THE SILVER SURFER

REBIRTH

(FORMERLY: BATTLE CRY)

(#2147-17)

WRITTEN BY

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REV. PAGES *

FINAL DRAFT
THE SILVER SURFER

"REBIRTH"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. A NEW STAR SYSTEM - CLOSE ON A COSMIC BOLT

EXPLODING through the BLACKNESS of space. WIDENING, we SEE the SILVER SURFER on his board, soaring over the planet of Zenn-La, with the rest of the worlds in the new system visible in b.g.

SILVER SURFER

Shalla Bal is gone! Gone!

Frustrated and furious, he FIRES again and again. His BOLTS are random, directed at nothing in particular, until:

NEBULA VIRAL (O.S.)

Get yourself together, Surfer. You've got a job to do for me --

ANOTHER ANGLE

The NEBULA VIRAL floats in space near the PLASMA JUMP we all remember from #2147-16. The Surfer's board slides toward it.

SILVER SURFER

Nebula, you are the one responsible! Viral in form -- yet still pirate in heart!

And, in his rage, the Surfer FIRES TWIN COSMIC BOLTS that EXPLODE against the Viral's ENERGY BUBBLE! The Nebula Viral CRIES OUT WORDLESSLY, and the BUBBLE goes plummeting down, down toward:

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - MEADOW OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY - DAY

Where the Nebula Viral CRASHES down to the ground, shaken but unhurt in the intact ENERGY BUBBLE. In b.g., surprised students look on as the Surfer soars down after her. The Viral rears upward.

NEBULA VIRAL (V.O.)

Stop! Surfer, we have a bargain!

SILVER SURFER

A bargain already broken by your treachery! You caused the crisis in the Soul Hunter's Dimension!

NEBULA VIRAL (V.O.)

(wryly)

How else could I get you to help a poor pirate?

Furious, the Surfer POWERS UP, FISTS GLOWING as he extends his arms to FIRE ano
THANOS (O.S.)
Silver Surfer...!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Thanos moves out from inside the Academy to stand across from the Surfer, with the Nebula Viral between them.

THANOS
You dare commit violence here?

The Surfer stops, and his face fills with anguish. He speaks to Thanos haltingly:

SILVER SURFER
Shalla Bal is lost, Thanos, ever-dwindling through the subatomic structure of the universe.

(beat)
I tried -- but was unable to pull her through the inter-dimensional rift!

THANOS
(crying out)
Not Shalla Bal...!

NEW ANGLE

The Nebula Viral's big head turns toward Thanos, and its mental voice drips with disgust:

NEBULA VIRAL (V.O.)
The Surfer blames me because he was slow on the draw!

(to the Surfer)
I'm the one left high and dry -- because you couldn't save the Master of Zenn-La!

SILVER SURFER
(shaking with fury)
You go too far!

And again he looses a pair of COSMIC BOLTS. We ANGLE WITH them as they streak toward:

THE NEBULA VIRAL

The BOLTS are about to hit the ENERGY BUBBLE when they are struck -- by a PURPLE BEAM. The two ENERGY FORCES EXPLODE together, the ENERGY BUBBLE SHATTERING, as, crying out:

THANOS (O.S.)
I say no!!!

THANOS

Gestures, and a PURPLE ENERGY FIELD appears around him protectively. It floats upward, and within it he leans forward, battle-ready.
 THANOS
 As the Protector of Titan I grew
 more and more appalled by the
 violence of which I was a part...

THE NEBULA VIRAL

No longer protected by the BUBBLE. Something strange is
happening to it now: It shakes its head, and the head MORPHS
into the human head of Nebula, then MORPHS back to that of
the Viral as:

   THANOS (O.S.)
   And vowed to learn the ways of
   peace, renouncing the use of my
   power when I came to Zenn-La...

Again the Viral head MORPHS into a human one -- and this time
we SEE a human neck and shoulders as well. Then it all
MORPHS back to Viral form as:

WIDER

Thanos' PURPLE ENERGY FIELD sweeps over the grass, moving
closer to the Silver Surfer -- and Nebula as well.

   THANOS
   But I cannot allow you to attack
   even Nebula. To do so would
   violate every tenet of Zenn-La --
   and all Shalla Bal believed in!

The Surfer moves in closer as well.

   SILVER SURFER
   You were not there! You did not
   see what I saw, feel what I felt --

   NEBULA VIRAL (V.O.)
   Or fail the way you failed!

The Viral is goading the Surfer -- and it works. He FIRES
his BOLTS -- and Thanos' PURPLE BEAM stabs out. Once more,
the two forces meet -- and EXPLODE directly over the Nebula
Viral!

 THANOS

Drops to his knees his own BEAM ricochets back through the
PURPLE ENERGY FIELD and hits him as:

THE NEBULA VIRAL

SPARKS CASCADE over the Viral, and its head and entire body
MORPH completely into NEBULA! Looking down at herself, the
newly reconstituted human woman LAUGHS with pure joy.

   NEBULA
   At last...!

And, like someone stretching, she does a series of martial
arts moves beneath the Surfer and Thanos.
(continuing)
I knew I could count on you boys
if I pushed the right buttons. It
wasn't your precious Shalla Bal I
needed to help the Surfer sever my
link to the Virals...

(beat)
It was Thanos!

WIDER

From Nebula's CYBERNETIC EYE comes a TRACTOR BEAM OF BLUE
LIGHT that stabs across the meadow and into the wall of the
nearby Space Museum. Quickly, Nebula steps into the TRACTOR
BEAM and WHOOSHES at the museum.

NEBULA
Ahh! Nothing like some petty
theft to bring back old times!

SILVER SURFER
What is she doing?

Nebula VANISHES into the wall of the museum, and the Surfer
turns to Thanos. Shaking his head to clear it, Thanos
returns to his feet, but, before he can say anything:

CLOSER ON THE SPACE MUSEUM

Debris flies everywhere, and nearby students CRY OUT
WORDLESSLY, trying to race for shelter, as an antiquated
spaceship like that in which Norrin Radd first flew to
Galactus BLASTS through the roof!

THE SILVER SURFER AND THANOS

Speed toward the disaster, the Surfer on his board, Thanos
gliding in his ENERGY FIELD.

SILVER SURFER
Even in human form, Nebula proves
herself a monster!

Both men FIRE at the debris, BLASTING it into nothingness
before it can hit the ground. Together, they look down at
the dissipating ENERGY, like PURPLE and GOLD smoke.

THANOS
Her actions -- they remind me of
much that I have tried to forget!

We TIGHTEN ON Thanos' stricken expression as:

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA - THE ANCIENT SHIP

Speeding from the planet as from within it, O.S., comes
NEBULA'S LAUGHTER. The little ship FORESHORTENS INTO WARP,
and we ANGLE PAST IT TO:

A KREE FLEET

WARPING INTO the system. A SERIES OF ALARMS SOUND, O.S.,
from within the ships, and we TIGHTEN THROUGH the awesome array of destroyers, bristling with weaponry, TO:

INT. KREE FLAGSHIP - THE BRIDGE - VIEWSCREEN

Showing Zenn-La and the other planets in the new system.

DAY-RON (O.S.)
An entire system of inhabited planets, never before known in this sector...

As he talks, we WIDEN to see CAPTAIN DAY-RON, commander of the fleet, looking out from the command chair. He turns to his First Officer and smiles, well-pleased.

DAY-RON
Prepare to annex our discovery in the name of the Kree Empire --

He breaks off as, suddenly, another IMAGE appears on the viewscreen -- that of R'ANDOM, the Commander of the Skrull armada that was in the Soul Hunter Dimension with Zenn-La.

R'ANDOM
Attention, Kree commander...

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA

Where the Skrull armada streaks toward the Kree fleet.

R'ANDOM (O.S.)
This system is under the protection of the Skrull Confederation!

More ALARMS SOUND, BECOMING EVEN MORE SHRILL, and, as the ships from both sides start FIRING THEIR ENERGY WEAPONS at each other, a full-scale battle beginning, we

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA - THE SPACE BATTLE

Fast and furious, with both the Kree and Skrull ships trying to outflank and outmaneuver their opponents, ENERGY WEAPONS FIRING CONTINUOUSLY.

A SKRULL SHIP

HIT by Kree FIRE, it EXPLODES!

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - MEADOW OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY - DAY

Where the Surfer, on his board, and Thanos, still within his
PURPLE ENERGY FIELD, are heading for the Academy. Suddenly, the Surfer shudders, and he winces as though in pain. Thanos does the same.

SILVER SURFER
Thanos! Did you feel that?

THANOS
A disruption in the harmonic flow!

SILVER SURFER
It came from -- out there!

The Surfer stops in mid-flight, and both he and Thanos turn their heads upward to:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE

TIGHTENING TO airless space above the planet -- just as a Kree ship EXPLODES!

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)
A space battle rages -- between the Kree and the Skrull!

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER AND THANOS

The Surfer turns back to Thanos. A PURPLE BEAM OF MENTAL POWER comes from the big man's forehead, going out to space.

THANOS
I can sense their thoughts.
(as the BEAM vanishes)
They vie for control of this system -- and Zenn-La!

SILVER SURFER
Ever does the greed of conquerors rage!

We ANGLE WITH the Surfer as, bending low on his board, he soars upward. Thanos glides with him, then stops, and, realizing he's alone, the Surfer calls back down:

SILVER SURFER
(continuing)
Thanos! Are you with me?

THANOS
Starts upward, stops again. His tone that of a man torn:

THANOS
(calling)
Already have I broken my vow! I must not allow myself to use my power again!

THE SILVER SURFER - DOWNSHOT

Nodding, he speeds up, streaking upward.

THANOS
Doesn't move from his spot in the air, watching the Surfer go. Suddenly, we hear a DEEP VOICE:

DEEP VOICE (V.O.)
Fool! You are using your power!
Look at yourself, standing in that energy field! Look!

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

An IMAGE of himself, glowering and cruel, APPEARS in the air, within an ENERGY FIELD of its own. With a maniacal LAUGH we've heard before, the IMAGE VANISHES almost immediately and:

BACK TO THANOS

Looking all around, but the only others here are other Zenn-Lavians. The DEEP-VOICED LAUGHTER continues, V.O., as:

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA - A SKRULL SHIP

EXPLODING as a Kree BLAST takes it out! We WIDEN TO SEE the Surfer soaring toward the BATTLE, EXPLOSIONS LIGHTING the space around him.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Look at them! I would marvel at the folly of this war if I did not know the pain it has caused so many innocents....!

A BLAST comes right at him. Quickly, the Surfer banks away -- directly into the path of another. His board virtually leaps over this one as:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
I did not recreate the cosmos to continue its idiocy!

And, as he says it, the Surfer FIRES TWIN COSMIC BOLTS. We ANGLE WITH them as they strike the very center of the densely packed Kree fleet!

INT. KREE FLAGSHIP - THE BRIDGE

Rocking with the impact. Day-Ron glares at the image of the enraged Surfer on the viewscreen as:

DAY-RON
The Silver Surfer?!

THE SILVER SURFER
FIRES ANOTHER PAIR OF BOLTS, which continue at:
A SKRULL SHIP
Struck broadside. Out of control, it careens helplessly out to space! We ANGLE PAST IT TO:

INT. SKRULL FLAGSHIP - THE BRIDGE
Reeling from the CONCUSSION. R'andom leaps up from the command chair. Like Day-Ron, he too stares at the Surfer on the viewscreen.

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA - THE SPACE BATTLE

As the WEAPONS FIRE TAPERS OFF, a HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE of R'andom appears in space before the Silver Surfer.

R'ANDOM
Silver Surfer -- you'll regret what you've done!

Now another HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE appears: Day-Ron.

DAY-RON
The Kree fear you not, Silver Surfer. You are ours!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Once again, both sides FIRE -- but at the Surfer this time! Instead of trying to avoid the BLASTS, the Surfer stands his ground, raising his hand to create an ENERGY SHIELD before him.

SILVER SURFER
(hard)
I believe, gentlemen, that it is time you all felt afraid!
(beat)
Already have I lost everything. Now will you know what that is like!!!

The BLASTS HIT the Surfer's SHIELD -- and carom back, at:

THE SKRULL ARMADA AND THE KREE FLEET

The IMAGES of R'Andom and Day-Ron blink out of existence, and, from within the ships we hear AD LIB WALLAHS OF DISORDER AND FEAR. Desperately trying to avoid their own FIRE, the vessels turn tail, speeding up and WARPING AWAY!

THE SILVER SURFER

Stands alone in space on his board. He circles over Zenn-La.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
The battle is over, but only for now...

The Surfer arcs away from the planet, soaring toward the edge of the star system.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
My homeworld -- my universe! -- cannot be safe until the leaders of both sides change their ways...

He starts going faster and faster.
SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
It is time they learned a lesson
only the Silver Surfer can teach!

And, as he FORESHORTENS INTO WARP:

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - MEADOW OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY - DAY

Where Thanos, still encased in his PURPLE ENERGY FIELD,
floats beside the Academy. A PURPLE BEAM like the one we SAW
earlier comes from his forehead. It VANISHES again as:

THANOS
(calling out)
Silver Surfer! I hear your
thoughts. Be not guided by your
anger -- !

He stops short as again we hear:

DEEP VOICE
Let him roar! As you should be!
Always has anger been Thanos'
greatest weapon!

THANOS
I reject all weapons!

DEEP VOICE
Which is why I must reject you!

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

Again, the IMAGE of a cruel Thanos appears. LAUGHING, it
FIRES A PURPLE BEAM right at him -- and again DISAPPEARS.

BACK TO THANOS

Careening backward as though his. His face contorts with
pain.

THANOS
Where are you? Who are you?

But the only answer is that LAUGH...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KREE-LAR - DAY

The magnificent Kree capitol city last seen in #1875-08, in
all its towering, overpopulated splendor. HUGE SCREENS are
everywhere, showing everything that goes on as:

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE (O.S.)
This stalemate with the Skrull has
lasted for eons, my Prime
Minister...

As he talks, we TIGHTEN THROUGH the Central Plaza TO:
EXT. PARLIAMENT BUILDING - THE PRIME MINISTER'S BALCONY - DAY

Where PRIME MINISTER ZAREK stands before a viewscreen showing an IMAGE of THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE itself, a huge face to which are attached myriad tentacles.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
And that is eons too long!

ZAREK
The problem, Supremor, is that our race has grown stagnant. My geneticists are working frantically --

QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS - A COLLECTION OF LOUDSPEAKERS

Located all along the Plaza. Zarek breaks off as from them comes a SHRILL SIREN, followed by the ELECTRONIC VOICE OF THE CITY:

CITY
Code Alpha! Kree-Lar defenses have been breached...

EXT. THE PLAZA - DAY

The Kree stop what they're doing to watch the viewscreens in shock.

CITY
The invader is being repelled by our defectors...!

We TIGHTEN ON one of the screens -- and SEE the Silver Surfer's TRANSMUTATION BEAM HITTING the ENERGY BARRIER that surrounds Kree-Lar. (See #1875-08.) The BARRIER WAVERS -- and collapses in on itself like a Dali painting of a limp watch.

CITY
(continuing)
The invader is entering the atmosphere!

And the Surfer is doing just that, zooming DIRECTLY AT CAMERA, bobbing and weaving to avoid the ENERGY FIRE from the warships that give chase as:

EXT. PARLIAMENT BUILDING - THE PRIME MINISTER'S BALCONY - DAY

EXPLOSIONS SOUND O.S., and citizens SCREAM. The Prime Minister whirls from the viewscreen to see the Surfer diving down and grabbing him under each arm.

SILVER SURFER
Prime Minister Zarek, I would have a word with you --

ANOTHER ANGLE
On the viewscreen, the Supreme Intelligence's tentacles wave angrily. Beyond it, ELECTRONIC SYNAPSES ZAP like lightning.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
Silver Surfer!?

SILVER SURFER
And you alone!

The Surfer FIRES A COSMIC BOLT, destroying the viewscreen. We ANGLE WITH him as, CREATING AN ENERGY BUBBLE around Zarek, he sweeps skyward, heading for:

EXT. SPACE OVER KREE-LAR - SEVERAL KREE BATTLE CRUISERS

ROARING through the upper atmosphere. The SIREN SOUND IS SO LOUD it's almost overwhelming as:

CITY (O.S.)
Do not fire! The Silver Surfer has taken the Prime Minister...

We ANGLE to the Surfer and Zarek, speeding past the deadly ships.

CITY (O.S.)
(continuing)
Stay with them. Track where they go --

ANOTHER ANGLE

Zarek pounds on the ENERGY BUBBLE uselessly.

ZAREK
Silver Surfer, where are you taking me? This is not like you!

SILVER SURFER
People change, Zarek. Just as you must change too!

And with a burst of speed the Surfer leaves the Kree ships as though they're standing still, he and the Prime Minister FORESHORTENING INTO WARP as we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLANET OF TARNAX IV - NIGHT

PANNING ACROSS THE COMPLICATED CITY TO the Royal Palace, hive-like center of the Skrull Federation, as:

KIAR (O.S.)
Does your ineptitude know no bounds? It's been months since the Silver Surfer took the Royal Egg...

INT. ROYAL PALACE - PRIME MINISTER'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

The utmost in Skrull luxury. Skrull PRIME MINISTER KIAR stands before a viewscreen, glaring at ADMIRAL ZEDRAO, who is
somewhere in space on the bridge of his ship.

KIAR
Why can't you find it?

ZEDRAO
I'm doing my best, Kiar!

KIAR
Just remember -- if the future Skrull Mother falls under the wrong influence we'll both end up planetary fertilizer!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly, a SERIES OF ALARMS SCREECH, O.S., along with the SOUND OF ENERGY WEAPONS -- and the IMAGE on the viewscreen splits in two, the face of another Skrull officer appearing beside Zedrao:

SKRULL OFFICER
Prime Minister! We are attacked --!

As the Officer speaks, a COSMIC BOLT SMASHES through a wall, the Silver Surfer soaring in.

SILVER SURFER
I would request an audience, Prime Minister Kiar, but I have no patience for bureaucracy these days --

ZEDRAO
Kiar...!

SKRULL OFFICER
Prime Minister --!

The Surfer FIRES ANOTHER COSMIC BOLT, destroying this viewscreen as he did the other. Before Kiar can say a word, the Surfer snatches him up, ENCASING him in an ENERGY BUBBLE and sweeping back out to:

EXT. SPACE OVER TARNAX IV - A MINE FIELD

As the Surfer slaloms through it with Kiar. Behind them, the mines EXPLODE like a series of mousetraps, first one going off, then another, then all the rest! As the Surfer continues, Kiar SHAPE-SHIFTS into a METAL-SKINNED BEING and POUNDS on the ENERGY BUBBLE without any effect.

KIAR
Where are you taking me? This isn't like you!

SILVER SURFER
Truly is it amazing, how alike politicians are...

With that wry remark, the Surfer FORESHORTENS INTO WARP and we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS - NIGHT
Barren and forbidding, like Earth's moon with an atmosphere — but many times larger. From O.S. we hear an indignant voice:

ZAREK (O.S.)
I am the Prime Minister of the Kree Empire!

As he calls out, we tighten on a wide, deep crater, pushing into its dark interior to:

INT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS — NIGHT

Camera moves through a labyrinth of narrow tunnels, lined with (and dimly lighted by) huge, glowing statues that look almost Egyptian in design. Again from O.S., we hear:

KIAR (O.S.)
I'm the Prime Minister of the Skrull Federation!

We turn a sharp corner to:

INT. AN INTERSECTION — NIGHT

Wider and higher than the rest of the tunnels. No longer in their energy bubbles, Zarek and Kiar stand nose to nose, while the angry Surfer circles over their heads.

ZAREK                 KIAR
My soldiers will grind you   My forces will rend you in
to dust!                   two!

SILVER SURFER
(roaring)
Enough!!!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Prime Ministers stop. The Surfer flies closer to them.

SILVER SURFER
You are here not to argue, but to put an end to the Kree-Skrull War!
After which will I return you to your people!

In spite of their situation, both Zarek and Kiar laugh.

ZAREK
Our conflict with the Skrull will end only when they bow before us!

KIAR
It can't stop until the Kree no longer exist —!

NEW ANGLE

Suddenly, the ground rumbles and shakes violently, throwing the two Prime Ministers into each other. In b.g., the statues tremble. The Surfer regards the two leaders icily.
SILVER SURFER (O.S.)
The civilization that inhabited this world abandoned it only recently...

Again the ground shakes, more violently now, and a statue CRASHES to the floor of the intersection. CRYING OUT WORDLESSLY, Zarek and Kiar go tumbling. In the air, the Surfer is untroubled.

SILVER SURFER (O.S.)
(continuing)
Upon discovering how unstable it was. In fact, their scientists predict that it will break up in mere hours!

(as another quake HITS)
Were I in your place I swiftly would reach an accord -- !

WIDER
The Surfer stops as from behind him come a ROAR and a CRASH! Terrified, the two Prime Ministers stare:

ZAREK
Silver Surfer, we may not even have that much time!

KIAR
We're all going to die here!

Whirling on his board, the Surfer SEES:

A BLAZING BALL OF GAS ERUPTING from the ground behind him. So huge we can't SEE it all, the ball of gas BURNS LIKE A MINIATURE SUN, spouting streams of FIRE and LAVA!

REVERSE ANGLE
The sides of the tunnel MELT away instantly, and the roof starts to fall in. Involuntarily, the Surfer throws up his hands, and Earth and FLAME COVER him and the others, making it impossible for US to SEE anything else as the Prime Ministers SCREAM and we

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - MEADOW OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY - DAY - THANOS' ENERGY FIELD

HOLDING ON only the PURPLE EDGE OF THE FIELD as it DIMS, THEN BRIGHTENS, THEN VANISHES AND REAPPEARS as:
THANOS (O.S.)
No! I will not fight you...!

We WIDEN TO SEE Thanos standing in the PURPLE ENERGY FIELD. He stares in pain at:

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

Where his evil IMAGE is BLASTING PURPLE BEAM AFTER PURPLE BEAM AT CAMERA! It speaks in the Deep Voice:

DEEP VOICE
You are fighting, fool! Your mind is torn asunder, because you fight yourself!

BACK TO THANOS

Staggering and reeling as though from blow after blow -- even though we can SEE no battle now. He tries to gather himself, closing his eyes in deep concentration -- and the PURPLE ENERGY FIELD VANISHES completely. Thanos goes tumbling to the ground, looks up at:

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

Where the IMAGE has stopped FIRING. Again, it LAUGHS.

DEEP VOICE
You see, imposter? You cannot defeat me. Shackled in your subconscious though the real Thanos has been -- still am I filled with chaos' raging power!

BACK TO THANOS

Staring at what seems to be nothing. Weakly:

THANOS
The "real" Thanos? Then what am I?

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

The evil Thanos smiles widely:

DEEP VOICE
Nothing, now. Nothing at all!

And again he BLASTS, the BLAST FILLING THE SCREEN as we

CUT TO:

INT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS - AN INTERSECTION - NIGHT

Filled by the sun-like BLAZING ball of gas, its FIERY STREAMERS igniting the huge pile of earth that has filled the area where the Surfer, Zarek, and Kiar were.

Suddenly, the ball of gas EXPLODES, destroyed, and what's left of the tunnel collapses -- as, FIRING TWIN COSMIC BOLTS, the Silver Surfer soars out of the center of where the ball once was. Flying behind him is another ENERGY BUBBLE,
carrying the two Prime Ministers to:

EXT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS - NIGHT

As the Surfer BLASTS his way to the surface, bringing Zarek and Kiar with him! He circles at a low altitude, the entire planet RUMBLING and SHUDDERING beneath him.

ZAREK
Silver Surfer, you have made your point. Now return us to our homes!

SILVER SURFER
Do you still not understand...?

The Surfer gestures, and the ENERGY BUBBLE DISAPPEARS, spilling the two men out onto the ground.

SILVER SURFER
(continuing)
Unless you bring peace to the universe...

WIDER

A huge piece of the planet breaks off, and shoots out toward space.

SILVER SURFER
Never will you see Kree-Lar or Tarnax Four again!

Across the landscape, another BALL OF FIERY GAS ERUPTS from the ground, and beyond it more of the planet breaks off with a ROAR and heads out to space. The world is now less than two-thirds the size it was before!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Zarek and Kiar stare at the devastation, and Kiar shakes his fist at the Surfer.

KIAR
Have you lost all reason? This plan of yours is insane!

SILVER SURFER
This is a universe of unreason!
And now I know that to prevail I must become the most unreasoning of all!

He unleashes another COSMIC BOLT, and it kicks yet another piece of the Planet of the Monoliths out to space. Zarek and Kiar shudder, but before they can say anything we hear:

THANOS (O.S.)
Silver Surfer...I need you...

THE SILVER SURFER
Skids to a stop in the air. He looks around in puzzlement.
SILVER SURFER

Thanos?

Like a searchlight, one of Thanos' PURPLE BEAMS appears before the Surfer. Within it is the IMAGE of Thanos. But when he speaks it's as:

DEEP VOICE
Thank the gods I have found you!
You must return immediately,
Silver Surfer. Zenn-La faces
great peril!

The PURPLE BEAM and the IMAGE of Thanos VANISH. Quickly, the Surfer calls out:

SILVER SURFER

Thanos!

WIDER

The Surfer turns to the others.

SILVER SURFER
I will return -- to learn the
terms of your agreement!

Before they can respond, the Surfer soars upward.

ZAREK         KIAR
Come back!        Do not leave us!

But it's too late. The Surfer streaks into space, out of sight. We TIGHTEN ON Zarek and Kiar as, reluctantly, they turn to each other.

ZAREK
Even if we wanted to negotiate,
ending the war will not be easy.

KIAR
We've been fighting so long, it's
as though the war has a life of
its own!

They're interrupted by a new RUMBLE that sends both men falling to the ground --

A NEARBY PIECE OF GROUND
Breaks away and heads out to space.

ZAREK AND KIAR
The shaking stops, and they get up cautiously.

KIAR
(reluctantly)
I suppose it hurts no one to talk.

Zarek considers.

ZAREK
Not as much as it will hurt not to...

His thought is punctuated by more RUMBLING. Again, Zarek and Kiar hit the ground, while we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE NEW STAR SYSTEM - THE SILVER SURFER

WARPING INTO the system.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
For Thanos to use his mental powers to call me, the situation on Zenn-La must be dangerous indeed!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Surfer nears Zenn-La. Over the planet is another Kree fleet -- FIRING at the Surfer's homeworld!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
The Kree have returned?! How can that be? I scattered them so far that never should they have found their way back!

The Surfer increases his speed, calling out:

SILVER SURFER
Warriors of the Kree! Cease your attack on Zenn-La!

The Kree don't respond, their FIRING CONTINUING. The Surfer FIRES A COSMIC BOLT at:

THE NEAREST SHIP

The BOLT hits it -- and the ship DISSOLVES without a trace...or an EXPLOSION!

THE SILVER SURFER

Puzzled.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
My power cosmic has never done anything like that before! And yet the ship is gone!

All he can do is FIRE again!

ANOTHER KREE SHIP

Struck by the Surfer's next BOLT. It too DISSOLVES without an EXPLOSION.

THE SILVER SURFER

Still surprised. He slows, becoming more wary.
SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Again do I succeed -- when it seems I should not! What can be happening here?

And he FIRES A STEADY STREAM OF COSMIC BLASTS at:

THE KREE FLEET
Ship after ship is hit by COSMIC BOLTS, all of them DISSOLVING! The remaining ships continue FIRING at Zenn-La.

THE SILVER SURFER
Banks around the fleet.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
I have destroyed half the Kree ships, yet still do they not acknowledge me?!

Frustrated, he sweeps forward, and we WIDEN as the Surfer flies into the heart of the fleet, FIRING his COSMIC BOLTS. Again, the ships just DISSOLVE!

ANOTHER ANGLE
As the last ship DISSOLVES, a Skrull fleet WARPS IN, all around the Surfer. It too begins FIRING on Zenn-La!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
Now the Skrull return to fire on Zenn-La? While they too act as though I were not even here?

Swooping under the nearest Skrull ship, the Surfer looks to:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - ZENN-LA
As the Skrull ENERGY WEAPONS FIRE, we TIGHTEN TO SEE that in spite of all that is going on -- and has gone on -- the planet remains green and unscathed!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
The planet is undamaged! How can both the Kree and Skrull weapons have had no effect?

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER
He arcs upward and flies directly at the Skrull ship -- and it too DISSOLVES -- as soon as he touches it!

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
The ship was not there! Is it all an illusion!

Banking around, he barrels into the Skrull fleet once more -- and as soon as he reaches each ship it too DISSOLVES, until:

WIDER
The Surfer stands alone in space, all his potential foes gone.
SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
This was the peril Thanos alerted me to? Attacking vessels that are naught but energy images such as --

Suddenly he stops, and we TIGHTEN ON the Surfer’s face as he realizes:

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
Only he can make!

And, beginning to get the picture of what's really happening here, the Surfer soars toward Zenn-La!

SILVER SURFER
Thanos!!!
The Surfer enters the atmosphere, continuing downward, as we

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS - NIGHT - A CHUNK OF THE PLANET

HEADING DIRECTLY AT CAMERA as it breaks off and flies out to space. We ANGLE PAST IT TO:

ZAREK AND KIAR

Without realizing what they're doing, the two Prime Ministers each take a step toward the middle of what’s left of the planet (about one-third of its original size) -- and toward each other.

KIAR
Our space must be inviolate, Zarek! Before we discuss anything else, you must agree to honor the Skrull borders.

ZAREK
Borders you have violated ten times ten times ten thousand times!

ANOTHER ANGLE

More RUMBLING -- and the planet splits in two, right between the two men. Zarek loses his balance, and starts to fall into space --

ZAREK
(crying out)
I cannot breathe --

Kiar SHAPESHTIFTS, his entire torso and upper body stretching upward to grab his foe and pull him back. Zarek gasps, taking in a pair of deep, needed breaths.

KIAR
About our borders...
ZAREK
(nodding)
A small price to pay, for a war
that weighs so heavily -- on both
sides...

And as Kiar smiles back we

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - MEADOW OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY - DAY

As the Surfer sweeps down from the sky. A PURPLE BEAM hits
the board, knocking it from beneath the Surfer's feet.

SILVER SURFER
My board?!

The Surfer goes one way, the board another, both of them
CRASHING to the ground! The Surfer hits -- hard.

DEEP VOICE (O.S.)
No, Silver Surfer -- the board is
mine now...

THANOS

Glowering and evil, he glides from the Academy within his
PURPLE ENERGY FIELD. He points his finger, and a PURPLE BEAM
creates a similar FIELD around the Surfer's board. Then,
still speaking in the Deep Voice, Thanos turns to the Surfer.

(NOTE: At no time during this sequence should we see the
back of Thanos' head.)

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
As are you.

He points at the Surfer this time, and we WIDEN as another
PURPLE BEAM stabs out, surrounding his fallen foe in another
ENERGY FIELD.

SILVER SURFER
I should have known you could
never be trusted!

Rolling to his feet, the Surfer FIRES at the ENERGY FIELD.
SPARKS FLY -- but the FIELD stays intact!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Thanos LAUGHS.

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
Your battle with Zenn-La's
nonexistent invaders has sapped
you of your usual strength, Silver
Surfer -- exactly as I intended.
(beat)
And my energy field will keep you
from absorbing any new power.

The Surfer isn't buying. Again and again he FIRES at the
ENERGY FIELD that holds him.

SILVER SURFER
I cannot be held!  I will not be held!

The ENERGY FIELD WAVERs but stays in place, and the Surfer's next COSMIC BOLT SPUTTERS and dies. The Surfer slumps back, exhausted. Thanos continues to LAUGH:

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
It would seem that your self-confidence is misplaced...

NEW ANGLE

Thanos glides closer to his victim, holding out his arms. PURPLE ENERGY CRACKLES from his fingertips.

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
I will have my retribution now, Silver Surfer -- for all your crimes against me!

The Surfer tries to pull himself up as he did before --

SILVER SURFER
The only crimes that were committed, Thanos were yours!

He gets to his knees, and can go no further.

SILVER SURFER
(continuing)
You have misled all of Zenn-La about your true nature -- but how?

The CRACKLE becomes another PURPLE BEAM that envelopes the ENERGY FIELD in which the Surfer is trapped.

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
Because I too was misled...!

We TIGHTEN ON the Surfer, trying to block himself with his hands and arms as the PURPLE BEAM MOVES THROUGH THE ENERGY FIELD -- and ZAPS into him!

THANOS/DEEP VOICE (O.S.)
After you turned Lady Chaos against me and stole my victory over the universe itself...

CLOSE ON THANOS

Thanos smiles humorlessly, hitting the Surfer with more and more of his PURPLE BEAM

THANOS/DEEP VOICE
I was still so much a part of the creation of the new universe that my original personality remained alive -- a prisoner deep within the mind of a new alter ego...
CLOSE ON THE SILVER SURFER

Writhing as he is inundated by the PURPLE BEAM.

THANOS/DEEP VOICE (O.S.)
The only power great enough to release me was my own! And when this universe's Thanos was struck by it while you and he fought -- at last was I freed!

The Surfer is in a bad way. He turns from SILVER to GRAY as, through gritted teeth:

SILVER SURFER
What happened...to the second Thanos? Where...is he now?

CLOSE ON THANOS

At the question, Thanos' BEAM falters and stops. His head whirls around like that of a man literally possessed, and at last we SEE the back of it -- on which is ANOTHER THANOS' FACE!!! (NOTE: This should be completely sudden and unexpected -- very, very eerie.)

The kinder, gentler face speaks:

THANOS
I am here, Silver Surfer...!
(beat)
Please...help me...

THE SILVER SURFER AND THANOS

The Surfer forces himself all the way up to his feet, leans against the ENERGY FIELD that encloses him.

SILVER SURFER
(weakly)
Look upon me, Thanos -- a man who has worked wonders fit for a god!
I have created! I have preserved!

I have healed!
(sagging)
But now -- the only one who can purge the evil within you is -- you!

THANOS
But how? How...?

SILVER SURFER
Think, Thanos, think -- what would your foe do to you?

CLOSER ON THANOS

Figuring it out. He raises his hands toward his face -- and suddenly his head whirls again, exposing the evil face, as:
DEEP VOICE
DO NOT DO IT!!!

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

The IMAGE of the evil Thanos BLASTS AT CAMERA, A CONTINUOUS
STREAM OF PURPLE BEAMS!

BACK TO THANOS

Falling before an onslaught that only he can see! All his
reactions are those of a man being beaten by the strongest of
foes.

THE SILVER SURFER

Watching closely, calling out:

SILVER SURFER
Thanos! Remember -- what you see
is not real! You must act now --
while you have control of your
body -- !

THANOS

Fights to his knees. Again he lifts his hands and turns them
toward his chest -- FIRING HIS PURPLE BEAMS at himself!

THANOS' POV - DIRECTLY BEFORE HIM

PURPLE BEAMS EXPLODE against Thanos' evil IMAGE!

WIDER

As the entire meadow EXPLODES as well! We HOLD a suspenseful
beat as the PURPLE HAZE CLEARS, REVEALING the Surfer and
Thanos, and the Surfer's board lying on open ground. All the
PURPLE ENERGY FIELDS are gone!

THE SILVER SURFER

Groaning, he looks skyward, and his color changes again --
the SILVER RETURNING. He gets up, moves to Thanos, bending
down over him. Abruptly, Thanos' eyes snap open, and he
reaches out...only to clap the Surfer on the shoulder!

THANOS

Silver Surfer -- I did it! By
turning my power upon myself I
have forced the evil from my brain.

The Surfer tenses, looks at Thanos closely. He lets out a
deep breath:

SILVER SURFER

He must be gone. Were he not, I
would yet be fighting for my life.
(realizing)
"Fighting?" I must hurry while
there is still time!

The Surfer turns, calling out:
SILVER SURFER
(continuing)
To me, my board!

The board sails to the Surfer, who leaps upon it and starts heading away. We ANGLE WITH him and

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE PLANET OF THE MONOLITHS - NIGHT

All that remains of it is a small section with barely enough room for Zarek and Kiar to stand and cling to each other. The two Prime Ministers CRY OUT WORDLESSLY as their little patch of ground flies at another piece of the planet, the two about to crash, until:

THE SILVER SURFER

Sweeps to them, enveloping both beings in one large ENERGY BUBBLE and continuing on with them in tow. Behind them, the two pieces of planet collide EXPLOSIVELY!

KIAR
Silver Surfer!

SILVER SURFER
Am I correct in assuming you have completed your negotiations?

ZAREK
We have drafted a plan, Silver Surfer --

SILVER SURFER
Zarek, Kiar -- the whole universe will thank you!

And, as the Surfer and the others FORESHORTEN INTO WARP we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLANET OF TARNAX IV - DAY - THE SILVER SURFER

Flying over the city with Zarek and Kiar, bringing them to:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - PRIME MINISTER'S QUARTERS - DAY

The Surfer soars in with the two Prime Ministers, as:

ZEDRAO (O.S.)
Good morning, Kiar...

We WIDEN TO SEE Admiral Zedrao, surrounded by Skrull soldiers.

KIAR
Admiral Zedrao -- what's the meaning of this outrage?

ZEDRAO
Not an "outrage," Kiar -- a "coup." In your absence I've
taken command of the government.

SILVER SURFER
Kiar and Zarek have made a pact to end the War!

ZEDRAO
I'd have to repudiate anything like that, Silver Surfer. And, of course, the Kree would do the same.

Zedrao flicks on the viewscreen, and we TIGHTEN TO SEE the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE speaking out to the people of Kree-Lar from the capitol's many screens.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
Prime Minister Zarek has been replaced. Your new Prime Minister is --

ANOTHER ANGLE
Zedrao turns off the viewscreen, speaks to the soldiers:

ZEDRAO
Guards -- take these men into custody!

The Skrull soldiers start forward.

SILVER SURFER
I am the Silver Surfer! You will listen to me --

The Surfer FIRES A COSMIC BOLT that takes out the wall beside the soldiers, and they stop. The Surfer glares -- and sees:

THE SILVER SURFER'S POV - THE SKRULL SOLDIERS
Their eyes are wide with fear, and their bodies tremble, yet they stand their ground.

BACK TO THE SILVER SURFER
His expression softens. In spite of himself, he shakes his head. With the "former" Prime Ministers still in tow, he turns and soars from the palace.

ZEDRAO
Stop them!

We HOLD ON the soldiers, rushing after the Surfer and FIRING their ENERGY WEAPONS to no avail as we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLANET OF ZENN-LA - THE SCULPTURE GARDEN - THE STATUE OF NORRIN RADD

As a TRANSFORMATION BEAM hits it -- turning the statue into one of Shalla Bal. We WIDEN TO SEE the Surfer finishing his work of art from where he stands in the air on his board,
just above Thanos, whose feet are firmly on the ground.

SILVER SURFER
Suddenly I realized that in my

grief for Shalla Bal I was being
	a tyrant! Like the Supreme
Intelligence, or Zedrao, or --

The Surfer breaks off, but Thanos knows where he’s headed:

THANOS
Or Thanos. True peace cannot be
imposed, Silver Surfer. It must
come from within. You did the
right thing by trying to stop the
war.

(beat)
And by realizing you could not.

SILVER SURFER
And I do the right thing now.

(circling new statue)
This world bears too many memories
of sorrow and loss. My place is
beyond!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Surfer flies skyward. Behind him, Thanos calls out:

THANOS
But without you, who will be the
new Master of Zenn-La?

SILVER SURFER
(calling down)
You are a courageous man, Thanos,
and a wise one. Is there anyone
else who could do the job as well?

The Surfer soars out of sight, and we HOLD ON Thanos as he
stares, overwhelmed by the implications. Then:

KIAR (O.S.)
Master...!

Thanos turns, and we WIDEN TO SEE a group of students heading
to him -- led by Zarek and Kiar.

ZAREK
We await your bidding.

And, as Thanos waves them forward:

EXT. SPACE OVER ZENN-LA - THE Silver SURFER

Flying TOWARD CAMERA. He shoots off and circles the planet,
taking one last look.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
I hope those on Zenn-La find the
answers they seek...
The Surfer and his board start away from the planet, moving through the star system.

SILVER SURFER (V.O.)
(continuing)
I search elsewhere to ease my troubled soul. Such is the price the Silver Surfer must pay!

And, as he FORESHORTENS INTO WARP, we

FADE OUT:

THE END