

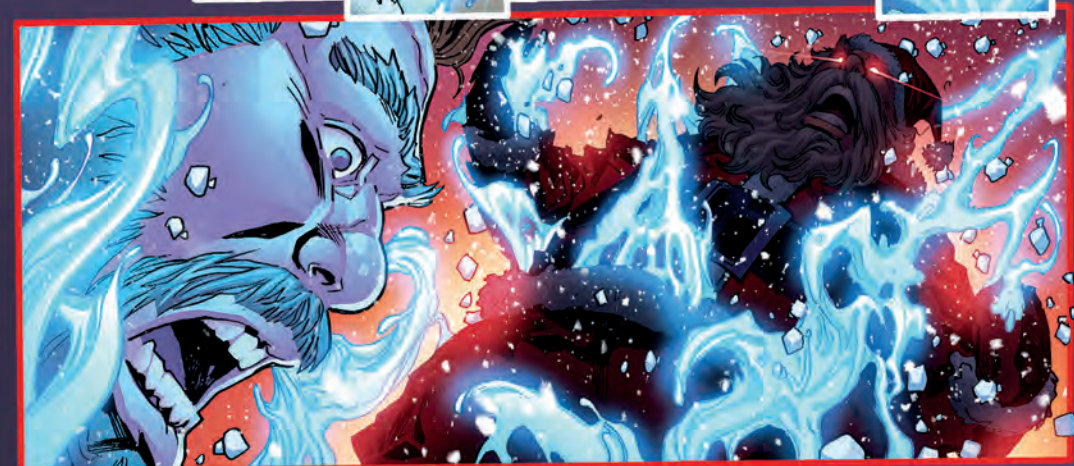


BETRAYAL
AT NOISE ON THE HILL

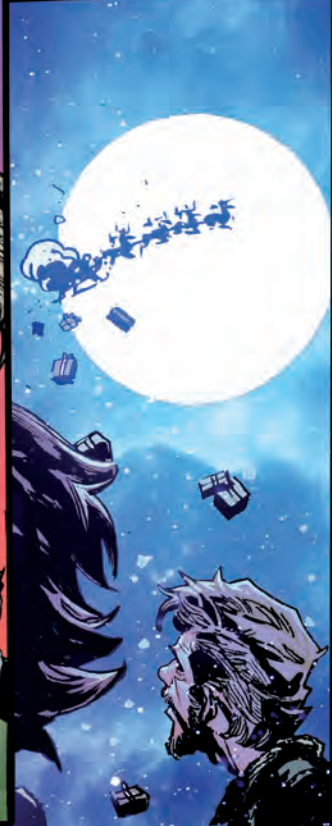
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The Story

It's the enchanting holiday eve and Jingleklaus and Elf are on their gift delivery rounds in their festive sleigh, which is piled high with brightly wrapped gifts. They land on the snow-covered roof of a candy shop to replenish their supply of candy canes. With no chimney nearby, Jingleklaus focuses intently on the roof and a trap door mysteriously appears. They climb down the stairs into the shop.

But something is terribly wrong. Jingleklaus and Elf are alarmed as they come upon a frightening scene. Two robbers have tied up the shopkeeper and are beating him and threatening him with a knife. They want money. As they kick him mercilessly, the lead thug spots Jingleklaus, who wears a sparkly jeweled vial on a chain around his neck. The vial contains a magical tincture that can only be transferred from one Jingleklaus to the next when the official designated term of service is over. The thug grabs for the jewel as the vial explodes, spraying him with the powerful tincture that will transform him—and his henchman—into the next Jingleklaus and Elf. A chaotic scene follows, with the bodies of the criminals writhing and contorting until they emerge as the hideous Jingleklaws and Elf, two hapless petty jailbirds who have escaped from prison only to find themselves assuming the identities of the world's beloved holiday characters. But those jolly kindly men stand shivering and cowering, unrecognizable when stripped of their festive finery.

All four men suddenly come alive and race up the stairs to the sleigh, which is still parked on the rooftop. A vicious battle ensues as evil Jingleklaws hijacks the sleigh. Elf grabs the reins and whips the reindeer. In a scream that echoes with the animals' pure terror, the sleigh takes off.

Gifts rain down on the roof. Jingleklaus sadly picks up a package, knowing that now it won't reach the eager child who is excitedly waiting for it. But in truth, it will, for the absolute power of the House on the Hill has taken control.

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