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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 7

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 Mister Knife, a.k.a. 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. Gamora, the elder Beast, and Angel chose to submit to the Vortex and the three cosmically enhanced heroes took the artifact and left, intending to reshape the universe in their image. But when Ronan the Accuser stole the Vortex from them, they retaliated by assaulting the Kree homeworld, Hala. Fearing total annihilation, Ronan used the Vortex to enhance himself against the Supreme Intelligence's wishes. As Ronan used his new powers to hold off the three enhanced heroes, the elder Beast was horrified to discover that he could not fix the damage he had done to space-time and fled with the other two in tow.

Meanwhile, the Guardians and X-Men escaped Knife's henchmen and were joined by the young Cyclops and his father, Corsair. Receiving multiple distress signals, they split into three groups. Cyclops, Iceman, and Groot stayed behind to delay the Slaughter Lords, but were quickly overpowered and are now prisoners of Mister Knife!

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