



The New Team

Thor was lying on the floor in Hulk's apartment. He was very dirty and his body hurt. He heard a noise behind him and turned. Hulk was sitting in a large, hot bath.

"Are we friends?" Thor asked.

"I guess we are," Hulk replied.

"Why are you big, green ... and dumb? What happened to Banner?"

"There *is* no Banner. Hulk is *always* Hulk."

Thor walked to a window. Outside, he saw an old spaceship. It traveled higher and higher, toward a portal in the sky. Then, *BOOM!* One of the Grandmaster's spaceships destroyed it.

Thor looked at Hulk. "How did you travel here?"

"On a spaceship. A Quinjet."

"Where is the Quinjet now?" Thor asked.

Hulk climbed out of the bath. Thor closed his eyes. Hulk wasn't wearing any clothes. *That's a terrible picture*, Thor thought. *It will stay in my head all my life.*

Hulk pointed out the window. Thor looked out and saw the Quinjet, with scrap everywhere around it. "Yes!" he said. Now he could escape. "We're leaving here. We're going to Asgard. You'll love it—it's big, golden, and shiny."

Hulk sat on his bed. "I will stay here."

"My people need me in Asgard. We must stop Ragnarok—the end of everything. We'll go to Asgard, then I'll take you back to Earth."

"People on Earth hate Hulk," the green man said.

"The people on Earth *love* Hulk! We *all* love you—you're our friend. And good friends always help their friends."

"You're *Banner's* friend."

"I'm *not* Banner's friend. He talks about numbers and science all the time. I like *you*."

"*You* can go to Asgard. Hulk is staying here."

"O.K., stay here!" Thor went to the open door. "I'm going." But then the metal disk in his neck stopped him, and he fell to the floor.

Hulk laughed and walked out of the room.

Thor went back to the window. He looked at the sky, then closed his eyes. "Heimdall, I know you're there," he said. "I need your help."

Thor's eyes turned golden when he opened them again. His mind traveled to Asgard and took him to his friend.

Heimdall turned to Thor. "I can see you," he said quietly. "But you are far away."

"What's happening here?" Thor asked.

"Come with me. I will show you." Heimdall ran down the street and Thor followed with his mind. He was afraid for the people of Asgard. There was smoke above the city, and there were soldiers everywhere.

"I'm taking our people into the mountains. It is safe there," Heimdall said. "But if Hela finds us, our only escape is the Bifrost."

"Do you want to leave Asgard?" Thor asked.

"We cannot stay. Hela will kill us all. Now, because she's on Asgard, she is getting more powerful every day. When she leaves Asgard, she will destroy all of the Nine Realms. We need your help."

"I'm trying to return to Asgard. But I don't know where I am," Thor said. More soldiers arrived and Heimdall moved away. "You're on a planet far from Asgard. You can get here through the portal!" he shouted.

He began to fight the soldiers, and Thor disappeared.