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ENTERTAINMENT™

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# DIABLO®

SWORD  
OF  
JUSTICE

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DCCOMICS.COM

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"FEAR IS THE FUEL  
BLOOD IS THE SPARK  
KINDLE THE RAGE  
AND BRING FORTH THE DARK"

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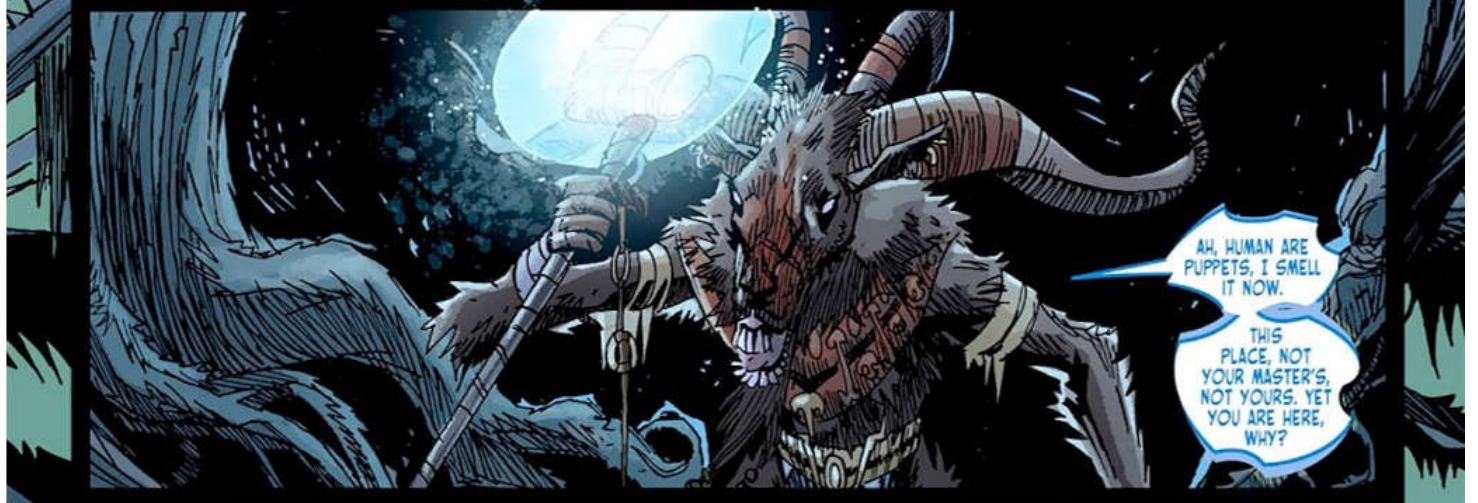
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HUMAN  
HERE ARE NOT  
WELCOME! LEAVE  
OUR PLACE OR  
DIE!



STEADY, LADS. SOMETHING IS  
TELLING ME WE MAY HAVE USE  
OF THESE... CREATURES.



AH, HUMAN ARE  
PUPPETS, I SMELL  
IT NOW.

THIS  
PLACE, NOT  
YOUR MASTER'S,  
NOT YOURS. YET  
YOU ARE HERE.  
WHY?



WHAT DOES IT MEAN? PUPPETS?

CALM YOURSELF, MARTAK.



A MOMENT, GOATMAN, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR ANSWERS...



THE UNSEEN CORRUPTOR SPEAKS THROUGH THIS HOST.

NOT INVITED YOU. YOUR PURPOSE HERE, IT MUST BE NAMED!



LOST WARRIORS OF THE DEMON ZAGRAAL, MY PLANS LIE FAR TO THE NORTH, WHERE EVEN NOW MY POWER FINDS NEW HOSTS EVERY DAY.

WHEN I STRIKE, SANCTUARY'S BALANCE WILL TIP IN OUR FAVOR. PERHAPS, IF THE NOBLE KHAZRA WERE TO OFFER A SMALL BOON, I COULD PROMISE A RETURN TO GREATNESS FOR YOUR PEOPLE.



LONGING ARE WE FOR THE PAST GLORY OF THE KHAZRA. WHAT BE HELP YOU SEEK?



MY SLAVES  
HUNT A BOY AND  
HIS WIZARD WHORE.  
ALLOW US TO FIND  
THEM, AND YOU WILL BE  
REMEMBERED.



FOR THIS  
PROMISE, I TELL  
YOU THEY ARE HERE.  
UNDER THE STONES  
WE STAND UPON, IN  
FEAR STENCH.  
THEIR  
FLESH IS  
YOURS.

FIGHTING  
AND DYING,  
I THINK, I'LL  
GET THINGS  
STARTED.

NOW  
WHAT?



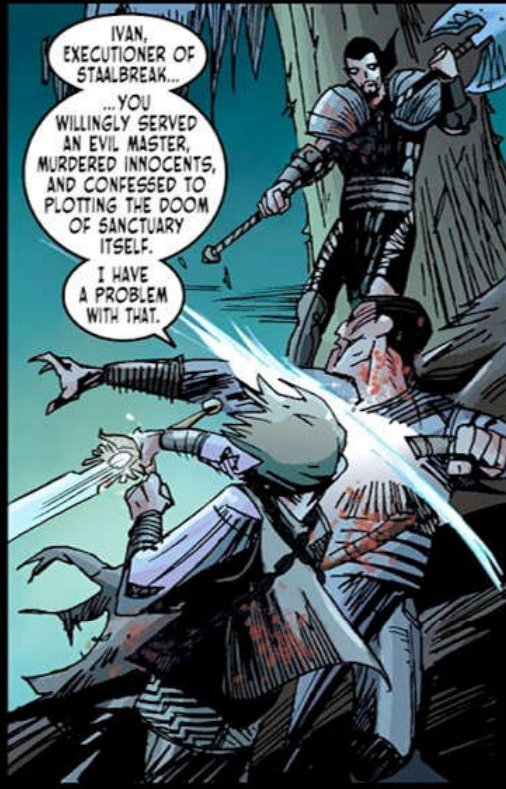
THERE  
ARE MORE  
FOES THAN  
BEFORE. CAN  
YOU HANDLE  
THEM?

JUST  
FIGURE OUT WHAT  
SPECIAL TRICKS  
THAT SWORD  
CAN DO.





WHERE--? WHAT HAPPENED? I WAS ABOUT TO SPEAK TO THE GOAT-BEAST, WHEN--



IVAN, EXECUTIONER OF STAALBREAK...  
...YOU WILLINGLY SERVED AN EVIL MASTER, MURDERED INNOCENTS, AND CONFESSED TO PLOTTING THE DOOM OF SANCTUARY ITSELF.  
I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.



YOUR GUILT HAS DRIVEN YOU TO DELUSION, KINSLAYER!

I HEARD EVERY WORD YOU AND THE GOAT SAID. YOU CAN'T DENY THEM NOW.



THE MONSTER BARELY BLEATED TWO WORDS BEFORE YOU DECIDED TO CONTINUE YOUR BLOOD-SPREE!

YOUR MIND MAY BE FOULED AS WELL...



...SO TELL ME ABOUT THESE!



I WOULDN'T EXPECT SOMEONE WHO SLAUGHTERS HIS OWN TO BE A SPIRITUAL MAN.

FEAR IS THE FUEL, BLOOD IS THE SPARK, THEY KINDLE THE RAGE AND BRING FORTH THE DARK! PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD AND I'LL GLADLY DECORATE YOU WITH REVELATION!



COULD BLOOD BE A PART OF THIS? I THOUGHT MY FATHER DIDN'T WANT HIS BLOOD TO MARK ME AND PREVENT MY ESCAPE.

DID SPILLING HIS BLOOD SPREAD THE MADNESS FURTHER?



EVERY MOMENT MORE YOU RESIST EARNS ONE MORE MINUTE OF AGONY FOR YOUR WITCH!

NO FEAR, NO JOY, JUST DUTY, FOR THE WRONGS THAT WERE DONE AND THE WRONGS YET TO COME...



LET IT BE SAID... YOU NEEDED A WITCH'S TRICKERY TO BEST ME...

I WAS AIMING AT THE LAST OF THE FLEEING GOATMEN. YOU PUT YOUR AXE IN THE WAY.

SO FINISH IT... IF YOU'RE NOT CRAVEN...

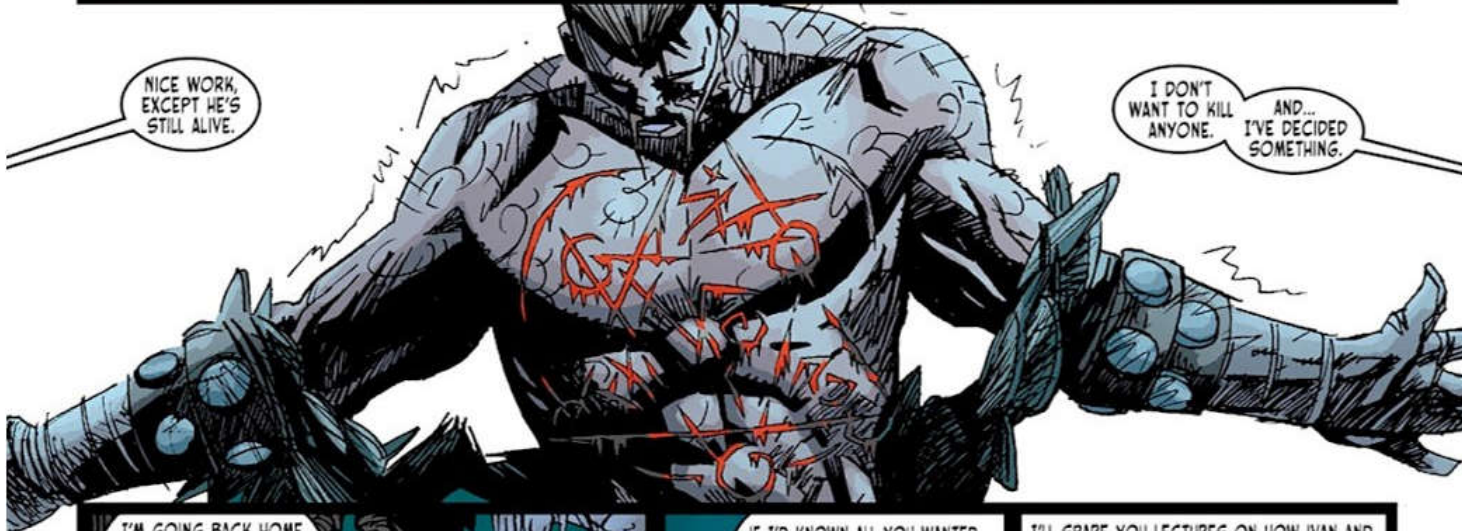
VERY WELL.





NICE WORK, EXCEPT HE'S STILL ALIVE.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE. AND... I'VE DECIDED SOMETHING.



I'M GOING BACK HOME WITH YOU, IVAN. BUT I'LL WALK ARMED AND NOT IN CHAINS, DO YOU HEAR?

IF SHANAR WANTS TO JOIN US, SHE'LL DO SO AS A FELLOW COMPANION. SWEAR IT.

HA-HA-HAAAA... SWORN... AND DONE.

IF I'D KNOWN ALL YOU WANTED... WAS A CHANCE TO SCRATCH ME A BIT... AND HAVE A WENCH TO WALK BESIDE YOU...

...WE COULD HAVE SAVED OURSELVES A LOT OF EFFORT.

I'LL SPARE YOU LECTURES ON HOW IVAN AND HIS MEN ARE MAD AND JUST ASK: DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

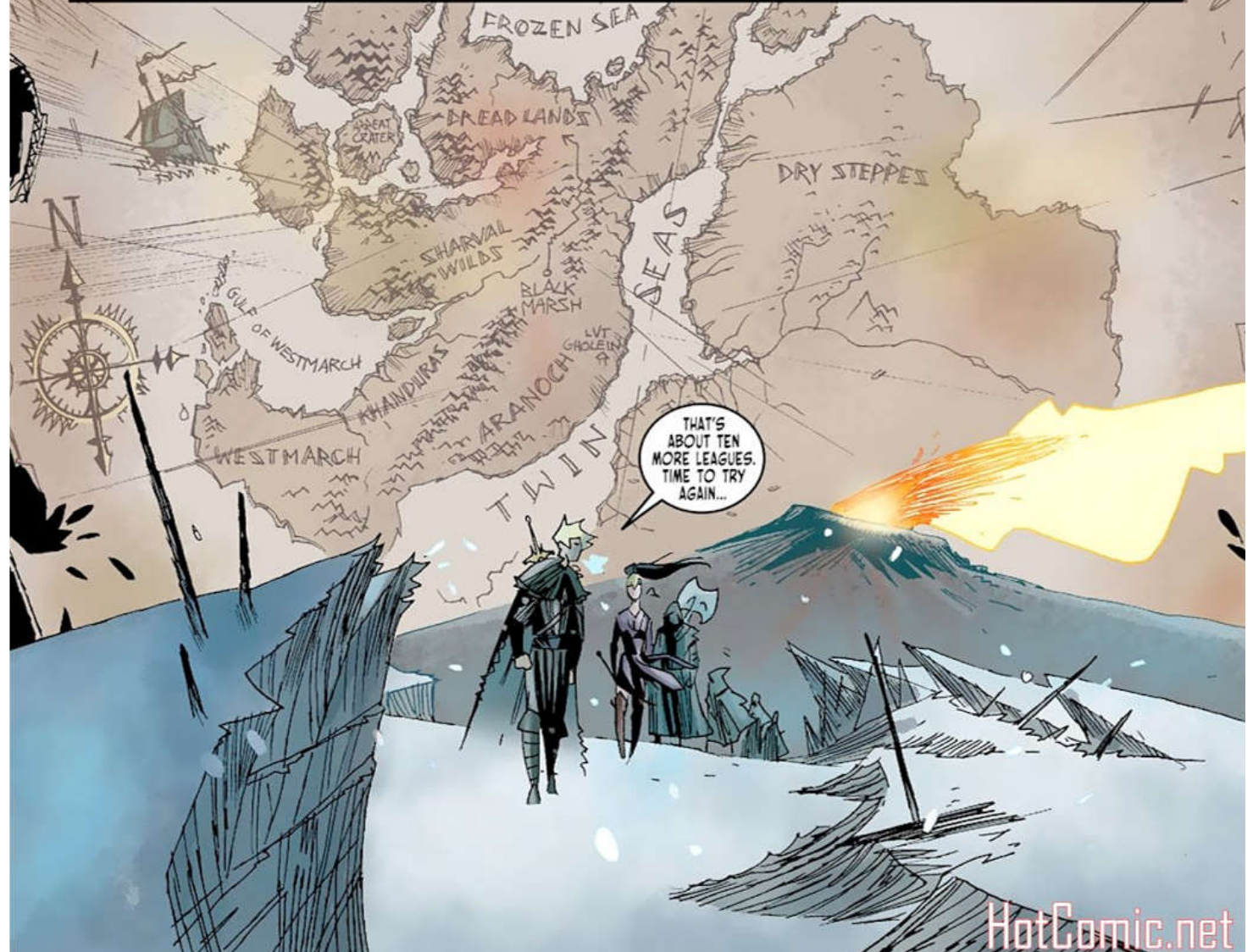
MY PEOPLE ARE SICK, SHANAR. THEY'RE STILL UNDER THREAT OF ATTACK, AND... I DID KILL MY FATHER, AND I HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THAT.

I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THIS IS WHAT THE SWORD HAD IN MIND WHEN IT CHOSE YOU.





AND HERE I THOUGHT I HAD FREE WILL, BUT I GUESS I'M NO MORE A PERSON TO EITHER OF YOU THAN AN OLD PAIR OF BOOT--







I GATHERED SOME PLANTS WHEN WE LAST STOPPED TO MAKE CAMP. LOOK AT THE ONES THAT GROW HERE...



THAT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME...

I THINK I'M GOING TO DRINK MELTED SNOW.



...THEY LOOK... DISEASED.

GIVEN THE STATE OF YOUR PEOPLE, I DON'T THINK THIS IS A COINCIDENCE.



...AND YOUR ORDERS REMAIN THE SAME: SEARCH OUT SIGNS OF THE BARBARIAN MENACE. KILL ANY OF THE FILTHY CREATURES YOU FIND.

IF YOU FACE ANY TRAITORS, ONES WHO ONCE DARED TO CLAIM THESE WALLS AS THEIR HOME, YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO THEM PLEAD OR CLAIM INNOCENCE.



IF ANY OF YOU QUESTION THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THESE ORDERS, KNOW THEY SHALL BE FULLY LEGAL SOON ENOUGH! REMEMBER THAT THEY PLOT TO BURN OUR HOMES IF THEY CANNOT CONQUER US!



OPEN THE GATES!  
PATROL DEPARTING!

CONSTABLE VARIK, THE  
EYES IN THE TOWER  
REPORT IVAN'S BAND  
HAS RETURNED AT LAST,  
WITH PRISONERS!



FINALLY,  
THE BROKEN  
PEOPLE WILL BE  
ERADICATED!

ASSEMBLE  
THE NOBLE  
COUNCIL AT  
ONCE!



YOUR LEASH  
GETS SHORTER NOW,  
KINGSLAYER. ANY FALSE  
MOVES AND YOU'LL  
REGRET IT.

ONCE YOUR  
WITCH FRIEND IS  
BEHIND THE WALLS, SHE'S  
SAFE SO LONG AS SHE  
KEEPS TO THE LAW. THE  
LAW FORBIDS MAGIC,  
BY THE WAY.

THIS IS  
CALLED KEEPING  
YOUR WORD,  
IN CASE YOU  
MISSED IT.



SEE  
THAT? NOW  
DO YOU  
BELIEVE ME  
THAT THE  
BARBARIANS  
WISH US  
EVIL?

I KNOW YOUR  
PAST, JACOB, NEARLY  
AS WELL AS MY OWN,  
BUT THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE.

THE BARBARIANS  
SELFLESSLY GUARDED MOUNT  
ARREAT SINCE TIME OUT OF  
LEGEND. THE SAGES SAID THEY  
KEPT A GREAT CATASTROPHE  
FROM BEFALLING THE  
WORLD.



MOUNT ARREAT  
USED TO BE OVER  
THERE. IF THEY  
WERE PROTECTING  
SOMETHING, I THINK  
THEY FAILED.

AND I THINK  
YOUR PEOPLE MIGHT  
BE UP TO MORE  
MISCHIEF THAN  
KILLING BARBARIANS,  
JACOB...



YOU HEARD THE TALK AT THE FORGOTTEN TOWER AS WELL AS I.

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR PLAYING THE TRAITOR, KINSLAYER! I EXPECT WE'LL SEE YOUR HEAD ALOFT SOON ENOUGH!

SO MANY... THAT ONE'S HARDAN FARSTONE! AND THERE'S HIS WIFE AND SON!

SARLA, MALTHOR, DENDRAT... HOW CAN THIS BE?



MOBS AREN'T USUALLY SO QUIET.

I MURDERED THE CONSTABLE. I'M GRATEFUL THEY AREN'T--

WHATEVER EVIL IS AFOOT, IT'S GETTING WORSE AND WANTS TO SPREAD.

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO KNOW ITS NAME...



TRAITOR!



AAGGH!

KINSLAYER!

MURDERER!



LORD IVAN?  
VARIK SAID HE WAS  
SUPPOSED TO STILL  
BE BREATHING,  
RIGHT?

VERY WELL,  
THAT SHOULD BE  
ENOUGH FUN FOR  
ONE DAY.



ENOUGH!  
THIS IS STILL  
A LAND OF  
LAWS!

ANYONE WHO  
KEEPS THIS MAN'S  
LIFEBLOOD FROM THE  
HEADSMAN'S BLOCK  
WILL REPLACE IT WITH  
HIS OWN!



DON'T KILL  
HIM, BECAUSE  
WE'RE GOING  
TO DO IT.

LOVELY  
PLACE YOU  
COME FROM,  
JACOB.

JUST LIVE  
LONG ENOUGH  
FOR ME TO DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT...



I  
TURN OVER THIS  
FUGITIVE FROM  
JUSTICE TO YOUR  
CARE, CONSTABLE  
VARIK.

WELL DONE,  
HEADSMAN! WE'VE  
MISSED YOU AND  
YOUR AXE, THOUGH  
WE'VE MADE  
DO.

I RETURNED...  
TO HAVE...MY  
CRIMES HEARD...  
AT TRIAL.

NO NEED  
FOR THAT. YOU  
WERE FOUND GUILTY  
THE MOMENT YOU  
RAN, BOY.

IVAN?  
WHY IS THE  
PRISONER  
ARMED?







I NEVER SAID FROM WHERE YOU COULD SPEAK OR IF THE PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN.



BACK FROM PATROL SO SOON?

YES, M'LORD. WE DISPATCHED TWO BARBARIAN SPIES AND RETURNED TO GIVE OUR REPORT.

MY CAPTAIN SENT ME HERE FOR GUARD DUTY, M'LORD.



THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR DUTIES. IF THE PRISONER STARTS TO BLEED TOO MUCH, REMIND THE PEOPLE THAT THERE'S PLENTY OF MUD AND MANURE TO THROW.

BE VIGILANT WHILE I GATHER THE COUNCIL. TRY TO KEEP THE STEPS FROM BECOMING TOO FOULED.

FOULED... AND BLEEDING... YES, M'LORD...



LATER...

IT IS A SIGN OF OUR WICKED AGE THAT NOT EVEN CRIMINALS CAN MANAGE TO REMAIN WAKEFUL AN ENTIRE DAY. A MOMENT, MY FRIENDS...



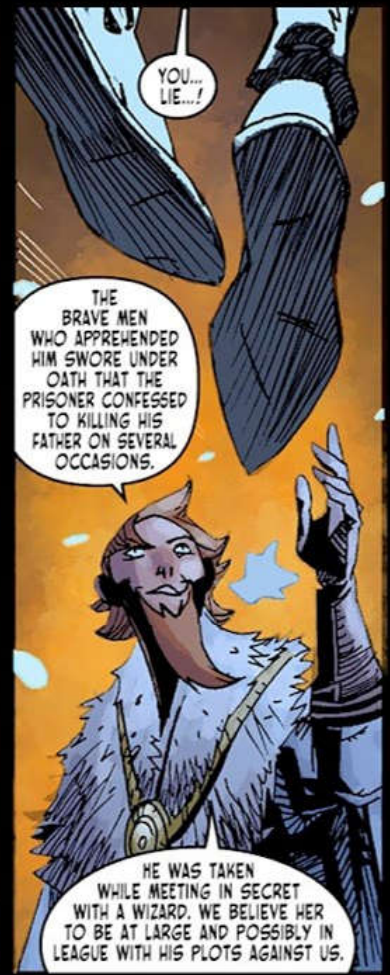
AAGGH!

SEE? I TOLD YOU HE STILL LIVED.



WH...  
WHA...?

AND HIS FLIGHT IS WHY WE MUST ACT NOW. IVAN AND HIS BAND OF STALWARTS FOUND THIS WRETCH FAR TO THE SOUTH, BETRAYING US TO THE BROKEN PEOPLE. JACOB WAS RECRUITING FOLLOWERS TO COME AND SACK THE CITY, KNOWING IT WOULD LACK THE PROTECTION OF MY HEROIC PREDECESSOR.



YOU...  
LIE...!

THE BRAVE MEN WHO APPREHENDED HIM SWORE UNDER OATH THAT THE PRISONER CONFESSED TO KILLING HIS FATHER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

HE WAS TAKEN WHILE MEETING IN SECRET WITH A WIZARD. WE BELIEVE HER TO BE AT LARGE AND POSSIBLY IN LEAGUE WITH HIS PLOTS AGAINST US.



MY FATHER... WAS MAD!  
YOU MUST LISTEN...!

I DON'T NEED TO REMIND YOU WHY WE HAVE FORBIDDEN THE USE OF MAGIC. THIS WIZARD COULD UNDO OUR DEFENSES AT A KEY MOMENT, ALLOWING JACOB'S BROKEN PEOPLE TO TAKE STAALBREAK.

YOU MUST LET ME ACT NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

IN LIGHT OF THIS EVIDENCE, I HOPE WE CAN FINALLY AGREE TO ACT?

IF THE REST OF THE HOUSES ARE CONVINCED, YOU ARE GIVEN FREE REIN TO MOUNT AN ASSAULT ON THE BROKEN PEOPLE.

I SECOND THE MOTION AND DECLARE THEM OUTCAST, THEIR DEATHS RULED TO BE IN THE DEFENSE OF STAALBREAK, AND THEREFORE JUST.

THAT MEANS JACOB THE KINSLAYER DOES NOT REQUIRE A TRIAL UNDER THE LAW. AN EXECUTION AT DAWN WILL NOT BE SOON ENOUGH.



VARIK'S DISEASED! SO IS IVAN, AND THE OTHERS WE TRAVELED WITH!

LOOK AT YOUR OWN FLESH! I CAN SEE THE SCARS FROM HERE!



HE HAS NEVER HAD A CLUMSY SERVANT TRY TO SHAVE HIM BEFORE, I WARRANT.

I WAS OVEREAGER INSPECTING THE ROSES FOR OUR FEAST DAY TABLE. THE FLOWER MONGER SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME REMOVING THE THORNS.

HIS TWISTED CONSCIENCE CRIES OUT FOR ANY EXCUSE. HIS WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.



YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS... THIS INJUSTICE!

THIS "DISEASE" YOU BLAME YOUR CRIMES UPON. EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE IT BUT YOU.

I FIND THAT INTERESTING. I'LL PONDER IT OVER DINNER. GOOD NIGHT.

DID I HAVE IT?

DID I ESCAPE ITS MADNESS, TRULY?

THE SWORD WOULD HAVE HURT ME IF I WERE...

...BUT IF THEY DON'T KNOW, HOW COULD I...?

AND DOES IT MATTER ANYMORE...?

JACOB?

LIFT YOUR EYES, MY SON.



I'M SO SORRY, FATHER. I DIDN'T WANT TO... BUT YOU WERE...

...I SHOULD HAVE BEEN STRONGER. I SHOULD HAVE STAYED, BUT...

HUSH NOW, JACOB. YOU AREN'T A MURDERER.



I KILLED YOU.

NO, THE PLAGUE I WAS INFESTED WITH DID THAT. YOU SAVED ME.

NOW YOU NEED TO SAVE EVERYONE ELSE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



BUT HOW? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT COMES FROM OR IF I CAN STOP IT!

I TAUGHT YOU TO SEEK OUT EVIL AND BRING IT INTO THE LIGHT.



YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.



I SWEAR, MY FATHER, I WILL END THIS...  
... I WILL SEE JUSTICE DONE.



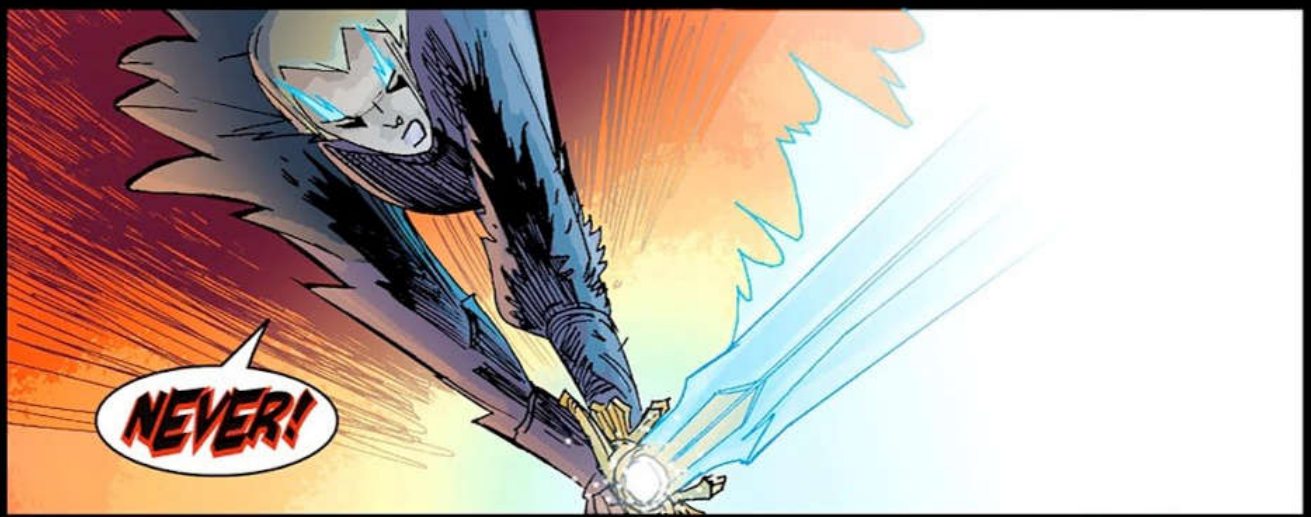
LIKE YOU GAVE TO ME, WHELP?

I GAVE YOU FEAR, BLOOD, AND RAGE! YOU COULD HAVE ACCEPTED MY GIFTS AND LED MY ARMIES, BUT YOU FLED!

ALL WILL KNOW THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ME, AND I WILL TASTE OF YOU AGAIN...



... WE WILL BRING FORTH THE DARK!



**NEVER!**



• TO BE CONTINUED •