

AVENGERS vs X-MEN

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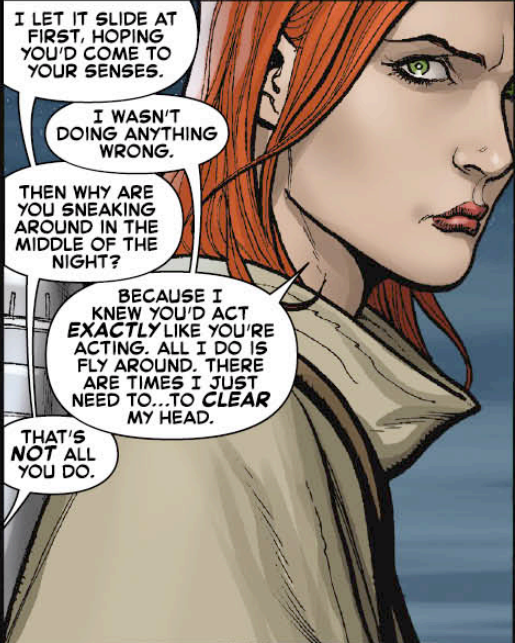


FINE, OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR STUPID JETPACK BACK.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

THOUGH YES, I WOULD LIKE MY JETPACK BACK.

YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OUT EVERY NIGHT FOR ALMOST A WEEK NOW. DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?



I LET IT SLIDE AT FIRST, HOPING YOU'D COME TO YOUR SENSES.

I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

THEN WHY ARE YOU SNEAKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D ACT EXACTLY LIKE YOU'RE ACTING. ALL I DO IS FLY AROUND. THERE ARE TIMES I JUST NEED TO...TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

THAT'S NOT ALL YOU DO.



TWO MUGGERS WERE BEATEN HALF TO DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN LAST NIGHT. THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT, A PAROLED CHILD MOLESTER IN CORONA HEIGHTS HAD HIS LEGS BROKEN. TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, OR THAT THERE'S NOT A POLICE SCANNER STRAPPED TO YOUR BELT.

PROTECTING A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS US. ISN'T THAT OUR JOB?

NOT WHEN IT MEANS NEEDLESSLY PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER.



AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS CALLED UTOPIA. FUNNY NAME FOR A PRISON.

NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING CHILDISH. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A PRISONER HERE, HOPE, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT YOU ALSO KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FOR YOU TO BE OUT THERE ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE TOO BIG A TARGET.



YOU'RE TOO IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE HERE, MOST ESPECIALLY ME.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I'M NOT THE DELICATE LITTLE FLOWER YOU SEEM TO THINK I AM.

NO. YOU'RE NOT.



YOU'RE THE MUTANT MESSIAH.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION. YOU'RE THE ONE MUTANT IN ALL THE WORLD THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.



BUT WHY?
HOPE...

NO, FOR ONCE, TELL ME THE WHY AND THE HOW. HOW AM I DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER MUTANT OUT HERE? ALL I'VE DONE MY WHOLE LIFE IS RUN FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE TRYING TO KILL ME. AND THEN I TURN AROUND AND SOMEONE TELLS ME HOW AMAZING I AM.

WHY? WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?



EVERYTHING.

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

I WANT THE TRUTH. JUST TELL ME. PLEASE.



TELL ME ABOUT THE PHOENIX.



HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE--

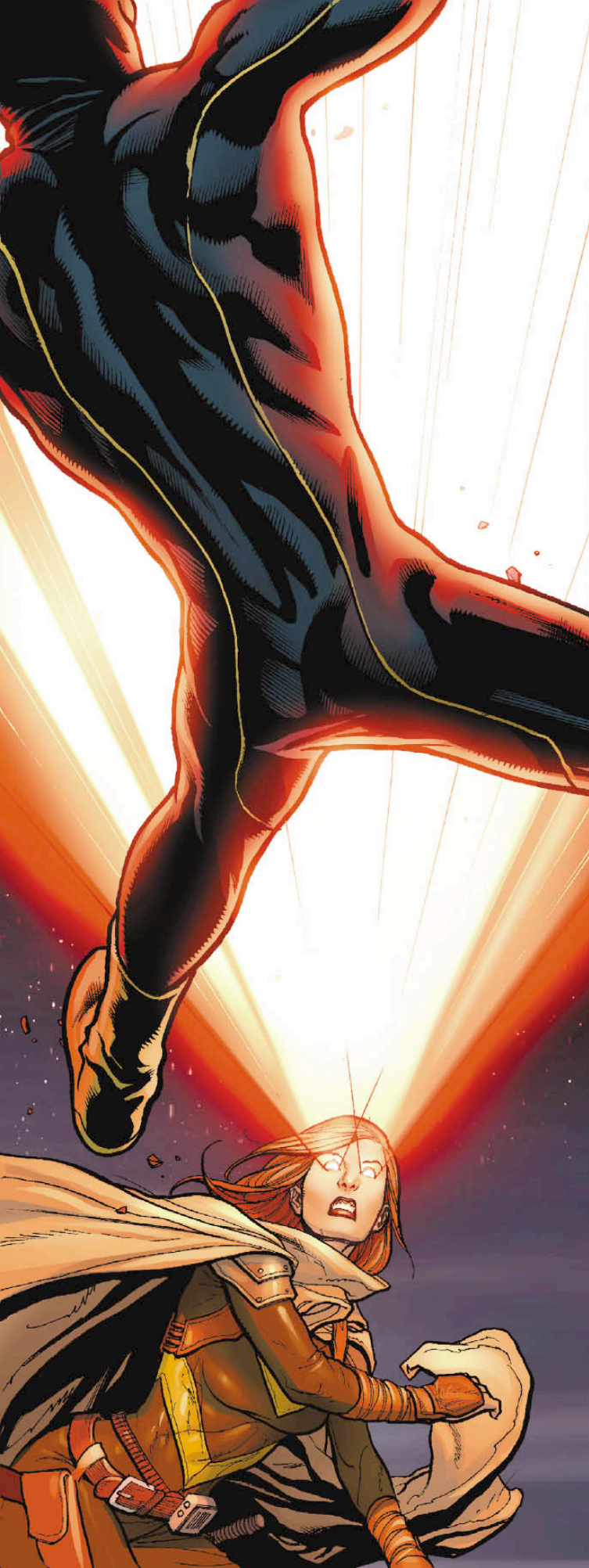
I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK I DO. I KNOW IT'S SOME BIG-TIME COSMIC FIREBIRD. AND I KNOW IT'S COMING FOR ME. JUST LIKE IT CAME YEARS AGO FOR YOUR WIFE, JEAN. I KNOW EVERYBODY GETS CRAZY SCARED WHENEVER IT'S EVEN MENTIONED. MOST ESPECIALLY YOU.



SO...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT GETS HERE?





**TO BE CONTINUED IN
AVENGERS VS. X-MEN #0
ON SALE MARCH 2012**