

Characters

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read. **Starred characters are major roles.*

☐ *NARRATOR 1 (N1)

☐ *NARRATOR 2 (N2)

☐ *NARRATOR 3 (N3)

☐ *NARRATOR 4 (N4)

☐ *DR. REED RICHARDS,
one of the *Fantastic Four*, Sue's fiancé

☐ *SUE STORM,
one of the *Fantastic Four*, Johnny's sister,
Reed's fiancée

☐ *JOHNNY STORM,
one of the *Fantastic Four*, Sue's brother

☐ *BEN GRIMM,
one of the *Fantastic Four*

☐ *GENERAL HAGER,
a U.S. military official

☐ CAPTAIN RAYE,
the General's aide

☐ MINISTER,
officials at wedding

☐ PROFESSOR WAGNER,
teaches physics

☐ PEDESTRIAN



Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A MYSTERIOUS SILVER OBJECT ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE WORLD? CALL THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

THE SETTING

Present-day New York City

SCENE 1

N1: A silver object has torn into the Earth's atmosphere, creating a violent electrical storm in its wake. The government needs the help of the Fantastic Four, especially the brilliant scientist Dr. Reed Richards.

N2: The Fantastic Four are famous superheroes with special powers and celebrity status. Reed (Mr. Fantastic) can stretch his body into different shapes and lengths. Sue (Invisible Woman) can turn invisible and create force fields, planes of energy that act as a walls. Ben (The Thing) has superhuman strength and a body of rocklike

lumps. Johnny (The Human Torch) can burst into flames and fly all over the globe at top speeds when he yells "Flame on!"

N3: Sue leads military officers to a dance club where Reed is having his bachelor party. Both Johnny and Ben are at the party.

GENERAL HAGER: I'm here on orders from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

REED: What can I do for you?

HAGER: Recently, there have been unusual occurrences all over the world. Officially, we've downplayed their significance to the public, but we're concerned these events might pose a threat to our security. *(He takes out a photo from a file.)*

This was taken by one of our spy satellites three days ago.

N4: Reed looks at a photo of a silvery blur above the Earth. Ben,

Sue, and Johnny look on.

JOHNNY: What is it?

HAGER: We have no idea. We were hoping Reed could tell us.

REED: I'm afraid I've never seen anything like it. Ben?

BEN: I'd say it was a meteor or a piece of space junk burning up in the atmosphere, but this thing's giving off some kind of energy.

HAGER: Take a look at this.

N1: Captain Raye brings up three images on a laptop. The photos are of the Amazon rain forest, the Australian outback, and the Ural Mountains in Russia. A round crater with smooth silver walls appears in each location.

RAYE: The craters are appearing in remote areas all over the world.

REED: Have you identified the silver substance?

(Opposite page)
From left,
the *Fantastic Four*: Johnny Storm (Chris Evans), Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd), Sue Storm (Jessica Alba), and Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis). Right, the *Silver Surfer* (Doug Jones; voice, Laurence Fishburne).



SCREENPLAY BY
DON PAYNE.
ADAPTED FOR SCOPE
BY ERIN MEANLEY

RAYE: It's not any known element.

HAGER: We need to locate and intercept that object.

REED: It would be possible to build a sensor, tie it into the Baxter Building's satellite grid, and find the exact location of the object.

HAGER: So you'll build it for us.

REED: I'm afraid I can't.

HAGER: Why not?

REED: I'm getting married this Saturday. I just don't have the time.

HAGER: Your country needs you.

N2: Reed shakes his head and looks at Sue. He gives General Hager a card with the name of a physics professor at Brown University.

REED: Try this guy.

SCENE 2

PROFESSOR WAGNER (on the phone): Reed, I told General

Hager it would take me months, maybe years, to figure out how to construct this kind of sensor.

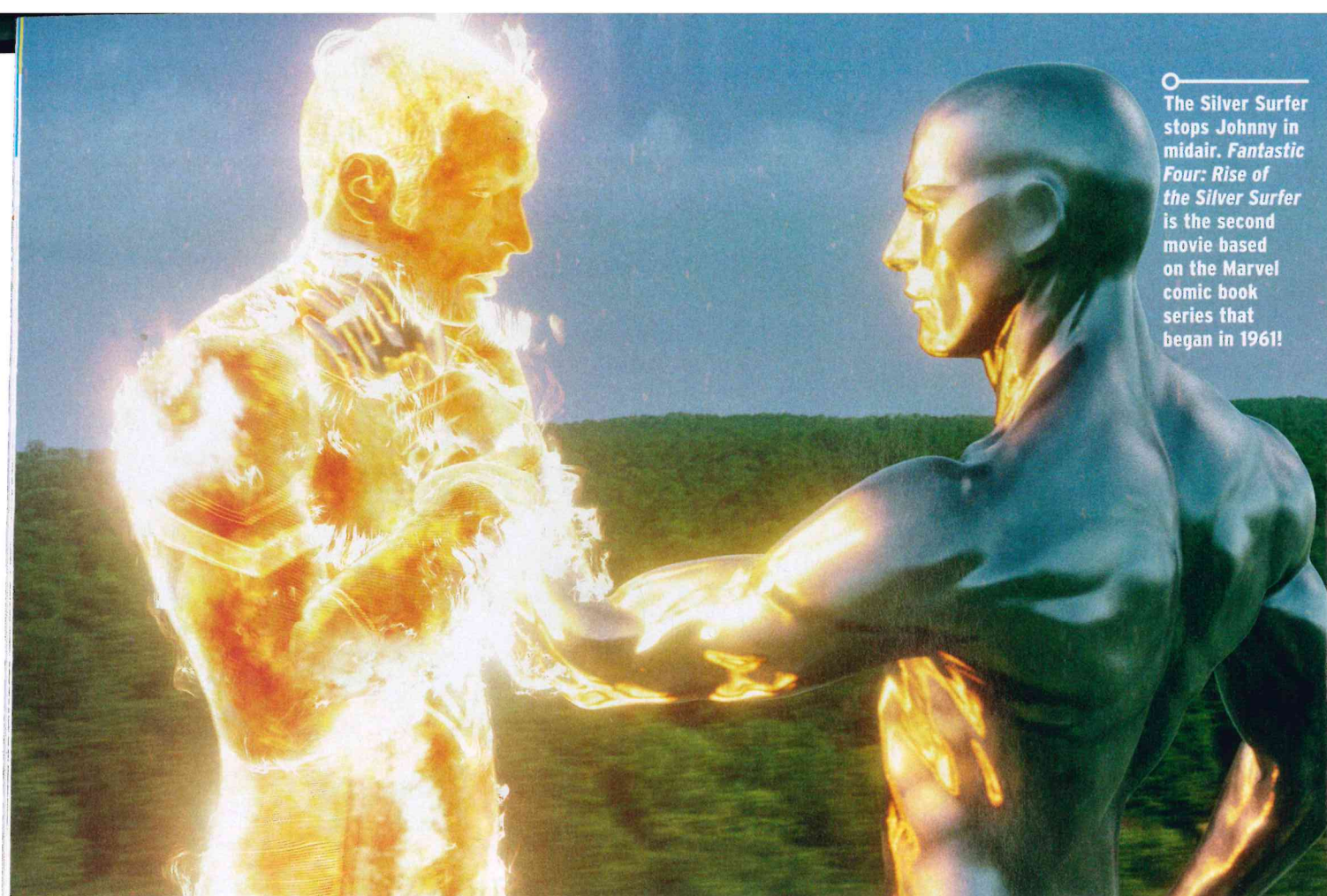
REED: It's not that difficult.

WAGNER: I'm doing everything I can, but we need your help. Maybe you could take a few minutes away from playing superhero to work on some real science.

N3: Professor Wagner hangs up the phone. On the other end, Reed sighs and looks at his PDA, or personal digital assistant. He checks his "wedding to-do" list, then picks up the photo of the mysterious silver object and stares at it. He makes a decision.

SCENE 3

N4: On the rooftop of New York's Baxter Building where his lab is located, Reed works under the



The Silver Surfer stops Johnny in midair. *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* is the second movie based on the Marvel comic book series that began in 1961!

moonlight, constructing a large satellite antenna for the sensor. Reed uploads data into the sensor through his PDA. Ben joins him on the roof.

BEN: What are you doing up here?

REED: Nothing. I just needed some air.

BEN: You're building that sensor for General Hager, aren't you?

N1: Reed nods, feeling guilty about his **clandestine** efforts.

BEN: I'm guessing Sue doesn't know about this. My lips are sealed. Or they would be, if I had any lips.

REED: Thanks. And don't tell Johnny.

JOHNNY (*flies onto the roof*): Don't tell Johnny what?

REED (*sarcastic*): Great.

JOHNNY: Hey! You're building

that thing, aren't you? Man, when Sue finds out, you're going to get an invisible kick.

BEN: Don't worry, Reed. We'll help you with the wedding stuff.

JOHNNY: We will?

SCENE 4

N2: The next day, Reed, Hager, and Ben are back on the roof.

REED (*finishing with the sensor*): If there's a surge in cosmic radiation anywhere on the planet, we'll know it.

HAGER: Let's hope so. We've already received reports of two more craters.

REED: Just linking the sensor to my PDA—and that's it!

BEN: Great. Now please shave and put on your tuxedo. You're getting married in two hours.

REED: Oh, my, gosh, I'm getting married! (*His knees weaken, but Ben catches him.*)

SCENE 5

N3: Two hours later, Johnny pulls up to the Baxter Building in a sports car, wearing a tuxedo and shades. Fans and paparazzi surround him. He loves the attention.

JOHNNY (*to the paparazzi*):

Hey! Listen up! This is the most important day of my sister's life. Oh . . . and I just want to tell you to check out our Web site for the latest news, merchandise, and fan club information!

N4: News helicopters circle overhead. A string quartet plays Mozart as the guests take their seats on the balcony of the Baxter

Building for the ceremony.

N1: Reed is ready in his tux.

Everyone hears a beeping sound. People look at Reed, who pulls out his PDA from his pocket. Its screen bears the words: "COSMIC RADIATION SURGE DETECTED—CALCULATING LOCATION AND TRAJECTORY..."

BEN: Reed, turn off your cell phone!

REED: Actually, this is—

N2: The wedding march starts. Sue walks down the aisle, escorted by Johnny. Reed looks down at his PDA nervously. He's uncertain

reason. We need to get through this quickly!

SUE: Oh, that's romantic.

MINISTER: There are many kinds of love.

REED: Could you skip to the end, please?

MINISTER: Excuse me?

N4: Dark clouds roll into the city. Electricity strikes the tops of buildings and shorts out streetlights. The clouds move toward the Baxter Building.

MINISTER: Love is patient.

REED: Come on, let's go, let's go!

SUE: What is wrong with you?



Johnny gets some of Ben's clobbering power as their powers switch.

how to proceed in this **quagmire**. Reed puts his PDA in his pocket.

MINISTER: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to join this couple in holy matrimony.

N3: Reed checks his PDA again.

His eyes widen in shock. The display reads: "DESTINATION: NEW YORK, NY—CALCULATING TIME UNTIL IMPACT..."

SUE (*in a loud whisper*): Reed! Did you actually bring that thing to our wedding?!

REED: Yes, but there's a good

N1: A fierce wind blows through the balcony. Reed checks his device. It reads: "LANDFALL IMMINENT—IMPACT IN 5 SECONDS, 4 . . ."

REED: Too late.

N2: The display counts down 3, 2, 1. The sky darkens. Lightning strikes a news helicopter; it loses control and falls, heading straight for the wedding guests.

N3: Reed extends his arms to sweep an entire crowd of guests out of the chopper's path.

N4: Sue throws up an invisible force field, deflecting the chopper. Ben thrusts his rock-hard chest in front of a loose blade headed for his girlfriend, Alicia. A few rocky bits chip off his body. The crowd scatters.

N1: After the chaos starts to quiet, everyone is dazed. Sue is **glum** as she looks at her torn dress. Her wedding is ruined.

JOHNNY: Reed, what happened?

REED: The source of the craters! It's here!

N2: Suddenly, the silver object streaks by in the sky.

REED: Johnny, can you go after it?

N3: Johnny takes off into the sky after the object.

SCENE 6

N4: Johnny follows the object around the Chrysler Building and through the Lincoln Tunnel. Johnny notices the silver object is a surfer on a board. In the tunnel, the Surfer changes the molecular structure of a bus's windshield. The windshield ripples like liquid and opens, creating a hole. The Surfer streaks through the interior of the bus and closes off the opening behind him, blocking Johnny from entering the bus.

Johnny has to squeeze between the bus and the tunnel ceiling.

N1: Johnny and the Silver Surfer speed south to Washington, D.C. They whip around buildings, rising, diving, and turning.

N2: The Surfer blows past the Washington Monument. The vibration he creates as he speeds by causes the monument to crack.

N3: Johnny hurls fireballs at the Surfer. Finally, the Surfer has had enough. He turns around and stops in midair.

N4: Johnny nearly runs into the Surfer, but the Surfer reaches out, grabs Johnny, and holds him there on his board. His grip is too strong for Johnny. The Surfer raises him higher into the air, until the blue sky begins to dim and turn black, on the edge of space. The oxygen grows thin.

N1: Johnny's flames start to give out, then go away altogether. He struggles to breathe. The Surfer lets him go. Johnny free-falls into Mexico. Chase over.

SCENE 7

N2: Back at Reed's laboratory in New York, Johnny speaks before General Hager, Captain Raye, and the rest of the Fantastic Four.

JOHNNY: It looked like a man, but it was completely covered in silver. And it was flying on top of a surfboard. I know that sounds a little crazy.

BEN (sarcastically): No, not at all. Did you follow the shiny man to Lollipop Land?

JOHNNY: Look, I know what I saw!

REED: Thank you, Johnny. Whatever this thing's physical appearance, it has the ability to change its shape and the shapes of other things.

HAGER: So it caused the craters?

REED: It seems to radiate cosmic energy. This entity, this—

JOHNNY: Silver Surfer.

REED: This Silver Surfer doesn't want to be detected. He destroyed my sensor.

SUE: He knew he was being monitored?

REED: Yes. And he traced it back here. We're dealing with something highly resourceful.

SUE: Johnny, are you OK?

JOHNNY: Yeah, I think I just need



The Silver Surfer makes a giant crater in London's Thames River. The Millennium Wheel on the left starts to fall toward the water.

to walk it off. (*He leaves.*)

HAGER: We need to destroy that thing before it attacks again. Reed, find another way for me to track it. (*He leaves.*)

REED: Sue, I'm so sorry. I had no idea the sensor would bring that thing here. I didn't tell you about the sensor because I didn't want you to worry.

SUE: Reed, I'm not mad that you built the sensor. It was the right thing to do. But I am sad we can't get through a wedding without it turning into World War III. I'm going to go check on Johnny.

SCENE 8

N3: Out on the street, Johnny is leaning against a street sign, looking ill.

SUE: Johnny, what's wrong?

N4: She puts her hand on his forehead. Whoosh! A cosmic energy leaps from Johnny's body

to Sue's, and from Sue's body to Johnny's. Sue steps back and bursts into flames.

JOHNNY: Stop, drop, and roll!

N1: She tries but finds herself rising into the air.

SUE: What's happening?

JOHNNY: Hang on, I'll get you! Flame on!

N2: But instead of flaming on, Johnny turns invisible. A pedestrian plows into him.

JOHNNY: Watch it!

N3: A crowd gathers. A bunch of girls pause in their window-shopping.

PEDESTRIAN (pointing at Sue): Hey, it's the Human Torch!

JOHNNY: Hey, ladies! I'm over here! Look at me! (*realizing he's invisible*): This is my worst nightmare.

REED (coming out of the building): Sue?! How did this happen?

SUE (lowering herself to the

ground): I have no idea. I touched Johnny, and then this!

REED: Where is Johnny?

JOHNNY: Here! (*His body becomes visible again, but he still can't flame on.*) What's happening?

REED: Your powers switched!

N4: Johnny reaches out to Sue. Their energies switch back.

SCENE 9

N1: The next day, the Fantastic Four, General Hager, and Captain Raye gather in the lab.

REED: I've cross-referenced the Surfer's radiation through every astronomical database. Altair Seven, Rigel Three, Vega Six—

BEN: He's been to all those planets?

REED: Yes, and now they're lifeless, barren—no atmosphere, no water, no thermal activity, nothing. Wherever the Surfer goes—eight days later, the planet dies.

SAY IT! Thames — TEMS

WETA/HYPDRAULX. TM AND © 2007 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION.



SUE: He's already been here six days!

JOHNNY: Are you saying if we don't stop him in the next 48 hours—?

REED: There'll be nothing left alive.

HAGER (to Captain Raye): Get me the White House.

N2: Raye dials a phone.

BEN: How do we stop him? We don't even know where to find him.

N3: Reed calls up a display of the Earth on his computer screen. Blinking dots mark the silver craters.

REED: They seem random, but there's something about them. Wait a second. They appear in a numerical sequence. I can predict where the next one is going to be! Let's see, latitude, 51 degrees, 25 minutes north.

HAGER: Well? Where is it?

SCENE 10

N4: A British military helicopter roars over the London skyline. General Hager, Captain Raye, several soldiers, and the Fantastic Four ride inside the chopper.

HAGER: You're sure your team can handle this alone? I'd feel better bringing in ground and air support.

REED: Trust me, General. This is what we do.

HAGER: Well, you're not going to be doing anything if you're wrong about the location.

BEN: I don't think you need to worry about that.

N1: He points to the Thames River below, where a crater-size circle of water roils and froths, glowing with energy.

N2: The helicopter lands near the river and they all get out.

N3: Tourists and Londoners

crowd the riverbanks to see what's happening. Suddenly, the Surfer bursts out of the water and into the air. His speed creates a shock wave that hits the Millennium Wheel, an enormous Ferris wheel with capsules for cars. The wheel begins to topple into the Thames.

N4: The passengers scream. Suddenly, the wheel stops, tilted at a 45-degree angle over the river.

N1: Sue stands on the pier between the wheel and the river, her arms outstretched as she struggles to hold the massive wheel up with a force field. The wheel starts to topple. Reed's long arms coil around the spokes. Ben holds on to Reed.

N2: Johnny flies between the spokes but accidentally brushes against Reed's arm. Whoosh! Their powers switch. Reed's body retracts, bursting into flames. A startled Ben lets him go. Johnny drops, as his elongated arms and legs catch on the wheel's spokes. He dangles there helplessly. **N3:** With their powers gone, the Fantastic Four have been **thwarted**. The wheel starts to fall again.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Will the Fantastic Four save the people in the wheel? Will they catch the Silver Surfer before 48 hours are up? Will they save the world? Check out the DVD, in stores this November, to find out.

WRITE NOW What special power would you want? Write an essay about your power and what you would do with it.

No-Sweat Test Prep

Answering 10 questions is simple—compared to chasing the Silver Surfer!



NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THE PLAY, IT'S TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

1 Why does Reed initially refuse to build the sensor? (*motive*)

- (A) He's getting married and doesn't have time.
- (B) He doesn't know how.
- (C) He wants to give Wagner the opportunity.
- (D) He doesn't like sensors.

2 Why does Reed go "weak in the knees" on his wedding day? (*inference*)

- (A) He has a bad feeling.
- (B) He's nervous.
- (C) He has bad knees.
- (D) He stayed up too late.

3 Which word doesn't describe Johnny? (*character analysis*)

- (A) suave
- (B) sarcastic
- (C) attention-loving
- (D) weak

4 During the wedding ceremony, the minister says "love is patient." Why is this ironic? (*understanding irony*)

- (A) Reed made Sue wait a long time before showing up at the wedding.
- (B) Love isn't patient.
- (C) Reed is impatient for the ceremony to finish before the Surfer arrives.
- (D) The minister speaks slowly.

5 Why does the Silver Surfer attack the Baxter Building? (*inference*)

- (A) He needs information about the Fantastic Four.
- (B) It was a coincidence.
- (C) He wants to prove his power.
- (D) He needs to destroy the sensor that tracks him.

6 Why do Johnny's flames extinguish? (*inference*)

- (A) The atmosphere is too thin.
- (B) Sue takes his power.
- (C) He's tired.
- (D) He falls into the Thames.

7 How do the Fantastic Four find out that the Surfer wipes out planets? (*plot*)

- (A) Ben visits the planets that the Surfer destroyed.
- (B) The Surfer tells them.
- (C) Everything on Earth dies.
- (D) Reed studies an astronomical database.

8 Where is the Thames River? (*reading for information*)

- (A) Washington, D.C.
- (B) New York City
- (C) the Australian outback
- (D) London, England

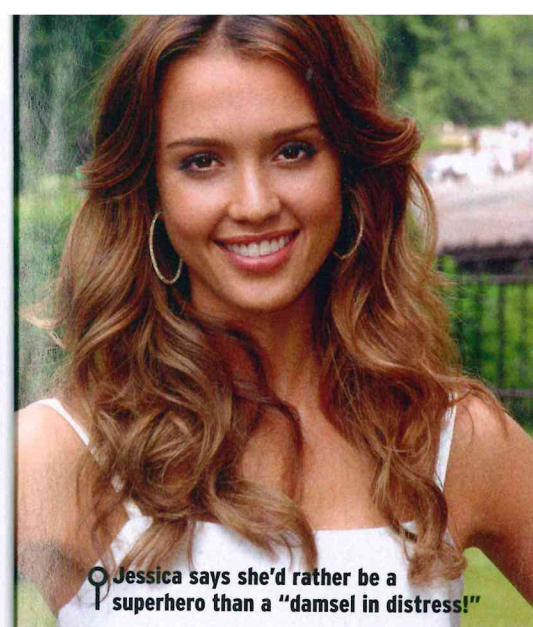
9 Why do the Fantastic Four lose control of the Millennium Wheel? (*detail*)

- (A) Their powers switch when they touch.
- (B) They're arguing with each other.
- (C) The Surfer takes the Wheel on his surfboard.
- (D) The General and his troops try to interfere.

10 Which of the following would be a good alternate title? (*main idea*)

- (A) *The Futility of the Four*
- (B) *When Superheroes Aren't So Super*
- (C) *The Threat of the Planet Killer*
- (D) *Wonder Wheels*

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Jessica says she'd rather be a superhero than a "damsel in distress!"

Fantastic Jessica

JESSICA ALBA

BORN:

Pomona, Calif.

OFF-SCREEN

PURSUIITS:

buying furniture, cooking, music

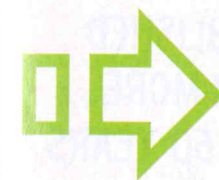
FAVE FILM

LEGEND:

Steve McQueen

JESSICA'S JOURNEY FROM LIFE AS A "LONER" TO LIFE AS A STAR

Fill in each blank with the best choice from the word list. We did the first one for you.



In *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, Jessica Alba plays a superhero

named Sue Storm, who feels 1 because she's "different." How can Sue lead a normal life when she has to save the world all the time?

In real life, Jessica knows what it's like to be an 2. The 26-year-old movie star faced a few challenges on the 3 to stardom.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

As a kid, Jessica felt like she didn't fit in with her peers. Her 4 is French-Danish, and her dad is Mexican-American. "I never really belonged anywhere," she said. "I did the whole loner thing."

Making friends was also difficult because her family moved a lot for her dad's job in the Air Force. By the time she 5 from high school, Jessica had attended 12 different schools. But that didn't stop her from 6 hard and pursuing her dreams.

When she was 12, Jessica decided to become an actress. To

help pay for acting classes and other costs, she modeled in newspaper ads. She wanted to pay her own way. "It's not comfortable, always worrying about money," she said. But the 7 actress never lost her determination.

Jessica's big break came in 2000 when she landed the role of super-soldier Max Guevara on the TV show *Dark Angel*. The series only aired for two years, but it developed a cult following that put Jessica in the 8.

BE YOURSELF!

Jessica went on to star in hit movies like *Into the Blue* and *Never Been Kissed*. She has roles in three more films hitting theaters in the next few months, so the 9 of her movie career seems brighter than ever.

So what did Jessica learn from life as a "loner"? Being 10 isn't so bad! She hopes kids today will see that they don't have to conform. Her advice for teens: "Be happy with who you are."

—KRISTIN LEWIS

frustrated	working
unique	mom
talented	future
graduated	outsider
spotlight	road

1. Frustrated

2.

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10.