

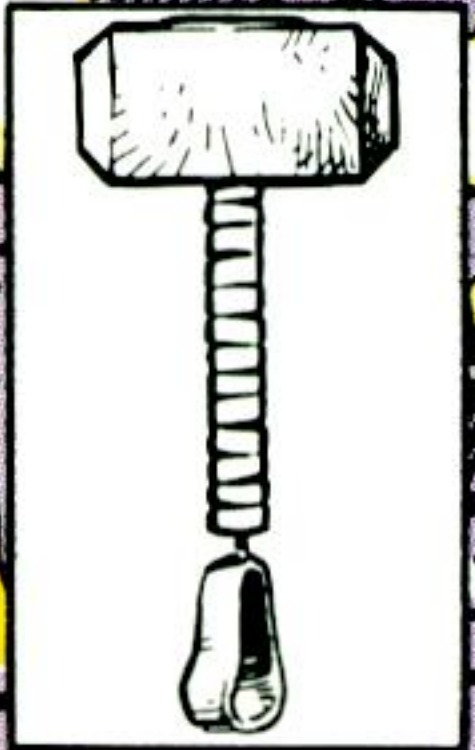
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the mighty THOR



11-14-86

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **the MIGHTY THOR**

IN THE REMOTEST CORNER OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS, STANDS THE FORTRESS OF THE EVIL LOKI...

... SOLITARY, ALOOF, IMPREGNABLE, AND USUALLY UNTENTANTED, EXCEPT BY ITS OWNER.

TODAY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME UNEXPECTED VISITORS.

DEATH TO ALL ASGARDIANS!

THE COLD MUST BE OURS!

DEATH TO LOKI!



**WHEN
LOKI
STOOD
ALONE!**

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UNGRATEFUL WRETCHES!
IS THIS HOW
THE GIFTS OF
LOKI ARE
REPAID?

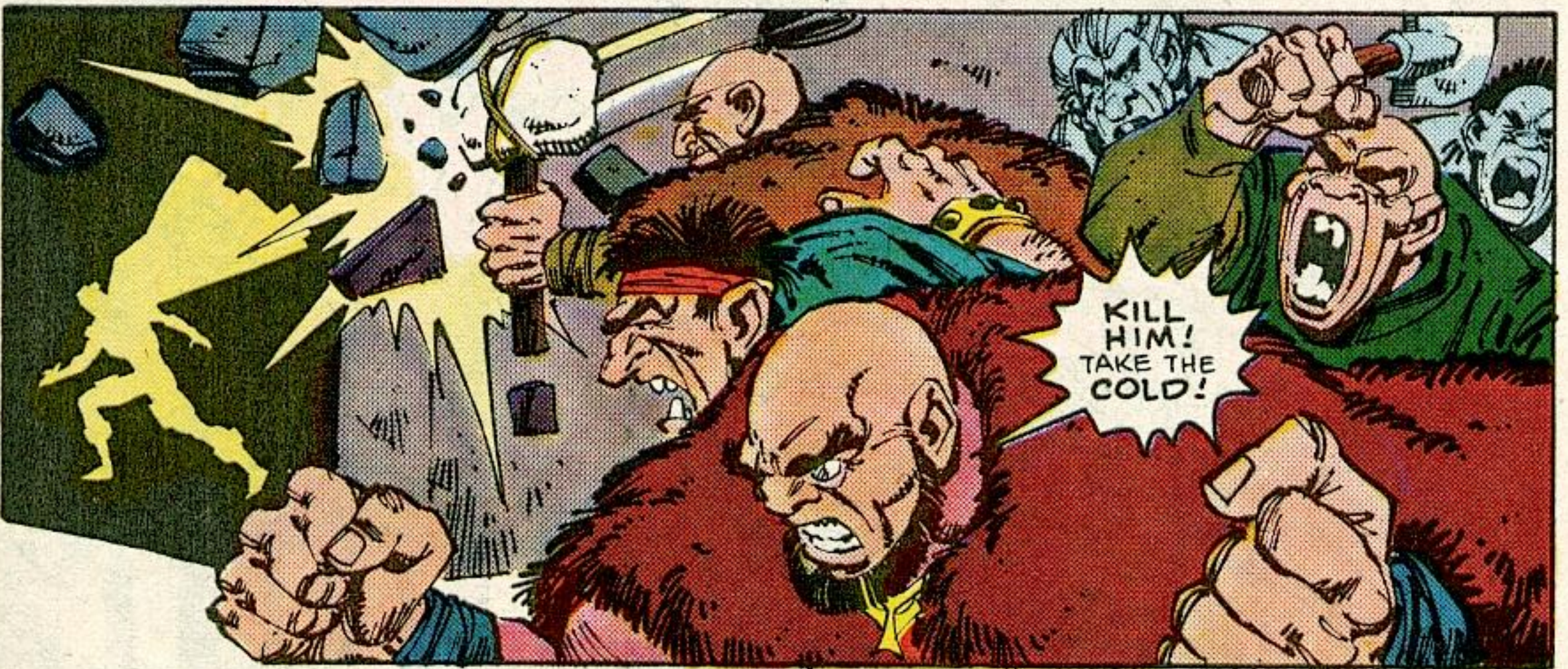


**ZEEODDWW!
ZEEODDWW!**



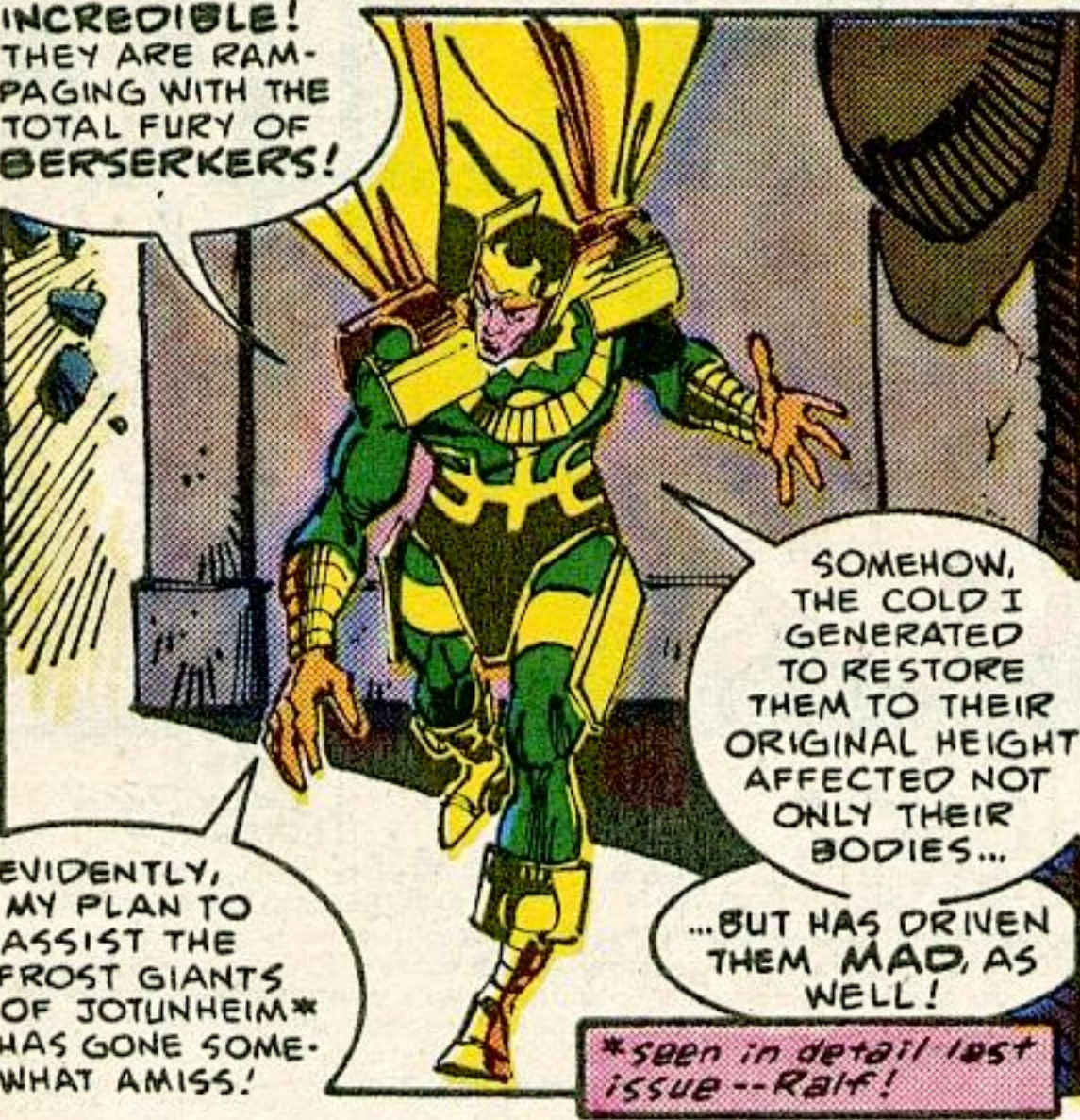
GAHHHHH!

ZZZZZZZ!



KILL HIM!
TAKE THE
COLD!

INCREDIBLE!
THEY ARE RAM-
PAGING WITH THE
TOTAL FURY OF
BERSERKERS!



SOMEHOW,
THE COLD I
GENERATED
TO RESTORE
THEM TO THEIR
ORIGINAL HEIGHT
AFFECTED NOT
ONLY THEIR
BODIES...

...BUT HAS DRIVEN
THEM MAD, AS
WELL!

**seen in detail last
issue -- Ralf!*

EVIDENTLY,
MY PLAN TO
ASSIST THE
FROST GIANTS
OF JOTUNHEIM*
HAS GONE SOME-
WHAT AMISS!

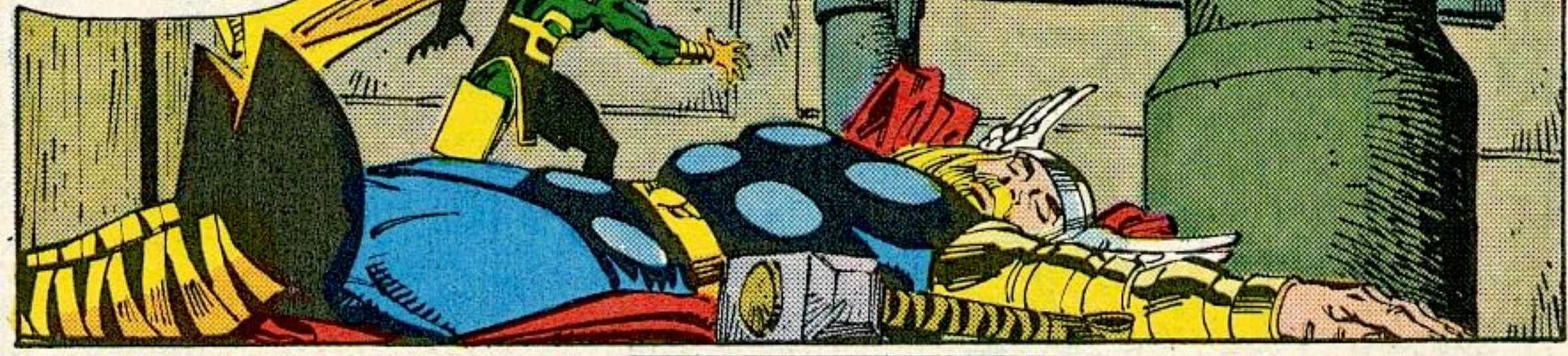
I NEED A
MOMENT
TO GATHER
MY WITS.



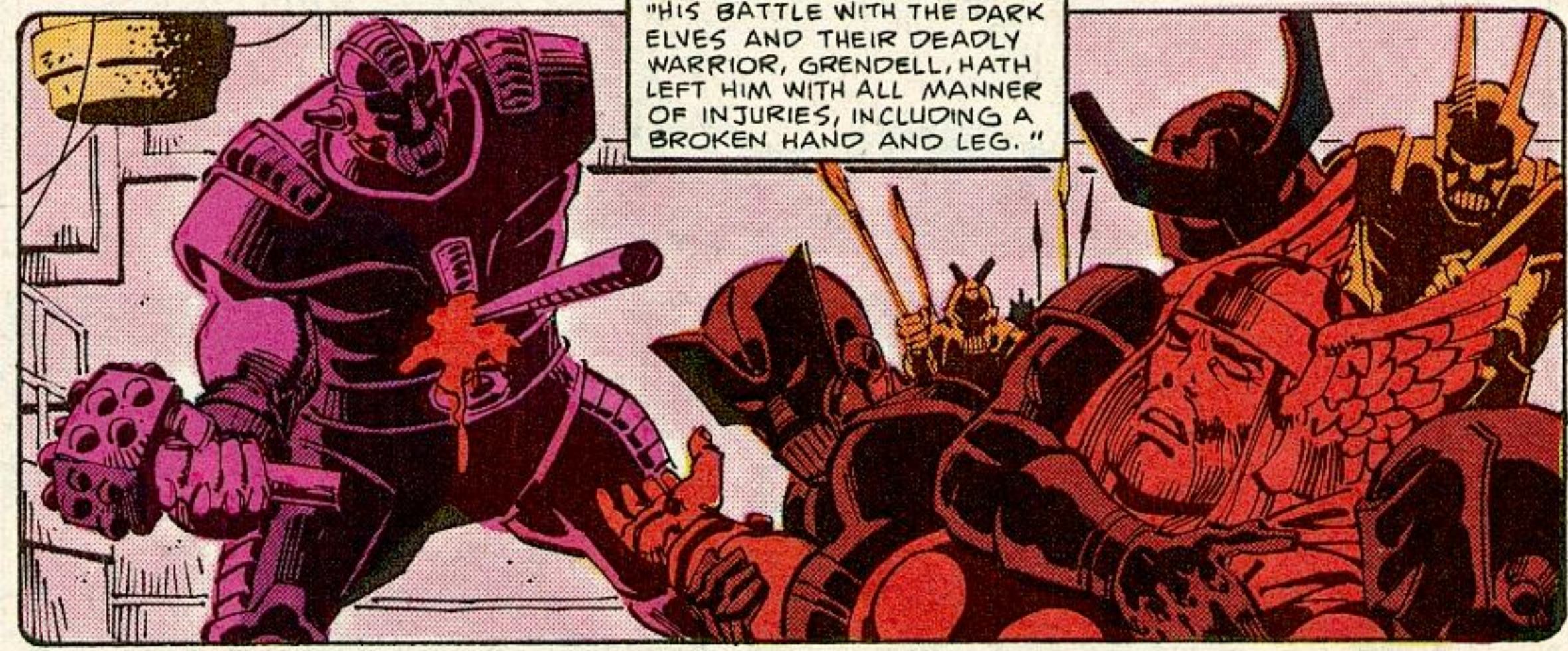
HISAZZUPST!

AND THE
GREAT DOOR,
REINFORCED BY
A SPELL OF
BINDING, SHALL
HOLD THEM
FOR NOW!

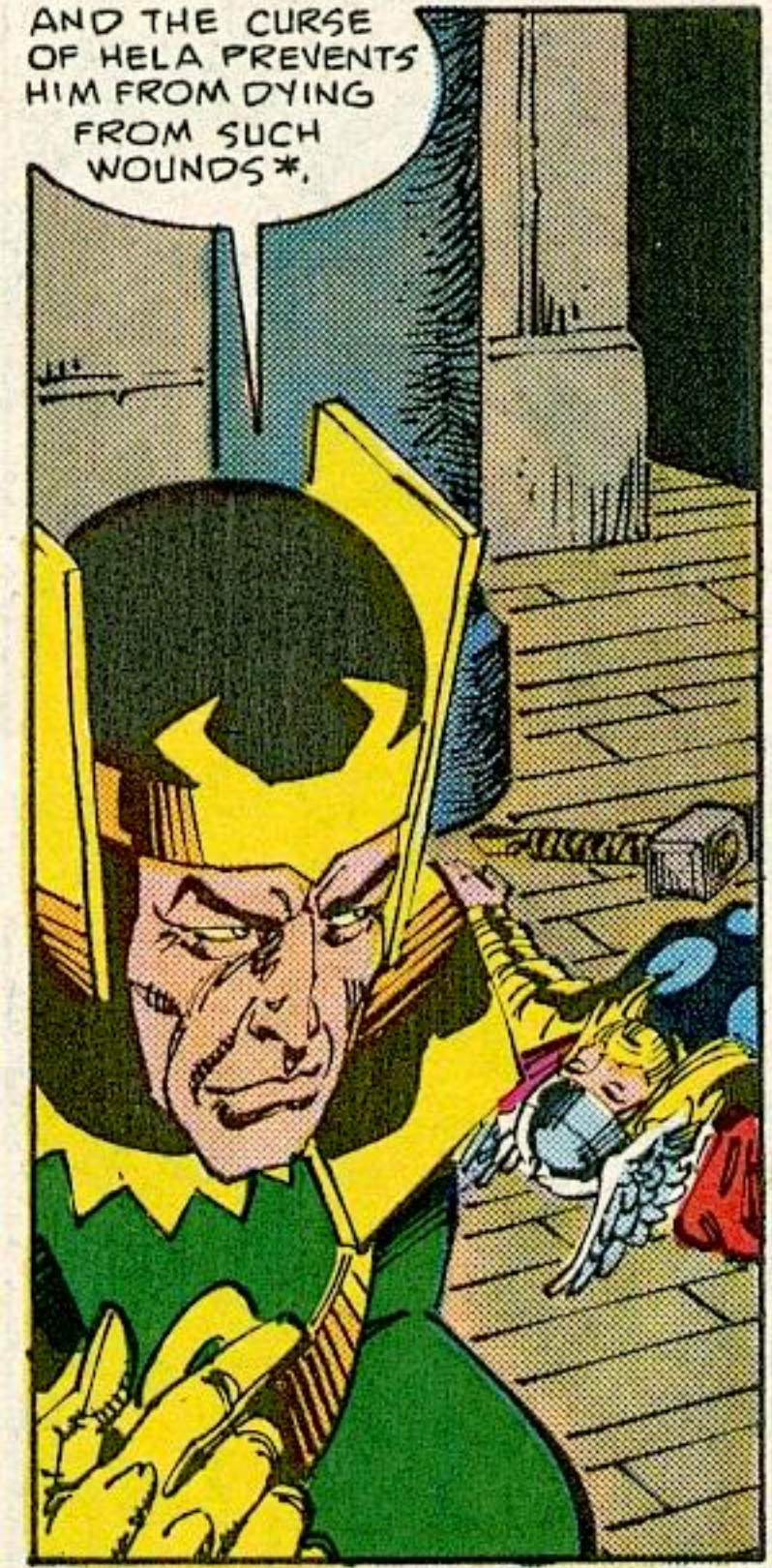
A MOMENT! 'TIS MY HATED STEP-BROTHER, THOR, STILL UNCONSCIOUS SINCE I BROUGHT HIM HERE!



"HIS BATTLE WITH THE DARK ELVES AND THEIR DEADLY WARRIOR, GREDEL, HATH LEFT HIM WITH ALL MANNER OF INJURIES, INCLUDING A BROKEN HAND AND LEG."



AND THE CURSE OF HELA PREVENTS HIM FROM DYING FROM SUCH WOUNDS*.



*details all over the last few issues, Thorophiles!--R.

HOW DELIGHTFULLY IRONIC!



LET THE GIANTS PLAY WITH A NEW TOY WHILE LOKI ARRANGES THEIR TOTAL DEFEAT FOR THIS BETRAYAL!

THOR WILL PROVE USEFUL TO ME AT LAST!



AND IN THE NEXT MOMENT,
IN THE ROOM BEYOND THE
SEALED DOORWAY...

IT'S THOR
ODINSON!

HUGGHHH?

THE
THUNDERER
SLAYER OF
GIANTS AND
THEIR
KIN!

WITHOUT
HIS
TERRIBLE
HAMMER!



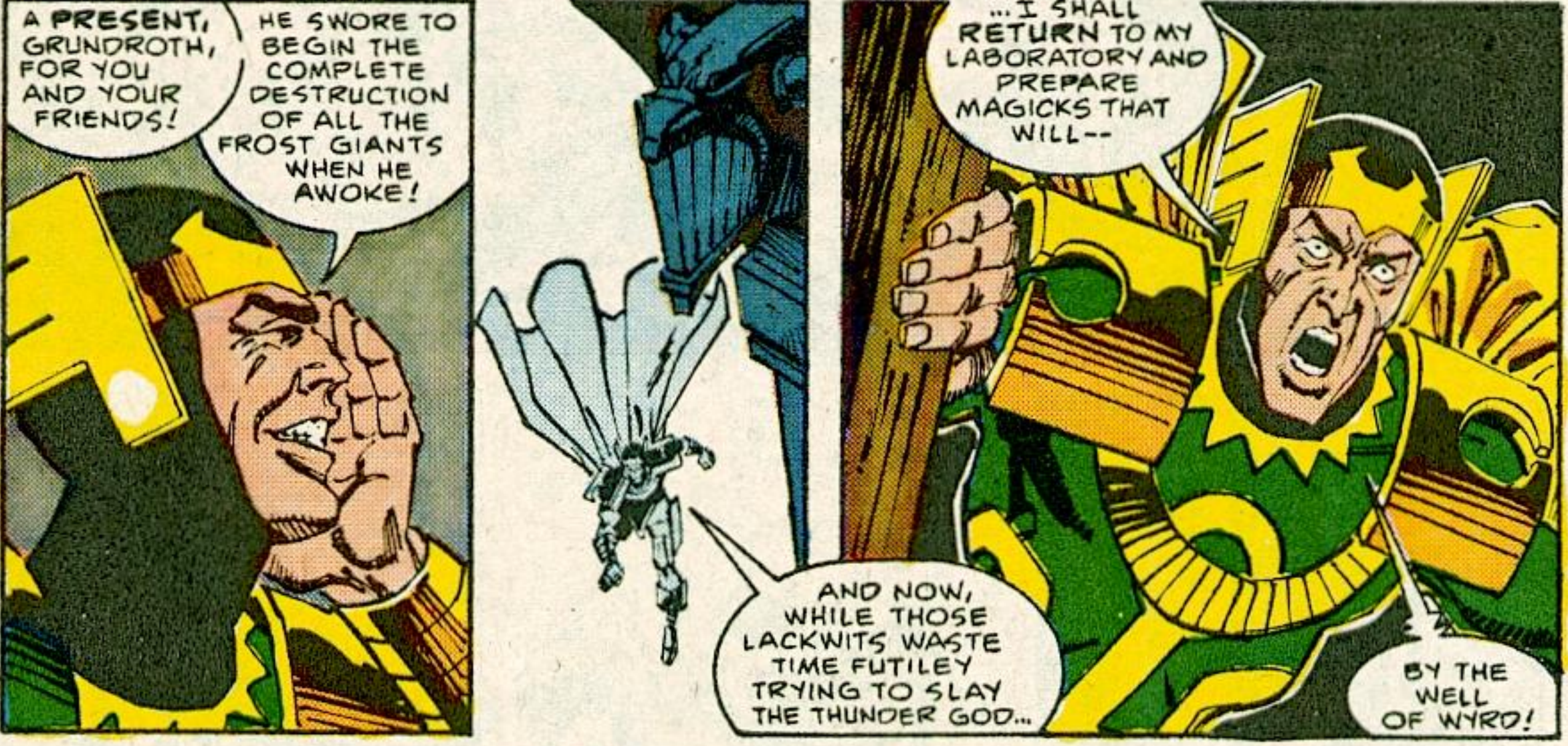
A PRESENT,
GRUNDROTH,
FOR YOU
AND YOUR
FRIENDS!

HE SWORE TO
BEGIN THE
COMPLETE
DESTRUCTION
OF ALL THE
FROST GIANTS
WHEN HE
AWOKE!

...I SHALL
RETURN TO MY
LABORATORY AND
PREPARE
MAGICKS THAT
WILL--

AND NOW,
WHILE THOSE
LACKWITS WASTE
TIME FUTILEY
TRYING TO SLAY
THE THUNDER GOD...

BY THE
WELL
OF WYRD!



THE ATMOSPHERE
WITHIN THE ROOM
IS CHILLED
NEARLY BEYOND
ENDURANCE!

NO WONDER
THE GIANTS
HAVE BEEN
DRIVEN HALF
MAD BY
DESIRE!

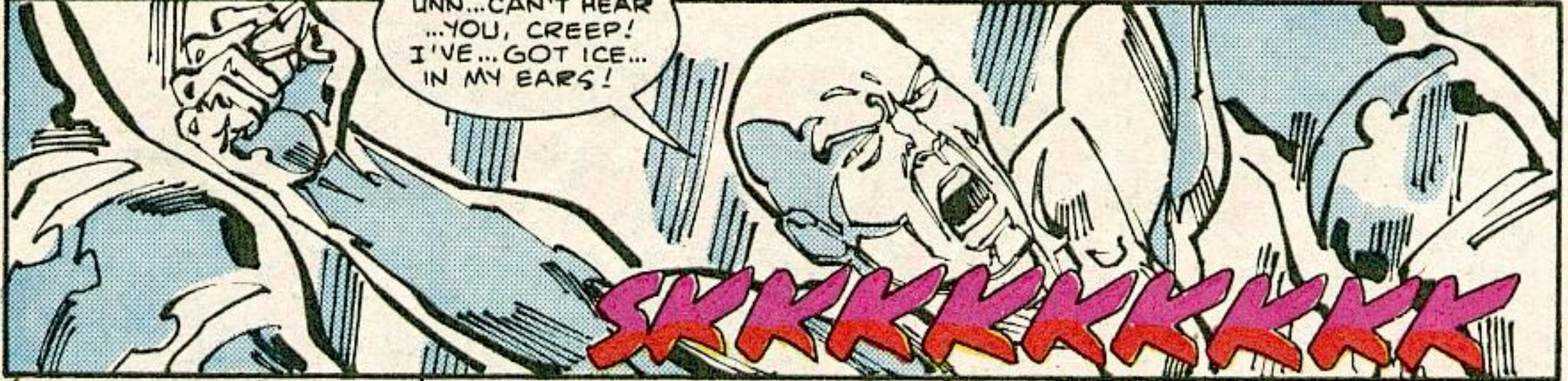
MORTAL,
CEASE THIS
EFFORT AT ONCE,
DO YOU HEAR?

YOU WILL
DESTROY
THE LABOR
OF YEARS!

THE
MACHINERIES
I USED TO
EXTRACT THE
TOTAL POWER
OF THE
ICEMAN
HAVE BEEN
FROZEN
SOLID!

AND MORE ICE IS
FORMING EVERY MOMENT!
ROBERT DRAKE SEEKS
TO OVERLOAD THE COLD
ENHANCERS THAT HOLD
HIM CAPTIVE!





UNN...CAN'T HEAR
...YOU, CREEP!
I'VE...GOT ICE...
IN MY EARS!

SKKKKKKKKKKK

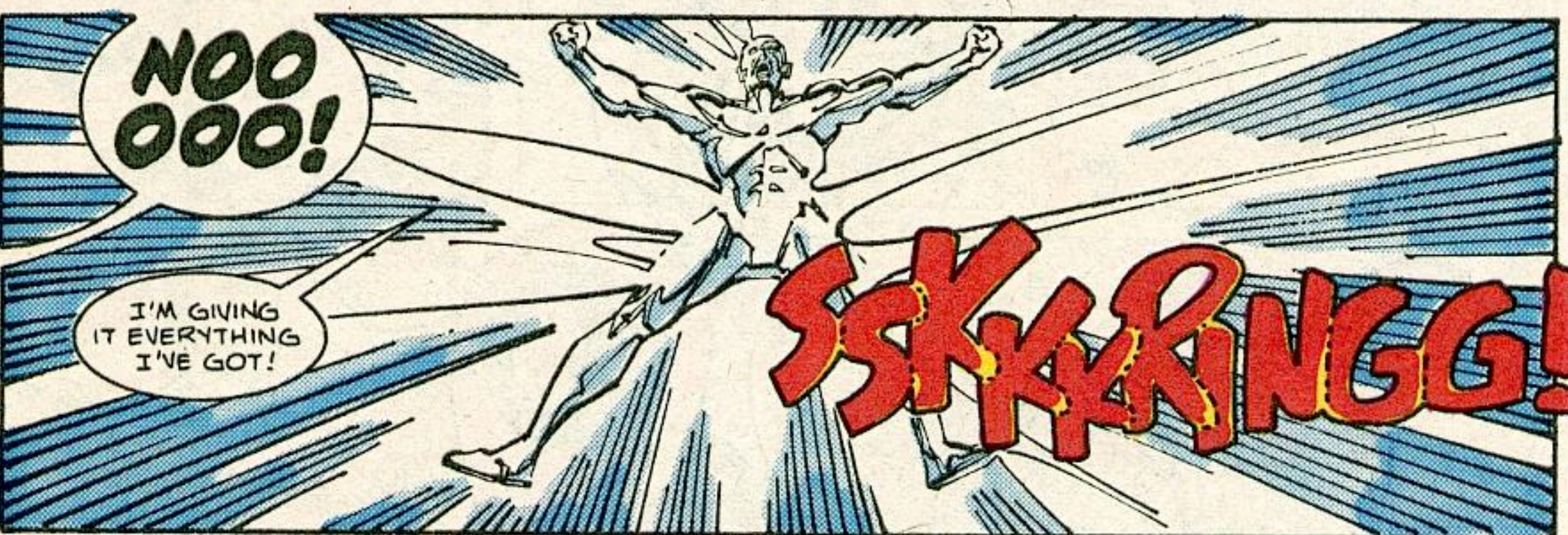


STOP
IT, YOU
FOOL!

THE UNBELIEVABLE
COLD YOU'RE
GENERATING WILL
ONLY SERVE TO SUM-
MON THE FROST
GIANTS LIKE A
BEACON!

ESARRAPPT!

TOO
LATE!



**NOO
OOO!**

I'M GIVING
IT EVERYTHING
I'VE GOT!

SKKRRINGG!



AND ONLY A
FEW HALLS
DISTANT...

WAKE HIM
UP! THEN
KILL
HIM!

NAAA!
CRUSH THE
ACCURSED
SON OF ODIN
NOW!



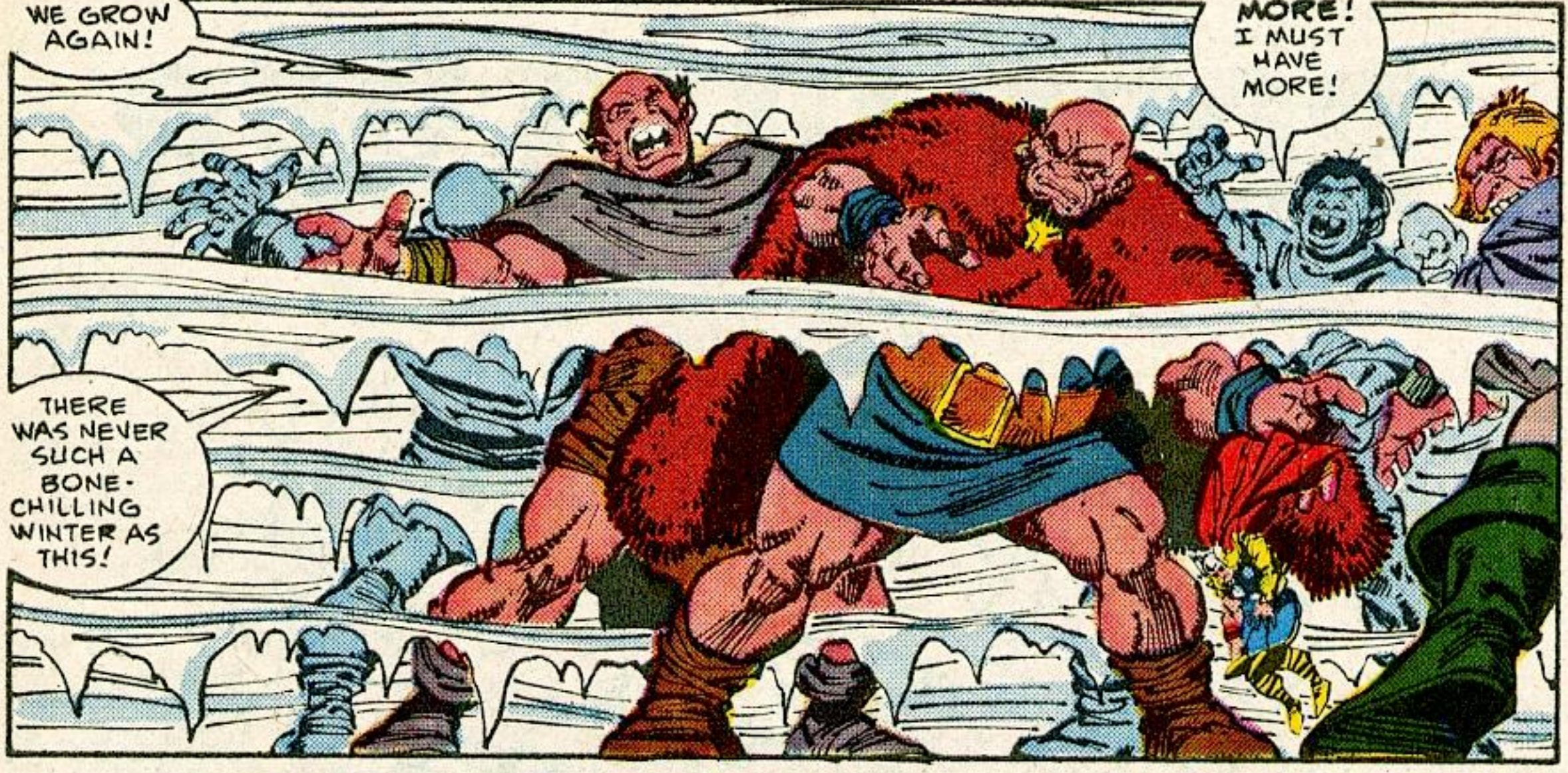
HUUHH?
BEHIND
US!

THE
COLD!
IT'S
FILLING
THE
CASTLE!

WE GROW AGAIN!

MORE!
I MUST HAVE MORE!

THERE WAS NEVER SUCH A BONE-CHILLING WINTER AS THIS!



IT'S COMING FROM THE CASTLE'S DEPTHS!

AND WHEN WE POSSESS ITS SOURCE, WE WILL BE THE MASTERS OF ALL WHO LIVE!

FORGET THOR! THE COLD IS OURS FOR THE TAKING!

KRAKASH!



FOLLOW ME, GIANTS OF STORM AND FURY!

THIS IS THE WAY! THE ENTIRE HALLWAY IS FROZEN SOLID!

TAKE ONE STEP FURTHER AT YOUR PERIL, GRUNDROTH!

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF LOKI AND HE BIDS YOU HALT!



I SAID, STAND WHERE YOU ARE!

I HAVE TAKEN YOUR MEASURE NOW...

... AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE WILL BE FATAL!

WATCH OUT! A FIRE-BALL!

SCNRRARASS!

THE HEAT! INTOLERABLE!



GRUND-ROTH! HELP US... HELP..... US.....

THE HALLWAY! SMASH THE SIDES OF THE HALLWAY! HURRY! BEFORE WE PERISH!

THE FLYING DEBRIS HAS DESTROYED THE FIREBALL AS THE GIANTS HAVE DESTROYED MY FOOTING!

I MUST LEVITATE BEYOND THEIR GRASP OR ALL IS LOST!

RAKAWHOOM!



LOKI IS DOWN!
NOW, BROTHERS!
NOW!

TAKE HIM AND
THE DEADLY ARCTIC
COLD SHALL BE
OURS!

uhhhhh

MY HAND!
MY LEG! THE
PAIN IS
BLINDING! I
REMEMBER! BOTH
WERE BROKEN IN
MY BATTLE WITH
GRENDILL AND
THE DARK ELVES!

BUT WHERE
IS THIS PLACE
AND HOW--?

FROST
GIANTS! AND
I RECOGNIZE
LOKI'S CASTLE
KEEP!

AND EVEN AS THEY O'ER-
WHELM HIM, HE STRUG-
GLES ON UNTIL THEY
HAVE TOPPLED HIM
AND MADE HIM
FAST!

HAR! FEEL OUR ICY GRIP,
LAUFHEY'S SON, AND KNOW
THAT THIS IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING!

NO LONGER
SHALL YOUR
FROZEN
HANDS WORK
THEIR DEADLY
SPELLS.

AND WHEN
THE COLD
HIDDEN
IN YOUR
CASTLE
IS OURS...

...WE SHALL
FREEZE THE
BLOOD WITHIN
YOUR VEINS.

AND IN
THE HALL
BEFORE ME,
MY STEP-
BROTHER
FIGHTS
BEYOND
ALL HOPE!

THEN SHALL LOKI,
TINY WHELP OF
JOTUNHEIM,
TRULY BECOME
A "FROST"
GIANT IN
ALL BUT
STATURE!

WOE THAT THE GOD
OF THUNDER SHOULD
EVER HAVE THOUGHT TO
FLEE SUCH FOES AS
GRENDILL AND THE
ABSORBING MAN*!

LOKI IS
BUT THE
SON OF
GIANTS;
THOR IS
THE SON
OF
GODS!

MAYHAP
LOKI DOES
NOT BEAR
THE CURSE
OF HELA.
'TIS NO
MATTER!

WOE TO THOR
THAT HE SHOULD
HAVE WITNESSED
SUCH A SIGHT!

LOKI'S
BRAVERY
BEFORE
IMPOSSIBLE
ODDS REVEALS
THOR'S SHAME
IN THE FULLNESS
OF ITS DISGRACE!

*over the last
couple of issues
--Ralf!

BUT AS THE THUNDER GOD DISAPPEARS INTO THE GATHERING GLOOM OF HIS THOUGHTS AND THE GREAT CASTLE...

...IN ASGARD, IN THE GOLDEN CITY OF THE GODS, WHERE BALDER THE BRAVE SITS UPON THE GREAT THRONE...

AND YOU THINK, ULARIC, THAT THE STARS FORETELL GREAT DANGER FOR THE REALM?

NEVER MORE DANGEROUS THAN NOW, BALDER.

I CANNOT SAY WHAT FORM THE PERIL WILL TAKE BUT BE ASSURED, THERE IS A VERY...

ULARIC? WHAT AILS THEE?

MY LORD. A SUDDEN DIZZINESS, MY LIMBS TREMBLE, I CAN SCARCELY STAND.

REVERED ONE, LET BALDER'S STRENGTH BECOME THINE OWN!

GUARD! GUARD!

SAVE THY BREATH, BALDER. THE GUARD CAN NO MORE HEAR YOU THAN CAN THE ENCHANTRESS!

HEIMDALL, WHAT TRANSPIRES? HAS SOME HIDDEN ENEMY BREACHED THE DEFENSES OF THE REALM?

HEIMDALL! HEIMDALL!

SURELY THIS CANNOT BE THE END! NOT LIKE THIS!

SHALL ASGARD PERISH WITHOUT A SINGLE DEFENDER RISING ON HER BEHALF?

SHALL ALL THAT WE HAVE DONE CRUMBLE IN THE DUST AND YET NO MEASURE OF THE ENEMY TAKEN?

ONLY THE SON OF ODIN MIGHT HELP US NOW, BUT WHERE IS ASGARD'S MIGHTIEST WARRIOR IN HER DESPERATE HOUR OF NEED?

MY LIMBS DO STIFFEN ALSO! THE ROOM SWIRLS BEFORE ME!

THOR. WHERE ARE YOU? THOR!

AND THEN, NO SOUND AT ALL ISSUES FROM WITHIN THE GREAT THRONE ROOM OF THE GODS.

BUT IN LOKI'S CASTLE, THE SOUNDS ARE HOWLS OF VICTORY.

UNCONSCIOUS.

WELL, WE'LL WAKE HIM UP SOON ENOUGH WHEN WE HAVE THE SECRET OF HIS COLD.

BUT SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING...

NOOOO..
ARRRRGH
GGHGH!

KRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

THE WALL!

AND FOR A MOMENT, SILENCE REIGNS WITHIN THE WALLS OF LOKI'S CASTLE AS WELL.

THE GIANTS HAVE FLED IN FEAR OF THE COLLAPSING HALL.

THOUGH SOON ENOUGH, THEY SHALL RETURN, DRAWN BY THE BITTER COLD IN THE HALLS BEYOND.

BUT I HAVE TIME ENOUGH.

THIS DOES THOR REGAIN HIS HAMMER ... AND HIS BROTHER.

THIS ONE'S BODY DID PROTECT LOKI FROM THE FALLING DEBRIS.

COME, TRICKSTER. THOUGH YOU AND I HAVE EVER FOUGHT AND HATED IN THE PAST, YOU SHALL NOT DIE ALONE, UNMOURNED, THIS DAY.

I CAN BARELY STAND UPRIGHT WITHOUT FAINTING, BUT I SHALL STAY THE COURSE, LOKI.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT AFTER ALL THE CENTURIES, THE FOSTERLING OF GIANTS SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT THE GODS A LESSON IN COURAGE?



MAYHAP THIS TIME, WE SHALL SETTLE ALL SCORES BETWEEN US 'ERE THIS DAY IS DONE.



AND THOUGH WELL I KNOW THAT IF YOU BROUGHT ME HENCE, 'T WAS FOR NO GOOD PURPOSE, STILL YOU MUST HAVE SAVED ME FROM THE HANDS OF THE DARK ELVES.

MY BREATH CONGEALS ALMOST BEFORE IT LEAVES MY LUNGS.

WHATEVER SECRET LOKI HATH WRESTED FROM THE GLACIERS, SURELY IT LIES WITHIN THIS CHAMBER.



uuuuuhhhh

LOKI'S SECRET IS HUMAN...

...WEARING A VARIATION OF THE COSTUME I SAW BENEATH NEW YORK CITY ONLY DAYS AGO*.



WHO--? THOR, IS THAT REALLY YOU?

*back in Thor 373/374, accuracy fanatics!--R



GENTLY, LAD, GENTLY. LET ME LIFT THEE DOWN.

I'M... ICEMAN... BOBBY DRAKE. PART OF X-FACTOR.

SCOTT TOLD ME WHAT YOU DID FOR WARREN IN THE TUNNELS.

YOU... MAKING A HABIT OUT OF SAVING US?

I FEAR NOT, BOBBY. THIS TIME, I DOUBT IF I COULD EVEN SAVE MYSELF.

HOW CAME YOU HERE?

LOKI TOLD ME, BRAGGED ...ABOUT IT.

"SAID HE HAD SOME KIND OF DEVICE THAT CREATED SPHERES OF ENERGY... THEY COULD TRANSPORT STUFF INSTANTANEOUSLY..."

"... BROUGHT ME HERE... RIGGED ME UP TO FREEZE... BUT I FROZE ALL RIGHT ...EVERYTHING!"

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE SUCH COLD IN MY LIFE.

UNCONSCIOUS. HE HAS GIVEN UP TOO MUCH ENERGY. AND THE GIANTS HAVE RECOVERED FROM THEIR SURPRISE!

DON'T THINK... HE LIKED IT...

**BROOAMM!
BROOAMM!**

THE DOOR WILL NOT HOLD LONG AGAINST THEIR FURIOUS ONSLAUGHT.

A PITY, LOKI; THAT YOU ARE NOT AWAKE TO GREET YOUR GUESTS.

NO MATTER, THE BOY HAS TOLD ME ENOUGH. I RECOGNIZE FROM HIS DESCRIPTION THE GREAT MACHINE THAT ONCE BROUGHT THE ABSORBING MAN TO EARTH* SO LONG AGO.

AND I SEE IT HERE.

THOR HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THAT WERE IT NOT FOR YOU, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO VICTORY OVER SURTUR IN THE FINAL ENCOUNTER*.

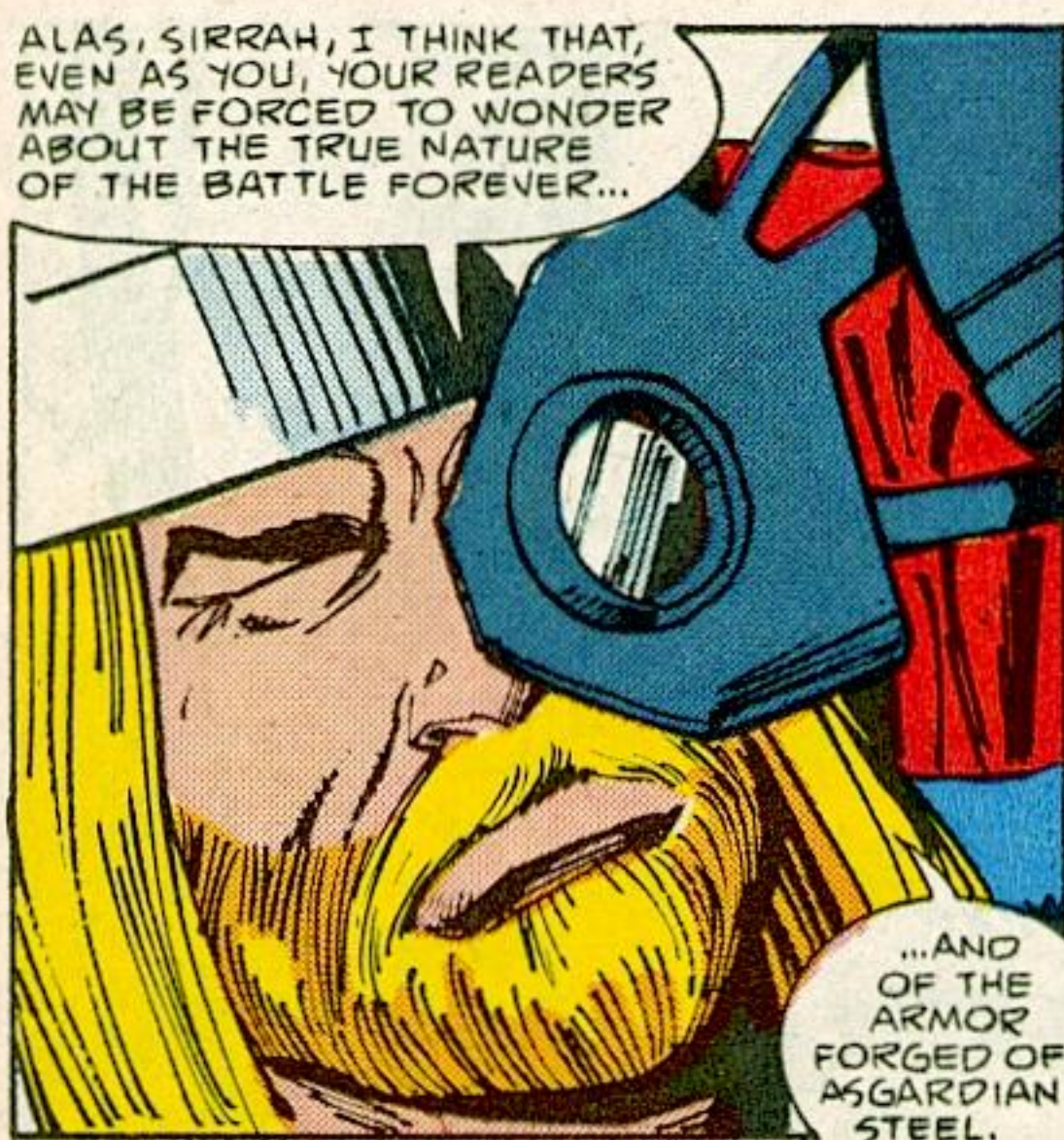
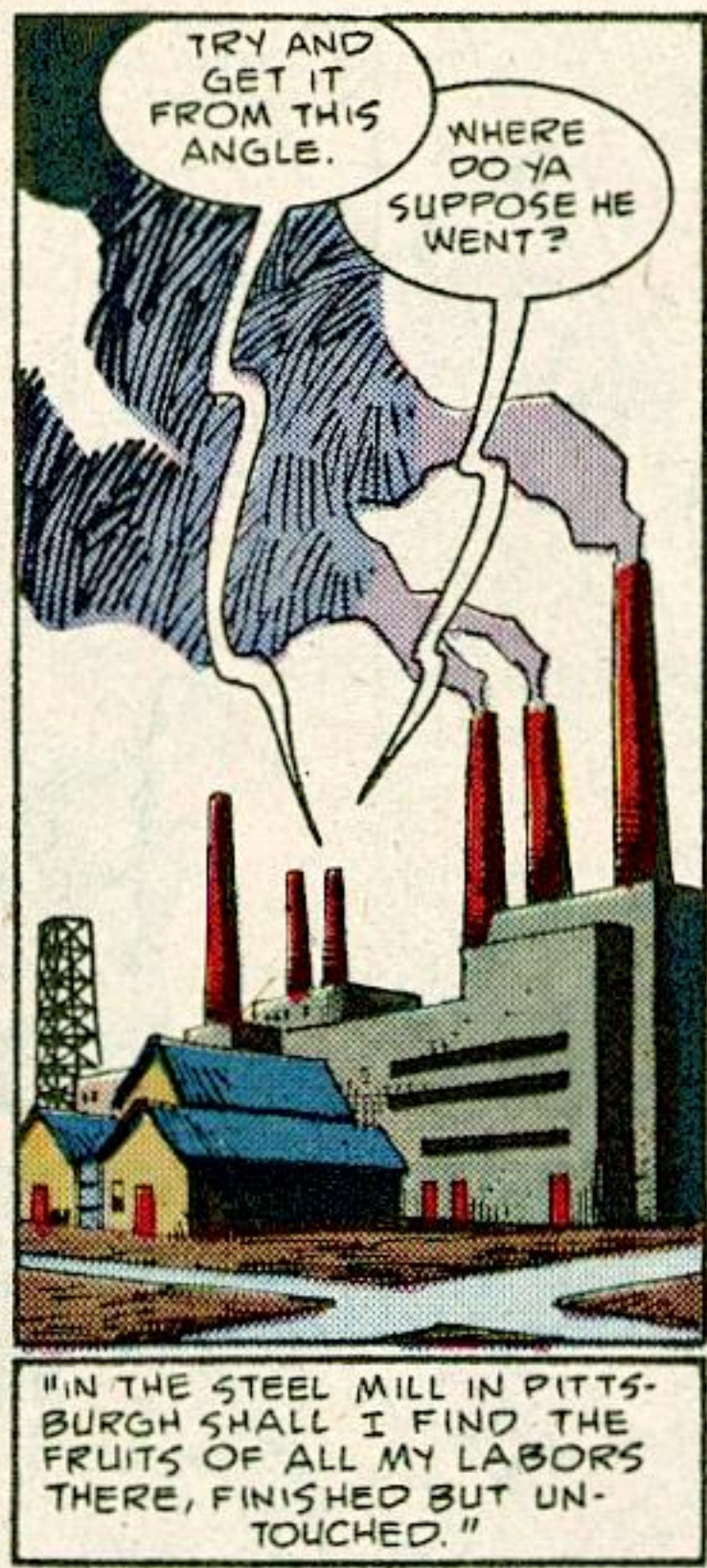
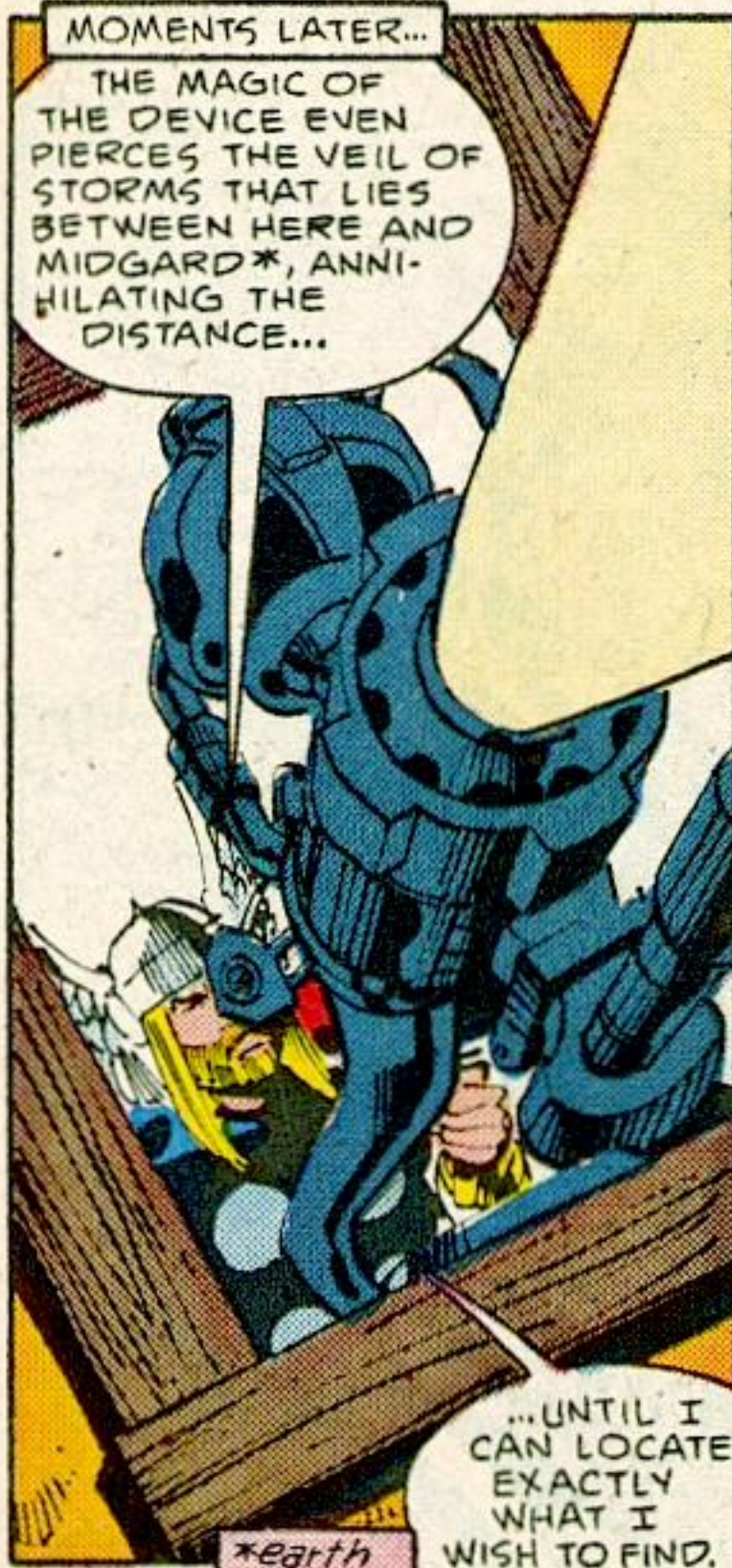
AND TODAY, WIN OR LOSE, THAT DEBT SHALL BE PAID.

YOU HAVE TAUGHT THE THUNDER GOD A LESSON IN COURAGE...

... MAYHAP HE CAN TEACH YOU ONE OF HONOR.

*about a zillion issues ago, actually -- Raif.

*Thor 353 -- Raif.



THE ARMOR WILL ARRIVE ANY MOMENT AND I MUST BE READY!

BARRING!

...AND THEREBY FINISH THE TASK I BEGAN ON EARTH!

MY LIMBS ACHE WITH THE EFFORT, BUT THE HEAT IS STILL INSUFFICIENT!

ONLY FIRES WROUGHT BY MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, MJOLNIR, CAN CREATE THE HEAT NECESSARY TO EMBLAZON THE SACRED RUNES OF ODIN UPON THE METAL...

FASTER STILL MUST I WHIRL MJOLNIR TILL MY VERY BONES DO GRIND IN THEIR SOCKETS!

NOW AS THE GOLDEN GLOBE ENCASES ME... AS THE ARMOR MATERIALIZES ABOUT ME...

...LET THE LIGHTNING SCRIBE THE ANCIENT SYMBOLS OF POWER UPON THE HAUBERK!

STRIKE NOW!

TRAAATHAROOUM!

AND ELSEWHERE IN THE MEADOWS OF ASGARD, JUST BEYOND THE GOLDEN CITY...

I, TOO, FEEL THE FEVER! WE MUST REACH VOLSTAGG'S HALL!

I... I DO NOT THINK I CAN STAND MUCH LONGER!

ME NEITHER! I FEEL... AWFUL!

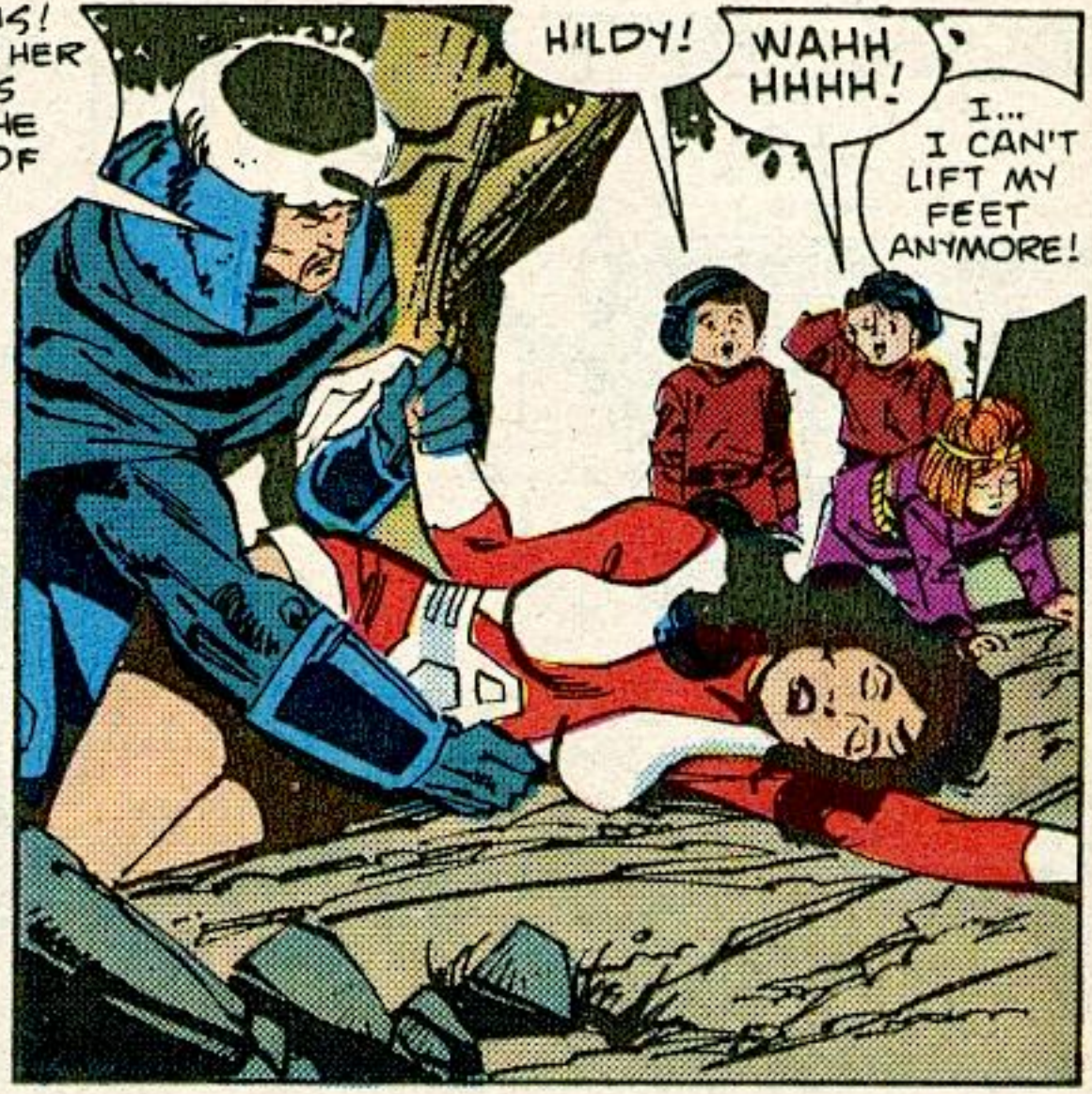




SIF!

Ohhhh...

UNCONSCIOUS!
AND ALREADY HER
LIMBS ARE AS
FRIGID AS THE
MOUNTAINS OF
JOTUNHEIM!



HILDY!

WAHH
HHH!

I...
I CAN'T
LIFT MY
FEET
ANYMORE!



BE STRONG,
LITTLE WARRIORS!
HELP HER!

HER
FATHER'S
HALL IS
NEAR!

MY ARMS
SEEM TO CARRY
THE WEIGHT OF A
CARVEN STATUE,
NOT THE LITHE SOME
GODDESS AT ALL!

WHAT DREAD
MISADVENTURE
HAS COME
UPON US?



C'MON, HILDY.
ISN'T MUCH
FARTHER
NOW.

YOU CAN DO IT!
JUST LEAN ON US!



THE GREAT
HALL IS
SILENT!

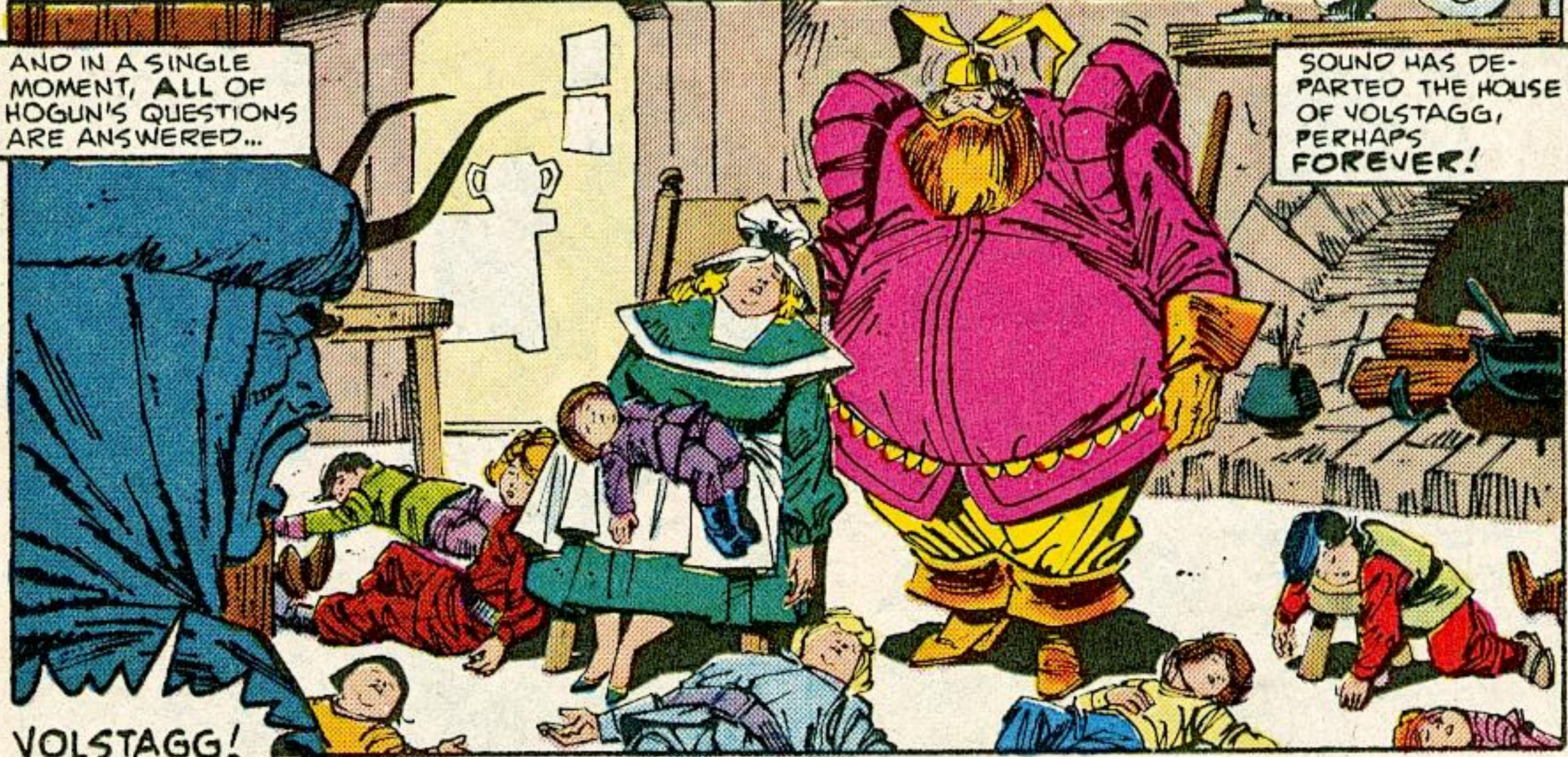
WHERE
ARE THE
SOUNDS OF
ETERNAL
PLAY THAT
SHOULD
SURROUND
THE ENOR-
MOUS ONE'S
DWELL-
ING?



Oh no!

AND IN A SINGLE MOMENT, ALL OF HOGUN'S QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED...

SOUND HAS DEPARTED THE HOUSE OF VOLSTAGG, PERHAPS FOREVER!

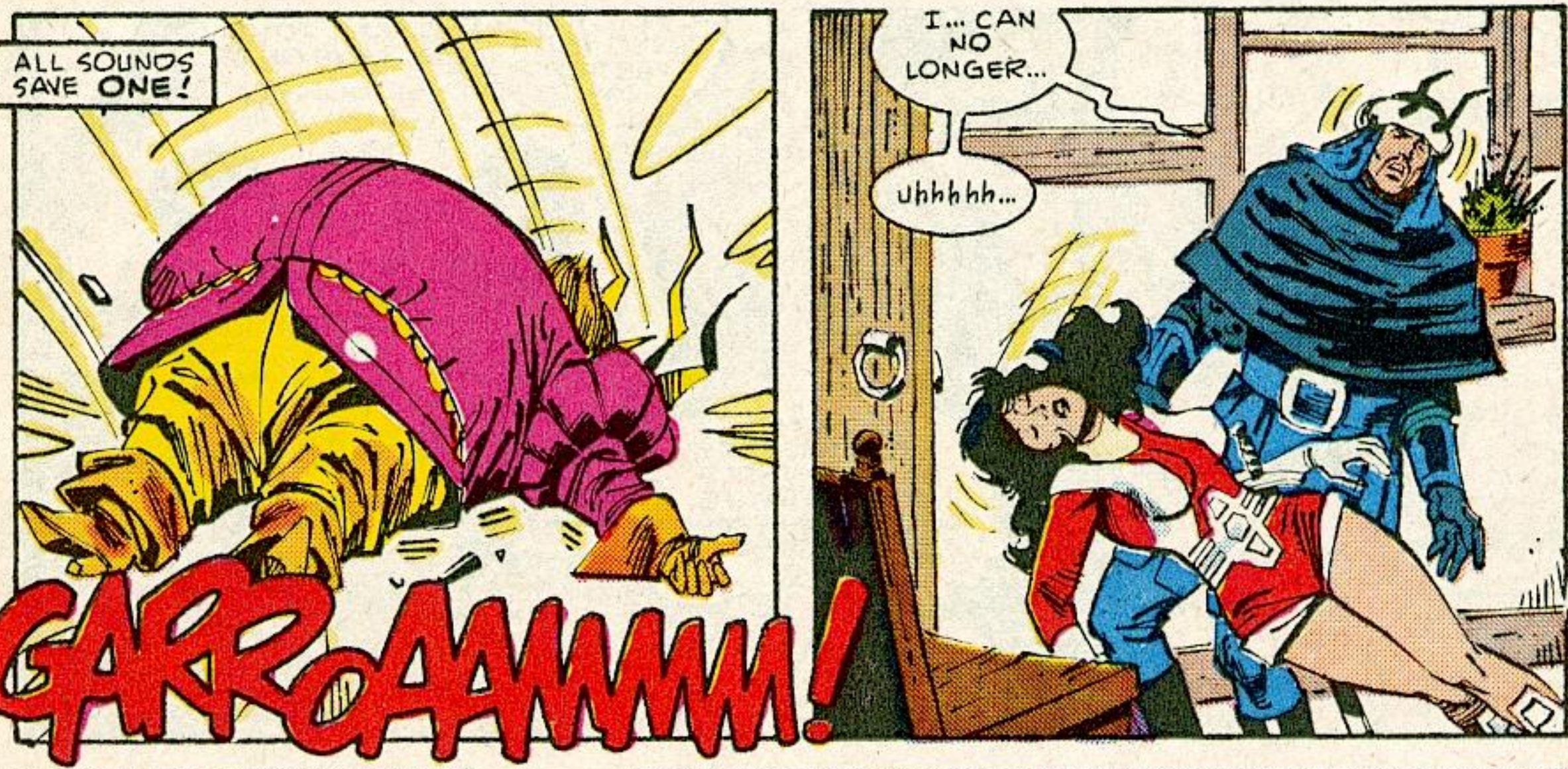


VOLSTAGG!

ALL SOUNDS SAVE ONE!

I... CAN NO LONGER...

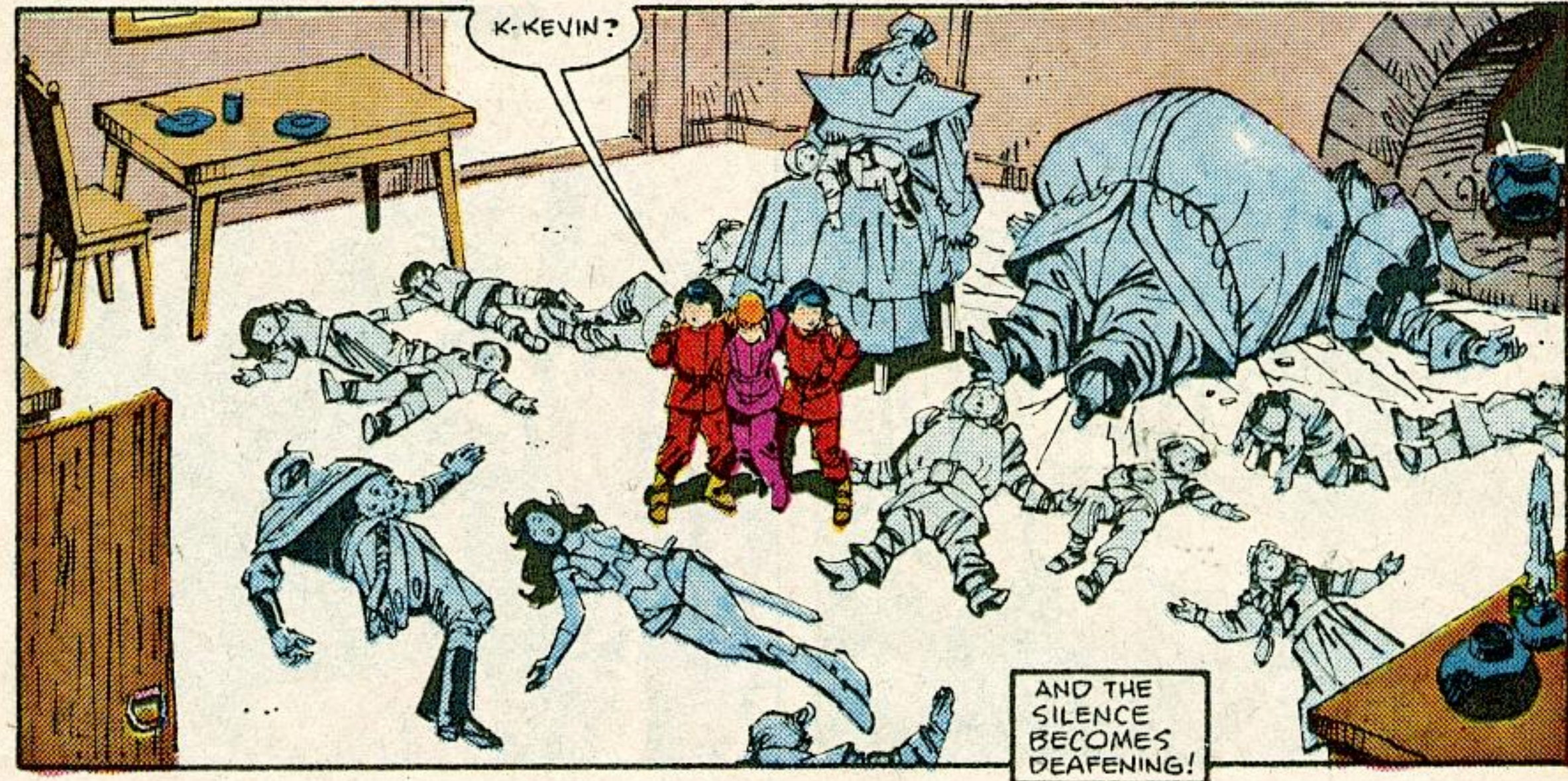
Uhhhh...



GRRRAAMMM!

K-KEVIN?

AND THE SILENCE BECOMES DEAFENING!



MEANWHILE, IN THE CASTLE OF LOKI...

THE WAY IS CLEAR!



THERE LIES LOKI, BUT HOW CAME HE HERE BENEATH THE FALLEN WALL?

AND THOUGH THE ROOM FAIRLY VIBRATES WITH COLD, WHERE ARE HIS SECRET MAGICKS?

WHERE IS THE HIDDEN SOURCE OF COLD?



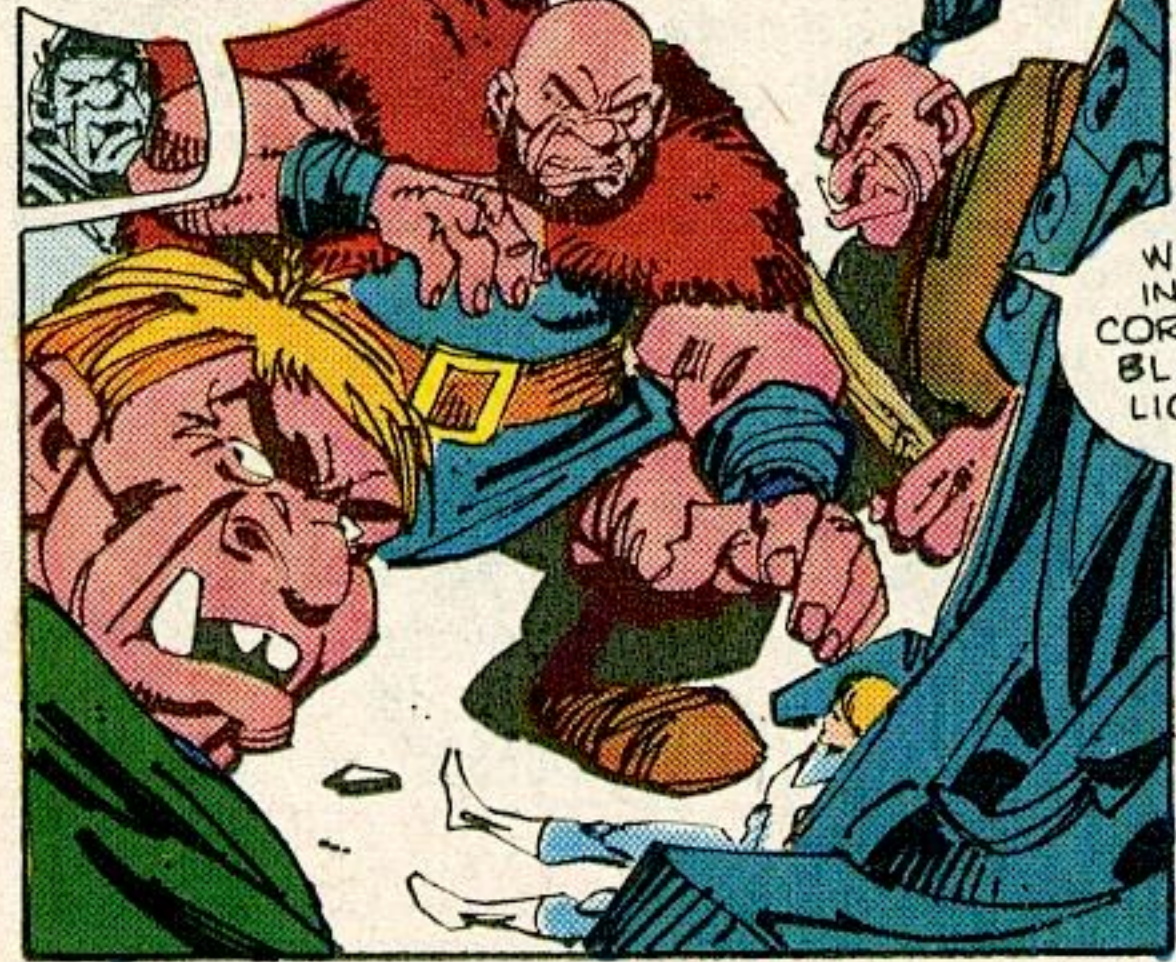
GRUNDROTH! FEEL!

THE YOUTH! COLD RADIATES FROM HIM UNCEASINGLY! ENOUGH TO STING EVEN MY FINGERS!



AND BY THE LOOK OF HIM, A MORTAL!

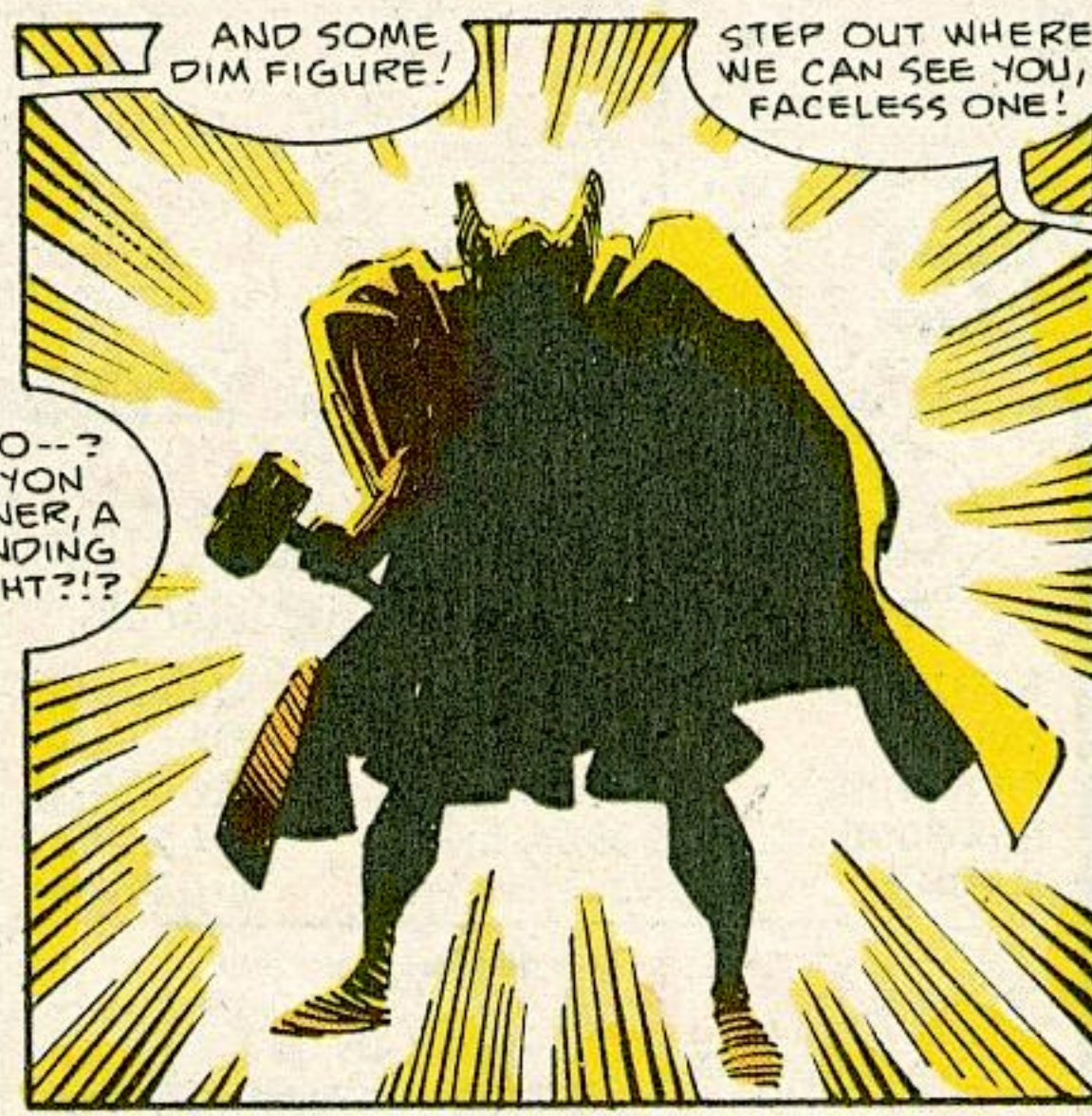
SO HE IS! AND THAT PLACES HIM UNDER MY PROTECTION, GRUNDROTH!



AND SOME DIM FIGURE!

STEP OUT WHERE WE CAN SEE YOU, FACELESS ONE!

WHO--? IN YON CORNER, A BLINDING LIGHT?!?





STEP BACK, CREATURES OF EVIL, OR FACE MY WRATH!

WE WERE Sired BY Ymir, OLDEST OF ALL! NONE WHO LIVES MAY GIVE US ORDERS!

WHO DARES SPEAK THUSLY TO THE GIANTS OF JOTUNHEIM?

MY SIRE WAS RULER OF THE GODS, RASH THURSE*!

ODIN WAS MY FATHER AND THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING ARE MY BIRTH-RIGHT!

*giant



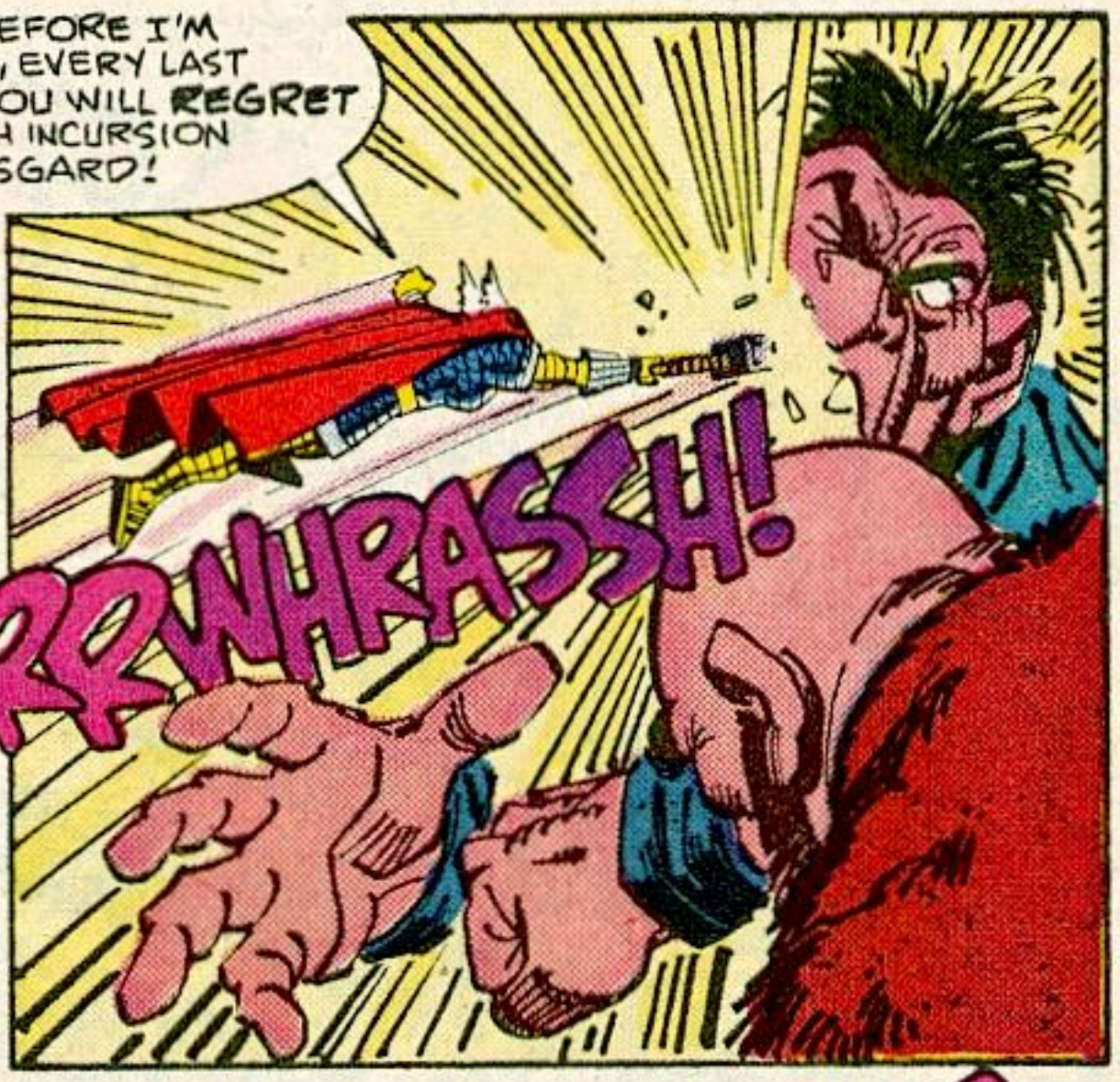
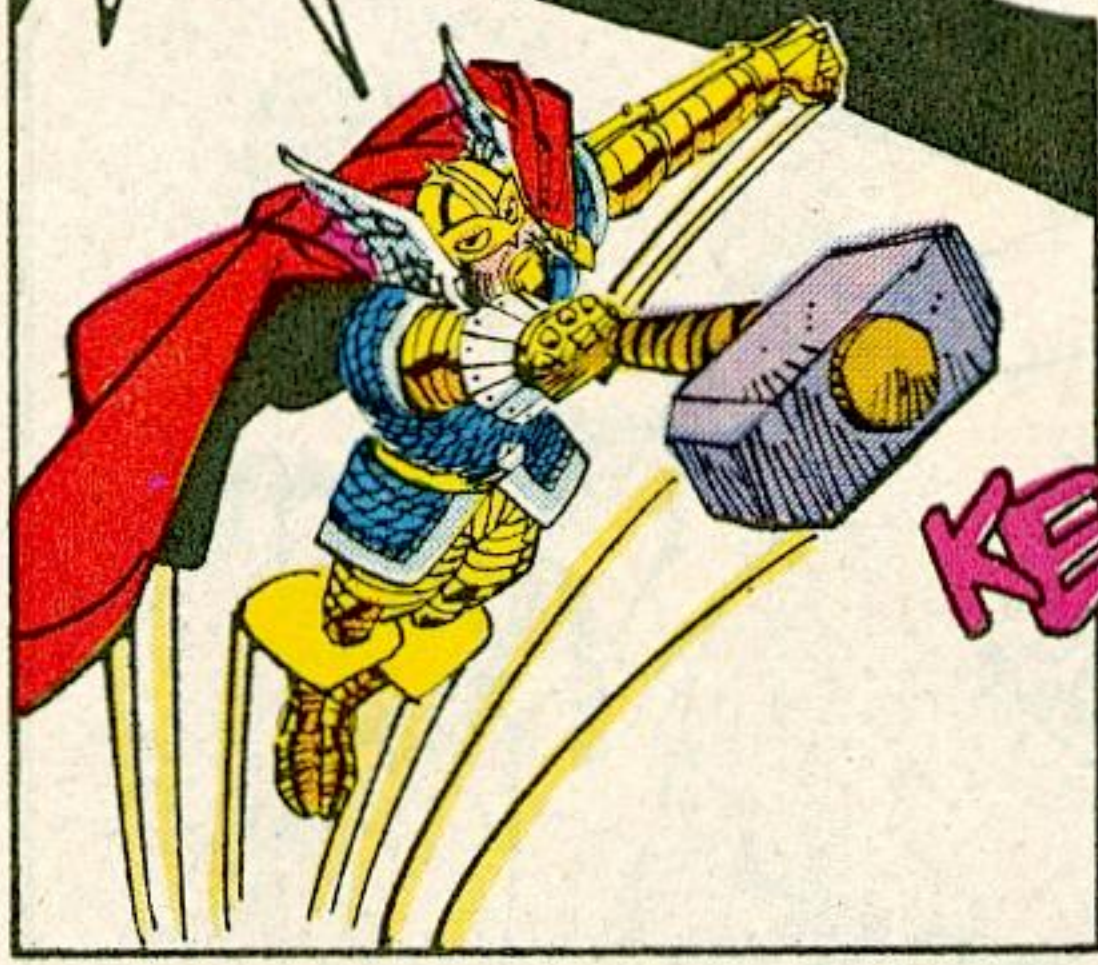
THEY SPEAK MY NAME IN WHISPERS IN THE NURSERIES OF THINE ICY HOME!



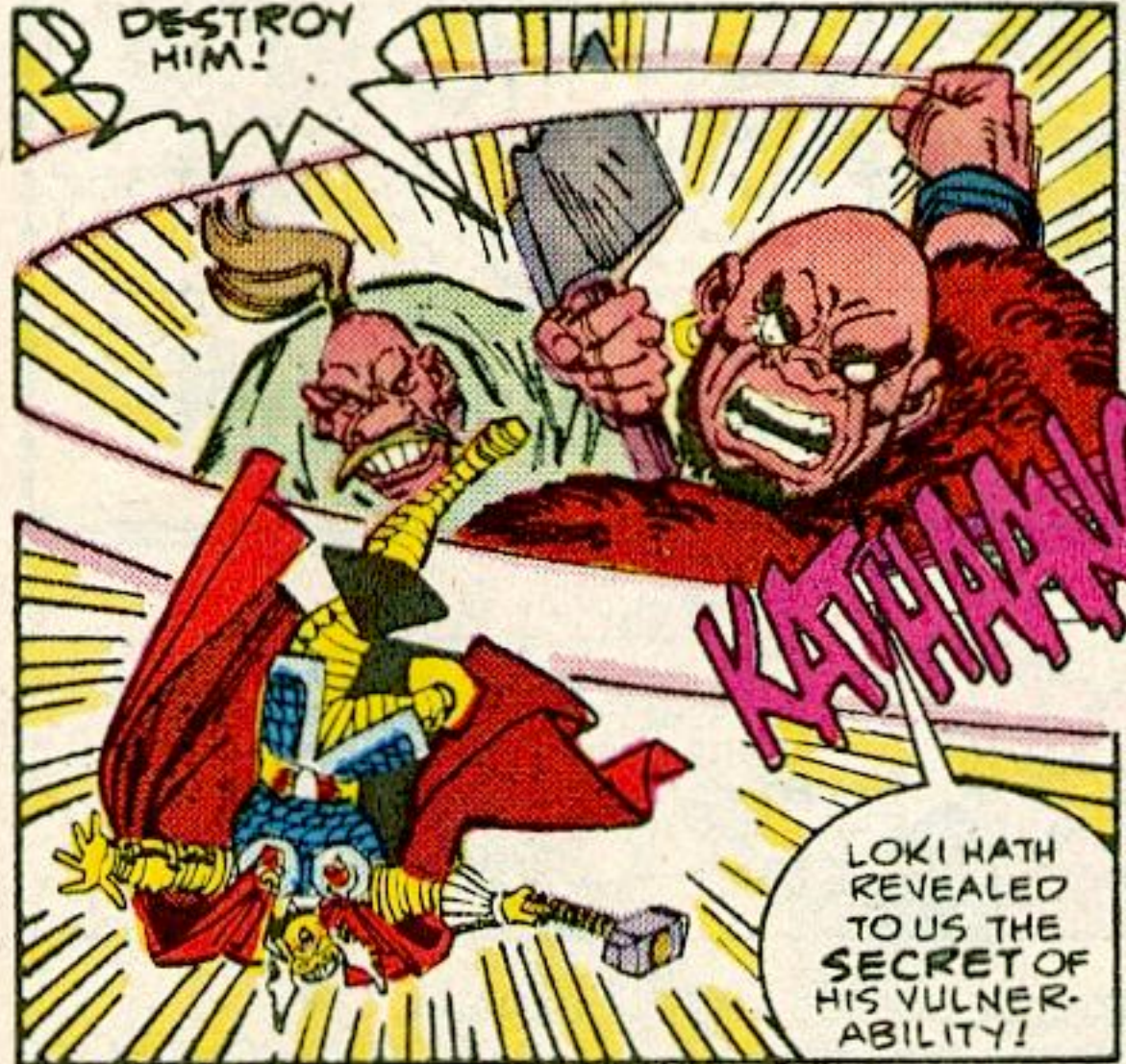
THOR!!

AYE! THOR,
VILLAINS!

AND BEFORE I'M
FINISHED, EVERY LAST
ONE OF YOU WILL REGRET
THIS RASH INCURSION
INTO ASGARD!



KERRNHRASSH!



HELA HATH
CURSED HIM
WITH BRITTLE
BONES!

ARRRHHH!

OUR
BLOWS WILL
SHATTER HIS
BODY THROUGH
THE ARMOR
TILL THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT TO
HOLD HIM UP!



TINY WORM!
YOU'LL NEVER
RISE AGAIN!
KARTAK SEES
TO THAT!

TOO
SLOW,
THOU
GROTESQUE!

LOKI HATH
REVEALED
TO US THE
SECRET OF
HIS VULNER-
ABILITY!



CKRUNNCH!

I AM NO
LONGER THE
INVALID YOU
HOPED TO
FIND!

NOR
DO I WEAR
ORDINARY
ARMOR!

FORGED IN THE FURNACES OF PITTSBURGH, GRAVEN WITH THE RUNES OF MY FATHER, THIS ARMOR HAS BECOME MY BODY!



KRUNK!

AND THE FRAIL FLESH AND BONES WITHIN COMMAND IT EVEN AS THEY ONCE COMMANDED THE BODY THAT WAS WHOLE!

NOW LET US END THIS CHARADE!

AS YOU DESTROYED LOKI'S FOOTING...



...SO I DESTROY YOURS!



BRUMMBLE!

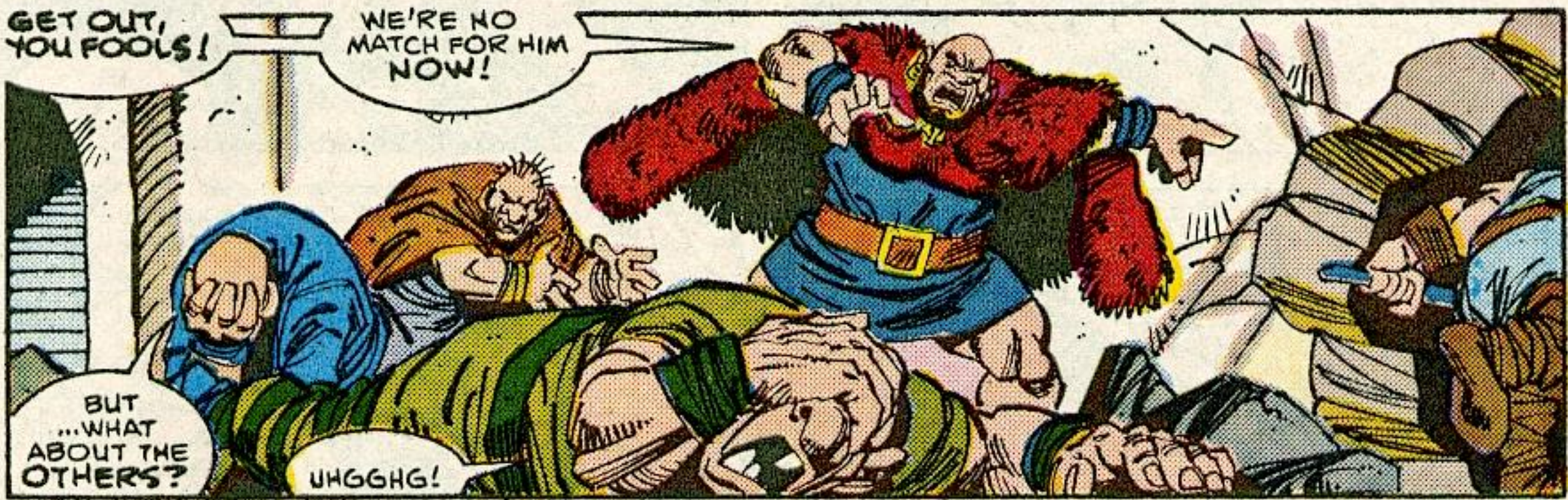
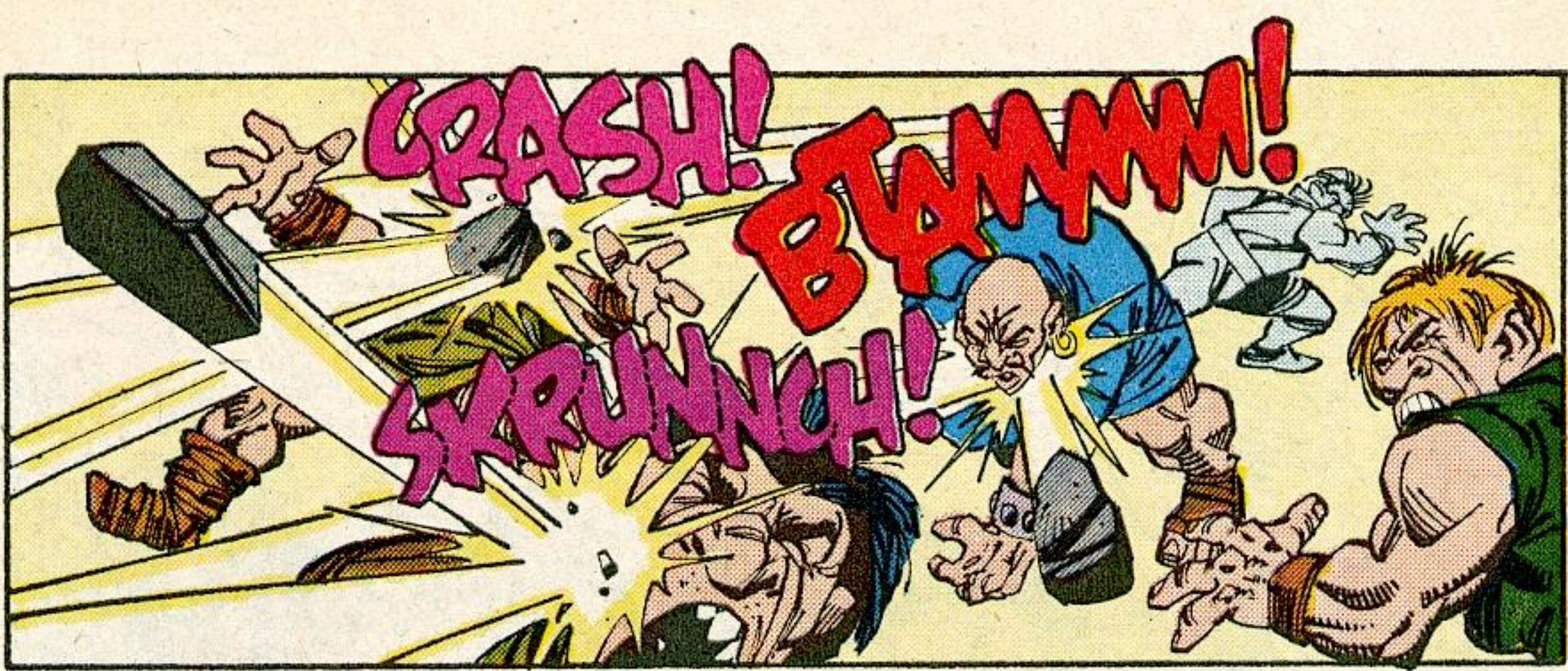
WATCH OUT! SHOCK-WAVES!

BUT THE THUNDER GOD IS FAR MORE AGILE THAN ANY GIANT!



BRADDOOM!

AND EVERY BROKEN COBBLE BECOMES A DEADLY WEAPON WHEN WIELDED BY A MASTER'S HAND!



BUT AS THOR TURNS TO EXAMINE THE PROSTRATE FORMS OF HIS CHARGES...



...OUTSIDE IN THE SHADOW OF THE CASTLE...

IT'S NO GOOD! THOR HAS BEATEN US AGAIN!

THAT ARMOR SEEMS TO HAVE RESTORED HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT! MADE HIM WORSE THAN EVER!

THERE ISN'T A GIANT LIVING WHO CAN WITHSTAND HIM NOW!

WHAT CAN WE DO? IT'S HOPELESS!

NEVER! I SWEAR I SHALL NEVER REST TILL THOR'S BONES ARE GROUND TO DUST!



BUT YOU SAID NO GIANT--

I'M NOT THINKING OF A GIANT, BUT RATHER OF THE OFFSPRING OF ONE...

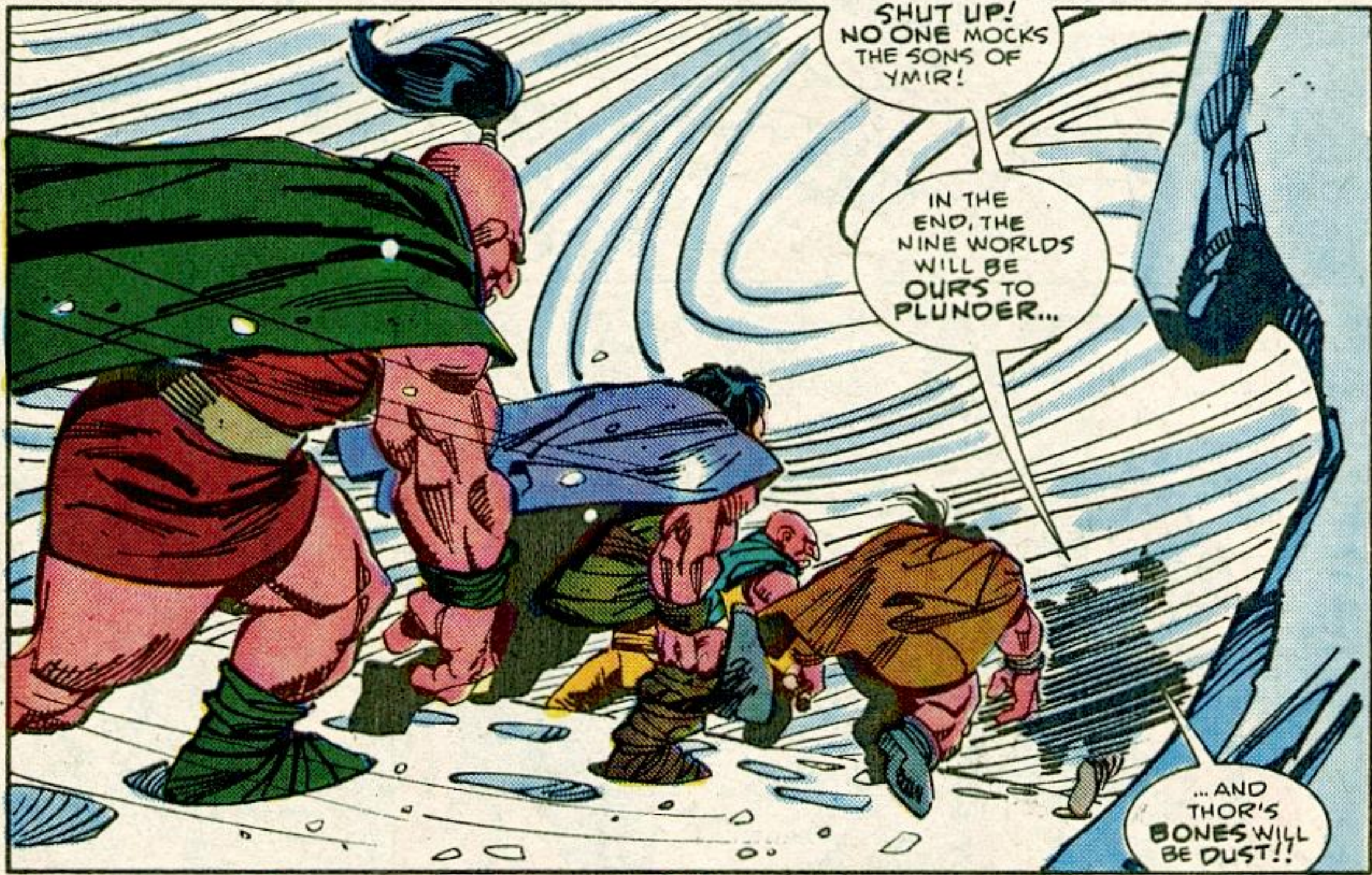
LOKI'S CHILD JORMUNGAND!



THE MIDGARD SERPENT!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

THE SERPENT'S MAD!



SHUT UP! NO ONE MOCKS THE SONS OF YMIR!

IN THE END, THE NINE WORLDS WILL BE OURS TO PLUNDER...

...AND THOR'S BONES WILL BE DUST!!

next: A **D**iscourse of **H**eroes and **V**illains!
Featuring the glorious return of... **FIN FANG FOOM!** (say what?) **DON'T MISS IT!**