

MARVEL

4

LGY#710

FIGHT OF THE VALKYRIES!

AARON
DEL MUNDO



THOR IS BACK. WHILE STILL UNWORTHY OF LIFTING HIS HAMMER MJOLNIR, HE IS ONCE MORE THE GOD OF THUNDER. JUST IN TIME TOO, BECAUSE SOMEONE NEEDS TO STOP THE DARK ELF KING MALEKITH FROM CONQUERING ALL OF THE TEN REALMS.

TO THAT END, LOKI TELEPORTED HIS BROTHER TO HEL, WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK FROM MALEKITH'S ALLY AND THE RULER OF MUSPELHEIM, SINDR. ONCE THERE, THOR AND LOKI JOINED THEIR BROTHERS TYR AND BALDER THE BRAVE, WHO IS THE CURRENT RULER OF HEL, AS WELL AS BALDER'S LOVER KARNILLA AND SKURGE THE EXECUTIONER, TO FIGHT OFF THE INVADING MUSPELHEIM ARMY.

TO UNIFY THE DISPARATE FORCES OF HEL AGAINST THE INVASION, LOKI MADE A RADICAL PROPOSAL: THAT BALDER MARRY HELA, THE FORMER RULER OF HEL, AND SHARE THE THRONE WITH HER.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY WAS NEARLY COMPLETE WHEN THOR CONVINCED LOKI TO "KILL" HIM SO THAT HE COULD GO TO VALHALLA AND RECRUIT THE VALKYRIES TO HELP THEM TURN THE TIDE AGAINST SINDR. WITH THOR'S RETURN IN QUESTION, WHO SHOULD ARRIVE TO STOP THE WEDDING BUT THANOS...

"WAR IS HEL"

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE BEFORE *INFINITY WARS PRIME #1*.

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THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



NIFFLEHEIM.
LAND OF THE DEAD.

HA! THE
WEDDING IS
OFFICIALLY
OFF!

THANOS,
MY LOVE, BLAST
THESE FOOLS INTO
OBLIVION AND LET
US GO RECLAIM
MY REALM!

AN
ASGARDIAN?
HEH.

SHE WOULD
TEAR YOU TO
PIECES, LITTLE
GOD.

...THANOS?

NO, THE
WEDDING
IS MOST
ASSUREDLY
STILL ON!

YOUR PURPLE
BOYFRIEND CAN
JOIN ME AS A
BRIDESMAID,
UNLESS HE'D
RATHER--

INCOMING!



THAT
WOULD BE
SINDR CRASHING
THE PARTY!

THE
CEREMONY IS
HEREBY ON HOLD!
EVERYONE FIND A
SWORD AND
FOLLOW ME!

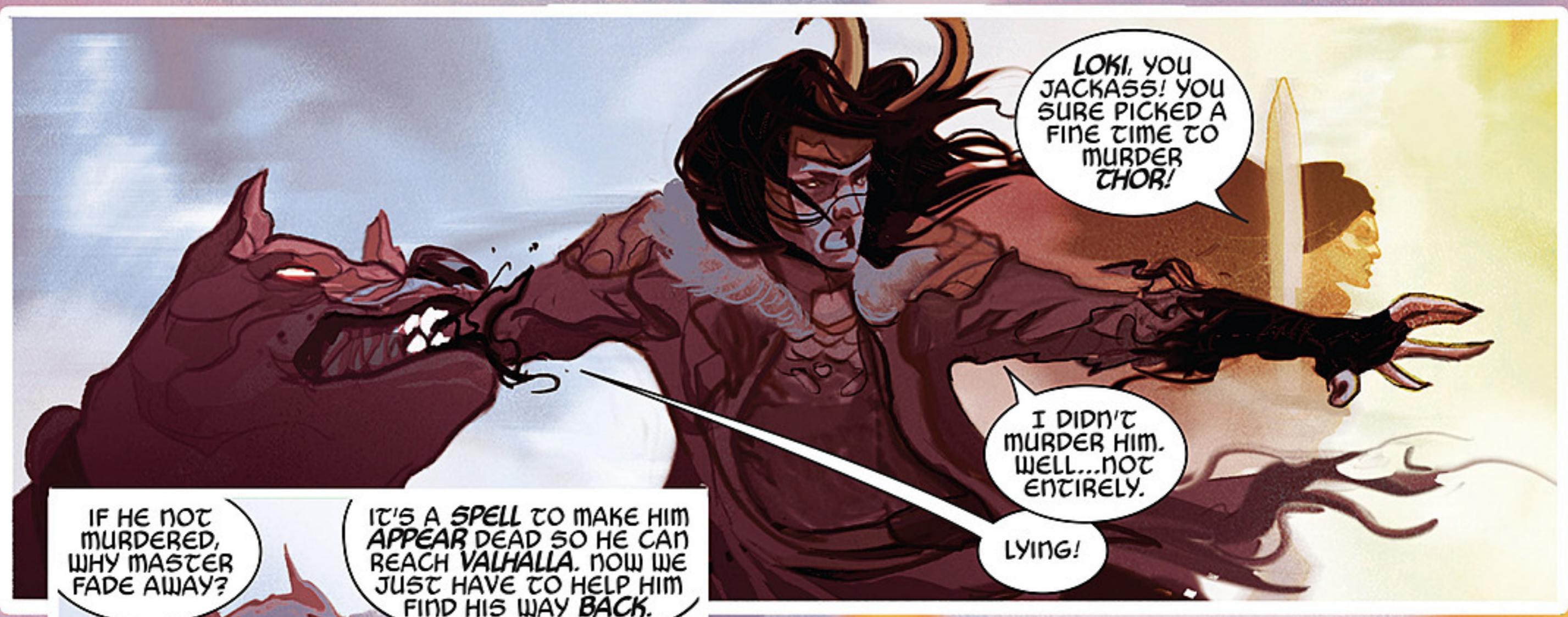
SINDR. THERE'S
SOMEONE ELSE FOR
YOU TO MURDER, MY
BELOVED. AND THEN YOU
AND I CAN FINISH
THIS WEDDING.

HELA...

WE
NEED TO
TALK.

THE WAR FOR
HEL ENDS NOW!
SET THEM ALL
ABLAZE, SONS
OF MUSPEL!

BUT SAVE
THE BRIDE AND
GROOM FOR THE
QUEEN OF
CINDERS!



MIGHTY
BRUNNHILDE.

JUST THE
VALKYRIE I
NEEDED TO
SEE.

QUICKLY,
WE MUST RALLY
THE REST OF THE
VALKYRIOR AND ALL
THE WARRIOR
OF VALHALLA.

OH WE
MUST, MUST WE,
ODINSON?

AYE, THERE
IS WAR IN
NIFFLHEIM.



THE GATES OF VALHALLA.

VALHALLA IS ISOLATED FROM
THE REST OF NIFFLHEIM, AS
I'M SURE YOU KNOW, SINCE YOU
APPARENTLY USED YOUR BROTHER'S
SORCERY TO FAKE YOUR DEATH
AND LIE YOUR WAY TO THESE
SACRED GATES.

ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP LAY
WASTE TO SOME MEDDLESOME
FIRE GOBLINS. AM I TO ASSUME
YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR FINDING
YOUR WAY BACK THROUGH
THE ETERNAL MISTS?

I HAVE
SOMETHING
BETTER THAN
A PLAN,
BRUNNHILDE.

SO I DID. BUT
IF I DON'T RETURN
WITH THE EINHERJAR
AT MY BACK TO HELP ME
FACE THE FLAME-DRENCHED
ARMIES OF MUSPELHEIM IN
FINAL BATTLE, MY DEATH
MAY SOON BE DECIDEDLY
LESS FAKE.

AND THE LAND
OF THE DEAD WILL
BE LOST FOREVER
TO MALEKITH'S
INFERNAL WAR.



"WHERE MIGHT I
FIND THE HAPPY
COUPLE?"



THE QUEEN
OF CINDERS HAS
BROUGHT THEM
A WEDDING
GIFT!

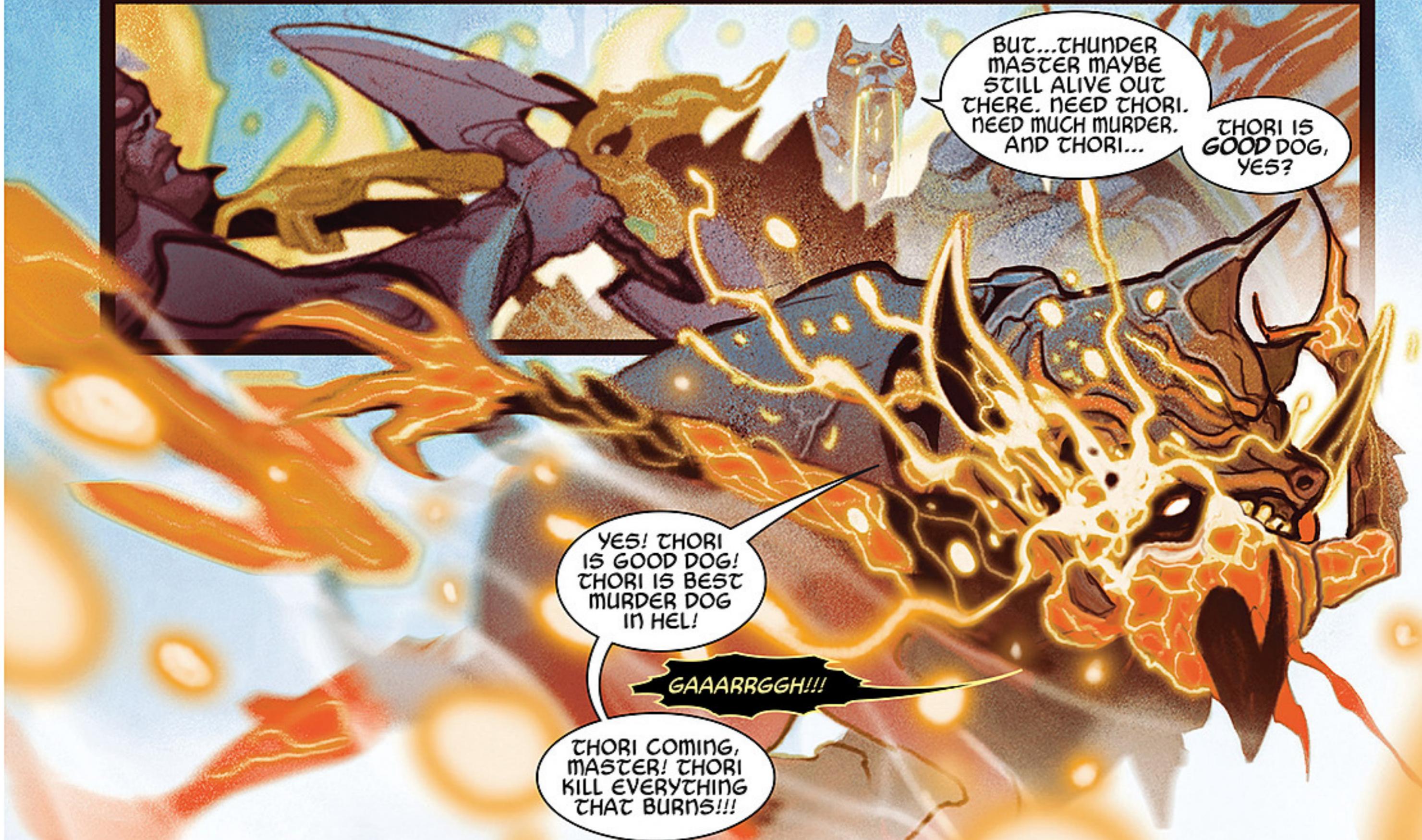
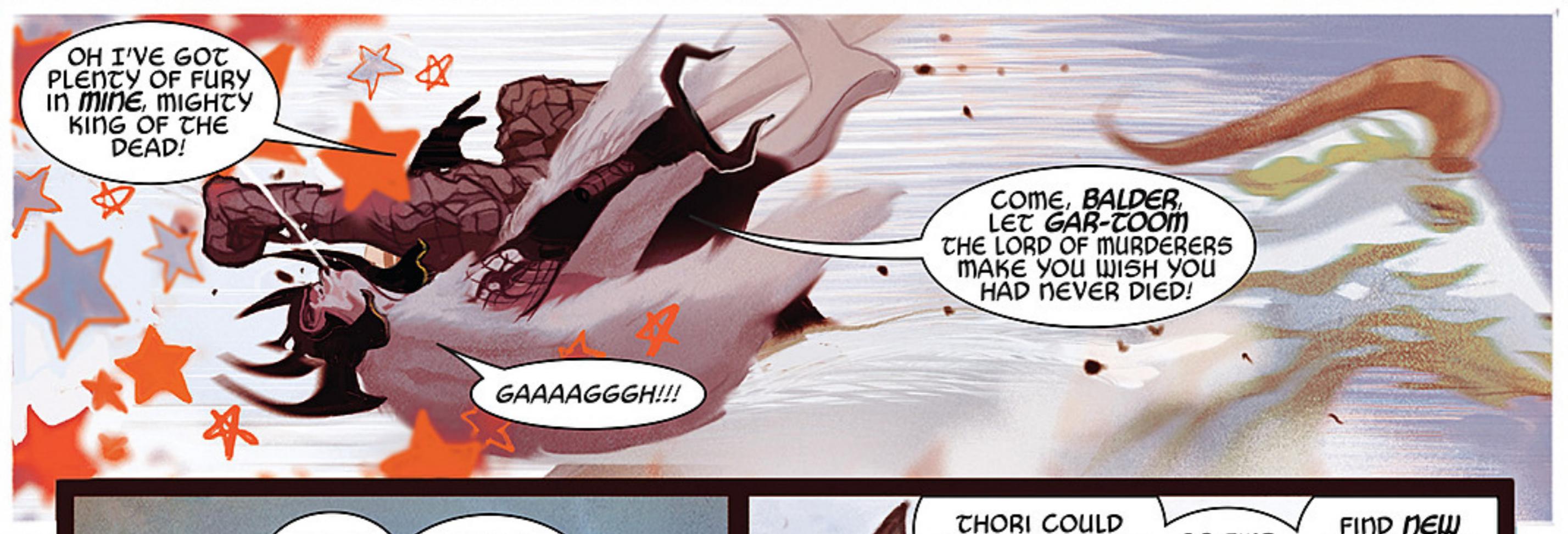
THEY
GET TO BURN
FOREVER IN
EACH OTHER'S
ARMS!

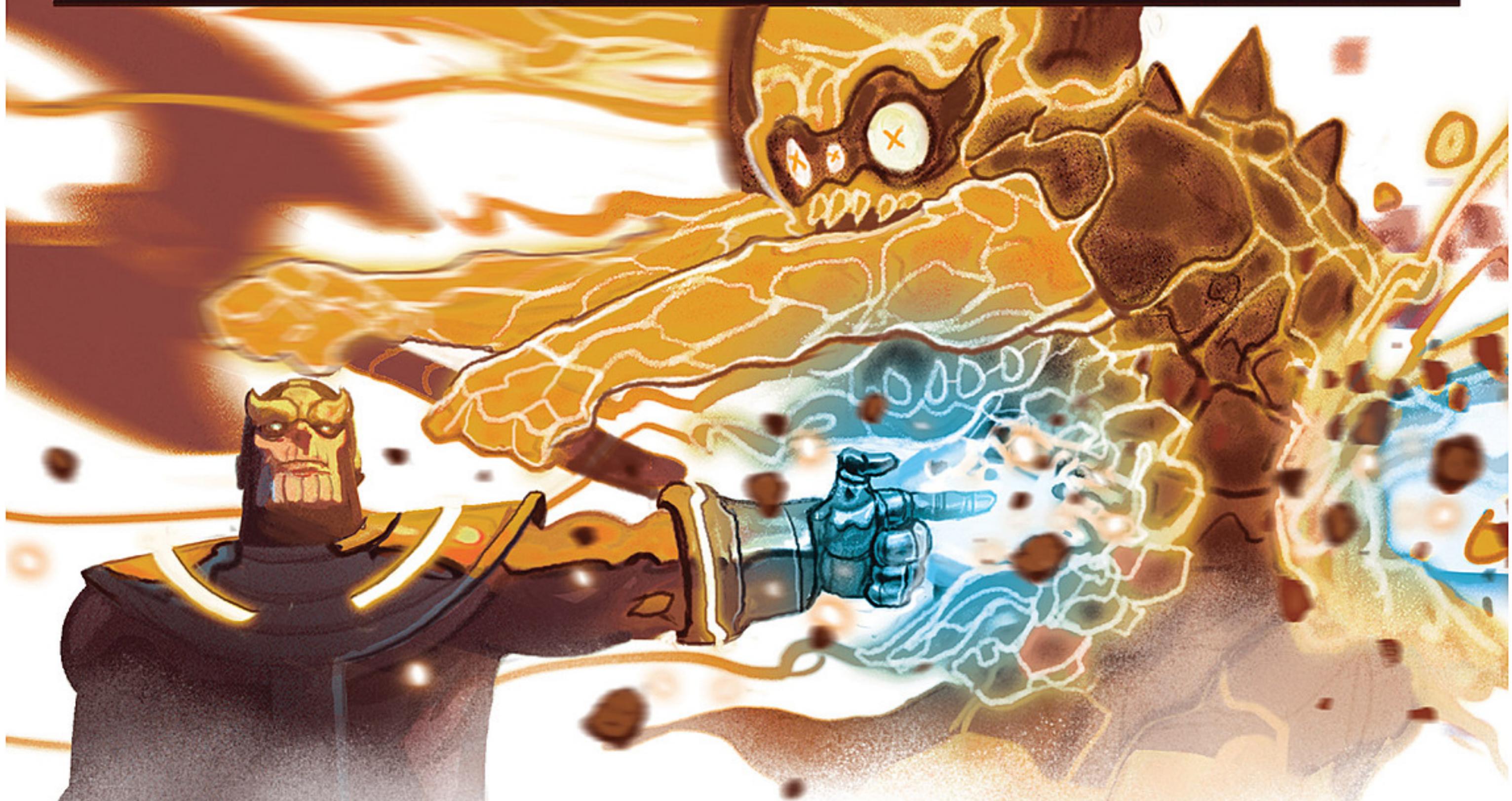
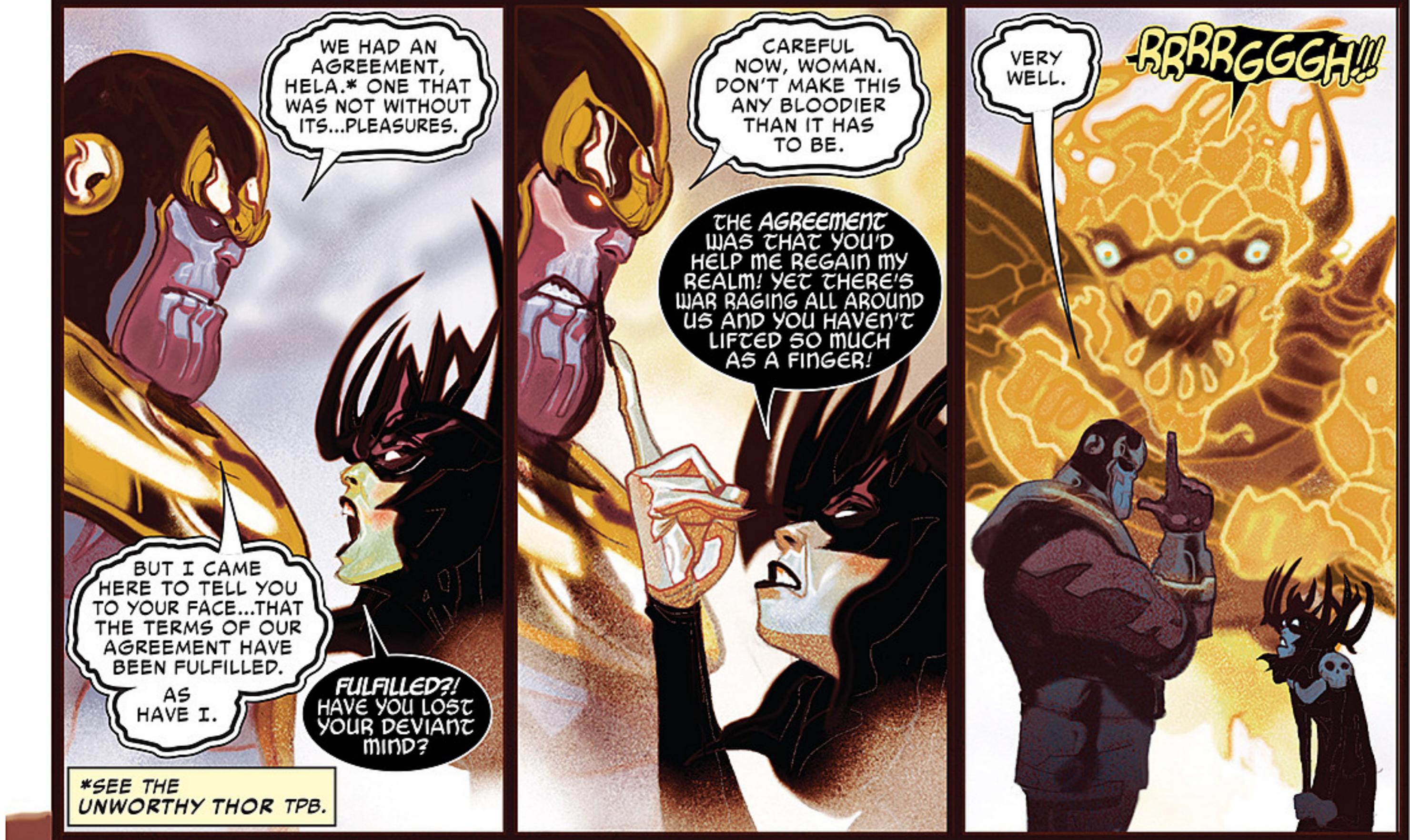
HA
HAAA!

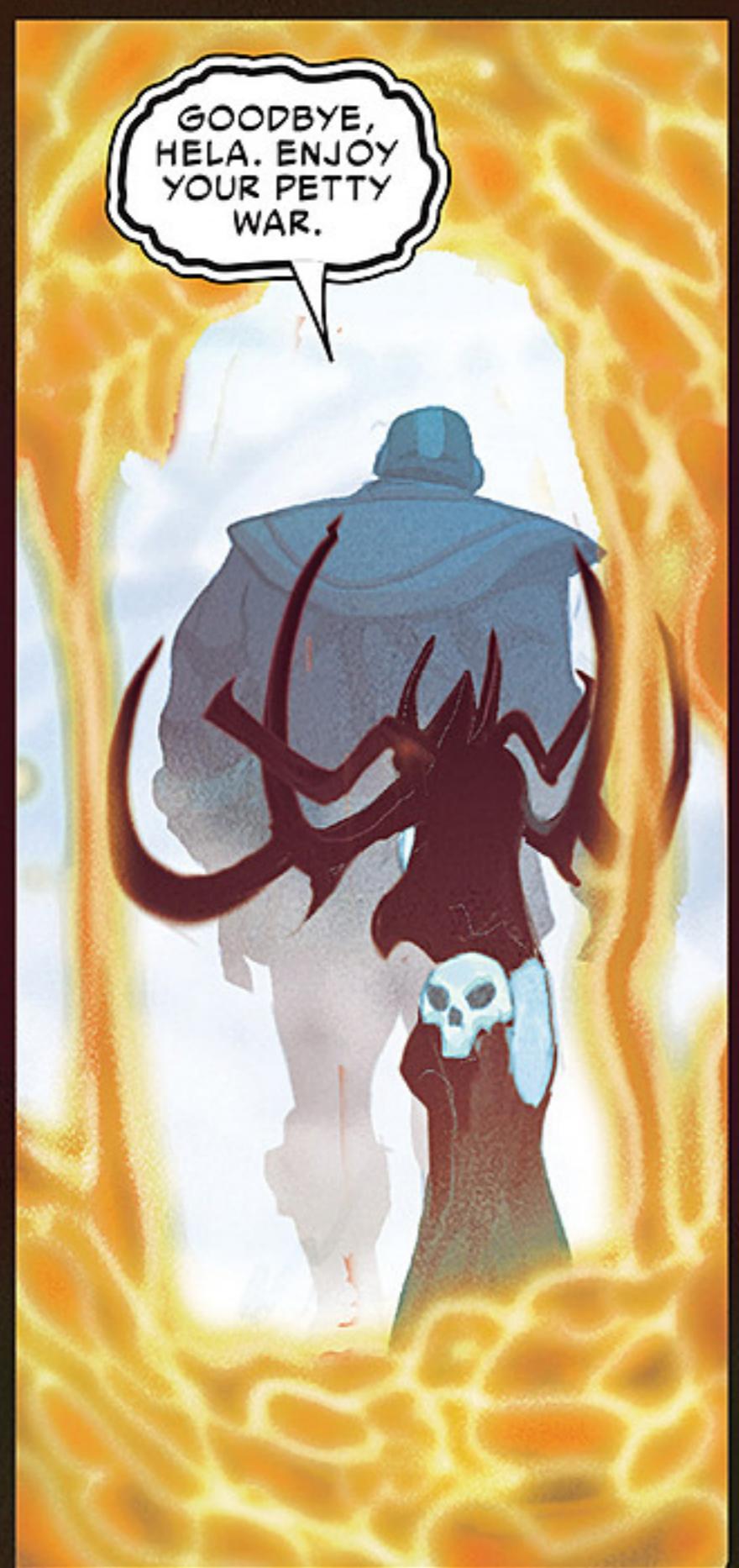
NO ONE
COMES INTO
THIS LAND AND
CONQUERS
THE DEAD!

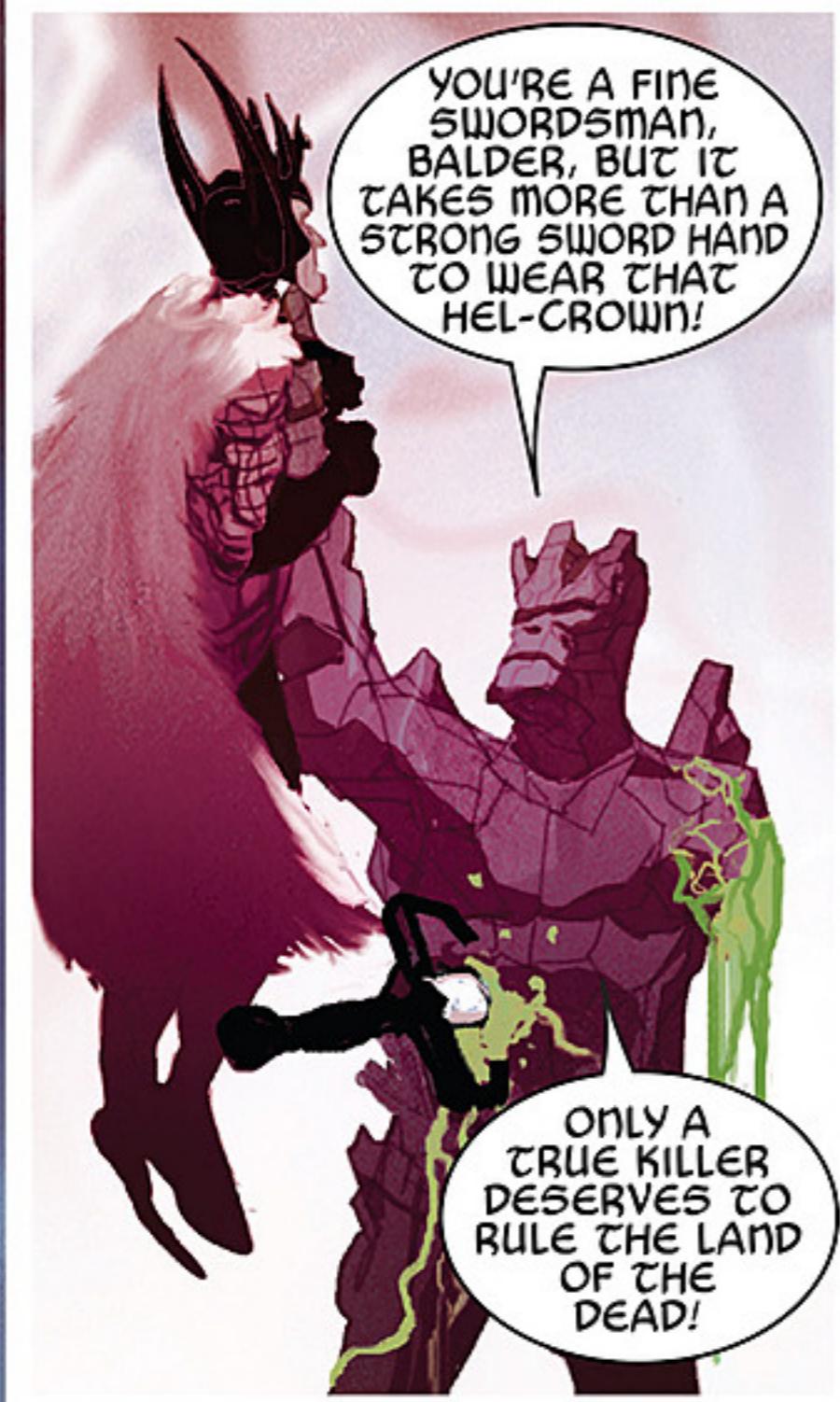
DENIZENS OF
HELL! FIGHT WITH
ALL THE FURY IN
YOUR ROTTING
HEARTS!











THE CHANCE
TO SAVE THE
REALMS! TO SAVE
EVERYONE YOU'VE
EVER KNOWN WHO
YET LIVES!

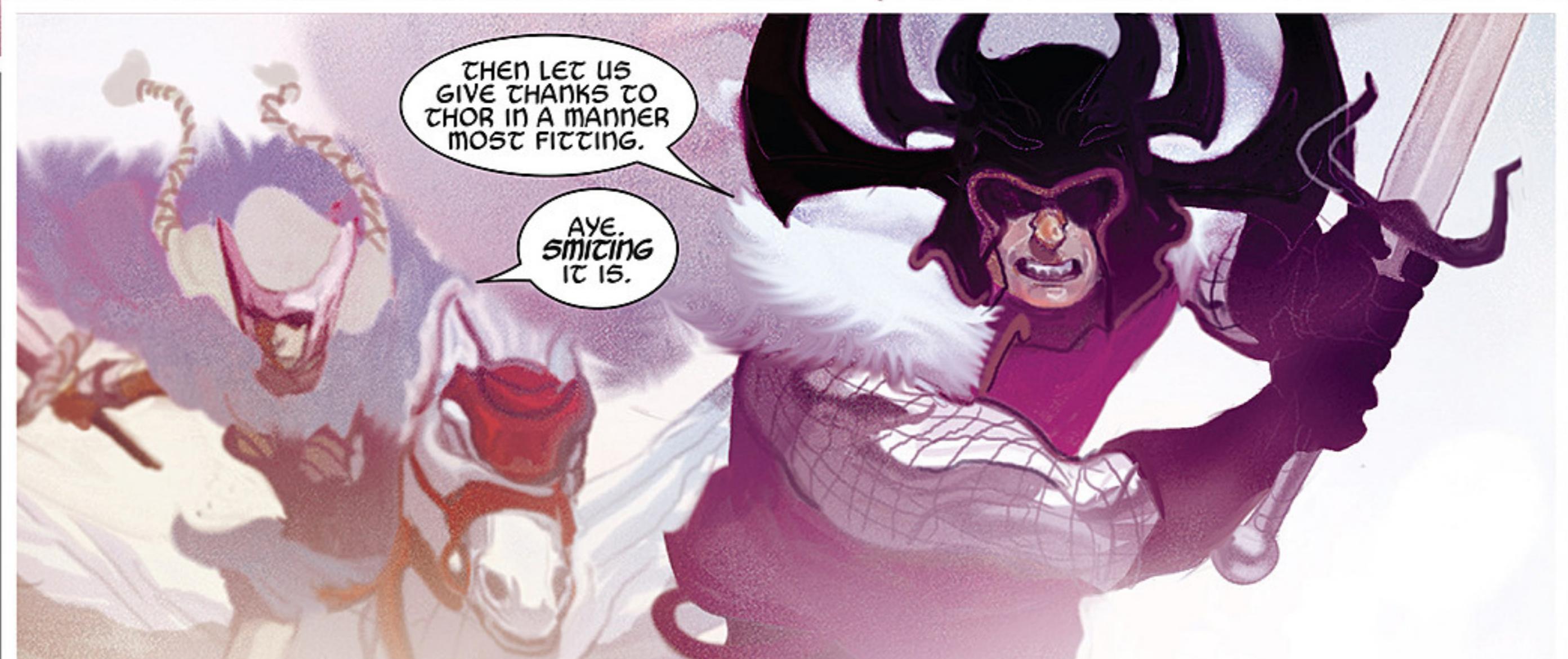
FOR IF THE
LAND OF THE DEAD
SHOULD FALL, THE
REALMS OF THE
LIVING WILL SOON
FOLLOW!

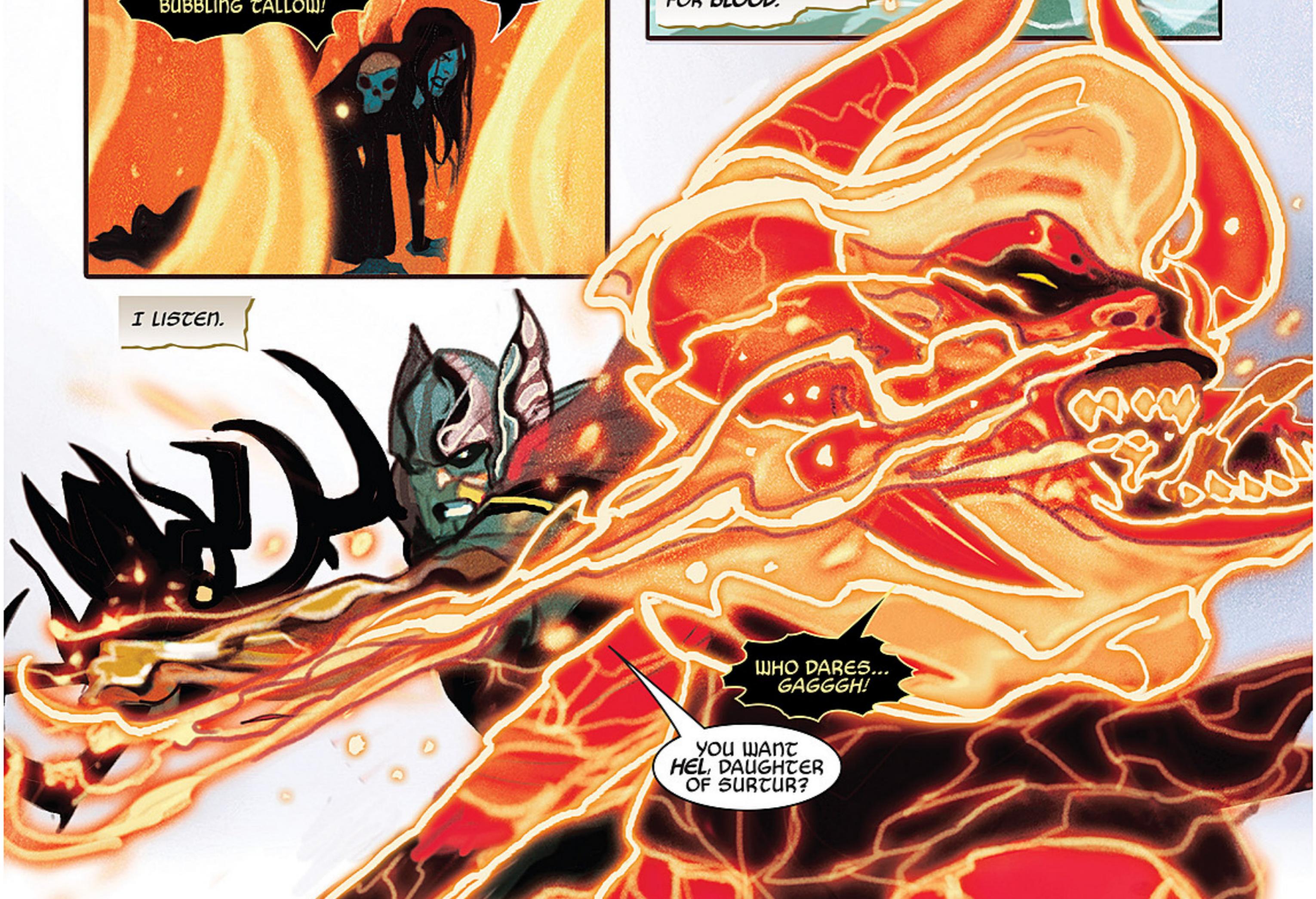
SO
TODAY THE
DEAD MAKE WAR!
TODAY VALHALLA
SAYS THEE NAY,
DEMONS OF
MUSPELHEIM!

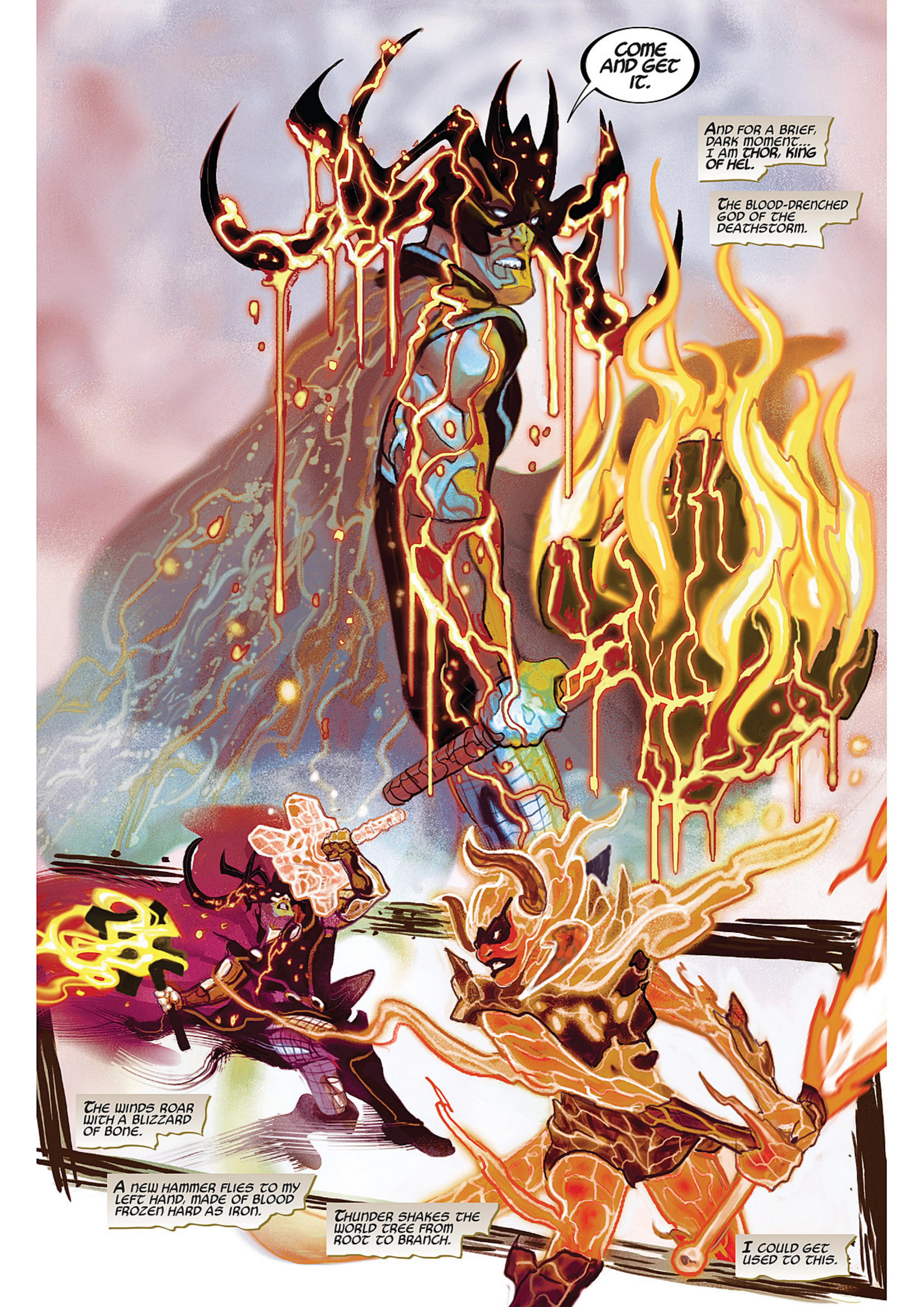
ONWARD
TO HELL AND TO
VICTORY!!!



HEY.
DOETH ME
A FAVOR.







COME
AND GET
IT.

AND FOR A BRIEF,
DARK MOMENT...
I AM THOR, KING
OF HEL.

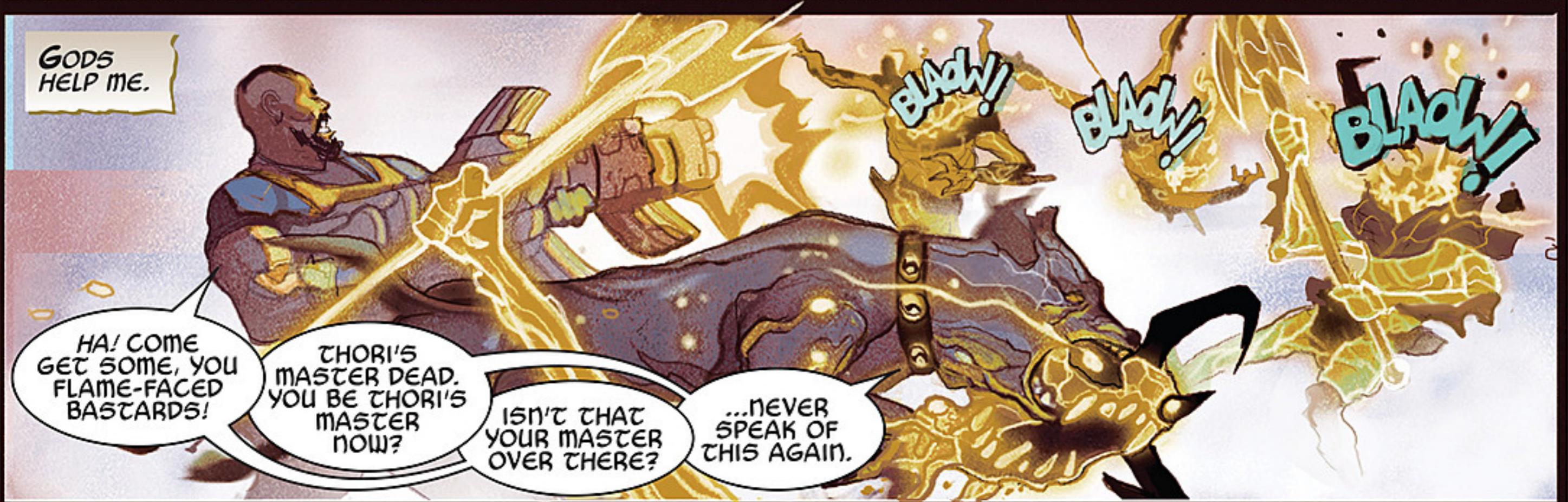
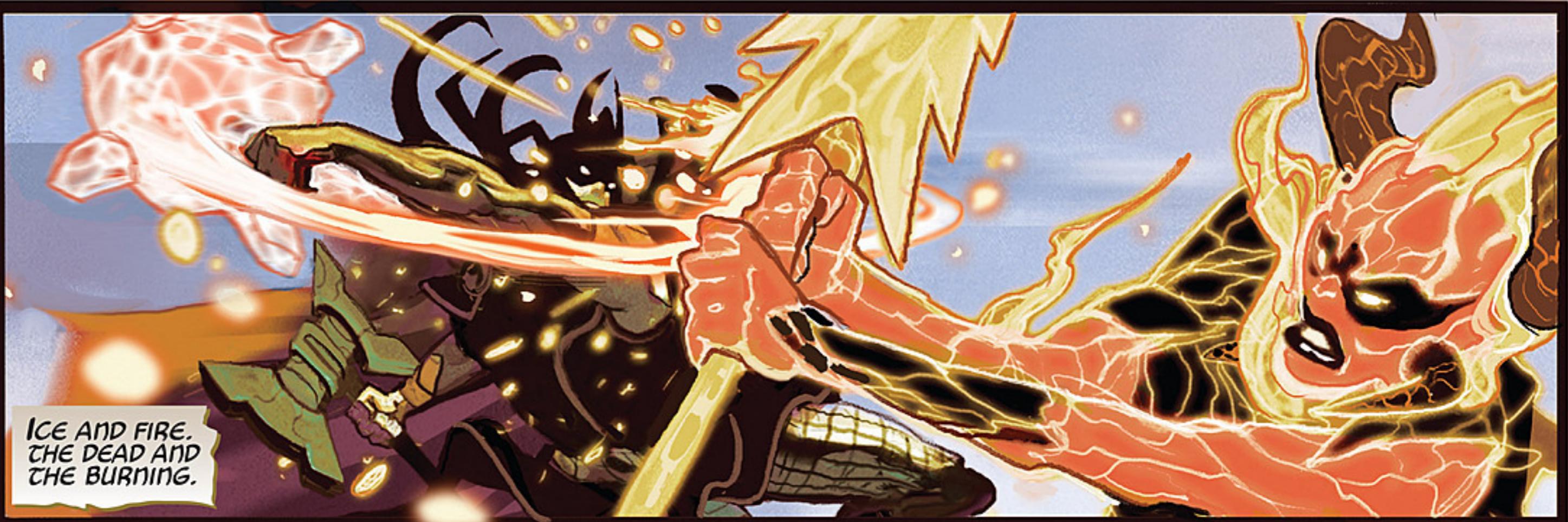
THE BLOOD-DRENCHED
GOD OF THE
DEATHSTORM.

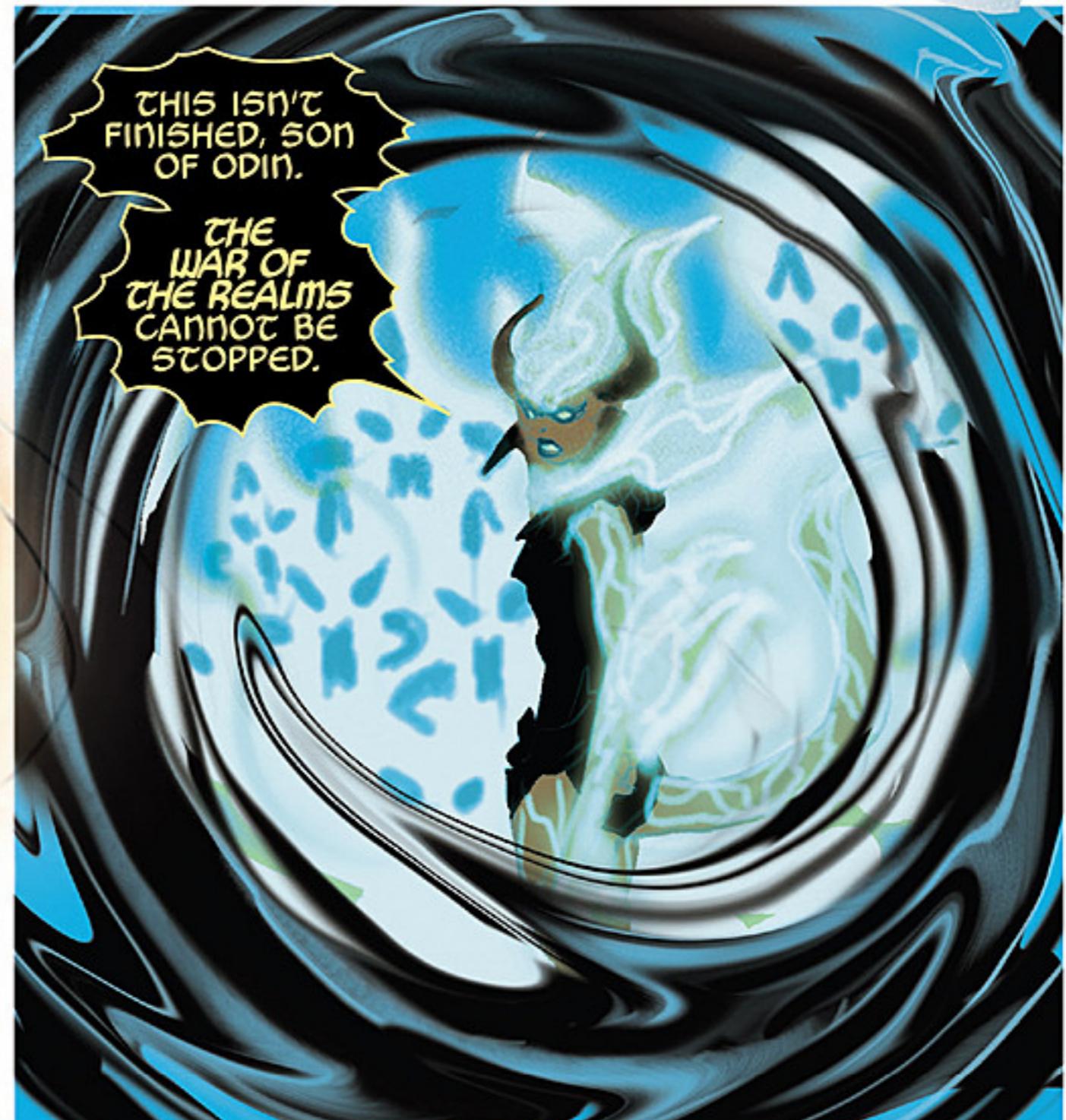
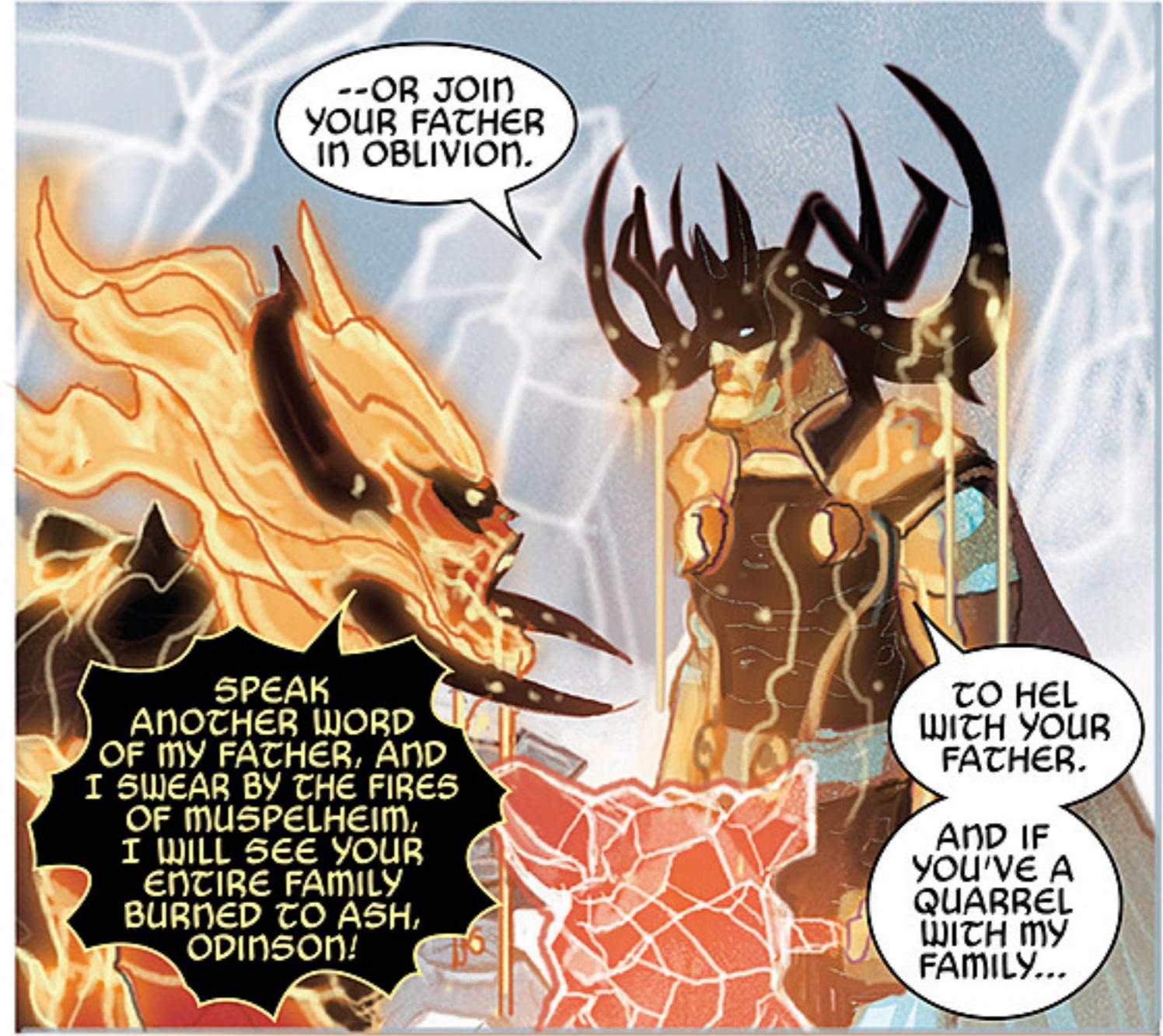
THE WINDS ROAR
WITH A BLIZZARD
OF BONE.

A NEW HAMMER FLIES TO MY
LEFT HAND, MADE OF BLOOD
FROZEN HARD AS IRON.

THUNDER SHAKES THE
WORLD TREE FROM
ROOT TO BRANCH.

I COULD GET
USED TO THIS.





AND SO ENDED ONE GREAT
BATTLE IN HEL...AS ANOTHER
THREATENED TO BEGIN.

WE GO
AFTER THEM--
INTO THE FIRES
OF MUSPELHEIM
IF WE HAVE
TO!

AND THEN
WE MARCH ON
SVARTALFHEIM, RIGHT
TO MALEKITH'S DOORSTEP,
AND END THIS WAR
ONCE AND FOR--

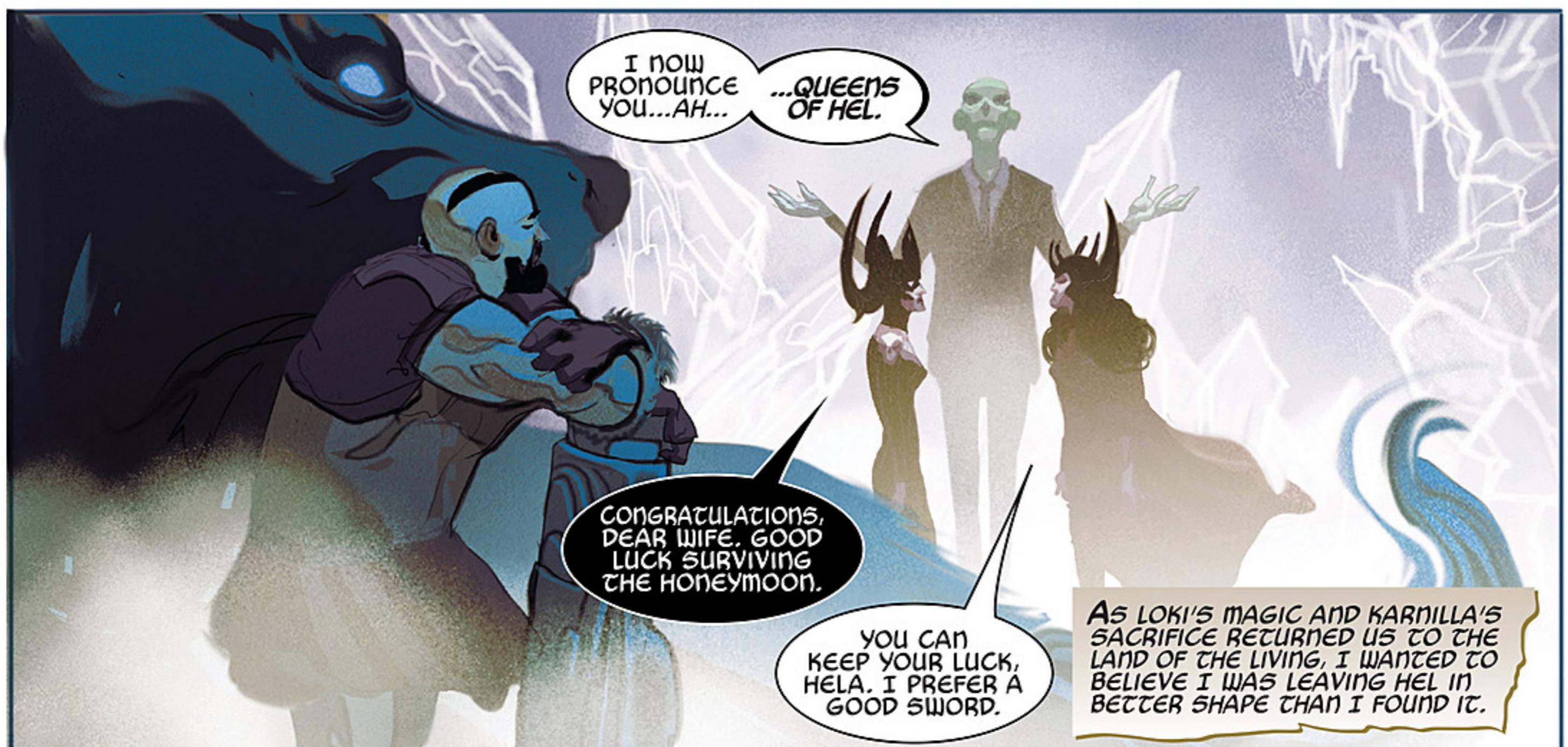
NO! GIVE
ME BACK MY
CROWN!

NOW THE **REAL**
WAR BEGINS. THE
ONE FOR MY **THRONE**.
UNLESS YOU'RE FINALLY
READY TO BEND THE
KNEE, BALDER.

WE HAD
A DEAL,
HELA.







BUT FOR A MOMENT AT LEAST,
THERE WAS A TIME TO RAISE
A TOAST TO VICTORY. AND
REUNIONS.

FEEL
STRANGE
AT ALL?

 MIDGARD.
NEWARK HARBOR.

BEING
ALIVE
AGAIN?

FEELS...
COMPLICATED.

I'M STILL
NOT SURE HOW
KARNILLA DID IT.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT...
I CANNOT SQUANDER
THE LIFE I'VE BEEN
GIVEN. EVEN IF MY
HEART BELONGS
IN HEL.

IF NOTHING
ELSE, IT WILL
BE NICE TO SEE
MOTHER
AGAIN.

THE DEAD
HAVE LOST
A GOOD ONE.
BUT WELCOME
BACK, BALDER.

IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE YOU ON
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE GULF AS
WELL, LADY
BRUNNHILDE.

AYE, WELL,
THIS APPEARS TO
BE WHERE ALL THE
ACTION IS. WHY DIDN'T
ANYONE TELL ME
THERE'S A WAR TO
BE FOUGHT?

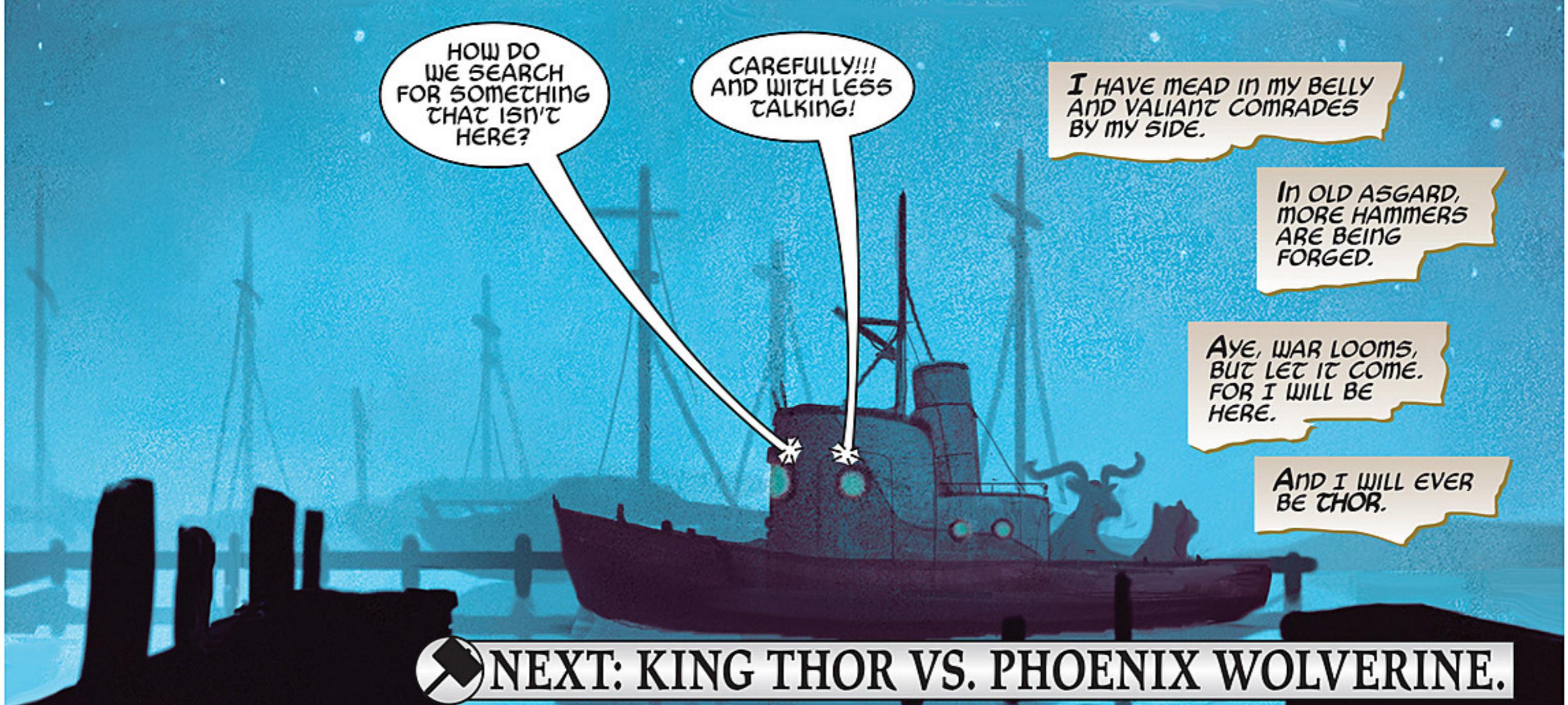
I DID MY
PART, BROTHER.
I SAID I'D SEND YOU
INTO THE REALMS TO HELP
THWART MALEKITH'S
PLAN. AND SO
I DID.

YES,
SPEAKING OF
WARS...

NEVERTHELESS,
I WILL CLAIM MY
PRICE NOW, AS
WE AGREED.

I NEVER AGREED
TO ANYTHING. YOU
SAID YOU SOUGHT
SOMETHING I HAVE ON THIS
BOAT, BUT IF YOU THINK FOR
ONE SECOND I'M GOING TO
LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE
WITH A WEAPON OF
POWER, YOU ARE--

WE WON
A BATTLE,
LOKI. BUT THE
WAR STILL
RAGES.



NEXT: KING THOR VS. PHOENIX WOLVERINE.



MESSAGE IN A BIFROST

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

Welcome back, Hammer-Heads! Thanks for all the love this month. What a wild ride this arc has been! Stay tuned for next month as King Thor and the Wolverine-Phoenix from #1 return for a battle of the ages with special guest artist Christian Ward! (And don't worry, Mike will be back after that!)

I've been reading Aaron's THOR since the first issue of the GOD OF THUNDER...and I paid for it using money I earned babysitting as a pimply teenager. It's been a couple years. I went to college, I graduated, I got a job and am working on my master's. The pimples come and go. One constant through all this time has been the EPIC-NESS of THOR!

(And the space sharks. There must always be space sharks.)

Worthy or unworthy, god or goddess—Jason Aaron's THOR is always a delight to read and I can't wait to see where this new Mad Max-style romp through Hel takes us.

Courtesy of del Mundo's INSANE art, of course. Dude. Duuude. Your work on ELEKTRA? WEIRDWORLD? Still blowing my mind. Absolutely incredible. I see your name on a cover, I buy, no questions asked.

And to have del Mundo's name, with Aaron's name, with Thor's name all on the same cover? It's like the cosmos aligned with the sole purpose of fulfilling dreams I hadn't even had yet.

Till next month,
Marley Bullock

I enjoy reading Aaron. He is a master in this time and age where there are too many good writers who work a lot (Bendis, Lemire, King and more). And there are still a lot of writers of the previous age who do not get so much work (Alan Moore, Gaiman, Byrne...).

It is the most competitive time for plot writers in my opinion, and Aaron is scoring in every game.

I like Thori and Toothgrinder. In Spain it is not strange to see a soldier goat. You must look and see the one that marches with a Spanish combat unit called "LEGION ESPAÑOLA" that is placed in Melilla that uses a goat as the company combat pet. Do not mess with them as they are hard as nails. And they are the fastest marching army in the world.

Thanks to all of you for delivering such magical and entertaining comics as you do.

Lou Lerida
Spain



Wow! This series is a delicious breath of fresh air! I was happy that the story was continuing, but I did not expect it to be so fun right away. I've just finished reading issue #2 and there is just so much to unpack from two issues!

Jason has done an excellent job to change gears in tone from the Jane series to this new one. There's an element of fun to this one that Jane wasn't able to have. She had quite the pile of serious stuff happening to her in both of her lives. I'm so happy to see her involved in this book. Roz too!

I wasn't sure the art on THOR could be taken to an even higher level, but, wow, Mike sure has done it. I can't properly express the love I have for his style and the colors. The colors! Holy moly, they are something else. The use of that sound effect as some Thor goggles in issue #1 was just amazing.

I'm really happy to keep going with another Thor series, and I will no doubt continue to be giddy with each new issue.

Bellan
Welland, ON

P.S. Can we just talk a bit more about the monster truck from Hel? That's some of the greatest things I've ever witnessed in a comic.

I picked up THOR #1 on a whim, and I wasn't ready for the last page. It was All-Grandfather coming face-to-face with the Last Phoenix. Weapon X, Patch, Logan or if you prefer Wolverine is the Last Phoenix. I've been shook about it since Wednesday afternoon. I'm thankful that showdown between All-Grandfather and the Last Phoenix doesn't

continue until issue #5 because I need that time to recover.

Lauren

THOR #1 was the most awesome book I'd ever seen...until I saw the next issue's cover.

Emiliano

Midgardians,

Throughout the '90s, I collected Thor sporadically. The character and his adventures always intrigued me. When I walked past the rack, there would be a stunning cover of Thor in some dynamic pose, beautifully rendered (I'm thinking immediately but not exclusively of the Hildebrandts). Invariably, upon opening the cover, the interior couldn't live up to the promise of the cover.

After graduating college in 2000, I stopped collecting all titles entirely. For more than a decade and a half, the Marvel comic universe existed beyond the realm of my consciousness.

Then, for various reasons, I returned. At some point in the intervening time something changed. It still isn't clear to me what—whether a change in the paper quality, or the printing process, or the artists themselves. I opened THE MIGHTY THOR #700 and there, beyond the cover, was the Asgardian realm rendered as it should have been. Finally, technology had caught up with the imaginations of the cover artists and the interiors could be rendered as beautifully and faithfully as those covers!

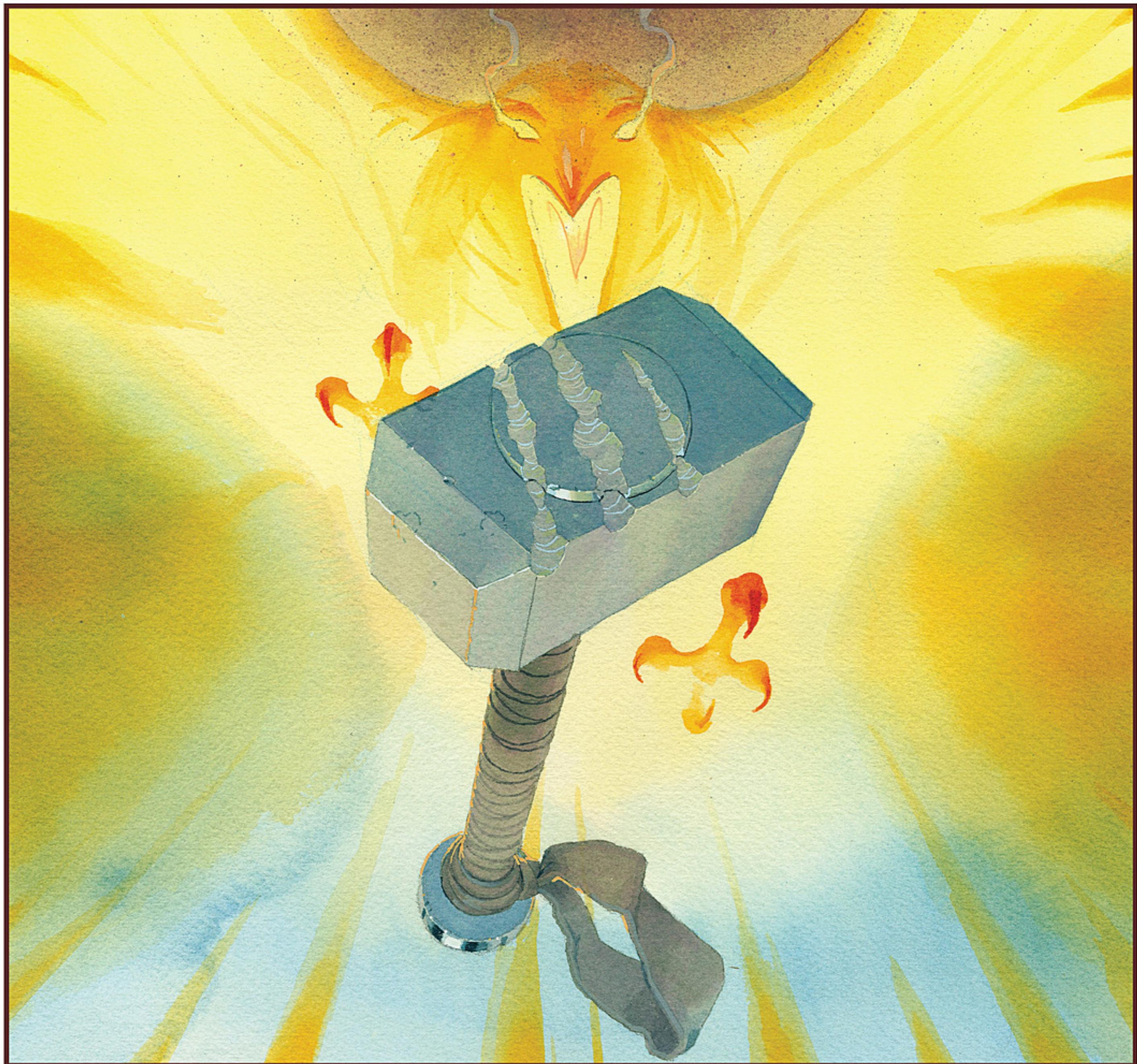
I am now working backwards to rebuild a Thor collection I never really had. What wonder and excitement I feel upon opening each "new" issue! A feast for the eyes! And the story! What have I done?! Oh, how I squandered those years when I should have been vigorously and compulsively procuring each issue as it arrived on the shelves!

This is truly a new golden age for comics in general and Thor in particular. Aaron and del Mundo rendered such a beautiful issue with #1. I will not make the same mistake again. I am a faithful reader and look forward to each new issue of THOR. I have even purchased a subscription for my nephew to share with him the fascination I feel when reading these books.

Thank you all for making this title, at last, all that it is meant to be!

Brian

NEXT:



FOLLOW VALKYRIE AND SKURGE THE EXECUTIONER ON A NEW ADVENTURE IN **ASGARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #1**, WHERE THEY JOIN THOR'S SISTER ANGELA, THE FROG OF THUNDER, THE DESTROYER AND YOUNG THUNDERSTRIKE IN A FIGHT AGAINST THE SECOND DEADLIEST WOMAN IN THE GALAXY: NEBULA!



