

THE SILVER SURFER

REBIRTH

(FORMERLY: BATTLE CRY)

(#2147-17)

WRITTEN BY

LARRY BRODY

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.

NEBULA

(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 deflectors...!

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 to dust!	My forces will rend you in 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	KIAR
Silver Surfer, we may not	We're all going to die here!
even have that much time!	

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

Come back!

KIAR

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 SHAPESHIFTS, 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

Glowing 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

