

KIERON GILLEN DAN MORA
TAMRA BONVILLAIN

ONCE & FUTURE™

VOLUME ONE
THE KING IS UNDEAD





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BOOM!™
STUDIOS

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WRITTEN BY

KIERON GILLEN

ILLUSTRATED BY

DAN MORA

COLORED BY

TAMRA BONVILLAIN

LETTERED BY

ED DUKESHIRE

COVER BY

DAN MORA

FORBIDDEN PLANET, BIG BANG COMICS,
& JETPACK COMICS EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY

DAVID LAFUENTE

WITH COLORS BY **GERMÁN GARCÍA**

ONCE & FUTURE™

CREATED BY **KIERON GILLEN** AND **DAN MORA**



CHAPTER ONE

**CORNWALL,
GREAT BRITAIN**

THIS HOT
SUMMER MAY
HAVE BEEN A
DISASTER FOR
BRITAIN, BUT I
HAVE TO ADMIT
IT'S BEEN A
BOON FOR
US...



...WE'D
HAVE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO
EXCAVATE THE
LAKE BED
WITHOUT THE
DROUGHT.

YES,
LUCKY.

CAN
I SEE THE
FIND?



WE THINK
IT'S FIFTH
CENTURY.

MAYBE
SIXTH.





IT'S
A BEAUTIFUL
PIECE OF WORK.
ASTOUNDINGLY
WELL
PRESERVED.

HAVE YOU
ANY IDEAS
ABOUT IT,
DOCTOR?



I DO.





OH,
I THINK I
CAN.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



ENGLAND
BACK.

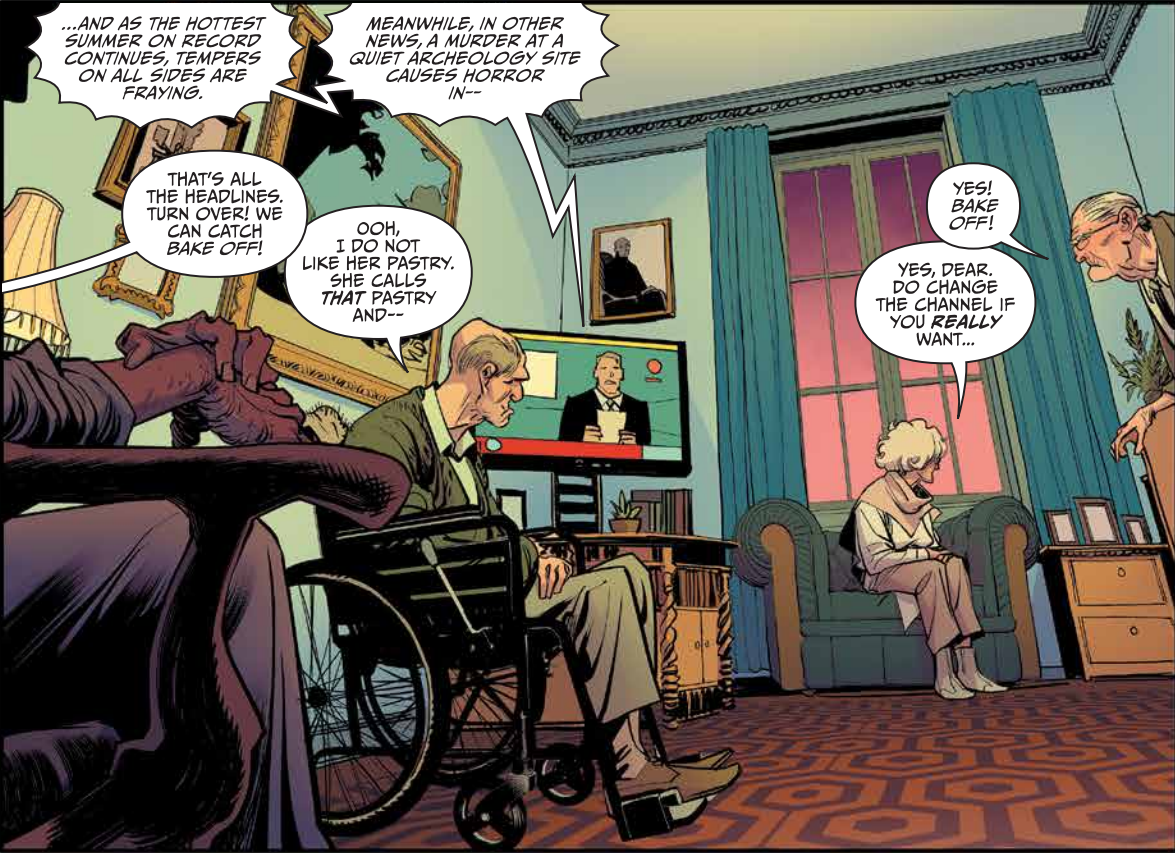
ONCE & FUTURE™



SOMERSET



...AND THE DEBATES OVER BRITAIN'S FUTURE SHOW NO SIGN OF ENDING...



...AND AS THE HOTTEST SUMMER ON RECORD CONTINUES, TEMPERERS ON ALL SIDES ARE FRAYING.

MEANWHILE, IN OTHER NEWS, A MURDER AT A QUIET ARCHEOLOGY SITE CAUSES HORROR IN--

THAT'S ALL THE HEADLINES. TURN OVER! WE CAN CATCH BAKE OFF!

OOH, I DO NOT LIKE HER PASTRY. SHE CALLS THAT PASTRY AND--

YES! BAKE OFF!

YES, DEAR. DO CHANGE THE CHANNEL IF YOU REALLY WANT...



...BUT BROKEN FINGERS TAKE SO LONG TO HEAL AT OUR AGE.

I REALLY WOULDN'T.



WELL, IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HEAR LOCAL NEWS.

IT IS. NOW, SHUSH.



THE BODY OF ALAN JAMES WAS FOUND SHOT AT THE SITE IN CORNWALL, WHICH WAS EXCAVATING THE LAKE BED DURING THE HEATWAVE.



ALL THAT WAS TAKEN WAS THE RECENT FIND OF A 6TH CENTURY SCABBARD, WHICH--



BUGGER.



BRIDGETTE-- YOU NEED TO HAVE AN EARLY NIGHT. YOUR GRANDSON IS COMING TOMORROW.

AND PLEASE, DON'T BE AWKWARD.



JUST TEN MINUTES TO WALK THE GARDEN.

YOU WOULDN'T DENY A GIRL A LAST CIG, HMM?

BRISTOL

I'M SORRY.
I'M...



WHEN I SAID
"WHATEVER WINE
YOU LIKE" I DIDN'T
MEAN "COVER ME
WITH IT."





LET ME GET SOME NAPKINS, OR SALT? THAT MAY WORK?

YOU KNOW, WHEN MY FRIENDS IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT TOLD ME ABOUT YOU, I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE SINGLE. RUGBY-PLAYING ACADEMIC DUNCAN MCGUIRE...



...BUT NOW, I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE SOME THEORIES.

I'M SORRY, ROSE. I'D SAY I'M NOT NORMALLY THIS MUCH OF A KLUTZ BUT...WELL, THAT'D BE A LIE.

I GET NERVOUS AND THEN IT'S RAINING DRINKS. I'M SO SORRY. I--

♪♪♪
⚡ ⚡



I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

REALLY?





LET ME GUESS. "SOMETHING'S COME UP. I JUST HAVE TO GO."

CLIMBING OUT THE WINDOW WHEN IT'S GOING THIS BADLY IS TRADITIONAL. NO NEED TO FIB.

NO! IT'S MY GRAN'S HOME. SHE'S JUST WANDERED OFF.



OH GOD. THAT'S AWFUL.

IS SHE SENILE OR...

NO. SHE'S WEIRDLY AGGRESSIVELY INDEPENDENT. SHE WANTED TO BE PUT IN A HOME SO I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER. I'M HER ONLY FAMILY.

SHE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.



SHE'S AS HARD AS NAILS. SHE CAME OVER FROM IRELAND TO WORK WHEN SHE WAS FIFTEEN.

IT BLOWS MY MIND. WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, GETTING THE BUS INTO BRISTOL INTIMIDATED ME.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I--

♪♪♪♪



GRAN

6:32 p.m.

43%



DUNCAN!
IT'S GRAN.
ARE YOU
BUSY?



I...IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF I'M
BUSY!

YOU'VE
RAN AWAY
FROM THE
HOME!?



IT SEEMED
EASIER THAN
MAKE A FUSS.
THEY ARE SUCH
BIG FUSSERS.

CAN YOU
COME? I'VE
GOT A PROBLEM
I NEED A LITTLE
HELP WITH.

I'M SORRY--
IT WON'T TAKE
VERY LONG.



IT'S HER.
SHE'S...SHE'S
IN THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE.
I HAVE TO
GO AND GET
HER.

I'M SO
SORRY. I CAN'T
EVEN SAY IT'S MY
WORST DATE EVER,
BUT...I'LL PAY FOR
DRY-CLEANING
AND--



DON'T
WORRY. IT COULD
BE WORSE. IT'S A
BAD DATE, BUT
IT'S A BRIEF
DATE.

GO
GET YOUR
GRAN, YOU
GOOF.

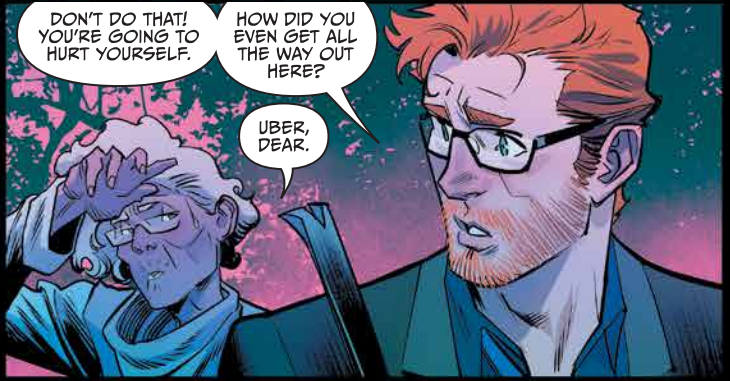


GRAN!
WHERE ARE
YOU?



OVER
HERE,
DEAR!

JUST HAVING
SOME >HNNNGH<
TROUBLE. EVERYTHING
IS SO MUCH >HNNNGH<
HEAVIER NOW.



DON'T DO THAT!
YOU'RE GOING
TO HURT YOURSELF.

HOW DID YOU
EVEN GET ALL
THE WAY OUT
HERE?

UBER,
DEAR.



ALL THE WAY HERE?
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH THAT COSTS?

DON'T MAKE
THAT FACE. IT'S A
FREE APP, THOUGH
I'M NOT SURE IF
IT'S FREE WHY
THEY WANTED MY
CREDIT CARD.

WHAT
ARE YOU
EVEN DOING
HERE?

I JUST
REALIZED
I NEEDED
SOME OLD
THINGS...





WH-WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

PUT IT DOWN, WE DON'T NEED IT.



WHAT IS IT FOR?

WELL, I USED TO HUNT VAMPIRES.



YOU USED TO HUNT VAMPIRES?



YES, I USED TO.
THEN I RAN OUT OF VAMPIRES.





GRAN...YOU ALWAYS ROLLED YOUR EYES AT... ANYTHING LIKE THAT. YOU LAUGHED AT IT. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...

IT'S COMPLICATED, DEAR.

IT WAS BEST YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

AND--



OH DEAR.



MY EARS AREN'T SO GOOD, DUNCAN. CAN YOU HEAR ANYTHING?

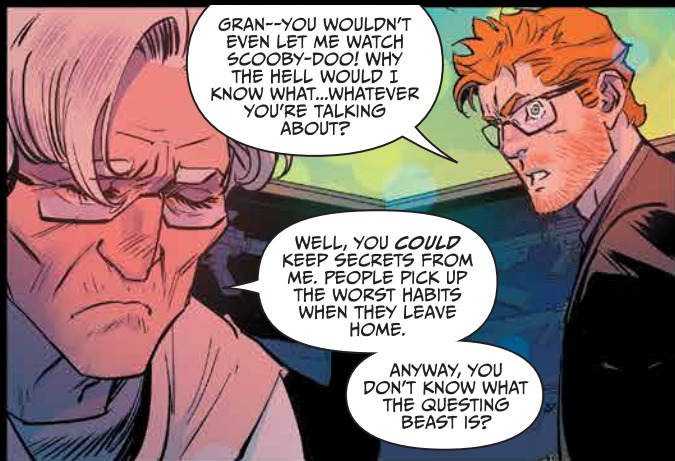
YEAH... IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF DOGS... BARKING? BUT MUFFLED?



WAIT...THE LIGHTING. IT'S CHANGED. WHAT'S--

DUNCAN, DEAR. LISTEN TO ME.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE QUESTING BEAST IS?



GRAN--YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME WATCH SCOOPY-DOO! WHY THE HELL WOULD I KNOW WHAT...WHATEVER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

WELL, YOU *COULD* KEEP SECRETS FROM ME. PEOPLE PICK UP THE WORST HABITS WHEN THEY LEAVE HOME.

ANYWAY, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE QUESTING BEAST IS?



NOW YOU DO.

WROOF!
WROOF!
WROOF!
WROOF!
WROOF!
WROOF!
WROOF!



WH-WH-WHAT DO WE HAVE TO...

A LITTLE ADVICE IN THIS LINE OF WORK. IF IN DOUBT...



RUN!



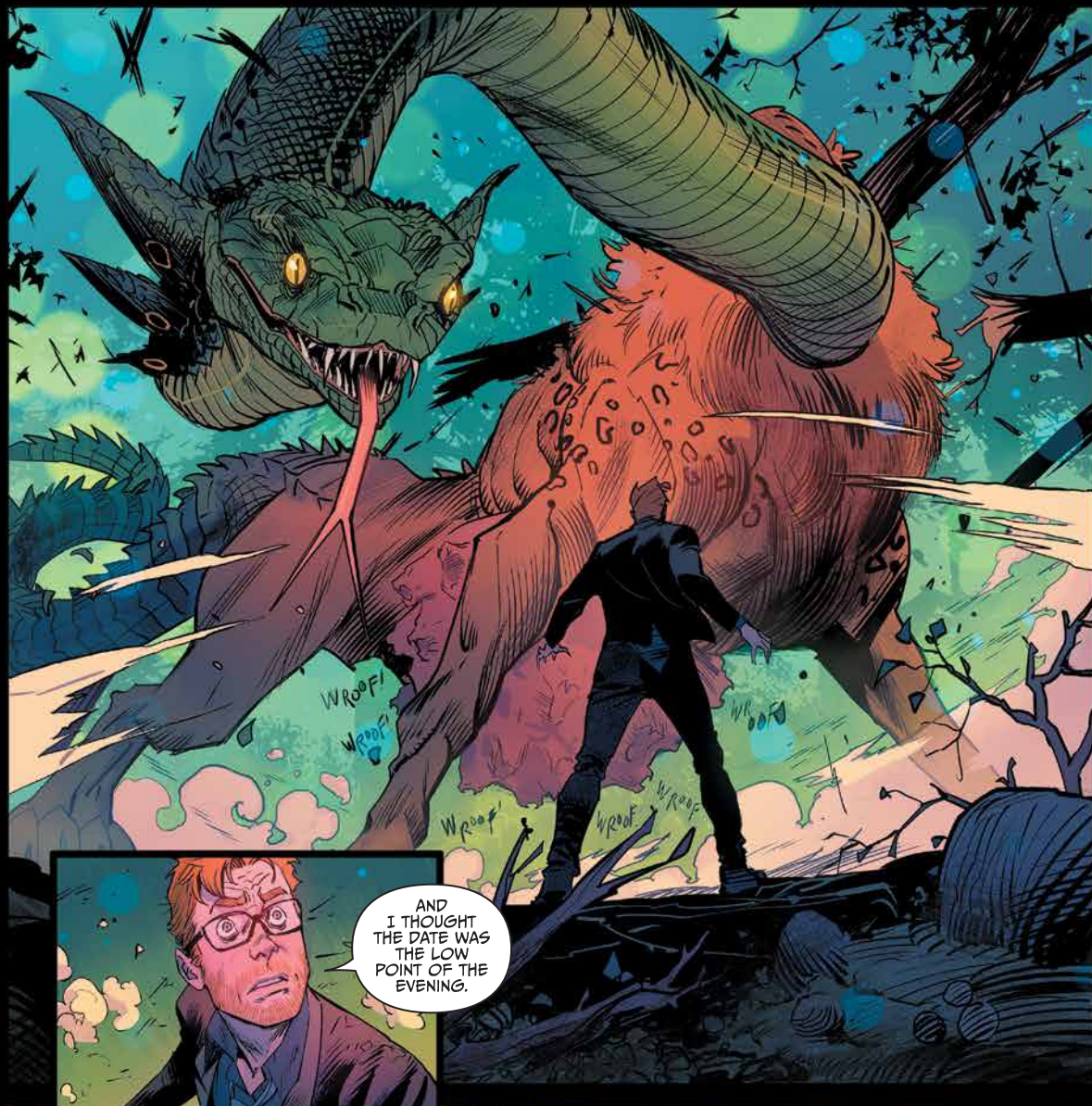
YES, MOST MONSTERS DO GO AFTER MOVEMENT.

KEEP HIM BUSY!





OH GREAT.



AND I THOUGHT THE DATE WAS THE LOW POINT OF THE EVENING.











BUT--
BUT...

YOU START
CHASING IT, AND
YOU'LL JUST GET
ALL OBSESSED
AND YOU'LL BE
NO GOOD TO
ANYONE.

BE
CAREFUL
WITH PEOPLE
WHO CHASE
MONSTERS
TOO HARD.



ANYWAY--
FOLKS CAN'T KILL
IT UNTIL LATER. IT'S
ONE OF THOSE
BEASTS OF
DESTINY SORT OF
THINGS...

IT'S GONE
NOW. IT'LL BE
BACK, LIKELY,
AT THE MOST
ANNOYING
MOMENT.



GRAN...THIS!
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THIS. ALL THIS
SUPERNATURAL
STUFF...

YOU ALWAYS
SAID IT WAS
NONSENSE!

A BEASTIE
WITH A HIND'S
FEET AND A
BELLY PACKED
FULL OF
DOGS?

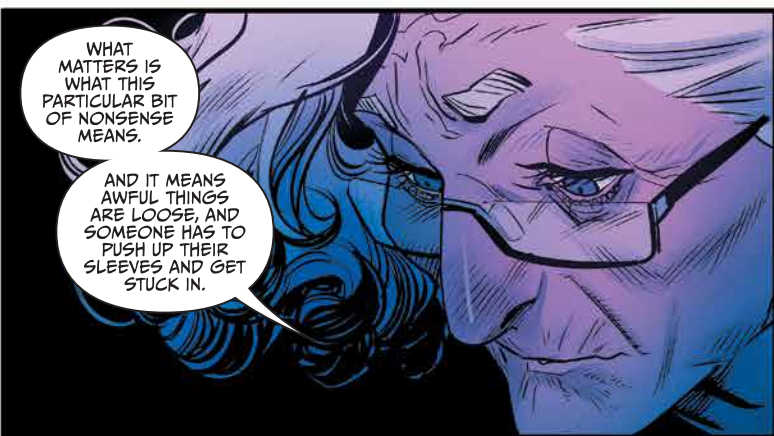
SOUNDS LIKE
NONSENSE TO
ME.



**BUT IT'S
REAL!**

PLENTY OF
THINGS THAT
ARE REAL ARE
NONSENSE,
LUV.

MOST
THINGS,
EVEN.



WHAT
MATTERS IS
WHAT THIS
PARTICULAR
BIT OF
NONSENSE
MEANS.

AND IT MEANS
AWFUL THINGS
ARE LOOSE, AND
SOMEONE HAS TO
PUSH UP THEIR
SLEEVES AND GET
STUCK IN.



RIGHT--THAT'S ENOUGH KIT. WE BETTER GET GOING. WE CAN BUY SANDWICHES ON THE WAY.

IT'S ALL DOWN TO US NOW. FOLK HAVE MURDERED FOLK TO GET HOLD OF A SCABBARD. THAT MEANS THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD.

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM.



YOU...YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS? GRAN, YOU CAN'T GO AROUND CHASING MONSTERS! YOU...



WE NEED TO GET YOU BACK TO THE HOME, AND THEN I PROMISE I'LL LOOK INTO THIS.

I SWEAR I WILL.

YES, I'M SURE YOU WILL. YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...



...BUT YOU WON'T BE SAFE ALONE, SO YOU'LL JUST DRIVE ME TO GLASTONBURY RIGHT NOW, HMM?



GRAN! YOU RAISED ME!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SH--

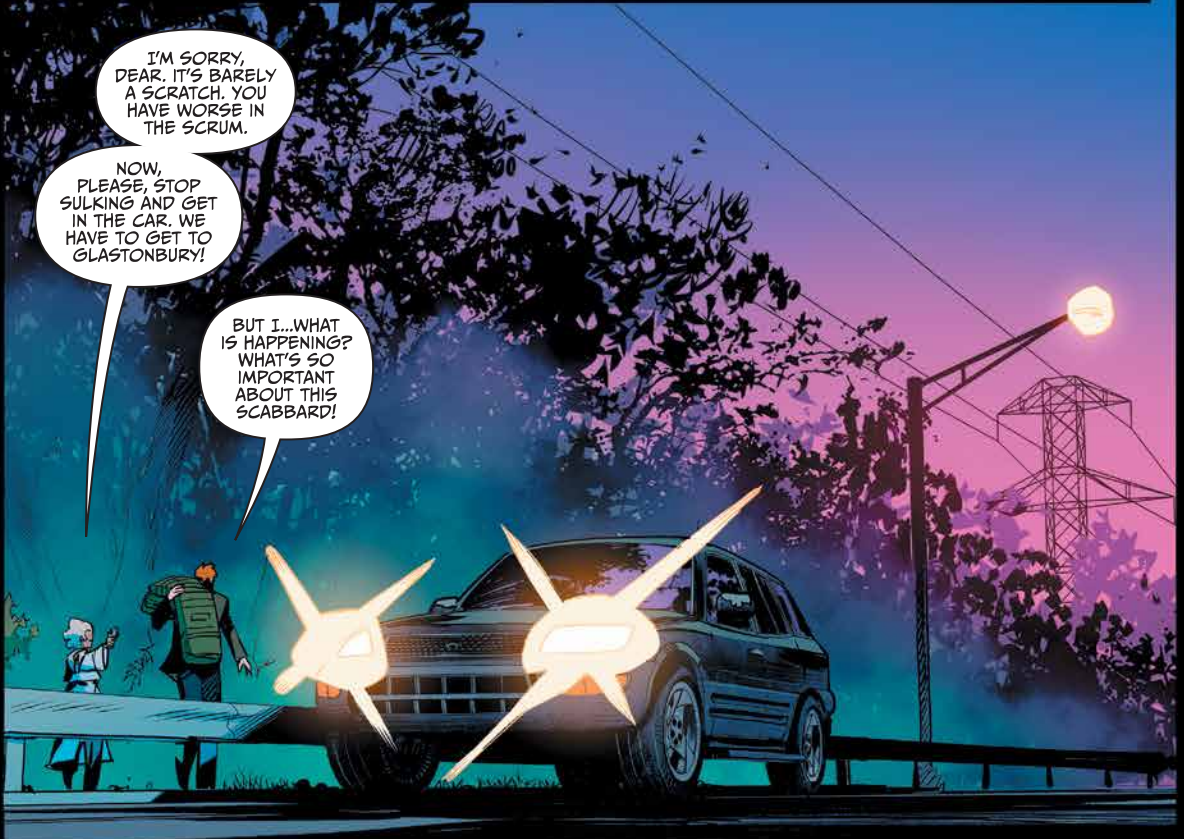


YOU... SHOT ME.



I WAS TRYING TO GIVE YOU A CLOSE SHAVE, BUT FINGERS AREN'T AS STEADY AS THEY USED TO BE.

AGE COMES TO US ALL...



I'M SORRY, DEAR. IT'S BARELY A SCRATCH. YOU HAVE WORSE IN THE SCRUM.

NOW, PLEASE, STOP SULKING AND GET IN THE CAR. WE HAVE TO GET TO GLASTONBURY!

BUT I...WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS SCABBARD!



IT'S MAGIC. THEY USUALLY ARE.

WHAT DOES IT DO?



IT BELONGED TO AN OLD WARLORD. IT HEALS ALL WOUNDS. STICK BIG HOLES IN YOU AND THEY JUST CLOSE RIGHT UP.

DIDN'T DO HIM ANY GOOD--HIS SISTER STOLE IT AND THREW IT IN A LAKE. AND THEN HE GOT STABBED BY HIS SON.



IF I HAD A GIFT LIKE THAT I'D TAKE BETTER CARE OF IT. PEOPLE GO ON ABOUT PEOPLE BEING SPOILED NOWADAYS, BUT YOU'VE NEVER LOST A MAGICAL HEALING SCABBARD, HAVE YOU, DUNCAN?

LET ME IN THE BACK.

HEALED ALL...THAT'S AMAZING.



YES, IT IS. YOU'D THINK THAT'D EARN IT A LITTLE FAME, BUT PEOPLE ONLY GO ON ABOUT THE SWORD. CLOSING ALL WOUNDS IS A MUCH BETTER POWER THAN CHOPPING THINGS UP, I'D SAY.

THE SWORD GOT A NAME, BUT THE SCABBARD? OH NO. PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES ARE ALL WRONG, DUNCAN, THEY REALLY ARE...

I HAD NO IDEA YOU KNEW ALL THIS STUFF.

WHAT'S THE SWORD CALLED?



OH, EXCALIBUR.



EXCALIBUR! AS
IN...EXCALIBUR--
EXCALIBUR?!
EXCALIBUR--
EXCALIBUR--
EXCALIBUR!?

YOU'RE REPEATING
YOURSELF. TAKE
A DEEP BREATH.
YOU ALWAYS
WERE A
BLURTER.

KING
ARTHUR'S
SWORD
EXCALIBUR?!

NO.



THANK
GOD.



IT'S
NOT ARTHUR'S
SWORD. IT'S ONE
OF THE LADIES
OF THE LAKE'S
SWORD.

THEY
LOANED
IT TO
ARTHUR.



BUT IF
SOMEONE
HAS ARTHUR'S
SCABBARD, I
THINK THEY'D
BE TRYING TO
BRING HIM
BACK.

THERE'S
ENOUGH
PROPHECIES
AFTER ALL.

SOME FOOL
ALWAYS WANTS
TO TAKE A
SHOT AT A
PROPHECY. IT'S THE
"KICK ME" SIGN OF
THE OCCULT
WORLD...



BUT...
ARTHUR...

...ISN'T HE
A GOOD
GUY?



OH, YOU
ADORABLE
BOY.



"ARTHUR UNITED THE BRITONS. BEAT BACK THE INVADING FOREIGNERS."


"AND THEN THE BIT PEOPLE ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT..."



...HE WENT TO WAR WITH A EUROPEAN EMPIRE AND CRUSHED IT.



"HE'S SAID TO RETURN IN BRITAIN'S DARKEST HOUR."



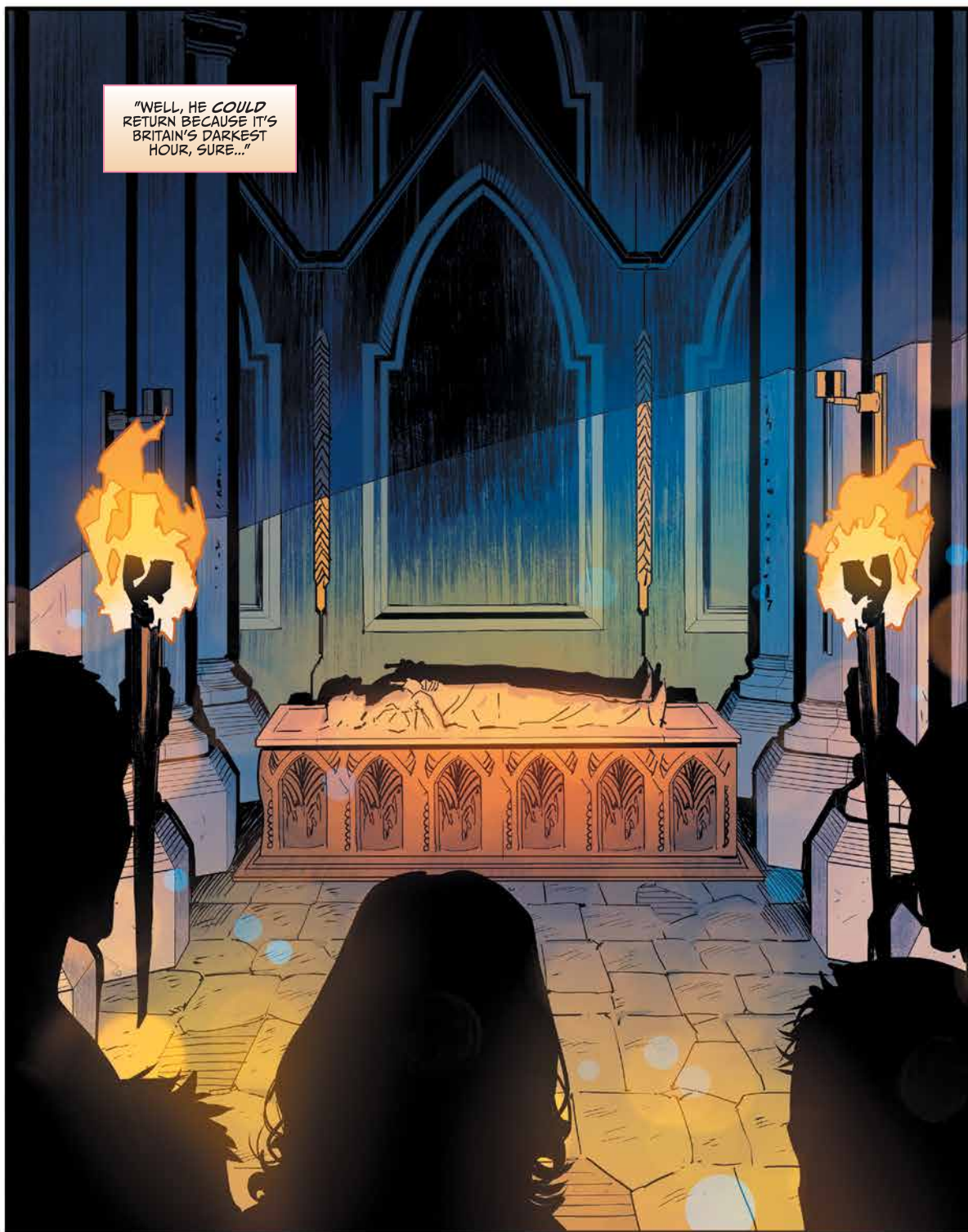
THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PROPHECY THAT ALWAYS RUBBED ME UP THE WRONG WAY...

NEVER TRUST A PROPHECY THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN TWO WAYS.



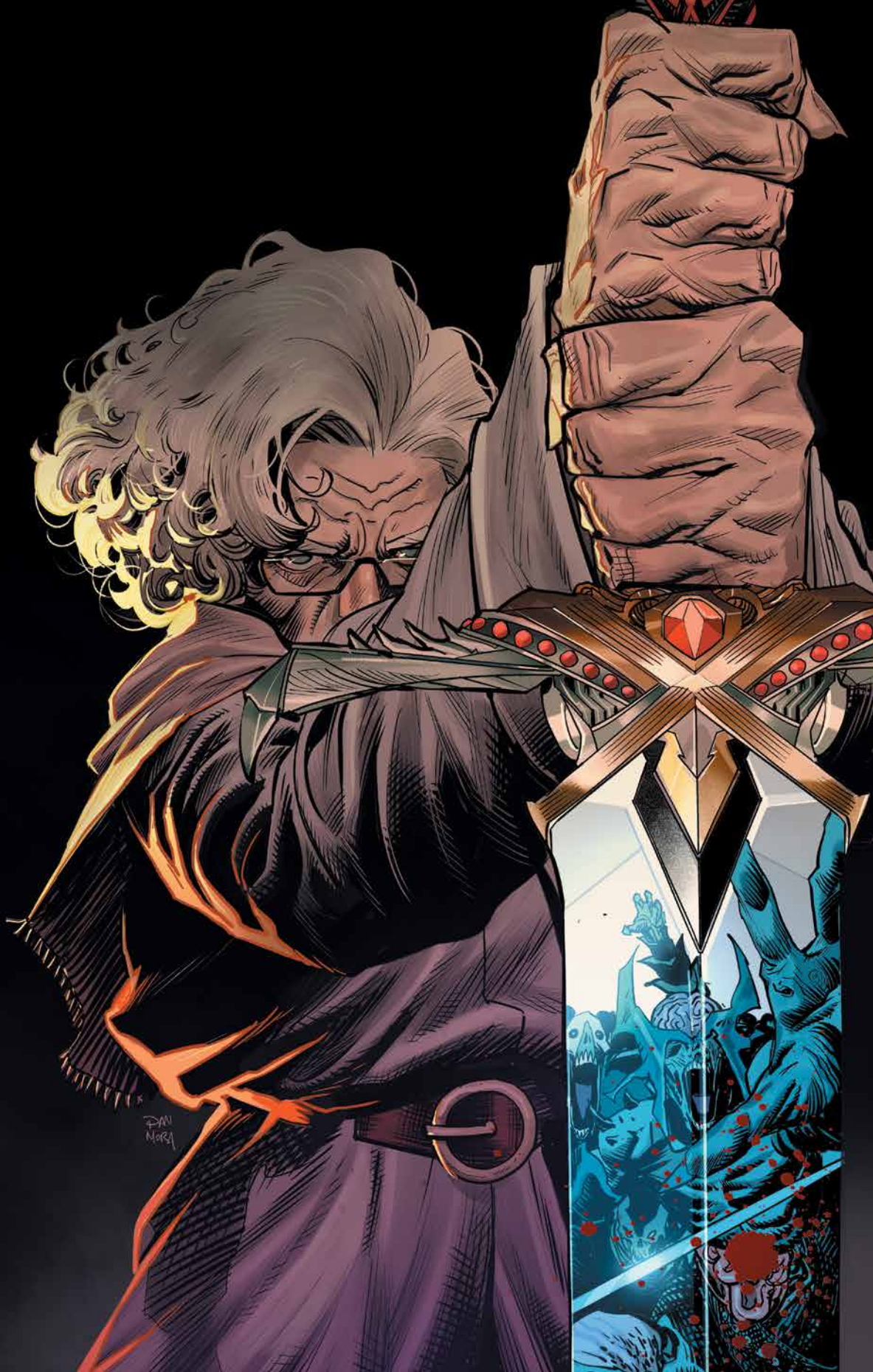
"WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY THAT?"

"WELL, HE *COULD*
RETURN BECAUSE IT'S
BRITAIN'S DARKEST
HOUR, SURE..."



...OR
HIS RETURN
COULD CAUSE
IT.





ISSUE TWO COVER BY **DAN MORA**



CHAPTER TWO

GLASTONBURY



WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN ME ABOUT ANY OF THIS?

I SAW IT, AND I'M STILL NOT SURE I BELIEVE IT. WHEN DID YOU FIT MONSTER-HUNTING IN AROUND RAISING ME, GRAN?



OH, IT'S COMPLICATED, DEAR. IT ALL ENDED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. AND REALLY? WHAT HELP WOULD KNOWING BE?

IT'D JUST BE AN UNEASY, SCARY FEELING KNOWING THAT EVERY SHADOW COULD BE CRAMMED FULL OF MONSTERS.



YES, CLEARLY WORSE THAN THE UNEASY, SCARY FEELING OF MY GRAN POINTING A GUN AT ME!



OH, DON'T WHINE! I CAN TELL YOU'RE FASCINATED.

THIS GUN IS JUST OUR WAY OF MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S ALL OUT OF YOUR CONTROL.



THIS IS OUT OF MY CONTROL!



OH--YOU HAVE A TEXT MESSAGE, DEAR. FROM A GIRL. ROSE?

"HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOUR GRAN?" THAT'S SWEET.

TEXT HER BACK SAYING "GREAT! SHE'S FINE AND HAS A GUN POINTING AT MY HEAD!"



THERE'S NO NEED FOR SARCASM, DUNCAN MCGUIRE.

YOU WERE RAISED BETTER THAN THAT.



PLEASE! THIS IS...DIFFICULT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ANYTHING!

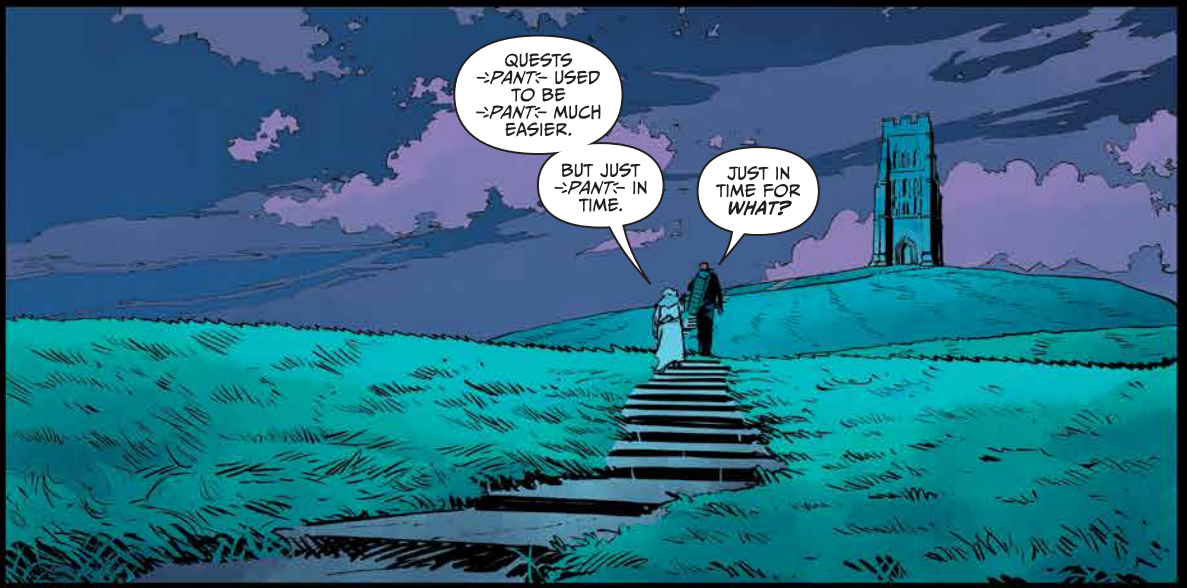
WHAT DOES ANY OF IT MEAN? AS IN, WHY ON EARTH DID THE... QUESTING BEAST TURN UP?



THE QUESTING BEAST? IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE, DUNCAN.



YOU'RE GOING ON A QUEST.



QUESTS
->PANT-> USED
TO BE
->PANT-> MUCH
EASIER.

BUT JUST
->PANT-> IN
TIME.

JUST IN
TIME FOR
WHAT?



STILL IN
THE WITCHING
HOUR. THEY'LL
HAVE CROSSED
OVER TO TRY
AND USE THE
SCABBARD. WE
WILL TOO.



I
SUPPOSE
IT IS A
LIMINAL
TIME.



OOH,
"LIMINAL."
LOOK AT YOUR
FANCY BOOK
LEARNING.

AH--
HERE WE
GO.

WAIT! THIS
HAPPENED
BACK IN THE
FOREST.



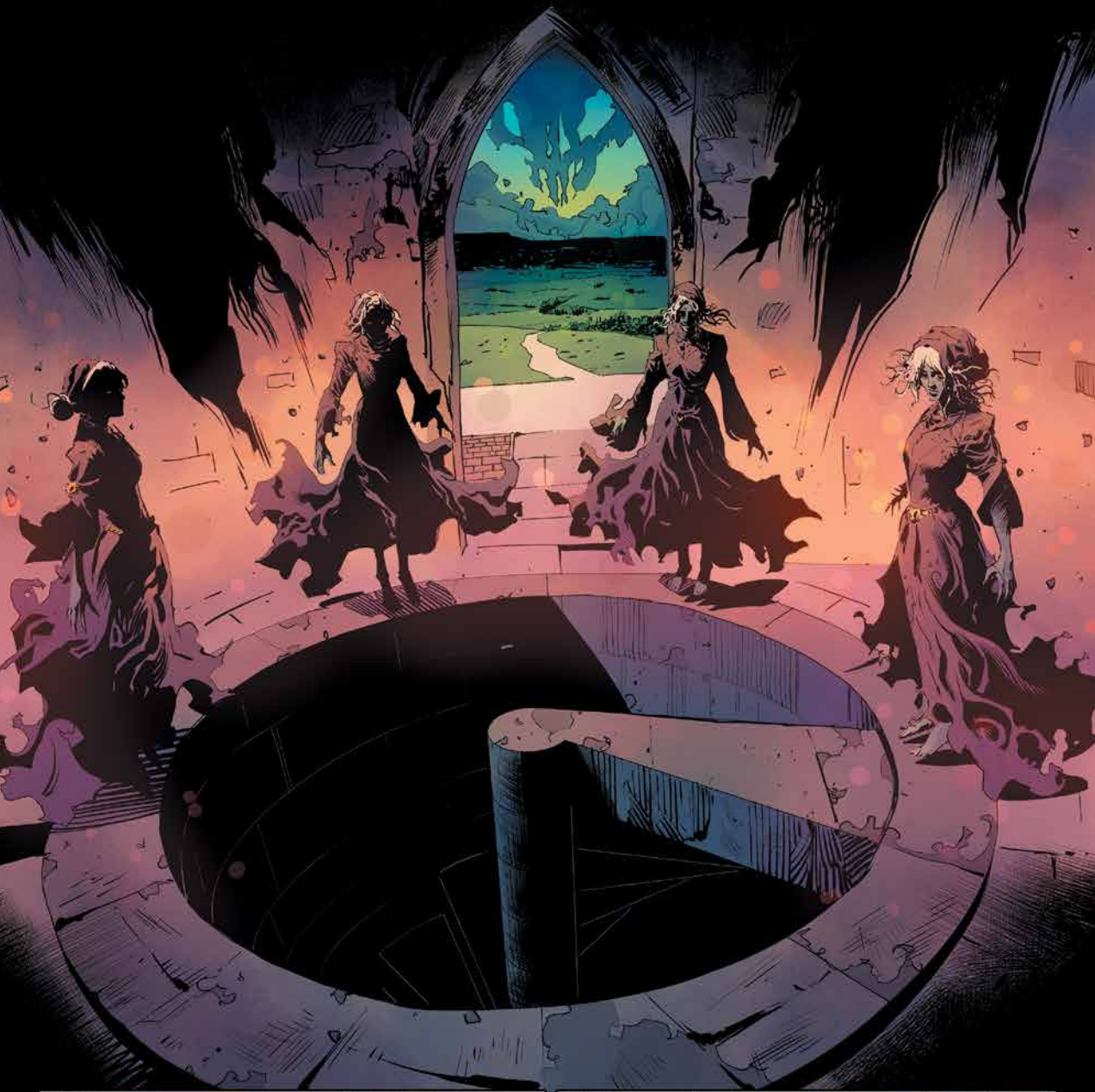
YES, THE WORLD IS
HAUNTED. HAUNTED
BY THESE FERAL
STORIES.

THEY LURE US IN,
THEY'D GOBBLE US
UP, GIVEN HALF A
CHANCE...



TAKES A CERTAIN
SORT TO GO
WANDERING INTO
THE WOODS.

LOOKING
FOR
WOLVES.



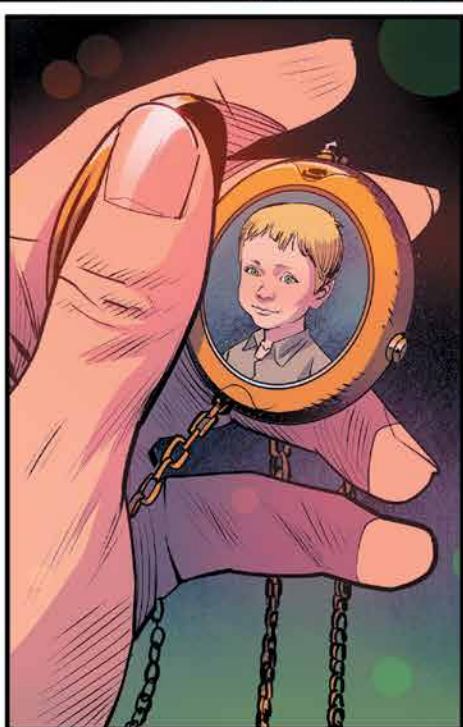


PUT YOUR
BACK INTO
IT, YOU
LOT.

WE'VE
GOT A
KING IN
HERE.



WE *DO*
HAVE A KING
IN HERE,
ELAINE?



PAY ATTENTION
YOU DOZY BINT.
THIS IS THE MAIN
EVENT.

I *AM*
PAYING ATTENTION
TO THE PLAN. IT JUST
HAPPENS TO CONTINUE
AFTER WE GET A
CORPSE OUT OF
A BOX. IT--



AT
LAST.

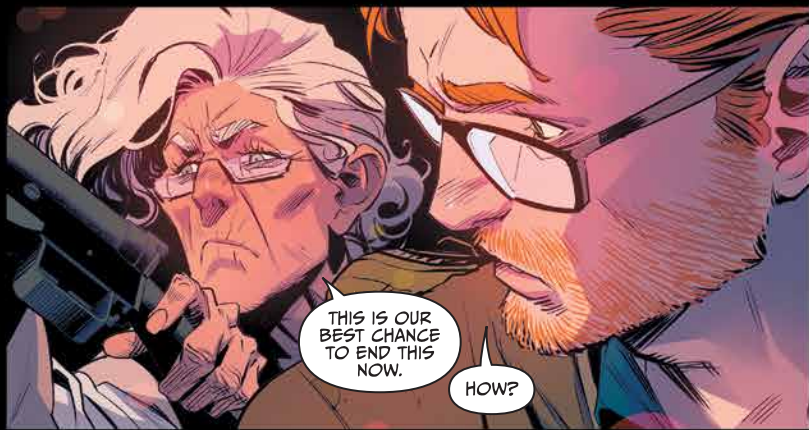


THE ONCE
AND FUTURE
KING.



THAT WAS AMAZING. THEY WERE FLOATING AND...

DUNCAN, PAY ATTENTION.



THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE TO END THIS NOW.

HOW?



I THINK YOU DON'T NEED A GUN POINTING AT YOU ANY MORE.

SO YOU GET ONE OF YOUR OWN.



I'VE NEVER SHOT ANYTHING BEFORE.

YES, BECAUSE YOU'RE A GOOD BOY. DON'T WORRY. IT'S EASY.

SAFETY OFF, POINT, DEAD, NOTHING TO IT.



OH, GRAN...

AND STEP CAREFULLY! WE NEED TO BE QUIET.

MIND THAT ROCK...



NOW, WE JUST HOPE WE CAN STOP THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.





OH, BUGGER.



WH...WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WAIT. GIVE HIM TIME.



OH NO.



70007





THE SWORD IN THE STONE.

A SWORD IN SOME STONES. A BURIED SWORD.

IT'S HARDLY THE SAME THING. IF YOUR JAW DROPS EVERY TIME WE SEE ANYTHING WITH A LITTLE FAIRY SPARKLE ON IT, WE'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING HALF OUR DAY PICKING IT UP.



WH...WHAT DOES HE WANT?

HE'S A KING. YOU WANT TO BE HIS KNIGHTS.

YOU KNOW HOW THIS GOES. GET KNEELING.



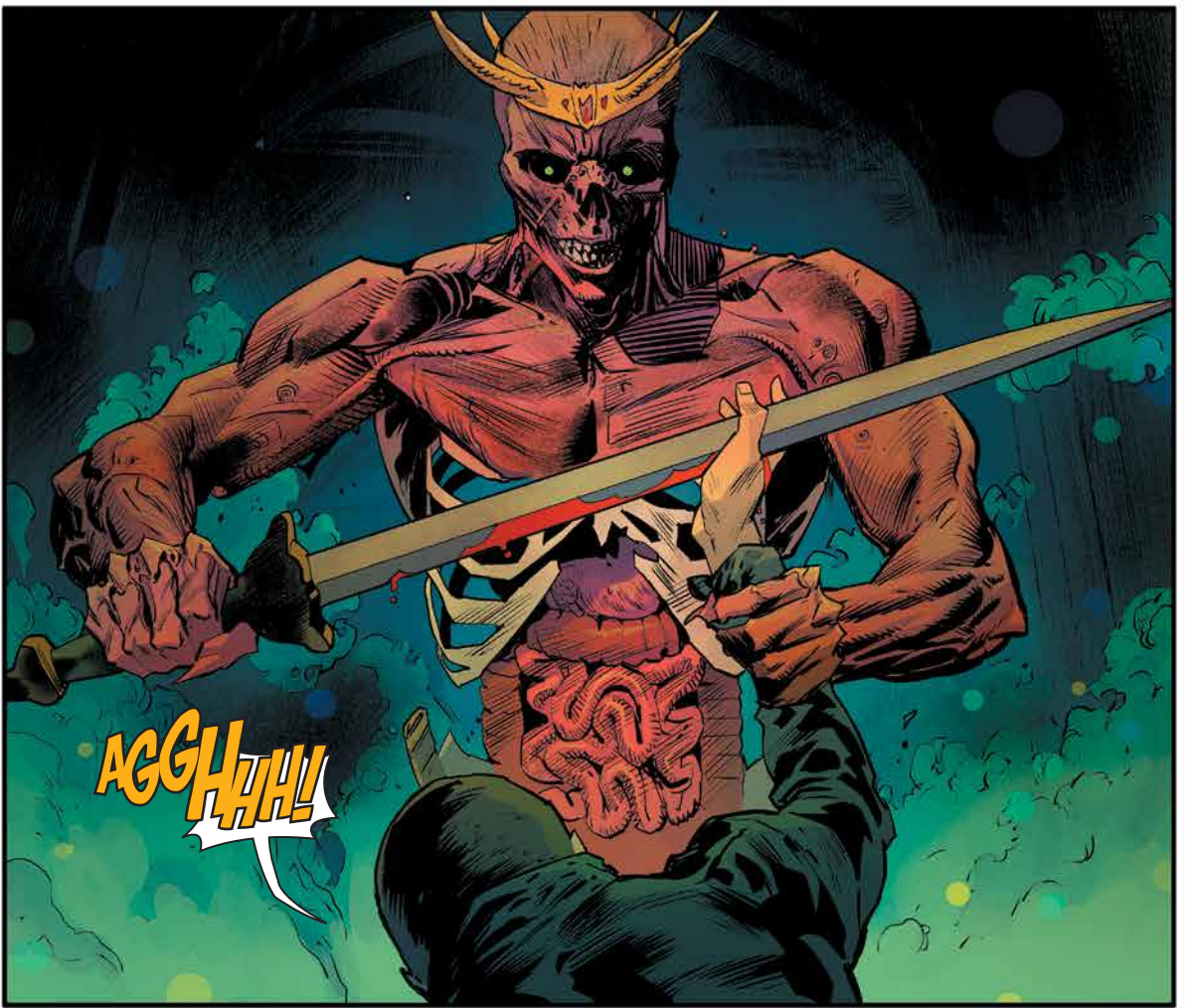
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? CAN'T WE RUSH THEM OR...

ONLY IF WE WANT TO BE STABBED. HONESTLY, DEAR?

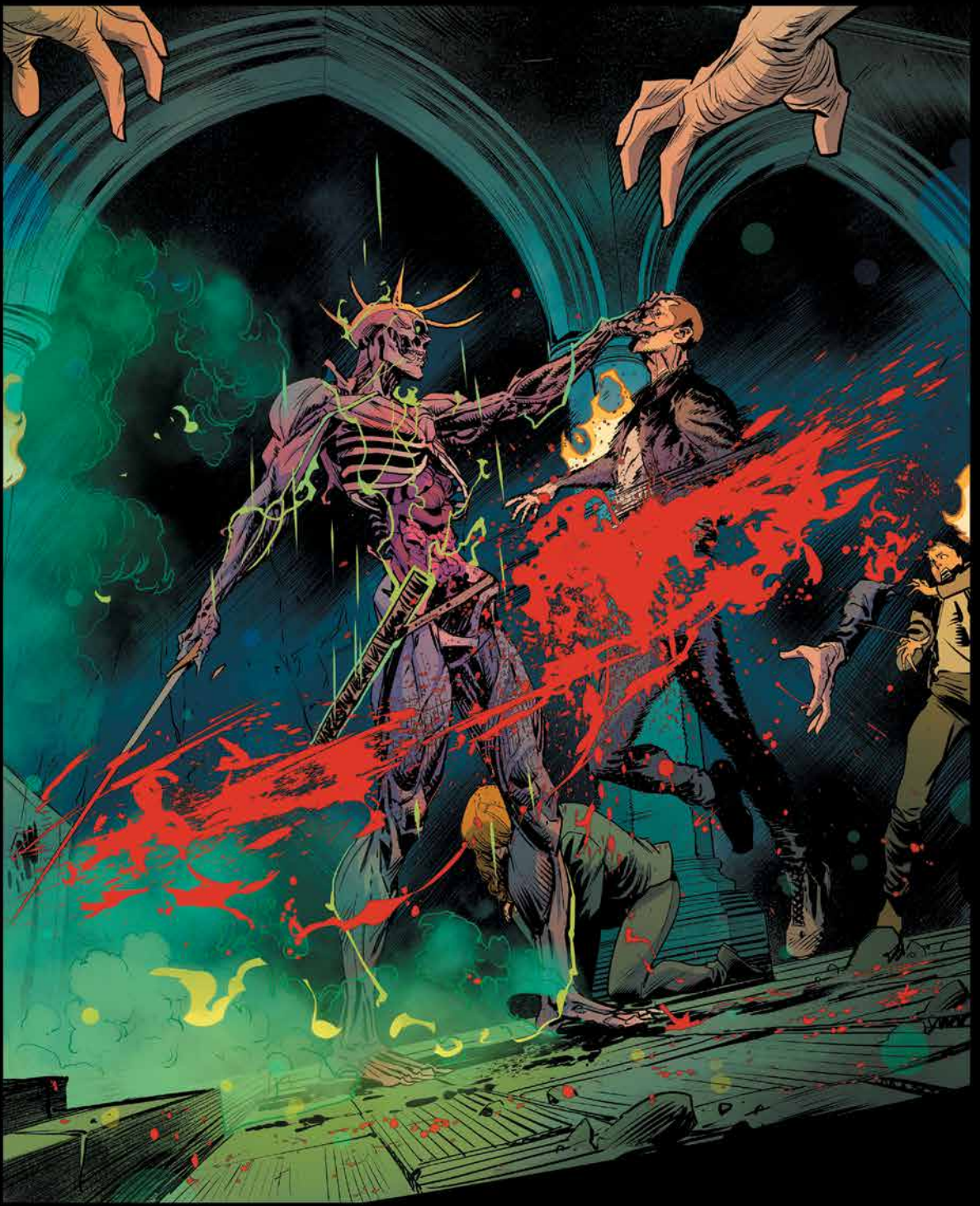
WE HAVE TO WORK OUT WHAT THEIR PLAN IS BEFORE WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF STOPPING IT.



WHAT? LET--







I...DON'T UNDERSTAND.



HMM, WELL, KING ARTHUR FOUGHT A BUNCH OF FOREIGN INVADERS, IT'S TRUE...



"BUT THOSE INVADERS? THEY WERE ANGLO-SAXONS."

"HE IS VERY MUCH FOR BRITAIN FOR THE BRITISH."



THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THEM.





WELL, SHE NEVER WAS A COWARD.

BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'S PLAYING AT?



DO YOU KNOW HER?

DIDN'T YOU THINK TO MENTION IT?



THERE'S TIMES WHEN WE CAN HAVE A NICE CHINWAG, LIKE WHEN YOU COME VISITING, OR ON THE PHONE, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

BUT THOSE TIMES DON'T INCLUDE WHEN YOU'RE HIDING FROM MONSTERS.



YOU COME TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE TRUE KING OF BRITON, CELT?

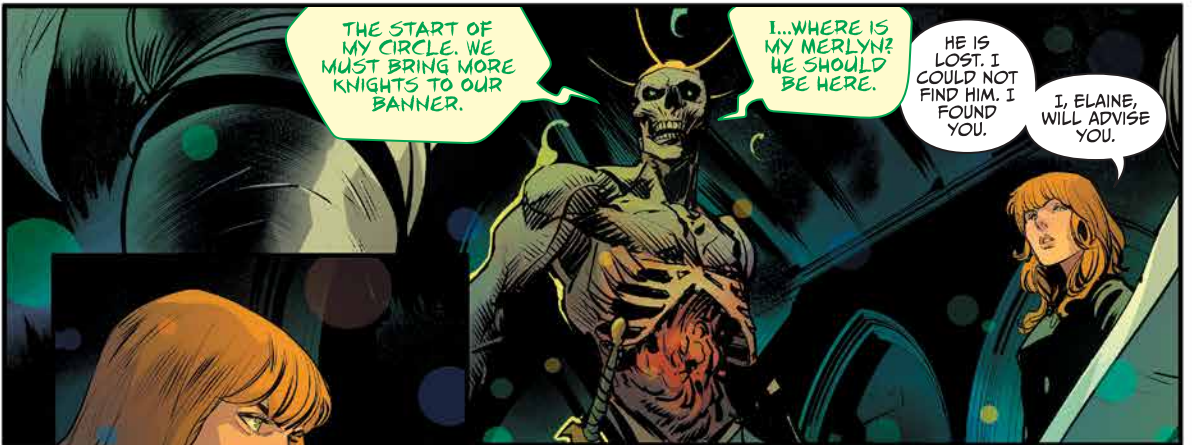


WHO IS SHE?

SHE USED TO WORK WITH ME.

SHE'S SOMEONE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER.





THE START OF MY CIRCLE. WE MUST BRING MORE KNIGHTS TO OUR BANNER.

I...WHERE IS MY MERLYN? HE SHOULD BE HERE.

HE IS LOST. I COULD NOT FIND HIM. I FOUND YOU.

I, ELAINE, WILL ADVISE YOU.



THE LAND IS SICK. THE KING AND THE LAND ARE AS ONE.

I HAVE A BOY WHO WOULD BE A KNIGHT...



SHE CAN'T BE SERIOUS.



MY GALAHAD.

HE CAN BRING THE GRAIL TO YOU.



SHE'S MADE A GALAHAD.

SHE... THAT'S IT. LET'S GO. QUICKLY. QUIETLY.

WHAT'S A GALAHAD?



WORST CASE SCENARIO? END OF THE WORLD. OR MAYBE JUST THE END OF A WORLD WORTH LIVING IN.

AND--





DO WE START SHOOTING NOW?

WHY NOT, DEAR...



...IT CAN'T MAKE IT ANY WORSE.



ISSUE THREE COVER BY **DAN MORA**



CHAPTER THREE

OTHERWORLD



AGGGHHH!



ARGGGHH!!

WELL DONE! SEE, YOU'RE A NATURAL, DUNCAN.

NONE OF THIS "IS THE SAFETY OFF?" NONSENSE. NOW WHERE IS THE LITTLE...



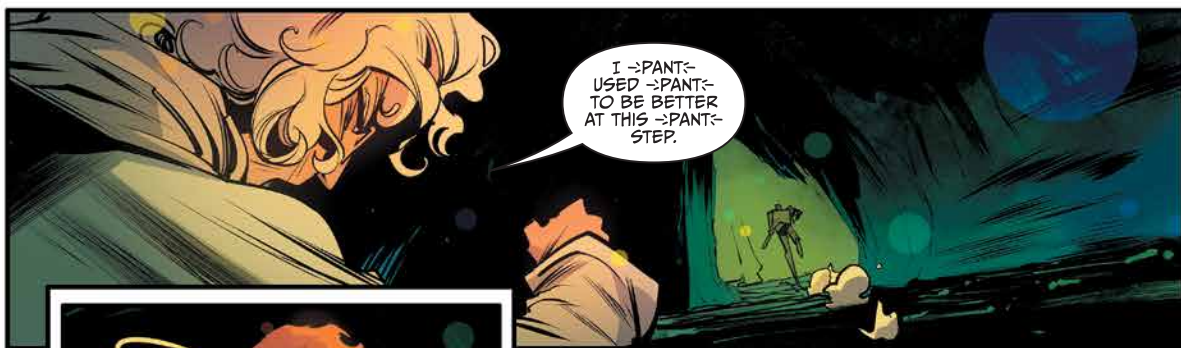
...AH-HA!



STEP TWO?



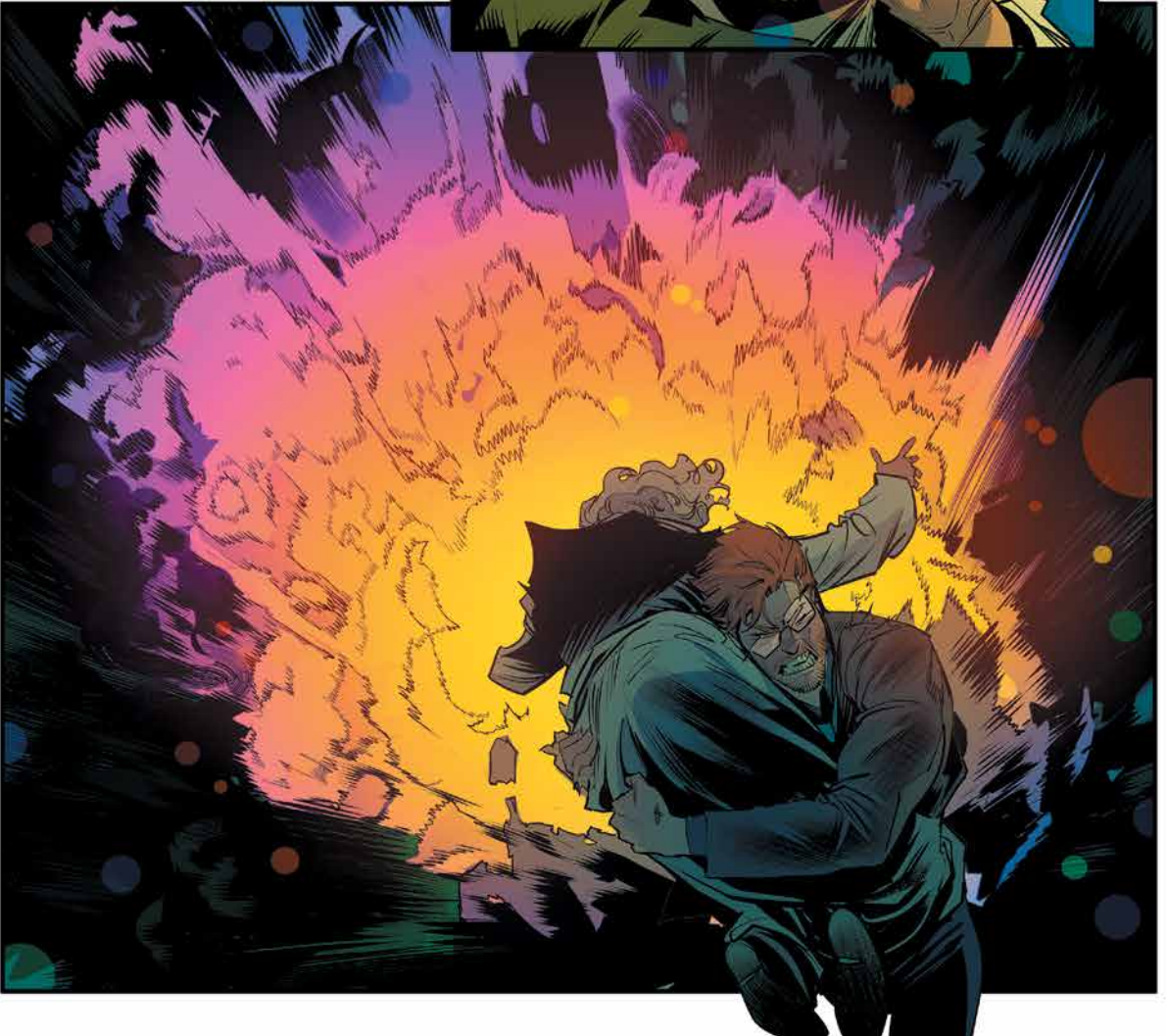
RUN!



I ->PANT-< USED ->PANT-< TO BE BETTER AT THIS ->PANT-< STEP.



OH, YOU SWEET THING.





THAT'S IT. WE'RE OUT. THEY WON'T CROSS OVER FROM THE OTHERWORLD.

NOT YET.

WHY AM I TASTING SEASONING?

WHAT THE HELL WAS IN THAT THING?



A BIT OF THIS, A BIT OF THAT.

METEORIC IRON, SEA SALT, GARLIC, SILVER FILINGS, WOLF-BANE, AND SO ON. OH--AND HIGH EXPLOSIVE.



CAN NEVER BE SURE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE FACING UP AGAINST IN THIS LINE OF WORK, SO YOU SPREAD YOUR BET.

IT'S LIKE... HOW DO YOU KILL A VAMPIRE, DEAR?



ER...A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART, YES?

AND A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART KILLS LOTS OF THINGS.



THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THE HAUNTED WORLD.



IF THE LAND COULD BE HEALED, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PUNISH ALL AT YOUR LEISURE, MY KING.

THE TWO WORLDS WILL BE AS ONE...

HMM.



THIS BOY OF YOURS WHO WOULD BRING ME THE GRAIL? BRING HIM UNTO ME.



BUT FIRST, I MUST BE TRULY KING ONCE MORE...



...SO LET US FIND A BLADE MORE FITTING FOR MY STATION.



WHAT NOW?

THE DOCTOR.

HMM. POOR CHUNKY CHARLES IS LONG DEAD. WE'LL NEED TO ACTIVATE A SUCCESSOR.



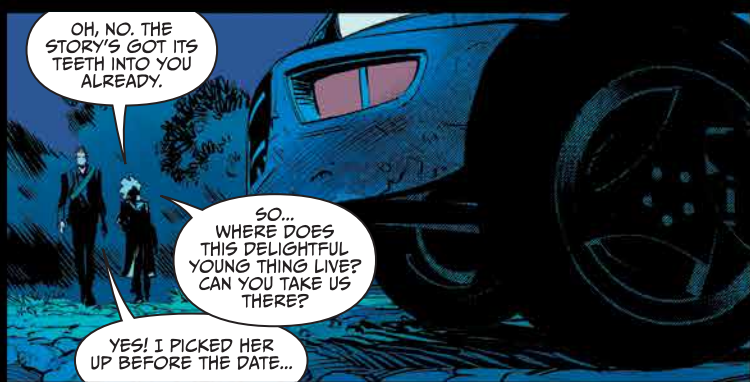
THE DOCTOR? IS THAT SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR SECRET ORDER OR...

A DOCTOR OF HISTORY, DEAR. BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, MOST LIKELY.



THE GIRL I WAS ON A DATE WITH--SHE'S A DOCTOR OF HISTORY, AT BRISTOL.

WOW. THAT'S A WEIRD COINCIDENCE.



OH, NO. THE STORY'S GOT ITS TEETH INTO YOU ALREADY.

SO... WHERE DOES THIS DELIGHTFUL YOUNG THING LIVE? CAN YOU TAKE US THERE?

YES! I PICKED HER UP BEFORE THE DATE...



WHAT--YOU PICKED UP A GIRL FOR A DATE IN THE CAR YOU BOUGHT FOR TWO HUNDRED EUROS IN FRANCE ON HOLIDAY?

OH, NO WONDER YOU'RE SINGLE, DUNCAN.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL





SHE...WON'T SHOOT.

LET ME GUESS.

YOU DO THAT PAUSE EVERY TIME YOU LIE?



WELL, SHE SHOT ME, BUT I'M FAMILY.

SHE... PROBABLY WON'T DO THAT TO SOMEONE ELSE. IT'D BE RUDE.



YOU TWO ARE JUST ADORABLE, BUT WE NEED TO GET A MOVE ON.

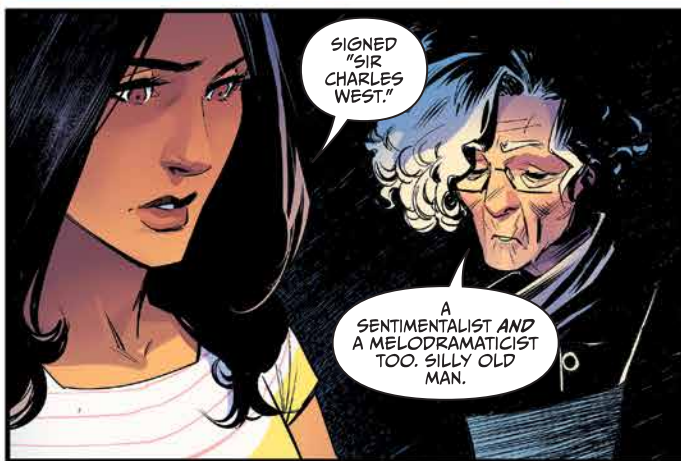
"I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW ROSE."

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S THE ARCHIVES. OLD FILING AND... OBSOLETE.









WE NEED TO INTERCEPT ARTHUR AS HE KNIGHTS MISSY'S LITTLE GALAHAD.

DON'T WORRY--I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



SHE IS VERY SECRETIVE.

I GUESS SHE IS. I DIDN'T QUITE REALIZE HOW SECRETIVE UNTIL--OOOH--THREE HOURS AGO.

WE JUST GREW UP ISOLATED. FAMILY HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS.



MY PARENTS GONE. HER HUSBAND DEAD. JUST THE TWO OF US, REALLY...



I'M SORRY.

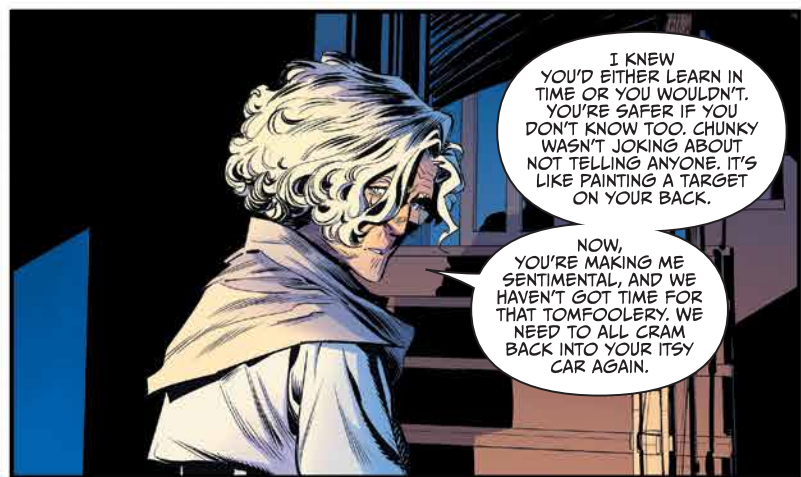
IT'S OKAY. IT'S HARD TO MISS WHAT YOU NEVER HAD. IT WAS A GOOD CHILDHOOD, REALLY. QUIET, THOUGH.

SHE DIDN'T REALLY LET ME WATCH TELEVISION, SO I READ A LOT. NON-FICTION. THE HISTORY SHE LET ME, ANYWAY.

SHE DIDN'T EVEN LIKE EARLY HISTORY.



"TOO CLOSE TO SILLY NONSENSE MYTHS, MY DEAR."



I KNEW YOU'D EITHER LEARN IN TIME OR YOU WOULDN'T. YOU'RE SAFER IF YOU DON'T KNOW TOO. CHUNKY WASN'T JOKING ABOUT NOT TELLING ANYONE. IT'S LIKE PAINTING A TARGET ON YOUR BACK.

NOW, YOU'RE MAKING ME SENTIMENTAL, AND WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THAT TOMFOOLERY. WE NEED TO ALL GRAB BACK INTO YOUR ITSY CAR AGAIN.

BATH LATER

I'VE GOT THESE
MASTER KEYS FOR
EVERYWHERE. WE
COULD EVEN GO
INTO THE BATHS...

THE
BATHS? HOLY
WATERS?
PTTH.

PLACE
OF MAGICAL
HEALING,
THOUGHT THE
ROMANS AND
EVERYONE
BLOODY
ELSE.

HAD
THE NATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICE FOR
SEVENTY YEARS, AND
WE DECIDE MAYBE WE
DON'T BELIEVE IN IT
ANYMORE. WHY
BELIEVE IN SOMETHING
THAT ACTUALLY
WORKS?

STUPID
SPECIES,
SOMETIMES.

NO,
WE WON'T BE
GOING TO THE
BLOODY BATHS.
DO YOU KNOW
EDGAR THE
GOOD?

FIRST
KING OF ALL
ENGLAND.

AND
CROWNED
AT BATH
ABBEY, NOT
LONDON.

EXACTLY,
ROSE.

NOW,
GET US
IN.

OH--AND
HOLD
THIS.

SO, EDGAR GOT CROWNED
HERE, SO WE CAN USE IT? LIKE
WE USED GLASTONBURY
TOR?

HE GOT
CROWNED HERE,
YES, BUT NOT IN
THIS ABBEY.

HE GOT
CROWNED IN
THE FIRST
ABBEY...



...AND THIS PLACE REMEMBERS WHAT THAT WAS LIKE.



OH... HELL. IT'S ALL REAL.

PTTH. YOU'RE AS BAD AS DUNCAN.

IT'S NOT REAL. IT'S JUST TRUE.



WHAT DO I DO?

YOU STAY OUTSIDE. KEEP THE CANDLE LIT.





I LIKE HER. SHE'S GOT A GOOD HEAD ON HER SHOULDERS.

WHY WERE YOU SO MEAN TO HER THEN?



I WAS JUST TREATING HER LIKE PART OF THE FAMILY...



ANYWAY-- ENOUGH OF THAT. BE QUIET.

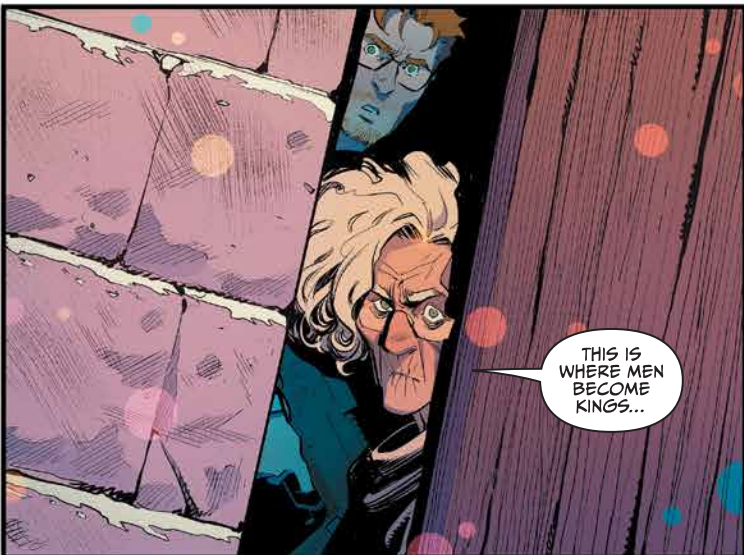
WE NEED TO MOVE SOFTLY. NO KICKING ROCKS THIS TIME.

I WON'T! AND...STOP DISTRACTING ME. JUST TELL ME WHAT WE'RE DOING CREEPING THROUGH...THIS? WHERE ARE WE GOING?



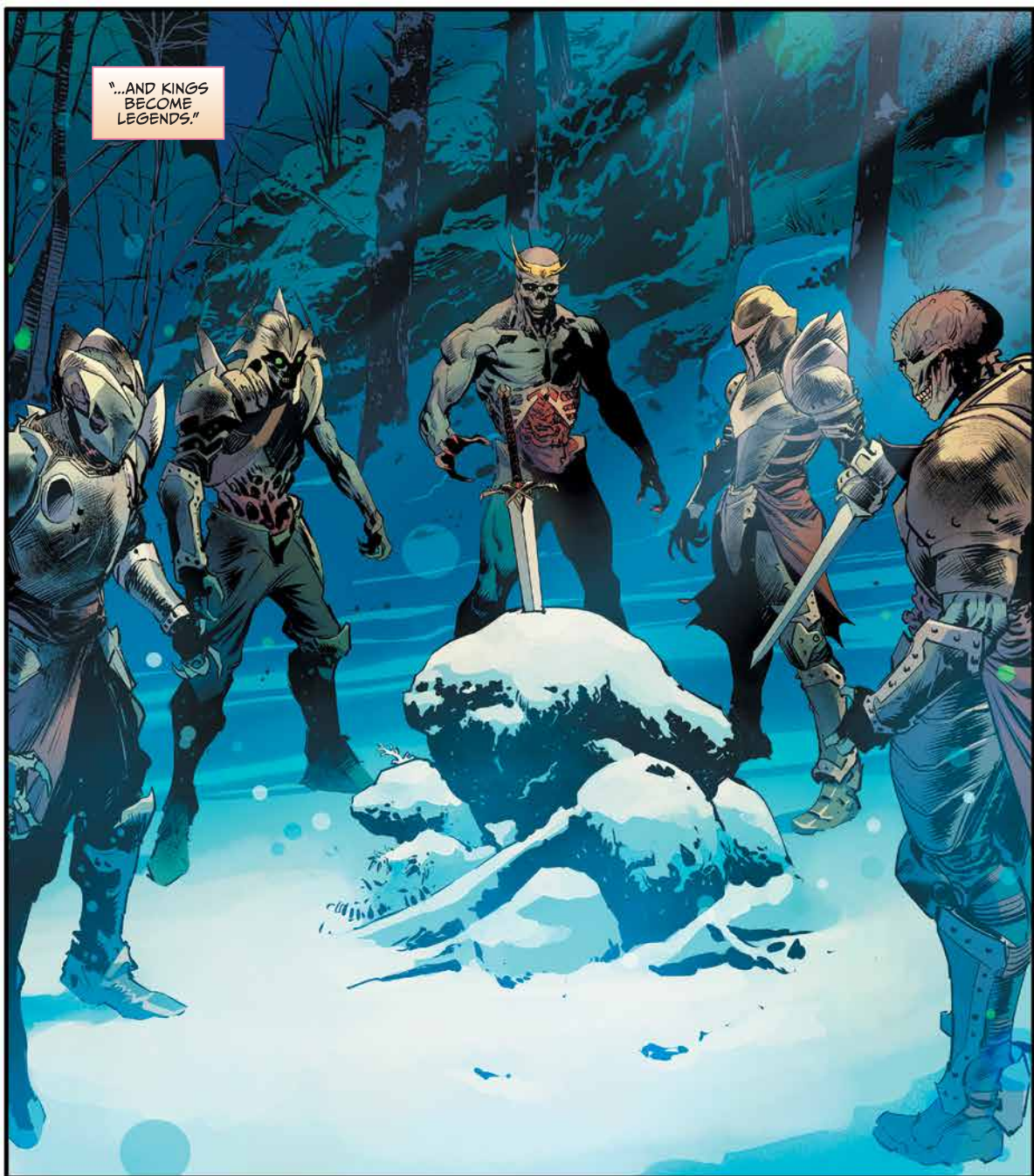
OLD ARTHUR WILL BE TRYING TO RECLAIM HIS THRONE.

EDGAR WAS CROWNED HERE. THAT MEANS THERE'S A CONNECTION HERE TO ALL OTHER PLACES WHERE MEN BECAME KINGS, WHETHER TRUE OR STORY. WE CAN USE THAT TO SNEAK UP ON THEM...



THIS IS WHERE MEN BECAME KINGS...

"...AND KINGS
BECOME
LEGENDS."



EXCALIBUR!

OH,
DUNCAN.

IN SOME
STORIES, YES, IN
MOST, NO. EXCALIBUR
BELONGS TO THE
LADY OF THE LAKE,
REMEMBER?

THIS IS...
MAYBE "CLARENT"?
THAT'S PROBABLY TOO
LATE. 14-15TH CENTURY.
THIS ARTHUR SEEMS
MAINLY EARLY WELSH.
MAINLY.

LET'S JUST
STICK WITH
"THE SWORD IN
THE STONE,"
HMM?



IT SPEAKS
TO ME OF
BRITAIN.

IT HUNGERS
FOR THE
THROAT OF
SAXON MEN.

MY
KING...





MY SON,
GALAHAD.

THE MAN
WHO WILL
BRING YOU
THE GRAIL.

OH,
ELAINE. HOW
MUCH DID
THAT GETUP
COST?

SO
HOW DOES
GALAHAD FIND
THE GRAIL?

IT'S JUST WHAT HE DOES.
ORIGINALLY IT WAS PERCIVAL,
THAT POOR INNOCENT, BUT
THEY SIDELINED HIM WITH
GALAHAD IN THE LATER
STORIES. HE GOT TO TAG
ALONG. WITH BORS,
I THINK.

GALAHAD'S THE
SON OF LANCELOT.
HE'S THE GREATEST
KNIGHT. CHOSEN
ONE SILLINESS.



I WAS BRED FOR THIS PURPOSE, MY KING.

LET US START THIS AGE OF ADVENTURE.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I'VE GOT JUST THE THING. GIVE ME A SECOND TO GET IT OUT, THEN KNEEL.



IS THIS A GOD THING? DO WE *PRAY* FOR DIVINE ASSISTANCE OR...SCARE THE UNDEAD WITH CRUCIFIXES?

YOU *HAVE* BEEN WATCHING ALL THE MOVIES I TOLD YOU NOT TO, DUNCAN. IT'LL ROT YOUR MIND. MAYBE LITERALLY.

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE...



GALAHAD FINDS THE GRAIL.

THE GRAIL HEALS THE LAND.

NONE OF US WOULD SURVIVE THAT PLAGUE OF STORY.

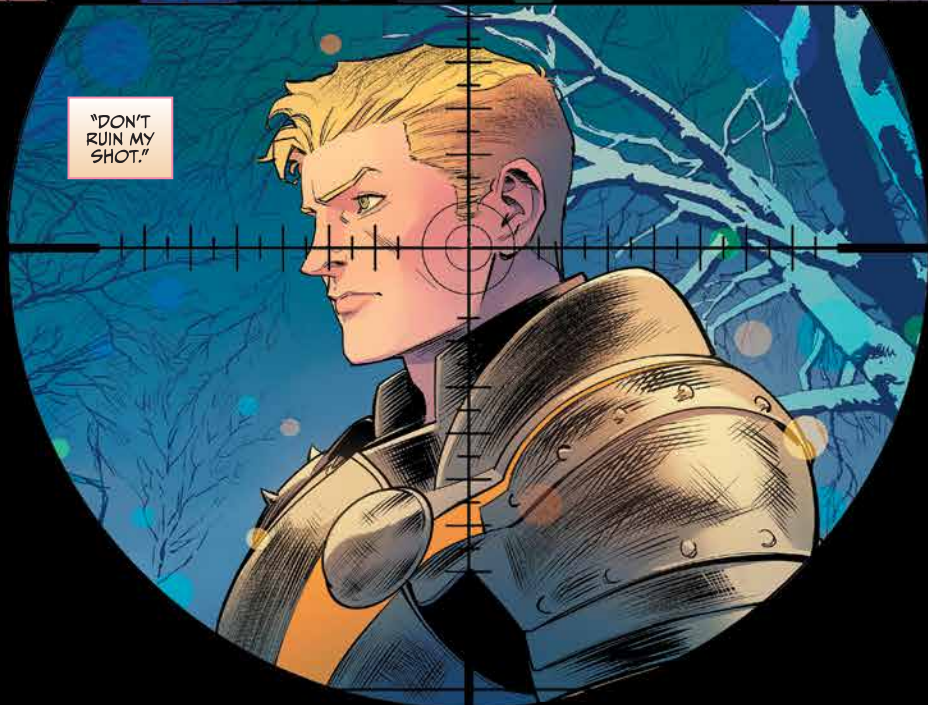


WE JUST MAKE SURE GALAHAD DOESN'T FIND THE GRAIL.

SO HOW DO WE STOP HIM?



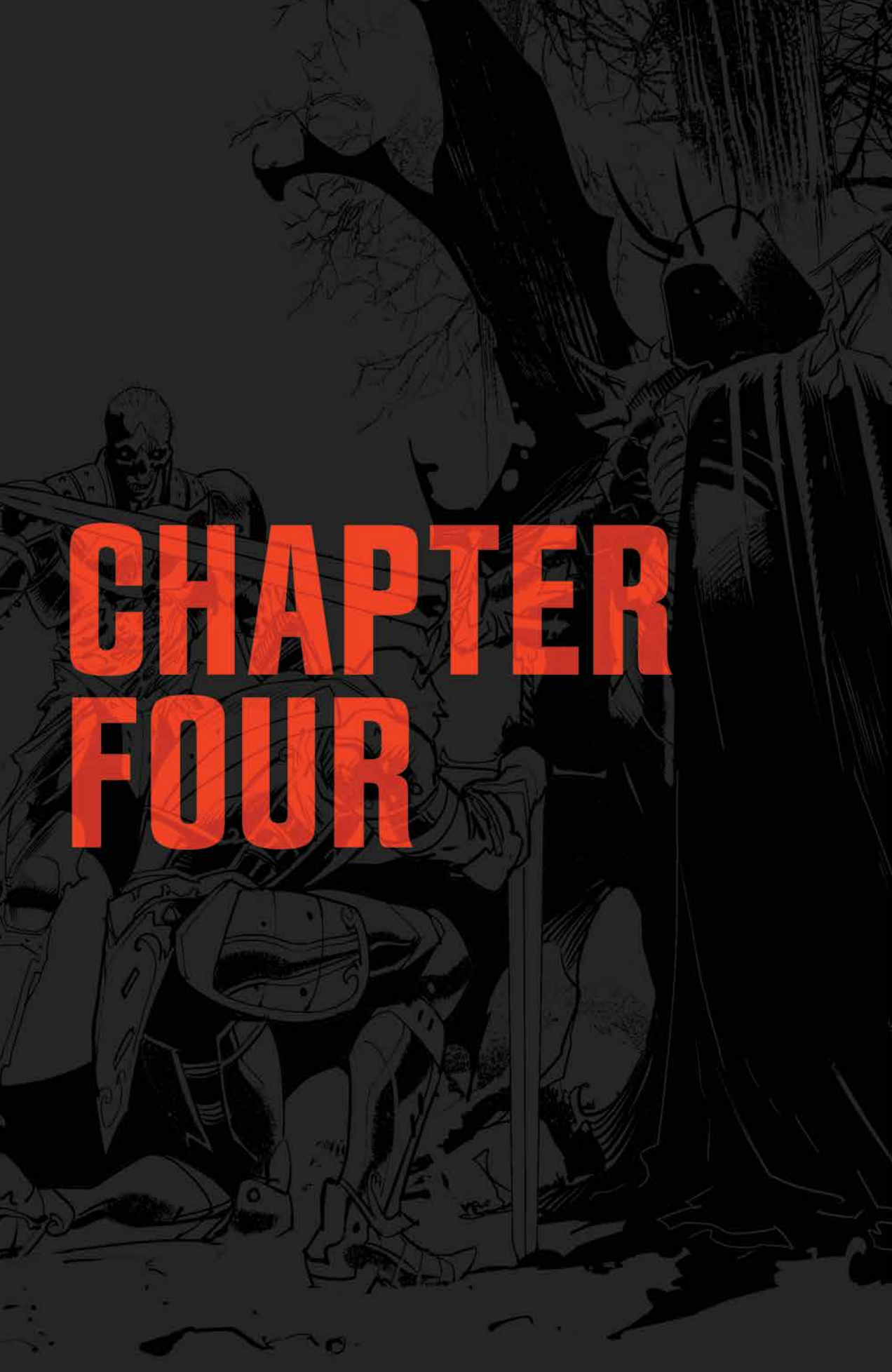
SHUSH,
DEAR.



"DON'T
RUIN MY
SHOT."



ISSUE FOUR COVER BY **DAN MORA**



CHAPTER FOUR

BATH

EVENING,
MISS.

THIS BETTER
NOT BE WHAT IT
LOOKS LIKE.

OH GOD.
NO, I HAVE THE
PAPERWORK
HERE. IT'S ALL
PERFECTLY
LEGAL.

IT'S--
ER--VERY OLD
PAPERWORK, BUT
IT'S LEGAL.

HMM. WHAT
YOU DOING,
MISS?

SOME
KIND OF
VIGIL?

ER...
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

OTHERWORLD



"GRAN.
PLEASE..."

"YOU CAN'T
JUST MURDER
SOMEONE!"



PFFT. I'M
NOT GOING
TO SHOOT
NOW.

THANK
GOD.



THE LITTLE
MADAM HAS GOT
IN THE FIRING
LINE. I NEED TO
CHOOSE MY
SHOT.

IT'S NOT AS
IF I'M GOING TO
GET A SECOND
ONE.



YOU ARE NOW SIR GALAHAD.

FIND THE GRAIL. LET THE LAND BE HEALED. LET THE ANGLOS BURN! LET THE SAXON CANCER BE PURGED IN CAUTERISING FIRE!



MANY HAVE SOUGHT THE GRAIL. WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU CAN FIND IT?

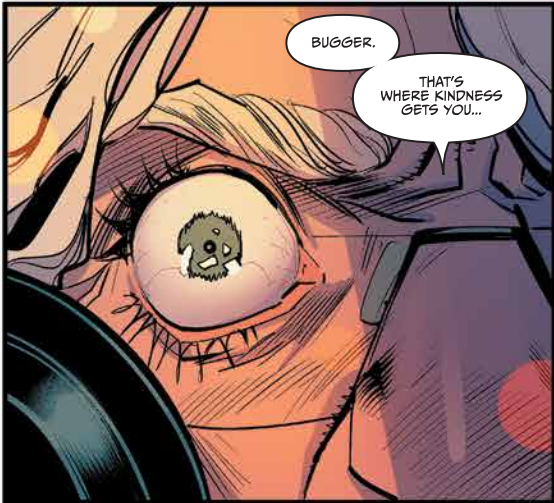


WE HAVE... SECURED A PATH. GALAHAD WAS PREPARED...



...AND IT IS SAID THE GRAIL LIES IN THE CASTLE OF THE MAIMED FISHER KING.

WE HAVE ONE OF THEM TOO.



BUGGER.

THAT'S WHERE KINDNESS GETS YOU...



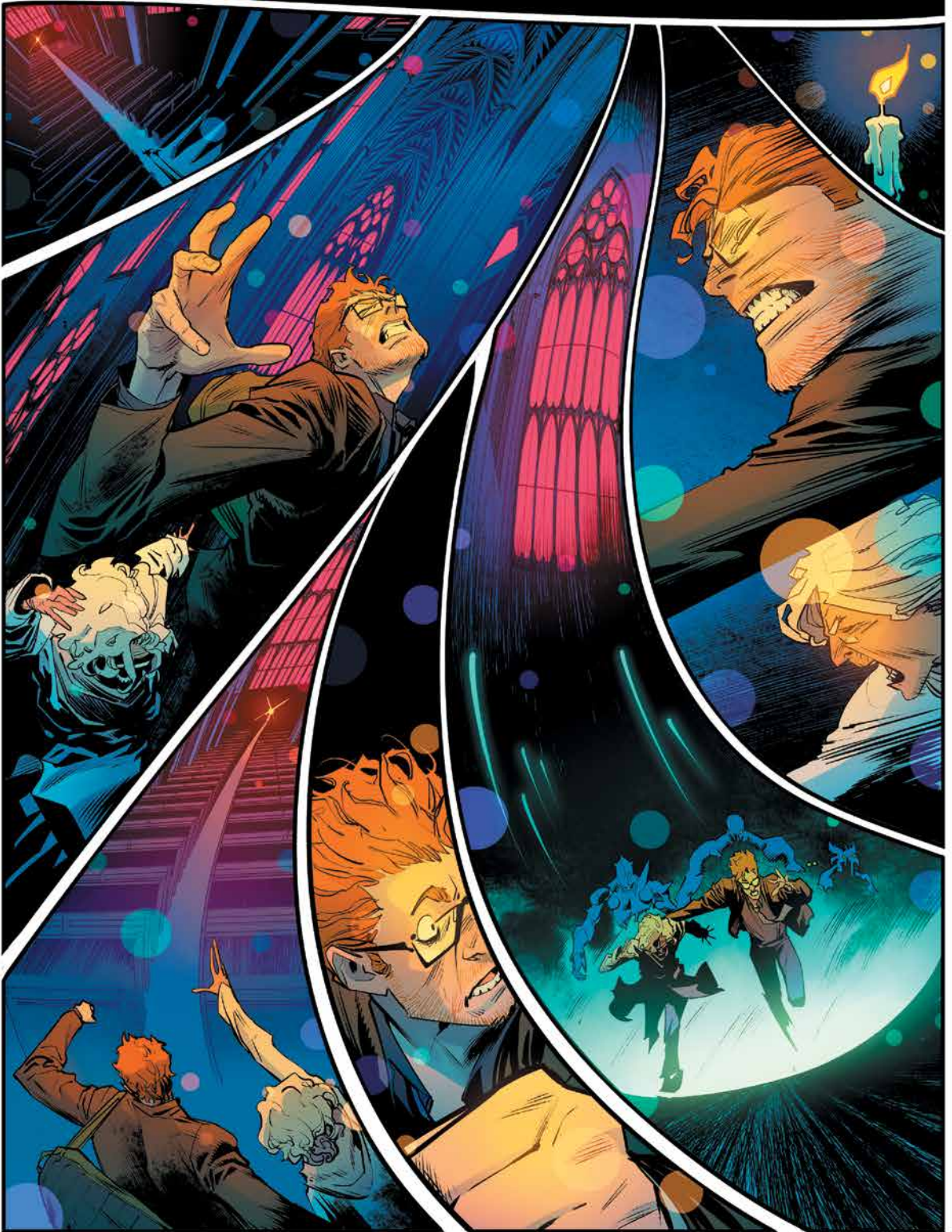
AH! DON'T MOVE AN INCH, DUNCAN.



I'VE GOT--

BLAM!







SO, PUT
DOWN THE
CANDLE AND
WE CAN
TALK ABOUT
THIS...

I CAN'T.
IT'S VERY
IMPORTANT. I
NEED TO--



SNUFF THE
CANDLE!



THEY'RE
BOTH
PACKING.



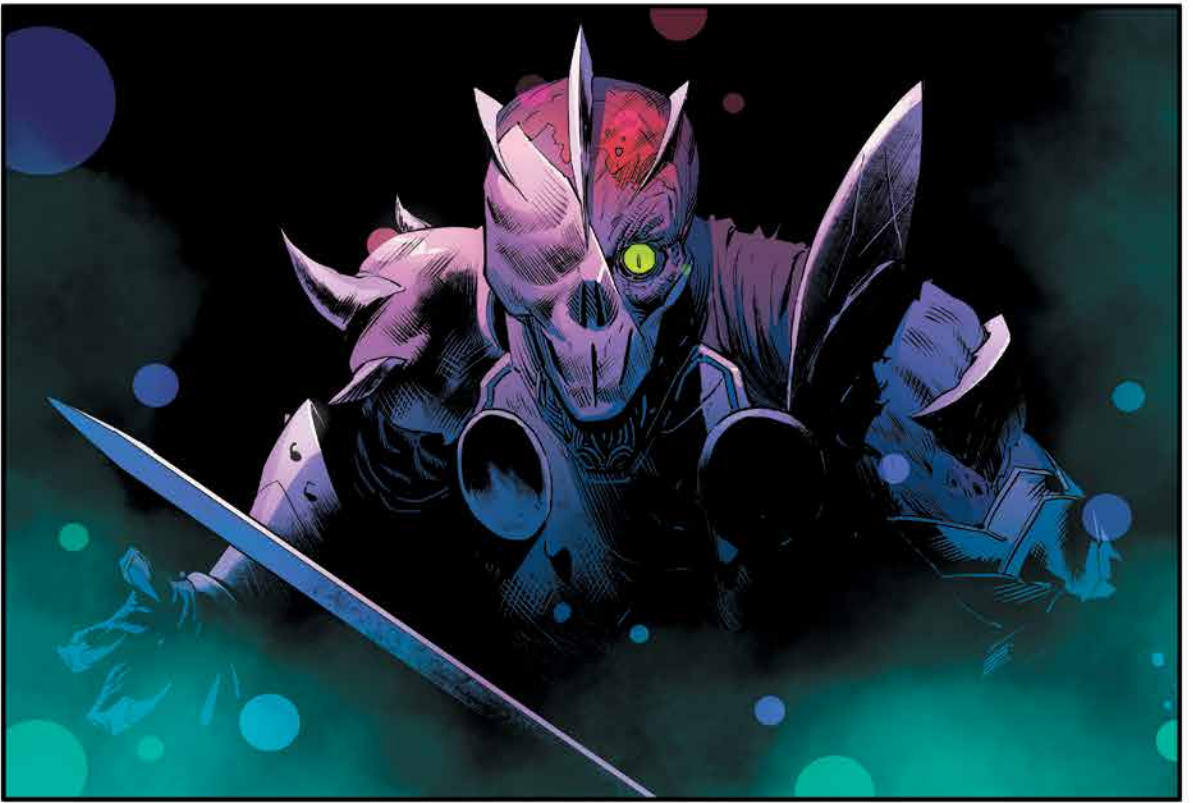
AND YOU'RE PACKING
TOO! WHAT IS THIS
COUNTRY COMING
TO?

OH,
I'LL TELL
YOU--THE
END.

ROSE,
SNUFF THE
CANDLE OUT
RIGHT THIS
SECOND
OR--



BUGGER.





ARGGGHHHH!



YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN, YOU DID VERY WELL.

WE ALMOST DIED OVER A CANDLE NOT BEING SNUFFED!

I KNEW ONE DAY I'D DIE, BUT I PRESUMED IT'D BE HEART DISEASE OR A CAR ACCIDENT, NOT SOMETHING INVOLVING THE WORD "SNUFF!"



SHE DID VERY WELL, CONSIDERING. THE CONTACT ISN'T REALLY MEANT TO BE IN THE FIELD.

WE GET SHOT AT. THEY CLEAN UP.



DON'T WORRY, ROSE--NOT LITERALLY CLEAN UP.

THEY'LL SEND IN SOME PEOPLE WITH THE MOPS TO DO THAT.

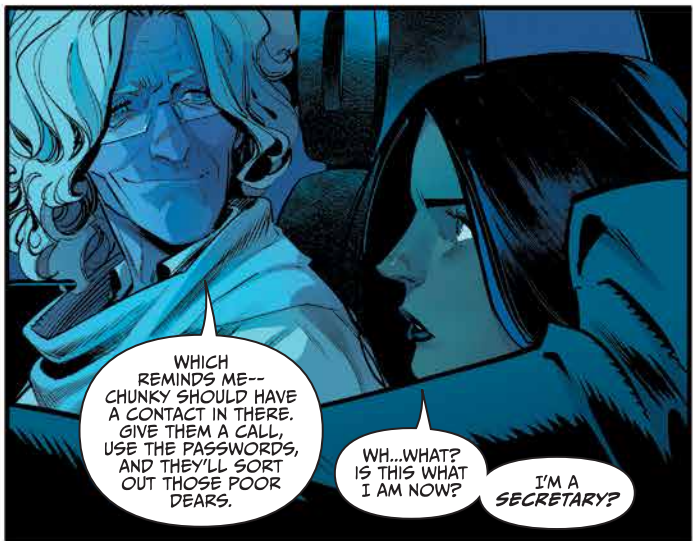
HORRIBLE JOB, BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT...



WHICH REMINDS ME-- CHUNKY SHOULD HAVE A CONTACT IN THERE. GIVE THEM A CALL, USE THE PASSWORDS, AND THEY'LL SORT OUT THOSE POOR DEARS.

WH...WHAT? IS THIS WHAT I AM NOW?

I'M A SECRETARY?





OH NO, DEAR. YOU KNOW JAMES BOND? YOU'RE THE MAN WHO GIVES BOND THE MISSIONS.

M. I'M M? REALLY? OH, RIGHT.

M'S A SHE NOW.



IS SHE? OH GOOD.

PROGRESS.



DUNCAN! LEFT HERE!

GOT IT. WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?



IT'S A STROKE OF LUCK.

WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE UP TO SO WE CAN KNOCK IT ON THE HEAD BEFORE IT GOES ANY FURTHER.

THEY HAVE A FISHER KING. IT'S THEIR ROUTE TO THE GRAIL CASTLE.

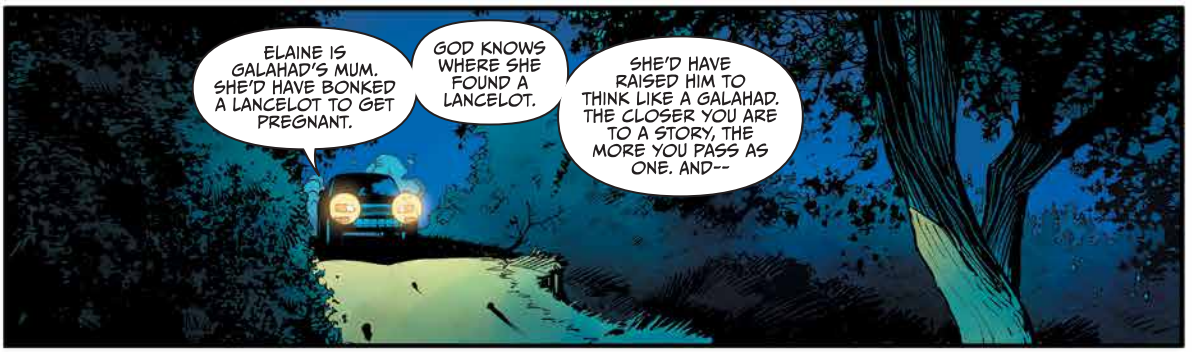


GALAHAD'S GRANDFATHER. HE'D HAVE BEEN SHOT IN THE CROTCH.

THEY MADE A GALAHAD TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE COULD GET THE GRAIL FROM THE GRAIL CASTLE.

"MADE?"

YOU SAID THAT BEFORE. HOW CAN YOU "MAKE" A PERSON?



ELAINE IS GALAHAD'S MUM. SHE'D HAVE BONKED A LANCELOT TO GET PREGNANT.

GOD KNOWS WHERE SHE FOUND A LANCELOT.

SHE'D HAVE RAISED HIM TO THINK LIKE A GALAHAD. THE CLOSER YOU ARE TO A STORY, THE MORE YOU PASS AS ONE. AND--



DON'T SLOW DOWN! THROUGH THE GATE!



NINETY PERCENT OF DRIVING IN THIS BUSINESS IS SMASHING THROUGH GATES AT SPEED.



GET READY AND GET THE C-4, DUNCAN. WE MAY HAVE TO FLATTEN THE PLACE.

ROSE--STAY BACK AT THE CAR. M DOESN'T NEED TO BE IN THE FIRING LINE.

I'D RATHER STAY WITH THE PEOPLE WITH THE GUNS. AND I'VE BEEN THINKING... BRIDGETTE...



...HOW DID YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND THE GRAIL CASTLE?





DUNCAN!
THAT WAS
AMAZING.

HEALTHY
CHILDHOOD
RUNNING
AROUND IN THE
WOODS. NONE
OF THAT
VIDEOGAMES
BUSINESS.

ER...
MR. FISHER
KING! I DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
GOT WRAPPED
UP IN THIS, BUT
YOU HAVE TO
STOP.

COME
OUT! WE
CAN
TALK!



REALLY? DO
YOU THINK I'M
STUPID?

BRIDGETTE
WOULD
JUST SH--



GRAN!

HE DOESN'T
NEED TO
COME
OUT. BULLETS GO
THROUGH WALLS
ESPECIALLY WALLS
AS THIN AS THIS.
IT'S MAINLY
PLASTER.

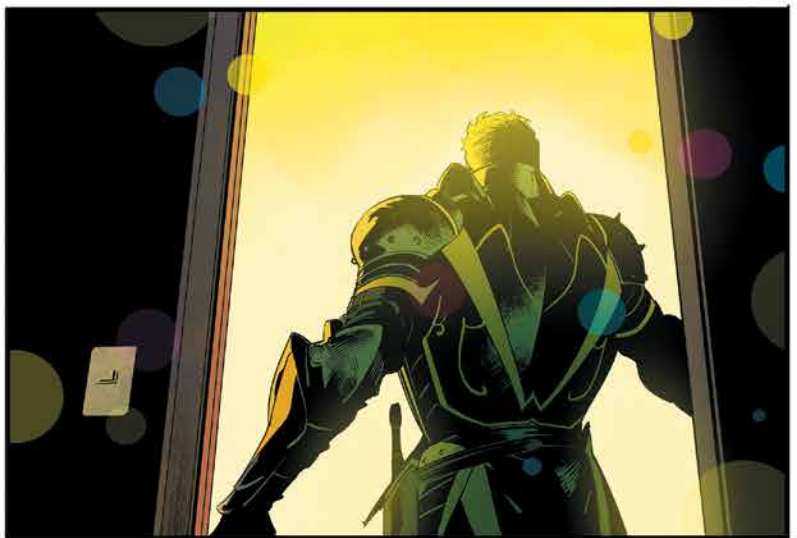


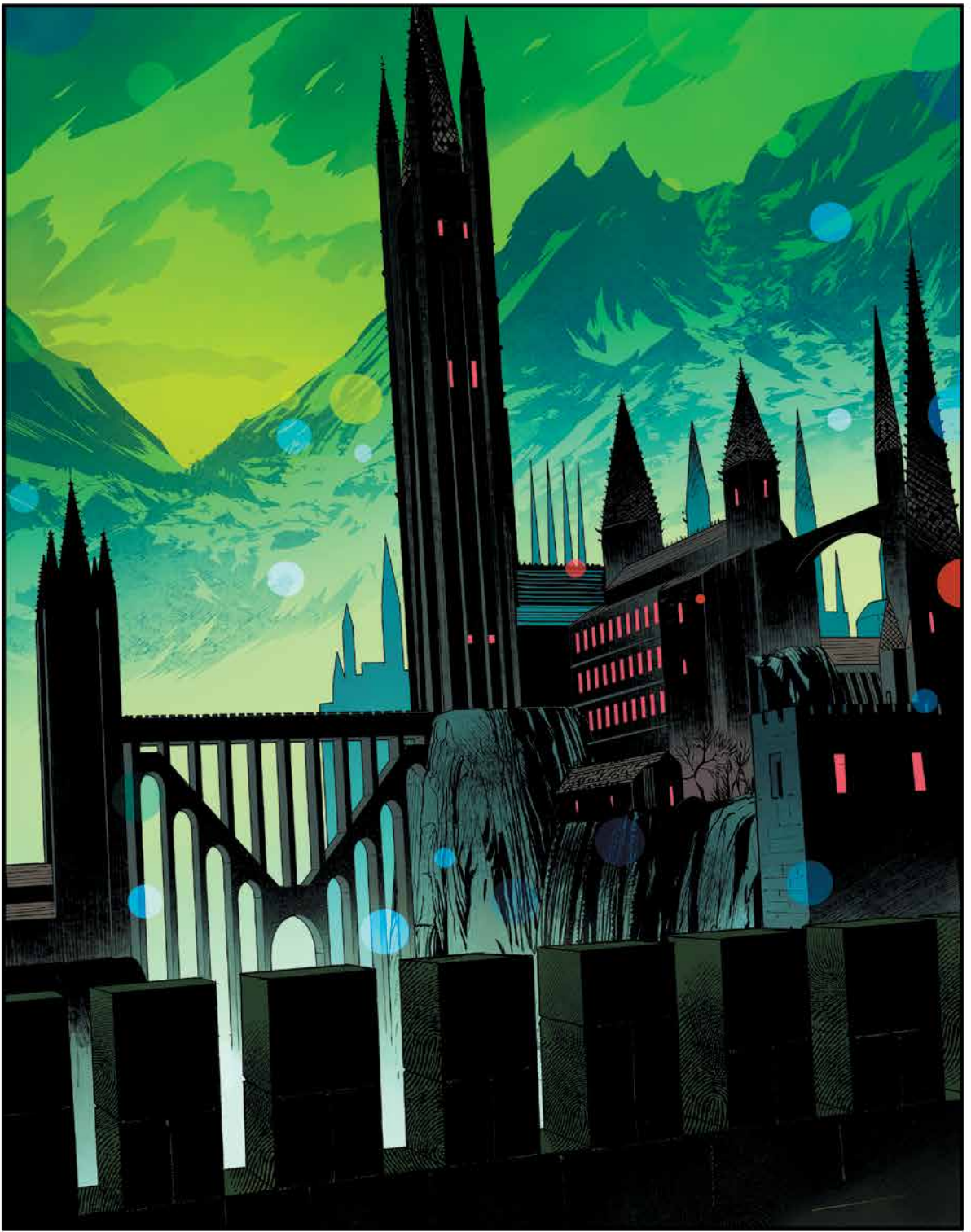
NO FISHER
KING, NO GRAIL
CASTLE, NO
WAY TO THE
GRAIL.

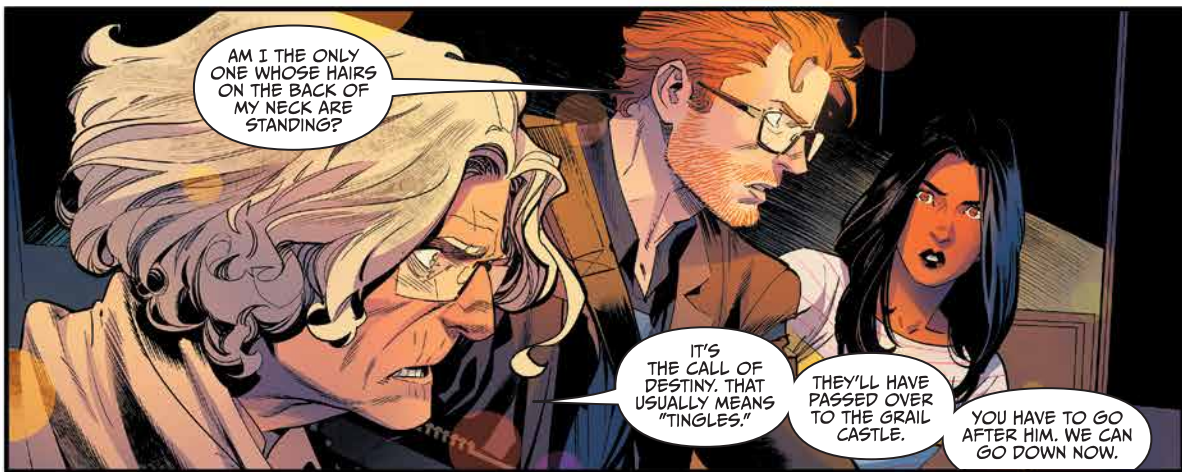
YOU NEED
TO UNDERSTAND
THE STAKES,
DUNCAN. WE
NEED TO--











AM I THE ONLY ONE WHOSE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF MY NECK ARE STANDING?

IT'S THE CALL OF DESTINY. THAT USUALLY MEANS "TINGLES."

THEY'LL HAVE PASSED OVER TO THE GRAIL CASTLE.

YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM. WE CAN GO DOWN NOW.



WE'RE NOT GOING DOWN THERE UNTIL YOU GIVE ME THE GUN.

SURE! TAKE IT! I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT HIM NOW.

HE'S THE ONLY WAY FOR YOU TO GO AFTER THEM.



WAIT... AREN'T YOU COMING?

NO, THIS IS YOUR JOB, DUNCAN.



YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE FISHER KING...

YOU SAID THEY MADE A GALAHAD BUT THEY HAD A FISHER KING. HE'D BEEN SHOT IN THE CROTCH.

YOU'RE A CLEVER GIRL, ROSE, BUT THERE'S A TIME AND THE PLACE FOR DEDUCTIONS, AND THIS ISN'T IT.



YOU DIDN'T SAY THEY SHOT HIM IN THE CROTCH.

AND YOU KNEW EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS.

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING US?



THAT MY OWN WIFE SHOT ME WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT MY IDEA OF HOW TO BRING BACK THE WORLD WE'D LOST.

WHAT'S A FAMILY OF MONSTER HUNTERS TO DO IN A WORLD WITHOUT MONSTERS?



YOU'RE AN ADDICT. I WISH I'D KILLED YOU.

I ALWAYS WAS TOO SOFT.

YOU DON'T GET TO JUDGE ME. I'VE DONE NOTHING YOU HAVEN'T.



IT'S NOT THE SAME. IT WAS JUST A FAILSAFE IN CASE AN IDIOT LIKE YOU CAME ALONG. I--

SO WHY DOESN'T THE BOY KNOW?

WHAT'S YOUR MIDDLE NAME, DUNCAN?



PERCY.



YES, PERCIVAL. YOUR GRAN HAS TRAINED YOU FROM BIRTH TO BE THE INNOCENT GRAIL KNIGHT, JUST IN CASE SHE EVER NEEDED TO GET TO A GRAIL.

BUT YOU NEED A FISHER KING TO DO THAT.



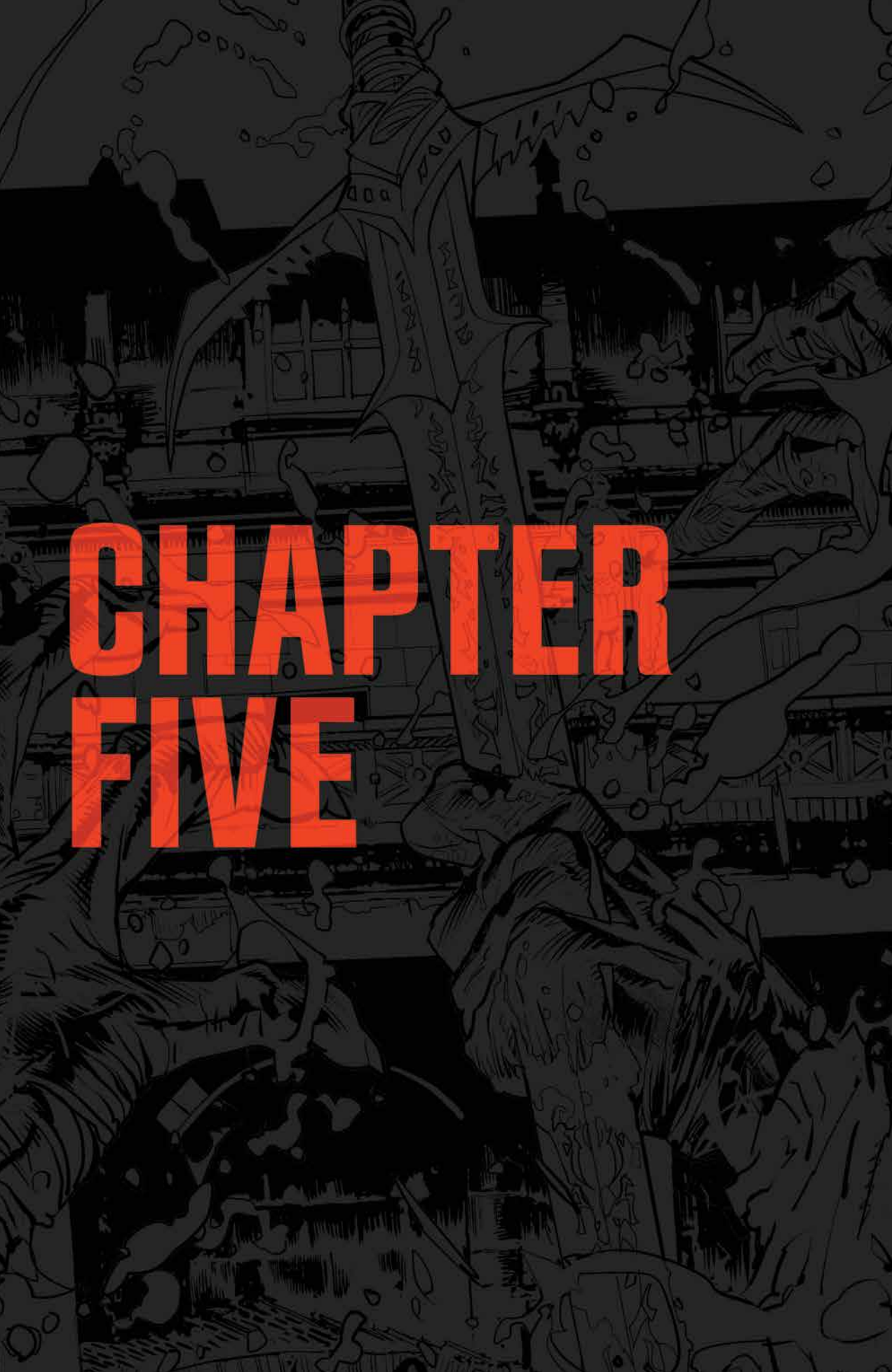
SO YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.

SEE YOU IN HELL, BRIDGETTE.





ISSUE FIVE COVER BY **DAN MORA**



CHAPTER FIVE





IT ENDED IN '88.

WHEN I HAMMERED THAT IRON NAIL RIGHT THROUGH THAT LAST REDCAP, I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER.



ONLY WE KNEW. CHUNKY SENDING US OUT AND...THE FAMILY.

WE'D AGE. WE'D DIE. NO ONE ELSE WOULD KNOW, SO IT COULDN'T COME BACK.

THESE ISLANDS WOULD BE FREE OF ALL THIS NASTY BUSINESS...

SO...IS THIS A BRITISH THING? IS IT ELSEWHERE?

IT'S NOT A COUNTRY THING. IT'S THE ISLANDS. I PRESUME EVERYWHERE ELSE HAS THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, BUT I DON'T KNOW. DON'T WANT TO KNOW.



KNOWING IT'S TRUE IS HOW THEY GET YOU. EVERYONE WHO KNOWS THE STORY IS A WAY IN FOR THIS NONSENSE.

IT'S WHY YOU HAVE ALL THIS POWER WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER. DEAL WITH PROBLEMS, QUIETLY. DON'T LET IT INFECT OTHERS.

WE WERE WORRIED WE COULD HAVE MISSED SOMETHING. WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE COULD HAVE A WAY OF GETTING TO THE GRAIL BEFORE ANYONE ELSE...

...BUT ONE WHICH DIDN'T INVOLVE TELLING SOMEONE ABOUT IT, KEEPING ALL THIS SILLINESS TICKING OVER.



SO...A PERCIVAL.



RAISED BY WOMEN AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION.

ENTIRELY UNKNOWN OF THE KNIGHTLY ORDERS AND THE TRUTH OF THE WORLD.

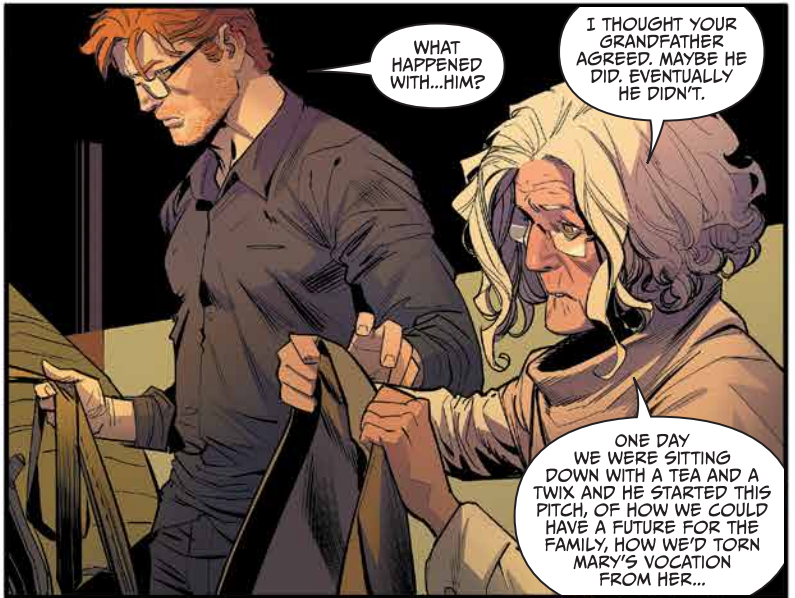
VIRGINAL.



WAIT, HE'S A--



I--I... DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DISTRACT ME FROM THIS BY MAKING ME BLUSH.



WHAT HAPPENED WITH...HIM?

I THOUGHT YOUR GRANDFATHER AGREED. MAYBE HE DID. EVENTUALLY HE DIDN'T.

ONE DAY WE WERE SITTING DOWN WITH A TEA AND A TWIX AND HE STARTED THIS PITCH, OF HOW WE COULD HAVE A FUTURE FOR THE FAMILY, HOW WE'D TORN MARY'S VOCATION FROM HER...



"MARY?"

ELAINE'S NAME BEFORE SHE DECIDED SHE WANTED TO RAISE A GALAHAD.



MY DAUGHTER.

YOUR MOTHER.



SO...WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

WELL, I SHOT HIM IN A DELICATE PLACE, SAID THAT I'D KILL HIM IF HE EVEN THOUGHT OF TRYING SOMETHING, AND THEN HEADED OUT THE DOOR.

TURNS OUT HE'D BEEN FILLING MARY'S HEAD WITH ALL THIS NONSENSE...



TWO WEEKS LATER, SHE RAN OFF.

SHE WAS PETRIFIED OF ME.



I COULDN'T FIND HER... I PRESUME SHE EVENTUALLY GOT HERSELF A LANCELOT AND CAME BACK TO RAISE GALAHAD HERE LATER.

CLEVER, AWKWARD MADAM.



SO...I'M JUST ANOTHER WEAPON IN THAT ARMORY OF YOURS?

IT...IT WASN'T THAT. JUST THAT, ANYWAY.

I HOPED YOU'D NEVER HAVE TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THIS.

WHAT DOES ANY MOTHER WANT THAN HER YOUNG ONES TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE? DUNCAN, THIS IS THE LAST THING I'D WANT FOR ANYONE.



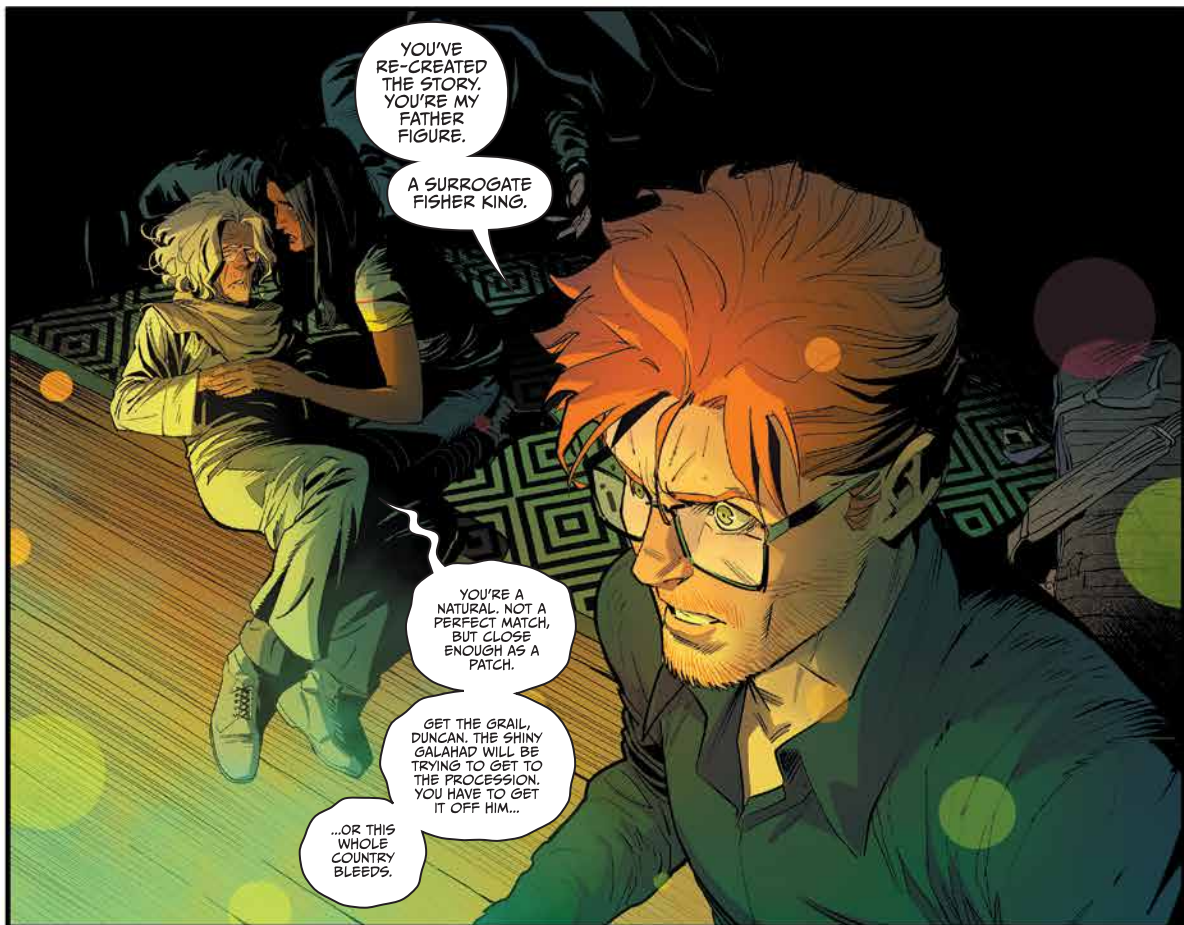
OH, THIS IS A--

DUNCAN. I'M SORRY, I KNOW THIS IS ME BEING THE HARD ONE AGAIN, BUT THESE ISLANDS ARE GOING TO BE DRAGGED INTO THE OTHERWORLD IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING AND...

THERE'S ONE THING I HAVE TO KNOW...







YOU'VE RE-CREATED THE STORY. YOU'RE MY FATHER FIGURE.

A SURROGATE FISHER KING.

YOU'RE A NATURAL. NOT A PERFECT MATCH, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH AS A PATCH.

GET THE GRAIL, DUNCAN. THE SHINY GALAHAD WILL BE TRYING TO GET TO THE PROCESSION. YOU HAVE TO GET IT OFF HIM...

...OR THIS WHOLE COUNTRY BLEEDS.



GRAN! FORGET THE COUNTRY! YOU'RE BLEEDING OUT!

I KNOW. BUT THE GRAIL IS ALSO A DEVICE OF HEALING. SO, WE CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE ANCIENT ARTIFACT, EH?

I WROTE THIS EARLIER. TAKE IT. IT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING...



ARGGGHHH!



HE'S A GOOD BOY.

AND YOU'RE USING HIM.

I AM. BUT HE IS A GOOD BOY.

OR I HOPE HE IS. AND IF HE DOESN'T HOLD ONTO THAT...





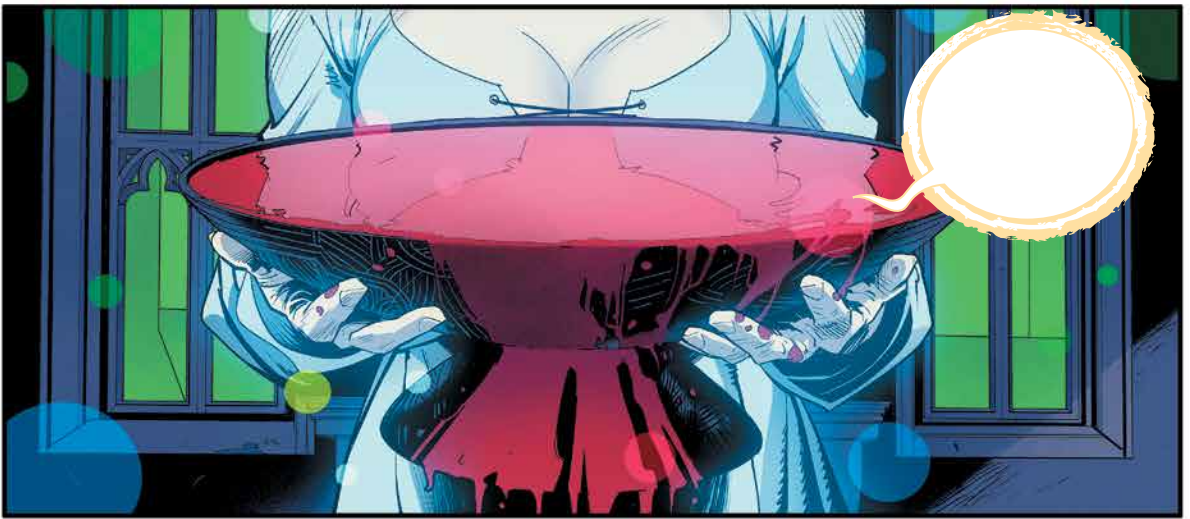
"THEN GET TO THE GRAIL PROCESSION, SNAG THE BLOODY GRAIL AND GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE!"

HMM. I HAVE TO ASK A QUESTION. I JUST HAVE TO...



HEY! YOU AT THE BACK!

"WHOM DOES THE GRAIL SERVE?"





FOUND YOU.



KNIGHT...



WITH WHOM DO YOU STAND?



I MARCH WITH GALAHAD THE--

NO!



GAWAIN ACCOMPANIED PERCIVAL ON THE GRAIL QUEST, NOT GALAHAD.



GALAHAD WAS WITH BORS AND PERCIVAL.



I DON'T KNOW WHO BORS IS, BUT I'M APPARENTLY PERCIVAL SO...

HAND THE GRAIL OVER, PLEASE.



BUT YOU ARE MEANT TO BE A PERFECT KNIGHT.

WOULD A KNIGHT THREATEN A MAN WITH A GUN?



VERY WELL.



LET'S.



HEH. A PERFECT KNIGHT *NOW* ISN'T A PERFECT KNIGHT *THEN*. WHAT DOES A KNIGHT DO?

WIN.



WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN PROMISED, BUT IT'S LIES.



I EXPECT NOTHING BUT THE FINEST LIES. I EXPECT A WORLD OF WONDERS. I EXPECT STORIES AND LEGENDS.

I EXPECT TO BE THE HERO OF THEM ALL.

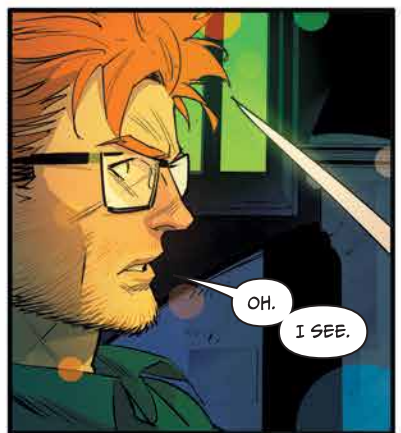


GALAHAD, I...OH, I CAN'T CALL YOU *GALAHAD*.

DON'T YOU SEE? WE'VE BOTH BEEN USED.

NO. YOU HAVE BEEN DISCARDED. YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A FIRST DRAFT.

A FOOTNOTE TO MY STORY.



OH. I SEE.



ER...THANK YOU, MA'AM. I'LL TAKE THIS.



GALAHAD! THAT ARMOR IS VERY IMPRACTICAL, RIGHT?



I GOT IT! THE GRAIL! I HAVE THE--





THE GRAIL COULDN'T CROSS OVER TO THIS WORLD. IT'S A PIECE OF *THERE*.

BUT THIS GRAIL IS LOST, AND AS THIS GALAHAD DOESN'T HAVE A FISHER KING, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO ONE AGAIN. NOT LIKE THIS, ANYWAY.



IS THE GALAHAD-GUY TRAPPED THERE?

NO. HE'LL BE MAKING HIS WAY ACROSS THE OTHERWORLD TO WHEREVER ARTHUR IS. HOPEFULLY ELAINE HAS AN ESCAPE PLANNED.

ARTHUR'S GOING TO BE BLOWING HIS TOP. NO EASY VICTORY NOW. HE'LL HAVE TO WORK OUT SOMETHING TRICKIER AND NOT JUST STICK TO THE EXACT OLD STORY.

BECAUSE OTHERWISE HE IS WELL AND--

PLEASE. BE QUIET. I NEED TO THINK.



ROSE-- CAN YOU PLEASE DRIVE US TO BATH?

WE HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING.





"THE KEYS! WE NEED TO GET IN QUICKLY, ROSE."

"WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME."



DUNCAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE.



IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? THE BATHS?

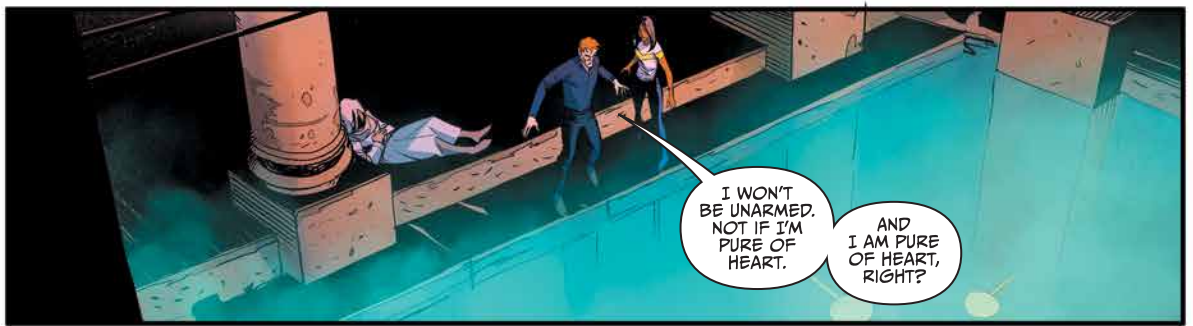
"HEALING WATERS." IT'S NONSENSE! IT WON'T WORK.



I KNOW. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK INTO THE OTHERWORLD AND HOPE ARTHUR'S BELT CAN HELP YOU.

YOU DON'T GET TO DIE NOW.

W...WHAT? YOU CAN'T JUST...WALK INTO CAMELOT. THEY'LL TEAR YOU APART!



I WON'T BE UNARMED. NOT IF I'M PURE OF HEART. AND I AM PURE OF HEART, RIGHT?



YOU MADE SURE OF THAT.



I AM PERCIVAL, A KNIGHT ON A QUEST. I NEED TO RETRIEVE A SCABBARD OF HEALING FOR MY LIEGE.



DUNCAN! THIS IS LIKE PLAYING WITH MATCHES WITH THE GAS ON! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

YES. I KNOW, GRAN. BUT THAT'S MY STRENGTH, ISN'T IT?



I AM UNWORTHY AND UNARMED, BUT I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE, LADIES. PLEASE.



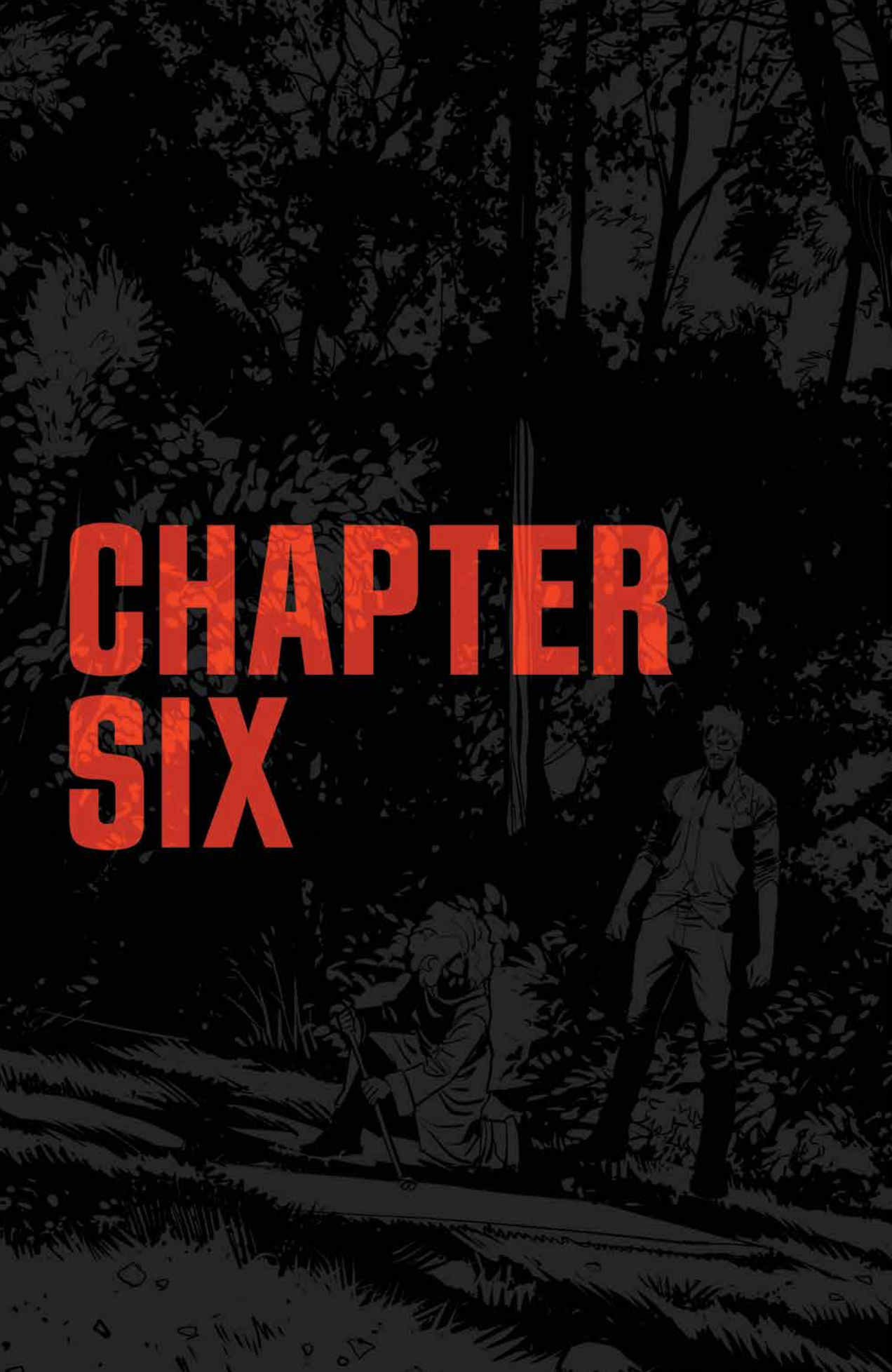
WE HEAR YOU, KNIGHT. WE WILL LEND YOU ARMS.

EXCALIBUR IS YOURS.





CHAPTER SIX





DUNCAN
-COUGH-
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS...

IT'S NEARLY
DAWN. YOU'LL
BE STUCK
THERE AND--

SORRY,
GRAN. YOU
HAVE TO
SPEAK UP.

YOU'RE
REALLY QUIET
WHEN YOU'RE
DYING.

OFFICERS!
READ THIS
AND CALL IT
IN.



RIGHT.
UH-HUH.
OKAY.

ARE
YOU...SURE?
REALLY?
...UNDERSTOOD.



WHAT
DO WE DO,
MA'AM?

ER...
JUST HEAD
AROUND THE
CORNER.

AND
COVER YOUR
EARS? I DON'T
KNOW.



THANKS,
ROSE.
JUST--

I KNOW.
KEEP THE
CANDLE
BURNING.

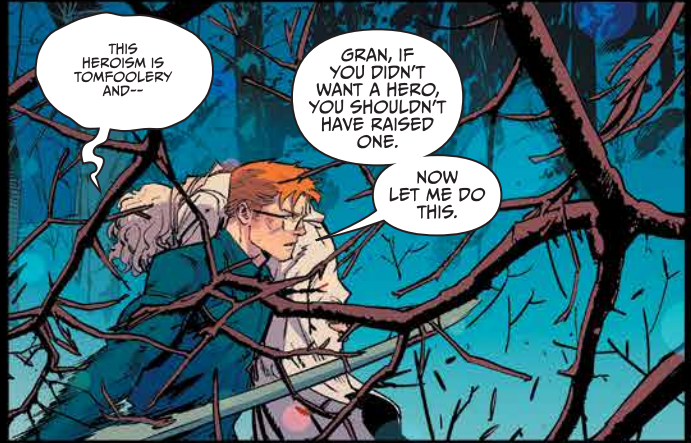
AND
DUNCAN...



GOOD
LUCK.



YOU CAN'T JUST CART ME AROUND LIKE A SACK OF OLD POTATOES, DUNCAN!



THIS HEROISM IS TOMFOOLERY AND--

GRAN, IF YOU DIDN'T WANT A HERO, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RAISED ONE.

NOW LET ME DO THIS.



YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

WELL, NO...



...BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH.



YES, IT IS A PROBLEM, BUT NOT A DISASTER.

WE WILL TRY AGAIN, ONCE WE FIND A ROUTE...



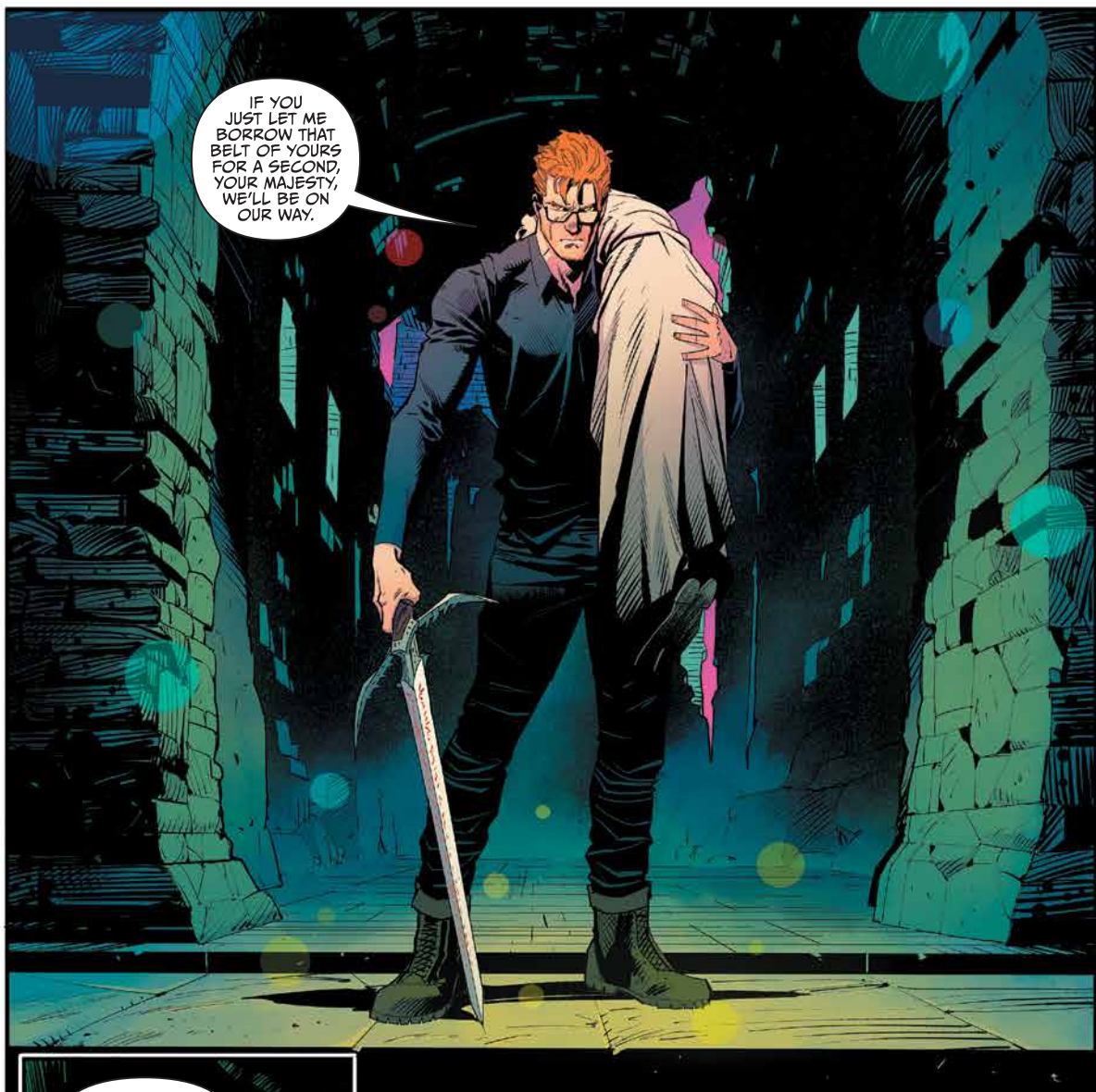
MY GALAHAD IS THE PERFECT KNIGHT.

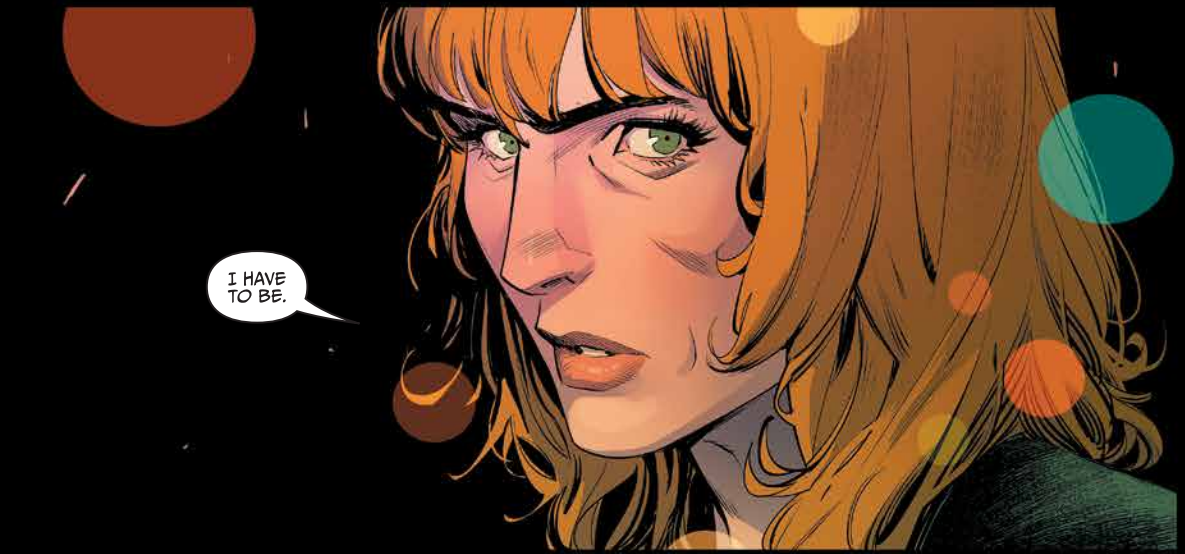
PERCIVAL SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BEEN ABLE TO GET TO THE GRAIL CASTLE...



YET SOMEHOW, HE DID.

WELL... GRAN SHOT HERSELF. SURROGATE FISHER KING.









CEASE!
THAT IS A DARK
WONDER. IT WOULD
TRULY CLEAVE THE
FLESH OF SAXON
MEN.

WHERE
DID YOU
FIND SUCH A
BLADE?



YOU DON'T
KNOW
EXCALIBUR?

OF
COURSE HE
DOESN'T. HE'S
ALL KINDS OF
MIXED UP.

ALL SORTS OF
THINGS HE DOESN'T
KNOW. LIKE CENTRAL
HEATING AND...AND...



...OH,
BRIDGETTE
MCQUIRE, YOU
FOOL.



GIVE THE
BLADE TO ME
AND YOU CAN
USE THE
BELT.

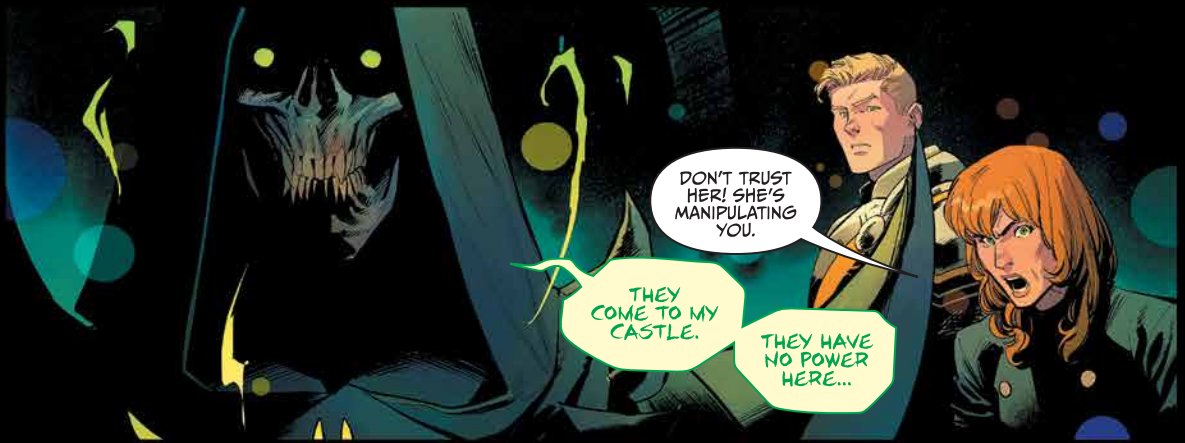


I CAN'T.
IT'S NOT MINE
TO GIVE.

I
PROMISED
TO RETURN
IT.



BUT WE CAN TELL YOU
WHERE TO GET IT. IT'S A
STORY TO COME. YOU
CAN MAKE THAT STORY
HAPPEN.



DON'T TRUST HER! SHE'S MANIPULATING YOU.

THEY COME TO MY CASTLE.

THEY HAVE NO POWER HERE...



ALL POWER I GIVE IS MINE TO GIFT AND MINE TO RETRIEVE.

THEY HAVE NOT FAILED ME.



THE LADIES OF THE LAKE GAVE EXCALIBUR TO THE KING...

...AND YOU MUST RETURN IT WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH IT.



OH, GOD. HEALING MAGIC STINGS.

OH...SO MANY STORIES, ARTHUR. YOU'RE ALL MIXED UP, YOU POOR THING.



I BET YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY GALAHAD'S THE GREATEST KNIGHT...



SHUT HER UP!

I MEAN, SILENCE HER.



HE IS THE GREATEST KNIGHT... AND HIS FATHER WAS THE GREATEST KNIGHT BEFORE HIM, YOU SEE. AND A GREAT NIGHT TOO, I BET.

LANCELOT.

I HAVE NOT HEARD OF THIS WARRIOR.



HE'S THE FRENCHIE WHO SHAGGED YOUR WIFE, YOU BIG NINNY.



A FRANK HAS LAIN WITH MY QUEEN!



YOU BORE THE CHILD. YOU KNOW THE FATHER. YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!

TELL ME! THEN YOUR BETRAYAL CAN BE PUNISHED...

GALAHAD... WE HAVE TO GO.



I AM THE PERFECT KNIGHT.



I BELONG IN THE COURT OF ARTHUR...



...IT IS MY DESTINY.



YOU DON'T HURT HER.



I GUESS SHE DID LEARN *SOMETHING*. AT LEAST SHE KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO RUN.

LET'S GO, DUNCAN! YES, THE SWORD IS A LOT MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN I GAVE IT CREDIT FOR, BUT DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD...

LITTLE-- AH--BUSY!



OH, A DISTRACTION. Hmm...

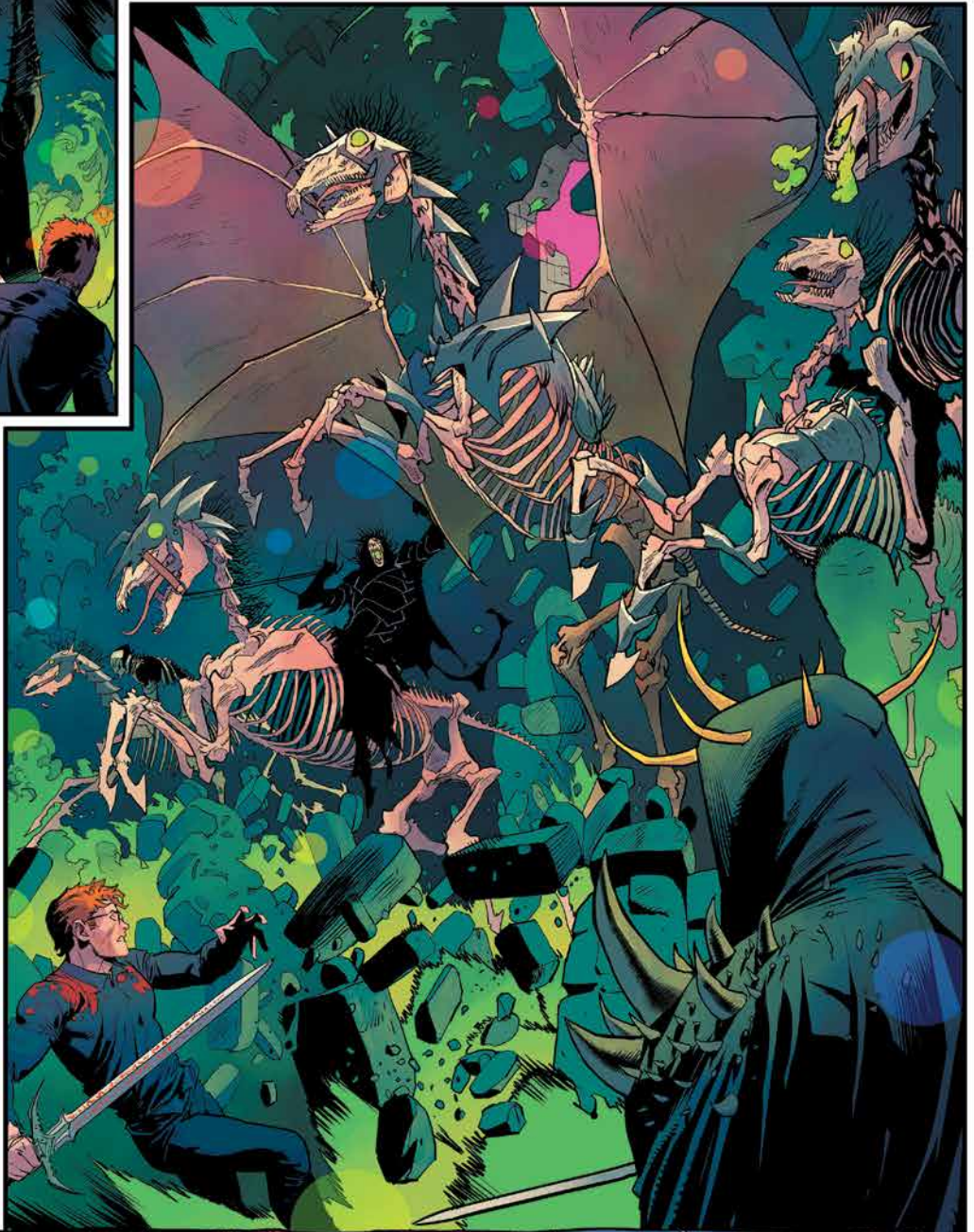


WANT THIS BACK, ARTHUR?

BETTER RUSH AND GET IT, Hmm?



AFTER IT!
FIND IT!
SUMMON
THE HUNT!



WITH
ME, MY
KNIGHTS!



WHAT...WHAT'S
HAPPENING? WHY
IS EVERYTHING
MELTING?



HONESTLY,
I HAVEN'T A
CLUE. I THINK
THE STORY IS
SHIFTING.

TRYING
TO SHIFT
ANYWAY...



A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE REALLY IS A DANGEROUS THING, INCLUDING TO US. SO LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



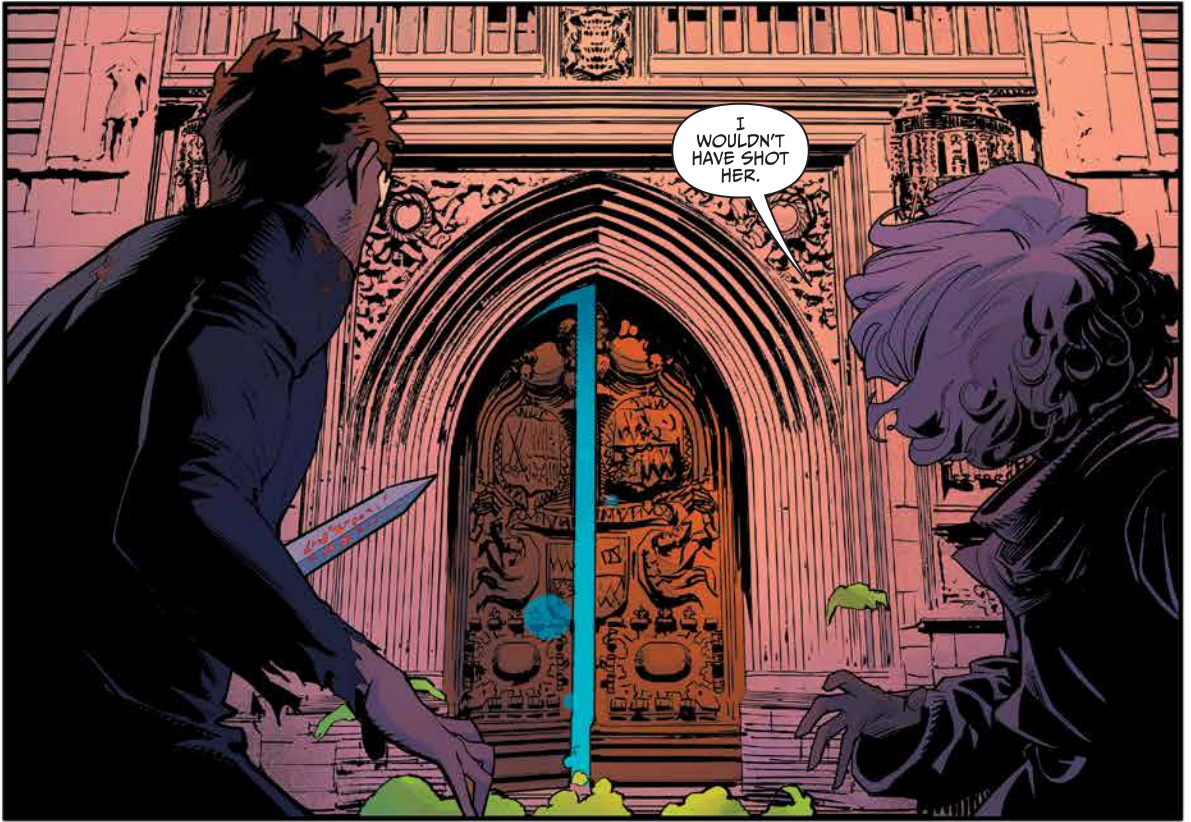
LET'S JUST POP THROUGH THE PORTAL AND--

LOOK!



MARY. YOU COME WITH US, RIGHT NOW.







YOU
COULD
HAVE KEPT
THAT.

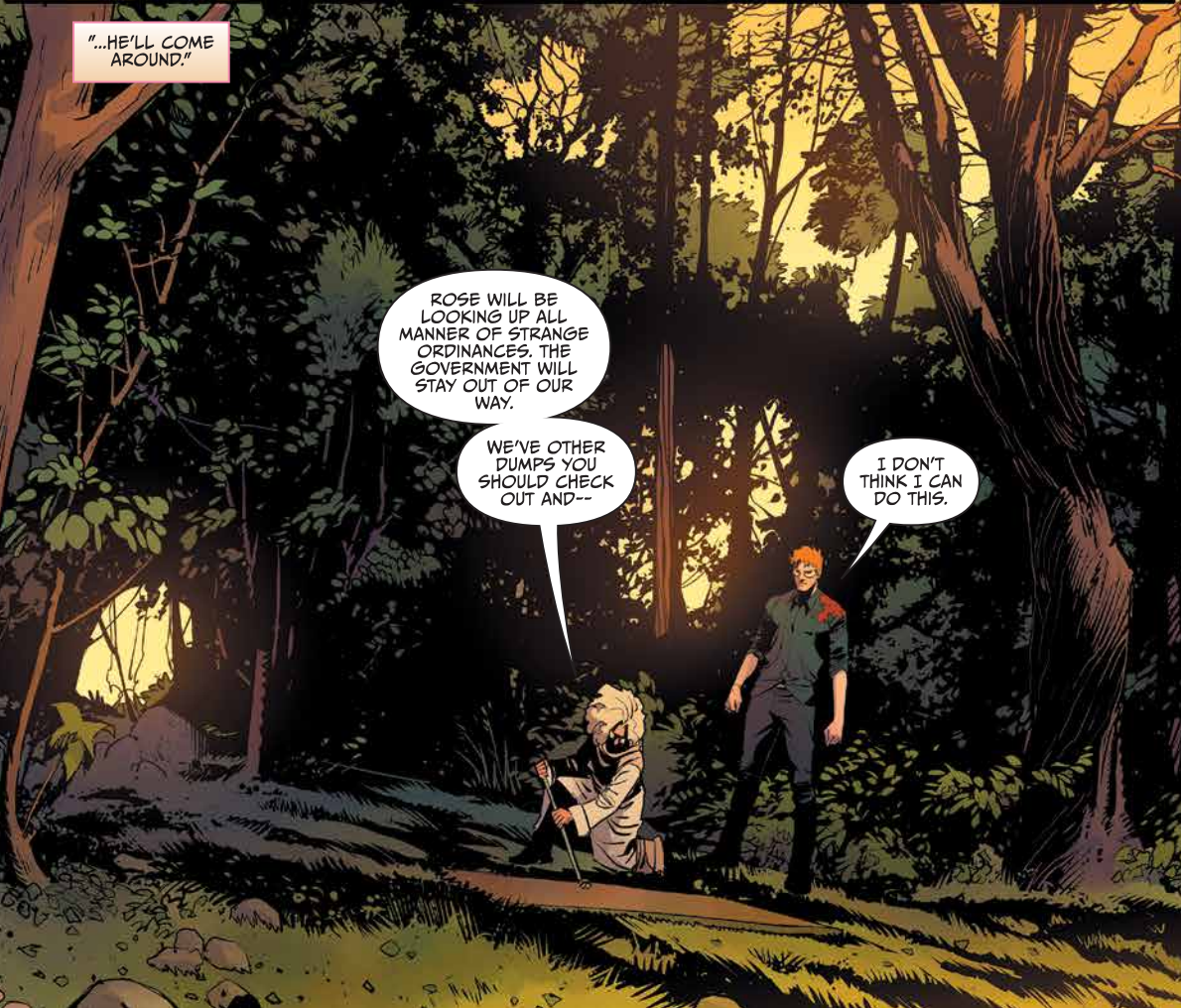
NO, I
COULDN'T.

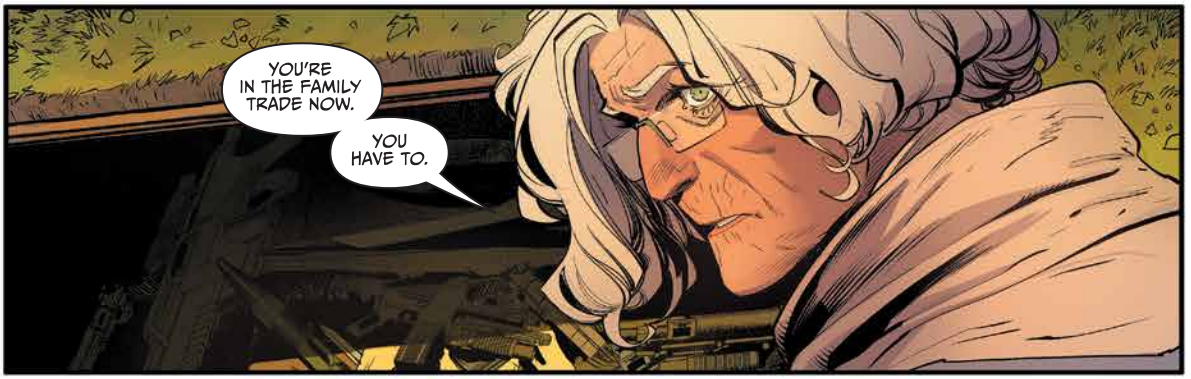


YOU
COULD.

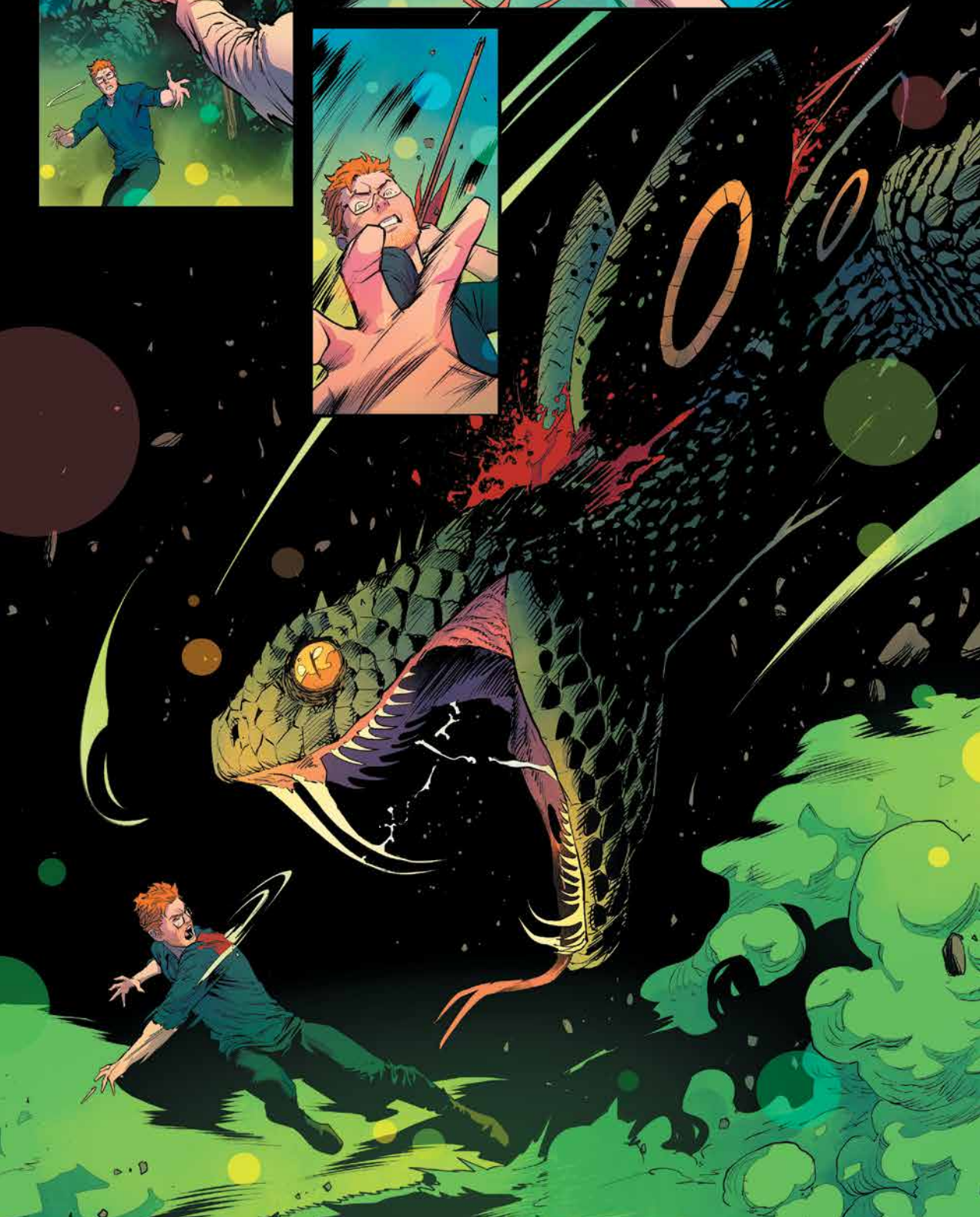


"...HE'LL COME AROUND."











NO
"ARRGHH!"
THIS TIME?



NO, I DON'T
THINK SO. I
THINK I'M PAST
THE POINT OF
"ARRGHS"...

...THAT THING
REALLY DOES
TURN UP AT
THE WORST
POSSIBLE
TIMES.



SO, ARE
WE DONE? IS
THE QUEST
OVER?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



YOU CAN
HOPE.

YOU'RE A
SWEET, SWEET
BOY.



HOLD
ONTO
THAT.

FOR AS
LONG AS
YOU CAN.

ONCE & FUTURE™

THE KING IS UNDEAD

GILLEN

MORA

BONVILLAIN

DUKESHIRE



OTHERWORLD



ELAINE, LOST IN THE FOREST, FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF HER KNOWLEDGE...



WHO?

THIS STORY HAS NO FURTHER USE FOR "ELAINE"...



...BUT MERLIN COULD FIND A USE FOR A "NIMUE."

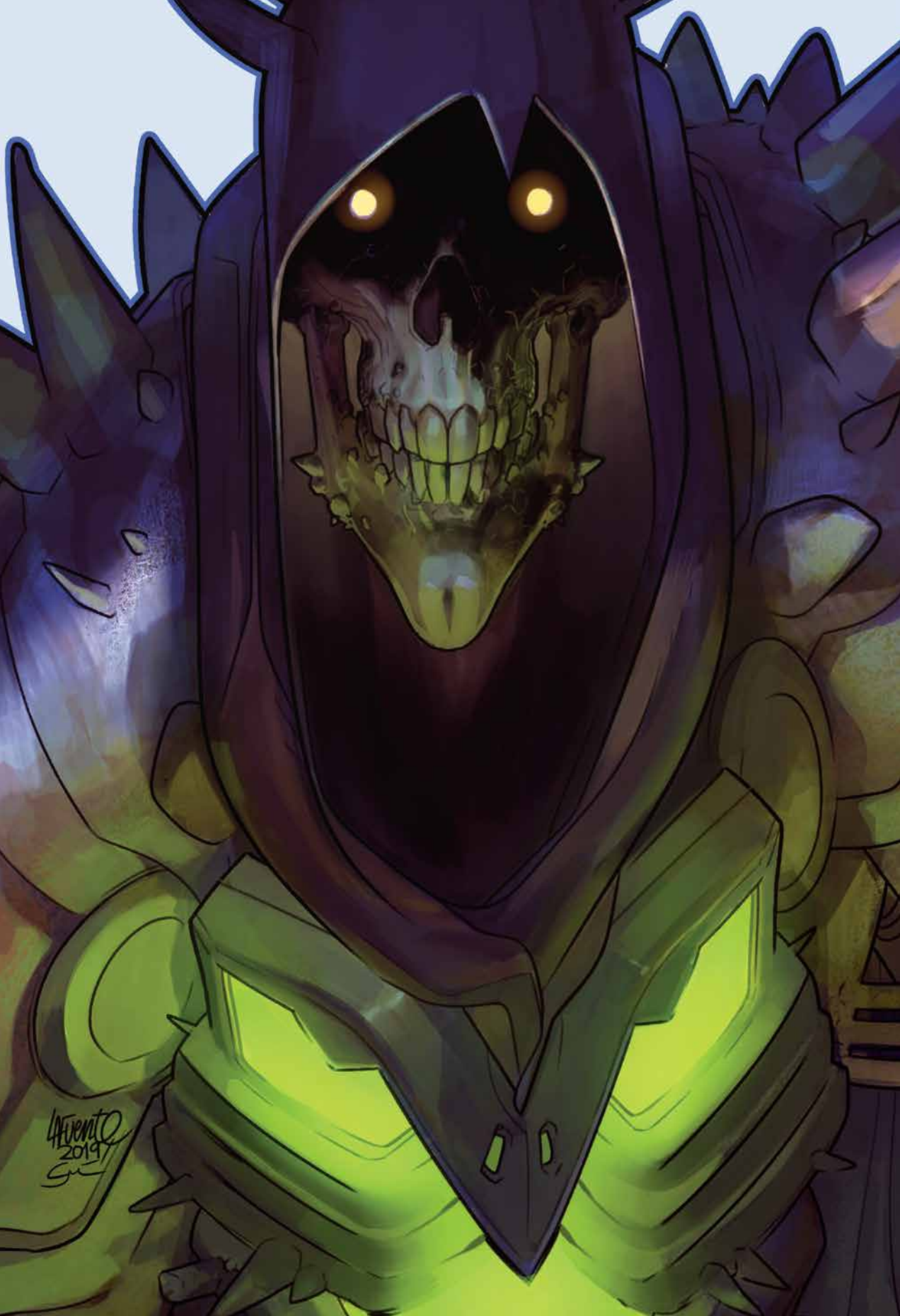
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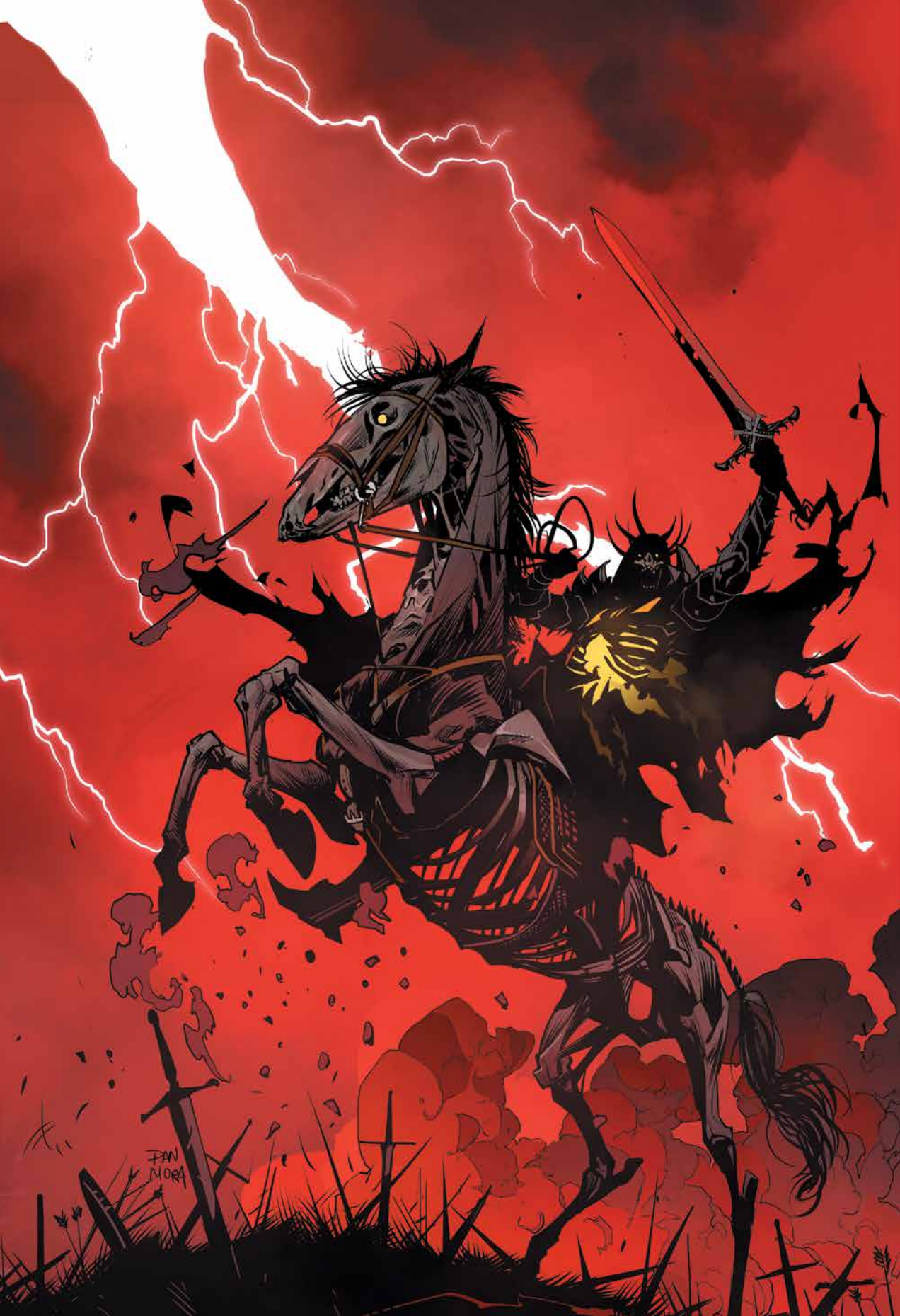


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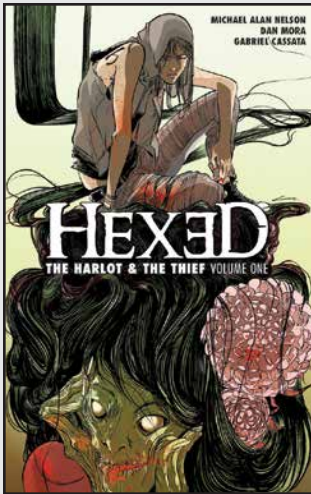
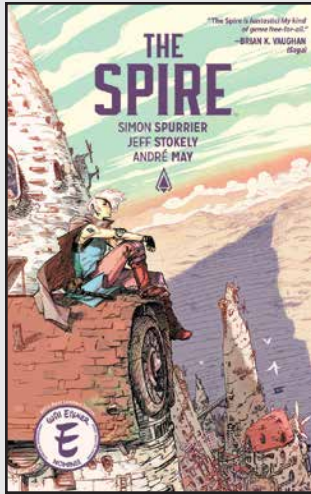


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