

MARVEL
COMICS



#2

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GALACTUS

THE DEVOURER



WHEN HERALDS CLASH!



BUSCEMA
SIENKIEWICZ

DIRECT EDITION

00211

**SIMONSON
BUSCEMA
SIENKIEWICZ**



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\$2.50 US \$3.75 CAN

SOME SAY MANHATTAN IS A UNIVERSE UNTO ITSELF. THE FAR-ROAMING SILVER SURFER, FAMED THROUGHOUT A THOUSAND GALAXIES, KNOWS BETTER. YET EVEN HE MUST MARVEL AS HE SOARS ABOVE THE CITY'S SHIMMERING SPIRES.

SUE RICHARDS RIDES BESIDE HIM, PROJECTING AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD WHICH ENCLOSES THE WRECKAGE OF AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.

THEY SPEAK, HOWEVER, NOT OF THE SHIP, NOR THE DYING PILOT WHO STUMBLERED FROM IT, NOR HIS WHISPERED WARNING.

THEY DISCUSS, INSTEAD, THE MORE MUNDANE BUT STILL BIZARRE ROBBERY THAT HAPPENED EARLER...

THE MOLE MAN'S THEFT OF THE CITY'S SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS MY FAULT, SUE.

HAD I CAPTURED HIM WHEN I FIRST HAD THE OPPORTUNITY --

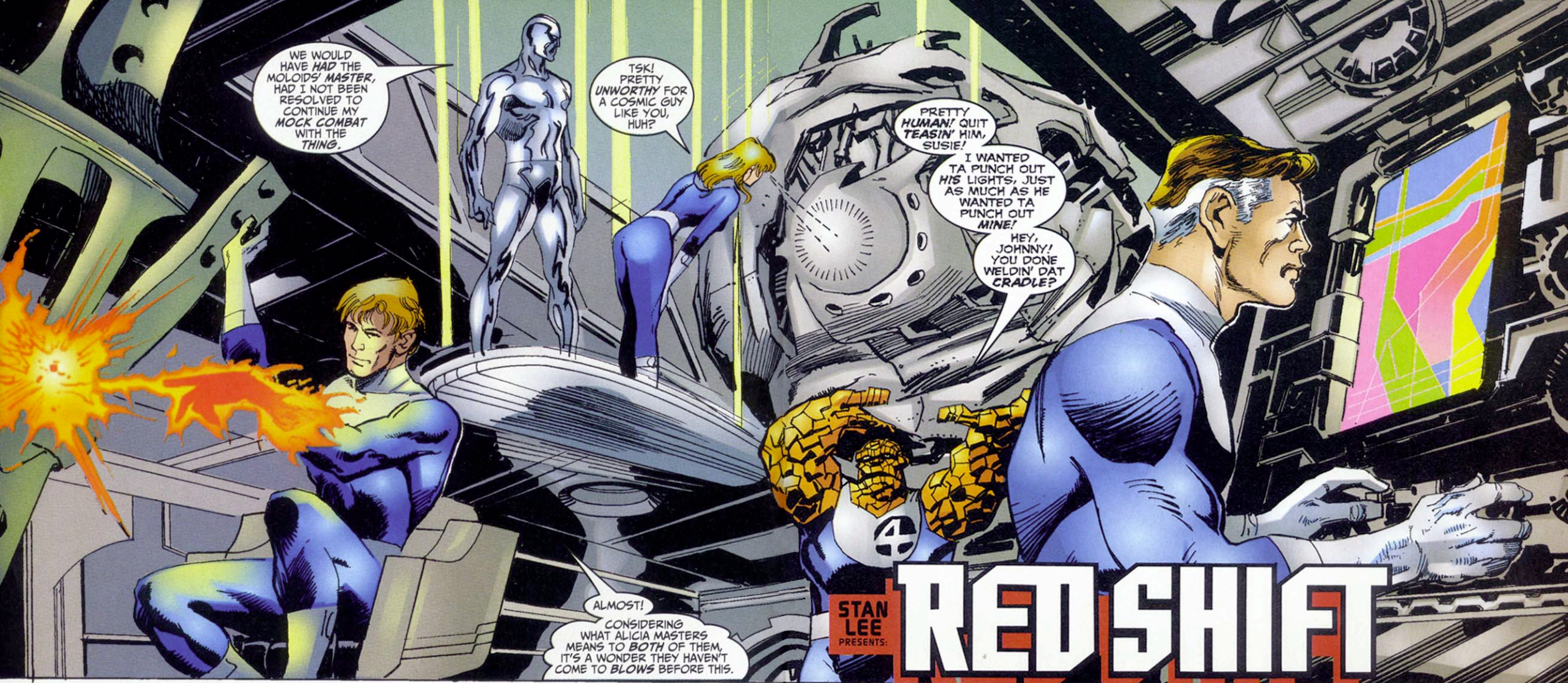
HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR SELF-FLAGELLATION, NORRIN, BUT HIS MOLOID SUBJECTS WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT HIS ORDERS ANYWAY.

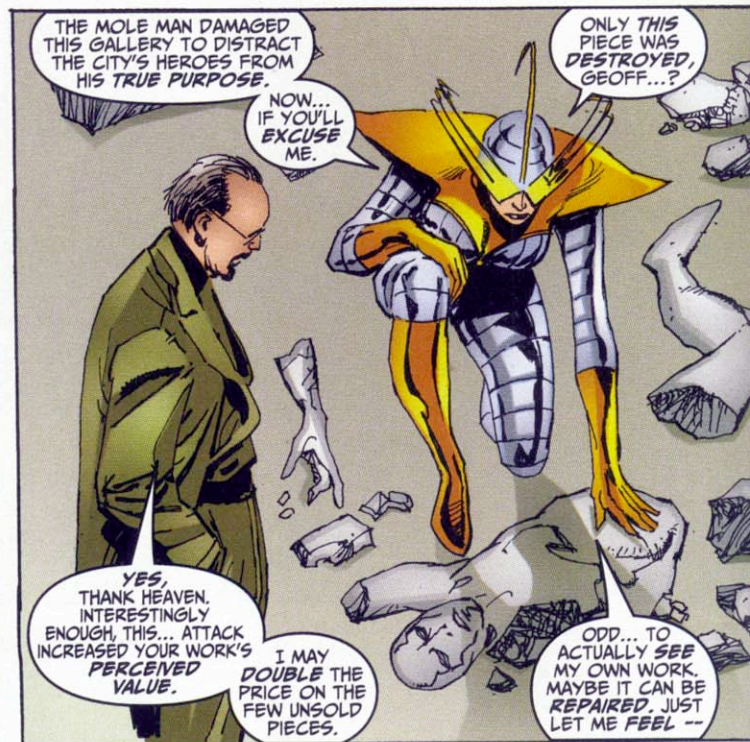
THE DESTRUCTION OF ALICIA'S GALLERY... AND THE THEFT OF THE PLANT WOULD HAVE OCCURED AS SCHEDULED.

LOUISE SIMONSON
STORY
JOHN BUSCEMA
PENCILS
BILL SIENKIEWICZ
INKS


CHRISTIE SCHEEL
COLORS
RS&COMICRAFT
LETTERS
BRIAN SMITH
ASSIST. ED.
BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

OBEYING THE SURFER'S MENTAL COMMAND, THE GLEAMING BOARD DIPS TOWARD PIER FOUR, HEADQUARTERS OF THE TEAM KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.









IS THIS
HOW YOU FELT
WHEN GALACTUS
ENCASED YOU IN
SILVER... AND MADE
YOU THE SILVER
SURFER?

FUNNY. I
FEEL LIKE I'M
DREAMING. I CAN
SEE, YOU KNOW...
IN MY DREAMS.
BUT THIS KIND
OF SEEING...
IT'S ODD!

ALMOST LIKE I'VE
LOST MY OTHER SENSES...
OF TOUCH... TO SEE THE
PATTERN OF THINGS... LIKE
THEY REALLY ARE.

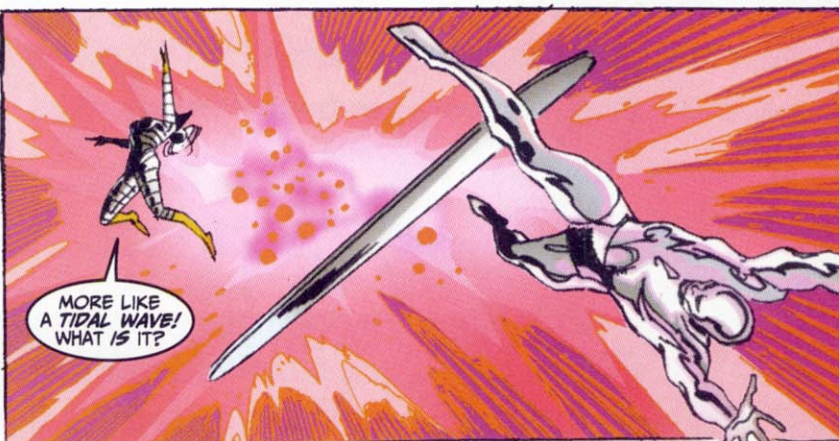
I... CAN'T
CREATE. IT'S
LIKE LIVING INSIDE
A PRISON.



I FELT... JUST
THE OPPOSITE. MY
TRANSFORMATION WAS
LIKE THE OPENING OF A
PRISON DOOR.

IT FREED ME
TO BECOME WHAT
I'D ALWAYS DREAMED
OF BEING. IT GAVE
ME... ALL THIS...
AND YOU.

THERE!
CAN YOU
SENSE IT?
COMING AT
US... LIKE A
WAVE!



MORE LIKE
A TIDAL WAVE!
WHAT IS IT?



A RIPPLE IN
HYPERSPACE...
...MOVING
PAST US!



IT'S
OVER,
THEN?

NO. IT'S
WRAPPED
AROUND US NOW.
ENCASING US.



A GLOWING SWORD SLICES THE AIR IN FRONT OF THEM... A BLAST OF ULTRAVIOLET ENERGY STAINS THE HYPERSPHERE WEB THE COLOR OF TEARS... AND THE FABRIC OF SPACE/TIME IS RIPPED ASUNDER.

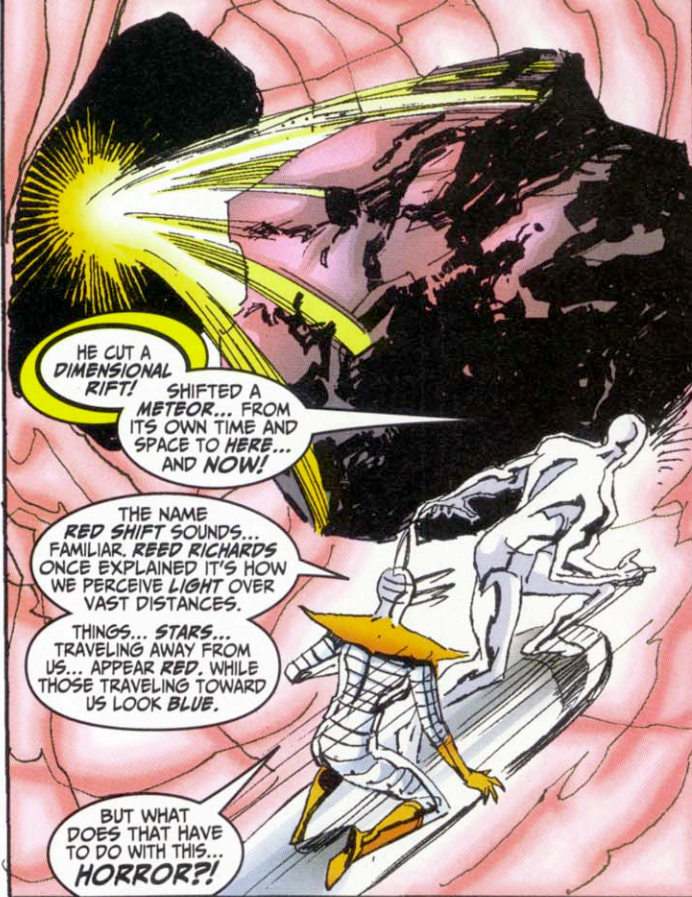
THROUGH THIS RAGGED PORTAL STEPS A GLOWING FIGURE.

I AM CALLED RED SHIFT --





-- BY HIM
WHO GAVE ME
POWER!



HE CUT A
DIMENSIONAL
RIFT!

SHIFTED A
METEOR... FROM
ITS OWN TIME AND
SPACE TO HERE...
AND NOW!

THE NAME
RED SHIFT SOUNDS...
FAMILIAR. REED RICHARDS
ONCE EXPLAINED IT'S HOW
WE PERCEIVE LIGHT OVER
VAST DISTANCES.

THINGS... STARS...
TRAVELING AWAY FROM
US... APPEAR RED. WHILE
THOSE TRAVELING TOWARD
US LOOK BLUE.

BUT WHAT
DOES THAT HAVE
TO DO WITH THIS...
HORROR?!



HE TRAVELS
IN BURSTS OF
LIGHT...

... EVEN OPENS
DIMENSIONAL
PORTALS... THROUGH
A COMPLEX ARRAY
OF POWERS...

... INVOLVING
MANIPULATION OF
SPACE, TIME AND THE
ELECTROMAGNETIC
ENERGY THAT
BINDS ALL THINGS
TOGETHER.



BUT... YOU
ALSO WIELD
THOSE COSMIC
ENERGIES.

IN MUCH
THE SAME WAY.
THAT IS WHAT
WORRIES
ME.

YOU'RE
WORTHY OF
YOUR REPUTATION,
SURFER.

YOU MAY
HAVE BEEN
AN IMPRESSIVE
HERALD... IN
YOUR DAY.

BUT
YOUR DAY IS
PAST!

GALACTUS! MY
OLD MASTER!

WHY DO
YOU **SHOW**
HIM TO ME --?
DEMON, HE
LOOKS WEAK
AND ILL!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HIM?

THE **LIFE FORCE**
HE CONSUMES IN
EVER INCREASING
QUANTITIES IS
POISONING
HIM.

AND YET...
HE REFUSES
TO **GIVE** IT UP.
PERHAPS HE
CAN'T.

BY NOW
IT MAY HAVE
GONE TOO
FAR.

HE **REQUIRES**
LIFE FORCE ALONE
NOW TO **ASSUAGE**
HIS **CONSTANT**
HUNGER!

A NEED I AM ELATED
TO **SUPPLY!**

YOU'RE
HIS **HERALD??!**
YOU **CAN'T** MEAN TO
LEAD GALACTUS TO
THIS **SYSTEM...**
TO **EARTH?**

SUCH
HYPOCRITICAL
RIGHTOUSNESS.
WHY EVER
NOT?

DIDN'T
YOU YOURSELF
ONCE GAIN **GREAT**
POWER FROM
GALACTUS...

...AND USE IT
TO **SERVE** HIM
THUS --?

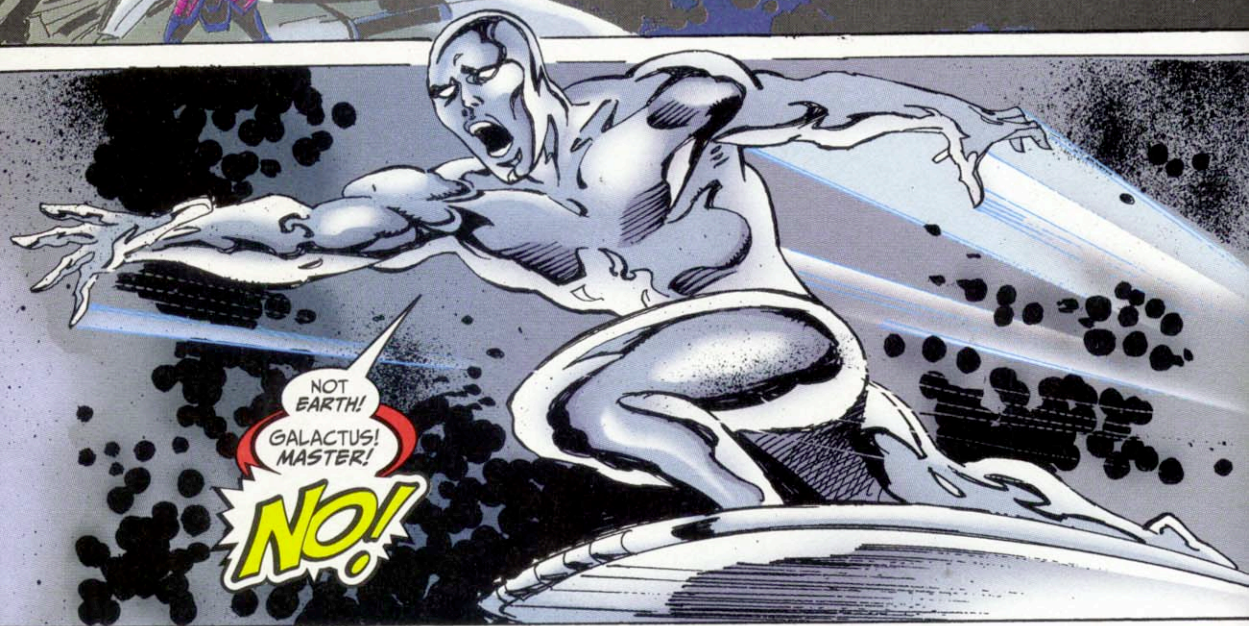
ONCE, HE LED GALACTUS
TO EARTH! **YES!** BUT HE
CAME TO HIS **SENSES...**
AND HELPED DRIVE
GALACTUS AWAY!

HE'S **SAVED**
COUNTLESS **LIVES...**
COUNTLESS
WORLDS!

DID
HE...?



"...THEN THIS TIME, LET HIM SAVE YOUR OWN!"



NOT
EARTH!
GALACTUS!
MASTER!

No!



I
HUNGER!

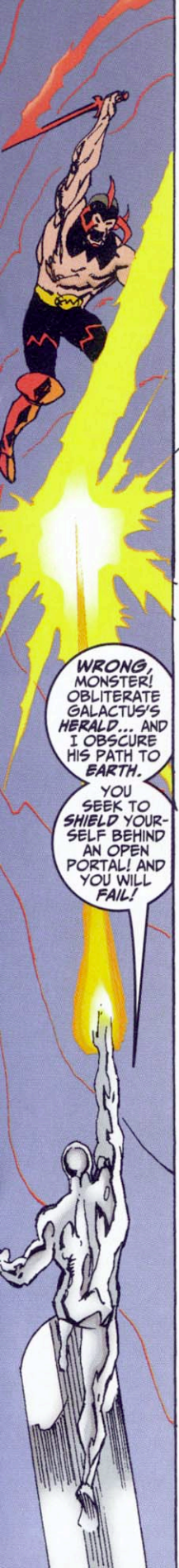


ENOUGH! IT IS NOT YET
EARTH'S TIME. BUT SOON...
VERY SOON... GALACTUS
WILL COME!

AND
EARTH WILL BE
DESTROYED.

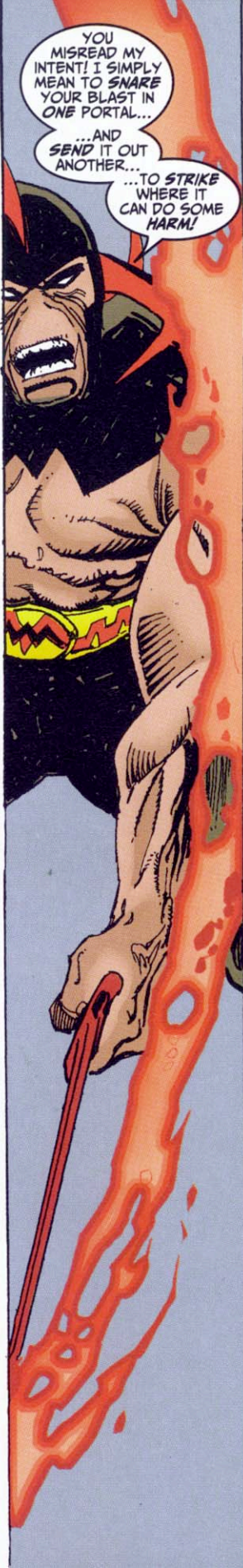
THERE IS
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO TO
STOP IT.





WRONG, MONSTER! OBLITERATE GALACTUS'S HERALD... AND I OBSCURE HIS PATH TO EARTH.

YOU SEEK TO SHIELD YOURSELF BEHIND AN OPEN PORTAL! AND YOU WILL FAIL!



YOU MISREAD MY INTENT! I SIMPLY MEAN TO SNARE YOUR BLAST IN ONE PORTAL...

...AND SEND IT OUT ANOTHER...

...TO STRIKE WHERE IT CAN DO SOME HARM!



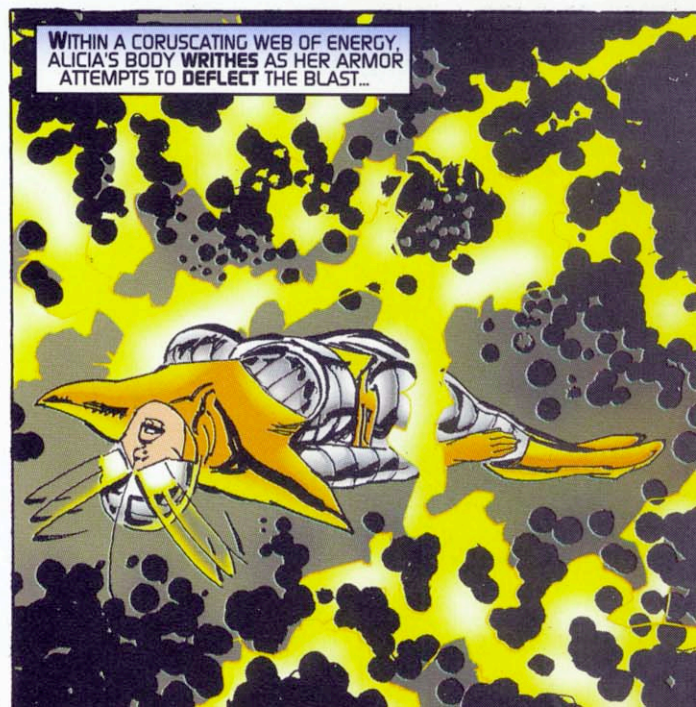
AARGH!



ALICIA!

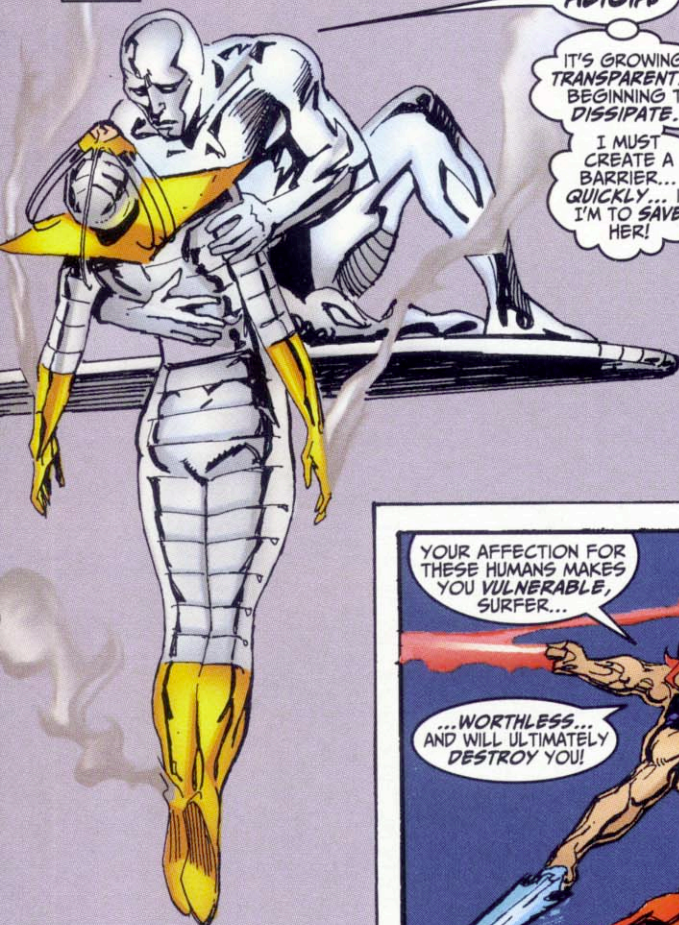
HIT... BY A CONCENTRATED BURST OF COSMIC ENERGY!

HER ARMOR WAS CREATED TO PROTECT HER... BUT COULD ANYTHING SAVE HER FROM THAT TERRIBLE ASSAULT?!



WITHIN A CORUSCATING WEB OF ENERGY, ALICIA'S BODY WRITHES AS HER ARMOR ATTEMPTS TO DEFLECT THE BLAST...

...AND
FAILS!



ALICIA!

IT'S GROWING
TRANSPARENT...
BEGINNING TO
DISSIPATE.

I MUST
CREATE A
BARRIER...
QUICKLY... IF
I'M TO SAVE
HER!

SIGHT FADING...
AT LEAST... I CAN
FEEL AGAIN. HATE
TO DIE... WITHOUT
FEELING...!

EVIL
MONSTER!
WISH I COULD...
FEEL HIS THROAT...
BENEATH MY
HANDS...



YOUR AFFECTION FOR
THESE HUMANS MAKES
YOU VULNERABLE,
SURFER...

...WORTHLESS...
AND WILL ULTIMATELY
DESTROY YOU!



WHAT
NOW --?!

NORRIN...?
WHAT...
WHAT IS
IT --?!



ANOTHER
PORTAL...
AND THROUGH
IT A BLACK
HOLE!



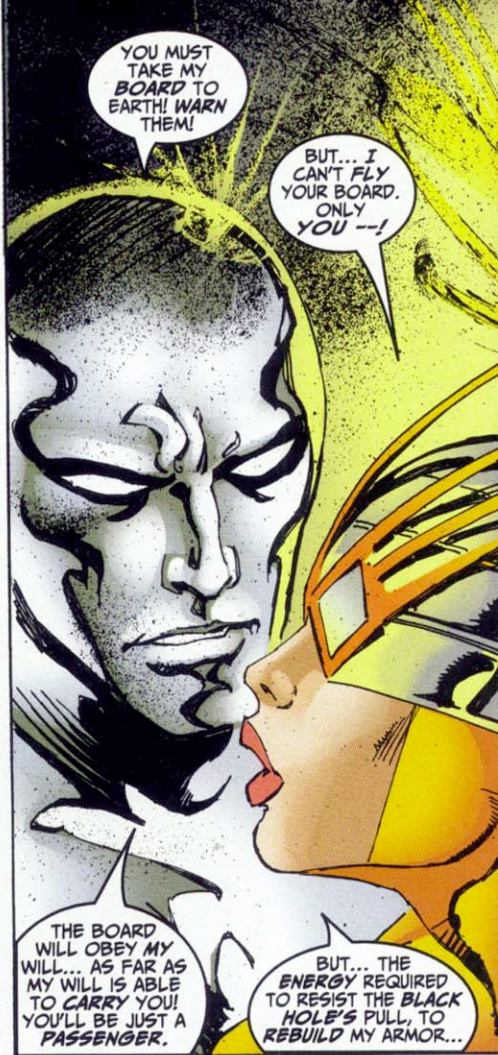
A FORCE FIELD WILL
PROVIDE A TEMPORARY
BARRIER AGAINST ITS
GRAVITATIONAL
PULL.





AND THEN --?!
NORRIN...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING --?

RE-ENERGIZING
THE NANO-
TECHNOLOGY
THAT CREATES AND
POWERS YOUR
ARMOR.



YOU MUST
TAKE MY
BOARD TO
EARTH! WARN
THEM!

BUT... I
CAN'T FLY
YOUR BOARD.
ONLY
YOU --!

THE BOARD
WILL OBEY MY
WILL... AS FAR AS
MY WILL IS ABLE
TO CARRY YOU!
YOU'LL BE JUST A
PASSENGER.

BUT... THE
ENERGY REQUIRED
TO RESIST THE BLACK
HOLE'S PULL, TO
REBUILD MY ARMOR...



... TO
BREACH THE
HYPERSPHERE
AND POWER
AND GUIDE YOUR
BOARD IS ALMOST
BEYOND HUMAN
RECKONING.

WILL YOU
HAVE ENOUGH
LEFT TO
FIGHT THAT
MONSTER?

I'M NOT
HUMAN, ALICIA...
AND I WILL
STOP HIM...
IF I CAN!

GO
NOW!



TELL THEM --
UNLESS I CAN TURN
RED SHIFT ASIDE,
GALACTUS WILL
FOLLOW!

TELL THEM...
HE MIGHT
COME IN ANY
CASE!



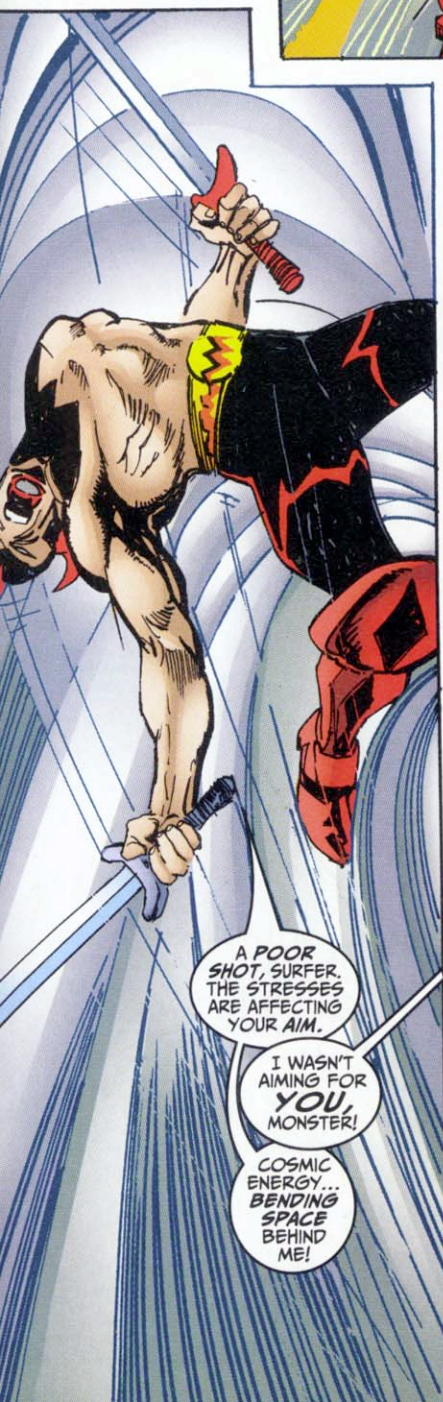
EASY, WASN'T IT, NOBLE SURFER?

FOOL! I LET HER GO! LET YOU SQUANDER YOUR COSMIC ENERGY TRYING TO SAVE HER.

NOW YOU'LL FIND THE BLACK HOLE'S PULL INESCAPABLE!

IT WILL DEVOUR YOU... AS INEVITABLY AS GALACTUS WILL CONSUME HUMANITY --

NO!



CREATING AN ENERGY WAVE THAT HAS SWEEPED YOU TOWARD ME...



AND BOTH OF US THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...



...AND INTO THE BLACK HOLE BEYOND.

AND ELSEWHERE...

IT... IT STOPPED!
AS LONG AS THE BOARD OBEYED THE SURFER'S WILL, I KNEW HE WAS ALIVE. NOW --

NO! DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW! THINK ABOUT... HOW TO HANDLE THIS... WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT!

MY ARMOR HAS ITS OWN POWER... AND EARTH ISN'T FAR AWAY.

BEFORE, I HATED THIS SHELL. NOW I'M GLAD OF IT.

RED SHIFT SEEMED TO BE DESTRUCTION PERSONIFIED, BUT GALACTUS IS WORSE.

AND IF I HAVE TO GIVE UP MY OLD LIFE TO BECOME A WEAPON AGAINST HIM, SO BE IT!

...THE BOARD STOPPED, BUT I KEPT ON...! I... I... HAVE TO WARN EVERYONE. YOU'RE JUST THE FIRST.


NO. BEFORE... AS AN ARTIST... I COULD ONLY PORTRAY YOU ALL...
...AS REPRESENTATIVES OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE... AND THE MANY OTHER VIRTUES THAT MAKE YOU HUMANITY'S HEROES.

ALICIA, YOU SHOULD REST.

NOW I CAN STAND WITH YOU.

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF I'M STRONG ENOUGH. AND I HAVE TO BE.

I'M AFRAID, SUE... THAT I MADE A PROMISE TO THE DEAD.



A BLACK HOLE IS A COLLAPSED STAR WHICH HAS BECOME SO DENSE... ITS GRAVITATIONAL FIELD SO POWERFUL... THAT LIGHT ITSELF IS TRAPPED AND BENT AROUND IT.

ANY OBJECT OR ENTITY WITHIN ITS RADIUS WILL INEVITABLY BE DRAWN IN AND CRUSHED TO NOTHINGNESS.


AND YET, IMPOSSIBLY, TWO BEINGS -- SHIELDED BY THEIR OWN ENORMOUS AND ALMOST EQUAL POWER -- STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DYING STAR'S BLACK HEART...

CRETIN!
IN THE SERVICE
OF THESE HUMANS,
YOU RISK EVERY-
THING...

...FOR
WHAT WILL
EVENTUALLY
DESTROY
YOU.

AND YOU,
FIEND?
WHO DO YOU
SERVE?

TWO MASTERS.
WHO'LL DESTROY
ME AS WELL...
EVENTUALLY.



I ACCEPT
THAT... AND I
TURN MY LOATHING
OUTWARD.

YOU
DESTROY ONLY
YOURSELF!

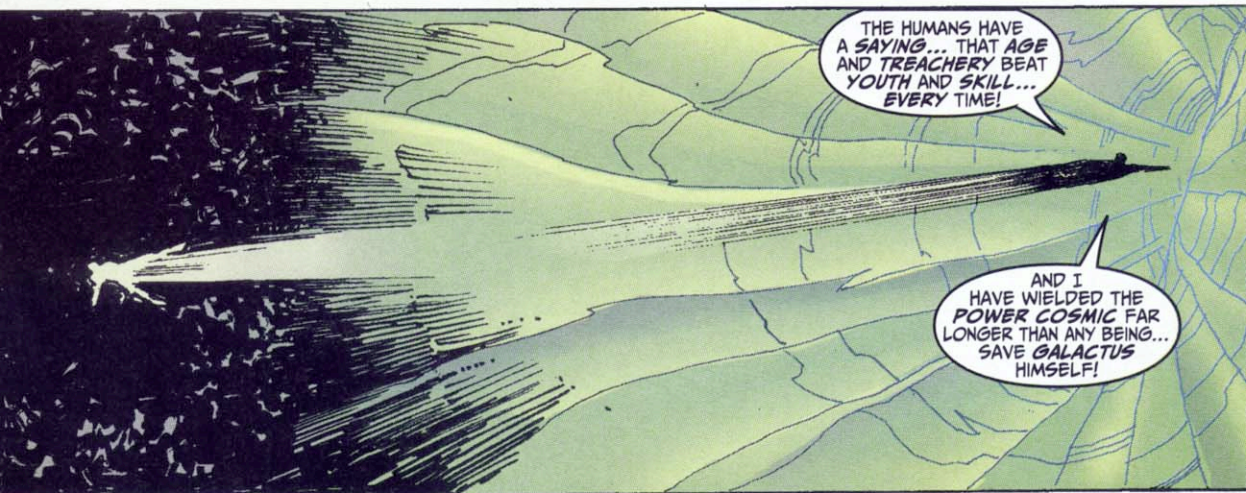
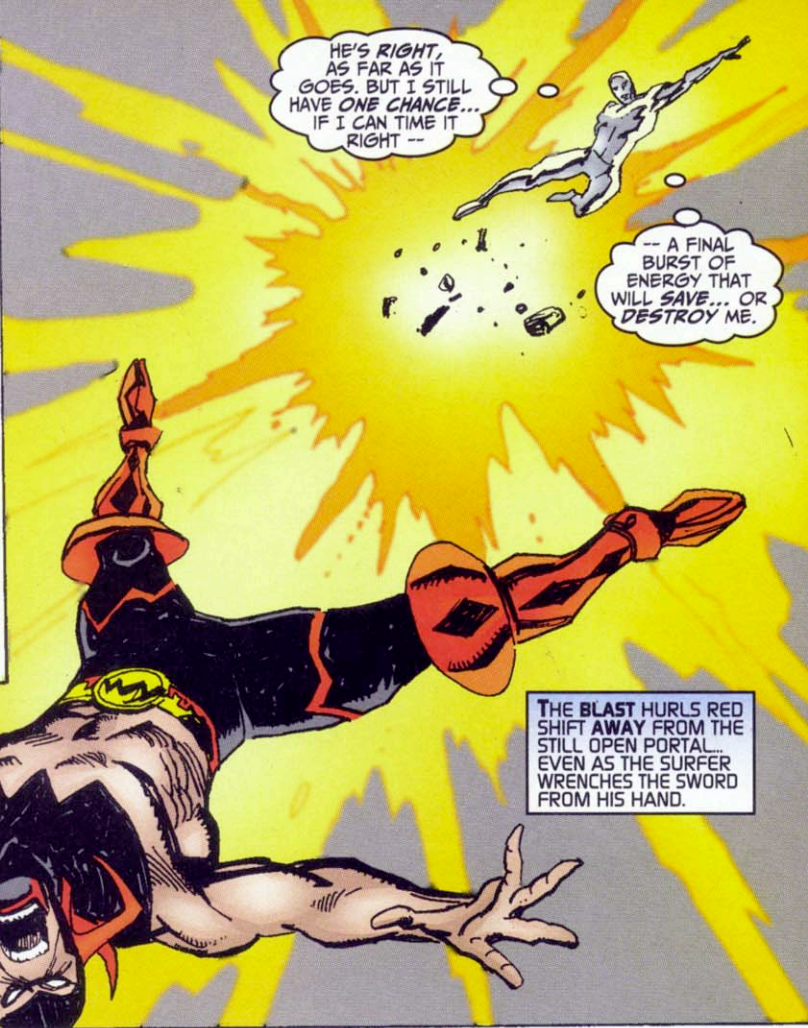
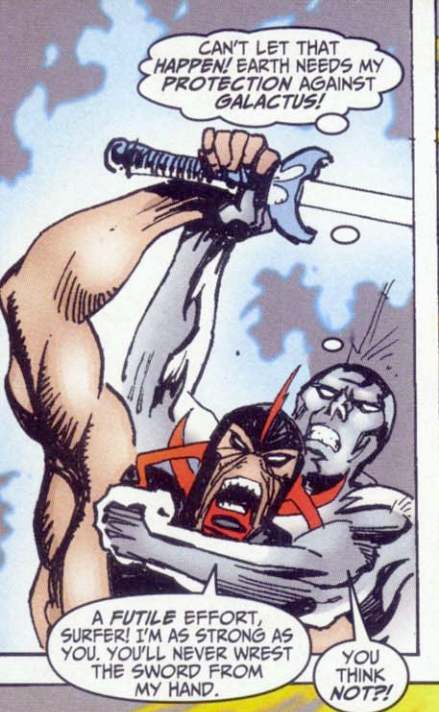


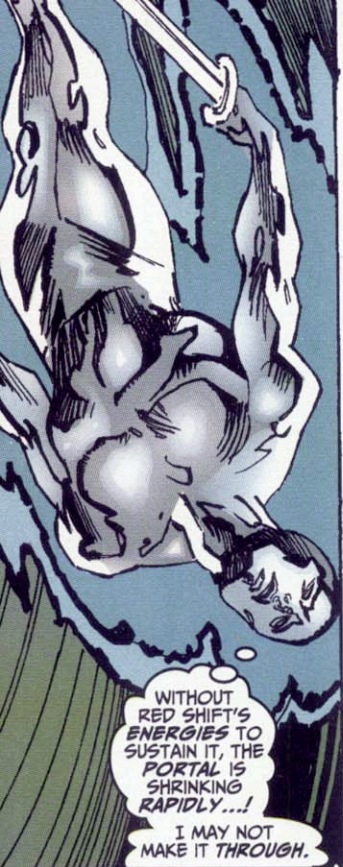
AS I USE MY BOARD
TO ENHANCE MY OWN
HYPERSPACE TRAVEL
ABILITIES...

...SO RED SHIFT
USES HIS SWORDS
TO ENHANCE HIS TO
BEND SPACE.

NOW HE HAS RIPPED A
DIMENSIONAL PASSAGE
BELOW US THROUGH
WHICH HE PLANS
TO ESCAPE...

...LEAVING ME
TRAPPED HERE
FOREVER.





WITHOUT
RED SHIFT'S
ENERGIES TO
SUSTAIN IT, THE
PORTAL IS
SHRINKING
RAPIDLY...!

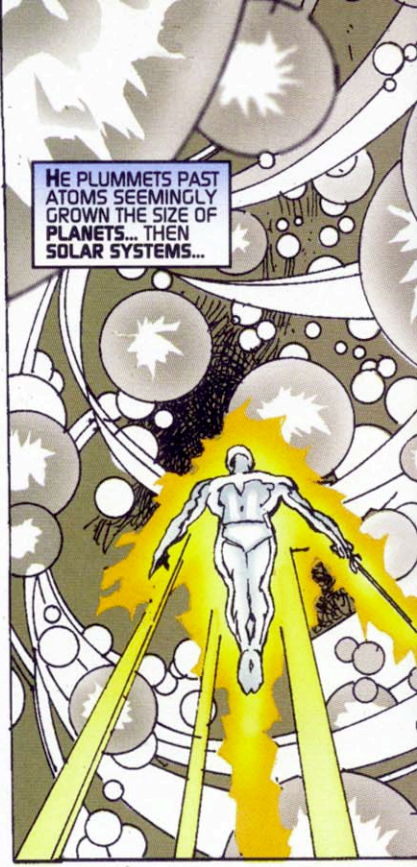
I MAY NOT
MAKE IT THROUGH.



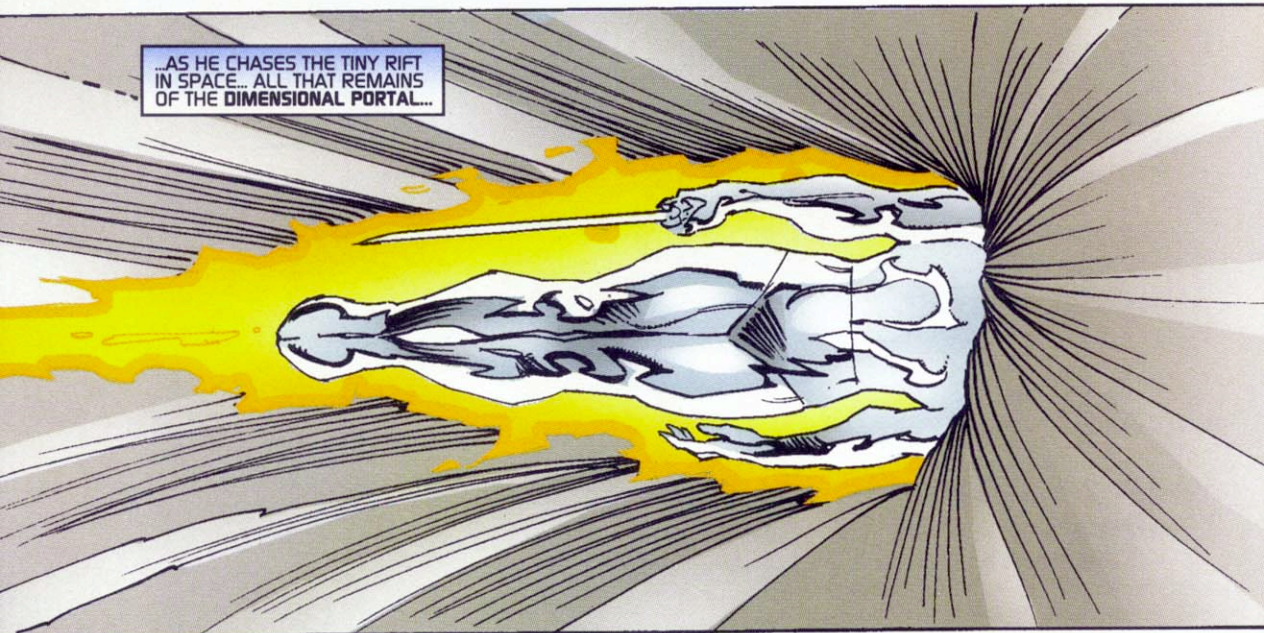
ONE
CHANCE...

...TO
COMPRESS
MY BODY...

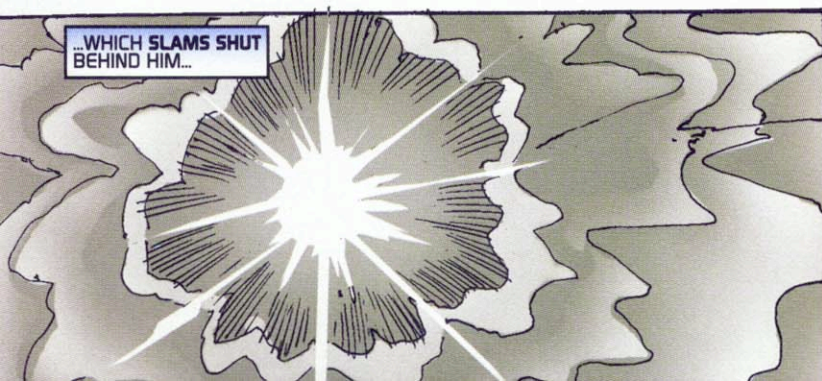
...TO
ENTER THE
MICROVERSE.



HE PLUMMETS PAST
ATOMS SEEMINGLY
GROWN THE SIZE OF
PLANETS... THEN
SOLAR SYSTEMS...



...AS HE CHASES THE TINY
RIFT IN SPACE... ALL THAT REMAINS
OF THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...



...WHICH SLAMS SHUT
BEHIND HIM...



...LEAVING TOTAL
DARKNESS IN HIS
WAKE.

WHILE ON
PIER 4...



ALICIA,
DON'T SWEAT
IT! YOU'VE DONE
WHAT YOU
CAN!

TOGETHER,
WE WERE ABLE TO
ALERT THE PEOPLE
WHO'LL BE EARTH'S
FIRST LINE OF
DEFENSE.

DO YOU
SEE ANYTHING,
BEN? OR...
ANYONE?

NOTHIN' YET
'LICIA! DON'T KNOW
IF THAT'S GOOD
NEWS... OR
BAD!

INSIDE AVENGERS MANSION,
THE CONFEDERACY OF EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST HEROES MEET...



...GALACTUS IS
DEVOURING LIFE-
FORCE NOW... AND
WE'RE NEXT ON
THE MENU?

I ADMIT I'M
NEW AT THIS... BUT
HOW CAN WE EVEN
HOPE TO STOP
HIM?

MAYBE THE
SURFER WILL
PREVAIL.

IF NOT,
THE SITUATION
IS DIRE, INDEED!
WE'D BETTER
PREPARE FOR THE
WORST.

AND ELSEWHERE...



...THIS
THREAT FROM
GALACTUS IS
CONSIDERED
SERIOUS...

GALACTUS?
BAH!

...EARTH'S
CITIZENS ARE
URGED TO REMAIN
INDOORS...



LIKE THAT
WOULD SAVE
US!
AND HERE
I WAS HOPING
FOR A SLOW
NEWS DAY!

WHILE FAR,
FAR AWAY...

WHERE...
WHERE AM
I...?

MICROVERSE!
BUT... WHY...?
RED
SHIFT...!
I... REMEMBER
NOW. TOOK HIS
SWORD... DOVE
INTO HIS ESCAPE
PORTAL... LEAVING
THAT MONSTER
SNARED IN HIS
OWN TRAP! I

BUT DID
IT WORK?
IS EARTH
SAVED?

HAVE TO RETURN TO
THE MACROVERSE...!
BUT WHERE WILL I
COME OUT?

YES! WHAT
HUMANS CALL THE
HORSEHEAD NEBULA! I
KNOW THIS SPACE...!

FOR ONE
SUCH AS I,
EARTH ISN'T
FAR!

RED SHIFT
COULD HAVE
OPENED THE
PORTAL TO ANY
TIME... ANY
PLACE.

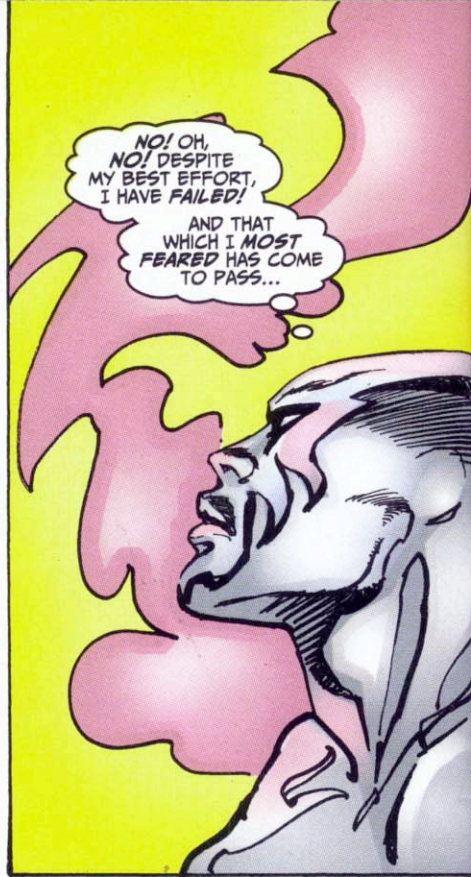
BUT... HE
SERVES GALACTUS...
WAS LEADING HIM
TO EARTH.

SURELY...
AFTER HIS OWN
ENORMOUS OUTLAY
OF ENERGY... HE'D
HAVE PLANNED
TO EMERGE
NEARBY.

I ONLY
HOPE THAT
I ARRIVE
IN TIME.

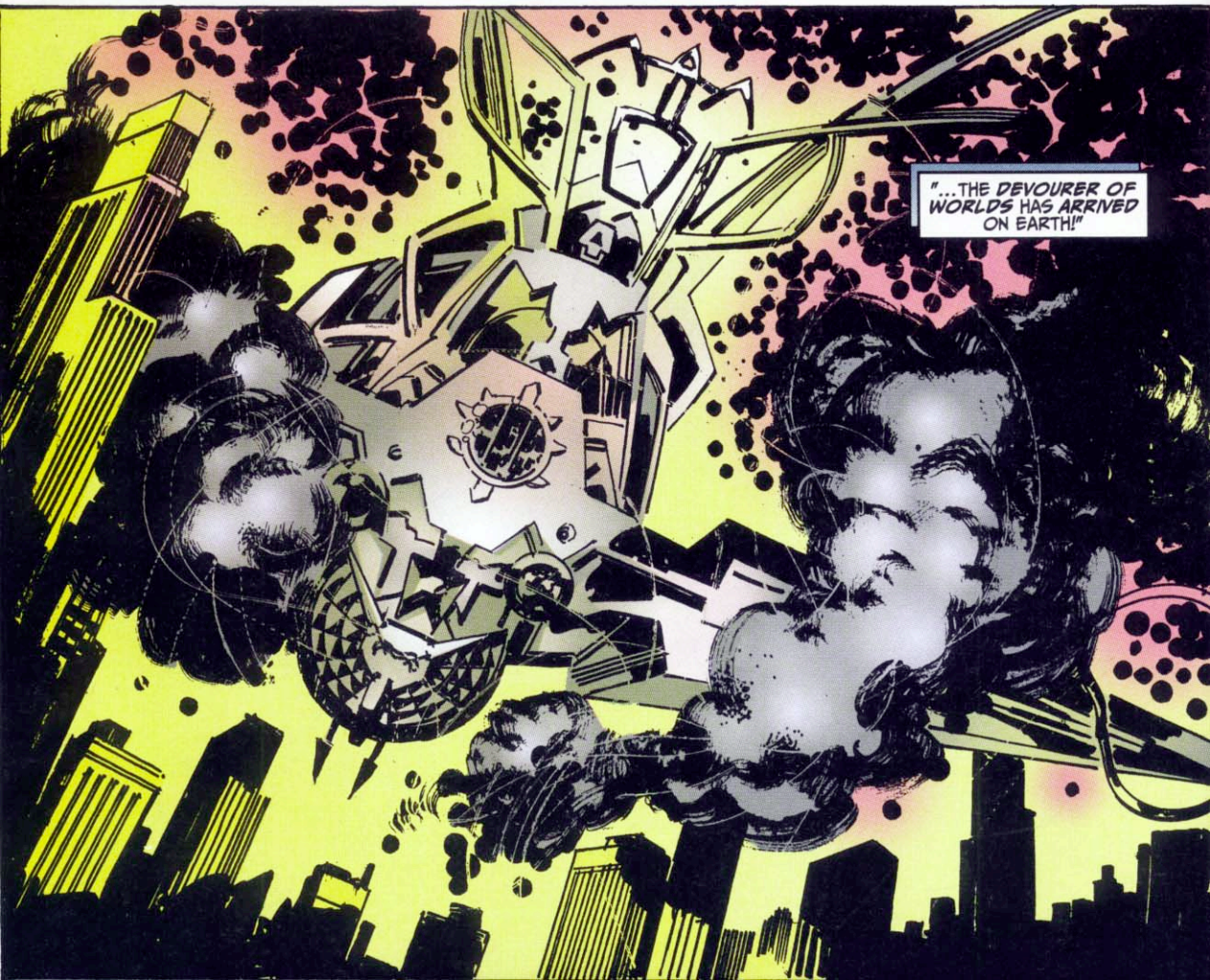


MANHATTAN...
GLEAMING IN THE
SUN -- ITS SKIES
UNSHADOWED BY
ANY PORTENT OF
DOOM!
PERHAPS, IN
RIDDING THIS
UNIVERSE OF HIS
HERALD, I WAS
ABLE TO DEFLECT
GALACTUS FROM
HIS PATH --



NO! OH,
NO! DESPITE
MY BEST EFFORT,
I HAVE FAILED!

AND THAT
WHICH I MOST
FEARED HAS COME
TO PASS...



"...THE DEVOURER OF
WORLDS HAS ARRIVED
ON EARTH!"



I
HUNGER.

NEXT ISSUE:

DENIAL!