The Coming of Thor

**Borrowed from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia with a few minor tweaks.**

*Thor* is a fictional character, a superhero who appears in publications published by Marvel Comics. The character first appeared in *Journey into Mystery* #83 (Aug. 1962) and was created by editor-plotter Stan Lee, scripter Larry Lieber, and penciller Jack Kirby.

Debuting in the Silver Age of Comic Books, the character is based on the Thor of Norse mythology, the God of Thunder. He has starred in several ongoing series and limited series, and has been a perennial member of the superhero team the Avengers, appearing in each of the four volumes. The character has also appeared in associated Marvel merchandise including animated Television series, clothing, toys, trading cards and video games.

The film *Thor*, based on the character and comic, was released in 2011, with Kenneth Branagh as director and Chris Hemsworth starring as Thor. Hemsworth will reappear as Thor in the film *The Avengers*, set to be released in 2012 and *Thor 2* in 2013.

Thor debuted in the science fiction/fantasy anthology title *Journey into Mystery* #83 (cover-date Aug. 1962), created by editor-plotter Stan Lee, scripter Larry Lieber, and penciller Jack Kirby. Lee in 2002 described Thor's genesis early in the Marvel pantheon, following the creation of the Hulk:

“How do you make someone stronger than the strongest person? It finally came to me: Don't make him human — make him a god. I decided readers were already pretty familiar with the Greek and Roman gods. It might be fun to delve into the old Norse legends... Besides, I pictured Norse gods looking like Vikings of old, with the flowing beards, horned helmets, and battle clubs. ...*Journey into Mystery* needed a shot in the arm, so I picked Thor ... to headline the book. After writing an outline depicting the story and the characters I had in mind, I asked my brother, Larry, to write the script because I didn't have time. ...and it was only natural for me to assign the penciling to Jack Kirby.”
Subsequent stories of the 13-page feature "The Mighty Thor" continued to be plotted by Lee, and were variously scripted by Lieber or by Robert Bernstein, working under the pseudonym "R. Berns". Various artists penciled the feature, including Jack Kirby, Joe Sinnott, Don Heck, and Al Hartley. With *Journey into Mystery* #101 (Feb. 1964), the series began a long and definitive run by writer and co-plotter Lee and penciler and co-plotter Kirby that lasted until the by-then-retitled *Thor* (also called *The Mighty Thor*) #179 (Aug. 1970).

The five-page featurette "Tales of Asgard" was added in *Journey into Mystery* #97 (Oct. 1963), followed by "The Mighty Thor" becoming the dominant cover logo with issue #104 (May 1964). The feature itself expanded to 18 pages in #105, which eliminated the remaining anthological story from each issue; it was reduced to 16 pages five issues later.

*Journey into Mystery* was retitled *Thor* (per the indicia, or *The Mighty Thor* per most covers)[2] with issue #126 (March 1966). "Tales of Asgard" was replaced by a five-page featurette starring the Inhumans from #146–152 (Nov. 1967 – May 1968), after which featurettes were dropped and the Thor stories expanded to Marvel's then-standard 20-page length.

After Kirby left the title, Neal Adams penciled issues #180-181 (Sept.-Oct. 1970). John Buscema then became the regular artist the following issue. Buscema continued to draw the book almost without interruption until #278 (Dec. 1978). Lee stopped scripting soon after Kirby left, and during Buscema's long stint on the book, the stories were mostly written by Gerry Conway, Len Wein, or Roy Thomas. Thomas continued to write the book after Buscema's departure, working much of the time with the artist Keith Pollard; during this period Thomas integrated many elements of traditional Norse mythology into the title, with specific stories translated into comics form. Following Thomas's tenure, *Thor* had a changing creative team.

Walt Simonson took over both writing and art as of #337 (Nov. 1983). Simonson's run as writer-artist lasted until #367 (May 1986), although he continued to write – and occasionally draw – the book until issue #382 (Aug. 1987). Simonson's run, which introduced the character Beta Ray Bill, was regarded as a popular and critical success.

After Simonson's departure, Marvel's editor-in-chief at the time, Tom DeFalco, became the writer. Working primarily with artist Ron Frenz, DeFalco stayed on the book until #459 (Feb. 1993).

As a consequence of the "Heroes Reborn" crossover story arc of the 1990s, Thor was removed from mainstream Marvel continuity and with other Marvel characters re-imagined in an alternate universe for one year. The *Thor* title reverted to *Journey into Mystery* with issue #503 (Nov. 1996), and ran four different, sequential features ( not notably *The Lost Gods*) before ceasing publication with #521 (June 1998).

When the character was returned to the mainstream Marvel Universe, Thor was relaunched with *Thor* vol. 2, #1 (July 1998). As of issue #36, the title used dual numbering in a tribute to the original Thor series, and the caption box for said issue became #36 / #538 (June 2001). The title ran until issue #85 / #587, dated December 2004. Dan Jurgens wrote the first 79 issues, with Daniel Berman and Michael Avon Oeming completing the series.
The third volume debuted as *Thor* #1 (Sept. 2007), initially written by J. Michael Straczynski and penciled by Olivier Coipel. Beginning with what would have been vol. 3, #13 (January 2009), the third volume reverted to issue #600, reflecting the total number of published issues from all three volumes. Kieron Gillen took over from Straczynski in *Thor* #604 with artists Billy Tan, Richard Elson and Dougie Braithwaite with his final storyline finishing in issue #614. Afterward, Matt Fraction took over *Thor* in issue #615, after having been announced as starting in *Thor* #610 and #611.


In April 2011, *Thor* once again reverted to its original title of *Journey into Mystery* with issue #622, reuniting writer Gillen and artist Braithwaite in a series of stories starring Thor's half-brother, Loki. A new ongoing series, officially titled *The Mighty Thor*, kicked off the same month with writer Fraction and artist Coipel.

### Early Career and Formation of Avengers

Thor's father Odin decided his son needed to be taught humility and consequently placed Thor (without memories of godhood) into the body and memories of an existing, partially disabled human medical student, Donald Blake (actually this part of Thor’s origin was not revealed until issue # 159 in 1968). After becoming a doctor and on vacation in Norway, Blake witnessed the arrival of an alien scouting party. Blake fled into a cave after they heard him and began to pursue him. After discovering Thor's disguised hammer Mjolnir, and striking it against a rock, he transformed into the thunder god.

Defeating the aliens, Thor shared a double life with his alter ego: treating the ill in a private practice with nurse - and eventual love - Jane Foster and defending humanity from evil. Thor's presence on Earth almost immediately attracted the attention of his adoptive brother and arch-foe Loki; who returned repeatedly to Earth in a bid to destroy Thor. Loki was also responsible for the emergence of three of Thor's principal foes: the Absorbing Man; the Wrecker, and the Destroyer. On one occasion, Loki's tactics were accidentally beneficial - although successful in using an illusion of the Hulk to draw Thor into battle, it resulted in the formation of the superhero team the Avengers, of which Thor was a founding and longstanding member.

Please visit my sites

[www.in2comics.wordpress.com](http://www.in2comics.wordpress.com)

[www.comic-sales.com](http://www.comic-sales.com)

Now read Thor’s debut in “Journey Into Mystery” #83.

Read On
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

INTRODUCING... THE MIGHTY THOR!

THE MOST EXCITING SUPER HERO OF ALL TIME!!

BEGIN THE SAGA OF THOR IN THIS ISSUE!
THE LEGEND HAS COME TRUE! BY THE WILL OF THE GODS, I AM ALIVE! I AM INVINCIBLE! I AM--THOR!!

OUR STORY OPENS ON THE WINDY COAST OF NORWAY, WHERE WE SEE A FRAIL FIGURE SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE BLEAK SKY! HE IS DR. DON BLAKE, AN AMERICAN VACATIONING IN EUROPE!

AND, AS DOCTOR BLAKE TURNS AND LEAVES THE SITE, HE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE ALIEN SPACE-SHIP WHICH SILENTLY LANDS BEHIND HIM!
Two principals in a grim pageant... Neither one noticing the other, but how different would things be if they were to meet at this moment? How different would be the future of all mankind!

But ours is a drama decreed by the fates to be acted out! Nothing can stop it! Nothing can change it! Watch and see...

That is to our advantage. On Saturn, we are mighty beings! But here, in this oxygen atmosphere, our strength is even greater.

Ah! At last, we are on Earth! This atmosphere—it is so different from our own planet!

Behold how easily I lift this plant-thing out of the ground!

Han! Well done, Gor!

Now watch, as I prove the invulnerability of our stone bodies!

Without the slightest effort, I jump... for I know that nothing can hurt me...

...can harm me!

...but, one pair of eyes does see the awesome aliens! By the beard of Odin, what have I stumbled onto?!

And if our strength were not enough, we could rely upon our weapons!

But one pair of eyes does see the awesome aliens! It will be child's play to conquer this planet when our main invasion force arrives!
I must run to the village and sound the alarm!

But, when the old fisherman tells his story...

The following day, Dr. Don Blake decides to explore the coastal area described by the fisherman...

So far, I've seen no signs--wait--what's this? Footprints! They lead around the bend.

It's them--the aliens!! They're just as he said they were--men of stone!

I remember... death to any who discover our presence!

If they find me here, they'll kill me! I'd better leave while--blast it, I stepped on a twig!

Logan! Earthling! He has seen us!!

After him! Do not let him escape!

Ooh! I tripped...

I'm helpless without my cane--wait! Perhaps I can hide in those caves...

Made it! But they're bound to find me soon! If only there were a way out--!

Back there! There's another exit...
...But it's blocked by this boulder! Ughh... It's hopeless. I can't budge it at all!

The cave is so dank--so gloomy--and airless! It seems no human has set foot in here for ages!!

Sigh. I might as well wait for the stone men to find me--I'm trapped!

But, suddenly...

The wall is opening!!

I must have pressed some kind of hidden lever when I leaned against it?

It's a secret chamber!! Nothing inside... except that gnarled wooden stick--like an ancient cane!

But there's... I wonder if... perhaps by using this as a lever, I can move the boulder!

Ughh... I... I still can't budge it! But I must keep trying... mustn't give up... it's my only chance to escape!

No! It--it's hopeless! Even a bulldozer couldn't move that giant rock!

In helpless anger, Don Blake strikes the useless cane against the immovable boulder, and, as he does so...

WMA--?!?
The cave is bathed in blinding light! Like a fiery bolt of lightning, and the ancient cane--it--it's changing shape!

And--I'm changing too!! Can this be really happening--or am I going mad?!!

No! It isn't mad!! I can feel my body bursting with power--power such as I've never known!!

The cane!! It has become a mighty hammer!! And I have been transformed into--into--wait! There are words inscribed on the hammer!!

"Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor."

Thor!! The legendary god of thunder!! The mightiest warrior of all mythology!! This is his hammer!! And I--I am Thor!!!
A FEW MOMENTS AGO, I COULDN'T EVEN BUDGE THIS BOULDER!

BUT NOW...

I CAN LIFT IT AS IF IT WERE CARDBOARD!

PART 2

the POWER of THOR!
The stone creatures will never suspect that their frail quarry escaped through this rear exit!

But what happens now? Do I walk amidst the civilized world as a mythological god? Or...? It is too bewildering! I must pause... and think this out.

Thor... the god of thunder! What do I remember of him from my school days? He was the noblest and strongest of all the Norse gods.

The fourth day of the week, Thursday was named in his honor! He was... what? What's happening to me? I'm... I'm changing again!!

I'm back to normal once more! But how? What caused it? Wait-- the inscription on the hammer--

"Whoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor!"

So that's it! I must continually hold the hammer to retain, Thor's strength!

If I let go of it, in about sixty seconds I revert back to my normal self!

According to the legend, Thor's hammer had other characteristics! One, it was so heavy, none but mighty Thor could lift it!
THE LEGENDS ALSO SAY THAT THE HAMMER IS ENCHANTED! 
WHENEVER THOR HURLS IT FROM HIM...

...IT MUST RETURN!

ALSO, THE HAMMER IS INVINCIBLE!

NOTHING CAN RESIST IT!

CRASH

NOTHING!!

His blood boiling with excitement, the transformed Doctor continues to experiment with his mystic weapon...

By stamping the handle twice on the ground...

THUMP

THUMP

...I CAN CREATE RAIN OR SNOW...

...which soon grow into a raging tornado! All the power of the storm is Thor's to command!
THEN, TO END THE STORM, I
MERELY STAMP THIS HANDLE
THREE TIMES ON THE GROUND!!!

BUT, IF I SHOULD STAMP IT BUT ONCE...

THE HAMMER CHANGES BACK INTO A CANE... AND I ONCE AGAIN BECOME DR. DON BLAKE!!

THUMP
THUMP THUMP

TO THINK, THE MOST INCREDIBLE
POWER OF ALL TIME HAS BEEN
HIDDEN IN THAT CAVE, WAITING TO
BE FOUND!! BUT... I'VE WASTED
ENOUGH TIME! THE WORLD
MUST BE WARNED OF THE
PRESENCE OF THE STONE
MEN!

BUT EVEN AT THAT MOMENT,
ON A NATO AIR BASE...

IT'S A FLEET OF
UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECTS!

ALERT ALL
MILITARY
UNITS... AND
SCRAMBLE THE JETS!

THE HUMANS HAVE SENT UP ARMED
AIRCRAFT; WE SHALL
SOON DISPOSE
OF THEM!

SET UP THE
MONSTER-
IMAGE!

A MOMENT LATER, A HUGE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL
PICTURE FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY!

BAIL OUT!!

HIT THE
SILK!!

WHAT... WHAT
IN THE NAME OF
HEAVEN IS IT??

IT'S HEADING
RIGHT FOR US!
WE CAN'T BANK
IN TIME!!

IT'S A MONSTER...
The enemy is a long distance from me! Yet, by using the might of Thor and whirling my hammer with the speed of lightning, I may yet be able to streak thru the sky, as the thunder god should!

Strange—a moment ago the sky was clear, yet now there is a storm brewing.

How can this be? Our weather instruments did not forecast...

There! I release my whirling hammer for a split-second, catching the unbreakable thong, and then— I am pulled along after it like the tail of a rocket!
PART 3 THOR THE MIGHTY STRIKES BACK!

BEHOLD! AN EARTHLING! FLYING THRU THE AIR TO ATTACK US!

DO NOT SLAY HIM! HE MUST BE CAPTURED AND STUDIED!

CAPTURE HIM! HOW?? HIS WHIRLING WEAPON HOLDS US AT BAY!

WAIT! HE IS DIRECTLY BENEATH OUR CAPTIVE CAGE! IN A MOMENT, HE WILL BE OUR HELPLESS PRISONER!

HAM! HE IS OURS!

THUD!
THE EARTHLING IS POWERLESS...

NO! OBserve...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

IRON BARS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE!

...NOT WHEN THE PRISONER HAS THE MIGHT OF THOR!

THE EARTHLING IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE CAPTURED ALIVE!

HE MUST BE SLAIN! PREPARE TO DISINTEGRATE HIM!

THE EARTHLING CANNOT BE STOPPED!

OUR WEAPONS!

YES, HE CAN! SET THE MECHANICAL MONSTER FREE! BE SWIFT!

IT IS DONE, SIRE! NOW THE ENEMY WILL SURLY MEET HIS MASTER!

THERE IS YOUR FOE! ATTACK HIM! DESTROY HIM!

THAT MONSTROSITY LOOKS LIKE IT HAS EVERYTHING IN ITS FAVOR! EVERYTHING, EXCEPT...
...THE HAMMER
OF THOR!

CLANG!
HE HAS
VANQUISHED
THE MECHANO-
MONSTER!
THE HUMAN
IS TOO MIGHTY
-- TOO SKILLED
IN THE ART OF
BATTLE!
AND WE KNOW
MORE THERE
AREN'T LIKE HIM
ON EARTH!

BACK!! BACK TO THE SHIPS
AT ONCE!! WE MUST FLEE
THIS ACCURSED PLANET!!
I'VE BEATEN
THEM!! I HAVE
PROVEN THAT THE POWER OF
THE HAMMER AND THE MIGHT
OF THE THUNDER-GOD ARE
INVINCIBLE!! NOTHING CAN
CONQUER THOR!! NOTHING!!
Here comes the infantry!! If I
remain here, they'll question
me!! They won't rest till
they've learned my secret!!
I'll become an international
curiosity!!
But, all that can be
avoided by one gesture...

Look!! The invaders
are flying away!!
But why?? What
could have driven
them off??
I don't
know!!
There's no
one in
sight...
...except that lame passer-
by, with a quarreled old cane!!
Well, it's a
cinch that
skinny gent
isn't earth's
secret weapon.
The menace is ended!
Now, it's time for me
to go back to
the states... taking with
me the greatest
power ever known
to mortal man!

Editor's Note:
The Mighty Thor
is the greatest new super
hero of all time. He will
appear regularly in
Journey into Mystery.
Reserve next month's issue
at your newsdealer now!
It's sure to be a sellout!!