



THE MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

12¢ 136
IND. JAN

TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL!

FEATURING THE UNCANNY MENACE OF
HIM... WHO IS **UNKNOWN!**



THE MIGHTY THOR!

TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL!

THE TIME IS COME, BELOVED!

I MUST TAKE THEE--TO ASGARD!

THERE, THOU SHALT STAND BEFORE MY FATHER--THE OMNIPOTENT ODIN--WHO HATH PLEDGED THAT WE MAY BE WED!

WITH YOU BESIDE ME, MY DARLING-- I FEAR NOTHING!

--NOT EVEN THE INCREDIBLE PROSPECT OF SEEING--THE HOME OF THE GODS!

ATOP A TOWERING MOUNTAIN PEAK SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, THE MIGHTY THOR AND LOVELY JANE FOSTER, THE MORTAL WHO HAS WON HIS HEART, PREPARE FOR WHAT IS DESTINED TO BE THE MOST FATEFUL JOURNEY THEY HAVE EVER TAKEN--

A PROUD PHANTASMAGORIA OF PAGEANTRY, PRESENTED BY:

STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

DELINEATED BY VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY ARTIE SIMEK

AND NOW, BE THOU PREPARED FOR THRILLS AND WONDERMENT BEYOND MORTAL KEN--

NEVER AGAIN, MY LOVE, SHALT THOU HAVE CAUSE FOR FEAR!

NEVER AGAIN SHALL THE GOD OF THUNDER FORSAKE THEE!

MY LIFE SHALL BE THINE-- FOREVERMORE!



AND NOW-- PLACE THINE ARMS AROUND ME --SO!

BY THE POWER OF MY ENCHANTED MALLET, WE NOW DEPART THIS MORTAL SPHERE!



LET THINE EYELIDS BE CLOSED, BELOVED--

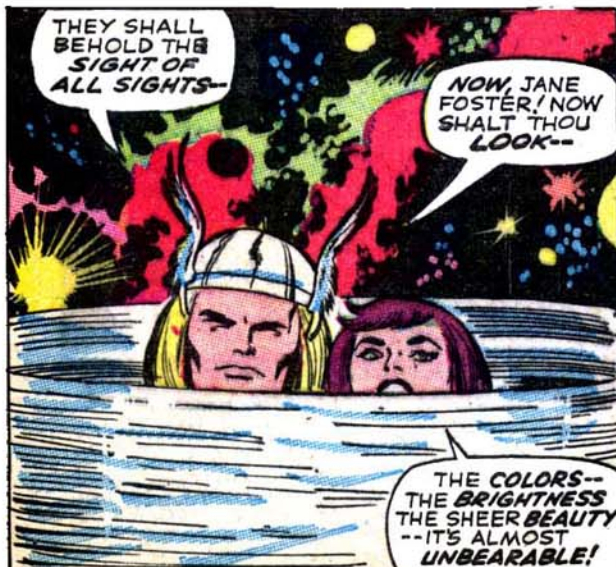


FOR, WHEN NEXT THEY ARE OPENED--



THEY SHALL BEHOLD THE SIGHT OF ALL SIGHTS--

NOW, JANE FOSTER! NOW SHALT THOU LOOK--

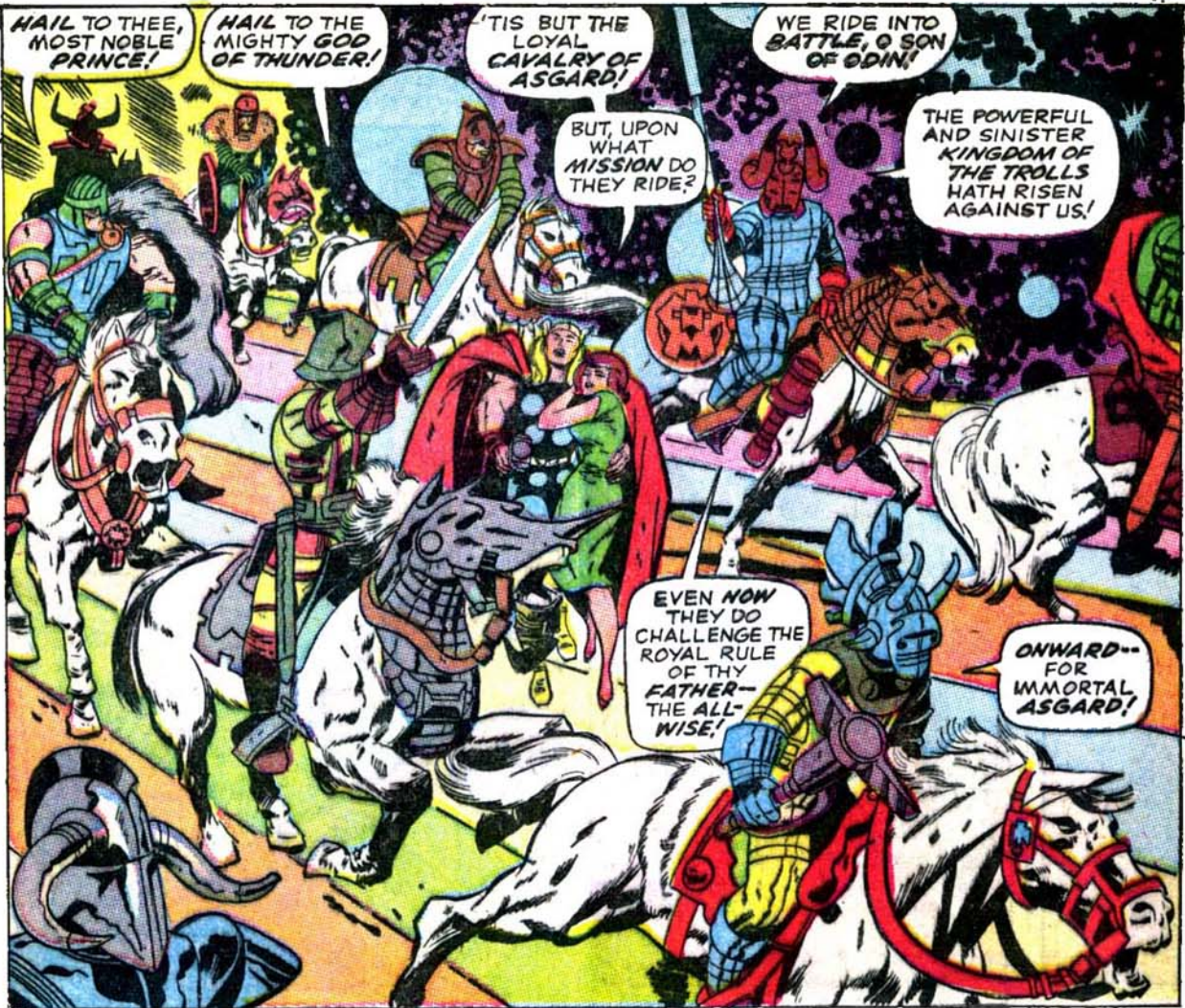


THE COLORS-- THE BRIGHTNESS-- THE SHEER BEAUTY --IT'S ALMOST UNBEARABLE!

'TIS BUT THE SHIMMERING SPLENDOR OF THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE, UPON WHICH WE DO STAND!

THOR! THAT NOISE! THOSE MEN--!





HAIL TO THEE, MOST NOBLE PRINCE!

HAIL TO THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER!

'TIS BUT THE LOYAL CAVALRY OF ASGARD!

WE RIDE INTO BATTLE, O SON OF ODIN!

BUT, UPON WHAT MISSION DO THEY RIDE?

THE POWERFUL AND SINISTER KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS HATH RISEN AGAINST US!

EVEN NOW THEY DO CHALLENGE THE ROYAL RULE OF THY FATHER-- THE ALL-WISE!

ONWARD-- FOR IMMORTAL ASGARD!



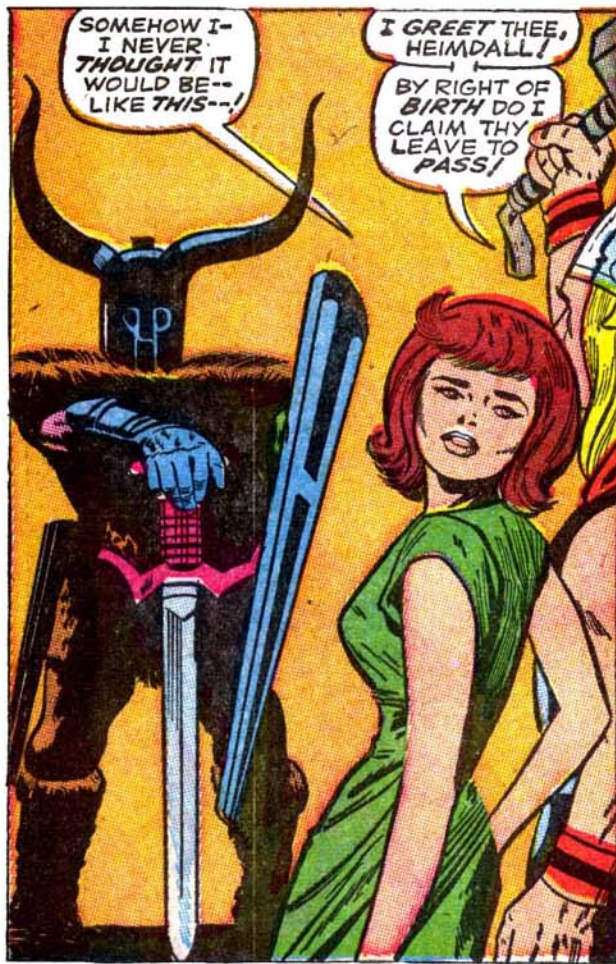
MAKE WAY! WE HAVE CAPTURED A PRISONER--FOR INTERROGATION!

HOW MONSTROUS! THAT UNSPEAKABLE CREATURE-- IS HE-- A TROLL?

DO NOT AVERT THINE EYES, BELOVED!

THOU MUST BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH SIGHTS--

FOR, WITHIN THIS FABLED REALM, THE FORCE OF EVIL HATH MANY FACES!



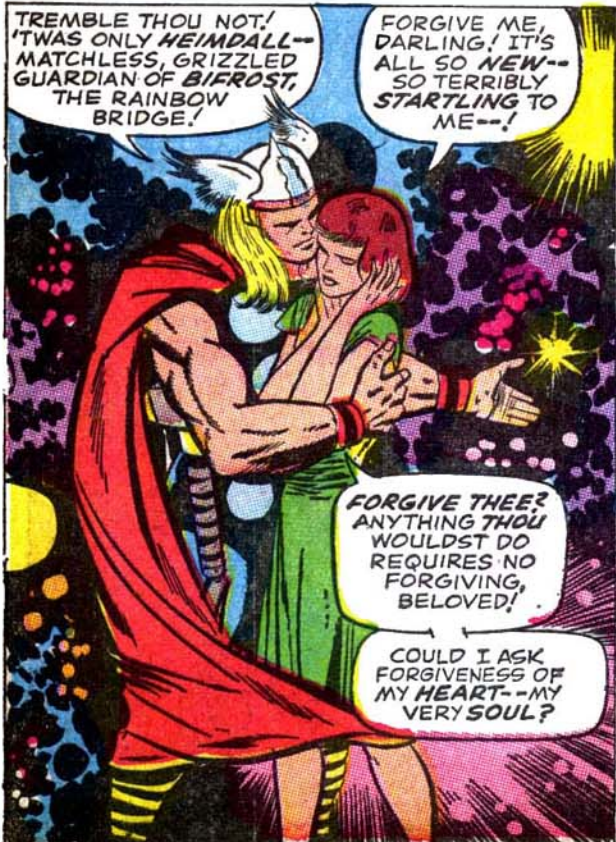
SOMEHOW I-
I NEVER
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE--
LIKE THIS--!

I GREET THEE,
HEIMDALL!
BY RIGHT OF
BIRTH DO I
CLAIM THY
LEAVE TO
PASS!



LEAVE GRANTED--FOR
THEE AND THY COMPANION,
MIGHTY ONE!

WHA--?!
THAT MAN!
THAT SWORD!
THAT HORNED
HELMET--!

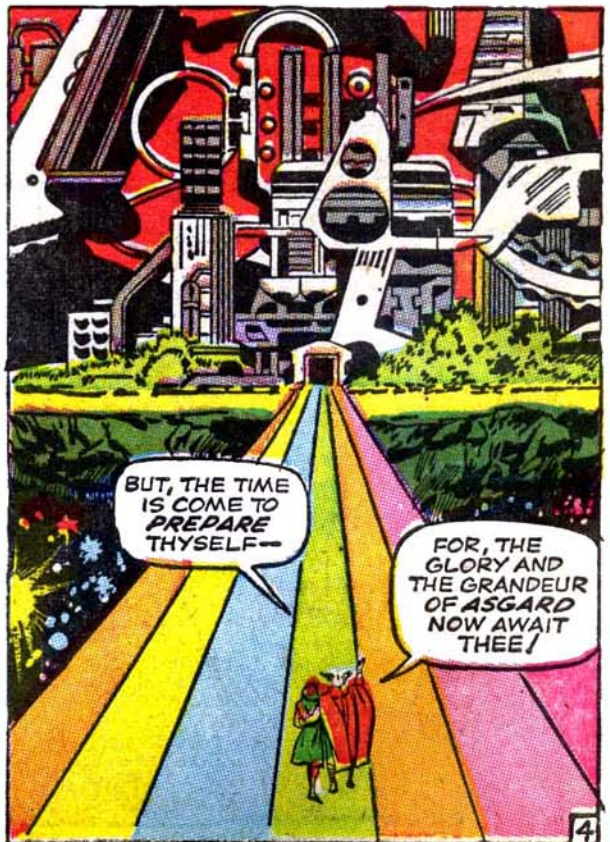


TREMBLE THOU NOT!
'T WAS ONLY HEIMDALL--
MATCHLESS, GRIZZLED
GUARDIAN OF BIFROST,
THE RAINBOW
BRIDGE!

FORGIVE ME,
DARLING! IT'S
ALL SO NEW--
SO TERRIBLY
STARTLING TO
ME--!

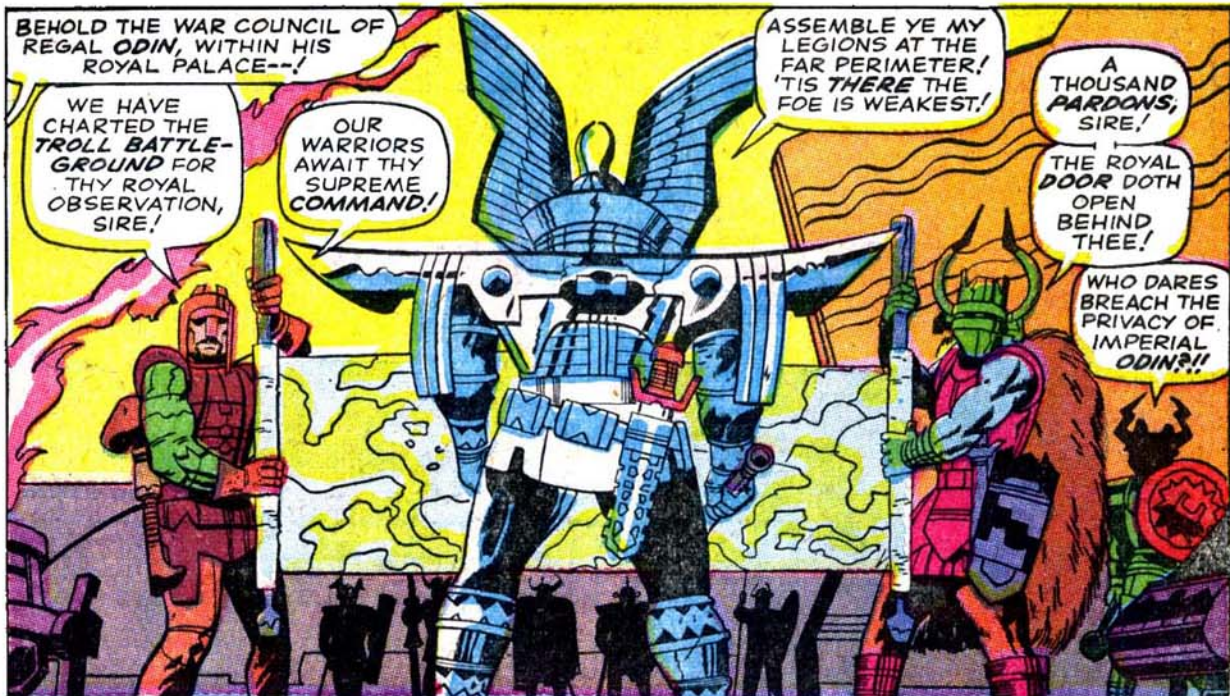
FORGIVE THEE?
ANYTHING THOU
WOULDST DO
REQUIRES NO
FORGIVING,
BELOVED!

COULD I ASK
FORGIVENESS OF
MY HEART--MY
VERY SOUL?



BUT, THE TIME
IS COME TO
PREPARE
THYSELF--

FOR, THE
GLORY AND
THE GRANDEUR
OF ASGARD
NOW AWAIT
THEE!



BEHOLD THE WAR COUNCIL OF REGAL ODIN, WITHIN HIS ROYAL PALACE--!

WE HAVE CHARTED THE TROLL BATTLE-GROUND FOR THY ROYAL OBSERVATION, SIRE!

OUR WARRIORS AWAIT THY SUPREME COMMAND!

ASSEMBLE YE MY LEGIONS AT THE FAR PERIMETER! 'TIS THERE THE FOE IS WEAKEST!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, SIRE!

THE ROYAL DOOR DOTH OPEN BEHIND THEE!

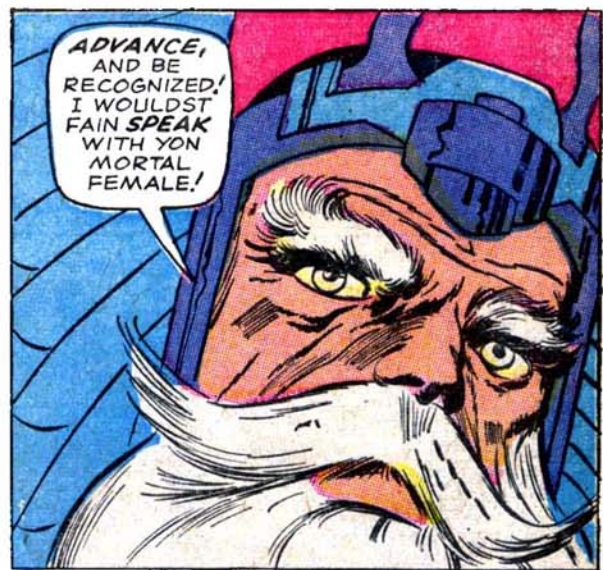
WHO DARES BREACH THE PRIVACY OF IMPERIAL ODIN?!!



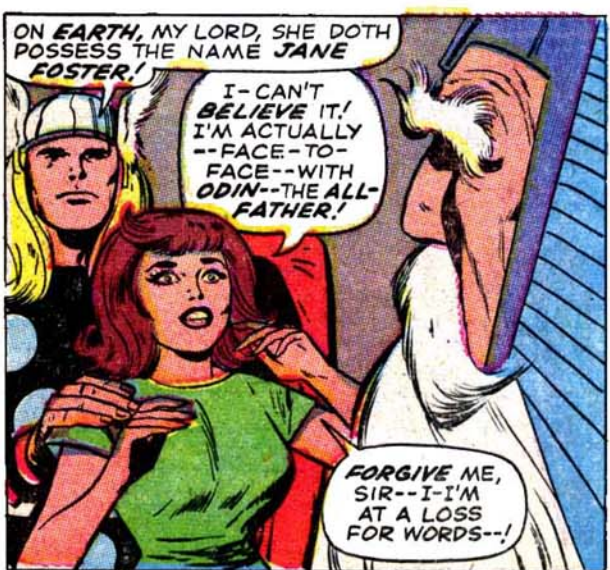
HAIL TO THEE, SOVEREIGN MOST SUPREME! HAIL, LORDLY MONARCH OF THE REALM!

THOU MAYEST ENTER THE PRESENCE, THUNDER GOD!

THY SON MOST DUTIFUL HATH RETURNED-- TO PRESENT TO THEE --HIS BELOVED!



ADVANCE, AND BE RECOGNIZED! I WOULDST FAIN SPEAK WITH YON MORTAL FEMALE!



ON EARTH, MY LORD, SHE DOTH POSSESS THE NAME JANE FOSTER!

I-CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I'M ACTUALLY --FACE-TO-FACE--WITH ODIN--THE ALL-FATHER!

FORGIVE ME, SIR--I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS--!



THOU MUST NOT TREMBLE, MY CHILD!

GIVE ME THY HAND-- THAT I MAY PLACE IT ON MINE!

MAYHAP THOU WILT DRAW CONFIDENCE, AND SERENITY, FROM THE STRENGTH WHICH IS MINE OWN!



MANY DAYS AGO, HONORED FATHER, THOU DIDST AFFIRM THAT WE MIGHT BE WED!

THE WORD OF ODIN IS A BOND ETERNAL!

MORTAL FEMALE --STAND FORTH! I SHALL MAKE THEE RAIMENT FIT FOR A GODDESS!

FOR GODDESS SHALT THOU BE!



SO BE IT!

WHAT-- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?



'TIS THE MOMENT WE HAVE LONG AWAITED! MY FATHER PREPARES TO MAKE THEE--AN IMMORTAL!

FOR, NONE BUT A TRUE GODDESS MAY WED A GOD!

I HAVE A GIFT TO BESTOW! STAND THEE BACK, FLESH OF MY FLESH!



I GRANT THEE A GIFT WORTHY OF A THUNDER GOD'S BRIDE...

NO LONGER ART THOU EARTHBOUND, JANE FOSTER! THUS SPEAKS ODIN!

THE ENCHANTED GIFT OF-- UNLIMITED FLIGHT!

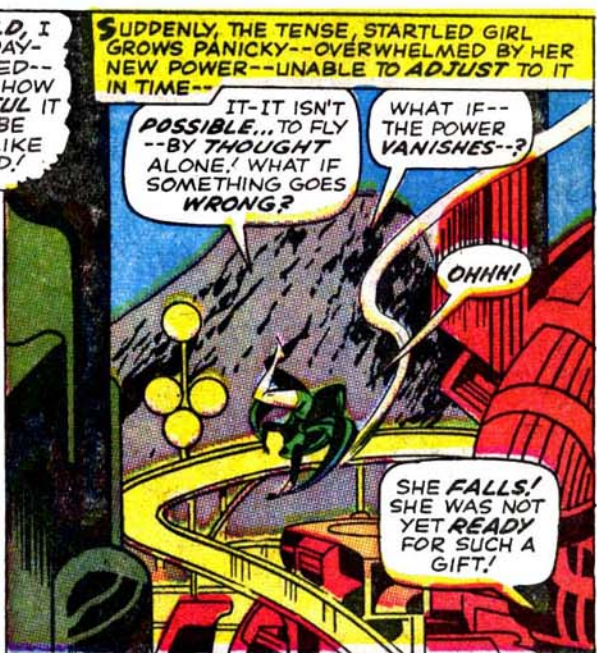
I--I'M SOARING --INTO THE SKY!

MERELY THINK OF A DESTINATION --AND THOU SHALT FLY THERE FORTHWITH!



AS A CHILD, I OFTEN DAY-DREAMED--THOUGHT HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO FLY LIKE A BIRD!

BUT, I NEVER DREAMT IT COULD BE SO TERRIFYING--SUCH AN ALIEN, UNNATURAL SENSATION!



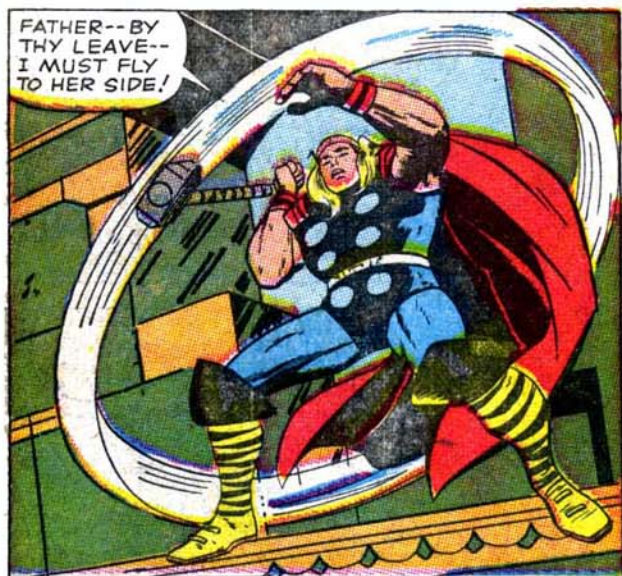
SUDDENLY, THE TENSE, STARTLED GIRL GROWS PANICKY--OVERWHELMED BY HER NEW POWER--UNABLE TO ADJUST TO IT IN TIME--

IT-IT ISN'T POSSIBLE... TO FLY --BY THOUGHT ALONE! WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

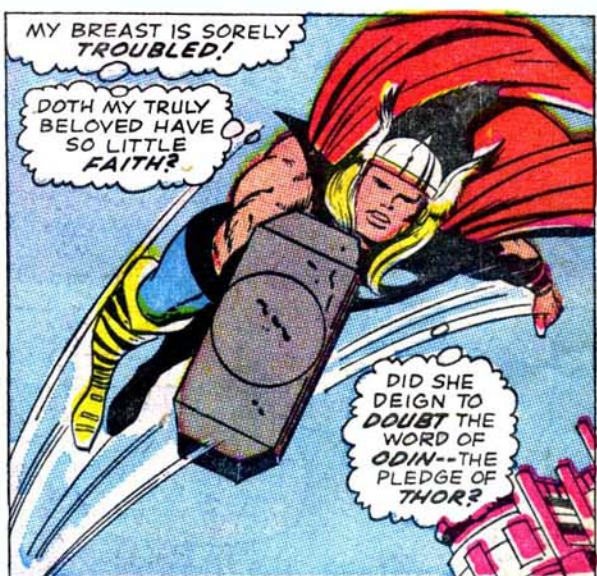
WHAT IF-- THE POWER VANISHES--?

OH!!!

SHE FALLS! SHE WAS NOT YET READY FOR SUCH A GIFT!



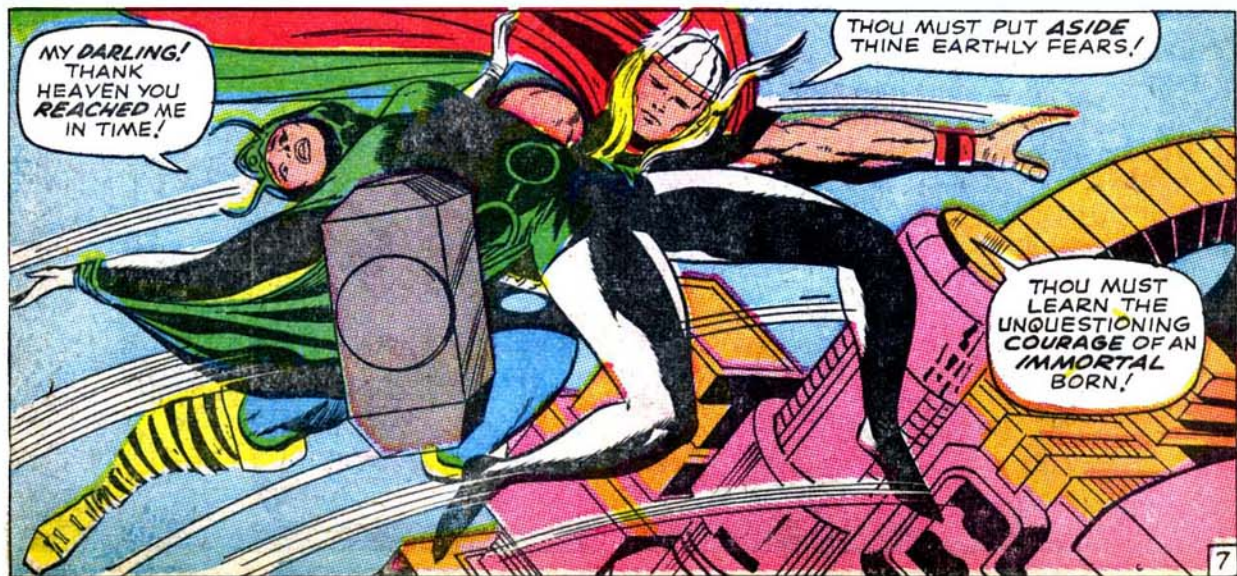
FATHER-- BY THY LEAVE-- I MUST FLY TO HER SIDE!



MY BREAST IS SORELY TROUBLED!

DO THY TRULY BELOVED HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH?

DID SHE DEIGN TO DOUBT THE WORD OF ODIN--THE PLEDGE OF THOR?



MY DARLING! THANK HEAVEN YOU REACHED ME IN TIME!

THOU MUST PUT ASIDE THINE EARTHLY FEARS!

THOU MUST LEARN THE UNQUESTIONING COURAGE OF AN IMMORTAL BORN!



SIRE, THE EARTH FEMALE SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE TASTE FOR IMMORTALITY!

YET, SHE *MUST* LEARN TO ACQUIT HERSELF LIKE A *GODDESS*! THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!

I SHALL AFFORD HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AMENDS FOR WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE--!

SUMMON YE-- THE UNKNOWN!

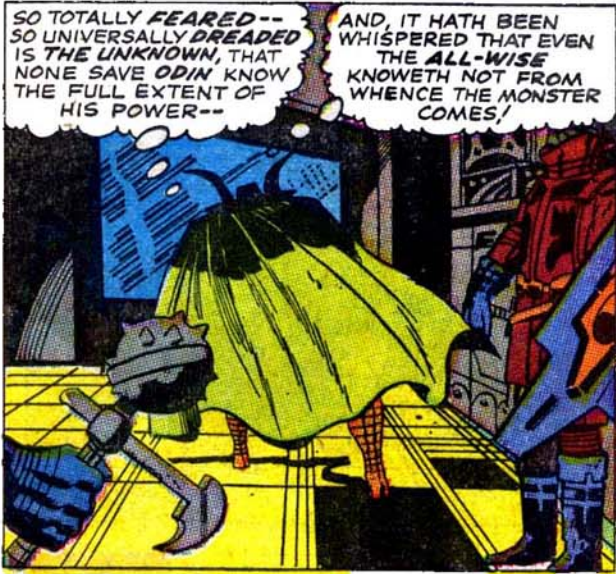


SIRE! HAST THOU CONSIDERED THE AWESOME CONSEQUENCES?

TRUE! BUT GODHOOD IS NOT LIGHTLY WON! LET THE TEST CONTINUE!

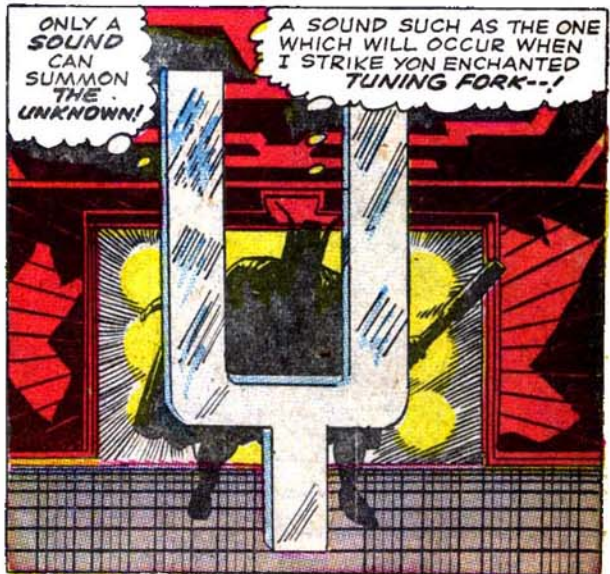
THE UNKNOWN IS TOO FEAR-SOME--TOO POWERFUL FOR ANY SAVE THEE!

BRING THEE FORTH THE UNKNOWN! I HAVE SPOKEN!



SO TOTALLY FEARED-- SO UNIVERSALLY DREADED IS THE UNKNOWN, THAT NONE SAVE ODIN KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS POWER--

AND, IT HATH BEEN WHISPERED THAT EVEN THE ALL-WISE KNOWETH NOT FROM WHENCE THE MONSTER COMES!



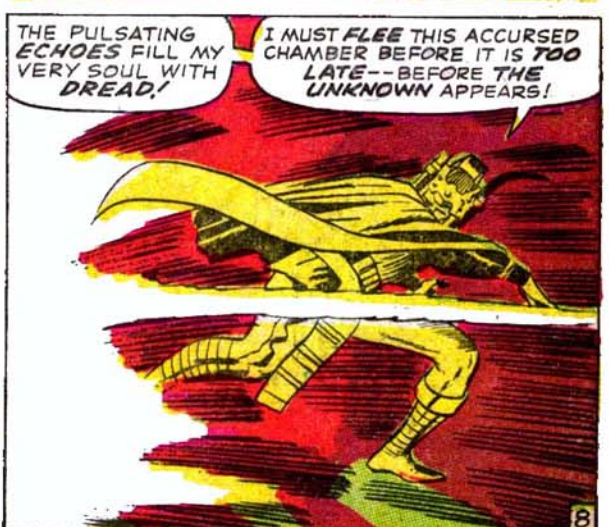
ONLY A SOUND CAN SUMMON THE UNKNOWN!

A SOUND SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH WILL OCCUR WHEN I STRIKE YON ENCHANTED TUNING FORK--!



IT IS DONE!

THYONG!



THE PULSATING ECHOES FILL MY VERY SOUL WITH DREAD!

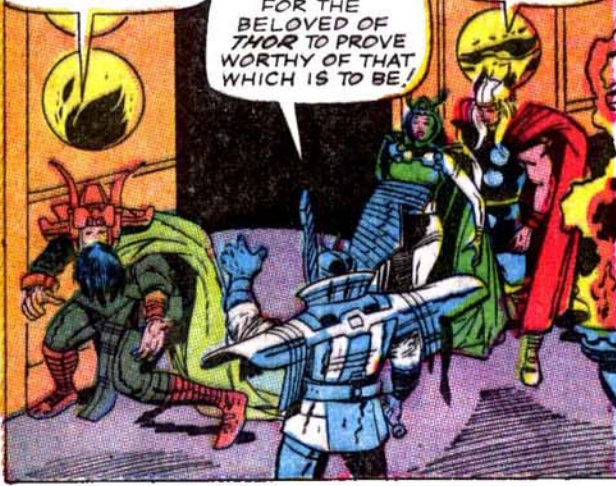
I MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED CHAMBER BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE--BEFORE THE UNKNOWN APPEARS!

BY YOUR LEAVE, SIRE -- THINE EMISSARY IS TRULY NUMB WITH FEAR! MAY I BRING HIM TO THE CHAMBER OF SILENT REPOSE?

AY! HE HATH FAITHFULLY FULFILLED HIS MACABRE MISSION! AWAY WITH HIM!

HAVE COURAGE, MY LOVE! WHAT-EVER BEFALLS THEE, THOU MUST FACE IT LIKE ONE TO THE MANNER BORN!

NOW, 'TIS TIME FOR THE BELOVED OF THOR TO PROVE WORTHY OF THAT WHICH IS TO BE!



FACE IT? FACE WHAT??

THOR! DON'T LEAVE ME! I-I'M AFRAID--!

I SHALL NOT BE FAR FROM THEE, BELOVED!

REMEMBER--THY NEWLY-GRANTED POWERS MAY AID THEE IN WHAT IS TO COME!

HAVE THEE FAITH, MY LOVE! THE PRIZE IS WORTH THE RISK!



THE DOOR IS CLOSED BEHIND ME! I'M ALONE-- BUT WHERE? WAIT-- MY EYES ARE GROWING ACCUSTOMED TO THE GLOOM--!

THERE IS-- SOMEONE ELSE HERE! A PRESENCE I CANNOT CLEARLY SEE-- BUT, I CAN SENSE ITS MONSTROUS FORM!



IT'S DRAWING CLOSER-- CLOSER-- I CAN HEAR IT BREATHING-- HEAR ITS HEAVY LUMBERING FOOTFALLS--!



A HAND-- FROM OUT OF SOME UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTMARE--!

AND THEN, THE DESPERATE EARTH GIRL SEES--



IN HER PANIC--HER NAMELESS, INDESCRIBABLE FEAR--THE HAPLESS GIRL FORGETS HER POWER OF FLIGHT --FORGETS HER PURPOSE IN THE GRIM RITUAL--FORGETS ALL, SAVE THE NAME OF--

THOR! THOR-- HELP ME, MY DARLING-- THOR!





I CANNOT FAIL MY LOVE WHEN SHE CALLS!

THE THUNDER GOD IS HERE!



I-I'M SORRY, DEAREST! I FAILED YOU! BUT-- I WAS SO FRIGHTENED--!

THOU SHALT NEVER BE FRIGHTENED AGAIN!

NOT WHILST THOR DOTH LIVE!

BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE--THE MYSTERIOUS, INDESCRIBABLE UNKNOWN STRIKES--!



BACK, THOU FOUL, INHUMAN BRUTE! BACK--BEFORE THE AVENGING HAMMER OF THE SON OF ODIN!! BACK--TO THE SLIME FROM WHENCE THOU COMEST!



THROOOO!



HE IS GONE!
THE FURY OF
MY MALLET
HATH DRIVEN
HIM BEYOND
THIS IMMORTAL
SPHERE!

I MUST GET
OUT! I MUST
LEAVE--RUN
AWAY--ESCAPE
THIS WORLD
OF FEAR AND
MADNESS!

I CAN
STAND,
NO MORE!
IF I STAY
--I'LL GO
MAD!



OMNIPOTENT ONE!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,
ART THOU NOT CAUSING
JANE FOSTER TO UNDERGO
MORE THAN
MORTAL
FEMALE CAN
ENDURE?

I SAY THEE MAY! IF
THOU WOULDST HAVE
HER A GODDESS BE,
THEN A GODDESS'
HEART MUST SHE
POSSESS!



HAST THOU
SO SOON
FORGOTTEN?

ON FEAR DOETH THE
UNKNOWN FEED!
IT IS FOR THAT
REASON HE HATH
NEVER INVADED
THE GOLDEN
REALM--

FOR THE GODS
OF ASGARD
KNOW NOT
THE MEANING
OF FEAR!

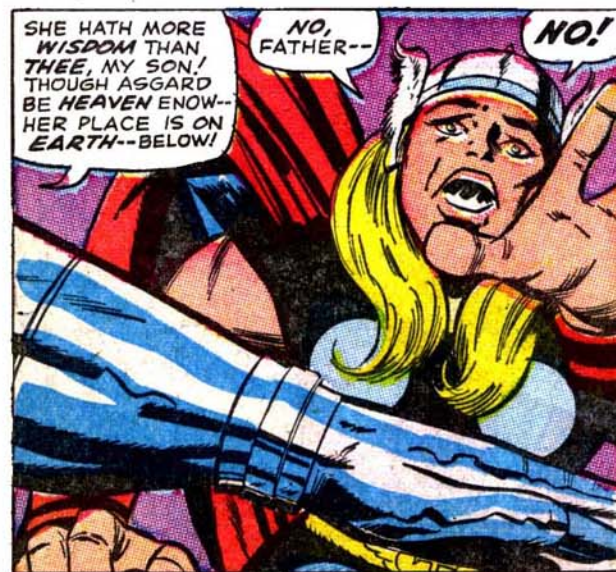


BUT--HEAR ME,
FATHER! SHE IS
NO WARRIOR!
SHE IS NO
VALKYRIE BORN!
SHE IS BUT MY
BELOVED--
GENTLE--AND
KIND--AND
TRUE!

IS THERE NO
PLACE FOR ONE
SUCH AS SHE IN
THE HOME OF
THE GODS??

NO! DON'T ASK
HIM! I DON'T
WANT IT! I
WON'T BE A
GODDESS! I
WON'T STAY
IN ASGARD!

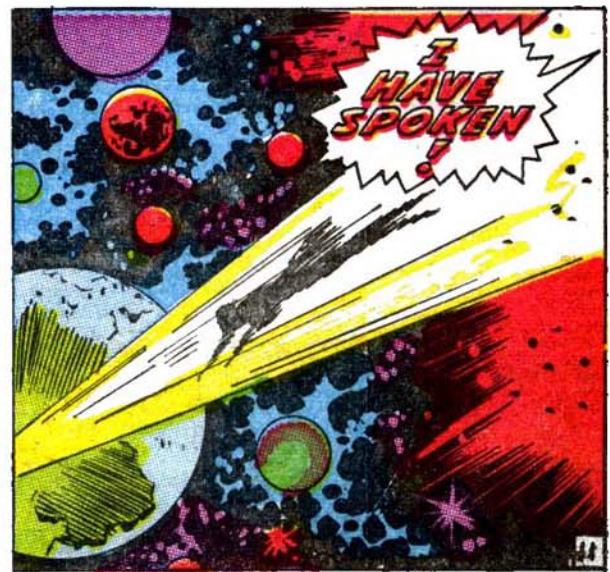
IT'S TOO
HORRIBLE!
TOO UNEN-
DURABLE!
DON'T YOU
REALIZE
HOW MAD
IT IS??!



SHE HATH MORE
WISDOM THAN
THEE, MY SON!
THOUGH ASGARD
BE HEAVEN ENOW--
HER PLACE IS ON
EARTH--BELOW!

NO,
FATHER--

NO!



I
HAVE
SPOKEN!

'TIS CLEAR TO ME NOW! THOU DIDST PLAN THE ENTIRE THING!

IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT JANE FOSTER SHOULD BECOME AN IMMORTAL!

STAND THEE BACK, THUNDER GOD! NONE MAY APPROACH THE PRESENCE IN ANGER!

LET HIM BE! MY SON HATH THE RIGHT!



MOST NOBLE THOR-- I UNDERSTAND THY RAGE, THY DISAPPOINTMENT --BUT, 'TIS NOT AS THOU HAST STATED!

MY HEART DOTH GRIEVE FOR THEE! BUT, THOU MUST ENDURE THIS HAPPENSTANCE IN GODLY MANNER!

I SHALL ENDURE NOTHING! I SHALL FOLLOW HER--!



WHAT?! YOU DARE DISPUTE THE WILL OF ODIN!



THOUGH MY MERCY BE WITHOUT PEER--KNOW YOU MY WRATH IS ALL-CONSUMING!

THOU BE THE SON OF MY HEART--THE FLESH OF MY FLESH!

THOU ART BRAVEST --MOST FAITHFUL-- MOST HEROIC IN ALL THE COSMOS!

BUT, STILL AM I LORD ODIN! STILL IS MY WORD SUPREME-- MY WILL UNQUESTIONED!



NOW RISE, GOD OF THUNDER! IN THY HEART OF HEARTS THOU KNOWEST GODHOOD WAS NOT FOR ONE SUCH AS SHE!

STILL DO I LOVE HER, MY FATHER! THOUGH SHE BE FRAIL, AND WEAK--HAVE I NOT STRENGTH ENOW FOR THE TWO?



MY POWER IS BEYOND ALL MEASURE--BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION--AND YET, I CANNOT ALTER AN EMOTION OF THE HEART!

BUT, WE SHALL SPEAK OF THIS NO MORE!

SINCE THE UNKNOWN IS NOW AT LARGE, I ORDER THEE ON TO GUNDERSHELM, TO GUARD THE GLADE OF CRYSTALS FROM HIS ATTACK!

'TIS JUST AS WELL! IF FORTUNE LOOKS UPON ME WITH FAVOR, MAYHAP I SHALL FALL IN BATTLE!



WONDROUS IS THE POWER OF ODIN! NO SOONER DO I RAISE MY HEAD, THAN I AM IN THE LAND OF GUNDERSHELM--

ONLY HERE, AT THE EDGE OF THE GLADE OF CRYSTALS, CAN THE UNKNOWN ENTER ASGARD!

I MUST DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY TASK WITH A MIGHTY VENGEANCE--!

FOR, IF I SHOULD DWELL UPON WHAT HATH BEFALLEN, THEN SURELY SHALL I LOSE THE VERY WILL TO LIVE!



NO! THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY! ONLY ONE BALM FOR MY ACHING HEART!

I MUST HURL MYSELF INTO BATTLE-- FIGHT AS NEVER BEFORE-- FIGHT AS ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!

TLANNING!

THAT SOUND! THE CRYSTALS RING! 'TIS THE OMINOUS NOTE WHICH HATH THE POWER TO SUMMON-- THE UNKNOWN!



AN EVIL TROLL! 'TIS THOU WHO HAST DARED GIVE THE FORBIDDEN SIGNAL!

TLANNING!

IT IS DONE! NOT EVEN THE HAMMER OF THOR CAN STOP HIM NOW!



AND, EVEN AS MIGHTY THOR HEARS THE THUNDEROUS APPROACH OF THE UNKNOWN, A MYSTIFIED JANE FOSTER FINDS HERSELF IN A BUSTLING HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, SOMEWHERE ON THE WEST COAST--



STRANGE-- I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN WHY I CAME HERE!

AND YET, I KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! I FEEL AS THOUGH FATE IS GUIDING MY FOOTSTEPS!

YOUNG LADY--!

ARE YOU THE NEW RESIDENT NURSE WHO WAS DUE TO ARRIVE TODAY?



ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR TO ME! HOW FOOLISH I WAS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN!

WHY YES, I AM! MY NAME IS JANE FOSTER! I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!

NO-- YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME, MY DEAR!



DR. KINCAID, THIS IS NURSE FOSTER-- OUR NEW RESIDENT!

THANK YOU, NURSE PARKWELL!

I FEEL SO-- SECURE! AS IF-- I'VE COME HOME-- AT LAST!

PLEASE COME IN, YOUNG LADY!



I'M DR. KINCAID! IT'S MY CUSTOM TO WELCOME THE NEW NURSES AND EXPLAIN THEIR DUTIES TO THEM!

HE'S SO-- HANDSOME! I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE-- KNOWN HIM-- BEFORE! OR-- IS IT JUST THAT I'VE SEEN HIM SO OFTEN-- IN MY DREAMS?

I HOPE YOU WILL BE HAPPY HERE WITH US, NURSE FOSTER!

OH, I WILL, DOCTOR! I JUST KNOW I WILL!

THUS, WE BID ADIEU TO LOVELY JANE FOSTER, THE MORTAL GIRL WHOM ODIN, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, HAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE-- AND LOVE-- AND ULTIMATE HAPPINESS!

BUT, WHAT OF THE HEART-SICK THUNDER GOD? LET US RETURN TO THE BATTLING THOR, AS HE WHEELS ABOUT TO CHALLENGE-- THE UNKNOWN--!



BACK, THOU NAMELESS, SOULLESS THING OF E'IL! BACK, TO THE STYGIAN NOWHERE FROM WHENCE THOU CAME!

BUT, THE UNKNOWN HAS STRENGTH BEYOND MEASURE IN HIS MANY GRAPPLING ARMS--

--AND, THE GOD OF THUNDER, WITH A SOUL TURNED TO ASHES, FIGHTS LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE--

HE TURNS ASIDE MY BLOWS AS THOUGH THEY BE WEIGHTLESS!

BUT, HE DOTHS STRIKE AT ME WITH A FORCE BEYOND COMPREHENSION--!

ETAM!

HE FEELS MY DEFEAT IS COME! HE GIRDS HIMSELF --FOR THE FINAL KILL!

IF THIS THEN IS THE END WHICH FATE ORDAINED FOR THE LUCKLESS THOR--SO BE IT!

SUDDENLY, AS THE GOLDEN-HAIRED GLADIATOR--SEEMINGLY LACKING THE WILL TO FIGHT ON--WATCHES HIS FOE WITH HYPNOTIC FASCINATION, ANOTHER ARM IS RAISED AGAINST THE UNKNOWN--

RISE AND FIGHT, THUNDER GOD!

CLANG!

FIGHT, SON OF ODIN! FIGHT, AS YOU HAVE FOUGHT SO GALLANTLY IN DAYS OF YORE!

FOR, IF YOU SHOULD FAIL NOW--THEN MY LIFE, TOO, IS SURELY FORFEIT!

I SAY THEE NAY! NONE OTHER SHALL PERISH THRU FAULT OF THOR!

THEN, WITH A BLOOD-CURDLING BATTLE CRY RINGING FROM HIS LIPS, THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL TIME ONCE AGAIN ENTERS THE FRAY-- HIS SMASHING HAMMER DRIVING THE UNKNOWN BACK AS DAYLIGHT SHATTERS THE GLOOM OF NIGHT--!

THOOM! CLANG!

**FINALLY, WHEN THE HAZE OF WHITE-HOT FURY
 CLEARS FROM THE TORTURED BRAIN OF THE IMMORTAL
 AVENGER, HIS STEELY-BLUE EYES BLINK IN ASTON-
 ISHMENT--FOR, THE
 UNKNOWN IS--GONE!**

**HE HATH BEEN VAN-
 QUISHED!** BUT, WHAT
 OF MY NEW-
 FOUND ALLY?

THOUGH I HAVE HEARD OF
 YOUR PROWESS SINCE MY
 BIRTH--NEVER HAVE I BE-
 HELD SO MAGNIFICENT A
 SIGHT AS--THOR
 IN BATTLE!

LET ME NOW
 BEHOLD THE
 ONE WHOSE
 BLADE HATH BEEN
 UNSHEATHED IN
 THOR'S BEHALF!

**BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--'TIS A FEMALE!
 --SO BEAUTEOUS AS TO STAGGER EVEN A GOD!**

ART THOU TRULY REAL--OR
 MERELY A VISION OF LOVELINESS,
 CONJURED IN DESPERATION BY
 THE AGONY OF A BREAKING
 HEART?

YOU KNEW
 ME ONCE,
 MANY
 YEARS
 AGO!

--AS TODAY
 YOU KNOW
 MY BROTHER
 --THE EVER-
 FAITHFUL
 HEIMDALL!

CAN IT BE--?
 THOU ART SIF!
 THE RAVEN-TRESSED
 CHILD WHOM ONCE
 I DANGLED UPON
 MY KNEE!

BUT, BY MY MALLET
 --THOU ART CHILD
 NO LONGER!

**AS A YOUNG GIRL--SILENTLY WATCHING YOU GALLOP
 INTO BATTLE, I HAVE LOVED YOU, SON OF ODIN! I
 HAVE LOVED YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR STRENGTH--YOUR
 MATCHLESS COURAGE--AS ONLY A CHILD CAN LOVE!**

BUT, NOW YOU HAVE CHANGED!
 AN AURA OF SORROW PERVADES
 YOUR
 MANNER--!

AY! EVEN A GOD
 MAY KNOW THE
 PANGS OF DESPAIR!

**SIF, TOO, HAS BEEN NO STRANGER TO HEART-
 BREAK! EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD HAVE I
 SUFFERED THE ACHE OF LOVE UNREQUITED!**

--A HOPELESS LOVE--
 FOR ONE WHO EVER HAD
 EYES FOR ANOTHER--
 ONE TO WHOM SIF WAS
 NAUGHT BUT A
 FORGOTTEN MEMORY!

MINE EARS HEAR
 THY WORDS--BUT
 MY HEART CAN-
 NOT BELIEVE THAT
 ANY COULD
 FORGET ONE
 SUCH AS THEE!

**THOU ART FAIR BEYOND MEASURE
 --VALIANT AS ONLY A GODDESS
 CAN BE--AND I, LOVELY SIF, HAVE
 BEEN BLINDEST OF ALL WHO
 DWELL IN THE GOLDEN REALM!**

VERILY, THOU HAST RESTORED THE
 LUST FOR LIFE TO THE SMOLDER-
 ING SOUL OF AN ERRANT THUNDER
 GOD!

AND YOU,
 MY LORD,
 HAVE
 REKINDLED
 AN EMOTION
 I FEARED
 HAD BEEN
 LOST
 TO ME
 FOREVER!

**THEN, AS MIGHTY THOR AND
 THE STUNNING SIF TURN AND
 WALK INTO THE GATHERING
 TWILIGHT...**

IN THINE
 INFINITE WISDOM, SIRE,
 THOU HAST THIS DAY
 PERFORMED A
 SEEMING
 MIRACLE!

NAY, NOT SO!
 I DID BUT PROVIDE
 THE TIME--THE
 SETTING--


**BUT, ONLY IN THE HEART CAN
 BE FOUND THE FINAL, ENCHANTED
 INGREDIENT--MEN CALL LOVE!**

**AND SO
 SAY WE ALL!**

TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

"THERE SHALL COME A MIRACLE!"

AT THE ROYAL COURT OF **ASGARD**, ETERNAL DOMAIN OF HIM WHO IS THE POWER... WHO IS THE JUDGEMENT... HIM WHO IS NOW AND EVERMORE **ODIN**, THE **ALLWISE**... THE MOST AWESOMELY HEEDED VOICE IN ALL THE COSMOS SHATTERS THE SILENCE, AND ANOTHER TALE BEGINS...



EVIL **FARNIR**,
DEPOSED KING OF **NASTROND**,
WHOM I SENTENCED TO DEATH
AGES AGO, STILL LIVES...
IN THE FORM OF YONDER
DRAGON!

BUT, EVEN WHILST WE
WATCH, THE TRUE SON OF
MY HEART... MIGHTY **THOR**...
AND HIS MOST NOBLE COM-
PANIONS, SHALL VANQUISH
FARNIR FORE'ER!

SUCH IS THE
PRONOUNCEMENT
OF **ODIN**, THY
RIGHTFUL LIEGE
OF ALL THE REALM!

GARNISHED WITH GLORY IN THE MARVEL
TRADITION BY:

STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

DELINEATED BY: **VINCE COLLETTA** • LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

THOUGH BUFFETED BY DEADLY
TONGUES OF FLAME FROM HIS
BESTIAL FOE, THE GOD OF
THUNDER STANDS... UNYIELDING...
IMPLACABLE... TO HIS VERY
CORE A WARRIOR BORN!

AND, IN SUM AND
SUBSTANCE, HE DOTH
FULL WELL KNOW
'TIS MORE THAN LIFE...
MORE THAN HIS
CHERISHED
IMMORTALITY
IN THE OFFING...

FOR, ONLY WITH THE SLAYING
OF THE ACCURSED FAFNIR
SHALL THE LAND OF NASTROND
KNOW A MIRACLE... A
MIRACLE WHICH IT HATH
AWAITED LO, THESE
COUNTLESS AGES!

A MIRACLE,
MOST NOBLE SIRE?

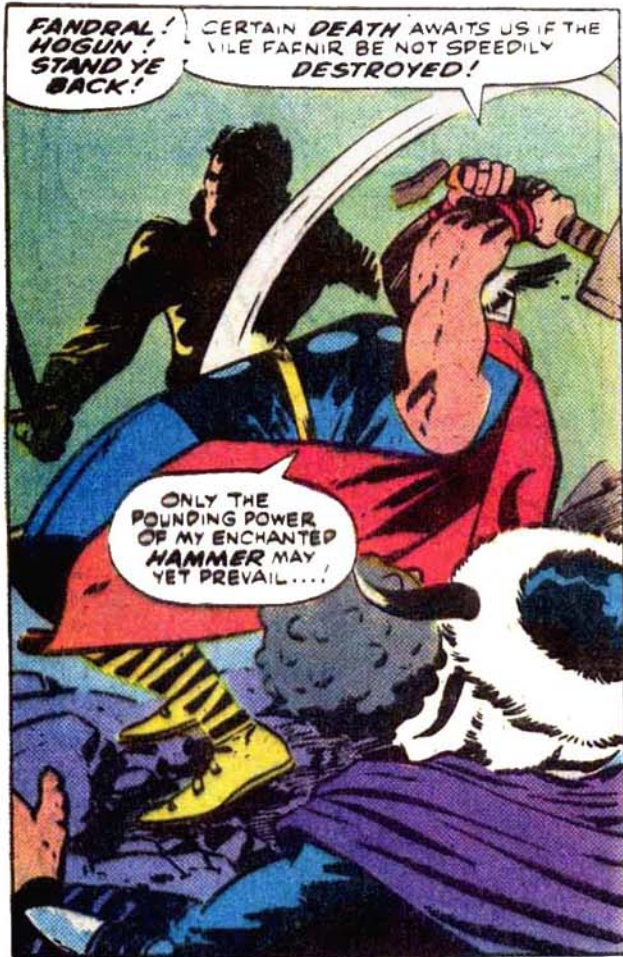
AY, SUCH
AS THOU SHALT
BEHOLD,
SHOULD THE FATES
FAVOR THY PRINCE
WITH VICTORY!

AND, EVEN AS THE STAGGERING TABLEAU UNFOLDS UPON THE *ETERNA-SCREEN* OF THE CASTLE ROYAL...

SKRAK!!

NOW AT LAST MY VENGEANCE
IS AT HAND! NOW AT LAST THE SON
OF ODIN DIES!

HE DOTH TEAR
ASUNDER THE
MOUNTAINS
BEFORE HIM WITH A
STRENGTH
UNSURPASSED
BY ANY WHO LIVE!



FANDRAL!
HOGUN!
STAND YE
BACK!

CERTAIN DEATH AWAITS US IF THE
VILE FAFNIR BE NOT SPEEDILY
DESTROYED!

ONLY THE
POUNDING POWER
OF MY ENCHANTED
HAMMER MAY
YET PREVAIL....!



LET THE GROUND BELOW
ME SHATTER!! LET
THE SKIES ABOVE BE
RENT ASUNDER!!

LET THE FURY
OF THE STORM,
THE DEADLY STING
OF LIGHTNING,
STRIKE... AS
COMMANDS
THE GOD
OF THUNDER!

FTOOOOM!

NEVER WITHIN MEMORY OF MAN OR IMMORTAL HAS SUCH
A STORM BEEN UNLEASHED WITHIN THE KNOWN COSMOS.
FROM EVERY PART OF THE SKY ABOVE, POTENT FINGERS
OF FLASHING LIGHTNING LASH OUT AT THE STARTLED
UNCOMPREHENDING FAFNIR...



ZZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ

UNTIL, AT LAST, AS THOUGH THE GROUND ITSELF CAN
NO LONGER BEAR THE AWESOME ASSAULT, A
GIGANTIC CHASM YAWNS BENEATH THE HELPLESS
FEET OF THE DRAGON... THE DRAGON WHICH ONCE
HAD BEEN... A MAN!



CRACKKK!

THE DRAGON IS VANQUISHED!!
BUT, WHAT OF THE MISSING VOLSTAGG?

WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN CAVE
YONDER... A BELLOW
ISSUES FORTH... AS
FROM A BRAYING MULE
IN DIREST PAIN!

NAY! NO MERE
BEAST OF BURDEN
WAS EVER CURSED
WITH SUCH A
VOICE!

IF THEN HE BE
NOT BEAST, ONE
ANSWER... AND ONE
ALONE DOTH
REMAIN...

... 'TIS THE VOLUMINOUS
VOLSTAGG... VERITABLY
IMPRISONED WITHIN A
CAGE OF ROUGH-HEWN
STONE...!

THOR! HOGUN!
FANDRAL! BE OF
STOUT HEART, ONE
AND ALL!

THE UNMATCHED
STRENGTH OF VOLSTAGG
SOON SHALL SHATTER
YON IGNOBLE CAGE,
AND I SHALL RESCUE
THEE FORTHWITH!

THINE INTENTIONS
WARM THE VERY
COCKLES OF OUR
HEARTS, MOST
VOLUBLE ONE...

STILL, SINCE
TIME BE OF
THE ESSENCE...

I SHALL
AID THEE
IN THY NOBLE
ENDEAVOR!

NOW NOW??
TO SPEAK SO OF
GIVING AID TO VOLSTAGG
IS AKIN TO GIVING THE PSA-
COCK AN EXTRA FEATHER...
THE PORCUPINE AN
EXTRA QULL!

SHIELD THY FACE
AND CLOSE THY
MOUTH, MOUNTAINOUS
FRIEND...

THOUGH, FOR THEE,
THE LATTER MAY
BE WELL NIGH
IMPOSSIBLE!

BLOW!

WITHIN A MATTER OF FLEET SECONDS, THE FABLED QUARTET, MOUNTED ONCE MORE, GALLOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE LAND OF NASTROND... A LAND STILL WRACKED BY STORM AND SEARED BY FLASHING FLAME...

OUR TASK IS ENDED! NOW, NAUGHT BUT THE PROMISED MIRACLE REMAINS!

OF WHAT MANNER OF MIRACLE HAST THOU BEEN FORETOLD?

I KNOW NOT ITS NATURE... BUT THE SACRED WORD OF ODIN HATH BEEN SO PLEDGED!

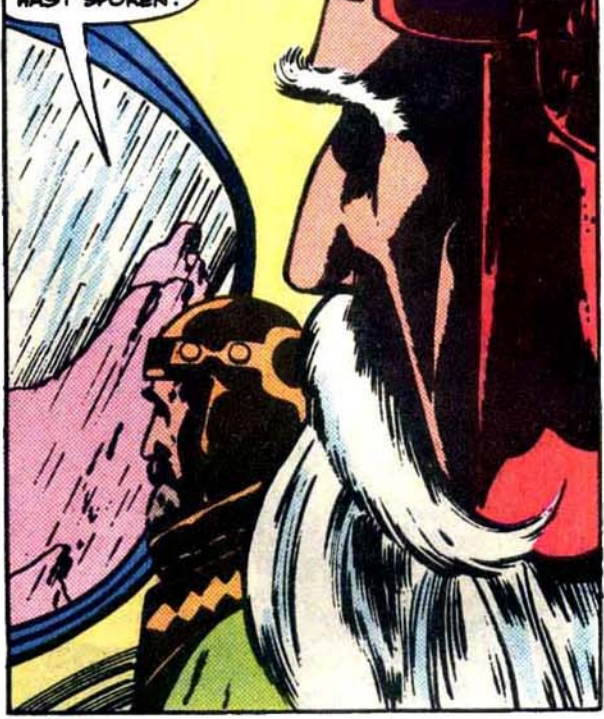


'TIS DONE, MY LORD!

THINE EYES ARE WITNESS TO IT EVEN NOW!

YET, MINE EYES DO NOT PERCEIVE THE MIRACLE OF WHICH THOU HAST SPOKEN!

'TIS THE VERY SIGHT THOU DOEST GAZE UPON!

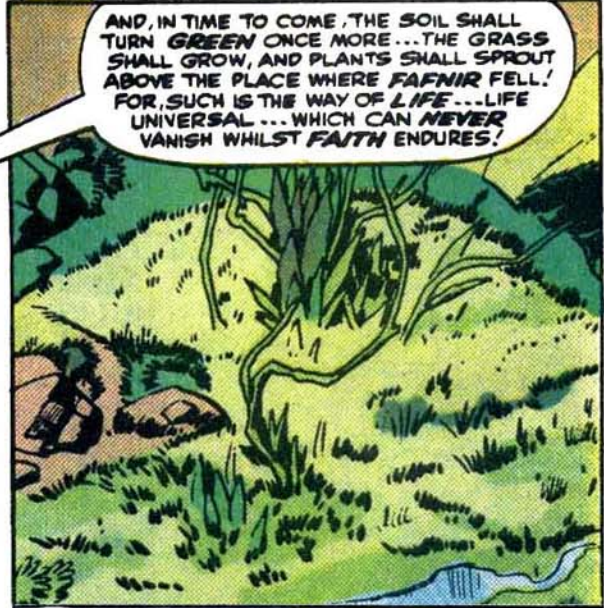


NEVER BEFORE HATH A BLESSED BLANKET OF RAIN SO CARESS'D THE BARREN WASTELAND OF NASTROND!

RAIN... WHICH IS TRULY THE HARBINGER OF LIFE... THE PROMISE OF THE NEW DAY WHICH IS YET TO BE!



AND, IN TIME TO COME, THE SOIL SHALL TURN GREEN ONCE MORE... THE GRASS SHALL GROW, AND PLANTS SHALL SPROUT ABOVE THE PLACE WHERE FAFNIR FELL! FOR, SUCH IS THE WAY OF LIFE... LIFE UNIVERSAL... WHICH CAN NEVER VANISH WHILST FAITH ENDURES!



NEXT ISSUE:

A GRIM SECRET HATH HOGUN!