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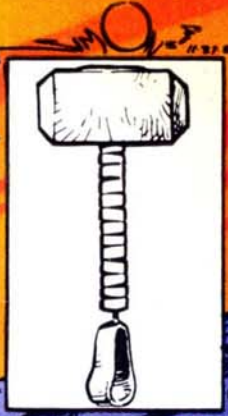
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# the mighty THOR

the hand of DEATH!





# IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I WAKE...!

NEW YORK CITY!  
THE SOUTH BRONX!

MUCH OF THIS PART OF TOWN IS A WASTELAND OF EMPTY TENEMENTS AND VACANT LOTS! IT HAS SEEN NEARLY EVERYTHING!

BUT NEVER HAS IT SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THE FURY AND DESTRUCTIVE RAGE OF THE DRAGON FAFNIR, WHO TEARS APART THE ABANDONED STRUCTURES IN A FURIOUS SEARCH FOR...THE MIGHTY THOR!

BRING ME THE SON OF ACCURSED ODIN, OR I SHALL DESTROY THIS ENTIRE CITY!

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HEAR ME, THOR!  
COME OUT AND  
PLAY OR I WILL  
SLAUGHTER  
EVERY LAST  
MORTAL!

ARE YOU  
TOO MUCH A  
COWARD TO  
FACE ME?

BEWARE!  
NOTHING  
THESE PUNY  
HUMANS CAN  
DO CAN STOP  
ME!

THIS IS GREG  
GLENN, REPORTING  
FOR EYEWITNESS  
NEWS!

SO FAR, ALL  
EFFORTS TO STOP  
THE GREAT JUGGERNAUT  
HAVE FAILED.

HE HAS DESTROYED  
DOZENS OF OLD  
BUILDINGS NORTH  
OF THE HARLEM  
RIVER!

BUT HE'S BEGIN-  
NING TO MOVE  
SOUTH...TOWARD  
MANHATTAN!

AND THE  
QUESTION ON  
EVERYONE'S LIPS  
IS...WHERE IS THE  
MIGHTY THOR?

SO FAR, NO-  
BODY SEEMS  
TO HAVE THE  
ANSWER.

AND EVEN  
THE NATIONAL  
GUARD IS HELP-  
LESS BEFORE THE  
RAMPAGING  
BEHEMOTH!

I WONDER WHERE  
THOR IS. SURELY HE  
WOULD NEVER ABANDON  
THE MORTALS TO THE  
LIKES OF FAFNIR.

PERHAPS HE  
IS BIDDING HIS  
TIME, WAITING  
FOR THE MOST  
DRAMATIC MOMENT  
TO MAKE HIS  
ENTRANCE.

NO MATTER.  
SOONER OR LATER  
HE'LL DEAL WITH  
FAFNIR. AND THEN  
I SHALL DEAL WITH  
HIM! I CAN  
HARDLY WAIT.

THE PENTHOUSE OF  
THE SORCERESS  
LORELEI, OVERLOOK-  
ING CENTRAL PARK...



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE MIGHTY THOR IS A LONG WAY FROM NEW YORK...

...FOR HE IS DEEP INSIDE ANTARCTICA IN A LOST VALLEY...

...WHERE HE FOUND EILIF THE LOST, LAST SURVIVOR OF A VIKING COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN HERE FOR CENTURIES.\*

\*LAST ISSUE.

I HEARD YOUR CALL, EILIF. I ANSWERED IT YOU SAY YOU WISHED TO DIE IN BATTLE AND PERHAPS REACH THE GOLDEN HALLS OF VALHALLA.

YET YOU WOULD HAVE TRICKED ME INTO KILLING YOU IF YOU COULD HAVE.

I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT A GOD, MY LORD. WHAT VIKING COULD HAVE ASKED FOR A MORE GLORIOUS DEATH?

BUT I AM TOO OLD TO DIE A PROPER WARRIOR NOW. I CAN BUT AWAIT HELA'S COLD ARMS AND FOLLOW HER DOWN TO DARKNESS.

FOR ALL YOUR YEARS, YOU ARE BOLD! TO CALL UPON THE GODS TO SLAY YOU REQUIRES RECKLESS COURAGE, EVEN ARROGANCE!

THERE MAY YET BE ANOTHER WAY, EILIF.

THE BLOOD OF THE VIKINGS RUNS TRUE IN YOU. I AM PLEASED.

BUT THE GRANTING OF VALHALLA IS BEYOND EVEN ME, EILIF.

AND WERE I AS HEADSTRONG AS THE STORIES ABOUT ME SAY, YOU MIGHT EVEN NOW BE DEAD.

ONLY MY FATHER AND HIS VALKYRIES CAN DECIDE WHO SHALL SIT WITHIN THAT CHERISHED REALM.

YET FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, I WILL TAKE YOUR FATE INTO MY HANDS.

I MUST RETURN TO DO BATTLE WITH HIM AS SURELY AS I STAND BEFORE YOU.

EILIF, A POWERFUL FOE AWAITS ME FAR FROM HERE. EVEN NOW, HE SEEKS ME OUT, I AM SURE OF IT.

PUT ON YOUR ARMOR. AND FOLLOW ME!



MOMENTS LATER...



ODIN, MY FATHER! HEAR THE PLEA OF YOUR ELDER SON!

I GO TO BATTLE FAFNIR THE DRAGON, HE WHO WAS THE EVIL KING OF NASTROEND YOU DID ONCE VANQUISH.

MIGHTY HAS FAFNIR BECOME AND DANGEROUS THE BATTLE BEFORE ME.

GRANT ME A COMPANION, A SHIELD BEARER TO RIDE BESIDE ME AND BE MY OWN RIGHT ARM.

AND FATHER, SHOULD I FALL IN BATTLE, TO AVENGE ME!



SEND A SIGN THAT I WILL KNOW YOU HAVE HEARD.

AND FOR THE SPACE OF HALF AN HOUR, THERE IS SILENCE...

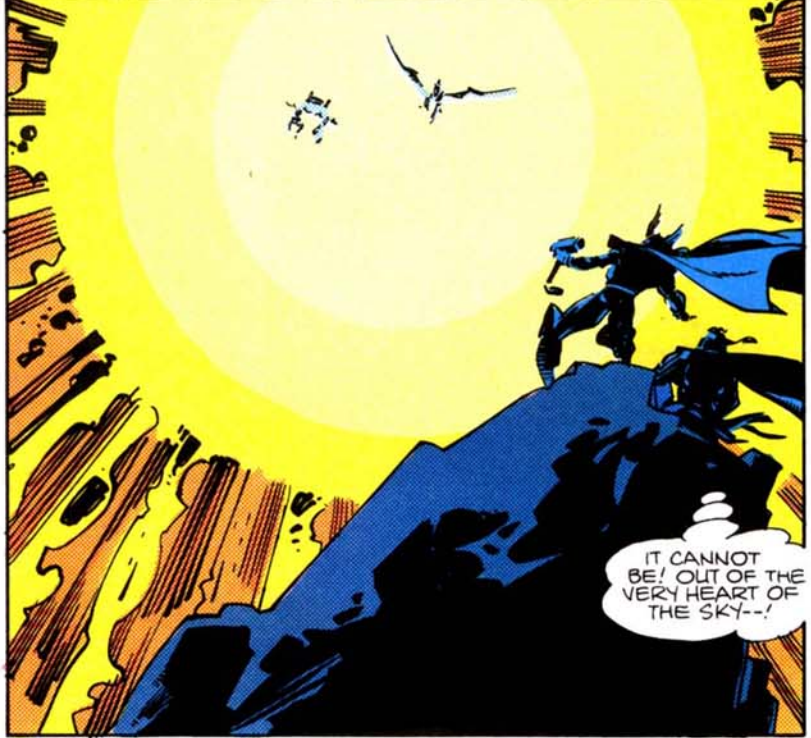
NAUGHT BUT THE WIND ANSWERS THOR'S CALL.

EILIF THE LOST.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO TRICK THE GODS. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO DIE HERE IN THIS FORSAKEN LAND ALONE.

ARE MY EYES FAILING ALREADY OR IS THE LIGHT IN THE SKY GROWING DIM?

**ROUWAAADW!**



IT CANNOT BE! OUT OF THE VERY HEART OF THE SKY--!





'TIS CLOUD-RIDER! THE PROUD STEED OF THE WARRIOR VALKYRIE, SHIELD BEARER, HERSELF!

AND MY OWN CHARIOT, DRAWN BY TOOTHGNASHER AND TOOTHGRINDER!

ODIN HATH HEARD AND GRANTED MY PLEA!

EILIF, LAST OF THE VIKINGS, INTO BATTLE WE RIDE...

...TOGETHER!



BUT AS THE MIGHTY STEEDS OF THE GODS DESCEND TO EARTH...

...WE FIND UNREST IN THE MYSTIC LAND OF KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS...

MY MISTRESS IS UNUSUALLY QUIET THIS EVENING. PERHAPS OUR GUEST TROUBLES HER THOUGHTS AS SHE WOULD LIKE TO TROUBLE HIS.

HE BARELY ACKNOWLEDGES MY PRESENCE, HAAG. HE LOOKS ABOUT HIM AND SEES ONLY DEATH.

I HAVE PUT HIM IN THE CHAMBER NEXT TO YOUR OWN AS YOU ORDERED, MILADY.

LOKI DID THIS TO HIM AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, HE WILL PAY FOR EVERY SMILE BALDER NO LONGER WEARS.

HOW HE SHALL PAY!

MY LADY WOULD FORGET HER OLD FRIENDS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF A RUINED WARRIOR.

TSK! TSK! WHATEVER BECAME OF THE PROUD QUEEN OF THE NORNS?

VENOMOUS OLD FOOL! I CARE NOT A FIG FOR ASGARD, BUT KNOW THIS.



THOSE WHO WORK MISCHIEF WITH BALDER DO SO AT THEIR PERIL!

NOW LEAVE ME.

I WANTED BALDER BECAUSE HE WAS SO PERFECT, SO FULL OF LIFE UNSPOILED BY UGLINESS.

CAN KARNILLA SOOTHE HIS TROUBLED BROW WITH GENTLENESS?

IS THE PRIZE STILL WORTH THE EFFORT?



BUT TO SEE HIM NOW. WOULD EVEN THE HEALING HAND OF A MOTHER CURE HIS ILLS?

LOKI, IF YOU HAVE COST ME THIS ONE TREASURE, MY VENGEANCE WILL BE TERRIBLE!



MEANWHILE, IN ANTARCTICA...



HE'S BEAUTIFUL.

YES, THE STEEDS OF THE VALKYRIES ARE THE FINEST ANIMALS IN ASGARD.

LET US MOUNT AND BE AWAY. WE HAVE LITTLE TIME.



VERY WELL. I...I...

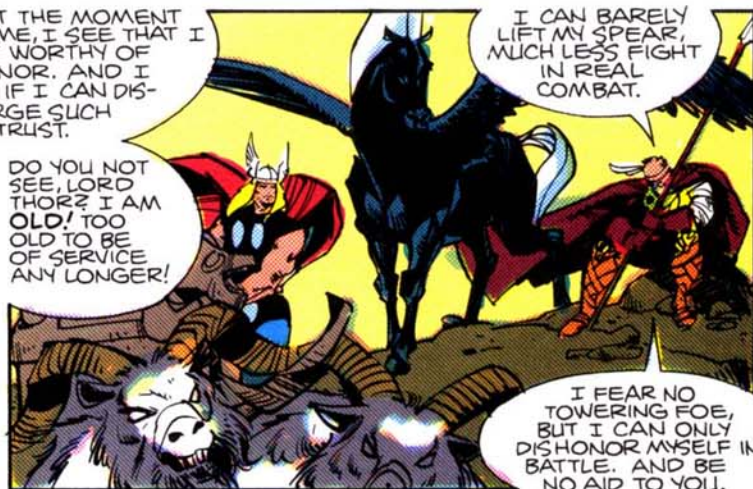
**SNORT!**



EILIF?

IT'S NO USE, MY LORD. YOU HAD BEST LEAVE ME BEHIND.

HOW SAY YOU?

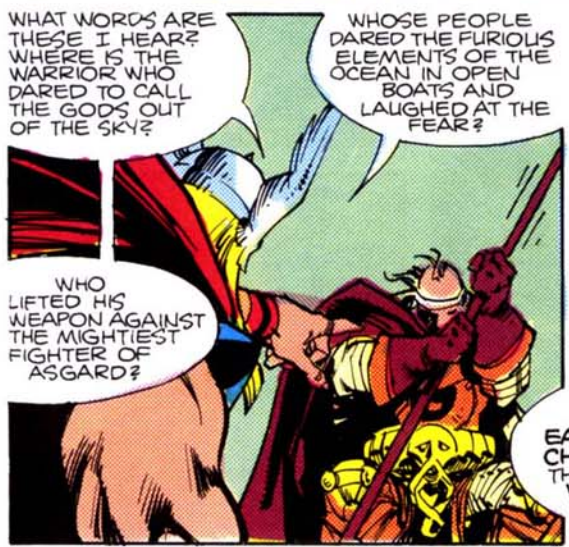


NOW THAT THE MOMENT IS UPON ME, I SEE THAT I AM NOT WORTHY OF THIS HONOR. AND I DOUBT IF I CAN DISCHARGE SUCH A TRUST.

DO YOU NOT SEE, LORD THOR? I AM OLD! TOO OLD TO BE OF SERVICE ANY LONGER!

I CAN BARELY LIFT MY SPEAR, MUCH LESS FIGHT IN REAL COMBAT.

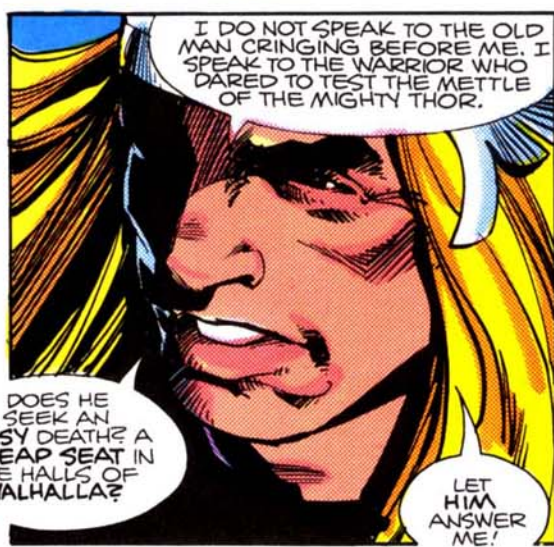
I FEAR NO TOWERING FOE, BUT I CAN ONLY DISHONOR MYSELF IN BATTLE. AND BE NO AID TO YOU.



WHAT WORDS ARE THESE I HEAR? WHERE IS THE WARRIOR WHO DARED TO CALL THE GODS OUT OF THE SKY?

WHOSE PEOPLE DARED THE FURIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE OCEAN IN OPEN BOATS AND LAUGHED AT THE FEAR?

WHO LIFTED HIS WEAPON AGAINST THE MIGHTIEST FIGHTER OF ASGARD?



I DO NOT SPEAK TO THE OLD MAN CRINGING BEFORE ME. I SPEAK TO THE WARRIOR WHO DARED TO TEST THE METTLE OF THE MIGHTY THOR.

DOES HE SEEK AN EASY DEATH? A CHEAP SEAT IN THE HALLS OF VALHALLA?

LET HIM ANSWER ME!



HE IS HERE,  
MY LORD.

AND  
HE IS  
READY.

THEN  
TOUCH MY EN-  
CHANTED Mallet,  
Mjolnir, AND BE  
THOU NOT  
AFRAID.

OUR  
FATES,  
EILIF, WERE  
WRITTEN LONG  
BEFORE WE  
WERE BORN.

# SCHRAKKE!

NOW, RISE  
UP AND  
MOUNT THE  
STEED THAT  
AWAITS YOU!

MY  
LIMBS!  
MY  
SINews!

I FEEL  
THE VERY  
FIRE OF  
YOUTH  
COURSING  
THROUGH ME.

MY LORD THOR,  
LET US RIDE. AND  
LET THE BARDS LOOK  
TO THEIR  
BALLADS.

FOR OUR DEEDS  
SHALL RESOUND  
ACROSS MIDGARD  
TO THE VERY ROOTS  
OF THE WORLD  
ASH ITSELF!

WELL SAID, WARRIOR.  
LEAD ON.

BUT WAIT!  
WHO IS  
THIS I  
SEE?

ANOTHER IN  
THE VALLEY  
OF THE  
LOST?



GOOD MORKKOW,  
GRANDFATHER.

WHAT--  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

STRANGE  
GREETING  
FOR A  
STRANGER.

MIGHT I  
NOT ASK  
YOU THE  
SAME?

PLEASE,  
FORGIVE MY  
DISCOURTESY.  
BUT... NO ONE  
HAS EVER COME  
THIS WAY BEFORE.

FEW PATHS ARE  
HIDDEN FROM ME,  
WARRIOR. AND I  
SEEK OUT THOSE  
THAT ARE.

INDEED IT  
DOES, SIR.  
BUT I MYSELF  
SEE NO FURTHER  
THAN THAT.

FEW DO. BUT  
ALL TRAVEL A ROAD  
TO THEIR OWN DESTINY,  
WHATEVER IT MAY  
BE.

MAY YOUR  
GODS WATCH  
OVER YOU;  
YOUR SPEAR  
BE BLESSED.

I SEE,  
FOR EXAMPLE,  
THAT YOUR PATH  
LEADS TO DANGER.  
AND BATTLE.

AND YOURS  
OVER YOU,  
BOLD WAN-  
DERER.

NOW MUST  
WE BE OFF!  
OUR BATTLE  
AWAITS!

STILL, 'TIS  
PASSING  
STRANGE THAT  
ANYONE SHOULD  
WANDE SO FAR  
FROM THE KNOWN  
LANDS. I WONDER  
IF --

THE  
OLD  
MAN!

HE'S  
GONE!

AND THE COLD WINDS  
BLOW ACROSS THE  
EMPTY VALLEY BELOW...



ELSEWHERE,  
BEYOND THE  
FIELDS WE KNOW...

AN ENDLESS  
HOST CHANTS...

THE  
NAME...

THE  
NAME...

THE  
NAME...

THE  
NAME...

AND A  
VOICE AS  
OLD AS  
TIME  
REPLIES...

**D O O M!**

THE  
SWORD  
IS  
NAMED...

...AND  
THE  
NAME IS--  
TWILIGHT!





MEANWHILE, IN THE SOUTH BRONX, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND...

...AT LEAST IF YOU'RE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

WATCH OUT!

WAAAAA JUM!

HERE HE COMES!  
HIT THE DIRT!

VERY WELL, THOR.

SINCE YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN COWARDLY HIDING, I SHALL COMMENCE WITH THE SERIOUS DESTRUCTION OF THIS CITY!





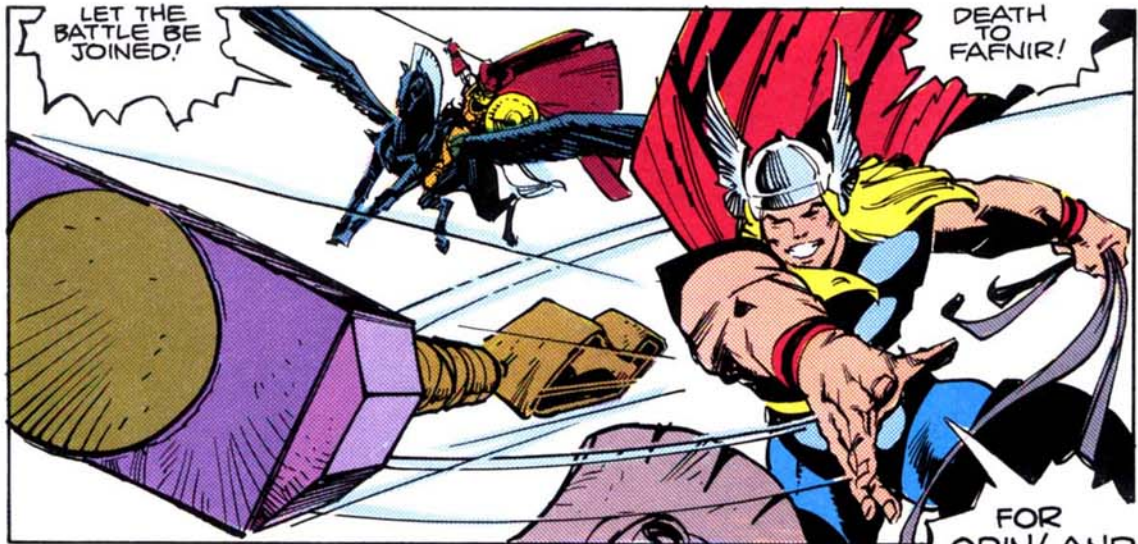


WE HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME, MY LORD. THE DRAGON STANDS BEFORE US!

BUT THIS CITY! SURELY THERE ARE NOT SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!

IF WE LIVE, EILIF, I WILL SHOW YOU A CITY THE LIKE OF WHICH YOU'VE NEVER DREAMED!

BUT NOW, OUR TASK STILL LIES BEFORE US.



LET THE BATTLE BE JOINED!

DEATH TO FAFNIR!

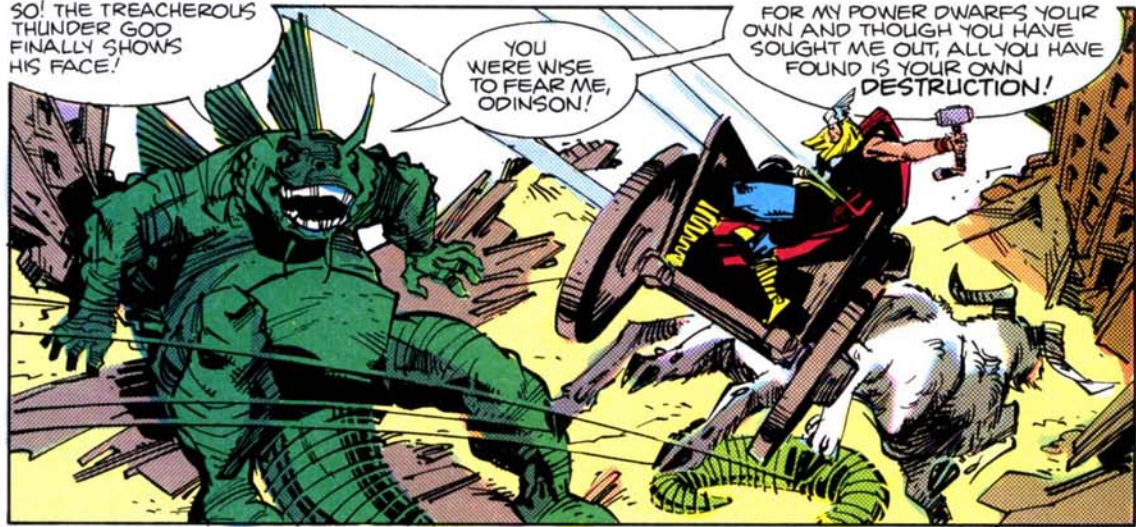
FOR ODIN! AND ASGARD!



**KRATHH  
MMMM!**



SO! THE TREACHEROUS THUNDER GOD FINALLY SHOWS HIS FACE!



YOU WERE WISE TO FEAR ME, ODINSON!

FOR MY POWER DWARFS YOUR OWN AND THOUGH YOU HAVE SOUGHT ME OUT, ALL YOU HAVE FOUND IS YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!



HIS TAIL! MOVING FASTER THAN LIGHTNING!



FEAR NOT, MY LORD! I SHALL NOT FAIL YOU!

**BAWHAM!**



THOR HAS A FRIEND, HAS HE?

THEN STAND BESIDE EACH OTHER AND I'LL SEND YOU DOWN TO HEL TOGETHER!



BEWARE, EILIF! HE SWEEPS THE SKY WITH FLAME!



BUT AS THINGS GO BADLY FOR OUR HEROES, WE LOOK IN ON HEIMDALL OF ASGARD, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...



...AND KEEN-EYED WATCHER OF THE GODS.



NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKE.

THE STARS THEMSELVES ARE BLOTTED OUT BEFORE ME AND EVEN I CANNOT PIERCE THE INKY VEIL.



CLOSER AND CLOSER COMES THE DARK AND YET, I DO SEE SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN THE BLACKNESS...

...RACING THIS WAY AS THOUGH ITS VERY LIFE WERE AT STAKE.



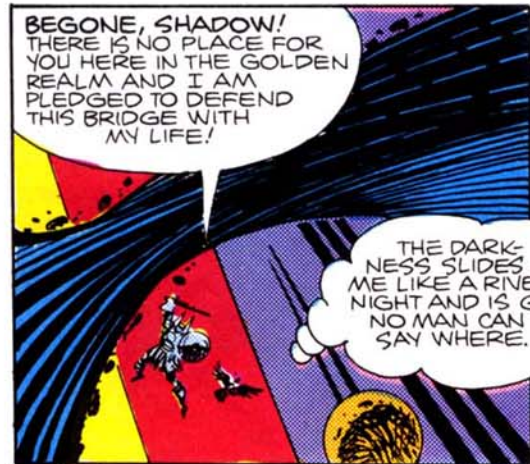
BY MY SWORD, 'TIS ODIN'S RAVEN MUNINN, SORELY HURT AND SPENT PAST ESCAPING.



EVEN NOW, HE FLUTTERS TO THE BRIDGE BESIDE ME.

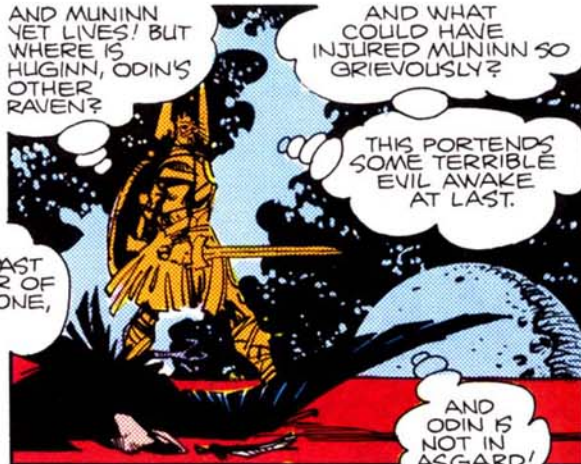


AND THE BLACKNESS DRAWS NIGH!



BE GONE, SHADOW! THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU HERE IN THE GOLDEN REALM AND I AM PLEDGED TO DEFEND THIS BRIDGE WITH MY LIFE!

THE DARKNESS SLIDES PAST ME LIKE A RIVER OF NIGHT AND IS GONE, NO MAN CAN SAY WHERE.



AND MUNINN YET LIVES! BUT WHERE IS HUGINN, ODIN'S OTHER RAVEN?

AND WHAT COULD HAVE INJURED MUNINN SO GRIEVOUSLY?

THIS PORTENDS SOME TERRIBLE EVIL AWAKE AT LAST.

AND ODIN IS NOT IN ASGARD!



WHILE ON EARTH...

CHUCK CHERKLE  
HERE FOR ON-THE-  
SPOT NEWS!

THE BATTLE  
ROYALE  
CONTINUES  
BETWEEN  
THOR AND THE  
MONSTER!

SO FAR,  
THE FIGHT  
HAS BEEN  
ABOUT EVEN,  
THE CREATURE'S  
POWER  
MATCHED BY THOR'S  
SPEED AND AGILITY!

THE POLICE  
AND GUARDSMEN  
HAVE EVACUATED  
THIS PART OF THE  
CITY AND--

UH-OH!  
THOR STOOD  
IN ONE SPOT  
TOO LONG AND  
THE MONSTER'S  
ABOUT TO  
GRAB HIM!

BACK, CREATURE  
OF EVIL! SEEK NOT  
TO TAKE WHAT YOU  
CANNOT HOLD!

CHARGE ROKKI!

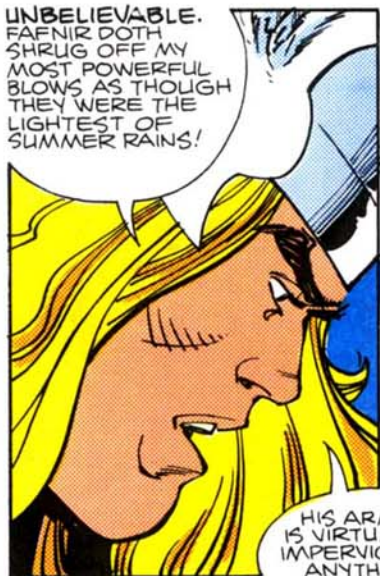
ARRRGH!

AND NOW,  
BEFORE YOU CAN  
RECOVER, I SHALL  
STRIKE WITH ALL  
THE POWER OF  
MY ENCHANTED  
HAMMER!

THE FORCE OF  
THE BLOW IS  
FELT AS FAR  
AWAY AS  
PENNSYLVANIA!



UNBELIEVABLE. FAFNIR DO TH SHRUG OFF MY MOST POWERFUL BLOWS AS THOUGH THEY WERE THE LIGHTEST OF SUMMER RAINS!



HIS ARMOR IS VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO ANYTHING!



AGAIN, HE DIS-CHARGES HIS FIERY BREATH.

STAY BACK, EILIF. YOU'VE COME TOO LOW!

NAY, MY LORD! CLOUDRIDER AND I SHALL EVADE HIS TAIL WITH EASE!



RASH LITTLE GNAT! THIS TIME, YOU ARE MINE!



UGGH!

I AM UNHORSED!

AND SO HIGH!



SO HIGH!

**CRASSHH!**







EILIF!!

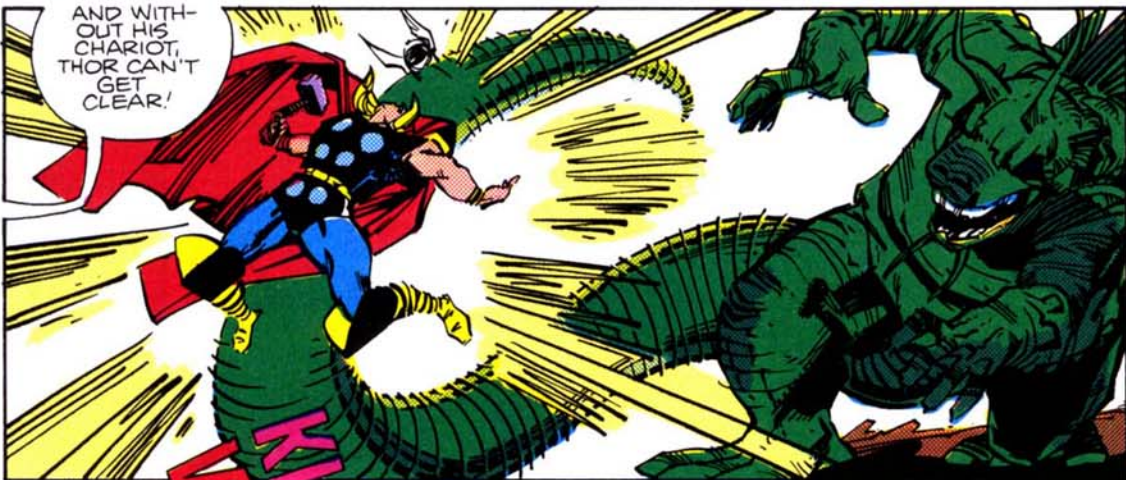


WELL SAID, GODLING!  
I KNEW YOUR CONCERN  
FOR THE MORTAL WOULD  
UNDO YOU SOONER  
OR LATER!

SMASH!

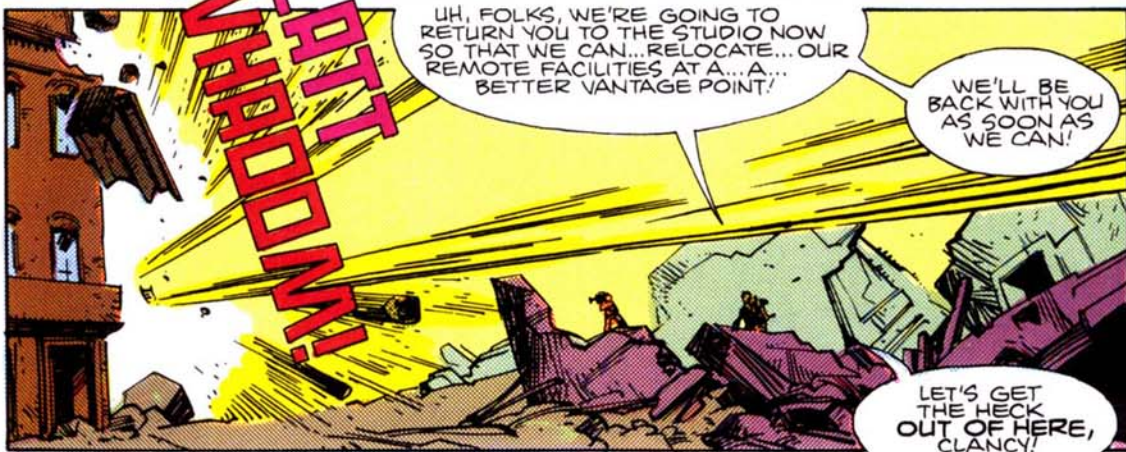


THIS COULD  
BE IT, FOLKS!  
THE DRAGON'S  
REALLY LAYING  
INTO THOR  
NOW!



AND WITH-  
OUT HIS  
CHARIOT,  
THOR CAN'T  
GET  
CLEAR!

KRATTOOM!



UH, FOLKS, WE'RE GOING TO  
RETURN YOU TO THE STUDIO NOW  
SO THAT WE CAN...RELOCATE...OUR  
REMOTE FACILITIES AT A...A...  
BETTER VANTAGE POINT!

WE'LL BE  
BACK WITH YOU  
AS SOON AS  
WE CAN!

LET'S GET  
THE HECK  
OUT OF HERE,  
CLANCY!



I'M STILL ALIVE, BUT I'M GROWING WEAKER BY THE MOMENT.

THOR MUST BE BADLY HURT, FOR THE MAGIC IS FADING!

WHERE IS YOUR COURAGE NOW, EILIF? YOU WERE BRAVE ENOUGH WHEN YOU WERE IMBUED WITH YOUTH!

AND THE DRAGON IS SEARCHING AMONG THE RUINS TO SLAY HIM.

RECKLESS, TOO, ELSE THE DRAGON WOULD NEVER HAVE CAUGHT YOU.

THE SON...

...OF ODIN...

...MUST NOT...

...PERISH...

...BECAUSE EILIF...

...FAILED IN HIS DUTY!

WHAT LITTLE STRENGTH IS MINE BY BIRTH IS WANING RAPIDLY. I AM DYING!

BUT I AM ABOVE THE GREAT BEAST NOW...

...AND I STILL HAVE MY SPEAR!

BUT I WILL BE THE WEAPON...

NOT EVEN VOICE LEFT TO SHOUT WITH.





...FOR ODIN, FOR THOR, AND ASGARD!

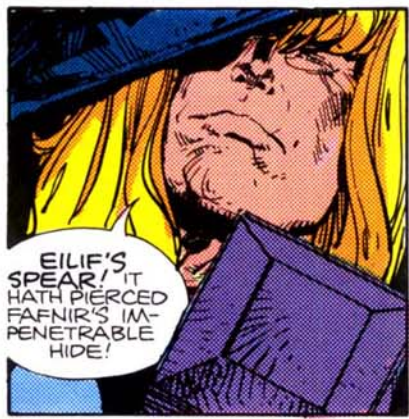


ARRROOOO!

WHO HAS DARED TO WOUND ME?

ACCURSED MORTAL! THOR CAN WAIT! ONLY YOUR DEATH WILL SATISFY ME NOW!

WHILE UNDER THE RUBBLE...



EILIF'S SPEAR! IT HATH PIERCED FAFNIR'S IMPENETRABLE HIDE!



I MUST GATHER MY REMAINING ENERGIES AND FLY!



FOR EILIF HATH SHOWED ME THE WAY AND WHAT I COULD NOT DO ALONE...

...MAY YET BE ACCOMPLISHED! EILIF'S WEAPON SHALL BE THE DRAGON'S BANE!



NOW BY ALL THE STRENGTH OF MY HERITAGE, BY THE POWER OF MJOLNIR, LET EVIL PERISH!



**AAAHHH FEE!**

'TIS DONE! THE SPEAR HATH BEEN DRIVEN INTO THE BEAST FULL FORCE!

AND HE BEGINS TO TOPPLE!

THE DRAGON'S FIRE...

**BOOOOM!**

...IS QUENCHED!

BUT WHAT OF VALIANT EILIF?

EILIF!  
EILIF!

HAS THE LIFE FLED YOUR SHATTERED BODY?

CAN YOU NO LONGER HEAR EVEN THE VOICES OF THE GODS?

A TRUER COMPANION HATH NO MORTAL BEEN TO ME!

OH, EILIF, MY SHIELD BEARER EILIF!



LOOKS LIKE THE ACTION'S OVER, SARGE. SHALL WE MOVE IN NOW?

WELL, CORPORAL--



A VIKING'S FUNERAL, EILIF! AS I AM GOD OF THUNDER, YOU SHALL HAVE A VIKING'S FUNERAL!

KARASSSH!

I THINK WE'LL WAIT!

WHAT'S HE DOING, SARGE, PILING UP ALL THAT RUBBLE?



IT'S... IT'S A FUNERAL PYRE, FOR THE GUY THAT WAS WITH HIM!



I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S LIFTING THE DRAGON!

IT'S A DOG!

HUH?



HE'S PUTTING A DOG AT THE VIKING'S FEET!

THAT'S HOW THEY BURNED THEIR DEAD, THEY SAY!

UH-OH! GET YOUR HEAD DOWN, CORPORAL, AND FAST!



HEAR ME, YOU  
ELEMENTS!  
HEAR ME,  
STORMS!

RISE UP  
IN YOUR  
WRATH!

A WARRIOR  
HATH DIED THIS  
DAY AND YOU  
SHALL CARRY HIM  
TO HIS DESTINY!

NO LONGER EILIF  
THE LOST, BUT  
EILIF THE  
DRAGONSLAYER!

baroom!

SARGE,  
UP THERE!  
IN THE  
SKY!

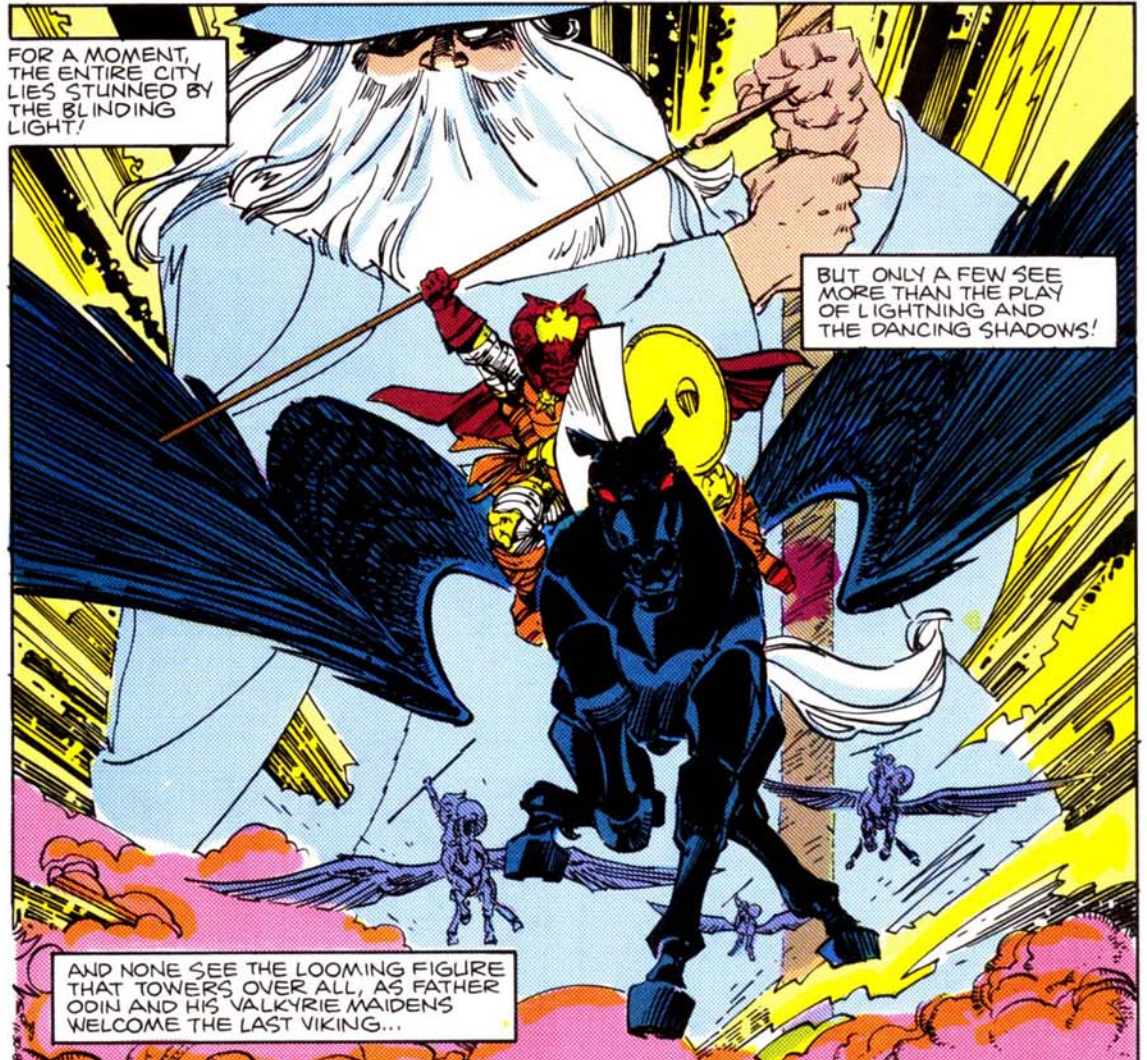
I  
DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!

STRIKE  
NOW! AND  
FIRE THIS HOLY  
MOUND!

THEY'RE  
COMING FOR  
HIM! SOMEBODY'S  
COMING FOR  
THE DEAD  
MAN!

AND THE PYRE  
ERUPTS IN  
GLORY!





FOR A MOMENT,  
THE ENTIRE CITY  
LIES STUNNED BY  
THE BLINDING  
LIGHT!

BUT ONLY A FEW SEE  
MORE THAN THE PLAY  
OF LIGHTNING AND  
THE DANCING SHADOWS!

AND NONE SEE THE LOOMING FIGURE  
THAT TOWERS OVER ALL, AS FATHER  
ODIN AND HIS VALKYRIE MAIDENS  
WELCOME THE LAST VIKING...

# KATHOOM!

...INTO  
VALHALLA!

AS THE WILD RIDERS DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT...



LET'S  
GO HOME,  
CORPORAL.  
NOTHING  
MORE WE  
CAN DO  
HERE.



WITH THE DRIZZLY MORNING, THE PALL OF SMOKE OVER THE SOUTH BRONX BEGINS TO DISPERSE...



WHILE IN BROOKLYN, IN A SMALL APARTMENT IN BAY RIDGE...



AFTER LAST NIGHT, I SHOULD BE JOYFUL. AND YET, I FIND MYSELF WEARY OF SPIRIT.

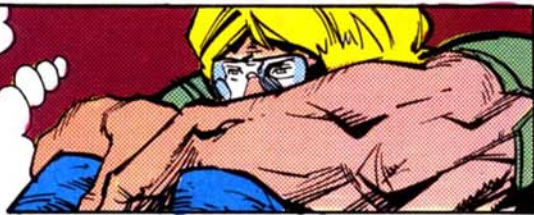
FOR THOUGH THE VICTORY WAS OURS, EILIF IS GONE AND THIS ROOM, THIS VERY EARTH, SEEMS THE MEANER FOR IT.

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE AVENGERS MANSION AFTER ALL, AMONG FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS.

OR NOT GIVEN UP MY DONALD BLAKE IDENTITY. HE AT LEAST HAD A HOME AND FRIENDS.

AND SIF IS GONE AS WELL.

THOUGH SHE IS BETTER OFF QUESTING ACROSS THE UNIVERSE WITH BETA RAY BILL, YET NOW I FIND I MISS HER TOUCH.



NOK! NOK!

EH?

WHY, IT'S... I NEVER DID KNOW YOUR NAME.

MELODI. JERRY TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND YOU.

AND I DID SAY I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.

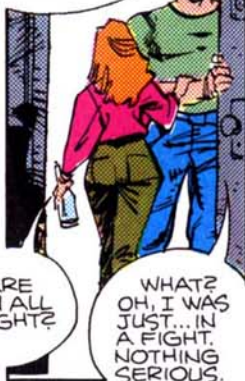
SEE? I BROUGHT ALONG SOMETHING SPECIAL TO DRINK TO CELEBRATE.



MOVING INTO NEW SURROUNDINGS IS ALWAYS SO DEPRESSING, DON'T YOU THINK?



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



WHAT? OH, I WAS JUST... IN A FIGHT. NOTHING SERIOUS.

I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED. A GOOD BACKRUB WILL TAKE ALL THOSE NASTY KINKS RIGHT OUT.

click

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT?



NEXT: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

# BALDER THE BRAVE?

ALONG WITH OTHER GREAT STUFF!