

ON THE DAY THOR ODINSON LEARNED A LONG-KEPT SECRET STOLEN FROM THE WATCHER, HE DROPPED THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. TRY AS HE MIGHT, THOR COULD NOT LIFT HIS ONCE-FAITHFUL WEAPON. UNABLE TO POSSESS THE POWER OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT, THE THUNDER GOD RELINQUISHED THE NAME OF THOR AND NOW SIMPLY CALLS HIMSELF ODINSON. NOW HE SEARCHES FOR REDEMPTION, BUT UNTIL HE FINDS IT, HE WILL REMAIN...

The unworthy THOR



RECENTLY, AFTER AN EGO-BRUIING BATTLE ON THE MOON WITH ULIK, KING OF THE TROLLS, ODINSON CROSSED PATHS WITH A BEING KNOWN AS THE UNSEEN, WHO SEEMED TO HAVE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF ODINSON'S FALL FROM GLORY.

WHEN THE UNSEEN SPOKE OF ANOTHER HAMMER HIDDEN ON OLD ASGARD, ODINSON RACED TOWARD THE RUINS OF HIS FORMER HOME, BUT ARRIVED TO FIND OLD ASGARD SOMEHOW MISSING. AS HE WEIGHED THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF AN ENTIRE REALM, REDEMPTION PRESENTED ITSELF IN THE FORM OF AN OLD FRIEND, BETA RAY BILL...

THE THIEF OF ASGARD

WRITER: **JASON AARON** ARTIST: **OLIVIER COIPEL** COLOR ARTIST: **MATTHEW WILSON** LETTERER & PRODUCTION: **VC'S JOE SABINO**

COVER ARTISTS:
OLIVIER COIPEL & MATTHEW WILSON

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS:
KRIS ANKA; JIM CHEUNG & LAURA MARTIN; MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN

ASST. EDITOR: **CHARLES BEACHAM** EDITOR: **WIL MOSS** EXEC. EDITOR: **TOM BREVOORT** EDITOR IN CHIEF: **AXEL ALONSO** CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: **JOE QUESADA** PUBLISHER: **DAN BUCKLEY** EXEC. PRODUCER: **ALAN FINE**



THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

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THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE BEEN USURPED AS THE WIELDER OF MJOLNIR.

BILL, I... I KNOW NOT WHAT TO SAY.



YEARS AGO, THERE WAS ANOTHER. A STRANGER FROM BEYOND THE STARS CALLED BETA RAY BILL.

SAY YOU'LL TAKE MY HAMMER, PLEASE, THOR. IT WOULD BE MY HONOR.

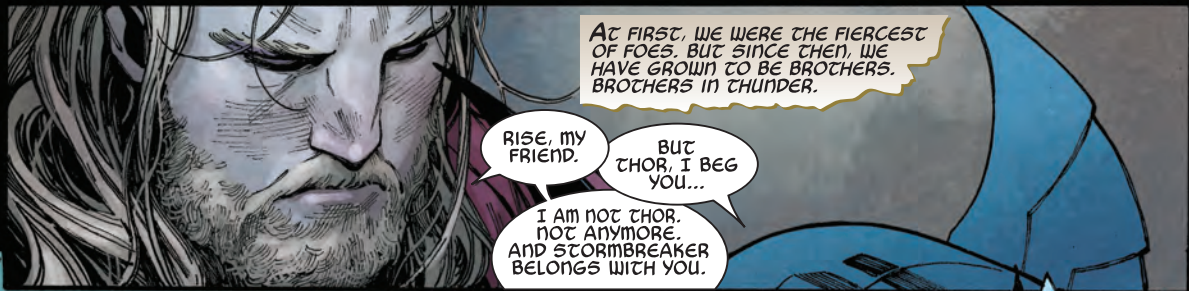


AT FIRST, WE WERE THE FIERCEST OF FOES, BUT SINCE THEN, WE HAVE GROWN TO BE BROTHERS. BROTHERS IN THUNDER.

RISE, MY FRIEND.

BUT THOR, I BEG YOU...

I AM NOT THOR. NOT ANYMORE. AND STORMBREAKER BELONGS WITH YOU.



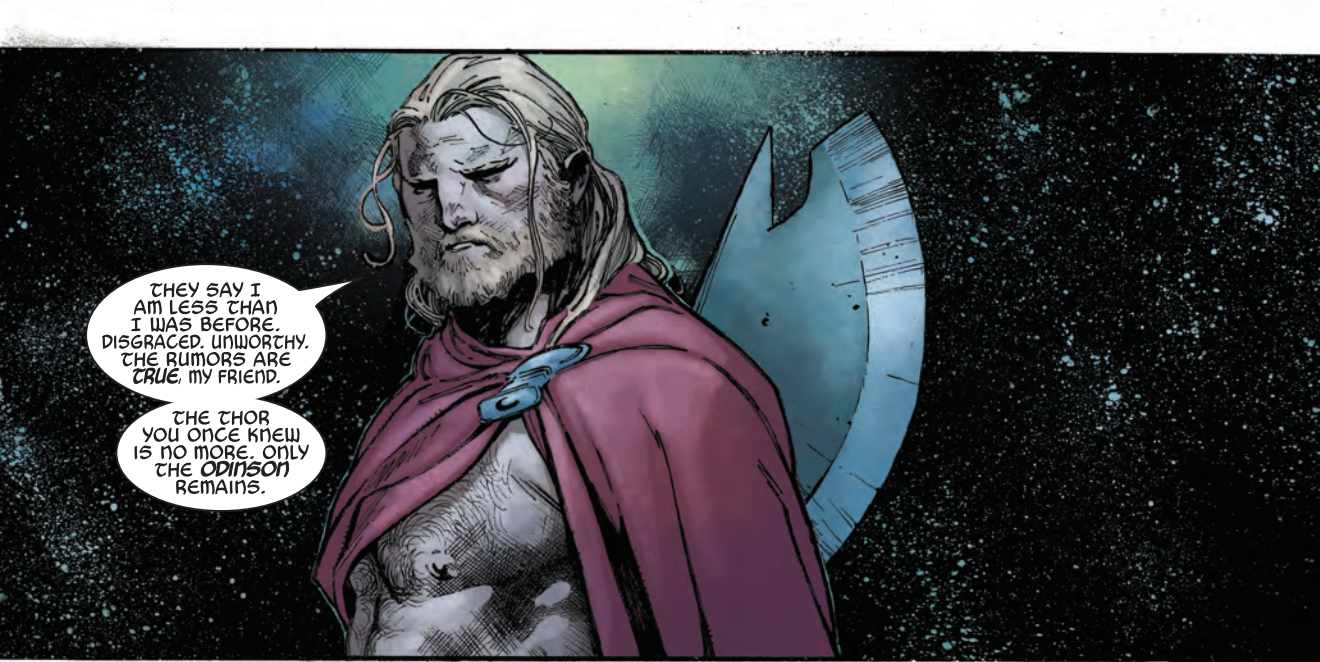
NOW HIS FRIENDSHIP IS CLEARLY YET ANOTHER THING...

...OF WHICH I AM NO LONGER WORTHY.

YOU ARE A NOBLE SOUL, BETA RAY BILL. AND A TRUE FRIEND.

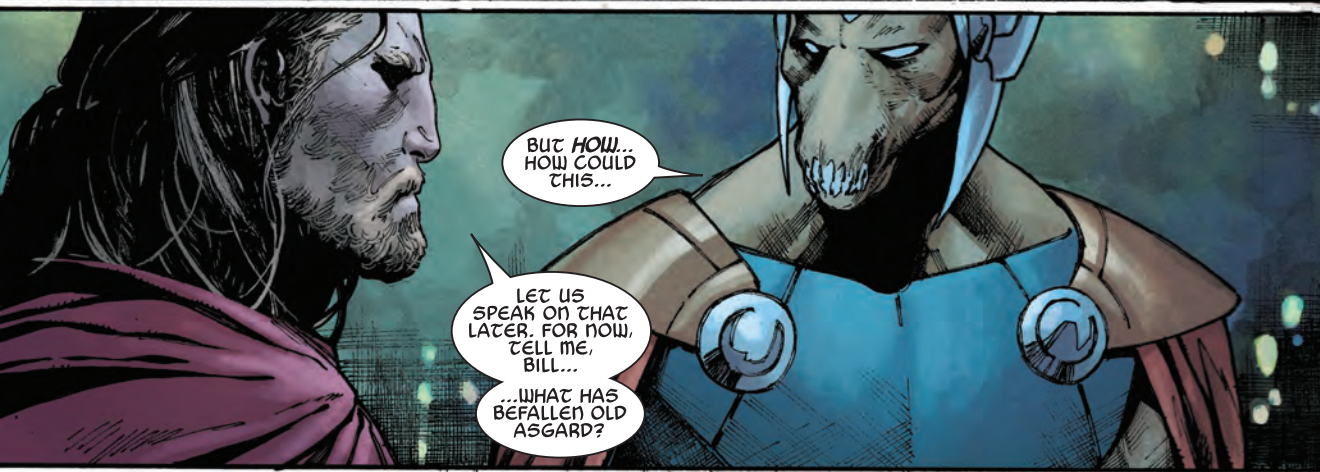
BUT THIS CANNOT BE REAL. THE RUMORS, THEY SAY...





THEY SAY I AM LESS THAN I WAS BEFORE. DISGRACED. UNWORTHY. THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, MY FRIEND.

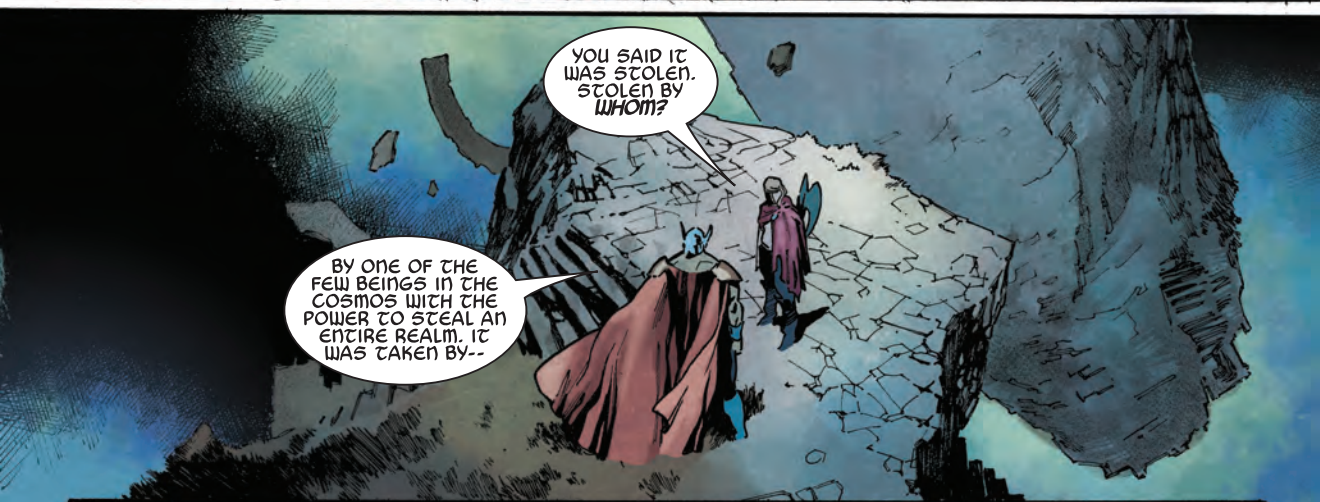
THE THOR YOU ONCE KNEW IS NO MORE. ONLY THE ODINSON REMAINS.



BUT HOW... HOW COULD THIS...

LET US SPEAK ON THAT LATER. FOR NOW, TELL ME, BILL...

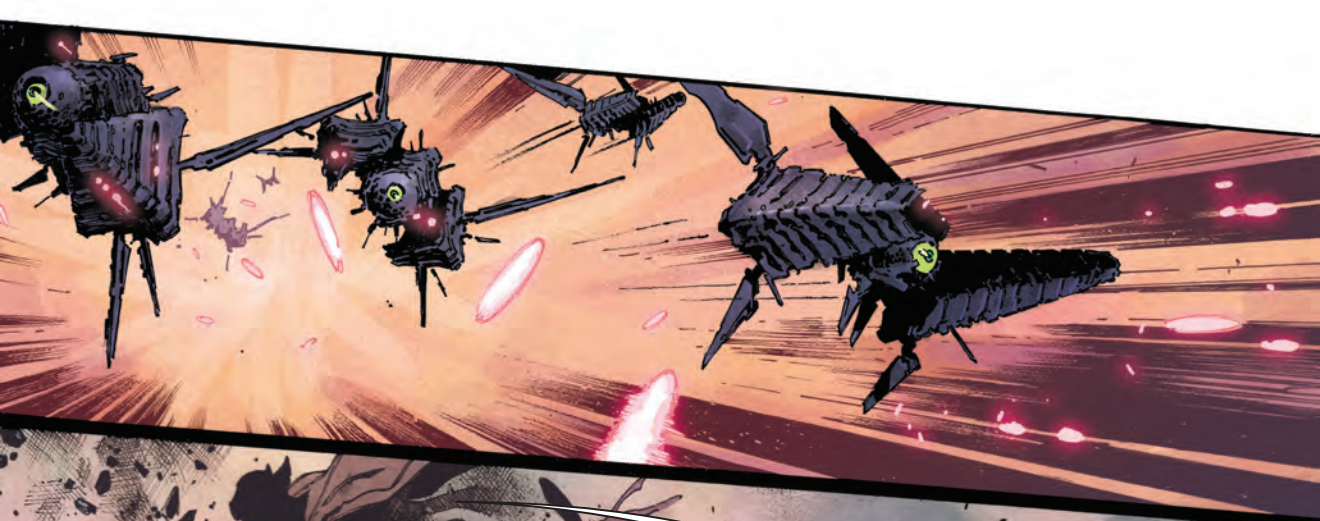
...WHAT HAS BEFALLEN OLD ASGARD?



YOU SAID IT WAS STOLEN. STOLEN BY WHOM?

BY ONE OF THE FEW BEINGS IN THE COSMOS WITH THE POWER TO STEAL AN ENTIRE REALM. IT WAS TAKEN BY--





BY THEM?

BY THEM.

THEN LET US HAVE WORDS WITH THESE THIEVES, MY BROTHER.

I WAS JUST THINKING THE VERY SAME THING.

BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS, GIVEN YOUR... CONDITION?



I AM UNWORTHY--



"--NOT DEAD."



SO I SEE.



FOR ASGARD!