

THE SILVER SURFER

THE ORIGIN OF THE SILVER SURFER: PART TWO

(#1875-02)

WRITTEN BY

LARRY BRODY

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THE SILVER SURFER

"THE ORIGIN OF THE SILVER SURFER: PART TWO"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. THE PLANET OF ZENN-LA - SERIES OF SCENES - (NOTE:  
ALL SEQUENCES ARE FROM EPISODE #1875-01)

A QUICK RECAP of what has happened so far, SHOWING:

THE IDYLLIC PLANET OF ZENN-LA

Where predator walks side by side with prey.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

The world of Zenn-La! Since the  
beginning of time, its teachings  
of peaceful co-existence have  
shone as a beacon of truth and  
enlightenment in a universe  
otherwise darkened by chaos and  
strife.

GALACTUS' SHIP

VAPORIZING a moon as the ship moves toward Zenn-La.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

When the unassailable being known  
as Galactus sought to nourish  
himself on Zenn-La's planetary  
energies...

THE WATCHER

Appearing in the sky and alerting Zenn-La's citizens to  
danger -- including NORRIN RADD and SHALLA BAL.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

I, the Watcher, broke my ancient  
vow of silence and intervened to  
warn its people of his coming!

PLANET-WIDE DEVASTATION

Galactus' cables BORE into the ground. The web of BLACK  
NOTHINGNESS forms. Earthquakes. Tidal waves. Destruction!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)  
Yet I was helpless to prevent the  
inevitable.

GALACTUS' EYES

CRACKLING WITH ENERGY as:

GALACTUS' FINGER

Stabs a button on his control chair. An ENERGY BOLT BLASTS  
at:

THE KREE AND SKRULL SHIPS

Trying to fight off Galactus with their FIREBALLS and  
FORCEFIELDS -- and being destroyed by Galactus' RING OF FORCE!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)  
Even the mighty warriors of the  
Kree and the Skrull fell before  
Galactus' power.

THE WRECKAGE OF THE ACADEMY

With Shalla Bal at his side, Norrin Radd uses a shard of the  
communication crystal to contact Galactus, vanishing as a  
RING OF ENERGY stabs at him!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)  
Then Norrin Radd, a brave believer  
in justice and truth, confronted  
the dreaded foe...

GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER

Where Norrin Radd floats before Galactus in an ENERGY BUBBLE.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)  
And proposed a bargain so  
momentous that it would affect the  
entire universe!

THE SCULPTURE GARDEN OF ZENN-LA

Norrin Radd bids a tearful good-bye to Shalla Bal, Galactus  
transporting him up and away from her as:

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

In return for Galactus' vow to spare Zenn-La, Norrin Radd made the supreme sacrifice, giving up all he knew and loved to become Galactus' herald and scout.

GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER

As Galactus TRANSFORMS Norrin Radd's body and mind.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

Norrin Radd hoped to lead Galactus to worlds devoid of intelligent life, and so save countless civilizations from annihilation.

THE SILVER SURFER

Appearing in Galactus' hand as the huge being opens his palm.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

However, his body altered and his memories gone, Norrin Radd is no more.

SPACE OVER ZENN-LA

As the Surfer comes soaring from Galactus' ship on his board!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

In his stead a new being searches the cosmos.

Faster and faster, the Silver flies through space as:

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

(continuing)

In his stead soars -- the Silver Surfer!

The Surfer FORESHORTENS INTO WARP as we

END RECAP SERIES OF SCENES and

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

Where the Silver Surfer soars amidst the blazing stars, riding the crest of a wave of COSMIC ENERGY.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Space! My home! Was ever a man  
as lucky as I?

He flies past a magnificently ringed planet, sees:

THE SURFER'S POV - A SWARM OF METEORS

Jagged, threatening rocks of all shapes and sizes -- heading directly at him.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

He cuts along the face of the ENERGY WAVE, meeting the swarm. Crouching lower on his board, the Surfer zigs and zags through the meteors like flags on a slalom.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Who but the Silver Surfer can soar  
the cosmic currents and be one  
with the many wonders of the  
galaxies?

WIDER

The Surfer squeaks between the last two meteors, slows. He raises his head.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
And yet, even now, I feel  
confused, and uncertain. Where do  
I come from? Why do I serve -- ?

The Surfer stops. His gaze sweeps across:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - SPACE

It's like looking at an infra-red scanner or heat tracker. Instead of the blackness of space we SEE GLOWING LEVELS OF ENERGY, each shown in a DIFFERENT COLOR. We TIGHTEN ON a HOT RED IMAGE and:

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

His eyes too start to GLOW.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Ah! My probe has found possible  
nourishment for my master!

He slides into the tube of another COSMIC WAVE.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
I must learn more!

The Surfer shoots forward, FORESHORTENING INTO WARP as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF SPACE - THE PLANET DRACO

Hanging in the darkness, the home of a flourishing technological civilization. Orbiting around Draco are various artificial satellites, bristling with protuberances.

TIGHTENING PAST the satellites, we SEE that the surface too is a construct, an interlocking series of constantly moving structures that make Draco one huge, mechanical -- almost clockwork -- city.

THE SILVER SURFER

His GLOWING form WARPS IN high above the planet, and he looks down thoughtfully.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Strange...the surface of this world is entirely artificial. I shall search past it...

The Surfer skims down into the upper reaches of Draco's atmosphere.

ONE OF THE ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES

As the Silver Surfer passes it. It's various surfaces turn, keeping the Surfer in view. Within them COLORED LIGHTS FLASH. We TIGHTEN ON the lights and:

FIRST MINISTER IVAR (O.S.)  
Lord Glenn! The monitor satellites are picking up an intruder!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET DRACO - DAY - PLANETARY COUNCIL BUILDING

An imposing edifice marked with a stylistic PLANETARY SEAL.

FIRST MINISTER IVAR (O.S.)  
The planetary database confirms  
it: The Silver Surfer has entered  
our space!

INT. PLANETARY COUNCIL BUILDING - DAY - A VIEWSCREEN

Covering the entire dome of the council room. Upon it, we  
SEE various views of the Silver Surfer.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO - THE SILVER SURFER

His eyes GLOW EVEN MORE BRIGHTLY as he looks down at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - DRACO

Again, we get the SCANNER EFFECT, but this time the various  
layers of the planet APPEAR to be stripped away, one by one,  
each succeeding layer GLOWING MORE REDLY. First the natural  
surface of the planet APPEARS to the Surfer, then the lower  
layer of bedrock -- and then the ENERGY-RICH CORE!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Nodding with satisfaction. His board pulls up as:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Yes! The necessary energy lies  
within. This planet can indeed  
ease great Galactus' hunger!

He turns his head back toward the depths of space.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANETARY COUNCIL BUILDING - DAY - A VIEWSCREEN

All the images of the Surfer raise both hands in the air and  
bring them together. A BEAM OF PALE BLUE ENERGY SHOOTS out  
from the Surfer's raised hands: This is a COMMUNICATION  
BEAM, stabbing out to space.

As this is occurring, we WIDEN TO SEE, silhouetted below the  
dome, the shadowy figures of the Planetary Council. All we  
can make out is that they're humanoid.

FIRST MINISTER IVAR (O.S.)  
My Lord! He's sending out the





COSMIC WAVE, flying faster, angling toward space.

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8.

WIDENING, we SEE that he's moving perpendicularly to the  
ENERGY BEAMS -- and they're getting closer, closer, as we

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO - THE ENERGY BEAMS

Piercing the blackness of space as they head directly at:

THE SILVER SURFER

Slaloms around the first ENERGY BEAM, and then he and the board dive under a second. But then:

ANOTHER ENERGY BEAM

Hits him directly. The Surfer staggers on his board, then regains his balance. But now he's in the thick of the attack, as:

ANOTHER ANGLE

Another ENERGY BEAM catches the Surfer, and he GRUNTS with the impact as it whirls both him and the board around. A third ENERGY BEAM hits, and the Surfer drops to one knee.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Do they not understand? Nothing  
can stand in my way!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET DRACO - FORTIFIED AREA - DAY - THE  
BATTERY OF BLASTERS

FIRE ANOTHER ROUND!

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO - THE SILVER SURFER

Still on one knee, he thrusts out his arms, pointing at the oncoming ENERGY BEAMS.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

(impressed)

These beings know that it is

impossible for them to prevail,  
and yet they fight on!

COSMIC ENERGY BLASTS from his fingers!

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10.

CLOSE ON THE COSMIC BLASTS

Striking the Draconian ENERGY BEAMS, one after another.  
Where they hit, the BEAMS and the Surfer's BLASTS FLARE UP  
together like miniature novas -- and vanish, cancelling each  
other out!

THE SILVER SURFER

Dodging and weaving through space to avoid the NEXT ROUND OF  
ENERGY BEAMS, the Surfer picks up speed again. Only this  
time he's heading down, right at the planet!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Their struggle moves me in a way  
I do not understand, yet I cannot  
allow it to sway me --

We ANGLE WITH him, going faster and faster as we

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET DRACO - FORTIFIED AREA - DAY

A bright light in the sky grows larger and larger -- and we  
SEE that it's:

THE SILVER SURFER

He extends one arm this time, and FIRES A COSMIC BLAST at:

THE NEAREST BLASTER TUBE

EXPLODING!

WIDER

As, in a chain reaction, the rest of the battery BLOWS UP!

THE SILVER SURFER

Shakes his head sadly. For the first time, he calls out:

SILVER SURFER

I sorrow for you, my planetary  
brothers...

INT. PLANETARY COUNCIL BUILDING - DAY - A VIEWSCREEN

Where, without slowing, the myriad images of the Surfer wheel around and head back upward. Once again, the Surfer's communication beam appears, directed out to space.

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11.

REVERSE ANGLE

Lord Draco and the others watch with dismay.

FIRST MINISTER IVAR

We have other weapons, Lord Glenn.  
There is still time --

But Lord Glenn is already rising, heading from the room.

LORD GLENN

No, Ivar. The Silver Surfer's  
power is awesome, and all our data  
indicates that it is as nothing  
compared to that of his master.

(beat)

This is the day we have dreaded  
since Galactus first arrived in  
this sector...

He sweeps through the doorway. Ivar and the others follow.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO - A STARSHIP

BLASTING away from the planet.

LORD GLENN (O.S.)

Only by evacuating do our people  
have a chance to survive!

We WIDEN TO SEE a huge flotilla of starships following a  
large Mother Ship out of the system. We ANGLE FROM the fleet  
TO:

THE SILVER SURFER

On his board, watching the refugees go. Sadly:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Time after time have I borne  
witness to wanderers forced from  
their homes. Yet never does the  
sight cease to be a bitter one --

From O.S., we HEAR A DEEP ROAR, and even though we're in space a huge shadow seems to blot out Draco's sun. The Surfer turns toward:

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12.

GALACTUS' SHIP

As the enormous vessel WARPS IN. We TIGHTEN ON the central hatch, where Galactus' massive cables of destruction emerge, shooting down!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET DRACO - DAY

The first of the huge cables pierces the artificial shell of the planet. The surface RUPTURES with a CRACK AND A ROAR!

A COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS

Sways and then topples, CRASHING down! We TIGHTEN ON the flying fragments and

CUT TO:

EXT. A RUINED STAR SYSTEM - MATCHING SHOT

Two huge planetary fragments EXPLODE as they collide with each other. OVER this, in a deep, forbidding VOICE trying desperately to be gentle and loving, we HEAR:

THANOS (O.S.)

Ah, the beauty of it...

We WIDEN TO SEE that we are in an area of space populated only by planetary ruins and hulks of starships with gaping holes in their hulls.

THANOS (O.S.)

(continuing)

The majesty...

As he speaks, we CONTINUE PANNING TO:

EXT. THANOS' SHIP

An environment more than a spaceship, entirely biological in nature. The ship is like a gigantic BLACK flower, slowly moving through the cosmic debris.

THANOS (O.S.)  
Does it not touch your heart, my  
love, to witness such ruinous  
grandeur?

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13.

We HOLD ON the ship, SEEING that much of the flower is covered by a translucent, asymmetrical capsule. Within the capsule we can SEE a shadowy, malignant garden.

INT. THANOS' SHIP - NIGHT

(NOTE: IT IS ALWAYS NIGHT ON THANOS' SHIP!) Like a garden, filled with BLACK AND PURPLE plants and thick PURPLE grass. PURPLE LIGHTNING FLASHES in the "sky."

THANOS (O.S.)  
You are absolutely correct...

We PAN ACROSS a bank of botanical computers, growing and alive, TO:

THANOS' VIEWSCREEN

Like a black tulip, genetically engineered to display images on its waving, fan-shaped leaves.

On the viewscreen now is an image of Draco, more of its buildings toppling.

THANOS (O.S.)  
Galactus is the very definition of  
destruction!

We WIDEN TO FIND that we're looking over the thickly muscled purple shoulder that is all we can make out of THANOS. He pauses as though listening to someone else -- who we also can't see. Then:

THANOS (O.S.)  
(continuing)  
Yes, my dear, I quite agree...

CLOSER ON THANOS' VIEWSCREEN

Where Draco's artificial ground heaves convulsively as Galactus' Black Nothingness springs out of one of the cables.

THANOS (O.S.)

Control his power, and the entire  
universe will fall beneath our  
heel!

CUT TO:

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14.

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - COMMAND CENTER - MATCHING SHOT OF  
DRACO

WIDENING TO SEE that the area is being PROJECTED against the  
stars, and viewed from:

GALACTUS' COMMAND CHAIR

Resting upon the Planetary Energy Converter, which is now  
starting to GLOW. All we can SEE of Galactus are his booted  
feet, absorbing the GLOW.

As the ENERGY that he's draining from the planet works its  
way up his body we ANGLE UP WITH IT TO:

GALACTUS' HELMETED HEAD

SEEING only the GLOWING LINE OF HIS JAW. Galactus' head  
turns from the image of the building to:

THE SILVER SURFER

Soaring up to the Command Center.

SILVER SURFER

Master!

The Surfer leaps off the board and onto the console built  
into the chair.

GALACTUS' EYES

ENERGY CRACKLES in their pupilless depths.

GALACTUS (O.S.)

My herald, never have I fed as  
well as I have since you joined me.

THE SILVER SURFER - INTERCUT WITH PARTS OF GALACTUS AS  
NECESSARY

The Surfer hesitates. Then, bravely:

SILVER SURFER  
Master? Often have I wondered --  
when did I join you? And why --

GALACTUS  
(eyes CRACKLING)  
Ah, my herald, always are you  
questioning, always restless...  
(more)

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15.

GALACTUS (cont'd)  
(beat)  
And to think -- once I foolishly  
thought that, unlike myself,  
lesser beings could be content.

Galactus laughs. The Surfer doesn't understand.

SILVER SURFER  
Do I amuse you, mighty Galactus?

Galactus becomes serious. His voice takes on an edge:

GALACTUS  
It is of no consequence. All that  
must concern you is that I obtain  
the energy I need.  
(quickly)  
Now go, my Silver Surfer! Soon  
this planet will be drained -- and  
the Great Hunger will be upon me  
once more!

WIDER

The Surfer needs no more encouragement than that. He holds  
out his arm.

SILVER SURFER  
To me, my board!

THE SILVER SURFER'S BOARD

Sails to the Surfer from across the Command Center. He leaps  
atop it, soaring out as:

GALACTUS' HEAD

GLOWING. Galactus throws back his head, and from him we HEAR  
A VERY LOUD, VERY SATISFIED SIGH...



EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - THE SILVER SURFER

Flies out past the GLOWING cables that bring the energy of Draco up to Galactus. He slips into the pocket of a peeling COSMIC WAVE, as we

CUT TO:

INT. THANOS' SHIP - NIGHT - MATCHING SHOT

The Surfer slides along with the COSMIC WAVE as:

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16.

THANOS (O.S.)

The Silver Surfer, beloved. I could crush him with a gesture...

Again, we WIDEN TO SEE that we are LOOKING at the botanical viewscreen. But this time we SEE all of THANOS, standing in the garden. He smiles -- and the expression is as frightening as a frown would be from anyone else.

THANOS

But if anyone knows Galactus' secrets, it is he. I must find a way to entrap him, so I can rip that knowledge from his brain.

Again, he stops as though listening, looking at someone, O.S.

THANOS

(continuing; nodding)

Yes, my love, I know exactly what is necessary. And I have the perfect pawn to put into play...

Thanos flicks a finger. A BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT SHOOTS from it to:

THE BOTANICAL COMPUTER BANK

A cluster of computer buds swells and darkens. Within them, PURPLE SPARKS FLY. We TIGHTEN ON the computer buds and

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A NEW PART OF SPACE - THE SILVER SURFER

Rides the crest of a COSMIC WAVE. Straightening on his board, he looks out into space, and once again his eyes start to GLOW.

ANOTHER ANGLE

From O.S. comes a PURPLE FLASH, followed by a WHITE FLASH, and the Surfer is jolted back, the GLOW vanishing from his eyes. He regains his balance, looks out at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - A NEARBY STAR

FLARING UP IN A SERIES OF EXPANDING CIRCLES OF LIGHT! A series of COSMIC WAVES ripples outward.

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17.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Staring in awe.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

A nova!

The first of the COSMIC WAVES crests over him. Whether he likes it or not, he's in the tube!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

(continuing)

Never have I felt such force!

WIDER

The COSMIC WAVE propels the Surfer at breakneck speed. He fights to stay upright.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

I cannot control my direction, nor my speed -- !

He breaks off. A second COSMIC WAVE is breaking behind the first, and a third one after that. They push the Surfer faster, faster, until, without doing anything of his own volition, he FORESHORTENS INTO WARP and we

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER NEW PART OF SPACE - THE SILVER SURFER

WARPING INTO a dark, starless area of space. He lies sprawled face down on his board, like a shipwrecked sailor -- and in a way that's just what he is.

CLOSER ON THE SILVER SURFER

Opening his eyes. He lifts his head, looks around.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Where am I -- ?  
(beat; remembering)  
The nova -- its waves blew me like  
a speck of cosmic dust!

Quickly, he pulls himself to his feet.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
I have lost precious time, and  
Galactus must soon feed --

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18.

Suddenly, the Surfer stops. He looks out at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - A PLANET

Far enough away so that we can see the entire sphere, is a  
planet of DEEP RED AND BLUE.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

The tracking beam emerges from his forehead.

THE TRACKING BEAM

Extends outward -- and goes directly to the planet!

THE SILVER SURFER

GLOWS like the beam. We ANGLE WITH him as he soars to:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET

Now that we're closer, we SEE that the RED COLOR comes from  
rich fields of red vegetation, while the BLUE COLOR is from  
a pair of large oceans.

There are no signs of civilization, or even of any animal  
life.

EXT. THE PLANET - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Flies down lower, orbiting the planet within its upper  
atmosphere. In spite of the fact that there are no nearby  
stars, the planet's sky shines brightly.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Daylight? Plant life? How can  
this be in a world with no sun?

He flies still lower, and we TIGHTEN PAST the Surfer TO the twin oceans. Their tides move with his movement, so that it looks almost as though the seas are watchful eyes!

REVERSE ANGLE - THE PLANET'S POV - THE SILVER SURFER

As the Surfer flies on.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

This planet contains energy in abundance! How fortunate I was to be carried here!

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19.

The Surfer starts to regain altitude, and CAMERA MOVES DOWN, BENEATH THE WATER, TO:

THE OCEAN FLOOR

CAMERA CONTINUES DOWN, through the ocean floor, TO:

THE PLANETARY CORE

With its molten, fiery interior. We HEAR A RHYTHMIC POUNDING, like a heartbeat! Then, in a DEEP EARTHY ROAR:

VOICE (O.S.)

NO ESCAPE!!!

THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET

The ground RUMBLES like a continuation of the Voice. The RUMBLING GROWS LOUDER AND LOUDER, and the red earth HEAVES UPWARD, turning into:

A GIANT VOLCANO

Growing straight up from the ground and ERUPTING!

THE SILVER SURFER

Finds himself heading straight into a cloud of smoke and flame, belching from the volcano. He flies higher, trying to get over it --

THE VOLCANO

From within its huge crater a fiery, massive boulder hurtles upward, flying unerringly at:

THE SILVER SURFER

We TIGHTEN ON his eyes as an ENERGY BEAM SHOOTS OUT from them!

CLOSER ON THE BOULDER

The ENERGY BEAM strikes the boulder, and the fiery rock RIPPLES -- and is transmuted into a harmless shower of powdery ash.

WIDER

Another fiery boulder hurtles skyward, and an ENERGY BEAM from the Surfer's eyes transmutes this one as well. But then there are more and more of them, hurtling upward from the volcano like bullets fired from a gun!

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20.

THE SILVER SURFER

The air around him is so dense with flaming rock that the Surfer can't possibly SHOOT anymore beams. Instead, he dodges and weaves --

CLOSER ON THE SURFER'S BOARD

One of the huge boulders CRASHES against it, and we WIDEN as both the board and the Surfer are engulfed in flame!

DOWN ANGLE

The board bobs free in the air as the Surfer is catapulted from it. CRYING OUT, he plummets into the side of the volcano, continues bumping and falling, down, down, as we

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. THE PLANET - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Continuing to half-fall, half-skid down the side of the volcano.

A ROCK SHELF

The Surfer grabs at the rock, hanging onto it.

WIDER

For just a short beat his fall stops -- but then, as the rock breaks off in the Surfer's hands, we HEAR:

THANOS (O.S.)  
An intriguing development, my  
love...do you not agree?

The Surfer resumes his tumble down the steep slope as we

CUT TO:

EXT. A RUINED STAR SYSTEM - THANOS' SHIP

Moving swiftly through the system, plowing through the debris.

THANOS (O.S.)  
The Silver Surfer is nowhere near  
as powerful without his board. It  
is as though they are one...

INT. THANOS' SHIP - NIGHT - THANOS' VIEWSCREEN

Where the Surfer is just instants away from hitting the ground. We WIDEN TO SEE Thanos moving closer to the black flower.

THANOS

I wonder what other weaknesses our reluctant ally will expose.

(over his shoulder)

Another flawless plan. You are indeed the mistress of strategy!

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22.

Again, Thanos smiles his frightening smile. Again, he points at the botanical computer, and another BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT SHOOTS from Thanos to a computer pod. We HEAR THE SUDDEN WHINE OF MASSIVE ENGINES and:

EXT. THANOS' SHIP

Gains even more speed, FORESHORTENING INTO WARP as we

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Beneath him, the ground RUMBLES, and another CRACK opens up.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Surfer falls into the new fissure. Immediately, it starts to close over him --

CLOSER ON THE SILVER SURFER

Powerful silver hands grab onto each edge of the crack, holding them apart!

REVERSE ANGLE - THE PLANET'S POV - THE SILVER SURFER

The Surfer hangs there, ABOVE CAMERA. Once more, we HEAR THE RHYTHMIC PULSE.

THE SILVER SURFER

He too hears the PULSE.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
That sound! It is like a  
heartbeat -- !

And he looks down at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE PLANET'S CORE

Where the lava boils. The HEARTBEAT-LIKE PULSE GROWS LOUDER!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Still pushing, keeping the crack from closing over him.  
There's an AIR OF EXPECTANCY, as though something within the  
planet is awaiting the Surfer's next move.

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23.

DOWN ANGLE ON THE CRACK

The earth starts to buck wildly, and the Surfer's grip  
weakens. In spite of his efforts, the crack starts to close.

CLOSE ON THE SILVER SURFER

Straining, as, calling out:

SILVER SURFER  
My board!

THE SURFER'S BOARD

Diving down from the sky.

THE SILVER SURFER

As his board dives through the crack, the Surfer lets go of  
his handholds, grabbing the board and flipping himself onto  
it!

WIDER

As the Surfer positions himself solidly, the board arcs  
upward again --

REVERSE ANGLE - THE PLANET'S POV - THE SILVER SURFER

Flying out of the fissure, just as it THUDS SHUT behind him!

ANOTHER ANGLE



As suddenly as it started, all the planetary motion stops.

THE VOLCANO

Cools and retreats, dropping back down into the earth.  
Immediately, the red vegetation returns, until there's no  
sign that it was ever there.

THE SILVER SURFER

Slowing curiously. He circles, looking down around him.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
These growth cycles should take  
eons, not moments, to occur.  
Truly, this is a world of  
impossibilities!

His gaze goes back upward.

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SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
But my speculations are pointless.  
Soon this world will be no more!

The Surfer starts to gain altitude again. We ANGLE PAST him  
TO:

THE TWIN OCEANS

Instantly, the seas grow dark and roiling.

REVERSE ANGLE - THE PLANET'S POV - THE SILVER SURFER

Flying away. We HEAR THE PLANET'S HEARTBEAT and:

VOICE  
NO!!! You cannot go!

It's the same RUMBLING VOICE as before, but this time it  
seems to come from all around, the words REVERBERATING OVER  
AND OVER: "YOU CANNOT GO! YOU CANNOT GO!"

THE SILVER SURFER

The very air around him thickens, WHIRLING INTO:

A HURRICANE

LIGHTNING FLASHES, and a TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR BEGINS!

THE SILVER SURFER

Is sucked into the hurricane, whirling faster and faster!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
Can it be? Is this whole world  
attacking me?

The Surfer grows wobbly, visibly weakened.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
The area around me -- it is a  
perfect void. My power cosmic has  
no source from which to draw...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Again we HEAR the VOICE -- but now it comes as though torn  
from the gusting wind!

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25.

VOICE  
Silver Surfer! Your place is here!

SILVER SURFER  
(shouting)  
No! Whoever you are -- know that  
my place is at the side of  
Galactus! Now and evermore -- !

WIDER ON THE HURRICANE

Where the rain is coalescing into snow, then slush, then ice.

CLOSER ON THE SILVER SURFER

The ice encrusts his body. Desperately, he tries to move,  
but his arms are pinned to his sides.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
I must free myself! For  
Galactus --

We WIDEN as the ice becomes thick sheets and the Surfer  
DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW. We WIDEN MORE, and the sheets become  
solid blocks.

WIDER ON THE PLANET

The blocks become ONE SOLID MASS OF ICE, stretching from  
horizon to horizon! We CONTINUE WIDENING TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET

Nothing remains of the lush red and blue vegetation.  
Instead, the Silver Surfer is entombed somewhere within a  
planet now made entirely of ice!

We HOLD ON the planet, gleaming like a white pearl against  
the black backdrop of space, and

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO - MATCHING SHOT

ANGLING DOWN at a world that is nothing but gray rubble,  
pierced by massive cables buried deep into the empty ground.

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
My herald! This world is no more,  
its energy absorbed...

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26.

With a METALLIC SNICK AND HUM, the cables pull out of the  
ground, retracting back to:

GALACTUS' SHIP

The cables close on themselves as:

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
Never before have you failed to  
summon me to a new planet by the  
time I was finished with the  
old...!

The cables vanish into a seamless compartment and we TIGHTEN  
TO:

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - COMMAND CENTER - GALACTUS' EYES

NO LONGER CRACKLING WITH ENERGY, as:

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
Now you are strangely silent! Is  
it possible that you have gone  
back on your word?

The pupilless orbs look at:

GALACTUS' POV - THE STARS

PANNING ACROSS the visible universe as:

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
Silver Surfer...! I HUNGER!

And, as Galactus' VOICE THUNDERS ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET - THANOS' SHIP

WARPING IN above the icy world, as:

THANOS (O.S.)  
Ah, my darling...success is just  
a heartbeat away. Soon, the  
chains to bind great Galactus will  
be yours to lock into place!

The ship moves into orbit around the planet as we

CUT TO:

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EXT. THE PLANET OF ICE - DAY

TIGHTENING ON its whiteness. For a beat, there is neither  
SOUND nor movement anywhere. Then, from within the ice we  
HEAR A QUIET RUMBLING. THE RUMBLING GROWS LOUDER, LOUDER --

And the ice DIRECTLY BEFORE US SHATTERS into thousands of  
jagged fragments, revealing:

THE SILVER SURFER

BLASTING the ice from within, using ENERGY BLASTS from both  
hands! His board beside him, the Surfer collapses,  
exhausted, onto onto the remaining ice. From before him,  
O.S., comes a RUMBLING SOUND, and the Surfer forces himself  
to look up at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - A HUGE CLIFF OF ICE

Before the Surfer, the cliff MORPHS, its crags and  
protrusions becoming the gigantic face of a bearded, powerful  
middle-aged man.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Forcing himself to rise. He speaks with great effort:

SILVER SURFER  
In all my service with Galactus

never have I beheld such as this!

THE FACE IN THE CLIFF

Opens its mouth and begins to speak!

EGO

I am Ego, the Living Planet!  
Within my planetary field I can  
create anything. Stay with me,  
Silver Surfer -- and I will give  
you all you ever could desire.

EGO's voice is a deep RUMBLE, the SAME VOICE WE HEARD CALL  
OUT before.

WIDER

The Surfer looks up at the enormous face. Angrily, he moves  
closer to it, standing poised for battle.

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28.

SILVER SURFER

Indeed, you are a unique and  
powerful being.  
But I cannot allow even you to  
prevail over my master's needs!  
(beat)  
To me, my board!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The board soars to him, and the Surfer leaps upon it, heads  
upward once more --

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET - THANOS' SHIP

A WIDE BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT stabs out from it. We ANGLE WITH  
THE BEAM as it strikes downward!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET OF ICE - DAY - WITH THE WIDE BEAM OF  
BLACK LIGHT

As it hits:

THE SILVER SURFER

Crying out, he falls back to the ice, lies there beside his board.

CLOSER ON THE BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT

It too strikes the ground, where it COALESCES into a FIELD OF PURPLE ENERGY! Within the field stands Thanos' imposing form.

THANOS

Your incompetence depresses me,  
Ego. We will discuss the proper  
punishment when I have finished  
with him.

WIDER

Thanos indicates the Surfer, who MOANS, opening his eyes.  
Thanos smiles.

THANOS

You should have remained in the  
ice, Silver Surfer.  
(more)

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29.

THANOS (cont'd)

Now, this may hurt you -- although  
not for long...

Thanos points at the Surfer, and another BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT  
lashes out --

SILVER SURFER

No -- !

THE SILVER SURFER

The Surfer tries to leap aside, but he's too late. The BEAM  
OF PURPLE LIGHT strikes his forehead, and the Surfer goes  
tumbling backward as we

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE SILVER SURFER'S MIND - CLOSE ON THE BEAM OF  
PURPLE LIGHT

At first, it's all we SEE. The BEAM DISSOLVES, and we find  
ourselves in a DISTORTED, SURREALISTIC VERSION OF GALACTUS'  
CONTROL CENTER. On his back within it, in the same position  
as on the planet, is the Surfer. Over him stands Thanos.

SILVER SURFER

Where have you taken me?

THANOS

We have entered your mind.  
(looking around)  
It is not as I expected...

Shakily, the Surfer rises. He follows Thanos' gaze.

THEIR POV - THE SURFER'S MIND

Galactus isn't here, but all his machinery is, TWISTED AND ELONGATED NIGHTMARISHLY, SO THAT IT SEEMS TO STRETCH OUT TO INFINITY!

THANOS (O.S.)

Your whole life should be here.  
Your accomplishments. Fears.  
Failures. Instead -- there is  
emptiness. Darkness. A void...

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER AND THANOS

The Surfer shakes his head, still weakened.

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30.

SILVER SURFER

My life is serving Galactus. I am  
nothing else.

This infuriates Thanos. He gestures with the back of his hand, and a BEAM OF PURPLE LIGHT knocks the Surfer across the "room."

THANOS

Serving Galactus? I have no  
interest in how to serve anyone!  
I want the secret of controlling  
your master!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Surfer pushes himself up from where he lies slumped against a grotesque version of Galactus' command chair. He laughs.

SILVER SURFER

Do you not understand? Galactus  
can never be controlled! If every  
being -- every power -- in the  
universe came together just for  
that very purpose, still would

they fail!

THANOS

(frustrated)

He cannot be invincible! He is  
not a God! The answer is here!  
It must be here!

Thanos stalks through the Surfer's mind. He stops before:

THE HATCH OF A STARSHIP

A DISTORTED VERSION OF THE POINT WHERE GALACTUS' CABLES ENTER  
GALACTUS' SHIP. The hatch is huge, looming over everything  
else, and it CRACKLES WITH BLACK NOTHINGNESS.

THANOS (O.S.)

What might this be? Your past  
perhaps? Mountains of memories  
hidden from you, locked away like  
a silver treasure!

THANOS

Gathers himself, and begins to grow, larger and larger, so  
that he is no longer dwarfed by the hatch, as:

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THANOS

I will possess that treasure!

And PURPLE ENERGY SHOOTS from his hands!

THE HATCH

As the PURPLE ENERGY HITS IT! The Black Nothingness FLARES  
UP, everything POLARIZING from positive to negative.

THE SILVER SURFER

Holds his hands up to his head, crying out in agony.

SILVER SURFER

No! You must stop! I have no  
answers!!!

THE HATCH

The POLARIZING STOPS -- and the hatch is unscathed!

THANOS

Speaks without looking away from the hatch:



THANOS

This is where the truth lies,  
Silver Surfer. Do you not want to  
be set free?

And he FIRES again!

THE SILVER SURFER

Again cries out.

SILVER SURFER

I am afraid!

And the Surfer FIRES A COSMIC BLAST!

THANOS

The giant form of Thanos reels back. He FIRES once more,  
this time with both hands, directly at:

THE SILVER SURFER

The Surfer's hands go up. He too FIRES.

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32.

WIDER

The Silver Surfer's BLASTS meet Thanos' BEAMS, but instead of  
exploding the two forces BOUNCE OFF EACH OTHER, breaking up  
into A MYRIAD OF LINES OF ENERGY that BOUNCE off each other,  
CAROMING all around the Surfer's mind, until:

THE HATCH

As the Surfer's own COSMIC ENERGY hits it. A HOLE appears in  
the hatch -- and out of the hole spills:

NORRIN RADD'S LIFE ON ZENN-LA - SERIES OF SUBLIMINAL  
SCENES

We could call this "Great Moments in the Life of Norrin  
Radd," as IMAGE AFTER IMAGE FLASHES. It's all there,  
streaming out of the hole:

THE IDYLLIC PLANET OF ZENN-LA

Peaceful and serene.

THE MASTER'S ACADEMY

Where Norrin Radd studies with the Master.

THE GROUNDS OF THE ACADEMY

Hand in hand, Norrin Radd strolls with Shalla Bal.

THE ZENN-LA SKY

Where the Watcher appears.

THE GROUNDS OF THE ACADEMY

As Norrin Radd contacts Galactus.

THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

Norrin Radd assuring Shalla Bal:

NORRIN RADD

I will never forget you, my Shalla  
Bal...

THE IMAGES COME SO QUICKLY THAT WE CAN BARELY SEE THEM,  
FLASHING OVER AND OVER, EACH TIME IN A DIFFERENT ORDER. THEY  
APPEAR FASTER AND FASTER, BLURRING INTO A BLINDING GOLDEN  
LIGHT that throbs and HUMS and KEENS with ENERGY!

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33.

THE SILVER SURFER

Watching all this, dropping to his knees in awe.

THANOS

He too falls to his knees -- but in pain! His giant figure  
SHRINKS, becoming smaller and smaller.

THANOS

No! You are from Zenn-La! Eons  
ago, did I study there! Eons ago,  
did I fail! Never again can one  
such as I face Zenn-La's shining  
light!...

We WIDEN, THE GOLDEN LIGHT FILLING THE SCREEN as we

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET OF ICE - DAY - EGO'S GIANT FACE

Staring in wonder at:

THE SILVER SURFER AND THANOS

The Surfer is on the ground before Ego's giant face. Within his PURPLE ENERGY FIELD, Thanos too is on his knees.

CLOSER ON THANOS

Writhing in pain.

THANOS

My lady -- protect me!

His voice rises to a SCREAM. For just a beat Thanos is surrounded by the GOLDEN LIGHT WE SAW within the Surfer's mind.

Then, with a THUNDEROUS CLAP, the GOLDEN LIGHT IS GONE -- and so are Thanos and the PURPLE ENERGY FIELD!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE SILVER SURFER'S MIND - CLOSE ON THE HATCH

As the hole melts in on itself like a quickly healing wound, resealing. We TIGHTEN ON the area where the hole was: A small, narrow CRACK still remains!

SMASH CUT TO:

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34.

EXT. THE PLANET OF ICE - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Still on the ground, a look of confusion on his face. Slowly, he rises, and we WIDEN TO INCLUDE EGO, who nods toward where Thanos was.

EGO

Silver Surfer! I am in your debt.

(at the Surfer's look)

The nova that brought you here was caused by that being. If I had not aided in your entrapment, I would have perished like that star.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Surfer holds up his hand, and his board flies to him. He leaps upon it, circles the giant head.

SILVER SURFER

Are you not afraid you will still perish, when I summon Galactus?

EGO

I am not without resources, as  
you have seen. And with Thanos  
gone, my mobility has returned --

And, as Ego says this, the entire planet RIPPLES -- and  
vanishes, leaving the Surfer on his board -- in deep space!

EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SILVER SURFER

Stares into the blackness where Ego was.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Mobility, indeed...

The Surfer's tone is wry. Then, very serious now:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

(continuing)

Thanos! I will remember the name  
of one who is so evil -- yet has  
given me so much to think about...!

The Surfer peers into the blackness.

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35.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

(continuing)

So many memories! But as swiftly  
as they appeared, did they vanish,  
returning to their prison inside  
my own mind...

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE UNIVERSE

SCANNING the levels of energy. One huge ENERGY SIGNATURE  
stands out in the distance.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

I must find Galactus...

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

His eyes start to GLOW.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

For now I know that my master has

stolen my past, my life!

Face set determinedly, the GLOW in his eyes BRIGHTENING, the Surfer moves in the direction of the huge ENERGY SIGNATURE, faster and faster.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
Galactus! There will be a  
reckoning!  
(beat)  
I will regain my soul!

And, as he FORESHORTENS INTO WARP, we

CUT TO:

EXT. THANOS' SHIP

Spinning wildly through space. It begins to slow, righting itself as:

THANOS (O.S.)  
My lady, I have failed you. I am  
not worthy, I know...

INT. THANOS' SHIP - NIGHT - THANOS

Move through the dark garden. Above him, the "sky" FLASHES WITH PURPLE LIGHTNING. His voice is a whimper.

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36.

THANOS  
Please -- do not turn away from me  
now. Let me right this grievous  
wrong.

Thanos kneels before something we can't see.

THANOS  
(continuing)  
I will give you the universe, I  
swear!

He reaches out, takes what looks like THE SHADOWY,  
OUTSTRETCHED HAND OF A WOMAN.

THANOS  
(continuing)  
And then, my beloved Lady Chaos --  
together we shall destroy it!

We WIDEN, and, illuminated by MORE LIGHTNING FLASHES, we SEE that Thanos has been talking to a STONE STATUE OF AN EXOTICALLY GARBED WOMAN.

Pressing his lips to the cold, damp stone hand of the statue of LADY CHAOS, Thanos kisses it, and we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A NEW SOLAR SYSTEM - THE SILVER SURFER

WARPS INTO the system. He soars past a small planet that is little more than a chunk of ice.

WIDER

He continues past two more small planets, each with a variety of rings around them.

ANOTHER PLANET

Green and yellow, with vast layers of rings that cast dark shadows, making this world appear striped. The Surfer moves past it to:

AN ENORMOUS GAS GIANT PLANET

Yellow and orange, with a great red hurricane spinning within it. The tracking beam and the Surfer continue on.

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37.

A PLANET OF RED ROCK

Emerging from an asteroid belt, we ANGLE WITH the Surfer as he continues past the planet. Finally, he reaches:

GALACTUS' SHIP

In orbit around a planet we can't see. The Surfer flies up to:

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - COMMAND CENTER - THE SILVER SURFER

Comes barreling in.

SILVER SURFER

Galactus -- !

GALACTUS' HELMETED HEAD

Doesn't move from where it's facing.

GALACTUS  
(cutting him short)  
You have failed me, my herald...

GALACTUS' HAND

He presses a control on the command chair.

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
But I will let it go -- this  
time...

EXT. GALACTUS SHIP - CLOSE ON THE CABLES OF DESTRUCTION

As they emerge from the hatch at the center of the ship.

GALACTUS (O.S.)  
For now I am well pleased. I have  
found a world with more life  
energy than any I have encountered  
before!

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - COMMAND CENTER

The Silver Surfer circles Galactus, following Galactus' gaze  
and looking out at:

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38.

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - PROJECTED IMAGES

The massive cables of destruction are shooting toward a  
planet that is mostly blue, the color coming from its large  
oceans. Much of the world, though, is covered with white  
clouds.

From up here, the planet looks peaceful, serene -- and  
familiar. As well it should. Because there can be no doubt  
that the place intended to be Galactus' next meal is:  
EARTH!!!

FADE OUT:

THE END