

# Star-Lord

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**Star-Lord (Peter Quill)** is a fictional superhero appearing in American comic books published by Marvel Comics. Created by Steve Englehart and Steve Gan, the character first appeared in *Marvel Preview* #4 (Jan. 1976). The son of a human named Meredith Quill and the Spartoi J'son, Quill assumes the mantle of Star-Lord, an interplanetary policeman.

The character played a role in the crossover comic book storylines "Annihilation" (2006) and "Annihilation: Conquest" (2007), and became the leader of the space-based superhero team Guardians of the Galaxy in the 2008 relaunch of the comic of the same name. He has been featured in a variety of associated Marvel merchandise, including animated television series, toys, and trading cards. Chris Pratt portrays the character in the 2014 live-action film *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

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## Publication history

The character first appeared in the black-and-white magazine publication *Marvel Preview* #4 (Jan 1976). Creator Steve Englehart had plans for the character that went unrealized. He later reflected on his website:

Star-Lord



Star-Lord (Peter Quill). Cover detail, *Annihilation Conquest: Star-Lord* #1 (Sept. 2007). Art by Nic Klein.

**Publication information**

<b>Publisher</b>	Marvel Comics
<b>First appearance</b>	<i>Marvel Preview</i> #4 (January 1976)
<b>Created by</b>	Steve Englehart (writer) <div>Steve Gan (artist)</div>

**In-story information**

<b>Alter ego</b>	Peter Jason Quill
<b>Species</b>	Human/Spartoi
<b>Team affiliations</b>	Guardians of the Galaxy <div>Ravagers</div> <div>United Front</div> <div>Shi'ar Imperial Guard</div> <div>Ship</div>
<b>Abilities</b>	Master strategist and problem solver <div>Skilled marksman and fencer</div> <div>Use of element gun</div> <div>Via suit:<div>Superhuman strength and durability</div></div>

Flight

Ability to travel through space

I I conceived something very large. My hero would go from being an unpleasant, introverted jerk to the most cosmic being in the universe, and I would tie it into my then-new interest in astrology. After his earthbound beginning, his mind would be opened step by step, with a fast-action story on Mercury, a love story on Venus, a war story on Mars, and so on out to the edge of the solar system, and then beyond.

But – after his earthbound beginning, where I established him as an unpleasant, introverted jerk, I left Marvel, so no one ever saw what he was to become.<sup>[1]</sup>

Star-Lord continued to appear in *Marvel Preview*, with writer Chris Claremont revamping the character and using science fiction adventure stories like the Heinlein juveniles for inspiration.<sup>[2]</sup> Heinlein's lawyers threatened legal action over the cover to *Marvel Preview* #11, which featured a blurb that described the content as "a novel-length science fiction spectacular in the tradition of Robert A. Heinlein", leading to the issue being pulled and reprinted.<sup>[3]</sup> The story in #11 was the first teaming of the celebrated *X-Men* creative trio of writer Chris Claremont, penciller John Byrne, and inker Terry Austin. Star-Lord made sporadic appearances over the next few years in the titles *Marvel Super Special*,<sup>[4]</sup> *Marvel Spotlight*,<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> and *Marvel Premiere*.<sup>[8][9]</sup> In February 1982, a color reprint of the black-and-white Starlord story from *Marvel Preview* #11 was published with a new framing sequence by Claremont and artist Michael Golden.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

The character returned in *Thanos* #8–12 (May–Sept. 2004) and *Annihilation* #1–6 (2006). The following year, he received a four issue eponymous title (*Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord*) leading into the "Annihilation: Conquest" crossover storyline, in which he played a central role. Spinning out of "Annihilation: Conquest", a second volume of *Guardians of the Galaxy* featured a team of characters from the crossover who were led by Star-Lord for the duration of the title's 25-issue run. Plot lines from that series were concluded in the *The Thanos Imperative* mini-series.

After Star-Lord's introduction to Earth-616 in 2004, the appearances of "classic" Star-Lord have been officially designated as occurring in Earth-791 due to continuity issues.<sup>[12]</sup>

Star-Lord returned, along with other members of the Guardians, in *Avengers Assemble* #4–8 (June–Oct. 2012). He stars in *Guardians of the Galaxy* vol. 3, a part of the Marvel NOW! relaunch.<sup>[13]</sup>

In July 2014, Star-Lord received his own ongoing series, *Legendary Star-Lord*. The character was also given a new costume, matching that seen in the Marvel Studios film *Guardians of the Galaxy* <sup>[14]</sup>

His solo series and *Guardians of the Galaxy* vol. 3 ended as Marvel began its "Secret Wars" crossover event.<sup>[15]</sup> Star-Lord appeared as a main character in the core series, and received a tie-in miniseries during the event, *Star-Lord and Kitty Pryde*.<sup>[16]</sup>

After the Secret Wars events but two months before the event finished its publication, Star-Lord received a new ongoing series, simply titled *Star-Lord* as part of the All-New, All-Different Marvel initiative, focused on his new origins. He will also leave the Guardians of the Galaxy, being replaced by his fiancée Kitty Pryde who took over the identity of Star-Lord on the team's roster.<sup>[17]</sup>

A new *Star-Lord* ongoing series will begin in December of 2016.

## Fictional character biography

When J'son's ship crash lands on Earth, he is taken in by Meredith Quill. The two form a relationship while J'son makes repairs to his ship. Eventually, J'son is forced to leave to return home and fight in a war. He leaves, not knowing Meredith is pregnant with Peter Quill. 10 years later, Meredith is killed when she is attacked by two Badoon soldiers who have come to kill Peter and end J'son's blood line. Peter kills them with a shot gun, finds his father's gun by accident, and escapes his home before it is destroyed by the Badoon ship. The Badoon presume Peter is killed and leave. Peter is placed in an orphanage and eventually joins NASA.<sup>[18]</sup>

Later, when his ship malfunctions and he is stranded in space, Peter is found by the Ravagers, a group of space pirates led by Yondu. After the Ravagers saved Peter, he tried to steal their ship. Peter managed to outsmart every member of the Ravagers and even knocked out Yondu before capturing him. After he woke up, Yondu managed to set himself free from his restraints and attacked Peter and gave him a choice between letting himself be released to space without more trouble or get killed right there. Peter instead asked him if he could join his crew. Yondu was not sold on the idea but after he found out Peter was like him as they were both "kids without homes", Yondu changed his mind and let him stay in the ship with the Ravagers as their cleaning boy. Peter decided to stay and try to learn everything he could from space while he was part of the Ravagers.<sup>[19]</sup>

The character encounters the former Herald of Galactus, the Fallen One, and is almost killed defeating the entity, and in addition Star-Lord's vessel "Ship" is destroyed in the conflict. The pair are subsequently imprisoned in the intergalactic prison the Klyn.<sup>[20][21][22][23][24]</sup> Star-Lord is freed by the hero Nova during the Annihilation War and aids in the war against villain Annihilus.<sup>[25][26][27][28][29][30]</sup> Quill later acts as military adviser to the Kree General Ronan the Accuser.

When the Kree homeworld of Hala is conquered by the Phalanx, Star-Lord leads a band of rebels against the invaders until the war is over.<sup>[31][32][33][34]</sup> In an effort to prevent another interstellar war, Star-Lord forms a new version of the *Guardians of the Galaxy*. They are "proactive" and try to end emerging galactic threats early,<sup>[35]</sup> but are unsuccessful at preventing a war between the Kree and Shi'ar. During a war with an invading universe, Star-Lord and Nova are prepared to sacrifice themselves to defeat Thanos<sup>[36]</sup> but only Nova dies and Thanos escapes.<sup>[37][38][39]</sup>

## New Guardians and Kitty Pryde

Peter decides to remain inactive for a time until he found out his father was planning to pass a law that forbade any interaction of extraterrestrial or space origin with Earth. Knowing this would be an open invitation for invasion, Peter decides to reform the Guardians with six members: Gamora, Rocket, Groot, Drax and Bug, along with himself, and start protecting Earth from any attack. Soon they aid the Avengers against the returned Thanos.<sup>[40][41][42][43][44][45]</sup> After this, Star-Lord and his new team of Guardians engage in conflicts with the Badoon. He is soon captured by the army of Spartax but he escapes imprisonment and broadcasts a video showing the unfairness of his father's reign.<sup>[46][47][48][49]</sup> During the war of the builders, he infiltrated the S.W.O.R.D. facilities and rescued Abigail Brand along with Rocket and new member Angela.<sup>[50]</sup> He also declared war against the Shi'ar empire after intervening in one of their trials to rescue the kidnapped young Jean Grey along with the X-Men. It was during this mission when he met Kitty Pryde, the woman with whom he would initiate a romantic relationship not long after.<sup>[51][52][53]</sup> After that, all the Guardians were cornered and captured by the Spartax army. Peter was sent to Spartax where he confronted his father again and escaped after exposing once again his father's tyrannical reign. This time a riot formed in the Empire and J'son was deposed as a consequence. Peter decided to keep a low profile and dedicated completely to his long distance relationship with Kitty, the two eventually falling in love with each other. Soon he discovered he was elected by the Spartax

people to be their new Emperor.<sup>[54]</sup> Peter ignored the announcement and kept focusing on Kitty and his search for a gangster named Mr. Knife who had put a bounty on his head. After being captured by Knife, he found out his real identity was J'son, his father. He escaped thanks to Kitty and both disappeared from the radar to spend some time together. Peter convinced Kitty to stay in space with him and both consummated their relationship before deciding to steal an important artifact from J'son as payback.<sup>[55]</sup>

## The Black Vortex

Peter and Kitty were successful in stealing the artifact called The Black Vortex, but found themselves outnumbered by J'son's killing squad so they decided to call the X-Men and the remaining Guardians for help. Knowing the artifact could give them the needed power to defeat J'son, Peter wanted everyone to submit to the Vortex and gain cosmic powers. Kitty stood against the idea but some of their friends submitted anyways. After failing to stop them, the submitted cosmic warriors attacked Hala and Peter went with a team to help the Kree in the battle. After some failed negotiations on the Vortex, his team had to escape but J'son found them and destroyed Hala in retaliation. Peter escaped on time. After finding Spartax had been completely covered in amber by Thane, including Kitty, Peter lamented not having heard her since the beginning and apologize to her. Kitty escaped thanks to her phasing powers and both had a reunion. Seeing no other way to defeat J'son and his cosmic empowered team, Peter tried to submit to the Vortex but after seeing the power would eventually make him push Kitty away, he refused. Kitty ended up submitting and saving Spartax. After the war ended, Peter had a romantic talk with Kitty where he proposes to Kitty Pryde, a proposal which she accepts.<sup>[56]</sup>

## Secret Wars

When the universe is facing its imminent end, Star-Lord and the rest of the Guardians of the Galaxy come to the world's final battle against the Children of Tomorrow. During the battle, Groot and Rocket Raccoon are killed, and Star-Lord is teleported away by Reed Richards to his ship. In the end, he is one of the few survivors of the apocalypse aboard the Fantastic Four's "life raft".<sup>[57]</sup> After the end of the universe, Doctor Doom somehow creates a new, patchwork world formed from the remains of dead universes. The life raft that Star-Lord was on remained in cryostasis for the next eight years, until they are awakened by Doctor Strange, a new Thor, and Miles Morales.<sup>[58]</sup> Doom becomes aware of their location, and ambushes them. Knowing they are the only hope of reviving the old universe, Strange casts a spell to spread the survivors across the world using the wind, with Doom vowing to find them.<sup>[59]</sup>

Star-Lord ends up in the domain of Manhattan, where he gets a job singing in the popular club, "the Quiet Room", singing Disney songs, as Disney films never existed in Battleworld, using the alias of Steve Rogers to hide from Doom. It is here that he runs into an alternate universe version of Kitty Pryde (from the Age of Apocalypse universe), who is hunting down artifacts from before Battleworld's creation. Hoping to talk to who he believes is his fiancé, he accidentally messes up a deal between Kitty and Gambit to obtain an ancient artifact. Gambit leaves, but Kitty uses a scanner to discover that Star-Lord is from before Battleworld's creation, and plans on taking him to Doom. However, they are ambushed by a group of robots connected to Gambit. The two decide to steal an artifact that Gambit has, but it was a trap and the two are captured. Right before Gambit can kill them, a version of Drax appears, who originally hired Peter to work in the Quiet Room, and knocks out Gambit. The three escape with the artifact secured. When they are safe the next morning, Kitty shows it to the two, only to find out it's Rocket Raccoon's tail. Star-Lord laments the death of his friend, and Kitty decides to allow him to keep it, as it is the one thing left of his old universe. Star-Lord thanks Kitty, who kisses him before heading back to her home of Doomguard. Realizing the two are out of a job for abandoning the Quiet Room in the middle of a show, Star-Lord and Drax decide to go back into Star-Lord's old career as a thief. He asks Drax if he knows a good geneticist, as he plans on using Rocket's tail to make a clone of his friend, possibly an army of them.<sup>[60]</sup>

During the final stand against God Doom, Peter not only piloted a ship to take the two Reed Richards' to the heart of Castle Doom, but also managed to keep Black Swan occupied by using the last twig of Groot, kept in his pocket ever since the Incursions to be planted at the crucial moment.<sup>[61]</sup>

## All-New, All-Different Marvel

Following the restoration of reality, Peter ascended to the throne of Spartax, with Rocket taking over leadership of the Guardians while Kitty- now under the alias of Star-Lady- and the Thing- following the disbanding of the FF while the Richards' family worked to restore the multiverse- joined the team.<sup>[62]</sup> After Kree accuser Hala and the ruthless Yotat the Destroyer caused mass destruction on Spartax while trying to eliminate Quill, he was forced to return to the Guardians due to the accusations of his delegates about his responsibility for the resulting deaths.<sup>[63]</sup>

## Powers and abilities

Star-Lord is a master strategist and problem solver who is an expert in close-quarter combat, various human and alien firearms, and battle techniques. He has extensive knowledge of various alien customs, societies, and cultures, and considerable knowledge about cosmic abstracts, such as Oblivion.

As Star-Lord, Peter Quill wears a suit that grants augmented strength and durability and the ability to travel through space. The character uses an "Element Gun", a special meta-pistol capable of projecting one of the four elements (air, earth, fire and water). Star-Lord shares a psychic link with his sentient space vessel, "Ship".

"Ship" is actually a sentient energy form. She most often exists in the form of a starship, but can alter her structure at will. She can travel through air, space and water. She possesses many of the conventional starship accessories, including shields, energy blasters, advanced sensors, replicators (able to form any kind of food, drink, etc.), and hologram projectors. She has proven capable of creating a human form, which she can then animate and use as a host. Even if completely destroyed, she is capable of restoring herself, since her true form is her consciousness. In addition, she takes on a number of feminine characteristics, such as a mothering instinct for those she is partnered with. She has felt deeper attachments, including love for her partners.

"Ship" can create Widgets—small, mobile droids able to scout out situations, gather information, and then return to her. The full extent of "Ship's" abilities are unknown.

During Star-Lord's battle with The Fallen One, his Element Gun, suit and "Ship" were destroyed. Due to severe injury he was grafted with cybernetic implants by doctors on the Kyn, where he was sentenced. The eye implant allows him to see all energy spectra and the memory chip in his brain gives him 100% total recall.

On the Kree world of Aladon Prime, Star-Lord's cybernetic implants were removed. Star-Lord was outfitted with a Kree-issued heat-dampening espionage battle-suit, which became the hallmark look for the Guardians of the Galaxy, a battle helmet, and a universal translator, all of which he still uses. His battle helmet can analyze strategy data, improve vision, and regulate oxygen in space.

Star-Lord's chosen weapons are two Kree sub-machine guns with various types of ammunition, including explosives.

## Other characters named Star-Lord

A three-issue limited series, titled *Starlord*, featured a man named Sinjin Quarrel adopting the identity 12 years after the disappearance of the original Star-Lord (Peter Jason Quill).<sup>[64]</sup> The series, published from December 1996 to February 1997, was written by Timothy Zahn, with art by Dan Lawlis.<sup>[65]</sup> Where the events depicted in this miniseries fit into Peter Quill's chronology has never been revealed.

## Other versions

### Earth-791

Star-Lord has adventures in *Marvel Preview* #4 and #11, but after Peter Quill's introduction to Earth-616 in 2004, these issues and other appearances of "classic" Star-Lord have been officially designated as occurring in Earth-791 due to continuity issues. In these issues, Peter Quill is born during an unusual astronomical phenomenon when many of the planets align. Seeing no resemblance, the man who believed he was Quill's father accuses his wife Meredith of infidelity and attempts to kill the infant, but dies of a sudden heart attack. Peter is raised by his single mother until she is killed by Ariguans when he is eleven (In Earth-616, she is killed by Badoon soldiers).<sup>[66]</sup> Quill is placed in an orphanage but escapes and eventually becomes a trainee NASA astronaut. An alien entity called the Master of the Sun later visits the space station that Quill and other astronauts are inhabiting, and offers the mantle of Star-Lord (an interplanetary policeman) to a worthy candidate. Quill volunteers, but is rejected in favor of a colleague he once treated badly. Quill is outraged, and NASA orders his return to Earth and discharge for his conduct. Instead, he steals a scout ship, returns to the space station, and takes his colleague's place. Quill becomes Star-Lord, with the Master of the Sun first creating an illusion in which the character is able to find and kill the aliens that murdered his mother to free him of his past. Equipped with a sentient vessel called "Ship", Quill commences his role as Star-Lord.<sup>[66][67]</sup>

Years later, Star-Lord becomes involved in stopping a group of slavers who are destroying worlds. His efforts led him to discover a conspiracy to replace the emperor of the Spartoi Empire. In order to thwart the takeover, Star-Lord travels to the imperial throneworld Sparta where he encounters and kills the alien who killed his mother. Star-Lord then meets Emperor J'son who reveals that he is Peter's father. Jason explains that he had crashed on Earth decades earlier and been rescued by Meredith Quill. During the year that he had spent repairing his ship, Jason and Meredith fell in love. When it came time to leave, Jason, for Meredith's safety, had placed a mindlock on her memories of him, causing her to remember their year together as only a dream.<sup>[2][67]</sup>

### Age of Ultron

During the "Age of Ultron" storyline, Wolverine and Susan Storm accidentally create an alternate timeline after traveling back in time and assassinating Hank Pym before he can create Ultron. In the new reality, Star-Lord is seen as a member of the Defenders, who have replaced the defunct Avengers as the world's premier superhero team.<sup>[68]</sup>

## In other media

### Television

- Star-Lord appears in *The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes* episode "Michael Korvac", voiced by Steve Downes.<sup>[69][70]</sup>
- Star-Lord appears in the *Ultimate Spider-Man* cartoon series, voiced by Chris Cox.<sup>[69]</sup> In "Guardians of the Galaxy", he is seen as a member of the Guardians of the Galaxy. He and the Guardians of the Galaxy fight Korvac and the Chitauri with the help of Spider-Man and Nova. In "The Return of the Guardians of the Galaxy", Star-Lord is with the Guardians of the Galaxy when they land on Earth to rebuild their ship at the same time when Titus was leading the Chitauri into targeting Nova's helmet.
- Star-Lord appears in *Avengers Assemble*, voiced by Chris Cox (in "Guardians and Spaceknights") and later by Will Friedle (in "Widow's Run"). In "Guardians and Spaceknights", he was seen with the Guardians of the Galaxy when they are in the middle of evacuating the D'Bari from their homeworld before it can be consumed by Galactus. In "Widow's Run", Star-Lord tries to get Tony Stark to have the Infinity Gems in the custody of the Guardians of the Galaxy only to be turned down. This causes Star-Lord to lead the Guardians of the Galaxy into taking the Infinity Gems from the Black Widow leading the group's fight with the Avengers. Using special teleportation disks, the Falcon was able to send the



Guardians of the Galaxy back to their ship. Star-Lord's appearance initially resembles his original comic book appearance, however, now resembles Chris Pratt's character from the *Guardians of the Galaxy* film.

- Star-Lord appeared in *Hulk and the Agents of S.M.A.S.H.*, voiced by Chris Cox (in "It's a Wonderful Smash" and "Guardians of the Galaxy"),<sup>[71]</sup> and by Will Friedle (in "Planet Monster" Pt. 2).
- Star-Lord appears in *Marvel Disk Wars: The Avengers* episode "Guardians of the Galaxy".
- Star-Lord appears in the *Guardians of the Galaxy* animated series, voiced again by Will Friedle.<sup>[72]</sup>

## Film

### Marvel Cinematic Universe

- Chris Pratt portrays Peter Quill / Star-Lord in the Marvel Studios film *Guardians of the Galaxy*.<sup>[73]</sup> Peter Quill is a young boy who, unable to accept his mother's death due to cancer, leaves the hospital in tears, and is subsequently abducted by an extraterrestrial star-ship. Twenty-six years later, he is a member of the Ravagers, the mercenary gang who abducted him as a child led by Yondu Udonta, and has had many adventures with this crew around the galaxy. While on a scavenging job, Peter finds himself embroiled in a significant power struggle and revenge war between two advanced galactic powers, the Kree warlord Ronan the Accuser and Xandar's Nova Corps while also being hunted by Yondu after failing to bring him a stolen relic later revealed to be an Infinity Stone which Ronan seeks. Throughout the movie, Peter is shown regularly listening to a cassette tape given to him by his mother (serving as his only connection with Earth), containing various hit songs released between 1967 and 1979. The film had a major effect on Quill's appearances in other media as his design in the comics, video games, and cartoons was changed to reflect Pratt's look in the movie.
- Pratt will reprise his role in the upcoming film *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, set for release May 5, 2017,<sup>[74]</sup> and again in *Avengers: Infinity War* and its untitled sequel.<sup>[75]</sup>



Chris Pratt as Star-Lord in a character poster for the 2014 film *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

### Animation

- Star-Lord makes a non-speaking cameo appearance in the animated direct-to-video film *Planet Hulk*.<sup>[76]</sup> He is seen as an audience member in the Sakaar arena.

## Video games

- Star-Lord is available as downloadable content for *LittleBigPlanet*, as part of "Marvel Costume Kit 5".<sup>[77]</sup>
- Star-Lord appears in *Marvel Heroes*.
- Star-Lord appears in *Lego Marvel Super Heroes*.
- Star-Lord appears as a playable character in *Disney Infinity: Marvel Super Heroes*.
- Star-Lord is available in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" skin pack for *Minecraft*.
- Star-Lord is available in the Facebook game *Marvel: Avengers Alliance* as the Special Operations 20 unlockable.
- Star-Lord is an unlockable and playable character in *Marvel Contest of Champions*.
- Star-Lord is an unlockable and playable character in *Marvel: Future Fight*.
- Star-Lord is a playable character in *Disney Infinity 3.0*.

## Toys

- Star-Lord was featured in the Marvel Universe toy line as a 3 3/4" figure in his Guardian uniform. He was sold in a three pack with Drax the Destroyer, Rocket Raccoon, and a mini Groot accessory.

- Star-Lord appears as a figure in the Groot Build-A-Figure line.
- Star-Lord is featured in the Hot Toys 1:6 scale line for Marvel Studios film *Guardians of the Galaxy*. The head sculpt features an authentic and detailed likeness of Chris Pratt as Star-Lord.
- Nerf has released toys of Star-Lord's mask and weapons as they appear in the film.

## Collected editions

- *Star-Lord: Guardian of the Galaxy* (collects *Marvel Preview* #4, 11, 14-15, 18; *Marvel Super Special* #10; *Marvel Spotlight* vol. 2 #6-7; *Marvel Premiere* #61; and *Star-Lord* Vol. 1 #1-3), 424 pages, July 2014, ISBN 978-0785154495
- *Legendary Star-Lord Vol. 1: Face It, I Rule* (collects *Legendary Star-Lord* #1-5), 112 pages, February 2015, ISBN 978-0785191599
- *Legendary Star-Lord Vol. 2: Rise of the Black Vortex* (collects *Legendary Star-Lord* #6-12), 160 pages, August 2015, ISBN 978-0785191605
- *Legendary Star-Lord Vol. 3: First Flight* (collects *Star-Lord* Vol. 2 #1-5), 112 pages, July 2016, ISBN 978-0785196242
- *Legendary Star-Lord Vol. 4: Out of Orbit* (collects *Star-Lord* Vol. 2 #6-8, *Avengers* #28, 51, 174), 128 pages, November 2016, ISBN 978-0785196259
- *Star-Lord and Kitty Pryde* (collects *Star-Lord and Kitty Pryde* #1-3, *Generation Next* #1, and *Guardians of the Galaxy and X-Men: The Black Vortex Omega*), 128 pages, December 2015, ISBN 978-0785198437

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