



# SECRET WARS

## OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE MARVEL MULTIVERSE

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**In loving memory of Arthur Jensen (2000-2015)**

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**HISTORY:** The enigmatic, all-powerful Beyonders (a child unit of which had visited Earth-616 in the past), also known as the Ivory Kings, intended to simultaneously destroy all life in the Multiverse as part of a grand experiment. They engineered an accident that transformed Earthling Owen Reece into the reality-altering Molecule Man, an event that occurred in every reality; the end of each Molecule Man's limited life span would cause his universe's destruction. This plan continued apace until present-day Earth-616's Latverian monarch Dr. Victor von Doom traveled through space and time with his Earth's Molecule Man to investigate these premature universal deaths. Molecule Man learned of his true purpose, and he and Doom set out to foil the Beyonders by travelling through the Multiverse, killing Molecule Men before their natural deaths. However, each death destroyed that Molecule Man's universe, causing a contraction in the Multiverse's timeline and forcing two universes to collide at the incursion point of the initial event — their respective Earths. This collision would trigger an explosion that destroyed both planets and their universes, creating another contraction in the timeline, causing more Earths to collide and destroying more universes in a self-sustaining chain reaction that imperiled the entire Multiverse. Each eight-hour incursion saw two Earths manifesting in nearly the same space, enabling residents on both planets to see the other Earth. However, destroying one of the colliding Earths would not only save the opposing Earth and its universe, but the destroyed Earth's universe as well.

Art by Steve Epting



Unable to kill the Multiverse's Molecule Men fast enough on his own, Doom built a religion around himself, recruiting women from numerous universes as his assassins; as the Great Ladies, or Black Swans, they guarded Doom's Earth-1903990 library base and worshipped him as Rabum Alal, the Great Destroyer. To give himself an air of mystery, he allowed only Swans who had blinded themselves to serve as his personal attendants. Some of the Swans eventually broke from the faith, striking out on their own to also seek the destruction of worlds for unrevealed reasons. One such apostate, Yabbat Ummon Tarru, manipulated Earth-14515's Reed Richards and Iron Man (Tony Stark) into helping her destroy themselves and their world.

Sensing that their experiment was being disrupted, but unable to strike at Doom directly as they lacked his time travel ability, the Beyonders spliced a virus into the fabric of reality; it infected any self-aware artificial intelligence that travelled through the Multiverse and transformed it into a Mapmaker. The Mapmakers explored the Multiverse, sending their robotic Sidera Maris emissaries to locate worlds where Molecule Men had died and drain them of all life and resources. When such a world threatened to collide with another world, the Mapmakers destroyed the lifeless Earth and sent a fragment of it crashing into the still-living Earth; this fragment served as a beacon, sending the Sidera Maris to the other Earth to begin the cycle anew. At the same time, the universe apparently produced an order of arcane mystics, the Black Priests, as a defense mechanism. The Priests traveled between universes, acting as cosmic surgeons, cutting out reality's diseased tissue to save the rest of the

**KEY PARTICIPANTS:** AIM (Earth-616), Avengers (Earth-616), Black Priests, Black Swans, Builders, Cabal, Great Society, Illuminati, Ivory Kings (Beyonders), Maker (Reed Richards, Earth-1610), Mapmakers, Molecule Man (Owen Reece), Rabum Alal (Victor von Doom)

**KEY CHRONICLE:** New Avengers #1-33 (2012-2015), Avengers #35-44 (2014-2015)

Multiverse; this typically meant destroying doomed worlds, including Yabbat Ummon Tarru's homeworld, Earth-1365.

Among the worlds destroyed via incursion was Earth-13034; that world's foremost champion, Hyperion (Marcus Milton), tried to push the colliding Earths apart but failed. Surviving his universe's destruction, he was captured by Earth-616's AIM (Advanced Idea Mechanics) for study and freed by Earth-616's Avengers, subsequently joining them. Learning of the incursions, AIM constructed the Escutcheon, a force-field projector designed to prevent two Earths from colliding during an incursion, though it proved insufficiently powerful to provide a permanent solution. The incursions also destroyed the multiversal transportation system that allowed the alien planet-destroying race, the Builders, to travel amongst their universe-spanning empire via the Superflow, the otherspace between universes. Eventually, refugee Builders from hundreds of destroyed universes began gathering in a single space station. The incursions also began affecting the Multiverse's stars, accelerating their natural life cycles.

When the cascade of destruction reached Earth-616, Yabbat Ummon Tarru journeyed to Earth-1331, the first Earth on a collision course with Earth-616. She manipulated that Earth's teleporting superhuman Manifold into taking her to Earth-616 before destroying Earth-1331 and Manifold-1331 from the safety of Earth-616's Wakanda. There she skirmished with the Black Panther (T'Challa) and was captured. Learning of the incursions from her, the Panther reconvened the Illuminati, a grouping of Earth's best superhuman minds: Beast (Henry McCoy), Black Bolt (Blackagar Boltagon), Captain America (Steve Rogers), Dr. Stephen Strange, Iron Man (Tony Stark), Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards), and Atlantean King Namor McKenzie. Instead of destroying other Earths, as the Black Swan suggested, Captain America proposed using the Illuminati's near-omnipotent Infinity Gems to stop the incursions. Rogers, wielding the gems with the Infinity Gauntlet, successfully prevented the incursion, but five of the Gems shattered, and the sixth, the Time Gem, vanished. Despite this, Rogers refused to even consider destroying worlds to save the Earth during the next incursion, but the rest of the group disagreed; Strange erased Rogers' memories of the incursions, preventing him from interfering with their work.



# MAKER (REED RICHARDS UPDATE)

**REAL NAME:** Reed Nathaniel Richards

**ALIASES:** Mr. Fantastic

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Scientist; former terrorist, adventurer

**CITIZENSHIP:** USA (Earth-1610)

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed (Earth-1610)

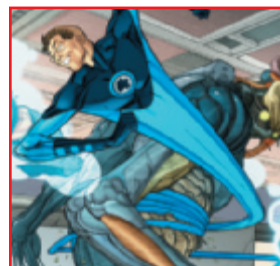
**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Gary Richards (father), Mrs. Richards (mother), Enid Richards (sister), unidentified sister (deceased) — all Earth-1610

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** SHIELD; formerly Children of Tomorrow, Fantastic Four (all Earth-1610)

**EDUCATION:** Multiple PhDs in theoretical and applied physics fields

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** (Mr. Fantastic) Ultimate Fantastic Four #1 (2004); (Maker) Ultimate Fallout #4 (2011)

**HISTORY:** Reality-1610's child prodigy Reed Richards discovered the N-Zone, a nearby dying universe, by transporting objects into it with a teleporter he designed; noticing this, the US government recruited Reed to join the Baxter Building, a facility for scientifically gifted children. Ten years later, Reed tested a full-scale version of the teleporter, but fellow genius Victor Van Damme had surreptitiously altered Reed's equations, causing a malfunction that gave Reed, Victor, Reed's girlfriend Susan Storm, her brother Johnny, and Reed's childhood friend Ben Grimm superhuman powers. Unable to reverse this, Reed and his friends became adventurers as the Fantastic Four: Mr. Fantastic (Reed), Human Torch (Johnny), Invisible Woman (Susan) and Thing (Ben).



AS MISTER FANTASTIC

Art by Pasqual Ferry

The Fantastic Four encountered Thanos, extradimensional ruler of the Endless Resurgence, who psychically influenced Mr. Fantastic to construct the Cosmic Cube, a device that granted the user power over others' wills. Reed became so fixated on the Cube that he turned spiteful toward Susan when she pointed out his obsession. Thanos' influence was discovered upon the Cube's completion, but Susan couldn't forgive Reed's behavior and put their relationship on hold. She explored other romantic possibilities, but the pair eventually reconciled, and Reed planned to propose marriage to Susan. When Magneto (Erik Lensherr) attacked humanity and flooded Manhattan, Invisible Woman used her force-field powers to scoop the ocean out of the city streets; the strain put her into a coma. Instead of staying with Susan during her recovery, Mr. Fantastic joined the fight against Magneto. Feeling betrayed by Reed's absence upon awakening, Susan definitively ended their relationship and the Fantastic Four disbanded. Susan took over operations of the Baxter Building, and Reed moved back in with his parents.



Art by Rafa Sandoval

Shortly afterwards, Kang (a possible future Susan Storm) approached the grief-stricken and depressed Reed, warning him that if history continued on its current path Reed's reality would be eradicated. Driven mad by these revelations and determined to save his world, Reed faked his death by murdering his family and relocated to the N-Zone where he orchestrated



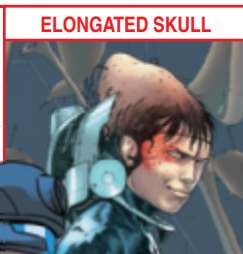
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Art by Mark Bagley

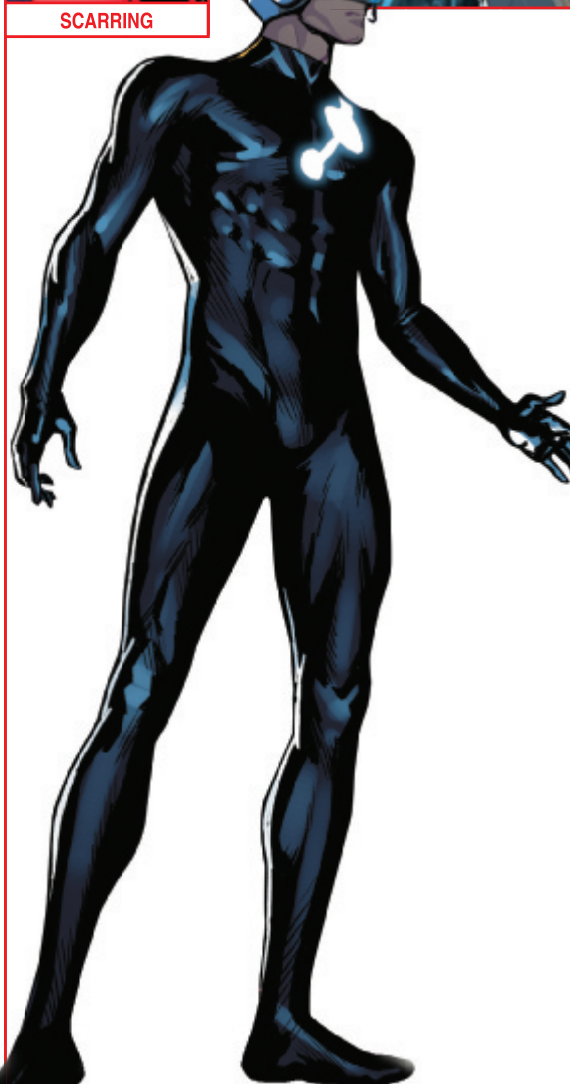
attacks on anyone who could stop his plans, including the Roxxon Corporation, the Ultimates and Spider-Man (Peter Parker). When Invisible Woman discovered Reed was responsible for the attacks, he savagely beat Susan and left her to die, though she recovered. Ultimately defeated by Earth's combined heroes, Reed's face was burned by an enraged Human Torch, and Reed was stranded in the N-Zone. Recovering, Reed returned to Earth, adopted the identity Maker and formed the Children of Tomorrow scientist group to remake the world into a place valuing knowledge above all else. In Germany, Maker constructed the Dome, where time passed at an accelerated rate; f passed while five minutes occurred on Earth. The Children went through generations of evolution, and the sentient



SCARRING



ELONGATED SKULL



# OLD MAN LOGAN

Art by  
Steve McNiven



**HISTORY:** On Earth-807128, Wolverine (aka Logan) and Jubilee (Jubilation Lee) were monitoring broadcasts in the Xavier School for Gifted Youngsters the night super villains launched coordinated attacks against the major super-hero groups. Mysterio's hypnotism and deception powers made Wolverine believe his fellow X-Men were 40 attacking super villains, fooling even Wolverine's heightened senses; their hesitation as friends in countering Logan's attacks gave him the opening he needed to slaughter them, although several children escaped. Mysterio dispelled the illusion, revealing the carnage to Logan, who was left shocked and suicidal. He drifted for weeks, unaware of the Battle of Vegas, the deadly final showdown where villains defeated heroes. Logan resolved never to use his codename or claws again; nearly 50 years later he lived in seclusion as a pacifist farmer near Sacramento with wife Maureen and two children, Scotty and Jade. Its population decimated from widespread super-powered battles and bereft of super heroes, the USA was dismantled into six zones headed by powerful villains. Bruce Banner (Hulk) became mentally unstable and produced a large, gamma-powered, inbred family started forcibly with his cousin, She-Hulk (Jen Walters); he controlled the west coast, extorting money from locals. After Logan took a beating from the Hulk Gang seeking payment, the now blind Hawkeye (Clint Barton) paid him to help deliver a package to the east coast, believing they were helping a new Avengers come to fruition. In actuality, they were delivering the Super-Soldier serum to former enemy-now US president Red Skull (Johann Schmidt). Overcoming a Ghost Rider gang, they arrived in Nevada, where super-hero memorabilia thrived and they saved Spider-Girl (Ashley Barton — Hawkeye's brutal daughter, who had inherited some of maternal grandfather Spider-Man/Peter Parker's powers) from execution by a murderous new Kingpin; however, she killed the crimelord and planned to replace him. Logan and Hawkeye were pursued by Ashley's gang, some riding Savage Land-imported dinosaurs, and evaded man-eating but near-blind subterranean Moloids that sank and consumed towns. The two were attacked in Illinois by a symbiote Venom-bonded dinosaur that was stopped by the Inhuman Black Bolt and Emma Frost, based in Dr. Victor von Doom's territory; Frost revealed that few mutants remained. Logan and Hawkeye arrived in New Babylon, powerbase of President Red Skull

**HEIGHT:** 5'3"

**WEIGHT:** 300 lbs.; (without Adamantium skeleton) 195 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** White

**ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES:** Logan can regenerate quickly from severe injuries, although this ability was reduced from 50 years prior. Virtually immune to poisons, his healing factor enhances endurance and impedes aging. His skeleton is bonded with unbreakable Adamantium, including three retractable sharp claws in each forearm. He has enhanced strength and senses. An exceptional hand-to-hand combatant trained in many fighting styles and stealth techniques, and an expert in various weapons, Logan drives the wall-clinging Spider-Mobile. As the Hooded Man, he heals as swiftly as in his prime.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

**REAL NAME:** James Howlett

**ALIASES:** Wolverine, Logan; Hooded Man (future Earth-807128), others

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Vigilante; former farmer, drifter, adventurer

**CITIZENSHIP:** Canada (Earth-807128)

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Alberta, Canada (Earth-807128)

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Maureen (wife, deceased), Scott (son, deceased), Jade (daughter, deceased), Bruce Banner Jr. (stepson), many others (all Earth-807128)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Fantastic Force, New Defenders (future Earth-807128); formerly X-Men, others (all Earth-807128)

**EDUCATION:** Privately tutored as a child, extensive combat training in multiple disciplines

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Wolverine #66 (2008); (Hooded Man) Fantastic Four #558 (2008)

(Johann Schmidt)-ruled east coast; Hawkeye was killed by one of Shmidt's SHIELD lackeys. When they delivered Logan and the cargo to the Red Skull, who stood amidst trophies from fallen heroes, Logan freed himself and decapitated Red Skull with Captain America's shield, then used all the fuel of an Iron Man armor to rocket home with the money, but found the Hulk Gang had already murdered his family. Logan vengefully reclaimed the Wolverine name and went after Hulk's family, killing all he encountered. The monstrous Hulk plummeted and devoured Wolverine whole, but he slashed his way free, apparently killing the elder Banner from within. Wolverine buried his family and set out with Banner's remaining infant son, Bruce Banner Jr., to form a team and reclaim heroism.

Centuries later, as the Hooded Man, Logan was part of the New Defenders, an assembly of all of Earth's super-powered beings, including Banner Jr., against the hungry Galactus. They used a time machine to transport the dying Earth's survivors to present-day Earth-616, where they were settled on the synthetic Nu-World with the aid of the Fantastic Four. Logan renamed his surviving six-member team Fantastic Force to honor fallen teammate, the future Invisible Woman (Susan Storm). Logan later returned to his far future to resettle the depopulated planet with the Earth goddess Gaea. When the Multiversal collapse led to Earth-616's all-powerful Dr. Doom constructing Battleground, a patchwork planet of reality's remnants, a confused Logan traversed the world's domains, seeking answers.



Art by Steve McNiven with Steve Kurth (top inset)

# SHIKLAH

**REAL NAME:** Shiklah

**ALIASES:** Queen of the Underworld

**IDENTITY:** No dual identity

**OCCUPATION:** Ruler of Monster Metropolis

**CITIZENSHIP:** Monster Metropolis; previous citizenship unrevealed

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** "Wade Wilson" (Deadpool, husband), unidentified father (presumed deceased), Amjad, Baqir (brothers, deceased)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** (Mentioned) Deadpool: Dracula's Gauntlet #1 (2014); (full) Deadpool: Dracula's Gauntlet #2 (2014)

**HISTORY:** Shape-changing Shiklah's demonic Middle Eastern family ruled over all creatures of the night since before mankind's advent. A few millennia ago, vampires overthrew Shiklah's family and waged war against their bannermen. During the war, Shiklah's father decided to preserve his bloodline by faking the deaths of his sons Amjad and Baqir, and sealing Shiklah, unaware of her brothers' survival, in a glass sarcophagus to keep her safe until the war's end when she would be married to the reigning vampire lord to unite the underworld. Her father allegedly died protecting Shiklah. In modern times, vampire lord Dracula (Vlad Tepes), planning to usurp Shiklah's heritage after uniting the underworld through their marriage, hired Deadpool ("Wade Wilson") to retrieve her from her tomb. Deadpool took the sarcophagus to Papaconstantinos, Greece where it broke open while Deadpool fought the Minotaur (Asterion), who sought to rid the world of the sarcophagus' evil. Now free and being true to her nature, Shiklah rewarded Deadpool with a life-draining kiss, which, to Shiklah's surprise, he survived. Though ready to marry Dracula, she fell in love with Deadpool during battle-filled travels through Europe. Impatient, Dracula sent the mind-controlled Werewolf (Jack Russell) to London after Shiklah, but Shiklah freed Werewolf from Dracula's control and learned from him that her brothers were alive in Monster Metropolis. After her pet dragon, Bug, visited Monster Metropolis, Shiklah was devastated to learn Dracula had slain her brothers to make her the family's sole heir. Seeking revenge and to end Dracula's schemes, Shiklah married Deadpool. She

freed her imprisoned allies in Monster Metropolis and confronted Dracula, who vowed to destroy both Shiklah and Deadpool. Dracula psionically forced Shiklah to human form, then used the Gorgon Medusa's head to petrify her. Deadpool used exposed bones in his own severed arm to impale Dracula; Deadpool's blood somehow poisoned Dracula, impeding Dracula's healing abilities. A second exposure to Medusa returning her to flesh, Shiklah banished the vampires from Monster Metropolis, ending their rule. Shiklah became Monster Metropolis' new ruler, with Deadpool helping her acclimate to the modern era.

After an official wedding ceremony with friends, Deadpool and Shiklah honeymooned in Tokyo, Japan; when they returned home, Dracula sent enhanced Nosferatu vampires after Shiklah's warriors. Using the Fantastic Four's time platform, Deadpool traveled to the past to recruit light manipulator Dazzler (Alison Blaire) as his secret weapon while Shiklah pretended to negotiate a truce. As Shiklah and Dazzler destroyed the remaining Nosferatu nests, Deadpool left to save his recently discovered daughter Eleanor Camacho from the terrorist organization ULTIMATUM (Underground Liberated Totally Integrated Mobile Army to Unite Mankind). Though Shiklah appreciated Deadpool's love for his daughter, she wished to make proper heirs with him. When the telepathic Red Skull (Johann Schmidt) caused a global hate-wave, Shiklah sealed off Monster Metropolis to protect her people and was displeased when Deadpool left again to look after Eleanor. After Deadpool returned mentally inverted by a spell cast by Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) and Dr. Victor von Doom, his new peaceful and loyal nature annoyed Shiklah, but she still supported his endeavors. After Doom, Scarlet Witch (possessed by Daniel Drumm) and Red Skull reversed the inversion spell, Deadpool reverted to insanity, leaving him troubled. To purge his melancholy, Shiklah sent Deadpool into the world for adventures. In the Middle East, he found a burial site with more sarcophagi like the one in which he had found Shiklah. After Deadpool revealed these to her, Shiklah sent Deadpool home, then dug up the first of 99 warriors, whom she ordered to dig up the others so they could conquer the world with her. Later, after a Multiversal collapse, an all-powerful Doom created Battleworld from reality's fragments. There, Shiklah (or an alternate-reality counterpart) was still betrothed to Dracula, who had slain Deadpool; she fought against Dracula's Monster Metropolis reign.

**HEIGHT:** 10'3"; (humanoid form) 5'8"

**WEIGHT:** 645 lbs.; (humanoid form) 146 lbs.

**EYES:** Yellow (with black sclera)      **HAIR:** Black

**ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES:** A long-lived succubus, Shiklah can rejuvenate and re-energize herself by draining the life force and souls from others through physical contact. She can shoot soulfire from her hands, which can cause physical harm, completely disintegrate a body, or disrupt lesser spirits. Her soulfire's power increases with the amount of souls she consumes. She can switch between her humanoid and true demonic forms at will and temporarily turn into a gaseous state as part of her transformation. In physical forms she has superhuman strength (Class 10 in humanoid form, Class 25 in demon form) and durability. She can mesmerize others with her voice or soulfire blasts and even fully control those in a weak mental state. Her human form is more vulnerable to physical and mystic attacks while her demonic form is susceptible to strong psychic attacks. Her telepathic connection to her pet, Bug, enables her to read his mind and command him. In her human form, she sometimes uses sickles imbued with soulfire to more easily rend flesh.



POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

Art by Giuseppe Camuncoli with Reilly Brown (insets)

**HISTORY:** In an unidentified dimension's higher planes, the gods of light and their contrasting dark counterparts have played an eternal game against each other since the dawn of time. Above such petty notions as good and evil, their numbers are too well balanced for direct confrontation to bring victory, so both sides play for the game's sake, an amusement to pass the boredom of eternity — though for the mortal pawns, the game brings both war and life. Eons ago, one of the dark faction, Darklens, clashed with his own side, and the cosmic debris he created during the fight formed a planet, Weirdworld. Losing, Darklens was cast down to Weirdworld, stripped of much of his power as punishment for his misdeeds. Though no longer a god, he remained a powerful sorcerer and wandered the new world, hoping to find a way to please his former fellow dark gods and have his exile lifted.

Humans, elves, dwarves, goblins, dragons and many other races came to inhabit Weirdworld. When they died, any that were loyal to either of the two godly factions were collected from the Land of the Dead, an island in the sea to the west of Weirdworld's main continents, and ascended to the heavens to become gods, bolstering their respective faction's numbers (it is unclear whether this is only true of the natives of the magically created Weirdworld, or whether those who live on other planets in their dimension also become gods upon dying; indeed, it is unrevealed whether there are any other planets in Weirdworld's dimension). Some mages and heroes became willing minions of one or the other faction, but others realized that balance was needed, for if either faction outnumbered the other and sensed victory could be gained by aggression, an all-out god war would commence, and mortal life on Weirdworld would be swiftly extinguished.

According to legend, a giant was slain by a hammer from the heavens — perhaps a meteor — and his grave was marked by the Crooked Spines mountain. The “hammer” splintered on impact, shattering into crystals that were left as deposits in the mountain's caverns. The caverns became the home to Weirdworld's dragons, but eventually Weirdworld's elves excavated the crystals, seeking to exploit their magical properties. One elf, Illianor, struck a pact with the dragons, becoming the first Dragonmaster, and the dragons relocated to the elves' homeland Klarn; many crystals, meanwhile, were recovered and made into the Crystal Shield of Klarn. Long after this time, Darklens came to Klarn. Seeing the peaceful sylvan land, he conceived a spectacular scheme to destroy the world he had created, drenching it in sorcerous shadows that would breed nothing but evil. He magically sundered the ground below Klarn, sending it to float up into the Weirdworld sky, blotting out the sun. In the shaded region below, monsters bred, but before Darklens could sunder another region from the world, one of the gods of light, who the elves believe was the combined spirits of their dead, crashed a meteor down through the center of the floating land and into Darklens below it, slaying him. The hole in Klarn let light stream down, forming a bright core in what became known as the Region of Shadows. Most elves remained trapped on the airborne atoll, their numbers gradually dwindling, while those who had been away when Klarn became airborne were left homeless wanderers. As the Dragonmasters died off, the elves on Klarn placed the Crystal Shield atop the dragons' resting chamber to place the dragons in a permanent slumber. At least one wingless dragon continued to wander freely, and came to be worshipped by a human tribe trapped on Klarn, who regularly made sacrifices to it. Down on Weirdworld, elves,

**SIGNIFICANT INHABITANTS:** Darklens, Dark Riders, Grithstane, Illianor, Lianissa, Lord Raven, Mud-Butt, Murkandor, Nightgaunt, Nironus, Red Soryll, Shreekar, Tyndall, Velanna, “White Wolf,” Wulfbuck, Zarthon

**SIGNIFICANT LOCATIONS:** City of Seven Dark Delights, Crater Lake, Darkhaunt Woods, Dwarf Haven, the Great Marsh, Klarn, Land of the Dead, Mystic Isles, Nanty Glo, Region of Eternal Shadow, Skyhook Mountain, Treehaven, Shrine of the Dawning Miracle, Tomb of Limbo

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Marvel Super Action #1 (1976)

previously considered lighthearted bringers of joy, became feared and hated, blamed for the monsters that now emerged from beneath Klarn. Runes cast by mages foretold that within the Region in the heart of a dead monster an innocent would be born who would defeat Darklens' legacy and help repopulate the elves.

Eons after Darklens' demise, five of his followers, the Dark Riders, excavated his remains intending to resurrect him, as his lifeforce had been trapped within his preserved corpse beneath the meteor. Aware that it would now begin to swiftly decay, they embedded five meteor fragments in Darklens' skull to trap the wizard-god's soul and store them until the solstice, when the revival ritual could be cast. With the stones having transformed into gleaming gems, the Riders then transported Darklens' remains to a valley containing the Tomb of Limbo, but a band of savage elves pursued and drove the Riders out before solstice. Possessing the gems, but unable to enter the actual Tomb to destroy Darklens' remains, the elves guarded the valley, while the Riders waited for a chance to reclaim the gems, meanwhile terrorizing Weirdworld both in their human forms and as the monstrous batlike Nightfangers.

In recent times, the dark god Nightgaunt took mortal form on Weirdworld as the mage Black Majister in order to cheat at the great game of the gods by directly influencing the mortals, hoping to create a dead army who would bolster the dark gods' numbers. Lianissa of Skyhook Mountain, a wizard who sought to ensure the game remained stalemated, created the sword Glorywand and gave it to the adventurer Wulfbuck to slay Majister, but unaware of the true power he faced, Wulfbuck was bested. Majister broke his foe's sword and spirit, separating the former's blade from its hilt, and giving Wulfbuck bestial features, so that he fell into despair, believing his unspoken love for Lianissa would now never be required. Embedding Glorywand's blade in the walls of the Crystal Caverns, Majister then gave the hilt to fellow sorcerer Lord Raven for safekeeping. His abilities reduced in his mortal guise, Majister went into seclusion to appeal to the dark gods for the additional power he needed to complete his scheme. Meanwhile,

