

MARVEL



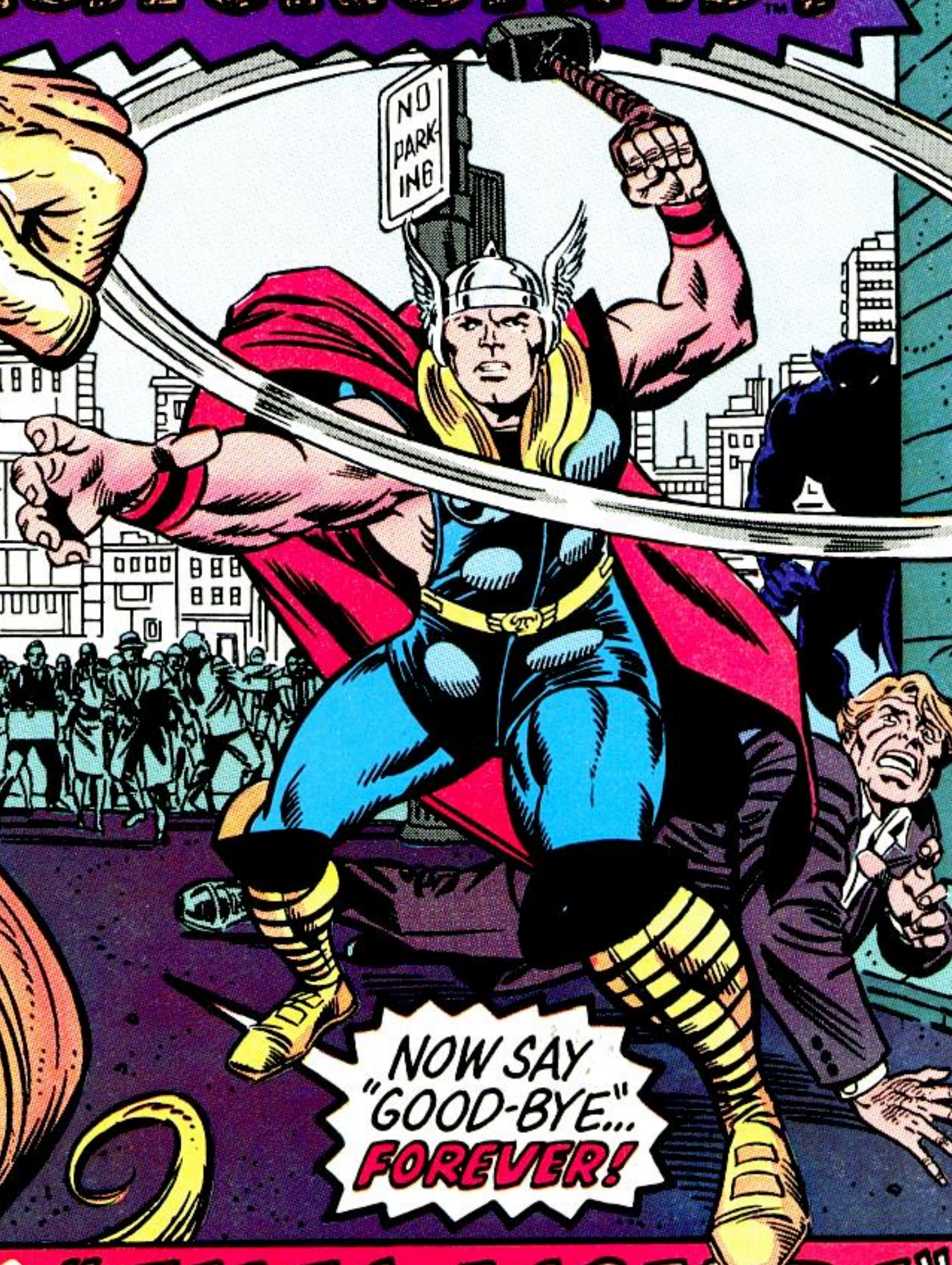
the mighty THOR

75¢ US
95¢ CAN
402
APR
UK 50p

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SHE'S BACK! SADISTIC! UNBEATABLE!
QUICKSAND!

WELCOME
BACK TO
EARTH,
LONG-HAIR!



NOW SAY
"GOOD-BYE..."
FOREVER!



ALSO "FEATURING: **TALES OF ASGARD!**"

FRANZ & SINNOTT

STAN LEE PRESENTS *the* MIGHTY THOR

BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE EPIC ANNALS OF THE HEROIC THUNDER GOD!

"EVEN AN ASGARDIAN CAN DIE!!!"

HAVING RECENTLY COMPLETED HIS FIRST ADVENTURE WITH THE NEWLY REFORMED AVENGERS,* THE MIGHTY THOR PREPARES TO TAKE HIS LEAVE...

FAREWELL FOR NOW, MY FRIENDS! DO NOT HESITATE TO AGAIN CALL UPON THE SON OF ODIN-- IF THE NEED SHOULD ARISE-- FOR MY ENCHANTED HAMMER IS ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE!

THOR, WAIT! HOW CAN WE CONTACT YOU? WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU?

TOO LATE, CAP! HE CAN'T HEAR YOU ABOVE THAT HURRICANE HIS MALLET IS GENERATING!

* SEE AVENGERS # 300 FOR DETAILS.--RALF-ENGER!

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REED RICHARDS WAS WRONG!

I COULD HEAR CAPTAIN AMERICA... BUT I HAD NO ANSWERS FOR HIS QUESTIONS!

TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN AWAY FROM PLANET EARTH!

NO LONGER DOES THOR HAVE A BASE ON THIS WORLD! A PLACE TO CALL HOME!



MAYHAPS I NO LONGER BELONG HERE!

MORTAL MAN MAY HAVE INDEED OUTGROWN HIS NEED FOR GODS!

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY FATHER-- ODIN, THE ALL-SEEING-- AND REMAINED ON ASGARD WHERE I COULD HAVE ASSUMED MY RIGHTFUL--

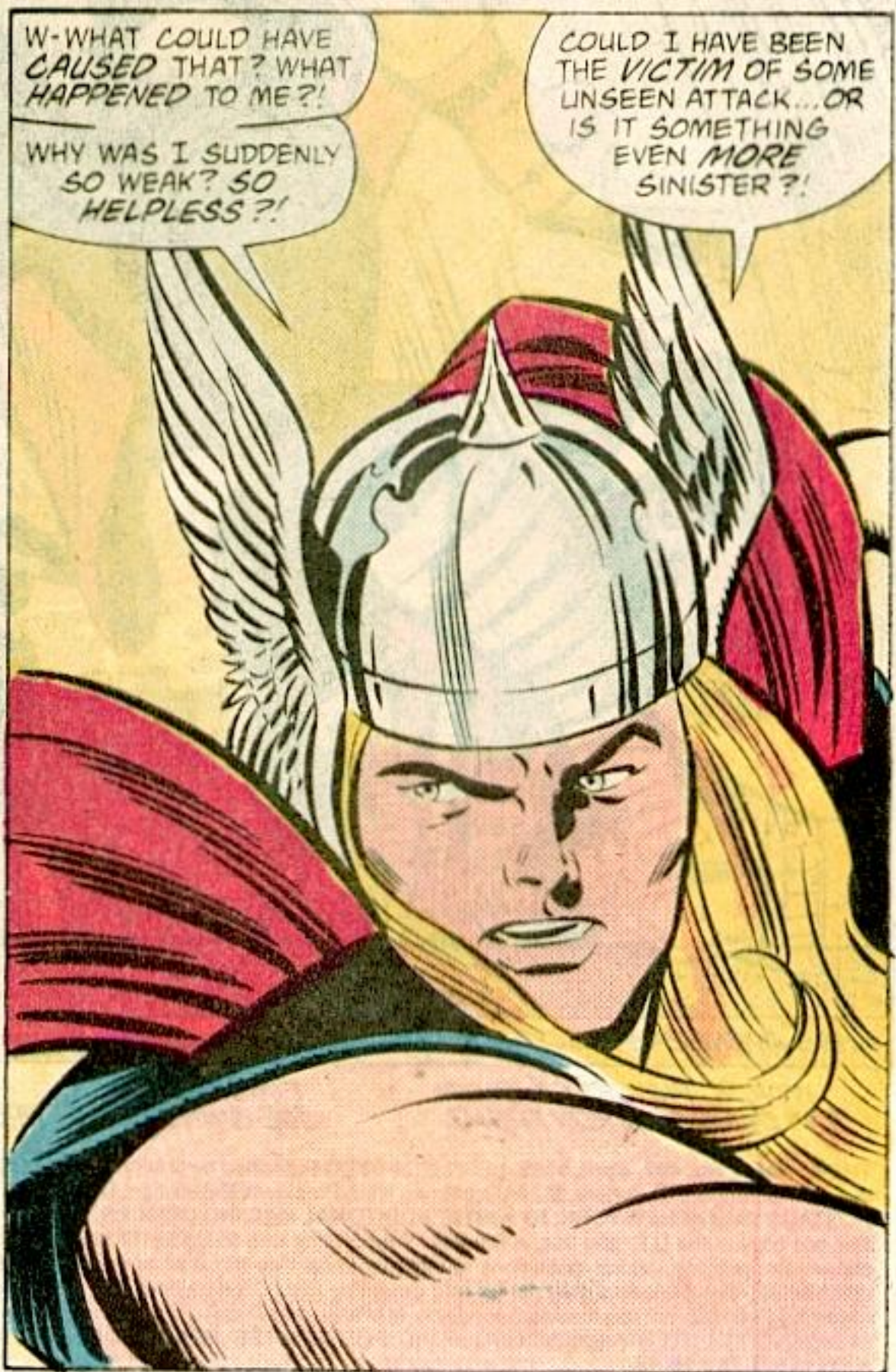


UGGHH

A SUDDEN WAVE OF NAUSEA HAS SWEEPED OVER ME!

THOK!

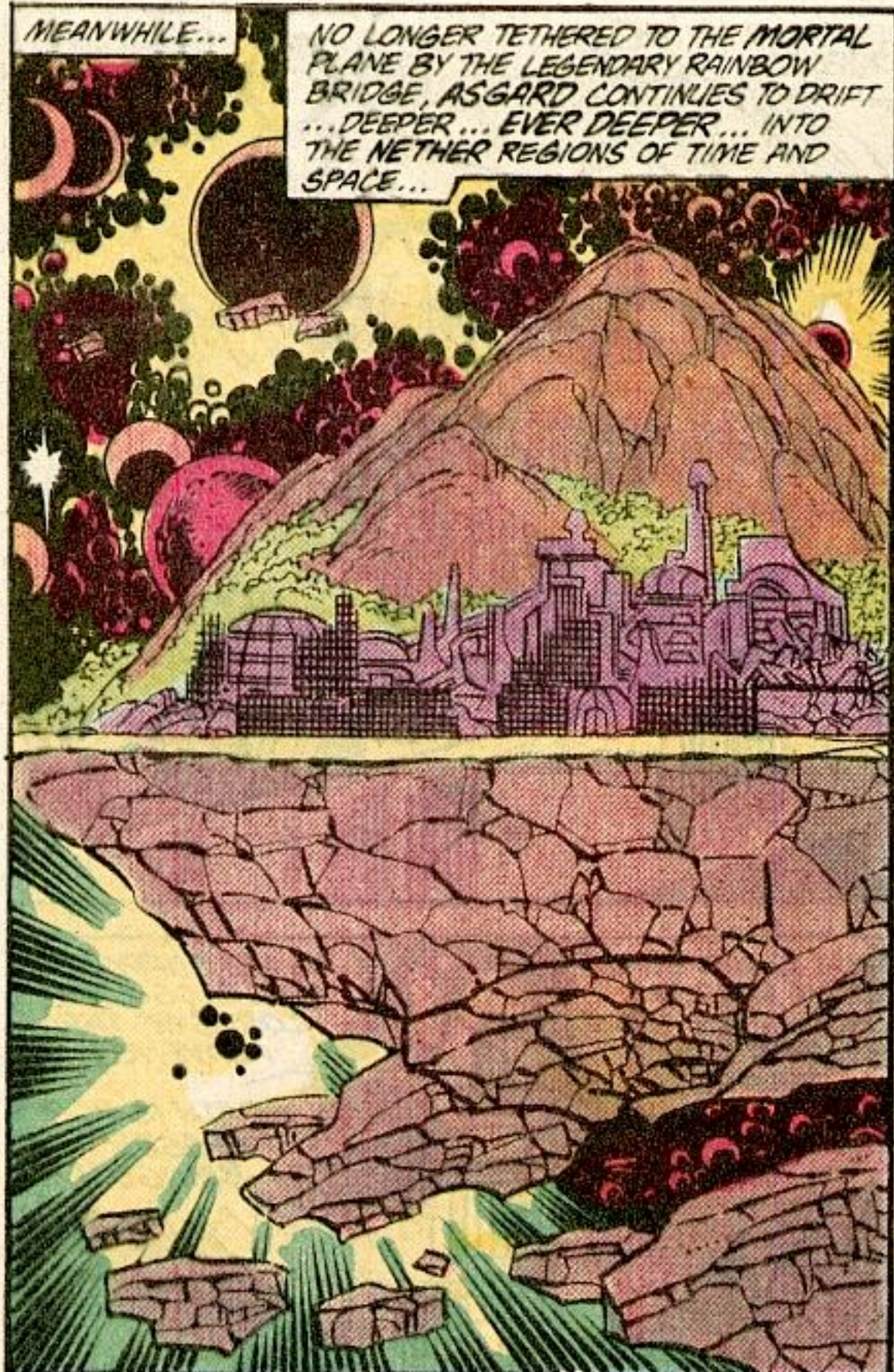
S-SO DIZZY! C-CAN'T CONCENTRATE! BARELY MANAGED TO STOP MYSELF FROM PLUNGING INTO THE TEEMING STREETS BELOW!



W-WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THAT? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!

WHY WAS I SUDDENLY SO WEAK? SO HELPLESS?!

COULD I HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF SOME UNSEEN ATTACK... OR IS IT SOMETHING EVEN MORE SINISTER?!



MEANWHILE...

NO LONGER TETHERED TO THE MORTAL PLANE BY THE LEGENDARY RAINBOW BRIDGE, ASGARD CONTINUES TO DRIFT ...DEEPER... EVER DEEPER... INTO THE NETHER REGIONS OF TIME AND SPACE...



AND, IN THE IMPERIAL THRONE ROOM OF LORD ODIN, THE ABSOLUTE MONARCH OF THE NORSE GODS...

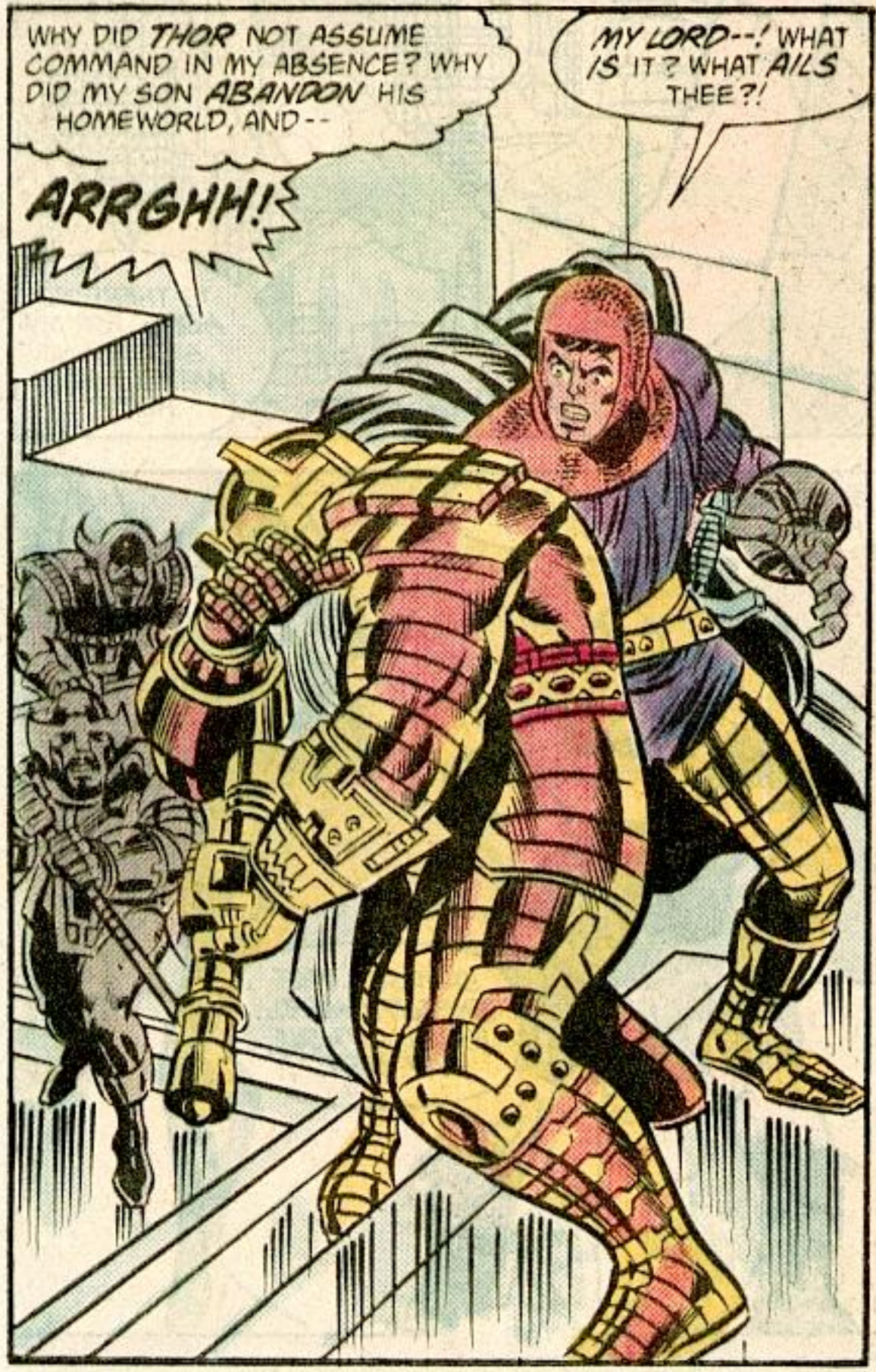
SIRE! OUR KINGDOM WAS RANSACKED AND BRUTALIZED BY OUR ENEMIES WHILE I WAS IN CHARGE!

THOU ART BLAMELESS, GENTLE BALDER!

THE FAULT... THE RESPONSIBILITY ... IS MINE ALONE!

AS ACTING RULER, THOU DIDST ACQUIT THYSELF WITH HONOR AND NOBILITY!

AND YET, I AM SORELY TROUBLED...



WHY DID THOR NOT ASSUME COMMAND IN MY ABSENCE? WHY DID MY SON ABANDON HIS HOMEWORLD, AND--

MY LORD--! WHAT IS IT? WHAT AILS THEE?!

ARRGHH!



'TIS... 'TIS ONLY A... MOMENTARY WEAKNESS ...NOTHING MORE!

IF WHAT I FEAR IS TRUE... THE THREAT TO ASGARD HAS NOT PASSED! THE DANGER WILL GROW WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT... UNTIL IT O'ERWHELMS US ALL!

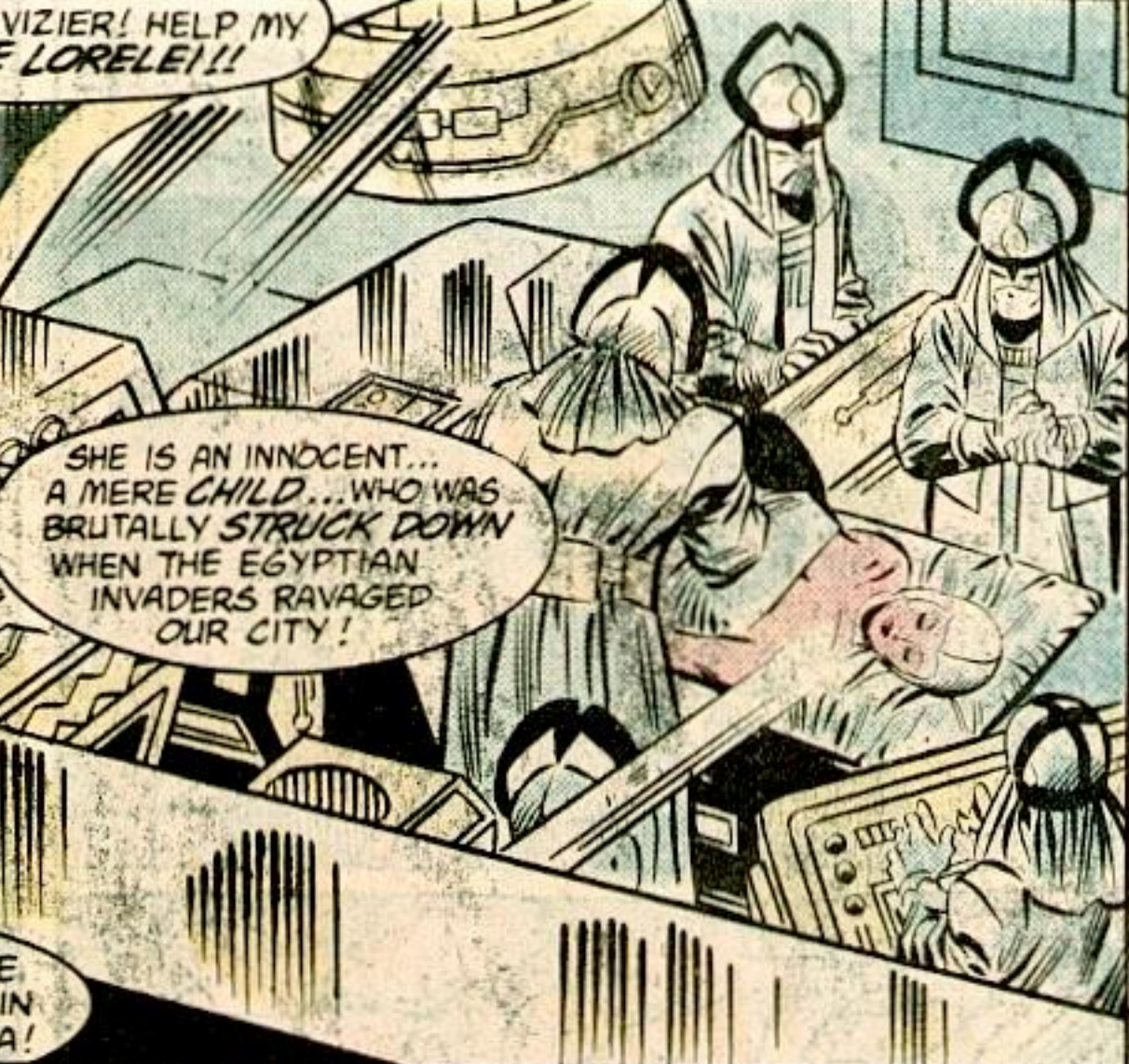
SUMMON THE GRAND VIZIER! I MUST SPEAK WITH HIM AT ONCE!

ELSEWHERE IN ASGARD,
AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

DO SOMETHING, VIZIER! HELP MY
SISTER! **SAVE LORELEI!!**



SHE IS AN INNOCENT...
A MERE CHILD... WHO WAS
BRUTALLY STRUCK DOWN
WHEN THE EGYPTIAN
INVADERS RAVAGED
OUR CITY!

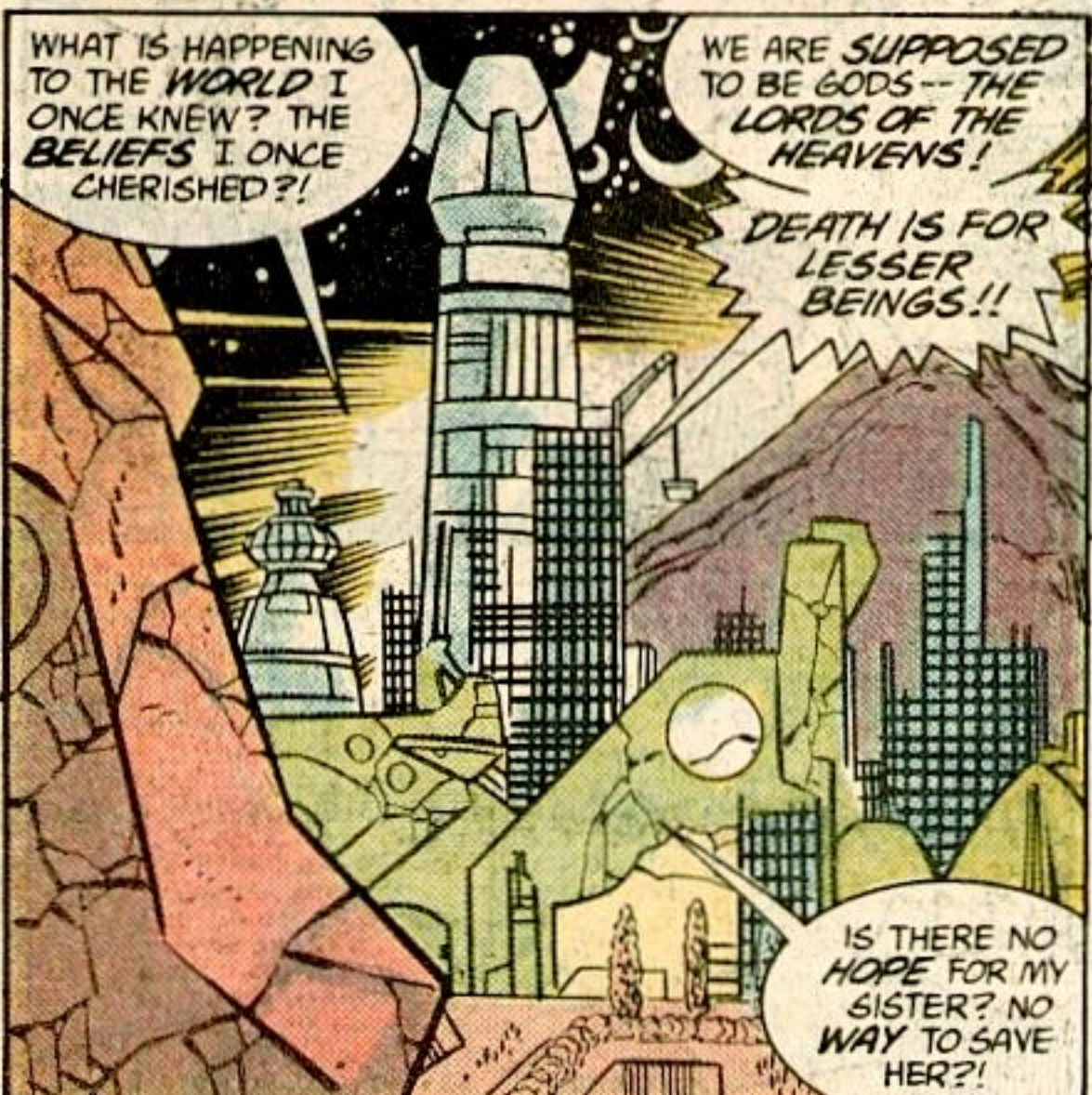


OUR SURGEONS ARE
DOING EVERYTHING
IN THEIR POWER, AMORA!



IT IS NOT
ENOUGH!!
AMORA,
WAIT--!!

NO! NO! I
CANNOT BEAR
TO WATCH
ANYMORE!



WHAT IS HAPPENING
TO THE WORLD I
ONCE KNEW? THE
BELIEFS I ONCE
CHERISHED?!

WE ARE SUPPOSED
TO BE GODS-- THE
LORDS OF THE
HEAVENS!

DEATH IS FOR
LESSER
BEINGS!!

IS THERE NO
HOPE FOR MY
SISTER? NO
WAY TO SAVE
HER?!



THERE IS A WAY, AMORA
... BUT, THE PRICE IS
GREAT... THE SACRIFICE
TERRIBLE!

THAT
VOICE--!

IT CANNOT
BE!!



GREETINGS, AMORA! MUCH
HAVE I MISSED YOU!

SKURGE... THE
EXECUTIONER...
B-BUT... THOU
ART DEAD!!

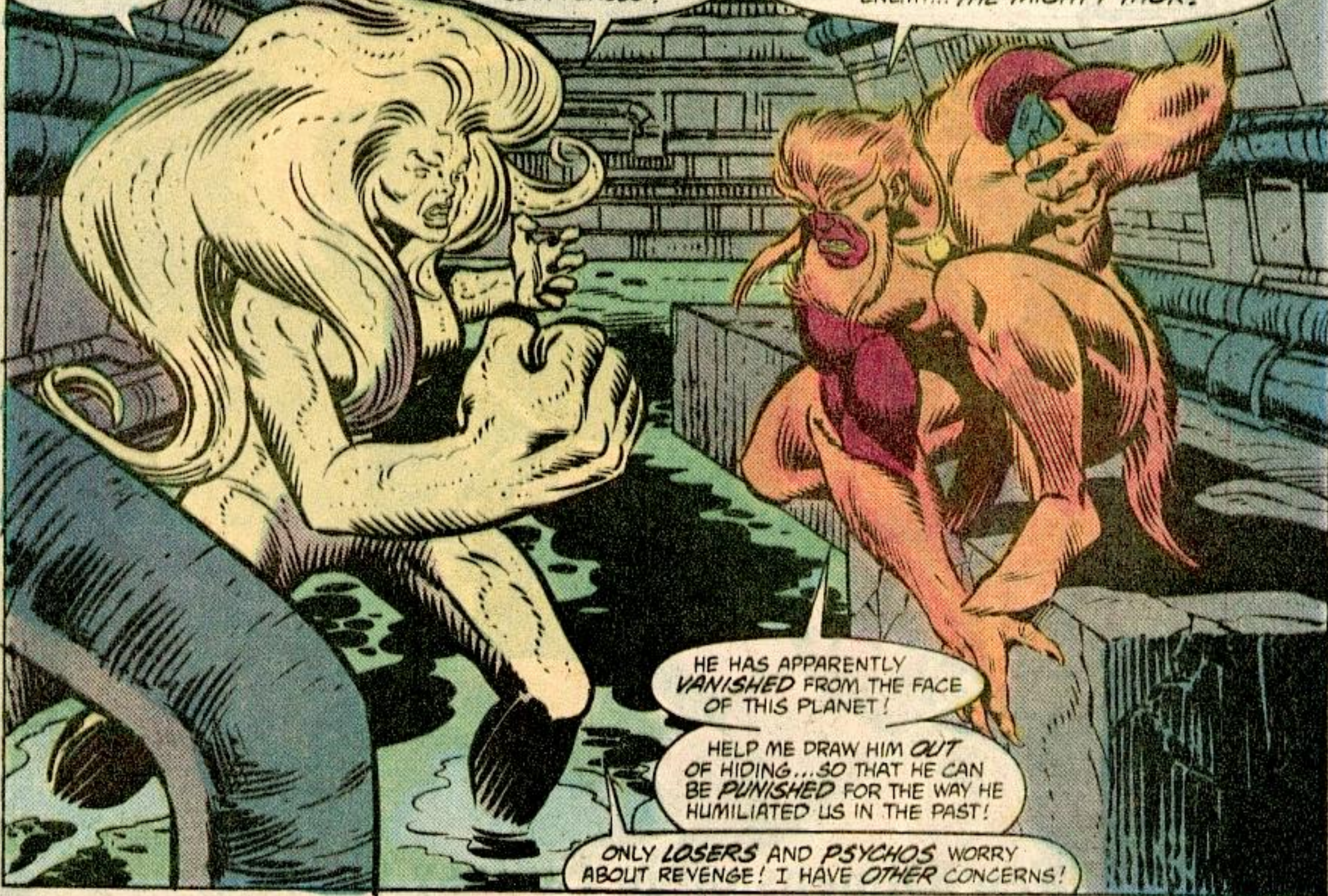
AYE...

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE PLANET EARTH, A SINISTER PARLAY IS IN PROGRESS...

GET TO THE POINT, MONGOOSE!

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY WE SHOULD JOIN FORCES!

DON'T PLAY COY WITH ME, QUICKSAND! YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE SHARE A COMMON ENEMY... THE MIGHTY THOR!



HE HAS APPARENTLY VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THIS PLANET!

HELP ME DRAW HIM OUT OF HIDING...SO THAT HE CAN BE PUNISHED FOR THE WAY HE HUMILIATED US IN THE PAST!

ONLY LOSERS AND PSYCHOS WORRY ABOUT REVENGE! I HAVE OTHER CONCERNS!



BEEZAP

YES, SO I'VE HEARD...

THE PEOPLE WHO EMPLOY ME ARE QUITE INVENTIVE, AND THEY COULD EASILY SUPPLY YOU WITH A DEVICE SUCH AS THIS--!



I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'M HUMAN AGAIN!

FLESH AND BLOOD!!

I AM NO LONGER A FREAK! A MONSTER!!

INTERESTING! I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE AN ORIENTAL!



FOR A SINGLE SEARING INSTANT, QUICKSAND GLARES AT THE MAN BEFORE HER, HER EYES BURNING WITH HATRED, AND THEN...



THAT WOMAN APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY UNSTABLE! CAN SHE BE TRUSTED?



HER UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY BEARS FURTHER STUDY!

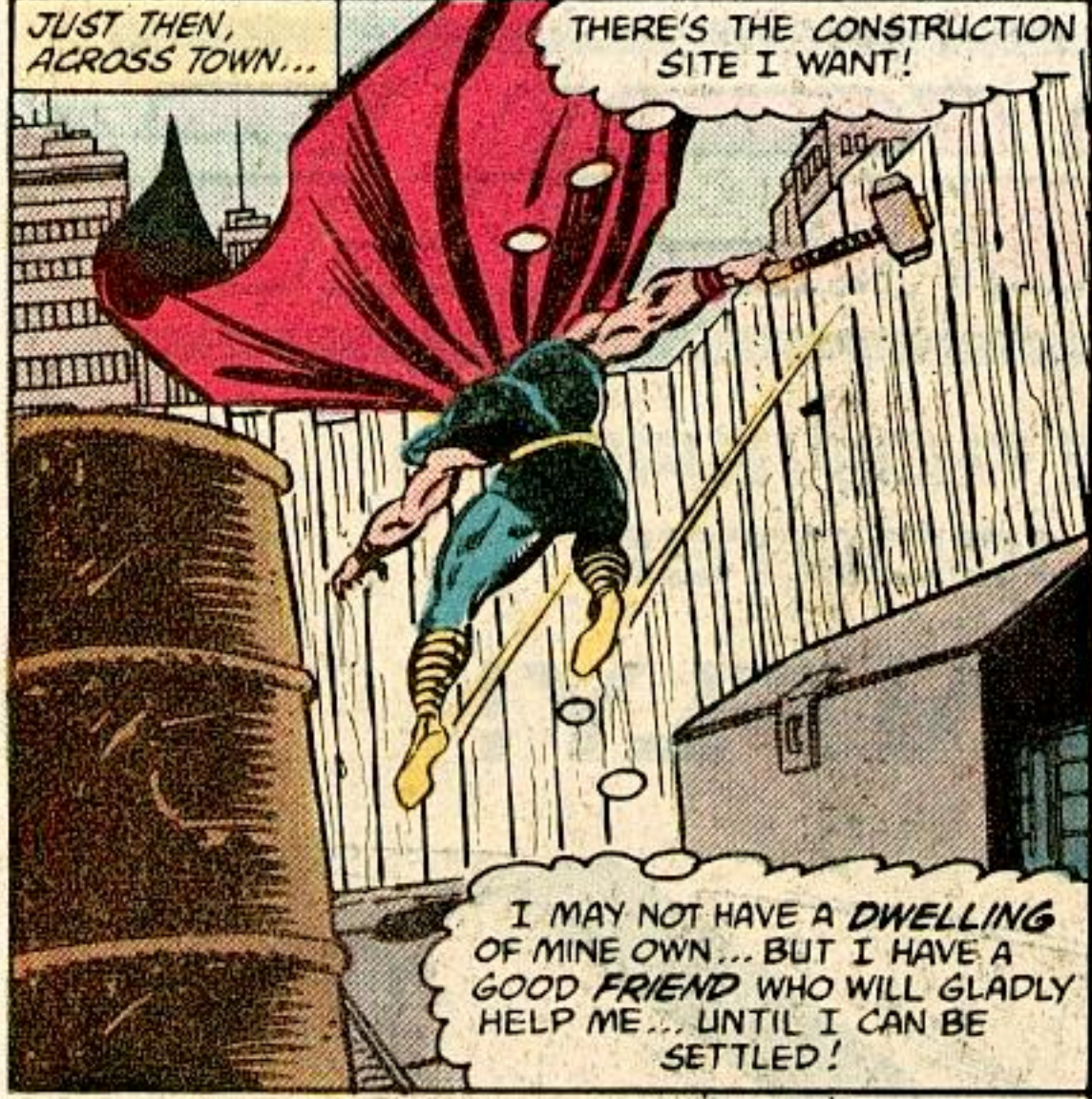
THE MASTER MAY WISH TO CONDUCT A VIVISECTION ON HER WHEN HE RETURNS!



WE HAVE OUR ORDERS! WE MUST SECURE TISSUE SAMPLES FROM THE THUNDER GOD!

SAMPLES WHICH SHALL BE USED AS SEEDS... TO RAISE A NEW RACE OF IMMORTALS!

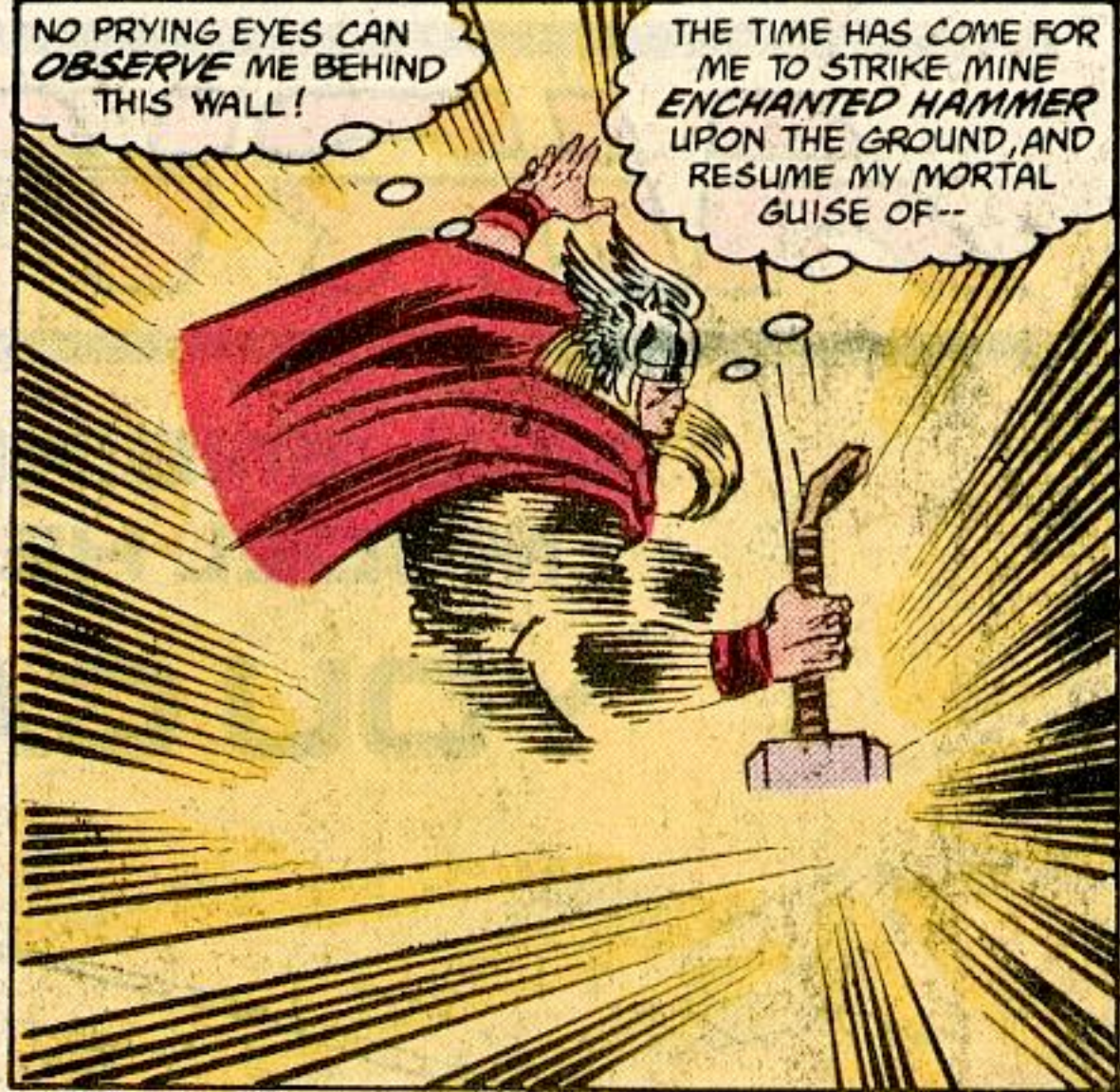




JUST THEN, ACROSS TOWN...

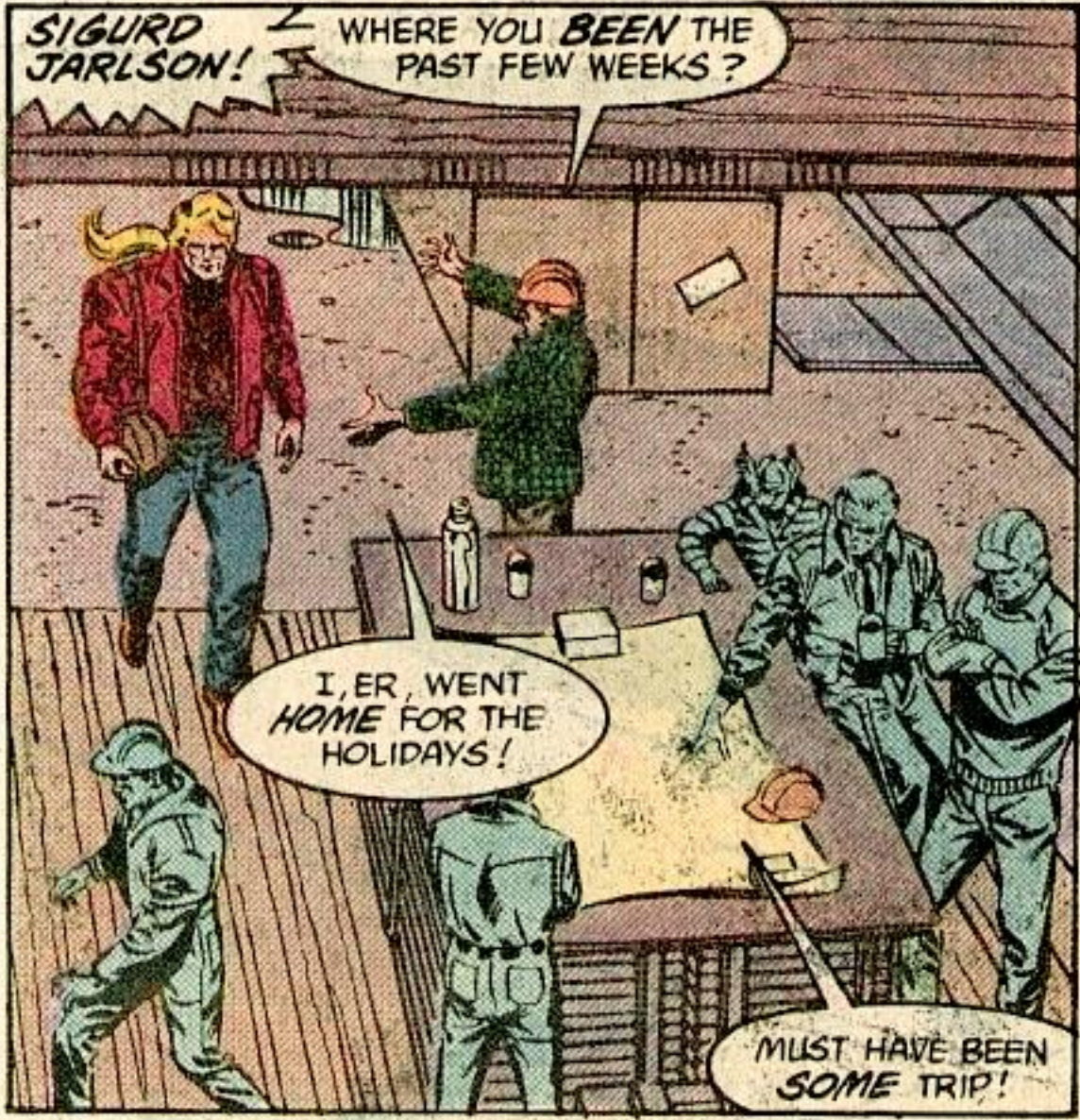
THERE'S THE CONSTRUCTION SITE I WANT!

I MAY NOT HAVE A DWELLING OF MINE OWN... BUT I HAVE A GOOD FRIEND WHO WILL GLADLY HELP ME... UNTIL I CAN BE SETTLED!



NO PRYING EYES CAN OBSERVE ME BEHIND THIS WALL!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO STRIKE MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER UPON THE GROUND, AND RESUME MY MORTAL GUISE OF--



SIGURD JARLSON!

WHERE YOU BEEN THE PAST FEW WEEKS?

I, ER, WENT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

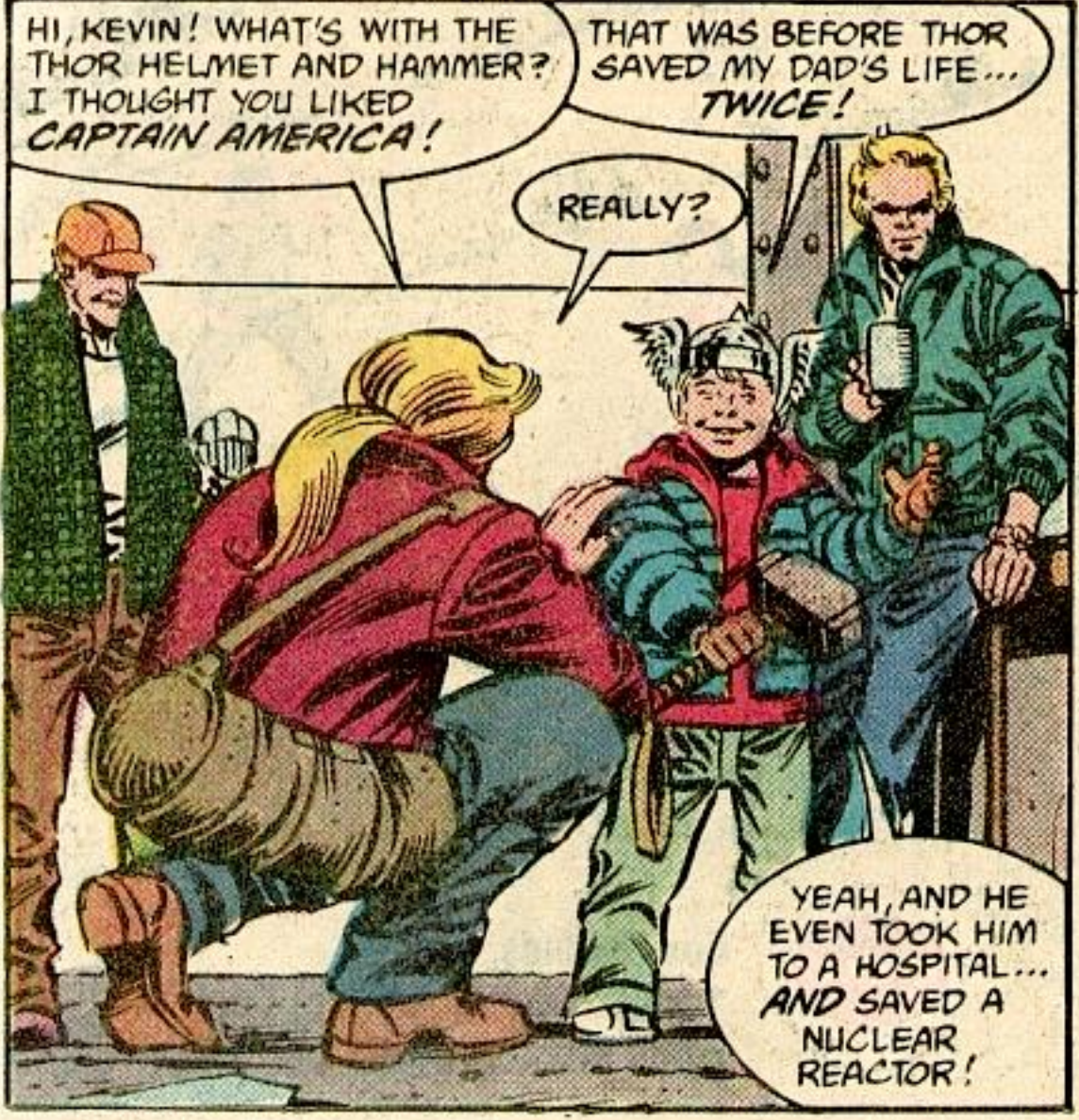
MUST HAVE BEEN SOME TRIP!



IT WAS! JERRY SAPRISTI KNOWS THAT I AM REALLY THOR ... AND WILL GIVE HIM THE DETAILS LATER!

YOU REMEMBER ERIC MASTERSON AND HIS SON?

HEY, YOU'RE THE GUY WHO NEVER LIES!



HI, KEVIN! WHAT'S WITH THE THOR HELMET AND HAMMER? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THAT WAS BEFORE THOR SAVED MY DAD'S LIFE... TWICE!

REALLY?

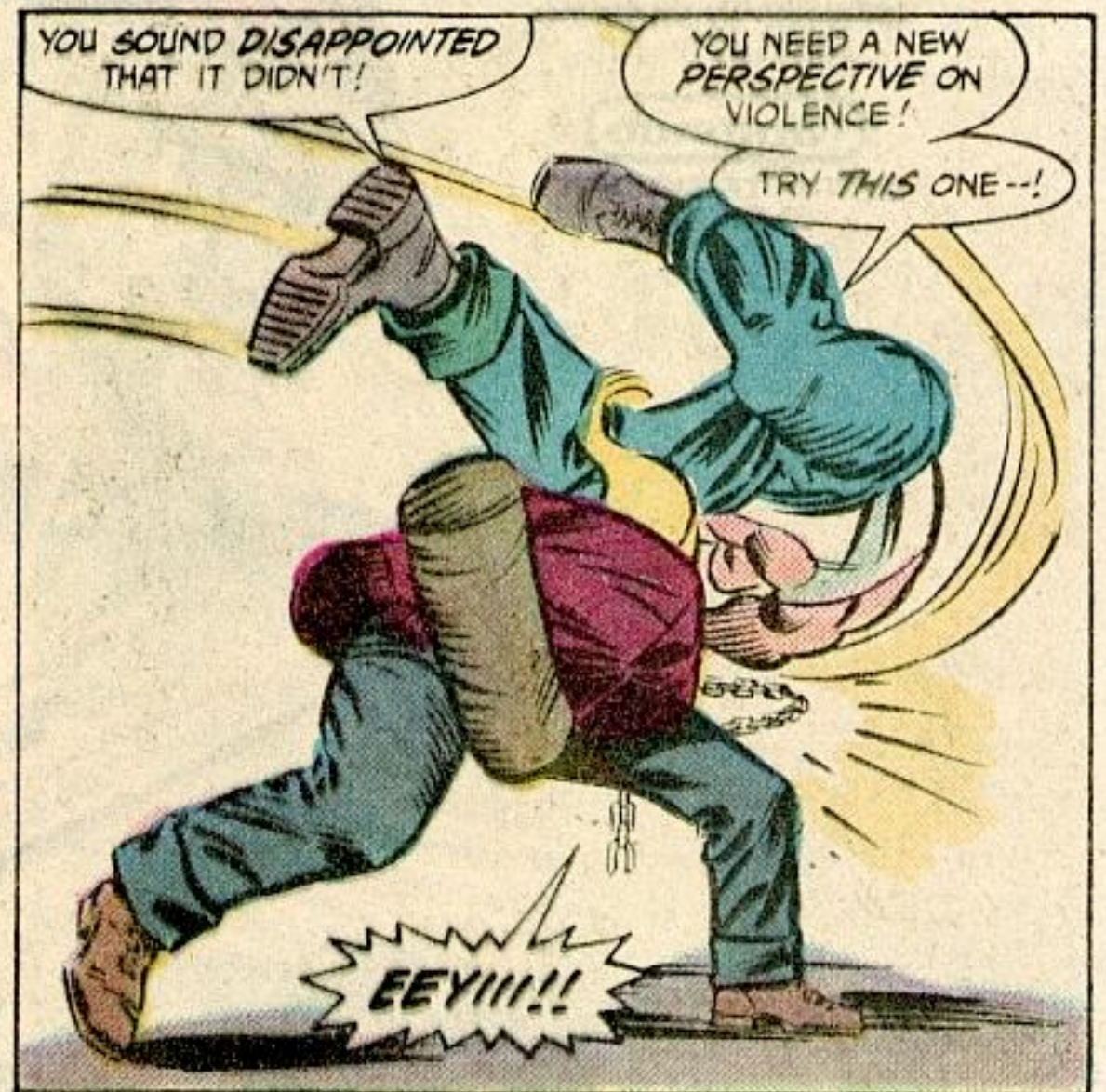
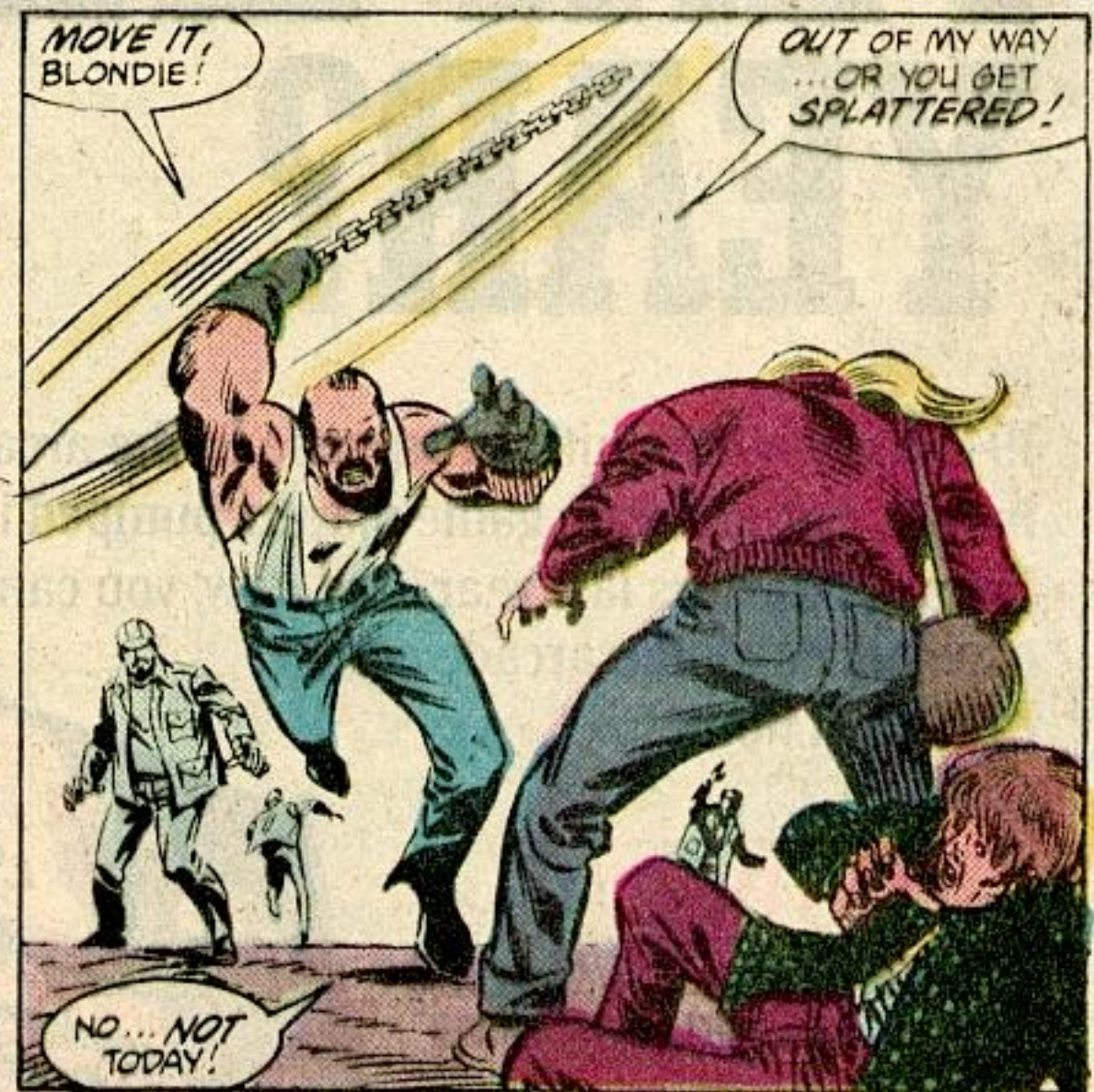
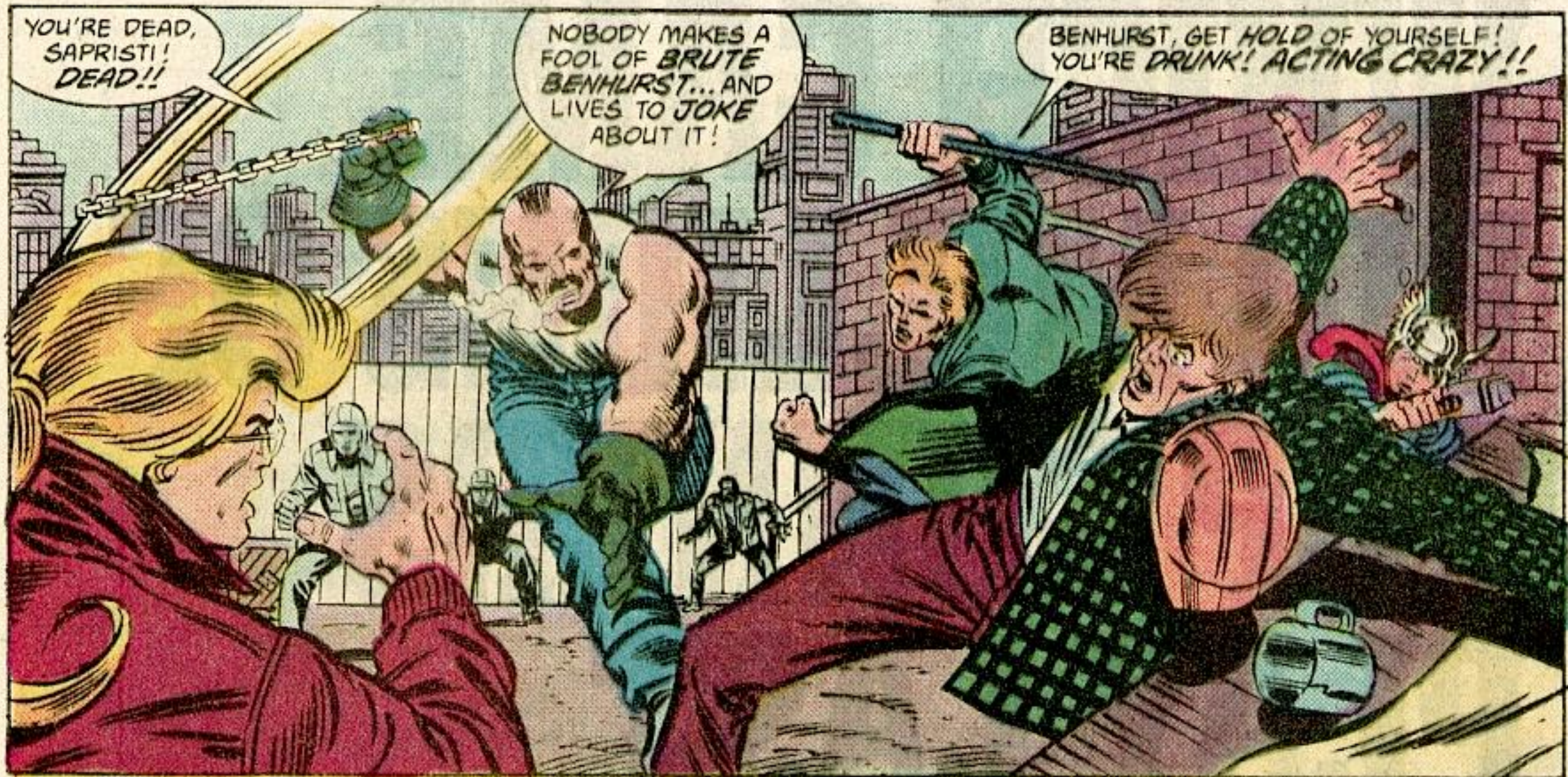
YEAH, AND HE EVEN TOOK HIM TO A HOSPITAL... AND SAVED A NUCLEAR REACTOR!



SAPRISTI--! I'M COMING FOR YOU!!

WHAT THE--?!

KEVIN, GET BACK! GET BACK!!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS NEW YORK'S FINEST ARRIVE UPON THE SCENE...

EASE UP, FELLA! WE'LL TAKE OVER NOW!

I TRUST THIS LESSON WASN'T TOO PAINFUL, MR. BENHURST!



CRASH! LIGNN!

YOU OKAY, ERIC?

YEAH... I THINK SO!

DID YOU SEE SIGURD IN ACTION? THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN MEETS THE EYE!



YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT...

MOVE IT, BLUSTER! WE GOT A NICE COZY CELL WAITING FOR YOU DOWNTOWN!

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, BLONDIE!

BRUTE BENHURST NEVER FORGETS AN ENEMY!



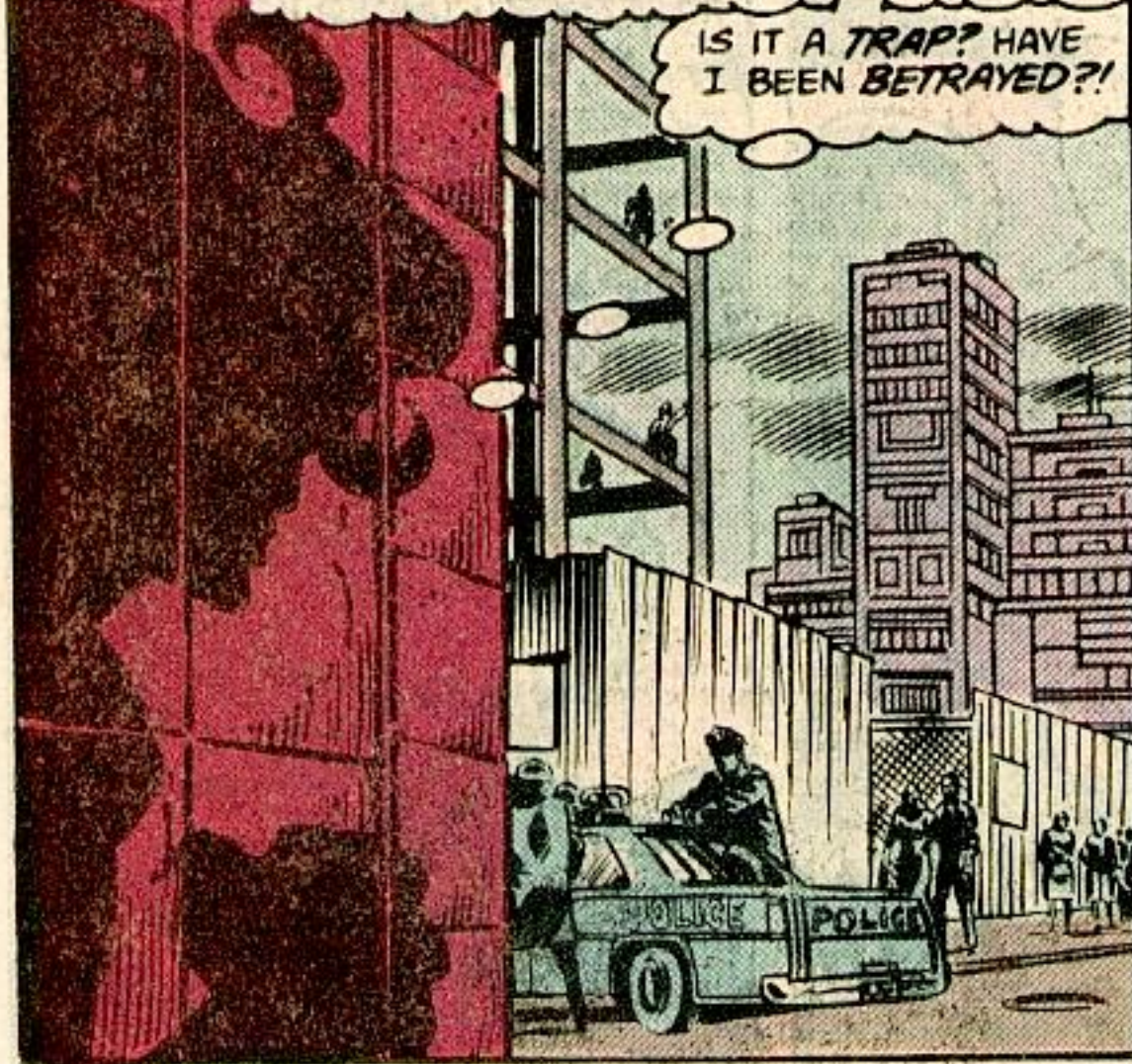
I'LL BE BACK! COUNT ON IT!!

PIPE DOWN, WISEGUY! YOU AREN'T MAKING IT ANY EASIER ON YOURSELF!



MY DESTINATION IS ACROSS THE STREET... BUT WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING THERE?

IS IT A TRAP? HAVE I BEEN BETRAYED?!



NO, THEY'RE LEAVING--!

GOOD...





MEANWHILE...

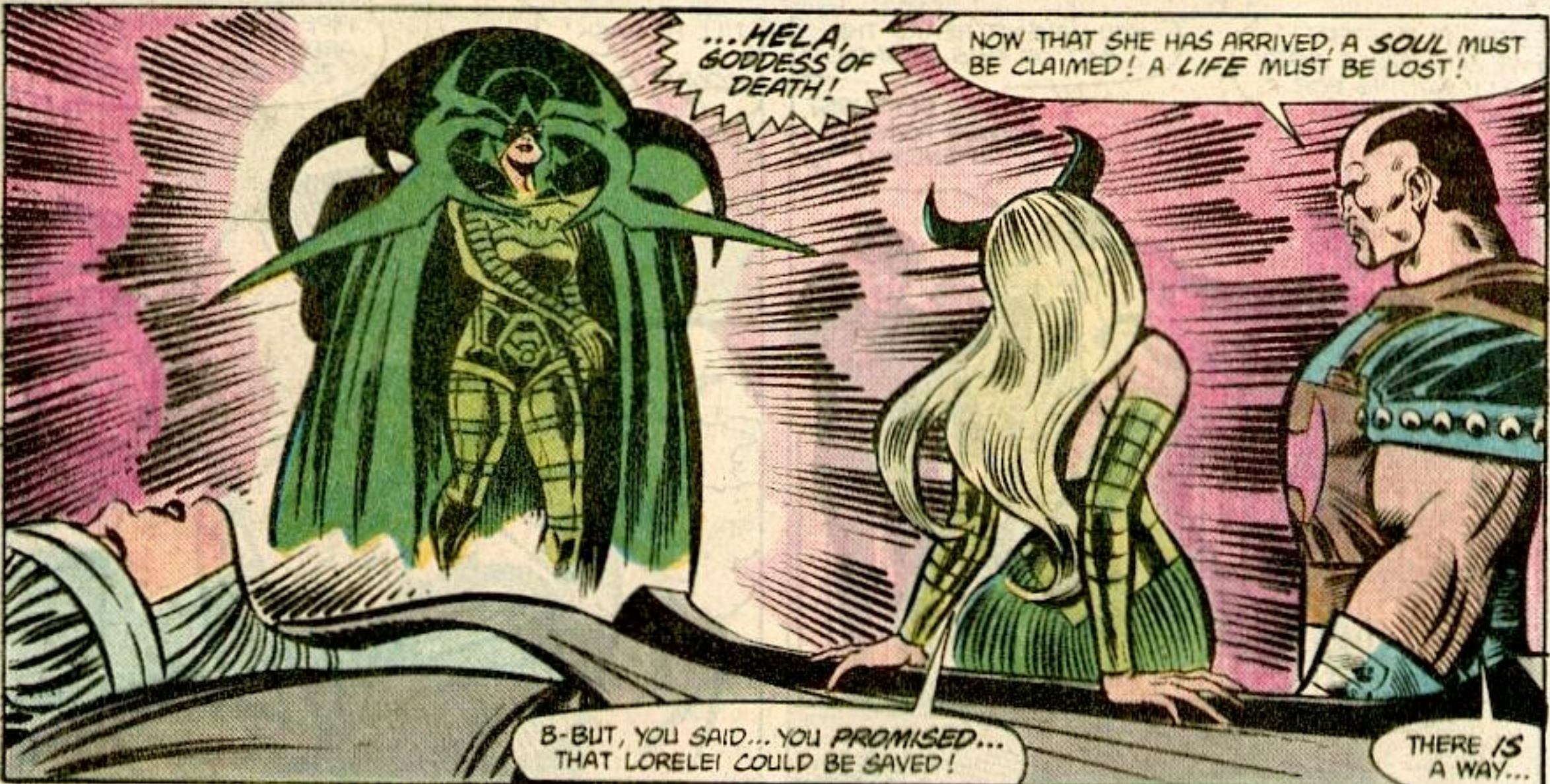
SHE'S COMING! COMING TO TAKE MY SISTER!



STOP HER, SKURGE! USE YOUR STRENGTH! YOUR POWER!

FIGHT HER!! DON'T LET HER HARM LORELEI!

IT IS NO USE, AMORA! NONE CAN DEFEAT...



...HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH!

NOW THAT SHE HAS ARRIVED, A SOUL MUST BE CLAIMED! A LIFE MUST BE LOST!

B-BUT, YOU SAID... YOU PROMISED... THAT LORELEI COULD BE SAVED!

THERE IS A WAY...



...IF ANOTHER TAKES HER PLACE!

YOU MEAN--?!

AYE!



COME, AMORA... TAKE MY HAND... JOIN ME AND THE HONORED DEAD IN VALHALLA!

WITH THIS ONE ACT OF TOTAL LOVE AND UN-SELFISHNESS, YOU CAN REDEEM YOUR ENTIRE MISSPENT LIFE!



THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE... OUR ONLY OPPORTUNITY... TO BE TOGETHER... UNITED FOR ETERNITY!

I LOVE YOU, AMORA! I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!

COME WITH ME--!



NO! NO!
I CANNOT--!



THEN, THE TIME HATH COME FOR
HELA TO CLAIM HER OWN--!

LORELEI, I... I'M SORRY...
I TRIED... I REALLY TRIED!



I KNOW, SISTER...
FOR I, TOO, WOULD
HAVE FAILED SUCH
A CHALLENGE!

FARE THEE WELL,
AMORA! MY HEART
IS THINE!



FARE
THEE
WELL...



ETERNAL HAPPINESS
WAS WITHIN YOUR
GRASP!

YOU REJECTED IT, AMORA...
AND YOU SPURNED ME!

I HAVE WAITED
TOO LONG FOR
YOU! I'LL WAIT
NO LONGER--!



FORGIVE ME,
SKURGE! I WAS
WEAK!
AFRAID!

PLEASE
FORGIVE ME--!

MY LOVE FOR YOU
WAS SUCH THAT
I CAN FORGIVE
EVEN THIS--!

BUT, HOW WILL
YOU EVER FOR-
GIVE YOURSELF?

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

LET ME TAKE YOU HOME, JERRY! YOU NEED TO RELAX!

THIS IS MY OWN FAULT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE HIRED BENHURST... NOT WITH HIS REPUTATION FOR TROUBLE!

YOU ALWAYS WERE A SOFT TOUCH!

CA-RASH!!!

WHAT WAS THAT--?!

OH, NO--! WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?!

BACK, ALL OF YOU! NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF QUICKSAND!

THWANN!

THIS OUGHT TO DRAW THOR OUT OF HIDING... WITH A VENGEANCE!

MONGOOSE FIRST FOUGHT THE THUNDER GOD ON THIS VERY CONSTRUCTION SITE!

ACCORDING TO HIS RESEARCH, GOLDILOCKS HAS A FEW FRIENDS HERE, AND THERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW--!

JERRY SAPRISTI, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS--! SINCE WHEN AM I MR. POPULARITY?!

EVEN AS JERRY SAPRISTI SCRAMBLES FOR COVER, A FATEFUL DECISION IS REACHED ON ASGARD BY ITS ALL-WISE RULER...

THE THUNDER GOD MUST RETURN AT ONCE!



THE RIGORS OF MY RECENT TRIALS AND ADVERSITIES HAVE LEFT ME IN A DANGEROUSLY WEAKENED STATE!

IF I AM TO REGAIN MY STRENGTH, I MUST UNDERGO THE FATEFUL ODINSLEEP!

ASGARD CANNOT BE UNPROTECTED IN MY ABSENCE!



BUT, SIRE, THY SON IS ON THE MORTAL PLANE... AND WE CANNOT REACH HIM NOW THAT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE IS NO MORE!

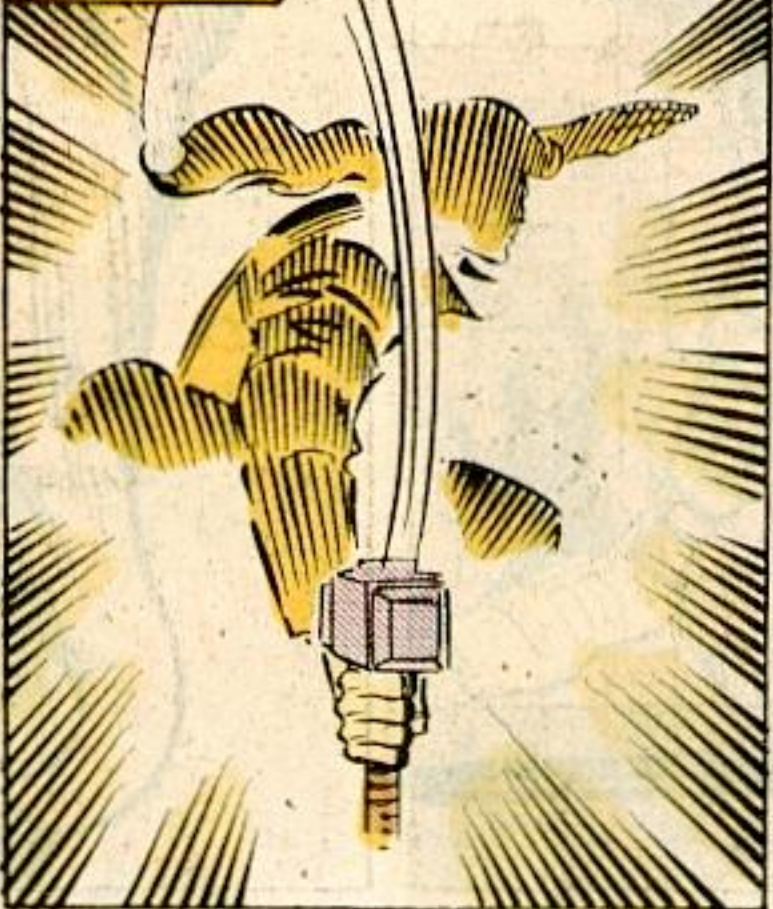


TAKE THEE WHAT LITTLE ODIN-POWER REMAINS...

"... AND TRANSCEND TIME AND SPACE UNTIL THOU HAST FOUND MY ERRANT SON..."



"... OUR REALM WAS RECENTLY OVERRUN BY SAVAGE FORCES, AND OUR PEOPLE DESPERATELY NEED THE INSPIRATION THAT CAN ONLY BE PROVIDED BY THEIR NOBLEST CHAMPION..."



"... THE MIGHTY THOR!!"



WHERE IS THOR? WHY DOESN'T HE SHOW HIMSELF?

IF I DON'T HELP MONGOOSE FIND HIM, I MAY BE FORCED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN THIS HIDEOUS BODY!



SUDDENLY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO QUICKSAND'S SILENT SUMMONS, A MASSIVE HAMMER ABRUPTLY BLOCKS HER PATH...



HE'S HERE--!

IT'S ABOUT TIME, GOLDILOCKS! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK THAT YOU'D LOST YOUR NERVE... AND WERE AFRAID TO FACE ME!

DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF COURAGE, WOMAN! YOU WHO ATTACK HELPLESS CIVILIANS!



STAND FAST, WOMAN! I AM WARNING YOU--!

NO INNOCENTS SHALL COME TO HARM WHILE MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN STILL BE RAISED IN THEIR DEFENSE!



IT'LL TAKE A LOT MORE THAN MERE WORDS TO STOP ME, BUSTER!



LEAPING FORWARD, QUICKSAND UNEXPECTEDLY SEIZES THOR'S HAMMER WITH HER PLIABLE BODY...

I'VE LEARNED A FEW TRICKS SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, BLONDIE!

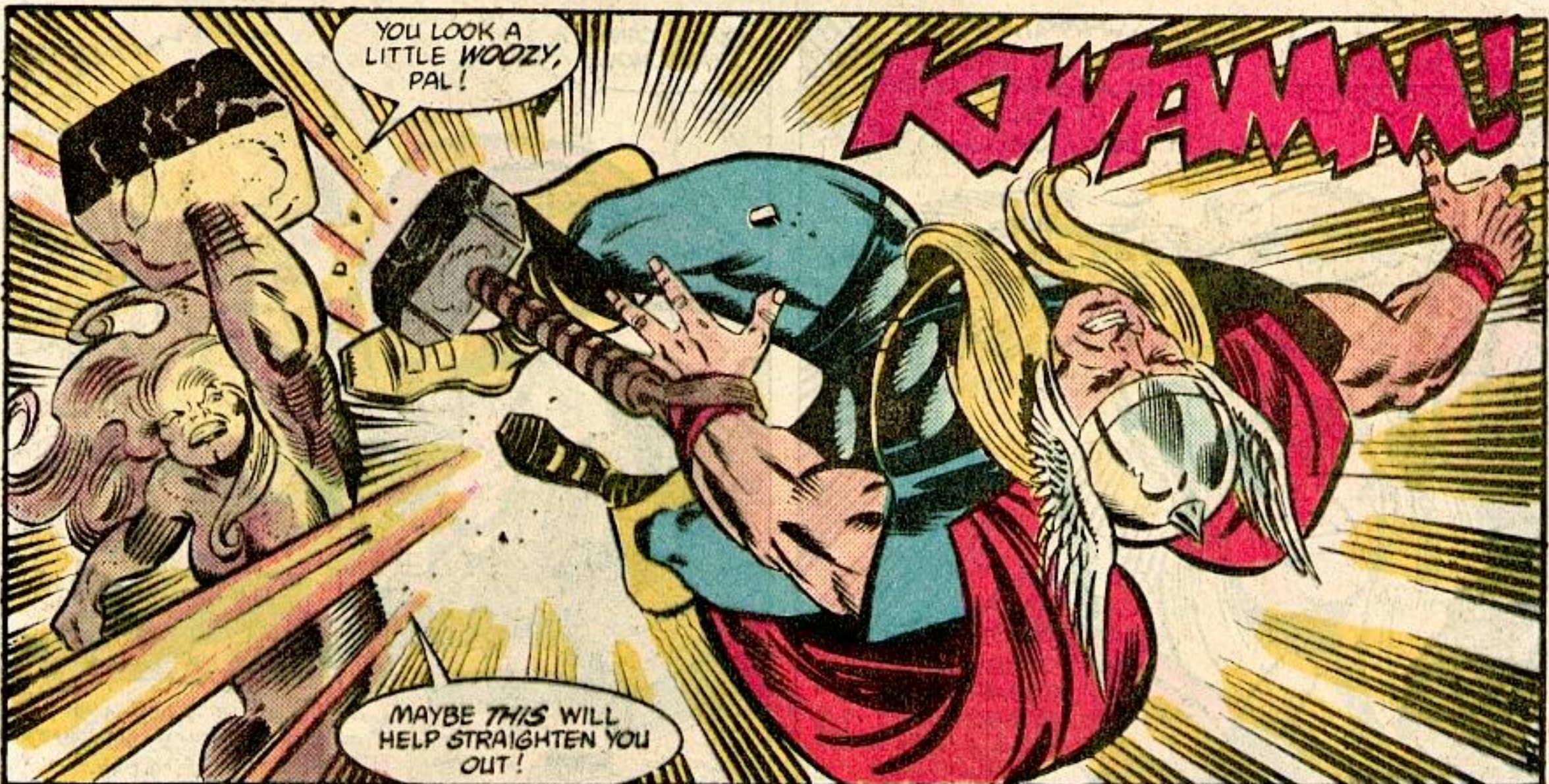
YOUR MALLET NOW BELONGS TO ME!



BUT THEN, EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD STRUGGLES TO FREE HIS ENCHANTED WEAPON, ANOTHER WAVE OF NAUSEA SWEEPS OVER HIM...

M-MY HEAD IS SUDDENLY SPINNING!

C-CAN'T CONCENTRATE!



YOU LOOK A LITTLE WOOLLY, PAL!

KOWAMMM!

MAYBE THIS WILL HELP STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT!



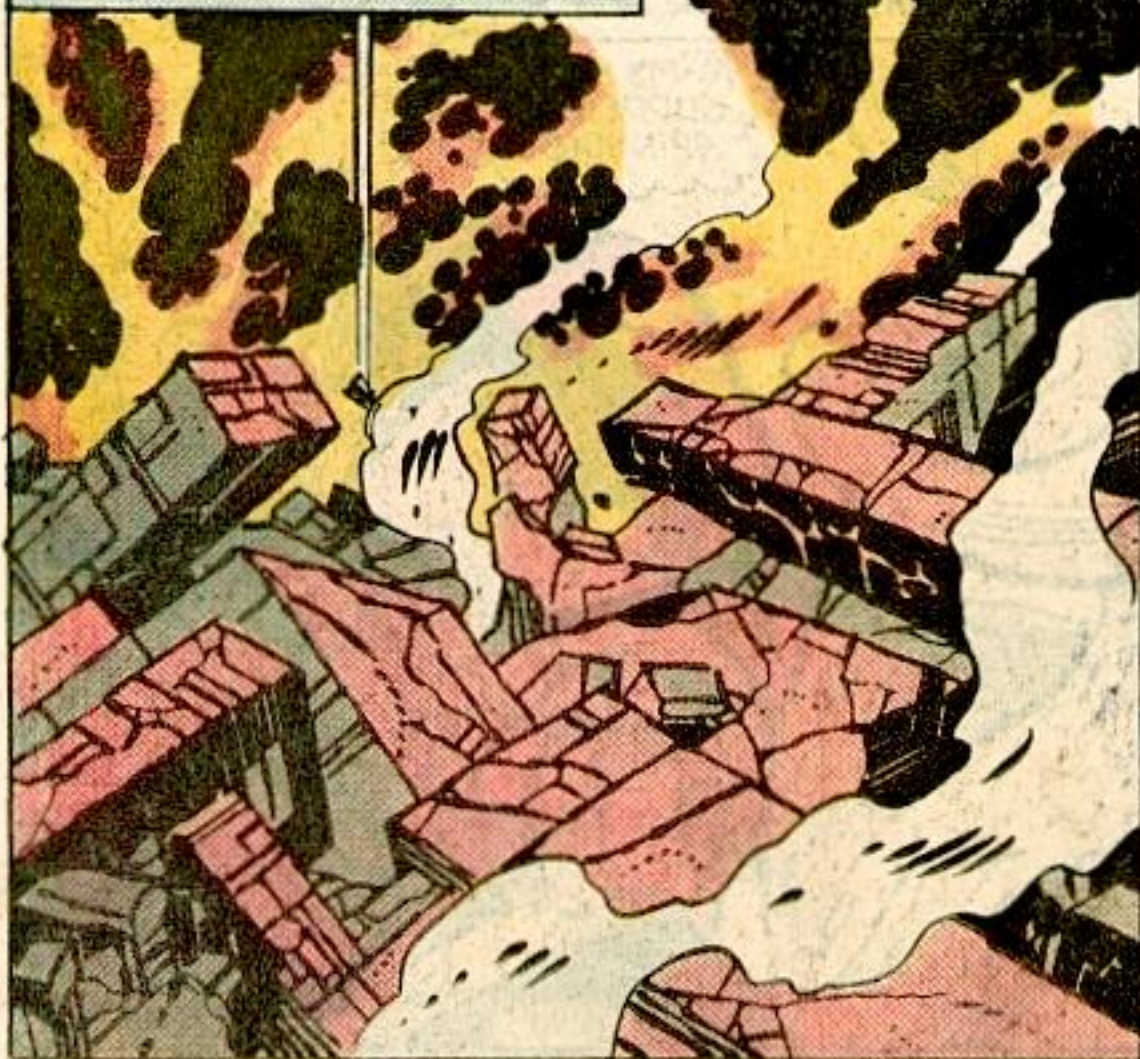
STUNNED BY THE SENSES-SHATTERING FORCE OF QUICKSAND'S HIGH-IMPACT BLOW, THE MIGHTY THOR IS SENT HURLING SKYWARD...



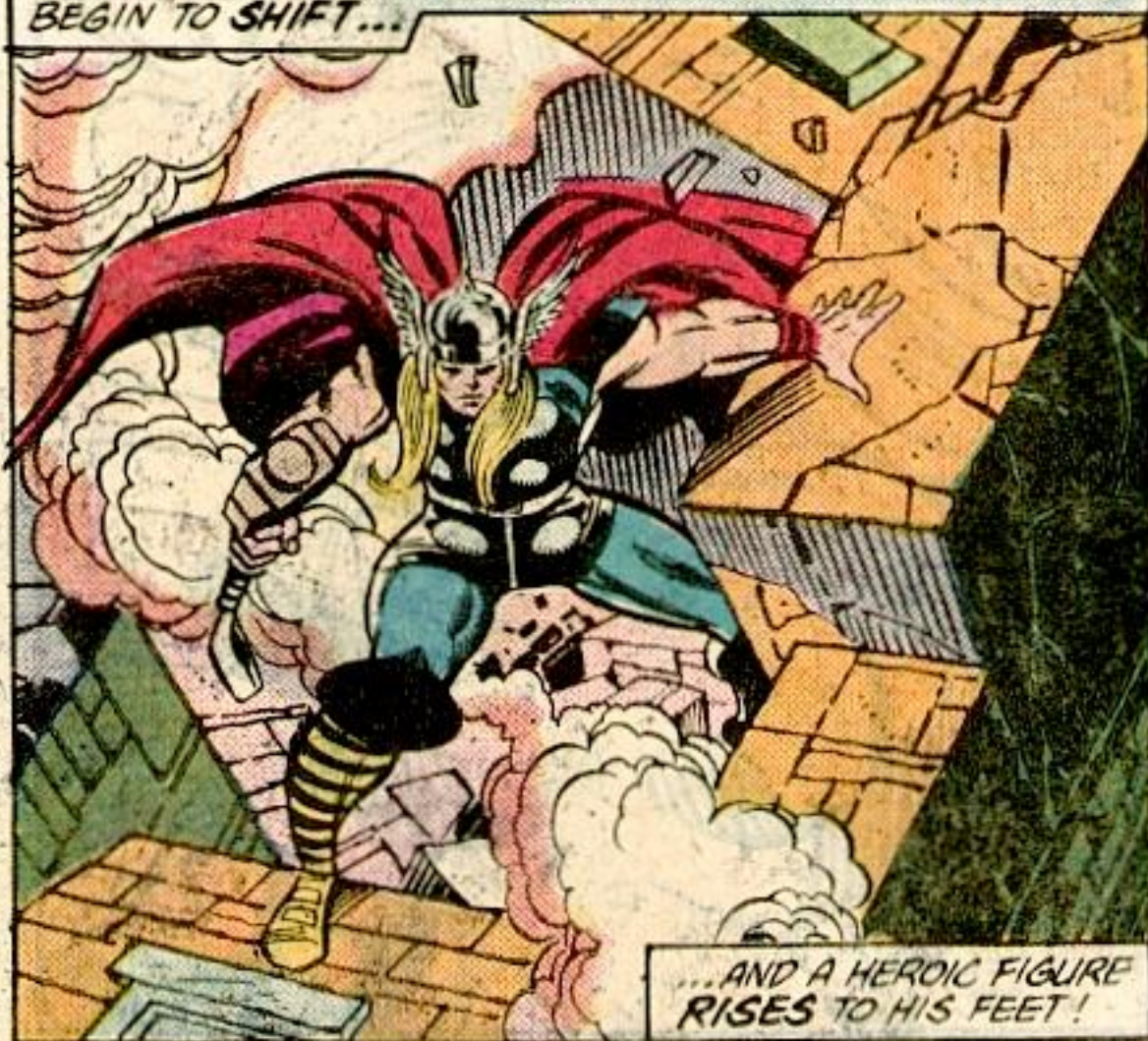
... SAILING INTO A NEARBY ABANDONED BUILDING WHICH WAS RECENTLY SLATED FOR DEMOLITION!

KA-BWOOM!!

FOR A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL INSTANT, SILENCE REIGNS...



AND THEN, THE MASSIVE CHUNKS OF DEBRIS HESITANTLY BEGIN TO SHAKE, TONS OF MORTAR AND CEMENT SLOWLY BEGIN TO SHIFT...



...AND A HEROIC FIGURE RISES TO HIS FEET!

AND, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...

THOU ART NEEDED ON ASGARD! RETURN AT ONCE!



A SUMMONS FROM ASGARD... BUT I CANNOT OBEY IT WHILE LIVES ARE IN JEOPARDY!

NO! I CANNOT LEAVE NOW!

BUT, THY FATHER COMMANDS--!



I HAVE NO CHOICE! MY DUTY IS HERE!

NEVER WOULD I HAVE THOUGHT THIS POSSIBLE--!

THOR HAS CHOSEN EARTH ABOVE ASGARD!



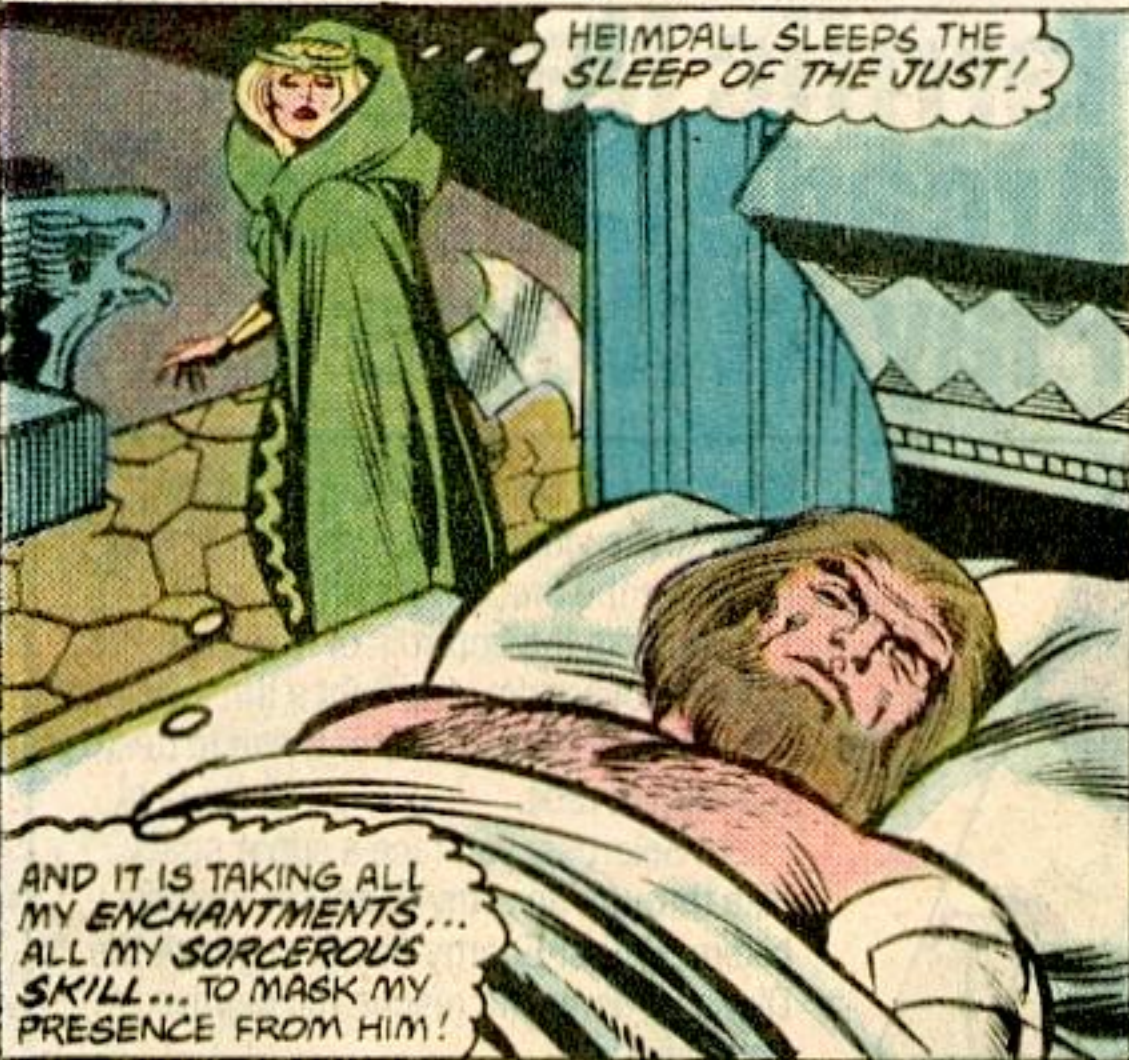
HE HATH IGNORED AN IMPERIAL SUMMONS!

HOW CAN I FIND THE WORDS TO TELL HIS LOVING FATHER OF SUCH BASE BETRAYAL?!



HOW CAN I BREAK ODIN'S HEART?

AND, EVEN AS THE GRAND VIZIER PONDER'S HIS SORRY TASK, ELSEWHERE IN THE GLEAMING CITY...



HEIMDALL SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF THE JUST!

AND IT IS TAKING ALL MY ENCHANTMENTS... ALL MY SORCEROUS SKILL... TO MASK MY PRESENCE FROM HIM!

FAREWELL, MY BRAVE WARRIOR!

THE LOVE WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN... CAN BE NO MORE!

I FEAR THAT I MUST LEAVE THIS FABLED LAND!



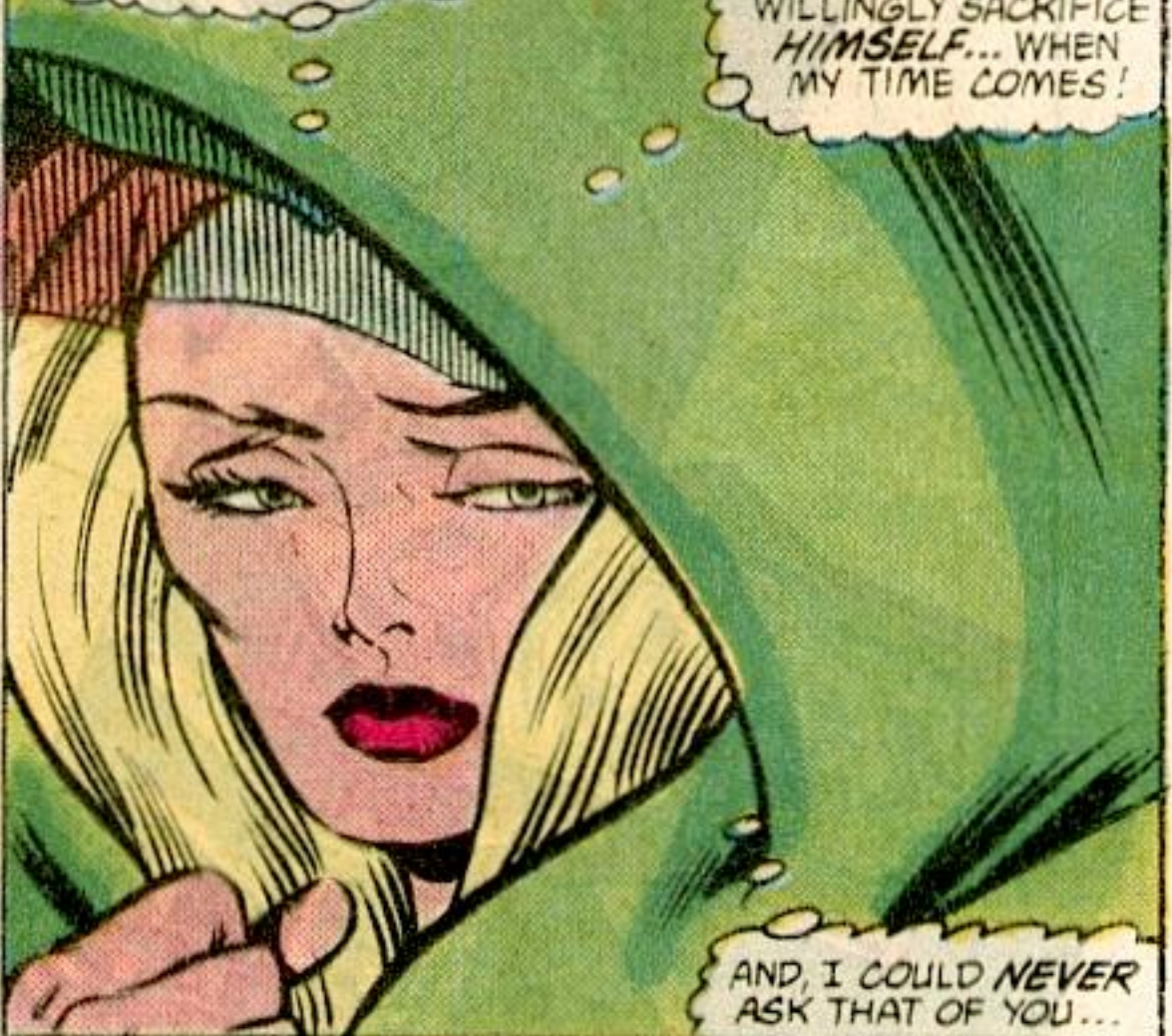
A GREAT DARKNESS HAS FALLEN ACROSS US!



THE ETERNAL DARKNESS OF DEATH!

TODAY I VIEWED MY OWN MORTALITY... AND LIKED IT NOT!

I MUST FIND A CHAMPION! A WARRIOR WHO WILL WILLINGLY SACRIFICE HIMSELF... WHEN MY TIME COMES!



AND, I COULD NEVER ASK THAT OF YOU...

THE ENCHANTRESS MUST LIVE!

THE ENCHANTRESS WILL LIVE...



...EVEN IF THE COST MUST BE...



...HER EVERLASTING SOUL!



NEXT ISSUE: ALL-OUT ACTION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER! THOR VS. QUICKSAND! THOR VS. THE EXECUTIONER! AND THOR FACES -- THE WRATH OF ODIN! ON SALE IN 30 DAYS -- DON'T MISS IT!

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE BOYHOOD OF THOR!

Tales of ASGARD

HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

"the GOLDEN HAIR of GLIMDA!"

THE WARRIOR-GODDESSES OF ASGARD ARE RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS FOR THEIR STUNNING BEAUTY! BUT, THERE WAS ONE ENCHANTING MAIDEN WHO ECLIPSED ALL THE OTHERS...

GLIMDA! THY LOVELINESS IS AS DAZZLING AS THE FIRST FLOWER OF SPRING!

AND THY WORDS ARE AS SWEET AS A BABY'S KISS!

HER HAIR FLOWS AND RIPPLES ABOUT HER LIKE THE SPARKLING SURFACE OF A MOUNTAIN STREAM!



'TIS TRULY A VISION WHO WALKS AMONG US!

TOM DEFALCO -- WRITER
TOM MORGAN -- ARTIST
MICHAEL HEISLER -- LETTERER
RALPH MACCHIO -- EDITOR
EVELYN STEIN -- COLORIST



GLIMDA IS SUCH A GENTLE SOUL, LOKI!

I HEAR THAT SHE IS AS KIND AND CARING AS SHE IS BREATHTAKING!

BAH! I'VE SEEN BETTER, THOR! BEAUTIES WHO MAKE HER LOOK LIKE AN OLD HAG!

EVERYONE MAKES SUCH A FUSS OVER GLIMDA, BUT I SHALL SOON FIX THAT...



LATER THAT VERY NIGHT, THE SOUND OF FURTIVE FOOTSTEPS ROUSES THE YOUNG THUNDER GOD FROM HIS SLEEP...

SOMETHING IS AMISS!

LOKI IS NOT IN HIS BED!

WHERE COULD HE BE AT THIS LATE HOUR?!



THE FUMES FROM MY ENCHANTED CANDLE WILL KEEP GLIMDA ASLEEP UNTIL I HAVE FINISHED MY DARK DEED!

I AM THE HANDSOMEST GOD OF ALL!

NO LONGER WILL SHE BE SHOWERED WITH COMPLIMENTS WHICH ARE RIGHTFULLY MINE!



AND SO, EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

EEYII!!

MY HAIR--! MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR!

HAST THOU HEARD WHAT HAS BEFALLEN POOR GLIMDA?

'TIS TERRIBLE! WHO COULD COMMIT AN ACT OF SUCH WANTON CRUELTY?!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WHOSE HEART IS SO COLD, SO FULL OF EVIL--

LOKI!!

THOU HAST FINALLY GONE TOO FAR!

THY PUNISHMENT FOR THIS DREADFUL DEED SHALL BE SWIFT AND BRUTAL!

FATHER, WAIT--!

THOUGH MY BROTHER TRULY DESERVES THY WRATH, I AM CERTAIN THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO CAUSE GLIMDA SUCH PAIN! SUCH ANGUISH!

NOW THAT HE MUST SURELY UNDERSTAND THE ENORMITY OF HIS CRIME, PLEASE ALLOW HIM THE OPPURTUNITY TO UNDO THIS TERRIBLE INJUSTICE!

SO BE IT! LOKI, I SHALL GIVE THEE UNTIL NIGHTFALL TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE GREAT HARM THOU HAST DONE!

I COULD HAVE TRICKED ODIN INTO FORGIVING ME -- IF THOU HAD NOT INTERFERED!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW? HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY RESTORE GLIMDA'S HAIR?!

BE SILENT, LOKI... AND FOLLOW ME! I HAVE A PLAN...



WHY HAVE YOU LED ME TO THIS *DISMAL* UNDERGROUND CAVERN?

BECAUSE WE MUST SEEK *NIDALVELLIR*, THE HOME OF THE DWARVES!



YOU HAVE *FOLIND* IT, GODLING!

BUT, YOU MAY GO NO *FARTHER* UNTIL I HAVE LEARNED WHY YOU HAVE COME!

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE *GREATEST SMITHS* IN ASGARD!

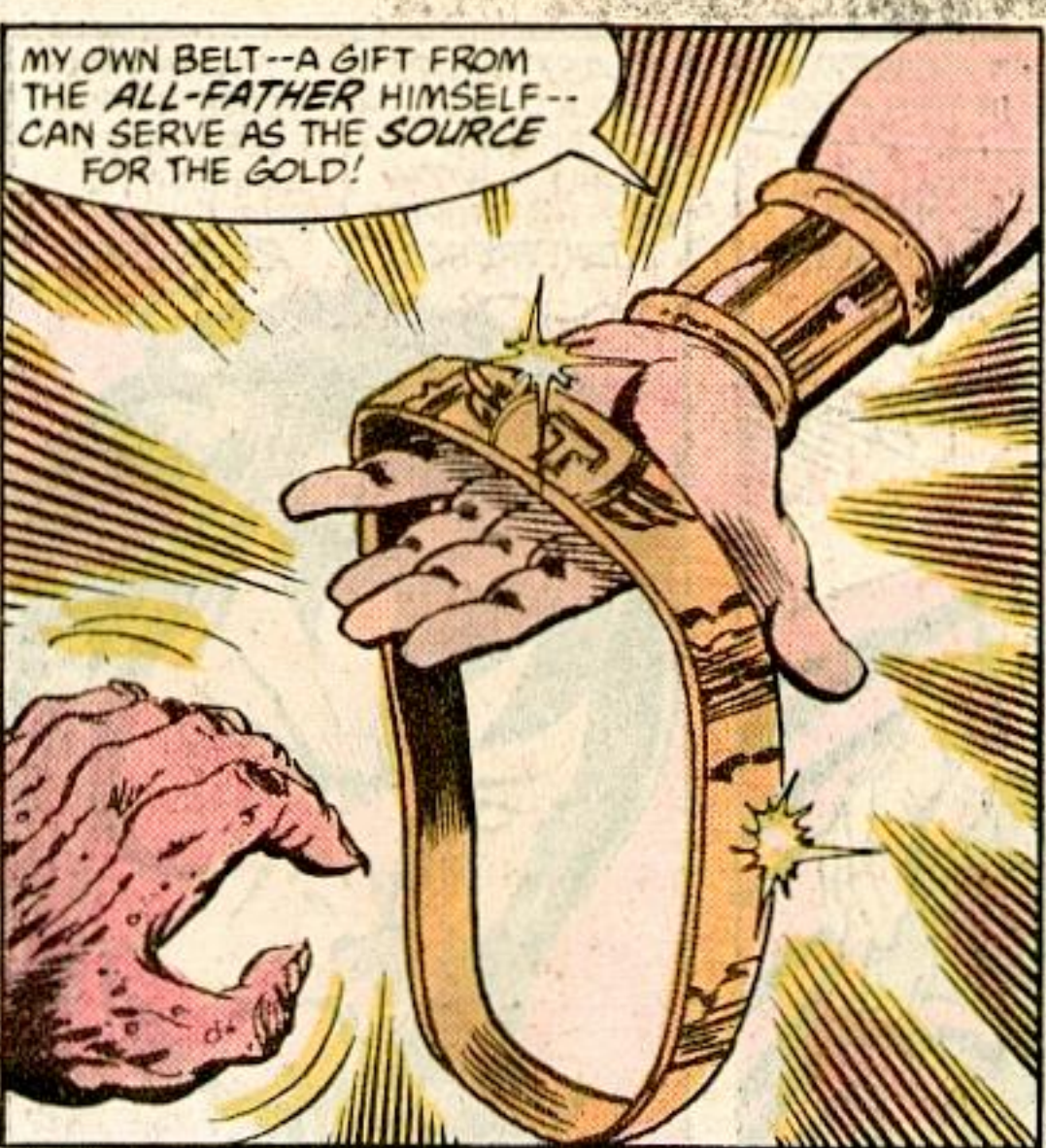


SMITHS WHO CAN SPIN *GOLD* AS FINE AS HAIR--AND IMBUE IT WITH ENOUGH *MAGIC* SO THAT IT WILL *GROW* UPON A WOMAN'S HEAD!

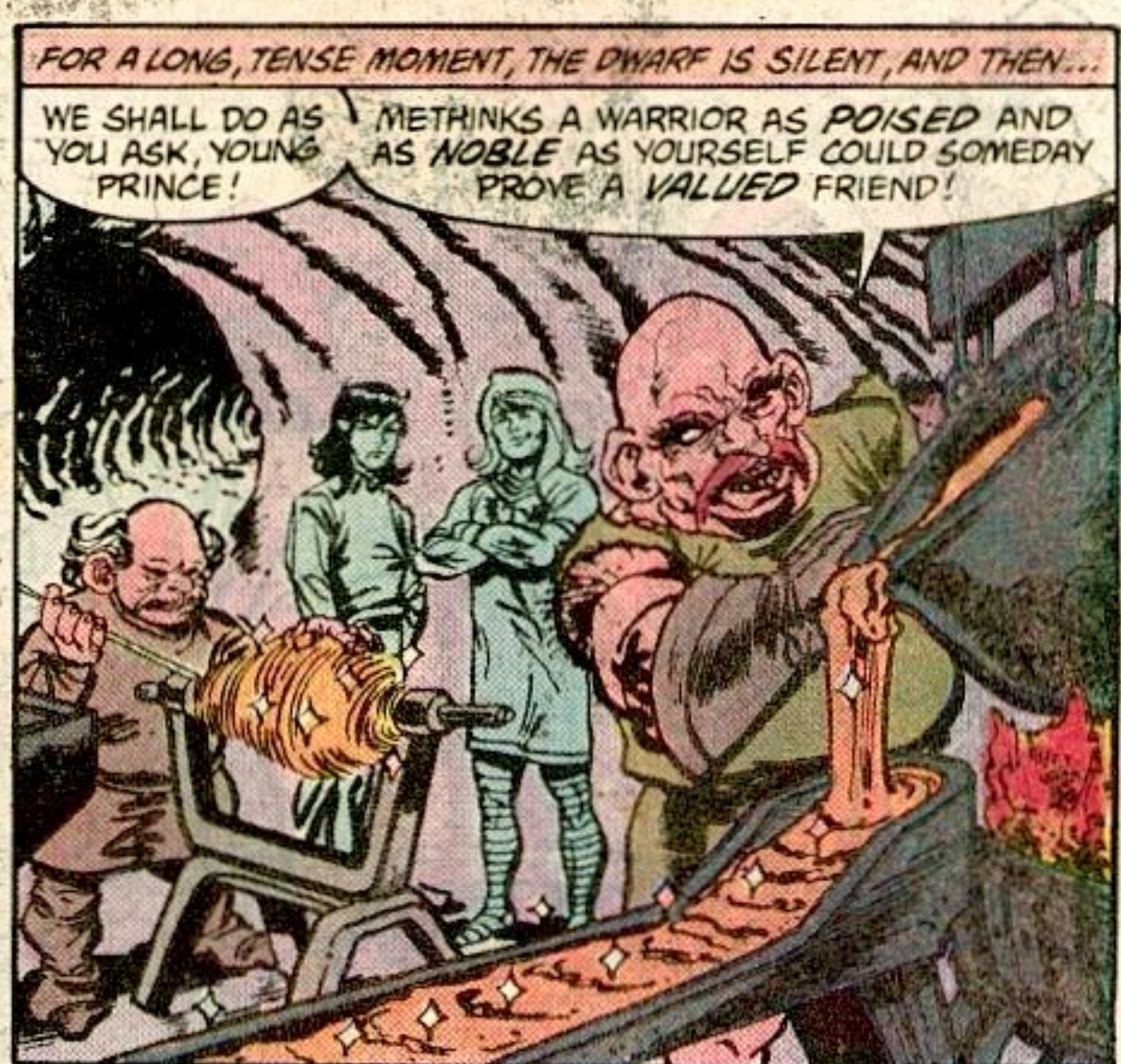
A SIMPLE TASK FOR THE SONS OF *IVALDI*, BUT WHAT COULD WE EXPECT IN RETURN?!



THE ETERNAL GRATITUDE OF *THOR*, THE SON OF *ODIN*, AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE *ASGARDIAN GODS*!



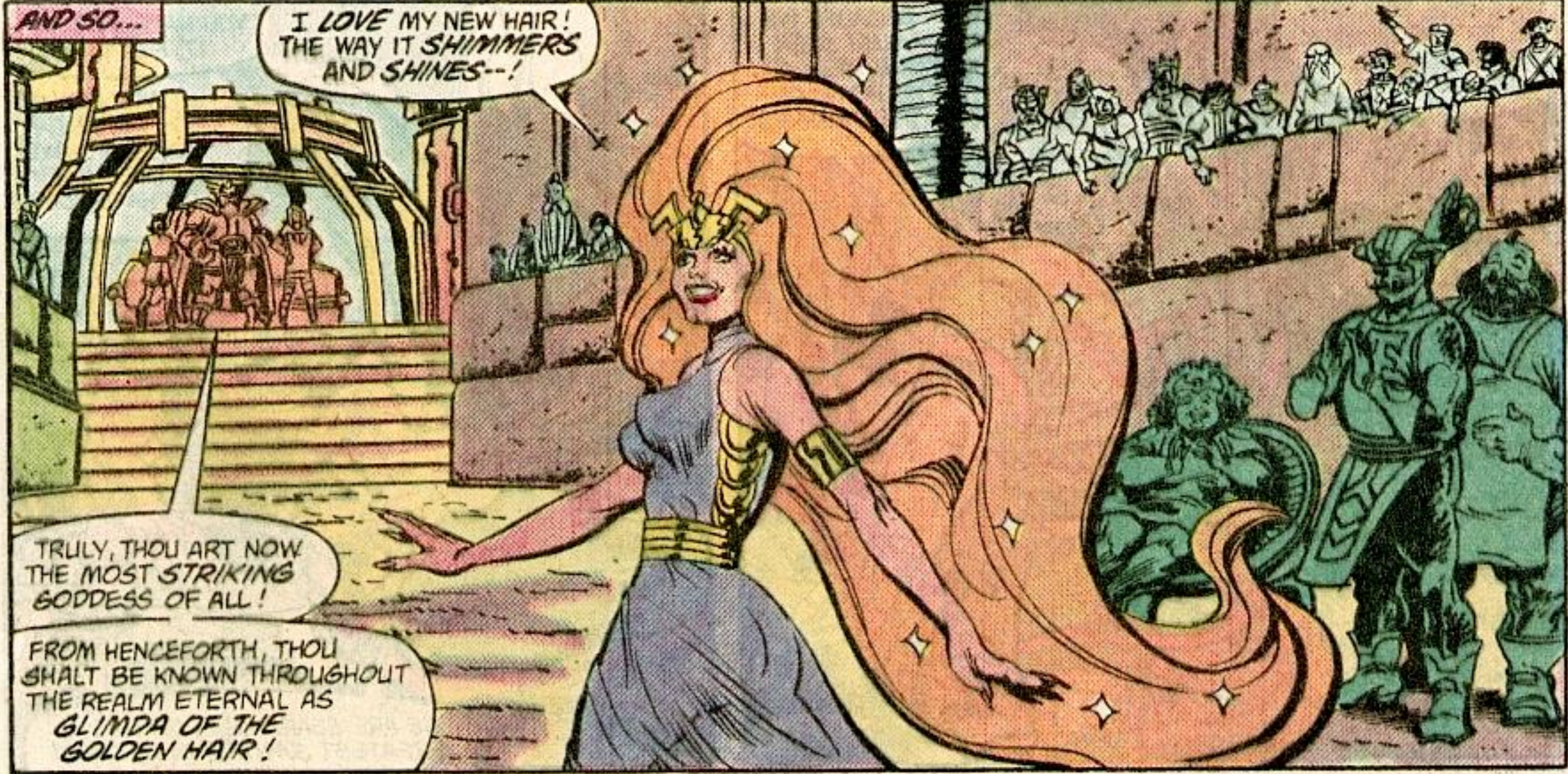
MY OWN BELT--A GIFT FROM THE *ALL-FATHER* HIMSELF--CAN SERVE AS THE *SOURCE* FOR THE *GOLD*!



FOR A LONG, TENSE MOMENT, THE DWARF IS SILENT, AND THEN...

WE SHALL DO AS YOU ASK, YOUNG PRINCE!

METHINKS A WARRIOR AS *POISED* AND AS *NOBLE* AS YOURSELF COULD SOMEDAY PROVE A *VALUED FRIEND*!



AND SO...

I LOVE MY NEW HAIR!
THE WAY IT SHIMMERS
AND SHINES--!

TRULY, THOU ART NOW
THE MOST STRIKING
GODDESS OF ALL!

FROM HENCEFORTH, THOU
SHALT BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT
THE REALM ETERNAL AS
GLIMDA OF THE
GOLDEN HAIR!



LOKI, SINCE THOU HAST EARNED GLIMDA'S FORGIVENESS,
THOU SHALT NOT BE PUNISHED!

I ONLY HOPE THAT
THOU HAST LEARNED
MUCH FROM THIS
INCIDENT!

MUCH
INDEED,
FATHER!



THY BROTHER HAS DONE WELL,
THOR... BUT I SEE NOT THE BELT
THAT I GAVE THEE!

I, ER, MUST HAVE
MISPLACED IT,
SIRE!

SUCH CARELESSNESS
SHOULD NOT GO UNPUNISHED...



... BUT, METHINKS AN EXCEPTION
SHOULD BE MADE IN THIS CASE!

COME, WE SHALL HAVE
THE SMITHS FIRE THE
FURNACE-- AND FASHION
THEE A MARVELOUS,
NEW BELT OF
GOLD!

BAH! ODIN MUST
KNOW THE TRUTH!



BLAST THOR!
I COULD HAVE
SOLVED THIS
PROBLEM WITH-
OUT HIS STUPID
INTERFERENCE!

I HATE HIM
MORE THAN
EVER-- AND,
SOMEDAY, I
SHALL HAVE MY
REVENGE!

THE END