

EXHIBIT GG

THE COLLECTED JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR VOL. 5

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A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE: PART TWO

by Mike Garthand (featuring Jack's uninked pencils from Fantastic Four #49)

THE FABULOUS F.F. FACE THE MOST POWERFUL FOE OF ALL!

"IF THIS BE DOOMSDAY!"

GALACTUS HAS LANDED ON EARTH! ANY ADDITIONAL WORDS OF OURS WOULD SIMPLY FALL BESIDE THE AWESOME PORTENT OF THAT ONE STAGGERING PHRASE! GALACTUS HAS LANDED ON EARTH... AND HUMANITY ITSELF TOTTERS ON THE BRINK OF ... DOOMSDAY!

GALACTUS HAS SEEN THE WATCHER! THEY'RE FACING EACH OTHER! STAY BACK! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

HE'S A GIANT! HE SEEMS TO BE POWER PERSONIFIED! WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US??

THE WATCHER IS SPEAKING TO HIM! THEY ACT LIKE THEY KNOW EACH OTHER!

IF WE'RE GONNA HAVETA TACKLE HIM, THIS WILL BE A GOOD TIME TO GIT INTO SOME OTHER KINDA BUSINESS!

IF YA ASK ME, THAT BOZO LOOKS LIKE HE COULD PULVERIZE THE WATCHER WITH HIS EYES SHUT!



WRITTEN IN THE MASTERFUL MANNER OF **STAN LEE!**

ILLUSTRATED IN THE MAGNIFICENT MANNER OF **JACK KIRBY!**

INKED IN THE MAJESTIC MANNER OF **JOE SINNOTT!**

LETTERED IN THE NICK OF TIME BY **S. ROSEN**

What can be written about Galactus that hasn't been expressed already by historians far more informed and eloquent than I? But let's start off within the context of this issue's theme: Is he a villain? By textbook definition he is not; he's more of an adversary or antagonist, and given the previous opponents super-heroes had fared up to his appearance, he represents either the ultimate adversary or antagonistic overkill — take your pick!

Galactus is a prime example of the thinking man's opponent: i.e. an adversary that is so powerful it quickly becomes apparent that physical opposition will do no good in subduing him. A plan has to be devised or a way found to defeat him. In earlier stories for Marvel, Jack played with the notion of an alien visitor of enormous power, but they were more or less misguided (Impossible Man or Infant Terrible), or they posed no threat to mankind (the Stranger). Galactus, on the other hand, is not misguided — quite the contrary; because of his very reason for being, he poses the ultimate threat to mankind.

In interviews, Jack would say that "Galactus was God"; I always wondered if Jack really meant God. Granted, Galactus was definitely a "god" but surely not *The* God. To speculate, perhaps Jack was saying that if super-heroes were ever to face God, Galactus would be about as great an adversary as they could encounter. Super-heroes have faced aliens before, and powerful ones too; but it was the

OPENING SCENE: ON ROOF OF EMERALD BUILDING, THE F.F. WATCH



BEN SLAMS GALACTUS' FOOT--IT'S TO WRECK A CITY BLOCK--

BEN STARES IN DISBELIEF--AS GALACTUS DROPS A STRANGE



TORCH IS SORE - GOES FOR GALACTUS

HE SHOOT'S A REAL HOT ONE AT THE CREATURE

If you compare these panels to the published stories, you'll see how maker Joe Sinnott — as he mentioned way back in *IF* #9 — took a few liberties in his inking, including altering Reed's, Sue's, & Johnny's faces during this early *IF* period.

way Jack interpreted Galactus to the reader that made him the first space god. How he was introduced made all the difference to the history of comics. His coming heralded by not one, but two powerful alien before he even arrives, telling the reader in essence that this was no your typical visiting alien menace; this is *the* menace; this is *IT!*

Jack introduced Galactus in *IF* #48; the second half of the book is utilized to prepare readers for his arrival, which culminates with the last page. This gives

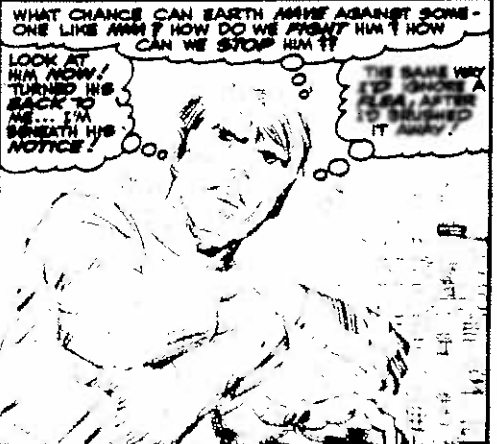
you an idea of what Jack was thinking about; devoting half an issue just to prepare the reader was saying something about this character. Things really get moving with

#49 and we are very fortunate to have these uninked pencils from that historic story. As opposed to my article last issue, there is no failure to communicate between Kirby and Lee on this storyline. Stan followed Jack's direction without making major changes, and the story flows beautifully because Lee stuck to Kirby's plotting — and let there be no mistake about who plotted and paced this story. Despite whatever input Stan might or might not've had at the conceptual phase, these margin notes show the action and dramatic impact of this pivotal episode in Marvel's history begin with Kirby. But while Jack was the "father" of Galactus, we shall see — to his credit — Lee may have been his savior.

As far as Silver Age Marvel history is con-



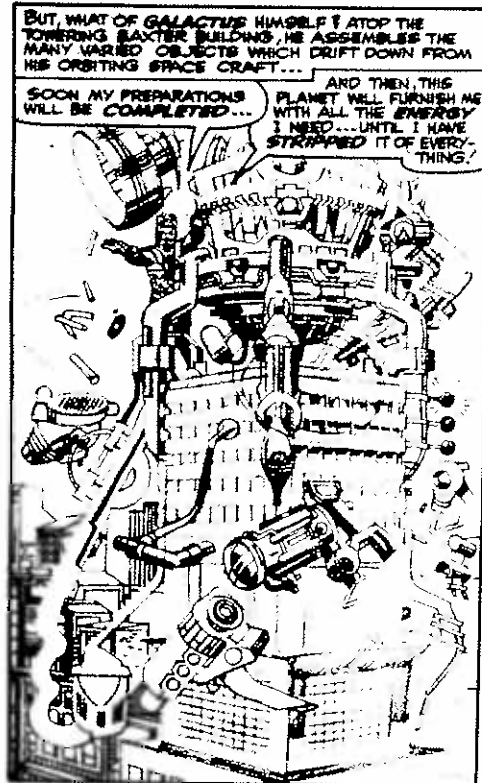
THE THICK SMOKE ENVELOPED TORCH AND HE HAS TO FLAME OFF



FLAME GODS FLY AND HEAT

WATCHER SAYS TO TORCH--60

ORBITING SPACE CRAFT--



BUT, WHAT OF GALACTUS HIMSELF? ATOP THE TOWERING BAXTER BUILDING, HE ASSEMBLES THE MANY VARIED OBJECTS WHICH DRIFT DOWN FROM HIS ORBITING SPACE CRAFT...

AND THEN, THIS PLANET WILL FURNISH ME WITH ALL THE ENERGY I NEED... UNTIL I HAVE STRIPPED IT OF EVERY THING.

SOON MY PREPARATIONS WILL BE COMPLETED...



THE STREETS ARE FLOWING BELOW... EVEN THE COURSE TO MAKE OF IT'S THE LAST JOB!

YOU'RE RIGHT! STAY HERE, BEN! BEN AND I WILL TACKLE HIM FIRST! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

NO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!

IT'S AN ORDER, LADY! IN CASE WE DON'T MAKE IT... IT'LL BE UP TO YOU AND JOHNNY!

BEN SAYS - I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL HE IS-- WE GOTTA FIGHT

STAY -- TORCH IS TAKING BATH



THEN, ALL THAT WILL REMAIN SHALL BE FOR ME TO SEARCH THE COSMOS FOR MORE, UNTIL I HAVE FOUND ANOTHER SUCH PLANET... AS I HAVE DONE FOR ALL THESE AGES.

THAT GUY MAKES DR. DOOM SEEM LIKE A PEEWE! WHAT IN BLAZES IS HE DOING UP THERE?

PREPARING TO CONVERT THE LIFE ESSENCE FOUND ON EARTH INTO SOME ENERGY FORM FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT! WE CAN'T LET HIM GO ANY FURTHER!

BUT REED... HOW CAN WE STOP HIM?



HOWEVER, BEFORE THE DETERMINED, DEDICATED DUO CAN REACH THEIR OBJECTIVE, THEY ARE BLOCKED BY THE AWESOME, IMPOSING FIGURE OF... THE WATCHER!

WAIT! YOU MUST RECONSIDER! YOUR STRENGTH IS NOT YET THE EQUAL OF YOUR COURAGE! BEFORE YOU PRESS BLINDLY FORWARD, YOU MUST HEAR THE WORDS I SPEAK...

BUT THERE'S NO MORE TIME FOR SPEAKING! GALACTUS MUST BE STOPPED... AND IT MUST BE NOW!

YOU'RE PRETTY BRIS IN THE TALKIN' DEPARTMENT, BUT NO CORNBALL SNEECHY IS GONNA STOP THAT NUT ON THE ROOF!

NO, BEN! WAIT! WE MUST HEAR HIM OUT!

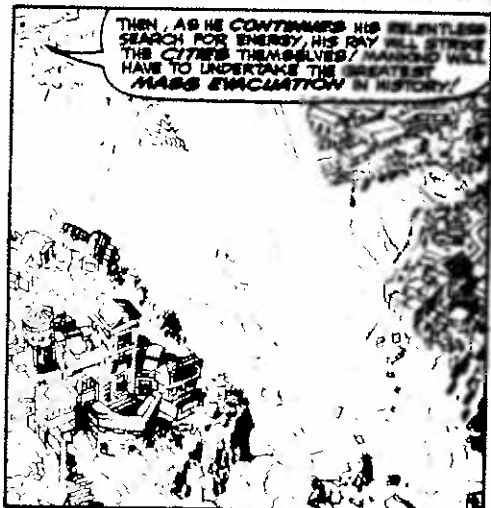
THEY CONFRONTED BY THINKER-- HE SAYS HOLD IT-- DON'T TACKLE

cerned, there is the period before Galactus and the period after. With the introduction of this character, Jack entered into a period of cosmic creativity; granted he was always creating technological wonderment, but now he was incorporating the Universe in many of his ideas. After Galactus came Sub-Space, the Kree, the Colonizers, Ego the Living Planet, even the Trolls in *Thor* had Orkai -- a powerful alien -- in their company. It was space-age mythology fathered by Kirby, and Kirby's new "Zeus" was Galactus.

Jack has said that after creating Galactus he had to "step back from him." According to historian Mark Evanier, Kirby never meant for Galactus to be a recurring menace à la Dr. Doom. He might use him again, but only sparingly, so as to maintain the awesome nature of the character. Needless to say, Galactus became an immediate hit with the readers of the time. Ever in touch with the fan base, Lee undoubtedly heard their pleas for his return. According to Evanier, after prompting from Stan, Jack brought Galactus back in not only *Fantasia Four*, but *Thor* as well. So thanks to Lee (and the fans), we have more great Kirby Galactus stories and art than probably would have existed otherwise.

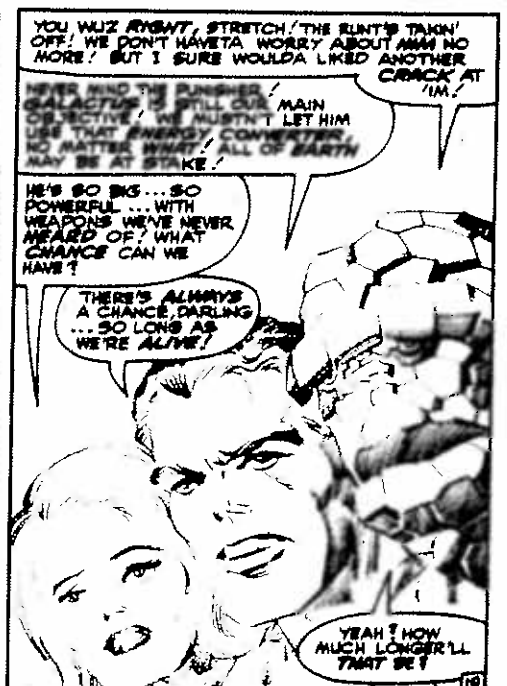
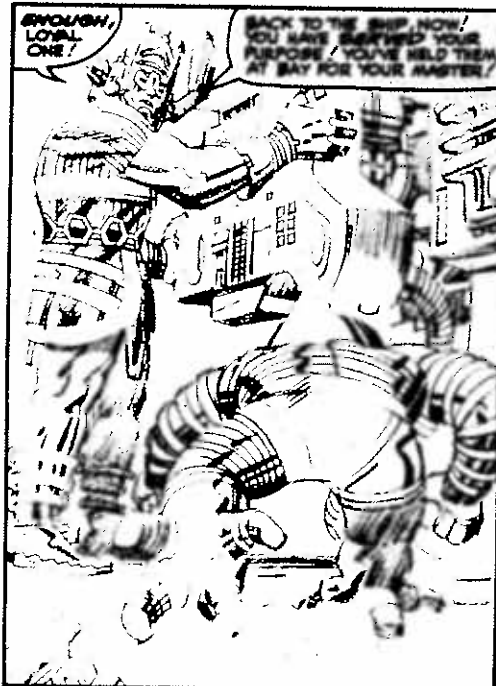
Before returning Galactus to the FF, Jack added a small cameo to his *Thor*

14 SHORT SCENES
-GLAS HE'S LIKE A PROSPECTOR OF SPACE -- INSTEAD OF GOLD -- HE DIGS FOR ENERGY



THE OCEAN BEDS WILL BE BONE DRY IN NO TIME FLAT

THE RAY WILL FLOW ACROSS THE EARTH'S SURFACE AND ENTIRE CITIES



GALACTUS WHISTLES FOR BRUTE HE SAYS -- YOU GOT THE PESTS AT BAY -- THEY'LL HOLD FOR AWHILE 198

REED SAYS -- GALACTUS' OVER-CONFIDENCE IS OUR ONLY WEAPON -- HE'S GIVING US THE CHANCE TO FIND A NEW

THE AWESOME GALACTUS STUDIES AREA --
SCOUTED IT BEFORE -- BUT NOW SEES NOTHING --
EXCEPT HE FEELS WAVES OF THOUGHT PRESENT



I HAVE
PROBED THIS
WAY
BEFORE...

FOR MALICIOUS
REMAINS...
SAVE SILENT
DESOLATION!

AND YET... I
SENSE A SUBTLE
WAVE OF THOUGHT
...A DIM BUT PROBING
AURA OF VAST
INTELLIGENCE!

I MUST
LEARN
HOW!

WHAT GALACTUS
ANSWERS... HE CAN
ONLY
VAST
UNKNOWN DOES
DWELL?

Thor #160 page (with outstanding inks by Colletta); again, Stan closely follows Jack's lead when dialoguing.

Ego story in *Thor* #134; just as Thor leaves the Black Galaxy (where Ego dwells) we see the great Galactus appear. He is scanning the Black Galaxy, whetting our appetite for a Galactus/Ego confrontation. Jack then "steps back" from Galactus, not using him again until Lee requests a Galactus story in *FF*. Jack eventually returns to the Galactus/Ego "seed" he planted in *Thor* #160, more than two years later, finally bringing his classic mythological figures and space god together for several stories. The Ego story leads to an "Origin of Galactus" plotline that eventually culminates in *Thor* #169.

Jack touches on the origin story in *Thor* #162 but then leaves it, not returning to it until #168. It is unclear why this is so: Evanier feels that

it's enough to scare the hell out of you — not so much when you read it as a kid, ironically. Only as "rational" adults do we realize how scary this concept is. And the topper is you can't condemn him without condemning yourself. So in the end we see man as an extension of God; but in the long run Galactus — God — is an extension of man. Galactus is man, pushed to the ultimate degree; a terrifying concept indeed! ★

(Next issue: Part Three of "A Failure to Communicate" with the Silver Surfer caught between Kirby & Lee, and more great uninked pencils from *FF* #49!)

Jack definitely wanted to pen the origin of this character. But there was, by this time, a failure to communicate with Lee, who may have had his own ideas of the character's beginnings. As seen in *IJKC* #14, when the Galactus sequence was completed, there were many unused pages left over, but none of them pertained to the origin part of the storyline itself; so Jack was at least able to put an origin in before "losing" the character to someone else — or leaving Marvel, which he did less than a year later. (It's still unclear how much of the published origin was Jack's idea, and how much was Stan's.)

At the end of the unpublished pages from the origin sequence, Kirby was going to have Galactus battle alongside Thor; perhaps Jack scrapped the idea, or Stan (wisely) rejected it, thinking that it would lead to the character's denigration (which, as we have seen from subsequent stories after Jack left — and overuse of the character — it probably would have). In my opinion, to this day no one has yet been able to capture the awesome nature of Galactus as well as his creator, Jack Kirby.

What made Galactus so riveting a character? From the outset, everyone who knows of him before he appears is rendered in characterizations of fear, dread, and awe: The Skrulls, the Watcher (whom we already knew to be an extremely powerful character), and even after Galactus appears, the Surfer as well. In the uninked splash to *FF* #49 we see how awestruck the *FF* are — much moreso than in the inked version. Most telling was the reaction of the everyday people scattered throughout the storyline. This was indeed the coming of a god — Kirby's god — and it terrified plenty.

What made Galactus so terrifying? Was it his power? The fact that he could destroy the entire planet? Probably in part — but what made him terrifying to me was more psychological: The fact that Galactus did not even recognize that man existed, or cared if he existed, or needed to exist; the fact that Galactus made man look at himself and say "I kill what I need (or want) to survive; not bothering to rationalize if what I kill has a right to live." Heck, we don't worry about a carrot's right to life, so when we realize that we are as little to Galactus as a carrot is to us,