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JULY

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# THE MIGHTY THOR

AT  
**DRACULA'S  
COMMAND...**



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

**...LIKE A BAT OUT OF HEAVEN!**

DRACULA  
BIDS YOU AWAKEN,  
MY GODDESS!



ALAN ZELENETZ    MARK BRIGHT    VINCE COLLETTA    JANICE CHIANG    GEORGE ROUSSOS    MARK GRUENWALD    JIM SHOOTER  
SCRIPTER            PENCILER            INKER               LETTERER            COLORIST            EDITOR               EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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HUHM... WHO--?

I AM YOUR PRINCE. YOU ARE MY BRIDE.

THE BLOOD OF THIS GODDESS SURGES THROUGH MY BEING. I FEEL MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER IN THE LONG CENTURIES OF MY EXISTENCE!



WOULD YOU NOT GAZE INTO THE EYES OF YOUR BELOVED?

HER WILL IS STRONG, HER MIND AT LEAST AS GREAT AS MY OWN...



I... I CANNOT RECALL WHO I AM, OR WHERE, ONLY THAT MY HEART ACHES WITH LOVE-LONGING.

... YET SHE YIELDS LIKE A FLUTTERING BIRD.

OH, CRUSH ME IN THINE ARMS, MY ARDENT PRINCE!

SHE IS THE PROUD GODDESS SIF OF ASGARD, BELOVED AND BETROTHED OF THOR, THE THUNDER GOD.

BUT SHE HAS FORGOTTEN ALL EXCEPT HER PASSION.



HOW STRANGE-- TOTAL AMNESIA FROM MY SHARING HER BLOOD, A UNIQUE REACTION OF HER GODLY NATURE.

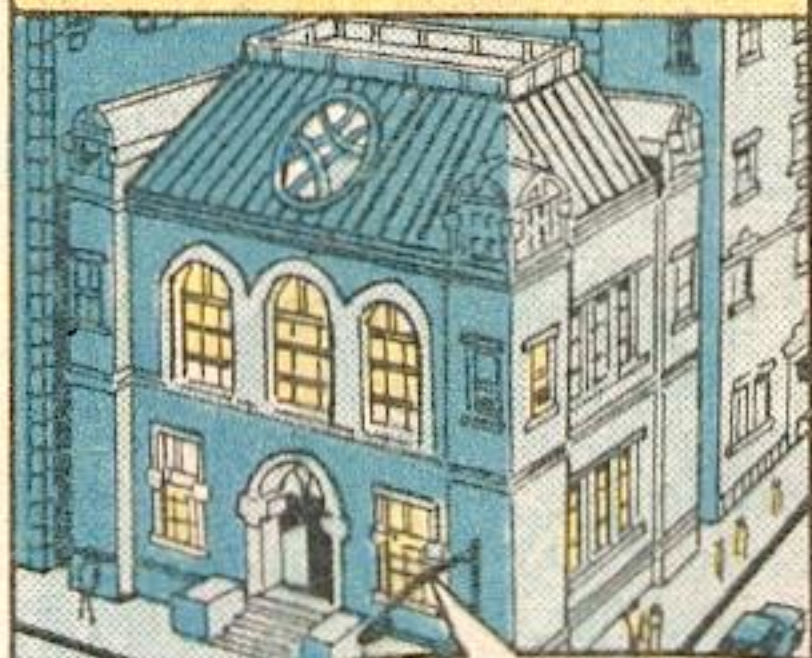


ALL THE BETTER, FOR SINCE SHE SUFFERS LOSS OF MEMORY, I CAN RECREATE HER IN MY OWN IMAGE.

COME WITH ME, MY LOVE, THE NIGHT SKIES BECKON.

SHE IS BORNE OFF ON LEATHERN WINGS... LEAVING THE FAMILIAR APARTMENT OF HER MORTAL HOST.

HUNDREDS OF MILES EAST IN NEW YORK, THE MIDNIGHT SKIES ARE A DARK CANOPY ABOVE THE MYSTIC SANCTUM OF DOCTOR STRANGE, EARTH'S BORGGERER SUPREME...



I ASK APOLOGY FOR COMING AT THIS LATE HOUR, STEPHEN STRANGE, BUT I AM SORELY DISTRESSED.

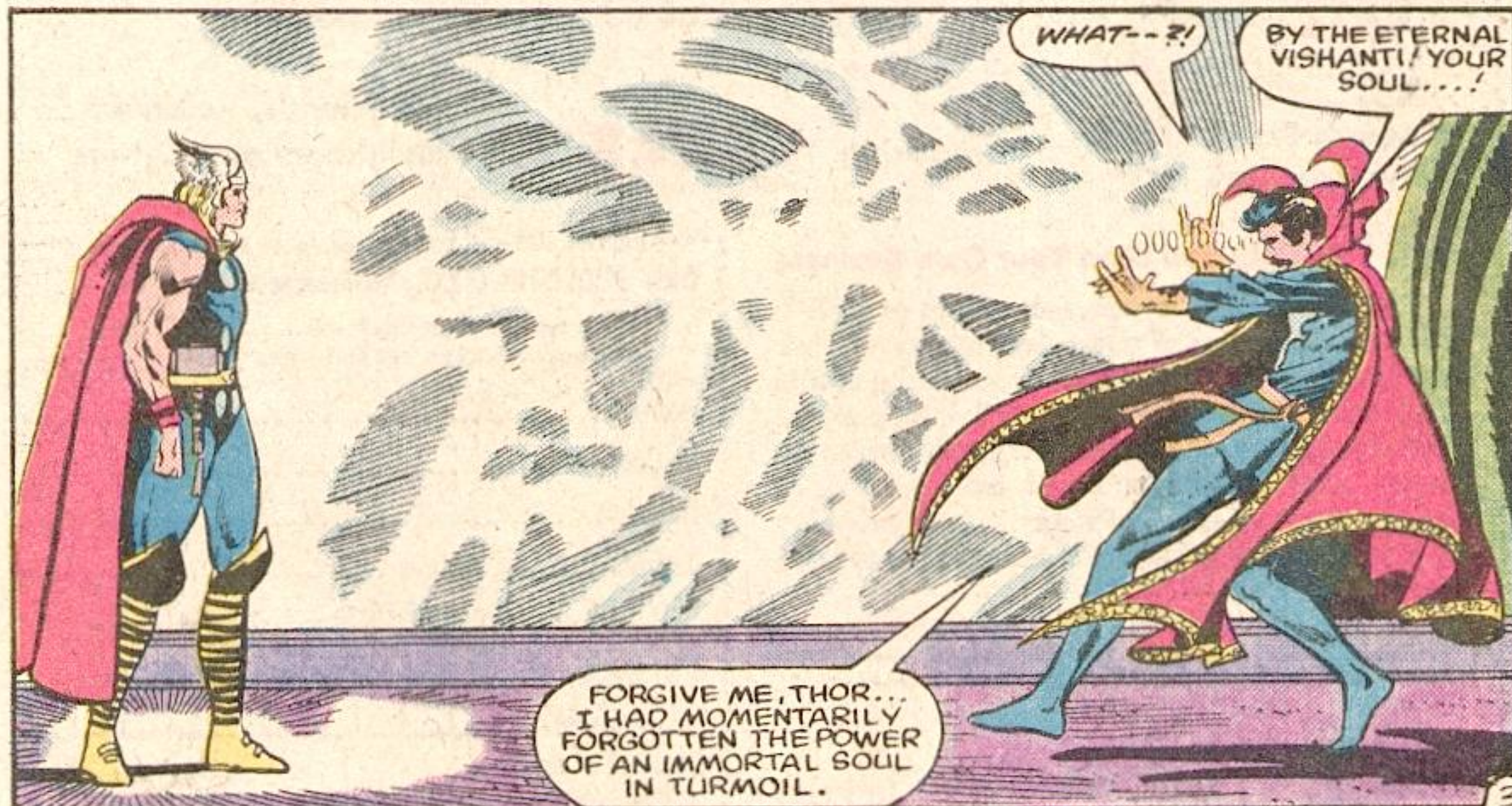


NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, THOR. I WAS UP ANYWAY.

NOW, ABOUT THIS MYSTIC RUNESTAFF OF KAMO THARNN...

DO YOU MIND IF I USE MY AMULET TO PROBE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT IT?

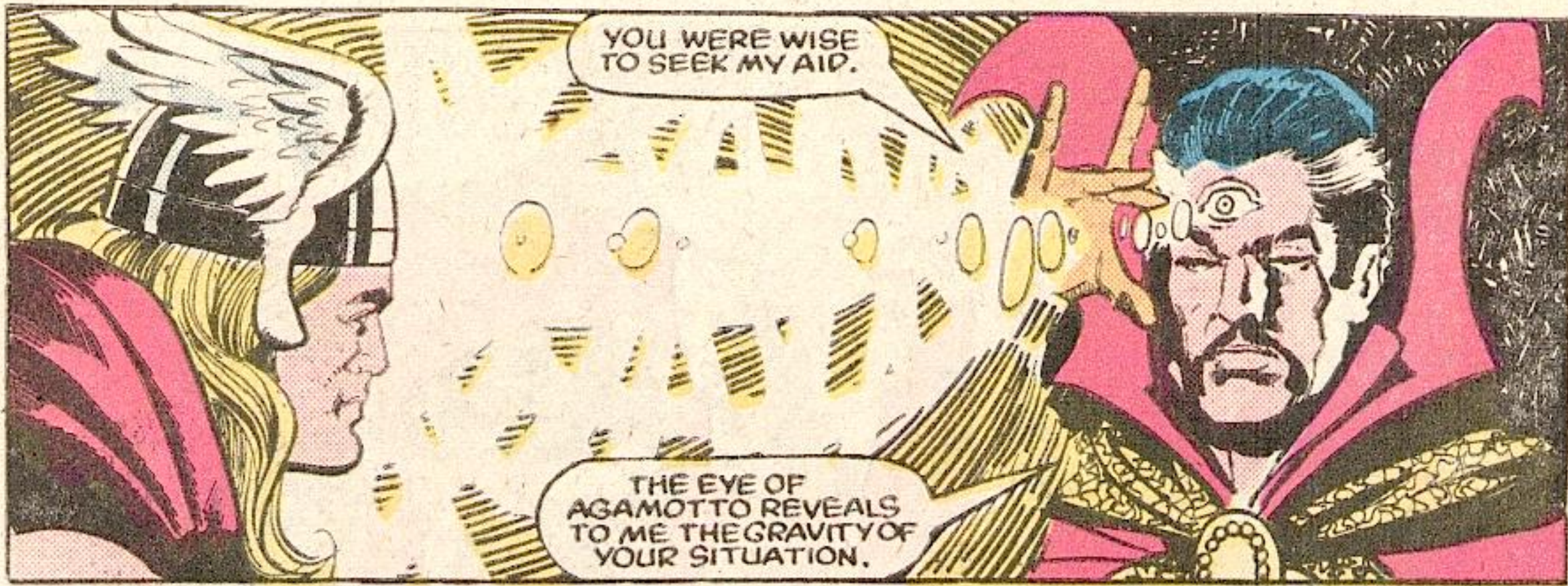
NOT IF IT WILL AID YOU IN FINDING THE RUNESTAFF.



WHAT--?!

BY THE ETERNAL VISHANTI! YOUR SOUL...!

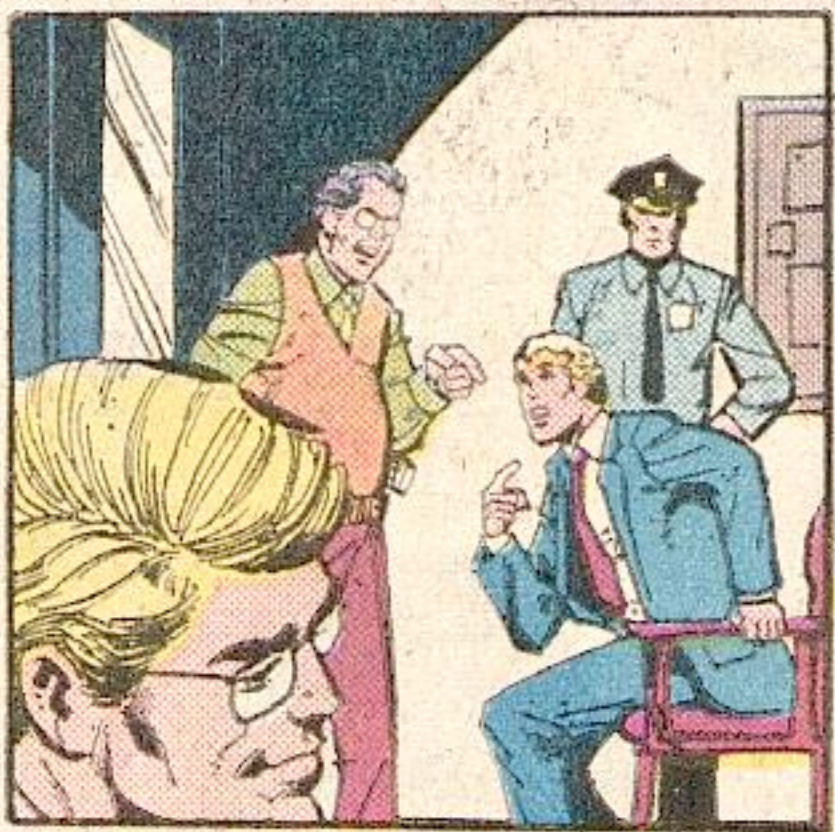
FORGIVE ME, THOR... I HAD MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN THE POWER OF AN IMMORTAL SOUL IN TURMOIL.



YOU WERE WISE TO SEEK MY AID.

THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO REVEALS TO ME THE GRAVITY OF YOUR SITUATION.

"YOU HAVE A HUMAN ALTER EGO, A PHYSICIAN NAMED DONALD BLAKE, WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF MURDERING A NURSE AND EX-LOVER, JANE FOSTER.



"BUT IT IS A FALSE ACCUSATION, THOUGH JANE FOSTER'S FIANCE, DR. KEITH KINCAID, SINCERELY BELIEVES IT AND THUS ATTEMPTS TO PRESS LEGAL CHARGES AGAINST BLAKE.

"IN TRUTH, JANE FOSTER FELL FATALLY ILL ONE DAY...

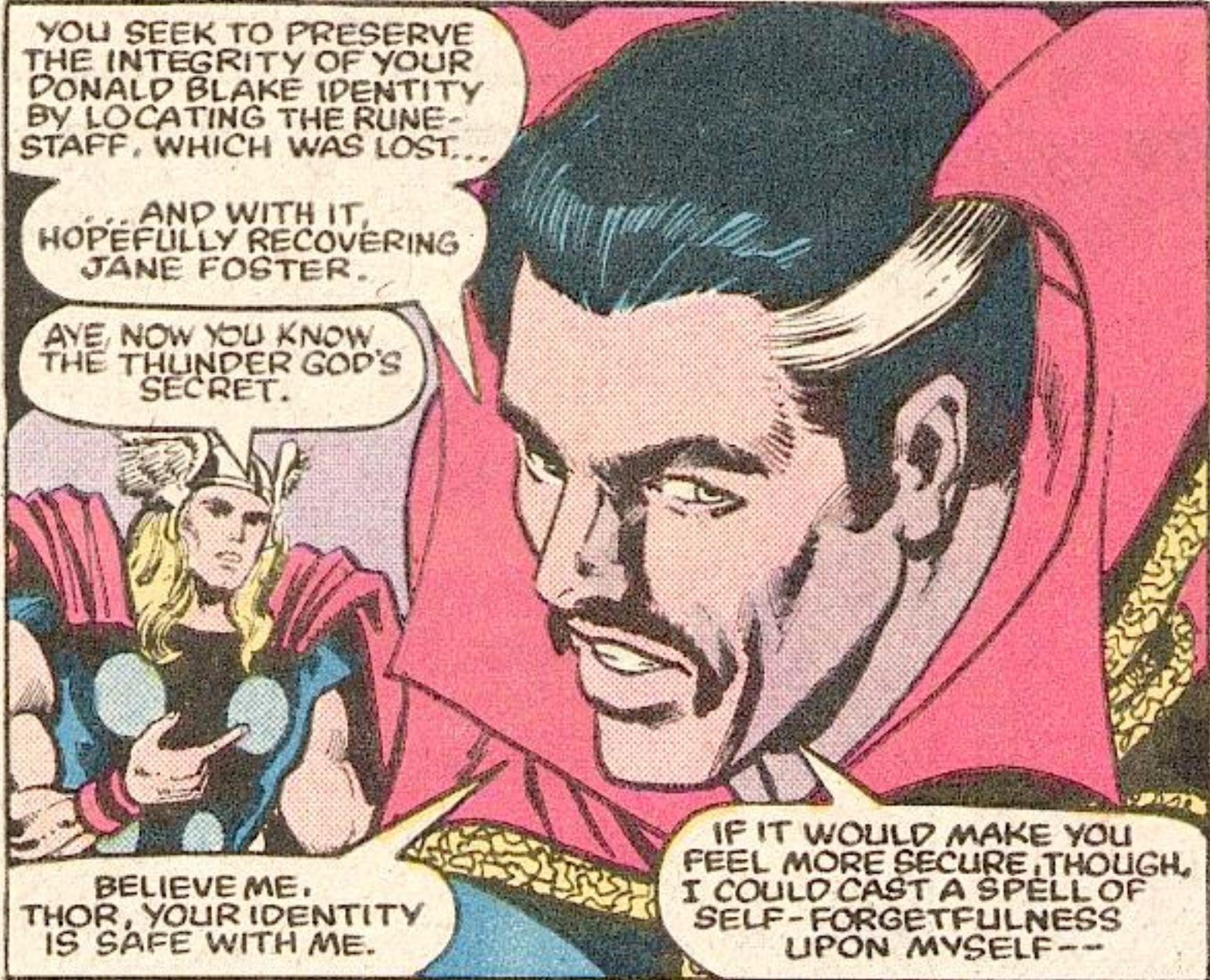


"...AND WAS ONLY SAVED BY THE GODDESS SIF, WHO TRANSFERRED HER OWN DIVINE ENERGY INTO JANE...

"... BY MEANS OF THE RUNE-STAFF OF KAMO THARNN.



"BUT UPON HER RETURN TO ASGARD IN JANE'S BODY, SIF REVERTED TO HER OWN FORM, AND THE BODY AND SPIRIT OF JANE FOSTER HAVE SINCE DISAPPEARED.



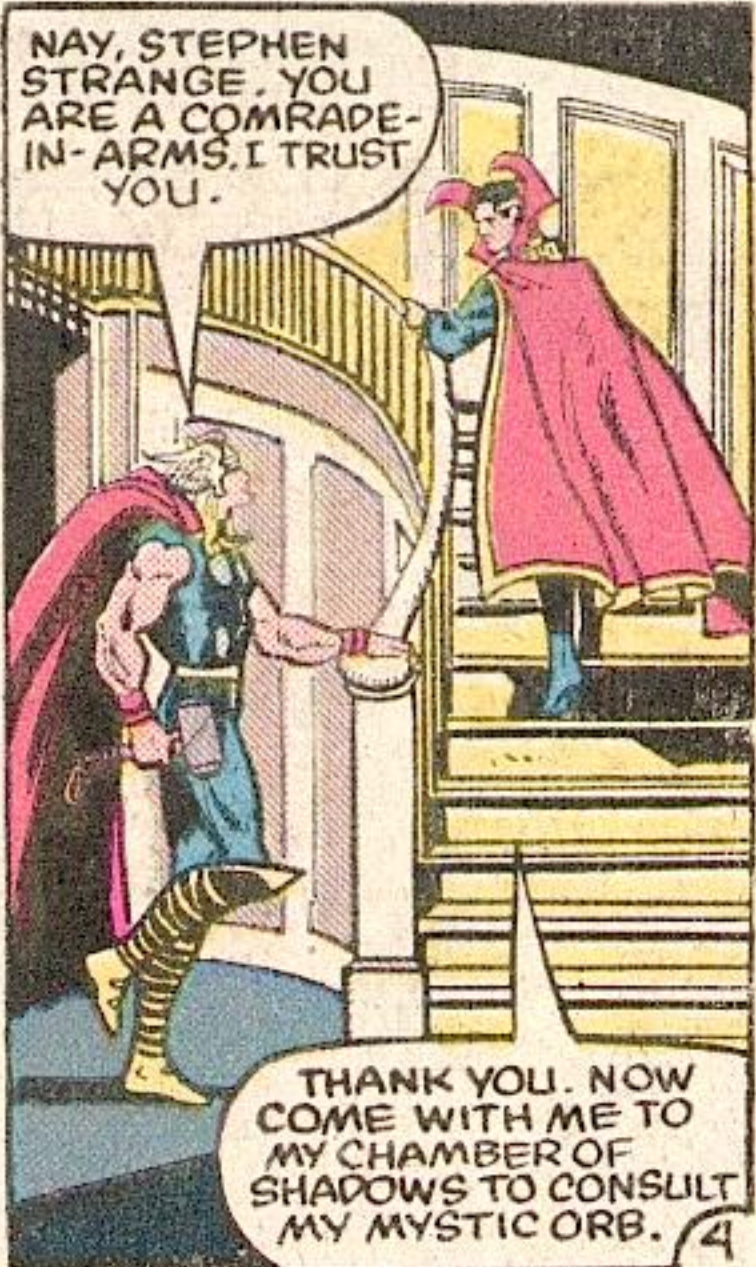
YOU SEEK TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF YOUR DONALD BLAKE IDENTITY BY LOCATING THE RUNE-STAFF, WHICH WAS LOST...

... AND WITH IT, HOPEFULLY RECOVERING JANE FOSTER.

AYE, NOW YOU KNOW THE THUNDER GOD'S SECRET.

BELIEVE ME, THOR, YOUR IDENTITY IS SAFE WITH ME.

IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL MORE SECURE, THOUGH, I COULD CAST A SPELL OF SELF-FORGETFULNESS UPON MYSELF--



NAY, STEPHEN STRANGE, YOU ARE A COMRADE-IN-ARMS, I TRUST YOU.

THANK YOU. NOW COME WITH ME TO MY CHAMBER OF SHADOWS TO CONSULT MY MYSTIC ORB. 4

AT MY COMMAND,  
LET THE SEAL BE  
BROKEN.

LET THE ALL-  
SEEING ORB OF  
AGAMOTTO BE  
REVEALED.



SINCE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN  
IN CONTACT WITH THE RUNESTAFF  
YOURSELF, MY PSYCHIC PROBE  
COULD NOT GLEAN THE RUNESTAFF'S  
AURA FROM YOU.



BUT THE ENCHANTED  
ORB WILL LOCATE YOUR  
COMPANION SIF, AT A  
DISTANCE IN CHICAGO...

"... THEN, WITHIN THE  
BURNING CRYSTAL'S  
GLOW..."



"... I CAN SCAN HER MIND..."

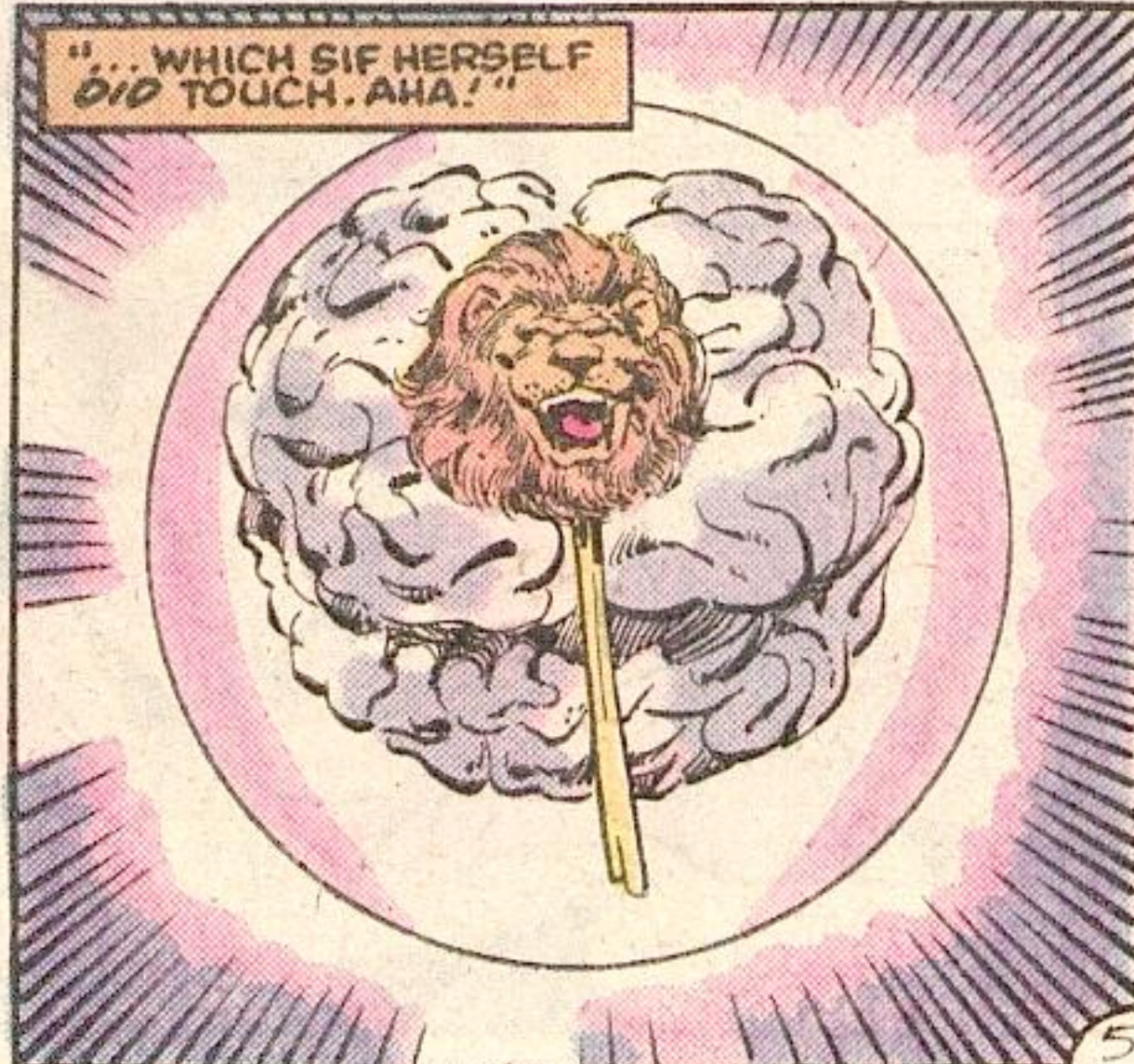


"... AND ANALYZE..."

"... THE MYSTIC SPECTRUM  
OF THE RUNESTAFF..."



"... WHICH SIF HERSELF  
DID TOUCH. AHA!"





IT IS NOW BUT A SMALL FEAT TO TRACE ITS AURA TO THE RUNESTAFF ITSELF, AND DISCOVER ITS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

I SEE IT. IT IS ON A WORLD WHOSE LOCATION I CAN MYSTICALLY IMPRESS WITHIN YOUR MIND.



BUT-- WAIT! WHAT IS THIS AURA OF MALEVOLENCE SURROUNDING SIF--?

THOR! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF-- VAMPIRES?



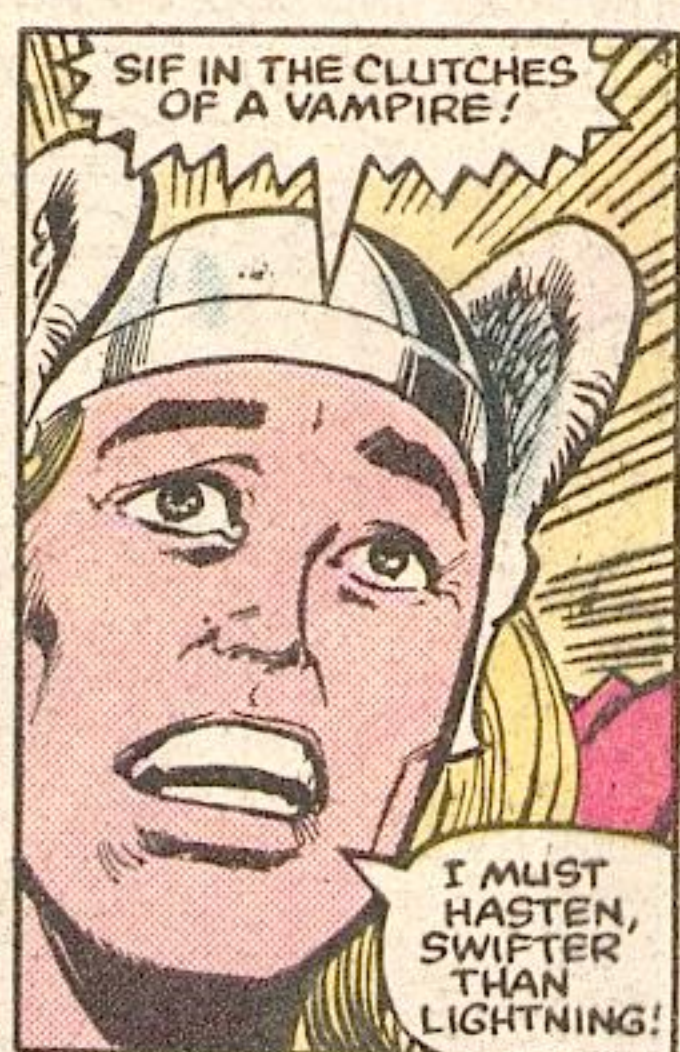
THIS VERY NIGHT, BEFORE I CAME TO YOU, I MYSELF SLEW FOUR OF THE FOUL CREATURES. WHY--!?

THIS IS BAD. VERY BAD.

THE GODDESS SIF HAS BEEN... TOUCHED BY A VAMPIRE, AND BY THE DEGREE OF POWER I PERCEIVE, IT COULD ONLY BE DRACULA, THE VAMPIRE LORD.

I HAVE LEARNED IN DAYS PAST \* THAT DRACULA HAS AGAIN ARISEN, GATHERING GREAT POWER TO HIM. IF HE HAS THE GODDESS SIF IN HIS THRALL--!

\*IN DOCTOR STRANGE # 59.



SIF IN THE CLUTCHES OF A VAMPIRE!

I MUST HASTEN, SWIFTER THAN LIGHTNING!



THOR, LISTEN-- IT'S ALREADY MORNING.

COUNT DRACULA WILL NOT REVEAL HIMSELF AGAIN UNTIL NIGHTFALL.

GO HOME AND BE PREPARED.



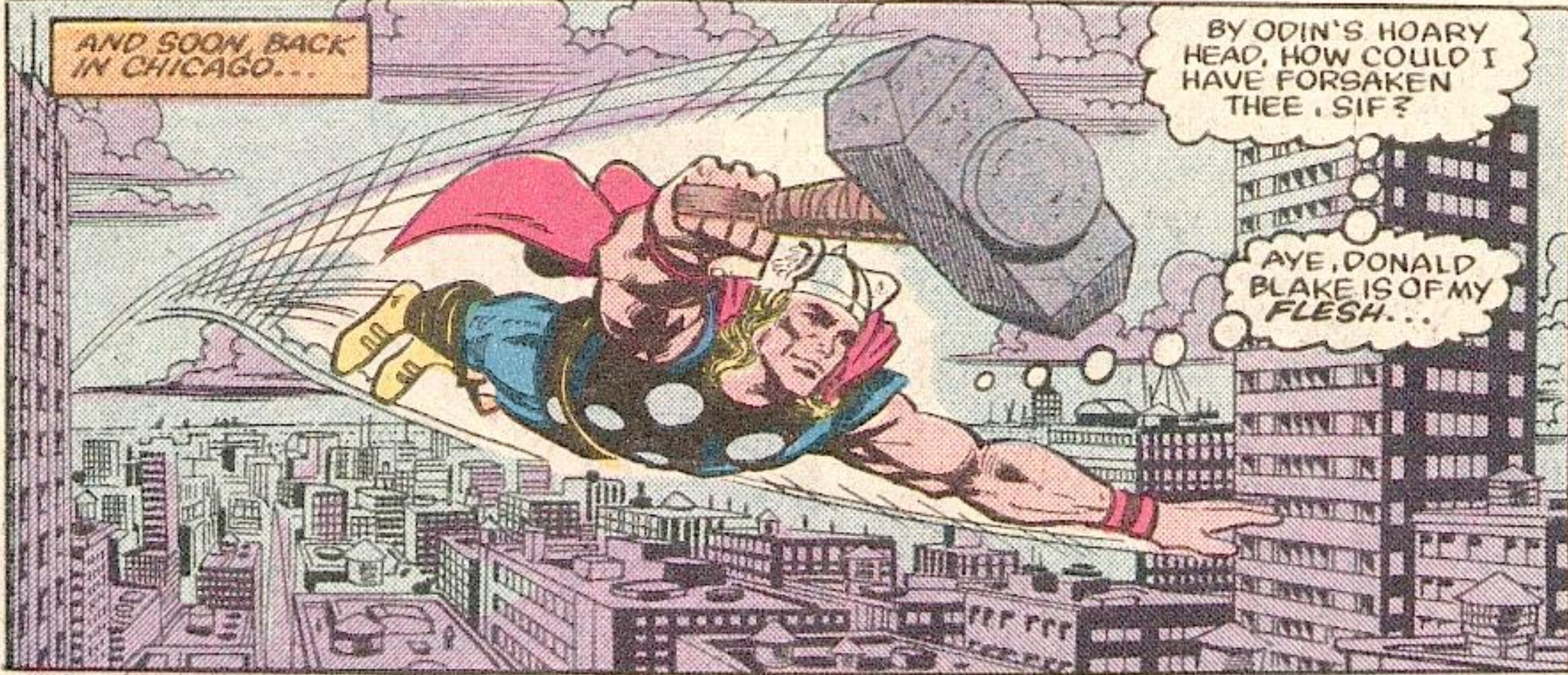
I SHALL PROBE MATTERS FURTHER AND INFORM YOU WHAT I LEARN.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, FRIEND.

AND SOON, BACK  
IN CHICAGO...

BY ODIN'S HOARY  
HEAD, HOW COULD I  
HAVE FORSAKEN  
THEE, SIF?

AYE, DONALD  
BLAKE IS OF MY  
FLESH...



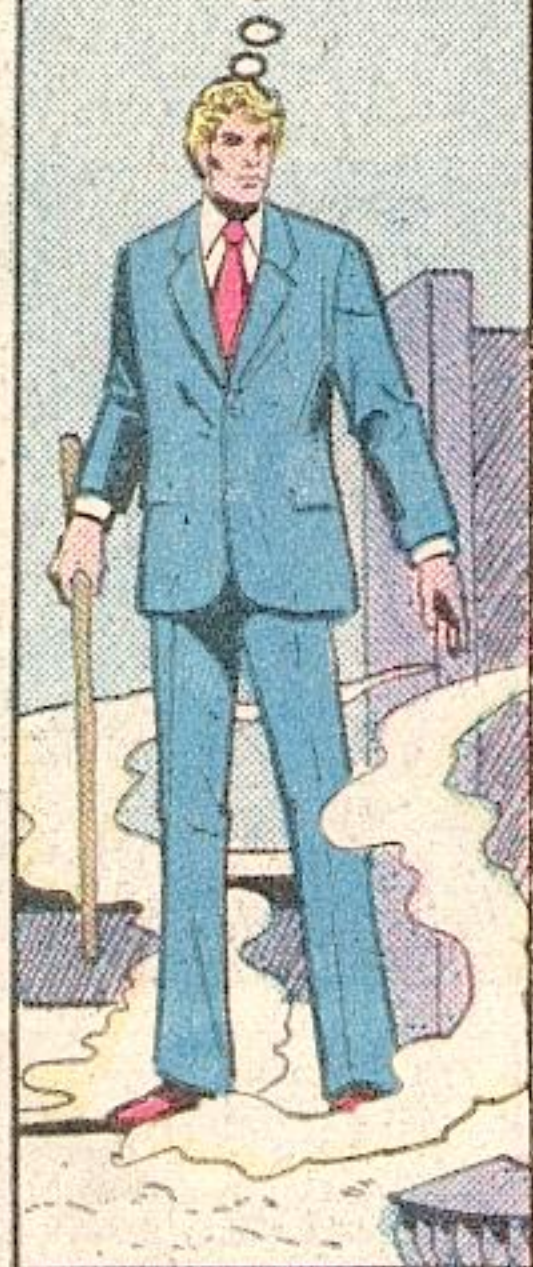
... BUT THOU ART THOR'S  
EVERLASTING SOUL. IF ANY  
HARM SHOULD BEFALL  
THEE...!



... WHICH I  
MUST ENTER...



... AS DONALD  
BLAKE.

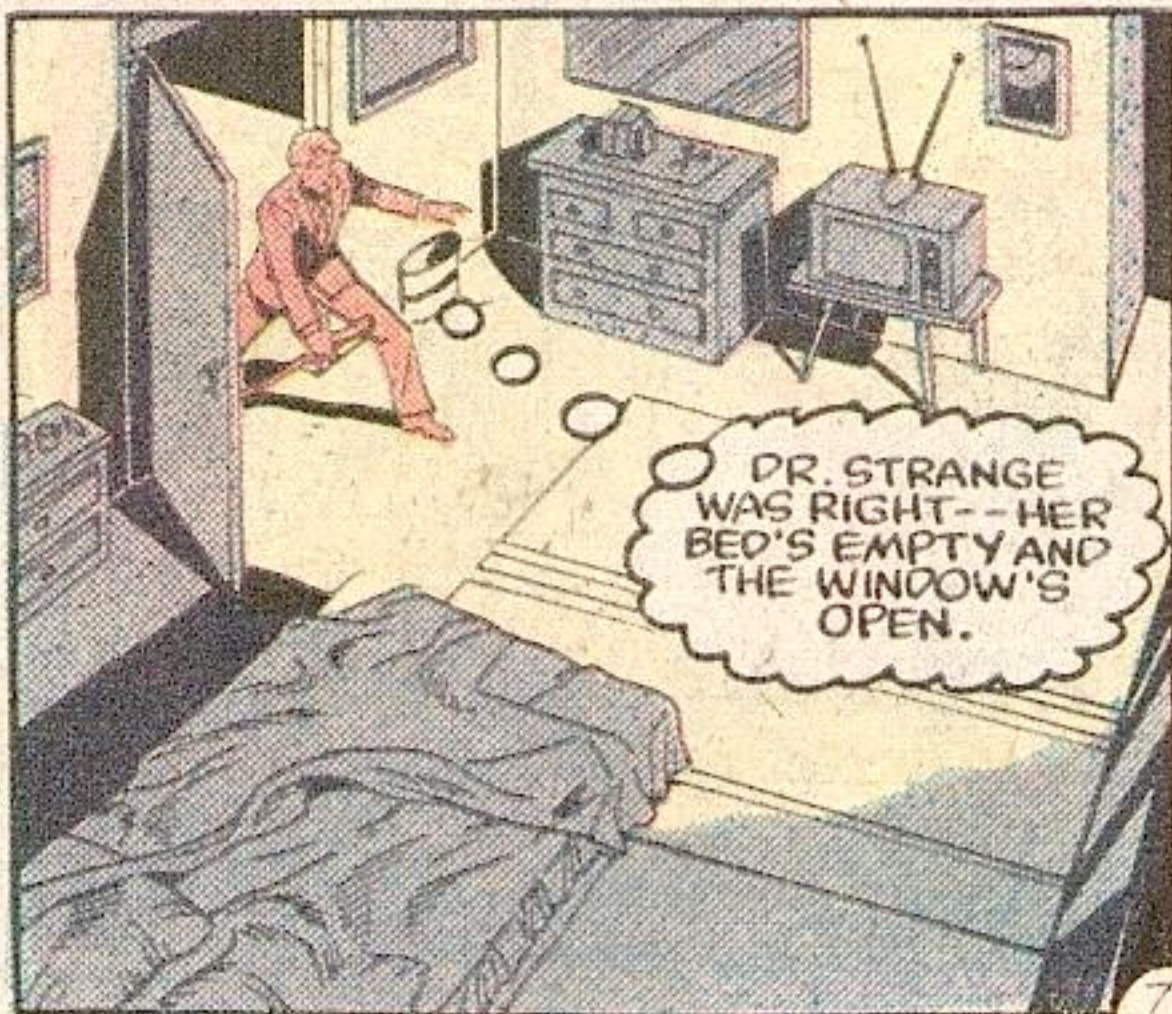


HERE IS DONALD  
BLAKE'S HOME...



SIF! WHERE  
ARE YOU!?

SIF!?



DR. STRANGE  
WAS RIGHT-- HER  
BED'S EMPTY AND  
THE WINDOW'S  
OPEN.





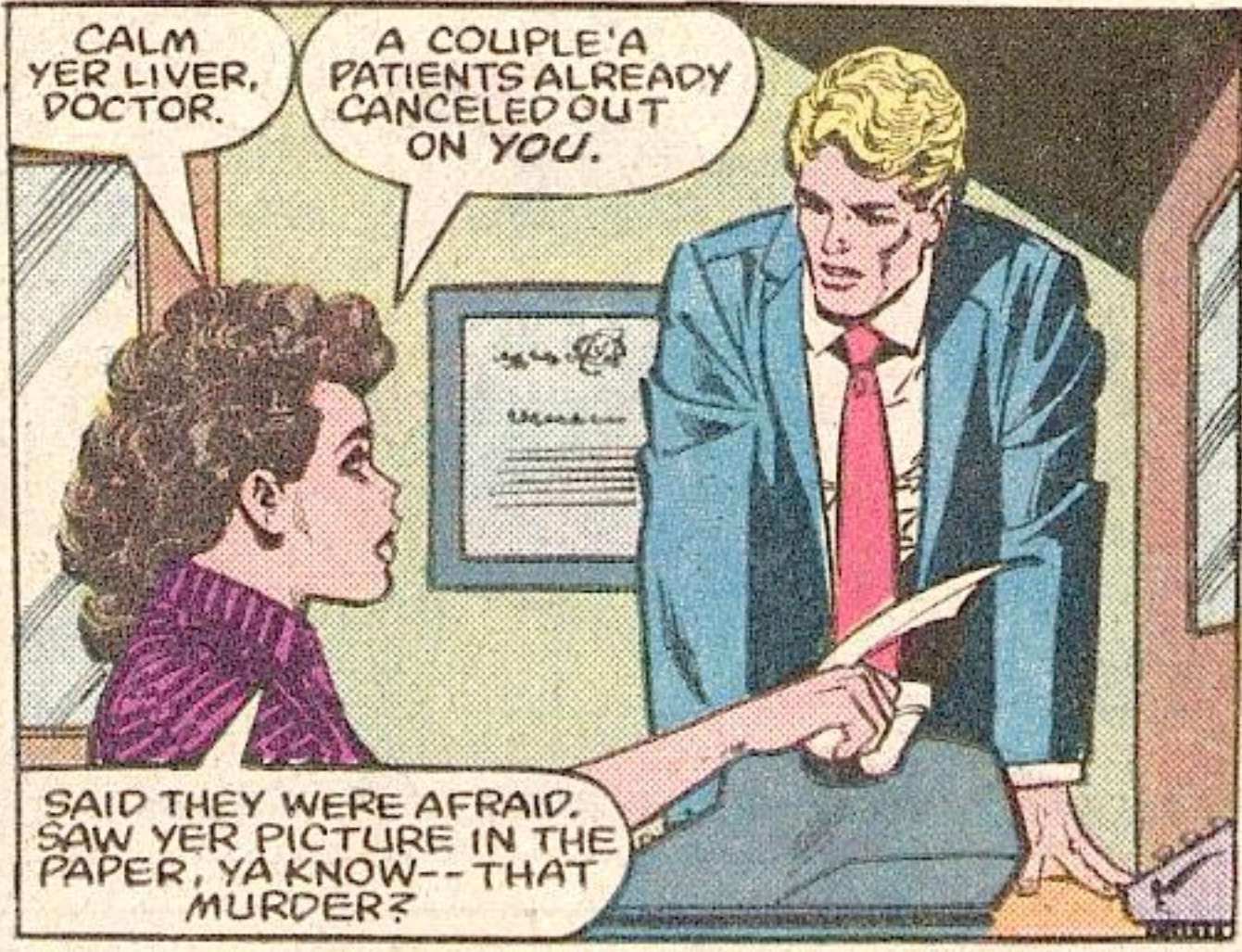
MOMENTS LATER, IN OFFICES ADJOINING HIS APARTMENT...

NURSE STEVENS? YOU'RE NOT NURSE STEVENS--

NO, I'M LORETTA PARMETER FROM ACME TEMPORARY. YER REG'LAR NURSE CAME DOWN WITH THE FLU.

OH, WELL, I'M DOCTOR BLAKE AND I'D LIKE TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS CANCELED.

I'VE GOT URGENT BUSINESS--



CALM YER LIVER, DOCTOR.

A COUPLE'A PATIENTS ALREADY CANCELED OUT ON YOU.

SAID THEY WERE AFRAID, SAW YER PICTURE IN THE PAPER, YA KNOW-- THAT MURDER?



PERSONALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE YA'D--

PLEASE SEND THE REST TO DR. LYNDE ON MICHIGAN AVENUE, MISS...

PARMETER! P-A-R-M-

YES. GOODBYE.



ELSEWHERE, IN A CHICAGO APARTMENT...

HOW RADIANT THOU ART, MY HANDSOME PRINCE!

SIF'S BLOOD SEEMS TO HAVE ENHANCED MY OWN RENEWED VITALITY. WHAT A BRIDE OF DARKNESS SHE SHALL MAKE! A TRUE GODDESS--UNLIKE THE BEAUTEOUS MUTANT STORM WITH WHOM I RECENTLY DALLIED.\*

HER LOST MEMORY MAKES HER SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY POWER. I HAVE ENRAPTURED HER.

\* X-MEN #159.



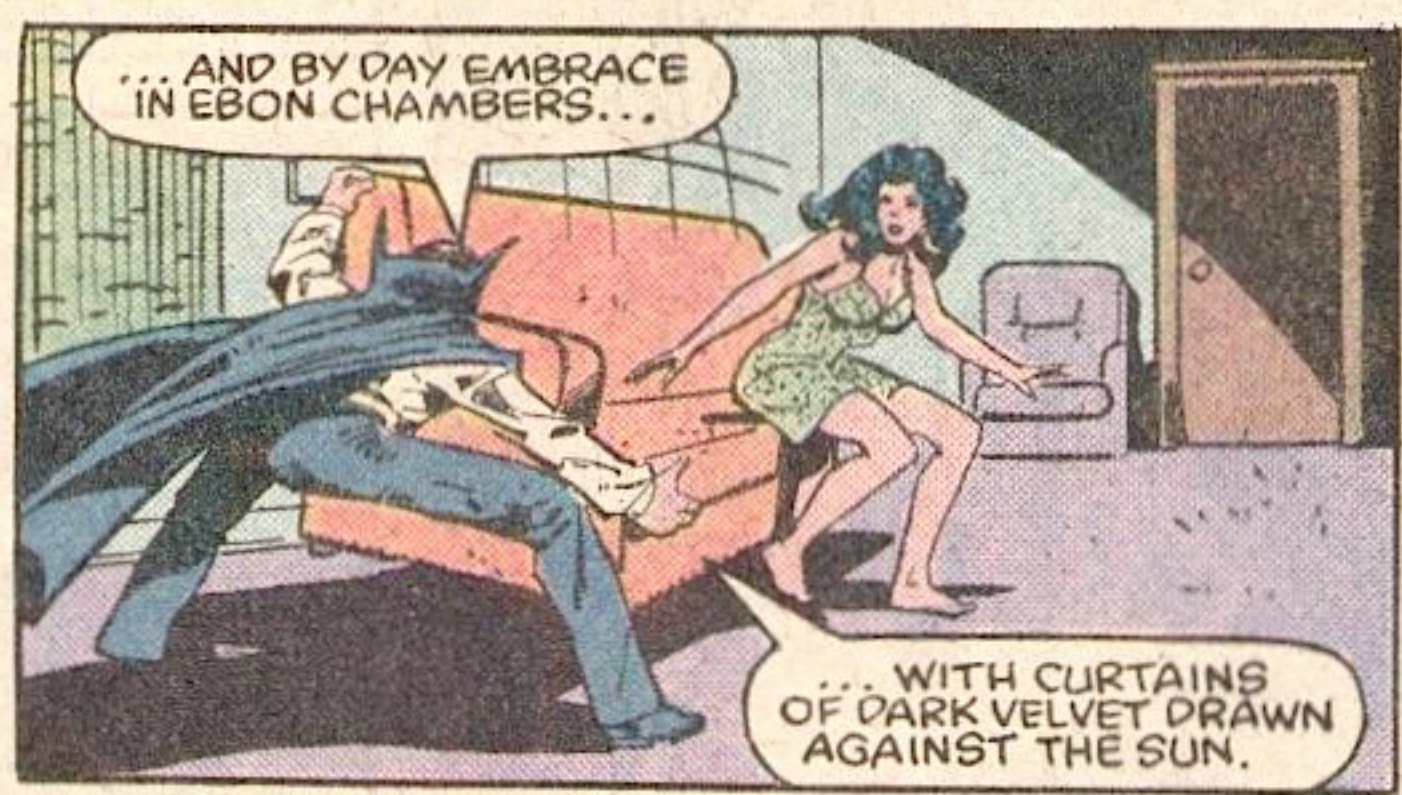
I AM POWER UNASSAILABLE, MY DARLING!

YOU ARE BEAUTY BEYOND COMPARE!

AND THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL SOON BE OUR KINGDOM!



BY NIGHT WE SHALL REIGN ENTHRONED UPON THE LOFTIEST PEAKS...



... AND BY DAY EMBRACE IN EBON CHAMBERS...

... WITH CURTAINS OF DARK VELVET DRAWN AGAINST THE SUN.



COME, WE MUST REST NOW.

I AM YOURS, MY LOVE, FOREVER!

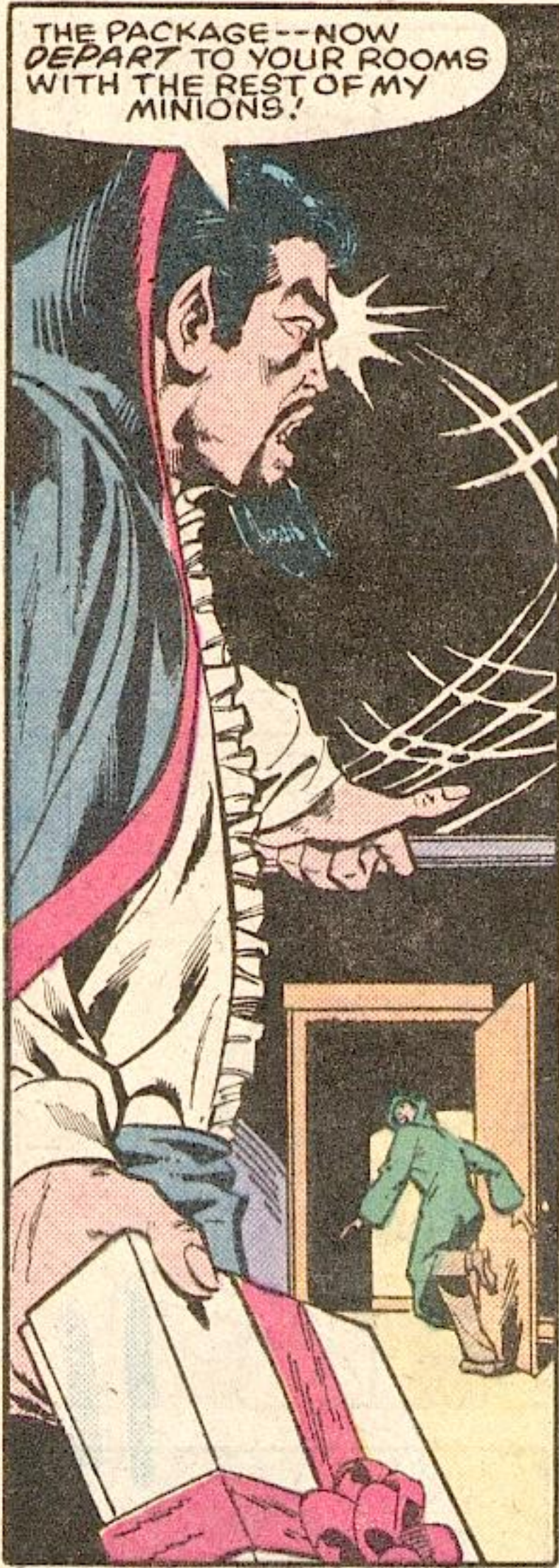


WHAT!/? FANGS ALREADY WITHIN ONE NIGHT!

INDEED, LIKE HER AMNESIA, IT MUST BE SIF'S DIVINE BLOOD THAT CAUSES SO UNIQUE A REACTION.



LORD DRACULA, FORGIVE MY HUMBLE INTRUSION --



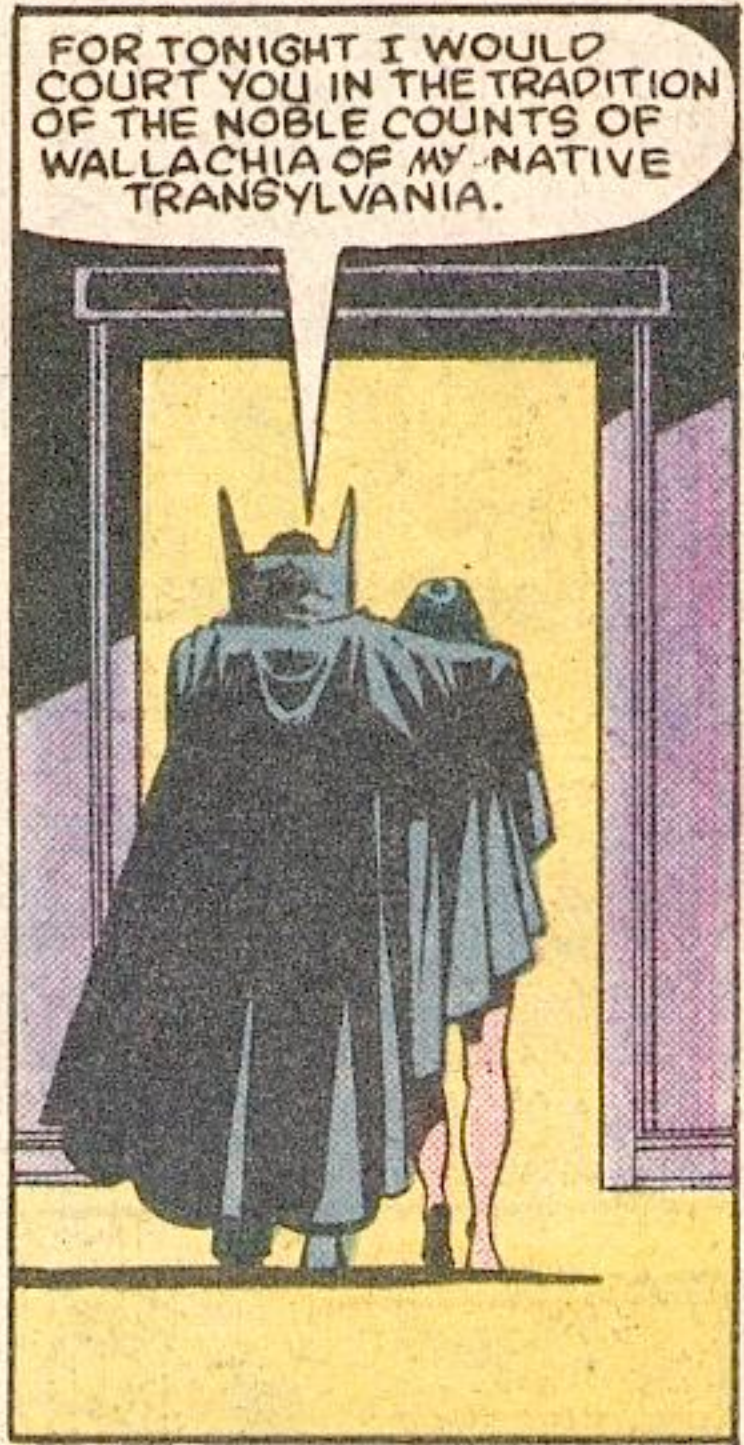
THE PACKAGE--NOW DEPART TO YOUR ROOMS WITH THE REST OF MY MINIONS!



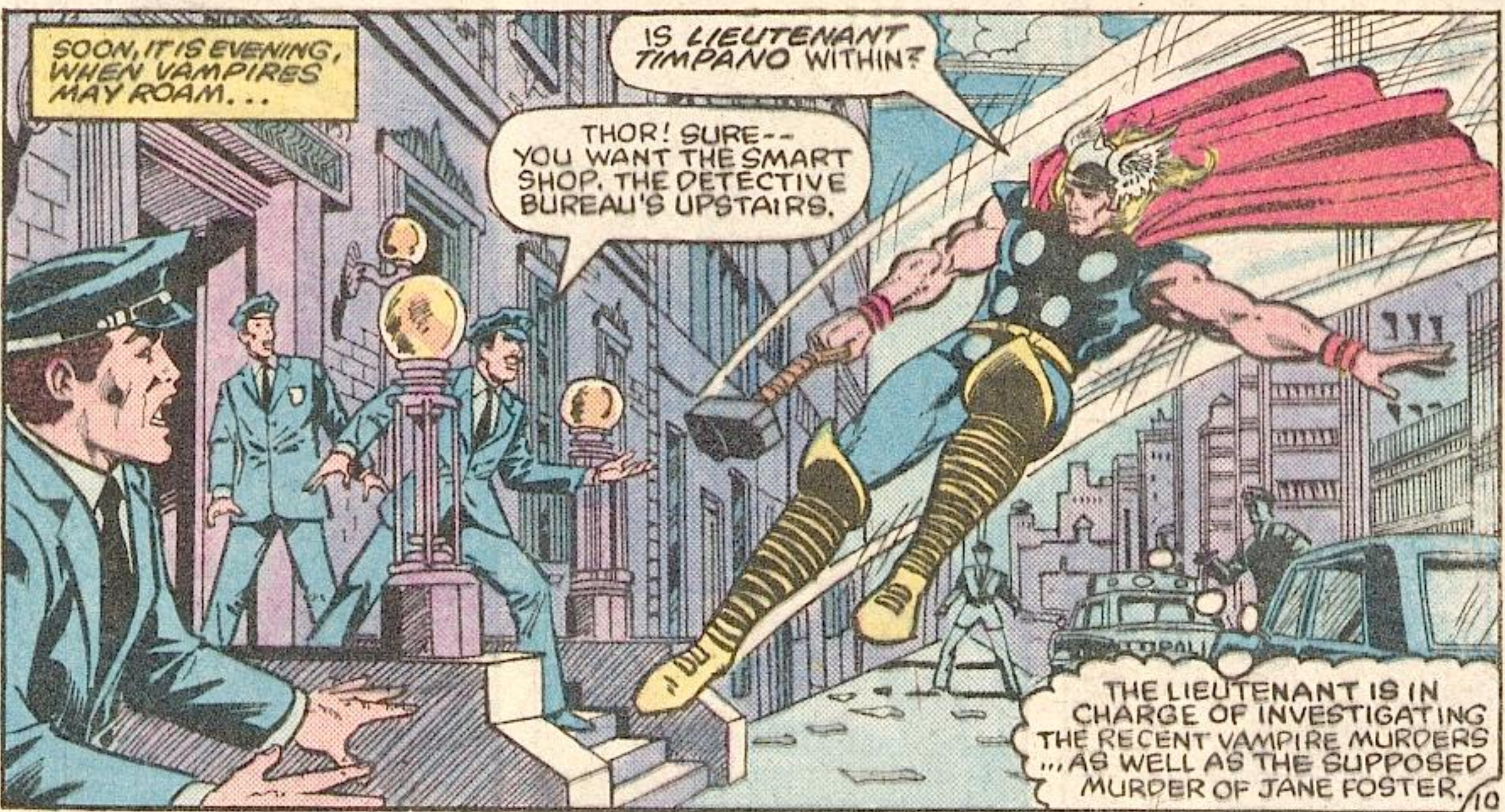
FOR YOU, MY DEAR.



TO GRACE YOUR FORM WITH ELEGANCE, AS BEFITS ROYALTY.



FOR TONIGHT I WOULD COURT YOU IN THE TRADITION OF THE NOBLE COUNTS OF WALLACHIA OF MY NATIVE TRANSYLVANIA.



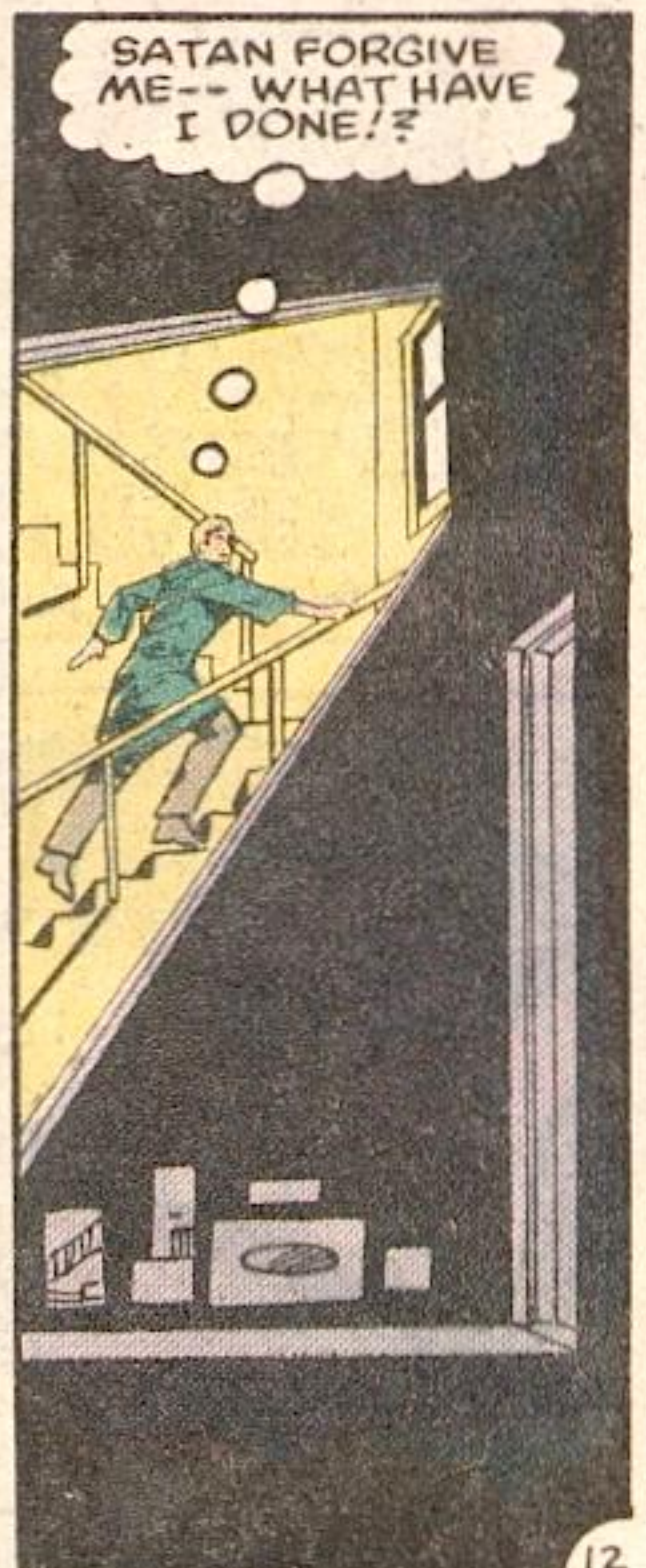
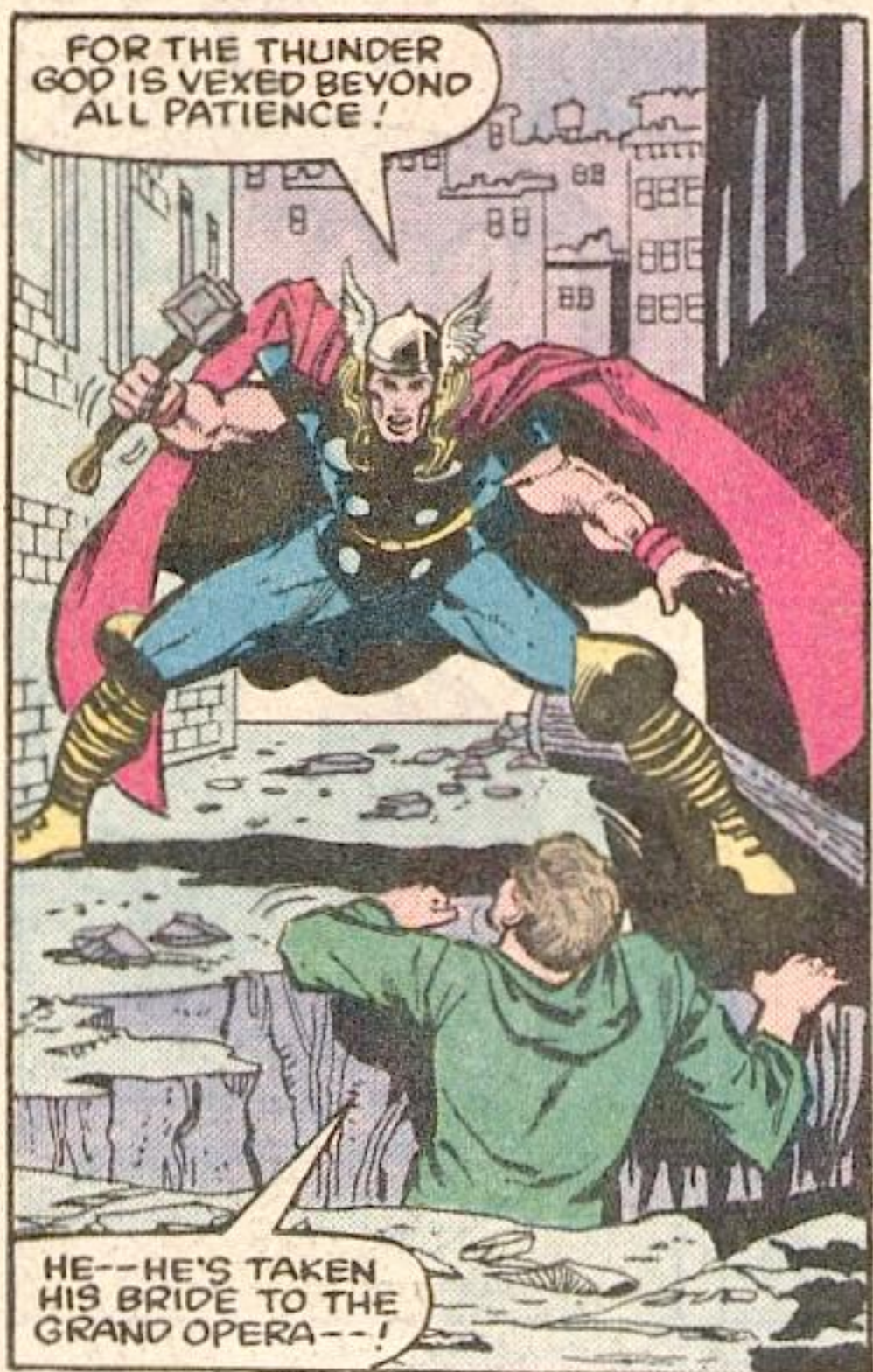
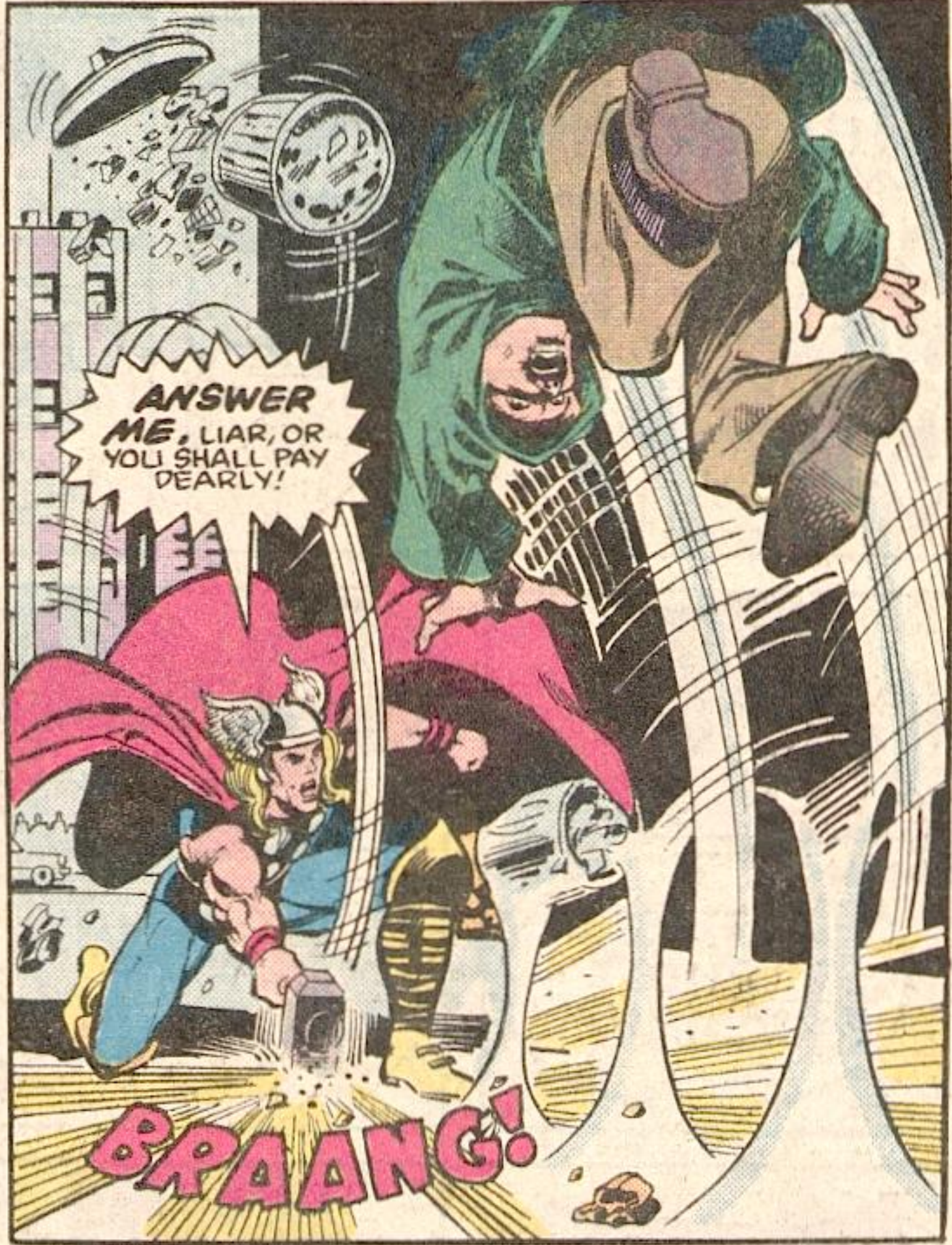
SOON, IT IS EVENING, WHEN VAMPIRES MAY ROAM...

IS LIEUTENANT TIMPANO WITHIN?

THOR! SURE-- YOU WANT THE SMART SHOP, THE DETECTIVE BUREAU'S UPSTAIRS.

THE LIEUTENANT IS IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING THE RECENT VAMPIRE MURDERS ... AS WELL AS THE SUPPOSED MURDER OF JANE FOSTER.





I... I HAVE BETRAYED OUR DARK LORD!

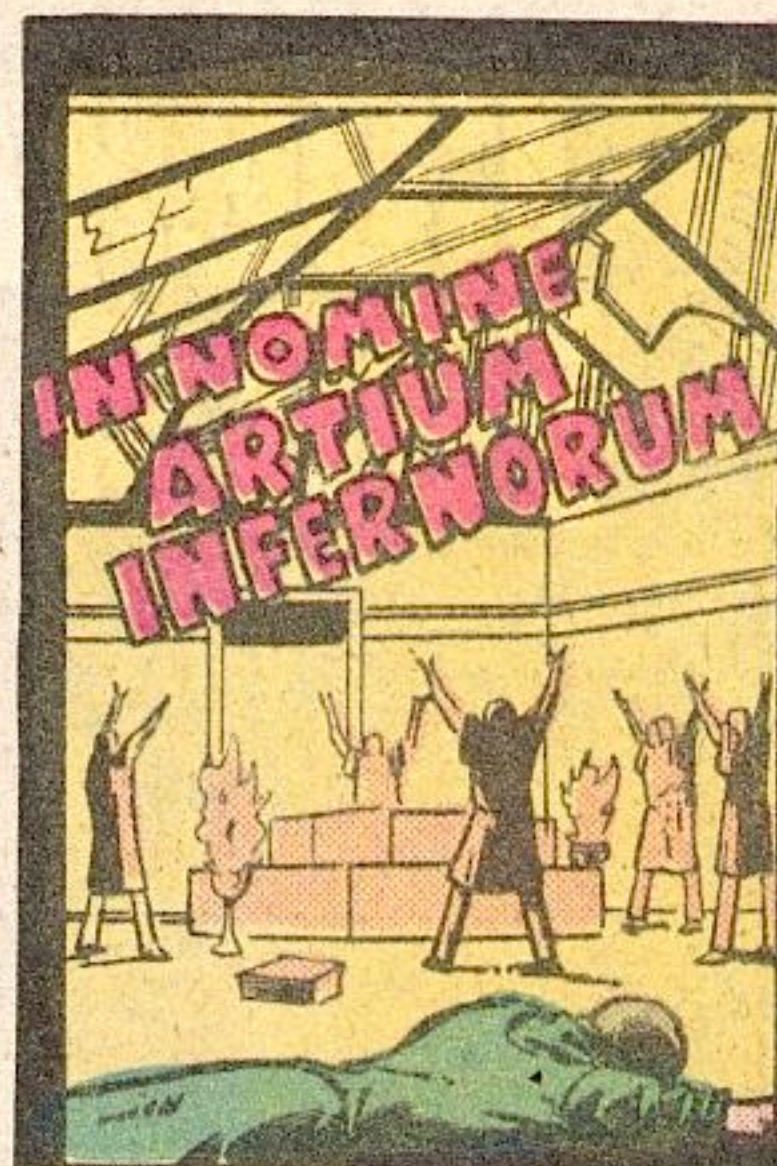


THERE CAN BE NO MERCY!

TO THE ALTAR!



IN NOMINE ARTIUM INFERNORUM



MEANWHILE, AT CHICAGO OPERA HOUSE...

WAGNER'S TANNHÄUSER, MY DEAR.

IT'S MAJESTIC CONFLICT BETWEEN SACRED AND PROFANE LOVE HAS INTRIGUED ME EVER SINCE I ATTENDED THE PREMIERE IN DRESDEN IN 1845.



NACHT!  
EUCH DEN  
STRANDE!

I HAVE SEEN MANY A BEAUTEOUS VENUS PORTRAYED IN THE GREATEST CONCERT HALLS OF EUROPE...



... BUT NONE TO OUTSHINE MY STUNNING GODDESS!



THOU DOST FLATTER ME, MY PRINCE.





NEARBY...

GEE, THOR, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LET ANYONE IN WITHOUT A TICKET...

... BUT SEEING AS HOW YOU'VE GOT THE KEYS TO THE CITY ANYWAY...



EXIT

... I GUESS I COULD MAKE AN EXCEP--OOF!



DRACULA, PRINCE OF DARKNESS! THOR OF ASGARD HAS COME FOR HIS GODDESS!



WHO IS THIS, MY LOVE, WHOSE FEATURES SEEM SO FAMILIAR?

WHY DOTH HE ASSAIL THEE?



ASK NO QUESTIONS! ONLYGAZE INTO MY EYES--

-- I BID YOU TO REMAIN HERE...



..WHILE I DO BATTLE AGAINST THIS POSTURING FOOL!

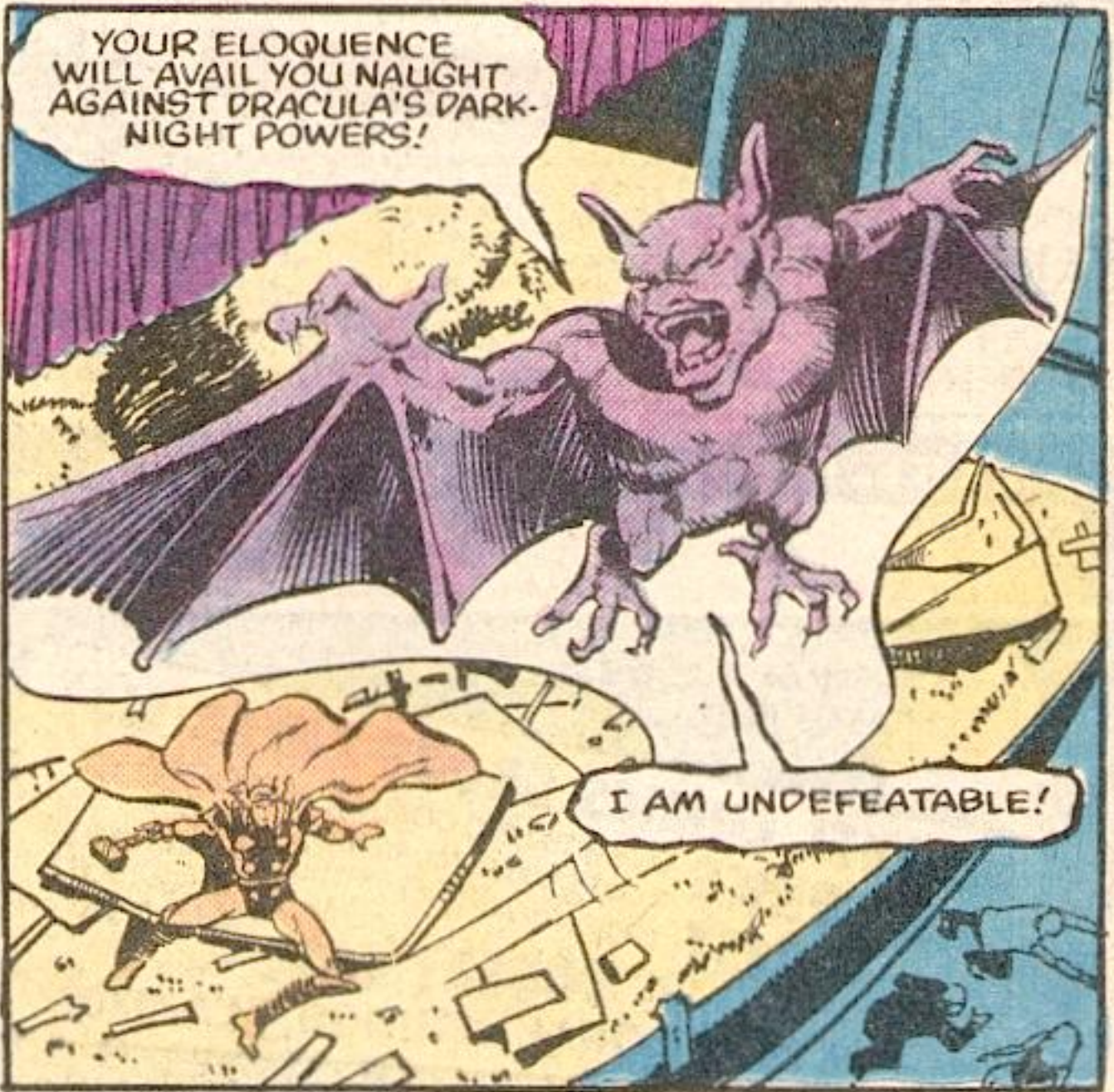


DARK FIEND, DO YOU THINK TO CLASP MY GODDESS-- DEARER TO ME THAN ALL LIFE-- TO YOUR BLOODSTAINED BREAST?!

THE SUN SHALL FADE FROM MIDGARD'S SKIES BEFORE YOU SHALL POSSESS HER!

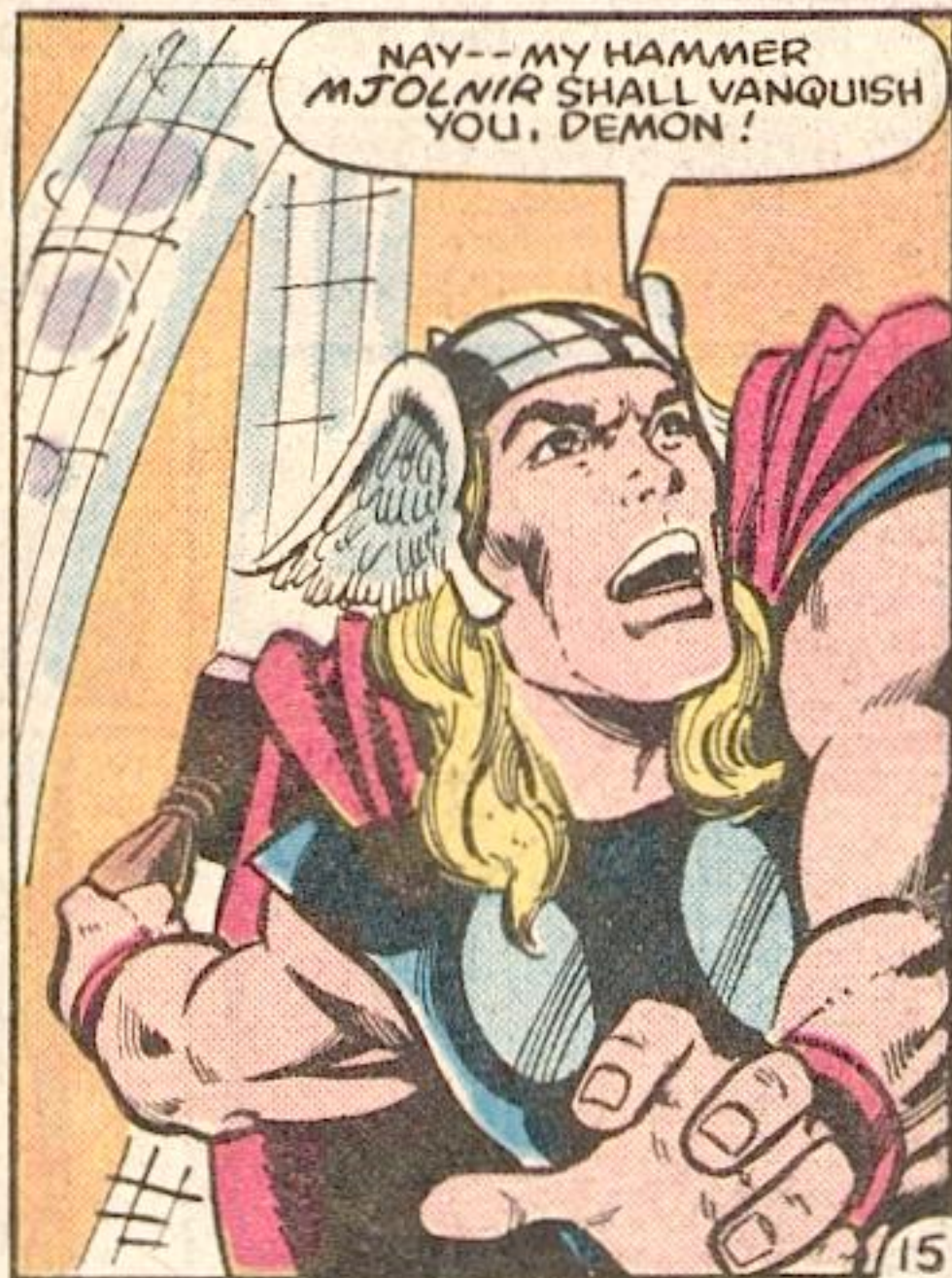


CRAASH!



YOUR ELOQUENCE WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT AGAINST DRACULA'S DARK-NIGHT POWERS!

I AM UNDEFEATABLE!



NAY-- MY HAMMER MJOLNIR SHALL VANQUISH YOU, DEMON!





A PRETTY RELIC OF A FORGOTTEN RELIGION, THE PRINCE OF VAMPIRES HAS CONTEMPT FOR YOUR PLAYTHING!



**CRAAK!**



HASTEN, MORTALS! I MUST FOLLOW TO PREVENT THE DEVIL'S ESCAPE!

WE'RE GOING, WE'RE GOING!



TO ME, MY HAMMER!



SO YOU SEEK TO FLEE, EH, COWARD!?

I SEEK ONLY A MORE SPACIOUS ARENA FOR COMBAT, BLIND DOLT!

AND OUT OF DOORS  
I CAN SUMMON  
THE POWERS OF  
THE STORM!



DARK CLOUDS  
AND ROLLING THUNDER,  
HARKEN TO DRACULA'S  
COMMAND AND SMITE  
THIS GODLING!

NEVER! THE  
THUNDER GOD  
CHARGES THE  
CELESTIAL  
ELEMENTS TO  
STRIKE YOU, BLACK  
VILLAIN, AND  
BLAST YOUR  
INFERNAL FORM!



FOR THE MOMENT OF A  
HEARTBEAT, THE STORM  
CEASES--AS THOUGH  
PONDERING WHICH  
MASTER TO OBEY...



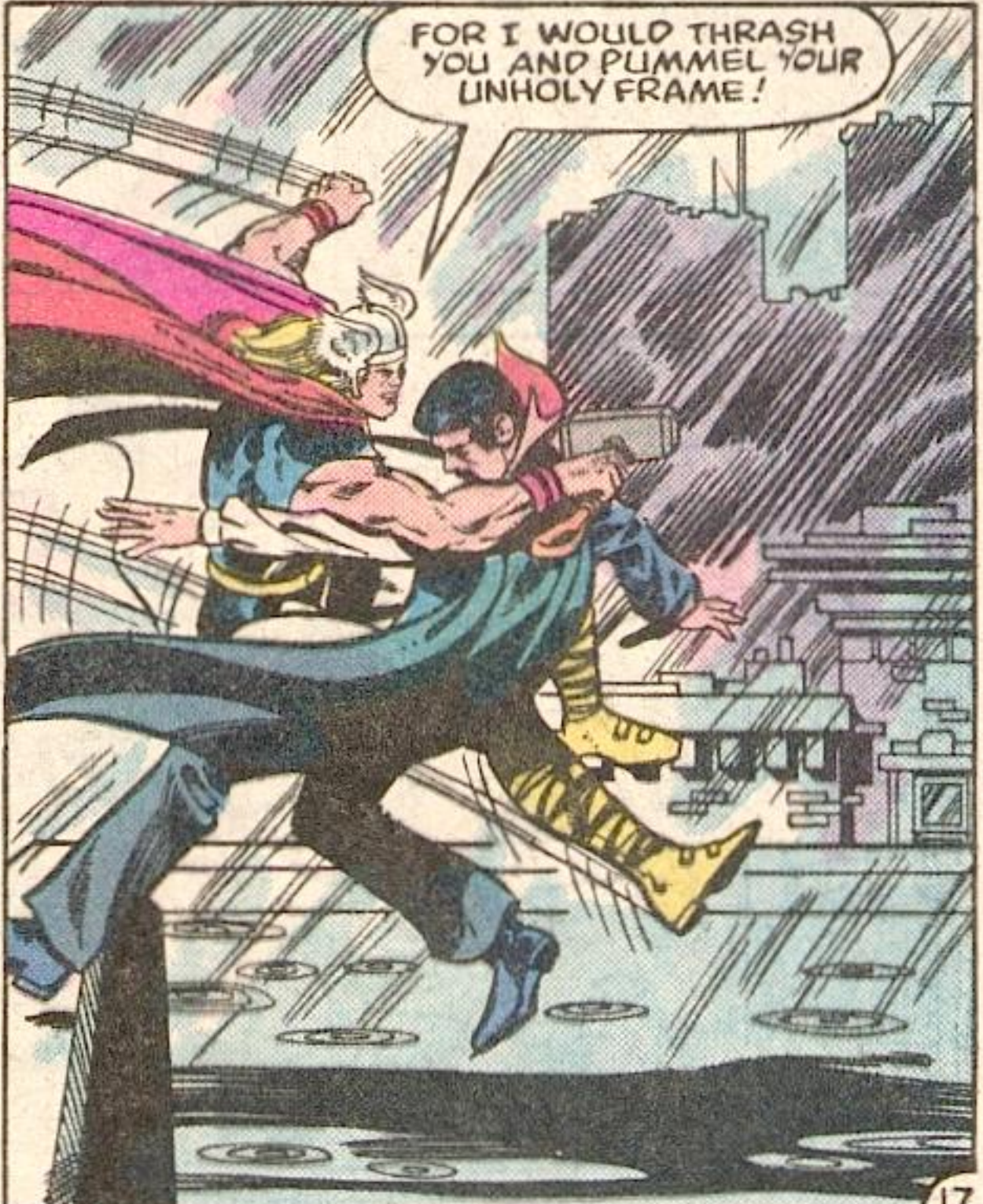
... AND THEN THE RAW  
ELEMENTS RENEW THEIR  
FURY--OBEYING BOTH  
BUT STRIKING NEITHER.



STAND  
FORTH,  
VAMPIRE!



FOR I WOULD THRASH  
YOU AND PUMMEL YOUR  
UNHOLY FRAME!

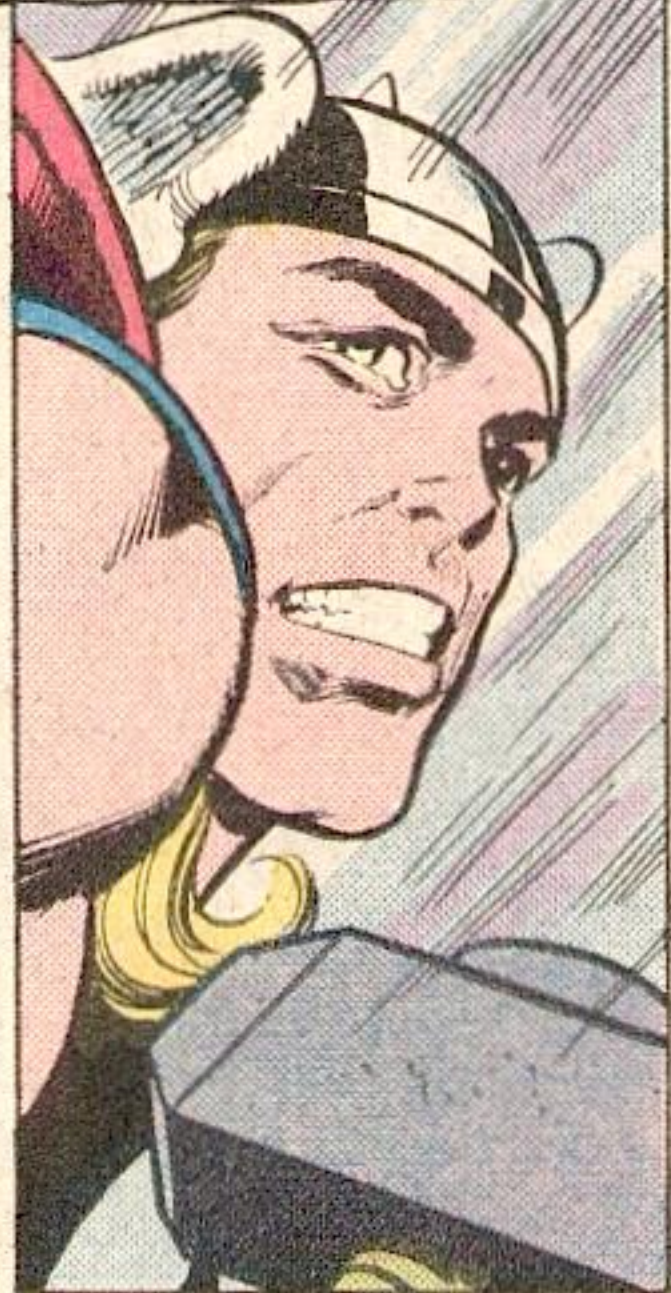




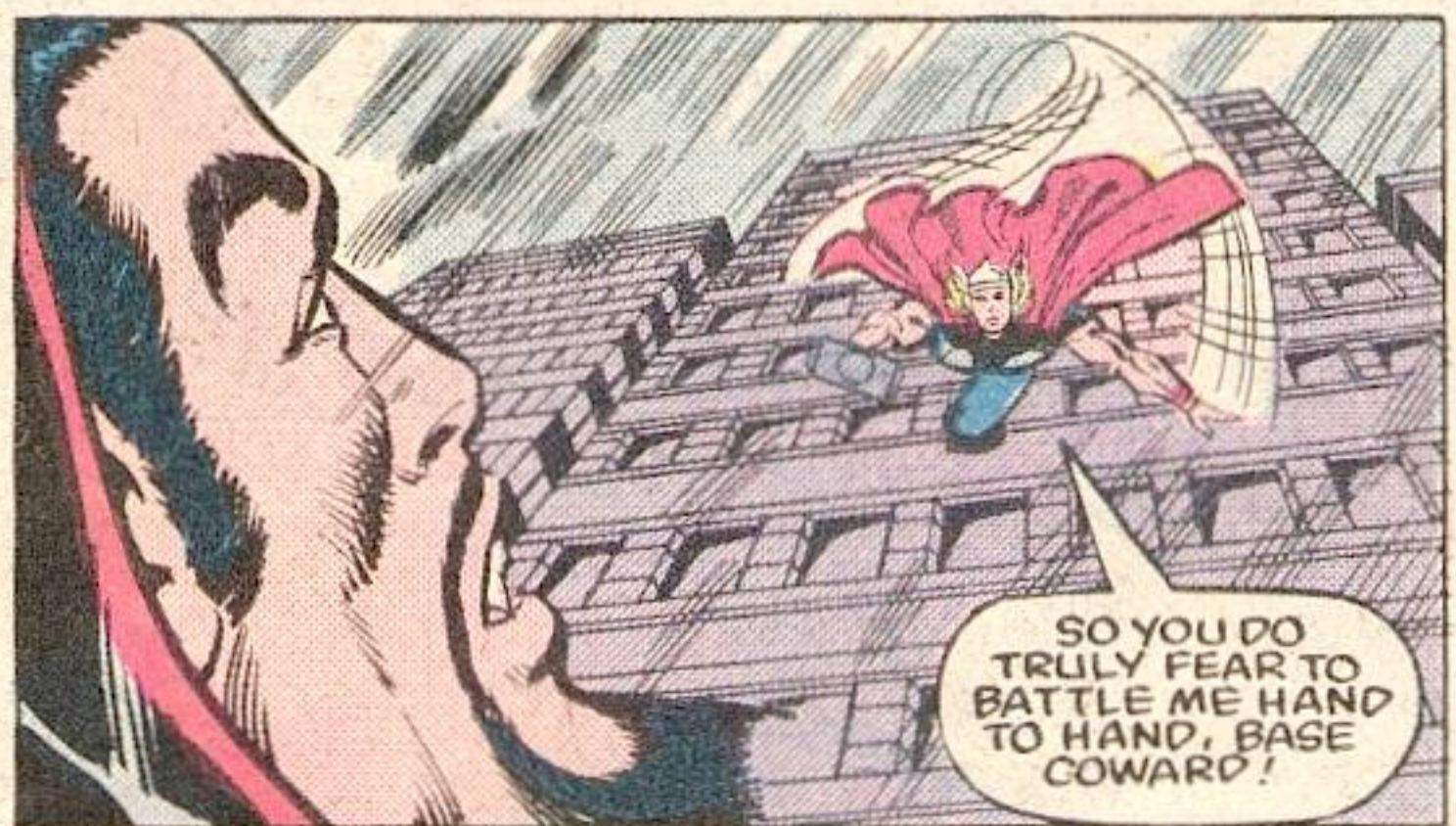
YOU ARE POWERFUL, THOR--

-- BUT YOUR OVER-CONFIDENCE IS EMBARRASSING!

WOULD YOU GRASP DRACULA-- TRANSFORMED TO A MIST OF AIR, YOU FOOL!?



SUMMONING THE STORM HAS DRAINED ME OF MUCH STRENGTH-- CAN THE POWER OF SIF'S BLOOD BE WEAKENING IN MY VEINS!?

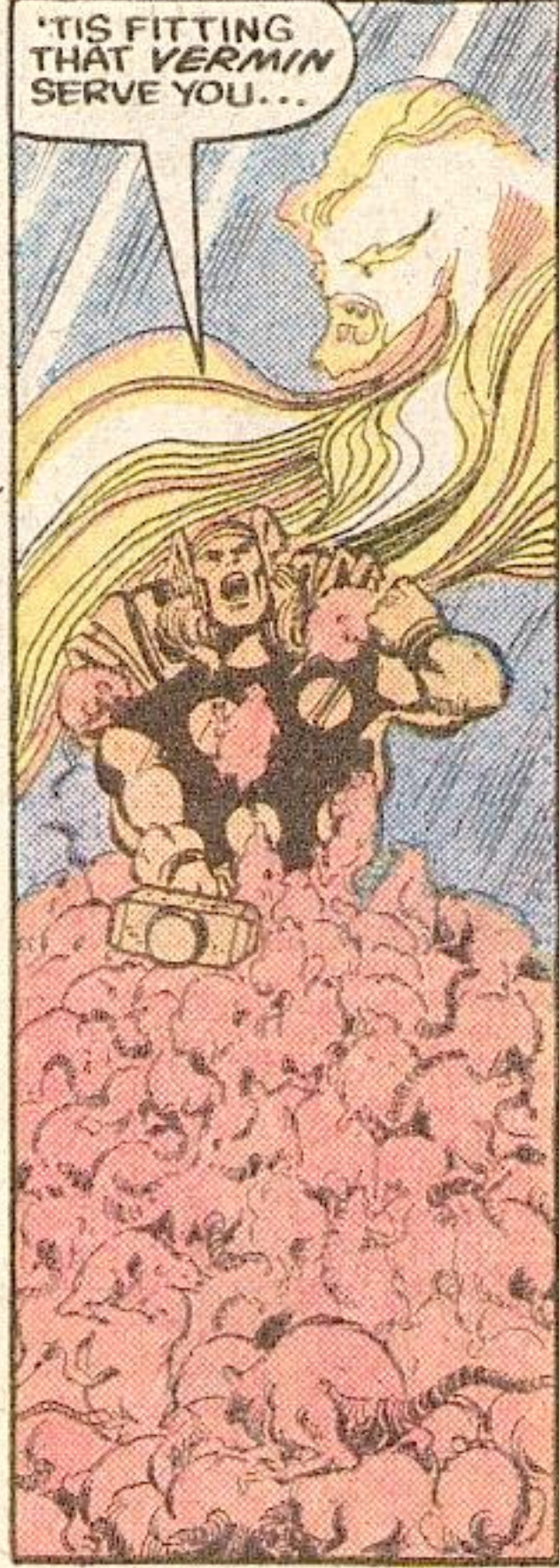


SO YOU DO TRULY FEAR TO BATTLE ME HAND TO HAND, BASE COWARD!



WHY SHOULD THE PRINCE OF EVIL LOWER HIMSELF...

... WHEN I NEED MERELY COMMAND MY UNDERLINGS-- THE MEANEST OF LIFE FORMS-- TO OVERWHELM YOU?



'TIS FITTING THAT VERMIN SERVE YOU...



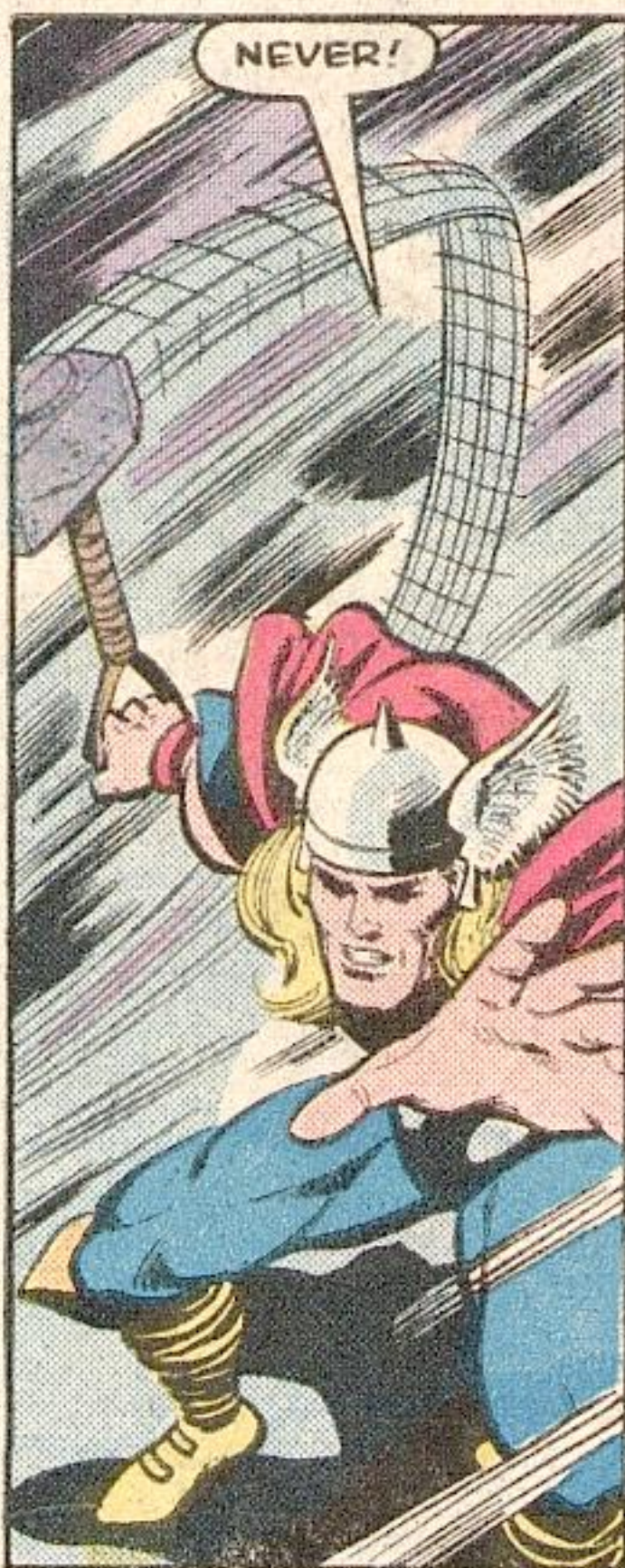
... FOR THEY ARE AS LOATHSOME IN THEIR MANNER AS YOUR VILE SELF!

BUT NOW, BY ASGARD'S RADIANCE--!



YOU ARE BLIND, THOR! THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS BECLOUDS ALL RADIANCE WITH HIS AURA OF EVIL.

DO YOU NOT SEE THAT DRACULA TRIUMPHS!?



NEVER!



AGAIN, YOUR MALLET? YOU'RE A GREATER FOOL THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON MY METAMORPHOSIS TO CLOUDY MIST?



NAY, THAT IS JUST WHAT I DESIRE. FOR HIS TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES CONCENTRATION, FORCING HIM TO YIELD CONTROL OF THE STORM.

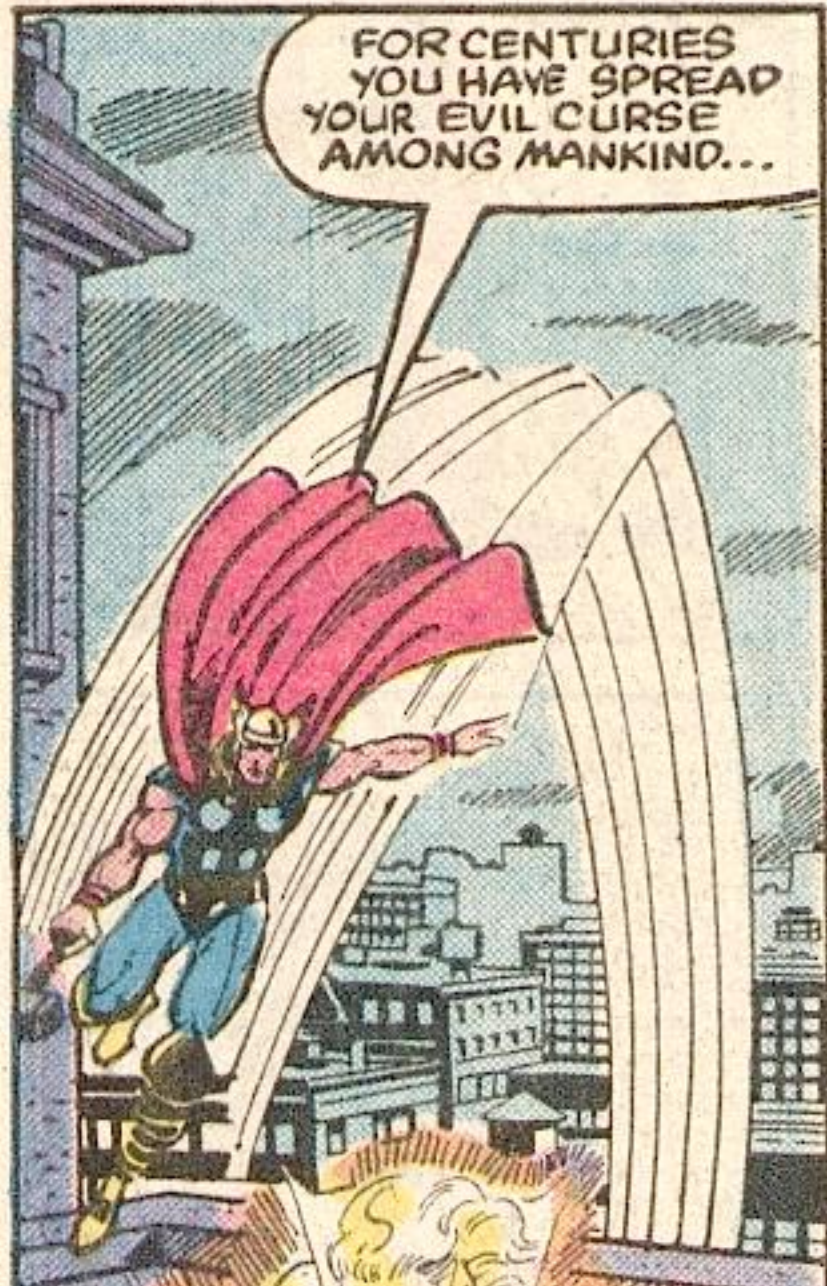
NOW, LIGHTNING, STRIKE! STRIKE THE VERY MIST WHICH IS DRACULA!



**AIEEEEEEEEE**

**SPAK  
SPAK**

THE VAMPIRE LORD IS CAUGHT UNAWARES AS THE FIERY ELECTRIC BOLT BLASTS HIS DRIFTING MOLECULES, IONIZING THEM AND SHOCKING HIS SYSTEM!



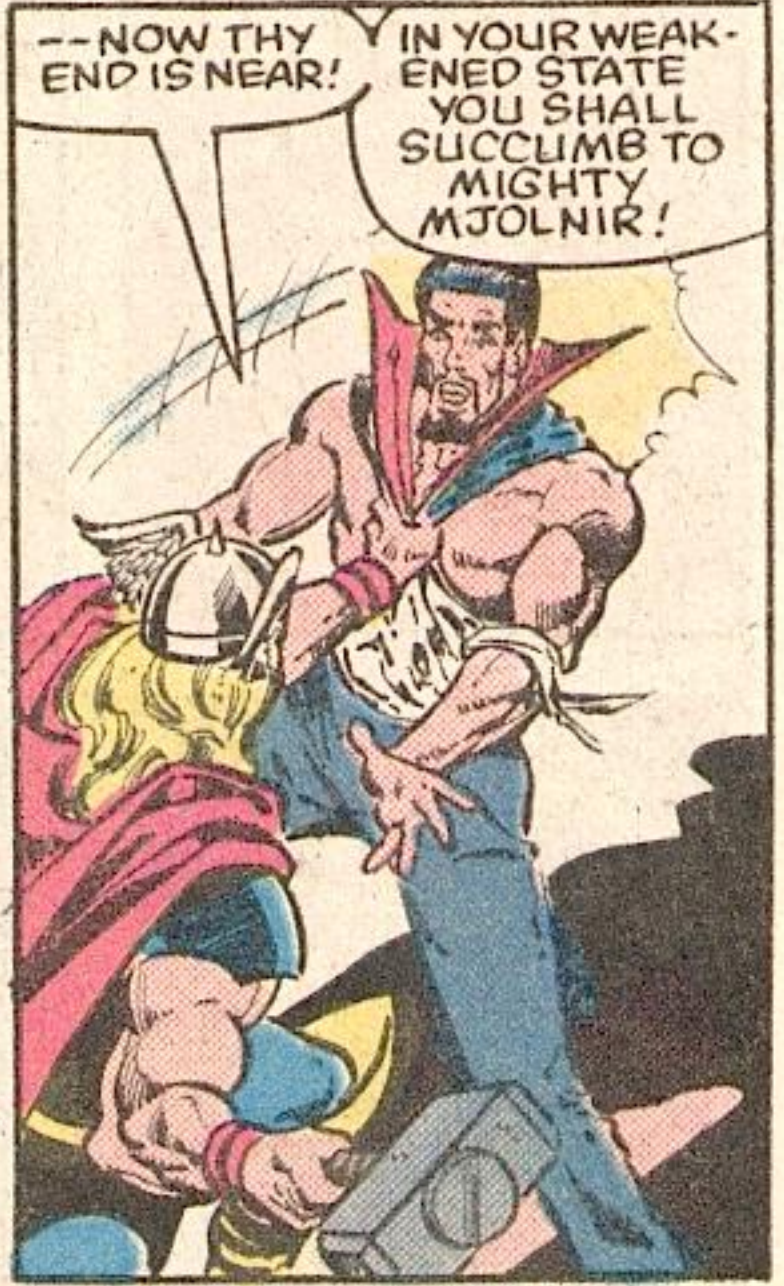
FOR CENTURIES YOU HAVE SPREAD YOUR EVIL CURSE AMONG MANKIND...

HOW--?



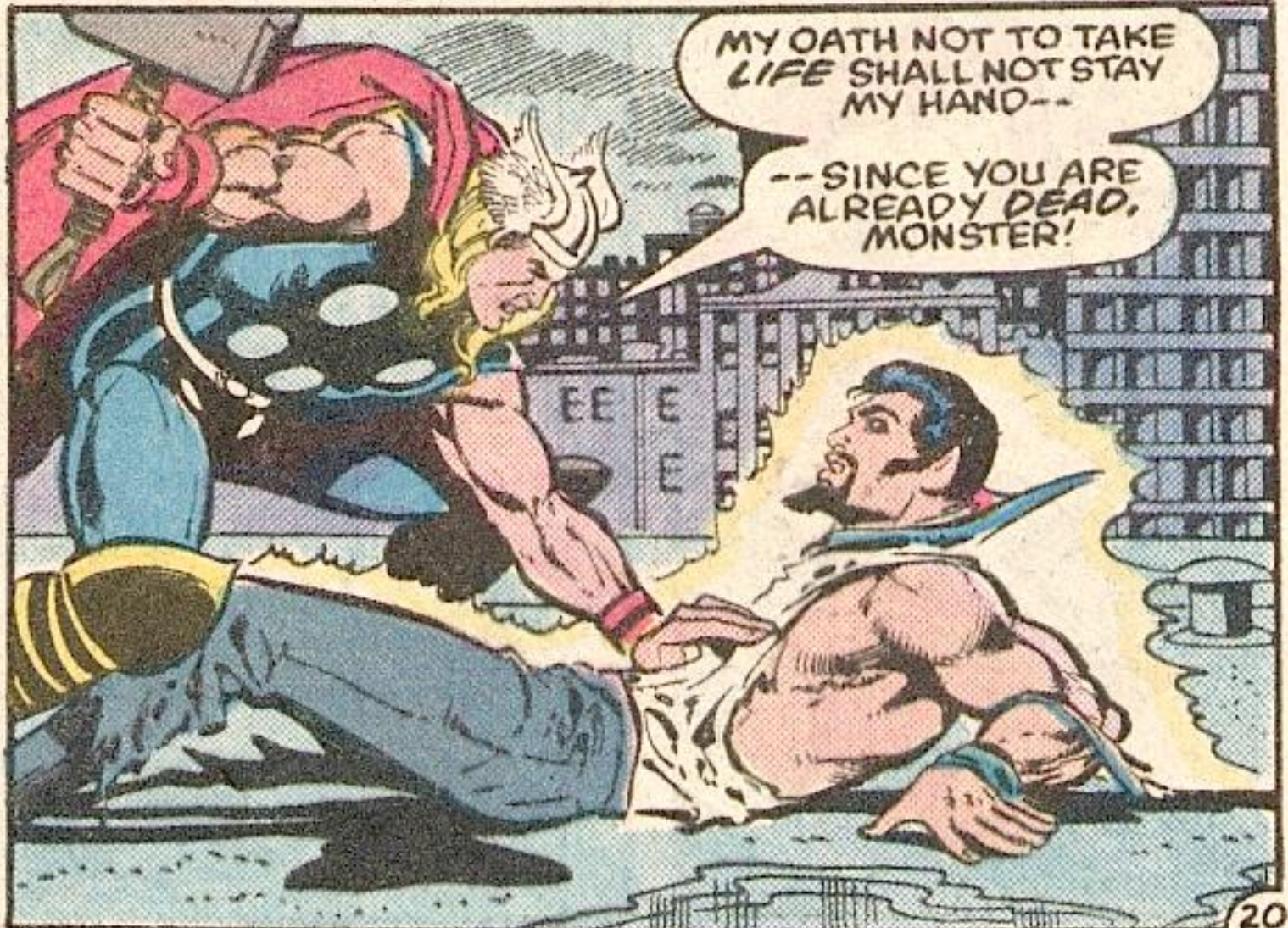
... BUT NOW--

HOW DID YOU--!?



-- NOW THY END IS NEAR!

IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE YOU SHALL SUCCLIMB TO MIGHTY MJOLNIR!



MY OATH NOT TO TAKE LIFE SHALL NOT STAY MY HAND--

-- SINCE YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD, MONSTER!

TO HELA WITH THEE-- **WHAT!?**

THOR!

A THOUGHT IMAGE PROJECTED BY DOCTOR STRANGE!

DO NOT BE PUZZLED. MEMBERS OF A CHICAGO DRACULA CULT HAVE MYSTICALLY TRANSPORTED THEIR MASTER TO NEW YORK.

SIF'S BLOOD, WHICH HE HAD HOPED WOULD MAKE HIM IMMORTAL, HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE ICHOR IN HIS VEINS...

... HE IS WEAK ENOUGH THAT I CAN MONITOR HIM.

I WILL COMPLETE THE TASK YOU HAVE BEGUN!\*

YOU MEANWHILE ARE FREE TO FIND THE RUNESTAFF YOU SO DESPERATELY SEEK. MAY YOU BE SUCCESSFUL.

\* NEXT MONTH, IN DOCTOR STRANGE #60.

WAIT! WHAT OF MY GODDESS SIF--!?

IF DRACULA DID MAKE SIF AN UNDEAD CREATURE LIKE HIMSELF, THERE MAY BE NO CURE!

I MUST FIND HER, BUT IN MY HEART, I FEAR--

THOR--!

BELOVED, MY ILLNESS IS ENDED, AND MY MEMORY RETURNED.

AN EVIL PRINCE OF MIDGARD'S NETHERWORLD DID--

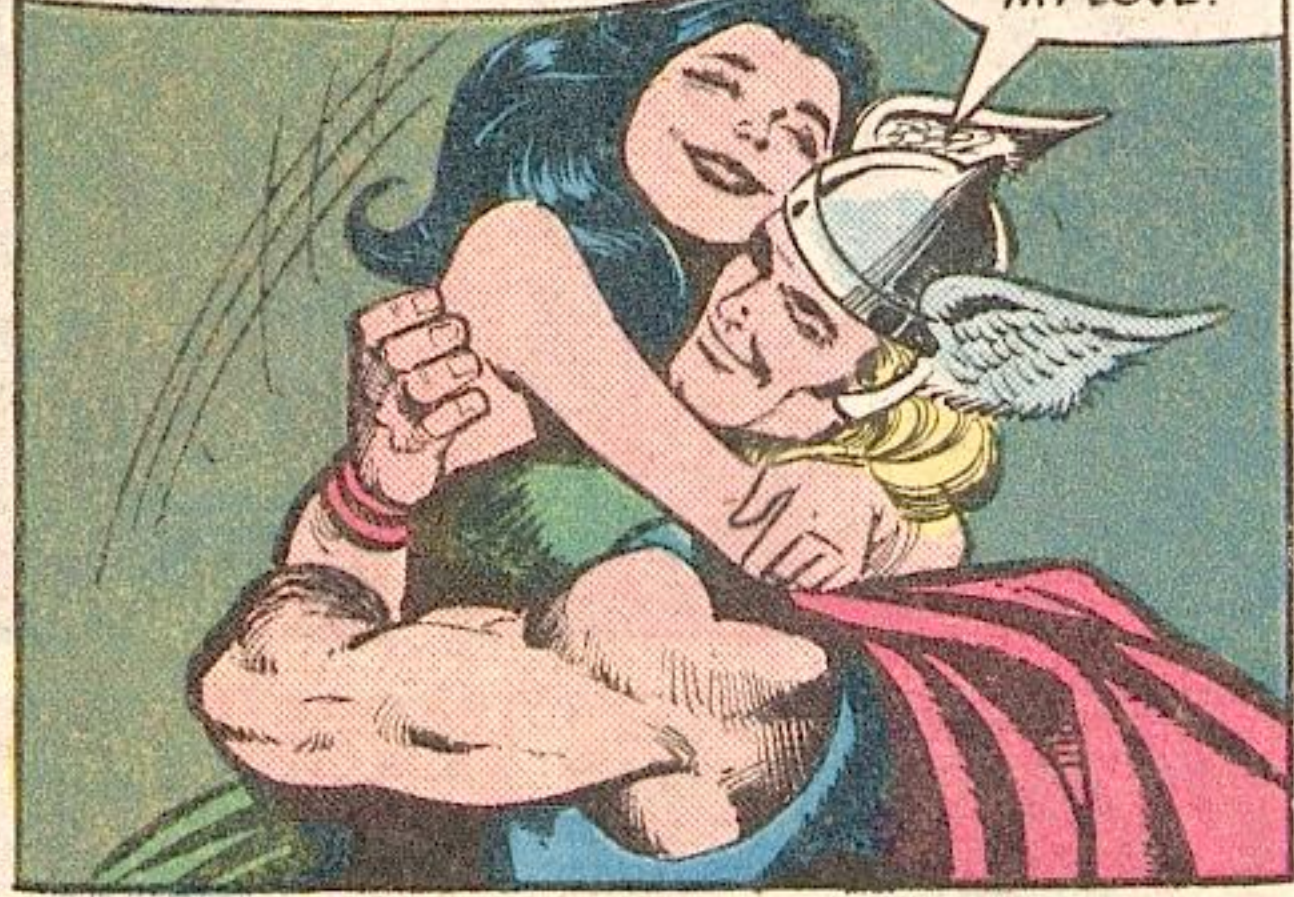


SIF! THEN YOUR DIVINE BLOOD DID REJECT DRACULA'S POISONS AS HIS REJECTED YOUR BLOOD.



BY THE GLITTERING SPIRES OF OUR HEAVENLY HOME THIS IS A GLORIOUS MOMENT!

YOU ARE SOFT AND MOST FRAGRANT, MY LOVE!



BUT ONE TASK YET REMAINS.

WE MUST PREPARE TO DEPART ONCE MORE TO ATTAIN THE RUNESTAFF WHICH DOCTOR STRANGE HAS LOCATED BACK ON KAMO THARNN'S PLANET FAR OUT IN SPACE.



THE HOME OF KAMO THARNN IS TREACHEROUS AND INHOSPITABLE, AND HE HIMSELF A MAD AND POWERFUL BEING.



BUT THY WARRIOR GODDESS LONGS TO WIELD HER BLADE. WHENEVER THOU ART READY, I AM PREPARED.

**NEXT** THE QUEST BEGINS!