

Previously in X-MEN: PHOENIX ENDSONG

Once, a powerful cosmic entity called the PHOENIX FORCE assumed the form of a mutant woman named JEAN GREY and destroyed an entire alien civilization. The X-MEN united against her, and with its bodily death, the Phoenix Force seemed banished for good. Jean Grey herself lived on, eventually married and looked forward to a long and happy life. But the Phoenix Force persisted in the depths of space.

Now, weakened and driven insane by a weapon of the alien SHI'AR EMPIRE, the Phoenix has returned to Earth to locate Jean Grey but finds that Jean is dead. Not to be dissuaded, the Phoenix resurrects Jean Grey against her will, takes over her body, and begins searching for the missing piece it believes will restore its shattered self: Jean's former husband, SCOTT SUMMERS, a.k.a. CYCLOPS.

Cyclops realizes they must destroy this new incarnation of the Phoenix, to avoid the immeasurable death it might cause. BEAST designs an egg-like capsule to contain the Phoenix, and the X-Men agree to take her down despite their love for Jean. Meanwhile, STORM and NIGHTCRAWLER encounter a Shi'ar battlecruiser that has come to destroy the Phoenix. However, its attention is suddenly drawn by a powerful mutant manifesting at the X-Men's headquarters...an omega-level telepath named QUENTIN QUIRE.

Quentin, a young student from the Xavier Institute, was recently killed physically but lived on as a disembodied mind in a test tube. Now he too has suddenly returned to the world of the living to claim someone he loves a young woman named SOPHIE, one of the identical telepathic--quintuplets calling themselves the STEPFORD CUCKOOS. But Sophie, too, is dead. Quentin hopes the Phoenix Force can help bring her back.

The X-Men track Phoenix to the Arctic Circle. The Phoenix hopes to fill an emptiness with Scott's love. But Emma points out that Scott's love belongs to her and not Jean...and if Scott's love is what it wants, it should go through Emma. It takes the bait and possesses Emma and Scott and Emma lock themselves safely in Hank's egg. The problem is, the insanely powerful Quentin Quire has arrived and he wants to break them out and loose the power of the Phoenix!

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