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# 276

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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

THOR

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THE MIGHTY

# THOR

MJOLNIR IS MINE!  
THE LADY SIF IS MINE!

CAN THERE BE ANY DOUBT  
THOR IS DEAD?

THE STARTLING STORY  
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D  
NEVER SEE!

**THOR VS.  
THOR!**  
AND THE  
WINNER IS--!!

LONG LIVE  
THE NEW,  
ORIGINAL  
**THOR!**



B/S



When DR. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking-stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic hammer MJOLNIR—and the lame physician is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm, Lord of the Living Lightning—and heir to the throne of eternal Asgard....

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

# MINE--THIS HAMMER!

THE DANGER OF RAGNAROK IS ENDED-- OR IS IT??

WHAT IS *WRONG*, FATHER? THOU DOST *FALTER*--

DOST THOU NOT *COMPREHEND*, MY SON?

THAT *BALDER* AND THE GODS SHOULD BE *SPARED*-- I HAVE *GIVEN UP* A PORTION OF *MYNE OWN POWER!*"

SO LONG AS THE *MYSTIC ODINSHIELD* SURROUNDS *BALDER* THUS-- FOR JUST SO LONG SHALL *ASGARD* STAND!

THAT *LONG--* AND NOT AN *INSTANT LONGER!*

\*AS SEEN AT THE TWILIGHT OF LAST ISSUE'S GOD-TALE. --R.T.

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IF THE ODINSHIELD **FADES**-- BECAUSE I **FALL**-- BALDER SHALL DIE THE DEATH FROM WHICH THERE IS **NO REPRIEVE**--

--AND THE **TWILIGHT OF THE GODS** SHALL BE INESCAPABLY UPON US!

THOR-- SHALL I--?

MAY, GOOD FRIGGA! MILADY SIF AND I SHALL HELP THE ALL-FATHER TO HIS **THRONE**.

THOUGH SORE IT **GRIEVES** ME TO SEE HIM **SWORN** OF MUCH OF HIS **ODINPOWER**-- EVEN TO SAVE THE **REALM!**



**IDUN'S APPLES!** SUCH CALAMITY DOETH STAGGER E'EN THE MATCHLESS MIND OF **VOLSTAGG!**

DID IT TRULY TAKE SO MUCH OF ODIN'S STRENGTH-- TO FORM SO **FEEBLE** AN AURA ABOUT BALDER'S FORM?

THE POWER OF **NELA, GODDESS OF DEATH,** IS STRONG, FRIEND **FANDRAL**--

-- THIS DAY OF DAYS, E'EN MORE THAN **MOST!**



DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN GO **BACK** TO **EARTH** NOW, MR. **HOBBS**?

DON'T I **WISH!**

BUT **TV SPECIALS** ON MYTHOLOGICAL GODS DON'T GET FILMED FROM **PARK AVENUE**.

I ONLY WISH I COULD **ENJOY** ALL THIS MORE...



"BUT, IT'S NOT **EVERY** DAY YOU SEE A **GOD** WHO'S LIVED FOR **THOUSANDS** OF YEARS, AT THE VERY LEAST--

"--GET KILLED BY AN **ARROW** FIRED BY A **BUNG** GOD, EGGED ON BY THE **NORSE** GOD OF **EVIL!**"

\* YOU SAW IT, THOUGH-- IN **ISSUE #274**. --R.



STILL, WE'VE GOTTA **SACRIFICE** FOR THE COMMON GOOD-- NOT TO MENTION THE NETWORK'S **EVER-SAGGING RATINGS**.

SEE IF YOU CAN **LOCATE** **RED**, WILL YOU, **SON**?

I CAN'T **PRODUCE** THIS THING AND OPERATE HIS **MINICOM** AT THE SAME TIME.

**CHECK, MR. H.!** I THINK I SPOTTED HIM OVER **THIS** WAY...



THOR-- SIF-- I KNOW NOT IF MY **FAILED** STRENGTH WILL RETURN **SOON**--OR **NEVER**--

BUT, I WOULD FAIN HAVE MY **REGAL TRAPPINGS** ABOUT ME--!

AND THAT YOU **SHALL**, MY **LIEGE!**



HERE BE THY POWER-GIVING ARMING DRAUPNIR-- FROM WHICH EIGHT MORE SUCH RINGS DROP-- EVERY NINTH NIGHT.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, SIRE, WILL NOT THEIR COMBINED POWER RESTORE TO THEE VIRTUALLY ALL OF THY FORMER MIGHT?



AYE...

... BUT ONLY IN TIME, MAYHAP, TO REVITALIZE THE ODINSHIELD WHICH ENVELOPES THE COMATOSE BALDER.

YET, WE ARE GODS ALL, NOT MERE MORTALS.

LET THEM FEAR DEATH-- WHILE WE OF ASGARD RIDE FORTH, TIME AND AGAIN, TO DO BATTLE WITH HELA'S HORDES!

I WITH MY RAVENS AND WOLVES ABOUT ME-- DRAUPNIR ON MY ARM, AND GUNGNIR IN MY HAND--

I AM ONCE MORE ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD!

AND NOW, LET THERE BEGIN AT ONCE--



-- THE TRIAL OF LOKI-- HE WHO HATH BASELY BETRAYED THE GODS!

WHILE, NEARBY, WE FIND THE MANACLED OBJECT OF THE COMING LEGALITIES...

WHAT DOST THOU PERUSE SO EAGERLY, MORTAL?

YOU KNOW, BUSTER: THOR'S BELT OF STRENGTH THAT HE GAVE ME TO HOLD! \*



WHY SIMPLY LOOK AT IT, MAN OF MIDGARD?

WHY NOT-- PUT IT ON?

\* LAST ISSUE. --ROY.

YEAH-- WHY NOT?

MAYBE IT'LL GIVE ME POWER, LIKE IT GAVE THOR TO FIGHT THOSE GI...



A MAN WITH A WEAKER HEART THAN "RED" MORVELL MIGHT NEVER RECOVER FROM THE QUASI-ELECTRICAL CHARGE WHICH RACES NOW THRU HIS QUIVERING BODY...





AND, AS THE MIDGARDIAN DUSTS HIMSELF OFF...

THOU FOOL OF FOOLS! THOU DIDST ACT BEFORE I HAD FINISHED.

WH-WHAT HAPPENED...?

'TIS NOT ENOUGH MERELY TO DON THE BELT OF STRENGTH.

IT MUST BE DONNED IN THE TEMPLE ATTACHED TO BILSKARNIR, THE PALACE OF THOR HIMSELF!\*

\*SEE ANNUAL \*5... OR THE ICELANDIC EDDAS, OF COURSE.--ROY.



LIKewise, THOU MUST ALSO PUT ON HIS IRON GLOVES THERE, AS THOR DID IN A FAR EARLIER DAY.

I DUNNO! THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND TOO COMPLICATED!

ARE YOU SURE THAT'LL GIVE ME THE POWER OF THOR?

Aye...



...WHEN THOU HAST BATHED, ALSO, IN THE FIRE OF GEIRRODUR...

...THAT SELFSAME TROLL WHO DID FORGE THE MYSTIC HAMMER!

BATHE IN FIRE... SURE I WILL!

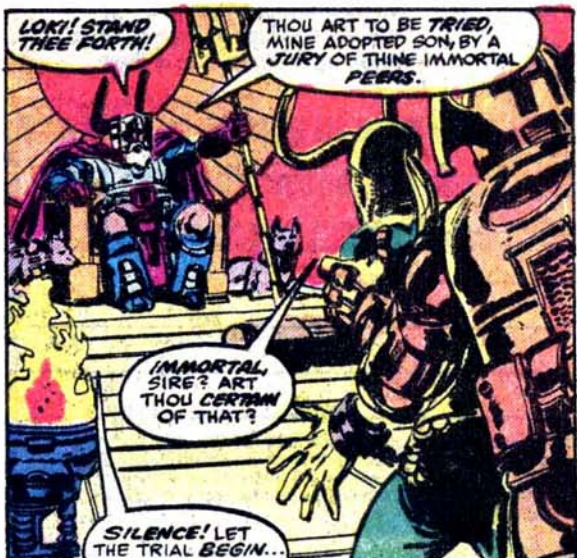
STILL, I GOTTA GO THERE ANYWAY-- JUST TO PUT HIS BELT BACK, RIGHT?

"RIGHT," AS THOU SAYEST...



AND, THOUGH ODIN'S LACKEYS COME FOR ME NOW...

...STILL SHALL I BE WITH THEE THERE, FOR MINE OWN MOST SECRET PURPOSE!



LOKI! STAND THEE FORTH!

THOU ART TO BE TRIED, MINE ADOPTED SON, BY A JURY OF THINE IMMORTAL PEERS.

IMMORTAL SIRE? ART THOU CERTAIN OF THAT?

SILENCE! LET THE TRIAL BEGIN...



AND, IF THESE SEVEN DO FIND THEE GUILTY, THEN MAY THE UNIVERSE ITSELF HAVE MERCY ON THINE EVIL SOUL--

--FOR, AS THE NORN-FATES ARE MY WITNESS-- I SHALL NOT!





AS PROSECUTOR, SIRE, I FEEL 'TWOULD BE A WASTING OF BREATH--

--TO MENTION ALL THE VILE DEEPS LAID AT LOKI'S DOOR.

TIME AND AGAIN, HE HATH BETRAYED THEE, WHO DID REAR HIM...

...NAY, BETRAYED THE REALM ENTIRE!



'THE NOBLE SILVER SURFER--THE DREAD DESTROYER--THE MIND-SHATTERING MANGO--ALL THESE HATH HE, AT ONE HOUR OR ANOTHER, TURNED AGAINST US.

'HE HATH E'ER DESIRED TO RULE ASGARD IN THY STEAD...

'...OR, FAILING THAT, TO SEE IT SUFFER TOTAL DESTRUCTION!



AND NOW, IN FULL VIEW OF ALL, HE DID CAUSE THE DEMI-DEATH OF BALDER--AND NIGH RAGNAROK' AS WELL, IF NOT FOR THINE ODINPOWER.

DO NOT YET COUNT THYSELF SAFE, THUNDERER!

IF BALDER DIES, THE REALM SHALL STILL FALL!



ENOUGH! THE DASTARD DOTH STAND CONVICTED OUT OF HIS OWN MOUTH!

YET--NAY! HE HATH A RIGHT TO BE DEFENDED.

WELL? IF ANY WOULD SPEAK FOR LOKI, LET HIM NOW COME FORWARD!

IN ALL THE ASSEMBLED HOST, NO GOD STIRS.



THEN-- A POX UPON YE ALL!

LOKI, THEN, SHALL SPEAK FOR HIM-SELF!





GODS AND GODDESSES OF THE JURY, YE ALL DO KNOW WELL THAT THE DAY OF RAGNAROK HATH BEEN FORETOLD SINCE TIMES BRIGHT DAWN.

HOW, THEN, CAN I BE LOOKED UPON AS CAUSING THAT WHICH ODIN HIMSELF DID ONCE DECREE?

THINK OF ME NOT AS A TRAITOR TO MINE ADOPTED HOME--

--BUT SIMPLY AS ONE WHO HATH PLAYED HIS ORDAINED PART!



AYE, AND THAT MOST EAGERLY!

JURY-- CONSIDER YOUR VERDICT!

THUS SAYETH ODIN!



THE DECISION IS NOT LONG IN COMING...

WE, THE PEERS OF ASGARD, DO FIND PRINCE LOKI GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST THE REALM!

THERE IS NO CHEERING HERE BEYOND THE RAIN-BOUN INSIDE AS THE VERDICT IS READ.

YET, TRUTH TO TELL, NEITHER IS THERE A TEAR SHED...



...SAVE, THAT IS, BY ONE.

SIGYN-- SHE WHO BE WIFE TO EVIL LOKI!

WHAT A HEAVY BURDEN BE HERS TO BEAR.

WOULD THAT MANY ANOTHER BORE JOY HALF SO WELL!



FIE! I CANNOT SEE!

HE CAN'T SEE! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE FILMING THIS!

WHERE'S JOEY? I SENT HIM AFTER RED... AND NOW THEY'RE BOTH GONE!



MAYHAP A DIFFERENT VIEW WILL--  
HOOOH!

BLAST! THAT VOLSTAGG MADE ENOUGH NOISE FALLING TO WAKE UP THE DEAD, IN ANY PLACE BUT ASGARD.

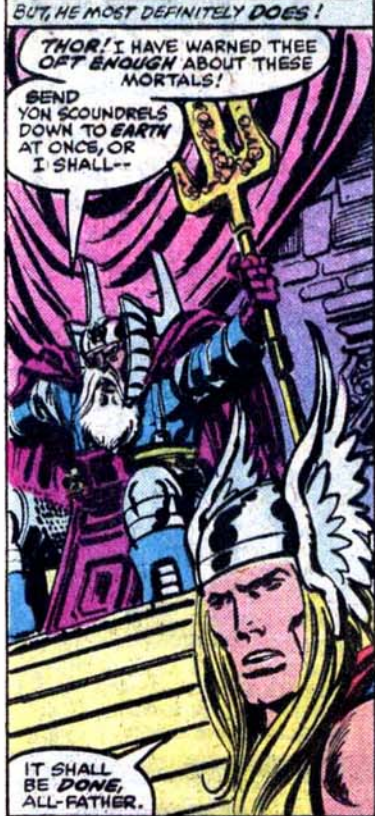
I SURE HOPE BIG DADDY ODIN DIDN'T HEAR--!



BUT, HE MOST DEFINITELY DOES!

THOR! I HAVE WARNED THEE OFT ENOUGH ABOUT THESE MORTALS!

SEND YON SCOUNDRELS DOWN TO EARTH AT ONCE, OR I SHALL--



IT SHALL BE DONE, ALL-FATHER.

AW, HAVE A HEART, THOR-BABY! JUST A LITTLE LONGER, TILL WE SEE ABOUT THIS RAGNAROK THING, AND--

NAY! WHERE BE THY TWO FRIENDS, HARRIS HOBBS?



YE MUST ALL DEPART-- NOW!

ONE PRESENT, HOWEVER, IS INTRIGUED BY THE QUESTION ASKED BY THOR...

WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO MORTALS?



ONE OF THEM, AT LEAST, INTERESTED CONDEMNED LOKI...

...WHO, THOUGH BOUND FAST, CAN YET SEND HIS ASTRAL SELF A-WANDERING...

...AYE, EVEN INTO THE HOUSE OF THOR ITSELF, WHERE--



NO! I--I CAN'T DO IT!

I WANT TO REACH INTO THOSE FLAMES-- AFTER THOSE IRON GLOVES LOKI TOLD ME ABOUT-- BUT--

STILL PLAYING THE FOOL, I SEE!

LOKI-- HERE!?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

THOU SHALT NOT PERISH, MAN OF MIDGARD, FOR THE BELT OF THOR SHALL PROTECT THEE.

STEP INTO THE FIRE OF GEIRRODUR-- IF THOU WOULDST WIN FORE'ER THE LOVE OF THE LADY SIF!



SIF!? YES-- YES! I'VE GOT TO DO IT!

EVER SINCE I SAW HER-- I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER!

I'VE GOTTA TRY IT-- NO MATTER WHAT!!





WELL--HERE GOES THE PROVERBIAL NOTHING--!

RED-- STOP!

YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!!



HUH? GET AWAY FROM ME, KID! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I GOT NO CHOICE!

BESIDES, IT DIDN'T HURT WHEN I STUCK MY HAND IN THERE-- SO MAYBE--

YOU'RE STOPPIN' NOTHING, LITTLE MAN--

YOU'VE GONE CRAZY, RED! I'VE GOTTA STOP YOU--!



--EXCEPT MY FIST!

UNNH!

NOW, MORTAL! DO IT NOW-- ERE THE MOMENT PASSES!



NO! IT WON'T PASS! I WON'T LET IT!!

RED-- DON'T!

OH MY GOD--!



FOR A FROZEN YET FINITE ETERNITY, A LOOK OF SUPREME UNMITIGATED HORROR GRIPS THE FEATURES OF THE YOUNG SOUND-MAN NAMED JOEY...



...ONLY TO BE REPLACED, IN THE SHADOW OF AN INSTANT, BY... SOMETHING ELSE.



--LEAVING ONLY HIS MOCKING, MIRTHLESS LAUGHTER BEHIND!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA





AS, BACK BEFORE ODIN'S THRONE...

FOR THE FINAL TIME, MORTAL... I SAY THEE **NAY!**

YOU'RE THROWING ME TO THE WOLVES, OLD BUDDY!  
IF I DON'T GO BACK WITH THIS SPECIAL, I'M ALL WASHED UP ON NETWORK ROW!

I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND, BUT--



AT LEAST LET ME GET A SHOT OF YOU ASGARDIANS PUNISHING LOKI-- WHATEVER THEY'RE GONNA DO TO HIM--!

**BAN!** THEY WILL DO NOTHING TO ME, DOLT!

LISTEN, YE GODS! DO YE NOT HEAR??



HEAR? HEAR WHAT, TRICKSTER? SEEK NOT TO CONFOUND US WITH THY--

BY THE SACRED SCEPTRE!

**RRM**  
**M B**

THAT WALL-- IT'S CRACKING--!

MILORD **THOR!** WHAT CAN IT BE--?



DON'T LOOK TO THAT LOSER FOR ANSWERS, LADY!

HE'S NOT THE LORD HIGH MUCKAMUCK AROUND HERE-- NOT ANY MORE!

**CLEAR THE WAY, PEOPLE-- AND GET RID OF THAT BLOND-HAIRED, FANCY-TALKIN' CLOWN!**

BUT-- WHO IN ODIN'S NAME ART THOU?

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, YOU FAIRY-TALE FREAKS?

**I'M THE REAL THOR-- GOD OF THUNDER-- AND YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT!**





THOR! THAT'S RED,  
MY CAMERA-MAN--  
BUT HE'S GONE  
CRAZY!

HE LOOKS  
BIGGER, TOO--  
STRONGER--  
AND HE THINKS  
HE'S YOU!

I THINK I KNOW  
WHAT HATH OCCURRED,  
HARRIS HOBBS--AND  
I MUST NEEDS  
STOP HIM!



YOU'RE WELCOME  
TO TRY, YOU  
NORDIC HAS-  
BEEN!

BUT, A COUPLE OF  
YOUR ASGARDIAN  
BUDDIES JUST DID--

SLAM  
M!

--AND LOOK  
WHAT IT  
GOT THEM!

RED  
NORVELL--  
"THOR"--



I HAVE MADE THEE STRONG AS  
THOR, AS I DID PROMISE.

NOW FREE  
ME, AS WAS  
OUR BARGAIN!

WE DIDN'T  
HAVE A  
BARGAIN,  
HORNTOP.

I'M THE ONE  
THAT WALK  
IN THE FIRE--AND  
NOW THAT I'M THOR,  
WHO NEEDS YOU?



TWICE NOW HAST  
THOU SAID IT,  
IMPOSTOR.

THOU SHALT  
NOT DO SO  
A THIRD  
TIME.

I AND  
I ALONE  
BE THOR--

--AS I  
NOW SHALL  
PROVE,  
BY MIGHT AND  
MJOLNIR!



ALL-FATHER! WHY DOST  
THOU NOT INTERVENE?

IF THE MORTAL  
HATH GAINED E'EN  
HALF THE POWER  
POSSESSED BY THOR,  
A BATTLE 'TWTX  
THEM MAY DEVAS-  
TATE ALL THE  
REALM!

AND IF I DIVERT MINE OWN  
POWERS TO THIS FRAY, THEN  
THE ODINSHIELD WILL FADE--  
BALDER WILL BE IRRETRIEVABLY  
NELA'S--

--AND ALL  
ASGARD  
SHALL FALL!

NAH, MILADY  
SIF-- THE TRUE  
THOR MUST  
BATTLE YON  
UPSTART  
ALONE.

FOR ASGARD'S  
SAKE, ODIN MUST  
STAND APART--  
AND DO NAUGHT!





I'VE NO NEED OF SUCCOR, MY FATHER!

WITH MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER IN HAND, I SHALL SMITE THE INTRUDER BACK TO WHENCE HE CAME.

Y'KNOW, I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, GOLDILOCKS, 'CAUSE IT REMINDED ME--



--THAT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME NOW!

BY FENRIS' GAWPING JAWS!

EONS AGO, WHEN HE WAS STILL TOO YOUNG TO WIELD MYSTIC MJOLNIR UNAIDED, THOR WAS GIVEN BY ODIN A PAIR OF IRON GLOVES.

WITH THEM, HE COULD HANDLE THE BERRIE MALLET.

NOW, BACKED BY THE FABLED BELT OF STRENGTH, THE ALTERED RED NORVELL'S HANDS REACH OUT ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY--

--AND, AMAZINGLY, THEY STOP THE DESCENDING HAMMER IN MID-AIR!



THE NEXT MOMENT, EVEN MORE ASTOUNDINGLY, THE SON OF ODIN FALLS BEFORE ONE OF THE TRANSFORMED MORTALS' PILE-DRIVER FISTS--

**BTAM!**

-- AS THE OTHER GRASPS THE MASC HAMMER -- AND TAKES IT FROM HIM --

-- SOMETHING NO MAN OR IMMORTAL HATH E'ER DONE BEFORE!



THIS BE BASE TRICKERY! NEVER BEFORE IN AGES WITHOUT NUMBER HATH ANY SAVE THOR WIELDED DIVINE MJOLNIR.

COME, HOGUN-- WE MUST--

MAY, FANDRAL! BEHOLD HOW ODIN HIMSELF DOTH GIVE THE IMPERIAL SIGN WHICH MEANS-- STAND BACK!

WE DARE NOT INTERFERE!

HOW FORTUNATE FOR THE RANK PRETENDER-- OR VOLSTANG HIMSELF WOULD HAVE LAID HIM LOW!



NOR IS ANY MORE SURPRISED THAN HE WHO, TILL MERE MINUTES BEFORE, DID THINK HIMSELF THE ONLY THUNDER GOD IN ASSARD...

"TIS MADNESS UNFETTERED!

I'EN WEARING MY MYSTIC GLOVES AND BELT, THE MORTAL SHOULD STILL BE WEAKER THAN I!



IN SOOTH, THERE MUST BE MORE TO THIS BASE TREACHERY THAN MEETS THE EYE!

I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, PAL.

ALL I KNOW IS, IF ONLY THOR CAN SWING THIS COCKA-MAMEY SLEDGE-HAMMER OF YOURS--



WHY, THEN, THAT ALONE OUGHT TO PROVE MY POINT, NAMELY--

-- THAT I'M THE ONLY THOR THERE IS NOW, AND YOU'RE--

WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE--



WHY!

AND PISANKLY, MY DEAR, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!

HAA! WHAT'S WRONG, BABY?

CAN'T YOU EVEN STAND UP WITHOUT YOUR BIG BAD HAMMER?



THOR! WE BE FORBIDDEN TO FIGHT FOR THEE, FOR REASONS ONLY THE ALL-FATHER CAN KNOW--

BUT, LET US MINISTER TO THEE, AT LEAST, SO THAT--



NAY, GOOD FANDRAL! STAND THEE BACK!

WHEN I CANNOT STAND UNARMED, MAYHAP 'T WILL BE TIME THAT ASSARD DID BOAST A NEW GOD OF THUNDER!



YET, SO LONG AS BREATH REMAINS IN MY BODY, I SHALL FIGHT ON-- AS BEFITS A SCION OF ODIN!

THEN MAYBE YOU BETTER GET YOUR OLD MAN TO GIVE YOU ONE OF THEM ODINSHIELD THINGS, TOO!

OH? GONNA TRY TO BLAME IT ALL ON THE HAMMER, HUH?

VILLAIN! I SHALL BATTLE TO THE DEATH-- E'EN THOUGH MJOLNIR ITSELF BE TURNED AGAINST ME!

WELL THEN, I'LL JUST TUCK IT AWAY IN MY BELT--

--AND TAKE YOU ON LEON SPINKS' STYLE!

SO BE IT!

AS IF HURLED FROM SOME MAMMOTH CATAPULT, THE YELLOW-TRESSED THUNDER GOD HURLS HIMSELF AT THE RED-HAIRED ONE--

--WITH LESS THAN HAPPY RESULTS.

I'LL ADMIT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN--

AND TO COIN A CLICHE, CHUM--

UHHN--!

**THOOM!**

BUT IT FEELS RIGHT, SOMEHOW-- LIKE I WAS BORN TO BE THE THUNDER GOD!

THIS CLOUD AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US!

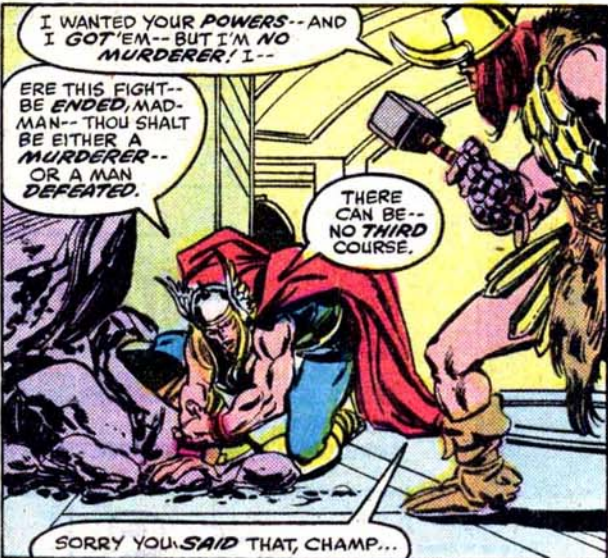




OKAY--  
READY TO SAY  
UNCLE?

NOT--  
WHILST  
I DO  
LIVE--!

LISTEN--  
DON'T  
MAKE ME  
KILL  
YOU--!



I WANTED YOUR POWERS--AND  
I GOT 'EM-- BUT I'M NO  
MURDERER! I--

ERE THIS FIGHT--  
BE ENDED, MAD-  
MAN-- THOU SHALT  
BE EITHER A  
MURDERER--  
OR A MAN  
DEFEATED.

THERE  
CAN BE--  
NO THIRD  
COURSE.

SORRY YOU SAID THAT, CHAMP...



... 'CAUSE  
YOU'RE NOT  
LEAVIN' ME  
MUCH OF A  
CHOICE!

THERE! THAT  
OUGHT TO TAKE  
THE FIGHT  
OUT OF YOU!



CRIPES!  
YOU'RE STILL  
TRYIN' TO  
GET UP--!?

AYE-- USURPER!  
LET THOR BUT  
STAND-- ONCE  
MORE--



--AND I  
SHALL--

**ARRRRGHH!**

YOU  
MADE ME  
DO THIS--  
DO YOU  
HEAR ME?  
YOU MADE  
ME!!

I COULD FEEL ALL THIS  
ENERGY SURGING THRU ME--  
SO I FIGURED I COULD  
SEND IT OUT THRU THE  
HEAD OF THE HAMMER,  
LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT  
YOU DO.

I CAN  
SEE NOW I'VE  
GOTTA KILL YOU--  
OR YOU'LL KILL ME  
SOONER OR LATER!

ALRIGHT  
THEN I'VE  
COME THIS FAR--!





**NNOOOO!**

**STOP HIM!  
HE WOULD  
SLAY MY  
BELOVED!**

**HASTEN, ASGARDIANS!  
AH, IF ONLY VALIANT  
VOLSTAGG COULD  
REACH THE FORE-  
FRONT OF BATTLE...**

**NOW  
I STRIKE,  
GRIM HOGUN--  
WHETHER  
ODIN GIVE  
THE SIGN  
OR MAY!**

**AND HOGUN  
WITH THEE,  
MY FRIEND!**



**KEEP  
BACK, YOU  
MYTHOLOGICAL  
MISFITS!**

**MAYBE I'M JUST  
STARTIN' TO LEARN  
THIS HAMMER'S BAG  
OF TRICKS-- BUT I  
SEEM TO HAVE A  
REAL GIFT FOR IT--**

**-- SO YOU  
MIGHT AS WELL  
BREAK FOR  
LUNCH!**

**HELA'S  
SWORD! HE  
HATH THROWN  
UP A WALL OF  
MYSTIC FIRE  
AROUND HIMSELF  
AND THOR!**



**CHECK! WHAT'S MORE, IN THE  
FEW SECONDS IT'LL TAKE FOR  
YOU GODS TO FIGHT YOUR WAY  
THRU IT, I'M GONNA SMASH  
ODIN'S LITTLE BOY CLEAR  
BACK INTO THE TEXTBOOKS!**

**G'BYE,  
PAL! SORRY  
TO DO  
THIS, BUT--**

**YET, EVEN  
AS THE  
"NEW THOR"  
AIMS MIGHTY  
M-JOLNIR--**



**-- SOMEONE ELSE ENTERS THE  
SCENE-- SOMEONE WHO, COMING  
FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION, WAS  
ALREADY WITHIN THE AREA WHEN  
THE FIERY RING WAS FORMED--!**

**RED!  
LISTEN  
TO ME!  
IT'S JOEY!**

**YOU  
CAN'T  
KILL HIM,  
RED! I  
WON'T  
LET YOU!  
I--**

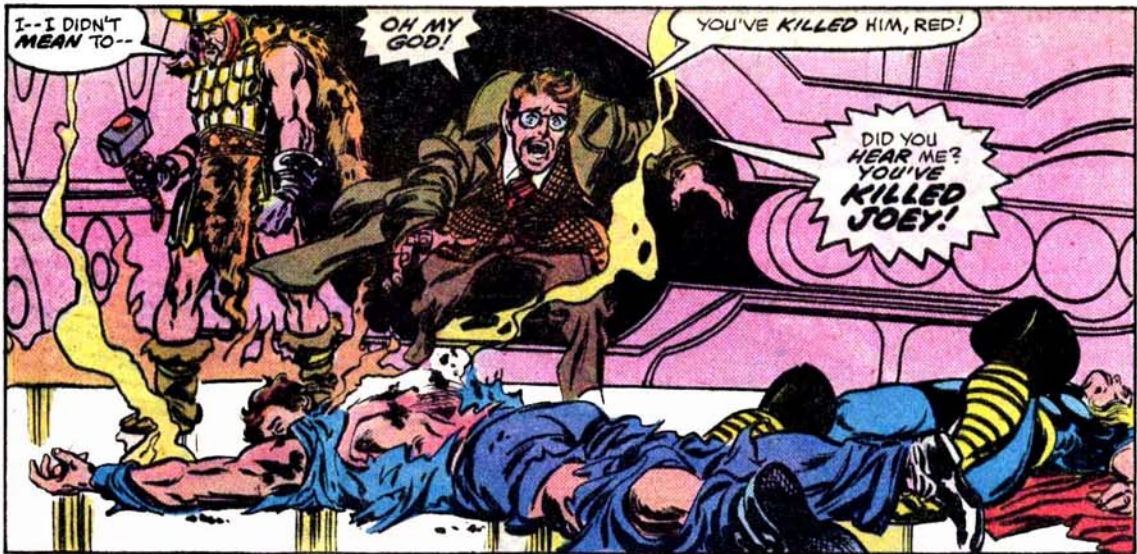


**GET OUTTA THE  
WAY KID! IT'S  
TOO LATE TO--**

**GOOD  
LORD!**

**ZRAK!**





I-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

OH MY GOD!

YOU'VE KILLED HIM, RED!

DID YOU HEAR ME? YOU'VE KILLED JOEY!



LOOKS LIKE MY LITTLE FIRE-WALL'S FADED AWAY.

COME AWAY WITH ME-- AND I WON'T CLOBBER YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND ANY MORE!

BUT MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO KILL THOR-- OR ANYBODY ELSE-- AT THAT.

NOY! I SHALL FIGHT YOU MYSELF--!

-- AND LOSE! THE WHOLE GANG OF YOU CAN'T BEAT THE POWER I'VE GOT, AND YOU KNOW IT!

SIF-- I DID IT ALL FOR YOU, GOD-LADY!



OKAY, I'LL LET YOU BE EVEN NOBLER ABOUT IT:

COME WITH ME-- OR I'LL DESTROY THE QUINSHIELD!

THAT'D BE THE END OF BALDER-- ASGARD-- THE WHOLE SHEBANG!

AND OF THEE, AS WELL, MAYHAP--!

I COULD CARE LESS!

WELL? WHAT'LL IT BE?



LET MY FALLING SWORD... BE MINE ANSWER...!

YOU DID RIGHT, BABY.

I'M GONNA TREAT YOU GOOD... REAL GOOD.

PRETTY SOON YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND.





S'FUNNY! LOOKING AT THIS SHINY FLOOR, I JUST SAW MY REFLECTION AND REALIZED--

--THAT THE "THOR" I TURNED INTO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PICTURES OF **STATUS** I USED TO SEE IN OLD STORYBOOKS!

WONDER HOW COME.

OH WELL-- GOLDILOCKS NEVER DID LOOK LIKE THE REAL THOR, ANYHOW.



I REMEMBER READIN' HOW THOR WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A RED-HEAD-- JUST LIKE ME!

WONDER IF THAT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, OR--

NUTS! NO SENSE TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT HAPPENED.

I'M JUST GONNA ENJOY IT-- FOR MAYBE A MILLENNIUM OR TWO.

BELOW, THE GATHERED GODS TURN NOW--



--TO LOOK WITH DAZED EYES AT ODIN, WHO HAS EVER BEEN THEIR TOWER... THEIR TIMELESS PILLAR.

AND HE SEEMS NOW NOT SO MUCH THE LORD OF ASGARD... AS A FATHER WHO KNOWS HE MAY WELL LOSE HIS ONLY SON TO DUSKY DEATH.

THE FIRE IS GONE NOW FROM THE ONE EYE HE HAS LEFT... AYE, AND SEEMINGLY FROM HIS VERY SPIRIT.



AND, IF THE FLAMES THAT BURN IN ODIN'S SOUL BE BANKED AND DIM...



...THEN WHAT OF THE BLAZING ODINSHIELD WHICH ALONE PREVENTS FALLEN BALDER FROM BEING FULLY POSSESSED BY THE GODDESS OF DEATH?



WE THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT...!

NEXT ISSUE: **TIME OF THE TROLLS!**