



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢ 25
IND. OCT

the X-MEN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



FEATURING: THE MENACE OF
EL TIGRE!

X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF TIME!

"E POWER AND THE PENDANT!"

IN THIS CORNER:
FOUR OF THE MUTANT X-MEN...
WHO, BEREFT OF THE TELEKINETIC
ABILITIES OF MARVEL GIRL,
MUST COMBAT A MIND-
STAGGERING MENACE!

AND, IN THIS CORNER:
THREE OF THE MOST TREACHEROUS
TERRORS EVER TO TROOP FROM
MARVEL'S TITANIC IMAGINATION!



Featuring:
THE MILDLY
INCOMPARABLE
MENACE
OF...
**EL
TIGRE!**

WHO
SAYS
THIS
ISN'T THE
MARVEL
AGE OF
CONCISE
CREDITS
?

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SPECIAL
ACADEMIC ASIDE TO ARTWORK
AFICIONADOS: WE OF THE BLUSHIN' BULL-
PEN REFER TO THE ABOVE TYPE OF ILLO AS A
SYMBOLIC SPLASH... INTENDED TO UNDER-
SCORE THE DEEP SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNIFI-
CANCE OF THE SUSPENSEFUL SAGA YOU'RE ABOUT
TO DEVOUR! (TRANSLATION: AFTER YOU READ THIS
INCREDIBLE ISH, PLEASE EXPLAIN THE PAGE TO US!) SO
ENJOY, MARVELITE...THE ACTION STARTS ON PAGE 2!!

FOLLOWING THEIR EPIC ENCOUNTER WITH THE LOCUST LAST ISH, THE X-MEN AND PROFESSOR XAVIER ARE ESCORTING A WISTFUL MARVEL GIRL BACK TO METRO COLLEGE...

GOSH, JEAN, I WISH YOUR PARENTS WOULD GIVE UP ON THIS IDEA OF YOUR GOING TO A REGULAR SCHOOL...

SO DO I, BOBBY!

BUT, SINCE I CAN'T TELL THEM I'M REALLY MARVEL GIRL, I... WAIT! LOOK!

SMOKE! IT'S COMING FROM THE OLD ABERCROMBIE ORPHANAGE!

STOP THE CAR, WARREN... AT ONCE!

LOOK... OVER THERE! THE ORPHANAGE... IT'S ON FIRE!

SOME OF THE CHILDREN MIGHT BE TRAPPED INSIDE! QUICKLY, ALL OF YOU...

WE READ YOU, PROFESSOR!

INTO YOUR UNIFORMS, EVERYBODY... ON THE DOUBLE!

SCANT SECONDS LATER...

THEY CAN NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH I ENVY THEM THE THRILL OF LEAPING INTO ACTION AS THE X-MEN... WHILE I MUST STAY BEHIND, LEST MY PRESENCE REVEAL THEIR IDENTITIES TO THE WORLD!

HEY... SEVERAL OF THE KIDS ARE TRAPPED ON THE ROOF!

AND THAT BUILDING MIGHT NOT LAST MUCH LONGER!

HURRY, JEAN! WE MAY NEED YOUR TELEKINETIC POWERS!

THEN, FORWARD, MY COWLED COMPEERS, WITH ALL CONCEIVABLE SPEED!

IT'S WONDERFUL TO DON MY COSTUME AGAIN... EVEN IF I CAN NEVER BE SURE THAT EACH TIME WON'T BE THE LAST!

I'M... SORRY, SCOTT! I MUST HAVE BEEN DAY-DREAMING!

THE WINGED MUTANT IS THE FIRST TO REACH HIS URGENT GOAL...

HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE ANGEL!

NONE OTHER, SON! DON'T WORRY, ANY OF YOU... I'LL FLY YOU TO SAFETY AS FAST AS I CAN!

BUT, THERE ARE HALF A DOZEN OF THEM... AND I CAN ONLY HANDLE TWO AT A TIME!

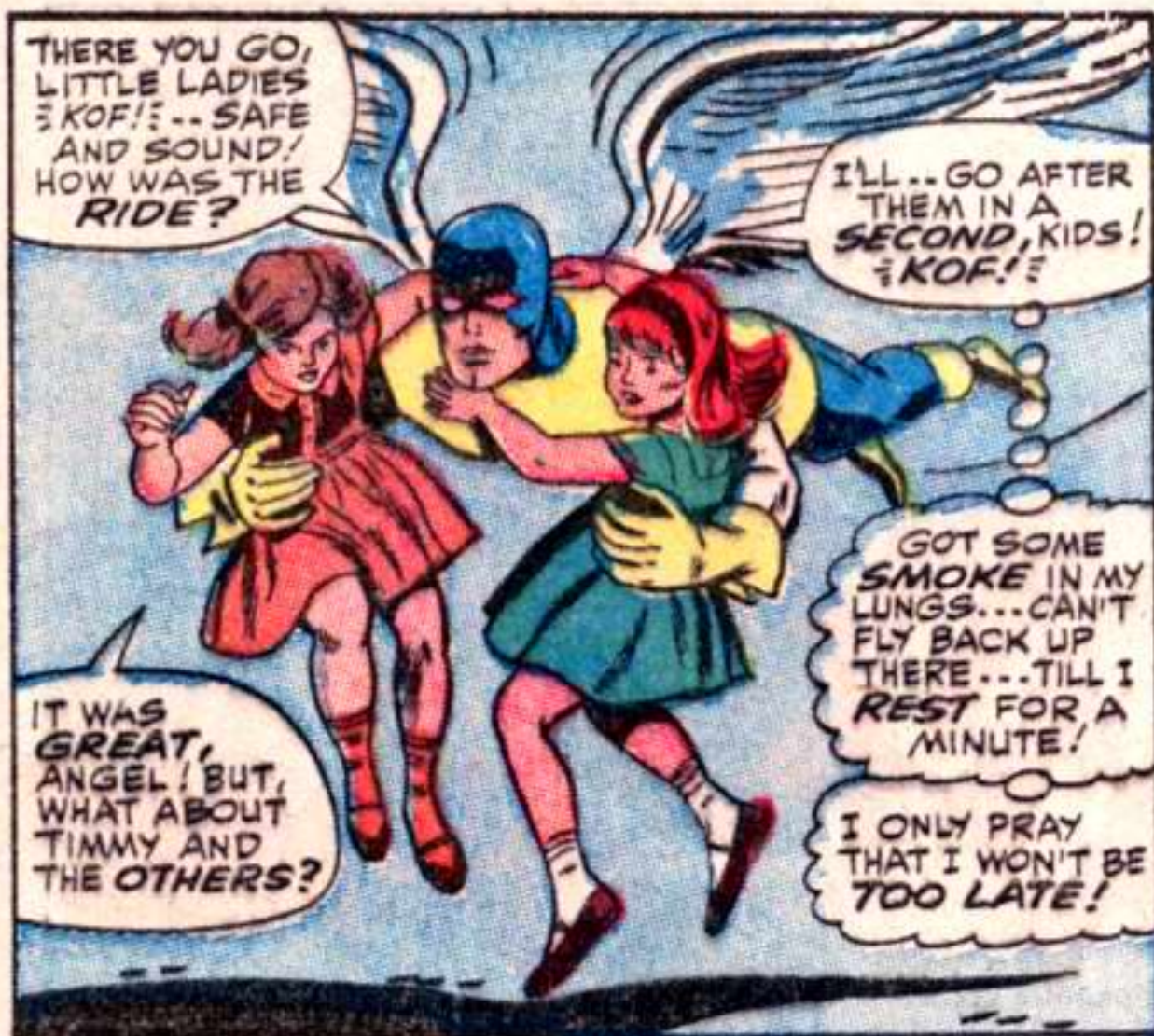
WOW! IMAGINE... WE'RE GETTIN' RESCUED BY THE X-MEN... IN PERSON!

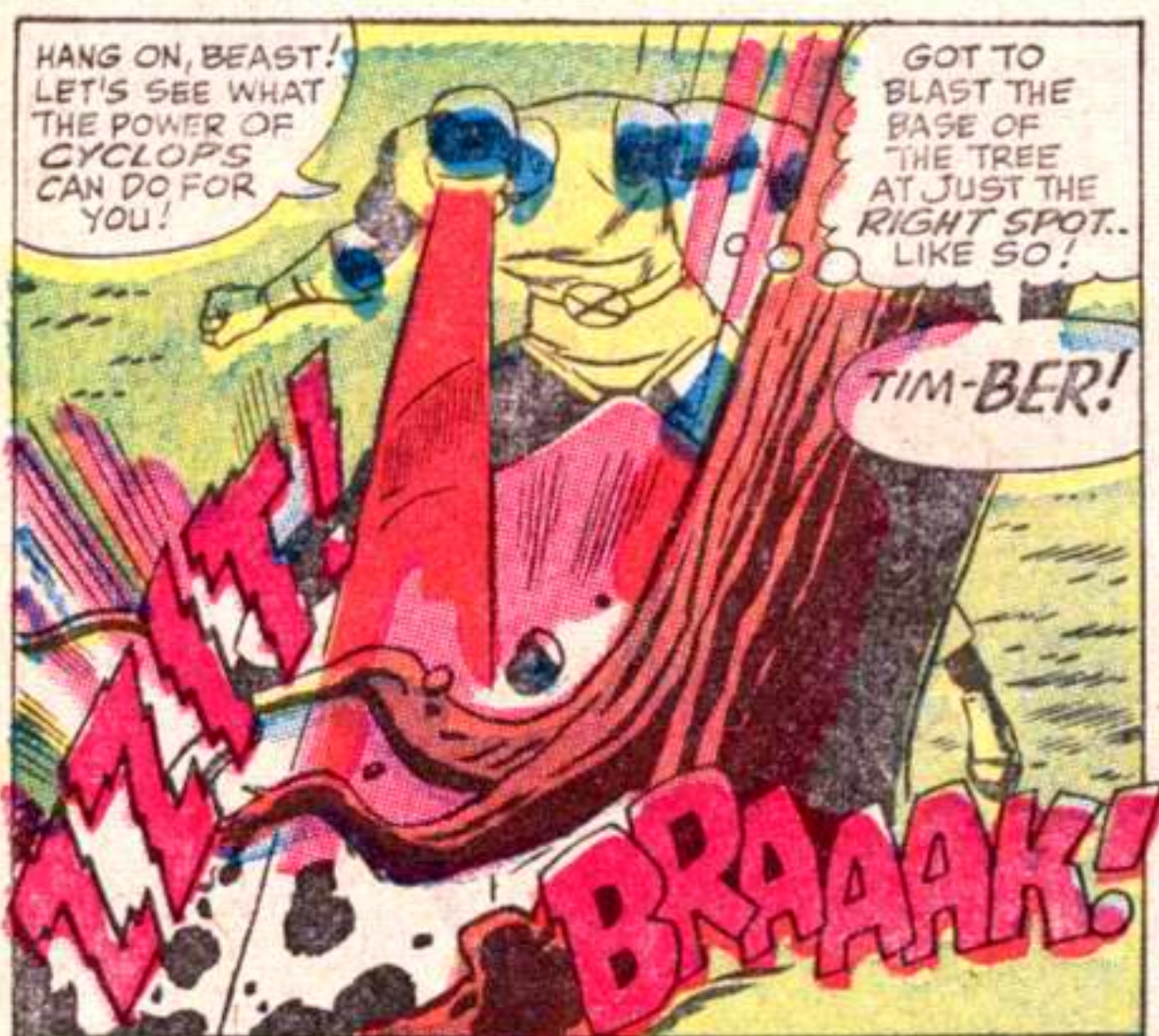
AND, INDEED, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE BEAST AND ICEMAN ARE APPROACHING IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE MANNERS...

Y'KNOW, HANK, SOMETIMES I'M NOT SO SURE THAT CLIMBING AN ICE LADDER IS AS GLAMOROUS AS HAVING WINGS, LIKE WARRY!

TUT, TUT, ROBERT, M'LAD! SUCH ENVIOUSNESS ILL BECOMES YOU, MY FROST-BITTEN FRIEND!

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV





HANG ON, BEAST!
LET'S SEE WHAT
THE POWER OF
CYCLOPS
CAN DO FOR
YOU!

GOT TO
BLAST THE
BASE OF
THE TREE
AT JUST THE
RIGHT SPOT...
LIKE SO!

TIM-BER!

BRAAAK!



GREAT
GOIN',
CYKE!

I ONLY HOPE THAT THEY
HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN
OVERCOME BY ALL THE
SMOKE! I CAN'T EVEN
SEE THEM FROM HERE!

I'LL GIVE THEM TEN
SECONDS... THEN, I'M
GOING AFTER THEM!

THE TREE'S
TOPPLING
AGAINST THE
BUILDING...
AT JUST THE
POINT WHERE
BEAST AND THE
CHILDREN
SHOULD BE!



YOUR SOLICITUDE IS GRATIFYING, BUT *SUPER-FLUOUS*, CYKE, OLD BOY! THE NOBLE BEAST HAS THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND!

HE MADE IT... WITH
ALL THREE OF THE
KIDS!

LOOK! THEY'RE
ALL SAFE!

PRaise
THE
LORD!

WHEN THEY REACH
GROUND, WE'VE
GOT TO GO! I
HEAR THE FIRE
SIRENS SOUND-
ING!

EEEEEE



AND, THIRTY SECONDS LATER, WHEN A SPEEDING FIRE-TRUCK ARRIVES...

..THEN, WHEN THEY HEARD
YOU COMING, THE
X-MEN RAN OFF...
VANISHED!

THEY'RE A
STRANGE
CREW!

FOLKS DISTRUST
THEM BECAUSE
THEY'RE *MUTANTS*...
YET THEY STOP TO
HELP ORPHANS
IN DANGER!

KEEP THAT HOSE
COMING! WE'LL
HAVE 'ER UNDER
CONTROL IN A
MINUTE!



MEANWHILE, IN A GROVE NOT FAR AWAY...

HOW ABOUT
YOU, JEAN?

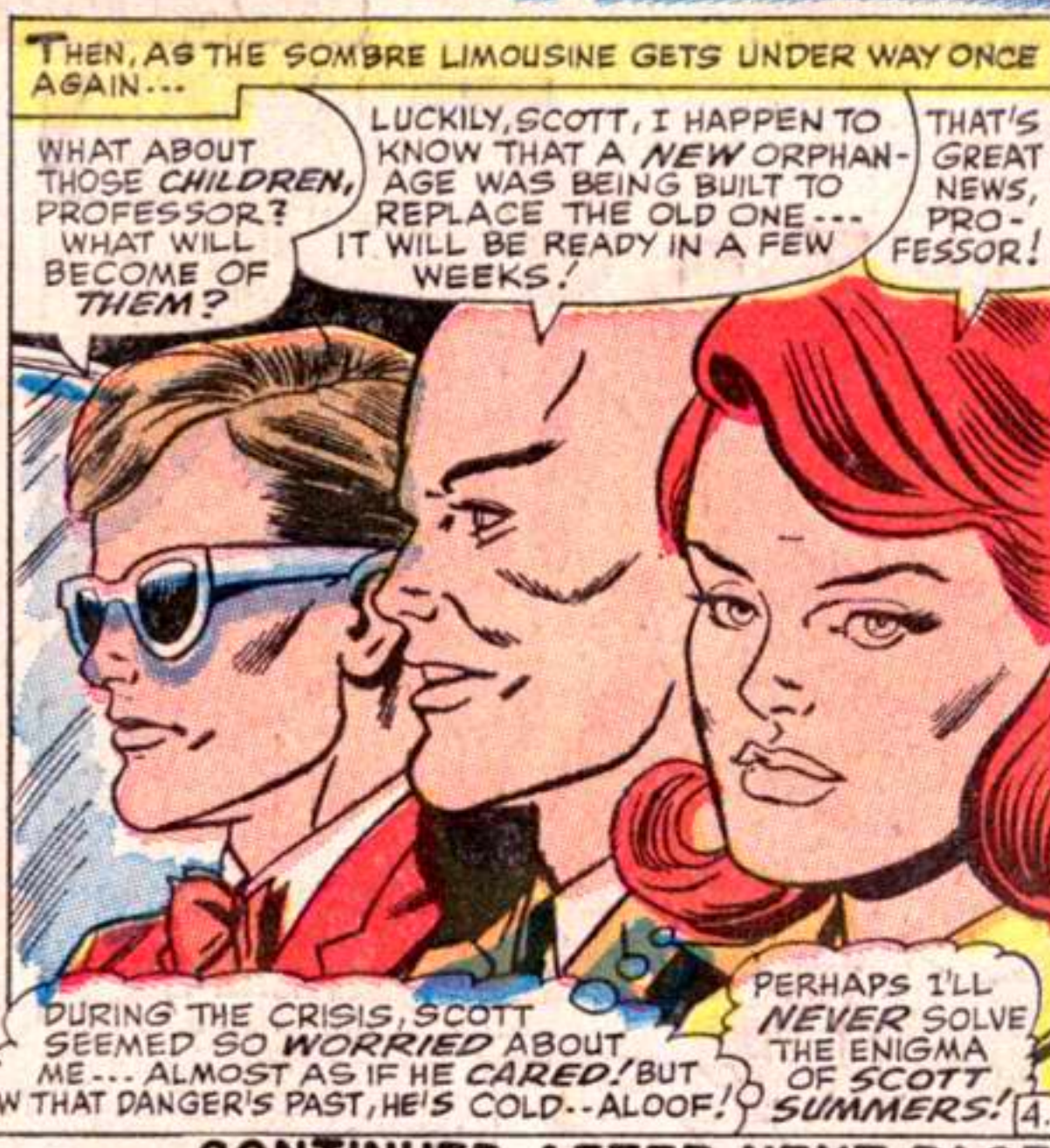
Y'KNOW, HANK,
I'LL NEVER GET
OVER THE WAY
YOU CAN GAIN
A FOOTHOLD
ON ALMOST
ANYTHING...
EVEN THE SIDE
OF A BUILDING!

ELEMENTARY,
MY DEAR
ICEMAN... ALL
YOU NEED ARE
SIZE THIRTEEN
FEET AND THE
AGILITY OF AN
ANTHROPOID!

OVER THE EFFECTS OF
THAT *STRAIN*, YET?

I THINK
SO,
WARREN,
THANK
YOU!

WE'D BETTER BE GOING!
JEAN'S COLLEGE CLASSES ARE
DUE TO START IN LESS THAN A HALF HOUR!



THEN, AS THE SOMBRE LIMOUSINE GETS UNDER WAY ONCE AGAIN...

WHAT ABOUT
THOSE CHILDREN,
PROFESSOR?
WHAT WILL
BECOME OF
THEM?

LUCKILY, SCOTT, I HAPPEN TO
KNOW THAT A *NEW ORPHAN-
AGE* WAS BEING BUILT TO
REPLACE THE OLD ONE...
IT WILL BE READY IN A FEW
WEEKS!

THAT'S
GREAT
NEWS,
PRO-
FESSOR!

DURING THE CRISIS, SCOTT
SEEMED SO WORRIED ABOUT
ME... ALMOST AS IF HE CARED! BUT
NOW THAT DANGER'S PAST, HE'S COLD... ALOOF!

PERHAPS I'LL
NEVER SOLVE
THE ENIGMA
OF SCOTT
SUMMERS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BEFORE LONG, THE STately ROLLS-ROYCE DEPOSITS A PENSIVE, PERPLEXED JEAN GREY ON THE CAMPUS OF METRO COLLEGE...

GOOD-BYE, ALL! I'LL DROP YOU A LINE AS SOON AS I CAN...

BUT, I'VE GOT TWO TESTS COMING UP NEXT WEEK, SO I'LL PROBABLY BE VERY BUSY STUDYING!

AND, TRYING TO FORGET HOW MUCH I MISS THE LIFE AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL!

OF COURSE, JEAN... YOUR CLASSES COME FIRST! WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

WELL...WELCOME BACK, STRANGER!

AND CONGRATULATIONS...YOU JUST HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO UNPACK YOUR BAGS AND BE LATE FOR OUR PSYCH CLASS!

TED ROBERTS! HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D SHOW UP AT THE LAST MOMENT?

DON'T ALL WOMEN? THE BAG, PLEASE!

WHY, THANK YOU, KIND SIR!

HE'S A DEAR! MAYBE I'LL ADJUST TO LIFE AMONG HOMO SAPIENS YET!

AND, IN THE SLEEK VEHICLE PULLING AWAY FROM THE CURB, THE ABOVE TENDER SCENE IS DULY NOTED...

EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING TELLS ME THAT I SHOULD BE GLAD JEAN IS MAKING FRIENDS AMONG HER FELLOW COLLEGE STUDENTS!

AND YET... AM I?

I MUST GET HER OUT OF MY MIND SOMEHOW... EVEN IF IT MEANS LEAVING THE X-MEN, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

NOR IS SCOTT ALONE IN DWELLING UPON THOUGHTS OF MARVEL GIRL...

SO... SHE'S TAKEN UP WITH THAT WOULD-BE HEADSHRINKER, EH?

AND, FROM HERE ON IN, I START DOING A LOT MORE FISHING!

WELL, SHE'S NOT THE ONLY FISH IN WARREN WORTHINGTON'S SEA!

PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD, WARREN! WE WANT TO GET HOME IN ONE PIECE!

BUT NOW...IF YOU'RE STILL WITH US, THAT IS...OUR NARRATIVE SWITCHES LOCALE... TO THE STEAMING, LUXURIANT WILDS OF CENTRAL AMERICA...

AT LAST...MY YEARS OF PATIENCE AND TOIL ARE REWARDED! I HAVE LOCATED...THE HIDDEN PYRAMID OF THE MAYAN GOD KUKULCAN!

NOW I, JUAN MEROZ... KNOWN TO OTHER GEM-HUNTERS AS EL TIGRE*... SHALL BE THE RICHEST MAN IN SAN RICO! FOR, LEGEND SAYS THAT THESE MAYANS WERE THE WEALTHIEST, MOST POWERFUL OF ALL ANCIENT PEOPLES!

RAMON! TOLOC! SET UP CAMP IN THAT CLEARING!

SI, EL TIGRE! WE DO AS YOU COMMAND!

EVEN RAMON'S VERY TONE SHOWS HOW MUCH HE AND HIS INDIAN COMPANION DESPISE ME! YET, THEY KNOW I PAY THEM WELL!

WILL WE BEGIN SEARCHING FOR GEMS IN THE MORNING, MASTER?

*TIGRE (PRONOUNCED TEE-GRAY)...SPANISH FOR TIGER, NATCH! SEÑOR STAN.

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV



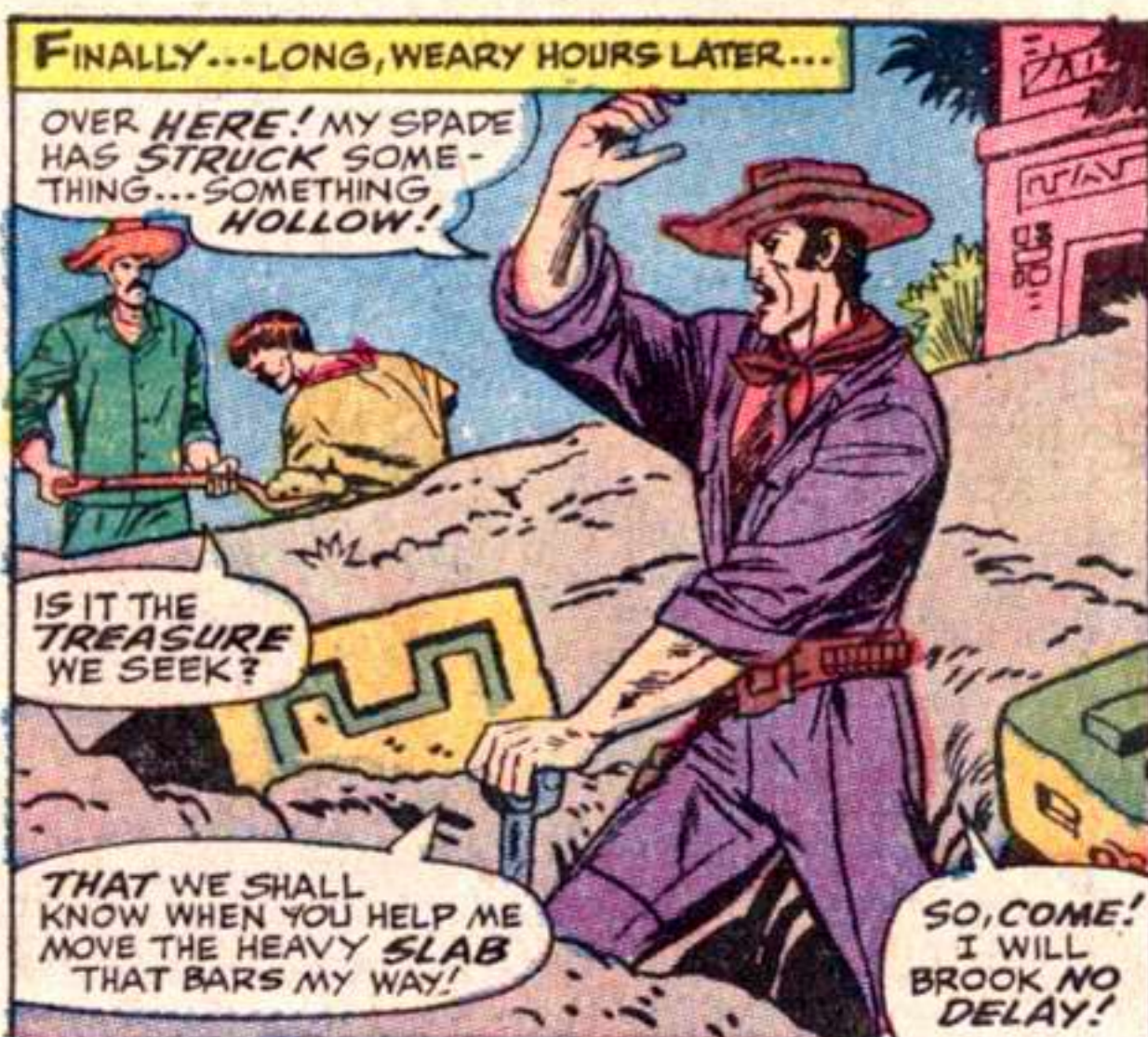
WITLESS FOOL! I HAVE NOT TRAVELED THIS FAR THROUGH UNCHARTED JUNGLE TO SLEEP NEAR A FORTUNE!

YOU WILL BEGIN DIGGING... NOW!

BUT, MASTER... WE ARE TIRED FROM OUR LONG JOURNEY!

THEN SEARCH SWIFTLY SO THAT YOU MAY REST SOONER!

I MYSELF SHALL ASSIST YOU!



FINALLY...LONG, WEARY HOURS LATER...

OVER HERE! MY SPADE HAS STRUCK SOMETHING...SOMETHING HOLLOW!

IS IT THE TREASURE WE SEEK?

THAT WE SHALL KNOW WHEN YOU HELP ME MOVE THE HEAVY SLAB THAT BARS MY WAY!

SO, COME! I WILL BROOK NO DELAY!



AND, AFTER FRANTIC DIGGING...

BE-HOLD! THE GREAT SLAB MOVES!

PUSH HARDER! I MUST KNOW WHAT LIES BENEATH!



THEN...

MY QUEST IS ENDED! WE HAVE UNCOVERED...THE SACRED GOLD OF KUKULCAN!

SI... BUT THE LEGEND TELLS OF A CURSE ON THIS LOST TREASURE!



CURSE? BAH...WHAT CARE I FOR ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS...THE TALES OF OLD WIVES?

WAIT...WHAT'S THIS?

A GLOWING STONE... FALLING FROM THAT GOLDEN GOBLET!



IT IS A STRANGELY-SHAPED ORNAMENT! YET, HALF OF IT SEEMS TO BE MISSING... CUT AWAY BY SOME HUMAN HAND!

AND...OF WHAT SUBSTANCE IS IT CARVED?

I, JUAN MEROZ, HAVE EXPLORED TWO CONTINENTS IN MY SEARCH FOR TREASURES HIDDEN BY ANCIENT TRIBES... BUT I HAVE NEVER BEHELD ITS LIKE!



STILL, IT MAY BE A PRICELESS GEM... OR IT MAY BE UTTERLY WORTHLESS!

TIME ENOUGH TO EXAMINE IT LATER! FOR, IT IS THE GOLDEN RELICS WHICH CONCERN ME NOW!

BUT, THE SKIES GROW DARK! I SHALL EXAMINE MY TREASURE FURTHER ON THE MORROW!

HOWEVER, THE JUNGLE NIGHT IS OFTEN FILLED WITH BEASTS OF PREY... AND NOT ALL OF THEM WALK ON FOUR LEGS...

HE SLEEPS *SOUNDLY*! IT SEEMS A PITY THAT HE SHOULD EVER *WAKEN*!

OUR MINDS ARE AS *ONE*, RAMON... BUT, YOU FORGET THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH *WORK* TO BE DONE UNEARTHING THE *GOLD*!

LET OUR MASTER NOW WORK FOR *US*... BEFORE HE *DIES*!

A WISE *THOUGHT*, TOLOC! FIRST I SHALL *BIND* HIM... FOR THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING HIM *WRITHE*!

WE NEED NOT *FEAR*! HE IS UNARMED... AND I HAVE MY *MACHETE*!

MY MURDEROUS LACKEYS! SOME *SIXTH SENSE* WARNS ME THAT THEY *APPROACH*!

AND, ENRAGED BY THE SKULKING ATTACK, THE GEM-HUNTER CRIES OUT...

SPINELESS *DOLTS*! DO YOU THINK TO DISPOSE THUS OF *EL TIGRE*?

MAY YOU BE ENTANGLED BY YOUR OWN *ROPES*, FOR SUCH TREACHERY AGAINST YOUR *BETTERS*!

SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY, BEFORE THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS CAN MAKE ANOTHER *MOVE*...

CARAMBA! WHAT BLACK MAGIC IS THIS?

YOUR ROPE... WINDS ABOUT US... AS IF BE-WITCHED!

WHAT...?

IT IS *TRUE*... THE LASSO OBEYED MY SPOKEN *WISH*!

UNGRATEFUL CURS! I SHOULD SLAY YOU WITH YOUR OWN *WEAPON*! BUT, IT IS MY WISH TO BE MERCIFUL... IF YOU SWEAR OBEDIENCE TO ME FROM THIS DAY *FORWARD*!

I *SWEAR*, EL TIGRE! *SPARE* ME!

AND *ME*, MASTER!

THEN I *RELEASE* YOU... TO RETURN TO *DIGGING*!

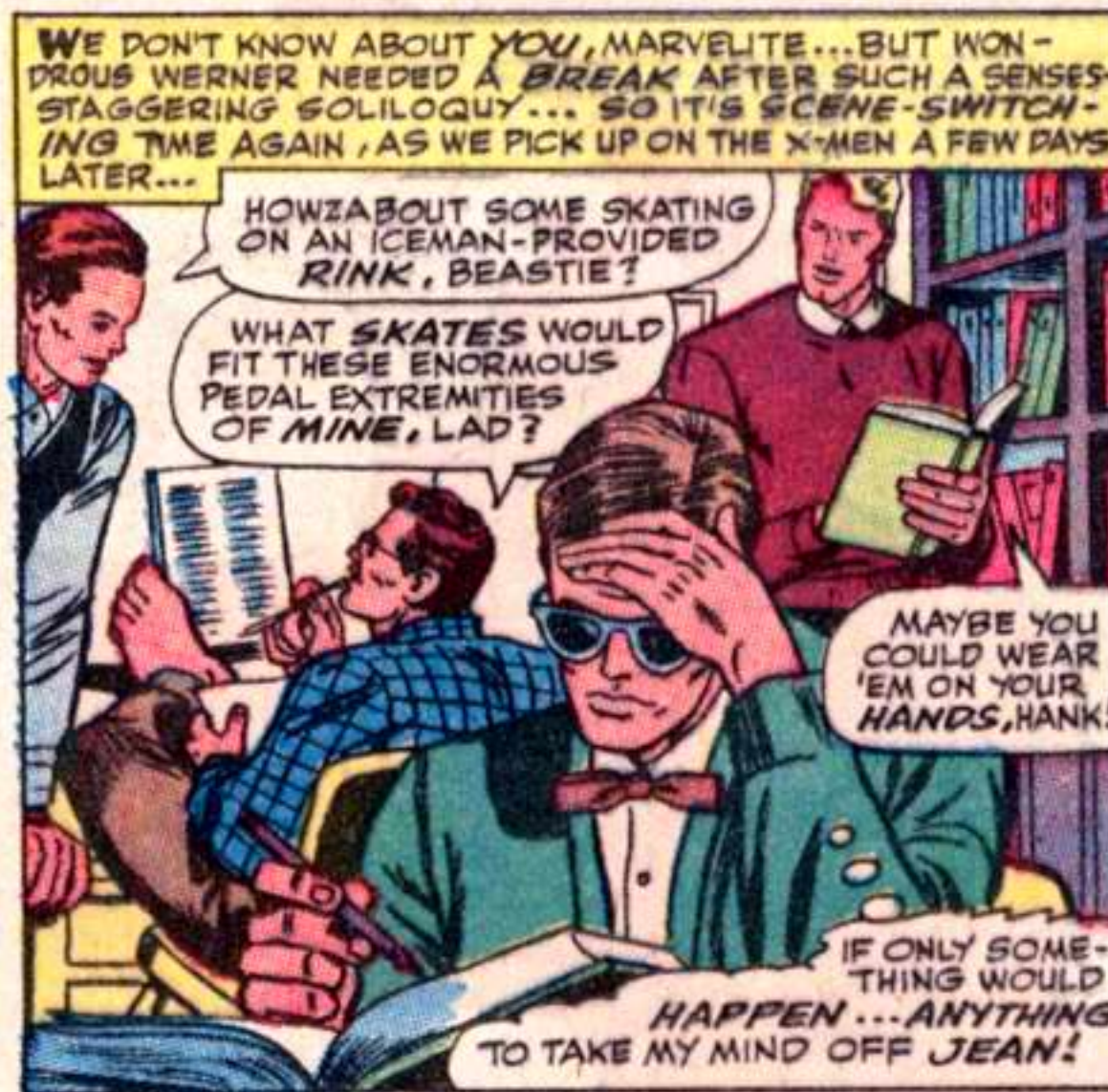
WE DO AS YOU *COMMAND*!

LATER, HIS MIND TOO ACTIVE NOW FOR THOUGHTS OF *SLEEP*, EL TIGRE PONDS THE AWESOME OCCURRENCE.

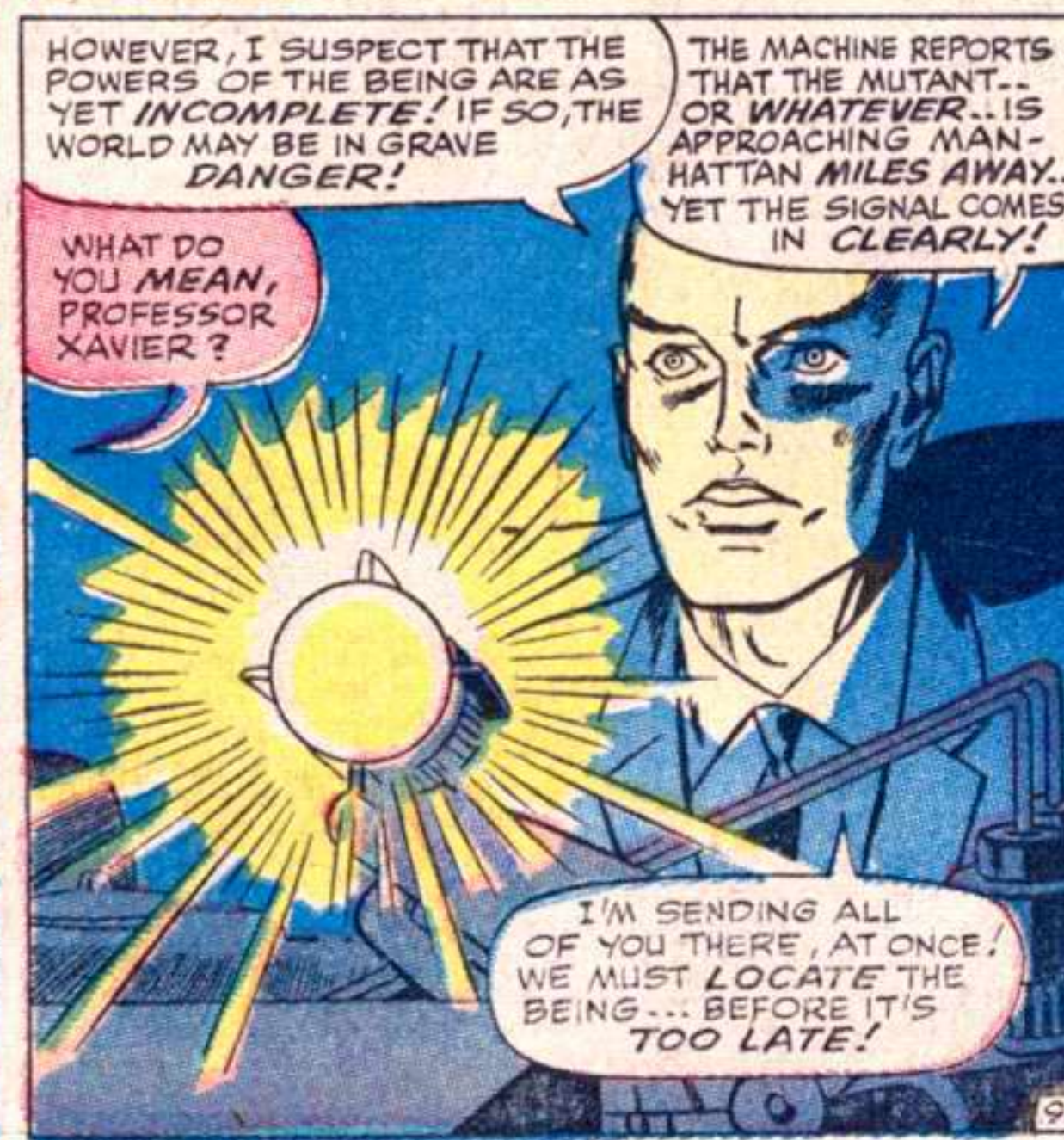
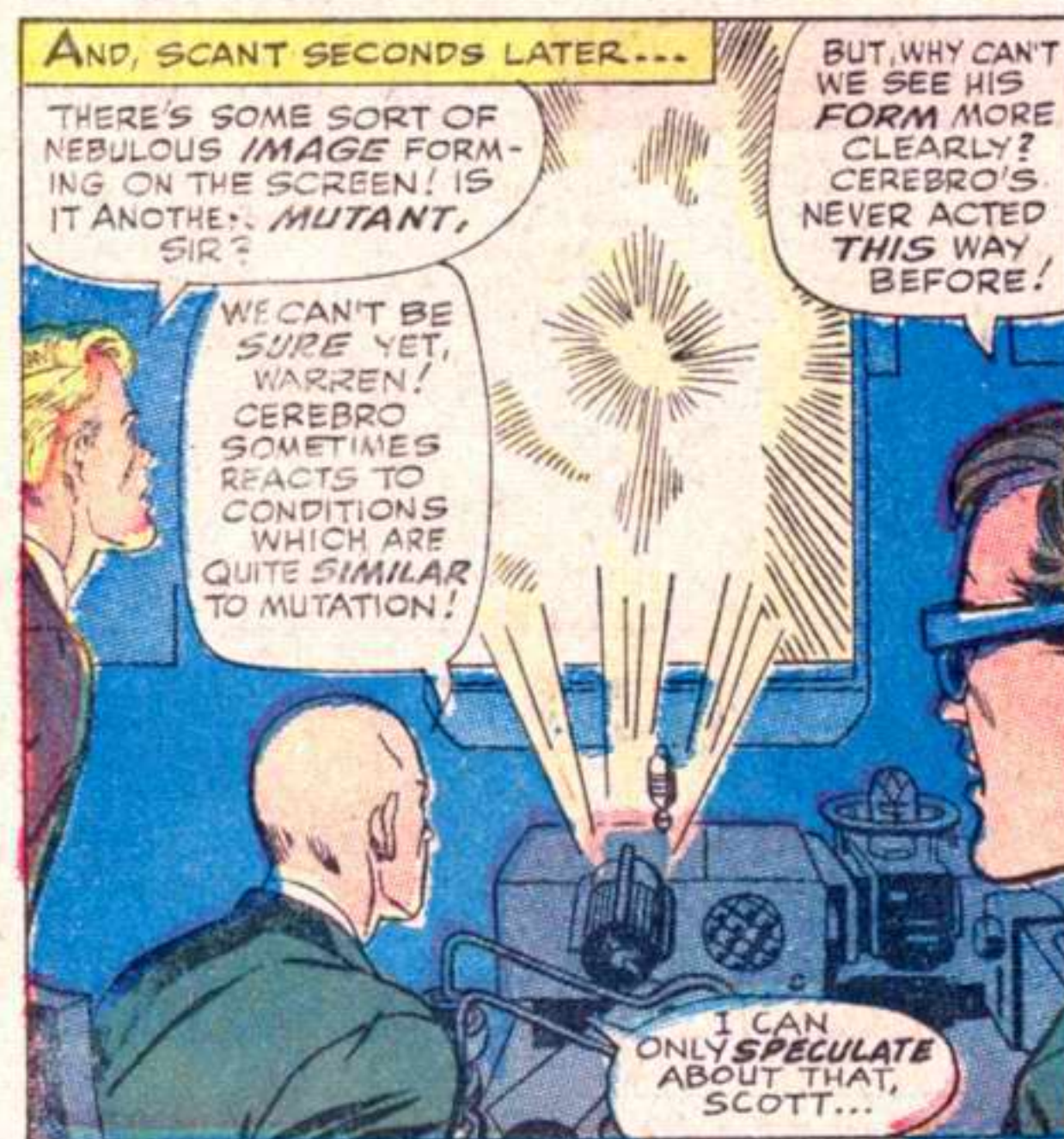
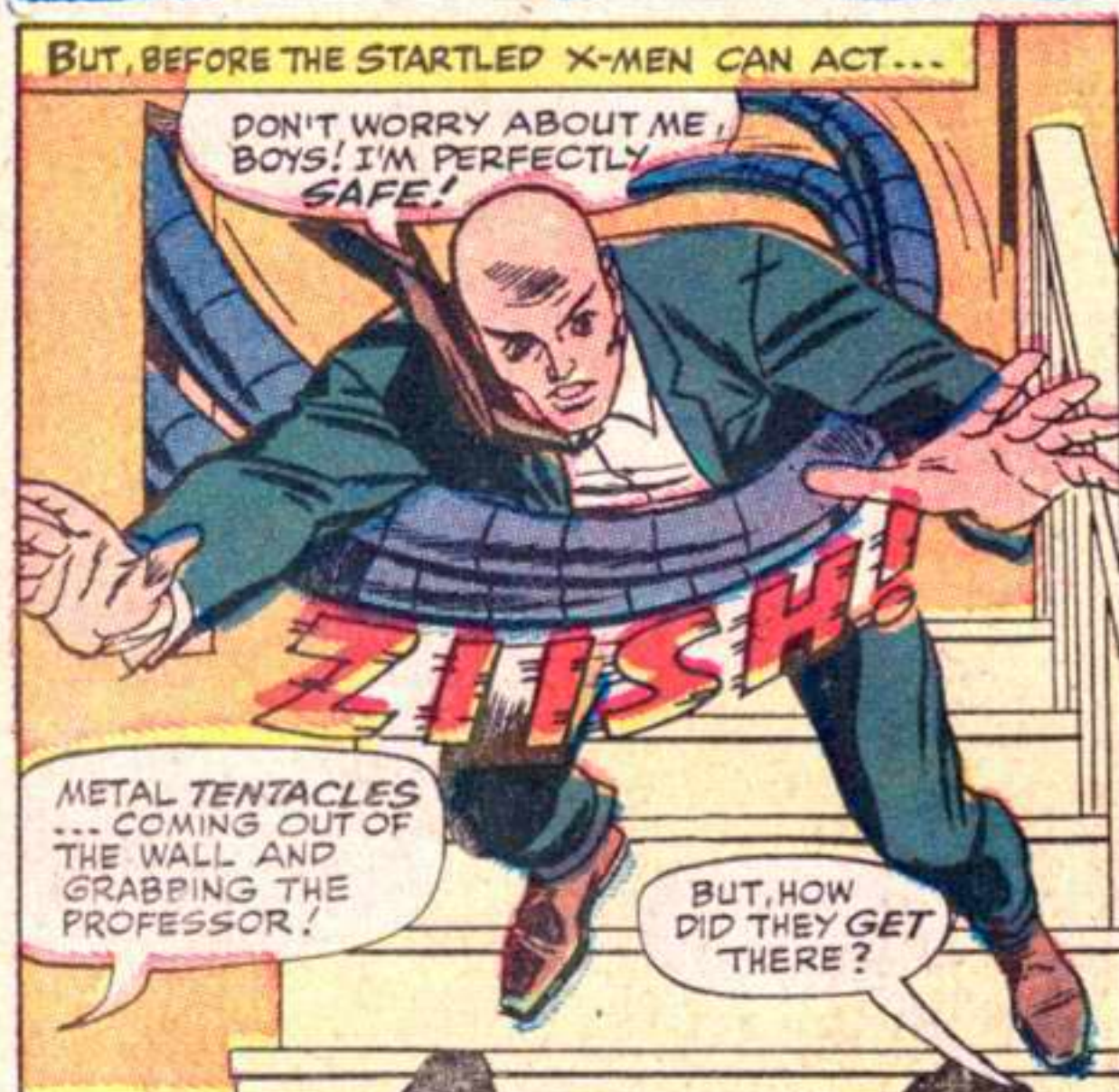
AS, ABRUPTLY, A CAPRICIOUS FATE PROVIDES AN *ANSWER*!

THE GEM I FOUND EARLIER... IT FELL FROM MY *POCKET*!

OR... DID IT? IT SEEMED ALMOST TO MOVE OF ITS OWN *ACCORD*!



WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV



HENCE, BEFORE LONG, THE HIGH-FLYING *ANGEL WINGS* HIS WAY ABOVE THE SKYSCRAPERS OF *MANHATTAN*...

THE PROFESSOR INSTRUCTED US TO *ZERO IN* ON THIS PART OF THE CITY!



BUT, WHOEVER OUR QUARRY IS, HE'S SURE KEEPING HIMSELF UNDER WRAPS!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING MORE SINISTER THAN THAT COPTER ARRIVING FROM *KENNEDY AIRPORT*!

BUT, IF THE WINGED MUTANT WERE IN THE VICINITY OF THE MIGHTY *PAN-AM BUILDING* SCANT MINUTES LATER, HE WOULD OBSERVE...

COME, BOTH OF YOU! TOLOC... BE CERTAIN YOUR *MACHETE* IS NOT SEEN!

AY, MASTER!



BUT, I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND! WHY HAVE WE COME TO *NUEVA YORK*?

SILENCE! IT IS NOT FOR HIRELINGS TO QUESTION *EL TIGRE*! YOU ARE MERELY TO OBEY!

MY FRAGMENT OF THE *PENDANT OF KUKULCAN* HAS UNERRINGLY GUIDED ME TO THIS SPRAWLING CITY... WHERE I SENSE I SHALL FIND THE *MISSING HALF*... AND INCREASE MY POWERS A *THOUSANDFOLD*!

NUTS! FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT WE'D FOUND OUR MAN... BUT IT'S JUST SOME LATIN-AMERICAN TOURIST WEARING A CAPE!

BUT, IT HAS NOT YET TOLD ME WHERE IN NEW YORK THE OTHER PORTION IS LOCATED... AND, UNTIL IT DOES, I MUST BIDE MY TIME!

AND YET, CERE BRO IS NEVER WRONG!

TAXI! TAXI!



A POTENTIAL MENACE STALKS THESE STREETS... AND WE MUST LOCATE HIM!

THEN, AS THE UNSUSPECTING HANK AND BOBBY MOVE ON...

VEHICLE AFTER VEHICLE PASSES WITHOUT HALTING! MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN!

BUT, ALL ARE OCCUPIED...



DOLT! THAT DOES NOT MATTER TO... *EL TIGRE*!

AND, AS ONE CAB STOPS FOR A RED LIGHT...

BENEATH MY CLOAK, I SHALL GRIP TIGHTLY THE AWESOME *STONE*... AND SEND OUT A MENTAL COMMAND TO THE PASSENGER OF THAT AUTO...

UH... DRIVER, THIS CAB IS GETTING... ER, STIFLINGLY HOT! LET ME OUT HERE, PLEASE!



HUH? ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR NEST, MISTER?

I DON'T GET IT! ONE SECOND THAT JOKER IS YAPPIN' ABOUT WHAT A GORGEOUS DAY IT IS... THE NEXT, HE SAYS IT'S TOO HOT, AND TAKES OFF LIKE A BAT!

AND MY HACK'S AIR-CONDITIONED, TO BOOT!

HOW STRANGE! HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE *UNOCCUPIED*, WOULD YOU DIRECT MY ASSOCIATES AND MYSELF TO A GOOD HOTEL?

SURE, MISTER, SURE! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO HAUL AROUND A NORMAL JOE FOR A CHANGE!



GOT TO HAVE A DRINK OF WATER... EVEN IF IT COMES FROM THE HUDSON RIVER!

MINUTES LATER, AT A HOTEL NOT FAR AWAY...

I CAN SENSE THE **NEARNESS** OF THE REMAINING HALF OF THE PENDANT! THIS VERY NIGHT, I SHALL POSSESS ITS FULL, MATCHLESS POWER!

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, I FEEL THE NEED FOR SOME HARMLESS DIVERSION!

THOSE THREE FIGURES... SOMEHOW, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN ATMOSPHERE OF IMPENDING DANGER ABOUT THEM!

AW, COME OFF IT, SUMMERS! YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A THIRD-RATE FORTUNE TELLER!

SOON, BACK AT THE ROOM WHICH THE INCOGNITO X-MEN HAVE RENTED...

SALUTATIONS, SCOTT! BY YOUR GLOOMY VISAGE, MAY I TAKE IT THAT YOUR QUEST WAS AS UN-REWARDING AS BOBBY'S AND MINE?

I'M AFRAID SO, HANK! WHAT ABOUT YOU, ANGEL?

I COVERED THE AREA LIKE A HAWK, BUT ALL I GOT FOR MY TROUBLES WAS A PAIR OF TIRED WINGS!

THE HOURS DRAG ON SLOWLY... THEN, AS DUSK NEARS...

THE **NEWSCASTS** REPORT NOTHING SINGULAR... AND EVEN THE **PROFESSOR** APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT US INCOMMUNICADO!

AH... THE EVENING **TABLOIDS** ARE BEING DELIVERED TO A VENDOR ACROSS THE STREET!

MAYBE SOME OBSCURE, OFF-BEAT **NEWS ITEM** WILL GIVE US A CLUE! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH A PAPER!

BRING ALONG A TV GUIDE, WILL YA? IT LOOKS LIKE A LONG NIGHT!

HOWEVER...

NOTHING! NOT SO MUCH AS A **LIFO** REPORT! WE'RE UP A REAL **BLIND ALLEY!**

IF ONLY **CEREBRO** COULD HAVE PICKED UP A CLEARER IMAGE OF THE MAN WE SEEK... OR BEEN ABLE TO **PIN-POINT** HIM MORE PRECISELY!

UH...WATCH WHERE YER GOIN', MACK! I... HEY! WHAT GIVES?

BLAST IT! I CARELESSLY BUMPED INTO SOMEBODY... AND MY **SPECIAL GLASSES** FELL OFF!

I MIGHT HAVE KILLED HIM!

SORRY, MISTER... THIS IS JUST PART OF MY, ER, **MAGIC ACT!**

MAGIC ACT, NUTHIN'! YOU MUST BE ONE OF THOSE **MUTANTS** I READ ABOUT!

A **MUTIE**? C'MON, CHARLIE... LET'S GET 'IM!

HELP... **POLICE!** I'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY A **MUTANT!**

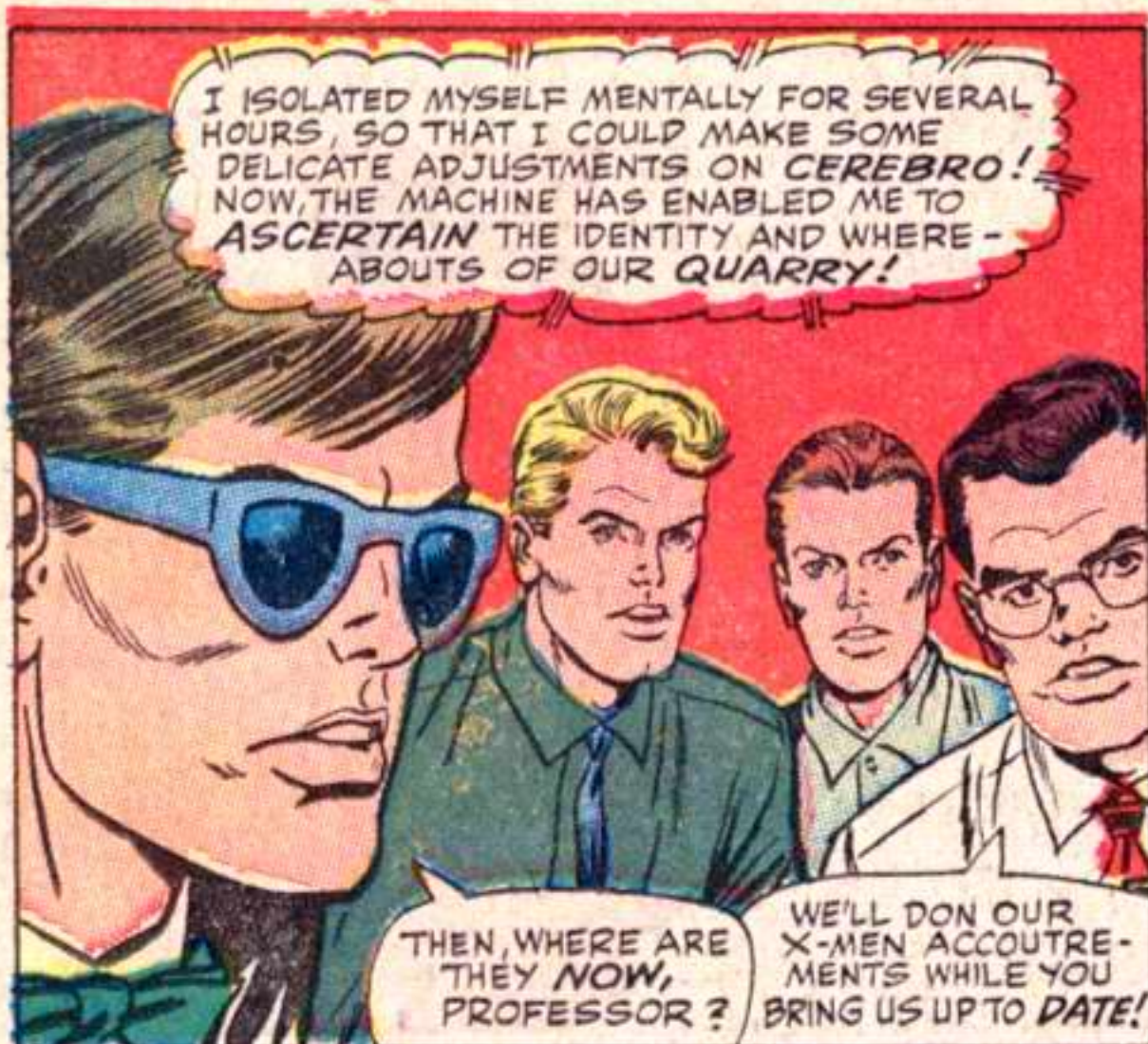
ARE YOU **KIDDIN'?** I'M GOIN' THE OTHER WAY!

GOT TO KEEP ONE HAND OVER MY **EYES**... WHILE I TRY TO LOCATE MY LOST **GLASSES!**

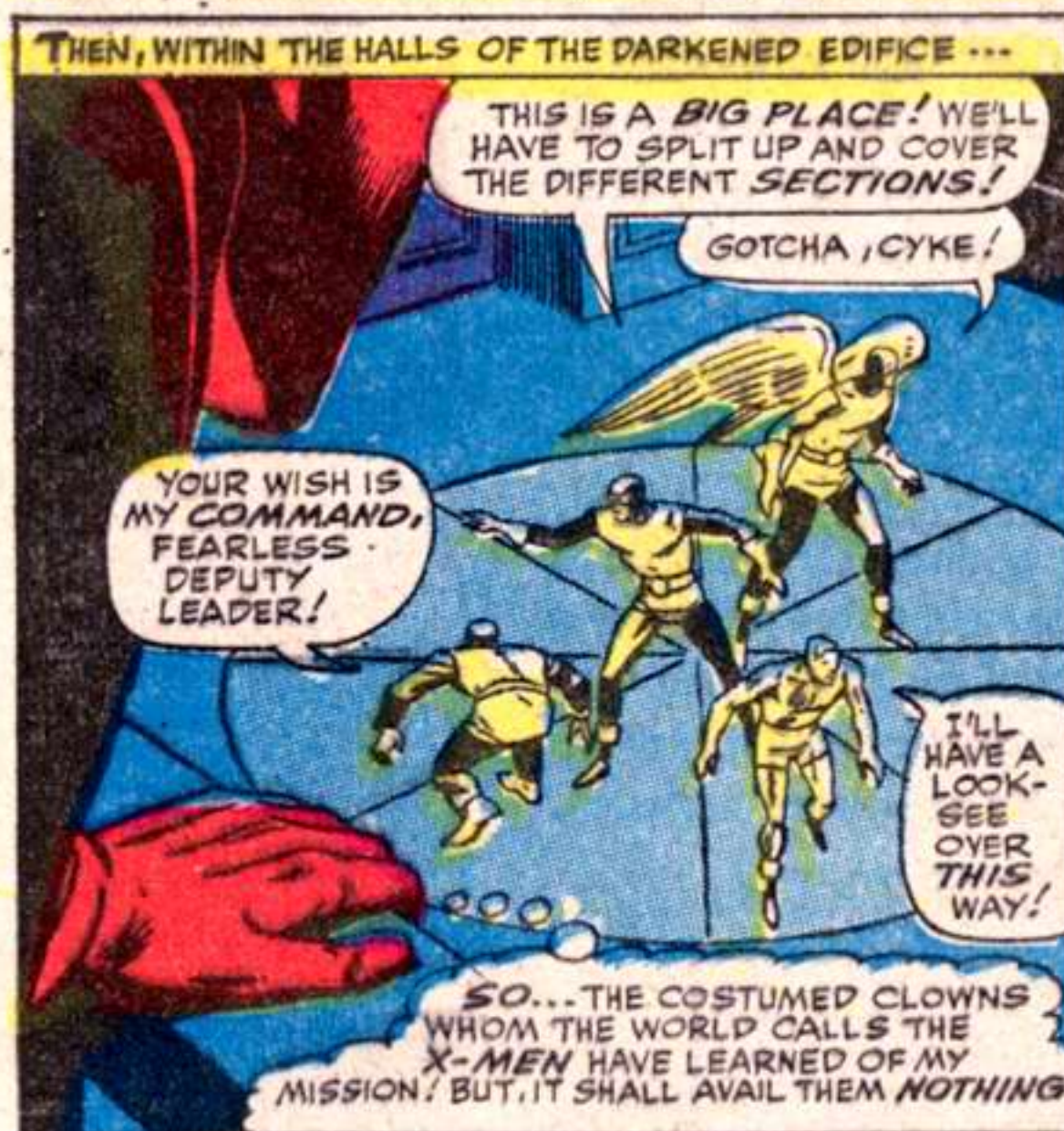
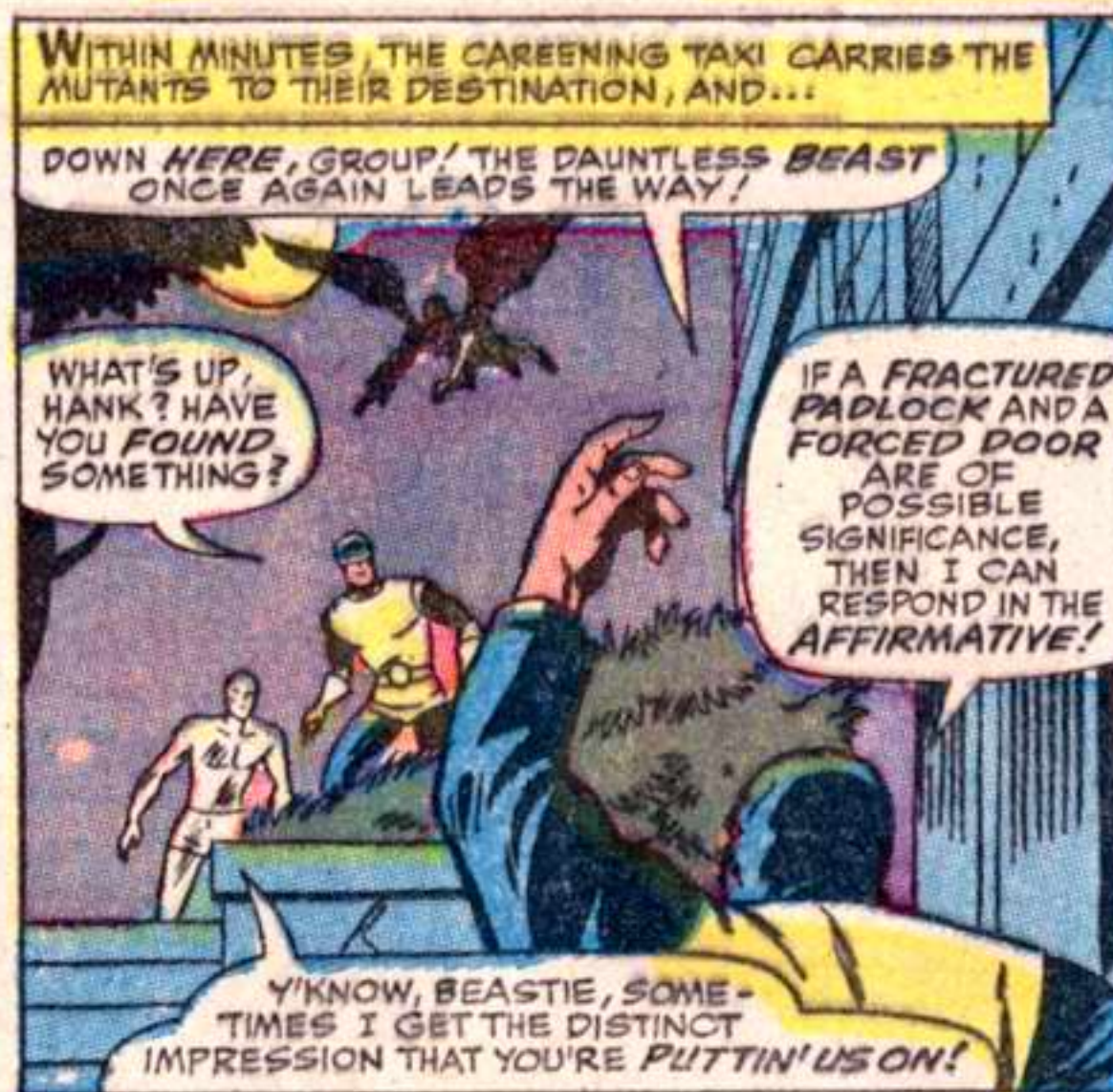
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, SOME OF MY **POWER BEAM** REFRACTS THROUGH...MERE-**LY** MAKING THINGS WORSE!



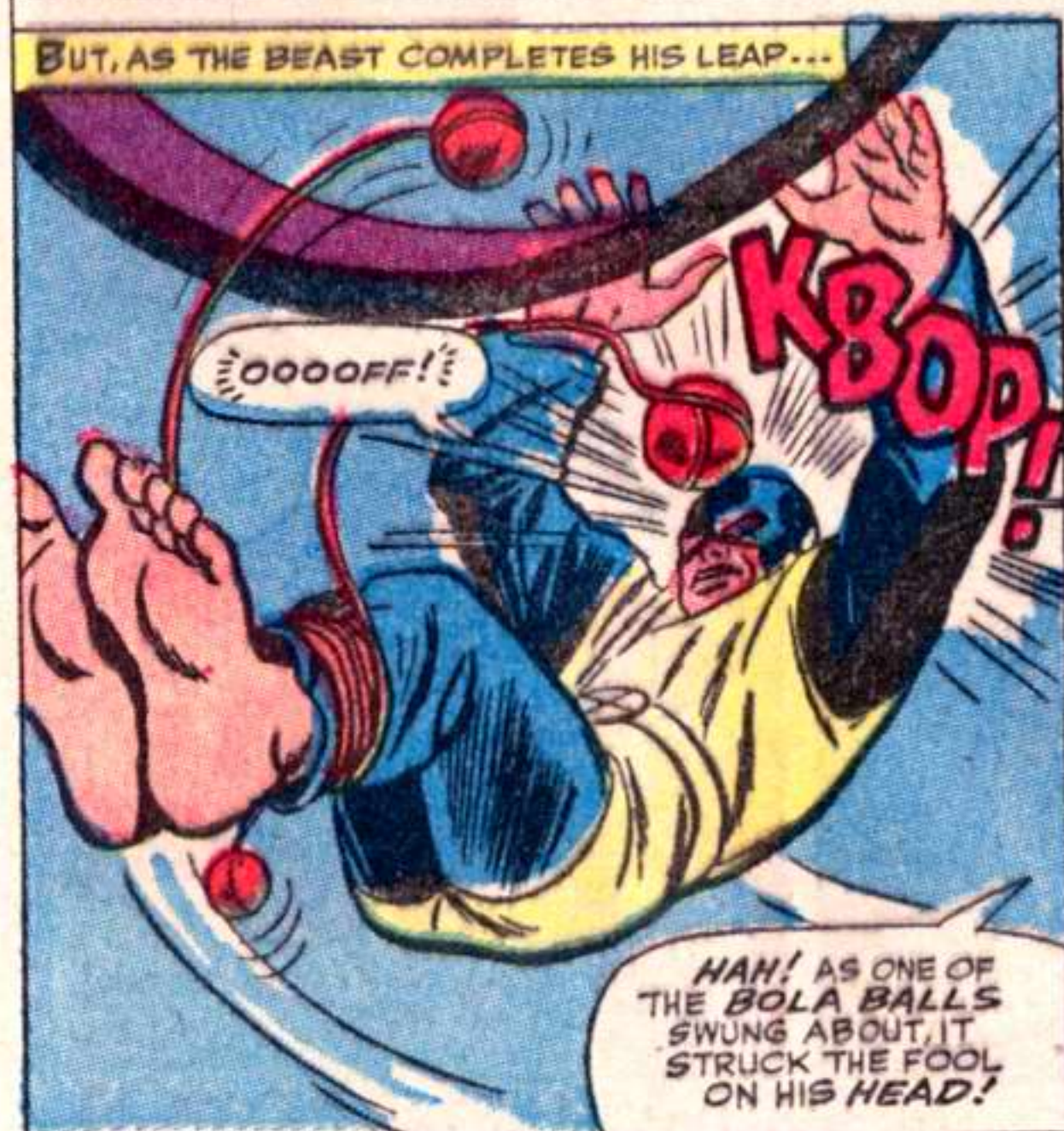
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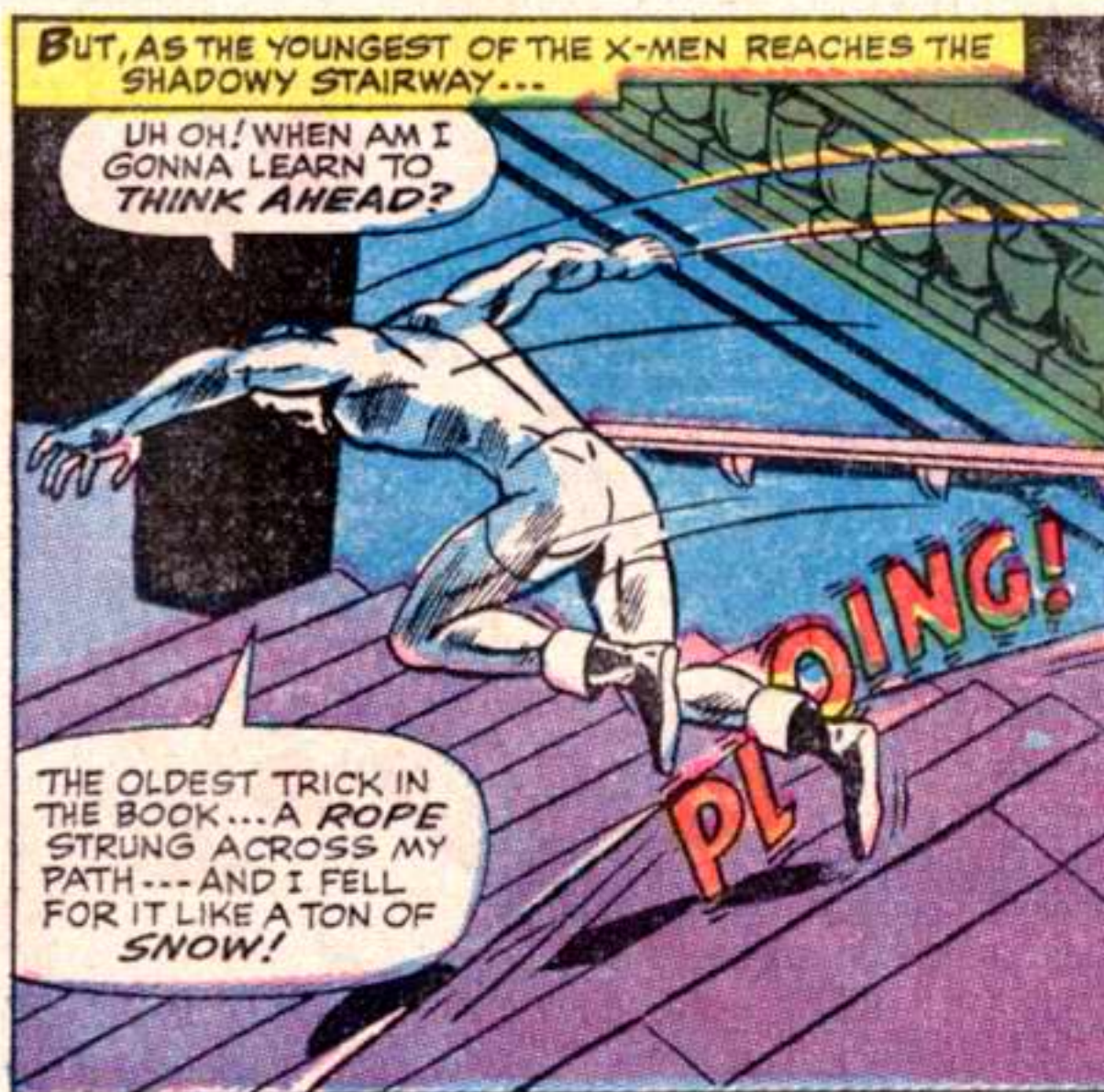


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WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, IN THE NEARBY PREHISTORIC EXHIBIT...

THAT OUTCRY...
I'M CERTAIN IT
WAS ICEMAN!
AND, HE SOUNDED
AS IF HE NEEDED
HELP!

ZWISH!

IF THOSE BUSHY
BABOONS HAVE HARMED
HIM, I'LL MAKE THEM WISH
THEY'D NEVER LEFT THE
JUMPING-BEAN FARM!

BUT, BEFORE I
CAN RESCUE
BOBBY, FIRST I'VE
GOT TO FIND HIM!

JUST THEN, AS ANGEL MOMENTARILY
HOVERS, A MENACING FIGURE
STEPS FROM THE MURKY BLACKNESS,
AND...

DO NOT
THINK
TO TAKE
TO LOC BY
SURPRISE,
WINGED
ONE!

THIS
ANCIENT
SPEAR
WILL END
YOUR
DAYS OF
FLYING...
FOREVER!

I DON'T KNOW
WHO THAT
CHARACTER IS
... BUT HE MUST
HAVE TAKEN
LESSONS
FROM
ANNIE
OAKLEY!

IF I'D BEEN A
FRACTION OF A
SECOND SLOW-
ER, I'D HAVE
HAD THE WINGS
OF A REAL
ANGEL!

OKAY, BUSTER... YOU'VE
HAD YOUR LITTLE PRACTICE
SESSION! NOW IT'S MY
TURN AT BAT!

STRANGE! HE
DOESN'T MOVE... JUST
STANDS THERE AS IF HE
WANTS ME TO HIT HIM!

IN THE NICK OF TIME, THE SPEEDING WARREN HALTS HIS
PELL-MELL PLUNGE, ONLY TO DISCOVER...

A WAX
DUMMY! WHO-
EVER ATTACKED ME
MUST'VE BEEN STAND-
ING IN FRONT OF IT!
HE FIGURED I'D
KNOCK MYSELF
SILLY BY FLYING
INTO IT!

BUT THEN, WHERE IS
MY REAL OPPONENT?

RIGHT
BEHIND
YOU, FOOL!

UHHHNN!

A DART...
FROM A PRIMITIVE
BLOW-GUN!
IT'S... PUTTING ME
TO... SLEEP...

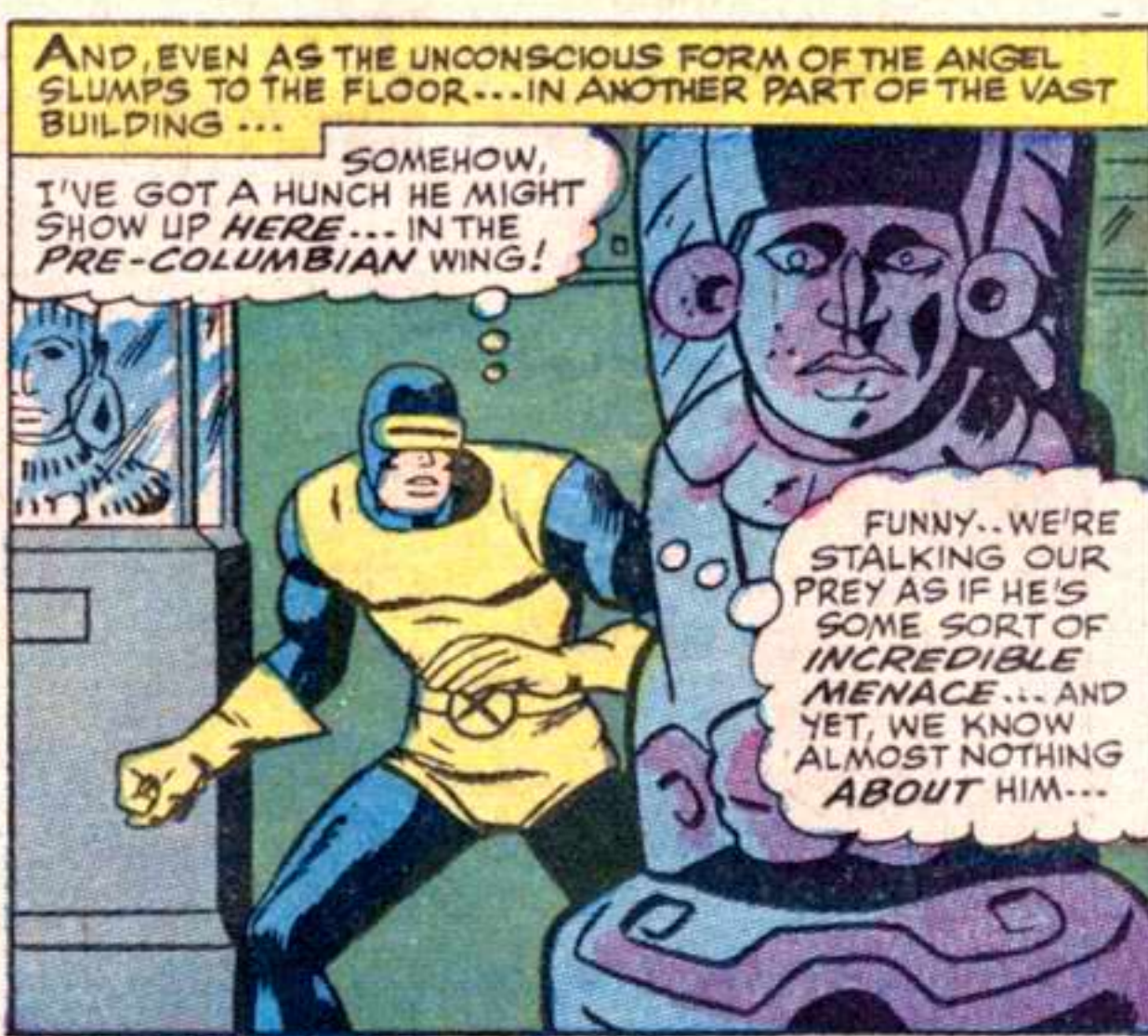
YOU ARE
FORTUNATE,
WINGED ONE...

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FOR, IN THE AMAZONIAN JUNGLES WHERE I WAS BORN, THE DART WOULD HAVE BEEN TIPPED WITH **POISON**... NOT MERELY WITH A **SLEEP-DRUG**!

I MUST INFORM **EL TIGRE** THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DEFEATED... HE WILL BE MOST **PLEASED**!



AND, EVEN AS THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM OF THE ANGEL SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR... IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST BUILDING ...

SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE MIGHT SHOW UP **HERE**... IN THE **PRE-COLUMBIAN WING**!

FUNNY... WE'RE STALKING OUR PREY AS IF HE'S SOME SORT OF **INCREDIBLE MENACE**... AND YET, WE KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT HIM...



... EXCEPT THAT HE HAS SOME SORT OF **OMINOUS MENTAL POWER**... AND HE WANTS SOMETHING FROM THIS **MUSEUM**!

WELL, SPEAK OF THE **DEVIL**! THAT MUST BE **HIM**! MAYBE WE'LL FINALLY GET TO THE **BOTTOM** OF THIS CHARADE!

WHILE MY TWO HIRELINGS KEEP THE **X-MEN** OCCUPIED, I SHALL ACQUIRE THE PRIZE I CROSSED A **CONTINENT** TO OBTAIN!

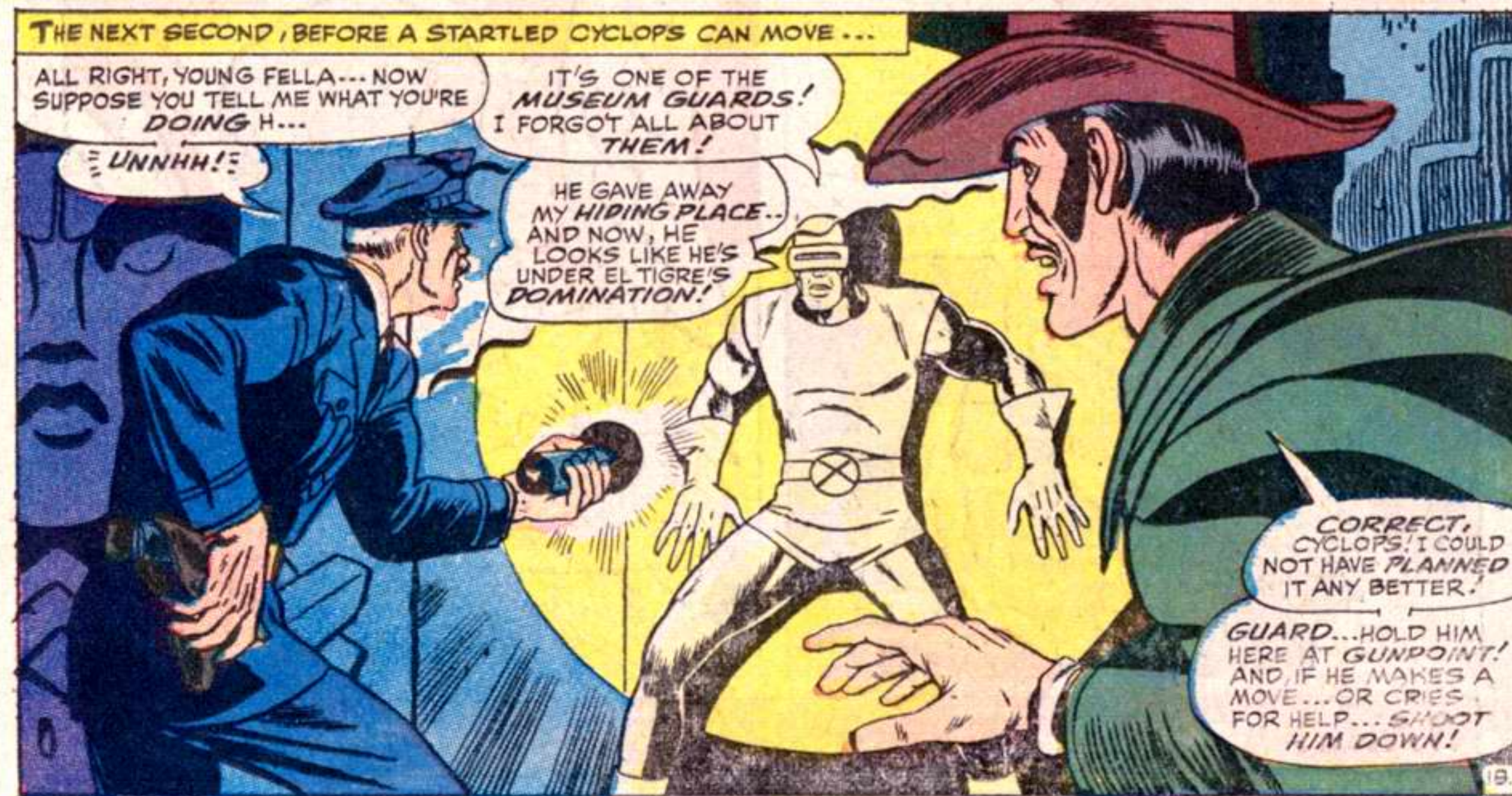


THEN, ABRUPTLY...

KLIK!

THAT NOISE... SOMEONE **APPROACHES**! I MUST HIDE... TILL I LEARN WHO IT IS!

IT MUST BE ONE OF **EL TIGRE'S STOOGES**... OR, MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THE **X-MEN**!



THE NEXT SECOND, BEFORE A STARTLED **CYCLOPS** CAN MOVE ...

ALL RIGHT, YOUNG FELLA... NOW SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE **DOING** H...

UNNNH!

IT'S ONE OF THE **MUSEUM GUARDS**! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT **THEM**!

HE GAVE AWAY MY **HIDING PLACE**... AND NOW, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S UNDER **EL TIGRE'S DOMINATION**!

CORRECT, CYCLOPS! I COULD NOT HAVE **PLANNED** IT ANY BETTER!

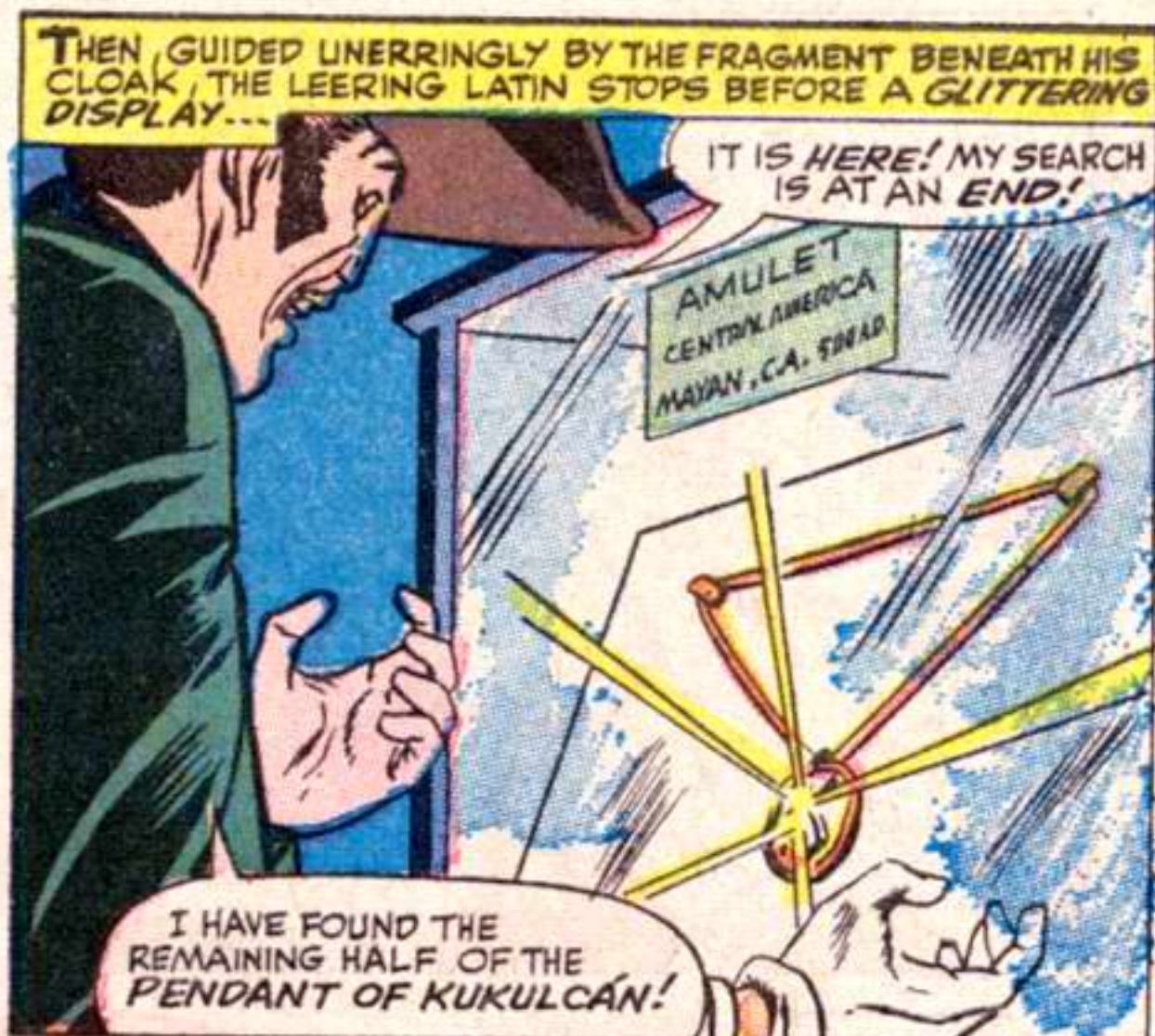
GUARD... HOLD HIM HERE AT **GUNPOINT**! AND, IF HE MAKES A **MOVE**... OR **CRIES** FOR HELP... **SHOOT HIM DOWN**!



HOW DID EL TIGRE GAIN SUCH FANTASTIC ABILITY? HE TOOK OVER THE GUARD'S MIND WITHOUT MOVING A MUSCLE!

AND...I'M **HELP-LESS!** I CAN'T USE MY OPTIC BLAST AGAINST THE GUARD... BUT, HE'LL FIRE AT ME IF I MOVE!

HOLD HIM THERE, LACKEY... WHILE I SURVEY THE ROOM!



THEN, GUIDED UNERRINGLY BY THE FRAGMENT BENEATH HIS CLOAK, THE LEERING LATIN STOPS BEFORE A GLITTERING DISPLAY...

IT IS HERE! MY SEARCH IS AT AN END!

I HAVE FOUND THE REMAINING HALF OF THE PENDANT OF KUKULCÁN!



ONLY THIS FLIMSY SHEET OF GLASS STANDS BETWEEN ME...AND **POWER WITHOUT EQUAL!**

KRAASH!
SH!

AND NOW... THE GLASS BARS MY WAY **NO LONGER!**



THEN...EL TIGRE **ISN'T** A MUTANT! HE MUST RECEIVE HIS POWERS FROM THAT AMULET! BUT, IF HE **INCREASES** THEM...NOTHING ON **EARTH** CAN STOP HIM!

GUARD...YOU MUST LET ME GO! YOU **MUST...**

NO! I DO... THE WILL OF EL TIGRE!

STAND STILL...OR I FIRE!

IT'S NO USE! IF ONLY THE **OTHERS** WOULD ARRIVE... BUT, WHERE ARE THEY?



ALAS, LITTLE KNOWN TO THE HAPLESS DEPUTY LEADER, HIS FELLOW MUTANTS ARE LYING **UNCONSCIOUS**, IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE SPRAWLING MUSEUM... AS THE ONE-TIME GEM-HUNTER KNOWS THE RADIANT FLUSH OF **TRIUMPH!**

ALREADY, THE RAYS OF THE PENDANT BEGIN TO **ACT** UPON ME...

I FEEL **NEW POWER...** BOTH MENTAL AND **PHYSICAL**...SURGING THROUGH MY BODY! AND, WITH EACH PASSING SECOND, I GROW **STRONGER!**



BUT, WAIT...THE MAYAN HIEROGLYPHS SAID THAT THE TWO HALVES OF THE STONE SHOULD BE **JOINED!**

WHEN THAT IS DONE, THE WEARER SHALL POSSESS...THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE GOD **KUKULCÁN** HIMSELF!

SLOWLY, HALTINGLY, AS IF SENSING THAT HIS LIFE...INDEED, THE WORLD ITSELF... SHALL NEVER BE THE SAME ONCE THOSE TWO GLOWING FRAGMENTS ARE UNITED... **EL TIGRE** FITS THE TWO HALVES OF THE GEM TOGETHER!

IT IS DONE!
THEY FIT...
PERFECTLY!

AND NOW,
LET WHAT
WILL HAPPEN...
HAPPEN!

THEN, AS THE BRILLIANT ORNAMENT IS PLACED ABOUT HIS NECK, THE UNEARTHLY STONE SEEMS TO CATCH FIRE... AS THE JOINED FRAGMENTS ERUPT WITH A FLASH OF BLINDING LIGHT...

THE PENDANT...
IT'S CHANGING
ME... TRANS-
FORMING ME...

BUT... INTO
WHOM?
INTO...
WHAT??

AND, BEFORE THE UNBELIEVING EYES OF THE AMAZED **CYCLOPS**, THE PULSATING LIGHT DIMS... THE UNLEASHED CATA-CLYSMIC FORCES SEEM TO CONGEAL INTO ONE MASSIVE, INCREDIBLE FORM... AS A RESOUNDING VOICE FILLS THE ECHOING CHAMBER...

THE MAN CALLED **EL TIGRE**... IS NO MORE! IN HIS PLACE, THE REINCARNATION OF THE MIGHTY GOD **KUKULCAN** NOW STRIDES THE EARTH... OMNIPOTENT MASTER OF ALL HE SURVEYS!

NOW, LET HUMANITY BEWARE... FOR NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE INVINCIBLE, IRRESISTIBLE POWER OF...

KUKULCAN!

**NEXT ISH:
HOLOCAUST!**

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE... 60

WATCH **MARVEL** SUPER-HEROES ON TV