



While hunting through my files for something, I turned this up. It's my typed notes to myself for the story idea that eventually got used at Marvel (by Roger Stern, John Byrne and Bob Layton) for the resurrection of Jean Grey. A few notes:

\* This wasn't the first version of the story. The first was entirely verbal, cooked up sometime around May or June of 1980. Richard Howell, Carol Kalish and I had heard through the grapevine about the impending death of Phoenix and then-editor in chief Jim Shooter's rules for what kind of circumstances it would take to resurrect her. We took that as a creative challenge, and came up with resurrection plans. Richard and Carol's involved the holo-empathic crystal Lilandra gave to the X-Men, as I recall, while mine involved the revelation that Jean had never really died. We had a pleasant evening wrangling over the clear superiority of our own version over the other version, and left it at that. It's all we'd really set out to do.

\* Sometime between then and May 1982, when I graduated college and sold my first script, I started taking notes for various Marvel series I hoped to write someday, to make sure I didn't forget any of my "great ideas," few of which were great, or even memorable. This document would have been written sometime in there. I can tell it wasn't simply notes on the resurrection storyline, but plans for something more extended, what with that Wolverine plot-bit stuck in the middle, that if I remember correctly, was intended to start of a storyline to get Wolverine to try to stop killing people left and right, under what I thought was the dodgy rationale of, "He comes at me with a knife (while I'm invading his lair), I'll come at him with a gun," or some such. Somewhere I may still have my files of where I would have gone with it all, which I think involved the X-Men becoming teachers to a new generation of mutants. But they may be mercifully lost.

\* Nobody at Marvel ever saw this document. In fact, outside of my circle of friends at college at the time, no one else may ever have seen this until now. The plot idea was transmitted vocally-I recounted a version of it to Roger Stern at a convention in Ithaca in 1983, he passed it on to John Byrne over the phone at some later point, and John passed it on to Bob Layton when he heard about the plans for the creation of X-Factor. So this version was never on the table. All Marvel had was the bare concept of how Phoenix could have existed while Jean was still alive at the bottom of Jamaica Bay, translated through a game of "Telephone." Although I do think the idea of the Phoenix Force behind it, which doesn't appear in these notes, was part of my original idea, or at least part of what I told Roger. But at this point I can't say for sure.

Anyway, here it is, for anyone who's curious about what the idea started out as...



X-Men -- "The Resurrection of Jean Grey!"

Prelude: In the previous issue, the X-Men had to battle Solarr (or some other solar-powered villain). During this battle, pocket solar flares were flashing through the sky above New York.

The story opens with Scott Summers. He has heard on the news that since the X-Men's battle with Solarr, the waters of New York Harbor have begun to heat up and bubble. Scientists investigating this occurrence have registered a high concentration of cosmic radiation. This happened just where the space shuttle sank in #101, and though he cannot figure out how, he knows that this has to have something to do with Phoenix. He is driving to the waterfront, very determined.

He reaches the waterfront, which is cordoned off by police. He pushes his way through the crowd. When a policeman tries to stop him, Scott knocks him down with a mild optic blast (he would never do this ordinarily--but he's distraught, thinking about nothing but Jean). No one bothers him as he walks out to the end of a pier and stands staring out across the water. The crowd buzzes about "muties" and "killer eyes." The X-Men arrive, and join Scott, who doesn't notice them until they speak to him. Storm tells him that it's impossible that it's Jean--she's dead. "Then what are you doing here," he asks. She doesn't say anything, and Professor X suddenly points out to the water, and tells them something's happening, he can sense it.

The water erupts, and out bursts Dark Phoenix. She announces her rebirth, and that this time, she is going to begin her reign as an entity of chaos by destroying Earth's sun. And she heads off for outer space, to do just that. The X-Men, who know damn well she's capable of it, are horrified. But Professor X, who monitored Dark Phoenix's recreation psychically, tells them there is still something on the harbor floor where she was generated, and it's sentient. Grasping at this slim chance, they get aqualungs and investigate. All this while Phoenix is getting closer to the sun. They find a golden spheroid amidst the wreckage of the shuttle, and it has a human figure inside it. They haul it ashore--and nearing the sun, Dark Phoenix hesitates, looking back over her shoulder as if worried.

Upon closer investigation, they can tell that inside the spheroid is Jean Grey, still wearing that torn evening gown. They cannot harm the sphere, so Xavier tries to contact Jean mentally. As he does so, the sphere flares brilliantly, and up from it flies a figure, looking something like Phoenix but not quite. This is Light Phoenix.\* She informs the X-Men (via flashback, of course), that when the shuttle crashed, Jean latched onto the solar flare, and used it's power to hurl herself into suspended animation, and form a protective shell around herself. She was sure she was about to die, so she thought she had, and as her subconscious reached out to the X-Men, wishing she were with them at the last, she projected an energy image, "resurrecting" herself as Phoenix. But as time went on, and this energy

\*at this point, Dark Phoenix turns, and begins to return to Earth, energy



image got farther away from its birth, it became distorted, an untrue, twisted image, until it became Dark Phoenix. The Dark Phoenix entity killed itself, and everything was calm until the battle with Solarr, which generated enough of an energy surge (Jean still tapped into the sun) to send out another image. This one was as twisted at the start as the last one had been at the finish. Jean is still comatose, functioning only as a template for the image, but when the X-Men contacted her through Xavier, she was able to use them as an anchor, to send out a reverse image of Dark Phoenix--Light Phoenix.

Light Phoenix tells them that Dark P is returning, and she must be stopped. She (Light P) "borrows" from the X-Men's life forces to arm herself, and hovers above the city, waiting for Dark P. The X-Men watch her, then turn as they see an odd glow nearby. It is a teleportation beam, and six members of the Imperial Guard materialize (Warstar, Smasher, and four others). Smasher, the squad leader, tells the X-Men he has orders to bring Jean Grey/Phoenix back to Imperial Center for trial. Cyclops tells him that they'll contact Lilandra as soon as the situation stabilizes, but this Jean (in the spheroid) is not Dark Phoenix. But Smasher has his orders, and a fight ensues. At the same time, above the city, Dark Phoenix comes rocketing down like a comet to meet Light Phoenix in a pyrotechnic battle.

On the ground, the X-Men are battling around the spheroid, keeping the Imperial Guard away from Jean. The battle is fairly even, the X-Men at a slight disadvantage, until Wolverine pushes Colossus away from Warstar and says he'll take care of him. The X-Men defeat their other opponents (or at least disadvantage them), and then Storm sees Wolverine. He is standing over C'Cil, the large half of Warstar, and he's ripped into C'Cil with his claws. It's difficult to tell whether Warstar is mortally wounded or not. Storm is horrified. She tells Wolverine he didn't need to do that. He says that Warstar needed to be stopped--he was stopped. He didn't get to Jeannie. Tell that to him, says Storm, pointing to B'Nee, who's hunched over by his symbiote-pair, crying his eyes out. Storm goes back to join Cyclops and the others, as Wolverine looks at his handiwork. This is the first he's seen of reaction to his ripping people up, of how it affects the world past simply the existence of one man.

Up in the sky, Dark and Light are deadlocked. Both are exhausted, but Light Phoenix says she can go on, because she has the support and love of others--she speaks for the world, where Dark P speaks only for herself. And Light P absorbs Dark P into herself. There is a colossal starburst, and the two Phoenixes are annihilated.

On the surface, with the X-Men, the golden spheroid dissolves, and Jean is freed. Scott and Jean are oblivious to all the others, as they greet each other again after so long. Professor X allows Smasher to look into Jean's mind, and see all that has transpired. He agrees to inform Lilandra that the menace of Phoenix has ended, and we focus in on Scott and Jean for the end.





GUICE/LEATON