GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN



## PREVIOUSLY IN THE BLACK VORTEX...

Billions of years ago, an ancient race named the Viscardi were gifted an object of immense cosmic power by a Celestial. This artifact, known as the Black Vortex, transforms the user, imbuing them with cosmic energy. However, the power of this object caused the Viscardi to turn on each other, annihilating their own race from within.

In the present day, Peter Quill has been hounded by a mysterious villain named Mister Knife. Upon being captured by Knife, Peter discovered him to actually be his father, J-Son, the deposed Emperor of Spartax. With the help of Kitty Pryde, Peter escaped Knife's clutches. Seeking revenge, Peter and Kitty returned to Knife's fortress. However, while spying on Mister Knife's conversations, they discovered that he had recovered the Black Vortex and watched as he used it to enhance his henchmen, christening them, in their new forms, as the Slaughter Lords. Not willing to leave such power in the hands of his father, Peter stole the Black Vortex. In need of help, Peter and Kitty summoned the Guardians of the Galaxy and members of the X-Men. But while they argued over what to do with the object, the Slaughter Lords arrived and began to lay waste to the heroes. Seeking to save her friends, Gamora took matters into her own hands and submitted to the power of the Black Vortex.

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