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UNCANNY X-MEN



DIRECT EDITION

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CHANGE IS COMING. A NEW BREED OF MAN HAS EMERGED. THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE ATOM, HOMO SUPERIOR, INDIVIDUALS GIFTED WITH STRANGE AND FANTASTIC ABILITIES SIMPLY BY VIRTUE OF THEIR GENETIC MAKEUP.

UNCANNY X-MEN

"THE END OF HISTORY"

PREVIOUSLY

At the newly rebuilt Xavier Institute for Higher Learning, a new team of X-Men has been assembled: STORM, BISHOP, SAGE, MARVEL GIRL, NIGHTCRAWLER, CANNONBALL, and WOLVERINE. Led by Storm, this new team is code-named the X-TREME SANCTIONS EXECUTIVE (or X.S.E.) because of their internationally sanctioned duty to resolve mutant threats arising anywhere in the world.



PART ONE OF FOUR

The newly assembled X-Men's first mission pits them against the mysterious WEAPONEERS OF AL-KHALAD who threaten the people of the Central Saharan Republic. The X-Men dispatch these villains without incident. However, things don't go as well for Nightcrawler and Wolverine, who attempt to contain a volatile new mutant threatening a high school—but the local authorities refuse to recognize their credentials. The two X-Men teleport inside the school, but moments later the school explodes!



PART TWO OF FOUR

Nightcrawler is able to teleport all the students to safety...except for the young mutant, whom Wolverine was forced to kill. Local law enforcement are ready to lock up the two X-Men and throw away the key, but they're saved by Storm and Carol Danvers, aka WARBIRD of the AVENGERS, who secure their release.

Back at the mansion, Nightcrawler is disconsolate over the loss of the young mutant, and Storm attempts to comfort him...with a bit of waltzing.

Meanwhile, Bishop, Marvel Girl and Cannonball travel to Braddock Manor in the United Kingdom, home of BRIAN BRADDOCK, the former CAPTAIN BRITAIN, and his wife MEGGAN. Upon arrival, they find the house deserted. Moving into the subterranean caverns beneath the house, the three X-Men are suddenly attacked by a cybernetic monster known as THE FURY! It easily bats Marvel Girl into orbit and puts down Cannonball...perhaps for good!

SAGE'S LOFT
THE XAVIER
INSTITUTE

SAGE PROCESSES DATA
AT SPEEDS THAT PUT THE
FASTEST COMPUTER TO
SHAME. SHE FORGETS
NOTHING.

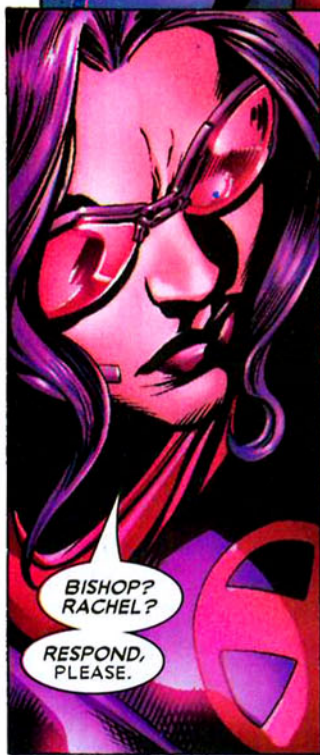
SAM--?!

THIS OBJECT
IS *MORE* THAN
IT SEEMS.

IT IS PART OF
A GLOBAL DATA
NETWORK.

IT REPRESENTS
A POTENTIAL
THREAT--

--BUT ALSO AN
OPPORTUNITY.



BISHOP?
RACHEL?

RESPOND,
PLEASE.



BUT FOR ALL HER POWERS,
ALL HER SKILLS, SHE REMAINS
FUNDAMENTALLY HUMAN.

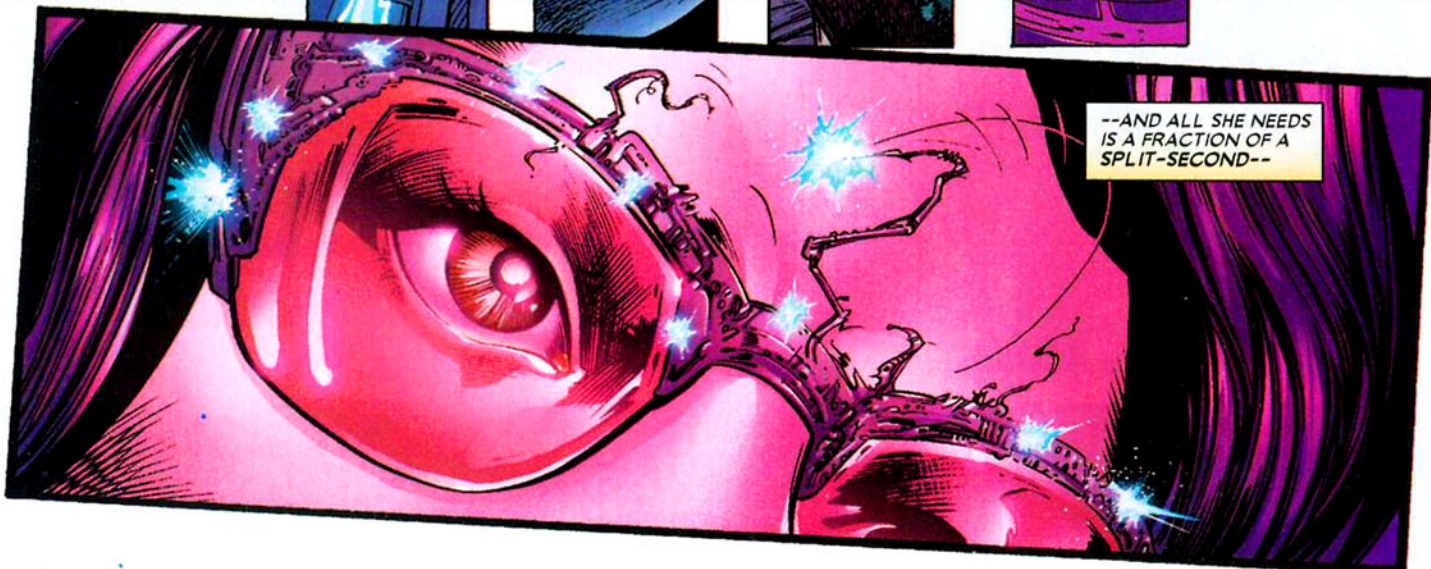


BOUND BY
HUMAN LIMITS.



ORORO, WE
MAY HAVE A
PROBLEM--!

BY THE TIME
SHE REALIZES
HER DANGER--



--AND ALL SHE NEEDS
IS A FRACTION OF A
SPLIT-SECOND--

--THE
BATTLE'S
LOST!

YARGH!

IT WILL ACQUIRE
CONTROL OF THE
NETWORK--

--BY ASSIMILATING
ITS HOST.

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

BURNING SAGE!

THE END OF HISTORY 3 OF 4

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALAN DAVIS

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AT THAT MOMENT,
OVERHEAD...

SEE,
ORORO,
YOU CAN
WALTZ.

IN THE AIR,
DEAR FRIEND,
EVERYTHING'S
EASY.

**BIP
BIP
BIP**

I'M SORRY,
KURT, SAGE IS
CALLING.

WHERE
COULD YOU
POSSIBLY HIDE
THOSE--?

MY
SECRET.

I'M
LINKED, SAGE.
WHAT'S--?!

AUGH!

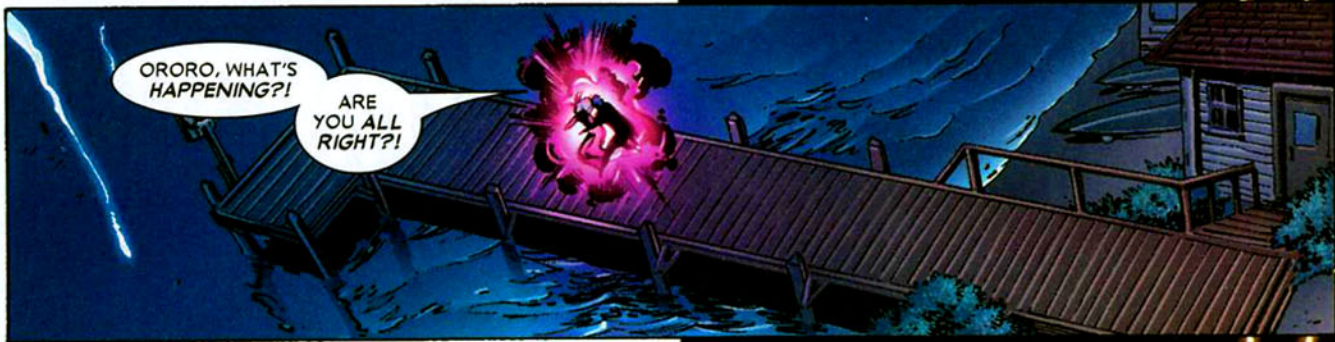
ORORO?!

KURT,
GET US
AWAY--!

BAMF!

MY
GLASSES!

**S
K
B
O
M
A**



ORORO, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!



GET AWAY!



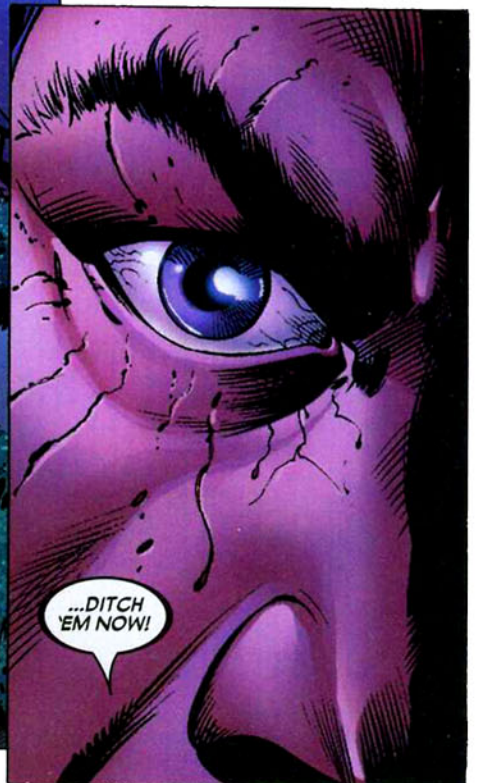
THROW!

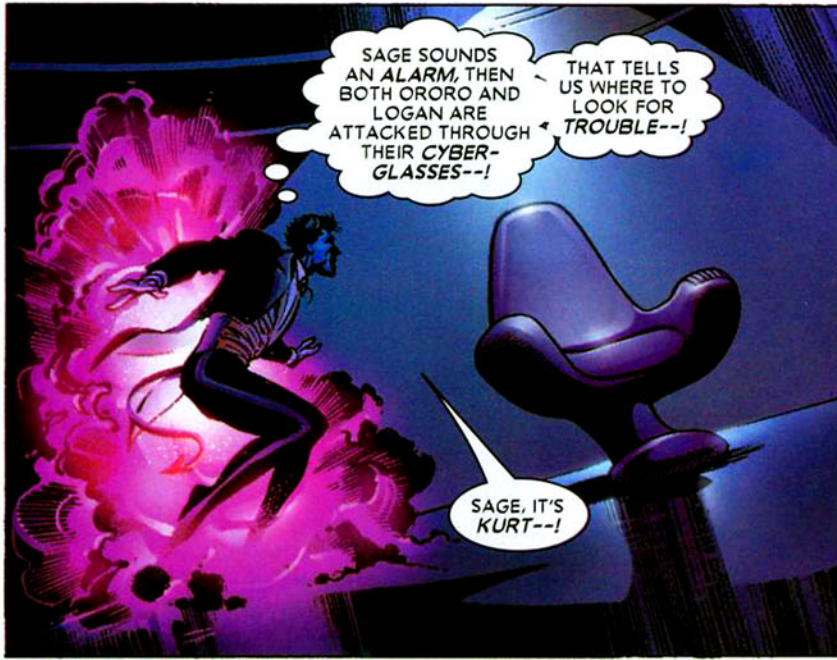


MEIN GOTT!



SKARA BOOM!



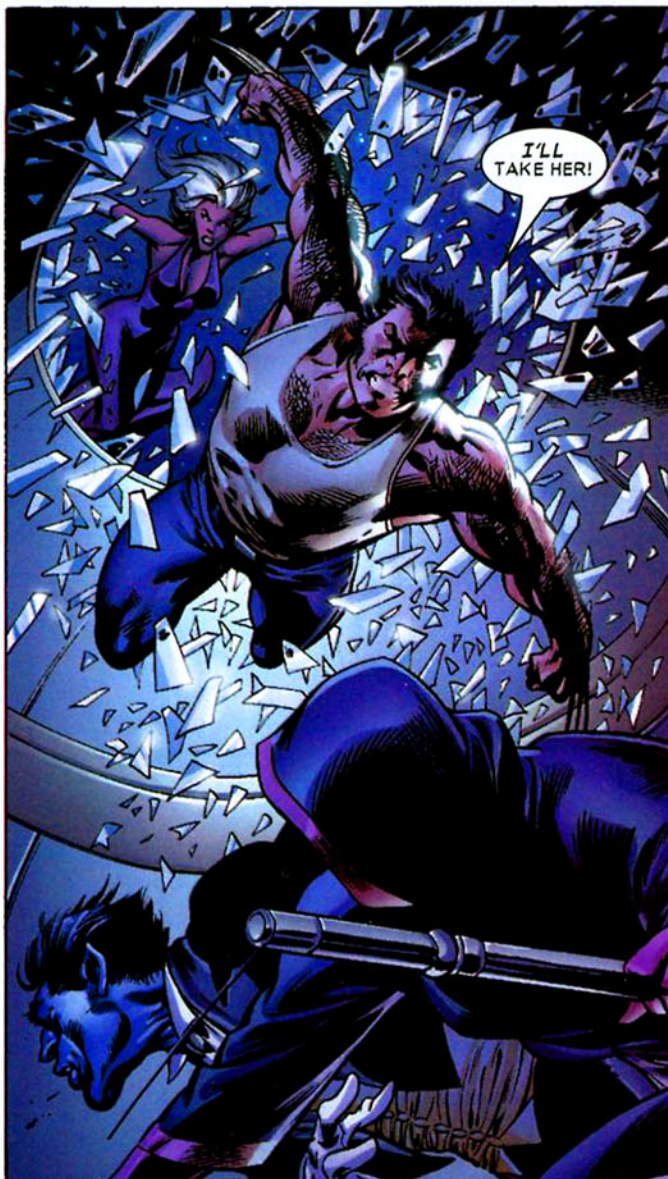


SAGE SOUNDS AN ALARM, THEN BOTH ORORO AND LOGAN ARE ATTACKED THROUGH THEIR CYBER-GLASSES--!

SAGE, IT'S KURT--!



KIK!



I'LL TAKE HER!



WHUMF!



KRAKK!

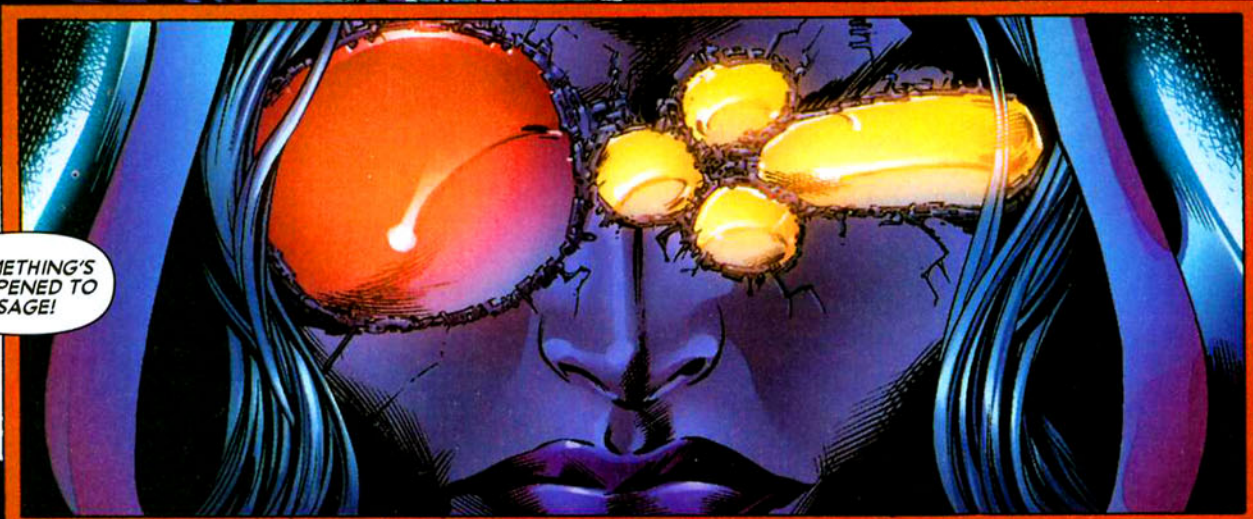


CYCLOPS, THIS IS STORM!

WE HAVE A COMBAT SITUATION AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE! LOGAN AND KURT ARE DOWN!



I'M SOUNDING A FULL TEAM SECURITY ALERT!



SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO SAGE!



HOW UTTERLY TIRESOME.

STORM'S A BIG GIRL, SCOTT, DARLING. HER PRECIOUS X.S.E. IS OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED AND EVERYTHING. WHY, SHE EVEN HAS A BADGE.

SURELY SHE CAN SAVE THE WORLD ALL BY HERSELF?

EMMA, PLEASE.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, STORM!

TACTICAL SCAN TARGETS
MULTIPLE POTENTIAL
HOSTILE CONTACTS, THIS
IMMEDIATE LOCALITY.

INITIATING
APPROPRIATE
COUNTER-
MEASURES.

MANSION INTERDICTION / INTRUDER SYSTEMS: ACTIVE

GAS!

HSSSSSSSSSS

GIVE UP,
SAGE!

YOU WON'T
GET CLOSE
ENOUGH TO DO
ME HARM!



SHE DON'T HAVE TO, 'RO!



ZAPAZAPA ZAPAZAPAZAPA



TIME TO BAIL, KURT!

MAKE US LIKE MORLOCKS!



LOGAN, YOU'RE HIT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME--



--JUST GO!

ENZYMES FLOW, PROTEIN STRANDS WEAVE FRESH PATTERNS--

--PLACING THIS REMOTE BIOLOGICAL SEGMENT MORE IN SYNC WITH THE HOST.

TARGETS WILL BE FOUND. TARGETS WILL BE ELIMINATED.

THE CATACOMBS
BENEATH BRADDOCK
MANOR.

IT SHATTERED
MY FORCE FIELD,
IT BROKE MY
LEG!

THAT AIN'T
S'POSED T'
HAPPEN.

THAT
CREATURE--!

AN' NOW
IT'S GOT
BISHOP!



NO!

THE PAIN IN
HIS LEG IS
AWFUL.



SAM GUTHRIE
IGNORES IT.



IT'S
ADAPTING
TO MY
ATTACK--

--JUS' LIKE
B'FORE!

NOW WHAT,
SMART
GUY--?!



PROPANE
TANK!

BOOM!

WOW!

I DUMPED THE CRITTER RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE FIREBALL.

EVEN IF IT SURVIVED, IT'S GOT TO BE PRETTY BADLY...

...HURT?

MEANWHILE...

THREE X-MEN
ENCOUNTERED
THIS ADVERSARY
AT BRADDOCK
MANOR.

THE CREATURE
HIT RACHEL GREY
(MARVEL GIRL)
REALLY, REALLY
HARD.

THE CONSEQUENCES
PRETTY MUCH SPEAK
FOR THEMSELVES.

AND...

...BACK AT THE
XAVIER INSTITUTE.

SAGE IS
STRONGER
THAN SHE
LOOKS,
ORORO.

SHE'S FULL
OF SURPRISES.
WE HAVE TO ASSUME
WHATEVER CONTROLS
HER HAS ACCESS
TO THEM ALL.

LOGAN,
WHY HAVE
KURT TELEPORT
US HERE?

TACTICS, DARLIN'.
DEFINE THE GROUND,
YOU COMMAND THE
BATTLE.

AGAINST SAGE,
WE'LL NEED EVERY
ASSET WE CAN
FIND.



THE GLASSES ARE THE KEY. SOMETHING IN THEM TRIED TO TAKE OVER ME.

WITH SAGE, THE PROCESS MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

MY WINDS HAVE FLUSHED THE INTRUDER GAS FROM THIS SECTION BUT THE REST OF THE INSTITUTE IS STILL COMPROMISED.



GODDESS KNOWS WHAT OTHER DEFENSES SHE'S ACTIVATED.

EVERYONE IS AT HER MERCY-- WE CAN'T ABANDON THEM.

WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR STAND HERE AND WE HAVE TO WIN.

ASSUMING SHE COMES AFTER US.

SHE HAS TO. WE'RE THE ACTIVE THREAT, AN' WAY TOO MUCH POWER TO IGNORE.



BUT IN THIS CONFINED AREA, OUR TACTICS ARE LIMITED.

YUP. BIG MISTAKE ON MY PART. MUST BE GETTIN' OLD.

LOGAN, SAGE KNOWS OUR POWERS, OUR CAPABILITIES, OUR WEAKNESSES.



SHE KNOWS HOW WE THINK.

THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTIN' ON. 'CAUSE IT GIVES US THE CHANCE TO BLINDSIDE HER.

BUT FIRST--!



SWIFT

NO WAY IS AN EVENING GOWN DESIGNED FOR A RUNNING FIGHT.



LOGAN?!

RRRRIP!





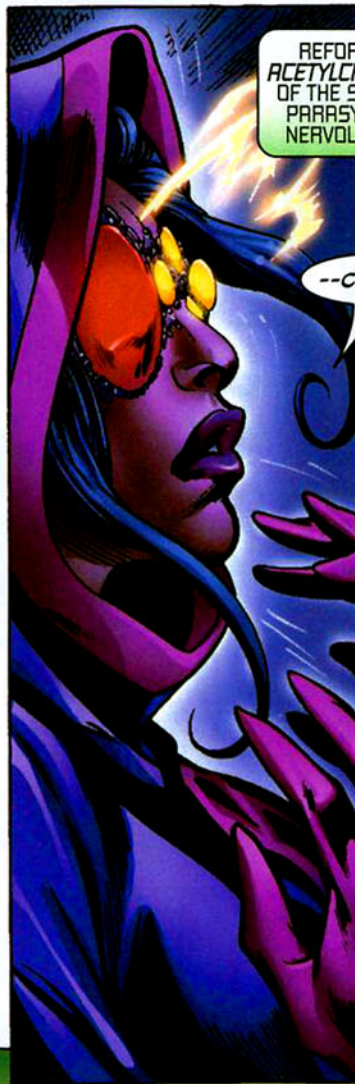
NO!

IT REBALANCES HER BRAIN CHEMISTRY TO MAKE HER MORE PLIABLE.



I WILL NOT--

BUILDS ALTERNATE NEURAL NETS.

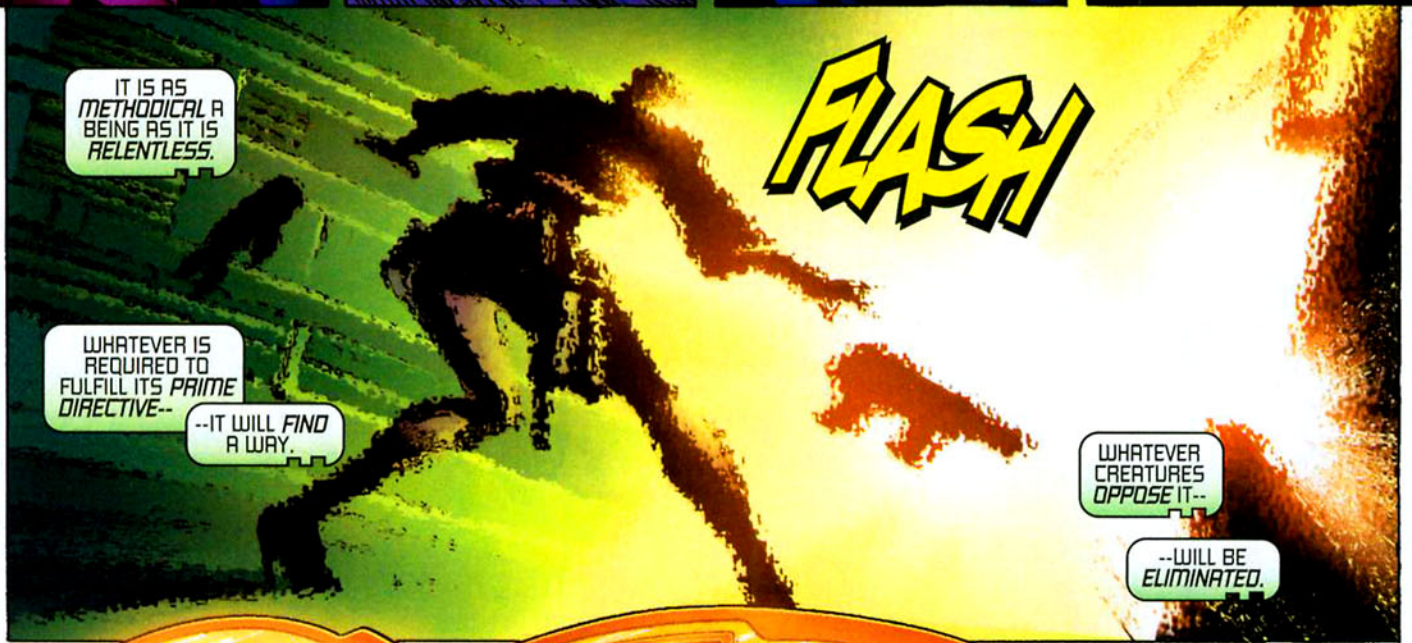


REFORMATS THE ACETYLCHOLINE LEVELS OF THE SOMATIC AND PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM--

--COMPLY!



--TO SOLIDIFY ITS CONTROL OVER HER MAJOR VOLUNTARY MOTOR FUNCTIONS.



IT IS AS METHODOICAL A BEING AS IT IS RELENTLESS.

FLASH

WHATEVER IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL ITS PRIME DIRECTIVE--

--IT WILL FIND A WAY.

WHATEVER CREATURES OPPOSE IT--

--WILL BE ELIMINATED.



THIS ONE GENERATES A SUBSTANTIAL ELECTRICAL FIELD--

--PRELUDE TO A LIGHTNING STRIKE THAT WILL PROBABLY PROVE FATAL TO THIS REMOTE UNIT.

NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

THE SAME ENERGIES THAT SHE MANIPULATES--

--ALSO MARK HER AS A TARGET.



SAGE!
ORORO WAS YOUR FRIEND.
SHE SAVED YOUR LIFE!
AND YOU CUT HER TO PIECES!





SHE THOUGHT KINDLY OF YOU!

BAM!



BAM! **BAM!**

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

ME, I DON'T KNOW YOU THAT WELL!



THE SAGE I REMEMBER WORKED FOR THE HELLFIRE CLUB!

BAM! **BAM!**



SHE WAS THE WILLING PARTNER OF ONE OF OUR MOST FORMIDABLE ADVERSARIES!

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED...

...YOU'RE JUST REVERTING TO TYPE!



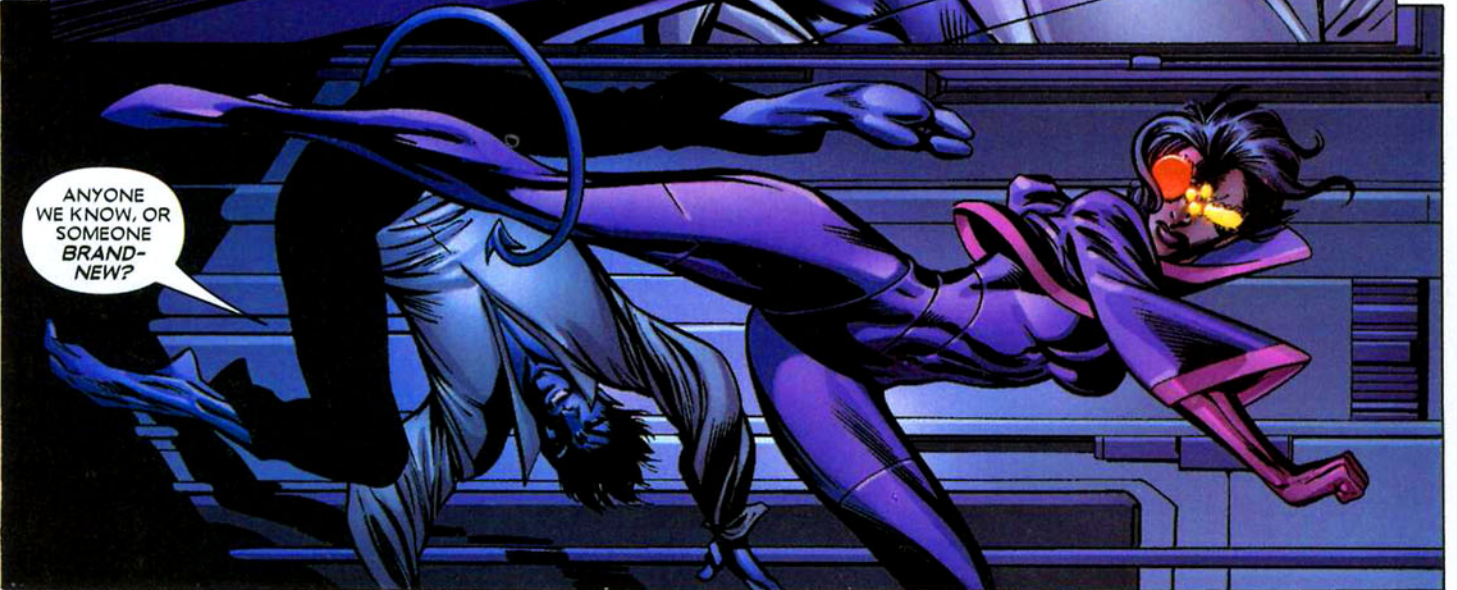
LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING?
WANT
THEM
BACK?



I LOVE
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE TO YOUR
FACE, SAGE!



A "GIFT"
FROM YOUR
PUPPET-
MASTER?



ANYONE
WE KNOW, OR
SOMEONE
BRAND-
NEW?



YOU'RE VERY QUICK, MY DEAR.

BUT LACKING YOUR USUAL EDGE!



WAS?!



BE CAREFUL, KURT!



SAGE MAY NOT BE AT HER BEST...

...BUT SHE'S STILL DANGEROUS.

WE CAN'T AFFORD A SINGLE MISTAKE. WE HAVE TO PLAY AGAINST TYPE.



THAT'S WHY YOU FIGHT WITHOUT TELEPORTING.

AND THE CLAUSTROPHOBE HIDES IN THIS CRAWL SPACE.

I AM NOT AFRAID, I REFUSE TO BE AFRAID.

I HAVE ROOM. I CAN MOVE, I CAN BREATHE.

I CAN SURVIVE THIS...



OW!

THAT'S ENOUGH, SAGE.



YOU'RE DONE.

SNIKT



NAIL HER WITH YOUR E.M.P., 'RO!

ZAKOW!

IF IT DOESN'T WORK, I POP THE MIDDLE CLAW.



FOOLS!



DO THEY KNOW NOTHING?!

AGAINST SOME
ADVERSARIES, THEY
DARE NOT SHOW THE
SLIGHTEST MERCY.

No!

I--WILL
NOT--DO
THIS!

STORM'S ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE CRIPPLED THE CYBORG
NANITES INFECTING SAGE, AND
THE CYBER-GLASSES FROM
WHICH THEY WERE CREATED...

I WILL
BE NO ONE'S
SLAVE!

...BUT SAGE
CAN FEEL THEM
ADAPTING.

SHE HAS BUT
A MOMENT
TO ACT.
AND ONLY
THIS ONE
CHANCE.

SHE WAS BORN WITH AN INDOMITABLE WILL. CHARLES XAVIER TAUGHT HER THAT THE MIND IS OF THE BODY, THE BODY OF THE MIND.

PROPERLY FOCUSED, HER CAPABILITIES ARE EXTRAORDINARY.

AND HE STILL CONSIDERS SAGE VERY MUCH A WORK IN PROGRESS.

FOR NOW, THOUGH, SHE'S GRATEFUL FOR WHAT SHE'S LEARNED.



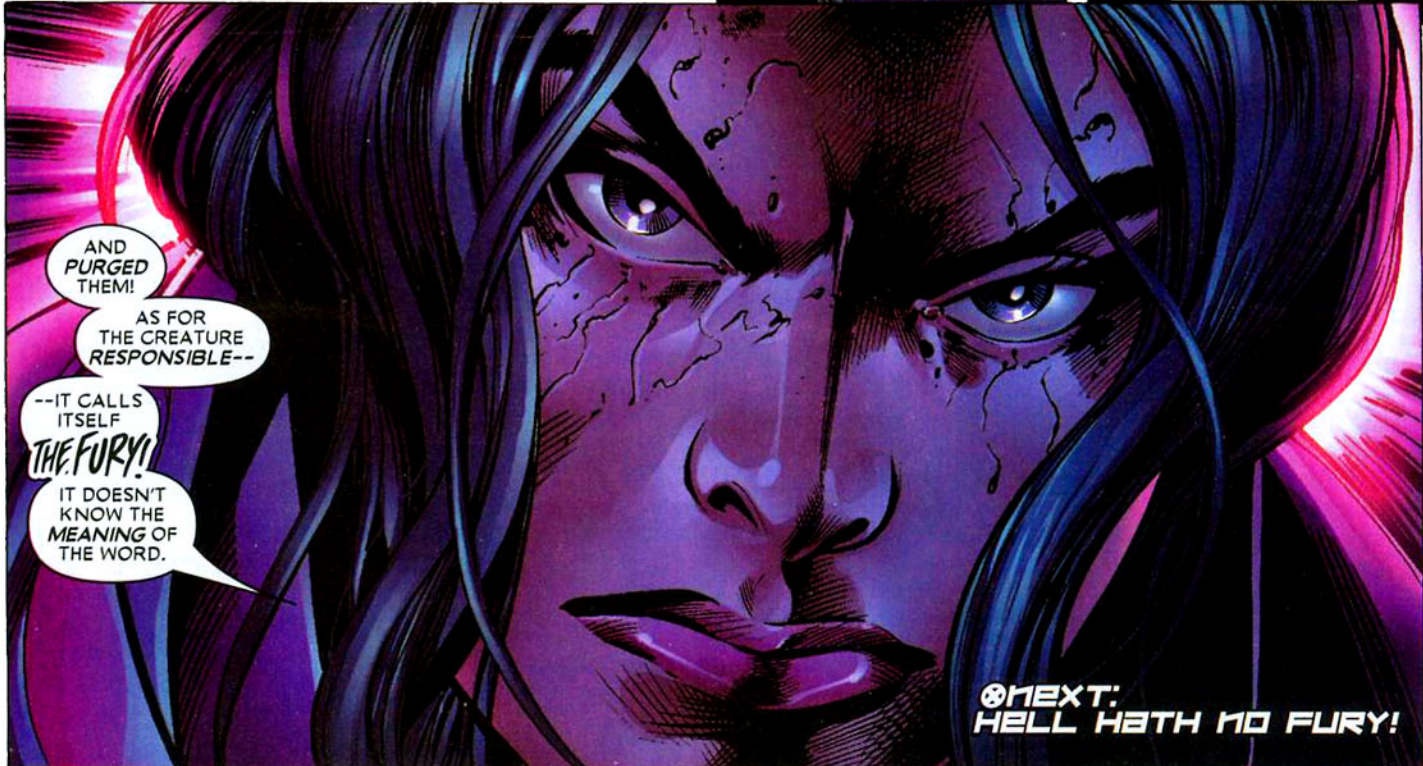
SAGE?



SAGE?

YOU CAN ALL STAND DOWN. I AM MYSELF AGAIN.

BY FOCUSED APPLICATION OF MY WILL, I TREATED THE CYBORG ELEMENTS LIKE ANY BIOLOGICAL VIRUS.



AND PURGED THEM!

AS FOR THE CREATURE RESPONSIBLE--

--IT CALLS ITSELF THE FURY!

IT DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD.

ⓂNEXT: HELL HATH NO FURY!

X-MAIL

**JULY 2004
X-MEN TITLES**

UNCANNY X-MEN 446: Here comes The Fury! By Claremont and Davis!

STARJAMMERS 1 & 2: New ongoing series, first two issues in one month! By Kevin J. Anderson, Alé Garza and Jorge Lucas.

EXILES 49: The Impossible Man! 'Nuff Said! By Bedard and Calafiore.

ALPHA FLIGHT 5: Alpha Flight vs. Alpha Flight?! By Lobdell and Henry.

DISTRICT X 3: Bishop gets closer to Mr. M, by Hine and Yardin.

EMMA FROST 13: New story arc! Emma goes to college, by Bollers and guest-artist Adriana Melo.

X-MEN 159: How do you solve a problem like Xorn? Austen and Larroca try to find out.

NEW X-MEN: ACADEMY X 3: The New Mutants vs. the Hellions! By DeFilippis & Weir and guest-artist Staz Johnson.

WEAPON X 26: New story arc spotlighting SABRETOOTH! By Tieri and Mandrake.

ASTONISHING X-MEN 3: The Beast's moment of truth! By Whedon and Cassaday.

EXCALIBUR 3: Enter the Omega Sentinel! By Claremont and Lopresti.

MYSTIQUE 17: Is Mystique M.I.A.? Or A.W.O.L.? By McKeever and Garcia.

ROGUE 1: Catch the first issue of the Southern Belle's new ongoing series, by Rob Rodi and Cliff Richards!

Welcome back, X-heads! We got LOTS of letters this month about Chris and Alan's first issue—here are some of the highlights!

Dear Marvel,

Finally! The REAL X-Men are back. I haven't been this excited about any of the core X-Men books since the last time Chris Claremont wrote them. Add the wonderful artistry of Alan Davis and it is instant magic. I can't wait for the next issue.

I am looking forward to seeing the Fury again and am sure that it'll be quite the joyride for me, if not for the X-Men. And maybe then, the Tullamore Voge and Princess Kymri storyline will finally get resolved, eh?

Michael C.T. Andersen
Denmark

We're just as excited to have Chris and Alan aboard UNCANNY as you are, Michael! As for Tullamore Voge and Princess Kymri...well, just be sure to check out that other X-book Chris is helming, X-MEN: THE END.

Dear X-Pressions,

I am somewhat anxious about Chris Claremont returning to the X-fold. Don't get me wrong; he's a great writer, and his work on FANTASTIC FOUR is exquisite. But all of these sudden shake-ups in a row are starting to make me worry that, in any issue, the characters that I've grown up with could be killed off and replaced with "cooler," "hipper" characters that I can't really care for.

There are many X-Men. The great thing about having three separate X-titles is that each one focuses on a smaller group of characters. Now, with so many characters under one title, it's likely that we'll go six months without seeing some friendly faces—or maybe those faces will only appear on a few pages.

Please tell me that Mr. Claremont will focus his incredible talent on ALL characters, not just the ones that he's traditionally favored.

Steven Trinkl
Millersville, PA

For now, Steven, Chris will be shepherding the characters currently starring in his title: Storm, Nightcrawler, Bishop, Rachel, and Sage. For Cyclops, Emma, Beast, Wolverine and Kitty Pryde, you'll need to go pick up ASTONISHING X-MEN (trust us, it'll be worth your time), and if it's Rogue, Gambit, Iceman, Havok or Polaris you're interested in, you can find them starring in X-MEN.

But don't worry, Chris loves these characters as much as you do and he'll take good care of them. In the months to come, there's not a single character on his roster that Chris won't be doing something totally amazing with, so stay tuned.

Dear X-Mail,

I have read UNCANNY X-MEN 444 five times in less than a week. I love it. Great team. Great costumes. And best of all, Chris Claremont is back. What could be better?

Did I mention I loved the cover? Alan Davis

is fantastic. The detail. Wow. Now, that brings me to my question. Who are the members of the X-treme Sanctions Executive? If you clear that up, I'll enjoy UNCANNY X-MEN better. Thanks.

Tim Cubbin

Glad you enjoyed the issue, Tim! To answer your question, the X.S.E. marshals are: Storm, Sage, Nightcrawler, Wolverine, Bishop, Marvel Girl, Cannonball and Magma. Check out X-TREME X-MEN #46 for more background.

Dear Marvel,

Having Mr. Claremont back in UNCANNY X-MEN was one of the best moves by Marvel. Having almost all of the core characters in a single issue and playing baseball to boot was great. Seeing the X-girls, particularly Storm, Kitty, Rogue, Emma Frost AND Rachel Grey (should that be Summers?!) was the best. One thing, though: Mr. Claremont should bring back the Dazzler. She belongs on this team. And if he could bring back Psylocke, I think every X-Men fan will be happy. And please, let Marvel Girl and Emma Frost have a showdown in a future issue. That will be a sight to see. Thank you for listening.

M'onel
Ireland

Dazzler, Psylocke, showdown between Emma and Rachel...well, let's just say that some of your wishes will be granted in upcoming months and some unfortunately will not, M'onel. As always, stay tuned.

As for Rachel going by "Grey" instead of "Summers", look for that to be addressed in upcoming issues...but for now, suffice it to say it's a show of solidarity with her mom—just like her codename and costume.

NEXT ISSUE:



ALL HELL'S FURY!

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