

Tales That Astonished

The Coming of GALACTUS!



The most requested Marvel tale of all time! The Galactus Trilogy! Who says so? Only Stan 'the Man' Lee, that's all.

Stan had long since christened the Fantastic Four as the World's Greatest Comic Magazine and, hey, he was right! Witness the classic Hulk v Thing battle in FF #25 - 26! Here you have a very popular hero versus a savage villain – and the hero loses! There was no standoff, no cop out. The Thing lost! Far below the Hulk's power. Now when did that ever happen?

Or the Inhumans. An isolated group of super-humans that were neither heroes nor villains – they just didn't like the human race.

Or Doctor Doom - the most popular villain of all time. What more could Stan Lee and Jack Kirby bring to comics?

Well, how about the Silver Surfer! The mysterious Watcher (yep, Stan and Jack had already brought this amazing character in), fearful of Galactus' power sought to hide the Earth from his star-spanning herald, the Silver Surfer through a series of rocks and fire in the sky. When the Fantastic Four tries to investigate, what do the good people of New York do? Why blame the FF of course!



It's no use though. The Surfer finds the Earth has all the nutrients needed to sustain his master and signals to Galactus – just before he gets a right hook from the Thing!

And so Galactus arrives at the end of FF #48 – a very valuable book! The following issue has the classic Stan Lee title of 'If This Be Doomsday!' Here we learn the difference between Galactus and a super-villain. He has no ill will to the people of the Earth – they are just of no consequence. The Surfer however, is learning the opposite!

After being clobbered by the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing, the Silver Surfer is being cared for by Alicia Masters – Benjamin J. Grimm's girlfriend.



Chrome Dome begins to understand that, although Galactus must survive, all life is sacred. Including those that rely on his dinner! A momentous decision is made – the Silver Surfer attacks Galactus!

So the former herald lines up with the FF to battle the Planet Devourer – but this was no ordinary slugfest. Despite possessing the full power cosmic, the Surfer was no match for Galactus. Nor was the combined might of the FF. Unlike practically every comic before (or indeed since), there was no regrouping so that there combined might would overcome. Their power was nothing compared to the Big Guy.

Only the breaking of the vow of the Watcher could possibly save the Earth. So, in essence, the heroes lost! How often has that ever happened?

Instead, the Human Torch is guided to the Ultimate Nullifier – a weapon capable of destroying the Universe!

Reluctantly, Galactus agrees to leave Earth but he has one final gift to the Surfer for his betrayal – to be confined to Earth!



The Surfer retains his Power Cosmic as a curse – his alien nature and total power makes him feared by friend and foe alike. And so begins another legend. As for the FF, they then explored the Negative Zone with Annihilus and Blastaar – well, it was the World's Greatest Comic Magazine!

