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1983 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



His Imperial Majesty
Hirohito
Emperor of Japan



at the wedding of
Lady Mariko
of Clan Yashida
to

Logan

Hey Elf - don't forget
the BEER! - W.

R.S.V.P.



TOKYO...



... THE UPPER CLASS MEGURO DISTRICT...

THE BUILDING STANDS SIXTY STORIES TALL, 55 COMMERCIAL, THE REST A SINGLE LUXURY APARTMENT. IT'S WHERE THE DAIMYO OF CLAN YASHIDA STAYS WHENEVER HE'S IN TOWN.

TEN WEEKS AGO, UPON YASHIDA SHINGEN'S DEATH, THE TITLE PASSED TO HIS FIRST-BORN, HIS DAUGHTER MARIKO. I'M HER LOVER, HER CHAMPION-- AND IN FIVE DAYS, I BECOME HER CONSORT.

A MAN SHOULD HAVE HIS FRIENDS BESIDE HIM AT HIS WEDDIN'. THESE ARE MINE-- THE X-MEN.

WOLVERINE!

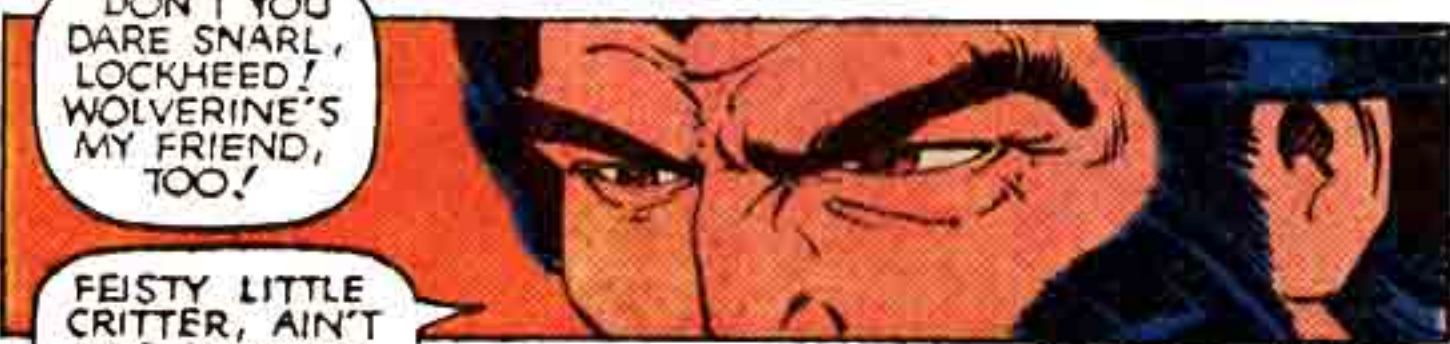
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOVARISCH. WE HAVE BEEN TOO LONG APART.

WHAT A TRIP, LOGAN! WE HAD AN ENTIRE 747, ALL TO OURSELVES! THE PILOT SAID IT WAS THE PLANE THE EMPEROR USES!

MY FIANCEE HAS CLOUT, KIDDO.

WELCOME TO JAPAN.



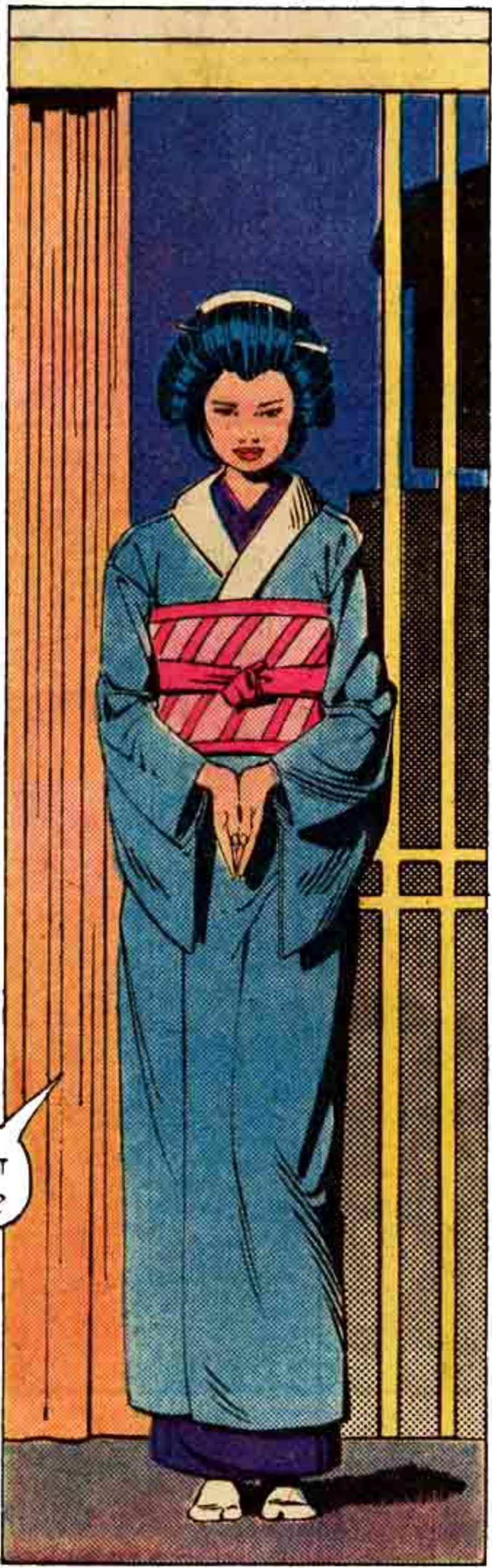


LOGAN-SAN, ONE OF THE X-MEN REMAINS IN THE GENKEN.

WILL YOU NOT INVITE HER IN?

I'M A MUTANT, JUST LIKE ALL THE X-MEN, BORN WITH SPECIAL-- UNIQUE-- POWERS AN' ABILITIES. IN MY CASE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, I HAVE ENHANCED PHYSICAL SENSES: SIGHT, HEARING, TASTE, TOUCH, SMELL.

I KNEW WHO WAS THERE THE INSTANT SHE ENTERED.





IF IT WERE UP TO ME, M'IKO, I'D CUT OUT HER HEART.

THE KID'S NAME IS ROGUE. WE TUSSELED A WHILE BACK, AT THE PENTAGON-- AN' BEFORE THAT, SHE NEARLY KILLED A GOOD FRIEND O' MINE. I DON'T MIND BEIN' USED AS A PUNCHIN' BAG-- COMES WITH THE TERRITORY-- BUT WHAT SHE DID T' CAROL DANVERS I'LL NEVER FORGET. OR FORGIVE.



LOGAN, SHE IS NO LONGER OUR ENEMY. PROFESSOR XAVIER HAS ACCEPTED HER AS AN X-MAN.

YOU AGREED TO THAT, ORORO?

WE ALL DID.



FIGURES. ANY OUTFIT THAT'LL TAKE ME AS A MEMBER'LL ADMIT ANYONE.

YOU THINK TOO LITTLE OF YOURSELF, WOLVERINE, AND I THINK JUDGE YOUR COMRADES TOO HARSHLY.

WHATEVER YOUR FEELINGS, SHE IS OUR GUEST AND, AS SUCH...



... WILL BE TREATED WITH ALL DUE COURTESY AND RESPECT.

WELCOME, ROGUE-SAN. MAY YOUR STAY WITH US BE A HAPPY ONE.

THANK YOU, LADY MARIKO.



MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE, PEOPLE. THERE'RE REFRESHMENTS IF YOU WANT 'EM ...

... OR BEDS, IF YOU WANT A CRASH.

GREAT IDEA! WHAT DAY IS THIS, ANYWAY? DID WE GAIN OR LOSE ONE CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE?



< THE "BUGS" I PLANTED WORK PERFECTLY. I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD SAID ACROSS THE WAY. * >

< THE X-MEN ARE EXHAUSTED FROM THEIR JOURNEY, AND THEY EXPECT NO TROUBLE. WHY SHOULD THEY? A WEDDING IS A JOYOUS OCCASION. >

< IF I STRIKE TONIGHT, THEY WILL BE EASY PREY. >

*TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE --L.

CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

PAUL SMITH
PENCILER

BOB WIACEK
INKER

GLYNIS WEIN, colorist • TOM ORZECOWSKI, letterer

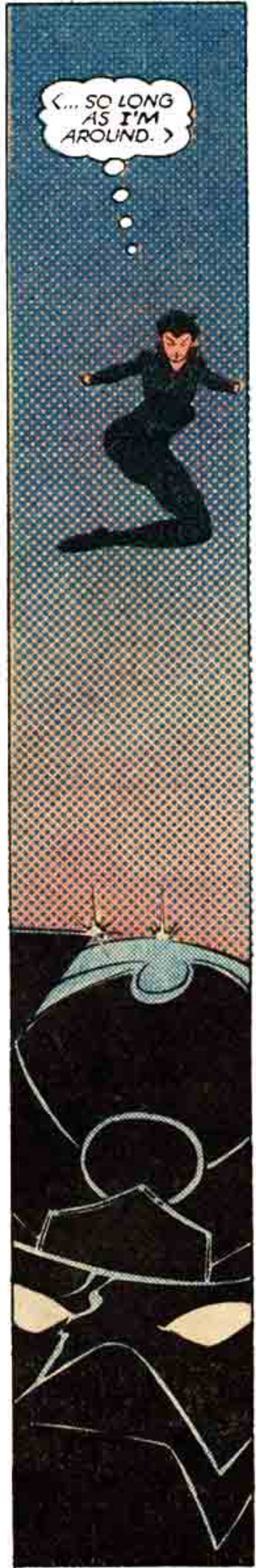
LOUISE JONES
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



< YOU'VE BEEN ON WOLVERINE'S TRAIL FOR DAYS, SKULKER. IF HE WEREN'T SO BESOTTED WITH THAT BLOODLESS PORCELAIN DOLL, HE'D'VE SPOTTED YOU LONG AGO. >

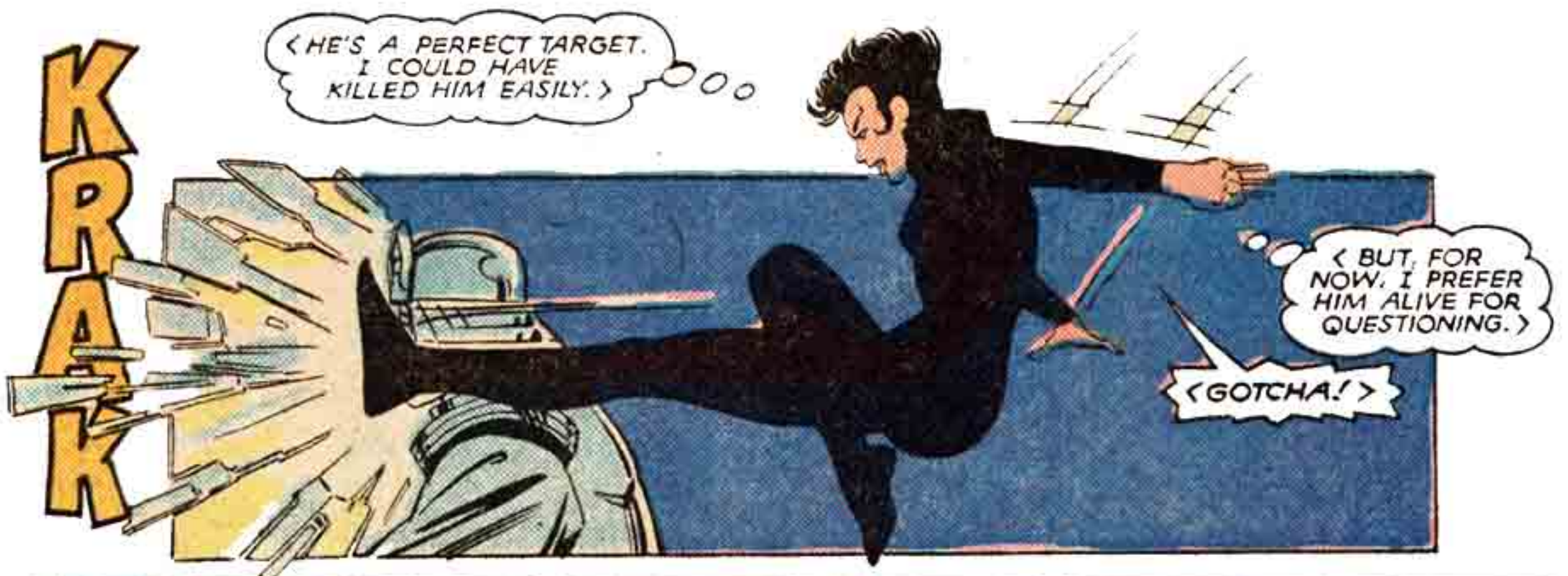
< LUCKILY FOR HIM-- LESS SO FOR YOU-- HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR... >



< ... SO LONG AS I'M AROUND. >

Stan Lee PRESENTS

Scarlet IN GLORY



< HE'S A PERFECT TARGET. I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM EASILY. >

< BUT, FOR NOW, I PREFER HIM ALIVE FOR QUESTIONING. >

< GOTCHA! >



< WHO--?! >

< Uh-oh! >



THAT SOUND--!

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

FROM THE ROOF NEXT DOOR-- FLESH ON METAL, A FIGHTING KICK!



< I AM THE SILVER SAMURAI, GIRL. >

< TO ATTACK ME IS DEATH! >



'PORT ME OVER THERE, ELF!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

TRUST ME.



< MY ARMOR IS PROOF AGAINST YOUR STRONGEST BLOWS. >

< AND MY ENERGY BLADE CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING! >



WHAT'D I TELL YOU?

GRAB THE LADY, ELF. MAKE SURE SHE'S SAFE.



THE BRUISER'S MINE!

< LOGAN-SAN! >



< FANCY MEETIN' YOU HERE, DARLIN'. >



< WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE? >

< HOW ABOUT AN EXPLANATION? >

< ASK HIM, NOT ME. HE'S THE VILLAIN. >



< I'LL GIVE YOU THE ONLY ANSWER YOU DESERVE, GAIJIN-- >



<-- A COWARD'S DEATH! >

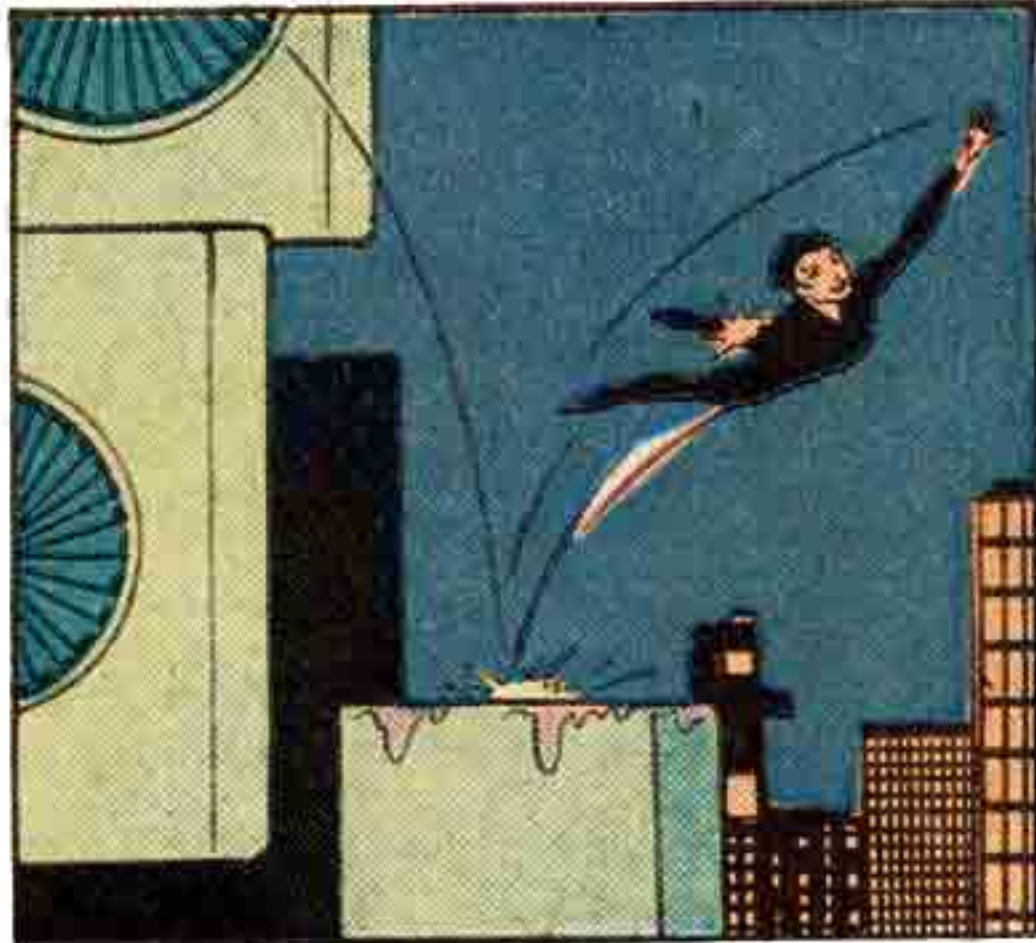
WITH THAT, THE SUCKER DISAPPEARS.



I DON'T FALL FAR, THOUGH...



... BEFORE NIGHTCRAWLER "BAMF'S" ME BACK TO THE ROOF.





DO NOT BE AFRAID. I SHALL NOT DROP YOU.

I AM STORM.

I KNOW-- FRIEND OF LOGAN'S.

SO WAS I-- AND A LOT MORE--



--ONCE. WHAT A RIDE-- ONE IN A MILLION-- I LOVED IT!

YOU NEARLY DIED.



THAT'S WHAT MADE THE EXPERIENCE SO EXQUISITE.

DEATH HOLDS NO TERRORS FOR YOU?

LIFE IS THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURE, WIND-RIDER, AND DEATH THE PRIZE THAT AWAITS US ALL.



SINCE IT'S INEVITABLE, WHY WORRY ABOUT IT?

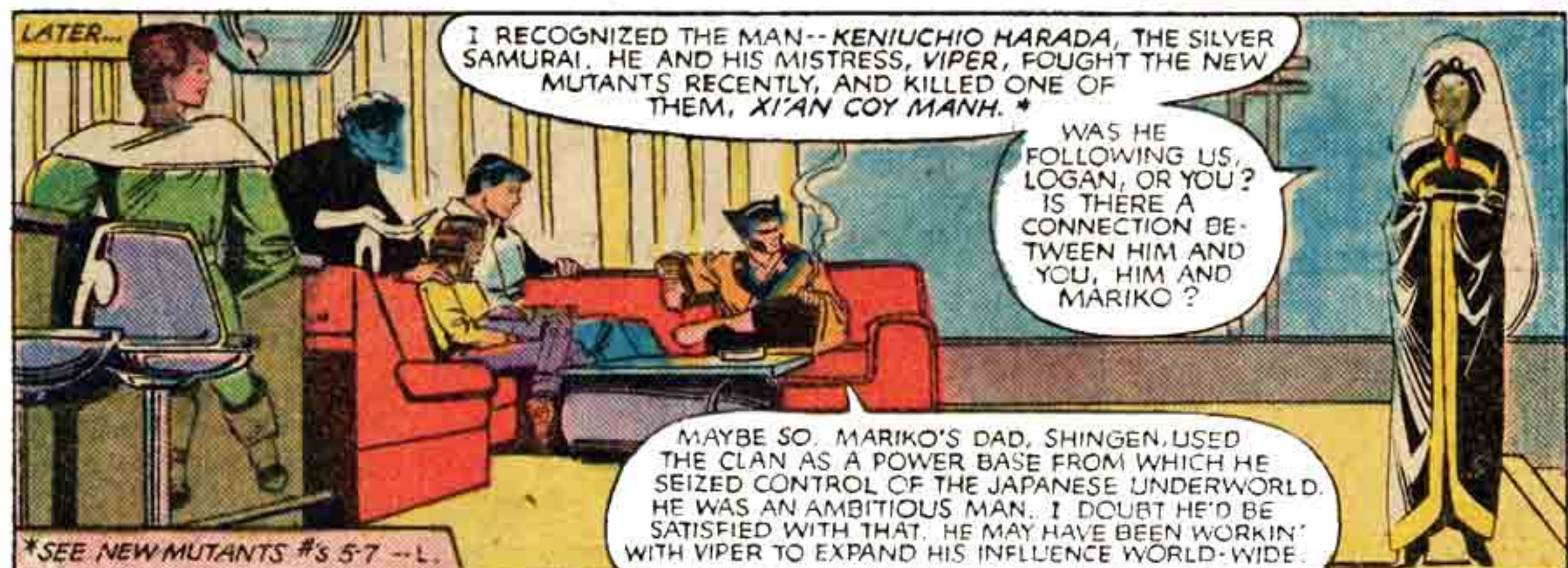
SAYONARA, ORORO-SAN...

... UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.



THE WOMAN IS MAD...

... AND YET, I WISH I COULD LAUGH SO.



LATER...

I RECOGNIZED THE MAN-- KENIUCHIO HARADA, THE SILVER SAMURAI. HE AND HIS MISTRESS, VIPER, FOUGHT THE NEW MUTANTS RECENTLY, AND KILLED ONE OF THEM, XI'AN COY MANH. *

WAS HE FOLLOWING US, LOGAN, OR YOU? IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU, HIM AND MARIKO?

MAYBE SO. MARIKO'S DAD, SHINGEN, USED THE CLAN AS A POWER BASE FROM WHICH HE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD. HE WAS AN AMBITIOUS MAN. I DOUBT HE'D BE SATISFIED WITH THAT. HE MAY HAVE BEEN WORKIN' WITH VIPER TO EXPAND HIS INFLUENCE WORLD-WIDE.

*SEE NEW MUTANTS #s 5-7 --L.



CAN THIS SHINGEN PERSON BE STOPPED?

ALREADY DONE, PETEY, BY ME.

GREAT! THEN WE CAN QUESTION HIM IN PRISON, RIGHT, AN' GET ALL THE ANSWERS WE NEED...



I DO NOT THINK SO, KATZCHEN.

WHADDAYA MEAN, FUZZY-ELF? OF COURSE, WE...

...oh...

I SEE.

MOMENTS LIKE THIS, I FEEL SORRY FOR THE KID. SHE CARES FOR ME, BELIEVES IN ME-- BUT EVERY SO OFTEN, SHE GETS REMINDED-- HARD-- THAT WE COME FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, AN' THAT MINE ISN'T VERY NICE



< IN HONOR, LOGAN DID WHAT I MYSELF WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO-- FACED MY FATHER IN SINGLE COMBAT, TO THE DEATH. >

< SHINGEN DISGRACED HIS NAME, HIS FAMILY-- HE DESERVED HIS FATE. >



< WOULD THAT HIS DEATH HAD BROUGHT AN END TO MY NIGHTMARE. >

< "MEETING TONIGHT, MIDNIGHT, COME ALONE-- HARADA." >



< I HAVE TOLD NO ONE OF THIS SUMMONS... >
< ...ESPECIALLY NOT MY BELOVED. >

< I AM LORD OF CLAN YASHIDA. >



< IT FALLS TO ME TO ATONE FOR MY FATHER'S CRIMES. >



< IT IS A TASK I MUST ACCOMPLISH ALONE. >

< TONI, I WILL BE OUT FOR AWHILE. LOGAN-SAMA AND OUR GUESTS ARE NOT TO KNOW. >

TONI-- M'IKO'S MAID -- TELLS ME MARIKO'S GONE TO BED. I WISH I COULD JOIN HER, BUT THE X-MEN AN' I HAVE TOO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.



I SEND TONI T' THE KITCHEN FOR MORE EATS. JET LAG EVIDENTLY HASN'T AFFECTED ANY-ONE'S APPETITE.



... FOR THE NOBLE FOOL YOU ARE. BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OUT, MY CHAMPION, THE SILVER SAMURAI, WILL HAVE EITHER YOUR ABDICATION OR YOUR HEAD. AND ONCE I AM THROUGH HERE...

...THE X-MEN WILL BE IN NO CONDITION TO SAVE-- OR AVENGE-- YOU.



SOMEONE ELSE ON THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF DOES THE SERVING. I DON'T KNOW HER, BUT THAT'S NO SURPRISE-- I HAVE YET T' MEET MOST O' THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR M'IKO'S FAMILY.

THERE'S LIGHTNING-- THE GROWL OF THUNDER-- OVER TOKYO BAY, AN' I WONDER IF THAT'S ORORO'S DOING. BEING AN ELEMENTAL, WEATHER AROUND HER TENDS TO MIMIC HER EMOTIONAL STATE. USUALLY, THOUGH, AS A RESULT, SHE HOLDS HERSELF ON A TIGHT REIN.

IT'S A LOUSY WAY T'LIVE, BUT SHE NEVER SEEMED T'MIND.

THAT'S CHANGED.





< WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, LOGAN-SAMA? >

< NO THANK YOU, YOSHI. WE'LL CALL IF WE NEED YOU. >

HAVE SOME TEA, DARLIN'. IT'LL WARM YOU UP.

MANY THANKS, LOGAN.

THESE ARE LOVELY APARTMENTS.



THEY'LL DO.



YOU'RE... DIFFERENT, 'RORO.



SO ARE YOU, MY FRIEND.



THAT F'R SURE. WHATEVER ROAD I FIGURED MY LIFE'D TAKE, I DIDN'T COUNT ON IT LEADIN' HERE.

LOOK AT ME-- A ROUGHNECK CANADIAN MOUNTAIN MAN, ABOUT T'MARRY THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE OLDEST, MOST POWERFUL, MOST RESPECTED FAMILIES IN JAPAN. I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY HAPPENIN' THIS HAS GOTTA BE A DREAM.

WHY?



BECAUSE PART O' ME DOESN'T THINK IT'S RIGHT.

TO SHAME ME, SHINGEN ASKED ME IF I WAS WORTHY. I GUESS DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I STILL HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE ANSWER.



IF MARIKO ACCEPTS YOU, WHAT ELSE MATTERS?

BUT I SENSE DEEPER CONCERN, LOGAN.



YAH! THE CLAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CRIMINAL AFFAIRS-- THANKS TO SHINGEN-- IS FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN MARIKO SUSPECTS. THOSE TIES WON'T BE EASY TO SEVER.

I WANTED CARTE BLANCHE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, BUT M'IKO SAID NO. SHE'S GOT COURAGE, 'RORO, AN' MORE SMARTS'N ME, BUT SHE'S OUT OF HER DEPTH. I'M SCARED SHE'LL BE CORRUPTED, SHAPED BY CIRCUMSTANCE INTO HER FATHER'S IMAGE. I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.

I FEEL SO FLAMIN' HELPLESS! THIS KIND'A SCRAP'S TOO SUBTLE F'R ME, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.

I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR LADY



I HOPE SO--
hmmh?!
STRANGE-- THE TEA SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT AFTERTASTE-- SO FAINT I BARELY NOTICED.



I WISH MY OWN CONFLICT WERE AS CLEAR-CUT...



STORM-- DON'T DRINK!

WHAT--???

Poison



BLESSED GODDESS-- NO!

< HERE'S YOUR CAR, LADY MARIKO, AS YOU REQUESTED. >

< THANK YOU, MATSUO-SAN. >



< TAKE ME TO THIS ADDRESS, PLEASE >

< IT'S ON THE WATERFRONT, A WAREHOUSE. >

< WAIT THERE FOR ME >



< CERTAINLY, MILADY, ANYTHING YOU SAY. >

< GOTCHA! >



ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ALASKA--

-- HOME AND HEAD-QUARTERS OF NORTH STAR AIRLINES...

... IN WHOSE OFFICES-- LONG AFTER HOURS-- IS SCOTT SUMMERS, GRANDSON OF THE BOSS ...

... STORM'S PREDECESSOR AS LEADER OF THE X-MEN.

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL, BIG BROTHER?

HI, ALEX-- WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

FUNNY, I WAS GOING TO ASK THE SAME THING.

WHOSE FILE, MADELYNE'S?

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ALEX.

SCOTT, JEAN GREY IS DEAD! MADELYNE PRYOR BEARS AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO HER-- BUT THAT'S ALL!

I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT, ALEX, BUT THINGS KEEP HAPPENING. FROM THE MOMENT WE MET, SHE AND I BEHAVED LIKE PEOPLE WHO'D KNOWN EACH OTHER, INTIMATELY, FOR YEARS! ON OUR FIRST DATE, SHE OFFERED TO FIX MY FAVORITE BREAKFAST. WHEN I ASKED HOW SHE KNEW WHAT IT WAS, SHE SAID, "SIMPLE, I READ MINDS."

IT'S AN EXPRESSION, SCOTT! SHE COULD HAVE FOUND OUT FROM GRAND'MA!

WHAT ABOUT HER CRASH?

SCOTT, YOU TWO ARE BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER. WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO DESTROY IT?!

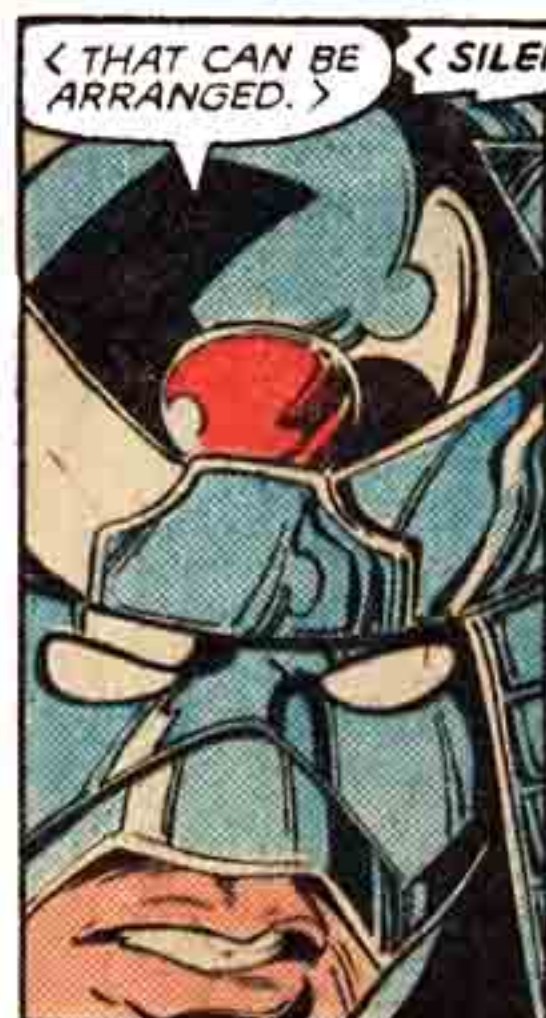
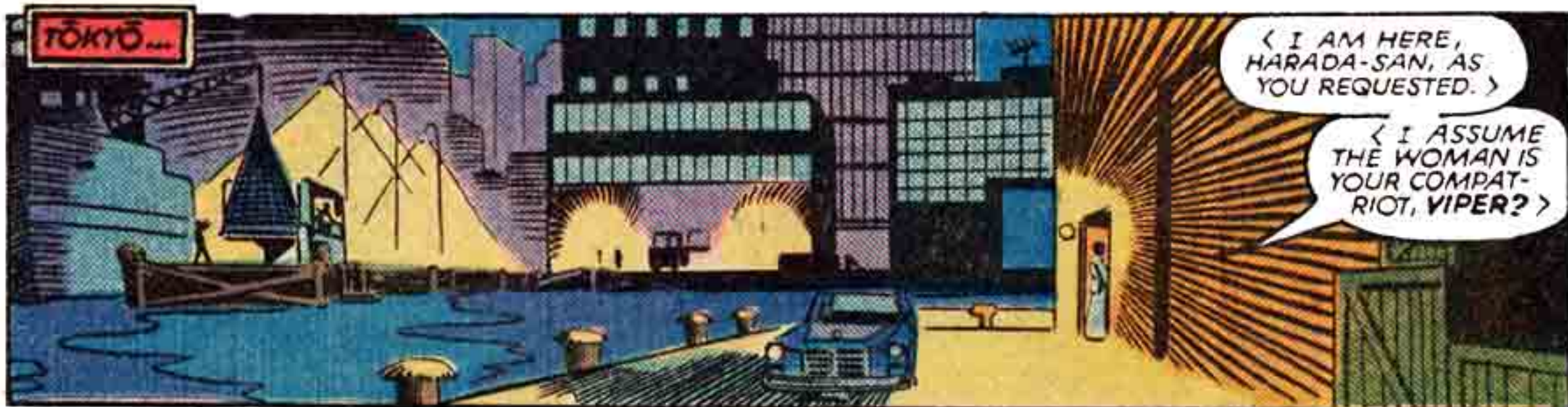
I HAVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. ALEX...

... OF A PLANE THAT CRASHED NOT ONLY ON THE DAY JEAN DIED...

... BUT AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT!

... WHAT-EVER THE COST.

MADELYNE WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR...





< I MADE MY PLEDGE TO LADY MARIKO. >

< YOU ARE NOT SHE. >



< WHAT--?! >

WHO DARES!?!



< HOW QUICKLY SOME FORGET. >

< WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS, SAMURAI. >



I FOLLOWED THE LIMOUSINE ALL THE WAY HERE. SINCE IT NEVER STOPPED EN ROUTE, MARIKO MUST STILL BE INSIDE, OR NEARBY.

DEAL WITH HER, VIPER.

KTANG!

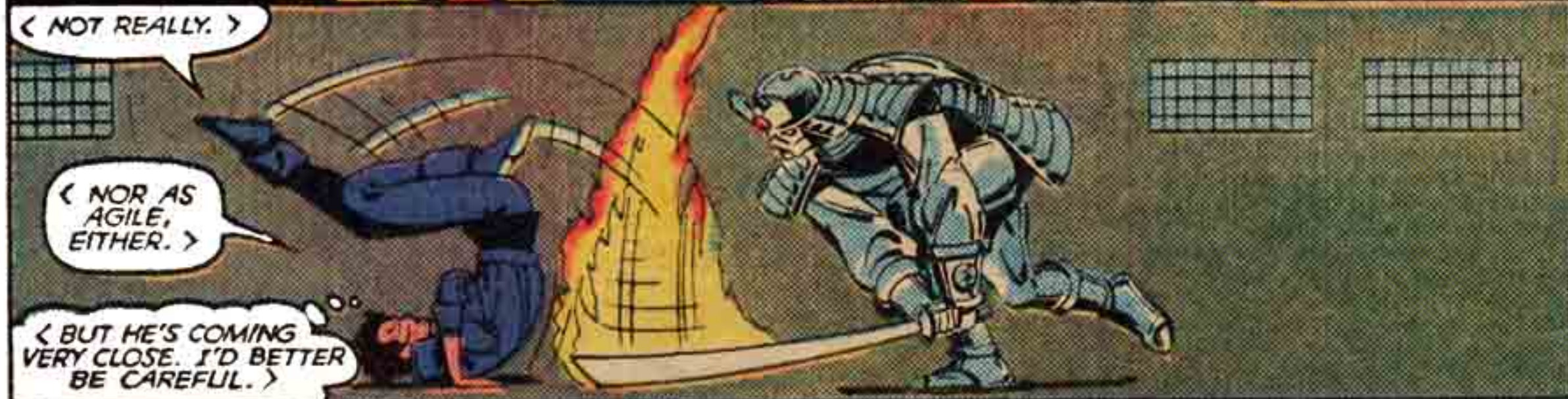
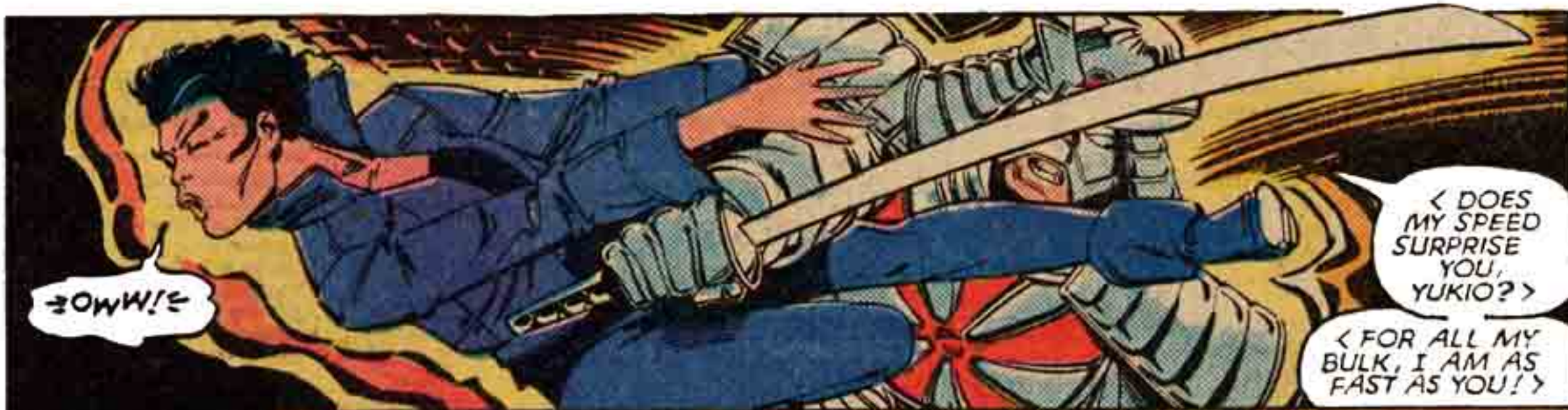


THE WILD ONE IS MINE!



< THAT, RENEGADE, IS A MATTER OF OPINION. >

< VIPER DISAPPEARED! SHE MUST BE USING THE SAME TELEPORT DEVICE THE SAMURAI USED TO ESCAPE WOLVERINE AND ME EARLIER THIS EVENING! >



THE "GAMBIT" WAS YUKIO'S AND IS THUS FAR PROVING MOST SUCCESSFUL.

SHE CANNOT HEAR ME -- SHE IS UNCONSCIOUS. SHE IS LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. MY GUST OF WIND WAS MEANT ONLY TO DISARM HER...



... BUT IT BLEW OUT OF CONTROL.

LEAVE THIS PLACE, MARIKO, AT ONCE!

BUT WHAT OF YOU, STORM, AND YUKIO?!

WE SHALL BE FINE, THIS IS OUR SORT OF WORK. USE THE CAR TELEPHONE TO SUMMON THE POLICE, AS YUKIO DID ME.



HURRY! THE LONGER YOU REMAIN, THE GREATER THE DANGER!

THANK GOODNESS I CAN STILL FLY.

WHAT IS **WRONG** WITH ME?! LATELY, I HAVE BEEN WIELDING MY POWERS LIKE A NOVICE -- AND THE HARDER I TRY TO PUT THINGS RIGHT, THE WORSE THEY SEEM TO GET.



THERE IS YUKIO, HARD-PRESSED BY THE SAMURAI...

... AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

SHE IS MAD.



PHYSICALLY, I AM NO MATCH FOR THE SAMURAI. IF I AM TO SAVE YUKIO...

... I MUST RISK SUMMONING MY LIGHTNING--

NO!?!



SPLENDID, MUTANT. YOU HAVE DONE PRECISELY WHAT I EXPECTED OF YOU.

MY TRAP IS SPRUNG ...

... YOUR FATE SEALED.

TOO MUCH POWER-- I CANNOT DAMPEN IT-- I AM ELECTRO-CUTTING HIM!

I MUST DRAW THE BOLTS BACK INTO MYSELF!

< THIS WASN'T PART OF OUR PLAN! >

< STORM'S IN TROUBLE! >

< AND SO AM I! SHE'S FLINGING STRAY BOLTS ALL OVER THIS WAREHOUSE. >

< WHOOPS! >

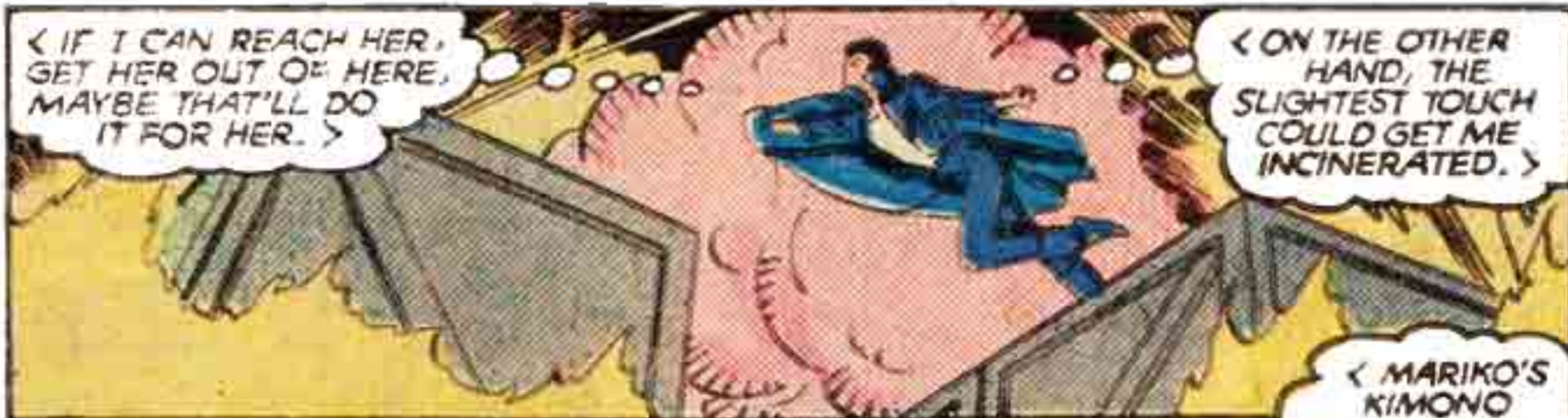
< EXPLOSIVES-- TONS OF 'EM! AND STORM'S SETTING THEM OFF! >

< THAT SOUND-- IT'S HER-- SCREAMING! BY ALL THAT'S HOLY-- >

<-- WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HER?!? >



< SHE'S ON FIRE-- HER POWER'S GONE WILD, IT'S CONSUMING HER! SHE CAN'T BREAK THE PSYCHIC CIRCUIT, STOP THE LIGHTNING! >



< IF I CAN REACH HER, GET HER OUT OF HERE, MAYBE THAT'LL DO IT FOR HER. >

< ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH COULD GET ME INCINERATED. >



< MARIKO'S KIMONO ISN'T MUCH PROTECTION-- BUT IT'S ALL I HAVE. >



< GOT HER! >

< AND MY MOMENTUM'S CARRYING US TOWARDS THE WINDOW. >



< HOW CONVENIENT-- WE'RE OVER WATER. I WASN'T SURE. >

< NOW IF ONLY WE HIT BEFORE THAT ENTIRE MESS... >



BOOM!



YUKIO!

WHERE IS SHE?!



IF NOT FOR HER, I WOULD BE DEAD -- EH???



MERCIFUL GODDESS!



IT CANNOT BE. I WAS HALLUCINATING. WHAT I SAW COULD NOT EXIST.

SOME FIREWORKS--



-- ESPECIALLY THAT BIRD IMAGE. YOU DO THAT?

I WISH I HAD. THE X-MEN BELIEVED PHOENIX DESTROYED LONG AGO-- BUT CAN AN ENTITY SUCH AS SHE TRULY DIE?



DOES THIS MANIFESTATION MEAN SHE HAS SOMEHOW RESTORED HERSELF?!

I SUPPOSE, TO YOU, THIS WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER GOOD TIME?

THE BEST!



I ENVY YOU YOUR MADNESS, YUKIO. IT IS A LUXURY DENIED ME EVER SINCE MY POWERS FIRST APPEARED. MY SAFETY, AND THAT OF THOSE AROUND ME, REQUIRES AN INNER SERENITY-- AN ABSOLUTE HARMONY WITH THE WORLD, WITH LIFE ITSELF-- I HAVE LATELY LOST.



IS THAT WHY THINGS WENT CRAZY IN THE WAREHOUSE?

I... HOPE SO.

FOR THE DEATH OF MY SOUL IS INFINITELY PREFERABLE TO THE ALTERNATIVE.



<I LIVE!>



< THE WIND-WITCH AND THE WILD ONE DID THEIR WORST... >

< ... YET THROUGH SOME MIRACLE, I SURVIVED! >

< BUT WHAT OF VIPER AND NABATONE-SAN?! THE BLAST LAID WASTE TO THE ENTIRE DOCKYARD! >



< HAH! WHATEVER THE OLD MAN'S FATE... >

< ... VIPER'S FABLED LUCK STILL HOLDS! >

UHHHHNNNNNN



< RUN, WOMEN -- HIDE AS BEST YOU CAN -- FOR MY DEATHMARK IS UPON YOU! WHEN I HAVE FINISHED WITH MY HALF-SISTER...

... IT WILL BE YOUR TURN!



WHAT WAS THAT?! I THOUGHT I HEARD LAUGHTER!

HAVE I LOST MY WITS AS WELL, TO BELIEVE THE WINDS THEMSELVES MOCK ME, THAT THE VERY NIGHT AIR HAS TURNED EVIL?

WHERE ARE WE GOING, YUKIO? WE MUST WARN THE OTHERS... OF WHAT WE SAW...

IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT. WE'RE NEITHER OF US IN ANY SHAPE TO TRAVEL, OR FIGHT.

WE NEED A PLACE TO REST.



I HATE HOSPITALS, SEEN TOO MUCH OF 'EM.

THE OTHERS ARE CRITICAL. IF THEY SURVIVE THE NIGHT, THEY'LL PULL THROUGH. THE DOCS SAY IT'S A BIG "IF."

I CAN'T WAIT. MY BODY STARTED HEALIN' ITSELF THE INSTANT I SWALLOWED VIPER'S POISON. I'M SICK AS A DOG, BUT I'M ON MY FEET.

THANKS TO MARIKO, WE'VE GOT THE INTENSIVE CARE WARD TO OURSELVES...
... PLUS AN ACE TEAM OF SECRET SERVICE AGENTS FOR PROTECTION.

THEY'LL LOOK AFTER YOU AN' THE X-MEN WHILE I'M GONE.
I WILL NOT PERMIT THIS, LOGAN! YOU ARE TOO ILL, IT IS SUICIDE!
IF THE SAMURAI ISN'T STOPPED, HE'LL TRY AGAIN. MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE MIGHT BE HURT. YOU WANT THAT, DARLIN'?

BESIDES, M'IKO, MY LOVE, HOW'RE YOU GONNA STOP ME?
AH'M COMIN' WITH YOU, WOLVERINE.

THE HECK YOU ARE.
AH'M AN X-MAN, MISTER, XAVIER SAID SO!
WORK WITH HIM, THEN, KIDDO, NOT ME.
HOW'M AH S'POSED T' PROVE MAHSELF IF NONE O' YOU'LL GIVE ME THE CHANCE, huh?!

WHAT ABOUT THE POISON?
AH'M HALF-ALIEN, REMEMBER? IT WASN'T SO EFFECTIVE ON ME.
CONSIDERIN' OUR CONDITION, AN' WHAT'S AT STAKE, YOU NEED A BACK-UP.
MAKES SENSE -- MUCH AS I WISH IT DIDN'T.

BUT YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD, YOUNGSTER, MY ORDERS--

-- EV'RY, FLAMIN' STEP O' THE WAY!

NEXT ISSUE: "TAG... YOU'RE DEAD!" FOR 60¢, BETTER FUN CAN'T BE HAD!

...BULLPEN BULLETINS...

IF YOU KNEW SUSHI...

The Bullpen is as quiet as Davey Jones' Locker. Why? Because the whole crew is out to lunch. Before anyone says that we've all been "out to lunch" for years, allow me to point out that this is a special occasion - Morrie Kuramoto, paste-up and production ace, has led virtually everyone in the Bullpen off to his favorite Japanese restaurant in search of sushi and sashimi. Sashimi, if you don't know, is raw fish - a popular item in Japan, I hear. Honorable Morrie-san swears by it, and, hey, the stuff *must* be good for you judging from Morrie, who's the picture of health. I couldn't go along to the sushi party because, being Editor in Chief, I've got to stay here and finish this Bullpen Bulletins' column. It's late!

Besides... raw fish? Bieh!

A FEW MORE WORDS...

... about Morrie. Around the Bullpen Morrie is known affectionately as "the Ancient One" - probably because he was old when Confucius was a baby. It is said that he taught Cuneiform lettering to Hammurabi, and pasted up the Dead Sea Scrolls. I'm not sure that those claims are true, but I do know that Morrie taught me most of what I know about comics production work, and that he's one of the best, most respected behind-the-scenes people in comics.

But raw fish??

TEN CON MEN... AND A CON LADY!

Ever been to a Comics Convention? In case

you've never borne witness to one of these extravaganzas, they're gatherings of fans, comics dealers and comics professionals organized by comics clubs or independent promoters. They usually take place over a weekend, usually in a hotel or convention center. They feature special presentations, panel discussions, and workshops with professional artists, writers and editors, and they offer fans a chance to meet their favorite creators, meet and talk to each other, and buy (or sell) comics and other goodies at the ever-present dealer's tables.

There are bunches of conventions coming up throughout the spring and summer (Watch the classified ads in the comics for info - most major conventions advertise in our comics as well as in local media) and Marvel Comics folks are going to be attending almost all of them! We'll be meeting you, talking to you, *listening to you...* and looking at your samples.

Especially at the biggest, snazziest convention of them all - this year's SAN DIEGO COMICS CONVENTION! Not one, not three, but *all* of the MARVEL COMICS Editors will be there - Larry Hama, Denny O'Neil, Louise Jones, Tom DeFalco, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Budiansky, Carl Potts and Al Milgrom. I'll be there too, of course, and so will Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC Illustrated and the EPIC Comics Line. Yes, the entire Marvel Comics Creative Brain Trust will be there - *all* of the people in charge of *all* of Marvel's publications. This is your chance to get at 'em, to show your samples, ask your questions, or

just to shoot the breeze. The San Diego Con is at the San Diego Convention and Performing Arts Center, at 2nd and "C" Streets in downtown San Diego, August 4th through August 7th. For more information write to: Gene Henderson at San Diego Comic Convention, 150 S. James, Orange, California, 92669.

Now there's only one thing worrying me. While all the editors are off in San Diego, back here, the assistant editors will be in charge and all on their own! And while the cat's away...

Uh-oh.

AND NOW, EVEN BIGGER NEWS!

It's as simple as this - there's a terrific *new look* coming to the covers of Marvel publications! Take a look below!

The new look will be debuting on the comics which go on sale in July. Watch for it!

AND ON THAT NOTE...

So long for now. I'm going to order myself a ham and Swiss on rye from the deli down on the corner. Raw fish? Baloney!

Stay well,



Jim Shooter



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THE HYPER BOOK

ALPHA FLIGHT #1 - For years you've been seeing hints of Alpha Flight in the pages of the X-MEN and other Marvel mags. And for years you've been demanding that the Canadian Mutants get their own mag. Well, here it is at last, and to get things started with a bang, writer-penciler-inker JOHN BYRNE's given you a lovingly-crafted 48-page introduction to their new monthly series. This is the big one.

STAR WARS #74 - Hey, Lucasfilm, what with all the furor over the upcoming *Return of the Jedi* movie, Super Special and limited series, we hope you haven't forgotten the non-sensational job JO DUFFY, RON FRENZ and TOM PALMER are doing each and every month on the "regular" STAR WARS title. It's star-hopping adventure at its best - and we don't mean maybe! Pick up an issue today, and see for yourselves.

DOCTOR STRANGE #86 - Reliably spectacular ROGER STERN and TERRY AUSTIN are still respectively writing and inking this series regularly, and their classic talents have been recently joined by the fantastic penciling of DAN (you thought he could only ink) GREEN. This is a book you must check out, especially this month, when Doc and the Scarlet Witch join their powers misjudged against the vampiric threat of... *Dracula!* It's a pulse-stopper.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- THE THING #2
- DAREDEVIL #197
- KA-ZAR #27
- NEW MUTANTS #8
- RED SONJA #1 - (Limited Series)
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #284
- THOR #334
- INDIANA JONES #8
- U.S. 1 #4
- DOCTOR STRANGE #80
- INCREDIBLE HULK #285
- AVENGERS #234
- CONAN THE BARBARIAN #148
- MARVEL TALES #154 - Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #16 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, "Duel With Daredevil"
- X-MEN # 172
- ROM #45
- POWER MAN/IRON FIST #96
- G.I. JOE #14
- FANTASTIC FOUR #257
- MARVEL TEAM-UP #132 - Spider-Man and Mr. Fantastic!
- IRON MAN #173
- PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #81

- DEFENDERS #122
- STAR WARS #74
- THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #8
- ALPHA FLIGHT #1
- WHAT IF #48 - Featuring Dr. Strange.

MARVEL ANNUALS

- INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #12

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #90
- MARVEL AGE #5
- BLIP #5
- MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #25: ROCK & RULE - The Official comic magazine version of New Line Studios' sensational new full-length animated rock & roll fantasy film, adapted by BILL MANTLO, with art taken directly from the film itself! Plus, articles and photos about the making of the film.

EPIC COMICS

- COYOTE #2

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS

- #7: KILLRAVEN - by DON MACGREGOR and P. CRAIG RUSSELL.

Hi, guys! I'm Kitty, Kitty Pryde - the kid with the dragon! Officially I'm *Aerial*... not a bad name, huh? Better than Spritel! Louise, Danny, Chris, Paul, Bob and everybody have been getting lots of mail about reinstating the X-Men Letters Column, but they've all been so busy they haven't had time, so when I offered to lend a hand the guys were really grateful! Now let's see some mail...



Dearest Weezie,

If you don't put the letters page back in the X-MEN and stop the flood of complaints I'm receiving, I'll go mad and become a killer vampire pervert, and murder you by draining all the blood from your body through an artery in your finely turned, delicate little ankle. Heh. Heh. Heh, heh, heh. Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh.

Sincerely, and with love and bloodlust,
BIG JIM SHOOTER

P.S. Soaking you ankles in garlic won't save you. I'm a Polish killer vampire pervert.

I told you we were getting lots of mail. Now you know and I know that Jim's really a teddy bear who has your best interest at heart, even if he is as tall as Colossus and almost as cute, but it's sensible not to take chances, right? I mean, Louise might actually take to wearing garlic soaked ankles...! Yuck!

Dear Near-Omnipotents,

I must confess that X-MEN #166 was good - no, outstanding. Bravo! I think that this issue's theme - that we are all composed of both good and evil - should continue to be emphasized. The X-Men's characters and their internal conflicts say to the reader that a hero is not a hero simply because he is all-good or all-powerful, nor is a villain a villain because he is all evil. The difference between them, essentially, comes down to the choices they make. The difference is values. Not life versus death, but self-convenience versus self-sacrifice. This is true for all of us, though, usually of course, not in quite so dramatic a way as it is for the

X-Men. Thank you for granting us this insight into ourselves.

T.N. Fisher
(No Address Given)

I dunno about themes, T.N., it's my life - our lives. I figure I'm a nice kid but I know I'm not perfect; I sometimes do things that, afterwards, I think are pretty lousy. Doesn't everyone? But when I realize what I've done, I resolve not to do it again. If possible, I try to make amends. That's the difference, I figure, between good and bad. A good person learns from his mistakes. He grows and matures. A bad person simply doesn't care.

Dear X-People,

Once you're all done with the sleazoid business, I want to see Binary give Rogue a good punch in the nose.

Stephanie Dea
12114 Little Creek Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

Me, tool

Dear Editor,

Language is a fascinating thing. It is a tool we use to shape and give substance to the limitless possibilities our minds are capable of summoning up. A miraculous tool when you consider how well it does its job. A tragic tool when you realize how much is left "unsaid."

Some would say that "telepathy" could be the only *true* communication - of simple harmonies, complex rhythms, and endlessly twisting motifs.

And so we have the Acanti. Should they ever acquire a copy of X-MEN #166, I imagine they will be pleased that, with the pitiful limitations of humans, you have captured a part of their language's essence and successfully conveyed it to your audience. Perhaps you will be fortunate enough to be included in some small way in their song - a note, maybe a chord of thanks which is yours alone. I like to think so.

Lawrence M. Schoen, Director
Center for Psycholinguistic Research
Box 4686
North Hollywood, CA 91607

Before we left, to return to Earth, the ProphetSinger reestablished his mindlink with Ororo and then, through her, with all of us, to sing us farewell. It wasn't music, or speech - there were no words - just sensations, emotions. For that time, the Acanti became a part of me - or us all. Every note, every concept, touched a resonant chord. We were all bound together and then, gently, let go. It broke Ororo's heart to sever her link with the ProphetSinger. After that, I understood why. I'm glad it wasn't me who melded with him because I don't think I'd've had Ororo's courage. I'd have stayed with them forever.

X-Men:

Charles Xavier hosting a Brood egg?!?
Hoooh ha-whaaaaahahahall
Howcum nobody else's laughing? It's just a joke, isn't it, about Professor X hosting a

Brood egg? It is a joke, isn't it? (Isn't it?)

Michelle Head
6585 S. Ogden St.
Littleton, CO 80121

Rilight.

Dear Louise, Chris, Paul, Bob and everyone:

"Live Free or Die" was without doubt the best issue thus far of the "Brood" saga and I must say the new Smith/Wiacek look and texture of the X-Men is to be admired.

The plight of the Acanti and Ororo's role in it was haunting. Binary's reflections ("All I've done is... fight, kill, survive. There's no joy in me anymore.") served to prove her maturity as a character. A lesser woman (or man) might not have been able to see past her sudden spectrum of new talents to the hidden core beneath the surface.

It is impossible not to notice Wolverine's evolution from X-MEN #94 to the present and I approve of the change. He hasn't lost his fire or passion, yet he's gained insight and emotion, setting him apart from other comic-book "psychos," who are maniacs, pure and simple, with no personal essence beyond that anger. I suspect the original Wolverine would have made his decision much more quickly and would have attempted to kill the X-Men - for the wrong reasons! That Logan would have been thinking only of his personal safety, not of his friends' need for a dignified death.

Finally, I can't wait until the X-Men meet the New Mutants.

Suzy Peterson
8305 Axson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32221

If you ask me, Suzy, the last thing the X-men need are a bunch'a little kids running around the mansion, getting underfoot. But since when did Professor X ever pay any attention to my opinion...? You know, Suzy, Wolvie may not seem to you to be a crazy man anymore but when he gets a certain look in his eye, watch out! He can be the scariest! And if he was worse than this when he first joined the X-men, I'm sure glad I didn't know him then.

Dear X-People,

Please let the little dragon in X-MEN #166 stay with Kitty and return with her to Earth.

Richard Blair
(No Address Given)

You see that, Lockheed, you little snookums, you're a hit! Lockheed says thank you very much, Richard, to you and all the lots of others who asked about him. (Well, actually, what he said was, BrrrAWRR-urp?!? -mwaaaahhh," but that was what he meant. Honest. Dragons don't lie.)

This just about finishes my first lettercol - it was neat! If you liked it, lemme know! I won't be here next time, though. I'm gonna con one of the other X-Men - Ororo, Kurt, Peter, Wolvie, or maybe even Professor X, himself, into doing it! Louise and company will never notice! But 'til I'm back, take care.