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the mighty THOR

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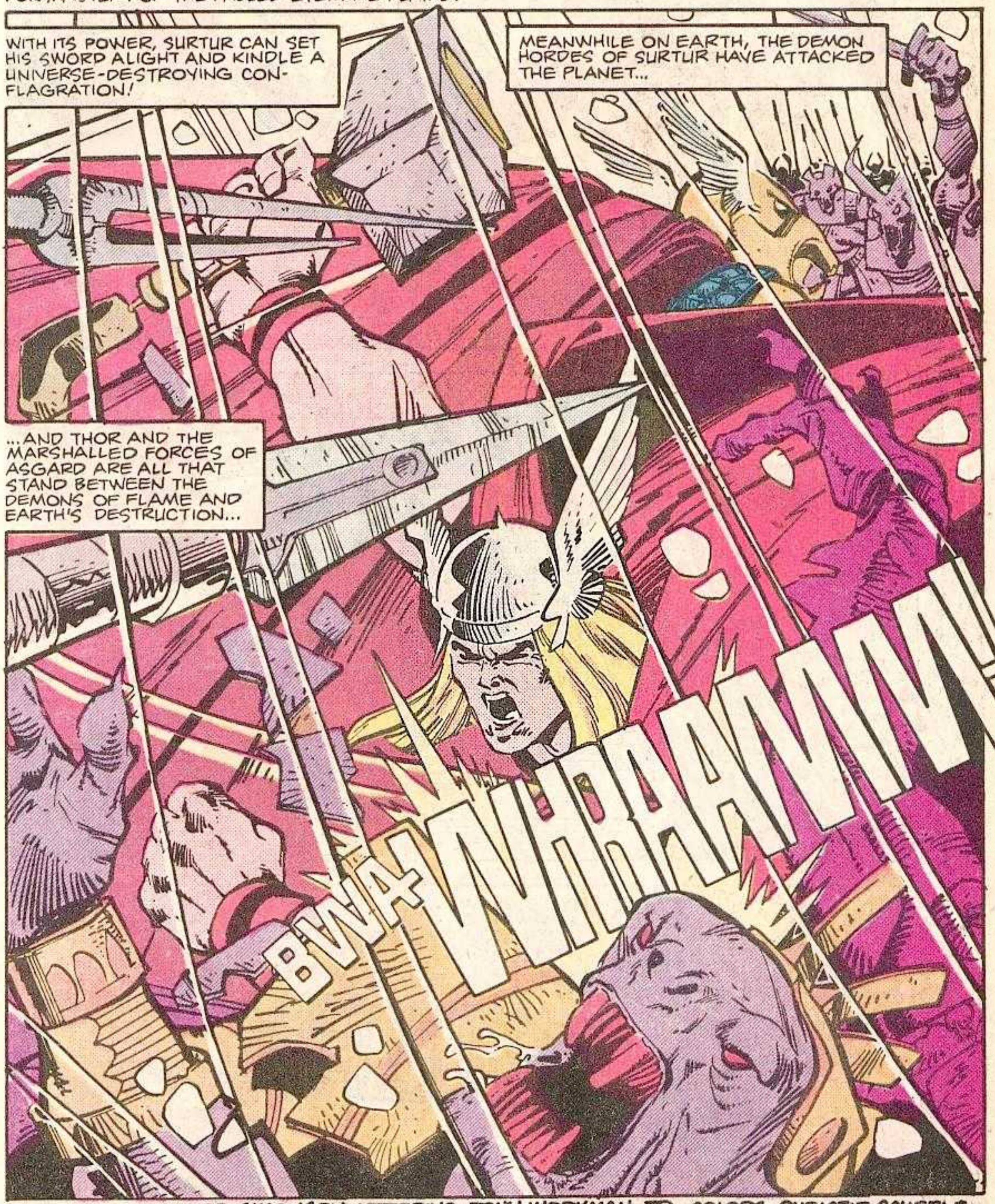
STAN LEE PRESENTS: RAGNAROK & ROLL, TOO!

THE ANCIENT AND POWERFUL FIRE DEMON, SURTUR, HAS GONE TO ASGARD TO CONFRONT ODIN HIMSELF FOR MASTERY OF THE FABLED ETERNAL FLAME!



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MY FATHER IS ALONE IN ASGARD!

INSTEAD OF WATCHING THE BATTLE FROM AFAR IN SAFETY, HE FACES THE GODS' MOST TERRIBLE FOE!

AGED AS HE IS AND PAST HIS PRIME, I FEAR HE WILL BE NO MATCH FOR THE LORD OF MUSPELHEIM!

HEED MY WORDS, BETA RAY BILL! ODIN, ERE WE LEFT ASGARD, CHOSE YOU AS SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE FORCES OF ASGARD!

AND THOUGH MY STRENGTH IS SORELY NEEDED HERE, SHOULD SURTUR WIN THE DAY AGAINST MY FATHER, ALL OUR TRIALS WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NAUGHT.

TO YOU THEN I GIVE THE CHARGE OF BATTLE!

THE LADY SIF AND THE WARRIORS THREE KNOW WELL THE FORCES OF ASGARD AND WILL HELP YOU IN THIS HOUR OF NEED!

BY THE POWER OF MY MYSTIC MALLET, MJOLNIR, I DEPART--FOR ASGARD!

AARRGGHH!

THOR!

NEVER FEAR, BILL! NOTHING SHALL SEPARATE US...

"...AND THOUGH THOR IS GONE, SOME OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FIGHT ON SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE FORCES OF ASGARD AGAINST THE INVADERS!"

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! WHILE AN AVENGER YET STANDS, LET NO DEMON CLAIM THAT VICTORY IS AT HAND!

WITHOUT THE THING TO CRY, "IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME," I'M NOT SURE THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE A BATTLE CRY.

BUT THE VISION SPEAKS FOR US ALL!

TOGETHER WITH THESE BRAVE HEROES, WE MAY YET ROUT OUR ENEMIES AND WIN THE DAY.

SUDDENLY...

THAT FLASH OF LIGHT!

ATOP THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, THE DEMONS ARE CONSTRUCTING SOME KIND OF PREFABRICATED DEVICE!

THOSE ARE SUB-INDUCTION DISTORTOR COILS!

THEY'RE CREATING AN UNDIRECTIONAL DISTORTION IN THE SPACE-TIME FLUX!

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

A SPACE WARP, STARFOX! THE DEMONS HAVE CREATED A DOOM TUBE!

AND WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, MORE AND MORE OF THEM ARE PHASING THROUGH IT TO JOIN IN THE BATTLE AGAINST US!

ALREADY THE WEIGHT OF THE REINFORCEMENTS PUSHES US BACK!

SOON, WE SHALL BE OVER-WHELMED UNLESS WE CAN DESTROY THE WARP ENGINE!

BUT HOW CAN WE REACH IT WHEN OUR FOES SEEM NUMBER-LESS?

THOUGH I'M NOT SURE MY COMPANIONS HAVE NOTICED!

SEEK NOT TO EVADE THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL, YE CRAVENS! 'TWILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!

MEANWHILE, IN THE LAND OF THE NORN QUEEN...

ODIN HAS CHOSEN HIS AMBASSADOR WELL, NOBLE BALDER.

SWEAR TO BE MINE FOREVER AND I WILL SEND ALL THE AID AT MY COMMAND TO HELP THE HOSTS OF ASGARD.

REFUSE, AND ASGARD WILL SURELY FALL BEFORE THE FORCES OF SURTUR.

HAHAH HAHAH

OH, KARNILLA, WILL YOU NEVER TIRE OF SUCH GAMES?

THE VERY UNIVERSE TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER...

...AND YET YOU PRETEND THAT ONCE AGAIN 'TIS TIME TO TRY TO COLLAR BALDER AS THOUGH HE WERE A LAPDOG!

FIE!

I AM NO GAMES-PLAYER THAT I SHOULD MATCH MY LIFE AGAINST THE LIVES OF BILLIONS.

NOR ARE **YOU.**

BE THOU THE WOMAN THAT YOU ARE, NOT THE SPOILED CHILD THAT YOU PRETEND.

THE WOMAN I KNOW YOU TO BE.

THE BALDER BEFORE YOU IS NO LONGER THE GOD YOU ONCE KNEW.

BUT YOU **SHALL** KNOW ME, MADAM.

INDEED YOU SHALL.

WHILE ON EARTH...

BY MY TROTH, HOGUN, STAND ASIDE THAT I MAY SMITE THESE BEGGARS AS THEY DESERVE.

REST THY WAGGING TONGUE, VOLUMINOUS ONE! SURELY THERE ARE FOES APLENTY FOR ALL.

TOO MANY FOR YOU TO SEE EVERYWHERE, ASGARDIANS. ONCE I SLAY THIS MOCKERY OF THOR, THE REST WILL FALL!

WATCH OUT!

BLAM! BLAM!

GHAK!

YOU GOTTA REMEMBER TO WATCH YOUR BACK BETTER, THOR...

...'CAUSE SOONER OR LATER-- HUH?

MY THANKS. BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M **NOT** THE MIGHTY THOR.

MY MISTAKE. YOU MUST BE BETA **RAY BILL.** THOR TALKED ABOUT YOU SOME WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

I'M ROGER WILLIS.

IS THOR AROUND? I'VE GOT SOMETHING REAL IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM!

POW!

THOR HAS RETURNED TO ASGARD ABRUPTLY. I AM IN COMMAND OF THE FORCES OF ASGARD NOW.

NO KIDDING.

THEN YOU'RE JUST THE GUY I WANT TO TALK TO.

HEAR HIM OUT, BILL. ROGER WAS THOR'S COMPANION IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALEKITH.*

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEAT THE DEMONS! BUT I MAY KNOW HOW TO BEAT THE **WEATHER.**

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE **CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS** RELEASED THE STORMS THAT ARE HELPING TO WIPE US OUT!

ORIGINALLY, THE CASKET WAS LEFT TO ME BY MY FATHER, ALONG WITH SOME PAPERS CONCERNING ITS NATURE.

*THOR 345-349--EPIC STUFF.

I'VE BEEN STUDYING THOSE PAPERS SINCE THOR AND I RETURNED FROM ENGLAND. AND I MAY HAVE FOUND AN ANSWER.

BUT I NEED TO GET TO ENGLAND AND FAST!

PERHAPS I CAN HELP. I'M **REED RICHARDS,** LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A HURRIED DISCUSSION...

THE HUMAN TORCH MAY BE THE ANSWER.

JOHNNY!

REED, I CAN'T STOP THESE GUYS! THEY'RE EATING MY FLAME LIKE IT WAS CANDY!

I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING YOU **CAN** DO, JOHNNY.

ROGER HERE HAS TO GET TO ENGLAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HE'S GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP.

AND SHORTLY, WITHOUT A SOUND, THE RIPROAR I SOARS ALOFT ABOVE THE BAXTER BUILDING INTO THE STORMY SKY...

IN THE BAXTER BUILDING, THERE'S A PROTOTYPE GRAVITY ACCELERATION VEHICLE I'VE BEEN CONSTRUCTING IN MY SPARE TIME.

THE **RIPROAR** I?

PRECISELY. YOU KNOW WHERE THE KEYS ARE.

GOOD LUCK, LAD.

IF THIS BABY CAN DO EVERYTHING REED WANTED IT TO, WE'RE GOING TO BE IN ENGLAND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

NOW WHAT'S THE SCORE?

BUT AS JOHNNY STORM AND ROGER WILLIS WING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TOWARDS THE SCEPTERED ISLE OF BRITAIN...

IT LOOKS BAD. THE DEMONS ARE REINFORCED FASTER THAN WE CAN KILL THEM OFF.

AND WE'RE BEING FORCED BACK TO THE TIP OF THIS ISLAND!

BLAM! KER-WHAM!

ARUGGGRRH!

IN SPITE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE...

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

LANDING ZONE'S RIGHT BELOW US! GET US DOWN ON THE DECK ON THE DOUBLE!

HIT 'EM HARD, BOYS! LET'S POP SOME CAPS*!

TIME TO SHOW 'EM WHAT THE 82ND AIRBORNE CAN DO! THE SCREAMIN' EAGLES HAVE ARRIVED!

BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!

MAJOR SALLEDA REPORTING, SIR. I'M INFORMED THAT YOU ARE IN COMMAND OF THE AVENGERS.

WE'RE FROM THE QUICK REACTION FORCES OUT OF FT. BRAGG.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

*WEAPONS ON RAPID FIRE.

NOT GOOD, COLONEL. THESE DEMONS SEEM TO BE PHASING IN THROUGH THE WARP GATE ABOVE THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.

THOSE WARPS ARE APPEARING ALL OVER THE WORLD. SATELLITE DATA SHOWS US THAT THESE GUYS ARE USING THE SAHARA DESERT AS A STAGING AREA.

WE THINK THEY'RE PHASING IN REINFORCEMENTS THERE AND THEN SPREADING THEM OUT TO VARIOUS POINTS OF ATTACK.

TROOP ESTIMATES ARE STAGGERING, BUT WHAT WE SEE HERE IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE ENTIRE FORCE.

THEN WE'D BETTER DESTROY THAT GATEWAY BEFORE MANY MORE OF THEM GET THROUGH.

SIF! FANDRAL! HOGUN! VOLSTAGG! CALL THE **WARRIORS** OF **VALHALLA** TO MY SIDE!

I HAVE AN IDEA.

HOLY SMOKES! WHO'S THAT?

AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, COLONEL, I AM **THOR!**

AND THE BATTLE IS **MINE** TO COMMAND!

HE SPEAKS TRULY, **MAJOR.** BILL CARRIES THE POWER OF THOR AND HE IS THE COMMANDER OF THE FORCES OF ASGARD.

AND IN THIS BATTLE, THE **AVENGERS** FOLLOW HIS ORDERS.

NOW HOLD ON A MINUTE, MISTER!

WELL, OKAY, VISION. YOU'RE IN CHARGE. DOES THE PRESIDENT KNOW ABOUT THIS?

HAROKIN, CAPTAIN OF THE EINHERJAR, THE HEROES OF VALHALLA, REPORTING AS ORDERED! WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

WE MUST DESTROY THAT GATEWAY, HAROKIN, BEFORE THE DEMONS OVERWHELM US WITH SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS.

AT MY COMMAND, YOU AND YOUR MEN SHALL CHARGE INTO THE VERY HEART OF THE DEMONS GATHERED BEFORE THE GATE.

AND WHEN YOUR CHARGE BREAKS AGAINST THE DEMON WALL, I WANT YOU TO **RETREAT** IN CONFUSION.

PULL BACK AND LET THE DEMONS FOLLOW YOU.

WHAT?!! NO WARRIOR OF VALHALLA WOULD THINK TO TURN HIS FACE FROM THE ENEMY AND RUN LIKE A COWARD!

NEVER-THELESS, YOU WILL DO IT!

THOUGH I AM BUT NEWLY COME TO VALHALLA, EILIF DRAGONSLAYER SAYS UNTO YOU THAT DESPITE HIS STRANGE FACE, BILL WAS APPOINTED OUR CHIEFTAIN BY LORD ODIN AND WE WILL OBEY HIM.

THOR, TOO, HAS GIVEN HIM COMMAND.

IN THIS, I AM RESOLVED.

SO SAY WE ALL, HAROKIN. 'TIS NO TIME TO DEBATE LEADERSHIP.

YOUR REBUKE IS WELL TAKEN, MY LORD TYR. I STAND READY TO DO WHAT I MUST.

CHIN UP, HAROKIN. IF MY PLAN WORKS, EVEN **YOU** MAY HAVE HAD YOUR FILL OF FIGHTING BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH.

HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

TYR, YOU AND THE EXECUTIONER MUST MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE

BUT WHILE BETA RAY BILL OUTLINES HIS PLAN...

...WE FIND THE MIGHTY THOR HOVERING ABOVE BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...

PRAISE ODIN! I HAVE ARRIVED IN TIME! ASGARD STILL STANDS!

THERE BELOW ME! SURTUR CONFRONTS HEIMDALL, WHO STANDS BY HIS POST FAITHFULLY.

AND I AM TOO FAR AWAY TO AID HIM!

STEP ASIDE, LITTLE GODLING. MY BUSINESS IS WITH YOUR LORD.

ODIN! STEP FORTH, THIEF! I HAVE COME AT LAST TO DEAL WITH YOU AS I DEALT WITH YOUR BROTHERS*!

*THOR 349.

STAND YOUR GROUND, SURTUR OF MUSPELHEIM. YOU HAVE DEFILED THE BRIDGE WITH YOUR VERY PRESENCE AND ALREADY HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR.

THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD IS NOT FOR SUCH AS YOU.

WHEN I AM THROUGH, LITTLE GODLING, THE GOLDEN REALM WILL NO LONGER EXIST EXCEPT AS ASHES!

HAVE AT YOU, SURTUR! FOR ODIN AND ASGARD!

KVRAVNHCKKK

PLADD!

WELL STRUCK, HEIMDALL. BUT THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE POWER ENOUGH TO FELL A DOZEN ORDINARY FOES, SURTUR IS MASTER HERE!

FASTER, MJOLNIR, FASTER! MAY WE NOT BE TOO LATE WHEN WE ARE SO CLOSE! HEIMDALL MOVES NOT!

HEIMDALL!

SO THE WHELP OF ODIN HAS ABANDONED MIDGARD.*

*EARTH.

AND ASGARD IS EMPTY OF GUARDIANS, SAVE YOU AND YOUR FATHER!

THEN LET THE FIGHT BE-TWEEN US BE WITH-OUT INTER-FERENCE!

I WILL SUNDER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND DESTROY THE LINK BETWEEN THE MORTAL REALM AND ASGARD!

NOW SHALL THE LORD OF ASGARD TRULY BE BEYOND ALL HELP!

SMASH!

MEANWHILE, IN THE MOUNTAINS NOT FAR BEYOND THE GOLDEN REALM, FRIGGA, WIFE OF ODIN, LEADS THE CHILDREN OF ASGARD AWAY FROM THE IMPENDING BATTLE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY...

KEEP TO THE PATH NOW, AND HOLD ON TIGHT TO EACH OTHER.

FRIGGA, DO YOU THINK WE'LL **REALLY** MEET ANY DANGER ALONG THE TRAIL...

...OR WAS ODIN JUST PRETENDING SO HE COULD GET RID OF US?

IF ODIN SAID THERE IS DANGER, HILDY, DEAR, THEN I'M SURE THERE IS.

BUT ONCE WE GET BEYOND THE BRIDGE ABOVE THE ENDLESS CHASM, I THINK WE SHALL BE SAFE ENOUGH.

MIND THE STEP, GUNNAR.

GUNNAR?

FRIGGA, LOOK!

A TROLL!

THIS BRIDGE **MINE.** YOU PASS ONLY WITH FORFEIT.

I TAKE ONE YOUNGLING ...FOR DINNER!

OR I KILL YOU ALL!

MEANWHILE, ON MANHATTAN ISLAND...

TYR AND THE EXECUTIONER HAVE TAKEN THEIR FORCES AND BEGUN TO PREPARE, SIF.

AND THE MORTAL ARMY IS HOLDING ITS OWN FOR NOW. BUT THE SKY BEGINS TO BLACKEN WITH THE FORCES OF THE DEMONS! I WONDER IF-- SIF?

BILL! THE AIR!

'TIS FILLED WITH SHARDS OF COLOR!

WHAT ARE THEY?

DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S FROM THE BRIDGE! THE RAINBOW BRIDGE HAS BEEN BROKEN!

SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING IN ASGARD!

THOR AND ODIN MAY EVEN NOW BE DYING!

AND I AM NOT THERE!

BUT BY THE GODDESS-BORN POWERS OF SPACE AND TIME I POSSESS, I SHALL BE!

NO!

BILL!

YOU SHALL NOT GO!

IS THIS HOW YOU KEEP YOUR PLEDGE?

"NOTHING SHALL SEPARATE US!"

EVEN NOW, MORE AND MORE DEMONS ARE PHASING IN TO JOIN THE BATTLE.

YOUR SKILL, YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FORCES OF ASGARD ARE NEEDED HERE!

BUT ODIN! AND THOR!

IF THOR AND THE ALL-FATHER CANNOT STOP SURTUR, THEN NO ONE CAN.

IN YOUR HEART, WARRIOR MAID, YOU KNOW THIS IS TRUE!

SHATTER!

ODIN'S BLOOD!

THEN LET ME SIT NO LONGER IDLY BY WHILE THE NOBLEST GODS OF ALL POUR OUT THEIR HEARTS BLOOD.

SIF!

HAROKIN! WARRIORS OF VALHALLA! HEED MY CALL!

THE DEMONS' INFERNAL MACHINERY ABOVE THE CITY BECKONS.

SHALL WE LIVE FOREVER?

RISE UP, YOU GREAT HEARTS! DRAW YOUR WEAPONS!

AND FOLLOW ME INTO HEL!

AND THE EINHERJAR OF VALHALLA MOUNT INTO THE SKY BEHIND A GODDESS TURNED DEMON...

...WHILE IN ASGARD...

FAREWELL, HEIMDALL! AT LAST YOUR ENDLESS WATCHING IS DONE!

AND NOT A WORD OF THANKS!

HOW MEAN-SPIRITED ARE THESE PETTY GOD-LINGS!

FEAR NOT, HEIMDALL.

YOU ARE AS SAFE AS THOUGH THESE WERE THE ARMS OF THE MOTHERS THAT BORE YOU.

BUT IS HE TRULY SAFE?

FOR HE STIRS NOT IN MY ARMS. SURELY HE IS NOT--

BUT NO. THE FLESH IS STILL WARM. THE PULSE STILL VITAL.

LET HIM LIE, THOR! HE WAS NO MATCH FOR ME! PERHAPS YOU SHALL PROVE MORE DIVERTING!

VAINGLORIOUS DEMON!

THOUGH YOUR POWER IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION, YET SHALL THE MIGHT OF THOR GIVE YOU PAUSE!

AND THE HAMMER OF THOR GIVE ME VOICE!

BRAKABOOM!

ARRGUGH!

CURSE YOU, ODINSON! NEVER HAVE I FELT SUCH PAIN SINCE I SLEW YOUR FATHER'S BROTHERS!

THEN SHALL I STRIKE A THOUSANDFOLD MORE STRONGLY UNTIL THY LIPS CRY, "HOLD, ENOUGH!"

AND WITH EVERY BLOW, REMEMBER THEM AND REGRET THAT EVER THY HANDS WERE STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF THOR'S UNCLES!

THWRKKDOM!

GARROUGH!

HE SEEKS TO ENSNARE ME IN HIS MASSIVE GRIP, BUT MY SPEED SHALL PROTECT ME!

...AS I DART AND WEAVE UNTIL AN OPENING APPEARS...

...AND I STRIKE WITH THE SPEED OF THE WOLF!

THRDOM!

DO NOT THINK, THUNDER GOD, THAT MY SIZE MEANS I AM WITHOUT SPEED.

I AM QUICK ENOUGH TO BE THY DEATH!

WHRRAPP!

OWWW!

AS I WAS THE BANE OF YOUR THIEVING UNCLES!

HRUUCNCH!

UGGH!

TRULY HIS STRENGTH BEGGARS DESCRIPTION!

I AM LOATH TO DO IT, BUT ONLY THE UNFETTERED MIGHT OF THE GOD OF THUNDER MAY SERVE HERE!

THOUGH YOU ARE THE OLDEST OF ALL WHO LIVE, THERE ARE NEWER POWERS IN THE WORLD, THAT EVEN THE OLDEST SHOULD BEWARE OF.

NOW LET MY HAMMER BURN WITH THE MIGHT OF A THOUSAND SUNS, ENERGY ENOUGH TO DESTROY EVEN THE DEMON OF THE FLAME!

AS I WHIRL MJOLNIR FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF THOUGHT TILL THE VERY AIR AROUND IT IGNITES IN BLAZING FURY!

HAVE AT YOU, SURTUR!

A WORTHY EFFORT, THUNDERER! ONE THAT DOES CREDIT TO SUCH A LITTLE GODLING.

BUT I WIELD THE UNSHEATHED SWORD, TWILIGHT, FORGED IN THE HEART OF THE BURNING GALAXY!

AND NO MERE HAMMER, HOWEVER ENCHANTED, CAN DULL ITS EDGE OR BREAK THROUGH ITS GUARD!

SCHRAAGG!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAH!!

UNHRAN NNNNN!

A PITY YOU DO NOT CARRY SUCH A SWORD!

AND NOW THE ETERNAL FLAME IS WITHIN MY GRASP AFTER ALL THESE MILLENNIA!

WHA--!

THE GATES OF THE CITY EXPLODE BEFORE MY VERY EYES!

AND THERE, REVEALED BEHIND THE FIRE AND SMOKE, MY MOST HATED ENEMY.

ODIN! LORD OF ASGARD!

BACK, CREATURE OF EVIL!

AND THOUGH I COULD HAVE AIDED HIM, I BIDED MY TIME THAT YOU MIGHT EXPEND SUCH ENERGY AS YOU WOULD TO DEFEAT HIM...

...AND THEREBY WEAKEN THYSELF!

VALIANTLY HATH MY SON FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT! LONG SHALL IT BE REMEMBERED IN SONG AND STORY!

NOW, FOR MY SON, THOR, FOR MY BROTHERS, VILI AND VE, I STAND BETWEEN YOU AND THE ETERNAL FLAME OF ASGARD!

AND THOU SHALT PAY FOR EVERY DROP OF BLOOD SHED IN THY HIDEOUS CAUSE!

RAGNAROK É RUIN!

'NUFF SAID!