

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

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THE GRANDEUR AND
THE GLORY BEGIN
ANEW WITH...

FROM
THE ASHES
OF THE PAST
THEY GROW
THE FIRES
OF THE FUTURE!

SECOND GENESIS!

WINZELDORF, GERMANY:
NESTLED DEEP IN THE
BAVARIAN ALPS, THIS TINY
VILLAGE HAS HARDLY
CHANGED OVER THE
CENTURIES.



IN WINZELDORF,
LIFE IS GENTLE,
PEACEFUL --

--FOR NOTHING EVER HAPPENS
HERE TO DISTURB THE DOMES-
TIC...



...TRANQUILITY?

THIS WAY,
MEN! THE
MONSTER
WENT THIS
WAY!

MONSTER,
IS IT? THE FOOLS! IT IS
THEY WHO ARE THE
MONSTERS--



--THEY
WITH THEIR
MINDLESS
PREJUDICES!

PERHAPS THINGS WOULD
BE SIMPLER--**SAFER**--
IF I HAD STAYED WITH
DER JAHRMARKT--



--BUT THE LIFE OF
A **CARNIVAL FREAK**
IS NOT FOR ME--
NOT FOR **KURT
WAGNER!**

LET THEM
COME IF THEY
MUST-- LET
THEM TRY TO
KILL ME--!



AT LEAST
IF I DIE,
IT WILL BE AS
A MAN!

IRONICALLY,
THE ASTONISH-
ING LEAP ALONE
LENS DOUBT
TO **KURT
WAGNER'S
HUMANITY...**



WE'VE
GOT
HIM
NOW!

COME DOWN,
MONSTER! COME
DOWN-- OR
WE'LL BURN
YOU DOWN!



...AND HIS **HIDEOUS
HOWLING**, LIKE
THAT OF A
BAYING
BEAST,
DENIES IT
COMPLETELY!

SO AWAY,
YOU FOOLS!
I HAVE DONE
NOTHING!

BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE THE CORNERED MISFIT RECEIVES IS ONE HE HAD HARDLY EXPECTED...

THEY'RE UTTERLY MAD! THEIR THREAT WAS SERIOUS!

THEY'LL DESTROY THEIR ENTIRE VILLAGE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY DESTROY ME!



AND FOR WHAT REASON? I CAME AMONG THEM ONLY TO LEARN--

--YET ALL I'VE LEARNED THUS FAR ARE THE WAYS OF BLIND, UNREASONING VIOLENCE!



WELL, IF THAT IS ALL THAT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE NORMAL WORLD HAVE TO TEACH ME--



--I WILL SHOW THEM THAT I LEARN MY LESSONS WELL!



THWAMM!

VERY WELL INDEED!



CHOK!

HOWLING WILDLY, KURT WABNER PLUNGES THRU THE THICK OF THE MOB--

--UNTIL THE SHEER WEIGHT OF ITS NUMBERS CARRIES HIM DOWN!



WE HAVE HIM! WE HAVE HIM!

QUICKLY--BRING THE STAKE!



NOW, MONSTER-- WE WILL BE RID OF YOU!

NOW WE WILL...

STOP!



AND, REMARKABLY... THEY DO!

VAS...? TH- THEY'RE NOT MOVING!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?



I HAPPENED TO THEM, KURT WAGNER.

YOU DID... THIS TO THEM? BUT NOW--? WHY?

MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER!



I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D COME HERE TO LEARN, MY FRIEND. I AM A TEACHER. I RUN A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS YOU.

A SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS!



MUTANT? YES... I HAVE HEARD THE WORD.

YOU ARE A MUTANT, KURT.

I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.



CAN YOU HELP ME TO BE NORMAL?

AFTER TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNE, KURT-- WOULD YOU TRULY WANT TO BE?



PERHAPS NOT. I WANT ONLY TO BE A WHOLE KURT WAGNER!

IF YOU CAN MAKE ME THAT, TEACHER... I WILL GO WITH YOU.

QUEBEC, CANADA: FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION.



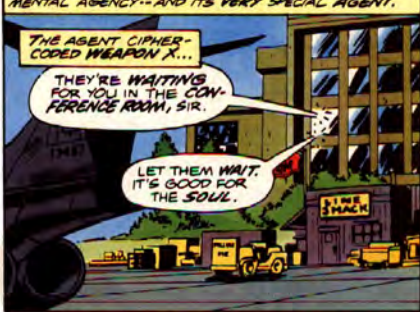
FEWER STILL KNOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.

IT IS THE HOME BASE OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY--AND ITS VERY SPECIAL AGENT.

THE AGENT CIPHER-CODED WEAPON X...

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.

LET THEM WAIT. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.



... BUT BETTER KNOWN TO US AS-- THE WOLVERINE!

ALL RIGHT, GENTS-- I'M HERE!

NOW WHO'S THIS BIGWIG YOU WANT ME TO MEET?



I AM THE BIGWIG, WOLVERINE. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER AT YOUR SERVICE.

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?



APPARENTLY THE TOP BRASS IS IMPRESSED, WOLVERINE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE PROFESSOR IS HERE TO MAKE YOU SOME SORT OF OFFER!

AN OFFER, EH? OKAY. PROF-- YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY. WHAT'S THE DEAL?

I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT THEN.



I KNOW OF YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE NULK*-- AND, MOREOVER, I KNOW OF YOUR POWERS.

*IN NULK*BI. --LEN.

YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A MUTANT-- AND I HAVE NEED OF MUTANTS--



--DESPERATE NEED!



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: A VISITOR TO THE GRAND OL' OPRY FINDS HE HAS A VISITOR OF HIS OWN...



SHORTLY, IN THE BANSHEE'S SHABBY QUARTERS...

SO THAT'S THE STORY, IS IT? THEN SURE AN' I'LL HELP YB, PROFESSOR.

'T'WILL BE NICE TO TREAD THE STRAIGHT AN' NARROW. FER A CHANGE.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA: ATOP A LONELY KNOLL, THERE STANDS A GREAT STONE PORTAL.



MEN COME TO IT IN HUMILITY, THEIR VOICES RAISED IN PRAISE AND SONG-- AND PRAYERFUL SUPPLICATION.

"ORORO, GREAT GODDESS OF THE STORM," THE VOICES CRY, "COME UNTO US AND EASE OUR BURDEN!"



AND WITH THE HOLLOW PEAL OF THUNDER AND THE MOAN OF LONELY WINDS --

-- THE STORM GODDESS COMES!

I AM HERE, MY CHILDREN. WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?



THERE IS DROUGHT UPON THE LAND, BLESSED ONE. OUR CROPS WITHER, OUR GRASSES PARCH.

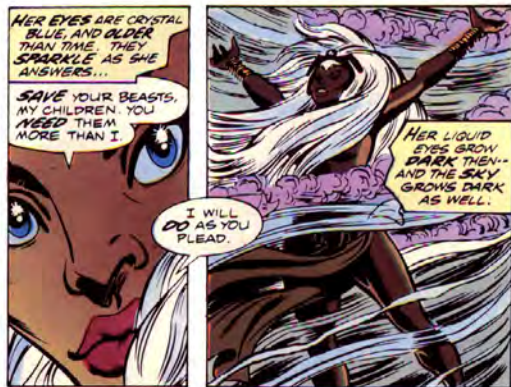
HER EYES ARE CRYSTAL BLUE, AND OLDER THAN TIME. THEY SPARKLE AS SHE ANSWERS...


SAVE YOUR BEASTS, MY CHILDREN. YOU NEED THEM MORE THAN I.

I WILL DO AS YOU PLEAD.

TEN GOATS AND CHICKENS SHALL WE SLAY IN YOUR HONOR-- IF YOU WILL ONLY BRING US RAIN!


HER LIQUID EYES GROW DARK THEN-- AND THE SKY GROWS DARK AS WELL.



A woman with long, flowing white hair and a dark, form-fitting outfit is flying through a turbulent storm. She has her arms outstretched, and her hair is blowing in the wind. The background is filled with swirling blue and purple clouds and rain.


ONCE MORE,
THE HOWLING
WINDS
COME UP--

--AND SWEEP
THE STORM
GODDESS AWAY!

The Storm Goddess is shown in a smaller, more dynamic pose, flying through a dark, stormy sky. Bright white lightning bolts are striking around her, and her hair is blowing wildly. She has a determined expression on her face.


SHE SOARS ALOFT
LIKE AN EBON BIRD,
LIGHTNING LANCING
FROM HER FINGERTIPS,
THE GLOW OF LIFE
SHINING FULL UPON
HER FACE.

SHE IS HAPPY HERE-- ONLY
TRULY HAPPY HERE AMONG
THE ELEMENTS--

A close-up of the Storm Goddess's face. She has a sad expression, with her eyes closed and a tearful look. Her long white hair is visible around her face. The background is dark and rainy.


--AND THE RAGING SKY,
TOUCHED BY HER HAP-
PINESS...

...WEEPS.

The Storm Goddess is shown returning to the ground. She is flying down a wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a walkway, amidst a heavy rain. Several other figures are visible in the background, some appearing to be in a state of panic or confusion.

WHEN THE STORM
GODDESS RETURNS
TO EARTH AT
LAST, HER JOY
IS SHARED
BY ALL.

A MOST
IMPRESSIVE
DISPLAY, ORORO...
TRULY
BEAUTIFUL.

The Storm Goddess is shown in a close-up, looking down at a man whose back is to the camera. She has a serious expression. The background is dark and rainy.

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT
BUSINESS HAVE YOU IN
ORORO'S LAND?

I AM CALLED
XAVIER--

--AND I HAVE
COME TO MAKE
YOU AN OFFER
I PRAY YOU
WILL NOT
REFUSE.

AN... OFFER?
WHAT HAVE
YOU TO OFFER
A GODDESS?

YOU HAVE A **LAND, ORORO--**
AND PEOPLE WHO **ADORE**
YOU.

I OFFER YOU A
WORLD-- AND PEOPLE
WHO MAY **FEAR** YOU,
HATE YOU-- BUT
PEOPLE WHO **NEED**
YOU NONETHELESS.

THE WORLD I
OFFER IS NOT
BEAUTIFUL--
BUT IT IS **REAL--**

--FAR MORE REAL THAN
THE **FANTASY** YOU'RE
LIVING **NOW.**

"YOU ARE NO **GODDESS,**
ORORO. YOU ARE A
MUTANT-- AND YOU HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES.

"COME WITH ME, CHILD.
TASTE THE WORLD **OUTSIDE.**
YOU MAY FIND ITS
FLAVOR **BITTER--** OR
SURPRISINGLY **SWEET."**

YOU PRESENT A MOST **PECULIAR**
ARGUMENT--YET I SENSE A **DEEP**
SINCERITY IN YOUR WORDS.

ALL RIGHT, I
WILL... **COME**
WITH YOU.

PERHAPS THE TIME HAS
COME FOR ME TO **LEAVE**
THE **NEST** AT LAST.

OSAKA, JAPAN:
TWO OLD
ACQUAINTANCES
SHARE TEA IN
THE **SPLENDID**
GARDEN OF
SHIRO YOSHIDA...

I KNOW YOUR
FEELINGS
TOWARD THE
WESTERN
WORLD,
SHIRO--

--AND I WOULD
NOT HAVE
COME
TO YOU...

...BUT YOU REQUIRE
HELP THAT ONLY
I MAY GIVE!

SO! I
OWE YOU
NOTHING,
PROFESSOR
-- BUT
PERHAPS
I OWE
SOMETHING
TO MYSELF.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE
MORE FOR THE WORLD TO
HEAR FROM--
SUNFIRE!

LAKE BAIKAL,
SIBERIA: IT HAS
BEEN A **GOOD**
YEAR FOR THE
1ST. ORDYNSKI
COLLECTIVE FARM.

--AND THOSE WHO **TOIL** IN THE FIELDS
ARE FILLED WITH A FEELING OF
SATISFACTION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF
A JOB WELL DONE--

--AND **FEAR!**

PETER--
LOOK! YOUR
SISTER--!

THE CROP HAS
BEEN **LARGER**
THAN EXPECTED
THE **WHEAT**
FILLS THE FIELDS
LIKE AN **AMBER**
SEA --

WHAT
IS...
NO!

PETER RASPUTIN LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK--AND HIS EYES GROW WIDE WITH HORROR!

HE DISCOVERS IT ALL IN AN INSTANT;
THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR--
THE CHILD PLAYING BLINDLY IN ITS PATH--

--AND, WITHOUT HESITATION,
PETER RASPUTIN IS RUNNING,
LEGS PUMPING,
HEART POUNDING--



--THE VERY AIR
AROUND HIM
CRACKLING WITH
THE ENERGY
OF HIS EXERTION--



--ENERGY
RELEASED
IN A MOST
ASTONISHING
MANNER!



THE ARMORED MA-
CHINE BEARS RELENT-
LESSLY DOWN UPON
THE UNWITTING CHILD--



--AS AN ARMORED
COLOSSUS
SNATCHES HER
FROM ITS PATH!



THERE IS NO TIME FOR PETER RASPUTIN TO
MOVE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--



--THUS HE STANDS HIS
GROUND AS THE RAMPANT
TRACTOR PLUNGES
TOWARD HIM--

--AND HE WONDERS HOW HIS POOR NEIGHBORS WILL EVER AFFORD TO BUY ANOTHER!



THAT, THOUGH, IS A WORRY FOR ANOTHER DAY.

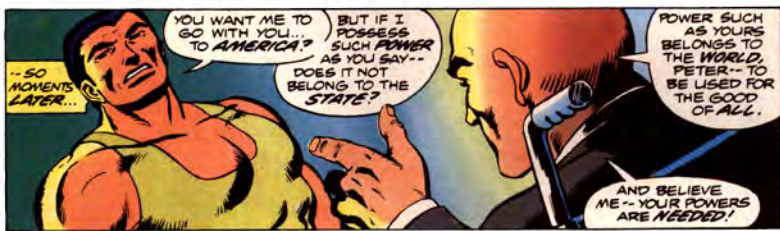


THIS DAY WILL BE FILLED WITH PROBLEMS ENOUGH.

PETER RASPUTIN, I WISH TO TALK TO YOU.



BY NOW, WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION--

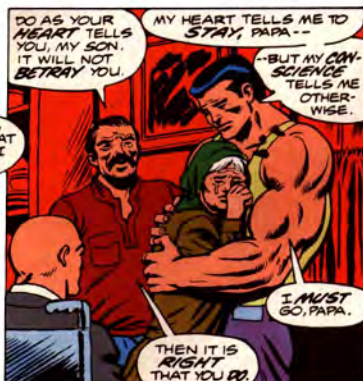


"THEN COME, WE WILL TALK OF THIS WITH MY PARENTS."

...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.

DOSYIDANYA, PETER. OUR LOVE GOES WITH YOU.

DO NOT WORRY, MAMA-- I WILL WRITE YOU.

GOOD-BYE, PAPA-- I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD.

WE ARE ALREADY PROUD... MY SON.

CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA: JOHN PROUDSTAR DOES NOT LIKE THE RESERVATION. HE DOES NOT LIKE TO WATCH THE OLD ONES, SITTING SLUMPED AGAINST THEIR DOORSTEPS, DREAMING DREAMS OF GLORY LONG GONE.

JOHN PROUDSTAR IS AN APACHE-- AND HE IS ASHAMED OF HIS PEOPLE.

THE APACHE WERE MEANT TO BE HUNTERS, WARRIORS-- NOT SAD-EYED SIMPERING SQUAWS.

THEY WERE MEANT TO RUN FREE THRU THE CRISP PLAINS GRASSES, THE WIND BLOWING WILDLY THRU THEIR HAIR.

ONCE NOTHING COULD STAND BEFORE THE APACHE.

-- BUT NEVER DID ANY BISON FALL LIKE-- THIS!

THERE, HORNED ONE-- DO YOU SEE?

THERE IS STILL A MAN AMONG THE APACHE!

THE BISON THAT COVERED THESE PLAINS FELL LIKE RAIN BEFORE APACHE SKILL, APACHE BRAVERY--

THOOM!

AND SUCH A MAN HAVE I
COME *LOOKING* FOR, JOHN
PROUDSTAR.



NOW HOW IN BLAZES
DID A CRIPPLE
GET WAY OUT HERE?
NOT THAT IT
MATTERS
MUCH.



I'VE COME TO HELP YOU
FULFILL YOUR DREAM--
TO GIVE PRIDE BACK
TO YOUR PEOPLE.

YOU ARE SPECIAL,
JOHN PROUDSTAR.
YOU ARE A
MUTANT.

AND YOU ARE
NEEDED.



AND YOU CAN
STUFF A CACTUS,
CLUSTER!

THE WHITE
MAN NEEDS
ME? THAT'S
TOUGH!



I OWE
HIM
NOTHING
BUT THE
GRIEF HE'S
GIVEN MY
PEOPLE!

NOW
BEAT
IT!

I OFFER YOU
A CHANCE TO
HELP THE WORLD--
AND YOU TURN
YOUR BACK
ON ME?



THEN
PERHAPS WHAT
THEY SAY IS
TRUE!

PERHAPS THE APACHE
ARE ALL FRIGHTENED
SELFISH CHILDREN!

HO-KAY... THAT
DOES
IT!



AIN'T
NOBODY
THAT
CALLS
ME A
COWARD,
MISTER!

I'M AS GOOD AS
THE NEXT GUY--
HELL, I'M
BETTER!

YOU GIVE ME
A CHANCE--
I'LL PROVE
IT!

AND YOU WILL HAVE
YOUR CHANCE, JOHN.
I PROMISE YOU
THAT.



BUT WILL YOU--
WILL ANY OF
MY NEW X-MEN
BE EQUAL TO
THE TASK THAT
LIES BEFORE
YOU?

OR WILL YOU
CARRY THE WORLD
DOWN INTO
RUIN?



WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK: THE SCHOOL HAD SEEMED A LATTER-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST-- BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAD CLOSED THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN MERE MINUTES.

NOW PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER SITS, SOMBERLY STUDYING HIS COLORFULLY-COSTUMED HOUSE-GUESTS--

--AND WHATEVER THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AT THIS POINT ARE HIS ALONE TO KNOW.

IN ALL MY LIFE, SUCH CLOTHING AS THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN!

THE COSTUME IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE FIT--PER-FECT! BUT HOW DID YOU...?



THE UNIFORMS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES, WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES WHERE NECESSARY.

I OBTAINED THEM FROM A MAN NAMED REED RICHARDS, AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL LEARN MORE OF HIM AND HIS FRIENDS LATER.

BUT RIGHT NOW...



RIGHT NOW YOU WILL TELL US WHY YOU DRAGGED US HERE, PROFESSOR!

I FOR ONE, AM SWIFTLY LOSING MY PATIENCE!

SUNFIRE, PLEASE--



--IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO WASTE YOUR TIME.

I'VE MERELY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF ONE WHO CAN EXPLAIN THE SITUATION FAR BETTER THAN I.



MY FRIENDS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT SCOTT SUMMERS--

--THE MAN CALLED CYCLOPS!

HE WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS.



THE "DETAILS" PEOPLE, ARE DEPRESSINGLY SIMPLE!

YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED HERE BECAUSE-- THE X-MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED!



YOU SEVEN ARE OUR ONLY HOPE OF.. BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.

COME ON. I MAY AS WELL SHOW YOU WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!



THIS IS CEREBR0, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED MUTANT-DETECTOR!

IT'S THRU THIS MECHANISM THAT WE DISCOVERED ALL OF YOU--

--AND LOST MY CLOSEST FRIENDS!

WE'D ALL ANSWERED THE SIGNAL-ALARM WITHIN SECONDS: THE PROFESSOR, ANGEL, ICEMAN, MARVEL GIRL, LORNA DANE, MY BROTHER HAVOK, AND MYSELF...

WHAT IS IT, SIR? CEREBRO HAS NEVER REACTED SO VIOLENTLY BEFORE.

WHAT IT IS, SCOTT, IS-- INCREDIBLE!

APPARENTLY, CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A NEW MUTANT ON THE ISLAND OF KIRAKKA IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC--

--A MUTANT SO POWERFUL AS TO DEFY CLASSIFICATION!

IT SEEMS YOU ALL HAVE WORK TO DO, SCOTT...

FIND THAT MUTANT-- QUICKLY-- BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FINDS HIM FIRST!

YOU HEARD THE PROFESSOR, X-MEN-- IT'S TRAVEL IN' TIME!

"SHORTLY AFTER, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED STRATO-JET ARCED HIGH OVER THE PATCHWORK COUNTRY-- SIDE --

--STREAKING TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN CONFRONTATION--

"--BUT AT THAT MOMENT, OUR MINDS WERE ON OTHER THINGS.

WISH WE COULD'VE CONTACTED THE BEAST! HANK MCCOY'S DEXTEROUS DIGITS MIGHT BE--EH--MANDY ON A JOB LIKE THIS.

HANK GRADUATED THE X-MEN, JEAN. IF HE HASN'T GOT TIME FOR US NOW, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS.

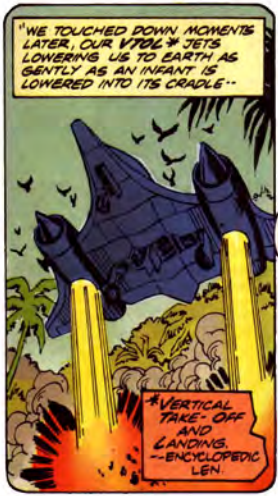


RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT BUSINESS OF OUR OWN TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT'S KRANKA DEAD AHEAD!

YEECH--YOU'D NEED A SUPER-POWER JUST TO SURVIVE ON THAT DESOLATE MUD-BAR..

ENOUGH BANTER! STRAP IN FOR LANDING!



"WE TOUCHED DOWN MOMENTS LATER, OUR VTOL * JETS LOWERING US TO EARTH AS GENTLY AS AN INFANT IS LOWERED INTO ITS CRADLE.."

*VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING. --ENCYCLOPEDIA LEM.



"--BUT WE WERE NOT INFANTS--AND THIS WAS DEFINITELY NO CHILD'S GAME."

I THINK WE TOOK THE WRONG BUS, GANS. THIS PLACE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE CLEVELAND.

ALL THE INSECTS IN THE AIR-- THE OVERGROWN JUNGLE..!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE THIS IS CLEVELAND.



I TOLD YOU BEFORE, ICEMAN--SHELFIE THE SNAPPY PATER!

WE HAVE A DIFFICULT JOB AHEAD OF US, FINDING THAT NEW MUTANT..!

MAYBE AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE, CYKE--WHEN YOU CONSIDER WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!



POINT TAKEN, ANGEL, LET'S FAN OUT AND SEE IF...

BEHIND US-- L-LOOK! IT'S...IT'S...

QUICK, EVERYBODY-- SCATTER!

GET MOVING BEFORE WE...



"I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I NEVER EVEN SAW WHAT HIT US!"

"MY HEAD WAS A THROBBLING MASS OF PAIN AND SCREAMING IMAGES WHEN I STRUGGLED AWAKE. LORD KNOWS HOW LONG AFTERWARD."



"I DIDN'T REALIZE WHERE I WAS, NOR DID I REALLY CARE. ALL THAT CON- CERNED ME WAS..."



"MY FRIENDS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER X-MEN?"

"AND WORSE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME?"



"MY EYES! DEAR HEAVEN, MY EYES..."

"THEY'RE UNCOVERED! THEY'RE..."



"THEY'RE... NORMAL! POWERLESS!"

"HOWEVER HARD I TRY, I CAN'T PROJECT MY OPTIC BLASTS!"



"DID YOU HEAR ME, WORLD? I CAN'T... *HHH?*"

"THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED I WAS BACK ON THE STRATO-JET..."



"--AND I WASN'T IN CONTROL!"

"AUTOMATIC PILOT IS JAMMED! CAN'T TURN THIS CRATE BACK TO THE ISLAND..."



"I SPENT THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES POUNDING FUTILELY ON THE CONTROL PANEL, THEN RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE SITUATION AND SAT BACK IN MY SEAT."

"I WASN'T HAPPY BY THE TIME I REACHED WEST-CHESTER..."



"--NOT HAPPY AT ALL!"

SLAMM!

"PROFESSOR -- I'M BACK!"

"CYCLOPS?! WHAT--? WH--WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?"

"THE PROFESSOR WAS NO HAPPIER THAN I AFTER I TOLD HIM..."



"DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THE OTHER X-MEN ARE STILL ON THAT ISLAND--"

"--AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?"

"I KNOW NOTHING, PROFESSOR-- EXCEPT THAT SOMETHING ON KRAKOA CURED MY EYES AND DEPOSITED ME BACK IN THAT..."

HUH? WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

YOUR EYES, SCOTT-- THEY'RE GLOWING AGAIN--?

QUICKLY, SCOTT-- GRAB SOME PROTECTIVE LENSES!

YOUR OPTIC POWERS HAVE RETURNED!

NO-- NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

"BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EVEN ASK!"

"THE OPTIC ENERGIES THAT HAD CURSED ME SINCE MY EARLY TEENS WERE BACK AGAIN--

"--WITH A VENGEANCE!"

"AND THIS TIME THEY WERE SO STRONG, EVEN I COULD NOT CONTROL THEM!"

GROOM!

SKAKK!

THE PROFESSOR MODIFIED ONE OF MY OLD VISORS TO CONTAIN MY INCREASED POWER--

--THEN LEFT ME HERE TO RETRAIN MYSELF WHILE HE WENT IN SEARCH OF YOU!

AND HE FOUND US! SO NOW WHAT?

SO NOW WE GO BACK TO KRAKOA TO FIND THE ORIGINAL X-MEN--

--AND THE MUTANT THAT DEFEATED US!

INCORRECT, CYCLOPS! NOW YOU GO BACK TO KRAKOA-- NOT I!

I WILL HAVE NO PART IN THIS FOOL'S ERRAND!

WHAT--?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUNFIRE-- WE OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW MUTANTS AND...

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, SUNFIRE-- BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ARGUING!

MOMENTS LATER, THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD-- AND THERE IS ONLY ONE EMPTY SEAT ON BOARD...

I CERTAINLY WILL NOT RISK MY LIFE TO HELP THEM!

THE REST OF US HAVE A JOB TO DO-- AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT!



IT SEEMS I HAVE HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF MUTANT CARMAB-DRIE-- AND I MUST SAY, CYCLOPS--

-- I DID NOT LIKE IT!

"WE'RE ALL INVOLVED IN THIS FIASCO FOR OUR OWN REASONS, GIRLY-- AN' FATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK AIN'T ONE OF... HUH?"



MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, SISTER-- BUT THIS GROUP AIN'T EXACTLY A MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY!

"HEY, ONE-EYE-- THERE'S SOMETHING FOLLOWIN' US!"

"I SEE IT, GERONIMO! IT'S..."

"WELL, I'LL BE JIGGERED, ONE-EYE-- THE JAP!"

ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN THE HATCH, CYCLOPS--

OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO REY ALL THE WAY TO KRAKOIA BY MYSELF?

SO-- THE PRODIGAL MUTANT RETURNS! WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, SUNFIRE-- AFRAID TO GO HOME ALONE?



MY REASONS ARE NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY OWN, MISFIT! YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT!

ASSAULT FORCE!

AN HOUR PASSES-- TWO HOURS-- UNTIL THE FORSAKEN ATOLL CALLED KOBAKA LOOMS FULL BEFORE THE VIEWPORTS...

SO THAT'S WHERE YOU MISLAID YOUR PARTNERS, HUH?

CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR TASTE IN VACATION SPOTS, GUMMERS!

"AND I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR, WOLVERINE. NOR YOURS, THUNDERBIRD!"

"THE NAME IS PROUDSTAR, ONE-EYE!"

"NOT ANYMORE! THE PROFESSOR HAS GIVEN YOU ALL CODENAMES, GROUP! YOU MIGHT AS WELL START GETTING USED TO THEM!"

"NOW THE ASSAULT TEAMS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS!"

"STORM, YOU AND COLOSSUS WILL COME IN FROM THE NORTH!"

"BANSHEE AND THE WOLVERINE WILL MOVE ACROSS FROM THE EAST!"

"TIS A PLEASURE TA BE WORRYIN' WITH YE, LADDY."

WHOOPEE.

"SUNFIRE AND THE NIGHTCRAWLER WILL START SEARCHING FROM THE SOUTH!"

NO-- NOT HIM!

I DID NOT HEAR CYCLOPS GIVING YOU A CHOICE, MAN.

THUNDERBIRD AND I WILL HANDLE THE WEST END OF THE ISLAND!

NOW GET READY, SOUTH TEAM-- YOUR PROUDSTAR IS COMING UP!

I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE, CYCLOPS!

WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT IT WHEN YOU GET BACK! NOW-- GO!

"EAST TEAM -- GO!"

CRIPES! DO YOU HAVE TO SCREECH LIKE THAT?

"NORTH TEAM--"

THAT IS OUR SIGNAL, STORM!

COLOSSUS --NO!



YOU FOOL--
YOU CANNOT
FLY!

OF COURSE
NOT-- BUT
I CAN LAND
WITH THE
BEST
OF THEM!



THE CHICK AND THE RUSSKIE
HAVE LANDED-- AND IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE ARGUING--

--WHICH IS ABOUT
PAR FOR THIS
OUTFIT!

WE'RE
GOING
DOWN
NEXT,
THUNDERBIRD--
STRAP IN!



ONCE MORE, THE STRATO-JET'S
VTOL SYSTEM LOWERS IT
TO EARTH-- AND THOUGH
HE TRIES, THE MAN CALLED
CYCLOPS CANNOT SUP-
PRESS A SHUDDER.

HOW MANY MORE WILL
WE LOSE THIS TIME,
HE WONDERS MORBIDLY.
WILL I EVEN LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?



BUT HE IS A PROFESSIONAL, THIS STAR-CROSSED
MUTANT. THE QUESTIONS FOLLOW HIM AS HE
STEPS OUT UPON THE LANDSCAPE--

--BUT HE LEAVES HIS
FEAR IN THE SHIP.

EAST IS
THAT WAY,
THUNDERBIRD--
AND THE
SOONER WE
GET STARTED,
THE SOONER
WE'LL GET
THERE!

YES SIR, GENERAL ONE-
EYE SIR! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE
NOT LEADING ME INTO ANOTHER
LITTLE BIG HORN!



IT'D BE JUST MY LUCK
TO BE THE FIRST INDIAN
TO GET MASSA-
CREED BY...

HOLD IT! I
LEFT THE MINI-
CEREBRO UNIT
BACK IN...
HUN?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

DON'T
BELIEVE
WHAT?



THE
STRATO-
JET--!

IT'S--
GONE!



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE GROUND DOESN'T JUST OPEN UP AND SWALLOW A JET PLANE WHOLE--!

ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

AND STRANGE THINGS DON'T SUDDENLY SPRING UP OUT OF NOWHERE--



--BUT ONE HAS!--

ALHA? THAT JOINT WASN'T THERE WHEN WE LANDED!



EXACTLY! AND SINCE IT SEEMS AS GOOD A SPOT AS ANY TO START SEARCHING--

LET'S GO!



GRUMBLING IN ANNOYANCE, THE MUTANT NOW RELUCTANTLY CALLED THUNDERBIRD FOLLOWS HIS CYCLOPEAN COMPANION INTO THE VERDANT UNDERBRUSH.

JOHN PROUDSTAR HAS NEVER MUCH LIKED THE JUNGLE--



--AND APPARENTLY, THE FEELING IS MUTUAL!

THE VINES-- THEY'RE ALIVE--!!



A CONDITION WE WON'T SHARE MUCH LONGER--

--UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING-- FAST!



GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS IN PARTICULAR, ONE-EYE?

SKRAK!



ZZAZZH

NOT REALLY, THUNDERBIRD!

FOR A BEGINNER, YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL ON YOUR OWN!



WITHIN MOMENTS, THE TWO YOUNG X-MEN HAVE LEFT THE STRANGLING CREEPER VINE'S FAR BEHIND THEM--

--AND IT IS NOT TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH WAY THEY HAVE GONE.



FOURTEEN MINUTES LATER...

WELL, WE'VE MADE IT IN REASONABLE SHAPE!

I WONDER HOW THE OTHERS ARE FARING?

AND ON THE ISLAND'S EAST SIDE...

SAINTS, LADY-- WILL YE LOOK AT THE SIZE O' THEM BEASTIES!

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE, IRISH--

--BUT A HANDSHAKE FROM ONE OF THEM CAN BE FATAL!

GOOD THING THEN THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES AROUND HERE WITH BIG, SHARP CLAWS, ISN'T IT?

THE WOLVERINE HAS CLAWS OF HIS OWN--

--AND, IRISH, HE LIKES TO USE THEM!

SKRAK

HEY--ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND AROUND GAWPING, IRISH--OR ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME?

BUT THE ERIN-BORN MUTANT IS ALREADY ALOFT--AND THOUGH HIS SONIC SCREAM IS NOT NEARLY SO FLAMBOYANT AS HIS COMPANION'S SLASHING TALONS--

--IT IS NONETHELESS EQUALLY EFFECTIVE!

FREEEE

SPRAKT!

THE BATTLE IS VIOLENT-- BUT BRIEF!

WELL, LADY-- SURE 'N IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE DONE FER THE BEASTIES! WE'D BEST BE GETTIN' ON TO THAT TEMPLE WE SPIED A TOUCH BACK.

YEAH SURE, THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP US HERE--ANY MORE.

AND SOON...

FAITH! 'TIG GOOD T' BE SBEIN' YE ALL AGAIN, TWAS A MOMENT THERE I HAD ME DOUBTS.

AND YOU WERE NOT ALONE.

WELL... MINUTES EARLIER ON THE ISLAND'S NORTH SIDE...

OOO... I DO NOT RECALL SEEING THAT TEMPLE BEFORE.



COME, COLOSSUS-- LET US BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, ORORO YOU ARE SO UNLIKE THE GIRLS IN MY... GYM THAT SOUND...



AN AVALANCHE!



QUICKLY, COLOSSUS-- PERHAPS WE CAN STILL OUTFRUIT IT!

IT HAS CHANGED ITS DIRECTION TO FOLLOW US!



HE MOCKS BITES! THIS LANDSLIDE CANNOT BE OUTFRUIT, ORORO!



THOSE MAD ROCKS CAN NO LONGER HURT ME, ORORO--

THEN IF WE CANNOT AVOID A CONFRONTATION, WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND-- AND DEFEND OURSELVES!



KNUMPK!

-- BUT FOR THREATENING YOU, I SHALL CRUSH THEM!



"I AM NO LONGER THREATENED."

I THANK YOU, PETER-- BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO PROTECT ME!



AND SHORTLY...

STORM... COLOSSUS... JUST MADE IT IN ONE PIECE.

BARELY, CYCLOPS... JUST BARELY. I ONLY HOPE THE OTHERS ARRIVE SAFELY AS WELL.

WHILE ON THE ISLAND'S SOUTH SIDE...

THESE BIRDS SEEM DETERMINED TO PREVENT US FROM REACHING THAT STRANGE TEMPLE AHEAD, SUNFIRE!

A REMARKABLE OBSERVATION, MISFIT! YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TALENT FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS!



A BURST OF FLAME-- THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE-- AND THE MUTANT CALLED NIGHTCRAWLER--



-- IS SUDDENLY ELSEWHERE!



MIS LAUGH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A HIDEOUS HOWL!





AND SINCE WE ARE ALL FINALLY HERE, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FOUND OUT WHAT'S *INSIDE* THIS TUMBLEDOWN TEMPLE!

I'VE GOT A GUT FEELING SOMEONE LURED US HERE FOR PRECISELY THAT PURPOSE--

--AND I'D HATE TO DISAPPOINT THEM NOW!



STILL SLIGHTLY ASTONISHED BY THEIR OWN ABILITIES, THE YOUNG MUTANTS STEP CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS--

OH, MY GOD...



AHHHH--IT APPEARS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EARN THE DUBIOUS PRIVILEGE OF GETTING IN THERE!

DOORS SEALED TIGHT--AND IT'S ABOUT A FOOT THICK!

SUNFIRE... STORM... COLOSSUS... LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOUR FIRST PRACTICAL LESSON IN THE ART OF BEING AN X-MAN!



THE LESSON IS ENTITLED "BREAKING AND ENTERING"--AND ALTHOUGH THE NEOPHYTE X-MEN LACK THE FINESSE OF THEIR PREDECESSORS--

KWA-ROOM!

--THEY CERTAINLY GET AN 'A' FOR EFFORT!



--AND FIND THEIR HEARTS SWELLING HEAVY IN THEIR THROATS!

OH, MY DEAR GOD--IT'S THE OTHER X-MEN--!

AND SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE FEEDING ON THEM!



WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE STARRING AT THEM--!

IN PITY'S NAME-- SET THEM FREE!



GRIPES! WHAT'S GOING ON? AS SOON AS WE PULLED THESE TUBES LOOSE--

--THE PLACE STARTED SHAKING ITSELF APART!

QUICKLY THEN-- CARRY WHOEVER IS CLOSEST TO YOU--



--AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS TEMPLE COMES DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

KROOM!

AND EVEN AS THE ARCAIC TEMPLE TOPPLES INTO RUIN BEHIND THEM...

HEY-- THEY'RE COMING AROUND! MUST NOT HAVE BEEN AS BAD AS...

WHY? CYCLOPS? WHY DID YOU COME BACK FOR US?



HUH?



YOU FOOL-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

IT WANTED YOU TO COME BACK--AND BRING OTHERS WITH YOU! IT WAS ALL A TRAP-- AND NOW IT'S--

--TOO LATE!



THE GROUND-- REARING UP AROUND THE FALLEN TEMPLE--?!


OF COURSE! HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET?

WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND TO LOOK FOR A MUTANT..



--BUT THE MUTANT IS THE ISLAND ITSELF!--

KKRRRAWRR



IMAGES FLOOD MUTANT MINDS AS THEY STAND ROOTED TO THE SPOT...

...THE SUN-BURST BRILLIANCE OF AN EARLY ATOMIC TEST...

...WHOSE UNSEEN RADIATION FERTILIZED EVERY LIVING ORGANISM HERE...

...UNTIL THEY GREW LINKED IN A COLONY INTELLIGENCE THAT SAVE THE ISLAND A LIFE OF ITS OWN...

CHAPTER
IV

KRAKOA... THE ISLAND THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN!

BUT KRAKOA GREW HUNGRY THEN...

KRAKOA FED UPON THEIR MUTANT ENERGIES AND GREW HUNGRY STILL...

...THUS IT RELEASED ONE X-MAN AND SENT HIM NORTH TO FIND MORE FOOD...

...WHICH CYCLOPS DID?

...A NUMBER SAFFELY APPROXED WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE...

... AND NOW WE
WILL GO HUNGRY
NO LONGER!

FILTHY
MONSTER, YOU
USED ME --
LIKE A LOUSY
JUDAS GOAT
LEADING
LAMBS TO THE
SLAUGHTER--!

YES, WE USED
YOU, EYELESS
ONE-- AS WE
USED THE CRIP-
PLED ONE WHO
GATHERED
YOU ALL
TOGETHER--

-- AT THE
COMMAND OF
A VOICE ONLY
MRS MIND
COULD HEAR!



BUT THE
TIME FOR
EXPLANATIONS
IS PAST!

NOW
IT IS
TIME
FOR
KRANDA
TO FEED!

SCATTER,
X-MEN--
QUICKLY--!

QUINSH!

ZZZZZZ
AK



YOU LIX-LIVERS WANT
TO SCATTER, THAT'S
SWELL--

-- BUT THE
WOLVERINE
IS GOING OUT
FOR BLOOD!

WHUMP!



ASSUMING OF COURSE,
THIS VEGETARIAN
MONSTROSITY
HAS ANY--

...WHICH IS
DOUBTFUL!

YOUR SOLAR
BLASTS HAVE
NO EFFECT ON
THE THING,
GUNFIRE!



NOR DO MY BOLTS
OF LIGHTNING!

BUT WE MUST
FIGHT ON--
WHATEVER
THE RISK!

MERE WORDS COULD NEVER BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SHEER UNBRIDLED SAVAGERY OF THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWS --



--SO WE WON'T EVEN ATTEMPT IT HERE!

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE CONFLICT GOES WILDLY ON UNTIL...

SCOTT--STOP! YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG!

I'VE BEEN MENTALLY MONITORING YOUR BATTLE THIS FAR--

--STUDYING THIS LIVING ISLAND--

--AND I BELIEVE I'VE DISCOVERED ITS SOLE WEAK POINT!

NOW THIS IS MY PLAN...


IN AN INSTANT, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S MENTAL COMMANDS ARE PROJECTED HALFWAY AROUND A WORLD--

--THEN HE CLOSES HIS EYES--STEELES HIMSELF FOR THE COMING ORDEAL--

--CONCENTRATES--

--AND THE BATTLE IS JOINED!





IT IS A WAR FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS-- AS PROFESSOR X WAGES DEADLY MENTAL COMBAT WITH A CRAZED COMMUNITY INTELLECT-- WHILE HIS STUDENTS RACE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN...

AT CYCLOPS' COMMAND, THE EYES OF THE MUTANT CALLED STORM GRAY DARKEN ONCE MORE--

--AND SHE SOARS ALOFT ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND!

HIGH ABOVE KRAKOA, SHE HOVERS--

--SLOWLY SUMMONING TO HER THE TEMPEST'S FULL ELECTRONIC FURY--

--THEN SUDDENLY TRANSMITTING THOSE SEETHING ENERGIES TO THE LYING YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAITS ANXIOUSLY BELOW--

--THIS RESTORES THE MIGHTY MAGNETIC POWERS OF THE GIRL CALLED LORNA DANE!

--AND LORNA DANE SCREAMS IN ANGUISH AS HER PHYSICAL LIMITS ARE REACHED--

--AND EXCEEDED!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETED--

DON'T STOP! LORD, WHATEVER YOU DO-- DON'T STOP!

YOU'VE GOT TO CALL IT OFF, SCOTT! LORNA CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT!

SHE'LL BE KILLED!

ALEX-- I CAN'T!

I CAN'T SACRIFICE A WORLD TO SAVE ONE WOMAN, ALEX--

--EVEN IF SHE IS THE WOMAN YOU LOVE!

I SWEAR TO YOU-- BROTHER OR NO BROTHER, IF SHE DIES...

--EVEN AS THE TORRENTIAL WATERS LEAD LIFE TO SOMETHING ELSE!

THE REMAINDER OF HAWK'S ANGRY OUTBURST IS SLAIN BY THE CRACKLING ROAR OF THE THUNDEROUS DOWN POUR--



DEGORRAH! THE BLINKIN' BEASTIE IS GETTIN' STRONGER NOW!

BUT HOW?!



CYCLONE'S ISLAND'S MIND HAS SUDDENLY GROWN MORE FORCEFUL!



I--I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY ASSAULT ANY LONGER--!

FORGIVE ME, SCOTT..

..BUT I FEAR... YOU'RE ON... YOUR... OWN..



FOOLS! YOU BROUGHT RAIN FROM THE SKY TO DESTROY US--

--BUT IT SERVES ONLY TO REPLENISH US--



--AND GIVE US STRENGTH TO DESTROY YOU!

BUT AS BEFORE THE X-MEN ARGUE THAT POINT--

--QUITE STRONGLY!



WE CAN'T HOLD THAT THING OFF FOREVER, SCOTT! IF THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN DOESN'T WORK...

WE'LL KNOW IF IT WORKS SOON ENOUGH, JEAN! GET EVERYBODY BACK!

WE'RE READY TO BEGIN!



WITH THAT, A SOLEMN SCOTT RUNNERS TURNS-- TO FIND THAT THE FIGURE OF LORNA DANE HAS BECOME LOST WITHIN A DORSCASCATING MAND-DESCENT TOWER OF EMER MAGNETIC FORCE

HIS MUTANT EYES NARROW-- AND A SINGLE WORD FORMS UPON HIS LIPS:

NOW!

WITH ALMOST-INDESCRIBABLE FORCE, LORNA'S MAGNETIC ENERGIES ERUPT DOWNWARD --



--THRU FIVE MILES OF OCEAN--



--DOWN-- TO THE VERY MOLTEN CENTER OF THE PLANET ITSELF --

--WHERE ITS EFFECTS ARE IMMEDIATE--AND VIOLENT--



WH-WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US? WHY DO WE FEEL SO STRANGE?

OUR MIND HURTS SO... CAN'T RETAIN OUR HUMANOID FORM...!

PLEASE... HELP US...



IT'S WORKING-- EXACTLY AS THE PROFESSOR SAID IT WOULD!

WE VE ONLY GOT SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE -- BEFORE THE END!



LORNA'S TOO WEAK TO RUN FOR IT! I'LL -- END!

THE LADY DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP, HOTSHOT! SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS FOR A CHANGE!

WHY YOU LITTLE...

ARGUE LATER -- NOW JUST MOVE IT!

AND MOVE IT, THEY DO -- AS FEW OTHER BEINGS ON EARTH POSSIBLY COULD!



--THRU FOUR THOUSAND MILES OF THE EARTH'S ANCIENT CRUST--

HOLY CROW! WILL YA TAKE A LOOK AT THE BEACH UP AHEAD?

THIS WHOLE FREAKIN' ISLAND'S BREAKIN' UP AROUND US!

AND WITHOUT OUR STRATO-JET, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET FAR ENOUGH FROM THE ISLAND BEFORE --



HUH? NEVER LET IT BE SAID WE ICE MEN AREN'T GOOD FOR SOMETHING, ANGEL.



EVERYBODY GET ABOARD -- AND FAST!

SWIFTLY THE DESPERATE X-MEN CLAMBER ABOARD THE CRUDE ICECRAFT, THEN HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE--



-- AS THE MUTANT POWERS OF CYCLOPS AND HAVOK PROPEL THE MAKE-SHIFT VESSEL AWAY FROM KRAKOA WITH THE SPEED OF A HURLING HYDROPLANE!



BEHIND THEM, THE WORLD CONVULSES IN CARNAGE-- AS THE RESULTS OF LORNA DRAVES ENERGY-BOLT BECOME APPARENT AT LAST--

-- FOR HER ELECTRICALLY CHARGED BURST HAS CUT ACROSS THE PLANET'S PRIMARY LINES OF MAGNETIC FORCE-- SEVERING THEM--

-- AND FOR AN INSTANT ABOUT THE ISLAND KRAKOA-- GRAVITY CEASES TO EXIST!

THEN THE EARTH-FORCES COME VIOLENTLY TOGETHER-- AND THE EFFECT IS THE SAME AS SQUEEZING WET SOAP THRU A FIST!



KRAKOA'S DEATH-CRIES RING FOR LONG SECONDS IN THE MINDS OF THE AWESTRUCK X-MEN--



-- THEN A NEW, MORE FRIGHTENING REALITY INTRUDES UPON THE SCENE...

BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE-- THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD!



"THE OCEAN IS RUSHING TO FILL IN THE SPACE KRAKOA JUST VACATED--"

"...AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL!"



QUICKLY, BOBBY-- THROW AN AIR-TIGHT ICE-DOME OVER THIS RAFT!

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE THIS MISERABLE MAELSTROM!

VORACIOUSLY, THE GREAT ICE-BUBBLE IS SUCKED INTO THE WILDLY-SWIRLING MAW--



--AND THOSE WITHIN ARE BATTERED ALMOST SENSELESS AGAINST ITS COLD, UNFEELING WALLS.



THEY VOICE THEIR PAIN ENTHUSIASTICALLY--

--AND THEN THEY ARE GONE!



THE SEETHING WATERS SWIRL CLOSED ABOVE THEIR HEADS-- AND FOR A TIME THE SEA IS CALM.

THE MINUTES PASS INTERMINABLY-- THEN THE HUGE BLEAMING BUBBLE BURSTS THE WATER'S SURFACE--



--AND IS ITSELF BURST IN TURN BY A BEAM OF SCARLET FURY!

FRESH AIR... A WARM SUN... DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL?



YEAH-- THAT! ALMOST FORGOT THE OL' STRATO-JET IS WATERTIGHT!

PADDLE ON OVER WHILE I GO OPEN THE HATCH!

SHORTLY, AS THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD...



SORRY WE DON'T HAVE SEATS FOR ALL OF YOU-- BUT THIS PLANE WASN'T DESIGNED TO CARRY SO MANY MUTANTS!

WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR NEXT LITTLE PROBLEM...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?



WE'LL FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE... WHEN THE DOOMSMITH STRIKES!