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THE UNCANNY

# X-MEN™

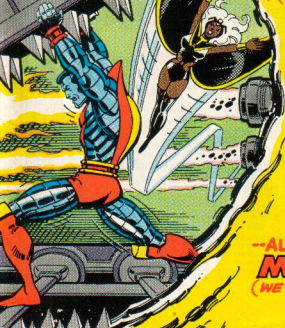


THE DRAMATIC RETURN OF PHOENIX!



THE MYSTERY OF MUIR ISLAND!

THE PERILS OF THE DANGER ROOM!



--ALL THIS AND MORE!  
(WE GUARANTEE IT!)



Cyclops. Storm. Banshee. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, MUTANTS—feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the STRANGEST heroes of all!

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

CHRIS CLAREMONT \* JOHN BYRNE \* TERRY AUSTIN | ORZECOWSKI, letterer | ROGER STERN \* JIM SHOOTER,  
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## THERE'S SOMETHING AWFUL on MUIR ISLAND!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED JEAN GREY-- A MUTANT TELEPATH/TELEKINETIC, AND ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

NOW, SHE IS  
phoenix.

AND FOR HER, FOR THOSE SHE LOVES AND WHO LOVE HER--AND PERHAPS FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD--NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

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THIS IS Dr. MOIRA MacTAGGERT-- SECOND ONLY TO CHARLES XAVIER AS AN AUTHORITY ON GENETIC MUTATION. SHE'S SCOTS-- A HIGHLANDER BORN AND BRED-- AND SHE DOESN'T SCARE EASILY.



BUT TODAY, LOOKING AT THIS WOMAN SHE'S COME TO LOVE AS THE DAUGHTER SHE CAN NEVER DARE HAVE... MOIRA MacTAGGERT IS AFRAID.



HOW MUCH LONGER, MOIRA?

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THIS IS GETTING TO BE A REAL DRAG.



YOU CAN POWER DOWN, JEAN, I THINK I'VE GOT ALL THE RAW DATA I NEED.

FINE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

0877

NOT TIRED?



NO. USING MY POWER DOESN'T TIRE ME AS QUICKLY AS IT USED TO.

IF ANYTHING, IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.

GOOD ENOUGH TO WANT TO USE IT AGAIN?



WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT, MOIRA? YOU'VE BEEN POKING AT ME FOR OVER A WEEK. YOU MUST HAVE SOME ANSWERS.

JEAN, I'M JUST BARELY FIGURING OUT THE QUESTIONS.

16



I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, MOIRA. LEVEL WITH ME-- PLEASE!

I WOULD IF I COULD. C'MON, I'LL BREW US SOME TEA.

BEHIND THEM, UNSEEN BY EITHER WOMAN, LIGHT GLANCES OFF SOMETHING THAT HAD ONCE BEEN A MAN.



HIS NAME WAS ANGUS MacWHIRTER, AND HE WAS A MOST UNPLEASANT MAN... WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.

I... HUNGER! BUT... MUST WAIT. MOIRA MUST NOT KNOW.



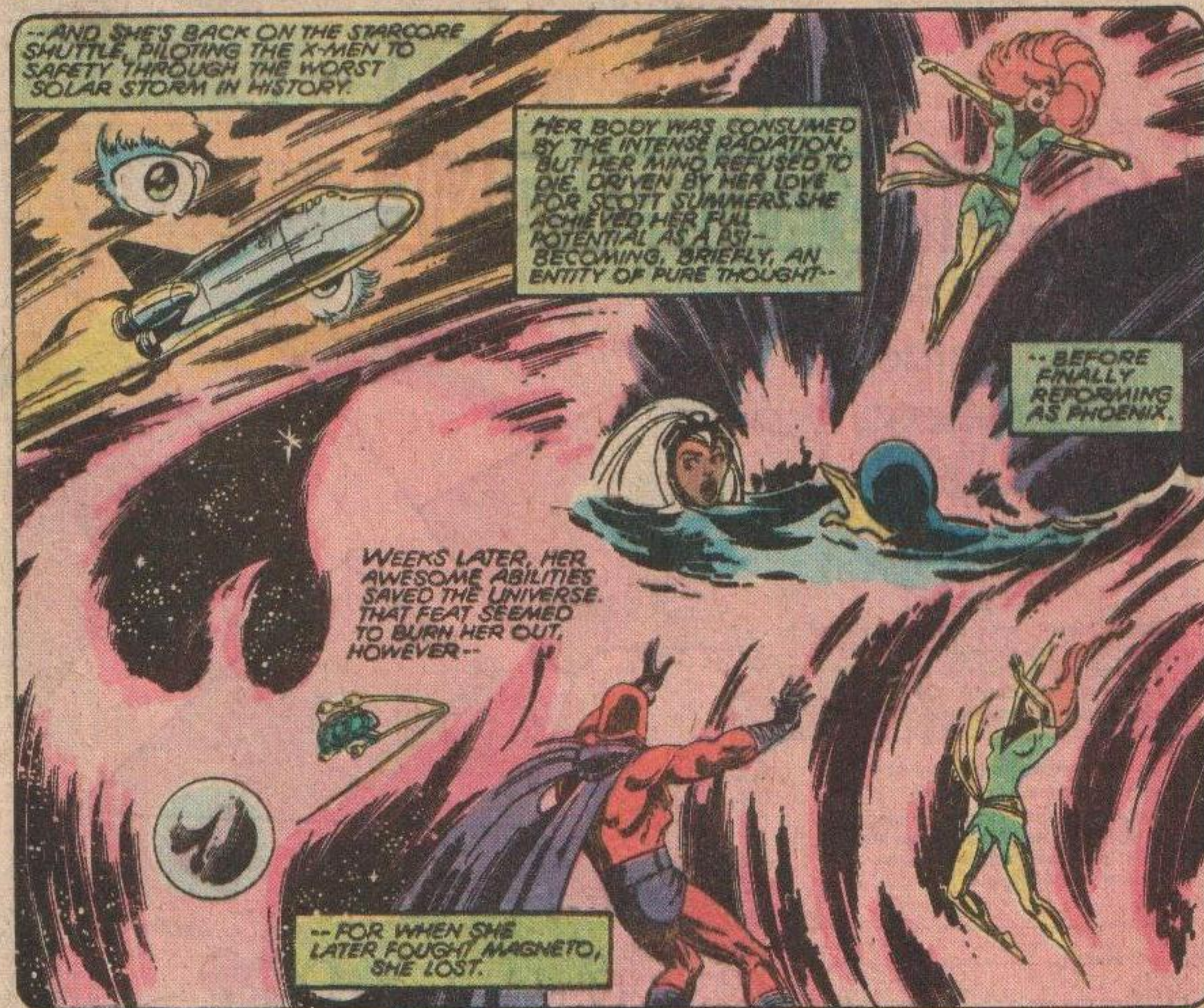
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE NIGHTMARE STALKING THEM...

THERE'S NO COMPARISON BETWEEN MARVEL GIRL AND PHOENIX, YOUR PSI POWERS HAVE MADE A QUANTUM LEAP.

AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER I CAN HANDLE IT, WELL, I'M WORRIED, TOO.

SOME-TIMES, I ALMOST WISH I'D STAYED DEAD ON THAT SHUTTLE.

ONCE MORE, THE IMAGES UNFOLD IN JEAN'S MIND--



--AND SHE'S BACK ON THE STARCORE SHUTTLE, PILOTING THE X-MEN TO SAFETY THROUGH THE WORST SOLAR STORM IN HISTORY.

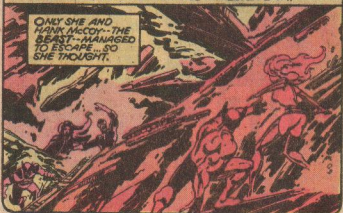
HER BODY WAS CONSUMED BY THE INTENSE RADIATION, BUT HER MIND REFUSED TO DIE. DRIVEN BY HER LOVE FOR SCOTT SUMMERS, SHE ACHIEVED HER FULL POTENTIAL AS A PSI-BECOMING, BRIEFLY, AN ENTITY OF PURE THOUGHT--

-- BEFORE FINALLY REFORMING AS PHOENIX.

WEEKS LATER, HER AWESOME ABILITIES SAVED THE UNIVERSE. THAT FEAT SEEMED TO BURN HER OUT, HOWEVER--

-- FOR WHEN SHE LATER FOUGHT MAGNETO, SHE LOST.

FAR WORSE--SHE WAS UNABLE TO SAVE HER FELLOW X-MEN WHEN MAGNETO'S UNDERGROUND ANTARCTIC BASE COLLAPSED ON TOP OF THEM, BURYING THEM ALL IN MOLTEN LAVA.



ONLY SHE AND HANK MCCOY--THE BEAST--MANAGED TO ESCAPE... SO SHE THOUGHT.

GRIEF-STRIKEN, JEAN RETURNED TO THE X-MEN'S HEADQUARTERS... ONLY TO WATCH, HELPLESS, AS PROFESSOR XAVIER'S OWN GRIEF BUILT AN UNBREACHABLE WALL BETWEEN THEM.



SHE NEEDED HIS HELP, SUPPORT-- AND LOVE-- BUT HE GAVE HER NOTHING. SO, SHE LEFT.

FROM THE START, HER VACATION WAS SHEER PERFECTION. NO MATTER WHERE SHE WENT, SHE RAN INTO KIND, GENTLE PEOPLE--



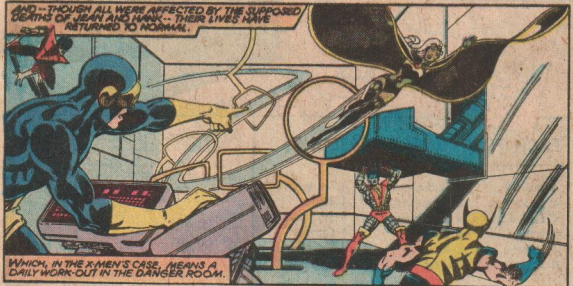
--AND IN TIME HER PAIN PASSED, HER LIFE BEGAN ANEW.

THE TERRIBLE, TRAGIC IRONY IS THAT HER GRIEF WAS UNNECESSARY-- FOR THE X-MEN DID NOT DIE IN MAGNETO'S FORTRESS. AS JEAN AND HANK ESCAPED TO THE SURFACE--



-- THE X-MEN BURROWED DOWN UNTIL AT LAST THEY REACHED A SAFE HAVEN OF SORTS, AND NOW, AFTER A JOURNEY THAT TOOK THEM HALFWAY ROUND THE WORLD, THEY'VE FINALLY RETURNED HOME TO WESTCHESTER.

AND--THOUGH ALL WERE AFFECTED BY THE SUPPOSED DEATHS OF JEAN AND HANK-- THEIR LIVES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.



WHICH, IN THE X-MEN'S CASE, MEANS A DAILY WORK-OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM.

OKAY, COLOSSUS -- YOUR PROBLEM IS TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THAT HYDRAULIC RAM BEFORE IT CRUSHES YOU, AND YOU'D BETTER HURRY. ITS FORCE WILL DOUBLE EVERY 15 SECONDS.



NEED A HAND, PETEY?



THANK YOU, LITTLE COMRADE, BUT NO, THIS TEST IS INTENDED FOR ME ALONE.

WE'RE S'POSED TO BE A TEAM, RIGHT? THAT MEANS WE HELP EACH OTHER OUT.



LET'S SEE HOW WELL CYKE'S TOYS WORK--

-- WHEN I'VE SKRAGGED THEIR POWER --



SORRY, WOLVERINE, BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.

ENJOY YOUR SHOWER, MEIN FREUND?



DON'T LAUGH, CRAWLER, YOUR TURN WILL COME.

AND, ALMOST ON CUE...

THE WALL!



YOU WON'T CATCH ME THAT EASILY, CYCLOPS--

-- NOT WHEN I CAN SIMPLY TELEPORT MYSELF OUT OF HARM'S WAY.

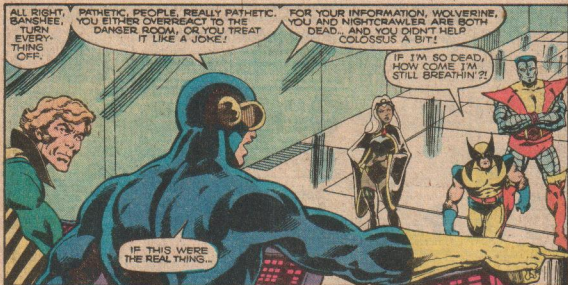


TRUE ENOUGH, NIGHTCRAWLER, BUT SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T?

ACH! SONIC BEAMS-- CAN'T BLOCK THEM OUT!



THEY'RE DISRUPTING MY CONCENTRATION-- CAN'T 'PORT, OR... EVEN THINK!



ALL RIGHT, BANSHEE. TURN EVERYTHING OFF.

PATHETIC, PEOPLE, REALLY PATHETIC. YOU EITHER OVERREACT TO THE DANGER ROOM, OR YOU TREAT IT LIKE A JOKE!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WOLVERINE, YOU AND NIGHTCRAWLER ARE BOTH DEAD... AND YOU DIDN'T HELP COLOSSUS A BIT!

IF I'M SO DEAD, HOW COME I'M STILL BREATHIN' ?!

IF THIS WERE THE REAL THING...



BUT IT *AIN'T* THE REAL THING, THAT'S THE POINT! IT'S A FLAMIN' GAME!

I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, SUMMERS-- WOLVERINE DON'T JUMP THROUGH HOOPS FOR NOBODY!

I HANDLED MYSELF FINE WHEN I WAS ON MY OWN! AN' I CAN DO IT AGAIN, TOO!



WOLVERINE --!

I NEED A BREW! YOU WANT ME, SUMMERS, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.



ONE OF THESE DAYS, ORORO...

HIS MANNER IS OCCASIONALLY... IRRITATING.

HAH!



YOU'RE ALL SUCH STRONG-- AND STRONG-- WILLED-- INDIVIDUALS.

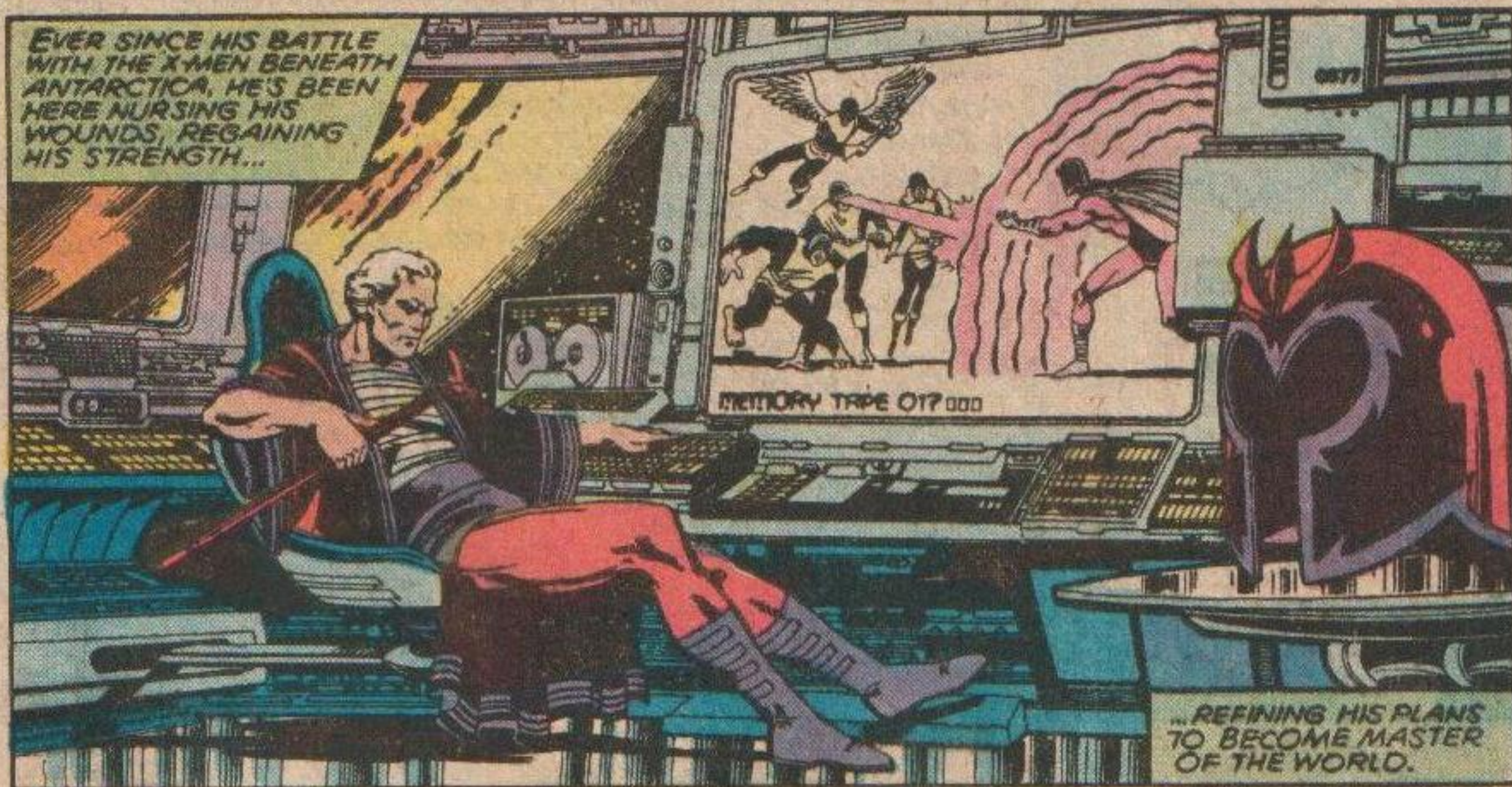
I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER MESH AS EFFECTIVELY AS THE ORIGINAL X-MEN. I'M NOT EVEN SURE THAT'S A DESIRABLE GOAL ANYMORE.

BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE BETTER THAN WE ARE. WE'RE GOOD, BUT WE'VE ALSO BEEN REAL LUCKY. AND OUR LUCK CAN'T LAST FOREVER.

INTERLUDE: A THOUSAND MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, A SQUARE MILE OF ROCK SWINGS TOWARD THE SUNRISE, HIDDEN FROM PRYING EYES BY SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS EVER CREATED.

THIS IS ASTEROID M... THE HOME OF MAGNETO.

EVER SINCE HIS BATTLE WITH THE X-MEN BENEATH ANTARCTICA, HE'S BEEN HERE NURSING HIS WOUNDS, REGAINING HIS STRENGTH...



MEMORY TAPE 017 000

...REFINING HIS PLANS TO BECOME MASTER OF THE WORLD.

ABRUPTLY, THE IMAGE ON THE SCREEN BEFORE HIM CHANGES...

MAGDA! BUT HOW--? Oh... I SEE.



THE MEMORY CIRCUITS HAVE ACCIDENTLY CROSS-CONNECTED.

MAGDA... MY LATE WIFE. I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU WERE...



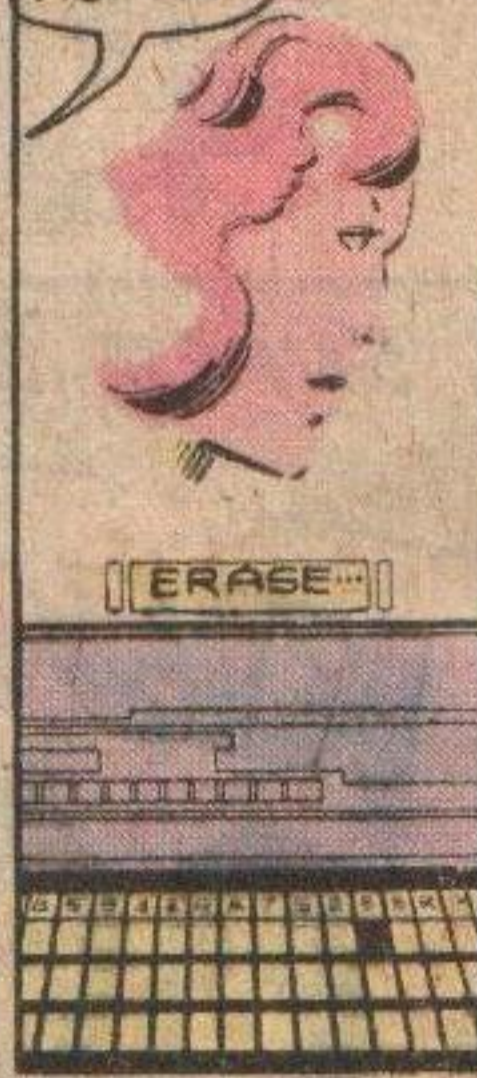
... HOW DEEPLY IT HURT WHEN YOU RAN AWAY FROM ME.



ERASE...

BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO, WHEN I STILL BELIEVED I WAS...

... ONLY HUMAN.



ERASE...

"I AM OLDER NOW, AND I'VE LEARNED MY LESSONS WELL. SOON ALL THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE BEFORE MY POWER!"



BUT MAGNETO ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH PLANS AFOOT THIS MORNING--

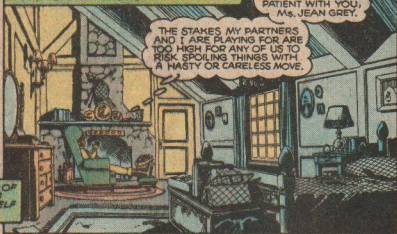


-- FOR IN THE TOWN OF STORMNOY, IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES ISLANDS, NEAR SCOTLAND'S RUGGED NORTH-WEST COAST--



-- IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM OF THE RED LION INN -- IS A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF JASON WYNGARDE.

THE NAME IS AS RAUSE AS THE MAN HIMSELF.



THE STAKES MY PARTNERS AND I ARE PLAYING FOR ARE TOO HIGH FOR ANY OF US TO RISK SPOILING THINGS WITH A HASTY OR CARELESS MOVE.

I'VE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH YOU, M<sup>S</sup>. JEAN GREY.

YOU DON'T KNOW IT, MY DEAR, BUT I'VE BEEN BY YOUR SIDE EVER SINCE YOU LEFT THE SAFETY OF XAVIER'S MANSION.



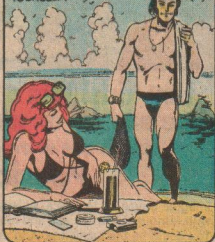
FIRST ON YOUR FLIGHT TO EUROPE...

IN THE GUISE OF A ROLY-POLY PRIEST...



PARDON ME FOR PRYIN' MISS, BUT IS ANYTHIN' THE MATTER?

AND LATER -- IN MANY FACES AND FORMS -- I TRIED TO FILL THE EMOTIONAL VOID WITHIN YOU, UNTIL I CAME TO KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.



THOUGH YOU'VE MET ME -- AS "JASON WYNGARDE" -- ONLY ONCE, YOU INSTINCTIVELY TRUST ME. SOON, THAT TRUST WILL TURN TO LOVE.



AND, AS EASILY AS I MOLD THIS MENTAL IMAGE OF YOU...

FROM THE DAY YOU FIRST MET THE X-MEN...



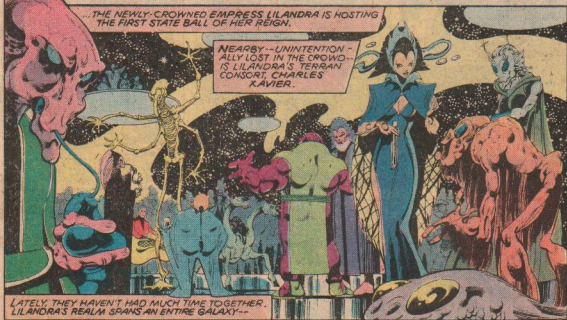
TO YOUR ORIGINAL MARVEL GIRL GARB...



TO THE OLDER, WISER MARVEL GIRL...



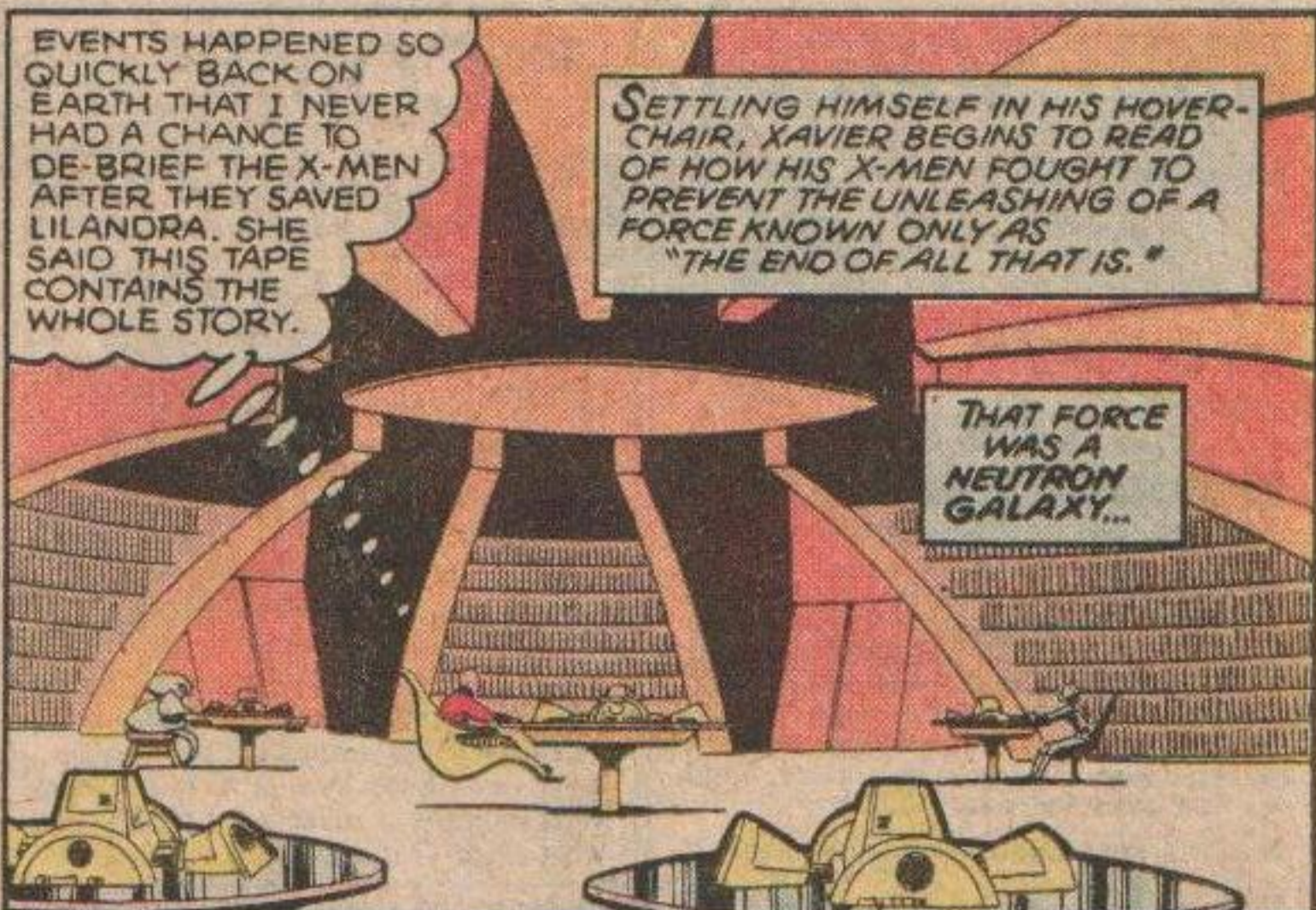






EVERYONE HERE -- EXCEPT LILANDRA -- TREATS ME LIKE SOME SORT OF VILLAGE IDIOT. BUT PERHAPS BY THEIR STANDARDS, I AM.

THE OMEGA FILE, PLEASE.



EVENTS HAPPENED SO QUICKLY BACK ON EARTH THAT I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO DE-BRIEF THE X-MEN AFTER THEY SAVED LILANDRA. SHE SAID THIS TAPE CONTAINS THE WHOLE STORY.

SETTLING HIMSELF IN HIS HOVER-CHAIR, XAVIER BEGINS TO READ OF HOW HIS X-MEN FOUGHT TO PREVENT THE UNLEASHING OF A FORCE KNOWN ONLY AS "THE END OF ALL THAT IS."

THAT FORCE WAS A NEUTRON GALAXY...



...HELD IN CHECK BY A SERIES OF INTERLOCKING STASIS FIELDS. BUT THE FIELDS WERE BREAKING DOWN, DYING. THE UNIVERSE WAS FACING ITS FINAL HOURS.

THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, PHOENIX FLEW INTO THE HEART OF THE ENERGY MATRIX AND -- WITH THE X-MEN'S SPIRITUAL HELP -- KNITTED THE STASIS FIELDS BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

ALL THIS CHARLES XAVIER SEES... AND MORE.



VIRTUALLY SINGLE-HANDED, JEAN SAVED... EVERYTHING.

MY GOD.

MY -- GOD!!



FOR ALL HER NATURAL ABILITY, JEAN IS ONLY HUMAN. I DOUBT EVEN I COULD CONTROL SUCH POWER. SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY--!

I MUST RETURN TO EARTH AT ONCE--



"...AND PRAY I'M NOT TOO LATE."

I'VE GOT TO TELL JEAN THE TRUTH-- ABOUT WHAT I KNOW AND WHAT I FEAR.

SHE'S AN INTELLIGENT WOMAN. SHE'LL FACE THE FUTURE -- THE CHOICES SHE MAY HAVE TO MAKE -- BETTER IF SHE KNOWS THE REAL SCORE. EH-- ?!

WHAT'S THIS UNDERFOOT ?



SKITCH!



IT'S A GOLD TOOTH-- BUT WHOSE? AN INTRUDER'S? BUT HOW DID HE--OR SHE--MANAGE TO LOSE A TOOTH?

UNLESS... I FOUND IT RIGHT IN FRONT OF MUTANT X'S CELL.



NO-- THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE CELL DOOR READS SEALED, THE SENSOR'S REGISTER HIM INSIDE.



I'D BETTER MAKE CERTAIN.



AT MOIRA'S TOUCH, THE PALM LOCK DISENGAGES AND THE CELL'S MASSIVE STEEL DOOR SLIDES OPEN TO REVEAL...

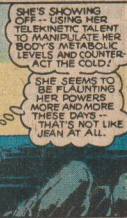


OUTSIDE THE LAB BUILDING...

MORNING, JAMIE, ALEX! IT'S BACK TO THE SALT MINES FOR ME! SEE YOU AT LUNCH!

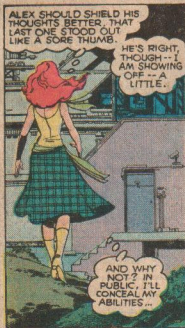


WILL YA LOOK AT HER, ALEX-- NOT COLD OR ANYTHING! I'M WEARING A PARKA AND I'M FREEZING!



SHE'S SHOWING OFF-- USING HER TELEKINETIC TALENT TO MANIPULATE HER BODY'S METABOLIC LEVELS AND COUNTER-ACT THE COLD!

SHE SEEMS TO BE FLAUNTING HER POWERS MORE AND MORE THESE DAYS-- THAT'S NOT LIKE JEAN AT ALL.



ALEX SHOULD SHIELD HIS THOUGHTS BETTER, THAT LAST ONE STOOD OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.

HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH-- I AM SHOWING OFF-- A LITTLE.

AND WHY NOT? IN PUBLIC, I'LL CONCEAL MY ABILITIES...



BUT ALONE -- OR AMONG SUPPOSED "FRIENDS" -- I'LL DRESS AND ACT AS I DARN WELL PLEASE!

OK... THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUT OF THIS. ALEX IS JUST CONCERNED ABOUT IT-- HOLD IT!



MOIRA'S THOUGHT PATTERNS-- THEY'RE CHAOTIC, TERRIFIED! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

I'D BETTER GET TO HER-- FAST-- AS PHOENIX!



ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, IT'S AROUND TWO IN THE MORNING --



-- AN UNGODLY HOUR FOR ANYONE TO GO VISITING ...

...EVEN AVENGER HAWK MCCOY-- A.K.A. THE BEAST-- TAKING TIME OUT FROM A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE TO CHECK UP ON A MANSION HE'D THOUGHT DESERTED.



LOOKS BAD. ALL THE ALARMS I SET HAVE BEEN DISCONNECTED BY AN EXPERT.



FREEZE INTRUDER!

NUM?!

EVERYONE ELSE IS IN THE DANGER ROOM... THEY'LL NEVER HEAR ME THROUGH ITS SOUNDPROOF WALLS. I'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF THIS PROWLER MYSELF.

WHAT HAVE I GOT HERE, ANYWAY? IT FEELS LIKE I'M WRESTLING A GORILLA!



SUDDENLY, A LIGHTNING BOLT SPLITS THE SKY-- THE ROOM FLARING WHITE AROUND THE TWO MEN--



YOU!

>?!?<



OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS.

INSTANTLY, INSIDE THE DANGER ROOM... WHAT THE --?! NIGHT CRAWLER--?!



EIN... EIN G-GEIST, CYCLOPS! LARGE AS LIFE, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES! I-- I SAW IT... FOUGHT IT!

FOUGHT WHAT, FRIEND KURT?



A GHOST!!



CYCLOPS, IT WAS DAS BESTIE-- THE BEAST!

LET'S GO! WHATEVER KURT SAW, IT'S AN INTRUDER, SO LET'S NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES!

STORM, COME WITH ME! COLOSSUS, BACK US UP!



ALL RIGHT, NO FALSE MOVES OR-- HANK?!

IS IT... REALLY YOU?!

SCOTTY?!



YOU'RE ALIVE!



THIS IS FANTASTIC! BUT-- HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?

JEANIE GOT ME OUT!



JEAN?! ALIVE?! JEAN?!

YOU BET'CHA, BOSS-MAN! WHEN MAGNETO'S ROOF FELL IN, SHE FORMED A TELEKINETIC FORCE BUBBLE AROUND US AND SHOT US UP TO THE SURFACE. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLED!

BOY, IS SHE EVER GONNA BE SURPRISED.



THE NEXT FEW MINUTES ARE SOMEWHAT HECTIC AS EVERYONE COMPARES NOTES -- AND THE BEAST EXPLAINS WHY THE HANSON WAS LOCKED UP, WHERE PROFESSOR XAVIER AND JEAN HAVE GONE...





NEXT ISSUE

HOW SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH...

# X-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
575 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN  
EDITOR  
JIM SALICRUP  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Talk about your basic surprisss. When John Byrne and I set out to chronicle the X-Men's rematch with Vindicator—and the introduction of Alpha Flight—we decided that it would make a nice change-of-pace to set the story in Canada, specifically in John's home town of Calgary. Little did we know what we were letting ourselves in for.

We expected an avalanche of letters from our Canadian readers—and we got it. What we didn't expect was an equally massive avalanche of Canadian media coverage. In the space of two weeks—partly due to the presence of a certain Prime Minister on X-MEN #120's splash page—we were deluged by calls from newspapers, wire services, radio and TV stations, and national magazines. Out of the blue, X-MEN #'s 120 & 121 became an instant coast-to-coast media event.

Just goes to show, truth is stranger than fiction. Seriously, though, all of us who work on the X-MEN are grateful beyond words for the response. Let's do it again, sometime.

—Chris Claremont

Dear Uncanny Ones,

Wow! X-MEN #120! Wow!

Alpha Flight is something else! They make for an interesting tale. I mean, hey, these guys aren't villains. (Maybe, please, could they be considered for their own comic?)

Now for a detailed list of the things I liked about X-MEN #120:

- 1) Wolverine's farewell to the beautiful Mariko.
- 2) The bond of friendship that has formed between Shiro and the X-Men.
- 3) The sheer power of Sasquatch (a shaggy Hulk?)
- 4) The ploy the X-Men used to initially elude Alpha Flight (using their own storm against them, clever.)
- 5) The tantalizing glimpses of various members of Alpha Flight (oh! suspense!)
- 6) Calgary! My hometown. Geez! To see the Calgary Tower, and Centre Street & 8th Avenue in a comic (particularly my favorite mag.) Bliss!
- 7) The way Cyclops underestimates the resources of Alpha Flight (people are always underestimating Canadians. This should help show them that we aren't to be trifled with.)
- 8) Ororo's rage in the boutique. I love seeing her in action.
- 9) The ease with which Sasquatch took Wolverine.
- 10) The dialogue throughout.
- 11) The better-than-average Byrne/Austin art (when you consider that their "average" is most people's "superb", how good must that make their "better-than-average"?)

I am really looking forward to "Shoot-Out at the Stampede."

Oh, yes—would it be too much to ask if I wanted you to spell Ottawa correctly, Chris?

Sheldon Wiebe  
#6 - 828 Memorial Dr., N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 3C8

As a matter of fact, Sheldon, even before we were swamped in the media blitz, we were considering giving "Alpha Flight" more exposure. This summer, for example, Sasquatch will be making a guest appearance in the HULK ANNUAL. Anyway, there's a possibility that "Alpha Flight" may be showing up in an issue or two of MARVEL PREMIERE. However, we feel obliged to all—reporters included—who noticed, that Chris spelt Ottawa correctly on his original script. Somehow, when the book was lettered, things got scrambled and the mistake wasn't caught. Ah, well—that's life.

Dear Chris & John,

X-MEN #120 appears to be a step in the right direction, back towards excellence after the X-MEN's slump into mere quality since #114. I'm withholding final judgement, however,

until I see the conclusion of the Canadian plotline. The final segments of your recent stories have been the most disappointing.

What I found most delightful about X-MEN #120 was the Canadian setting and characters. The Canadian atmosphere was realistic almost to the point of exaggeration. To write a great satire, one has to be intimately acquainted with one's subject, and Chris and John have done something even more difficult than that; they've taken their subject to the very edge of satire and stopped short.

I've never been to Calgary myself, X-MEN #120 gave me a more convincing picture of Calgary than nearly any comic has ever given me of New York.

And the characters: we've only had a glimpse of Alpha Flight, but—like Vindicator himself—they all seem to be hanging on that delightful edge of satire, as Canadian as they can possibly be. (What, no Ukrainian?) And it's about time I had some new female mutants to add to my handy-dandy, up-to-the-minute Marvel Mutants List. Were you aware that, of Marvel's mutants, 53 are men and only 7 are women? Assuming that Alpha Flight are all mutants, the statistics are now 57 to 9. I'll be looking forward avidly to seeing more of Alpha Flight next issue. It's always a joy to see a new team introduced—how else can we get a whole slew of new heroes all at once?

Jana C. Hollingsworth  
1415 East 2nd St.  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Firstly, Jana, yours and Sheldon's letters are representative of the overwhelming majority of letters we've received thus far concerning X-MEN #120—and, as usual, we've received so many letters that we can't even begin to do them justice in a single page. Regarding the slump you referred to...Chris hasn't been entirely satisfied with his work on the book of late either. However, with this issue—and the Mutant X storyline it introduces—Chris & John think they're really starting to hit their proper stride again. (By the way, your mutant hero statistics are a fraction off; Vindicator, Sasquatch and Shaman are not mutants, so the male/female ratio is 54 to 9.)

**NEXT ISSUE:** The X-Men are finally re-united, and the hunt for the escaped, deadly, mysterious *Mutant X* begins with a vengeance. And along the way, more on the mystery surrounding Jason Wyngarde and the Hellfire Club, and their ominous plans for Phoenix. So, be here in 30, won't you?



A TOTALLY  
**DIFFERENT**  
KIND OF  
SUPER-HEROINE

**ON SALE  
NOW!**

