

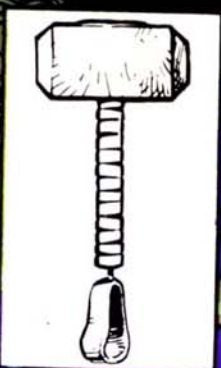
MARVEL

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# the mighty THOR

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CAN. 75c





STAN LEE PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

THE COTSWOLDS OF ENGLAND... A LAND OF WOODED HILLS AND SHADOWED VALLEYS...

...WHERE SOMETHING ALMOST MEDIEVAL STILL HOLDS THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THRALL...

...AND THE ANCIENT AND POWERFUL REALM OF FAERIE IS HIDDEN FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN ONLY BY HIS OWN BLINDNESS.

I DON'T LIKE IT!

BUT THE REALM STILL STANDS, AND CLOSER THAN ONE MIGHT THINK...

...FOR WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, A MORTAL MAY CROSS THE BOUNDARY INTO THAT ENCHANTED REALM...

...AND BE LOST FOREVER.

# into the realm of Faerie!

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I'VE CARRIED A STEEL PLATE AROUND IN MY HEAD SINCE KOREA WHEN I STUCK MY HEAD IN A DUMFOOL PLACE WITH-OUT LOOKING!

... BUT I FEEL JUST LIKE I'M STARING INTO THAT ENEMY PILL-BOX AGAIN.

AND MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING BUT A DESERTED CASTLE UP THERE...

I WISH THOR WERE HERE.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM. EVER SINCE HE DRANK THAT STUFF BACK IN NEW YORK, HE SEEMS A LITTLE SCATTERED

AND NOW I'M STUCK WITH THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS IN A KNAPSACK...

...TRYING HARD TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO LOCATE SOME BLASTED ELVES OR SOMETHING!

NOW, BROTHERS! STRIKE HIM DOWN!

I'VE FOUND THEM!

WHOCK!

KLOP!

UGH!

A MORTAL! AND SO CLOSE TO OUR FASTNESS!

YET HE IS NOT ONE OF OUR SLAVES, A FAERIE MORTAL. FOR HE DID NOT SEE US.

HOW FORTUNATE THAT WE ARE INVISIBLE TO SUCH FOOLS UNLESS THEIR EYES ARE ANOINTED WITH THE OIL OF VISION.

SEARCH HIM!

MALEKITH HAS WARNED US THAT SOONER OR LATER, THE MIGHTY THOR AND HIS SERVANT WILL ATTEMPT TO INVADE OUR STRONGHOLD AS LONG AS WE HOLD HIS WOMAN.

WHEN THEY COME, THEY MAY BRING THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS WITH THEM.

AND WHEN WE HAVE RECOVERED IT, THEN SHALL MALEKITH BE ABLE TO SERVE THE LORD OF FIRE IN HIS GLORY.





BROTHERS!  
BEHOLD! WE  
HAVE FOUND IT!  
THE CASKET OF  
ANCIENT WINTERS  
IS OURS!



IN A  
PIG'S  
EYE!

I MAY NOT BE  
ABLE TO SEE YOU,  
BUT I'VE FOUGHT  
IN DARKER  
PLACES THAN  
THIS!

KAUGH!

THE  
MORTAL WAS  
SHAMMING!  
SEIZE HIM!



THAT  
WAS  
WELL  
DONE,  
ROGER.

HAD THE ELVES  
KEPT UP THEIR  
GUARD, THEY  
WOULD LIKELY  
HAVE DETECTED  
MY APPROACH  
DESPITE  
MY STEALTH.

WHO--?  
THOR!



YES,  
THOR,  
MISCREANTS!

HERE, NEAR  
THE VERY CENTER  
OF YOUR POWER,  
EVEN MY EYES  
CANNOT SEE  
YOU CLEARLY...

...BUT THEY  
CAN SEE  
ENOUGH!

**KA-TWANGSH!**



CONSCIOUS-  
NESS HATH  
FLED THEIR  
BODIES.

AND NOW THAT WE HAVE  
DISPATCHED THE GUARD, THE WAY  
TO THEIR KINGDOM LIES  
OPEN AND UNGUARDED  
BEFORE US.

THE DARK  
ELVES WERE  
ALWAYS FRAIL  
WARRIORS.

BUT ERE WE  
TRAVEL INTO THE  
HEART OF THEIR  
VERY REALM, WE  
MUST INSURE  
THAT YOU WILL  
BE ABLE TO  
SEE OUR  
FOEMEN.

AND THE OIL OF VISION,  
TAKEN FROM OUR FALLEN  
ENEMIES, WILL CLEAR OUR  
EYES TILL WE CAN SEE THE  
WORLD OF FAERIE AS  
THOUGH IT WERE  
OUR OWN.

BY  
THE  
GODS!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER?

THE VIAL OF OIL  
HATH BEEN SHAT-  
TERED BY THE  
FORCE OF MY  
ATTACK!

THERE REMAINS  
ONLY ENOUGH  
TO ANOINT THE  
EYES OF ONE  
OF US.

SO BE IT. I CAN SEE OUR ENEMIES,  
HOWEVER DIMLY, WHILE YOU, THE  
GUARDIAN OF THE CASKET, CANNOT  
SEE THEM AT ALL.

YOUR  
EYES SHALL  
RECEIVE THE  
OIL OF  
VISION.

THOR! THE  
CASTLE! NOW  
THAT MY EYES  
HAVE BEEN TREATED,  
I CAN SEE ONLY  
AN OLD RUIN  
DIMLY LIT.

THE MIGHTY  
FORTRESS I  
SAW BEFORE  
IS GONE!

AYE, SUCH IS THE  
WAY OF FAERIE, A  
BLENDING OF REALITY  
AND FANTASY.

BUT DO NOT  
BE MISLED  
BY THESE  
EPHEMERAL  
DECEPTIONS.

THE POWER  
AND DANGER OF  
THE DARK ELVES IS  
QUITE REAL,  
AND DEADLY!

LET US BE ON  
OUR WAY, FOR TIME  
IS AWASTING AND  
MY LADY LIES IN  
PERIL WITHIN.



MEANWHILE, IN THE ENDLESS DESERT BEYOND THE FURTHEST REACHES OF ASGARD, A BATTLE IS UNDERWAY BETWEEN A LONE, WEAPONLESS WARRIOR AND A GREAT SAND DEVIL...



HAVE AT YOU, CREATURE OF EVIL, YOU SHALL NOT HAVE THIS YOUNG WOMAN TILL THE HEART NO LONGER BEATS IN THE BREST OF BALDER THE BRAVE!

WHILE BEYOND THE NEXT DUNE, A SILENT WITNESS WATCHES WITH EVER-MOUNTING TERROR...

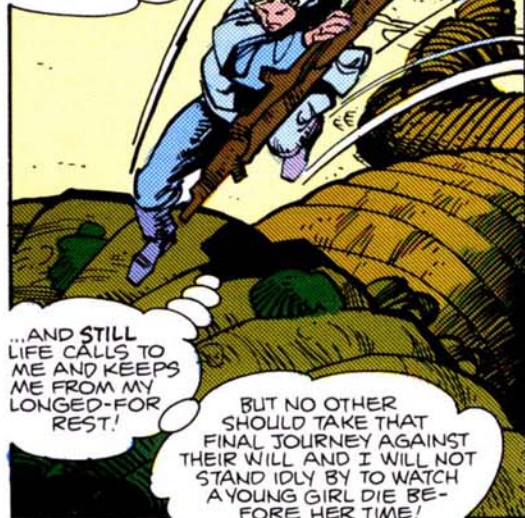
UNBELIEVABLE! I HAVE FOLLOWED BALDER INTO THE DESERT TO SLAY HIM!

YET NOW I FIND HIM LEAPING TO ATTACK A FELL BEAST WITH ONLY A STICK OF WOOD SCOOPED FROM THE EMPTY DESERT.

MINE EYES HAVE NEVER BEHELD SUCH A SIGHT.

NOR SUCH FOOLHARDY COURAGE IN THE FACE OF ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH.

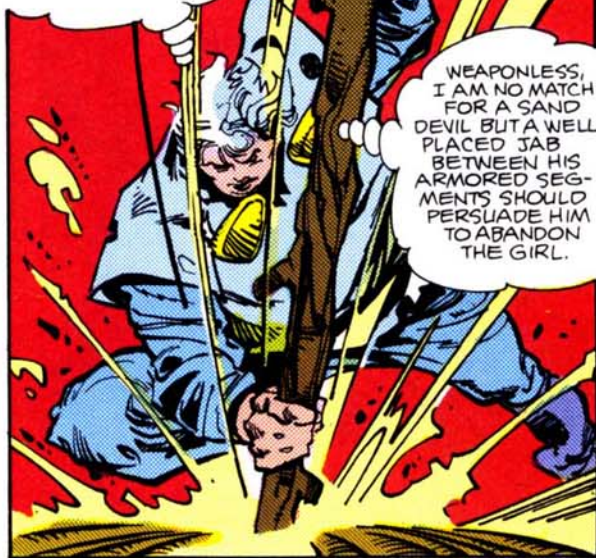
LEAGUES HAVE I TRAVELED INTO THE ENDLESS WASTES IN HOPES OF LOSING MYSELF IN THE ARMS OF HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH...



...AND STILL LIFE CALLS TO ME AND KEEPS ME FROM MY LONGED-FOR REST!

BUT NO OTHER SHOULD TAKE THAT FINAL JOURNEY AGAINST THEIR WILL AND I WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY TO WATCH A YOUNG GIRL DIE BEFORE HER TIME!

MAHAP IF I CAN ENRAGE THE BEAST, IT WILL TURN FROM HER AND ALLOW HER TO ESCAPE WHILE IT DEALS WITH ME.



WEAPONLESS, I AM NO MATCH FOR A SAND DEVIL BUT A WELL PLACED JAB BETWEEN HIS ARMORED SEGMENTS SHOULD PERSUADE HIM TO ABANDON THE GIRL.



SUCCESS! HIS MIGHTY HEAD SWINGS THIS WAY. IF THE FATES ARE WITH ME, I MAY YET--

UGGH!



HE'S HURT THE BEAST! IT HAS FORGOTTEN THE GIRL AND TURNS TO ATTACK BALDER!

AND THE BRAVE ONE LIES STUNNED BY HIS FALL!



I... I SHOULD HELP BUT IT WOULD BE SUICIDE. I HAVE NOT THE BRAVERY NOR THE SKILL TO DEAL WITH A SAND DEVIL.

BUT THOUGH I THOUGHT TO SLAY BALDER MYSELF TO PROVE MY GLORY, I CANNOT SIT IDLY BY AND WATCH HIM BE SLAIN BY SUCH A CREATURE!

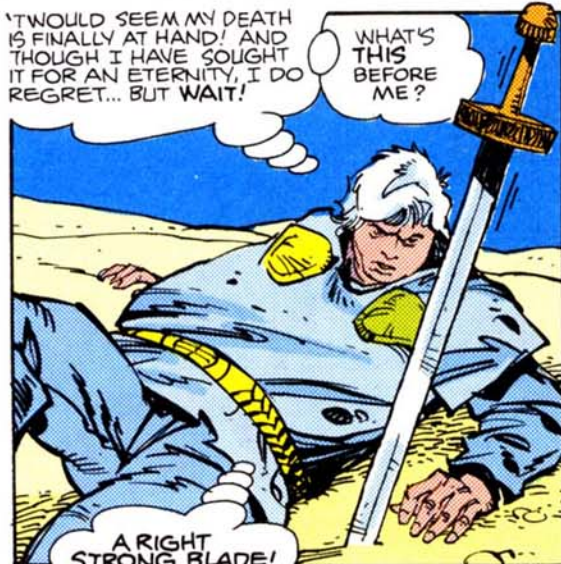
IF WEAPONLESS HE HAS DRAWN THE DEVIL AWAY FROM ITS PREY, WHAT MIGHT HE NOT DO IF ARMED WITH A GOOD SWORD!



MAY ODIN GIVE YOU STRENGTH, BRAVE ONE!

'TWOULD SEEM MY DEATH IS FINALLY AT HAND! AND THOUGH I HAVE SOUGHT IT FOR AN ETERNITY, I DO REGRET... BUT WAIT!

WHAT'S THIS BEFORE ME?



A RIGHT STRONG BLADE!

TRULY, THE FATES HAVE SMILED UPON ME THIS DAY!

THE LADY AND I MAY YET HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE OUR DOOM!



FOR ASGARD AND ODIN!



THE SAND DEVIL'S MOUTH IS HIS ONLY VULNERABLE SPOT! HIS ARMORED HIDE WOULD TURN THE BEST OF BLADES...

...BUT AS HE GAPES TO SWALLOW ME WHOLE, THE TENDER INSIDES OF HIS MAW ARE EXPOSED...

...AND A WELL PLACED STROKE MAY PERSUADE HIM THAT EASIER PREY IS BEST SOUGHT ELSEWHERE!

SCHLICCTT!



I'VE DONE IT!

HISSST!

NOW I MUST LEAP CLEAR OF THE BEAST, LEST I BE CARRIED AWAY IN THE DEVIL'S FLIGHT AS HE DIVES ONCE MORE BENEATH THE SAND...



...AND VANISHES!

YOU HAVE SAVED ME!

...YET YOU RISKED EVERYTHING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF ONE INNOCENT STRANGER.

THOUGH YOU THOUGHT TO ENTER THIS DEADLY LAND TO DIE ALONE AND UNMOURNED...

AND YOU SHALL BE REWARDED FOR THIS GALLANT DEED.



WHO ARE YOU THAT YOU SEEM TO KNOW MY EVERY THOUGHT?

ALL YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED IN TIME, NOBLE BALDER.



'TIS NOT FAR, BUT NO MAN OR GOD MAY FIND THE WAY THERE UNLESS MY SISTERS AND I WISH IT.

BALDER! BALDER!

NOW JOIN HANDS WITH ME AND WE WILL JOURNEY A LITTLE WAY TO MY HOME.

SCKRISSSKKK

GONE... WITHOUT A TRACE! NEVER DID I THINK TO SEE SUCH DEEDS OF PROWESS WITH MY OWN EYES!



I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE FOUND BALDER THE BRAVE AGAIN AND OFFERED HIM MY SWORD-- NOT IN ANGER BUT IN HOMAGE!

SO SWEARS AGNAR OF VANAHEIM!



MEANWHILE, IN THE FAERIE CASTLE IN THE ENGLISH COTSWOLDS...

THIS IS ONLY THE OUTER GATE TO THE REALM WE SEEK, ROGER.

THE RUINS SEEM DESERTED, THOR.

YEAH? WELL, MAYBE WE OUGHT TO GET SOME REINFORCEMENTS BEFORE WE KNOCK ON THE DOORS.

WE HAVE NO TIME. EVEN NOW, MALEKITH THE ACCURSED MAY BE SUBJECTING MY BELOVED MELODI TO UNSPEAKABLE TORTURES.

MY ONLY THOUGHTS NOW ARE TO SAVE HER FROM HIS CLUTCHES, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!

WELL, THAT'S THE PART I'M NOT SURE I LIKE.

ONLY A SHORT TIME, YET THOUGHTS OF MELODI CONSTANTLY FILL MY VERY SOUL!

IT IS AS IF SHE DRAWS ME TO HER LIKE A LODESTONE DRAWS IRON.

AND THAT IS STRANGE. FOR LOVE WAS NEVER LIKE THIS BEFORE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS LADY WE ARE GOING TO SAVE?

SWELL! MARCHING DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE TOWARDS FAERIE-LAND WITH ONLY A FEW ROUNDS OF AMMO AND A LOVE-SICK GOD OF THUNDER.

DAD, I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT MIXED UP IN ALL THIS TO BEGIN WITH, BUT I'M STARTING TO WISH YOU'D LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE!

DO WE HAVETA WADE THROUGH THIS STUFF?

THESE NOISOME WATERS MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE ANCIENT AND POWERFUL REALM OF FAERIE!

WHEN WE HAVE PASSED THROUGH THEM, WE WILL HAVE ENTERED A WORLD WHERE ALL THINGS ARE MAGICAL AND DANGEROUS.

WHA--!

BEWARE, ROGER! WE ARE ATTACKED BY WATER ELEMENTALS!

DEATH TO THOR AND HIS SERVANT! THE WILL OF MALEKITH SHALL PREVAIL!

SLAY THEM AND WE SHALL FEAST TONIGHT!

THE FLESH! THE FLESH!

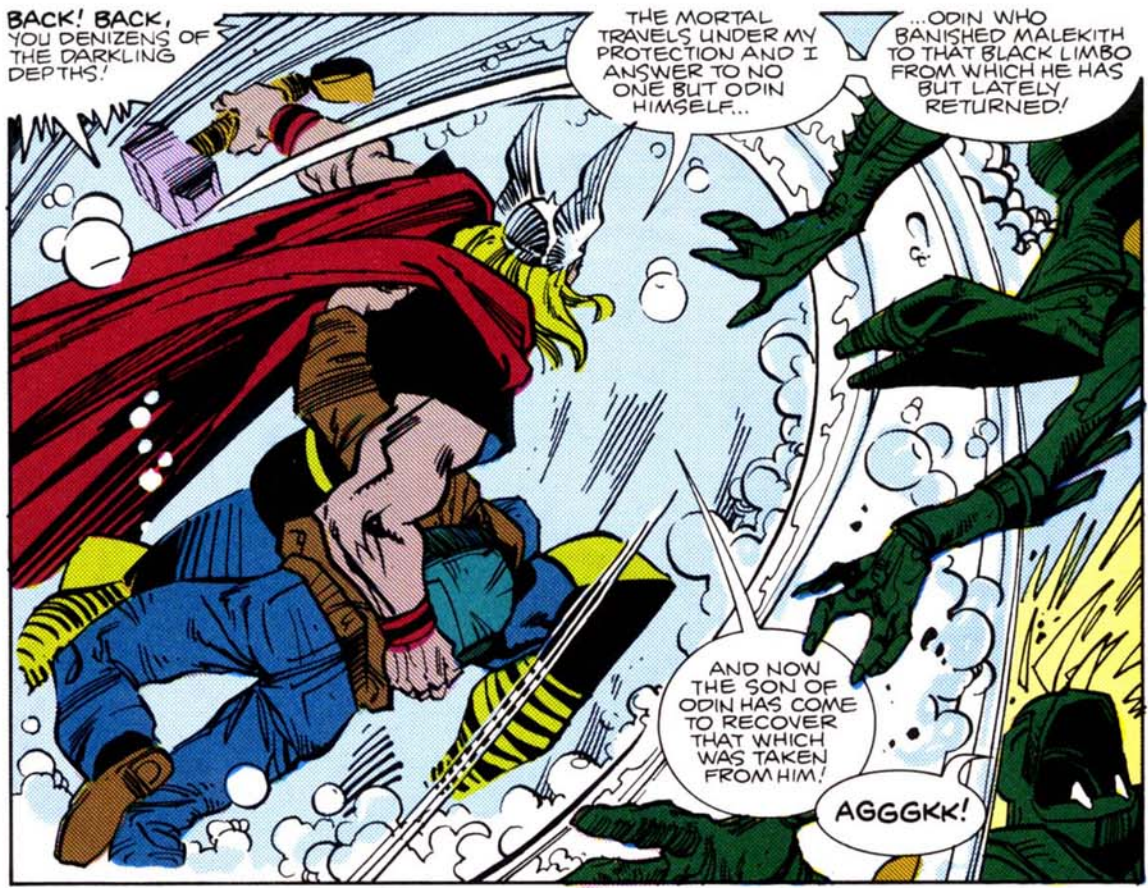
SCHLOOOSH!



BACK! BACK,  
YOU DENIZENS OF  
THE DARKLING  
DEPTHS!

THE MORTAL  
TRAVELS UNDER MY  
PROTECTION AND I  
ANSWER TO NO  
ONE BUT ODIN  
HIMSELF...

...ODIN WHO  
BANISHED MALEKITH  
TO THAT BLACK LIMBO  
FROM WHICH HE HAS  
BUT LATELY  
RETURNED!

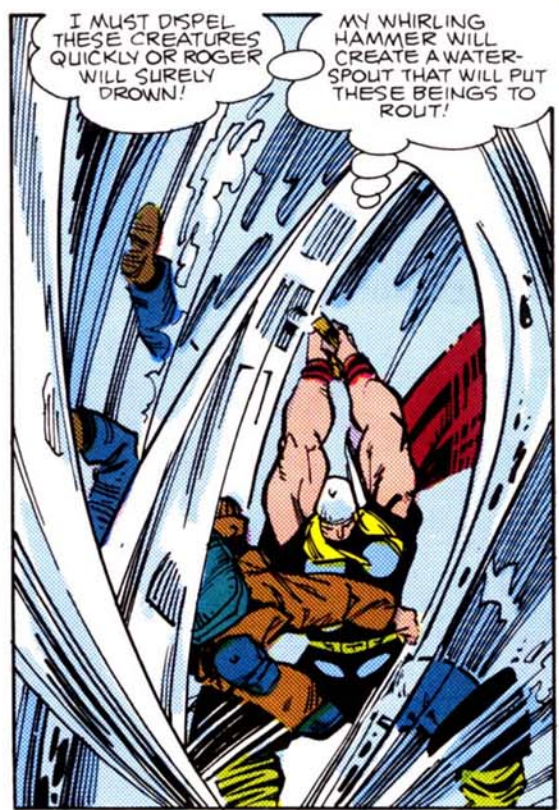


AND NOW  
THE SON OF  
ODIN HAS COME  
TO RECOVER  
THAT WHICH  
WAS TAKEN  
FROM HIM!

AGGGKK!

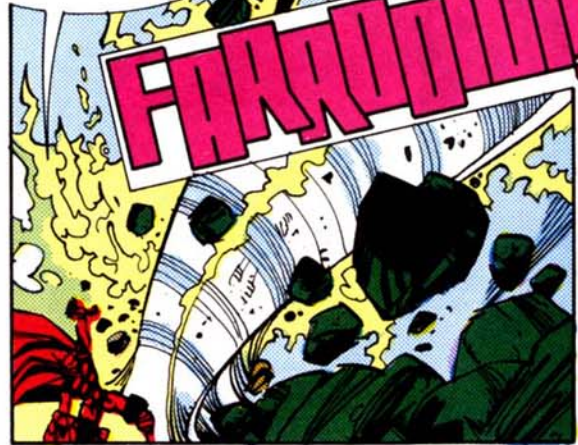
I MUST DISPEL  
THESE CREATURES  
QUICKLY OR ROGER  
WILL SURELY  
DROWN!

MY WHIRLING  
HAMMER WILL  
CREATE A WATER-  
SPOUT THAT WILL PUT  
THESE BEINGS TO  
ROUT!



LET THEM BE  
CARRIED AWAY TO  
THE FOUR CORNERS  
OF THE EARTH THAT  
THEY MAY NOT RETURN  
TILL WE HAVE CON-  
CLUDED OUR  
BUSINESS HERE!

**FRUUUUUUUU!**





AND AS THE DEPARTING WATERS EMPTY THE VAST RIVER BED, THERE BENEATH THEIR ICY DEPTHS IS REVEALED...

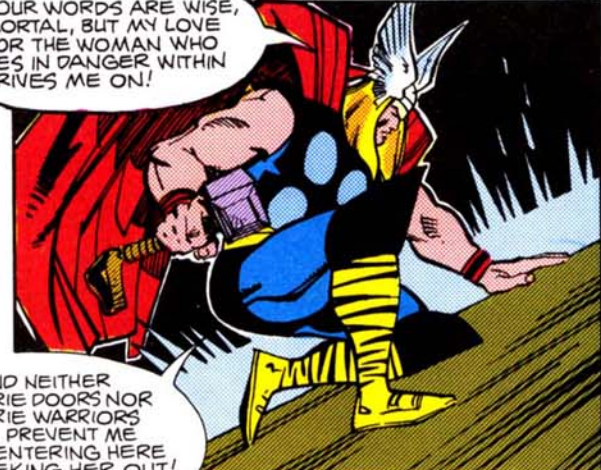
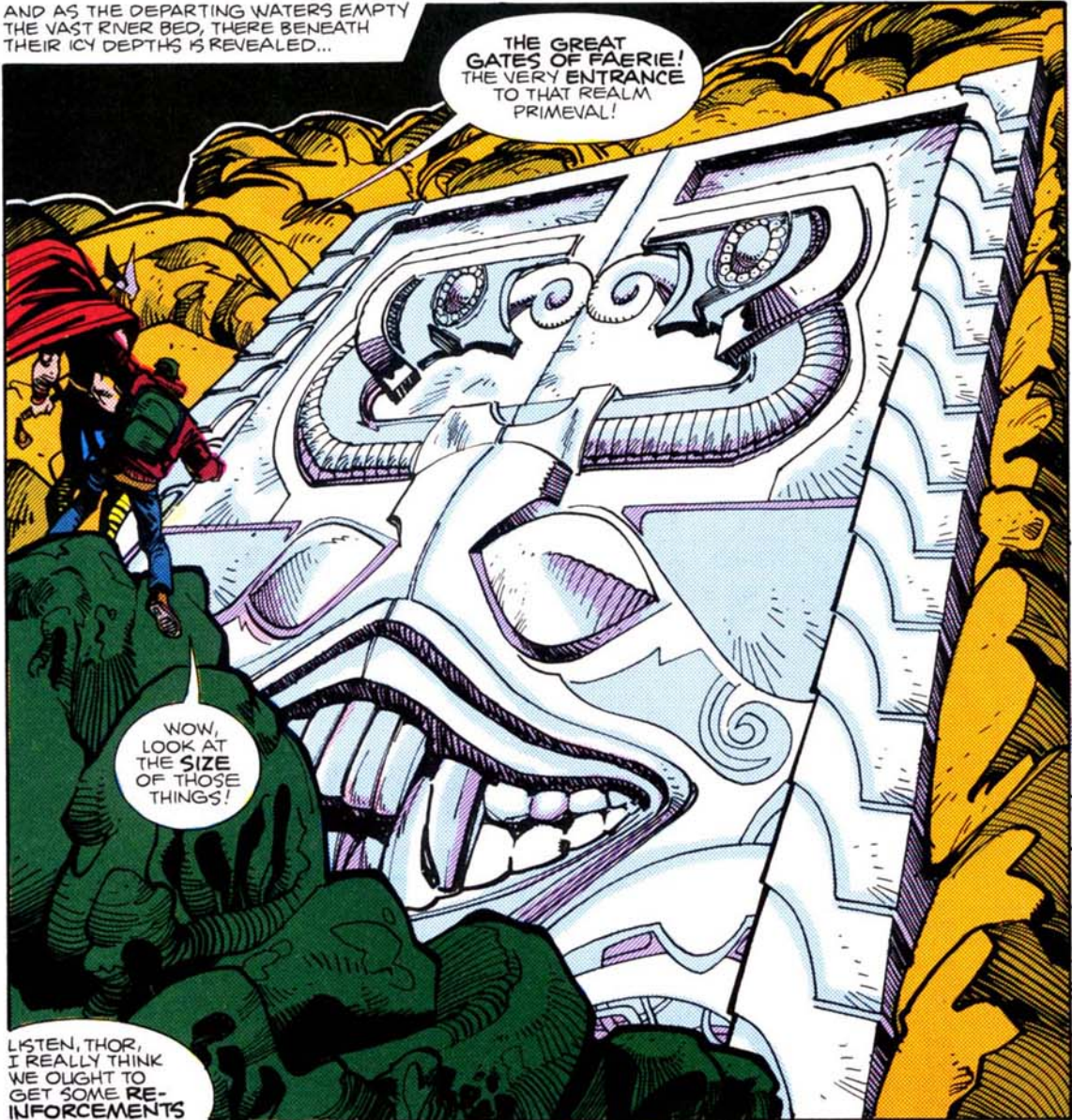
THE GREAT GATES OF FAERIE!  
THE VERY ENTRANCE  
TO THAT REALM  
PRIMEVAL!

WOW,  
LOOK AT THE SIZE  
OF THOSE  
THINGS!

LISTEN, THOR,  
I REALLY THINK  
WE OUGHT TO  
GET SOME RE-  
INFORCEMENTS  
BEFORE WE  
GO CALLING.

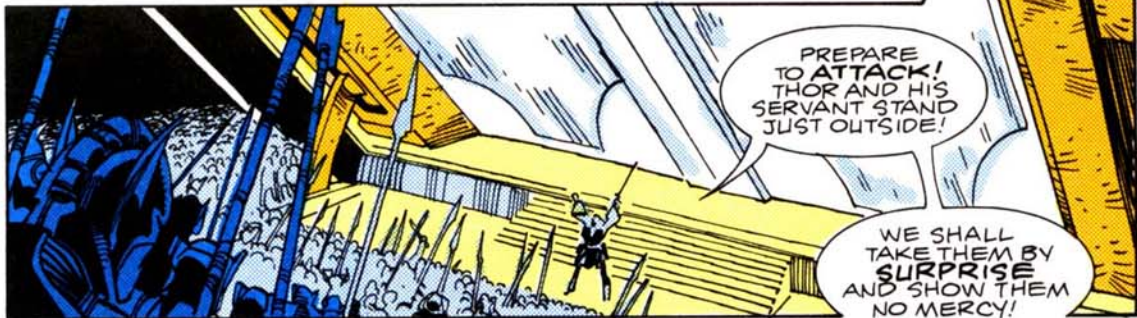
YOUR WORDS ARE WISE,  
MORTAL, BUT MY LOVE  
FOR THE WOMAN WHO  
LIES IN DANGER WITHIN  
DRIVES ME ON!

AND NEITHER  
FAERIE DOORS NOR  
FAERIE WARRIORS  
WILL PREVENT ME  
FROM ENTERING HERE  
AND SEEKING HER OUT!





BUT EVEN AS THOR SPEAKS, JUST BEYOND THE GREAT GATES WE FIND...



PREPARE TO ATTACK! THOR AND HIS SERVANT STAND JUST OUTSIDE!

WE SHALL TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE AND SHOW THEM NO MERCY!



**KRAKRAWHAMM!**

THE WALL GIVES WAY BEHIND US!

LOOK OUT!



STAND BACK, YE COWARDLY VARLETS! THE SURPRISE IS OURS!

AND AS LONG AS YOU HOLD MY OWN TRUE LOVE IN BONDAGE, SO LONG SHALL I SHOW NO MERCY TO THE HORDES OF THE DARK ELF!

COME, ROGER! STAND BESIDE ME AS YOU DID ON THE BRIDGE\* AND TOGETHER WE SHALL OVERTHROW THE HOSTS OF FAERIE!

\*LAST ISSUE.



THE MIGHTY THOR MAY BE ENSORCELED BY THE MAGICAL GOLDEN MEAD OF LORELEI, MALEKITH, BUT IT SEEMS NOT TO HAVE HAMPERED HIS FIGHTING ABILITY.

HE SLICES THROUGH OUR FORCES LIKE THE SCYTHE THROUGH THE RIPE GRAIN.

INDEED HE DOES, WORMWOOD.

BUT THIS IS MERELY THE PRELIMINARY BOLT, TO WHET THE HERO'S APPETITE.

THINK HOW HE WILL BE AFFECTED WHEN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, HE SEES THE LADY HE THINKS HE LOVES IN MORTAL DANGER!

THEN, WORMWOOD, THEN SHALL I TRIUMPH AND THOR GO DOWN IN BLEAKEST DEFEAT!



MEANWHILE, AS THE WHIRLWIND ABATES, BALDER FINDS HIMSELF AT THE ENTRANCE TO A GREAT CAVERN BEYOND THE ENDLESS DESERT...

COME, BRAVE BALDER. YOUR JOURNEY'S END IS ONLY A FEW STEPS AWAY THROUGH THIS ANCIENT VAULT.

WHO ARE YOU? YOU ARE NO ORDINARY BEING, NOR EVEN A GOD AS I HAVE KNOWN THEM.



YOU ARE YOUNG AND FAIR TO LOOK UPON BUT THERE IS AN AURA OF GREAT AGE UPON YOU, AS THOUGH YOU HAD LIVED BEYOND THE COUNT OF YEARS.

YOUR EYES AND SENSES DO NOT BETRAY YOU, YOUNG GOD. FOR, OLD AS YOU ARE, I AM OLDER STILL, AS ARE MY SISTERS.

I AM CALLED WYRD AND I WELCOME YOU TO OUR HOME.



SURELY YOU CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN ONE OF THE NORNS THEMSELVES...

...THE KEEPERS OF FATE THAT RULE EVEN THE GODS!

YOUR VOICE! YOUR VERY FORM SHIFTS BEFORE MINE EYES!



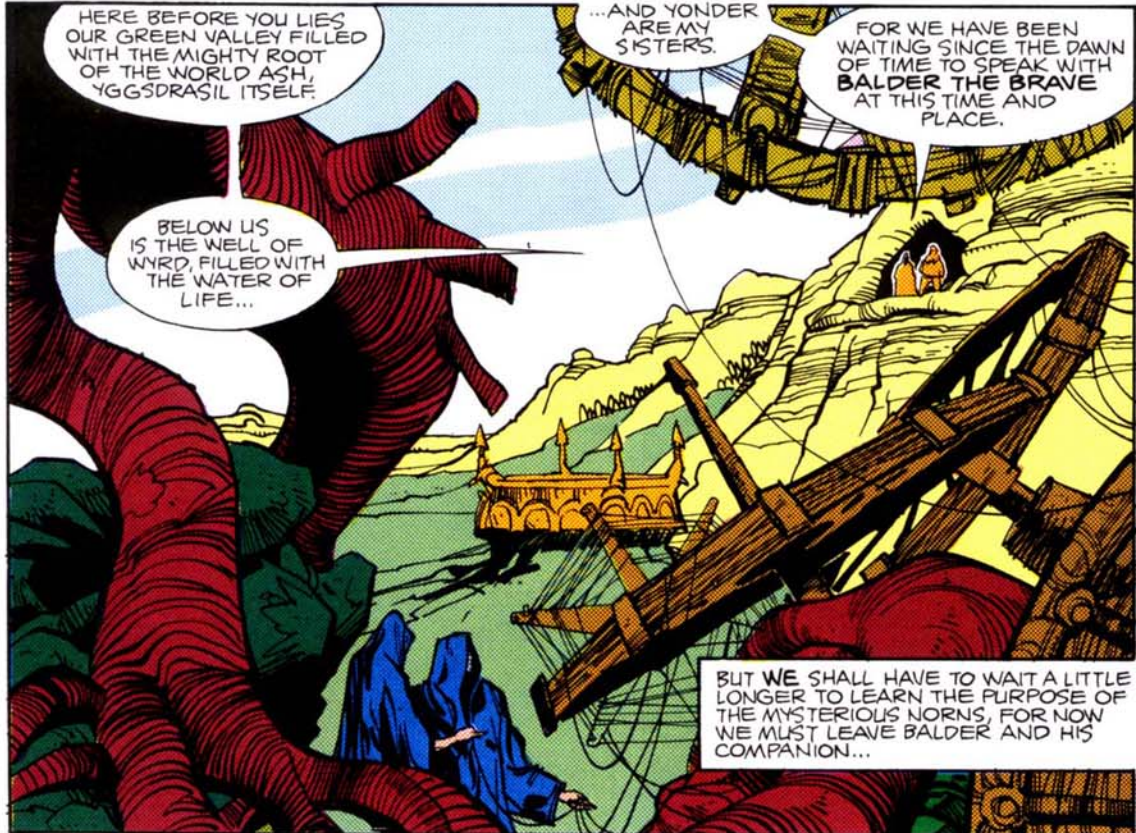
YES, MY BRAVE. I AM ONE OF THE NORNS, THE THREE SISTERS OF FATE.

HERE BEFORE YOU LIES OUR GREEN VALLEY FILLED WITH THE MIGHTY ROOT OF THE WORLD ASH, YGGSDRASIL ITSELF.

BELOW US IS THE WELL OF WYRD, FILLED WITH THE WATER OF LIFE...

...AND YONDER ARE MY SISTERS.

FOR WE HAVE BEEN WAITING SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME TO SPEAK WITH BALDER THE BRAVE AT THIS TIME AND PLACE.



BUT WE SHALL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER TO LEARN THE PURPOSE OF THE MYSTERIOUS NORNS, FOR NOW WE MUST LEAVE BALDER AND HIS COMPANION...



... AND JOURNEY AGAIN TO ENGLAND WHERE A BATTLE ROYAL RAGES BENEATH AN ANCIENT RUIN...



RELEASE THE RESERVES AND SEND THEM INTO THE BATTLE!

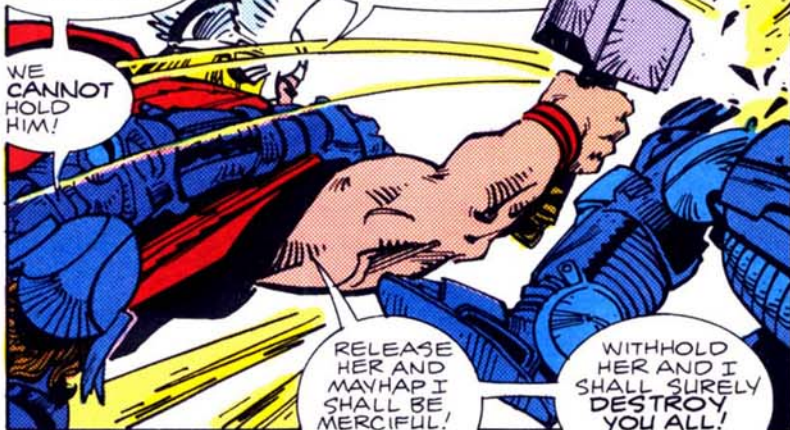
FORWARD FOR THE GLORY OF MALEKITH AND THE DARK ELVES!



# BARROWHAM

IT'S NO USE! THE THUNDER GOD FIGHTS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!

WE CANNOT HOLD HIM!



SPEAK, YE CRAVENS! WHERE IS THE GIRL WHOM YOU HAVE IMPRISONED HERE IN THE LAND OF FAERIE?

RELEASE HER AND MAYHAP I SHALL BE MERCIFUL!

WITHHOLD HER AND I SHALL SURELY DESTROY YOU ALL!

THOR, SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD OF ME!

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU!

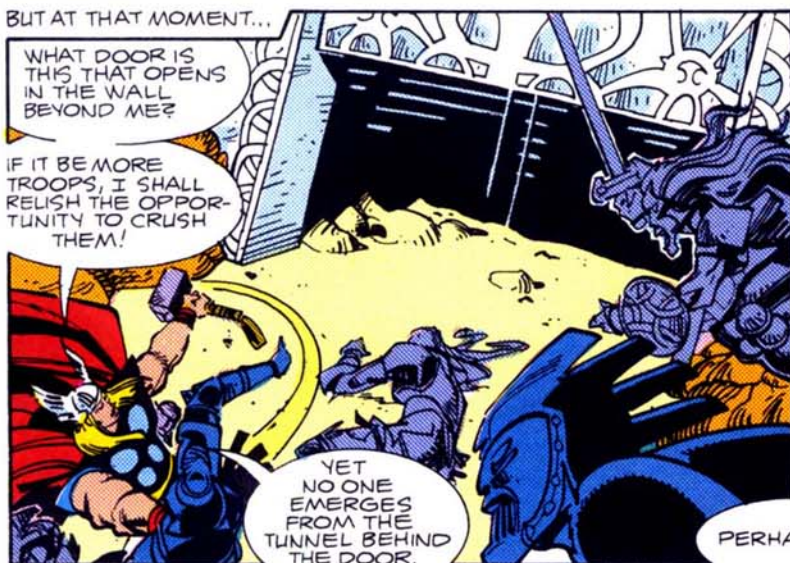


IT'S NO USE! HE'S FIGHTING LIKE A MADMAN AND CAN'T HEAR ME!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

WHAT DOOR IS THIS THAT OPENS IN THE WALL BEYOND ME?

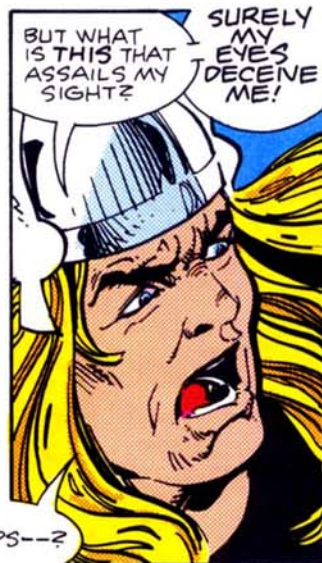
IF IT BE MORE TROOPS, I SHALL RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRUSH THEM!



YET NO ONE EMERGES FROM THE TUNNEL BEHIND THE DOOR.

BUT WHAT IS THIS THAT ASSAILS MY SIGHT?

SURELY MY EYES DECEIVE ME!



PERHAPS--?



AND WELL MIGHT THOR STAND AGHAST FOR THROUGH THE DARKENED TUNNEL EMERGE NOT WARRIORS BUT A SIGHT TO CHILL THE BLOOD OF ANY MAN, GOD OR MORTAL...

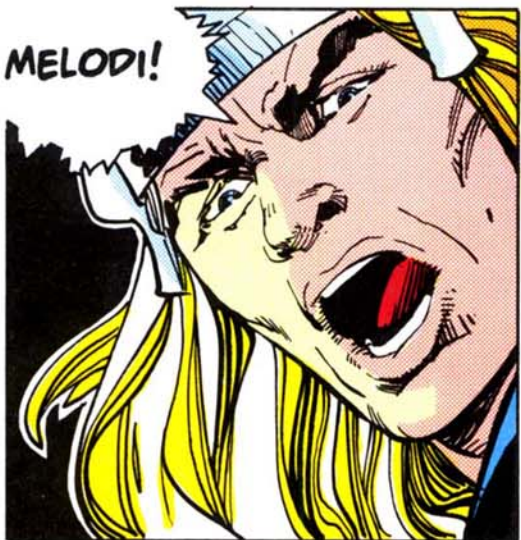
...ESPECIALLY A MAN IN LOVE!

THE FLESH!  
THE FLESH!

COME, MY PETS. THOUGH YOU FAILED TO WIN YOUR EVENING MEAL TONIGHT...

...I SHALL TREAT YOU TO A DAINTY MORSEL...

Nooooo!





THOR! COME BACK!  
I CAN'T HOLD THEM  
OFF WITHOUT YOU!



DON'T FORGET  
THE CAS--

BUT ROGER'S CRY GOES UNHEEDED AS THOR  
RACES INTO THE TUNNEL...



MALEKITH WAS RIGHT!  
THE THUNDERER IS  
OBLIVIOUS TO EVERY-  
THING BUT THE  
WOMAN!

HE FAILED  
TO SEE ME  
IN THE SHADOWS  
IN MY EBONY  
ARMOR...

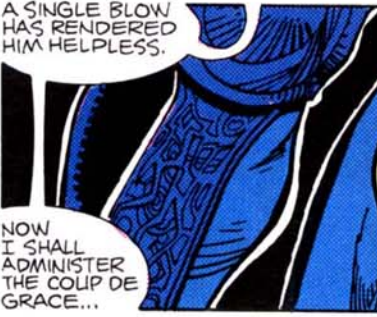
...BUT I  
CAN SEE  
HIM!



THUD!

UHHH!

A SINGLE BLOW  
HAS RENDERED  
HIM HELPLESS.



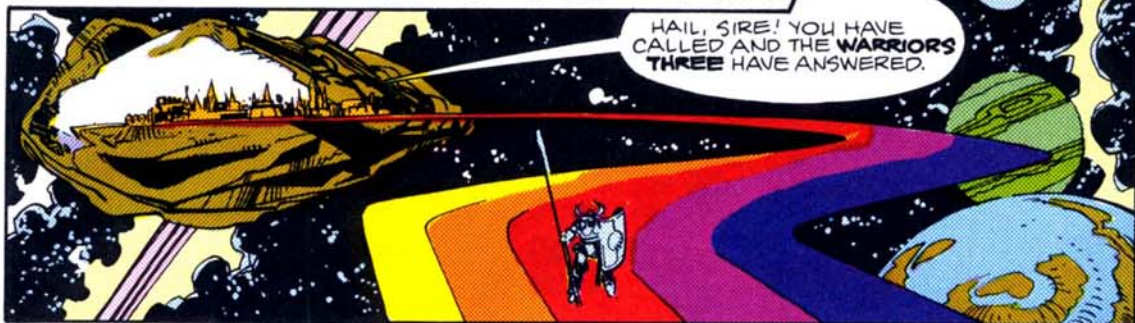
NOW I SHALL  
ADMINISTER  
THE COLIP DE  
GRACE...

...AND FOREVER  
WILL THE LEGENDS  
SING OF THE GLORY  
OF ALGRIM THE  
STRONG, WHO SLEW  
THE MIGHTY  
THOR!

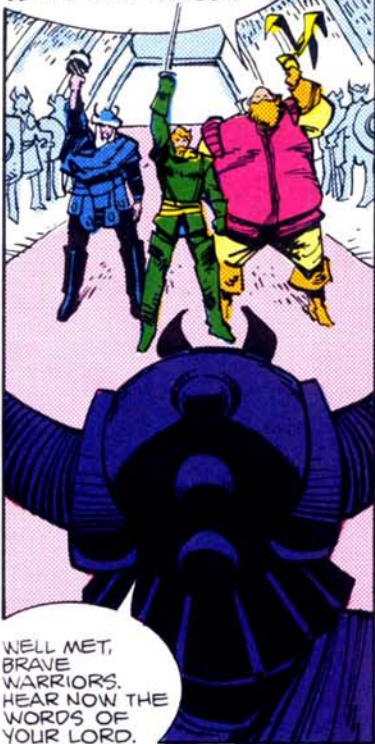




BUT AS ALGRIM PREPARES TO DELIVER THAT BLOW, LET US LOOK FOR A MOMENT AT FABLED ASGARD WHERE ODIN, RULER OF THE GODS, SITS ON HIS 'GOLDEN THRONE...'



HOW MAY THE KINGDOM'S DOUGHTIEST FIGHTERS SERVE THEIR LIEGE?



WELL MET, BRAVE WARRIORS. HEAR NOW THE WORDS OF YOUR LORD.

A STORM IS ABOUT TO BREAK AGAINST ASGARD AND ALL THAT SHE HOLDS DEAR.



AND IF SHE WILL WEATHER THE STORM, NONE CAN SAY.

BUT NOW THE TIME IS RIFE WHEN WE MUST PREPARE THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE GOLDEN REALM AGAINST A SEA OF ENEMIES.

THEREFORE I CHARGE THE WARRIORS THREE WITH THE TASK OF GATHERING AND ORDERING THE FIGHTING MEN OF ASGARD AND HER ALLIES.



TO EVERY CORNER OF THE KINGDOM LET THE WORD GO FORTH. THE HOSTING OF ASGARD SHALL BEGIN!



SO BE IT!

AND EVEN VOLSTAGG IS SILENT AS THE SOLDIERS THREE PASS OUT OF THE HALL INTO THE SUNLIGHT BEYOND...



AT THAT SELFSAME MOMENT ON EARTH...



HOW THE DARK ELVES SHALL SING OF THIS MOMENT IN AGES HENCE! MY NAME SHALL STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF ASGARDIANS EVERYWHERE!

BRAGGART! ONLY THY TREACHEROUS BLOW FROM BEHIND ENABLED THEE TO FELL THE SON OF ODIN!



THY STRENGTH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT OF ULIK THE TROLL!

AND IT IS LESS THAN NOTHING TO ME!

**KRAK!**

ARRGH!

EXCELLENT! OUR ILLUSION HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE!



GUARDS-MAN, OPEN THE PITFALL!

BUT-- WHAT OF ALGRIM!

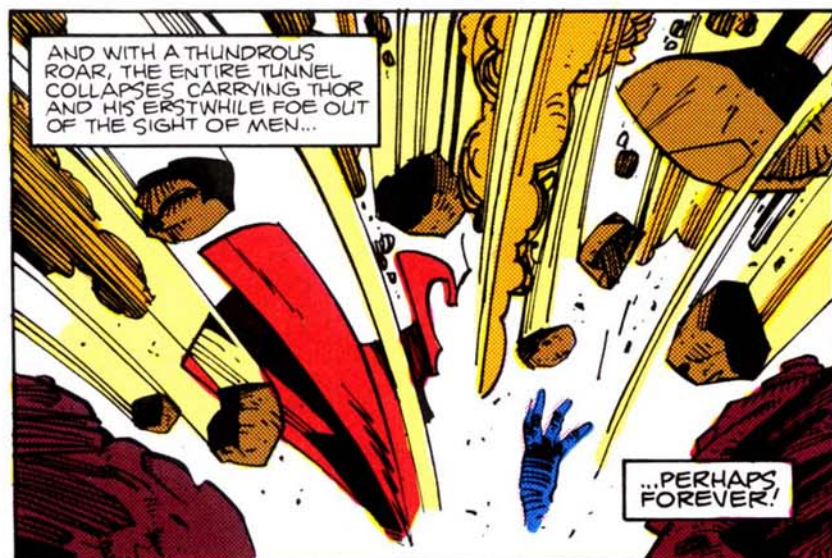
LET HIM LIE IN GLORY FOREVER WITH THE MIGHTY THOR! SPRING THE TRAP!



WHAT NOW? THE FLOOR GIVES WAY BENEATH MY FEET TO REVEAL A YAWNING CHASM THAT SEEMINGLY HAS NO END!



AND WITH A THUNDROUS ROAR, THE ENTIRE TUNNEL COLLAPSES CARRYING THOR AND HIS ERSTWHILE FOE OUT OF THE SIGHT OF MEN...



...PERHAPS FOREVER!

THOR!





ROGER'S CALL IS ALL BUT DROWNED OUT BY THE ROARING AVALANCHE THAT FOLLOWS THOR AND ALGRIM INTO THE BOTTOMLESS CHASM...



... AN AVALANCHE THAT SHAKES THE VERY ROOTS OF THE FAERIE KINGDOM...

...UNTIL THE LAST ECHOES HAVE DIED AWAY AND ONLY SILENCE REMAINS.



AT LAST I AM REVENGED UPON ODIN FOR MY BANISHMENT. FAREWELL, THOR.

YOU WERE NO MATCH FOR MALEKITH THE ACCURSED!

WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN, LORD?



SHE'S YOURS, WORMWOOD. DO WITH HER WHAT YOU WILL.

BUT TREAT HER AS SHE DESERVES. AFTER ALL, HER GOLDEN MEAD ENABLED US TO DEFEAT THE GOD OF THUNDER.

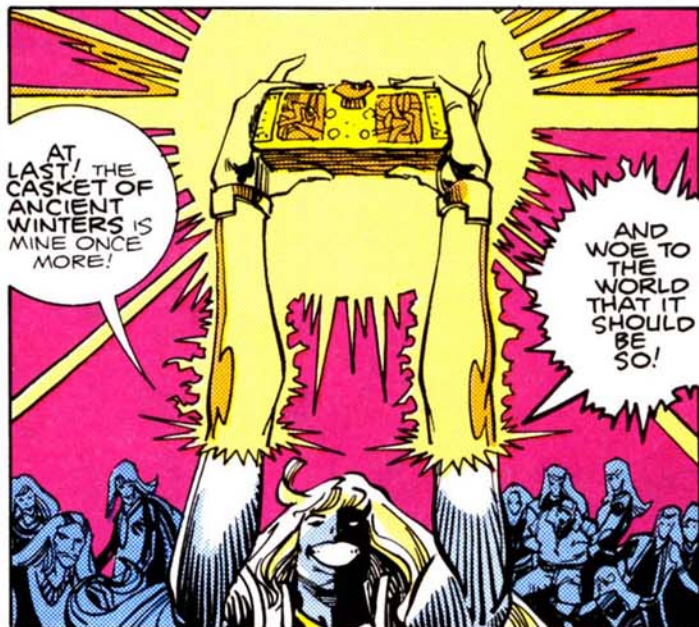
I WISH TO SEE OUR OTHER MORTAL GUEST.

SO YOU ARE ERIC'S WHELP, EH?

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT THE SON SHOULD RECOVER THE TREASURE WHICH HIS FATHER STOLE FROM ME SO MANY EONS AGO.



OPEN HIS KNAPSACK!



AT LAST! THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS IS MINE ONCE MORE!

AND WOE TO THE WORLD THAT IT SHOULD BE SO!



NOW, MORTAL, ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO DECIDE YOUR FATE!

IT IS TEMPTING TO FORCE YOU TO EAT THE FOOD OF FAERIE AND MAKE THE SON OF ERIC MY WILLING SLAVE.

I WILL BLIND YOU SO THAT YOUR EYES WILL NEVER BE SULLIED BY LESSER VISIONS THAN THE WONDERFUL LAND OF FAERIE!



BUT YOU HAVE SEEN THINGS WHICH NO MORTAL SHOULD HAVE SEEN.

AND I HAVE THOUGHT OF A SUITABLE REWARD.



NO!

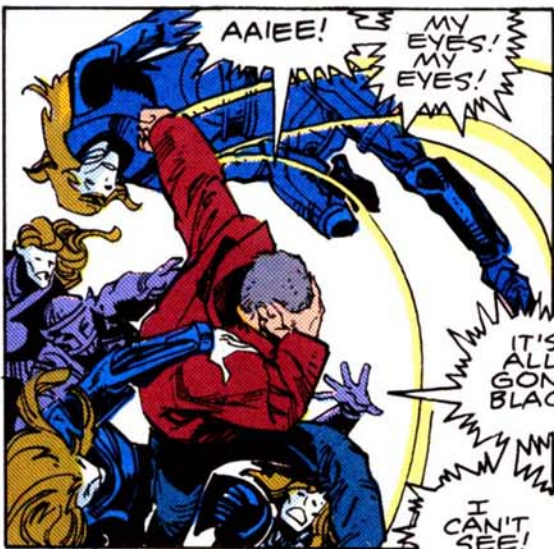
HOLD HIM AS I STRIKE WITH ALL THE ELDRITCH POWERS AT MY COMMAND!



NOOO!

SCHRIIT  
CCCKKK!

LOOK WELL UPON ME, SON OF ERIC! I AM THE LAST SIGHT YOU WILL EVER SEE!



AAIEE!

MY EYES!  
MY EYES!

IT'S ALL GONE BLACK!

I CAN'T SEE!



THE MORTAL'S BROKEN LOOSE!

AFTER HIM!





HOLD! PURSUE HIM NOT! BLINDED, HE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

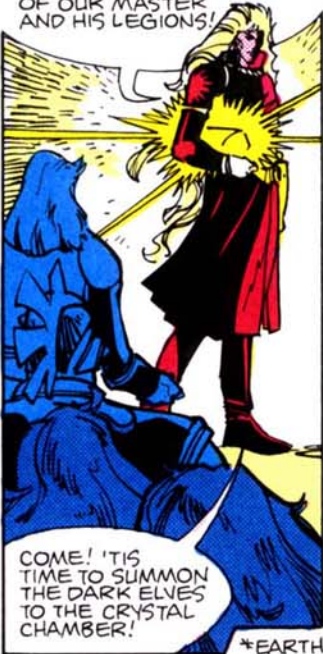
HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND HIS WAY OUT AND WE SHALL HAVE GREAT SPORT WITH HIM AFTER OUR WORK IS FINISHED.

WE SHALL SPREAD CHAOS ACROSS THE FACE OF MIDGARD\* AND PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF OUR MASTER AND HIS LEGIONS!

BUT EVEN AS THE ELVES FOLLOW MALEKITH DEEPER INTO THE BYWAYS OF FAERIE, IN A LITTLE SIDE TUNNEL NOT FAR AWAY, WE FIND...

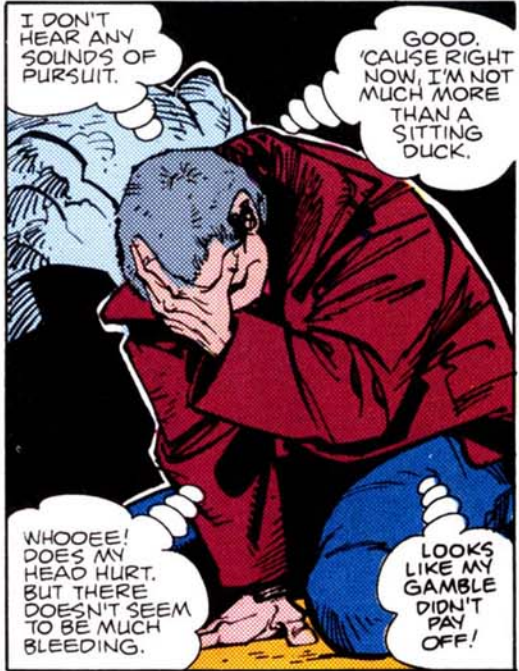


FOR NOW THAT THE CASKET IS OURS ONCE MORE, WE MUST COMPLETE OUR ALL-IMPORTANT TASK.



COME! 'TIS TIME TO SUMMON THE DARK ELVES TO THE CRYSTAL CHAMBER!

\*EARTH.

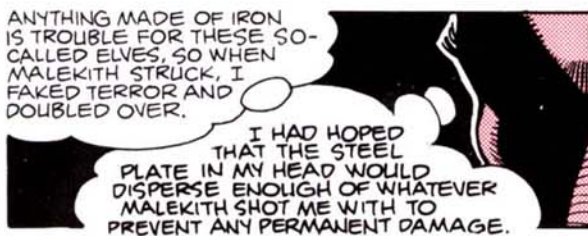


I DON'T HEAR ANY SOUNDS OF PURSUIT.

GOOD, 'CAUSE RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT MUCH MORE THAN A SITTING DUCK.

WHOOEE! DOES MY HEAD HURT, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH BLEEDING.

LOOKS LIKE MY GAMBLE DIDN'T PAY OFF!



ANYTHING MADE OF IRON IS TROUBLE FOR THESE SO-CALLED ELVES, SO WHEN MALEKITH STRUCK, I FAKED TERROR AND DOUBLED OVER.

I HAD HOPED THAT THE STEEL PLATE IN MY HEAD WOULD DISPERSE ENOUGH OF WHATEVER MALEKITH SHOT ME WITH TO PREVENT ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE.



I FEEL AS THOUGH A FLASHBULB'S BLOWN UP IN MY EYES.

AND I CAN'T SEE!



BUT I SWEAR, MALEKITH, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET THE DAY YOU EVER TANGLED WITH THE WILLIS FAMILY...

...AND KILLED MY FATHER!



STILL, I'D BETTER JUST TRY TO GET OUT OF HERE. AN ELF **BABY** WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE KNOCKING ME OVER RIGHT NOW!

THIS TUNNEL SEEMS FAIRLY DESERTED AND SLANTS UPHILL. MIGHT EVEN LEAD TO A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE.

I WOULDN'T MIND COMING BACK HERE WITH A FEW GOOD COMPANIES OF MARINES. SHOW THESE CREEPS WHAT FIGHTING IS REALLY ABOUT.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET CLEAR FIRST AND-- WHUPS!

BLAST! FEELS LIKE THE TUNNEL ENDS OVERLOOKING A CLIFF...

...AND I'VE GOT A FEELING THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET WORSE AGAIN!

EONS AGO, ERIC WILLIS BETRAYED US AND STOLE THE CASKET. THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW ITS SECRETS, ITS VERY POSSESSION GAVE HIM ETERNAL LIFE UNTIL I FOUND HIM!

BUT WITHOUT ITS MAGIC, I WAS UNABLE TO HIDE FROM A WRATHFUL ODIN AND SUFFERED BANISHMENT INTO BLACK LIMBO FROM WHICH OUR MASTER HAS ONLY JUST RELEASED ME!

I THINK I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON!

NOW, THE MASTER HAS NEED OF THE CASKET'S POWER AND WE, HIS WILLING SERVANTS, ANSWER HIM THUS!

HAIL TO HIM WHO IS THE OLDEST, MOST POWERFUL OF ALL! IN THE DARKNESS WE WORSHIP HIM!

HE WILL BRING THE FIERY LIGHT AND BLIND HIS ENEMIES AS WE HAVE BLINDED OURS!

TONIGHT, WE SHALL OPEN THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS AND RELEASE UPON THE EARTH THE CURSE OF ICE THAT THE DESTROYING FIRE MAY COME...

...AND TOGETHER, THEY SHALL CLEANSE THE WORLD, REMAKING IT IN A BRIGHTER, DARKER IMAGE!



