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THE UNCANNY

# X-MEN



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



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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!

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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 DEPREDEATIONS 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 SUBTUGATE 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.



I HAD JUST FORMED THE ORIGINAL TEAM--

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



"MY PUPILS DROVE HIM AWAY.

"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.



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 HAS 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!

M 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...

AND THIS TIME, USE THE DOOR!

I GET THE HINT, PROFESSOR!

YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE QUITE ENOUGH.

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

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 PAINLESS... 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!

HMM--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 SLIBBETWEEN 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.

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.

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--NAMELY BREW AN' BROADS--

--I AM VERY PRECISE

WELL, LOOK WHO'S PHASING THROUGH THE CEILING?

HULLO, KITTEN!

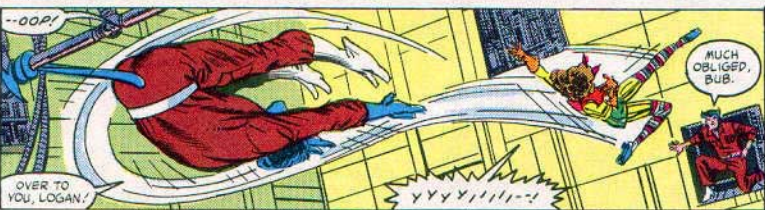
STORM'S PURSUEW IS WEATHER, AND IT TAKES ONLY A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION FOR THOUGHT TO BECOME REALITY.

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--



--OOP!

OVER TO YOU, LOGAN!

MUCH OBLIGED, BUB.

Yyyyyiiii--!



WOLVERINE!

PUN'KIN, I HATE TA SAY IT BUT WE GOTTA STOP MEETIN' LIKE THIS.



I THINK YER BOYFRIEND IS GETTING SUSPICIOUS.

CATCH, COLOSSUS!

BOYFRIEND? I HAVEN'T GOT A--OH, HI, PETER!

I REST MY CASE.

BY THE BY, KID, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?



IT'S A NEW X-MEN COSTUME I DESIGNED. D'YOU LIKE IT?

I THINK IT IS NEAT

I THINK IT IS ABSOLUTELY--

OW! WWWW

-- SAY NOTHING! VERSTEHEN?

IF YOU CANNOT SAY ANYTHING NICE, KURT--



SUDDENLY, AN ASTRAL PROJECTION OF PROFESSOR XAVIER APPEARS BEFORE THEM.

X-MEN, REPORT TO THE BRIEFING ROOM.

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU.

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 ANGEZ 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.

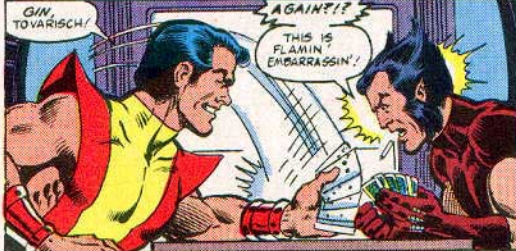


I HOPE THIS ESTRANGEMENT IS NOT PERMANENT, BUT I FEAR THE CHASM THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN US IS TOO WIDE, TOO DEEP.

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! GROUP, 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.



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 P HAVIN' SECOND THAGGIN' 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--

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.

HAVE WE REACHED THE BOTTOM?

LOOKS LIKE IT, STORM. WANT ME TO CUT THROUGH THE WALL?

LET COLOSSUS DO IT.



IF THERE IS LAVA ON THE OTHER SIDE ... HE'LL BE LEAST VULNERABLE TO IT.

AND SO, AFTER THE RUSSIAN X-MAN TRANSMUTES HIS BODY FROM FLESH AND BLOOD...



... TO SUPER-STRONG ORGANIC STEEL ...

... OUR HEROES SOON FIND THEMSELVES IN A PLACE THEY REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL.

STRANGE. THE LAVA ENTERED FROM ABOVE. BY RIGHTS, THIS CHAMBER SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED TO THE BRIM.

AT LEAST THE VOLCANO KEEPS THINGS WELL HEATED.



HAVE YOU NOTICED? ONLY CERTAIN ROOMS HAVE BEEN CLEANED OUT, CERTAIN MACHINES EXPOSED. EITHER THIS WAS A PHENOMENALLY SELECTIVE LAVA FLOW...

...OR SOMEONE ELSE HAS VISITED HERE SINCE OUR BATTLE.



I WONDER WHO?

I WONDER WHY?



STORM--ALL OF YOU--LOOK!

IT'S THE ROBOT MAGNETO BUILT TO CARE FOR US WHEN WE WERE HIS PRISONERS.

ALAS, POOR NANNY, I KNEW HER, HORATIO. A ROBOT OF INFINITE JEST.

BULL! A MENTAL COMMAND...



... EXTENDS WOLVERINE'S CLAWS.

THEY'RE FORGED OF UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM, HONED TO RAZOR-KEENESS, AND WOLVERINE KNOWS HOW TO USE THEM TO DEADLY EFFECT.

MY ONLY REGRET, BUB, IS THAT I'M CUTTIN' THE ROBOT--



--AN' NOT THE SLIME WHO BUILT HER!

KITTY IF YOU MUST SKATE, DO SO ON AIR. THOSE WHEELS MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE ON THE FLOOR, A DEAF MAN COULD HEAR YOU COMING.



NONE OF US HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF OUR CONFINEMENT HERE, WOLVERINE.

BUT NONE OF US CAN GO OFF HALF-COCKED, EITHER, ALL RIGHT--TO FACILITATE OUR EXPLORATION OF THE COMPLEX, WE'LL HAVE TO SEPARATE. SPRITE...

I'LL GO WITH PETER-- I MEAN COLOSSUS.



DO NOT WORRY, STORM. I WILL TAKE EXCELLENT CARE OF HER.

AND I'LL KEEP NIM OUT OF TROUBLE, TOO.

C'MON, COLOSSUS! HOW ABOUT WE GO THIS WAY!

DOSVIDANIYA, MY FRIENDS AND WISH ME LUCK!



I SHOULDN'T BE CONCERNED, KITTY IS IN THE SAFEST OF HANDS WITH PETER, BUT I STILL WISH SHE WAS WITH ME.

BY THE BLACK DEEP, MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. IT IS SHE!

I COULD DESTROY HER WHERE SHE STANDS, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO QUICK, TOO EASY. HER TORMENT MUST BE AS EXQUISITE AS MY OWN.

STORM... ORORO... WIND... RIDER...



WHAT'S THAT? WHO CALLS MY NAME?!

HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOT HIM WHO YOU-- MURDERED!

GAROKK!

HE WAS AN ORDINARY MAN, TRANS-FIGURED BY ANCIENT, ARCAIC FORCES INTO A LIVING GOD. HE WAS ALSO QUITE MAD. HE SOUGHT TO CONQUER THE SAVAGE LAND (A WAST UNSPOILED PREHISTORIC WILDERNESS NESTLED WITHIN ANTARCTICA'S ETERNITY MOUNTAIN RANGE).



AT THE CLIMAX OF HIS BATTLE WITH THE X-MEN, HE WAS HURLED INTO A GREAT THERMAL PIT THAT STRETCHED DOWNWARD VIRTUALLY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.



STORM WENT AFTER HIM.

HEAT PUSHING AGAINST ME, FORCING ME TO TACK. THAT TAKES US DEEPER INTO THE SHAFT. -- NO! I MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT THAT!

A LIFE IS IN PERIL. THAT IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT.



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

REACH, MAN  
--REACH!



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

...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--I 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.

PRACTICING WHAT-- HOW NOT TO BREAK YOUR NECK?

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



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.

RIIGHT-- THE VOLCANO.

I WILL CONTACT STORM...



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

PETER!

SOMEONE HIT HIM -- BUT WHO?!



NO!



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



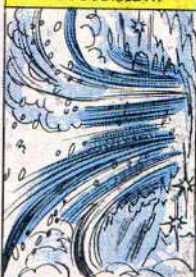
AND THE  
TEMPERATURE IS  
SHOOTING UP--  
OH, GODDESS  
NO!



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' *HOW* MUCH  
POWER SHE'LL  
NEED!

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

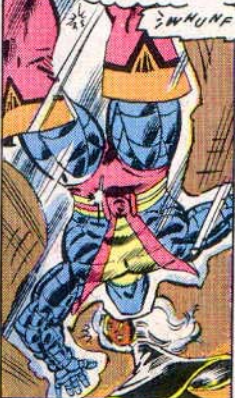
EVERYTHING IS COATED IN ICE. IT  
IS SO... BEAUTIFUL. AND THE LAVA  
FLOW HAS COOLED AND SOLIDIFIED.  
WE ARE SAFE.

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--



SHUNNFFIE



IS SHE HURT?  
STUNNED.  
YOU ANY GOOD AT CLIMBIN' ICE?

I'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL I TRY WHY?



SOMEONE *THREW* PETE OUTTA THAT TUNNEL. AN' THAT LAVA FLOW WAS PROBABLY NO ACCIDENT EITHER. I FIGURE WE'RE FACIN' MAGNETO HIMSELF OR ONE OF HIS FLUNKIES.

FIND COVER, ELF. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.



I'VE ANOTHER DEATH TO ADD TO YOUR BUTCHER'S BILL, STORM, THAT OF THE CHILD, OVERWHELMED AND CONSUMED BY MOLTEN ROCK.

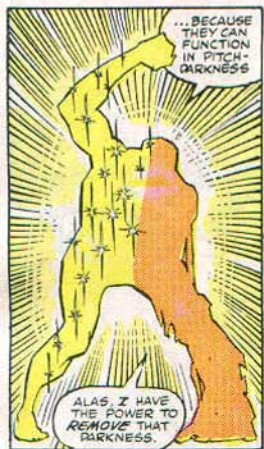
COMPARED TO WHAT IS IN STORE FOR YOU, HERE WAS THE GENTLEST OF ENDS!



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 MISSHAPEN ROCK. THE OTHER 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?

AS THE ENERGY BOLT SLICES TOWARDS HIM...

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

**BAMF**

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

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

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 GARÖKK...

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

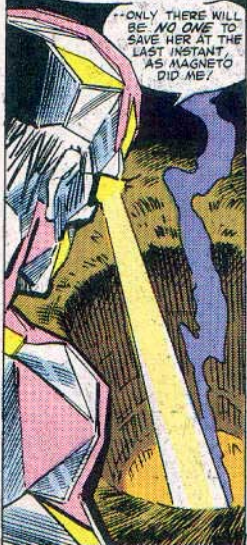


... I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE THE DAY.

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!



NO! OH, NO!  
UNNNHHH-- I REALLY MUST PRACTICE... MY LANDINGS...



THE LAST ONE NEARLY-- SPRITE!

STORM!

WAKE UP, YOU TWO! STORM'S ABOUT TO BE KILLED!

WOLVERINE, THROW ME AT GAROKK, HARD AS YOU CAN!



HMMH? WHUZZATT?

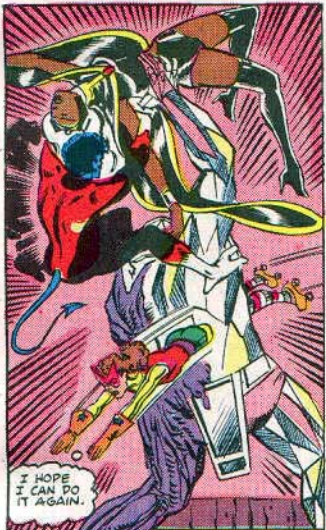
DON'T ARGUE-- THERE'S NO TIME. JUST...

... DO IT!



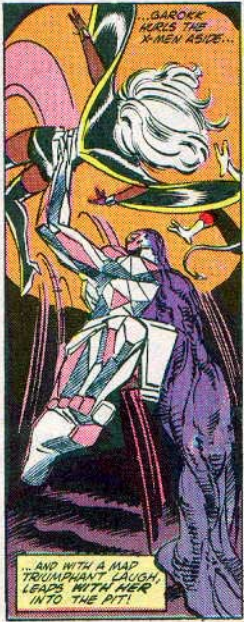
WHEN I PHAGED THROUGH GAROKK BEFORE...

... I THREW HIM FOR A LOOP.



I HOPE I CAN DO IT AGAIN.

HER PLOY IS SUCCESSFUL. GAROKK IS SHAKEN TO THE CORE OF HIS BEING. BUT AS NIGHTCRAWLER STRUGGLES TO FREE STORM FROM HIS GRASP, AS WOLVERINE AND COLOSSUS CHARGE FORWARD...



... GAROKK HURLS THE X-MEN ASIDE...

... AND WITH A MAD TRIUMPHANT LAUGH, LEAPS WITH HER INTO THE PIT!



STORM!

NEIN, ACH NEIN-- IT CANNOT BE!

SHADDUP! ALL OF YOU! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!

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'K! 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...

YII!!

... 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, KATZACHEN, 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.

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

CATCH HIM,  
PETEY.

**BAMF**

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

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

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

LATER, ABOARD THE BLACKBIRD, AFTER KITTY  
REJOINS 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 NORTHWARDS, 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 RECOGNIZE 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!



AHENTE

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!