

**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE**

THOR & LOKI

IN THE LAND OF GIANTS

A
NORSE
MYTH

JEFF LIMKE • RON RANDALL

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THOR & LOKI

IN THE LAND OF GIANTS





ICELAND



STORY BY
JEFF LIMKE

PENCILS AND INKS BY
RON RANDALL

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

GREAT
BRITAIN

DENMARK

NORTH
SEA



SCANDINAVIA
Lands of the Norse

SCANDINAVIA

NORWAY

THOR & LOKI

IN THE LAND OF GIANTS

RUSSIA

FINLAND

SWEDEN

**A
NORSE
MYTH**

*BALTIC
SEA*

GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ • MINNEAPOLIS

THOR AND LOKI ARE TWO OF THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE LEGENDARY GODS OF NORSE MYTHOLOGY. THE STORIES OF THEIR ADVENTURES HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE MEDIEVAL WORK THE *PROSE EDDA*. THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AROUND 1200 BY SNORRI STURLUSON, A POET AND POLITICIAN LIVING IN ICELAND. FOR THIS BOOK, AUTHOR JEFF LIMKE CONSULTED MODERN RETELLINGS OF THOR AND LOKI'S LEGENDARY JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE GIANTS, INCLUDING *BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY*, THE CLASSIC WORK OF AMERICAN THOMAS BULFINCH. ARTIST RON RANDALL CONSULTED NUMEROUS REFERENCE BOOKS ON MEDIEVAL VIKINGS AS WELL AS ART FROM THE ANCIENT NORSE PERIOD TO BRING TO LIFE THE VIVID IMAGES OF THIS STORY.

STORY BY JEFF LIMKE

PENCILS AND INKS BY RON RANDALL

COLORING BY HI-FI DESIGN

LETTERING BY BILL HAUSER

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Graphic Universe™

An imprint of Lerner Publishing Group

241 First Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address: www.lernerbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Limke, Jeff.

Thor and Loki : in the land of giants : a Norse myth / by Jeff Limke ; illustrated by Ron Randall.

p. cm. — (Graphic Myths and Legends)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN-13: 978-0-8225-3087-9 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-8225-3087-2 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)

1. Thor (Norse deity)—Juvenile literature. 2. Loki (Norse deity)—Juvenile literature. I. Randall, Ron. II. Title. III. Series: Graphic myths and legends (Minneapolis, Minn.)

BL870.T5L56 2007

398.209363—dc22

2005033069

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 - JR - 12 11 10 09 08 07

eISBN-10: 0-8225-7219-2

eISBN-13: 978-0-8225-7219-0

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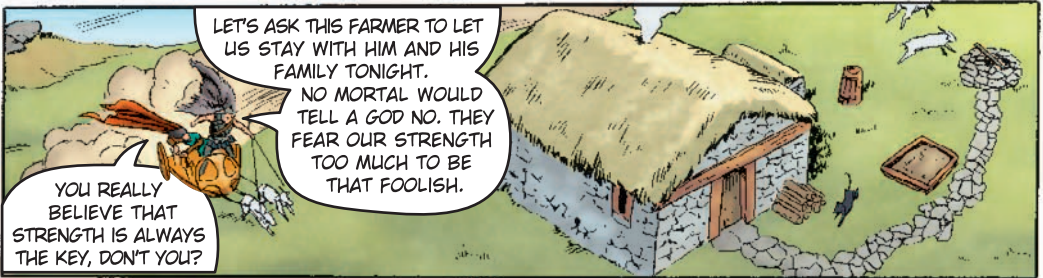
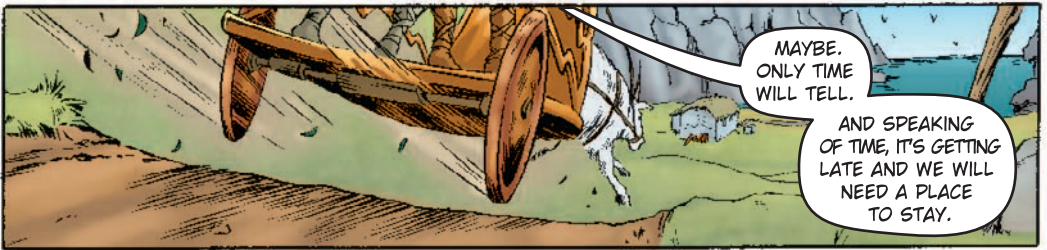
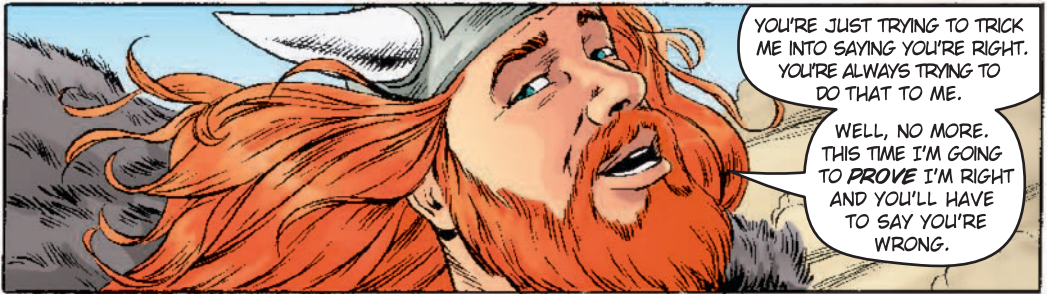
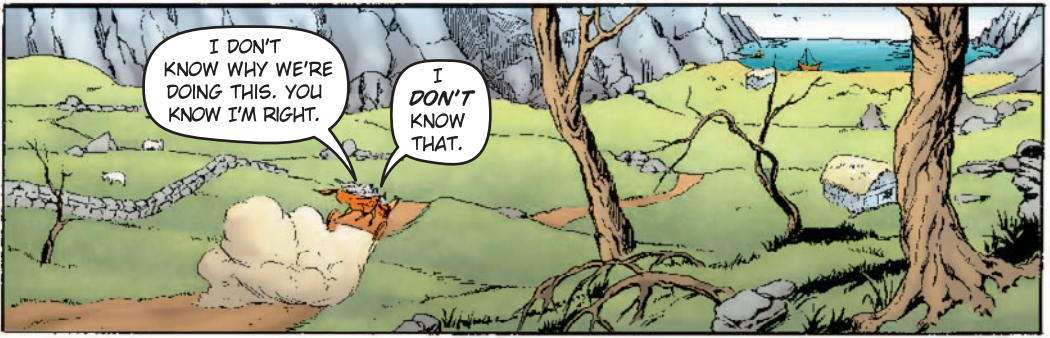
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WHAT'S
GOING ON
OUT HERE?!



I
OUGHT
TO-



-REALLY-

==



GOOD FARMER,
WE NEED A PLACE
TO STAY TONIGHT.

WE WERE
HOPING YOU
WOULD HAVE
ROOM FOR US.

Y-YES, OF
COURSE. I-I'M
NOT SURE ABOUT
SUPPER.

W-WE HAVE BARELY
ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED
MYSELF AND MY TWO
CHILDREN.



NOT TO WORRY.
WE GODS CAN
HANDLE THAT.
RIGHT, LOKI?

OF
COURSE,
THOR.

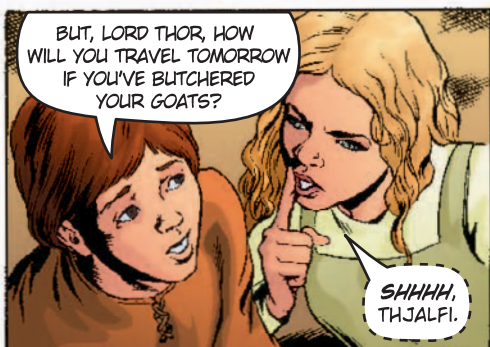


LET ME GET
EVERYTHING
READY FOR
TONIGHT THEN.



HOW DO YOU LIKE MY GOATS, FARMER?

VERY TASTY.

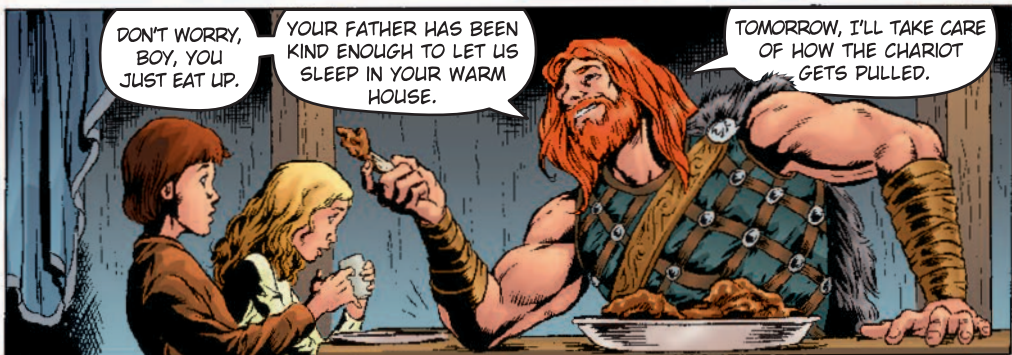


BUT, LORD THOR, HOW WILL YOU TRAVEL TOMORROW IF YOU'VE BUTCHERED YOUR GOATS?

SHHHH, THJALFI.



IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, RASKOVA, YOUR BROTHER ASKS A GOOD QUESTION.



DON'T WORRY, BOY, YOU JUST EAT UP.

YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO LET US SLEEP IN YOUR WARM HOUSE.

TOMORROW, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HOW THE CHARIOT GETS PULLED.



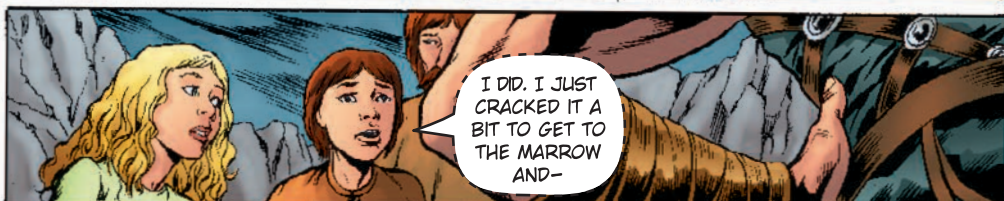
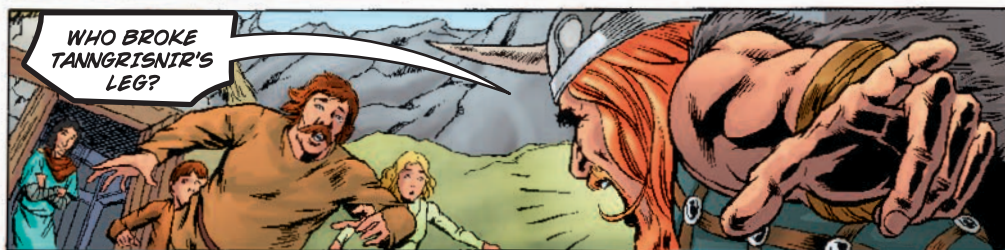
HE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL IT HIMSELF IF HE HAS TO.

IF I HAVE TO.



JUST BE SURE TO THROW ALL YOUR BONES ONTO THE SKINS WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.

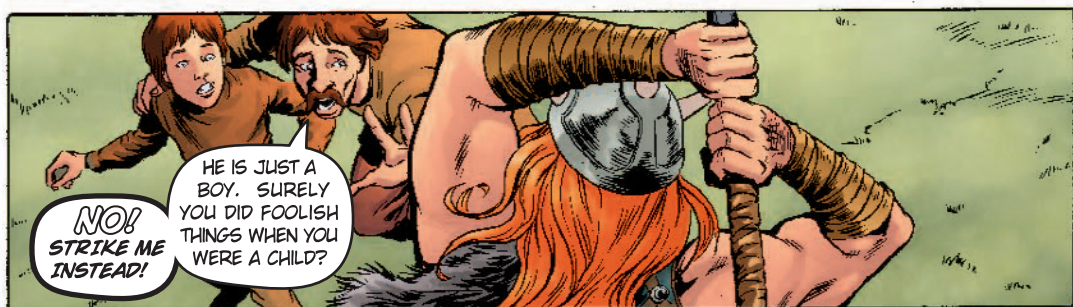
AND DON'T BREAK ANY.





DIDN'T
YOU LISTEN
TO ME?

WHY
SHOULDN'T I
STRIKE YOU
DEAD WHERE
YOU STAND?



NO!
STRIKE ME
INSTEAD!

HE IS JUST A
BOY. SURELY
YOU DID FOOLISH
THINGS WHEN YOU
WERE A CHILD?

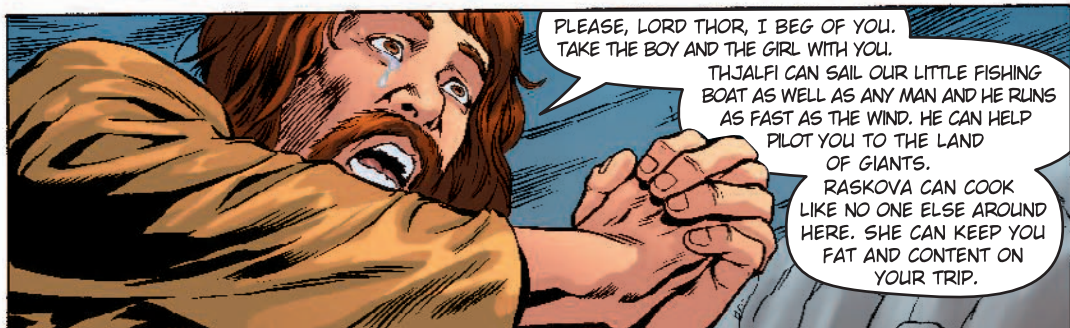


I'LL
SAY.



**YOU
STAY OUT
OF THIS!**

JUST POINTING
OUT THE MAN HAS
A POINT, BROTHER.



PLEASE, LORD THOR, I BEG OF YOU.
TAKE THE BOY AND THE GIRL WITH YOU.

THJALFI CAN SAIL OUR LITTLE FISHING
BOAT AS WELL AS ANY MAN AND HE RUNS
AS FAST AS THE WIND. HE CAN HELP
PILOT YOU TO THE LAND
OF GIANTS.

RASKOVA CAN COOK
LIKE NO ONE ELSE AROUND
HERE. SHE CAN KEEP YOU
FAT AND CONTENT ON
YOUR TRIP.



WELL,
BROTHER,
WHAT DO
YOU SAY?



I'M
THINKING,
I'M
THINKING.

VERY WELL.
I ACCEPT
YOUR DEAL.



THE CHILDREN
SHALL ACCOMPANY
US ON OUR TRIP.



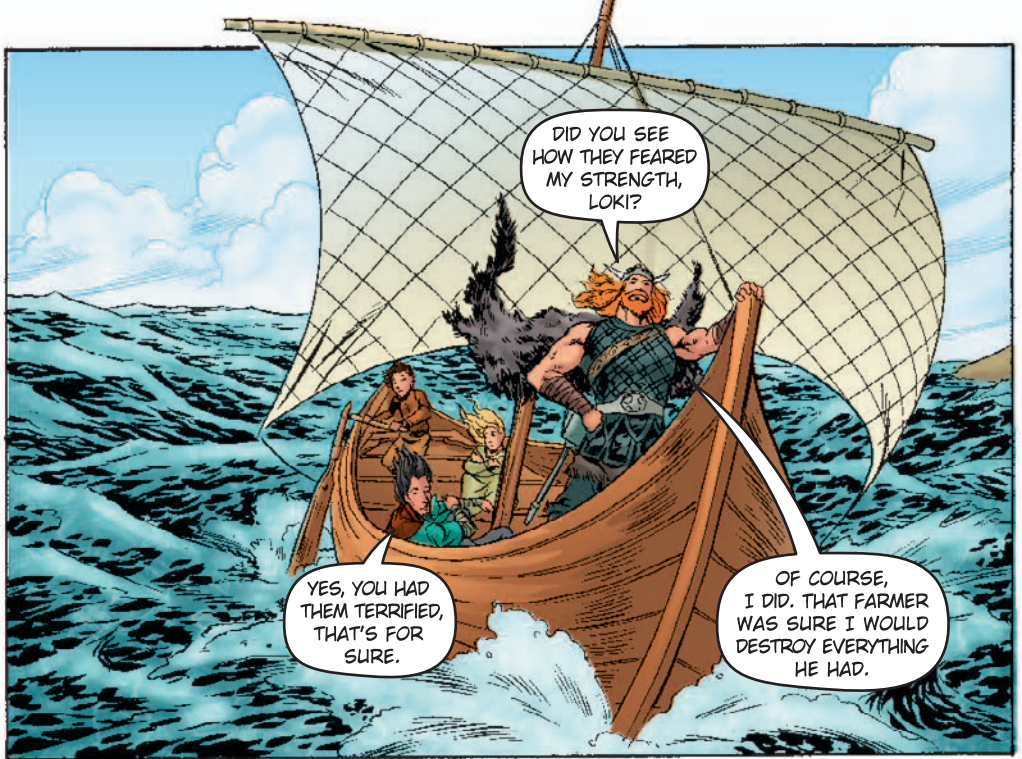
WITH YOU I
LEAVE TANNGRISNIR
AND TANNGNJOSTR,
WHO ARE AS CLOSE TO
ME AS YOUR CHILDREN
ARE TO YOU.

I TRUST NO
FURTHER HARM WILL
COME TO THEM.
LIKewise, YOU CAN
KNOW YOUR CHILDREN
ARE SAFE WITH
US GODS.



POPPY?

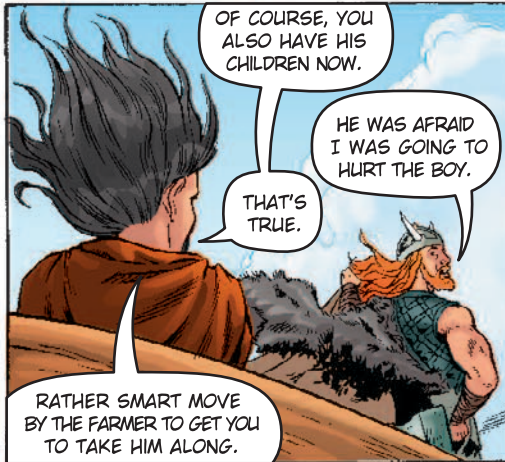
YOU ARE IN
SAFE HANDS, LITTLE
ONE. I WILL BE
HERE WHEN YOU
RETURN.



DID YOU SEE
HOW THEY FEARED
MY STRENGTH,
LOKI?

YES, YOU HAD
THEM TERRIFIED,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.

OF COURSE,
I DID. THAT FARMER
WAS SURE I WOULD
DESTROY EVERYTHING
HE HAD.



OF COURSE, YOU
ALSO HAVE HIS
CHILDREN NOW.

HE WAS AFRAID
I WAS GOING TO
HURT THE BOY.

THAT'S
TRUE.

RATHER SMART MOVE
BY THE FARMER TO GET YOU
TO TAKE HIM ALONG.

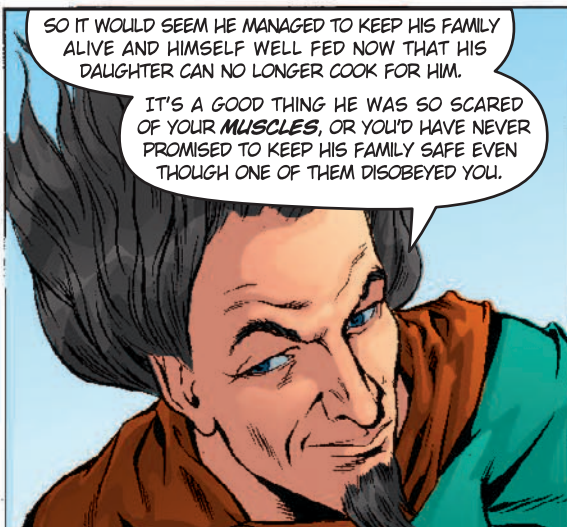


HMM,
YES, IT
WAS.

AND THE
GOATS.

HE'LL TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
THEM BECAUSE HE
KNOWS WHAT I
CAN DO IF HE
DOESN'T.

OH YES,
I'M SURE OF
THAT TOO.

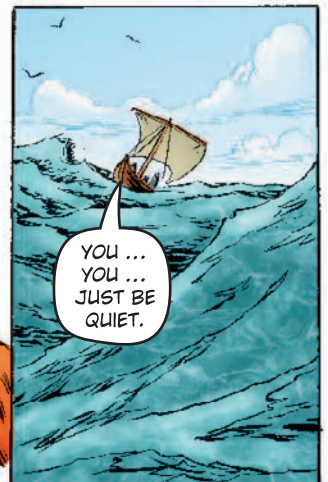


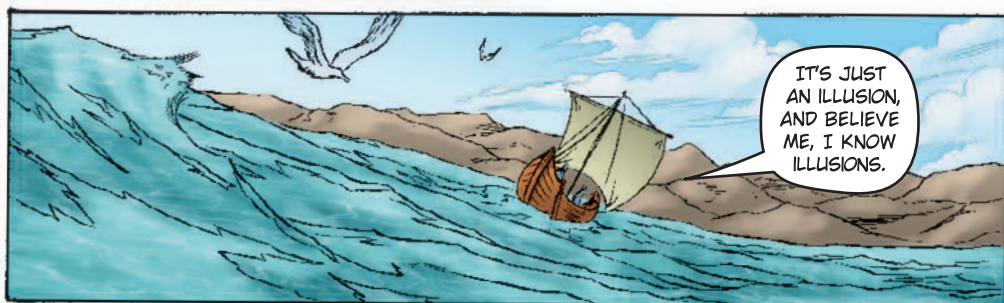
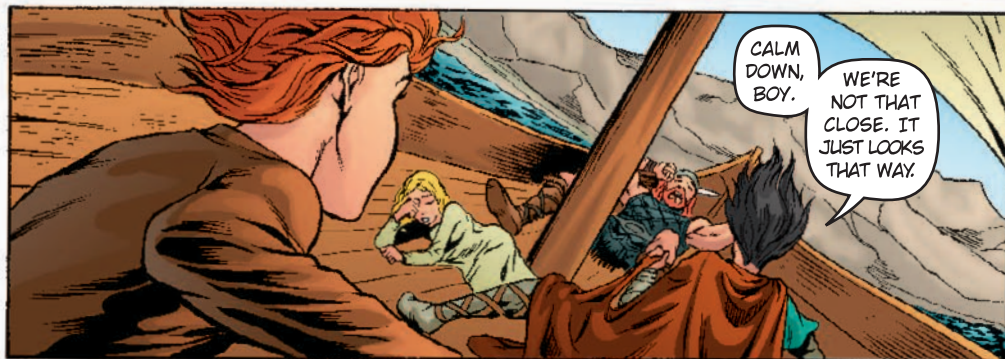
SO IT WOULD SEEM HE MANAGED TO KEEP HIS FAMILY
ALIVE AND HIMSELF WELL FED NOW THAT HIS
DAUGHTER CAN NO LONGER COOK FOR HIM.

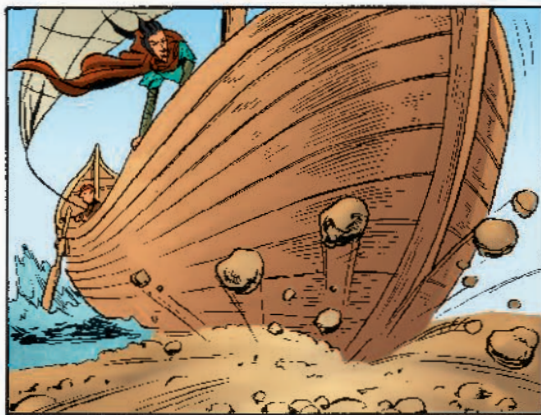
IT'S A GOOD THING HE WAS SO SCARED
OF YOUR **MUSCLES**, OR YOU'D HAVE NEVER
PROMISED TO KEEP HIS FAMILY SAFE EVEN
THOUGH ONE OF THEM DISOBEYED YOU.



YOU ...
YOU ...
JUST BE
QUIET.

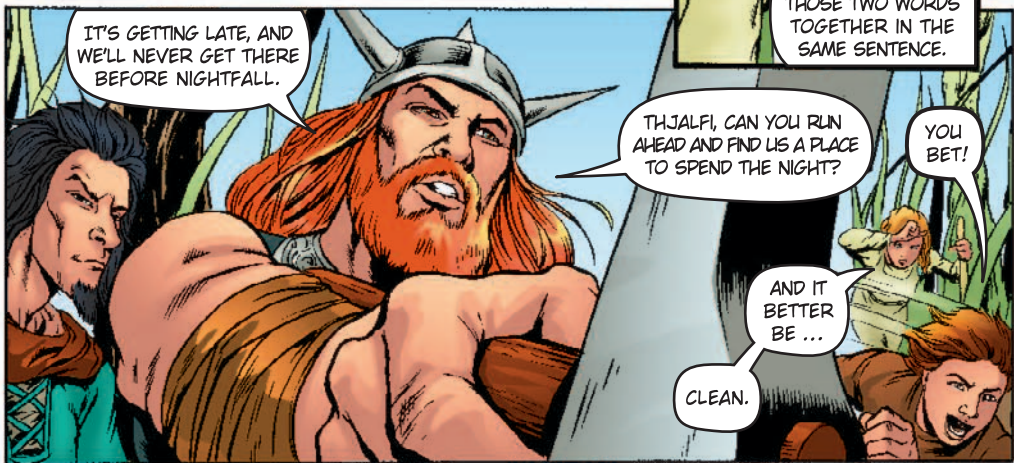
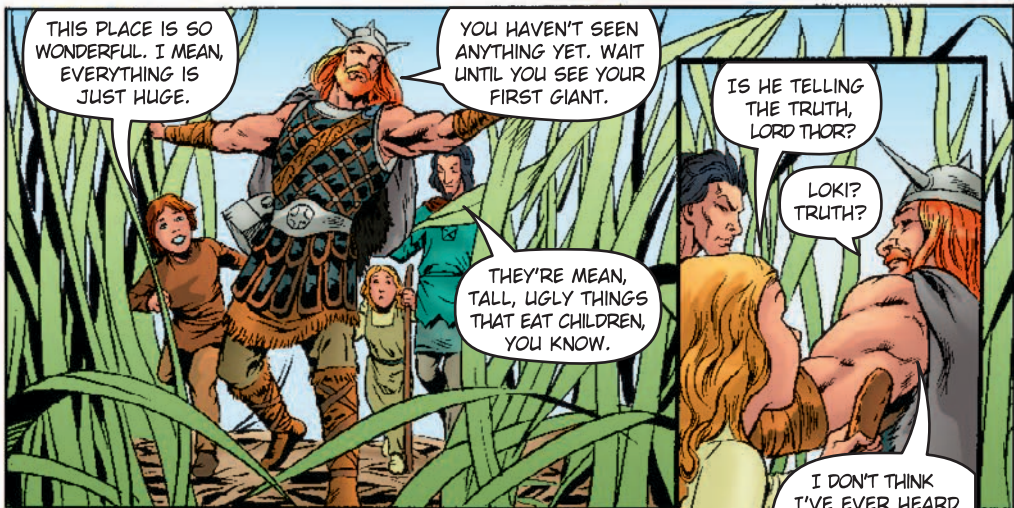


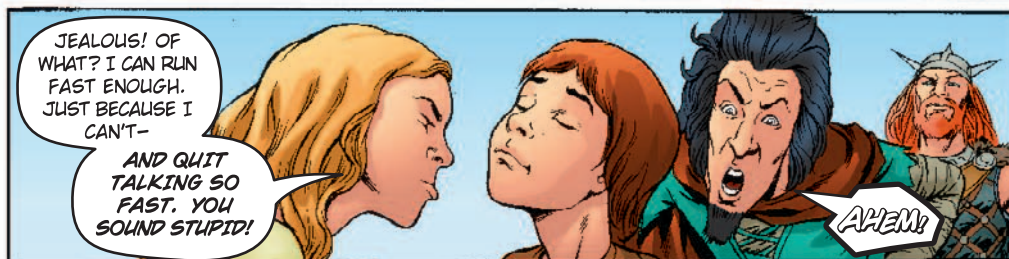


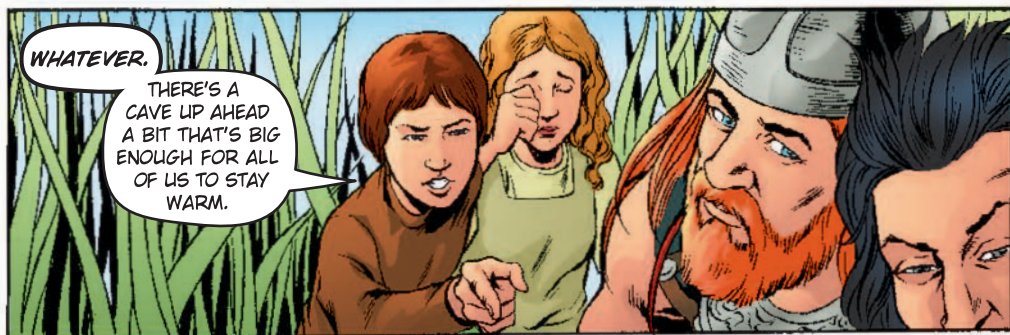
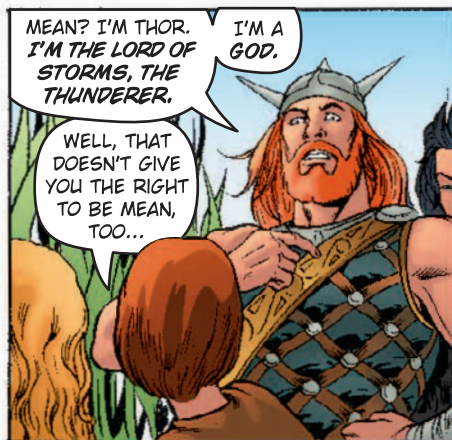
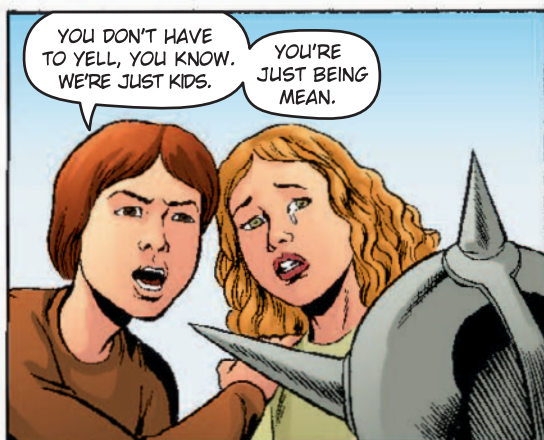


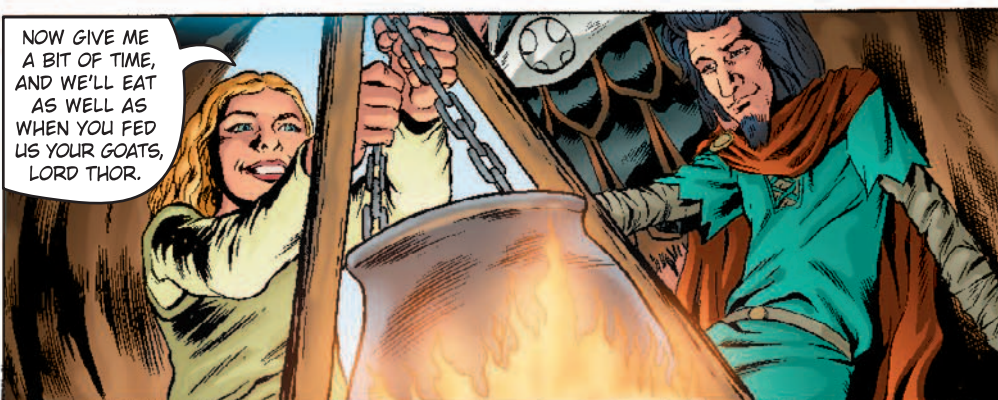
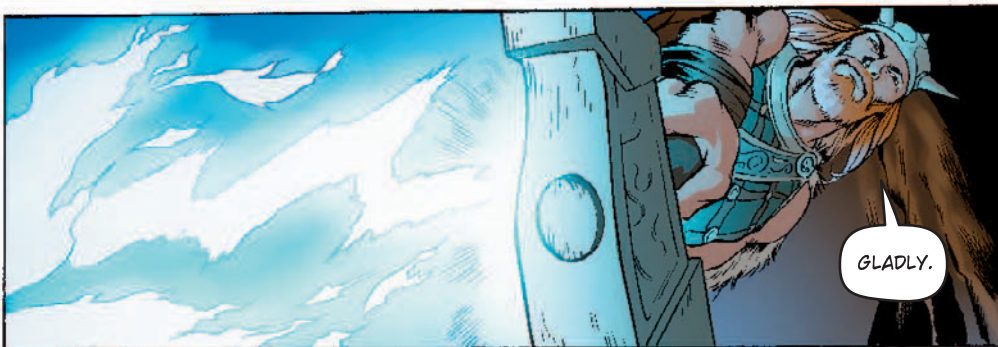
INTO THE LAND OF GIANTS

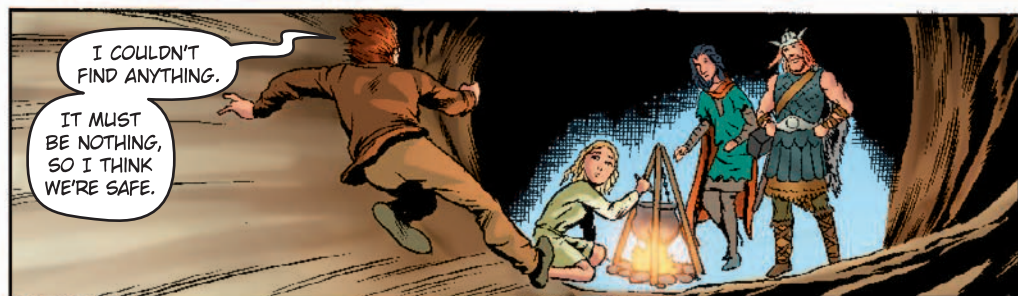
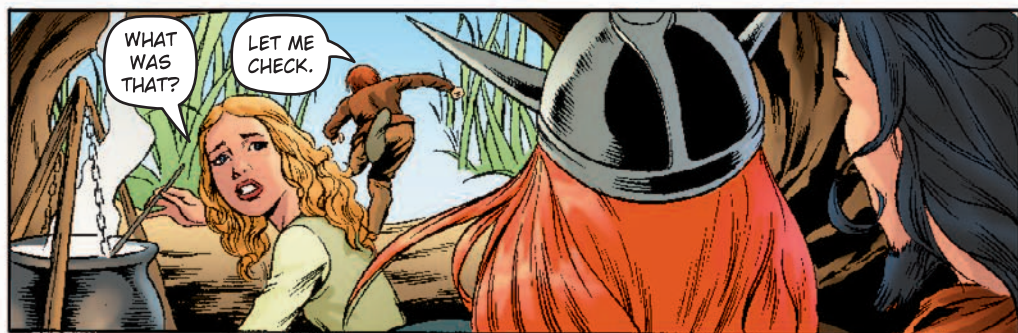


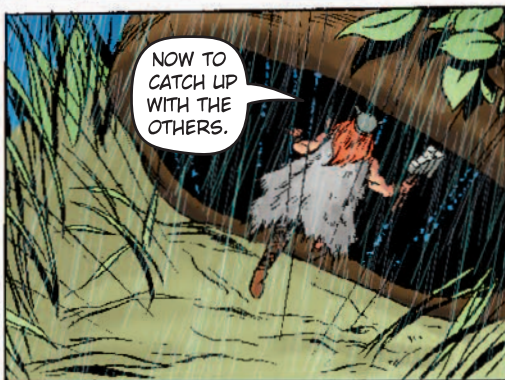














IN ODIN'S
NAME, WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?



ISN'T IT
GRAND? IT'S
LIKE A
PALACE!



WELL, I
WOULDN'T SAY
THAT, BUT IT'S
STILL RATHER—



IMPRESSIVE.

THE NEXT MORNING...

TIME TO
GET A MOVE
ON. THE SUN
IS UP.

ANOTHER
DAY OR TWO
AND WE
SHOULD BE—

BROTHER,
I THINK YOU
SHOULD TURN
AROUND.

IN JUST A
MOMENT, LOKI,
FIRST WE—

NO, I THINK
YOU SHOULD
DO IT **NOW**.

SKRYMIR

LOKI, THIS IS
MY EXPEDITION,
AND WE'LL
FOLLOW MY—

GOOD
MORNING,
TRAVELERS!

I SEE
YOU FOUND
MY GLOVE.

Y-YOU'RE
GLOVE? B-BUT
WE SLEPT INSIDE
IT LAST NIGHT.



WHERE
ARE YOU
TRAVELING
TO?

BEWARE
GIANT, MY NAME
IS THOR AND ALL
HERE ARE UNDER
MY PROTECTION.

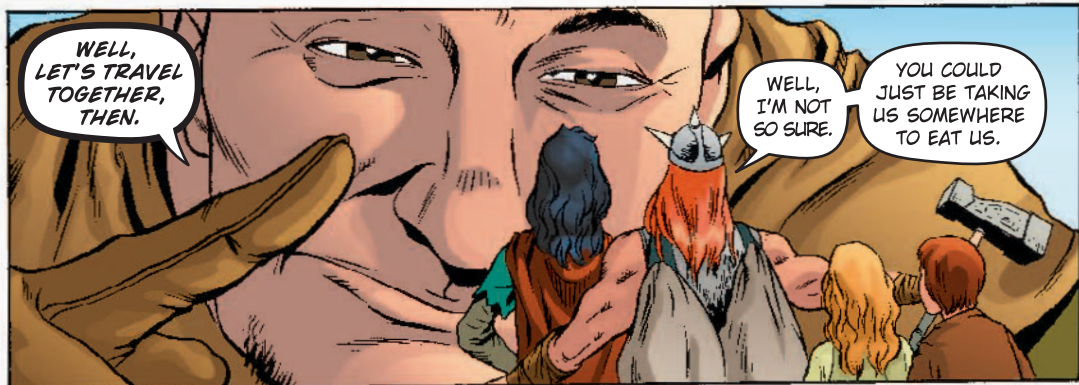
HO, NO
NEED TO BE
AFRAID.

MY NAME'S SKRYMIR,
AND I'M TRAVELING TO
THE HALL OF UTGARD-
LOKI, KING OF THE
GIANTS.



THE KING OF
THE GIANTS!
THAT'S WHERE
WE'RE GOING.

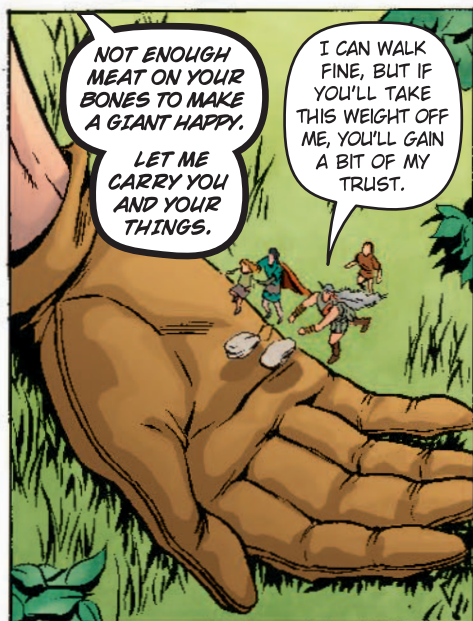
SHHHHHH!



WELL,
LET'S TRAVEL
TOGETHER,
THEN.

WELL,
I'M NOT
SO SURE.

YOU COULD
JUST BE TAKING
US SOMEWHERE
TO EAT US.



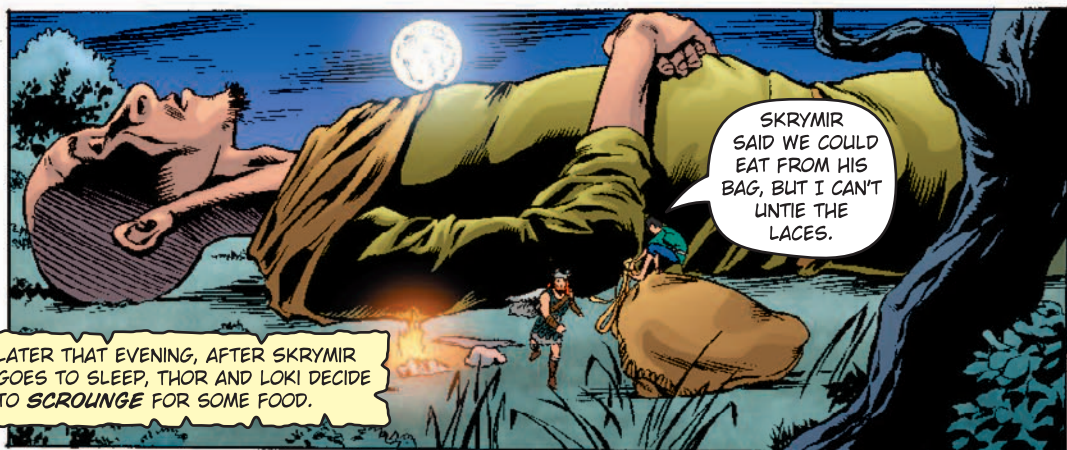
NOT ENOUGH
MEAT ON YOUR
BONES TO MAKE
A GIANT HAPPY.

LET ME
CARRY YOU
AND YOUR
THINGS.

I CAN WALK
FINE, BUT IF
YOU'LL TAKE
THIS WEIGHT OFF
ME, YOU'LL GAIN
A BIT OF MY
TRUST.



LET'S GET
WALKING THEN
BECAUSE WE'RE
JUST OVER A
DAY'S JOURNEY
AWAY.



SKRYMIR
SAID WE COULD
EAT FROM HIS
BAG, BUT I CAN'T
UNTIE THE
LACES.

LATER THAT EVENING, AFTER SKRYMIR
GOES TO SLEEP, THOR AND LOKI DECIDE
TO *SCROUNGE* FOR SOME FOOD.



LET
ME TRY.

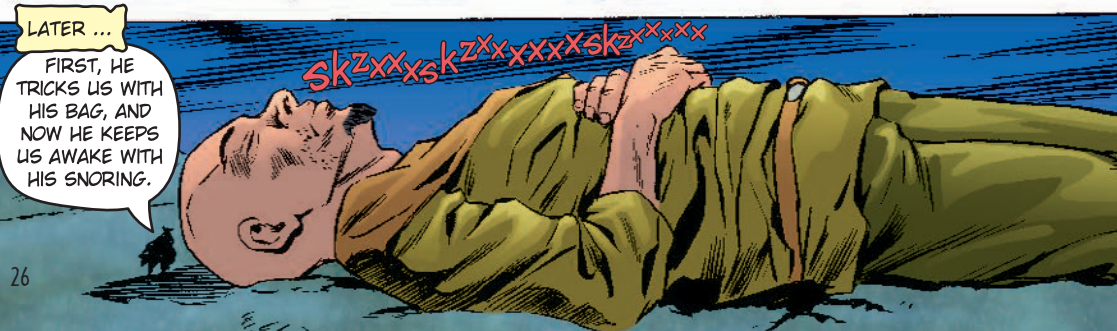
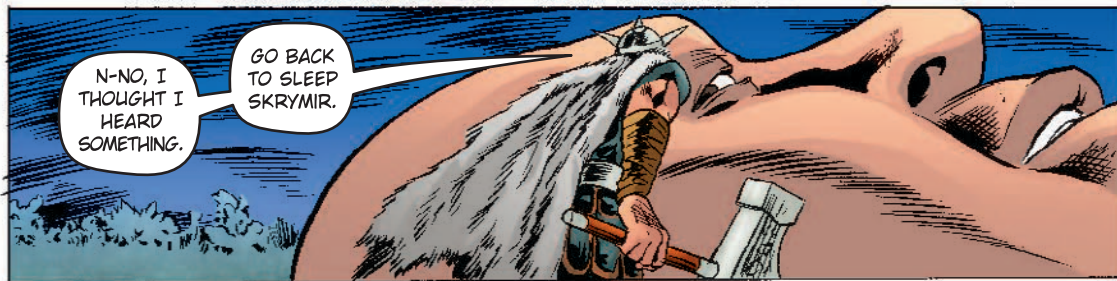
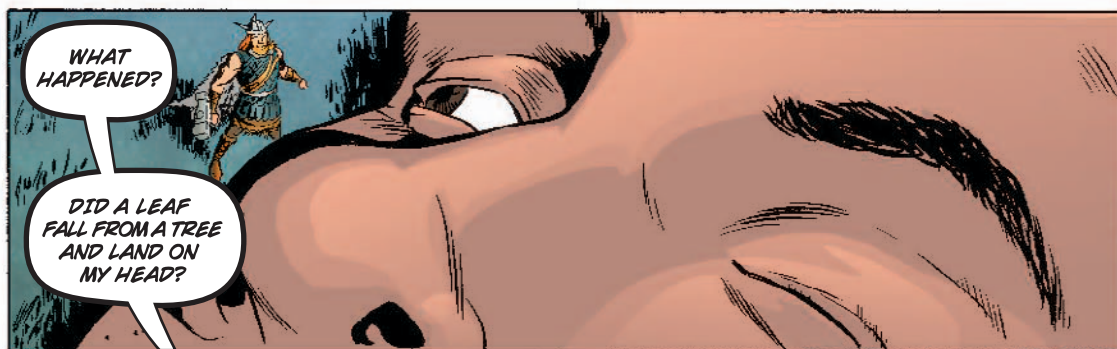
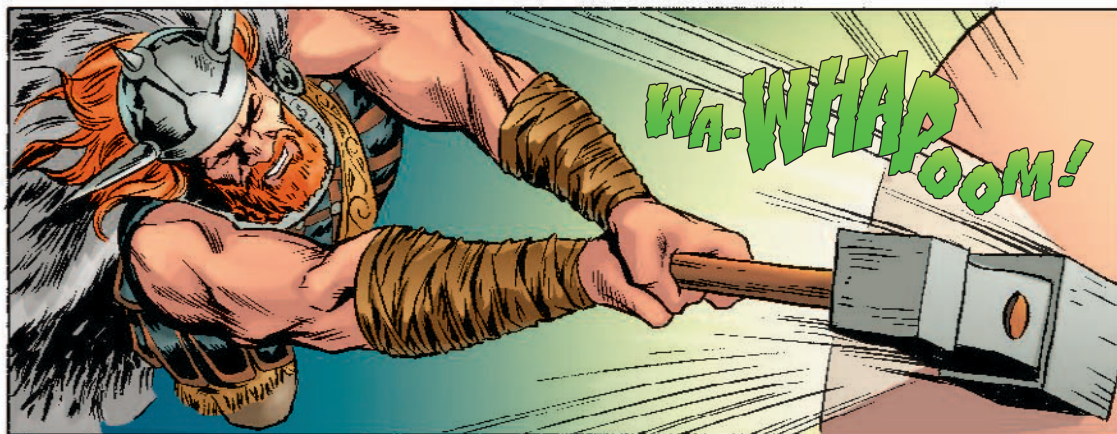
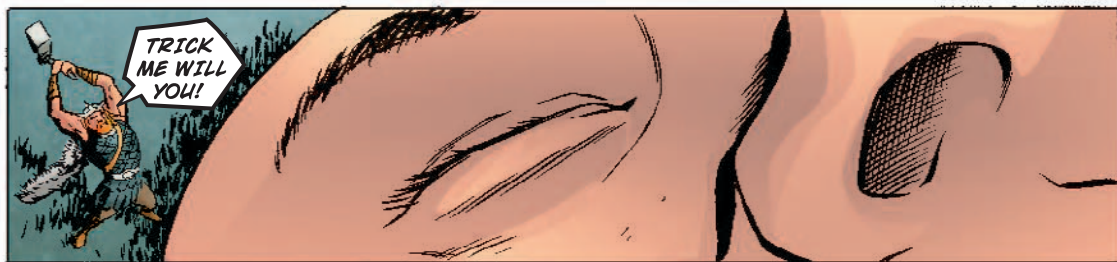


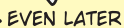
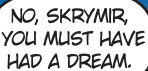
IT'S ALL A
TRICK. HE
WOULD HAVE
US STARVE.

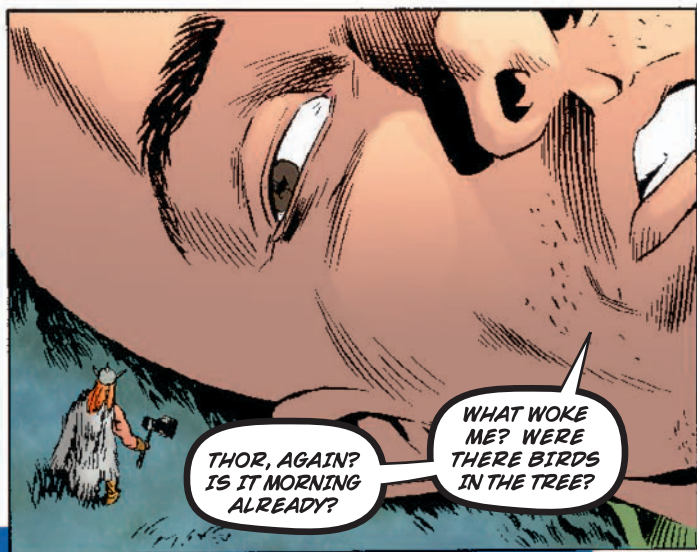
BUT THOR
IS NO
GIANT'S
FOOL!



I WILL
SHOW HIM
WHO IS
THE FOOL!







THOR, AGAIN?
IS IT MORNING
ALREADY?

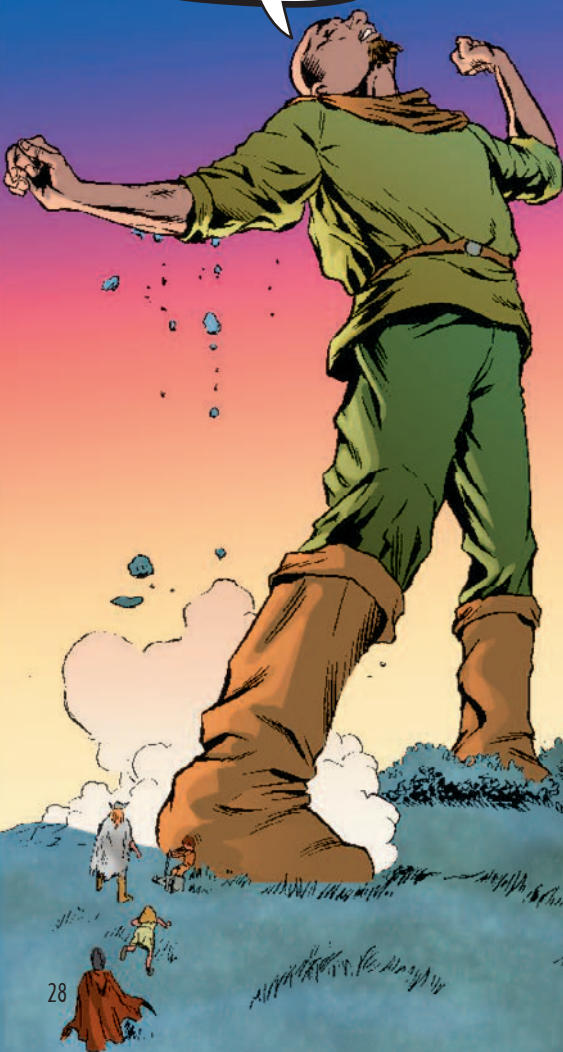
WHAT WOKE
ME? WERE
THERE BIRDS
IN THE TREE?



I
DON'T
KNOW.

I
JUST DON'T
KNOW.

COME, IF WE LEAVE NOW,
WE CAN BE TO THE
GIANTS BY NOON.



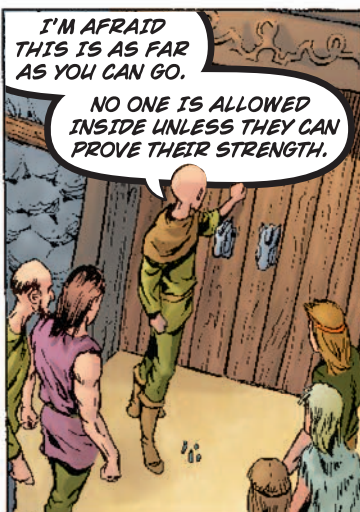
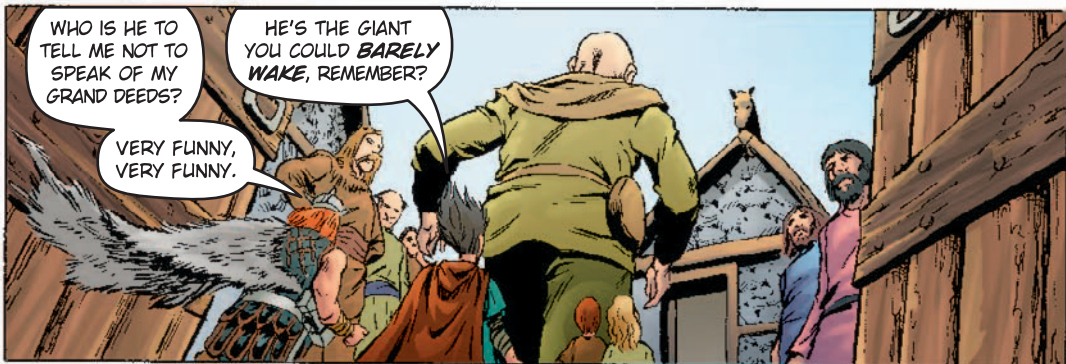
HHMMM, THE
MIGHTY THOR COULD
BARELY WAKE
A GIANT.



I THINK YOU
WERE RIGHT-IT'S
ALL ABOUT THE
MUSCLES.

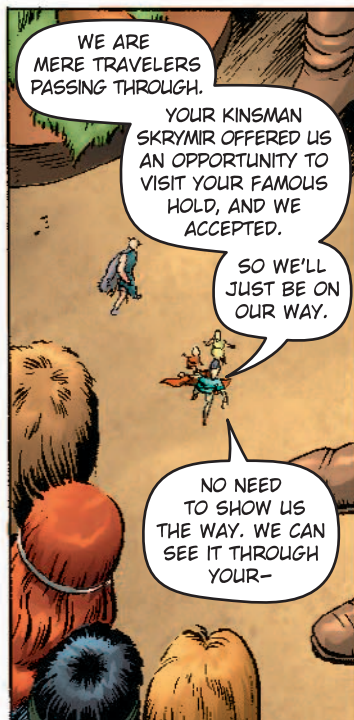
BE QUIET,
BROTHER.
JUST
BE QUIET.

THE HOME OF THE FROST GIANTS



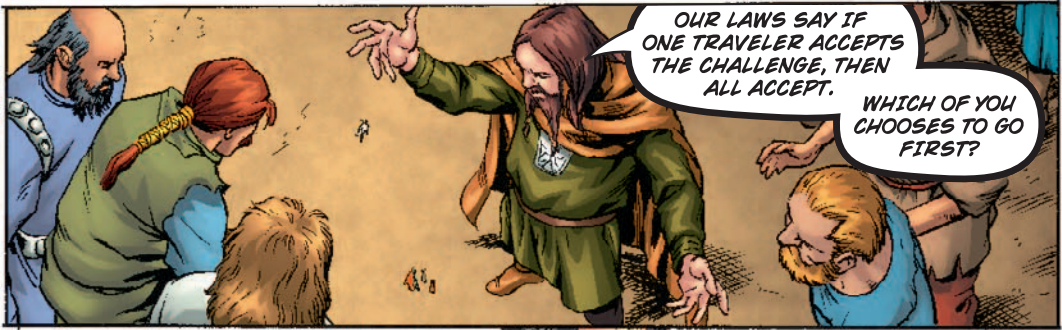


THE CHALLENGE OF THE GIANTS





THOR HAS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE OF THE GIANTS.



OUR LAWS SAY IF ONE TRAVELER ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE, THEN ALL ACCEPT.

WHICH OF YOU CHOOSES TO GO FIRST?



I THINK IT ONLY FAIR, SINCE MY BROTHER GOT US INTO YOUR LITTLE SET OF CONTESTS, THAT HE GO FIRST.



YOU SAID THAT IF ONE WERE IN, ALL WERE IN. THAT MEANS WE ALL MUST DO A CHALLENGE?

VERY GOOD. THEN I THINK—

YES, EXCEPT FOR THE GIRL, YOU MUST ALL DO AT LEAST ONE.

WHAT?? HOW COME I CAN'T?

PLEASE, RASKOVA. IT'S THEIR CONTEST, SO IT'S THEIR RULES.

LET'S NOT MAKE THEM ANGRY, OK?



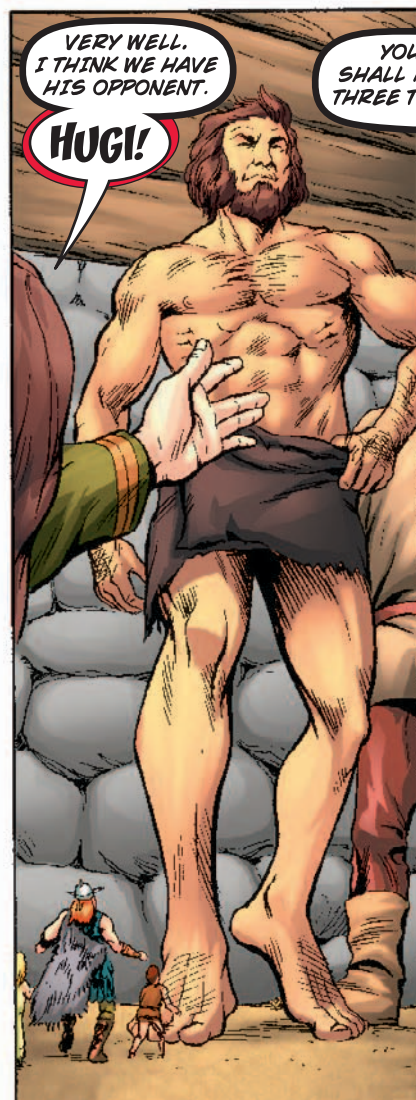
THEN THE BOY SHALL GO FIRST AND SHOW YOU HOW THE LEAST OF US IS BETTER THAN YOU EXPECT.



SEEMS
A BIT SMALL,
EVEN FOR A
NON-GIANT.

WHAT'S
HE DO?

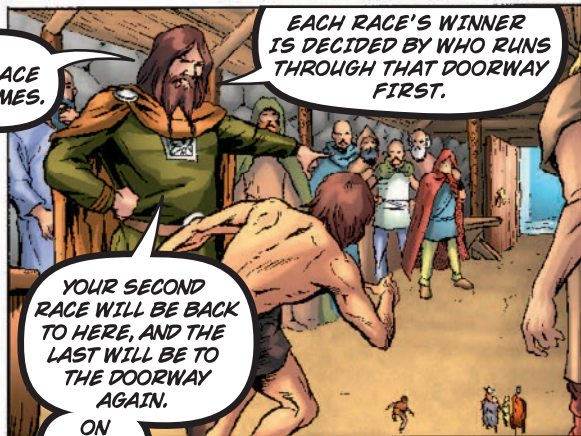
HE RUNS
FASTER THAN
ANYONE YOU
HAVE EVER
SEEN.



VERY WELL.
I THINK WE HAVE
HIS OPPONENT.

HUG!

YOU
SHALL RACE
THREE TIMES.



EACH RACE'S WINNER
IS DECIDED BY WHO RUNS
THROUGH THAT DOORWAY
FIRST.

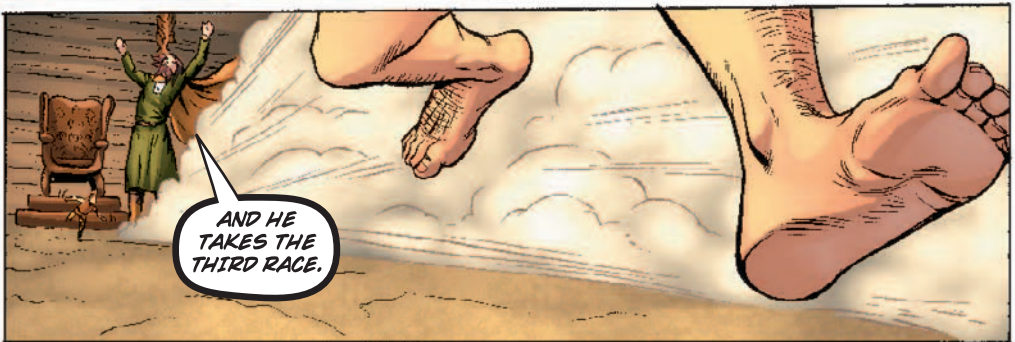
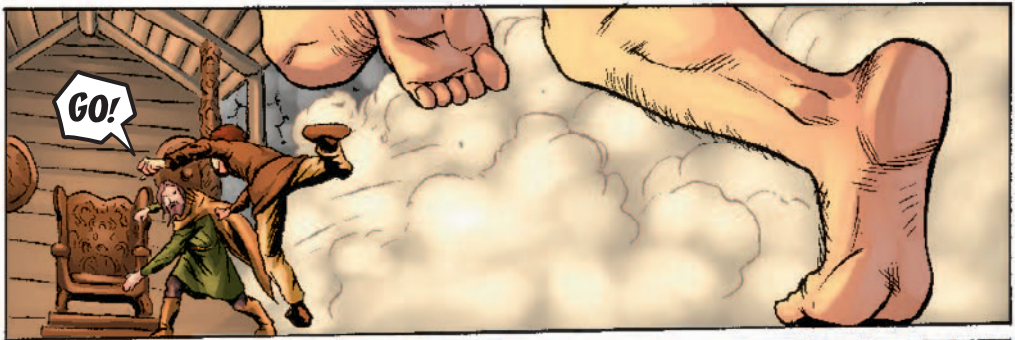
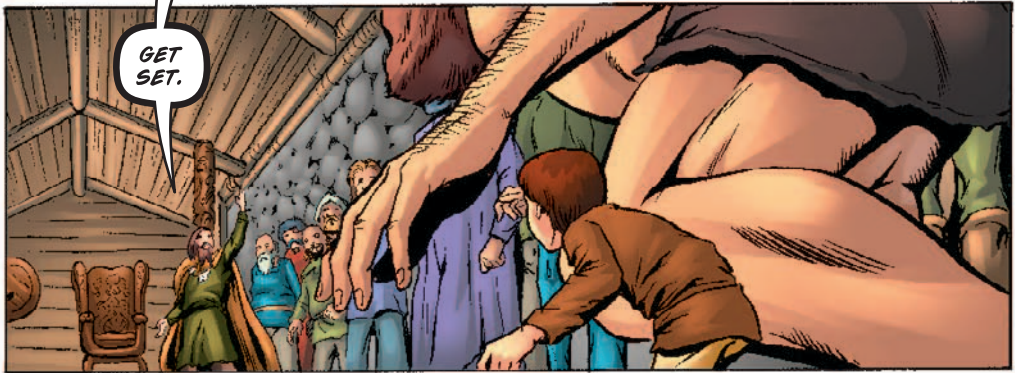
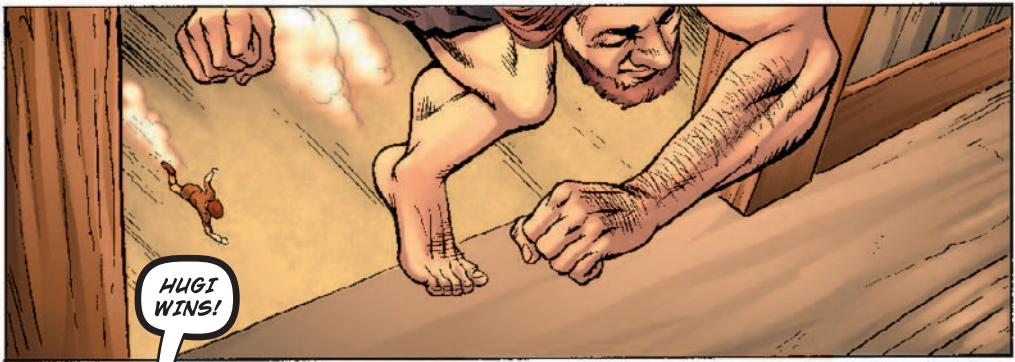
YOUR SECOND
RACE WILL BE BACK
TO HERE, AND THE
LAST WILL BE TO
THE DOORWAY
AGAIN.

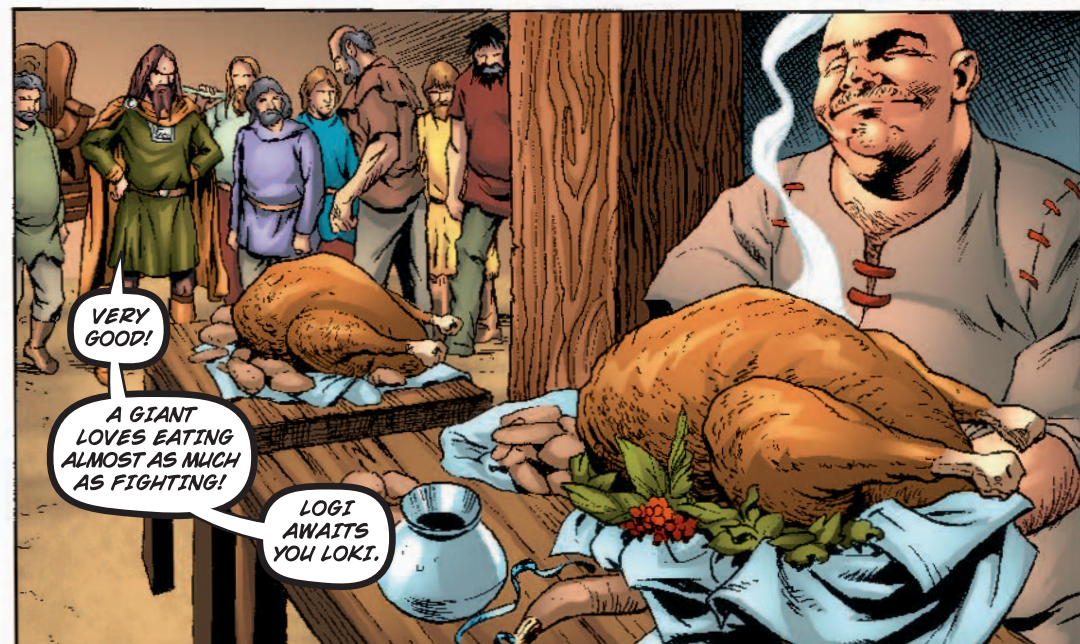
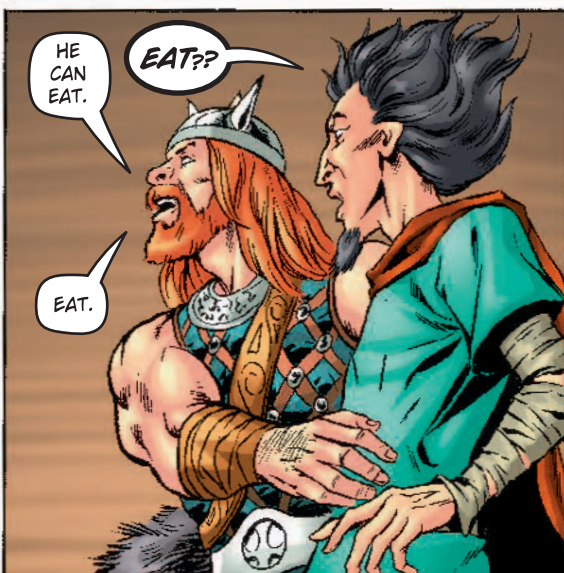
ON
YOUR
MARKS.

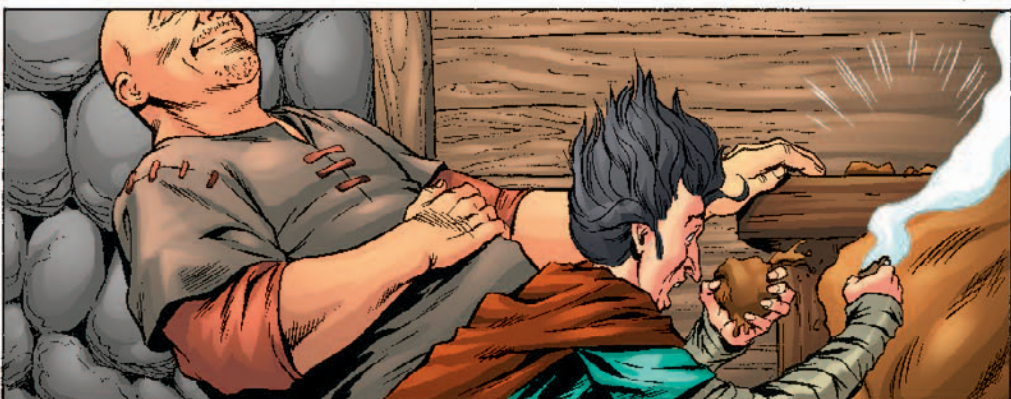
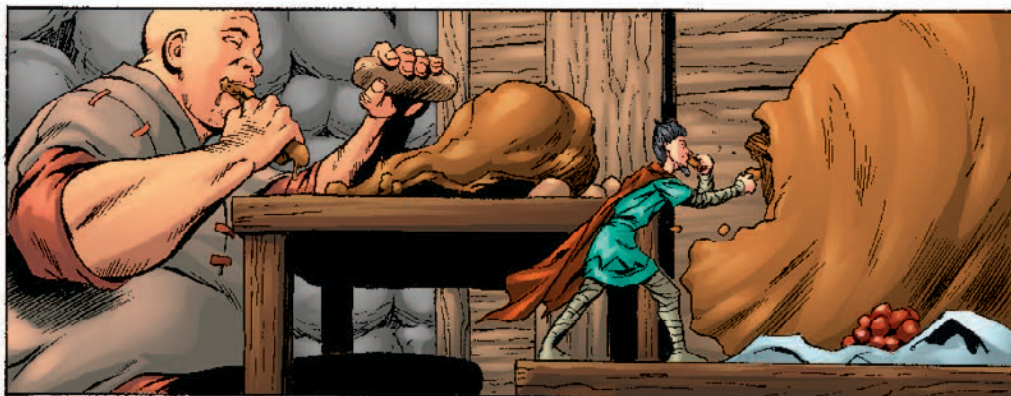
GET
SET.

GO!

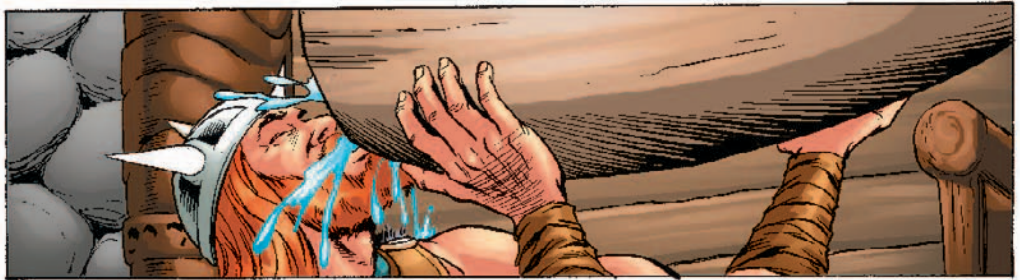
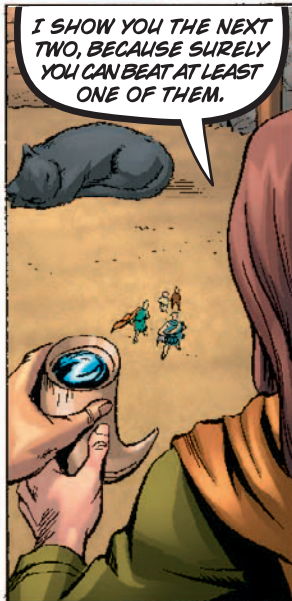


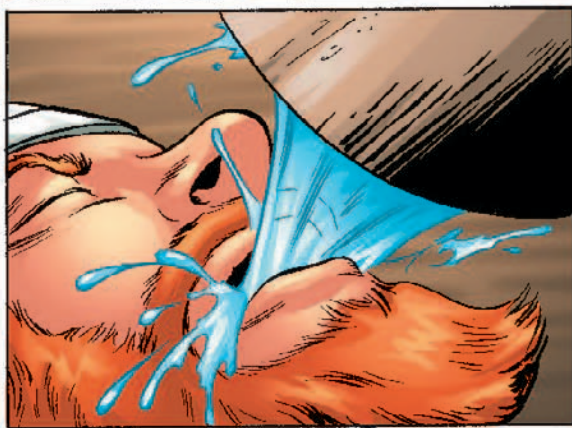
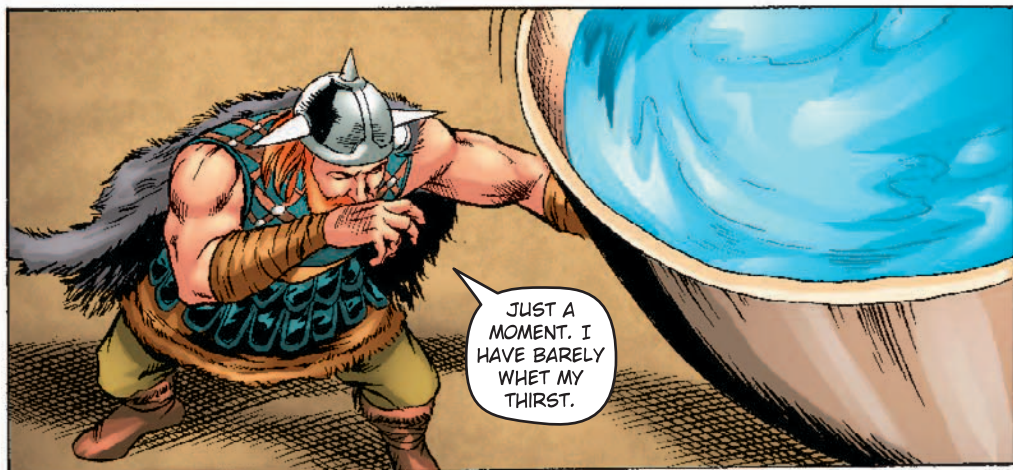


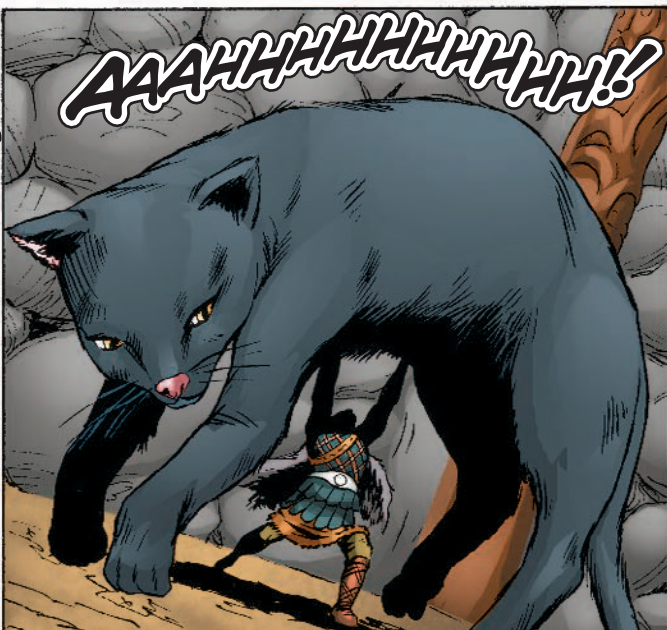
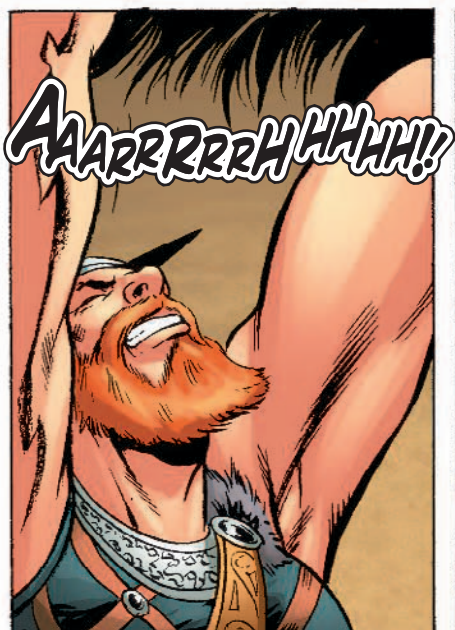
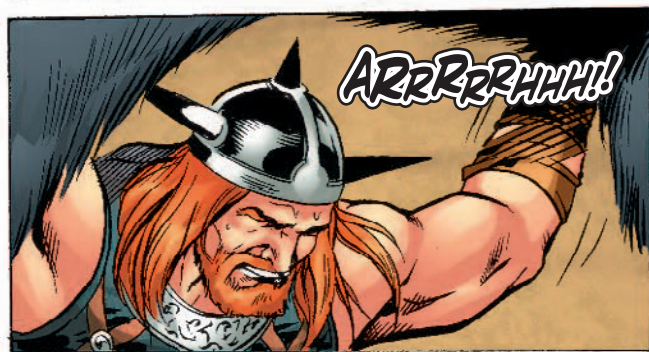


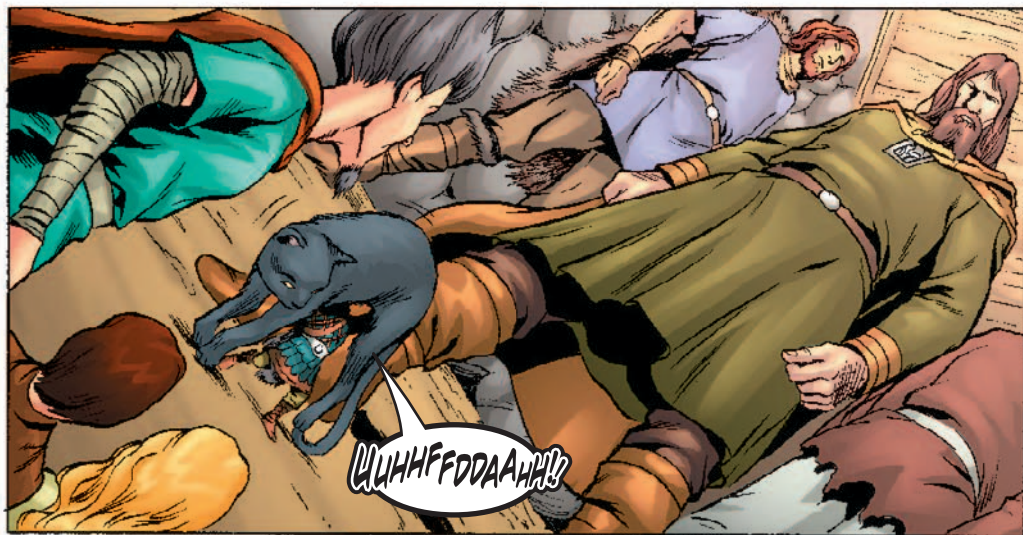


THOR MUST WIN









I'M
AFRAID YOU
FAILED THIS
CHALLENGE
TOO.



ALL RIGHT.
BRING ON
THIS LAST
CHALLENGE.

IT CAN'T
BE AS DIFFICULT
AS THESE LAST
TWO.



YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS?

THIS IS
THE LAST
CHALLENGE?



OH, I'M
VERY
SERIOUS.

IF YOU
COULDN'T FINISH
ONE OF OUR HORNS
NOR LIFT ONE OF
OUR LITTLE PETS—



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK
YOU CAN OUTWRESTLE
THIS OLD CRONE?





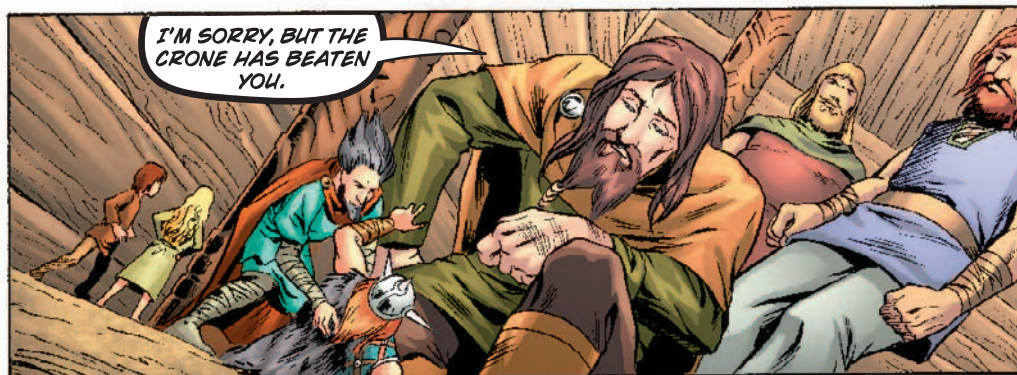
THOR?

THOR?

THOR?



ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



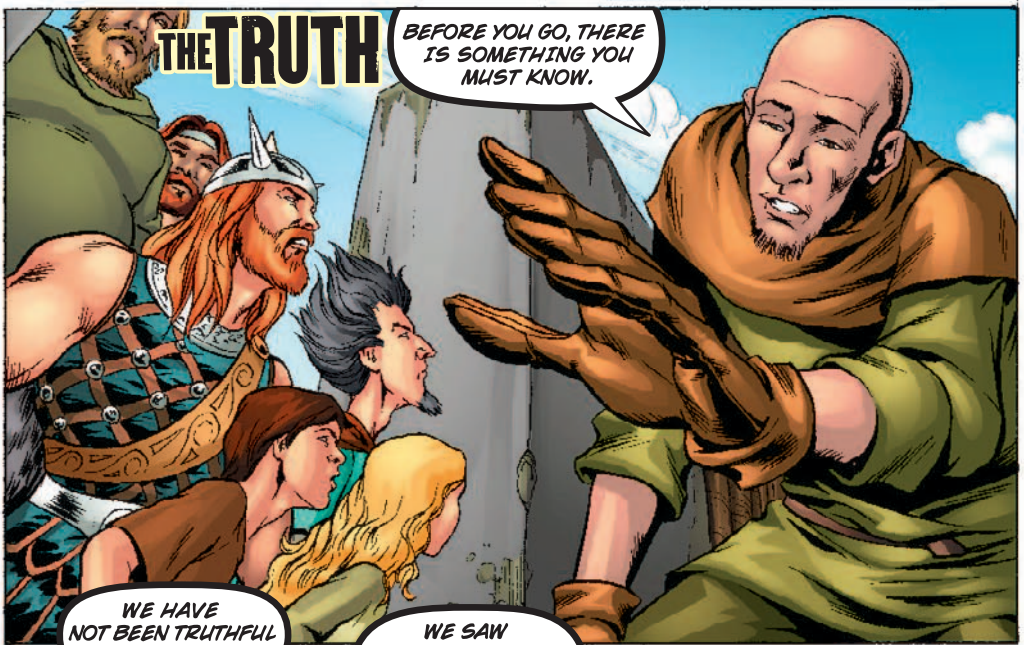
I'M SORRY, BUT THE
CRONE HAS BEATEN
YOU.



I
UNDERSTAND.

WE'LL
LEAVE
NOW.



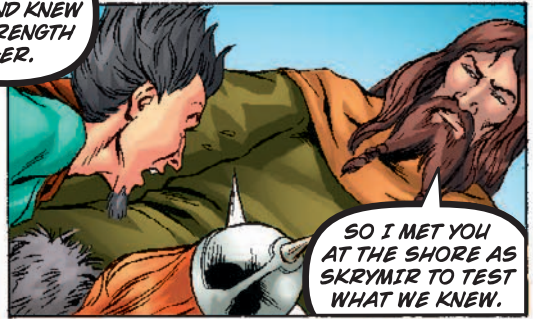
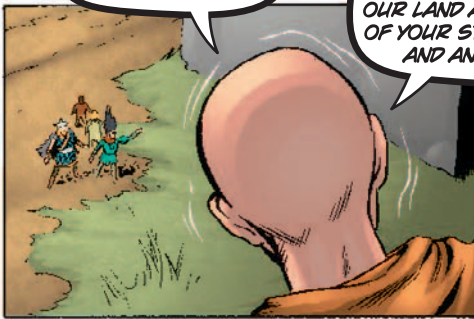


THE TRUTH

BEFORE YOU GO, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN TRUTHFUL WITH YOU.

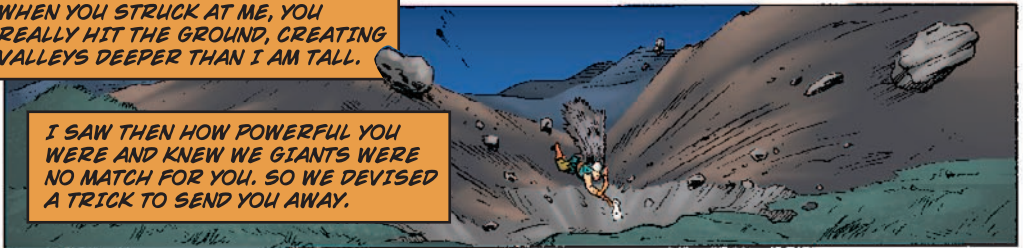
WE SAW YOU SAIL TOWARD OUR LAND AND KNEW OF YOUR STRENGTH AND ANGER.



SO I MET YOU AT THE SHORE AS SKRYMIR TO TEST WHAT WE KNEW.

WHEN YOU STRUCK AT ME, YOU REALLY HIT THE GROUND, CREATING VALLEYS DEEPER THAN I AM TALL.

I SAW THEN HOW POWERFUL YOU WERE AND KNEW WE GIANTS WERE NO MATCH FOR YOU. SO WE DEVISED A TRICK TO SEND YOU AWAY.



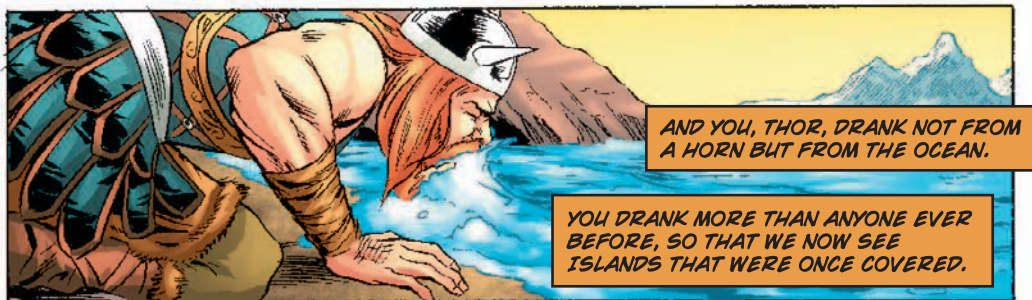
BOY, YOU RACED THOUGHT AND ALMOST WON.



AND YOU, LORD LOKI, WERE DEFEATED NOT BY A GIANT EITHER, BUT BY A WILDFIRE.

YOU DID ADMIRABLY.





AND YOU, THOR, DRANK NOT FROM A HORN BUT FROM THE OCEAN.

YOU DRANK MORE THAN ANYONE EVER BEFORE, SO THAT WE NOW SEE ISLANDS THAT WERE ONCE COVERED.

THE CAT WASN'T A CAT, BUT WAS THE MIDGARD SERPENT ENTWINED AROUND THE WORLD.



YOU CAME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO FORCING IT TO LET GO OF ITS TAIL, WHICH WOULD HAVE WRECKED THE WORLD.



AS FOR THE LAST CHALLENGE, THAT WAS NO CRONE, BUT TIME, WHO NO ONE CAN EVER BEAT.

ANYTHING ANYONE TRIES WILL FAIL, BUT YOU, THOR, CAME CLOSER TO BEATING IT THAN ANYONE.

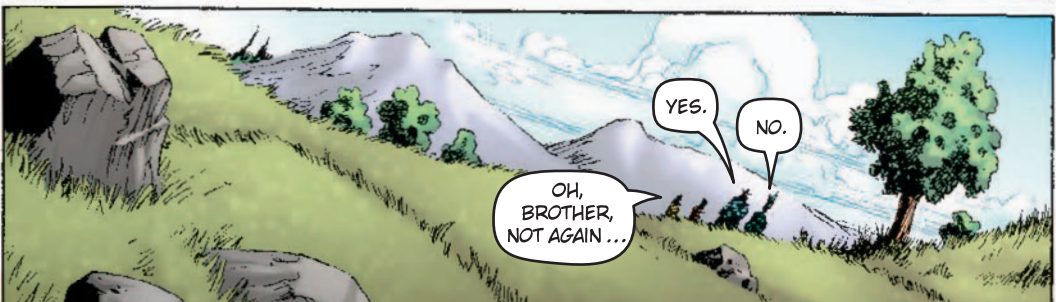
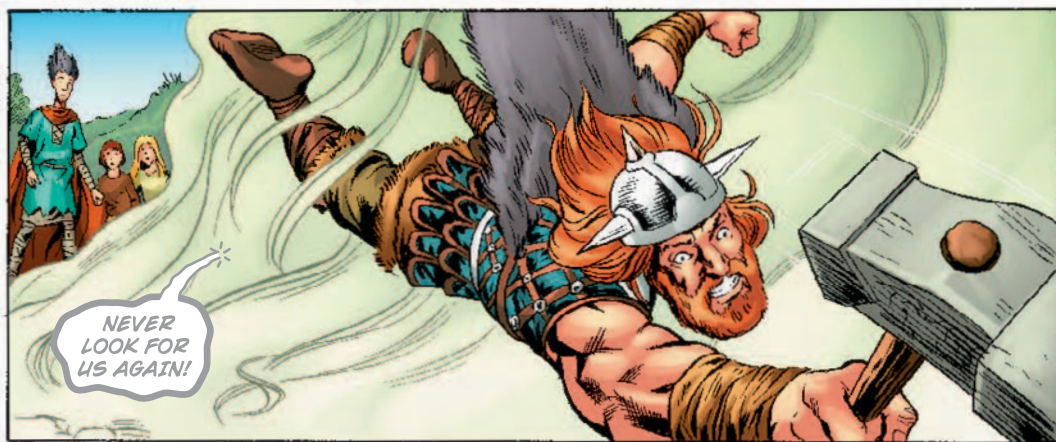


I WILL DESTROY YOU FOR TRICKING ME!



WE KNEW YOU WOULD ACT THIS WAY, AND THAT IS WHY WE USED OUR MAGIC TO BEAT YOUR STRENGTH.

HAVING BESTED YOU, WE NOW ASK THAT YOU—



GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ASGARD (*az-gard*): the home of the Norse gods

CRONE: an old woman

LEMMINGS: small, short-tailed, furry-footed rodents that live in northern regions

LOKI (*lob-kee*): the trickster in Norse mythology, often identified as Thor's brother

MIDGARD SERPENT: a giant serpent that circles the earth, according to Norse legend

MJOLNIR (*my-uhl-need*): Thor's magic hammer

MORTAL: a being that dies

ODIN (*ob-din*): father of the Norse gods

THOR: the Norse god of Thunder

UTGARD-LOKI (*oot-gard lob-kee*): king of the Norse giants



pencil from page 32

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITES

Philip, Neil. *The Illustrated Book of Myths: Tales and Legends of the World*. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1995. This illustrated book recounts myths from around the world, including Norse myths.

_____. *Mythology*. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1999. This volume in the Eyewitness Books series uses dozens of colorful photos and illustrations to explore myths from around the world.

Roberts, Morgan J. *Norse Gods and Heroes*. New York: Metro Books, 1995. Filled with illustrations and photos of ancient mythological artifacts, this book provides an excellent overview of Norse mythology.

Encyclopedia Mythica: Norse Mythology

<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/mythology/europe/norse/articles.html>

This helpful website features brief profiles of all of the Norse gods as well as information about many other characters in Norse mythology.

Thomas Bulfinch: Bulfinch's Mythology

<http://www.classicreader.com/booktoc.php/sid.2/bookid.2823/>

This website features one of the most popular English-language compilations of ancient myths. This classic work, which includes some Norse myths, was compiled by American Thomas Bulfinch in the 1800s.

CREATING *THOR AND LOKI: IN THE LAND OF GIANTS*

To create the story of Thor and Loki's journey to the land of giants, author Jeff Limke relied heavily on the classic book *Bulfinch's Mythology* by American Thomas Bulfinch. This work drew its material from the *Prose Edda*, a compilation of Norse tales compiled by Icelandic poet and lawyer Snorri Sturluson. Artist Ron Randall consulted numerous reference books on the medieval Vikings as well as art from the ancient Norse period to bring to life the vivid images of this story.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST

JEFF LIMKE was raised in North Dakota. There he read, listened to, and marveled at stories from the day he learned to read. He later taught stories for many years, and he has written adaptations of them. Some of his stories have been published by Caliber Comics, Arrow Comics, and Kenzer and Company. Along the way he got married, and he and his wife had a daughter who loves to read, listen to, and marvel at stories.

RON RANDALL has drawn comics for every major comic publisher in the United States, including Marvel, DC, Image and Dark Horse. He has worked on super hero comics such as *Justice League* and *Spiderman*, science fiction titles such as *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* and his own creation *Trekker*, fantasy adventure titles such as *DragonLance* and *Warlord*, and suspense and horror titles including *SwampThing*, *Predator*, and *Venom*. He lives in Portland, Oregon.