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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the mighty

THOR

SECRET WARS
II
CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!

KURSE!

**HE'S THE
BEYONDER'S
GIFT TO
THOR!**



STAN LEE PRESENTS **the MIGHTY THOR**

THIS STORY BEGINS TWICE.

ONCE UPON A TIME, FROM OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF THE ANCIENT REALM OF FAERIE, THERE AROSE A CREATURE OF HATE!

IN EARLIER TIMES, HE HAD BEEN MORE THAN THAT, BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO.

THEN THERE CAME TO EARTH A BEING FROM BEYOND WHO FELT HIS HATE AND WAS INTERESTED.

THE BEING BESTOWED UPON THE CREATURE A MATCHLESS GIFT OF POWER...

...AND SO THE CREATURE HAD COME FORTH INTO THE WORLD.

AND THAT WAS THE FIRST BEGINNING.

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN NEW YORK CITY, BENEATH THE RUINS OF A FALLEN BUILDING...

...THIS SAME CREATURE LAY BURIED BY TONS OF BROKEN AND TWISTED STEEL.

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IN THE GLORY OF HIS POWER, HE HAD WALKED ACROSS THE FLOORS OF OCEANS TO FIND THE OBJECT OF HIS HATRED AND DESTROY IT.



HE HAD FOUND ONE WHO RESEMBLED THE OBJECT OF HIS ENMITY...



... AND NEARLY KILLED HIM.*

*SECRET WARS II, NO. 6.--RALPH.

HE HAD FOUND FOUR GIFTED CHILDREN AND BROUGHT THEM TRAGEDY...



...AND THEY HAD BURIED HIM BENEATH THE RUINS OF A BUILDING THAT COLLAPSED DURING THEIR FURIOUS BATTLE.*



*POWER PACK 18

BUT HIS POWER...



... AND HIS HATE...

... WERE PERHAPS BEYOND DYING...

WHAT'S THAT?



SKREEEAKK!

... AND EVENTUALLY...



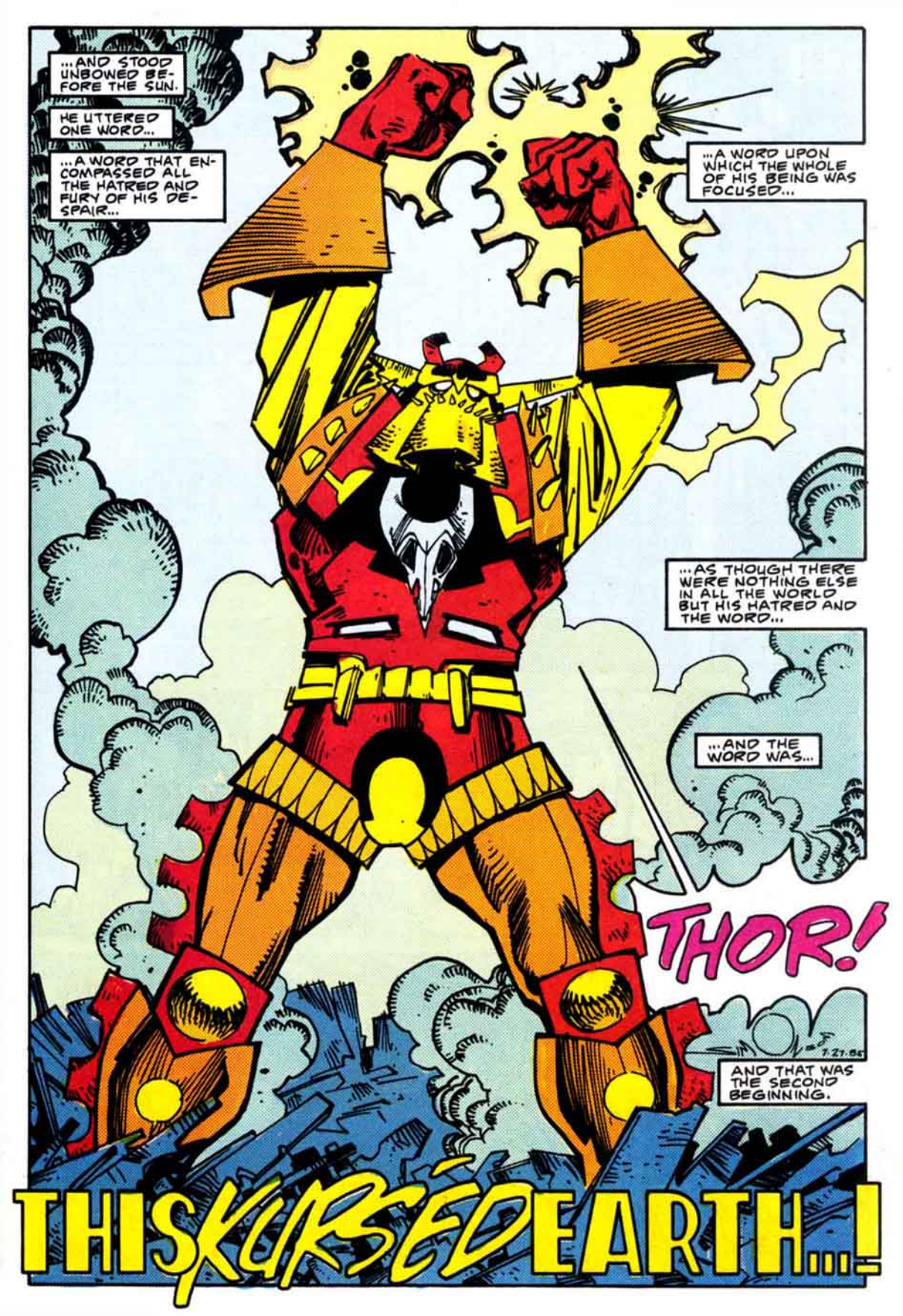
BARR-ROUUM!

LOOK OUT!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



...HE CLIMBED OUT OF THE DEPTHS A SECOND TIME...



...AND STOOD UNBOWED BEFORE THE SUN.

HE UTTERED ONE WORD...

...A WORD THAT ENCOMPASSED ALL THE HATRED AND FURY OF HIS DESPAIR...

...A WORD UPON WHICH THE WHOLE OF HIS BEING WAS FOCUSED...

...AS THOUGH THERE WERE NOTHING ELSE IN ALL THE WORLD BUT HIS HATRED AND THE WORD...

...AND THE WORD WAS...

THOR!

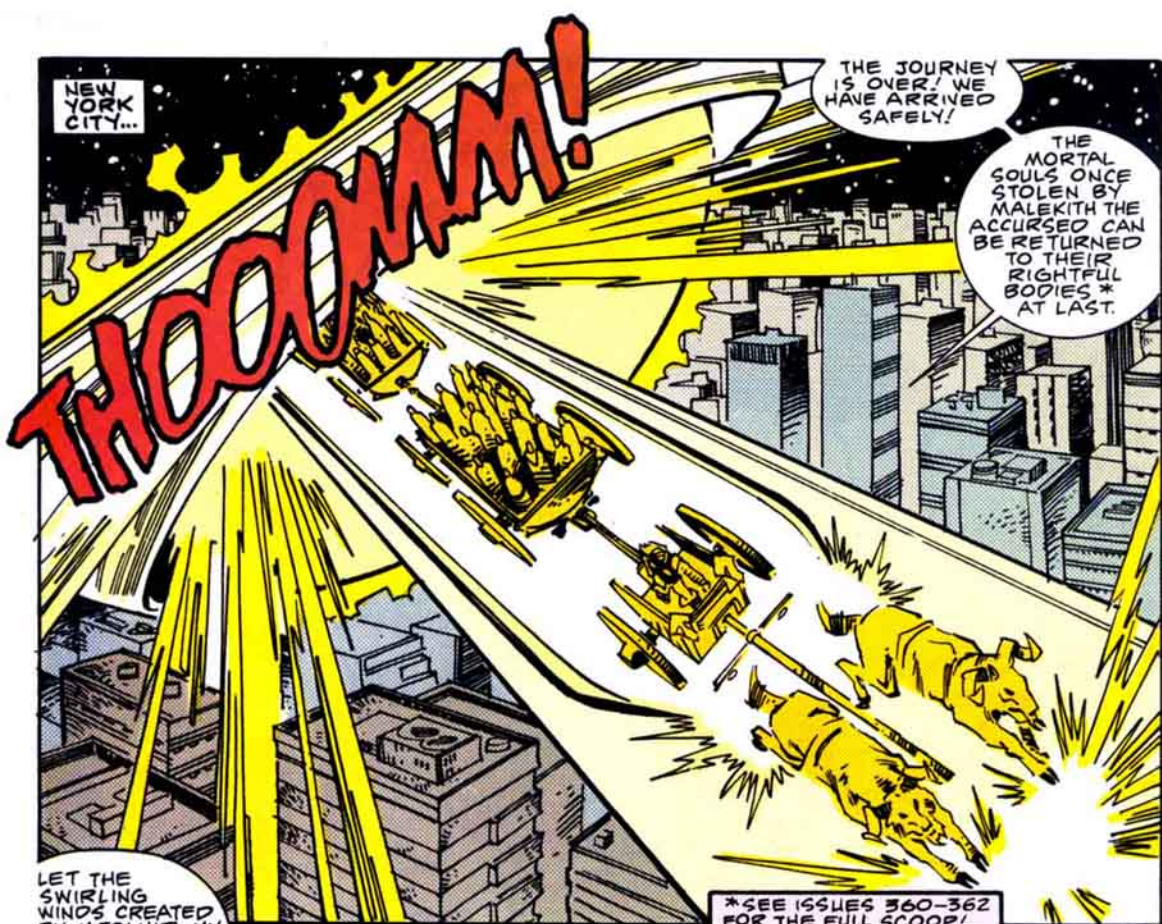
AND THAT WAS THE SECOND BEGINNING.

THIS KURSED EARTH...!

NEW YORK CITY...

THE JOURNEY IS OVER! WE HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY!

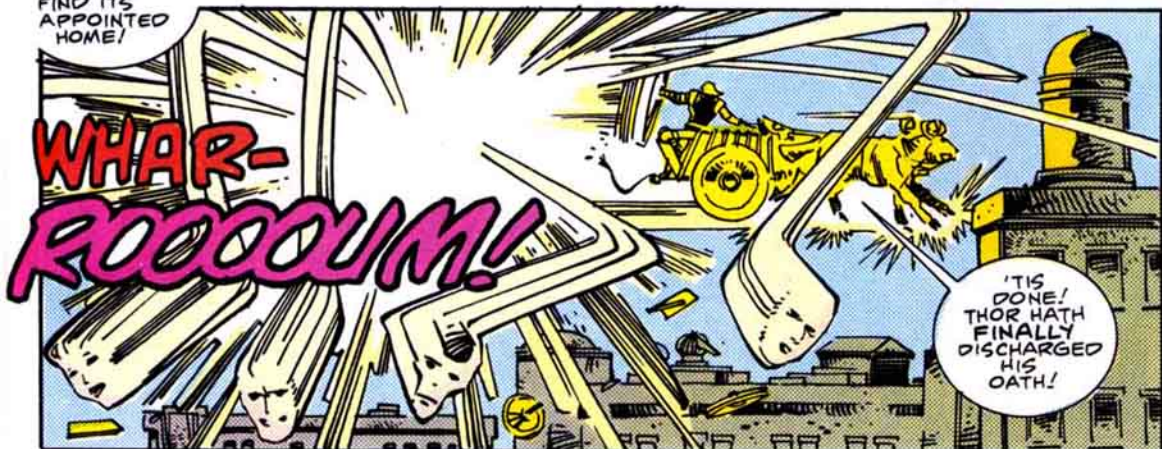
THE MORTAL SOULS ONCE STOLEN BY MALEKITH THE ACCURSED CAN BE RETURNED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL BODIES AT LAST.



LET THE SWIRLING WINDS CREATED BY MJOLNIR, MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, CARRY THE SOULS AWAY...



... THAT EACH MAY SALLY FORTH TO FIND ITS APPOINTED HOME!



'TIS DONE! THOR HATH FINALLY DISCHARGED HIS OATH!

HOW WEARINESS ASSAILS ME NOW THAT MY TASK IS COMPLETE. AND I MUST TEND THE WOUNDS HELA INFLICTED UPON MY FACE IN HEL.*

AND WHERE BETTER THAN AMIDST THIS TEEMING CITY FOR A GOD TO FIND SOLITUDE.

LET ME LAND MY CHARIOT WITHIN THIS DARKENED ALLEY UNTIL I AM READY TO RETURN HOME TO ASGARD.

BUT SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY THAT I FEEL THE NEED TO BE ALONE FOR A MOMENT OF REFLECTION.

*THOR 36!



IT WILL BE SAFE HERE TILL I--

HEY, MAC, GOT ANY SPARE CHANGE?

EH? I FEAR, MY FRIEND, THAT I HAVE NO CURRENCY OF ANY KIND WITH ME.

HEY, SCIP, DON'T YA RECO'NIZE 'IM! THIS HERE'S A LOUSY SUPER-HERO!

PROBABLY BEEN OUT DOING GOOD DEEDS OR SOMETHIN'!

YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ALWAYS HELPIN' THE GOOD GUYS!

BUT YOU ALWAYS OUT RUNNIN' WITH GOOD LOOKIN' WIMMEN AND HANGIN' AROUND WITH THE AVENGERS IN THAT FINE, FINE MANSION!



WHAT HAVE YOU EVER DONE FOR GUYS WHO HAVEN'T GOT TWO DIMES TO RUB TOGETHER?

YEAH! WHAT HAVE YOU EVER DONE FOR USE?

AND ACROSS THE CITY, PEDESTRIANS LOOK FEARFULLY TO THE SKIES AND WONDER AT THE DISTANT SOUND OF THUNDER.



WHY, THOU IGNORANT FOOLS!

WHO ART THOU TO DESPISE THOSE WHO HAVE SET THEIR LIVES AT HAZARD TO SAFEGUARD THIS WORLD AND ALL WHO INHABIT IT?

WHILE YE SLEPT HERE IN SAFETY...

... I STOOD IN THE HALLS OF DEATH ITSELF*!



*THOR 36!

AND ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THY FELLOW MORTALS!



OPEN YOUR EYES IN WITNESS AND TELL ME TRULY IF YOU WOULD CARRY THE BURDEN THOR BEARS.

GHAK! HIS FACE! LOOK AT HIS FACE!

I THINK I'M GONNA LOSE IT!



TRULY I AM TIRED BEYOND BELIEF.

MY FATHER IS GONE, THE EXECUTIONER IS DEAD, AND I CARRY WOUNDS FROM WHICH I MAY NEVER FULLY RECOVER.



IN ASGARD, MY STEP-BROTHER, LOKI, DOUBTLESS LAYS HIS NETS TO CAPTURE THE GOLDEN THRONE OF THE GOLDEN REALM...

AND I... I MUST ENDURE THE INSULTS OF THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE THROUGH THEIR HATE.

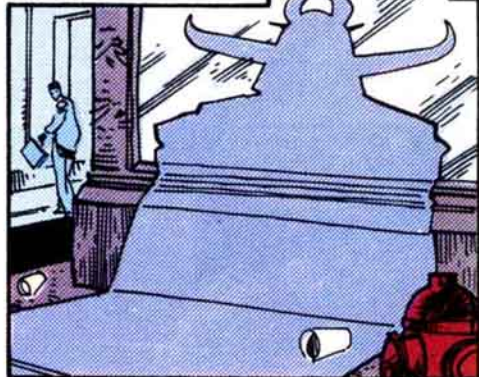
PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST TO FORSWEAR MIDGARD* AND RETURN TO MY TRUE HOME.

*EARTH.

BUT AS THOR BROODS, ANOTHER BEING OF POWER WALKS THE NIGHTED STREETS ONLY TO PAUSE BEFORE HIS REFLECTION IN A DARKENED WINDOW...

LUNG

AND FOR A MOMENT, HE SEES WHAT ONCE WAS...



...AND IS NO LONGER.



THE SIGHT IS MORE THAN HE CAN STAND.

CRASHH!
TINKLE!



THOR!

AND ELSEWHERE ABOVE THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN...

AREN'T YOU WORRIED YOUR DAD'LL FIND OUT YOU GUYS SNUCK OUT OF THE HOUSE, ALEX?

NAH. DAD'S ASLEEP, FRANKLIN, AND I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE THE BABY SITTER NOW.



AND THE BABY'S SITTING ON JULIE'S BACK, SO WE'RE OKAY.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

JARVIS DOESN'T KNOW I SNUCK OUT TO SEE YOU GUYS, BUT I OUGHT TO GET BACK TO THE AVENGERS MANSION BEFORE TOO LONG.

I HOPE NOT, BUT AFTER I LOST MY TEMPER DURING THE FIGHT *...

DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL FIND ANYBODY THAT KURSE HURT WHEN HE AND YOU GUYS WERE FIGHTING?

...I'M WORRIED THAT WE MIGHT HAVE HURT SOME-BODY BY MISTAKE.

BESIDES, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO BACK-TRACK ALONG KURSE'S TRAIL. THEN WE CAN ALL GO HOME!



HEY, ALEX, LOOK! SOME-BODY'S LYING ON THE GROUND!

YOU'RE RIGHT, JACK, AND HE'S MOVING!

MAYBE HE ISN'T TOO BADLY HURT!



*POWER PACK 18

GEE, MISTER, ARE YOU OKAY?

JULIE, LOOK! HE'S NOT A HUMAN BEAN!

YOU ARE RIGHT, LITTLE MAID, BUT FEAR NOT.

BETA RAY BILL DOES NOT NUMBER CHILDREN AMONG HIS ENEMIES.



AND IN MY PRESENT CONDITION, I COULD SCARCELY WIN A BATTLE AGAINST EVEN A BABY.

HEY, I KNOW WHO HE IS! HE'S THAT GUY WITH A HAMMER WHO LOOKS LIKE A FANCY THOR! BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE HIM!

THIS IS MY...UH... CIVILIAN IDENTITY.

ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH?

I TOOK REFUGE IN IT WHEN I WAS FIGHTING A VERITABLE DEMON THIS AFTERNOON AND IT SAVED MY LIFE.



BUT I HAVE BEEN TOO WEAK TO STAND AND THOR MUST BE WARNED!

KURSE!! THAT'S THE GUY WE FOUGHT!

FOR KURSE SEEKS NOTHING LESS THAN HIS TOTAL DESTRUCTION.

I FEAR NOT, SO GREAT IS HIS POWER THAT I WONDER IF EVEN THOR AND I TOGETHER COULD WITHSTAND HIM. THOR MUST BE WARNED.

OH, WE'RE THE POWER PACK. ALEX, JULIE, JACK, AND I'M KATIE.

BUT WHO ARE YOU CHILDREN?

WE DUMPED A BUILDING ON HIM! HE'S DEAD!

FRANKLIN'S THE BABY!

AM NOT! 'SIDES, YOU SHOULDN'T TELL SOMEBODY WHO YOU ARE 'TIL YOU KNOW THEM.

HASN'T THOR BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME, SIR? EVEN IF KURSE IS ALIVE, HE WON'T FIND HIM.

THOR HAS RETURNED.

I HEARD HIS THUNDER TONIGHT.

BUT BILL'S A FRIEND OF THOR'S AND THOR'S OUR GUARDIAN* SO IT'S OKAY.

*FROM POWER PACK 15

THEN SOMEBODY BETTER WARN HIM. YOU GUYS HELP BILL. THIS IS A JOB FOR LIGHTSPEED!

ELSEWHERE, IN THE FABLED REALM OF ASGARD...

AT LAST, MY PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

THE COSMIC TRANS-MUTER IS FULLY CHARGED!

ITS SIGHTS ARE LOCKED ON THE PERFECT SUBJECT ON MIDGARD...

...AND WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON...

LOKI?

NOT NOW, LORELEI!

SCHFAANN!

...I HAVE BEGUN MY MOST AUDACIOUS EXPERIMENT!

...AND SILENTLY, A BEAM OF ENERGY HURTTLES TOWARD EARTH FASTER THAN THE MIND CAN IMAGINE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GREAT SANCTUM OF THE ONE FROM BEYOND...

...IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

...CURIOUS EYES WATCH AS THE BEAM SLASHES SOUNDLESSLY THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE TO STRIKE ITS TARGET WITH UNERRING ACCURACY.

HOW INTERESTING.

APPARENTLY, A VARIETY OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PLANET.

AND I SEE THAT LOKI'S TARGET IS THE SAME THOR I LET KURSE GO AFTER.

AT THE TIME, I HAD THOUGHT KURSE WOULD SHOW ME SOMETHING OF THE NATURE OF HUMANS...

...BUT I HAVE ALREADY LEARNED MUCH MORE THAN SUCH A SIMPLE BEING CAN TEACH ME.

PERHAPS I SHOULD RELEASE MY ENERGY FROM HIS SHELL AND RETURN HIM TO HIS FORMER STATE.

THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER SHOULD SUFFER OPPROBRIUM AT THE HANDS OF SUCH VILLAINS.

HAS ALL MY TIME ON MIDGARD BEEN WASTED?

THOR!

BUT I SEE THAT HE HAS FINALLY FOUND THOR AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

...SO WHY NOT LET THE EXPERIMENT FINISH ANYWAY.

IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A MOMENT OR TWO.



UGGH!



AT LAST!
KURSE SHALL
SLAY YOU
AND REST!

BY KARAMMM!!!

NAY,
CREATURE!
I KNOW NOT
WHO YOU ARE,
BUT AS SURELY
AS I AVOID
YOUR MAILED
FISTS...



THRAKK!

HIS VOICE,
HIS VERY
MOVEMENTS,
REMINO ME
OF SOMEONE
I BUT RE-
CENTLY
FOUGHT.

THOUGH YOU ARE
GREATLY CHANGED,
NO COSMETIC COVER
CAN DECEIVE THE
EYES OF THOR!

ALGRIM
THE
STRONG,
IS IT NOT,
LATE OF THE
REALM OF
FAERIE!

AND AT THE SOUND
OF THAT NAME, THE
JUGGERNAUT OF DE-
STRUCTION HALTS...

...BUT THE MOLTEN LAVA THAT RUSHES
TO ENGLUF HIM IN THE INSTANT OF HIS
DEFEAT...

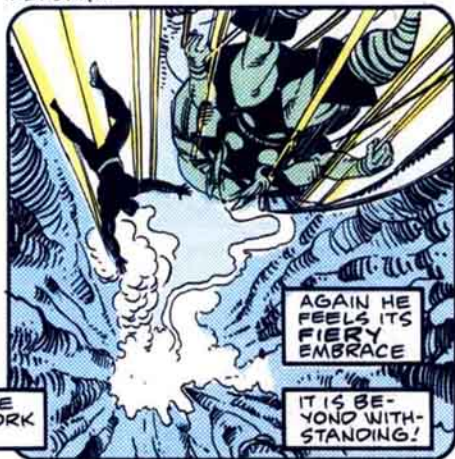
...THE
HAMMER OF
THOR SHALL
ANSWER THIS
UNWARRANTED
ATTACK!

YET I
WOULD
SWEAR THIS
CREATURE OF
LIVING ARMOR
BEFORE ME
SEEMS
FAMILIAR.



AL-
GRIM
?

...AS HE SEES BEFORE
HIM NOT THE STONEWORK
OF A MORTAL CITY...



AGAIN HE
FEELS ITS
FIERY
EMBRACE

IT IS BE-
YOND WITH-
STANDING!



AND BEFORE
HIM STANDS
THE AUTHOR OF
HIS TORMENT!

ARRRGH!

**DIE, THOR,
DIE!**

SCRAATHHWAAM!

MEANWHILE, IN ASGARD,
AT THE EDGE OF THE
CITY OF THE GODS...

...PUFF..PUFF...
I'LL CATCH YOU
YET, HILDY!

EVEN IF YOU RUN
TO THE END OF THE
WILD AREA!

FORGET
IT... PUFF...
ROLFE.

ONCE I
CIRCLE
THROUGH THE
WOODS, I CAN
LOSE HIM AND
GET BACK TO
BASE TO FREE
EVERYONE.

THEN HE'LL
NEVER--
WHAT?

HA! I'VE...
PUFF... GOT YOU
NOW, HILDY!

I'VE
GOT TIME
OUT, ROLFE!
LOOK!

WHAT
IS IT?

ONLY
ONE THING'S
THAT BIG!

IT'S SUR-
TUR'S SWORD,
PROBABLY LAY-
ING JUST WHERE
IT FELL WHEN
SURTUR AND ODIN
PLUNGED INTO
THE GREAT
CHASM...
...AND SOME-
BODY'S ALREADY
FOUND IT!

SOMEBODY'S
DRAWING
ENERGY
FROM IT...

... AND ONLY
ONE PERSON WOULD
KEEP ITS PRESENCE
HERE A SECRET!

WE'VE
GOT TO GET
HEIMDALL,
AT ONCE!

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH...

ALGRIM'S POWER HAS INCREASED BEYOND ALL BELIEF.

PERHAPS HIS CHANGE OF NAME INDICATES A MORE THAN COSMETIC CHANGE IN ALGRIM HIMSELF.

IF I CAN BUT GAIN A MOMENT'S RESPITE...!

KERRASSH!

...AND NOW, BEFORE KURSE CAN FREE HIMSELF...!

HERE IS WHAT I SEEK, PACKED SAFELY WITHIN THE CHARIOT'S LOCKER.

THOR'S BELT OF STRENGTH, WHICH I HAVE SELDOM USED, SHALL AID ME IN THIS HOUR OF NEED.

FOR THOUGH IT DOUBLES MY OWN NATURAL POWER, ITS USE DRAINS ME SO SEVERELY THAT I SHALL SCARCE BE ABLE TO WALK WHEN I REMOVE IT.

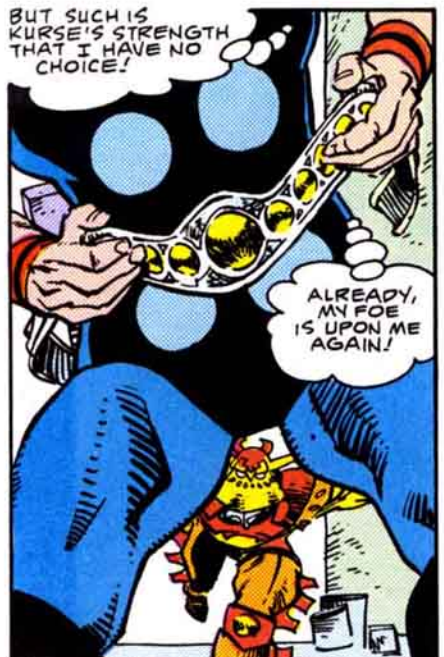
BUT SUCH IS KURSE'S STRENGTH THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE!

ALREADY, MY FOE IS UPON ME AGAIN!

BUT NOW I AM READY FOR HIM.

HAVE AT YOU, KURSE!

HOW INTERESTING! THOR HAS FOUND A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE HIS FOE'S GREAT STRENGTH.

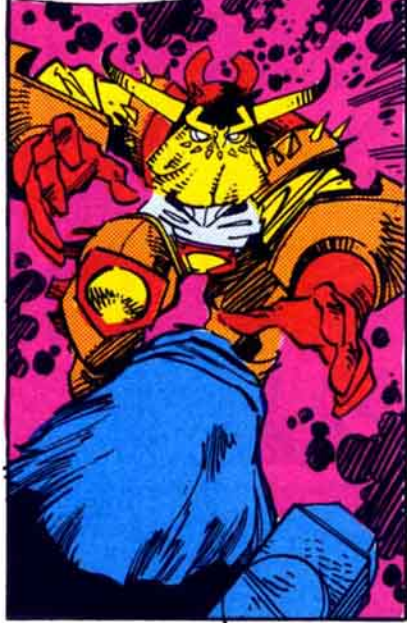
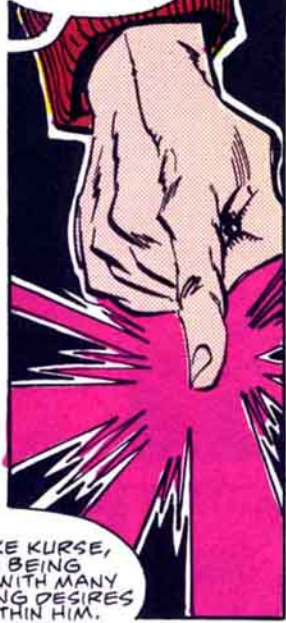


I THINK I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THOR'S STRENGTH OF MIND.

FOR HERE IS A BEING NOT UNLIKE MYSELF, BLESSED WITH GREAT POWER...

I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS FIGHT TO THE FINISH, A TEST TO DESTRUCTION.

THEREFORE, I SHALL INCREASE KURSE'S STRENGTH TO OFFSET THE ADVANTAGE GAINED BY THOR.



...YET GUIDED BY SOME INNER CODE THAT ENABLES HIM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

BUT UNLIKE KURSE, HIS WILL IS BEING WEAKENED WITH MANY CONFLICTING DESIRES RAGING WITHIN HIM.



KURSE SEEMED TO SHRUG OFF MY LAST BLOW AS THOUGH IT WERE WITHOUT FORCE.



HE SEEMS STRONGER WITH EVERY PASSING INSTANT.

COULD I HAVE MET A TRULY UNDEATABLE FOE AT LAST?



AGAIN AND AGAIN, THOR RISES TO HIS FEET WHEN EVEN A WORTHY FOE WOULD SEE NO SHAME IN SURRENDERING TO THE INEVITABLE.



YET IN THE END, THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE RESULT. WHY DOES THOR FIGHT ON?

MY LIMBS BEGIN TO FEEL THE EFFECTS OF THE BLOWS FROM MY OPPONENT.



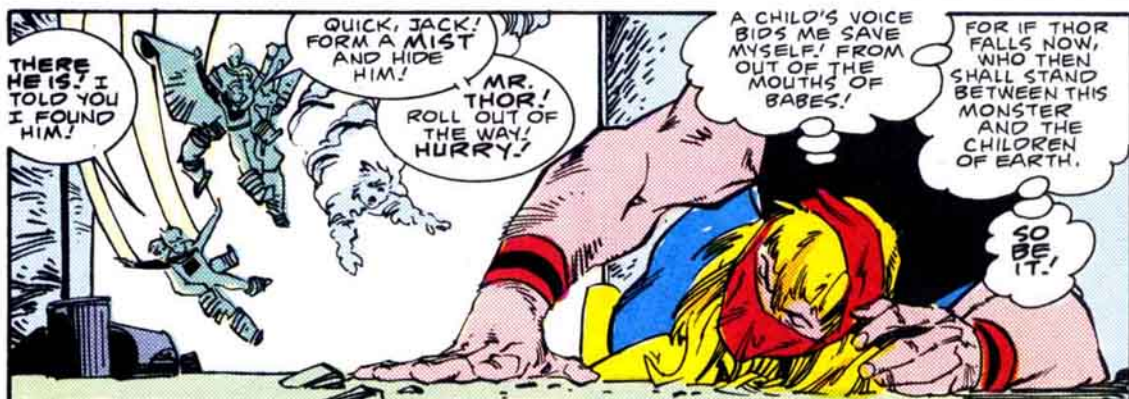
NO MATTER WHICH WAY I TURN, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HIS RELENTLESS PUNISHMENT.



IS THIS TO BE MY EPITAPH?

HE DIED FIGHTING FOR A WORLD OF CONTEMPTUOUS MORTALS WHO SCORNE HIM?

EVEN NOW, KURSE RAISES HIS DEADLY LIMBS TO DELIVER THE COUP DE GRACE AND I CANNOT PREVENT IT.



THERE HE IS! I TOLD YOU I FOUND HIM!

QUICK, JACK! FORM A MIST AND HIDE HIM!

MR. THOR! ROLL OUT OF THE WAY, HURRY!

A CHILD'S VOICE BIDS ME SAVE MYSELF! FROM OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES!

FOR IF THOR FALLS NOW, WHO THEN SHALL STAND BETWEEN THIS MONSTER AND THE CHILDREN OF EARTH.

SO BE IT!



TOO LATE, KURSE! NO LONGER WILL YOU FIND AN UNRESISTING TARGET!

KERAAAK!

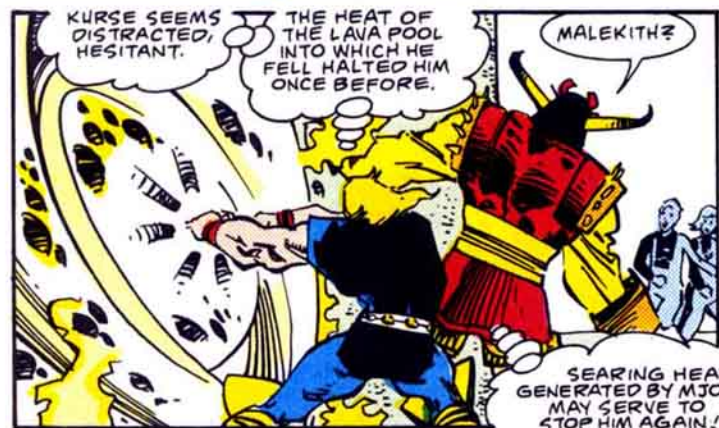
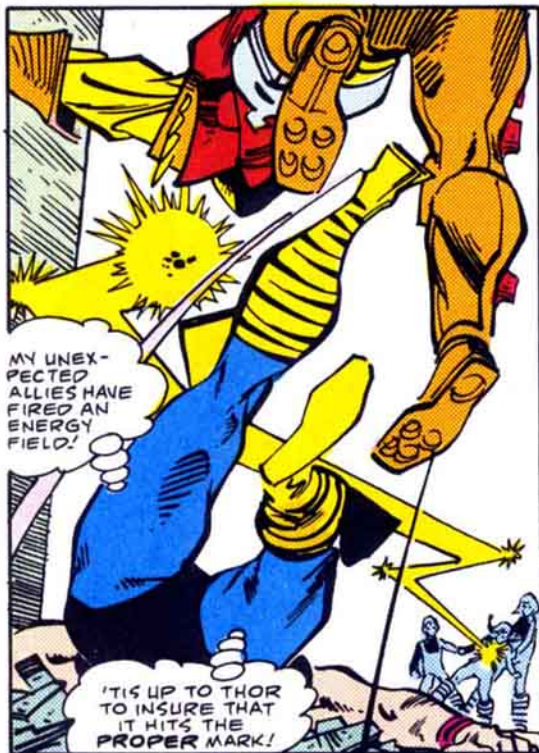
INTERESTING. THOR'S WILL TO LIVE, SO NEARLY EXTINGUISHED, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REKINDLED.



BUT WHY? I CAN READ IN HIS MIND THAT HE HAS NEVER MET THESE CHILDREN BEFORE.

BUT THERE IS A FEELING OF FAMILY BETWEEN THEM THAT I HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND.

QUICK, KATIE! POWER UP FAST! THOR LOOKS LIKE HE NEEDS HELP!



NOT THE PIT, MALEKITH!
NOT THE PIT! I WILL
YET KILL THOR!

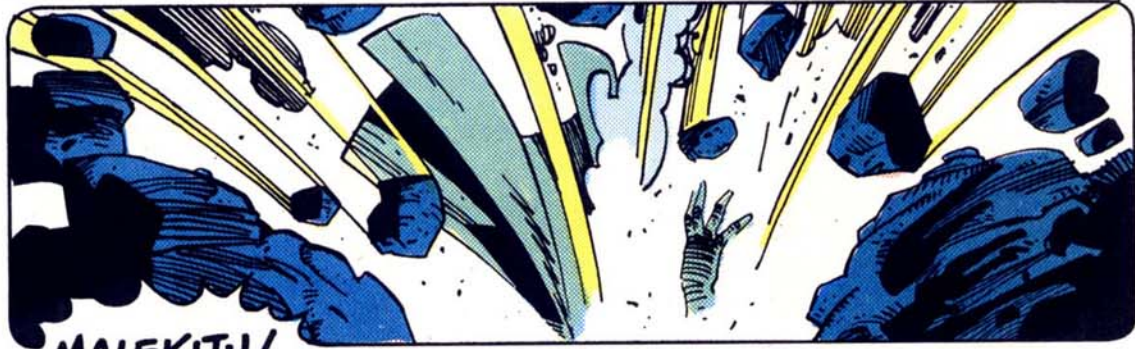


GUARDS-
MAN,
OPEN THE
PITFALL!



BUT--
WHAT OF
ALGRIM!

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



MALEKITH!

NOT THOR
AT ALL BUT
MALEKITH!

I RE-
MEMBER
NOW!

I SHALL FIND
YOU AND WRING
THE
LIFE FROM YOU DROP
BY DROP FOR WHAT
YOU DID TO ME!

I SHALL
FIND YOU,
MALEKITH!

HE
HAS COM-
PLETELY
FOR-
GOTTEN
ME.

HE IS BUT A
VESSEL OF
RAGE THAT CAN
CONTAIN ONLY
ONE OBJECT AT
A TIME!



MIDGARD IS STILL IN DANGER AS KURSE SEEKS MALEKITH WITH THE SAME DEADLY FERVOR THAT WOULD HAVE SLAIN ME.

BUT IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TAKE ACTION!

AND I SEE BILL HAS FOUND ME AS WELL AS THE CHILDREN!



AGAIN, I SENSE THE FEELING OF FAMILY, OF KINDRED SPIRITS BETWEEN THESE PEOPLE.

ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE BOUND BY A BOND OF BLOOD STRONGER THAN THE SINGLE-MINDED HATRED I FOUND IN KURSE.

QUICKLY, BILL, RESUME YOUR WARRIOR GUISE!



VERY WELL, THOR, BUT I, TOO, FAILED TO STOP THE MONSTER!

I AM NOT SURPRISED! BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.



YOU CHILDREN ARE THE POWER PACK THAT FANDRAL TOLD ME ABOUT, ARE YOU NOT?

AND KATIE IS THE ENERGIZER?

YESSIR.

YESSIR.

NO MORTAL FORCE CAN STOP KURSE!



SO ENERGIZER SHALL RELEASE YET ONE MORE BLAST OF POWER AND OUR ENCHANTED HAMMERS SHALL PROVIDE THE ENERGY.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM?

IN TRUTH, BILL, I DO NOT KNOW. WE MAY LOSE THEM FOREVER AND OUR POWER WITH THEM.

AND THE CHILD?

I DO NOT KNOW THAT EITHER, BUT I THINK IT OUR ONLY CHANCE.

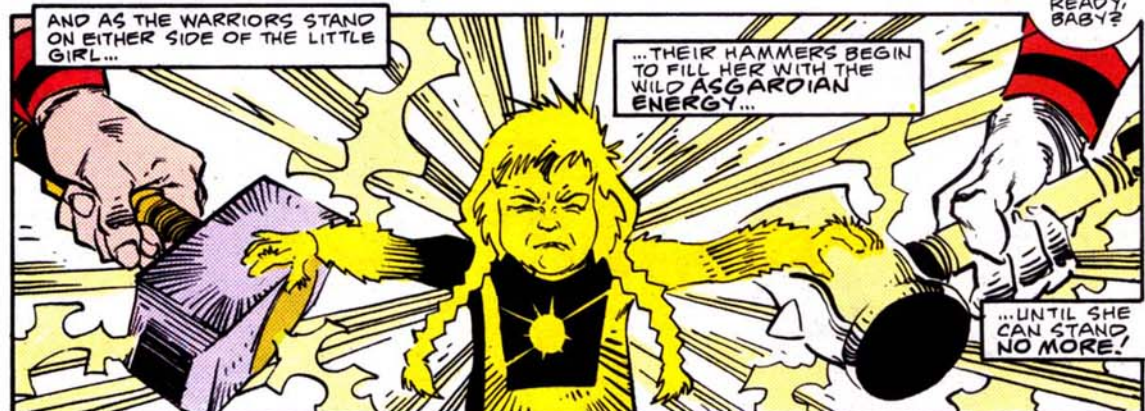
ARE YOU READY, BABY?



AND AS THE WARRIORS STAND ON EITHER SIDE OF THE LITTLE GIRL...

...THEIR HAMMERS BEGIN TO FILL HER WITH THE WILD ASGARDIAN ENERGY...

...UNTIL SHE CAN STAND NO MORE!



IT'S HURTING ME! JULIE, IT'S HURTING ME!



JUST ANOTHER MOMENT, BABY! THOR?



NOW, ENERGIZER! RELEASE EVERYTHING NOW!



MALEKITH?



SHAWWWWAKKTTT!



IT IS OVER, KURSE LIES STILL.

BUT THERE WAS MORE TO HIM THAN EVEN THE MAGIC OF THE DARK ELVES COULD CONJURE.

SOME-THING I HAVE FELT BEFORE.

SOME POWER THAT SEEMS BEYOND ANYTHING I HAVE KNOWN BEFORE.

STEP FORTH, YOU WHO COME FROM THAT FAR DISTANT REALM! YOU WHO COME FROM BEYOND!

THOR CALLS!

OF COURSE! BEYOND ANYTHING INDEED!



ZING!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT! MY HEARING IS EXCELLENT.

YOU KNOW, I FIND YOU AND BETA RAY BILL MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN KURSE.

I'M FASCINATED BY THE FACT THAT YOU WERE QUITE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR HAMMERS TO STOP HIM.

DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT WITH THE ENERGY DRAINED FROM YOUR HAMMERS, YOU HAVE LOST NEARLY ALL YOUR POWER?

WHAT GOOD IS POWER IF IT CANNOT BE USED TO SAVE THE INNOCENTS?

WHAT GOOD IS POWER IF IT CREATES SUCH THINGS AS THIS?

POOR CREATURE. LIKE ME, HE WAS WHOLE ONCE, BUT HIS FATE SEEMS DARKER. I MUST REMEMBER THIS LESSON.

IT'S THE MAN FROM MY DREAM*. HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE KURSE!

HE CAN'T BE! HE HELPED MOMMY!

SO YOU SENSE A LINK OF HUMANITY, EVEN WITH KURSE. HOW WONDERFUL.

BUT HE IS! LISTEN!

*POWER PACK 18

IF KURSE TROUBLES YOU, LET ME JUST POP HIM BACK INTO FAERIELAND.

DOES THAT MEAN HE'LL DIE AGAIN?

PROBABLY, THERE WASN'T MUCH OF HIM LEFT WHEN I GOT AHOLD OF HIM THE FIRST TIME.

THEN WHY NOT LET HIM LIVE TO SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE?

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN MIND, SINCE I'M NOT READING YOURS?

KURSE SEEKS TO FIND THE ONE WHO DESTROYED HIM.

SEND HIM TO HEL. MALEKITH IS NOW AT LARGE SOMEWHERE IN THAT OR A NEIGHBORING REALM.

WHY SHOULD MALEKITH NOT COME FACE TO FACE WITH HIS OWN CREATION?

I HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT YOU FOLKS TO KNOW THAT NO ONE BUT KURSE HAS ONLY ONE MOTIVE FOR ANYTHING THEY DO.

PERHAPS A LITTLE PEEP INTO YOUR MIND WILL SATISFY MY CURIOSITY.

I SEE. YOU THINK THAT KURSE WILL MAKE LIFE INTERESTING FOR THE DEATH GODDESS, HELA.

AND IT WAS SHE WHO INJURED YOUR FACE SO BADLY.

SNAP!

I LIKE THAT, THOUGH I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHY.

IT'S CALLED IRONY, BEYONDER.

I SUSPECT YOUR LIFE IS FILLED WITH IT.

HOW CAN I-- WHAT?

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

WHY SHOULD YOU HATE ME, KATIE? I TOOK YOUR MOMMY TO THE HOSPITAL.

BECAUSE YOU MADE KURSE AND KURSE HURT MOMMY!

YOU'RE A BAD MAN!

I WISH I COULD DISINTEGRATE YOU!

THEN YOU WOULD BE JUST LIKE KURSE AND THAT WOULDN'T BE ANY GOOD, WOULD IT?

BUT MAYBE DOING GOOD IS WHAT MAKES SOMEBODY A PART OF THE FAMILY.

THAT MAY BE JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR. BECAUSE ALL THE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE CAN'T MAKE YOU GOOD.

YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE IT.

SO IN THE FUTURE, I SHALL CHOOSE GOOD. BUT I CAN CHOOSE IT FOR EVERYONE!

YOU AND BILL HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA, THOR. NO SACRIFICE WILL BE TOO GREAT!

I WANT TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION FOR WHAT I HAVE LEARNED TODAY. THAT'S THE FAMILY WAY, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH YOUR FACE, THOR, BECAUSE I LIKE WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT IRONY...



...AND IF IT WERE FIXED, SENDING KURSE TO HEL WOULDN'T BE IRONIC...



...SO I HAVE RESTORED THE HAMMERS' POWER. NOW YOU CAN STILL HAVE MUCH TO SACRIFICE!

I'M OFF, ADIOS!

AND BY THE WAY, THOR, I SHOULD BE WARY OF KISSING ANY LADIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE IF I WERE YOU.

A WORD TO THE WISE.



zing!

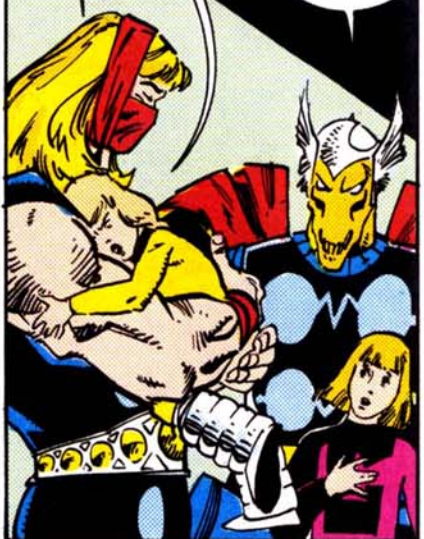
WHAT ABOUT OUR MOM?

TOO LATE, KATIE. HE'S GONE.

YOU ARE RIGHT, CHILD. BUT IT'S THE LIVING THAT ISN'T FAIR.

THAT MAY BE THE HARDEST LESSON OF ALL FOR ANYONE TO LEARN.

BUT IT ISN'T FAIR! ...SOB... IT JUST ISN'T FAIR!



AND HARDEST OF ALL FOR THE BEYONDER. HOW CAN HE LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES WHEN HE MAKES HIS OWN RULES?

BE BRAVE, LITTLE ONE. YOUR MOTHER'S FATE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

NOW I MUST GO.



I SHALL SEE THE CHILDREN HOME, THOR.

WILL YOU COME TO ASGARD WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED?

SIF WISHES IT AND WE ARE ABOUT TO SELECT A NEW RULER.



I'LL BE THERE.

GOOD-BYE, MR. THOR.



WELL, TOOTH-GNASHER, TOOTH-GRINDER, IT SEEMS MY OWN QUESTION HAS BEEN ANSWERED.

MORTALS ARE AS MUCH MY FAMILY AS THE GODS.

TRULY, I MUST BE EXHAUSTED.

BUT THE SIGHT OF ASGARD, RISING FROM HER OWN ASHES WILL RENEW MY SPIRIT.

LET US--

THOR!
OH, THOR!

MY TIME ON MIDGARD HAS NOT BEEN WASTED, AS WELL I KNEW IN MY HEART.



OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU HAVEN'T GONE YET.

I SAW YOUR FIGHT WITH THAT AWFUL CREATURE AND I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE! YOU SAVED US ALL!

AND WAIT! I TELL THE GIRLS I ACTUALLY KISSED YOU! THEY'LL BE SO JEALOUS!



BUT--

Smak!



THAT'S FUNNY! WHAT AM I DOING DOWN HERE?

I WAS JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE IRONING.

AND SOMEWHERE IN ASGARD...



IT WORKED! IT WORKED! AND MY LITTLE CATSPAW HAS NO MEMORY OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED!

THE TRAP IS SPRUNG...

...AND LOKI HAS ACHIEVED HIS MOST BRILLIANT JEST!



RIBBIT!
RIBBIT!

NOT A HOAX! NOT A DREAM! NOT AN IMAGINARY STORY!! **next issue: THOR CROAKS!!!** (THE STORY THEY DIDN'T THINK WE HAD NERVE ENOUGH TO TELL!)