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the mighty THOR



POSSIBLY
THE MOST
UNUSUAL
THOR
STORY EVER
PUBLISHED!

9.2.85

STAN LEE
PRESENTS: the MIGHTY THOR

THOR CROAKS!

ASGARD--HOME OF
THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS.

IN STORY AND LEGEND, ODIN ONE-EYE
WAS THE RULER OF THE GODS OF THE
VIKINGS...

...BUT NOW, ODIN HAS
VANISHED, PERHAPS
EVEN PERISHED...

LET ALL
NOW BE SILENT,
FRIGGA, WIFE
OF ODIN AND
KEEPER OF THE
SCEPTER OF
POWER,
SPEAKS.

I CHARGE
THEE, BEARERS
OF OUR COUNTRY'S
BANNER, TO RIDE
THROUGHOUT THE
KINGDOM...

...AND
SUMMON OUR
PEOPLE TO THE
GREAT
ALTHING.

AT THAT
TIME, A NEW
RULER OF THE
GOLDEN REALM
WILL BE
CHOSEN.

ONE FORT-
NIGHT HENCE
SHALL IT BE
HELD HERE
IN THE CITY.

...AND ASGARD MAY
NEVER BE THE SAME
AGAIN.

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BOLD WARRIORS,
RIDE FORTH TO THE
FOUR CORNERS OF
THE KINGDOM...

...AND MAY
THE LIGHT OF
ODIN'S SCEPTER
SHINE UPON THEE
AND KEEP
THEE SAFE.

THROOOBOOM!

I NEVER DREAMED THAT
I SHOULD SEE THE DAY WHEN
A HAND OTHER THAN MY
HUSBAND'S WOULD HOLD
HIS RADIANT SCEPTER.

FRIGGA?

I AM ALL RIGHT,
HEIMDALL, BUT JUST
WHEN YOU THINK YOU
HAVE LIVED SO LONG
THAT THERE IS NO THING
NEW UNDER THE
SUN...

...THE FATES
CONSPIRE TO
SHOW YOU SOME-
THING BEYOND
YOUR WILDEST
IMAGININGS.

WHO WOULD
HAVE BELIEVED
I SHOULD
DWELL IN MY
HOUSE
ALONE?

THEN
FANDRAL
SHALL SEE YOU
HOME, LADY.

...THOUGH I
THINK ANOTHER
SHOULD HAVE HAD
THAT HONOR.

WHERE IS THE SON OF
ODIN WHO HAS SO OFTEN
BEEN PROCLAIMED THE
HEIR TO THE THRONE OF
ASGARD? WHERE IS
MIGHTY THOR?

HE WAS
TO HAVE RE-
TURNED TO AS-
GARD DIRECTLY
AFTER DELIVER-
ING THE SOULS
OF THE MORTALS
RESCUED FROM
HEL* TO
EARTH.

SURELY, HOGUN,
SUCH A TASK
WOULD NOT
HAVE TAKEN
HIM LONG.

MAYHAP THE
STORMS BE-
TWEEN ASGARD
AND MIDGARD*
HAVE GROWN
SO STRONG
NOW THAT THE
RAINBOW
BRIDGE HAS
BEEN DE-
STROYED...

...THAT HE
IS UNABLE
TO CROSS
BETWEEN
THE
REALMS.



SURELY THOR OF ALL THE GODS WOULD BE ABLE TO--

--BUT WAIT! HERE HE COMES NOW!

WARRROOUMMM!



BY THE TEETH OF GARM! 'TIS NOT THE FIGURE OF THOR THAT MATERIALIZES BEFORE OUR EYES BUT THAT OF--

BETA RAY BILL! YOU HAVE COME TO ASGARD!

THOR EXTENDED YOUR INVITATION, LADY SIF, AND I TOLD HIM I WOULD ACCEPT IT.

AND NOW THAT I AM HERE, I MUST THANK HIM AS WELL.



BUT DID HE NOT COME WITH YOU?

NO, HE LEFT EARTH SOMETIME BEFORE ME WITH HIS CHARIOT.

HE KNEW THERE WAS MUCH TO BE DONE HERE AND WAS IN A HURRY TO RETURN HOME.

YOU MEAN HE HAS NOT ARRIVED?



NAY, WE THOUGHT THE COSMIC STORMS BETWEEN HERE AND MIDGARD MIGHT HAVE DELAYED HIM.

TRULY, THE STORMS ARE FIERCE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE HINDERED THE GOD OF THUNDER'S PASSAGE.

THEN WHERE IS HE?

WE ARE ABOUT TO HOLD THE ALTHING HERE IN ASGARD, THE MOST IMPORTANT WE HAVE EVER HELD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE GOLDEN REALM.

NOTHING SHORT OF DEATH COULD HAVE PREVENTED THOR FROM RETURNING HERE WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED!

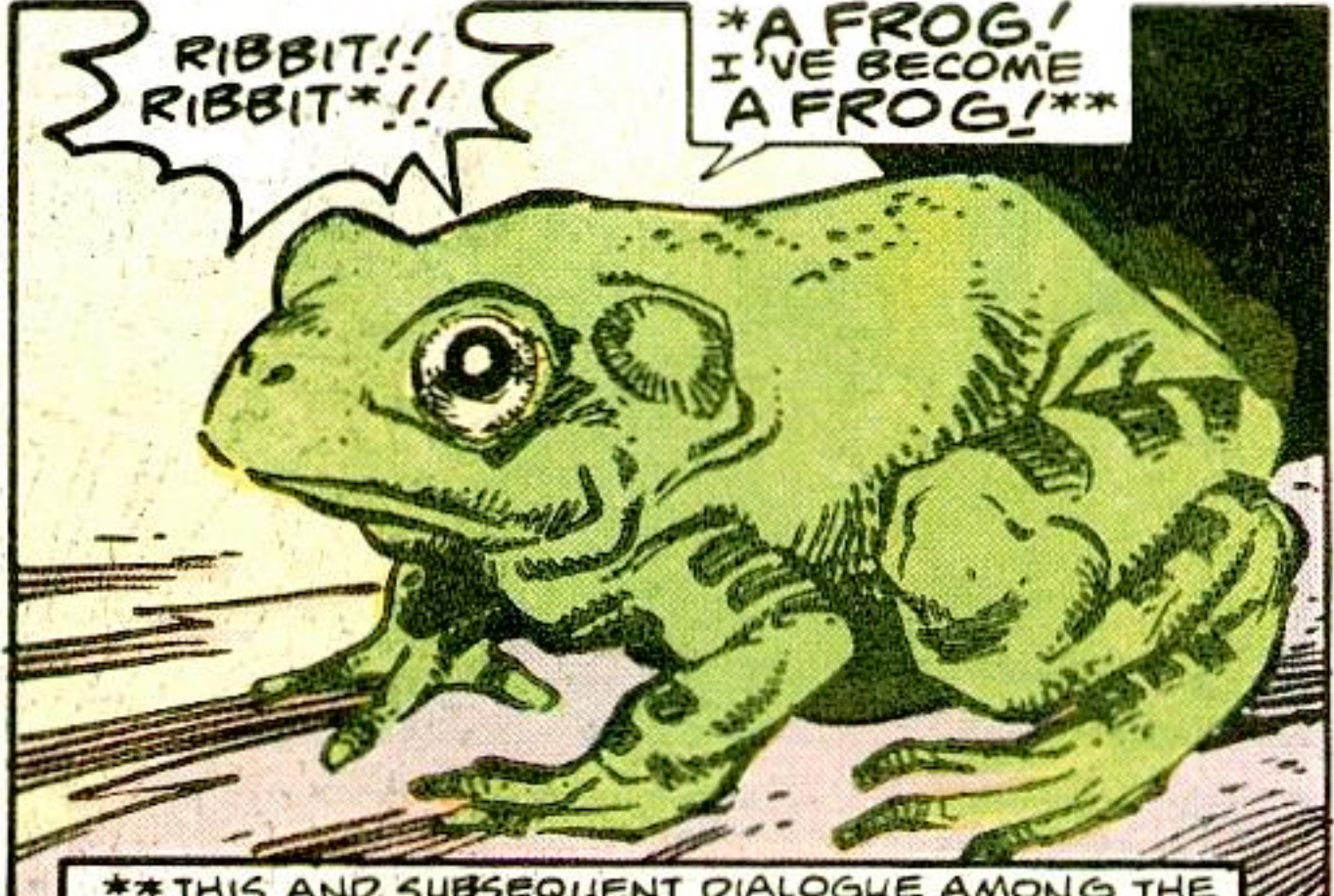
BUT EVEN AS HIS FRIENDS PONDER THE FATE OF THE MISSING GOD OF THUNDER...

...WE TURN TO LOOK AT THE REALM OF MORTALS WHERE WE FIND THAT THOR IS IN-DEED STILL IN NEW YORK CITY...



...ALTHOUGH PERHAPS ANYONE MIGHT BE FORGIVEN IF THEY FAILED TO RECOGNIZE HIM AT FIRST GLANCE FOR HE IS VASTLY CHANGED.

NO LONGER IS HE THE MAJESTIC FIGURE OF LEGEND; INSTEAD, HE RESEMBLES IN EVERY PARTICULAR...



RIBBIT!!
RIBBIT*!!

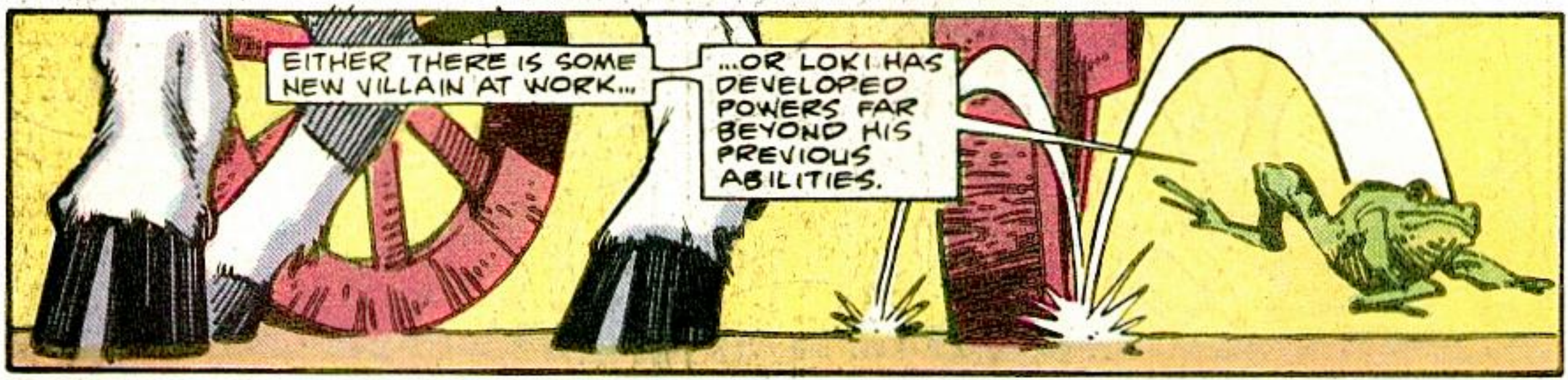
*A FROG!
I'VE BECOME
A FROG!*

**THIS AND SUBSEQUENT DIALOGUE AMONG THE ANIMALS IS TRANSLATED FROM THE VERNACULAR INTO ENGLISH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE TO WHOM THE LANGUAGE OF THE BEASTS IS A CLOSED BOOK.



ONLY LOKI WOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND WILL TO ACHIEVE THIS TRANSFORMATION.

BUT EVEN HE LACKS THE POWER TO EFFECT SUCH A CHANGE AT THIS DISTANCE!



EITHER THERE IS SOME NEW VILLAIN AT WORK...

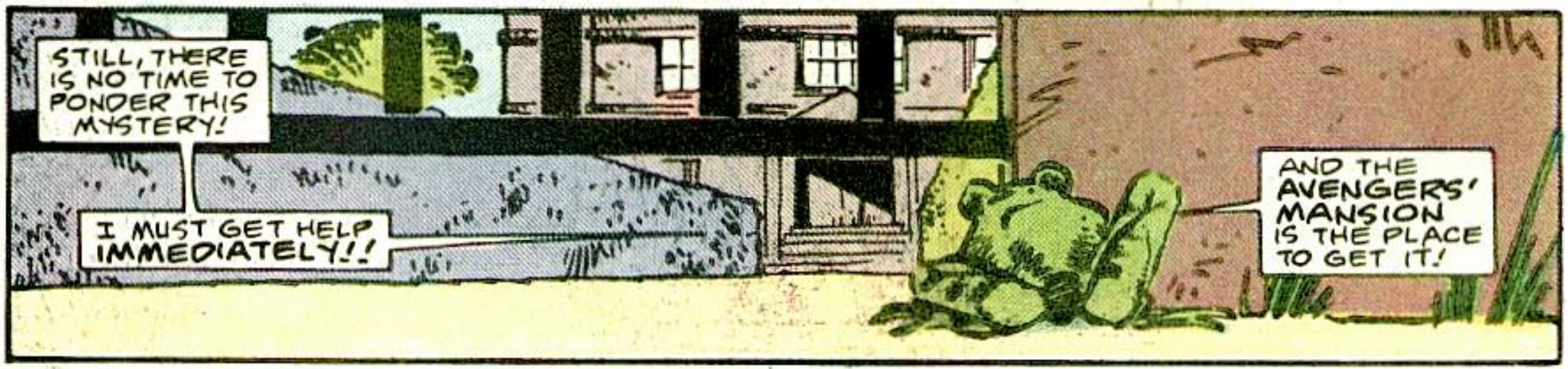
...OR LOKI HAS DEVELOPED POWERS FAR BEYOND HIS PREVIOUS ABILITIES.



AND IT MUST BE LOKI! WITH THE ALTHING ABOUT TO BEGIN, ONLY HE WOULD HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN PREVENTING MY RETURN TO ASGARD.

LONG HAS HE LUSTED AFTER MY FATHER'S THRONE, AND I HAVE EVER BEEN THE GREATEST OBSTACLE BETWEEN HIM AND HIS DESIRES.

IF I DO NOT REACH ASGARD IN TIME FOR THE ALTHING, WHO KNOWS WHAT OASTARDLY SCHEMES MY STEP-BROTHER WILL ATTEMPT?



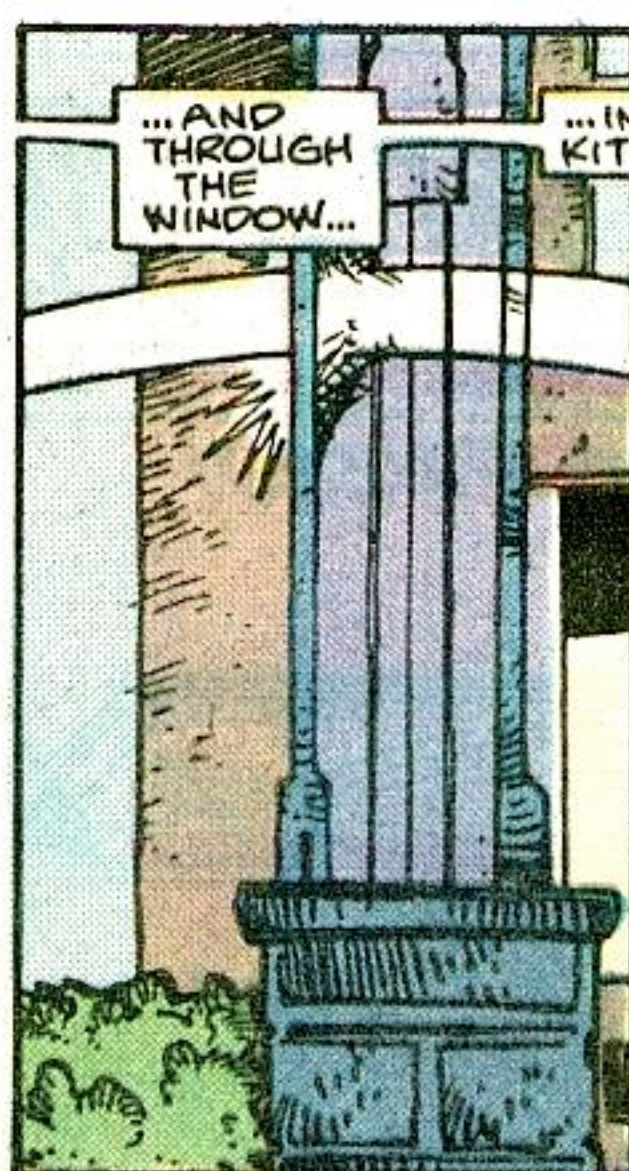
STILL, THERE IS NO TIME TO PONDER THIS MYSTERY!

I MUST GET HELP IMMEDIATELY!!

AND THE AVENGERS' MANSION IS THE PLACE TO GET IT!



FORTUNATELY,
I CAN LEAP
BETWEEN THE
ELECTRIC EYE
BEAMS...



...AND
THROUGH
THE
WINDOW...



...INTO THE
KITCHEN!

THAT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE
LEAP. BEING AN EN-
CHANTED FROG RATHER
THAN AN ORDINARY ONE
HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.



I CAN
STILL
THINK...

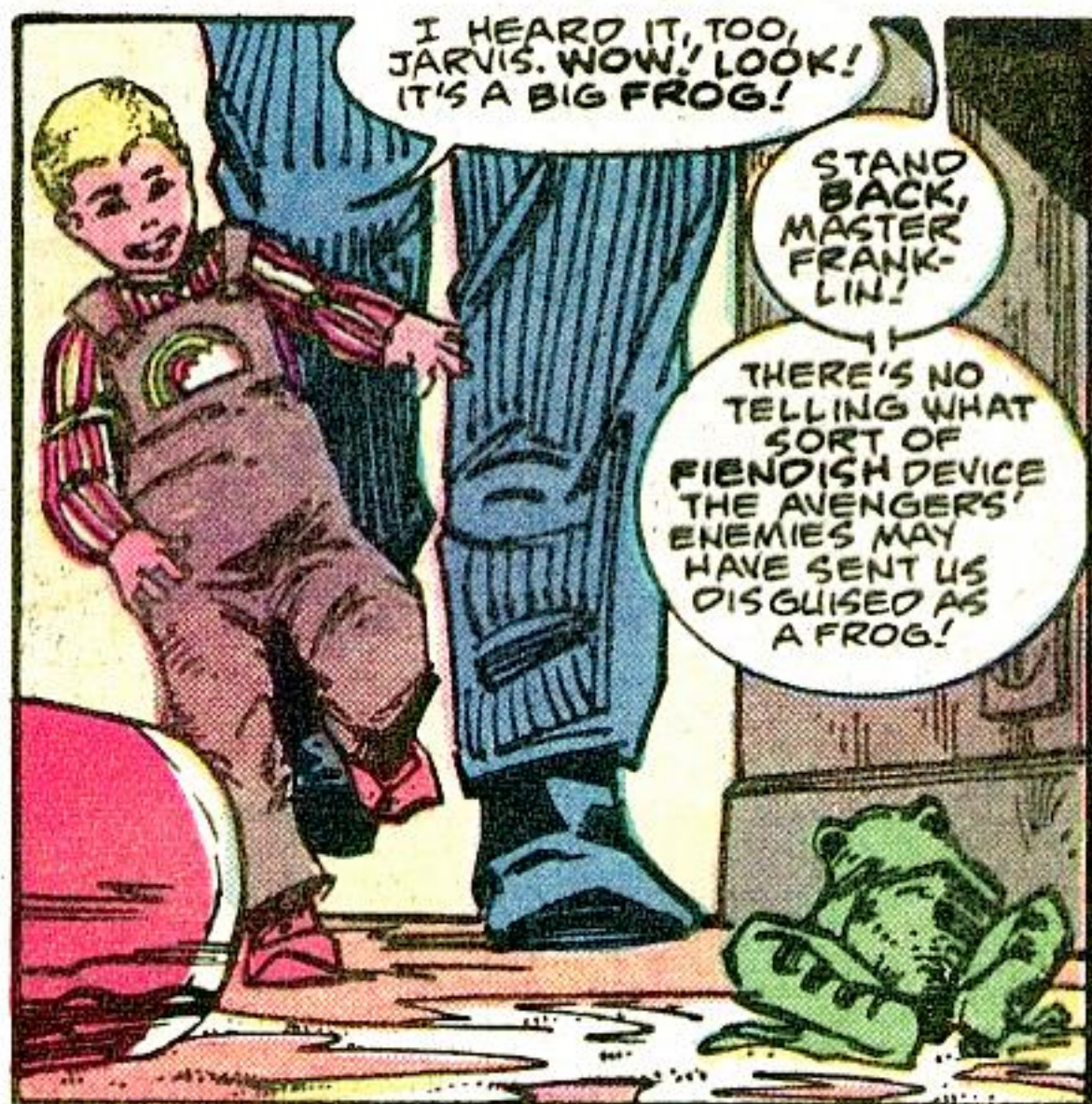
CRASH!



...AND I
CAN STILL
WRITE!

LOKI MAY
HAVE BE-
GUN THIS
EPISODE...

...BUT I AM
GOING TO
FINISH IT!



I HEARD IT, TOO,
JARVIS. WOW! LOOK!
IT'S A BIG FROG!

STAND
BACK,
MASTER
FRANK-
LIN!

THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT
SORT OF
FIENDISH DEVICE
THE AVENGERS'
ENEMIES MAY
HAVE SENT US
DISGUISED AS
A FROG!

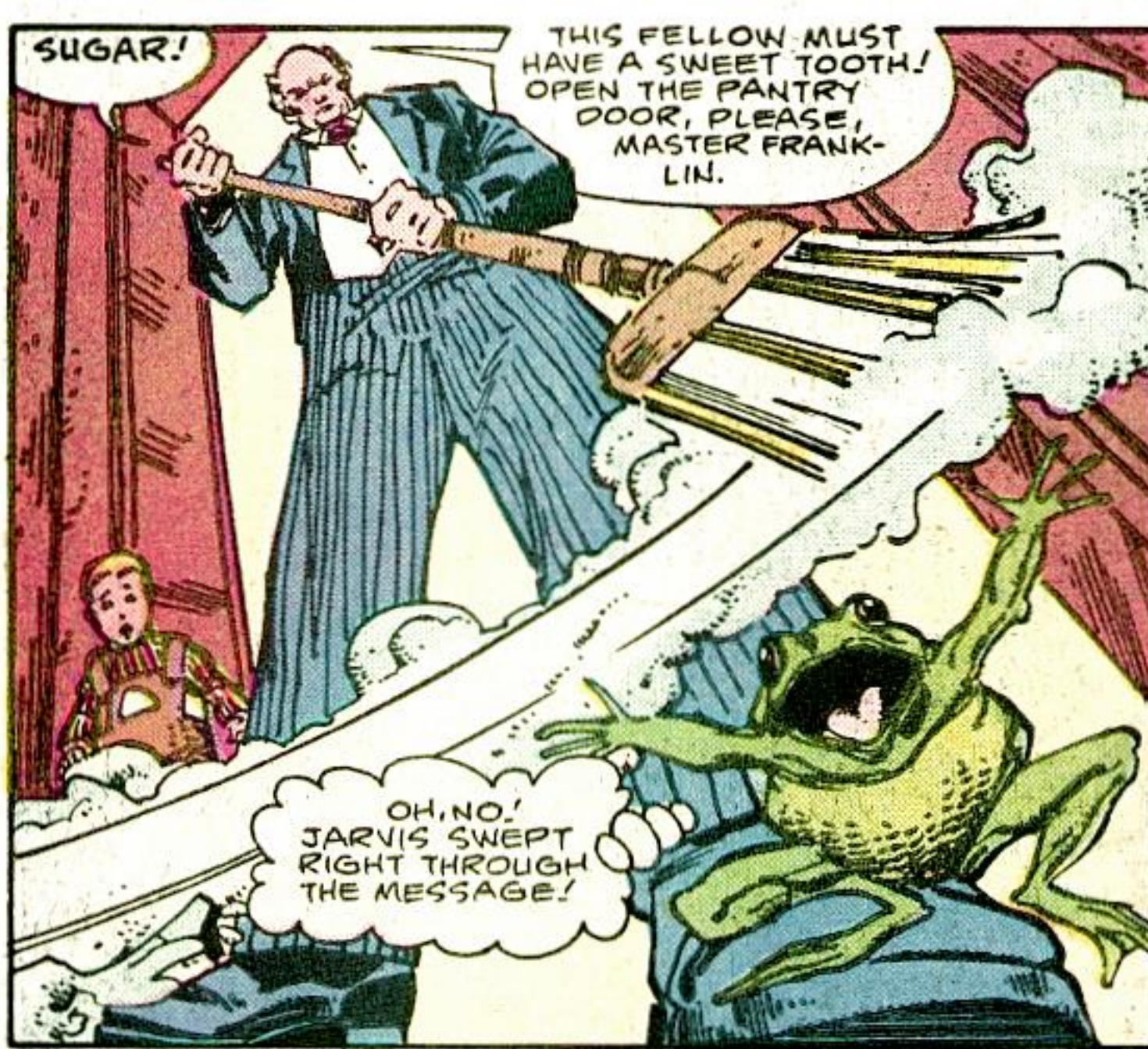


IT MAY EVEN BE ONE
OF THE VILLAINS HIM-
SELF IN
COSTUME!

AND THE AVENGERS
ARE ALL AWAY AT
PRESENT.

FORTUNATELY,
I BELIEVE I CAN
DEAL WITH THIS
INTRUDER
MYSELF.

WHAT'S
THIS
ON THE
FLOOR?

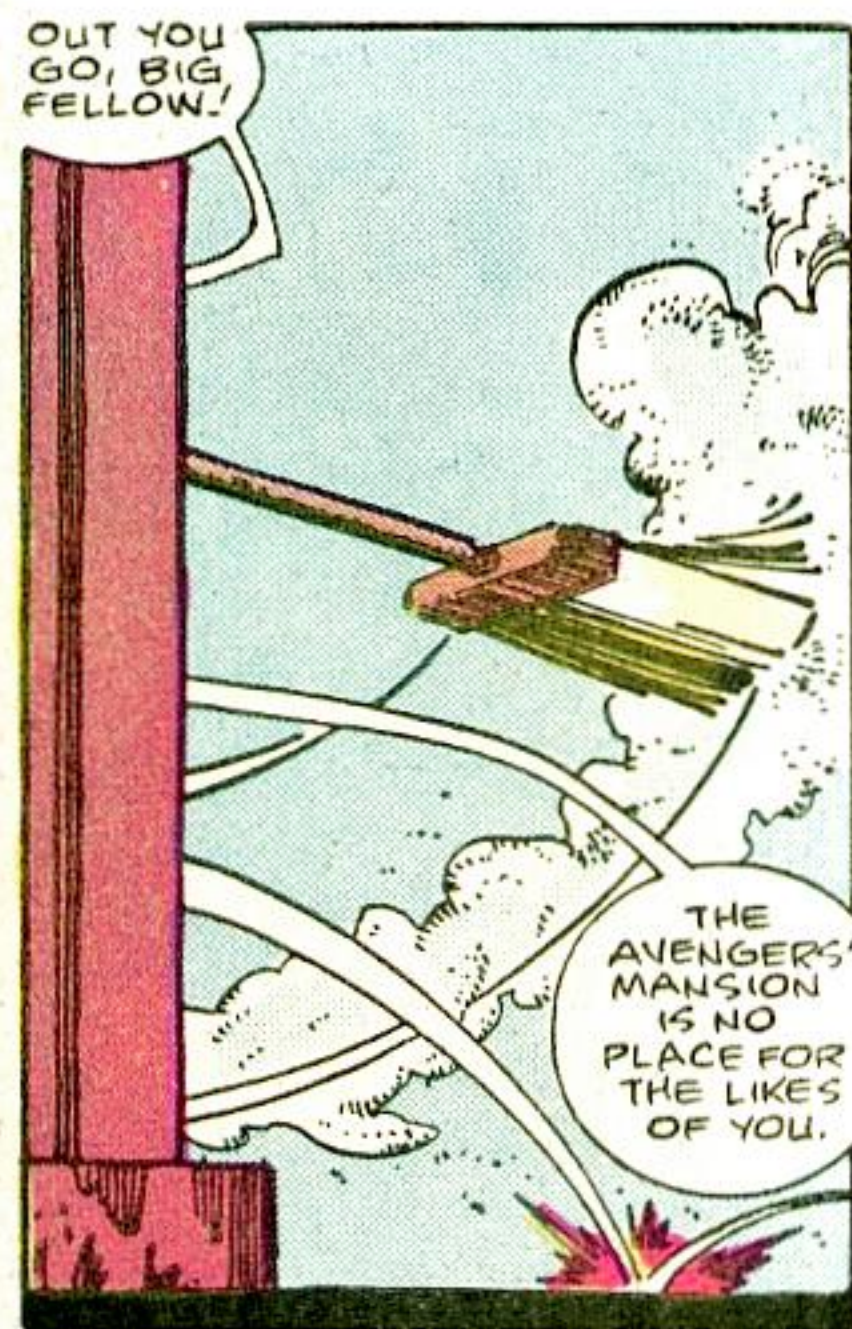


SUGAR!

THIS FELLOW MUST HAVE A SWEET TOOTH! OPEN THE PANTRY DOOR, PLEASE, MASTER FRANKLIN.

OH, NO! JARVIS SWEEPED RIGHT THROUGH THE MESSAGE!

OUT YOU GO, BIG FELLOW!



THE AVENGERS' MANSION IS NO PLACE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.



BUT JARVIS! HE WROTE SOMETHIN' IN THE SUGAR. I SAW IT. LETTERS 'N' EVERYTHING.

AND CAN YOU TELL ME HOW ON EARTH YOU THINK A FROG LEARNED TO WRITE?

I THINK, MASTER FRANKLIN, THAT PERHAPS WE SHOULD RESTRICT YOUR INTAKE OF SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON SHOWS MORE SEVERELY.



NO, REALLY, JARVIS!!

AND MASTER FRANKLIN, KINDLY TAKE YOUR FINGERS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH AND DROP THE REST OF THE SUGAR BACK ON THE FLOOR WHERE IT BELONGS.

NOW IF YOU'LL FETCH THE DUSTPAN, PLEASE?

AND THAT IS THAT.

I MUST AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF ONE OF THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES; CERTAINLY JARVIS WILL NEVER LET ME IN THE HOUSE AGAIN.



FSSSSIT!

SPROINGG!



BY THE HANDLE OF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER!! I'VE JUMPED INTO THE MIDDLE OF TRAFFIC!

BEEP BEEP BEEP!

HEY, BUDDY!
DID'JA SEE
THAT?

LOOKED LIKE A BULL-
FROG THE SIZE OF
MONTANA LEAPING INTO
CENTRAL PARK!

NO
PROBLEM,
CABBIE. I'LL
GET OUT
RIGHT
HERE.

SURELY WHOEVER
PENNEED "LOOK BE-
FORE YOU LEAP"
MUST HAVE SPENT
SOME TIME AS A
FROG!!

NATURALLY,
RATS WOULD
BE INTER-
ESTED IN
FROGS' LEGS.

SPLAT!

AND BY THE
LOOKS OF IT,
THIS ONE
STILL IS.

HE DODGES THE
TRAFFIC WITH THE
GRACE OF A BROKEN
FIELD RUNNER.

I MAY BE ONLY A
FROG, BUT STILL
I AM THE WAR-
RIOR SON OF
ODIN! STILL I
AM THOR!

I'D BEST
RETIRE
TO LESS
TRAVELED
PATHS.

WHAT AM I SAYING?
IS THIS SOME EFFECT
OF THE ENCHANT-
MENT?

AND
THOR DOES
NOT RUN
FROM HIS
ENEMIES!!

HE
FIGHTS
THEM!

SQUEE
EEE--??

**CHUGGA
RUMPH!**

HAVE AT YOU,
VERMIN!

KICK!
KICK!
KICK!
PUMMEL!
STOMP THUD!

STOMP!
KICK!

THUS
THE FOES OF
THOR ARE
ALWAYS
VANQUISHED!

AND WHEN I
AM FINISHED,
LOKI, YOU
SHALL FEEL
LIKE A
BROTHER TO
THAT RAT!

SQUEEE
EEEEAL!!

MEANWHILE, IN AN ALLEYWAY NOT
FAR AWAY...

WHEN
I WAS A
YOUNG
MAN...

...AND
NEVER BEEN
KISSSED...

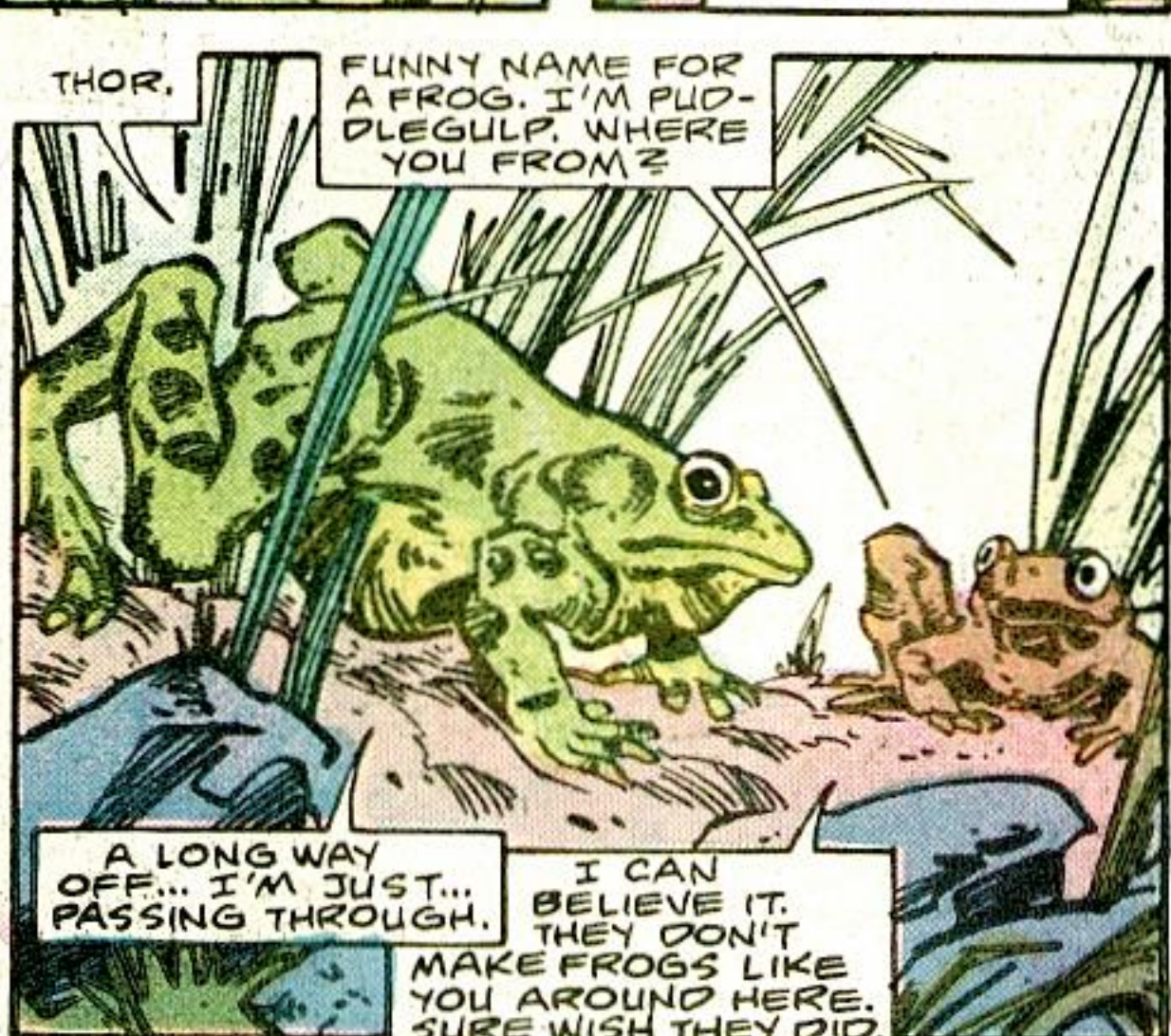
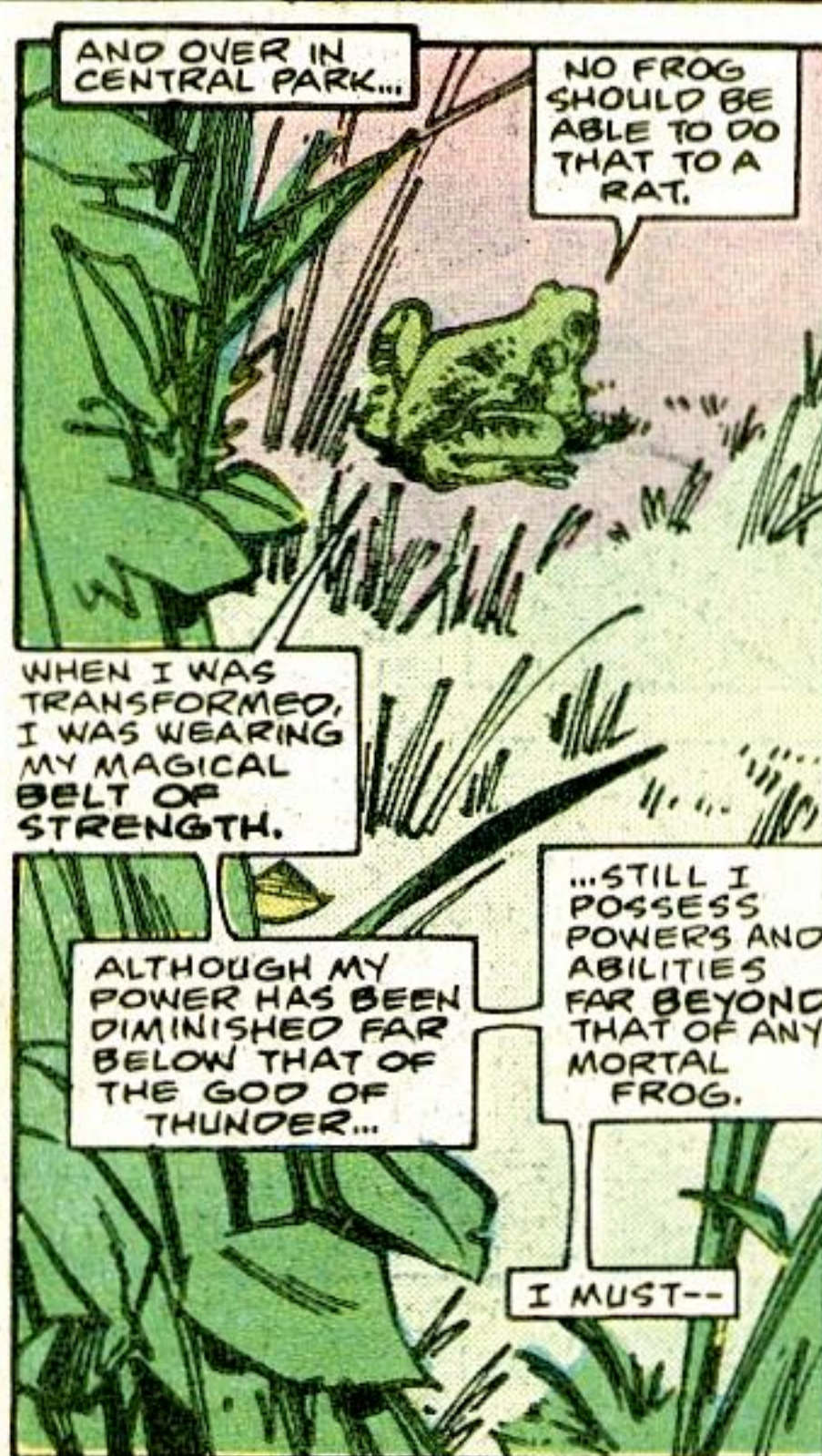
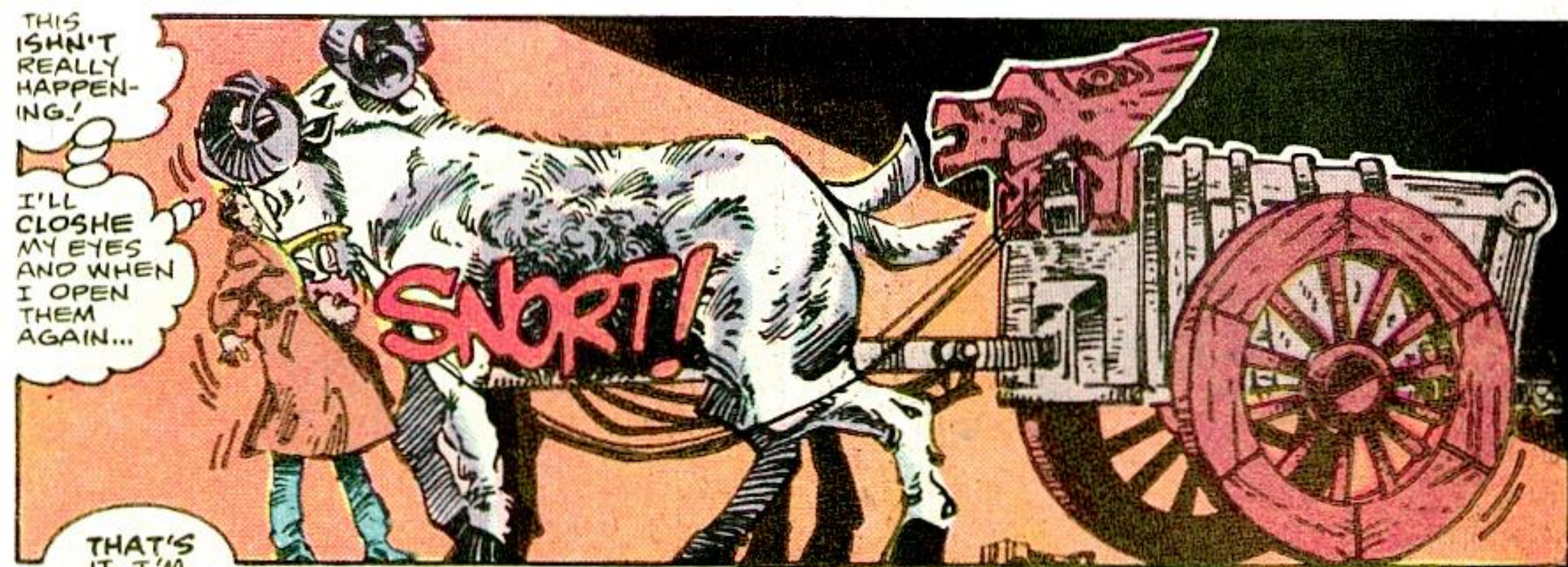
...I GOT TO
THINKIN'
OVER THAT
IF I EVER
SEE SHEILA
AGAIN...

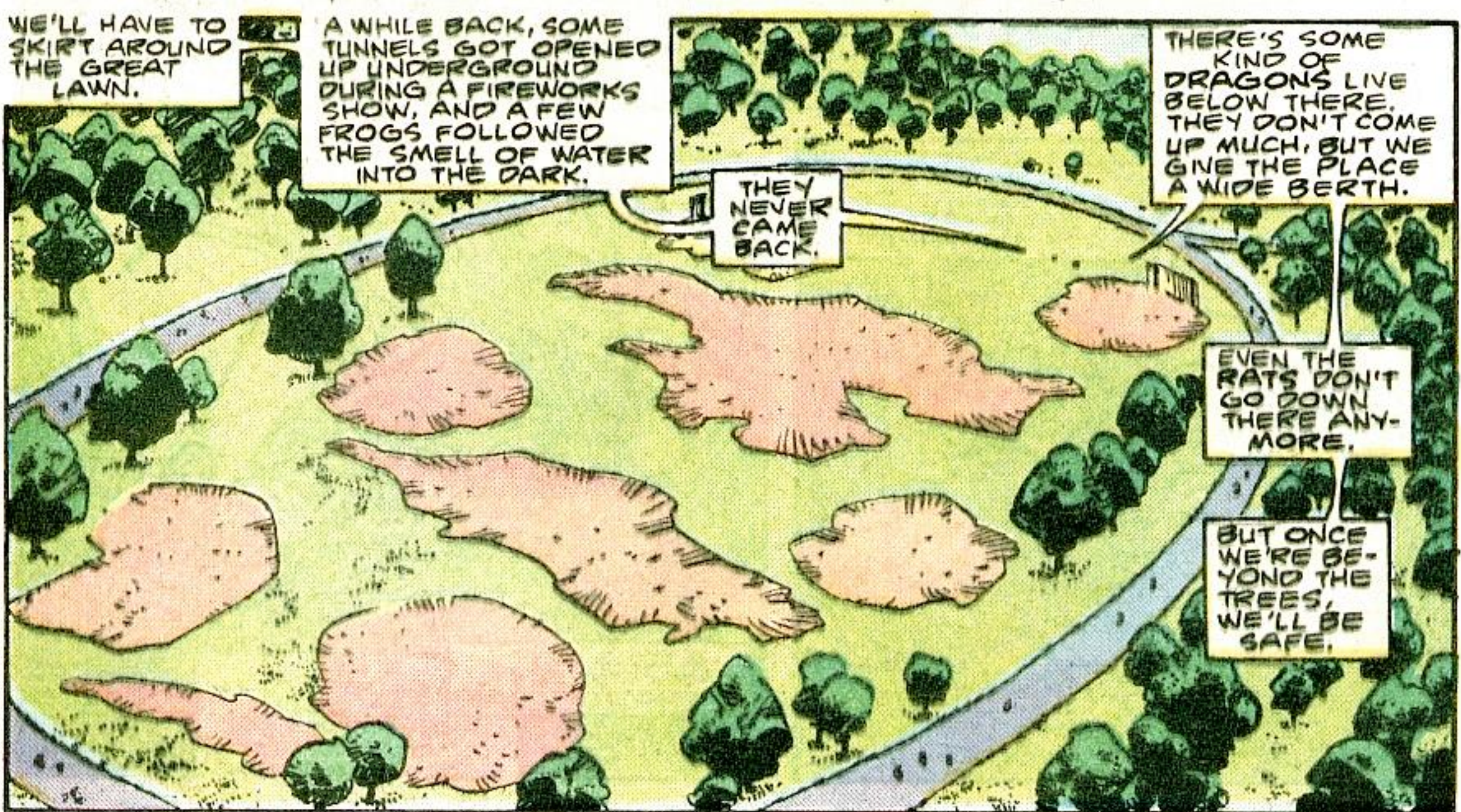
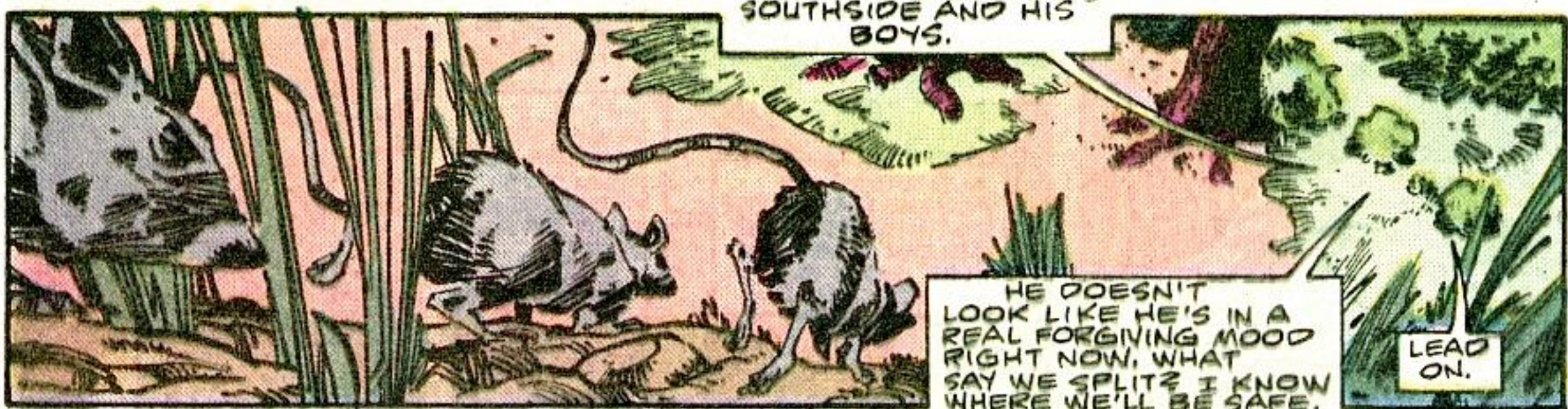
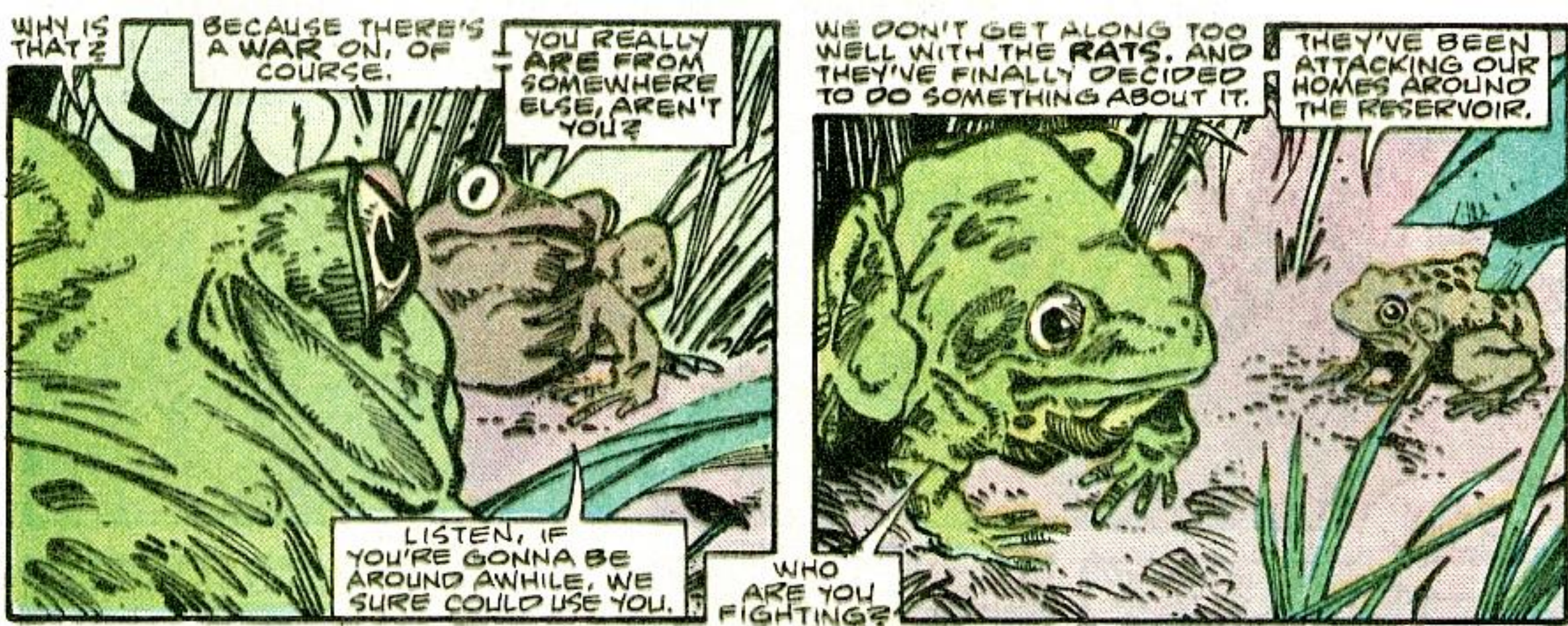
...I'LL SHOW
HER THAT
THAT CREEP
OF HER'S CAN'T
KICK SAND IN
MY FACE
ANY MORE.

IN FACT, MAYBE I'LL JUST GO
OVER THERE RIGHT NOW AND
SHOW HER A MOVE OR TWO
I'VE LEARNED FROM WATCHIN'
KUNG FU FLICKS.

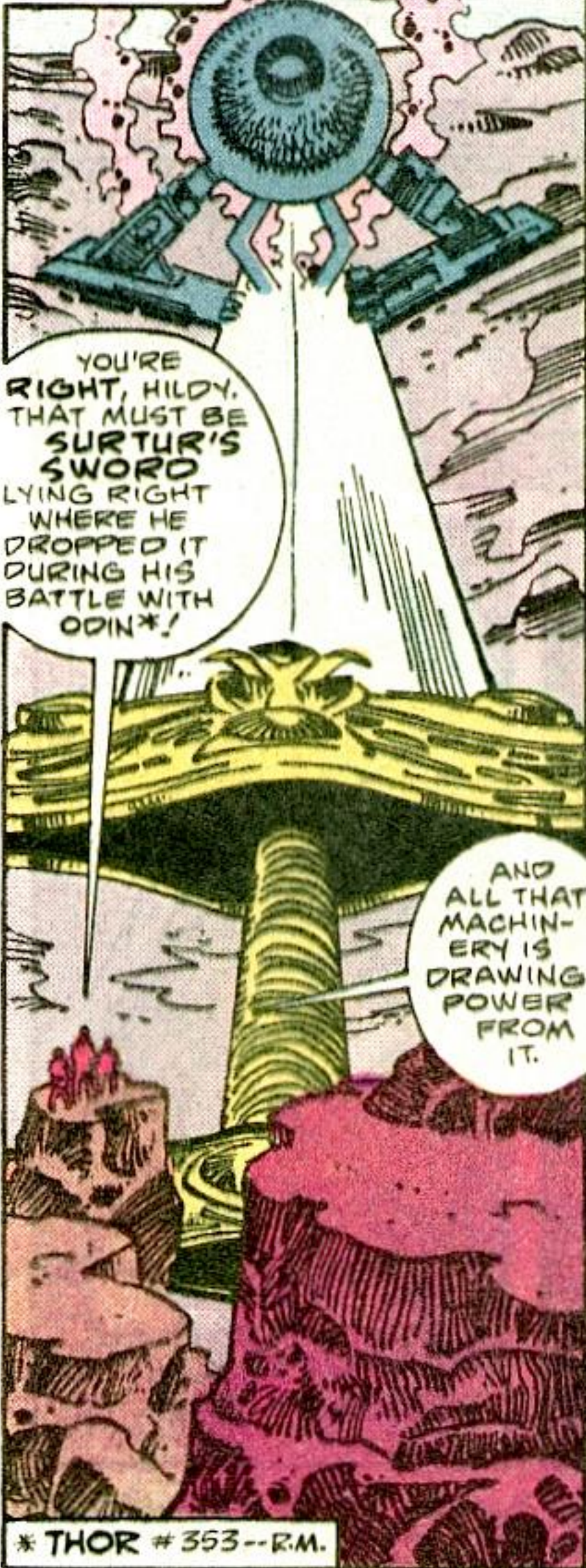
BUT
FIRST,
I'D BETTER
GRAB JUS'
ONE MORE
LITTLE
SNORT...

SNORT!





MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS THAT BORDERS THE CITY OF ASGARD...



YOU'RE RIGHT, HILDY. THAT MUST BE SURTUR'S SWORD LYING RIGHT WHERE HE DROPPED IT DURING HIS BATTLE WITH ODIN*!

AND ALL THAT MACHIN-ERY IS DRAWING POWER FROM IT.

* THOR #353--R.M.



WE'VE GOT TO TELL FRIGGA AND HEIMDALL RIGHT AWAY.

I WONDER WHY HEIMDALL DIDN'T SEE IT!

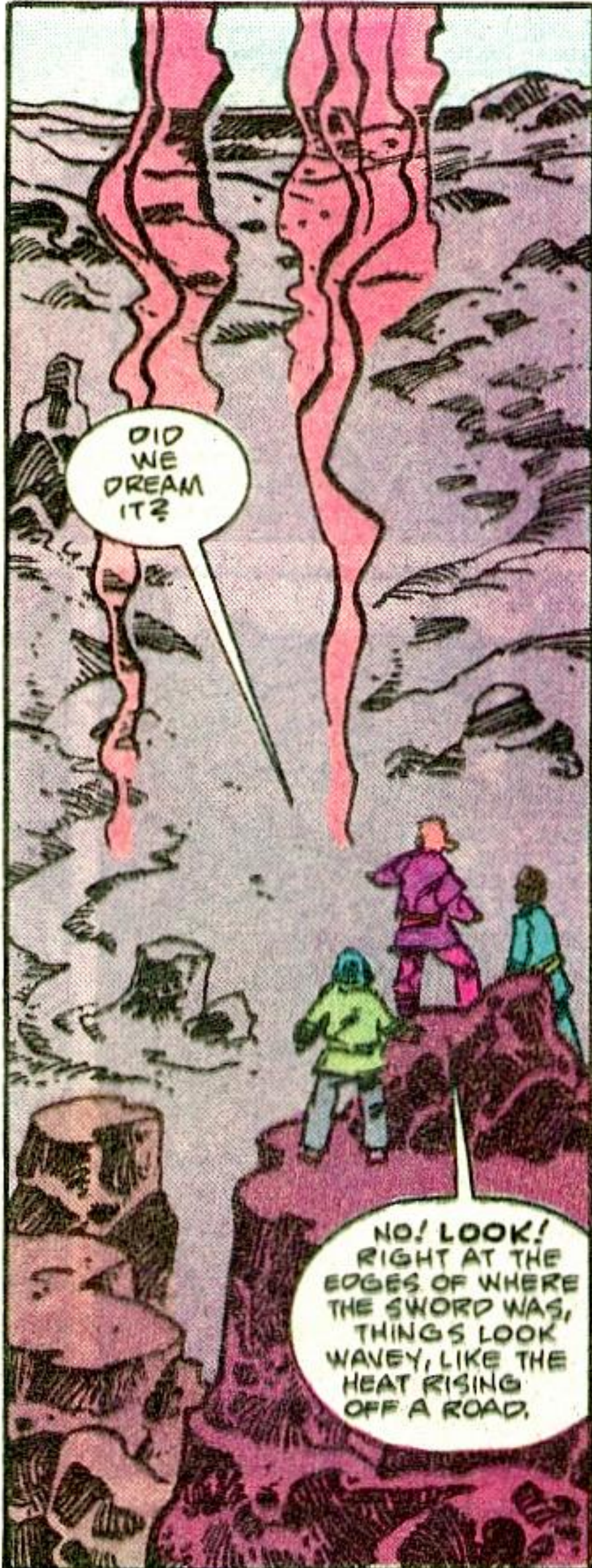


HILDY, WAIT!! LOOK!!

THE SWORD! IT'S GONE!

HUH?

IT CAN'T BE!



DID WE DREAM IT?

NO! LOOK! RIGHT AT THE EDGES OF WHERE THE SWORD WAS, THINGS LOOK WAVEY, LIKE THE HEAT RISING OFF A ROAD.



AND WHEN YOU STEP CLOSER, YOU CAN SEE THE SWORD AGAIN!

THE WHOLE THING IS SURROUNDED BY SOME KIND OF CLOAK-ING SHIELD.

ONLY ONE GOD WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



LOKI'S UP TO NO GOOD AND NOBODY KNOWS IT BUT US!

WE'VE GOT TO GET TO HEIMDALL AND WARN HIM!

MEAWHILE, IN
CENTRAL PARK...

THERE'S THE
RESERVOIR.
WE'RE NEAR-
LY HOME.

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

WE GATHER EVERY
EVENING NEAR THE
GATEHOUSE. HOPE-
FULLY, WE'LL--

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

IT SOUNDED
LIKE A
HISS.

LOOK! DOWN
NEAR THE
WATER'S EDGE.
RATS!

THERE'S GULLY-
WHUMP! IT'S THE
KING'S BODY-
GUARD THE RATS
ARE FIGHTING!

HOLD ON,
YOUR MAJESTY!
I'M COMING!

PUDDLE-
GULP!

THERE ARE TOO MANY
RATS FOR PUDDLEGULP
ALONE TO DRIVE OFF!

AND THOUGH I HAVE URGENT
BUSINESS ELSEWHERE, I CAN-
NOT ABANDON A HOST WHO
OFFERED A STRANGER THE
PROTECTION OF HIS HOME!

ANOTHER
ONE! TEAR
HIM TO
PIECES!

SPAPPT!

THIS FIGHT
SHALL BECOME
THOR'S OWN!

RATSO, LOOK!
ANOTHER FROG!
A GIANT!

HE'LL MAKE
A MEAL FOR
ALL OF US!

THIS FROG, RATSO, WILL MAKE THE TOUGHEST MEAL THAT EVER YOU TRIED TO EAT!



STOMP!
KICK!
KICK!
THUD!
STOMP!
POUND!



GEEZ! WHO IS THIS GUY?



PUMMEL!
THUD!
KICK!



I DUNNO, BUT I AIN'T STAYING AROUND TO FIND OUT!

AND THAT IS THAT!

PUDDLE-GULP?

I'M OKAY, THOR, BUT THE RATS GOT THROUGH THE BODYGUARD.



PUDDLEGULP, IS THAT YOU?

YES, SIRE.

NO! HE MUST NOT! HE IS THE MIRACLE I HAVE PRAYED FOR!

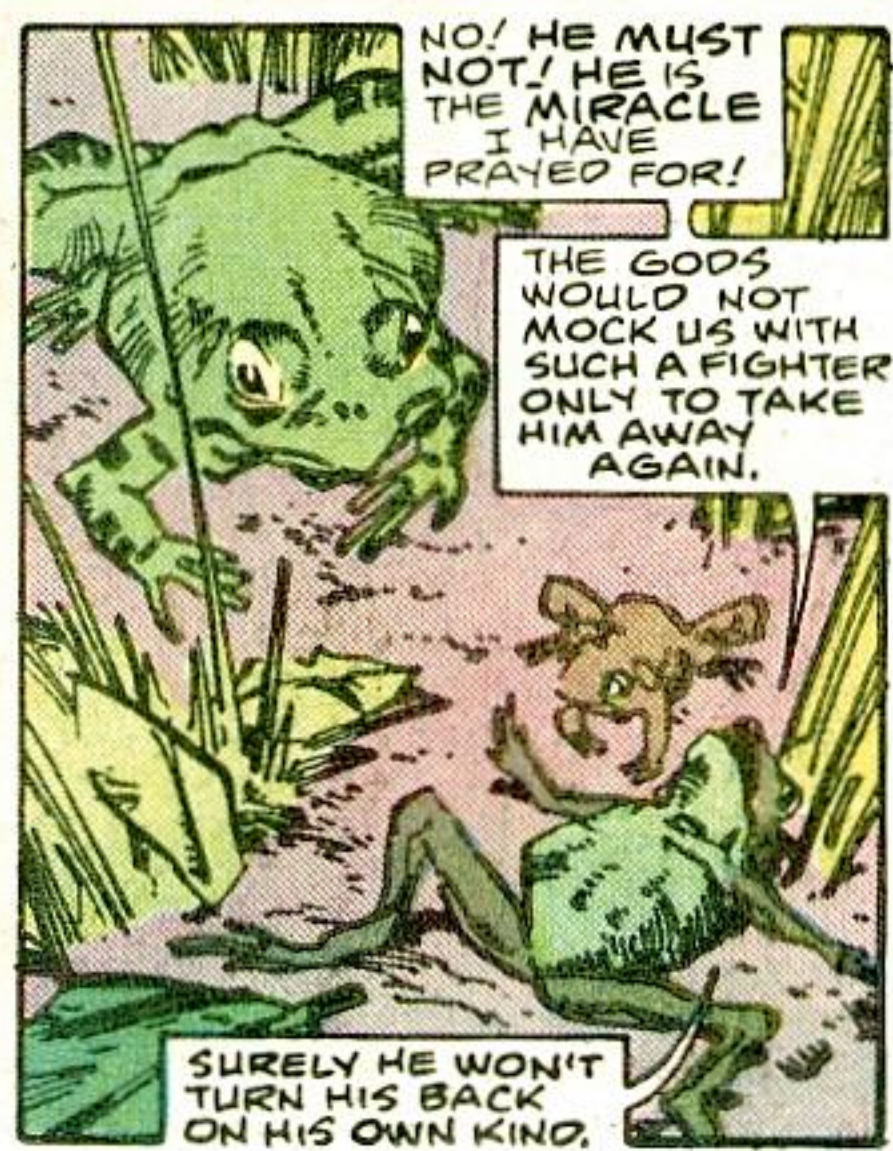
THE GODS WOULD NOT MOCK US WITH SUCH A FIGHTER ONLY TO TAKE HIM AWAY AGAIN.

THE RATS! THEY WERE DRAGGING AN OLD GARBAGE BAG WITH RAT POISON IN IT INTO THE WATER. WE STOPPED THEM.



HIS NAME IS THOR, KING GLUGWORT. HE... IS SIMPLY PASSING THROUGH.

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?



SURELY HE WON'T TURN HIS BACK ON HIS OWN KIND.

THOR! MY KINGDOM!
MY DAUGHTER! TAKE
WHATEVER YOU WANT,
BUT SAVE OUR
PEOPLE!

PROMISE...
PROMISE...
PROMISE...

MAY YOU SWIM
TO SAFE HAVEN,
KING GLUGWORT,
GOODBYE.

FOLLOW ME,
THOR. THE RATS'LL
BE BACK WITH
REINFORCEMENTS
ANY MINUTE!



HERE UNDER THE GATE-
HOUSE, WE CAN GATHER
IN SAFETY.

LOOK!
PUDDLE-
GULP'S
BACK!

HAVE YOU
SEEN MY
FATHER?

PRINCESS, THE KING IS
DEAD, HE WAS SLAIN
BY OUR ENEMIES.

MY FATHER?
DEAD?

AND YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE, PUD-
GULP?
I WOULD
HAVE GIVEN
MY LIFE TO
SAVE MY
LORD.

I AM SORRY,
GREENSONG.

THEN IT'S A PITY
YOU WEREN'T THERE,
BUGEYE!

IS THERE
SOME
PROBLEM?

MY FELLOW
BULLFROGS,
MEET THOR!

HE FOUGHT FEROCIOUSLY
TO SAVE OUR KING, BUT
HE AND I WERE TOO
LATE.

BUGEYE
WANTS THE
PRINCESS FOR
HIS OWN, THOR.
AND HE WANTS
MORE THAN ANY-
THING TO RULE
THE RESERVOIR.

BUT HE'LL NEVER
HAVE EITHER AS LONG
AS I'M ALIVE!

WITH HIS
DYING BREATH,
GLUGWORT CHARGED
THAT WE DO EVERY-
THING WE COULD
TO PERSUADE THOR
TO STAY AND HELP US.

EVEN IF WE HAD
TO GIVE UP THE
KINGDOM... OR
THE PRINCESS!

WHAT? NOT A CHANCE. WHY, THIS THOR MIGHT EVEN BE SOME ENEMY IN DISGUISE, WORKING FOR THE RATS!

PRINCESS! PUDDLE-GULP!

LOOK, IT'S DEWLAP!

LISTEN UP! I'VE JUST COME FROM THE LAKE OVER NEAR THE GREAT CASTLE!

IF I WERE, BUGEYE, I WOULD HAVE MADE SURE YOU WERE WITH THE KING'S BODYGUARD TODAY!

YOU REMIND ME TOO MUCH OF SOMEONE I ALREADY KNOW!

THE RATS ARE COLLECTING THE RAT POISON THAT'S BEEN PLACED AROUND THE PARK.

AND THEY'RE PLANNING TO DUMP IT ALL IN THE RESERVOIR TONIGHT!

WE'RE DOOMED!

POISON IN THE RESERVOIR COULD BE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR MANHATTAN AS WELL AS FOR THE FROGS!

I MUST RETURN TO ASGARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. YET THE INHABITANTS OF MANHATTAN, BOTH HUMAN AND ANIMAL, NEED MY AID!

HOW SHALL I WEIGH THE LIVES OF THOSE UNDER MY PROTECTION AGAINST A POTENTIAL TYRANNY IN MY HOMELAND?

YOU SEE HIM HESITATE! THIS BLOWHARD IS NO SAVIOR WHO WILL LEAD THE FROGS TO VICTORY!

I THINK, LITTLE FROG, YOU HAVE SAID ENOUGH.

FROGS OF THE RESERVOIR, HEED MY WORDS!

I AM A STRANGER HERE AMONG YOU...

...AND THOUGH I HAVE LISTENED TO WHAT HAS BEEN SAID...

DRIVE HIM OUT, AND WE WILL SAVE OURSELVES.

...NO ONE HAS ASKED ME WHAT I WANT MYSELF.

LIVES ARE PRECIOUS TO ME, NO MATTER HOW HUMBLE THEY MAY BE.

AND IF I CAN, I WILL SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SHOWN ME SANCTUARY.

YOU'RE AN OKAY FROG, THOR, BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

I AM NOT SURE,

BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.

WHAT'S TO TELL? THEY EXIST. I AM SURE OF THAT. AND THEY DEVOUR RATS OR FROGS WITH EQUAL INDIFFERENCE.

YOU SAID FROGS HAD SOUGHT THEM OUT BEFORE. HOW?

THROUGH A HIDDEN PASSAGE BELOW THE GATEHOUSE.

GOOD. THEN HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO,

SHORTLY...

I'LL BE BACK, PUDDLEGULP.

I TOLD YOU THAT FROG WOULDN'T BE ANY GOOD TO US! WHAT CAN ONE FROG DO AGAINST THE RATS?

OH, SHUT UP, BUGEYE!

TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THE TERRIBLE DRAGONS YOU SPOKE OF,

BUGEYE MAY BE CORRECT.

BY THEMSELVES, THE FROGS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THE RATS.

I MAY YET BE ABLE TO FIND THE RIGHT KIND OF ALLIES!

BUT I SHALL NEED THE RIGHT KIND OF BAIT!

LOOK! IT'S THAT FROG I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT! AND WE OUTNUMBER HIM TEN TO ONE.

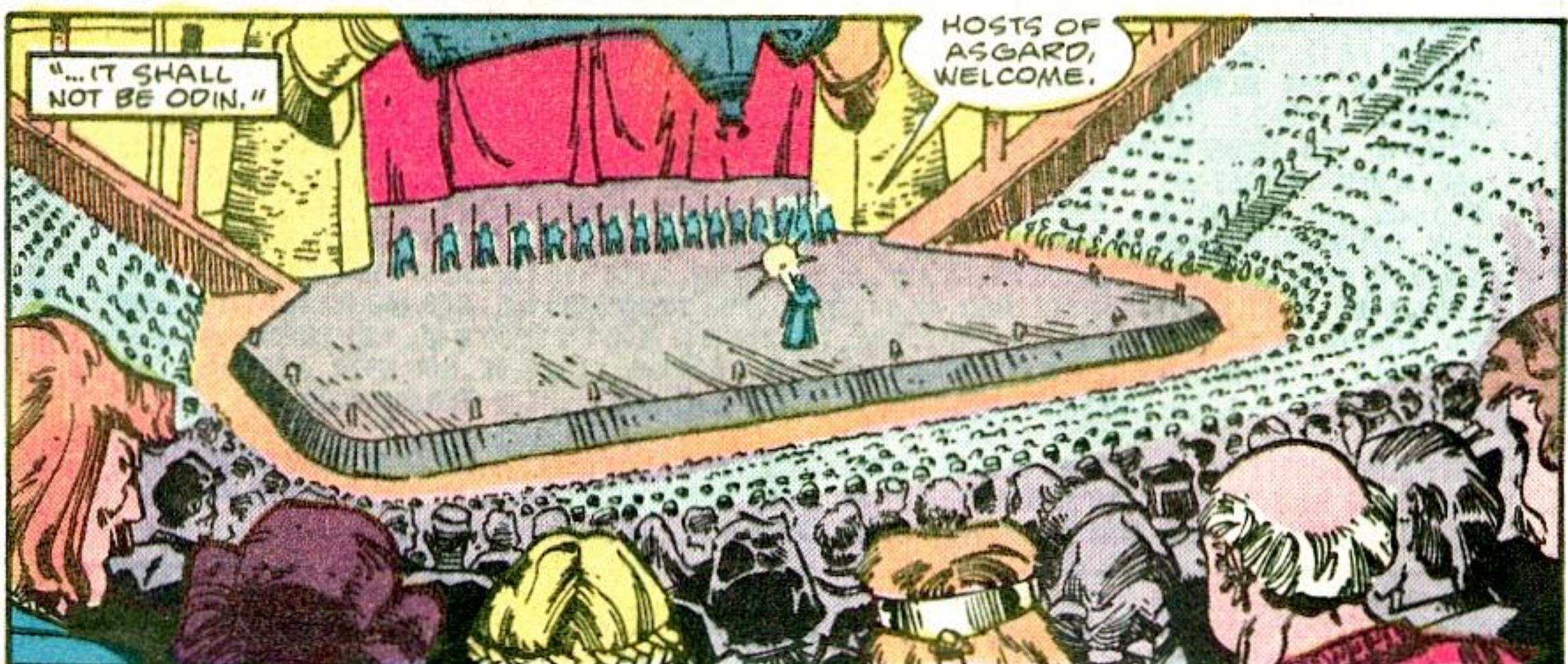
HOW FORTUITOUS OF YOUR VARLETS TO FIND ME, RATSO!

IT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING FOR YOU!

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON FINDING REINFORCEMENTS.

AND PUDDLEGULP'S STORY ABOUT DRAGONS REMINDS ME OF CERTAIN RUMORS THAT HAVE REACHED THE AVENGERS FROM TIME TO TIME.

AND HERE IT IS NOW!



I HOLD
ABOVE ME
THE GREAT
SCEPTER
OF
POWER.

BY ITS
LIGHT, WE
SHALL
SOLEMNIZE
OUR DE-
CISIONS
HERE.

LET ALL
MEN AND WOMEN
SEARCH THEIR HEARTS
AND FIND THE COURAGE
THEREIN TO SPEAK ONLY
TRUTH WITHIN THIS
AMPHITHEATER.

I, FRIGGA,
WIFE OF ODIN,
AND MOTHER
OF THE GODS,
DECLARE THE
GREAT ALTHING
OF ASGARD
OPEN.

CLICK!

NOW,
WE WILL
HEAR
NOMINATIONS
FOR THE
OFFICE OF LAW-
GIVER.

SURELY, ONLY
ODIN'S TRUSTED
ADVISOR AND
CONFIDANT, THE
GRAND THANE,
SHOULD STAND
IN THIS ASSEMBLY
AS LAWGIVER.

WHO
ELSE WOULD
HONOR THAT
SACRED TRUST
OR FULFILL
THAT OFFICE
SO WELL?

SPEAK, ASGARDIANS,
AND TELL ME YOU
AGREE THAT NO
OTHER COULD SO
FAITHFULLY EXECUTE
THOSE DUTIES IN
THIS SOLEMN
HOUR!

MY FRIENDS,
LOKI CLAIMS
THE RIGHT
AS ODIN'S
STEP-SON
TO STAND
BEFORE YOU
NOW.

CAN THERE
BE ANY DOUBT
AS TO WHO WOULD
BEST SERVE ASGARD
IN HER HOUR OF NEED
AS THE LAWGIVER
OF THE ALTHING?

AND THE CHEERS
GO UP FROM THE
MULTITUDES AS
THE GRAND THANE
STEPS FORWARD
TO RECEIVE THE
OFFICE OF LAW-
GIVER.

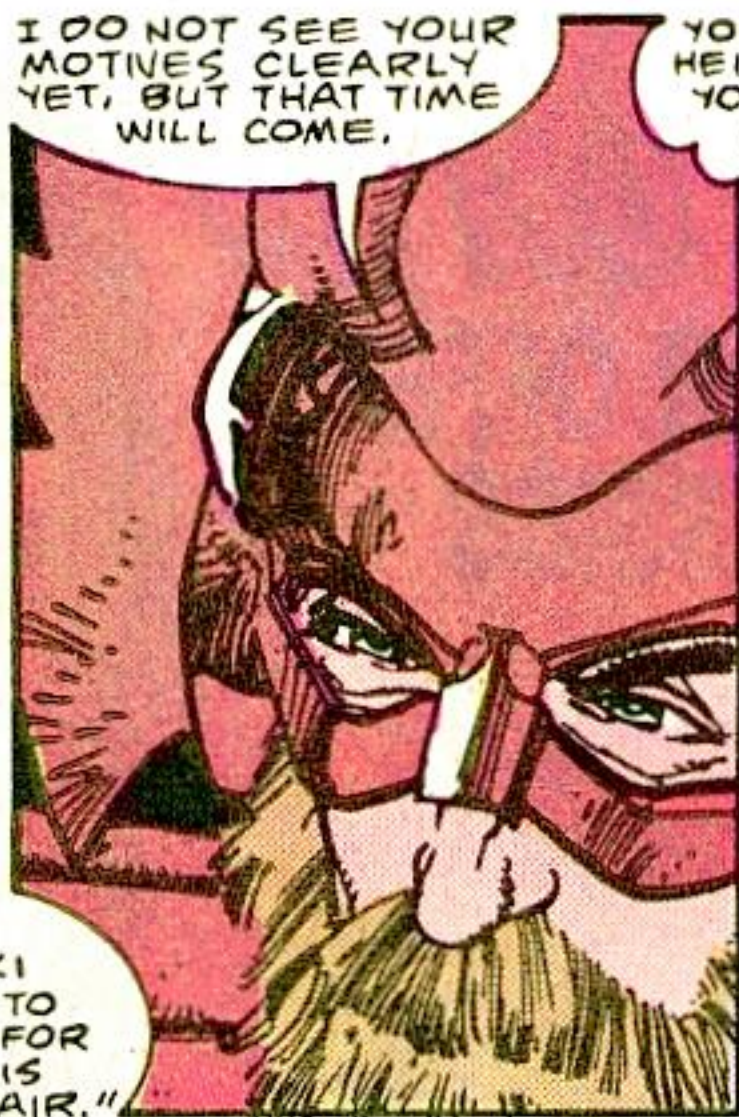


WELL MET, HEIMDALL. WHY SO DOOR?

DO YOU NOT THINK THE CHOICE OF ODIN'S OLD FRIEND A WISE ONE?

SO IT WOULD SEEM, LOKI, BUT YOU HAVE BEEN TOO QUIET OF LATE, AND I AM REMINDED OF AN ANCIENT ADAGE:

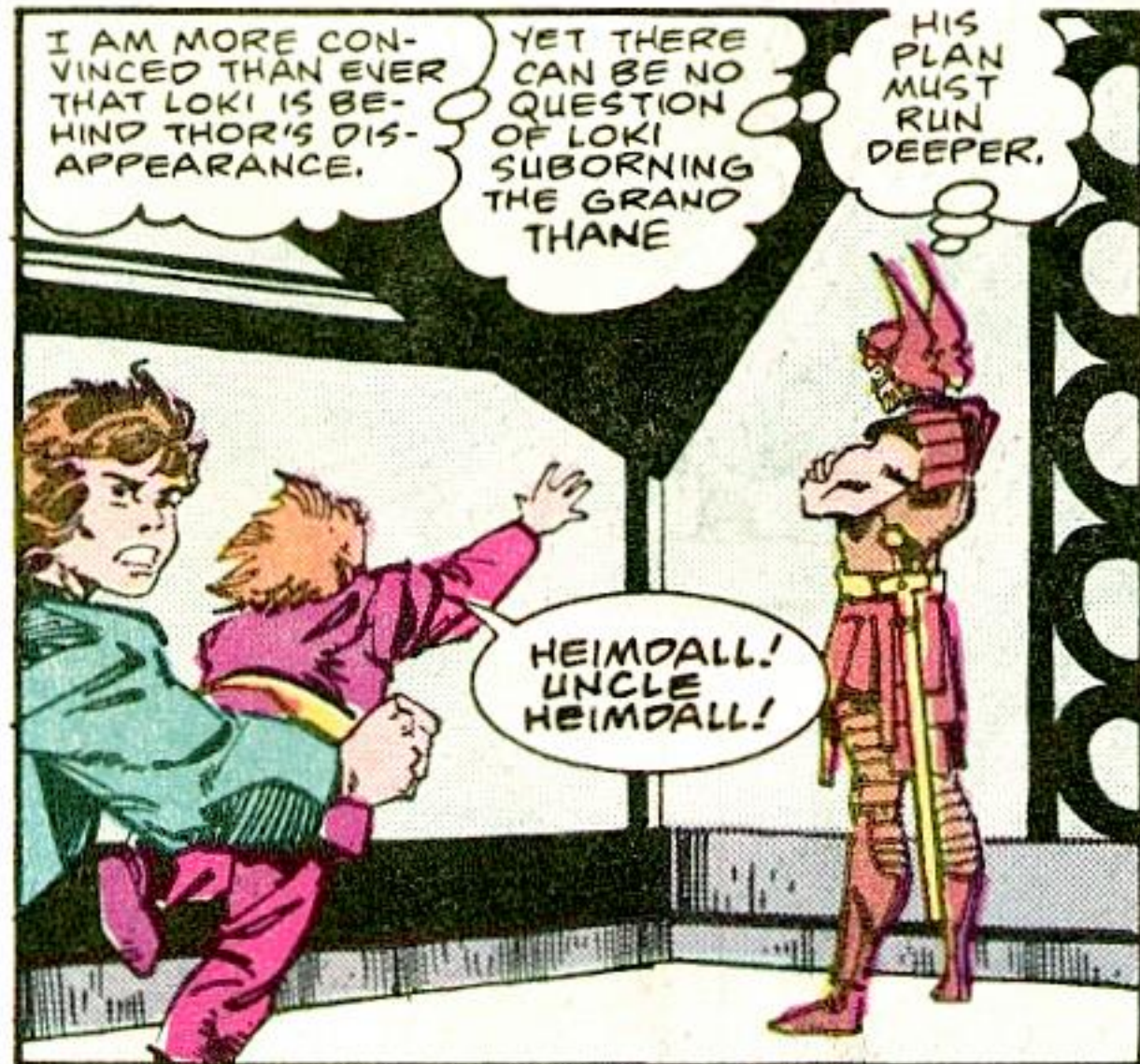
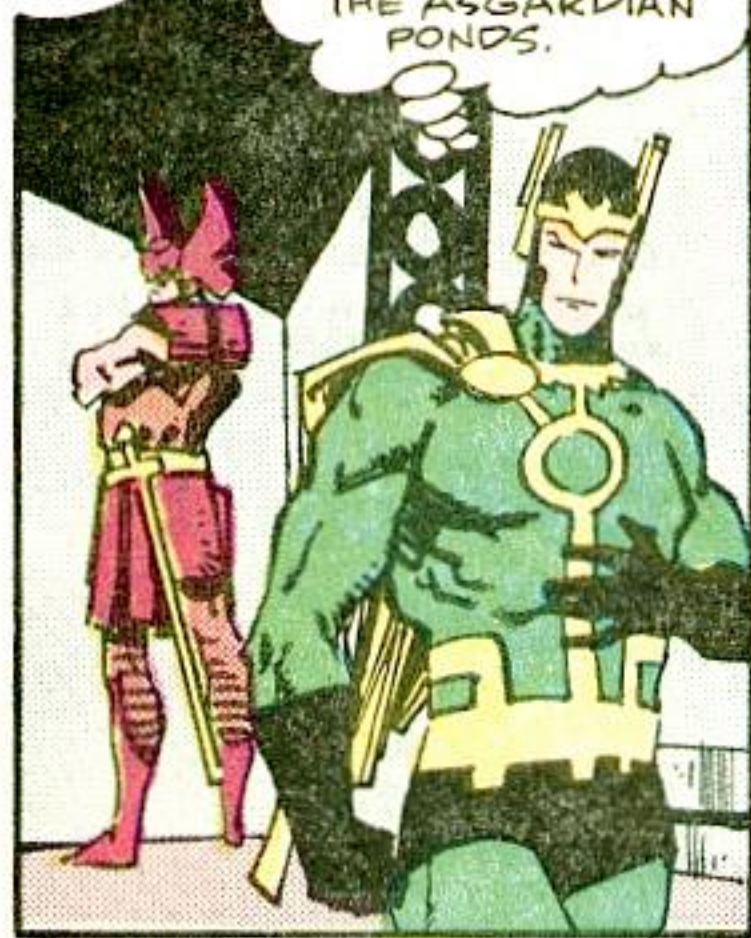
"WHEN THE VOICE OF LOKI IS STILL, LOOK TO THY WEAPONS--FOR SURELY THERE IS MENACE IN THE AIR."



I DO NOT SEE YOUR MOTIVES CLEARLY YET, BUT THAT TIME WILL COME.

YOU SUSPECT, HEIMDALL, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW.

PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR ANOTHER FROG TO GRACE THE ASGARDIAN PONDS.



I AM MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT LOKI IS BEHIND THOR'S DISAPPEARANCE.

YET THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF LOKI SUBORNING THE GRAND THANE

HIS PLAN MUST RUN DEEPER.

HEIMDALL! UNCLE HEIMDALL!

WHAT IS IT, CHILD? YOU'RE TREMBLING!

WE FOUND THE SWORD! BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT! AND LOKI'S ALREADY GOTTEN TO IT! AND BESIDES, THERE'S--

GENTLY, GENTLY, HILDY

SPEAK PLAINLY.

IT'S OUT IN THE WILDERNESS! LOOK!



MY EYES ARE THE BEST IN ASGARD, CHILD, ABLE TO SEE TO THE ENDS OF THE NINE WORLDS, YET I SEE NOTHING THERE.

THAT DISTORTION! IS IT POSSIBLE?

CHILDREN, I WANT YOU TO FIND THE WARRIORS THREE.



SAY NOTHING TO THEM WHEN YOU FIND THEM, BUT SEND THEM TO ME!

THOR MISSING. BALDER GONE WHERE EVEN MY SHARP EYES CANNOT FIND HIM*.



SOME-THING TELLS ME THAT LOKI HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN HIS PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

*THE DETAILS OF BALDER'S WHEREABOUTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BALDER THE BRAVE LIMITED SERIES NOW ON SALE--NO COLLECTION COMPLETE WITHOUT IT!

CITIZENS OF ASGARD,
I CALL UPON THE SONS
OF ODIN TO STAND BY
ME NOW BEFORE THE
ALTHING!

LOKI IS
HERE, LAWGIVER,
TO ANSWER THE
CALL OF THE
ALTHING
PROMPTLY.

AGAIN, I
SUMMON THE MIGHTY
THOR TO TAKE HIS PLACE
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

THOR
DOES NOT
APPEAR!

WHERE
DO YOU
SUPPOSE--

COULD
HE BE--

SURELY
HE WOULD
NEVER--

UNBELIEVABLE
THAT HE SHOULD
MISS THIS--

FOR THE
THIRD AND
FINAL TIME...

...LET THOR
STEP FOR-
WARD OR
FOREVER
STEP
ASIDE.

HOP FORWARD IS
MORE LIKE IT, OLD MAN,
BUT 'TIS A LONG JUMP
FROM MIDGARD TO
ASGARD.

I BEG THE
ALTHING FOR-
GIVE MY TARDINESS,
A PRESSING
MATTER OF
BUSINESS!

WELL MET,
BROTHER!

AND WITH A CLOAK OF
DISRUPTION DRAWN
ABOUT HIS CHARIOT
AND HAMMER...

...NO
ASGARDIAN WILL
FIND A TRACE
OF THOR UNTIL
FAR TOO LATE...EH?

THOR!

BUT LET US TURN FROM THIS
ASTONISHING APPEARANCE IN
THE FABLED REALM OF AS-
GARD AND PEER FAR BENEATH
THE SURFACE OF CENTRAL PARK
IN NEW YORK CITY...

...WHERE
WE
FIND...

IT APPEARS
THAT THE
RUMORS
WERE
CORRECT.

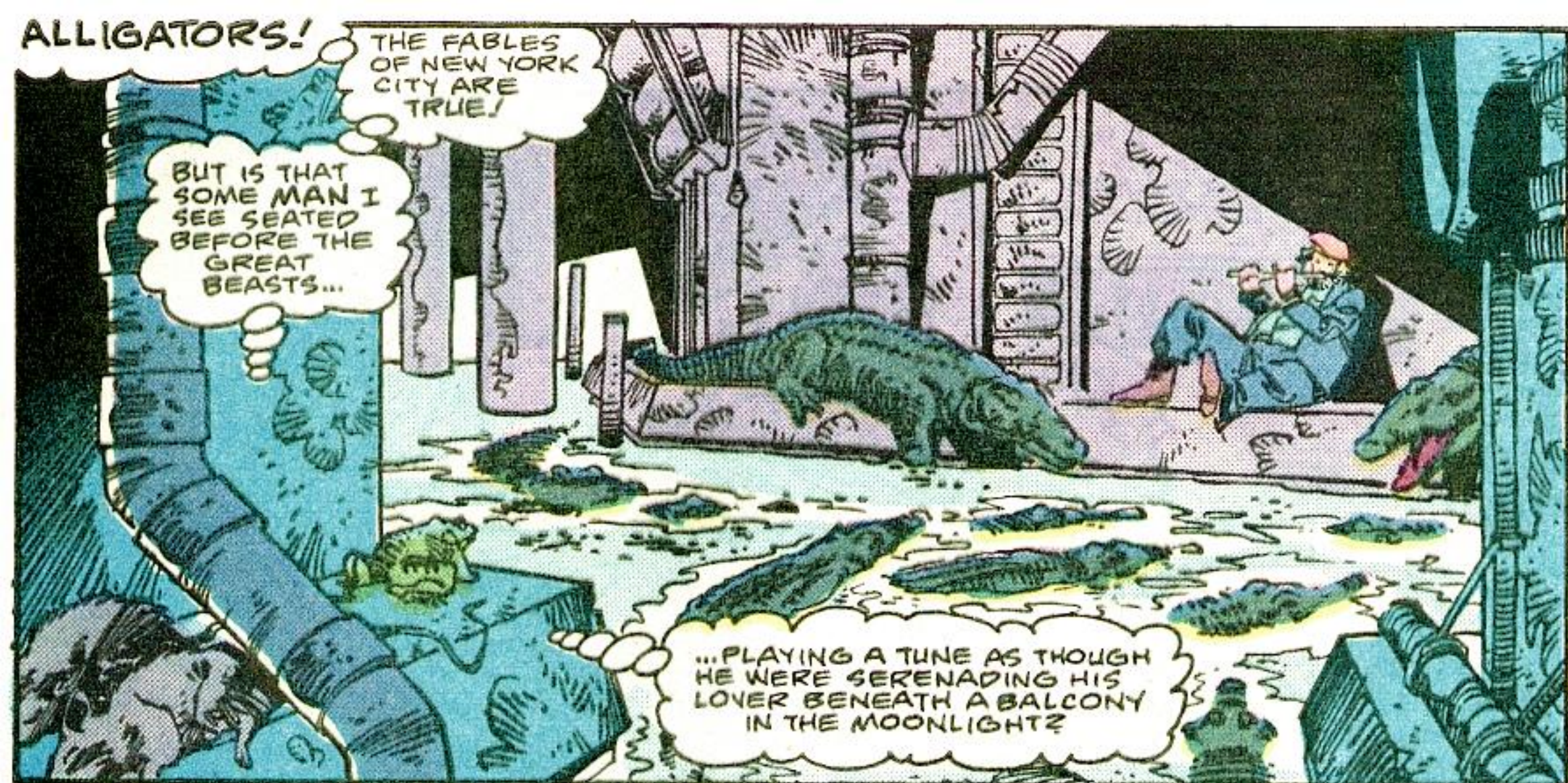
THE OPENING IN
THE GATEHOUSE
HAS LED ME TO
A SERIES OF
INTERCONNECTED
TUNNELS THAT
ANGLE EVER
DEEPER INTO
THE DARK.

AND PUDDLE-
GULP'S TALE
OF THE
DRAGONS BE-
GINS TO MAKE
SENSE.

NOW 'TIS TIME TO
LEAVE ANOTHER
RAT IN THE TRAIL
ALONG MY PATH
FROM THE PARK.

THE LIGHT
AHEAD OF
ME IS
GROWING
STRONGER.
MY DESTINA-
TION MUST
BE JUST
AROUND
THAT
FURTHER
CORNER!

AS I SUS-
PECTED!



ALLIGATORS!
THE FABLES
OF NEW YORK
CITY ARE
TRUE!

BUT IS THAT
SOME MAN I
SEE SEATED
BEFORE THE
GREAT
BEASTS...

...PLAYING A TUNE AS THOUGH
HE WERE SERENADING HIS
LOVER BENEATH A BALCONY
IN THE MOONLIGHT?



EH? WHAT'S
THAT MOVE-
MENT IN THE
SHADOWS
OVER
THERE?

A... FROG!
TOWING A
BUNCH OF
RATS
BEHIND
HIM??!

HE'S
SEEN
ME!

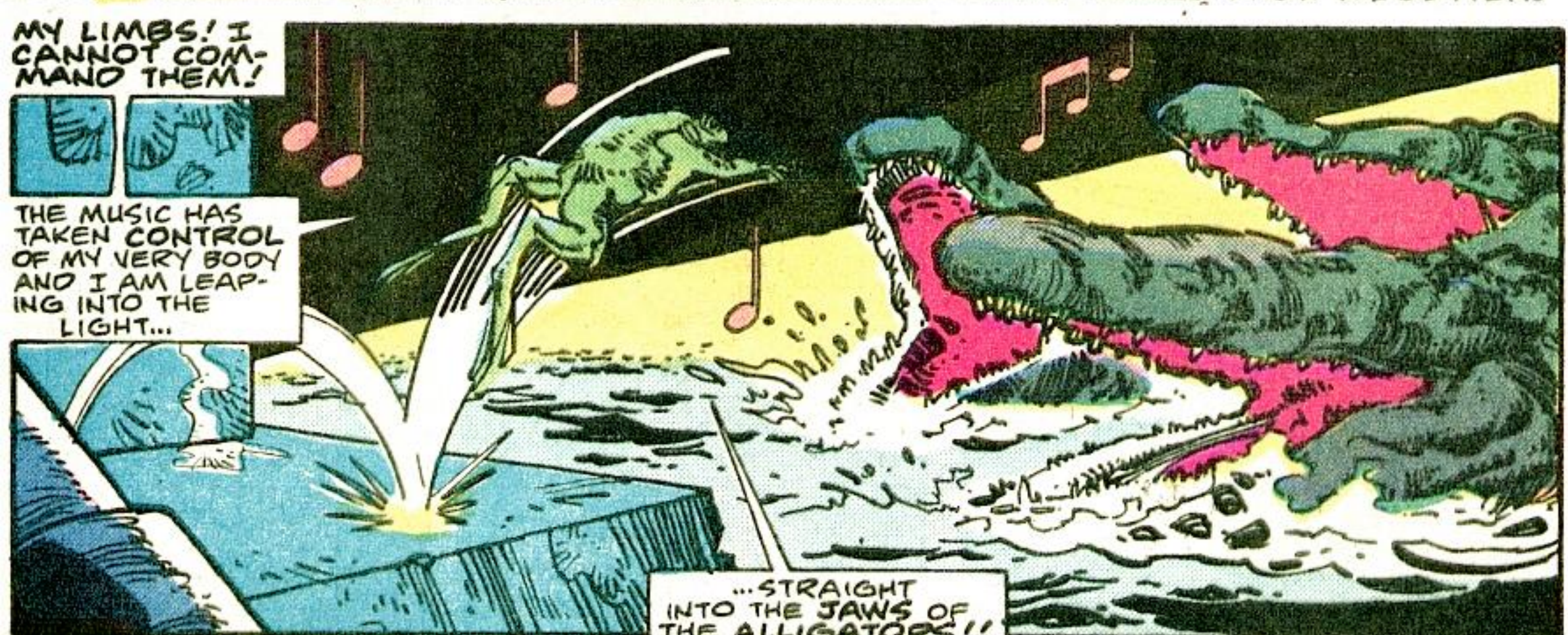


I'D BEST WITHDRAW
INTO THE DARK UNTIL I
KNOW MORE ABOUT
THIS SITUATION.



COME BACK, LITTLE
FRIEND. I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT SORT OF
FROG HAULS RATS
THROUGH THE TUN-
NELS OF THE ALLEY!

PIPER HAS THE TUNE
FOR YOU, COME BACK,
AND LET US GET TO
KNOW YOU BETTER!



MY LIMBS! I
CANNOT COM-
MAND THEM!

THE MUSIC HAS
TAKEN CONTROL
OF MY VERY BODY
AND I AM LEAP-
ING INTO THE
LIGHT...

...STRAIGHT
INTO THE JAWS OF
THE ALLIGATORS!!

NEXT ISSUE:
GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!
OR IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN!!
(WITH APOLOGIES
TO THE
MOVIES AND
THE MUPPETS!)

THIS ISSUE IS FOR CATAPULT, CARL BARKS AND ALL THE OTHER HEROES AND VILLAINS OF DUCKBURG.