

"I'LL FOLLOW YOU THROUGH ALL NINE HELLS, THONGOR, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT IF SHARAJSHA HAS INDEED TURNED EVIL, IF THE GREAT WIZARD IS NOW WORKING ON THE SIDE OF DARKNESS..."

...IT MAY TAKE EVEN MORE THAN OUR COMBINED STRENGTH, AND OUR WILL, TO STOP HIM.

I'M WELL AWARE OF THE RISK, KARM KARVUS, BUT KNOW THIS...

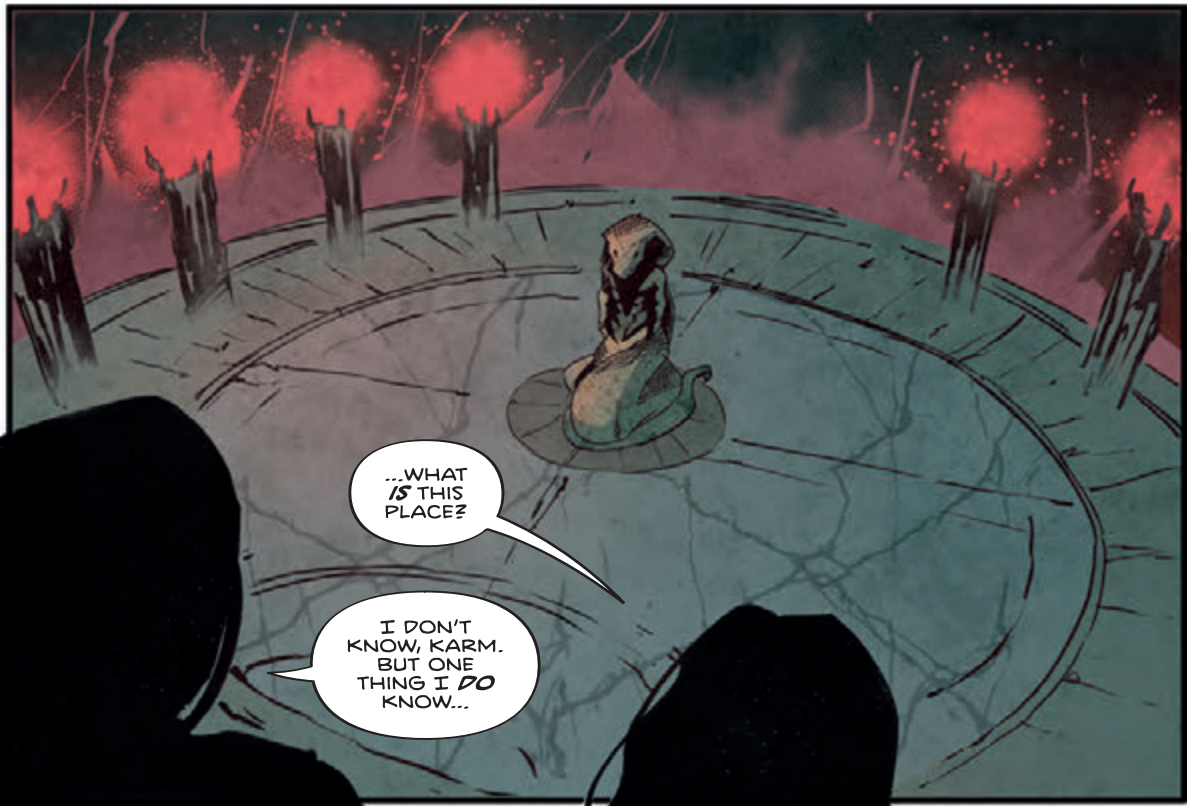
WHILE WE ARE BUT SIMPLE BARBARIANS, WE'RE ALSO THE CHAMPIONS OF LEMURIA.

BUT MORE THAN THAT, IF OUR ALLY HAS FALLEN INTO LEAGUE WITH THOSE DRAGON KINGS...

...THEN WE **MUST** SAVE HIM.

WHAT IN THE--Z THONGOR...





...WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

I DON'T KNOW, KARM. BUT ONE THING I *DO* KNOW...

...IS WE MUST PROCEED WITH **CAUTION.**

THIS PLACE...IT'S **ANCIENT.** HOW HAS IT REMAINED SECRET ALL THESE YEARS?

IT'S A MYSTERY, KARM. THOUGH BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSUME ONE THING...

...IT APPEARS THIS IS THE WORK OF THE ELDER GODS, AND WHERE THERE ARE ELDER GODS--

THERE'S TROUBLE.

REVEAL YOURSELF, WHOEVER YOU ARE!

COME FACE US! WE DO NOT FEAR ANY BEAST THAT CALLS DARKNESS ITS HOME!

CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK

DARKNESS, YESSSS....



DARKNESS.



THONGOR, WHERE DID THEY--THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!

STEADY, KARM. STEADY!

THESE CREATURES MAY BE MANY...



...BUT THAT MEANS THERE'S ONLY MORE FOR US TO **KILL!**

WHERE IS HEZ **WHERE?!** WHAT HAVE YOU FOUL CREATURES DONE WITH SHARATSHA?!

THONGOR!

THONGOR!



HELP ME!
THERE'S TOO
MANY!

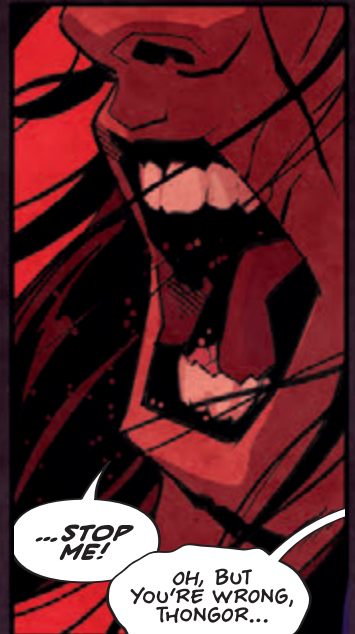
HELP
M--



NO!

I'M COMING!
THESE CREATURES...

...WILL
NOT...



...STOP
ME!

OH, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG,
THONGOR...



SHARATSHA?!

WE WILL
DO MORE
THAN STOP
YOU. WE ARE
THE ALEPH,
AND WE ARE
ONE...

...AND
WE WILL
MAKE
YOU ONE,
TOO.

KARM,
NO!

NO!

Noooooo!

Darkness is spreading from one realm to the next, overtaking families, heroes, and kings alike, laying waste to everything it touches.

No one is safe.

TO ME, MY KNIGHTS! WE MUST PROTECT THE CASTLE AT ALL COSTS--

LANCELOT!

AAAAAAHHH!

No one.

But, surely, one of the world's greatest kings must know what to do...



I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.

YES, SIRE, SO YOU'VE EXPRESSED...

WHICH IS WHY I'VE COME... TO OFFER A SOLUTION.

KING ARTHUR, I PRESENT TO YOU...



...THE ENEMY.

MORGAN! YOU'VE... YOU'VE CAUGHT ONE?

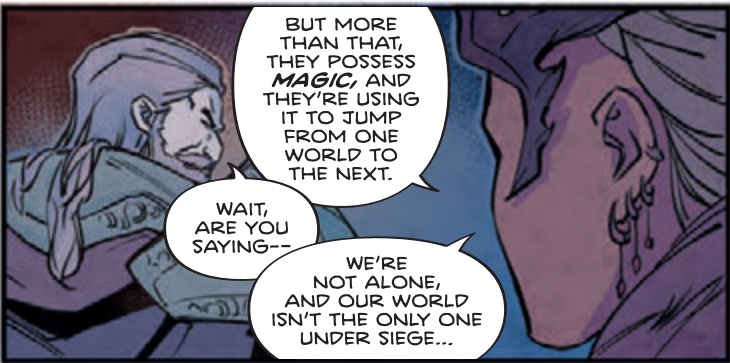


AND YOU BROUGHT IT HERE BECAUSE...?

BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM IT, SIRE.

THESE CREATURES AREN'T MINDLESS BEASTS.

THEY ARE THE ALEPH, THE FIRST OF THEIR KIND; THEY SAY.



BUT MORE THAN THAT, THEY POSSESS MAGIC, AND THEY'RE USING IT TO JUMP FROM ONE WORLD TO THE NEXT.

WAIT, ARE YOU SAYING--

WE'RE NOT ALONE, AND OUR WORLD ISN'T THE ONLY ONE UNDER SIEGE...



THERE ARE *OTHERS*, COUNTLESS OTHERS, AND THESE ALEPH POSSESS WITHIN THEMSELVES THE KEY TO REACHING THEM.



AND NOW THAT KEY, THAT *MAGIC*...



...RESIDES WITHIN *ME*.

MORGAN, THIS DARK POWER, WHATEVER IT IS...DID YOU EVER THINK IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE WIELDED BY OUR KIND?



CONSTANTLY, SIRE. BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?

WE NEED *CHAMPIONS*.



WE NEED OTHERS WHO ARE STRONG ENOUGH, AND BRAVE ENOUGH, TO STAND AGAINST THIS DARKNESS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



IT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE US *ALL*.

MY DEAR MORGAN...

"...HOW SOON CAN YOU EMBARK ON THIS QUEST?"

RRRAAAAHH!

GGGRRRRGGG...

MY FAMILY!
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE
WITH MY
FAMILY?!

IMPRESSIVE.
VERY IMPRESSIVE.

YOU FIGHT LIKE A
TRUE WARRIOR. BUT
I SENSE SOMETHING...
ELSE ABOUT
YOU.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE...

...BUT I
NEED NO MAN
OR WOMAN TO
TELL ME I'M A
WARRIOR!



NO...

I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T.

THUNK

TELL ME WHO YOU ARE AND SPEAK PLAINLY. MY PATIENCE ISN'T WITHOUT LIMITS.

I'M MORGAN Le FAY, AND I'VE COME TO GATHER ALLIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CREATURES YOU SLAY SO WELL.

YOU'RE THE GREAT WARRIOR NANOOK--BUT I NEED BETTER THAN WARRIORS...

...I NEED MORE.

I DON'T NEED TO PROVE MYSELF TO YOU OR TO ANYONE.

THESE FOUL BEASTS HAVE TAKEN MY FAMILY, THEY'VE OVERRUN MY LANDS.

THEY HAVE NO IDEA THE FURY THEY'VE AWAKENED IN ME... AND NEITHER DO YOU.

IF THAT'S SO...



...THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME?

BEASTS...
GRRRRRR...
MONSTERS...
GRRRRR...

YOU...WILL...
GGGGGRRRRR...



GRRRAAAA!



VERY GOOD, NANOOK...



VERY GOOD.



THAT'LL DO JUST FINE.

"SO, OKAY, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT..."

...YOU WANT ME TO ABANDON THIS PUB, LEAVING BEHIND MY MEAD--WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS *FREE*--AND JOIN YOU TWO TO FIGHT THESE...ALEPH, OR WHATEVER?

THAT'S RIGHT, *BIRKA*.

YEAH...

...PASS.

SHIELD-MAIDEN, I ASK YOU TO RECONS--

OKAY, LET ME STOP YOU THERE AND SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE, BECAUSE IT'S NOT HAPPENING.

LOOK, I'VE SPENT MOST MY LIFE FIGHTING ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER. I'VE EITHER BEEN IN WAR OR WAITING FOR THE NEXT ONE TO START. AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S GOTTEN ME?

NOT A GODS DAMN THING.

AND HONESTLY, I'M THE STUPID ONE. I'M THE ONE WHO KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT *THIS* BATTLE WOULD BE THE ONE TO BRING PEACE. *THIS* WAR WOULD BE THE LAST.

BUT THEN THE CLAN LEADERS WOULD FIND A NEW REASON TO FIGHT, OR A NEW CLAN TO CONQUER, AND OFF WE'D GO AGAIN.

AND THE PEOPLE LOVE IT--THEY WANT SPECTACLE AND BLOOD AND MAYHEM.

SO, YOU KNOW WHAT?

THEY CAN HAVE IT.

DISGRACEFUL. IF YOU ARE THE WARRIOR MORGAN CLAIMS YOU ARE, YOU HAVE A *DUTY* TO LOOK AFTER YOUR PEOPLE.

YEAH, TRIED THAT. DIDN'T WORK. NOW I LOOK AFTER ONE PERSON--

MYSEL--

YESSSSSS...



MORE FLESH TO CONSSSSSSSUME.



I'D LIKE TO SEE *YOU TRY*. ESPECIALLY AFTER I SHOVE MY SPEAR UP YOUR--

HOLD, NANOOK. AFTER ALL, THIS ISN'T OUR FIGHT. APPARENTLY, IN THIS REALM...

...PEOPLE ONLY LOOK OUT FOR *THEMSELVES*.



Oh, BOY. TALK ABOUT *SUBTLE*. I DO NOT CATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING THERE. NOT AT ALL.

BUT JUST FOR FUN, I'LL *STILL* HANDLE THESE IDIOTS, BECAUSE IF THEY WRECK MY MEAD SUPPLY...

...THEN I'LL BE *PISSED*.

DARKNESS
COMESSSSSS. THE
GREAT MASTER
SSSSSPREADS
HI--



YOU'RE...
FAST.



YOU GUYS
DON'T *HAVE*
TO DIE. THAT'S
ALL I'M
SAYING.



THE MASTER
COMMANDSSSSSS...

THE
MASSSSSTER
COMMAN--



AAAAAGGG--

THE
MASTER...
MUSST OBEY
THE...

WHAM

CONSUME YOU! THE
DARKNESSSSS WILL
CONSSSSUME--

SLICE



GODS DAMN IT!



THAT'S THE LAST BARREL! NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO--



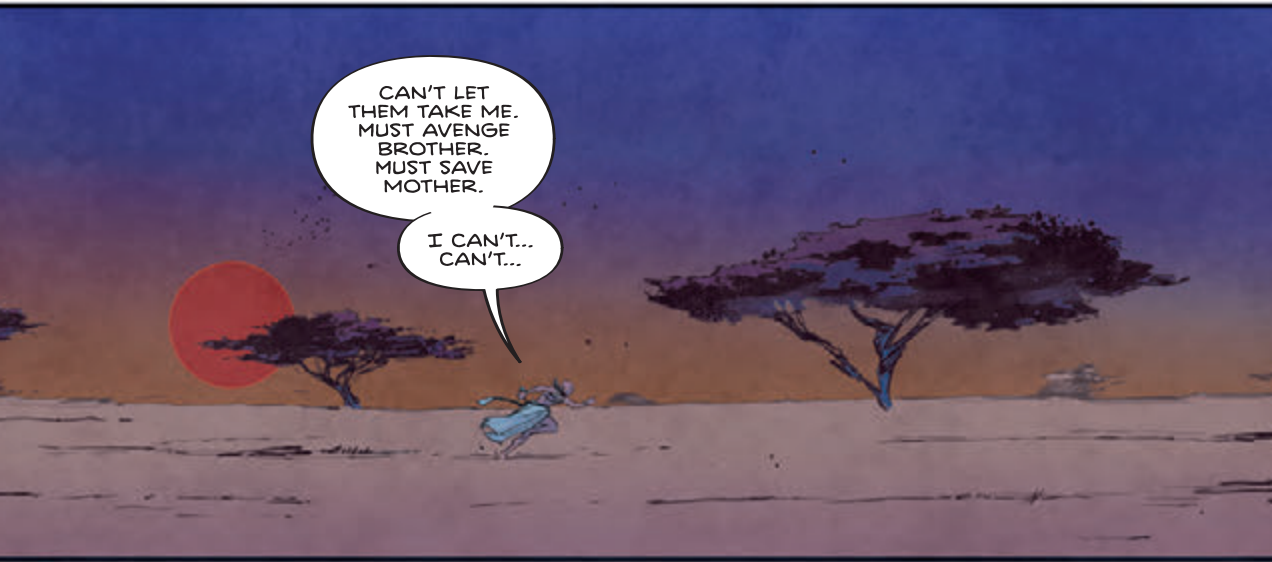
BUY YOURSELF SOME MORE.



AFTER YOU PUT THAT SHIELD AND AXE OF YOURS TO USE.

I LIKE THE WAY YOU NEGOTIATE, ENCHANTRESS. MAKE THAT SACK YOU JUST MATERIALIZED A LOT BIGGER...

...AND YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A VIKING SHIELD-MAIDEN.

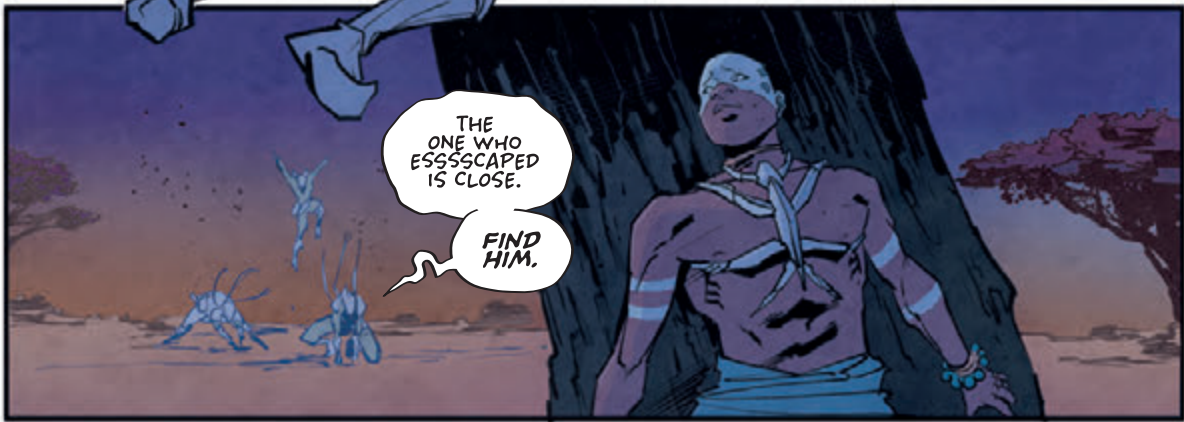


CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME.
MUST AVENGE BROTHER.
MUST SAVE MOTHER.

I CAN'T...
CAN'T...



...CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME!



THE ONE WHO ESCAPED IS CLOSE.

FIND HIM.



Dad...
I know you said not to. I know you said I mustn't, but...

"...I have no other choice."

HE'S GONE. I SAW HIM...UM... GO THE OTHER WAY. LIKE, WAY THE OTHER WAY.

AND WHO ARE YOU?

≡SNIFF≡

≡SNIFF≡

ME? I'M, UH...I'M WITH THE OTHER GUYS. THE OTHER PACK. FROM OVER THERE.

YOUR SSSSSSCENT...

YEAH, IT'S... A NEW...THING I'M TRYING. GLAD YOU NOTICED. BUT NOW...MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE ME JUST A LITTLE BIT OF PERSONAL SPACE?

IT'S WRONG.

YOU'RE NOT ONE OF USSSSSS. YOU'RE AN IMPOS--

SPURCH



RRAAAAA!

KILL
YO--



THIS, YOU
DEVIL...



...IS FOR MY
BROTHER.



INTERESTING
TRICK YOU PLAYED
THERE, ANANSI. I'M
ASSUMING YOU KNOW
OTHERS?

I KNOW
ENOUGH.
WHO ARE
YOU?

I'M A
FRIEND--WE ALL
ARE, AND WE SHARE
A COMMON ENEMY.
WE NEED YOUR HELP,
JUST AS YOU NEED
OURS. YOUR UNIQUE
SKILLS ARE OF
GREAT VALUE.



WILL
HELPING YOU
SAVE MY
PEOPLE?

YES. I
BELIEVE IT
WILL.

I'M NOT
MUCH OF A
WARRIOR, AS YOU
CAN PROBABLY SEE
FOR YOURSELF.
BUT IF IT'S MY
TALENTS YOU
NEED...

"...THEN MY TALENTS
YOU WILL HAVE."

"WHAT IS A
KING..."

...IF HE HAS NO
KINGDOM?

WHAT
IS A
MAN...

...IF HE FAILS
TO LIVE UP TO
WHAT HE IS
MEANT TO
BE?

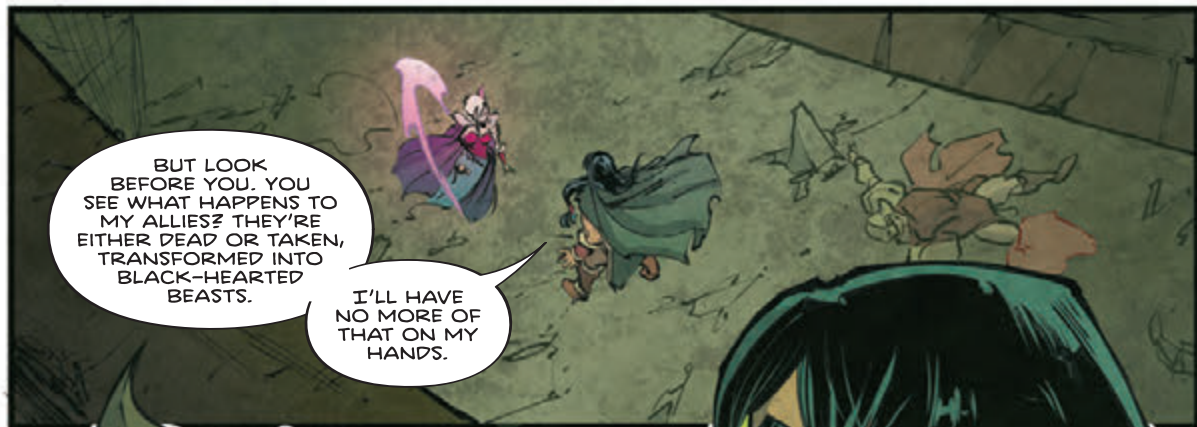
IF THOSE AROUND
HIM SUFFER FOR THE
MISGUIDED TRUST
THEY PLACED IN
HIM?

PEOPLE
OF VALUSIA,
MY LOYAL RED
SLAYERS... I'LL
NEVER FORGIVE
MYSELF FOR
FAILING YOU
WHEN YOU
NEEDED ME
MOST.

I, AN
OUTCAST OF
ATLANTIS, A SLAVE OF
LEMURIA, A BARBARIAN
AT HEART BUT A KING IN
MY SOUL--I VOW I WILL
NEVER REST, I WILL NEVER
WAVER, UNTIL YOU ARE
AVENGED. IT'S LITTLE
COMFORT, BUT IT'S
ALL I CAN
OFFER.

AND
WE CAN
AID YOU IN
THIS QUEST,
KULL--IT IS
WHY WE'RE
HERE.

I HEARD
YOU ALREADY,
SORCERESS...



BUT LOOK BEFORE YOU. YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO MY ALLIES? THEY'RE EITHER DEAD OR TAKEN, TRANSFORMED INTO BLACK-HEARTED BEASTS.

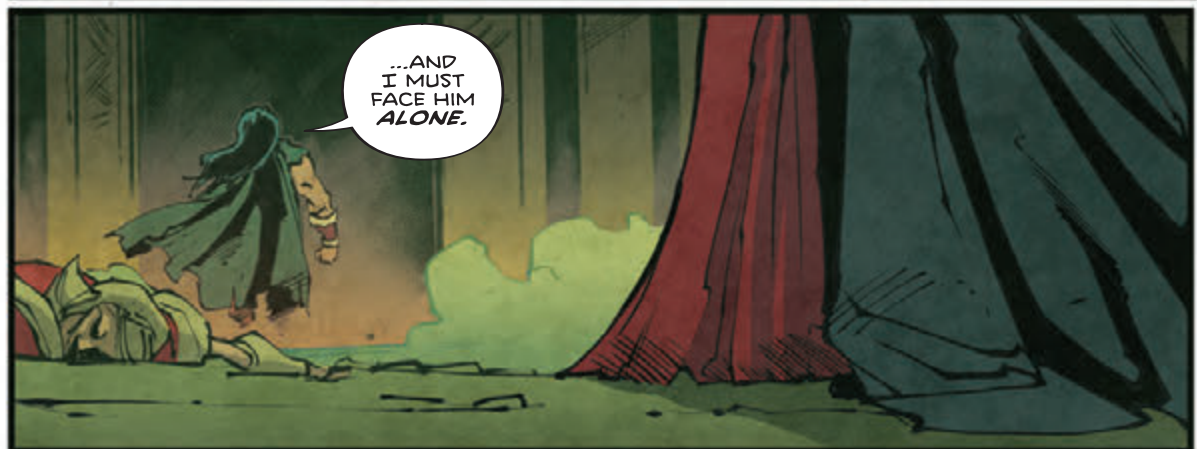
I'LL HAVE NO MORE OF THAT ON MY HANDS.



IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. WE ARE **POWERFUL**, BUT WE NEED A LEADER.

WE NEED A **KING**.

I WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR QUEST, AND MY WORDS ARE TRUE. BUT MY PATH IS HERE, IN VALUSIA. I MUST FACE ONE OF MY GREATEST ENEMIES...



...AND I MUST FACE HIM ALONE.



WELL...

HE'S FUN.