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THE UNCANNY

# X-MEN

#390

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The  
**LEGACY VIRUS  
CURED**



SAUNDERS  
1/00

DIRECT EDITION

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**-- BUT AT  
WHAT COST?**

SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK

HE WAS BORN  
HENRY MCCOY.

OVER THE YEARS  
HE CAME TO BE  
KNOWN BETTER  
AS THE

**BEAST--**

-- A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST  
TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A  
BOUNCING, BLUE-FURRED  
WELL... BEAST.

AND THOUGH YOU  
WOULDN'T KNOW IT  
TO LOOK AT HIM --

-- HE'S ABOUT  
TO SAVE THE  
ENTIRE WORLD.

MUHH

**PLIP  
PLIP  
PLAP  
PLIP**



A CHANGE IS COMING. A NEW BREED OF MAN, GIFTED WITH STRANGE AND FRIGHTENING POWERS, HAS EMERGED. MANY OF THESE MUTANTS BELIEVE THEY SHOULD RULE--AND THAT OPEN CONFLICT WITH THE HUMAN MAJORITY IS INEVITABLE. HATED AND FEARED BY THOSE THEY'VE SWORN TO PROTECT, ONE GROUP STANDS IN DEFENSE OF A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF GENETIC WAR.

# THE UNCANNY X-MEN

Stan Lee  
Presents:

# The CURE



NOT THAT HE HASN'T HAD HELP.

HER NAME WAS DR. MOIRA MACTAGGERT -- A RENOWNED GENETICIST WHO SPENT THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS OF HER LIFE RACING THE CLOCK.

TO DEVELOP AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE LEGACY VIRUS.

IT IS A FATAL DISEASE THAT PRIMARILY STRIKES MUTANTS -- THAT SMALL MINORITY OF INDIVIDUALS GIFTED WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS.

DAYS AGO, SHE DISCOVERED WHAT SHE BELIEVED WAS THAT LONG-FOUGHT CURE -- BUT SHE WAS KILLED BEFORE SHE COULD PASS IT ON TO THE WORLD.

LUCKILY -- MIRACULOUSLY -- THE KNOWLEDGE WAS SALVAGED FROM HER MIND EVEN AS SHE DIED.

THE BEAST HAS BEEN TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THAT INFORMATION INTO THE CORRECT SEQUENCE FOR SOME SEVENTY-TWO HOURS WITHOUT REST OR PAUSE.

FIVE MINUTES AGO... THE DEAD GAVE UP THEIR SECRETS.

OF COURSE, I NEED TO VERIFY THE PLANK CONSTANT...

MULTIPLIED BY THE GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION OF...  
...SO ON AND SO FORTH...

...AND PORTHWITH AND INSIDE OUTSIDE UPGRADE DOWN.

MOIRA: IS THIS -- IS THIS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME THE LAST FEW DAYS?

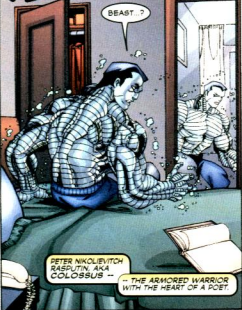
HAS IT BEEN RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF US THE WHOLE TIME?

OH MY STARS AND GARTERS

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**YEEEEEEAAAEEEEEE**



BEAST?

PETER NIKOLEVITCH RASPUTIN AKA COLOSSUS --

-- THE ARMORED WARRIOR WITH THE HEART OF A POET.



THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I RESIST STAYING OVERNIGHT AT THE MANSION

DR. CECILIA REYES.

THIS FORMER MEDICAL INTERN PREFERS THE CHAOS OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM TO THE DANGER ROOM

**EEEEEEEEEEHHHHHHH**



WHAT HAS -- HENRY?

PROFESSOR CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER --

-- THE FOUNDER AND TEACHER OF THE X-MEN.



NOW DAT'S NOT A SOUND YOU HEAR EV'DAY.

REMY "GAMBIT" LEBEAU.

ONE PART SCOUNDREL, ONE PART THIEF, ONE PART X-MAN.

**M**OMENTS LATER...



WOLVERINE, YOU HEARD IT TOO?

THE MUTANT KNOWN ONLY AS LOGAN.

NOT THE MOST CHARMING MUTANT IN THE WORLD.

I'M PRETTY SURE ALL OF WESTCHESTER HEARD IT.

SMASH



FAR BE IT FOR ME TO SUGGEST YOU SWEATHE THOSE ADAMANTIUM CLAWS --

-- BUT SHOULDN'T YOU ASK QUESTIONS FIRST, EVISCERATE LATER?

I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THE DOCTOR, TOVARISCH.

I ONLY POPPED THE CLAWS ON ONE HAND, BUB.

THAT AS HE BEING DISCREET.



THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD FULL O' PEOPLE WHO'D BE HAPPY IF WE NEVER FOUND A CURE FOR THE LEGACY VIRUS.

BEAST, ARE YOU IN THERE?



HANK?

HENRY?

HELLO..?

SEEP ALL I WAS SAYIN' WAS BE READY FOR ANYTHING.

**WHAMMO**

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU OF THE MUTATED MUTTONCHOPS! YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON ON THE PLANET TO PERPETRATE A PEEK AT THIS MOST PERFECT OF PANACEAS!

AFTER COUNTLESS UNCOUNTABLE AIMLESS ATTEMPTS AT ERADICATING THE HERETOFORE UNERADICABLE --

-- WE'VE DONE IT! THE LATE DR. MACTAGGERT AND I HAVE DONE IT!

HENRY, ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE...?

YES, PROFESSOR! WE'VE DONE IT!

WE FOUND THE CURE TO THE LEGACY VIRUS!

VA BEST BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, MOCY.







WE KNOW AS A RESULT OF THE MAPPING OF THE HUMAN GENOME THAT EVERY STRAND OF DNA IS DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER --  
-- WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EACH SHARES THE SAME BASIC PARTS.

GET TO THE POINT, MCCOY.  
THE LEGACY VIRUS TARGETS PEOPLE LIKE US -- AT LEAST IT DID BEFORE IT STARTED MUTATING.

HOW IT SPREAD HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST MYSTERIES OF MODERN SCIENCE.

WHY DO I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE I AM BACK IN BIOLOGY 10?

MY FAMILY HAS A SAYIN', DOC. 'IF YOU AINT GETTIN' BY ON BRILLIANCE -- TRY BULLDOZIN' 'DEM WITH BABBLIN'."



AU CONTRAIRE "MODERN SCIENCE" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT... NEVER HAS, NEVER WILL.  
THE VIRUS WAS DESIGNED AND UNLEASHED BY STRYFE, A MANIACAL MADMAN FROM TWO MILLENNIA HENCE.

"FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER FROM THE POOL OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, THE DISEASE WAS INITIALLY RELEASED WHEN 'PATIENT ZERO' USED HIS OR HER POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER CONTRACTING THE GERM.

"THE CHEMICAL REACTION THAT FOLLOWED WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, HAVE RESULTED IN A BURGE OF ADRENALINE THAT OVERWHELMED THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE OF THE VICTIM'S BRAIN.



"IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A 'TROJAN' VIRUS.



"UNLIKE, SAY AIDS, WHICH IS SPREAD THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF BODILY FLUID --

-- THE LEGACY VIRUS IS AIRBORNE AND PIGGYBACKS LATENT DNA STRANDS COMMON TO HUMANS AND MUTANTS."



SO ANYONE COULD CONTRACT IT ANY TIME.

HOW HORRIFYING A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON THAT COULDN'T BE COMBATED.

A DEATH SENTENCE TO ANYONE -- LIKE MY SISTER -- WHO WAS AFFLICTED.



"THAT WAS CORRECT, COLOSSUS.

"UNTIL NOW.

"NOW WE HAVE THE MEANS TO TARGET EACH OF THE CORRUPTED GENES.

"WE CAN CORRECT THEM AS INSTANTANEOUSLY AS THEY WERE CO-OPTED BY THE LEGACY VIRUS."





THE MOST IRONIC PART? MOIRA AND MYSELF AND EVERY OTHER SCIENTIFIC GENIUS ON THE PLANET TRIED TO TACKLE THIS CURE BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE.

WE LOOKED AT THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE VIRUS FROM EVERY CONCEIVABLE, LOGICAL, REASONABLE MANNER.

IT WASN'T UNTIL EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ANARCHISTIC TERRORIST, MYSTIQUE, USED MOIRA'S RESEARCH TO MUTATE THE LEGACY VIRUS SO THAT IT ONLY AFFECTED HUMANS --

-- THAT MOIRA WAS ABLE TO LOOK AT IT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SOMEONE AS EQUALLY INSANE AS STRYFE WAS.

IN SUMMATION, IT TOOK A MADWOMAN TO CRACK THE MIND OF A MADMAN.



SO WHY DON'T DAT MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER?

BUT... WE HAVE THE CURE.



TRUE, BUT IF THE ONLY WAY TO RELEASE THE VIRUS WAS BY TAKING THE LIFE OF THE FIRST VICTIM...?

...THEN IT STANDS TO REASON...



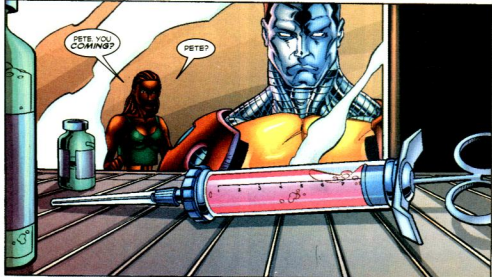
MY GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT!

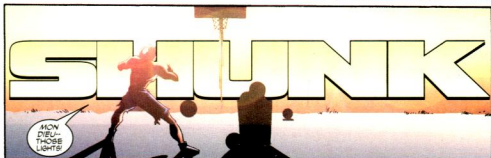
THE RELEASING OF THE CURE WOULD CAUSE THE SAME REACTION IN THE HOST BODY!



DAWN STRYFE.

HE DESIGNED A CURE THAT IS AS LETHAL AS THE DISEASE.







IM WITH YOU LIBERAL BEST  
THING WE CAN DO FOR THOSE  
THAT DIED--  
--IS TO KEEP ON  
LIVIN'. WHAT'S MORE, IT'S  
UP TO US TO BRING EVERY  
GOOD MOMENT WE CAN  
OUT OF OUR LIVES.

WHUMP



TWO 'GAINST  
ONE? IS DAT  
FAIR?!

ACTUALLY,  
IT WAS THE  
GREAT CHINESE  
PHILOSOPHER  
NAMED--

WHY AM I  
SUDDENLY WISHING  
FOR A SIX-PACK OF  
SENTINELS TO APPEAR  
ON DE FRONT  
LAWN?

NOT  
HARDLY,  
CATLIN.  
BUT WHO SAID  
LIFE WAS  
FAIR?

THE  
CANADIAN  
SHOOTS--

SWOSH

...HE  
SCORES!



OR DOES HE?



LIAMA

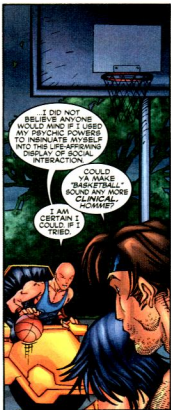
WEREN'T WE JUST OVER THERE A SECOND AGO?

SO IT WOULD SEEM.



MY APOLOGIES, GENTLEMEN.

BECAUSE THE "NO POWERS" RULE HAD ALREADY BEEN UPENDED...



I DID NOT BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD MIND IF I USED MY PSYCHIC POWERS TO INSINUATE MYSELF INTO THE LIFE-APPROXIMATING DISPLAY OF SOCIAL INTERACTION.

COULD YA MAKE "BASKETBALL" SOUND ANY MORE CLINICAL, HOMME?

I AM CERTAIN I COULD IF I TRIED.



INSTEAD, LET MY ACTIONS SPEAK FOR ME



"YOU GET ONE SHOT IN LIFE - TAKE IT!"

"IT DON'T MATTER WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE, SO LONG AS YOU WIN!"



HOW ABOUT "SHUT UP AND PLAY"?

"SHUT UP"? I AM SHOCKED, PROFESSOR - SHOCKED!

AND, SIR, YOU'RE FOULING ME.



**I**NSIDE

YOU NEVER GOT TO MEET LLYANA. I USED TO CALL HER "SNOWFLAKE" BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE SNOWFLAKE IN THE WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS.

YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED HER, DR. REYES. EVERYONE DID. I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT HER.



OVER COFFEE IN THE KITCHEN.

I LET HER DOWN.



PETER, YOU HEARD WHAT HANK SAID. THE LEGACY VIRUS KILLS AT RANDOM. THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO SAVE HER.

NOT FROM THE DISEASE, NO. BUT SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN HERE. NOT IN THE STATES. I SHOULD HAVE SENT HER HOME, TO RUSSIA.

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAFE THERE. BUT I LET HER STAY.



I THINK, IN PART, BECAUSE I WAS LONELY.

PETER, SACRIFICING YOURSELF ISN'T GOING TO EVEN THE SCORE. NOTHING YOU CAN DO IS GOING TO BRING HER BACK. I'M A DOCTOR, I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND LET YOU THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT.







«SOMEDAY, THERE MAY BE A CURE THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A SACRIFICE.»

«SOMEDAY, THE VIOLENCE WILL STOP.»

«SOMEDAY, CHILDREN LIKE ILYANA WILL NOT BE VICTIMS OF A WAR THEY ARE NOT A PART OF.»



«BUT I CANNOT STAND BY FOR EVEN ONE MORE HOUR, KNOWING SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE ELSE'S LITTLE SISTER IS DYING FROM THIS DISEASE.»



«SNOWFLAKE!»

«I AM COMING HOME.»



HE CAN FEEL THE CHEMICAL REACTION BUILDING.

HE KNOWS THAT BY TRIGGERING HIS MUTANT POWER AGAIN--

--HE'LL RELEASE THE CURE INTO THE ETHER.



THERE IS AMAZEMENT AS HE REALIZES THAT HE REALLY IS GOING TO DIE THIS TIME. THAT HE'LL CLOSE HIS EYES, AND NEVER WAKE UP.

...AND THEN, FOR JUST A MOMENT, HE IS MORE FRIGHTENED THAN HE'S EVER BEEN.

AS CONSCIOUSNESS LEAVES HIM, HE SWEARS HE CAN SMELL HIS SISTER'S NEWBORN SKIN, CAN HEAR HER INNOCENT LAUGHTER--



--AND PETER RASPUTIN KNOWS HE'S DONE WHAT IS RIGHT.



WHAT IS--??

DAT LOOKS LIKE COLOSSUS'S ENERGY SIGNATURE, TIMES INFINITY!





"YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU TO AMERICA? BUT IF I POSSESS SUCH POWER AS YOU SAY-- DOES IT NOT BELONG TO THE STATE?"

"POWER SUCH AS YOURS BELONGS TO THE WORLD, PETER-- TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL."

"AND BELIEVE ME-- YOUR POWERS ARE **NEEDED!**"

"THEN COME, WE WILL TALK OF THIS WITH MY PARENTS."

"AND SO THIS PROFESSOR WANTS TO TAKE ME WITH HIM-- TO TEACH ME HOW TO DEAL WITH MY... MY MUTANT POWERS."

"TH--THERE IS WISDOM IN HIS WORDS, PAPA-- BUT I AM HAPPY **HERE**. TELL ME, PAPA-- WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

"DO AS YOUR **HEART** TELLS YOU, MY SON. IT WILL NOT **BETRAY** YOU."

"MY HEART TELLS ME TO **STAY**, PAPA-- BUT MY **CONSCIENCE** TELLS ME OTHERWISE."

"I **MUST** GO, PAPA."

"THEN IT IS **RIGHT** THAT YOU **DO**."

Excerpted from  
Giant-Size  
X-Men I, 1975

**The End**