

MARVEL

BONUS
DIGITAL
CONTENT
see inside for details

ASTONISHING X-MEN #4

SOULE
PACHECO
FONTERIZ
BEREDO



7 59606 08731 0 00411
RATED T+
\$3.99US
DIRECT EDITION
MARVEL.COM

ACT I



THE DEADLY GAME BETWEEN AMAHL FAROUK--THE PSYCHIC PARASITE KNOWN AS THE SHADOW KING--AND THE SPIRIT OF DECEASED X-MEN FOUNDER CHARLES XAVIER HAS TAKEN ITS FIRST CASUALTY. LOGAN HAS FALLEN. HIS BODY, WITH ALL ITS MURDEROUS SKILL, IS NOW UNDER THE SHADOW KING'S CONTROL. HIS SOUL IS TRAPPED, FOREVER, IN AN ENDLESS LOOP ON THE ASTRAL PLANE.

FOUR PIECES REMAIN ON THE BOARD: FANTOMEX, MYSTIQUE, ROGUE AND GAMBIT. THEY ARE ALL CAUGHT IN THEIR OWN ILLUSIONS ON THE REALITY-WARPING ASTRAL PLANE, BEING MANIPULATED ENDLESSLY BY XAVIER AND FAROUK AS EACH WORKS TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

IN LONDON, PSYLOCKE MAINTAINS A PSYCHIC LINK ALLOWING THE X-MEN ON THE ASTRAL PLANE TO FIGHT THEIR DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST THE SHADOW KING. ANGEL AND BISHOP ARE STANDING GUARD, FENDING OFF A BRITISH COUNTER-TERROR TEAM UNDER ORDERS TO SUBDUE THE MUTANTS BEFORE THEY DESTROY THE CITY. AND THEN...

...LOGAN.

ASTONISHING

X-MEN

LIFE OF X PART FOUR

CHARLES **SOULE** WRITER | CARLOS **PACHECO** PENCILER | RAFAEL **FONTERIZ** INKER
RAIN **BEREDO** COLOR ARTIST | VC's CLAYTON **COWLES** LETTERER

CARLOS **PACHECO**, RAFAEL **FONTERIZ** & NOLAN **WOODARD** MAIN COVER ARTISTS

ADI **GRANOV** CHARACTER VARIANT COVER ARTIST

JAY **BOWEN** & ANTHONY **GAMBINO** GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

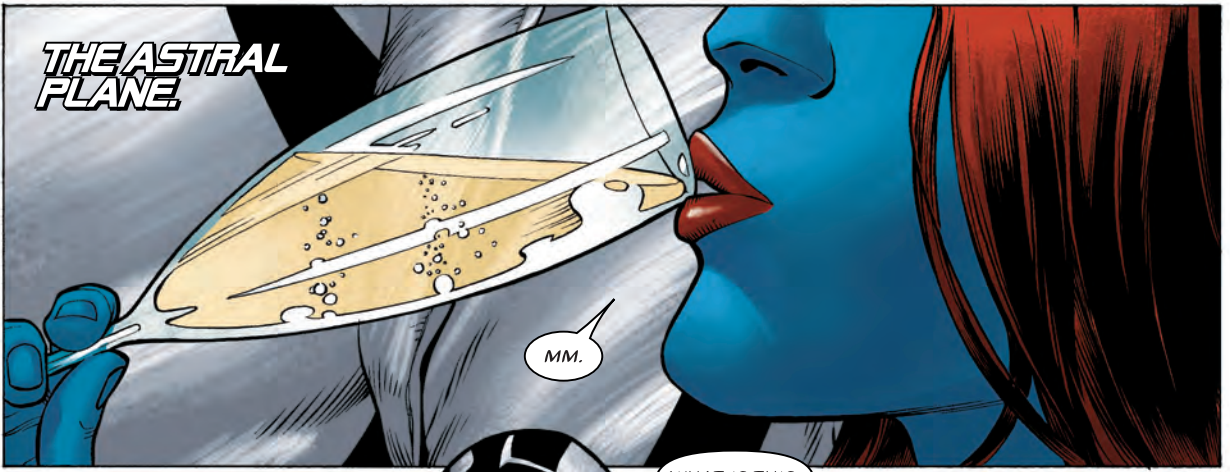
CHRISTINA **HARRINGTON** ASSISTANT EDITOR | MARK **PANICCIA** EDITOR

AXEL **ALONSO** EDITOR IN CHIEF | JOE **QUESADA** CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER | DAN **BUCKLEY** PRESIDENT | ALAN **FINE** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

X-MEN CREATED BY **STAN LEE** & **JACK KIRBY**

ASTONISHING X-MEN No. 4, December 2017. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2017 MARVEL No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40688537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO ASTONISHING X-MEN, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Operations, Publishing & Partnership; C.B. CEBULSKI, VP of Brand Management & Development, Asia; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vit DeBellis, Integrated Sales Manager, at vdebellis@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 09/08/2017 and 09/19/2017 by LSC COMMUNICATIONS INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.

**THE ASTRAL
FLANE.**



MM.



WHAT IS THIS,
MYSTIQUE?

KRUG
PRIVATE CUVÉE,
FANTOMEX.

NOT THE **MOST**
EXPENSIVE CHAMPAGNE
EVER MADE, BUT CLOSE.
I'VE ONLY TASTED IT ONCE
BACK IN THE REAL WORLD,
BUT HERE, THAT DOESN'T
MATTER.

I CAN
HAVE AS MUCH
AS I WANT.

NO,
NOT THE
CHAMPAGNE--
ALTHOUGH
IT IS QUITE
LOVELY.

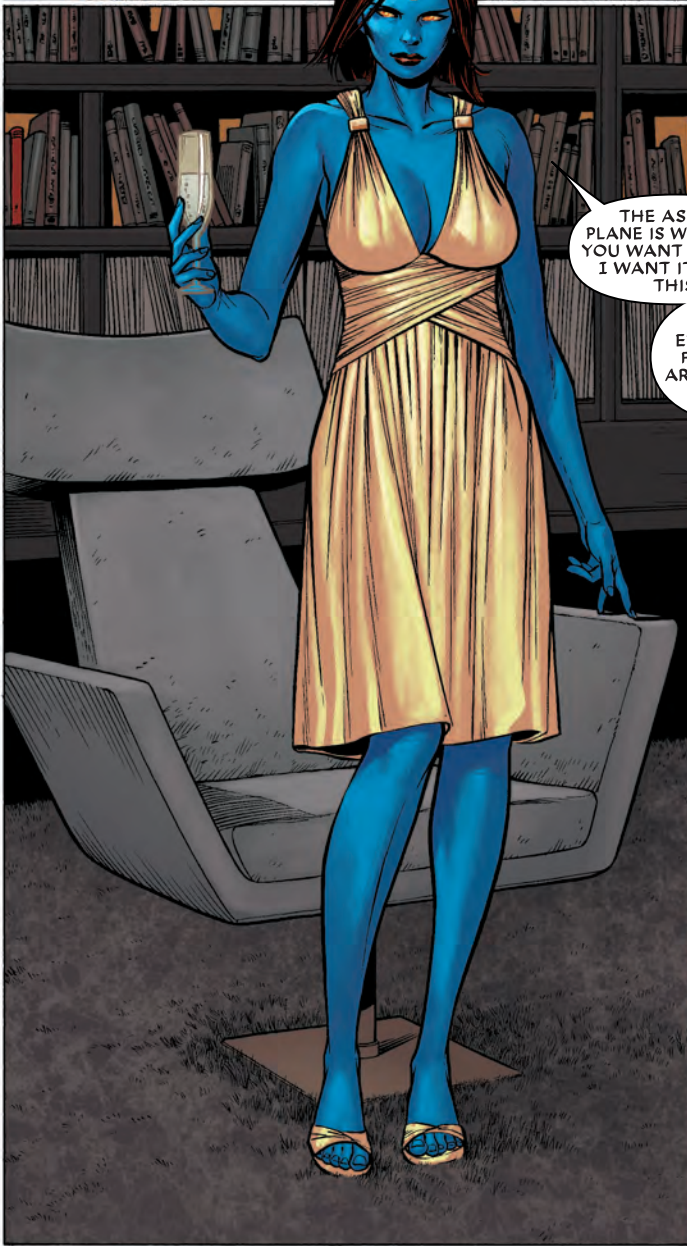


THIS PLACE.
WHAT IS THIS
PLACE?



AN APARTMENT I ONCE HAD IN MADRIPOOR. BACK IN THE '20S. I LOVED IT. A WONDERFUL TIME TO BE A CRIMINAL.

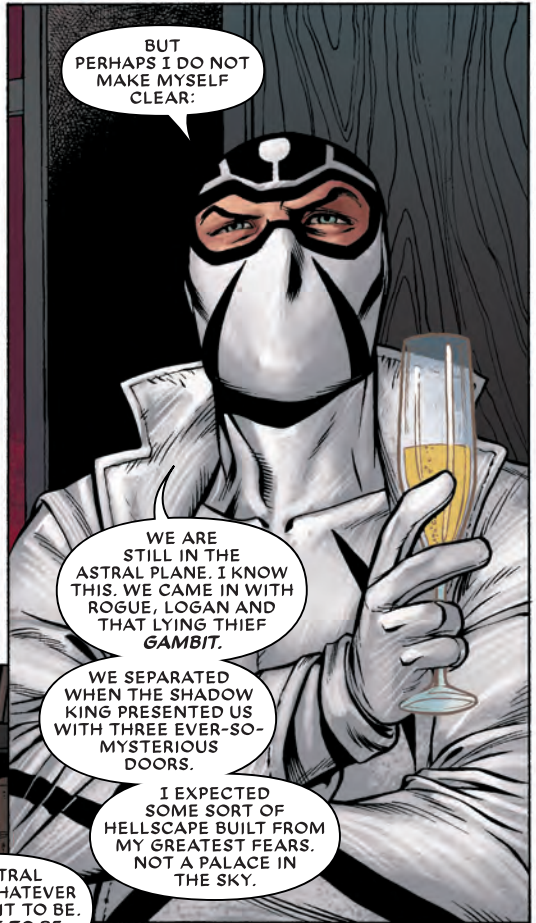
OH, I HAVE NO DOUBT. NEXT TIME I AM CAUGHT UP IN A TIME-TRAVEL CAPER, I'LL DO MY BEST TO GET STRANDED IN THE JAZZ AGE.



THE ASTRAL PLANE IS WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE. I WANT IT TO BE THIS.

FAROUK WILL FIND US EVENTUALLY--I CAN FEEL HIM SNIFFING AROUND THIS REALITY FORTRESS EVEN NOW.

THEN, CERTAINLY...PAIN, AGONY, TERROR. BUT UNTIL THEN...



BUT PERHAPS I DO NOT MAKE MYSELF CLEAR:

WE ARE STILL IN THE ASTRAL PLANE. I KNOW THIS. WE CAME IN WITH ROGUE, LOGAN AND THAT LYING THIEF GAMBIT.

WE SEPARATED WHEN THE SHADOW KING PRESENTED US WITH THREE EVER-SO-MYSTERIOUS DOORS.

I EXPECTED SOME SORT OF HELLSCAPE BUILT FROM MY GREATEST FEARS. NOT A PALACE IN THE SKY.



...I INTEND TO THOROUGHLY ENJOY MYSELF.