

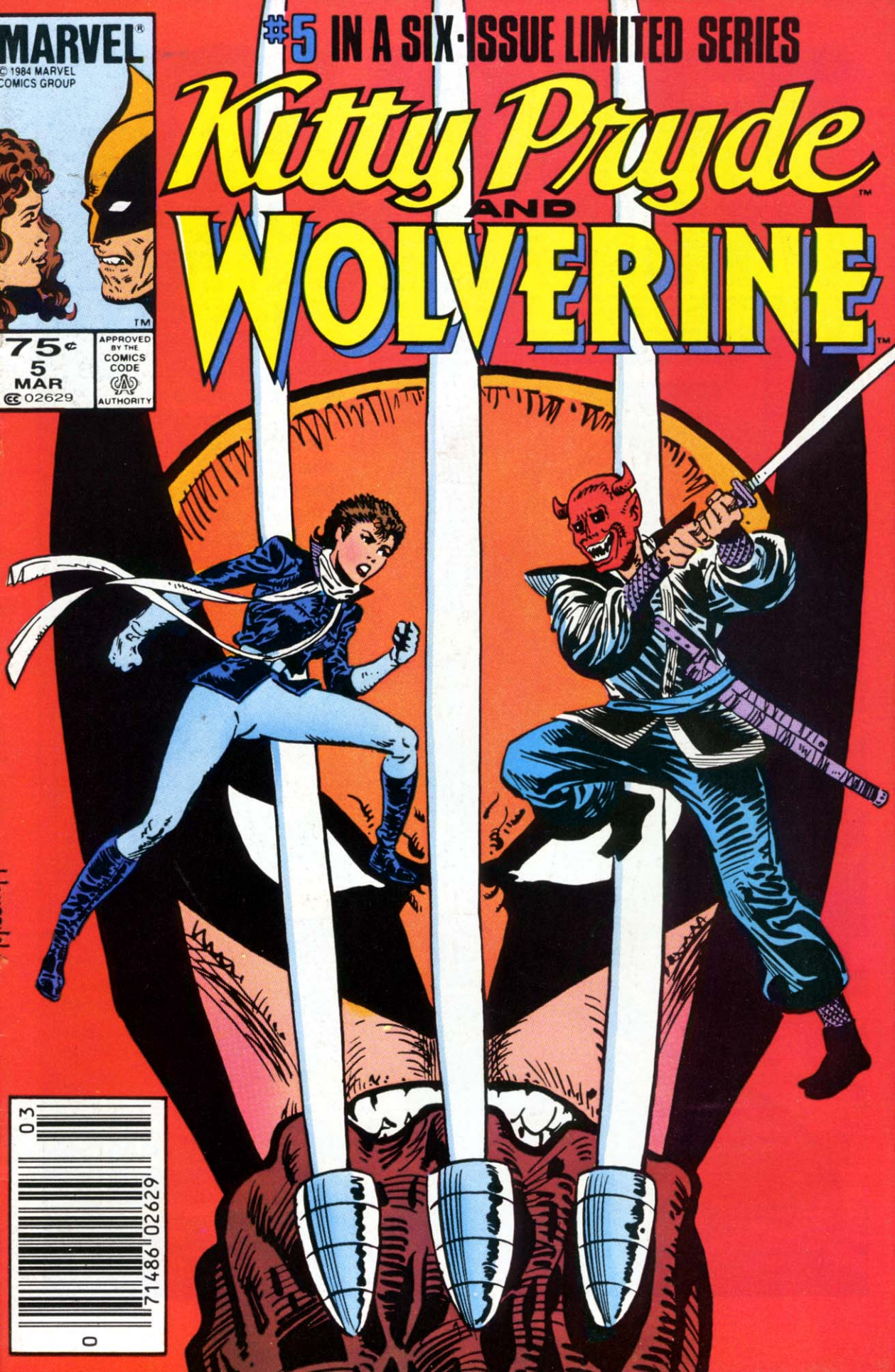
MARVEL
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COMICS GROUP

#5 IN A SIX-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

Kitty Pryde AND WOLVERINE

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APPROVED
BY THE
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CODE
AUTHORITY



COURAGE

TOKYO

THE CORPORATE HEAD-
QUARTERS OF SHIGEMATSU
INDUSTRIES, ON SEKIGAHARA
PLAZA, IN THE OTEMACHI
DISTRICT...

BOO!

AAJIEEE
-- A GHOST! *

THE MAN'S NAME IS HEIJI SHIGEMATSU,
THE OYABUN-- A SORT OF JAPANESE
GODFATHER-- ONE OF THE LARGER
YAKUZA OUTFITS.

FOR A BIG-TIME, BIG-CITY CRIME
BOSS, HE SURE SCARES EASY. YOU'D
THINK HE'D BE MADE OF STERNER
STUFF.

*TRANSLATED
FROM THE
JAPANESE --Ann

by CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALLEN MILGROM

TOM ORZECZOWSKI, letterer • GLYNIS WEIN, colorist • ANN NOCENTI, editor • JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

NOT THAT I MIND. THE MORE FRIGHTENED HE IS, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.

< SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, SHIGEMATSU-- SAN, THAT NO PLACE-- NOBODY-- IS SAFE FROM A NINJA. >

< AND, THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BEEN TRAINED BY THE BEST. >

< K-KITTY PRYDE--!?! >

< THE SAME. >

< I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE, OLD MAN, JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES. LEAVE CARMEN PRYDE ALONE. >

< RETURN CONTROL OF HIS BANK TO HIM--WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED-->

<-- AND NEVER, EVER BOTHER HIM OR HIS FAMILY AGAIN. >

< OR I'LL BE BACK. >

< AND I WON'T BE ANYWHERE NEAR SO NICE. >

GETTING OUT'S EASY AS PIE.

I SIMPLY SLIP RIGHT THROUGH WALLS, FLOORS, CEILINGS, FURNITURE. I CAN EVEN WALK ON AIR.

THE TECHNICAL TERM FOR WHAT I DO IS PHASING-- I SIMPLY SLIDE THE MOLECULES OF MY BODY BETWEEN THOSE OF WHATEVER I'M MOVING THROUGH. PRETTY NEAT TRICK, HUH? COMES FROM WILD GENES. I HAVE MORE THAN NORMAL FOLKS; THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A MUTANT.

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, I WAS AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GENIUS PRODIGY IN DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS. TODAY, I'M A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF A TEAM OF MUTANT SUPER HEROES, THE UNCANNY X-MEN. I'VE BEEN TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE. I'VE EVEN SAVED THE WORLD--

-- TWICE!

MOSTLY, MY LIFE'S BEEN FLIN. THIS ISN'T, THOUGH, IN FACT, OF ALL THE SCRAPS I'VE BEEN IN, THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE WORST.

I'M GLAD IT'S ALMOST OVER.



CRUMBS--THE LOOK ON SHIGEMATSU'S FACE...



WHEN I POPPED OUT OF HIS DESK THAT WAS PRICELESS! I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA DIE--NO FOOLIN'!

WOULD'VE SERVED HIM RIGHT IF HE HAD--

WHOOSH!

CARELESS.

IT TAKES ALMOST ALL MY CONCENTRATION TO PHASE-- ESPECIALLY ON AIR.

I LOSE THAT CONCENTRATION--EVEN A LITTLE-- AND GRAVITY DOES THE REST.

LUCKILY, I'M HIGH ENOUGH TO CATCH MYSELF BEFORE I HIT ANYTHING.



SERVE YOU RIGHT, MISS HOTSHOT KNOWITALL, TO SPLATTER YOURSELF ALL OVER CREATION! PROFESSOR XAVIER AND WOLVERINE TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN THAT!

ACT THIS STUPIDLY AGAINST OGUN, AND YOUR TROUBLES'LL BE OVER! FOREVER!!



I SAW WOLVIE A FEW NIGHTS AGO, UP NORTH, WHEN I SAID GOODBYE. I WISH I COULD SEE THE PROF AND THE OTHER X-MEN, TOO, ESPECIALLY ORORO.

AND MOM-- AND MY DAD-- TOO.

I MISS THEM SO.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO SAY.

BUT I CAN'T-- AND PROBABLY NEVER WILL-- SO, INSTEAD, I DANCE...

...THROUGH THE SKY LIKE A WRAITH, GRACEFUL AS THE WIND, POETRY IN MOTION, BEAUTY PERSONIFIED, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NO ONE'S AROUND TO PROVE I'M NOT.

HEY--!?!

OR SO I THOUGHT.

TOKYO POLICE!

<TETSURO-- DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?!!>

<A GIRL IN A NINJA COSTUME, DANCING IN MID-AIR AT 500 FEET!!>

<IMPOSSIBLE!!>

<I'M GLAD YOU AGREE.>

<BASE TO THUNDERBLUE, REPORT YOUR STATUS. YOU SAID YOU SPOTTED SOMETHING?>

<Uh... ouahh... uh...>

<SAY AGAIN, GORO, WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.>

'BYE, GUYS!

<GORO, SHOULD I WAVE BACK?>

<IDIOT!!!>

<GORO, SHE'S GONE! SHE FELL!!>

<THANK HEAVEN!!>

<SORRY, BASE, NOTHING TO REPORT. FALSE ALARM, RESUMING PATROL.>

I REALLY MUST WATCH WHERE I'M GOING.

I MAKE
LIKE A
ROCK--



--PHASING OUT
OF MY NINJA
COSTUME
ALONG THE
WAY...



... LEAVING IT EMBEDDED
IN BUILDINGS AND THE
GROUND ITSELF-- NOT
EVEN BEGINNING TO BRAKE
MY DESCENT UNTIL I'M WELL
BELOW STREET LEVEL, IN A
STATION ON THE TOKYO
SUBWAY'S GINZA LINE.

IT'S SO LATE IN
THE EVENING,
NO ONE'S
THERE TO SEE
ME ARRIVE.



THE JAPANESE
TREAT THEIR
SYSTEM A WHOLE
LOT BETTER THAN
WE DO THE "EL"
BACK HOME IN
CHICAGO, OR
ESPECIALLY THE
SUBWAY IN NEW
YORK-- YUCK!



THE TRAINS ARE
CLEAN--

-- AND THE
BATHROOMS
ARE A JOY!



I'D NEVER DARE USE
ONE IN MANHATTAN--
FOR ANYTHING--

-- SUPER-POWERS OR
NO, IT'S TOO DARN
SCARY. AND GROSS!



WHEN I'M DONE,
THERE'S NO SIGN
OF KITTY PRYDE.
ANYONE LOOKING
FOR HER WON'T GIVE
ME A SECOND GLANCE.

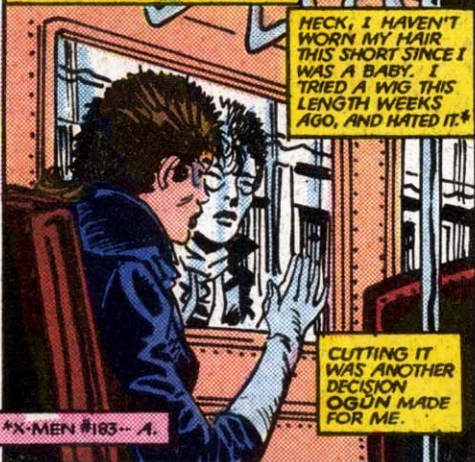


TO THEM, I'M
JUST ANOTHER
LOCAL TEENAGER...

... ENJOYING
A SATURDAY
NIGHT PROWL.



I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE MYSELF. THE PERSON REFLECTED IN THE TRAIN WINDOW IS A STRANGER-- INSIDE AND OUT.



HECK, I HAVEN'T WORN MY HAIR THIS SHORT SINCE I WAS A BABY. I TRIED A WIG THIS LENGTH WEEKS AGO, AND HATED IT.*

CUTTING IT WAS ANOTHER DECISION OGUN MADE FOR ME.

*X-MEN #183-- A.

I WAS HIS DOLL-- A PLAYTHING CHILD HE WOULD MOLD IN HIS IMAGE. TONIGHT, I'LL FIND OUT IF HE SUCCEEDED.



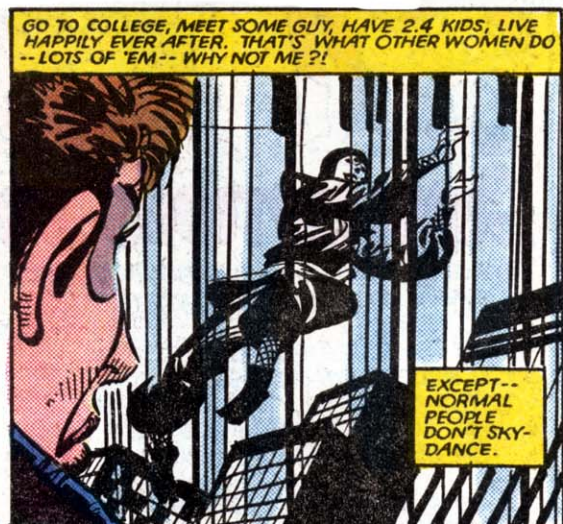
IF ONLY I'D STAYED AT HOME--MINDED MY OWN DARN BUSINESS-- LEFT MY DAD TO FACE A FATE HE PROBABLY DESERVED--

-- HEY, WHY STOP THERE? IF I'D NEVER JOINED THE X-MEN...



... I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS.

WOULD IT HAVE BEEN SO BAD TO LIVE A NORMAL ORDINARY LIFE? IS IT TOO LATE TO TRY?!



GO TO COLLEGE, MEET SOME GUY, HAVE 2.4 KIDS, LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER. THAT'S WHAT OTHER WOMEN DO -- LOTS OF 'EM-- WHY NOT ME?!

EXCEPT-- NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T SKY-DANCE.



I CAN'T GIVE THAT UP.

EVEN WITHOUT ANY SUPER-POWERS, I'LL NEVER SETTLE FOR WHAT SOCIETY--OR MY PARENTS-- EXPECTS OF ME.



I'M NOT A KITTY ANYMORE-- MUCH AS I WISH DIFFERENTLY-- I'VE GROWN UP. I'M A CAT. AND I LIKE THE SHADOWS A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN THE DAYLIGHT.

SHADOWCAT.

I LIKE IT. SUITS ME BETTER THAN ARIEL OR SPRITE. THAT'S FOR SURE.



OKAY, SHADOWCAT IS WHO I AM AND THIS IS THE LIFE I CHOOSE TO LEAD. FOR AS LONG AS I LAST.

THEN, WOLVIE, YOU'LL HAVE TO AVENGE ME.



WOLVERINE?

-- THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN HONSHU, NEAR THE SEAPORT CITY OF AGARASHIMA--

-- ANCESTRAL STRONGHOLD OF CLAN YASHIDA.



YAH.

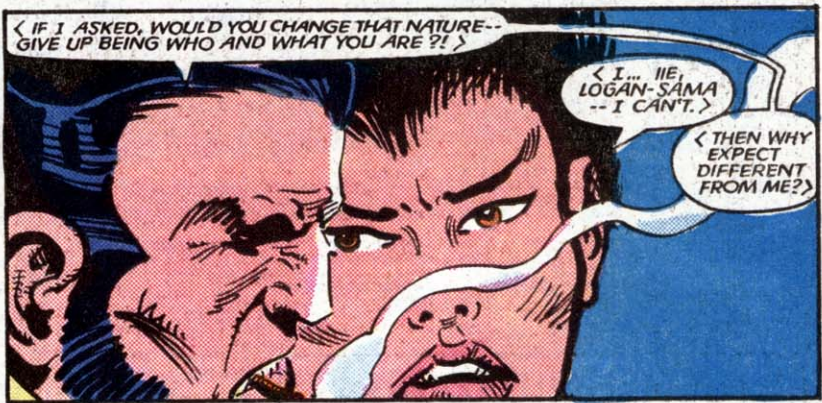
IT'S FREEZING, LOGAN. COME TO BED, MY LOVE, BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH.



I'VE SURVIVED WORSE.

THE DAY WILL COME-- SOONER THAN YOU THINK-- WHEN YOU WANT.

< YUKIO-CHAN, YOU'RE CALLED THE "WILD ONE"-- THE DEVIL-MAY-CARE RŌNIN ADVENTURER WHO DANCES WITH DEATH FOR THE SHEER JOY OF IT. >



< IF I ASKED, WOULD YOU CHANGE THAT NATURE-- GIVE UP BEING WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE? >

< I... HE, LOGAN-SAMA -- I CAN'T. >

< THEN WHY EXPECT DIFFERENT FROM ME? >



< THE WEATHER'S BECOME AS SCREWY AS WE ARE. LOOK AT THAT SNOW. >

< THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SUMMER! >

< THE RADIO SAYS IT'S THE SAME THE WORLD OVER-- PERHAPS THE DAWN OF A NEW ICE AGE? >

*THE CAUSE, OF COURSE, IS THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS-- SEE RECENT ISSUES OF THOR FOR DETAILS-- BrRRRrAnN.



<YOU'RE SHIVERING! BLAST IT, YUKIO, I'M A MUTANT...>
<... MY BODY CAN HANDLE THE COLD...>

<I'M FINE. MERELY HUMAN I MAY BE, DARLING...>
<... BUT I'M AS HARDY A SURVIVOR...>

WOLVERINE!

DO YOU MIND, PRYDE--?!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH KITTY?! WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?!



GONE.



WHERE?!!



I CALLED XAVIER IN THE STATES. SHE ISN'T THERE.

THAT MEANS SHE WENT AFTER OGUN.



YOU LET HER?!

DON'T STAND THERE LIKE A LUMP, MAN-- GO AFTER HER! BRING HER BACK!! SAVE-- ULP???



YOU TRY MY PATIENCE, GAIJIN.

TAKE THE HINT. LEAVE US ALONE-- WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE.

PLEASE, Ms. YUKIO.

YOU BOTH KNOW-- FAR BETTER THAN I-- WHAT THAT MONSTER CAN DO. KITTY'S YOUR FRIEND, SHE'S MY CHILD-- SAVE HER!

I BEG YOU.



SUCH PARENTAL SOLICITUDE RINGS HOLLOW FROM THE MAN WHO DELIVERED HER INTO THE DEMON'S HANDS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I T-TRIED TO PROTECT HER. WHAT KIND OF MAN D'YOU THINK I AM?

WHY, NO MAN AT ALL.



KITTY'S THE WORLD TO ME, I'D DIE BEFORE I'D SEE HER HURT.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. YUKIO--?



THE BLIZZARD'S BROKEN, THE AIRSTRIP'S BEEN PLOWED.



THE PLANE'S READY WHENEVER YOU ARE.

WHAT DID SHE MEAN? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WHERE DO YOU THINK?!

... WHENEVER SHE'S IN TOWN.

< ANYONE HOME? >

< SORRY I'M SO LATE, DARLING, OFFICE BUSINESS LASTED FOREVER! >

< AKIKO--?! >

-- THE UPPER-CLASS MEGŪRO DISTRICT --

-- A SKYSCRAPER PENTHOUSE THAT SERVES AS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE DAIMYO, THE SUPREME LORD, OF CLAN YASHIDA...



< LADY MARIKO!!! >

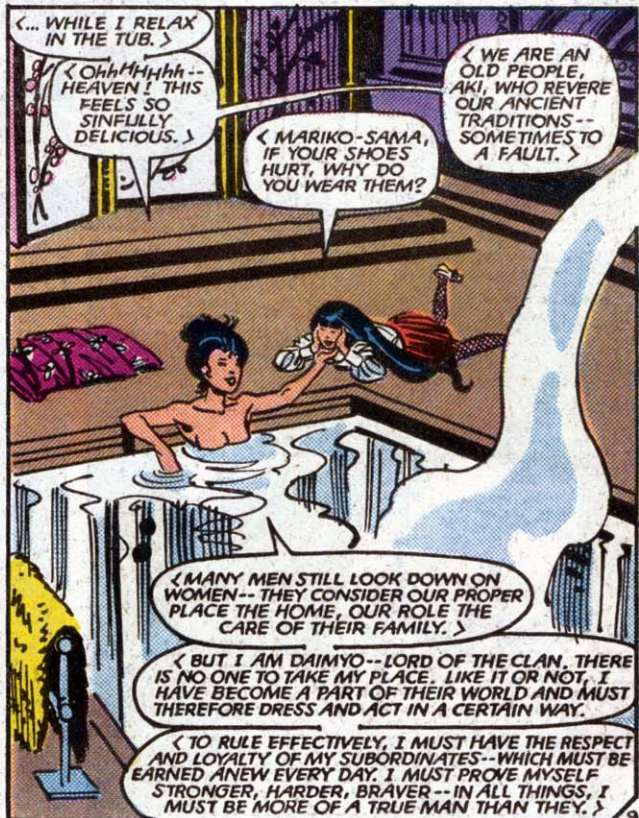


< OH, MY ACHING FEET. I ENVY YOU YOUR SNEAKERS, KIKO, THESE HEELS ARE CRIPPLING ME. >

< HAVE YOU EATEN? >

< HAI, MARIKO-SAMA, AND DONE MY HOMEWORK. >

< GOOD GIRL. THEN COME TELL ME OF YOUR DAY... >



< ... WHILE I RELAX IN THE TUB. >

< OhhMhHhH -- HEAVEN! THIS FEELS SO SINFULLY DELICIOUS. >

< MARIKO-SAMA, IF YOUR SHOES HURT, WHY DO YOU WEAR THEM? >

< WE ARE AN OLD PEOPLE, AKI, WHO REVERE OUR ANCIENT TRADITIONS -- SOMETIMES TO A FAULT. >

< MANY MEN STILL LOOK DOWN ON WOMEN -- THEY CONSIDER OUR PROPER PLACE THE HOME, OUR ROLE THE CARE OF THEIR FAMILY. >

< BUT I AM DAIMYO -- LORD OF THE CLAN, THERE IS NO ONE TO TAKE MY PLACE. LIKE IT OR NOT, I HAVE BECOME A PART OF THEIR WORLD AND MUST THEREFORE DRESS AND ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY. >

< TO RULE EFFECTIVELY, I MUST HAVE THE RESPECT AND LOYALTY OF MY SUBORDINATES -- WHICH MUST BE EARNED ANEW EVERY DAY. I MUST PROVE MYSELF STRONGER, HARDER, BRAVER -- IN ALL THINGS, I MUST BE MORE OF A TRUE MAN THAN THEY. >



< AND BECAUSE I AM MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER, I HAVE PROVED MYSELF BETTER AT THAT THAN ANYONE-- EVEN I MYSELF-- DREAMED.

< BUT ENOUGH OF ME-- HOW WAS SCHOOL? >

< IT WAS WONDERFUL! MY BEST FRIEND IS TAMSIN-- I TOLD YOU ABOUT HER-- WE MET THIS BOY, HE'S BEAUTIFUL, AND SO TALL, AND WHEN HE SMILED AT ME MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED!! >

< I ASKED FOR THIS, SILLY ME, DID I LAUGH SO, AT AKI'S AGE? DID I EVER HAVE SUCH FUN? >

< SHAME ON YOU, MARIKO, IT WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO! YOU'RE BEHAVING AS THOUGH YOU'RE POSITIVELY ANCIENT!! >



< LATELY-- SINCE ASSUMING MY FATHER'S THRONE-- THAT'S HOW I'VE FELT-- WHAT'S THAT? >

< HUSH, CHILD-- NOT A SOUND. >

< I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD SOMETHING. >



< STAY HERE, AKI, WHILE I GO LOOK. >



HANA-SAN!

< DON'T LEAVE ME, PLEASE! I'M SCARED!! >



< THERE, THERE, MY DEAR HEART, YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR, I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE. >

< SHE CALLED ME "MOTHER." >



< HAPPY AS THAT MAKES ME, I MUST REMEMBER IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE AKIKO WAS ORPHANED. * >

< THAT TRAGEDY HAS LEFT SCARS-- MANY, SUBCONSCIOUS-- THAT ONLY TIME, AND LOVE, CAN HEAL. >

< ALL IS STILL-- THAT SOUND MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION-- WE'RE ALONE HERE. >

LATER THAT NIGHT, ABOARD A YASHIDA PRIVATE BIZJET...

< THIS IS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKING. WE'RE BEGINNING OUR DESCENT INTO TOKYO'S HANEDA AIRPORT, WE'LL BE LANDING SHORTLY. >

LEAVE MY MAN BE, PRYDE.

LEAVE ME BE, LADY. I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.

BRAVE TALK, BUB.

YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF ME, DO YOU WOLVERINE?

NOPE.

I'M NOT ASHAMED OF WHAT I DID IN DEERFIELD. WHEN THE RECESSION HIT I SAW PEOPLE I'D KNOWN MY ENTIRE LIFE -- GOOD, DECENT, HARD-WORKING FAMILIES -- BEING CHEWED UP BY FORCES OVER WHICH THEY HAD NO CONTROL. I COULDN'T STAND THAT -- I REFUSED TO BE A PART OF IT -- SO I AND MY BANK TRIED TO HELP.

LOTTA GOOD YOU DID.

FOR SOME OF THEM, YES! A WHOLE LOT!

BUT YOU GOT CAUGHT.

THE ECONOMY DIDN'T GET BETTER, THERE WAS TOO MUCH NEED.

TOUGH BREAK.

MAYBE THAT'S TRUE -- IN THE BEGINNING, YOU ACTED FROM THE PUREST OF MOTIVES, GOOD FOR YOU. BUT WHEN THINGS WENT SOUR AND YOU SIGNED WITH SHIGEMATSU, KNOWING WHAT HE WAS -- WHEN THE CHOICE WAS HIM OR DISGRACE AND JAIL -- THAT CHOICE WAS TO SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN.

NOT QUITE SO NOBLE, eh?

YOUR DECISION, BUB. NOW YOU GOTTA LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

I NEVER MEANT FOR KITTY TO GET INVOLVED --!

WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?! SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER, CHUMP, SHE LOVES YOU. MORE, SHE BELIEVED IN YOU!

SHE AIN'T A BORN CYNIC, LIKE YUKIO 'N' ME. SHE FIGURED YOU TO BE THE VICTIM, IT NEVER ENTERED HER HEAD YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE VILLAINS. SHE ASSUMED HER OLD MAN'D BE AT LEAST AS TOUGH AN' BRAVE AS SHE.



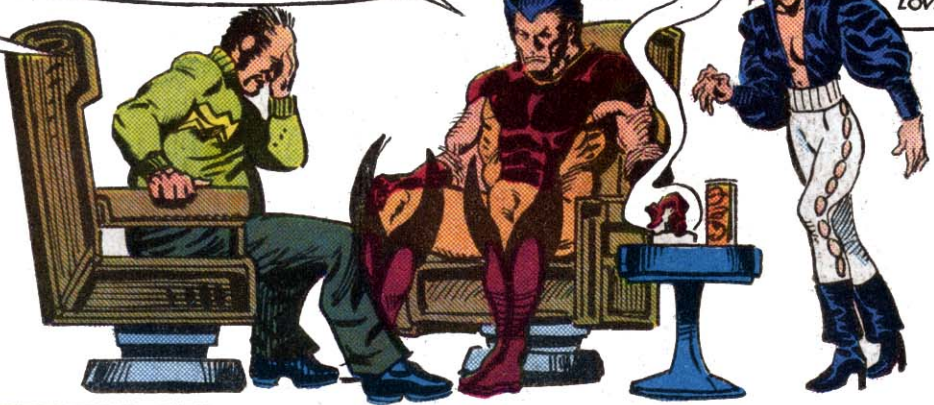
BUT YOU LET HER DOWN, PRYDE -- ALL THE WAY.

WHY IS SHE IN TOKYO?! WHY DIDN'T SHE GO HOME--YOU CURED HER, DIDN'T YOU?!

AIN'T THAT SIMPLE. THE KID FIGURES SHE HAS TO PROVE TO HERSELF THAT SHE'S FREE BY CONFRONTING HER DEMON-- OGUN-- FACE TO FACE. IF SHE'S RIGHT, HE'LL PROBABLY KILL HER.

IF SHE'S WRONG-- IF OGUN TAKES HER AGAIN-- I WILL.

< YOU RARELY SPEAK OF OGUN, MY LOVE... >



<... BUT FROM THE WAY YOU DO, I SENSE HE MEANS A GREAT DEAL.>

YUP.



< HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING-- IF THERE'S A MAN ALIVE I'D HAVE CHOSEN TO BE FATHER, BROTHER, BEST FRIEND... >

<... IT WAS HIM.>



< DESPITE THAT-- FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO KITTY, AND MAY YET DO-- YOU'LL KILL HIM? >



< OR HE WILL ME. >



I'M MOVING AS FAST AS I CAN. I DON'T DARE ALLOW MYSELF TO HESITATE OR BE SCARED.



HE'LL ONLY BE OFF-BALANCE FOR A MOMENT-- IF THAT LONG.



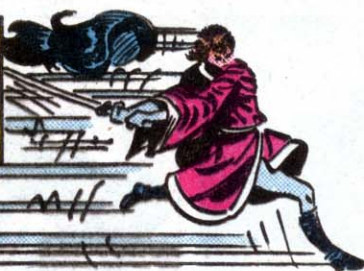
I'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER CHANCE...



...TO BEAT HIM.



EARLIER THIS EVENING, I PUT MYSELF IN HIS SHOES--TO FIGURE HIS NEXT MOVE. IT'D BE TO COME HERE, I DECIDED, TO DRAW WOLVIE INTO THE OPEN AND PUNISH HIM FOR INTERFERING-- BY KILLING THE WOMAN HE LOVED-- THEREBY LEAVING ME UNPROTECTED.



I BEAT HIM TO IT, AND TOOK MARIKO'S PLACE.



I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING-- I DON'T WANT TO-- AS I STRIKE FOR HIS HEART.



I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED.

I NEVER EVEN CAME CLOSE.



WITHOUT MISSING A STEP...



... I KEEP GOING...

... OGÜN NOT ON MY HEELS.



I'M READY FOR HIM.



AIOWW!



BAD MISTAKE-- HE'S WEARING BODY ARMOR! I HURT MY HAND MORE THAN I DO HIM!



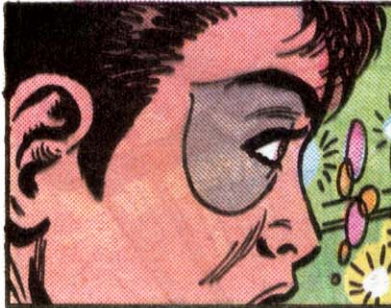
AND BEFORE I CAN HIT HIM AGAIN...

FLASH-BOMB!



MY EYES CLEAR ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, BUT...

OGÜN-- HE'S GONE!



UH-OH.







< SPLENDID! I COULD NOT HAVE EXECUTED THAT EVASION BETTER MYSELF!

WHAT A CROCK! MOST OF MY NINJA COMBAT ABILITIES CAME FROM THE PSYCHIC TEMPLATE OF HIMSELF OGUIN IMPOSED ON ME. †

* IN KW#2-A



THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH GONE NOW.

ALL I HAVE ARE MY OWN MUTANT POWERS, AND THE SKILLS WOLVIE TAUGHT ME.

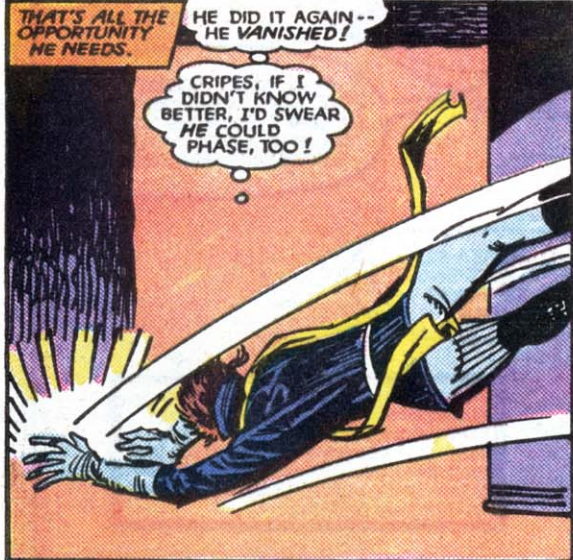


I LAND A SOLID KICK-- I HEAR THE BREATH 'WHOUFF' OUT OF HIM-- BUT AS HE FALLS--



--OGUIN TOSSES A HANDFUL OF SHAKEN THROWING STARS, FORCING ME TO PHASE.

I KNOW THEY'RE NO THREAT TO ME, BUT I CAN'T HELP FLINCHING.



THAT'S ALL THE OPPORTUNITY HE NEEDS.

HE DID IT AGAIN-- HE VANISHED!

CRIPES, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR HE COULD PHASE, TOO!



OR MAYBE THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE. OGUIN'S SUPPOSED TO BE IMMORTAL, SUPPOSE THAT MAKES HIM MAGIC?

HE COULD EVEN BE A REAL GHOST?!

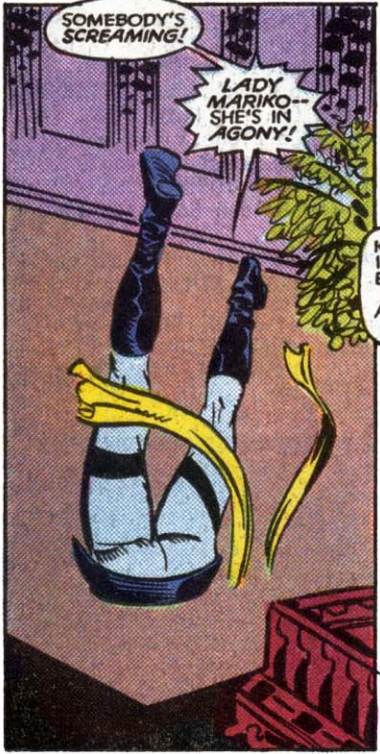
THERE I GO AGAIN, MY THOUGHTS RUNNING LICKETY-SPLIT AWAY WITH ME. YOU'D THINK I'D'VE LEARNED BY NOW.

ACTUALLY, HE DOESN'T SCARE ME HALF AS MUCH AS WHAT I TRIED TO DO TO HIM. IF HE HADN'T BLOCKED THE SWORD...

EEEEEE

THAT REACTION WAS AS AUTOMATIC AND INSTINCTIVE AS WOLVERINE'S-- WAS IT ME, OR SOME LEFT-OVER BIT OF OGUN'S INFLUENCE-- HAVE I BECOME LIKE HIM, THEN?

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE ME. I DON'T WANT TO KILL.



SOMEBODY'S SCREAMING!

LADY MARIKO-- SHE'S IN AGONY!



MARIKO, AKI-- YOU'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT???

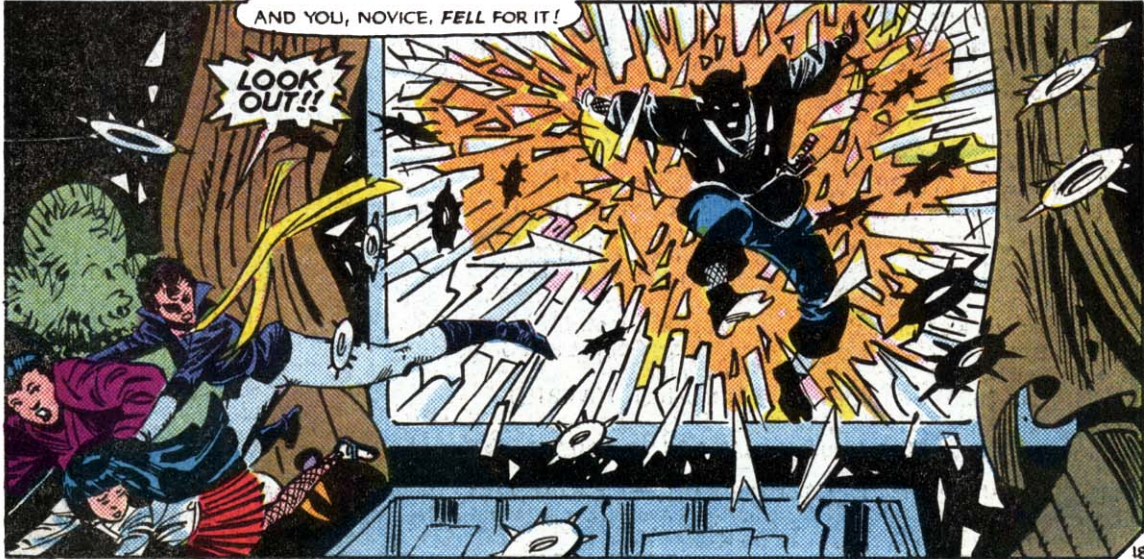
KITTY-- IS THE BATTLE OVER, ARE WE SAFE?!

< SHE FRIGHTENS ME, HAHA-SAMA, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY SHE IS OUR FRIEND-- IS SHE A DEMON, TOO? >



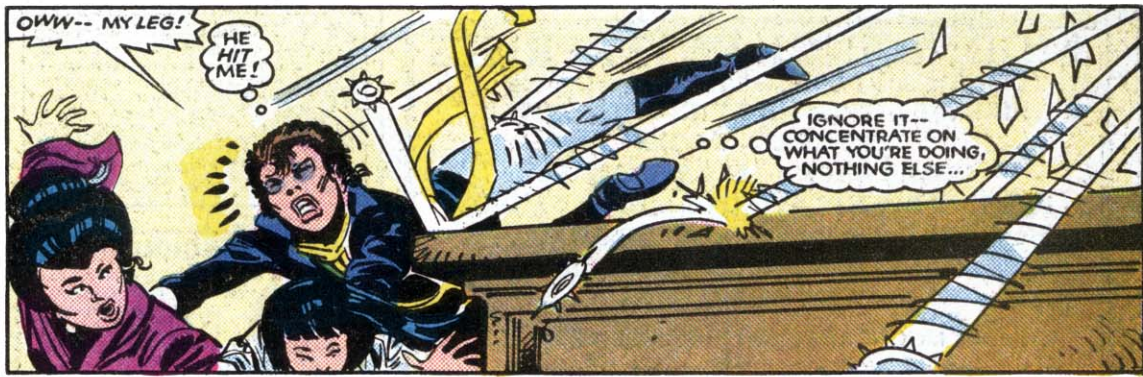
DUMDUMDUM-- THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK--

--OGUN FAKED YOUR VOICE--!



AND YOU, NOVICE, FELL FOR IT!

LOOK OUT!!



OWW-- MY LEG!

HE HIT ME!

IGNORE IT--
CONCENTRATE ON
WHAT YOU'RE DOING,
NOTHING ELSE...



... OR TWO
PEOPLE WHO
DEPEND ON
YOU...

... ARE
DEAD.

AKI'S TOO FREAKED TO
SCREAM, SHE'S TRYING
AS HARD AS SHE CAN
TO BE BRAVE-- FOR
LADY MARIKO'S SAKE.



SHE'S ONLY A COUPLE OF
YEARS YOUNGER'N ME--
BUT I FEEL LIKE AN
ANCIENT OLD WOMAN
STANDING NEXT TO A BABY.

RUN!

DON'T STOP
FOR ANYTHING--
DON'T TRY TO
HIDE, HE'LL FIND
YOU-- I'LL HOLD
HIM AS LONG
AS I CAN.



LADY MARIKO'S FAREWELL LOOK
BETRAYS HER TRUE FEELINGS--
THAT WE'RE BOTH OF US DOOMED.

IT'S AN EFFORT TO
STAND-- A SNIFF
OF THE SHAKEN
TELLS WHY-- IT'S
COATED WITH A
DRUG.



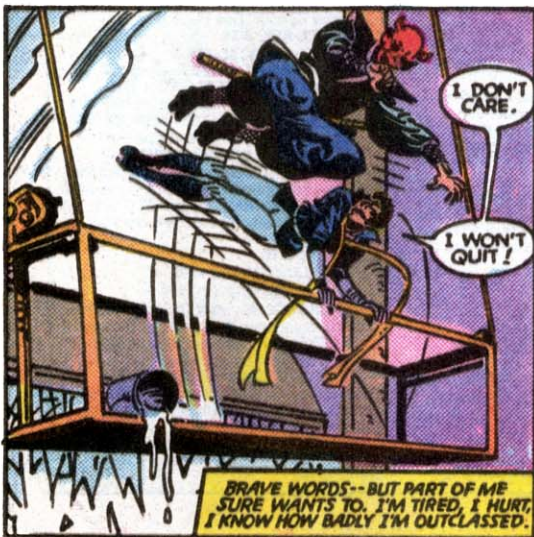
< BE NOT AFRAID, DISCIPLE, THE SUBSTANCE
IS NOT FATAL. I MERELY DESIRED TO
PREVENT ANY FURTHER PHASING. >

< YOUR
CAUSE
IS HOPE-
LESS. >

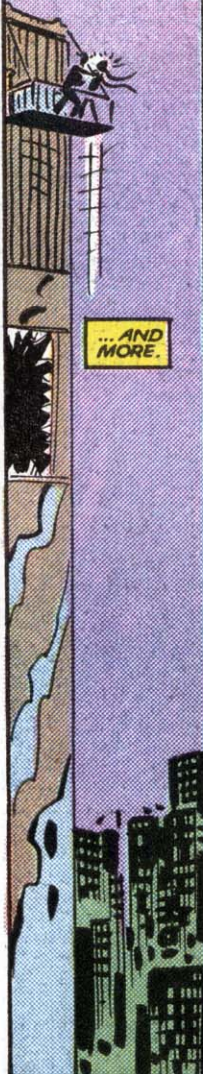
I WON'T
GIVE UP!



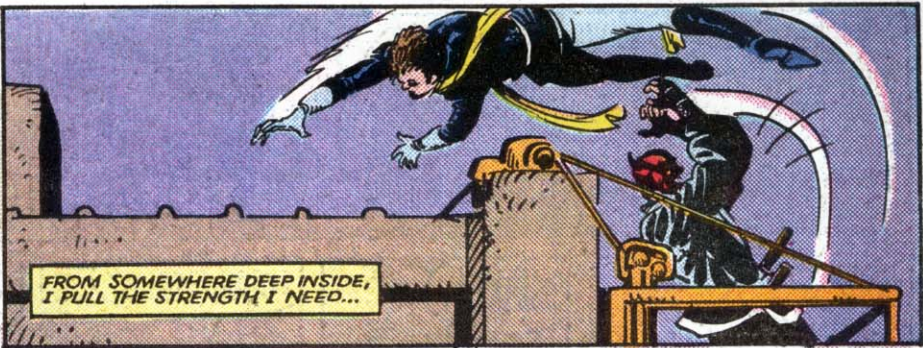
< AS YOU
WISH. >



BUT I TAKE WHATEVER OGUIN DISHES OUT...



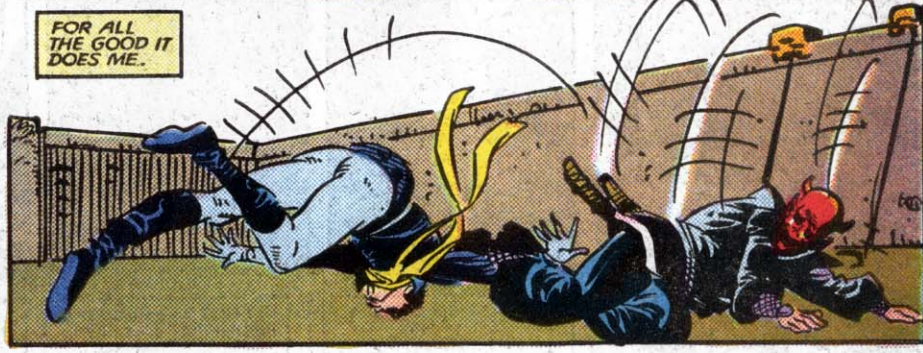
... AND MORE.



FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE, I PULL THE STRENGTH I NEED...



... THE GRIT TO STRIKE BACK.



FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES ME.



< YIELD. >

< I SHALL NOT ASK AGAIN. >

NO.



< INSOLENT PUP-- >



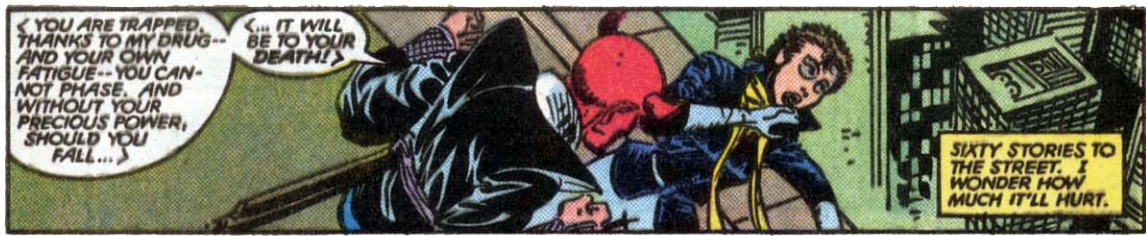
<--HOW-->



<--DARE-->



<--YOU?!>



< YOU ARE TRAPPED, THANKS TO MY DRUG-- AND YOUR OWN FATIGUE-- YOU CANNOT PHASE, AND WITHOUT YOUR PRECIOUS POWER, SHOULD YOU FALL... >

<... IT WILL BE TO YOUR DEATH! >

SIXTY STORIES TO THE STREET. I WONDER HOW MUCH IT'LL HURT.



< BUT THE HAND THAT TAKES YOUR LIFE... >

<... MAY GRANT IT AS WELL. >

< YOU WERE MINE ONCE... >



<... BOUND TO ME BODY AND SOUL. >



< BE SO AGAIN, MY FAVORED CHILD. >

< I OFFER IMMORTALITY, POWER BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS. >



< YIELD TO MY WILL, KITTY PRYDE. >

< LET YOUR SPIRIT MERGE WITH MINE... >



NO.



< YOU-- RESISTED ME?! THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE. >

IF YOU SAY SO.



I'M NOT THE GIRL YOU BRAINWASHED, OGUN. IN SOME WAYS, NO LONGER A GIRL AT ALL. THAT KITTY'S NO MORE -- AND YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER A SHADOWCAT.

I MAY BE BEATEN--
-- BUT I'LL NEVER SURRENDER.



< THEN, HONORED FOE, THOUGH IT BREAKS MY HEART... >

<... YOUR DAYS ARE ENDED. >



I WOULDN'T
DO THAT,
BUB...

...IF
I WERE
YOU.

NEXT ISSUE:

HONOR!