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SAGA of the
X-MEN'S
DEADLIEST FOE
CONTINUES
HERE!

#2

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MAGNETO

DARK SEDUCTION

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AUTHORITY



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**HUMAN-FREE
ZONE**

MAGNETO

PART 2 ROTTEN APPLES

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DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT GENOSHA USED TO BE, WANDA?

DO YOU RECALL THE DAYS-- ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO--WHEN THIS ISLAND WAS RULED BY AN UPPER CLASS OF HUMANS WHO BUILT THEIR RICHES ON THE BACKS OF MUTATE SLAVES?

THOSE DAYS ARE LONG GONE. TODAY REPRESENTS A NEW DAWN.

THE SLAVES HAVE BECOME THE MASTERS--

--AND THE WORLD WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME.

LOOK ALL AROUND, WANDA.

THIS IS BUT A SMALL SAMPLING...

"...OF WHAT I HAVE BROUGHT GENOSHA!"

THE VIEW OF THE SLOWLY-REBUILDING CAPITAL CITY OF HAMMER BAY...

...IS CONTRADICTED BY THE FIERCE FIGHTING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND NATION OFF THE EAST AFRICAN COAST.

WANDA DURINGO MAXIMOFF, THE AVENGER KNOWN AS THE SCARLET WITCH, IS HERE TO SEE BOTH SIDES OF THE COUNTRY MAGNETO NOW RULES.

BIOLOGY DOES NOT MAKE YOU MY FATHER, MAGNETO...

...AND WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA I'M IMPRESSED?

WE SHOULD FOCUS ON THE MATTER AT HAND--

--THE SCARLET WITCH IS HERE AS AN OBSERVER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS--

--NOT TO PLAY "FAMILY FEUD."

AND IN THAT CAPACITY, I WOULD BE INTERESTED TO OBSERVE THE STATUS OF...

...CARRION COVE.

IT IS NOT YET SAFE TO GO THERE, CHILD.

THOUGH I'VE MANAGED TO CURTAIL THE CIVIL WAR ON GENOSHA, I READILY ADMIT THE... *DISRUPTION*... THERE CONTINUES--

ALTHOUGH DULY IMPRESSED, YOU STILL SEEK REASONS TO DOUBT YOUR FATHER?

"--BUT IT IS BEING ADDRESSED EVEN AS WE SPEAK..."

CARRION COVE.

GENOSHAN SOLDIERS FAN OUT TO CONTROL THE HEIGHTS DISTRICT...

...KNOWING THEIR SUCCESS IS BORNE ON THE BODIES AND BLOOD OF THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!



I'M CURIOUS AS TO HOW IT IS "BEING ADDRESSED."

BY FORCE, AS THEY HAVE USED AGAINST US.



COME, ALLOW DR. HUXLEY AND I TO SHOW YOU MORE OF OUR RESPLENDENT COUNTRYSIDE...

HE IS HOLDING SOMETHING BACK, I'M CERTAIN OF IT.

AND YET THE CHANGES TO THE COUNTRY SINCE LAST I WAS HERE ARE NOTHING SHORT OF REMARKABLE.

HUXLEY IS DOING EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO KEEP ME FOCUSED ON THAT.



AND WHAT OF LORNA DANE-- POLARIS--?

SHORT OF A CURT GREETING AT THE AIRPORT, SHE'S SAID NOTHING TO ME.

WHAT ARE HER REASONS FOR BEING HERE? DOUBTLESS, SHE IS BEING MANIPULATED BY MY FATHER.

HE'S BEEN SUCH AN ENIGMA... EVER SINCE PIETRO AND I WERE CHILDREN. HE MAY HAVE SAVED OUR LIVES--

--BUT HE CURSED THEM, TOO, BY MAKING US A PART OF HIS BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS.

--OR THE CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN/MUTANT AFFAIRS--

HAD WE KNOWN THEN HE WAS OUR FATHER--HAD HE KNOWN-- WOULD OUR LIVES--

--HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY? PROBABLY NOT. MAGNUS IS WHAT HE IS--

--A TORTURED MAN TWISTED BY HIS OWN HATRED AND ANGER.



AND YET... WHY CAN'T I GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT...

"...THE WAY MY BROTHER APPARENTLY DOES?"

MAGNETO CANNOT BE ENTRUSTED WITH THIS!

NO WONDER THE REBELS HAVE FOUGHT SO FERVENTLY TO PROTECT IT.

HIS NAME IS PIETRO MAXIMOFF, THE MUTANT SPEEDSTER KNOWN AS QUICKSILVER--

--AND AT THE MOMENT, HIS GREATEST FEARS ARE BECOMING REALITY.

HE REMAINED IN GENOSHA AS PART OF HIS FATHER'S CABINET, KNOWING THAT BEING INSIDE THE LION'S DEN MIGHT BE HIS ONLY HOPE OF STOPPING MAGNETO'S INEVITABLE PLANS FOR GENETIC WARFARE.

BUT NO MATTER HOW QUICKLY HE MOVES, MAGNETO HAS REMAINED ONE STEP AHEAD...

THE SECRET THAT RESTS IN THE CAVES OF CARRION COVE SHOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH THE WORLD!

BUT WHAT IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL?

TO PREVENT MAGNETO FROM CONSOLIDATING THIS CITY--AND ACCESSING THE POWER HIDDEN HERE--

--COULD PUT INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN IMMEDIATE AND DIRE PERIL.

SOUNDS OF BATTLE FILL THE AIR, COMING FROM ABOVE, CLOSER TO THE RESIDENTIAL HEIGHTS SECTION OF THE CLIFFSIDE CITY.

HE LEAVES THE FENYICK CAVES, PAST ENFMANN BEACH AND THROUGH THE RED DOCKS WAREHOUSE DISTRICT...

THUNK ROOM

HIS FATHER'S TROOPS HAVE REACHED THE HEIGHTS.

HE HAS TO MAKE A DECISION NOW.



AND THE FASTEST MAN ON EARTH...

...WISHES HE COULD STOP TIME!



DID YOU SEE?

YES, AMELIA... I DID.

AND?

I WOULD ASK THE SAME OF MAYOR BOERKE AND THE CARRION COVE REBELLION.

DO I TRUST MAGNETO TO HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH POWER?
NO.

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU BE ENTRUSTED TO SAFEGUARD IT?

AFTER ALL, YOU ACCEPTED ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS LIKE ROXXON--

--WHO HARDLY HAVE STERLING REPUTATIONS--

--AND YOU KNOWINGLY USED SUPERHUMAN FORCES TO DECIMATE HUMAN GENOSHAN TROOPS...



THROOM



FRSHSH



WHATEVER DECISION WE MAKE, PIETRO--



"--WE'D BEST DO IT BEFORE OUR OWN TROOPS BOMB US INTO OBLIVION!"

ABOVE THEM, ON THE HEIGHTS--

--CABINET MEMBER JENNY RANSOME AND CARGILL SUPERVISE THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS...

PIPE-LINE-- GOOD TO GO...

MACHINERY HUMS TO LIFE--

THE TRANSMAT PAD IS READY!

--PATTERNS OF ENERGY TAKE ON HUMAN FORM--



...AND CORMICK GRIMSHAW, WHOSE MUTATE POWERS ALLOW HIM TO CONVERT MATTER INTO A PIPELINE OF DIGITIZED ENERGY--

--DELIVERS ANOTHER SQUADRON OF SOLDIERS TO THE BATTLE!



PIPELINE--WHAT'S THE CONDITION IN THE KRÖLIK FOOTHILLS?



WE'RE GETTING SLAUGHTERED, JENNY...

...JUST LIKE WE PLANNED.



THOUGH SACRIFICING OUR SOLDIERS SO WE COULD SNEAK IN BEHIND THE CCR AND TAKE OVER THE CITY STILL DOESN'T SIT TOO WELL WITH ME!

OR ANY OF US, PIPELINE!

WE DON'T HAVE TO LIKE A PLAN IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE A GOOD ONE!



WHAT OF PHILLIP?

I SENT LITTLE MOREAU FIVE KLICKS EAST OF THE FOOTHILLS.

HE'S FEEDING BATTLE REPORTS BACK TO HAMMER BAY.

I KNOW LOVER-BOY ISN'T A SOLDIER, JENNY. HE'S GOT NO MORE IN THE WAY OF GUTS THAN HIS FATHER DID.

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD HIM, I'D HAVE SENT HIM TO DIE AT THE FRONT LINES...

...JUST LIKE HIS FAMILY WOULD HAVE DONE WITH US WHEN THE HUMANS WERE IN CHARGE.

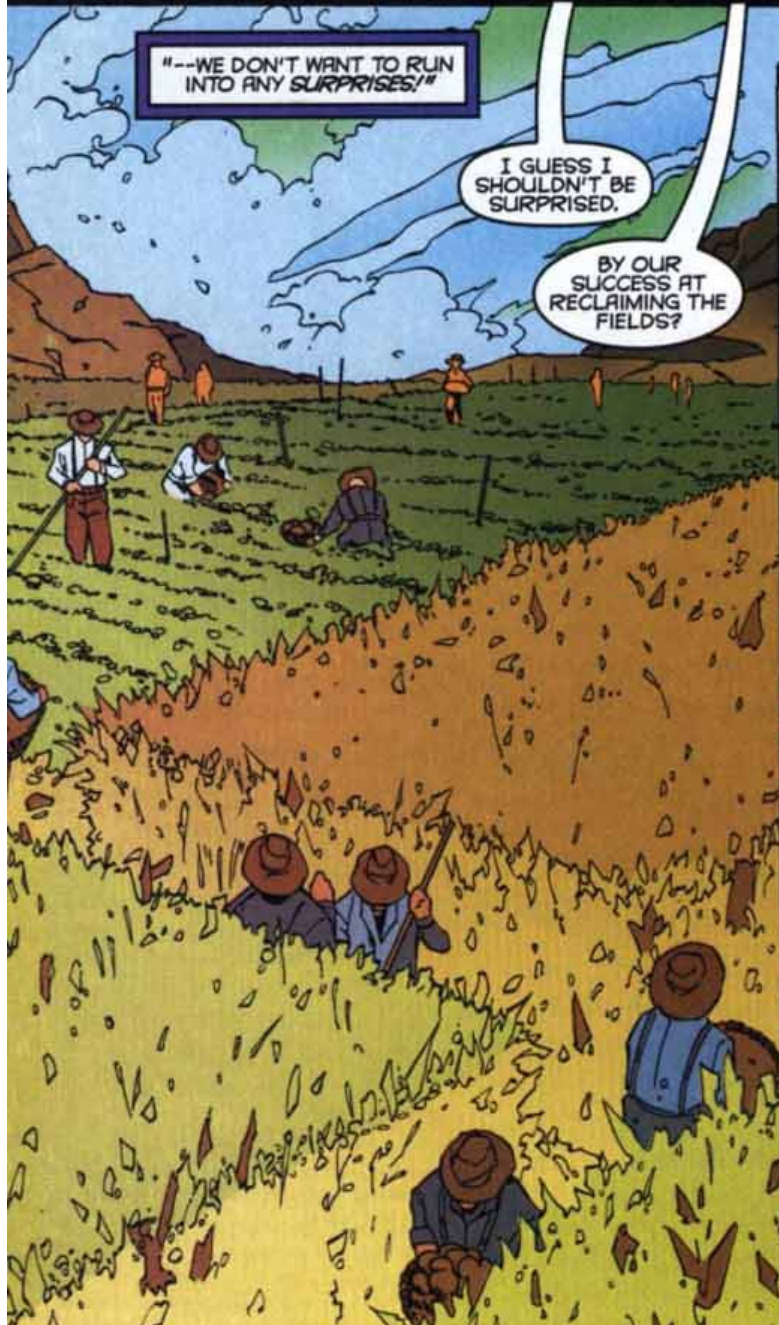
SPEAKING OF FATHER'S AND SONS, WHERE'S QUICKSILVER?



RECON OF THE RED DOCKS--HE'S BEEN GONE A WHILE NOW.

BOY NEVER DOES ANYTHING SLOW. FIGURE HE'S BEEN TAKEN DOWN.

SEND SCANNER FOR A BACKUP RECON. WHEN WE STORM THE DOCKS--



"--WE DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO ANY SURPRISES!"

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

BY OUR SUCCESS AT RECLAIMING THE FIELDS?



NO, BY YOUR USE OF SLAVE LABOR.

EVERY CITIZEN WORKS TO THEIR STRENGTHS--BE IT AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING--

--AND ARE PAID IN A PROPORTIONATE SHARING OF THE OUTPUT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE EXPERTISE.





--NEED HELP SHKK OUT HERE! WHERE'S MAGNETO ZZTT?

ON A WALKABOUT WITH HIS DAUGHTER.

SHOWING HER HOW LOVELY GENOSHA IS.

HE MUST BELIEVE HER STUPID.

VMMMMMMMM



MISSED MOST STYST OF THAT.

WAITING ORDERS VIKK ON WHAT WE SHZZT SHOULD DO NEXT--

LOSING YOU, PHILLIP. I--

VMMMMMMMMMMMM



WHY PHILLIP...YOU SHOULD ALL DIE!

VMMMMMMMM
CHIKT

ACCESS PRIVATE LINE 13-3. SEND MESSAGE TO MEMORY DIAL 13.



TO: FORMER SOVIET ADMIRAL GREGORY SUVOROV FROM: TROJAN HORSE.

MESSAGE: EQUIPMENT HAS MALFUNCTIONED. STOP. POWER SURPLUS TO FORCES CUT OFF. STOP. CARRION COVE FEARED LOST. STOP.



"STRONGLY URGE CONTINGENCY PLAN BE DEPLOYED. END."

THE ACOLYTES-- THEIR POWER'S HAVE SUDDENLY DECREASED!

WHICH MEANS WE STAND A FIGHTING CHANCE...



"...AND SO DO THE PEOPLE OF GENOSHA!"

HAVE YOU BEEN TREATED WELL?

IT'S BEEN HARD-- FOR ALL HUMANS--

--THINGS ARE VERY... DIFFERENT... NOW--

THE OPRESSORS ARE NOW THE OPPRESSED?

I AM JUST A FARMER, AS WAS MY FATHER AND HIS FATHER.



IS THIS WISE, MAGNUS?

FEAR, MS. HUXLEY, IS THE GREATEST MOTIVATOR.

WHEN ONE MAN KNOWS THAT ANOTHER HOLDS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER HIM-- AND THOSE HE LOVES--

--HE WILL ENDURE ANYTHING.



HIS EGO DEMANDS HE CONTROL EVERY SITUATION!

PART OF WHAT MAKES HIM SO CHARISMATIC--

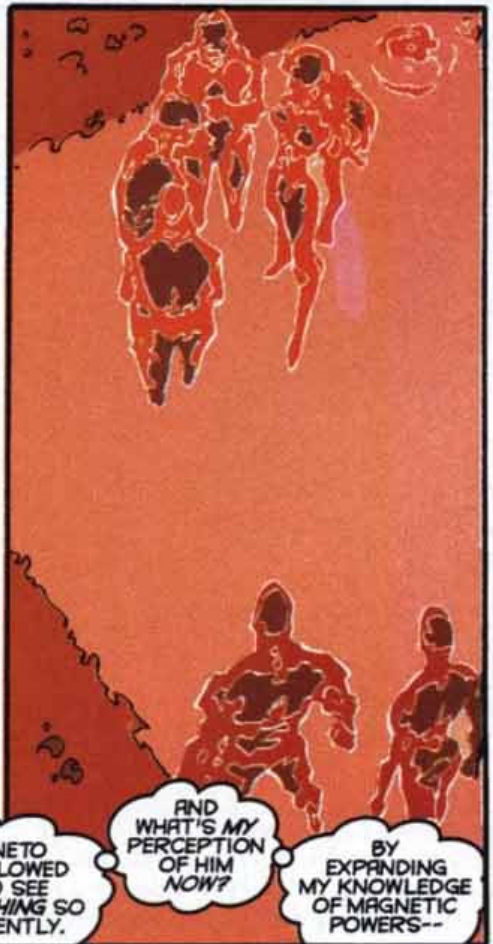
--BUT ALSO THE REASON HE HAS ALWAYS FAILED.

HERE HE IS, SO CLOSE TO ATTAINING HIS LIFELONG GOAL--

--AND STANDING IN HIS WAY IS THE ONE THING HE HAS THE LEAST CONTROL OVER--

--HIS OWN PREJUDICES.

MAGNETO HAS ALLOWED ME TO SEE EVERYTHING SO DIFFERENTLY.



AND WHAT'S MY PERCEPTION OF HIM NOW?

BY EXPANDING MY KNOWLEDGE OF MAGNETIC POWERS--







DAMN YOU, MAGNETO, FOR FORCING ME TO BE A PART OF THIS!

THE GENOSHAN TROOPS ARE PREPARING FOR A CHARGE DOWN THE CLIFFS.

CHEK
CHEK
CHEK
CHEK



HMM? THE TRANSMAT PAD IS OPERATIONAL?

PIPELINE IS TELEPORTING IN MORE SOLDIERS, WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN THE BATTLE AT THE KRÖLIK FOOTHILLS HAS BEEN WON!



AH, THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS. HOW CONVENIENT, WITH THE FIGHTING ALMOST OVER...

ACTUALLY, THE FIGHTING MUST STOP NOW!

SHYEEENK



WE'RE HOURS AWAY FROM TAKING THIS ENTIRE CITY!



AS RANKING CABINET MEMBER, I ORDER YOU TO STAND DOWN THE TROOPS!

THIS SITUATION REQUIRES A COMPROMISE, NOT A CONQUEST!



YOU--YOU KNOW--DON'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU--



YOU KNOW THE SECRET THEY HOLD HERE!





--THEN WE MUST ENSURE MAGNETO DOES NOT GAIN ACCESS TO THEM!

GREGORI, YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER?

I AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT, *AMBASSADOR HALLER.*

UNTIL NOW, WE HAD A NON-PARTICIPATORY POLICY TOWARDS THE CITY'S DEFENSE.

BUT WE ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF OUR AGREEMENT TO SEND MORE OVERT INTERVENTION.



ARE YOU SUGGESTING AN ARMED ASSAULT ON THE ISLAND?

"--WAS TO INFORM THEM THAT ONE OF THEIR OWN WAS IN DANGER!"



NO--MORE TROOPS--MORE FIGHTING--WOULD BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF ALL OUR BEST INTERESTS.

AGREED, *MADAME DEVEREAUX.* WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN *OTHER* MEANS TO STOP MAGNETO.



AN ELITE *TASK FORCE* HAS BEEN DEPLOYED.

AND ALL IT TOOK TO ACTIVATE THIS FORCE--



IT IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, IS IT NOT, DAUGHTER?

AND CERTAINLY MORE BEAUTIFUL--



--THAN THE *LAST* TIME YOU WERE HERE.

THE CIVIL WAR WAS HORRIBLE.

AND THE ACTIONS OF FABIAN CORTEZ MADE IT WORSE. HE KIDNAPPED YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER...

...AND YET HE IS NOW A MEMBER OF YOUR CABINET.

YOU CARE NO MORE FOR HER THAN YOU DID PIETRO AND MYSELF.

SUCH CONTRADICTIONS WILL PREVENT ME FROM *EVER* UNDERSTANDING YOU.

THAT DISPLEASES ME, WANDA--AS MUCH AS A LIFETIME SPENT HAVING *MADE* SUCH CONCESSIONS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GREATER GOAL.



AND WHAT GOAL IS THAT, MAGNETO? DO YOU BUILD A HAVEN--

--OR A LAUNCHPAD FROM WHICH TO STRIKE?

THAT DETERMINATION IS WHY YOU WERE SENT TO GENOSHA, ISN'T IT?

OR, RATHER, TO SEE HOW CLOSE I AM TO ACHIEVING MY GOAL.



SO, WANDA... WHAT DO YOU THINK?



THAT WAS NEAL CONRAN REPORTING FROM CARRION COVE--

--AS THE GENOSHAN FORCES HAVE SWAMPED THE RED DOCKS AREA--

KLIK

THAT WAS THEM. A COURTESY CALL.

INFORMING US THAT THEY ARE GOING IN.

GOD BE WITH THEM--





SHE HOLDS ACCESS CODES TO TECHNOLOGY MAGNETO SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO--

CHEK
CHEK
CHEK

--EH?
NO!
PIPELINE--
YOU OF ALL
PEOPLE--



SHYEEENK

HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING, AMELIA.

FUNNY
YOU, ME, THE
PEOPLE OF
CARRION COVE--

--WE ALL
WANTED THE
SAME THING, BUT
FOR DIFFERENT
REASONS.



CAN YOU EXPLAIN
WHAT THE BLAZES
IS GOING ON
HERE?

YES
CARGILL.
GENOSHA IS
ABOUT
TO--





MAYOR--
THEY ARE
STUNNED--
WHAT SAVED
US?

THEY
DID...



MAGNETO! I HAVE BEEN
TRYING TO CONTACT YOU
FOR HOURS!



AT LAST WORD, WE'D STORMED
THE REMAINDER OF THE LOWER
DISTRICTS--

--BUT
APPARENTLY,
THE UNITED NATIONS
HAS SANCTIONED
AN *OUTSIDE*
FORCE--

--TO TRESPASS
GENOSHA'S BORDERS
AND ASSIST THE
REBELLION!

HAVE
THEY NOW?



COMMUNICATIONS WITH
CARRION COVE HAVE
BEEN LOST!

WHAT WAS
THE STATUS,
CORTEZ?



YES,
MAGNETO,
THEY'VE SENT
IN--

"--the AVENGERS!--"



AS IF WE NEEDED
TO SAY IT...
**TO BE
CONTINUED!**

MAGNETO VS. THE AVENGERS!
THE SECRET OF CARRION COVE REVEALED!
A DECISION BY THE SCARLET WITCH AFFECTS THE FUTURE OF GENOSHA!
AND A DECISION BY POLARIS COULD AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE PLANET!