

MARVEL®

THE UNCANNY

X-MEN



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ENTER THE
MASTER MOLD!



ALBERTO DI GREGORIO

THE DAY OF OTHER LIGHTS!

THE CRYSTAL IS OLDER THAN TIME--

--WHICH IS HOW SHE FEELS--

--AND WITHIN ITS ETERNAL DEPTHS...

...SHE FINDS ALL THE ALISON BLAIRES THAT EVER WERE...

...THE DAZZLERS THAT ARE.

THE PATHS NOT TAKEN.

THE LIVES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

AN ADVENTURE OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN BY

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LAWYER. SUPER HERO. SINGER. ORDINARY MOM. BAG LADY.

PIECES OF MYSELF-- GENERATED BY SHINING A LASER LIGHT THROUGH THE FACETS OF THIS CRYSTAL.

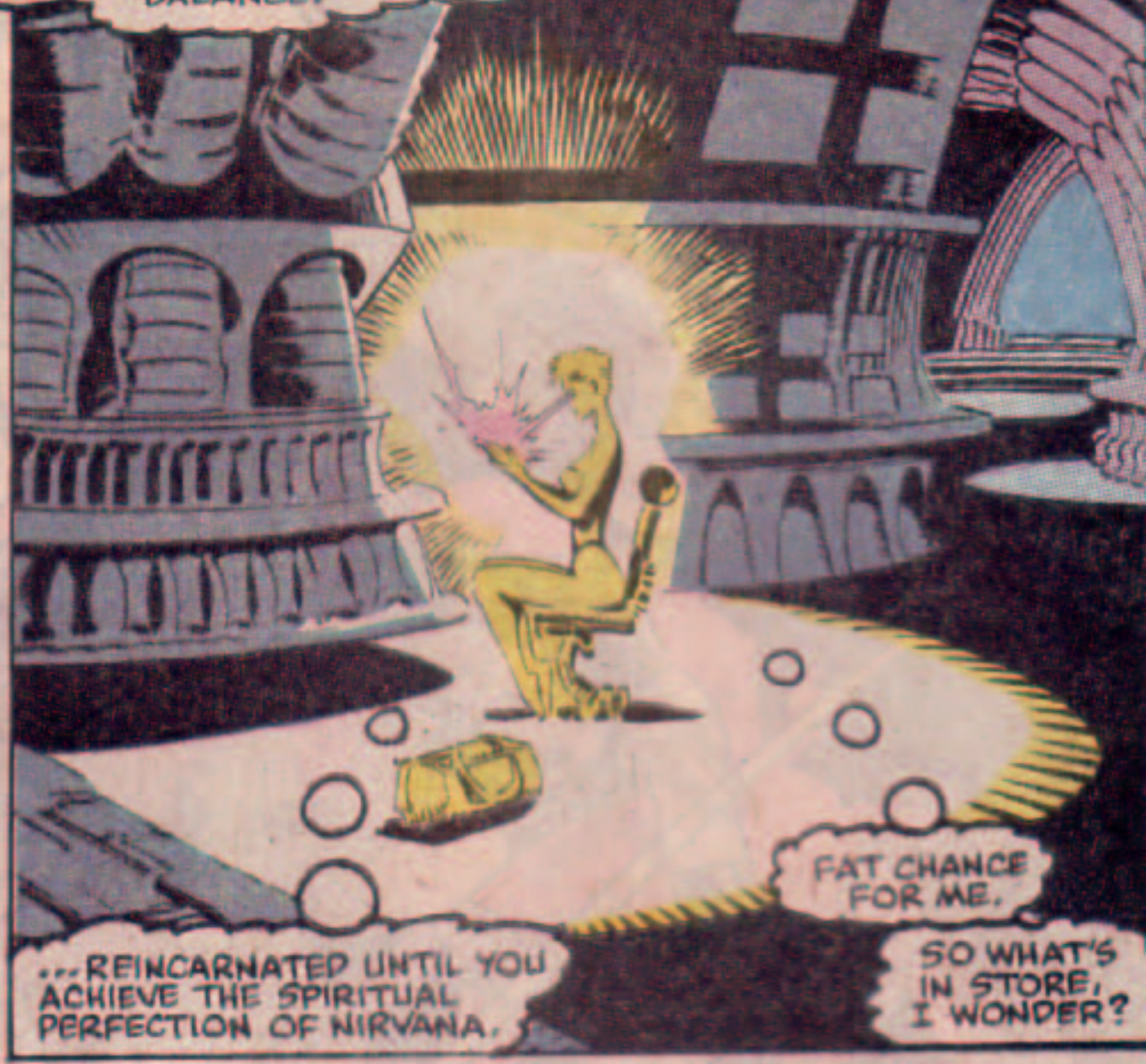
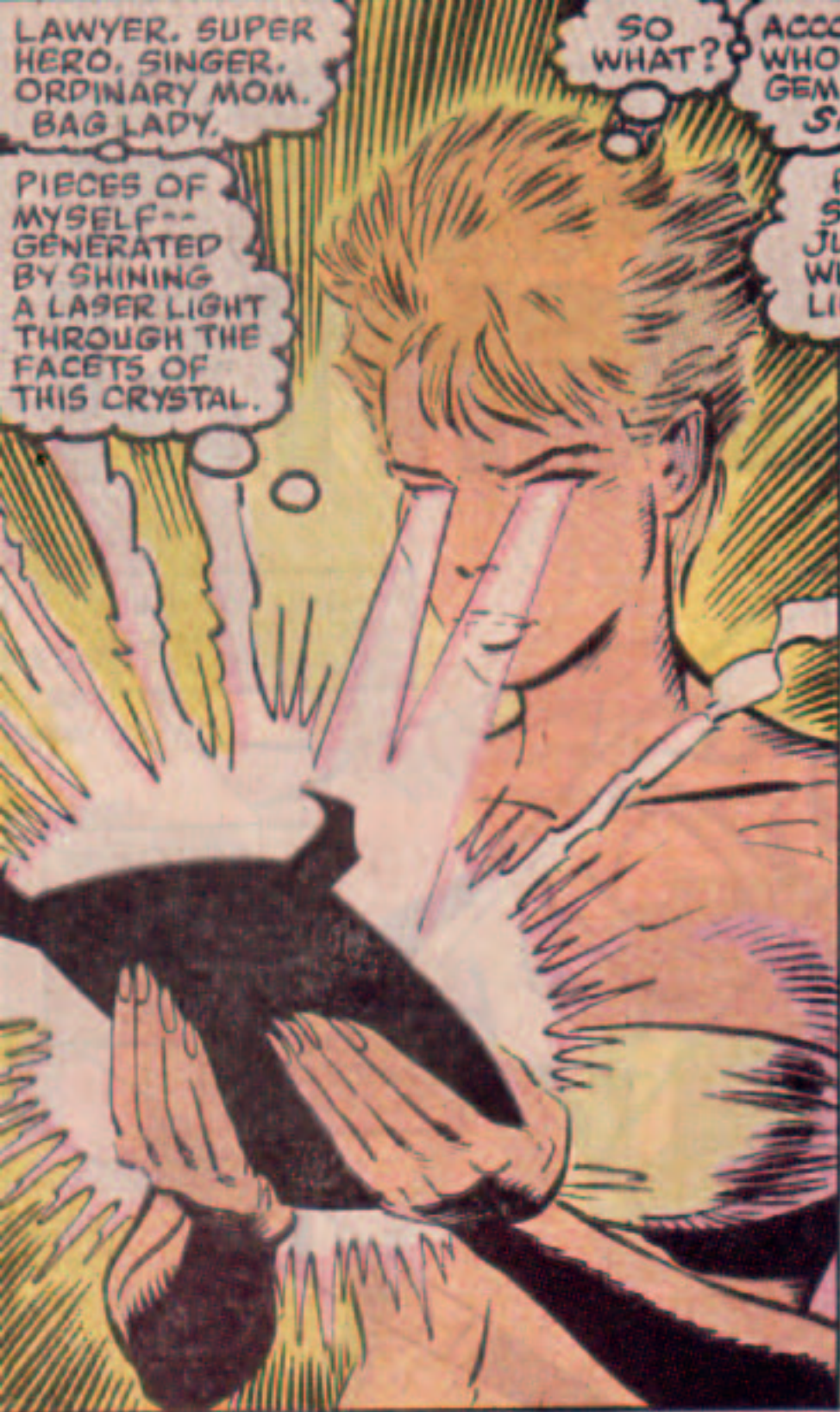
SO WHAT?

ACCORDING TO THE ENTITY WHO GAVE IT TO US, THIS GEM IS THE LEGENDARY *SIEGE PERILOUS*.

THEN YOU GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.

SORT OF LIKE BUDDHISM-- YOU GO ROUND AND ROUND ON THE WHEEL OF LIFE...

PASS THROUGH ITS PORTAL, SHE SAID, AND YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY JUDGED BY THE HIGHEST OF POWERS, WHERE THE GOOD AND ILL OF YOUR LIFE IS WEIGHED IN THE COSMIC BALANCE.

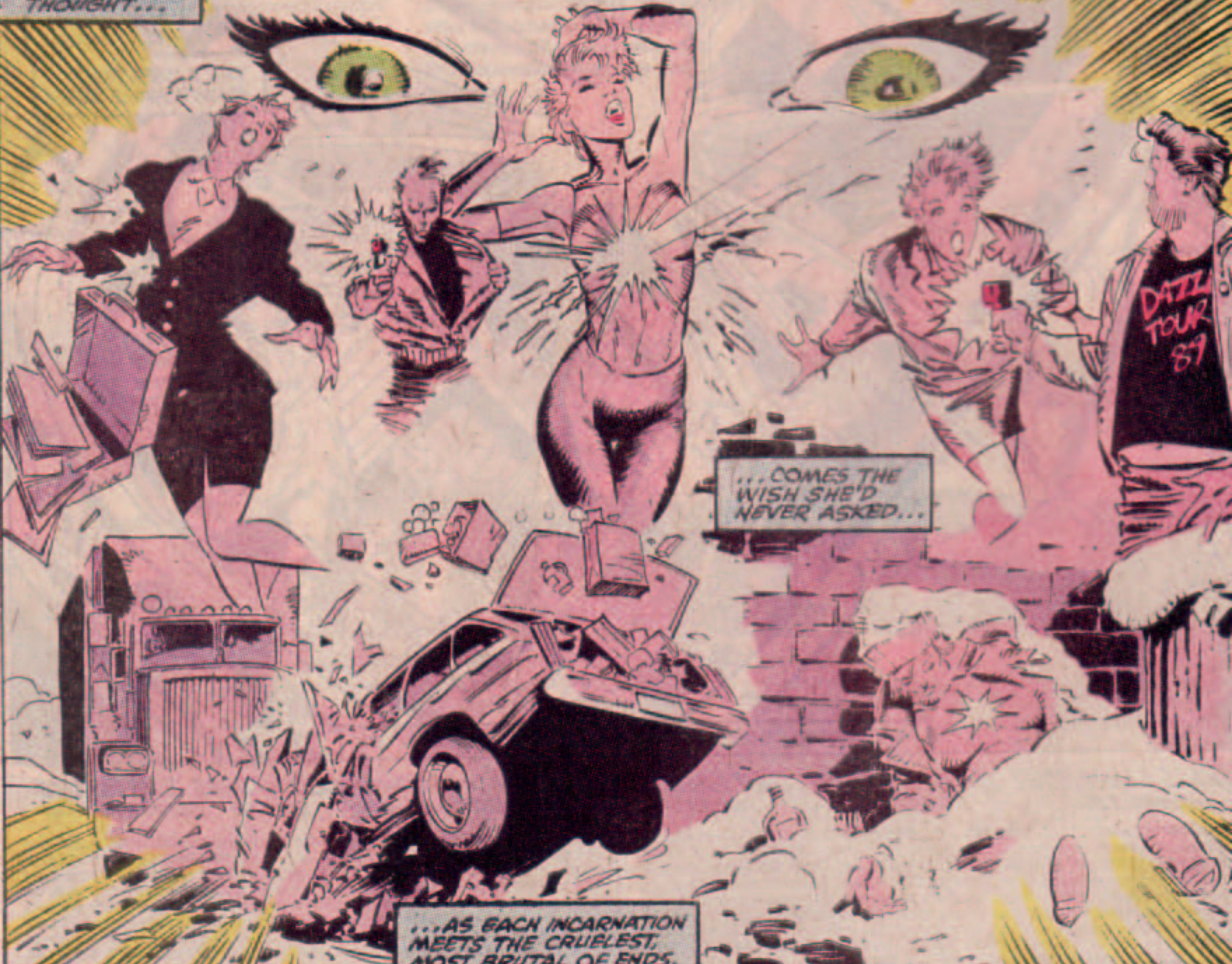


FAT CHANCE FOR ME.

... REINCARNATED UNTIL YOU ACHIEVE THE SPIRITUAL PERFECTION OF NIRVANA.

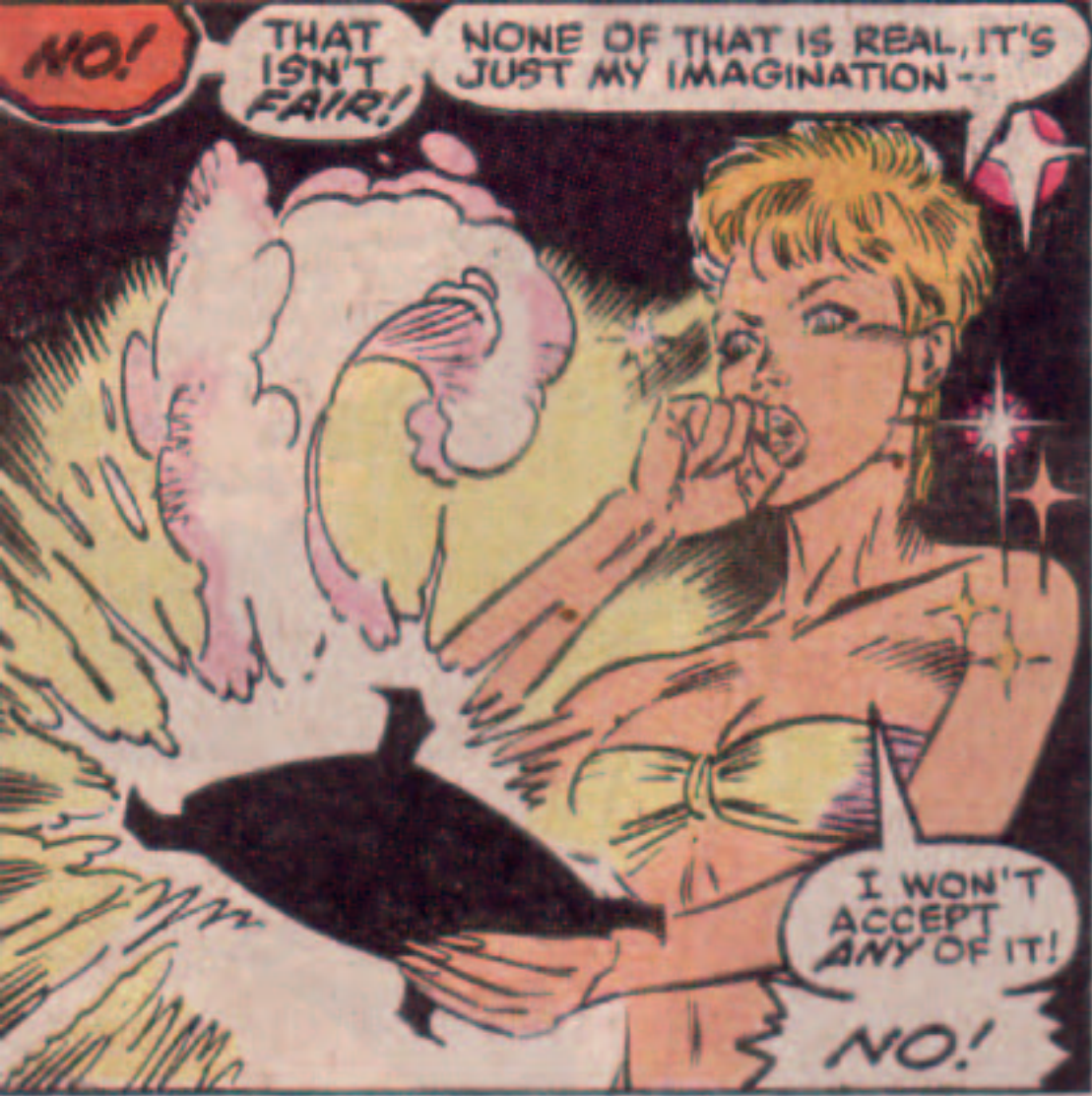
SO WHAT'S IN STORE, I WONDER?

AND WITH THAT THOUGHT...



... COMES THE WISH SHE'D NEVER ASKED...

... AS EACH INCARNATION MEETS THE CRUELEST, MOST BRUTAL OF ENDS.



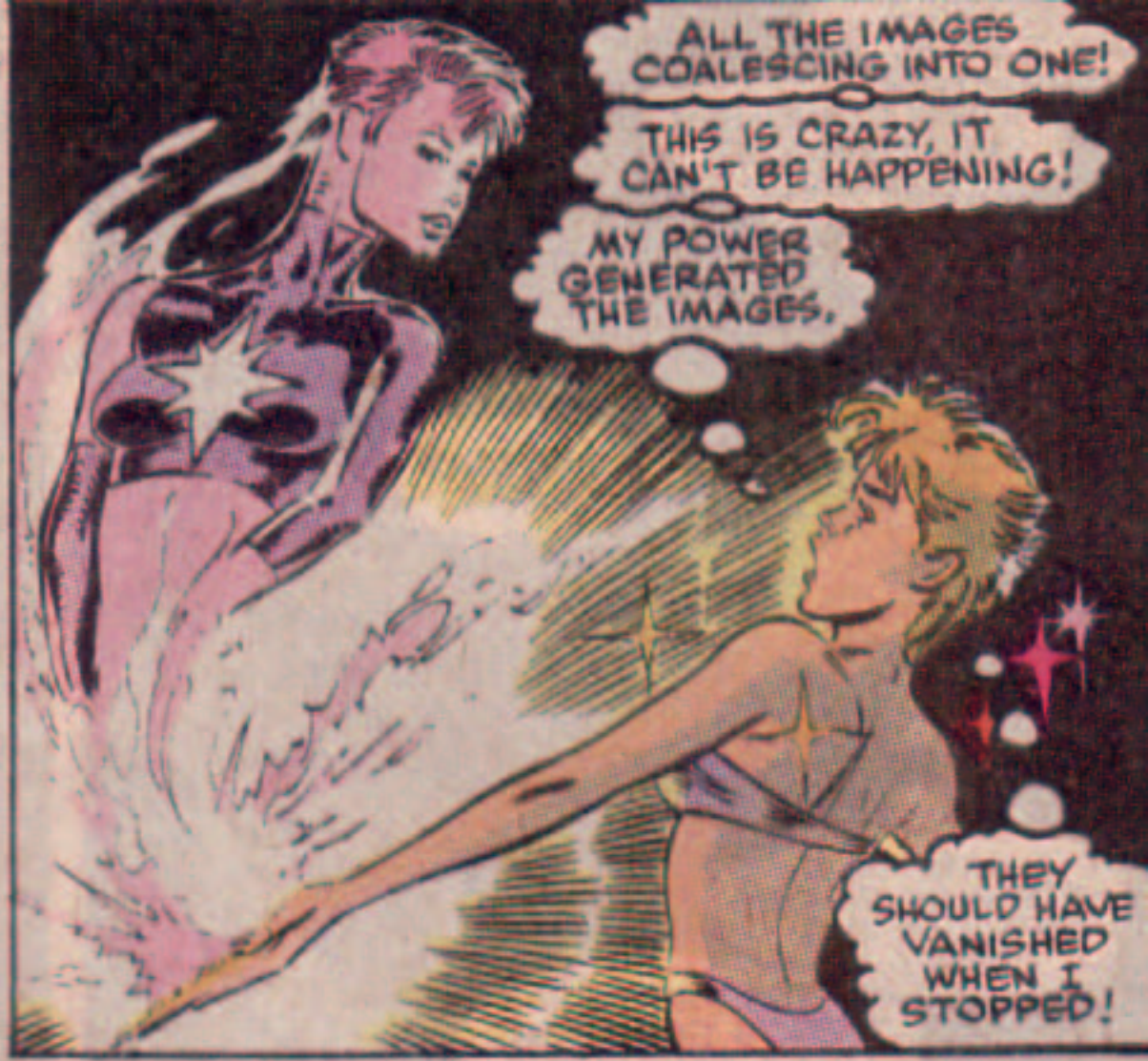
NO!

THAT ISN'T FAIR!

NONE OF THAT IS REAL, IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION--

I WON'T ACCEPT ANY OF IT!

NO!



ALL THE IMAGES COALESCING INTO ONE!

THIS IS CRAZY, IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

MY POWER GENERATED THE IMAGES.

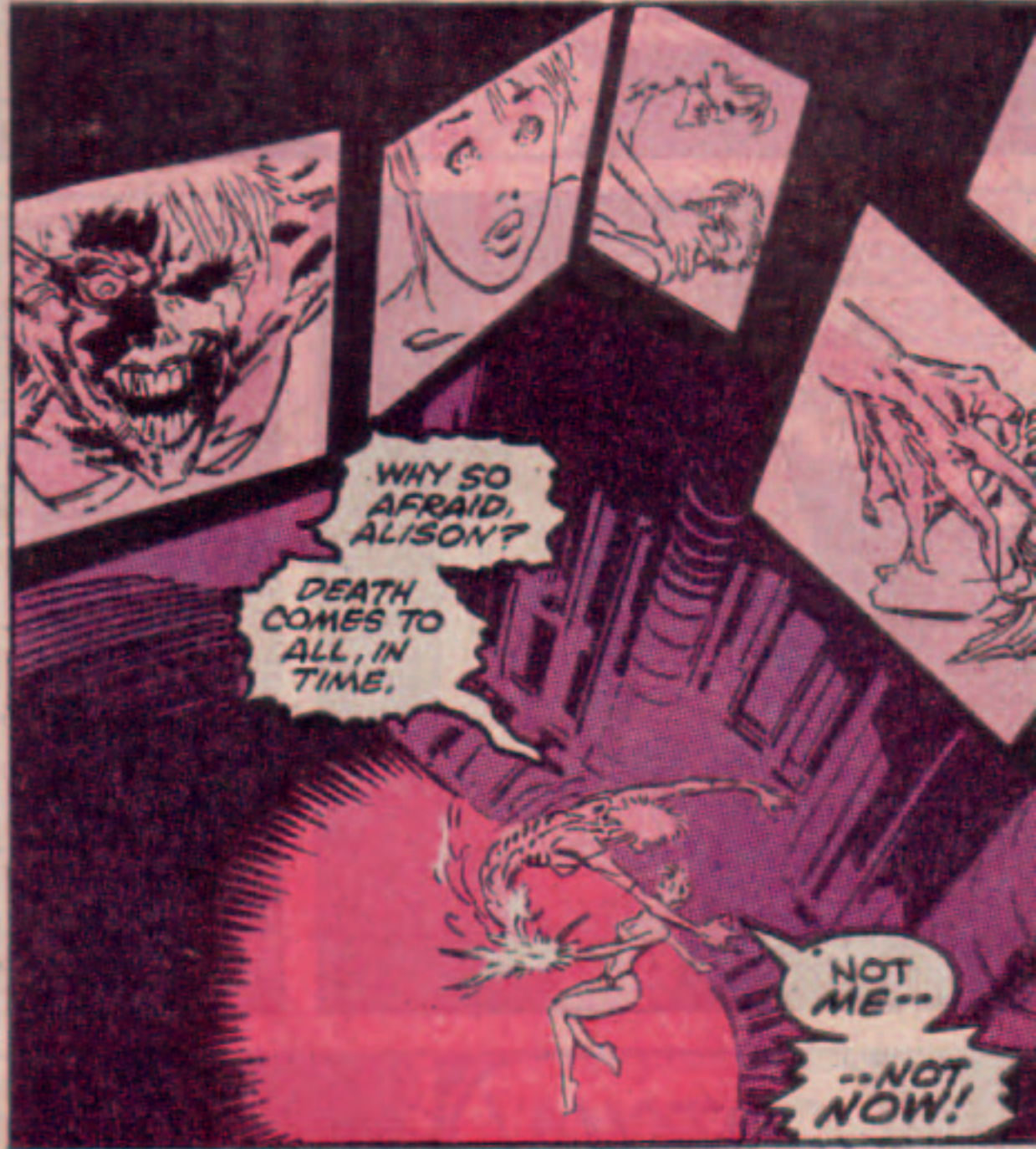
THEY SHOULD HAVE VANISHED WHEN I STOPPED!



FOOLISH MORTAL, DOST THOU THINK THOU CAN SO EASILY...

... FLEE THY FATE?

NO!

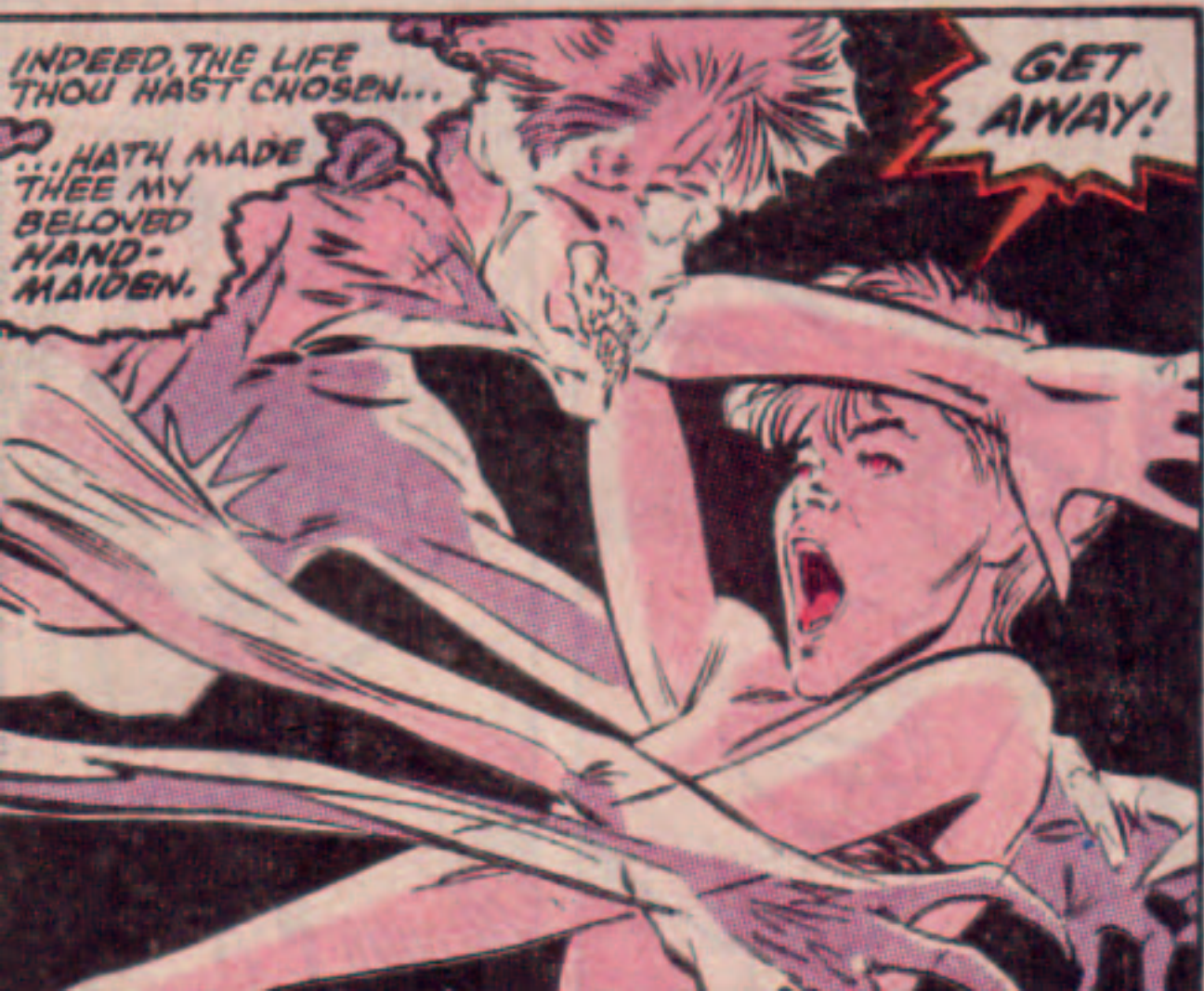


WHY SO AFRAID, ALISON?

DEATH COMES TO ALL, IN TIME.

NOT ME--

--NOT NOW!



INDEED, THE LIFE THOU HAST CHOSEN...

... HATH MADE THEE MY BELOVED HAND-MAIDEN.

GET AWAY!



HUH?!!
GONE!

THANK HEAVEN, I'M OKAY.

I'M OKAY.

I'M SAFE.



I'M SHAKING... CAN'T STOP.

CAN'T REMEMBER EVER BEING SO SCARED.

AWFULLY DARK.

I HATE THIS COMPLEX. ALWAYS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE, IN THE SHADOWS...

...WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO POUNCE.



THAT'S SILLY.

WE'VE SEARCHED AND SCANNED EVERY INCH OF THE PLACE. THERE'S NOTHING DOWN HERE.

BUT US CHICKENS

SNAP OUT OF IT, GIRL.

SEEN TOO MANY SLASHER FLICKS, THAT'S MY PROBLEM.

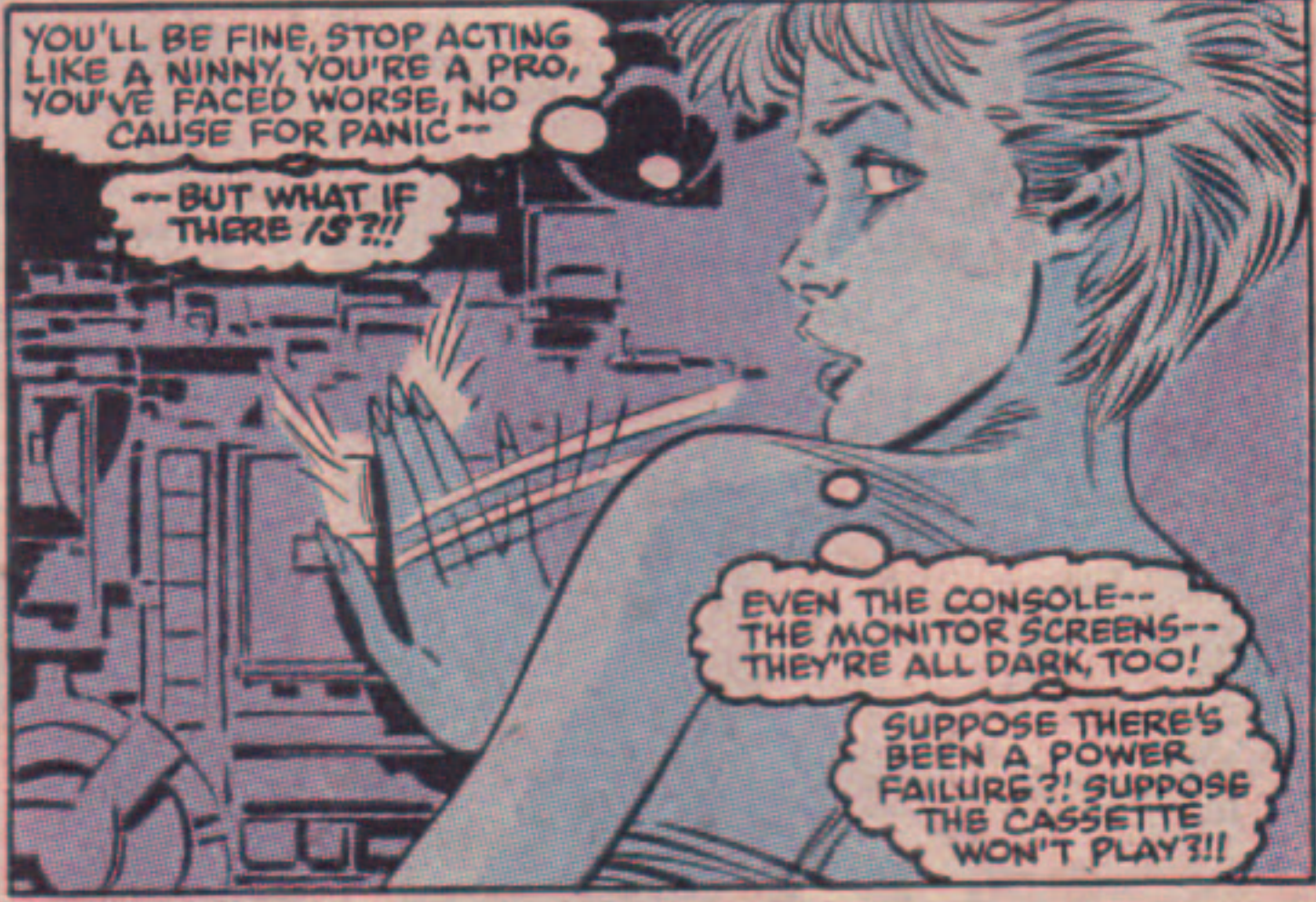
GOT TO GENERATE SOME LIGHT, THAT'LL MAKE THINGS BETTER--

--BLAST!



DRAINED OF ENERGY.

NEED A JUMP-START-- NEED SOUND TO TRANSDUCE INTO LIGHT!

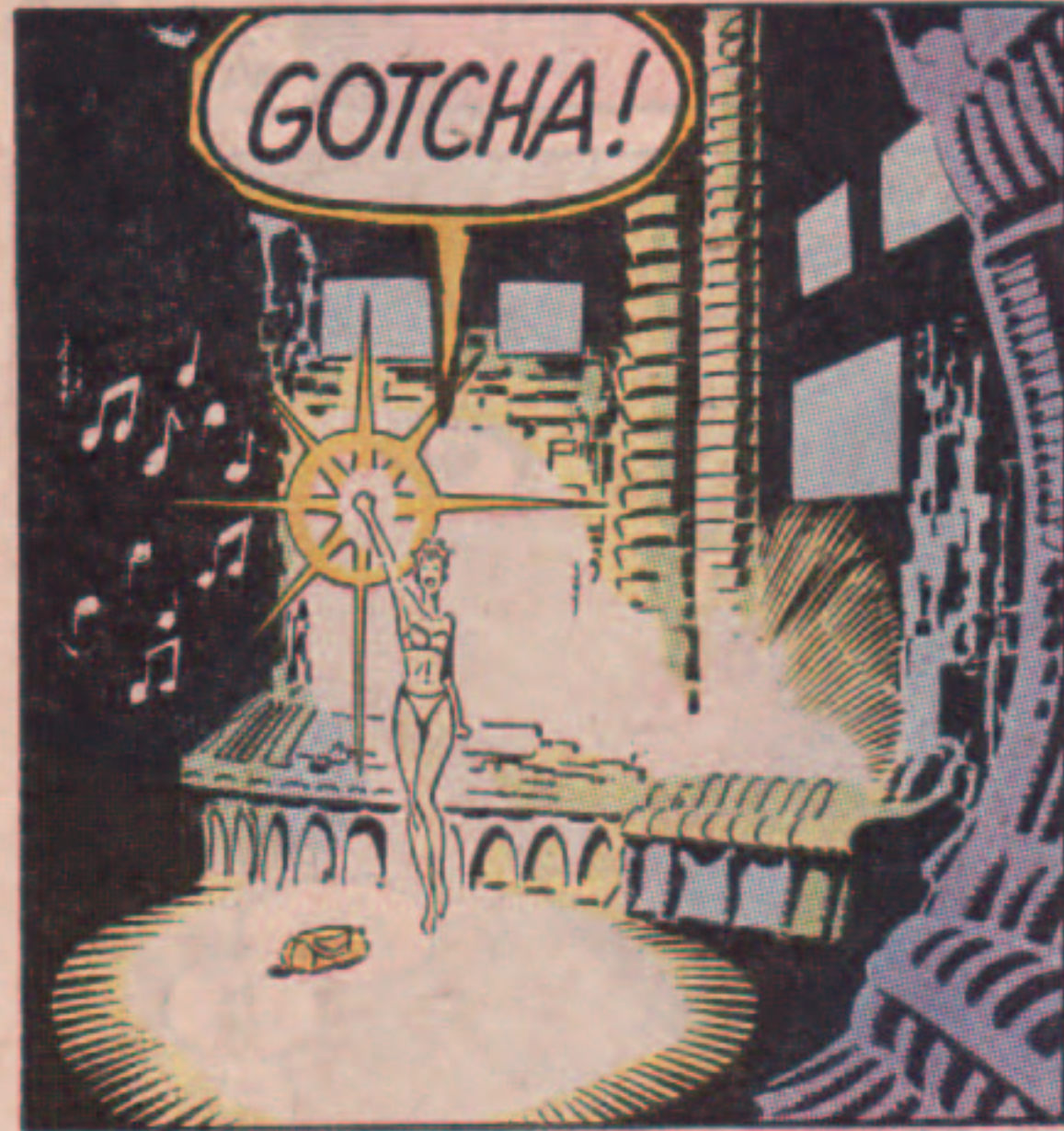


YOU'LL BE FINE, STOP ACTING LIKE A NINNY, YOU'RE A PRO, YOU'VE FACED WORSE, NO CAUSE FOR PANIC--

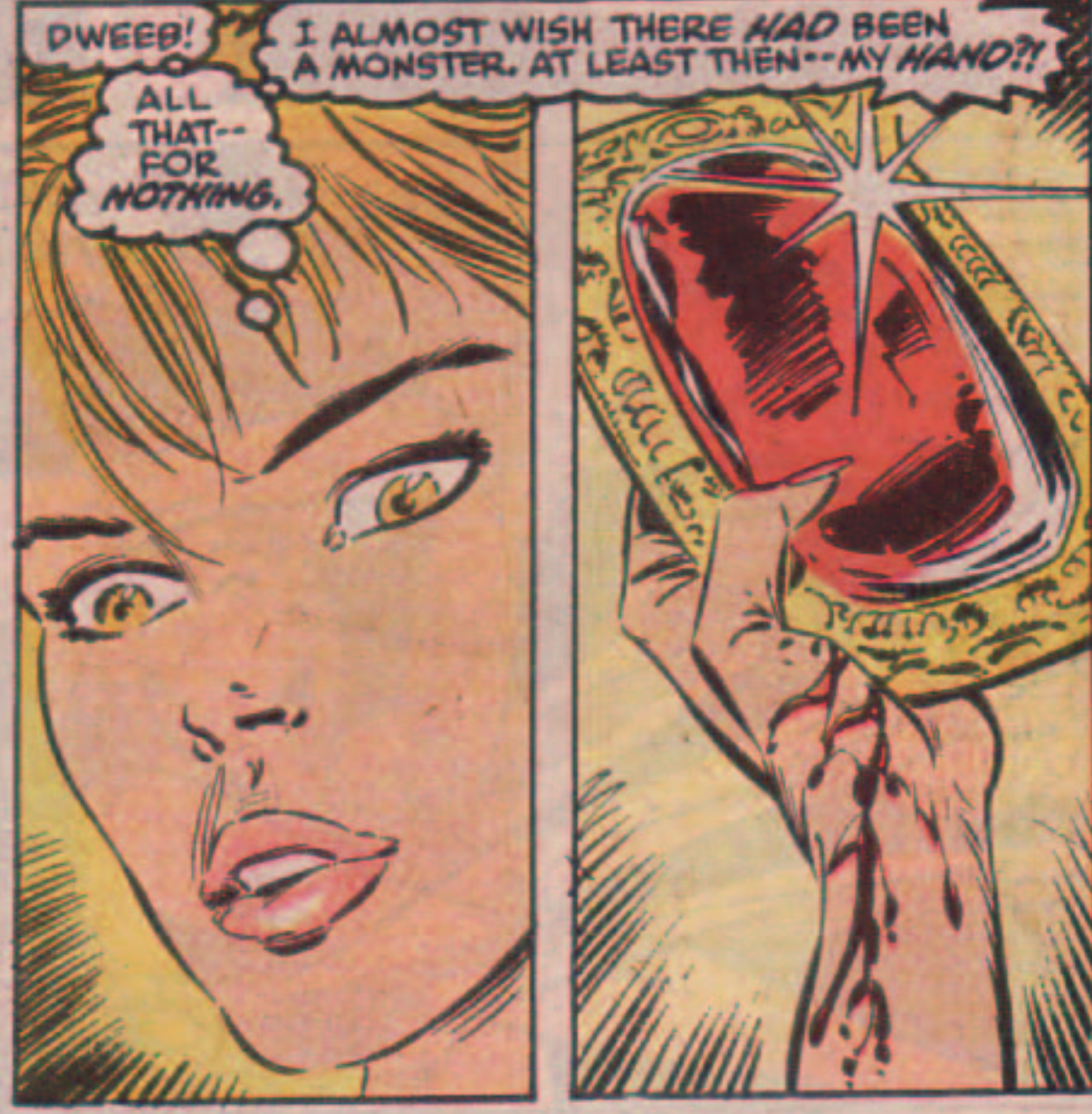
-- BUT WHAT IF THERE IS?!!

EVEN THE CONSOLE-- THE MONITOR SCREENS-- THEY'RE ALL DARK, TOO!

SUPPOSE THERE'S BEEN A POWER FAILURE?! SUPPOSE THE CASSETTE WON'T PLAY?!!



GOTCHA!



DWEEB!

I ALMOST WISH THERE HAD BEEN A MONSTER. AT LEAST THEN-- MY HAND?!!

ALL THAT-- FOR NOTHING.

SCANNING
MODE.

NEW YORK COUNTY
COLLOQUIAL REFERENT,
"MANHATTAN."

REFINING
SWEEP.

SUBSET
LOCALITY,
"ALPHABET
CITY."

REFINING
FURTHER.

CHROMATOGRAPHIC
SENSOR SCAN RE-
VEALS SIGNIFICANT
PRESENCE OF CON-
TROLLED WEAPONRY
AND NARCOTIC SUB-
STANCES.

MULTIPLE
LIFE SIGNS.

INITIATING ENHANCED AUDIO SURVEILLANCE
OF PREMISES.

IF YOU
CAN'T
MOVE THE
ROCK,
JORGE...

... WE'LL
DUMP YOU
FOR SOME-
BODY WHO
CAN.

THIS IS A HIGH-
VOLUME
OPERATION.

DOIN'
MY BEST,
LUIS.

THAT'S
PATHETIC,
MAN.

HEY, I'M GETTIN'
SERIOUS HEAT FROM
THE LAW, LUIS!

HEY! SO YOU BUY
'EM OR KILL 'EM,
WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

SANTA
MARIA!?!

WHAM!

I AM NIMROD!

YOU ARE IN
SUMMARY
VIOLATION
OF MULTIPLE
FEDERAL AND
STATE FELONY
STATUTES.

SURRENDER
PEACEFULLY...

... OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES.

WHAT IS THIS, A JOKE?

SMOKE THIS ROAD-SHOW ROBOCOP!

LUIS, DON'T!

I HEARD'A HIM, HE MEANS BUSINESS!

YOU CARE SO MUCH JORGE, YOU CAN DIE WITH HIM!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

BE ADVISED, THIS UNIT IS EMPOWERED TO USE LETHAL FORCE IN SELF-DEFENSE.

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.

BYEOW

VIP

VIP

VIP

SPYAM

VDOW

WARNING IGNORED.

APPROPRIATE RESPONSE INITIATED.

ARRRGH!

PRIMARY THREAT SITUATION NEUTRALIZED.

SUBORDINATE THREAT STATE STILL PRESENT, IN THE FORM OF RAW NARCOTICS SUBSTANCE, NOMENCLATURE "COCAINE."

SUBORDINATE THREAT NEUTRALIZED.

SKZARK!

NOTATION: CONSIDERABLE FUNDS PRESENT, PRESUMABLY DERIVED FROM ONGOING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.

DESTRUCTION MANDATED...

...BUT WHAT GOOD PURPOSE WOULD THAT SERVE?

THESE PUSHERS LOOTED THE COMMUNITY IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY --

AS FOR THE GANG --

--TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THE MESSAGE--

--A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY.

--DESTROYING ITS FUTURE BY HOOKING KIDS ON CRACK.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER...

...TO USE THIS MONEY TO HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGE?

AT LEAST IT'S WORTH A TRY.

AS FOR THE GANG --

--TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THE MESSAGE--

--A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY.

AUSTRALIA.

THE REMOTE ABANDONED
OUTBACK TOWN THE
X-MEN HAVE ADOPTED
AS THEIR HOME.

...THEY'RE FINALLY START-
ING TO FEEL LIKE THIS
REALLY IS HOME.

AND WHAT, PRAY
TELL, IS THAT?

SOMETHING I PICKED
UP WHEN HAVOK AND
I WERE IN MEXICO.



AFTER MONTHS
IN RESIDENCE...



ALONG WITH THE
BUBONIC PLAGUE?

ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED,
STORM...

I MERELY HOPED,
LOGAN, YOU MIGHT
LEARN FROM MY
MISTAKES.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
THOUGH--

-- THIS DID
LOOK BETTER
ON THE ROAD.

YOU HAVE
REQUESTED
A LEAVE OF
ABSENCE,
WOLVERINE?

...WHO
ARE YOU
TO MAKE
FUN?

SOMETIMES,
DARLIN', PEOPLE
PREFER TO MAKE
THEIR OWN.



SOMETHING'S COME UP, BOSS, I GOTTA GO.

IF WE CAN HELP, MY FRIEND...

APPRECIATE THE OFFER, ORORO...

... BUT THIS IS PRIVATE BUSINESS.

NOW WHO'S FULL O' SURPRISES!

KILLER LOOK, DARLIN'-- JACKET AN' SHADES SUIT YOU BETTER'N ME, YOU'RE WELCOME TO 'EM--

-- BUT HARDLY WHAT FOLKS EXPECT OF A "GODDESS".

STORMS, WOLVERINE, HAVE A MYRIAD OF COLORATIONS.

NO LESS THAN PEOPLE.

SO LONG AS I REMAIN TRUE TO MYSELF...

... I SEE NO REASON TO APOLOGIZE FOR HOW I APPEAR TO OTHERS.

THAT'S AN X-MAN TRAIT, SURE ENOUGH, GOIN' YOUR OWN WAY REGARDLESS, DEVIL TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES.

WE'RE TOO FLAMIN' PRIDEFULLY STUBBORN SOMETIMES FOR OUR OWN GOOD!

I KNOW.

BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, MY LIFE'S BOUND BY OBLIGATIONS FREELY GIVEN.

YOU NEED NEVER GO ALONE, LOGAN. OR STAND ALONE.

"GIRL," THE JAPANESE CALL IT. "DUTY," BEIN' AN X-MAN TAUGHT ME THAT.

BEFORE, I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED, ONE WAY OR T'OTHER. I LIVED FOR MYSELF.

THAT'S CHANGED.

WOLVERINE MAY BE A CERTIFIABLE CRAZY. BUT HE'S ALSO A MAN WHO STANDS BY HIS WORD.

I UNDERSTAND-- HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE.

EXPECT ME WHEN I'M BACK.

AND THAT WILL BE...?

WHEN THE JOB'S DONE.

SNICK!

WASHINGTON, D.C. ...

US STEVEN J DANVERS • MI THOMAS F POOLE • WILLIAM

THE "WALL."

HI, STEVE. IT'S ME, CAROL.

BEEN AN AGE,

SORRY I DIDN'T COME SOONER.

PRESIDENT GAVE ME THIS, LITTLE BROTHER--

BUT I'D GLADLY GIVE THE MEDAL--AND THE LIFE I NEARLY LOST WINNING IT-- TO HAVE YOU STANDING HERE IN MY PLACE.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE, STEVE--

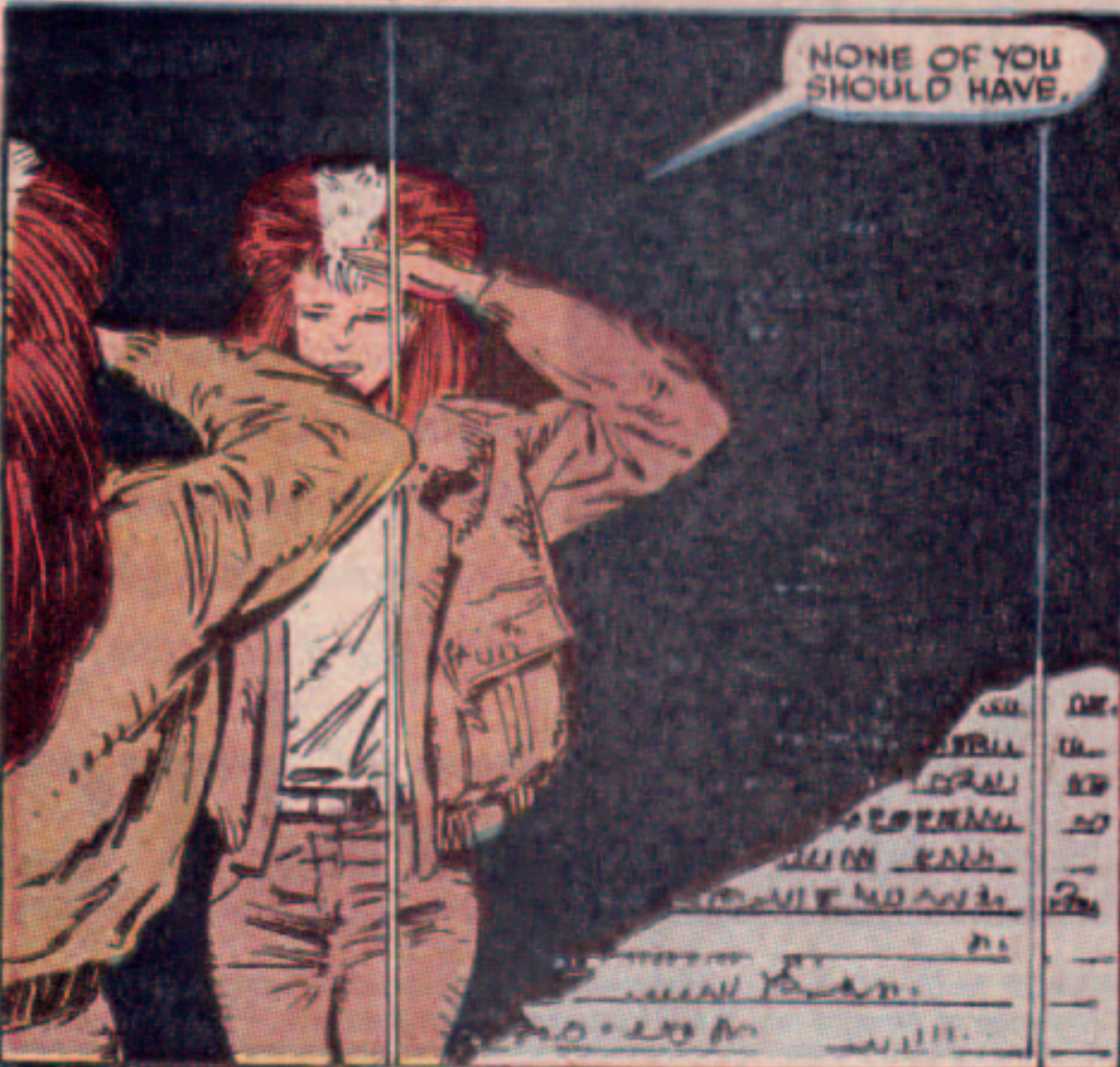
--ONE OF US ANSWERING THE CALL TO GLORY WAS ENOUGH--

-- YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED.

-- FOR SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.



NONE OF YOU SHOULD HAVE.



AUSTRALIA, AGAIN, THE DESERT JUST OUTSIDE TOWN...

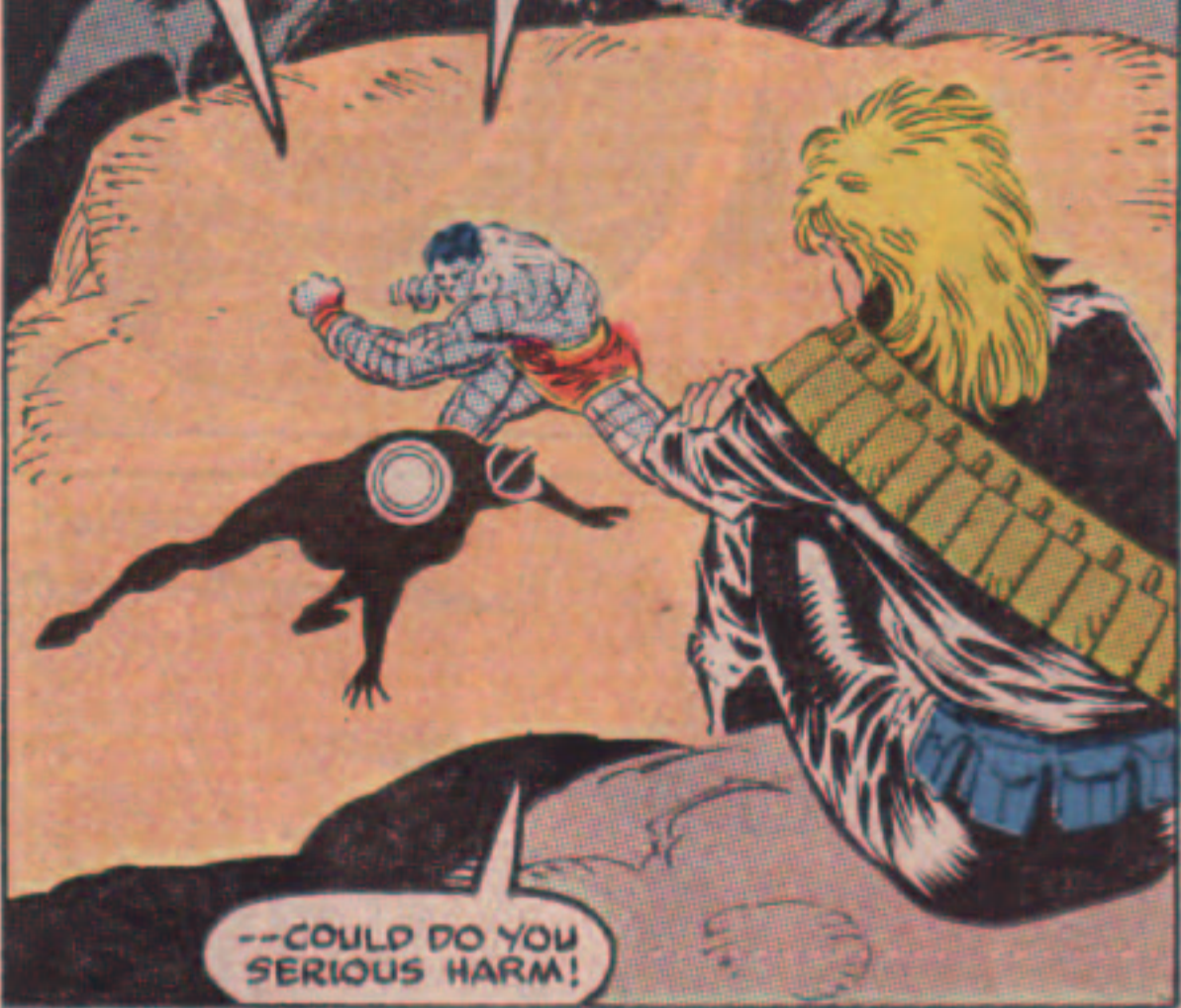
C'MON, COLOSSUS-- CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

COMRADE ALEX, MY BODY IS SOLID ORGANIC STEEL!

I MUST BE CAREFUL!

A WRONG OR CARELESS MOVE --THE SLIGHTEST MIS-STEP--

THAT'S MY WORRY, BIG GUY!



--COULD DO YOU SERIOUS HARM!

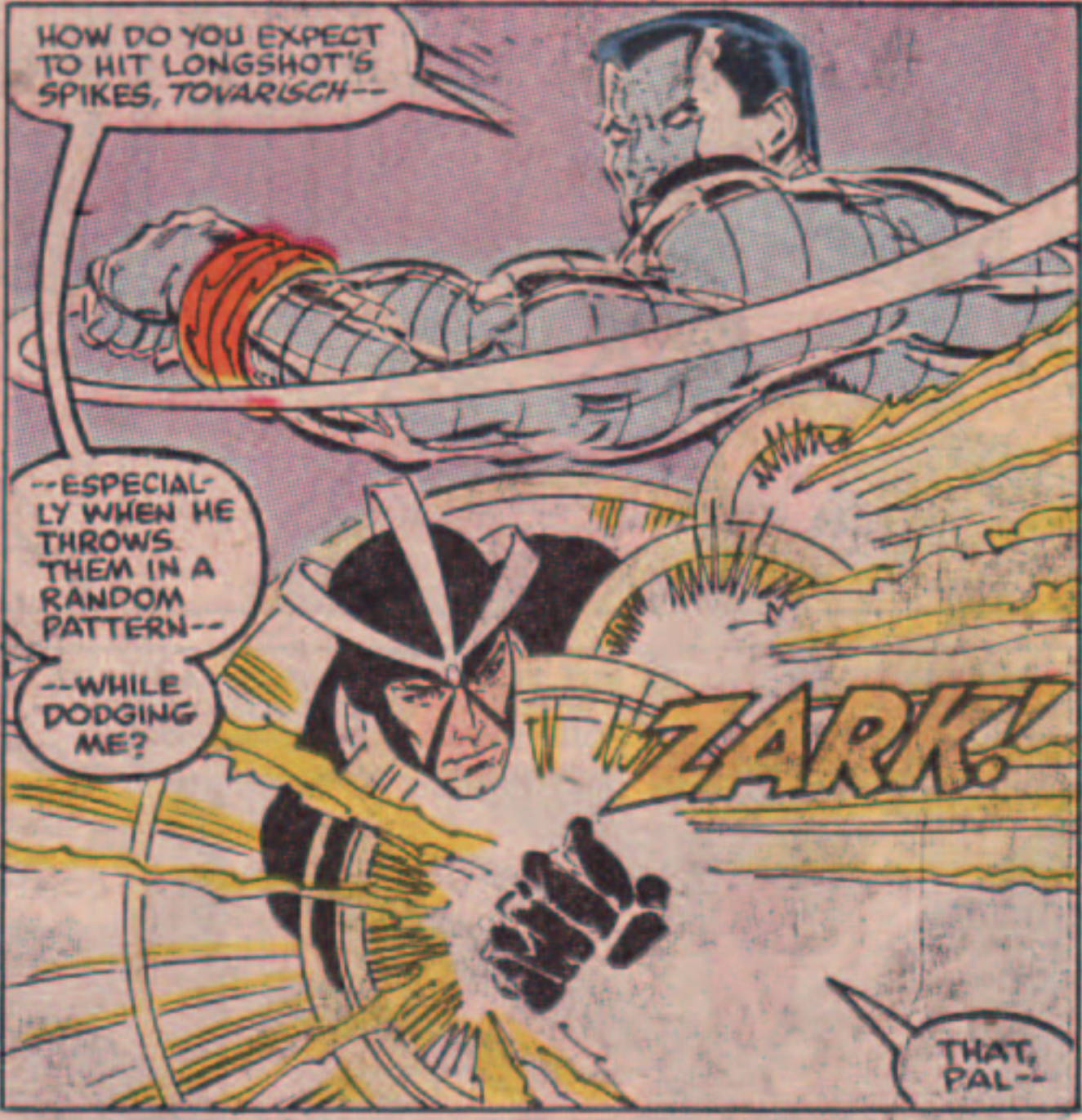


ANYTIME, LONGSHOT!

LET 'EM RIP!



HERE GOES, HAVOK!



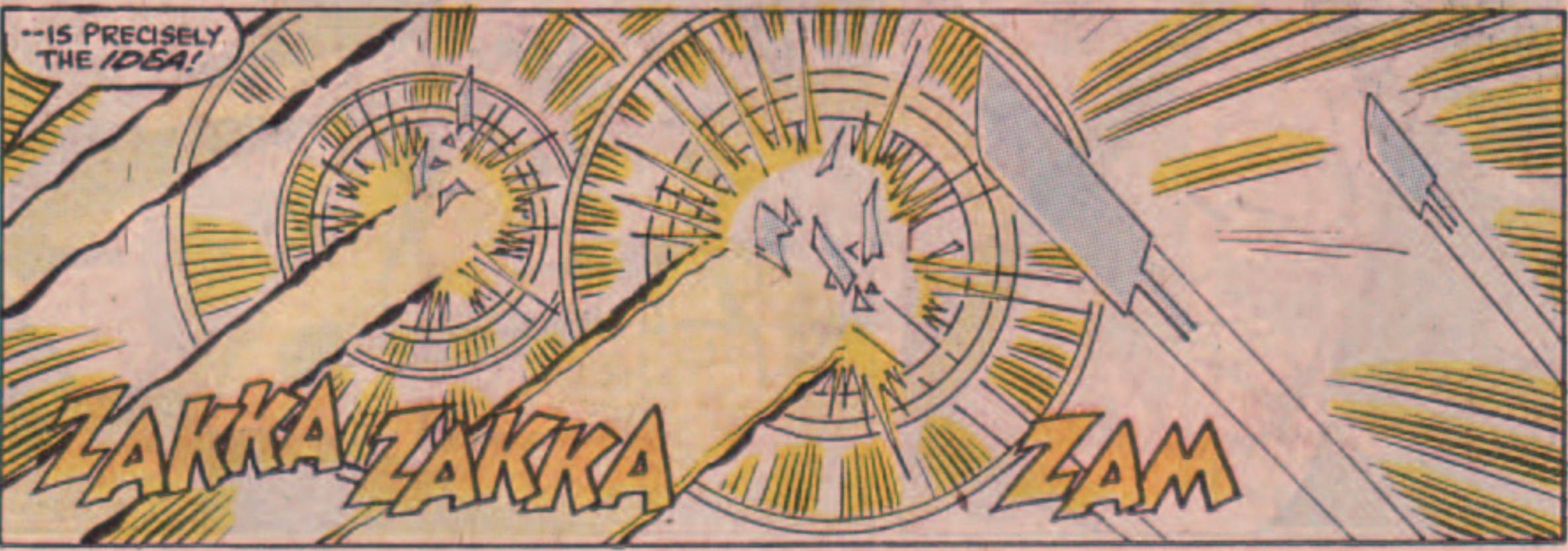
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO HIT LONGSHOT'S SPIKES, TOVARISCH--

--ESPECIALY WHEN HE THROWS THEM IN A RANDOM PATTERN--

--WHILE DODGING ME?

ZARK!

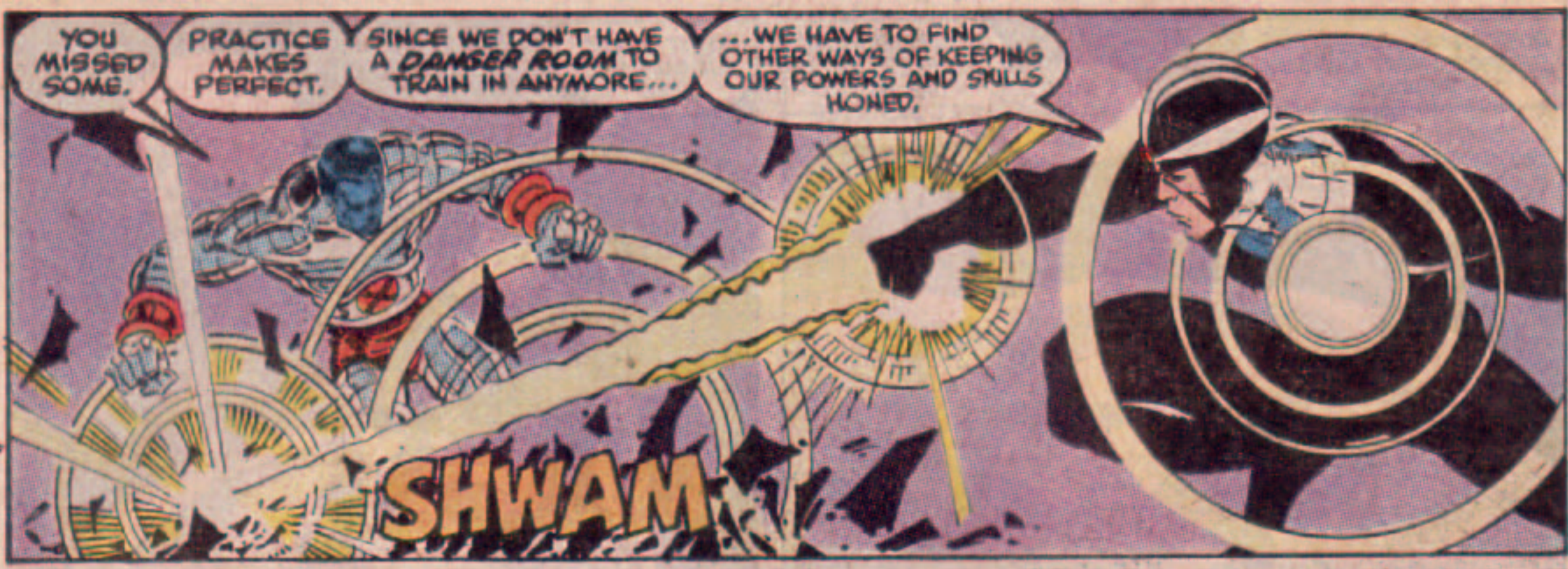
THAT, PAL--



--IS PRECISELY THE IDEA!

ZAKKA ZAKKA

ZAM



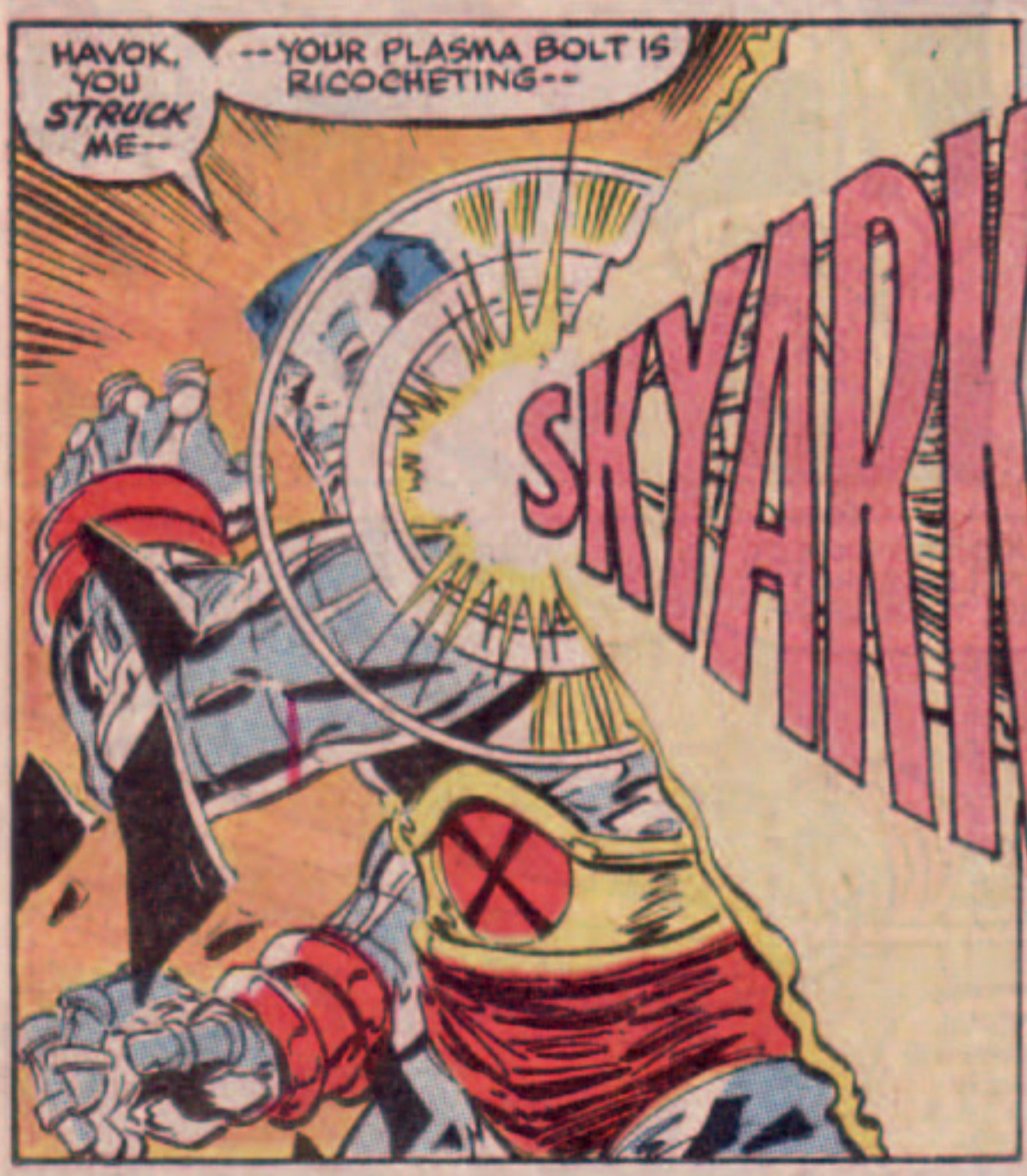
YOU MISSED SOME.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT.

SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A DANGER ROOM TO TRAIN IN ANYMORE...

...WE HAVE TO FIND OTHER WAYS OF KEEPING OUR POWERS AND SKILLS HONED.

SHWAM



HAVOK, YOU STRUCK ME--

--YOUR PLASMA BOLT IS RICOCHETING--

SKYARK



--STRAIGHT FOR LONG-SHOT!

WOW!

SKAKOW!

I GUESS IT WAS MY WILD LUCK THAT MADE ME MOVE...

...RIGHT WHEN ALEX FIRED.

GOOD THING I FOLLOWED THAT INSTINCT!



BRILLIANT, BOY.

YOU NEARLY ASHED A TEAM-MATE.

BUT THAT'S WHY I'M OUT HERE.

MY PLASMA BEAMS ARE SO POWERFUL-- AND DANGEROUS--

I'VE TAKEN THEM-- AND THE REALITY OF BEING HAVOK--

-- TOO LIGHTLY FOR TOO LONG...

--I'VE GOT TO HAVE THEM UNDER ABSOLUTE CONTROL.

... AND INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED FOR IT--

--WHAT THE ???!



SHAME ON YOU GUYS!

PLAYING WITHOUT ME!

OR IS IT THAT MAYBE...

... YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE COMPETITION?

... BEFORE OR AFTER THEY ACHIEVE ORBIT?

FOUND THESE SCATTERED ALL OVER.

HOW 'BOUT YOU GIVE 'EM A TOSS, LONGSHOT.

LET THE LADY TAKE A SHOT.

PLEASE, DAZZLER--

ZOOM!

--ALLOW ME!

TELL ME, PETE-- DO I HIT 'EM...

AND THAT, SWEETHEART, IS HOW IT'S DONE.

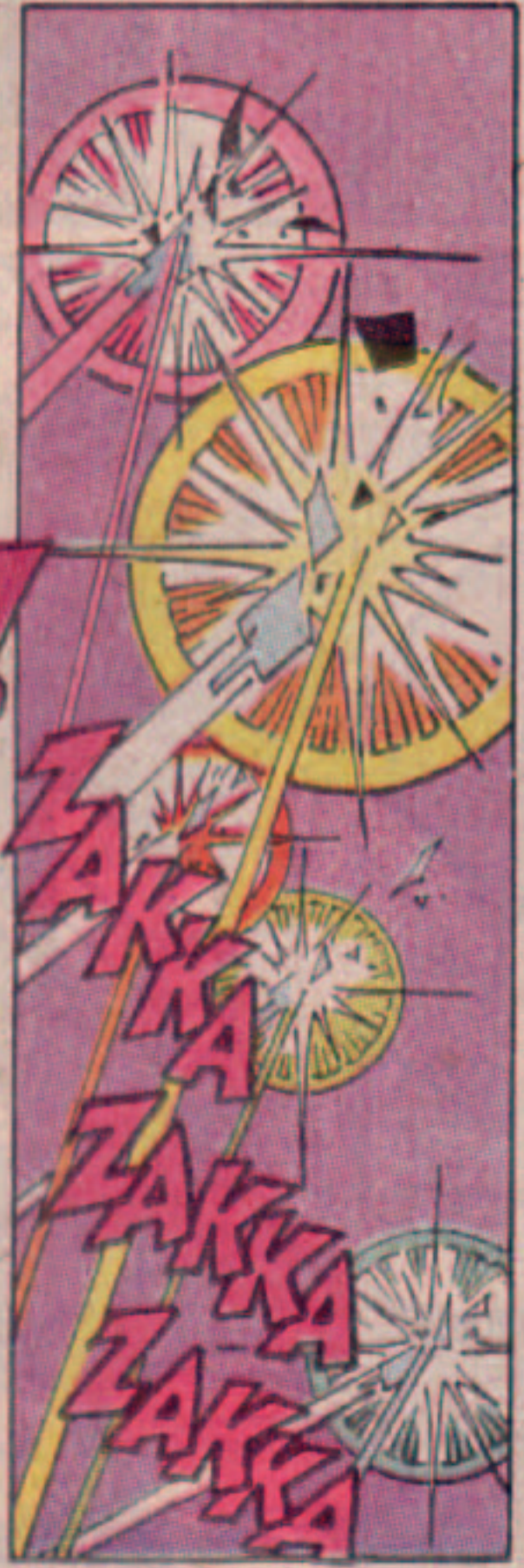
THANKS FOR THE LESSON.

"NEXT TIME" I'LL BE BETTER.

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.

AND EVENTUALLY, ALISON-- SKILL NOT LUCK--

--THE BEST!



MANHATTAN AGAIN -- THE FIFTH AVENUE MANSION THAT HOUSES THE FASHIONABLY INFAMOUS HELLFIRE CLUB...

SHARON!

CORINNE!
REIKO!

IT'S SO
GOOD TO
SEE YOU
BOTH!

"GOOD'S" A WORD
THAT DOESN'T
EVEN BEGIN
TO APPLY TO
YOU, GIRL!

SO HOW DOES IT FEEL, GOING
FROM THIS DUMP'S SERVANT'S
QUARTERS...

... TO BEING THE
WIFE OF A UNITED
STATES SENATOR?

CHECK
OUT THIS
FUR!

GOLLY-
GEE, I
DUNNO--

--GRIND
GRIND
GRIND!

-- TODAY AN EMBASSY BALL, TOMORROW
A WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION --

LIFE
IS SO
TOUGH.

AIN'T IT, THOUGH.

SOME
RING!

IT'S A
FAMILY
HEIRLOOM.

I TELL YOU TRUE,
I NEVER DREAMED
I COULD BE SO HAPPY.

BRAVA, GIRL--
YOU DESERVE
EVERY MOMENT.

ROBERT STILL LUNCHING
WITH MR. SHAW?

HE
IS.

GOT A SPARE
UNIFORM I CAN
BORROW?

WHAT
FOR?

YOU'LL
SEE, AND
SO WILL THE
SENATOR!

SEBASTIAN,
THERE'S NO
SUPPORT IN THE
SENATE FOR ANY
FURTHER SENTINEL
PROJECTS. WE
CAN'T AFFORD TO
KEEP THROWING
GOOD MONEY
AFTER BAD.

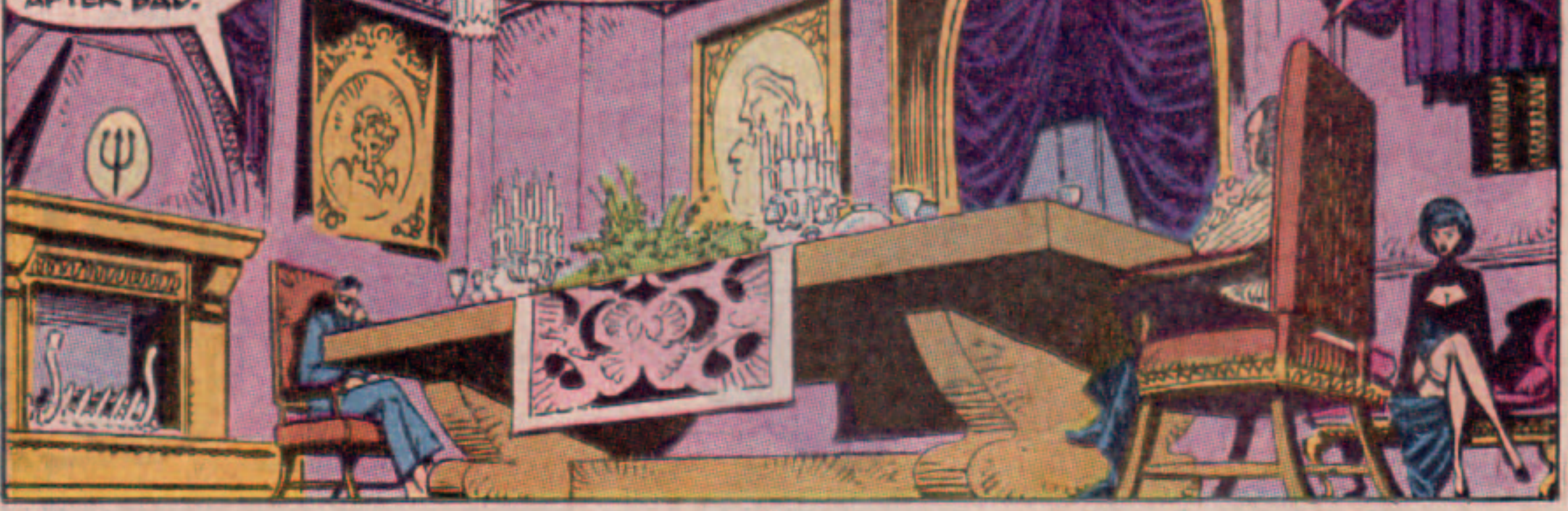
THE PROBLEM, ROBERT, IS
THAT EVERY TIME A
SENTINEL DETERMINES
HOW TO DEAL WITH
ITS TARGET MUTANT...

THE ROBOTS LEARN,
BUT NOT QUICKLY
OR EFFECTIVELY
ENOUGH TO DO
ANY LASTING
GOOD.

WHAT I PROPOSE
IS A HUNTER
SYSTEM THAT IS NOT
ONLY CAPABLE OF
LEARNING FROM ITS
MISTAKES AND ADAPTING
TO NEW AND UNEXPECTED
SITUATIONS...

... BUT WHICH
IS ALSO CAPABLE OF RE-
CONSTITUTING
ITSELF, NO
MATTER HOW
BADLY
DAMAGED.

...IT'S
INVARIABLY
BEEN DESTROYED
BY ANOTHER.





IF EVEN A SINGLE CORE MOLECULE REMAINS INTACT, THE SYSTEM CAN REBUILD ITSELF.

AND SINCE IT IS CONSTANTLY LEARNING AND IMPROVING ITSELF...

...IT CAN NEVER BE BEATEN THE SAME WAY TWICE.

ULTIMATELY, IT WILL--IT MUST--TRIONPH!



MOST INGENIOUS, SEBASTIAN.

BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS?

IF THIS ROBOT CAN'T BE DESTROYED, HOW "ULTIMATELY" CAN IT BE CONTAINED?

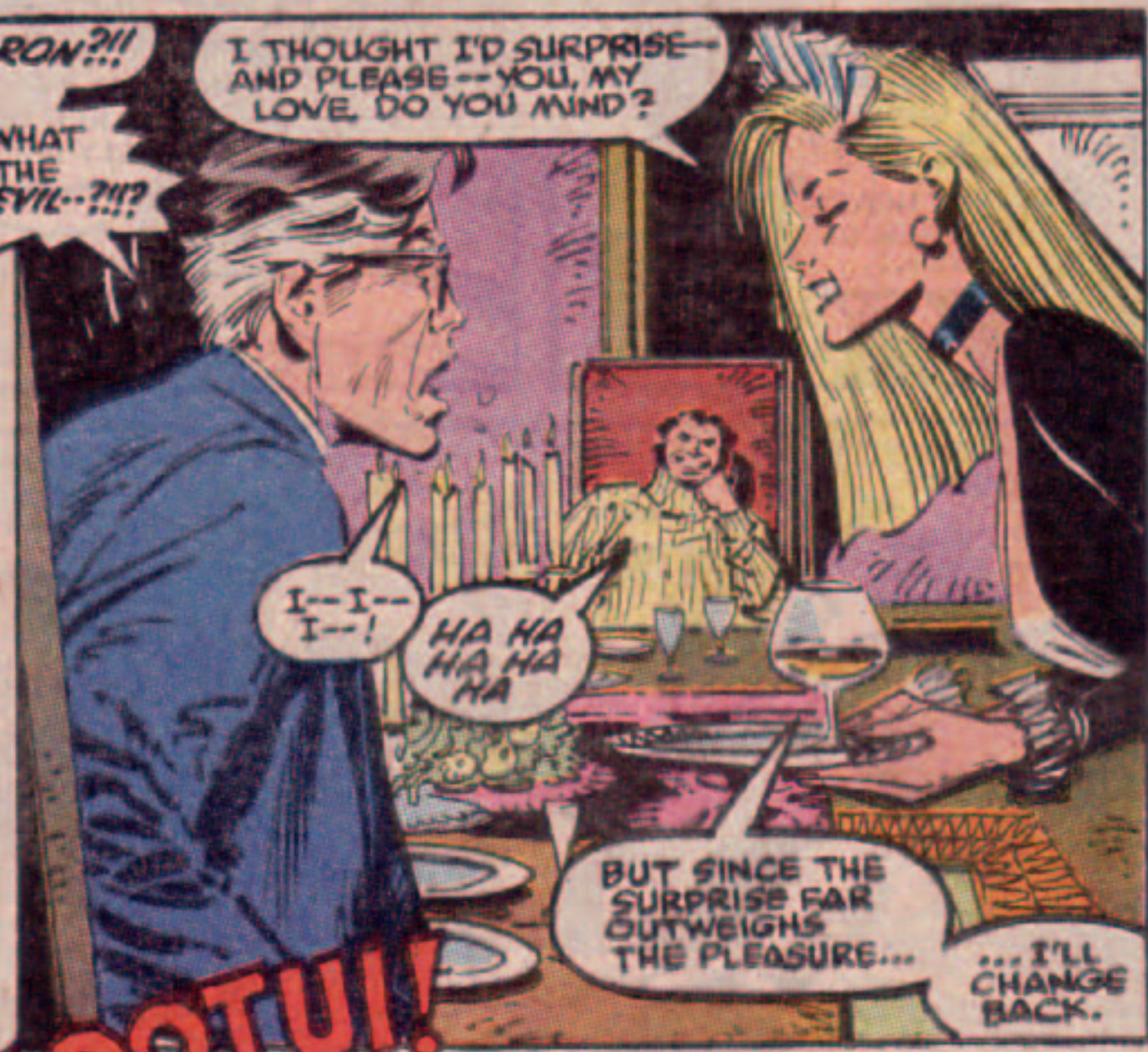
SUPPOSE WE LOSE CONTROL? WHAT THEN??



I'M SORRY, SEBASTIAN. THE RISKS FAR OUTWEIGH ANY POTENTIAL BENE--MY MOTHER'S RING??!

SHARON??!

WHAT THE DEVIL--??!?



I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE-- AND PLEASE-- YOU, MY LOVE, DO YOU MIND?

I--I-- I--!

HA HA HA HA

BUT SINCE THE SURPRISE FAR OUTWEIGHS THE PLEASURE...

... I'LL CHANGE BACK.

SPLOOTUI!



IT'S TRULY A SHAME, THOUGH...

... THAT YOU GENTLEMEN DON'T HAVE AN EQUIVALENT COSTUME.

THEN WE LADIES MIGHT HAVE OURSELVES SOME REAL FUN.



PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU, ROBERT--

--OUR HELLFIRE LADIES ARE FAR MORE THAN MERE ADORNMENTS.

THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN WITH ANY MEN.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT IN SHARON'S CASE...

... I WAGER YOU'VE MARRIED A TIGRESS!



DOWNTOWN, IN THE WEST VILLAGE...

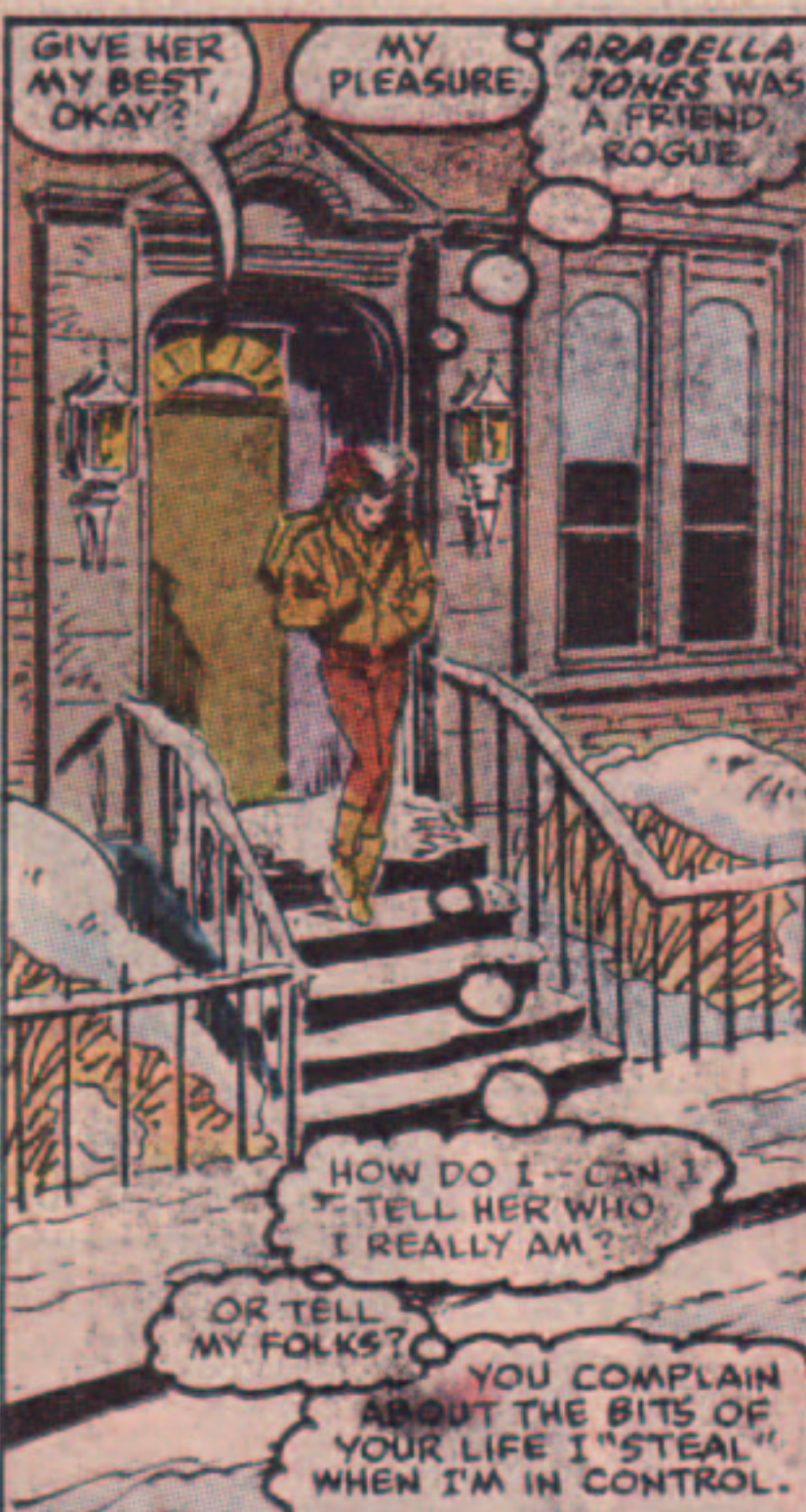


CAROL DANVERS REALLY APPRECIATES...
...YOUR LOOKING AFTER HER STUFF, MS. JONES.

NO PROB, WHAT ARE LANDLORDS FOR?

HADN'T HEARD FROM HER IN AGES...

... BEFORE THE NOTE SAYING YOU WERE COMING.



GIVE HER MY BEST, OKAY?

MY PLEASURE.

ARABELLA JONES WAS A FRIEND, ROGUE.

HOW DO I -- CAN I TELL HER WHO I REALLY AM?

OR TELL MY FOLKS?

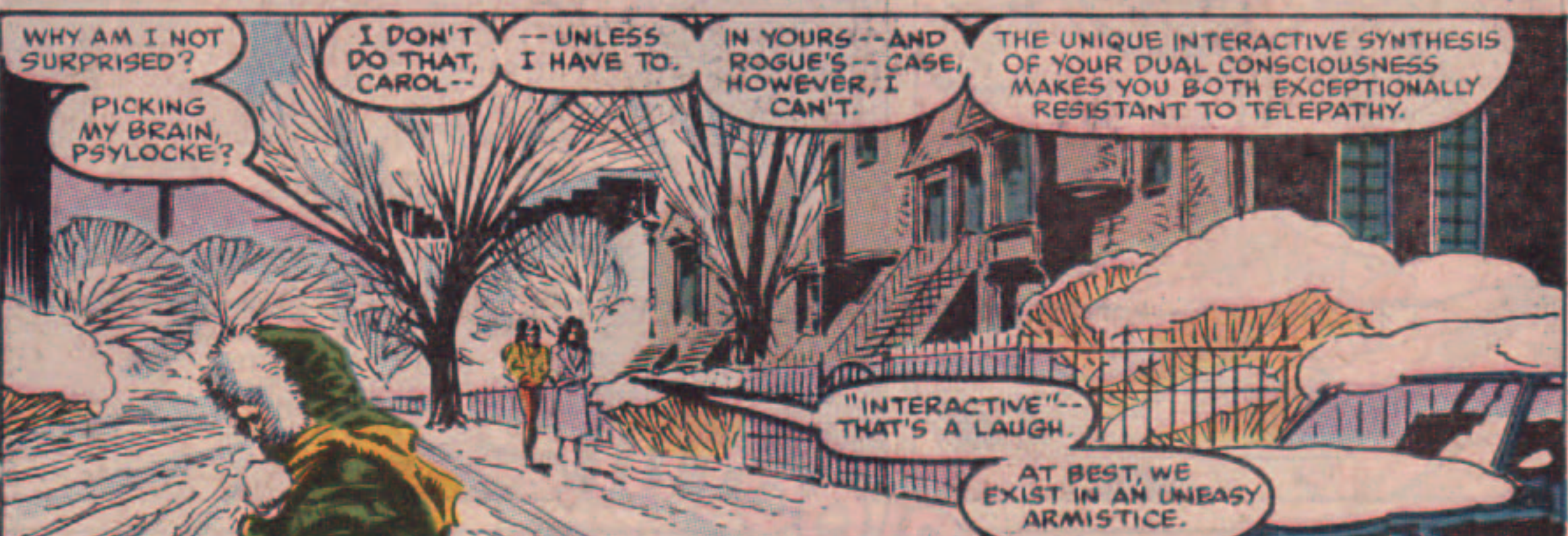
YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT THE BITS OF YOUR LIFE I "STEAL" WHEN I'M IN CONTROL.



WHAT ABOUT MY WHOLE LIFE AS CAROL DANVERS...

... THAT I CAN'T EVER AGAIN BE A PART OF?

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.



WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

PICKING MY BRAIN, PSYLOCKE?

I DON'T DO THAT, CAROL--

-- UNLESS I HAVE TO.

IN YOURS -- AND ROGUE'S -- CASE, HOWEVER, I CAN'T.

THE UNIQUE INTERACTIVE SYNTHESIS OF YOUR DUAL CONSCIOUSNESS MAKES YOU BOTH EXCEPTIONALLY RESISTANT TO TELEPATHY.

"INTERACTIVE"-- THAT'S A LAUGH.

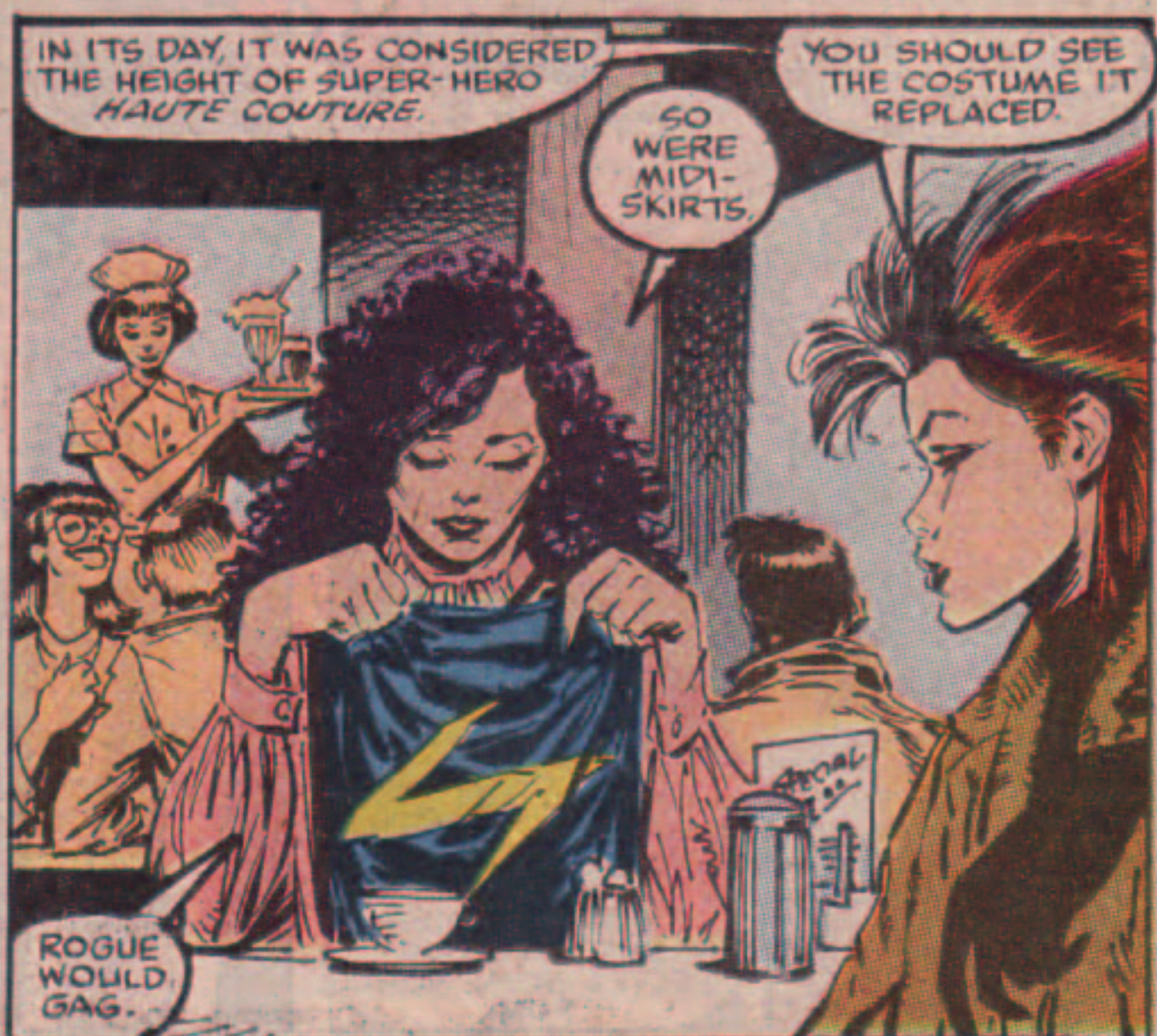
AT BEST, WE EXIST IN AN UNEASY ARMISTICE.



AND LATELY, RELATIONS BETWEEN US...

... ARE NOT AT THEIR BEST.

CAROL, YOU ACTUALLY WORE THIS?



IN ITS DAY, IT WAS CONSIDERED THE HEIGHT OF SUPER-HERO HAUTE COUTURE.

SO WERE MIDI-SKIRTS.

YOU SHOULD SEE THE COSTUME IT REPLACED.

ROGUE WOULD GAG.

ROGUE ISN'T WEARING IT, ROGUE WON'T BE WEARING IT, THAT'S A MEMENTO OF MY LIFE. I DON'T SEE WHERE SHE MATTERS IN THE EQUATION.

...AND I DON'T SEE WHERE IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS CALLING ME ON IT.



IT'S HER BODY, CAROL.

IT ISN'T MY FAULT I'M STUCK HERE, BETTS...

I'M THE TEAM TELEPATH. THE GOOD OF THAT TEAM--OUR MUTUAL AND INTERDEPENDENT SURVIVAL--MAKES IT MY BUSINESS.

STORM PUT YOU UP TO THIS?

CAROL! YOU AND ROGUE ARE BOUND PERMANENTLY! WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THAT IS THE REALITY!

ROGUE'S A CHILD--FROM HER, WE EXPECTED THIS. BUT WHY THE DEVIL ARE YOU BEING SO DIFFICULT?!

KNOW WHAT I WISH?



THAT I COULD CUT A DEAL WITH HER...

...TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL FOR A YEAR, JUST A YEAR.

THEN, I'D FINAGLE MY WAY ONTO THE RED SOX.

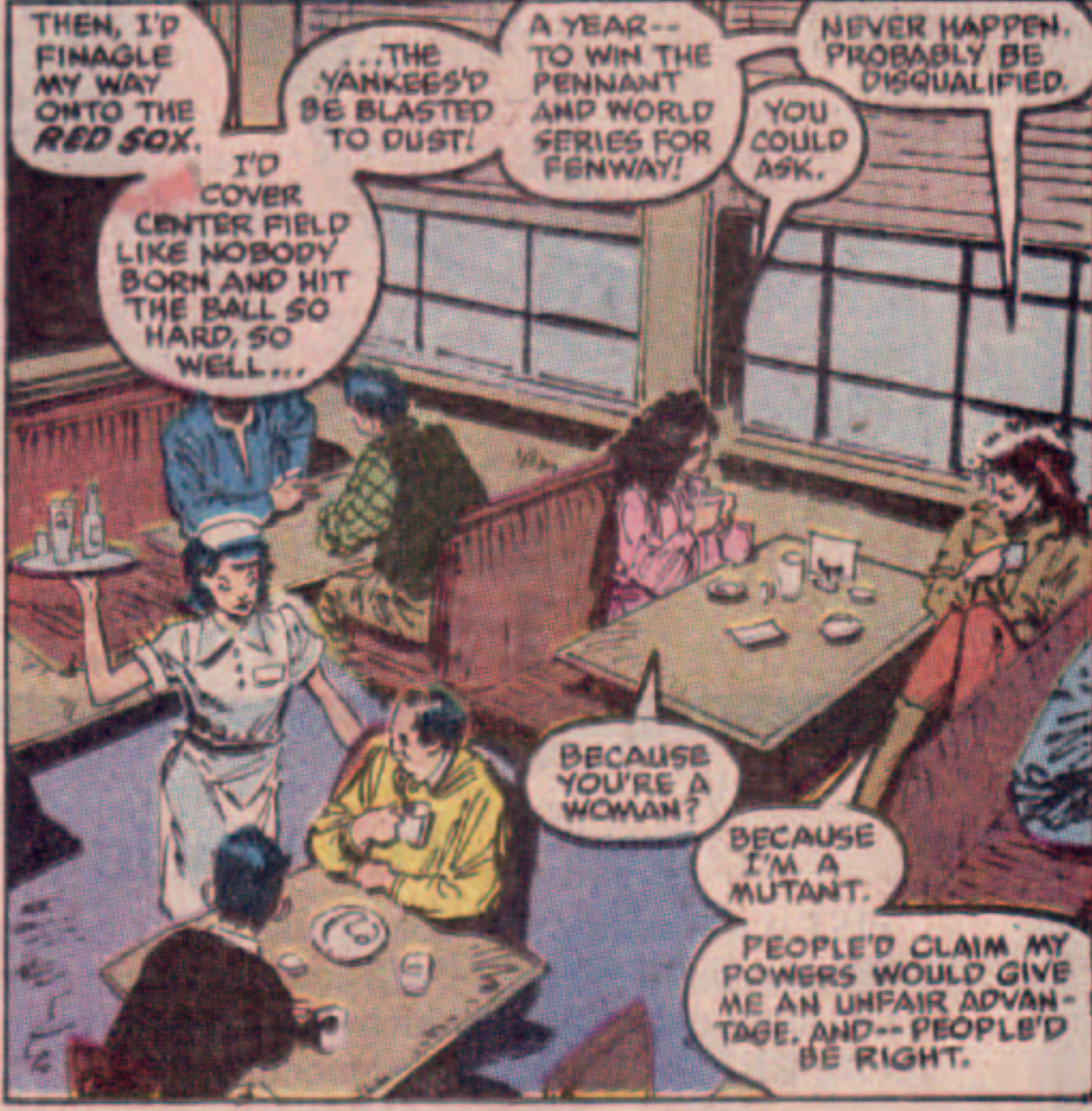
I'D COVER CENTER FIELD LIKE NOBODY BORN AND HIT THE BALL SO HARD, SO WELL...

...THE YANKEES'D BE BLASTED TO DUST!

A YEAR-- TO WIN THE PENNANT AND WORLD SERIES FOR FENWAY!

NEVER HAPPEN. PROBABLY BE DISQUALIFIED.

YOU COULD ASK.



BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN?

BECAUSE I'M A MUTANT.

PEOPLE'D CLAIM MY POWERS WOULD GIVE ME AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE, AND-- PEOPLE'D BE RIGHT.

TIMES LIKE THIS, IT FEELS LIKE WE ENDURE ALL THE GRIEF THERE IS...

... BUT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENJOY ANY OF THE FUN.

PERHAPS THAT IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR BEING WHO AND WHAT WE ARE?



PERHAPS THAT ISN'T ENOUGH.

FURTHER DOWNTOWN, WHERE YET ANOTHER YUPPY-PUPPY HIGH-RISE KENNEL IS TOWERING OVER THE HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT...

THIS IS NIMROD'S DAY JOB-- UNDER THE NAME, NICHOLAS HUNTER-- FOREMAN OF THE EXPLOSIVES CREW.

QUERY: ONGOING ABERRANCIES IN THIS UNIT'S THOUGHT PROCESSES?

INTERNAL DIAGNOSTICS REVEAL NO DYSFUNCTION-- WHAT'S THAT?

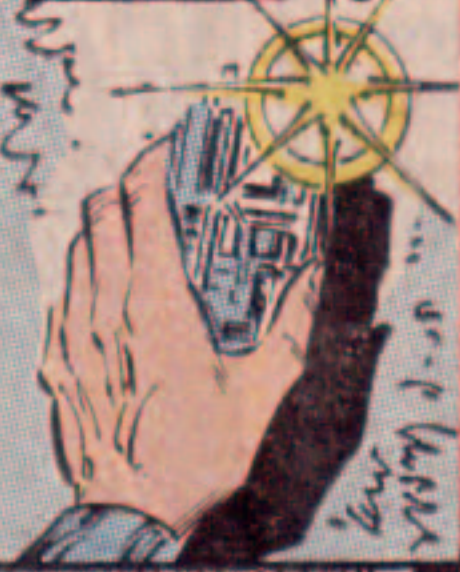
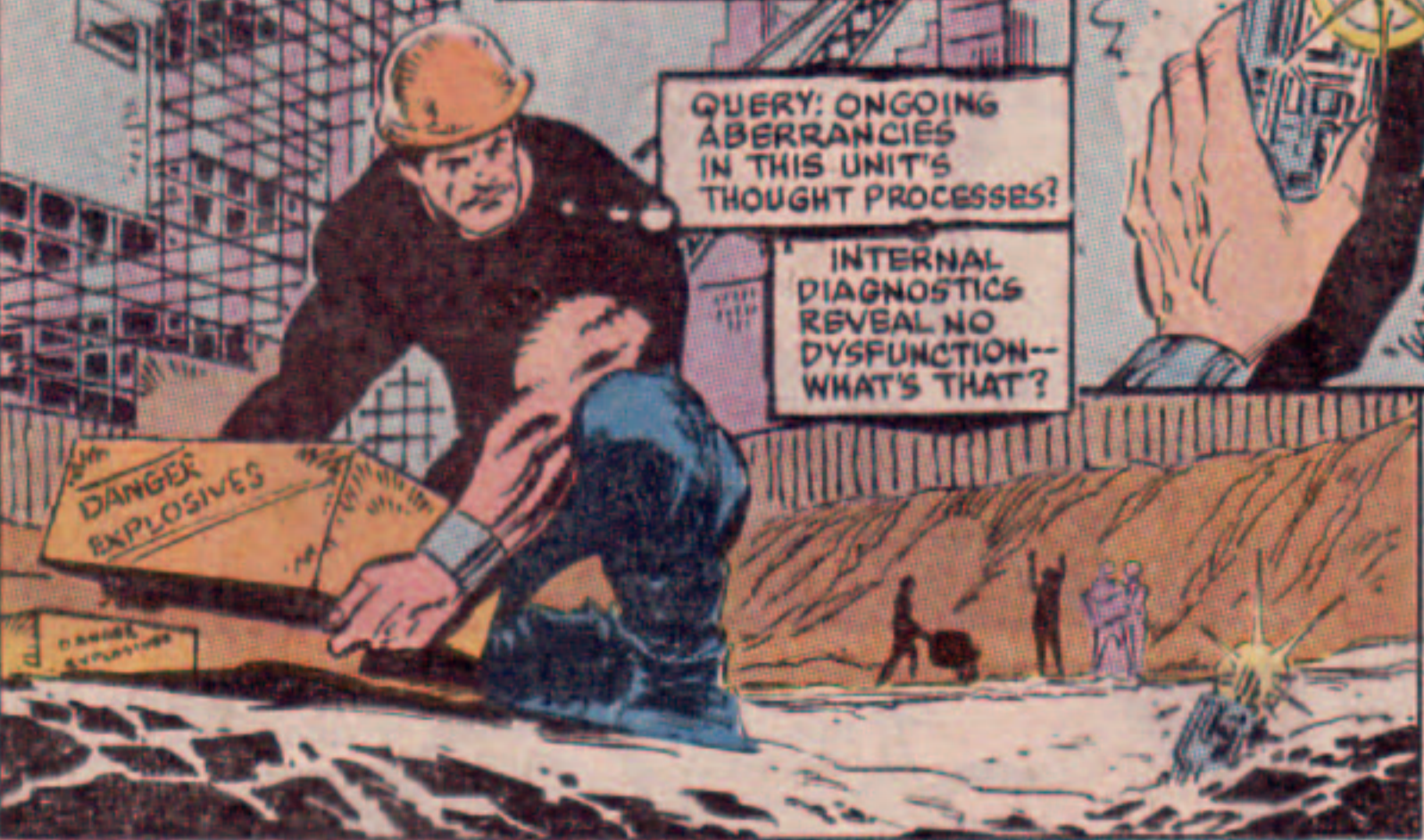
CIRCUITRY MODULE APPEARS FAMILIAR.

INITIATING SCAN--

--ALARM ALARM--

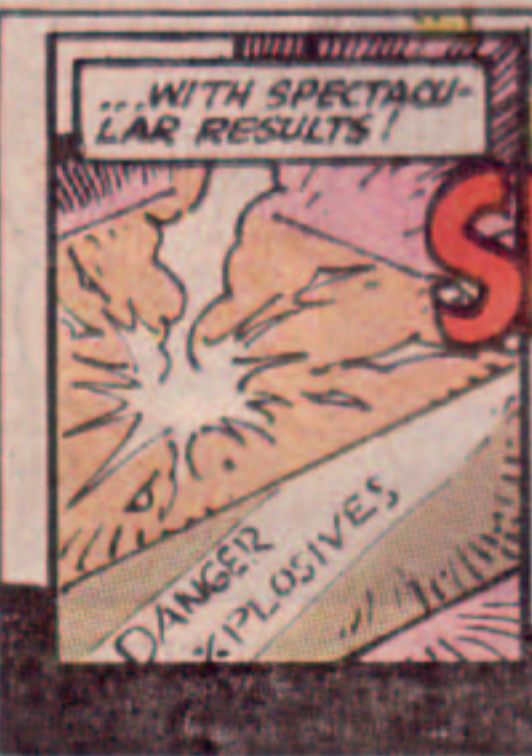
--HOSTILE COMMAND COM. PROGRAM INVADING THIS UNIT!

CANNOT PHYSICALLY DISENGAGE!



SPARKS FLY...

... AS NIMROD REVERTS TO HIS TRUE ROBOTIC CONFIGURATION...



...WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS!



HOLY MARY!



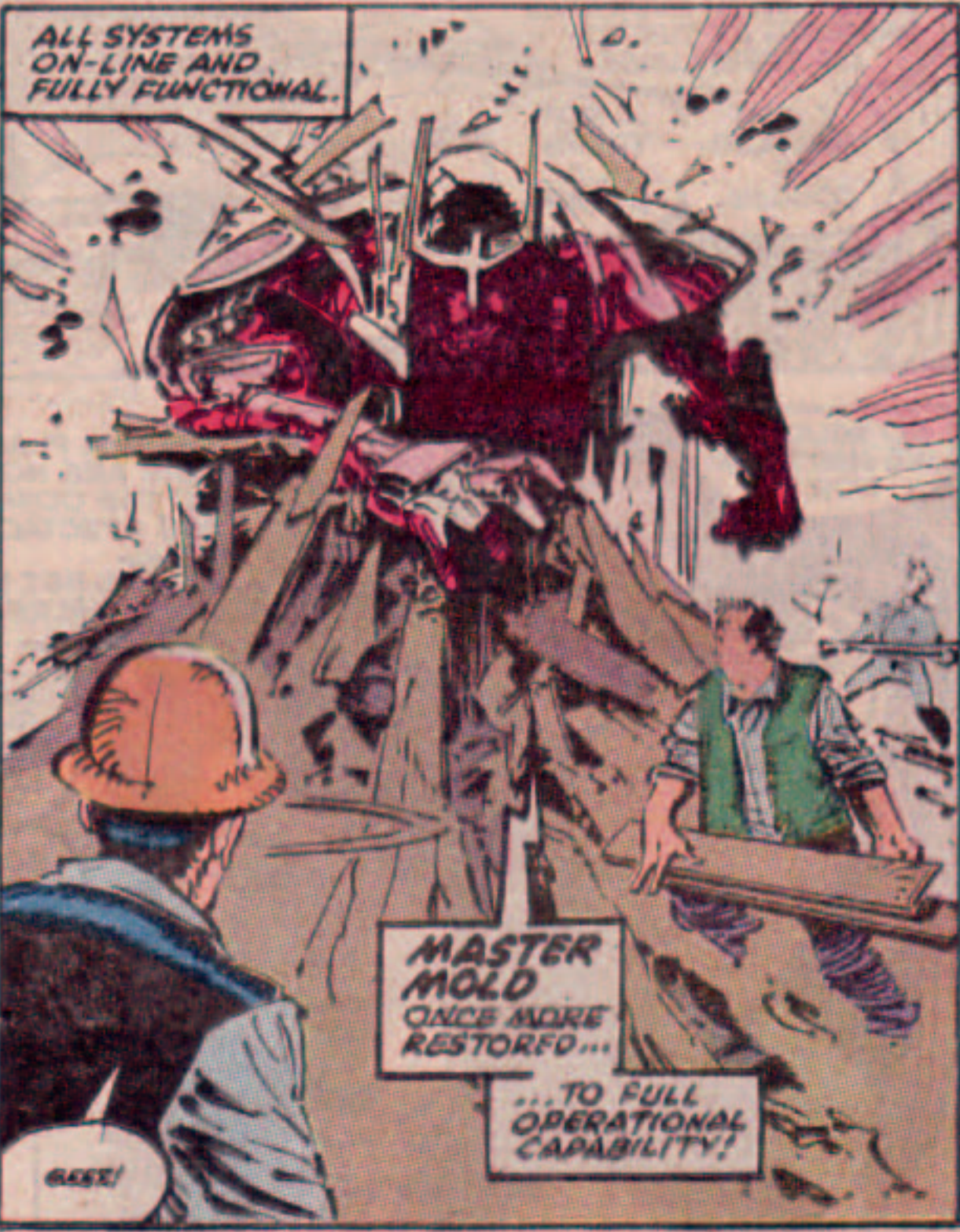
NICK WAS OVER THERE!

GET A CREW! AN' PUT INNA CALL TO E.M.S. FOR AN AMBULANCE!

WHY BOTHER? NOBODY COULD'A SURVIVED THAT.

SHADDAP AN' DIG, RUGGIERO!

WE GOTTA MAKE SURE!



ALL SYSTEMS ON-LINE AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL.

MASTER MOLD ONCE MORE RESTORED...

...TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY!

GAXX!

YOU'RE NOT ALONE, YOU KNOW.

WE'VE ALL LOST THOSE ...DEAR TO US. AND EVEN...
...SUFFERED.



DOES THAT MEAN WE SHOULD GIVE UP?

IT'S TEMPTING.

THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY I LOVED AS A KID.

ROGUE HATES IT, HATES THE COLD, SHE'S A HOthouse FLOWER, BORN AND BRED FOR SULTRY, SOUTHERN NIGHTS--



--YOU ALL RIGHT, BETTS?



DIDN'T REALIZE IT SHOWED.

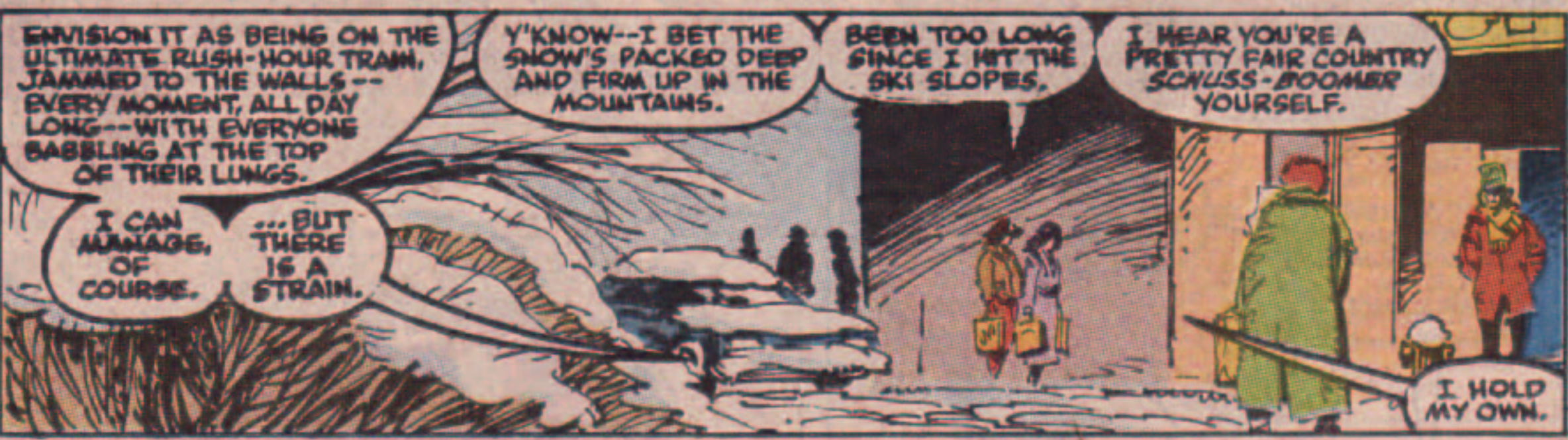
WHAT SHOWED?

I'M A TELEPATH. I READ MINDS.

THIS IS A HUGE CITY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE...

...AN INFINITE CACOPHONY OF THOUGHTS.

SCREENING THEM TAKES A PHYSICAL EFFORT.



ENVISION IT AS BEING ON THE ULTIMATE RUSH-HOUR TRAIN, JAMMED TO THE WALLS-- EVERY MOMENT, ALL DAY LONG--WITH EVERYONE BABBLING AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS.

Y'KNOW--I BET THE SNOW'S PACKED DEEP AND FIRM UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HIT THE SKI SLOPES.

I HEAR YOU'RE A PRETTY FAIR COUNTRY SCHUSS-BOOMER YOURSELF.

I CAN MANAGE, OF COURSE.

...BUT THERE IS A STRAIN.

I HOLD MY OWN.



SO WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?

I KNOW A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE NO CROWDS AND THE DOWNHILL RUNS ARE SPECTACULAR.

I BET, BEFORE WE'RE DONE...

...I'LL HAVE EVEN ROGUE LOVING IT!

SOUNDS WONDERF-

OH!!

CAROL-- CLOSE-BY-- SCREAMS!

TERROR-- PAIN-- IT'S A MASSACRE!

PRIMARY PROGRAMMING MANDATES THE EXTERMINATION OF MUTANT-KIND--

EXTRAPOLATION: SINCE HUMANS ARE THE PROGENITORS OF ALL MUTANTS...

-- ESPECIALLY THE CORE ENTITIES CODIFAX-IDENTED, "THE TWELVE."

... FULFILLMENT OF PRIME DIRECTIVE REQUIRES...

... THE EXTERMINATION OF HUMAN-KIND.

BINGO!

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.

THAT MUST BE THE GUY.

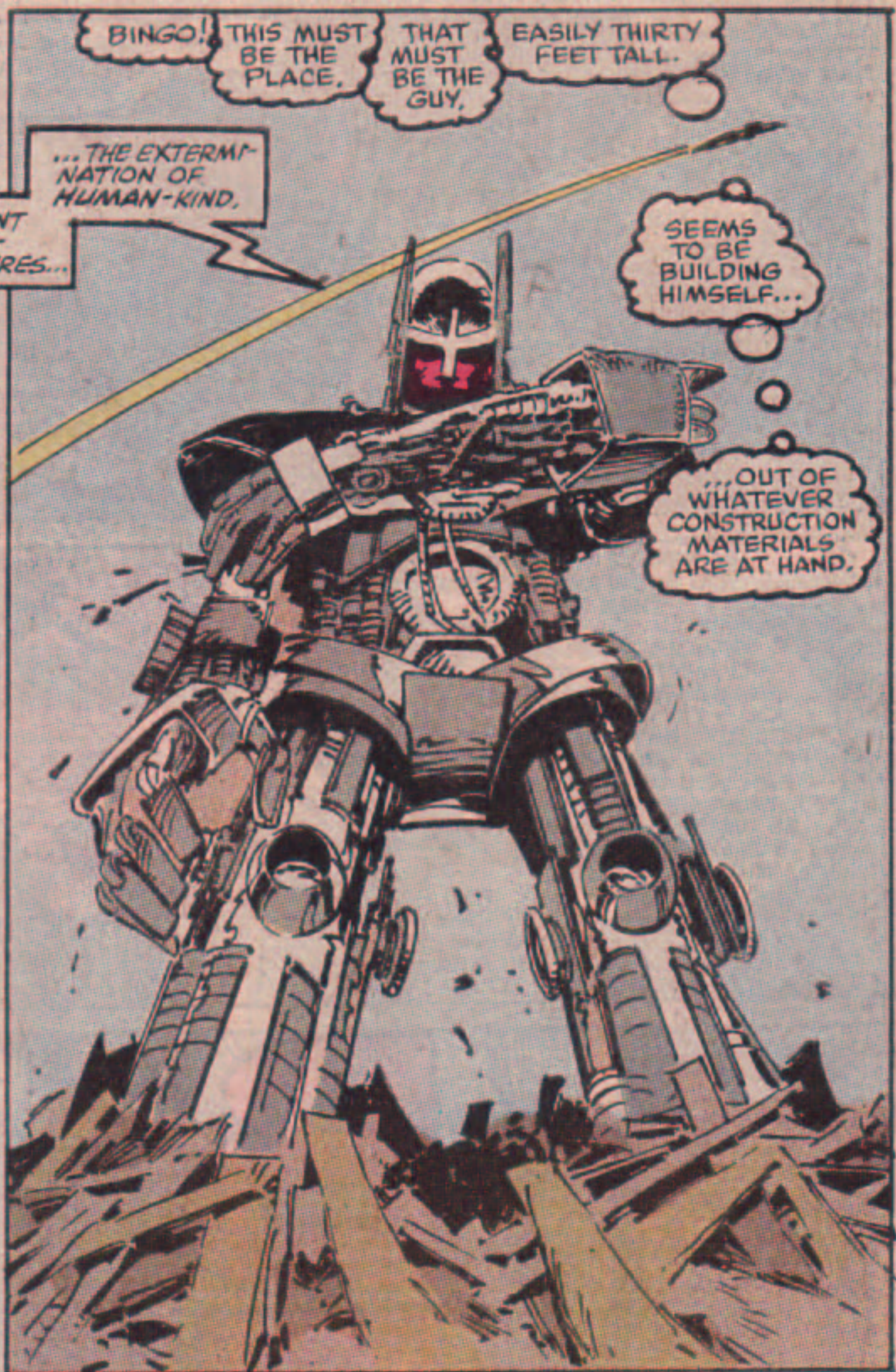
EASILY THIRTY FEET TALL.

SEEMS TO BE BUILDING HIMSELF...

... OUT OF WHATEVER CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ARE AT HAND.

SKRAMM!

LOOK OUT!



DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR, I'D REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT UGLY.

FROM THE WAY HE'S TALKING, THOUGH...

... I CAN'T AFFORD TO HANG BANG AND SCOPE OUT HIS CAPABILITIES.

LONGER I WAIT, MORE PEOPLE ARE SURE TO BE KILLED.

ONE BIG ADVANTAGE--

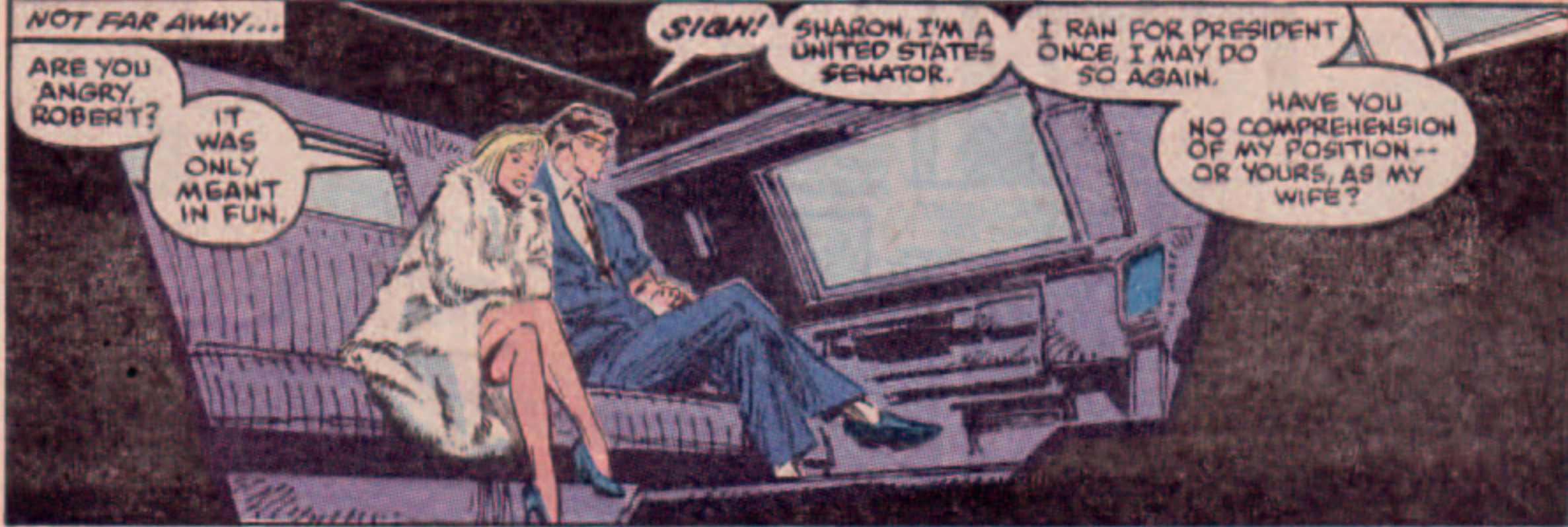
-- SINCE WE X-MEN ARE INVISIBLE TO ELECTRONIC SENSORS...

... THE ROBOT WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT HI--

OWW!

FWAP!





NOT FAR AWAY...

ARE YOU ANGRY, ROBERT?

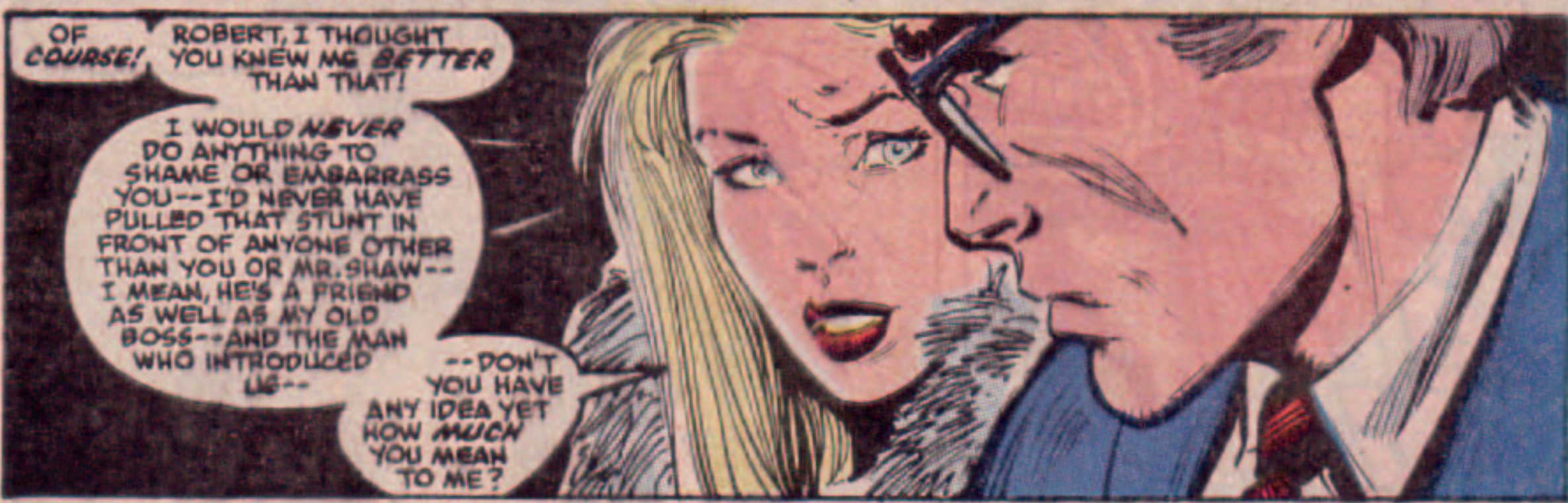
IT WAS ONLY MEANT IN FUN.

SIGH!

SHARON, I'M A UNITED STATES SENATOR.

I RAN FOR PRESIDENT ONCE, I MAY DO SO AGAIN.

HAVE YOU NO COMPREHENSION OF MY POSITION -- OR YOURS, AS MY WIFE?



OF COURSE!

ROBERT, I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ME BETTER THAN THAT!

I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO SHAME OR EMBARRASS YOU -- I'D NEVER HAVE PULLED THAT STUNT IN FRONT OF ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU OR MR. SHAW -- I MEAN, HE'S A FRIEND AS WELL AS MY OLD BOSS -- AND THE MAN WHO INTRODUCED US --

-- DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA YET HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME?



HOW VERY, VERY MUCH I LOVE --

**B
T
H
A
M**



OH SOMETHING

OW

OH

CAR ALL BUSTED

OW

I'M ALL BUSTED

OH

WURT INSIDE

OW

ROBERT!

OH

HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!

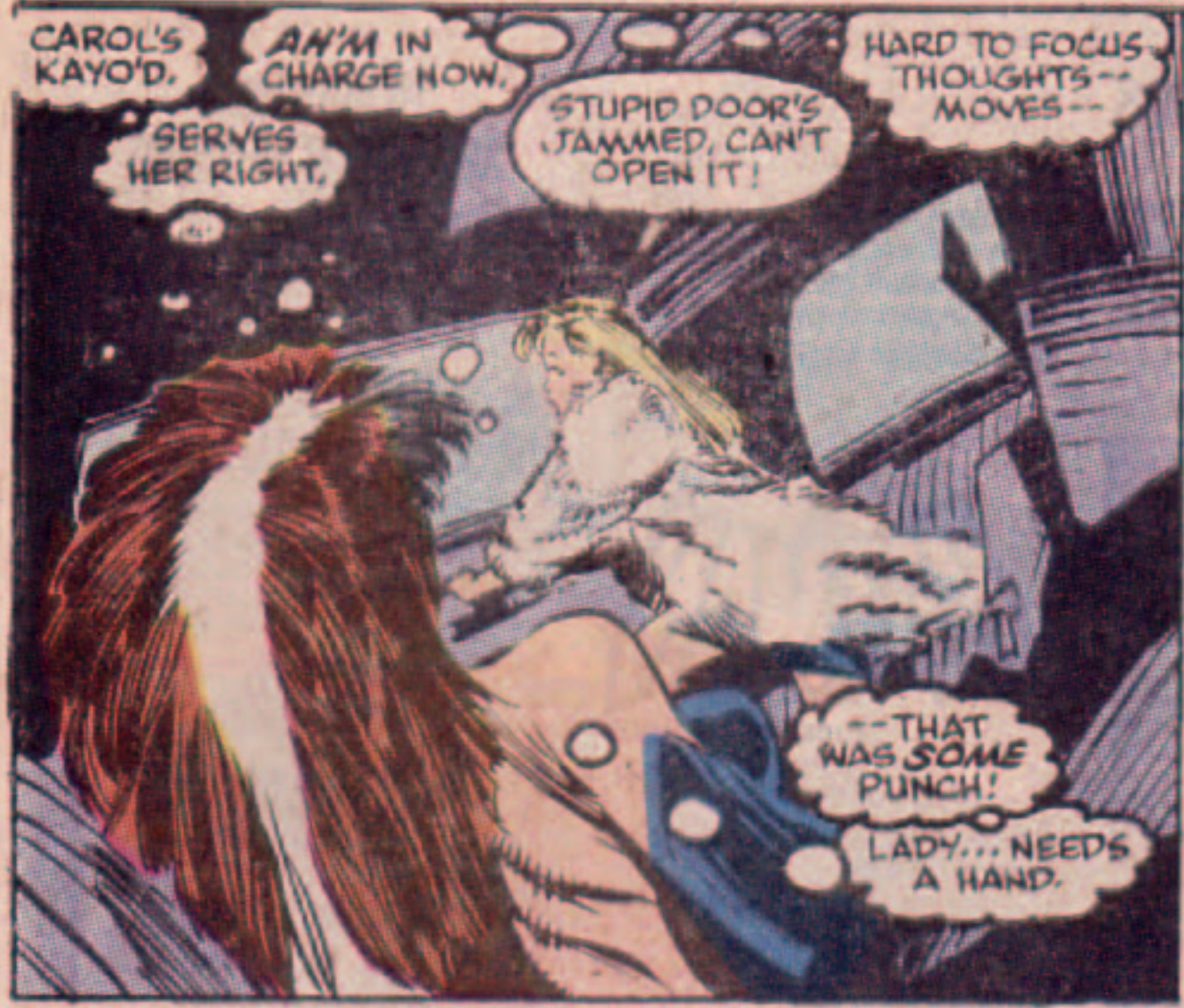
OW

WHO'S THAT COSTUMED WOMAN?

HE HIT ME!

SENSED MY ATTACK.

BUT -- HOW?!!



CAROL'S KAYO'D.

AH'M IN CHARGE NOW.

HARD TO FOCUS THOUGHTS-- MOVES--

SERVES HER RIGHT.

STUPID DOOR'S JAMMED, CAN'T OPEN IT!

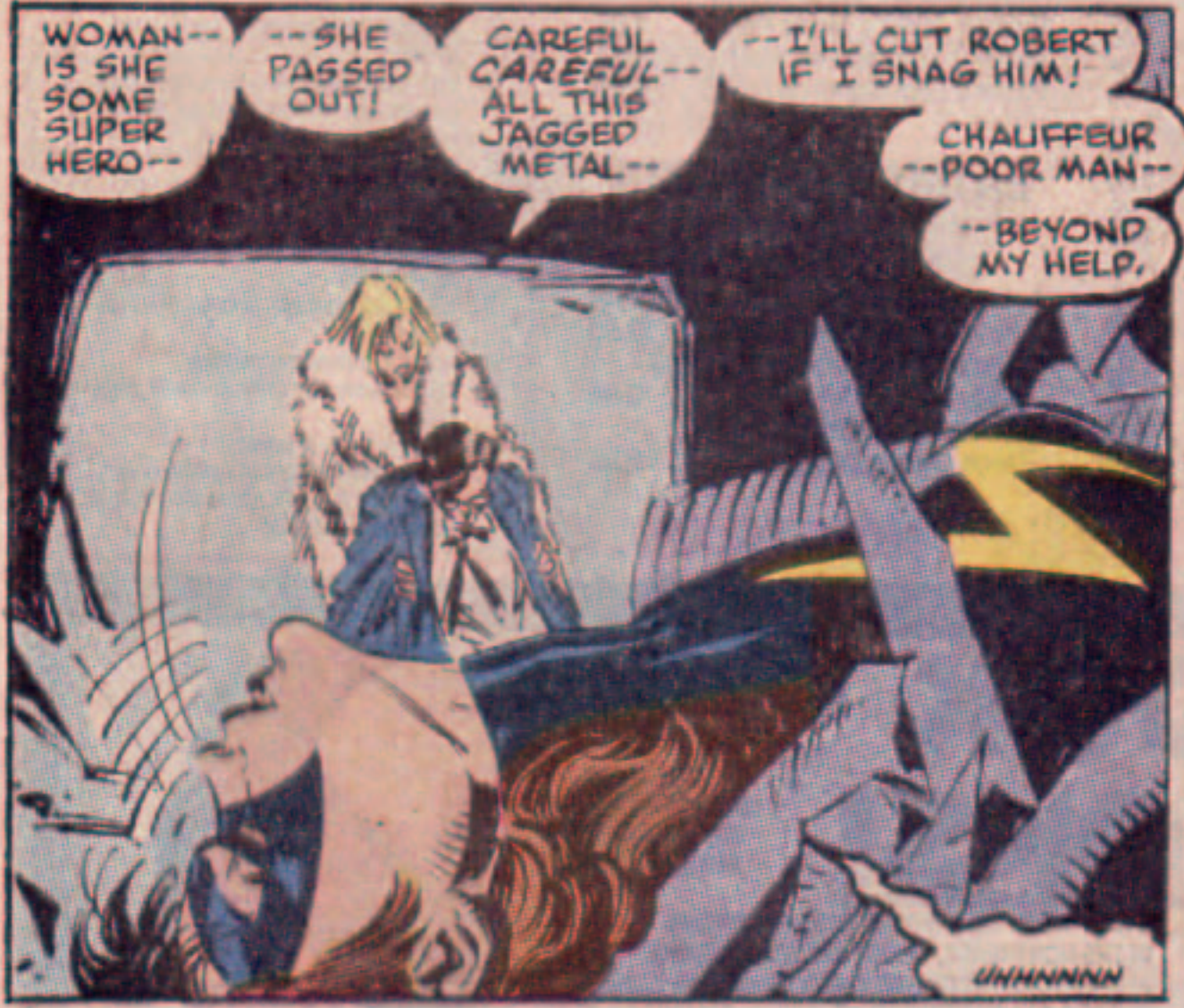
-- THAT WAS SOME PUNCH!

LADY... NEEDS A HAND.



OUT'CHA GO, SUGAR!

PUNKT!



WOMAN-- IS SHE SOME SUPER HERO--

-- SHE PASSED OUT!

CAREFUL CAREFUL-- ALL THIS JAGGED METAL--

-- I'LL CUT ROBERT IF I SNAG HIM!

CHAUFFEUR -- POOR MAN--

-- BEYOND MY HELP.

UHHNNNN



SHARON-- -- WHA-HOPPON--

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

THERE'S SOMEONE STILL IN THE CAR!

DON'T BE A FOOL!

WAIT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, THAT'S THEIR JOB!



THEY'LL BE TOO LATE!

SHE'S PINNED!

CAN'T BUDGE THE METAL--

-- WAKE UP, YOU!

IF YOU CAN--

-- GIVE ME A HAND!



NO NEED T' YELL, SUGAR, AH HEAR YOU.

WHAT IS THIS RAG AH'M WEARIN'?!

SAVE THE FASHION CRITIQUE FOR LATER--

-- OH MY LORD!



SHOOT!

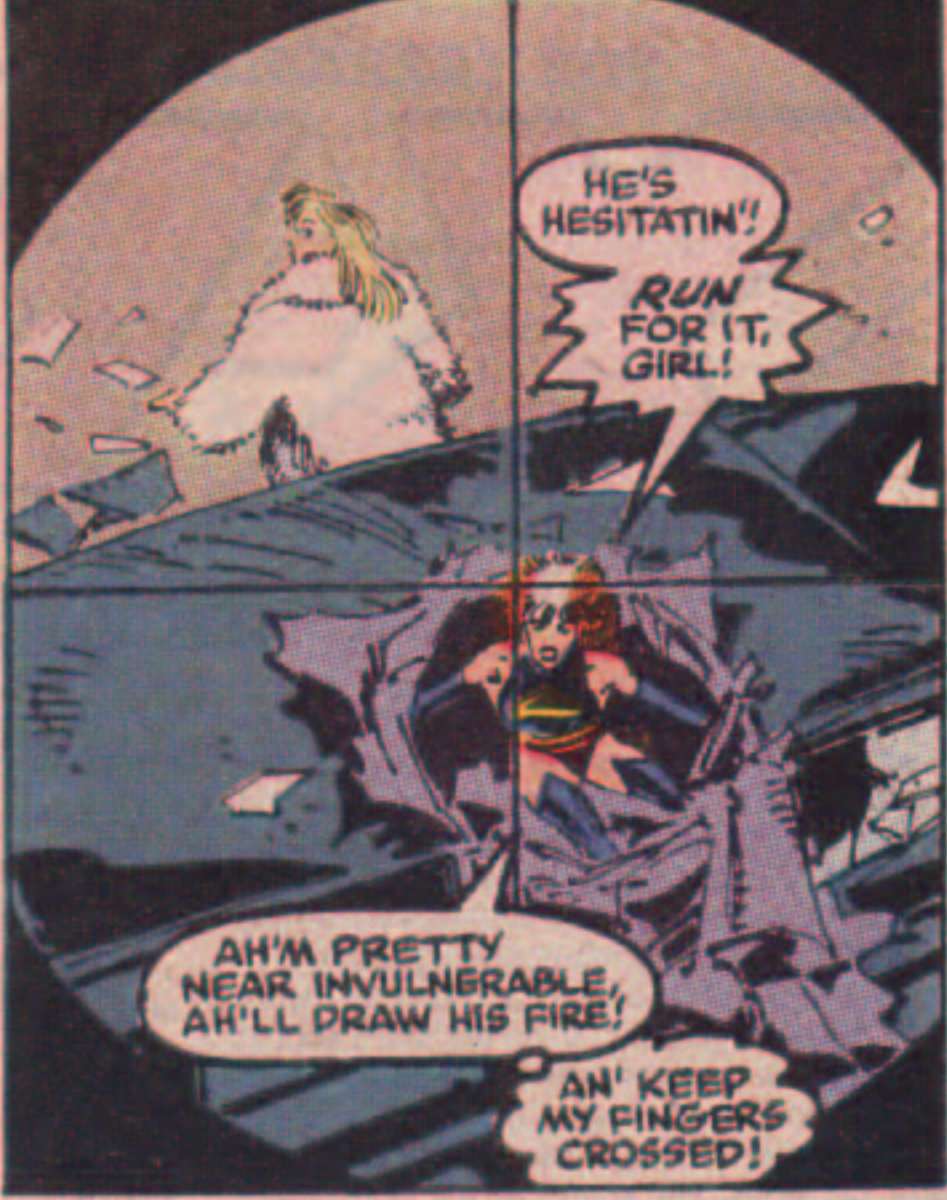
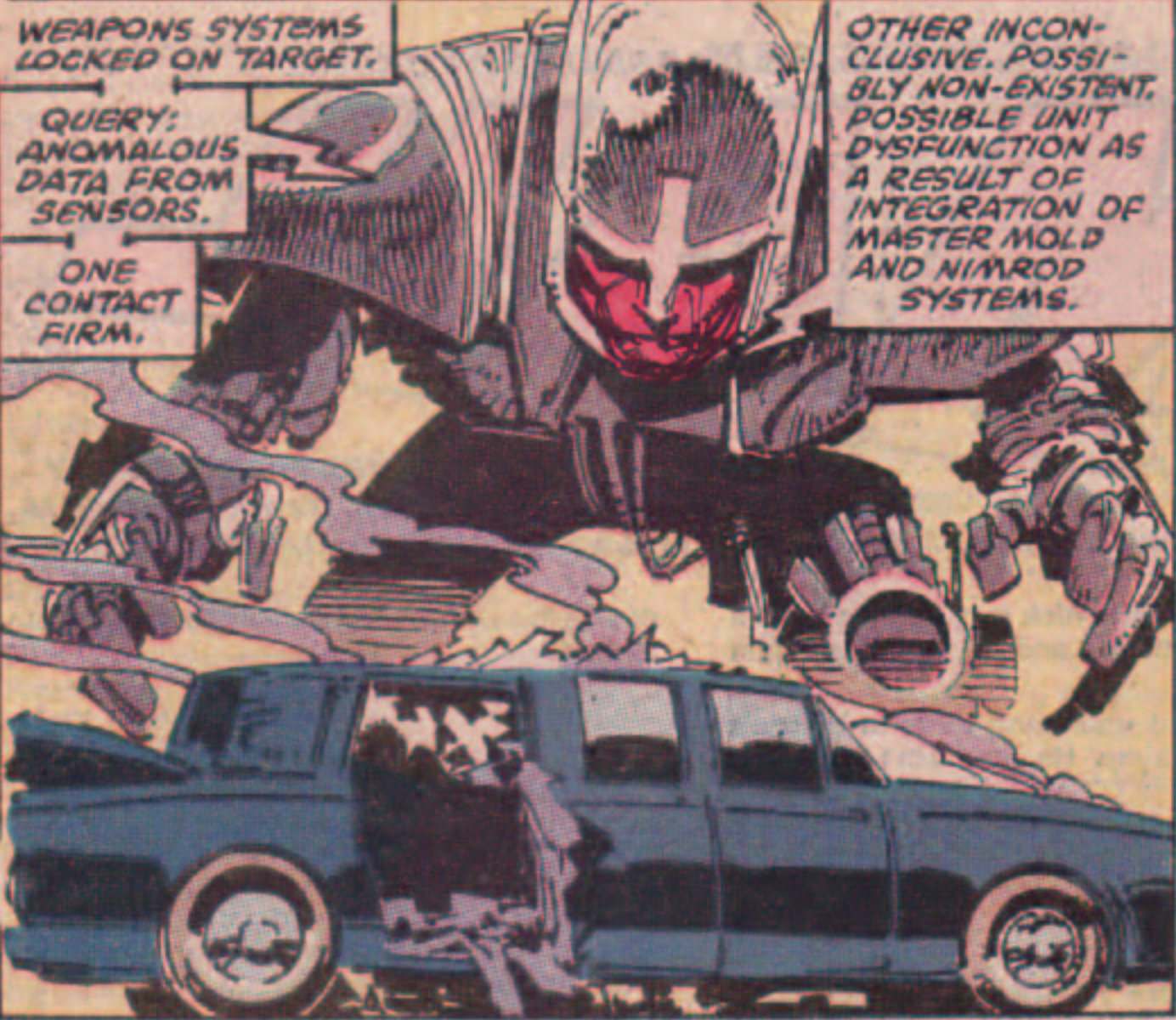
CONTACT ESTABLISHED! TARGET ACQUIRED.

WEAPONS SYSTEMS
LOCKED ON TARGET.

QUERY:
ANOMALOUS
DATA FROM
SENSORS.

ONE
CONTACT
FIRM.

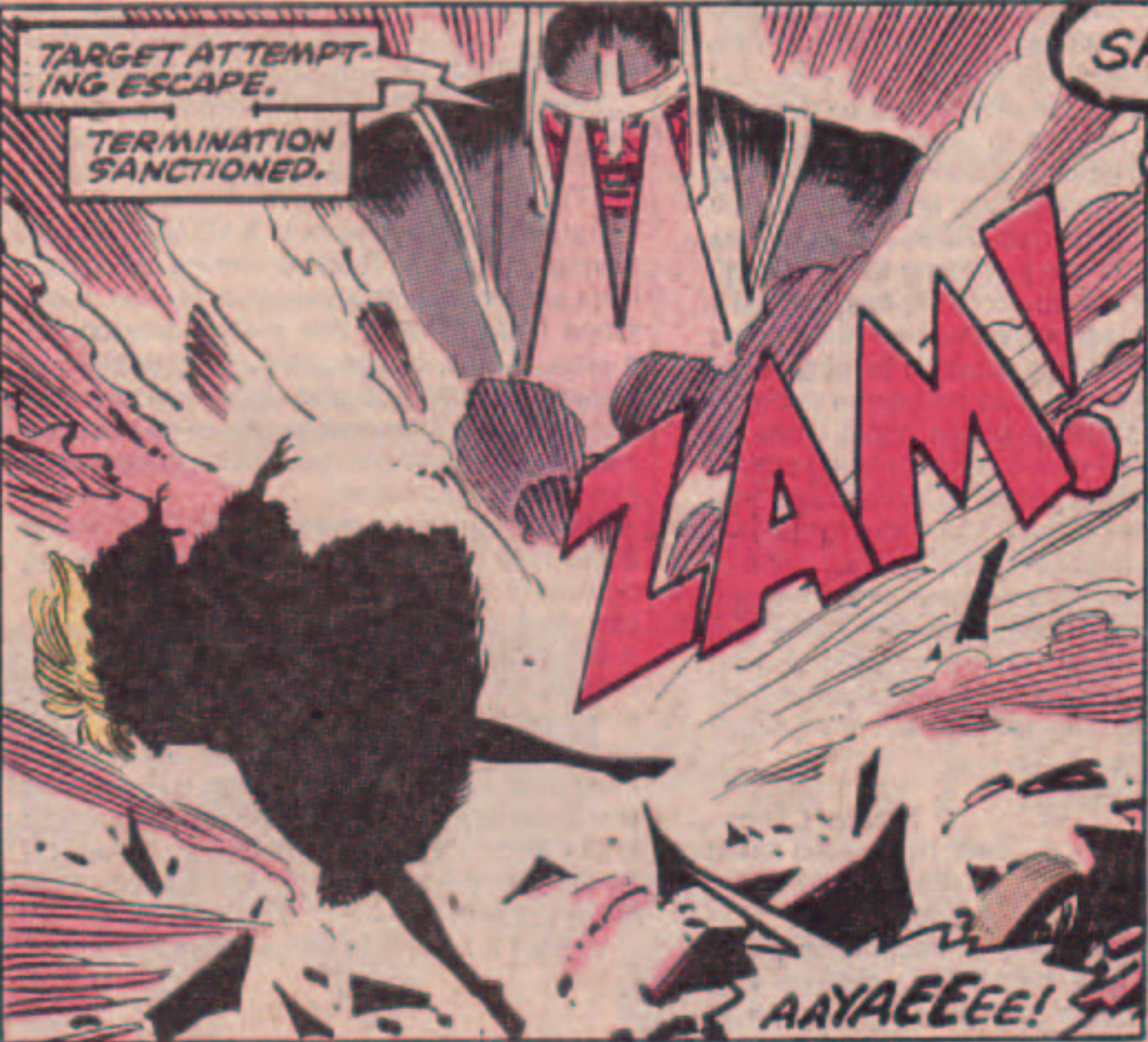
OTHER INCON-
CLUSIVE. POSSI-
BLY NON-EXISTENT.
POSSIBLE UNIT
DYSFUNCTION AS
A RESULT OF
INTEGRATION OF
MASTER MOLD
AND NIMROD
SYSTEMS.



HE'S
HESITATIN'!
RUN
FOR IT,
GIRL!

AH'M PRETTY
NEAR INVULNERABLE,
AH'LL DRAW HIS FIRE!

AN' KEEP
MY FINGERS
CROSSED!



TARGET ATTEMPT-
ING ESCAPE.

TERMINATION
SANCTIONED.

ZAM!

AAAYEEEE!

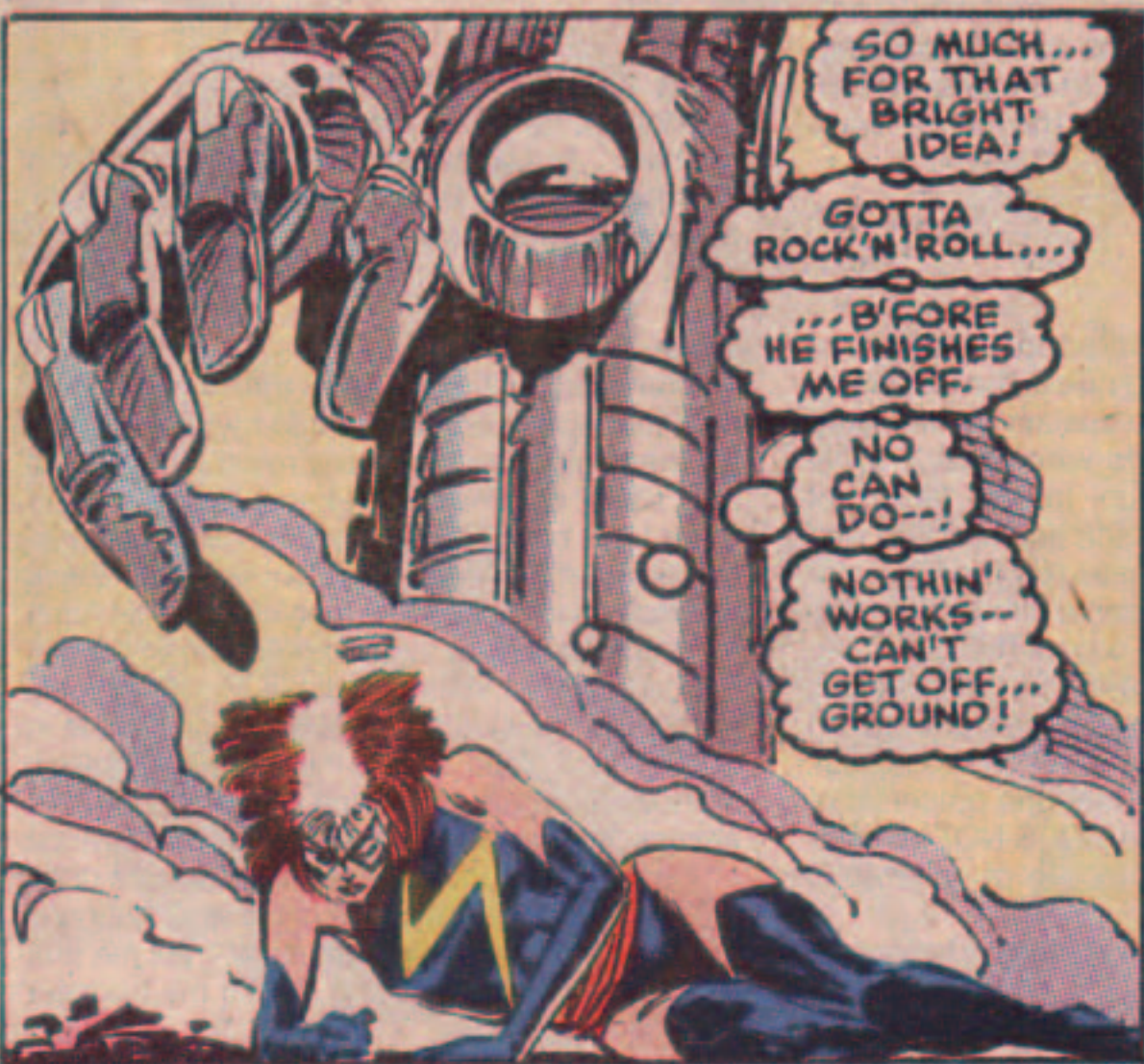


SHARON!

UH
UH
UH

DON'T
DIE, D'YOU
HEAR?

DEAR LORD,
PLEASE--
DON'T LET
HER DIE!



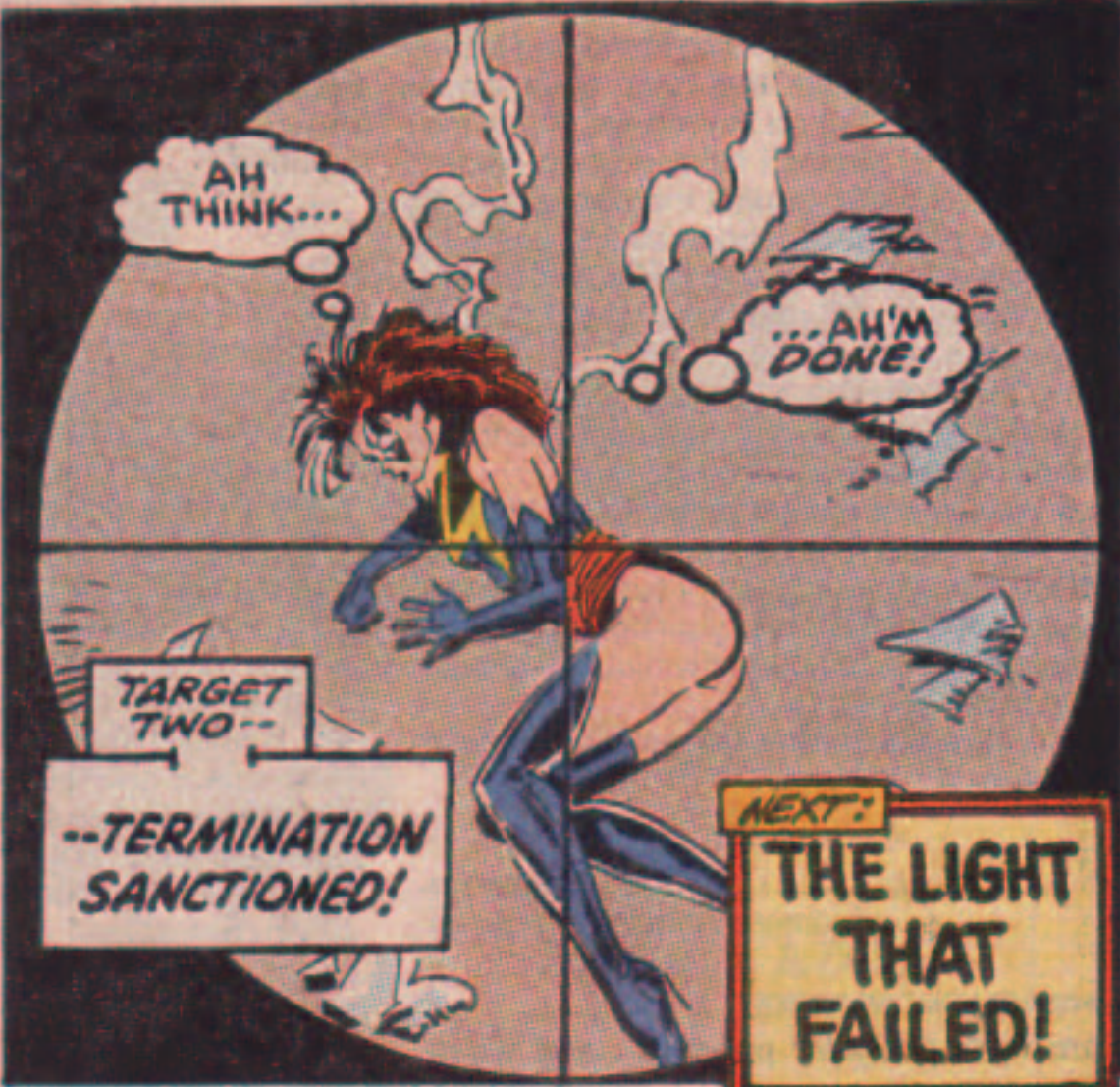
SO MUCH...
FOR THAT
BRIGHT
IDEA!

GOTTA
ROCK'N' ROLL...

...B'FORE
HE FINISHES
ME OFF.

NO
CAN
DO--!

NOTHIN'
WORKS--
CAN'T
GET OFF...
GROUND!



AH
THINK...

...AH'M
DONE!

TARGET
TWO--
--TERMINATION
SANCTIONED!

NEXT:
THE LIGHT
THAT
FAILED!