

DYNAMITE
#3

the Blood Queen



*Alaceto
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the Blood Queen

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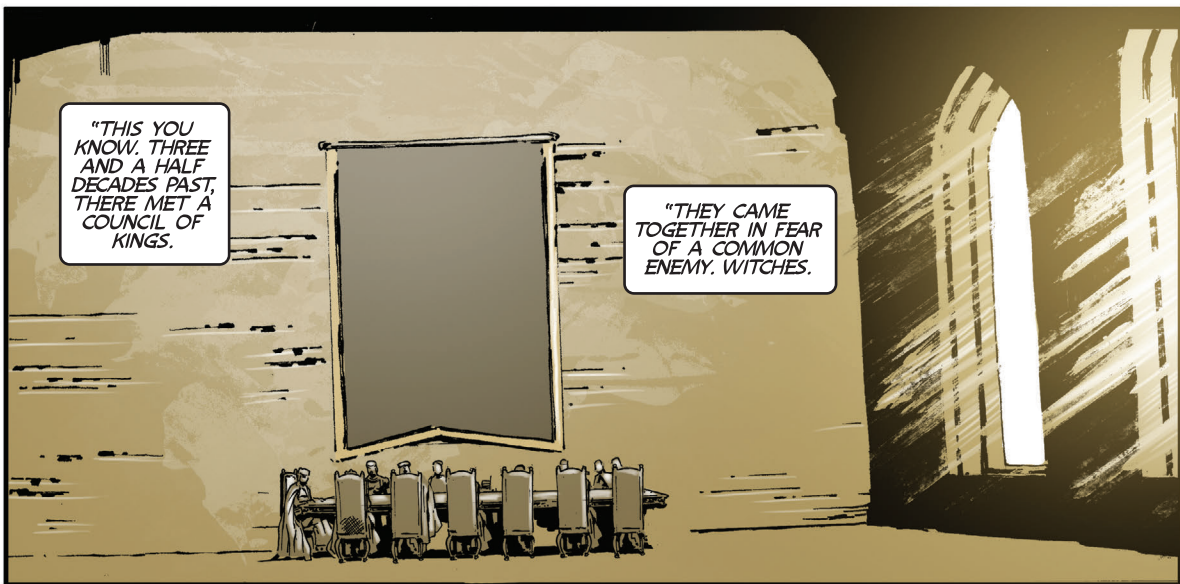


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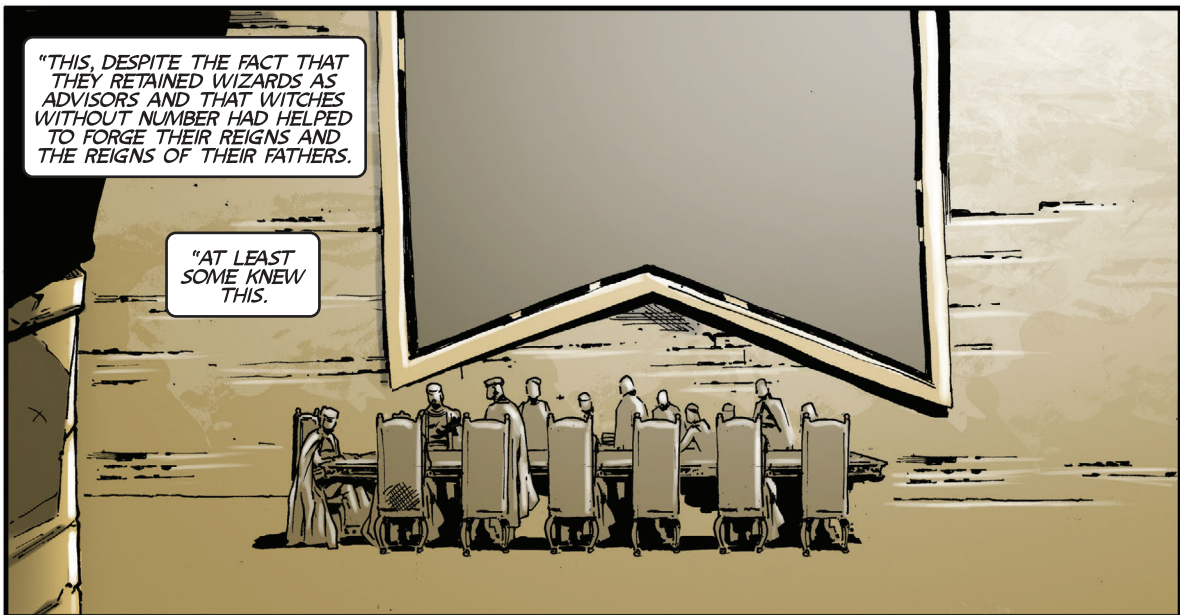
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"THIS YOU KNOW, THREE AND A HALF DECADES PAST, THERE MET A COUNCIL OF KINGS.

"THEY CAME TOGETHER IN FEAR OF A COMMON ENEMY, WITCHES.



"THIS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY RETAINED WIZARDS AS ADVISORS AND THAT WITCHES WITHOUT NUMBER HAD HELPED TO FORGE THEIR REIGNS AND THE REIGNS OF THEIR FATHERS.

"AT LEAST SOME KNEW THIS.



"MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO TURN ON THE WITCHES ENTIRELY, TO SEE THEM ALL PUT TO THE SWORD OR BURNED."

MEN
ARE SUCH
BASTARDS.



"SO IT WAS THAT A NUMBER OF THE KINGS DID STAND UP AGAINST THE NOTION OF KILLING US ALL."



"TREVIAN'S FATHER ACTUALLY SPOKE ON OUR BEHALF, INDICATING THAT A WIDE CONDEMNATION OF THE WOMEN OF MAGIC WAS FOOLHARDY."



"THE CONVERSATION WAS SETTLED, AND A PROPOSAL FOR A VOTE WAS MADE."



"THE WITCHES COULD LIVE, BUT THE BLOOD MAGIC WAS BANNED."





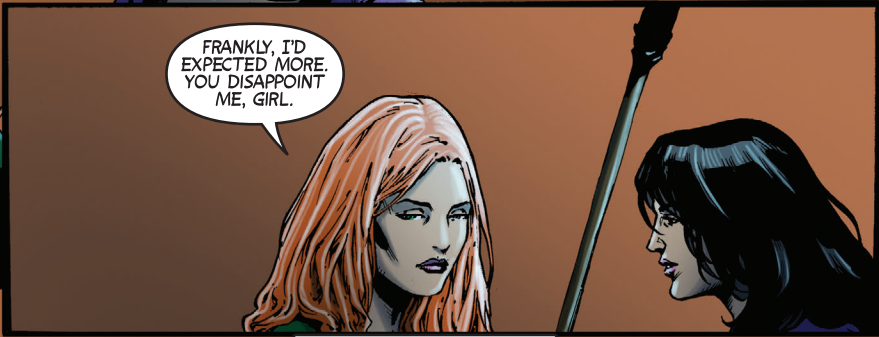
YES,
I'M FAMILIAR
WITH THE TALE,
WINNIFRED.



THEN WHY HAVE
YOU DISCOVERED
NOTHING?



YOU SAID YOU
UNDERSTOOD.



FRANKLY, I'D
EXPECTED MORE.
YOU DISAPPOINT
ME, GIRL.

AND YOU FORGET YOURSELF.
I WAS SUMMONED TO HELP THE
LITTLE GIRL. I DID. THE KING KEPT
ME TO SERVE THE COURT. I HAVE. IN
BETWEEN THAT TIME, I EXPOSED
A TRAITOR, HIMSELF, USING
BLOOD MAGIC.

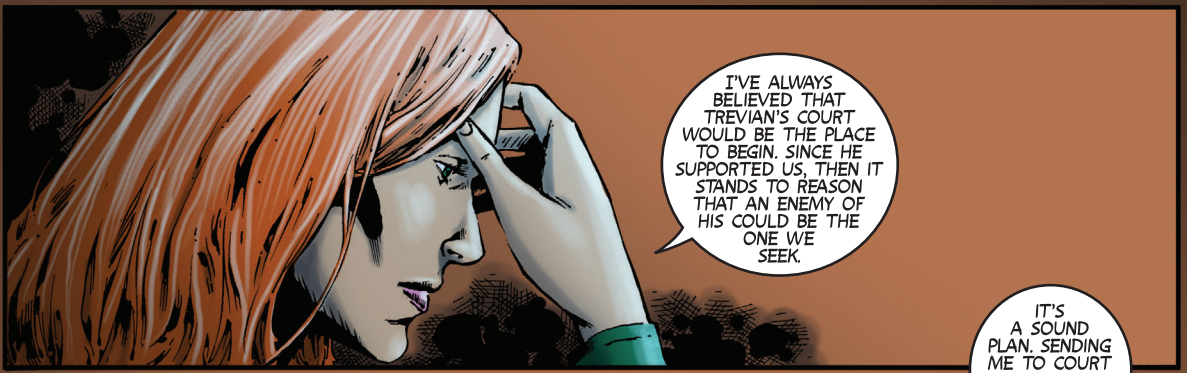


YOU
WANT ME
TO DISCOVER
THE TRUTH.
TRUTH TAKES
TIME.



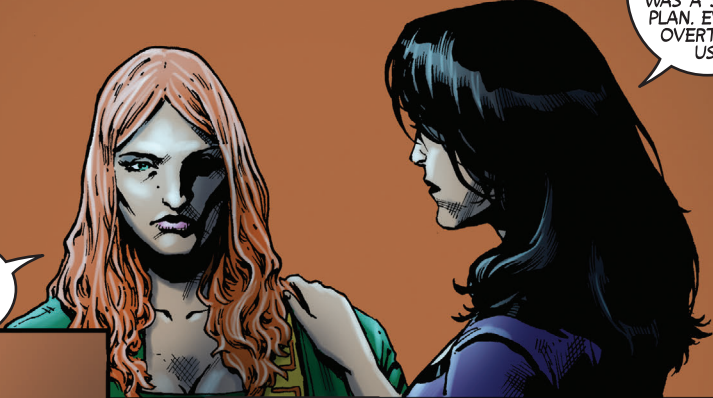
MY APOLOGIES,
ELIZABETH. I
KNOW YOU'VE
BARELY BEEN
HERE.

THAT'S
BETTER.



I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT TREVIAN'S COURT WOULD BE THE PLACE TO BEGIN. SINCE HE SUPPORTED US, THEN IT STANDS TO REASON THAT AN ENEMY OF HIS COULD BE THE ONE WE SEEK.

IT'S A SOUND PLAN. SENDING ME TO COURT WAS A SOUND PLAN. EVENTS OVERTOOK US.



AND I KNOW THAT YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST.

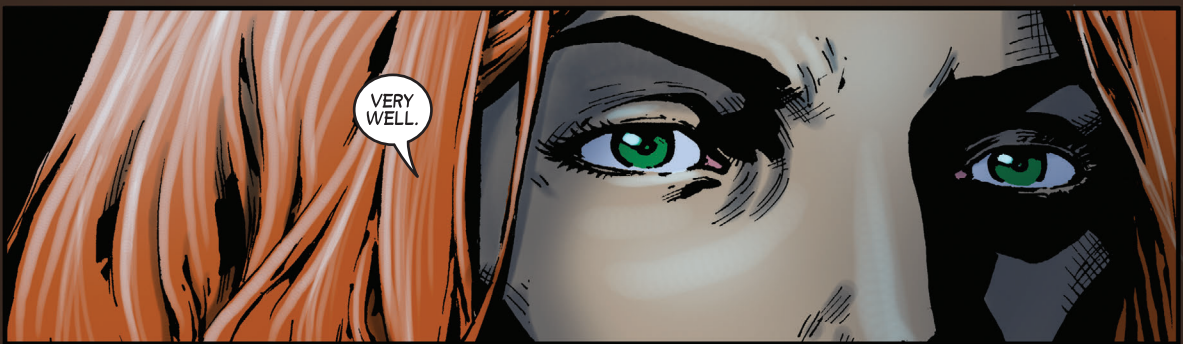


YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT HELENA IS HERE. PERHAPS I CAN ENLIST HER HELP, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF INFORMATION ABOUT HER FATHER'S KINGDOM.



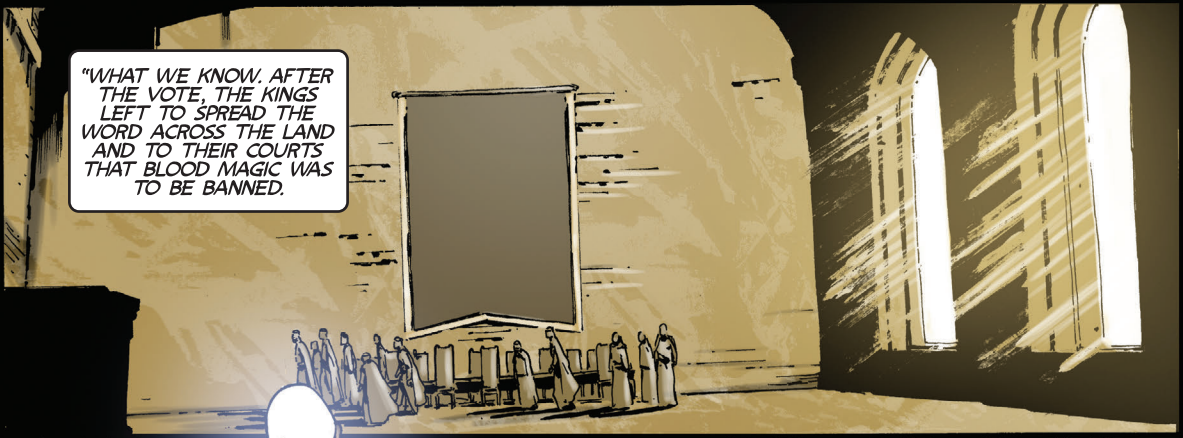
SHE'S A KIND GIRL, BUT SHELTERED. I'M NOT SURE IF SHE'D KNOW ANYTHING THAT WE NEED.

PERHAPS NOT. MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD GO OVER WHAT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE TIME THAT FOLLOWED THE COUNCIL.



VERY WELL.

"WHAT WE KNOW. AFTER THE VOTE, THE KINGS LEFT TO SPREAD THE WORD ACROSS THE LAND AND TO THEIR COURTS THAT BLOOD MAGIC WAS TO BE BANNED.



"ONE MAN THAT WAS THERE, BE HE KING OR PRINCE, TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GO FURTHER.



"AS I WOULD DISCOVER LATER, HE WAS MORE THAN READY TO COME FOR US. HE HAD BEEN PREPARED.



"HE CALLED HIMSELF THE KNIGHT OF PURITY.



"HE LASHED OUT IMMEDIATELY, KILLING NOT ONLY BLOOD WITCHES BUT ANYONE THAT STOOD BY THEM.

"HE WOULD SEND DECREES THROUGHOUT THE LANDS, DESCRIBING HIS DEEDS.

"HE DID THIS FOR WEEKS.



"BUT ONE DAY, HE MADE A MISTAKE, AND I WAS THERE SOON AFTER."



BY THE GODDESS, ROSEMARY! YOU LIVE?

LEONA...



LISTEN!
ROYAL BLOOD...
ENSORCELLED ARMOR...



THIS KNIGHT IS ROYAL BLOOD?! HOW DO YOU KNOW?

SCRATCHED HIM IN THE FIGHT... TRIED TO USE...



YOU TRIED TO MAGIC THE BLOOD AND YOU FELT IT, AND HIS ARMOR...

AND WEAPONS...

AND WEAPONS, A WIZARD.



SAVE THE REST, LEONA.



I'LL TRY.

"SO I SET A SNARE FOR THIS KNIGHT. WORD WENT OUT THAT A GATHERING OF THE SURVIVING BLOOD WITCHES WOULD OCCUR IN A REMOTE VILLAGE.

"HE CAME.



"I WAS READY."



BRING FORTH YOUR SISTERS OR I PUT EVERYONE IN THIS VILLAGE UNDER THE SWORD!



YOU'LL FIND ONLY ME.



VERY WELL, YOU'LL DO.



NOW!

"THIS TIME, IT WAS I THAT WAS PREPARED."



"THE PEOPLE WANTED TO END THE DESTRUCTION."

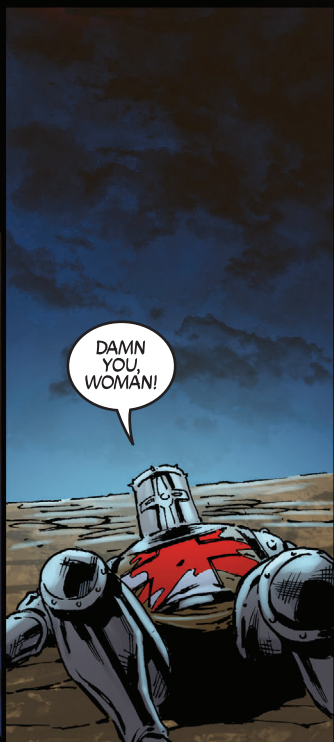


"WHAT WERE A FEW HEADS FROM THEIR HEADS?"

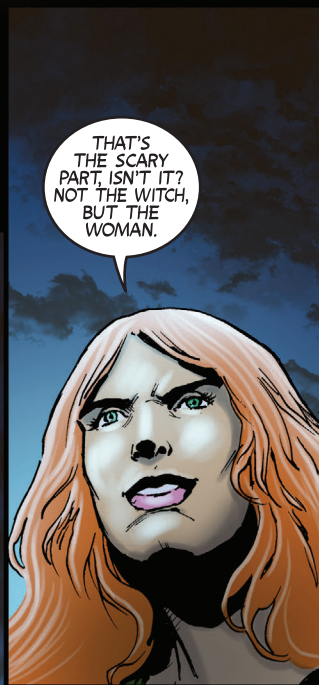


"HE HAD HIS WEAPONS. AND I HAD MINE."

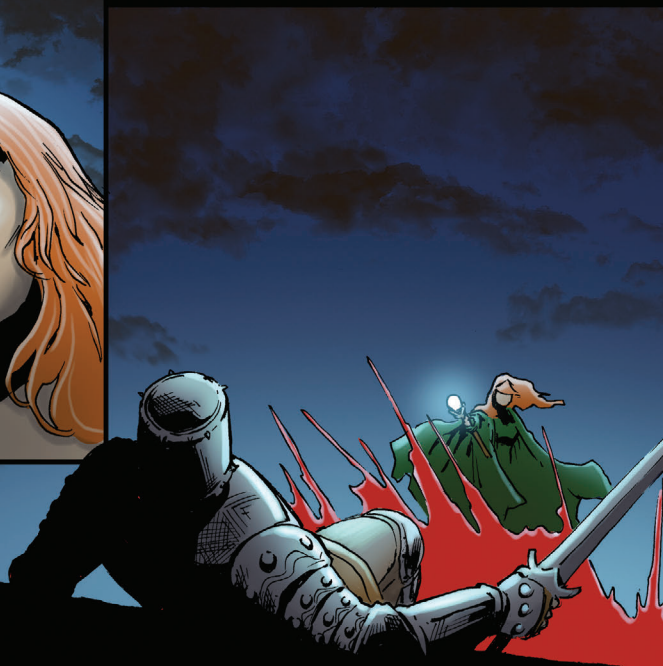




DAMN YOU, WOMAN!



THAT'S THE SCARY PART, ISN'T IT? NOT THE WITCH, BUT THE WOMAN.



NOT ENOUGH, WITCH!



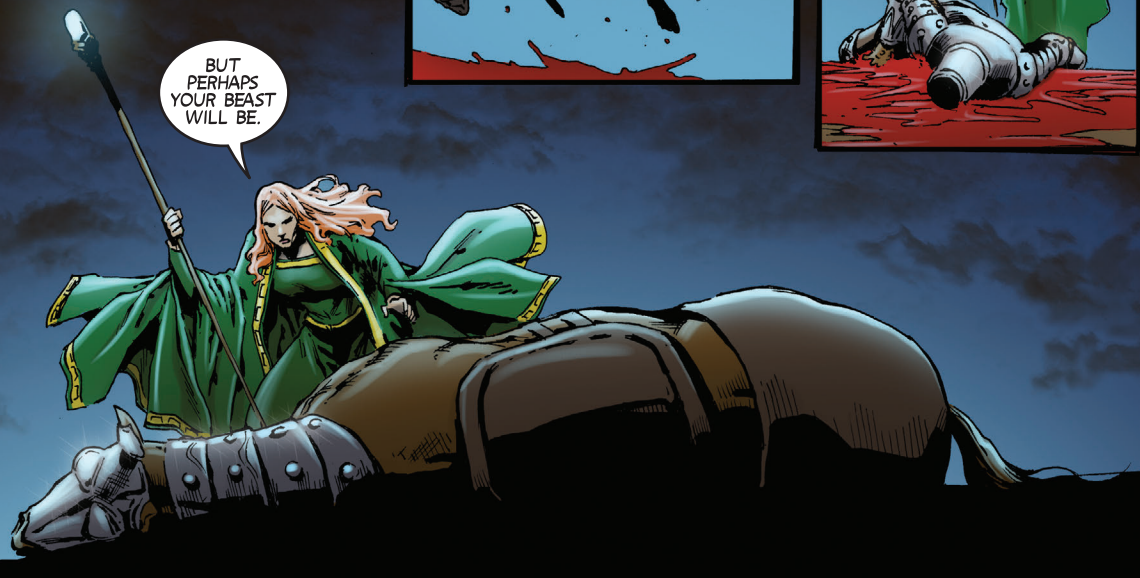
WHAT--?



YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S NOT ENOUGH.



BUT PERHAPS YOUR BEAST WILL BE.



"AND HERE WAS MY MISTAKE."

YIELD.





WHEN I WOKE, HE WAS GONE, AND HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE. BUT I BELIEVE HE SURVIVES. HE, AND HIS WEAPONS.



I KNOW YOU BELIEVE THIS. AND YOU KNOW THAT I BELIEVE YOU. BUT IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THE MAN IS DEAD.

BUT WHY DISAPPEAR? I DEFEATED HIM, BARELY. HE COULD HAVE RETURNED. I SUSPECT THAT HE BIDES HIS TIME.



YOU DISAPPEARED, TOO.

I DID. I ALLOWED HIM TO THINK LEONA DEAD AND TOOK ON THE SEEMING OF AN ELDER, NEWLY ARRIVED FROM FOREIGN LANDS. I SERVED THE KINGS FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE THEY BEGAN SENDING ME THEIR DAUGHTERS TO TRAIN.



AND ME TO RAISE.



I BROUGHT YOU UP ON TALES OF THE GREAT BETRAYAL KNOWING THAT YOU'D HELP ME ONE DAY, AND YOU KNOW THAT I WILL HELP YOU DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF YOUR MOTHER AS WELL.



Days pass.

IT'S GOOD TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU, ELIZABETH! YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY.

AFTER THE ELDER ARRIVED, I'VE BEEN DOING MORE CROP WORK AND HEALING. THE KING FEARS A DROUGHT, AND I'VE YET TO FIGURE OUT THAT BLIGHT.

OH! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE ENVOY?

ENVOY?

I HEAR THAT ONE ARRIVED A FEW HOURS AGO.

IF I WASN'T SUMMONED FOR THE QUEEN'S COUNCIL, THEN IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING FRIENDLY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JON HUNTER MENTIONED ONCE THAT YOUR UNCLE EXCLUDES YOUR AUNT FROM WAR COUNCIL.

YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S IT?

POSSIBLY.



FOLLOW ME.



WHY DO WE NEED ONE OF THE SIEGE ARSENALS?

WATCH.

IS THIS MAGIC?

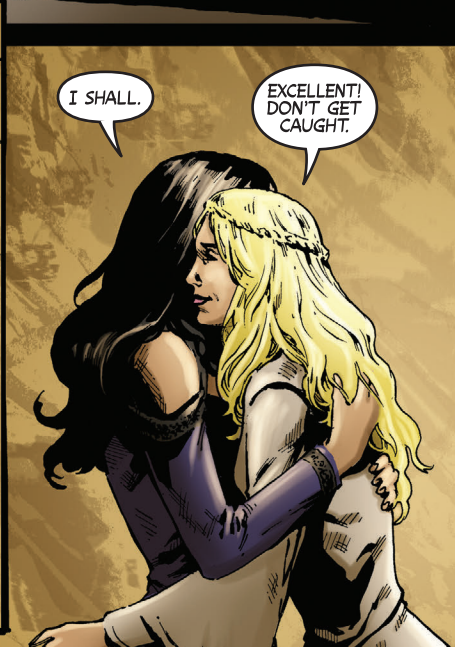
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
A CHILD IN HER UNCLE'S CASTLE GROWS BORED QUICKLY. THERE ARE MANY.



YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW ME.

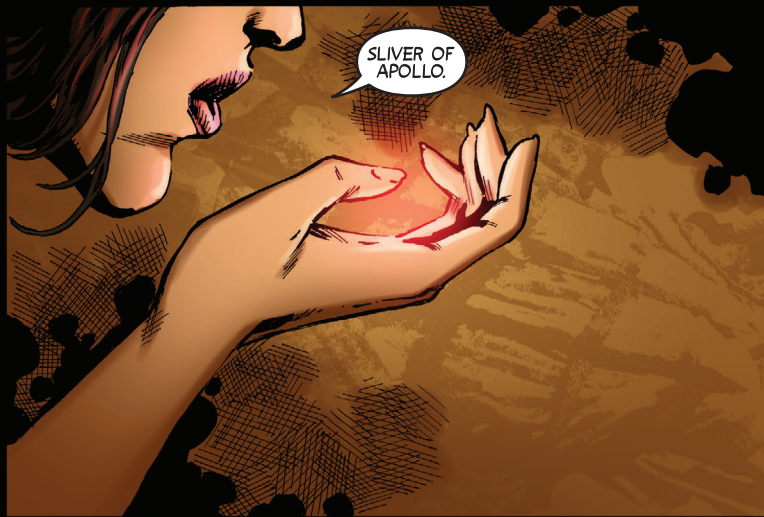


LATER, THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH SPACE NEAR THE CHAMBER THEY'RE USING FOR ONE OF US. YOU GO AND TELL ME LATER WHAT YOU HEAR.



I SHALL.

EXCELLENT! DON'T GET CAUGHT.



SLIVER OF APOLLO.



LOVELY.



BETTER.



THERE WE GO.



YOU REALIZE THAT THERE HASN'T BEEN A FULL COUNCIL OF KINGS IN YEARS?

THIS IS TRUE, YOUR HIGHNESS. BUT IT'S GENERALLY HELD THAT MALESET AND GREENHAVEN MAY GO TO WAR WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF THE OTHER ROYALS.

AND NO ONE WANTS THE BLOOD OR DISRUPTION OF TRADE THAT WOULD BRING.



WILL YOU REQUIRE TIME TO PONDER THIS, MY LORD?



NO, I WILL OF COURSE ATTEND. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR HOSPITALITY AND STAY THE EVENING.



THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.



DON'T SCREAM.



YOU CAN BE QUITE THE ASS, JON HUNTER.

FORGIVE ME, FIRST EAVESDROPPER TO THE QUEEN.



HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

I FREQUENTLY WATCH MEETINGS FROM HERE AT THE KING'S REQUEST. APPARENTLY, YOU WERE FASTER.



HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND THE PASSAGE? I THOUGHT THE ENTRANCES WERE WELL HIDDEN.

I HAVE MY WAYS.

WOULD THAT WAY BE BLONDE AND CALL THE KING UNCLE?





I HAVE
NO WISH FOR
HELENA TO
BE IN--

ELIZABETH,
PLEASE.
FORESTALL
ANY CONCERN.
I'LL SAY
NOTHING.



THEN
I THANK
YOU.

HOW?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



HOW
MIGHT
YOU THANK
ME?





I CONSIDER THAT THANKS INDEED.

I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT.



PERHAPS I'LL DO MORE TO BE DESERVING OF THANKS.

PERHAPS YOU WILL.

I'M AFRAID THAT I MUST EXCUSE MYSELF TO CONFER WITH THE KING. PERHAPS I'LL FIND YOU HERE AGAIN SOON.

THERE ARE OTHER ROOMS.



WITH WIDER WALLS. UNTIL NEXT TIME, LADY ELIZABETH.



I HEAR YOU.



AND?

KING TREVIAN WILL ATTEND.



DID HE--?

HE SUSPECTS NOTHING. HE WANTS ONLY PEACE IN THE LAND.



I ASSUME HE WANTS TO LIVE, TOO. BUT HE WON'T GET THAT, EITHER.



To Be Continued...

DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - JULY 2014

CAPTAIN VICTORY AND HIS GALACTIC RANGERS LAUNCHES IN AUGUST!

JOE CASEY AND NATHAN FOX - THE TEAM BEHIND HAUNT - AND MORE!



In one of Dynamite's most exciting new projects-to-date, the acclaimed creative team of Haunt, Joe Casey and Nathan Fox, take on a reimagining of one of Jack Kirby's most incredible creations: Captain Victory! Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers #1, launching in August 2014, will be available both in comic book stores and digitally! Issue #1 also features interior art by Jim Rugg and Ulises Farinas, with a cover by Nathan Fox, this comic is bound to amaze Kirby enthusiasts everywhere!

In Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers #1, Captain Victory is launched into an epic adventure that spans both space and time! All your favorites are here -- as well as all-new enemies to face! Your new favorite cosmic comic book has finally arrived!

"As a fan, this was the first Kirby creation I was in on the ground floor of... so to be writing this series is a big deal and a huge honor," says writer Joe Casey. "And we've got some of the best artists in the business - a lot of my favorite artists, in fact -- to turn this thing into a jam of cosmic proportions. And just like Kirby always did, we're going to be pushing the envelope in all sorts of cool ways."

"I am very pleased to announce that one of my father's iconic characters will once again be part of the world of Dynamite Entertainment," adds the Trustee of the Kirby Family Estate, Lisa Kirby. "Nick Barrucci has brought together a very talented team of people, which include writer Joe Casey and artist Nathan Fox. Through them Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers will be introduced to a whole new generation, and for those already familiar with The Captain and his team, I am sure you'll be entertained as well!"

"We've wanted to relaunch the universe of characters by the late, great Jack Kirby, but wanted to wait for the right creative team to help us reintroduce the characters to comic fans," states Dynamite CEO/Publisher Nick Barrucci. "Joe Casey is a huge fan, and is bringing his own voice to these fantastic

characters. We spoke about the direction he thought would engage fans, and Nathan Fox's participation just sealed the deal. This series has been in the works for over a year as both Joe and Nathan had to fit it in to their schedules, and we did not wish to rush the series. I have to say, I couldn't be happier. Fans are going to be ecstatic with Joe and Nathan's story and art for the series."

And read what the other Captain Victory artists have to say!

"Honored to be working with Kirby's cast of characters and expanding the world of Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers with Joe Casey," states artist Nathan Fox. "But the six-foot tall cherry on top of it all is getting to collaborate with such an insanely talented rogue's gallery of awesomeness. This is easily one of those mind-blowing storyteller's gigs. So humbled by the crew and looking forward to what all that Joe and the rest of us have in store for Captain Victory."

"To draw some of Kirby's craziest inventions with Joe Casey orchestrating the thing and to make a kick ass jam comic with some of the best cartoonists in the industry today: these are the reasons I wake up in the morning."

- Michel Fiffe

"Captain Victory is one of Jack Kirby's last comic books. It is an honor and thrill to work with his characters. It's also cosmic! Cosmic is very fun to draw! I'm excited for people to see my Captain Victory work and I'm excited to work with and be part of the team of cartoonists that Dynamite has assembled to create this new Captain Victory book."

- Jim Rugg

"I'm a huge Kirby fanatic, so obviously it's a huge honor and a thrill to work on Captain Victory! And to be in such great company with all these amazing artists...it doesn't take a genius to figure out how stellar this project is going to be."

- Jim Mahfood

"Working with Joe (Casey) is always a pleasure," says Dynamite CEO / Publisher Nick Barrucci. "Joe's vision for Captain Victory is jaw dropping-ly great and that we're excited in the direction he's taking the series in!"

Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers #1 will be solicited in Diamond Comic Distributors' June Previews catalog, the premiere source of merchandise for the comic book specialty market, and slated for release in August 2014. Comic book fans are encouraged to reserve copies of Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers #1 with their local comic book retailers. Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers #1 will also be available for individual customer purchase through digital platforms courtesy of Comixology, iVerse, and Dark Horse Digital.

NEXT ISSUE:



ISSUE #4

"Reign in Blood" continues as Elizabeth and Helena get a closer look at the power behind the throne. And as the king rides out to prevent a war, the battle may already be on its way to him! Plots and ambitions put everyone in danger, forcing Jon Hunter to reveal the lengths that he'll go to for the crown. But what's more frightening? A good person that goes too far, or someone that has no limits? The tension builds as Dynamite's newest dark fantasy epic continues! From writer Troy Brownfield, artist Fritz Casas, colorist Kirsty Swan and letterer Marshall Dillon.

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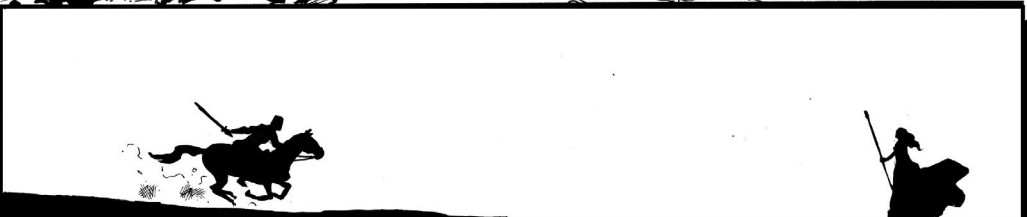
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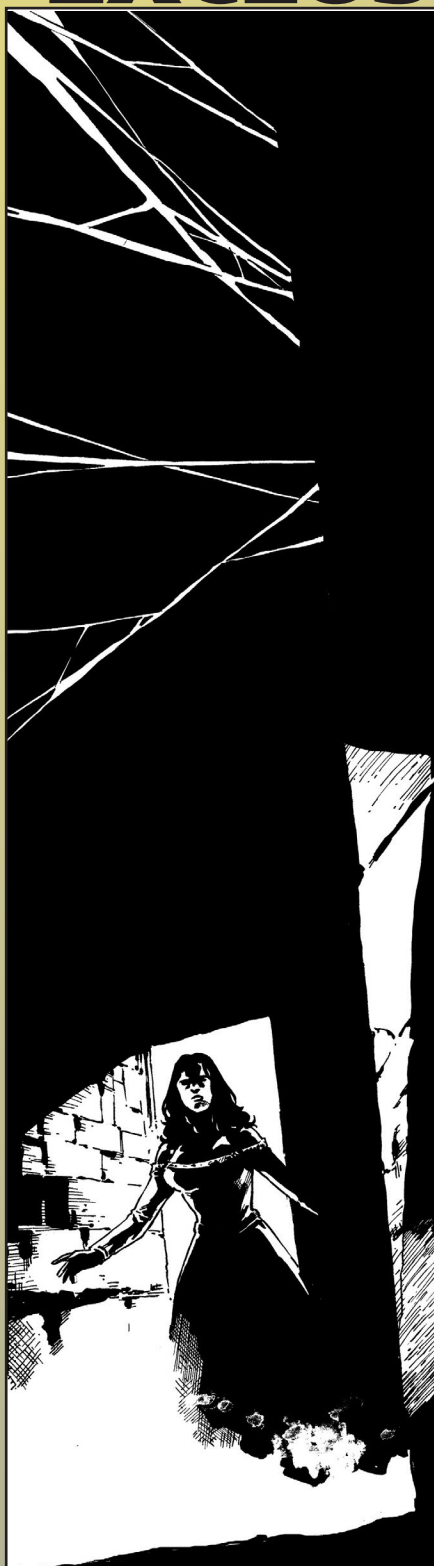
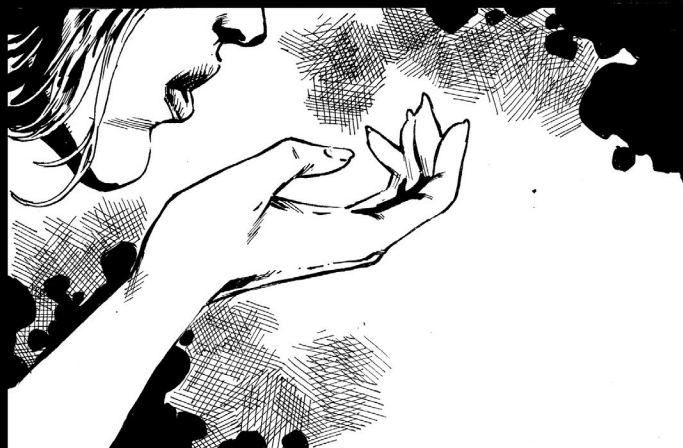
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#3



W. Wood
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