



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

X-MEN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

IND
11
MAY



INTRODUCING
THE
STRANGER



X-MEN
THE MOST
UNUSUAL
TEEN-AGERS
OF ALL TIME!

NO! YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS! THIS TITLE MEANS WHAT IT SAYS...!

"THE TRIUMPH OF MAGNETO!"

**INTRODUCING: THE NEW, STARTLING, STAGGERING MENACE OF...
The STRANGER!**

CYCLOPS! WE RECEIVED YOUR EMERGENCY ALARM! WHAT'S PROFESSOR X WORKING ON? WHAT HAPPENED?

QUIET, ANGEL! YOU AND THE OTHERS GATHER 'ROUND! HE'LL EXPLAIN!

IT MUST BE HIS NEW **RADAR-IMAGE BEAM!** IT CONVERTS RADAR BLIPS INTO PICTURES OF THE OBJECT!

"WHW!" I WAS AFRAID WE WERE BEING ATTACKED!

IF YOU HAVE LOCATED A HITHERTO UNDISCOVERED, MUTANT, PROFESSOR, THAT MEANS WE **X-MEN** MUST REACH HIM BEFORE HE CAN BE RECRUITED BY **MAGNETO!**

YOU'RE RIGHT, JEAN! I USE THIS BEAM TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF OTHER **MUTANTS!** I'M GETTING A **NEW IMAGE NOW!**

By STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
CHIC STONE INKS
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERS





LOOK! THE IMAGE IS ABOUT TO TAKE SHAPE!

BUT, WAIT...! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING! WHAT WAS THAT BLAST?



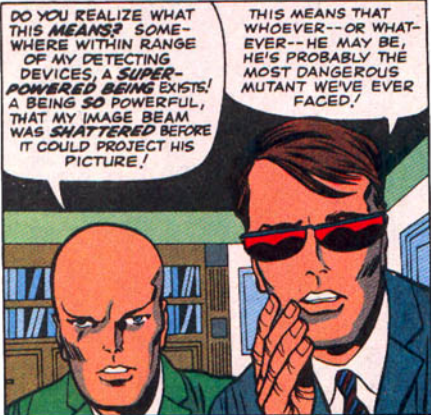
A WAVE OF SHEER FORCE IS FIGHTING THE IMAGE-BEAM! THE PICTURE WON'T TAKE FORM!

BUT--HOW CAN THAT BE?




LOOK OUT! SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE!

THE IMAGE EXPLODED! IT'S GONE!



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS? SOMEWHERE WITHIN RANGE OF MY DETECTING DEVICES, A SUPER-POWERED BEING EXISTS! A BEING SO POWERFUL, THAT MY IMAGE BEAM WAS SHATTERED BEFORE IT COULD PROJECT HIS PICTURE!

THIS MEANS THAT WHOEVER--OR WHAT-EVER--HE MAY BE, HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUS MUTANT WE'VE EVER FACED!



THEN WHY ARE WE PROCRASTINATING? WE'VE HEARD THE CLARION CALL TO BATTLE! LET US SALLY FORTH AND SLAY SOME DRAGONS!

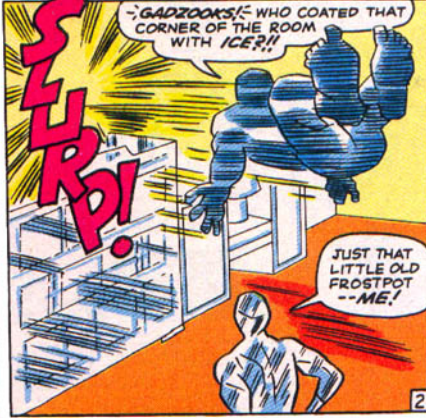
IF OUR ENEMIES COULD BE BEATEN BY WORDS, HANK, YOU COULD WIN EVERY FIGHT SINGLE-HANDED!



WORDS ALONE ARE NOT MY SOLE STOCK IN TRADE, YOU JOCLULAR JUVENILE!

LET IT NEVER BE SAID THAT THE BEAST IS NOT A FIGHTER PAR EXCELLENCE!

WATCH ME TAKE THAT CLOWN DOWN A PEG, GANG!



~GADZOOKS!~ WHO COATED THAT CORNER OF THE ROOM WITH ICE?!

JUST THAT LITTLE OLD FROSTPOT --ME!

BETTER STOP OUR HIGH-FRIEND FRIEND TELEKINETICALLY, JEAN, BEFORE HE GOES SAILING THRU A WALL!



LET HIM DOWN GENTLY, JEAN!

WILL DO, SCOTTY!

EVEN UPSIDE-DOWN YOU'RE A MESS!

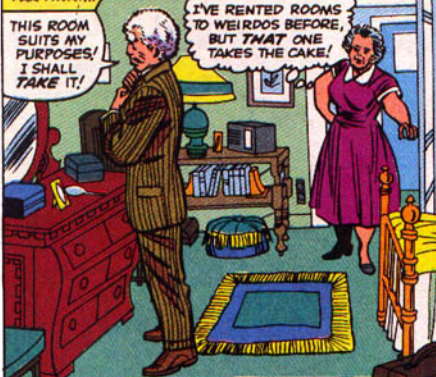
I'LL ASK YOU TO CONSERVE YOUR TALENTS, AND ENERGIES, FOR MORE IMPORTANT WORK!

SORRY, SIR! I GUESS WE JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY!

THAT WILL BE ENOUGH HORSE-PLAY, BOBBY--- AND ALL OF YOU! MCCOY MIGHT HAVE BEEN INJURED BY YOUR PRANK!



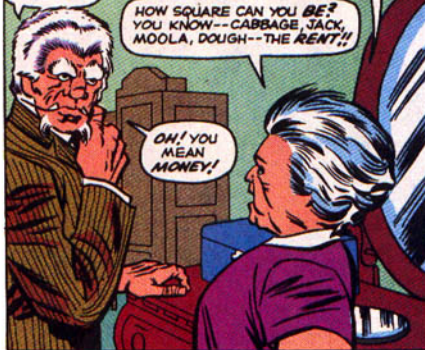
BUT NOW, LET US TURN TO A SMALL FURNISHED ROOM, NOT FAR AWAY...



THIS ROOM SUITS MY PURPOSES! I SHALL TAKE IT!

I'VE RENTED ROOMS TO WEIRDOS BEFORE, BUT THAT ONE TAKES THE CAKE!

LOOK, CURLY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE SATISFIED, BUT I'LL EXPECT A FULL WEEK'S SCRATCH IN ADVANCE!



SCRATCH?

HOW SQUARE CAN YOU BE? YOU KNOW--CABBAGE JACK, MOOLA, DOUGH--THE RENT!!

OH! YOU MEAN MONEY!

WELL NOW, AREN'T YOU THE BRIGHT BOY!

FORGIVE ME! I'M A STRANGER HERE--AND NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR IDIOMS OF SPEECH!



BUT IF MONEY IS WHAT YOU WANT...

HERE--TAKE WHAT YOU NEED! AND NOW, BE GOOD ENOUGH NEVER TO ENTER THIS ROOM AGAIN UNTIL I HAVE CHECKED OUT!

GOOD DAY TO YOU, MADAM!



SOMETIME LATER, THE "STRANGER" LEAVES HIS ROOM AND JOINS THE MILLING CROWD IN THE STREETS BELOW...

I MUST FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH THIS CITY, AND WITH ITS PEOPLE....!

THE TRAFFIC IS TOO HEAVY! IT TAKES TOO LONG TO CROSS THESE BUSY THOROUGHFARES!

MAYBE HE'S WALKING ON INVISIBLE GLASS!

HE'S PROBABLY WEARIN' SOME NEW KIND OF HELIUM BELT, OR SOMETHING!!

LOOK HOW HE JUST STANDS THERE-- LIKE THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!!

EVERYONE IS STARING! I'M CAUSING TOO MUCH OF A COMMOTION!

I FEEL I AM BEING IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN TOWARDS-- WHAT??

THERE ARE OTHERS HERE-- WATCHING -- AS THOUGH THEY EXPECTED ME!

I MARVEL AT THE PATIENCE OF THOSE PEOPLE-- THE WAY THEY STAND AND WAIT FOR THE TRAFFIC TO STOP!

BUT I CANNOT BEAR TO WASTE TIME SO NEEDLESSLY-- NOT WHEN IT IS SO EASY TO MERELY WALK OVER THE TRAFFIC!

LOOK!! THAT MAN! HE'S WALKING ON THIN AIR!!

I'VE SEEN ALL KINDS OF NUTTY PUBLICITY STUNTS-- BUT THAT ONE IS THE MOST!

I'D BETTER GET AWAY FROM THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! I DETEST INQUISITIVE CROWDS!

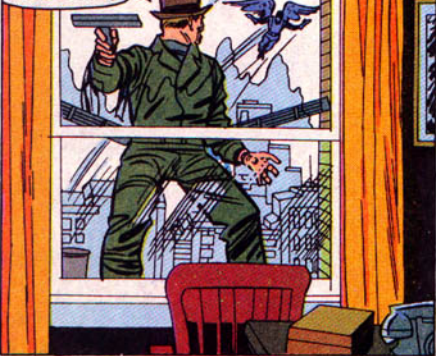
WHY IS SOMETHING ATTRACTING ME TO THIS PARTICULAR BUILDING-- THIS PARTICULAR WALL??

SOMEONE GET A DOCTOR! WOMEN ARE FAINTIN' LIKE FLIES AROUND HERE!!

WELCOME! I AM-- MAGNETO!! MY FOLLOWERS AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

MEANWHILE, THE UNCANNY X-MEN HAVE BEGUN THEIR OWN SEARCH FOR THE SUPER-POWERED BEING WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE CITY HAD BEEN DETECTED BY PROFESSOR X ---!

HOLY COW!!
WHO'S THAT??



I'VE CIRCLED OVER THE CITY TWICE-- AND STILL NO TRACE OF MY QUARRY!

IT'S A STRANGE FEELING TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE WITHOUT KNOWING WHOM YOU'RE SEEKING!!



I HOPE THE OTHERS ARE HAVING BETTER LUCK!

FORGIVE ME FOR STARTLING YOU, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT LATELY?

MISTER, I'M LOOKIN' AT THE STRANGEST THING I EVER SAW-- OR EVER HOPE TO SEE!!



AND, SPEAKING OF "THE OTHERS"---

I TELL YOU OVER A DOZEN PEOPLE SWORE THEY SAW SOME JOKER WALKING ON AIR!!



THAT'S OKAY! BUT WHAT ABOUT THEM SAYIN' HE WALKED RIGHT THRU A BUILDING WALL?

A LEAD AT LAST, IT MUST BE HIM!

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE MAN YOU WERE REFERRING TO?

WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED, FELLA? WHO ARE YOU? NEVER SAW YOU AROUND THIS BEAT BEFORE!

WHY THE DARK GLASSES ON A CLOUDY DAY LIKE THIS? WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO INVESTIGATE ANYBODY SUSPICIOUS!



LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YOU WITHOUT THE CHEATERS, PAL!

NO! I CAN'T TAKE MY GLASSES OFF! DON'T ASK ME! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! NO!

NOW LOOK, MISTER-- ALL WE WANNA DO IS SEE IF WE RECOGNIZE YOU FROM ANYWHERE!

AND, ONLY A GUY ON THE LAM WOULD BE SO SCARED OF REMOVING HIS GLASSES!



NOW, C'MON --GET THOSE THINGS OFF!



OKAY, CHARLIE!
I GOT HIS
SPECS! NOW
TAKE A LOOK
AND--**WHAT'S
THAT?!**

BACK! STAND BACK!
KEEP AWAY FROM ME,
IF YOU VALUE YOUR
LIVES! I TRIED TO
WARN YOU!

**NOW I
GOT IT!**
HE'S ONE
OF THE
X-MEN--
HE MUST BE
THE MUTANT
CALLED
CYCLOPS!!

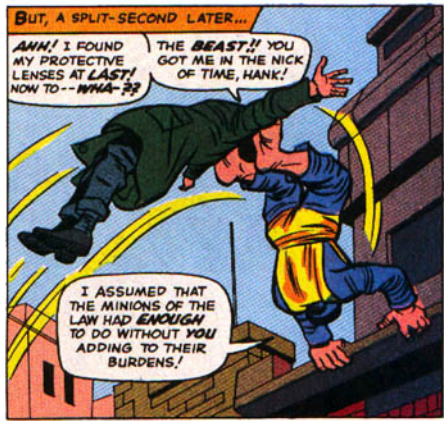


I'VE GOT TO GROPE FOR MY
SPECIALLY TREATED GLASSES!!
NO MATTER **NOW** TIGHTLY I
KEEP MY EYES SHUT, **SOME**
OF MY POWER RAY KEEPS
GETTING THRU!

HIS EYES ARE LIKE LIVING
DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS!
THEY SHATTER WHATEVER
THAT RAY TOUCHES! NO
WONDER HE
WOULDN'T
REMOVE HIS
GLASSES!!



MY GUN!! HE ACCIDENTALLY
HIT
IT-- CUT THRU IT LIKE A KNIFE THRU
BUTTER!! HE'S MORE **DA**
DANGEROUS
THAN THE ONE WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR!



BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...

AHH! I FOUND
MY PROTECTIVE
LENSES AT **LAST!**
NOW TO--**WHA-??**

THE BEAST!! YOU
GOT ME IN THE NICK
OF TIME, HANK!

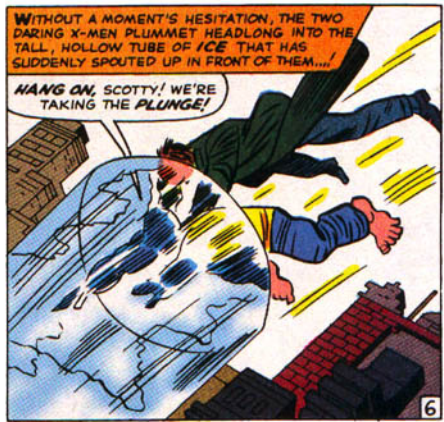
I ASSUMED THAT
THE MINIONS OF THE
LAW HAD **ENOUGH**
TO DO WITHOUT YOU
ADDING TO THEIR
BURDENS!



NOW HOLD TIGHT WHILE
I BRING YOU TO JOIN
ICEMAN!

HURRY, HANK! I THINK I
HAVE A LEAD AS TO WHERE
THE NEW MUTANT IS, AND
WHAT HIS **POWERS** ARE!

LOOK AT THAT
ICE CYLINDER
UP AHEAD! IT
MUST BE
BOBBY'S!



**WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE TWO
DARING X-MEN PLUMMET HEADLONG INTO THE
TALL, HOLLOW TUBE OF ICE THAT HAS
SUDDENLY SPOUTED UP IN FRONT OF THEM...**

HANG ON, SCOTTY! WE'RE
TAKING THE **PLUNGE!**



I SEE THEM BELOW--
ICEMAN AND MARVEL GIRL--
STANDING BY!

AS SOON AS YOU LAND--
DUCK, SO I WON'T COME
CRASHING DOWN ON TOP
OF YOU, HANK!



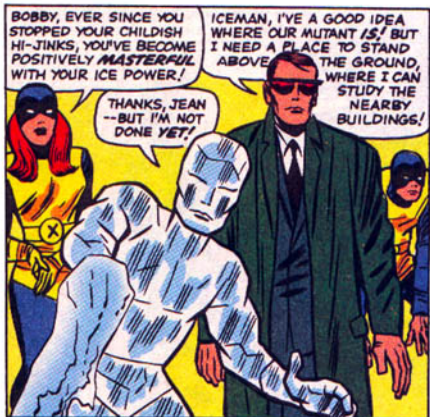
OKAY, JEANIE
GAL, YOU CAN
SLOW US DOWN
TELEKINETICALLY
NOW!

I'LL DO
MY BEST,
HANK!



GOOD GIRL,
JEAN, I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT WOULD
SLOW US DOWN
WHEN WE HIT
BOTTOM!

SOMEHOW, WHEN WE SAY
"GOOD GIRL" IT'S BETTER
THAN RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN
SAYING "MY DARLING!"



BOBBY, EVER SINCE YOU
STOPPED YOUR CHILDISH
HI-JINKS, YOU'VE BECOME
POSITIVELY MASTERFUL
WITH YOUR ICE POWER!

ICEMAN, I'VE A GOOD IDEA
WHERE OUR MUTANT IS, BUT
I NEED A PLACE TO STAND
ABOVE THE GROUND,
WHERE I CAN
STUDY THE
NEARBY
BUILDINGS!

THANKS, JEAN
--BUT I'M NOT
DONE YET!



I SORT OF
EXPECTED
THAT YOU'D
ASK, IT'LL
ONLY TAKE
A SEC!

I'LL BUILD YOU A STAIR-
WAY OF ICE! IT'LL GIVE
YOU COLD FEET, BUT IT
OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!



AND, AT THAT MOMENT...

YOU WANT ME
TO JOIN YOU?
I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND!

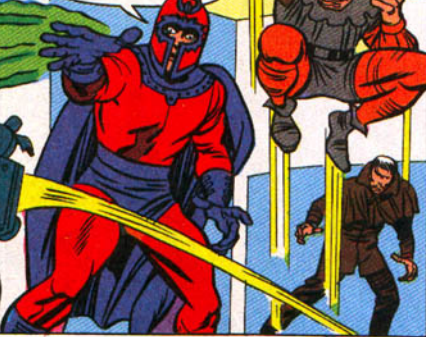
I AM A
STRANGER
HERE! WHO
ARE YOU?
WHY
SHOULD I
JOIN YOU?

WE'LL
SHOW
YOU!!
WATCH
--!

EVERY OBJECT IN THE ROOM-- FLYING INTO THE AIR-- WRAPPING ITSELF ABOUT ME!! AS THOUGH THEY ARE ALL LIVING THINGS!!



THIS IS WHY YOU MUST JOIN US!! BECAUSE I AM-- POWER!! I SHALL ONE DAY REDUCE THE HUMAN RACE TO SLAVERY, SO THAT MOMO SUPERIOR CAN TAKE OVER! AND THOSE WHO SERVE ME, SHALL REAP THE REWARDS!



EACH OF US HAS A MUTANT POWER OF HIS OWN! IF MAGNETO IS DONE WITH YOU, MASTERMIND SHALL GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION....!



WITH A SINGLE GESTURE, MASTERMIND CREATES ONE OF HIS INCREDIBLE ILLUSIONS, AS "THE STRANGER" SEEMS TO FIND HIMSELF AT THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM...



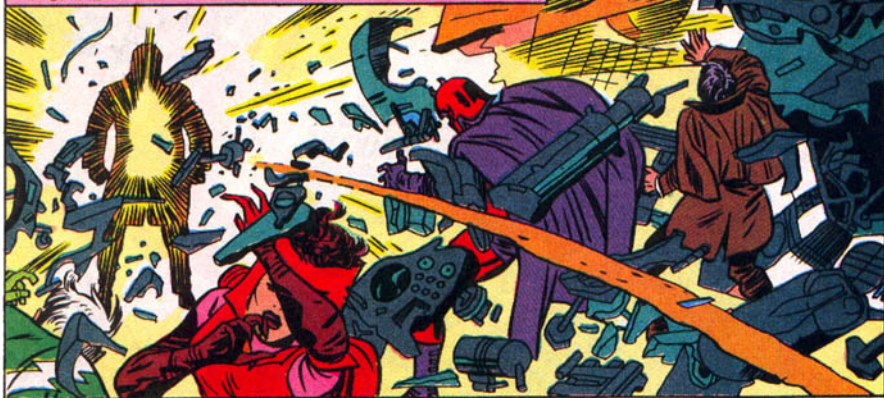
SUDDENLY, THE ILLUSION CHANGES-- AND THE BEWILDERED STRANGER SEEMS TO FIND HIMSELF STANDING HELPLESSLY WITHIN A SEA OF SMOKY LAVA!



IT IS NOW TIME FOR ME TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF MY POWER-- POWER THAT NONE CAN EVEN SUSPECT!



IN ONE BRIEF MICRO-SECOND, MASTERMIND'S ILLUSION IS COMPLETELY DISPELLED, AS THE STRANGER EMITS A SUDDEN BLAST OF ENERGY THAT SEVERS HIS BONDS AND MAKES A SHAMBLES OF MAGNETO'S TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS!

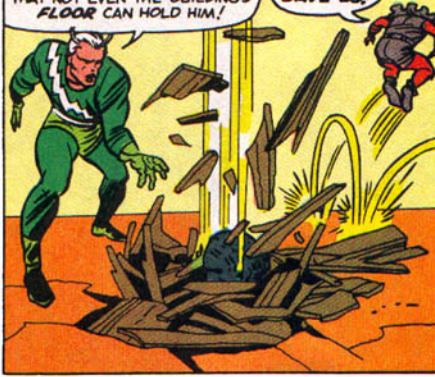


BUT, THE LARGEST PART OF HIS RAGE IS DIRECTED AGAINST MASTERMIND--!



A RAY!! TURNING MASTERMIND INTO A SOLID BLOCK OF MATTER!

AS SOLID MATTER, HIS WEIGHT IS SO GREATLY INCREASED THAT NOT EVEN THE BUILDING'S FLOOR CAN HOLD HIM!



MAGNETO! MAGNETO! SAVE US!



GOOD HEAVENS!! WHAT WAS THAT??



HELP! POLEEEEECE!!

SOMETHING CAME CRASHING DOWN FROM THE CEILING--GOING THRU THE VERY FLOOR!! HELP --BEFORE WE'RE ALL KILLED!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?? IT CAME FROM THE AREA THE MAN WHO WALKED ON AIR WAS REPORTED IN!

WE'VE GOT TO REACH HIM BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DOES-- ESPECIALLY MAGNETO!!



LET'S GO!

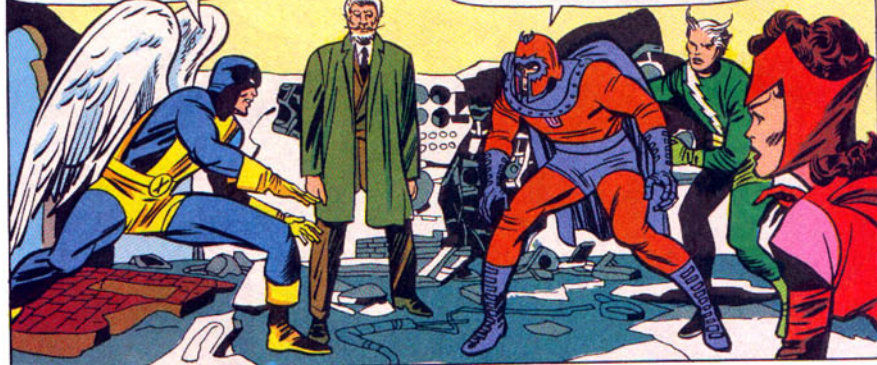
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE! SOME TREMENDOUS FORCE ACTUALLY SHATTERED THE BRICK WALL!



IT'S ONE OF THE X-MEN!! SOME GRAVE FANTASTIC MENACE MUST BE WAITING INSIDE!

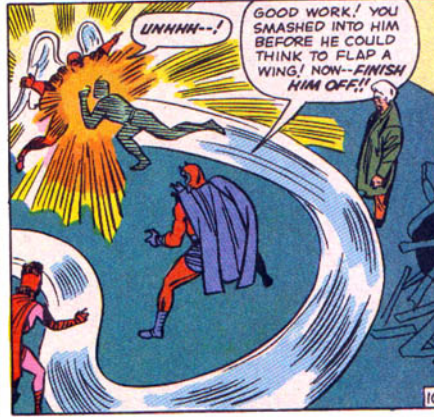
MAGNETO!! SO, YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE--!!

THE ANGEL!! YOU DARE ATTACK US ON OUR HOME GROUNDS??! THIS TIME YOU WILL SURELY TASTE DEFEAT!



MAYBE SO-- BUT I'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU TASTE IT WITH ME!

QUICKSILVER!! USE YOUR SPEED-- STOP HIM!



UNNNH--!

GOOD WORK! YOU SMASHED INTO HIM BEFORE HE COULD THINK TO FLAP A WING! NOW-- FINISH HIM OFF!!

NO MATTER HOW FAST HE IS,
ONE PUNCH IS ALL IT'LL TAKE TO--

WHA--? WHERE'D
HE GO??

DO NOT TOY
WITH HIM,
QUICKSILVER!
FINISH HIM!



WITH MY
GREAT
SPEED,
IT IS
ALMOST
TOO EASY!

UHHH! HIS
FLAPPING WING
UNEXPECTEDLY
DEFLECTED MY
BLOW!



OKAY, FELLA-- IF
THAT'S HOW YOU
WANT IT, MY WINGS
AGAINST YOUR
SPEED!



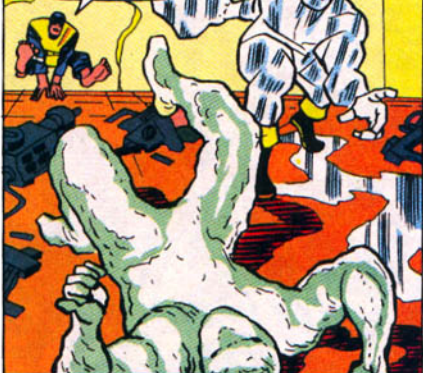
HOLD IT, ANGEL! I'LL SLOW 'M
DOWN SO YOU CAN HANDLE HIM
WITH NO SWEAT!

THANKS, PARTNER!
BUT I STILL THINK
I COULD HAVE TAKEN
HIM ALONE!

ICE!! FORMING
ON PIETRO'S BODY--
NO! NO!!



WELL DONE, STRIPLING!
I'LL IMMOBILIZE HIM
NOW!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE SCARLET WITCH MAKES
AN OMINOUS GESTURE...

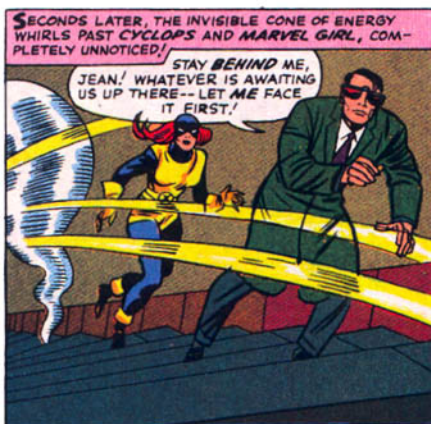
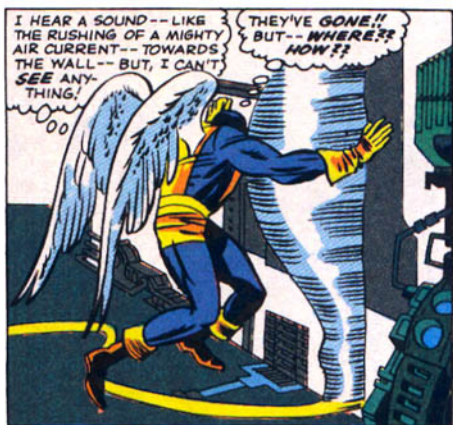
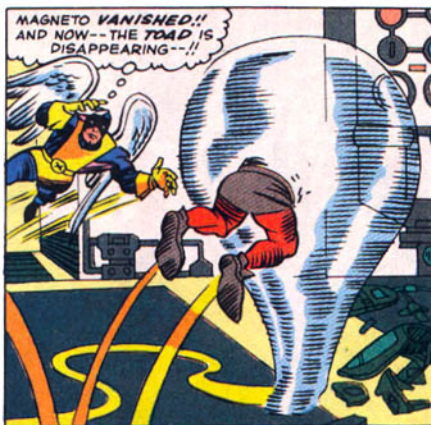
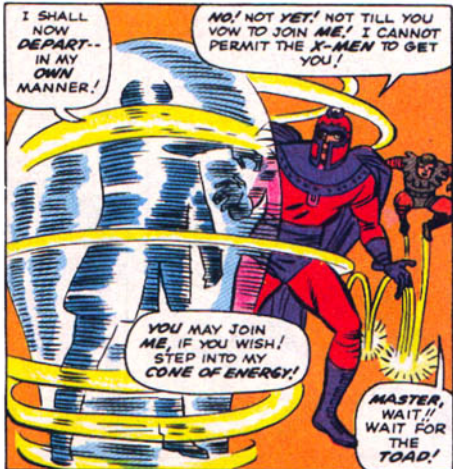
NO! NONE SHALL
HARM MY BROTHER
WHILE I STILL
POSSESS MY HEX
POWER!



I CAN'T MAINTAIN
MY EQUILIBRIUM!
SOMETHING HAS
THROWN ME OFF-
BALANCE!

LEGGO OF ME, YA
BIG APE! I'M NO
DOORMAT!





THEN, SUDDENLY--
CYCLOPS SEES--



THE SCARLET WITCH IS HEXING THE ENTIRE CEILING DOWN ON ME!!



GOOD WORK, PARTNER! BUT, YOU CAN'T KEEP THAT UP FOREVER!

SHUT YOUR EYES, X-MAN!

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO OBLIGE!



THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT USELESS DEBRIS-- AND THEN WE CAN GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND!



MY COMPLIMENTS, CYKE! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A HUMAN GARBAGE-DISPOSAL UNIT??!

ZZZZT!



JEAN-- WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO FOR A LONG TIME! I WANT TO MATCH MY TELEKINETIC POWER AGAINST THE SCARLET WITCH'S HEX POWER!

BY KEEPING HER BUSY DUCKING FLYING OBJECTS, SHE WON'T HAVE TIME TO FOCUS A HEX ON ANY OF US!

ON YOU?? DO YOU THINK YOU ARE OF ANY INTEREST TO ME??

DO NOT FLATTER YOURSELVES!

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THE WELFARE OF MY BROTHER. HE MUST BE UNFROZEN, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!



I DIDN'T AIM TO HARM HIM--JUST TO STOP 'IM!

PIETRO--SPEAK TO ME!! PIETRO--!

STAY BACK! I'LL HELP HIM...!

NOBODY SPEAK!! I MUST CONCENTRATE COMPLETELY! EASY--EASY--!!



THERE! THAT SHOULD DO IT!

NOW WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THEM?

YOU NEED DO NOTHING WITH US EVER AGAIN! WE HAVE SERVED MAGNETO FOR THE LAST TIME!

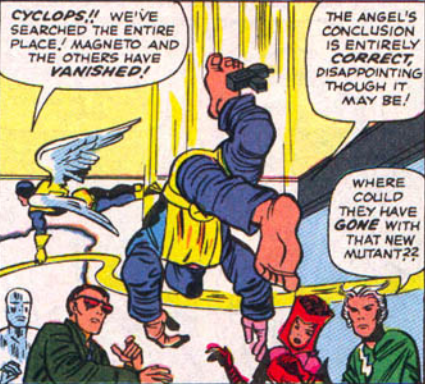
WANDA IS RIGHT! WE OWED HIM A DEBT-- BUT IT HAS BEEN REPAID--MANY TIMES OVER!



WE SHALL SERVE HIM NO LONGER!

I ALWAYS FELT YOU DIDN'T BELONG WITH HIS BAND OF EVIL MUTANTS!

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--!



CYCLOPS!! WE'VE SEARCHED THE ENTIRE PLACE! MAGNETO AND THE OTHERS HAVE VANISHED!

THE ANGEL'S CONCLUSION IS ENTIRELY CORRECT, DISAPPOINTING THOUGH IT MAY BE!

WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE WITH THAT NEW MUTANT??

THE NEW MUTANT!! PROFESSOR X SAID HE WAS THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL!

IF MAGNETO HAS ENLISTED HIM ON HIS SIDE, THEN OUR MISSION IS A TOTAL FAILURE!

UNLESS-- WE CAN EVEN THE ODDS BY HAVING THE TWO OF YOU JOIN THE X-MEN!



NO! WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF CONFLICT!!

BUT, THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT HIM! AS THOUGH SHE TOO--OH NO!! IT CAN'T BE!!

YOUR WORDS HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH TO THEM! IF ONLY---

NO, MY MISTER! IT IS I WHO GIVE THE ORDERS NOW!



WE SHALL RETURN TO OUR HOME--IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND FORGET THE ENDLESS BATTLE OF MUTANT AGAINST MUTANT--!

BUT, SOMEDAY WE MAY RETURN! SOMEDAY, THE FATE OF MANKIND MAY HINGE UPON OUR ENTERING THE BATTLE ONCE MORE!



MEANWHILE, THE 'STRANGER'S' CONE OF ENERGY COMES TO A HALT DEEP WITHIN A LONELY WOODED AREA...



THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN MY ENERGY CONE DISSOLVES INTO THE NOTHINGNESS IT CAME FROM!



TELL ME--WHO ARE YOU?? EXACTLY WHAT POWER DO YOU POSSESS?? YOU SEEM TO BE ALMOST AS MIGHTY AS I--ALMOST THE EQUAL OF MAGNETO!!

I AM MERELY-- A STRANGER.

MAKE HIM TELL YOU WHAT HIS POWER IS, MASTER! MAKE HIM TELL!



SILENCE, TOAD!

NOW, LISTEN!! I AM MASTER OF MY BAND OF MUTANTS! WHEN I ASK--OTHERS ANSWER! EVEN YOU!! NOW-- WHAT IS YOUR MUTANT POWER?

ARROGANT FOOL, I AM NO MUTANT!



AS FOR MY POWER, IT IS GREATER BY FAR THAN YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE!!

YOU'RE GROWING!! GETTING LARGER--RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!! BUT--YOU CAN'T BE GIANT-MAN!!





I TOLD YOU-- I AM A STRANGER!

BUT, I AM A STRANGER DIFFERENT FROM ANY YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN! FAR, FAR DIFFERENT!

TOAD!! COME BACK, I AM STILL MASTER HERE, I AM STILL-- MAGNETO!



YOUR SIZE CANNOT DEFEAT ME! I POSSESS THE POWER OF MAGNETISM, I AM SUPREME! YOU YET SHALL SERVE ME!

SAVE US, MASTER!! DO NOT LET THE STRANGER HARM US!



I GROW WEARY OF YOUR WORDS! I SHALL PLACE THIS THIN FILM OF ANTI-MAGNETIC-MEMBRANE OVER YOU, TO QUIET YOU!

I'LL DESTROY YOU FOR THIS!! THOSE WHO DO NOT SERVE ME MUST DIE!!

MASTER! WHAT HAS HE DONE TO US?? I-- I CANNOT MOVE!!



AT THAT MOMENT, BACK AT X-MEN HEADQUARTERS...

WE FOUND MASTER-MIND IN THE CELLAR, SIR! IT TOOK ALL OF US TO CARRY HIM!

HE'S ALIVE-- BUT SOMETHING HAS ALTERED THE VERY MOLECULES OF HIS BODY!



IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN THE ONE WE'RE SEEKING,

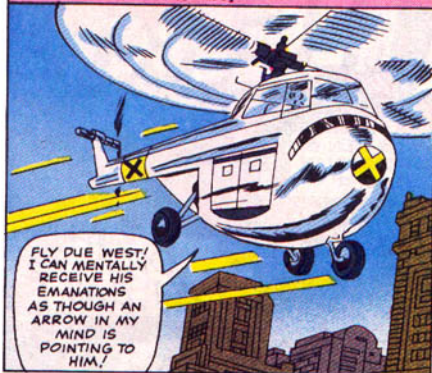
DO YOU THINK HE'S AS DANGEROUS AS MAGNETO HIMSELF, SIR??

DANGEROUS AS MAGNETO?



THE ONE WE SEEK HAS POWER ENOUGH TO SHAKE THE UNIVERSE! MAGNETO IS BUT A CHILD COMPARED TO THE STRANGER!! WE MUST FIND HIM-- AT ONCE!!

WITHIN MINUTES, A HELICOPTER TAKES TO THE AIR, GUIDED BY THE MOST BRILLIANT MUTANT BRAIN OF ALL TIME... THE BRAIN OF PROFESSOR XAVIER!



FLY DUE WEST; I CAN MENTALLY RECEIVE HIS EMANATIONS AS THOUGH AN ARROW IN MY MIND IS POINTING TO HIM!

THEN, AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF SPEEDY FLIGHT...



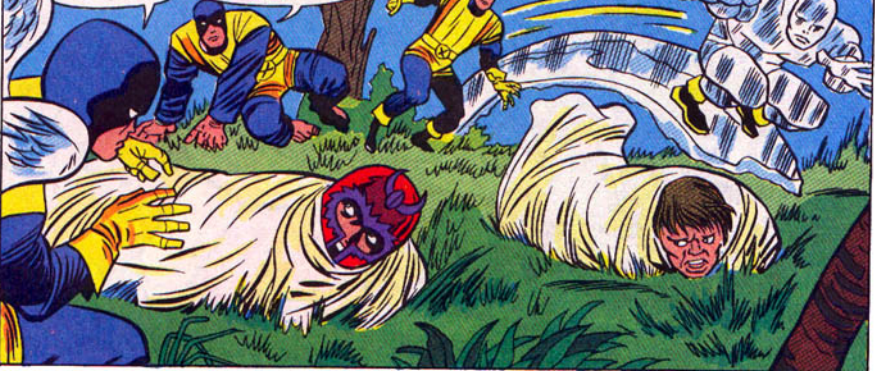
GO, MY X-MEN! YOU WILL FIND HIM JUST AHEAD! BUT, GUARD YOURSELVES AT ALL TIMES!

LOOK!! MAGNETO-- AND THE TOAD-- WRAPPED UP IN SOME SORT OF COCOONS!

ANYONE STRONG ENOUGH TO TREAT MAGNETO SO CAVALIERLY WILL GIVE US THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES!

ICEMAN! DO YOU SEE ANY SIGNS OF-- THE STRANGER??

NOT YET, CYKE! BUT HE MUST BE AROUND SOMEWHERE!



STOP!! DON'T TOUCH THOSE COCOONS-- ANY OF YOU!

BACK-- IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!

SOME STRANGE FORCE-- SHOOTING OUT--!

THE PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT!! ANOTHER SECOND, AND THE WISPS OF WHATEVER THIS IS WOULD HAVE ENVELOPED ME, TOO!



THEN, AT THAT SECOND, THE STRANGER AGAIN APPEARS--!

THOSE COCOONS WILL PROTECT THEM FOR THE JOURNEY THEY ARE ABOUT TO TAKE!

I CAN GUESS THE JOURNEY YOU REFER TO! ITS DESTINATION IS NO PLACE ON EARTH, IS IT??

OF COURSE NOT! HAVE I NOT SAID I AM--A STRANGER??

A STRANGER FROM--THE STARS!!

MY PEOPLE ARE GREATLY INTERESTED IN MUTATIONS!! I JOURNEY FROM PLANET TO PLANET, TAKING SPECIMENS OF MUTANTS BACK TO MY WORLD-- FOR STUDY! I DID NOT KNOW WHOM TO TAKE FROM EARTH...

BUT THEN, THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF MAGNETO INSISTED I ALLY MYSELF WITH HIM! AND SO, I CHOOSE TO TAKE HIM-- AND THE OTHER, WHOSE LOYALTY IS SO TOUCHING!

WE SHALL NEVER RETURN!

THEY'RE GONE! IT-- IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY-- SO UNEXPECTEDLY!! I-- NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD END-- LIKE THIS!

MAGNETO GONE! AT LAST! AT LONS LAST!

HE WANTED TO FIND THE "STRANGER" BEFORE WE DID! AND HE SUCCEEDED! HE THOUGHT HE HAD BEATEN US! BUT, IT TURNED OUT TO BE MAGNETO'S FINAL TRIUMPH!

WILL THIS MEAN-- DISBANDING THE X-MEN, SIR?

OF COURSE NOT! THERE WILL STILL BE MANY MENACES TO MANKIND FOR US TO BATTLE!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?? WE HEARD AN EXPLOSION-- THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT-- AND THEN-- NEY!! IT'S THE X-MEN!!

BEAST! SLOW THEM DOWN! THEY MUSTN'T SEE ME! MY IDENTITY MUST NOT BE MADE PUBLIC!

I'LL HANDLE IT WITH DISPATCH, SIR!

STOP! WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



WATCH IT, BOYS! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!

HOLY SMOKE! DID YOU SEE HIM SPIN AROUND?? HE ALMOST HAS A HYPNOTIC EFFECT!

BEAST-- SLOW DOWN! WE WEREN'T AIMING TO HURT YOU!



I SHOULD HOPE NOT! I'M FAR TOO LOVABLE TO BECOME A STATISTIC!

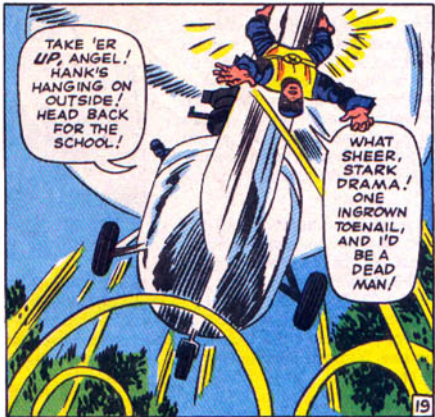
EASY, PROFESSOR! YOU'LL BE SAFELY ABOARD IN A SECOND!

OKAY, YOU ANIMATED JUMPIN' BEAN! THE PROF SAYS ALL ABOARD!!

THANK YOU, BOYS! NOW-- SUMMON THE BEAST!



WATCH IT, BOBBY! DUCK YOUR HEAD!

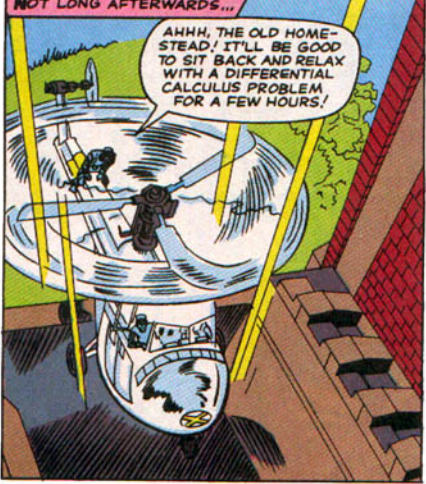


TAKE 'ER UP ANGEL! HANK'S HANGING ON OUTSIDE! HEAD BACK FOR THE SCHOOL!

WHAT SHEER, STARK DRAMA! ONE INGROWN TOENAIL, AND I'D BE A DEAD MAN!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS...

ANHH, THE OLD HOME-STEAD! IT'LL BE GOOD TO SIT BACK AND RELAX WITH A DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS PROBLEM FOR A FEW HOURS!



BUT, BEFORE ANY SERIOUS "RELAXING" IS ATTEMPTED, THE X-MEN ADOPT THEIR USUAL PRECAUTIONARY SECURITY MEASURES...



MY WALL-SOUNDINGS ARE COMPLETE, SIR! NO HIDDEN MIKES, WIRES, OR ANY SUCH DEVICES!

MY INTUITIVE BRAIN SENSES NO UNEXPECTED DANGER! ALL THAT REMAINS IS ANGEL'S VISUAL REPORT!

ALL CLEAR, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, SIR!

VERY WELL, THEN! LET US PROCEED!

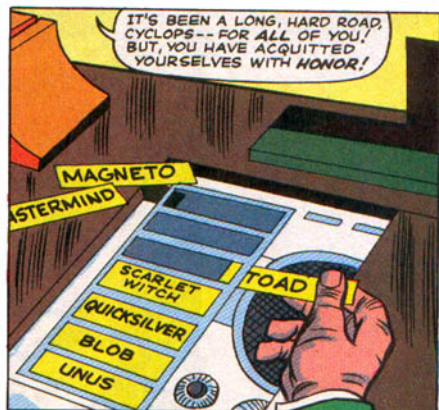
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE STUDY OF PROFESSOR XAVIER...

BEFORE DISMISSING YOU, SCOTT, I THOUGHT WE WOULD REMOVE SOME NAMES FROM OUR CEREBRO MACHINE!



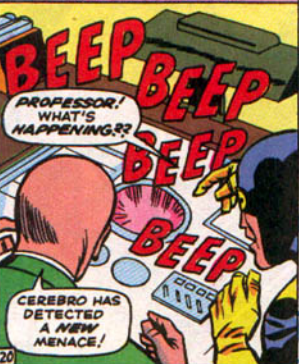
I SEE, PROFESSOR! YOU FEEL THAT CERTAIN MENACES TO MANKIND CAN NOW BE CONSIDERED --DISPOSED OF?

EXACTLY!



IT'S BEEN A LONG, HARD ROAD, CYCLOPS-- FOR ALL OF YOU, BUT, YOU HAVE ACQUITTED YOURSELVES WITH HONOR!

BUT, SUDDENLY-- BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED...



PROFESSOR! WHAT'S HAPPENING??

CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A NEW MENACE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A MERE ELECTRONIC DEVICE REGISTER SUCH AN EXTREME CONDITION OF PANIC! EVERY CIRCUIT IS STRAINED TO THE BREAKING POINT!



WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S OUT THERE --THREATENING US-- IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST DEADLY DANGER WE HAVE EVER FACED! AND, IT'S ALMOST UPON US!



The END