

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 3

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.

In the present, Peter Quill has recently discovered that the evil Mister Knife is actually his father, J-Son, the deposed Emperor of Spartax. Infiltrating Knife's fortress, Peter and Kitty Pryde found that Knife had recovered the Black Vortex, which he used to enhance his henchmen. Fearful of the object's power, Peter and Kitty stole the Black Vortex and recruited the Guardians of the Galaxy and the X-Men to help battle Mister Knife. But as the group argued over the artifact, Knife's Slaughter Lords attacked. Attempting to save her friends, Gamora used the Black Vortex, but her new powers were not enough to overcome Knife's minions. To escape their pursuers, Storm had Magik teleport the group to Spartax's moon.

In the confusion that followed, the elder Beast used the Black Vortex as well, imbuing himself with cosmic power. As their argument intensified, the group was interrupted by the arrival of Sam Alexander, the young Nova, who was responding to Peter's distress call. But their conversation was cut short, as Gamora ensnared the heroes by bringing them face-to-face with the Black Vortex--and their cosmic potential!

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THIS IS THE
FUTURE!

STEP
FORWARD AND
EMBRACE YOUR
TRUTH.



SUBMIT
TO THE

**BLICK'S
WORTEX**



UM, NO?
YOU GUYS DON'T LOOK ALL THAT GREAT.

I AM GROOT!

HANK, PLEASE CONSIDER THE DREADFUL NATURE OF WHAT YOU ARE SUGGESTING.
BEFORE I FRY YOU BALD.



ORORO, I WISH YOU COULD SEE WHAT I SEE.
A FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR. IT IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.

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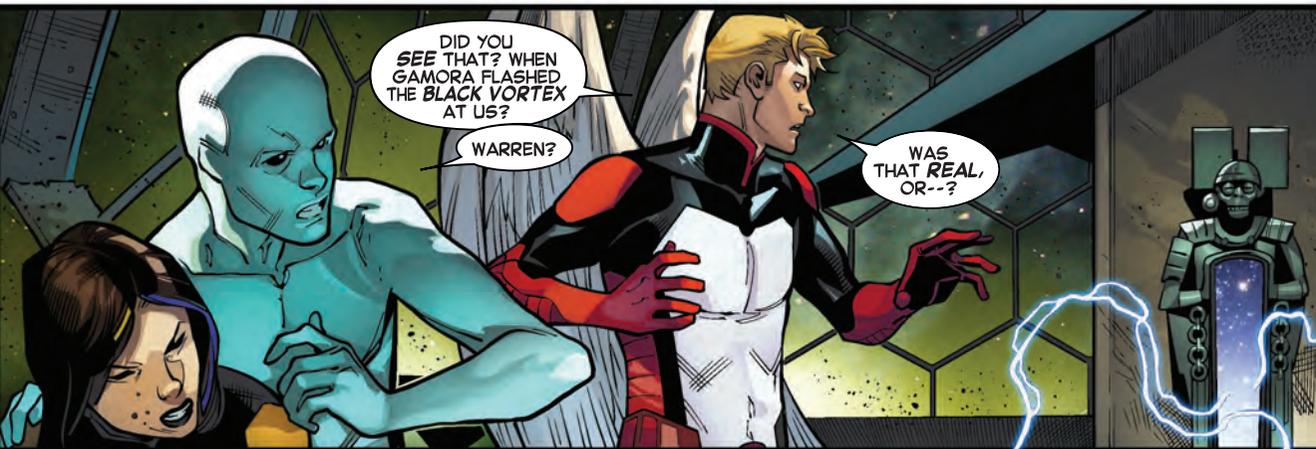
LAURA! ARE YOU OKAY?!

NNFF-- BRAIN FEELS LIKE A SMUSHED BURRITO...

FREAKY BEAST CAN'T DO THAT TO ONE OF US!
CAN HE, HANK?

I THOUGHT SEEING MY FUTURE SELF COVERED IN FUR WAS WEIRD ENOUGH...

GUYS, STAND DOWN! WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE--





WHOA.
AWESOME.