

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

LOKI DIED. LOKI WAS BORN AGAIN.

THE SECOND LOKI WAS YOUNG AND GOOD, OR AT LEAST TRYING, AND IF HIS FELLOW GODS DIDN'T LIKE HIM THEY WERE PROBABLY ON THE WAY TOWARDS IT. BUT THIS "KID LOKI" TOOK ADVICE FROM AN ECHO OF HIS OLD, WICKED SELF. AND THAT ECHO KILLED HIS SOUL AND STOLE HIS BODY, AND THAT WAS THE END OF HIM.

THAT ECHO BECAME THE THIRD LOKI, WHO FOUND THAT EVIL SCHEMES AND WICKED WAYS HAD LOST THEIR LUSTER, FOR GUILT HAUNTED HIM LIKE A GHOST. HE TRIED INSTEAD TO BE A BETTER PERSON – OR AT LEAST A DIFFERENT PERSON – AND BEGAN WORKING FOR THE ALL-MOTHER, HAVING HIS CRIMES ERASED FROM HISTORY IN RETURN FOR MISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE THRONE OF ASGARD.

(DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH, HE MADE FRIENDS – INCLUDING HIS BEST FRIEND, HUMAN LIE DETECTOR VERITY WILLIS, WHO FORGAVE AND STOOD UP FOR LOKI WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD.)

BUT THOSE MISSIONS, IT TURNED OUT, WERE IN THE SERVICE OF A PROMISED FUTURE FOR ASGARD – A GOLDEN TOMORROW WHERE KING THOR SAT ON THE THRONE AND "KING LOKI" WAS THE ETERNAL VILLAIN, TRAPPED FOREVER IN THAT ROLE. WHO HAD PREDICTED IT? KING LOKI HIMSELF – COME BACK THROUGH TIME TO BEDEVIL HIS PRESENT SELF...

...AND THROUGH A SCHEME, TO FORCE THE REVEAL OF ALL HIS SECRETS.

WHEN THOR ODINSON DISCOVERED THAT THE "KID LOKI" HE HAD LOVED WAS DEAD, AND AN ECHO SQUATTED IN HIS CORPSE, HE FLEW INTO A RAGE, NEARLY KILLING LOKI BEFORE DRAGGING HIM – BROKEN, INJURED, AND UNABLE TO LIE – TO ASGARDIA TO FACE THE JUDGMENT OF HIS PEERS.

NOW, THE ASGARDIANS STAND OVER THE GODLING, SHELL-SHOCKED, WONDERING...

...DID THEY EVER TRULY KNOW THE AGENT OF ASGARD?



ASGARDIA.

It...
It WASN'T
my FAULT.

I DIDN'T
MEAN IT.
I COULDN'T
HELP IT.
I HAD NO
CHOICE.

I WAS
THE MURDER
WEAPON, DON'T
YOU SEE THAT? I--
I COULDN'T
HAVE ACTED
DIFFERENTLY.

I'VE
CHANGED
now. I'm not
who I
WAS.

I'm
NOT WHO
HE WAS!

I'm
NOT THAT
LOKI!



It
WASN'T
ME!



PLEASE!



THAT'S
NOT ME!



STAY YOUR HAND, HOGUN.

DO NOT STAIN THYSELF WITH THE LIAR'S BLOOD.

BLOOD IS A STAIN I KNOW WELL, FANDRAL--AND NO HARDSHIP TO BEAR.

AND BEFORE US IS A KILLER OF SOULS.



DOES LOKI NOT DESERVE DEATH?

BUT HE IS DEAD, HOGUN.

OUR LOKI...



OUR LOKI IS DEAD.



LET HIM BE DEAD, THEN! LET HIM BE DEAD TO US ALL!

SO SPEAKS VOLSTAGG!

TURN THY BACKS!

NO!



VOLSTAGG, PLEASE--NOT THAT--

I ONLY DID WHAT I HAD TO--



VOLSTAGG--

WHO SPEAKS?



SURELY THE EMPTY AIR!

WHAPP



AND NONE HERE SPEAK TO AIR.

NONE HERE SPEAK TO GHOSTS.

I... SEE.

THEN...



GOOD DAY.

NOBLES OF ASGARD.



HE IS NOT WORTH THY GAZE, LADY SIF.

LOKI ONCE STOLE MY BODY TOO, FANDRAL. HE SQUATTED IN MY FLESH FOR MONTHS, AS IF IT WERE HIS OWN.*

I KNOW HIS FOULNESS WELL. I WOULD KNOW HIM ANYWHERE, IN ANY GUISE.

*SEE DARK REIGN! -WIL



BUT THAT ONE...



"...THAT ONE
I KNOW NOT."

TURN AWAY AND SLAM THE DOOR

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