

RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE AFTERLIFE, NIGHTCRAWLER HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIS PLACE IN A WORLD FAR DIFFERENT THE ONE HE LEFT BEHIND.

PREVIOUSLY IN...

# NIGHTCRAWLER

AFTER RECEIVING A DISTRESS CALL FROM BLOODY BESS OF THE CRIMSON PIRATES, NIGHTCRAWLER WAS TELEPORTED TO A SECLUDED DESERT IN CHINA, WHERE HE IMMEDIATELY CAME UNDER ATTACK BY THE PIRATES AND THE MIND-CONTROLLING MASTERMIND PULLING THEIR STRINGS: THE SHADOW KING! AND THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO HELP, BUT INSTEAD ALSO FELL UNDER THE SHADOW KING'S SWAY. MANAGING TO INCAPACITATE ALL OF HIS TEAMMATES—SAVE PSYLOCKE—VICTORY SEEMED TO BE WITHIN NIGHTCRAWLER'S GRASP...BUT IT WAS SNATCHED AWAY AS HIS ONLY REMAINING ALLIES, THE BAMFS, TURNED ON HIM AS WELL!



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**NEAR THE SHANSHAN  
DEPRESSION OF  
SOUTHWEST CHINA...**

WHAT'S THE  
BLACKBIRD  
DOING HERE?

IS IT CARRYING  
OTHER X-MEN?

WHOEVER'S  
ABOARD  
THAT AIRCRAFT,  
NIGHTCRAWLER--

**THE  
BEST LAID**

I THOUGHT BLOODY  
BESS AND THE BAMFS  
WOULD HAVE A DECENT  
CHANCE AGAINST  
PSYLOCKE.

ANY MORE  
THAN YOU COULD  
SAVE--

**BESS!**

WAS I  
WRONG?

WATCH ME,  
FOOL--

--AS I BREAK  
YOUR WOULD-BE  
RESCUERS TO  
MY WILL.



--THEY CANNOT SAVE YOU...

PLANS--!



RICO, NIGHTCRAWLER'S IN TROUBLE.

WE HAVE TO HELP!

WHAT CAN WE DO, ZIGGY?

THEY ALREADY BEAT THE X-MEN!



IN TRUTH, THE DEMON DEFEATED HIS FRIENDS...

...AFTER I HAD MADE THEM MY SLAVES.

!GASPI!



PERHAPS, AFTER I CLAIM YOUR SOULS...

...I WILL HAVE YOU SLAY YOUR TEACHER.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING!

WE'RE GOING TO FIND A WAY TO STOP YOU!

RICO-- DON'T!



OH, REALLY?

ARGH!



I AM THE SHADOW KING!

YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ME!



HEY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON OUR SIDE!

THEY ARE MY CREATURES NOW.

AS YOU SOON WILL BE.