



THE MIGHTY

THOR

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IND.

152
MAY

MCG



THE WRATH OF THE WARRIOR!

THE MIGHTY THOR!

THE DILEMMA OF DR. BLAKE!

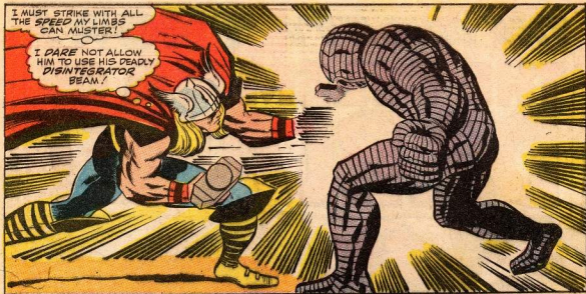
FOR
ASGARD,
I STRIKE!

HIS FULL
GODLY POWER
RETURNED TO HIM AT
LAST THE MIGHTY THOR
HAMMERS HIS WAY OUT OF
THE ALLEY IN WHICH THE
DREADED
DESTROYER
HAD CORNERED HIM...
AND NOW THEY
PREPARE FOR
THE FINAL
CONFRONTATION...

LET MARVELDOM REJOICE! THAT WHICH AWAITS
US HATH BEEN GARNISHED IN GRANDEUR BY
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY

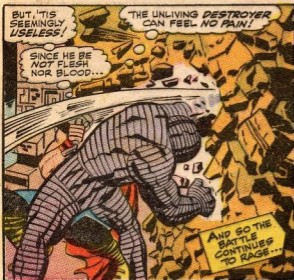
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I MUST STRIKE WITH ALL THE SPEED MY LIMBS CAN MUSTER!

I DARE NOT ALLOW HIM TO USE HIS DEADLY DISINTEGRATOR BEAM!



BUT, 'TIS SEEMINGLY USELESS!

THE UNLIVING DESTROYER CAN FEEL NO PAIN!

SINCE HE BE NOT FLESH NOR BLOOD...

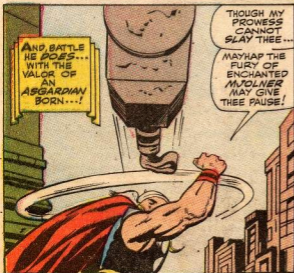
AND SO THE BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE...



... WITH THE DESPERATELY-FIGHTING THUNDER-GOD STILL UNAWARE THAT THE LIFE-FORCE WHICH IS WITHIN THE DESTROYER... BELONGS TO NONE OTHER THAN... THE GODDESS SIF!!

SO LONG AS BREATH ENDURES...

THOR BATTLES ON!



AND, BATTLE HE DOES... WITH THE VALOR OF AN ASGARDIAN BORN...!

THOUGH MY PROWESS CANNOT SLAY THEE...

MAYHAP THE FURY OF ENCHANTED MJOLNER MAY GIVE THEE PAUSE!



HE HATH BEEN STRUCK WITH FORCE BEYOND COMPARE!!

YET, BEFORE MINE VERY EYES... THERE STANDS HE STILL!

HAVING NO LIFE THAT BE HIS OWN, THE DESTROYER MUST BE PROPELLED BY THE LIFE FORCE OF ANOTHER!

WOULD THAT I MIGHT KNOW WHOSE SPIRIT FORM NOW LIVES WITHIN YON MONSTER!

BUT, PERHAPS 'TIS BEST THAT THE SON OF ODIN *NOT SUSPECT* THAT THE STUNNING SIF HERSELF HAD BEEN TRICKED INTO BRINGING THE DESTROYER TO LIFE... IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HER BELOVED... NOT DREAMING SHE WOULD THEN BE UNABLE TO CONTROL HIM!

DARE I BELIEVE IN MY EYES?

HE DOTHS SEIZE THE FATEFUL MALLET...!

SINCE HE BE A CREATION OF THE ALMIGHTY ODIN, HE TOO HATH THE POWER TO WIELD THE INVINCIBLE HAMMER!

BUT, E'EN IN THE HANDS OF THE DESTROYER, MIGHTY MJOLNER NE'ER WILL STRIKE ITS GODLY MASTER!

THUS, IT BURIES ITSELF INSTEAD, WITHIN THE GROUND, BENEATH MY FEET!

AND NOW... TO THE DEATH!!

HIS VISOR DOTHS RISE...

HE HATH REMEMBERED AGAIN...
...HIS POWER TO DISINTEGRATE A FOE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





ONLY ONE EXPLANATION DOETH THEN REMAIN...

THE LIFE FORCE WHICH DID GUIDE THE FALLEN DESTROYER...HATH BEEN WITHDRAWN!

SO LIES HE LIFELESS AND STILL... AND SO SHALL HE LIE... BY WILL OF ODIN!



BUT WHO DARED TAMPER WITH THINE OWN CREATION, SIRE? WHO WOULD BE SO FOOLHARDY?

HAST THOU FORGOTTEN? BOTH BALDER AND THE FAIR SIF ARE IN THE LAND OF THE NORNS!

METHINKS 'TIS THERE THINE ANSWER RESTS!



AND, EVEN AS THE OMNIPOTENT ONE SPEAKS...

BEHOLD, BRAVE BALDER!

I HAVE DONE AS THOU DIDST DEMAND!

I HAVE RELEASED THE LIFE FORCE OF THE GODDESS SIF! SHE IS NOW HERSELF AGAIN!

AND THE DESTROYER SLEEPS!

THEN NOW SHALT BALDER BE TRUE TO HIS PLEDGE!

I SHALL DEFEND THEE FROM THE MONSTROUS ULIK... DEADLIEST OF ALL THE SAVAGE TROLLS!

WHAT?! THINKEST THOU TO BATTLE ME?!!



NOT EVEN THOR CAN STAND AGAINST MY NEW-FOUND MIGHT!

POWERFUL AS I WAS IN DAYS GONE BY... ULIK BE STRONGER THAN EVER NOW!

BALDER... WAIT!

YOU CANNOT BATTLE HIM ALONE...!

SILENCE, YOU FOOL! LET THEM BE!



IF BALDER STOPS HIM NOT... OUR OWN LIVES ARE FORFEIT!

STAND YE BACK!

THE FEARS ARE THINE... THE CHALLENGE MINE!

EVEN IN THE DEPTHS WHEREIN I DWELL... THE LEGENDS SING OF BALDER... AND HIS COURAGE BEYOND COMPARE!

THIS IS WHAT ULIK THINKS OF BALDER... OR AUGHT; SAVE THE POWER OF MY LIMBS!



WHERE THOU HAST COURAGE... ULIK HATH MIGHT!

'TIS FOR THOR MY MACE DOTH HUNGER! 'TIS THOR I MUST NEEDS DESTROY!

WHERE THOU ART SKILLFUL... ULIK IS SUPREME!



THOU ART BUT A TIDBIT... TO WHET MY APPETITE FOR CARNAGE!

THEREFORE MUST THOU SUFFICE... TILL THE THUNDER GOD BE MINE!



BALDER HATH HEARD ENOW!

BTAM!



THOUGH THY LIMBS BE STRONG BEYOND COMPARE...

MINE FIGHT FOR ASGARD!



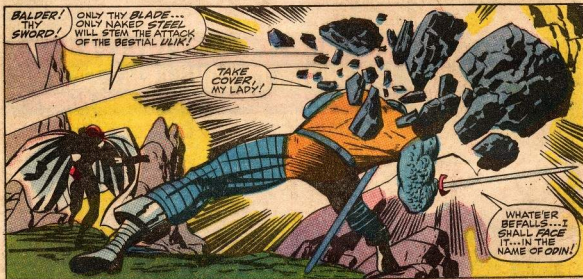
IF THAT BE THY MIGHTIEST BLOW...

IF THAT BE THE POWER OF BALDER...

THEN, KNOW THOU THIS, ASGARDIAN...



BY THE HAND OF ULIK, THOU ART AS GOOD AS SLAIN!



BALDER! THY SWORD!

ONLY THY BLADE... ONLY THY NAKED STEEL WILL STEM THE ATTACK OF THE BESTIAL ULIK!

TAKE COVER, MY LADY!

WHATE'ER BEFALLS... I SHALL FACE IT... IN THE NAME OF ODIN!



ODIN... HA!!

AFTER THOU ART SLAIN... AND THE ACCURSED THOR AS WELL...

NOT EVEN ODIN SHALL BE SAFE FROM ULIK!



HOWEVER, SPEAKING OF THE MIGHTY THOR... LET US VISIT MOTHER EARTH ONCE MORE--

THOUGH THE DESTROYER HATH FALLEN... MY TASK IS FAR FROM DONE!

A STILL GREATER DANGER DOTH AWAIT ME!



EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING
DOETH LONG TO RETURN TO
ASGARD... WHERE I
SHALL FIND...

THOR! WHAT
HAPPENED HERE?
WHO DID YOU
BATTLE?

BEHIND ME! THE
SOUND OF RUNNING
FOOTSTEPS! A NEW
MENACE, MAYHAP,
OR...?

NO! 'TIS THE
MINIONS OF THE
LAW!

HOW CAN I
EXPLAIN... IN TERMS
A MORTAL MAY HOPE
TO COMPREHEND?



HE BE NO CONCERN
TO EARTHINGS...
SO LONG AS HE
DOETH NOT RISE
AGAIN!

TRANSPORT HIM TO A PLACE
OF SAFETY... AND GUARD
HIM WELL!

NO MORE
CAN BE DONE...
UNTIL A DECISION
REACHES THEE...
FROM FAR-OFF
ASGARD!

IF YOU
SAY SO,
BIG
MAN!

GIMME
A HAND,
WITH HIM,
SAM...

WE'LL BRING
HIM TO THE
PRECINCT!

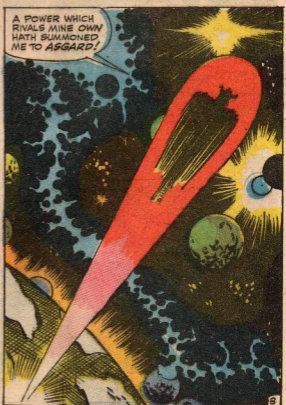


MEANWHILE, THOR
SHALL DECIDE WHAT
NEXT TO...

BY THE
GOLDEN GATES!!
STAND YE BACK!!

THE
DECISION
HATH BEEN
MADE... AND
MADE BY
ANOTHER!

THAT
BLINDING FLASH!
THAT SUDDEN
THUNDERCLAP!
...HE'S VANISHING!



A POWER WHICH
RIVALS MINE OWN
HATH SUMMONED
ME TO ASGARD!



...THE POWER OF **KARNILLA**...
MISTRESS OF MYSTICISM
...**QUEEN OF THE NORNS!**

BEHIND THEE STANDS **SIF**, O EMPRESS OF EVIL!

THY LADY IS **SAFE**, THUNDER GOD!

MIGHTY THOR! THY COMRADE **BATTLES ULIK**, STRONGEST OF ALL THE **TROLLS!**

IF ANY HARM HATH TO HER, BEFALLEN...!

BUT, I CANNOT SAY THE SAME FOR **BALDER**, THE BRAVE.

THOUGH HIS VALOR NEVER FALTERS... ONLY THOU CANST SAVE HIM!



SAY NO MORE, MY FAIR ONE!

OF A SUDDEN, 'TIS ALL MOST **CRYSTAL CLEAR** TO ME!

KARNILLA HERSELF HATH BEEN SNARED BY HER OWN DEADLY TRAP!

I SAY THEE NEVER!! NOT WHILST **THOR** STILL LIVES!

NOW STRIKES THE GOD OF THUNDER... FOR THE **REALM ETERNAL!**

AND KNOW YOU THIS, SON OF ODIN...

IF **ULIK** BE TRIUMPHANT, THEN **ASGARD** ITSELF IS SURELY DOOMED



VALIANTLY AND WELL HAST THOU DONE BATTLE, MOST FAITHFUL FRIEND!

BUT, IN ODIN'S NAME, I NOW CLAIM **ULIK** AS THE FOE OF THOR!

THOU BE **PRINCE OF THE REALM**, AND MY FRIEND FORE'ER!

THEN THOU SHALT WAIT NO LONGER, SAVAGE ONE!

THUS, TO THOR DOTH **BALDER** YIELD!

HAH! THIS IS WHAT I LONG HAVE WAITED FOR!



SINCE THY PUMMELING LIMBS POSSESS A STRENGTH BEYOND ALL MEASURE...

THOU THINKEST ALL MUST FALL BENEATH THY MERCILESS ATTACK!



BUT, THE POWER OF THOR SHALL FOREVER GIVE LIE TO THY DEADLY CLAIM!



NEVERMORE, ASGARDIAN! AT LAST I AM THY MASTER!



ONE SUCH AS THEE... MASTER OF THOR??!

METHINKS THOU ART MASTER OF MADNESS INSTEAD!

CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL! THE VICTORY SHALL BE MINE!

I HAVE SHATTERED THY MACE! THOU ART WITHOUT WEAPON!

--SO SHALL I CRUSH THEE WITH EMPTY HANDS AS WELL!



FOOL! THY STRENGTH IS IN THY HAMMER!

WITHOUT IT, THOU ART ULIK'S HELPLESS PREY!

SEE HOW THE GUILTESS GALLANTRY OF THOR SHALL CAUSE HIS DEATH!



MY MIGHTY MACE WAS LITTLE MORE THAN ORNAMENT!!

FOR ULIK'S HANDS ARE STRONGER BY FAR THAN ANY CLUB!



BEHOLD THEN, BESTIAL ONE!!

THINKEST THOU THE ARM OF THOR BE NOT THINE EQUAL?



THEN THOU THINKEST TRUE!!

THE EQUAL OF ULIK THOR IS NOT!

VERILY, IN EVERY WAY... I BE THY BETTER!



FOR, I BE ASGARDIAN-BORN!!

SIRED BY HIM WHO IS THE POWER... AND THE WRATH!



AND ULIK THE TROLL IS LOWLY-BORN...!

...WITH NAUGHT TO LOSE...AND A WORLD TO GAIN!

MINE EARS! ...NEVER HAVE THEY BEEN DEALT SO CRUEL A BLOW!



HAH! NOBLE THOR KEEPS THE RULES OF GALLANT COMBAT!

BUT ULIK IS A SAVAGE! ULIK IS A TROLL! ULIK FIGHTS TO WIN... BY ANY MEANS!

WHEN VICTORY BE MINE... NONE WILL QUESTION HOW IT HATH BEEN ACHIEVED!

AND NOW, ASGARDIAN... THE END IS COME!

I MUST NOT FALL!

I MUST NOT HEED... THE AWESOME PAIN!



THE END INDEED!

THINKST THOU THE SON OF ODIN WILT NOT FIGHT ON?

IT MATTERS NOT!



THE GAME IS DONE!

ULIK NOW IS ARMED...AND THOU ART NOT!

ONCE AGAIN THEN THOU HATH LIED!

FOR, DIDST THOU NOT DENY THE NEED OF WEAPON?



BAH! ONLY THOU ART BOUND BY WORDS!

HONOR IS AN EMPTY VESSEL...

AND NONE BUT WEAKLINGS SIP OF IT!

NOT SO, BASE TROLL!

COURAGE BE THE STEED...AND HONOR THE SPUR!

BUT, WHILE THOR DOETH WAX AS ELOQUENT AS EVER, LET'S RETURN TO OUR OWN MORTAL VALE, WHERE WE FINDETH...



I GUESS HE'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH HERE...

I WONDER WHAT GOLDBLOCKS MEANT...

WHEN HE SAID A DECISION WOULD REACH US...FROM ASGARD!

WHOEVER HE IS!

ASGARD, MY FOOT! IT'S PROBABLY A SUBURB OF HOBOKEN!

EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL IN THERE, CAPTAIN!



BACK TO DUTY THEN, LEW!

THE MUSEUM IS SENDING AN EXPERT HERE TO GIVE HIM THE ONCE-OVER!



I HAVE ARRIVED!

WHERE IS HIM WHOM I DO SEEK?

YOU'RE THE GENT FROM THE MUSEUM?

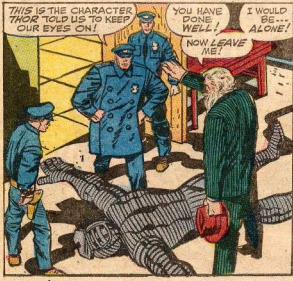
HOW'D YOU WALK IN WITHOUT ME SEEING YOU?



'TIS NO CONCERN OF YOURS!

YOU ARE IN...THE PRESENCE! LET THAT FACT SUFFICE!

Y-YES, SIR! ANYTHING... YOU SAY...!



THIS IS THE CHARACTER THOR TOLD US TO KEEP OUR EYES ON!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL!

NOW LEAVE ME!

I WOULD BE... ALONE!



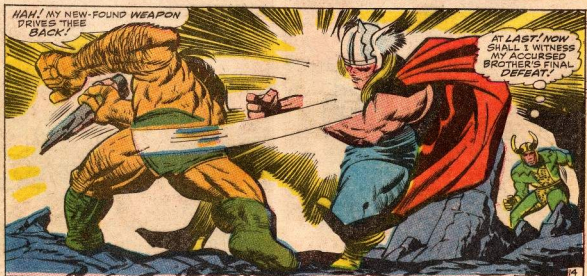
SOME SECONDS LATER...

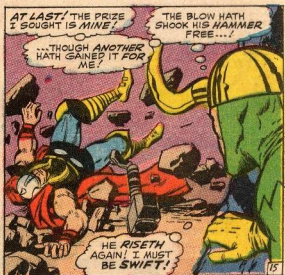
THE MUSEUM'S ON THE WIRE!

THE GUY THEY'RE SENDING IS GONNA BE A LITTLE LATE!

WHAT??!

THEN... WHO...?!







THE MANIACAL FRENZY OF THINE ATTACK DID MAKE ME STUMBLE!

BUT, THE THUNDER GOD SHALL STUMBLE... NO MORE!!

MY MOST MIGHTY BLOW...

SERVED ONLY ...TO ANGER THEE--!



AY! AND THE WRATH OF THOR BE SECOND TO NONE...

SAVE ONLY HIM WHOM I CALL... FATHER!

ARGH!!!



TOO HARD DID MINE ARM STRIKE! THE BLOW HATH SHATTERED YOUR STONE WALL...!

THE BLOW HATH SHATTERED YOUR STONE WALL...!

HURLING ULIK INTO THE BOTTOMLESS ABYSS OF SHADOWS!

...FROM WHICH NONE WHO LIVE... HAVE E'ER RETURNED!



NOW STAND I REPENTENT...

'TIS MOST UNFITTING THAT A SOVEREIGN'S SON INDULGE HIMSELF IN SUCH UNSEEMLY RAGE!

TILL TIME ITSELF BE ENDED... THE MINSTRELS SHALL SING OF THIS DAY!

MY LORD... THOU WERT MAGNIFICENT!

ENDED... THE MINSTRELS SHALL SING OF THIS DAY!



ONCE AGAIN THOU ART GOD OF THUNDER IN DEED... AS WELL AS NAME!

AND, ONCE AGAIN... THE ARMS OF SIF ARE THINE ALONE!

FOR SUCH REWARD, MY HEART IS GRATEFUL!



AND NOW, BY MIGHTY MJOLNAR, MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER, DO I PLEDGE...

BUT WAIT!! WHAT HATH BEFALLEN!

THINE HAMMER!! IT IS GONE!



EVIL LOKI!

NONE BUT HE POSSESSES THE SORCERY... OR THE SKILL!

THE BATTLE THEN... HATH JUST BEGUN!

NEXT!
RETURN TO EARTH!

THE ORIGIN OF: THE INCOMPARABLE INHUMANS!™

"WHILE THE CITY SHRIEKS!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT NUTTY SEA MONSTER STORY?

WHAT'S TO THINK? THEY'LL PRINT ANYTHING TO SELL PAPERS NOWADAYS!

BEFORE RETURNING TO MY HOME IN ATTILAN, I MUST LEARN MORE OF THE STRANGE HUMAN RACE!

BUT, TIME GROWS SHORT! I CANNOT LONG BREATHE THIS WATERLESS SURFACE AIR!

STAR-GAZETTE
CLAIM SEA MONSTER ATTACKS SHIP!
ALL FILM OF CREATURE LOST IN BAY!
AUTHORITIES SCOFF AT REPORT OF SEA MONSTER
"PUBLICITY STUNT" SAYS MAYOR!

OKAY, TAKE A BOW
STAN (THE MAN) LEE
and
JACK (KING) KIRBY
WRITER AND ARTIST!
AND YOU TOO...
JOE SINNOTT,
EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER
AND NOW, LET'S
GET ON WITH IT--

I FIGGER SOME MOVIE COMPANY DREAMED UP THE WHOLE THING, JUST TO PLUG ONE'A THEIR NEW CHILLER-DILLERS!



CHARLIE?
DIDN'T YA
HEAR--HEAR--



I DESIRE TO
SPEAK WITH
YOU, HUMAN!

WAIT!
COME
BACK--!

IT IS NO USE!
FEAR HAS
STRIPPED THEM
OF REASON!

I HAVE
NO WISH
TO HARM
YOU!

BUT, AMONG
THE TEEMING
MULTITUDES,
I SHALL
FIND
OTHERS!



MINUTES LATER, THE SEA-BORN INHUMAN, ENTERING ONE OF THE CITY'S BUSIEST THOROUGHFARES, FINDS A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STREAM OF SPEEDING VEHICLES BEARING DOWN UPON HIM--AS THE DEAFENING DIN ASSAULTS A PAIR OF EARS WHICH ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THE SMOLDERING SILENCE OF THE ETHERAL SEA--!



THUS MISUNDERSTANDING, THE BEWILDERED SEA-BEING LASHES OUT, LIKE A BEAST AT BAY--

IS THERE NAUGHT BUT MADNESS IN THIS WORLD?

IS THERE NO SANCTUARY FOR A STRANGER?



IN THE MIDNIGHT DARKNESS, THE QUICKLY-GATHERING CROWD SEES ONLY WHAT SEEMS TO BE A FREAK ACCIDENT, CAUSING A MAMMOTH TRAFFIC JAM--AND THEN--

LOOK! THAT FIGURE--FRANTICALLY RUNNING--ACROSS THE STREET--

HE JUST BRUSHED AGAINST THAT LAMPOST--AND HE KNOCKED IT OVER!! IT'S STARTING TO FALL!



IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! ONE OF THE CARS MUST HAVE DONE IT!

WHO CAN BE SURE OF ANYTHING IN THIS DARKNESS

AND, OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS, ARE LEGENDS SWIFTLY BORN--

I CAN LEARN NO MORE AMONG THE HUMANS!

I MUST RETURN TO THE SEA!



FOOTSTEPS RUNNING THIS WAY!

LET ME CONCEAL MYSELF, UNTIL-- BUT THE DOOR IS LOCKED!

TOO LATE TO BREAK IN! THEY HAVE SIGHTED ME!

MY ONLY RECOURSE IS TO FLEE--OR FIGHT!





BUT ALREADY
MY LUNGS
BEGIN TO
ACHE!

I MUST SEEK
THE LIFE-GIVING
SANCTUARY OF
THE SEA!

UP
AHEAD!
WHO'S
THAT?

HOLD
IT
THERE!
STAY
WHERE
YOU
ARE!

OVER
HERE,
SARGE!
WE
FOUND
SOME-
THING!



NO TIME TO REACH THE
HARBOR! BUT I SENSE
WATER BENEATH
MY FEET--!

LOOK! HE'S
RIPPING UP
A SOLID
CONCRETE
SECTION
OF
PAVEMENT!

FIRE!

I WAS
RIGHT!
THERE
IS A
WATER
CONDUIT
BELOW!



WHAT MANNER OF
BEINGS ARE THEY
THAT REACT TO EVERY
STRANGE SITUATION
WITH FORCE--AND
VIOLENCE??

WHY DO
THEY LOCK
THEIR DOORS
AS THOUGH
THEY DO NOT
TRUST EACH
OTHER?

HOW DO
THEY DARE
CALL THEM-
SELVES--
CIVILIZED??



THOUGH
THEY HAVE
MASTERED
THE
RUDIMENTS
OF
SCIENCE--

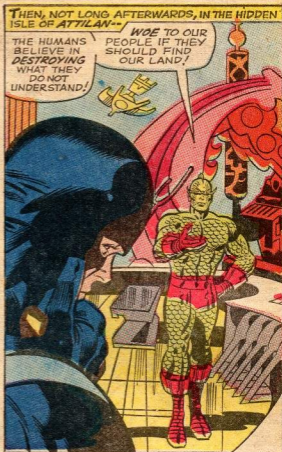
THEY ARE LIKE
CHILDREN--
PLAYING WITH
TOYS WHOSE
FUNCTION
THEY CANNOT
BEGIN TO
COMPRE-
HEND!



THRU THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, THEY HAVE GAINED GREAT POWER!

BUT, IN THEIR IGNORANCE-- THAT POWER CAN MENACE ALL WHO LIVE UPON THIS EARTH!

I MUST RETURN TO BLACK BOLT, AND GIVE HIM MY REPORT!



THEN, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, IN THE HIDDEN ISLE OF ATTILAN--

THE HUMANS BELIEVE IN DESTROYING WHAT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

WOE TO OUR PEOPLE IF THEY SHOULD FIND OUR LAND!



OUR ISLAND HOME IS FAR TOO VULNERABLE! SOONER OR LATER THEY WILL DISCOVER IT!

YOU HAVE GIVEN THE SIGN OF ASSENT! THAT MEANS YOU AGREE! YOU YOURSELF WILL FIND OUR HAVEN!

WE MUST CREATE A SAFER REFUGE-- WHERE WE CAN BE FOREVER HIDDEN!



I WISH YOU GOOSPEED, BLACK BOLT!

THE FATE OF OUR RACE NOW RESTS UPON YOUR MISSION!

AND SO, THE SILENT SOVEREIGN SETS OUT TO FIND WHAT WILL ONE DAY BE KNOWN AS-- THE GREAT REFUGE!

AND, FIND IT HE DOES -- BUT THAT'S ANOTHER TALE, FOR ANOTHER TIME!

THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON—!

ITEM! You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK their own mags, immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications. Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags — on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their own fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an *f*, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well...) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today — the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-bitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pigkiller! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

ITEM! Hang loose, hallowed one! You aint heard nothin' yet! At this very moment — even as you read these mind-expanding words — our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length masterpieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marvel stars — power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips — all-time greats such as DR. DOOM — KAZAR — SILVER SURFER — and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush — "Who SAYS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marvel!"

ITEM! We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages — TB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize — KOF (Keeper of the Flame), one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks — and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category — FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree, approved and awarded by Smitin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee. A designation of Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have 'em, faithful one — the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign your daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Gappa pin. Now, if only we can remember which is which!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the wackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

FANTASTIC FOUR #75: We've had the presses running overtime, but we'll never satisfy the demand for this one! The Silver Surfer is hiding from Galactus in a strange new world — and no words of ours can describe the wonder that awaits you!

SPIDER-MAN #61: How can you win a

battle and still come out the loser? Well, it might be hard for you or us — but you've gotta see the maddening end of Spidey's adventure with the Kingpin — and the pounding problem that now awaits him!

AVENGERS #52: The Panther arrives on the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assemblers — and then, to top it all off, along comes — the Grim Reaper! Hoo boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

X-MEN #44: The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and digs out to find help — only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surfer! We call him . . . the Red Raven — but you're gonna call him — great!

DAREDEVIL #40: Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, of Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird-Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

CAPTAIN AMERICA #102: Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened — and now, just as the Red Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exiles!

INCREDIBLE HULK #104: After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for 'ol Green-Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-bustin' blast!

IRON MAN #2: Wouldja believe a vociferous new villain called . . . the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself? If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

SUB-MARINER #2: This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the Inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #2: With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD (PREMIERE ISH!): Following a ghastly assassination attempt on the life of Nick Fury, the stalwarts of SHIELD must learn . . . "Who is Scorpio" — or die trying! James Bond fans, eat your hearts out!

DR. STRANGE (PREMIERE ISH!): The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with . . . "The Coming of Dr. Strange"? Amulet-polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

Sgt. FURY #54: Because you demanded it, Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of block-bustin' battle-action will you find out!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3: With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart, Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress! A guts-and-glory saga you won't forget!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never-before-printed super-saga starring the one and only — SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN,

THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvel can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

And now... **THE MOST SENSATIONAL SCOOP OF THE YEAR!**

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just plain bust! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales — a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 35¢! Also, since it's a new, larger size, some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure to look for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hoo boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings; clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline. But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 35¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comi-dom has been demanding this giant step forward — this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness — and soon it will be yours! So, whatever you do — wherever you go — don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsior!
—Smiley.



THE HAMMER STRIKES

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Stop! Before you waste a stamp sending us a no-prize request 'cause you discovered we forgot one of our Jiltin' letters pages this month, let us explain! What happened was—well, would'ja believe that Jolly Jack got so wrapped up in pencilling this month's yarn that he drew an extra page? And would'ja believe Ol' Smiley couldn't even consider tossing so wondrous a work aside? If ya wouldn't, just go back and count the pages! You'll find there sixteen pages instead of the usual fifteen! Oh well, stay with us, O Keepers of the Flame! Next month maybe we'll cut down on the story and have three letters pages! Anyway, for now, we'd best get on with this month's magniloquent missives — ere we be down to no letters page at all!

Dear Stan and Jack,

In a letter printed in THOR #148 a fan questions the fact that the Thor in "Tales of Asgard" and the Thor in the regular story are one and the same. He need no longer lay sleepless trying to figure it out, for I am about to prove that this is true. The Thor in Asgard is the first, true Thor. I am not saying that Thor as we know him is a fake, merely that he is not the original. After the real Thor was killed during Ragnarok, his hammer was thrown to Midgard and transformed into a gnarled staff to await whoever was worthy enough to possess it and wield its power. During this wait, a new race of gods had developed, and Asgard was rebuilt. Fate chose a meek, lame doctor to fulfill destiny. He became the new Thor, possibly even greater than the last one who perished from the Midgard Serpent's venom centuries before Don Blake's birth. I trust this relieves all of the Bullpen's Excedrin headaches.

Dave Suss, Box 1229
Williston, N.D. 58801

And how, Davey lad! Had we known about your extensive knowledge of Asgardian history a few years back, think of all the work you could've saved Stan and Jack! Oh well, if we can just figure out what to do about all the thunder everytime Doc Don taps his cane, we may be able to run Excedrin out of business! Dear Stan and Jack,

The latest THOR was a masterpiece of writing and artistry. The image of Odin as a pompous, proud, stubborn, and unreasonable old fool was great. Readers may be angered by him, but that's the idea, isn't it? A good writer stirs up the emotions of the reader either to anger or contentment. Continual contentment breeds boredom, so Marvel has really done a bang-up job. The more the hero suffers, the more is the enjoyment when he triumphs. Great! You've done it again! Yeep du gloop! Ben hoibengee?!

Kevin Hancer, 8907 Beard Ave. So.
Bloomington, Minn. 55431

The amesay otay uyay, Evinkay! (Okay, so we're not great linguists! At least you can't knock our pig-latin!) But you're really made things rough on us with such unkind remarks about the Big Daddy of Asgard! And just when we were gonna ask him what those last two remarks of yours mean . . . sheesh!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have deliciously digested the Marvel mags for 10 these many summers. All with few exceptions have achieved greater and higher literary and visual magnificence — no-

tably Thor and the F.F. The former is marred only by a small but increasingly insistent point of Old English. It is the misuse of the word "yon" which means specifically "The one over there,"—e.g., "yon fellow", "that fellow yonder", or "that fellow over there". Back in issue #144 "yon window" and "yon living Talisman" are surely superfluous, and as for "yon mortal land" which is immediately below their feet and the only mortal land in sight, and "yon deadly mallet" while it's whizzing past his very ear — sheesh! By the way, I enjoyed the bit of "Richard the Second" on page 12, panel 3. Luv ya!

Donald Burton, Royal Shakespeare Theatre
Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England

If you do, we shudder to think what your letter might've said if you hated us! Verily, man—you've cut us to the quick! Sure, we know what "yon" is all about—but just think how much more dramatic it sounds to say "yon hammer whizzing past my head" than "that hammer whizzing past my head!" Get the point? We hope so! And if that's all been cleared up, just wait'll you see the things we have in mind for the works of Shakespeare in upcoming issues of NOT BRAND ECHH!



Dear Odin (in care of Stan and Jack),

Listen, Odin, I know that you've been having it hard the last few issues, but why do you have to take it out on Thor? Just look at how many evils he's had to overcome just recently! I know that maybe you had a little right to get mad at Thor, but to take away his godly powers is outrageous! I think it would help if you weren't so hard on Thor and let him have his powers back. You can't really blame him for wanting to help us earth people some of the time — after all, he is part earthling. He just wants to help us and he wants more than anything to help you whenever you need him. Just tell me this — when has he ever really let you down? So how about being a little easier on him? Thank you!

George McConnell, Rt. #2, Box 198
Monroe, Va.

Dear George,

Yea, verily, and other such Asgardian expressions! (Even a big-shot god like me has to let his hair down once in a while, baby!) Surely thou hast seen thy wishes fulfilled — and if not, where hast thou been these past few issues? And now, if thou wilt be so kind as to excuse me — I must take my leave! (The second annual Royal Sock Hop, ya know!) — Big Daddy Odin

NEXT DEATH and DR. BLAKE!