

TERRIGEN MISTS CIRCLE THE GLOBE, WHITTLING DOWN MUTANTKIND'S NUMBERS AND SUPPRESSING ANY NEW MUTANT MANIFESTATIONS. BELIEVING BIGGER THREATS REQUIRE MORE THREATENING X-MEN, MAGNETO IS JOINED BY A TEAM OF THE MOST RUTHLESS MUTANTS ALIVE TO STEM THE THREAT OF EXTINCTION...

UNCANNY X-MEN



MAGNETO



PSYLOCKE



SABRETOOTH



M



ARCHANGEL

THE X-MEN INTERCEPTED A SOMEDAY CORPORATION TRANSPORT CARRYING MUTANTS WHO HAD PAID TO ENTER STASIS. BUT MAGNETO REFUSED TO ALLOW THESE MUTANTS TO REMAIN ASLEEP. WHEN ONE OF THOSE MUTANTS WAS FOUND DEAD, THE X-MEN DISCOVERED THAT MUTANT HEALERS WERE BEING TARGETED ACROSS THE GLOBE. THE DARK RIDERS ARE BACK AND ARE HUNTING HEALERS WHO CAN PREVENT MUTANTS FROM SUCCUMBING TO THE TERRIGEN MISTS.

WHILE MONET MET WITH RECLUSIVE FORMER X-MAN XORN TO WARN HIM OF THE IMPENDING DANGER, MAGNETO AND PSYLOCKE SAVED THE YOUNG HEALER KNOWN AS TRIAGE FROM AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT BY THE DARK RIDERS.

MEANWHILE, FANTOMEX AND MYSTIQUE BEGAN THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE SOMEDAY CORPORATION...AN INVESTIGATION SEEMINGLY BACKED BY THE NEWLY RESURRECTED HELLFIRE CLUB.

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THE HELLFIRE CLUB

NEW YORK BRANCH.



WELL...
I WOULDN'T
SAY YOU LOOK
COMPLETELY
OUT OF
PLACE...

... BUT
YOU DEFINITELY
SEEM MORE
INTERESTING
THAN
THE REST OF THIS
CROWD...

... THESE
DESPERATE
DILETTANTES, SO
EAGER TO RAGE
AGAINST THEIR
OWN
BANALITY.



MY APOLOGIES, MADEMOISELLE.

I DON'T BELIEVE I CAUGHT YOUR NAME.



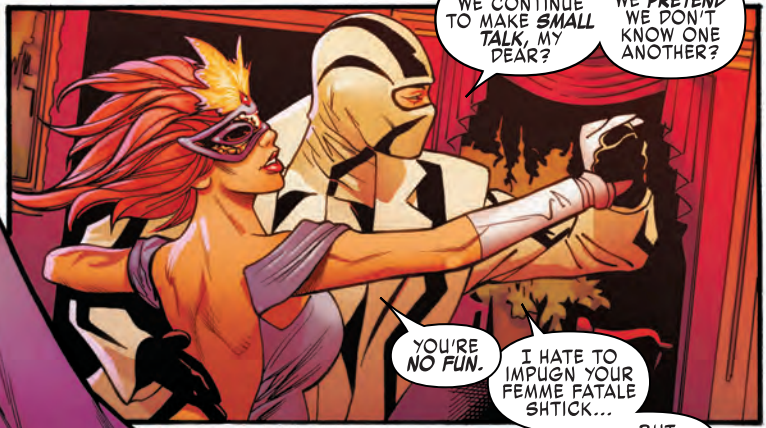
DANCE.

AS IN, YOU SHOULD ASK ME TO.



BUT OF COURSE.

WHERE ARE MY MANNERS?



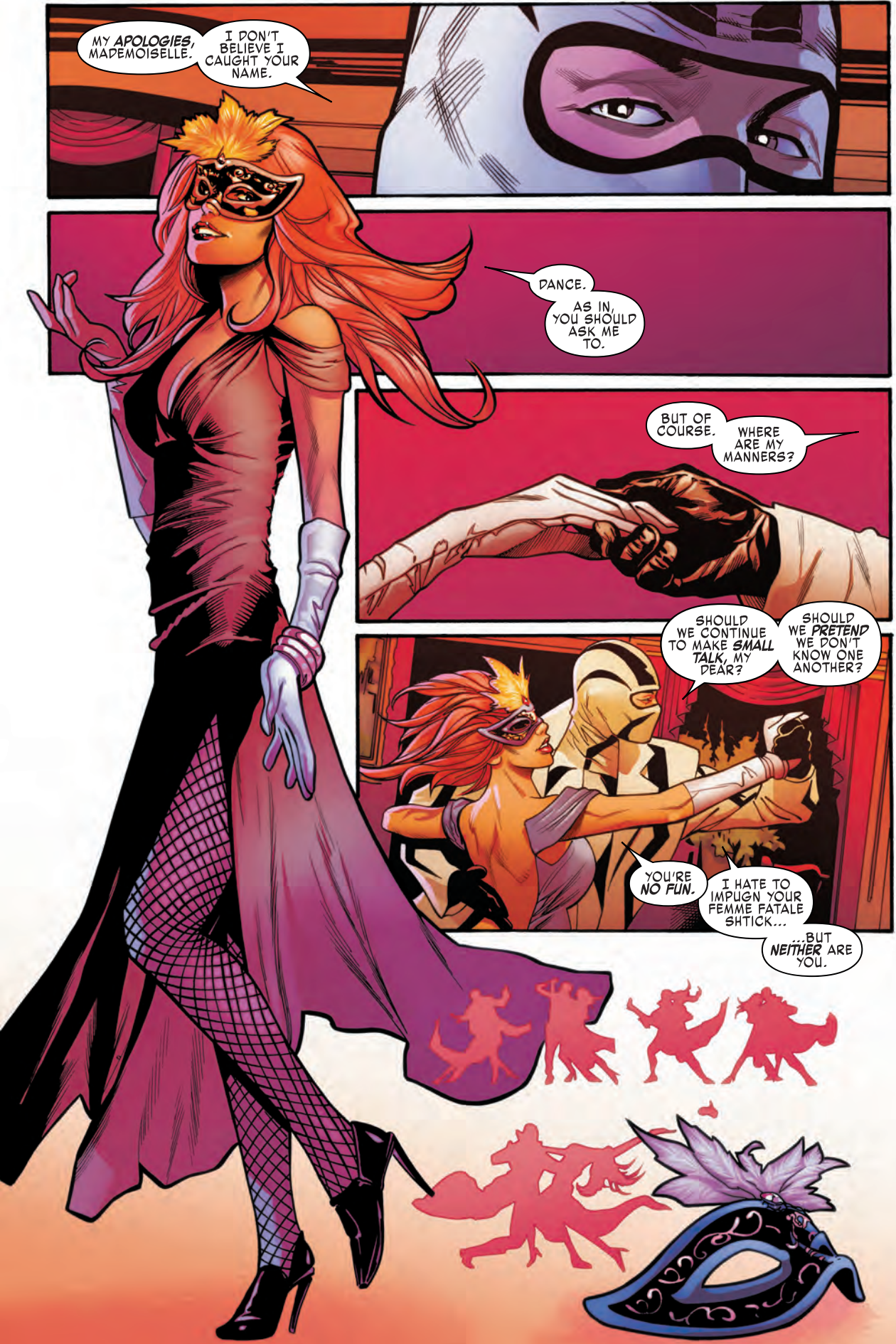
SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO MAKE *SMALL TALK*, MY DEAR?

SHOULD WE *PRETEND* WE DON'T KNOW ONE ANOTHER?

YOU'RE NO FUN.

I HATE TO IMPUGN YOUR FEMME FATALE SHTICK...

...BUT NEITHER ARE YOU.





DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL SORE WITH ME, FANTOMEX.

PEOPLE IN OUR LINE OF WORK HAVE TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE AND ALL THAT.



THAT WATER IS MURKY AT BEST. AND I'D HARDLY BE SATISFIED...

...UNLESS YOU WERE FLOATING IN IT FACE DOWN.



POOR THING.

THAT PRIDE OF YOURS JUST CAN'T SEEM TO SCAB OVER, CAN IT?

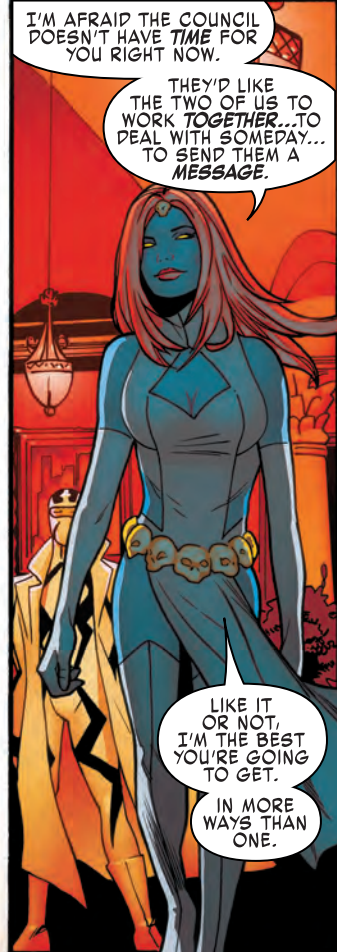


I WOULD LOVE TO CONTINUE THIS LITTLE TÊTE-À-TÊTE, MYSTIQUE, BUT I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THE INNER COUNCIL.

I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING NEW IN REGARDS TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE *SOMEPAY CORPORATION*.

THE MUTANTS UNDER THEIR "PROTECTION" HAVE BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN LAB RATS...

...EXPERIMENTED UPON... AUGMENTED WITH TECHNOLOGY I KNOW ALL TOO--



I'M AFRAID THE COUNCIL DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

THEY'D LIKE THE TWO OF US TO WORK TOGETHER... TO DEAL WITH *SOMEPAY*... TO SEND THEM A MESSAGE.

LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M THE BEST YOU'RE GOING TO GET.

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.



:(SIGH): THIS IS GOING TO BE SIMPLY LOVELY.