

MARVEL



X-MEN

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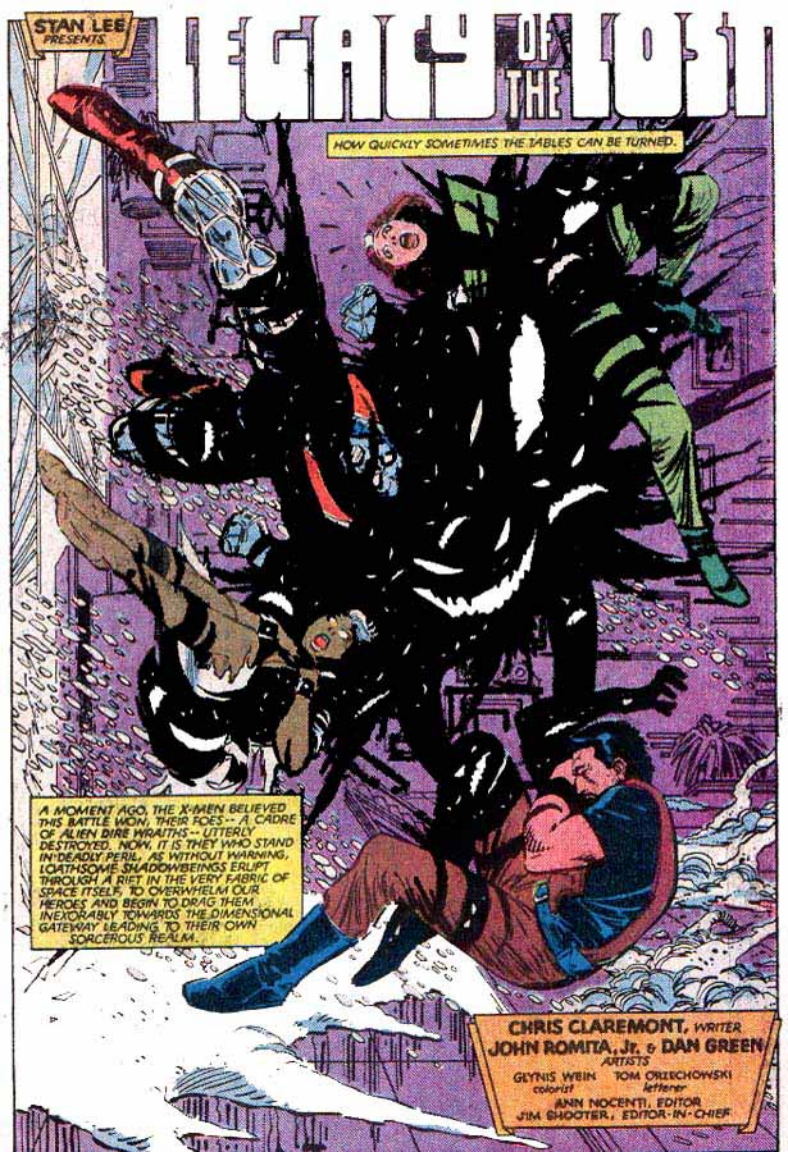
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

LEGACY OF THE LOU

HOW QUICKLY SOMETIMES THE TABLES CAN BE TURNED.



A MOMENT AGO, THE X-MEN BELIEVED THIS BATTLE WOULD BE THEIR EASY WIN-- A CADRE OF ALIEN BIRD WRAITHS-- LITTERLY DESTROYED. NOW, IT IS THEY WHO STAND IN DEADLY PERIL, AS WITHOUT WARNING, LOATHSOME SHADOWBEINGS ERIPT THROUGH A RIFT IN THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE ITSELF, TO OVERWHELM OUR HEROES AND BEGIN TO DRAG THEM INEXORABLY TOWARDS THE DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY LEADING TO THEIR OWN SORCEROUS REALM.

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OUR WEAPONS -- OUR FISTS -- HAVE NO EFFECT ON THESE CREATURES.



THEY DON'T SEEM TO POSSESS PHYSICAL SUBSTANCE.

STORM, USE YOUR BLASTER ON MY ARTIFICIAL LEG. IF I CAN GET FREE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP US ALL!

THE SHADOWBEINGS SEEM TO SENSE MY INTENT, THEY ARE TRYING TO STOP ME!



CAREFUL, WOMAN! YOU ALMOST HIT ME!

IF I DO -- WHEN I DO -- REST ASSURED, FORGE, IT SHALL NOT BE BY ACCIDENT.

SHE MEANS THAT.



PAL, WHEN YOU MAKE YOURSELF AN ENEMY, YOU DON'T FOOL AROUND.

CONSIDERING WHAT I DID TO HER, THOUGH, IT'S PROBABLY NO LESS THAN WHAT I DESERVE.

WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, STORM'S GIVEN YOU A CHANCE. DON'T BLOW IT!

I GET THE SAME EMANATIONS OFF THESE SHADOWBEINGS AS I DID OFF THE WRAITHS -- THEY MUST BE MYSTICAL IN NATURE. THEY MERGE THEIR SUBSTANCE WITH OUR FLESH, TURNING US INTO CREATURES LIKE THEMSELVES.



THEY DIDN'T AFFECT ME AS MUCH AS THE OTHERS BECAUSE OF MY METAL PROSTHESIS. DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE BEFORE THE PROCESS BECOMES IRREVERSIBLE -- I MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!

NAZE!

ANSWER ME, OLD MAN, THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR IDIOT GAMES, WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU, SHAMAN?! I NEED YOU! NAZE?!?

HOWEVER, UPSTAIRS, AT THE VERY APEX OF FORGE'S PENTHOUSE COMPLEX, IN THE CENTER OF A SACRED RING...



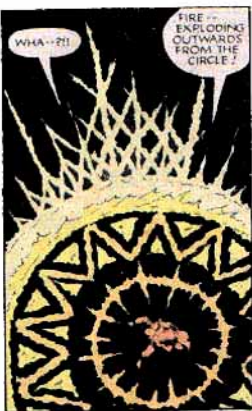
HEAR ME, GREAT ONE!

I COME IN HUMBLE SUPPLICATION -- AID MY PEOPLE IN THE HOUR OF OUR GREATEST PERIL

IN EXCHANGE, WE OFFER THIS WORLD AND ALL ON IT!



-- TO DO WITH AS YOU WILL.



WHA--??!

FIRE --
EXPLODING
OUTWARDS
FROM THE
CIRCLE!

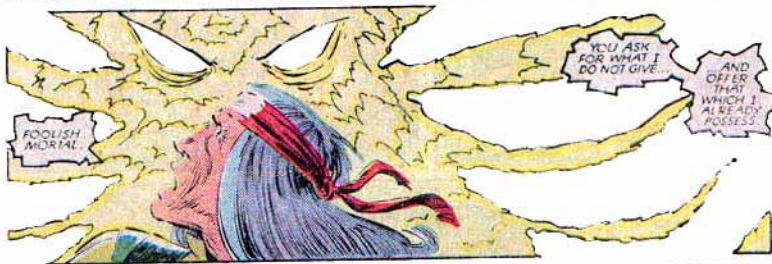


THE
PATTERNS
BEING
FORMED --
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
THEIR
LIKE --
NO!



MY WARDS -- THEY
AREN'T PROTECTING
ME -- BUT THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE -- IT
CANNOT BE --

--MERCY,
GREAT ONE,
I BEG YOU,
HAVE MERCY! --



FOOLISH
MORTAL

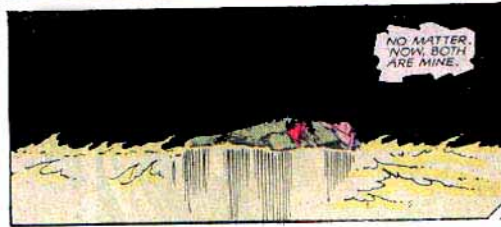
YOU ASK
FOR WHAT I
DO NOT GIVE...

AND
OFFER
THAT
WHICH I
ALREADY
POSSESS



YOUR FORM IS WELL KNOWN TO ME,
NALE, SHAMAN OF THE CHEYENNE --
WE HAVE MET, AND FOUGHT BEFORE --

--YET YOUR SOUL, I SEE,
IS CHANGED. IT IS ALIEN.



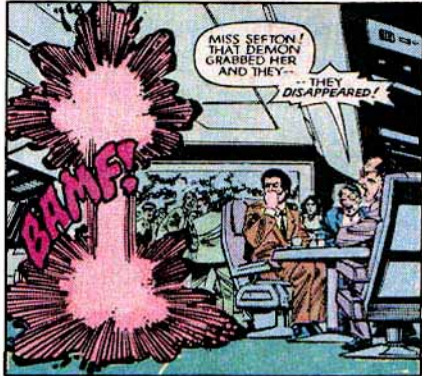
NO MATTER
NOW, BOTH
ARE MINE.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT--

ONE OF THE WORLD'S BUSIEST-- COMPLETELY PARALYZED THIS MIDSUMMER NIGHT BY A FREAK BULLET-- THE LIKE OF WHICH NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN.

* AND NO WONDER. ITS CAUSE IS THE "CASSET OF ANCIENT WINTERS," COURTESY OF RECENT EVENTS IN THOR -- ANNI (BRRR!)

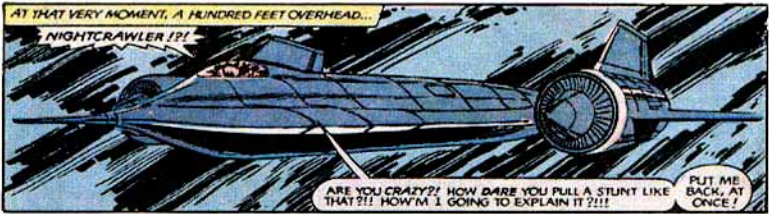
THERE, IN THE FIRST-CLASS CABIN IN A STRANDED TWA 747...



MISS SEFTON! THAT DEMON GRABBED HER AND THEY-- THEY DISAPPEARED!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A HUNDRED FEET OVERHEAD...

NIGHTCRAWLER!?!



ARE YOU CRAZY?! HOW DARE YOU PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT?!?! HOW'M I GOING TO EXPLAIN IT?!?!

PUT ME BACK, AT ONCE!

CAN'T DO THAT, LIEBCHEN. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS IF THERE'D BEEN ANY OTHER WAY.



YOU SOUND SO GRIM, KURT-- WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

YOU'RE A WITCH, AMANDA.

THE X-MEN HAVE DESPERATE NEED OF YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS.



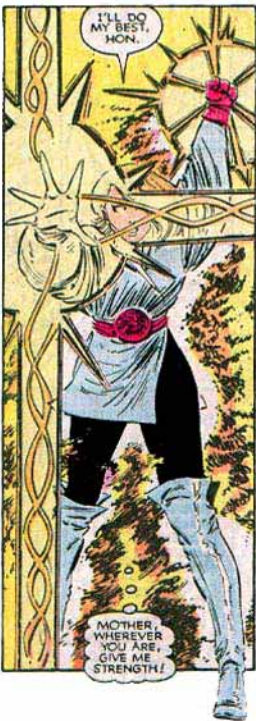
I'LL EXPLAIN EN ROUTE.

AFTER PROGRAMMING THE X-MEN'S SPECIALLY MODIFIED SR-71 BLACKBIRD AIRCRAFT TO HOVER SAFELY ABOVE EAGLE PLAZA...

...THE GERMAN-BORN MUTANT TELESPORTS HIS LADY-LOVE INTO FORGE'S PENTHOUSE.

THE SIGHT THAT GREETES THEM ISN'T PRETTY.

ZUMA TUEFUL--!! SAVE THEM, AMANDA, IF YOU CAN!

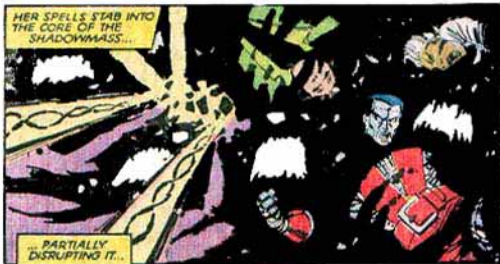


I'LL DO MY BEST, HON.

MOTHER, WHEREVER YOU ARE, GIVE ME STRENGTH!

HER SPELLS STAB INTO THE CORE OF THE SHADOWMASS...

...PARTIALLY DISRUPTING IT...



...AND ALLOWING SOME OF THE X-MEN TO STRUGGLE FREE.

NOT EVEN THE... BROOD WERE SO FOUL AND... EVIL!

I AM WEAK-- BUT ORORO AND... ROGUE LOOK FAR WORSE. I MUST SEE TO THEM!





PETER, GET AWAY BEFORE--

HOLD ME TIGHT, MY DEAR FRIEND, I NEED YOU SO. HOLD ME CLOSE--

-- THE BETTER I MAY CONSUME YOU, BODY AND SOUL!

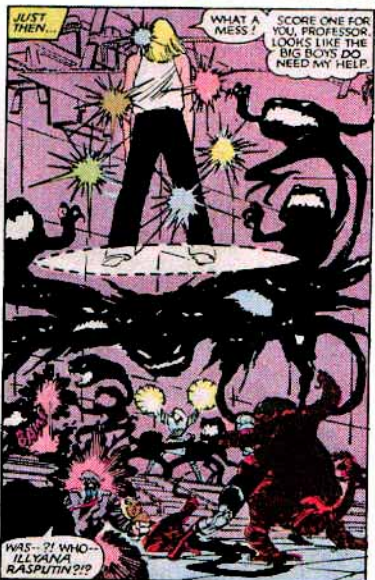


BOSHZE MOH! THAT BARBED TONGUE CAN PENETRATE MY ARMORED FLESH! IF ROGIE STABS IT INTO MY BRAIN, SHE WILL STEAL MY THOUGHTS, MY MEMORIES, MY FEATURES-- MY VERY LIFE! BUT HOW CAN I SAVE MYSELF--

-- WITHOUT MAIMING OR KILLING HER?! THOUGH POSSESSED, SHE IS STILL MY COMRADE. SHE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HER ACTIONS!



SHOULD I DO NOTHING, THEN, AND DIE?! THAT IS MADNESS!



TROUBLE IS, MY MAGICS AREN'T TOO TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE. THE ONLY REAL WEAPON I'VE GOT IS MY SOULSWORD!

ON CUE, THE ELDRITCH BLADE APPEARS, LIKE ITS YOUNG MISTRESS, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE.

IT IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF ILLYANA'S POWER AS A SORCERESS. FEW SPELLS OR MYSTIC CREATURES CAN STAND AGAINST IT...

SPACEBA,
MY
SISTER.

ANYTIME,
BIG BRO?

NO HIDING IT
NOW, HE KNOWS
WHAT I REALLY
AM. I WONDER
HOW HE FEELS?
I LOVE HIM SO, I
COULDN'T BEAR IT
IF HE TURNED
AWAY FROM ME.

...AS THE SHADOWBEINGS SOON DISCOVER.

MY GLEAMING ARMOR'S
APPEARED AGAIN, IT
POPS UP WHENEVER I
SUMMON THE SWORD...

...AND THERE'S
MORE OF IT EACH
TIME. WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
THE SUIT'S
COMPLETE?!

ROGUE!
SHE'S
HUMAN
ONCE
MORE!

BUT SHE'S
SO PALE--
IS SHE EVEN
BREATHING?!

DO NOT
TOUCH HER,
PETER!

PUT GLOVES
ON FIRST, OR
THE SLIGHTEST
TOUCH WILL
TRANSFER
YOUR POWERS
TO HER!

I... FORGOT,
ORORO. I'LL
BE CAREFUL.

REINFORCEMENTS,
ORORO?

PROFESSOR
XAVIER MUST
HAVE SENT HER
AMANDA. CAN
YOU SEAL THE
SHADOWGATE?!

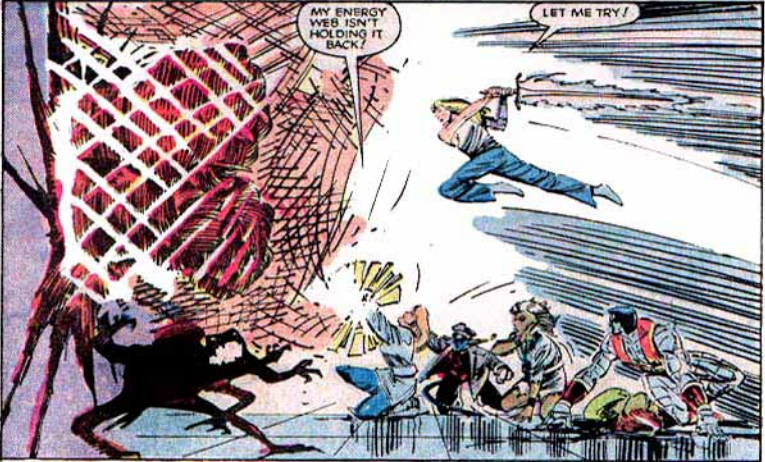
NO PROBLEM--!

SO MUCH FOR THAT
IDEA!



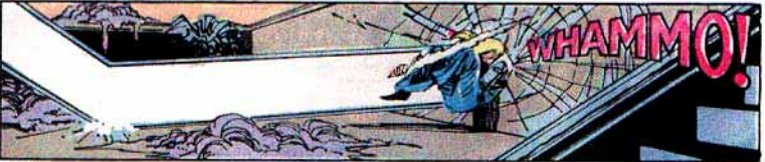
BAD GUYS JUST
LIPPED THE ANTE,
ORORO--

--IN A
BIG
WAY!



MY ENERGY
WEB ISN'T
HOLDING IT
BACK!

LET ME TRY!



WHAMMO!

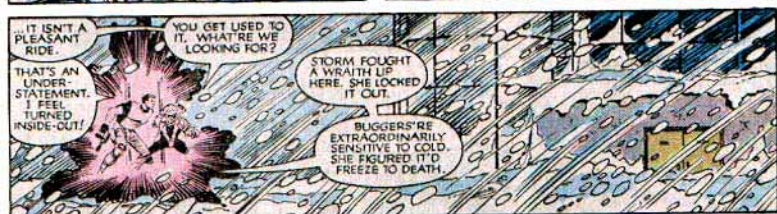


GET OUT OF HERE, ALL OF YOU,
WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE!
I'LL COVER YOU!

GO, KURT,
I MEAN IT!

I CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER--
AS HARD AND FAST AS I CAST
MY SPELLS, SOME OTHER
FORCE COUNTERS 'EM!

YOU MEAN--
ANOTHER
WITCH?!



TCHAAA--
BE A WHILE
BEFORE
THIS PLACE
IS LIVEABLE.

AT LEAST
YOU'RE
AROUND
TO FIX IT,
MEIN HERR.

SOMETHING
BOTHERING YOU,
MISTER?

CONSIDER ME... SQUEAMISH
KILLING DOES NOT COME AS
NATURALLY TO ME AS TO...
OTHERS-- EXCUSE ME,
PLEASE, I MUST SEE
TO MY FRIENDS

REST, HON,
LET MY
MAGICKS EASE
YOUR PAIN.

PROFESSOR XAVIER
IS MONITORING YOUR SITUATION
OVER THE BLACKBIRD'S COMLINK-- OH,
ORORO, IS IT TRUE WHAT WE'VE
HEARD, THAT YOU'VE LOST
YOUR POWERS?!

YES.

I'M SO SORRY!

I, TOO. BUT WHAT HAPPENED
NEXT?

I'M A TELEPORTER, KIND
OF LIKE NIGHTCRAWLER-- THAT'S
MY MUTANT POWER-- BUT I'M
ALSO A SORCESS, THE PROF
HOPED MY SOULSWORD WOULD
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
I'M GLAD IT DID.

A SORCESS-- I KNEW
YOU HAD CHANGED IN LIMBO,
ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA, WHEN
YOU WERE BELASCOS'S CAPTIVE,
BUT I NEVER REALIZED
QUITE HOW MUCH.

I WAS
MORE
THAN THE
DEMON-
LORD'S
CAPTIVE,
PETER.

I BECAME HIS
APPRENTICE.

WHATEVER
YOU WERE,
YOU ARE-- YOU
WILL FOREVER
REMAIN-- MY
SISTER!

AND, LITTLE SNOWFLAKE, A
BRAVER, TRUER, LOVELIER
GIRL DOES NOT EXIST ON THIS
PLANET-- OR ANY OTHER!

NAZÉ?!?



I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.

WHAT DID YOU DO, OLD MAN, TRY TO SUMMON THE GREAT SPIRIT HIMSELF ?!!

WHY DID I EVER BUILD THIS BLOODY SANCTUM IN THE FIRST PLACE-- DIDN'T I LEARN MY LESSON IN 'NAM ?? NO MORE MAGIC-- EVER ?



HOW IS HE ?

ALIVE-- BARELY. I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL.

I WISH HIM WELL. WE SHALL BE GONE WHEN YOU RETURN.

NO ! I WON'T LET THINGS END LIKE THIS BETWEEN US !



AND HOW, PRAY TELL, O MASTER OF LIES, WILL YOU STOP ME ?

ORORO, PLEASE !



DO NOT FOLLOW, FORGE, DO NOT TRY TO FIND US. SUGGEST TO YOUR FEDERAL ASSOCIATES THAT THEY DO THE SAME.

CHEER UP, WARRIOR, OUR STORY IS FAR FROM ENDED. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN.

AND THEN ?



YOU MAY WELL WISH WE HAD NOT.



73°12' WEST
LONGITUDE BY
28° 7' NORTH
LATITUDE--

--ROUGHLY THE HEART OF THE INFAMOUS BERMLUDA
TRIANGLE--



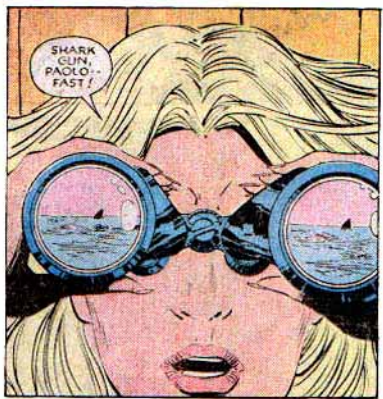
MAN IN THE
WATER--OFF
THE PORT
QUARTER!

MAN IN THE
WATER!!



WHERE
AWAY
PAOLO?!

COUPLE'A
HINNERT
YARDS, LEE--
SEE 'IM?!



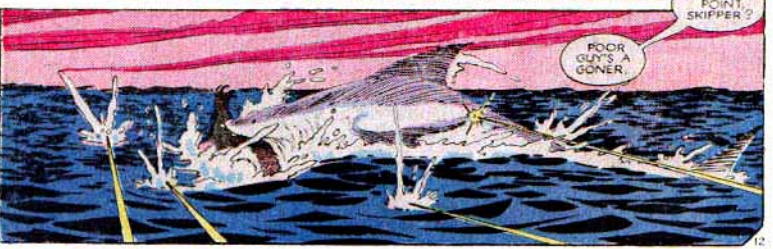
SHARK
GUN,
PAOLO--
FAST!



**KBLAM
KBLAM**

CAN ARCADIA
GET TO HIM?!

NOT WITH THE NETS OUT,
WE'RE STUCK WHERE
WE ARE



POOR
GUYS A
GONER.

WHAT'S A
POINT,
SKIPPER?



HE'S MOVING-- HE'S STILL ALIVE!!
COVER ME, PAOLO!

ALEYTT'S FORRESTER, ARE YOU CRAZY?!

NO TIME TO UNSHIP THE ZODIAC, I'LL HAVE TO SWIM FOR HIM!



WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S GOT A PASSAL OF SAINTS SITTING ON HIS SHOULDERS.

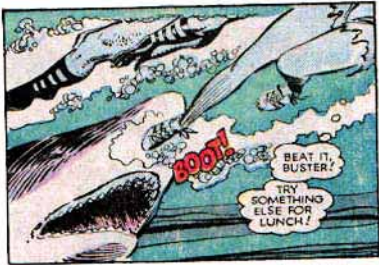
A GREAT WHITE THAT SIZE SHOULD'VE BITTEN HIM IN HALF!



NO BOAT, NO WRECKAGE--

--NO COAST GUARD ALERTS-- HOW'D THIS GUY GET WAY OUT HERE ANYWAY?!

PAOLO'S SHOOTING-- THE SHARK!



BOOT!

BEAT IT, BUSTER!

TRY SOMETHING ELSE FOR LUNCH!



YOU DUMB BROAD, PULLIN' A STUPID STUNT LIKE THAT!

SUPPOSE YOU'D MISSED, THAT FISH'D TAKEN OFF YOUR BLAME LEG !!

DON'T YELL, PAOLO-- AND DON'T CALL ME "BROAD."



GET THE MEDICAL KIT!

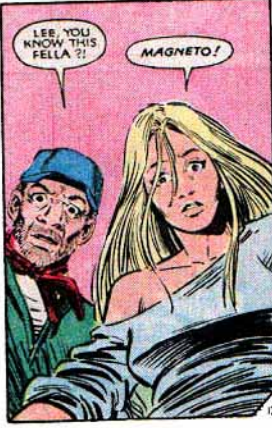
HEY, THIS CRAZY SUIT'S MADE O' CHAIN MAIL!

SAVED YOUR LIFE, MISTER



THEN, I AM NOT HIS BEST!

AND, I SEE, YOU'RE, AS WELL, CAPTAIN FORRESTER.



LEE, YOU KNOW THIS FELLA ?!

MAGNETO!



73°35' WEST LONGITUDE BY 41°20' NORTH LATITUDE--

--OR, ROUGHLY 1500 MILES DUE NORTH OF THE TRAWLER, ASCADIA--

JOIN ME FOR A SWIM, KURT?



I'LL PASS, DANKE, ORORO.
WATER AND FLUR DON'T MIX.

PITY.



THE NIGHT IS TURNING CHILL.

HERE'S YOUR TOWEL.



BLESS YOU! I AM STILL NOT USED TO FEELING COLD.

THE PROFESSOR SAYS YOUR POWERS ARE COMPLETELY GONE.



AS IF THEY HAD NEVER BEEN, THE GENETIC POTENTIAL EXISTS, MY CHILDREN--OR THEIR-- MAY SOMEDAY COMMAND THE WEATHER, AS I DID.

BUT NOT I.



THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, MY DARLING ELF, OR EVEN OF MINE. I AM A GROWN WOMAN. I HAVE SURVIVED...

I WILL SURVIVE.



ORORO, I ASKED THE PROFESSOR TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE X-MEN.

SO?



I AM NO LONGER A MUTANT. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY PLACE FOR ME HERE.

PERHAPS NOT FOR ANY OF US.

DO IT AS A FAVOR TO ME, THEN. I NEED YOU BY MY SIDE THIS LAST TIME MORE THAN EVER!

THEY STILL AT IT, RACHEL?

UH-HUH. KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, ILLYANA. THEY'LL HEAR.

THE X-MEN AND THE PROF HAVE BEEN IN HIS STUDY FOR HOURS!

THEY CALLED WOLVERINE IN JAPAN BUT HE REFUSED TO COME HOME. SOMETHING'S UP-- KITTY'S OVER THERE TO-- BUT HE WON'T TELL WHAT AND HE INSISTED HE'D HANDLE IT HIMSELF.

SEE THE KITTY/WOLVERINE MINI-SERIES, ON SALE NOW--A.

SOUNDS REAL GRIM, I HOPE KITTY'S OKAY.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

THEY'RE ARGUING. ROBERTO, SO IT CAN'T BE GOOD.

OURS IS A PRIVATE DISCUSSION, CHILDREN.

PROFESSOR XAVIER!

THE HOUR IS LONG PAST YOUR BEDTIME PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS. I'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IN THE MORNING. GOOD NIGHT.

YOU COMING, RACHEL? WHEN HE USES THAT TONE OF VOICE, HE MEANS BUSINESS.

I KNOW. GO AHEAD, ILLYANA. I'LL BE OKAY.

I'M A TELEPATH, PROFESSOR, JUST LIKE YOU. I COULDN'T SHIELD THREE SETS OF THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PSI-SCANS...

BUT HIDING MYSELF ALONE IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.

I KNOW YOU'LL BE ANGRY WITH ME. I DON'T CARE, I HAVE TO KNOW.

IT WASN'T A SUPER-VILLAIN THAT NAMED STORM, HERR PROFESSOR, BUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!

IT WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT, NIGHTCRAWLER. NOTHING MORE.

WHEN SENATOR ROBERT KELLY'S MUTANT AFFAIRS CONTROL ACT WAS INTRODUCED, NO ONE TOOK IT SERIOUSLY, YET TODAY IT IS GIVEN A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF BEING ENACTED INTO LAW!

WE LIVE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY-- IN AN AGE WHERE MEN HAVE WALKED ON THE MOON AND, SOME OF US, JOURNEYED TO THE STARS! WE HAVE SPLIT THE ATOM, THE SECRETS OF SPACE AND TIME ARE OURS FOR THE ASKING!



YET WHEN YOU FOUND ME-- NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO-- I WAS BEING HUNTED BY A MOB--

--WHO WANTED TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH MY HEART BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED I WAS A DEMON!

I HOPED JOINING THE X-MEN WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THAT THINGS WOULD GET BETTER FOR MUTANTKIND. INSTEAD, THEY'VE GOTTEN WORSE

WE ARE STILL HATED, STILL HOUNDED, BY THE VERY PEOPLE WE HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT.



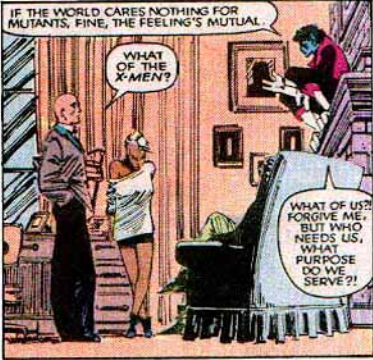
SO I FIND MYSELF ASKING WHY? WHAT'S THE POINT?!

WOULD YOU RATHER FOLLOW MAGNETO'S WAY-- BY CONQUERING THE WORLD AND ENSLAVING HUMANITY?!



IN TRUTH, I'D RATHER NOT BE BOTHERED AT ALL.

IF THE WORLD CARES NOTHING FOR MUTANTS, FINE, THE FEELING'S MUTUAL.



WHAT OF THE X-MEN?

WHAT OF US? FORGIVE ME, BUT WHO NEEDS US, WHAT PURPOSE DO WE SERVE?!

THE SCHOOL, YES, THAT FULFILLS A DESPERATE NEED-- YOUNG MUTANTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE USE OF THEIR POWERS-- BUT AS FOR THE REST, LET THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR HANDLE THAT BURDEN.

THEY'RE POPULAR, THEY'RE ACCEPTED, LEAVE US, THEN, TO LIVE IN PEACE.



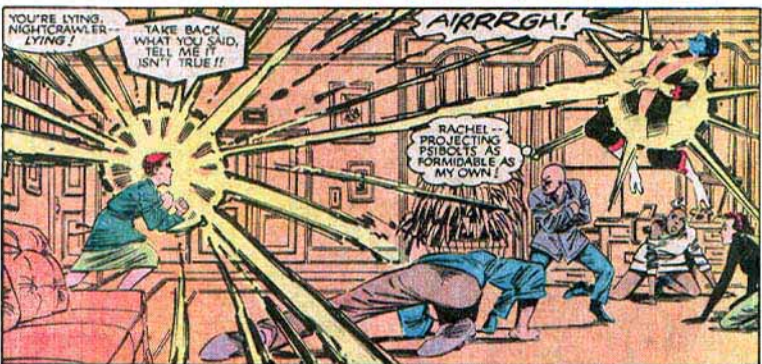
DO YOU REALLY THINK RUNNING AWAY IS THE ANSWER?!

AT LEAST, I'LL BE LIVING FOR MYSELF-- AND THE WOMAN I LOVE-- INSTEAD OF SOME AMORPHOUS DREAM! DOES THAT SOUND SELFISH? WELL, I FEEL I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT-- WE ALL HAVE! LOOK AT US, PROFESSOR--



--OF THE X-MEN YOU GATHERED: BANSHEE AND STORM, MAIMED-- THUNDERBIRD, KILLED!

JEAN GREY, KILLED!! WHERE WILL IT END?!



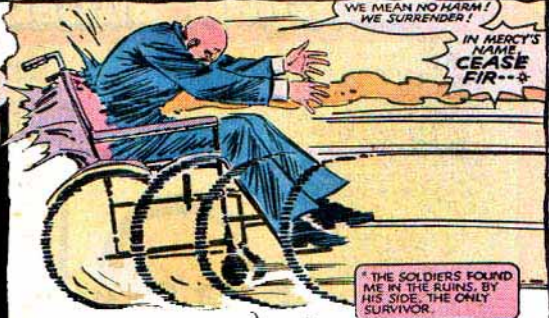


GET DOWNSTAIRS, RACHEL. YOU'LL BE SAFE IN THE DANGER ROOM.



NOT WITHOUT YOU, PROFESSOR!

I CANNOT, I MUST TRY TO STOP THIS SLAUGHTER!



WE MEAN NO HARM! WE SURRENDER!

IN MERCY'S NAME CEASE FIR--

* THE SOLDIERS FOUND ME IN THE RUINS, BY HIS SIDE, THE ONLY SURVIVOR.

* THEY USED DRUGS TO NEUTRALIZE MY PSI-TALENT. THE TORTURE CAME LATER, IN PRISON. EVENTUALLY, I WAS SENT TO THE SOUTH BRONX CONTAINMENT FACILITY-- A CONCENTRATION CAMP!



* IN MY PAST, THE ANTI-MUTANT PERSECUTION BEGAN WITH THE ASSASSINATION-- BY MUTANTS-- OF SENATOR ROBERT KELLY.



* I EXCHANGED THE ADULT KATE PRYDE'S PSYCHE WITH THAT OF HER YOUNGER SELF. SHE SAVED KELLY-- BUT YOU KNOW THAT, YOU GUYS HELPED HER.



* AN ABBREVIATED RECAP OF THE EVENTS OF X-MEN #'S 141 & 142 -- ANN.

* THE REST OF US-- IN THE FUTURE-- WEREN'T SO LUCKY.

* WHEN KATE'S MIND RETURNED TO HER BODY, ONLY I WAS LEFT TO WELCOME HER.*

A FUTURE WHEREIN KATYA AND I WERE MARRIED? DOES THAT MEAN THERE IS HOPE FOR US STILL? IS THAT WHAT I WANT?

WITH RESPECT, RACHEL, YOU'VE PROVED MY CASE. WHAT DO I OWE A WORLD THAT IS WILLING-- EAGER-- TO SLAUGHTER ME AND EVERYONE I LOVE SIMPLY BECAUSE WE EXIST?!

SHE DIDN'T MENTION ME-- AH GUESS AH WASN'T PART OF THE TEAM. DID AH SURVIVE, OR WAS AH DUMPED INTO SOME UNMARKED, BACK-ALLEY GRAVE?

ALL THAT HORROR-- AN' IT WAS MYSTIQUE'S FAULT, MY FOSTER MOM WAS THE MUTANT WHO MURDERED KELLY.



ALL MY HOPES ...

ALL MY DREAMS--

THANK HEAVEN, IN RACHEL'S FUTURE, I DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THEM TURNED TO ASHES.

FINALLY, THERE WAS JUST ME.

I FIGURED, WHAT THE HECK, NOTHING TO LOSE-- MAYBE I COULD TIMESLIP MYSELF BACK A DECADE OR TWO, ONLY PHYSICALLY INSTEAD OF PSYCHICALLY, LIKE I DID KATE, AND TRY TO PREVENT THAT FUTURE FROM COMING TO PASS.

I GOT WHEN I WANTED TO GO-- BUT NOT QUITE WHERE, 'CAUSE THIS ISN'T THE PAST I REMEMBER. MY ILLYANA SHOULD BE A KID, NOT A TEENAGER. MY STORM NEVER CUT HER HAIR OR LOST HER POWERS. MY MOM...

A LOT HERE IS DIFFERENT, BUT A LOT IS THE SAME. AND SOME... SOME OF IT IS WORSE.



THERE WERE THOSE AMONG US WHO WANTED ONLY VENGEANCE. THEY WANTED THE SCALES BALANCED IN FIRE AND BLOOD, LIFE FOR LIFE! BUT THE X-MEN STOOD FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY NEVER LOST HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT.

BECAUSE OF THEM, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM-- OF A WORLD WHERE NORMAL AND MUTANT COULD LIVE IN PEACE AND FELLOWSHIP, WHERE THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM-- WE'D ALL JUST BE HUMAN-- NEVER DIED.

IF YOU TURN AWAY FROM THAT DREAM, KURT, YOU'LL DO MORE DAMAGE THAN YOU KNOW. WE MAY BE DOOMED-- OURS MAY BE A LOST CAUSE-- BUT SOMETIMES THE WAY WE LIVE AND DIE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SIMPLE FACT OF IT.

GIVE UP NOW, AND ALL THOSE SACRIFICES-- IN MY WORLD AS MUCH AS YOURS-- WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!

WHAT IS THAT CLASSIC SAYING YOU ARE FOND OF QUOTING, KURT?

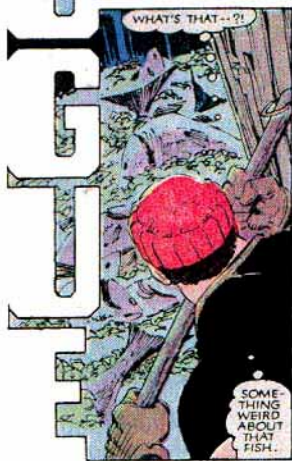
"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."

WANT IT OR NOT. LIKE IT OR NOT.

VERY WELL, PROFESSOR--

--FOR THE DREAM.





Next: Two Girls Out To Have Fun!