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the mighty THOR

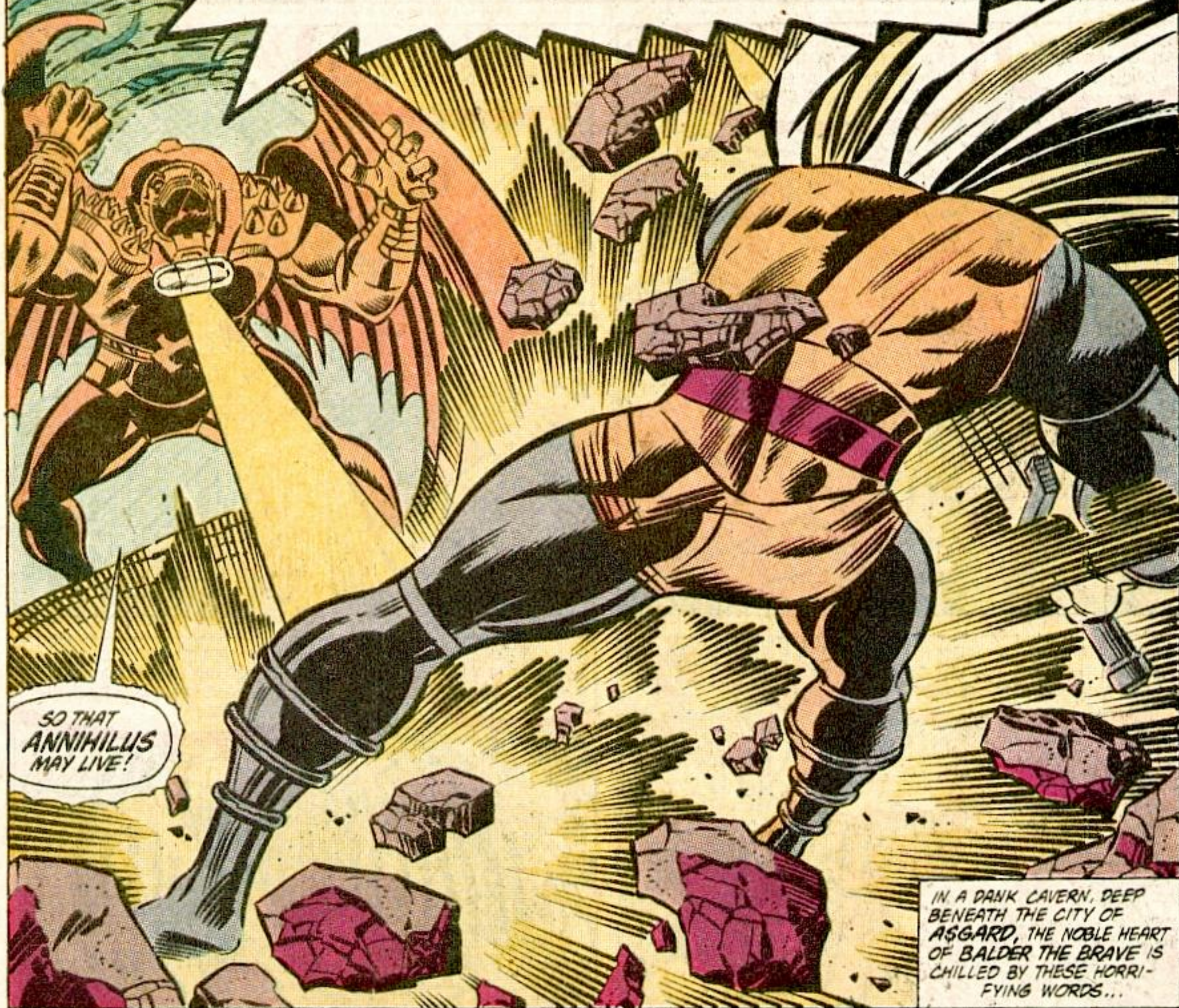
vs. ANNIHILUS!



PLUS: A MINI-EPIC
TALES OF
ASGARD

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

ODIN MUST DIE!!



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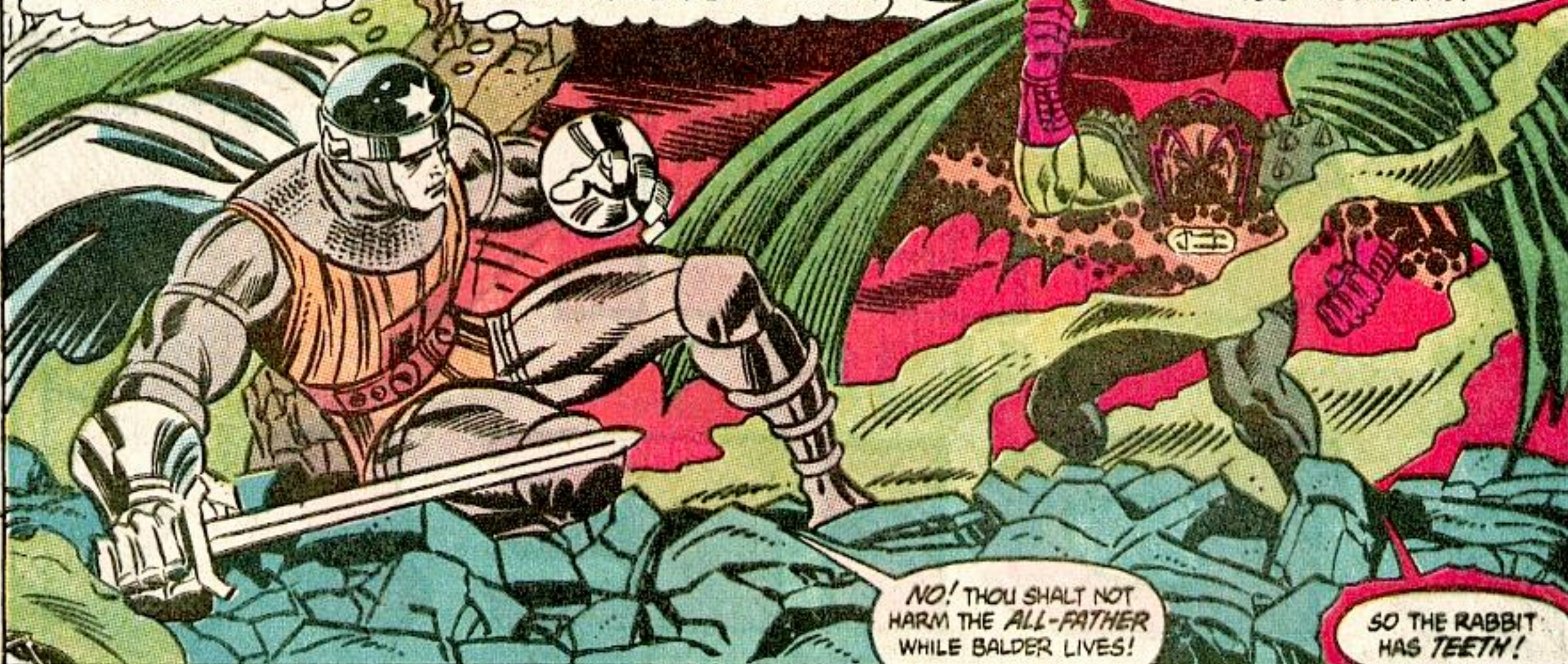
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THOR AND I JOURNEYED DOWN
HERE TO FIND THE BUTCHER WHO
WAS SECRETLY SLAUGHTERING
OUR PEOPLE...

IN TRUTH, WE HAVE FOUND HIM...
BUT HE HAS ALREADY DEFEATED THE
THUNDER GOD...BY BURYING HIM
BENEATH A MOUNTAIN OF DEBRIS!

I SHALL ABSORB ODIN'S LIFEFORCE
...SUCK HIM OF HIS IMMORTAL ENER-
GIES... JUST AS I HAVE DONE TO YOUR
FELLOW ASGARDIANS!



NO! THOU SHALT NOT
HARM THE ALL-FATHER
WHILE BALDER LIVES!

SO THE RABBIT
HAS TEETH!

BUT YOU CANNOT
FRIGHTEN ME! NO
ONE CAN!

FEAR IS THE ESSENCE OF MY
EXISTENCE! IT IS THE FORCE
WHICH DRIVES MY EVERY
THOUGHT AND DEED!



FOR I POSSESS THE COSMIC
CONTROL ROD...THE ULTIMATE
WEAPON IN THE MULTIVERSE!



ALL WHO LIVE ARE MY ENEMIES...
BECAUSE THEY MAY ONE DAY DESIRE
MY WEAPON...MY POWER!!

BLARRK!



FEAR IS THE ONLY
LOVER I SHALL
EVER POSSESS!

WITHOUT HER TO PROPEL ME,
ANNIHILUS WOULD SURELY CEASE
TO EXIST! AND THAT MUST NEVER
BE!

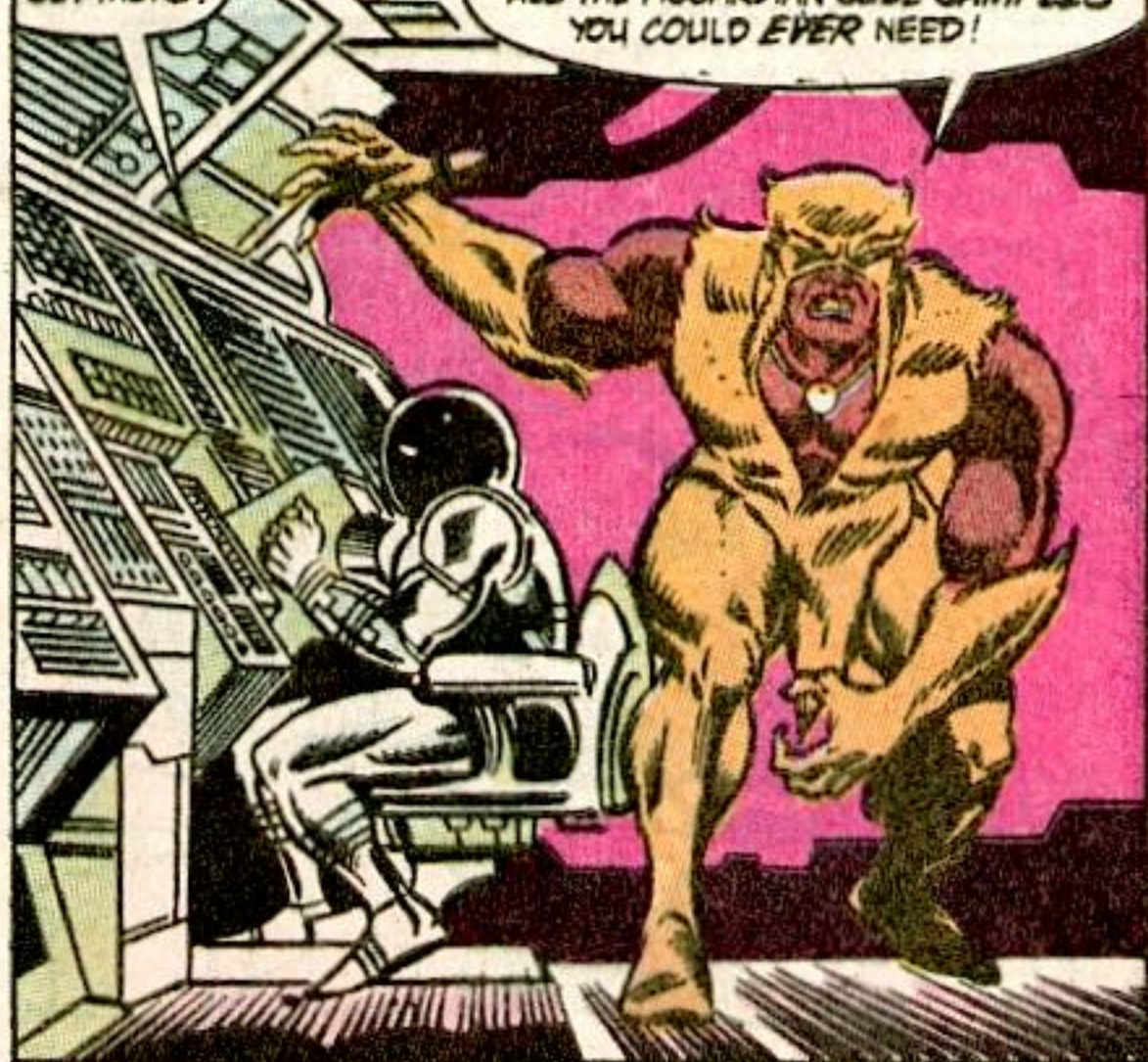


AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN A HIDDEN LABORATORY, SOMEWHERE ON THE PLANET EARTH...



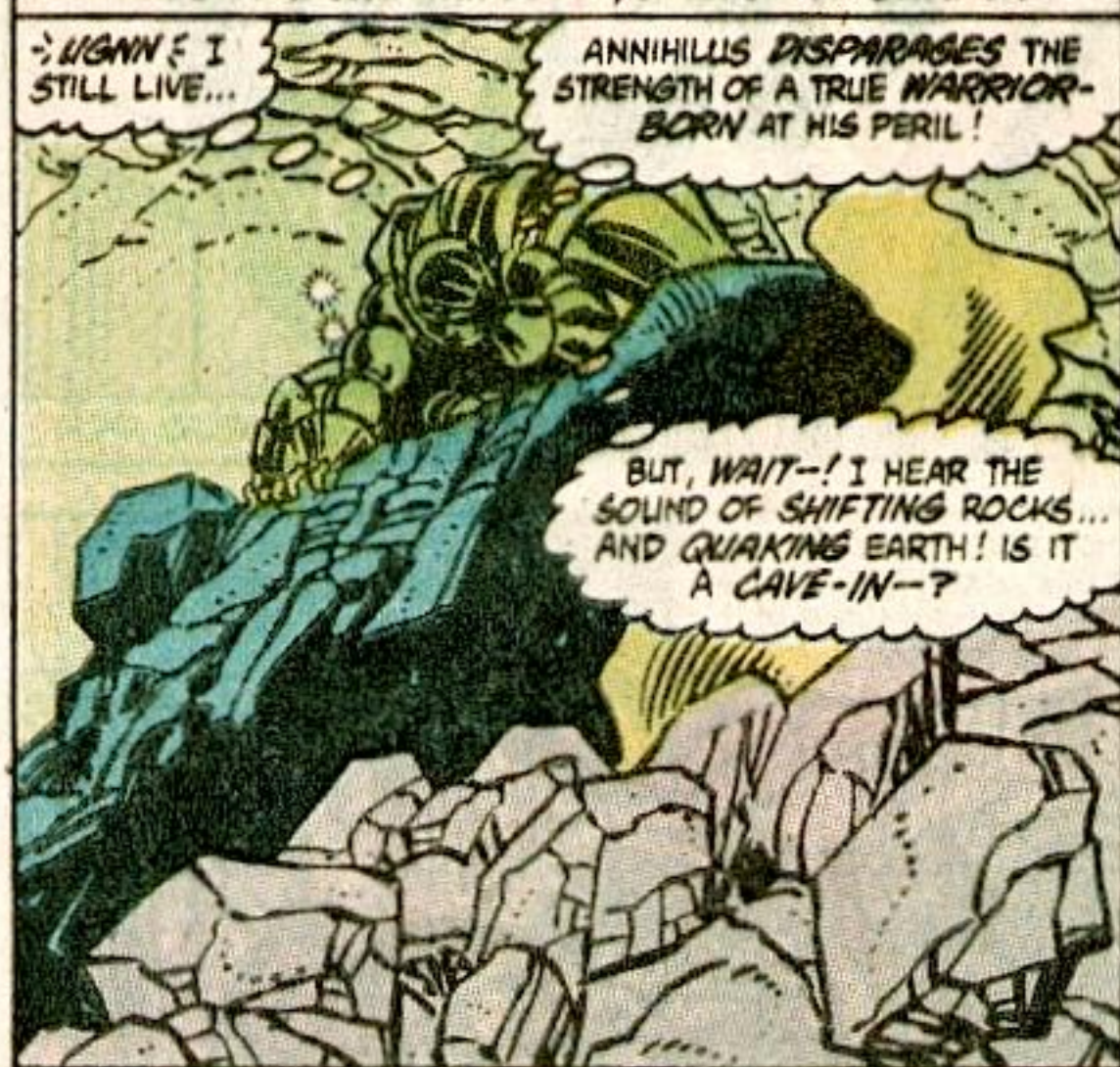
THEY'RE INCREDIBLE, MONGOOSE! THE TISSUE SAMPLES WHICH YOU MANAGED TO STEAL FROM THE THUNDER GOD HAVE UNLIMITED POTENTIAL!

YOU MUST GET MORE!



NO PROBLEM! I KNOW HOW TO SECURE ALL THE ASGARDIAN CELL SAMPLES YOU COULD EVER NEED!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MERCILESS MONGOOSE PREPARES TO EMBARK ON HIS GRISLY MISSION, BACK ON ASGARD...



...BUT I STILL LIVE...

ANNIHILUS DISPARAGES THE STRENGTH OF A TRUE WARRIOR-BORN AT HIS PERIL!

BUT, WAIT--! I HEAR THE SOUND OF SHIFTING ROCKS... AND QUAKING EARTH! IS IT A CAVE-IN--?

NO! THE RUBBLE WHICH COVERS THOR IS... EXPLODING UPWARD!!



THE SON OF ODIN HAS BROKEN FREE!

WHERE IS HE, MY FRIEND? WHAT HATH BECOME OF ANNIHILUS?!

HE IS GONE, MILORD!



GONE TO FIND THY NOBLE SIRE... AND BEGIN THE LUTTER EXTERMINATION OF THE ASGARDIAN PEOPLE!

BUT, HE SHALL FAIL... SO LONG AS THE HAMMER OF THOR CAN STRIKE IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE!



MEANWHILE, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE TERRIBLE DANGER WHICH THREATENS HIMSELF AND HIS PEOPLE, ODIN THE ALL-FATHER QUIETLY GAZES SKYWARD...

E'ER SINCE THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED, ASGARD HAS BEEN DRIFTING ACROSS THE COSMOS!



ACCORDING TO THE GRAND VIZIER, WE HAVE OF LATE ENTERED AN AREA OF THE MULTIVERSE KNOWN AS THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

BUT, ALAS, EVEN THOUGH THIS MAY EVENTUALLY JEOPARDIZE THE SECURITY OF OUR LAND, MY THOUGHTS KEEP RETURNING TO MY ERRANT SON...

THE LADY SIF... MOST HUMBLY... AND URGENTLY... REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE!

THOU MAYEST APPROACH THE PRESENCE, MILADY!

THY COURAGE AND HONOR HATH EARNED THEE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MINE HEART... BUT I FEAR THAT THOU HAST COME ON A FOOL'S ERRAND!



THOR HAS OFT CHOSEN THE SAFETY OF MIDGARD*.. OVER THAT OF HIS OWN HOMEWORLD!

HE HAS DELIBERATELY REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PRINCE OF THE REALM, AND...

MOST NOBLE LIEGE, PLEASE EXCUSE THIS UNTIMELY INTERRUPTION--!



*EARTH--REGAL RALE!

THOU DOST KNOW ME TOO WELL, SIRE! I HAVE, IN-DEED, COME TO PLEAD FOR THY SON...

NO MORE WILL I BEAR HIS DISOBEDIENCE! HIS INSUFFERABLE DEFIANCE!!



FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING PLAIN... BUT THOU DIDST RAISE THOR TO BE WORTHY OF THY THRONE... TO BE A GOD AMONG GODS... AND YET, THOU DOST BALK AT EVERY SIGN OF HIS INDEPENDENCE!

METHINKS THAT THOU--ABOVE
ALL OTHERS--WOULDEST WANT
THE THUNDER GOD TO REMAIN
IN ASGARD!

I DO...BUT ONLY IF IT IS HIS
CHOICE TO DO SO!

MY LORD, THOU ART
KNOWN THROUGHOUT
THE HEAVENS AS A
TRUE CHAMPION OF
LIFE... AND
LIBERTY!

HOW CANST THOU DEMAND
SUCH BLIND OBEDIENCE
FROM THINE OWN SON?!

FOR LONG, TENSE MOMENTS, A HEAVY SILENCE FILLS THE AIR, AS
THE LORD OF ASGARD CONSIDERS SIF'S WORDS, AND THEN...

THOU HAST GIVEN THY LIEGE MUCH TO
PONDER! ETERNALLY, SHALL HE BE GRATEFUL...

MY LORD--!

WHAT IS IT,
VIZIER?!

AN INTRUDER HAS
BREACHED THE
GOLDEN GATES--

"--AND HE CALLS
FOR THEE!"

WHERE IS
ODIN?

BRING FORTH THE
COWARDLY LORD OF
THIS DESPERATE
LAND!

LET HIM FACE ANNIHILLUS,
THE LIVING DEATH THAT WALKS!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE PLANET EARTH, IN THE APARTMENT OF ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, ERIC? YOU SEEM SO DISTRACTED LATELY...

I'M SORRY, SUSAN! I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT MARCY, MY EX-WIFE!

OH, ERIC... KEVIN COULD HAVE A REAL FAMILY... IF ONLY YOU'D SEE ME AS A WOMAN... INSTEAD OF JUST AN ASSISTANT!

I'D BETTER RUN! I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY LAWYER!

EVER SINCE SHE REMARRIED, SHE'S BEEN TRYING TO GAIN CUSTODY OF OUR SON!

I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF KEVIN WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH HER... AND A REAL FAMILY... INSTEAD OF A FATHER WHO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME TRAVELING!

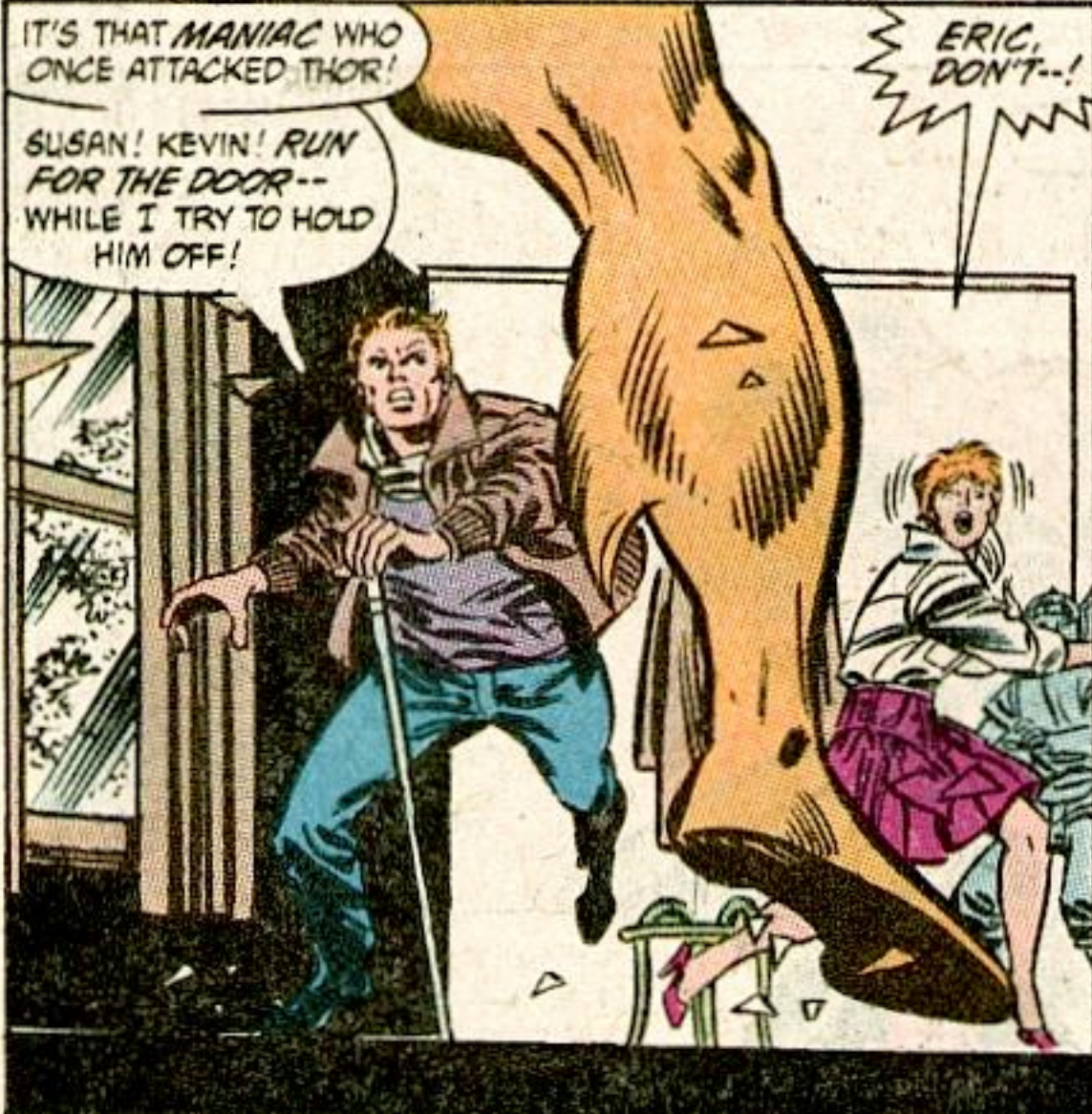
WHERE YA GOING, DAD? CAN I COME?!

SORRY, KIDDO-- NO CAN DO!

YOU STAY WITH MS. AUSTIN... AND I PROMISE TO BE BACK SOON!

I AM AFRAID THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP THAT PROMISE, MR. MASTERSON!

WHAT THE--?!



IT'S THAT MANIAC WHO ONCE ATTACKED THOR!

SUSAN! KEVIN! RUN FOR THE DOOR-- WHILE I TRY TO HOLD HIM OFF!

ERIC, DON'T--!



I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU RECOGNIZED ME, MR. MASTER-SON... BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO THE YOUNG LADY!



A MAN WHO NEEDS A CANE TO WALK... SHOULD KNOW ENOUGH TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH FUTILE HERDICS!



DON'T YOU AGREE?

KERRASH!



YOU'D BETTER RUN, MISTER!

MY DADDY IS FRIENDS WITH THOR--!

YES, I KNOW...!



W-WHAT DO YOU WANT--?!



THOR!

AND I AM COUNTING ON YOU TO SEND HIM TO ME!

BUT THEN, EVEN AS SUSAN AUSTIN RECOILS IN HORROR, A CATAclysmic BATTLE IS OCCURRING WITHIN FABLED ASGARD--AS THE LEGENDARY CRIMSON HAWKS--THE ELITE PERSONAL GUARD OF ODIN THE ALL-HIGH--GRIMLY STRUGGLE AGAINST THE UNRE-LENTING POWER OF ANNIHILUS!

WHY DO YOU FOOLS ATTACK ME... WHEN YOU SHOULD BE FLEEING IN TOTAL TERROR?!

YOUR EFFORTS ARE DOOMED... YOUR LIVES FORFEIT... FOR NOTHING CAN DEFEAT THE LIVING DEATH THAT WALKS!

FIGHT ON! FIGHT ON! LET NO HARM BEFALL OUR LIEGE--!

THE ENEMY IS UPON US... BUT WE WILL NOT FALL BACK!

SELL YOUR LIVES DEARLY, MY CRIMSON BROTHERS!

FOR WE ARE PLEDGED IN BLOOD TO DIE IN THE DEFENSE OF ODIN... AND ASGARD!

BAR-ROOMM!!

THE SOUND OF BATTLE
DRAWS NIGH!

THE CRIMSON HAWKS HAVE CORDONED
OFF THE PALACE TO PROTECT OUR CITI-
ZENRY-- BUT ODIN HAS JUST FALLEN
VICTIM TO ANOTHER OF HIS TERRIBLE
SEIZURES!

TIME MUST BE BOUGHT
FOR HIM TO REGAIN HIS
PRECIOUS STRENGTH!



MILADY, THE ALL-FATHER IS NOT
WELL! HE IS WEAK! HELPLESS--!

SAY NO MORE, VIZIER!
MY DUTY IS CLEAR!

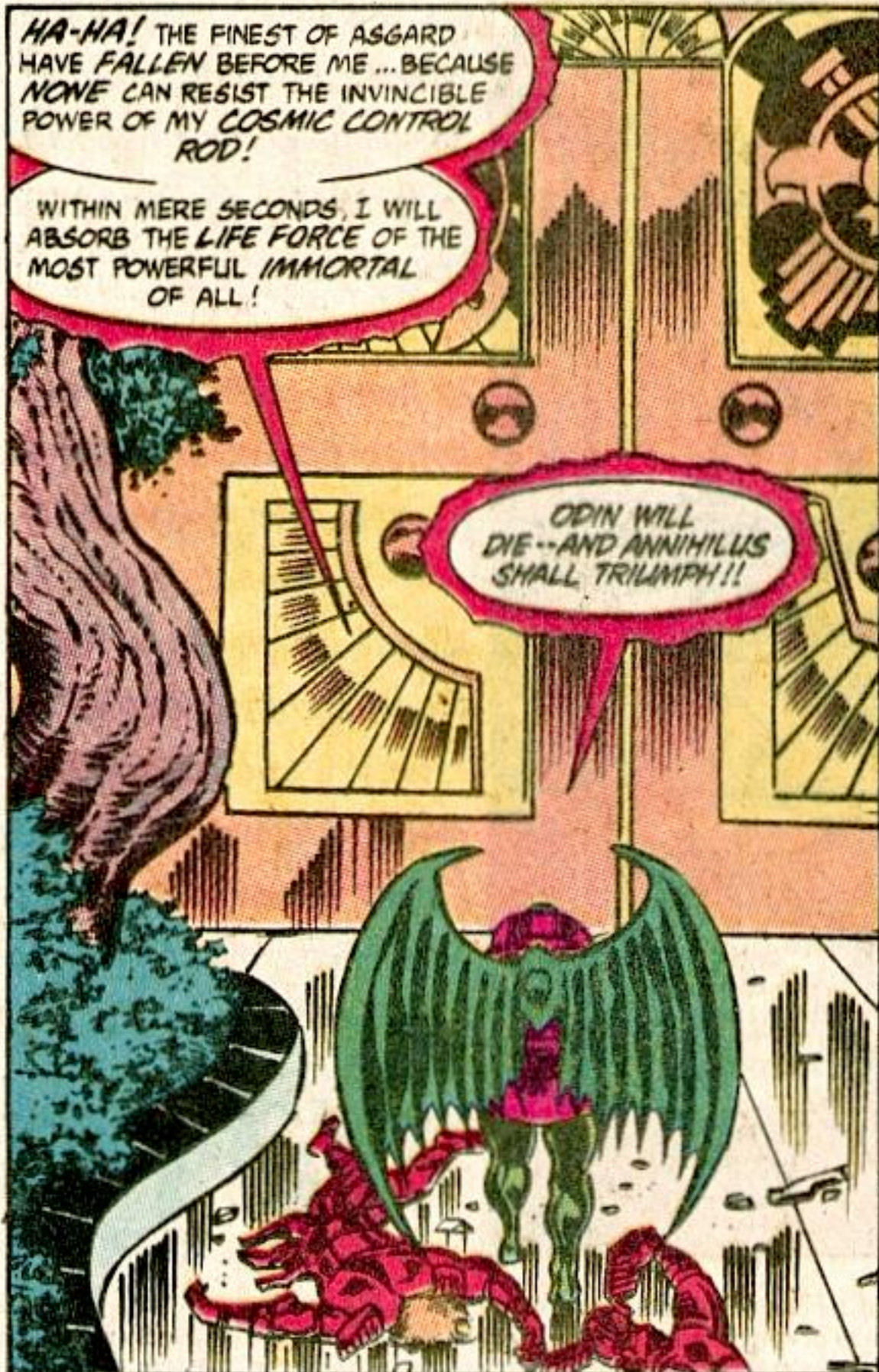
THE LADY SIF SHALL
FIGHT FOR THE LORD
OF ASGARD...

...AND, IF NEED BE, SHE
SHALL DIE IN HIS CAUSE!

HA-HA! THE FINEST OF ASGARD
HAVE FALLEN BEFORE ME... BECAUSE
NONE CAN RESIST THE INVINCIBLE
POWER OF MY COSMIC CONTROL
ROD!

WITHIN MERE SECONDS, I WILL
ABSORB THE LIFE FORCE OF THE
MOST POWERFUL IMMORTAL
OF ALL!

ODIN WILL
DIE--AND ANNIHILUS
SHALL TRIUMPH!!



KRA-KA-BOOM!!

NAY,
CREATURE
OF EVIL!



I SAY THEE,
NAY!

THWAKK!

NONE MAY THREATEN
THE LORD OF ASGARD
...WHILST THOR
LIVES!



AH! THEN, THE SOLUTION IS QUITE
SIMPLE...THOR MUST LIVE NO MORE!

MY COSMIC CONTROL
ROD WILL PUT A QUICK END
TO YOUR MISERABLE,
ANNOYING EXISTENCE!

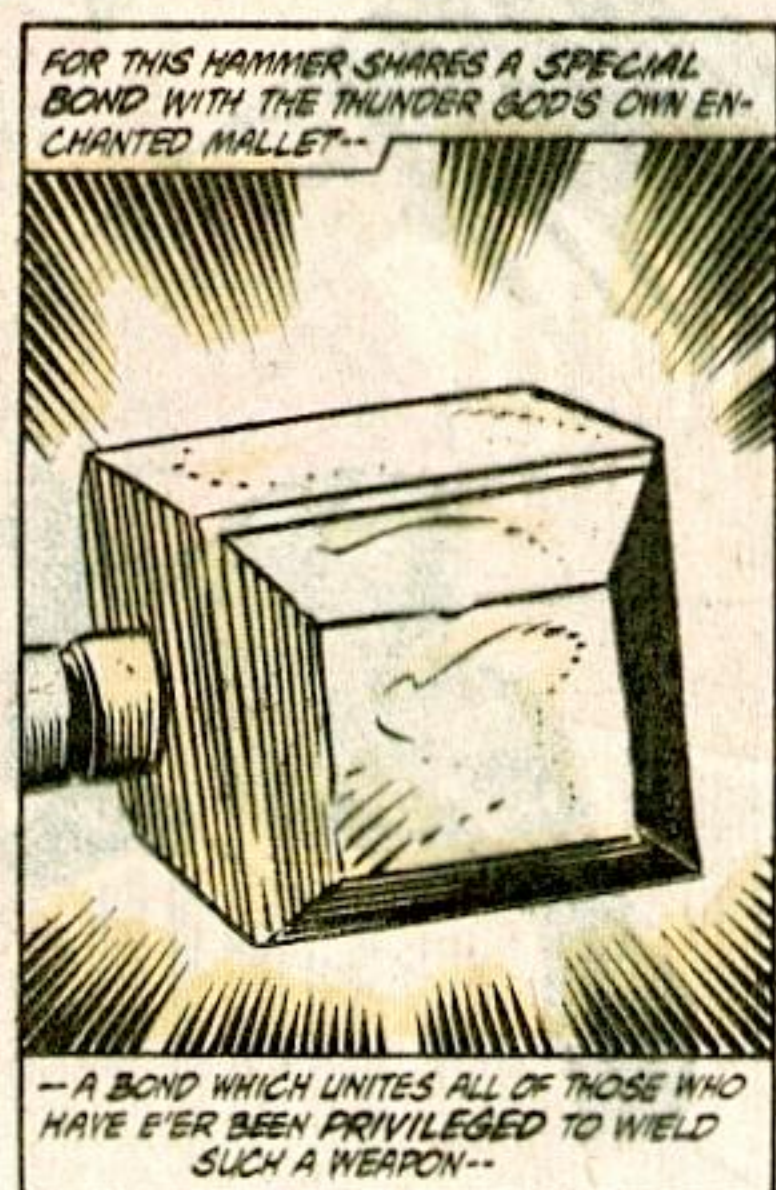
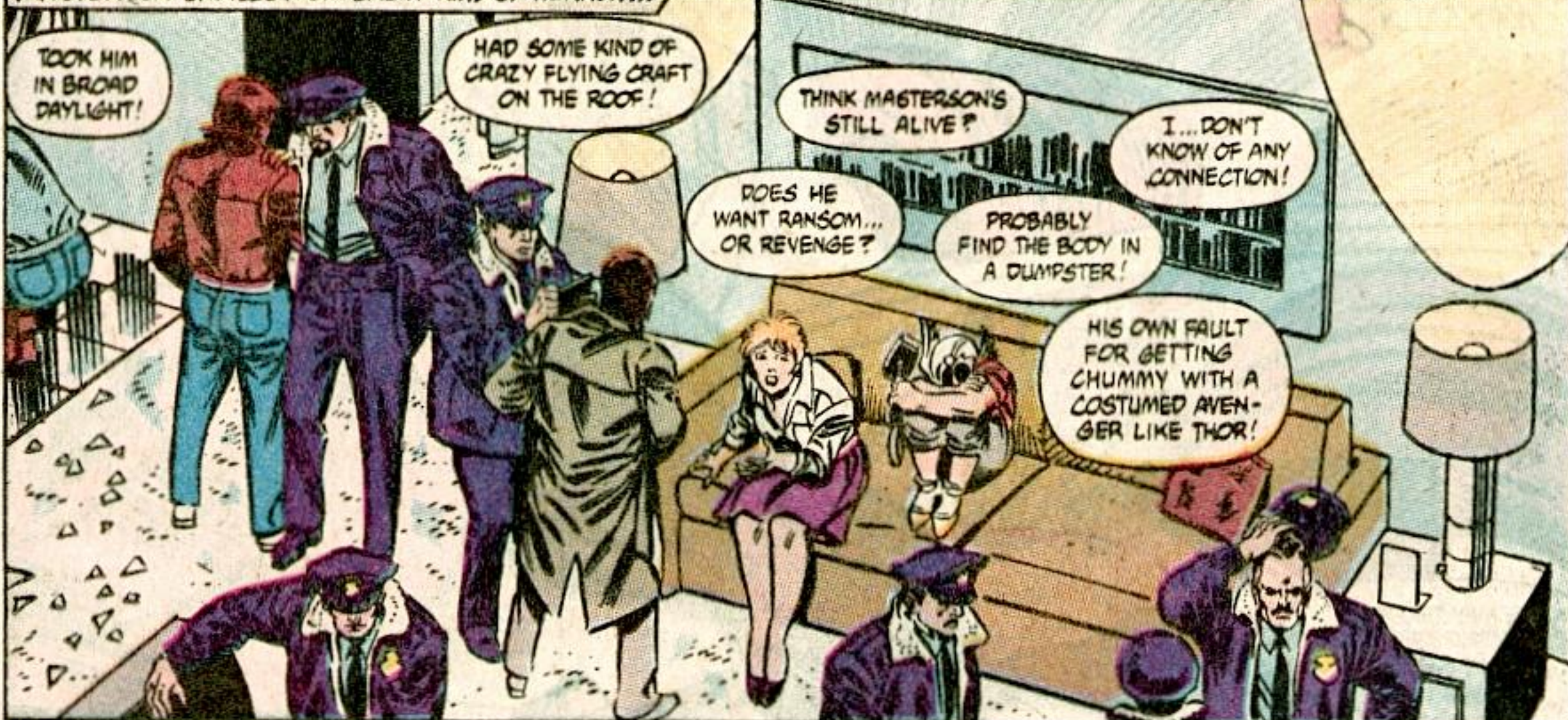


THOUGH THY WEAPON IS QUITE
FEARSOME, AND WORTHY OF
GRIM RESPECT...

...NO POWER IN THE KNOWN
UNIVERSE CAN STAND AGAINST
THE MAJESTIC MALLET OF
THE MIGHTY THOR!

BEHOLD! IT DEFLECTS THY
DEADLY BLAST...AND SHOWS THEE
THAT THERE BE POWER BEYOND
WHAT YOU POSSESS!

AND, EVEN AS THE DETERMINED THUNDER GOD CONTINUES HIS HEATED STRUGGLE, BACK ON THE PLANET EARTH, YOUNG KEVIN MASTERSON BATTLES A DIFFERENT KIND OF HORROR...



--A BOND THAT CAN NEVER BE DENIED!--

MY HAMMER HATH
ABRUPTLY BEGUN
TO GLOW--!



YOU SUDDENLY SEEM
DISTRACTED, THUNDER GOD!
ANOTHER FOE MIGHT THINK
IT SPORTING TO ALLOW YOU
A MOMENT'S RESPIRE--!



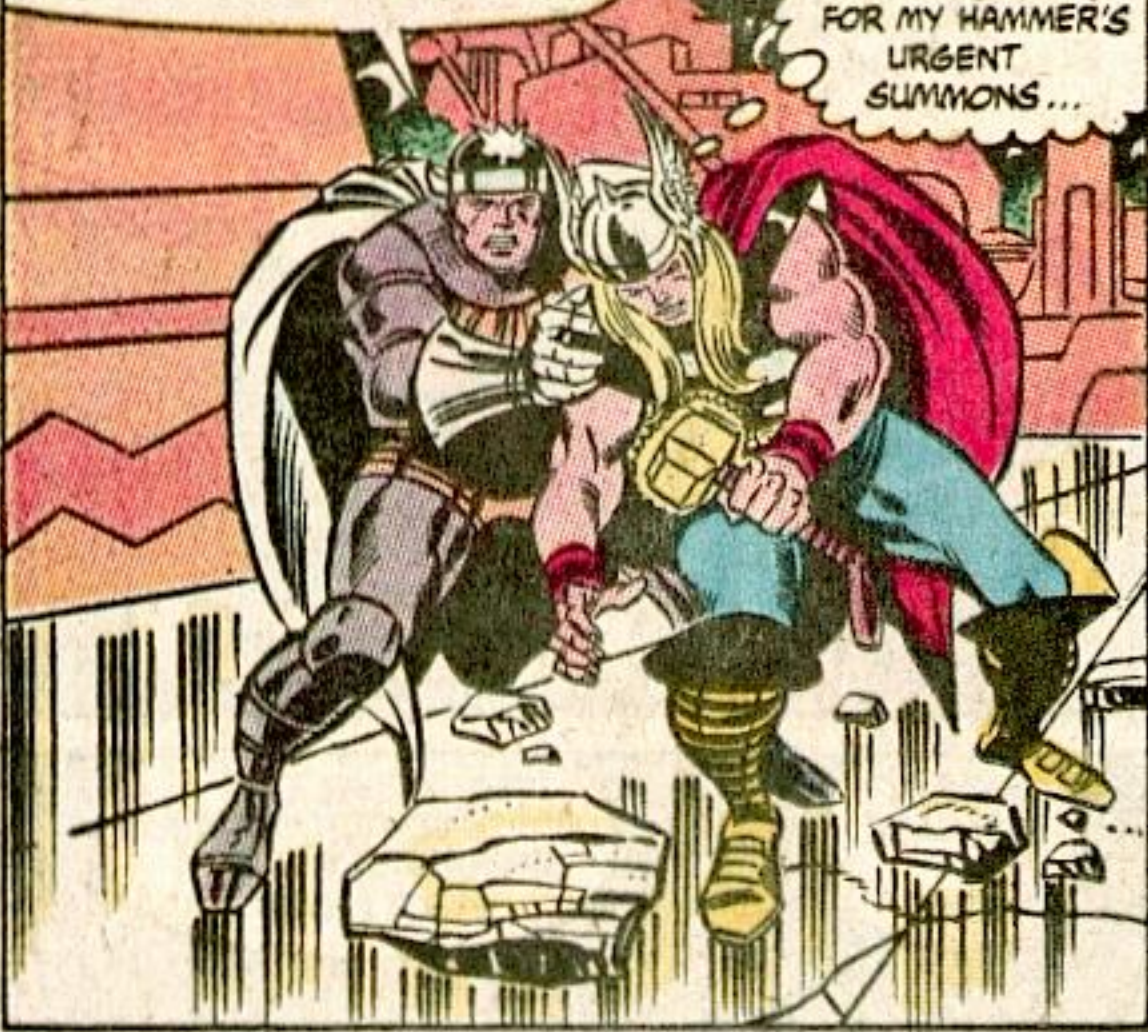
KA-ZAK!

NOT ANNIHILLUS!

I LIVE TO DESTROY ALL
WHO LIVE... ALL WHO MAY
ONE DAY COVET MY POWER!

MY LORD, THOU ART NEAR COLLAPSE!

THOU MUST FALL BACK... AND
REST THY BATTLE-WEARY LIMBS!



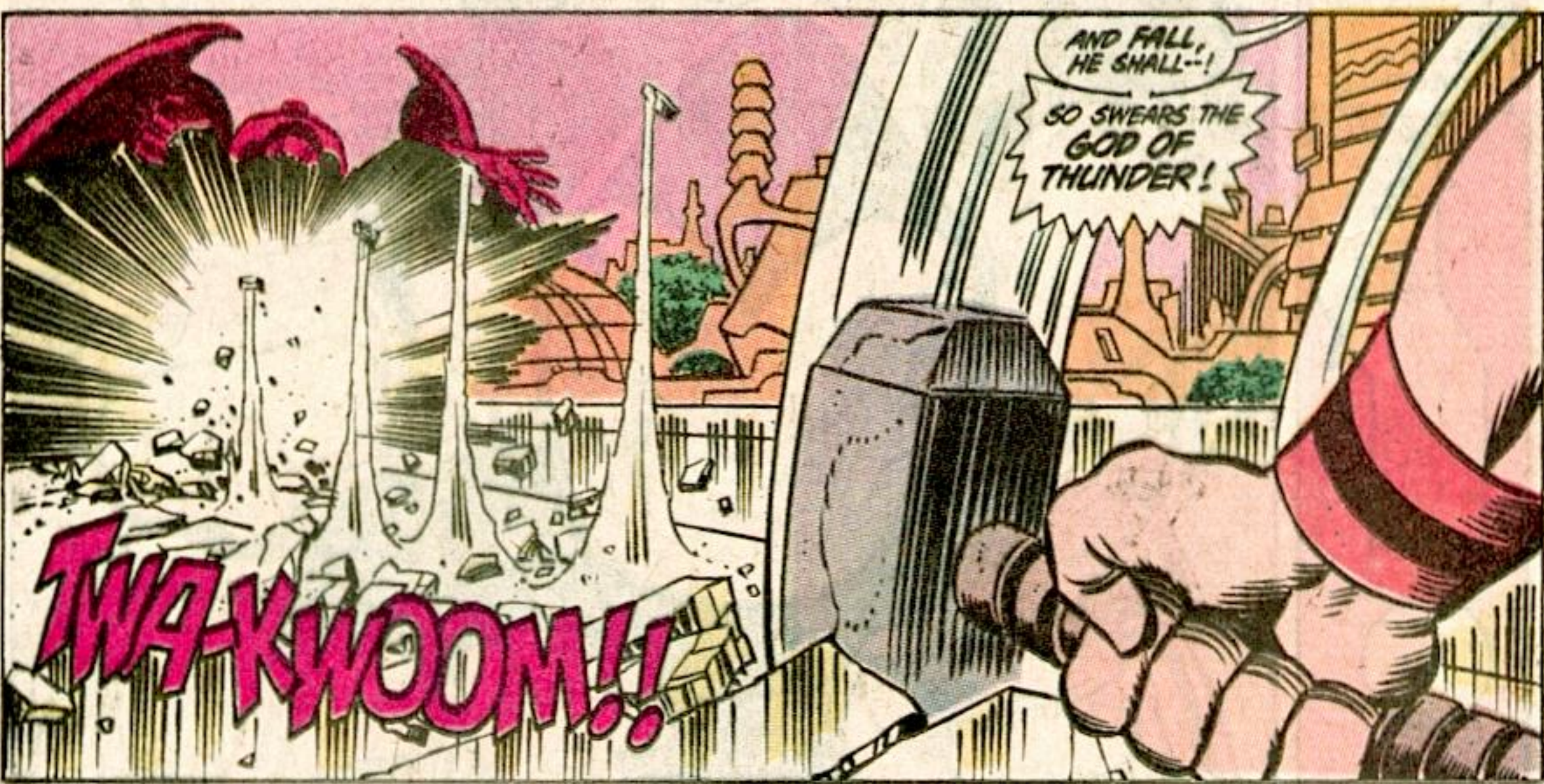
NAY! I CANNOT...

THERE CAN ONLY
BE ONE REASON
FOR MY HAMMER'S
URGENT
SUMMONS...

I AM DESPERATELY NEEDED
BACK ON THE PLANET EARTH...

...BUT I CANNOT LEAVE
ASGARD WHILST ODIN BE
STILL IN JEOPARDY!

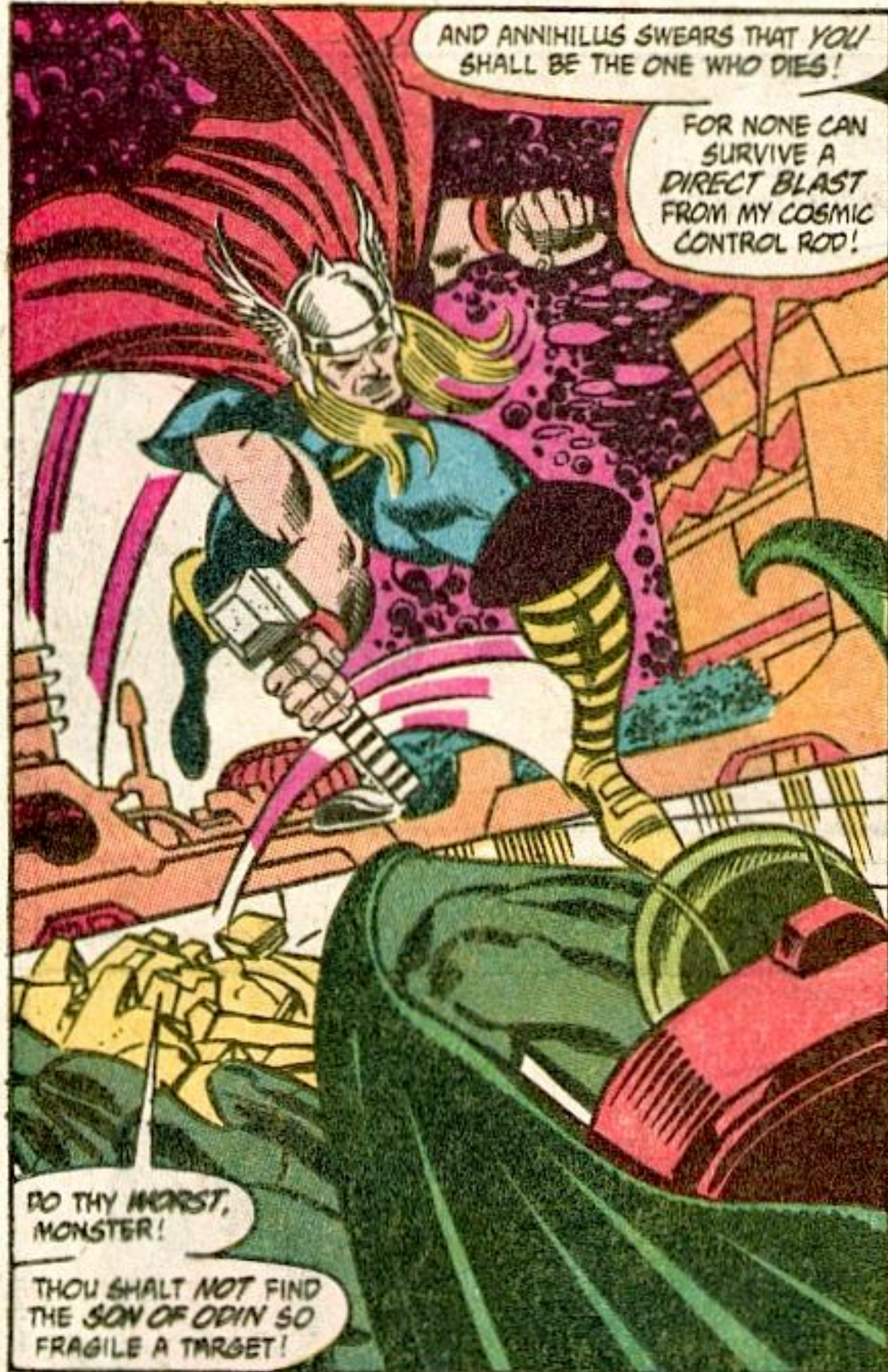
ANNIHILLUS
MUST FALL!



AND FALL,
HE SHALL--!

SO SWEARS THE
GOD OF
THUNDER!

TWA-KWOOM!!



AND ANNIHILUS SWEARS THAT YOU SHALL BE THE ONE WHO DIES!

FOR NONE CAN SURVIVE A DIRECT BLAST FROM MY COSMIC CONTROL ROD!

DO THY WORST, MONSTER!

THOU SHALT NOT FIND THE SON OF ODIN SO FRAGILE A TARGET!



BWAK! BWAK! BHOOM!

SWIFTER THAN THE WINDS IS HIS SPEED!

MIGHTIER THAN THE POUNDING STORMS ARE HIS FISTS!

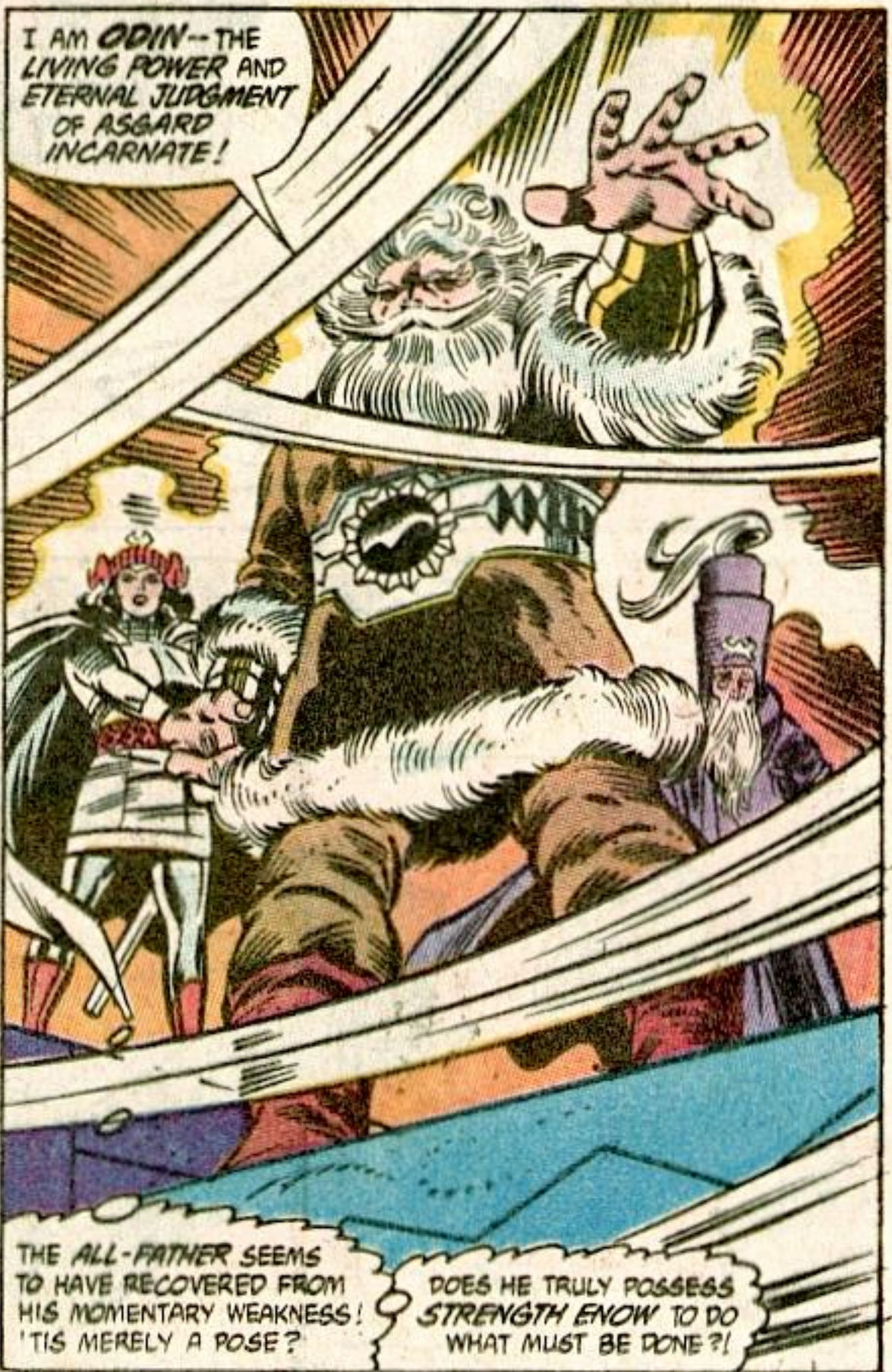
NO! NO! I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DEFEAT ME!



YOU MUST NOT ROB ME OF MY VICTORY... AND MY LIFE!

CEASE FIGHTING! I SAY YE, ENOW!

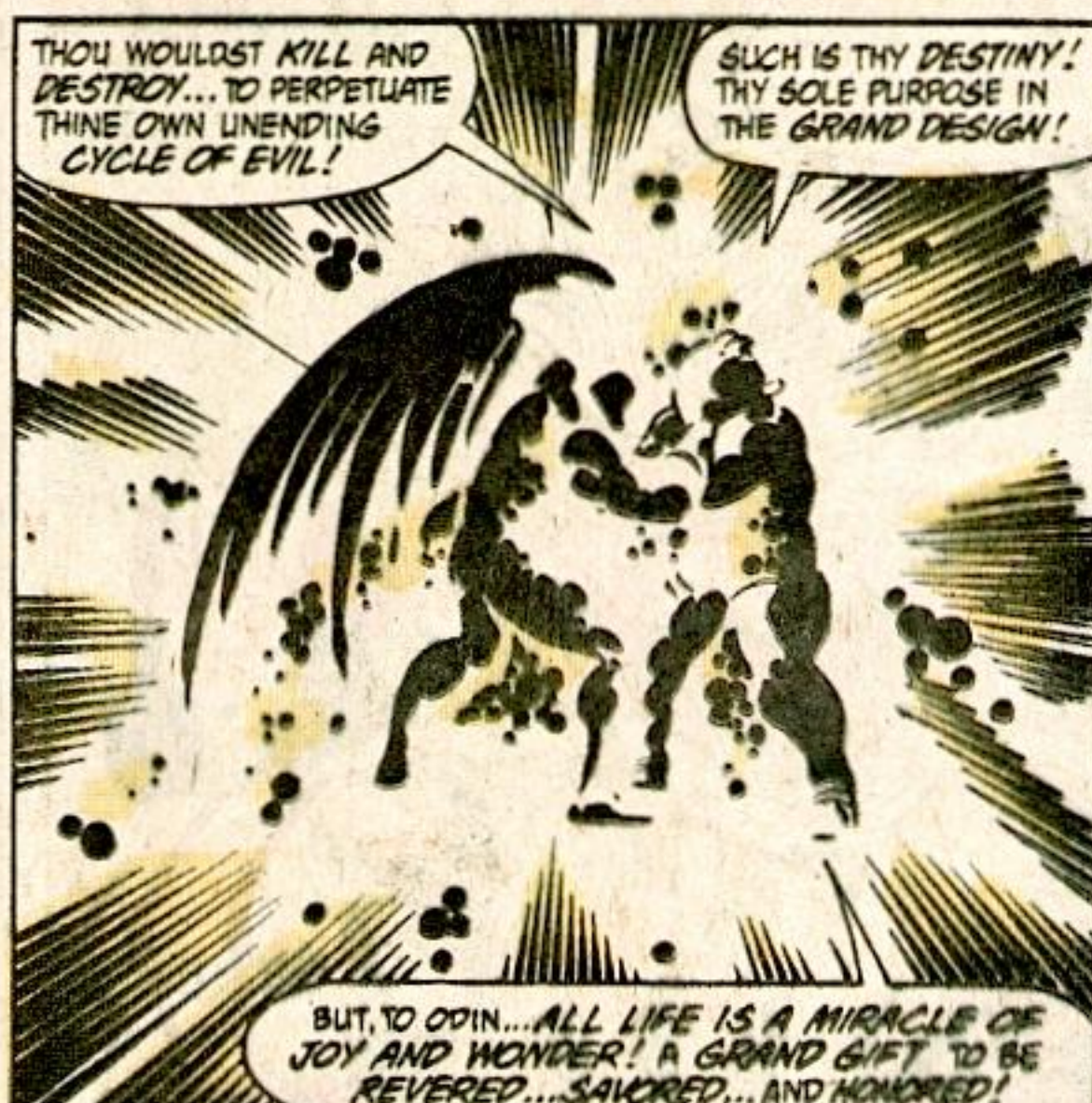
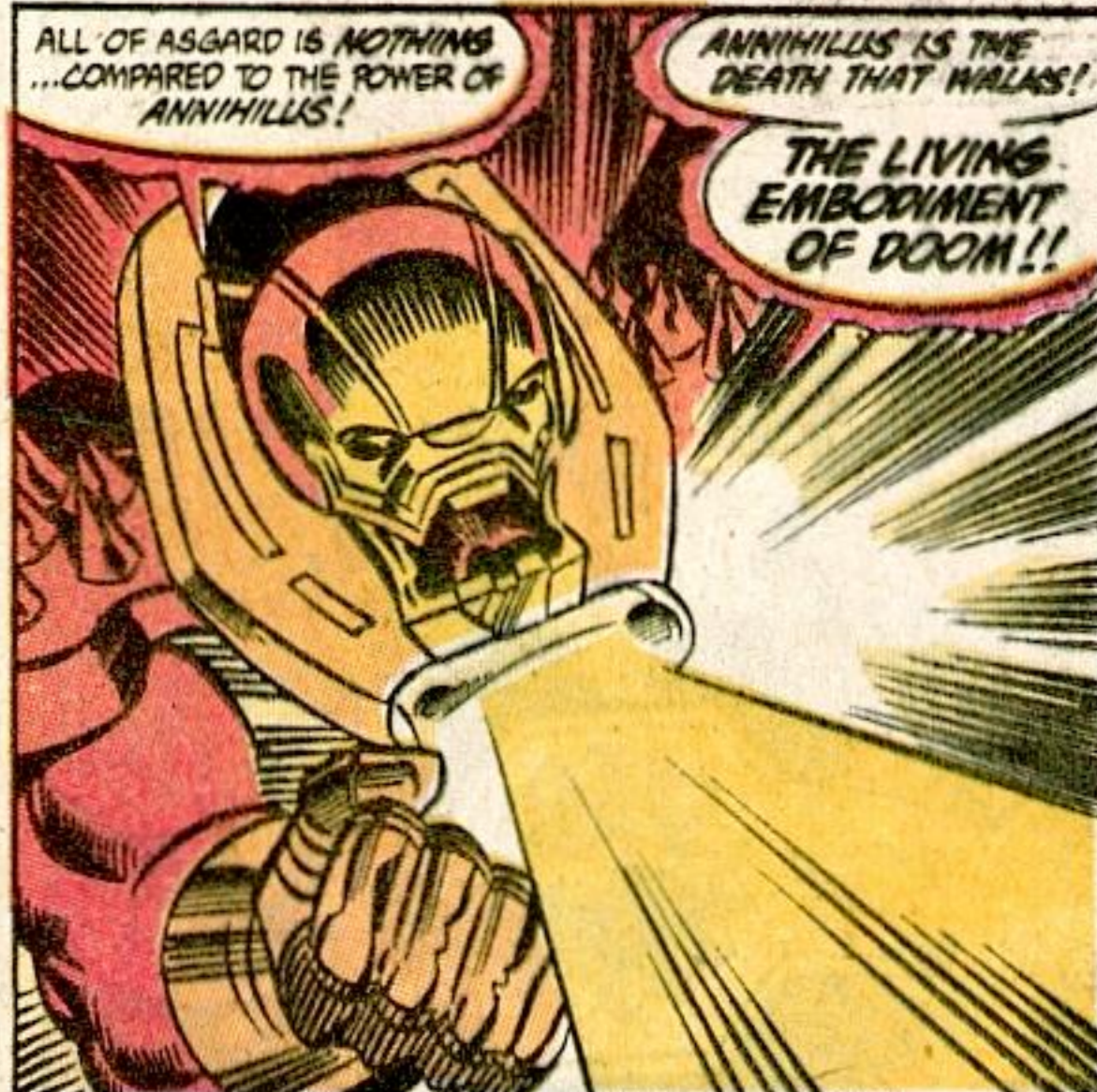
WHO DARES ORDER ANNIHILUS--?!



I AM ODIN--THE LIVING POWER AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT OF ASGARD INCARNATE!

THE ALL-FATHER SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED FROM HIS MOMENTARY WEAKNESS! 'TIS MERELY A POSE?

DOES HE TRULY POSSESS STRENGTH ENOW TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE?!





THE DANGER HATH PASSED!

THE REALM ENDURES!

NOBLE FATHER, NOW THAT ASGARD IS SAFE... A MOST URGENT REQUEST HATH THY SON!



WHILST I KNOW THAT THOU WOULDST WISH THOR TO REMAIN HERE, I HUMBLY ASK FOR PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE PLANET EARTH!

WHAT--?!

SOME INNER SENSE WARNS ME OF A TERRIBLE THREAT TO THE MORTAL WORLD...



...AND I FEAR THAT HUMAN LIVES MAY BE IN PERIL!



THEN, GO THOU MUST--!

BUT, TAKE WITH THEE... A FATHER'S PRIDE... AND HIS ALL-ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

MY SON, NOW THAT ASGARD HAS FALLEN INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE, I FEAR THAT THE PATHWAY TO THE MORTAL PLANE MAY SOON BE BLOCKED... FOREVERMORE!



HOWEVER, I CAN IMBUE THY HAMMER WITH SUFFICIENT ODIN-POWER TO BRIDGE THE BARRIER... ONE, FINAL TIME!



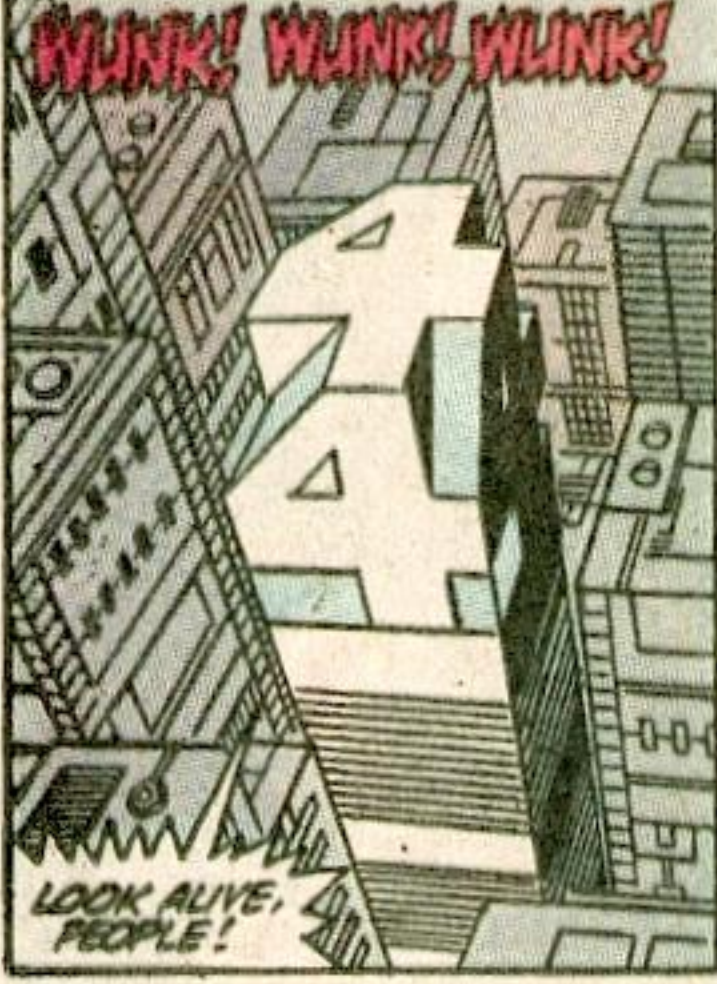
AND NOW, THOUGH MY HEART DOTH CHILL AT THE VERY THOUGHT OF IT... I SHALL SEND THEE ON THY WAY... USING THE ONLY PATH MY STRENGTH PERMITS!



ODIN--! THE STRAIN MUST HAVE BEEN TOO GREAT FOR HIM!

AYE, BUT WHAT OF THOR--?! WHAT HATH BECOME OF THE GOD OF THUNDER?!

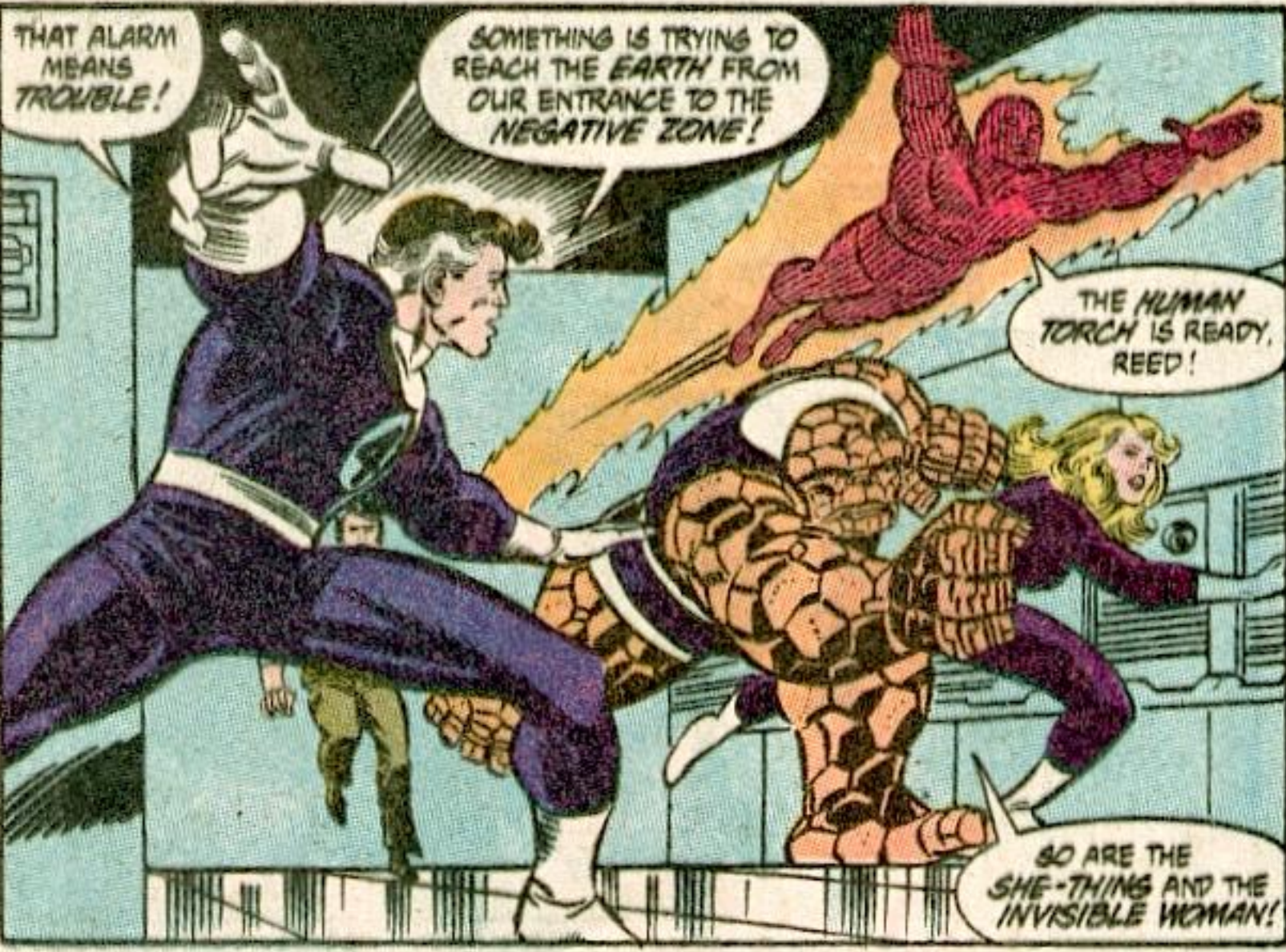
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, THE WORLD-FAMOUS HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR...



WUNK! WUNK! WUNK!

LOOK ALIVE, PEOPLE!

THAT ALARM MEANS TROUBLE!



SOMETHING IS TRYING TO REACH THE EARTH FROM OUR ENTRANCE TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

THE HUMAN TORCH IS READY, REED!

SO ARE THE SHE-THING AND THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!

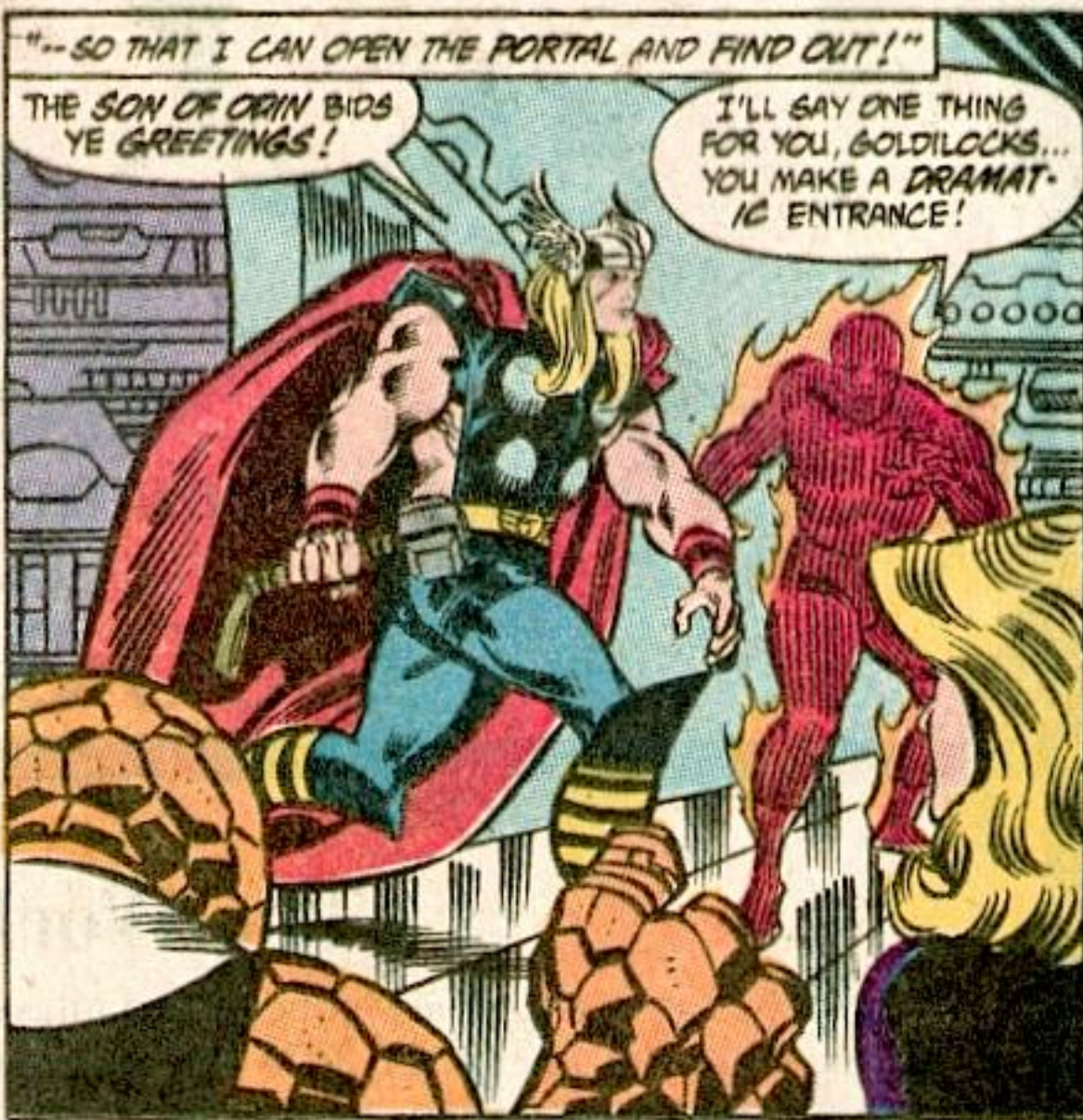


"SHEESH! WOTTA TIME FOR ME TA BE STUCK AS PLAIN OL' BEN GRIMM! WE COULD BE FACIN' ANYTHING FROM AN INVASION... TA THE ZONE'S VERSION'A GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!"

LOOK WHO IT IS--!

I'LL BE A YANCY STREETER! WHAT'S HE DOIN' IN THERE?!

STAND BACK--



"--SO THAT I CAN OPEN THE PORTAL AND FIND OUT!"

THE SON OF ORIN BIDS YE GREETINGS!

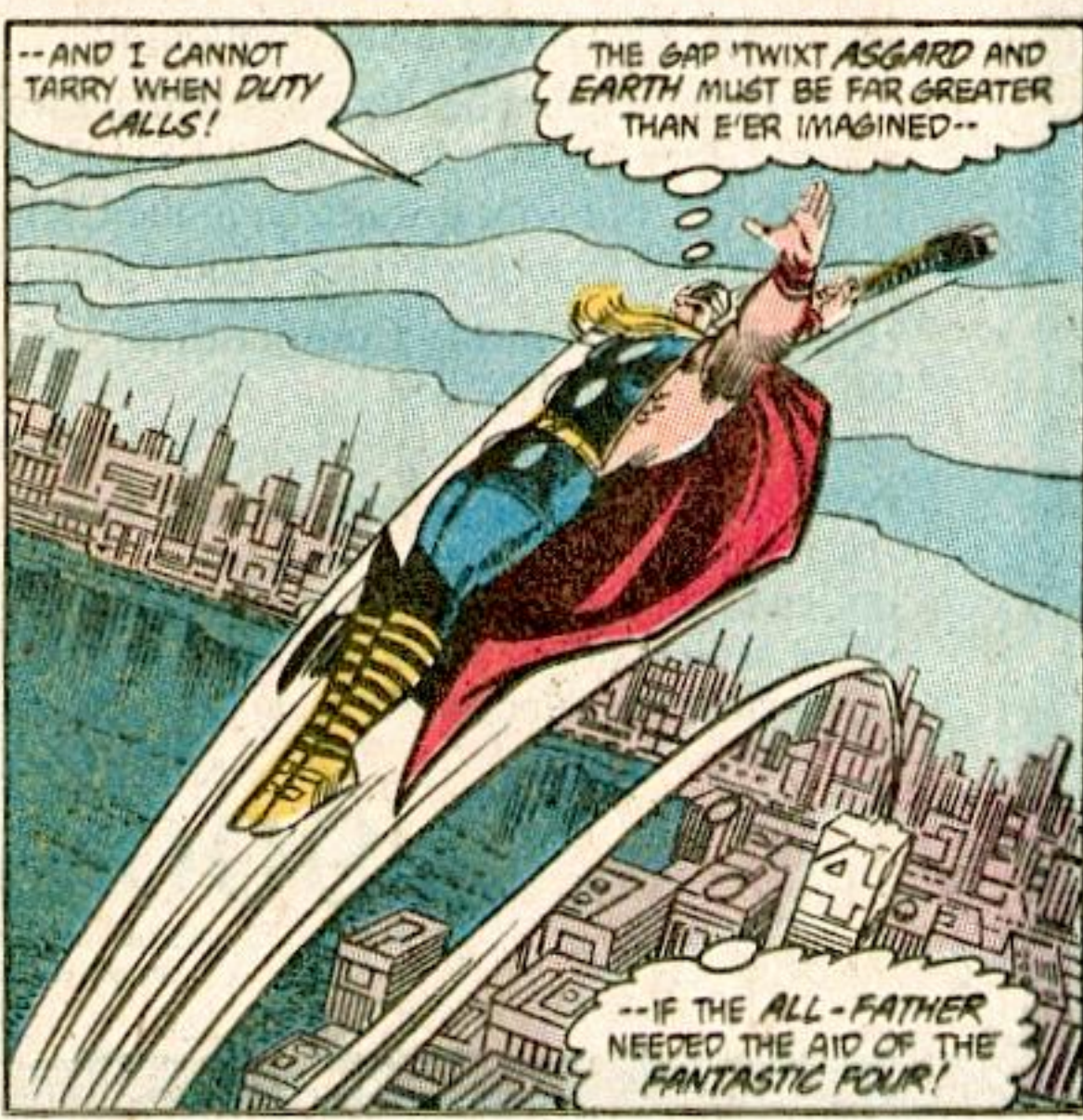
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, GOLDLOCKS... YOU MAKE A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE!



WHAT'S GOING ON, THOR? WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE?

'TIS A STIRRING TALE WHICH MUST BE SAVED FOR ANOTHER DAY, REED RICHARDS!

THE GOD OF THUNDER IS DESPERATELY NEEDED ELSEWHERE--



--AND I CANNOT TARRY WHEN DUTY CALLS!

THE GAP 'TWTX ASGARD AND EARTH MUST BE FAR GREATER THAN E'ER IMAGINED--

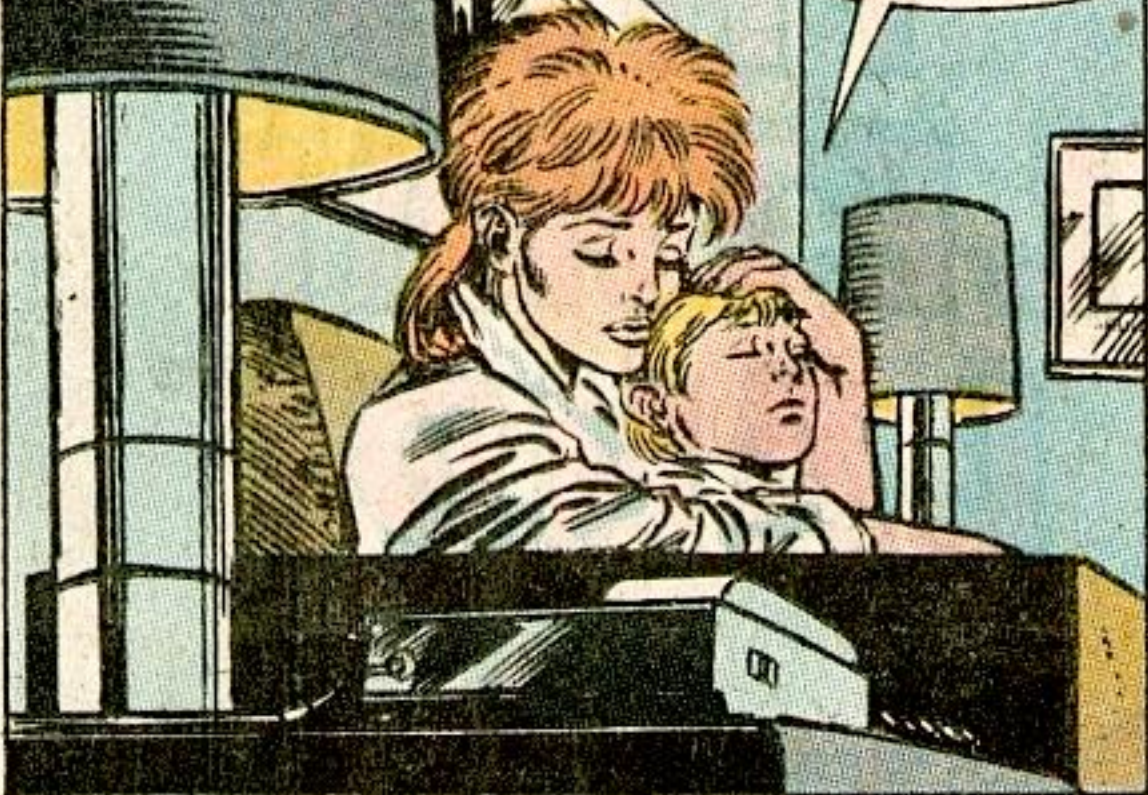
--IF THE ALL-FATHER NEEDED THE AID OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE ACROSS TOWN...

RELAX, KEVIN! TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP!

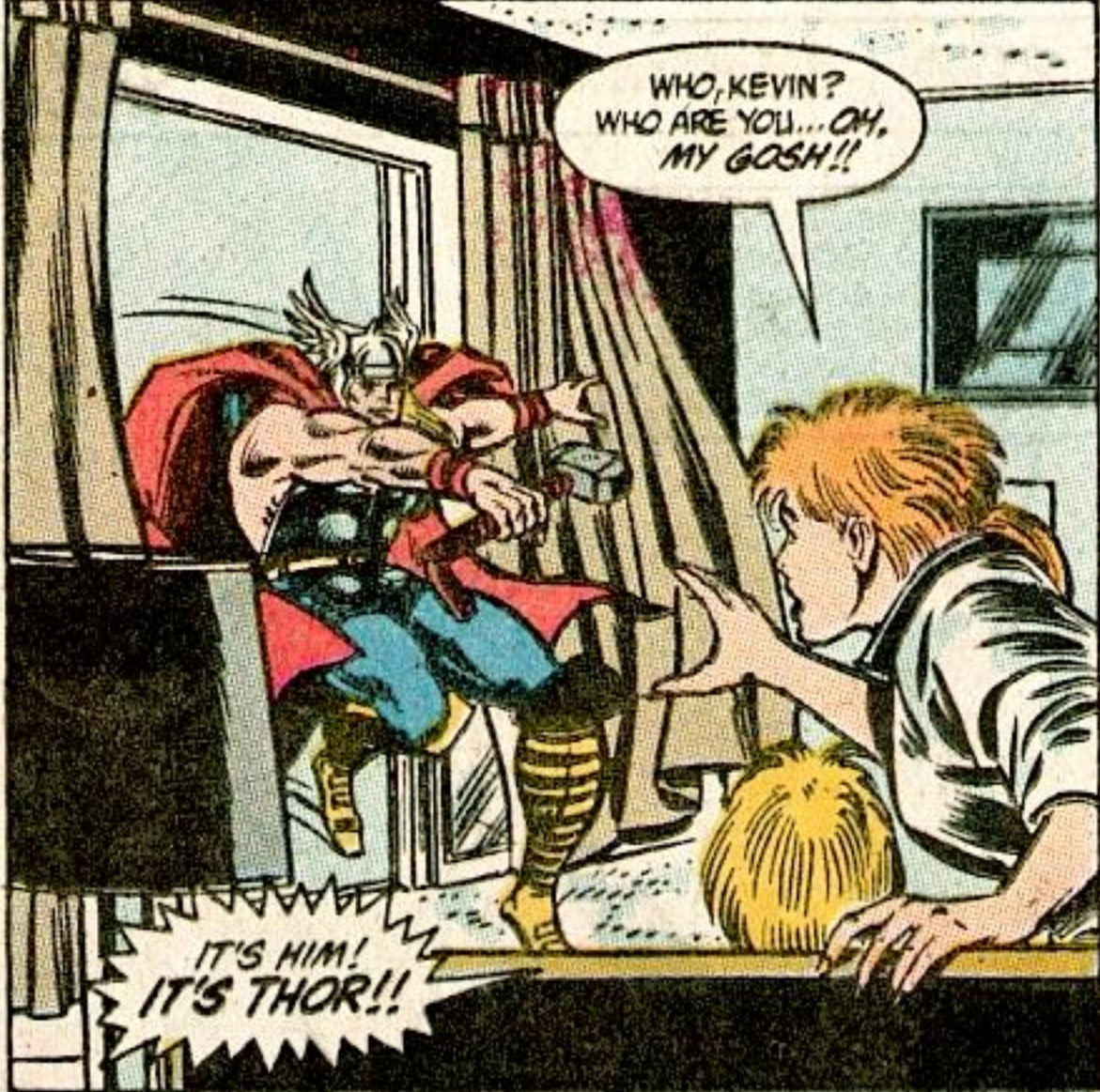
I PROMISE TO WAKE YOU IF I HEAR ANYTHING FROM THE POLICE!

NO... GOTTA STAY AWAKE... GOTTA WAIT FOR HIM... HE'LL SAVE MY DAD... HE'LL HELP US...



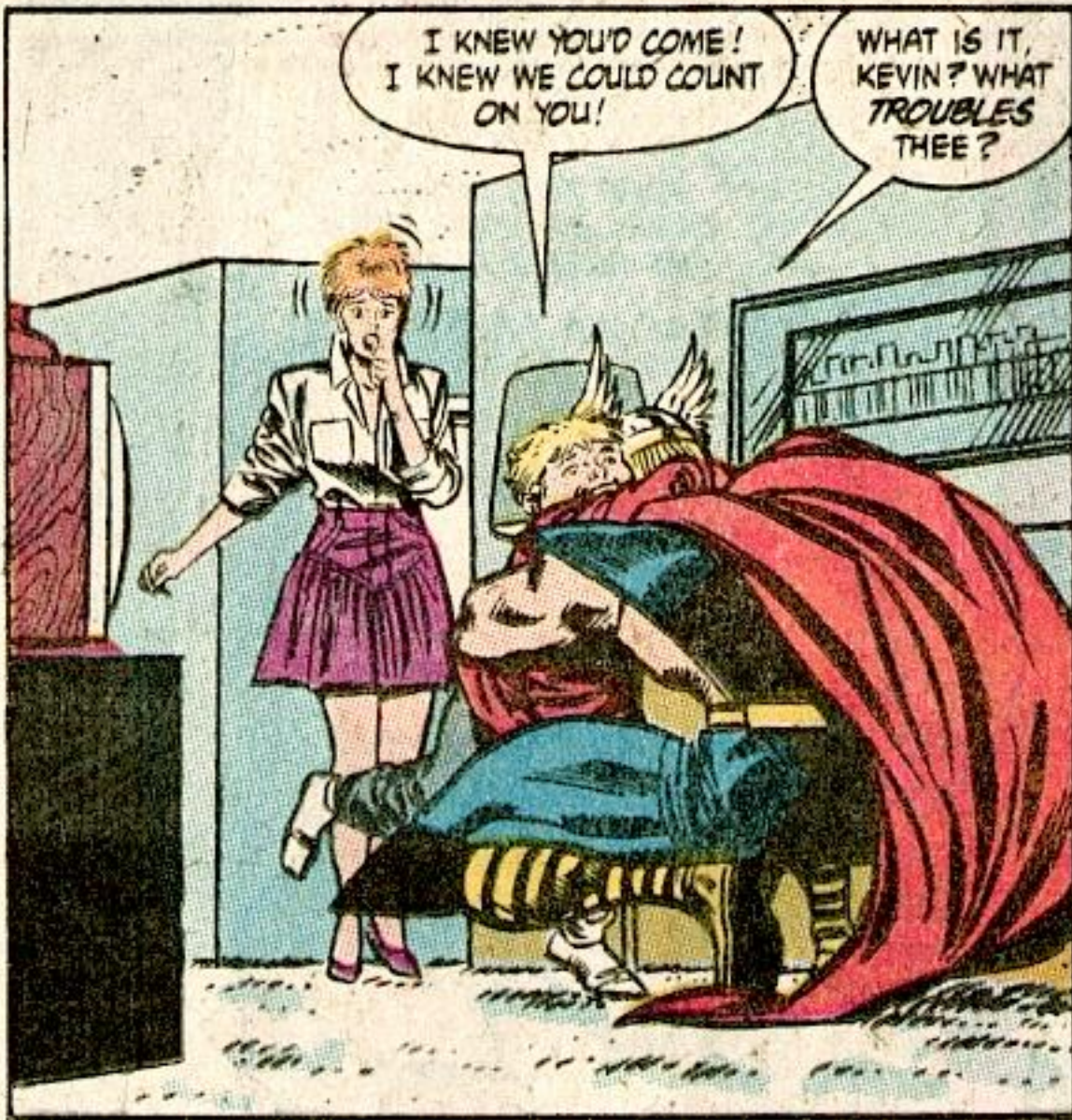
WHO, KEVIN? WHO ARE YOU... OH, MY GOSH!!

IT'S HIM! IT'S THOR!!



I KNEW YOU'D COME! I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU!

WHAT IS IT, KEVIN? WHAT TROUBLES THEE?



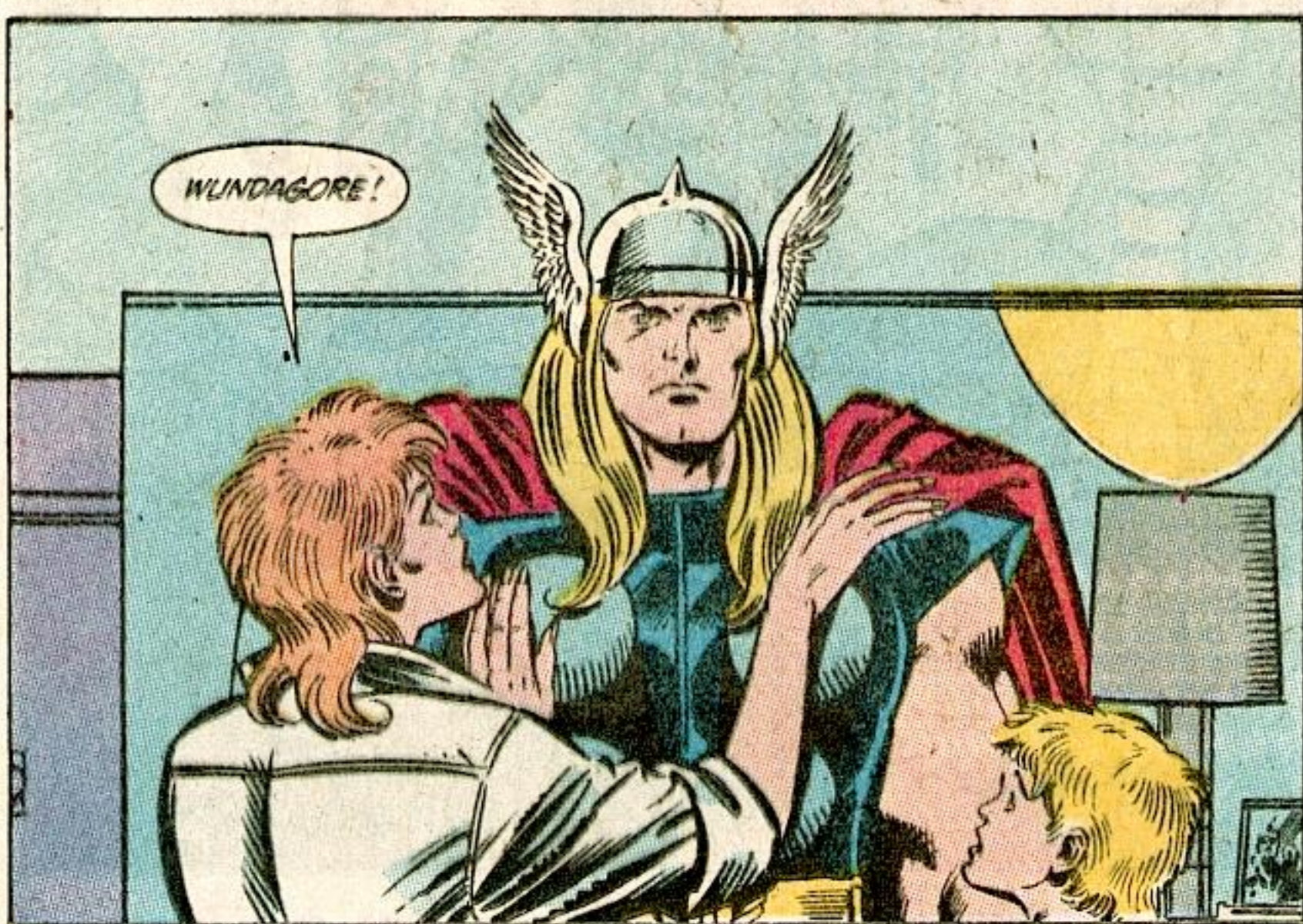
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE NEWS? THE BOY'S FATHER... ERIC... WAS KIDNAPED THIS AFTERNOON!

SOME MANIAC BY THE NAME OF MONGOOSE DID IT... AND HE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU! IT'S ONLY ONE WORD, BUT HE SAID YOU'D KNOW WHAT IT MEANS...

WHAT IS IT?!



WUNDAGORE!



NEXT ISSUE!

THE THUNDER GOD BATTLES THE NEW KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE... AND EMBARKS ON A MIND-STAGGERING QUEST TO LEARN... WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HERCULES AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY?! PLUS AN ALL-NEW TALES OF ASGARD! (WHO SAYS MIGHTY MARVEL DOESN'T, GIVE YOU MORE PULSE-POUNDING ACTION PER PAGE THAN ANY OTHER COMIC BOOK COMPANY?!)

WHILE SEARCHING FOR ULAGG, THE GRAND ENCHANTER IN THE LAND OF ALWAYS NIGHT, THOR AND THE WARRIORS THREE ARE CONFRONTED BY A MYSTERIOUS PRESENCE...

"THIS
LETHAL
LAND!"

FLEE THIS DISMAL
LAND...OR YOUR LIVES
ARE SURELY FORFEIT!

WE CANNOT
LEAVE UNTIL WE
HAVE COMPLETED
OUR MISSION!

ODIN, OUR ALL-POWERFUL
LIEGE, HAS ORDERED ULAGG
TO PERFORM THE SACRED
SERVICE THAT HE PLEDGED
TO DO!

SILENCE, YOU ARROGANT
CUR! ULAGG IS THE MASTER
OF HIS OWN FATE--AND HEEDS
NOT THE COMMANDS OF A
SENILE OLD FOOL LIKE ODIN!

WRITTEN BY
TOM DEFALCO

ILLUSTRATED BY
TONY DEZUNIGA

LETTERED BY
MICHAEL HEISLER

COLORS BY
MICHAEL ROCKWITZ

EDITED BY
RALPH MACCHIO

NONE MAY
INSULT THE
ALL-FATHER
WITHOUT
ANSWERING
TO THE MACE
OF HOGUN
THE GRIM!

AND THE FLASHING SWORD OF
FANDRAL THE DASHING!

THE LION OF ASGARD, VOLSTAGG
THE VAINGLORIOUS, ALSO ROARS
TO THE DEFENSE OF HIS LORD!

RESTRAIN THYSELVES, MY FRIENDS!
WE ARE HERE TO ENLIST ULAGG'S AID
...NOT TO BATTLE HIM!

AYE, BUT METHINKS THIS SLY
WIZARD MAY BE DIFFICULT TO
CONVINCE--AND HE MAY EMPLOY
BASE SORCERY 'GAINST US!

IF 'TIS SO,
I SHOULD
RETRACE
OUR STEPS...

TO GUARD AGAINST
A REAR ATTACK--?

MY VERY THOUGHT!

VOLSTAGG RETREATED
JUST IN TIME!

AYE, THE TREES
AND GROUND NOW LEAP
TOWARD US!

'TIS OBVIOUS THAT ULAGG'S ENCHANTMENTS ARE
ELEMENTAL IN NATURE...AND GIVE HIM THE POWER TO
BEND THE LIVING EARTH TO HIS WILL!



RATHER WOULD I TRADE STEEL
WITH A *THOUSAND* WARRIORS...
THAN THIS *SERPENTINE* VINE
WHICH SEEKS TO CRUSH ME!

HAVE
FAITH, NOBLE
WARRIORS!

COURAGE AND
PERSEVERANCE
WILL YET WIN THIS
DAY!



A FIST OF LIVING
EARTH DOETH GRASP
ME WITH A STRENGTH
BEYOND
COMPREHENSION--!

FIGHT ON, SON
OF ODIN! FIGHT ON--
LEST WE ALL PERISH
IN THIS HATED LAND!

HAVE NO FEAR, MY
FRIEND! THOUGH THE
THUNDER GOD MAY
FALTER, HE WILL
NOT FALL!

MY ENCHANTED
HAMMER STRIKES TRUE... FOR
HONOR! FOR JUSTICE!
FOR ASGARD!!

WHILST MY NOBLE COMPANIONS DISTRACT
OUR WIZARDOUS FOE WITH A **FRONTAL**
ASSAULT...VOLSTAGG HAS TAKEN A MUCH
MORE **SUBTLE** APPROACH...ONE WORTHY
OF A **MASTER STRATEGIST**!

HEEDLESS OF THE TERRIBLE
RISKS, I HAVE SURREPTITIOUSLY
CIRCLED BEHIND THE EVER-
ELUSIVE **ULAGG**!

AND NOW, WITH THE **SPEED** AND **AGILITY**
OF A STRIKING **TIGER**, I SHALL **POUNCE**
UPON YON UNSUSPECTING--

BE SILENT, THOU
CLUMSY OAF!

I CANNOT CONCENTRATE ON MY
CONJURING... WITH THY INFERNAL
RACKET. ECHOING IN MY EARS!

I KNOW NOT TO WHOM THOU SPEAK!
SURELY, IT CANNOT BE TO **VOLSTAGG**,
WHO MOVES WITH THE **GRACE** AND
SILENCE OF A LIVING SHADOW!

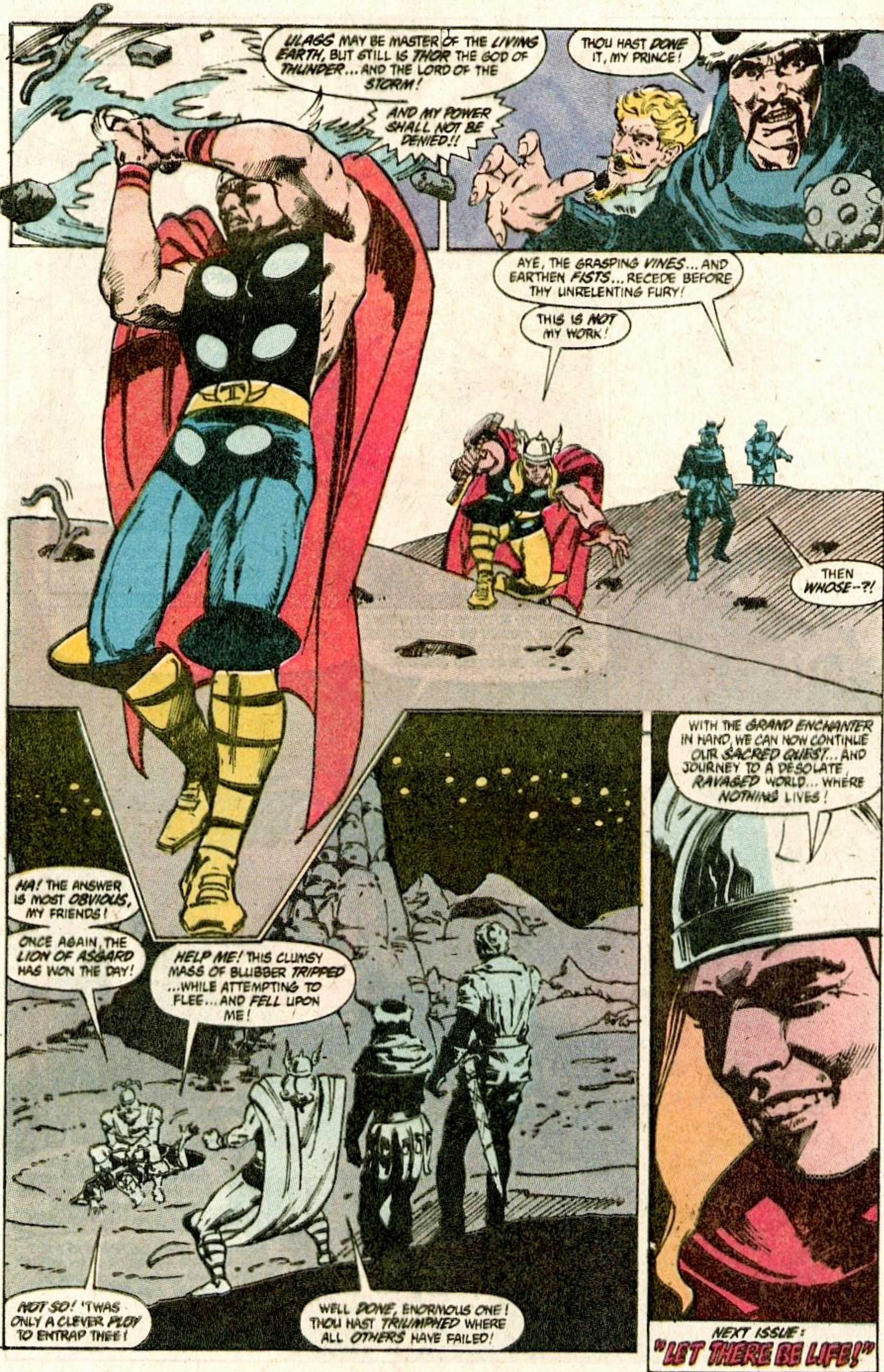
ART THOU MAD?! THY FOOTSTEPS ARE AS
LIGHT AS FALLING ANVILS-- THY PRESENCE
AS **UNOBTRUSIVE** AS AN ARMY OF DRUNKEN
TROLLS!

MY IMPRESSIVE GIRTH IS
NOT WITHOUT ITS **MINOR**
FAILINGS... BUT IT ALSO
BEARS A THOUSAND
SCARS GAINED IN THE
SERVICE OF **ASGARD**!

AYE, AND I SHALL GIFT
THEE WITH A **THOUSAND** MORE...
FOR ENTERING THE UNCONQUER-
ABLE DOMAIN OF **ULAGG**
THE **GRAND ENCHANTER**!

ER... BE NOT HASTY, WIZARD! IT IS MOST
UNSEEMLY FOR A WARRIOR OF MY NOBLE
PROPORTIONS TO CHALLENGE ONE SO
FRAIL AND AGED!

MAYHAPS, I SHOULD SEEK **ANOTHER**
CHAMPION TO BATTLE THEE... ONE SLIGHTER
OF BUILD... **WEAKER** OF LIMB!



ULAGS MAY BE MASTER OF THE LIVING EARTH, BUT STILL IS THOR THE GOD OF THUNDER... AND THE LORD OF THE STORM!

THOU HAST DONE IT, MY PRINCE!

AND MY POWER SHALL NOT BE DENIED!!

AYE, THE GRASPING VINES... AND EARTHEN FISTS... RECEDE BEFORE THY UNRELENTING FURY!

THIS IS NOT MY WORK!

THEN WHOSE--?!

HA! THE ANSWER IS MOST OBVIOUS, MY FRIENDS!

ONCE AGAIN, THE LION OF ASGARD HAS WON THE DAY!

HELP ME! THIS CLUMSY MASS OF BLUBBER TRIPPED ...WHILE ATTEMPTING TO FLEE... AND FELL UPON ME!

NOT SO! 'T WAS ONLY A CLEVER PLOY TO ENTRAP THEE!

WELL DONE, ENORMOUS ONE! THOU HAST TRIUMPHED WHERE ALL OTHERS HAVE FAILED!

WITH THE GRAND ENCHANTER IN HAND, WE CAN NOW CONTINUE OUR SACRED QUEST... AND JOURNEY TO A DESOLATE, RAVAGED WORLD... WHERE NOTHING LIVES!

NEXT ISSUE:
"LET THERE BE LIFE!"