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COMICS



SILVER
SURFER

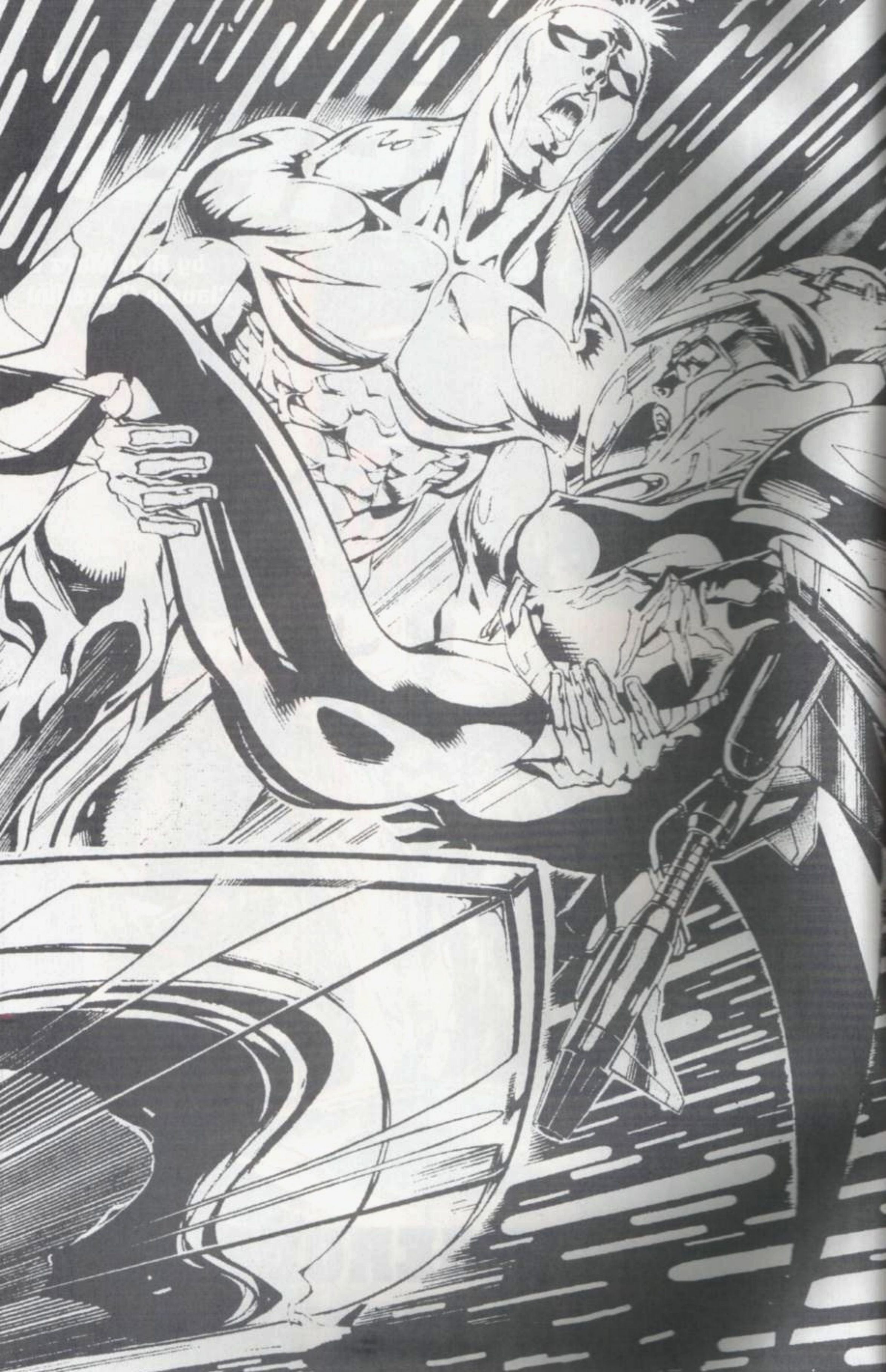
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SILVER SURFER

by Ron Marz &
Claudio Castellini



**DANGEROUS
ARTIFACTS™**



STAN LEE PRESENTS

SILVER SURFER[®]

DANGEROUS ARTIFACTS

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Dedicated to the memory of
my father Robert Marz.

— R.M.

This book is dedicated to the
incomparable John Buscema,
my mentor first, and now my
dear friend.

—C.C.

ENDLESS, EMPTY
BLACKNESS FLECKED
WITH SPARKLING
DIAMONDS AND
SHINING BAUBLES.

AND AMID IT
ALL, ONE SHINING
BRIGHTER THAN THE
REST: MY CREATION,
MY FORMER HERALD...



THE
SILVER
SURFER.



HE NO LONGER
SERVES ME OR MY
PLANET-DEVOURING
HUNGER.

HE THINKS HIMSELF
A TRAGIC HERO, WIELDING
THE POWER COSMIC I
BESTOWED UPON HIM IN
ORDER TO ATONE FOR HIS
DEEDS AS HERALD.



YET WHEN I
SUMMON HIM TO
MY WORLD
SHIP...

...HE
HEEDS MY
CALL.



I KNOW
HER.

SHE SEES THIS
PLANET FOR THE
PIT OF FILTH IT IS.
SHE WOULDN'T BE
HERE IF MY OFFER
WEREN'T TOO
ENTICING TO
IGNORE.

AND YET SHE'S AT
HOME IN THESE INFESTED
BACK ALLEYS, JUST AS SHE
WOULD BE WERE SHE DINING
IN THE LUXURY OF TITAN'S
PLEASURE DOMES.

ENIGMATIC, THIS
WOMAN WHO SIMPLY
CALLS HERSELF

**WHITE
RAVEN.**

GIVE
US A
KISS...





NO. NO. NO.
HAND OFF
GUN.

NOXX SAID
NOXX KNOW
YOUR SECRET.
NOXX SMART.

MANY
FEMALES HAVE
SAME SECRET
LIKE YOU.
YOUR SECRET
IS YOU WANT
NOXX.

YOU.
NOXX
KNOW YOUR
SECRET.

NOW YOU
SHOW NOXX.
SHOW NOXX
YOU.

THEN YOU
CAN HAVE
NOXX.

OF COURSE
I WANT NOXX.
WHAT...FEMALE
...WOULDN'T?

...ALL A
WOMAN'S...

...SECRETS.

OH, I
LIKE THAT.
A BIG, STRONG
MAN WHO
KNOWS...



NO LIVING THING DARES IGNORE MY CALL. FOR I AM THAT WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN, SINCE THIS UNIVERSE WAS BIRTHED FROM THE ASHES OF THE LAST.

I AM THE HUNGER THAT DOOMS WORLDS. I AM HE WHO IS BEYOND SUCH FRAIL CONCEPTS AS GOOD AND EVIL.

I AM
GALACTUS.

I LAY A TASK BEFORE YOU, FORMER HERALD. A QUEST.

HEED ME!

A COMET SO ANCIENT AS TO BE LEGEND TO ANY SAVE ME MAKES ITS WAY BACK FROM THE FRINGES OF THE UNKNOWN.

IT RETURNS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN UNTOLD MILLENNIA, SINCE EVEN GALACTUS WAS CONSIDERED YOUNG, BRINGING WITH IT OPPORTUNITY AND THREAT IN EQUAL MEASURE.

I MUST POSSESS THE COMET'S SECRET.

SECRET?





THE COMET WAS
SAID TO BE HOME TO A
MAGNIFICENT, NOW-EXTINCT
RACE, ADVANCED BEINGS WHO
HARNESSED A SOURCE OF
ULTIMATE, INEXHAUSTIBLE
ENERGY.

IF SUCH
TALES ARE
TRUE...



...THAT POWER
MUST NOT FALL
INTO UNWORTHY
HANDS. ONLY I
CAN BE ITS
KEEPER.

I WANT YOU
TO BRING ME
THAT POWER,
SILVER SURFER.
I ASK YOU...

...WILL
YOU SERVE
ME ONCE
MORE?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I PLAYED AT THIS, THE UNIVERSE ITSELF NEARLY WITHIN MY GRASP? THE PRIZE IS THE SAME, ONLY THE GAME CHANGES...

...AND IN THIS GAME MY PURPOSES ARE BEST SERVED IF MY INVOLVEMENT REMAINS UNKNOWN, MY IDENTITY CONCEALED BEHIND A PAWN.

INDEED, A SECRET.

THE COMET IS SAID TO CONTAIN A SOURCE OF ULTIMATE POWER LEFT BEHIND BY A LONG-DEAD RACE. ABANDONED...

...JUST FOR THE TAKING.

THEFT, OF COURSE. IF THE POWER EXISTS. I MUST HAVE IT.

BUT MY PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER WOULD ATTRACT UNWELCOME ATTENTION, UNWELCOME... OPPOSITION.

SO I SEEK THE BEST...

...WHAT ARE YOU CALLING YOURSELF THESE DAYS? BOUNTY HUNTER? MERCENARY?...

...TO OBTAIN THAT WHICH I DESIRE. INTERESTED?

I'M INTRIGUED.

AND MY TASK?





I HAVE NO PARTICULAR WISH TO SERVE YOU AGAIN, GALACTUS. THAT PART OF MY LIFE IS ENDED...

...YET NEITHER DO I WISH TO SEE SUCH POWER GAINED BY THOSE WHO WOULD USE IT FOR EVIL.

I MUST SERVE THE GREATER GOOD, AND IN DOING SO, SERVE YOU. I WILL DO AS YOU ASK.

WELL, NORIN RADD? IS YOUR LOYALTY AGAIN MINE?

WELL, WHITE RAVEN?

DANGEROUS MISSION. PLENTY OF UNKNOWN. GOOD CHANCE OF CONFLICT.

BUT I COULD CARE LESS, AS LONG AS YOUR PRICE IS RIGHT...

...I'LL GET YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT.

AAH!

THERE. SMALL MATTER FOR MY BOARD TO OVERTAKE--

A COWARDLY ATTACK...

...AT THE HANDS OF OLD FOES, I SEE.

I'M NOT ALONE IN MY PURSUIT OF THE COMET'S SECRETS.

BUT OF ALL THOSE FROM WHOM I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED COMPETITION...

...THE KREE WERE NOT AMONG THEM.



FLIGHT
RECORDER
ON:

CLOSING
ON THE COMET.
NO SIGNS OF
OTHER PURSUIT.
STARTING TO LOOK
LIKE THE EASIEST
MONEY I--

DAMN IT!
SYSTEMS
SHUTDOWN,
INCLUDING
WEAPONS.

--I'M
HIT!


SO...

...MY CHOICES
ARE STAY HERE
AND BE AN EASY
TARGET IN A
DAMAGED SHIP...

...OR SUIT
UP AND DO
SOME OF MY
OWN DAMAGE.

I NEVER
LIKED **SKRULLS**
ANYWAY.





THE SHI'AR
CONQUERED THE
KREE, REDUCING
THEIR EMPIRE TO
RUINS.

THESE KREE
MUST WANT THE
COMET FOR MILITARY
PURPOSES, SEEKING
A WEAPON WITH
WHICH THEIR ~~COMET~~
REIGN MIGHT BE
RESURRECTED.

THAT I
WILL NOT
ALLOW.

KREE
WARRIORS!

I WARN
YOU ONLY ONCE!
CEASE THIS
PROVOCATION
AND RETURN
HOME...

...OR FACE
THE SILVER
SURFER'S
WRATH.

IT'S WE WHO
WILL TOLERATE
NO INTERFERENCE,
SURFER. WE CLAIM
THE COMET FOR
OUR OWN...

...SO THAT
THE KREE
EMPIRE CAN
LIVE AGAIN!

MY MARK,
GUNNER...

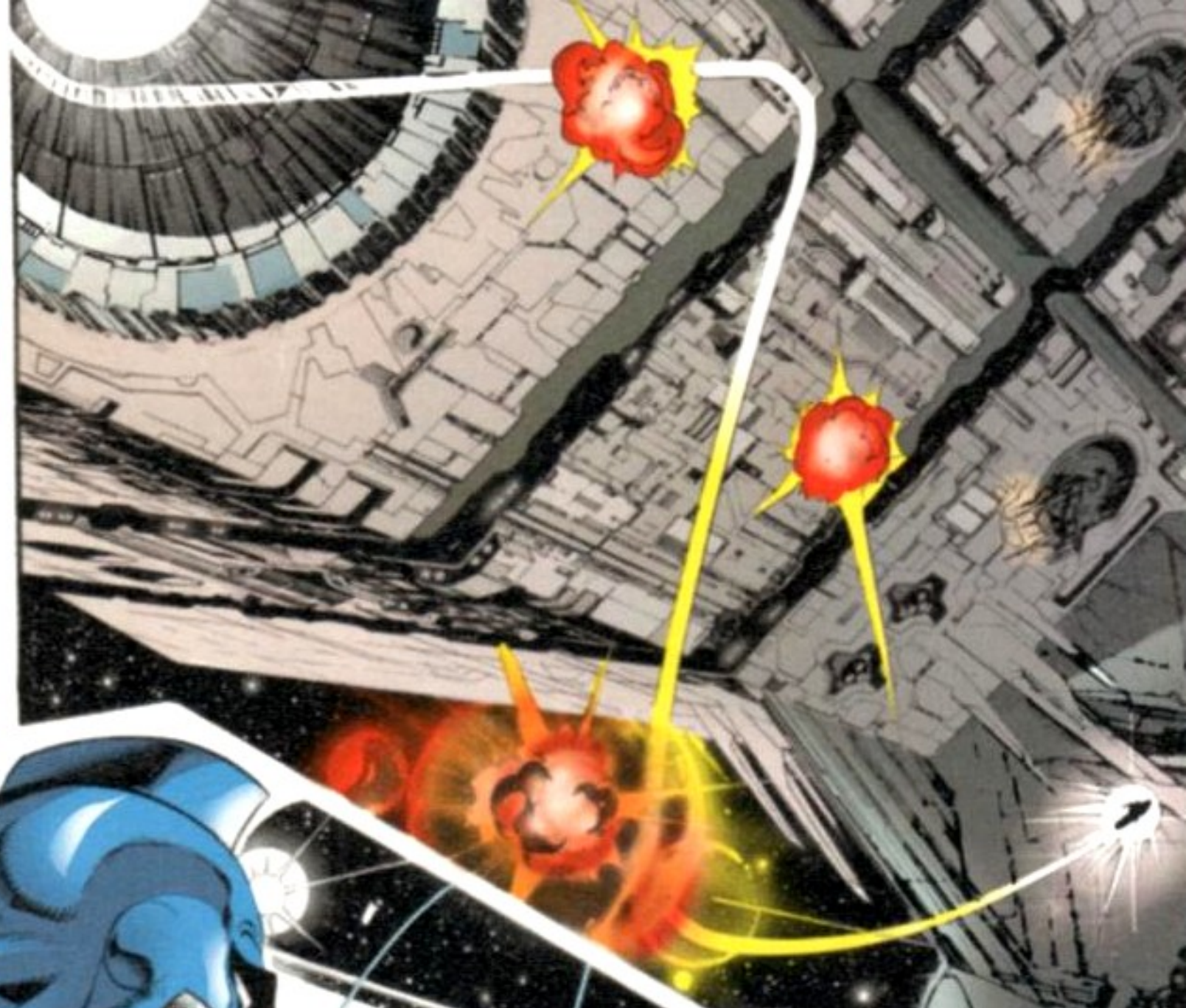


"...FIRE!"



AS YOU WISH.





THIS INSULT
WILL NEITHER
BE FORGOTTEN
NOR FORGIVEN,
SURFER!

WE ARE ADRIPT,
OUR DRIVE ENGINES
DESTROYED! YOU
LEAVE US HELP-
LESS!



I LEAVE YOU
ALIVE, WHICH IS A
FAR KINDER FATE
THAN YOU
INTENDED FOR
ME.

I'VE VOWED
NEVER TO TAKE
A LIFE, AND I
WILL NOT DO SO
NOW. PERHAPS
THERE IS A LESSON
IN THAT FOR
YOU.







THIS INSULT
WILL NEITHER BE
FORGOTTEN NOR
FORGIVEN,
WOMAN!

A DEATH
SUFFERED AT THE
HANDS OF THE
SKRULLS IS MOST
PAINFUL, I
PROMISE YOU.

YOU DARE
BREACH THE
VERY BRIDGE OF
MY SHIP?!

THEN I
OWE YOU
NOTHING LESS
THAN THE
SAME...

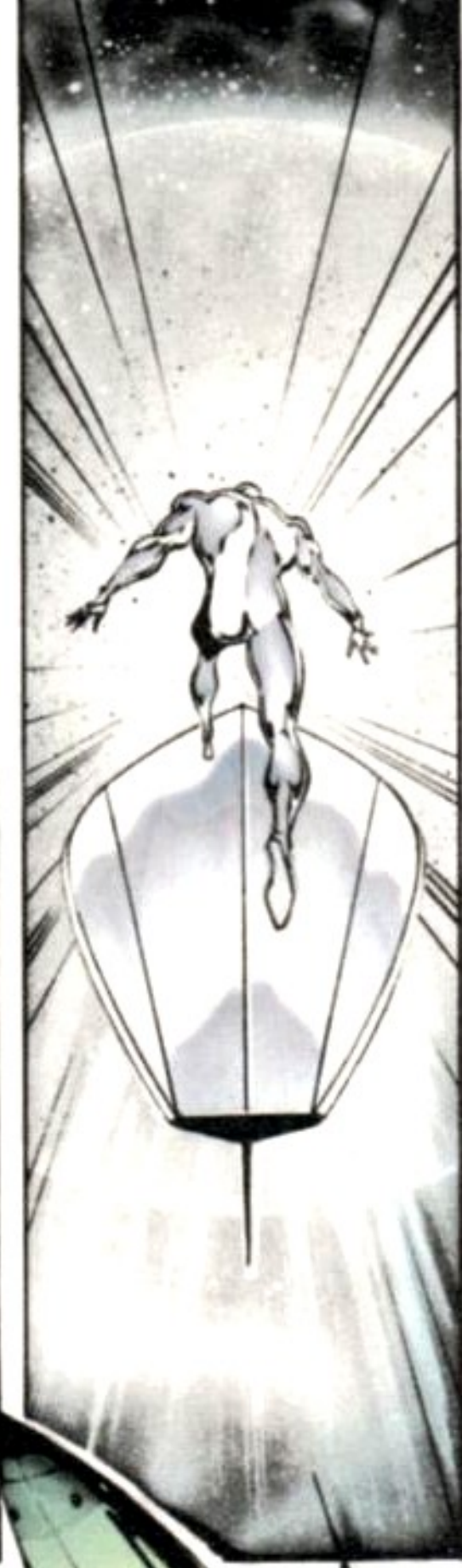
BOOM

...YOU AND
THE REST OF
YOUR CREW ONCE
I'VE DESTROYED
THEIR LIFE
SUPPORT.

NOW...

...I SCAVENGE
THIS SHIP TO
REPAIR MY
OWN...

...AND THE
COMET'S ALL
MINE.





FINALLY...

...THE END
OF THIS
SHAFT.

INCREDIBLE.

THIS PLACE
EVER END?
FEELS LIKE I'VE
BEEN FLYING
FOREVER.



EVEN IN MY FAR-FLUNG TRAVELS, I HAVE NEVER WITNESSED SUCH MAJESTY, SUCH BEAUTY.

GALACTUS SPOKE OF A FABULOUS RACE INHABITING THE COMET. EVEN ABANDONED, THIS SPRAWL SPEAKS OF THEIR GRACE AND SERENITY...

NOWHERE AMONG THE CANYONS AND MONUMENTS DO I DETECT A SINGLE SIGN OF LIFE.

...WHOEVER THEY WERE.


THE CREATORS OF THIS GLORY MUST INDEED BE GONE, LOST TO THE MISTS OF TIME.

WOULD THAT I HAD TIME TO SEEK ANSWERS TO THEIR FATE...

...BUT I CANNOT AFFORD TO TARRY IN MY QUEST.

WISH I HAD TIME TO EXPLORE, SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING WORTH TAKING...

...BUT FIRST I MUST FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.



HAVE I
UNDERTAKEN AN
IMPOSSIBLE TASK?
I FEAR I COULD
SEARCH ENDLESSLY
AND NOT FIND--

BELOW
ME!

A LIVING
BORG CROSSSES
THE PLAZA!

AFTER
UNTOLD BORG,
SOMEONE YET
SURVIVES.

PLEASE, I
MEAN YOU
NO HARM.

I SEEK
ONLY YOUR
HELP.

AH.

I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOU...

...FOR A
VERY LONG
TIME.



ATMOSPHERE'S
READING
BREATHABLE...

...I CAN
DUMP THE
EXO-SUIT.

MUCH
BETTER.

EASIER TO
MOVE THROUGH
THESE CORRIDORS
THIS...



...WAY?

SOME KIND
OF CONTROL
CENTER? THIS
PLACE ISN'T
DESERTED AFTER
ALL.

I FEEL
OBLIGATED TO
INFORM YOU...

...I'VE NEVER
ACTUALLY CONSIDERED
MYSELF TO BE
ALIVE.



YOU!

TURN
AROUND...

... SLOWLY...

...OR
YOU'RE A
DEAD MAN.



YOU'VE TOLD ME YOU'RE THE LAST OF YOUR RACE, SURVIVOR. I MUST ASK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ASCENDED TO A HIGHER PLANE, REACHING FOR WHAT LIES BEYOND DEATH.

I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO FOLLOW. I WAS CHOSEN SURVIVOR, REMAINING HERE TO ACT AS SAFEKEEPER OF OUR CIVILIZATION'S SOURCE...

...THE VAST POWER WE HARNESSSED IN ORDER TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN THIS PARADISE.

I'VE KEPT THIS LONELY VIGIL FOR AGES BEYOND COUNTING, WITH ONLY A CARETAKING AUTOMATON FOR COMPANIONSHIP.

THERE IS NOTHING SAVE LONELINESS LEFT TO ME.



I CANNOT BEGIN TO CONCEIVE THE DEPTH OF YOUR SUFFERING, BUT I DO KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE ALONE, TO BE FOREVER SEPARATED FROM YOUR LOVED ONES.

THE BURDEN I BEAR IS NEVER-ENDING.

IT NEED NOT BE.

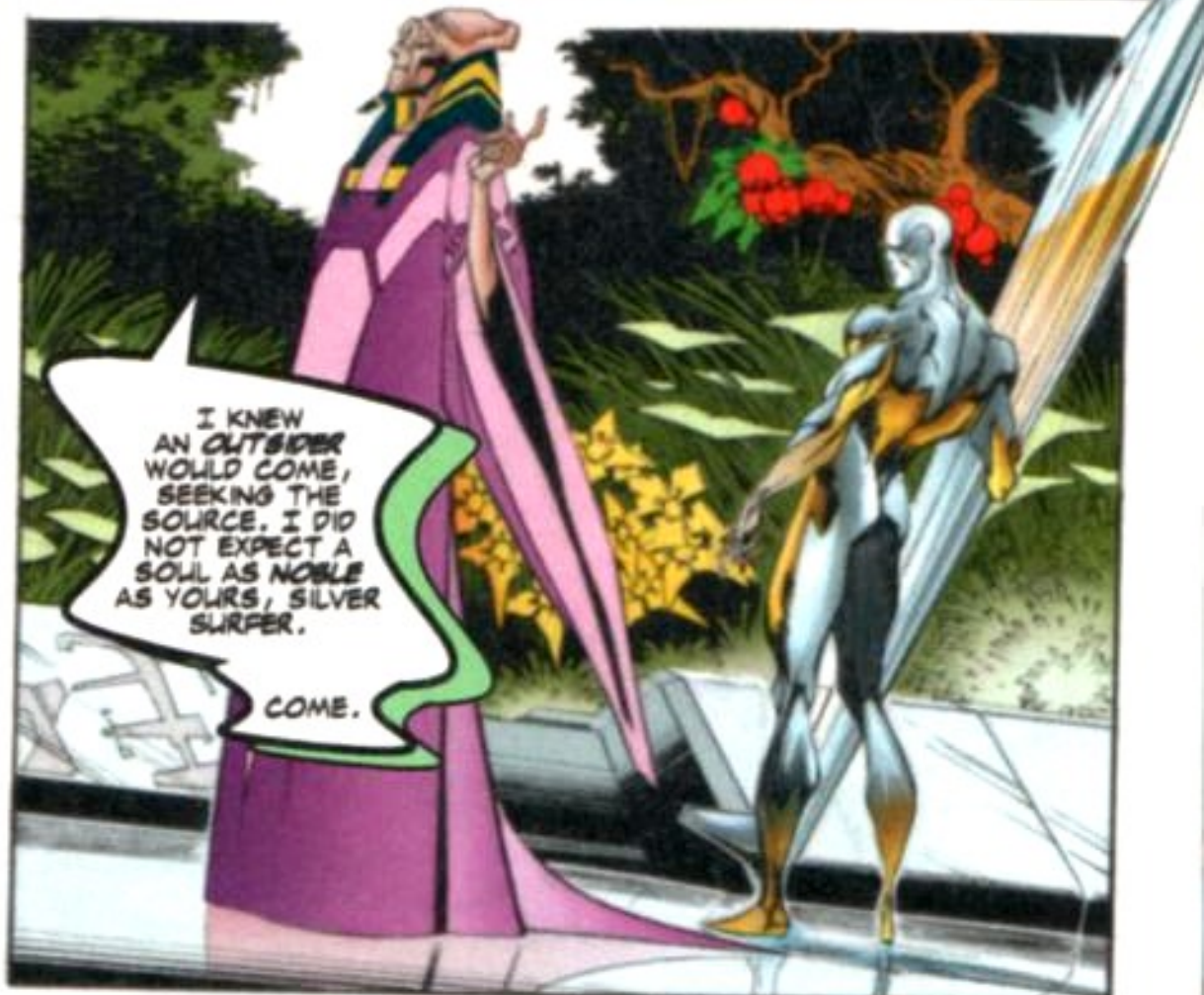


I WILL NOT TAKE WHAT IS NOT OFFERED, BUT THE OBJECT OF MY QUEST IS THE POWER YOU SAFE-GUARD.

ON MY HONOR, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO SURRENDER THE SOURCE TO ME, IT WILL BE FOREVER-MORE IN SAFE HANDS.

I KNEW AN OUTSIDER WOULD COME, SEEKING THE SOURCE. I DID NOT EXPECT A SOUL AS NOBLE AS YOURS, SILVER SURFER.

COME.





I TOLD YOU WHAT I WANT! TAKE ME TO IT!

I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN. MY FUNCTION IS TO OBEY ALL COMMANDS.

HUMOR ME.

I'M USED TO DOING THINGS THIS WAY.

AS YOU LIKE.

THAT WHICH YOU SEEK LIES WITHIN.

OPEN IT.

YOU FIRST.



SOMEBODY
BEAT ME
HERE.

FOR GOOD
OR ILL, THE
SOURCE IS THE
LEGACY OF MY
PEOPLE. IT IS
THE GLORY AND
THE SHAME OF ALL
THAT WE WERE.

I'M NOT
SURE I UNDER-
STAND.

PERHAPS
IT'S BEST
YOU NEVER
DO.

YOUR
UNDERSTANDING
NEED ONLY
EXTEND TO THE
SOURCE'S FUNCTION,
THE LIMITLESS POWER
IT PROVIDES.



GAAAH!

SURVIVOR!



I RELEASE
IT TO YOUR
CARE, WITH THIS
WARNING--



NOT A
CHANCE.




NO!



SHRAFFT



NO...



LIE STILL,
SURVIVOR.
I CAN HEAL
YOU.

I
FEAR... I AM
BEYOND...
--YOUR
HELP--

MY
FRIEND...



BETTER...
THIS WAY.
DESERVED...
I THINK.
OUR BRANDER
FOUNDED UPON...
SUCH AN
ABOMINATION...

I GO...
TO JOIN MY
PEOPLE... BEYOND
THE VEE.
AND YOU...
YOU MUST TRY
TO...

...SAVE...
YOURSELF...

REST
PEACEFULLY,
SURVIVOR.

THIS
IS YOUR
FAULT!

WHO
ARE
YOU?

CLANG!



FREE!

FREE AT
LAST!







MEAGER CREATURES, YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR TO ME, YET THAT WILL NOT SPARE YOU.

MY QUARREL IS WITH EVERY LIVING THING! THE ENTIRETY OF THE UNIVERSE SHALL PAY THE PRICE OF MY PAIN!

LAME!

STAY YOUR HAND, DEMON.

YOUR QUARREL IS NOT WITH US. THOSE WHO WRONGED YOU HAVE LONG SINCE PASSED.

AHH!

MAYBE THAT WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

...SHOOT!

KA BOOM!



THEN YOU
LEAVE ME NO
CHOICE SAVE
OPPOSING
YOU.

THIS IS
THE POWER
YOU WIELD?
THIS PITIFUL
DISPLAY
YOU HAVE NO
CONCEPTION OF
TRUE POWER.

AW



DON'T STAND
THERE CHATTING
WITH HIM...



WHA--?!
YOU
SAVED
ME?

NO
ESCAPE!

I WOULDN'T
HAVE HESITATED
TO KILL YOU TO
GET MY HANDS ON
THE SOURCE.



OF
COURSE.

I AM
SWORN TO
PRESERVE LIFE
WHENEVER
POSSIBLE.



SO I
SHOULD TREAT
YOU WITH THE SAME
CONTEMPT? LIFE IS
PRECIOUS, EVEN THE
LIFE OF ONE WHO
WOULD BE AN
ENEMY.

I DO NOT
FORGIVE YOUR
CRIME, BUT I
WILL NOT SEE YOU
PERISH BECAUSE
OF IT.



YOURS?

MINE.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE NOT COMING?

YOU SAW THAT THING, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.

PUT IT ON QUICKLY.
LEAVE THIS PLACE.

PERHAPS.



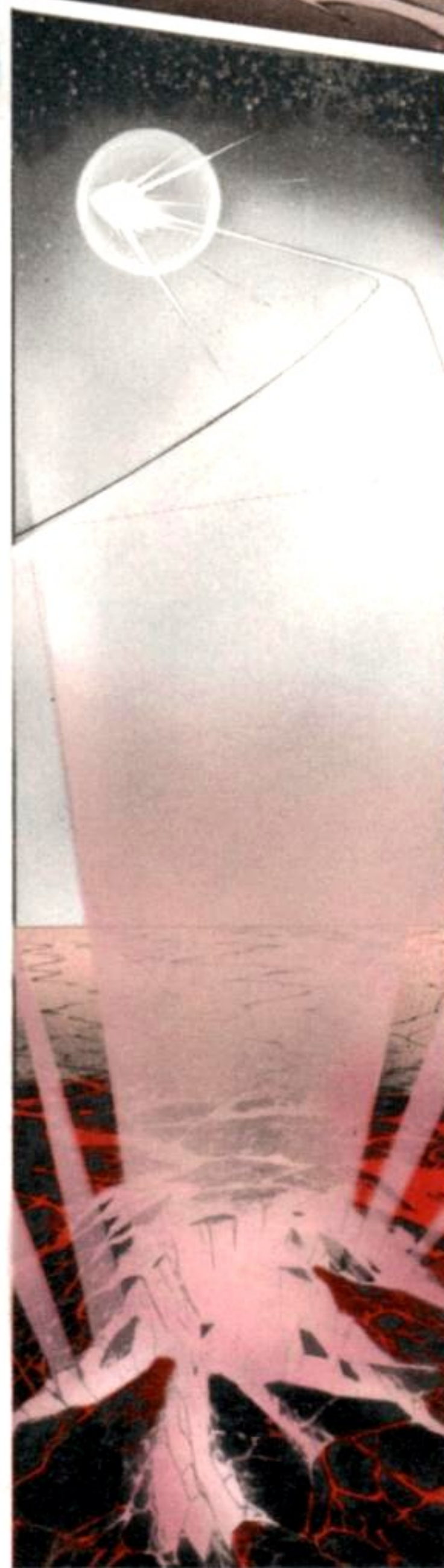
BUT I WILL NOT HAVE IT UNLEASHED WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO STOP IT.

GO WHILE YOU YET CAN.

FINE. NOT LIKE I CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO SOME SUICIDAL IDIOT.

DO WHAT YOU WANT...







I HAVE
HAD MILLENNIA
TO HONE MY
RAGE, LITTLE
MAN!

MY VENGEANCE
IS A TERRIBLE, DARK
THING! NONE WILL BE
SPARED FROM THE
SUPPERING!

NGAAH!

BUT YOUR
JAILERS LIVE NO
LONGER, AND THEIR
CRIMES SHALL NOT
BE PAID FOR WITH
INNOCENT BLOOD.

AS
LONG AS THE
SILVER SURFER
STANDS...



... I ADMIT
YOU WERE DONE
A GREAT INJUSTICE,
TO HAVE BEEN
CRUELLY IMPRISONED
AS YOU WERE.



THOUGH MY
POWER COSMIC IS
NOT THE EQUAL OF
THE MIGHT WITHIN
YOU...

...I WILL
NOT WAVER,
DEMON.



--AAAHH!

YOU ARE
NOTHING
TO ME!

TOO
CLOSE--!

HOW
DARE
YOU!

HOW DARE A
CREATURE OF YOUR
INSIGNIFICANCE
SEEM TO THWART
ME!

COMET

HE
SHATTERS
THE COMET'S
SURFACE...

...AND
DISAPPEARS
BENEATH.

BUT I FEAR
MY TRIUMPH IS
MERELY--

DIE...

...AND KNOW
THE REST OF THE
UNIVERSE SOON
FOLLOWS!





WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE TO
MEET WHAT...

I
BURN
WITHIN!

...YOW...

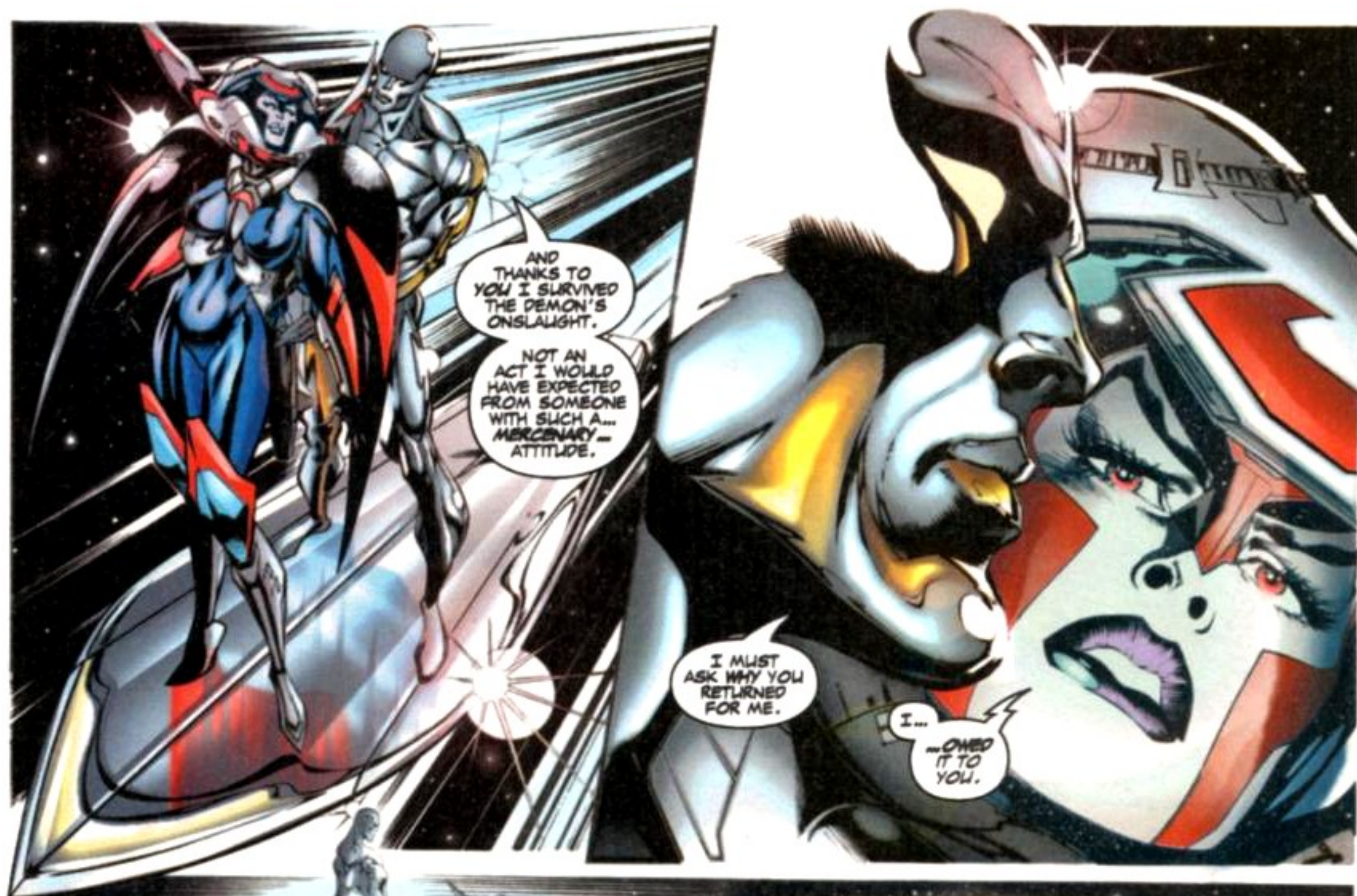
...HAVE...



SHOCKWAVE!
BRACE
YOURSELF.

YOU ARE
UNHURTY

THANKS
TO YOU.



AND THANKS TO YOU I SURVIVED THE DEMON'S ONSLAUGHT.

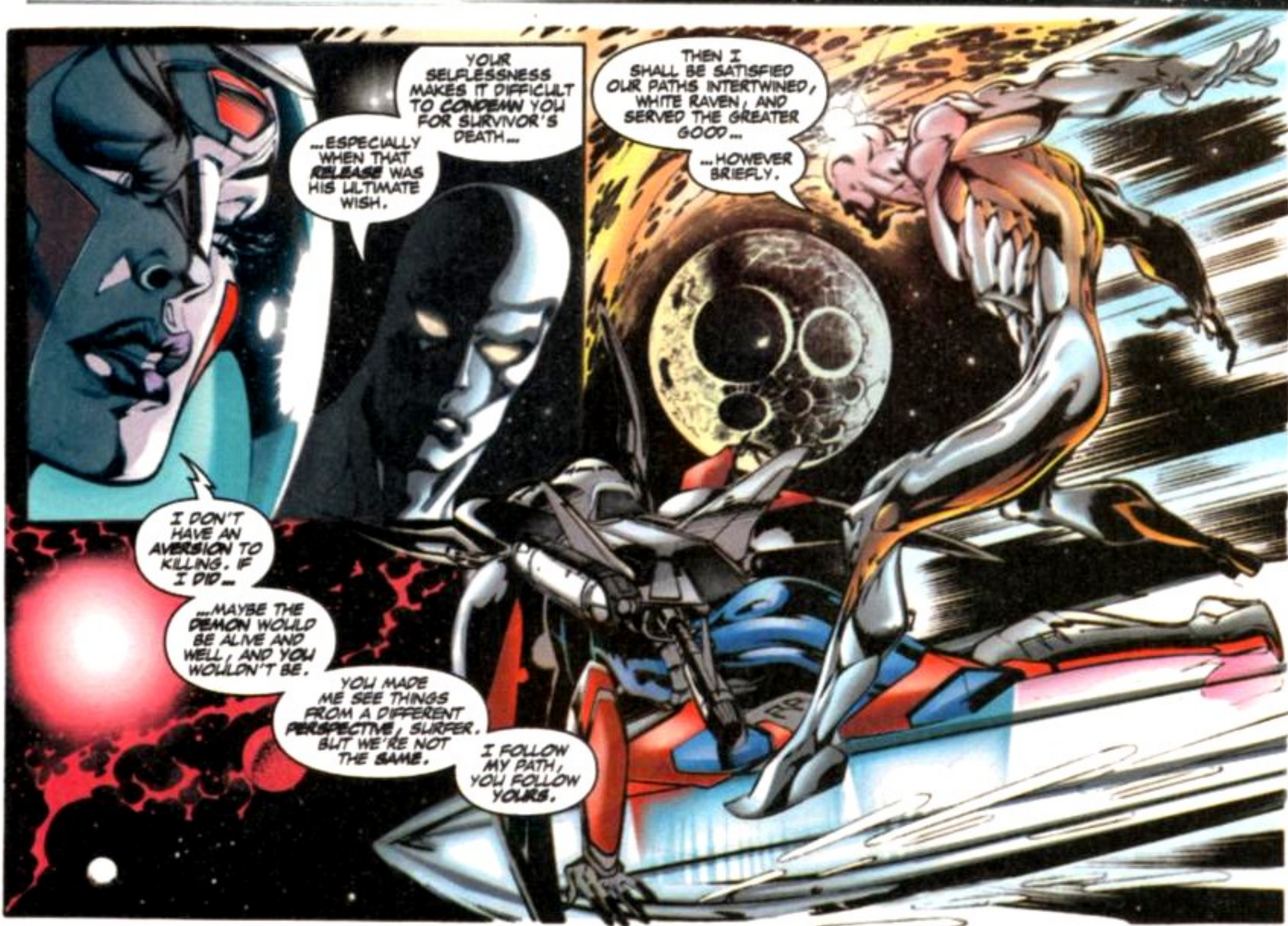
NOT AN ACT I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED FROM SOMEONE WITH SUCH A... MERCENARY... ATTITUDE.

I MUST ASK WHY YOU RETURNED FOR ME.

I...
...OWED IT TO YOU.

YOU STAYED AND FACED THE DEMON WHILE I FLED. YOU WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF SO I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE.

I'VE NEVER WITNESSED THAT KIND OF... NOBILITY.



YOUR SELFLESSNESS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO CONDEMN YOU FOR SURVIVOR'S DEATH...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT RELEASE WAS HIS ULTIMATE WISH.

THEN I SHALL BE SATISFIED OUR PATHS INTERTWINED, WHITE RAVEN, AND SERVED THE GREATER GOOD...


...HOWEVER BRIEFLY.

I DON'T HAVE AN AVERSION TO KILLING. IF I DID...

...MAYBE THE DEMON WOULD BE ALIVE AND WELL, AND YOU WOULDN'T BE.

YOU MADE ME SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, SURFER. BUT WE'RE NOT THE SAME.

I FOLLOW MY PATH, YOU FOLLOW YOURS.



HE RETURNS TO
ME EMPTY-HANDED.

A NEW
STAR WAS BIRTHED
FROM THE DEMON'S
PASSING, THE COMET
DRAWN INTO ORBIT
ABOUT IT.

PARTNERS
IN AN ENDLESS
CELESTIAL
BALLET.


A
FITTING
FATE FOR
BOTH.

YOU
DISAPPOINT ME,
SURFER. YOU DID
NOT ACCOMPLISH
THE TASK I SET
BEFORE YOU.

I MUST
BE CONTENT THE
POWER DID NOT FALL
INTO THE GRASP
OF ANOTHER.

THAT WHICH I
DESIRED IS NOT
MINE. IF THIS
BE DEFEAT...

...GALACTUS
LIKES NOT ITS
TASTE.



SHE RETURNS TO
ME EMPTY-HANDED.

YOU FAILED
ME, WHITE RAVEN.
SUCH AWESOME
POWER...

...AND
IT SLIPPED
THROUGH MY
GRASP.

YET AGAIN
MY GOALS
ELUDE ME.

THERE ARE
OTHER GAMES TO
BE PLAYED, BUT
A BITTER TASTE
LINGERS...

FOR
THANOS OF
TITAN HAS NEVER
BEEN GRACIOUS
IN DEFEAT.

END





Long ago, **Norrin Radd** sacrificed his humanity to save his planet, and became the herald to the world-devouring **Galactus**. Now possessed of the awesome Power Cosmic, Norrin has rebelled against his former master, and soars the spaceways battling injustice and seeking his solitary destiny.

But now, the man now called the **Silver Surfer** is once again pressed into service by Galactus – to find a legendary comet and prevent the mysterious power source within from falling into the wrong hands. At the same time, the evil, death-worshipping conqueror **Thanos** has dispatched his own agent – the cosmic bounty hunter called **White Raven** – to retrieve the comet's power source. As the noble Surfer and the cold-hearted mercenary vie for the comet's secrets, they may unwittingly unleash upon the universe an even greater threat than their masters!

Through this all new story by ace Surfer scribe *Ron Marz*, and the lush, eye-popping visuals by master illustrator *Claudio Castellini*, you will witness a cosmic tour de force of unparalleled grandeur and majesty, unrivaled by anything ever seen in the comic book medium!

DIRECT EDITION



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