

◆ TALES FROM ◆

Nottingham™



SA
2022
Malkamok

HAZAN - VOLK - ROMANO - EVERTS - SERRA - ESSEX
VINAGERAS - BECTON - MAGAT - COOPER - BERTONI - BIRCH



**JERUSALEM. THE HOLY LAND.
1192.**

Hereafter is detailed in the sordid tale of Conrad de Montferrat's death, elected Crusader King of Jerusalem but never crowned.

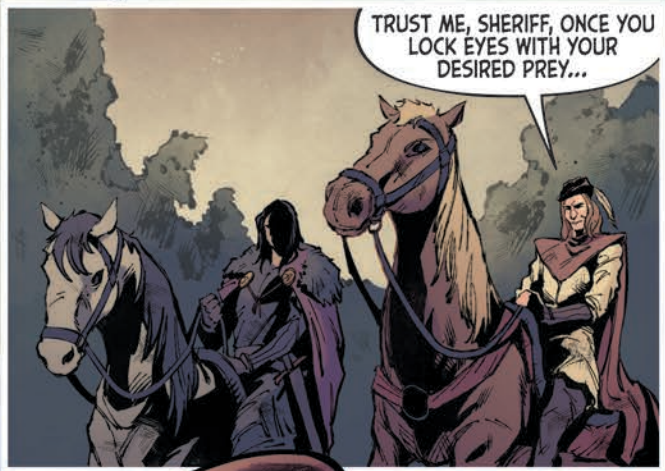
And so, on the twenty-fourth day of April, in the Year of our Lord 1192, the High Court of Barons voted decisively in Conrad's favor.

The monarch-elect further had the support of his illustrious cousins, Duke Leopold V of Austria and King Philip II of France.

In electing Conrad, though, the Court had spurned the outspoken Guy de Lusignan, who had the support of yet another King, one not crossed lightly...



SHERWOOD FOREST,
1191.



Nottingham. 1193.



THE TITHE IS MISSING.

TSK! THEFT AND MURDER IN THE HOUSE OF GOD.

PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL FINALLY CONCEDE THAT THE MERRY MEN ARE NOTHING MORE THAN COMMON CRIMINALS. EY, FRIAR?

THEY'VE NEVER TARGETED THE CHURCH BEFORE. HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE IT'S THEM?

WHAT WAS IT YOUR WITNESS CALLED THEM?

MEN WEARING THE FACES OF DEMONS.

DOESN'T LEAVE MANY ALTERNATIVES.

FORGIVE ME, FRIAR TUCK, BUT THE ARCHBISHOP GROWS IMPATIENT...





Ayvadih. Then.

"MY ALLEGIANCE TO KING RICHARD HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE ABSOLUTE."

{P-PLEASE...}



"MY DEVOTION TO ENGLAND IS UNWAVERING."



"EVERY BATTLE I'VE FOUGHT, EVERY ORDER I'VE FULFILLED, EVERY LIFE I'VE TAKEN-ALL DONE WITH FULL FIDELITY."

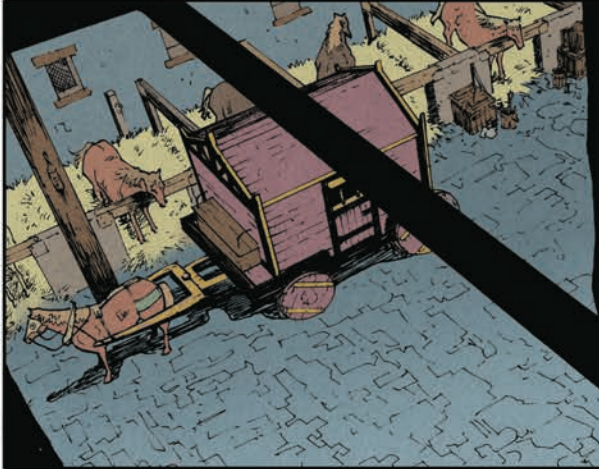


Locksley. Now.

I AM LOYAL TO ENGLAND--TO RICHARD THE LIONHEART.



SO I MUST ASK YOU, MY GOOD MAN...



...WHO ARE YOU LOYAL TO?

Northampton Castle, 1193.

Today.

More or less.

MY MOST GRACIOUS AND NOBLE LORD NORTHAMPTON, IT IS WITH IMMENSE SATISFACTION, AND NO SMALL AMOUNT OF EROTIC GLEE, THAT I...

...THE FAMOUS, THE INFAMOUS, THE ILLUSTRIOUS, THE STORIED BRABANGON SWORD-FOR-HIRE YSOLDA MERCADIER...

...AFTER A MONTH-LONG JOURNEY FROM THE PORT OF NAPLES IN SOME FETID LITTLE ITALIAN PRINCIPALITY RULED BY THE BASTARD CHILDREN OF A ONCE PROUD NORMAN FAMILY LIKE YOUR OWN...

...ABOARD A CREAKING LITTLE PINWOOD COG THAT COULD BARELY STAY ABOVE WATER YET WEATHERED HEAVY STORMS TO BRING US, AT LONG LAST HERE, SAY TO YOU ALL...

...SPECIAL DELIVERY, RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR. OR, AS THE PRIESTS WOULD SAY...

ECCE HOMO!

EVERARD BLACKTHORNE, JUST AS ORDERED.

S' THAT HIM? LOOKS A RIGHT BIT SCRAWNY TO ME.

OOOF!

YES, FAULKES. I DO BELIEVE IT IS.

HOW DOES IT FEEL, EVERARD, TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE CLUTCHES OF ONE YOU'VE SO CRUELLY WRONGED?