

THE SILVER SURFER

THE ORIGIN OF THE SILVER SURFER: PART THREE

(#1875-03)

WRITTEN BY

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THE SILVER SURFER

"THE ORIGIN OF THE SILVER SURFER: PART THREE"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. A SERIES OF SCENES - (ALL SEQUENCES ARE FROM
EPISODES #1875-01 AND #1875-02 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

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

THE IDYLIC PLANET OF ZENN-LA

Where NORRIN RADD and SHALLA BAL are in the [Academy](#) Courtyard
with the MASTER and other students, welcoming the KREE and
the SKRULL.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

For millennia, the peaceful
teachings of the world of Zenn-La
have brought the universe wisdom
and hope.

GALACTUS' SHIP

As Galactus' cables of destruction emerge from it, shooting
down toward Zenn-La.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

Attempting to ease his eternal
hunger for energy, the
unvanquishable being called
Galactus struck at Zenn-La...

PLANET-WIDE DEVASTATION

The web of BLACK NOTHINGNESS engulfs the planet. Animals
stampede. People flee from earthquakes. The BLACKNESS GROWS!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

And the destruction of the planet
appeared imminent.

NORRIN RADD AND SHALLA BAL

Reaching out to each other futilely as Galactus' ENERGY
BUBBLE carries Norrin Radd upward from the devastated world.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

Then Norrin Radd, a brilliant

young [student](#), made a fateful
covenant with the despoiler!

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2.

GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER

As GALACTUS TRANSFORMS Norrin Radd's body and mind.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

In return for the sparing of Zenn-
La, Norrin Radd gave up his home
and his love to become Galactus'
herald and scout.

DEEP SPACE

As the SILVER SURFER slaloms through a swarm of meteors.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

As the Silver Surfer, he soared to
the ends of the universe, finding
[planets](#) for his master to devour.

The Surfer's eyes GLOW BRIGHTLY, and he shoots forward into
the tube of a COSMIC WAVE, FORESHORTENING INTO WARP AND
VANISHING as:

SPACE OVER THE PLANET DRACO

A flotilla of starships leaves the system, the Surfer
watching them go.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

With his memories hidden from him,
the Silver Surfer never understood
why he was so moved by the plight
of Galactus' victims...

THE SURFACE OF EGO THE LIVING PLANET

As a volcano grows up from nowhere, attacking the Surfer with
BOULDERS OF FIRE!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

Until, trapped by Ego -- a Living
Planet possessing a consciousness
of its own...

INSIDE THE SILVER SURFER'S MIND

The Surfer and THANOS SHOOT ENERGY BLASTS at each other
within the surreal version of Galactus' Control Center that
is the Surfer's mental world.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

He was forced into mental battle
with the tyrant Thanos, an entity
dedicated to universal
annihilation!

THE HATCH

Struck by one of the Surfer's ENERGY BLASTS. His memories
start to pour out of the hole!

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

During the conflict, the mental
barrier erected by Galactus was
breached, and the Silver Surfer's
awareness of his past returned...

ANOTHER ANGLE ON THE HATCH

As the hole closes on itself, leaving only a scarlike crack.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

Only to be lost once more, leaving
an even greater sense of
loneliness and betrayal!

A SOLAR SYSTEM - (NEW FOOTAGE)

As the Surfer flies past various planets to Galactus' ship
and soars up to the Control Center. The Watcher's head
appears, with everything else SUPERIMPOSED OVER it.

THE WATCHER

As the Silver Surfer confronts his
master about this treachery, it is
my duty to observe all that occurs
here. For I am the Watcher...

GALACTUS' CABLES

ANGLING WITH them as they SHOOT down to a familiar blue
planet that is mostly oceans and clouds.

THE WATCHER (V.O.)

And this is the site of Galactus'
latest depredation...a small, blue
and green world its inhabitants
call -- Earth!

END RECAP SERIES OF SCENES and

DISSOLVE TO:

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4.

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - GALACTUS' CABLES -
MATCHING SHOT

As more and more of the cables attack the planet, piercing
its cloud cover. We ANGLE UPWARD, to the hatch where the
cables enter Galactus' ship, as:

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)

Galactus! The time has come for
us to talk!

We WIDEN TO SHOW the entire vessel as, totally absorbed in
what he's doing:

GALACTUS (O.S.)

There is no need, my herald. I
have found a planet with more life
energy than I ever dared imagine...

And, as Galactus' enormous ship FILLS THE SCREEN:

EXT. GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER - THE COMMAND CHAIR

In it sits Galactus, although all we can SEE of his huge form
is one enormous shoulder. Across from him, an advanced
technology projects a constantly changing series of images of
the events on Earth.

Between Galactus and the images is the Silver Surfer.
Standing on his board, the Surfer loops back and forth before
his master, like a man pacing angrily.

GALACTUS

And for that reason I forgive your
failure to perform your duties --
for now.

SILVER SURFER

But I do not forgive you!

GALACTUS' EYES

Widen in surprise.

GALACTUS (O.S.)

Those are audacious words, Silver
Surfer.

And, as he speaks, we ANGLE WITH HIS POV TO:

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5.

ONE OF THE IMAGES OF EARTH - MIDDLE EASTERN DESERT - DAY

With a WHIRRING ROAR, a group of Galactus' cables bore into an oil field. Huge cracks radiate from the cables, and the ground around them bucks like a bronco!

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)

I want my life back, great
Galactus!

THE SILVER SURFER

Flies closer to Galactus' head.

SILVER SURFER

I demand my soul!

GALACTUS' HELMETED HEAD

Snaps back as Galactus starts to laugh. We ANGLE PAST his head TO:

SECOND IMAGE OF EARTH - AFRICAN VELDT - DAY

As a herd of zebras stampedes away from the shaking ground as Galactus' cables bore into it. The parts of the cables that are above ground twist and writhe, pounding the grassy countryside!

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)

You violated our agreement,
Galactus...

THE SILVER SURFER

Flies away from Galactus, then back at him again. Galactus' laughter continues as:

SILVER SURFER

I pledged that I would serve you,
not give up my past!

GALACTUS' EYES

Starting to CRACKLE and GLOW. Now his laughter stops, and Galactus' voice takes on a hard edge:

GALACTUS (O.S.)
We will discuss this another time,
my Silver Surfer...

And, as he speaks, we ANGLE TO:

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6.

THIRD IMAGE OF EARTH - HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS - DAY

As another group of cables bore into the ground, which heaves
in a series of earthquakes that flatten a group of buildings,
causing the men and women inside them to flee!

GALACTUS (O.S.)
For now, it is your duty -- your
obligation -- to seek out my next
source of energy!

THE SILVER SURFER

Soars upward, on a level with Galactus' pupilless eyes.

SILVER SURFER
No, Galactus! It is your
obligation to return my
memories -- for now and evermore!

GALACTUS' EYES

Within them, the ENERGY CRACKLES like lightning! No longer
does he see anything humorous here -- now there is only anger.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
I said GO!!!

GALACTUS' HAND

He presses a control on the command chair --

WIDER

A BOLT OF ENERGY ARCS from the chair --

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP

BLASTED by the energy bolt the Surfer is hurled backward from
the ship, turning ass-over-teakettle, and falling to:

EXT. THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE OF EARTH - DAY - THE SILVER
SURFER

Eyes closed, unconscious, as he and his board plummet down,

down, down toward the surface, and we

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

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7.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

PANNING ACROSS the brilliant field of stars TO:

A SMALL DRONE SHIP

Projectile-shaped, covered with protuberances of various shapes and sizes. Colored lights turn and FLASH as we WIDEN TO SEE that it's one of a myriad of such small ships, all of them surrounding:

A FLEET OF STARSHIPS

DRACONIAN REFUGEE SHIPS, moving through a planetary system revolving around a double star. We TIGHTEN ON the enormous mother ship as:

FIRST MINISTER IVAR (O.S.)

The database has analyzed the probes' data, Lord Glenn...

INT. DRACONIAN FLAGSHIP - THE BRIDGE

So hi-tech that it is almost a clockwork environment. LORD GLENN sits in the command chair, FIRST MINISTER IVAR at his side. Various subordinates perform their tasks in b.g.

LORD GLENN

Process.

Ivar nods. A panel in his chest opens up. He reaches into it and pushes a BEEPING SERIES OF BUTTONS.

CLOSER ON IVAR'S CHEST PANEL

A SCREEN FADES IN, digital and pictographic data FLASHING ACROSS IT at high speed.

FIRST MINISTER IVAR (O.S.)

I am sorry, my lord...

BACK TO SCENE

As Ivar's chest panel closes. He shakes his head sadly.

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8.

FIRST MINISTER IVAR

This star system lacks the
essential elements. We cannot
build an advanced technology here.

Lord Glenn's metal hand BANGS down on the console before
him -- hard. Then:

LORD GLENN

We will continue our search, Ivar.
Somewhere in this universe must be
a place where we can settle in
safety...

His voice is restrained. But as he talks we TIGHTEN ON the
console and learn Lord Glenn's true feelings: His blow has
left it a smashed piece of wreckage!

EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE DRACONIAN REFUGEE FLEET

Speeding up as:

LORD GLENN (O.S.)

And recover from the doom brought
upon us by Galactus and his
herald, the Silver Surfer!

The fleet FORESHORTENS, VANISHING INTO WARP as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EARTH - PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY - GALACTUS' CABLES

As THICK LINES OF BLACK NOTHINGNESS BURST into being all
around them. The Blackness CRACKLES AND SIZZLES, and we
WIDEN TO SEE enormous waves CLASHING together before it.

ANOTHER ANGLE

FINDING a long, silver object being tossed by the waves. We
HOLD ON it: The Silver Surfer's board.

WIDER

A huge wave CRASHES down nearby, and within the wave we SEE another form: The Surfer himself!

CLOSER ON THE SILVER SURFER

Floating, unconscious. He gets a face full of water, opens his eyes.

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9.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

What happened...?

(realizing)

Galactus brushed me away, with as much thought as I might give a speck of dust!

From O.S., we hear the SOUND OF ENGINES COMING CLOSER. Treading water, the Surfer looks out at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE OCEAN

Where a United States Navy Destroyer heads toward him, big guns aimed. From onboard SPEAKERS comes an AMPLIFIED CALL

VOICE FROM DESTROYER (V.O.)

(filtered)

This is the United States Navy...Remain where you are!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Another big wave washes over him -- with no effect.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Do these beings not realize that their world is coming to an end? I must help them understand!

Holding up one hand, he calls out:

SILVER SURFER

To me, my board!

THE SILVER SURFER'S BOARD

Skims along the water to:

THE SILVER SURFER

He leaps atop it, rides the board up from the ocean.

Nodding eagerly, young Norrin Radd takes a dented old blaster pistol from the niche in which it rests. He hands it to the Master, places it on a large, flat rock. With a SOUND LIKE THE RINGING OF A GONG, the weapon dissolves as we

SMASH CUT TO:

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11.

EXT. EARTH - PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY - BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Staggering on his board from the shock of the memory he has just seen.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
"Zenn-La...?" "Norrin Radd...?"
I do not understand...And yet
within me those names strike a
chord --

He breaks off as:

THE DESTROYER

Its guns swivel upward at him -- and FIRE!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the BARRAGE RICOCHETS off his silver skin! The Surfer climbs steeply, then levels off as he sees:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - SQUADRON OF USN JET FIGHTERS

Coming at him through the clouds.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Aircraft! But how primitive they
are...!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Flying closer to the jets.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(curiously)
Is it possible that the
inhabitants of this world are
unable to leave it?

And, as he says it, he clamps his hands to his head in sudden pain.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
No! Am I going mad? This cannot
be happening again...

We TIGHTEN ON his anguished face and

SMASH CUT TO:

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12.

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

The ENERGY CRACKLES MORE STRONGLY, the crack in the hatch opening still wider as a MEMORY IMAGE streams out at us and FILLS THE SCREEN!

We HOLD ON the image, and SEE the young Norrin Radd running his hands along the old spaceship in the museum on Zenn-La. With him is another child: The young SHALLA BAL.

SHALLA BAL
But Norrin Radd -- this ship is so
primitive, so old. I can't
understand why it fascinates you!

NORRIN RADD
It's not the ship, Shalla Bal,
it's what it means -- the
adventure of soaring through
space...!

And as he turns his attention back to the ship we

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY - BACK TO THE SILVER
SURFER

He reels backward, once again trying to grasp what his brain is playing out.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Again, "Norrin Radd..." And now
"Shalla Bal..." The words taunt
me.
(falling to one knee)
Are they indeed madness -- or are
they real somehow -- ?

The Surfer breaks off as:

A GROUP OF MISSILES

Streak at the Surfer from the Navy Jets --

THE SILVER SURFER

Unable to react in time. The missiles converge on him,
EXPLODING!

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13.

THE JET FIGHTERS

TIGHTEN ON the SQUADRON COMMANDER'S jet. He starts to give
a thumbs up.

SQUADRON COMMANDER
(filtered; into radio)
Nice work, guys. Looks like we
just took out our first E.T. --

Suddenly, the Commander stops. His hand drops.

WIDER

As we SEE why: In the midst of the clearing smoke, the
Silver Surfer is staggered but unharmed. We TIGHTEN ON the
Surfer as:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Cannot concentrate...Must clear my
head...

He soars away unsteadily -- still moving faster than any jet
can follow!

THE SQUADRON COMMANDER'S JET

In the cockpit, the Commander glares. We TIGHTEN TO the area
beside him: Bolted to the bulkhead is a VIDEO CAMERA. It
looks out at the sky, RED LIGHT GLOWING, as we

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Dwindling away to a tiny speck in the sky as:

FRANKIE (O.S.)

Wouldn't you know it? A genuine
hunk of a space alien comes to
visit...

We WIDEN TO SEE FRANKIE RAY, 19, great-looking, the essence
of hip, roller blading down the boardwalk, passing an
appliance store where every television set in the window is
showing the Navy's live coverage of the Surfer.

FRANKIE

And it turns out that he wants to
blow us to smithereens!

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14.

ANOTHER ANGLE

With Frankie is AMBER, her Walkman-wearing buddy. Around
them, the beach still looks as normal as Venice Beach ever
does.

AMBER

(listening to
headphones)

Aw man, these "special bulletins"
are knocking my favorite shockjock
right off the air!

FRANKIE

(wryly)

Long as they don't mess with
America's Top Forty --

THE SKY

Before Frankie can finish her sentence, we SEE the Silver
Surfer, flying wobbily overhead.

The board dives erratically --

A TRUCK

Lumbering up the street. The Silver Surfer THUNKS onto its
roof, caroms off, heading for:

FRANKIE AND AMBER

Trying to get out of the Surfer's way, they go sprawling face
down onto the sand, the Surfer landing beside them.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Surfer GROANS, and Frankie raises her head, looking at him in awe as he pulls himself to his feet. He shakes his head to clear it.

SILVER SURFER

I seem to be making a habit of
falling out of this world's sky!

Frankie and Amber pick themselves up. Frankie can't help herself: She's an inveterate wise guy:

FRANKIE

Ever consider getting into
a twelve-step for that?

FRANKIE (ALT LINE)

Ever consider getting
professional help?

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15.

NEW ANGLE

The Surfer regards here with puzzlement. Then an ominous shadow appears overhead. Amber looks up, the others following her gaze.

AMBER

Uh-oh...

WIDER

As we SEE the cause of the shadow: One of Galactus' massive cables, plunging down from the sky.

THE SILVER SURFER

Reaches out for the two young women and leaps onto his board. With one arm wrapped around each of them, he soars upward as:

THE CABLE

CRASHES down where they stood, SHATTERING the boardwalk and the street. With a WHIRRING ROAR, the cable begins boring into the ground, the earth around it shaking violently.

THE SILVER SURFER AND THE OTHERS

Look down at the cable. The board rocks as the Surfer's body starts to shake.

FRANKIE

So tell me -- this a mechanical
problem...or something more
personal?

The Surfer can't respond. He grimaces in pain, and,

TIGHTENING ON his face, we

SMASH CUT TO:

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

CRACKLING MORE POWERFULLY, the crack becoming even wider as another MEMORY IMAGE streams out, FILLING THE SCREEN!

We HOLD ON the image, SEEING a cable plunge down at the Academy courtyard on Zenn-La. Standing there, transfixed, is an older Shalla Bal. An older Norrin Radd grabs her hand, and the two of them race away!

SMASH CUT TO:

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16.

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Careening through the sky with Frankie and Amber. The two young women CRY OUT WORDLESSLY.

SILVER SURFER

My mind reels...Is that my past!
Is that me...!

Unable to control the board, the Surfer dives toward the ground, and again the young women CRY OUT --

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Surfer straightens out just in time. He deposits his two charges -- just as the ground buckles and cracks.

WIDER

All the buildings near the beach begin rocking and shaking -- and crumbling. SCREAMING men and women run for their lives.

A HUGE CHUNK OF MASONRY

Falls from one of the buildings. It is headed right at:

A FRIGHTENED COUPLE

As they run. The woman falls, and the young man stumbles with her. They cling to each other --

THE SILVER SURFER

Seeing it as he crumples to the ground. His eyes widen, and, TIGHTENING ON his face, we

SMASH CUT TO:

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

The ENERGY CRACKLES as the crack opens wider still. Another MEMORY IMAGE streams out, FILLING THE SCREEN!

We HOLD ON the image of the garden on Zenn-La, SEEING a tearful Shalla Ba reaching out to Norrin Radd. He reaches toward her as well, but they move right through each other as an ENERGY BUBBLE forms around Norrin Radd and:

SHALLA BAL
Galactus! Take me with him! Take
me with him!

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17.

Norrin Radd presses against the BUBBLE desperately.

NORRIN RADD
I will never forget you, my Shalla
Bal!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

A look of recognition comes over his face.

SILVER SURFER
Shalla Bal!

Without hesitation, he thrusts out his hand, and the POWER COSMIC BLASTS from his fingers at:

THE FALLING MASONRY

One instant it's about to hit the two lovers...and the next it EXPLODES INTO NOTHINGNESS, the man and woman untouched!

THE SILVER SURFER

He straightens, starting up from the ground as, for one last time we

SMASH CUT TO:

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

The ENERGY BLASTS LIKE THE POWER COSMIC, and the hatch itself EXPLODES INTO NOTHINGNESS, leaving only the IMAGES of:

THE IDYLLIC PLANET OF ZENN-LA

THE MASTER'S ACADEMY

THE ATTACK OF GALACTUS

NORRIN RADD'S ROCKET FLIGHT TO GALACTUS' SHIP

THE IMAGES COME SO QUICKLY THEY ARE ALMOST SUBLIMINAL,
FLASHING OVER AND OVER as we

SMASH CUT TO:

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18.

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER AND
THE OTHERS

No longer puzzled, or shaken. No longer wobbly or weak. He
stands amid the turmoil, tall and straight.

SILVER SURFER
My Shalla Bal...!

FRANKIE
Sorry, Silverado, but the name's
Frankie Ray --

ANOTHER ANGLE

More debris falls, and, trying to dodge it, Frankie slips,
her head hitting the ground. Amber hovers over her
unconscious friend's GROANING form.

AMBER
Frankie!
(raging at the Surfer)
This is your fault! Who are you?
Why are you doing this to our
planet?

CLOSER

The Surfer's only response is to kneel before Frankie. He
looks down at her. From his eyes comes a BEAM OF SILVER
HEALING ENERGY, which bathes Frankie in its light.

AMBER

Mouth agape, incredulous, as she witnesses:

FRANKIE

Opening her eyes. She looks up at the Surfer.

FRANKIE

You have a hard time making
friends, don't you?
(realizing)
Hey, it doesn't hurt anymore.

WIDER

The Surfer smiles at her.

SILVER SURFER

I used my power cosmic to heal you.

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19.

FRANKIE

Not bad. How about giving some of
that action to the rest of the
planet?

THE SILVER SURFER

TIGHTENING ON him as, with incredible resolve:

SILVER SURFER

Now that I know who I was -- and
who I am -- that is exactly what
I shall do!

Leaping on his board, he soars skyward. We ANGLE WITH him,
his face set with defiance as he shouts out:

SILVER SURFER

(continuing)

Galactus! Our bargain is over!
You have deceived me, and I serve
you no more!

(beat)

I will stop your carnage! Even if
it costs me my life!

And, as he continues higher, higher, heading out of the
Earth's atmosphere, we CONTINUE ANGLING WITH the Silver
Surfer and

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

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20.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER - GALACTUS' EYES

Within them, ENERGY CRACKLES. We WIDEN TO SEE as much of Galactus' huge head as we can -- and to realize that he is gazing at projections of various images of Earth, including:

ONE OF THE IMAGES OF EARTH - MIDDLE EASTERN DESERT - DAY

Strands of Blackness are coalescing into a SIZZLING web of destructive ENERGY, while towering oil wells collapse and an entire oil field starts to burn!

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)

Galactus...!

GALACTUS' EYES

The Surfer's VOICE IS LOW AND DISTANT, and Galactus pays it no attention. He simply continues to gaze at:

SECOND IMAGE OF EARTH - AFRICAN VELDT - DAY

Covered by Blackness. All that remains is a waterhole, where zebras and giraffes -- even lions and hyenas -- wait together, trapped, as the Blackness closes in.

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)
Galactus...!

GALACTUS' EYES

The Surfer's VOICE IS CLOSER NOW, but still Galactus' ignores it, preferring instead to look at:

THIRD IMAGE OF EARTH - HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blackness SIZZLES over flattened mountains, and a massive earthquake opens a fissure that swallows up a convoy of Chinese Army trucks.

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)
GALACTUS -- !

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21.

GALACTUS' HELMETED HEAD

The Surfer's VOICE IS MUCH CLOSER, but all Galactus can do now is throw his head back in pleasure from the energy he is absorbing. Oh...and one more thing:

GALACTUS' HAND

Presses a button on his command chair as:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - THE SILVER SURFER

Soaring to Galactus' enormous ship. From his mouth comes a BLUE COMMUNICATIONS BEAM:

SILVER SURFER
(calling out)
Galactus! When I agreed to become
your herald it was to save lives,
by leading you away from sentient
beings!

(beat)
This world is populated by men and
women who think, who feel, who
dream --

He heads toward the Control Center --

WIDER

Before the Surfer can even get near his destination, a RING OF ENERGY FLARES out from Galactus' ship -- heading right at:

THE SILVER SURFER

Swiftly, he rides the board in the direction of the attack, shooting right into the center of the ENERGY RING the way he might enter the tube of a wave.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Surfer leans forward, lowering himself so he can fit through the tube. The ENERGY RING hits a large meteor, another, and they SHIMMER, POLARIZING FROM POSITIVE TO NEGATIVE and back -- and then VANISH IN A CASCADE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPARKS!

THE SILVER SURFER

Safe within the tube. He passes through cleanly, looks to:

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22.

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE CENTRAL HATCH OF THE SHIP

Where the cables of destruction join with Galactus' ship.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

This planet has not the time for me to argue with one who will not even deign to answer...

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

As he flies closer to the hatch.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Instead, I shall have to apply the power cosmic more directly --

Again, he releases twin BLASTS OF POWER --

WIDER

The BLASTS SHOOT toward the cables, SPARKS FLYING as we

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - ROME - DAY

Galactus' cables bore into the ground, and in the upheaval the walls of the Coliseum go CRASHING to the ground!

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - THE HATCH

The cables shudder and shake, but hold firm.

THE SILVER SURFER

Continues to BLAST at them as we

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - LONDON - DAY

The ground heaves and shakes -- and tower of Big Ben topples, engulfed by the Blackness!

CUT TO:

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EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - THE HATCH

MORE SPARKS FLY -- and the nearest cable FLARES UP REDLY, a big chunk of it disintegrating as:

THE SILVER SURFER

Allows himself a satisfied smile.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Just as the power of Galactus
created these engines of
destruction -- the power he has
given me shall destroy them!

He pours it on, BLASTING away as we

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - PARIS - DAY

The sky is a CRACKLING WEB of Blackness, lightning-like ENERGY lashing out and blowing the Arc de Triumph to smithereens!

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY - THE BLACKNESS

CRACKLING AND SPARKING. We WIDEN TO SEE that the destructive

force is hanging over the crest of a huge TSUNAMI WAVE which is headed right toward:

A GROUP OF TERRIFIED MEN AND WOMEN

SHOUTING in fear as they rush past the wrecked buildings, trying to put as much distance as possible between themselves and the wave.

FIRST MAN
L.A.'s falling into the
ocean!

FIRST WOMAN
Help us! Can't somebody
help us?!

FRANKIE AND AMBER

In the middle of the mob. Frankie looks around frantically for somewhere to go.

FRANKIE
There's gotta be a way out of
this --

Her eyes find something we can't see, O.S.

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24.

FRANKIE
(continuing)
There!

AMBER
(following her gaze)
Frankie, are you nuts? We've got
to get to high ground!

FRANKIE
Hey, we can't get any higher up
than that! Everybody! This way!

And, racing along on her roller blades, Frankie leads the others to:

A HOT AIR BALLOON

Tethered beside a deserted hut with a sign that says, "BALLOON TOURS OF THE BEACH! CREDIT CARDS WELCOME! Frankie and Amber almost crash into the basket of the balloon.

FRANKIE
Hope the owner doesn't freak 'cuz
I didn't run my card through.

She climbs inside. Amber clambers over the top of the basket

to join her.

WIDER

As Frankie helps the others get in. She starts throwing out the ballast. Slowly, the balloon begins to rise as:

THE TSUNAMI WAVE

Hits the beach with a ROAR! It sweeps away the remains of the buildings as though they're made of cardboard!

THE HOT AIR BALLOON

As the tsunami wave hangs over it. Frankie tosses out the last of the ballast, and the balloon shoots upward, clearing the CLASHING water by mere inches!

FRANKIE AND AMBER

They and the others are drenched -- but alive. They look down at the flood.

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25.

AMBER

You did it! If there's one thing you've always been good at, it's being in the right place at the right time.

FRANKIE

(filled with resolve)

Way I see it, the right place now is wherever those alien attackers are. I've gotta fight!

AMBER

I hate to break it to you, Frankie, but this is a balloon, not a rocket ship --

Amber stops suddenly -- and with good reason. With a WHOOSH OF IMPLoding AIR, her friend vanishes! Frantically, Amber starts looking all around the balloon, but it's useless as we

CUT TO:

EXT. GALACTUS' SHIP - CLOSE ON THE HATCH

SPARKS FLY as another COSMIC BLAST hits one of the cables.

When they FADE AWAY we SEE that the cable has been severed,
and it floats away.

THE SILVER SURFER

Swooping at the hatch. He holds out his hands for another
blast. The power cosmic FLICKERS around his fingers like
little silver flames, but nothing else happens.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
All this effort has drained my
power cosmic. I must replenish it
quickly.

He looks around and sees:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE SUN

As a sunspot whirls across its face.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Starting toward it on his board.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
That should do --

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26.

His words change to a CRY OF PAIN as:

ANOTHER ANGLE

A BOLT OF ENERGY SLAMS into the Silver Surfer from behind,
his entire body POLARIZING FROM POSITIVE TO NEGATIVE and
back! He and his board twist and spiral helplessly until:

NEW ANGLE

Another BOLT OF ENERGY hits both the Surfer and his board,
forming a BUBBLE that whirls them around and holds them in
place while:

GALACTUS (O.S.)
Audacity is one thing, my Silver
Surfer...but rebellion is quite
another!

Shaken, too weak to even more, the Surfer stares at:

GALACTUS

For the first time, we SEE him not in his command chair, but
standing out in space beside his ship.

GALACTUS
You have accomplished something,
Silver Surfer, that no force in
the universe ever has before.

THE SILVER SURFER

Eyes fastened on Galactus, he is barely able to speak:

SILVER SURFER
What is that...?

We TIGHTEN ON the Surfer's hands as he raises them --

GALACTUS' MOUTH

Forms a wry smile.

GALACTUS
You have forced me to interrupt my
repast...

THE SILVER SURFER'S HANDS

He cups his palms, as though waiting for someone to throw him
a ball.

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27.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
I do not know whether to
congratulate you for this unique
deed...

THE SUN

Wisps of energy from the sunspot pull away, as though being
sucked into space. We ANGLE WITH them as they glide toward:

THE SILVER SURFER'S HANDS

As the energy pierces the BUBBLE and reaches the Surfer's
palms. They start to SIZZLE AND SPARK.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
Or vaporize you!

WIDER ON THE SILVER SURFER

As, within the BUBBLE, he gets to his feet. His voice is
hard:

SILVER SURFER

Do what you will, my former
master, but I cannot allow you to
kill anymore!

The ENERGY BUBBLE SHATTERS as the Surfer BLASTS through it.
We ANGLE WITH the BLAST and

CUT TO:

INT. AN UNKNOWN LOCATION

PANNING a shadowy darkness, where all we can SEE is what
looks like a maze of cylindrical tunnels. The only SOUNDS
are a RHYTHMIC PULSING OF ENGINES and:

FRANKIE (V.O.)
Frankie girl -- what've you gotten
yourself into now?

We FIND Frankie curled up near a junction in the tunnels,
peering into the shadows.

FRANKIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
One minute I'm dodging a tidal
wave, and the next I'm in the
absolute middle of nowhere...

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ANOTHER ANGLE

Frankie gets up, moves to the junction.

FRANKIE (V.O.)
Or am I? Let's see how that
"right place at the right time"
stuff really holds up...

She picks a tunnel, starts walking through it as we

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - GALACTUS

As the Silver Surfer's COSMIC POWER BLAST hits him -- and
absolutely nothing happens. Galactus just laughs.

GALACTUS
"Former master?" "Former," you
say...?"

THE SILVER SURFER - INTERCUTTING AS NECESSARY WITH

VARIOUS PARTS OF GALACTUS

The Surfer soars closer to Galactus -- and BLASTS at him again! Again, nothing happens as:

GALACTUS

Can it be that I have been wrong
about you, Silver Surfer -- and
you are neither audacious nor
rebellious -- but simply mad?

SILVER SURFER

Perhaps I was, to believe that I
could make any agreement with you!
But now I know the truth --

The Surfer BLASTS once more --

ANOTHER ANGLE - INTERCUTTING AS NECESSARY

This time Galactus holds out his hand and a RING OF ENERGY catches the BLAST and turns it back at the Surfer...who barely manages to dodge in time.

GALACTUS

And because of that you would
attempt to destroy your creator?
For, make no mistake about it,
your creator I am!

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29.

Galactus FIRES ANOTHER ENERGY BOLT, and again the Surfer dodges it as:

GALACTUS

(continuing)

I took away your memories because
it was necessary, Silver Surfer.
I knew that with them you would
never be able to serve me!

Galactus FIRES again. Again the Surfer dodges...but he's slowing down.

SILVER SURFER

Galactus, can you not understand?
I no longer care about what you
have done to me. It is what you
are doing to this world!

Another BOLT from Galactus. The Surfer barely slips away from it in time.

GALACTUS

This planet dies so that I may
live -- a course of events that
has occurred a billion times
before!

NEW ANGLE - INTERCUTTING AS NECESSARY

Galactus is just toying with the Surfer, and the Surfer knows
it. He flies in closer, watching Galactus' every move as he
waits for the next attack.

SILVER SURFER

But it has been wrong a billion
times before! This place reminds
me of Zenn-La, and given time it
too might become such a refuge!

(beat)

But even if it did not, still
would its life be sacrosanct! I
must make my stand!

GALACTUS

Your stand will destroy you!

SILVER SURFER

Better to perish for what I
believe in than endure forever as
a traitor to life!

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30.

GALACTUS

Then so be it!

And, simultaneously, both the Silver Surfer and Galactus
BLAST at each other with both hands!

WITH GALACTUS' ENERGY BLAST

As it HITS THE SURFER'S BLAST, VAPORIZING IT INTO
NOTHINGNESS. GALACTUS' BLAST CONTINUES at the Silver Surfer,
who stands on his board, arms outstretched, taking the full
brunt of an EXPLOSION THAT FILLS THE SCREEN as we

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - MIDDLE EASTERN DESERT - NIGHT

Where the oil field smoulders. As we WATCH, the Blackness
thins, the ENERGY within them FLICKERING as they disappear.
The massive cables of destruction retract, pulling up, out of
the ground!

EXT. EARTH - AFRICAN VELDT - NIGHT

Here too the Blackness vanishes, the cables retracting. The various surviving animals start to come out of hiding...

EXT. EARTH - HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

The ground stops moving. A holy man and his followers approach the soldiers...and offer them food...

EXT. EARTH - VENICE BEACH - DAY

The water ebbs back into the ocean. We TIGHTEN ON Amber in the hot air balloon. She lets out a great sigh...

CUT TO:

EXT. GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER - THE SILVER SURFER -
MATCHING SHOT

He is in an ENERGY BUBBLE, unconscious. After a beat, his eyes open.

SILVER SURFER
(amazed)
I live...!

He looks around, his gaze going upward, to:

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31.

THE PROJECTED IMAGES

Where the reawakening of Earth continues as:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(shocked)
And so does the planet...

WIDER - INTERCUTTING BETWEEN THE SILVER SURFER, VARIOUS PARTS OF GALACTUS, AND THE PROJECTED IMAGES AS NECESSARY

The Surfer turns away from the projections, looks at Galactus seated once again in the command chair.

SILVER SURFER
You have abandoned it. But --
why...?

Galactus' eyes are steady. No longer do they GLOW...or CRACKLE with energy. He doesn't answer directly -- not yet:

GALACTUS

Since the dawn of time, the purpose of my life has been -- my continued survival. To that end have I devoted all my great power.

(beat)

But you, Silver Surfer, in your willingness to pay the ultimate price for the well-being of others you do not even know, have demonstrated a strength and courage that even Great Galactus shall never possess.

Galactus sounds subdued, almost as though he's in pain. He forces himself to continue:

GALACTUS

(continuing)

Norrin Radd, we can trust each other no more. Consider this world a parting gift.

The Surfer looks at Galactus closely. The importance of Galactus' words sinks in.

SILVER SURFER

(incredulous)

You will release me? I can go...?

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32.

Galactus' eyes narrow. His voice grows stronger, and is filled with indignation and wrath:

GALACTUS

You must go. And with you take the power cosmic. Not as my blessing, but as my curse.

(beat)

The power shall be like a brand, marking its bearer for all time. Let us see if those for whom the Silver Surfer has been so willing to sacrifice can ever overcome their fear and hatred of you.

WIDER

The Surfer takes this in. Then, glancing around the control room, he raises his hand.

SILVER SURFER

My board!

From O.S., the board flies to him, the ENERGY BUBBLE VANISHING as the board reaches it. Leaping onto the board, the Silver Surfer soars from the control center to:

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET EARTH - GALACTUS' SHIP

As the Surfer sweeps out. He looks back for just a beat, and the communication beam forms as:

SILVER SURFER

Mighty Galactus, I shall prove you wrong about the people of the universe...

GALACTUS (O.S.)

(thunderously)

Go! You are condemned!

The Silver Surfer catches a COSMIC WAVE. Faster and faster he moves, FORESHORTENING INTO WARP AND VANISHING as:

EXT. GALACTUS' CONTROL CENTER - GALACTUS' EYES

Glistening, as though moist...From O.S. we HEAR A SCRAPING SOUND, and Galactus' head turns to:

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33.

GALACTUS' POV - DUCTWORK

A series of tubes running up to the control center from the bowels of the big ship. At the entrance to one of the tubes a female, human figure pushes back a metallic seal.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Frankie Ray emerges from the tube -- and gazes at the control center in awe.

FRANKIE

Oh, man -- talk about out of the frying pan and into the fire...

Then she sees:

FRANKIE'S POV - GALACTUS

His eyes are still fixed on her.

BACK TO FRANKIE

Terrified.

GALACTUS' EYES

Like the eyes of God.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
You are from the planet below.
How do you come to be here?

FRANKIE

Summoning all her courage.

FRANKIE
Guess it just must be my lucky day.

GALACTUS' EYES

From them comes a GLOWING LIGHT. He seems to be looking right inside her.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
You have a rare gene, triggered by
the power cosmic itself...

FRANKIE

Is BATHED IN THE LIGHT as:

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34.

GALACTUS (O.S.)
It enables you to unerringly find
whatever you seek...

GALACTUS' EYES

The LIGHT STOPS. Galactus looks thoughtful. Then:

GALACTUS (O.S.)
I do not know what a frying pan
is...

FRANKIE

As Galactus continues:

GALACTUS (O.S.)

However, I can extend to you --
the gift of fire.

And, as Frankie tries to sort this out, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

Its star-blazing glory SUPERIMPOSED OVER the head of the
Watcher. From the distance, a fiery orange figure BLAZES
toward us, and the Watcher's eyes follow her movements as:

THE WATCHER

On a planet known as Earth, there
lived a young woman named Frankie
Ray.

(beat)

Now, she has a new form and a new
name -- Nova, herald of Galactus!

As the figure gets nearer, we SEE that here, flying faster
than the fastest starship, is NOVA, a living woman of
flame -- with Frankie's features!

THE WATCHER

(continuing; turning
his attention to US)

But what of the original herald --
the Silver Surfer? A free man,
noble and pure, he streaks to his
new life...

DISSOLVE TO:

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35.

EXT. SPACE OVER THE PLANET ZENN-LA - THE SILVER SURFER

WARPS IN.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)

Zenn-La! The most beautiful
planet in the universe! Soon I
will be in the loving arms of
Shalla Bal --

The Surfer stops short. He looks in disbelief at:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - ZENN-LA'S LOCATION

No planet orbits here. We PAN TO SEE a sun. Some moons.
But no Zenn-La!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER

Stricken. His voice is filled with anguish:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
What has happened? Where is Zenn-La?

WIDER

Beyond the Surfer, in the place where Zenn-La should be, an ENERGY BUBBLE appears. It comes toward toward the Surfer, and when he touches it the BUBBLE EXPLODES, an IMAGE OF GALACTUS appearing!

GALACTUS
Norrin Radd! I said that you
could leave me, and I have kept my
word.
(beat)
But never did I say you could
return to Zenn-La!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The huge figure vanishes, and in its place we SEE the translucent form of the Watcher.

SILVER SURFER
(stunned)
Watcher! Where is my world?
Where is my home...? Tell me --
please!

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36.

THE WATCHER
I cannot tell you. So mighty is
Galactus that he has moved Zenn-La
to a place where it is hidden even
from me.

CLOSER ON THE SILVER SURFER

Drifting on his board. His face shows his pain. Behind him, the Watcher too shows his sorrow.

THE WATCHER
Truly, I am sorry.

The Surfer doesn't reply. He's like a man who has made it

through hell -- and now has to go back again! Then he lifts his head high, and his voice resonates through space:

SILVER SURFER

I will find you, Shalla Bal! No matter how long or dangerous the way -- no matter what travail I must endure -- never will I stop searching! This I swear by our love!

We ANGLE WITH the Silver Surfer as he rides the cosmic waves, the Watcher looking on.

THE WATCHER

Behold the Silver Surfer, bound no one knows where! Will he find glory or tragedy? Victory or defeat? His true destiny is yet to unfold.

(beat)

I am the Watcher. It is my task to note all events of significance in the cosmos. This task brings me great joy...and great sorrow...

Faster and faster the Surfer moves, and as he FORESHORTENS INTO WARP, we FREEZE FRAME and

FADE OUT:

THE END