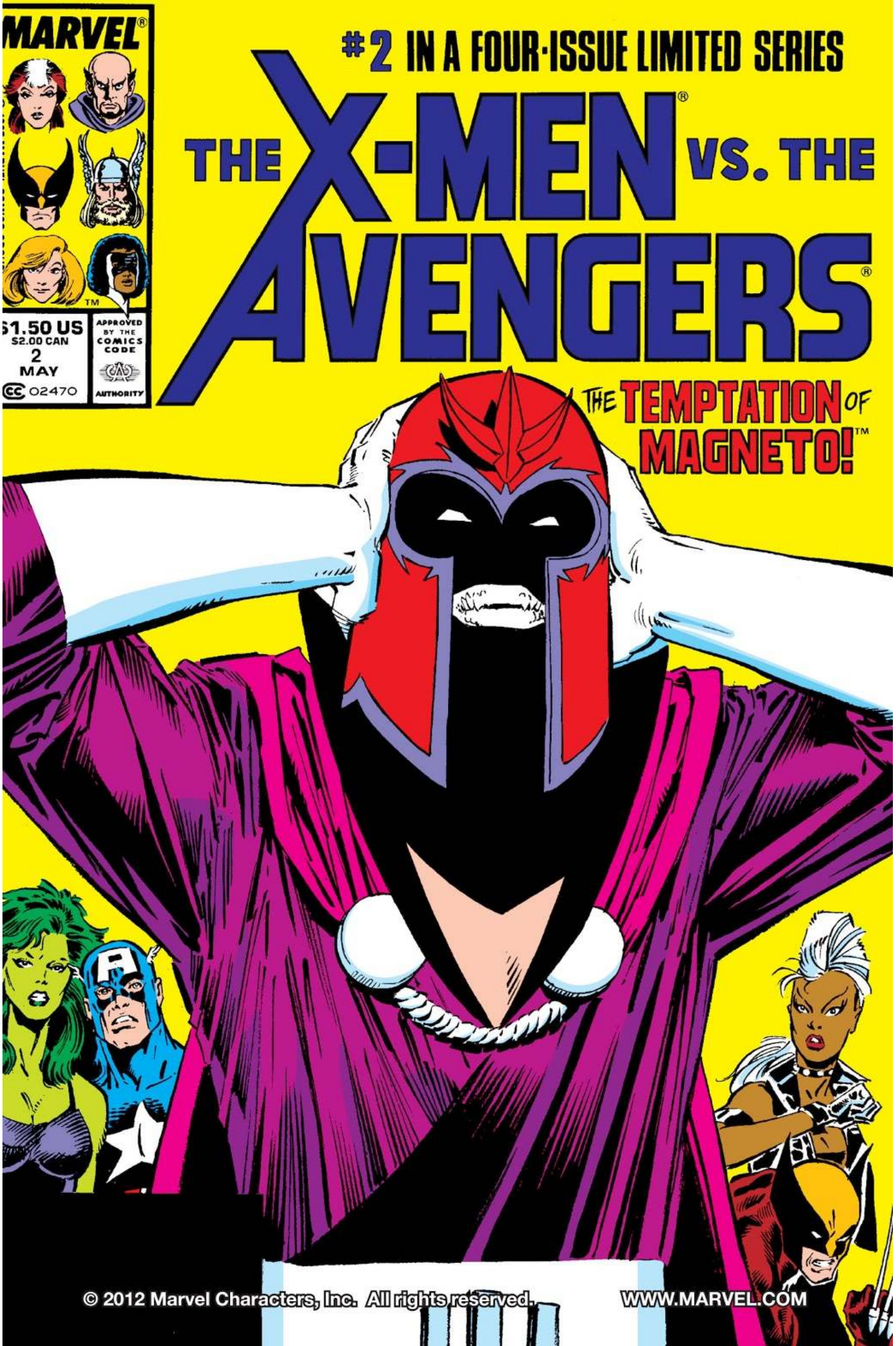
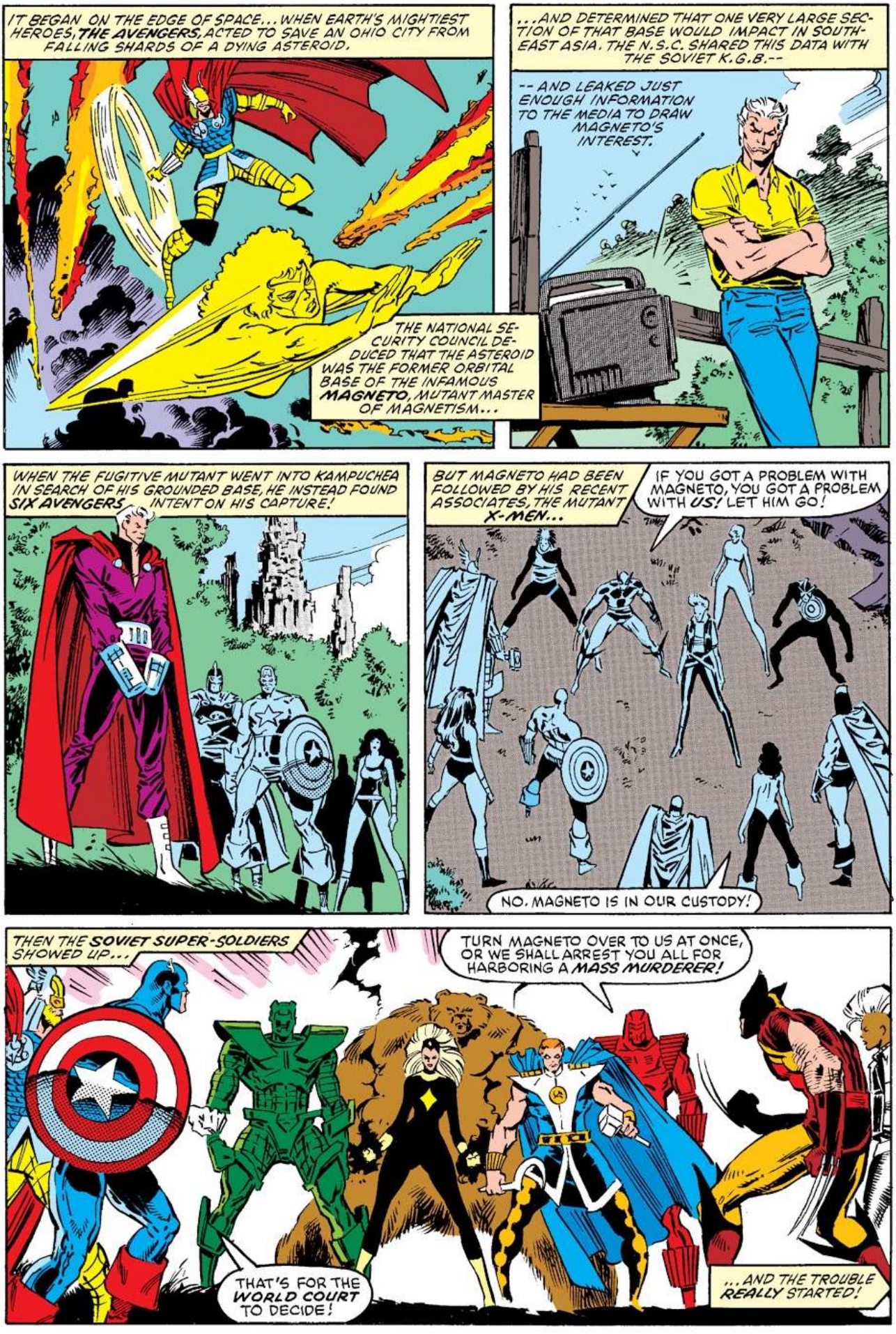
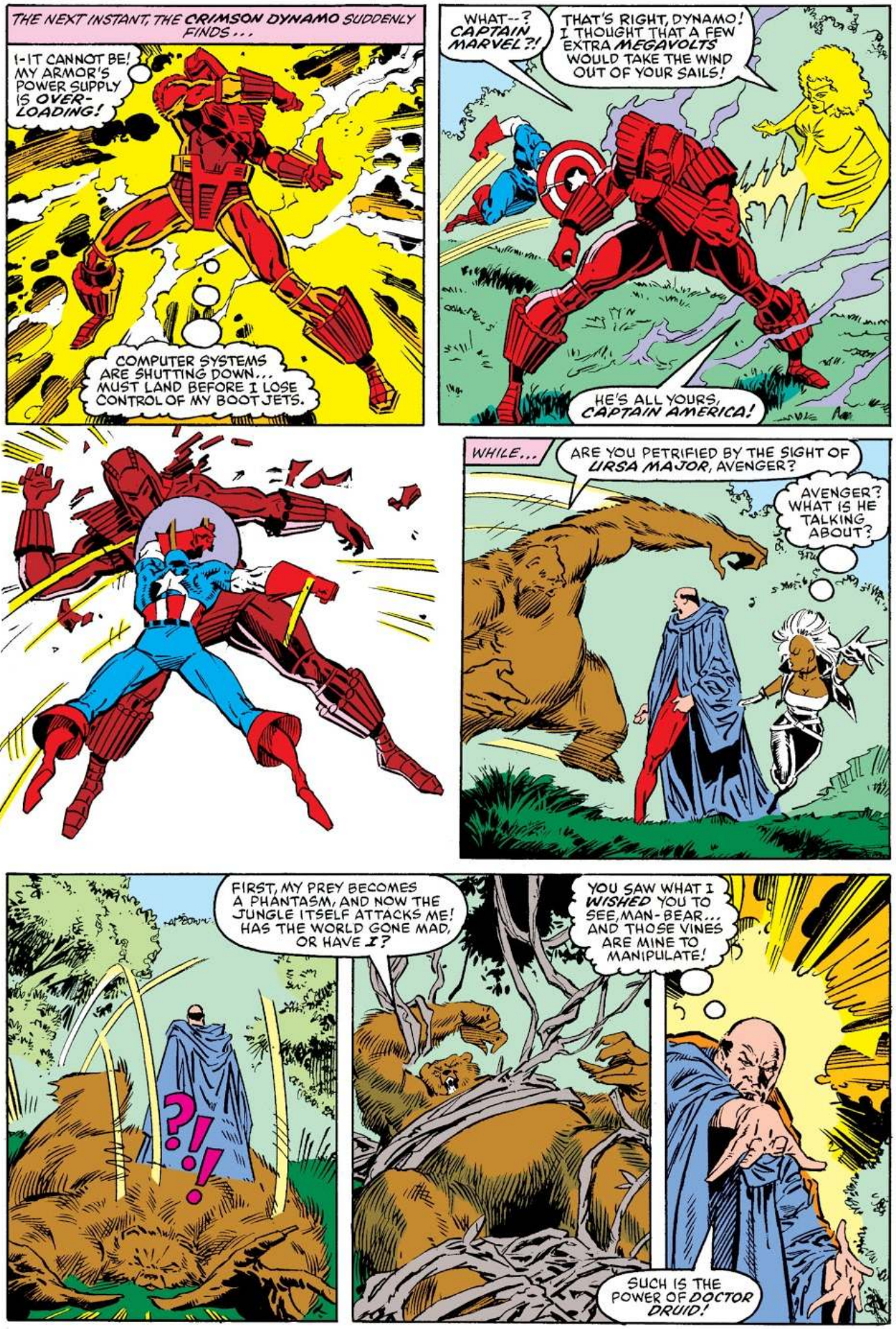
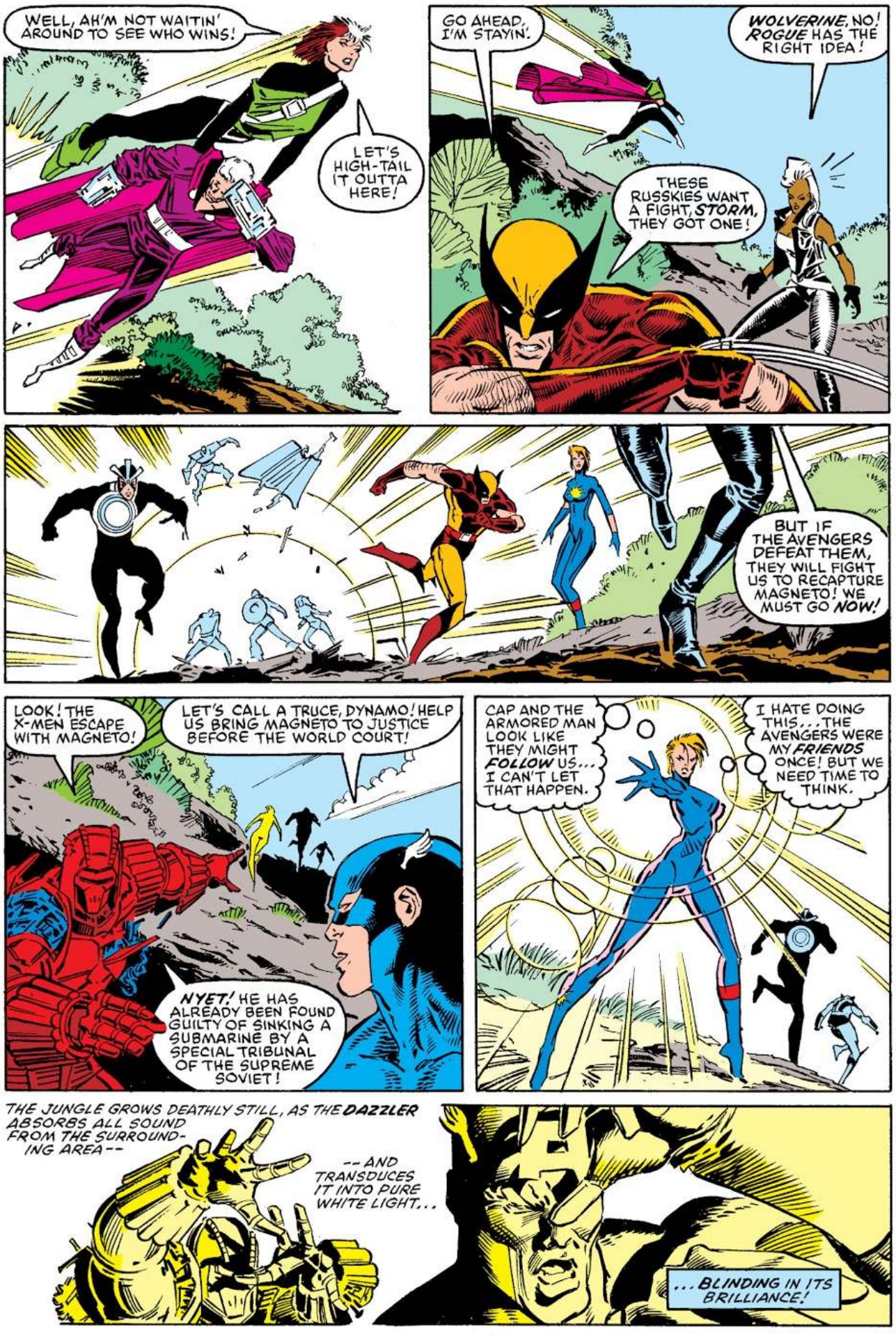

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THE X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS
THE TEMPTATION OF MAGNETO!™
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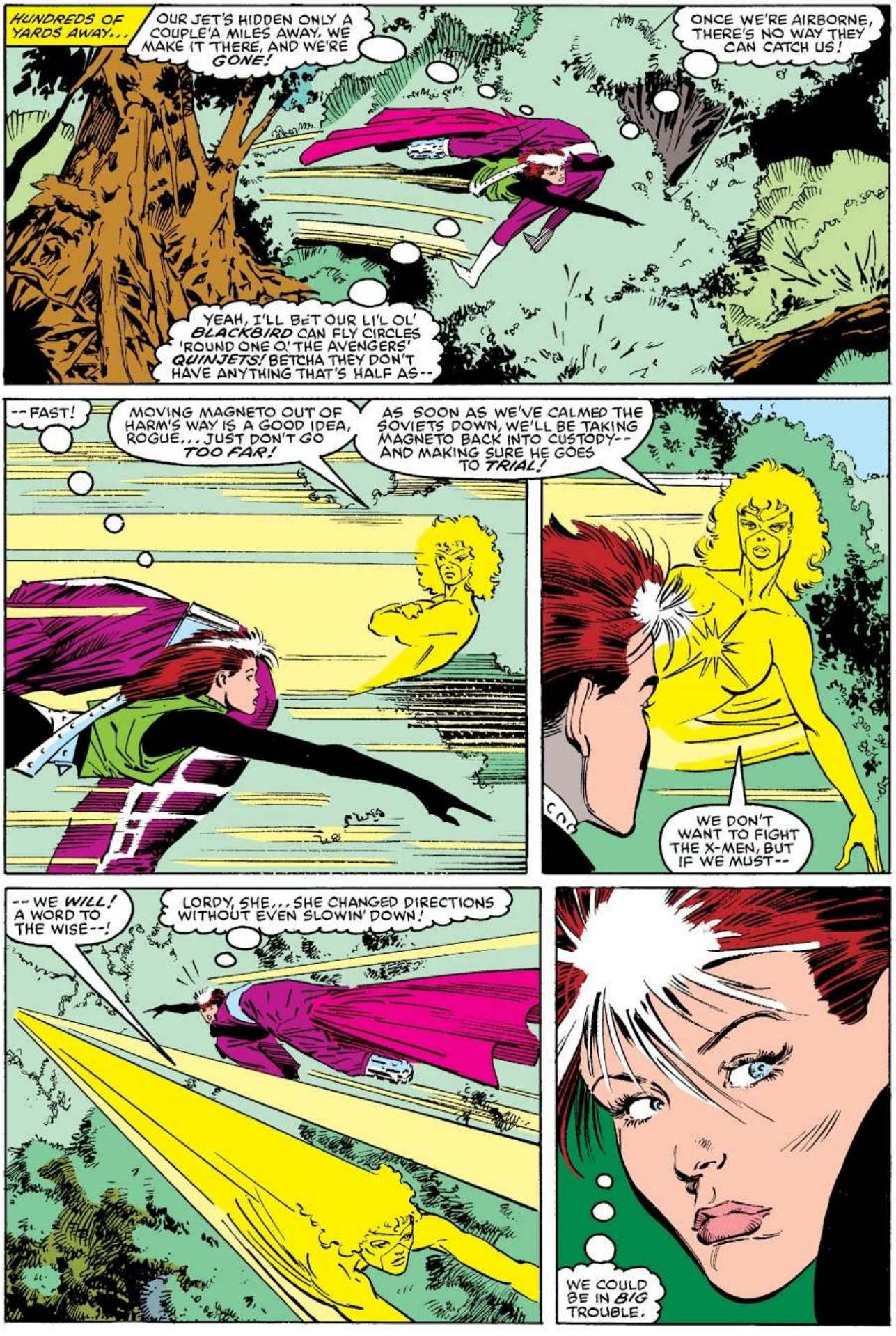

IT BEGAN ON THE EDGE OF SPACE... WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, THE AVENGERS, ACTED TO SAVE AN OHIO CITY FROM FALLING SHARDS OF A DYING ASTEROID.
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DEDUCED THAT THE ASTEROID WAS THE FORMER ORBITAL BASE OF THE INFAMOUS MAGNETO, MUTANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM...
...AND DETERMINED THAT ONE VERY LARGE SECTION OF THAT BASE WOULD IMPACT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE N.S.C. SHARED THIS DATA WITH THE SOVIET K.G.B.--
-- AND LEAKED JUST ENOUGH INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA TO DRAW MAGNETO'S INTEREST.
WHEN THE FUGITIVE MUTANT WENT INTO KAMPUCHEA IN SEARCH OF HIS GROUNDED BASE, HE INSTEAD FOUND SIX AVENGERS INTENT ON HIS CAPTURE!
BUT MAGNETO HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY HIS RECENT ASSOCIATES, THE MUTANT X-MEN...
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MAGNETO, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH US! LET HIM GO!
NO. MAGNETO IS IN OUR CUSTODY!
THEN THE SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS SHOWED UP...
TURN MAGNETO OVER TO US AT ONCE, OR WE SHALL ARREST YOU ALL FOR HARBORING A MASS MURDERER!
THAT'S FOR THE WORLD COURT TO DECIDE!
...AND THE TROUBLE REALLY STARTED!



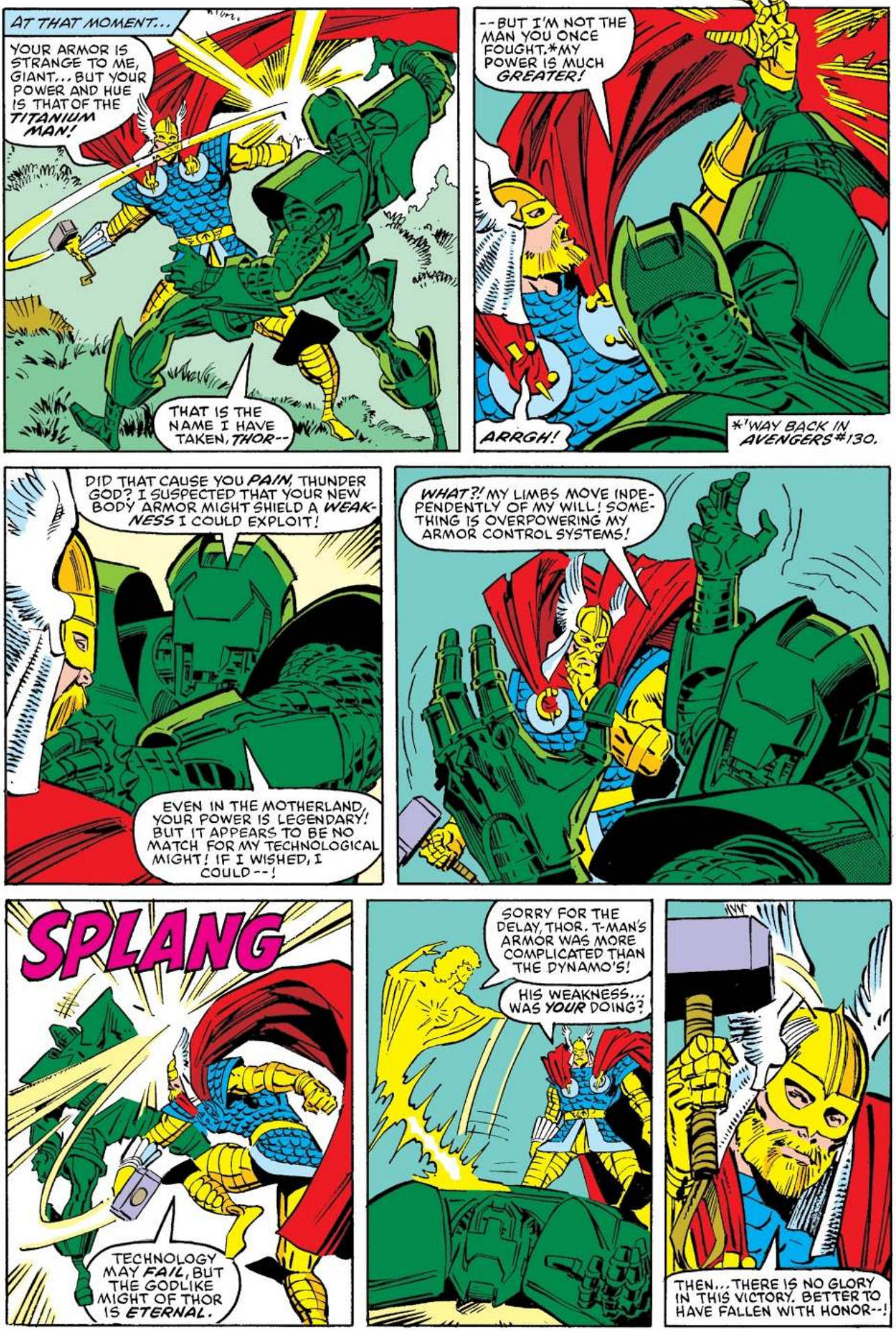
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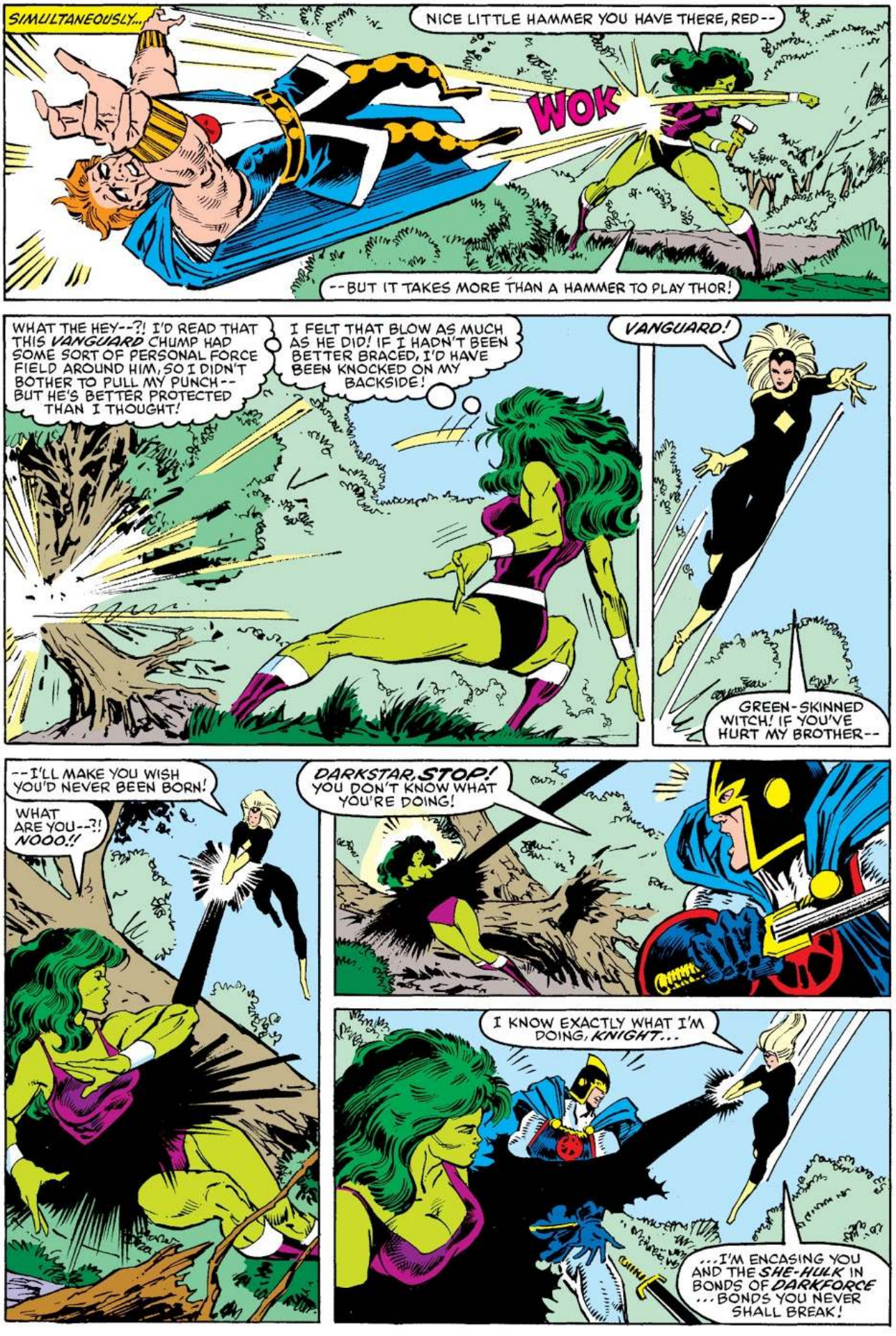

THE NEXT INSTANT, THE CRIMSON DYNAMO SUDDENLY FINDS . . .
I-IT CANNOT BE! MY ARMOR'S POWER SUPPLY IS OVER-LOADING!
COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARE SHUTTING DOWN... MUST LAND BEFORE I LOSE CONTROL OF MY BOOT JETS.
WHAT--? CAPTAIN MARVEL?!
THAT'S RIGHT, DYNAMO! I THOUGHT THAT A FEW EXTRA MEGAVOLTS WOULD TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOUR SAILS!
HE'S ALL YOURS, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WHILE...
ARE YOU PETRIFIED BY THE SIGHT OF URSA MAJOR, AVENGER?
AVENGER? WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
?!
FIRST, MY PREY BECOMES A PHANTASM, AND NOW THE JUNGLE ITSELF ATTACKS ME! HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD, OR HAVE I?
YOU SAW WHAT I WISHED YOU TO SEE, MAN-BEAR... AND THOSE VINES ARE MINE TO MANIPULATE!
SUCH IS THE POWER OF DOCTOR DRUID!

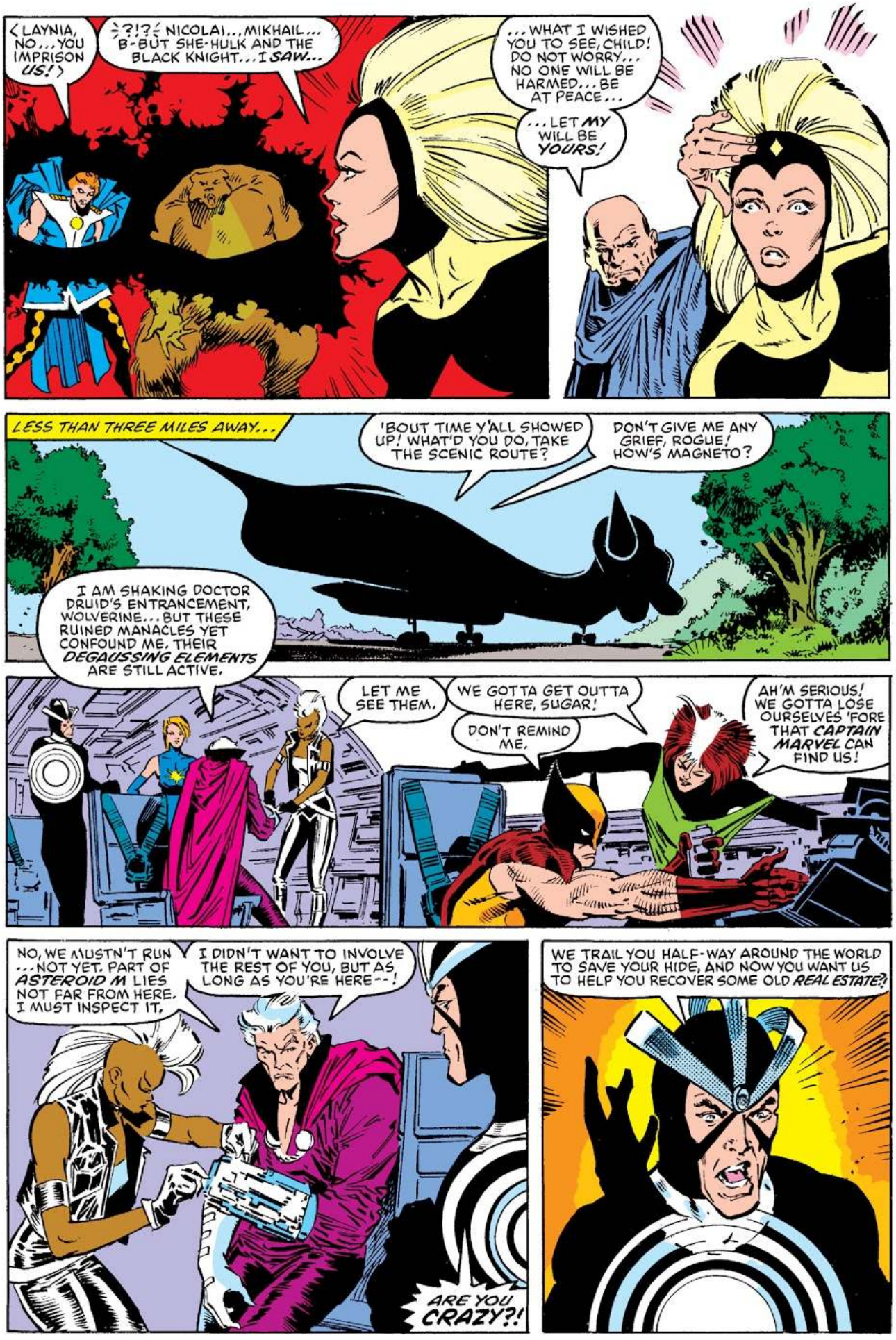

WELL, AH'M NOT WAITIN' AROUND TO SEE WHO WINS!
LET'S HIGH-TAIL IT OUTTA HERE!
GO AHEAD, I'M STAYIN'.
WOLVERINE, NO! ROGUE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA!
THESE RUSSKIES WANT A FIGHT, STORM, THEY GOT ONE!
BUT IF THE AVENGERS DEFEAT THEM, THEY WILL FIGHT US TO RECAPTURE MAGNETO! WE MUST GO NOW!
LOOK! THE X-MEN ESCAPE WITH MAGNETO!
LET'S CALL A TRUCE, DYNAMO! HELP US BRING MAGNETO TO JUSTICE BEFORE THE WORLD COURT!
NYET! HE HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF SINKING A SUBMARINE BY A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL OF THE SUPREME SOVIET!
CAP AND THE ARMORED MAN LOOK LIKE THEY MIGHT FOLLOW US... I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
I HATE DOING THIS... THE AVENGERS WERE MY FRIENDS ONCE! BUT WE NEED TIME TO THINK.
THE JUNGLE GROWS DEATHLY STILL, AS THE DAZZLER ABSORBS ALL SOUND FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA--
--AND TRANSDUCES IT INTO PURE WHITE LIGHT...
...BLINDING IN ITS BRILLIANCE!



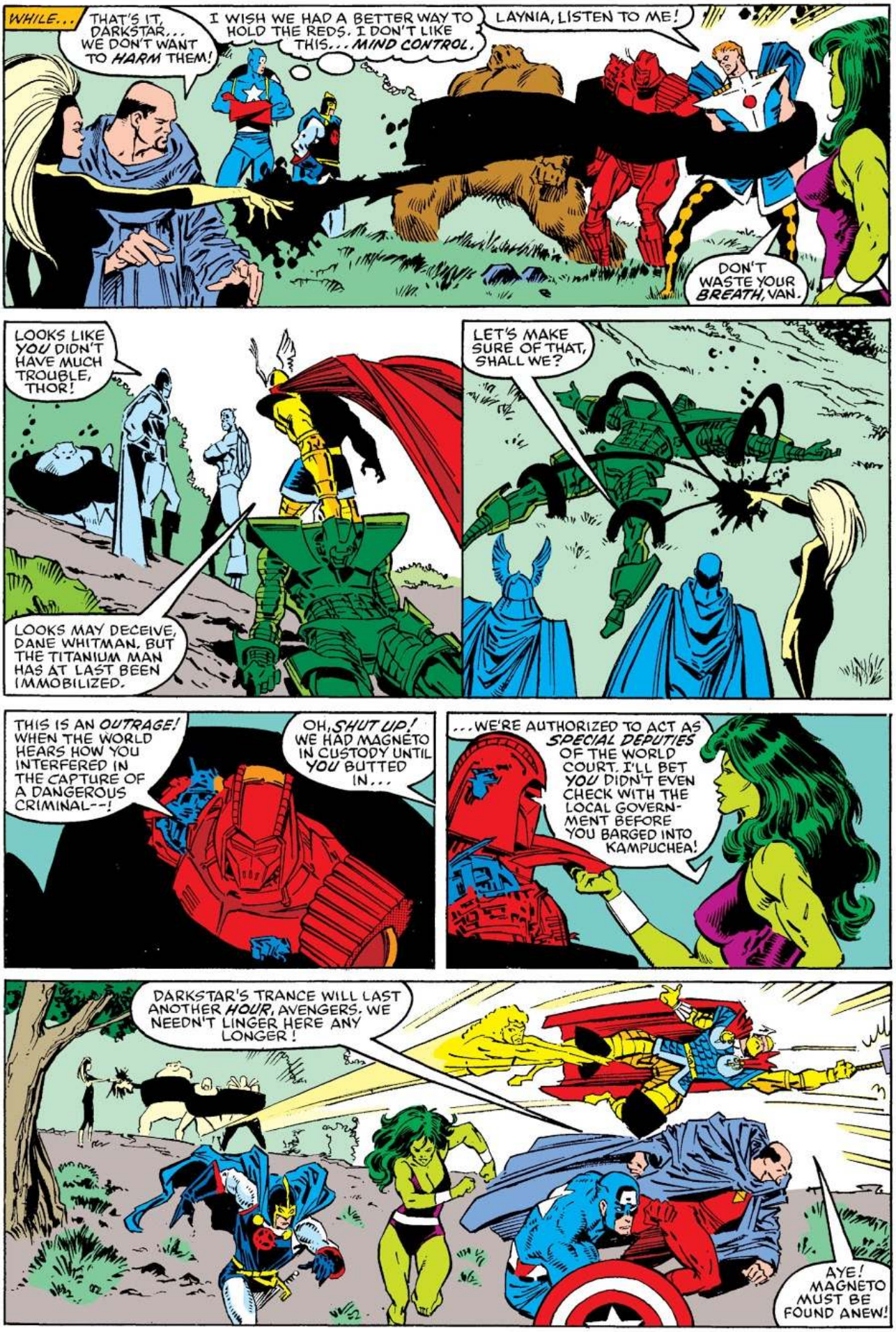
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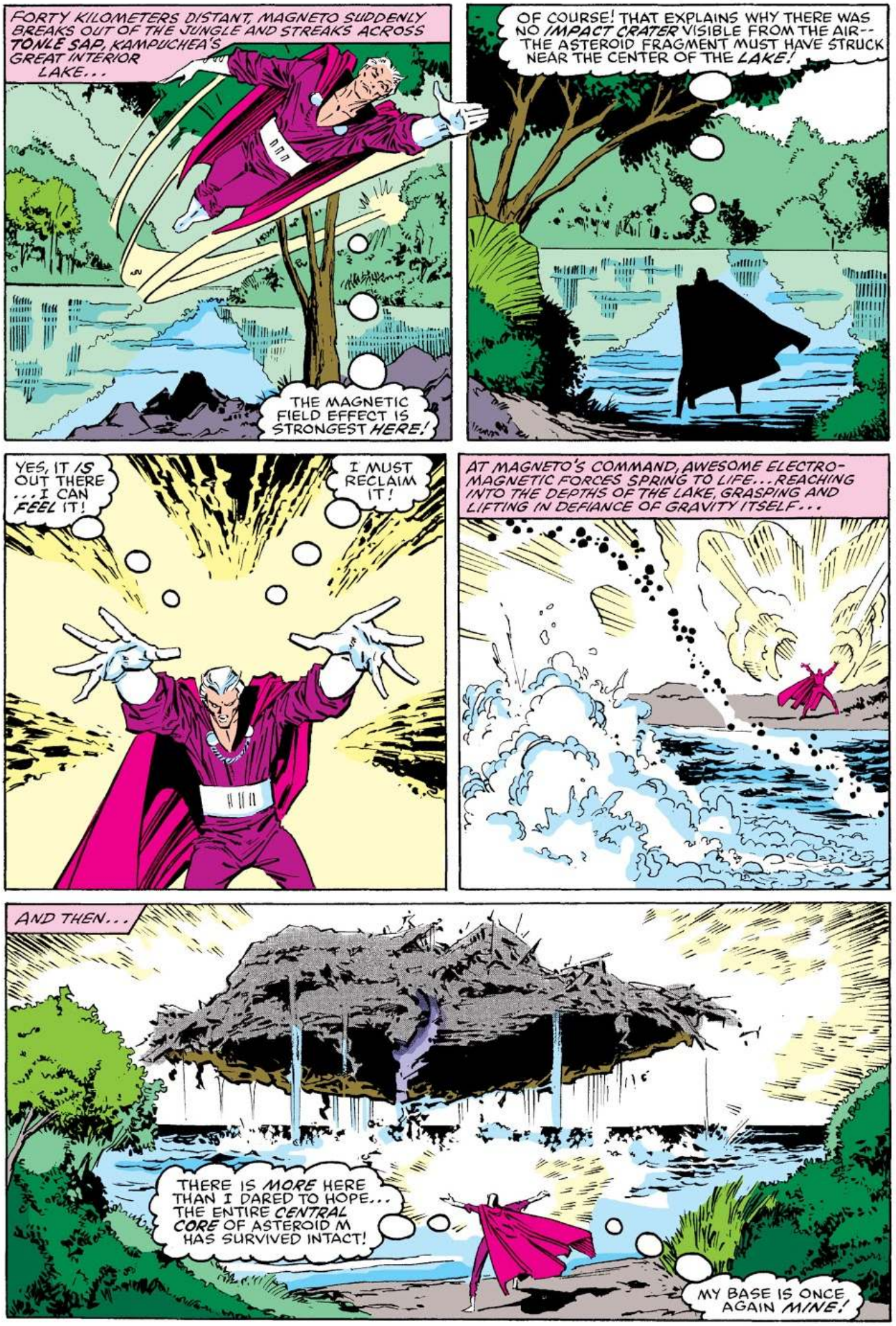

AT THAT MOMENT...
YOUR ARMOR IS STRANGE TO ME, GIANT... BUT YOUR POWER AND HUE IS THAT OF THE TITANIUM MAN!
THAT IS THE NAME I HAVE TAKEN, THOR--
--BUT I'M NOT THE MAN YOU ONCE FOUGHT.*MY POWER IS MUCH GREATER!
ARRGH!
*'WAY BACK IN AVENGERS #130.
DID THAT CAUSE YOU PAIN, THUNDER GOD? I SUSPECTED THAT YOUR NEW BODY ARMOR MIGHT SHIELD A WEAKNESS I COULD EXPLOIT!
EVEN IN THE MOTHERLAND, YOUR POWER IS LEGENDARY! BUT IT APPEARS TO BE NO MATCH FOR MY TECHNOLOGICAL MIGHT! IF I WISHED, I COULD--!
WHAT?! MY LIMBS MOVE INDEPENDENTLY OF MY WILL! SOMETHING IS OVERPOWERING MY ARMOR CONTROL SYSTEMS!
SPLANG
TECHNOLOGY MAY FAIL, BUT THE GODLIKE MIGHT OF THOR IS ETERNAL.
SORRY FOR THE DELAY, THOR. T-MAN'S ARMOR WAS MORE COMPLICATED THAN THE DYNAMO'S!
HIS WEAKNESS... WAS YOUR DOING?
THEN... THERE IS NO GLORY IN THIS VICTORY. BETTER TO HAVE FALLEN WITH HONOR--!

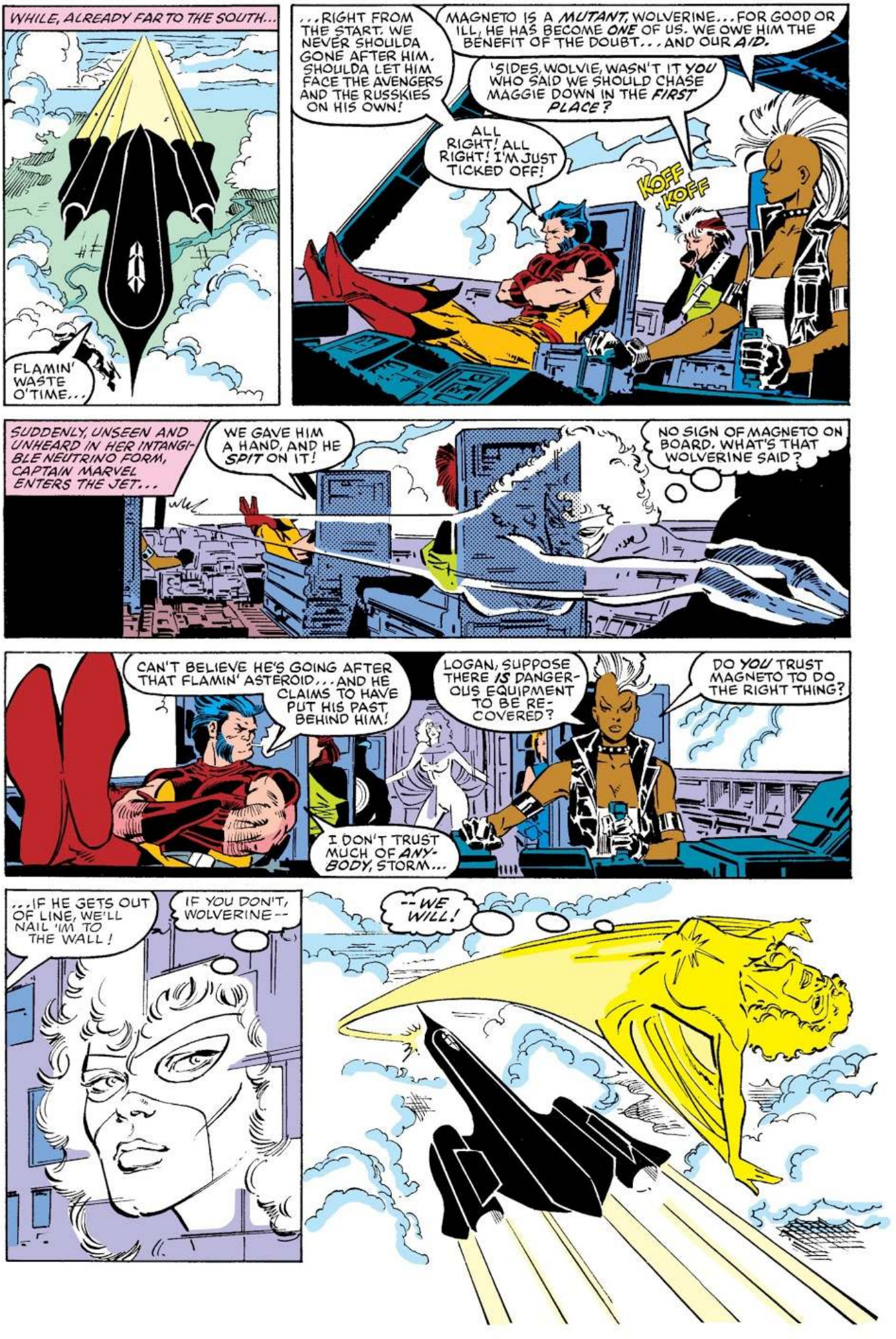

SIMULTANEOUSLY...
NICE LITTLE HAMMER YOU HAVE THERE, RED--
WOK
--BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN A HAMMER TO PLAY THOR!
WHAT THE HEY--?! I'D READ THAT THIS VANGUARD CHUMP HAD SOME SORT OF PERSONAL FORCE FIELD AROUND HIM, SO I DIDN'T BOTHER TO PULL MY PUNCH-- BUT HE'S BETTER PROTECTED THAN I THOUGHT!
I FELT THAT BLOW AS MUCH AS HE DID! IF I HADN'T BEEN BETTER BRACED, I'D HAVE BEEN KNOCKED ON MY BACKSIDE!
VANGUARD!
GREEN-SKINNED WITCH! IF YOU'VE HURT MY BROTHER--
--I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN!
WHAT ARE YOU--?! NOOO!!
DARKSTAR, STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING, KNIGHT...
...I'M ENCASING YOU AND THE SHE-HULK IN BONDS OF DARKFORCE ...BONDS YOU NEVER SHALL BREAK!


〈LAYNIA, NO...YOU IMPRISON US!〉
≥?!?≤ NICOLAI...MIKHAIL... B-BUT SHE-HULK AND THE BLACK KNIGHT...I SAW...
...WHAT I WISHED YOU TO SEE, CHILD! DO NOT WORRY... NO ONE WILL BE HARMED...BE AT PEACE...
...LET MY WILL BE YOURS!
LESS THAN THREE MILES AWAY...
'BOUT TIME Y'ALL SHOWED UP! WHAT'D YOU DO, TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE?
DON'T GIVE ME ANY GRIEF, ROGUE! HOW'S MAGNETO?
I AM SHAKING DOCTOR DRUID'S ENTRANCEMENT, WOLVERINE...BUT THESE RUINED MANACLES YET CONFOUND ME. THEIR DEGAUSSING ELEMENTS ARE STILL ACTIVE.
LET ME SEE THEM.
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE, SUGAR!
DON'T REMIND ME.
AH'M SERIOUS! WE GOTTA LOSE OURSELVES 'FORE THAT CAPTAIN MARVEL CAN FIND US!
NO, WE MUSTN'T RUN ...NOT YET. PART OF ASTEROID M LIES NOT FAR FROM HERE. I MUST INSPECT IT.
I DIDN'T WANT TO INVOLVE THE REST OF YOU, BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE--!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WE TRAIL YOU HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO SAVE YOUR HIDE, AND NOW YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU RECOVER SOME OLD REAL ESTATE?!

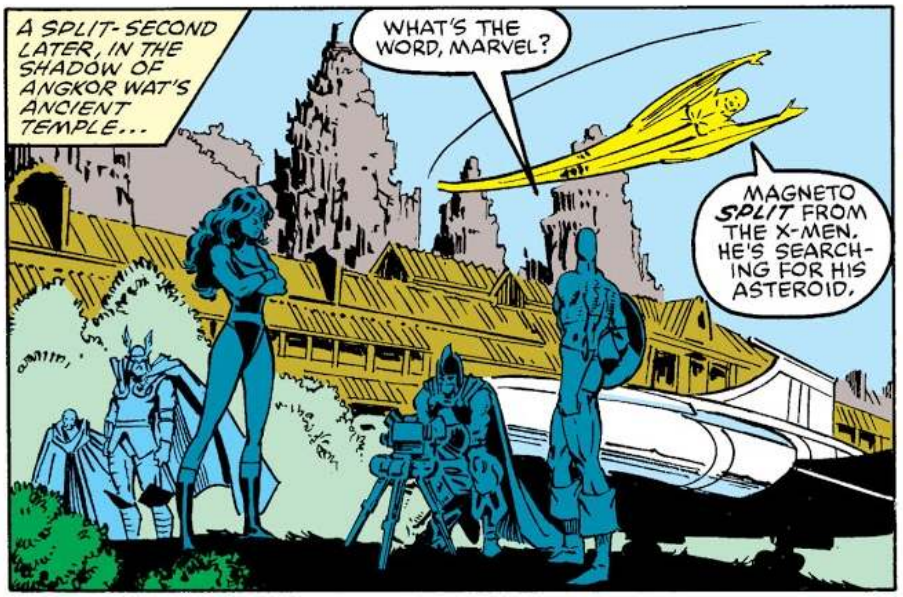

HAVOK, CALM DOWN! YOUR POWER LEVELS ARE BUILDING TOO FAST! IF YOU LOSE CONTROL NOW, THE SHOCKWAVE WOULD RIP THE BLACKBIRD APART!
ALL RIGHT...I'LL WATCH IT. BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S SO BLASTED IMPORTANT ABOUT SOME CHUNK OF ROCK!
A SECTION OF MY OLD BASE MAY BE INTACT ON THAT "CHUNK OF ROCK," AS YOU PUT IT. ANY EQUIPMENT WHICH SURVIVED IMPACT IS TOO DANGEROUS TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOUR HANDS ARE THE RIGHT ONES? BACK WHEN YOU LIVED AND WORKED ON THAT ASTEROID --
--YOU WERE MAKIN' PLANS TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR MUTANTKIND BY TAKING IT OVER, AN' YOU WERE PERFECTLY WILLIN' TO TORTURE OR KILL ANYONE WHO STOOD IN YOUR WAY. *
*X-MEN #112-113, FOR EXAMPLE.
THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND ME, WOLVERINE.
THE AVENGERS MUST BE AWARE OF THIS ASTEROID FRAGMENT, MAGNETO. IF IT IS ANY DANGER, THEY WILL DEAL WITH IT. OUR JOB IS TO GET YOU TO--
NO, I INSIST UPON FINDING IT...
...BY MYSELF, IF NECESSARY!
SHOULD I STOP HIM?
I DOUBT YA COULD, KID.
HE HAS MADE HIS DECISION...
...AND PLACED HIMSELF OUTSIDE OUR PROTECTION.
LET'S GO. WE'RE WASTIN' OUR TIME HERE!

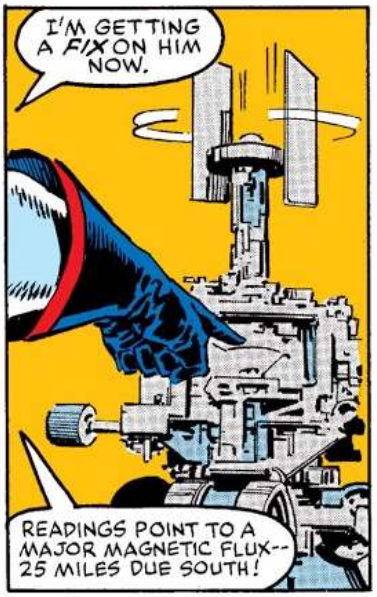

WHILE...
THAT'S IT, DARKSTAR... WE DON'T WANT TO HARM THEM!
I WISH WE HAD A BETTER WAY TO HOLD THE REDS. I DON'T LIKE THIS... MIND CONTROL.
LAYNIA, LISTEN TO ME!
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, VAN.
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE, THOR!
LOOKS MAY DECEIVE, DANE WHITMAN, BUT THE TITANIUM MAN HAS AT LAST BEEN IMMOBILIZED.
LET'S MAKE SURE OF THAT, SHALL WE?
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! WHEN THE WORLD HEARS HOW YOU INTERFERED IN THE CAPTURE OF A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL--!
OH, SHUT UP! WE HAD MAGNETO IN CUSTODY UNTIL YOU BUTTED IN...
...WE'RE AUTHORIZED TO ACT AS SPECIAL DEPUTIES OF THE WORLD COURT. I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE YOU BARGED INTO KAMPUCHEA!
DARKSTAR'S TRANCE WILL LAST ANOTHER HOUR, AVENGERS. WE NEEDN'T LINGER HERE ANY LONGER!
AYE! MAGNETO MUST BE FOUND ANEW!


FORTY KILOMETERS DISTANT, MAGNETO SUDDENLY BREAKS OUT OF THE JUNGLE AND STREAKS ACROSS TONLE SAP, KAMPUCHEA'S GREAT INTERIOR LAKE...
THE MAGNETIC FIELD EFFECT IS STRONGEST HERE!
OF COURSE! THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE WAS NO IMPACT CRATER VISIBLE FROM THE AIR-- THE ASTEROID FRAGMENT MUST HAVE STRUCK NEAR THE CENTER OF THE LAKE!
YES, IT IS OUT THERE ...I CAN FEEL IT!
I MUST RECLAIM IT!
AT MAGNETO'S COMMAND, AWESOME ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FORCES SPRING TO LIFE...REACHING INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE LAKE, GRASPING AND LIFTING IN DEFIANCE OF GRAVITY ITSELF...
AND THEN...
THERE IS MORE HERE THAN I DARED TO HOPE... THE ENTIRE CENTRAL CORE OF ASTEROID M HAS SURVIVED INTACT!
MY BASE IS ONCE AGAIN MINE!



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A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, IN THE SHADOW OF ANGKOR WAT'S ANCIENT TEMPLE...
WHAT'S THE WORD, MARVEL?
MAGNETO SPLIT FROM THE X-MEN. HE'S SEARCHING FOR HIS ASTEROID.

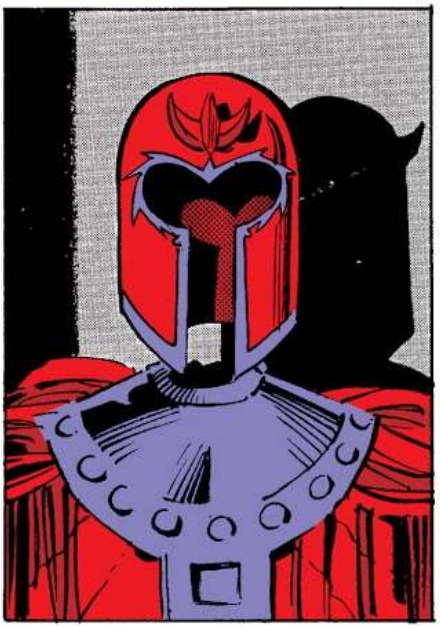

I'M GETTING A FIX ON HIM NOW.
READINGS POINT TO A MAJOR MAGNETIC FLUX-- 25 MILES DUE SOUTH!

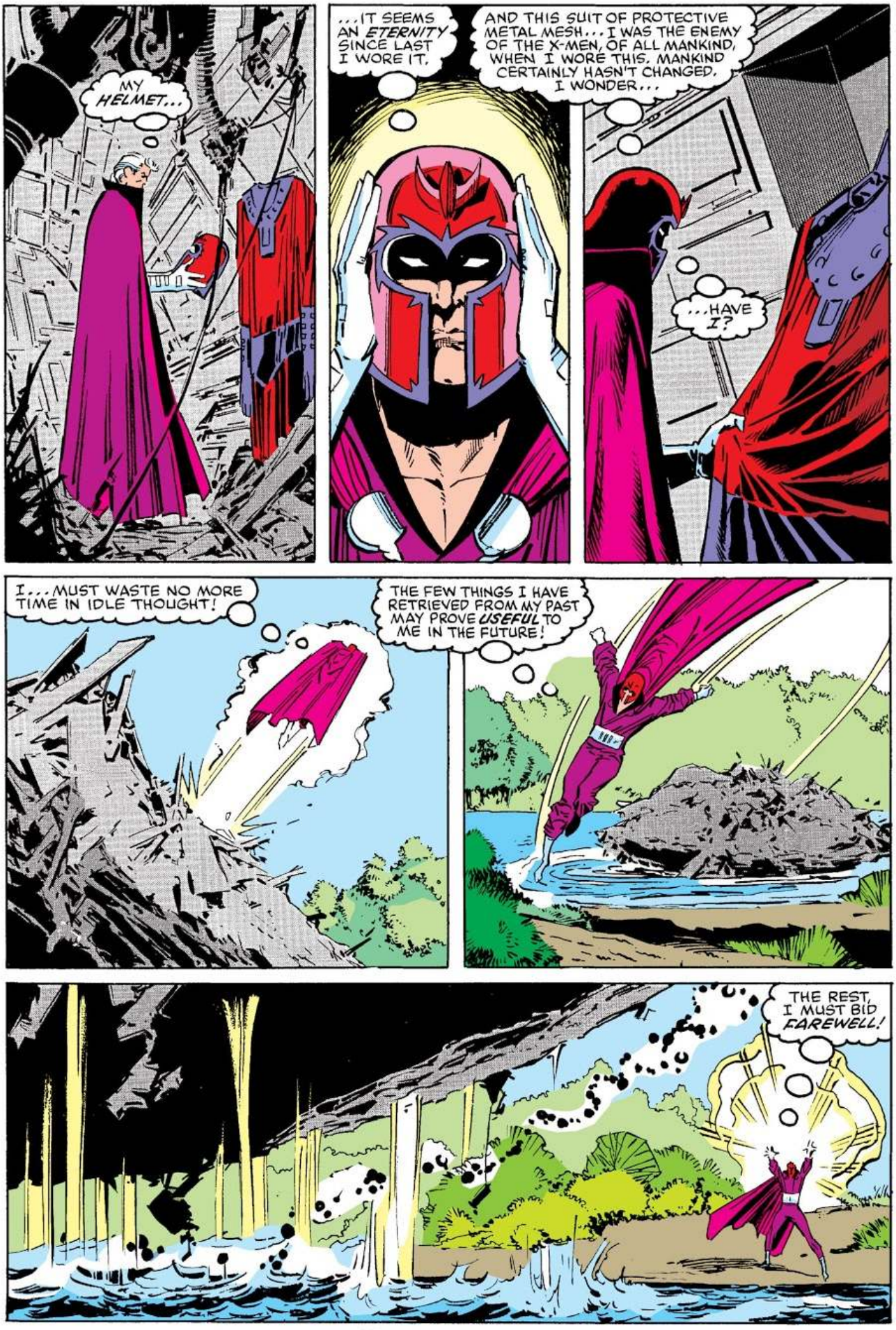

THERE, WITHIN THE TWISTED CORRIDORS OF THE FORMER ORBITAL BASE...
SO MUCH HAS BEEN DAMAGED. SO MUCH LOST. BUT THE HANDFUL OF SALVAGEABLE MEMORY CHIPS AND CIRCUITS ARE PRECIOUS BEYOND COMPARE.
STILL, THERE IS MUCH WITHIN THESE RUINS THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST MUTANTS, AND I CANNOT TAKE EVERYTHING WITH ME.


THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES WILL HAVE TO INSURE THAT NOTHING REMAINS FOR OTHERS TO FIND.


AFTER SURVIVING ORBITAL BREAKUP AND RE-ENTRY, IT'S A SHAME THAT ANY OF THIS MUST BE DESTROYED. BUT THERE ARE SOME PARTS OF MY PAST THAT ARE BEST LEFT DEAD AND...


...BURIED.





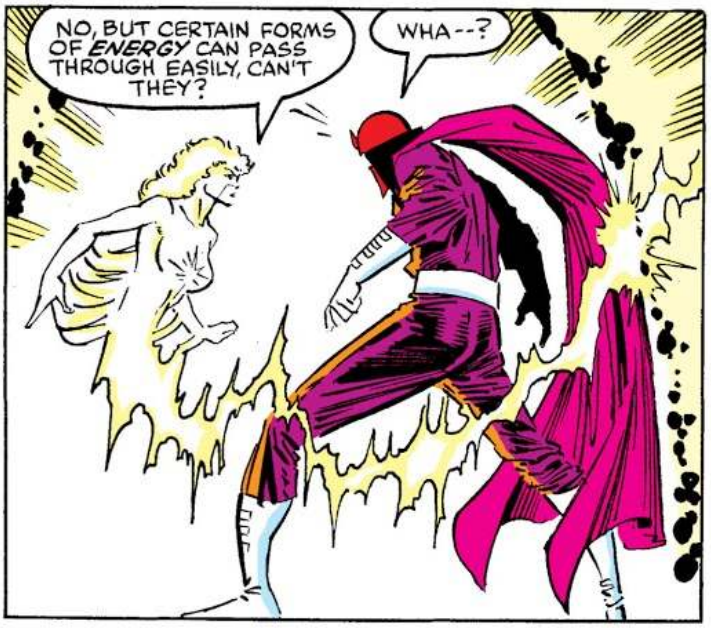
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HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MAGNETO!
LOWER THE ROCK NICE AND SLOW--AND DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES!
BETTER YET, DON'T MAKE ANY MOVES, PERIOD!
GET AWAY! I'M WARNING YOU!
DO NOT THREATEN US, KNAVE!
TKOW
NO! I MUST SUB-MERGE IT BEFORE IT DETONATES--!
THOOM
ARROGANT FOOLS! YOU'RE ENDANGERING YOURSELVES!

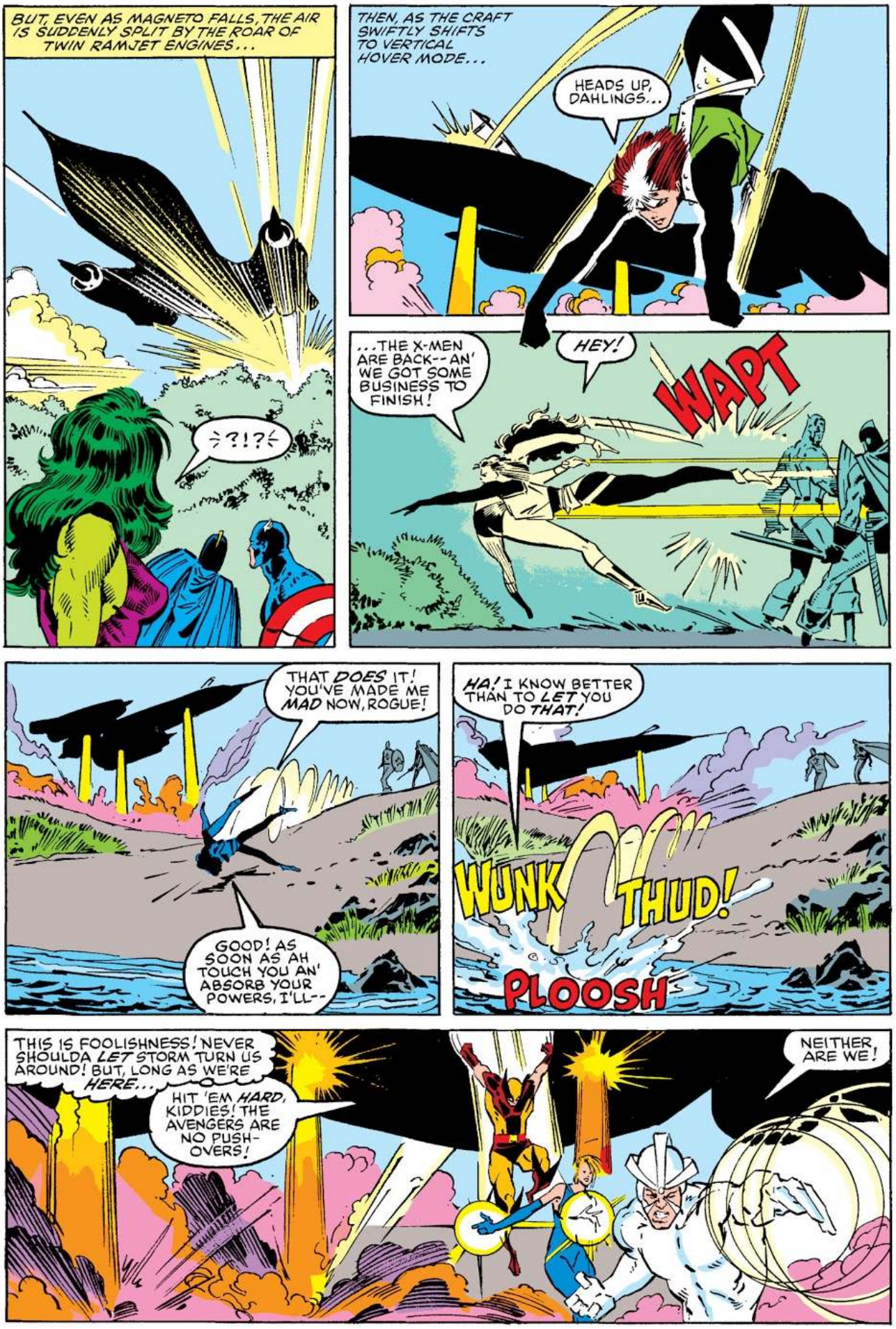

YOU HAVE SOME GALL, CALLING *US* ARROGANT!
I'LL SECOND *THAT!*


WE'VE GONE PRETTY *EASY* ON YOU UP TILL NOW, MISTER! BUT YOU CAN PUSH THE AVENGERS JUST SO FAR!

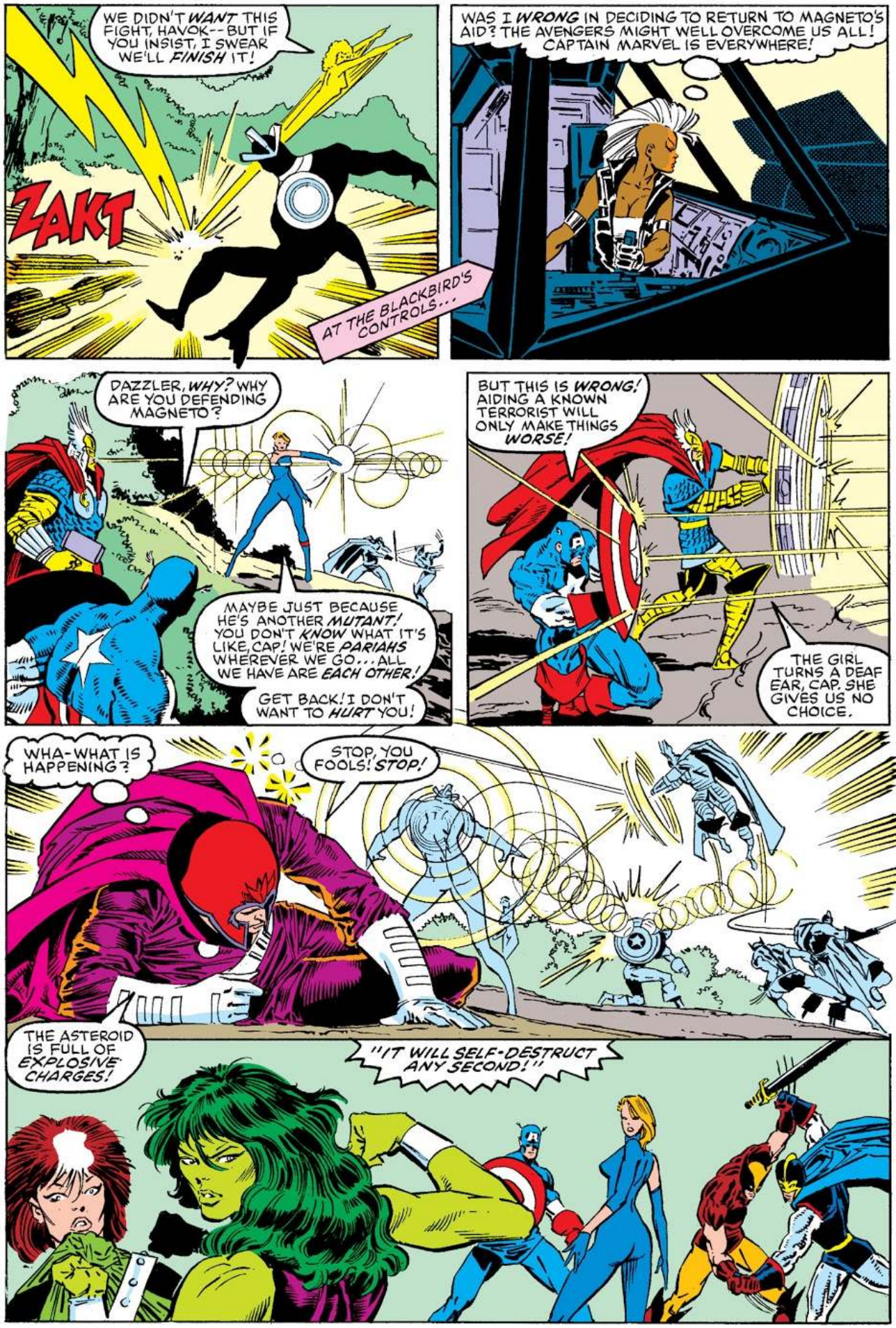

HAVE AT YOU, VILLAIN!
BAH! MERE PHYSICAL FORCE CANNOT BREACH MY MAGNETIC FIELDS!


NO, BUT CERTAIN FORMS OF *ENERGY* CAN PASS THROUGH EASILY, CAN'T THEY?
WHA--?


AARGH!


BUT, EVEN AS MAGNETO FALLS, THE AIR IS SUDDENLY SPLIT BY THE ROAR OF TWIN RAMJET ENGINES...
÷?!?÷
THEN, AS THE CRAFT SWIFTLY SHIFTS TO VERTICAL HOVER MODE...
HEADS UP, DAHLINGS...
...THE X-MEN ARE BACK--AN' WE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO FINISH!
HEY!
WAPT
THAT DOES IT! YOU'VE MADE ME MAD NOW, ROGUE!
GOOD! AS SOON AS AH TOUCH YOU AN' ABSORB YOUR POWERS, I'LL--
HA! I KNOW BETTER THAN TO LET YOU DO THAT!
WUNK
THUD!
PLOOSH
THIS IS FOOLISHNESS! NEVER SHOULDA LET STORM TURN US AROUND! BUT, LONG AS WE'RE HERE...
HIT 'EM HARD, KIDDIES! THE AVENGERS ARE NO PUSH-OVERS!
NEITHER ARE WE!

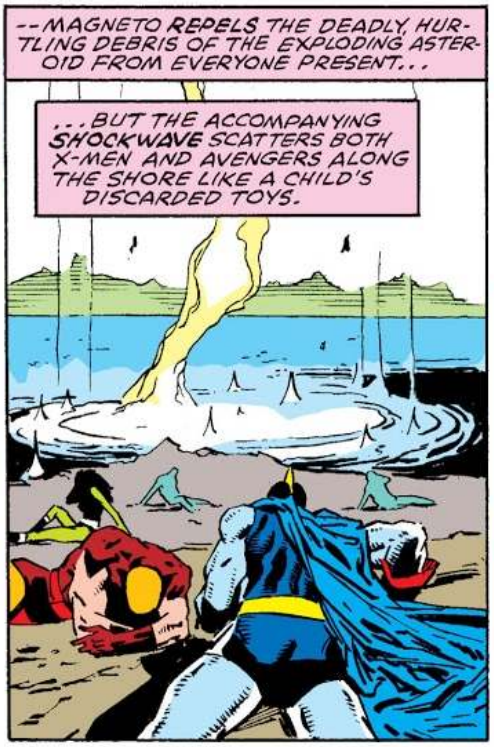

CAP! LOOK OUT!
SKAMM
NOT BAD! YOU SIDE-STEPPED HAVOK'S FORCE BLAST LIKE AN ACE.
'COURSE THE KID'S STILL GREEN... HE TELEGRAPHED THAT BY A MILE.
I DON'T MISS SO EASY!
SAVE IT FOR YOUR FAN CLUB, WOLVERINE!
KZING
EH? THAT THRUST SHOULDA CUT CLEAN THROUGH YOUR PIG-STICKER! MY CLAWS...
..."ARE MADE OF RAZOR-SHARP ADAMANTIUM," RIGHT? WELL, MY SWORD'S A LITTLE TOUGHER--
KTANG
IT WAS FORGED BY A FELLA NAME OF MERLIN.
YOU OUGHTTA KNOW BY NOW, GIRL, IT TAKES MORE'N A DUNKIN' AN' A PUNCHIN' TO KEEP ME DOWN!
BIF
SO WHO SAID I WANT TO KEEP YOU DOWN?
PTOOM


WE DIDN'T WANT THIS FIGHT, HAVOK--BUT IF YOU INSIST, I SWEAR WE'LL FINISH IT!
ZAKT
AT THE BLACKBIRD'S CONTROLS...
WAS I WRONG IN DECIDING TO RETURN TO MAGNETO'S AID? THE AVENGERS MIGHT WELL OVERCOME US ALL! CAPTAIN MARVEL IS EVERYWHERE!
DAZZLER, WHY? WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING MAGNETO?
MAYBE JUST BECAUSE HE'S ANOTHER MUTANT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, CAP! WE'RE PARIAHS WHEREVER WE GO... ALL WE HAVE ARE EACH OTHER!
GET BACK! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
BUT THIS IS WRONG! AIDING A KNOWN TERRORIST WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE!
THE GIRL TURNS A DEAF EAR, CAP. SHE GIVES US NO CHOICE.
WHA-WHAT IS HAPPENING?
STOP, YOU FOOLS! STOP!
THE ASTEROID IS FULL OF EXPLOSIVE CHARGES!
"IT WILL SELF-DESTRUCT ANY SECOND!"


SO QUICKLY DOES CAPTAIN MARVEL REACT--
--THAT THE OTHERS SEEM FROZEN IN PLACE.
IN AN IMPERCEPTIBLY SMALL FRACTION OF A SECOND, SHE FLASHES THROUGH THE ASTEROID'S TWISTING CORRIDOR--
--AND FINDS THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES...
...TOO LATE!
THRAK-KOOM


BUT AS THE BLAST POUNDS INLAND, IT SUDDENLY ENCOUNTERS RESISTANCE IN THE FORM OF A THIN, HASTILY-ERECTED MAGNETIC FORCE-SHIELD!

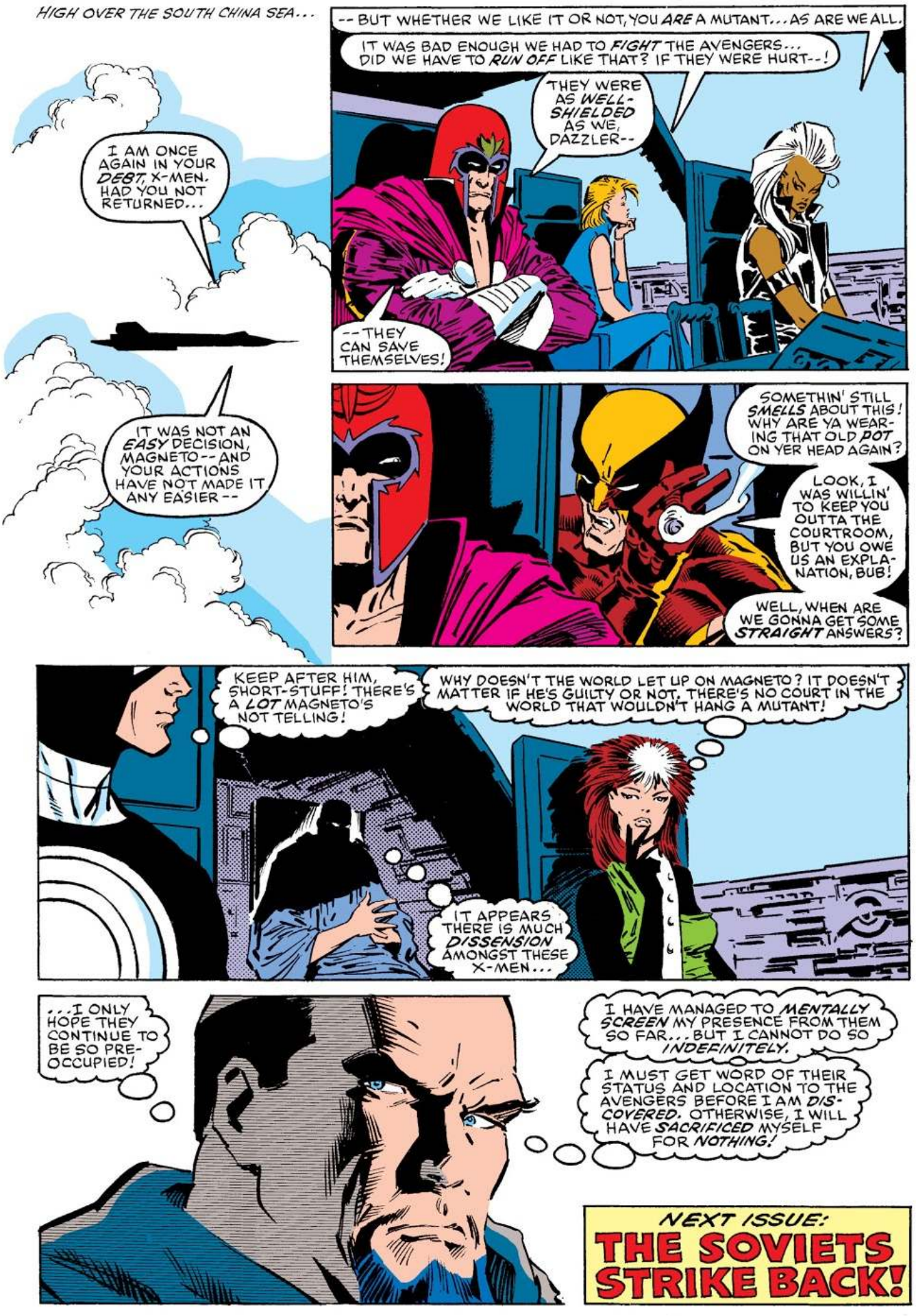

MUST IGNORE THE PAIN IN MY JAW. MUST CONCENTRATE...
STRUGGLING MIGHTILY TO MAINTAIN HIS SHIELD --


--MAGNETO REPELS THE DEADLY, HURTLING DEBRIS OF THE EXPLODING ASTEROID FROM EVERYONE PRESENT...
...BUT THE ACCOMPANYING SHOCKWAVE SCATTERS BOTH X-MEN AND AVENGERS ALONG THE SHORE LIKE A CHILD'S DISCARDED TOYS.


THE AVENGERS' CONFUSION WILL NOT LAST LONG...


"...WE MUST FLEE BEFORE THEY CAN GATHER THEIR WITS."
I NEED HELP HERE! THE BLAST KNOCKED CAP OUT!
RIGHT WITH YOU, C.M!


THE X-MEN'S CRAFT IS ALREADY GONE FROM SIGHT!
WHERE'S DOCTOR DRUID? HEY, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE--?


HIGH OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA...
I AM ONCE AGAIN IN YOUR DEBT, X-MEN. HAD YOU NOT RETURNED...
IT WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION, MAGNETO--AND YOUR ACTIONS HAVE NOT MADE IT ANY EASIER--
--BUT WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE A MUTANT...AS ARE WE ALL.
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WE HAD TO FIGHT THE AVENGERS... DID WE HAVE TO RUN OFF LIKE THAT? IF THEY WERE HURT--!
THEY WERE AS WELL-SHIELDED AS WE, DAZZLER--
--THEY CAN SAVE THEMSELVES!
SOMETHIN' STILL SMELLS ABOUT THIS! WHY ARE YA WEARING THAT OLD POT ON YER HEAD AGAIN?
LOOK, I WAS WILLIN' TO KEEP YOU OUTTA THE COURTROOM, BUT YOU OWE US AN EXPLANATION, BUB!
WELL, WHEN ARE WE GONNA GET SOME STRAIGHT ANSWERS?
KEEP AFTER HIM, SHORT-STUFF! THERE'S A LOT MAGNETO'S NOT TELLING!
WHY DOESN'T THE WORLD LET UP ON MAGNETO? IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S GUILTY OR NOT, THERE'S NO COURT IN THE WORLD THAT WOULDN'T HANG A MUTANT!
IT APPEARS THERE IS MUCH DISSENSION AMONGST THESE X-MEN...
...I ONLY HOPE THEY CONTINUE TO BE SO PREOCCUPIED!
I HAVE MANAGED TO MENTALLY SCREEN MY PRESENCE FROM THEM SO FAR... BUT I CANNOT DO SO INDEFINITELY.
I MUST GET WORD OF THEIR STATUS AND LOCATION TO THE AVENGERS BEFORE I AM DISCOVERED. OTHERWISE, I WILL HAVE SACRIFICED MYSELF FOR NOTHING!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE SOVIETS STRIKE BACK!