

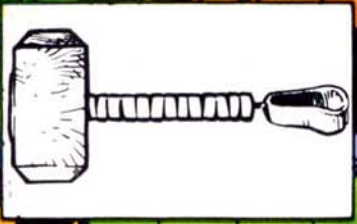
**MARVEL**<sup>®</sup>

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TM

the mighty

# THOR<sup>®</sup>

60c 341  
U.K. 25p MAR  
CAN. 75c



# THE PAST IS A BUCKET OF ASHES

NEW YORK CITY, ON A CRISP, BLUE MORNING, WATCHES AS A POWERFUL FIGURE, LONG ABSENT FROM THE BUSY METROPOLIS, SOARS OVERHEAD...

AH, NOW MY HEART SINGS. THOUGH IT HAS BEEN MONTHS SINCE I LAST SAW HER, STILL THE GREAT CITY BUSTLES WITH THE FURIOUS ENERGY OF YOUTH. STILL I FEEL AT HOME HERE AS NOWHERE ELSE.

YET NOW THAT I AM NO LONGER THE MORTAL PHYSICIAN, DONALD BLAKE, I HAVE NO HOME IN ALL OF EARTH'S MANY REALMS.\*

AND EVEN THE GOD OF THUNDER NEEDS A PLACE TO HANG HIS HAMMER ON A COLD WINTRY NIGHT.

BEEP! HONK! BEEP!  
HONK!

QUICK, MILDRED! MY CAMERA! IT'S THE MIGHTY THOR!

OH, RONALD! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HE'S SO HANDSOME! OHHHHHH!

MILDRED? MILDRED!!

\*LAST ISSUE'S CLASSIC TALES. IF YOU MISSED IT, FOR SHAME!

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PERHAPS THE AVENGERS CAN HELP ME. WITHOUT THE MORTAL IDENTITY I HAVE HELD SO LONG, I SHALL HAVE TO BEGIN ANEW TO ESTABLISH A DWELLING PLACE HERE ON EARTH.

YET, STILL, I--

HEY, CHECK THIS OUT!

THOR! WE KNEW YOU'D COME BACK TO MANHATTAN.

LISTEN, MAN, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? LONG HAIR IS DEFINITELY OUT. WHY NOT COME OVER TO OUR PLACE FOR A MOHAWK?

YOU'D LOOK REALLY GREAT!

I THANK THEE. BUT WERE I TO CUT MY HAIR, MY HELMET WOULD FALL OFF.

WAS HE KIDDIN'?

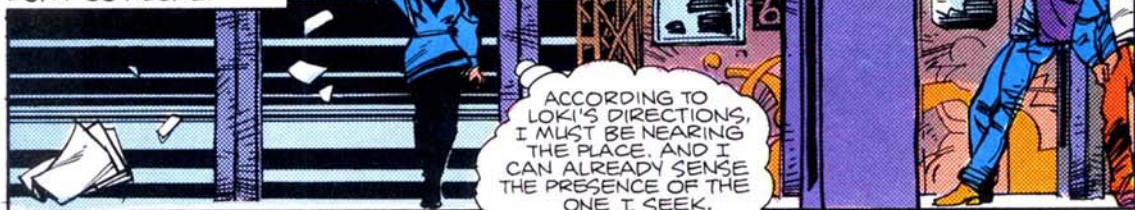
BEATS ME. BUT WITH THOSE SHOULDERS AND BLUE EYES, WHO CARES?

AND THE MIGHTY THOR DISAPPEARS WITHIN AVENGERS MANSION...

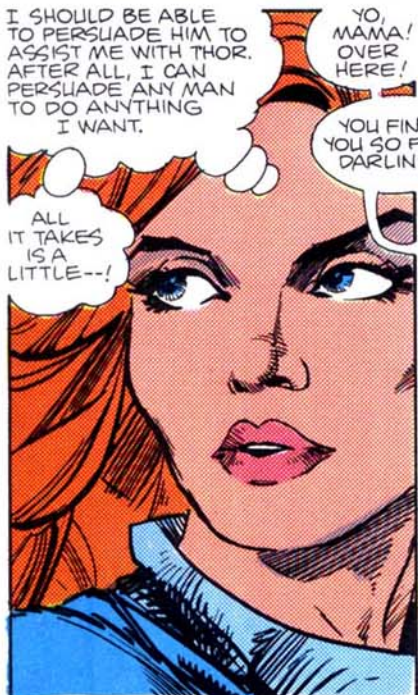
...TO FIND HIMSELF ON THE MOST SURPRISING ADVENTURE OF HIS CAREER.\*

\*SO SURPRISING, IN FACT, THAT WE CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU ABOUT IT UNTIL NEXT MONTH! WATCH THIS SPACE.

MEANWHILE, LET'S LOOK IN ON LORELEI WHO HAS JUST GOTTEN OFF THE N.Y. SUBWAY AT A STATION WHERE EVEN THE COPS DON'T GO ALONE.



ACCORDING TO LOKI'S DIRECTIONS, I MUST BE NEARING THE PLACE, AND I CAN ALREADY SENSE THE PRESENCE OF THE ONE I SEEK.



I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM TO ASSIST ME WITH THOR. AFTER ALL, I CAN PERSUADE ANY MAN TO DO ANYTHING I WANT.

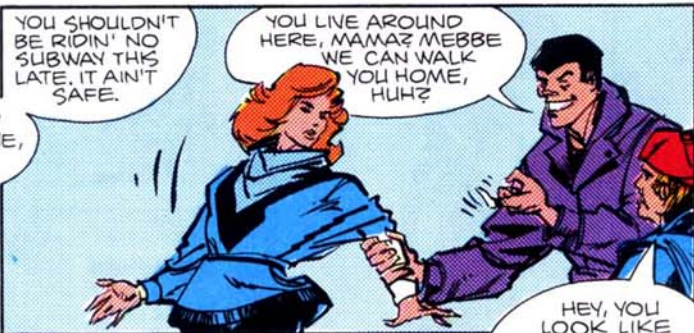
YO, MAMA! OVER HERE!

YOU FINE! YOU SO FINE, DARLIN'!

ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE--!

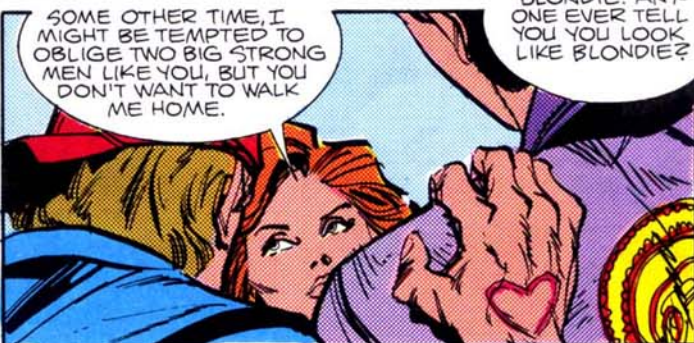
YOU SHOULDN'T BE RIDIN' NO SUBWAY THIS LATE, IT AIN'T SAFE.

YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, MAMA? MEBBE WE CAN WALK YOU HOME, HUH?



HEY, YOU LOOK LIKE BLONDIE. ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU LOOK LIKE BLONDIE?

SOME OTHER TIME, I MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO OBLIGE TWO BIG STRONG MEN LIKE YOU, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO WALK ME HOME.



UH, WE DON'T?

LOOK AT ME, INTO MY EYES. WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BE... FIGHTING EACH OTHER. I MIGHT EVEN GO HOME... WITH THE WINNER.



I CAN SYMPATHIZE A LITTLE MORE WITH SIF'S ANTI-PATHY TOWARD MIDGARD\* IF THESE ARE TYPICAL IN-HABITANTS.

**BIF! SOCK!  
KAPOW! OWW!  
SWAK!**

THOUGH I MUST SAY THAT I DO FIND IT ALL RATHER EXCITING.

ASGARD HAS GOTTEN SO DULL OF LATE.

AFTER WALKING DOWN THE DARKENED SUBWAY TUNNEL A FEW HUNDRED YARDS...



AH, HERE IS THE PASSAGE LOKI SPOKE OF...



FOR WITH HIS HELP, I SHALL SNARE THE MIGHTY THOR AS SIF NEVER DID AND HE SHALL BE MINE FOREVER!

... AND HERE THE ABANDONED STATION WHEREIN THE ONE I SEEK IS CONCEALED, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE DESTINY THAT AWAITS HIM.



GRROWLLLLL! WHO DISTURBS MY REST? WHO HAS DARED TO ENTER THE LAIR... OF THE DRAGON?

LOOK BEFORE YOU, OH, MIGHTY ONE AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.



A BOLD BEAUTY, INDEED. BUT I CAN SMELL THE ASGARDIAN IN YOU. AND THOSE OF ASGARD ARE MY MORTAL ENEMIES!

THOSE OF ASGARD ARE YOUR MASTERS, DRAGON. I HAVE COME FOR YOUR AID AND YOU SHALL GIVE IT TO ME, WHETHER YOU WILL OR NO.

FOR WITH YOUR HELP, THE MIGHTY THOR SHALL BE MINE!



THOR! THE SON OF ACCURSED ODIN! WHAT KNOW YOU OF THOR?!

GAZE UPON ME. LOOK INTO MY EYES AND I WILL TELL YOU.



INDEED YOU SHALL, LITTLE MISTRESS.

FOR THE POWER OF THE DRAGON IS NOT ONLY THAT OF FLAME AND FURY, BUT OF PERSUASION.



I WILL LOOK DEEP INTO YOUR EYES...



...AND YOU WILL TELL ME

I... WILL...

EVERY-THING.

...TELL...

A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER, AS COL. NICK FURY, DIRECTOR OF SHIELD, IS REVIEWING THE LATEST REPORTS AT HQ...

GOT A VISITOR, NICK, AND I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WUZ GONE FOR GOOD.

NOT A CHANCE. YOU JUST CAN'T STOP A JOE LIKE HIM.

HI, THOR. NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN. GLAD TO SEE YA MADE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE.

THIS A SOCIAL CALL?

I NEED AID, COLONEL. I THOUGHT PERHAPS SHIELD MIGHT BEST BE EQUIPPED TO ASSIST ME. IT'S--

STRANGE. FOR A MOMENT, I FELT AS THOUGH I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY NAME, AS I HAVE NOT HEARD IT CALLED IN A THOUSAND YEARS.

THOR? YOU ALL RIGHT, FELLA?

FINE, NICHOLAS. I'M FINE. MAY WE TALK SOMEWHERE, PRIVATELY?

SURE. RANK HATH ITS PRIVILEGES.

NOT ONLY DO I GET TO RAMROD THE JOINT, I GET A PRIVATE SUITE, COURTESY OF THE TAXPAYERS.

AFTER YOU.

AND, SHORTLY...



SUCH IS MY STORY, NICHOLAS. DONALD BLAKE IS NO MORE. THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE HAMMER WHICH ALLOWED ME TO ASSUME MORTAL GUISE HAS BEEN ALTERED BY MY FATHER.\*

I COULD STAY AT THE AVENGERS MANSION...



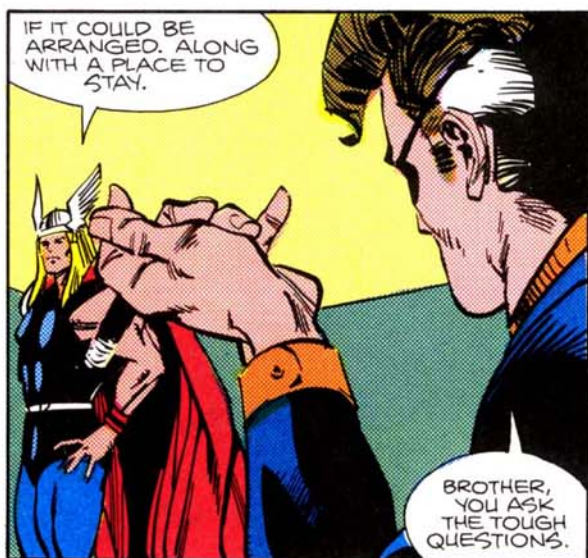
\*ALL LAST ISSUE.



...BUT MY YEARS OF LIVING AS DON BLAKE HAVE TAUGHT ME MUCH. I WOULD PREFER TO BE CLOSER TO THOSE I PROTECT.

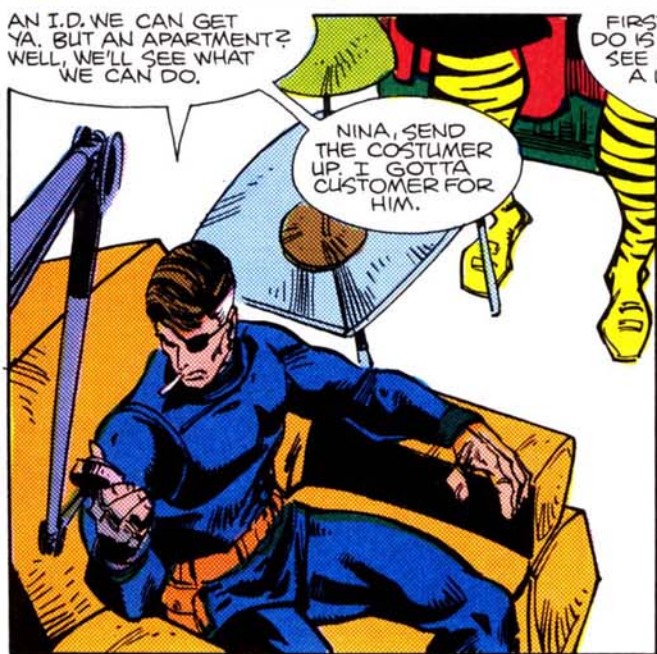
SO WHAT YER SAYIN' IS THAT YA NEED TO BE SET UP IN A NEW CIVILIAN I.D.

AND YA WANT SHIELD TA HELP?



IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED, ALONG WITH A PLACE TO STAY.

BROTHER, YOU ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS.



AN I.D. WE CAN GET YA. BUT AN APARTMENT? WELL, WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

NINA, SEND THE COSTUMER UP. I GOTTA CUSTOMER FOR HIM.

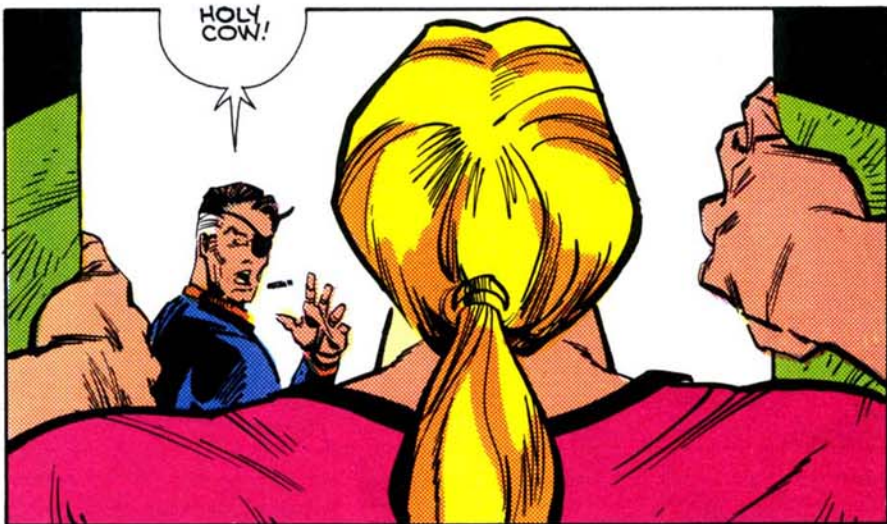


FIRST THING WE GOTTA DO IS DUMP THAT OUTFIT. SEE IF WE CAN MAKE YA A LITTLE LESS CONSPICUOUS.

YOU GO WITH MARCO HERE. HE'LL SEE IF WE GOT ANYTHING THAT'LL FIT YOU. BUT DON'T HOLD YER BREATH.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT FINDING YOU A PLACE TO STAY.

A HALF HOUR LATER...



IS ANYTHING WRONG?

NAW, YOU LOOK GREAT.

I GOT AN APARTMENT FOR YA, BUT YA HAVETA SETTLE FER BROOKLYN. EVEN SHIELD CAN'T FIND NOTHIN' IN MANHATTAN.



IT'S YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT. YOU MAY BE IN CIVVIES, BUT EVERYBODY'S STILL GONNA RECOGNIZE YA.

I KNEW THOSE SHOULDERS WERE GONNA BE TROUBLE.



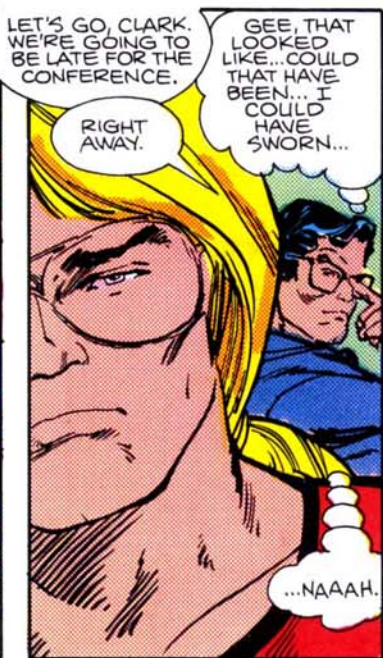
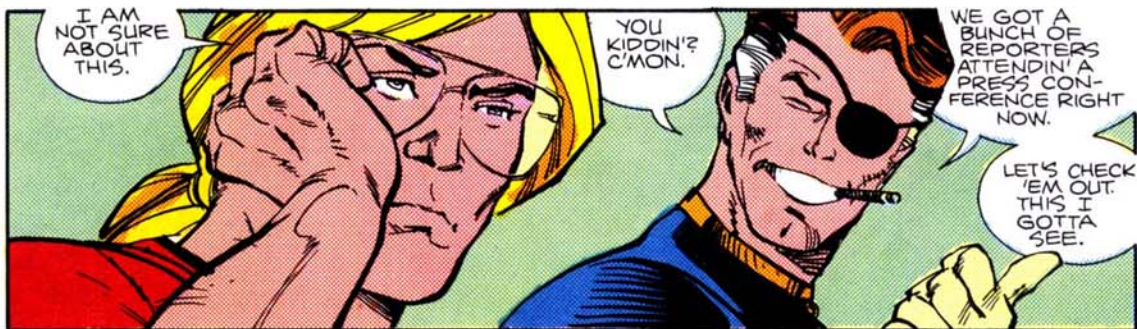
HEY! HOLD THE PHONE A SEC. I JUST GOT THE GREATEST IDEA SINCE PIZZA.

WHERE'D I DUMP THOSE THINGS? AH, GOT 'EM!



HERE! PUT THESE CHEATERS ON! THEY ALWAYS WORKED FOR THAT OTHER GUY!





BUT EVEN AS THE REPORTERS LEAVE AND MISS THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE MONTH, WE TURN TO THE FABLED REALM OF ASGARD...



WHEN I HUNG UPON YGGDRASIL, THE WORLD ASH, I LEARNED THE NINE SONGS AND THE SECRET OF THE RUNES.



COME, MY RAVENS. COME, HUGINN AND MUNINN. THERE IS MUCH THAT I WOULD KNOW AND LITTLE TIME TO LEARN IT.

FOR AS I HAVE HALLOWED THIS BLADE WITH THE SONGS OF THE DEAD...

...SO SHALL THE RUNES THAT I CUT INTO YOUR CLAWS ENABLE YOU TO TRAVEL EVERYWHERE.

NO BARRIER WILL STOP YOU, NO SPELL SHALL KEEP YOU OUT...



...AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THE DEMONS' DOMAIN AS THOR AND BILL WERE NOT \* AND DISCOVER THE SECRET OF THEIR ORIGIN.

SOME TERRIBLE AGENCY IS AT WORK IN THE WORLD AND WE MUST UNCOVER IT.

GROW TALL AND STRONG UNTIL YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FLY ACROSS THE COSMOS TO THE BURNING GALAXY AND SEEK OUT THE DEMONS' SOURCE.



WHEN YOU HAVE LEARNED THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE, RETURN AND I SHALL BE WAITING.

NOW, FLY! FLY!

\*LAST ISSUE AGAIN!



SOMETIME LATER, ON EARTH, AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN MANHATTAN...

LISSEN, JACK,  
YOU WANT A JOB,  
I WANT A JOB,  
EVERYBODY  
WANTS A JOB.

JUST 'CAUSE  
COL'SIN NICK SEZ  
YOU CAN CUT IT  
DON'T MEAN NOthin'  
TO ME, MR...MR...

UH, WHAT'D  
YOU SAY YER  
NAME WAS?

JARLSON.  
SIGURD  
JARLSON.

PERSONALLY,  
IF IT WASN'T FER  
NICK LEANING  
ON ME--

RIGHT, WELL,  
LISTEN UP, JARLSON.  
I GOT A LOTTA  
GUYS HUNGRY  
FER WORK SO YOU'D  
BETTER BE GOOD.

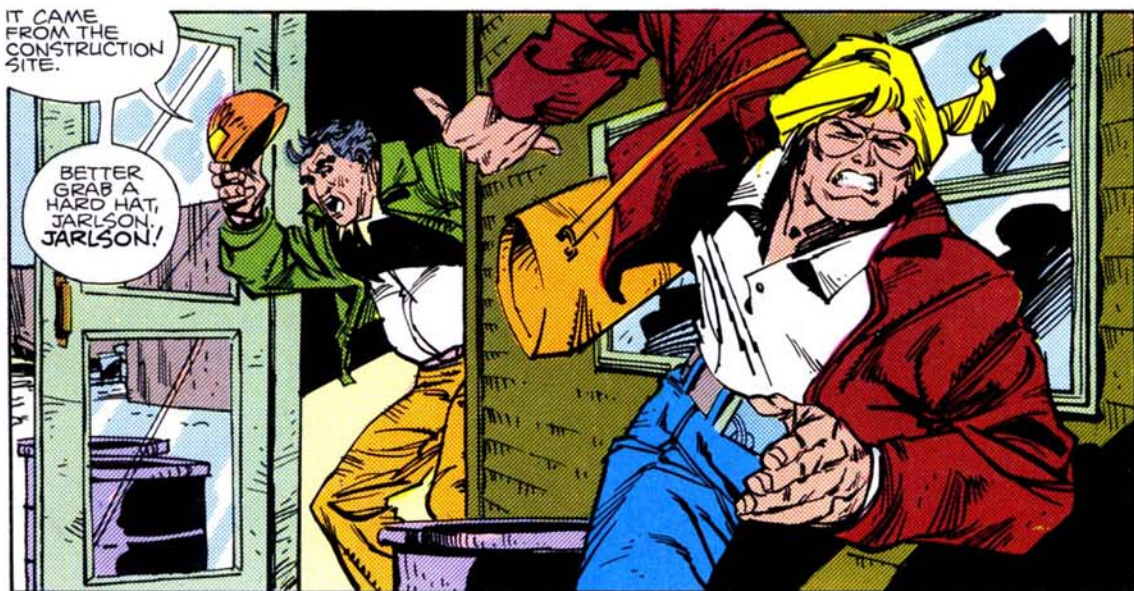
I DON'T  
CARE HOW BIG  
YER SHOULDERS  
ARE.

EEEEEEK!

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

IT CAME  
FROM THE  
CONSTRUCTION  
SITE.

BETTER  
GRAB A  
HARD HAT,  
JARLSON.  
JARLSON!





JARLSON!  
JARLSON!  
WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?!

GOOD  
LORD!  
THERE'S  
SOMEBODY  
HANGING  
FROM THE  
CRANE!

SHE'LL BE  
KILLED!

IT'S A  
GIRL!



SHE  
WILL BE  
KILLED UNLESS  
I CAN REACH  
HER IN  
TIME.

MJOLNIR  
IS IN MY  
KNAPSACK BUT  
TO USE IT  
WOULD BE TO  
DESTROY THE  
IDENTITY  
NICHOLAS HAS  
SO CAREFULLY  
CONSTRUCTED.

I SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO  
REACH HER  
WITHOUT IT.



I DON'T BELIEVE  
IT! JARLSON'S  
HALFWAY UP THE  
BUILDING!

WHAT TH--?  
THE GROUND'S  
SHAKIN'! FEELS  
LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE!  
BUT THIS IS  
NEW YORK!



OH, NO!  
THE CRANE'S  
PLATFORM IS  
BEGINNING  
TO GIVE!

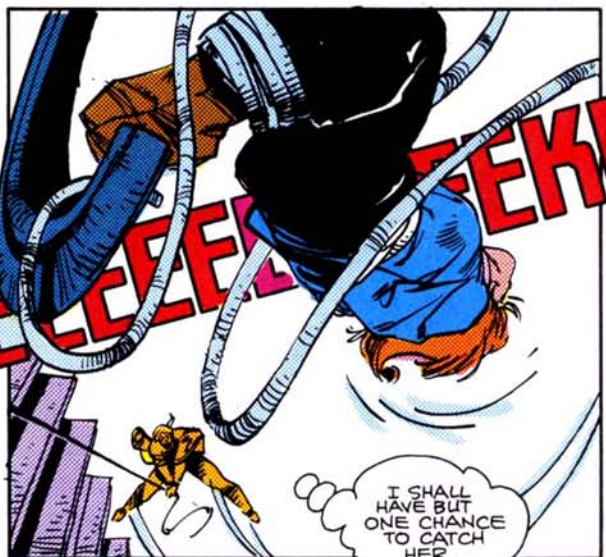
CLEAR  
THE SITE!  
SHE'S GOING  
OVER!



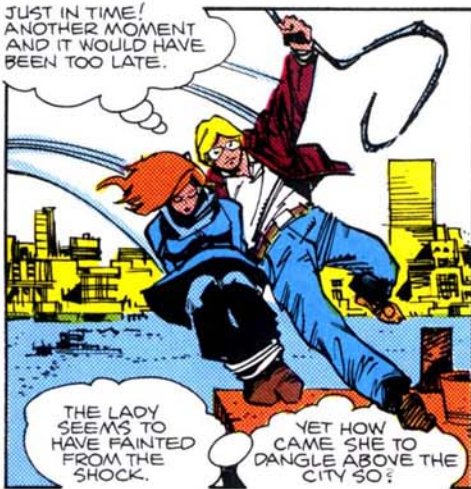
THE CRANE  
IS INDEED  
BEGINNING  
TO TILT!

BUT THIS  
CABLE SHOULD  
GIVE ME THE  
SPEED I  
NEED!

THE ROPE THAT  
SECURED HER TO  
THE CRANE HAS  
SLIPPED LOOSE!  
SHE'S FALLING!



I SHALL  
HAVE BUT  
ONE CHANCE  
TO CATCH  
HER.



JUST IN TIME!  
ANOTHER MOMENT  
AND IT WOULD HAVE  
BEEN TOO LATE.

THE LADY  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE FAINTED  
FROM THE  
SHOCK.

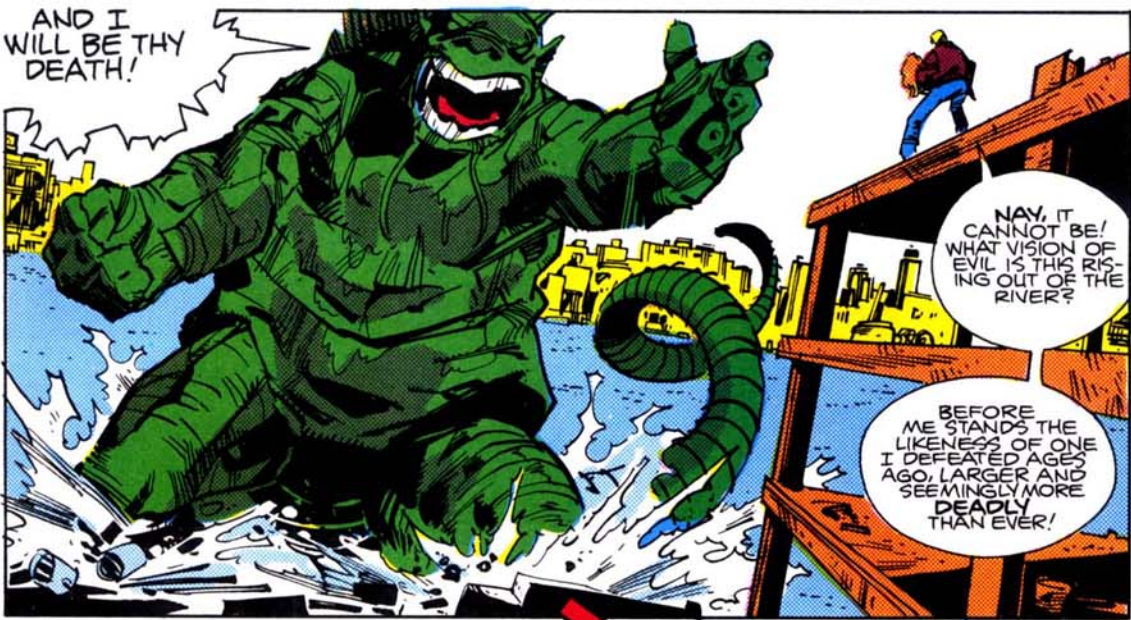
YET HOW  
CAME SHE TO  
DANGLE ABOVE THE  
CITY SO?

THOUGH SHE IS  
SAFE FOR THE  
MOMENT, THERE  
IS MORE HERE  
THAN MEETS  
THE EYE.

AGAIN THE  
GROUND SHAKES!  
BUT IT'S NO  
EARTHQUAKE!

AH?

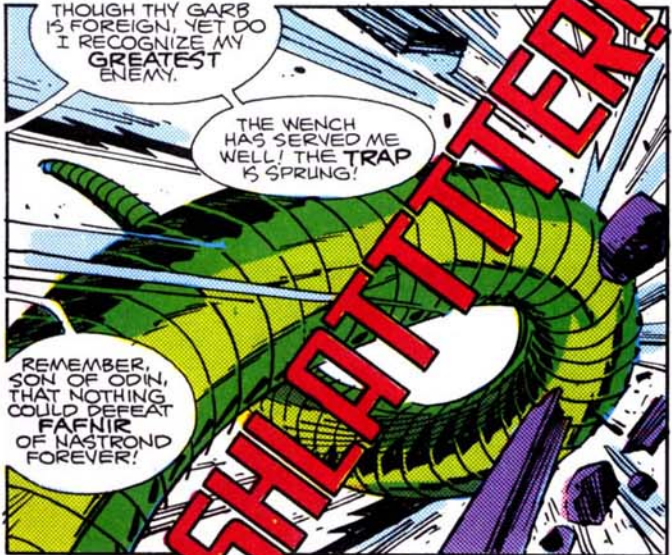
AT LAST  
I HAVE  
FOUND  
THEE!



AND I  
WILL BE THY  
DEATH!

NAV, IT  
CANNOT BE!  
WHAT VISION OF  
EVIL IS THIS RISE-  
ING OUT OF THE  
RIVER?

BEFORE  
ME STANDS THE  
LIKENESS OF ONE  
I DEFEATED AGES  
AGO, LARGER AND  
SEEMINGLY MORE  
DEADLY  
THAN EVER!



THOUGH THY GARB  
IS FOREIGN, YET DO  
I RECOGNIZE MY  
GREATEST  
ENEMY.

THE WENCH  
HAS SERVED ME  
WELL! THE TRAP  
IS SPRUNG!

REMEMBER,  
SON OF ODIN,  
THAT NOTHING  
COULD DEFEAT  
FARNIR  
OF NASTROND  
FOREVER!

**SHATTER!**



AND CARRY  
THAT THOUGHT  
TO YOUR  
GRAVE!

THE  
VERY  
BUILDING  
COLLAPSES  
AROUND  
US.

MY  
HAMMER!  
I MUST  
REACH MY  
HAMMER!

ELSEWHERE, BEYOND THE FIELDS WE KNOW, A HOST PAST COUNTING LISTENS TO A VOICE AS OLD AS TIME SPEAK...

"FROM THE STARLESS VOID..."

"FROM THE REALMS OF ENDLESS NIGHT..."

"BY THE POWER OF THE UNFINISHED SWORD BEFORE ME..."

"HEED MY CALL! SEEK OUT THE SECOND SON OF ODIN!"

"I SUMMON-- THE DARK ELF!"

**DOOM!**

AND IN THE LIGHTLESS DEPTHS OF SPACE, A VOICE ANSWERS...

"I WILL."

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH...



ONLY A WHIRLING VORTEX CREATED BY MY ENCHANTED Mallet CAN SAVE US NOW.

IT WILL PREVENT THE DEBRIS FROM CRUSHING US AS WE LIGHT UPON THE GROUND.



AND WHILE THE RUBBLE SETTLES ABOVE US, I CAN FORM A CAVITY HERE TO HOLD HER SAFELY TILL I DEAL WITH FAFNIR.

BUT WAIT, AGAIN I HEAR MY NAME, AS THOUGH SOMEONE WERE CALLING TO ME FROM A GREAT DISTANCE.

CALLING IN THE TONGUE OF THE NORSEMEN...



...YET SO SOFTLY THAT IT FADES AWAY TO NOTHING.



THIS RIDDLE CAN WAIT. NOW, FAFNIR THE DRAGON, WHOM I ONCE FOUGHT IN BATTLE \* HAS RETURNED.

HE HAS TRIED TO DESTROY BOTH THIS INNOCENT AND MYSELF...

...AND HE SHALL HAVE CAUSE TO REGRET THAT.

'TIS WELL THAT I AM NO LONGER DONALD BLAKE, FOR HE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED THAT FALL.

STILL, SOME LITTLE ENCHANTMENT IS LEFT WITHIN MJOLNIR, AND WHEN I STRIKE UPON THE HAMMER UPON THE GROUND, IT WILL COME TO MY AID.

\*NO POINTS OR PRIZES IF YOU CAN REMEMBER BACK THAT FAR, BUT WE'LL BE IMPRESSED.



SO DIES THE MIGHTY THOR, A VICTIM OF AN EVEN MIGHTIER--

WHAT WAS THAT?



SURELY NOT EVEN THOR COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT FALL, BUT I SHALL NOT UNDERESTIMATE HIM.

I SHALL FIND HIS BODY AND BURN IT TO A CINDER!

THEN WILL ODIN KNOW AND FEAR ME.



**SCION OF EVIL!**  
MY FATHER FEARS  
NO GOD OR DRAGON,  
WHATEVER HIS POWER!

UGGH!

**WHARROON!**



NOW SPEAK BEFORE  
I UNLEASH MY FURY!  
HOW CAME YOU HERE  
AND WHAT DO YOU  
SEEK?

TALK NOT TO ME  
OF FURY, SON OF AN AC-  
CURSED LINE! THE WRATH OF  
GODS COUNTS FOR NOTHING  
BESIDE THE TERRIBLE  
ANGER OF THE  
DRAGON!



AND YET  
I THANK  
BOTH YOU  
AND YOUR  
FATHER.



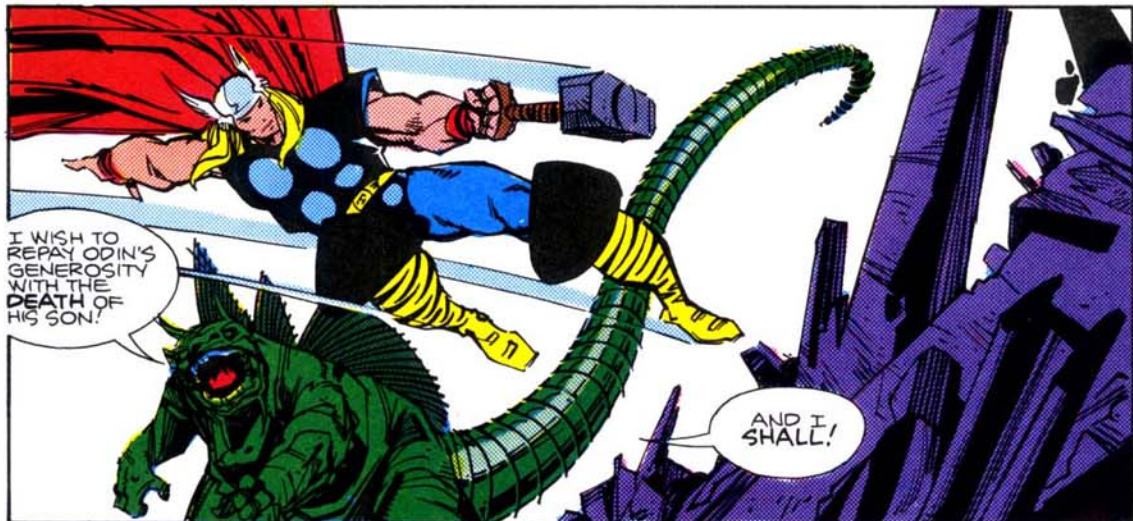
WHERE I WAS ONCE A MORTAL  
KING WHO DALLIED WITH PALTRY  
EVILS, NOW, BECAUSE OF ODIN,  
I AM AN INVINCIBLE CREATURE  
OF HATE!



FOR ODIN HIMSELF  
DESTROYED MY  
PEOPLE AND FORCED  
ME INTO THE WEAR-  
ISOME EXILE...

...WHEREIN I  
DISCOVERED THE  
SECRET OF MY  
TRANSFORMATION!





I WISH TO REPAY ODIN'S GENEROSITY WITH THE DEATH OF HIS SON!

AND I SHALL!



EVIL YOU WERE, KING FAFNIR, AND EVIL YOU ARE STILL.

WELL DO I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE MET, THOUGH IT WAS AGES GONE BY.



HOW YOU NURSED YOUR HATE AND VENGEANCE IN THE BLASTED LAND OF NASTRAND, YOUR FORMER KINGDOM!

HOW YOU TRIED TO SLAY ME AND MY COMPANIONS WHEN WE JOURNEYED THERE AT NOBLE ODIN'S REQUEST...

...AND HOW WITH THUNDER AND LIGHTNING I SPLIT THE VERY EARTH ASUNDER SO THAT YOU WERE SWALLOWED UP AND VANQUISHED!



TRUE! ALL TRUE! I WAS TRAPPED BENEATH THE EARTH FOR EONS, GROWING AND HATING...

...UNTIL RECENTLY THE GROUND SHOOK AGAIN AND BROKE, RELEASING ME FROM MY PRISON!

AND NOW, I SHALL HAVE MY LONG DELAYED VENGEANCE!

MEANWHILE, IN GOLDEN ASGARD VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS IS SEARCHING FOR HIS FRIEND, BALDER...

HARUUMPH! HERE IS BALDER'S SHINING HALL BUT WHERE IS BALDER?

WHY, THE TABLE'S NOT EVEN LAID FOR DINNER. A FINE SHOW OF HOSPITALITY!



BALDER! FRIEND BALDER! 'TIS I, VOLSTAGG, THE VALIANT! PRESENT THYSELF!



STRANGE. HE SEEMS NOT TO BE HOME. PERHAPS HE'S GONE FOR A WALK.

IN WHICH CASE, I HAD BETTER EXAMINE THE LARDER CAREFULLY TO BE SURE IT'S WELL STOCKED IN CASE SOME UNEXPECTED GUEST SHOULD CHANCE BY.

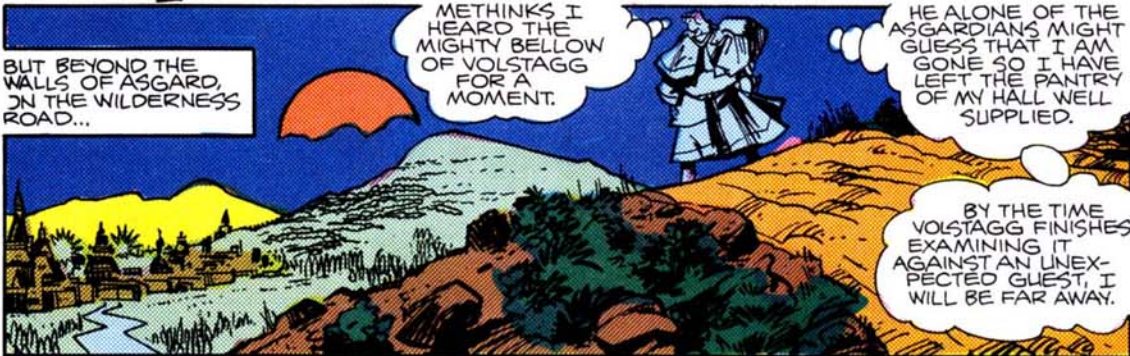


BUT BEYOND THE WALLS OF ASGARD, ON THE WILDERNESS ROAD...

METHINKS I HEARD THE MIGHTY BELLOW OF VOLSTAGG FOR A MOMENT.

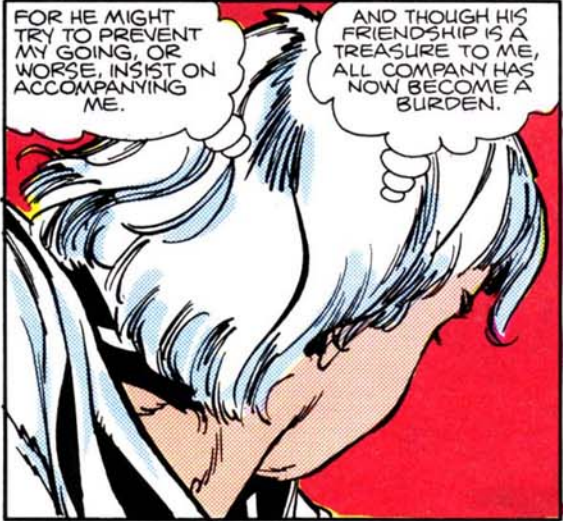
HE ALONE OF THE ASGARDIANS MIGHT GUESS THAT I AM GONE SO I HAVE LEFT THE PANTRY OF MY HALL WELL SUPPLIED.

BY THE TIME VOLSTAGG FINISHES EXAMINING IT AGAINST AN UNEXPECTED GUEST, I WILL BE FAR AWAY.



FOR HE MIGHT TRY TO PREVENT MY GOING, OR WORSE, INSIST ON ACCOMPANYING ME.

AND THOUGH HIS FRIENDSHIP IS A TREASURE TO ME, ALL COMPANY HAS NOW BECOME A BURDEN.



WHEN THE MERE MEMORY OF WHAT I WAS CAN PROVOKE AN ATTACK SUCH AS THE ONE VOLSTAGG STOPPED,\* I CAN NO LONGER REMAIN IN ASGARD.

I MUST CLOSE MY HEART TILL ALL THAT I WAS IS LESS THAN THE SHADOW OF A MEMORY...

...AND ASGARD HERSELF REMEMBERS ME NO MORE.



\*THOR 338.

AS NIGHT  
DRAWS ON...

PERHAPS IN THE WILDER-  
NESS OF THE OUTLANDS, I  
CAN LOSE MYSELF AND BE  
TORMENTED NO LONGER  
BY THE VISAGES OF  
THOSE I HAVE SLAIN.



BRAVE  
BALDER SEEMS A  
LITTLE PEAKED,  
MY MISTRESS, AND  
HE WANDERS  
DANGEROUSLY  
CLOSE TO YOUR  
OWN KINGDOM.

HE HAS BEEN  
STRANGELY CHANGED  
EVER SINCE HIS RETURN  
FROM HELA'S DOMAIN.  
MORE FEY, MORE...  
DANGEROUS.



I  
LIKE  
THAT.

PERHAPS  
I HAVE  
FINALLY  
TOUCHED  
HIS HEART.

WE WILL WATCH HIM,  
HAAG. BUT TAKE HEED  
AND SPREAD THE TIDINGS  
THROUGHOUT MY  
KINGDOM.



I'LL  
HAVE NO  
HARM  
DONE TO  
BALDER.

HIS  
WEAKENED  
STATE MAY PROVE  
TO BE HIS UNDOING  
AND MY  
TRIUMPH.

THIS  
TIME,  
KARNILLA  
SHALL  
WIN HIS  
SOUL.

ELSEWHERE,  
ON EARTH...

ONLY MY GREAT  
SPEED ENABLED  
ME TO DODGE  
FAFNIR'S FIERY  
BREATH!

YET THE  
FLAMES HAVE  
SET THE RUBBLE  
ALIGHT, AND THE FAIR  
LADY I DID SAVE MAY  
STILL PERISH IF I DO NOT  
ACT IMMEDIATELY.

COME,  
STORM!, COME,  
LIGHTNING!,  
RELEASE YOUR  
WRATH AND QUENCH  
THIS DEADLY BLAZE!  
YOUR MASTER  
COMMANDS!

**BARROOM!**  
**KRAASH!**

THE THUNDER!  
THE BLAZING  
HEAVENS! THOR  
TRIES TO DESTROY  
ME AS HE DEFEATED  
ME ONCE BEFORE!

BUT  
NOT THIS  
TIME!

FOR I WILL  
CHOOSE ANOTHER  
BATTLE SITE AT  
SOME FUTURE DATE  
AND THOR SHALL  
NOT TRAP ME  
BENEATH THE  
EARTH AGAIN!

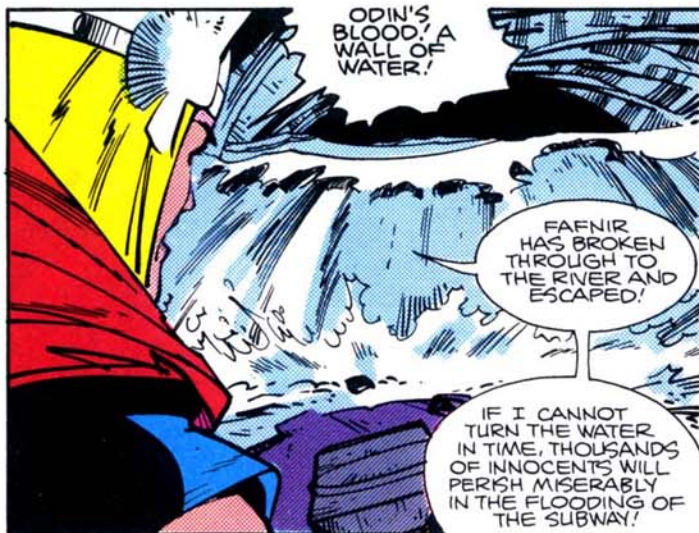
THE FIRE IS  
NEARLY QUENCHED  
BUT MY FOE HAS  
FLED THE FIELD!

COME BACK,  
BASE COWARD!  
TURN AND FACE MY  
HAMMER'S RIGHTEOUS  
ANGER!

NO REPLY.  
FAFNIR HAS TUN-  
NELED INTO THE  
SUBWAY SYSTEM  
BENEATH MAN-  
HATTAN LIKE SOME  
GIANT MOLE AND  
VANISHED!

'TIS LIKE  
THE SOUND  
OF MY OWN  
BELOVED  
THUNDER!

EVEN NOW, THE  
SOUND OF HIM IS  
DIMINISHING-- BUT  
WAIT, WHAT IS THIS  
NEW ROAR I HEAR?



ODIN'S BLOOD! A WALL OF WATER!

FAFNIR HAS BROKEN THROUGH TO THE RIVER AND ESCAPED!

IF I CANNOT TURN THE WATER IN TIME, THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS WILL PERISH MISERABLY IN THE FLOODING OF THE SUBWAY!



I SHALL WIELD MY MALLET AS NEVER BEFORE AND BRING DOWN THE ROOF OF THIS CAVERN!

SAKRA... SH!



KATHASSH!

NOW QUICKLY, BEFORE I MYSELF AM ENTOMBED BENEATH THE FALLING ROCK, I MUST ESCAPE BACK UP THE TUNNEL TO SAFETY!

BEHIND HIM, THE THUNDERING AVALANCHE MEETS THE RAGING WATER AND THE CRASH SHAKES THE CITY TO ITS FOUNDATIONS!



BUT THE DAM HOLDS!



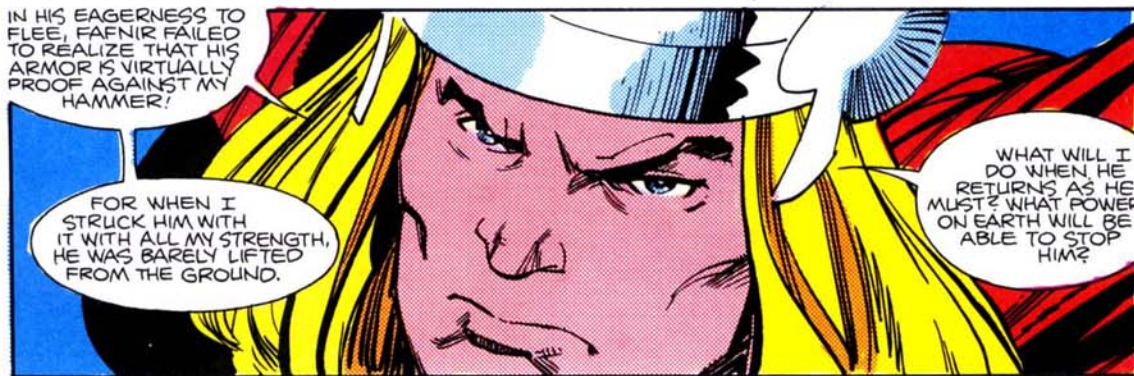
SAFE ENOUGH FOR THE MOMENT. BUT MY FOE HAS ESCAPED INTO THE RIVER!

HE IS BEYOND MY REACH FOR NOW AND I MUST BE DOUBLY ON MY GUARD AGAINST HIS NEXT ATTACK.

STILL, HOW CAN I TRULY DEFEAT HIM?

IN HIS EAGERNESS TO FLEE, FAFNIR FAILED TO REALIZE THAT HIS ARMOR IS VIRTUALLY PROOF AGAINST MY HAMMER!

FOR WHEN I STRUCK HIM WITH IT WITH ALL MY STRENGTH, HE WAS BARELY LIFTED FROM THE GROUND.



WHAT WILL I DO WHEN HE RETURNS AS HE MUST? WHAT POWER ON EARTH WILL BE ABLE TO STOP HIM?

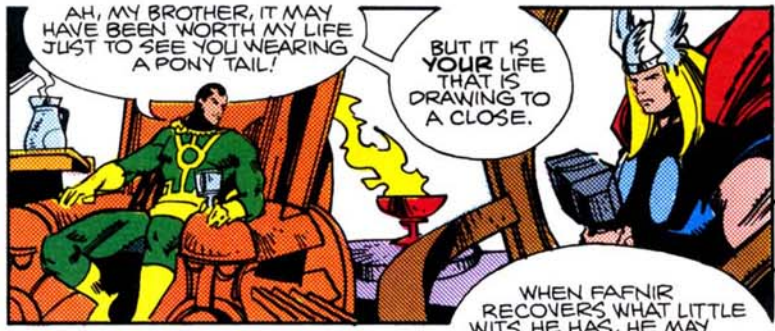
AND INDEED, THE SELFSAME THOUGHTS ARE CROSSING ANOTHER'S MIND AT THAT VERY MOMENT A LONG WAY AWAY...

... AS LOKI, PRINCE OF ASGARD, SITS IN HIS CASTLE AND MUSES.



AH, MY BROTHER, IT MAY HAVE BEEN WORTH MY LIFE JUST TO SEE YOU WEARING A PONY TAIL!

BUT IT IS YOUR LIFE THAT IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.



WHEN FAFNIR RECOVERS WHAT LITTLE WITS HE HAS, HE MAY REALIZE THAT HE COULD HAVE MASTERED THE FIGHT AGAINST YOU.

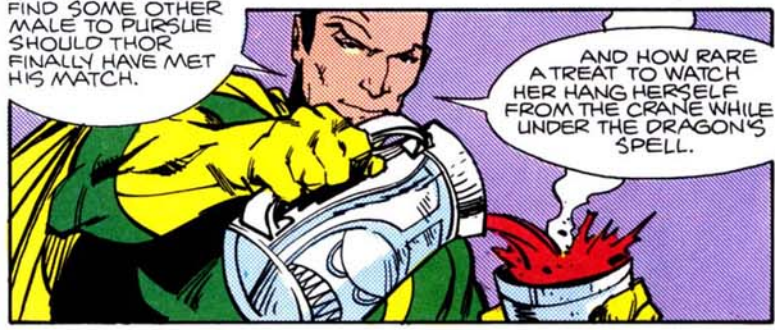
WHAT A FOOL! BLESSED WITH POWER LIKE THAT AND NOT AN OUNCE OF BRAIN IN HIS ENTIRE BODY.



STILL, POWER IS WHAT COUNTS AGAINST THOR AND FAFNIR HAS PLENTY TO SPARE.

PITY ABOUT LORELEI. BUT I SUPPOSE SHE'LL FIND SOME OTHER MALE TO PURSUE SHOULD THOR FINALLY HAVE MET HIS MATCH.

AND HOW RARE A TREAT TO WATCH HER HANG HERSELF FROM THE CRANE WHILE UNDER THE DRAGON'S SPELL.



FOOLISH GIRL! TO BELIEVE THAT HER SIMPLE WILES COULD SEDUCE A DRAGON TO HER WILL WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE DRAGON IS THE MOST IRRESISTIBLE SEDUCER OF ALL.



A MOST SATISFACTORY ENTERTAINMENT.



I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HOW IT COMES OUT!

MEANWHILE,  
ON EARTH...



GOOD! THE  
CAVITY WAS UN-  
TOUCHED BY THE  
FIRE. THE LADY  
SEEMS TO BE FINE.

HEY! HEY,  
JARLSON!  
YOU GUYS OKAY?  
WE ALL RAN LIKE  
RABBITS WHEN  
WE SAW THAT  
DRAGON!

HOLY COW!  
I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE DEAD  
FOR SURE!

WE'RE  
FINE, MR.  
SAPRISITI.

JUST A  
LITTLE  
SHAKEN  
UP.

JERRY.  
EVERYBODY WHO  
WORKS FOR ME  
CALLS ME JERRY.  
DON'T KNOW WHY,  
REALLY. MY  
NAME'S  
GUIDO!

MAN, I NEVER  
SAW NOTHIN'  
LIKE THE WAY  
YOU WENT UP  
THAT BUILDING.  
BUT I'LL TELL  
YOU THIS.



LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
GONNA BE  
STARTIN' OVER  
HERE AND IF YOU  
WANT A JOB, YOU  
GOT IT!



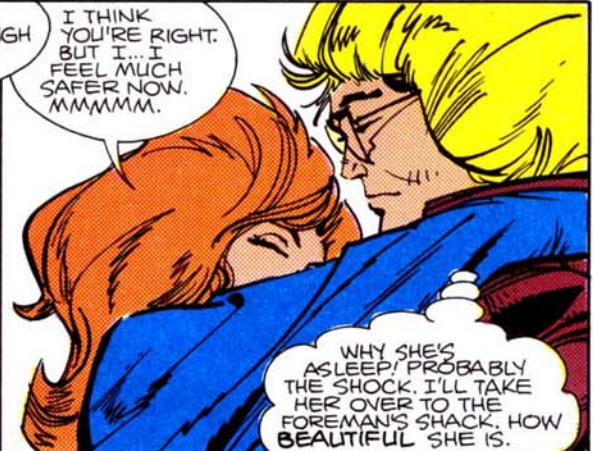
OH. WHERE AM I? I  
REMEMBER SOME HOR-  
RIBLE DREAM, DOING  
THINGS AS THOUGH I  
COULDN'T HELP MY-  
SELF. I... I THOUGHT...

JUST RELAX, MISS.  
YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH  
EXCITEMENT FOR  
ONE DAY.

I THINK  
YOU'RE RIGHT.  
BUT I... I  
FEEL MUCH  
SAFER NOW.  
MMMMM.



OOOH.  
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

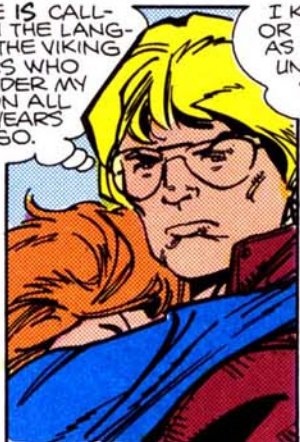


WHY SHE'S  
ASLEEP! PROBABLY  
THE SHOCK. I'LL TAKE  
HER OVER TO THE  
FOREMAN'S SHACK. HOW  
BEAUTIFUL SHE IS.



HOLD!  
THERE  
IT IS  
AGAIN!

SOMEONE IS CALL-  
ING ME, IN THE LANG-  
UAGE OF THE VIKING  
WARRIORS WHO  
SAILED UNDER MY  
PROTECTION ALL  
THOSE YEARS  
AGO.



I KNOW NOT WHO WOULD REMEMBER  
OR BELIEVE AFTER SO MUCH TIME, BUT  
AS SOON AS I PLACE MY CHARGE  
UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION, I  
SHALL SEEK OUT THE VOICE...



...AND LEARN  
WHO CALLS TO  
ME FROM A  
BYGONE AGE!

# NEXT: THE LAST Vikings