

MARVEL

3

LGY#709

AARON
DEL MUNDO

THOR





THOR IS BACK. WHILE STILL UNWORTHY OF LIFTING HIS HAMMER MJOLNIR,
HE IS ONCE MORE THE GOD OF THUNDER.

JUST IN TIME, TOO. THOR MUST STOP MALEKITH'S ATTEMPT TO CONQUER ALL OF THE TEN REALMS, BUT HE'S GOING THROUGH HAMMERS FASTER THAN HIS DWARVEN FRIENDS CAN FORGE THEM, AND WITH THE RAINBOW BRIDGE SHATTERED, HE HAS NO WAY OF TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE DARK ELF KING.

OR HE DIDN'T...UNTIL LOKI SHOWED UP AND TELEPORTED HIS BROTHER TO THE WAR'S FRONT LINE: HEL. THERE, THOR AND LOKI REUNITED WITH THEIR BROTHERS TYR AND BALDER THE BRAVE, WHO—WITH THE HELP OF BALDER'S LOVER KARNILLA AND SKURGE THE EXECUTIONER—ARE HEL'S ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST MUSPELHEIM'S INVADING ARMY. WHICH NOW INCLUDES ALL THE MURDERERS IN HEL, THANKS TO GAR-TOOM THE BLOODDRINKER.

HEARING RUMORS THAT MUSPELHEIM'S QUEEN SINDR WAS HIDING A POWERFUL WEAPON, THOR AND HIS ALLIES ATTACKED HER WAR TRAIN—ONLY TO DISCOVER THE “WEAPON” WAS HELA, THE FORMER QUEEN OF HEL, AND HER BROTHER THE FENRIS WOLF!

“A LOVELY DAY IN HEL FOR A WEDDING”

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THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



NIFFLEHEIM.

"WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY, AMONG THE FROZEN GARDENS OF THE SACRED HVERGELMIR WELLSPRING, TO SHOW THAT EVEN IN THE DUSK LANDS..."

"...THE POWER OF TRUE LOVE CONQUERS ALL."

OH WHAT A BLESSED DAY TO BE DEAD, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

WHAT A LOVELY DAY FOR A WEDDING.

BY THE GODS, I'VE FACED UNDEAD DRAGONS AND NOT BEEN THIS UNNERVED. WE ODINSONS WERE MADE FOR WARS, NOT FOR WEDLOCK.

SURVIVE THE WEDDING, BALDER, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE AT THE WAR. WE ALL WILL.

AYE. JUST KEEP AN EYE ON KARNILLA. I'D PREFER WE MAKE IT THROUGH THE VOWS WITH AS LITTLE BLOODSHED AS POSSIBLE.

I'LL DO MY BEST, BROTHER. BUT 'TIS A WEDDING IN HEL.

"I IMAGINE A BIT OF BLOOD'S TO BE EXPECTED."

THOR! BETTER FLOWER- RENDERER THAN YOU, GOAT! THOR! BEST FLOWER GIRL IN HEL!

MEEEEEH.

AND WHO AMONG THE DEARLY DEPARTED PRESENTS THE BRIDE TO BE MARRIED TO THIS DEADMAN?



...JUST A FEW HOURS AGO I WAS RIDING MY NEPHEW...WHO IS A GIANT WOLF...VERY MUCH INTENT ON EATING ME.

AND FATHER ALWAYS WONDERED WHY I SPENT SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM HOME.

HAHHH!
HEEL, FENRIS!
OR YOUR UNCLE OF THUNDER WILL RIDE YOU STRAIGHT TO HEL!

GRRRRHH!
WE'RE ALREADY IN HEL, YOU HAMMER-FACED FOOL! GET OFF ME!

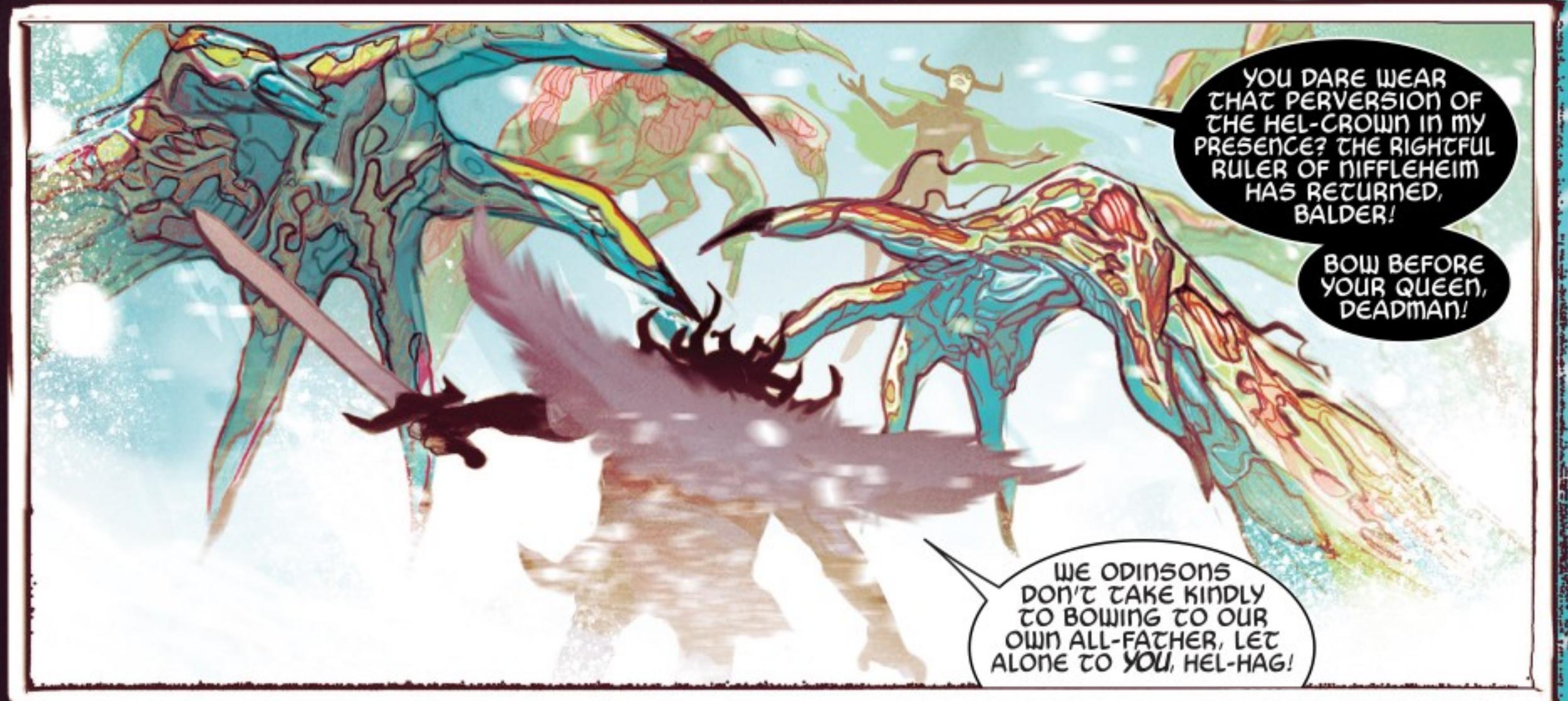
YOU BETRAYED YOUR OWN BROTHERS, TYR. THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO DID THAT.

I AM THE GOD OF WAR AND A GENERAL IN HEL! MY ALLEGIANCE BELONGS TO QUEEN HELA, NOT MY FATHER'S MISTAKES AND BASTARDS!

HEL NEEDS NO OTHER ODINSON BUT TYR!

YOU'LL FIND I'M NO LONGER THE SCRATCHY CHILD YOU SO ENJOYED BATTLING AROUND, BROTHER.

GOOD! THEN FOR ONCE MAYBE YOU'LL BE WORTH MY WHILE, LOKI!

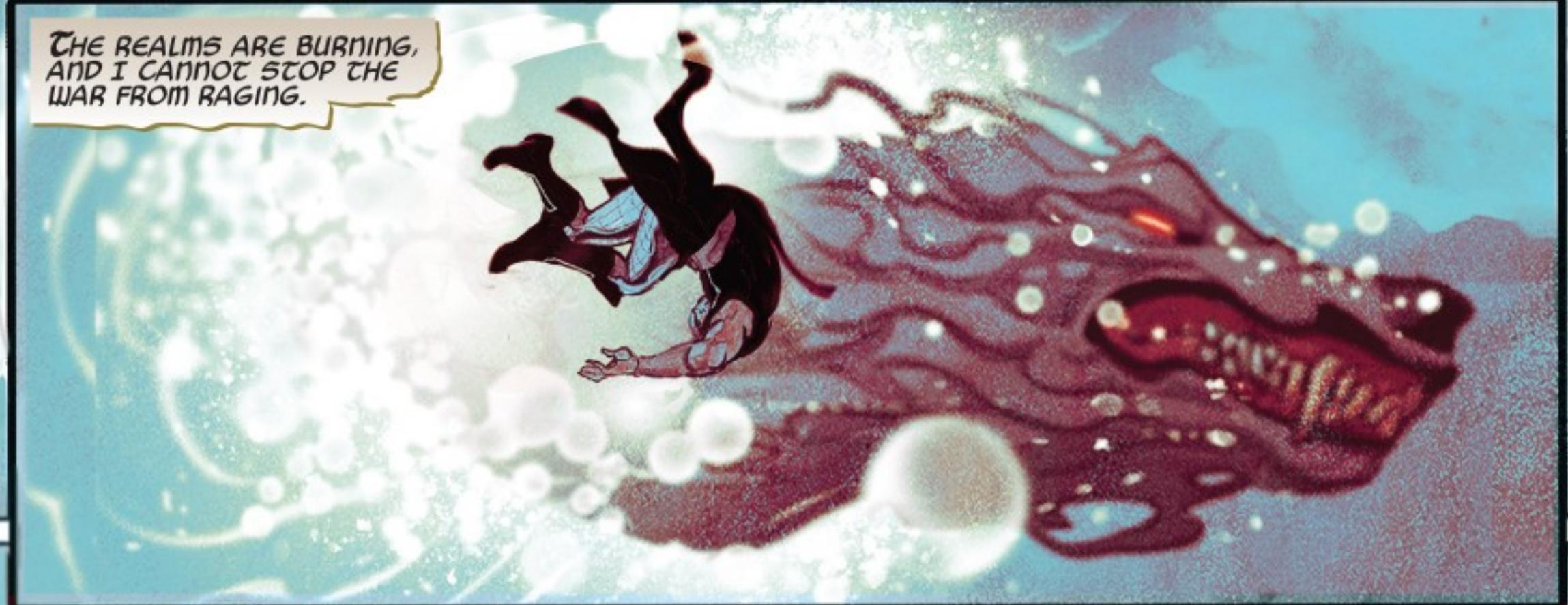




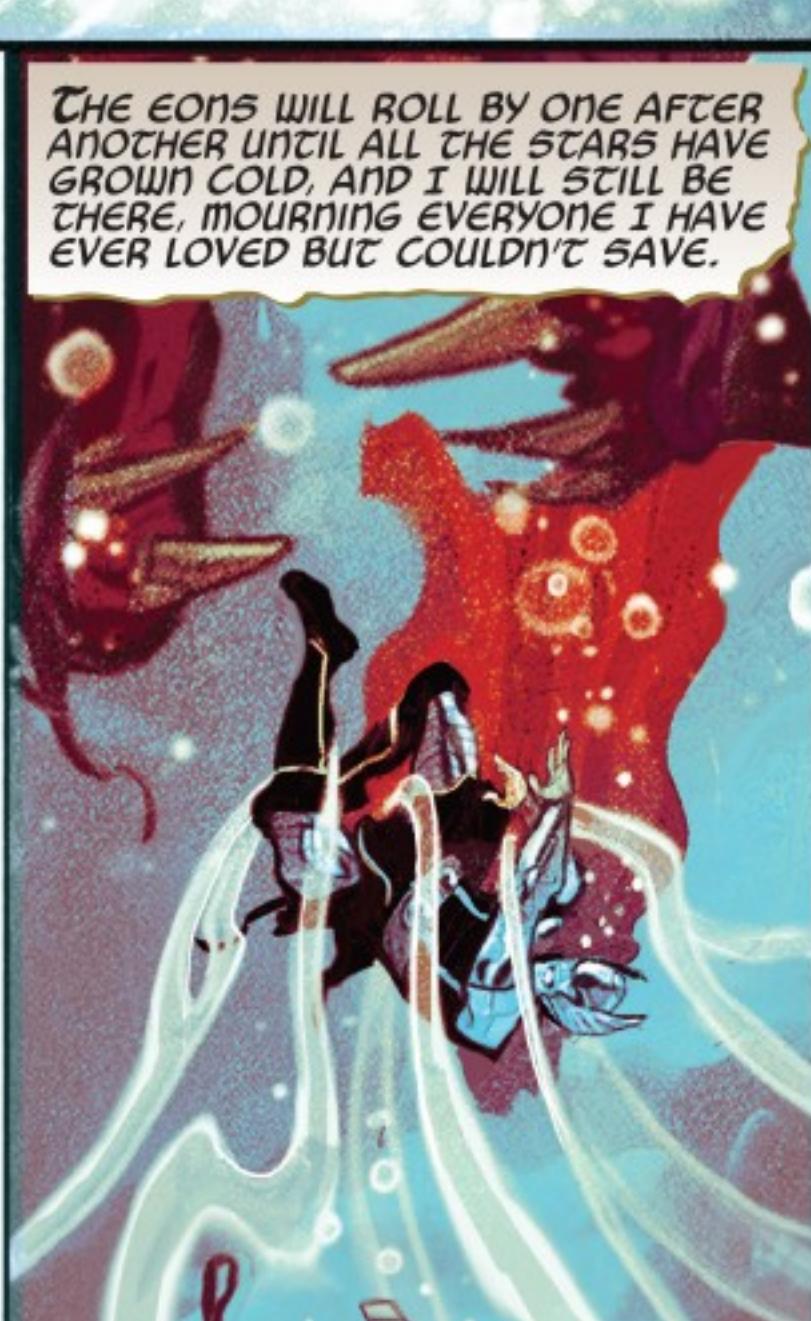


I WILL SLURP YOU UP LIKE A BOWL OF SOUP, YOU MISERABLE BASTARD! FENRIS IS HAVING UNCLE FOR DINNER!

UH, FENRIS, I WOULDN'T GO BACK IN THIS RIVER IF I WERE--



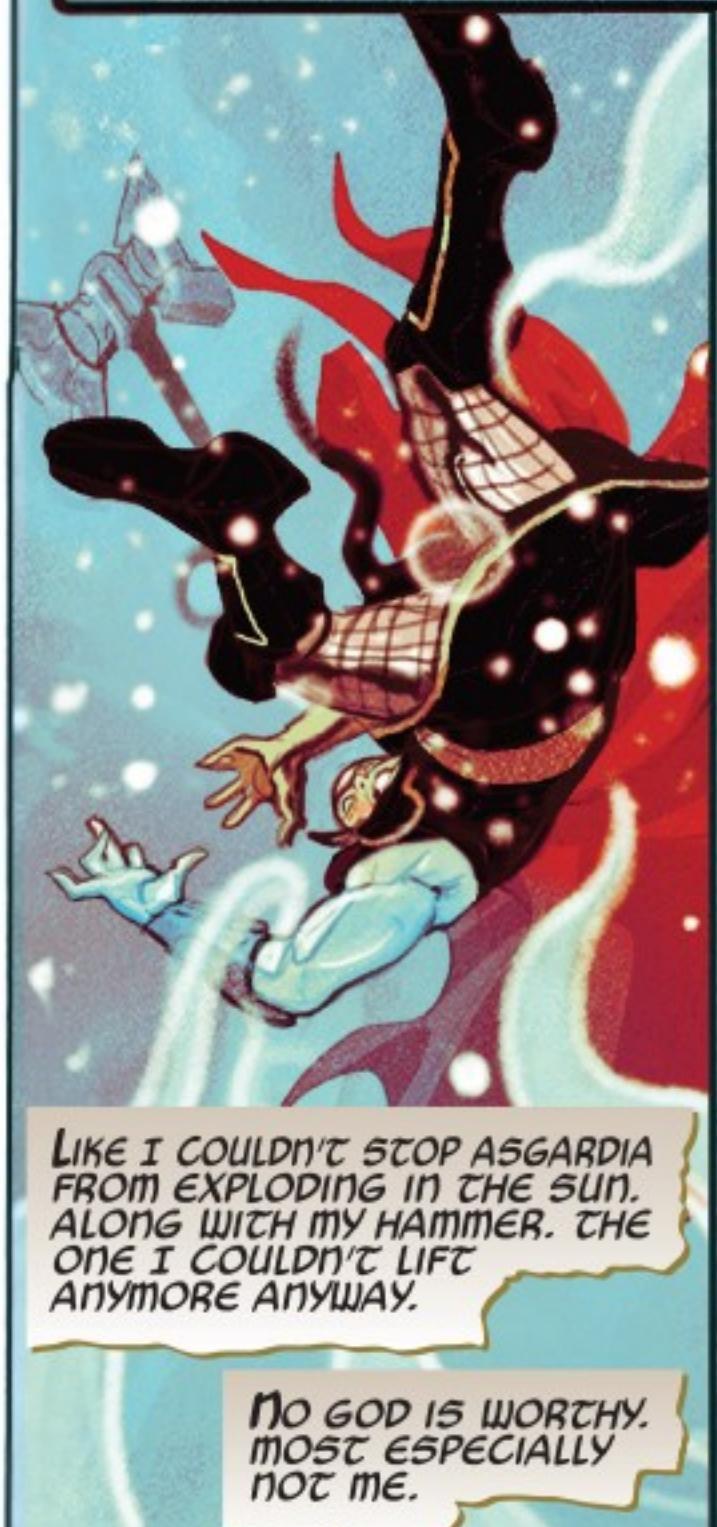
THE REALMS ARE BURNING, AND I CANNOT STOP THE WAR FROM RAGING.



THE EONS WILL ROLL BY ONE AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL ALL THE STARS HAVE GROWN COLD, AND I WILL STILL BE THERE, MOURNING EVERYONE I HAVE EVER LOVED BUT COULDN'T SAVE.

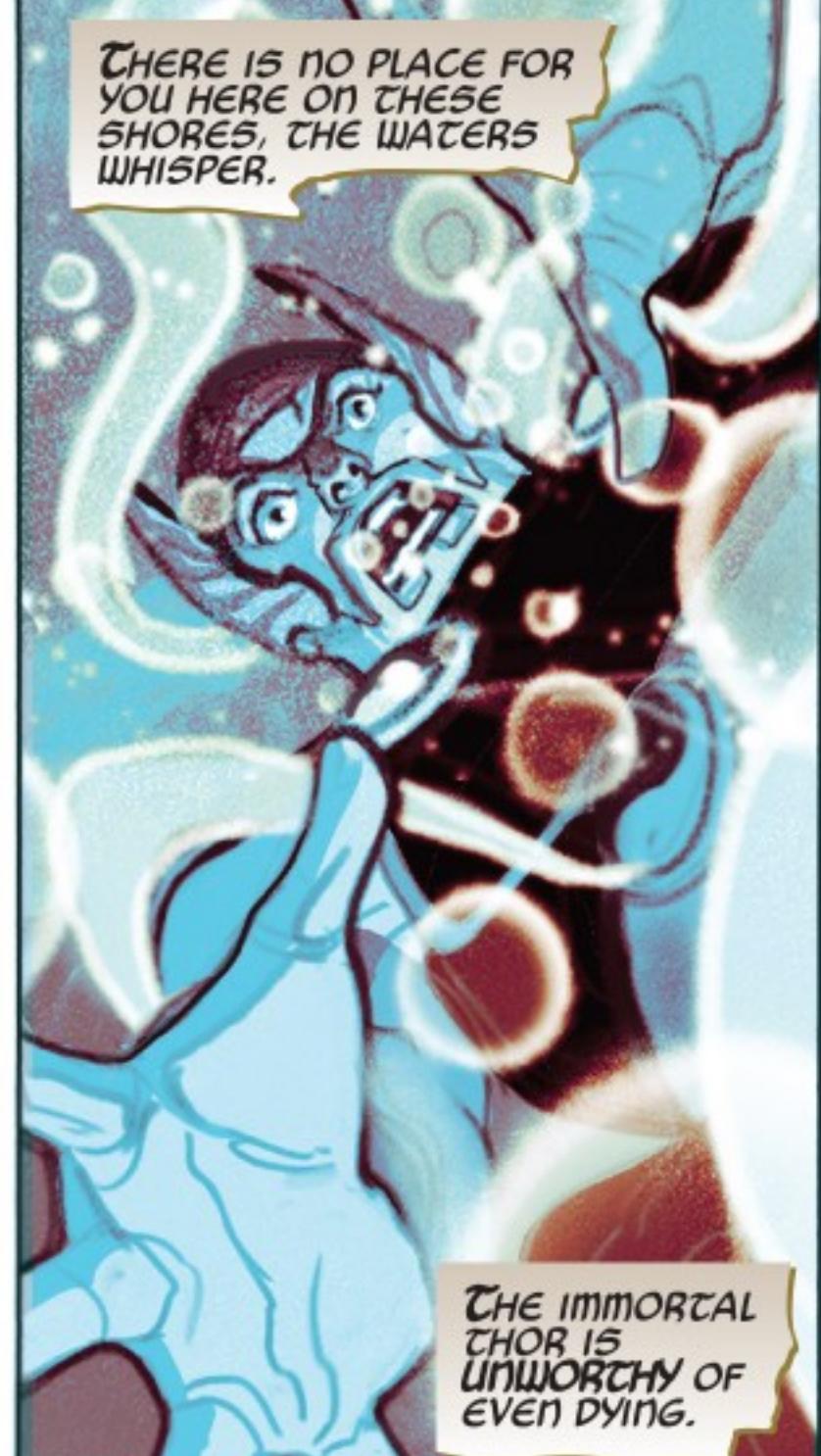


THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU HERE ON THESE SHORES, THE WATERS WHISPER.

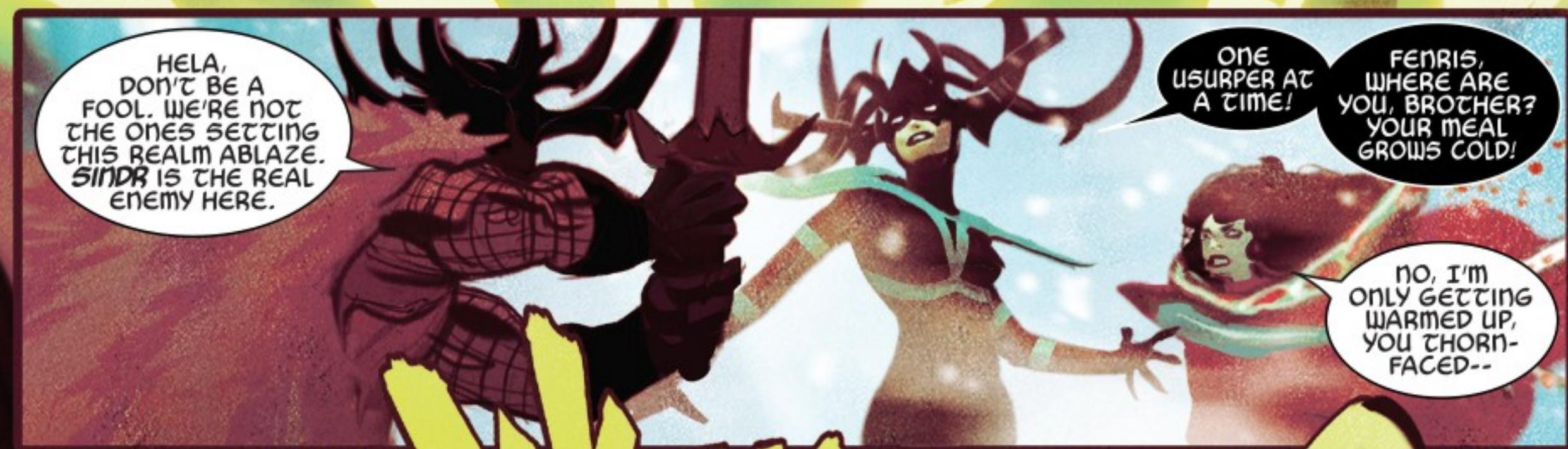


LIKE I COULD'VE STOPPED ASGARDIA FROM EXPLODING IN THE SUN. ALONG WITH MY HAMMER. THE ONE I COULDN'T LIFT ANYMORE ANYWAY.

NO GOD IS WORTHY, MOST ESPECIALLY NOT ME.

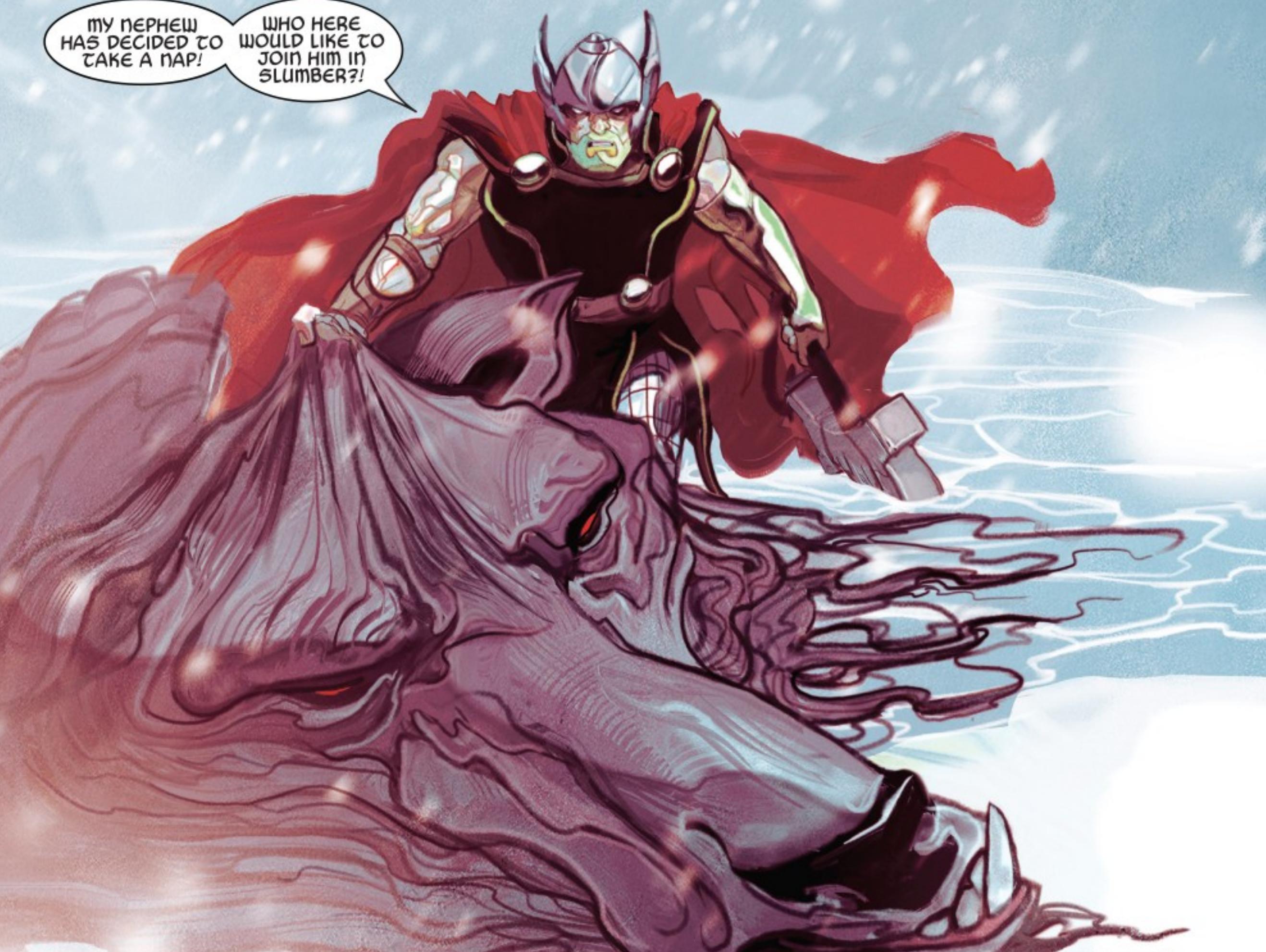


THE IMMORTAL THOR IS UNWORTHY OF EVEN DYING.



MY NEPHEW HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A NAP!

WHO HERE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN HIM IN SLUMBER?!



HOW ABOUT YOU, "BROTHER" TYR?

DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, YOU POMPOUS BOY! I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO FOR THE GOOD OF THE REALM! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF HEL--AND NEITHER DOES ITS FALSE KING!

I KNOW IT'S BURNING. AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO SAVE IT BY BETRAYING ONE ANOTHER.

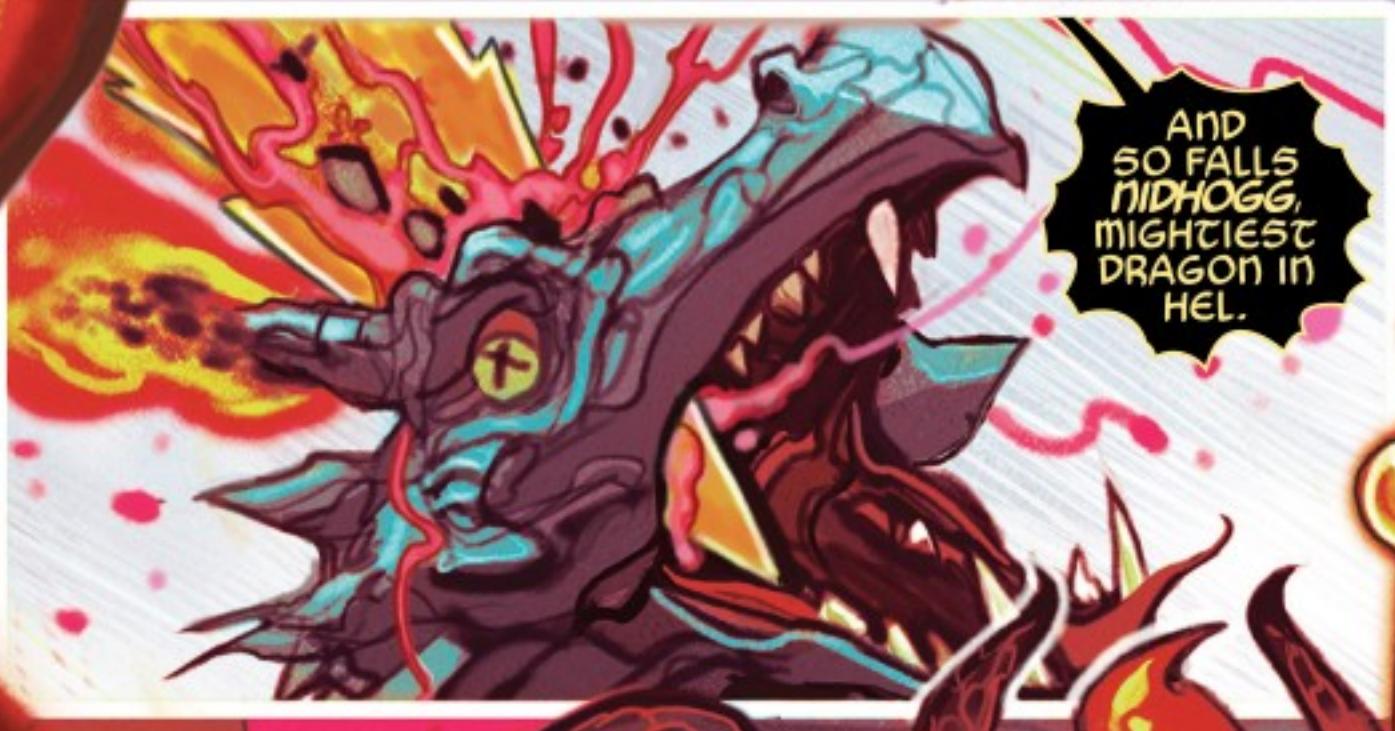
BUT BY WORKING TOGETHER.

CASE IN POINT...

DEATH TO THE RULERS OF HEL!

ALL HAIL THE QUEEN OF CINDERS!!!





HMPH.
CONSIDER ME UNIMPRESSED.

MY FATHER
GAVE ME MORE
FEARSOME PETS
WHEN I WAS
STILL IN FLAMING
DIAPERS.

QUEEN
SINDR, A RED RAVEN
HAS ARRIVED BEARING
GRAVE NEWS FROM THE
HELLWAY. THE GJALLERBRU
HAS FALLEN. THE TRAIN
HAS BEEN LOST.
THE PRISONERS...
HAVE ESCAPED.

INEXCUSABLE!
THOSE GOBLINS
WHO'VE FAILED ME
WILL HAVE THEIR
FIRES SNUFFED
OUT FOREVER!

BUT THE
PRISONERS HAVE
BEEN FOUND AGAIN,
MY QUEEN. AND IN
THE COMPANY OF
THE FUGITIVE
BALDER.

WELL THEN.
IN THAT CASE,
SADDLE MY
FIREHORN...

"...THE ARMIES
OF MUSPELHEIM
RIDE FOR WAR!"

TELL ME,
GAR-TOOM,
LORD OF
MURDERERS...

...HOW
DO YOU
KILL SOMEONE
WHO'S ALREADY
DEAD?

KILLING THE
LIVING IS EASY.
ANY DUMB ANIMAL
CAN REND FLESH.

BUT KILLING A SPIRIT--
WELL...THAT TAKES
A BIT MORE...SKILL
AND VIGOR.

I HAVE AN ARMY
OF GOBLINS, ALL THE
FIRE IN MUSPELHEIM
AND THE UNQUENCHABLE
VIGOR OF A DAUGHTER OF
SURTUR. IF ANYONE CAN
MASTER THIS SKILL
YOU SPEAK OF, IT
WILL BE ME.

HEH. WELL,
FROM WHAT I'VE
SEEN, YOUR
HIGHNESS...

...YOU'RE
OFF TO A
DAMN FINE
START.

"GOBLINS OF MUSPEL SAIL THE GJOLL. GAH, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD LIVE TO SEE SUCH A DAY IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD."



WHAT A COMPLETE AND UTTER MESS YOU'VE MADE OF MY BELOVED REALM, BALDER OF ASGARD. IT'S A GOOD THING THE RIGHTFUL QUEEN HAS COME TO RESTORE ORDER.

AYE, IT IS INDEED A FINE MESS. ONE WE WON'T SOLVE BY FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER.

THEN I ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER, ASGARDIAN.



LOOK AROUND YOU, HELA. YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS.

NONSENSE! TYR, SLAY THEM ALL AT ONCE AND FEED THEM TO YOUR DINO-SCEED!

Umm...



MEEEEEEH!

ONCE I AM
THROUGH WITH
HIM, MY BROTHER
TYR WON'T BE IN
MUCH SHAPE TO SLAY
ANYTHING! OR WALK,
FOR THAT MATTER!
OR FEED HIS OWN
TRAITOROUS
FACE!

YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED,
HELA. IN ODINSONS
ALONE.

WHAT
HE SAID. ALL
HAIL THE KING.

OUTNUMBERED?
NEVER! WHEN THE
SOULS OF NIFFLEHEIM
SEE THAT THEIR RIGHTFUL
QUEEN HAS RETURNED,
THEY WILL RISE UP IN
MASS TO RESTORE ME
TO THE THRONE!

AYE, PERHAPS
SOME OF THEM WILL.
BUT AT BEST YOU WILL
HAVE DIVIDED THE FORCES
OF HEL WHEN WE CAN
LEAST AFFORD IT--LEAVING
THE REALM EASY PICKINGS
FOR SINDR AND HER
GOBLIN ARMY.

I SUPPOSE
YOU WOULD HAVE
ME KNEEL LIKE SOME
COMMON CORPSE AND
PROCLAIM BALDER THE
LORD OF THE DUSK
LANDS! I CAN ASSURE
YOU, THAT WILL
NEVER HAPPEN!

PERHAPS IF
WE LOP OFF YOUR
LEGS, YOU'LL FIND
KNEELING COMES
A BIT EASIER!

STOP! THIS
QUARRELING
WILL GET US
NOWHERE!

LET THEM
QUARREL WITH
MY THUNDER!

EVERYONE IS
YELLING SO THORI
IS YELLING, TOO!
THORI IS THE BEST
AT YELLING!

AHEM!

I HAVE AN
IDEA FOR
HOW WE MIGHT
SOLVE THIS
PREDICAMENT.
NOW...
HEAR ME OUT
BEFORE YOU
SAY NAY.

NOW.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
TALKED THEM
INTO THIS.

HELA AND
BALDER BOTH
KNEW THERE WAS
NO OTHER WAY TO
UNITE THE REALM.
ESPECIALLY WITH
SINDR'S ARMY
CLOSING IN.

YOU OFFERED
A SOLUTION THAT
AVOIDED UNDUE
BLOODSHED, BROTHER.
I'M SURPRISED
AT YOU.

I'M A BIT
SURPRISED AT
MYSELF, TO BE
HONEST.

BUT I FEAR
IT WON'T BE
ENOUGH. NOT
AGAINST SINDR'S
ARMY.

THE DEAD
SOULS IN NIFFLEHEIM
ARE WITHOUT NUMBER,
THOR. IF THIS MARRIAGE
TRULY SUCCEEDS IN
UNITING THEM, HEL
WILL HAVE AN
INSURMOUNTABLE
FORCE.

AYE, BUT
NONE OF THOSE
DEAD WERE GREAT
WARRIOR S IN LIFE.
AND IT'S WARRIOR S
WE NEED.

WE
NEED THE
EINHERJAR.

WE
NEED THE
WARRIOR S OF
VALHALLA.



VALHALLA IS NOT AN OPTION. IT'S HIDDEN WITHIN NIFFLEHEIM, ITS LOCATION KNOWN ONLY TO THE ALL-FATHER AND HIS VALKYRIES. NOT EVEN HELA OR BALDER KNOW THE WAY.

AYE, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT YOU'RE MUCH MORE CLEVER THAN THEY ARE, AREN'T YOU, LOKI?

IF THERE IS ONE THING I AM CERTAIN OF, BROTHER, IT'S THAT LOKI THE PRINCE OF LIES WILL NEVER SEE VALHALLA.



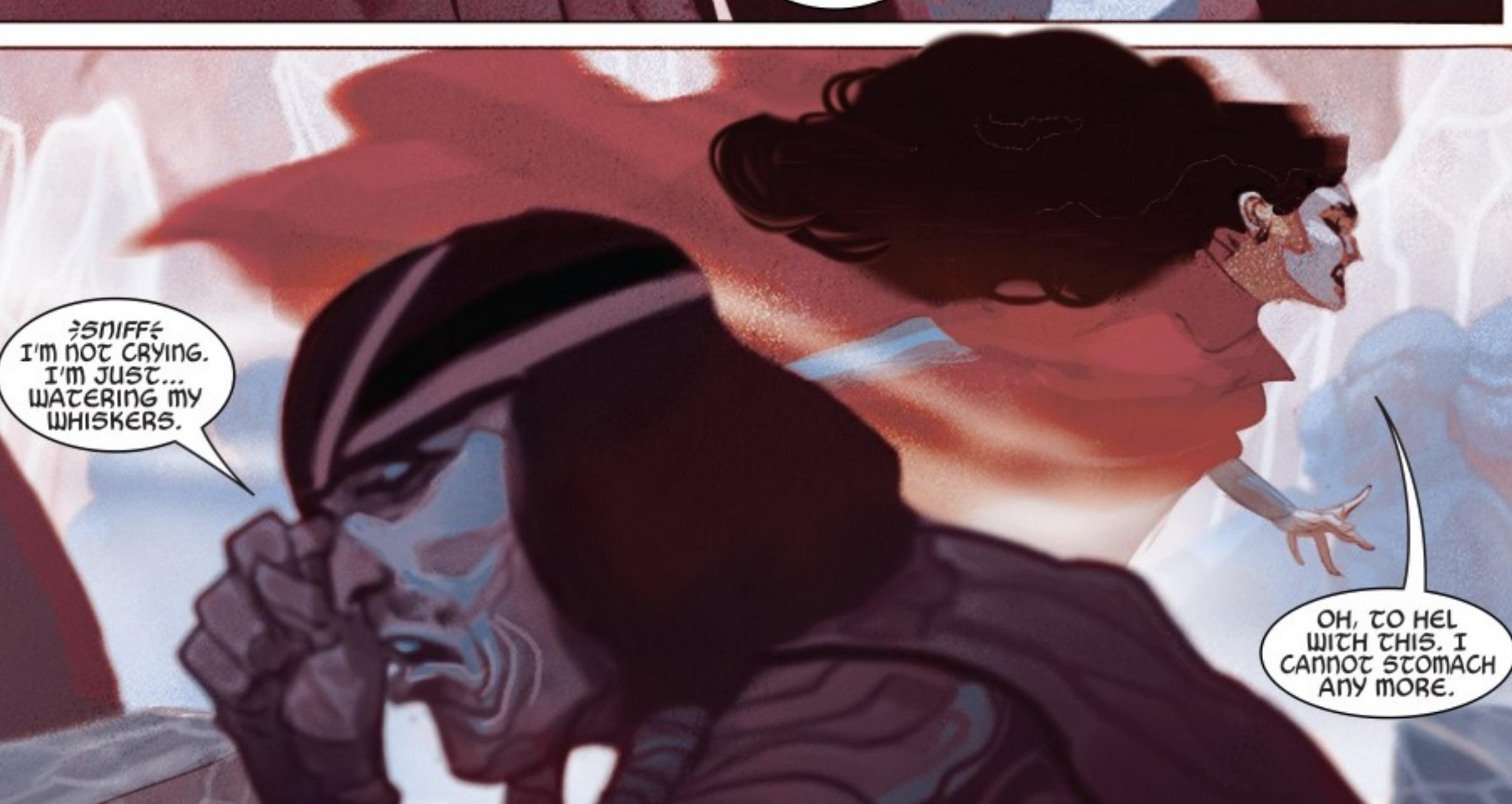
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU GOING.

YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU TO VALHALLA? AND HOW EXACTLY WOULD I DO THAT? FOR YOU TO REACH THE HALL OF THE HONORED SLAIN, YOU'D HAVE TO BE...



... YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

WOULD IT HELP IF I TURNED MY BACK?



?SNIFF? I'M NOT CRYING. I'M JUST... WATERING MY WHISKERS.

OH, TO HEL WITH THIS. I CANNOT STOMACH ANY MORE.



IS IT
DONE THEN,
KARNILLA?



AND WITH THIS
RING OF THORNS, DO
YOU, HELA OF HELHEIM,
MISTRESS OF DEATH,
QUEEN OF DARKNESS,
TAKE BALDER OF ASGARD
TO BE YOUR HUSBAND,
FOR ALL ETERNITY,
WHETHER LIVING
OR DEAD?

AYE. WITH
ALL THE HATRED
AND BILE IN MY
BLACK HEART...
I DO.

LOVELY!

YOU WANT
ME TO KILL
YOU?

IS IT
REALLY THAT
MUCH TO ASK?
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING
TO DO IT SINCE
WE WERE
TODDLERS.

I'M
ASKING FOR
YOUR HELP,
LOKI.

I'VE BEEN
FIGHTING FOR MY
SURVIVAL SINCE
THEN, YOU MEAN! AND
OFTENTIMES LOSING!
NOW YOU'RE ASKING
ME TO MURDER
YOU?

I KNOW YOU
HAVE AN ANSWER
TO THIS SOMEWHERE
IN YOUR BAG OF MAGIC
TRICKS. HELP ME SAVE
THIS REALM.

JUST LIKE
YOU CLAIMED TO
HAVE SAVED OUR
MOTHER, WHEN YOU
BURIED YOUR KNIFE
IN HER BACK.

YOU'RE
MAD.
AYE,
PERHAPS.

MAD BECAUSE
I STILL BELIEVE IN
YOU, DESPITE ALL THE
EONS OF EVIDENCE
THAT TELL ME I
SHOULDN'T.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I SO
DEARLY WANT TO
HATE YOU, LOKI, I'M
MAD BECAUSE I'LL
ALWAYS LOVE
YOU, BRO-







LOKI, YOU ROTTEN BASTARD! THIS WAS ALL YOUR SCHEME TO MURDER THOR, WASN'T IT?! I'LL SEE YOU HANGED FROM THE PILLARS OF HEL FOR THIS!

HANG ME ALL YOU LIKE! JUST CALL OFF THE DAMN DOG!

MASTER CAN'T BE DEAD! WHO WILL TELL THOR! HE'S GOOD DOG?! UNMURDER MASTER NOW!

SINDR'S FORCES ARE ON THE HORIZON! IF THIS WEDDING'S GOING TO CONJURE US AN ARMY, IT'D BEST HURRY THE HEL UP!

THE WEDDING IS OFF! WE'RE HAVING A TRIAL AND EXECUTION INSTEAD!

no!

BALDER, YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THIS NOW. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I MIGHT WANT YOU TO, WE HAVE TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THE REALM.

BUT... KARNILLA, YOU KNOW...YOU KNOW IT'S ONLY YOU THAT I--

now now, LET'S NOT LET A MINOR MURDER RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD WEDDING. WHERE WERE WE AGAIN?

AH YES. IF ANYONE HERE KNOWS WHY THIS COUPLE SHOULD NOT BE JOINED IN UNHOLY MATRIMONY, LET THEM SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD THEIR--

STOP THIS FARCE!

HA! AT LAST!

NOW WHAT?

SORRY, BALDER, DID I FORGET TO MENTION?

I'M
SPOKEN
FOR.

THANDS

WOULD LIKE A
WORD WITH THE
GROOM!



TO BE CONTINUED.



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 to the THOR letters page, weary traveler! We got a golden armful of messages about the ending of Jane Foster's Thor saga and the return of the Odinson to his historic mantle. These are a few of our favorites—with a very special shout-out to Erik and his family. We're so glad Jason Aaron and Russell Dauterman's run of THE MIGHTY THOR was a comfort and inspiration in tough times. Our hearts are with you. Thanks for reading.

Dear THOR people,

I wrote to you after reading MIGHTY THOR #705. I was deeply moved by the emotional story "The Death of Mighty Thor" and shared that my mother was facing many health issues, and that this story connected with me through its examination of God's (or "the gods") interaction or lack of interaction in our lives.

I am sad to report that Kay Ann Hollender, my mother, passed away this week from those health issues. It was unexpected and has shaken our family.

We are greatly saddened but also gladdened by the interaction God has had in this painful time. We were afforded the chance to properly say our goodbyes as she passed away over the course of a day and night. She may not have survived, but she exited this world as peacefully and out of pain as was possible, surrounded and cared for by loved ones.

Then, in the course to going to the comic store this week (to keep busy and focus on the little good things in life, to take a break from the pain), I was shocked and amazed to see my letter printed in the AT THE GATES OF VALHALLA one-shot!!! My sister and I read it in the car, tearing up and crying as we read it; this fan letter ended up being printed and published just on the week of her passing! My sister immediately went back in the comic shop and bought a second copy for her to keep. We were so amazed, and so overjoyed, that this act by God (and the kind editor who picked my letter) was here to comfort us in our time of grief.

Jane Foster actually ended up living, (and not through a cheat, but through real writing and crafting of story), restoring her to life. With my faith I believe my mother will live again as well with God and we'll see her again.

I can't express to you how amazed my

sister and I were at the timing of all of this. I'm crying now, writing this, as I plan on reading my first fan letter and this one at her funeral at the end of this week.

Similar to Jane Foster, my mother was a strong child of God—and again like Jane, she'll live again someday.

Erik Hollender
Revere, MA

Dear incredibly talented THOR team,

I consider myself a new comic book reader since I've been only reading comic books for a few years. I was recommended GOD OF THUNDER, but I never picked it up since I didn't like Thor back then. Then one day I picked up Straczynski's run on THOR and boy, I loved it. After that, I immediately started to read GOD OF THUNDER. It amazed me—those first two stories will always be one my favorites. I continued Aaron's run after that and it only got better. The MIGHTY THOR #8 really blew my mind. After finishing THOR #706, I was sure Aaron's run was one of the finest run on any character. I will always love Thor thanks to him!

Anyway, here I am now, just having read THOR #1. I always loved how you wrote Jane as Thor. But it's good to have Odinson back! (And I hope Jane lifts the hammer soon; can't we have two Thors? :)). It seems like Aaron (and the team) is not giving up any time writing INCREDIBLE Thor stories any time soon. And the artwork by Mike del Mundo and Christian Ward is amazing as usual. So I thank every single member of Thor family for giving us these awesome stories since 2011. God bless you all!

Cheers!
Mustafa Selçuk Öztürk
Ankara, Turkey

After having read every single Thor comic series so far, I can safely say nothing has or will ever come close to Aaron's run. I am truly sad that this is the last Thor comic he will be working on, but even before I had read the first issue I knew it would be phenomenal. I was right! Issue #1 blew me away, and del Mundo's art is just gorgeous. Even after just one issue it is already setting up to be the

best series of the year. Thor (and Jane, and the Asgardians in general) mean so much to me and I am so glad they are getting the series they deserve. I am equally thankful Jane is still making appearances in this new series (can she and Thor get married yet?) and I am just so excited for the War of the Realms to truly kick off! Thank you to the entire Thor team for creating something that means so much to me.

Mercedes Woods
Oxford, UK

Dear Jason and Team THOR,

Seriously?! A Phoenix-powered, old-as-dirt Wolverine at the end of time? It was at that moment I knew I had to write in and profess my love for this book. It isn't often that I'm both extremely confused and yet excited at the same time.

So yeah...thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for this comic! I've been following this story since way back when GOD OF THUNDER first started and month in and month out I'm always left with a huge smile on my face when I finish reading an issue. No other series gives me a sense of joy and fulfillment as consistently as this THOR run does. It also has the distinction of being the only book with its own soundtrack playing in my head while I read. That would be Amon Amarth's "Twilight of the Thunder God," in case you were curious. It's a testament to everyone involved that this story has been able to remain as fresh and creative for as long as it has and it looks like that trend is going to continue. There was a great mix of humor, grandness and just a bit of pathos in the first issue, which I've come to expect. Plus, the art. Oh, man, the art! This series looks to continue the trend of having fantastic visuals.

I'm going to miss Jane wielding Mjolnir, but I'm really looking forward to seeing where the story goes with Thor Odinson back as the God of Thunder. It's been an amazing ride so far and I have every reason to believe the best is yet to come. A toast of mead and a metal horn salute to you all!

Brandon Kratky
Wayne, NJ

NEXT:

