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MASKED

RAIDER

The mysterious bearer of the **Eternity**

Mask, an ancient artifact made from

the substance of the cosmic entity

Eternity. The Raider took up the mask and the mission of its previous bearer, a repentant member of the scientific cabal

the Enclave





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SORCERER

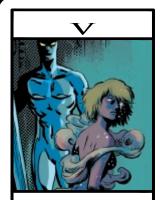
SUPREME

Doctor Stephen Strange — Master

of the Mystic Arts and leader of the

Defenders...for now.

Betty Banner, ex-wife of the Hulk, recently re-empowered with gamma after her death and resurrection through the Green Door.



CLOUD

A **nebula** that gained human form via the influence of a **Cosmic Cube** and a chance encounter with teenagers **Carol Faber** and **Danny Milligan**, whose bodies and senses Cloud combined and co-opted for their own.



TAAIA A heroic scienceer from the Sixth Cosmos and mother of Galen of Taa, the infant who will one day become Galactus the Devourer.

THE STORY SO FAR...

There have been seven versions of reality before this one. And this Eighth Cosmos is now under threat due to Carlo Zota, a rogue scientist who sent himself back in time to try to fix his mistakes. At the urging of the mysterious Masked Raider, Doctor Strange activated the Tarot of the Secret Flame and summoned a new team of Defenders to hunt down Zota. The spell brought them first to the Sixth Cosmos, where they allied with Taaia, the mother of Galactus, and then to the Fifth Cosmos, a realm of pure magic where the eldritch being Moridun had enslaved the fugitive Zota. Realizing the Defenders were a living spell, Strange channeled the power through Harpy and summoned the mysterious Green Door. The opening of the unnatural portal defeated Moridun, returned Harpy to her human form as Betty Ross, and sucked the Defenders into an even earlier cosmos... Two lovers were traveling on a lonely road.

> They met a being that could not fully be described in words. And that being was **me**.

In seeking to communicate-to understand the lovers, to understand myself--I adopted their shapes. I had no wish to choose, so I adopted both.

> I wanted to save them--save everything. And...I wanted to know love. To know life.

> > But I learned that to know life is to know pain and heartache. To know a world where the simplest truths of myself are mysteries to those around me.

My name is *Cloud.* I cannot fully be described in words. But I am.

> And more than anything *else...*

> > Cloud?

...be right there.







