



The Silver Surfer: Rebirth of Thanos

Jim Starlin , Scott Edelman , Ron Lim (Illustrator) , Mike Zeck (Illustrator)

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The quest that led to Infinity Gauntlet begins here! Back from the dead, Thanos is after the power to bring the rest of the universe with him on a return trip! Can the Silver Surfer, Drax the Destroyer and others stop the cosmic iconoclast before he uses reality as a token of his affection for Death? Special guest-appearance by the Impossible Man! Featuring a rare Thanos solo story not seen in almost thirty years! Collects Silver Surfer #34-38, Thanos: Infinity Quest #1-2, Logan's Run #6.

The Silver Surfer: Rebirth of Thanos Details

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From Reader Review The Silver Surfer: Rebirth of Thanos for online ebook

Aaron says

In 1977, an epic battle for the powers of the six soul gems (named Infinity Gems by the cosmic villain Thanos) resulted in the apparent deaths of cosmic hero Adam Warlock and Thanos. In this collection from 1990, Thanos is resurrected by Death to correct a perceived universal imbalance, which the Silver Surfer witnesses. Death has determined that the universe is becoming overpopulated, possibly leading to total extinction, and charges Thanos with killing half of its inhabitants as a culling measure. Naturally, the Surfer opposes this plan. Eventually, Thanos creates the Infinity Gauntlet out of the stolen Infinity Gems and prepares to begin the culling.

A useful lead-in to Infinity Gauntlet, showing some background on the return of Thanos, his new mission, the full story of his acquisition of the Gems from their guardians, and some of the characters featured in the next part of the story. Considering most of the background provided feels essential, it seems like it should have been a part of the Infinity Gauntlet miniseries. Catching up with the Surfer was entertaining and encounters with the Impossible Man and Drax the Destroyer provided a little levity in the Surfer's quest.

Adam Spanos says

This is a great Silver Surfer storyline that I believe prepare the Silver Surfer for the crossover event "The Infinity Gauntlet". This story is about the Silver Surfer confronts the resurrecting Thanos who's seeking the Infinity Gauntlet to control time, space & reality. Oh and Thanos also fell in love with Death. And of course, the Silver Surfer have his run in with the Impossible Man & Drax the Destroyer as he attempts to stop Thanos. It also features cameo appearances from She-Hulk, Captain America & the Human Torch (of the Fantastic Four). It also includes the two-part miniseries "Thanos Quest" which features Thanos seeking out the Infinity Gauntlet & the Infinity Gems that led to the crossover story "The Infinity Gauntlet" and bonus pages from "Logan's Run #6" which features Thanos & Drax the Destroyer.

This is a great comic book storyline that soars the 90s

David says

2nd or third re-read and it gets more enjoyable every time. Another Marvel essential. It a must read run-up to the Infinity Gauntlet story. No, that's not right. It's not a run-up. It's part of the same story. It merely happens to be published in a separate paperback. It is printed together in the Infinity Gauntlet Omnibus, as it should be. It's such a short wee thing like IG is. Marvel ought to start printing the two together, rolled into one volume, in paperback.

It's a solid classic. Ron Lim at the pencils but Starlin does the story. So that's a bit of a change as to what came before. We're out of Starlin's best years as an artist. He'll do great work at this point forward in time. None will hold a candle to his earlier work, pencil and ink-wise.

Infinity Gauntlet is the next book in this series.

Alazzar says

Thanos is a self-loathing, insecure misanthrope. Basically, he's me. Which doesn't really explain why I liked reading about him so much, but here we are.

After reading *The Infinity Gauntlet*, I wanted to see just *how* Thanos got that super-powered glove of his. After having finished both books, I kind of wish I'd read them in order, but the experience was still enjoyable this way.

I liked *Rebirth of Thanos* more than *Infinity Gauntlet* for some reason, though I can't really say why. I think maybe it was just fun to watch Thanos's calculating intelligence as he gathers the infinity gems (either by force or trickery, as the situation demanded). Whereas, in *Infinity Gauntlet*, he just galaxy-punches everything to death because he's essentially a god.

If I had a major complaint about this book, it's the ridiculous exposition. It's not really the same as Chris Claremont's brand (which centers more around characters explaining all their physical actions to the reader)-rather, in the case of Starlin's characters, they feel the need to detail everything they're thinking to the reader, because apparently that's the only way we can get plot points across. There's even a part where Thanos essentially breaks the 4th wall to tell the reader what *really* just happened: he's not talking to anyone (not even himself, it seems), and is basically saying, "By the way, here's what's up."

Still, it was a fun book, and I look forward to reading more about Thanos and the Infinity Gems in the future.

EDIT: I forgot to mention the art. I loved the art, if not just because all the cosmic backgrounds were so colorful and creative and awesome.

Kurt says

This book is only for fans of Starlin's cosmic Marvel stories, specifically stories drawn by Ron Lim that relate to the Infinity Gauntlet. If you like gritty tales and realistic dialogue, then this is not a book for you. This is about zooming through space and grappling with cosmic entities and making grand pronouncements with not a trace of humor (highlighted, oddly enough, by a "humor" interlude where the Impossible Man makes painfully unfunny jokes for a few pages to try to get the Silver Surfer to lighten up) but with plenty of awe and curiosity. This is about Thanos returning to the Marvel Universe to get things ready for the big Infinity Gauntlet event. This is about differentiating the "soul gems" into the unique infinity gems that warm my heart to this day (and probably provide inexplicable joy to anyone with any love for Marvel's cosmic stories). The story itself certainly isn't essential - it's a reintroduction of some characters and concepts, clearly just to set the stage for a bigger story to follow - but it's a truly wonderful read for anyone who liked the Infinity events and Jim Starlin, and I love it.

Robert Rohwer says

Really interesting story, great art, awesome ending!

This story arch starts by following Silver Surfer, and then follows Thanos for the majority of the book. It's a fun, mind-bending story about Thanos' quest for the Infinity Stones. It's fun to learn about each stone's powers and to see Thanos cheat and trick his way to each one. I'm now really intrigued to see how the next Avengers film will be set up and if they will explore the origins and powers of each stone as much as this story did.

The_Mad_Swede says

It was 1990, and Jim Starlin returned to Marvel's cosmic arena, which he once helped establish. Taking over *The Silver Surfer*, he not only produced a very fine 18-issue run together with artist Ron Lim, starting with the five issues collected in this volume (#34–38) and lasting until issue #52 (#39 being a fill-in issue by Alan Grant and James Sherman).

The five-issue arc "The Rebirth of Thanos" not only showed that Starlin was back, but that he had brought along what is arguably his best contribution to the Marvel universe: Thanos of Titan.

For fans of Starlin's earlier work, this was a bright day. Thanos had first appeared in an issue of *Iron Man* by Starlin, but had then quickly been drawn into his run on *Captain Marvel* and then played an integral part in his *Warlock* saga, both of which established Starlin as a great storyteller within the cosmic superhero genre.

Thanos had met his demise in those earlier adventures, but being a nihilist who only ever loved dead (but ever so intensely), Starlin's conceit of having Mistress Death return Thanos to the living on a mission for her, makes utmost sense. The arc presented here continues into the two-part prestige format mini series *The Thanos Quest*, which is also included in this volume (together with the five pages long short "The Final Flower", in which Scott Edelman and Mike Zeck portrays one of the many confrontations between Thanos and Drax the Destroyer; all in all, not really a necessary inclusion in my humble opinion).

This, together with a lot of Starlin's remaining *Silver Surfer* run, set things up for Starlin's cosmic *Infinity* trilogy and a string of Warlock related titles. At this point, I only think it is a shame that Marvel has not collected the remaining run, as it contains several relevant plot elements that bear fruition in *The Infinity Gauntlet* (including the Surfer's visit to Soul World and Starlin's first signalling the return of Adam Warlock).

All in all, this is the good stuff, and I recommend it heartily.

Rolando Marono says

El estilo de escritura delata que esta historia es mucho más reciente que el volumen anterior (Thanos vs. Avengers). El diálogo se reduce considerablemente y no entramos a detalles que ya están ilustrados en la página.

La historia es sobre el retorno de Thanos, su nueva misión y cómo Silver Surfer, al ser el único testigo de esto, es su misión detenerlo. Aunque la trama principal no es muy original, me gustó mucho la participación

del hombre imposible y como trata de aconsejar a Silver Surfer a que sea más relajado para vencer a Thanos. Si tomamos en cuenta esto para analizar el final, podemos ver lo importante del consejo del hombre imposible.

La segunda parte es la historia en dos números de cómo Thanos consigue las gemas del infinito, también llamadas gemas del alma. Aunque al principio parece una historia genérica de Thanos consiguiendo cosas y enfrentándose a personajes no tan populares, se vuelve un claro ejemplo de la astucia del personaje y de cómo va sorteando los obstáculos para obtener el poder del infinito que veremos esgrimir en el volumen 3 de esta colección (El guantelete del infinito).

Mi mayor problema con este volumen es la inconsistencia a la hora de escribir de Starlin. Hay veces que Thanos es el personaje más malvado jamás creado, pero muchas veces lo muestran como un sirviente patético que se la pasa teniendo piedad. La escena en la que llama al coleccionista se me hizo ridícula, igual cuando el corredor lo amenaza con volverlo un "jugo de uva". De verdad hay varios diálogos ridículos que no nos muestran consistencia en la maldad del personaje.

Dimitris says

Great stuff.

Thanos is back.

Mike says

I LOVE Thanos written by Jim Starlin. Great Silver Surfer stories; PHENOMENAL story in Thanos Quest. I'm going to see Infinity War today, and this was the PERFECT primer!

Andrew Greatbatch says

Holy. Shit. This was amazing.

Sesana says

I wish I had (re)read this before reading The Infinity Gauntlet. This is, after all, the direct prologue. In the pages of Silver Surfer, Thanos is resurrected. Then, in a story originally published as the two part Thanos Quest, he goes on a mission to collect all six infinity gems. I am convinced that I read Thanos Quest before. I really liked it then, and I liked it every bit as much now. It's narrated by Thanos, a job I think few writers could pull off. How to make him just over-the-top enough to be amusing, without lapsing into Dr. Evil territory? It's a tough balance, but he manages it. He's very good at that. He's also good at giving a truly cosmic feel to his stories. A fitting prelude to Infinity Gauntlet, which is one of the better crossover storylines from any company.

Anthony says

I read this on the iPad. I really enjoyed it. Ron Lims art holds up really well and Stalin writes a good Silver Surfer.

William Thomas says

Damn, this book brings back some great memories. Mostly of a time when Marvel wasn't publishing a separate miniseries for every prologue to a major crossover event.

Marvel's cosmic books have always been underrated and undersold. Anyone reading those books these days see Abnett and Lanning as the supreme architects of outerspace stories, but for decades, it was Jim Starlin. In this volume of the Silver Surfer, Starlin resurrects his greatest creation- Thanos. And then he proceeds to write a prologue to what is arguably the greatest Marvel story in 30 years with the Infinity Gauntlet. Although this proceeds the Gauntlet, it really isn't worth much more than a quick reading to find out where the major players come in. Drax comes back, Thanos is reborn. The Silver Surfer fights the Impossible Man. It's great because it'll pump you up before you read IG, but I was sorry not to see Adam Warlock here.

As for art chores, Ron Lim is at best a competent artist. He's in no way the best suited for this book, but he gets the job done.

Writing: B

Art: C

Bookwraiths says

I still remember stumbling on Silver Surfer #34. It really was love at first read. Jim Starlin's writing, Ron Lim's Art, and the awesome character of Thanos instantly becoming favorites. And whenever I return to reread this collection, my mind is blown by how damn amazing this Rebirth of Thanos storyline was. Truly a classic. One every comic fan should read.
