

NAUGHTY LIST

1

A STRANGE MAN IN THE WOODS

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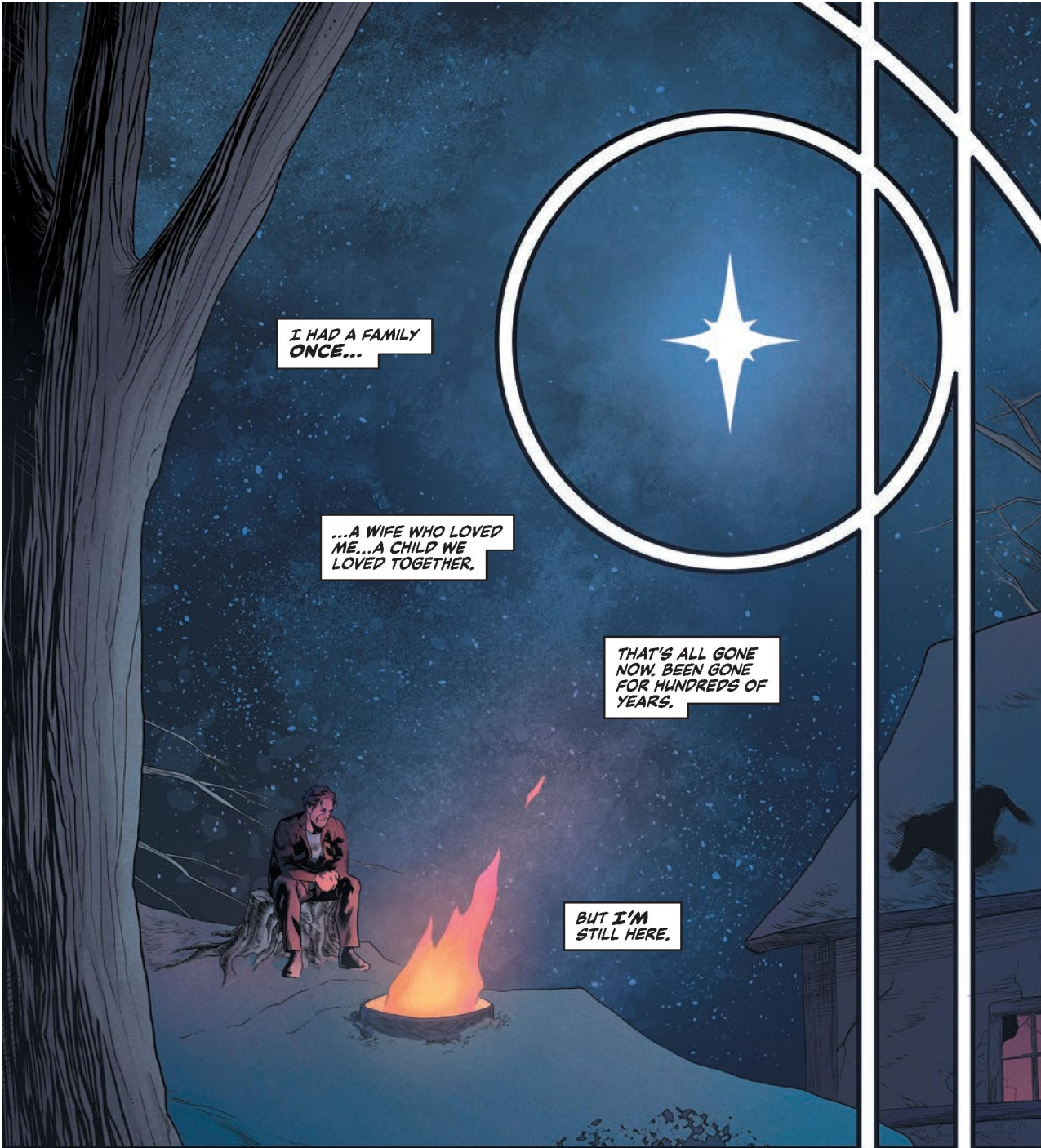
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I HAD A FAMILY ONCE...

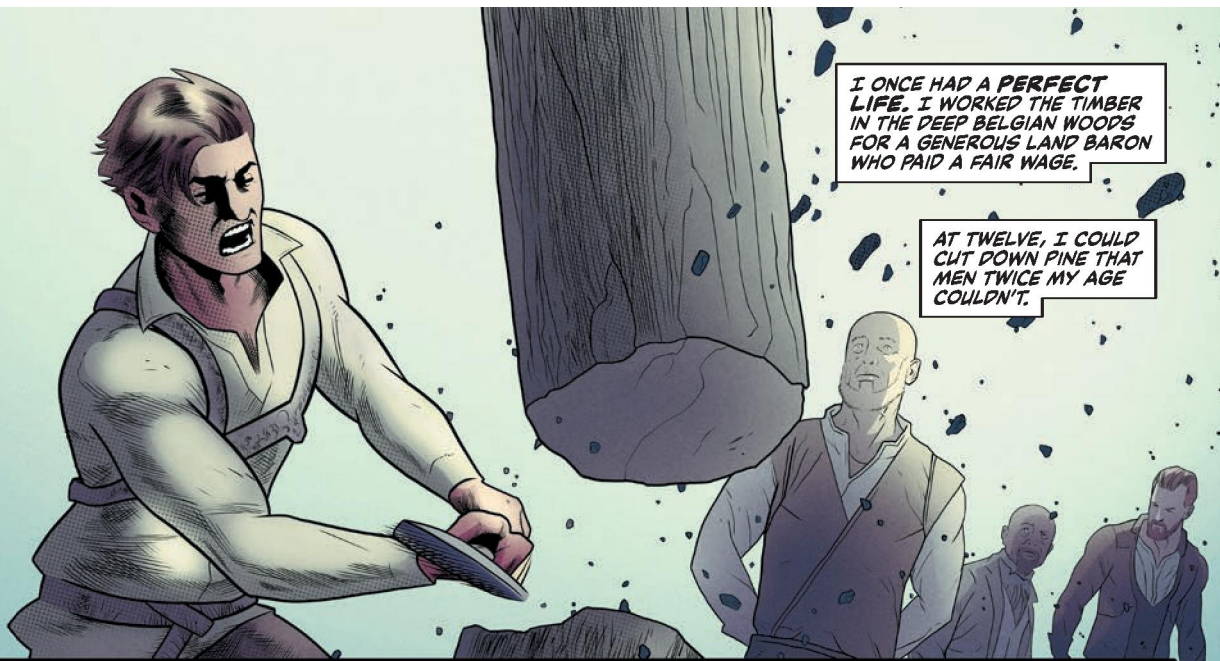
...A WIFE WHO LOVED ME... A CHILD WE LOVED TOGETHER.

THAT'S ALL GONE NOW. BEEN GONE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

BUT I'M STILL HERE.

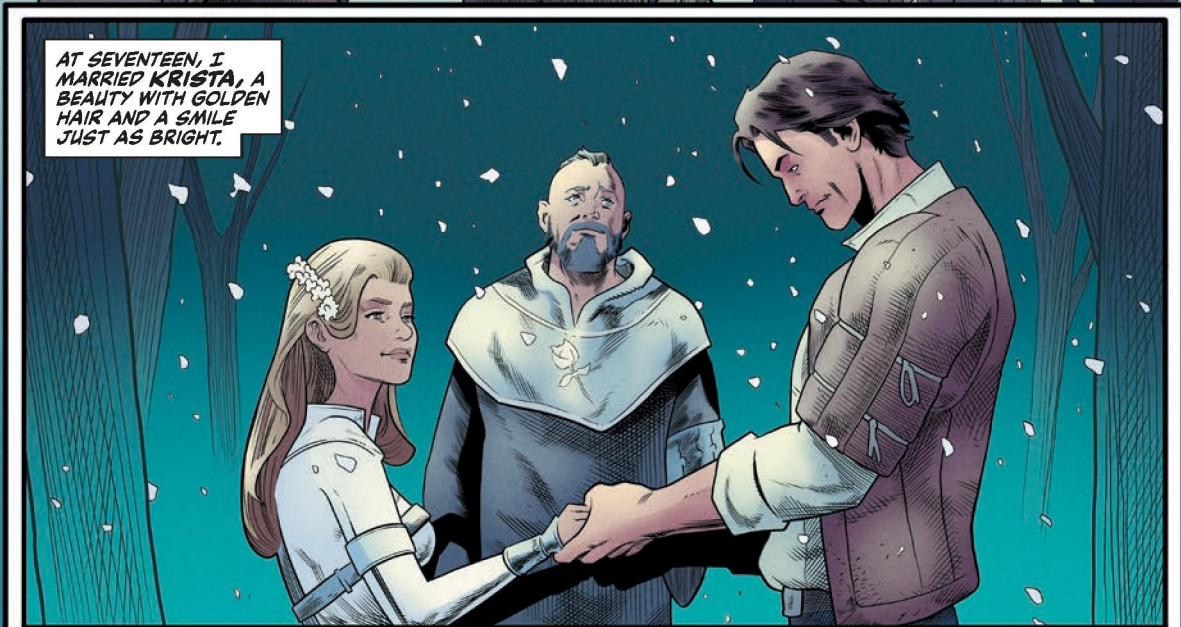


I'M ALWAYS HERE.

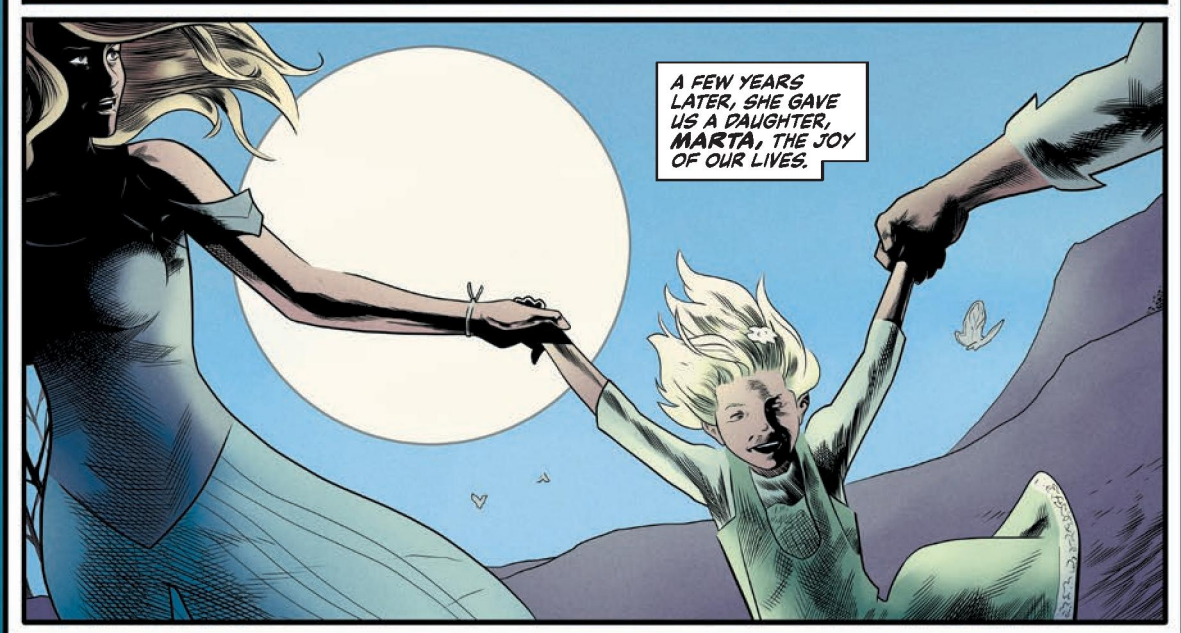


I ONCE HAD A PERFECT LIFE. I WORKED THE TIMBER IN THE DEEP BELGIAN WOODS FOR A GENEROUS LAND BARON WHO PAID A FAIR WAGE.

AT TWELVE, I COULD CUT DOWN PINE THAT MEN TWICE MY AGE COULDN'T.



AT SEVENTEEN, I MARRIED KRISTA, A BEAUTY WITH GOLDEN HAIR AND A SMILE JUST AS BRIGHT.

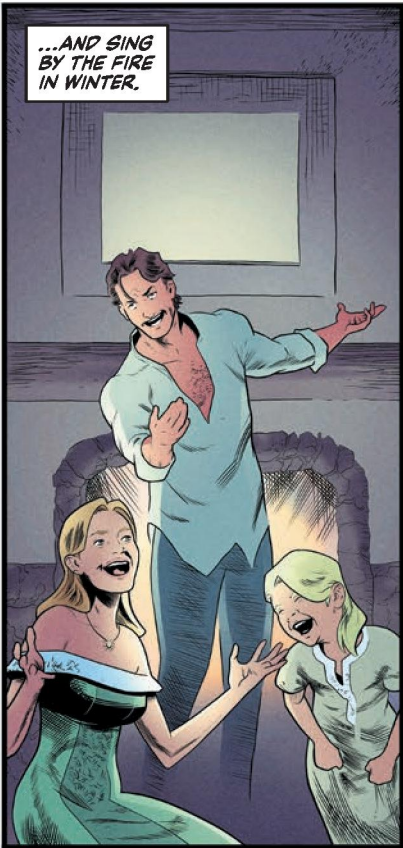


A FEW YEARS LATER, SHE GAVE US A DAUGHTER, MARTA, THE JOY OF OUR LIVES.

WE'D SWIM
IN THE RIVER
EDDY DURING
SUMMER...



...AND SING
BY THE FIRE
IN WINTER.



IN A TIME OF DISEASE AND
FAMINE, THE SINTERKLASS
CLAN MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
RICH, BUT WE WERE
BLESSED.

AND I KNEW IT.



SO WHEN I
CAME UPON
SICKLY BEGGAR
CHILDREN IN
THE VILLAGE,
MY HEART
BROKE.



THE PLAGUE WAS RAVAGING
THEM--NONE WERE MORE THAN
A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN MY
OWN MARTA. I'D GIVE THEM
WHATEVER VEGETABLE ROOT AND
COINS I HAD IN MY POCKET.

I KNEW THEIR RELIEF
WOULD BE TEMPORARY--
THEY'D ALL BE GONE
WITHIN A FEW WEEKS,
PILED WITH THE REST OF
THE DEAD OUTSIDE THE
CHURCH DOORS.



I COULDN'T STOP THINKING OF THE CHILDREN THAT WERE SUFFERING. AND I DON'T KNOW IF I SAW THE STAR OR IF THE STAR SAW ME...

...BUT I COULDN'T LOOK AWAY--I FELT COMPELLED TO ASK FOR HELP--COMPELLED TO WISH.

I WISHED THAT I COULD SOMEHOW BRING A LITTLE JOY TO THE CHILDREN THAT NEEDED IT MOST--EVEN IF JUST A TRICKLE OF HAPPINESS.

TO THIS DAY, I HATE THAT STAR. AND I HATE MYSELF FOR MAKING THAT WISH.