

MARVEL  
25<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



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374  
DEC

# the mighty THOR

GUEST-STARRING  
**X-FACTOR...**  
OR WHAT'S LEFT  
OF THEM!





# STAN LEE PRESENTS: **the MIGHTY THOR**

LONG AGO, FAR BENEATH THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN, A SERIES OF TUNNELS WERE BUILT, ABANDONED, AND EVENTUALLY FORGOTTEN.

IN TIME, THE MORLOCKS, A CLAN OF MUTANTS, TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN THE EMPTY CATACOMBS AND LIVED THERE IN SECRET.

BUT NOW, THE SECRET IS OUT! SOMEONE IS KILLING THE MORLOCKS...

...AND THE MIGHTY THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, IS FACE TO FACE WITH THREE OF THE ASSASSINS!

IT SEEMS THAT MUTANTS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES THE ASSASSINS ARE INTERESTED IN KILLING!

HEADS UP, GOLDILOCKS! 'CAUSE THIS TIME THEY'RE GONNA BE CARRYIN' YOU OUT FEET FIRST!

# FIRES <sup>of the</sup> NIGHT!

WRITING...  
**WALTER SIMONSON**  
DRAWING...  
**SAL BUSCEMA**

LETTERING...  
**JOHN WORKMAN**  
COLORING...  
**MAX SCHEBLE**

EDITING...  
**RALPH MACCHIO**  
EDITING IN CHIEF...  
**JIM SHOOTER**

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YOU SCARED US OFF WITH A LITTLE MUMBO-JUMBO THE FIRST TIME AROUND, BUT THE MARAUDERS ARE READY FOR YOU NOW!



LAST ISSUE  
-RAIF-ETH

NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN SURVIVE THE POWER OF MY ENERGY LANCES!

AND HARPOON CLAIMS FIRST BLOOD!



SCREAM!

VAIN-GLORIOUS BOASTER!

I AM NO HELPLESS PREY AWAITING THE SLAUGHTER, BUT A WARRIOR OF ASGARD, WIELDER OF THE HAMMER, AND SCION OF ODIN!

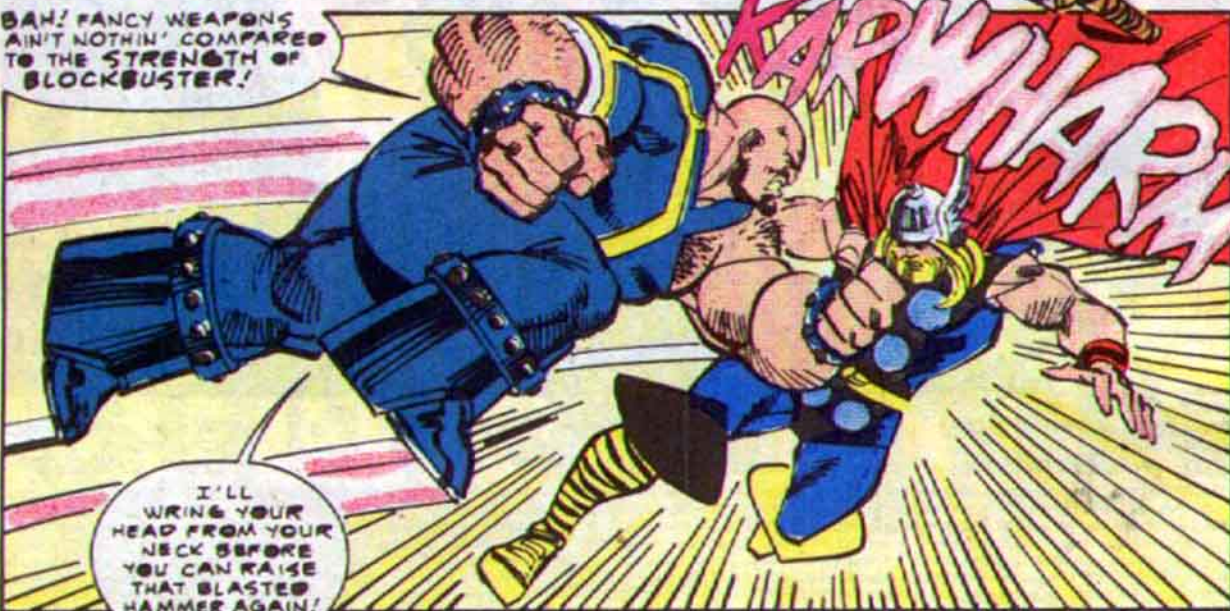
THE ENERGY OF YOUR WEAPON IS AS THE EMPTY AIR COMPARED TO THE POWER OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR!



KCHRATHOUM!

BAH! FANCY WEAPONS AIN'T NOTHIN' COMPARED TO THE STRENGTH OF BLOCKBUSTER!

KAPWHARH



I'LL WRING YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR NECK BEFORE YOU CAN RAISE THAT BLASTED HAMMER AGAIN!





YOU HAD BEST MOVE MORE QUICKLY IF YOU EXPECT TO WRITE THOR'S EPITAPH.

NO FORCE OF MORTAL MAN CAN STAY MY HAND OR THE POWER OF MY HAMMER!

**WHRAACKKK!**



ARRGHH! VERTIGO! QUICK! ZAP HIM!

THAT'S ENOUGH FROM YOU, HANDSOME. WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH YOU, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND UP, LET ALONE LIFT YOUR HAMMER!



DIZZINESS ASSAILS ME FROM EVERY QUARTER!

AND IF I FALL, THEN SURELY MY FOES WILL OVERCOME ME!



A VORTEX SPUN BY M'JOLNIR MAY REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF VERTIGO'S ATTACK!

LET FIRE FIGHT FIRE! ARE YOU PROOF AGAINST YOUR OWN POWER, LADY?

OHHHHH!

I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!



ENOUGH!

LET THE LIGHTNING AND THE STORM SPEAK WITH THE VOICE OF THOR!



**BARRRRROUM**

THE HEAT! I CAN'T STAND IT!



FLEE, CRAVENS!  
YOU WILL NOT  
ESCAPE THE WRATH  
OF THOR!

JUST RETRIBUTION  
SHALL BE YOUR LOT  
FOR THE FOUL DEEDS  
YOU HAVE WROUGHT  
HERE BENEATH THE  
EARTH!

BUT WHAT  
OF THEIR  
LATEST  
VICTIM?

UHHHHH.

HE SEEMS  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
SCORES OF DEAD  
I HAVE SEEN  
WITHIN THE  
TUNNELS. YET  
HIS FEATURES  
ARE VAGUELY  
FAMILIAR.

HE WEARS THE  
TATTERED  
REMAINS OF  
A UNIFORM  
AND BEARS  
THE WOUNDS  
OF RECENT  
BATTLE

HE WAS NOT  
GOING QUIETLY  
TO HIS DEATH  
AS OTHERS THE  
MARAUDERS  
HAVE SLAIN  
HERE.

HIS WOUNDS  
ARE  
GRAVE,  
HIS HEAD  
FEVER-  
ISH.

THOUGH  
I AM NO  
LONGER  
THE MORTAL  
DOCTOR  
AS I ONCE  
WAS, EVEN  
A BLIND MAN  
WOULD KNOW  
THAT THE  
NEED FOR  
MEDICAL  
ATTENTION IS  
URGENT!

UHHHH. IS  
ARTIE SAFE?  
DID... HE  
MAKE IT?

I DO  
NOT  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THY  
QUESTION.

I GUESS  
HE DIDN'T.  
I... CAN'T  
SEEM TO  
GET ANY-  
THING  
RIGHT  
ANYMORE.

JUST LEAVE  
ME ALONE  
...LET ME DIE.

THE WILL TO  
LIVE IS VITAL  
IF HE IS TO  
SURVIVE HIS  
INJURIES.

THE DOCTOR  
I ONCE WAS  
DEMANDS THAT  
I SUCCOR HIS  
NEEDS, BUT THE  
VIKING WARRIOR  
IS NOT SO SURE.

HE HAS GIVEN  
HIS ALL IN BATTLE AND  
VALHALLA WOULD BE HIS REWARD IN MY  
WORLD. SHOULD I DENY HIM HIS  
DYING WISH IN THIS ONE?

SCHRIRIIK

EH?





THE LIGHTNING AND THE HEAT HAVE WEAKENED THE STRUCTURE OF THE TUNNEL DANGEROUSLY.

COME, MY WINGED FRIEND. DYING OR NOT, I CANNOT LEAVE YOU HERE IN THE BLACKNESS TO PERISH ALONE AND UNHERALDED.

TOGETHER, WE SHALL SEEK THE SUN...



...AND NONE TO ANY WHO COME BETWEEN US AND OUR GOAL.



AND THE GOD OF THUNDER WALKS WITH HIS BURDEN INTO THE NIGHT SO DARK...



...WHILE WORLDS AWAY IN THE REALM OF ASGARD, ON THE VERY BORDERS OF FANTASY...

...A LONE RIDER REINS IN HIS MOUNT AND STARES FOR A MOMENT AT THE DESOLATION STRETCHING BEFORE HIM AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.



THE ENDLESS DESERT IS WELL NAMED, MUNINN. AND YET, THROUGH ALL ITS VAST AND EMPTY REACHES...

...I HAVE FELT THE BURNING GAZE OF UNBLINKING EYES THAT SEE EVERYTHING WITH THE SHARPNESS OF THE RAZOR.

CAWWW!  
CAWWW!



INDEED, MUNINN, I, TOO, FEEL THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER. THE TIME HAS COME.

HEAR ME!  
'TIS BALDER OF THE WHITE RING WHO CALLS!

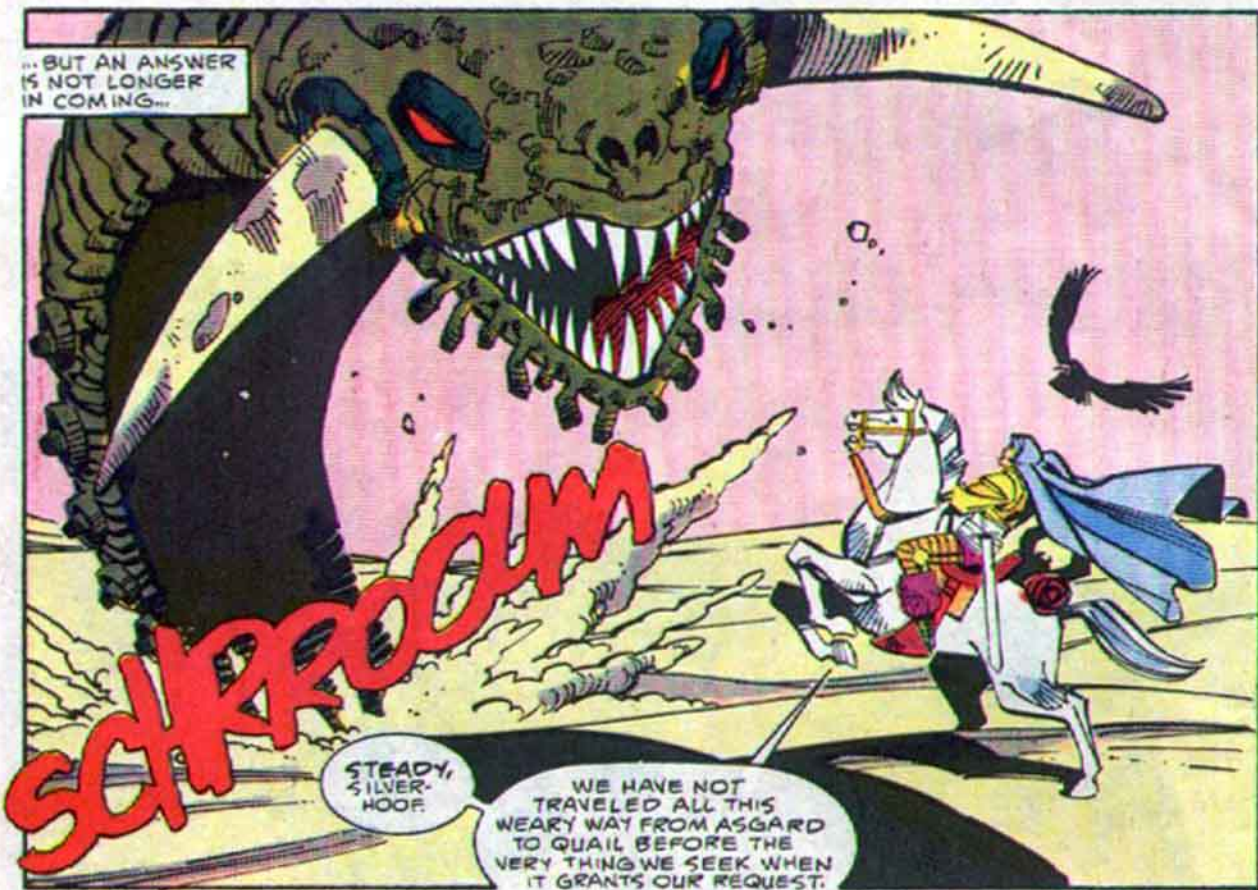
I SEEK AN AUDIENCE. GRANT ME THIS BOON FOR THE SAKE OF THE TOKEN I WEAR.



THE SILENCE IS PROFOUND, SPEAKING VOLUMES AND SAYING NOTHING...



...BUT AN ANSWER IS NOT LONGER IN COMING...



STEADY, SILVER-HOOF.

WE HAVE NOT TRAVELED ALL THIS WEARY WAY FROM ASGARD TO QUAIL BEFORE THE VERY THING WE SEEK WHEN IT GRANTS OUR REQUEST.

YES, MUNINN. WE HAVE FOUND THE OBJECT OF OUR SEARCH.

CANNN!  
CANNN!



YOU HAVE COURAGE, LITTLE GOD, TO STAND BOLDLY BEFORE THE SLAYER OF SO MANY LITTLE GODS.

WHAT DO YOU WISH?

I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU.



EVEN KNOWING THAT MERELY TO SPEAK TO ME MAY BE ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF YOUR VERY LIFE?

WE ARE ALL OF US IN THE HANDS OF FATE. EVEN THE GODS.





WYRD BIDS  
THEE WELCOME,  
GENTLE  
BALDER.

FEW INDEED  
WEAR THE TOKENS  
OF THE SISTERS OF  
FATE AND FEWER  
STILL HAVE EVER  
RETURNED TO SEEK  
A SECOND  
AUDIENCE. \*



\*Balder met  
the fates a  
long time  
back, gentle  
readers  
-- Gentle  
Raif

NECESSITY  
COMPELLED  
MY JOURNEY,  
MY LADY.

I HAVE COME TO  
ASK A FAVOR. ONE  
WHICH ONLY THE  
FATES THEM-  
SELVES CAN  
GRANT.



THE FATES ARE  
NOTORIOUSLY  
FICKLE,  
BUT WE CANNOT  
REFUSE THE  
UNSELFISH  
REQUEST OF  
BALDER  
THE SHINING  
WHO WEARS  
THE WHITE  
TOKEN.



BUT BEWARE,  
MY BRAVE.  
WYRD MAY ONE  
DAY ASK THAT  
THE FAVOR BE  
RETURNED.



THIS IS WHAT YOU  
HAVE COME FOR, IS  
IT NOT? A VIAL OF  
WATER FROM THE  
WELL OF LIFE  
ITSELF?



USE IT WISELY,  
SUCH A GIFT  
CANNOT BE  
GIVEN  
TWICE.

BUT--  
HOW DID  
YOU  
KNOW?



DID YOU YOURSELF  
NOT SAY, "THE  
BURNING GAZE OF  
UNBLINKING EYES  
THAT SEE EVERYTHING,"  
BALDER?



WHEN THE RAVEN,  
MUNINN, RETURNED  
TO ASGARD FROM  
THE DEPTHS OF  
MUSPELHEIM, HE  
CAME  
ALONE.

AND THE FATE  
OF BALDER IS OF  
SPECIAL INTEREST  
TO THE WATCHING  
EYES OF THE THREE  
SISTERS.

HIS  
BROTHER,  
HUGINN, DID  
NOT RETURN.

BUT MUNINN  
BROUGHT A SINGLE  
FEATHER BACK FROM  
THAT LAND OF  
FIRE. \*



AND WHEN  
MUNINN GAVE  
ME THE FEATHER,  
I THOUGHT OF  
WYRD'S WELL  
OF LIFE.

long ago and far away  
--THOR 344--RM.





MY LADY WYRD, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I THANK--

MY LADY?

GONE LIKE THE WIND ACROSS THE SANDS.

AND YET, I THINK SHE ALREADY KNOWS MY THOUGHT.

MY THANKS, LADY, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE. THE GRATITUDE OF BALDR IS THINE.

COME, MUNINN! COME, HUGINN! THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD AWAITS OUR RETURN!



EARTH--THE DEEP TUNNELS BENEATH MANHATTAN...

LOOKS LIKE OUR JOB'S JUST ABOUT DONE, SABER-TOOTH. TOO BAD ABOUT THAT GUY WITH THE WINGS.

HE'S LUCKY THOR SHOWED UP WHEN HE DID. I SURE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NAILED HIM BUT HE WAS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM SHATTER MY HARPOON!

PITY I WASN'T WITH YOU, HARPOON. THERE ISN'T MUCH MY CLAWS WON'T CUT, AND MY SPEED'S SECOND TO NONE.

GOD OR NO GOD, I COULD HAVE TORN HIM APART!



OF COURSE, OUR TEAM DOES HAVE A STRONG MAN ON IT, BUT I SUPPOSE HE JUST WASN'T UP TO IT.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR MORLOCKS MAYBE, BUT NOT FOR A GOD, OR WHATEVER THOR REALLY IS.

BUT IT'S TOUGH TO GET GOOD HELP.

RIGHT, BLOCK-BUSTER?



AW, LET HIM ALONE, SABER-TOOTH. YOU WEREN'T THERE, YOU DIDN'T GET SINGED BY THAT LIGHTNING.

"GOOD ENOUGH FOR MORLOCKS, BUT NOT FOR A GOD." SIMP!

AND THEN I'M GONNA COME BACK, MR. SMART GUY, AND TAKE YOU APART, CLAW BY CLAW!



I'M GONNA FIND GOLD-LOCKS AND WRING HIS NECK LIKE I PROMISED!











HEADS UP, CHUMP! I AIN'T BLOWIN' IT THIS TIME!

**SKRUAAUM!**

RUN, LITTLE ONE! THIS FOE IS BEYOND YOU!



**SNAP!**

AIN'T NO SECOND CHANCES WITH THIS DUDE! GOTTA HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING I CAN!



**BWHAAM!**



MY HAMMER! IT'S STILL AT MY SIDE!

AND THIS TIME IT'S GONNA STAY THERE!

YOU AIN'T GETTIN' THE CHANCE TO USE IT AGAIN!

THAT... NOISE. WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE GIANT WHO HELPED PIN ME TO THE WALL! HE'S... ABOUT TO KILL SOMEBODY ELSE!

NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT! NOT WHILE I STILL DRAW BREATH!



MIC 152  
--RM



MY WINGS CAN'T  
CARRY MY WEIGHT,  
BUT I WON'T BE  
DOING ANY MORE  
FLYING ANYWAY!

HUH?

SHOULD'A PLAYED  
DEAD, CHUCKLE-  
HEAD! MAYBE IF I  
RIP OUT A FEW  
MORE OF YER  
FEATHERS, YOU'LL  
GET A LITTLE  
SMARTER!

AAAAAAA  
GGGGG!

WELL, WADDYA  
KNOW. THE WINGED  
WONDER IS BACK!

A MOMENT'S  
RESPIRE HAS  
REVIVED ME,  
BUT AT WHAT  
COST?

NOW MUST  
COME THE  
MOMENT OF  
RECKONING!

BLOCKBUSTER!  
MINION OF EVIL!  
TURN AND FACE THE  
SON OF ODIN!

EVERYBODY'S COMIN'  
BACK FROM THE DEAD  
TODAY! I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF YOU IN A SECOND,  
GOLDBLOCKS!

MAY HELA, GODDESS  
OF DEATH, DEAL WITH  
YOU AS YOU  
DESERVE,  
ASSASSIN!

**KRASHH!!**

YOUR  
TIME, BLOCK-  
BUSTER, HAS  
RUN OUT!



BUT YOU, BRAVE WARRIOR, YOU HAVE SAVED THE LIFE OF THE THUNDER GOD AND THOR SHALL NEVER FORGET IT.

MAY THE FATES GRANT THAT YOU SURVIVE.

'TWOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR SUCH A BRAVE WARRIOR TO PERISH.



WE HAD BEST SEE ABOUT FINDING A WAY OUT OF THIS LABYRINTH OF--YES, ARTIE?



ANOTHER OF YOUR VISIONS? A MAN AND WOMAN WEARING UNIFORMS SIMILAR TO THAT OF OUR ANGEL. HIS COMPANIONS?



THEY LOOK FAMILIAR SOMEHOW. I SEEM TO REMEMBER THEM FROM SOME OTHER TIME AND PLACE.



AND THE TUG ON MY ARM TELLS ME THAT YOU MAY KNOW HOW TO FIND THEM.



LEAD ON, CHILD. I WILL BRING OUR FALLEN ANGEL.

AGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS HATH FLED HIS BATTERED BODY.

BUT HE HATH PERFORMED THIS DAY AS A WARRIOR TRUE AND WE SHALL REMOVE HIM SAFELY FROM THIS DANK AND EVIL REALM.





MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN ASGARD, IN THE HOUSE OF VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS...



KEVIN?  
MICK?

**NOK  
NOK!**

NO SOUND  
WITHIN.  
PERHAPS THEY  
ARE ASLEEP.



SURELY THEY WOULD  
NOT HAVE FLED INTO  
THE -- BUT NO, I HEAR THE  
SOUND OF TINY  
VOICES.

DAD  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE  
WANTED  
US TO  
CRY,  
KEV.

THAT'S WHAT BEIN'  
BRAVE WAS ALL  
ABOUT. MOM ALWAYS  
SAID DAD WAS THE  
BRAVEST MAN SHE  
EVER MET 'CAUSE  
AFTER ALL, HE MARRIED  
HER.

BUT MOM'S NOT  
HERE AND I  
WANT HER. I  
WANT TO GO  
HOME.



WHY WOULD  
SHE GO AWAY AND  
LEAVE US ALONE?



WHERE  
IS SHE?

MY CHILDREN, YOUR  
MOTHER SLEEPS  
PEACEFULLY IN THE  
GENTLE EMBRACE OF  
THE EARTH.

HER  
TIME IN  
THIS WORLD  
IS DONE. IT IS  
THE WAY OF  
ALL LIVING  
THINGS.



BUT YOUR  
TIME IS JUST  
BEGINNING.

AND NO ONE SHOULD  
THINK OF GOING  
ANYWHERE ON AN  
EMPTY STOMACH!

SO  
COME  
WITH ME,  
LITTLE  
ONES.



I  
HAVE MANY  
CHILDREN  
OF MY OWN  
AND THEY ARE  
WAITING FOR  
US IN THE  
DINING  
ROOM.

WE'LL  
FEED  
YOU FOODS  
TO TOUGHEN  
YOU UP  
PROPERLY...



...AND MAKE HARDIER  
MORTALS OF YOU  
THAN HAVE EVER  
TROP THE GOLDEN  
PATHS OF ASGARD  
BEFORE!

FATHER?

THEY'RE  
HERE!



AND SUDDENLY, VOLSTAGG'S DINING ROOM IS INUNDATED WITH CHILDREN!

HI! FATHER TOLD US YOU MIGHT COME DOWN FOR BREAKFAST, BUT WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM! DADDY'S SUCH A LIAR!

HE SAID YOU CAME FROM MIDGARD!

THAT'S EARTH, YOUNG LADY.

ER... I... GUESS WE DO.

I'M MICK. THIS IS KEVIN. HE DOESN'T SAY MUCH.

I'M GUNNHILD, BUT NOBODY CALLS ME THAT BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE IT! I'M REALLY HILDY!

AND YOU'RE REALLY FROM EARTH? THAT'S GREAT!

NONE OF US HAVE EVER BEEN TO EARTH. WE WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!

WELL...

YOU CAN SIT HERE NEXT TO ME.

I WANT TO SIT NEXT TO THEM!

NO, ME!

WHY CAN'T THEY SIT HERE?

MAYBE WE CAN GO THERE SOMETIME WITH YOU!

MOMMM!



MEANWHILE, IN THE TUNNELS BENEATH MANHATTAN...

LITTLE ARTIE'S ABILITIES ARE FASCINATING.

HIS VISIONS SEEM NOT ONLY TO BE ABLE TO SHOW HIS THOUGHTS, BUT ALSO TO GUIDE HIM WHERE HE WISHES TO GO.

IT IS AS THOUGH HE POSSESSES A SEEING-EYE MIND!

AND IT WOULD SEEM HE HATH FOUND THE ONES HE SOUGHT!

**ARTIE!**

OH THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE SAFE, ARTIE!

WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

JEAN! LOOK! THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE! IT... IT'S THE AVENGER THOR--WITH ANGEL!

YOUR COMRADE IS SORELY INJURED AND IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION.

UHHH. HI, CYKE.

GUESS I REALLY COULDN'T CARRY MY OWN WEIGHT THIS TIME. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK FOR ME.

I'M NOT WORTH IT.

IF YOU THOUGHT WE WALKED THROUGH FIRE AND BLOOD TO FIND YOU...

...SO WE COULD CARRY YOU BACK TO X-FACTOR HQ AND DUMP YOU DOWN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL, MISTER.

...YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!

ANGEL!



JEAN, QUICK! A TELEKINETIC DEFLECTION SHIELD. ANGEL'S UNCONSCIOUS, WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY!

EXCUSE ME, THOR. YOU DON'T KNOW US BUT WE'RE--



BUT I DO KNOW YOU NOW.

WERE NOT THE THREE OF YOU MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL X-MEN SOME YEARS AGO WHEN THE AVENGERS FACED LUCIFER\*\*?



THE UNIFORMS ARE NEW, BUT I RECOGNIZE THE NAMES. CYCLOPS, ANGEL. NO WONDER THE NAME SEEMED TO FIT HIM.

UHM... THAT'S RIGHT.

HOW IS PROFESSOR XAVIER?

UH, FINE, I THINK. BUT WE'RE... SORT OF X-MEN GRADUATES NOW, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.

ARGH!



THOR?

I SLEW ONE OF THE MARAUDERS, BUT NOT BEFORE HE HAD BROKEN MY ARM.



SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE BONES ARE GRINDING TOGETHER.

\*AS SEEN IN AN X-MEN ISSUE FROM THE DAWN OF TIME!-- RM

THEN WE'D BETTER APPLY A LITTLE FIRST AID FAST.



THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE NEAT BUT IT'LL DO THE JOB FOR NOW.

JEAN, TEAR OFF A STRIP FROM THOR'S CAPE.





THIS SHOULD HOLD YOUR ARM SECURELY TILL YOU CAN HAVE IT LOOKED AFTER, THOR.

NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK AND FIND A DOCTOR FOR ANGEL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DEAD? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM HERE.



YOU CAN LEAVE THEM TO ME, CYCLOPS.

THE BATTLE IS OVER AND THESE POOR SOULS DIED IN AGONY AND INNOCENCE.



I WILL GIVE THEM A VIKING'S FUNERAL.

JH, LISTEN, THOR. WHEN YOU GET UP STAIRS, YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR SOME THINGS ABOUT US THAT AREN'T TRUE.

WHAT I MEAN IS... WE'RE NOT EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE THINKS WE ARE.

I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO NOT TO JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER... OR A MAN BY WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS SAY ABOUT HIM.

WE APPRECIATE THAT, THOR. MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW. YOU'D BETTER SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THAT ARM AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

YOU HAD BEST LEAVE THE TUNNELS. DO NOT TARRY.



THAT IS--

YOU NEEDN'T SAY ANYMORE, CYCLOPS.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



AND SHORTLY...

I HAVE COVERED THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE CATACOMBS BENEATH THE CITY.

SAVE MYSELF, NOT A SOUL REMAINS ALIVE IN THIS DESOLATE PLACE.

THE BATTLE IS OVER AND THESE POOR CREATURES ARE THE LOSERS.

NO ONE IS LEFT TO MOURN THE DEAD OR BURY THEM.

AND SHOULD THEY BE LEFT UNTOUCHED, THEY MIGHT WELL BECOME A HEALTH HAZARD TO THE LIVING ABOVE.

BY NOW, CYCLOPS AND THE OTHERS SHOULD HAVE REACHED SAFETY, BACK AMONG THE LIVING.

BUT FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN THIS FOUL PLACE, THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL SOUND THE DEATH KNELL.

SO MANY SLAIN. A KINGDOM OF DEATH IN MINIATURE.

HELA MUST BE ENJOYING THIS.

EVEN NOW, NO DOUBT, SHE SITS ON HER DARK THRONE AND REVELS IN THE TRAGEDY.

WHAT--?!

I AM NOT A BELIEVER IN THE TRAGEDY OF DEATH, THOR...

...NOR DO I TAKE DELIGHT IN ITS CRUELTY.

I MERELY APPRECIATE ITS NECESSITY.

**SHALAM!**  
**LIAR!**



WELL, PERHAPS I DO ENJOY IT A LITTLE.



BUT FAR MORE WILL I ENJOY WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

THE CRAFTSMAN TAKES A CERTAIN PRIDE IN THE SKILL OF HIS HANDS, DOES HE NOT?



IN FACT, I HAVE JOURNEYED ALL THIS WEARY WAY FROM HEL TO SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU.

FOR I AM GOING TO TEACH THE MIGHTY THOR WHO HAS NEVER KNOWN FEAR BEFORE TO BE AFRAID!



'T WAS THE KISS OF HELA'S GIFT, THOR, THE GIFT YOU FEEL NOW.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE WEAKNESS YOU FELT AS YOU LEFT ASGARD TO RETURN TO EARTH?\*



\*At the beginning of 1st issue -- RM

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE MIGHTY THOR, WARRIOR OF ASGARD, WILL FEAR TO ENTER COMBAT.



FOR HIS BONES ARE NOW AS BRITTLE AS THOSE OF AN OLD WOMAN AND WHEN THEY BREAK, THEY WILL NOT HEAL!

NOR WILL YOU FIND RESPIRE IN THE ARMS OF DEATH, FOR I HAVE CAST YOU OUT!

AND THE ABSENCE OF DEATH IS ETERNAL LIFE!



YOU WILL SCREAM OUT HELA'S NAME IN AGONY! YOU SHALL LONG FOR DEATH!

THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL LIVE FOREVER!

UNTIL HIS EVERY WAKING DESIRE SHALL BE TO DIE!

AND PERHAPS SOMEDAY, IF IT PLEASURES ME, I MAY RELEASE YOU!

BUT IT MAY NEVER PLEASE ME!

THUS AM I REVENGED FOR MY HUMILIATION AT YOUR HANDS IN HEL, THUNDERER \*\*!

\*THOR 360/362 -- RM



HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

KATHAWW!



HELA!



**BARROOM!**

HELA!



**KRAKAKOROOOM!**

"AND NOW WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF THE RED DEATH."

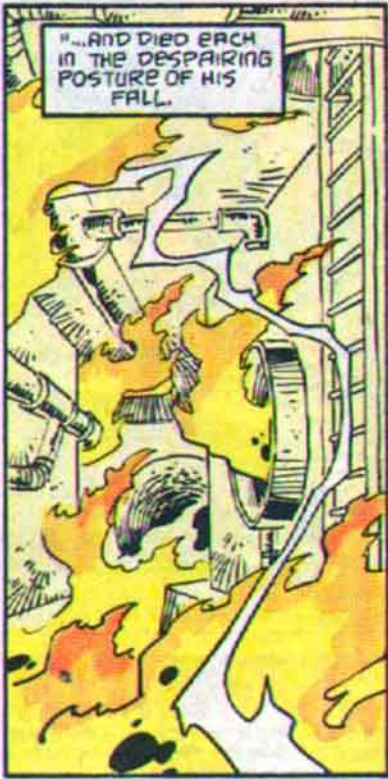


"HE HAD COME LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT."



"AND ONE BY ONE DROPPED THE REVELLERS IN THE BLOOD-BE-DEWED HALLS OF THEIR REVEL..."

"...AND DIED EACH IN THE DESPAIRING POSTURE OF HIS FALL."



"AND THE LIFE OF THE EBONY CLOCK WENT OUT WITH THAT OF THE LAST OF THE GAY."







**DISCONNECT THEM DRY BONES!**  
AN ABSORBING TALE OF EXO-SKELETAL DISSERTATIONS, EPHEMERAL VILLAINS, AND A GOOD RIBBING FOR THOR! ALONG WITH THE REAPPEARANCE OF ONE OF THOR'S MOST DANGEROUS FOES! DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU!