



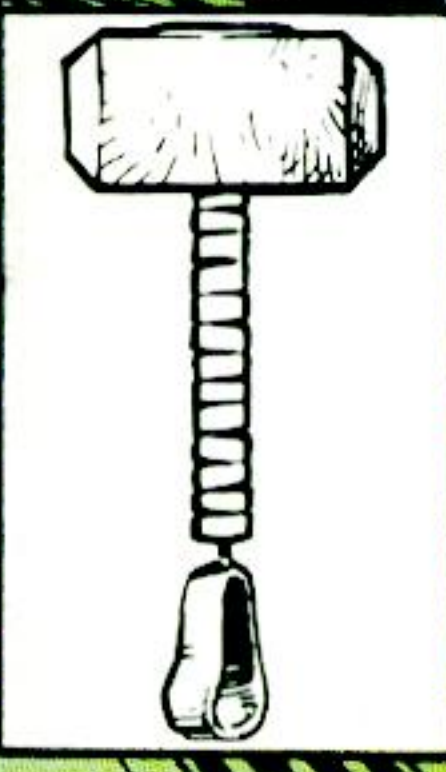
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**HEROES  
ALWAYS  
WIN...  
DON'T  
THEY?**

*the mighty*

**THOR**



# STAN LEE PRESENTS *the* MIGHTY THOR

EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS OF TOURISTS VISIT NEW YORK CITY TO SEE THE SIGHTS.

THE FAMOUS BUILDINGS, THE FAMOUS MUSEUMS, THE FAMOUS RESTAURANTS, THE FAMOUS PEOPLE.

BUT SOME OF THE VISITORS JUST DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO LIFE IN THE BIG APPLE...

SAY YER PRAYERS, GOLDILOCKS! I DON'T KNOW HOW YA BROUGHT ME HERE, BUT YER GONNA BE SORRY YA EVER SAW ME AGAIN!

...EVEN WHEN THEY GET TO MEET SOME OF THE FAMOUS PEOPLE IN PERSON, SUCH AS THE GOD OF THUNDER!

TRULY I AM SORRY ALREADY!

IT'S THE ABSORBING MAN, ONE OF THE DEADLIEST OF MY FOEMEN OF YORE! BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH BRINGING HIM TO NEW YORK!

## HEROES ALWAYS WIN... DON'T THEY?

WRITING  
WALTER  
SIMONSON

DRAWING  
SAL  
BUSCEMA

LETTERING  
JOHN  
WORKMAN

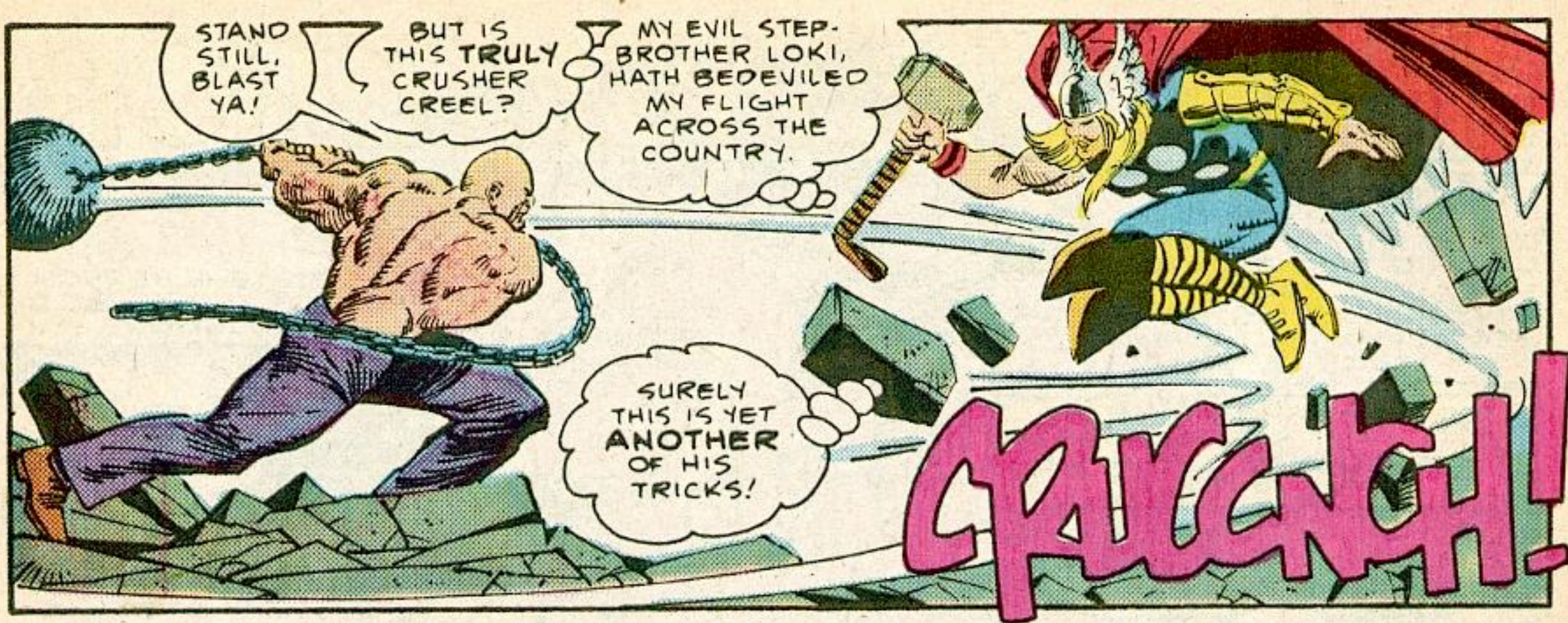
COLORING  
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ROUSSOS

EDITING  
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MACCHIO

EDITING IN CHIEF  
JIM  
SHOOTER

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STAND STILL, BLAST YA!

BUT IS THIS TRULY CRUSHER CREEL?

MY EVIL STEP-BROTHER LOKI, HATH BEDEVILED MY FLIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

SURELY THIS IS YET ANOTHER OF HIS TRICKS!

**CRASH!**



A SECOND FIGURE MATERIALIZES OUT OF THIN AIR!

ONLY THIS ONE IS NOT ONE OF MY FORMER FOES!

SOME NEW DECEIT OF LOKI'S, I'LL WARRANT, DESIGNED TO CAUSE YET MORE GRIEF!



**TITANIA!**

LOOK OUT, DARLIN'! THAT'S THE GOD OF THUNDER! HE'LL MAKE MINCE-MEAT OF YA!

DO YOU THINK I COULD STAY BEHIND, LOVER, AND LET YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN?



UGGH! HER BLOW RIVALS THOSE OF THE ETINS \* OF JOTUN-HEIM!

LOKI'S MAGIC HATH GAINED IN STRENGTH THROUGH THE EONS!

**WHACK!**

BUT TWICE ALREADY I HAVE FACED FOES FROM MY PAST...

\*FROST GIANTS



"...ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THEY WERE IN FACT NOT MY FORMER ENEMIES AT ALL..."

"...BUT MORTALS CLOTHED IN THE SEMBLANCE OF MY OLD ADVERSARIES!"

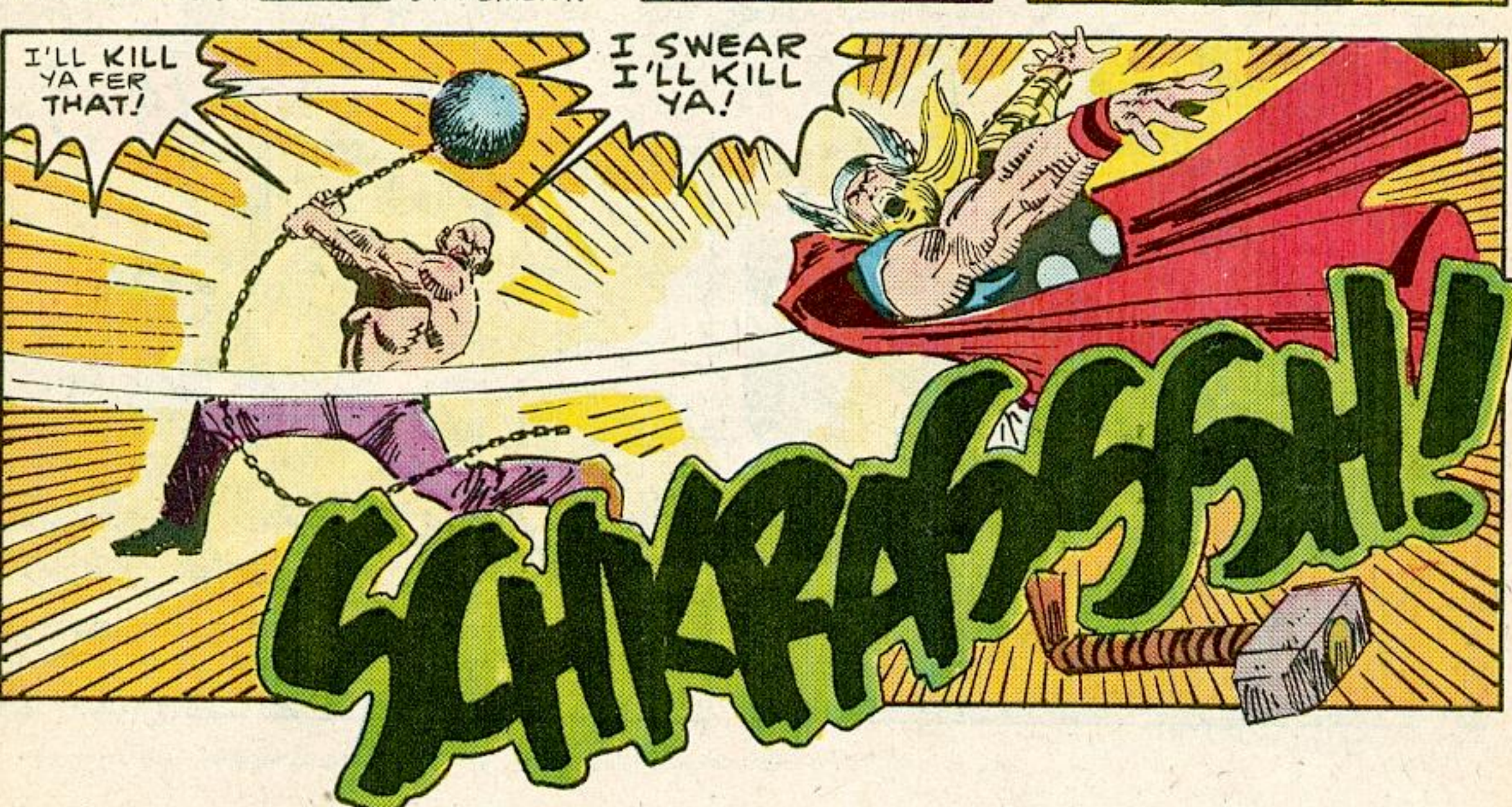
\*AND BOTH TIMES, THE POWER OF THE ENCHANTMENT THAT BOUND THEM WAS SO GREAT...



"...THEY WERE REDUCED TO LIFELESS HUSKS IN MERE MINUTES \*."

\*A CRAFTY SUMMARY OF LAST ISSUE IF YOU'RE KEEPING SCORE! -- WILY RALF







MY RIBS--  
I THINK HE'S  
CRACKED  
THEM!

AND I STILL HAVE  
THOUGHT OF NO WAY  
TO PREVENT THIS  
MORTAL FROM DYING  
IN MINUTES!

BUT  
ONE  
THING IS  
CERTAIN!

IF I TRULY  
SLEW THE YOUNG  
WOMAN WITH SUCH  
A GENTLE BLOW, I  
CANNOT RISK ENGAG-  
ING ANOTHER  
OF THESE DUPLICATES  
IN SINGLE COMBAT!

MY ONLY  
RECOURSE IS  
TO RUN!

PERHAPS WITHOUT  
THE CATALYST OF  
BATTLE, THE SPELL  
WILL FAIL TO RUN ITS  
COURSE AND THE  
MORTAL MAY YET  
BE SAVED!

HEY!

CHICKEN! I  
ALWAYS KNEW YA  
WUZ CHICKEN! COME  
BACK HERE, THOR!

COME BACK  
SO'S I CAN  
KILL YA!!

LOOK AT  
THAT! THOR'S  
RUNNING  
AWAY! THE  
THUNDER GOD'S  
TURNED  
YELLOW!

YES! UNBELIEVABLE  
AS IT SEEMS, THOR HAS  
SCUTTLED OFF WITH HIS  
TAIL BETWEEN HIS  
LEGS!

AND  
CRUSHER  
CREEL, THE  
ABSORBING MAN, IS  
IN HOT PURSUIT!

LET'S  
GO,  
CREW!  
THIS IS  
NEWS!

RUN ALL YA  
WANT TO,  
THUNDER  
GOD!  
'CAUSE  
I'M STILL  
GONNA CATCH  
UP TO YOU AND  
WHEN I DO, IT'S  
CURTAINS!

FATHER ODIN, GLAD I AM  
THAT YOU DID NOT LIVE TO  
SEE THIS IGNOMINIOUS MOMENT  
WHEN THY SON DIDST TURN  
AND FLEE HIS FOE INSTEAD  
OF FIGHT!

IT MATTERS  
NOT, BROTHER,  
THAT ODIN DID  
NOT LIVE TO  
SEE THIS  
MOMENT!

WHAT  
MATTERS  
IS THAT  
I HAVE!



FLEE  
WHEREVER  
YOUR STUMBLING  
LEGS WILL CARRY  
YOU. I WILL NOT  
BE FAR ENOUGH.  
I HAVE ENSURED  
THAT.

FOR CREEL BELIEVES THAT YOU HAVE SLAIN HIS LADY AND NOTHING LESS THAN YOUR DEATH WILL SATISFY HIM!

HOW SAY YOU, MY  
SHRUNKEN ALLIES?  
I HAVE PROMISED  
YOU THE DESTRU-  
CTION OF THE  
THUNDER GOD!

AND THE  
WORD OF  
LOKI IS HIS  
BOND.

HERE IN  
JOTUNHEIM,  
YOU ONCE TOWERED  
OVER GODS AND MEN  
AS MIGHTY GIANTS...

"...TILL YOU TRIED TO KILL BALDER THE  
BRAVE AND HIS BRILLIANCE REDUCED  
YOU TO THIS PITIFUL STATE \*!"

\*IN THE  
BALDER THE  
BRAVE LIMITED  
SERIES-- TOO  
BAD IF YOU  
MISSED IT!  
--ROTTEN RALF

SWEAR FEALTY  
TO ME AND I  
SHALL NOT ONLY  
RESTORE YOU TO  
YOUR FORMER  
GLORY...

VERY WELL,  
LOKI. IF YOU CAN  
DO WHAT YOU  
SAY, WE WILL  
ABIDE BY  
YOUR  
TERMS.

UNTIL  
YOU ARE  
NO LONGER  
USEFUL.

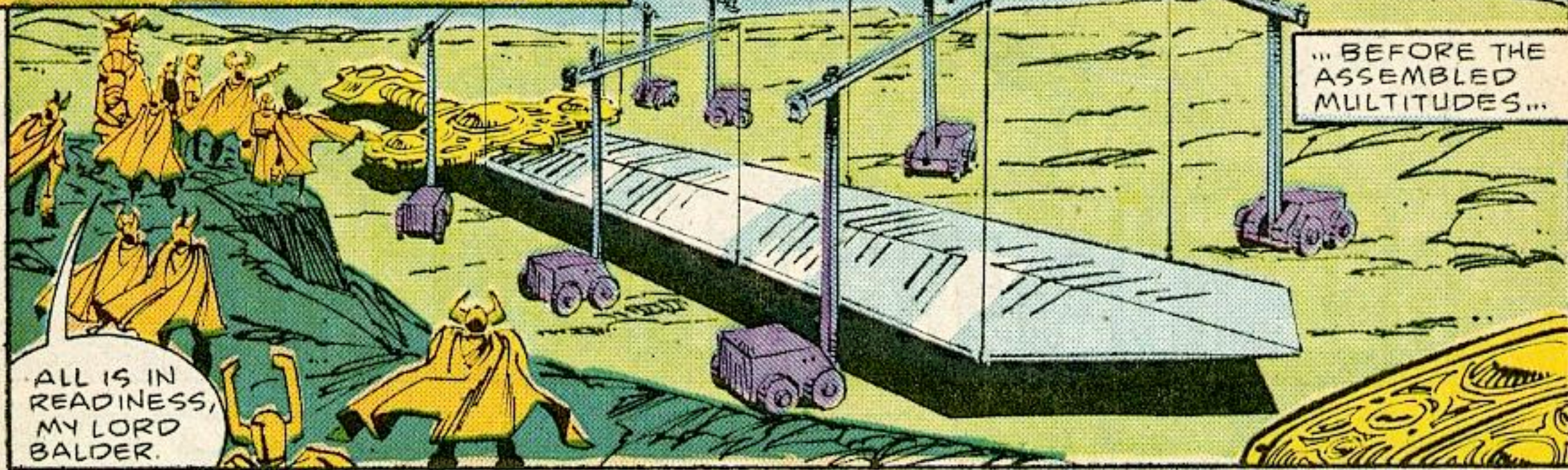
AFTER ALL,  
GIANT  
BLOOD YOU  
MAY HAVE,  
BUT LOKI  
HATH LIVED  
AMONG THE  
GODS TOO  
LONG.

...BUT PRO-  
TECT YOU  
AGAINST THE  
EYES OF  
THE GODS  
TILL WE  
ARE READY  
TO STRIKE  
AT THE HEART  
OF ASGARD.

AND  
HOW COULD  
ANYONE SO  
SHORT BE TRULY  
TRUSTWORTHY?



AND IN THE FABLED REALM OF ASGARD,  
HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS...



... BEFORE THE  
ASSEMBLED  
MULTITUDES...

ALL IS IN  
READINESS,  
MY LORD  
BALDER.

THEN  
SHALL THE  
**SHEATHING**  
BEGIN!

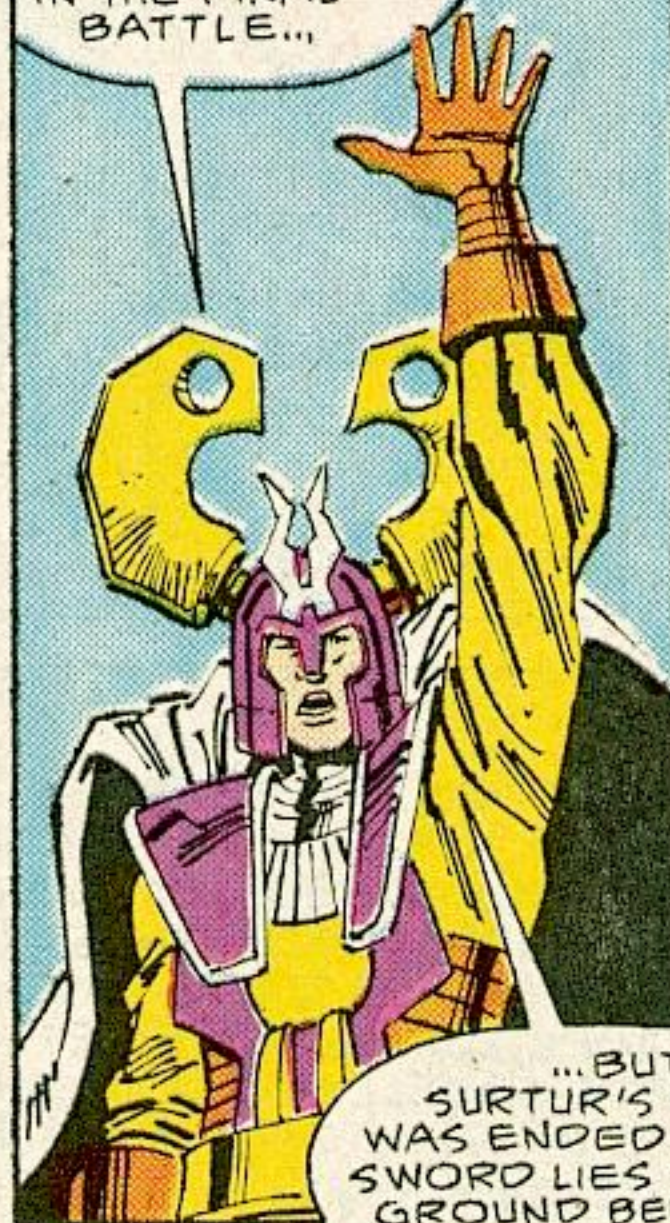
MY FRIENDS, WE  
ARE GATHERED  
HERE TO WITNESS  
AT LONG LAST  
THE **END** TO THE  
GREATEST THREAT  
EVER FACED BY  
THE GODS.



BEFORE  
US LIES  
TWILIGHT,  
THE GREAT  
SWORD OF  
SURTUR...

...THE DEMON OF  
MUSPELHEIM, WHO  
CHALLENGED THE  
GODS AND LOST.

THE GODS PAID  
A HEAVY PRICE  
FOR THIS VICTORY  
FOR OUR LIEGE  
LORD, ODIN, WAS  
TAKEN FROM US  
IN THE FINAL  
BATTLE...



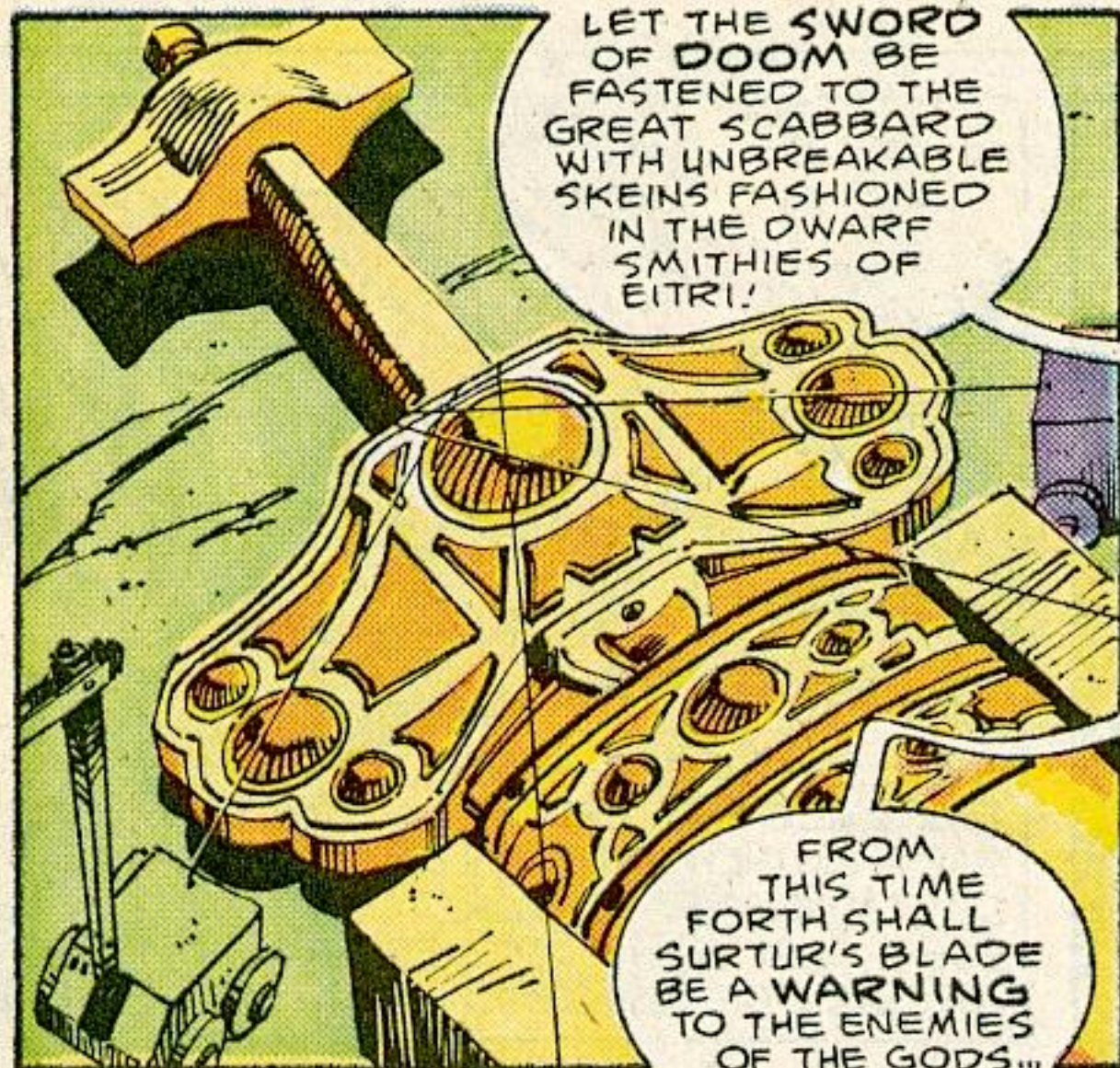
...BUT  
SURTUR'S THREAT  
WAS ENDED AND HIS  
SWORD LIES ON THE  
GROUND BEFORE US.



NOW  
WE SHEATH  
IT THAT IT  
MIGHT NEVER  
AGAIN BE  
RAISED IN ANGER  
UNTIL TIME  
HATH COME TO  
ITS APPOINTED  
END...

...AND THE  
ORDER OF  
ALL THINGS  
IS OVER-  
THROWN ON  
THE LAST DAY.

LET THE SWORD  
OF DOOM BE  
FASTENED TO THE  
GREAT SCABBARD  
WITH UNBREAKABLE  
SKEINS FASHIONED  
IN THE DWARF  
SMITHIES OF  
EITRI!



FROM  
THIS TIME  
FORTH SHALL  
SURTUR'S BLADE  
BE A WARNING  
TO THE ENEMIES  
OF THE GODS...

...THAT THOSE WHO DARE  
TO CHALLENGE US SHALL  
KNOW THE HOPELESS-  
NESS OF THEIR AMBITION  
AND BE AFRAID.



AND LET  
THE WORD BE  
SPREAD,

HENCEFORTH,  
THE SWORD OF  
SURTUR SHALL BE  
KNOWN FOR ALL TIME  
AS THE "TWILIGHT  
OF THE GODS"!



AND BACK IN MANHATTAN,  
ON FOURTEENTH STREET...

LIE DOWN AND DIE,  
GOLDLOCKS! THIS TIME,  
NUTHIN'S GONNA  
SAVE YA!

THE VERY PAVEMENT  
BELOW MY FEET  
DOTH SHATTER WITH  
THE FORCE OF  
CREEL'S BLOW...

**CRASH!**

...AND  
GIVES WAY  
BENEATH ME!



\*INTER BOROUGH  
RAPID TRANSIT--  
RAPID TRANSIT  
RALF.

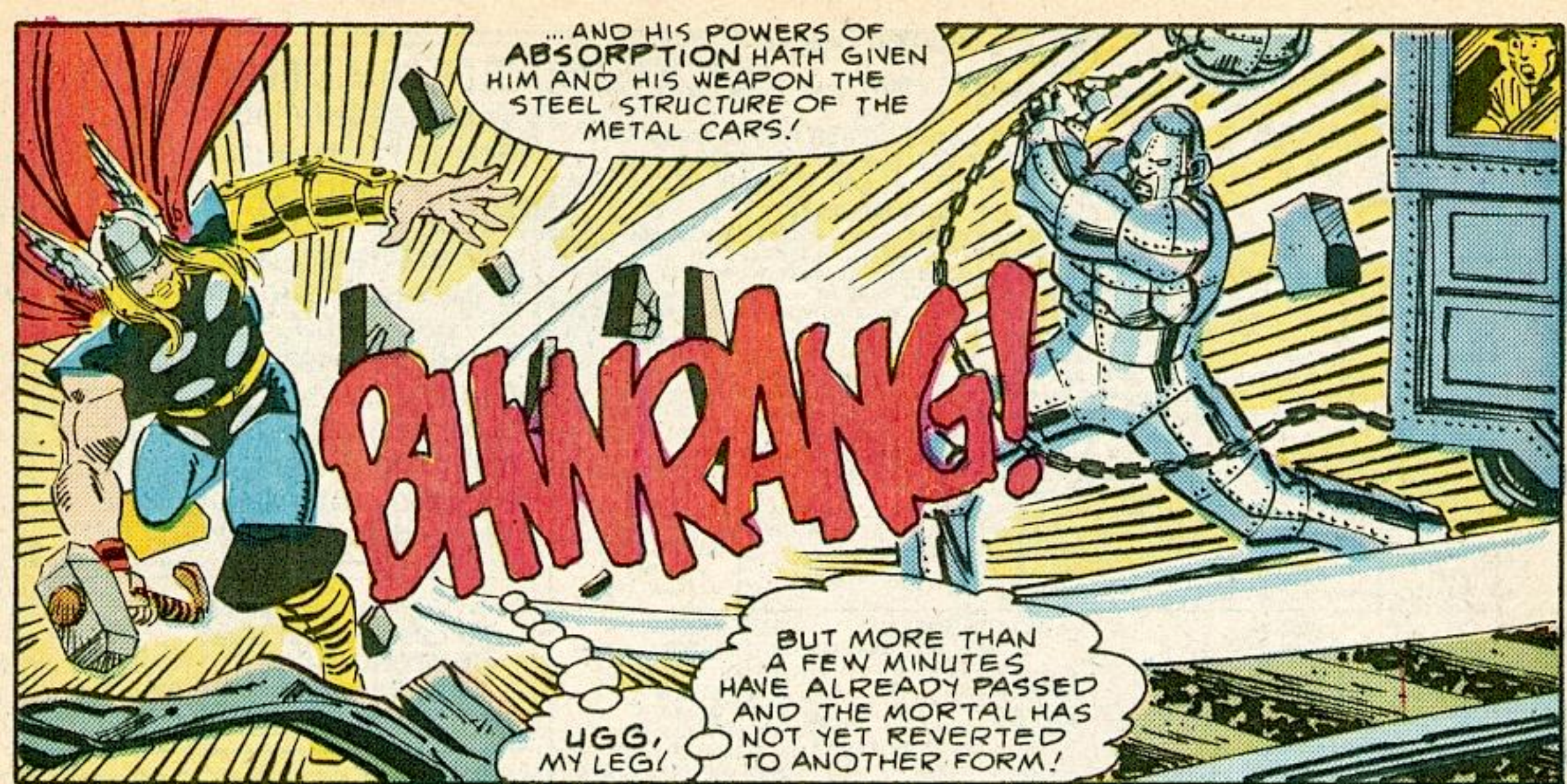
PERFECT! DOWN HERE'S  
EVERYTHING I NEED  
TO KILL ME A THUNDER  
GOD!



AND I'M  
GONNA  
START  
RIGHT  
NOW!







THEN THIS IS NO  
FLAWED DUPLICATE!  
THIS IS THE REAL  
CRUSHER CREEL!



...AND HERE IN THE  
UNDERGROUND STATION,  
THERE IS NO ROOM  
TO MANEUVER!



I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT! HE'S  
DESERT-  
ING  
US!

BUT THAT  
HORRIBLE MAN  
IS FOLLOWING  
HIM!



I AIN'T GONNA  
QUIT TILL YOU  
PAY FOR  
KILLIN'  
TITANIA IF I  
HAVE TO  
TEAR THE  
WHOLE  
BLAMED  
CITY  
APART!

THE  
NOMAN I  
SLEW! THAT  
MUST BE  
LOKI'S DOING  
AS WELL!



YES, INCREDIBLE AS IT  
SEEMS, THE MIGHTY THOR  
IS FLEEING FROM THE  
ABSORBING MAN AS  
THOUGH HE HAS FORGOT-  
TEN THE MEANING OF  
THE WORD "COURAGE"!!

IS THE  
TRUE  
NATURE OF  
SUPER-  
POWERED  
BEINGS  
BEING RE-  
VEALED  
HERE--LIVE--AT  
LAST?





THE DEEP WASTES OF  
ASGARD WHEREIN  
TOWERS THE FORT-  
RESS OF LOKI....



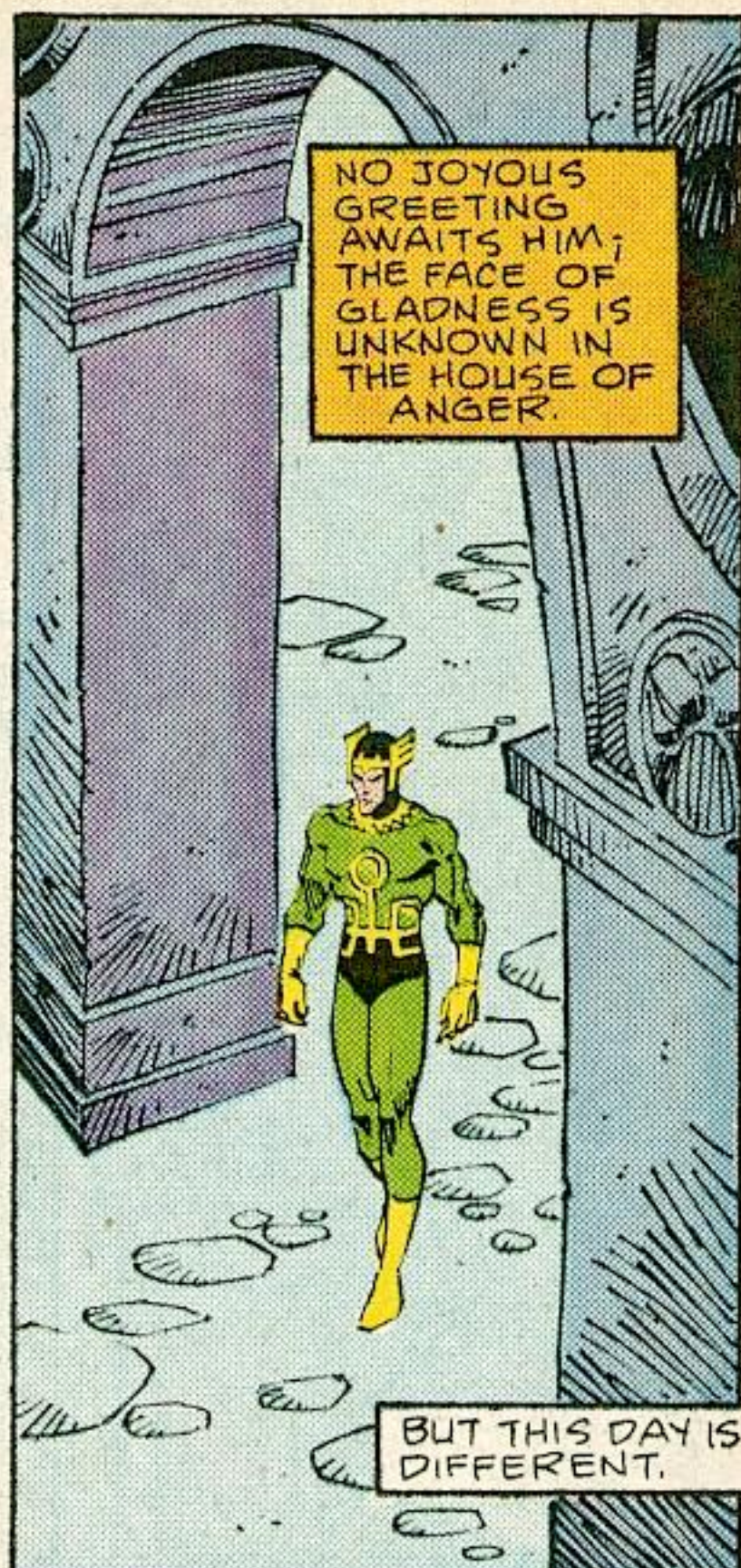
OF A SUDDEN,  
THERE IS A  
SCURRYING OF  
SMALL FEET...

...A SCRAB-  
BLING OF  
CLAWS AGAINST  
THE STONE...

...AND SILENCE WHERE ONLY A MOMENT  
AGO THERE WAS SOUND.



THE MASTER  
HAS COME  
HOME.



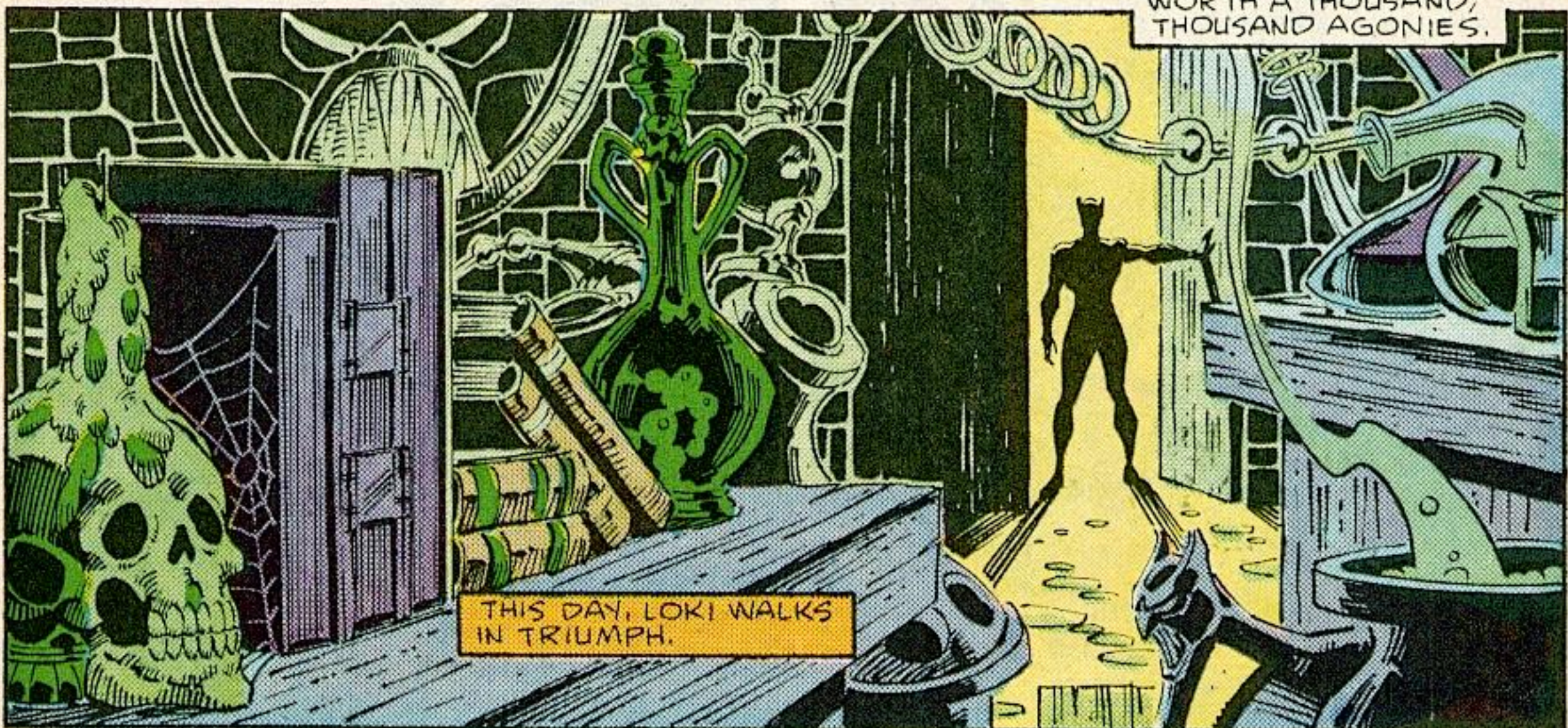
NO JOYOUS  
GREETING  
AWAITS HIM;  
THE FACE OF  
GLADNESS IS  
UNKNOWN IN  
THE HOUSE OF  
ANGER.

BUT THIS DAY IS  
DIFFERENT.

THIS DAY, THE ILL-MADE  
STEPSON OF THE GODS  
HAS DRUNK THE HEADY  
WINE OF VICTORY...

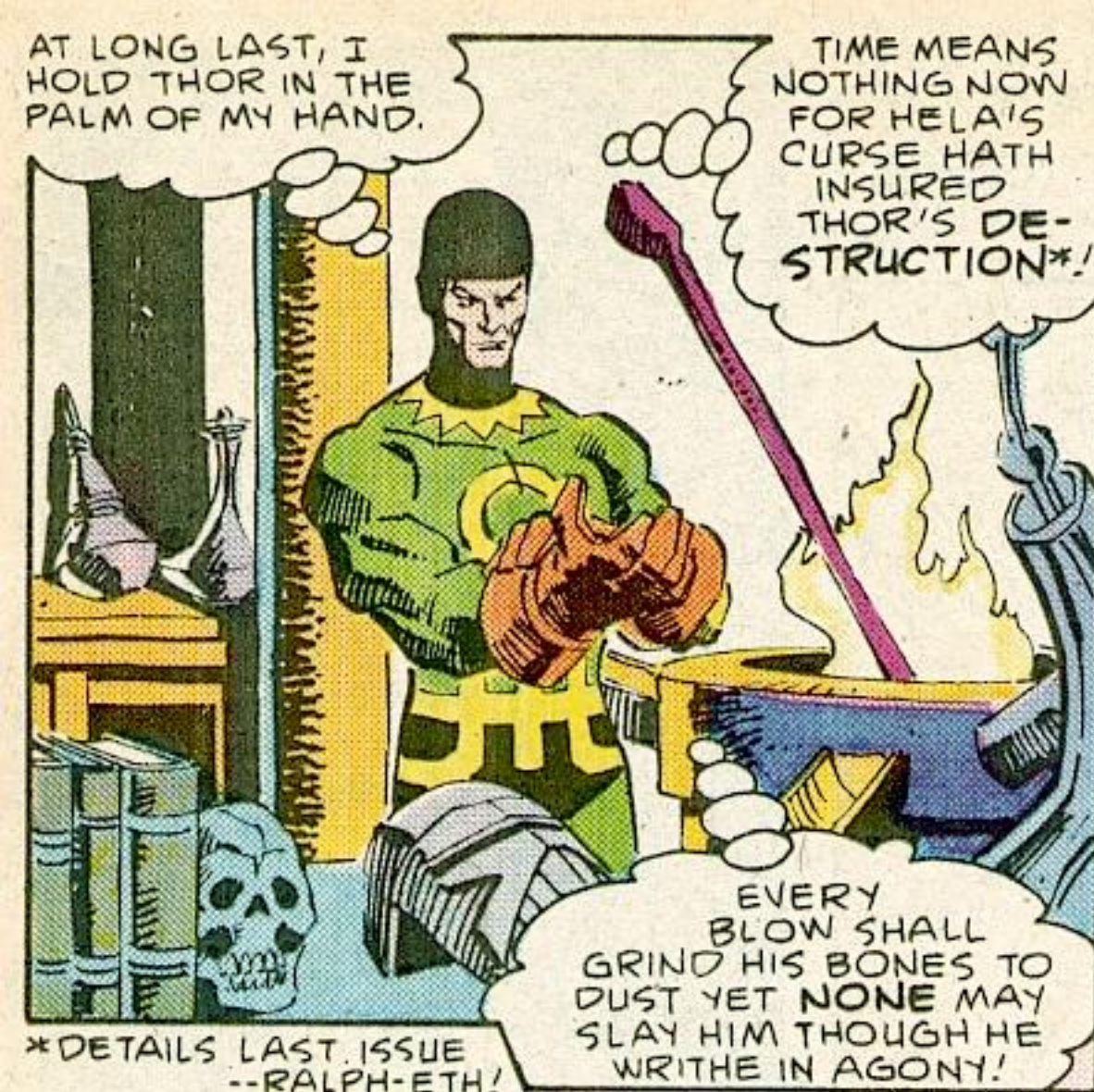


...AND THE BITTER  
SAVOR OF IT IS  
WORTH A THOUSAND,  
THOUSAND AGONIES.



THIS DAY, LOKI WALKS  
IN TRIUMPH.







AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY, AT THE EDGE OF THE GOLDEN CITY OF THE GODS...

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, HEIMDALL.

MUST EVERYTHING CRUMBLE TO DUST OR BE DESTROYED?

DO THE NORNS DELIGHT IN TORTURING THE LIVING?

AMORA, THE EXECUTIONER IS GONE BEYOND THE POWER OF THE LIVING TO RECALL.

NOT ALL YOUR TEARS SHALL LURE HIM HENCE.

OH, HEIMDALL, SPEAK NOT TO ME OF THE PAST, BUT HOLD ME FAST AND LOVE ME!

BURN MY SORROW AWAY IN THE FIRES OF PASSION!

MAKE ME YOURS FOREVER!

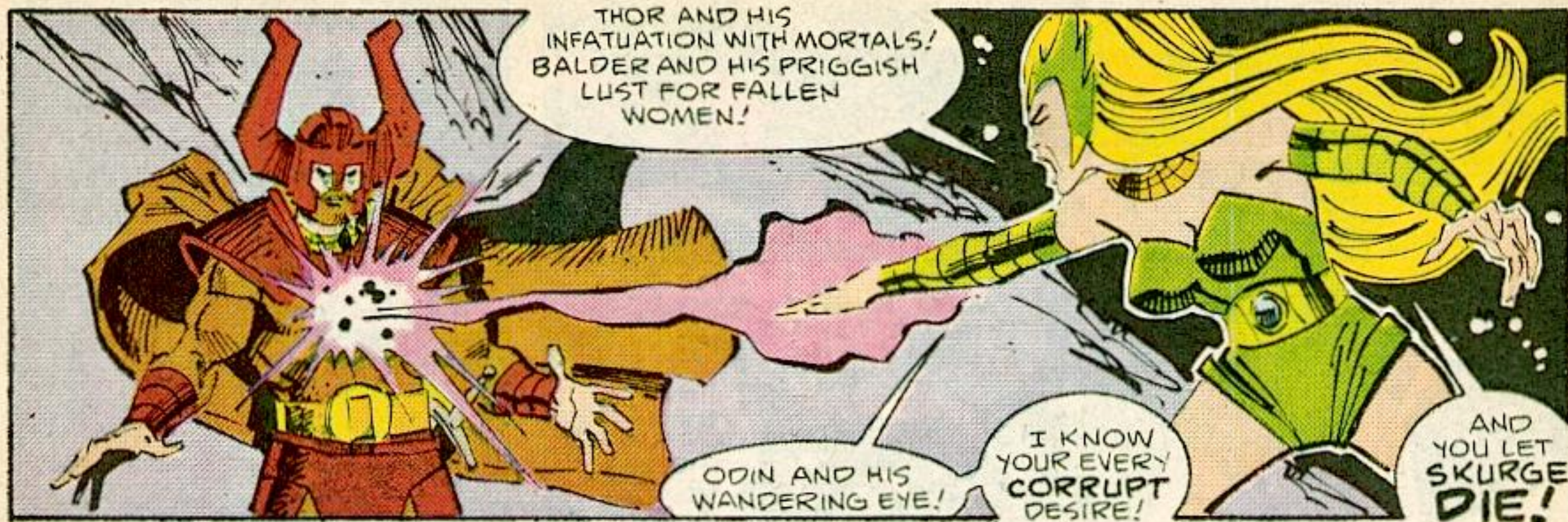
YOU OVERESTIMATE YOURSELF, ENCHANTRESS.

WHAT JOY COULD THE ARMS OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GODDESS OF ALL THE GOLDEN REALM HOLD FOR ME WHEN SHE IS A STRANGER TO THE POWER THAT BINDS TWO SOULS TOGETHER?

YOU ARE LIKE ALL MEN!

YOU SEEK TO HUMILIATE ME BEFORE EVERY EYE!





THOR AND HIS  
INFATUATION WITH MORTALS!  
BALDER AND HIS PRIGGISH  
LUST FOR FALLEN  
WOMEN!

ODIN AND HIS  
WANDERING EYE!

I KNOW  
YOUR EVERY  
CORRUPT  
DESIRE!

AND  
YOU LET  
SKURGE  
DIE!

YOU ALL HAVE  
HEARTS OF WOOD!  
SO SHALL YOUR  
FORMS MATCH  
YOUR SOULS!  
FOREVER!



SKRADOCHIT!

WAS  
SKURGE  
SO GENTLY  
TREATED  
IN YOUR  
HANDS?

THOUGH  
THE BRIDGE  
IS GONE,  
AMORA, I  
WAS ITS  
WATCH-  
MAN...

...AND I CARRY  
THE GREAT SWORD  
OF GUARD, FORGED  
OF URU IN THE  
DWARF FIRES.



SUCH  
SIMPLE  
MAGIC  
CANNOT  
HOLD ME.



DID YOU  
EVER ONCE TELL  
HIM THAT YOU  
LOVED HIM?

THE SOBBING OF SUCH AN EMPTY HEART WOULD  
CRACK THE SKY...





AND ELSEWHERE, WITHIN THE CITY ITSELF...

WHERE'RE WE GOING?

I WANNA SIT DOWN. I ACHE ALL OVER.

LEAN ON HILDY, KEVIN. WE GO ONLY A LITTLE FURTHER.

'TIS OBVIOUS THAT AS MORTALS, YOU AND MICK NEED A GENTLER INTRODUCTION TO ASGARD THAN VOLSTAGG'S CHILDREN AFFORDED THEE.

HERE IN THE MEADOW WE SHALL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.

AND MAYHAP WE MAY TEACH THEE A THING OR TWO WORTH KNOW-ING.

WOW, HOGUN! IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?

IT IS INDEED, GUNNHILD. GRIM HOGUN HATH TAKEN ONE OF THE APPLES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE.

AND ARE YOU IDUNN, KEEPER OF THE FRUIT OF LIFE, THAT YOU SHOULD GIVE IT OUT TO ANYONE OF YOUR CHOOSING?

THEY ARE MY CHARGES, LADY SIF. THEY HAVE BEEN ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF THE GODS AND HAVE THE RIGHT.

AND THEY HAVE MORE NEED THAN MOST.

YOU WOULD NOT DENY THEM, SURELY?

FORGIVE ME, HOGUN. I SPOKE IN MY ANGER OF OTHER THINGS.

WHO ARE THESE YOUNG MEN?

MAY I PRESENT THE FOSTER CHILDREN OF VOLSTAGG, MY LADY.

AND WE ARE ABOUT TO FEED THEM ON THE FRUITS OF LEGEND.



A SINGLE SLICE FOR EACH OF YOU. YOUR MORTAL SYSTEMS WILL NEED TIME TO ADJUST TO SUCH DELICACIES.



DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OREOS?

THAT'S WHAT MOM GAVE US WHEN WE GOT HURT.

EAT, SLOWLY.

GEE, IT'S GOOD.



SORT OF... TINGLES WHEN I SWALLOW.

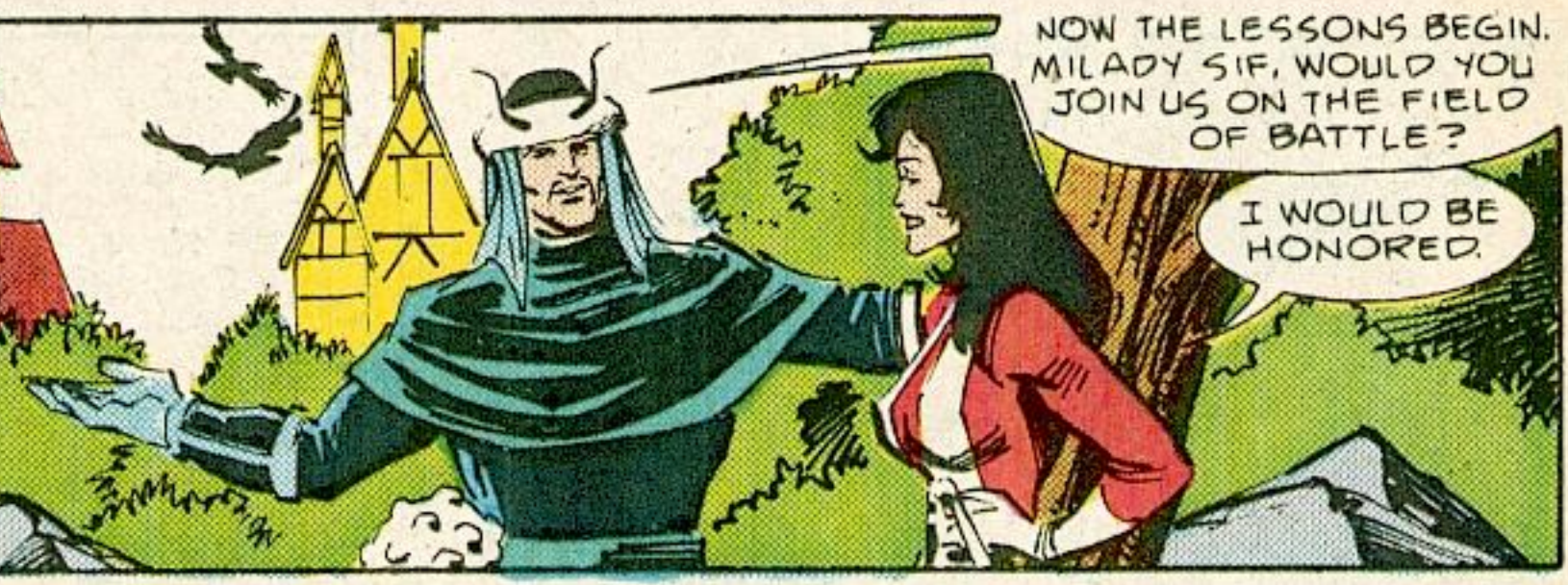
YEAH, IT DOES! AND I... I FEEL A LOT BETTER, TOO! CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?



NOT YET, SILLY. DIDN'T HOGUN SAY ONLY ONE SLICE?



AND YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM DO ANYTHING HE DOESN'T WANT TO! I'VE TRIED!



NOW THE LESSONS BEGIN. MILADY SIF, WOULD YOU JOIN US ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE?

I WOULD BE HONORED.

AND IN NEW YORK, ON ANOTHER FIELD OF BATTLE...



THE FURY OF THE ABSORBING MAN SEEMS UNSTOPPABLE!

SMASH!

BUT THE POWER OF MY HAMMER AND STORM MAY GIVE HIM PAUSE AND DEFLECT HIS WEAPON!



LET THE ICY GALES OF NIFLHEIM BE RELEASED!

SCREEEEEEEEEEE FAW!



I DUNNO WHAT  
YOU THINK YER  
DOING, MISTER...

# SCREEAM!

INCREDIBLE!  
INSTEAD OF  
DEFLECTING  
HIS WEAPON, THE  
BALL AND CHAIN SEEM  
TO HAVE BECOME ONE  
WITH THE STORM!

...BUT  
WHAT-  
EVER  
IT IS...

AND THE  
VORTEX OF  
WINDS IS  
CARRYING  
HIS WEAPON  
SPIRALING  
INTO MINE!

...YOU  
JUST  
GAVE IT  
TO ME!

# CRASHH!

OH NO!  
THE WORST  
I FEARED HATH  
COME TO PASS!

CREEL'S  
DEADLY  
BALL AND  
CHAIN  
HAVE BECOME  
URU EVEN  
AS MY  
HAMMER...

...AND AS THE  
ABSORBING MAN  
RECOVERS HIS  
DEADLY INSTRU-  
MENT, HE TOO  
HATH BECOME  
THE LIVING  
PERSONIFICATION  
OF MJOLNIR!

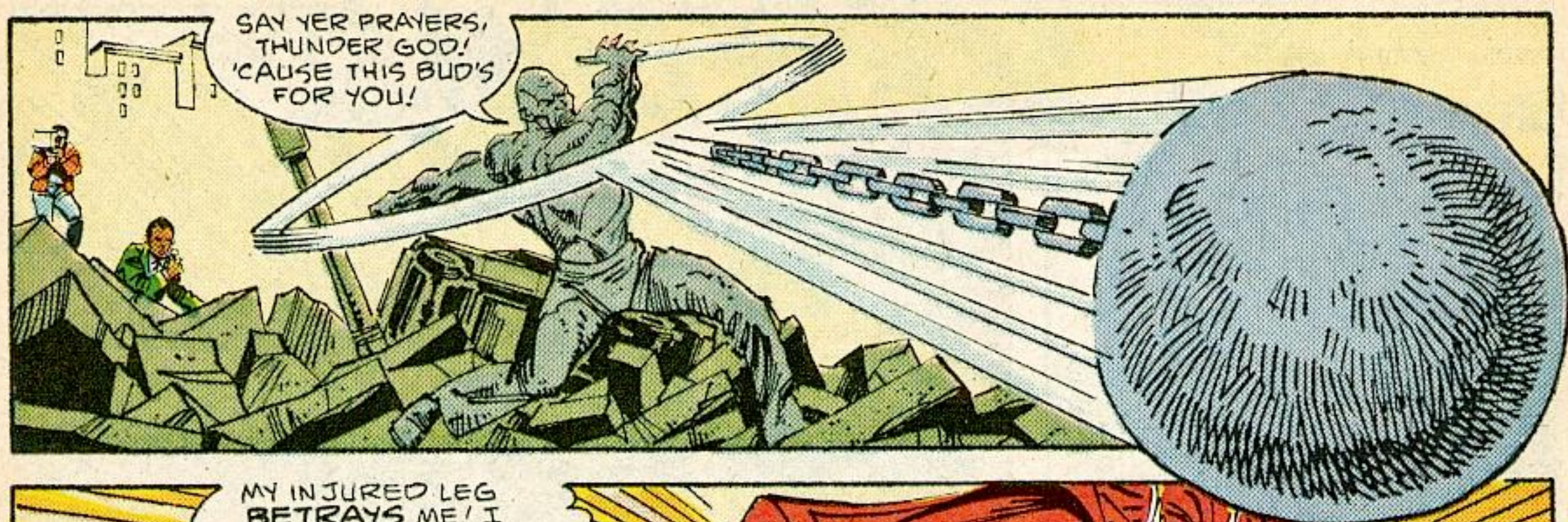
# HAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA!

I BEEN  
WAITIN'  
FER THAT,  
THOR...

... 'CAUSE NOT  
EVEN YOU CAN  
BEAT YER OWN  
HAMMER!

HE SPEAKS TRULY! I  
NOW FACE A LIVING WEAPON  
THAT DWARFS THE POWER OF  
EVEN THE GREATEST  
WARRIOR!





MY INJURED LEG  
BETRAYS ME! I  
CANNOT DODGE THE  
ONCOMING BLOW  
IN TIME!

**SKRAACK!!**

AAAA  
AAAAAA  
AAAAAA!



BULLS-EYE!

AN' MY BALL  
AND CHAIN ARE  
COMIN' BACK TO  
ME JUST LIKE  
YER HAMMER!

IF YA KNOW ANY  
PRAYERS, THUNDER  
GOD, YOU'D BETTER  
SAY 'EM NOW!

MY RIB CAGE! IT  
FEELS AS THOUGH IT  
HATH BEEN  
SHATTERED!

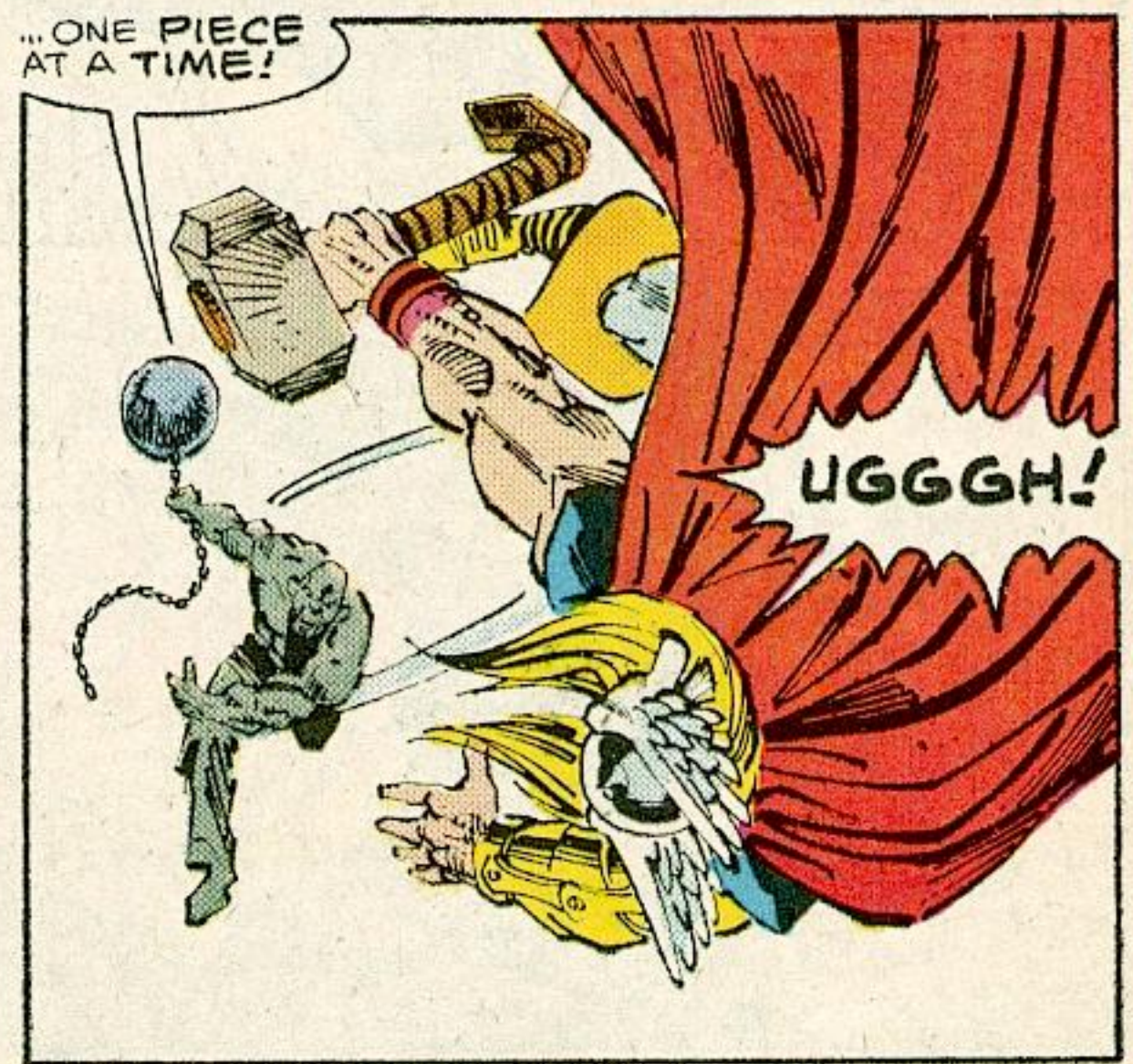
I CAN  
SCARCE  
DRAW  
BREATH!



...LET ALONE  
MOVE! THE  
AGONY IS IN-  
DESCRIB-  
ABLE!

THE  
FIGHT'S  
OVER,  
THOR!

NOW THAT  
I GOT YA  
WHERE I  
WANT YA,  
I'M GONNA  
TAKE YOU  
APART...



...ONE PIECE  
AT A TIME!

UGGGH!





THE ABSORBING MAN HATH HURLED ME FROM HIM WITH A FORCE BEYOND MEASURE...

**WATTTTERR!**

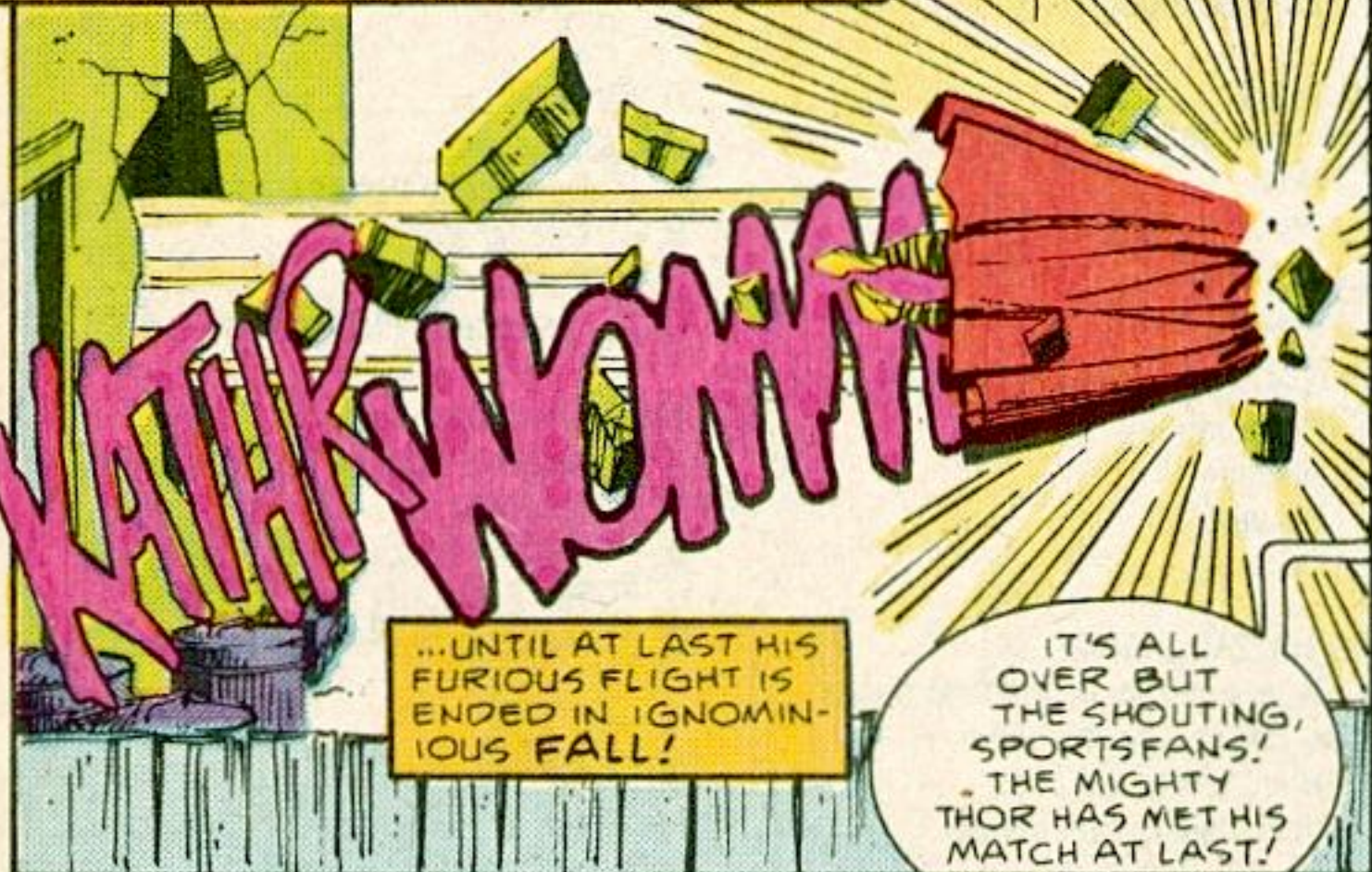
...AND I AM UNABLE TO HELP MYSELF!



HENRI! MON DIEU! LES CROISSANTS!

**BRAKASSH!!**

... AND LIKE A JUGGERNAUT CAREENING WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL, THE GOD OF THUNDER ANNIHILATES ALL OBSTACLES IN HIS PATH...



**KATTHRR WOOMPH!**

...UNTIL AT LAST HIS FURIOUS FLIGHT IS ENDED IN IGNOMINIOUS FALL!

IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING, SPORTSFANS! THE MIGHTY THOR HAS MET HIS MATCH AT LAST!



BUT DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CITY, OR EVEN THE COUNTRY, WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE TODAY?

HAVE THE PAPER HEROES FALLEN AT LAST, TO LEAVE US AT THE MERCY OF...

...A RAGING SUBHUMAN ANTI-MAN?

WILL MR. AND MS. AMERICA HAVE TO PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR THE FAILURE OF THESE VIGILANTES?

TONIGHT AT 11, AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF SUPERHEROES AND WHY WE LOVE TO HATE THEM WITH SUE SERMONS!



MY STRENGTH DESERTS ME! IS THIS TRULY THE FINAL BATTLE FOR THE MIGHTY THOR?

HAS RAGNAROK AT LAST FALLEN ON THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF ASGARD THAT HE MUST DIE IN THE DUST...



...SLAUGHTERED IN THE SENSELESS RAMPAGE OF A CONSCIENCELESS FOE?

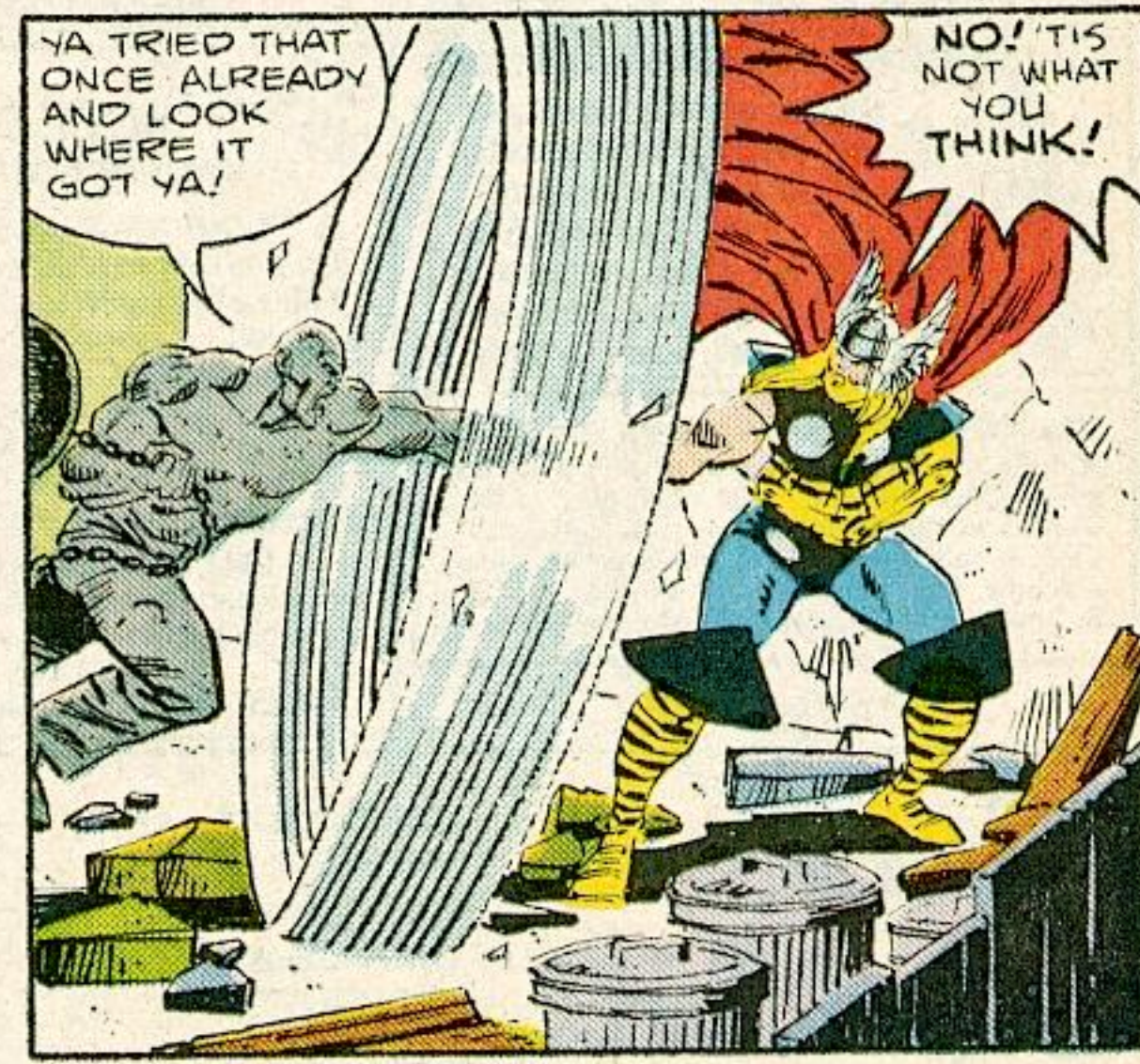
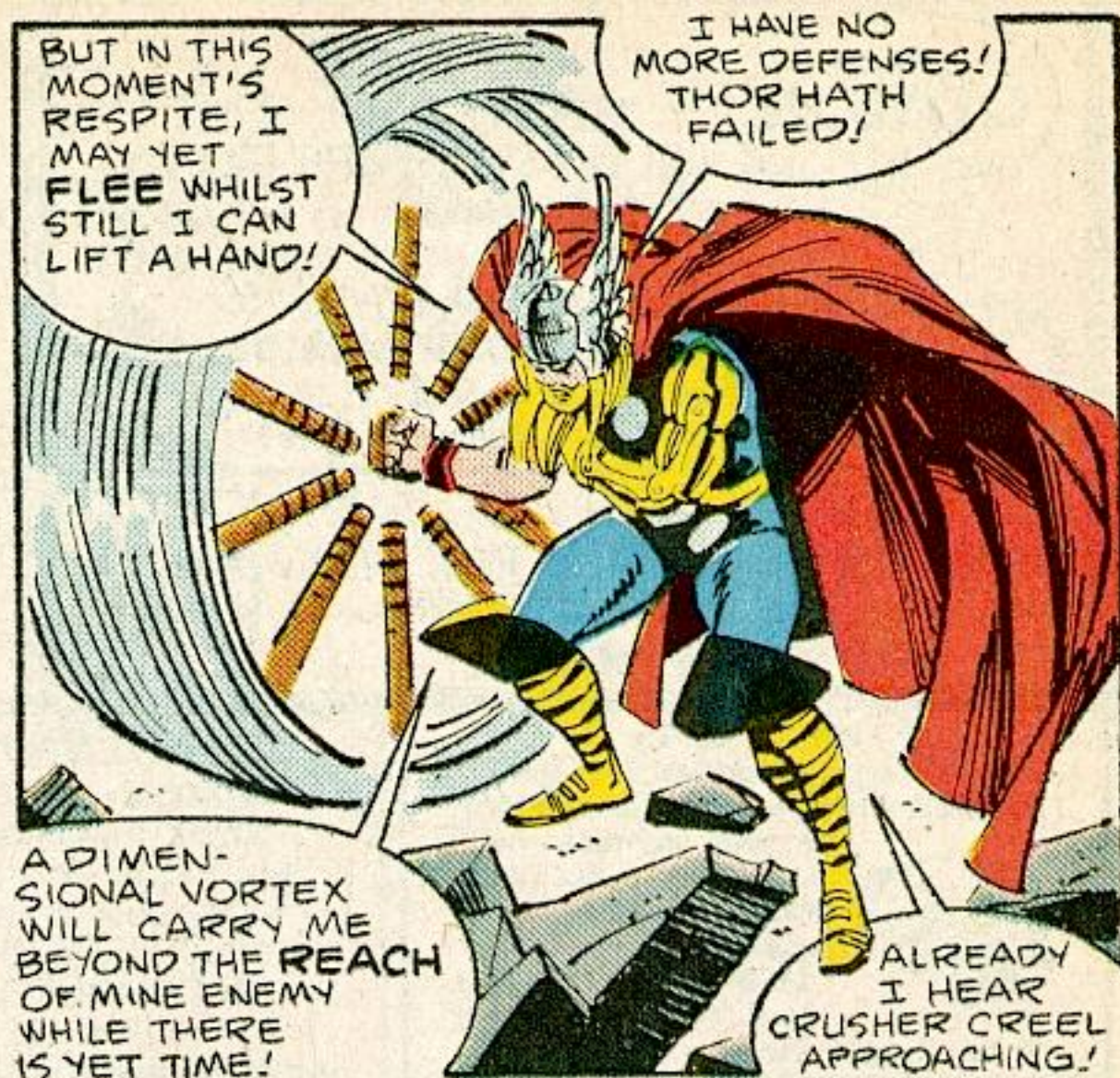
NAY, I MUST STAND, NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE!

LET ME NOT FACE DEATH ON MY KNEES, BUT BOLDLY AS BEFITS A FIGHTING HEART!



**ARRRRRRCHCH!**







THERE IS A  
SUDDEN  
BLINDING  
FLASH OF  
LIGHT...

NOOOO  
OOOO!

...AND SOMEWHERE AN UN-  
IMAGINABLE DISTANCE FROM  
EARTH...

TARROW!

THAT'S  
BETTER!  
I'M ALREADY  
FEELIN' BETTER.  
BUT... WHERE  
AM I?

THOR?

SPATKE!

HE... HE  
DISAPPEARED!

WHAT'D  
THOR DO  
TO ME?  
I CAN'T  
HARDLY  
STAND!

GOTTA  
GET RID OF  
WHATEVER IT  
IS FAST BEFORE  
IT GETS WORSE!

THE  
SKY! IT'S  
RED! AND  
THE CITY--  
THE CITY'S  
GONE!

I'VE BEEN  
TRICKED!  
THIS AIN'T  
NEW YORK!

BUT  
HOW  
DID  
HE--?

I GET IT! THAT  
WASN'T WIND! IT  
WAS SOME KINDA  
TWILIGHT ZONE  
DEAL!

I'LL BET THIS  
AIN'T EVEN EARTH  
ANYMORE! I'M  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE!

AN' I AIN'T GOT  
IT ANYMORE!  
I LET IT GO!

I'M STUCK  
HERE! MAYBE  
FOREVER!

THOR!  
YOU  
TRICKED  
ME!  
THOR!  
THOR!

BUT HOW DO  
I GET BACK? I  
NEED THE POWER  
TO GET BACK!

YOU LISTEN  
TO ME, YA CRUM!  
I'LL GET BACK!  
SOMEHOW, I SWEAR  
I'LL GET BACK!

BUT ONLY THE  
SILENCE OF AN  
EMPTY LAND IS  
LISTENING...

AND WHEN  
I DO, YOU'RE  
DEAD! YOU  
HEAR ME?  
YOU'RE  
DEAD!

...DEAD...

...DEAD...

...DEAD...

...DEAD...

...DEAD...

...AND ITS VOICE IS  
THE SOLITARY  
CHORUS OF THE  
ECHO.



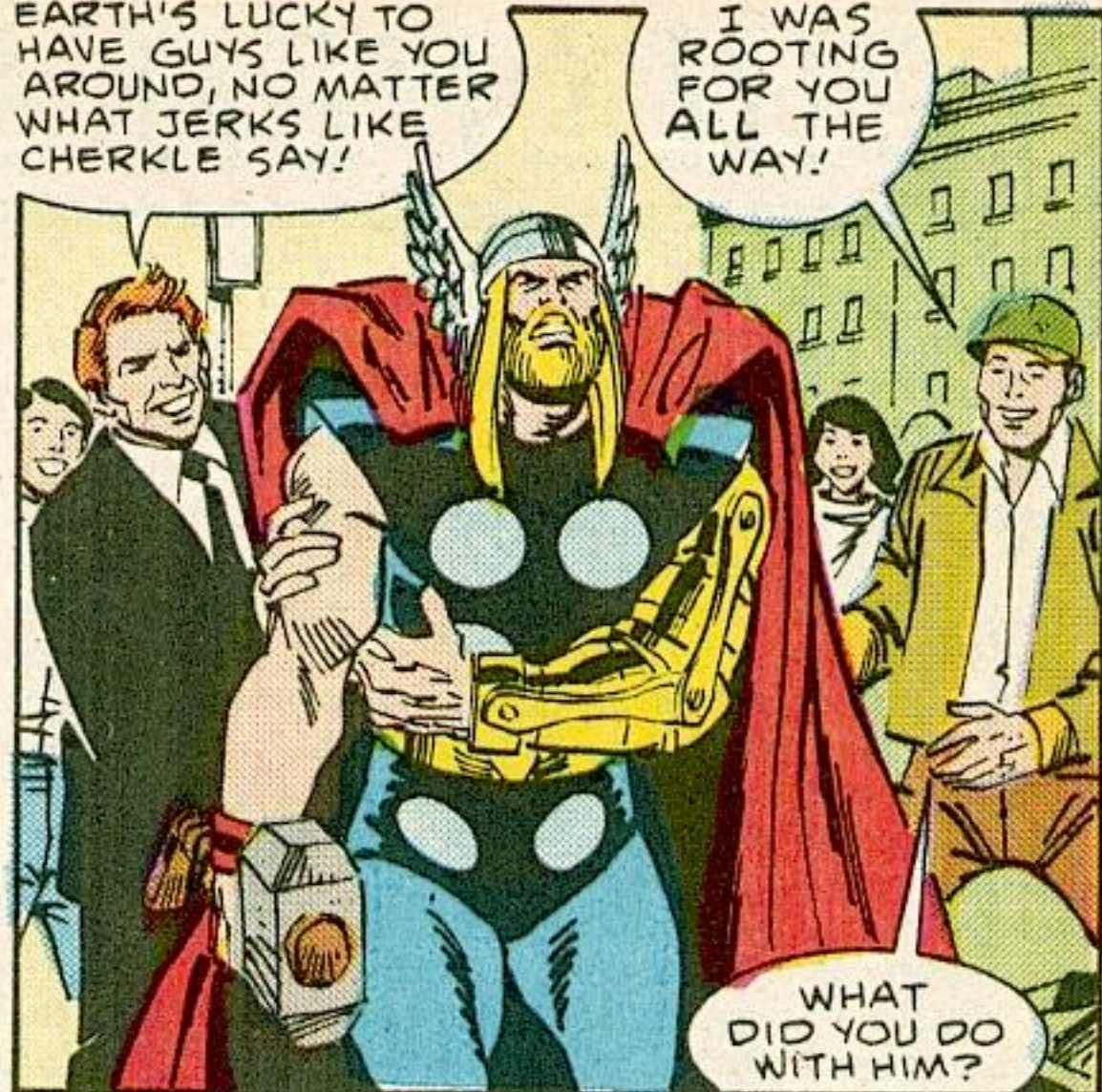
AND ON EARTH...



THOR! THAT WAS AWESOME! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD FOR SURE!

WAY TO GO, BIG FELLOW!

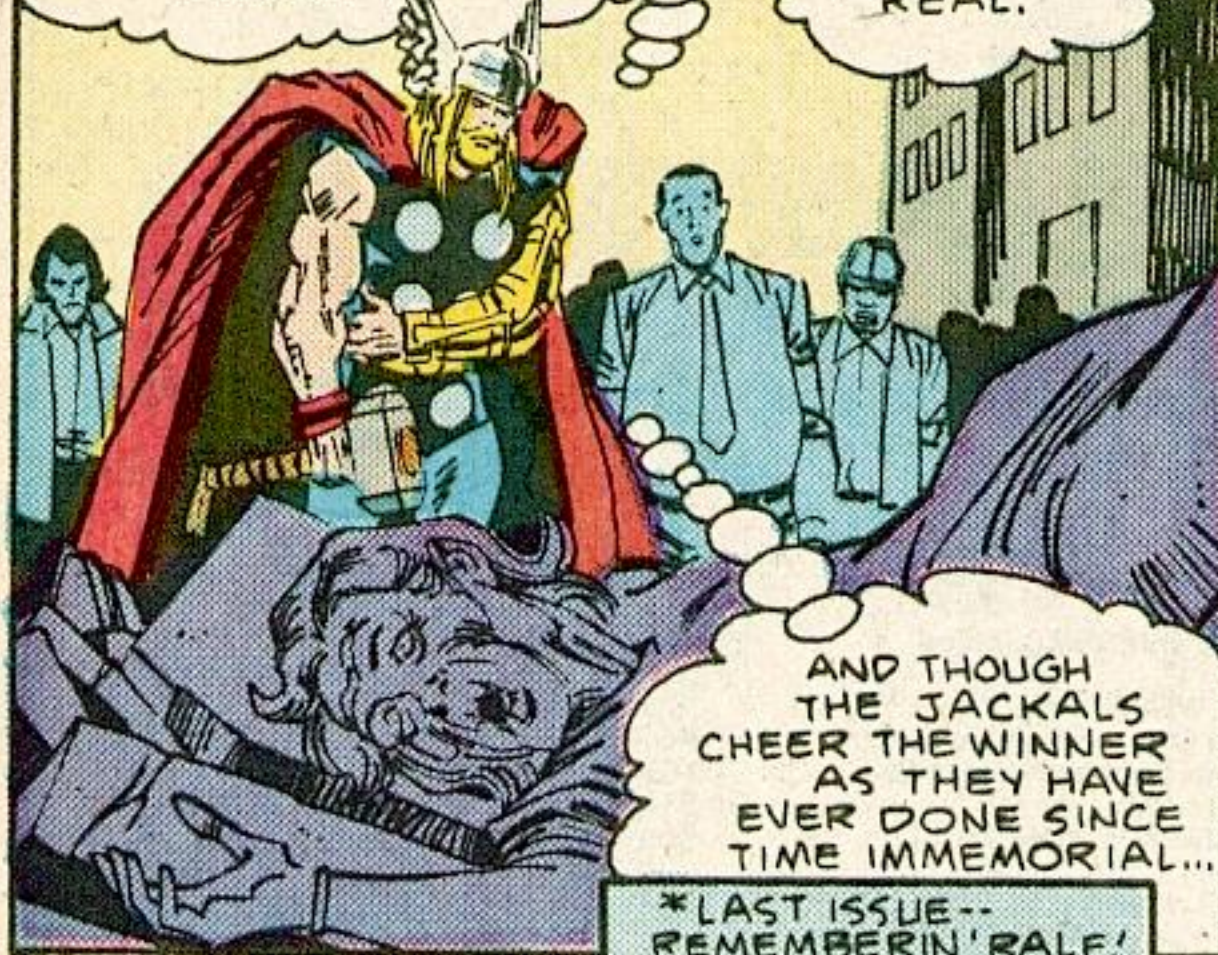
EARTH'S LUCKY TO HAVE GUYS LIKE YOU AROUND, NO MATTER WHAT JERKS LIKE CHERKLE SAY!



I WAS ROOTING FOR YOU ALL THE WAY!

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HIM?

THE WOMAN WAS A DUPLICATE, AS BURNED OUT AND DEAD AS ANY OF THE OTHERS I FOUGHT\*.



ONLY THE ABSORBING MAN WAS REAL.

AND THOUGH THE JACKALS CHEER THE WINNER AS THEY HAVE EVER DONE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL...

\*LAST ISSUE--REMEMBERIN' RALF!

...THOR ALONE KNOWS THE TRUE MEANING OF THIS HOLLOW VICTORY!

FEAR, DEFEAT, EMPTINESS...THE WARRIOR SON OF ODIN HATH BEEN GRANTED A TRIUMPH OF ASHES.

THE JACKALS ARE MORE WORTHY THAN THE LION.

HELA'S REVENGE IS ONLY JUST BEGUN.



HEY, THOR, YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS.

PLEASE... I NEED NO ASSISTANCE.



I CANNOT BEAR THE TOUCH OF THOSE WHOM I WOULD HAVE ABANDONED TO THE RAGE OF MY FOEMAN.

AND THE GOD OF THUNDER IS MERELY A COWARD WHO SOUGHT DISHONOR BEFORE DEFEAT.



HE DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD. YOU'D THINK HE'D BE HAPPY TO BE A WINNER!

I STILL THINK HE NEEDS HELP.



A MOMENT LATER, AND THE NEWS MEDIA, ALERTLY FERRETING OUT THE HEADLINES OF TOMORROW, CONVERGE ON THE WINNER AND STILL CHAMPION!

CONGRATULATIONS, THOR! A MASTERFUL BIT OF STRATEGY!



AM I RIGHT IN THINKING THAT YOU DECEYED CRUSHER CREEL INTO A UNI-DIRECTIONAL DIMENSIONAL VORTEX?

WILL THE ABSORBING MAN EVER RETURN, OR HAS HE BEEN REDUCED TO HIS COMPONENT ATOMS?

DO YOU THINK THE CITY WILL INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SOME SORT OF MAN-SLAUGHTER CHARGES AGAINST YOU?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE CHAMP?

IS IT TRUE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED YOU TO ASSIST THE CONTRAS IN NICARAGUA?



THERE ARE STORIES ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE APPEARANCE!

AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF THE MOVE TO DRAFT YOU FOR THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN NEXT SPRING?



DO YOU THINK THE KIND OF VIGILANTISM YOU PRACTICE IS COMPATIBLE WITH A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN A FREE SOCIETY?

KEEP BACK, MARTHA. IT'S OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THOSE NEW YORK CRAZIES WE HEARD ABOUT BACK IN ELDORA.



HE'S PROBABLY JUST WAITING TO MUG US.

IF I CAN REACH THE AVENGERS' MANSION, I SHALL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE I NEED.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, THOR?



LEAVE ME... ALONE.

GIVE US A BREAK! WE'RE NOT SETTLING FOR ANY "NO COMMENT"!!

WE'RE NEWS-PEOPLE!



THOR?





THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE THEIR BEST INTERESTS--

BETTER KNOCK IT OFF, SHEILA.

I... I THINK HE'S UNCONSCIOUS.

DID ANYONE REMEMBER TO CALL "911"?



AND AS THOR LIES MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE, IN A FAR AWAY DESOLATE CORNER OF ASGARD...

THE MOMENT HAS COME.

MUCH DID I LEARN OF SICKNESS AND DEATH FROM THE MAGICKS IN THE SWORD OF SURTUR AND THAT KNOWLEDGE SHALL SERVE ME NOW\*!



ASGARD HAS SPURNED THE SON OF LAUFHEY ONCE TOO OFTEN!

\*A FEW ISSUES BACK, BUT ONLY ODIN KNOWS WHEN--RALF!



NONE OTHER THAN LOKI SHOULD HAVE SAT UPON THE GOLDEN THRONE OF ODIN.

HENCEFORTH SHALL THE GOLDEN THRONE BE EMPTY AND DEATH HOLD DOMINION OVER ALL THE KINGDOM OF THE GODS!



FLY! FLY, YOU DEMONS!

AND LET THE LAST DAYS OF ASGARD BEGIN!

NEXT: THE DEFENDERS OF THE GOLDEN REALM ARE HELPLESS, AND THOR, THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER, DECIDES THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR A NEW SET OF THREADS! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS? AND WHY WOULD HE DO IT AS HIS BEST BUDDIES IN ALL THE NINE WORLDS ARE STARTING TO DIE! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

FIND OUT IN THIRTY DAYS--IF THE SUSPENSE DOESN'T KILL YOU! AND BELIEVE US, YOU WON'T BELIEVE US!  
**WHEN BLOWS AN ILL WIND...**