

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

Chapter 13

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, transformed 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.

When J'Son, Peter Quill's father, obtained the Black Vortex, Peter and Kitty Pryde stole the artifact and recruited the Guardians of the Galaxy and the X-Men for help. Some of the heroes submitted to the Black Vortex, gaining cosmic powers in an effort to save the galaxy from the hands of Mister Knife.

Spartax has been encased in amber by the cosmically empowered Thane, son of Thanos. Knife intends to partner with the Brood in order to rebuild his galactic empire. The Brood would burrow into the amber, implanting eggs into the trapped citizens of Spartax. Should the eggs hatch, a massive new Brood armada, billions strong, would be born.

With the threat posed by the Brood compounding their need to save Spartax, the group knew that one of them would have to submit to the Vortex to stop them. One who could resist the corruption often caused by the Vortex's power. Someone like Kitty Pryde, who stepped forward and accepted her cosmic mantle, submitting to the Black Vortex...

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I'VE SEEN SOME **TERRIBLE** THINGS IN SPACE.

LIKE, THESE **CHARMING BROOD INFESTOIDS**.

OR TWELVE BILLION PEOPLE ON PLANET SPARTAX, ENCASED IN **LIVING DEATH**.

THOSE INFESTOIDS ARE ABOUT TO IMPLANT THEIR **EGGS** INTO THE **SKULLS** OF ALL THESE PEOPLE.

LIKE I SAID... I'VE SEEN SOME THINGS.



GARA, ELDER OF THE UNIVERSE, SHE TERRIFIES ME.

MY BOYFRIEND **PETER**, HE'S TERRIBLY CUTE.

KITTY...?

WHERE DID SHE GO?



AND THEN THERE'S THAT DAMN **MIRROR**...

SHE'S GONE--

--YOUR FRIEND HAS EMBRACED THE **STARS**.

SHE IS LOST TO US **FOREVER**.





**BLACK
COSTEX**
CAUSED ALL OF THIS.

THE *GUARDIANS* AND
THE *X-MEN*, FIGHTING
LIKE HELL AGAINST THE
SLAUGHTER LORDS
TO SAVE SPARTAX.



SOME OF THEM GAVE UP
THEIR HUMANITY IN RETURN
FOR GREAT POWER--TO
DO THE RIGHT THING.



I DID IT TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT, ME,
KITTY PRYDE,
OF ALL PEOPLE--

--I MEAN, I PREFER
TO SPEND SATURDAY
NIGHT UNDER A BLANKET,
DRINKING TEA, WATCHING
KATHARINE HEPBURN
MOVIES, DARN IT.

AND I **HATE**
SPACE.

YET I LOOKED THE
BLACK VORTEX IN THE
EYE AND ALLOWED
MYSELF TO BE
TRANSFORMED INTO
SOMETHING COSMIC.

BUT ALL THOSE
TERRIBLE THINGS I
FOUND IN SPACE?

SUDDENLY,
ALL OF THEM
SEEMED VERY,
VERY SMALL.