

MARVEL

THE UNCANNY

# X-MEN



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APPROVED  
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SINGAPORE



A COUNTRY THAT'S AN ISLAND-- TWO AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE LIVING ON 259 SQUARE MILES-- AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MALAY PENINSULA AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

ONE OF THE PREMIER HARBORS IN SOUTH ASIA, AND A FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE WORLD.

LOTS OF MONEY HERE.

COMBINED WITH ALL THE WONDROUS TOYS IT CAN BUY.

HOAN INTERNATIONAL BANK

NEWEST OF THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS THAT FILL THE DOWNTOWN SKYLINE IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HOAN INTERNATIONAL BANK.

NOT THE BIGGEST-- BUILDING OR BANK-- BY ANY MEANS, BUT THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY'S FASTEST RISING STAR.



A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH...

MINGLING CUTTING-EDGE 21st-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY WITH TRADITIONAL, OLD-WORLD COURTESY.

IT IS MOST KIND OF YOU TO SPEND TIME WITH US, MISS HOAN.

MY PLEASURE, Mrs. PEI.

A QUINTESSENTIALLY CIVILIZED ESTABLISHMENT...

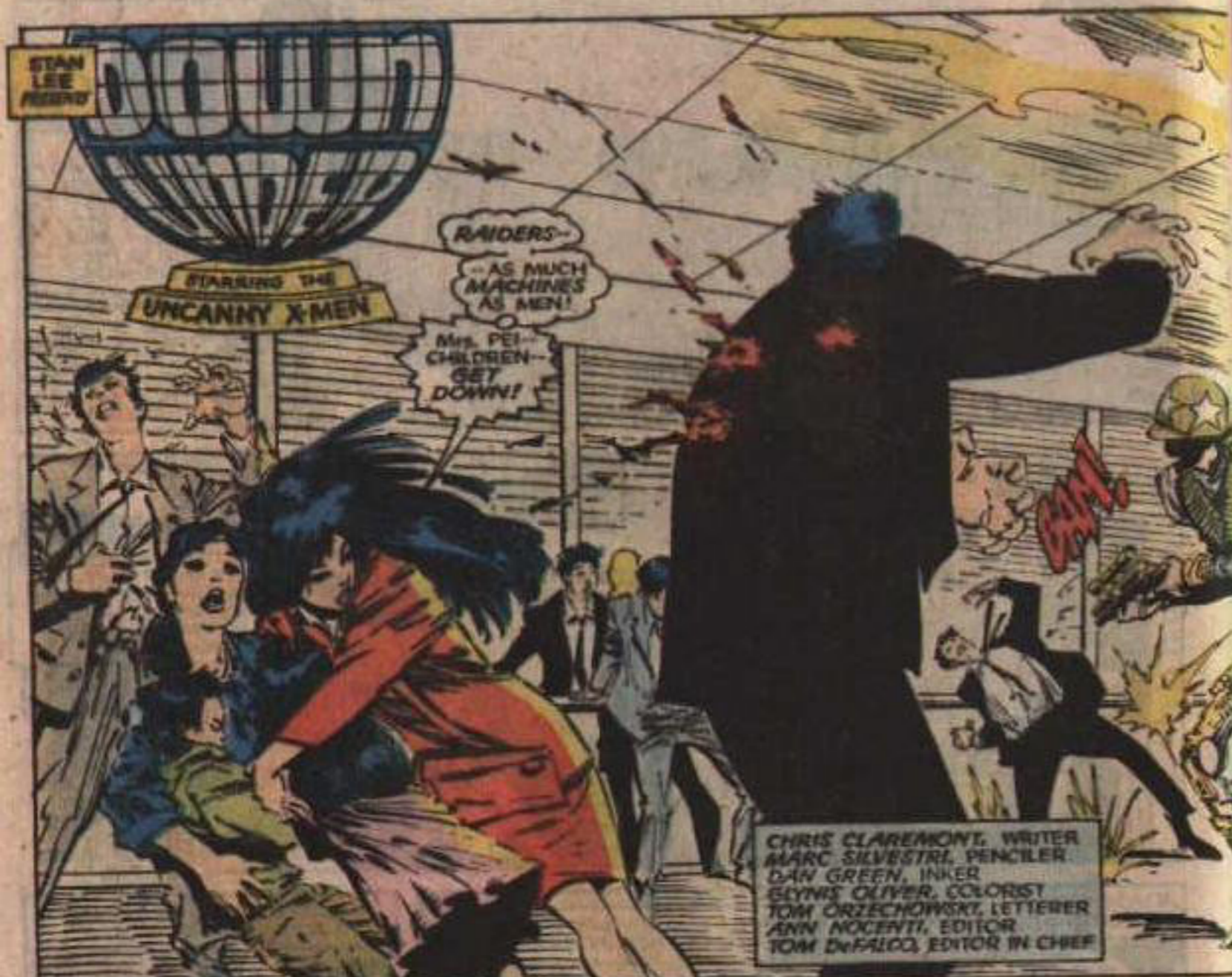


WHERE NOTHING BAD COULD EVER POSSIBLY HAPPEN...

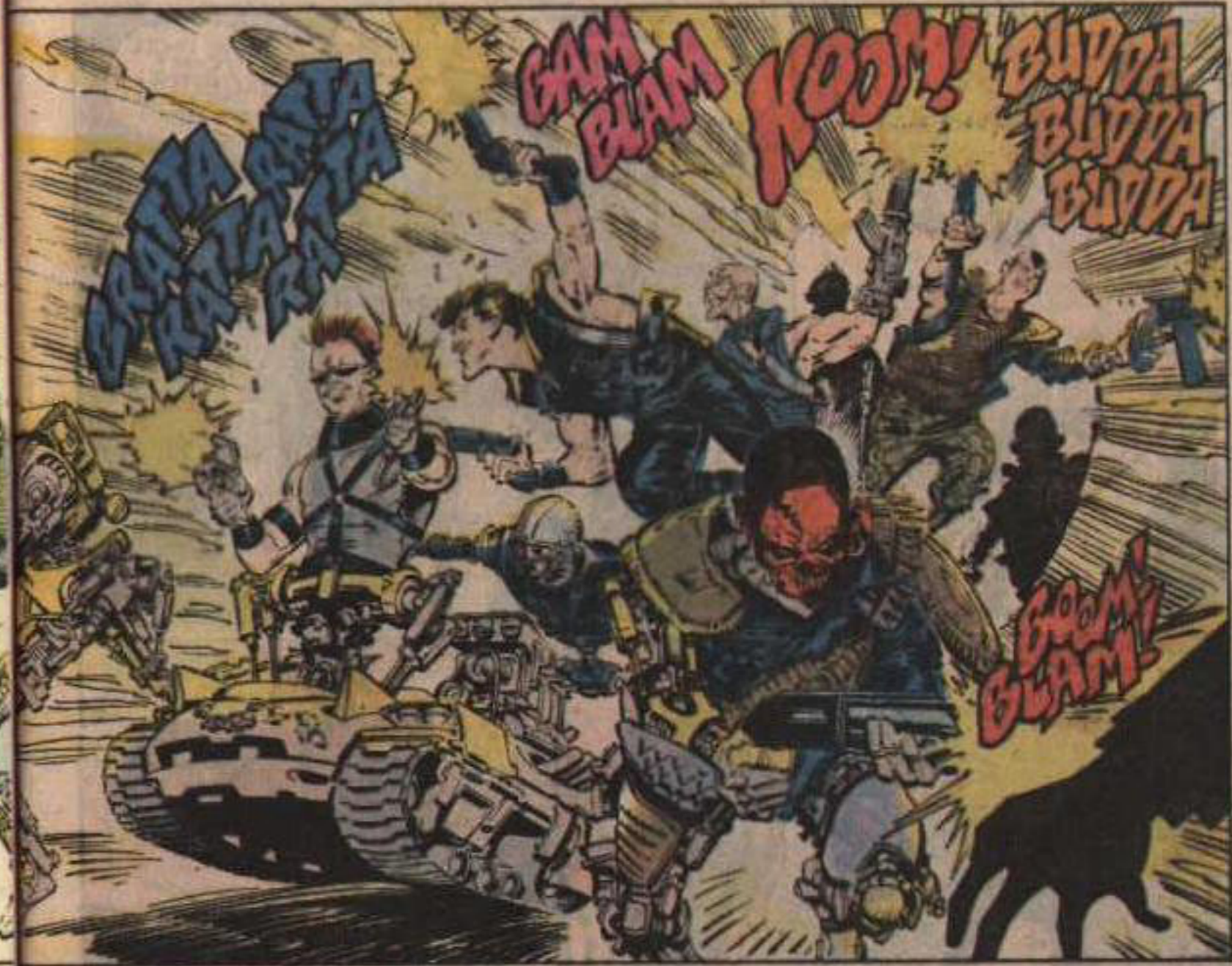
WHAT-???

FRESH!





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SHE SCREAMS  
HER THROAT  
RAW.

...HER CRIES MINGLING WITH  
THOSE OF HER RELATIVES...

...AS BONEBREAKER  
CUTS THEM DOWN.

THEN, IN A BLINK OF BLINDING LIGHT,  
FULL DAY IN SINGAPORE...

...GIVES  
WAY TO  
SUNSET...

ROUGHLY  
3500 MILES  
EASTWARD...

...IN  
AUSTRALIA.

A WILD,  
DESOLATE LAND...

...THIS HEART OF THE  
FIFTH AND MOST  
REMOTE OF EARTH'S  
CONTINENTS.

A PLACE THAT  
IN MANY WAYS...

...APPEARS AS THE  
WORLD DID, WHEN IT  
WAS YOUNG, RAW, AND  
UNTEMPERED BY  
EITHER ELEMENTS...

...OR  
MAN.

BARELY TWO CENTURIES HAVE  
PASSED SINCE THE EUROPEANS  
CAME, SAW, CONQUERED.

...WHO NOT SO MUCH  
LIVED ON THE LAND...

...BUT ACTUALLY  
SEEMED ONE  
WITH IT.

BEFORE, THIS  
WAS THE  
PROVINCE OF  
THE PEOPLE  
WE CALL  
ABORIGINES...

WAY TO GO,  
GATEWAY!

YOU  
BROUGHT  
US HOME,  
MATE, SAFE  
AN' SOUND,  
JUST LIKE  
ALWAYS!

HE MAKES NO REPLY...

THIS THIN, WIZENED MAN AS WEATHERED AS THE HILLS...

...AND SOME JOKE (BUT NEVER IN HIS PRESENCE)...

...PROBABLY AS OLD.

HE MERELY WHIRLS HIS BULL ROARER UNTIL THE LAST OF THE CYBORG RAIDERS HAS EMERGED THROUGH THE PORTAL...

...THEN STOPS.

AND WITH THE SILENCE--

--SUDDEN, EERIE, AS DISQUIETING AS IT IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING--

...HIS BONFIRE FACES TO EMBERS...

...THE "GATEWAY" PORTAL CLOSES.

MAN, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO HOW DARK IT GETS OUT HERE, BONEBREAKER, HOW QUICK.

NO BIG DEAL, SKULL.

I CAN LIGHT THINGS UP, BRIGHT AS DAY...

...WHENEVER I PLEASE.

OL' COOT LOOKS ANGRY, BOSS.

DON'T MIND.

HE CAN LOOK ANY WHICH WAY HE PLEAS...

...SO LONG AS HE DOES WHAT HE'S TOLD.

BUT MARK ME, GATEWAY--

--ANY FUNNY STUFF, AN' THE REAVERS'LL TRASH YOUR HOLY PLACE BEYOND ALL HOPE O' RECONSECRATION--

--AN' THEN, YOUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE.

THEY'LL WANDER THE DREAMLANDS, SLAVE TO OUTSIGN SPIRITS, TO THE END OF TIME AN' BEYOND!

AFTER EVERY CAPER,  
THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY.

TONIGHT'S  
NO DIFFERENT.

WITHIN  
AN HOUR  
OF THE  
REIVERS'  
RETURN...

EVERYBODY'S  
HAPPY.

THEY PLAY  
AS HARD AS  
THEY FIGHT.

WITH NO  
RULES.

SNAP!

...NOT FAR AWAY, UNDERGROUND...

FEW  
FEW  
FEW

AND  
LESS  
MERCY.

BUT WHILE THESE FESTIVITIES  
RAGE EVER MORE WILDLY  
OUT OF CONTROL...

WHERE  
AM I?!

WHAT IS THIS  
PLACE?!!

OUR HIDE-  
OUT, OF  
COURSE.

AND SINCE WE  
LOOTED YOUR  
TREASURE VAULT,  
LITTLE TIGER...

IT  
SEEMS  
ONLY  
POLITE  
TO SHOW  
YOU  
OURS.





BUT WHY BRING ME HERE?  
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME???

WHY--  
TO MAKE YOU ONE OF US!



NO!



PROTEST ALL YOU WISH...  
... IT WON'T MAKE A WHIT OF DIFFERENCE.

PLEASE DON'T PLEASE NO PLEASE

YOU SEE--WE HAVE ALL THIS BOOTY...

... BUT NOWHERE, NO WAY, TO SPEND IT.

WHAT WE REQUIRE IS A FINANCIAL WIZARD--

--THAT'S YOU--



--TO PUT IT TO GOOD AND PROFITABLE USE.

HOWEVER, WHILE YOUR BANKING SKILLS ARE AN ASSET...



--OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR CHARACTER...

ARE DISTINCT LIABILITIES.



INCONVENIENT ELEMENTS SUCH AS A SENSE OF MORALITY, SCRIPLES, DECENCY.

SO, I'M GOING TO ERASE THEM.



REPLACE THEM WITH AN ATTITUDE MORE IN KEEPING WITH YOUR NEW LIFE AS A REAVER.

INSTANT PSYCHIC RE-PROGRAMMING

LIKE BEING REBORN--

NO MUSS, NO FUSS, PRESTO-CHANGED--

-- A WHOLE NEW YOU!

ISN'T THAT NICE?

EVENTUALLY, NATURE TAKES ITS TOLL...



EVEN ON MEN WHO ARE MOSTLY MACHINE...



...BUT AS OBLIVION CLAIMS THE RANK-AND-FILE REEVERS...



BONEBREAKER IS SUMMONED OUTSIDE.



IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT--

--THAT'S WHY I CALLED--

--THE WEATHERSCAN FORECAST A QUIET, CLEAR NIGHT.

DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN'...

...ABOUT NO SAND-STORM!



A BIG ONE, TOO--

--COMIN' OUR WAY, FAST!

ON YOUR FEET, BUCKOS--

--BAD WIND'S RISEN!

I WANT THIS PLACE CLOSED UP TIGHT!

Nah! "GIRLS"!



Uh-huh?

Who's out?

QUIT BELLERIN', BONE-BREAKER, NOISE HURTS.

YOU DON'T GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR, CLOWN...

...AN' SECURE THE STORM SHUTTERS...

...YOU'LL BE DEAD!



BUT EVEN AS THE REEVERS BLEARILY GATHER THEIR WITS, AND SOME STUMBLE TO OBEY...

--SAND TEARING AT FLESH AND HARDWARE WITH EQUAL VICIOUSNESS...

SHORTING ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS...

...FOULING DRIVES AND JOINTS...

...THE STORM INFLECTING SUCH FIENDISH, ALL-AROUND MISERY...

...THE WIND IS ON THEM...

...THAT IT SEEMS ALMOST ALIVE.

IN A SENSE,  
IT IS—

—FOR, HIGH  
OVERHEAD...

BOARDS THE  
WOMAN WHO  
SUMMONED  
AND DIRECTS  
IT.

MY TEMPEST COVERS  
THE TOWN AND ITS  
ENVIRONS.

THE REAVERS  
SHOULD BE  
COMPLETELY  
IMMOBILIZED.

GOT THAT,  
STORM. WHAT'S  
NEXT?



SCAN  
THE TOWN  
WITH YOUR  
TELEPATHIC  
POWERS,  
PSYLOCKE.

WE NEED  
TO KNOW THE  
LOCATION AND  
CONDITION—

—OF  
EVERY  
LIVING  
SOUL.

DONE.

NOW,  
PSYLINK  
ME WITH  
NAVOK.



ALEX, THIS IS  
STORM, VIA  
PSYLOCKE.

THE REAVERS  
HAVE A  
PRISONER.

PSYLOCKE IS  
TRANSMITTING  
HER PSYCHIC  
FIX ON THE  
WOMAN'S  
LOCATION.

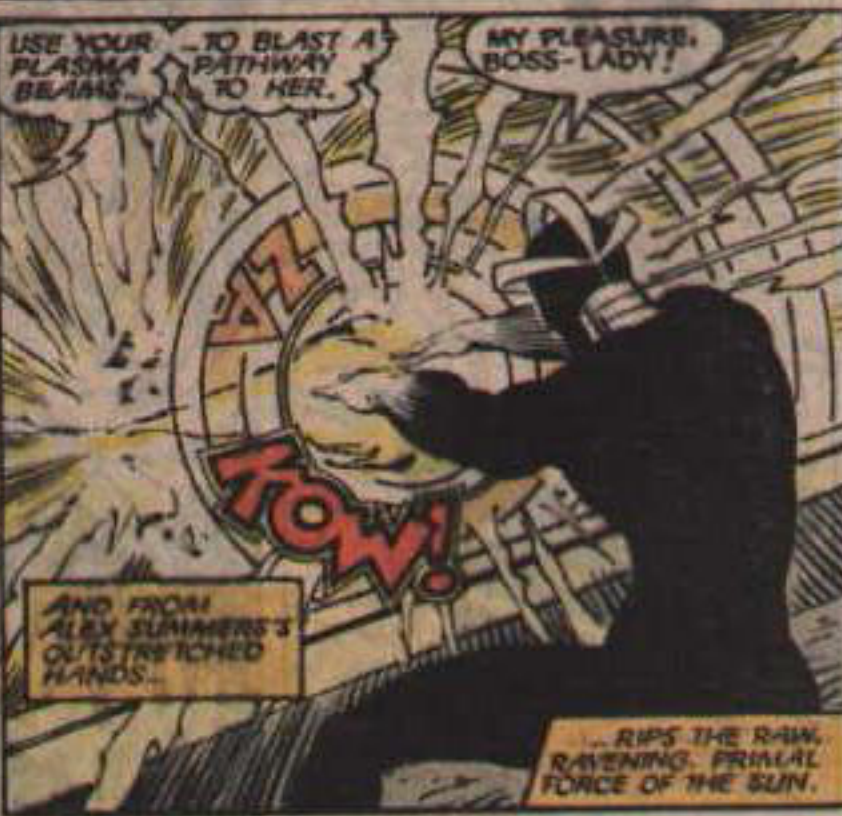
USE YOUR  
PLASMA  
BEAMS.

—TO BLAST A  
PATHWAY  
TO HER.

MY PLEASURE,  
BOSS-LADY!

AND FROM  
ALEX SUMMERS'S  
OUTSTRETCHED  
HANDS...

...RIPS THE RAW,  
RAVENING, PRIMAL  
FORCE OF THE SUN.





GOTTA GET MY BEARINGS--  
--WHERE'S THE BAD GUY--

--CRUMBS, HIS ARMS--  
--THEY'RE EXTENDIBLE--

GLOKSH!

FEEL HOW SHARP MY BIONIC FINGERS ARE, PRETTY GIRL?

I COULD HAVE TORN OUT YOUR THROAT RIGHT OFF.

BUT I'VE A BETTER IDEA.

"BIONIC"--

--THAT MEANS THE ARMS ARE ARTIFICIAL!

MAYBE A LASER SHOT--

--CAN CUT ME LOOSE!

ONE DOWN--

--GRIP TIGHTENING--

--CAN'T BREATHE--

--THROAT BEING CRUSHED--

--HAVE TO BLAST HIM AWAY--

--WITH MY SOLID LIGHT--

--PHOTON BLAST!

VERY IMPRESSIVE, PRETTY GIRL.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK--

BUT I'M TOUGHER.

AND ONCE THESE FIBER-OPTIC FILAMENTS--

--BURROW INTO YOUR BRAIN--

--YOU WON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME ANYMORE.

YOU'LL BE A REAVER, BODY AND SOUL!

DAZZLER, ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE GLOWING SO BRIGHT--

--I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!





MY BULLETS--

--BOUNCING OFF!

WHAT D'YOU EXPECT, CHUMP?

HE'S ARMOR...

AN' AH'M PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE!

FACE FACTS, LAMOS, Y'ALL ARE WAY OUTCLASSED!



ROGUE'S STRENGTH ISN'T WHAT MAKES HER A MUTANT.

WE'LL SEE HOW SMART YOU TALK, BIMBO...

AFTER I TEAR YOU &

LORDY-- NO!

IT'S THE POWER TO ABSORB OTHER PEOPLE'S PSYCHE AND ABILITIES. THE MOMENT BONEBREAKER GRABS HER-- HIS HAND ON HER BARE ARM-- SHE'S INSTANTLY FLOODED WITH THE TOTALITY OF HIS BEING.

THE PROCESS KNOCKS HIM OUT.

SHE ISN'T SO LUCKY.



SKULLFACE-- MOVING IN ON ROGUE...

...WHILE SHE'S TOO LOOPED TO CARE!

BACK OFF, BUSTER!



IT'S CLEAR THESE BOZOS ARE MOSTLY ROBOTS...

...BUT IT STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS WHEN WONDERING I BLAST 'EM LIKE THAT...

CAN'T HELP ME WONDERING IF IT HURTS.

HOW YOU DOIN', PARTNER?

THOUGHTS-- MEM'RIES-- FOULEST KIND--

...WHERE IS THAT SCUNGE-BARGE--

--BONE-BREAKER, AH WANT YOUR HEART!



STILL BREATHIN'-- SCAN-STATS MOSTLY GREEN--

--GONNA ASSUME YOU'LL RECOVER.

TIME TO SCAMPER, BONE.

WE'RE DONE HERE...

...HAVETA START AGAIN...

--SOMEPLACE ELSE.

ELSEWHERE...







WARRIOR... IN HIS??

SKULL, WHA-  
CHUDDIN'-  
MAN??!!?

THAT  
GIRL--  
--SHE  
ZAPPED  
YOU,  
MAN!

AN' HER  
BUDDIES'RE  
NAILIN' THE  
REAVERS.

WE STAY, WE'LL  
END UP THE SAME--

--ON THE  
JUNKYARD!

--OLD  
MAN--

--GATEWAY--

--PORTAL US  
AN' ACCOLITS  
ARE SQUARED!



"YOU'RE RELEASED  
FROM ALL DEBTS  
AN' VOWS!"

MY GRACIOUS,  
SKULLBUSTER--

--I TRUST  
YOU'RE NOT  
PLANNING...

--ON LEAVING  
WITHOUT ME.



Howlow!  
--WAS  
IRRESISTIBLE.

THOUGHT  
YOUR  
CHARM...

DID I  
SAY IT  
WASN'T?

BLONDIE AND I  
ARE FAR FROM  
FINISHED.



GONE.

OLD ABO MUST  
BE SOME KIND'A  
TELEPORTER.

NO WAY TO  
FOLLOW  
THEIR TRAIL...



-- BUT I CAN AT  
LEAST MAKE  
SURE...

-- THIS "GATE-  
WAY" DOESN'T  
OPEN AGAIN.



NO WOLVERINE!  
SHEATH  
YOUR  
CLAWS.

FOR ALL  
HIS  
ACTIONS...  
I SENSE  
THIS MAN  
IS NO MORE  
VILLAIN--OR  
REAPER--

-- THAN  
WE.

HOW COULD YOU BE SO SPINELESS... TO CAST AWAY YOUR BIRTHRIGHT FLESH... AND REPLACE IT WITH MACHINERY?!

Awshh... SHADDUP, YA WIMP!

Ms. HOAN'S THOUGHTS ARE CHAOS...

IMPOSSIBLE TO READ.

THEN LET HER BE. PSYLOCKE.

GIVE HER A CHANCE TO CALM DOWN.

FIGHT OVER, FELLAS? BAD GUYS ALL BEATEN?!

DARN!

THIS WAS THE EASY PART, DARLIN'. PROBLEM NOW IS, WHAT NEXT?

AIN'T A PRISON IN THE WORLD CAN HOLD THESE BEAUTIES...

... EVEN IF WE FIND A COURT TO CONVICT 'EM.

WHOLE WORLD THINKS WE'RE DEAD, REMEMBER?

BAD ENOUGH THREE OF 'EM GOT AWAY.

OUR SECRET'LL REALLY BE BLOWN ONCE THIS CROWD STARTS BLABBIN'.

DEAR WOLVERINE...

... HAVE FAITH--

-- THERE ARE ALWAYS ALTERNATIVES.

ROMA!

GREETINGS, STORM. YOU HAVE DONE WELL.

HEY, STORM, I HAVE THE IDEAL SOLUTION--

-- THE SAME PSYLOCKE PROPOSED FOR ME...

... WAY BACK WHEN I STUMBLED ON THE TEAM-- \*

-- KILL 'EM!

I GOT NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

I WAS BEING SARCASTIC, MISTER.

I'M NOT.

\*X-MEN #219--Apr.

IF EVER A BAND OF VILLAINS NEEDED TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, THIS IS IT.

OUR THANKS, CELESTIAL ONE, FOR SENDING US TO THIS PLACE.

IT'S NO MORE'N THESE CHUMPS DESERVE.

COMRADES, IS THIS WHAT WE FOUGHT-- AND SACRIFICED-- FOR?!

TO BECOME EXECUTIONERS?!

AS I SAID, MY FRIENDS...

...THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES.

BEHOLD THE SIEGE PERILOUS.

FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PORTAL TO MAN'S FATE.

THOSE WHO PASS THROUGH ITS PORTAL ARE JUDGED BY THE HIGHEST OF POWERS.

THE GOOD AND ILL OF THEIR LIVES ARE WEIGHED IN THE COSMIC BALANCE, AND THEY ARE BORN AGAIN--GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE, TO REDEEM THEMSELVES.

HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU PREFER WOLVERINE'S COURSE...

...THEIRS WILL BE THE TRUE DEATH, THEIR SPIRITS IRREPARABLY SHATTERED AND CAST INTO THE ULTIMATE VOID.

I CONFESS, ROMA, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING MAKES NO SENSE TO ME...

...BUT WHAT ARE WE AFTER HERE, PEOPLE--WHAT'S OUR TRUE PURPOSE--

--JUSTICE OR VENGEANCE?!

SOMETIMES, BOY, VENGEANCE IS JUSTICE.

THE REAVERS SHOWED NO MERCY, WHY SHOULD WE?

BECAUSE, PSYLOCKE, WE ARE NOT THEM.



WE HAVE ENDURED SO MUCH THESE PAST MONTHS, X-MEN-- IF WE HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM OUR EXPERIENCES, WE DO NOT DESERVE THE SECOND CHANCE WE NOW POSSESS.

REAVERS, I OFFER A CHOICE!

THE SIEGE PERILOUS...  
OR WOLVERINE.

THAT'S A CHOICE?

BONEBREAKER DUMPED US, SAVED HIS OWN HIDE, WE OWE HIM NOTHIN'!

I WANNA LIVE, LADY, ANY WAY I CAN.

I'LL TAKE THE SIEGE.

ALL THE REAVERS FOLLOW SUIT...

...AND ARE QUICKLY SENT ON THEIR WAY...

ROMA, I HAVE BEEN WONDERING SINCE WE FIRST MET...

ARE YOU...

I'M HONORED YOU THINK ME SO, ORORO, BUT IN MANY WAYS, I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU, AND CERTAINLY MUCH NEWER IN MY JOB. WE'RE BOTH LEARNING AS WE GO-- AS MUCH, UNFORTUNATELY, FROM OUR MISTAKES AS OUR SUCCESSSES.

THE X-MEN'S GUARDIAN ANGEL, THEN?

NO! WHAT I DO NOW BALANCES THE SCALES BETWEEN US, MY THANKS FOR YOUR AID AGAINST THE ADVERSARY, BUT ONCE DONE, WE MUST BE QUILTS.

...THE "GODDESS," THE WORLDSPIRIT I INVOKE, WHOM I BEHELD IN MY YOUTH?

I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE OMNIVERSE. I HAVE TOO MUCH TO CARE FOR TO CONCENTRATE-- HOWEVER MUCH I MIGHT DESIRE OTHERWISE-- ON ANY ONE CORNER OF REALITY.

TO DO SO WOULD PLACE UNENDURABLE STRAINS ON THE WHOLE CONTINUUM, AND IT HAS ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH.

**NO!**

I CAN'T PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME! I WON'T GO THROUGH THAT AWFUL DOORWAY!

MS. HOAN--??!

AFTER YOU, STANLEY.

NO, NO, OLLIE, YOU FIRST.

IT ISN'T FAIR, I'M NOT ONE OF THEM--

-- WHY MUST I BE PUNISHED?!



DON'T CRY, YOU'LL BE FINE, WE'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.

LADY HAS A POINT. SHE'S A VICTIM, SHE DOESN'T DESERVE TO SHARE THE REAVERS' FATE.



BUT HOW CAN WE RELEASE HER, KNOWING WHAT SHE DOES?

MAYBE, SOMETIMES, WE HAVE TO TRUST PEOPLE.

IF WE SACRIFICE AN INNOCENT-- NO MATTER HOW NOBLE OR NECESSARY, OUR RATIONALIZATION-- THEN WE'VE BECOME WHAT WE'VE SWORN TO FIGHT.



HAVOK IS RIGHT.

THE RISK MUST BE TAKEN.

ROMA, FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING...

... BUT IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP?



THE POWERS OF TIME AND SPACE ARE MINE TO COMMAND, WIND-RIDER.

I SHALL CAST HER HOME...



... TO THE PLACE AND MOMENT...

... FROM WHICH SHE WAS ABDUCTED.

"FROM HER LIPS, YOUR LEGEND WILL BEGIN TO GROW.



KNOW, X-MEN, THAT THE SIEGE PERILOUS IS FOR YOUR USE AS WELL. AS AVALON WAS FOR KING ARTHUR, SO MAY THE SIEGE BE FOR YOU.

A RELEASE FROM THE TRIALS AND TREVAILS OF THIS WORLD...

... GATEWAY TO A PARADISE WELL EARNED...

... IF SUCH IS YOUR DESIRE.

WHAT THEN OF THE DREAM-- OUR TEACHER, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM-- THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER...

...AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, GIVES OUR LIVES MEANING?

YOU CALL US "HEROES" AND "LEGENDS" TO ME, ROMA, THOSE ARE LABELS, WITH LITTLE MEANING. ANOTHER PERSON'S DESCRIPTION OF ME, NOT MY OWN.

I AM PIOTR NIKOLAEVITCH RASPUTIN-- I AM COLOSSUS-- I AM AN X-MAN. THAT IS IMPORTANT. THAT IS WHAT MATTERS.

AND WHILE I BREATHE, I WILL FIGHT WITH ALL MY HEART FOR XAVIER'S DREAM, AND THE BETTER WORLD IT REPRESENTS!

MY "LITTLE BROTHER" SPEAKS FOR US ALL, I THINK, ROMA.

SAVE YOUR SIEGE PERILOUS FOR ANOTHER TIME.

WE ARE FAR FROM DONE WITH OURS.

SO BE IT.

BUT YOUR "DEATH," X-MEN, WAS MORE THAN MERE HYPERBOLE.

IN A SENSE, YOU STAND APART FROM LIFE.

YOU CANNOT BE DETECTED BY ANY AGENCY OTHER THAN YOURSELVES-- LIVING OR MECHANICAL, MAGICKAL OR SCIENTIFIC-- NEITHER BEING, NOR POWER, NOR ENCHANTMENT.

YOU MAY BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE-- AND BY THE DEVICES OF THIS PLACE, YOUR NEW HOME -- BUT THAT IS ALL.

FINALLY, I LEAVE THE SIEGE IN YOUR CHARGE, TO BE USED AS YOU WILL.

ONLY THE MOST BRAVE AND MOST WORTHY HAVE BEEN GRANTED SUCH AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY--



--YOU ARE THE FIRST SO CHARGED, SO HONORED, IN OVER A THOUSAND YEARS.

YOU, MY CHILDREN, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY-- AND CAPABILITY-- TO LEAD YOUR WORLD...

...TO THE BRIGHTEST...

...OR DARKEST OF DESTINIES.

USE IT WELL.

FOR YOU HOLD THE FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS!



NEXT\*twas the night...