

**ALFHEIM.
THE PALACE OF
LJOSALFGARD.**

THE FIRST BATTLE IN WHAT WOULD BECOME MALEKICH'S WAR OF THE REALMS WAS FOUGHT MANY MOONS AGO, IN THE ONCE RADIANT AND PEACEFUL REALM OF THE LIGHT ELVES.

IN TRUTH IT WAS MORE MASSACRE THAN BATTLE.

MALEKICH'S DARK ELF ARMY SACKED THE CAPITAL CITY, BURNED THE GARDENS OF THE FAY, POISONED THE CHARDONNAY RIVER, AND SCARRED QUEEN FEATHERWINE BEFORE MARCHING ON TO THE NEXT REALM.

THE LIGHT ELF SURVIVORS HAVE LIVED IN SQUALOR AND HUNGER EVER SINCE. SCARVING NOT JUST FOR ELVISH SPICE CAKES AND CHOCOLATE-COVERED MUSHROOMS, BUT DRIVEN ABOVE ALL ELSE BY ONE SEARING, ALL-CONSUMING HUNGER...

SIR IVORY...
I SENSE IT TOO. GET BEHIND ME, MY QUEEN.

NO CHANCE OF THAT.

...FOR REVENGE.

A BLACK BIFROST PORTAL FROM SVARTALFHEIM! WHATEVER COMES THROUGH, SEND IT TO HELL!

HOLD YOUR FIRE.
I'M NO DAMN ELF.

A HUMAN WITH A SKULL BRAND AND THE EYES OF WAR, WHO TRAVELS BY BLACK BIFROST. YOU'RE AN AGENT OF MALEKITH THE ACCURSED IF I'VE EVER SEEN ONE.

KNOW HOW YOU CAN TELL I'M NOT? YOU'RE ALL STILL ALIVE.

MY FRIEND, IF YOU SO MUCH AS TICKLE A WEAPON...

...I WILL SHOOT OFF EACH OF YOUR FINGERS.
I'D ONLY NEED ONE. BUT MAYBE ANOTHER TIME. THOR'S MOM SENT ME.

LADY FREYJA?

YEAH, THAT ONE. YOU PEOPLE LOST FAMILY TO MALEKITH AND WANT THE CHANCE TO PAY HIM BACK? YOU'RE IN LUCK. FOLLOW ME...

"...AND I'LL LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE WAR."

BITTERHAND!
AREN'T YOU WATCHING?!

WE BOMBED THE BRIDGE, BUT WE NEED MORE ELVES TO BRING DOWN THESE GODS! OPEN THE BOG-DAMNED BIFROST BEFORE WE--

BITTERHAND CANNOT SAVE YOU.

GAAAGH!!

FOR OURS IS NOT THE ONLY BIFROST THAT HAS FALLEN.

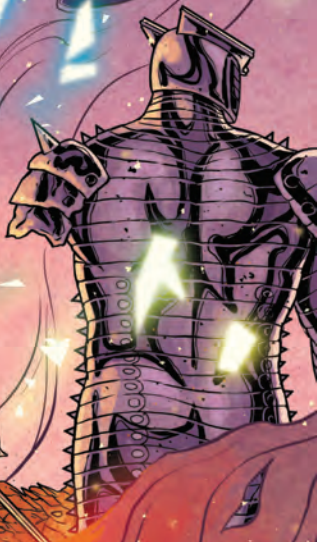
 **ASGARD.**

APOLOGIES, HEIMDALL. I'VE PROVEN A POOR GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.

NO WORSE THAN I, LORD DAREDEVIL. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS, YOU FULFILLED THE MISSION. OUR STRIKE TEAMS WERE DISPATCHED.

YEAH, BUT WERE YOU ABLE TO BRING THEM HOME?

I'M AFRAID NOT, ALL-MOTHER JANE. FOR THAT MIRACLE TO HAPPEN...



"...WE SHOULD ALL NOW PRAY TO FREYJA."

SVARTALFHEIM.

I SEE THE LAST BLACKENED BREATHS OF LIFE WITHERING INSIDE YOUR LUNGS, BITTERHAND. I SEE THE SPIDERS IN HEL LICKING THEIR MANDIBLES, WAITING EAGERLY TO RECEIVE YOU.

I SEE EVERY DARKNESS AND MISERY IN ALL THE REALMS.

EVERY BLOODY HORROR OF THIS WAR.

EVERY DAMNED ONE OF MALEKITH'S CRIMES.

AS WIELDER OF THE BITTERBLADE AND NEW GUARDIAN OF THE BLACK BIFROST...

...I SEE MORE DARK ELVES DYING HERE THIS DAY.

BUT NOT AT YOUR HANDS, MY LADY HULK. I TOLD YOU TO GET THROUGH THAT PORTAL.

REST OF TEAM GONE! HULK NOT LEAVE SHE-GOD ALONE! TOO MANY ELVES THAT NEED SMASHING!

LEAVE THESE ELVES TO ME.

WITH THIS SWORD I'M STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD OFF ALL OF SVARTALFHEIM IF I MUST. AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO FINISH THE MISSION.

SO GO, HULK. 'TIS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO SAVE MIDGARD.

NO! HULK NOT--

YOU'RE AS STUBBORN AS MY HUSBAND. BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR DEBATE. THE GUARDIAN OF THE BLACK BRIDGE HAS SPOKEN!

GRRRGGH!

JUST... DO ME THE FAVOR OF TELLING MY SON...

...THAT HIS MOTHER LOVED HIM. LIKE LIGHTNING LOVES THE THUNDER.

SHE'S JUST ONE GODDESS! SWARM HER AND TEAR HER TO PIECES!

AYE, JUST ONE GODDESS. AND HOW MANY DARK ELVES DO YOU THINK ONE GODDESS IS WORTH?

HUNDREDS? THOUSANDS? **ALL OF YOU!**

KEEP COMING UNTIL WE HAVE AN ANSWER!

