

THOR

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THE
MIGHTY

THOR



STRUGGLE
ALL YOU WILL,
MY BROTHER--BUT
YOU CANNOT HOPE
TO WIN!!

TODAY
LOKI
TRIUMPHS!



When lame Dr. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic mallet MJOLNIR—and Blake is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm and the Lightning, Heir to the Throne of Immortal Asgard...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**™

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WRITER / EDITOR * ARTISTS / ILLUSTRATORS * COLORIST * LETTERER

**THOU SHALT HAVE NO
OTHER GODS BEFORE ME!**

KNOW YE THIS!

THE QUEST FOR THE
LONG-MISSING ODIN AT
LAST IS OVER!

BONE-WEARY BUT UNBOWED, THE
THUNDER GOD AND HIS STRAIGHT-
COMPACTION HAVE RETURNED
WITH THE MUCH-WEAKENED ALL-
FATHER TO IMBUCAL ASGARD,
TO FIND THEIR TROUBLES BE
NOT YET ENDED...

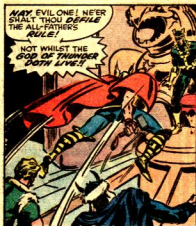
...FOR THE MILEYOLENT LOKI, GOD
OF ALL-CONSUMING EVIL -- AND
THOR'S OWN HALF-BROTHER --
NOW SITS THE GOLDEN THRONE!

WHY
LOOKEST THOU
SO STUNNED
THUNDER GOD?
AM I NOT
AFTER ALL, NEXT
IN LINE TO
INHERIT THE
MANTLE OF
POWER?

IS IT NOT
ONLY FITTING
THEN, THAT
LOKI NOW
RULES THE
REALM
ETERNAL?!

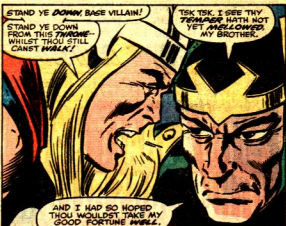
AND WE, HIS LOYAL
SERVITORS, STAND READY
TO SLEAY THOSE WHO WILL NOT
BEND TO LOKI'S WILL!

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MAY, EVIL ONE! NEER SHALT THOU DEFILE THE ALL-FATHERS RULE!

NOT WHILST THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH LIVE!!



STAND YE DOWN, BASE VILLAIN!

STAND YE DOWN FROM THIS THRONE--WHILST THOU STILL CANST WALK!

TSK TSK. I SEE THY TEMPER HATH NOT YET MELLOWED, MY BROTHER.

AND I HAD SO HOPED THOU WOULDST TAKE MY GOOD FORTUNE WELL.

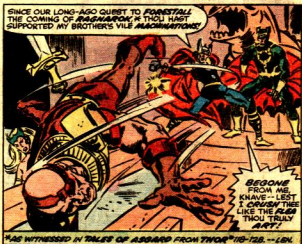


THOU HAST HEARD THE WORDS OF OUR NEW LORD AND L'ERGE, THUNDER GOD!

NOW GET THEE ON THY KNEES BEFORE HIM--AND SHOW HIM PROPER FEALTY!

SO--KRODA DUELLIST!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THOU WOULDST STAND BESIDE THE PRINCE OF EVIL!



SINCE OUR LONG-AGO QUEST TO FORESTALL THE COMING OF ~~ASGARD~~ THOU HAST SUPPORTED MY BROTHER'S VILE MACHINATIONS!

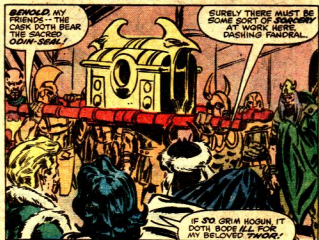
BEGONE FROM ME, KNAVE--LEST I CRUSH THEE LIKE THE ~~FLA~~ THOU TRILLY ART!

*AS WITNESSED IN TALES OF ASGARD FROM THOR #110-128. --LBN.



'TIS OBVIOUS I MUST PROVE MY RIGHT TO SIT THE GOLDEN THRONE, THUNDER GOD--ERE THOU DOST DECIMATE THOSE LOYAL TO ME!

THUS LET THE CASK OF SOVEREIGNTY BE NOW BROUGHT FORTH!



BENOLD, MY FRIENDS--THE CASK DOTH BEAR THE SACRED ODIN-SEAL!

SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF SORCERY AT WORK HERE, DASHING FANDRAL.

IF SO GRIM HOGUN, IT DOTH BODE ILL FOR MY BELOVED THOR!



IF THOU DOST PLAN SOME NEW **TREACHERY**, LOKI...

NAY BROTHER--I MERELY WISH TO **READ** THINE A PORTION OF THE SACRED **SCROLL** CONTAINED HEREIN!

IT IS WRIT IN ALMIGHTY ODIN'S OWN **HAND** AND IT READS **THUSLY**...



"...SHOULD I EVER BE UNABLE TO **RULE** IMMORTAL ASGARD, THEN THAT TASK SHALL FALL TO **WHOEVER** OF MY **SONS** IS **FIRST** ABLE TO SIT THE **GOLDEN THRONE** IN MY **PLACE!**"

"THIS NOBLE SON SHALL **RULE** THE REALM ETERNAL IN MY STEAD UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I AM ONCE MORE FIT TO **GOVERN**--AND, IN MY NAME, LET NO MAN SAY HIM **AWAY!**"

THOU CANST READ IT FOR **THYSELF** IF THOU WOULDST LIKE.



IF WHAT HE SAYS BE **FACT**, FRIEND THOR--THE THRONE IS RIGHTLY **MINE!**

THOU DIDST **RELINQUISH** THINE **OWN** CLAIM TO IT WHEN THOU DIDST **LEAVE** THE REALM ETERNAL TO **SOME** THE MISSING **ALL-FATHER!**

AND IN THY FATHER'S **NAME**, MY LOVE--THOU ART BOUND TO **OBEY** THY BROTHER'S **COMMANDS**.



I FEAR THE **LADY SIF** SPEAKS **TRULY** PRINCE OF EVIL.

VOICE THY **WIFE**-- AND IT SHALL SWIFTLY BE **DONE!**

I DO NOT INTEND TO **ABANDON** MY **POWER**, THY **THUNDER GOD**.

I SAY MERELY--GET THEE AND THY COMPANIONS, FROM MY **SIGHT!** FOR THE **NOW**, 'T WILL BE **ENOUGH**.



THEN, AT THY **COMMAND** EVIL ONE--WE **GO!** BUT I SAY UNTO THEE--**ENJOY** THY NEW-FOUND **POWER** WHILST STILL THOU **CANST!**

SOON, THE **ALL-FATHER** SHALL BE **WELL** ENOUGH TO ONCE MORE ASSUME HIS **THRONE** AND, AT THAT **MOMENT**, THOU SHALT **PAY** FOR THY **CRIMES**, A **THOUSAND-FOLD!**



UNFORTUNATELY, **MINE** OH--SO **NOBLE** BROTHER IS **RIGHT!** IF I AM TO **RETAIN** THE **GOLDEN THRONE**, MY **FRIENDS**...

...CERTAIN **STEPS** MUST BE TAKEN TO **DEAL** WITH THE **AILING ODIN!**

WE **HEAR** THEE, LOKI...

...AND WE **GLADLY OBEY!**

AND WHEN THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER HAVE STOLEN SILENTLY FROM THE CHAMBER...

IT APPEARS THE THUNDER GOD AND COMPANY BELIEVED THY LITTLE CHARADE, MY PRINCE.

AYE, MAGRAT--AND THE IRONY OF IT ALL ASTONISHES ME!

TO THINK THAT, AFTER ALL MY FUTILE EFFORTS IN THE PAST TO ACHIEVE MY PLACE AS RIGHTFUL RULER OF ASGARD--

--THE GOLDEN THRONE IS FINALLY WANDERED TO ME IN RESPONSE TO ONE WELL-FORGED DOCUMENT!

BUT THE SCROLL ALONE DID NOT GAIN YOU VICTORY, MILORD.

"AYE, SHAYKAR-- I MUST ALSO GIVE CREDIT TO THE AWESOME ARMY OF EMPTY-ARMORED WARRIORS I MATERIALIZED JUST BEYOND THE CITY'S GATES!

"THE PEOPLE OF ASGARD FAIRLY RALLIED ABOUT ME WHEN I SEEMINGLY CONQUERED THOSE UNKNOWN FOEMEN--AND BANISHED THEM TO OBLIVION!

"AND ONCE THE GOOD WILL OF ALL ASGARD AT LAST WAS ON MY SIDE, THE LOVELY ENCHANTRESS AND I CAST A SPELL OF FORGETFULNESS UPON THEM--

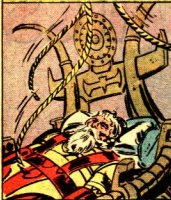
--SO MY NEW SUBJECTS WOULD REMEMBER ONLY THAT THEY WERE NOW LOYAL TO ME, BUT NOT THE REASON WHY!"

AND EVEN AS THE GLOATING GOD OF EVIL PONDLY STROKES HIS ILL-GAINED THRONE, THE NEXT GRIM STEP IN HIS NEFARIOUS PLAN IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY.

SWIFTLY SILENTLY A COLD CIRCLE OF ARCAIC FIRE GROWS IN THE SHADOWY CEILING OF A FAR DISTANT CHAMBER...

...UNTIL THE SUPERNATURAL CIRCLE SWALLOWES ITSELF WHOLE, LEAVING ONLY A DARK GAPING WOUND IN ITS PLACE!

THEN, LIKE MUTE HEMP SERPENTS,
HEAVY ROPES SLITHER OUT FROM
THE NIGHT-BLACK MOLE...



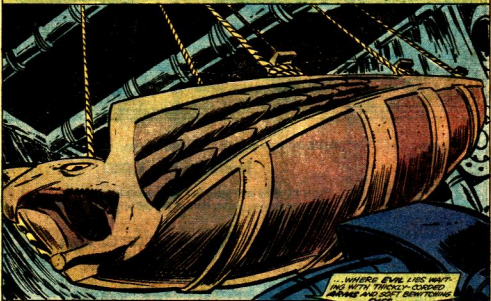
... WRITHING AND TWISTING, YET
MOVING WITH GRIM PURPOSE,
AS IF AT SOME UNSEEN MASTER'S
COMMAND...



... UNTIL THEY KNOT THEMSELVES
SECURELY ABOUT THE ORNATELY-
CARVED MANDIBLES OF THE
SLEEPING ODIN'S VERY BED!



WITH HARDLY A LURCH-- FOR IT IS FORBIDDEN TO DISTURB THE FABLED ODIN-SLEEP-- THE GREAT
WOODEN VESSEL IS LIFTED FROM ITS WIDE CRADLE, AND DRAWN SLOWLY-- BUT SURELY-- UP TOWARDS
THE NEWLY-FORMED PORTAL IN THE WAST CHAMBER'S CEILING...



... WHERE EVIL LIES WAIT-
ING WITH THICKLY-CORDED
ARMS AND SOFT BEWITCHING
EYES...

A MOMENT LONGER,
ENCHANTRESS-- AND
ODIN SHALL BE
OURS!

'TIS A MOMENT MY VENGEFUL
HEART HATH LONG AWAITED!

THOU DOST FORGET,
EXECUTIONER-- THE OMNI-
POTENT ONE IS NOT
OURS TO DISPOSE OF!



WE CAN DO NAUGHT BUT **OBEY** GRIM LOKI'S COMMANDS--

-- LEST OUR **OWN** LIVES BE ULTIMATELY **FORFEIT!**

AYE, SORCERESS, WE'LL DO I **KNOW** IT-- AND LITTLE DO I **LIKE** IT!

BUT MAYHAP THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THE BALANCE OF POWER SHALL **SHIFT** ONCE MORE...

...AND WHEN IT **DOES**, WE SHALL BE **WAITING!**

WHILE, ON THE VERY PARAPETS OF THE PALACE IMPERIAL...



VERILY, MY MIND DOETH **REEL**, GOOD COMRADES! WE LEAVE THE ROYAL THRONE IN THE CARE OF BRAVE **BALDER**...

...AND RETURN TO FIND A VICIOUS **VIPER** SITTING SAUGLY UPON IT!

IF EVIL LOKI HATH SOMEHOW **HARNED** THE NOBLE **BALDER**, VALIANT **VOLSTAG** SHALL REND THE FIEND **LAMB** FROM...

NAY VAST ONE! 'TIS SAID THAT **BALDER** DID DEPART WITH THE NORN QUEEN **KARNILLA** FOR HER NATIVE LAND, WHEN LOKI **DISMISSED** HIM FROM HIS DUTY.



THEN MAYHAP WE SHOULD HIE OURSELVES TO THE NORN QUEEN'S **KINGDOM**-- AND **SPEAK** TO OUR ABSENT COMRADE.

FOR METHINKS THERE BE **MORE** TO THIS BUSINESS THAN CLEARLY MEETS THE **EYE**.

AYE, M'LADY...

... WHERE **LOKI** IS INVOLVED, DECEIT AND TREACHERY ARE **COMMONPLACE!**



FANDRAL! HOGUN! VOLSTAG! I CHARGE THEE TO **PROTECT** THE SLUMBERING **ALL-FATHER**, MY FRIENDS--

--WHILST THE FAIR, **SIF** AND I MAKE HASTE TO **KARNILLA'S** DARK **DOMAIN!**

GLADLY, GOOD PRINCE!

AYE, NOBLE THUNDER GOD FEAR THEE **MOY!** IN DEFENSE OF ALMIGHTY ODIN, VALOROUS VOLSTAGG'S **EYE** SHALL BE AS THAT OF AN **EAGLE**... MINE **ARM** SHALL BE AS THAT OF A **TITAN**... MY **HEART** SHALL BE AS THAT OF A **LION**...

...AND THY **MOUTH** SHALL BE AS THAT OF THE BELLOWING **WIND!**

NOW COME, VOLUMINOUS ONE! THE ALL-FATHER IS **WAITING!**

AND SHORTLY, AFTER A VISIT TO THE ROYAL STABLES...

THOUGH THY PRESENCE **GLADDENS** ME, THOU NEEDEST NOT HAVE **ACCOMPANIED** US, RECORDER!

WE WOULD HAVE **TOLD** THEE ALL WE MAY **LEARN** NOW UPON OUR **RETURN!**

DECLARATION: IT IS MY GIVEN DUTY TO **RECORD** ALL THAT MAY **TRANSPIRE FIRSTHAND!**

OBSERVATION: STILL, ONE WOULD THINK THAT A RACE AS **ADVANCED** AS YOU **ASSGARDIANS** WOULD HAVE CONCEIVED A LESS **PRIMITIVE** MODE OF **TRANSIT!**

STATEMENT: WHOA, HORSE--
WHOOA!

AS THOU DIDST **SAY**, FRIEND RECORDER-- 'TIS THY DUTY TO **RECORD ALL** THAT MAY OCCUR THIS **DAY--!**

INCLUDING, METHINKS, THINE **OWN** FIRST CASE OF **SADDLE SORES!**

BUT AT LENGTH, THE ASSGARDIAN'S LIVELY **BANTER** GIVES WAY TO A MORE **MELAN-
CHOLY** MOOD--

--AS THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF **GLORIOUS ASSGARD** GIVE WAY TO THE **DARK** AND **TWISTING** THORNS AND BRANCHES OF **KARNILLA'S FOREST PRIMEVAL!**

...FOR THIS TERRIBLE TANGLE OF MONSTROUS GROWTH
HARBORS A MOST PRIME EVIL INDEED!

NEIMDALL'S EYES! 'TIS
A STORM GIANT!!

WELCOME LITTLE FLEAS--
TO YOUR DOOM!

IN TIMES PAST,
MY LOVE, THE
STORM GIANTS HATH
STOOD BESIDE THY
BROTHER LOKI!

DOST THOU
THINK...?

IF SO, MILADY, THE GOD OF EVIL WAS
AN OVERCONFIDENT FOOL-- FOR
SENDING BUT ONE OF THIS HEINOUS
ILK AGAINST US!

WITH THREE AT MY SIDE AND
MIGHTY M-JOLNIR IN MY HAND,
WE SHALL YET OVERCOME
SUCH VILLAINY!

IF YOU
TRULY
BELIEVE
THAT THUNDER
GOD--

SWAK!

--'TIS YOU WHO
ARE THE FOOL!

FOR YOUR
COMRADES ARE
BESIDE YOU NO
LONGER--

-- AND YOUR
FABLED HAMMER
SHALL SOON BE
PLUCKED FROM
YOUR LIFELESS
HAND!

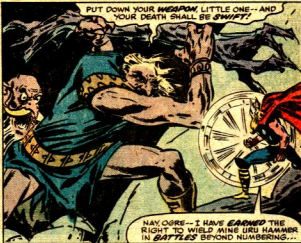
BEWARE
BELOVED-- THERE
ARE TWO OF THE
MONSTROUS
CREATURES!

ALL THE BETTER TO
SLAY YOU, MY DEAR!

WITH THE RECORDER DAZED: 'TIS FOR ME ALONE TO **AID** THE MIGHTY THOR, AS BEFITS A **GODDESS BORN!**

BUT THE VERY **SIGHT** OF YON LUMBERING BEHEMOTHS FILLS ME WITH A **TERROR** SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER KNOWN **BEFORE!**

A FEAR SO GREAT, I... I AM UNABLE EVEN TO **MOVE!**



PUT DOWN YOUR **WISSAW** LITTLE ONE-- AND YOUR DEATH SHALL BE **SWIFT!**

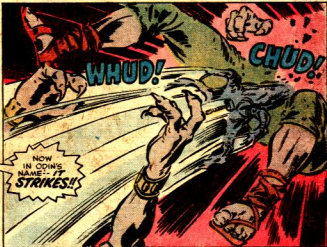
NAY, OGRE-- I HAVE **EARNED** THE RIGHT TO WIELD MINE URU HAMMER IN **BATTLES** BEYOND NUMBERING...



...AND I SHALL NOT RELINQUISH MY **MALLET**--OR MY **LIFE**-- TILL MY FINAL BREATH HATH **FLED** ME!

IN ODIN'S NAME WAS MYSTIC **MJOLNIR** FORGED!

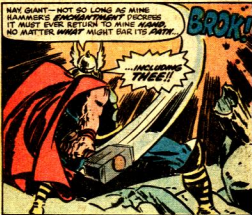
NOW IN ODIN'S NAME-- IT **STRIKES!!**



GRONDAR?

CURSE YOU, ASGARDIAN! YOUR HAMMER **THRUST** THE TREE TRUNK FROM MY HAND-- THUS **SMITING** MY OWN DEAR **BROTHER!**

YOU SHALL **PAY** FOR THIS LITTLE ONE! YOU SHALL...



NAY, GIANT-- NOT SO LONG AS MINE HAMMER'S **ENCHANTMENT** DECREASES IT MUST EVER RETURN TO MINE **HAND**, NO MATTER **WHAT** MIGHT BAR ITS **PATH**...

...INCLUDING **TREE!!**

HOWLING MADLY, THE STORM GIANT TOPPLIS FACE-FORWARD, WHILE IN ODIN'S BEDCHAMBERS BENEATH THE PALACE IMPERIAL...



BY THE RAINBOW SPAN! WE ARE TOO LATE!

ALMIGHTY ODIN HATH ALREADY BEEN ABDUCTED!

AND THERE, IN THE CEILING ABOVE US-- BEHOLD THE METHOD OF THE CRIME!



A LONG-ABANDONED PASSAGE-- MAY WHICH LEADS, I WAGER, TO THE FURNACE PIT WHICH SUPPLY HEAT AND LIGHT TO THE REALM!



QUICKLY, GOOD COMRADES-- WE MUST HASTEN TO THE CATACOMBS BENEATH THE CITY, AND TAKE UP THE CHASE!

AND WHO BE UNTO ODIN'S ABDUCTORS WHEN AT LAST WE FIND THEM!

DEEP IN THE DESOLATE WASTE-LANDS BEYOND THE CITY IMPERIAL, THERE IS A CAVE UNLIKE ANY OTHER--



--FOR THIS IS THE MYSTERIOUS DWELLING PLACE OF THE NOEN QUEEN CALLED KARNILLA!

ONE APPROACHES THIS CAVERN MOST CAREFULLY-- FOR IT IS SAID THAT THOSE WHO ENTER HERE UNWITTING ARE NEVER KNOWN TO LEAVE...



HAY THUNDER GOD-- I KNOW NOTHING OF THE TWO STORM GIANTS WHO BESSET THIS!



AFTER ALL, I HAVE MINE OWN EVER-FAITHFUL BARBARS TO DEFEND MY LAND!

AND WHAT OF THE NOBLE BALDER THEN?

WHAT OF HIM? WHEN LOKI SUGGESTED I RETURN TO MY DARK DOMAIN, I BADE BRAVE BALDER ACCOMPANY ME...

...BUT HE REFUSED, SAYING HIS PLACE WAS BESIDE THE GOLDEN THRONES WATCHING OVER IT AS THOU HAST COMMANDED HIM!



YET WHEN WE ENTERED THE PALACE IMPERIAL THE BRAVE ONE WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!



I SWEAR TO THEE, WITCH-WOMAN-- IF THOU DOST NOT BRING THE NOBLE BALDER FROM US...

GUARD THY THROAT! THUNDER GOD-- LEST IT BE TURNED TO STONE! FOR THOUGH THERE MAY BE MANY WHO WOULD WISH BRAVE BALDER ILL...



...THOU COULDEST NEER COUNT KARHILLA AMONGST THEM!

OBSERVATION: IF THE ONE CALLED BALDER IS INDEED NOT HERE MY FRIENDS-- IT WOULD BE WISE TO SEEK HIM ELSEWHERE!



CONCLUSION: I, FOR ONE, THINK LOKI IS LYING!

AYE, RECORDER-- THINE OPINION ECHOES MINE OWN!



METHINKS THERE BE SOME GREAT MACHINES ABORNING HERE-- AND UNDOUBTEDLY, MY BROTHER IS AT THE ROOT OF IT!

MILADY... FRIEND RECORDER... GET YE BACK TO THE CITY ROYAL AS SWIFTELY AS IS POSSIBLE!

FOR THE SAKE OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN AND THE GOLDEN REALM ITSELF, I SHALL GO ON AHEAD OF YE...



...AS ONLY HE WHO WIELDS ENCHANTED Mjolnir CAN!!

WHILE, DEEP WITHIN THE VERY BOWELS OF IMMORTAL ASGARD...

THE TRAIL OF FOOTPRINTS WE ESPIED IN THE DUST LEADS THIS WAY MY FRIENDS-- FAST THESE TROLL-BUILT GENERATORS!

IT APPEARS A BEING OF GREAT SIZE AND POWER HATH CARRIED A BURDEN MOST HEAVY THROUGH HERE!

AND THIS ROPE DROPPED BY THE WAYSIDE-- IT STILL TINGLES WITH THE AFTER-TOUCH OF FORCES ARCAINE!

METHINKS THERE BE NO QUESTION WHOM WE DEAL WITH HERE!

THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER!!

INDEED! AND WHEN WE FIND THEM, THOU SHALT SEE WHY VOLSTAGG'S MERE PRESENCE MAKES WOMEN SWOON AND BRAVE MEN SHAKE WITH FEAR!

THEN NOW IS THE TIME TO PROVE THY CLAIM, VAST ONE-- FOR OUR GRIM FOEMEN NOW APPROACHETH!

CURSE THE LUCK! 'TIS THE THUNDER GOD'S THREE COMPANIONS! BUT THE TIME BE NOT RIGHT FOR US TO FACE THEM NOW!

QUICKLY ENCHANTRESS-- WE MUST FLEE!

MAY BRITISH ONE! SO LONG AS HOGUN'S BLADE BE SWIFT, AND HIS EYE BE TRUE--

--THOU ART GOING NOWHERE!!

BY THE NORN! THE GRIM ONE'S DAGGER HATH PINNED MY TUNIC TO THE WALL!?!

THUK!

AND IN THE INSTANT BEFORE THE AWESOME EXECUTIONER CAN FREE HIMSELF--



-- FANDRAL AND HOGUN ARE UPON HIM!

MONSTROUS KNAVE! WHAT HAST THOU DONE WITH THE SLEEPING ODIN?



'TIS A QUESTION THOU SHALT NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO ANSWER, FOOL!

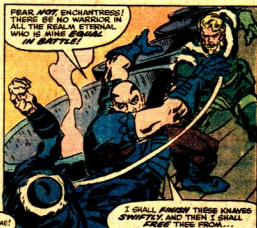
IN A MOMENT, MY SORCERY SHALL TRANSFORM THEE INTO...



PFAN! THINE ENCHANTMENTS ARE NO MATCH FOR MINE OWN FABLED BATTLE PROWESS!

W H U M P

AWAY THOU OVER-STUFFED MUTTON-SACK! THINE AWESOME GIRTH DOETH THREATEN TO SQUEEZE THE VERY BREATH FROM ME!



FEAR NOT, ENCHANTRESS! THERE BE NO WARRIOR IN ALL THE REALM ETERNAL WHO IS MINE EQUAL IN BATTLE!

I SHALL FINISH THESE KNAVES SWIFTLY, AND THEN I SHALL FREE THEE FROM...



HAY.

MINE OWN VIOLENT ACTIONS HATH THROWN ME OFF-BALANCE!!



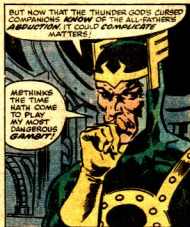
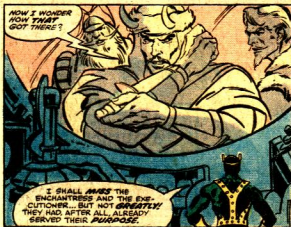
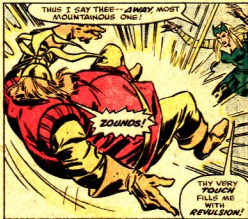
I TOPPLE HELPLESSLY INTO ONE OF THE RAGING FIRE-PITS!

YON CROSS-BRACE BE MINE ONLY HOPE--!

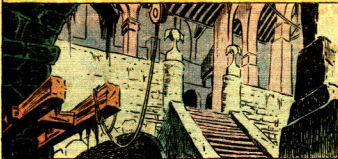


MAINTAIN THY GRIP EXECUTIONER-- AND WE SHALL PULL THEE TO SAFETY!

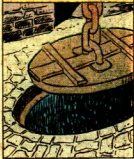
AYE BRITISH ONE-- ONCE THOU HAST TOLD US THE ALL-FATHER'S BUSINESS--ABOUTS!



THE DUNGEONS DEEP BENEATH THE PALACE IMPERIAL ARE OLD, CRACKED AND RUTTED WITH THE WEIGHT OF THEIR YEARS AND THE COUNTLESS SORROWS THEY HAVE SEEN...



BUT PERHAPS THE GREATEST SORROW OF ALL LURKS WITHIN THIS NIGHTDARK PIT!



FOR THIS IS THE CURRENT DWELLING PLACE OF BALDER THE BRAVE!

LONG HAVE I GONE WITHOUT FOOD OR DRINK, AND THUS WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT I GROW EVER WEAKER...

...BUT 'TIS NOT MINE OWN PLIGHT THAT DOETH FILL ME WITH SUCH GRIEF!



'TIS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I FAILED MY NOBLE PRINCE IN MY GIVEN DUTY!

THIS MIGHTY THOR DID CHARGE ME TO PROTECT THE GOLDEN THRONE IN HIS ABSENCE --

-- YET WHEN KARNILLA AND I ATTEMPTED TO INFILTRATE THE MYSTERIOUS ARMY THAT HAD LAID SIEGE TO IMMORTAL ASGARD...



...WE WERE DUPED INTO FOLLOWING ONE WHO PROFESSED TO BE THE GOD OF THUNDER...

...BUT WHO WAS, IN FACT, KRODA THE DUELIST, TRANSFORMED BY LOKI'S MAGIC!



"KRODA -- WHO TREACHEROUSLY FELLEDE US BOTH!"

WITH THE ENCHANTRESS AID, LOKI ERASED THE MEMORY OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED FROM THE NORN QUEEN'S MIND AND SENT HER ON HER WAY BACK TO...



EH? THAT BLINDING LIGHT --! WHO GOES THERE?

BUT THE WEAK AND WEARY WARRIOR RECEIVES NO REPLY -- SAVE THE SUDDEN GRIP OF POWERFUL HANDS, WHICH CARRY HIM ROUGHLY FROM THE DARKENED CHAMBER.



AND THOUGH THE NOBLE BALDER STRUGGLES AGAINST THEM... HE STRUGGLES IN VAIN!



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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it, gang! It's the month that the long-awaited KISS Magazine goes on sale! For the ridiculous price of \$1.50 you get a 64-page, glossy paper, magazine-sized masterpiece, featuring a simply incredible 40-page, full-color, super-hero comic strip starring KISS! Yes, KISS—the most unlikely, unusual, unexpected team of super-heroes since Doc Ock tried to elope with Aunt May! Can you picture KISS fighting Doctor Doom? Well, believe it! Also, you'll find phantasmagoric photos and frankly fabulous features—plus, an actual, on-the-spot, illustrated account of KISS giving their own blood for this once-in-a-lifetime issue! And that's all I'm gonna say about it now, 'cause you know how I hate to be a huckster! And, speaking of Hanna-Barbera (which we weren't!), here's super-sensational announcement #2! For those of you who still turn on to THE FLINTSTONES, SCOOBY-DOO, YOGI BEAR, DYNAMUTT, and all the rest of their merry menage, mighty Marvel will leave you in a cultural wasteland no longer. We've just teamed up with the talented titans at HB to bring you Scooby and the Flintstones this month, with Yogi and the Dynamutt doggie comin' atcha next month! We figure if your batty Bullpen is gonna take over the comicbook world, we might as well go all the way! Anyhow, we've got some big, secret projects with Hanna-Barbera in the months to come, so you might as well climb aboard now, while there's still room! Wow! From Spidey to Scooby-Do! Who says Marvel isn't where it's all happening! And now, one last reminder from yours truly (who's beginning to feel like a carnival pitchman!)—better start savin' your shekels, sagacious one, 'cause volume #4 of the omnipresent Origins Series goes on sale this fall, and it'll probably be the biggest blockbuster of 'em all! It's called THE SUPERHERO WOMEN, and—if you play your cards right and don't kick a down-hearted duck—I'll tell you a bit about the contents in the next Soapbox or two. So, until we meet again, be good to each other and wherever you go, whatever you do, fight brain strain—keep thinking Marvel!

Excelsior!

ITEM! July may be the traditional time for firecrackers, but there's another kind of explosion about to hit full-force this month. And if your built-in comballism detector is starting to blip like crazy, that's because you're right... we are about to mention that Marvel Explosion we're always talking about here and in our ads. But, truth to tell,

explosion is about the only way to describe all the zillion and one things we're sending your way this mid-summer season, over and above the items Stan has already covered in the Soapbox. Just for starters, let us clue you to the fact that the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FUN BOOK #2 should already be on the shelves of your friendly neighborhood book emporium just waiting for you puzzle, maze, and word game fans (and if you're *not*, these fun books could well change that) to stretch your skills as well as your knowledge of Marvel lore by trying them out.



ITEM! Then there's the big doings in our black-and-white magazine department, namely all kinds of excitement over the latest issue of MARVEL PREVIEW. This one will reintroduce you to STAR-LORD, the cosmic crusader who first appeared in the pages of PREVIEW #4. Ever since his dazzling debut, we've been hounded with requests to let Star-Lord soar the spaceways once again. So, editor JOHN WARNER recruited the popular writer/artist team of CLAREMONT and BYRNE (Chris and John to most MARVEL TEAM-UP and IRON FIST fans) to do just that. What we expected was the normally sensational job we expect on any of our books; what we got—aided, abetted, and amplified by the dramatically detailed inking of Terrific TERRY AUSTIN—was fifty-two pages of mind-stunning science-fiction adventure that had even the most jaded of Bullpeners lining up to glimpse each new batch of completed pages as they were delivered. Okay, if you praise a thing *too* much, it creates expectations that can never be lived up to. So, in our typical low-key manner, we'll merely suggest that if you only buy one large-size format comic this year, better make it MARVEL PREVIEW featuring STAR-LORD, or you'll be kicking yourself the rest of your life! There. Who says we can't be subtle?

ITEM! Talking about the black-and-white magazines, let's extend congratulations to ROGER SLIFER on becoming the new editor of the line, replacing JOHN WARNER, who'll be returning to freelance writing (such as the BLOODSTONE feature now backing up THE RAMPAGING HULK). Roger is bright-eyed and eager, and has a whole drawerful of projects he'll soon be bringing your way. In fact, in view of some of the future projects Roger will be in charge of, as well as some of the items he's handling currently—like the full-color MARVEL CLASSICS and special movie projects such as ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU and THE DEEP—black-and-white editor is pretty much a misnomer. At the moment, we don't really have a better or more

accurate title (Special Format Editor comes close but somehow lacks the subtle *joie de vivre* we're always seeking), but as soon as we do, we'll hit you with it. Meantime, get ready to be hit with a lot of way-out wonderment from Mr. Slifer, his assistant editor Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, and the whole blamed black-and-whi—er—well—their whole creative crew!

ITEM! If science-fiction is in the works this month in our black-and-white try-out mag, MARVEL PREVIEW, our *color* experimental book, MARVEL PREMIERE, is covering the other side of the coin, namely fantasy. We're presenting WEIRDWORLD, an excursion into the realm of wizards, elves, and mystic monsters conducted by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Maniacal MIKE PLOOG, and Active ALEX NINO. If you've thrilled to Tolkien's THE HOBBIT or LORD OF THE RINGS, we've got a hunch this is going to be just what you've been waiting for. In fact, with enough sales and letter encouragement, we just might be able to convince the powers-that-be that *now* is the time for a regular epic fantasy comic!



ITEM! Summer is approaching its peak, and so too is our production of King-size Annuals. This time around we've got TARZAN, THOR, THE ETERNALS, and JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS making their appearances in all-new, bonus-size adventures, as well as THE INVADERS and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. If that's not enough, two MARVEL CLASSICS are also ready for your edification and enjoyment: H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN and Homer's ILLIAD. And coming up in August will be Annuals of THE AVENGERS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, plus the aforementioned Marvel Movie Special, THE DEEP (But more details about that next month). Meantime, remember—never tickle a temperamental toad!

SOON AFTER, IN THE SELF-SAME THRONE ROOM WHERE OUR SAGA BEGAN...

LOKI!!
I DEMAND WORDS WITH THEE, MY BROTHER-- AND THEY SHALL BE **HARSH** WORDS INDEED!

SO-- THE PRODIGAL THUNDER GOD RETURNS!

IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR THEE, MOST NOBLE THOR?

THOU CANST CEASE THY LYING WAYS, THOU BASE BETRAVER-- AND TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE MISSING **BALDER**!

THEN THOU HAST BEGUN TO REALIZE THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION AT LAST, I TAKE IT!

THINE OVERCONFIDENCE SHALL BE THINE UNDOING, EVIL ONE! ANSWER ME, OR MYSTIC **MJOLNIR** SHALL... EN?

THAT SOUND-- DRAWING CLOSER--!

NOT THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THOU CANST DO ABOUT IT, OF COURSE!

THE GOD OF MISCHIEF HATH VANISHED-- LEAVING ONLY THE BITTER STENCH OF **BRIMSTONE** BEHIND, AS **BERTS** HIM!

BUT THE SOUND OF HEAVY FOOTSTEPS YET DRAWS EVER CLOSER-- UNTIL THIS VERY ROOM BEGINS TO TREMBLE!

'TIS THE SOUND OF DESTRUCTION INCARNATE THUNDER GOD! STAND AND CONFRONT IT AT THY PERIL!

BUT I, FOR ONE, DO NOT INTEND TO STAY AND INVITE MINE OWN UNTIMELY DEWSE!

BY ODIN, WHAT MANNER OF MENACE DRAWS NIGH?



IT LUMBERS FORTH IN
SILENCE, SAVE FOR THE
PONDEROUS TREAD OF
ITS OWN ARMOR-CLAD
FEET--

--ITS MIGHTY MAILED FISTS
CASUALLY SMATTERING
ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING
THAT CHANCES TO LIE IN ITS
WAY!

FOR THIS BATTLE-BRED
BEHEMOTH WAS CREATED BY
ALMIGHTY ODIN HIMSELF TO
BE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT
OF VICTORY, UNSTOPPABLE,
UNBEATABLE...

...AND WOE BE UNTO HIM
WHO FIRST CROSSES THE
BLOODY PATH OF...

**THE
DESTROYER!!**

**NEXT
ISSUE:**

WHEN FALLS THE GOD OF THUNDER..!