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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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THE UNCANNY

# X-MEN



WELCOME TO  
THE X-MEN,  
ROGUE...



HOPE YOU SURVIVE  
THE EXPERIENCE!

# ROGUE

MORLOCKS!

BY RIGHT  
OF COMBAT,  
**I, STORM,**  
AM NOW YOUR  
LEADER!

MY  
WORD IS  
LAW!!

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING THE UNCANNY **X-MEN**, BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

CHRIS  
CLAREMONT  
SCRIPTER

WALT  
SIMONSON  
GUEST PENCILER

BOB  
WIACEK,  
FINISHER

TOM  
ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERER

GLYNIS  
WEIN  
COLORIST

LOUISE  
JONES  
EDITOR

TOM  
DEFALCO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF




IF YOU WISH TO LIVE APART FROM HUMANITY--  
IN THESE TUNNELS, A THOUSAND FEET BELOW  
THE STREETS OF NEW YORK--  
THEN SO BE IT!

BUT NO MORE  
WILL YOU TREAT  
ITS INHABITANTS  
AS PREY!




YOU WILL NOT ATTACK THEM-- FOR  
MONEY OR FOR SPORT-- YOU WILL NOT  
STEAL THEIR CHILDREN TO SWELL YOUR  
RANKS, YOU WILL NOT KILL THEM!

THEY HUNT US! WE'RE MUTANTS,  
LIKE YOU, STORM-- OUTCASTS--  
HATED SIMPLY BECAUSE WE EXIST! WHY  
SHOULDN'T WE GIVE AS GOOD AS WE GET?!




BECAUSE I FORBID IT.

ARE  
ANY HERE  
WILLING TO  
CHALLENGE  
ME?



I THOUGHT  
NOT.

IF YOU WOULD  
HAVE PEACE  
AND A SECURE  
FUTURE,  
MORLOCKS,  
TRUST ME--  
DO AS I  
COMMAND.



THE  
ALTERNATIVE  
IS TOO  
TERRIBLE TO  
CONTEMPLATE.



STORM!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE UP, CALLISTO. YOU'LL REOPEN YOUR WOUND.

ENJOY YOUR TRIUMPH WHILE YOU CAN, WIND-WITCH...

...BECAUSE I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU! I'LL HAVE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AGAIN--



--I WILL LEAD THE MORLOCKS-- AND I'LL HAVE YOUR HEART IN THE BARGAIN!



WE HAVE CROSSED KNIVES ONCE, LITTLE MUTANT.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.



SUNDER, PUT YOUR MISTRESS BACK TO BED.

AND THIS TIME, MAKE CERTAIN SHE STAYS THERE.



YOU SEEM TO BE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF CALLISTO.

WE WERE ENEMIES THE MOMENT WE MET, NIGHT-CRAWLER.

WE SHALL REMAIN SO 'TIL THE DAY WE DIE.



NOTHING I DO OR SAY WILL EVER CHANGE THAT.

PERHAPS. BUT THE ORORO I REMEMBER WOULD HAVE AT LEAST TRIED.

SHE WOULD HAVE DIED RATHER THAN KILL ANOTHER.

YET, IN THE DUEL, ORORO STABBED CALLISTO THROUGH THE HEART. ONLY THE FACT THAT ONE OF CALLISTO'S FELLOW MORLOCKS WAS A HEALER ENABLED HER TO SURVIVE.

ORORO IS CHANGING-- BEFORE MY EYES-- BUT WHAT TRULY TERRIFIES ME IS THAT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

WITHIN THE HOUSE, THOUGH, A FIRE WARMS THE BEDROOM...

OUTSIDE, THE AIR IS BITTER COLD, THOUGH IT'S TECHNICALLY SPRING.

ITS FLAMES CASTING A CHEERY GLOW...

... ACROSS THE SLEEPING FIGURE OF MADELYNE PRYOR.

SHE IS DEEP IN DREAMLAND...

... AND THE VISIT ISN'T PLEASANT.

NO! DEAR LORD IN HEAVEN--

--NO!

MADELYNE?! WHAT'S THE MATTER?! I HEARD YOU SCREAM!



SCOTT!!

HOLD ME, PLEASE, TIGHT AS YOU CAN!

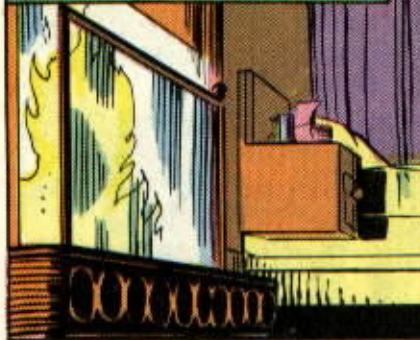


I NEED SOMEONE-- SOMETHING-- REAL...



... TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I'M STILL ALIVE.

IT'S A LONG TIME BEFORE HER TEARS PASS AND MADELYNE IS ONCE MORE CALM ENOUGH TO SPEAK.



ALL THE WHILE, SCOTT SUMMERS WAITS PATIENTLY, DOING WHAT HE CAN TO HELP HER, COMFORT HER.

BEFORE COMING NORTH, I WAS A COMMERCIAL PILOT, 747'S, THE BIG TIME.

MY LAST FLIGHT WAS A LONG HAUL INTO SAN FRANCISCO. WE RAN INTO A FREAK STORM. LOST AN ENGINE, BARELY MADE IT HOME... AS WE TOUCHED DOWN, THE WING COLLAPSED. WE CRASHED.

THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION, FIRE ALL AROUND ME, SCREAMS-- SO MANY SCREAMS-- I DON'T REMEMBER THE DETAILS, I DON'T WANT TO.

EVERYBODY DIED BUT ME.

I WASN'T EVEN SCRATCHED.



I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT IT. SEPTEMBER 1st, 1980-- MY OWN PERSONAL DAY OF INFAMY.



BUT-- THAT'S THE DAY JEAN GREY DIED!

BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS--  
A SUBURB OF BOSTON-- THE HOME  
OF JOSEPH AND MARIE DANVERS...

WHEN'LL  
WE SEE  
YOU NEXT,  
CAROL?

HARD TO SAY, DAD. I'LL BE MOVING AROUND  
A LOT, TO SOME PRETTY HAIRY PLACES.

STAY IN  
TOUCH,  
WILLYA?

WE'LL...  
MISS  
YOU.

I'LL  
MISS  
YOU,  
TOO  
DAD.

TAKE CARE,  
CAROL. EVEN  
SUPER HEROES  
AREN'T  
IMMORTAL.

DON'T I  
KNOW IT.

IS EVERYTHING ALL  
RIGHT, DEAR? YOU'VE  
SEEMED... DIFFERENT  
LATELY.

I'M FINE,  
MOM,  
REALLY.

I NEVER COULD FOOL  
HER. WHEN I WAS  
Ms. MARVEL, SHE  
RECOGNIZED ME RIGHT  
OFF THE BAT. AND NOW,  
SHE KNOWS I'VE  
CHANGED.

IF ONLY SHE KNEW  
HOW MUCH-- FOR  
GOOD AND ILL. CHARLES  
XAVIER DID HIS BEST TO  
RESTORE MY MEMORIES--  
AFTER ROGUE HAD  
STRIPPED THEM AND MY  
POWERS FROM ME--  
THANKS TO HIM, I  
REMEMBER PRETTY  
MUCH ALL OF WHO  
AND WHAT I WAS.

BUT THERE  
ARE NO EMOTIONS  
TO GO ALONG  
WITH THEM.

WHERE ONCE I LOVED THEM, WITH ALL  
MY HEART, I FEEL A VAGUE AFFECTION.  
THAT'S WHAT MOM NOTICED-- WHAT  
DISTURBED MOM AND OUTRAGES ME--

-- A LOSS THAT CAN  
NEVER BE REPLACED.

BUT WHAT'S DONE IS  
DONE-- FEELING SORRY  
FOR MYSELF WON'T  
MAKE IT ANY BETTER.

MY LIFE AS  
CAROL  
DANVERS  
MAY BE  
OVER.

BUT  
BINARY'S  
HAS JUST  
BEGUN!

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...

I'M GONNA KILL 'EM!

IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY, KITTY?

HOW CAN I DO ANY WORK WITHOUT THE PROPER LESSON PROGRAMS FOR MY COMPUTER?!

... AN' HOW CAN I KEEP TRACK OF THE PROGRAMS...

...IF THOSE DARN NEW MUTANTS KEEP SWIPING MY FLOPPY DISKS???

I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, ILLYANA! THEY'RE PROBABLY LOST FOREVER, THANKS TO THOSE STUPID X-BABIES!

THEN WHAT'S THAT UNDER YOUR KEYBOARD?

MY DISKS...?

RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT THEM.

I AM SUCH A JERK!

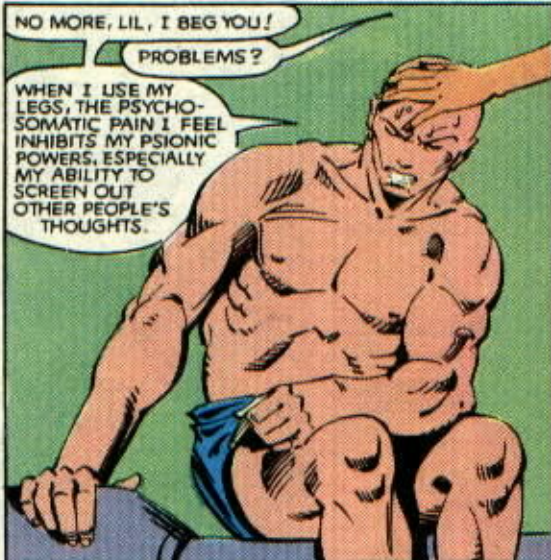
NO ARGUMENT, THERE.

TEN METERS BELOW THE MANSION IS THE DANGER ROOM -- NOW SET TO GYMNASIUM MODE -- WHERE CHARLES XAVIER DOES HIS DAILY EXERCISES, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF HIS TRUE LOVE, LILANDRA.

A PARAPLEGIC FOR HALF HIS LIFE, XAVIER'S BRAIN WAS RECENTLY TRANSPLANTED INTO A NEW BODY, CLONED FROM THE ORIGINAL. \*

THIS BODY IS UNDAMAGED, IN PERFECT CONDITION. HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK, YET, INEXPLICABLY, HE CANNOT.





NO MORE, LIL, I BEG YOU!

PROBLEMS?

WHEN I USE MY LEGS, THE PSYCHOSOMATIC PAIN I FEEL INHIBITS MY PSIONIC POWERS, ESPECIALLY MY ABILITY TO SCREEN OUT OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.



KITTY PRYDE'S BEEN THROWING A TANTRUM-- IT'S GIVEN ME A DEVIL OF A HEADACHE.

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO.

A MOMENT'S MEDITATION SHOULD DEAL WITH IT-- THERE, THAT'S MUCH BETTER. I WISH I COULD ELIMINATE MY PHANTOM PAIN AS EASILY.



YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, THE STRONGEST MUTANT MIND ON EARTH... AMONG OTHER THINGS.



WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

WE COULD PLAY DOCTOR.

LILANDRA!

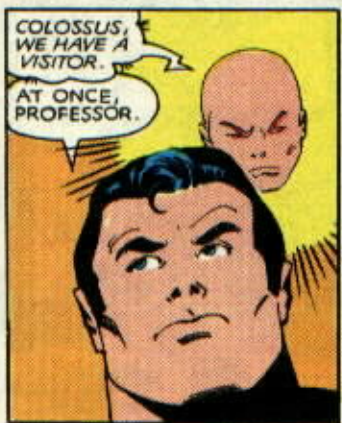
SERIOUSLY, CHARLES, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A THOROUGH EXAMINATION. PERHAPS YOUR CONDITION ISN'T PSYCHIC IN NATURE, BUT *PHYSICAL*.

UPSTAIRS, IN THE KITCHEN, ANOTHER OF XAVIER'S STUDENTS, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN, PONDS THE COMPLEX MYSTERIES AND INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS...



...OF A COOKBOOK.

EGGS, BACON, CREAM, BUTTER, SPICES-- SLICE, BEAT, MIX, BAKE-- AND IN HALF AN HOUR: QUICHE LORRAINE. IT LOOKS SIMPLE ENOUGH.

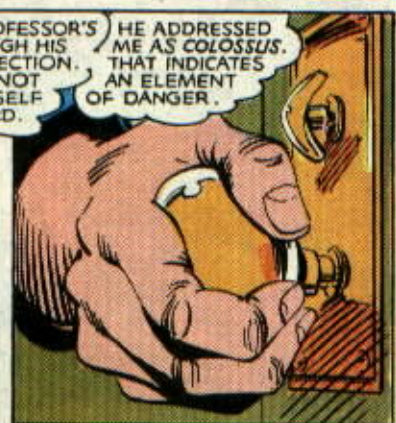


COLOSSUS, WE HAVE A VISITOR.

AT ONCE, PROFESSOR.



I FELT THE PROFESSOR'S THOUGHT PROJECTION. I HOPE HE IS NOT PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD.



HE ADDRESSED ME AS COLOSSUS. THAT INDICATES AN ELEMENT OF DANGER.

I HAD BEST SHIFT INTO  
MY ARMORED FORM.

**YOU???**



DON'T HIT  
ME, PLEASE--  
DON'T  
HIT ME!

AH DON'T WANT A FIGHT!  
AH NEED THE X-MEN'S  
HELP-- AH GOTTA HAVE  
IT-- OR AH'M AS GOOD  
AS DEAD!



LATER...

HER NAME IS ROGUE, A MEMBER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS.

THROUGH DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT, SHE ABSORBS THE ABILITIES AND MEMORIES OF OTHERS.

COULD THIS BE A DIVERSION-- THE PRELUDE TO AN ATTACK?

I'VE PSI-SCANNED THE ESTATE, NIGHT-CRAWLER. SHE IS QUITE ALONE.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, CHILD? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU'RE THE TELEPATH, XAVIER, YOU TELL ME.

"PROFESSOR" XAVIER, IF YOU PLEASE.

I CANNOT EFFECTIVELY READ YOUR MIND, ROGUE. YOU POSSESS TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED THOUGHT PATTERNS, ONE OF THEM ALIEN. IT SETS UP AN INTERFERENCE PATTERN I AM THUS FAR UNABLE TO PENETRATE.

THAT'S THE PERSONA AH ABSORBED FROM CAROL DANVERS WHEN AH ABSORBED HER POWERS, LAST YEAR.

AH DIDN'T INTEND THE TRANSFER TO BE PERMANENT. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY, PROFESSOR. YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, ROGUE, ASKIN' THAT AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE!

HUSH, KITTY!

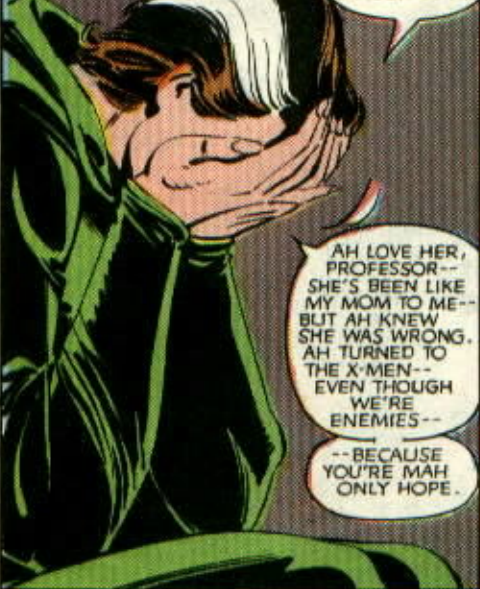
GO ON, ROGUE.

MAH POWERS ARE OUT OF CONTROL. THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH TRIGGERS THE TRANSFER, IT'S GETTIN' SO AH DON'T KNOW ANYMORE WHICH THOUGHTS-- OR MEM'RIES, OR FEELIN'S-- ARE MINE!

AH LOOK INTO A MIRROR, AN' SEE A STRANGER'S FACE!

IF YOU ASK ME, A MOST APT PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR CRIMES.

AH TRIED T'MAKE MYSTIQUE UNDERSTAND, BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN. SHE WAS CERTAIN WE COULD WORK THINGS OUT ON OUR OWN.



AH LOVE HER, PROFESSOR-- SHE'S BEEN LIKE MY MOM TO ME-- BUT AH KNEW SHE WAS WRONG. AH TURNED TO THE X-MEN-- EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ENEMIES--  
-- BECAUSE YOU'RE MAH ONLY HOPE.



GIMME A BREAK!  
KITTY!  
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!  
YOUR THOUGHTS WERE PLAIN ENOUGH.

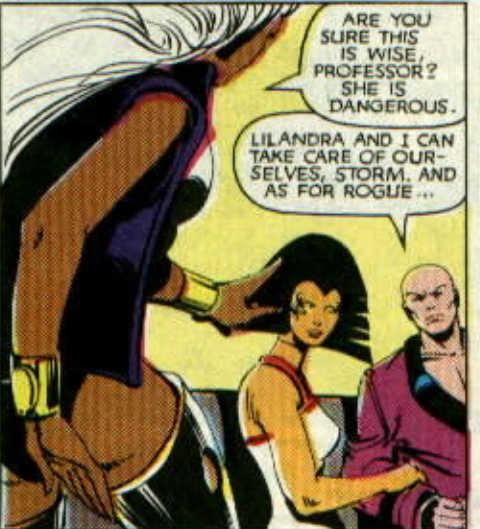
THAT'S NOT FAIR!

ARE YOU BEING FAIR TO ROGUE?



IS THERE ANY REASON WHY WE SHOULD BE, MEIN HERR?

I ACCEPT YOUR DISLIKE AND DISTRUST OF HER, X-MEN, BUT I WOULD RATHER NOT CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION WITH SUCH CONCENTRATED, NEGATIVE EMOTIONS SO CLOSE AT HAND. I'LL SLIMMON YOU WHEN I'M FINISHED.



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WISE, PROFESSOR? SHE IS DANGEROUS.

LILANDRA AND I CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES, STORM. AND AS FOR ROGUE ...



... I BELIEVE WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HER.

I HAVE NEVER HEARD HIM SO ANGRY-- WHAT DID WE DO?

SHOULD WE LEAVE HIM ALONE WITH ROGUE?

THE PROFESSOR GAVE US LITTLE CHOICE, KURT. WE MUST ASSUME HE KNOWS BEST.

I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND WAITING, ORORO. IT'LL DRIVE ME AS NUTSO AS ROGUE!

I WANT TO HIT SOMETHING!

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

SHE HAS A POINT, COLOSSUS.

AND SO...

HAVE FITS AND TANTRUMS BECOME YOUR SOLUTIONS TO EVERYTHING, KITTY?

THEY GET RESULTS.

I SUPPOSE, IF YOU'RE FOND OF BLACK EYES AND SORE THROATS.

WE ARE READY WHENEVER YOU ARE, LITTLE SISTER.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS, BIG BROTHER.

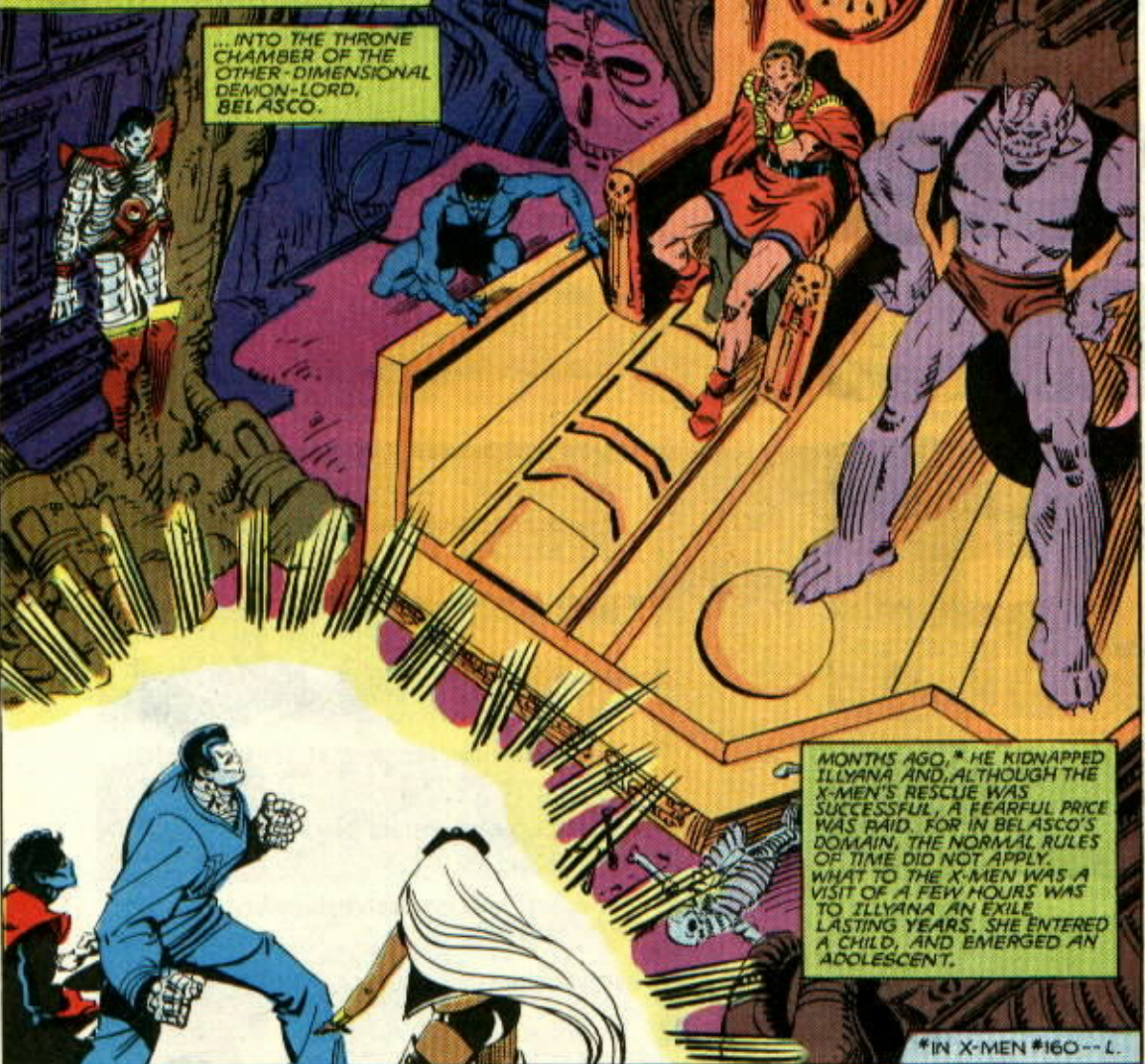
WHAT'S THE PROGRAM?

PERHAPS A SESSION IN THE DANGER ROOM WILL COOL ALL OUR VARIOUS TEMPER AND FRUSTRATIONS.

THAT'S MY SURPRISE. HERE WE GO!

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE MASTER COMPUTER TRANSFORMS THE ROOM FROM A FEATURELESS STEEL BOX ...

... INTO THE THRONE CHAMBER OF THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL DEMON-LORD, BELASCO.



MONTHS AGO, \* HE KIDNAPPED ILLYANA AND, ALTHOUGH THE X-MEN'S RESCUE WAS SUCCESSFUL, A FEARFUL PRICE WAS PAID. FOR IN BELASCO'S DOMAIN, THE NORMAL RULES OF TIME DID NOT APPLY. WHAT TO THE X-MEN WAS A VISIT OF A FEW HOURS WAS TO ILLYANA AN EXILE LASTING YEARS. SHE ENTERED A CHILD, AND EMERGED AN ADOLESCENT.

\*IN X-MEN #160--L.

WHAT HAPPENED IN BETWEEN, ONLY SHE KNOWS--



-- SHE, AND THE SORCERER SHE CALLED, MASTER.



BELASCO...!

ILLYANA, HAVE YOU FLIPPED??!

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING OF?!?

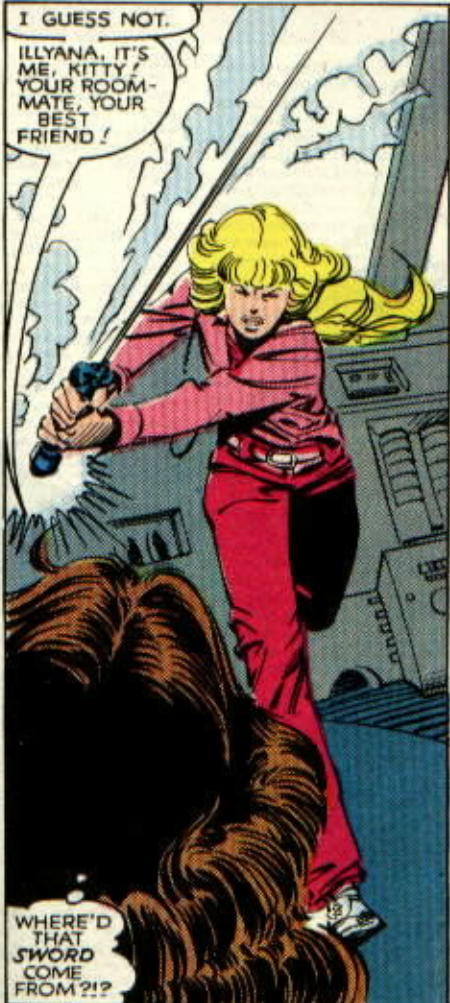


I'M ABORTING YOUR SEQUENCE, REVERTING THE ROOM TO NORMAL.

DID YOU DO THIS INTENTIONALLY, ILLYANA? WAS THIS YOUR "SURPRISE"?!?

YOU SCARED THE LIFE OUT OF ME-- AND I'LL BET THE OTHERS AS WELL! BELASCO'S ONE CREEP I NEVER WANT TO SEE AGAIN, EVEN AS A HOLOGRAPHIC ILLUSION. I FIGURED YOU'D FEEL THE SAME.

HEY, ILLYANA, YOU OKAY?



I GUESS NOT.

ILLYANA, IT'S ME, KITTY YOUR ROOM-MATE, YOUR BEST FRIEND!

WHERE'D THAT SWORD COME FROM?!?



YOW!! SHE MEANS BUSINESS!



M-MY CHEEK-- I'M BLEEDING!

BUT I WAS PHASING-- THE BLADE SHOULD HAVE PASSED HARMLESSLY THROUGH ME!



SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME! SHE MEANS TO KILL ME--

-- AN' SHE'LL DO IT, TOO, IF I'M NOT CAREFUL!



I'VE GOT TO DISARM HER--

-- KEEP HER THAT WAY, 'TIL SHE RECOVERS HER SENSES!



KITTY...? WHERE AM I?  
WITH FRIENDS. YOU'RE HOME. YOU'RE SAFE.

I SAW BELASCO.

I--  
-- REMEMBERED!



KATYA! WHAT HAPPENED?! ILLYANA IS CRYING!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. SHE WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION WHEN SHE PROGRAMMED THE SIMULATION. SHE KIND'A FREAKED WHEN SHE SAW BELASCO.

SO DID WE ALL, KATZCHEN.



SHE'LL BE FINE, GUYS. JUST GIVE US SOME TIME TO OURSELVES, OKAY? IT'S NO BIG DEAL. PLEASE?

SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



LATER, IN ORORO'S ATTIC LOFT...

A BAD DAY, GETTING STEADILY WORSE.



WE HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHETHER ANY LINK REMAINS BETWEEN ILLYANA AND BELASCO, BUT HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO PRY. PERHAPS IT IS TIME WE DID.

I WISH I COULD CONTROL MY LIFE-- MY DESTINY-- AS EASILY AS I DO THE WEATHER. I CANNOT BELIEVE THE THINGS I HAVE DONE. THE DUEL-- THIS MORNING'S CONFRONTATION WITH CALLISTO-- THEY ALL FLY IN THE FACE OF ALL I HAVE EVER BELIEVED ABOUT MYSELF.



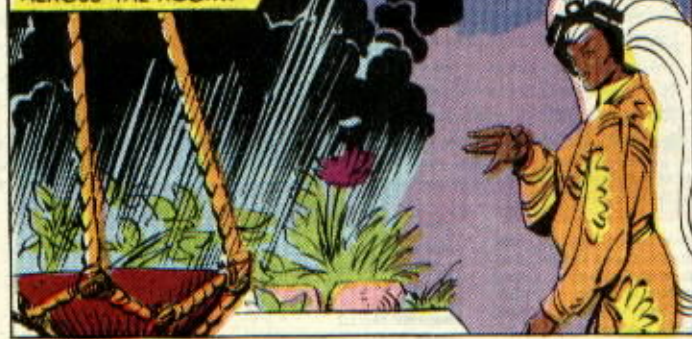
AND YET, THIS SAME INNER METAMORPHOSIS SEEMS TO BE MAKING ME A BETTER LEADER OF THE X-MEN. IS THAT BAD?

AND WHAT OF MY OWN PROBLEM?



POOR THINGS. YOU LOOK PARCHED. I FEAR I HAVE NEGLECTED YOU OF LATE. FORGIVE ME.

A THOUGHT SUMMONS CLOUDS, CREATES RAIN, SENDS IT SWEEPING ACROSS THE ROOM.



I FEEL AS THOUGH I STAND AT A CROSSROADS. TO REMAIN AN X-MAN-- ESPECIALLY AS LEADER-- I MUST SACRIFICE THE BELIEFS THAT GIVE MY LIFE MEANING. YET THE ALTERNATIVE MEANS LEAVING THOSE I LOVE, FOREVER.

THIS IS MY HOME, THEY ARE MY FAMILY-- HOW CAN I DESERT THEM??

AND XAVIER TOLD ME, THE DAY WE MET, THAT MY POWERS SHOULD BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL HUMANITY. WAS I WRONG TO LISTEN? CAN I DENY THAT RESPONSIBILITY?

I DO NOT KNOW, I DO NOT KNOW-- eh??!  
THUNDER??!





MY RAIN SHOWER HAS GROWN INTO A FULL-FLEDGED STORM... IT IS DESTROYING MY PLANTS!



A GESTURE, A THOUGHT, DISPERSES THE STORM, AS EASILY AS IT WAS FIRST CREATED...



... BUT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

WEATHER AROUND ME ALWAYS REFLECTS MY EMOTIONAL STATE.

MY ANXIETY, MY CONFUSION-- MY... FEAR-- MANIFESTED THEMSELVES AS VIOLENCE.

AND MY POOR PLANTS SUFFERED FOR IT.



STORM, MY EXAMINATION OF ROGUE IS FINISHED. PLEASE REPORT TO MY STUDY.



IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I BECAME AN X-MAN, OLD MAN--



-- AND THAT DECISION IS DESTROYING ME!



AS I BROKE MY PSILINK WITH STORM, I CAUGHT A THOUGHT-FLASH FROM HER.

SHE'S UNUSUALLY DISTURBED.

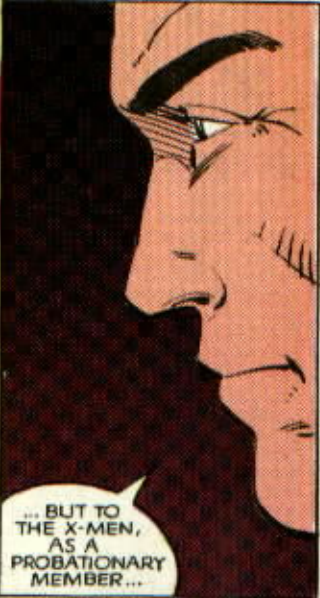
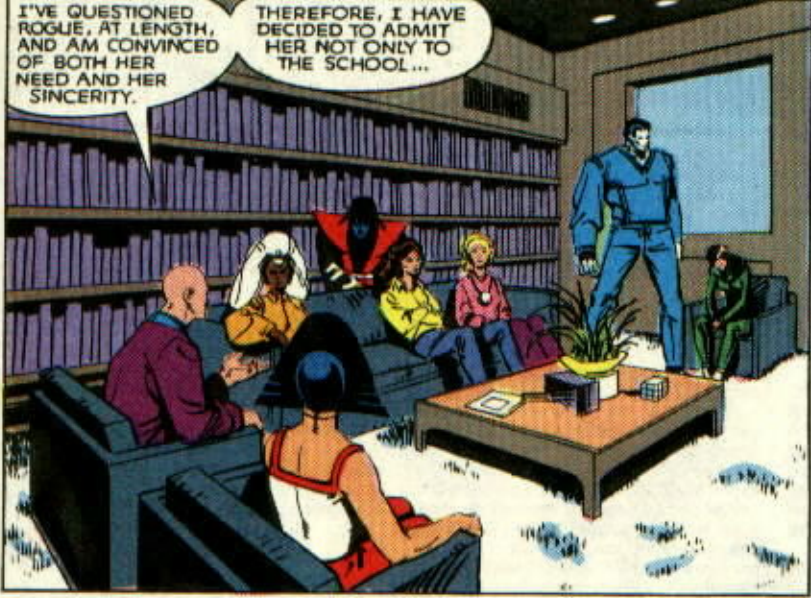


HAVE YOU PROBED DEEPER, TO LEARN WHY?

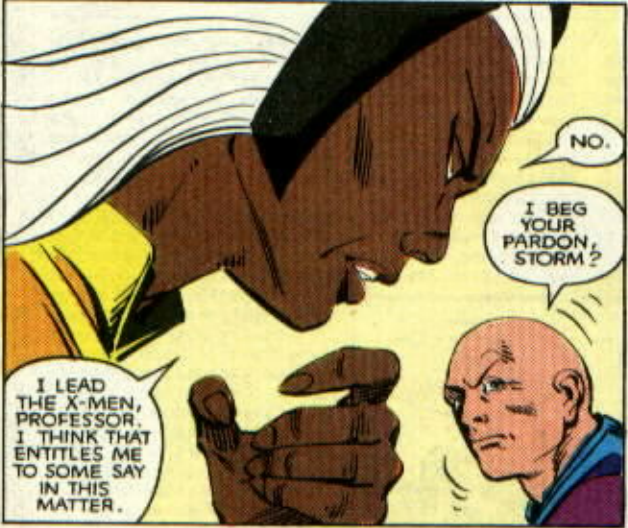
"THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT. ROGUE IS MY PRIMARY CONCERN AT PRESENT. IF IT'S A SERIOUS PROBLEM, SHE'LL NO DOUBT TELL ME."

I'VE QUESTIONED ROGUE, AT LENGTH, AND AM CONVINCED OF BOTH HER NEED AND HER SINCERITY.

THEREFORE, I HAVE DECIDED TO ADMIT HER NOT ONLY TO THE SCHOOL ...



... BUT TO THE X-MEN, AS A PROBATIONARY MEMBER ...



NO.

I BEG YOUR PARDON, STORM?

I LEAD THE X-MEN, PROFESSOR. I THINK THAT ENTITLES ME TO SOME SAY IN THIS MATTER.

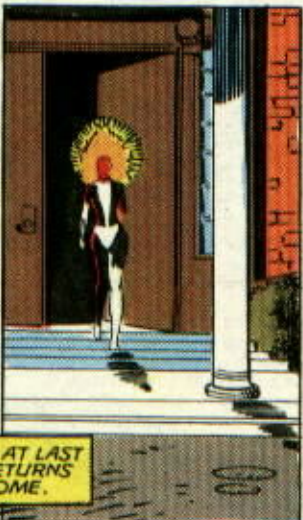


YOU KNOW ROGUE'S HISTORY. ARE WE EXPECTED TO FIGHT BESIDE SOMEONE WE DO NOT--DARE NOT--TRUST ...

... WHO MIGHT BETRAY US AT ANY TIME ??



MEANWHILE, AN UNSUSPECTING BINARY ...

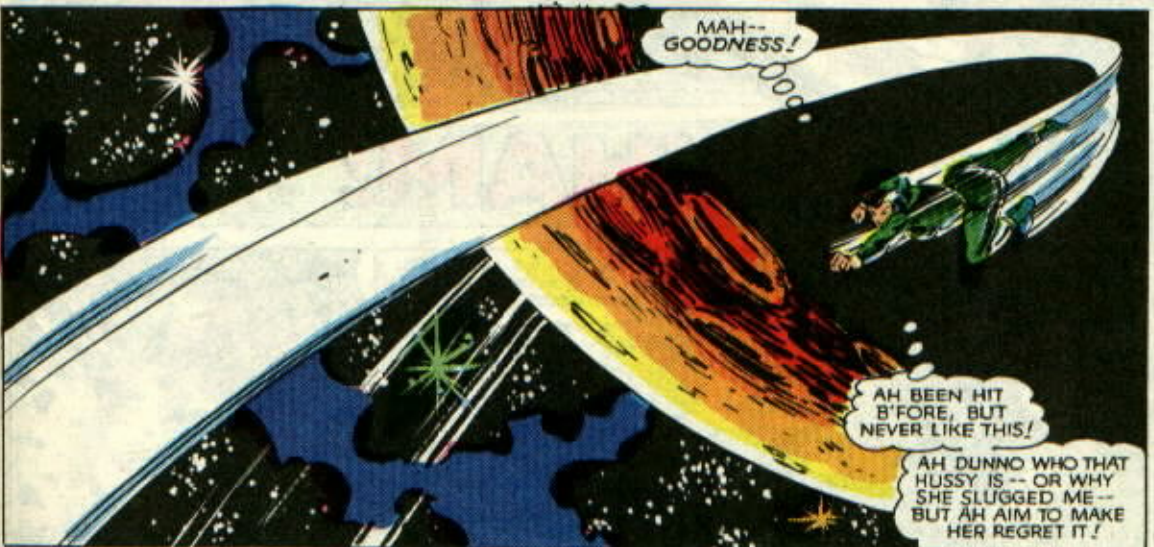


... AT LAST RETURNS HOME.





**POW!**



MAH--GOODNESS!

AH BEEN HIT B'FORE, BUT NEVER LIKE THIS!

AH DUNNO WHO THAT HUSSY IS -- OR WHY SHE SLUGGED ME -- BUT AH AIM TO MAKE HER REGRET IT!



AH DON'T THINK THIS WAS XAVIER'S DOIN'.

HE LOOKED AS SURPRISED AS THE X-MEN.

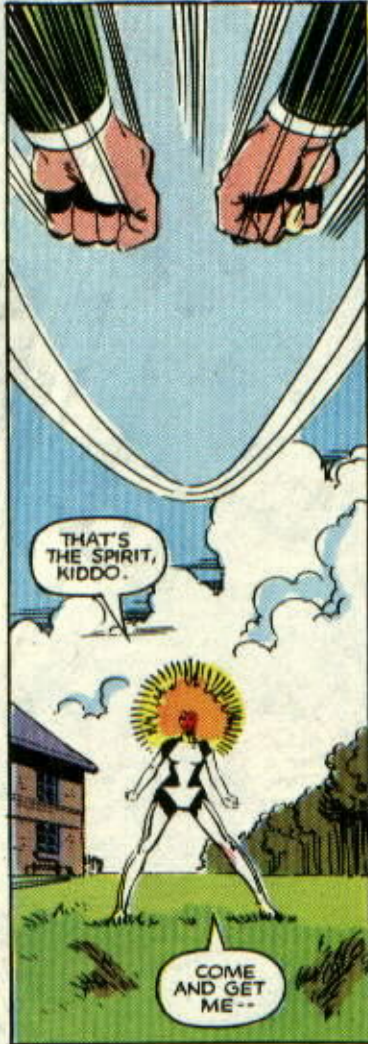


X-MEN... ARE ANY OF YOU INJURED?

WOW-- THAT WAS SOME PUNCH!

BINARY-- WHERE IS SHE?!

OUTSIDE, TOVARISCH, WAITING FOR ROGUE!



THAT'S THE SPIRIT, KIDDO.

COME AND GET ME--



--IF YOU CAN!

**WHAM!**



BINARY-- NO MORE!

LEMME GO, YOU BIG LUMMOX! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, PETER--!

YOU WILL HAVE TO, IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE THIS FIGHT. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

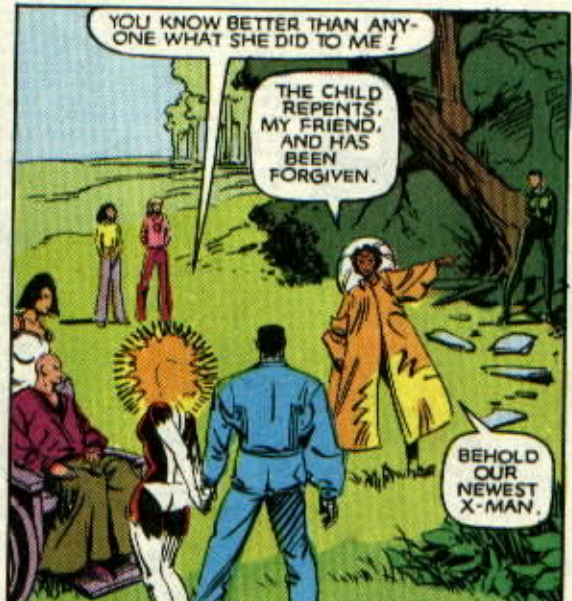


I WANT VENGEANCE, PETER. IS THAT SO WRONG?!

SO LONG AS ROGUE REMAINS UNDER MY ROOF, BINARY...

... SHE HAS MY PROTECTION.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, CHARLES?!



YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANY-ONE WHAT SHE DID TO ME!

THE CHILD REPENTS, MY FRIEND, AND HAS BEEN FORGIVEN.

BEHOLD OUR NEWEST X-MAN.



IS THIS TRUE?!

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT YOU CAPABLE OF SUCH CRUELTY.



WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? WHAT'S MAH LIFE GOTTA DO WITH YOU. HUH?? WE NEVER EVEN MET BEFORE TODAY!



PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP.



CAROL DANVERS.

THE WOMAN WHOSE LIFE YOU DESTROYED, ROGUE.

EXCEPT THAT NOW I POSSESS THE POWER TO DO THE SAME TO YOU.

PROFESSOR, IF ROGUE STAYS, I GO.

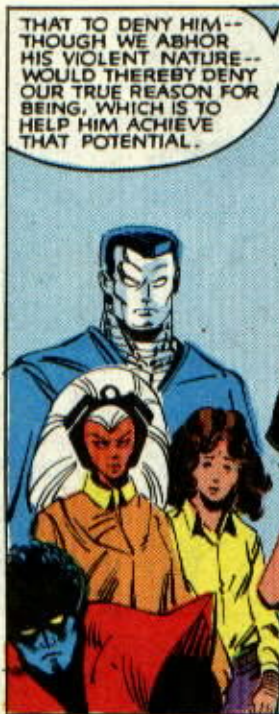
MY APOLOGIES, HERR PROFESSOR, BUT WE ALL GO.



I SEE. WE PICK AND CHOOSE WHO WE HELP, IS THAT IT?

SOME ARE WORTHY, OTHERS NOT?!

WHO WAS IT, ORORO, TOLD ME WOLVERINE WAS AN X-MAN, NOT BECAUSE OF HIS "STERLING" CHACTER, BUT HIS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD.



THAT TO DENY HIM-- THOUGH WE ABHOR HIS VIOLENT NATURE-- WOULD THEREBY DENY OUR TRUE REASON FOR BEING, WHICH IS TO HELP HIM ACHIEVE THAT POTENTIAL.

THE SAME ARGUMENT HOLDS FOR ROGUE, DOES IT NOT? OF COURSE, THERE'S A RISK IN ACCEPTING HER-- BUT CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE. AT LEAST WITH US SHE HAS A CHANCE FOR A BETTER LIFE. DENY HER AND WE CONDEMN HER OUTRIGHT...



... AND THAT I WILL NEVER DO-- TO ANY MUTANT-- SO LONG AS BREATH REMAINS WITHIN ME.



I TRUST YOU AS I WOULD MY OWN FATHER, PROFESSOR. SO I WILL PUT ASIDE MY FEARS AND GIVE ROGUE HER CHANCE. I ASK MY FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME.

I WILL IF I HAVE TO. BUT I WON'T LIKE HER. EVER!

ALL RIGHT, MEIN HERR-- YOU WIN.



CAROL...?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, CHARLES? UNDERSTANDING? APPROVAL?!

I'LL CONCEDE ONE, BUT NOT THE OTHER. ROGUE TORE MY LIFE-- MY VERY SOUL-- TO SHREDS AND THOSE SCALES CAN NEVER BE BALANCED. I'M SORRY, I'M JUST NOT THAT FORGIVING.



I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE HERE, CHARLES, NO REAL TIES TO BREAK. THAT MAKES MY DECISION EASY. I'M NOT AN X-MAN--

-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M GLAD!



WILL SHE BE BACK?

IN HER OWN TIME, PERHAPS, FRAULEIN -- WHEN THE HURT IS LESS.

ORORO...?

CAROL IS RIGHT AND YOU ARE RIGHT, PROFESSOR, SO WHICH IS THE BETTER ROAD TO FOLLOW?

LIKE ALL OF YOU, THAT IS A DECISION...

... I MUST MAKE FOR MYSELF.



WHAT NOW, WIND-RIDER?

WOULD THAT I COULD SOAR HOME, FREE AND UNCARING AS A BIRD, TO THE WOMAN I WAS, THE LIFE I LED.



DOES EVERY ADULT YEARN SO FOR CHILDHOOD, EVERY PERSON FACE SUCH AWFUL DILEMMAS?

I WISH I WERE THE GODDESS MEN THOUGHT ME IN AFRICA, FOR THEN WITH A WAVE OF THE HAND I COULD CURE EVERY ILL, MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.



BUT I AM ONLY HUMAN-- AND MUST THEREFORE COPE, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, AS BEST I CAN. THIS IS MY MOMENT OF TRUTH.

I WANT TO LEAVE, YET DUTY DEMANDS I STAY-- THOUGH THAT MEANS ACCEPTING ROGUE.

WHATEVER I CHOOSE, I WILL NO LONGER BE THE WOMAN I WAS-- BUT WHAT WILL I BECOME?



ORORO OR STORM, WHICH IS IT TO BE?

NEXT: SCARLET IN GLORY!