



**MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP**

*the* **X-MEN**



APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

IND.

**16  
JAN**

**12¢**

**"THE  
SUPREME  
SACRIFICE!"**



ORIGINAL  
COVER  
TO  
X-MEN #16

**X-MEN!** THE MOST MYSTERIOUS FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

# "The SUPREME SACRIFICE!"

IN WHICH A LIFE IS LOST...  
--A BATTLE WON!



STAN LEE WRITER • JACK KIRBY LAYOUTS • JAY GAVIN PENCILS  
DICK AYERS INKS • ART SIMEK LETTERS • NEW COVER BY PHIL HESTER

LAST ISH, WE SAW THE AMAZING PROFESSOR XAVIER'S ASTRAL IMAGE DRIVEN FROM THE SENTINELS' FORTRESS BY DEADLY MICRO-ELECTRIC BLASTS...

JUST MADE IT! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, AND I'D HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF MY PHYSICAL FORM AGAIN!

MY X-MEN ARE PRISONERS OF THE GIGANTIC SENTINELS, WITHIN THAT DEADLY FORTRESS...

...WHILE I LIE HELPLESSLY OUTSIDE-- UNABLE TO HELP THEM-- HARDLY ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF!

BUT, I CANNOT FAIL THEM NOW! IT WAS I WHO ORGANIZED THEM-- WHO INSPIRED THEM TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR MANKIND--

--FOR THE SAME HUMAN RACE WHICH NOW HATES AND FEARS THEM-- ALL BECAUSE OF DR. TRASK AND HIS SENTINELS!

TRASK BELIEVED HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING! HE THOUGHT ALL MUTANTS WERE MENACES! HE CREATED THE SENTINELS TO DESTROY US, THINKING WE WERE THE ENEMIES OF HUMANITY!

HE WAS TOO BLIND, TOO FANATICAL TO REALIZE THAT THERE ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD MUTANTS -- TO REALIZE THAT HIS SENTINELS ARE THE REAL THREAT TO--

WAIT!!  
THE FORTRESS IS SINKING -- LIKE A GIGANTIC ELEVATOR!

HE HAD HIS SENTINELS CONSTRUCT THAT IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS -- HE ARMED THEM WITH DEADLY NEW WEAPONS -- FOR THE PURPOSE OF WIPING ALL MUTANTS FROM THE FACE OF EARTH!

IT'S COMPLETELY HIDDEN AGAIN -- CAMOUFLAGED BY A DECEPTIVE MOUND OF EARTH!

NOW MY X-MEN ARE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM ANY AID I MIGHT GIVE THEM!

THIS MEANS THAT THE MOST DANGEROUS SENTINEL OF ALL -- THE GARGANTUAN MASTER MOLD, CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE MORE SENTINELS -- UNTIL THEY OVER-RUN ALL OF EARTH!

--UNLESS I CAN STOP HIM! AND I WILL -- IF IT COSTS ME MY VERY LIFE!

BACK IN THE CITY THERE IS A FALLEN SENTINEL! IF I CAN FIND OUT WHY HE FELL, I'LL HAVE THE KEY TO THEIR DEFEAT!

REMEMBER HIM FROM X-MEN #16?  
-- STAN.

DESPERATELY, PAINFULLY, DISREGARDING THE AGONY OF HIS INJURED BODY, THE CRIPPLED MUTANT TIRELESSLY CRAWLS INCH AFTER INCH, UNTIL HE REACHES...

THE HIGHWAY--  
AT LAST! NOW  
TO STOP THE  
FIRST PASSING  
CAR--!

A BASIC TELEPATHIC  
COMMAND  
WILL DO THE  
TRICK! NO  
NORMAL  
HUMAN CAN  
RESIST!

SLOW  
DOWN!  
STOP ONE  
HUNDRED  
YARDS  
AHEAD!

SECONDS LATER ...

SURE IS  
LUCKY WE  
SAW YOU,  
FELLA!  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

NO TIME TO  
EXPLAIN NOW!  
YOU MUST  
DRIVE ME TO  
THE CITY!

SURE! WE'LL BE  
GLAD TO!

THERE'S SOMETHING  
ABOUT HIM-- IT  
SEEMS TO FORCE  
US TO OBEY!

KINDA  
STRANGE THE  
WAY WE  
SLOWED DOWN  
IN TIME!  
ALMOST  
LIKE WE  
KNEW HE'D  
BE THERE!

MEANWHILE, BACK WITHIN THE NOW HIDDEN FORTRESS, WE FIND...

NOW WHAT HAVE  
THEY DONE TO US??  
IT'S HARD TO MOVE  
IN HERE-- LIKE MY  
MUSCLES ARE MADE  
OF LEAD!

YOU'RE RIGHT!  
SOMETHING IS  
PRESSING US DOWN--  
SAPPING OUR  
STRENGTH!

I CAN'T EVEN  
FLY TO THE TOP--  
MY WINGS CAN  
HARDLY FLAP  
IN HERE!

THERE'S ONLY  
ONE ANSWER--  
THEY'VE FOUND  
A WAY TO INCREASE  
THE WEIGHT OF  
GRAVITY WITHIN  
THE GLOBE! AND  
THERE'S NO WAY  
FOR US TO FIGHT  
IT!

BUT, THE BIG  
QUESTION IS-- WHERE  
ARE THEY TAKING US  
TO NOW-- AND WHY?



**FINALLY...**

PLACE THE HEAVY-GRAY GLOBE UPON ITS PERMANENT BASE!

IT IS **DONE!** THEY SHALL BE SAFE HERE UNTIL THE **MASTER MOLD** GIVES US ORDERS FOR THEIR **FINAL DISPOSAL!**

NO MATTER HOW THEY STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO WAY TO OVERCOME THE IRRESISTIBLE POWER OF INCREASED **GRAVITY!**

THIS IS WHY WE ARE DESTINED TO RULE MANKIND! OUR COMPUTERIZED BRAINS CAN CREATE WEAPONS WHICH NO MERE HUMAN CAN MATCH!

**BUT, INSIDE THE SEEMINGLY ESCAPE-PROOF PRISON, THE "MERE HUMANS" WITHIN ARE DETERMINED THAT IF THEY MUST BE DEFEATED, THEY'LL GO DOWN FIGHTING--!**

MY POWER BLASTS CAN SHATTER ALMOST ANYTHING! WHY WON'T THEY SMASH THAT **GLASS???**

**THWING!**



**FOR LONG, ANGUISHED MINUTES, THE DEDICATED DEPUTY LEADER UNLEASHES HIS AWESOME POWER, UNTIL AT LAST...**

IT'S NO USE! I-- FAILED--!

THE WALL *ISN'T* GLASS, BUT SOME NEW, IMPREGNABLE SUBSTANCE--!



YET, PERHAPS THE **OTHERS--** BY USE OF **THEIR MUTANT POWER--** MAY DO BETTER--!

EASY, JEAN-- EVEN IF YOU CAN LEVITATE YOURSELF-- THERE'S NO PLACE TO GO!

THE TOP OF THIS DOUBLE-SIZED MILK BOTTLE IS ALL SEALED UP!



I KNOW, BOBBY-- BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING...!

WE CAN'T JUST SIT IDLY BY AND WAIT FOR THE **END!** WE MUST--**OHNN!**

UH OH! I WAS **AFRAID** THAT WOULD HAPPEN!



THE PROF ALWAYS WARNED YOU ABOUT OVER-TAXING YOUR TELEKINETIC POWER!

BUT-- IF WE DON'T  
BREAK OUT-- WE--  
WE'RE ALL DOOMED!

NOT IF I CAN  
HELP IT! I'M  
GONNA BUILD  
MY OWN KIND OF  
ICY BATTERING  
RAM!

I ALWAYS FELT  
SUPERIOR TO  
THE OTHERS,  
BECAUSE I  
COULD FLY! BUT,  
NOW I REALIZE  
HOW USELESS  
MY WINGS CAN  
BE AT TIMES....!

GOOD IDEA,  
BOBBY! IT'S  
THE ONE THING  
THAT MAY DO  
IT!

THERE! THE  
MORE ICE I  
ADD TO THE  
BAR, THE  
MORE  
PRESSURE  
IT EXERTS  
AGAINST THE  
WALLS--!

KEEP IT UP, PARTNER!  
THE SENTINELS ARE  
SO CONFIDENT THAT  
WE'RE TRAPPED, THEY'RE  
NOT EVEN PAYING ANY  
ATTENTION! DON'T  
STOP NOW--!

EACH CHUNK OF  
ICE I ADD MAKES  
ME THAT MUCH  
WEAKER-- BUT  
I GOTTA KEEP  
DOING IT! IT'S  
ALL UP TO ME!

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO  
PROVE THAT I MAY BE THE  
YOUNGEST X-MAN, BUT I  
CAN STILL PULL MY OWN  
WEIGHT ON THE TEAM!

YET, TRY AS  
HE MAY...

IT DIDN'T WORK! THE ICE  
BAR SHATTERED-- INSTEAD  
OF THE WALL!

**CRACK!**

I FAILED YOU!  
IT WAS ALL  
UP TO ME,  
AND I CONKED  
OUT!

DON'T EVER  
SAY THAT  
AGAIN, BOY!

YOU DID ALL THAT  
ANY MAN COULD  
DO-- YOU TRIED  
YOUR BEST!

YOU CALLED  
ME-- A MAN--  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME!

YOU'RE AS MUCH  
A MAN AS ANY OF  
US, BOBBY! NEVER  
FORGET IT!

NOW LISTEN-- ALL OF YOU! WE CAN'T SHATTER  
THAT WALL, AND WE'LL JUST DRAIN OUR  
STRENGTH BY TRYING! SO WE'LL MAKE NO MORE  
ATTEMPTS!

OUR BEST BET IS TO TAKE IT  
EASY-- CONSERVE OUR POWER--  
AND WAIT FOR THE FIRST  
OPENING!

THEY'VE GOT TO  
OPEN THIS THING  
IN ORDER TO GET  
AT US-- AND THAT'S  
WHEN WE'LL STRIKE!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER CHAMBER OF THE VAST FORTRESS, THE AWESOME MASTER MOLD CONCLUDES HIS EXAMINATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS BEAST...

I NEED LEARN NO MORE ABOUT HIM! I REALIZE NOW THAT THE X-MEN DO NOT POSSESS THE POWER TO HARM US!

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HIM...?

HE SHALL BE IMPRISONED WITH THE OTHER CAPTIVE MUTANTS, AS THE MASTER MOLD HAS COMMANDED!

THEN, AT MY PLEASURE, THEY WILL ALL BE DESTROYED! FOR THAT IS THE PURPOSE YOU YOURSELF HAVE PROGRAMMED INTO OUR COMPUTERIZED BRAINS!

NO! NO! I WAS WRONG! I REALIZE THAT NOW! THEY AREN'T MENACES TO MANKIND-- IT'S YOU WHO ARE! THEY MUSTN'T BE HARMED--!

SILENCE! THOUGH YOU CREATED US, YOU ARE MERELY A HUMAN! YOU TOO MUST OBEY!

WHILE I HAVE THE POWER, IT IS YOU WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE A VAST ARMY OF SENTINELS FOR ME-- AND YOU SHALL DO SO!

NO! IT WOULD MEAN BETRAYING MY FELLOW MEN! YOU AND YOUR SENTINELS WOULD ENSLAVE ALL OF EARTH!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MY POWERS? IF SO, BEHOLD THIS SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION!

YOUR DISINTEGRATOR BEAM!! DON'T DO IT-- DON'T!

DO NOT FEAR! YOU SHALL NOT BE HARMED--AS YET!

IT IS THE NEAREST CITY THAT WILL BE WIPED OUT--AS EASILY AS I ERASE YONDER MACHINE!

AND I DID IT! I GAVE YOU THAT RAY!

**WILT!**

I CANNOT ALLOW AN ENTIRE CITY TO SUFFER SUCH A FATE! I--I'LL CREATE YOUR ARMY OF SENTINELS!

AFTER ALL, WHERE THERE'S LIFE, THERE'S HOPE! WE MAY STILL FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THE MASTER MOLD!

FOR, WITH HIM GONE, THE SENTINELS WOULD BE LEADERLESS--THE THREAT WOULD BE ENDED!

IF ONLY THE X-MEN WERE STILL FREE! IF ONLY I'D LISTENED TO THEM!

MEANTIME, BACK AT THE TV STUDIO WHERE THE FIRST SENTINEL HAD COLLAPSED FOR NO APPARENT REASON...

I DON'T GET IT! TRASK BUILT THESE BOZOS TO FIGHT THE X-MEN--

BUT THEN THEY CAPTURED TRASK HIMSELF!

TRASK WAS A FOOL! NO MAN HAS A RIGHT TO TAKE THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE THEY TOOK HIM--AND HOW MANY OTHER SENTINELS THERE ARE! THEY MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN ---ANY TIME!

PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU, INSPECTOR!

PROFESSOR XAVIER! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS DEBATING WITH TRASK ON TV! YOU CLAIMED MUTANTS WERE NOT DANGEROUS TO MANKIND!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS SENTINEL HERE? HOW DANGEROUS IS HE?

MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!--UNLESS WE CAN LEARN THE REASON THAT HE COLLAPSED!

COME ON IN, MISTER! WE'LL TAKE ANY HELP WE CAN GET!





YOU'RE NOT GONNA LEARN ANYTHING BY JUST SITTING AND *STARING* AT 'IM, ARE YOU?

HE CANNOT SUSPECT THAT I'M ACTUALLY *PROBING* DEEP WITHIN THE FIGURE BEFORE ME-- BY MEANS OF SHEER MENTAL ENERGY!



HE'S BUILT LIKE A GIGANTIC TV SET! HE WILL NOT RECEIVE A PICTURE PROPERLY IF THERE IS *INTERFERENCE*! SOMETHING HAS *INTERFERED* WITH HIM!

IF I COULD ONLY LEARN WHAT THAT SOMETHING IS!



LOOK, MISTER-- I WAS WILLING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE -- BUT IF YOU JUST WANNA CATCH UP ON YOUR DAY-DREAMING, GO DO IT SOMEWHERE *ELSE*, HUH?

I SENSE SOMETHING AT *LAST*-- FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW! IF I CAN JUST MENTALLY *PINPOINT* IT, WE'LL HAVE THE ANSWER!

DO NOT *SPEAK*, INSPECTOR! GIVE ME JUST *ONE MINUTE MORE*!



WHAT ARE YOU POINTING AT THAT NEW *CRYSTAL PRODUCTS BUILDING* FOR? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

THE GIANT *CRYSTAL* WHICH ADORNS THE TOWER! THAT'S IT!

WHEN THE SENTINEL STOOD BEFORE THE WINDOW, HIS TRANSMISSION BEAM WAS BROKEN-- BY THE *CRYSTAL'S INTERFERENCE*!



THEN-- IF WE MOVED HIM AGAIN-- HE'D COME TO LIFE ONCE HE WAS AWAY FROM THE WINDOW?!!

EXACTLY! BUT IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY! I HAVE A *BETTER* IDEA!

WE MUST DESTROY THE *SOURCE* OF HIS TRANSMISSION BEAMS-- AND AT LAST I KNOW HOW TO DO IT!



BUT, WE KNOW HOW ANXIOUS YOU ARE TO REJOIN THE *X-MEN* ONCE AGAIN, AND SO...

PLACE THE HELPLESS ONE WITH THE *OTHER* PRISONERS, UNTIL THE MASTER MOLD ORDERS THEIR *DISPOSAL*!

I OBEY, SECTION LEADER!



OPEN THE GLOBE!  
I HAVE ANOTHER  
PRISONER TO BE  
DEPOSITED  
WITHIN!

LOOK!  
IT'S THE  
BEAST!

THEY'RE  
GONNA PUT  
HIM IN HERE  
WITH US!

THAT MEANS  
THEY'LL HAVE  
TO OPEN THE  
GLOBE!

THIS IS WHAT  
WE'VE BEEN  
WAITING FOR!  
REMEMBER  
OUR BATTLE PLAN!



WE ARE IN THE PROPER  
DEFENSIVE POSTURE!

THEN LET  
THE GLOBE  
BE OPENED!

THEY'RE TAKING  
NO CHANCES!  
THEY'RE RINGED  
ALL AROUND US!



-- THEIR LETHAL CHEST RAYS ARE ALL AIMED  
RIGHT AT US!

NO MATTER WHAT--  
WE MUST CARRY OUT  
OUR PLAN!

KKKK!



THE GRAVITY IS  
GETTING  
LIGHTER--MORE  
NORMAL--GET  
READY--!

AN OPENING IS  
BEGINNING TO  
FORM!

WE'VE GOT TO  
BE DOUBLY  
CAREFUL--NOT  
TO INJURE THE  
BEAST!

IF WE  
FAIL,  
NOTHING  
WILL  
MATTER!



PERSONAL NOTE: FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT  
WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN HEAVY GRAVITY GLOBE,  
WE'LL JUST TIP YOU OFF THAT THE OPENING IS  
FORMED BY REPELLING THE ATOMIC PARTICLES  
WITHIN THE GLOBULE'S STRUCTURE! THERE--NOW  
THE REST WILL BE EASY!

SAY THE WORD, CYKE!  
WE'RE ALL SET!

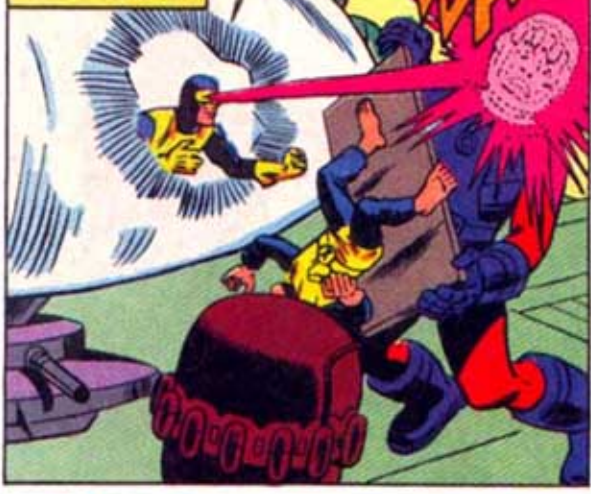
THEY'RE STARTING  
TO LIFT HANK OFF THAT  
STRETCHER--

IF WE  
WAIT TOO  
LONG,  
WE'LL  
MISS OUR  
CHANCE!

JUST ANOTHER TWO  
SECONDS--TILL  
THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT  
POSITION--NOW!

MOVING WITH BLINDING SPEED, CYCLOPS BLASTS HIS POWER BEAM AT THE SENTINEL CARRYING HANK MCCOY...

IT WORKED! HE DROPPED THE BEAST! LET'S GO!



RACING TO PREVENT THE X-MEN'S ESCAPE, THE OTHER SENTINELS TRIP AND FALL OVER THEIR STRICKEN COMRADE...



THE TIMING WAS PERFECT! THEY'RE GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!



I'LL LEAP OUT FIRST, TO MAKE THEM DIRECT THEIR CHEST RAYS AT ME! IT'LL GIVE JEAN AND THE OTHERS A BETTER CHANCE!

~WHEW!~ LUCKY FOR ME THEY'RE SO SLOW-MOVING!

BUT, WHAT'S KEEPING THE OTHERS?



WARREN! THEY'RE TRYING TO CLOSE THE OPENING AGAIN! IT'S ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO SLIP THRU ONE AT A TIME! HANK AND BOBBY WILL NEVER MAKE IT!

DON'T WORRY, JEAN! WE'RE NOT DESERTING THEM! YOU'LL SEE--!



OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT SEALING MY PARDS IN THAT GLOBE AGAIN!

STOP HIM!



BUT, HOW CAN YOU STOP THE UNSTOPPABLE ???

THERE! THAT'S ONE CONTROL PANEL YOU CAN KISS GOODBYE!



I'VE GOT HANK! NOW, LET'S GO! EVERY SECOND COUNTS! WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THE MASTER MOLD!

AHHH! TO BE ABLE TO SOAR AGAIN--!



BUT, DIRECTLY BEHIND THE SPEEDING MUTANTS, A NEW DETACHMENT OF SENTINELS APPEAR-- GRIM, EMOTIONLESS, POWERFUL--!

THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE! PREPARE STUN RAYS! AIM STUN RAYS!

AND NOW, AT MY COMMAND--

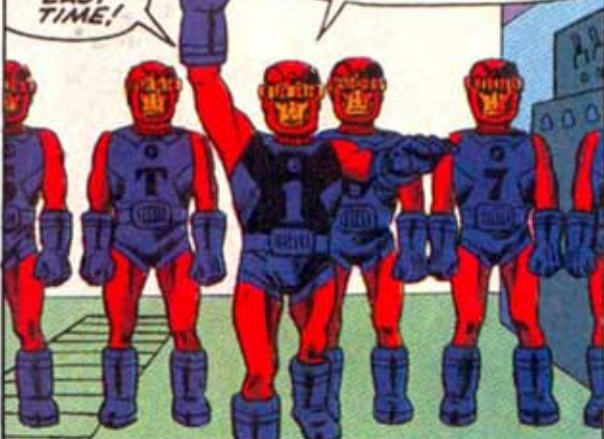


**FIRE STUN RAYS!**



THEY ARE BEATEN! AND, IT SHALL BE FOR THE LAST TIME!

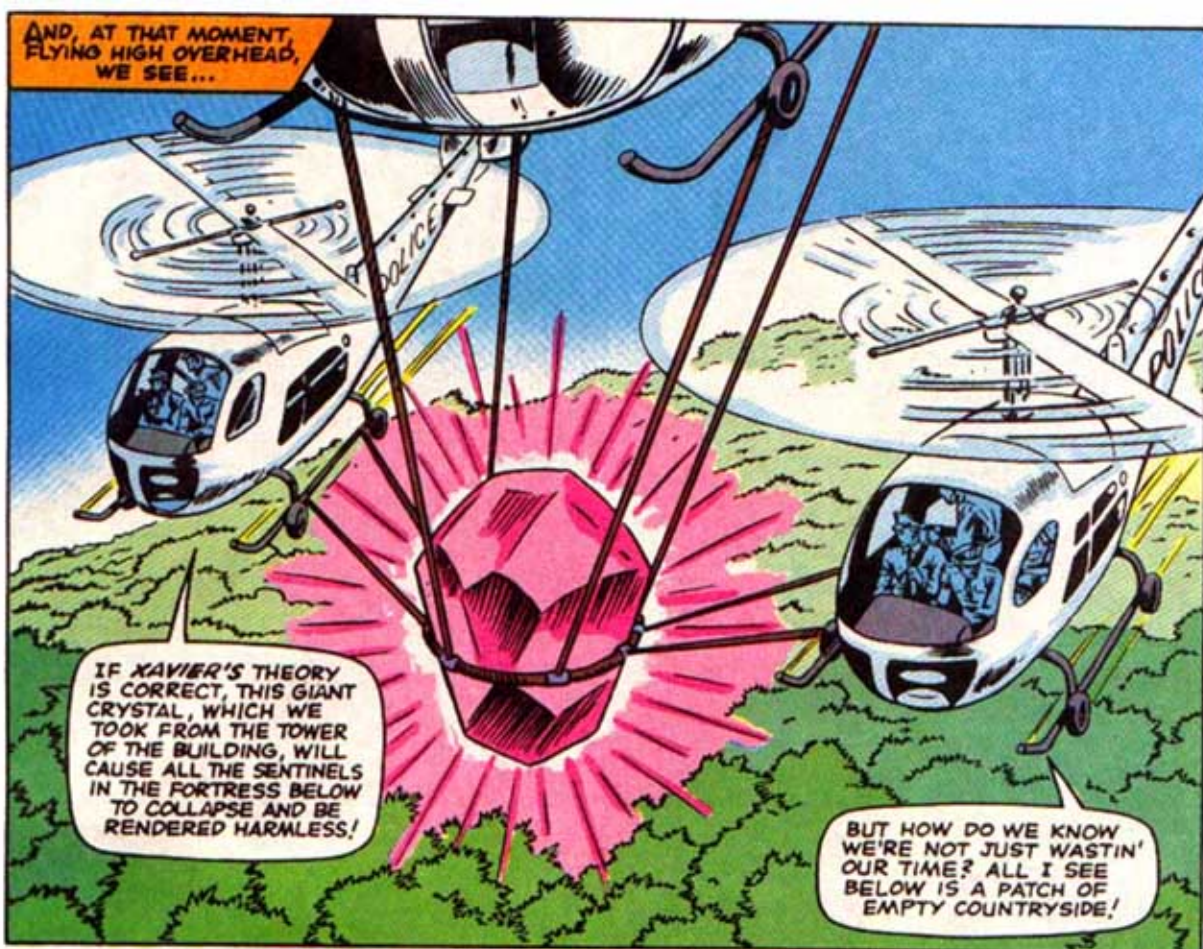
TOO LONG HAVE THEY DEFIED US-- FOUGHT US-- NOW, THEY MUST BE SLAIN! PREPARE DESTRUCTO-BEAMS!



BUT, NO SOONER ARE THOSE FATEFUL WORDS UTTERED, THAN THE ENTIRE BODY OF SENTINELS SUDDENLY SAGS TO THE FLOOR--AND LIES STILL!



AND, AT THAT MOMENT,  
FLYING HIGH OVERHEAD,  
WE SEE...



IF XAVIER'S THEORY IS CORRECT, THIS GIANT CRYSTAL, WHICH WE TOOK FROM THE TOWER OF THE BUILDING, WILL CAUSE ALL THE SENTINELS IN THE FORTRESS BELOW TO COLLAPSE AND BE RENDERED HARMLESS!

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE NOT JUST WASTIN' OUR TIME? ALL I SEE BELOW IS A PATCH OF EMPTY COUNTRYSIDE!

YOU MAY REST ASSURED, GENTLEMEN, THE FORTRESS IS HIDDEN BENEATH THE SITE BELOW! CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN YOUR PRESENT FLYING SPEED--

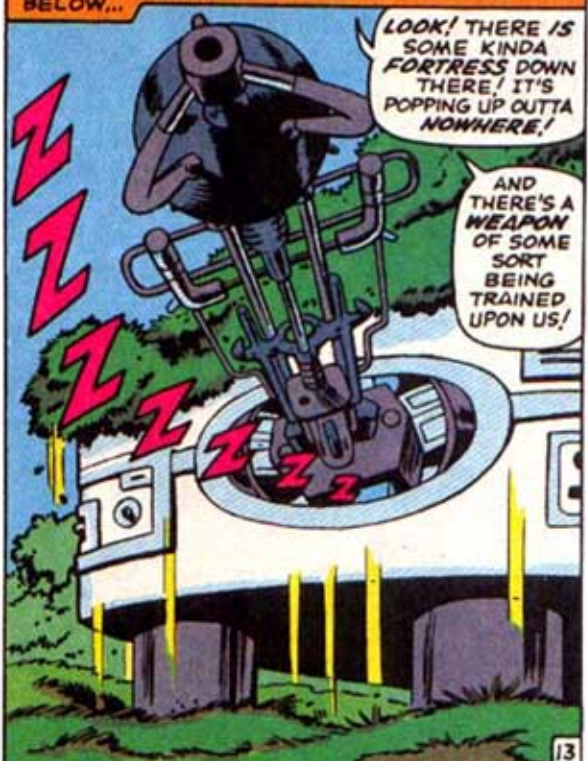
-- IT IS VITAL THAT WE MAKE A STEADY, COMPLETE SWEEP OF THE AREA, TO BLANK OUT EVERY SENTINEL BELOW!

WE ALL THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS OFF HIS ROCKER, TILL WE GOT THE WORD FROM WASHINGTON ITSELF TO DO WHATEVER HE SAID!



I WONDER WHAT MAKES HIM SUCH A V. I. P.? ME, I NEVER HEARD OF 'IM!

BUT, THE POLICE PILOT'S PUZZLED MUSINGS ARE SOON RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY THE UNEXPECTED SIGHT WHICH SUDDENLY GREET'S HIS EYES BELOW...



LOOK! THERE IS SOME KINDA FORTRESS DOWN THERE! IT'S POPPING UP OUTTA NOWHERE!

AND THERE'S A WEAPON OF SOME SORT BEING TRAINED UPON US!



IT'S CREATING A DEADLY **TURBULENCE** IN THE AIR! IF WE HIT IT, WE'LL **CRASH!**

THEN WE'VE GOT TO GO **BACK!**

**NO!** CONTINUE TO FLY! THERE WILL BE NO DANGER!



ON PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SAY-SO, THE COURAGEOUS OFFICERS FLY DIRECTLY TOWARDS THE AWESOME WHIRLWINDS, BUT-- AS THEY DO SO, THE ENORMOUS **CRYSTAL** DOES ITS WORK WELL--!

AS THE GLEAMING OBJECT PASSES ABOVE, THOSE OPERATING THE WEAPON CRUMPLE HELPLESSLY, CAUSING THE **TURBULENCE** TO FADE AWAY...!



THUS, WHEN THE **X-MEN** REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS ONCE AGAIN, THEY FIND...

LOOK! THE **SENTINELS!** THEY'VE BEEN **KNOCKED OUT!**

I'M NOT COMPLAINING, BUT-- HOW DID IT **HAPPEN?**

ONE MINUTE WE WERE RACING TO THE **MASTER MOLD**-- AND THEN --**THIS!**



FROM THE EVIDENCE AT HAND, I WOULD DEDUCE THAT PROFESSOR X HAS FINALLY FOUND THEIR **ACHILLES' HEEL!**

**HANK!** YOU'VE COME TO AGAIN! HOW WONDERFUL!

AHH-- HOW GRATIFYING TO KNOW I'VE BEEN MISSED!

LET'S **KNOCK OFF THE TALK** TILL LATER! WE'VE STILL GOT A **JOB** TO DO--!



YOU'RE **RIGHT**, CYKE! SO LONG AS THE **MASTER MOLD** EXISTS, THE **SENTINELS** WILL **NEVER** BE DEFEATED! SO LET'S **GET 'EM!**

**WARREN!** BE **CAREFUL!** HE MUST HAVE ALL SORTS OF **DEFENSIVE DEVICES** PREPARED FOR JUST SUCH AN **ATTACK!**

LEAD ON, **MACDUFF!** WE'RE **RIGHT** BEHIND YOU!

THEY WON'T STOP US **NOW!**

**JEAN'S** **RIGHT**, ANGEL! **SLOW DOWN**-- WE DON'T KNOW **WHAT'S** AHEAD OF US!

THEN, AS IF TO ADD EMPHASIS TO THE X-MEN'S WORDS, THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY FLICKER OUT, PLUNGING THE ENTIRE AREA INTO DARKNESS...

CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M FLYING! GONNA CRASH INTO--*UNHHH!*

LISTEN TO THAT HUM-- LIKE A TREMENDOUS SURGE OF POWER! SOMETHING IS DRAINING ALL THE CURRENT, BLOWING ALL THE FUSES--!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT CAN IT BE?

IT'S SOME SORT OF INCREDIBLY POWERFUL MACHINE! I CAN FEEL ITS TREMENDOUS ENERGY WITH MY FEET-- RIGHT THRU THE FLOOR!

AND, THE BOOK-WORMISH BEAST IS RIGHT! FOR, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, WE SEE...

I HAVE GIVEN YOU ALL THE POWER YOU WILL REQUIRE! NOW, LET THE PROCESS BEGIN! THIS NIGHT SHALL MARK THE END OF MAN'S DOMINATION OF THE PLANET EARTH!

CREATE MY SENTINELS! I SHALL OBSERVE YOUR EVERY MOVE!

HEAVEN HELP ME!! I DON'T WANT TO DO IT-- BUT I MUST! OTHERWISE, A CITY WILL BE DESTROYED!

FIRST, THERE SHALL BE EIGHT NEW SENTINELS-- THEN, EIGHT MORE-- THEN, EIGHT MORE-- EACH NEW GROUP APPEARING FASTER AND FASTER-- UNTIL THEIR NUMBER MOUNTS SO QUICKLY THAT THEY BECOME VIRTUALLY UNCOUNTABLE!-- BEGIN!!





IT'S STARTING TO WORK! THE SYNTHO-PARTICLES FROM THE MASTER MOLD ARE FLOWING INTO THE CUBICLES, SOLIDIFYING INTO SOLID MATTER!!



ONCE THE PROCESS HAS STARTED, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING IT! IF ENOUGH ENERGY IS BUILT UP, THE MACHINE COULD RUN FOREVER!

THEY'LL EVENTUALLY OUTNUMBER THE HUMAN RACE! THEY'LL ENSLAVE ALL OF MANKIND! THEY'LL BE THE MASTERS OF EARTH!

AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME!! IN MY IGNORANCE, MY FEAR, I CREATED AN EVIL FAR GREATER THAN THE MENACE IT WAS BUILT TO DESTROY!



THE FIRST UNITS ARE TAKING SHAPE NOW! THEN THEY'LL LEAVE THE CUBICLES AND THE NEXT BATCH WILL BE FORMED! AND ALL WILL BE OBEDIENT TO THE HEARTLESS MASTER MOLD!

SO LONG AS MEN ENDURE UPON THE PLANET, MINE WILL BE THE MOST HATED NAME OF ALL -- FOR IT WAS I WHO BETRAYED THE HUMAN RACE!



NO! I WON'T DO IT-- I CAN'T!! I MEANT TO HELP MANKIND-- TO PROTECT IT FROM THE MUTANTS-- I CAN'T DESTROY IT NOW!!

STOP!! YOU CANNOT DEFY ME! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN --THE PENALTY??



NO--I'VE JUST REMEMBERED --REMEMBERED THAT MY OWN LIFE MEANS NOTHING! I'LL SACRIFICE IT GLADLY TO UNDO THE DREAD THING I'VE DONE!

THE IONIC POWER SOURCE!! IF YOU SHATTER THAT, YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING! EVEN I CANNOT SURVIVE --!!!

**CLANG!**

IT WAS I WHO  
CREATED YOU-- IT  
MUST BE MY HAND  
THAT DESTROYS YOU  
--ALONG WITH EVERY  
OTHER VESTIGE OF  
MY WORK--ALONG  
WITH MY OWN LIFE  
--UHMMMM!!

# PHOOOM!

WE'RE TOO LATE! THE MASTER  
MOLD WILL NEVER MENACE  
HUMANITY AGAIN! SOMEONE'S  
DONE OUR JOB FOR US!

DR. TRASK!!  
WASN'T HE  
IN THERE--??

IF HE  
WAS, HE'S  
BEYOND  
ANY  
HELP  
NOW!

HEADS UP, GROUP! WE'D BETTER VACATE THESE  
PREMISES BEFORE WE'RE INUNDATED BY---  
**BOBBY!!** WHAT'S WRONG??

THE HEAT!! DIDN'T  
REALIZE IT WOULD WEAKEN  
ME SO! BLACKING OUT--CAN'T  
STAND--!

IT'S  
IMPERATIVE  
THAT I CARRY  
HIM OUT--BUT  
HE'S TOO  
SLIPPERY TO  
HOLD IN MY  
HANDS--!

HOWEVER, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE  
WAY TO SKIN A CAT--OR TRANSPORT  
AN ICEMAN!

ALL OF  
YOU--  
LET'S  
GO!!  
THE  
PLACE IS  
COLLAP-  
PING!

;-WHW!;- YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RESORT  
TO SUCH DRASTIC DEVICES TO PROVE  
YOUR POINT, SCOTTY!

# THAKK!!

BUT THEN, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN AT ONCE! EACH EXPLOSION CAUSES A BIGGER EXPLOSION-- EACH FIRE STARTS A BIGGER FIRE-- AS THE DESPERATE X-MEN SUDDENLY REALIZE THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY IMPENDING DOOM!!

WE'RE TRAPPED! THE ENTIRE FORTRESS IS CAVING IN! IF THE FLAMES DON'T GET US, THE CAVE-IN WILL!

JEANIE-- STOP!! THERE'S A WALL OF FIRE DIRECTLY AHEAD OF YOU!

RUNNING IN PANIC WON'T HELP! WE'VE GOT TO WORK AS A TEAM!!

CYCLONS IS RIGHT! ANGEL, YOU CAN FLY OVER THE FLAMES WHILE I USE TELEKINESIS TO LEVITATE SCOTT OVER THEM!

NO! THEN YOU'LL BE TRAPPED! I'LL WAIT HERE AND CARRY YOU OVER, AS SOON AS CYKE IS CLEAR!

ANGEL'S RIGHT! IT'S THE ONLY WAY! HURRY, JEAN! WE'VE GOT TO REJOIN HANK AND BOBBY!

THAT'S IT! BUT, BE CAREFUL! DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF!

EVEN WITH HIS OWN LIFE AT STAKE, HE WORRIES ABOUT ME! IS IT ANY WONDER I-- FEEL ABOUT HIM-- AS I DO--?!

HE'S SAFE! WE DID IT!

ANGEL-- CAREFUL! THE FLAMES ARE TOO HIGH! IF YOU FLAP YOUR WINGS, THEY'LL CATCH ON FIRE!

DON'T MOVE!! I'LL HELP YOU GLIDE OVER TELEKINETICALLY-- THERE-- WE'RE DOING IT--!

THANKS, GAL! THAT WAS MIGHTY CLOSE! BUT, NOW THAT WE'RE HERE-- WHERE ARE WE??

WE'RE NO SAFER-- NO BETTER OFF-- BUT, AT LEAST WE'RE TOGETHER!

JEAN, SEE IF YOU CAN PROBE THE WALL FOR ANY HIDDEN ESCAPE-LOCK DEVICES!

I'LL TRY, SCOTT!

THERE'S SOMETHING HERE! I CAN FEEL THE TUMBLERS! I'VE NEVER USED MY KINETIC POWER THRU A WALL BEFORE-- WAIT! IT CAN BE DONE-- WAIT! I HEAR THEM MOVING-- I'M GETTING IT--!

CLICK!

THAT'S IT! IT'S OPEN! WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY OUT NOW!

WHILE OUTSIDE THE NOW FLAMING FORTRESS, WE FIND --

PROFESSOR--???

SAY, WHAT GIVES WITH THAT GUY?? HE HASN'T SAID A WORD TO ANYONE FOR THE PAST FIVE MINUTES!

RELAX, CHARLIE! ANY GUY WHO COULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO STOP THOSE SENTINELS JUST BY FLYIN' OVER 'EM WITH A NUTTY SPARKLER -- HE CAN BE AS QUIET AS HE WANTS TO!



BUT, NOT A MAN AMONG THEM CAN SUSPECT THE TRUE REASON FOR THE SILENCE OF CHARLES XAVIER -- AS THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT BRAIN ON EARTH DESPERATELY PROBES AMONG THE CARNAGE, SEEKING TO CONTACT THE X-MEN BELOW...

WITH ALL THE EXPLOSIONS -- ALL THE CONFUSION -- I COULDN'T REACH THEM! BUT NOW, I'VE LOCATED THEM AT LAST! I'LL STAY WITH THEM MENTALLY, TO GUIDE THEM...

DON'T BOTHER XAVIER, BOYS! IF HE WANTS TO SIT THERE SIGHT-SEEIN', THAT'S HIS BUSINESS!



BUT LOOK!! SOMEONE'S COMIN' OUT OF ONE OF THOSE OPENINGS!

WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

THAT'S FUNNY! NOW I DON'T EITHER!

NATURALLY! FOR I HAVE ERASED THE IMAGE FROM BOTH OF THEIR MINDS! NO NEED TO LET THEM KNOW MY X-MEN WERE INVOLVED!

SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT WE STILL HAVE TO GET OFF THIS CLIFF! GIVE ME YOUR HANDS, CYKE!



WAIT!! WHAT ABOUT JEAN? HE CAN'T CARRY US BOTH!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'LL LEVITATE MYSELF DOWN!

HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU WHAT SPLENDID FIREMEN WE'D MAKE?



WE'D BE THE PRIDE OF THE HOOK-AND-LADDER BRIGADE!

NOT YOU, GABBY! THEY'D NEVER FIND FOOTS BIG ENOUGH FOR THOSE TUG-BOAT TOOTSIES OF YOURS!

THAT, MISTER WORTHINGTON, WAS THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL! --UH OH! THE ENTIRE CLIFF IS BEGINNING TO QUIVER!

IT'S FORTUNATE THAT BOBBY THAWED OUT A BIT! NOW I CAN CARRY HIM SECURELY IN ONE HAND! IT'S MUCH BETTER FOR MY BESTIAL IMAGE THIS WAY!



HANK!! LOOK OUT!! THE CLIFF WALL IS BUCKLING-- HOLD ON!!

I'D BE DELIGHTED TO OBLIGE, SCOTTY-- EXCEPT FOR ONE THING --

--THERE SEEMS TO BE PRECIOUS LITTLE TO HOLD ON TO AT THE MOMENT!

IF ANY OF YOU STALWARTS WOULD CARE TO COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE, THERE'S NO NEED FOR RETICENCE!



IN OTHER WORDS-- HELP!!!

HANG ON, HANK! NOW THAT SCOTT'S SAFE, I CAN RELIEVE YOU OF ICEMAN!

GET MOVING, PARTNER-- YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

I'M PAINFULLY AWARE OF THAT NERVE-WRACKING FACT, MY FRIEND!

AND THEN, WITHOUT THE ADDED BURDEN OF HIS YOUNG PARTNER IN HIS ARMS, HANK MCCOY DEMONSTRATES THE UNBELIEVABLE AGILITY AND BALANCE WHICH HAVE EARNED HIM THE NAME--THE BEAST!

AFTER ALL THOSE GRUELLING SESSIONS IN THE PROFESSOR'S DANGER ROOM, THIS IS ALMOST CHILD'S PLAY NOW!

SO LONG AS THERE'S A FOOT-HOLD, OR A TOE-HOLD ANYWHERE, MY CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL BECOME VIRTUALLY INCALCULABLE!

POPI!  
THINK!  
WHUMP!

SALUTATIONS FROM YOUR BESTIAL BUDDY, COMRADES-AT-ARMS! I TRUST I DIDN'T DELAY YOU TOO LONG!

WOW! ARE YOU KIDDIN', HANK? THE ANGEL HIMSELF JUST LANDED A SECOND AGO!

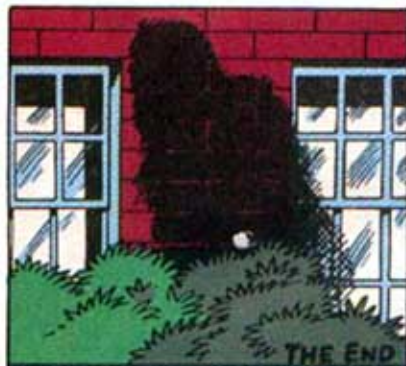
BEAST! ALL OF YOU! DON'T STOP! GET AWAY FROM THE CLIFF!!

THAT'S THE END OF THE SENTINELS-- AND THE MASTER MOLD! MANKIND CAN BREATHE EASY ONCE MORE!

BOY! THE PROFESSOR'S MENTAL WARNING DIDN'T COME A SECOND TOO SOON!!

I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT CAUSED THOSE EXPLOSIONS-- THE EXPLOSIONS WHICH SAVED HUMANITY?!!

PERHAPS THE TRUTH WILL ONE DAY BE KNOWN! BUT, UNTIL THAT TIME, IT LIES BURIED BENEATH COUNTLESS TONS OF RUBBLE-- BURIED IN THE BREAST OF DR. BOLIVAR TRASK, WHOSE LAST EARTHLY SACRIFICE BROUGHT THE WORK OF A LIFETIME CRASHING DOWN ABOUT HIM-- WHOSE LAST EARTHLY LESSON PROVED TO BE: BEWARE THE FANATIC! TOO OFTEN HIS CURE IS DEADLIER BY FAR THAN THE EVIL HE DENOUNCES!



BUT, NO VICTORY IS EVER TRULY COMPLETE! EVEN NOW, AS THE WEARY X-MEN PREPARE TO RETURN TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, NONE CAN SUSPECT THE SHADOW OF MENACE THAT AWAILS THEM-- THE MOST UNEXPECTED MENACE OF ALL-- AS WE SHALL SEE NEXT ISSUE! 'NUFF SAID!

