

THOR

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THE MIGHTY

THOR



THE ABSORBING MAN IS BACK IN TOWN, THUNDER GOD--

--AND NEW YORK AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US!



ONE LIFE TO GIVE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!**™

ONE LIFE TO GIVE!

AND FOR ONE PREGNANT MOMENT-- THERE IS SILENCE. IT'S AS THOUGH THE EYE OF A HURRICANE WERE PASSING OVERHEAD, AND IN THAT UNEARTHLY CALM, ALL MEMORY OF THE PREVIOUS MOMENT OF VIOLENCE IS FORGOTTEN.

STANDING STILL AND MOTIONLESS, THE TWO ANTAGONISTS GLARE ACROSS THE SHATTERED EXPANSE OF CONCRETE WHICH HAS BEEN THEIR BATTLEGROUND...

THEY ARE THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER, AND CRUSHER CREEL, THE ABSORBING MAN.

FOR THE PAST TWELVE MINUTES, THEY HAVE BATTLED FIERCELY-- AND NOW, FOR ONE PRECIOUS MOMENT, THEY HAVE PAUSED, EACH FOR HIS OWN REASON.

AND AS BOTH MEN KNOW-- THAT PAUSE IS ALMOST OVER!

CHAPTER ONE: **CRISIS!**

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NAY, VARLET!

POW!

THOU MAYEST HAVE THE ABILITY TO **ABSORB** THE POWER OF MY **LURU HAMMER**, AND THUS TURN IT **AGAINST** ME--



--BUT POWER **ALONE** BE NOT ENOUGH TO WIN A WAR!

THOU MUST ALSO HAVE THE **SPEED**--AND THE **SKILL**--OF A **WARRIOR BORN!**

BOMM!



NUTS! YOU REMIND ME OF A TEACHER I KNEW WHEN I WUZ A KID, GOLDILOCKS!

HE LIKED TA USE **BIG WORDS**, JUST LIKE YOU--BUT WHEN US KIDS GOT HIM IN AN **ALLEY** AND STARTED **BEATIN'** ON HIM--



--HE STARTED BLEEDIN' LIKE EVERYBODY **ELSE!**

HAH! DIDN'T EXPECT ME TA **TRIP** YA WHILE I WUZ **DOWN**, DIDYA?

THAT'S THE **TROUBLE** WIT' **JERKS** LIKE YOU, **THOR**--!

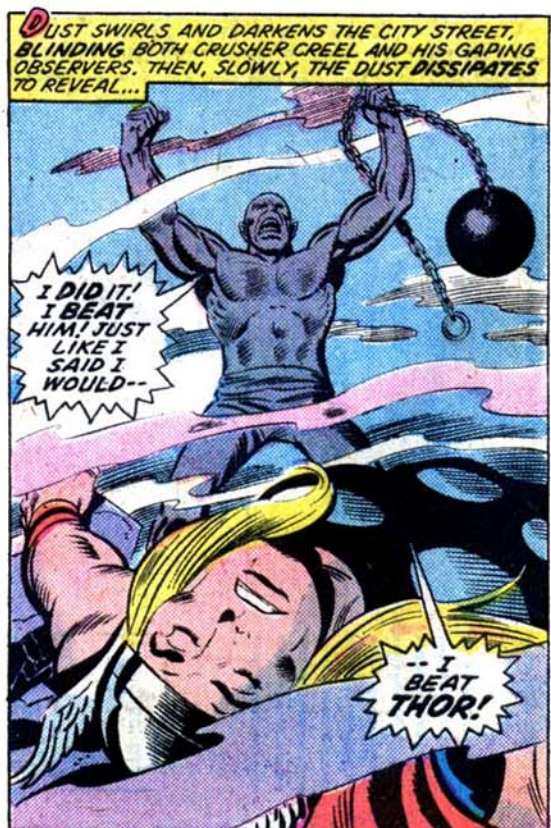
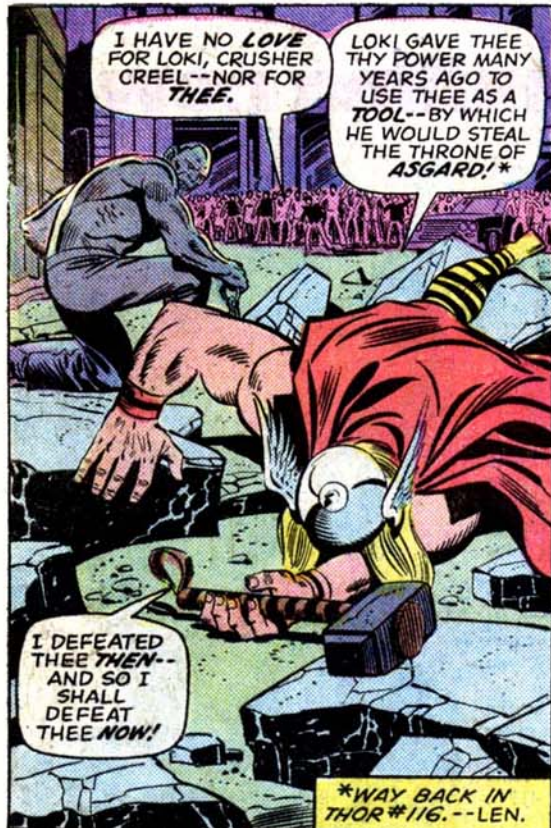


YA NEVER LEARN TA **TROMP** A GUY WHEN HE'S **DOWN!**

NOW THAT **HALF-BROTHER** OF YOURS, **LOKI**--THE GUY WHO **GAVE** ME MY **ABSORBIN' POWER**--!

HE'S A **FELLA** WHO KNOWS THE **SCORE!**

PAY MORE **ATTENTION** TA **HIM**, **THUNDER GOD**--AND MAYBE YOU'LL **GET** SOMEWHERE!





I ALWAYS **KNEW** I COULD DO IT! ALL I EVER NEEDED WUZ A **PLAN**--AND THIS TIME, I **HAD** ONE!

HOLD IT! IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO **GET AWAY** WITH THIS, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER--**UURRRNNHH!**

YA **STURID COP!** I DON'T **THINK** I'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS--

-- I **ALREADY HAVE!**

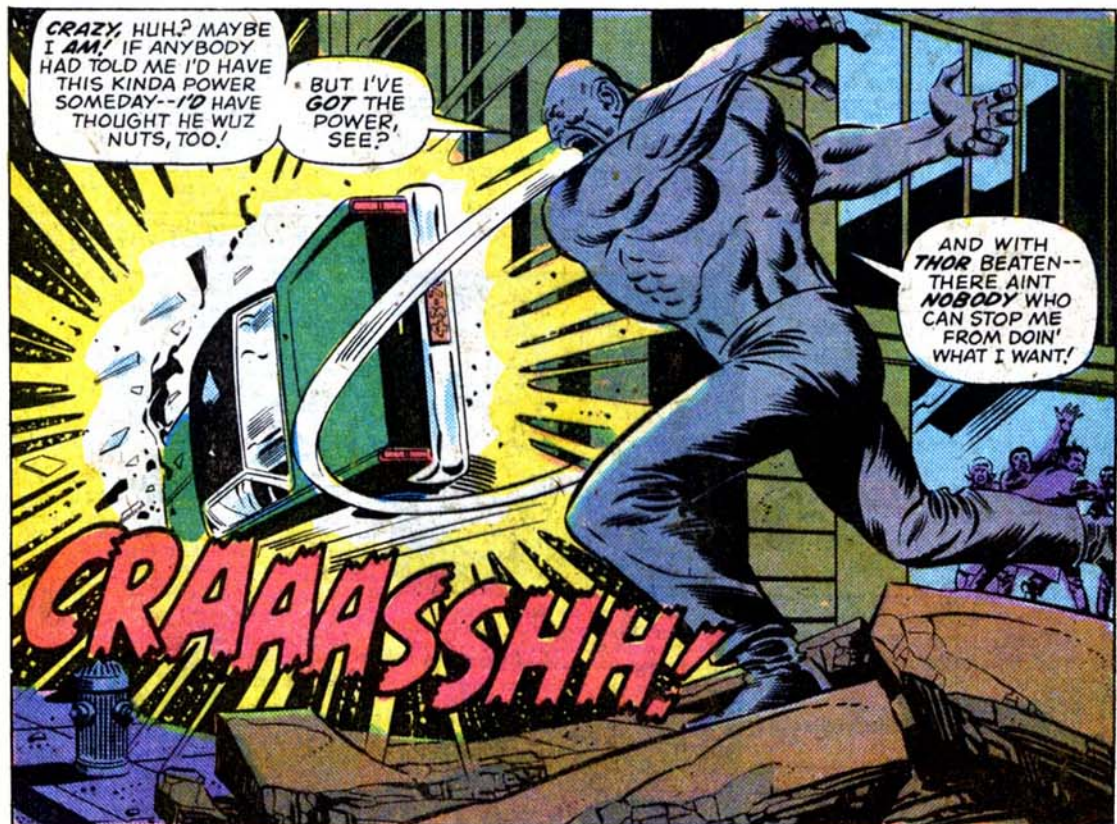


I CAN ABSORB **ANYTHING** UNDERSTAND? EVEN THE POWER OF **THOR'S HAMMER!**

THAT'S WHAT I **DID**--AND IT MADE ME **STRONGER** THAN **THOR**--

--**STRONGER** THAN **ANYTHING!**

LOOK OUT! HE'S **CRAZY!**



CRAZY, HUH? MAYBE I **AM!** IF ANYBODY HAD TOLD ME I'D HAVE THIS KINDA POWER SOMEDAY--I'D HAVE THOUGHT HE WUZ **NUTS, TOO!**

BUT I'VE GOT THE POWER, SEE?

AND WITH **THOR** BEATEN--THERE AINT **NOBODY** WHO CAN STOP ME FROM DOIN' WHAT I WANT!

CRAAASSHH!



NOBODY!

HA HA HA HA HA

LAUGHTER RISES IN THE STREET, RAGING, MANIACAL LAUGHTER THAT CHILLS THE SPINES OF ALL WHO REMAIN TO HEAR IT...



...INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE WATCHED THE BATTLE FROM ABOVE, UNABLE TO ACT, UNWILLING TO TURN AWAY...

IN THE NAME OF OLYMPUS, NO!

I CAN STAND IT NO LONGER, MILADY SIF-- I MUST INTERFERE! THOR DOTH NEED MY ASSISTANCE--

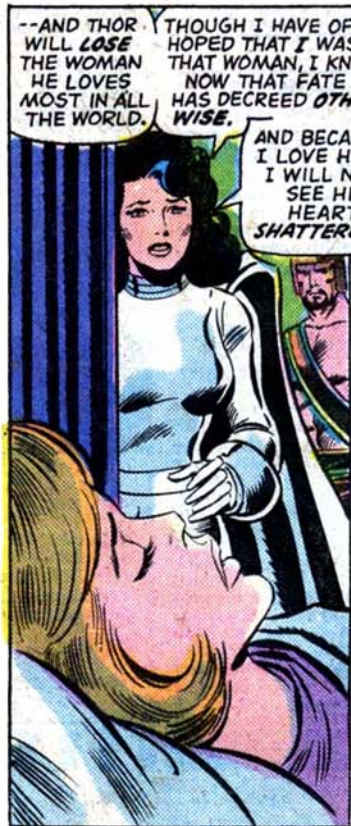
THOMP!



--AND WE NEED THY ASSISTANCE HERE!

JANE FOSTER HAS COME TO THE END OF HER STRENGTH, HERCULES. FOR MANY WEEKS, SHE HAS TREMBLED ON THE VERGE OF DEATH--

--AND TODAY, UNLESS WE HELP HER, JANE FOSTER WILL **ASS** OVER THAT VERGE--



--AND THOR WILL LOSE THE WOMAN HE LOVES MOST IN ALL THE WORLD.

THOUGH I HAVE OFTEN HOPED THAT I WAS THAT WOMAN, I KNOW NOW THAT FATE HAS DECREED OTHERWISE.

AND BECAUSE I LOVE HIM, I WILL NOT SEE HIS HEART SHATTERED--



--BY A DEATH WHICH MAY YET BE PREVENTED.

VIZIER, GIVE ME THE RUNESTAFF WHICH HERCULES AND I STOLE FROM KAMO THARNN.*

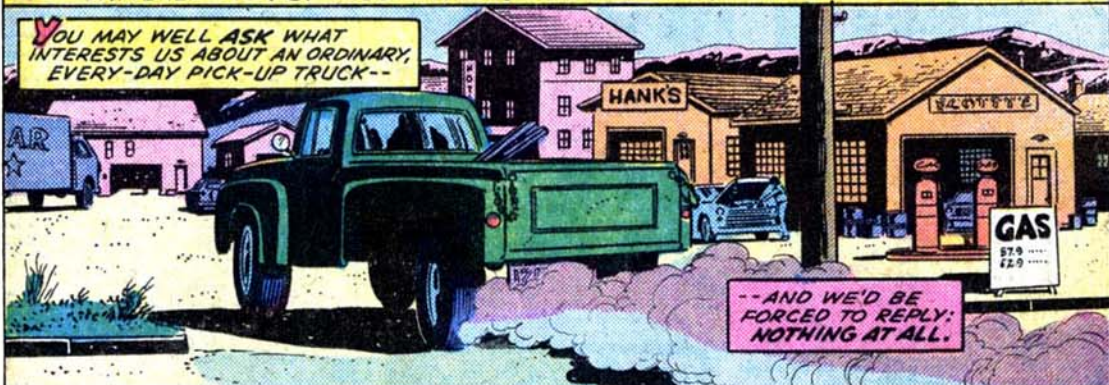
THE TIME TO BEGIN-- IS NIGH.

*SHOWN LAST ISSUE. --LEN.

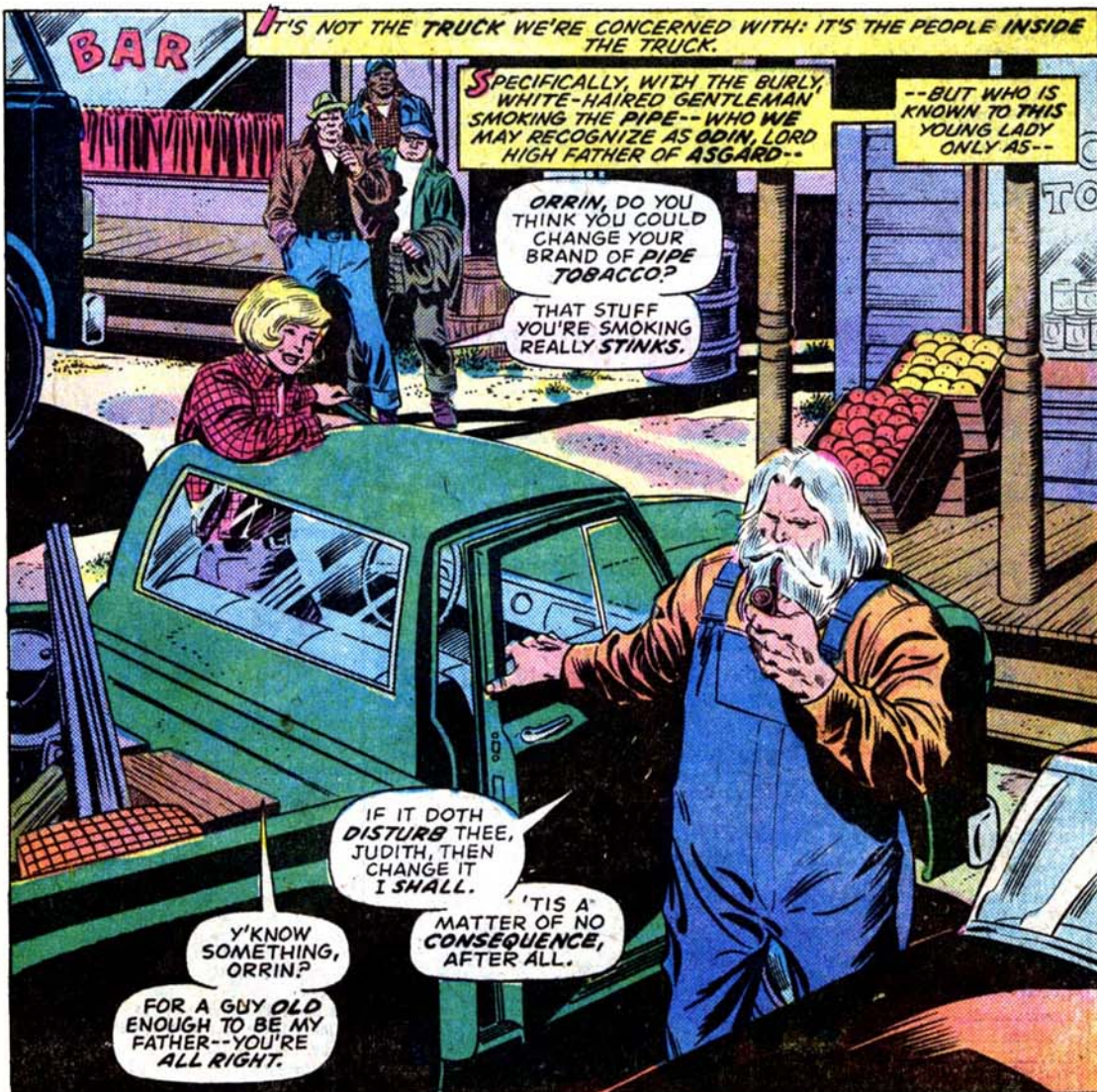
CHAPTER TWO: LO, THIS HIDDEN MYSTERY!

ELSEWHERE IN AMERICA, THREE THOUSAND MILES FROM THE SCENE OF THOR'S DEFEAT, A BATTERED PICK-UP TRUCK ARRIVES IN A SMALL CALIFORNIA COASTAL TOWN.

YOU MAY WELL ASK WHAT INTERESTS US ABOUT AN ORDINARY, EVERY-DAY PICK-UP TRUCK--



--AND WE'D BE FORCED TO REPLY: NOTHING AT ALL.



IT'S NOT THE TRUCK WE'RE CONCERNED WITH: IT'S THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE TRUCK.

SPECIFICALLY, WITH THE BURLY, WHITE-HAIRED GENTLEMAN SMOKING THE PIPE-- WHO WE MAY RECOGNIZE AS ODIN, LORD HIGH FATHER OF ASGARD--

--BUT WHO IS KNOWN TO THIS YOUNG LADY ONLY AS--

ORRIN, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CHANGE YOUR BRAND OF PIPE TOBACCO?

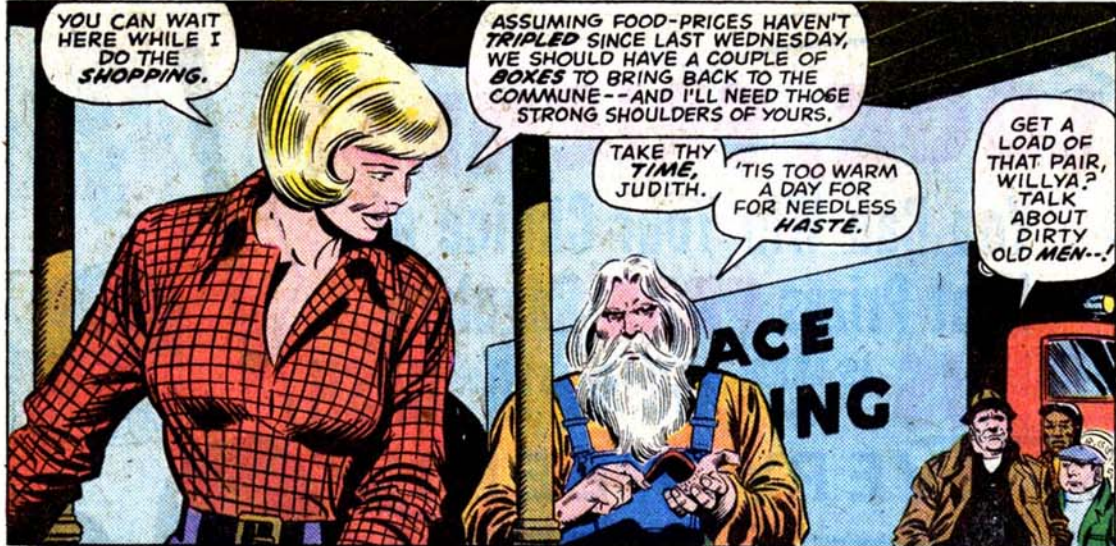
THAT STUFF YOU'RE SMOKING REALLY STINKS.

IF IT DOTTH DISTURB THEE, JUDITH, THEN CHANGE IT I SHALL.

'TIS A MATTER OF NO CONSEQUENCE, AFTER ALL.

Y'KNOW SOMETHING, ORRIN?

FOR A GUY OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY FATHER--YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.



YOU CAN WAIT HERE WHILE I DO THE SHOPPING.

ASSUMING FOOD-PRICES HAVEN'T TRIPLED SINCE LAST WEDNESDAY, WE SHOULD HAVE A COUPLE OF BOXES TO BRING BACK TO THE COMMUNE -- AND I'LL NEED THOSE STRONG SHOULDERS OF YOURS.

TAKE THY TIME, JUDITH.

'TIS TOO WARM A DAY FOR FOR NEEDLESS HASTE.

GET A LOAD OF THAT PAIR, WILLYA? TALK ABOUT DIRTY OLD MEN--!

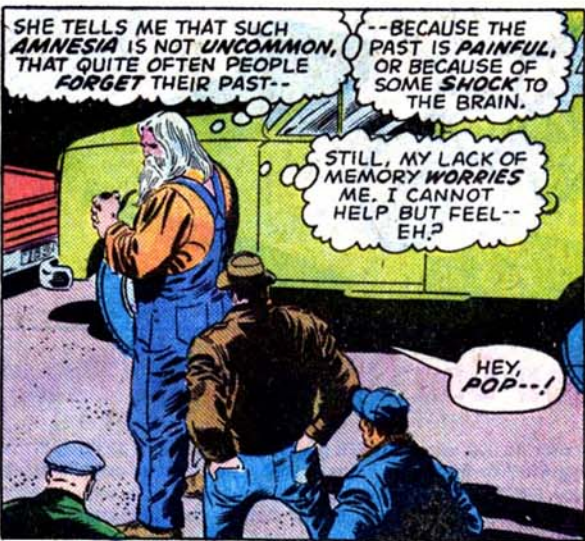


I DID NOT SPEAK OF IT-- BUT I CAN TELL JUDITH SENSES MY DISMAY.

FOR NIGH ON A MONTH NOW* I HAVE REMAINED WITH JUDITH'S "FAMILY" AT THEIR COMMUNE NOT FAR FROM HERE--

--AND IN ALL THAT TIME, MY MEMORY OF MY PAST LIFE HAS BEEN DIM --AND UNFORMED!

*ODIN FIRST APPEARED AT JUDITH'S COMMUNE IN THOR #233. --LEN.

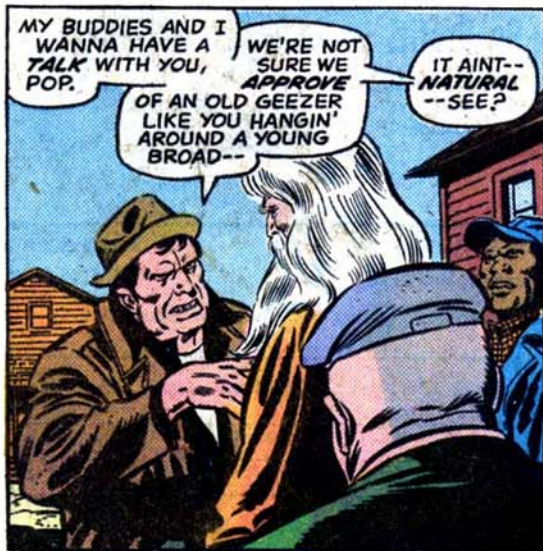


SHE TELLS ME THAT SUCH AMNESIA IS NOT UNCOMMON, THAT QUITE OFTEN PEOPLE FORGET THEIR PAST--

--BECAUSE THE PAST IS PAINFUL, OR BECAUSE OF SOME SHOCK TO THE BRAIN.

STILL, MY LACK OF MEMORY WORRIES ME. I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL-- EH?

HEY, POP--!



MY BUDDIES AND I WANNA HAVE A TALK WITH YOU, POP.

WE'RE NOT SURE WE APPROVE

IT AINT-- NATURAL --SEE?

OF AN OLD GEEZER LIKE YOU HANGIN' AROUND A YOUNG BROAD--



THY OPINION IS OF NO IMPORT TO ME, BRIGAND.

GET THEE HENCE, LEST THOU DOTH SOON REGRET THY INDISCRETION.

SAY, FRISKY OLD CODGER, AINT HE?



MAYBE IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEBODY TAUGHT HIM MANNERS!

YEAH--AND WE'RE JUST THE GUYS TO DO IT, TOO!



BY MY SOUL, THIS IS UTTER MADNESS. I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THEE, BUT IF THOU MUST PERSIST--



YEEEOOWWUNNK!

-- I SHALL DISPOSE OF THEE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

UURROOWUNNK!

TUMPL!

BOOPI!



THEM'S MY BUDDIES YOU CHUCKED OVER THERE, WISE-GUY!

YOU MUST BE SOME SORTA CIRCUS STRONG-MAN--



--BUT WE'LL SEE HOW STRONG YA IS AFTER I HIT YA WITH THIS BILLY CLUB!

SMACK!

HUH? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TA FALL! HOWCUM YA DON'T--

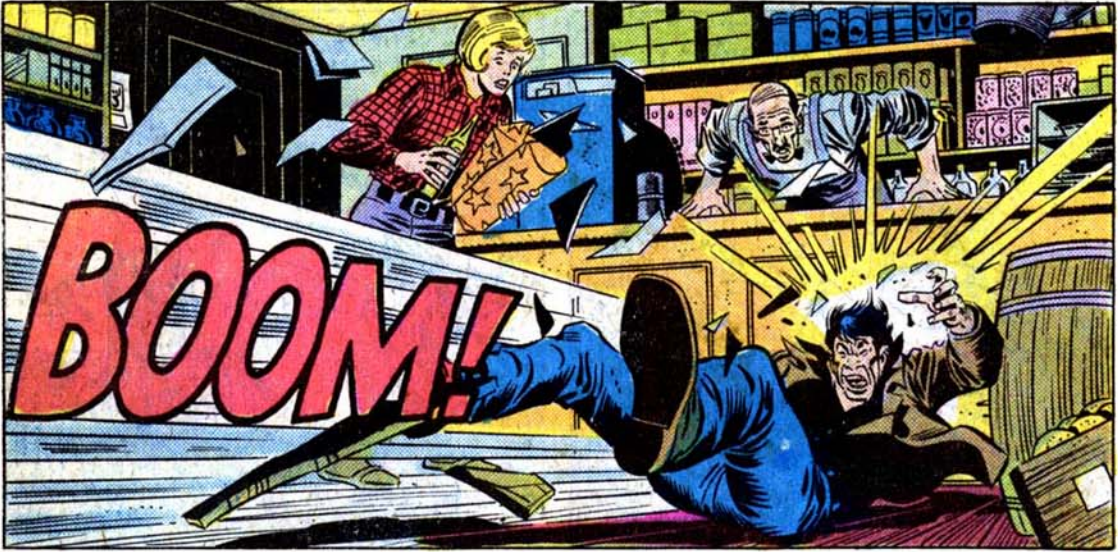


FOMM



SCRASK!

GRACE



IN NEW YORK, EVENTS ARE NO LESS STUNNING.

WITHIN THE SPACE OF A HALF-HOUR, THE MAN-MONSTER KNOWN AS CRUSHER CREEL HAS DECEIMATED TWO SQUARE BLOCKS OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

OVERTURNED CARS BLAZE, STOREFRONTS SMOKE, DISTANT SIRENS WAIL-- SOMEWHERE A CHILD IS CRYING, AND A COP SHOUTS SEITLESS COMMANDS.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

CRUSHER CREEL LAUGHS. AT LAST, HE IS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION. AT LAST, HE IS THE MAN IN CONTROL!

BUT, WHAT OF THOR?

ONLY A FEW YARDS FROM THE LAUGHING CRUSHER CREEL, THE GOD OF THUNDER SLOWLY REGAINS AWARENESS.

WITH AN EFFORT, HE GROPE, FINDS SUPPORT, AND HAULS HIMSELF ERECT.

HIS CONCERN FOR JANE FOSTER HAS DRAINED HIM, THIS PAST WEEK--

HE STANDS EXHAUSTED, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DEPLETED.

YET IT IS A MEASURE OF THE MAN-- THAT HE STANDS AT ALL.

AND MORE:

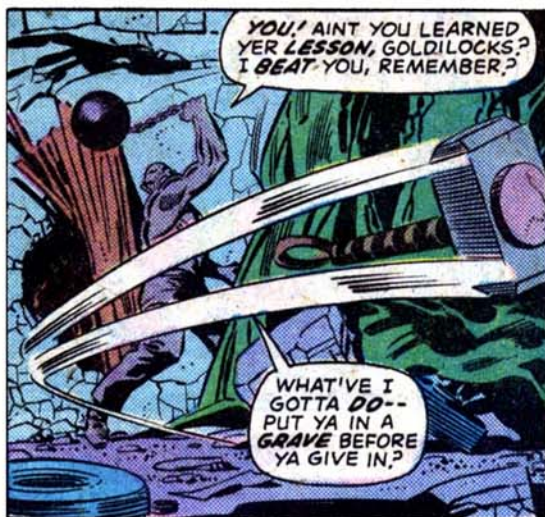
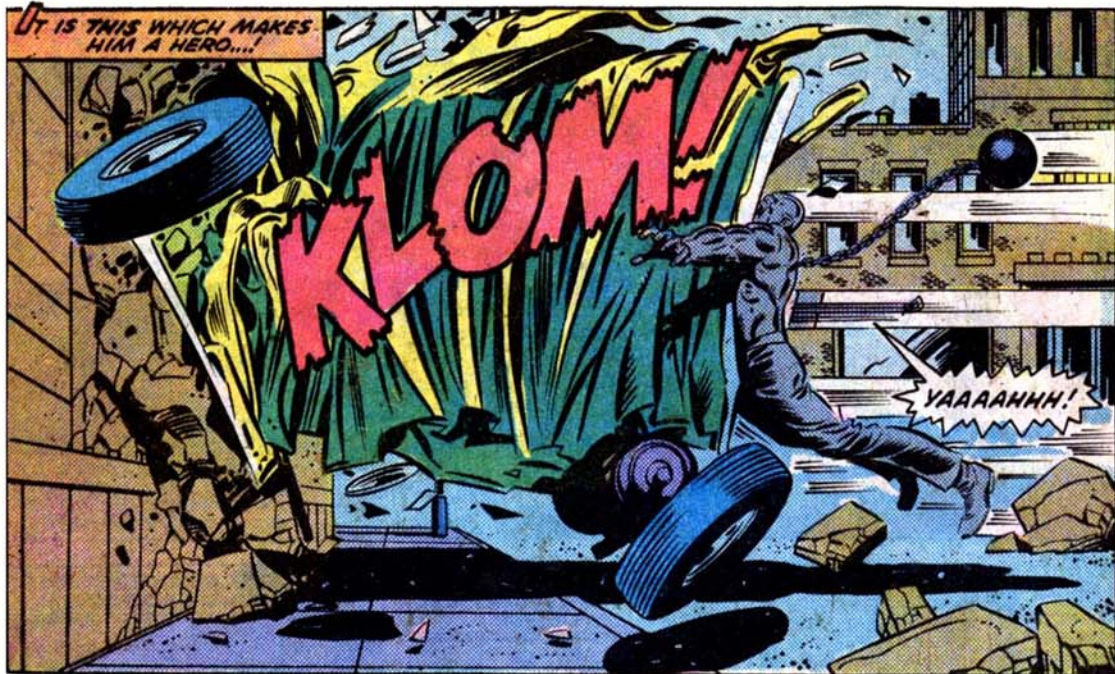
IN SPITE OF HIS WEARINESS, HIS PAIN, HIS TORMENT--

-- HIS CONCERN--

IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING WHICH WOULD DEFEAT A MORTAL MAN, THOR DOES MORE THAN MERELY STAND:

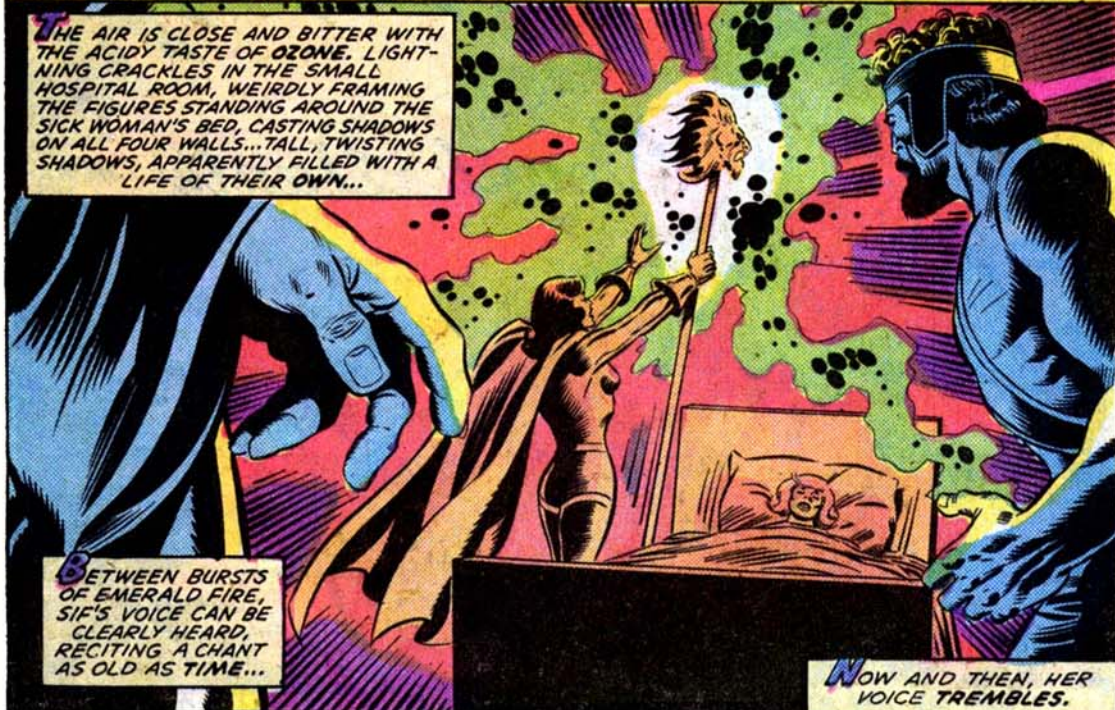
HE FIGHTS!

IS THIS WHICH MAKES HIM A HERO...!



CHAPTER THREE: RESURRECTION!

THE AIR IS CLOSE AND BITTER WITH THE ACIDY TASTE OF OZONE. LIGHTNING CRACKLES IN THE SMALL HOSPITAL ROOM, WEIRDLY FRAMING THE FIGURES STANDING AROUND THE SICK WOMAN'S BED, CASTING SHADOWS ON ALL FOUR WALLS...TALL, TWISTING SHADOWS, APPARENTLY FILLED WITH A LIFE OF THEIR OWN...



BETWEEN BURSTS OF EMERALD FIRE, SIF'S VOICE CAN BE CLEARLY HEARD, RECITING A CHANT AS OLD AS TIME...

NOW AND THEN, HER VOICE TREMBLES.

WHAT SHE SAYS, WE CANNOT KNOW:

THE LANGUAGE SHE UTTERS IS OLD-- OLDER THAN HUMAN KEN--



--OLDER, PERHAPS, THAN THE OLDEST IMMORTAL.

THERE IS A RHYTHM TO HER WORDS, HOWEVER; A PULSE LIKE THE BEATING OF A HEART.



WHILE LIGHTNING REPLACES THE GREEN FIRE, AND THE RHYTHM SPEEDS UP.

ON HER BED, JANE FOSTER GASPS. HER FACE, DRAWN AND PALLID, GOES SLACK--HER BREATHING IS SHALLOW, HER LIPS DRY AND COLD.



THEN, ALL AT ONCE, HER FACE IS OBTURED BY A BURST OF GREEN FIRE-- AND JANE FOSTER VANISHES FROM THE SIGHT OF MEN!

IN THE NAME OF OLYMPUS-- IS THIS NECESSARY, VIZIER?

THESE LIGHTS-- THAT SMELL--!

THE MORTAL FEMALE FEELS NO PAIN, HERCULES. WHAT IS DONE, IS DONE TO SAVE HER.

--WE DON'T KILL HER!

THAT MAY BE SO, OLD MAN. I ONLY PRAY THAT WHILE SAVING HER--

MEANWHILE, IN THE STREET BELOW...



YA FELT THAT, DIDN'T YA, THUNDER GOD? YEAH--AND YOU'RE GONNA KEEP FEELIN' IT UNTIL YOU GIVE UP!



I'M GONNA HURT YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME LAST TIME WE FOUGHT--!

"YOU KNOCKED ME INTO A RIVER WHILE I WAS DOWN' MY ABSORBIN' BIT*--



*UP IN RUTLAND, VT., AS SHOWN IN THOR #207--LEN.

"--AND INSTEAD OF ABSORBING THE POWER OF WOOD, WHICH WAS WHAT I TRYING TO DO--



"--I TURNED TO WATER--

"--AND ALMOST DIED!

"LUCKY FOR ME, I PASSED AGAINST A ROCK WHILE THE RIVER MOVED DOWN-STREAM--



"--AND I ABSORBED THAT, WHICH LET ME SURVIVE. IT TOOK ME SIX MONTHS TO GET MY NERVE BACK AFTER THAT--!"

"--AND THEN I LAY LOW FOR ANOTHER FEW MONTHS, FIGURING OUT A PLAN TO BEAT YOU ONCE AN' FER ALL!



I'VE GOT MY PLAN NOW, BUSTER--AND YOU'VE HAD IT!







--BLINDING HIM AS HE STEPS INSIDE.

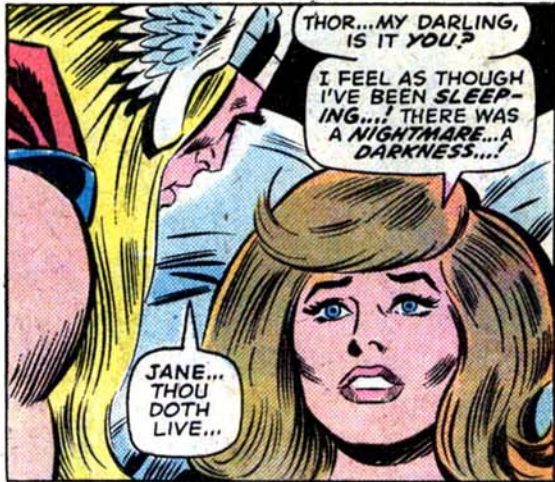


IT'S DONE, OLD MAN... JUST AS THOU SAID.

A LIFE FOR A LIFE. THE PRICE IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

HOLD!

WHAT HAPPENS HERE? ANSWER, OR I SWEAR--



THOR...MY DARLING, IS IT YOU?

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN SLEEPING... THERE WAS A NIGHTMARE...A DARKNESS...!

JANE... THOU DOTH LIVE...



THOU DOTH LIVE!

IN THE NAME OF ASGARD, 'TIS A MIRACLE! SIF, HAST THOU SEEN? SIF--

MILADY SIF--IS GONE, MILORD.

GONE?!

WHAT SAYEST THOU, VIZIER?



ONLY WHAT HAS OCCURRED, THOR. JANE FOSTER WAS DYING-- HER LIFE--FORCE EBBED WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

THE TRANS-FERRAL WAS TOTAL, MILORD.

TO REVIVE HER, SIF DID TRANSFER HER OWN LIVING ENERGY TO JANE'S CORPOREAL FORM.

JANE FOSTER LIVES--AND SIF DOTH LIVE WITHIN HER.



THEN IT'S TRUE--WHAT I DREAMED IS TRUE!

I FELT SOMEONE, A WOMAN--REACHING OUT TO ME, OFFERING ME HER HAND--!



THERE WAS DARKNESS ALL AROUND ME, BLACK DARKNESS--AND SHE GLOWED WITH LIGHT-- WITH LIFE.

SHE PULLED ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS, THOR.



SHE DREW ME INTO THE LIGHT...

THOR NODS, EYES CLOSED.

AND THERE IS SILENCE...

NEXT ISSUE: the NIGHT of the TROLL!