

GLORIANNA SILVER:

“The Fire Within”

By

Alberto Veloso

PAGE ONE (6 PANELS):

PANEL ONE:

Establishing shot of the Silver Estate mansion at night. The house is large and bleak and covered in snow, giving it a slightly ominous vibe.

- 1) CAPTION (DR. BUZANIS): Do you want to talk about the first time?
- 2) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): Yes, the first time.

PANEL TWO:

Wide Shot inside the mansion drawing room. Rebecca Silver, early 40s, dressed in the airs of sophistication and wealth, but without the haughty arrogance, is saying goodnight to the housemaid, a chubby, jolly-looking British woman in her 30s.

- 3) HOUSEMAID: Everything's set for the night, Miss.
- 4) REBECCA: Thank you, dear. Do you know where Glorianna is, by chance?
- 5) HOUSEMAID: Saw her in the study. She sure loves sitting in front of that fireplace. Just like my Elias.

PANEL THREE:

Rebecca is hesitating in front of the door to the study. She has a concerned look on her face as she eavesdrops on her daughter's conversation through the door.

- 6) GLORIANNA (From inside the room): Are you sure?
- 7) GLORIANNA (From inside the room): I don't want to get in trouble.

PANEL FOUR:

Wide Shot from inside the study so that we can see both Rebecca and Glorianna. Rebecca is standing in the doorway, her look of concern replaced with surprise to find that her daughter is alone in the room. Glorianna, age 10, covered in all the cuteness that comes with that age, is sitting on the floor in front of the fireplace.

8) REBECCA: Glori, who are you talking to, honey?

9) GLORIANNA: I was talking to the fire, mommy. The fire is my friend.

PANEL FIVE:

Similar shot as Panel Four, except now Rebecca is walking away from the room, having dismissed her daughter's eerie comments as youthful imagination.

10) GLORIANNA: Yes, well, it's almost bedtime. Don't stay up too late, honey.

PANEL SIX:

Point-of-view shot from inside the fireplace toward Glorianna. We can see the tips of the flame in the foreground, while in the background, young Glorianna stares at the fire transfixed, almost mesmerized.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE TWO (5 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Glorianna carefully pulls out a log from the fireplace.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PANEL TWO:

She places it delicately on the nearby couch.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PANEL THREE:

Glorianna watches as the fire spreads quickly, consuming the couch.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PANEL FOUR:

Extreme Close-Up Shot of Glorianna's eyes. In them, we see the reflection of the raging fire she is looking at.

1) GLORIANNA: It's...

PANEL FIVE:

We pull out from her eyes to show that Glorianna is now outside in the snow. Other servants are gathered around her, including the housemaid, who is carrying her 8-year-old son Elias. Everyone is staring at something up and off-panel. But while the servants all have looks of shock and horror on their faces, Glorianna's expression is one of fascination.

2) GLORIANNA: It's so...

PAGE THREE (1 PANEL):**SPLASH:**

Wide Shot from behind the cluster of people, revealing what they are looking at. The entire mansion is ablaze. In the middle of the crowd of onlookers is Glorianna, who finishes her sentence.

1) GLORIANNA: Pretty.

PAGE FOUR (5 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Present Day. Wide Shot inside of a therapist's office, where a grown-up, 20-year-old Glorianna is sitting across from her therapist, Dr. Lisa Buzanis, a smart African-American woman in her 30s.

1) DR. BUZANIS: And that was the first time you heard the voices? The ones that told you to start the fire?

2) GLORIANNA: Yes. Everything changed after that. My father died in that fire and my mother...

PANEL TWO:

Flashback of 10-year-old Glorianna, suitcases in each of her hands, standing at the entrance of Harid Elementary Boarding Academy.

3) GLORIANNA: She sent me to a boarding school.

PANEL THREE:

Similar to Panel Two, except years later. A 13-year-old Glorianna is standing at the entrance of Frosthill Junior High Boarding School. She has a suitcase in each of her hands.

4) GLORIANNA: Which was followed by another.

PANEL FOUR:

Once again, Glorianna (now 16-years-old) is standing at the entrance of Adamen College Preparatory Academy, suitcases in hand and a somber, dejected look on her face.

5) GLORIANNA: And another.

6) GLORIANNA: To my mother, the further away, the better.

PANEL FIVE:

Wide Shot of a birthday party at the school. A large group of girls are standing around the birthday cake and singing. Glorianna is standing away from the group, trying to keep her distance from the lit candles on the cake.

7) GLORIANNA: While I tried my best to avoid fire. But it wasn't easy.

PAGE FIVE (5 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Wide Shot inside Glorianna's room at the school. Glorianna is lying on her stomach in bed, studying her history book. Her roommate (Girl 1) and another girl (Girl 2) are sitting up in the bed next to Glorianna's.

1) GIRL 2: I didn't know you were roommates with the freak.

2) GIRL 1: Yeah, don't remind me. All that girl does is study.

PANEL TWO:

Glorianna scowls at the girls.

3) GIRL 2: Oh oh, I think she heard us.

4) GIRL 1: Whatever.

PANEL THREE:

Two Shot of the girls. The roommate (Girl 1) takes out a cigarette and lights it.

5) GLORIANNA (O.P.): No!

6) GIRL 1: Lighten up, freak. It's just a cigarette.

7) GIRL 2: And if you tell anybody, we'll kill you.

PANEL FOUR:

Close-up Shot of Glorianna. She puts her hands on her ears in a futile effort to stop voices in her head.

8) GLORIANNA: No, don't!

9) GIRL 1 (O.P.): What the fuck, freak?

PANEL FIVE:

Wide Shot of the room. The fire on the tip of the cigarettes flames up and attacks the roommate, burning her face. Both Glorianna and the other girl are horrified.

10) GIRL 2: Oh my god!

11) GLORIANNA: Nooooo!

PAGE SIX (5 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Wide Shot of the room similar to the previous panel. The fire is spreading quickly and has started to burn the other girl, who is reaching out to Glorianna for help. The roommate is already completely on fire, as is most of that side of the room. Glorianna is petrified.

1) GIRL 2: Help me!

2) GLORIANNA: No, please!

PANEL TWO:

Wide Shot of the room. The fire has engulfed Girl 2 and is covering the entire room, except for the area directly around Glorianna. Glorianna is still horrified, but less so.

3) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): The fire spread so fast. It destroyed everything.

PANEL THREE:

Medium Wide Shot of Glorianna, surrounded by fire. Her horrified look has been replaced with curiosity as it dawns on her that the fire is keeping its distance from her.

4) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): Everything except me.

PANEL FOUR:

Glorianna, fascinated by the flames, reaches out to see if she can burn herself.

5) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): The fire never hurt me.

PANEL FIVE:

Close-Up Shot of Glorianna's hand reaching out, delicately, almost intimately. The fire doesn't touch her.

6) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): It said it never will.

PAGE SEVEN (5 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Wide Shot of Glorianna (still 16-years-old) standing outside the rebuilt Silver Estate mansion. It's daytime, but the sky is cloudy and snow covers the entire area. Glorianna has her suitcases in hand.

1) CAPTION (DR. BUZANIS): What happened next?

2) CAPTION (GLORIANNA): After the fire, they sent me home.

PANEL TWO:

Glorianna looks over and sees a young man around the same age as her, but doesn't recognize him as the housemaid's son, Elias. Elias is carrying some freshly cut firewood and has a flirtatious smirk on his face.

3) ELIAS: You look like you've seen a ghost, darlin'.

4) GLORIANNA: Do I know you?

5) ELIAS: Do you want to?

PANEL THREE:

The housemaid (older, but still plump and jolly) appears from behind Elias and gives him a playful slap to the back of his head.

6) HOUSEMAID: Oh, stop harassing the young misses, boy. She's just come home from a long journey.

7) GLORIANNA: Elias, of course. You're all grown up. It's good to see you both.

PANEL FOUR:

The housemaid hugs Glorianna tightly.

8) HOUSEMAID: And it's good to have you home. It's been too long if you ask me.

PANEL FIVE:

The housemaid has released Glorianna from her hug, and is gesturing toward the mansion in response to Glorianna's question.

9) GLORIANNA: And mother?

10) HOUSEMAID: She's up in her room. She hasn't been outside today at all. See if you can coax her, won't you?

11) GLORIANNA: I'll try.

PAGE EIGHT (4 PANELS):**PANEL ONE:**

Glorianna is walking up the staircase toward the second floor of the mansion.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PANEL TWO:

Glorianna enters her mother's bedroom. We can see Rebecca in bed in her nightgown, but we can only see her side profile.

1) GLORIANNA: Hello, mother.

2) REBECCA: Hello, Glorianna.

PANEL THREE:

Medium Wide Shot focusing on Glorianna, who moves toward the foot of the bed and tries to put on a friendly countenance for her mother.

3) GLORIANNA: I'm home again.

4) REBECCA: Yes, I heard. The school burned down mysteriously.

5) GLORIANNA: And I heard that someone hasn't been outside at all today.

6) REBECCA: What can I say...

PANEL FOUR:

Medium Wide Shot of Rebecca in bed, revealing that the other side of her face is completely burnt (from the fire years ago).

7) GLORIANNA: I'm not looking my best today.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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“The Fire Within”

A Proposal for a 22-Page One-Shot
Written by Alberto Veloso

We open on the Silver Estate in Norway, a sprawling mansion sitting on a posh 12 acres. Rebecca Silver hears the voice of her daughter, Glorianna, talking to someone in the study. Rebecca opens the door and finds her ten-year-old daughter sitting in front of the fireplace, alone. “Who are you talking to, Glori?” The girl answers, “The fire, mommy. The fire is my friend.” Rebecca reminds Glorianna that she needs to be in bed soon, and leaves. But Glorianna listens to another voice, telling her to take a log out of the fireplace and set the room on fire. Young Glorianna watches with glee as the fire spreads. “It’s so... pretty.”

Present day. A grown-up Glorianna Silver is talking to her therapist, Dr. Lisa Buzanis. Glorianna is recounting the previous story as well as the stories that follow.

After the fire, Glorianna is sent to various boarding schools, growing up around strangers, most of whom regard her as a freak because of her withdrawn nature and her desire to avoid all forms of fire. In her last year of high school, Glorianna’s roommate sneaks in a pack of cigarettes, and the voices once again torment Glorianna, telling her to burn everything down. Glorianna screams, “Stop!” And suddenly, the fire on the tip of her roommate’s cigarette flames up, engulfing the roommate and eventually spreading to burn down the whole school.

It was then that Glorianna learned she could control the fire. She could shape it and bend it to her will, but no matter what, the fire would never hurt her.

After the school fire, Glorianna is sent home to the rebuilt Silver Estate, where the housemaid and her son, Elias, befriend her. Glorianna’s mother, left horribly scarred from the first fire, keeps her distance. For months, Glorianna tries desperately to avoid all forms of flame, suffering through the hard winter with just a jacket. She also starts visiting her therapist, Dr. Buzanis, who diagnoses her with pyromania. However, the only true comfort comes from friendly Elias, who she starts to fall in love with.

One night, Elias takes Glorianna to his cabin, which he decorated with candles. She panics and tries to leave, but Elias stops her. Ignoring Glorianna’s pleas, Elias holds her down, kissing her, determined to make this night “special.” Out of desperation, Glorianna forces the flames of the candles into a fire dragon that attacks Elias, killing him.

Glorianna runs out of the cabin, distraught, and finds her mother in the estate. She tells her everything that happened and her mother embraces her. For the briefest moment, Glorianna feels happy. That’s when the knife plunges into her side. Glorianna pulls away from her mother, who is trying to kill her, calling her a “monster.” Just before Rebecca can stab her again, the fire dragon bursts in through the window, burning the mother, and eventually, the entire mansion.

Back to Present Day. Glorianna tells her therapist that with the death of her mother, she inherited the Silver family fortune, including the precious stone Glorianna now wears around her neck (the Ember Stone). “My father gave it to my mother after he found out she was pregnant,” Glorianna tells the therapist. “She wore it the entire time she carried me” (which is how Glorianna gained her abilities).

Glorianna tells Dr. Buzanis that she understands now. “The fire is my friend. My only friend.” Glorianna takes out a cigarette lighter. “And it doesn’t want to share me with others.” Glorianna flicks on the lighter and burns the building down.