

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
PSR 4 of 5

GREG PAK
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X-MEN® PHOENIX ENDSONG™



a Bchry Scan



\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

LAND
Ryan
J-P

Previously in X-MEN: PHOENIX ENDSONG

Once, a powerful cosmic entity called the PHOENIX FORCE assumed the form of a mutant woman named JEAN GREY and destroyed an entire alien civilization. The X-MEN united against her, and with its bodily death, the Phoenix Force seemed banished for good. Jean Grey herself lived on, eventually married and looked forward to a long and happy life.

But the Phoenix Force persisted in the depths of space. Now, weakened and driven insane by a weapon of the alien SHI'AR EMPIRE, the Phoenix has returned to Earth to locate Jean Grey—but finds that Jean is dead. Not to be dissuaded, the Phoenix resurrects Jean Grey against her will, takes over her body, and begins searching for the missing piece it believes will restore its shattered self: Jean's former husband, SCOTT SUMMERS, a.k.a. CYCLOPS.

Cyclops realizes that they must destroy this new incarnation of the Phoenix, to avoid the immeasurable death it might cause.

X-Man HENRY MCCOY, a.k.a. THE BEAST, designs an egg-like capsule to contain the Phoenix, and the X-Men agree to take her down despite their love for Jean. Meanwhile, X-Men STORM and NIGHTCRAWLER encounter a Shi'Ar battlecruiser that has come to destroy the Phoenix. However, its attention is suddenly drawn by a powerful mutant manifesting at the X-Men's headquarters...an Omega-level telepath named QUENTIN QUIRE.

Quentin, a young student of the Xavier Institute, was recently killed physically but lived on as a disembodied mind in a test tube. Now he too has suddenly returned to the world of the living to claim somebody he loves—a young woman named SOPHIE, one of the identical telepathic quintuplets calling themselves the STEPFORD CUCKOOS.

But Sophie, too, is dead. Quentin attempts to restore her to life with the aid of the Phoenix Force, Jean, under the control of the Phoenix Force, has taken WOLVERINE to the Arctic North and used him to weaken Jean's body so it could fully take over. When the X-Men arrive on the scene, Phoenix demands Cyclops to replenish her power with his eye-beams. Can he resist the most powerful force in the universe?

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MOVING
TOO FAST FOR
YOU...TEARING YOU
APART.

I'M SO
SORRY, SOPHIE.
SO STUPID.

BUT THERE
IT IS, ON THE
MOUNTAINSIDE, SEE?
WE FOUND IT. IT'S
GOING TO BE
ALL RIGHT.

AND
SOON WE'LL
FIND HER. THE
PHOENIX. AND
SHE'LL GIVE US
THE POWER WE
NEED.

YOU WON'T
BE DEAD MUCH
LONGER. NO, YOU'LL
LIVE AND BREATHE
AND WALK AND TALK
AND LOOK INTO MY EYES
AND SAY, "QUENTIN,
I UNDERSTAND, I
FORGIVE YOU AND
WE'LL BE BOYFRIEND
AND GIRLFRIEND
AND--"

RIGHT,
RIGHT.

FIRST
WE'LL PUT
YOUR ARM
BACK ON.



THE OMEGA
QUENTIN QUIRE...
HE'S CLOSE,
COMMANDER...



INITIATE
THE WEAPON.



YOU
MUST STAND
DOWN.



HE COULD
HOST THE
PHOENIX.
HE COULD
DESTROY
YOUR
ENTIRE
GALAXY!

YOU
CANNOT KILL
HIM FOR WHAT
HE HAS NOT
YET DONE.



ALMOST UPON
HIM, SIR...

FIRE WHEN
READY.



SHE
WARNED
YOU!



THERE
YOU GO, SOPHIE.
GOOD AS NEW,
SEE?



NO,
NOT QUITE
NEW...BUT THE
PHOENIX WILL FIX
YOU. I CAN SEE
HER, AND--



WAIT. WHAT'S
SHE DOING?
SHE'S STUCK IN
THE SNOW...

...DYING?

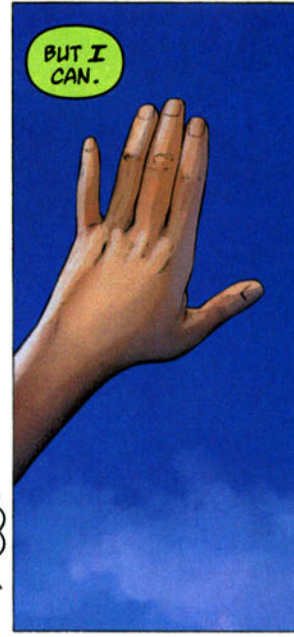


I CAN
HEAR THEM,
SOPHIE.

THEY'RE
FIGHTING HER.
HURTING
HER...

I'M
HERE, SCOTT.
BACKING YOU
UP.

DON'T
WORRY--THE
PHOENIX IS
WEAK. IT
CAN'T BEAT
US.



BUT I
CAN.



HA!



OPEN YOUR
EYEESSSS...



IT'S USING ITS
TELEKINESIS!



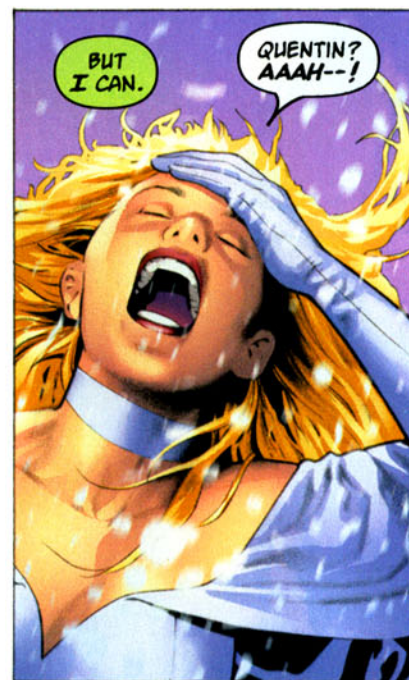
YOU HAVE TO
FIGHT IT, SCOTT!
IT WANTS THE POWER
OF YOUR OPTIC
BLASTS! YOU
MUSTN'T--

EMMA!



I'M
HERE, SCOTT.
PROTECTING
YOU.

DON'T
WORRY--IT'S
WEAK. IT CAN'T
BEAT US.



BUT
I CAN.

QUENTIN?
AAAAH--!



NOW
OPEN YOUR
EYES, MR.
SUMMERS!

NO!
IT'S FORCING
ME TO--



YESSSS!

MOOOORRE!

EVERY-
THING'S GOING
TO BE ALL
RIGHT.

ZZZAAAKKK



STATUS!

THE PHOENIX FUSED ALL OF OUR GUN TURRETS DIRECTLY TO THE HULL, COMMANDER. IF WE FIRE, WE'LL JUST DESTROY OURSELVES.

WHERE'S THE OMEGA?

DIRECTLY BELOW US.



BRING ME MY SWORD.

YES, SIR.

WILL YOU NEVER STOP?



MY COUNSELOR BELIEVES THE PHOENIX COMES TO PURIFY THE UNIVERSE...

...BURNING AWAY WHAT DOESN'T WORK...



MY WIFE. MY CHILDREN. MY PARENTS AND THEIR PARENTS. THEY DIED WITH FIVE BILLION OTHERS WHEN DARK PHOENIX ATE D'BARI'S STAR!

AND IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME THEY WERE A GENETIC OBSOLESCENCE, A COSMIC BLOT, PART OF AN UNRAVELING THAT THE PHOENIX WAS DESIGNED TO CORRECT?



THEN YOU'RE AS INSANE AS THE PHOENIX HERSELF.



SCOTT! CAN YOU HEAR ME? I CAN'T MOVE. I THINK IT'S--

HELLO, MISS FROST.



QUENTIN, YOU'RE BEING VERY NAUGHTY. I INSIST YOU RELEASE ME IMMEDIATELY.

SO YOU CAN KILL THE PHOENIX? I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.



THIS ISN'T NEGOTIABLE, QUENTIN. FIVE BILLION PEOPLE DIED THE LAST TIME. DO YOU WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE--



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MISS FROST. I'M TRYING--

REMEMBER OPEN DAY, QUENTIN?



YES...NO! FOR SOPHIE, I'M GOING TO MAKE IT ALL BETTER.



QUENTIN, SHE'S KILLING THEM! LET ME GO!

NO!



HANK! WHERE'S EMMA?

DOWN. ANGEL'S USING HIS HEALING--

NO TIME. PHOENIX... GROWING STRONGER... TAKING OVER... YOU HAVE TO STOP ME!



THIS IS INSANE!

NO THINKING, HANK. JUST--

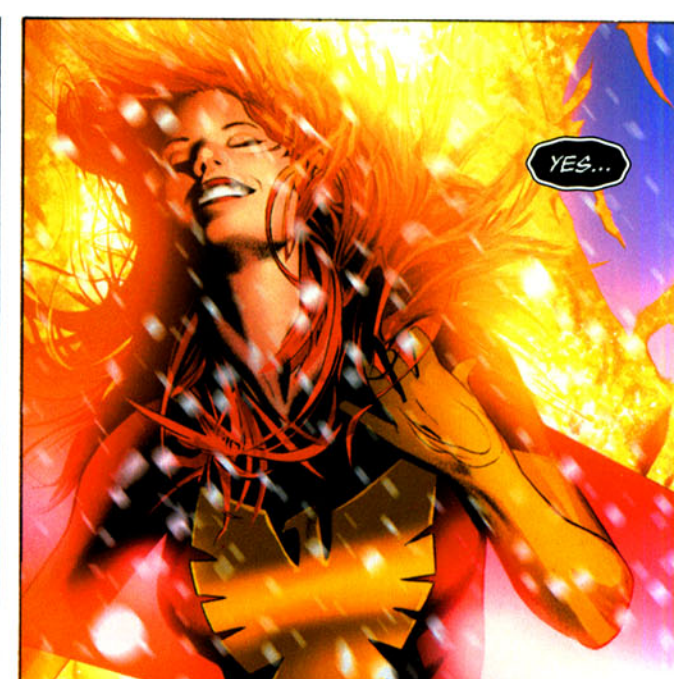


RRROOARR!

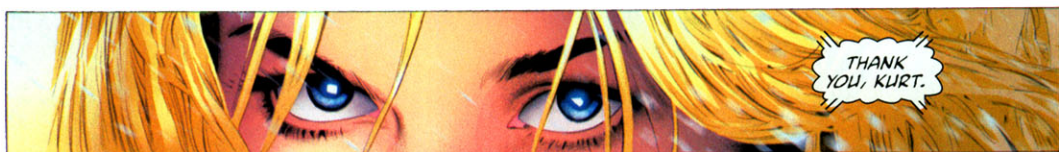


HENRY!

NNNN...



YES...







DON'T
WORRY,
SOPHIE. SHE'S
STRONGER
NOW.

ACK--!



SHE'LL
FIGHT THEM.
SHE'LL GET
WHAT SHE
NEEDS. SHE'LL
LIVE.



AAAGH!



AND
THEN WE'LL
GET WHAT
WE...



...WAIT...

WHAT'S SHE
DOING?



SCOTT,

I CAME
FOR YOU. I
NEED YOU.

I'M
YOUR
WIFE.



MY WIFE IS DEAD. AND IF YOU
TAKE ONE MORE STEP, KITTY WILL
CRUSH MY HEART AND I'LL BE
DEAD, TOO.

I DO MY
BEST.

THIS
IS YOUR
PLAN?



IF YOU DON'T WANT
TO LOOK AT ME, I
UNDERSTAND. HOW
MANY TIMES HAVE I
DIED? HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE I BROKEN
YOUR HEART? IT'S
NOT NATURAL. IT'S
NOT FAIR.

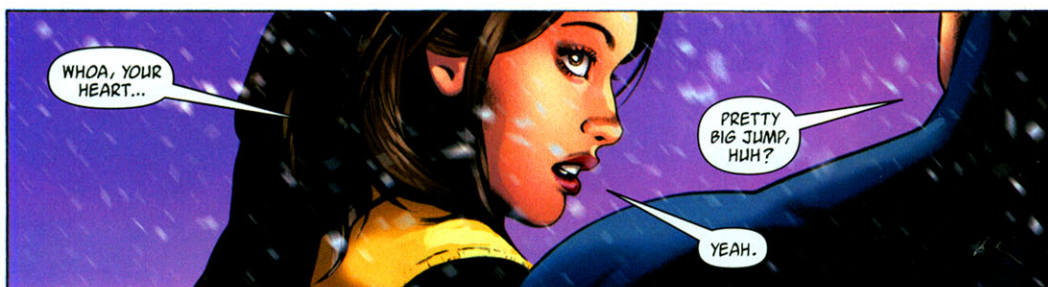
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT,
SCOTTY. I'M HERE, AND
ALWAYS WILL BE...WITH
YOU AND WITHIN YOU.

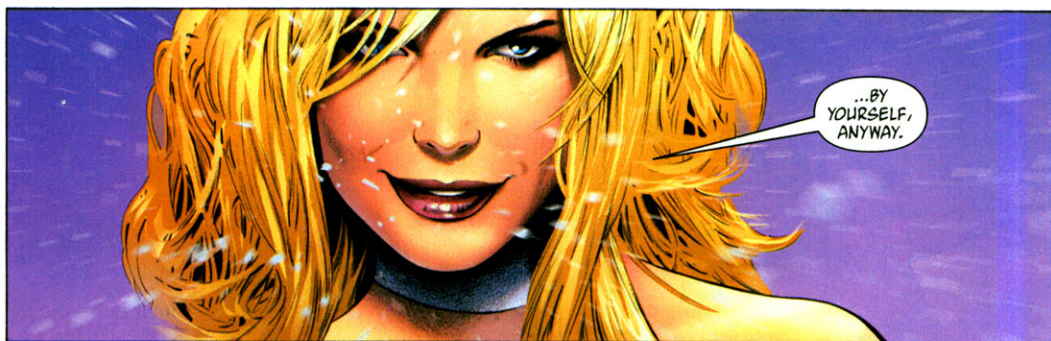


YOU
DREAMED OF
ME WHEN YOU WERE
AN ORPHANED CHILD.
YOUR HEART JUMPED
THE DAY WE MET, AND
YOU'LL REACH FOR
MY HAND THE DAY
YOU DIE.



I
LOVE YOU,
SLIM.



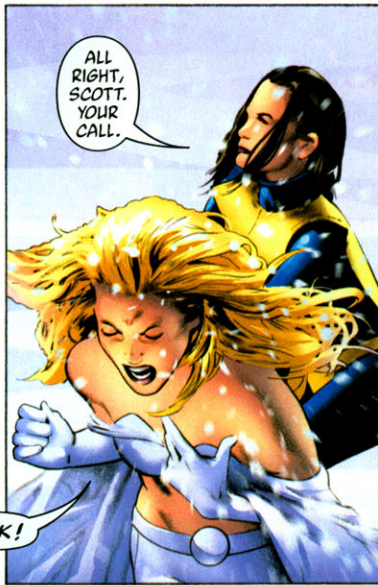




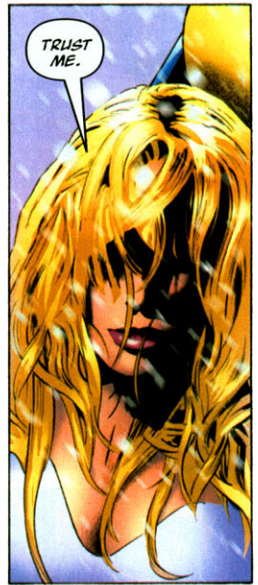
EMMA,
YOU DID NOT
JUST OFFER
YOURSELF AS A
HOST FOR THE
PHOENIX
FORCE!

HUSH,
DEAR. THE
GROWN-UPS
ARE TALKI--

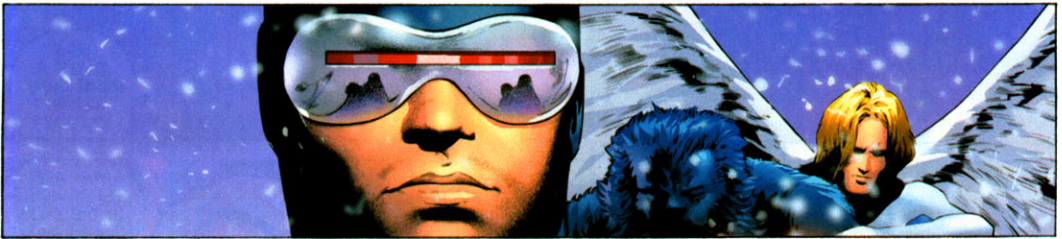
--NGK!



ALL
RIGHT,
SCOTT.
YOUR
CALL.



TRUST
ME.

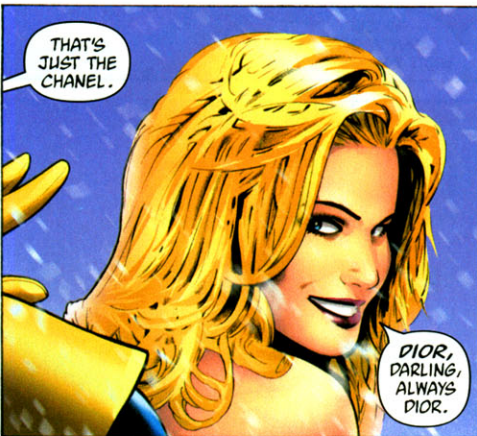


COME ON, SCOTT!
THIS IS THE **WHITE QUEEN**
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, REMEMBER?
SHE WAS OUR **ENEMY**! AND YOU
WANT TO LET HER TAKE THE POWER
OF THE **PHOENIX**?

LET'R
GO, KID.

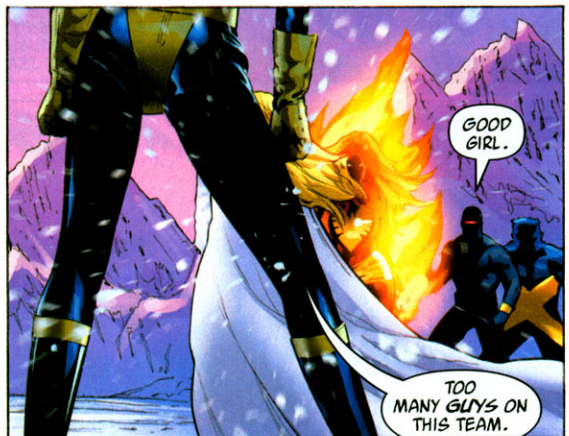
WHAT?

SHE
SMELLS ALL
RIGHT.



THAT'S
JUST THE
CHANNEL.

DIOR,
DARLING,
ALWAYS
DIOR.



GOOD
GIRL.

TOO
MANY GUYS ON
THIS TEAM.







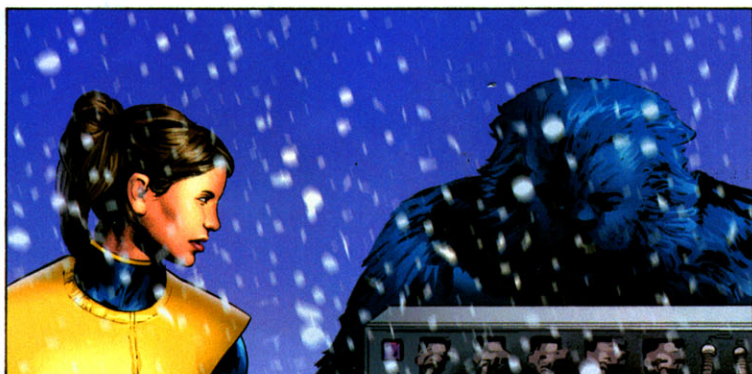


NO
TRACE OF
ESCAPING
ENERGY. IT'S
WORKING SO
FAR...

AWESOME.
SO HOW LONG'S
IT GOING TO
TAKE?

HOW'S
THAT?

YOU
KNOW, TO
DRAIN AWAY
THE PHOENIX
THINGY.

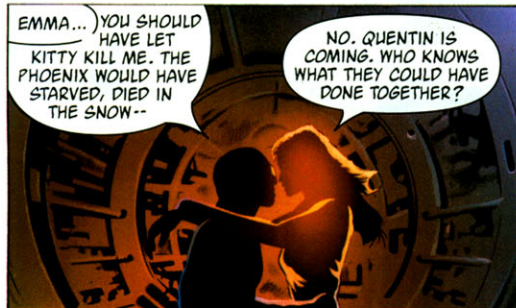


THE EGG DOESN'T DRAIN, KITTY. IT CONTAINS.
SEALS UP THE PHOENIX'S PSIONIC ENERGY, PREVENTS
IT FROM AFFECTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

HANG ON.
THEN HOW DO
WE GET SCOTT AND
EMMA OUT OF
THERE?

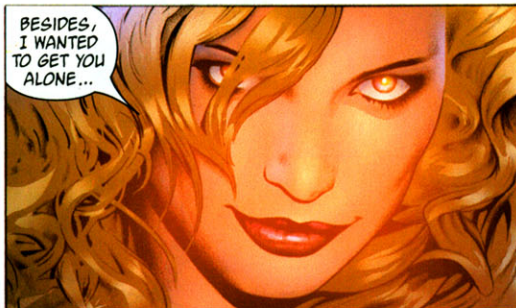


OH.



EMMA... YOU SHOULD
HAVE LET
KITTY KILL ME. THE
PHOENIX WOULD HAVE
STARVED, DIED IN
THE SNOW--

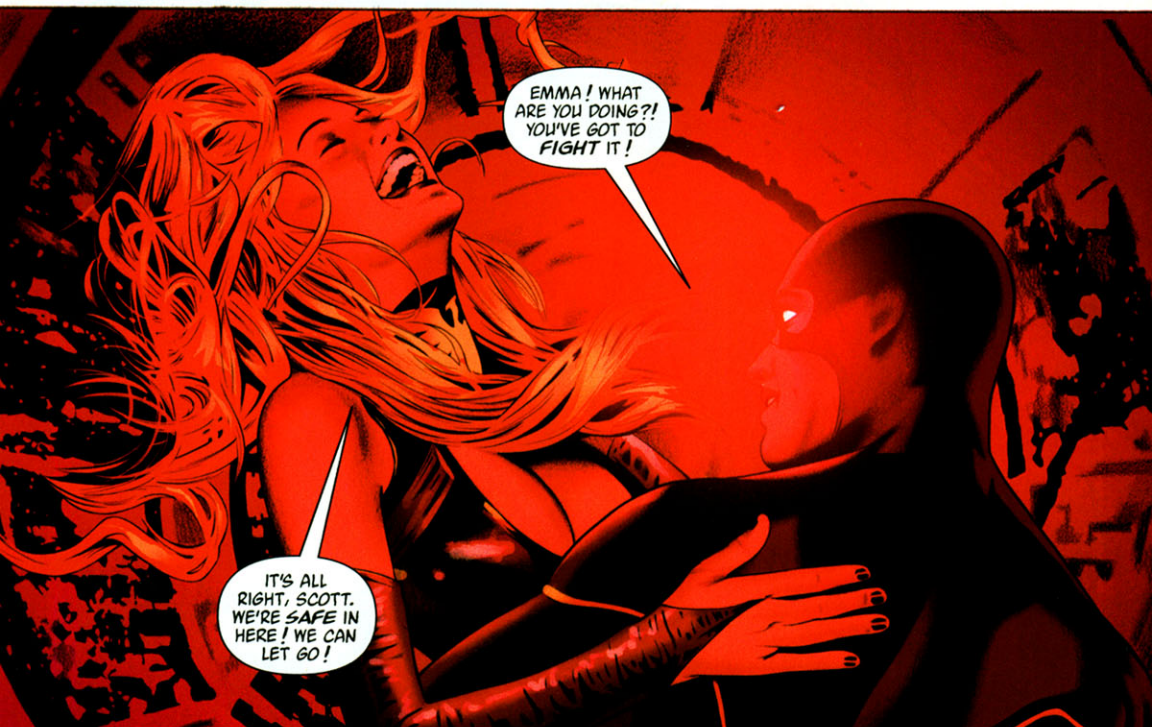
NO. QUENTIN IS
COMING. WHO KNOWS
WHAT THEY COULD HAVE
DONE TOGETHER?



BESIDES,
I WANTED
TO GET YOU
ALONE...



...SO WE
COULD DO
THIS.





PERFECT.

WHAT IS?

ALL OF THE READINGS...THEY'RE POINTING TO THE SAME THING. WITHIN THE EGG, THERE'S PERFECT EQUILIBRIUM.

OKAY, I'M JUST GOING TO KEEP SAYING "WHAT" UNTIL YOU START MAKING SENSE.

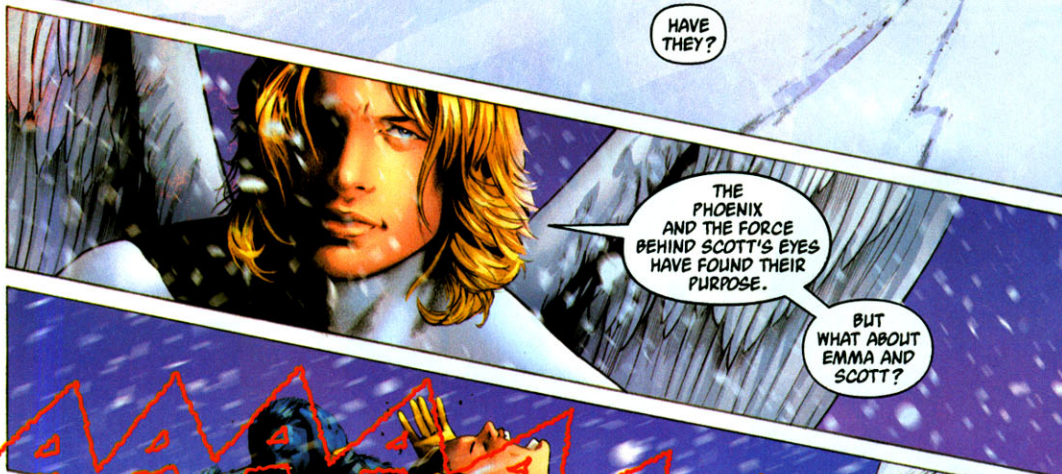


SCOTT'S EYES ARE POURING FORTH WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF ENERGY. THIS ENERGY IS NOW FEEDING THE UNLIMITED HUNGER THE PHOENIX SEEMS TO POSSESS.



THEY'VE FOUND THEIR PURPOSE.

HAVE THEY?



THE PHOENIX AND THE FORCE BEHIND SCOTT'S EYES HAVE FOUND THEIR PURPOSE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT EMMA AND SCOTT?



I HEARD THAT.



REALLY, MISS FROST. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?





HELLO,
EVERY-
BODY.

WHAT'S
IN THE
EGG?

TO BE CONCLUDED...

ENDNOTES

Dear Marvel,

First and foremost, I yearn for the return of Jean Grey-Summers. I don't understand how you can kill off such an exceptionally popular character such as Phoenix. Haven't you visited any of the abundant web pages and message boards dedicated to the character? Heck, PHOENIX: ENDSONG #1 selling out should be a major hint that fans WANT HER BACK! I've also seen Internet sites saying that her poster has sold out, too! With Jean being such a huge factor of your franchise, I can't comprehend what you're thinking if you keep Jean dead.

Secondly, I wanted to inform you that there are still countless fans that want Jean and Scott to get back together. They've always been my favorite couple, and I don't see why they had to be split apart in the first place. Their relationship, their bond, is one of the stable dynamics that I enjoyed about the X-Men. Even with what current writers did to the couple, it was obvious that they still continue to love each other. Nothing should be able to break the connection these two have. I hope you consider the thoughts of the fans and have Scott and Jean reconcile their marriage. With every part of the media (cartoons, movies, etc.) focusing on the Scott/Jean relationship, I don't see why the comics should neglect it, as many fans know Scott and Jean belong with one another.

John

All very good points, John. There are many fans that want Jean and Scott back together. (Believe us, we get the mail!) And who knows, she might be coming back. But for the time being, it looks like Scott's heart belongs to another telepath. And we know that might upset some people, but let's see where this takes Scott. We promise developments in the Scott/Emma relationship coming

your way in ASTONISHING X-MEN. So make sure you're picking that up. (Thought we'd mention the book, in case you lived under a large rock.)

Heya resurrecting dudes,

I'm gonna start with saying thank you for giving my favorite X-Girl her very own moment in the spotlight, and for using one of the best artistic teams out there. I can't think of anyone better than these guys. Good times are resurrected again!

I came upon a scene in PHOENIX: ENDSONG #1 that just made my heart stop and my jaw drop to the floor. I never had the urge to write to any other comic, but with this scene, how could I not? When the Phoenix Force was floating above a familiar grave, and reached out for Jean Grey's body and mind, while Jean is fighting it the whole time, I was amazed! And then, when I saw that hand coming out of that coffin, I lost it. I never knew a scene could grip me so. You guys really have outdone yourself this time. I cannot remember a scene in any comic that was more shocking or more real than this scene. You keep me wondering where this all will lead to. All I can say now is *wow*, or better yet *DOINK!*

Stefan Gerritsen
Hulst, The Netherlands

Hey, thanks Stefan. We agree, DOINKS all around!

Dear Mr. Pak,

Thank God for you, Mr. Pak. You're finally taking the time to look back at the avalanche of changes made by Mr. Morrison and others and attempt to derive sensible characterization out of them. The short sequence between Scott and Emma in issue #2, simple though it was, suddenly threw everything in a new light for me. Maybe I've just been too dense to draw the obvious conclusions, but that

scene was the first time I've heard a plausible explanation for Scott and Emma's relationship. Thank you.

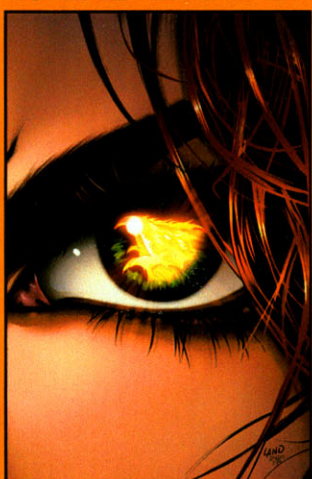
Wolverine's reaction to the Phoenix Force in issue #1 was deftly handled. By this point, Jean's deaths have almost become trivial, which allows Wolverine to say, "I'm getting tired of killing you." Yet anyone with any understanding of this relationship knows exactly how much emotion lies behind this sentence, and exactly why Wolverine expresses it as he does. It's a tremendously powerful scene.

I could go on, but I've got homework to do. Suffice it to say, PHOENIX: ENDSONG is exactly right. Right balance of nostalgia and innovation, right balance of action and characterization—right everything!

Leigh Walton

Whew. We're all blushing after that letter. You're a peach, Leigh. Thanks for all the kind words. And though we can't speak for Mr. Pak, we're sure he'd say a big fat "thanks" for the letter as well. It's tough being the new guy in the X-Block, but we too think Greg Pak hit this one out of the "Pak." (Please accept our apologies for the wildly unnecessary "Pak" pun.)

NEXT-ISSUE:



**THE FIERY
FINALE!**

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