

MARVEL



The mighty

THOR

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



...AND
HOW SHALL
MORTALS
KNOW YE?



FRENZ/BREEDING '88

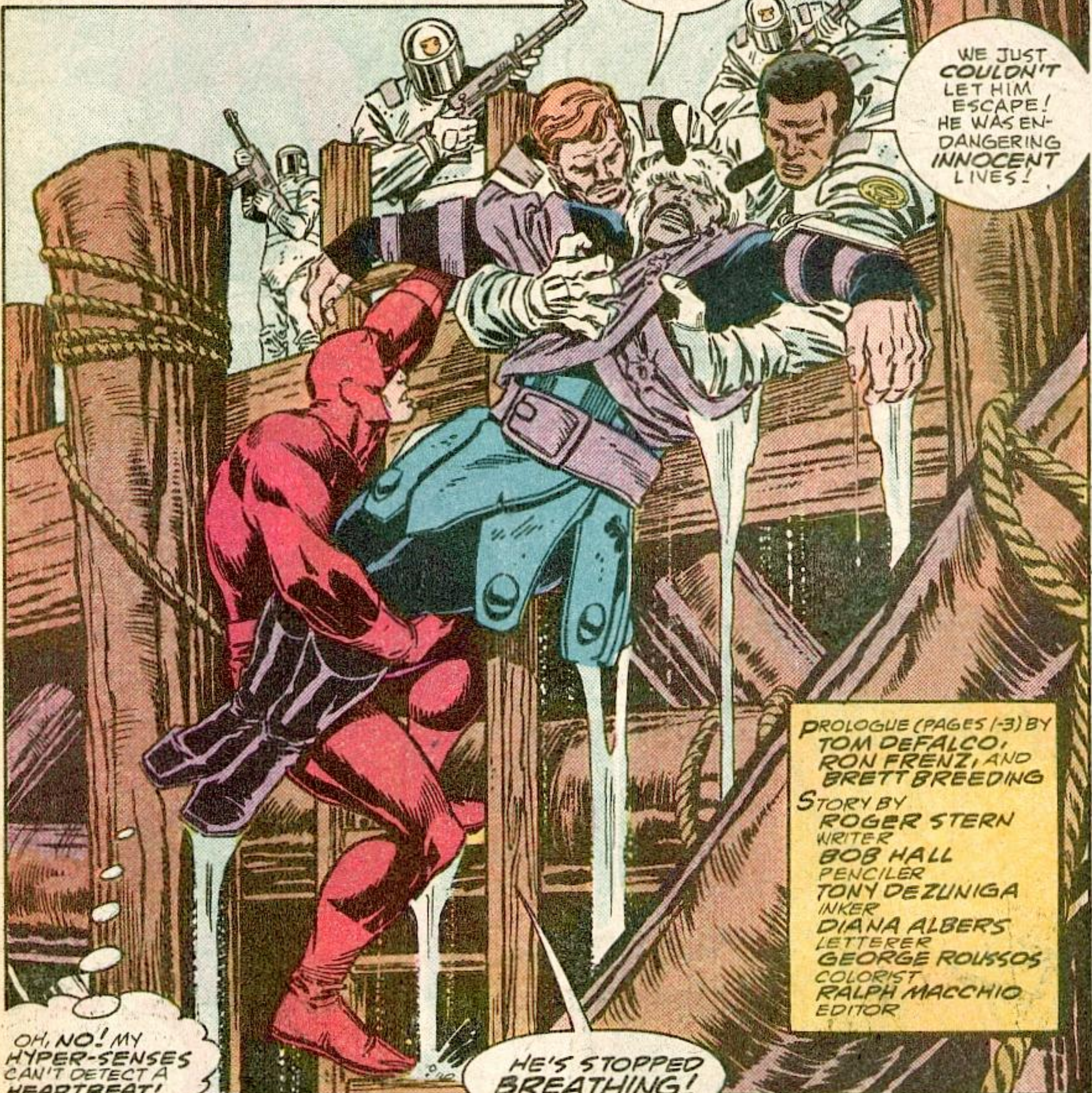
“...and how shall mortals know ye?”

MERE MINUTES AGO, A DESPERATE S.W.A.T. FIRED UPON AN ENRAGED AND DISORIENTED ASGARDIAN-- HOGUN THE GRIM, WHOSE SCRAMBLED SENSES WERE CAUSING HIM TO RUN AMOK IN NEW YORK CITY, AND NOW...

W-WE DIDN'T WANT TO SHOOT...

...BUT HE GAVE US NO CHOICE!

WE JUST COULDN'T LET HIM ESCAPE! HE WAS ENDANGERING INNOCENT LIVES!



OH, NO! MY HYPER-SENSES CAN'T DETECT A HEARTBEAT!

HE'S STOPPED BREATHING!

PROLOGUE (PAGES 1-3) BY TOM DEFALCO, RON FRENZI, AND BRETT BREEDING
STORY BY ROGER STERN
WRITER BOB HALL
PENCILER TONY DEZUNIGA
INKER DIANA ALBERS
LETTERER GEORGE ROUSSOS
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EDITOR

HURRY!
WE'VE GOT
TO TRY TO
REVIVE
HIM!

C.P.R.*
IS HIS
ONLY
HOPE!

I'LL TRY TO GET
HIS CIRCULATION
GOING, AND YOU
WORK ON HIS
BREATHING!

RIGHT!



*CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.
--RESCUE-CONSCIOUS RALF!

THIS SHOULD BE
PERFORMED ON
A BARE CHEST,
BUT MY SUPER-
SENSITIVE FINGERS
CAN EASILY FIND
THE CORRECT SPOT
TO APPLY CHEST
COMPRESSION!

ONE ONE-THOUSAND!
TWO ONE-THOUSAND!
THREE ONE-THOUSAND!
FOUR ONE-THOUSAND!
FIVE ONE-THOUSAND!



!-IT'S WORKING!
HE'S STARTING
TO RESPOND!

AND
SO...

WE DID IT! WE
MANAGED TO SAVE
HIM FOR THE MOMENT
--BUT HIS LIFE IS
STILL HANGING
BY A THREAD!

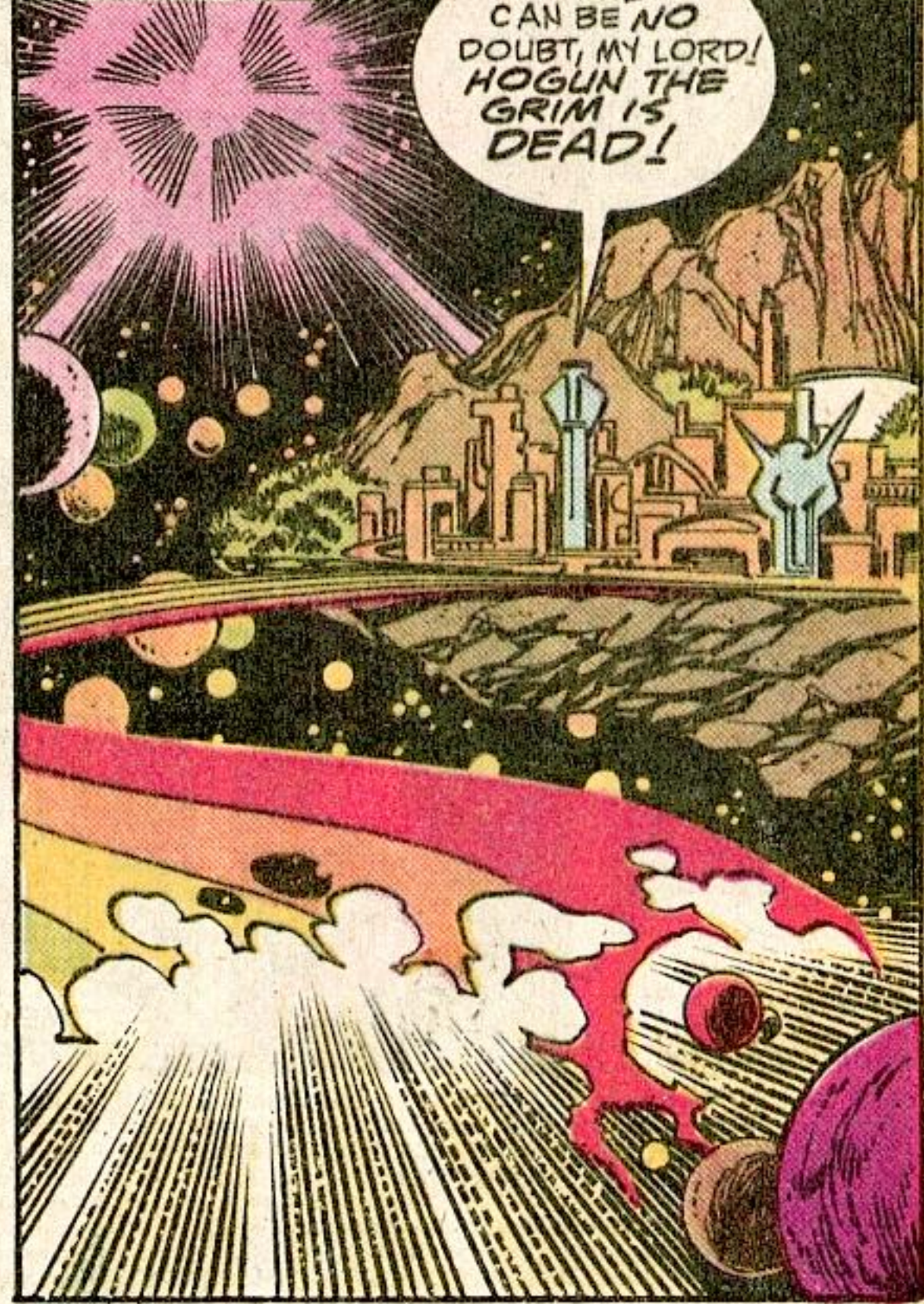
HE CLAIMED
TO BE SEARCH-
ING FOR THE
MIGHTY
THOR--BUT
WHY?!



WHO
IS THIS
MAN AND--

--WHERE DID HE
COME FROM?!"

THERE
CAN BE NO
DOUBT, MY LORD!
HOGUN THE
GRIM IS
DEAD!



YON FLAME WAS TIED TO HIS LIFE FORCE-- AND COULD ONLY HAVE GONE OUT-- IF HE HAD STOPPED BREATHING!

'TIS MY FAULT! MY RESPONSIBILITY! NEVER SHOULD I HAVE SENT HIM TO MIDGARD!*

ASGARD IS BEING INVADED BY SAVAGE ENEMIES! SOMEONE HAD TO SEEK OUT THE GOD OF THUNDER!

HOGUN KNEW THE RISKS HE WAS TAKING!

AYE, BUT HOGUN IS DEAD--AND THOR IS STILL MISSING! WHERE IS HE?!

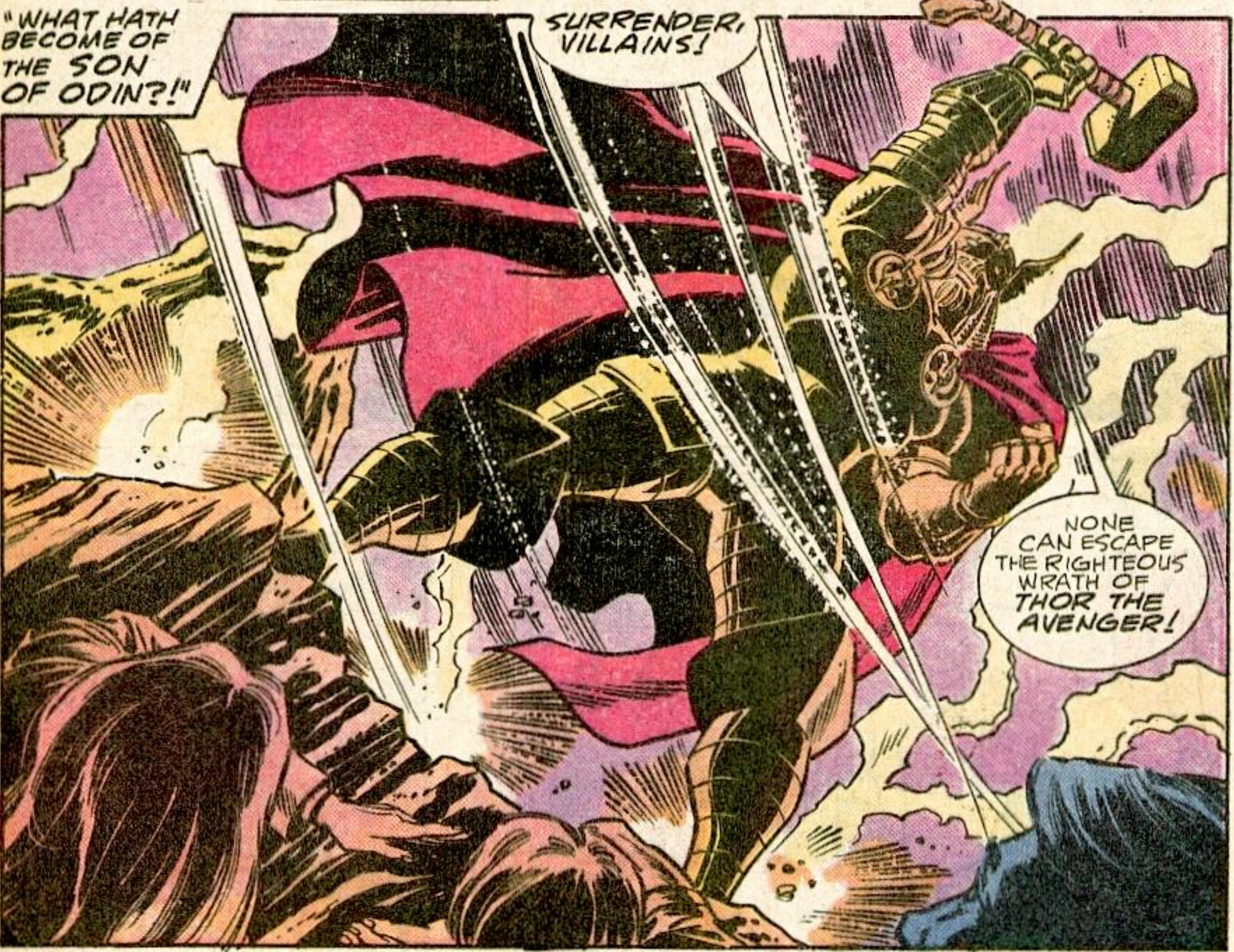
YOU HAD NO CHOICE, NOBLE BALDER!

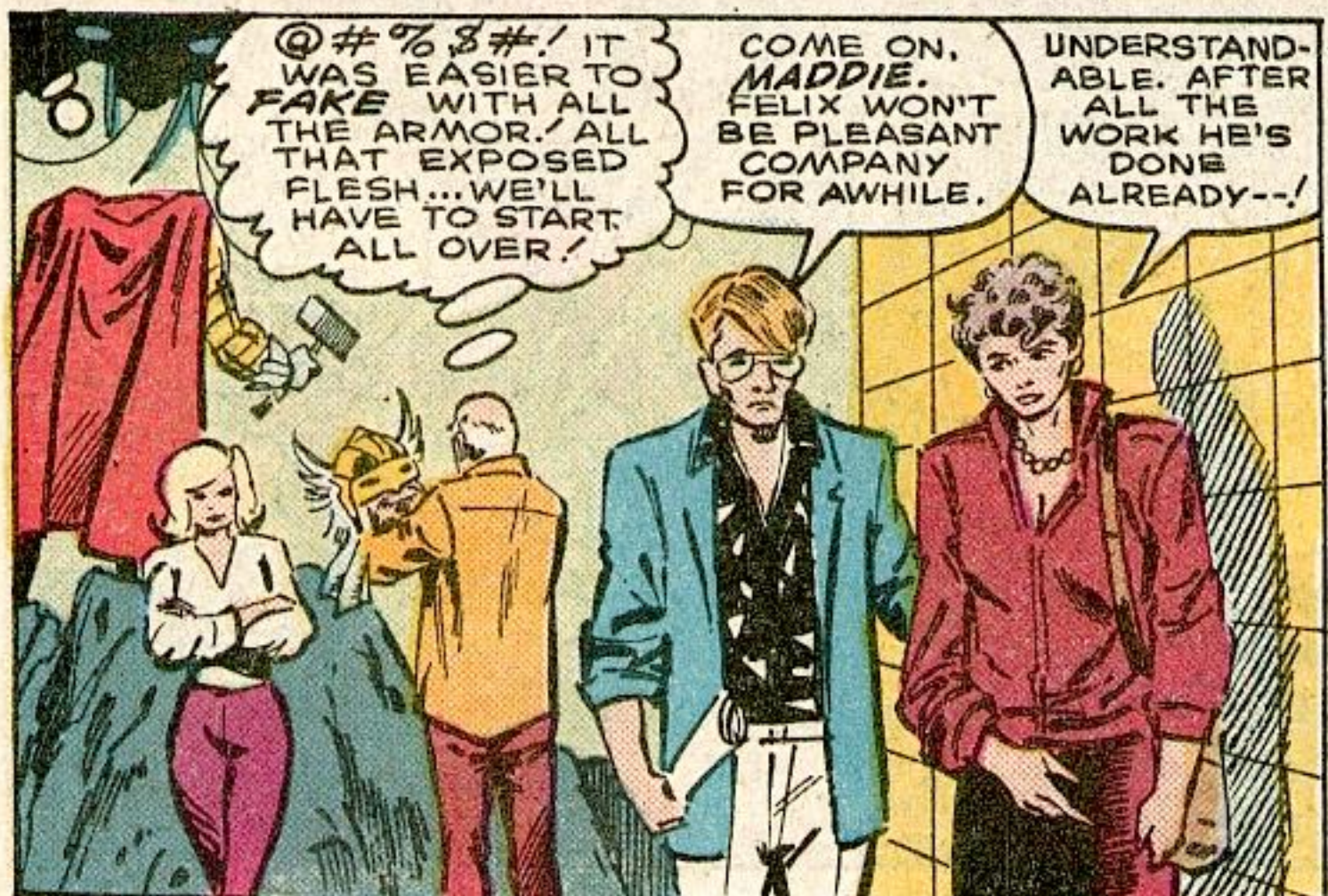
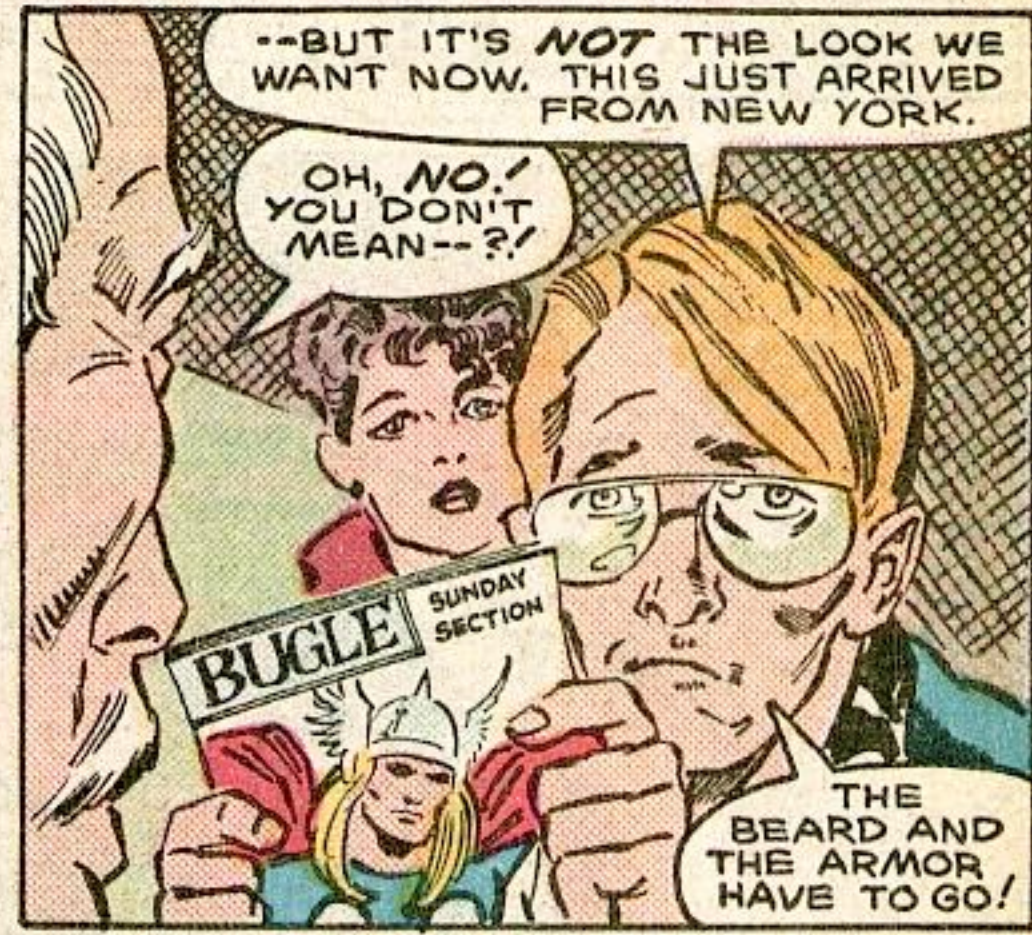
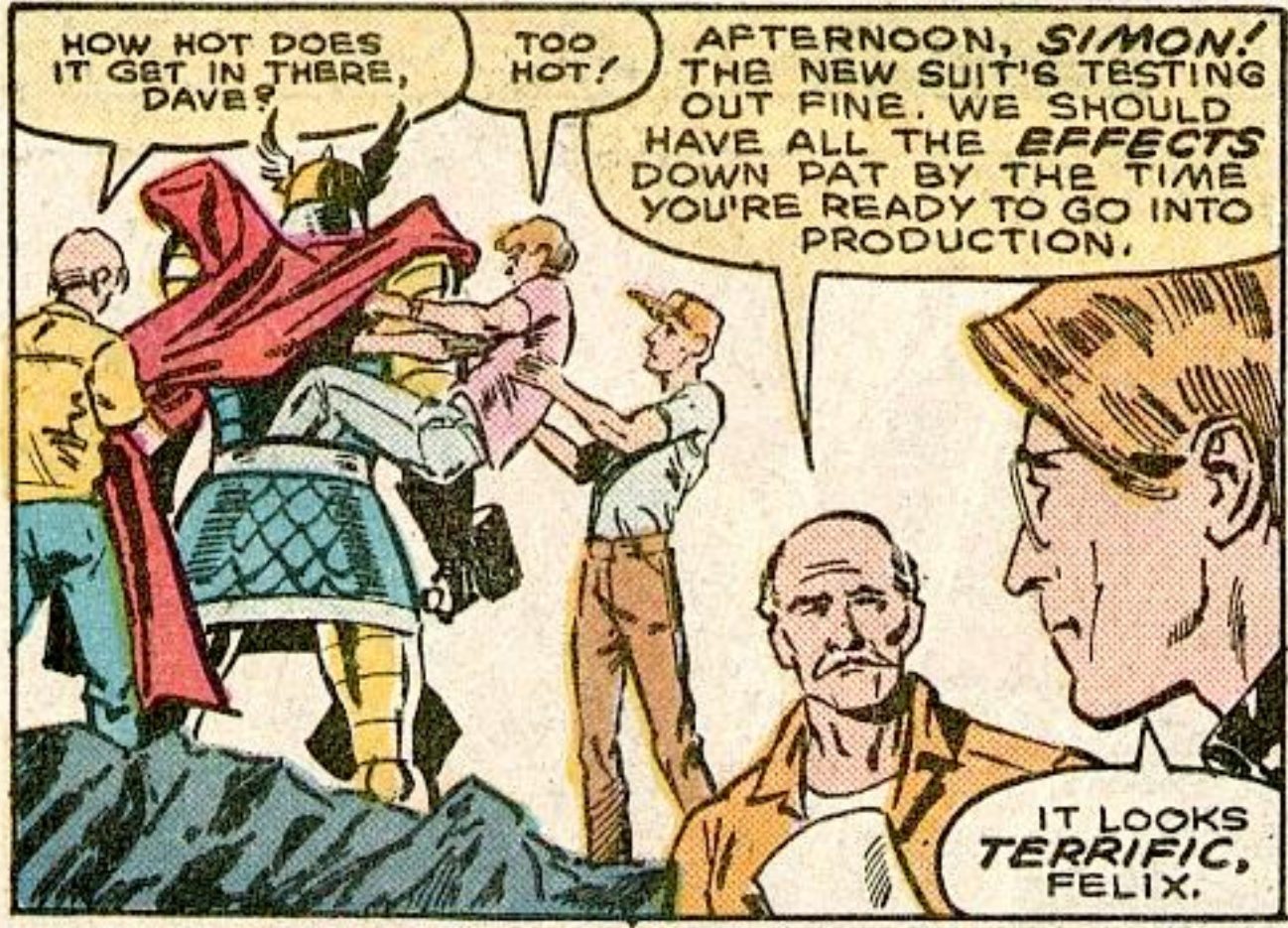
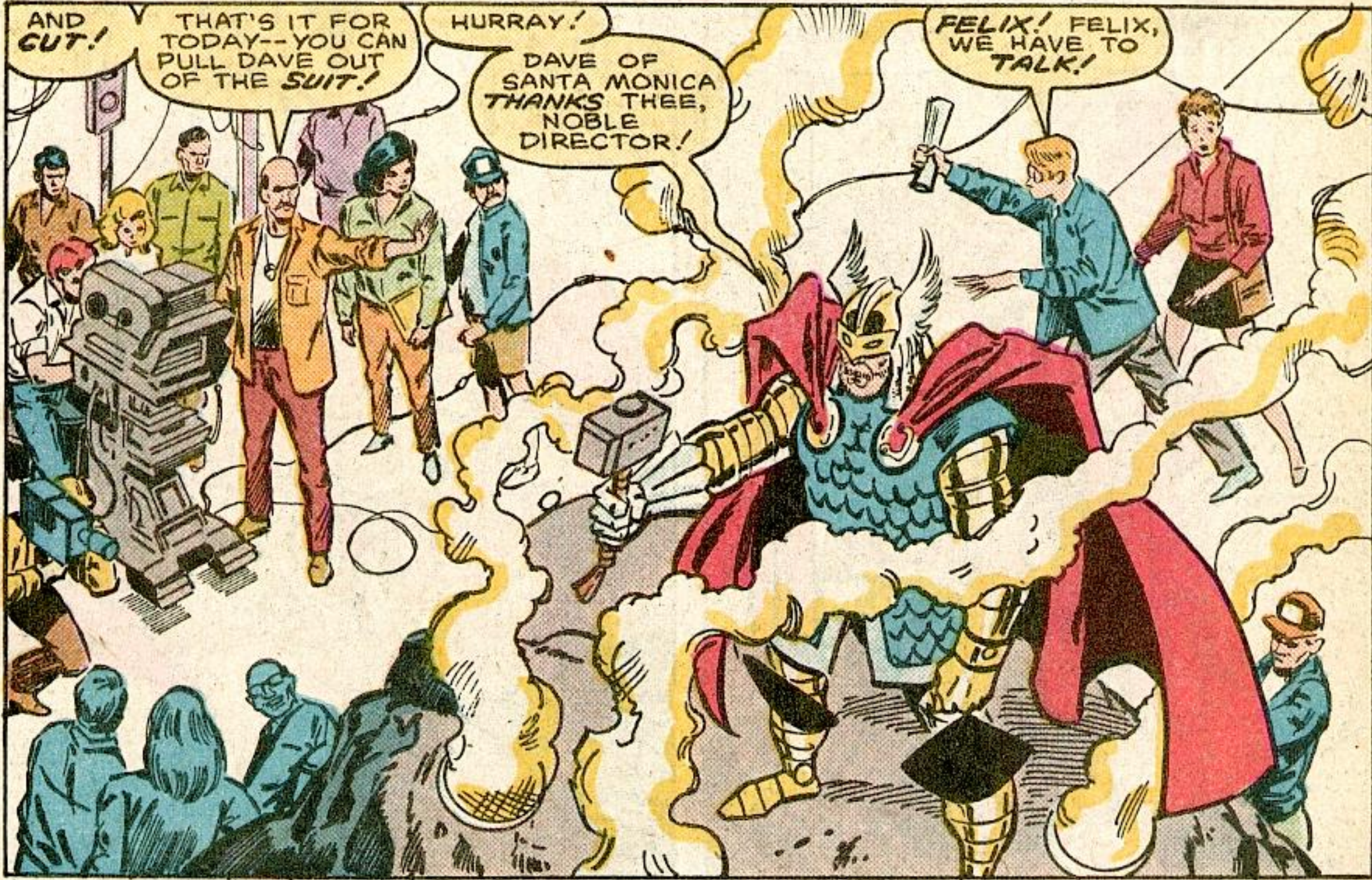
*EARTH--RALF!

"WHAT HATH BECOME OF THE SON OF ODIN?!"

SURRENDER, VILLAINS!

NONE CAN ESCAPE THE RIGHTEOUS WRATH OF THOR THE AVENGER!





YOU'RE BEING CHARITABLE. THIS PICTURE NEEDS A MEATIER STORY... I DON'T WANT **THOR THE AVENGER** TO BE JUST ANOTHER SPECIAL EFFECTS MOVIE...

...AND IT NEEDS MORE **HUMAN INTEREST!** YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT, MADDIE -- THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO DO THE REWRITE.

YOU FLATTER ME, MR. ANDERSON.

NOT AT ALL. YOUR WORK IS FIRST-RATE. LOOK, YOU CAN SCRAP THE SCREENPLAY AND START OVER, IF YOU WANT. THERE'S JUST ONE **DRAWBACK...** I NEED A WORKABLE SCRIPT BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

THE STUDIO'S SUNK MANY MEGA-BUCKS INTO THIS PROJECT, AND THE ACCOUNTANTS ARE GETTING RESTLESS. THEY WANT RESULTS... **SOON!** CAN I COUNT ON YOU?

WELL... I... **SURE!**

FANTASTIC! MY OFFICE WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH ANYTHING YOU NEED!

DON'T LET ME DOWN, BABE!

DAILY VARIETY
HIT PICT

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO? AND HOW DO YOU GET HUMAN INTEREST INTO A STORY ABOUT A **SUPER HERO** WHO'S PURPORTEDLY A **GOD?**

THESE ACCOUNTS OF THOR'S EXPLOITS ARE ASTOUNDING... LIVES SAVED, BATTLES FOUGHT... BUT THEY DON'T TELL HALF THE STORY. THERE'S A LOT ABOUT WHAT HE'S **DONE**, BUT NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HE'S **LIKE!**

FELIX SHOULD FIND A WAY TO USE THIS **NEWS FOOTAGE!** INCREDIBLE!

HE MAKES **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER** LOOK LIKE **MICHAEL J. FOX!**

NONE OF THOR'S AVENGER BUDDIES WILL TALK TO ME, BUT IF I CAN FIND ENOUGH **EYEWITNESSES!**

HELLO, IS THIS THE NEW YORK POLICE INFORMATION OFFICE? MY NAME IS **MADelyn ARNSTEIN**, AND I'M CALLING FROM LOS ANGELES...

OKAY... THAT'S A HALF-DOZEN FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR INTERVIEWS IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA ... AND LEADS ON ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE.

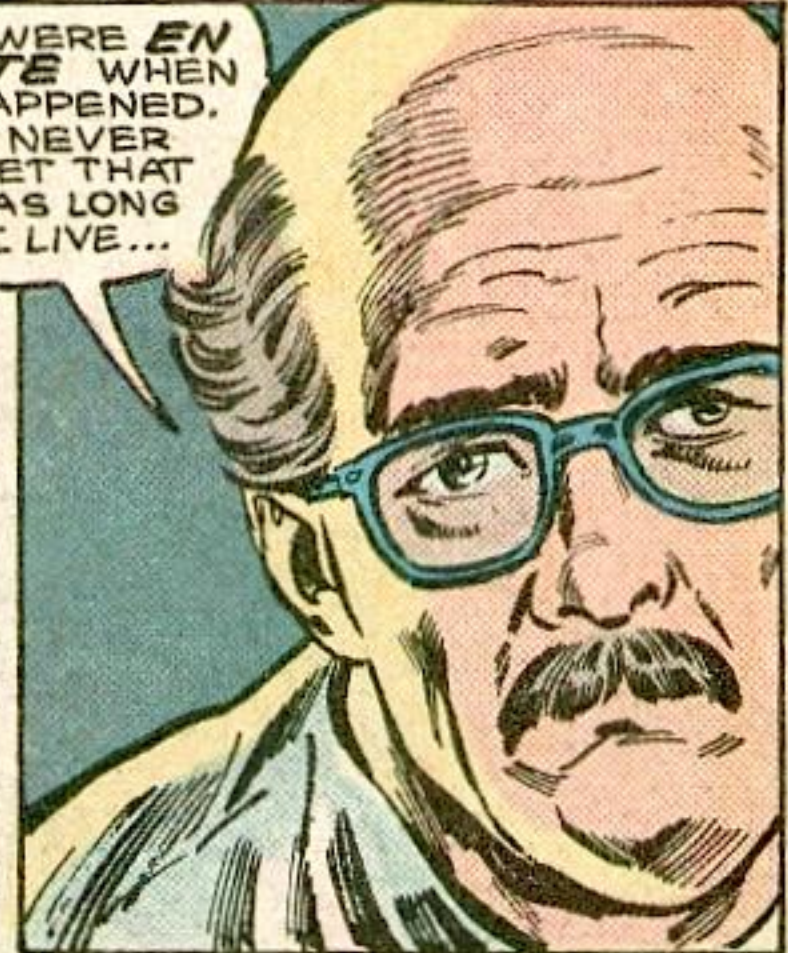
THOR HAS BEEN SPOTTED MOST OFTEN BY PEOPLE BACK EAST... SURELY **ONE** OF THEM CAN GIVE ME AN INKLING OF THE KIND OF PERSON THOR IS!

SO, DOCTOR GRAHAM, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE TO SEE THOR... DOWN IN SOUTH AMERICA?

THAT'S CORRECT, MS. ARNSTEIN. THERE WAS A NASTY SITUATION IN SAN DIABLO...TWO POLITICAL FACTIONS WERE FIGHTING FOR POWER. THE SOVIETS SUPPORTED ONE SIDE-- OUR GOVERNMENT BACKED THE OTHER.

A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE GETTING KILLED. A NUMBER OF DOCTORS AND NURSES FROM HERE IN THE CITY VOLUNTEER-ED TO HELP.

WE WERE EN ROUTE WHEN IT HAPPENED. I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY AS LONG AS I LIVE...

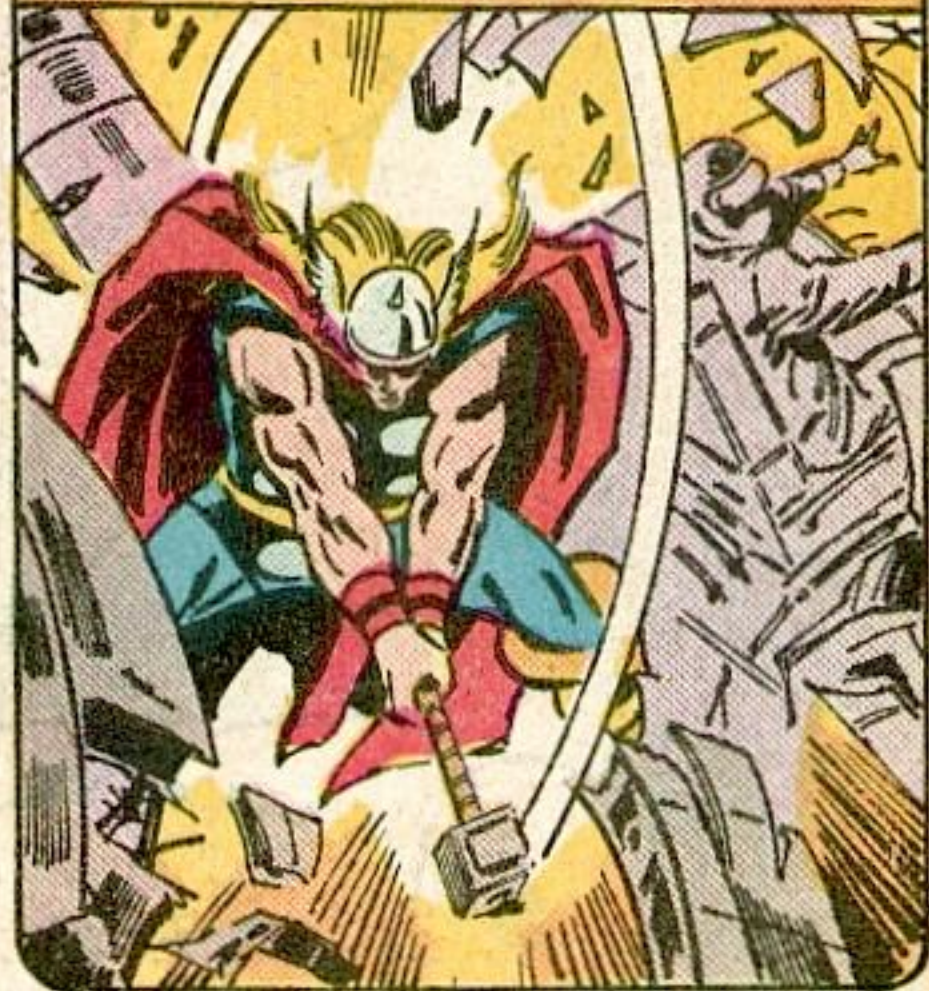


...WE WERE CLEARLY MARKED AS A HOSPITAL SHIP, BUT THAT DIDN'T KEEP US FROM DRAWING FIRE. I CAN STILL HEAR THE ROAR OF THOSE JETS AS THEY ATTACKED.

"BUT THE NEXT MOMENT THERE WAS ANOTHER SOUND... LIKE A SHARP CLAP OF THUNDER..."

WH-WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!

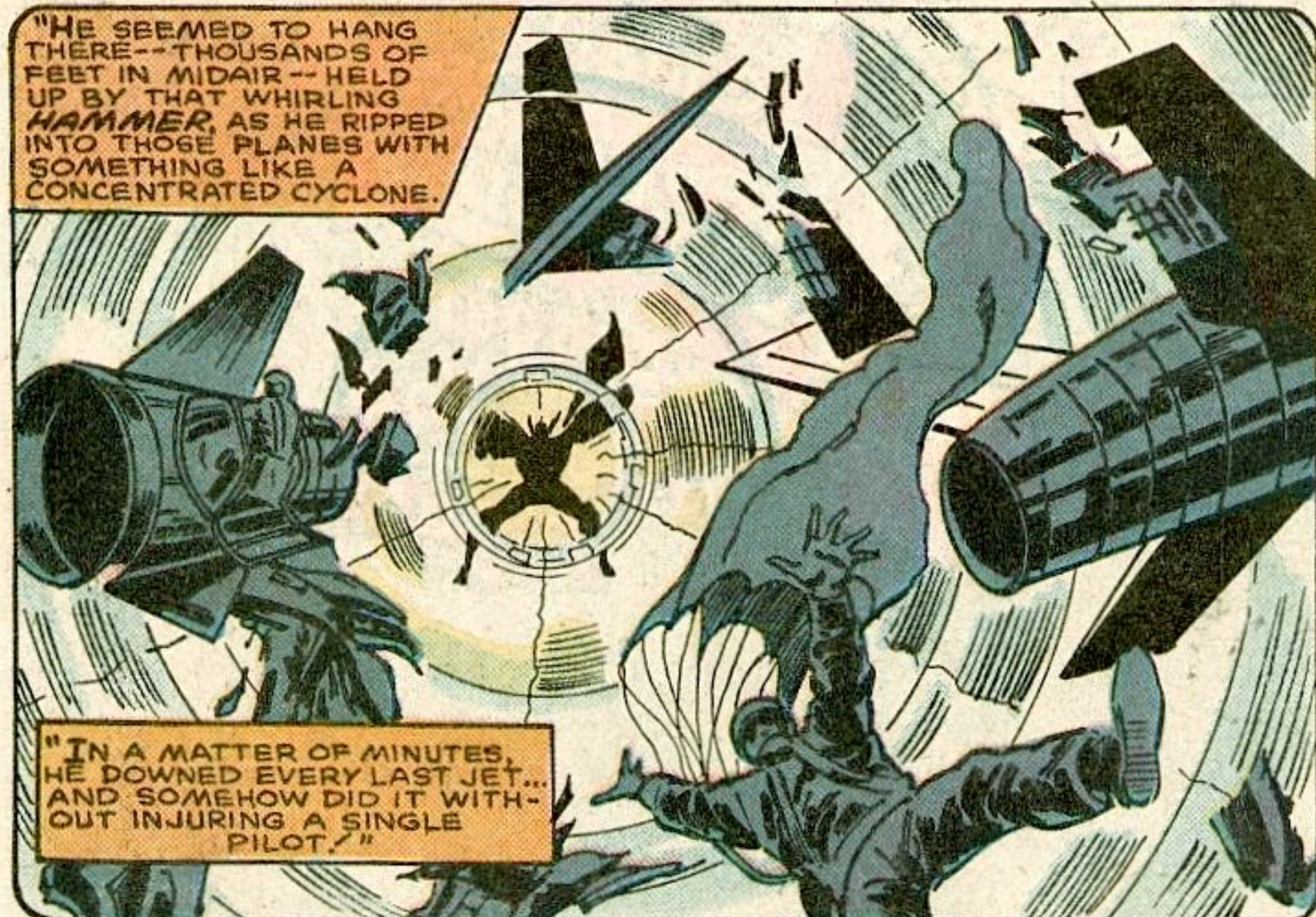
"HE LOOKED LIKE A MAN, BUT I'D NEVER SEEN A MAN WHO COULD STRADDLE A JET... OR SMASH IT WITH ONE BLOW!"



"HE SEEMED TO HANG THERE--THOUSANDS OF FEET IN MIDAIR--HELD UP BY THAT WHIRLING HAMMER, AS HE RIPPED INTO THOSE PLANES WITH SOMETHING LIKE A CONCENTRATED CYCLONE.

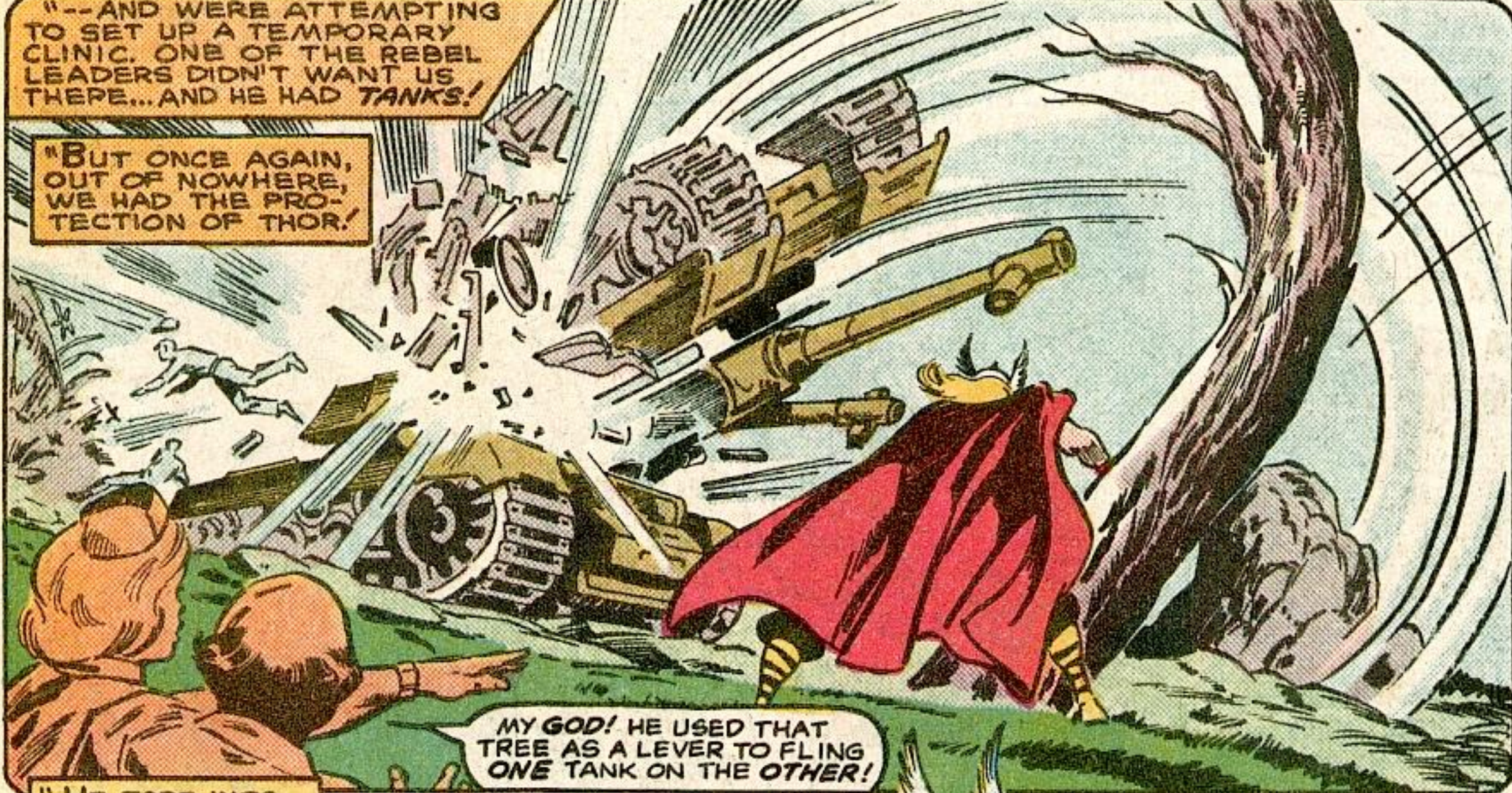
AND THEN, HE JUST DISAPPEARED! IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT WE HEARD HIM CALL HIMSELF THOR. THAT WAS AFTER WE'D REACHED THE INTERIOR OF SAN DIABLO--

"IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, HE DOWNED EVERY LAST JET... AND SOMEHOW DID IT WITHOUT INJURING A SINGLE PILOT."



"--AND WERE ATTEMPTING TO SET UP A TEMPORARY CLINIC. ONE OF THE REBEL LEADERS DIDN'T WANT US THERE...AND HE HAD TANKS!"

"BUT ONCE AGAIN, OUT OF NOWHERE, WE HAD THE PROTECTION OF THOR!"

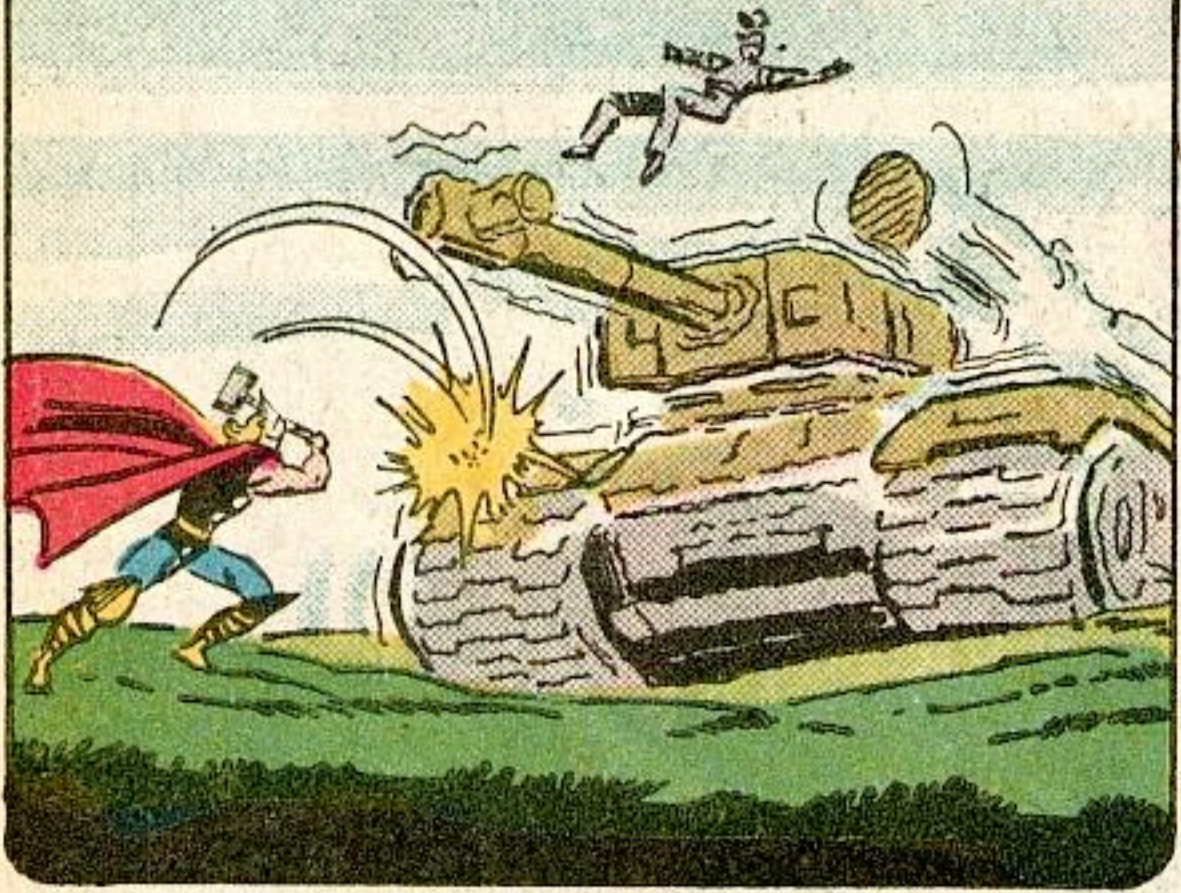


MY GOD! HE USED THAT TREE AS A LEVER TO FLING ONE TANK ON THE OTHER!

"HE TORE INTO THOSE TANKS AS EASILY AS HE HAD THE JETS."

"UNFORTUNATELY IN ALL THE CONFUSION, ONE OF OUR PARTY --A NURSE PRACTITIONER NAMED JANE FOSTER--FELL INTO REBEL HANDS..."

YOU FIGHT WITH THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN DEMONS! BUT EVEN YOU CANNOT KEEP US FROM HOLDING THE WOMAN!



LEAVE AT ONCE OR SHE DIES!

HE LEFT, JUST LIKE THAT? BUT I'D READ THAT THOR HAD HELPED END THAT WAR.

HE DID...INDIRECTLY. BUT NOT BEFORE HE AND ONE OF OUR DOCTORS HAD RESCUED FOSTER. I'M NOT SURE OF THE DETAILS...



OOPS...MY BEEPER!

AFRAID I HAVE TO RUN, MS. ARNSTEIN. IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN HELP YOU MORE--!

THANKS, DOCTOR. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.



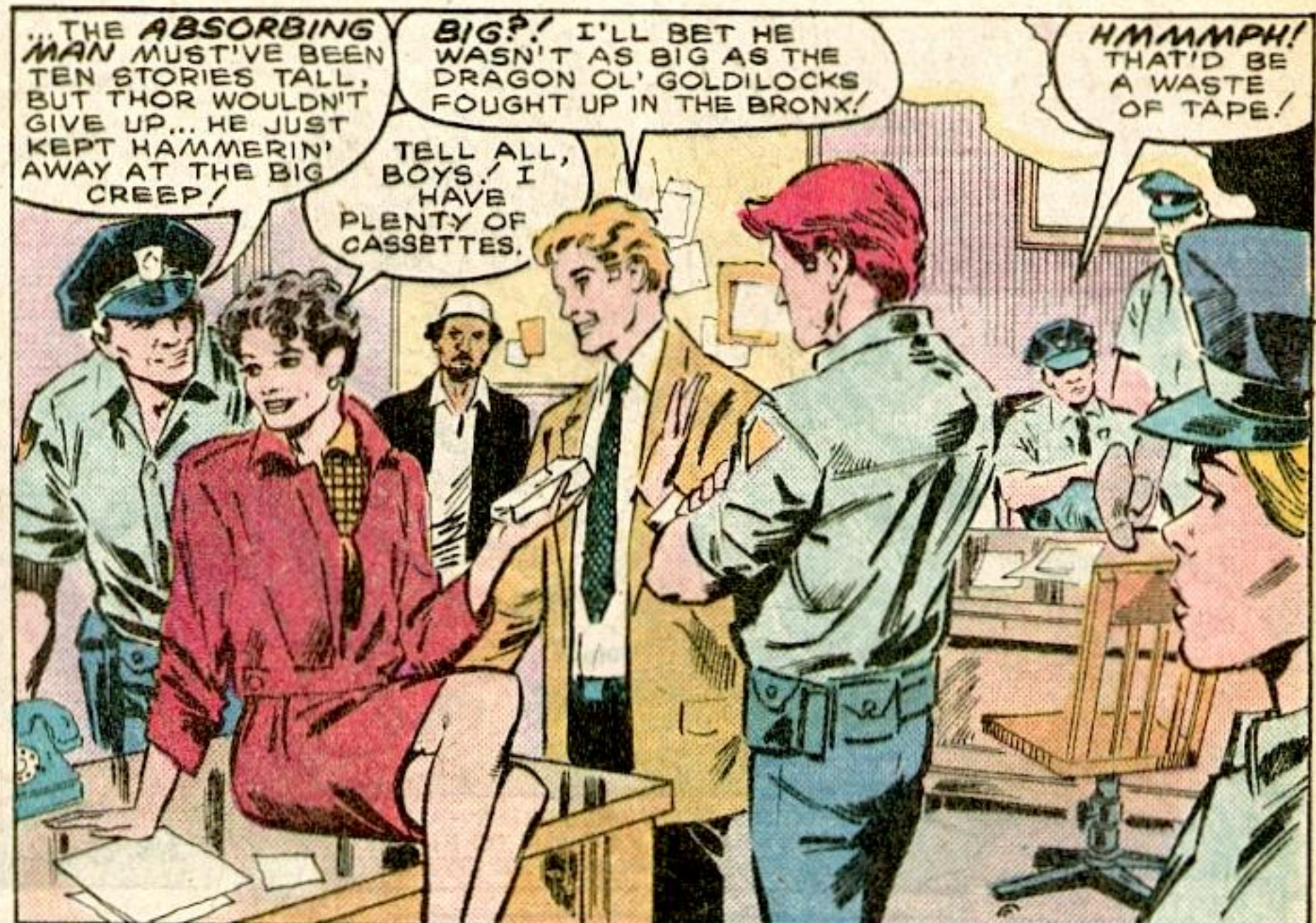
JANE FOSTER! I CAME ACROSS HER NAME IN MY READINGS... I'LL HAVE TO SEE ABOUT TRACKING HER DOWN. BUT FIRST...

NEE
NEE



"... I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT DOWNTOWN."

THAT'S RIGHT, MA'AM. I WAS THERE...



"THE ABSORBING MAN MUST'VE BEEN TEN STORIES TALL, BUT THOR WOULDN'T GIVE UP... HE JUST KEPT HAMMERIN' AWAY AT THE BIG CREEP!"

BIG?! I'LL BET HE WASN'T AS BIG AS THE DRAGON OL' GOLDILOCKS FOUGHT UP IN THE BRONX!

TELL ALL, BOYS. I HAVE PLENTY OF CASSETTES.

HMMMPH! THAT'D BE A WASTE OF TAPE!



OH? I TAKE IT YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF THOR?

YEAH, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. GRANTED, THE LONG-HAIRED JERK'S DONE A LOT OF GOOD FOR THE CITY... BUT HE'S NOT AS ALL FIRED NOBLE AS SOME FOLKS SAY.

I REMEMBER ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS STILL POUNDING A BEAT ON THE EAST SIDE...



"... HE CAME STOMPING DOWN THE STREET, JUST LIKE HE OWNED IT, AND HEAVEN HELP ANYTHING THAT GOT IN HIS WAY!"

"AT FIRST HE IGNORED THE RUBBERNECKS WHO STOPPED AND STARED--"

"--BUT WHEN HE FINALLY DID TAKE NOTICE..."

AWAY, ALL OF YOU!! LET NONE INTRUDE UPON THOR!

MORTALS! HOW LIKE CHATTERING MONKEYS YOU ARE!! ALWAYS GATHERING ABOUT THOSE WHO WANT TO BE ALONE!



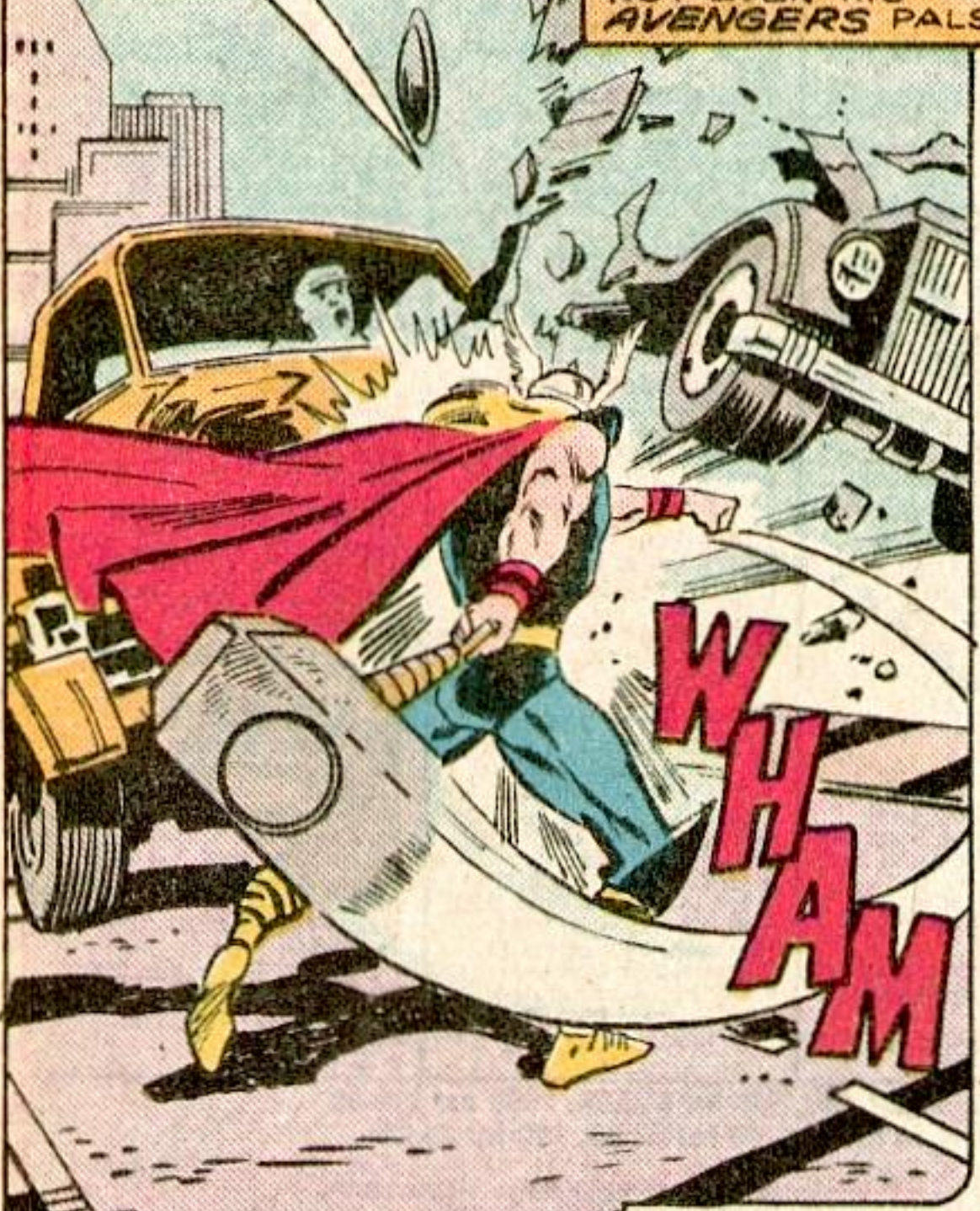
WELL, THOR HAS HAD ENOUGH OF YOU! I HAVE LOST INTEREST IN YOUR PUNY, PETTY LIVES!



HEY, FANCY PANTS! WATCH OUT!! I CAN'T STOP!!

THOR WATCHES OUT FOR NO ONE!!

"NOBODY COULD TALK TO HIM... NOT EVEN HIS AVENGERS PALS..."



WHAM

THOR! LISTEN... THIS IS GIANT-MAN! YOU CAN'T ROAM AROUND THE CITY THAT WAY, TRAMPLING ON ANYTHING THAT GETS IN YOUR WAY!



TELL US WHAT'S WRONG, PARTNER--WE WANT TO HELP YOU!

NO ONE CAN HELP ME, IRON MAN!

WHAT I HAVE TO DO MUST BE DONE ALONE! WHERE I HAVE TO GO, NONE CAN ACCOMPANY ME! LEAVE ME! THIS IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS! I SAY GO!!



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PROBLEM WAS...AND I DON'T CARE! NOBODY'S GOT THE RIGHT TO ACT THE WAY HE DID! THE CITY FATHERS MAY MAKE HIM OUT TO BE A HERO--BUT TO ME, HE'LL ALWAYS BE JUST ONE MORE BIG, STRONG JERK!"

LATER...

YES, MS. ARNSTEIN... DIANE AND I WERE SITTING ON THAT BENCH WHEN WE MET THOR... WHAT WAS IT HONEY, ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO?

LONGER THAN THAT, DEAR. WE'VE BEEN MARRIED NEARLY SIX YEARS NOW!

MORE LIKE THREE MONTHS, ACTUALLY. IT HAPPENED ON A GORGEOUS SPRING DAY...

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'D BEEN GOING TOGETHER SIX WEEKS AT THE TIME.

"...A THURSDAY, AS I RECALL. WE WERE DISCUSSING PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND WHEN WE SAW HIM.

"WE'D READ STORIES ABOUT THOR, OF COURSE, BUT NEITHER OF US HAD SEEN HIM UNTIL THAT MOMENT. HIS VOICE MUST HAVE CARRIED FOR BLOCKS..."

SHE LOVES ME! SHE WILL BE MINE! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, I'LL WIN HER!

I'M IN LOVE-- EVEN AS YOU ARE!

DO YOU HEAR??? THOR IS IN LOVE!!

WOW. IS IT THAT OBVIOUS? MAYBE...

DIANE, DO YOU... UH... WOULD YOU...

MARRY YOU? IN A MINUTE!

IF NOT FOR THOR, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MONTHS BEFORE I GOT UP THE NERVE TO PROPOSE.

WHAT A SWEET STORY! YOU KNOW, I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT YOU TWO HAD BEEN MARRIED SO LONG-- YOU STILL LOOK LIKE NEWLYWEDS.

THANK YOU. I HOPE WE'VE BEEN OF SOME HELP.

HE USED TO BE SO SHY.

YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, REALLY!



DO I HAVE A STORY TO TELL ABOUT THOR? I'LL SAY I DO!

I WAS JUST BUSSIN' TABLES IN THOSE DAYS ...NOW I OWN THE PLACE... ME AN' THE BANK, THAT IS.

UH-HUH. ABOUT THOR--?

OH, YEAH... THERE WAS THIS *NURSE* HE MUSTA BEEN SWEET ON... JANE SOMETHIN' ...

JANE FOSTER?

"YEAH, THAT WAS HER NAME. ANYWAYS, WHILST THOR WAS OUTTA TOWN, SHE AN' ONE OF HIS OLD BUDDIES CAME IN HERE AND..."



AHH! THIS LIQUID IS LIKE *NECTAR* OF THE GODS!

JANE! I HAVE RETURNED!

REALLY? I FORGOT YOU HAD BEEN AWAY!

"IT WAS CLEAR THAT BLONDIE WASN'T AT ALL HAPPY."



STAND ASIDE, HERCULES! 'TIS NOT WITH YOU I WISH TO SPEAK!

NONE MAY RAISE VOICE TO A FEMALE WHOM *HERCULES* LOOKS UPON WITH FAVOR!

"ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND..."



NOT EVEN THE SON OF *ZEUS* MAY STRIKE *THOR* WITH IMPUNITY!

YOUR OVER-BEARING *CONCEIT* IS A STANDING JOKE IN *OLYMPUS*, THUNDER GOD! BUT NOW I'LL RID YOU OF IT-- FOREVER!

THE WOMAN DESERVES BETTER THAN SUCH A VAIN, HUMORLESS DULLARD AS *THEE*!



DIM-WITTED CLOD! IF I BE *HUMORLESS*, IT IS NOT WITHOUT GOOD REASON / FOR *MONTHS*, THE POWERS OF *ASGARD* AND *EARTH* HAVE CONSPIRED TO KEEP ME FROM MY BELOVED!

BUT NO LONGER DO I ENDURE FATE IN STONY SILENCE! NOW, THE SON OF *ODIN* STRIKES BACK!

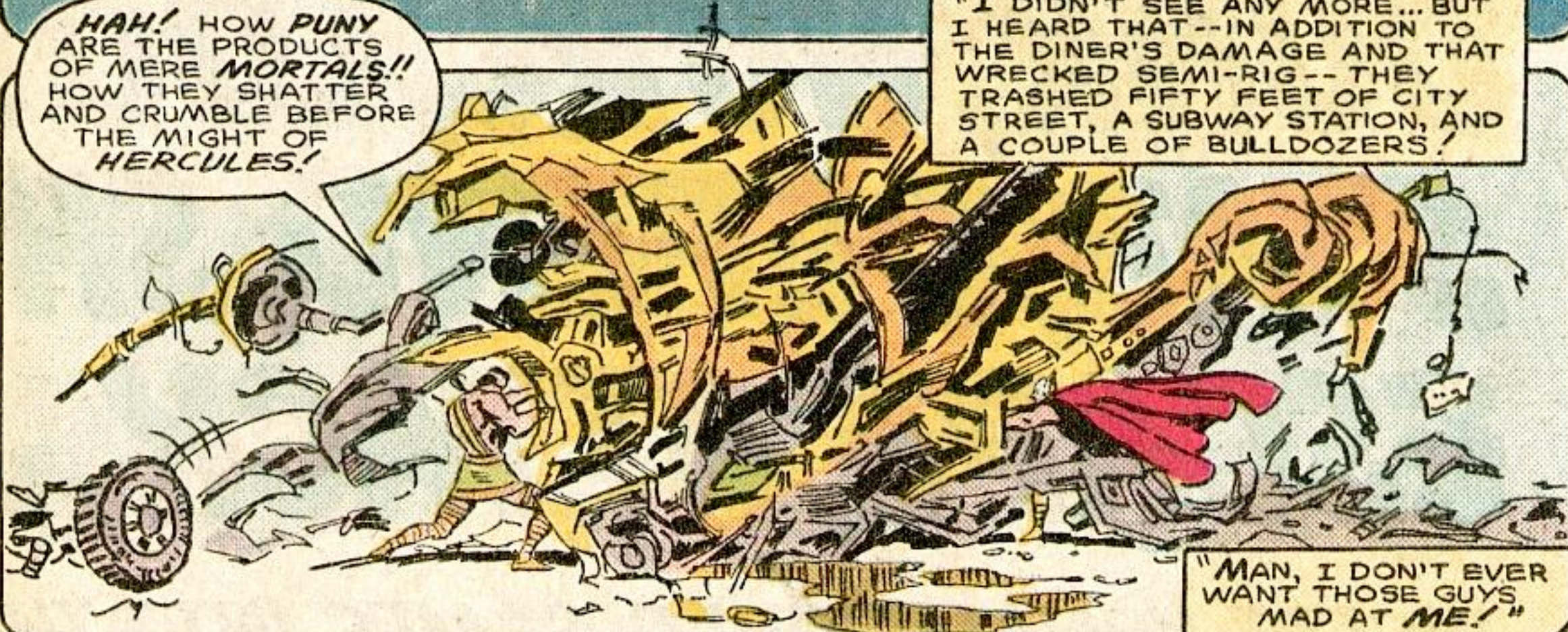
BE THOU WARNED, SCION OF ASGARD! NOW THAT THE FULL MEASURE OF THY STRENGTH IS REVEALED, I HUNGER FOR MORE BATTLE!

FOR NOTHING PLEASES THE HEART OF HERCULES SO MUCH AS A FOE WHO CAN OFFER A CHALLENGE TO MY MATCHLESS POWER!



HAH! HOW PUNY ARE THE PRODUCTS OF MERE MORTALS!! HOW THEY SHATTER AND CRUMBLE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF HERCULES!

"I DIDN'T SEE ANY MORE... BUT I HEARD THAT--IN ADDITION TO THE DINER'S DAMAGE AND THAT WRECKED SEMI-RIG-- THEY TRASHED FIFTY FEET OF CITY STREET, A SUBWAY STATION, AND A COUPLE OF BULLDOZERS!"



"MAN, I DON'T EVER WANT THOSE GUYS MAD AT ME!"

MUCH LATER, AT A FASHIONABLE MID-TOWN HOTEL...

I STILL HAVEN'T SHAKEN MY JET LAG AND...

WHAT THE @ # % & ? ! ? HOW DID YOU GET IN MY ROOM?!



TRADE SECRET, SISTER. TAKE IT EASY, I'M NOT A PERVERT OR A TERRORIST... YOU MIGHT SAY I'M A COLLEAGUE. THE NAME IS HOBBS.

HARRIS HOBBS? OH, YES... YOU'RE THE EX-NEWSMAN WHO TRIED TO SUCKER THE NETWORKS WITH A PONEY TRAVELOGUE OF THOR'S HOME TOWN.

HEY, THAT PROJECT WAS LEGIT ... I JUST CAN'T PROVE IT. LOOK, I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING UP PEOPLE WHO'D MET THE THUNDER GOD, SO...

ALL RIGHT, HOBBS-- TELL ME YOUR STORY AND I'LL TRY NOT TO LAUGH!



"THAT'S COLD, ARNSTEIN... BUT MAYBE I DESERVE IT. BACK WHEN I WAS STILL WITH THE WIRE SERVICES, I USED TO STOOP TO ANYTHING TO GET A STORY. THAT WAS BEFORE I MET THOR.

DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT I PERSUADED THOR TO LET ME SEE THIS HOME OF THE GODS HE'D CLAIMED TO COME FROM."



PREPARE FOR WONDERS WITHOUT END, MORTAL!! FOR I TAKE YOU NOW TO ASGARD!

" HE SWUNG HIS HAMMER FASTER AND FASTER... IT WAS LIKE BEING IN THE EYE OF A HURRICANE... EXCEPT FOR OUR OWN VOICES, THERE WAS UTTER SILENCE. AND WHEN THOSE SWIRLING MISTS CLEARED..."

S-SUCH... BEAUTY!

" NO WORDS I COULD COME UP WITH WILL EVER ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THAT MOMENT. IT WAS LIKE SUDDENLY FINDING YOURSELF IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE!"

"PART OF ME HAD ALWAYS DOUBTED THAT THE AVENGER WAS REALLY THE THOR OUT OF MYTH, BUT NOT AFTER I SAW ASGARD!"

WALK YOU NOW AT MY SIDE, MORTAL-- WITH SLOW AND MEASURED TREAD!

" WE CROSSED THAT IMPOSSIBLE RAINBOW BRIDGE UNCHALLENGED BY ANY GUARDIANS... AND THAT SEEMED TO PUT THOR ON EDGE. I WAS TOO NUMB TO BE FRIGHTENED... UNTIL WE REACHED THE HEART OF THE CITY.

" THERE, CRUSHER CREEL--THE CRIMINAL ABSORBING MAN-- WAS BATTLING ODIN, THE KING OF THE GODS HIMSELF.

FATHER-- BEWARE! WHATSOEVER HE TOUCHES, THAT VERY THING HE BECOMES--THAT VERY STRENGTH DOES HE TAKE UNTO HIMSELF!

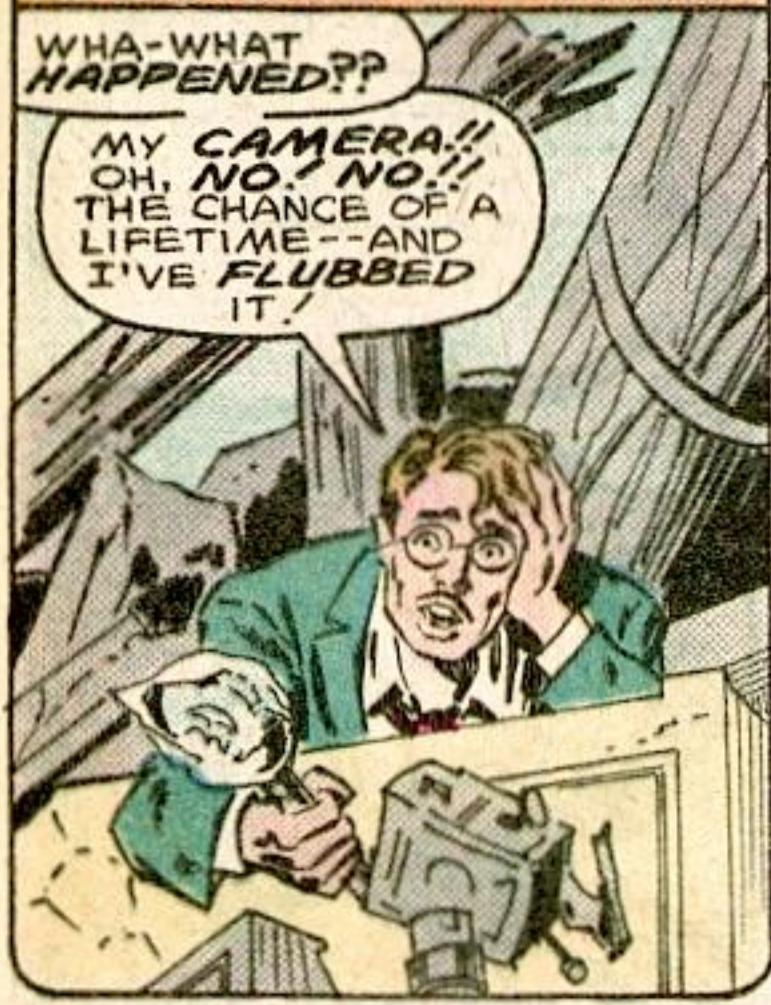
" THOR'S WARNING CAME TOO LATE. CREEL HAD ALREADY ABSORBED THE COSMIC FORCE ODIN HAD USED AGAINST HIM. I REMEMBER A HORRIFIC EXPLOSION, AND THEN...

...NOTHING.

"THE NEXT THING I KNEW, THE ABSORBING MAN WAS GONE... AND I WAS PICKING MYSELF UP OUT OF THE RUBBLE.

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED??

MY CAMERA!! OH, NO! NO!! THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME--AND I'VE FLUBBED IT!



SO... NO EVIDENCE, NO STORY.

AND NO MEMORY. THOR USED SOME SORT OF ASGARDIAN MAGIC TO MAKE ME FORGET WHAT I'D SEEN... FOR THE SAKE OF MY SANITY, HE CLAIMED.



"BUT SOMETIMES IMAGES OF WHAT I'D SEEN CAME TO ME IN MY DREAMS, AND IN TIME THOSE DREAMS BECAME NIGHTMARES THAT DROVE ME TO THE PSYCHIATRIST'S COUCH.

"SEVERAL SESSIONS OF HYPNO-THERAPY RESTORED MY MEMORY--



"--AND GAVE ME AN IDEA FOR THE MEDIA EVENT OF THE CENTURY..."

...THE FIRST TV SPECIAL SHOT ON LOCATION IN ASGARD. YOU GOTTA DO THIS FOR ME, THOR--MY CAREER DEPENDS ON IT!



SUCH IS NOT MINE TO GRANT, HOBBS. I CAN BUT SPEAK TO ALL-FATHER ODIN...

"IT LOOKED LIKE THERE WAS NO HOPE... UNTIL THIS DERELICT MELTED OUT OF THE WOODWORK AND OFFERED HIS HELP."

C'MON, MAN, NOBODY ON EARTH CAN POSSIBLY HELP ME... NOBODY BUT THOR!



I CAN, MORTAL. BEHOLD NOW MY TRUE FORM...

...I AM LOKI LAUFHEYSON, BROTHER OF THOR AND GOD OF... MISCHIEF.



ASSEMBLE YOUR FELLOW WORKERS BEFORE ME. I WILL FIND YOU TRANSPORT TO ETERNAL ASGARD.

"I KNOW, IT WAS CRAZY TO TRUST LOKI... BUT I WAS DESPERATE. I GOT HOLD OF MY CAMERAMAN, RED NORVELL, AND CALLED UP JOEY BURNETT TO HANDLE SOUND-- AND PROMISED BOTH OF THEM THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME. I WAS SURELY RIGHT ON THAT SCORE.

"LOKI HID US INSIDE SOME BIG DOOMSDAY MACHINE THAT THOR WAS TAKING TO ASGARD FOR SAFEKEEPING, AND ONCE WE ARRIVED..."



BY ODIN'S BEARD... HOBBS!!

UH... HI THERE, THOR, OL' BUDDY.

"THE ASGARDIANS WEREN'T AT ALL PLEASED BY OUR PRESENCE--

"-- BUT THEY WERE SOON TOO BUSY TO WORRY ABOUT US. IT SEEMS LOKI HAD SET THINGS IN MOTION TO BRING ABOUT THE LONG-PROPHECIED DAY OF RAGNAROK..."

"... UNDERSTAND, WE'RE TALKING END OF THE WORLD! I DIDN'T KNOW IF THOR'S BUDDIES COULD BEAT THAT, BUT I FIGURED WE MIGHT AS WELL FILM IT."



"WHAT I HADN'T FIGURED ON WAS RED FALLING FOR THOR'S LADY SIF LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!"

"UNFORTUNATELY, LOKI HAD!"

STEP INTO THE FIRE OF GEIRRODUR-- IF YOU WOULD WIN THE LOVE OF THE LADY SIF!

SIF!? YES-- YES! I'VE GOT TO DO IT!



"LOKI'S MAGIC DID SOMETHING TO RED IN THOSE FLAMES. HE PUT ON THOR'S IRON GLOVES AND HIS BELT OF STRENGTH, AND... WELL... HE BECAME..."

...THE REAL THOR --GOD OF THUNDER!



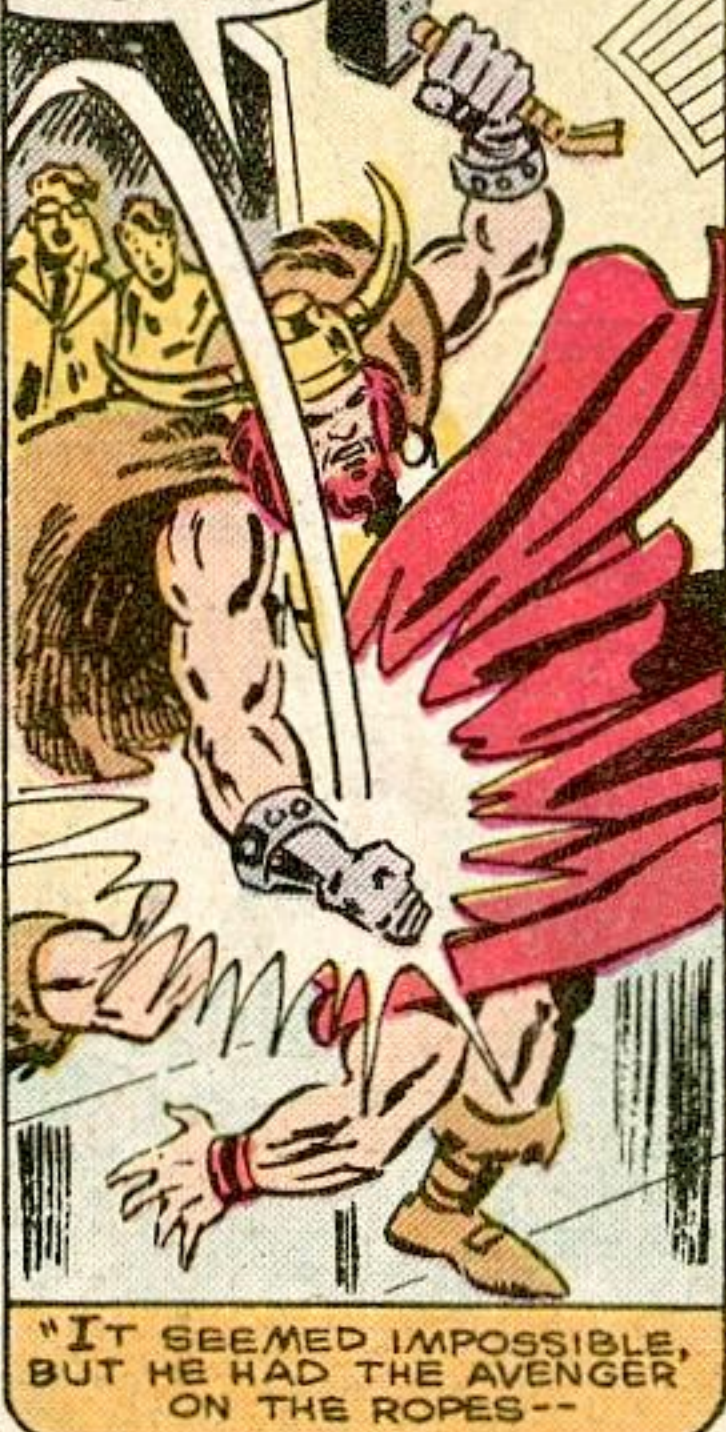
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME NOW!



"ALL THAT POWER IN RED MADE HIM AS STRONG AS THOR--"

"-- BUT IT ALSO DROVE HIM CRAZY!"

I'VE GOTTA KILL YOU--OR YOU'LL KILL ME, SOONER OR LATER!



"IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE, BUT HE HAD THE AVENGER ON THE ROPES--"

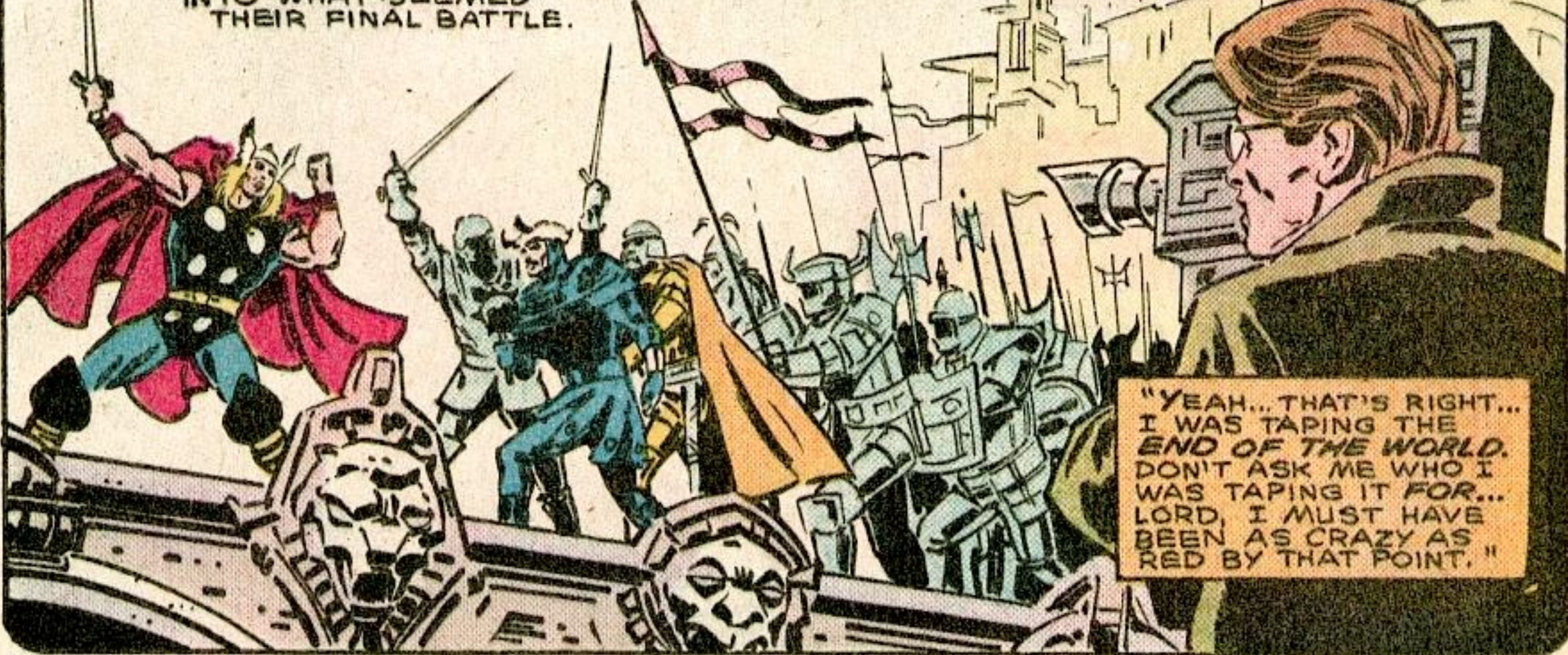
"-- AND WAS ABOUT TO FRY HIM, WHEN..."

YOU CAN'T KILL HIM, RED! I WON'T LET YOU! I...



"JOEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE."

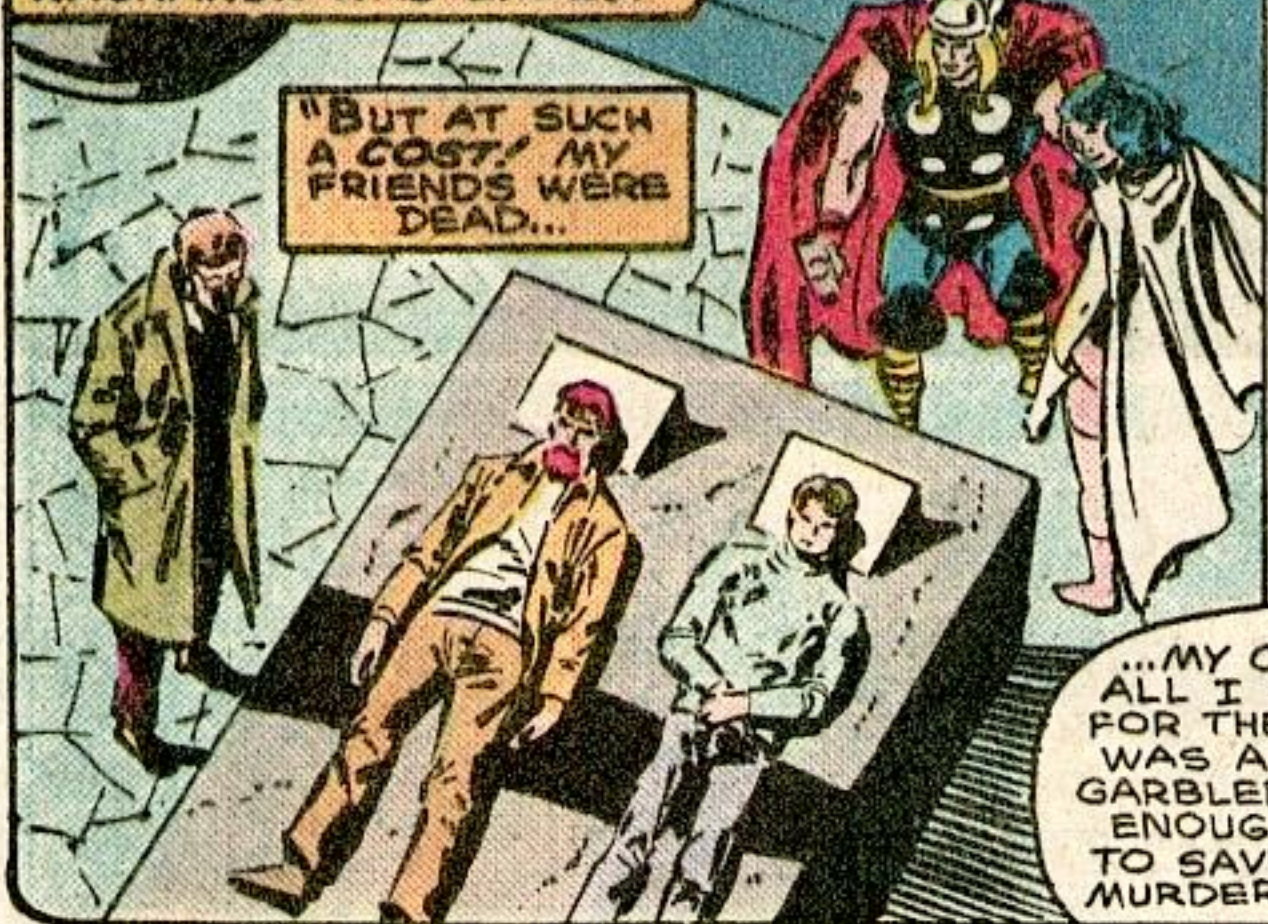
"EVERYTHING AFTER THAT IS PRETTY MUCH A BLUR. I REMEMBER STANDING ALONE ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY, MANNING A CAMERA AS THOR LED THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD INTO WHAT SEEMED THEIR FINAL BATTLE.



"YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS TAPING THE END OF THE WORLD. DON'T ASK ME WHO I WAS TAPING IT FOR... LORD, I MUST HAVE BEEN AS CRAZY AS RED BY THAT POINT."

"SOMEBOW, THOUGH, RED MUST'VE GOTTEN IT BACK TOGETHER. HE SACRIFICED HIS POWER AND HIS LIFE TO SAVE THE OTHERS. THE THREAT OF RAGNAROK WAS ENDED.

"BUT AT SUCH A COST! MY FRIENDS WERE DEAD..."



"...MY CAREER WAS OVER. ALL I HAD TO SHOW FOR THE WHOLE MESS WAS A HANDFUL OF GARBLED TAPES, JUST ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SAVE ME FROM A MURDER INDICTMENT."

WHAT'S YOUR GAME, HOBBS? DO YOU WANT A CONSULTANCY POSITION ON THE MOVIE-- IS THAT IT?



ARE YOU CRAZY?? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD A WORD I SAID?!!



LISTEN--THOR, THE ASGARDIANS, THEY'RE BAD NEWS! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING MORE TO DO WITH THEM...

...AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU, IF YOU'RE SMART! NO STORY... NO SCREENPLAY... IS WORTH YOUR LIFE AND YOUR SANITY, ARNSTEIN--



--TAKE IT FROM A FELLA WHO'S BEEN THERE!

I COULD ALMOST BELIEVE THAT CRAZY STORY. EVERYONE'S GIVEN ME A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE THUNDER GOD... HE'S STILL SUCH A MYSTERY!



BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP YET--

--NOT WITHOUT GOING AFTER THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERVIEW!

THREE DAYS LATER, IN SUBURBAN HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS...
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE--IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE A DOCTOR'S HOUSE.

MS. FOSTER-KINCAID? I'M MADDIE ARNSTEIN... WE SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE PHONE YESTERDAY.
OH, YES-- WON'T YOU COME IN?

WHAT SORT OF ARTICLE DID YOU SAY YOU'RE RESEARCHING, MS. ARNSTEIN?
IT'S MADDIE... AND I DIDN'T, MS... MAY I CALL YOU JANE? ACTUALLY, I'M WORKING ON A SCREENPLAY FOR A MOTION PICTURE.

REALLY? ABOUT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OR PARENTING OR--?
I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, JANE. I'M WRITING A MOVIE ABOUT THOR.
TH--THOR? THE... SUPER HERO?

I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HELP YOU--!
JANE, I HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWING PEOPLE FOR THE PAST WEEK AND A HALF... AND YOUR NAME HAS COME UP AGAIN AND AGAIN. I KNOW THAT YOU ONCE HAD SOME SORT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THOR.
TELL ME... WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE LOVED BY A GOD?

I BEG YOUR PARDON!

MS. ARNSTEIN... WHETHER OR NOT I KNEW THOR, AND WHETHER OR NOT WE HAD A RELATIONSHIP, IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

I INVITED YOU INTO MY HOME UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I WAS HELPING A YOUNG WRITER, BUT I WILL NOT SIT STILL AND ALLOW ANYONE TO PRY INTO MY PERSONAL LIFE!

JANE, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO COME HERE UNDER FALSE PRETENSES, BUT... YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THIS COULD MEAN TO ME. I'VE BEEN GRINDING OUT SOAPS AND MINISERIES FOR FIVE YEARS--

I WANT TO PORTRAY THOR AS ACCURATELY AND AS TRUTHFULLY AS I CAN. I HAVE A LOT OF FACTS AND FIGURES--AND I'VE UNEARTHED SOME INTRIGUING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS--

--THIS MOVIE GIG IS THE BREAK I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, AND YOU COULD HELP ME SO MUCH.

--BUT I'VE YET TO FIND THE HEART OF THE MAN... OR GOD... OR WHATEVER HE IS.

MADDIE, I DON'T LIKE TO BETRAY CONFIDENCES, AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEE PART OF MY LIFE UP ON THE SCREEN.

YOU *WOULDN'T*, I PROMISE! EVERYTHING WILL BE FICTIONALIZED... WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS AN ESSENCE. OH, PLEASE, YOU MUST HELP ME!

I KNOW THAT YOU AND YOUR OLD BOSS, DONALD BLAKE, WERE BOTH CONFIDANTS OF THOR, BUT BLAKE WENT OFF ON SOME GOVERNMENT MISSION AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE. YOU'RE MY LAST HOPE!

WELL... IT SEEMS LIKE AGES SINCE I WORKED WITH DON BLAKE... I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH THAT WOULD BE OF USE TO YOU...

"... BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I ENTERED HIS OFFICE AND FOUND..."

THOR!! WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

I--?

I CAME TO FIND BLAKE! I'VE BEEN TOLD HE TRIED TO BETRAY ME TO TWO OF MY FOES! WHERE IS HE? SPEAK, WOMAN!!

I-I DON'T KNOW! HE MUST HAVE LEFT--BY HIS PRIVATE DOOR! HE'S NOT HERE!

BUT, THOR... I'M SURE HE MEANT NO HARM! AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY... HUMAN...

"HE SEEMED AS SURPRISED TO SEE ME, AS I HIM."



"BUT KNOWING THOR CARRIED CERTAIN DANGERS HE HAS MANY ENEMIES, AND SOMETIMES THEY WOULD STRIKE AT HIM THROUGH DON OR ME."

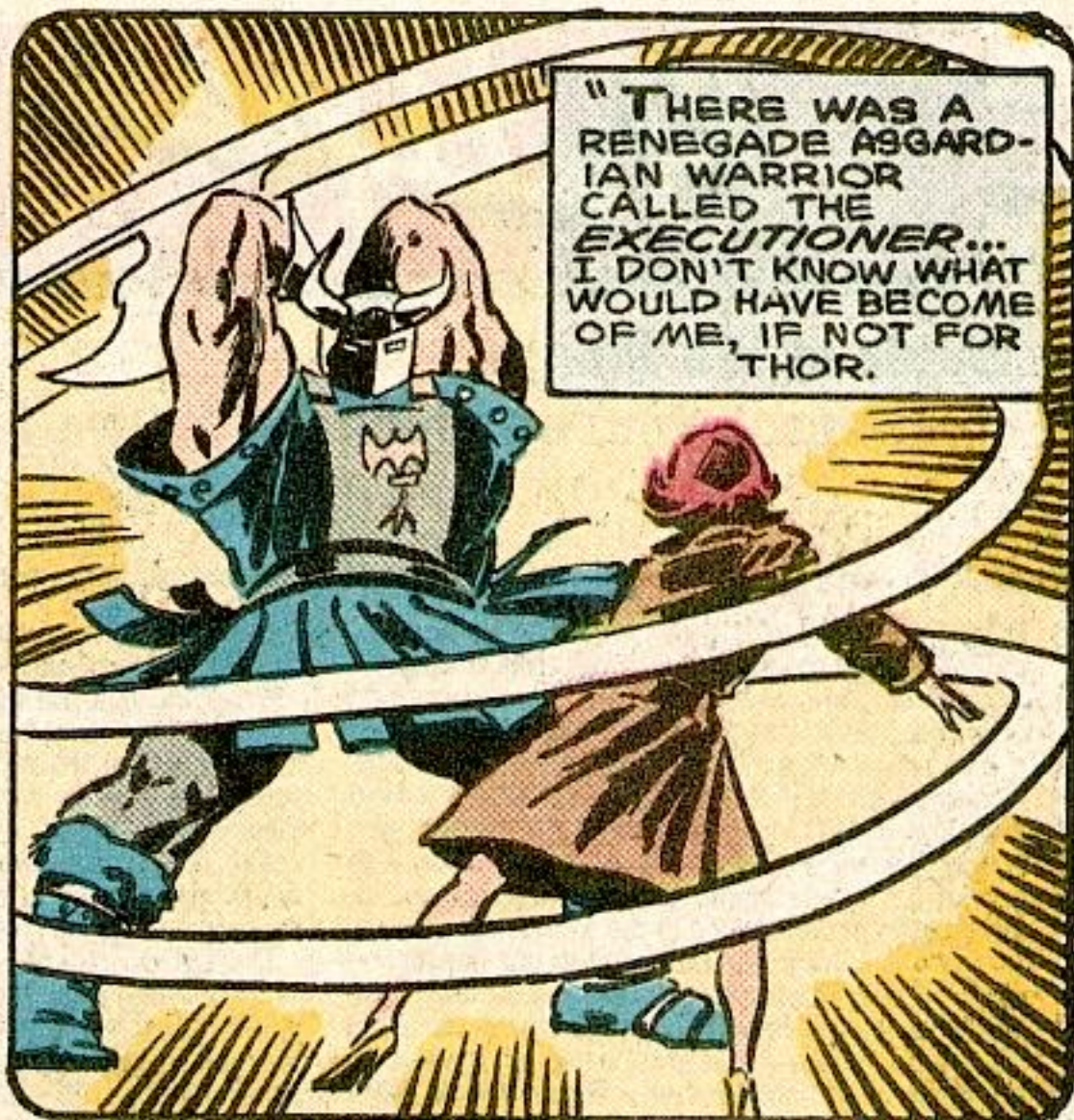
OMIGOD.

JANE FOSTER -- I HAVE FOUND YOU!



AS IT TURNED OUT, I WAS RIGHT. DR. BLAKE... HAD INTENDED ONLY TO HELP THOR. IT WAS ALL A MIS-UNDERSTANDING.

AS YOU'VE LEARNED, DON WAS... VERY CLOSE TO THOR. AND AS HIS NURSE, I GOT TO KNOW THOR, AS WELL.



"THERE WAS A RENEGADE ASGARDIAN WARRIOR CALLED THE EXECUTIONER... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE BECOME OF ME, IF NOT FOR THOR."

"AND ANOTHER TIME, THOR SAVED MY LIFE -- WHEN I WAS INJURED BY A TRAP SET FOR HIM BY THE COBRA AND MISTER HYDE."



"I... DID FALL IN LOVE WITH THOR. AFTER GOING THROUGH ALL THAT, WHO WOULDN'T? WHAT SURPRISED ME WAS HIS REACTION..."



'TIS AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD WHOM YOU LOVE, JANE FOSTER--

--AND WHO TRULY LOVES YOU, AS WELL!

BEING THOR'S FRIEND WAS RISKY ENOUGH... LOVING HIM WAS EVEN HARDER. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I SAW HIM STAND BY AND TAKE A BEATING AT THE HANDS OF SOME MONSTROUS CREATURE!



"IT WAS SUCH AN AWFUL HELPLESS FEELING. AND ALL I COULD DO WAS STAND BY AND WATCH!"



"FINALLY, THE DAY CAME WHEN THOR DECLARED THAT HE WOULD TAKE ME TO ASGARD -- TO FACE ODIN AND BE MARRIED BEFORE ALL THE GODS.



"BUT THE MARRIAGE NEVER CAME OFF... I JUST WASN'T CUT OUT TO BE THE WIFE OF A GOD. LIFE WITH THOR WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT ENOUGH ON EARTH... ON ASGARD... I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT."

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE ANGLE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



OH, JANE-JANE-JANE! BLESS YOU! YOU'VE GIVEN ME MY STORY!



JUST A MINUTE--

--YOU SAID THAT YOU'D LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS!



AND I MEANT IT! NO ONE EVEN REMOTELY LIKE YOU WILL BE IN MY SCRIPT!

YOU MAY BE THE REALITY, DEAR--

--BUT TODAY'S AUDIENCE WANTS SOMETHING REALER THAN REAL! YOU'LL SEE. I'LL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE SCREENPLAY!



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

OH, HI! YOU MUST BE DOCTOR KINCAID, RIGHT?

YOUR WIFE IS ONE IN A MILLION, DOC!



AH...YES. I KNOW.

HONEY? WHO WAS THAT?

WELL, THAT'S NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN.



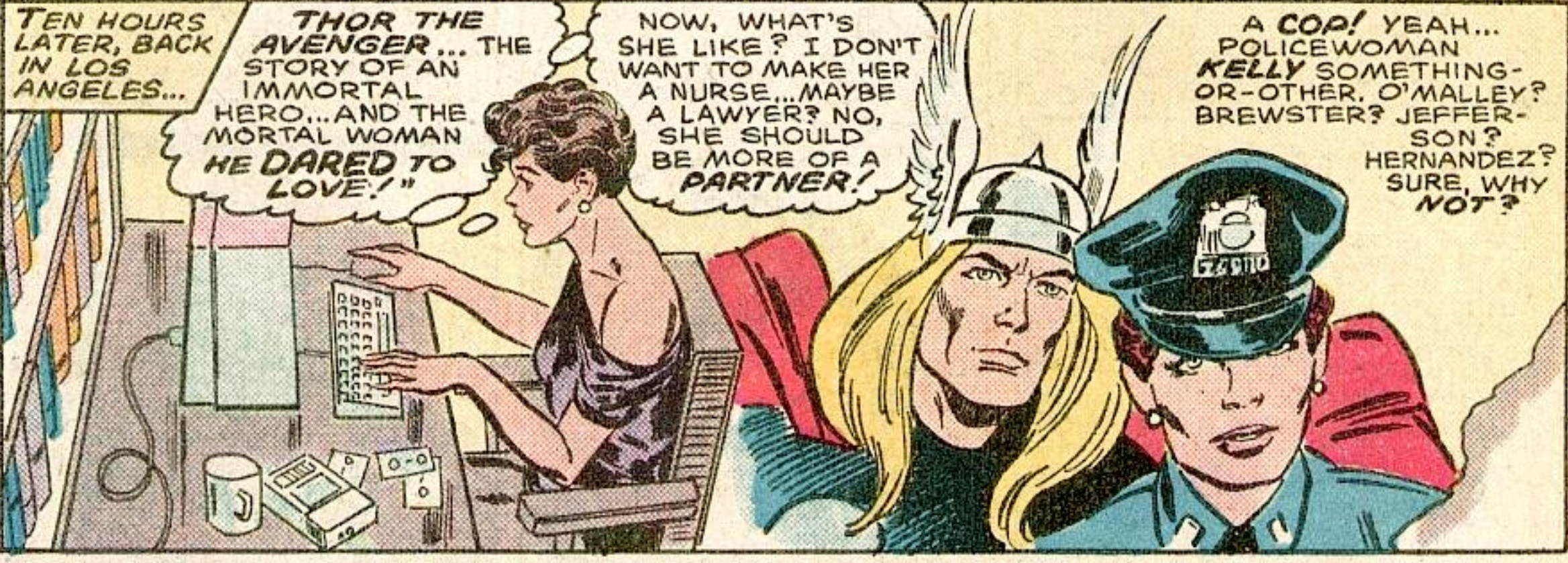
I JUST HOPE SHE'S AS SINCERE AS SHE SEEMED.

TEN HOURS LATER, BACK IN LOS ANGELES...

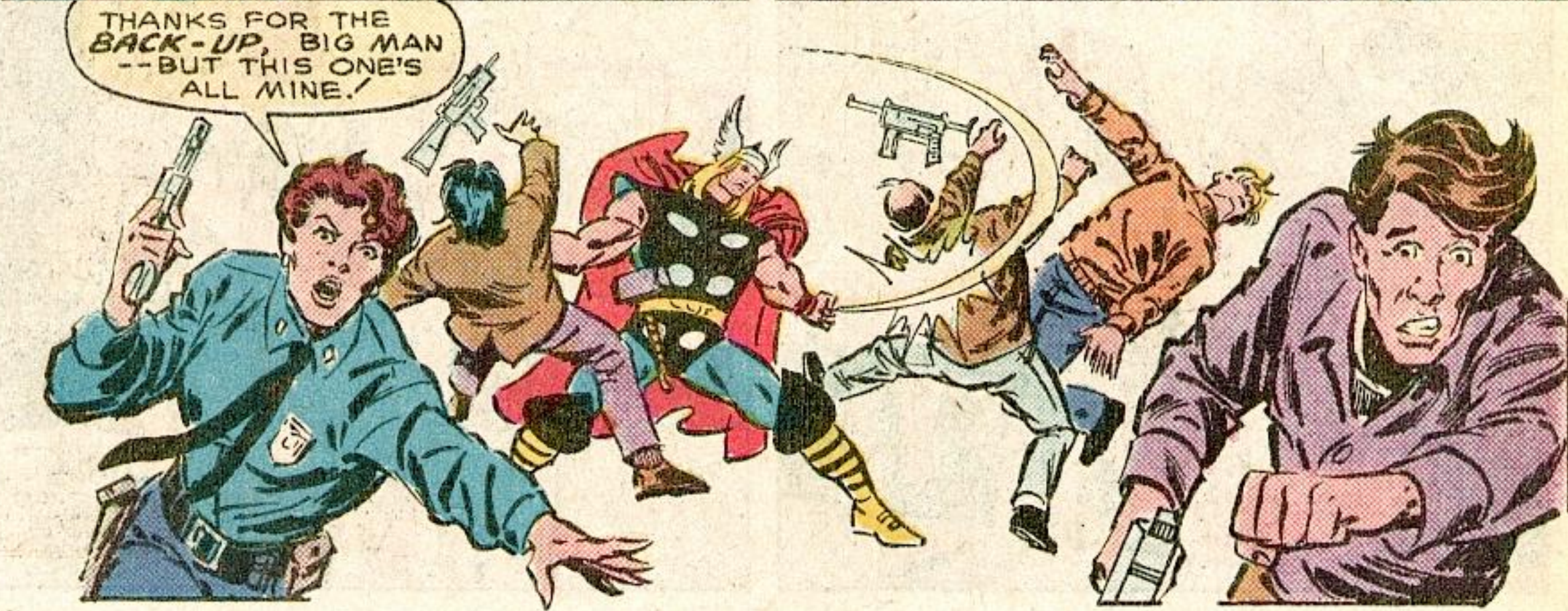
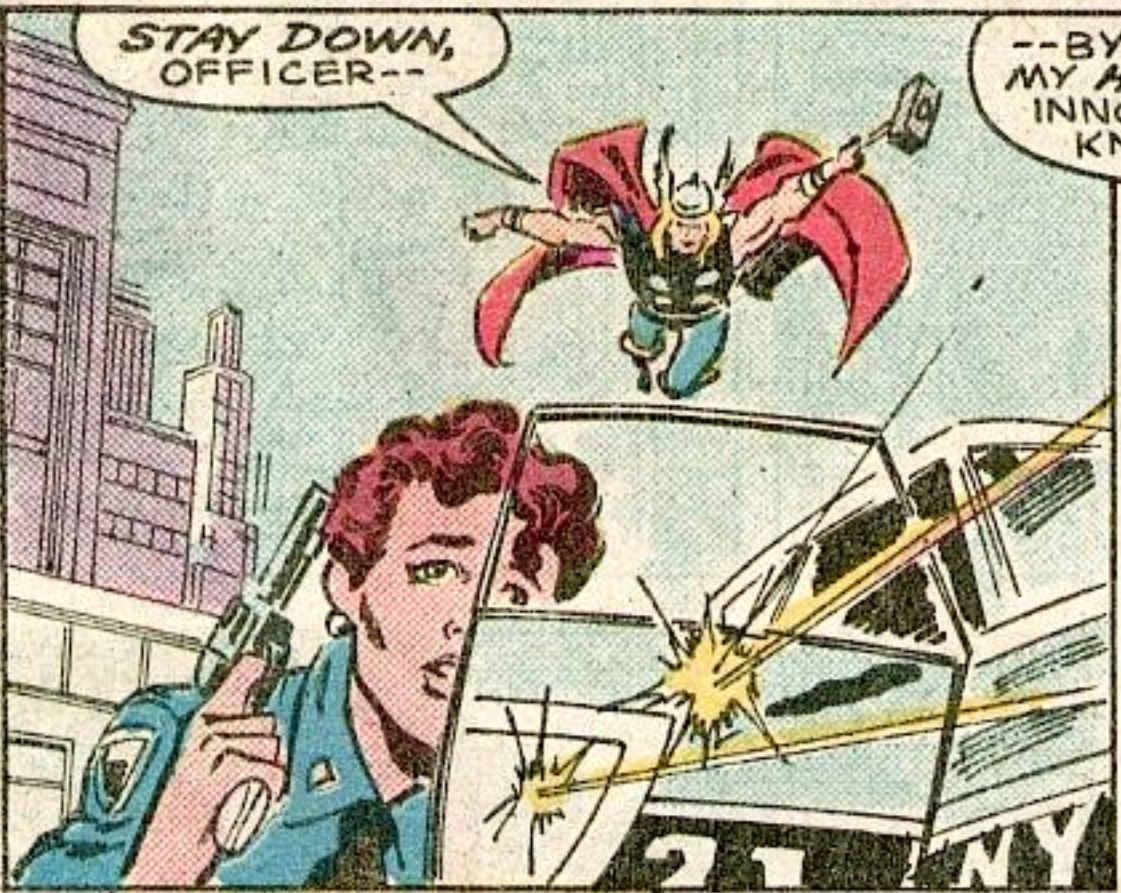
THOR THE AVENGER... THE STORY OF AN IMMORTAL HERO... AND THE MORTAL WOMAN HE DARED TO LOVE!

NOW, WHAT'S SHE LIKE? I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER A NURSE... MAYBE A LAWYER? NO, SHE SHOULD BE MORE OF A PARTNER!

A COP! YEAH... POLICEWOMAN KELLY SOMETHING-OR-OTHER, O'MALLEY? BREWSTER? JEFFERSON? HERNANDEZ? SURE, WHY NOT?

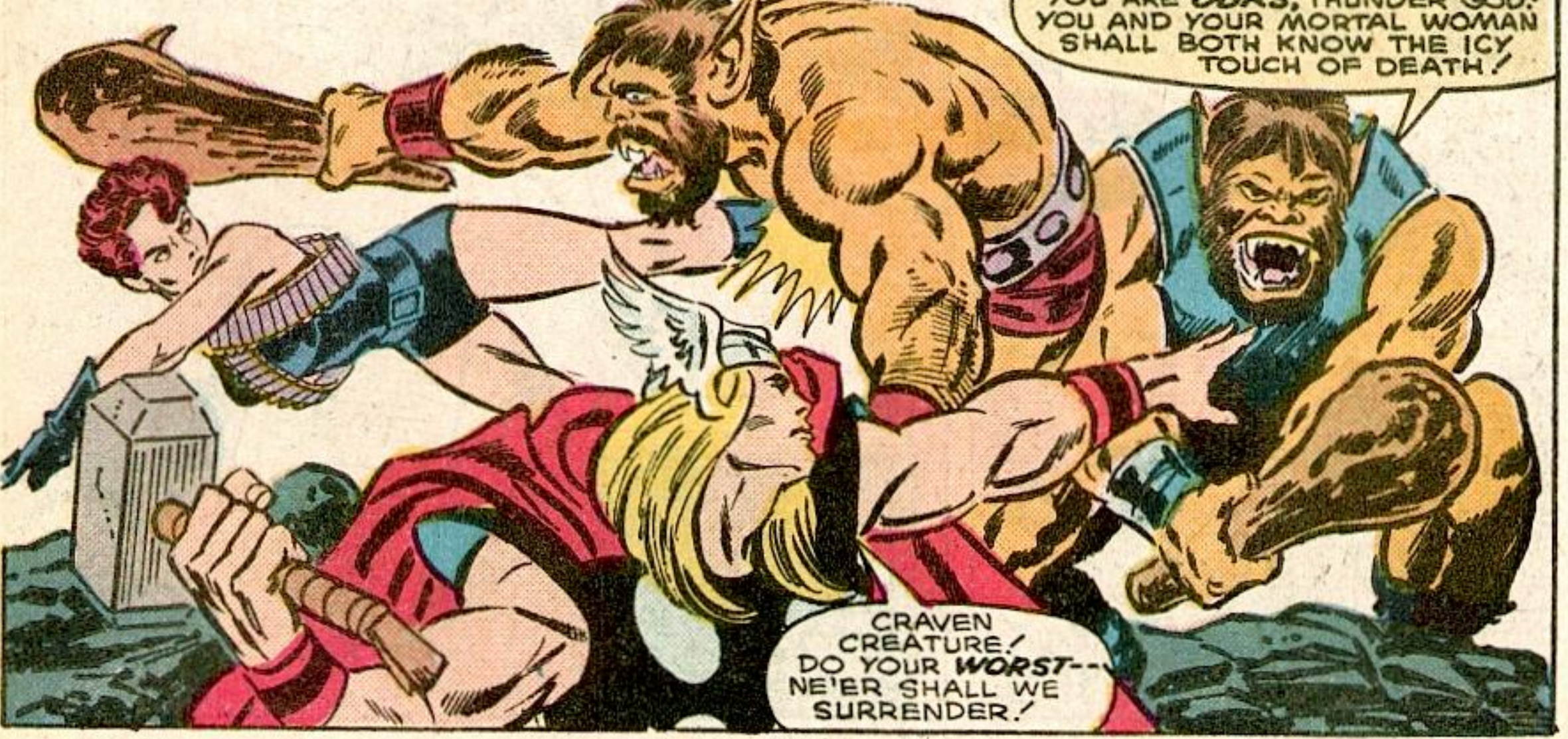


"KELLY HERNANDEZ... a five-year veteran of the force... tough, yet caring... hard as nails, but easy on the eyes!"





SCENE 23: The Trolls attack...



YOU'RE NOT LOSING ME, CREEP!

YAAHHH!

...IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.

'T WAS MY PLEASURE, MILADY.

OH... THOR, I'M GLAD YOU STUCK AROUND--I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY SKIN.

'T IS A SHAME THAT SUCH BEAUTIFUL SKIN MUST KNOW DANGER.

HEY, LIFE IS TOUGH AND THEN YOU DIE, YOU KNOW?

NO, MY DEAR, I DO NOT.

REALLY?

AYE.

SCENE 16: Thor & Kelly lead the assault on the Terrorists' stronghold...

STAND AWAY, KELLY! I WOULD NOT SEE YOU IN DANGER AGAIN!

THEN DON'T LOOK! WE'VE SEARCHED TOO LONG FOR THESE MURDERERS--I WON'T TURN BACK NOW!

YOU ARE OURS, THUNDER GOD! YOU AND YOUR MORTAL WOMAN SHALL BOTH KNOW THE ICY TOUCH OF DEATH!

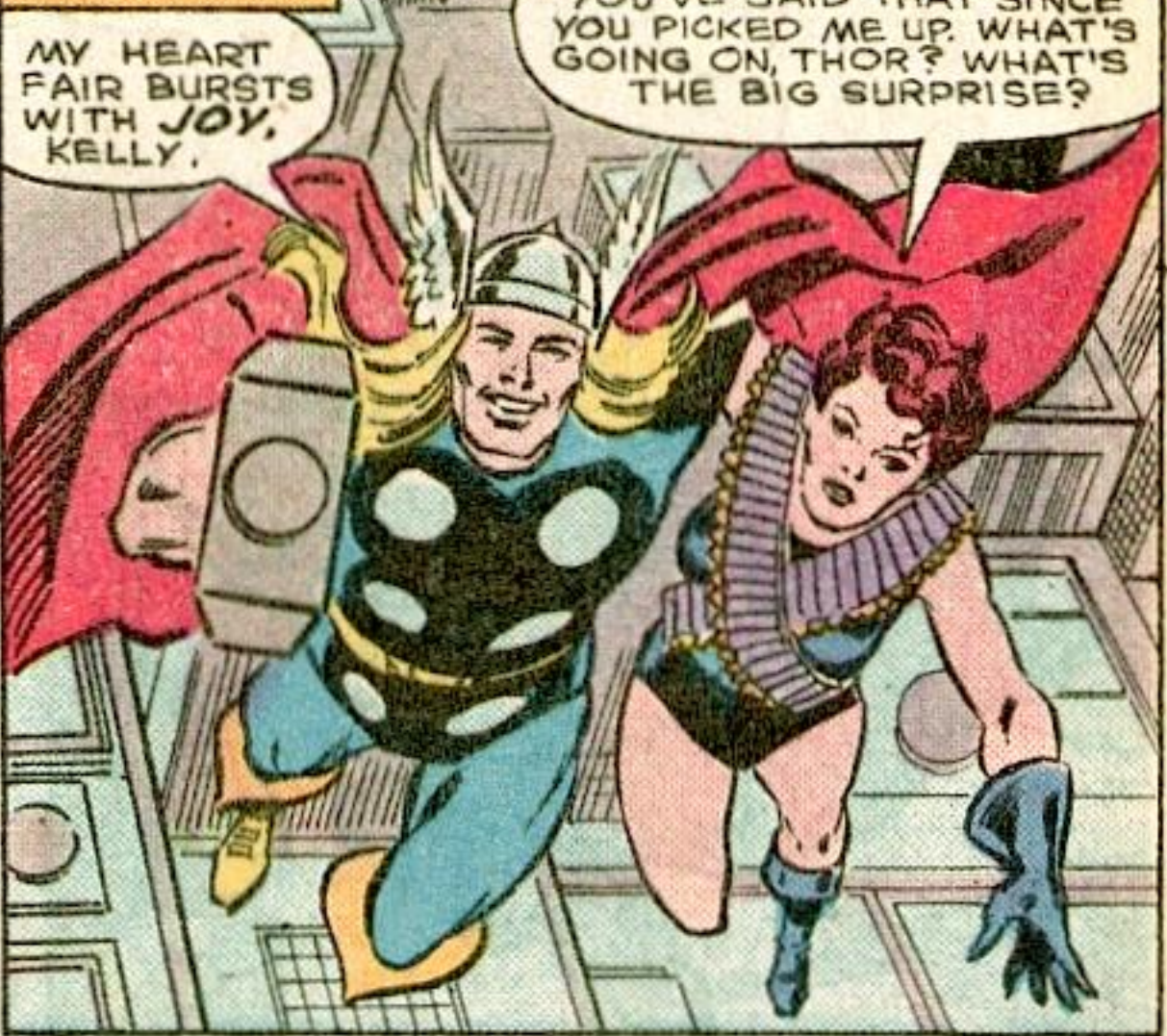
CRAVEN CREATURE! DO YOUR WORST--NE'ER SHALL WE SURRENDER!

SCENE 26:



IN ALL MY CENTURIES OF LIFE, NEVER HAVE I KNOWN SUCH A LOVE. MY HEART IS **YOURS**, KELLY HERNANDEZ.

SCENE 30:



MY HEART FAIR BURSTS WITH **JOY**, KELLY.

THAT'S THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE SAID THAT SINCE YOU PICKED ME UP. WHAT'S GOING ON, THOR? WHAT'S THE BIG SURPRISE?

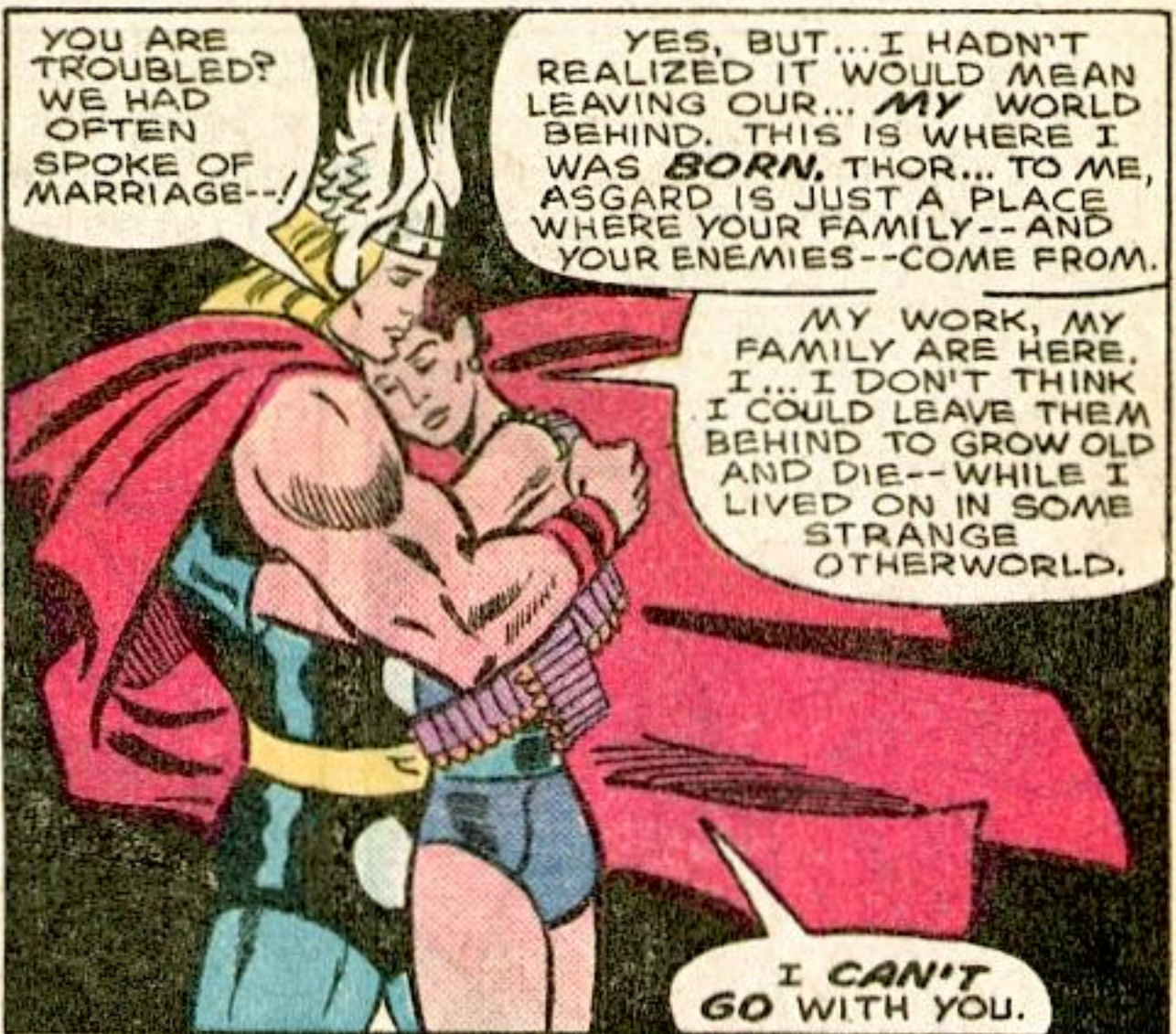


ALL-FATHER ODIN HAS GRANTED HIS **BLESSING** TO OUR LOVE! BY HIS COMMAND I NOW FINALLY TAKE YOU TO **ASGARD!**

THERE SHALL WE DWELL TOGETHER --AS **IMMORTALS**-- UNTIL THE END OF TIME ITSELF!

YOU MEAN... LEAVE THE WORLD?

THOR, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.



YOU ARE TROUBLED? WE HAD OFTEN SPOKE OF MARRIAGE--!

YES, BUT... I HADN'T REALIZED IT WOULD MEAN LEAVING OUR... **MY** WORLD BEHIND. THIS IS WHERE I WAS **BORN**, THOR... TO ME, ASGARD IS JUST A PLACE WHERE YOUR FAMILY--AND YOUR ENEMIES--COME FROM.

MY WORK, MY FAMILY ARE HERE. I... I DON'T THINK I COULD LEAVE THEM BEHIND TO GROW OLD AND DIE--WHILE I LIVED ON IN SOME STRANGE OTHERWORLD.

I **CAN'T** GO WITH YOU.



YEAH!

NOW **THAT'S** A STORY!

ONE WEEK LATER...

MADDIE, COME IN! SIT DOWN!



DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE-- WHAT DID YOU THINK OF IT?

KIDDO, YOU ARE GOING TO GO FAR IN THIS BUSINESS!

THIS IS THE SINGLE BEST SCREENPLAY I HAVE EVER READ! IT HAS EVERYTHING--ACTION, INTRIGUE, GLAMOR, ADVENTURE, ROMANCE!



UH-HUH...



...BUT YOU'D LIKE A FEW CHANGES MADE, RIGHT?



NOT AT ALL.

WHAT?! YOU'RE GOING WITH MY FIRST DRAFT?!

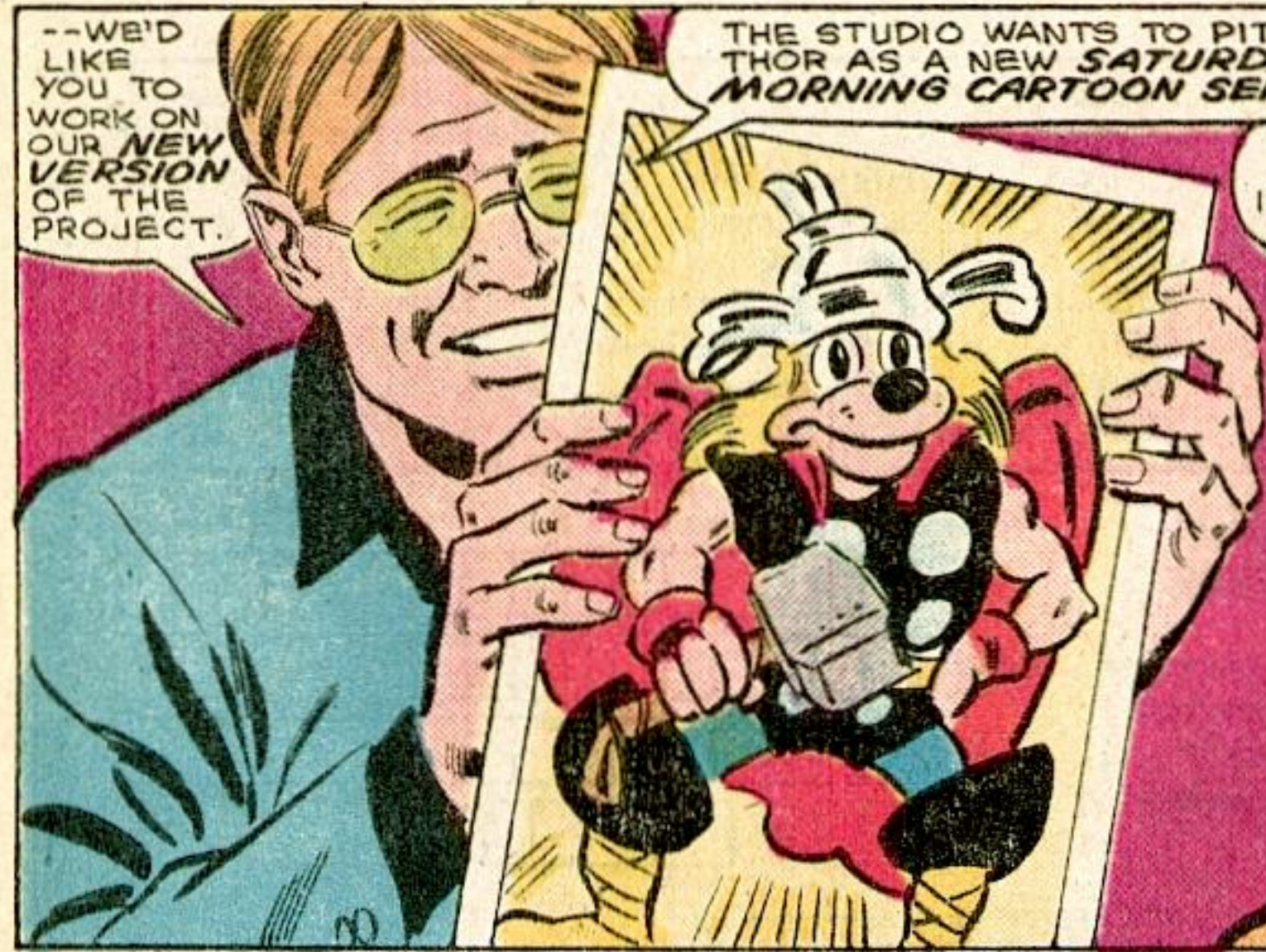
NO. THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLANS.



THE STUDIO'S LEGAL STAFF HAS DECIDED THAT--PUBLIC FIGURE OR NOT--WE CAN'T DO A MOVIE ABOUT A SUPER HERO IF HE LOOKS TOO CLOSE TO THE REAL THING.

OY GEVALT!

HEY, DON'T BE DOWN, WE'LL STILL PAY YOU FOR THE SCREENPLAY. EVERYBODY LOVED IT! IN FACT--



--WE'D LIKE YOU TO WORK ON OUR NEW VERSION OF THE PROJECT.

THE STUDIO WANTS TO PITCH THOR AS A NEW SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON SERIES!

SEE, HE'S A DOG! ISN'T THAT CUTE?

I COULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL... I COULD JOIN THE NAVY... I COULD WAKE UP AND DISCOVER IT WAS ALL A NIGHTMARE...

VERILY, THE END!