











WHY ARE WE HERE?

YOU SAID YOU HAD A NEW LEAD OR SOMETHING, BROOKS?

YES, AND NO.

OH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE BRINGING HIM.

YOU COULDN'T BE DEAD IN AN ALLEY SOMEWHERE?

IS THIS SOME KIND OF SET UP BY YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND, WENDY? TRYING TO ACCUSE ME OF KILLING OUR SON AGAIN?!

HE'S NOT MY JESUS, YOUR BREATH! IT'S NOT EVEN TEN A.M.!

MOM! DAD! STOP!

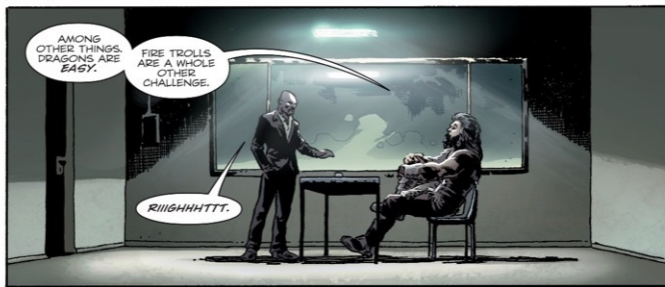
CAN YOU TWO NOT FIGHT FOR TWO SECONDS?!

I'M SORRY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SEE THAT. I'M SORRY.

IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO SEE A FAMILY SETTING ALONG. NOW, CHRON.

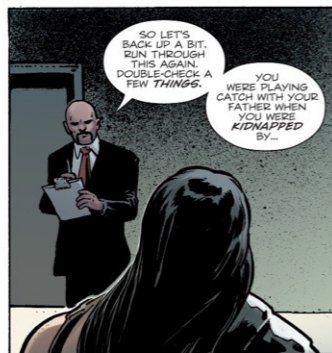
LAST NIGHT A FEW LOCAL COPS FOUND A DRIFTER IN MOUNTAIN ASH FOREST. THANKFULLY HE DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT, SO THEY BROUGHT HIM IN FOR QUESTIONING AND WELL...

SEE FOR YOURSELF.















Joshua Williamson
creator, writer

Andrei Bressan
creator, artist

Adriano Lucas
colorist

Pat Brosseau
letterer

Helen Leigh
assistant editor

Sean Mackiewicz
editor

cover a by

**Andrei Bressan &
Adriano Lucas**

cover b by

**Marc Silvestri &
Sunny Gho**

Rian Hughes
logo design

map by
**Joshua Williamson &
Jason Ho**



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Lizzy Iverson Administrative Assistant
Stephan Mueller Administrative Assistant
International inquiries: foreign@skybound.com
Licensing inquiries: contact@skybound.com

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YOU'RE JUST A RUNT, AREN'T YA, HERO?

MY GIDEONS AND I TOOK A MIGHTY RIDE COMING TO MOUNTAIN ASH FOREST TO GET OUR HANDS ON YOU. BUT IF YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE, WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP NOW.



I, UH... WHAT... BUT...

SPIT IT OUT, HERO.













"A HERO."

"IT TOOK MANY UNEASY YEARS. YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE HORRIBLE THINGS I SAW OVER THERE. BUT JUST AS THE PROPHECY PROCLAIMED, I WOULD..."

"I DID IT. I KILLED THE GOD KING LORE IN THE BATTLEFIELD AND RESTORED FREEDOM TO THE PEOPLE AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF ENSLAVEMENT."

"THEN ROOK ARRANGED FOR MY HOMECOMING, SO I COULD HUNT A LEAGUE OF WAR CRIMINALS THAT HAD ESCAPED TO EARTH, AND RETURN THEM TO TERRENO'S BEFORE THEY ALLOWED LORE'S BLOODY LEGACY TO OVERTAKE THIS WORLD."

"BUT FIRST..."

ALL I WANT IS TO SEE MY MOM AND DAD.



OH MY GOD...

MOM, HE'S LYING. IT'S A JOKE. A SICK JOKE.



HE CLAIMS THAT TIME MOVES FASTER IN THIS TERROR WORLD OR WHATEVER. THAT'S WHY HE'S SO MUCH OLDER LOOKING.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, IT'S INSANE. BUT THE TESTS ARE MATCHING UP.



THE FINGERPRINTS ALONE...



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THAT CAN'T BE MIKEY, IT ISN'T. IT ISN'T.

EITHER WAY, HE KNOWS SOMETHING, RIGHT?

HE EVEN HAS MIKEY'S BACKPACK AND NOTEBOOK, BUT IT'S FILLED WITH...



GIBBERISH.



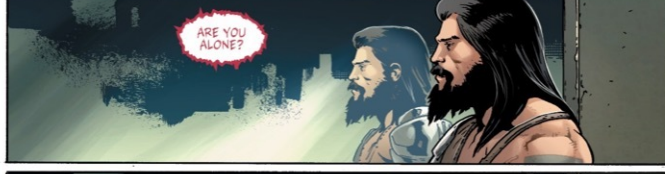
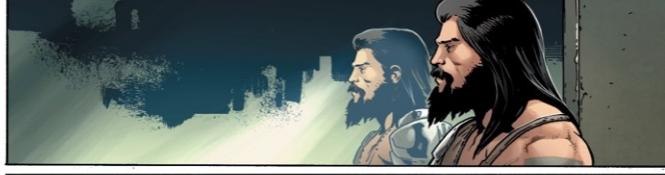
THE LAB GEEKS ARE CHECKING EVERYTHING OUT. NO MATTER HOW NUTS THIS ALL SOUNDS, WE'RE DOING OUR BEST.

BUT WHAT HE'S SAYING CAN'T BE TRUE, RIGHT? LIKE...

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T KILL HIM.









DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR ORDERS, FALLEN HERO? OUR AGENT OF DECEIT AND DESTRUCTION?

THE VOW YOU MADE TO THE GOD KING LORE ON THE DAY OF YOUR DEFEAT?

YES, ALL OF LORE'S ENEMIES ON EARTH MUST BE DESTROYED...

SO THAT MY HOME CAN BURN.

send letters to BIRTHRIGHT@SKYBOUND.COM



WHEN I WAS A KID I GOT INTO TROUBLE ALL THE TIME.

The cause of this?

Adventure.

My friends and I were always trying to relive Stand by Me. We wanted to be Goonies. We hoped there would be monsters in the dark so we could be a real life Monster Squad. We wanted to find urban legends. If we thought we had a treasure map, we'd follow it. If we heard about a castle, we'd find it. We were like this because of the stories of my youth:

The NeverEnding Story, Peter Pan, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Dark Crystal, Legend, Labyrinth, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Wizard of Oz, E.T....

Stories that took kids that were just like me and sent them to faraway lands full of more than just adventure... but the supernatural, the odd, and the fantastical.

But there was one thing that always bugged me about those stories...

These kids would get to go on these great adventures... but they never had to deal with the consequences. We never really got to see what happened when they got home. How do you go back to living a normal life after something like that? Go back to school when you know there is a great big world out there? And how do you sleep at night knowing that the stuff of nightmares is real? After you battle a dragon or sail with pirates or defeat an evil witch... how do you go back to just being a kid?

That is how the idea of BIRTHRIGHT started. What happened after the adventure was over? What do you do next?

This is that story.

We've been working on this book for a long time. I first started to put this book together back in 2007, but it just never clicked. It was missing pieces. An undercooked idea. Maybe I was just too young to really grasp the size of the story I wanted to tell. And

it wasn't until Skybound got involved that this really started to take shape. That was when the concepts of destiny started to play a larger part. If I told you that your entire life was about one moment—you were put on this world for one thing—and it's all you'd ever be... and you accomplished that one thing... what do you do next? It fit so well in our theme of the journey after the adventure that the book finally came together.

Then we got Andrei Bressan, who made the world come to life with his amazing pages and designs. The energy he brings to this book is unmatched and fueled us. Adriano Lucas came on with the colors and blew us all away. It's amazing, right?

To say that BIRTHRIGHT is a labor of love is an understatement.

Without hesitation, this is the most work I've ever put into a book. The amount of world building and character work has been intense. But I hope you agree that it's all been worth it.

But there is one thing I left out. As much as BIRTHRIGHT is about adventure and fantasy and the hero's journey... it's about family.

Fathers and sons, wives and sons, husbands and wives, and... brothers. The adventures we go on together as a family.

Making comics has been a dream come true for me. And BIRTHRIGHT is in a lot of ways the acumination of those dreams. Just look at the package we put together for this first issue! Skybound, myself and the rest of the creative team put a lot of work into this series... it was an investment in the story... and with you, the reader.

If you stick with us, we promise to always put this level of quality into every issue.

Go on this adventure with us.

Let's see if we can get into some trouble.

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

Portland, Oregon
September 15th, 2014





OH STOP. MIKEY MIGHT HEAR YOU.

HOW'RE YOU ON TIME? WE'RE ALMOST SET UP AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON MY BABY'S FACE.



WE'LL LEAVE IN A LITTLE BIT, THEN. IT'S BEEN SUCH A NICE DAY OUTSIDE THAT WE STOPPED AT THE PARK.

MIKEY IS GOING TO BE SO EXCITED.

DON'T RUIN THE SURPRISE, ABBON. JEEZ.



MOM, I'M DONE. CAN I GO PLAY VIDEO GAMES NOW?

BRENNAN, SHUSH. DON'T INTERRUPT PEOPLE ON THE PHONE. IT'S RUDE.

WHAT'RE YOU BOYS DOING AT THE PARK?



PLAYING A BIT OF... CATCH...









