

MARVEL™

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN®



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192
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JR. 22-06

THE YOUNG MAN'S NAME IS PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN-- BUT, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, HE IS PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN AS **COLOSSUS!**

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STARRING **WOLFGANG**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN

RUSSIAN BY BIRTH, HE IS A MUTANT-- ABLE TO TRANSFORM HIS FLESH AND BLOOD BODY INTO ONE OF SUPER-STRONG, VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE ORGANIC STEEL.

HIS POWER MAKES HIM A MAINSTAY OF AN OUTCAST-- POSSIBLY OUTLAW-- BAND OF MUTANT SUPER HEROES, THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

AT THE MOMENT, HE'S LOOKING FOR A TEAMMATE, NIGHTCRAWLER...



AS PART OF AN IMPROPTU GAME OF HIDE-'N'-SEEK,

YOO-HOO--PETER!!!



IF YOU PLAN TO WIN, MEIN FREUND, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU REALLY MUST REMEMBER...



...NEVER TO STAND ON THE EDGE OF CLIFFS.

PERFECT! I CAUGHT HIM AS HE TURNED, WHEN HE WAS COMPLETELY OFF-BALANCE--

-- OTHERWISE, CONSIDERING HIS MASS, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUDGE HIM.

HAPPY LANDINGS,
MEIN FREUND.



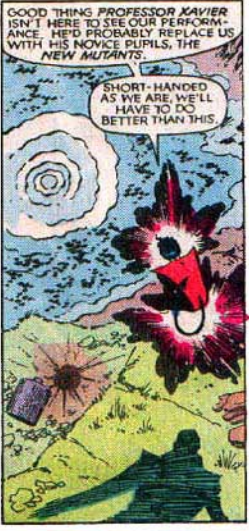
WITH THOSE WORDS--
AND A CHARACTERISTIC
BURST OF FIRE AND
BRIMSTONE--

--THE X-MEN'S
CURRENT
LEADER TELE-
PORTS HIMSELF
TO SAFETY--



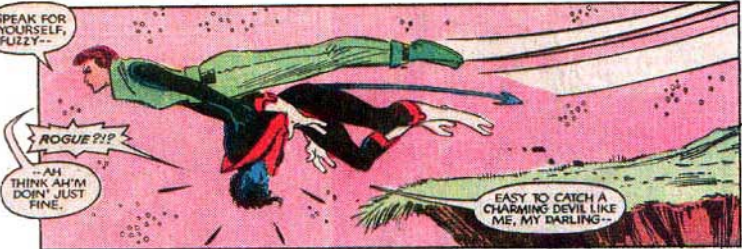
LEAVING COLOSSUS
TO PLUNGE INTO THE
RIVER BELOW.

GOOD THING PROFESSOR XAVIER
ISN'T HERE TO SEE OUR PERFORM-
ANCE. HE'D PROBABLY REPLACE US
WITH HIS NOVICE PUPILS, THE
NEW MUTANTS.



SHORT-HANDED
AS WE ARE, WE'LL
HAVE TO DO
BETTER THAN THIS.

SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF,
FUZZY--



ROGUE?!?

--AH,
THINK AH'M
DOIN' JUST
FINE.

EASY TO CATCH A
CHARMING DEVIL LIKE
ME, MY DARLING--

--FAR HARDER
TO KEEP HOLD!



FINK--
YOU PORTED!

SO SHAKE
ME OFF--



...IF
YOU
CAN.

OF COURSE,
THE BIG
PROBLEM IS,
WITH YOUR
EYES COVERED
LIKE THIS--



...IT'S AWFULLY HARD TO SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

BAM!

Whoosh!

CREEP!!



HA HA HOHOHO... THE NEEDLE

ISN'T THIS SO MUCH MORE FUN, KAMEKAGECHI, THAN WORKING OUT IN OUR PLAIN OLD DANGER ROOM?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...



...BUT I'M HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE!

Sigh!!

MY BRAND-NEW OUTFIT-- SOAKED!



BUT IN ROUND TWO, IT'LL BE THE ELF'S TURN-- RIGHT, COLOSSUS?

DA.

PETE MONEY, WE AIN'T GOT A PRAYER...

...LESS'N YOU PUT YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS.

I KNOW, ROGUE. I AM SORRY.



KATYA-- KITTY PRYDE-- IS DUE HOME FROM JAPAN TONIGHT, WITH WOLVERINE.

YOU COULD'VE GONE WITH THE PROF AN' STORM TO MEET HER.

HOW?! IT IS BECAUSE OF ME SHE LEFT!!

I HAVE HURT HER ENOUGH, BETTER FOR NOW TO STAY AWAY.



I DID NOT ASK TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THE ALIEN HEALER, ZSAJI. * IT HAPPENED. MY FEELINGS FOR KITTY-- CHANGED.

POOR GUY.

AH WISH AH COULD HELP, PETE. BUT AH'M AFRAID IT'S OUTTA MY LEAGUE-- THE CAROL DANVERS' SIDE O' MY PSYCHE KNOWS ABOUT THAT KIND'A STUFF-- MAYBE IT CAN OFFER SOME ADVICE?

AT LEAST-- THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVED. LATELY, I DO NOT KNOW. AND THE MORE I WONDER, THE MORE CONFUSED I BECOME.

SPEAKING OF CAROL, ROGUE, AMONG HER POWERS WAS A PRECOGNITIVE 7TH SENSE. SINCE YOU ABSORBED HER ABILITIES ALONG WITH HER MEMORIES, YOU SHOULD LOGICALLY POSSESS THAT TALENT AS WELL.



AH DOUBT IT, KURT. IN ALL THESE MONTHS, AH'VE SEEN NO SIGN OF IT.

LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT, OKAY? THAT ISN'T EXACTLY THE HAPPIEST CHAPTER O' MY CAREER. AH AIN'T PROUD O' WHAT AH DID. BEIN' REMINDED OF IT HURTS

STILL, SUCH AN ABILITY WOULD BE USEFUL IN A FIGHT

DIDN'T DO CAROL MUCH GOOD, ELF. DIDN'T WARN HER ABOUT ME.



YOU SHOULDN'T BROOD, ROGUE. THAT IS LONG PAST.

NOT TO ME.

COME ON NO MORE SAD FACE, CHEER UP, SMILE--!



HEY!! NO FAIR-- CUT IT OUT!! YOU'RE TICKLING!!!

AND YOU ARE TICKLISH! I'LL BASH YOU, BUSTER-- STOP STOP STOP-- AH MEANT IT!

TALK IS CHEAP.



NIGHTCRAWLER, NO!

BUT HE DOESN'T LISTEN...

... NOR DOES HE NOTICE AS HER PROTESTS BECOME MORE VEHEMENT, UNTIL...



WHOOH!!

CLIT IT OUT!

NIGHTCRAWLER'S INTENTION WAS TO GOAD ROGUE TO THE POINT WHERE HER 7TH SENSE-- ASSUMING IT EXISTS-- ENGAGED.

IN THAT, IT SEEMS, HE WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL.



NIGHTCRAWLER-- oh, NO --WHAT'VE AH DONE??!



YOU BOZO!

SERVE YOU RIGHT IF AH LET YOU SPLATTER.

AH KNOW YOU MEANT WELL, BUT NO WAY DO AH LIKE IT.



DON'T TOY WITH ME, MISTER, EVER AGAIN.

HE'LL SURVIVE.

IS HE ALL RIGHT?!

AH, FAIREST OF MAIDENS, YOUR PALADIN OWES YOU HIS LIFE.



WOULD THAT HE COULD THANK YOU WITH A KISS.



YOU-- LOUSE!

ROGUE--!?!

NOT ANOTHER WORD-- OR SO HELP ME--



--AH'LL RIP YOU LIMB FROM MISBEGOTTEN LIMB!

I'M WET-- I HATE WET!



A HAND, TOVARISCH?

I'VE NEVER HEARD HER SO UPSET, SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE WAS CRYING.

WHAT DID I DO, PETER, WHAT DID I SAY?!

ACH-- DUNCE!

HOW COULD I-- ESPECIALLY I-- HAVE BEEN SO STUPID, SO UNFEELING?!

REMEMBER WHAT STORM TOLD US? ROGUE'S POWER MANIFESTED ITSELF WHEN SHE WAS BARELY IN HER TEENS. SHE'S NEVER BEEN KISSED, PROBABLY NEVER EVEN BEEN TOUCHED.

ALL THE THINGS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED-- ALL THE SENSATIONS AND PLEASURES WE SHARE WITH OTHERS--

-- ARE TOTALLY ALIEN TO HER.

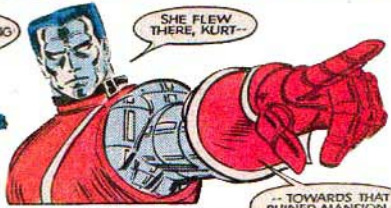


POSSESSING CAROL'S MEMORIES MUST BE ABSOLUTE TORTURE -- CONSTANTLY REMINDING ROGUE OF THINGS SHE CAN NEVER EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND.

NO WONDER SHE WAS SO ANGRY. WHAT WAS TO ME A HARMLESS LITTLE JEST MUST HAVE SEEMED TO HER LIKE AN EXERCISE IN DELIBERATE CRUELTY.

AND NOTHING I CAN SAY OR DO WILL MAKE AMENDS.

SHE FLEW THERE, KURT--



-- TOWARDS THAT RUINED MANSION.



SHOULD WE FOLLOW?

WE'D BEST WAIT AWHILE, MY FRIEND. I DON'T THINK I'D BE TOO WELCOME-- EH?!?

MEIN GOTT-- THE SKY--!?!

IT GLOWS BRIGHT AS DAY!

SOMETHING'S FALLING THIS WAY--

-- DOWN, PETER!!

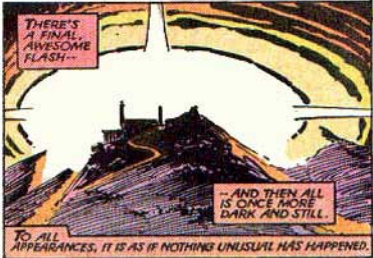


THE LIGHT IS BLINDING--
IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK AT--



-- THE SHOCKWAVE OF THE
OBJECT'S PASSING HAMMERING
THE TWO X-MEN TO THE BRINK
OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

THERE'S
A FINAL
AWESOME
FLASH--



-- AND THEN ALL
IS ONCE MORE
DARK AND STILL.

TO ALL
APPEARANCES, IT IS AS IF NOTHING UNUSUAL HAS HAPPENED.

Meanwhile--

-- 150 MILES DOWN
THE HUDSON RIVER,
AT NEW YORK CITY'S
KENNEDY INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT.



-- BE AT HOME BEDSLEEP--

-- MISSEDL0VEHATEYOU!

-- CREEP GOT
MY JOB
PROBABLY A
LOUSY
MUTIE--

THEY'RE
EV'RYWHERE--

-- 'TAKIN'
OVER--

-- AIN'T
SAFE--

... WHITEHAIREDCUTE--
HOTSTUFF BOXTAR--
SOMEBODY FAMOUS?...

IS THAT REFERENCE
TO ME, PROFESSOR?

I FEAR SO,
ORORO.

WHAT
ARE YOU
WRITING?

A TRAN-
SCRIPT OF THE RANDOM
BACKGROUND
THOUGHTS
AROUND
US--



... NOTES FOR A
COURSE I'M TEACHING
AT COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY.

SO MANY COMMENTS ABOUT
MUTANTS-- AND
THEY ARE SO
CRUEL.

I HAD NOT
REALIZED
PEOPLE'S FEAR
OF US WAS THIS
INTENSE.



NOR I, THE RECENT
CONTRAVERSY ABOUT
DAZZLER AND HER FILM
HAS EVIDENTLY CATALYZED
CONSIDERABLE DORMANT
ILL WILL.

THE "MUTANT
MENACE" HAS
SUDDENLY BECOME
A PRIME TARGET
FOR TELEVISION AND
TABLOID EXPOSÉS,
AND THE VIEW MOST
OFTEN PRESENTED
IS SO HOSTILE I
FEAR THEY'LL DO
FASTING-- POSSIBLY
IRREPARABLE--
HARM.

MORE MUTANTS
ARE BORN
EVERY DAY,
ORORO.



WHAT HOPE HAVE
THEY-- OR HUMANITY--
IN A WORLD WHERE
THEY'RE CONDEMNED
OUTRIGHT AS EVIL?

NO SIGN OF
KITTY OR LOGAN.
I WONDER HOW
MUCH LONGER
WE'LL HAVE
TO WAIT.

THEIR FLIGHT WAS
DELAYED BY BAD
WEATHER, PROFESSOR--
I WOULD HAVE HELPED
IF I COULD.



ORORO'S REMARK WAS MADE IN JEST BUT THAT'S MERELY A FACADE. HOWEVER WELL SHE MASKS HER TRUE FEELINGS...

...THE LOSS OF HER ELEMENTAL POWERS STILL HURTS. AND, MAKING MATTERS WORSE-- HER LOVE FOR THE MAN RESPONSIBLE, FORGE, REMAINS AS STRONG AND VITAL AS HER RAGE AT HIM. IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO.

"I AM REPENTING THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH ON THIS PLANET. YET IN THIS INSTANCE I FIND MYSELF UTTERLY HELPLESS. ORORO'S FATE, HER FUTURE HAPPINESS, LIE WHERE I THINK SHE WANTS THEM-- IN HER OWN HANDS."

"HAAAA-- WHAT'S ILLYANA DOING OVER THERE?"

CUT IT OUT, BUSTER-- QUIT WIGGLING!

THE PROF DOESN'T KNOW I BROUGHT YOU ALONG-- LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I MEAN IT, LOCKHEED?

BEHAVE YOURSELF OR I'LL TAKE YOU HOME THIS INSTANT!

Humph!

GIMME A BREAK, I'M BORED, TOO. IT'S NOT MY FAULT THE PLANE'S LATE.

COOL IT WITH THE SMOKE, DRAGON OR WE'LL REALLY GET INTO TROUBLE!

BROTHERS CAN BE A REAL PAIN! PETER SHOULD BE HERE. I KNOW IT'S A SCARY MOMENT-- IT MAY BE AWKWARD, EVEN PAINFUL-- BUT IT'S GOT TO BE FACED. RUNNING WON'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.

IF HE KEEPS ACTING LIKE SUCH A BOZO, HE AND KITTY WON'T EVEN BE FRIENDS!

SO I SAID... BORED...

YOUR MOMMA'S A MUTIE!

TAKE THAT BACK, LIAR!

...EV'RYWHERE, I HATE 'EM...

...IT AIN'T SAFE...

THE PROFESSOR SAYS I SHOULDN'T EAVESDROP, BUT IT'S IN MY SECOND NATURE. IN MY TIME THAT WAS HOW I SURVIVED.

THE MORE THOUGHTS I HEAR THE MORE UPSET I GET.

...THE MORE UPSET, THE LESS ABLE TO MAINTAIN MY PSI-SCREENS. I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THESE ARE DECENT, ORDINARY PEOPLE-- THEY HAVE NOTHING AGAINST ME PERSONALLY, THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM.

EXCEPT, IN MY FUTURE-- THE AMERICA I REMEMBER-- DECENT, ORDINARY PEOPLE LET MUTANTS BE HERDED INTO CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

DECENT, ORDINARY PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED EVERY ONE I EVER KNEW AND LOVED. THE X-MEN. MOM. DAD.

KATE. SHE WAS THE LAST. SHE'S STILL KITTY HERE-- A GIRL, BARELY IS-- BUT IN THE FUTURE, WHEN I KNEW HER, SHE WAS TWICE MY AGE, PART SURROGATE MOTHER, MOSTLY BEST FRIEND.

OUTSIDE OF MY FOLKS, I MISS HER THE MOST-- GASP!

MY REFLECTION-- WHERE'S PROFESSOR XAVIER, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE AIRPORT?!

!- I'M DRESSED AS A HOUND! NO, NO-- I'M BACK IN MY OWN TIME!!

RACHEL--!?!

SNAP OUT OF IT, GIRL, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

I'M SORRY, KATE, IT'S ... THIS OUTFIT.

I UNDERSTAND, DEAR HEART, THEY DRUGGED AND BRAINWASHED YOU AND FORCED YOU TO USE YOUR PSI-TALENT TO HUNT DOWN MUTANTS, SO THEY COULD KILL THEM. NOTHING I SAY CAN ERASE THAT HORROR.

BUT WHAT WE DO HERE, TODAY, MAY PREVENT ANY MORE OF OUR KIND FROM SHARING THAT FATE.

IS THIS REAL? IT'S NOTHING I REMEMBER.

WAS MY TIMESHIFT INTO THE PAST ONLY A FANTASY, THEN, MY WAY OF ESCAPING A LIFE TOO TERRIBLE TO BEAR? NO, IT CAN'T BE, I WON'T LET IT!

OH, PLEASE, PLEASE, LET THIS BE A MEMORY.

I WANT TO GO HOME, KATE.

POPPET, THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO DO THE JOB BUT US.

"MY HEART'S HAMMERING FIT TO BURST AS KATE USES A COVER IDENTITY PROVIDED BY AN OLD FRIEND..."

"... TO GET US THROUGH THE GATE."

IDENTIFICATION.

COLONEL CAROL DANVERS, AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE...

"WE'RE WELL WITHIN THE TOP SECRET CYBERBOTANICS COMPLEX BEFORE WE'RE DISCOVERED."

MADE IT-- THE NERVE CENTER OF PROJECT NIMROD.

ONCE THE DOOR SEALS RACHEL, TELE-KINETICALLY SCRAMBLE THE LOCKS. THEY'LL HAVE TO BLAST THEIR WAY INSIDE.

THEN WHAT?! THIS LAB'S SHIELDED AGAINST YOUR PHASING POWER-- WE'RE TRAPPED!

I AM, ANYWAY I KNEW THAT FROM THE START.

RACHEL, MY LOVE, THIS IS WHERE WE PART COMPANY.

ONCE I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE, I'LL BE FREE TO DEAL WITH NIMROD.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

WHO SAID YOU HAD A CHOICE?

DARK PHOENIX!

*MONTHS AGO, I USED MY PSI-POWERS TO TEMPORARILY EXCHANGE KATE'S PSYCHE WITH THAT OF HER YOUNGER SELF, KITTY. SHE AND I FIGURED THAT, A PHYSICAL BODY MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AS WELL, BUT I NEVER DREAMED I'D EVER ACTUALLY TRY.

*NOW, WITH THE WORDS 'DARK PHOENIX,' I'M SUDDENLY SWEEPED AWAY BY FORCES BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION--MY VERY BEING SHATTERED AND CAST ACROSS INFINITY AS I TAP INTO POWER AS PRIMAL AS CREATION AND SO VAST IT BEGARS DESCRIPTION, YET AT THE SAME TIME STRANGELY FAMILIAR--

*-- TO FIND MYSELF THROWN INTO A WORLD, AND INTO A PAST, MUCH LIKE MY OWN, BUT CRUELLY DIFFERENT. BECAUSE IT'S ONE WHERE I DON'T SEEM TO EXIST.

YOU OKAY?

"MY EYES, THOUGH, TELL ME THE TRUTH."

I'M ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU. I'LL BE FINE.

* I KNOW THE VOICE AND, FOR A MOMENT, WONDER IF I'M STILL IN MY DREAMSTATE.

YOU LOOKED PRETTY ROCKY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FAINT.

KITTY?!?

I GOT MY WISH. IT WAS A MEMORY. I SHOULD HAVE LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

KATE MUST HAVE SECRETLY PROGRAMMED ME WITH A POST-HYPNOTIC COMMAND--IF ALL ELSE FAILED, I GUESS SHE WANTED ME AS HER ACE IN THE HOLE, TO SAVE EVERYTHING IN THE FUTURE BY ALTERING THE PAST. THANKS A LOT, LADY!

SHE MUST'VE SCRAMBLED MY MEMORIES A LITTLE, TOO, SO I'D BELIEVE THE TIMESLIP WAS MY OWN IDEA TILL I WAS READY TO HANDLE THE TRUTH. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT UNLESS SHE KNEW SHE HAD NO HOPE OF SURVIVING. I GUESS THAT MAKES ME HER--AND MAYBE THE FUTURE'S-- ONLY HOPE.

I FEEL SO AFRAID, SO--ALONE. OH, KATE, KATE-- WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME STAY?!

WELCOME, LOGAN, WE'VE MISSED YOU.

DID YOU SEE THAT FLASH UP NORTH? IT LIT UP THE WHOLE SKY!

HEY'Y, WAITAMINNIT-- YOU?!

I KNOW YOU!

YOU CAN'T-- YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS THE WHOLE TIME!

I REMEMBER-- I WAS IN THE FUTURE-- YOU PROTECTED ME--

--YOU'RE RACHEL!!

IMPOSSIBLE!

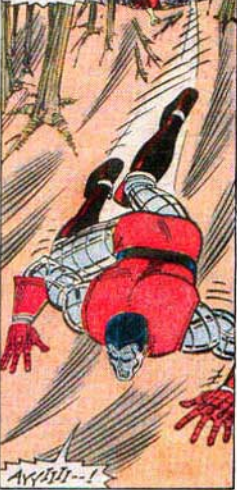
MEANWHILE



WHAT A MESS?

WATCH YOUR STEP, PETER. FROM THE ANGLE OF THESE TREES...

...WE'RE NEARING THE POINT OF IMPACT... COLOSSUS?!!



Ay-yi-yi--!

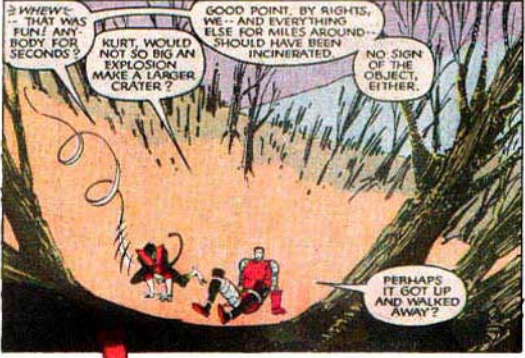
STAY CALM, IM-- WHOAS!



THE GROUND'S FUSED SMOOTH AS GLASS-- ALMOST A FRICTIONLESS SURFACE. I CAN HARDLY GET A GRIP!

IF I'M NOT CAREFUL I'LL SMASH MYSELF SILLY AGAINST HIS ARMORED HIDE.

GANG-WAY, MEIN FREUND!



WHEW-- THAT WAS FUN! ANYBODY FOR SECONDS?

KURT, WOULD NOT SO BIG AN EXPLOSION MAKE A LARGER CRATER?

GOOD POINT, BY RIGHTS, WE-- AND EVERYTHING ELSE FOR MILES AROUND-- SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCINERATED.

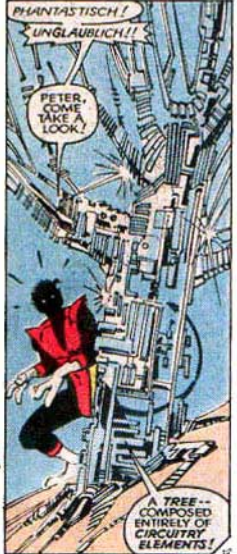
NO SIGN OF THE OBJECT, EITHER.

PERHAPS IT GOT UP AND WALKED AWAY?



MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.

KURT, WHAT IS THAT-- GLITTERING IN THE MOONLIGHT?!



PHANTASTISCH!
UNGLAUBLICH!!

PETER, COME TAKE A LOOK!

A TREE-- COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF CIRCUITRY ELEMENTS!

THEY'RE ALL LIKE THIS.

HERE'S A STAG, KURT, JUST THE SAME--

-- FROZEN IN MID-LEAP!

IT'S FACING AWAY FROM THE PIT, AS IF TRYING TO FLEE.

I HAVE SEEN THIS EFFECT BEFORE. THERE IS AN OAK IN THE YARD OF OUR HOUSE, AND ONE OF MY SISTER ILLYANA'S LIMBO CREATURES AS WELL--

-- BOTH TRANSFORMED BY THE ALIEN NEW MUTANT, WARLOCK, THE NIGHT HE ARRIVED. 4

IT IS HOW HIS KIND CONSUMES FOOD.

FIRST, HE TURNS LIVING CREATURES INTO TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS LIKE HIMSELF. THEN DRAINS THEIR LIFE-ENERGY, MAKING THEM STATUES LIKE THESE.

REMEMBER WHAT HE TOLD THE PROFESSOR-- THAT HE WAS FLEEING FROM HIS FATHER, A MORE POWERFUL VERSION OF HIMSELF, WHO HAD SWORN TO SLAY HIM!

#NM #21 -- Ann N.

Oooh... Whhhh...

DEAR DIARY: AH THINK AH JUST DISCOVERED THE LIMITS TO MY INVULNERABILITY...

AH BETTER FIND THE GUYS. COLOSSUS SHOULD BE FINE. BUT ANY FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO BOP ME SILLY MAY'VE DONE NIGHTCRAWLER REAL HARM.

AN' GOLLY-GEE WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE.

WORRY NOT, YOUNGLING. ABOUT YOUR COMPANIONS.

WHOZZAT-- WARLOCK?!



SPLENDID. UPON YOUR TRANSMUTATION...

YOU WILL LEAD ME TO HIM.

YOU KNOW MY OFFSPRING?

MAGUS!?!



CAN'T LET HIM TOUCH ME...

...AH GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

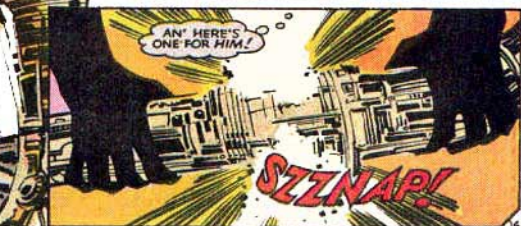


AH'M CAUGHT!

BUT NOTHIN'S HAPP'NIN'! DOES HIS POWER WORK THE SAME AS MINE? HE DOES HE NEED TO TOUCH HIS VICTIMS' FLESH TO AFFECT 'EM?!!



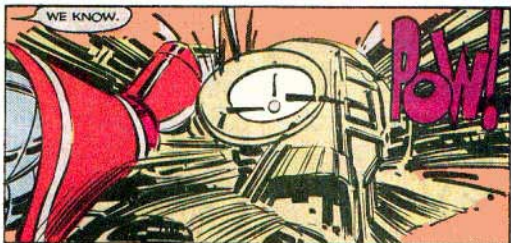
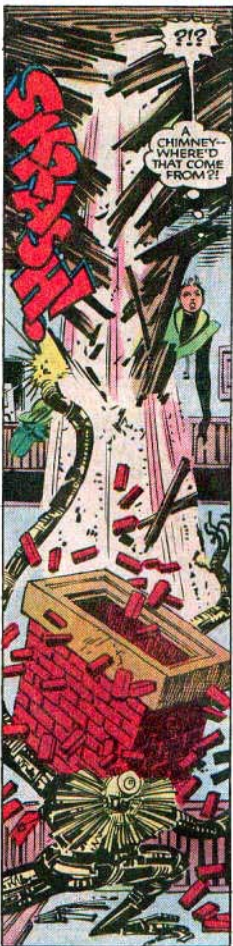
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT - THAT'S A BIG BREAK FOR ME!



AH! HERE'S ONE FOR HIM!

SZZNAP!

YOKELBARK





THAT SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM.

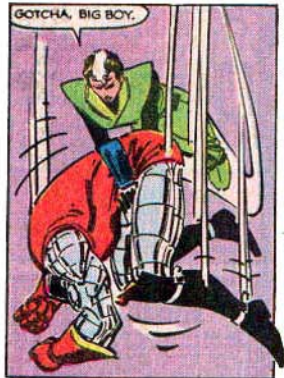


THOUGH, FROM THE WAY WARLOCK SPOKE, I EXPECTED A MORE FORMIDABLE FOE.



YOU SHOULD HAVE HELPED MY SON.





GOTCHA, BIG BOY.



NIGHTY--?!

I'M ALIVE, ROGUE.

BEYOND THAT, ALL BETS ARE OFF, MY ONLY CONSOLATION.



IS THAT MAGUS IS HOPEFULLY IN THE SAME SHAPE.

THEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM--

--IF NOT ONE WAY, THEN THE OTHER FOR SURE.

WHAT--? ROGUE, NO! WAIT!!

"HE'S ALIEN! IF YOU TOUCH HIM-- IF YOU USE YOUR POWER-- THE PROCESS MIGHT NOT BE REVERSIBLE!!!"



MY RISK, ELF.



HA!

MISSED ME, SLOWPOKE?

MAYBE NIGHTY WAS RIGHT ABOUT A SEVENTH SENSE.

I KIND'A KNEW WHERE AN' WHEN AN' HOW MAGUS WAS GONNA MAKE HIS MOVE.



IT'S NOT A CONSCIOUS THING, IT'S MORE LIKE INSTINCT. I REACT AUTOMATICALLY, AN' FAST AS LIGHTNIN'!

WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU BLESSED LITTLE TALENT, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

MAGUS GLOWED A LOT MORE BRIGHTLY THE FIRST TIME WE TUSSELED.

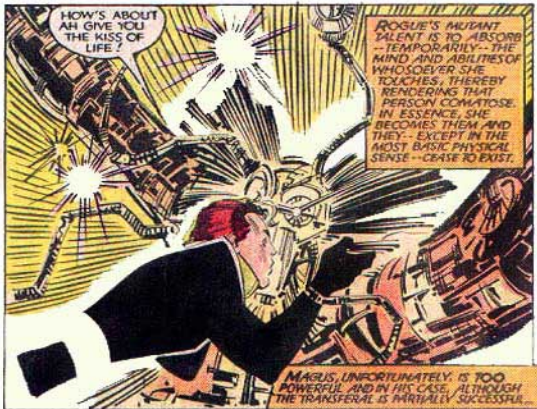
HE'S BEEN BURNIN' A LOT OF ENERGY FIGHTIN' US-- AN' HIS INJURIES PROBL'Y COST HIM, TOO.

YOU CALLED IT PERFECTLY, ELF-- MAGUS IS HURTING BAD-- AN' HE'S VULNERABLE!





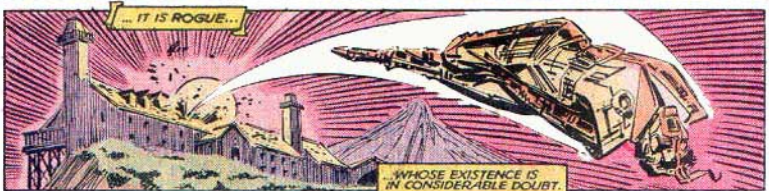
POOR BOY, YOU DON'T LOOK AT ALL WELL.



HOW'S ABOUT AH GIVE YOU THE KISS OF LIFE?

ROGUE'S MUTANT TALENT IS TO ABSORB-- TEMPORARILY-- THE MIND AND ABILITIES OF WHOEVER SHE TOUCHES, THEREBY RENDERING THAT PERSON COMATOSE. IN ESSENCE, SHE BECOMES THEM AND THEY-- EXCEPT IN THE MOST BASIC PHYSICAL SENSE-- CEASE TO EXIST.

MAGUS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS TOO POWERFUL AND IN HIS CASE, ALTHOUGH THE TRANSFERAL IS PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL...



... IT IS ROGUE...

WHOSE EXISTENCE IS IN CONSIDERABLE DOUBT.



ROGUE!

THAT SILLY, STUPID GIRL-- WHAT HAS SHE DONE?!!

THOUGHTS-- AWWW-- PERCEPTIONS... WILDLY DIFFERENT-- FANTASTIC!

THROUGH MAGUS-- I HAVE ACCESS TO... ENTIRE UNIVERSE!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! ROGUE, YOU'VE BECOME LIKE WARLOCK--!

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS INDICATES SELF-CONDITION TRANSITORY.

YOU SOUND LIKE A MACHINE.

NIGHTCRAWLER, THE THINGS SELF IS EXPERIENCING-- THAT SELF LEARNED FROM MAGUS-- IT'S BEYOND BELIEF!



WELL, PERHAPS THAT'LL BETTER ENABLE US TO COMBAT HIM-- BUT IT IN NO WAY JUSTIFIES WHAT YOU DID!

I LEAD THE X-MEN.

THAT MEANS YOU DO AS I SAY.

MY FRIENDS, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

EH?

OK.

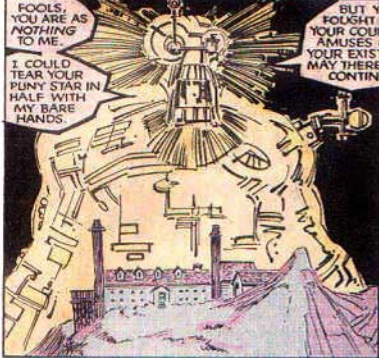
FOOLS, YOU ARE AS NOTHING TO ME.

I COULD TEAR YOUR PUNY STAR IN HALF WITH MY BARE HANDS.

BUT YOU FOUGHT WELL YOUR COURAGE AMUSES ME. YOUR EXISTENCE MAY THEREFORE CONTINUE.

BE WARNED, HOWEVER-- EVEN MY PATIENCE HAS LIMITS. DELIVER WARLOCK TO ME--QUICKLY--

--OR YOUR WORLD WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.



LATER... AFTER NIGHTCRAWLER SUMMONS REINFORCEMENTS...

IF MAGUS IS TRULY AS AWESOME AS HE BOASTS...

...WHY THREATEN? WHY NOT SIMPLY DESTROY US?

YOU THINK HE'S RUNNING A BLUFF, ORORO?

YOU ARE THE TEAM LEADER, KURT. YOU TELL ME.



LEADER-- WHAT A JOKE!

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO LEAVE SOMEONE TO KEEP WATCH ON MAGUS WHILE WE CALLED YOU.

WHO, PAL? YOU WERE ALL PRETTY BASHED UP.

ODDS ARE, WE'DVE RETURNED TO FIND ANOTHER CIRCUITRY STATUE, A NEEDLESS SACRIFICE. YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.



YOU HELD YOUR OWN AGAINST 'IM AN' CAME THROUGH ALIVE, ELF-- NO MEAN FEAT.

I WAS LUCKY. THIS JOB SHOULD BE YOURS, MY FRIEND.

NO WAY. BEIN' BOSS AIN'T MY STYLE.

X-MEN, ALERT-- AN INTRUDER!



FREEZE!

NOBODY MOVE-- OR I'LL SHOOT!



WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!!

WE MEAN NO HARM, OFFICER.

I AM MENTALLY CALMING HIM, X-MEN, AND HAVE ALTERED HIS PERCEPTIONS SO THAT HE SEES OUR COSTUMES AS ORDINARY CLOTHES.

FURTHER, UPON OUR DEPARTURE HE WILL FORGET OUR PRESENCE COMPLETELY.



THOUGHT YOU SWORE OFF MUCKIN' WITH PEOPLE'S HEADS, CHARLEY.

THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, FOLKS, NO TRESPASSING. YOU GOTTA GO.

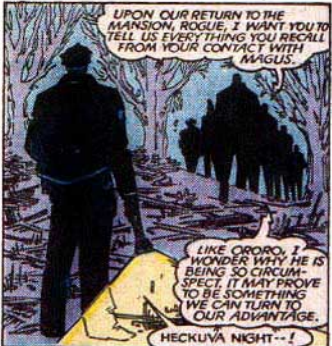


WE QUITE UNDERSTAND.

PROFESSOR, WHAT OF MAGUS?

NEITHER MY PSI-POWERS, NOR WOLVERINE'S ENHANCED SENSES, NOR OUR ELECTRONIC SCANNERS CAN DETECT A TRACE OF HIM, ORORO. HE IS EITHER OUT OF RANGE...

...OR HAS SOME MEANS OF CLOAKING HIMSELF. CONTINUING OUR SEARCH IS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY. WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET HIM MAKE THE NEXT MOVE.



UPON OUR RETURN TO THE MANSION, ROGUE, I WANT YOU TO TELL US EVERYTHING YOU RECALL FROM YOUR CONTACT WITH MAGUS.

LIKE ORORO, I WONDER WHY HE IS BEING SO CIRCUMSPECT. IT MAY PROVE TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN TURN TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

HECKUVA NIGHT--!



SKY LIGHTS UP, WE GET LIFO CALLS UP THE WAZOO--

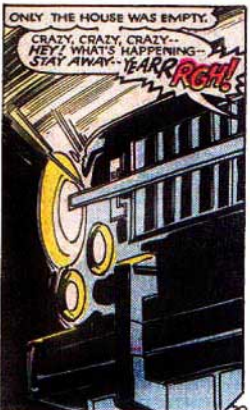
--ANY, TO CAP IT ALL, THE ROBESON PLACE BURNS.

WHY'D I COME UP HERE, ANYWAY?! I MUST'A HAD A GOOD REASON BUT I'M BLAMED IF I CAN THINK OF IT.



MUST BE GOIN' SENILE.

I COULD'VE SWORN I LEFT THE CRUISER AT THE FOOT OF THE DRIVE. I DIDN'T WANT THE SOUND OF THE ENGINE TO SPOOK ANYONE IN THE HOUSE.



ONLY THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY.

CRAZY, CRAZY, CRAZY-- HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING-- STAY AWAY-- YEARRRGH!

TRULY, THIS ORB IS EXCEPTIONAL. NEVER HAVE MY SENSORS ENCOUNTERED SUCH A CONFLUENCE OF MAJOR CELESTIAL FORCES AND ENTITIES, AND THE INHABITANTS OF THIS WORLD ARE NO LESS FORMIDABLE--

--IN THEIR RECENT PAST, THEY HAVE DEFEATED GALACTUS!



AND TONIGHT, THE X-MEN CAME VERY CLOSE TO DOING THE SAME TO ME.



I MUST THEREFORE BE CIRCUMSPECT IN MY APPROACH TO WARLOCK TO DISGUISE MYSELF. I WILL ASSUME A HUMAN FORM.

HE HAS ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THESE MUTANTS. THEIR STRENGTH AND COURAGE AND INTELLIGENCE HAVE PROVEN MOST IMPRESSIVE. I WILL NOT UNDERESTIMATE THEM AGAIN.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR COMPANIONS WELL, MY SON, AND IN THE PROCESS AFFORDED ME A MOST GLORIOUS HUNT-- A TRUE TEST OF SKILL AND CHARACTER, AND OF MY RIGHT TO RULE

I AM PROUD OF YOU.

BUT YOUR EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH ADMIRABLE, WILL BE FOR NAUGHT. YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE AGAIN. IN THE END, I SHALL TRIUMPH-- AND YOU, DIE.



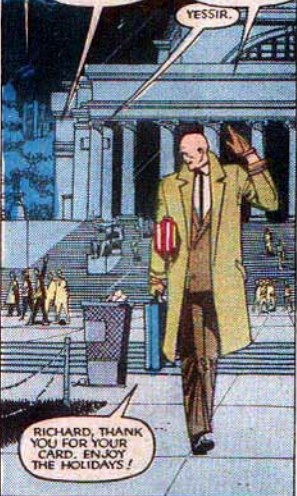
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY, SOME MONTHS LATER...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, PROFESSOR!

LOVED YOUR SEMINAR, SIR! YOU'RE A GREAT TEACHER!!

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, MARY, BUT YOUR GRADE STAYS THE SAME. NEXT TERM, STUDY!

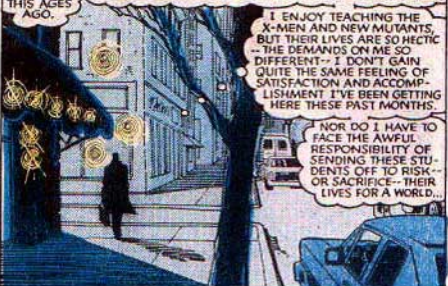
YESSIR.



RICHARD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARD. ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS AGES AGO.

I'D BECOME TOO MUCH THE HERMIT IN WESTCHESTER. I HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH I NEEDED THIS CHANGE OF PACE.



I ENJOY TEACHING THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS, BUT THEIR LIVES ARE SO HECTIC-- THE DEMANDS ON ME SO DIFFERENT-- I DON'T GAIN QUITE THE SAME FEELING OF SATISFACTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT I'VE BEEN GETTING HERE THESE PAST MONTHS.

NOR DO I HAVE TO FACE THE AWFUL RESPONSIBILITY OF SENDING THESE STUDENTS OFF TO RISK-- OR SACRIFICE-- THEIR LIVES FOR A WORLD...

... THAT SEEMS TO HATE THEM MORE AND MORE.

MUTIE LOVER!!!





I BEG YOUR PARDON?

FIVE MINDS CLOSE AT HAND, BUT MORE LURK IN THE SHADOWS. SOME ARE DRUNK, ALL HOSTILE-- WITH A DANGEROUSLY VIOLENT UNDERTONE TO THEIR THOUGHTS.

I RECOGNIZE TWO OF THEM-- STUDENTS FROM MY SEMINAR!

YOU HEARD ME.

LET ME PASS, PLEASE. I WANT NO TROUBLE.

TOUGH--WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AT OUR SCHOOL.



THEY MEAN TO ATTACK! I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE MY POWERS.

A PSILOCK SHOULD PARALYZE THEIR LIMBS-- HOLD THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO REACH MY CAR. THEY'RE YOUNG-- I PRAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING-- I DON'T WANT TO HURT THEM.

I WISH THE PARKING LOT WERE CLOSER. THERE ARE SO MANY-- THEIR THOUGHTS SO CHAOTIC-- HARD TO KEEP TRACK--



-- DID I SPOT THEM ALL, HAVE I FROZEN--

OWWWW!!



I COULDN'T MOVE! WUH-WHAT'D HE DO TO US?!

HE MUST BE ONE OF 'EM, THE PROF'S A MUTIE!



WASTE HIM!!



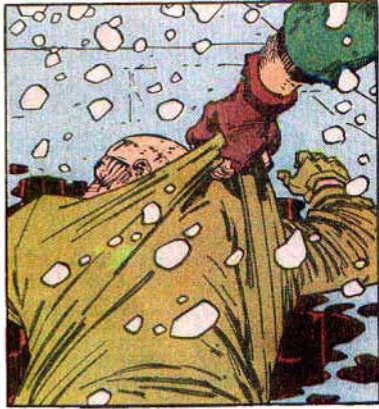
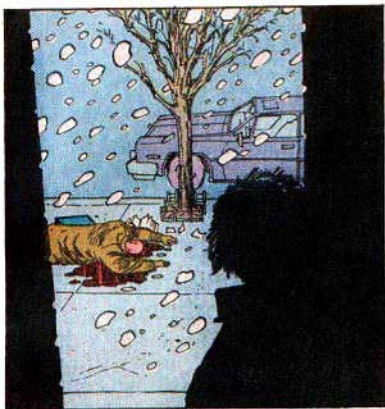
THE NERVE O' THE SCUM-BELLY, PASSING HIMSELF OFF AS A REAL HUMAN BEING.

HEY, MAN, HE WON'T BE TRYING THAT AGAIN.

HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.

LET'S SPLIT, GUYS, 'FORE ANYONE SEES US.

I DUNNO 'BOUT YOU ALL BUT THIS'S GIVEN ME A THIRST, HOW'S ABOUT WE GRAB SOME BREWS.



NEXT: THE 100th ISSUE OF THE NEW X-MEN-- **WARHUNT II**