR.



EVEN HER JEANS BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE. IS IT ANY SURPRISE SHE THINKS OF HERSELF AS A HAND-ME-DOWN?



WE MUST EFFECT A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, THEN.

BUT THE BEGINNING OF UNDERSTANDING IS UNLEARNING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.

WE MUST TEACH HER DIFFERENTLY, AND IT WON'T BE EASY.

FOR ANY OF US.



GOODNIGHT, PROFESSOR.

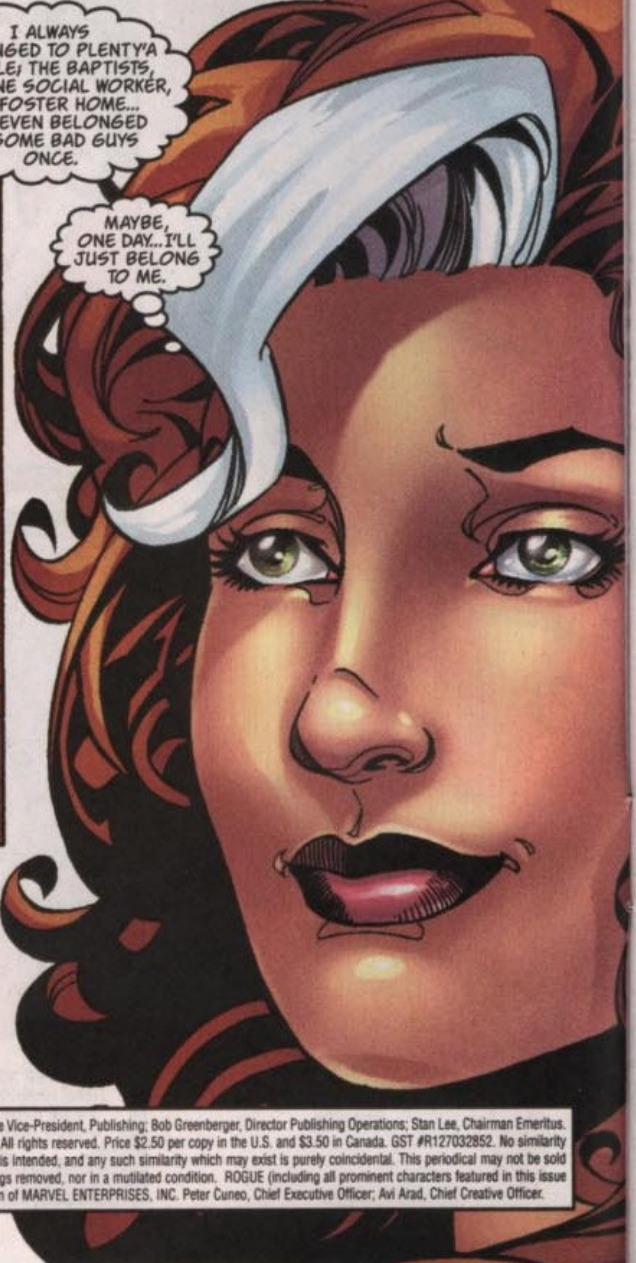
GOODNIGHT, STORM.



BELONGIN' TO THE X-MEN AIN'T SO BAD SO FAR.

I ALWAYS BELONGED TO PLENTY'A PEOPLE; THE BAPTISTS, THAT ONE SOCIAL WORKER, THE FOSTER HOME... HEH, EVEN BELONGED TO SOME BAD GUYS ONCE.

MAYBE, ONE DAY... I'LL JUST BELONG TO ME.



Stan Lee Presents

ROGUE

In Your Hands...

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I SMELL TROUBLE.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT JUST BALTASAR YOU SMELL, LOGAN?

NO, I KNOW OWL FROM FOUL, KURT. I MEANT I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON THE NEW KID.

WE ALL HAVE OUR DOUBTS ABOUT ROGUE.



SHE IS ALONE. SHE NEEDS US.



THAT'S A FAST DECISION, COMING FROM YOU.



CRITICAL TIMES CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ANSWERS, PETER.



WELL, I'M HITTING THE SACK. I GOTTA GET UP EARLY TOMORROW.



YOU ARE LEAVING AGAIN.

BACK TO WANDERING. GOING TO AND FRO AND WANDERING UP AND DOWN ON EARTH...

I GOT THINGS TO DO.



AN' I STILL THINK A BETTER NAME FOR THAT THING WOULD'VE BEEN WUYI.

WHAT DOES WUYI MEAN?



FLYIN' TURKEY VULTURE.



DO YOU WANT TO GO IN AND TRY THAT ON?

NO, IT COSTS TOO MUCH.



NO, IT DOES NOT.



YOU TWO REALLY WENT TO TOWN.

SHE WOULDN'T STOP UNTIL AFTER I'D FOUND SOME NICE PANTS AND A SWEATER. SHE KEPT GOING TO STORES TILL THERE WEREN'T ANY MORE STORES IN THE MALL.

I WAS DETERMINED TO GET YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEEDED.



WE CERTAINLY DON'T MIND GOING THROUGH ONE OR TWO MALLS IN ORDER TO PROPERLY OUTFIT YOU.

I WAS FASCINATED BY ROGUE'S FEELINGS, AS SHE WATCHED STORM PULLING OFF HER GLOVES.



Y'ALL WANT A HAND WITH THAT?

NO! IT IS FINE, I --



ROGUE NOTICED STORM HESITATE. SHE IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO OTHERS BACKING AWAY IN FEAR OF HER POWER. NO WONDER THE GIRL'S AN ISLAND.



WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THEM TO ROGUE'S ROOM, AND THEN YOU TWO CAN COME BACK DOWN TO THE STUDY FOR SOME TEA AND COFFEE.



WE WILL BE RIGHT DOWN.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

HAVE A SEAT. THIS IS CEREBRO.

OH, WELL, THAT CLEARS UP EVERY LITTLE THING. WHAT DOES CEREBRO DO?



MANY THINGS. IN YOUR CASE, CEREBRO WILL CREATE A SAFE MINDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT FOR US TO EXPLORE YOUR GIFTS.

I MAY BE A TELEPATH, BUT EVEN I HAVE LIMITS. I BUILT CEREBRO TO HELP PEOPLE WITH GIFTS LIKE YOURS. IT ALLOWS ME TO EXPERIENCE THE THINGS YOU DO, FIRST HAND.

DOES IT HURT?



NOT IN THE WAY THAT YOU ANTICIPATE. IT WILL ALLOW ME TO ENTER YOUR MIND, PAINLESSLY AND DISCREETLY.



I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THE THINGS IN MAH MIND, PROFESSOR.



WE ALL FEEL THAT WAY, ROGUE. WHICH IS WHY YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME DECIDE THAT FOR MYSELF.

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'D LIKE ME TO HELP WITH?

WELL... EVERY MORNING I WAKE UP WORRIED ABOUT THE MATH TEST.

WHAT MATH TEST?



I--?



DID YOU MISS AN IMPORTANT MATH TEST AT SOME TIME?

NO, BUT JAMIE HAD A MATH TEST TO TAKE THAT DAY.

SOMETIMES... I DON'T FEEL QUITE MYSELF. YOU KNOW?

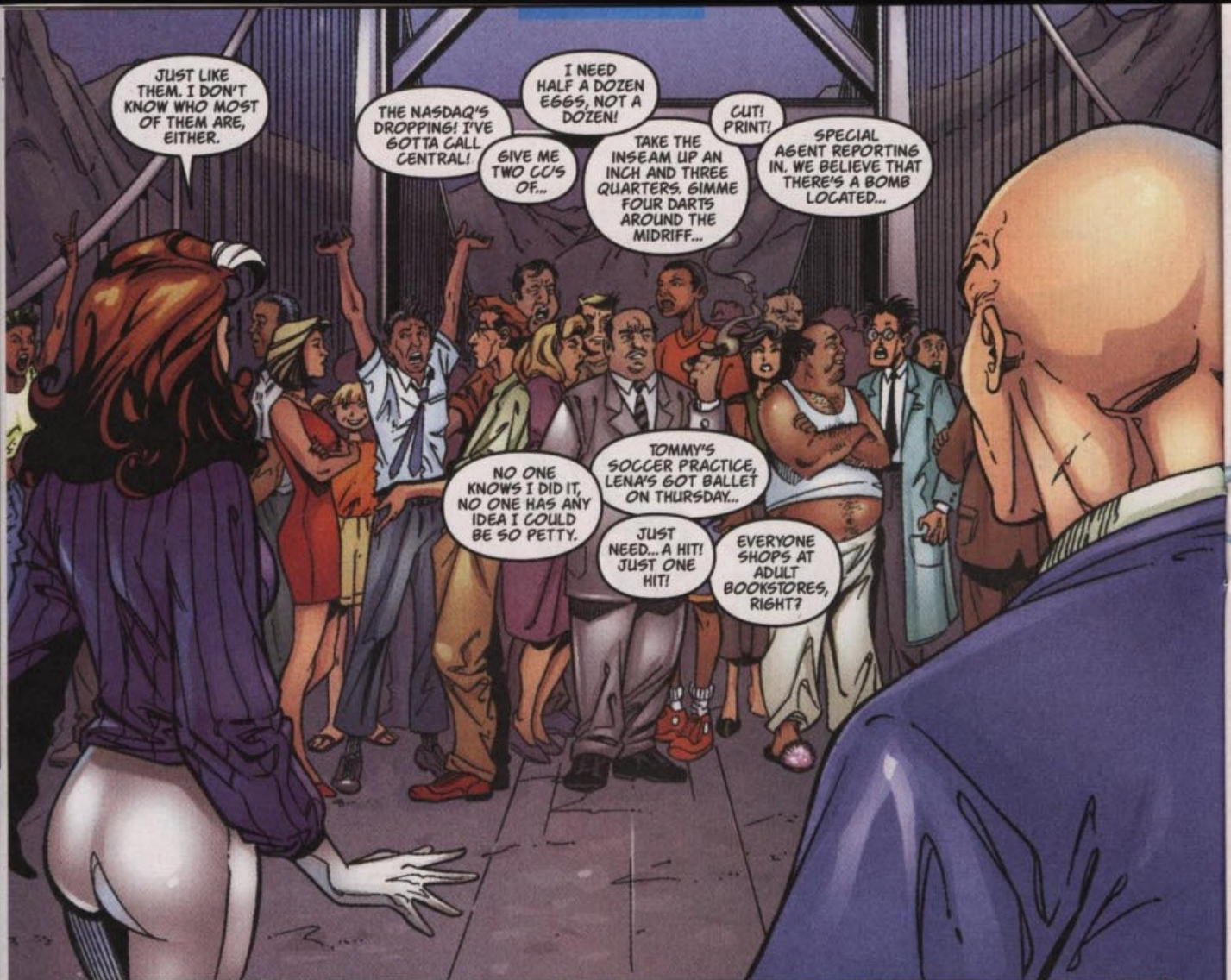
EVERY MORNING I WAKE UP AND JAMIE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE MATH TEST HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE THAT DAY. SO I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE MATH TEST.



WHO IS JAMIE?

I DON'T KNOW.

I MEAN -- HE'S JUST ONE OF SO MANY PEOPLE I'VE TOUCHED BY ACCIDENT.



JUST LIKE THEM. I DON'T KNOW WHO MOST OF THEM ARE, EITHER.

THE NASDAQ'S DROPPING! I'VE GOTTA CALL CENTRAL!

I NEED HALF A DOZEN EGGS, NOT A DOZEN!

CUT! PRINT!

GIVE ME TWO CO'S OF...

TAKE THE INSEAM UP AN INCH AND THREE QUARTERS. GIMME FOUR DARTS AROUND THE MIDRIFF...

SPECIAL AGENT REPORTING IN. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE'S A BOMB LOCATED...

NO ONE KNOWS I DID IT, NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA I COULD BE SO PETTY.

TOMMY'S SOCCER PRACTICE, LENA'S GOT BALLET ON THURSDAY...

JUST NEED... A HIT! JUST ONE HIT!

EVERYONE SHOPS AT ADULT BOOKSTORES, RIGHT?



TOM A. BARENSON, 332 SEVENTH COURT DRIVE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA... DO I ENTER THE ZIP CODE WITH 5 OR 9 DIGITS? GOD, I HATE THAT, THE BOSS WILL THINK...

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY FOR HURTING YOU...

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?! I CAN'T REMEMBER --

SO LOUD. HOW CAN YOU --

I CAN'T. SOMETIMES I CAN'T EVEN HEAR MYSELF THINK.

JUST A MOMENT.



WHAT'RE YOU --

WATCH.



IT'S -- IT'S QUIET!

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

TO BE A TELEPATH IS TO **CONSTANTLY** HEAR THE INNER VOICES OF OTHERS. SO YOU HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO CONTROL THE VOICES. I USED THE SIMPLEST IMAGE THAT WOULD CREATE A SENSE OF PRIVACY. I BUILT A WALL. LONG AGO, I TAUGHT JEAN GREY HOW TO BUILD ONE, TOO.

TEACH ME?

OF COURSE.



LET ME JUST GET RID OF MINE FIRST --

IT'S SIMPLE, YOU'RE JUST NOT PAYING ATTENTION, YOU TURN THE BULB COUNTER-CLOCK-WISE --

THE YANKEES'LL TAKE THE SERIES IN FIVE, YOU WAIT --



NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES AND CONCENTRATE.



SEE THE BRICKS IN YOUR MIND...FEEL THE WEIGHT OF EACH ONE, THE SURFACE TEXTURE. MAKE IT REAL.

I CAN FEEL IT, I CAN FEEL IT, I --



NOW... OPEN YOUR EYES.

-- JUST... ONE... BRICK.

IT'S A START.

IT'S --



HOW'D YOU... BUILD THAT WALL OF YOURS SO FAST?

PRACTICE. YOURS WILL COME WITH EQUAL PRACTICE.



BUT I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU. I CAN'T DO IT.

OF COURSE YOU CAN. YOU'LL DO IT THE WAY THAT JEAN AND I DID IT. ONE BRICK AT A TIME.

THAT'S HOW ALL WALLS ARE BUILT.



AND I THINK THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.



GOOD NIGHT, ROGUE.



I GOT DELAYED, THAT'S ALL. I AIN'T STICKIN' AROUND ANY LONGER.



WHY MUST YOU LEAVE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?



I GOT BUSINESS AND I WORK ALONE. BESIDES, YOU GOT KIDS AROUND HERE AN' I'M NO ROLE MODEL.



ANY "KID" IN PARTICULAR?
WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT? THAT YOU SMELLED TROUBLE? YOU MEANT HER. YOU'RE AFRAID OF HER.

STORM, WILL YOU JUST LET IT --



I, CRAP...

LOOK, THAT AIN'T IT, STORM, AND YOU KNOW IT. NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY.

MAY I REMIND YOU THAT WE ALL CAME TO THIS SCHOOL IN THE SAME CONDITION -- WITH THE SAME FEARS!



I SEE SOME OF US NEVER GOT PAST THEM.

I JUST GOT THINGS TO DO.



KNOCK KNOCK



I HAD NO IDEA SHE'D OVERHEARD THEIR CONVERSATION. HAD I KNOWN AT THE TIME, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO BOLD.



YEAH?

I WAS HOPING YOU WERE AWAKE. WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR MORE WORK WITH CEREBRO THIS MORNING?

I...DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW, PROFESSOR.



GIVEN YOUR *PROGRESS* YESTERDAY, I THINK WE CAN MAKE EVEN MORE TODAY.

I'M EXCITED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR TALENTS.

THEY'RE NOT TALENTS. THEY'RE MORE LIKE A CURSE.

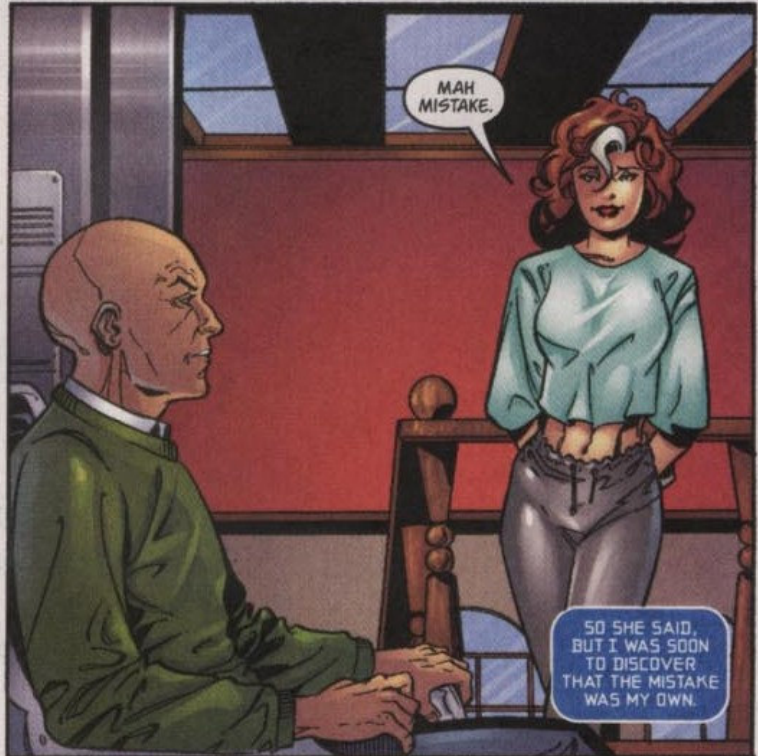


WITH LUCK, IN TIME YOU'LL CONSIDER THEM GIFTS. I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND THOSE GIFTS, ROGUE. WILL YOU GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY?

I THOUGHT I WAS MAKIN' YOU UNDERSTAND.



NO. BUT YOU ARE MAKING ME HOLD THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN THROUGH YOUR INDECISION.



MAH MISTAKE.

SO SHE SAID, BUT I WAS SOON TO DISCOVER THAT THE MISTAKE WAS MY OWN.



YOU WANT ME TO TAKE OFF MY GLOVES? I -- I CAN'T!

YOU CAN. YOU WON'T BE TOUCHING ME. BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU TAKE THEM OFF BEFORE WE BEGIN.

WE NEED FOR YOUR MIND TO REGISTER THE SENSATION OF HAVING BARE HANDS SO WE CAN BEGIN THE PROCESS.



I'M JUST SO AFRAID I MIGHT HURT SOMEONE. I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE AGAIN, EVER.

REMEMBER -- THIS IS ONLY A SIMULATION. YOUR MIND WILL ONLY REPRODUCE AN EFFECT. IT WILL NOT BE REAL, IT IS A MENTAL ILLUSION THAT I CAN TRACK AND ANALYZE.



I WANT YOU TO TRY AND RELAX, AND WE'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH A NORMAL DAY WITH YOU.

RELAX? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME.



KIDDING IS NOT USUALLY SOMETHING I'M KNOWN FOR.





IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROGUE... REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE.

CAREFUL! NOT TOO CLOSE--



YOU CAN GO FAR WITH YOUR MIND. MUCH FARTHER THAN FEET ALONE CAN TAKE YOU.

I GUESS I'M USED TO RUNNING. DON'T GENERALLY THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY OF LIVIN'.

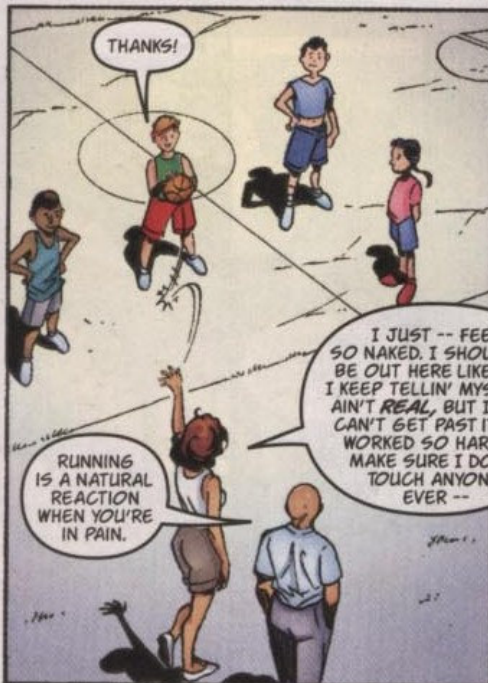
HEY! CAN YOU TOSS THE BALL BACK OVER HERE?!



YES. IT'S NECESSARY FOR THE EXERCISE. I CAN VISUALIZE MYSELF IN WHATEVER WAY I CHOOSE. I FIND IT'S... A PLEASANT ILLUSION.

SORRY, I -- HEY, YOU'RE STANDIN'!

YEAH, I UNDERSTAND. Y'KNOW, IF I COULDN'T WALK, I THINK I'D GO MAD.



THANKS!

RUNNING IS A NATURAL REACTION WHEN YOU'RE IN PAIN.

I JUST -- FEEL SO NAKED. I SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE LIKE THIS. I KEEP TELLIN' MYSELF IT AIN'T REAL, BUT I JUST CAN'T GET PAST IT, I'VE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE SURE I DON'T TOUCH ANYONE, EVER --



C'MON, ROGUE! COME PLAY! YOU'RE SO SHY!



NO, I --

DOG-PILE ON ROGUE!

DON'T TOUCH ME!

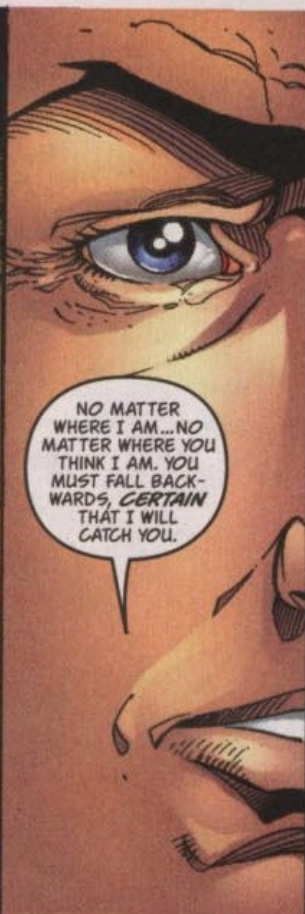
NO, NO! DON'T--!!!



SORRY... DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU SAD...

IT'S JUST... I'M NOT SAFE. I'M NOT A VERY GOOD FRIEND, THAT'S ALL.





WHICH IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYIN', "THEN YOU'LL FALL ON YOUR ASS."

DO YOU THINK I ~~WON'T~~ CATCH YOU?

DOES IT MATTER? I'VE LANDED BRUISED AND BATTERED AT ROCK BOTTOM MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER.

THEN YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY TRYING, DO YOU?



I--

-- GUESS --

-- NOT OH JEEZI!

GOT YOU!





I COULD FEEL HER FRUSTRATION, HER DESIRE TO CARE AND HER INABILITY TO GET PAST HER OWN BARRIERS. I NUDGED HER, TRYING TO HELP HER PAST HER DEFENSES.





I WON'T DO IT! I WON'T HURT YOU!



LET ME OUT! LET ME OUTTA HERE, I --



OH, SAWD -- OH, NO --



PROFESSOR!

ROGUE! I --

MY GOD! I SEE IT -- I SEE ALL OF IT!



...I'M SORRY... LET GO... LET GO!

...I CAN'T...!

I CAN HEAR EVERYONE -- I CAN HEAR THEIR MINDS! THIS IS YOUR TALENT!

I'M GROWING WEAK... CALL FOR THEM, ROGUE.

HELP! HELP US!

WE'RE... SHARING... MEMORIES...!

OH! NO...! I CAN SEE WHAT THEY THINK OF ME! THEY ALL HATE ME!

NO! SHARING... THE PAIN! CEREBRO... HAS... JOINED US!

BY ALL ELEMENTS, WHAT HAS SHE DONE TO THE PROFESSOR??

I TOLD THEM THAT KID WAS TROUBLE! I KNEW IT!!

STOP! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!





NO!

LHHH...



PROFESSOR!

ROGUE!
STOP!



HELP ME. I DON'T HAVE A HOME. I'M JUST SO COLD. PLEASE DON'T... TOUCH ME... I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...



IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. I'LL GET YOU TO THE INFIRMARY.



DON'T GO, ROGUE. I'M SORRY...

I CAN'T STAY, NOT ANYMORE... I WAS WRONG TO COME HERE.



PLEASE... DON'T LEAVE...

I SEE YOUR WORLD NOW. I HAD NO IDEA IT HURTS SO MUCH! PLEASE...

TO BE CONTINUED