

# The Coming of Thor



*Borrowed from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia with a few minor tweeks.*

**Thor** is a fictional character, a superhero who appears in publications published by Marvel Comics. The character first appeared in *Journey into Mystery* #83 (Aug. 1962) and was created by editor-plotter Stan Lee, scripter Larry Lieber, and penciller Jack Kirby.

Debuting in the Silver Age of Comic Books, the character is based on the Thor of Norse mythology, the God of Thunder. He has starred in several ongoing series and limited series, and has been a perennial member of the superhero team the Avengers, appearing in each of the four volumes. The character has also appeared in associated Marvel merchandise including animated Television series, clothing, toys, trading cards and video games

The film *Thor*, based on the character and comic, was released in 2011, with Kenneth Branagh as director and Chris Hemsworth starring as Thor. Hemsworth will reappear as Thor in the film *The Avengers*, set to be released in 2012 and *Thor 2* in 2013.

Thor debuted in the science fiction/fantasy anthology title *Journey into Mystery* #83 (cover-date Aug. 1962), created by editor-plotter Stan Lee, scripter Larry Lieber, and penciller Jack Kirby. Lee in 2002 described Thor's genesis early in the Marvel pantheon, following the creation of the Hulk:

“How do you make someone stronger than the strongest person? It finally came to me: Don’t make him human — make him a god. I decided readers were already pretty familiar with the Greek and Roman gods. It might be fun to delve into the old Norse legends... Besides, I pictured Norse gods looking like Vikings of old, with the flowing beards, horned helmets, and battle clubs. ...*Journey into Mystery* needed a shot in the arm, so I picked Thor ... to headline the book. After writing an outline depicting the story and the characters I had in mind, I asked my brother, Larry, to write the script because I didn’t have time. ...and it was only natural for me to assign the penciling to Jack Kirby.”

Subsequent stories of the 13-page feature "The Mighty Thor" continued to be plotted by Lee, and were variously scripted by Lieber or by Robert Bernstein, working under the pseudonym "R. Berns". Various artists penciled the feature, including Jack Kirby, Joe Sinnott, Don Heck, and Al Hartley. With *Journey into Mystery* #101 (Feb. 1964), the series began a long and definitive run by writer and co-plotter Lee and penciler and co-plotter Kirby that lasted until the by-then-retitled *Thor* (also called *The Mighty Thor*) #179 (Aug. 1970).

The five-page featurette "Tales of Asgard" was added in *Journey into Mystery* #97 (Oct. 1963), followed by "The Mighty Thor" becoming the dominant cover logo with issue #104 (May 1964). The feature itself expanded to 18 pages in #105, which eliminated the remaining anthological story from each issue; it was reduced to 16 pages five issues later.

*Journey into Mystery* was retitled *Thor* (per the indicia, or *The Mighty Thor* per most covers)<sup>[2]</sup> with issue #126 (March 1966). "Tales of Asgard" was replaced by a five-page featurette starring the Inhumans from #146–152 (Nov. 1967 – May 1968), after which featurettes were dropped and the Thor stories expanded to Marvel's then-standard 20-page length.

After Kirby left the title, Neal Adams penciled issues #180-181 (Sept.-Oct. 1970). John Buscema then became the regular artist the following issue. Buscema continued to draw the book almost without interruption until #278 (Dec. 1978). Lee stopped scripting soon after Kirby left, and during Buscema's long stint on the book, the stories were mostly written by Gerry Conway, Len Wein, or Roy Thomas. Thomas continued to write the book after Buscema's departure, working much of the time with the artist Keith Pollard; during this period Thomas integrated many elements of traditional Norse mythology into the title, with specific stories translated into comics form. Following Thomas's tenure, *Thor* had a changing creative team.

Walt Simonson took over both writing and art as of #337 (Nov. 1983). Simonson's run as writer-artist lasted until #367 (May 1986), although he continued to write – and occasionally draw – the book until issue #382 (Aug. 1987). Simonson's run, which introduced the character Beta Ray Bill, was regarded as a popular and critical success.

After Simonson's departure, Marvel's editor-in-chief at the time, Tom DeFalco, became the writer. Working primarily with artist Ron Frenz, DeFalco stayed on the book until #459 (Feb. 1993).

As a consequence of the "Heroes Reborn" crossover story arc of the 1990s, Thor was removed from mainstream Marvel continuity and with other Marvel characters re-imagined in an alternate universe for one year. The *Thor* title reverted to *Journey into Mystery* with issue #503 (Nov. 1996), and ran four different, sequential features ( notably *The Lost Gods* ) before ceasing publication with #521 (June 1998).

When the character was returned to the mainstream Marvel Universe, Thor was relaunched with *Thor* vol. 2, #1 (July 1998). As of issue #36, the title used dual numbering in a tribute to the original Thor series, and the caption box for said issue became #36 / #538 (June 2001). The title ran until issue #85 / #587, dated December 2004. Dan Jurgens wrote the first 79 issues, with Daniel Berman and Michael Avon Oeming completing the series.

The third volume debuted as *Thor* #1 (Sept. 2007), initially written by J. Michael Straczynski and penciled by Olivier Coipel. Beginning with what would have been vol. 3, #13 (January 2009), the third volume reverted to issue #600, reflecting the total number of published issues from all three volumes. Kieron Gillen took over from Straczynski in *Thor* #604 with artists Billy Tan, Richard Elson and Dougie Braithwaite with his final storyline finishing in issue #614. Afterward, Matt Fraction took over *Thor* in issue #615, after having been announced as starting in *Thor* #610 and #611.

To coincide with the *Thor* film, Marvel launched a number of new series starring the character in mid-2010. These included *Thor: The Mighty Avenger* by Roger Langridge and Chris Samnee, *Thor: First Thunder* by Bryan J. L. Glass and Tan Eng Huat, *Thor: For Asgard* by Robert Rodi and Simone Bianchi, and *Iron Man/Thor* by writing duo Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning.

In April 2011, *Thor* once again reverted to its original title of *Journey into Mystery* with issue #622, reuniting writer Gillen and artist Braithwaite in a series of stories starring Thor's half-brother, Loki. A new ongoing series, officially titled *The Mighty Thor*, kicked off the same month with writer Fraction and artist Coipel.

## **Early Career and Formation of Avengers**

Thor's father Odin decided his son needed to be taught humility and consequently placed Thor (without memories of godhood) into the body and memories of an existing, partially disabled human medical student, Donald Blake (actually this part of Thor's origin was not revealed until issue # 159 in 1968). After becoming a doctor and on vacation in Norway, Blake witnessed the arrival of an alien scouting party. Blake fled into a cave after they heard him and began to pursue him. After discovering Thor's disguised hammer Mjolnir, and striking it against a rock, he transformed into the thunder god.

Defeating the aliens, Thor shared a double life with his alter ego: treating the ill in a private practice with nurse - and eventual love - Jane Foster and defending humanity from evil. Thor's presence on Earth almost immediately attracted the attention of his adoptive brother and arch-foe Loki; who returned repeatedly to Earth in a bid to destroy Thor. Loki was also responsible for the emergence of three of Thor's principal foes: the Absorbing Man; the Wrecker, and the Destroyer. On one occasion, Loki's tactics were accidentally beneficial - although successful in using an illusion of the Hulk to draw Thor into battle, it resulted in the formation of the superhero team the Avengers, of which Thor was a founding and longstanding member.

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**Now read Thor's debut in “Journey Into Mystery” #83.**

**Read On**

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JOURNEY INTO

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INTRODUCING...  
THE MIGHTY  
**THOR!**

THE MOST  
EXCITING  
SUPER  
HERO  
OF ALL  
TIME!!



BEGIN THE SAGA OF THOR IN THIS ISSUE!

# THOR THE MIGHTY!

and "THE STONE MEN from SATURN!"

THE LEGEND HAS COME TRUE! BY THE WILL OF THE GODS, I AM ALIVE! I AM INVINCIBLE! I AM—THOR!!!

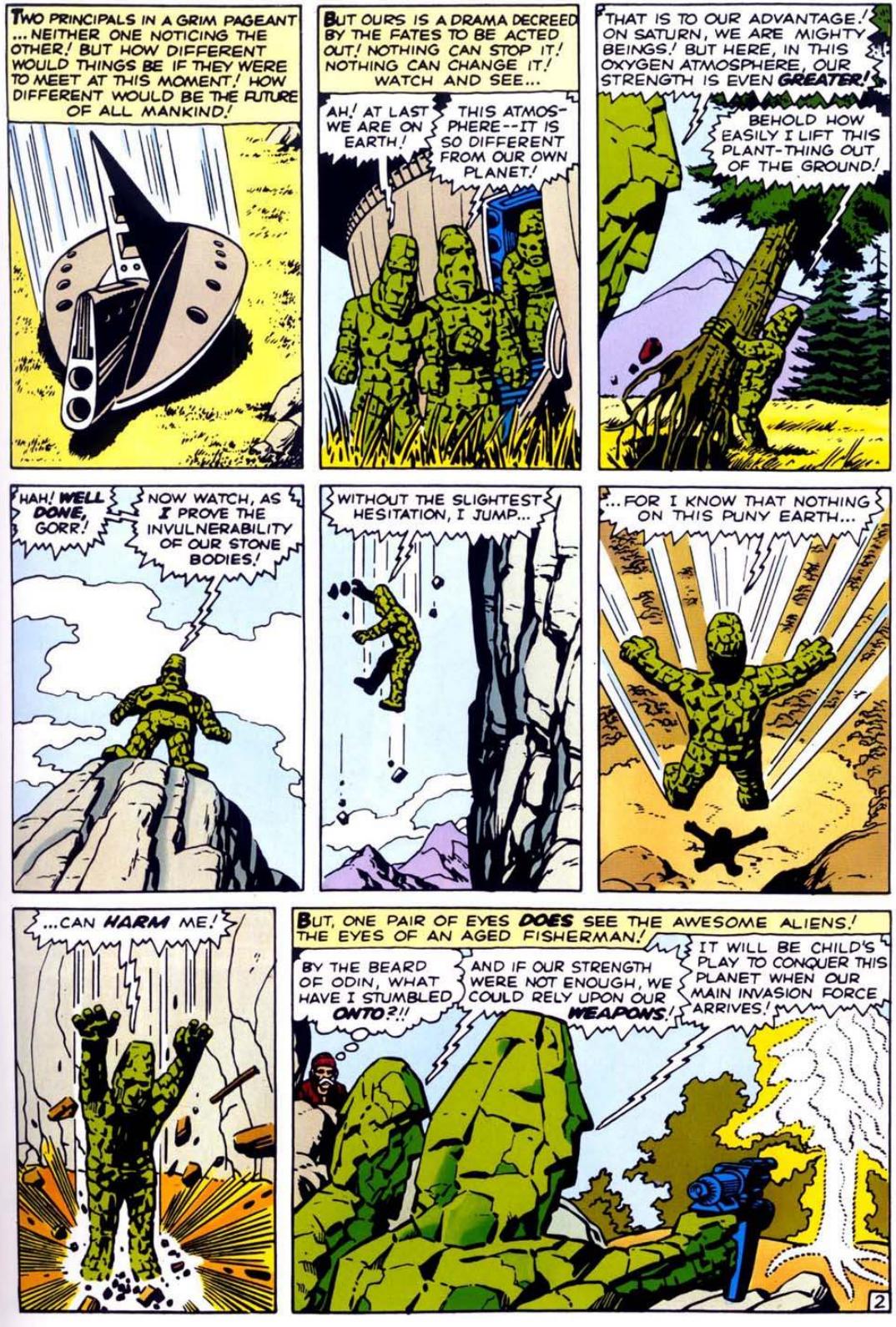


OUR STORY OPENS ON THE WINDY COAST OF NORWAY, WHERE WE SEE A FRAIL FIGURE SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE BLEAK SKY! HE IS DR. DON BLAKE, AN AMERICAN VACATIONING IN EUROPE!

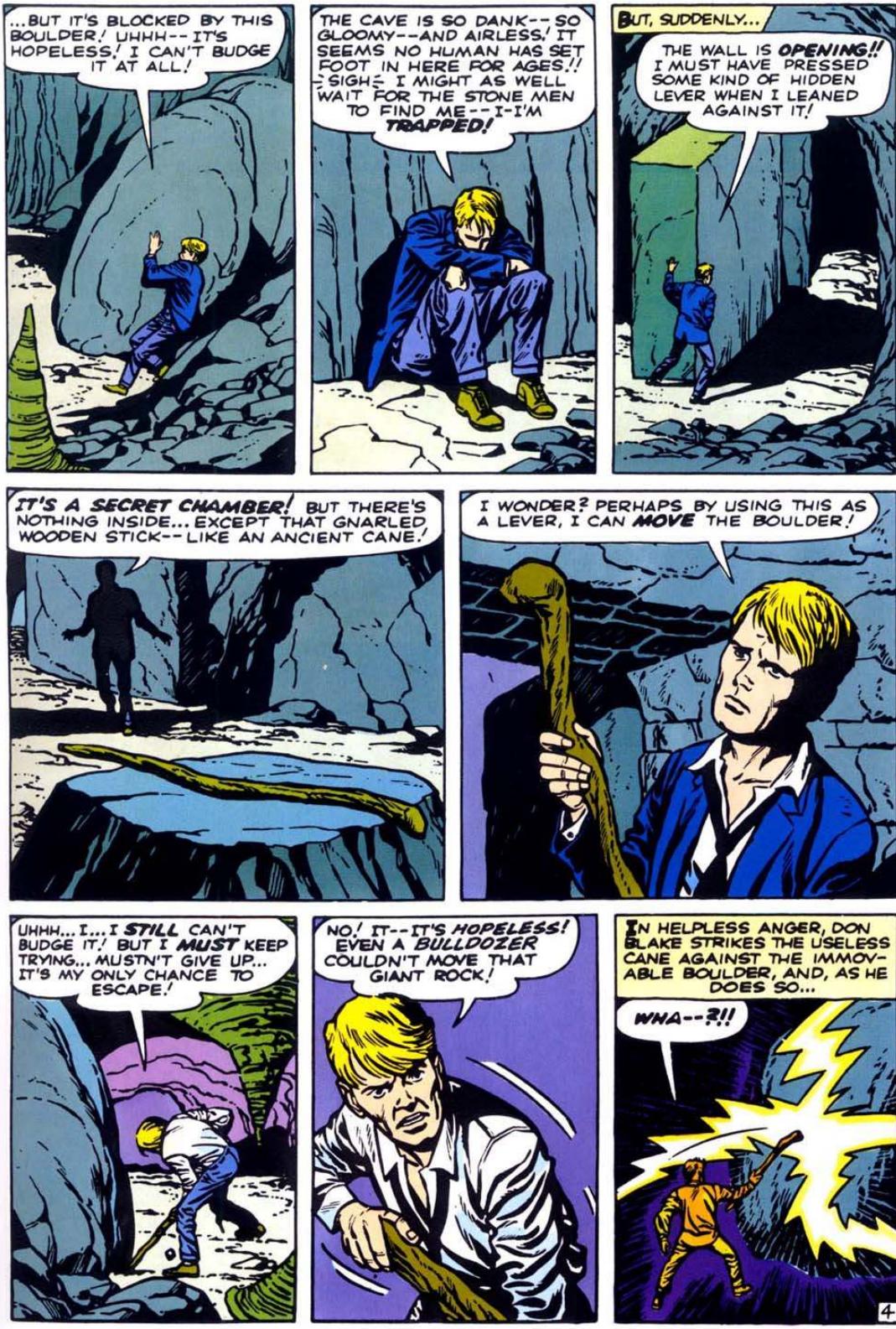


AND AS DOCTOR BLAKE TURNS AND LEAVES THE SITE, HE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE ALIEN SPACE-SHIP WHICH SILENTLY LANDS BEHIND HIM!



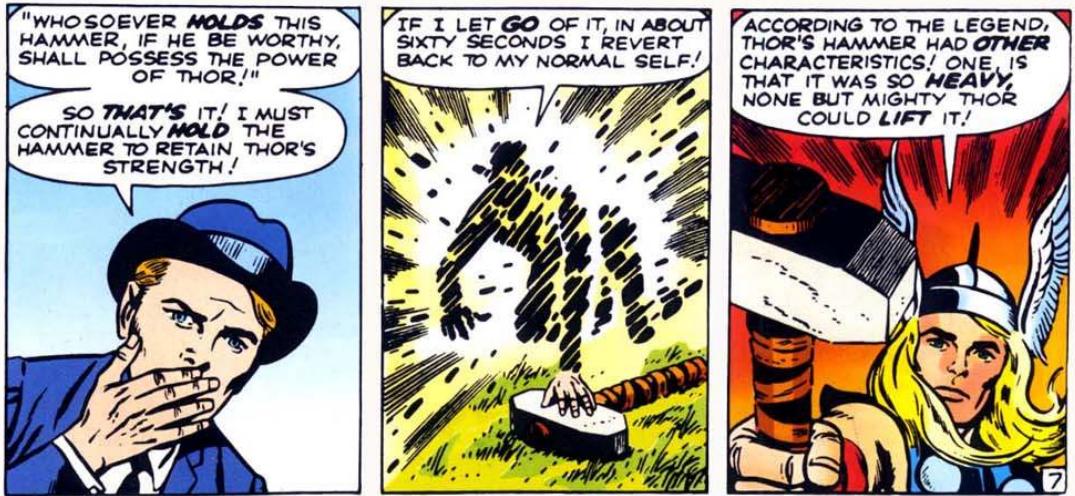
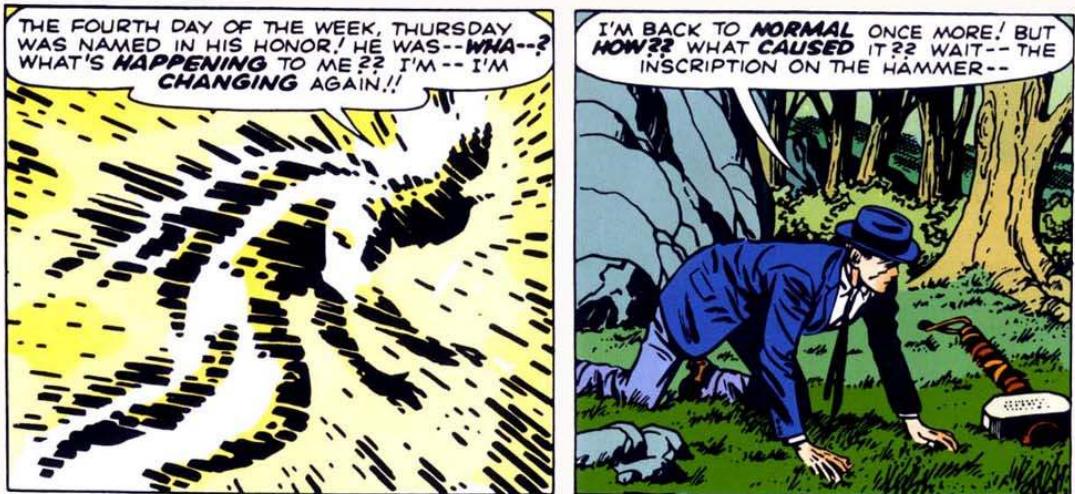
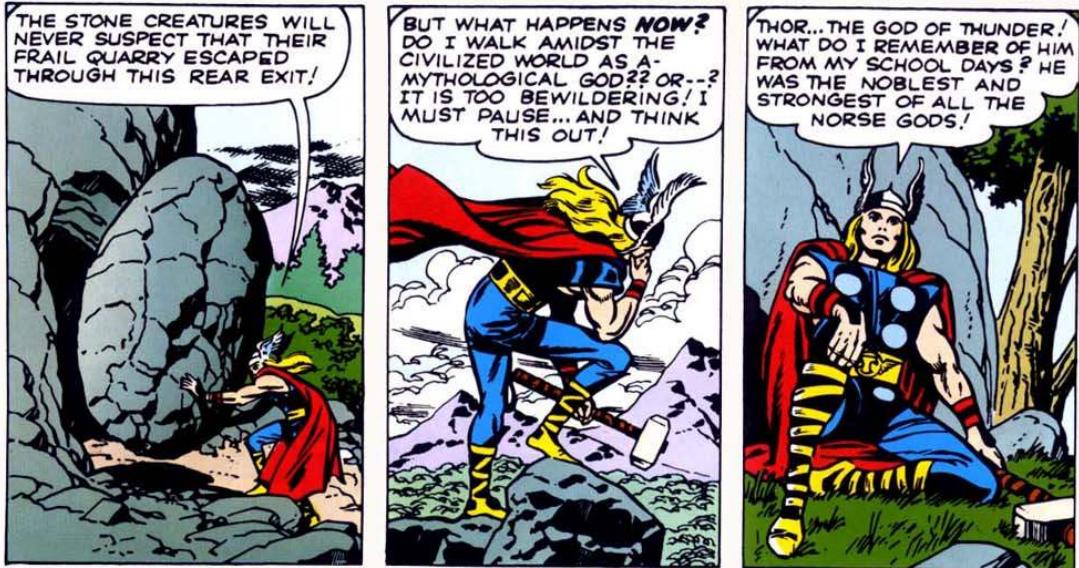






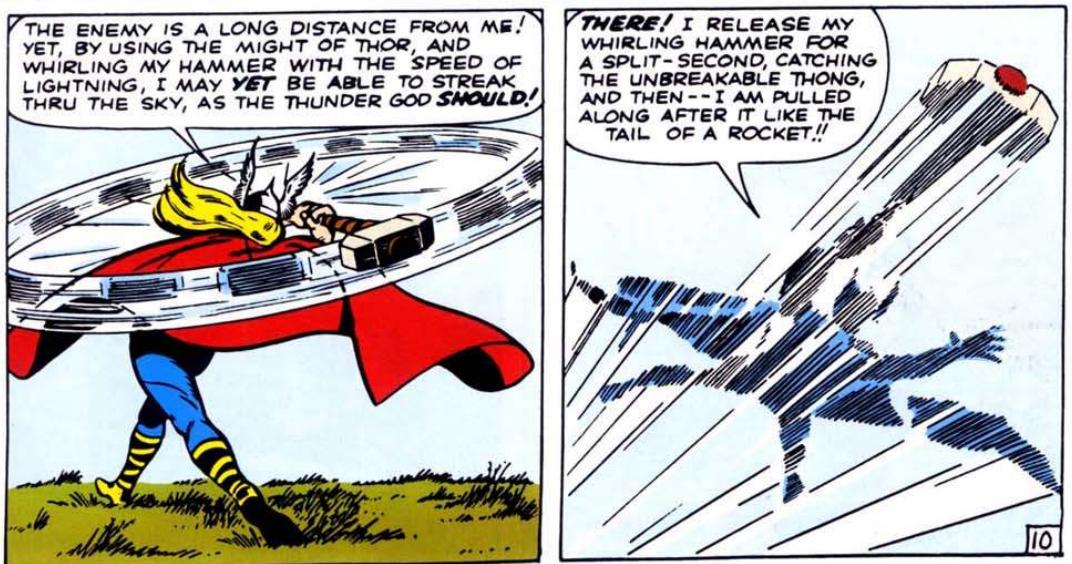
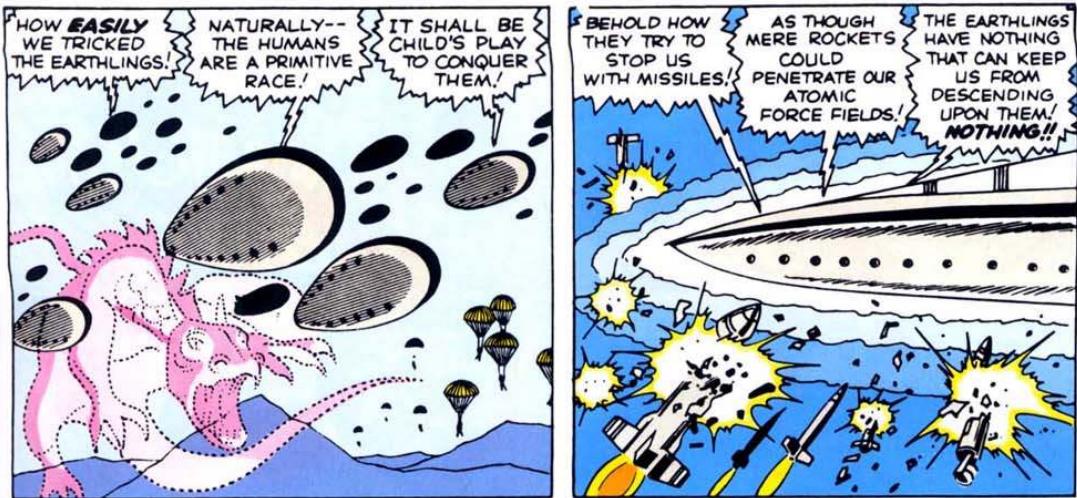












PART  
3

# THOR THE MIGHTY STRIKES BACK!

