

**MARVEL**  
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TM

# the mighty THOR

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**377**  
MAR



10-17-86

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

**S** VARTALFHEIM -- HOME OF THE DARK ELVES. A RACE THAT WAS ANCIENT WHEN MAGIC WAS NEW, THE DARK ELVES BUILT THEIR DOMINION IN THE HIDDEN PLACES OF THE EARTH...

...AND DWELT IN THE SHADOWS BEYOND THE PERIPHERAL VISION OF THEIR MORTAL COUSINS.

VERY LITTLE HAS DISTURBED THEIR ANCIENT FASTNESS OVER THE CENTURIES...

... AND NO ENEMY HAS EVER BREACHED THE GATES OF FAERIE...

... UNTIL NOW.

**KRAKAWHAWHAWHAW!**

**THIS HOLLOWED ARMOR!**

WRITING  
WALTER  
SIMONSON

DRAWING  
SAL  
BUSCEMA

LETTERING  
JOHN  
WORKMAN

COLORING  
MAX  
SCHEELE

EDITING  
RALPH  
MACCHIO

EDITING IN CHIEF  
JIM  
SHOOTER

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INCREDIBLE!  
THE PORTAL BE-  
TWEEN OUR LAND  
AND THE REALM OF  
MORTALS HAS BEEN  
DESTROYED,  
BROKEN BEYOND  
REPAIR!

BUT WHO COULD  
HAVE DONE THIS THING?  
SURELY NO ENEMY  
COULD STALK THESE  
HALLS WITHOUT OUR  
KNOWLEDGE!

DO YOU  
FEEL IT?  
AGAIN THE  
GROUND  
TREMBLES  
WITH  
ANTICIPA-  
TION!



ANOTHER  
PORTAL  
SHATTERS!

**CRASH!**



WHAT  
CAN WE  
DO?

FOLLOW  
WORMWOOD,  
DARK WARRIORS,  
TO THE GREAT  
HALL!

THE MIRROR  
OF FINVARRA  
WILL TELL US WHAT  
WE MUST KNOW!



DEEP  
WITHIN ITS  
SILVERY  
DEPTHS  
LIES THE  
POWER TO  
PIERCE  
THE VEIL  
OF THE  
MORTAL  
REALM!



ALREADY  
THE VISION  
BEGINS TO  
COALESCE,  
REVEAL-  
ING...

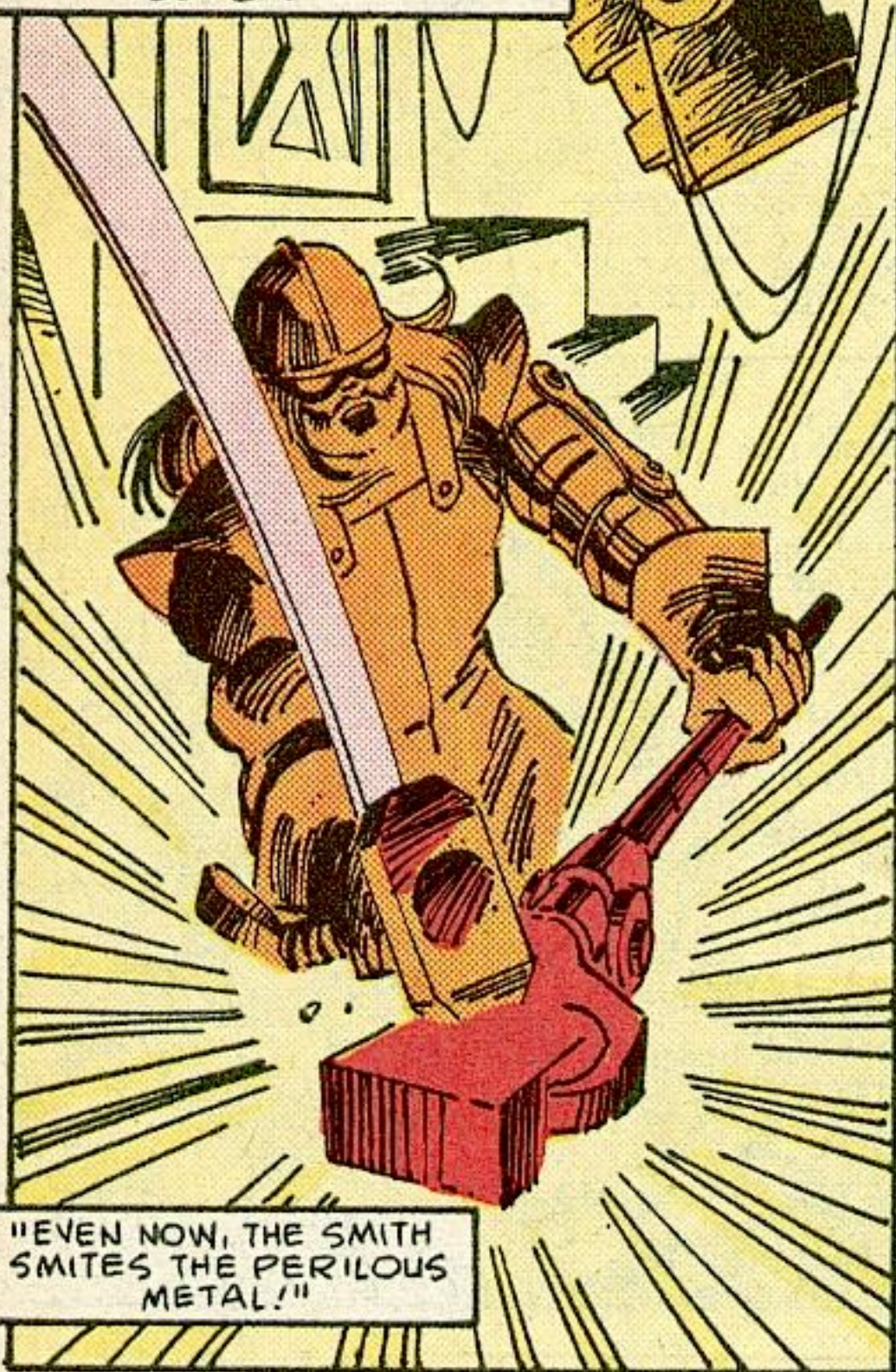
... A SMITH!  
A GREAT BLACK-  
SMITH WORKING  
THE TERRIBLE BANE  
OF ELVES-- IRON!



BUT THE  
PICTURE IS  
DISTORTED  
ALMOST  
BEYOND  
READING!

LET THE  
VISION  
SPEAK MORE  
CLEARLY!  
SHOW US  
THE ANSWER  
WE SEEK!

"BEHOLD! A MIGHTY STEEL  
FOUNDRY IN THE MORTAL  
METROPOLIS OF PITTS-  
BURGH!"



"EVEN NOW, THE SMITH  
SMITES THE PERILOUS  
METAL!"

'TIS BEYOND  
BELIEF!

THE  
MIRROR OF  
FINVARRA  
ITSELF HATH  
BEEN SHAT-  
TERED!



BUT  
WHAT  
COULD  
DO SUCH  
DAMAGE  
?

IRON HAS  
ALWAYS EXISTED  
ON EARTH  
YET NEVER POSED  
SUCH A THREAT!

DID YOU NOT  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT YOU  
SAW?

'T WAS  
THE  
GOD OF  
THUNDER,  
THOR HIM-  
SELF!!

'T WAS NO  
ORDINARY  
METAL IN THE  
FORGE, NOR AN  
ORDINARY  
SMITH AT  
WORK!



AND HE IS  
FORGING NOTH-  
ING LESS THAN  
ASGARDIAN  
STEEL...

...OF ALL ELF  
BANES, THE  
DEADLIEST!

WITH EACH BLOW,  
ANOTHER PORTAL  
FROM SVARTALF-  
HEIM TO MID-  
GARD WILL  
SHATTER!



SHOULD HE COMPLETE THE  
FORGING, THE POWER OF SUCH  
IRON MAY WELL SEAL  
FAERIELAND OFF FROM THE  
MORTAL WORLD  
FOREVER!

WE MUST STOP  
IT! SOUND THE BATTLE  
CRY AND CALL THE WARRIORS  
TO ARMS! WE RIDE FOR EARTH!

BUT WORMWOOD, WE  
FACED THE THUNDER  
GOD ONCE IN THE PAST\*  
AND WERE NO MATCH  
FOR HIS FURY.

HOW SHALL WE  
DEFEAT HIM NOW  
THAT HE HOLDS OUR  
DEATH IN HIS  
HANDS?



WE MUST SUMMON  
THE ONE WHOM EVEN  
THE DARK ELVES FEAR.

HE ALONE CAN  
STAND AGAINST THE  
IRON AS NONE OTHER  
OF OUR KINDRED!

WE MUST  
SUMMON...  
GREN-  
DELL!



\*around THOR 345  
gentle readers  
--Raif



GRENDELL

SUMMONING GRENDELL MAY UNLEASH A POWER THAT WILL DOOM THE DARK ELVES AS SURELY AS ANY IRON OF THE THUNDER GOD'S FORGING!

'TIS EVEN SAID THAT GRENDELL CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD, OR WORSE, THAT HE MAY STILL BE DEAD!

THOSE ARE TALES LOST FOREVER IN THE DEPTHS OF TIME, BITTERHAND.



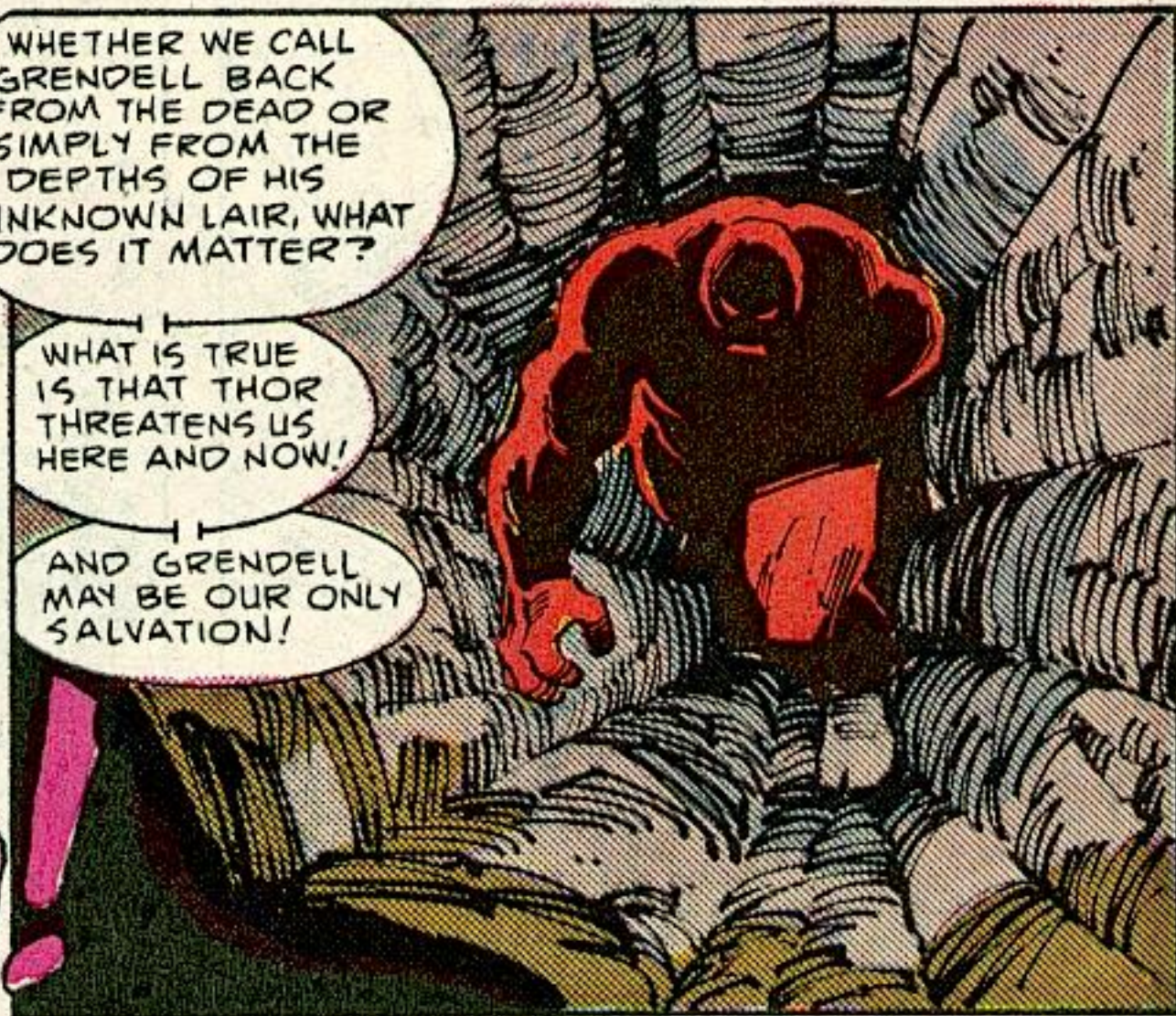
WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH OF THEM ANY LONGER?

WHETHER WE CALL GRENDELL BACK FROM THE DEAD OR SIMPLY FROM THE DEPTHS OF HIS UNKNOWN LAIR, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

WHAT IS TRUE IS THAT THOR THREATENS US HERE AND NOW!

AND GRENDELL MAY BE OUR ONLY SALVATION!

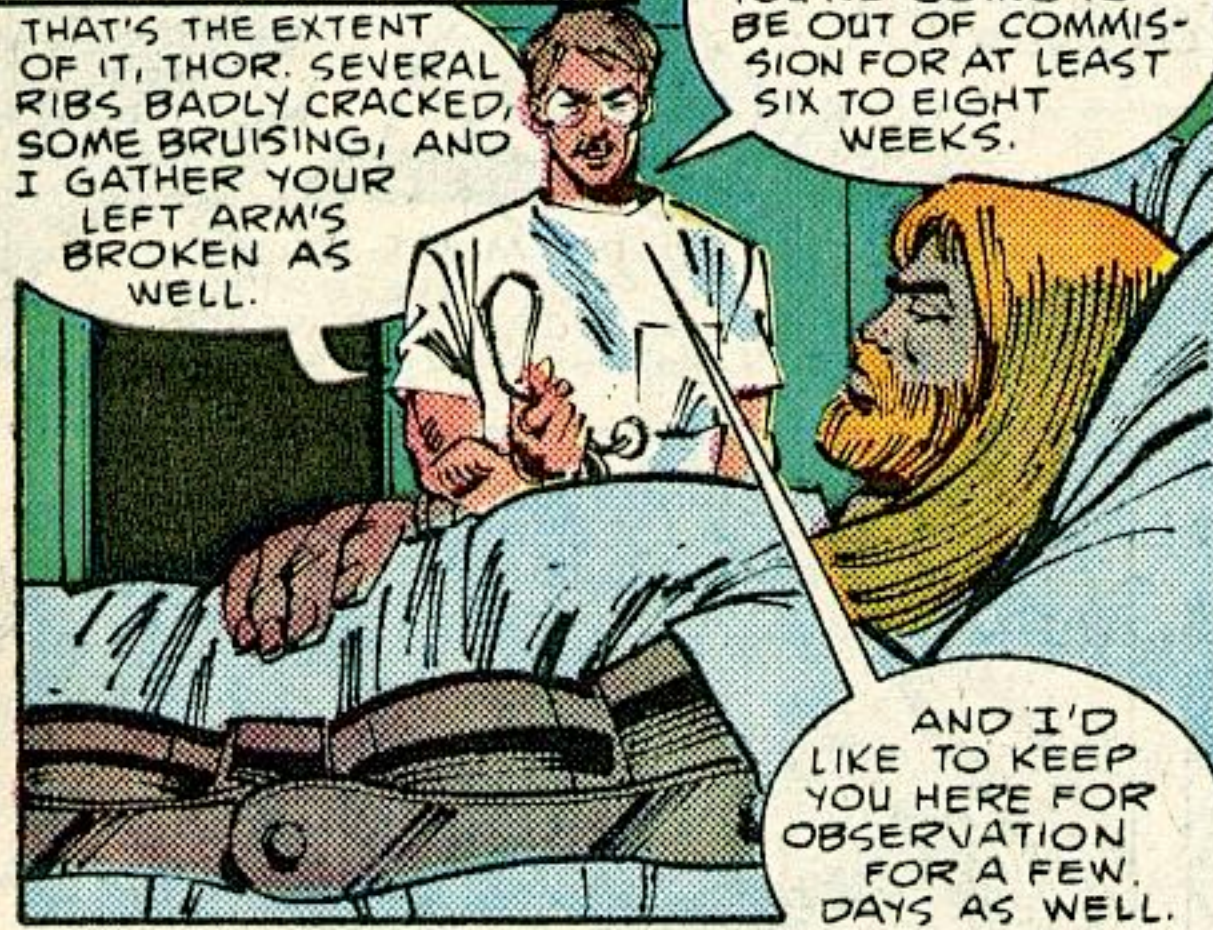
GOINNNNGG!



BUT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS REMARKABLE TURN OF EVENTS, LET US LOOK TO THE PAST...

...TO ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE A FEW DAYS EARLIER...

THAT'S THE EXTENT OF IT, THOR. SEVERAL RIBS BADLY CRACKED, SOME BRUISING, AND I GATHER YOUR LEFT ARM'S BROKEN AS WELL.



WE'VE RESET EVERYTHING AND TAPED IT, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUT OF COMMISSION FOR AT LEAST SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS.

AND I'D LIKE TO KEEP YOU HERE FOR OBSERVATION FOR A FEW DAYS AS WELL.

BELIEVE ME, DOCTOR CALLEY, I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU AND TO THE PARAMEDICS WHO BROUGHT ME HERE.

BUT A REST IS QUITE OUT OF THE QUESTION... AS IS MY STAYING HERE.

MY PRESENCE WILL ONLY DISRUPT THE HOSPITAL MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW.

THE EVENTS THAT... PRECIPITATED MY VISIT HERE \* WILL ONLY BE REPEATED, PROBABLY WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY.

\*AS DETAILED LAST ISSUE --RALF-ETH

"MY ENEMIES HAVE GATHERED FOR THE KILL, AND I NEARLY LET THEM WIN IN MY DESPAIR.

"YET THAT DESPAIR IS THE GREATEST ENEMY I HAVE EVER FACED...

"... AND I WILL CONQUER IT OR RENOUNCE FOREVER HERITAGE OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!"





"MAY ODIN GRANT ME STRENGTH!"

TWO DAYS LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAMASCUS STEEL MILLS IN STEELTOWN, PITTSBURGH, USA...



I GOT YOUR CABLE, THOR. FRANKLY, I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT.

BUSINESS IS LOUSY, BUT EVEN SO, TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE FACILITY FOR A WEEK IS AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION.

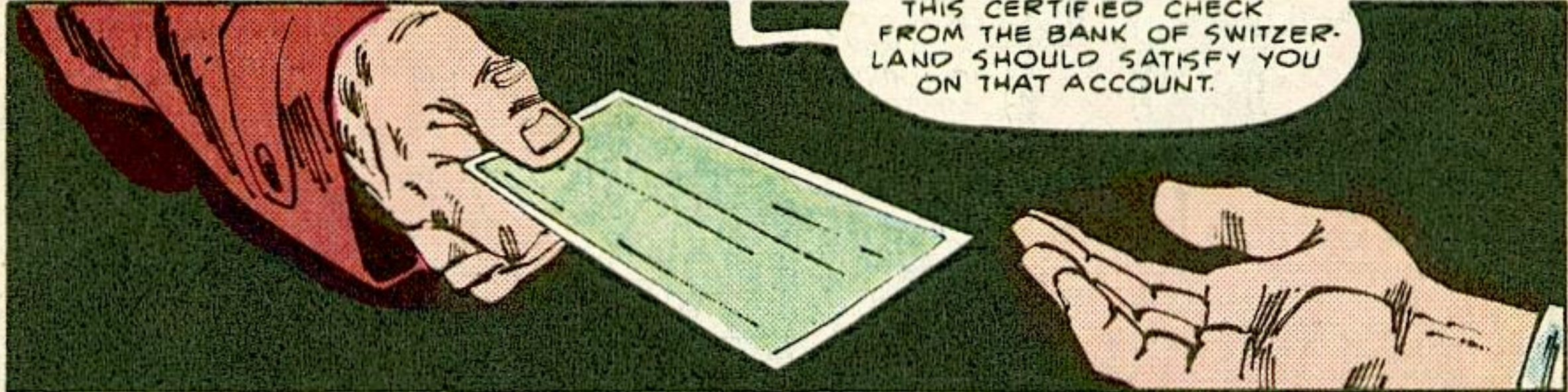
I WAS A STEELWORKER IN A HARD HAT BEFORE I EVER SAT DOWN BEHIND A DESK...



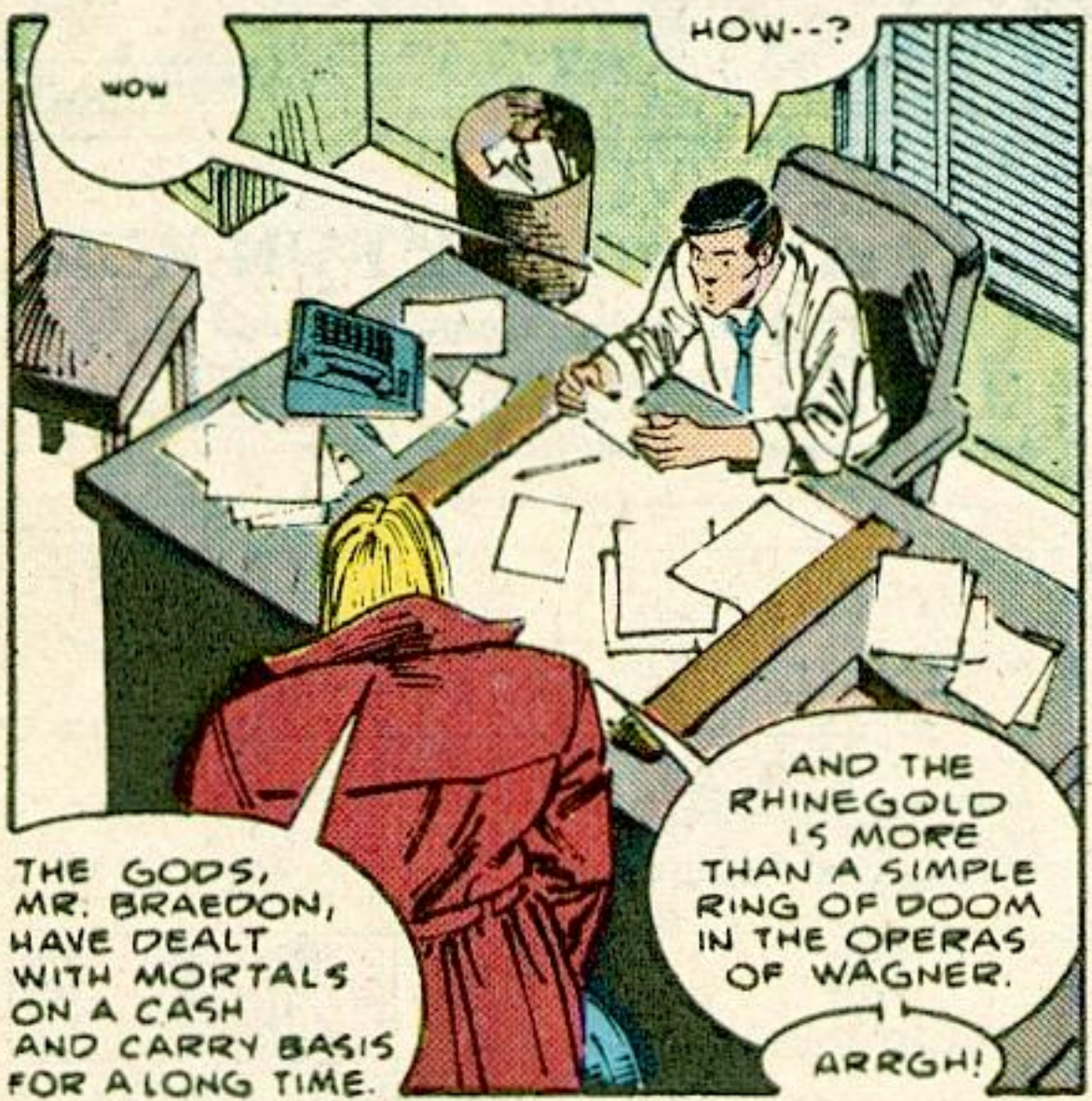
...AND I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN HOW YOU REFORGED YOUR HAMMER HERE ONCE.

THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO SEE YOU.

BUT CAN EVEN A... THUNDER GOD AFFORD THAT KIND OF EXPENSE?



THIS CERTIFIED CHECK FROM THE BANK OF SWITZERLAND SHOULD SATISFY YOU ON THAT ACCOUNT.



WOW

HOW--?

THE GODS, MR. BRAEDON, HAVE DEALT WITH MORTALS ON A CASH AND CARRY BASIS FOR A LONG TIME.

AND THE RHINEGOLD IS MORE THAN A SIMPLE RING OF DOOM IN THE OPERAS OF WAGNER.

ARRGH!



THOR?

IT'S NOTHING. MERELY A MINOR TWINGE.

AND TIME IS SURELY RUNNING OUT!

THOUGH MY BROKEN RIBS ARE TIGHTLY TAPED AGAINST, MOVEMENT, EVERY MOMENT BRINGS EXCRUCIATING PAIN.

I MUST BE SUCCESSFUL HERE IF I AM TO FACE MY ENEMIES WHEN AT LAST THEY BRING ME TO BAY.

AND SHORTLY...

WHAT WORD, SCHLOVSKY?



WE'VE FINISHED TAPPING THE FURNACE, THOR, AND THE LADLE IS FULL!

ALL THE SLAG'S IN THE THIMBLE AND WE'RE READY TO POUR THE RAW STEEL INTO THE MOLDS!

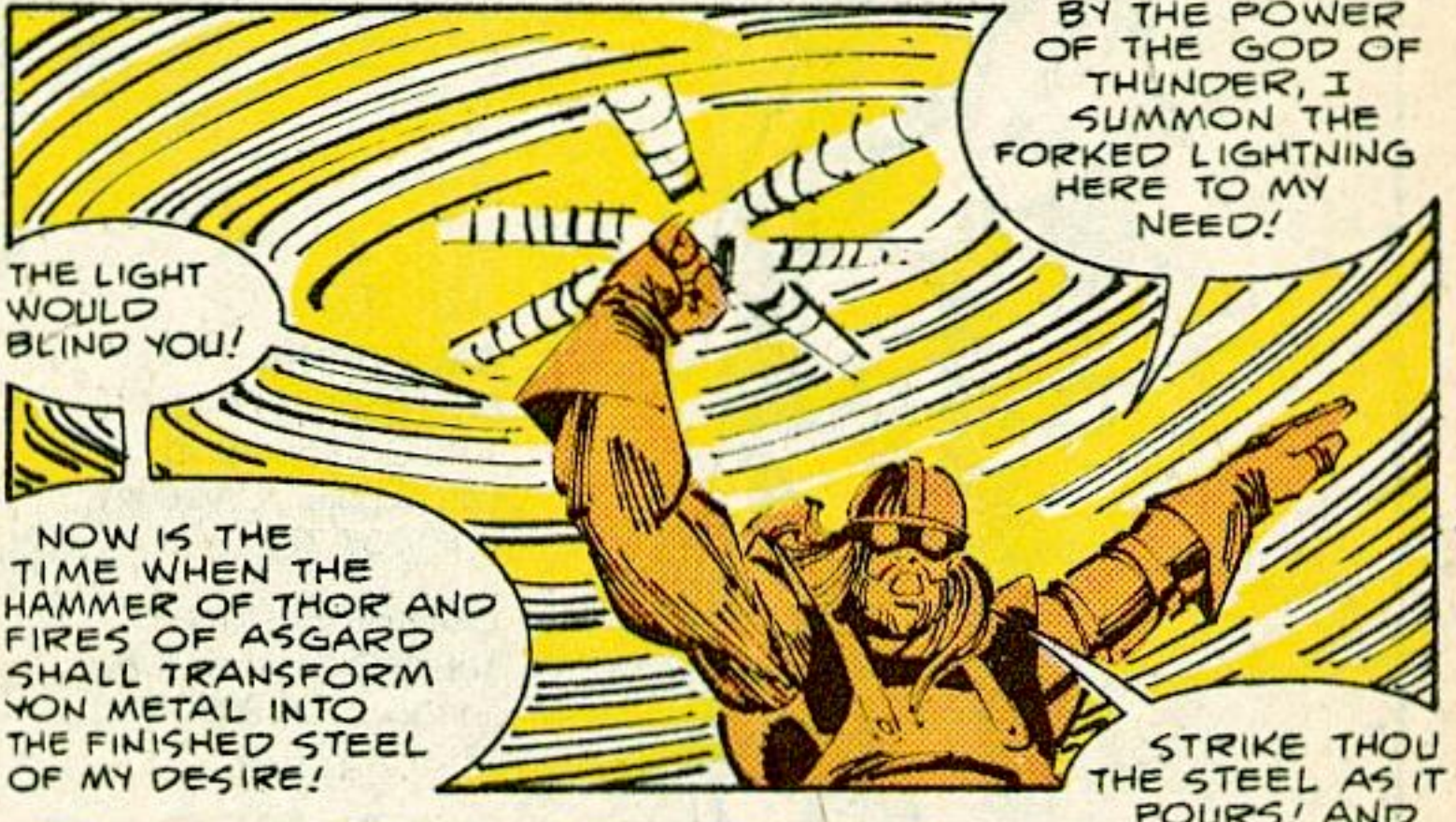
WELL DONE! BEGIN THE TEEMING\*.

\*POURING



AND AS TONS OF MOLTEN STEEL POUR FROM THE GREAT LADLE INTO THE INGOT MOLDS BELOW...

STAND CLEAR, ALL YE WORKERS! AND TURN THY FACES FROM THE MOLDS!



BY THE POWER OF THE GOD OF THUNDER, I SUMMON THE FORKED LIGHTNING HERE TO MY NEED!

THE LIGHT WOULD BLIND YOU!

NOW IS THE TIME WHEN THE HAMMER OF THOR AND FIRES OF ASGARD SHALL TRANSFORM YON METAL INTO THE FINISHED STEEL OF MY DESIRE!

STRIKE THOU THE STEEL AS IT POURS! AND STRIKE NOW!



**KRAK RATION**

JEEZ! LOOKIT THAT INGOT! IT'S GLOWING LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE!

IN TRUTH, 'TIS A RESULT OF THE IMMORTAL ENERGIES CONFINED WITH THE MORTAL METAL!

GATHER YOUR FELLOWS AND WITHDRAW.

THE MORTAL DOES NOT LIVE WHO COULD WITHSTAND THE CONCUSSION OF THE FORGING I MUST DO NOW.

NO PROBLEM, THOR! WE'RE OUTA HERE!

THOUGH EVERY BLOW THAT RINGS BRINGS FRESH AGONY TO MY SIDES, I MUST PERSEVERE!

HELA, THE DEATH GODDESS, HATH CURSED ME WITH BRITTLE BONES THAT, ONCE BROKEN, NEVER HEAL. AND SHE HATH ROBBED ME OF THE GIFT OF DEATH.

SO WOULD SHE REVENGE HERSELF FOR MY PAST DEEDS OF GLORY AGAINST HER!

BUT SHOULD I SUCCEED HERE, I MAY YET THWART HER WILL.

**THRAHHHOOOM!**

"THEN LET HELA BEWARE!"

SUCH IS THE TALE OF A FEW DAYS PREVIOUS.

NOW WE TRAVEL FAR, FAR FROM EARTH TO ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS...

...TO THE EDGE OF THE BROKEN RAINBOW BRIDGE...

IT MUST BE DIFFICULT, AMORA, TO BE SO LOVELY...

...EITHER IN LAUGHTER OR IN ANGER.

DO NOT SEEK TO... TO APPEASE ME, HEIMDALL!

YOU CARRY ME OFF FORCIBLY FROM MY HOME IN THE MIDST OF MY MOURNING, FOR THE EXECUTIONER. YOU HUMILIATED ME BEFORE BALDER HIMSELF\*.

IS THERE NO LIMIT TO THE SCANDALOUSNESS OF YOUR BEHAVIOR?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME ANSWER, ENCHANTRESS?

YOU WHOSE VERY HISTORY IS A FAIR MEASURE OF SCANDALOUSNESS?

YOU ARE TOO BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL TO WASTE YOUR TEARS ON EMPTY REGRET.

BETTER TO LIVE NOW AND REGRET NOTHING LATER.

\*LAST ISSUE, YOU ASGARDIAN JOYEURS, YOU! --SNEAKY RALF!





I FIND, HEIM-DALL, THAT YOU MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO STAY ANGRY WITH YOU.

BUT DID YOU HAVE TO CARRY ME OFF AS THOUGH I WERE A CASK OF MEADE?

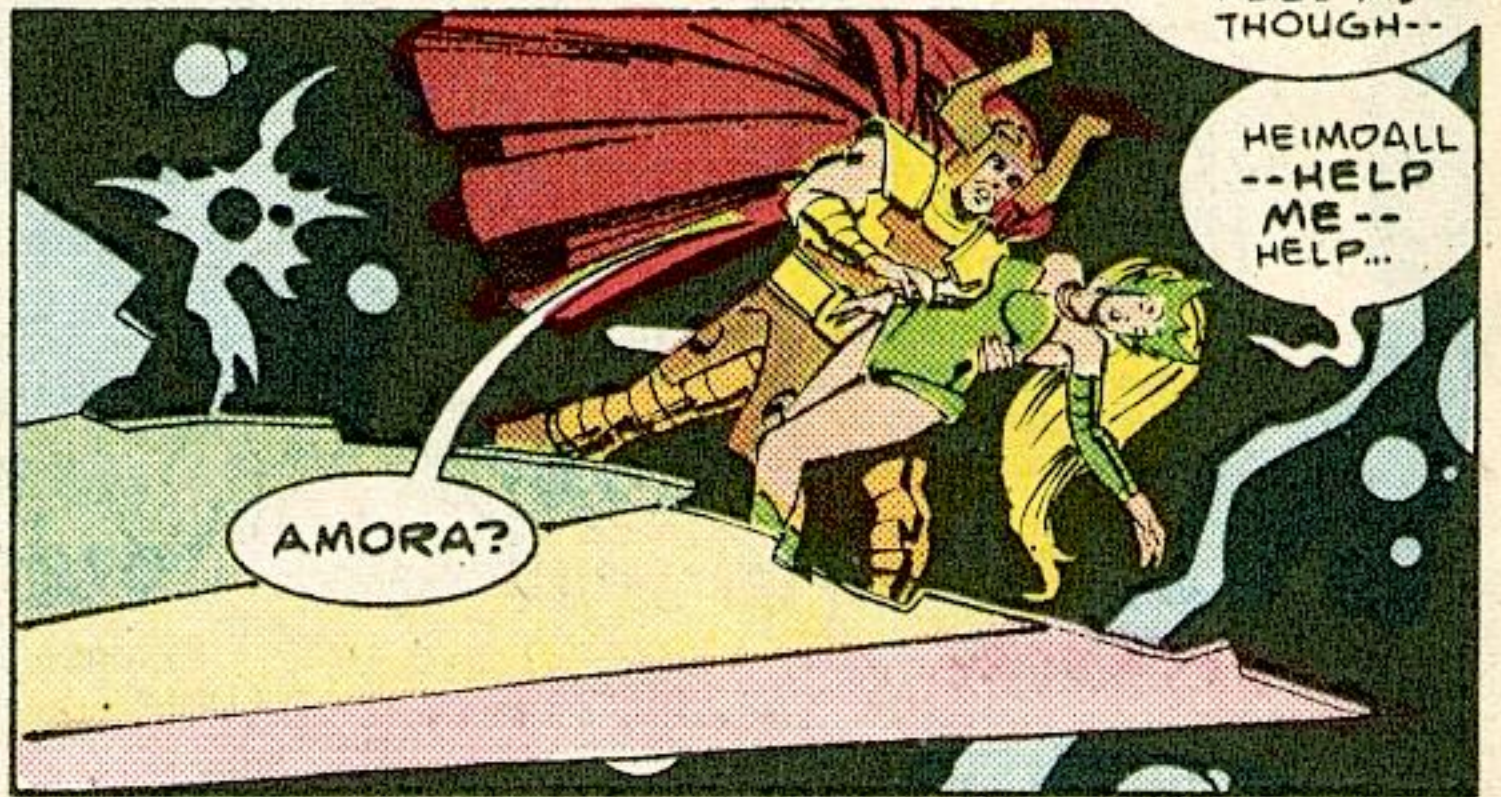
I THOUGHT IT THE APPROPRIATE ACTION, ENCHANTRESS. THE MEADE SEEMED READY FOR TASTING.



AMORA?

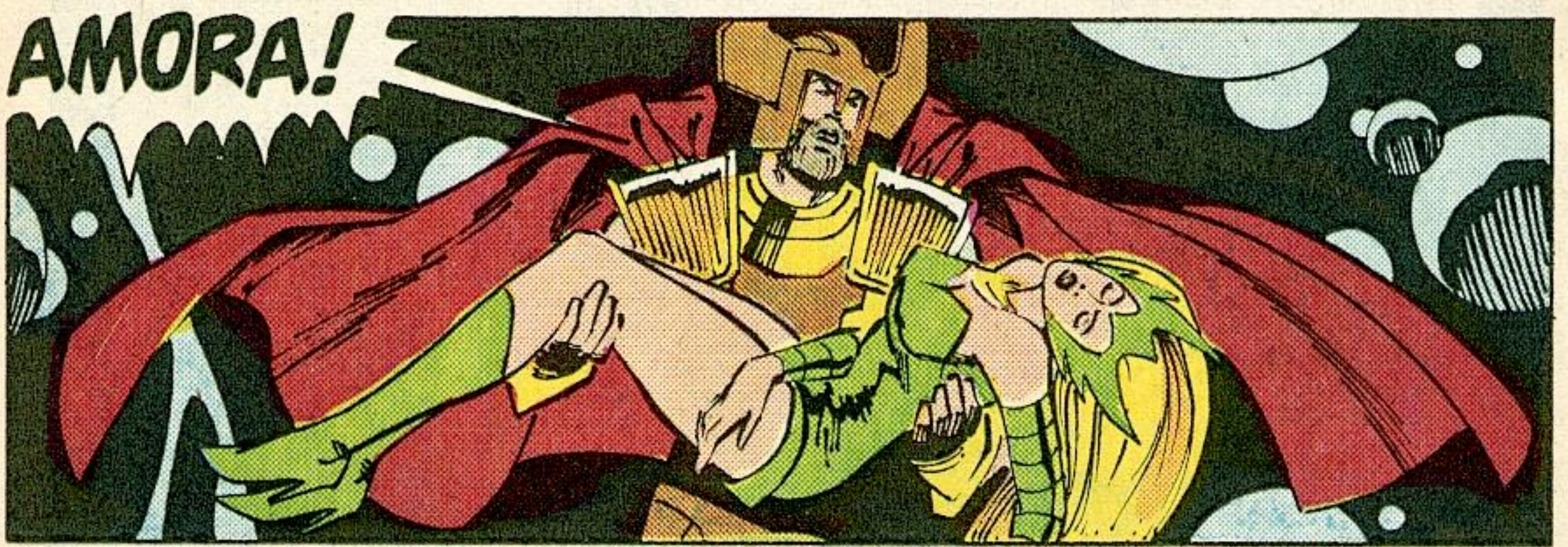
'TIS NOTHING. A MOMENTARY DIZZINESS ASSAILS ME.

I SHALL BE ALL RIGHT. I FEEL AS THOUGH--

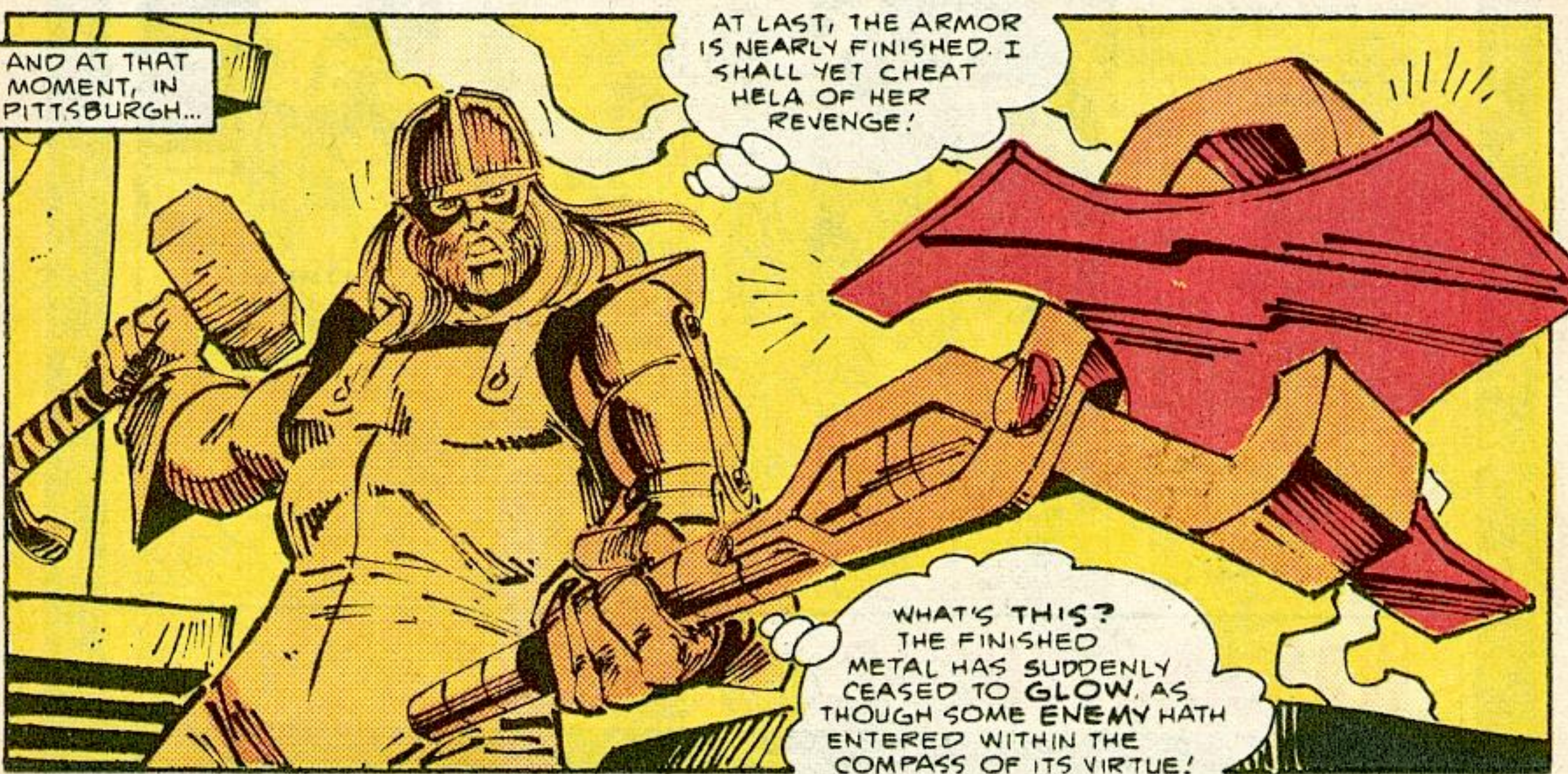


HEIMDALL --HELP ME-- HELP...

AMORA?



AMORA!



AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN PITTSBURGH...

AT LAST, THE ARMOR IS NEARLY FINISHED. I SHALL YET CHEAT HELA OF HER REVENGE!

WHAT'S THIS? THE FINISHED METAL HAS SUDDENLY CEASED TO GLOW, AS THOUGH SOME ENEMY HATH ENTERED WITHIN THE COMPASS OF ITS VIRTUE!

DEATH TO THOR!

SLAY THE DESTROYER OF OUR REALM!

HURRY BEFORE THE TERRIBLE IRON WEAKENS US BEYOND FIGHTING!

THE DARK WARRIORS OF SVARTALFHEIM!

STAND BACK! YOU ARE OVER-MATCHED!

'TIS NO FAINT-HEART YOU FACE HERE, BUT THE GOD OF THUNDER!

WE KNOW WHO THREATENS US, VILLAIN, AND WE HAVE COME FOR YOUR HEAD!

GIVE IT UP, DOGS! HELA HERSELF HAS FORE-STALLED YOU!

UGGH!

CRASH!

MY SKULL RINGS WITH THE BLOW! CURSE HELA FOR HER MEDDLING!

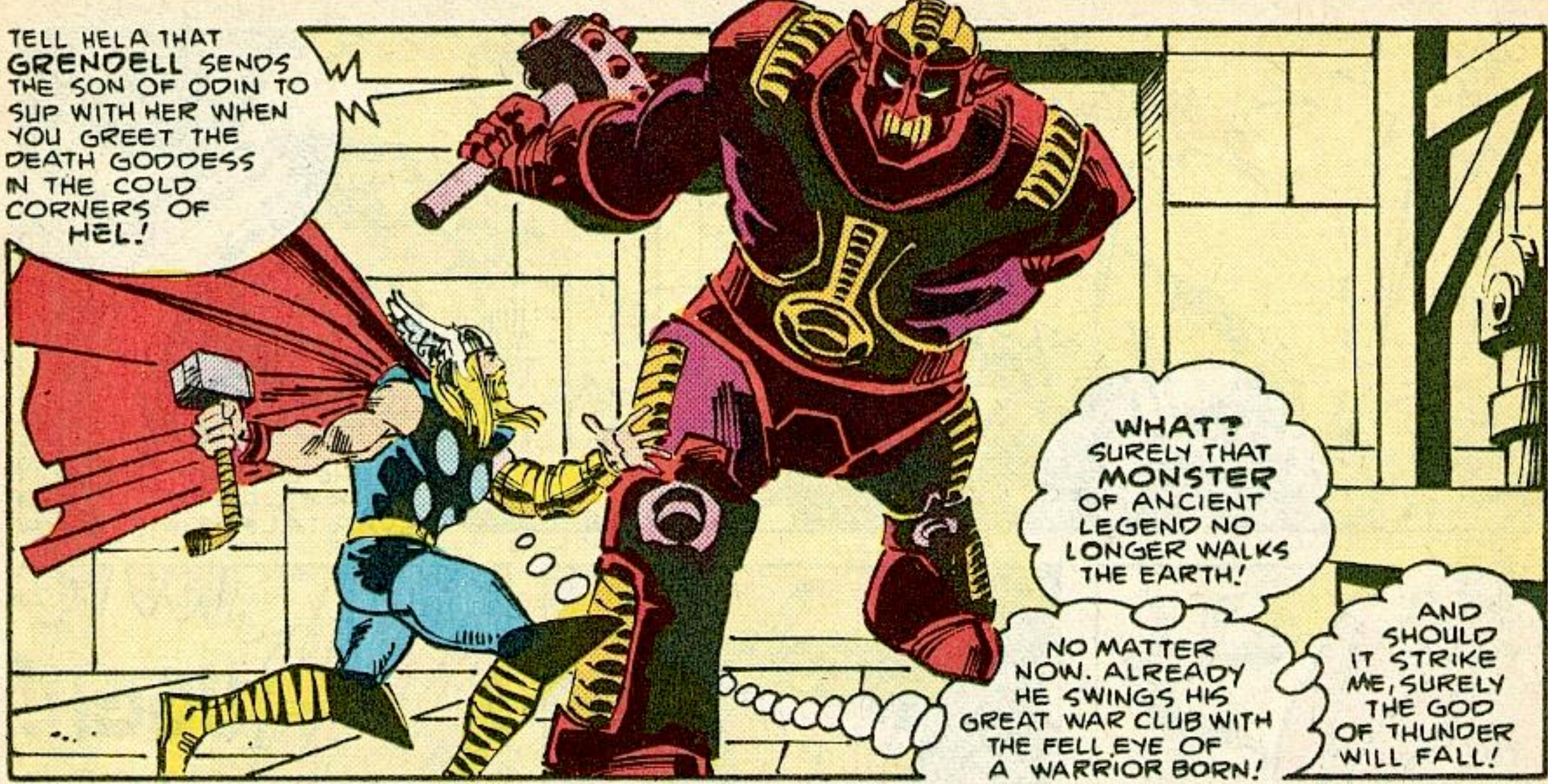
THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH I CAN DEFEAT SO MANY FOES HERE AND NOW! I MUST FLEE TO FIGHT ANOTHER TIME!

FLIGHT IS IMPOSSIBLE, THOR.

THE THUNDERER DIES HERE THIS DAY!

WHO--?

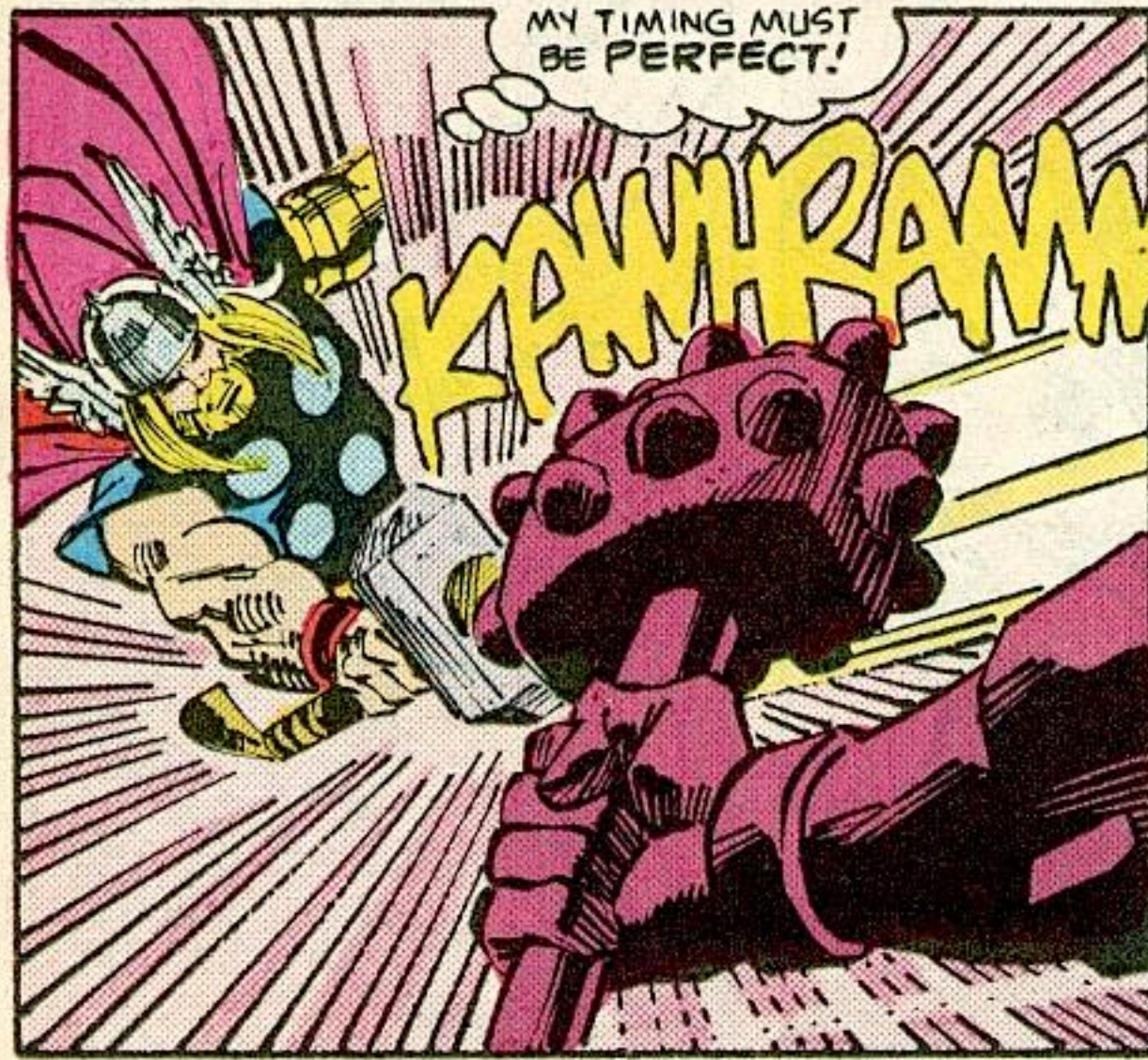
TELL HELA THAT GRENDELL SENDS THE SON OF ODIN TO SUP WITH HER WHEN YOU GREET THE DEATH GODDESS IN THE COLD CORNERS OF HEL!



WHAT? SURELY THAT MONSTER OF ANCIENT LEGEND NO LONGER WALKS THE EARTH!

NO MATTER NOW. ALREADY HE SWINGS HIS GREAT WAR CLUB WITH THE FELL EYE OF A WARRIOR BORN!

AND SHOULD IT STRIKE ME, SURELY THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL FALL!



MY TIMING MUST BE PERFECT!

**KANRRAM!**

AARRRGH! MY HAND! THE FORCE OF GRENDELL'S BLOW HATH SHATTERED IT!



HE HATH DROPPED HIS HAMMER!

FORWARD, WARRIORS! NOW IS HIS HOUR COME!

STAY BACK, DENIZENS OF THE DARK!



THOUGH HELA HATH ROBBED THE SON OF ODIN OF HIS FIGHTING PROWESS, HE HATH RETAINED HIS FIGHTING HEART!

**CHKK!**  
**CHKK!**

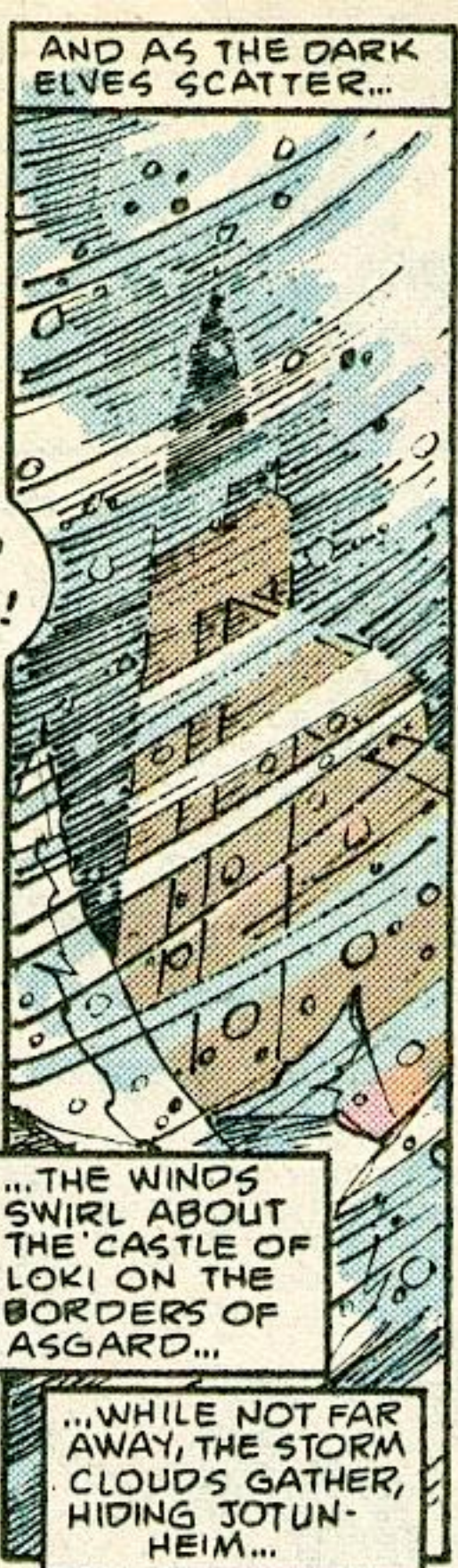
AND NO MERE DWELLERS OF FAERIE SHALL BRING THOR DOWN TO HIS DOOM!



BEWARE!

THOR HAS RELEASED THE DEADLY MOLTEN IRON! FLEE!

GRENDILL! HELP US!



AND AS THE DARK ELVES SCATTER...

...THE WINDS SWIRL ABOUT THE CASTLE OF LOKI ON THE BORDERS OF ASGARD...

...WHILE NOT FAR AWAY, THE STORM CLOUDS GATHER, HIDING JOTUNHEIM...



...THE ICY KINGDOM OF THE GODS' ANCIENT ENEMIES, THE FROST GIANTS.

LOOK AT US! ONCE WE WERE GIANTS WHO COULD SHAKE THE EARTH!

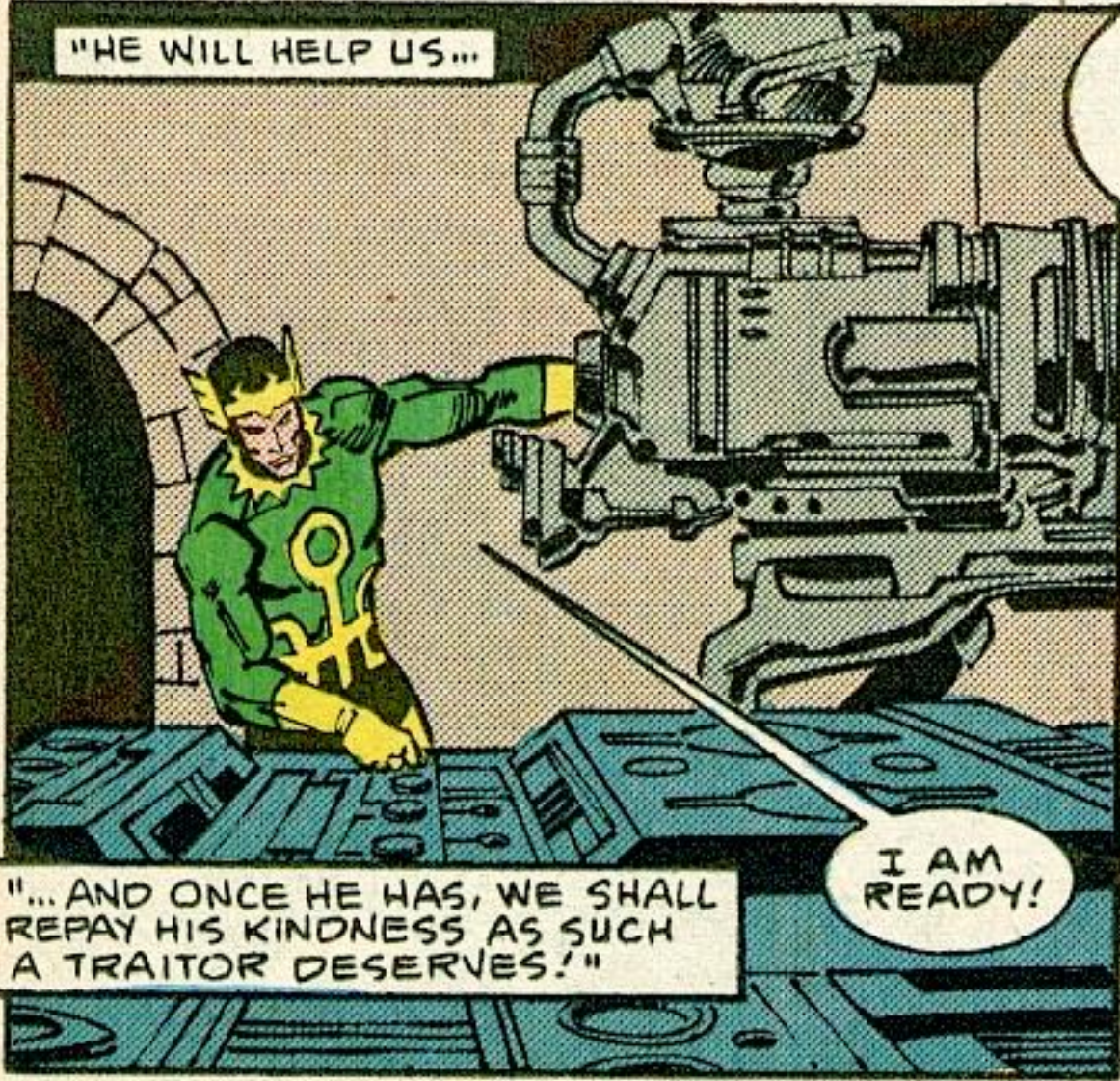
NOW, THANKS TO BALDER\*, WE TREMBLE IN THE SHADOW OF THE TREES AND HANG OUR HEADS IN SHAME!

WILL LOKI KEEP HIS WORD, GRUNDROTH?

WILL HE RESTORE US TO OUR FORMER SIZE AND GLORY?

LOKI'S HATRED OF THE GODS HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

\*IN THE BALDER LIMITED SERIES --HISTORICALLY MINDED RALF!



"HE WILL HELP US..."

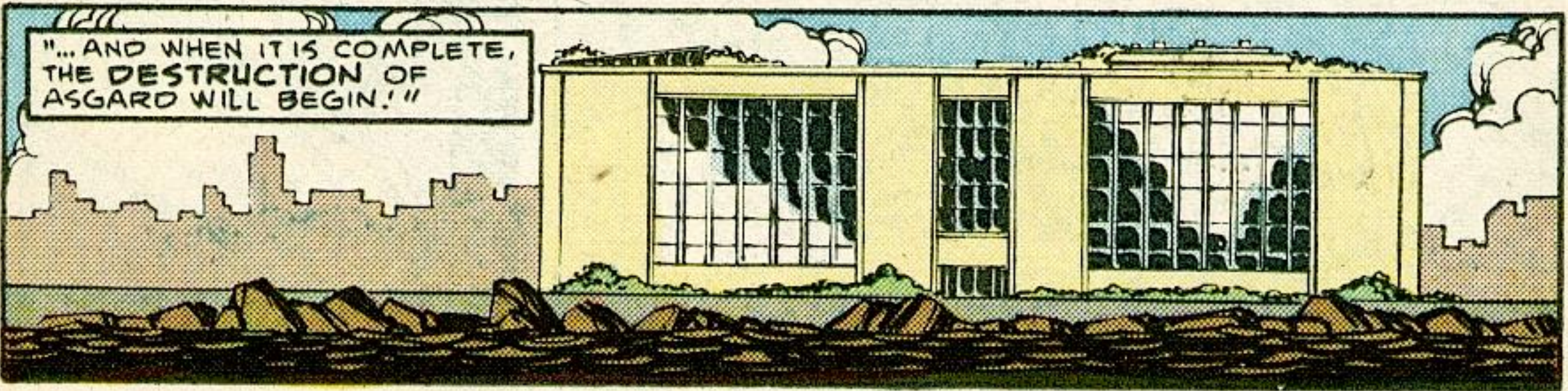
"...AND ONCE HE HAS, WE SHALL REPAY HIS KINDNESS AS SUCH A TRAITOR DESERVES!"

I AM READY!



A TRANSLUCENT SPHEROID PROJECTED TO MIDGARD\* WILL INITIATE THE FINAL STAGE OF MY GRAND DESIGN...

\*EARTH



"...AND WHEN IT IS COMPLETE, THE DESTRUCTION OF ASGARD WILL BEGIN!"

EARTH--THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS X-FACTOR...

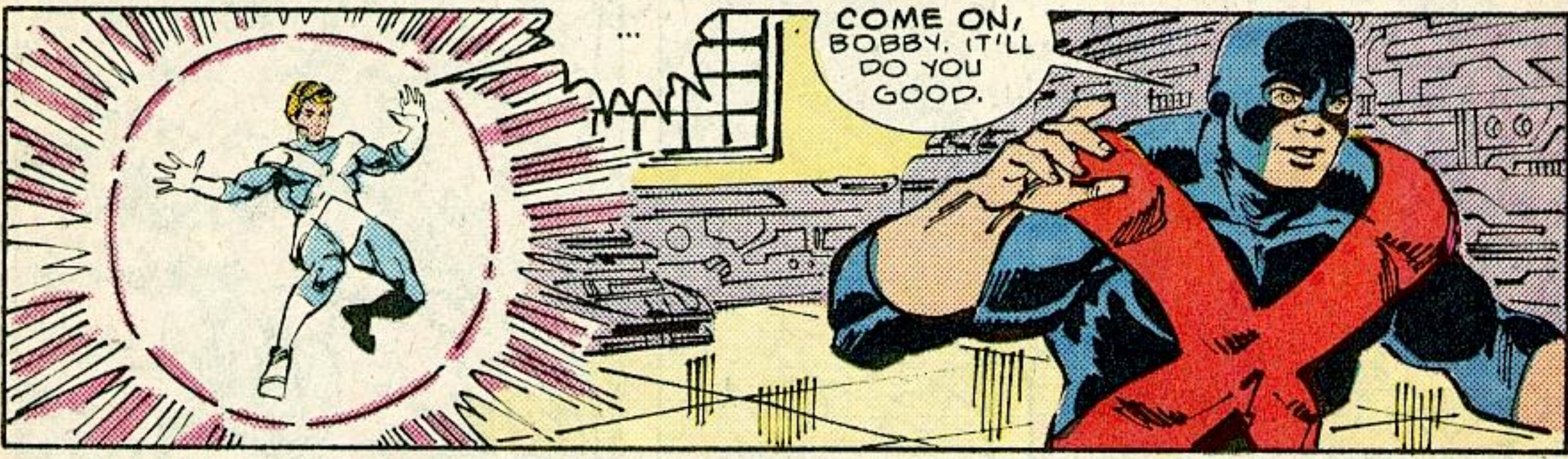
...THE MUTANT HUNTERS...

NOW THAT THE MORLOCKS HAVE RETURNED TO THE ALLEY, X-FACTOR HQ SEEMS A TRANQUIL, EVEN UNEXCITING PLACE.

AT LEAST SCOTT'LL BE HOME TOMORROW. WHAT SAY WE DO A QUICK WORKOUT?

LISTEN, HANK, SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED... TO ANGEL AND SCOTT AND STUFF. I'M WONDERING... MAYBE MASQUE WAS RIGHT ABOUT US.

I JUST WANNA GO OFF SOMEWHERE AND THINK--



COME ON, BOBBY, IT'LL DO YOU GOOD.



BOBBY?

WOW! GONE ALREADY. MAYBE A GUY THAT FAST ON HIS FEET DOESN'T NEED TO WORK OUT!

BUT EXERCISE IS PERHAPS THE FURTHEST THING FROM BOBBY DRAKE'S MIND AT THAT MOMENT...



...AS HE SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF A LONG WAY FROM HOME!

WHA-- I CAN'T MOVE!!

ICEMAN, IS IT NOT?

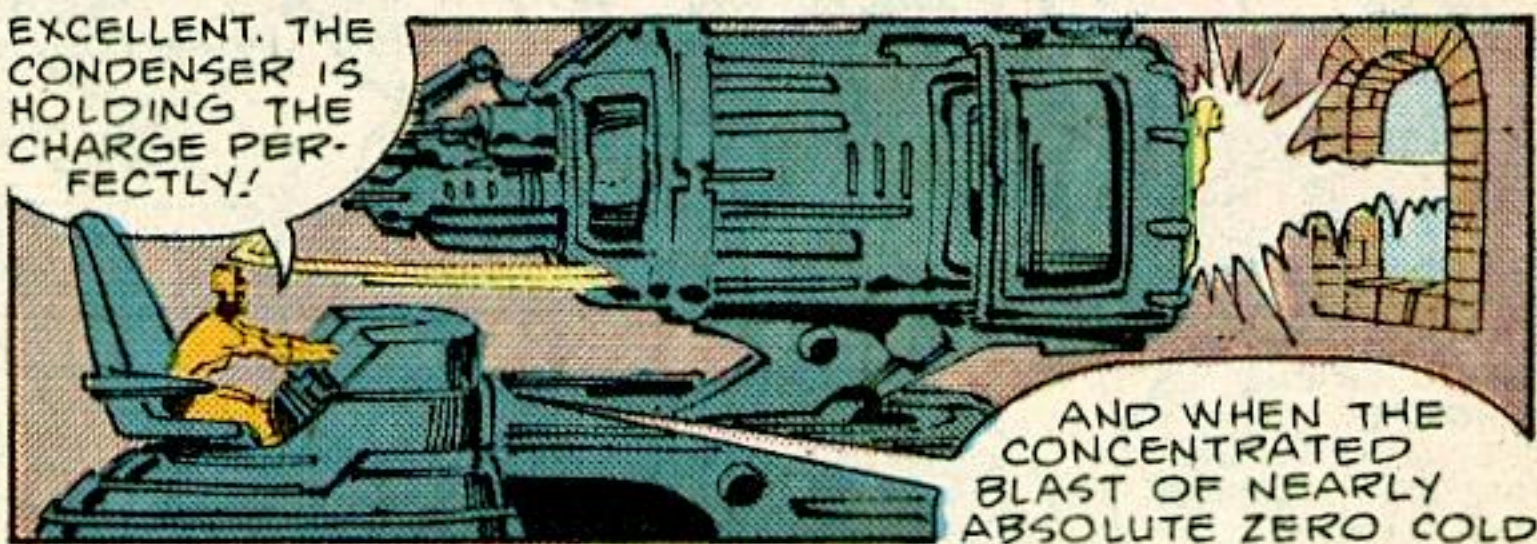
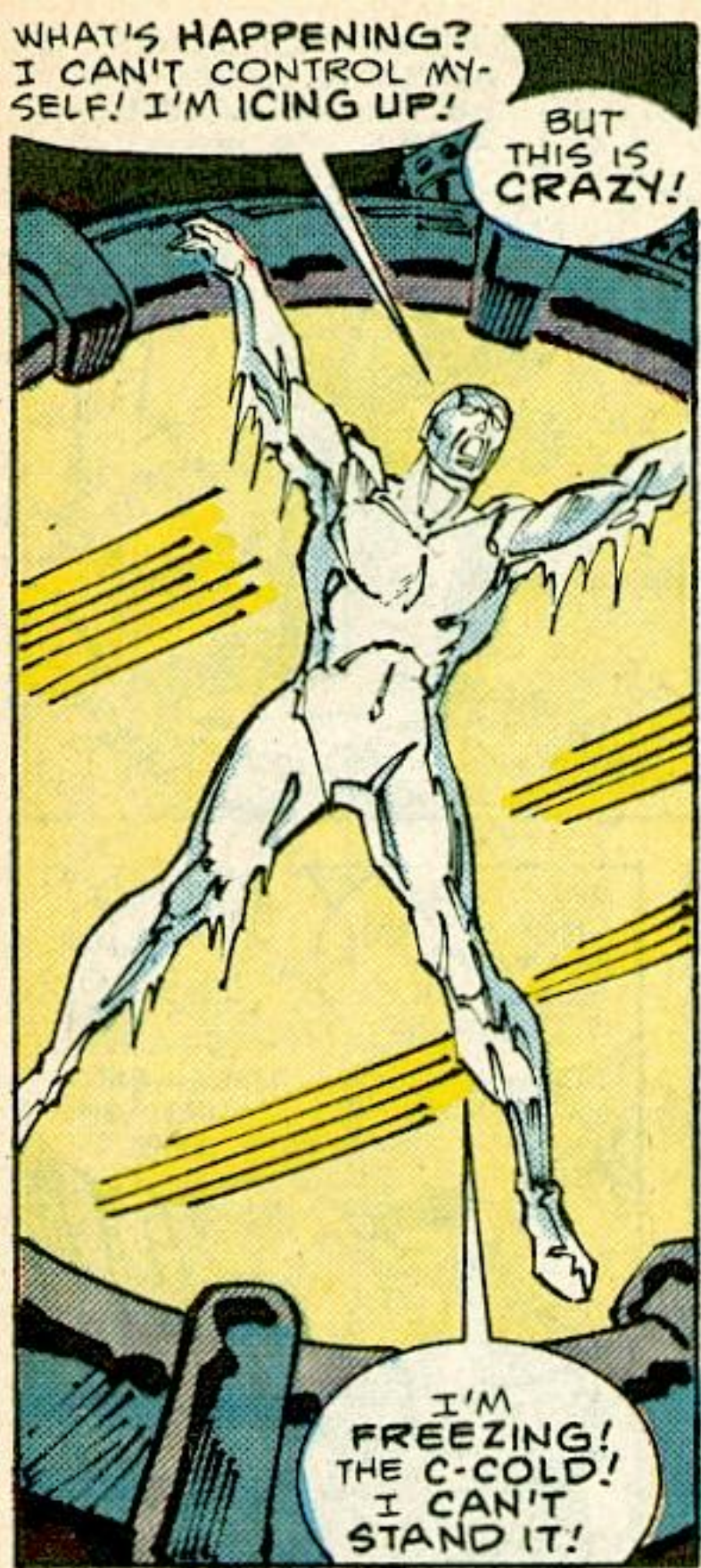
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, OR ALL MY CAREFUL PLANNING WOULD GO AWRY!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

FORGIVE ME, BUT WE SHALL HAVE TO CHAT SOME OTHER TIME. MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WAITING SO LONG.

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE TO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE?





BUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS IS STILL UNKNOWN AS IN THE MEADOWS OF THE GOLDEN REALM, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY...

WATCH CAREFULLY NOW, LITTLE WARRIORS, FOR THE HAND IS TRULY QUICKER THAN THE EYE.

NAY, KEVIN, THIS IS WARRIOR'S PLAY, NOT WARRIORS' WORK.

FRIEND HOGUN HERE IS ABOUT TO LEARN WHY THE ELUSIVE FANDRAL IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE NINE WORLDS AS FANDRAL, THE DASHING!

ARE THEY GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER, SIF?



MAYHAP, FRIEND FANDRAL, 'TIS THE DASHING OF FANDRAL'S TONGUE WHICH HATH EARNED HIM THAT SOBRIQUET!

CERTAINLY NOT HIS SKILLS AS A WRESTLER!

OOO FFF!



PEACE, LITTLE ONES!

THE SEAT OF FANDRAL SHALL BE STANDING FOR SOME DAYS TO COME, AS IT IS!



WOW! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM MOVE! DO IT AGAIN, HOGUN! THAT WAS NEAT!

THAT WAS NEAT, HOGUN, BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO US?

WE'RE JUST ORDINARY KIDS AND VOLSTAGG'S KIDS ARE STILL TOUGHER THAN WE ARE.



WE'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIT IN HERE, NO MATTER HOW NICE EVERYBODY IS.

LISTEN TO ME, LITTLE WARRIORS. THOUGH YOU ARE BORN OF MID-GARD, YET SHALL YOU WALK IN ASGARD AS TALL AS ANY GOD.

ALREADY YOU HAVE PARTAKEN OF THE APPLES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, AND THEY SHALL MAKE YOU STRONG.

BUT A GREATER GIFT WILL I GIVE THEE BOTH.



THOUGH ONE MUST POSSESS SKILL TO BEST FANDRAL AS I HAVE DONE, THIS SKILL IS THE LEAST OF TALENTS.

TO YOU, KEVIN, AND TO YOU, MICK, I WILL GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH.

'TIS TRULY SAID ON EARTH THAT FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS.



SUCH POWER AS YOU HAVE SEEN IS A POWER OF THE MIND ... AND OF THE HEART.

I WILL BE YOUR MOUNTAIN, AND IN THE END, YOU WILL MOVE ME.

FANDRAL, WHAT AILS THEE? SURELY HOGUN'S FAITH HATH NOT DONE THEE A TRUE INJURY?



SURELY NOT, MY LADY. YET SUDDENLY THE BROW OF FANDRAL IS BATHED WITH SWEAT AND MY LIMBS DO TREMBLE.

LADY SIF?

WE HAVE NOT WRESTLED, HOGUN, BUT I FIND THAT I SHARE FANDRAL'S WEAKNESS!

I... I CAN BARELY MOVE! WE... WE HAD BEST RETURN TO ASGARD ... QUICKLY!



AND FAR AWAY ON EARTH, THE MIGHTY THOR IS ALSO FINDING HIMSELF IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY...



AGAIN, I HAVE ROLLED WITH THE BLOW AND AVOIDED THE WORST OF GRENDALL'S ATTACK!

BUT MY BODY BETRAYS ME AND I CAN NO LONGER ELUDE HIM!



FAREWELL, THUNDER GOD! YOU ARE SCARCELY A SHADOW OF THE FIERCE WARRIOR I EXPECTED.

LET THE FIRES OF THE FURNACE PUT AN END TO THIS CHARADE!

A SHADOW I MAY BE, GRENDALL, BUT EVEN A SHADOW MAY HAVE SUBSTANCE!



GAGGGGG!



FREE! BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! I MUST WIN CLEAR OF THE FOUNDRY AND ESCAPE WITH THE ARMOR I HAVE FORGED WHILE THERE IS TIME!

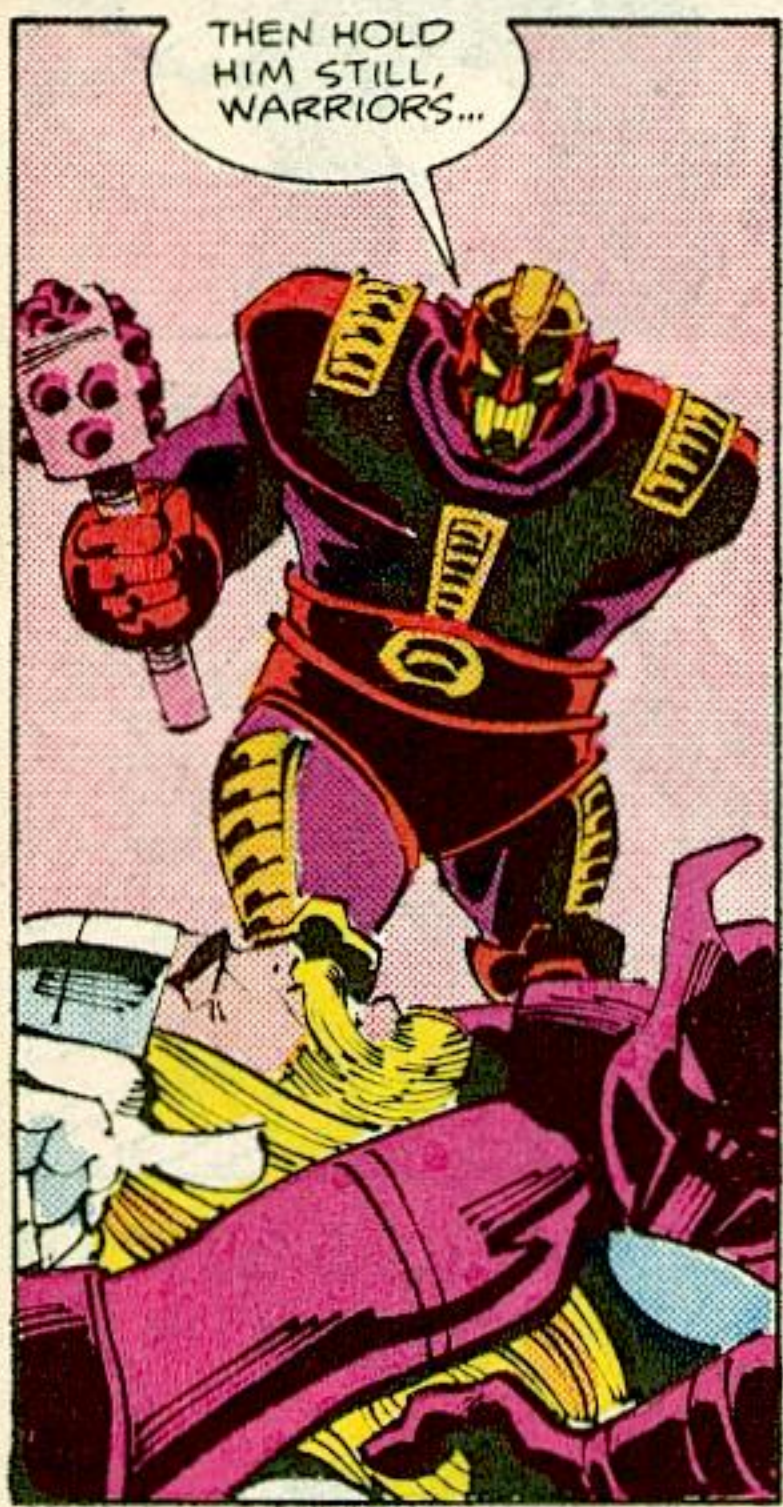


NO! THE REST OF THE ELVISH WARRIORS ARE UPON ME!

EVEN WITH OUR NUMBERS...

...WE CAN BARELY HOLD HIM, SO WEAKENED HAVE WE BECOME INSIDE THIS IRON PRISON!

HE MUST BE SLAIN QUICKLY ERE HE ESCAPES US!



THEN HOLD HIM STILL, WARRIORS...



...AND GRENDRELL SHALL FINISH THE JOB!



THIS CANNOT BE!

THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL NOT BE PINNED BY HIS ENEMIES AND SLAUGHTERED LIKE A LAMB!

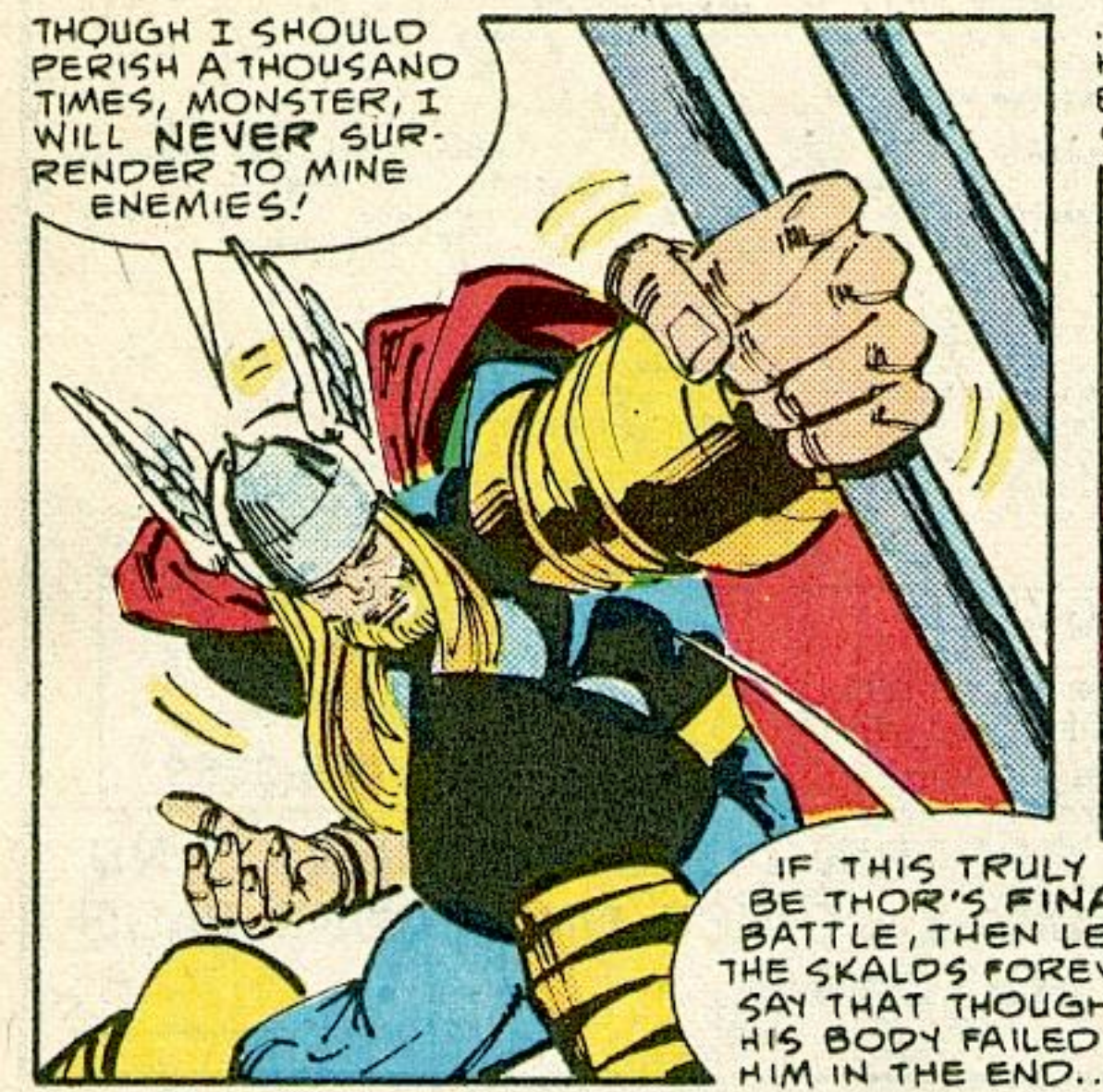
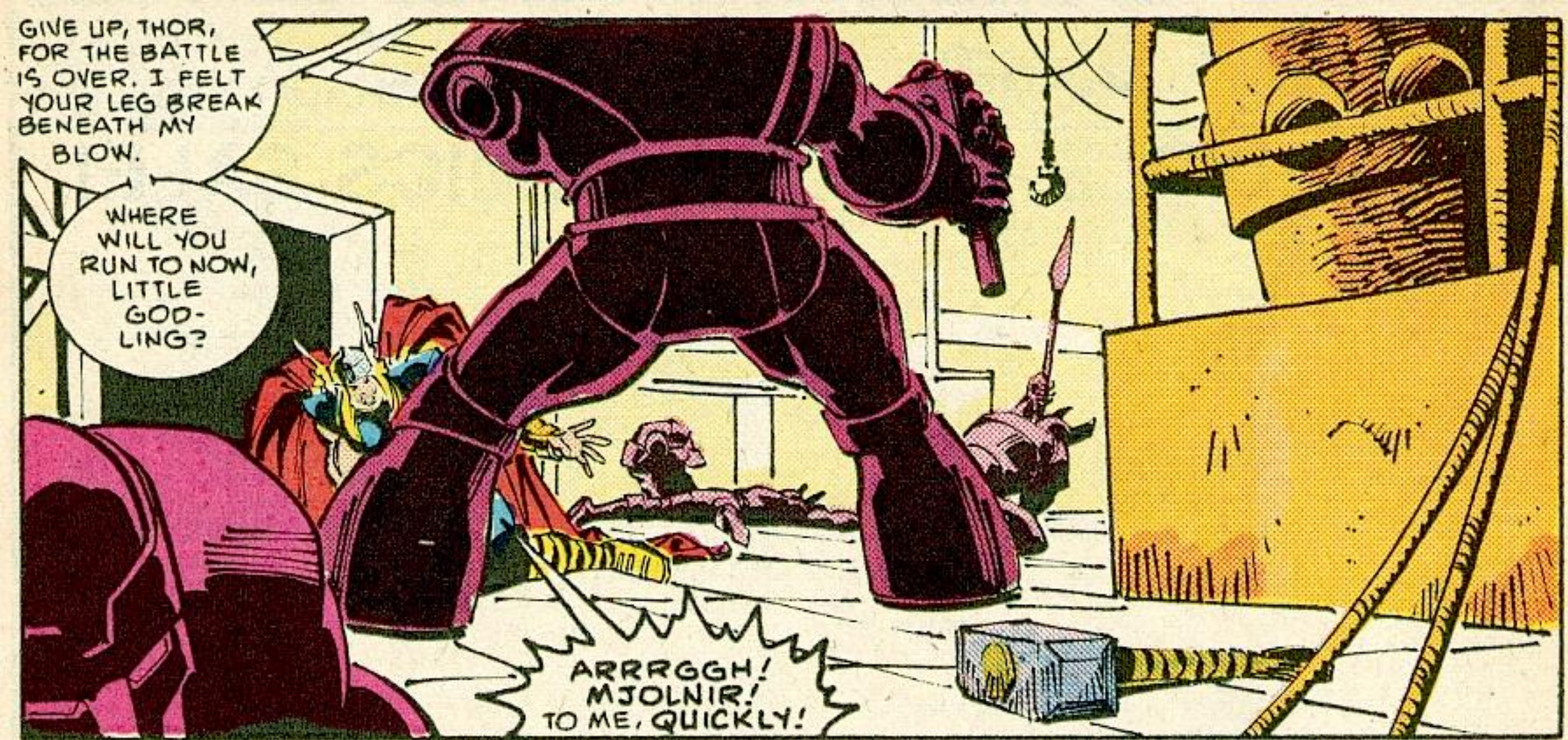


HE TWISTS FROM OUR GRASP! HOLD HIM, BROTHERS! HOLD HIM!

TOO LATE!



GARRR  
RRGH!





THE TERRIBLE IRON BURNS WITHIN MY GUTS!

WOE TO ME, WHO'S OWN MOTHER FORBADE HIS DEATH, THOUGH HE WAS FATED TO DIE IN ANCIENT DAYS!

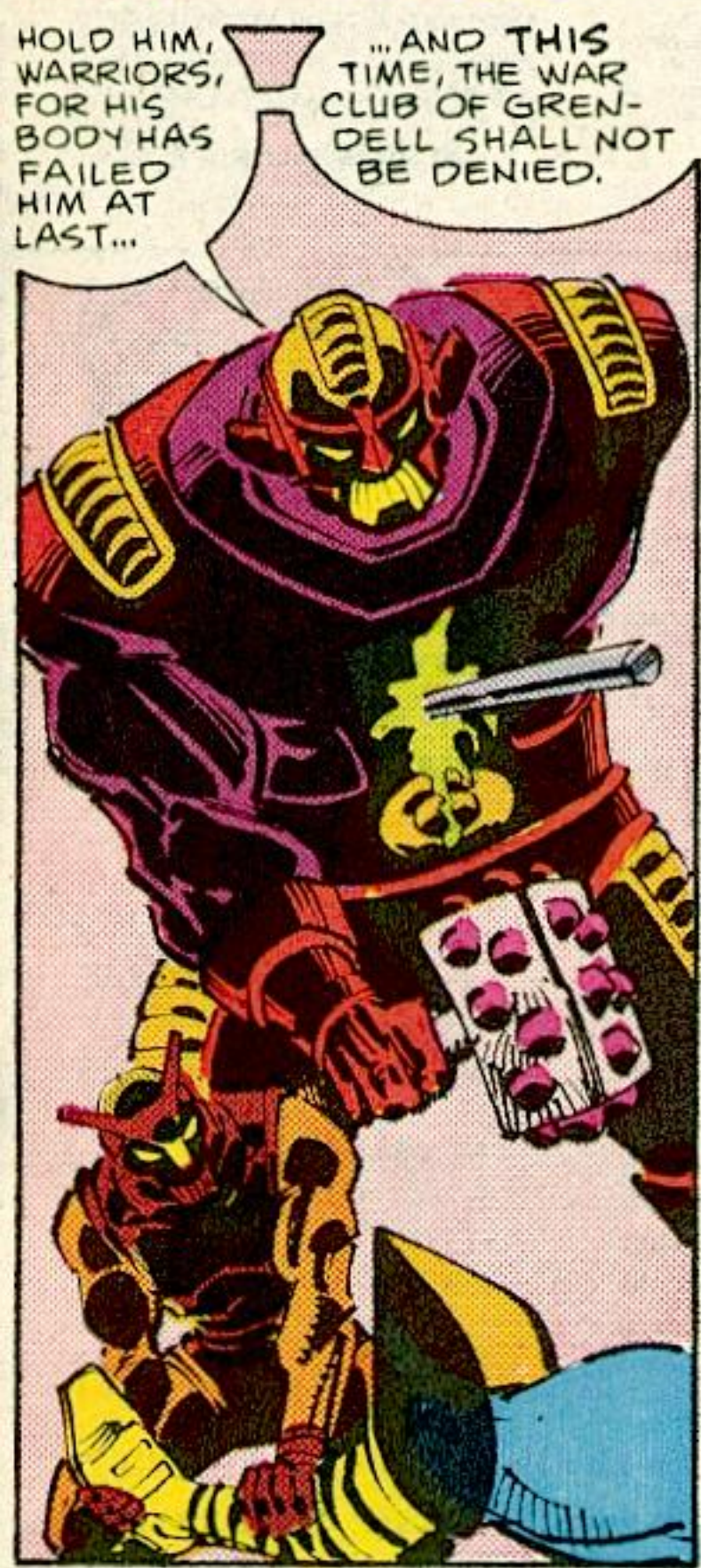
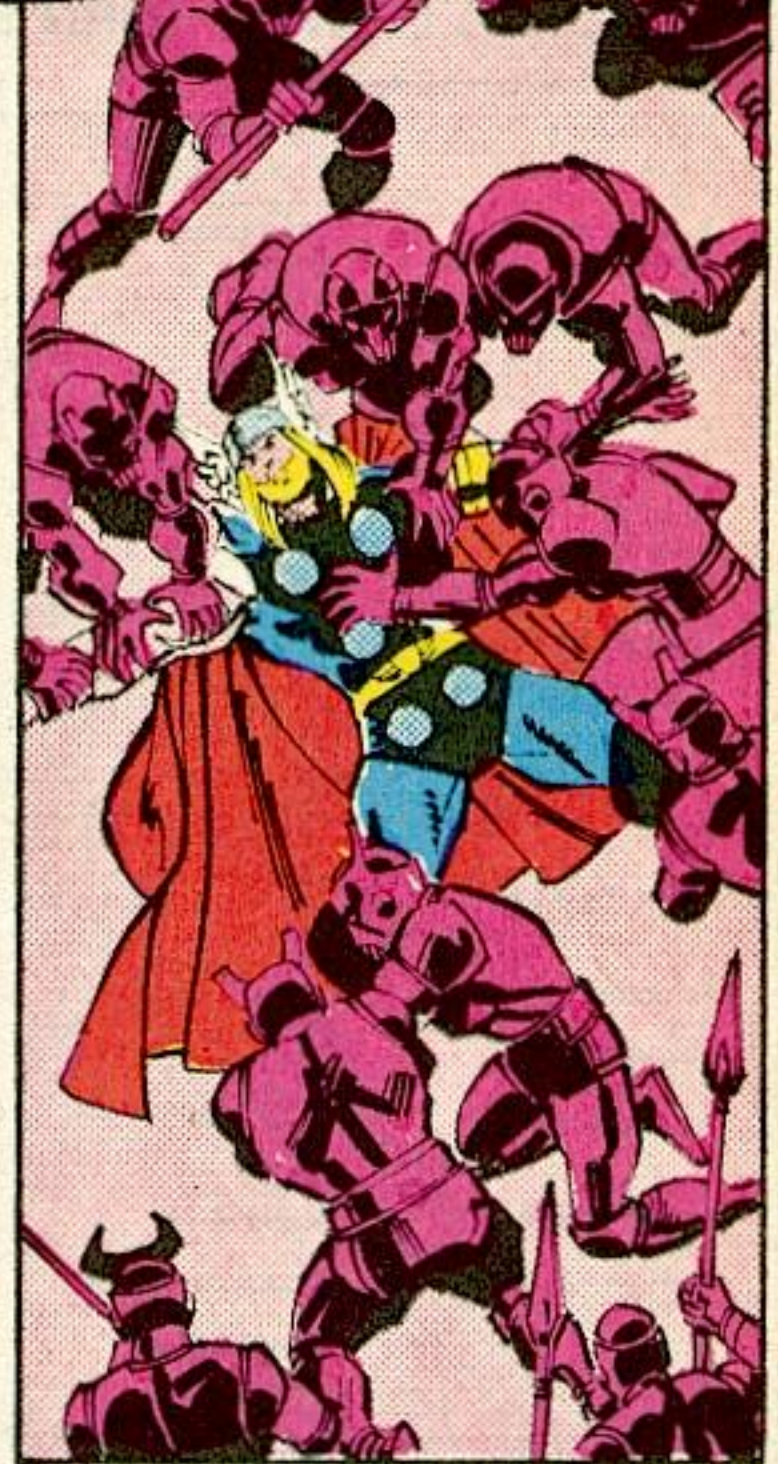
SHE WOVE ABOUT ME HER MAGIKS THAT I MIGHT WITHSTAND THE TOUCH OF IRON!

YET NO ONE ESCAPES HIS WEIRD\* AND FINALLY, MY HOUR IS COME!

BUT I SHALL NOT GO DOWN TO HEL ALONE!



\*DESTINY



HOLD HIM, WARRIORS, FOR HIS BODY HAS FAILED HIM AT LAST...

... AND THIS TIME, THE WAR CLUB OF GREND-ELL SHALL NOT BE DENIED.



WHAT SAY YOU, THOR? WILL YOU NOT EASE MY FINAL HOUR AND PLEAD FOR YOUR LIFE BEFORE I SEND YOU INTO VALHALLA FOREVER?

NAY, GREND-ELL. THE TRUE SON OF ODIN HATH FOUND HIS PEACE AT LAST!

AND THANKS TO HELA, YOU WILL FIND THAT I AM MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO KILL THAN THEE.



NEVER HAVE I FOUGHT A MORE WORTHY OPPONENT. I SALUTE YOU, SON OF ODIN!

THE DARK ELVES OF SVARTALFHEIM SALUTE YOU, SON OF ODIN!

NOW DIE!

YOU HAVE SO LITTLE IMAGINATION, THOR, TO BE SO BRAVE TO THE BITTER END.

HOW FORTUNATE FOR LOKI THAT HE DECIDED TO REVIEW YOUR SITUATION WHILE THE GIANTS RE-GAIN THEIR FORMER GLORY.

I REALLY MUST CREDIT HELA WITH MORE WIT THAN I EVER SUSPECTED.

HER CHARMING GIFT HATH RENDERED THOR POWERLESS MUCH SOONER THAN I DREAMED POSSIBLE.

SO YOUR FIGHTING HEART HATH FORSWORN THE MEANING OF DEFEAT AND FOUND ITS PEACE AT LAST, HAS IT?

THEN THIS SHALL BE LOKI'S FINAL CHALLENGE.

AND THOUGH YOU MAY NEVER DIE...

**VAAZZZAAPT!**

TO WREST FROM THY BROKEN LIPS THE CRY, "HOLD, ENOUGH!"

... WITHIN THE WALLS OF LOKI'S FORTRESS, THE TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU SHALL BEG MY FAVOR TO PLEAD THY SUIT WITH HELA!

I SHALL ACTIVATE THE MACHINERIES OF THE GODS AND THE DEED IS DONE!

"LET THE HOSPITALITY OF LOKI ENTERTAIN HIS STEP-BROTHER UNTIL THE END OF TIME!"

WHAT--?

I CANNOT HOLD MY GRIP!

IT IS SOME TRICK OF THOR'S!

QUICKLY! SHATTER THE SPHEROID!

TOO LATE!  
IT VANISHES! AND WITH IT, THOR!!



**GURRLAKKK!**

THE THUNDER GOD HAS ESCAPED THE VENGEANCE OF THE DARK ELVES!



**THORRRRRR!**

AND FAR, FAR AWAY AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...



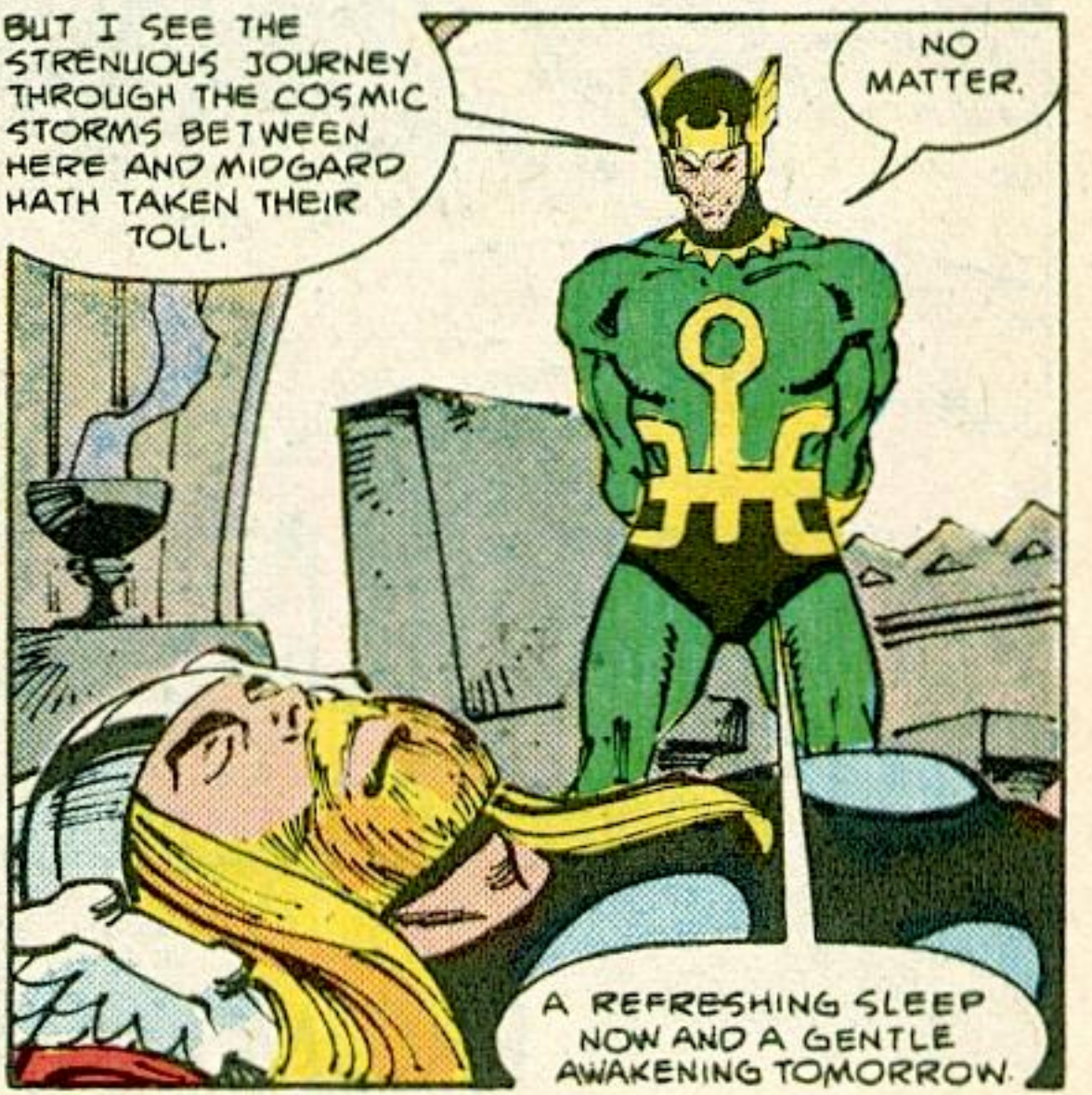
**GURRLAKKK!**

THE PRODIGAL RETURNS.



WELCOME, THOR, TO YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME!

**BURRRRAK!**



BUT I SEE THE STRENUOUS JOURNEY THROUGH THE COSMIC STORMS BETWEEN HERE AND MIDGARD HATH TAKEN THEIR TOLL.

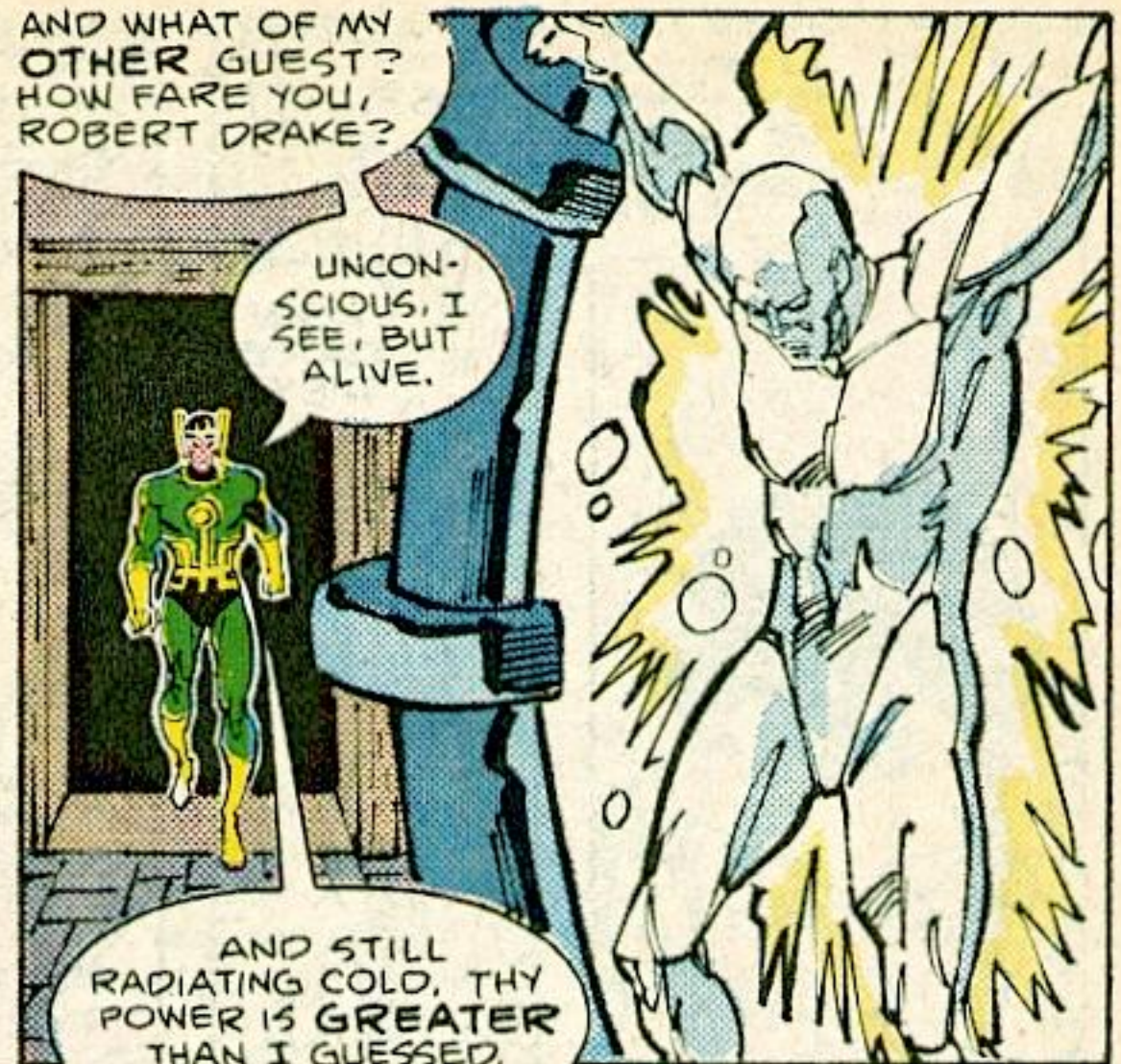
NO MATTER.

A REFRESHING SLEEP NOW AND A GENTLE AWAKENING TOMORROW.



PLEASANT DREAMS, THOR. THEY MAY BE THE LAST THOU SHALT EVER HAVE!

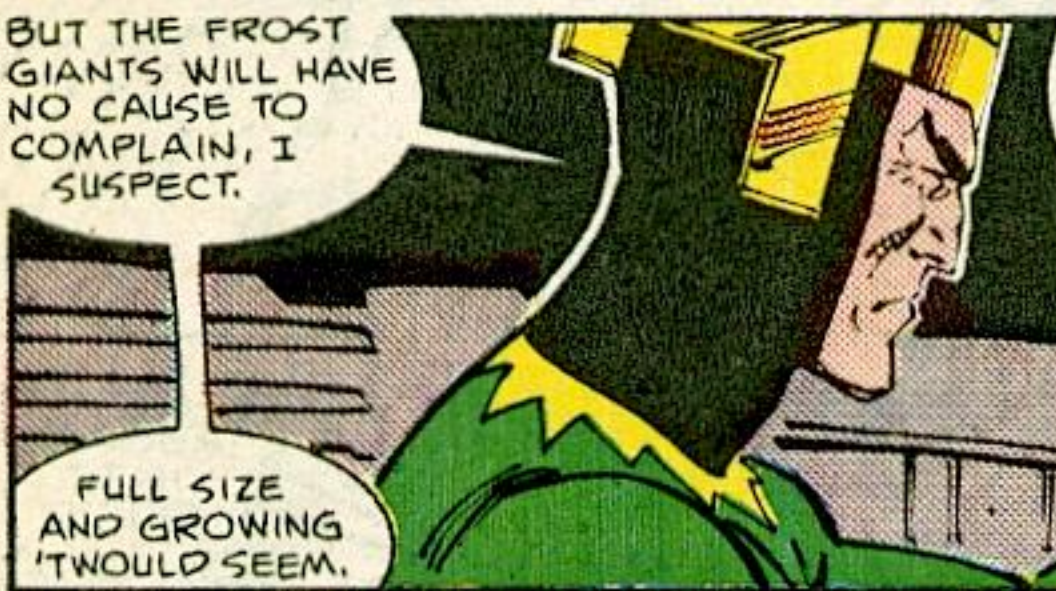
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!



AND WHAT OF MY OTHER GUEST? HOW FARE YOU, ROBERT DRAKE?

UNCONSCIOUS, I SEE, BUT ALIVE.

AND STILL RADIATING COLD, THY POWER IS GREATER THAN I GUESSED.



BUT THE FROST GIANTS WILL HAVE NO CAUSE TO COMPLAIN, I SUSPECT.

FULL SIZE AND GROWING 'TWOULD SEEM.

EXCELLENT. THY TASK IS FINISHED, DRAKE. 'TIS TIME TO STOP MY ENGINES.



BUT AS LOKI TURNS FROM THE SCREEN TO HIS CONTROLS...



THE COLD HAS CEASED TO FLOW FROM LOKI'S CASTLE!

IT CAN ONLY BE LOKI'S DOING!

WE MUST HAVE MORE!



THEN FOLLOW ME, GIANTS!

NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM US WHAT IS OUR RIGHT!



THE SOURCE OF SUCH POWER SHALL BE OURS!

THRUUUUUDD!

DEATH TO LOKI!



**Next: WHEN LOKI STOOD ALONE!** And the Thunder God could barely stand at all! **IN 30 DAYS!**