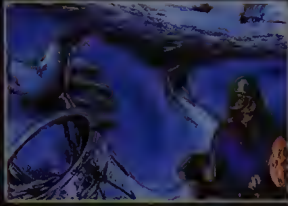
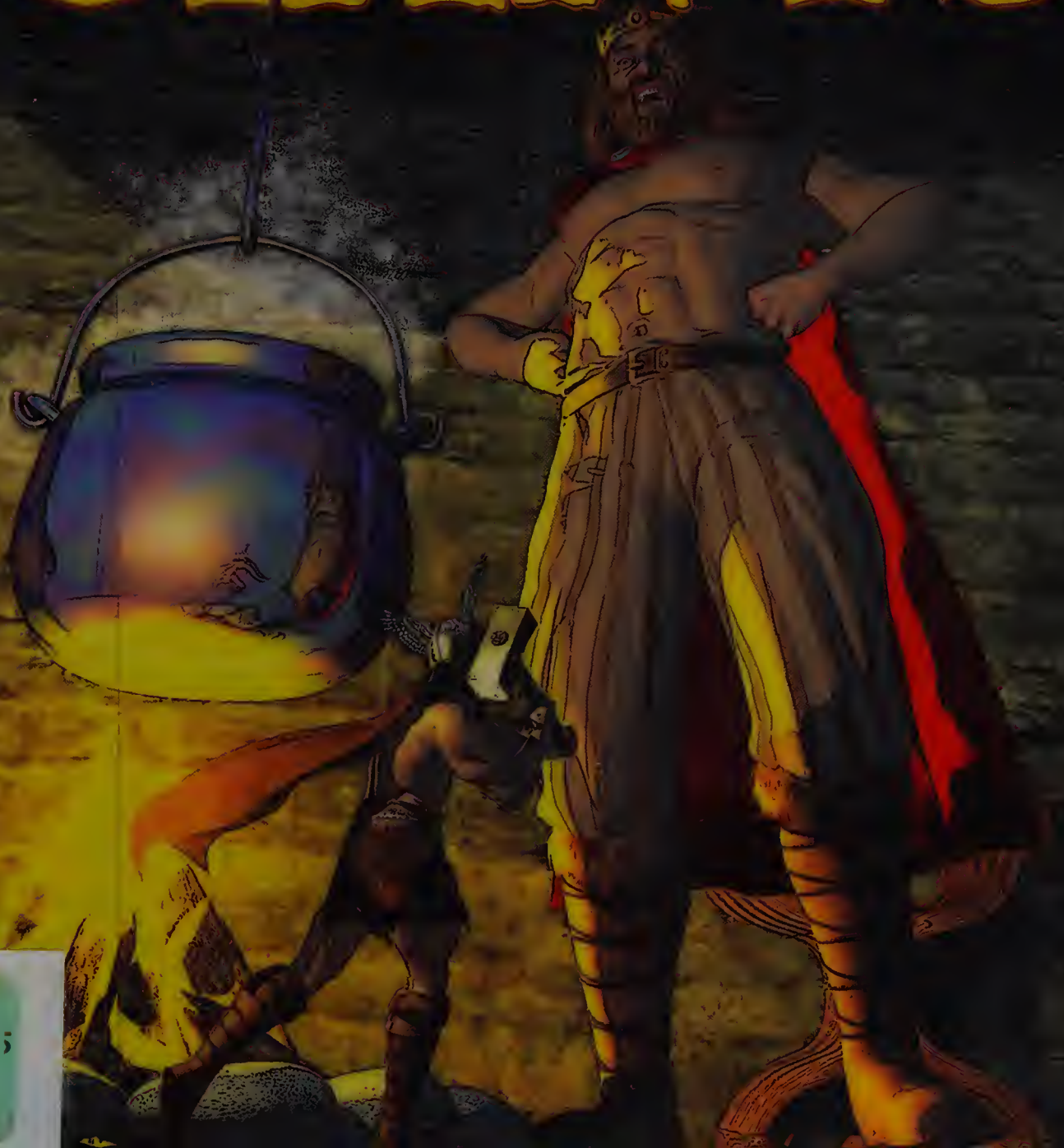


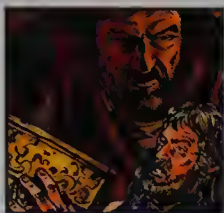
GRAPHIC MYTHICAL CREATURES



GIANTS



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GIANTS

BY GARY JEFFREY

ILLUSTRATED BY NICK SPENDER



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TALL STORIES

Mythical giants can be as tall as a house or the size of a mountain. Years ago, people believed that giants had walked the earth but were long gone. All that was left were huge bones, strange landmarks, and stories...

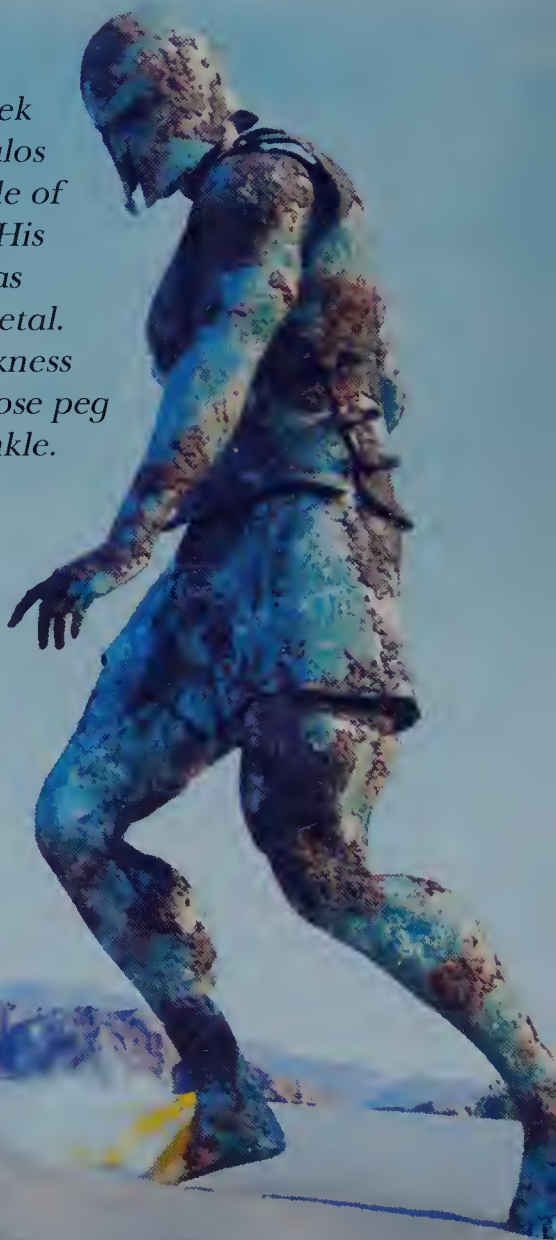


A legendary biblical giant slayer was the Israelite David. He killed Goliath with a rock from his sling.

The Greek giant Talos was made of bronze. His blood was liquid metal. His weakness was a loose peg in his ankle.

ANCIENT GIANTS

Mythical Greek giants, called Gigantes, gave their name to giants. Herakles, or Hercules, was a giant-size man who fought real giants. Giants like Kumbhakarna, a huge hungry demon, feature in Eastern culture.



GIANT FEATURES

Unusual land features showed where mythical giants had been. Huge stones that stood in fields, ancient palaces with walls made of massive boulders, and vast, rock-paved roads were all once thought to be the handiwork of giants.

The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland



The bad-tempered giant from the fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk"

TROUBLESOME GIANTS

Whether clumsy or just plain mean, giants caused trouble. They stole cattle and drank rivers dry. Their fighting made the ground shake. To fearful humans, they were the forces of mayhem.

The god Thor often came up against giants. Some Norse giants commanded fire and ice — important elements in the world.




THOR IN THE LAND OF THE GIANTS

THOR AND LOKI HAD COME TO THE GIANTS' CASTLE LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE...

...NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO STAY HERE UNLESS THEY CAN PROVE THEY ARE THE BEST AT SOMETHING!

THE CHALLENGE WAS LAID DOWN BY UTGARD-LOKI, THE KING OF THE GIANTS.





A HUGE PILE OF MEAT WAS SET IN A TROUGH. LOKI AND LOGI SAT AT EACH END. LOKI ATE AS FAST AS HE COULD.

GNNNARRRF!
GNNAAAAGH!



GRARRRF!
GROFF!

GRUMPH!
GNNNARRGH!

LOGI, THE GIANT,
ATE JUST AS FAST,
AND THEY MET IN
THE MIDDLE.





I CAN OUTDRINK
ANYONE!


AHA! PASS HIM
THE HORN.



THOR FELT CONFIDENT. HE WAS AS
THIRSTY AS HE'D EVER BEEN IN HIS LIFE.


A GOOD DRINKER
CAN DRAIN THAT
HORN IN ONE GULP!





THOR WAS TROUBLED. HE'D DRUNK AS DEEPLY AS HE COULD, YET THE HORN WAS STILL ALMOST FULL.

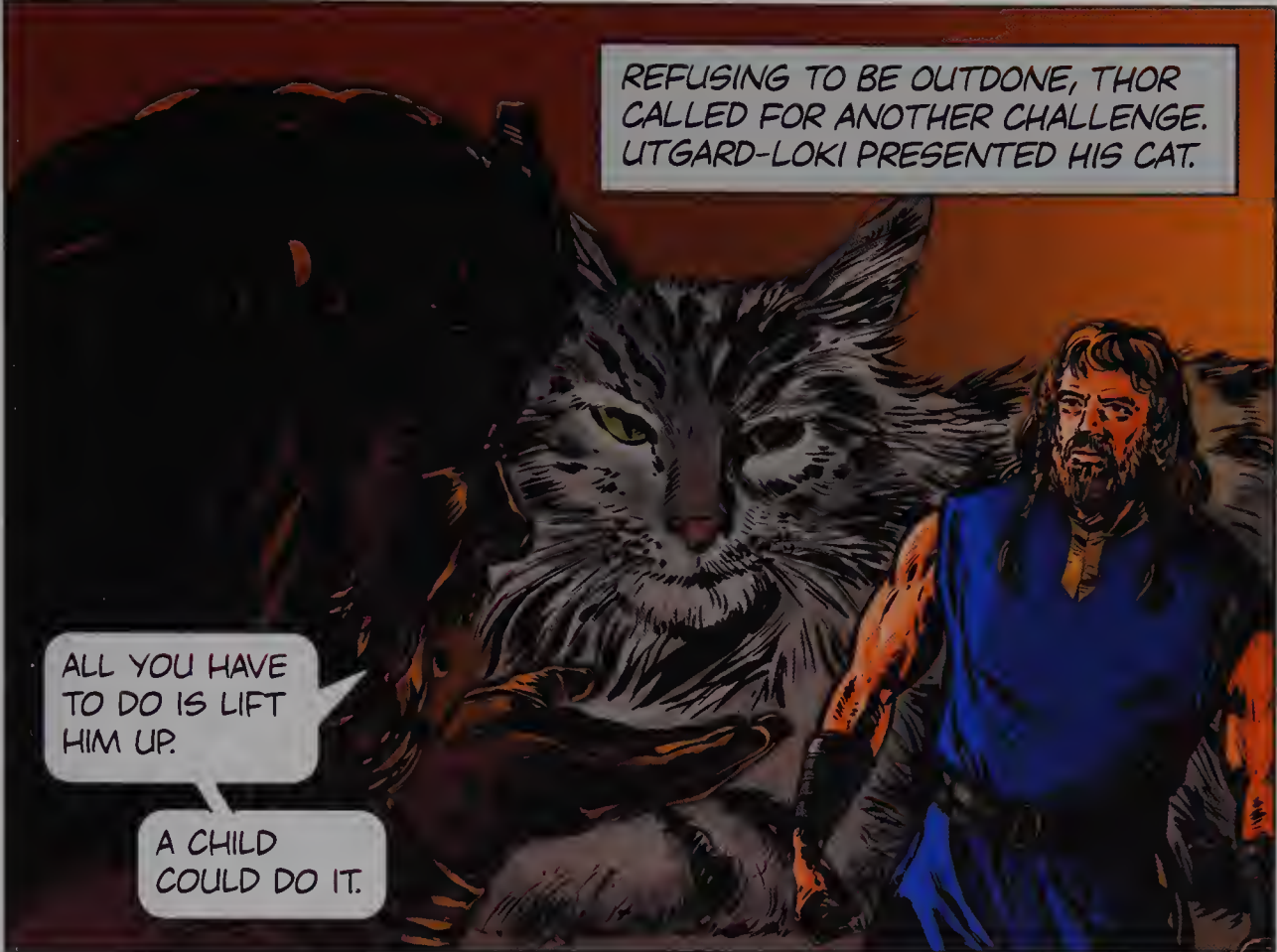
...GRAAAAAGH!?



AFTER THREE TRIES, THE HORN WAS STILL THREE-QUARTERS FULL.

SO YOU'RE NOT AS MIGHTY AS THEY SAY, THOR.


THOR WAS CRESTFALLEN.

A comic book panel showing Thor, a muscular man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue tunic. He is standing next to a massive, grey, shaggy cat with yellow eyes. The cat is looking towards Thor. The background is a dark, reddish-brown color.

REFUSING TO BE OUTDONE, THOR
CALLED FOR ANOTHER CHALLENGE.
UTGARD-LOKI PRESENTED HIS CAT.


ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS LIFT
HIM UP.

A CHILD
COULD DO IT.

A comic book panel showing Thor from a low angle, struggling to lift the massive paw of the giant cat. He is grimacing with effort, his mouth open in a shout. The cat's paw is enormous and grey, with sharp claws. The background is a dark, reddish-brown color.


BUT THE CAT WAS TOO HEAVY. THOR
COULD ONLY MANAGE TO LIFT ITS PAW.

GRRRRRRRAAGH...



THOR GOT
ANGRY.

WHO WILL
FIGHT ME?



THE MALE GIANTS
REFUSED TO
FIGHT SOMEONE
SO WEEDY, SO
UTGARD-LOKI PUT
FORWARD HIS OLD
NURSE, CALLED
ELLI, TO WRESTLE
WITH THOR.

SO HE'S
MOCKING ME!

BUT THE CRONE ELLI...

...WAS AS STRONG AS A ROCK.



GNNNGH!...
...HNNNGH!




HURRRGH!...
...GNNARRRGH!



GAAAAAAGH!!
...I GIVE UP..


THOR FELT ASHAMED.



UTGARD-LOKI LED THEM
OUT OF THE PALACE.

NOW, DON'T FEEL BAD. YOU
DID MUCH BETTER THAN I
THOUGHT YOU WOULD.

AND THINGS ARE
NOT QUITE WHAT
THEY SEEM.




THE KING EXPLAINED THAT EVERY
CHALLENGE HAD BEEN AN ILLUSION.

LOKI, YOU WERE NOT
REALLY EATING AGAINST
LOGI. YOU WERE
BATTLING AGAINST FIRE.




?


SO THAT IS WHY THE
BONES AND TROUGH
WERE EATEN UP!



THOR, THE END OF YOUR DRINKING HORN WAS JOINED TO THE **SEA**. YOU ACTUALLY DRANK SO MUCH YOU CREATED TIDES!




THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T DRAIN IT!



"WHEN YOU LIFTED THE CAT'S PAW, YOU WERE ACTUALLY LIFTING THE **TAIL** OF THE MIDGARD SERPENT."

THE GUARDIAN OF THE UNDERWORLD? WHAT A TRICK!

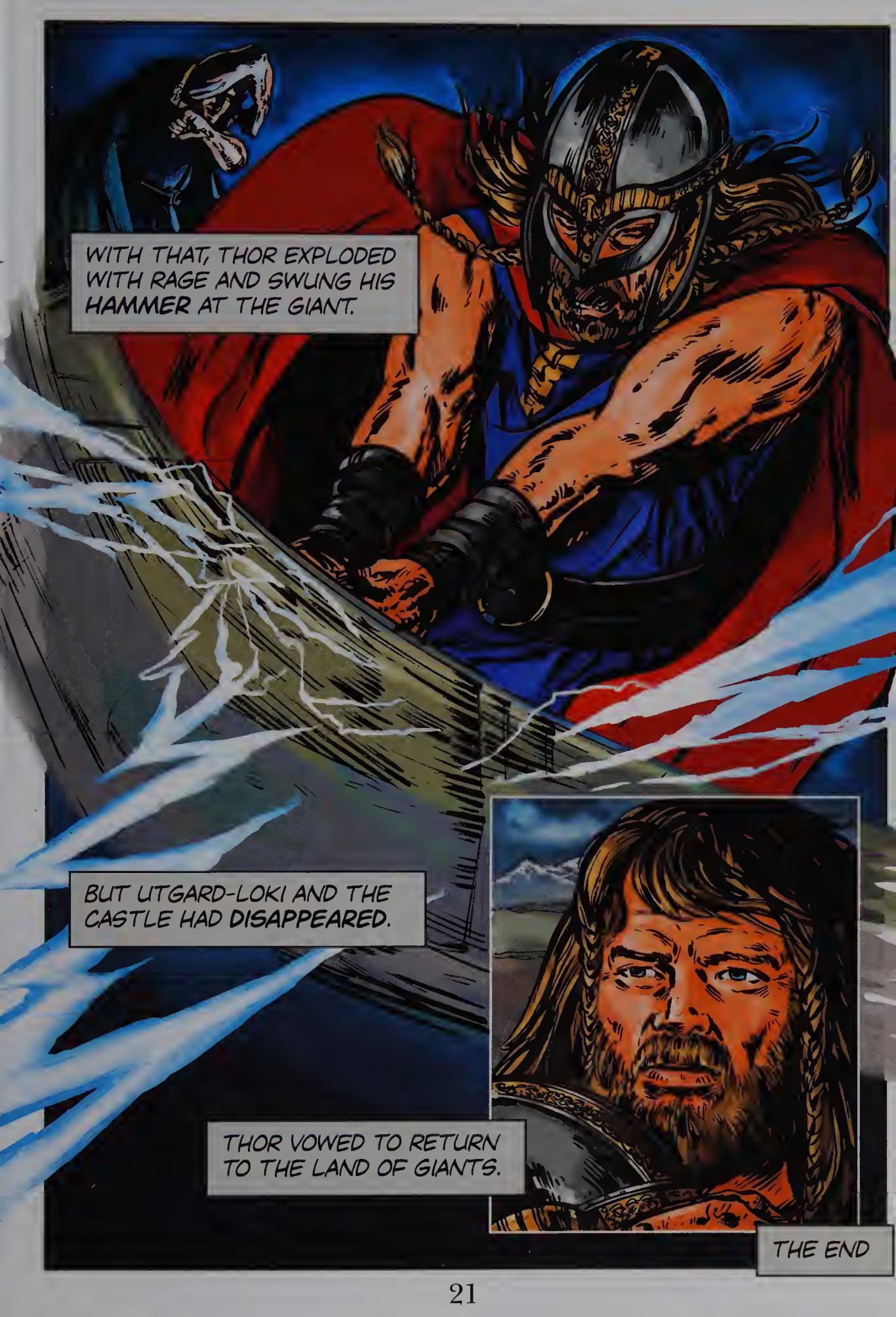


UTGARD-LOKI EXPLAINED
THAT WHEN THOR FOUGHT
ELLI, HE WAS ACTUALLY
WRESTLING WITH OLD AGE...

"...A BATTLE
THAT NO ONE
CAN WIN!"

I AM A GOD!
HOW DARE YOU
INSULT ME?





WITH THAT, THOR EXPLODED
WITH RAGE AND SWUNG HIS
HAMMER AT THE GIANT.

BUT UTGARD-LOKI AND THE
CASTLE HAD DISAPPEARED.

THOR VOWED TO RETURN
TO THE LAND OF GIANTS.



THE END

OTHER GIGANTIC TALES



Herakles crushes Antaeus.

Thor did return to the land of the giants for more adventures. Listed below are some other well-known stories featuring larger-than-life characters.

Herakles and Antaeus

The Greek hero Herakles wrestles with a murderous Libyan giant called Antaeus and finds his weakness.

Haymo and the Dragon

The good Austrian giant Haymo saves a village from the terrors of a dragon.

The Myth of Cabracan

Cabracan, a Mayan giant, is the size of a mountain. When he is angry, he causes earthquakes. A pair of human hero twins decide to take him on.

Finn McCool

Celtic giant Finn McCool argues hotly with a rival giant. In a fury, he scoops up a huge lump of land and throws it into the ocean. The place where it lands becomes an island.

Kumbhakarna

After being asleep for six months, the huge Indian giant Kumbhakarna wakes up feeling terribly hungry. He grabs trees, bushes, rocks, and humans that are in the way.

The awakening of Kumbhakarna



GLOSSARY

ashamed Feeling embarrassed and sometimes guilty because of your behavior or performance.

clumsy Lacking physical coordination and skill in movement.

crestfallen Feeling disheartened and discouraged.

crone An ugly, withered old woman.

demon An evil spirit.

handiwork Something made or done by a particular person or creature.

illusion An unreal idea or image that creates a false impression.

landmark A prominent feature of the landscape that identifies a particular place.

legendary Relating to a legend, which is a story passed down through history.

mayhem A state of violent disorder and confusion.

mocking Making fun of and insulting.

trough A long, narrow open container holding water or food for animals.

weedy Having a thin, bony, and weak build.

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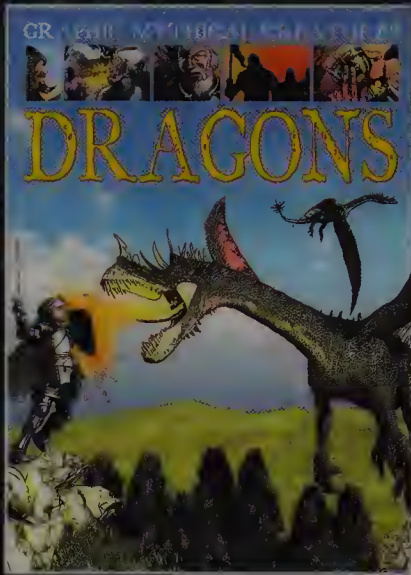
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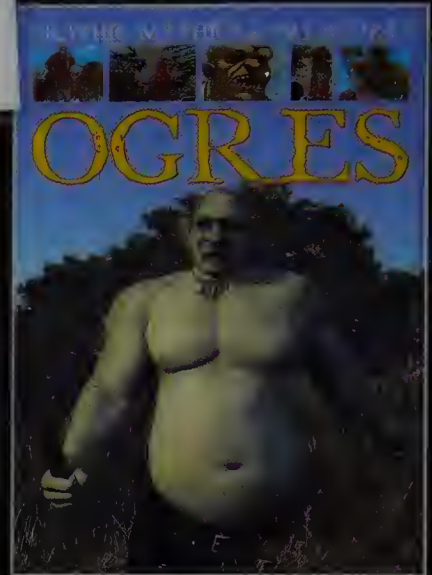
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