

# ASTONISHING X-MEN



#5

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**DIGITAL**  
**CONTENT**  
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# ACT I



CHARLES XAVIER AND THE SHADOW KING ARE BATTLING FOR THE SOULS OF THE X-MEN ON THE REALITY-WARPING ASTRAL PLANE. THE SHADOW KING IS WINNING.

FIRST, THE PSYCHIC PARASITE TOOK LOGAN, AND USED HIM TO ATTACK PSYLOCKE, BISHOP, ANGEL AND A SQUAD OF BRITISH SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDOS SENT TO SUBDUCE THE MUTANTS. LOGAN ESCAPED, AND HAS NOW BEGUN TO TRANSMIT A STRANGE MENTAL INFECTION TO THE TERRIFIED CITIZENS OF LONDON.

ON THE ASTRAL PLANE, FANTOMEX AND MYSTIQUE BUILT A REALITY FORTRESS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM THE SHADOW KING'S ASSAULTS, AND USED IT TO ENJOY EVERY FANTASY THEY COULD IMAGINE--INCLUDING EACH OTHER.

ROGUE AND GAMBIT ALMOST MANAGED TO DO THE SAME.

IN A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT, XAVIER PULLED THE ASTRAL-PLANE-BOUND X-MEN INTO A SECRET SUBREALITY, WHICH HE INTENDS TO USE AS A STAGING GROUND FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT. ALL BUT GAMBIT.

GAMBIT...IS LOST.

THE SHADOW KING IS WINNING.





# ASTONISHING

# X-MEN



**LIFE OF X**  
PART FIVE

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**LONDON!**

LOOK AT HIS EYES--HE'S LIKE THE OTHER ONE. TAKE HIM OUT.

NO! GAMBIT'S NOT HIMSELF--HIS MIND IS POSSESSED. LET ME TRY TO HELP BEFORE YOU JUST SHOOT HIM!

APPRECIATE THE OFFER, PSYLOCKE.

BUT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

FIRE!

NO, YOU IDIOTS! HE'S USED HIS POWERS--HE'S CHARGED THE ENTIRE ROOFTOP!

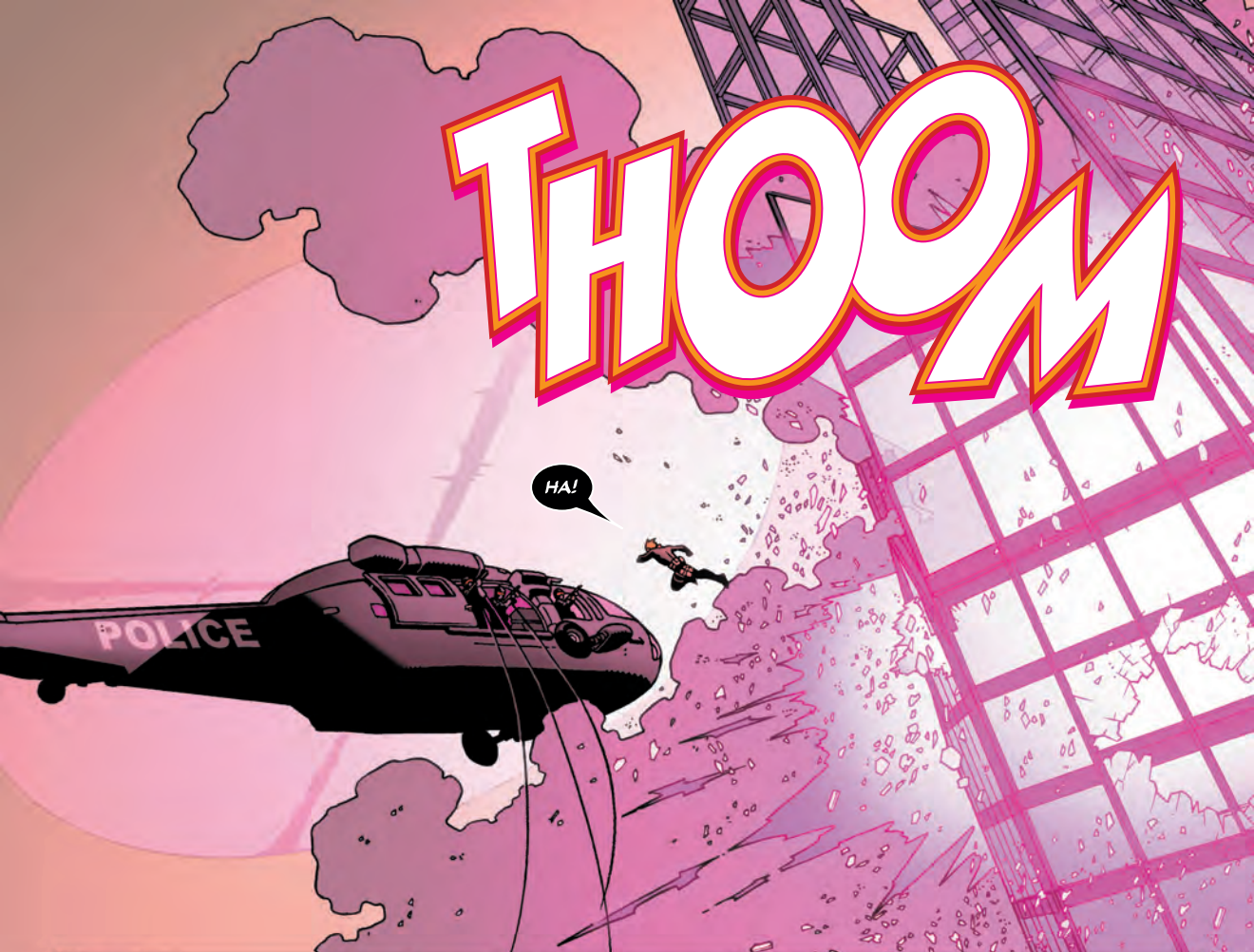
IT'S AN ENERGY GRENADE!

**BRK BRK BRK BRK**

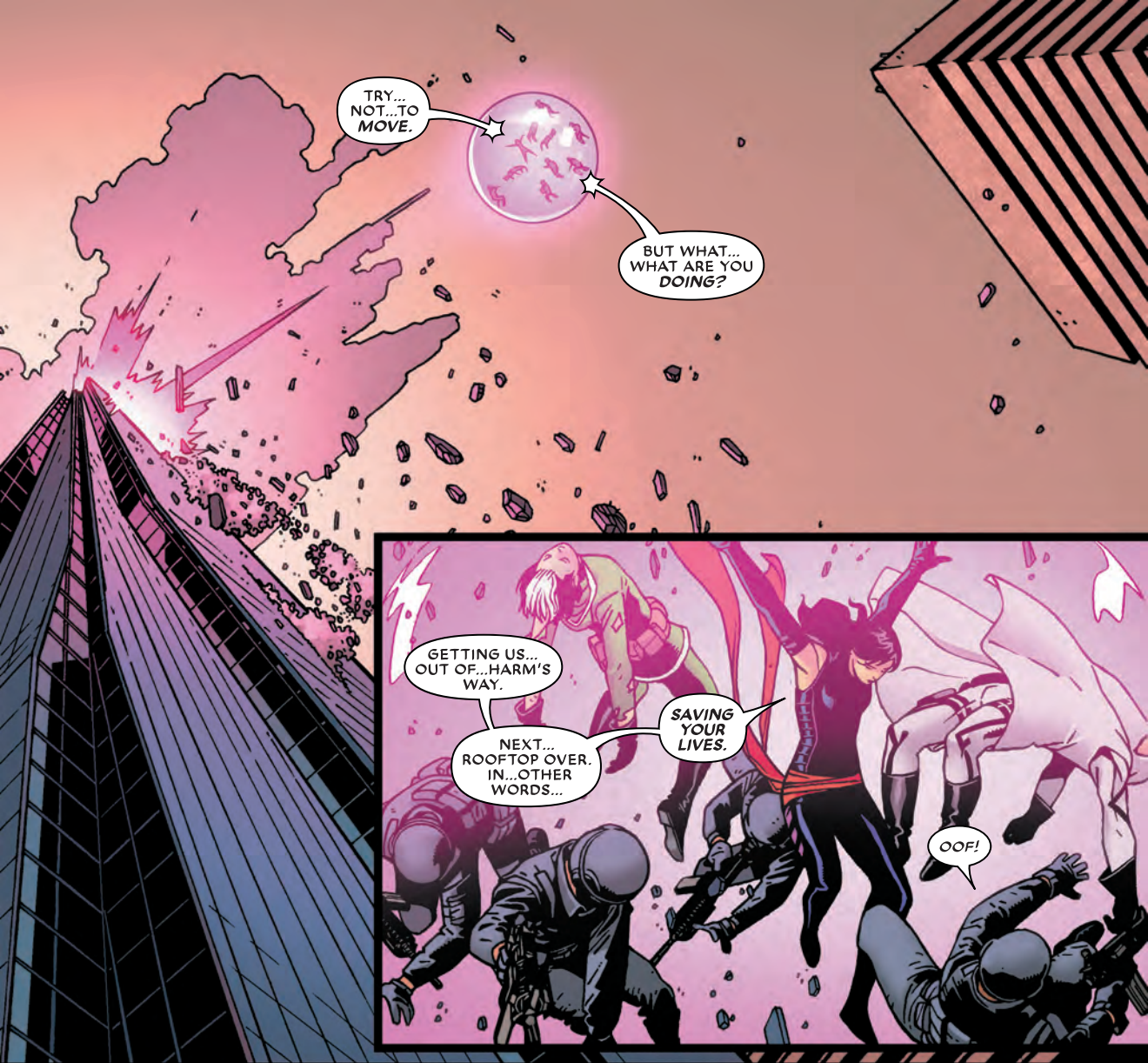
ENERGY GRENADE? THAT DOESN'T--



# THOOM







TRY... NOT... TO MOVE.

BUT WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



GETTING US... OUT OF... HARM'S WAY.

NEXT... ROOFTOP OVER. IN... OTHER WORDS...

SAVING YOUR LIVES.

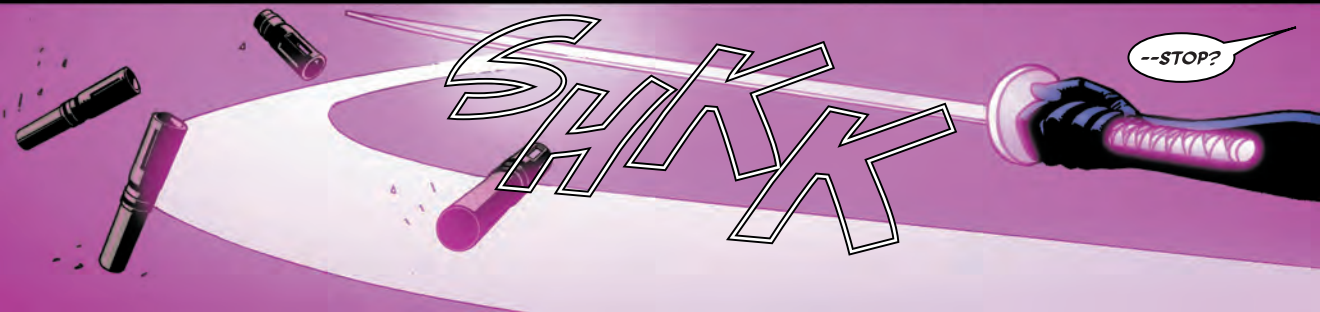
OOF!



AND MANY THANKS FOR THAT, MA'AM, BUT YOU'RE STILL UNDER ARREST.

SHOW US YOUR HANDS!

WILL YOU ALL JUST--



--STOP?