

MARVEL

LEGACY

LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME

382

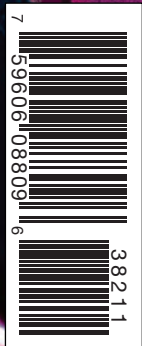


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DOCTOR STRANGE



STEPHEN STRANGE WAS A PREEMINENT SURGEON UNTIL A CAR ACCIDENT DAMAGED THE NERVES IN HIS HANDS. HIS EGO DROVE HIM TO SCOUR THE GLOBE FOR A MIRACLE CURE. INSTEAD, HE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS WIZARD CALLED THE ANCIENT ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM MAGIC AND THAT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD BIGGER THAN HIMSELF. THESE LESSONS ENABLED STEPHEN TO BECOME THE SORCERER SUPREME, EARTH'S FIRST DEFENSE AGAINST ALL MANNER OF MAGICAL THREATS. HIS PATIENTS CALL HIM...

DOCTOR STRANGE

**LAST
TIME...**

HE'S STILL PRACTICING MEDICINE (IN A WAY), BUT DOCTOR STRANGE IS NO LONGER SORCERER SUPREME. THAT TITLE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ASGARDIAN GOD OF MISCHIEF AND LIES, LOKI LAUFEYSON, IN A TOURNAMENT STRANGE IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZES THE OUTCOME AS LEGITIMATE. LOKI EVEN HAS ADVANTAGES AS SORCERER SUPREME: STRANGE'S POWER WAS AT ITS NADIR AFTER THE RECENT WAR ON MAGIC, AND LOKI'S DIVINITY APPARENTLY ALLOWS HIM TO CAST SPELLS WITHOUT ANY COST. AND THOUGH WONG HAS LEFT THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, STRANGE'S APPRENTICE AND FRIEND, ZELMA STANTON, IS THERE AIDING LOKI AND ANYONE IN NEED OF MYSTICAL ASSISTANCE.

STILL, THE REST OF THE MAGICAL COMMUNITY IS SUSPICIOUS, AND SCARLET WITCH HAS CHIDED STRANGE FOR HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW STATUS QUO.

**"LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME"
PART TWO**

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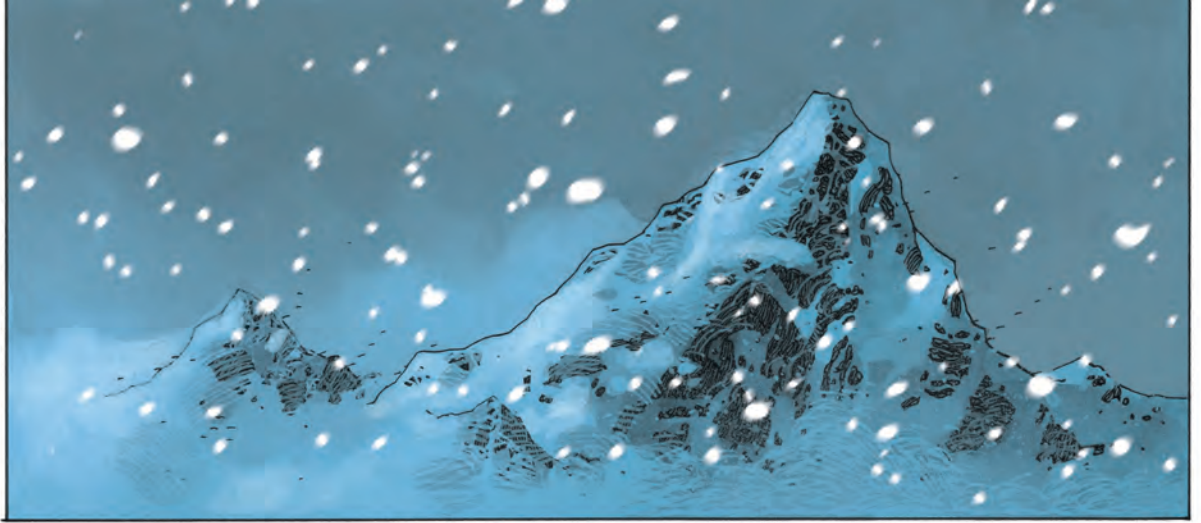
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I SHOULDN'T BE HERE.



I MADE A PROMISE TO THE MAN AT THE TOP OF THIS MOUNTAIN THAT I WOULD NEVER COME TO HIM FOR HELP.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, HE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST.

AND THE ODDS ARE STRONG HE'LL KILL ME FOR EVEN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE CONTACT...

(MUCH LESS ASKING HIM TO JOIN ME IN A FIGHT AGAINST A GOD.)



SO, WHY AM I CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN JUST TO GET BEATEN TO DEATH?

WELL, I HAD A REALLY, REALLY BAD DAY TODAY.

LIKE MOST STORIES WORTH TELLING, THIS ONE BEGAN, AND ENDED...



...WITH A DOG.

HEY DOC, I WENT AND CHECKED IN ON THAT THING YOU WANTED ME TO LOOK AT. TURNS OUT YOUR WITCH FRIEND WAS RIGHT, LOKI BEEN BANGIN' ON EVERY MAGIC DOOR IN THE CITY TRYIN' TO--

AHEM...



...BATS, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND?

OH, HEY, OOPS. YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A THING?

YES.



OH, DANG... YOU AIN'T TOLD 'EM YET, HUH?

NO. NO, I HAVE NOT.

WELL, THAT IS ON ME. SORRY, FOLKS.



I'LL BE IN YOUR OFFICE.

VERY GOOD. THANK YOU, BATS.

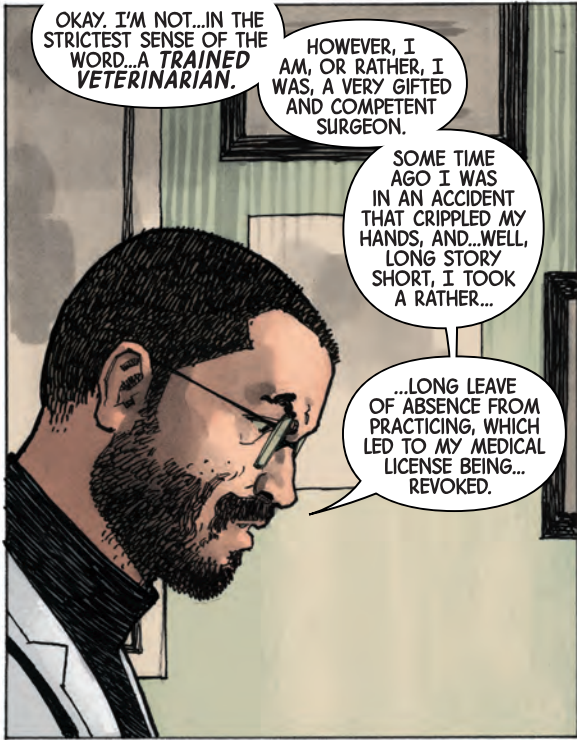




WELL, OKAY... AS I WAS SAYING, DAISY SEEMS TO BE EXPERIENCING SOME ARTHRITIS IN HER--

ARE WE JUST NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT DOG SPEAKING ENGLISH?

->SIGH<-



OKAY. I'M NOT...IN THE STRICTEST SENSE OF THE WORD...A TRAINED VETERINARIAN.

HOWEVER, I AM, OR RATHER, I WAS, A VERY GIFTED AND COMPETENT SURGEON.

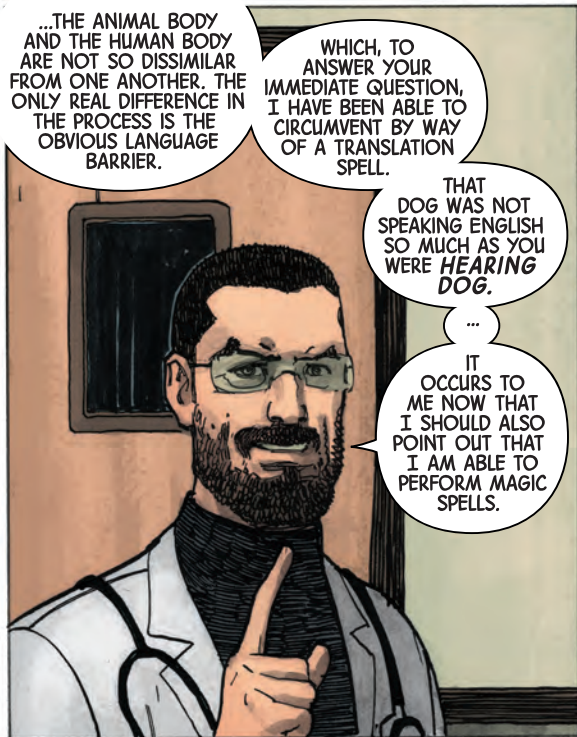
SOME TIME AGO I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT THAT CRIPPLED MY HANDS, AND...WELL, LONG STORY SHORT, I TOOK A RATHER...

...LONG LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM PRACTICING, WHICH LED TO MY MEDICAL LICENSE BEING... REVOKED.



SO, I OPENED THIS PLACE. NOW, I KNOW IT MAY SOUND... UNUSUAL...

BUT REALLY...

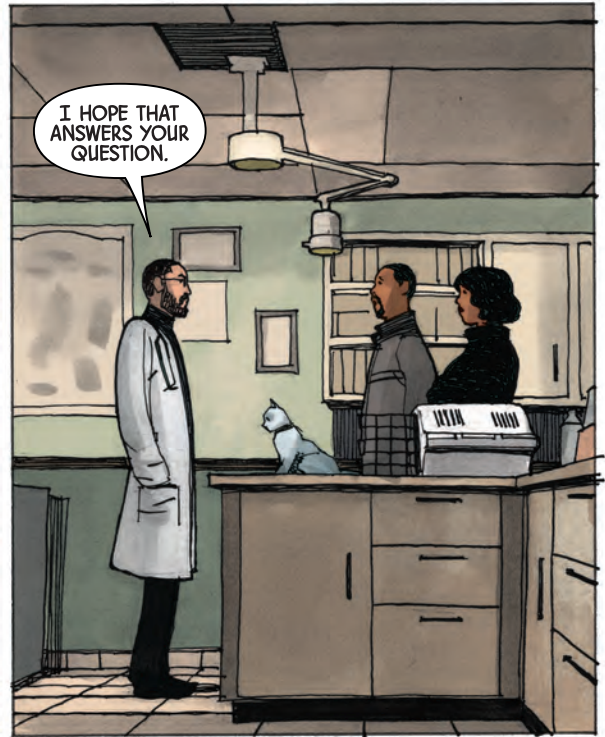


...THE ANIMAL BODY AND THE HUMAN BODY ARE NOT SO DISSIMILAR FROM ONE ANOTHER. THE ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE PROCESS IS THE OBVIOUS LANGUAGE BARRIER.

WHICH, TO ANSWER YOUR IMMEDIATE QUESTION, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CIRCUMVENT BY WAY OF A TRANSLATION SPELL.

THAT DOG WAS NOT SPEAKING ENGLISH SO MUCH AS YOU WERE **HEARING DOG**.

... IT OCCURS TO ME NOW THAT I SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT I AM ABLE TO PERFORM MAGIC SPELLS.



I HOPE THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.



HOW'D THAT GO?

HOW DO YOU THINK IT WENT? THEY TOOK THEIR CAT AND RAN HOME.

DOC, YOU GOTTA START LYING TO PEOPLE.



I'M NOT OVERLY FOND OF LIARS, BATS.



RIGHT, RIGHT. SO HEY, YOU WANNA HEAR WHAT I DUG UP IN THE CLANDESTINE SPYING MISSION YOU SENT ME ON?

YES, WHAT DID YOU FIND?



SO, TURNS OUT LOKI IS HUNTING ALL OVER HELL'S HALF ACRE FOR SOME KINDA SPELL CALLED "THE EXILE OF SINGSONG" OR SOME--

SINGHSON?



COULD BE, YEAH.

OH, LOKI...YOU FOOL.