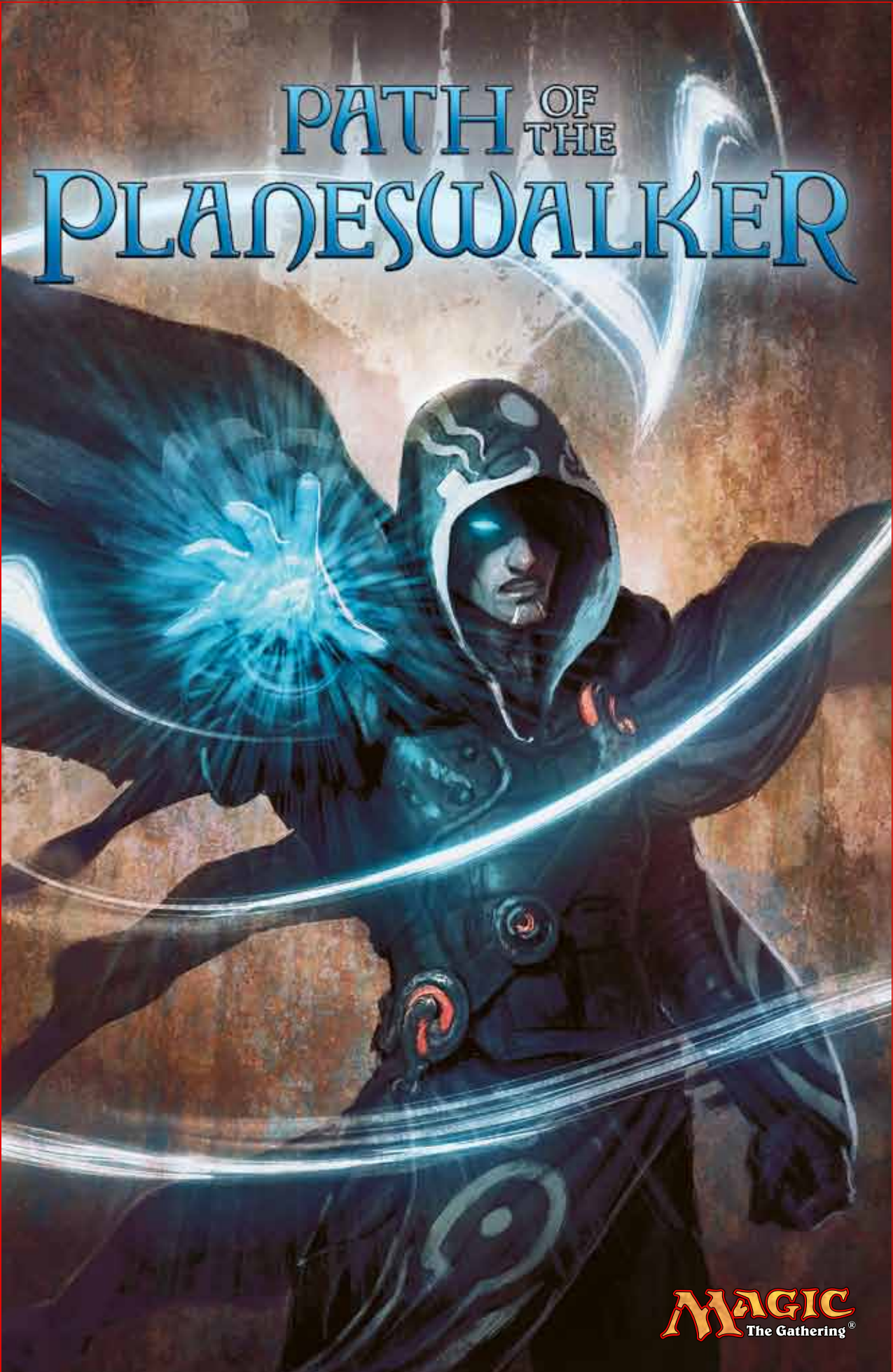
PATH OF THE PLANESWALKER



MAGIC The Gathering®

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Path of the Planeswalker

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Path of the Planeswalker

The Multiverse

The setting of Magic: the Gathering® is referred to as the Multiverse—countless planes of existence, each unaware of the next, each different from the last. One plane might be entombed in snow and ice while another swelters in endless jungle, and a third is covered entirely by city. Only one kind of being can traverse the planes of the Multiverse: the planeswalker.

Each planeswalker has an ineffable gift from the Multiverse itself: the Spark. Only one in a million sentient beings is born with the Spark, and only one in a million with the Spark ever "ignites" it, realizing their true potential to become a planeswalker.

Being a planeswalker elevates an individual and isolates them from their peers. A planeswalker is blessed with the ability to travel between worlds, and cursed with the knowledge that any world is but one among innumerable others; a tiny corner of the Multiverse. Because of this, planeswalkers know that only others of their kind can truly understand them. They are iconoclasts, each driven by their own desires and fears.

All planeswalkers can wield magic, and almost all go forth into the Multiverse in pursuit of further mastery of magic. The Spark is the seed of destiny, but no planeswalker's fate is preordained. Ultimately, all planeswalkers must make their own path.

Planeswalkers (in order of appearance)

Chandra Nalaar

Chandra is a reckless young pyromancer who lives among a community of freedom-loving fire mages on the plane of Regatha. Always seeking the next big fire spell, Chandra learns of a scroll kept in a sacred chamber on the plane Kephalai. She seizes the chance to add a new blast to her repertoire, but things get complicated when Chandra discovers the scroll is more valuable than she first thought.

Jace Beleren

A mind magic prodigy, Jace is the de facto ruler of the Infinite Consortium, an interplanar cabal he wrested away from the planeswalker Tezzeret. When officials on the plane of Kephalai employ the Consortium to retrieve a scroll of great importance that has been stolen, Jace takes it upon himself to intercept Chandra—and to discover the hidden information the scroll contains.

Tezzeret

The artificer Tezzeret is a native of the plane of Esper—a shard of the original fractured plane of Alara—a place where every living thing is infused with a magical alloy called etherium. Here we witness Tezzeret as a young man fighting against the strictures of a society that doesn't recognize his worth, as well as his fateful encounter with a being much greater, older, and more ambitious than himself.

Nicol Bolas

The dragon planeswalker Nicol Bolas spent millennia as a demigod, a conqueror of countless worlds. But when the Multiverse itself began to crack under the strain of many cataclysms, a group of heroic planeswalkers intervened to mend it. In doing so, they changed the very nature of the planeswalker Spark. Now Bolas plots to regain his omnipotence, and his plans require the fealty of many others of his kind.

Garruk Wildspeaker

Garruk is an apex predator who wanders the Multiverse hunting its greatest creatures. His latest prey, the Ursoth, stalks a plane that is home to the ruins of an ancient civilization called the Onakke. Garruk's path is altered when the planeswalker Liliana Vess arrives on the same plane seeking a powerful Onakke artifact.

Liliana Vess

When the nature of the Spark changed, depriving planeswalkers of their godlike power, Liliana Vess took matters into her own hands. She struck a dark deal to maintain her youth, her beauty, and above all, her necromantic power. Now she is indebted to the demons with whom she made her bargain and must do their bidding. But perhaps she has found a way out of her debt...

Ajani Goldmane

Ajani is a leonin mage with a strong sense of empathy—he sees the light within others and can call on its power. Here we see Ajani on his home world of Naya, a shard of Alara covered in jungle, hunted like prey by humans. This is the story of those fateful events and the betrayal of his pride that follows.

Sarkhan Vol

On Sarkhan Vol's native plane, warlords vie endlessly for supremacy, and dragons have long since been hunted to extinction. Sarkhan came to revere dragons as the ultimate expression of ferocity and hunger. We first meet Sarkhan when he encounters Ajani Goldmane. Later, as an agent of the dragon Nicol Bolas, he begins his descent into madness.

Elspeth Tirel

The knights of Bant are defined by their sense of duty and honor. Although Elspeth is among their ranks, they are unaware of her true nature: She is a planeswalker from a dark, distant land. Elspeth wants nothing more than to be at home among her peers, but fate has other plans as the shards of Alara begin to converge.

PART I

Fuel for the Fire

Illustrated by Christopher Moeller, Andrew Robinson, Lucio Parrillo
Script by Doug Beyer

The Seeker's Fall

Illustrated by Trevor Hairsine, Dan Scott, Aleksi Briclot
Script by Jenna Helland

The Hunter and the Veil

Illustrated by Jason Shawn Alexander, Paul Lee, Alex Horley-Orlandelli
Script by Jenna Helland and Doug Beyer

Flight of the White Cat

Illustrated by Greg Staples, Rafa Garres, Dave Kendall
Script by Brady Dommermuth

FUEL FOR THE FIRE

TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRELATE, THIRD OF EIGHTHMONTH."

"WATCH COMMANDER'S FINAL REPORT."

"WE DISCOVERED THE MISCREANT AT THE SANCTUM OF STARS. SHE FLED THE SCENE BEFORE ARREST PROCEDURES COULD BE COMPLETED."

"WE PURSUED HER ON SUSPICION OF BURGLARY, BUT THE MISCREANT'S CRIMES ONLY ESCALATED FROM THERE."

KEPHALAI. SAW THE SIGHTS. GATHERED A FEW NEW TRICKS, COURTESY OF SOME MUSEUM.
SPPLLSH
SPPLLSH
ROYALLY PISSED OFF THE LOCAL POWERS-THAT-BE.
FINDING A SAFE SPOT TO WALK OUT OF HERE WON'T BE EASY.
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
DAMN.
"AFTER WE ENCOUNTERED AND TRAPPED THE MISCREANT, WE APPREHENDED HER WITH A STANDARD CONFINEMENT SPELL."

THEIR MAGIC IS ICY, HONED TO A RAZOR'S EDGE—
FSSSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHH
SWIP!
—BUT UNIMAGINATIVE.
GOTTA KNOW HOW TO IMPROVISE. HOW TO TURN...
KRAAAK!
...ADVERSITY...
KAWOOOM!
...INTO ADVANTAGE.
AAAAAAAAEEE!
"THE CRYOSTAVE WORKED PERFECTLY. BUT THE MISCREANT TOOK A HOSTAGE AND MADE A COWARDLY ESCAPE."
"*APPENDIX A (COSTS & DAMAGES): ONE (1) CRYOSTAVE, REGULATION ONE (1) WATCH OFFICER"

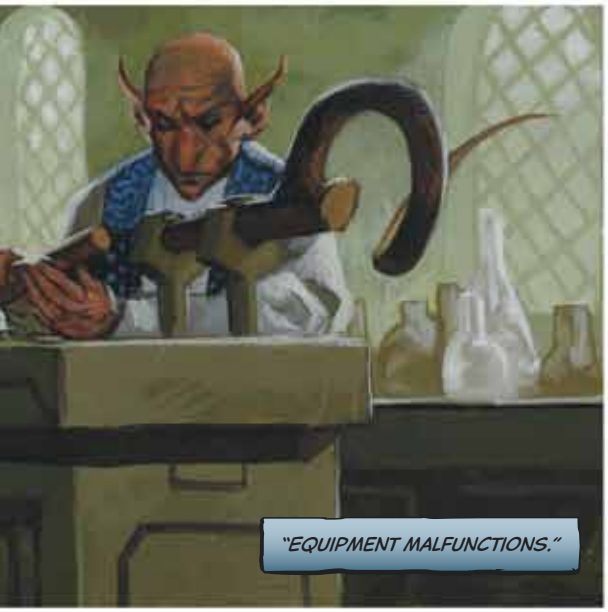
"PURSUIT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE."
"SO WE REQUISITIONED—"
"—TWO OF KEPHALAI'S FINEST."
SSSSSSSSSS KRK KRSSSK
"THE GARGOYLES SEIZED THE MISCREANT IMMEDIATELY."
UNEXPECTED. THEY MEAN BUSINESS. MUST MEAN I TOOK THE RIGHT SCROLL.

"WE ALREADY HAD ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONDEMN. BY AUTHORITY OF THE PRELATE'S CODE, HER SENTENCE WAS DEATH. LAKROS ADMINISTERED THE MISCREANT'S PUNISHMENT IMMEDIATELY."
KRNK!
KRTTLINK!
NOT GOOD. NEVER LIKED KEPHALAI. LOUSY DECOR. UNFRIENDLY GRAVITY.
WAS GOING TO WAIT TO TRY OUT THE NEW TRICK.
BUT NOW SEEMS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO...
...EXPERIMENT.
"*APPENDIX A (COSTS & DAMAGES): TWO (2) ENFORCER GARGOYLES"

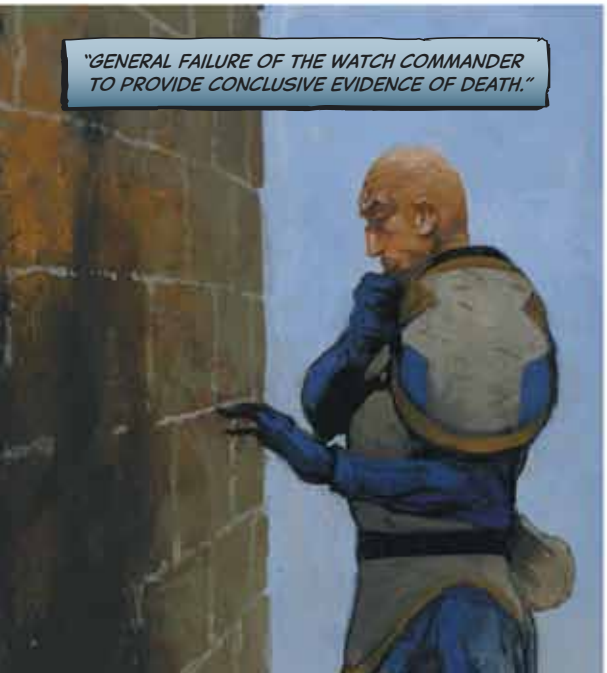
AS JAYA ALWAYS SAID, WHEN IN DOUBT, UNLEASH THE BIGGEST BOOM YOU KNOW.
ADVERSITY INTO ADVANTAGE.
KA-SHOOOOM!
TRICK WORKED WELL. BUT THEN, FIRE ALWAYS DOES.
"OUR INVESTIGATION HAS CONCLUDED SATISFACTORILY. WE RECOVERED NO CORPSE FOR PROPER PROCESSING, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MISCREANT SURVIVED ELIMINATION. WATCH COMMANDER CONSIDERS THE MATTER CLOSED. SEE ATTACHED FOR MATERIALS AND EXPENSES."

"REPORT OF THE **SECURITY OVERSEER.** LIST OF PROCEDURE VIOLATIONS."
"**INADEQUATE** SEARCH AND RECOVERY PRACTICES."

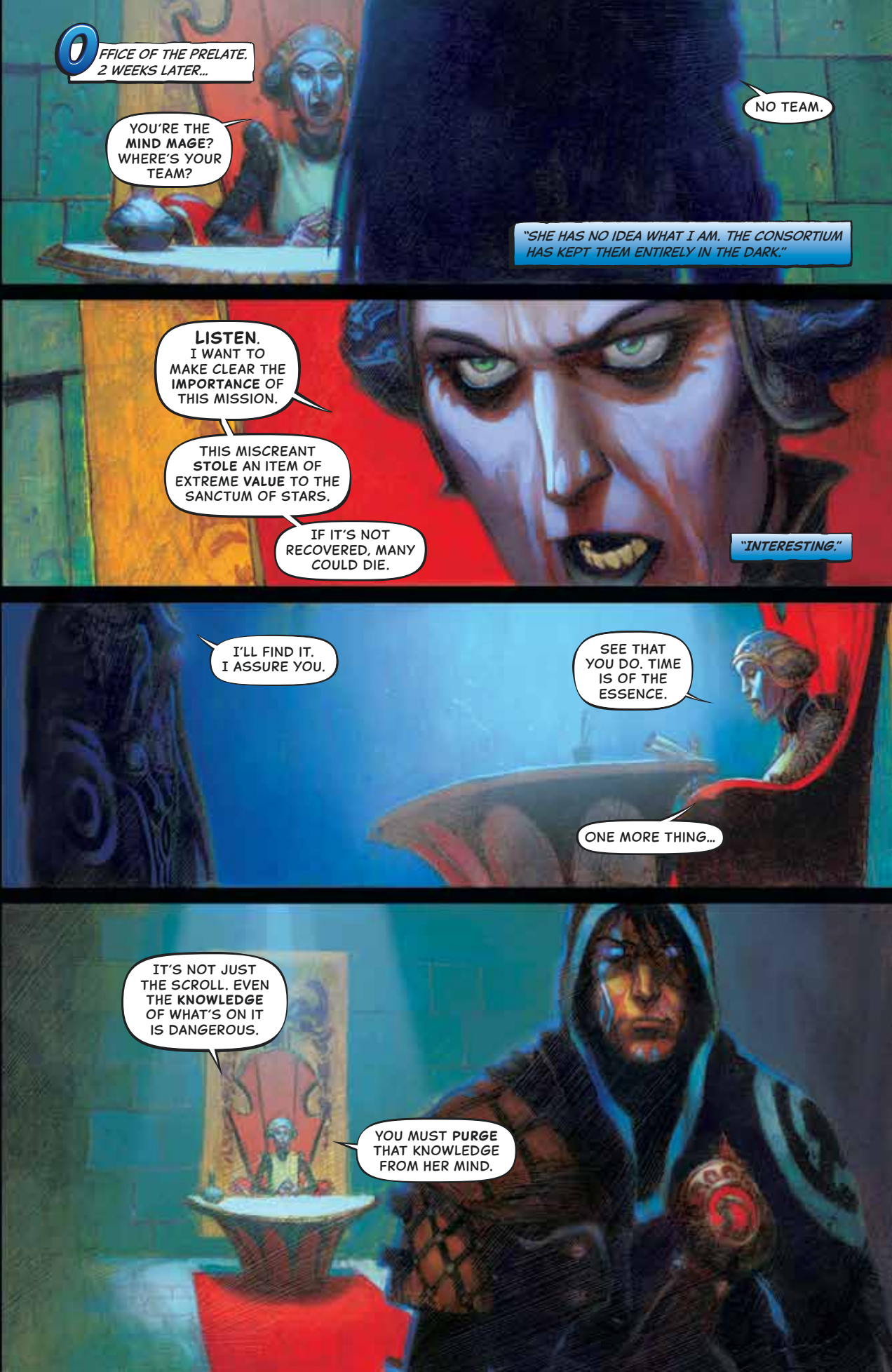
"FAILED SECURITY MEASURES."


"EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS."

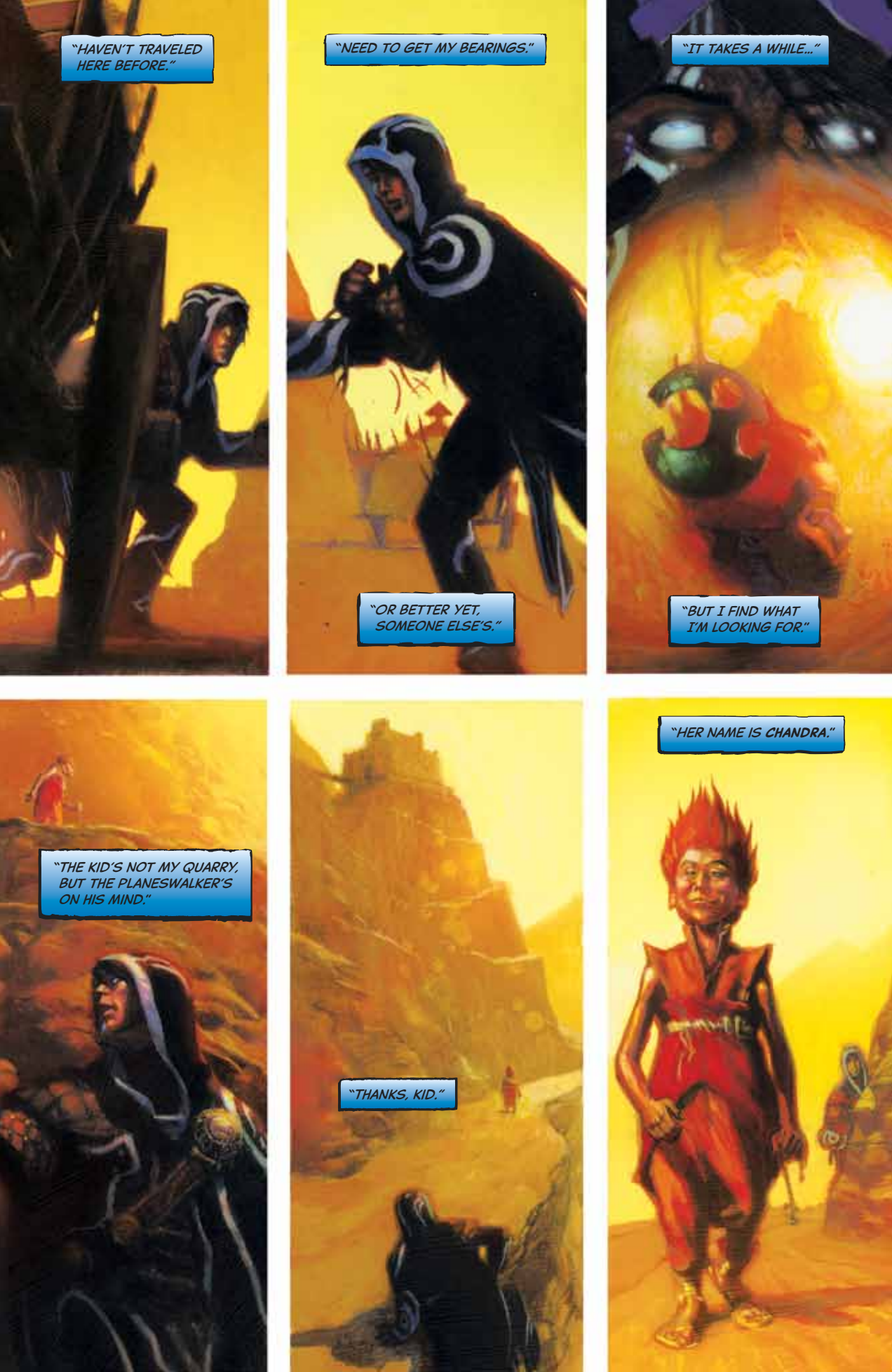
"INCOMPETENT PERFORMANCE OF ARREST PRACTICES."


"GENERAL FAILURE OF THE WATCH COMMANDER TO PROVIDE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF DEATH."

THE MISCREANT IS **ALIVE.**
THE PRELATE MUST HEAR OF THIS.


OFFICE OF THE PRELATE. 2 WEEKS LATER...
YOU'RE THE MIND MAGE? WHERE'S YOUR TEAM?
NO TEAM.
"SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT I AM. THE CONSORTIUM HAS KEPT THEM ENTIRELY IN THE DARK."
LISTEN. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MISSION.
THIS MISCREANT STOLE AN ITEM OF EXTREME VALUE TO THE SANCTUM OF STARS.
IF IT'S NOT RECOVERED, MANY COULD DIE.
"INTERESTING."
I'LL FIND IT. I ASSURE YOU.
SEE THAT YOU DO. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.
ONE MORE THING...
IT'S NOT JUST THE SCROLL. EVEN THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT'S ON IT IS DANGEROUS.
YOU MUST PURGE THAT KNOWLEDGE FROM HER MIND.

"THIS MUCH DESTRUCTION—"
"THIS MISSION IS MORE THAN THE PRELATE UNDERSTANDS."
"THEIR "MISCREANT" ISN'T JUST SOME PETTY THIEF. SHE'S A PLANESWALKER."
"BUT A JOB'S A JOB."
"ÆTHER TRAIL'S FAINT, BUT I CAN ALMOST FEEL HER MEMORIES. EVERY TIME I PLANESWALK..."
"...I SEE MORE..."
"...HAY?"
"PLANESWALKING ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE."


"HAVEN'T TRAVELED HERE BEFORE."
"NEED TO GET MY BEARINGS."
"OR BETTER YET, SOMEONE ELSE'S."
"IT TAKES A WHILE..."
"BUT I FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR."
"THE KID'S NOT MY QUARRY, BUT THE PLANESWALKER'S ON HIS MIND."
"THANKS, KID."
"HER NAME IS CHANDRA."

YOU WERE GONE A WHILE THIS TIME, CHANDRA. WE WERE WORRIED. DANGER FOLLOWS YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.
I KNOW. BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.
FOR NOW, I'M GLAD I CAN JUST RELAX.
TSSSHH
CHANDRA! YOU'RE BACK!
HEY, BRANNON!
I... MADE YOU THIS.
THANKS, KIDDO! HEY, LOOK—YOU'LL LIKE THIS.
I BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING SPECIAL.
A SCROLL—AND THIS IS NOT JUST ANY FIRE SPELL.
"JUST IN TIME."

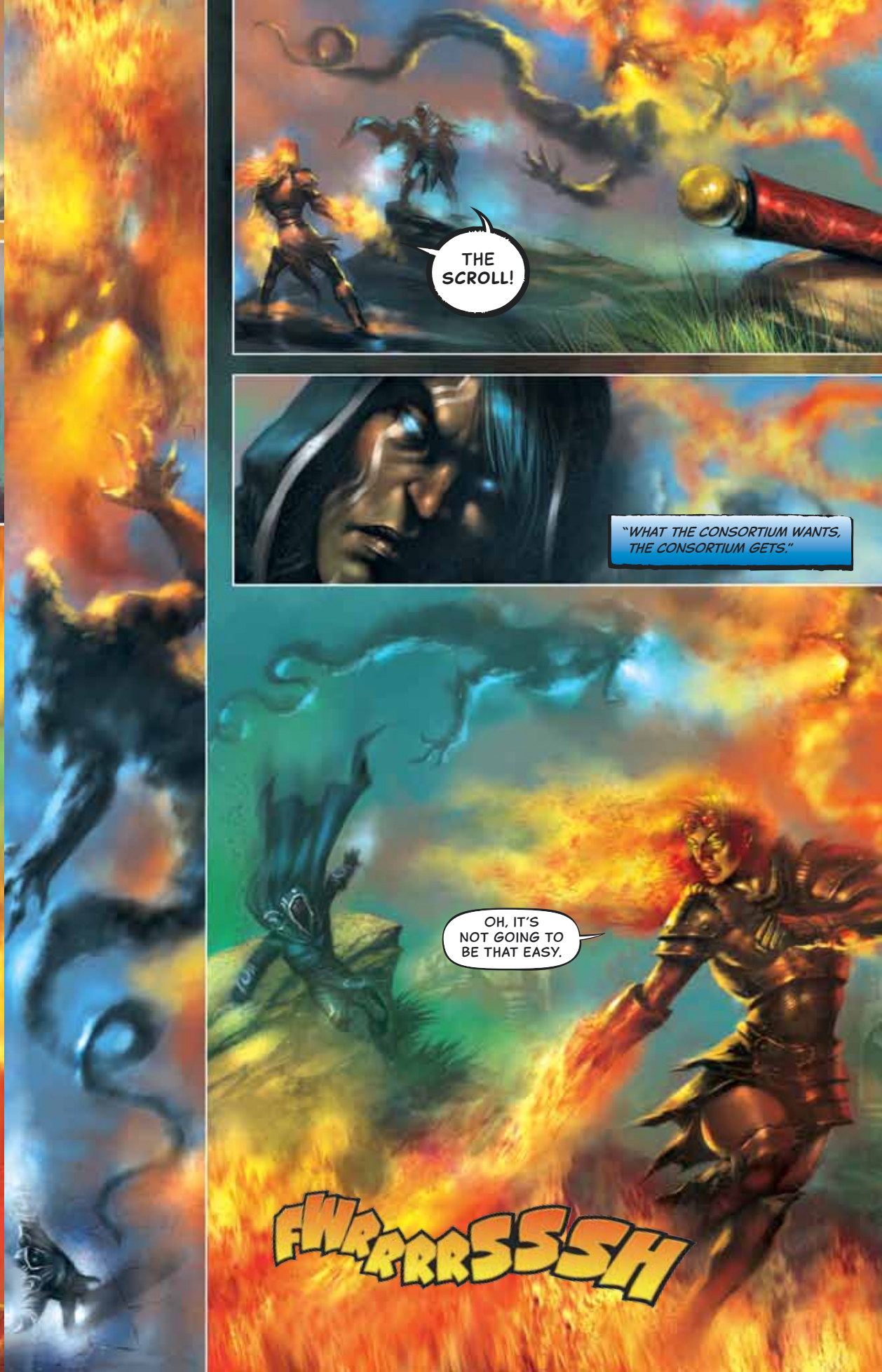
IT'S QUITE THE TRICK, LET ME TELL YOU. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE THUGS I HAD TO FIGHT OFF TO GET IT...
CHANDRA—
CHANDRA NALAAR, GIVE ME THAT SCROLL!
ALL OF YOU, GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE. NOW!
THEY JUST SENT ONE, HUH?
I'M ALL IT'LL TAKE.

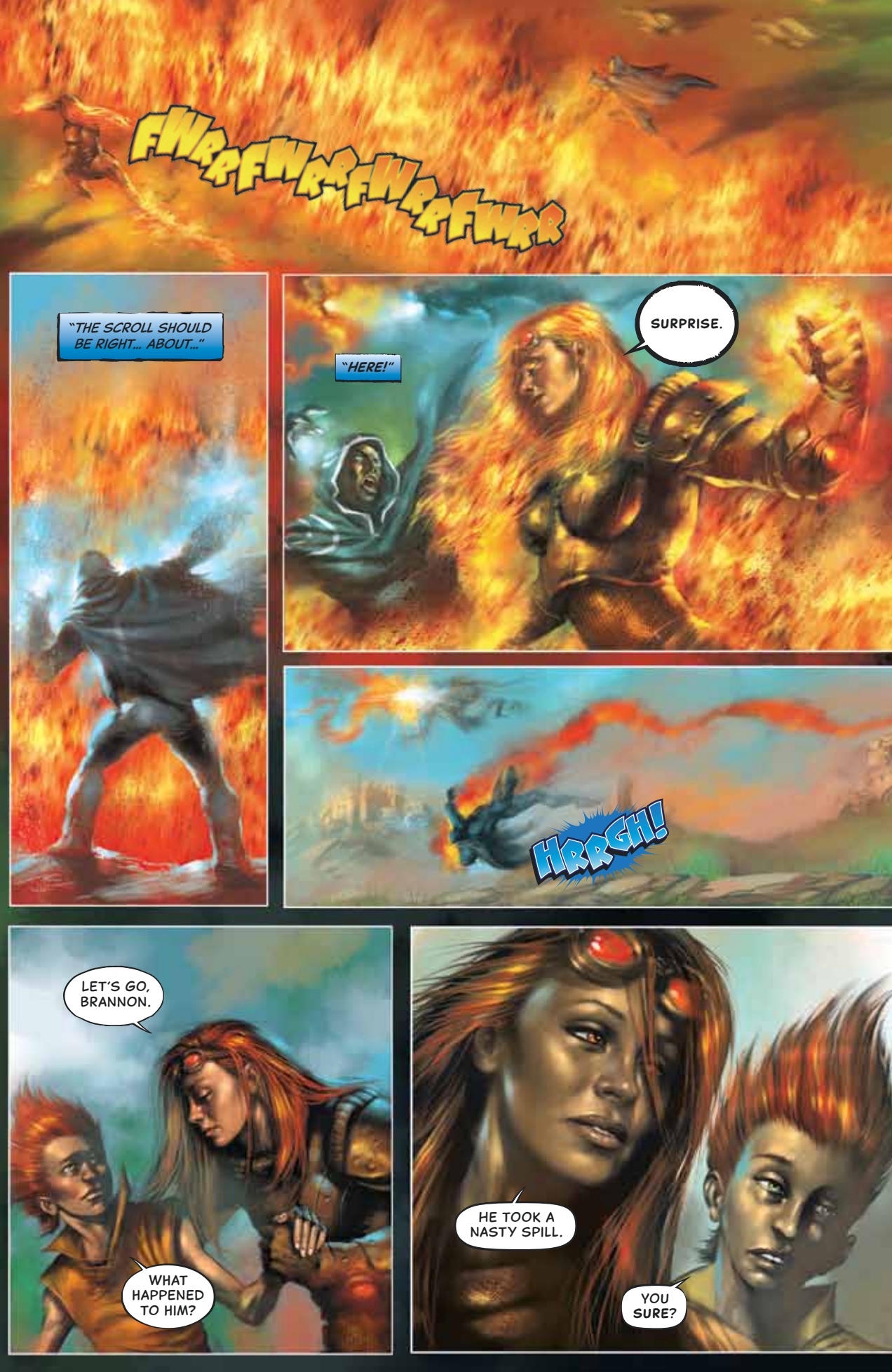
FRRSSHH
TSSSSS
HOLD...
STILL FOR A SECOND.
CRACK
"FIGURED THAT WOULDN'T WORK."
"HER MIND IS... TOTAL CHAOS. EMOTION AND POWER. CAN'T GET A HOLD ON IT—"
"SHE'S—"
KABOOM

I FINALLY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION.
WAIT!
OKAY.
DON'T HURT HIM.
THIS CAN END NOW. JUST GIVE ME WHAT I CAME FOR.
OKAY, TAKE IT EASY.
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID NOW.
BRANNON, ARE YOU HURT?
WHA...

WHAT... HAPPENED?
BRANNON!
"GREAT. THERE GOES PLAN A."
ILLUSIONS?! OH, THAT IS IT!
HRAAAHH!
UNNH!
AM I GOING TO HAVE TO PUT OUT THIS LITTLE FLAME!?

YOU PYROMANCERS ARE ALL ALIKE.
AAEEH!
YOU ONLY UNDERSTAND FORCE.
I UNDERSTAND IT—
—WAY BETTER THAN YOU, MIND MAGE.


THE SCROLL!
"WHAT THE CONSORTIUM WANTS, THE CONSORTIUM GETS."
OH, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY.
FWRPRRSSSH


FWRRFWRRFWRRFWRR
"THE SCROLL SHOULD BE RIGHT... ABOUT..."
"HERE!"
SURPRISE.
HRRGH!
LET'S GO, BRANNON.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE TOOK A NASTY SPILL.
YOU SURE?

PAY NO ATTENTION. JUST MORE TRICKS.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE MONASTERY, EH, BRANNON?
BRANNON?
I'LL BE TAKING THAT SCROLL NOW.
"ALONG WITH THE MEMORIES OF EVERY TIME YOU EVER CAST IT."

LATER...
UGH, MY HEAD. DID WE WIN OR LOSE?
THE SCROLL— IT'S GONE. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE WORDS...
SO THE PRELATE HAS HER SCROLL AGAIN. EVERYBODY'S HAPPY.

THE SEEKER'S FALL

ESPER, SHARD OF ALARA
VECTIS CITY
THE SEEKER'S ACADEMY
EXAMINATION DAY
THAT'S YOUR THIRD GOLEM, TEZZERET.
YOU CAN'T CAST IT AGAIN.

SHUT UP, RENN! I KNOW THE RULES!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU GOOD.
I KNOW THE RENN FAMILY, OF COURSE. WHO'S THE OTHER BOY?
TEZZERET. OF TIDEHOLLOW.
TIDEHOLLOW? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
COUNTER MAGIC? WEAK, RENN. SO WEAK.
AT LEAST I'M CASTING! YOU'RE JUST REACTING!
A BLIND SCULLER COULD HAVE SEEN THAT COMING.
HE SHOWED PROMISE AS A CHILD.
WELL, I'M NOT IMPRESSED NOW.

AT LEAST I'M HERE 'CAUSE OF TALENT.
AND NOT MY FAMOUS DADDY.
THE SEEKERS HAVE A REPUTATION TO MAINTAIN.
WHY DO YOU LET HIM STAY?
THAT IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION.
THAT'S ASSUMING YOU HAVE TALENT.
YOU DON'T.
I WIN. AGAIN.
HUURGH

"VICTORY TO SILAS RENN."
"AND I'LL SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING, TEZZERET."
WHAT HAPPENED, FATHER? RIPPERS AGAIN?
LESS ETHERIUM TO GO AROUND.
MORE WHO WANT IT FOR THEMSELVES.

THAT'S WHAT THE SEEKERS ARE GOING TO CHANGE!
I COULD USE YOUR HELP DOWN HERE.
THINGS ARE HARD.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE A SCRAPPER!
YOU'RE A FOOL.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU BE ANYTHING ELSE.
KKEESH

HE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
THE SEEKERS ALONE HAVE THE SECRET TO FORGE NEW ETHERIUM. THEY WILL CAST THE WORLD IN PERFECTION.
I'M GOING TO BE ONE OF THEM.
NOTHING CAN STAND IN MY WAY.

TEZZERET! WHY ARE YOU HERE SO LATE?
I WANTED TO EXPLAIN...
YOUR TIMING IS INTERESTING.
I WASN'T FEELING WELL DURING THE EXAM.
I WAS JUST SENDING A CAPSULE ABOUT YOU TO THE SEEKERS.
WHY?
TO TELL THEM YOU'RE LEAVING THE ACADEMY.
WHAT? I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
YOUR AMBITION IS ADMIRABLE. UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR ABILITIES ARE NOT.

YOU COULDN'T BEGIN TO APPRECIATE MY ABILITIES.
GET OUT!
YOU'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING...
...BUT A SCRAPPER FROM TIDEHOLLOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OLD MAN. I WILL BE A SCRAPPER...
...STARTING WITH YOU.

YEARS LATER...
GREAT HALL OF THE SEEKERS.
"AN ETHERIUM HEART"
"FORGED FROM NEW ETHERIUM."
"DOUBTERS WILL BE SILENCED. THIS IS IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF THE SEEKERS' NOBLE WORK."
"SOMEDAY EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US WILL BE SO REWARDED."
"BUT TODAY THAT HONOR GOES TO OUR YOUNGEST ADEPT. CONGRATULATIONS, SILAS RENN."
NO ONE FOUND OUT WHAT I DID.

AND THEY HATE ME ANYWAY.
I'VE GONE THROUGH SO MUCH TO BECOME A SEEKER.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL NEVER REALLY BE ONE OF THEM.
IF THE SECRETS OF THE CODEX ARE REAL, WHY ARE MEN LIKE MY FATHER DYING TO SALVAGE SCRAPS?
WHY DON'T WE ALL HAVE ETHERIUM HEARTS?
MY QUESTIONS HAVE MADE ENEMIES.
I BELIEVED IN THEIR PERFECT VISION.
ZZZZZSSSTTT
TAAAK
NOW, ALL I SEE ARE ITS FLAWS.

KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY.
ONLY THE MOST "WORTHY" ARE PERMITTED TO SEE IT.
IT'S TIME TO EVEN THE ODDS. AND SEE THE CODEX MYSELF.
TSSSSSSSS

I'LL FORGE MY OWN ETHERIUM.
LET THEM TRY TO IGNORE ME THEN.
STOP! INTRUDER!
HOW DARE YOU?
I BELONG HERE MORE THAN YOU!
TTTH
MM
MORE THAN ANYONE!

FINALLY, IT'S MY TURN.
WAIT.
BLANK? HOW CAN THAT BE?
THERE'S NOTHING... ANYWHERE
FRAUDS!
I DESERVED THIS. THEY CHEATED ME. THEY CHEATED US ALL.
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE SLUMS.

IF YOU'D KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
AND YOUR EYES DOWN.
YOU COULD HAVE LIVED OUT...
...YOUR PATHETIC, UNREMARKABLE LIFE.
NO ONE WILL CARE THAT YOU'RE GONE.
NO ONE WILL EVEN REMEMBER YOU EXISTED.
NO! NO! NOOOOO!

NOOOOO!
THUD
WHAT IS THIS HELL?

GRIXIS, SHARD OF ALARA
"MY KINGDOM IS LOST."
"MY AUTHORITY RESTRAINED."
"MY BRILLIANCE..."
"...TARNISHED."

"WHO WERE THE ARCHITECTS OF MY DOWNFALL?"

"ULTIMATELY, IT'S OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE."

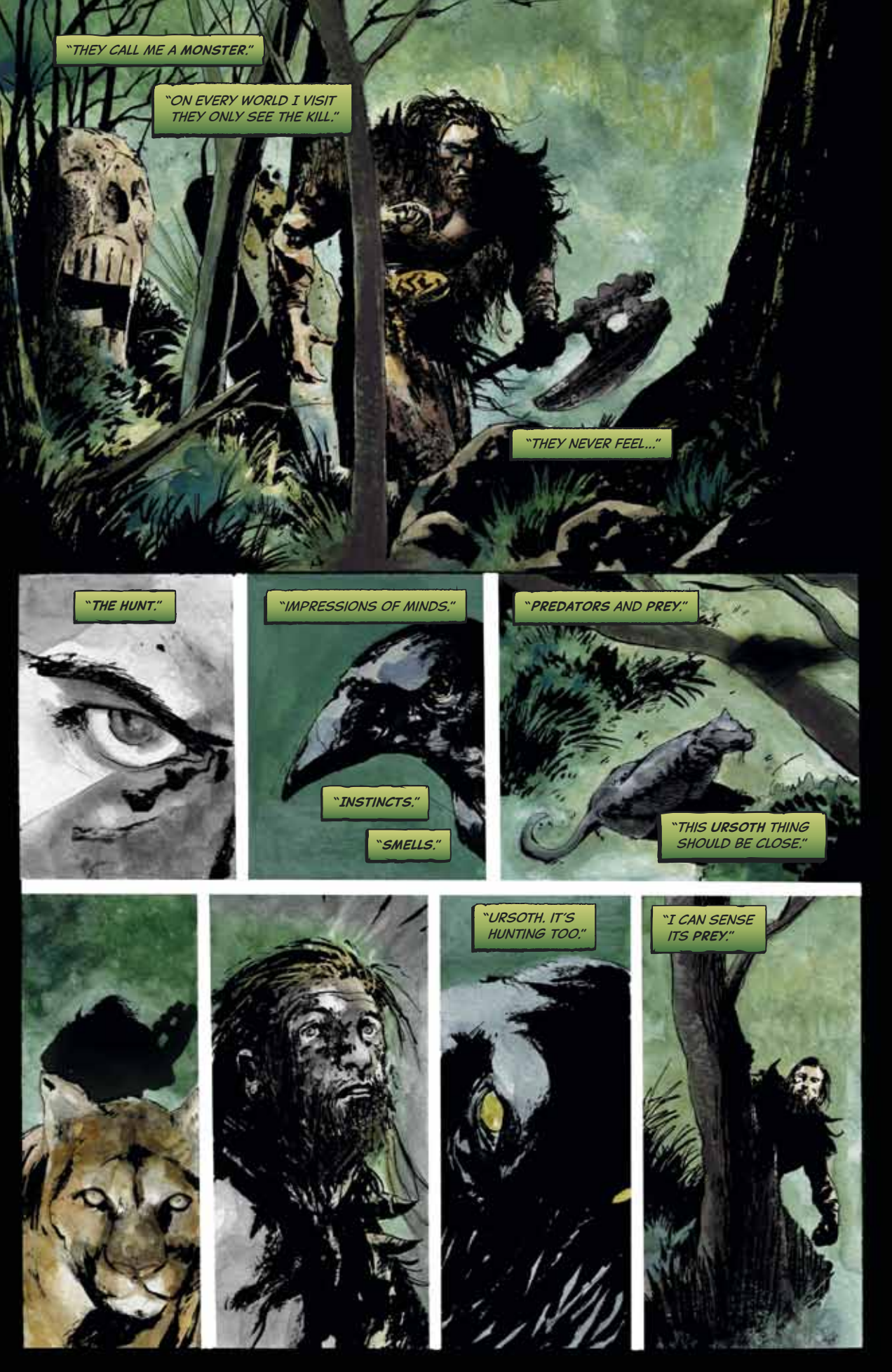
"THEY WILL BOW BEFORE ME SOON ENOUGH."

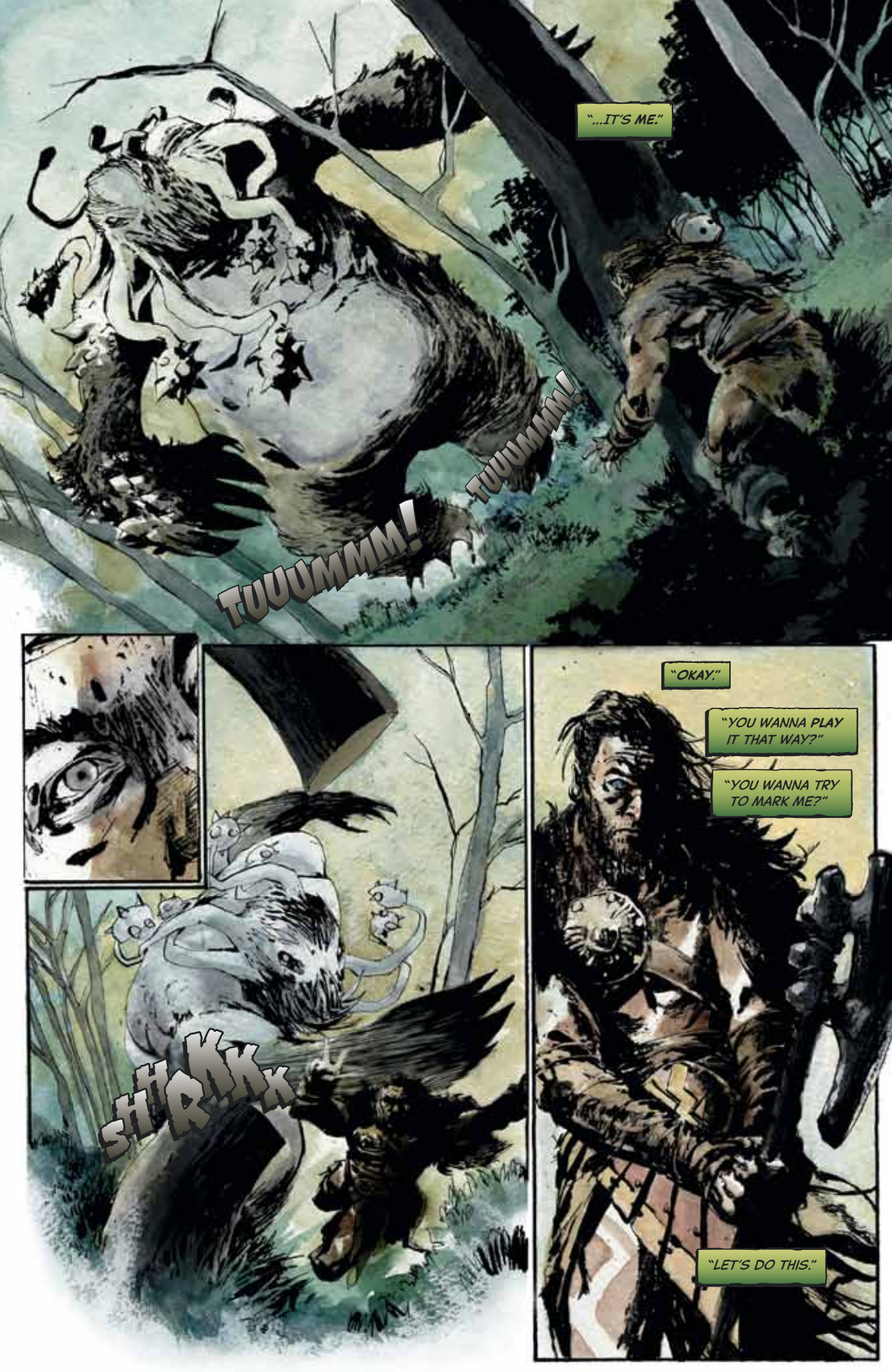
"THEIR TINY MINDS CAN'T FATHOM..."
"...THE MECHANISMS AT WORK BEHIND THE FACADE."
"LITTLE DO THEY KNOW— WORLDS ARE MY PLAYTHINGS."
"THE STARS WILL ONCE AGAIN ALIGN AT MY COMMAND."

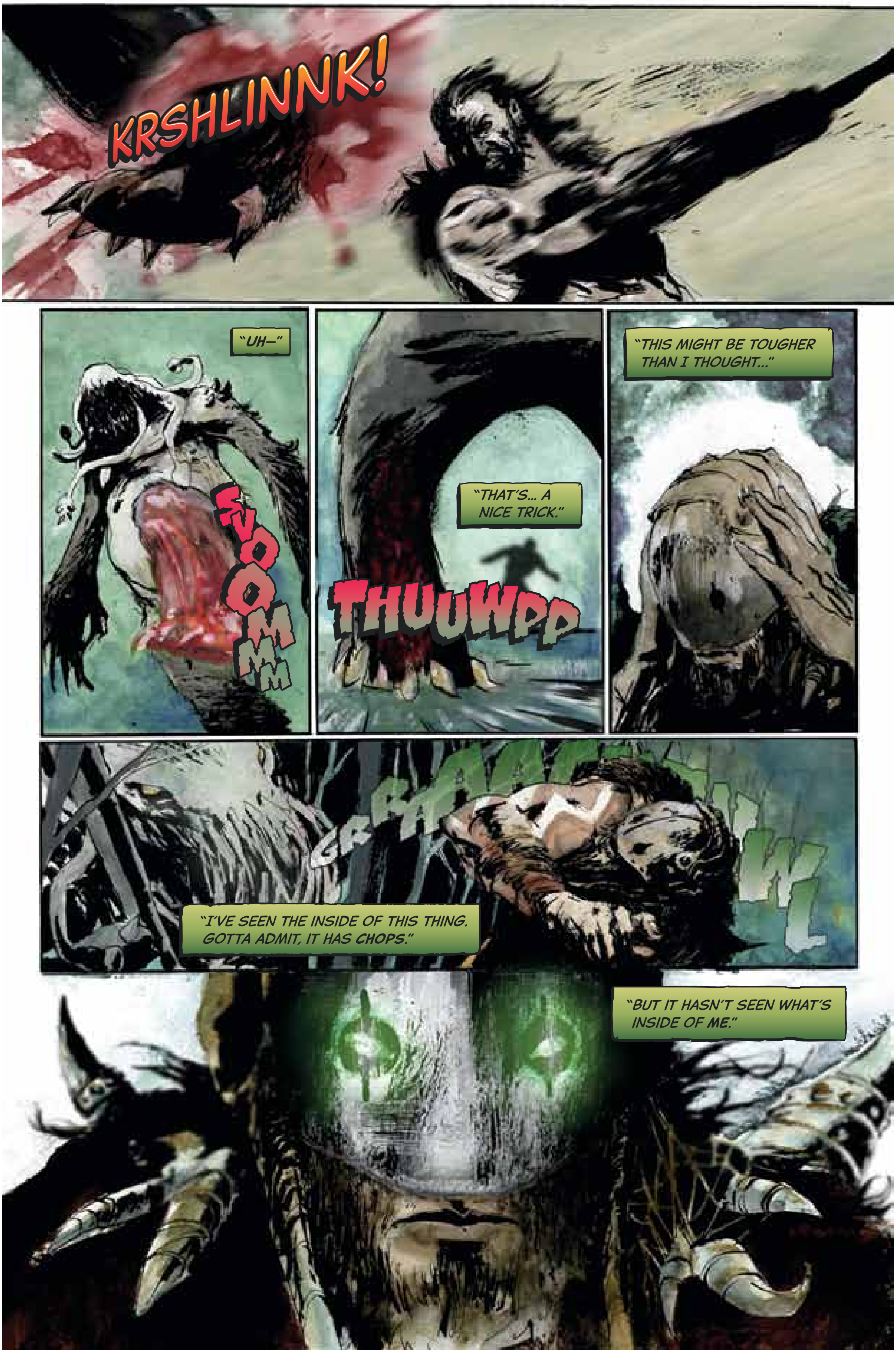
"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE MY ABILITY TO ADAPT."
"TO ORDER THE WORLD AS I WISH."
"TO TRIUMPH IN ADVERSITY."

"OR TO FIND A USE..."
"...FOR THE MOST COMMONPLACE TOOL."
KNEEL, SERVANT. YOUR RESURRECTION IS AT HAND.

THE HUNTER AND THE VEIL


"THEY CALL ME A MONSTER."
"ON EVERY WORLD I VISIT THEY ONLY SEE THE KILL."
"THEY NEVER FEEL..."
"THE HUNT."
"IMPRESSIONS OF MINDS."
"INSTINCTS."
"SMELLS."
"PREDATORS AND PREY."
"THIS URSOTH THING SHOULD BE CLOSE."
"URSOTH. IT'S HUNTING TOO."
"I CAN SENSE ITS PREY."

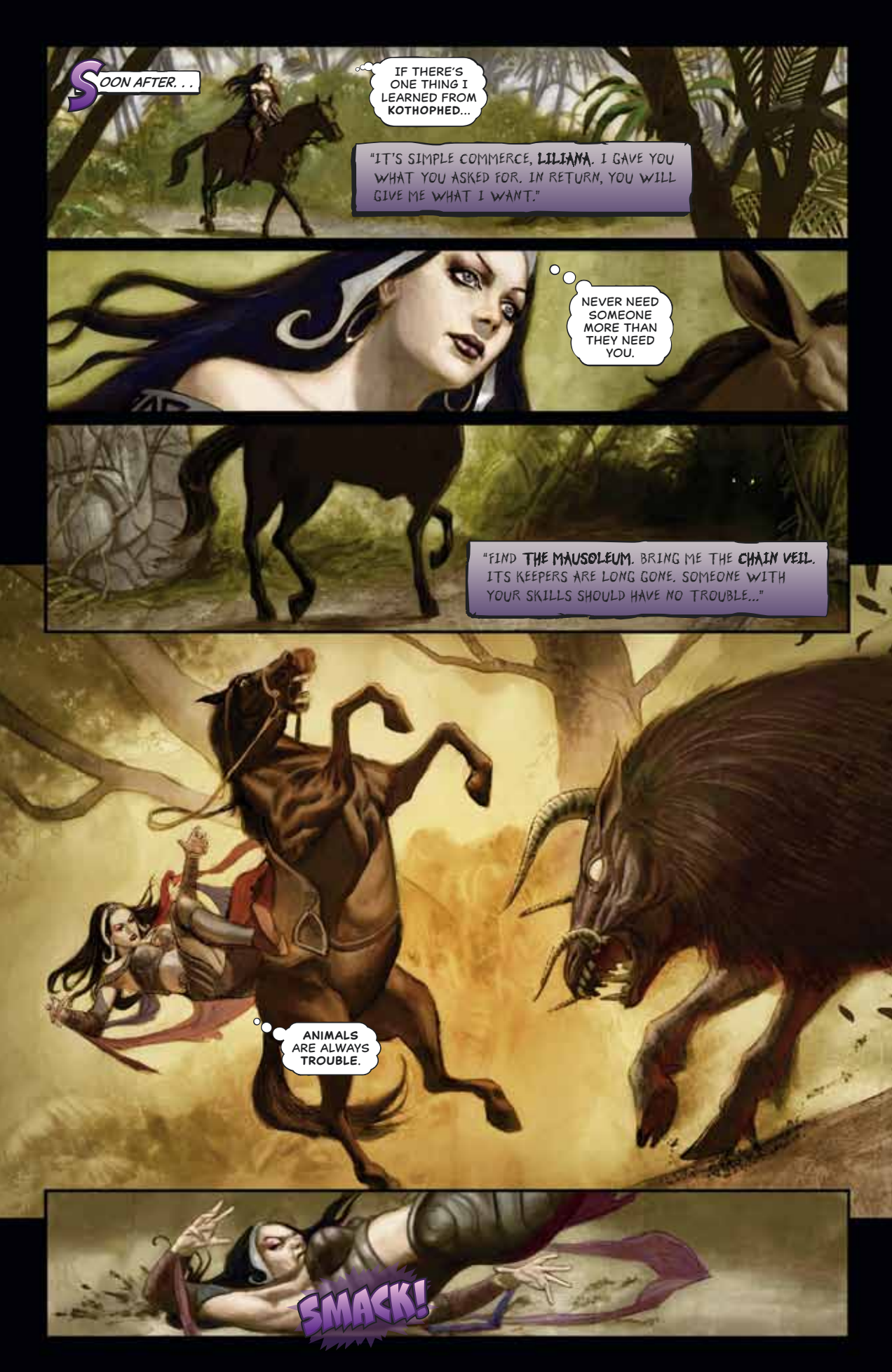

"...IT'S ME."
TUUUMMM!
TUUUMMM!
SHRKKK
"OKAY."
"YOU WANNA PLAY IT THAT WAY?"
"YOU WANNA TRY TO MARK ME?"
"LET'S DO THIS."


KRSHLINNK!
"UH—"
SVOOMMM
THUUWPP
"THAT'S... A NICE TRICK."
"THIS MIGHT BE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT..."
"I'VE SEEN THE INSIDE OF THIS THING. GOTTA ADMIT, IT HAS CHOPS."
"BUT IT HASN'T SEEN WHAT'S INSIDE OF ME."

STAMPEDE!
"A MOMENT OF MERCY ALMOST GOT ME KILLED."
"NOT TODAY."
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THWITNK
THWITNK
"I HESITATED ONCE HUNTING WURMS IN THE TURNTIMBER. LEARNED THE HARD WAY."

"I INFUSE THEM WITH ALL THE WILDNESS IN ME. SATURATE THEM WITH SIZE AND SAVAGERY."
"ALL MY BLOODTHIRST."
"ALL MY RAGE."
CRUNCH
"THE RAGE OF EVERYTHING I'VE EVER HUNTED."
"THIS TERRITORY IS MINE."
"YOU DON'T TOUCH WHAT'S MINE."

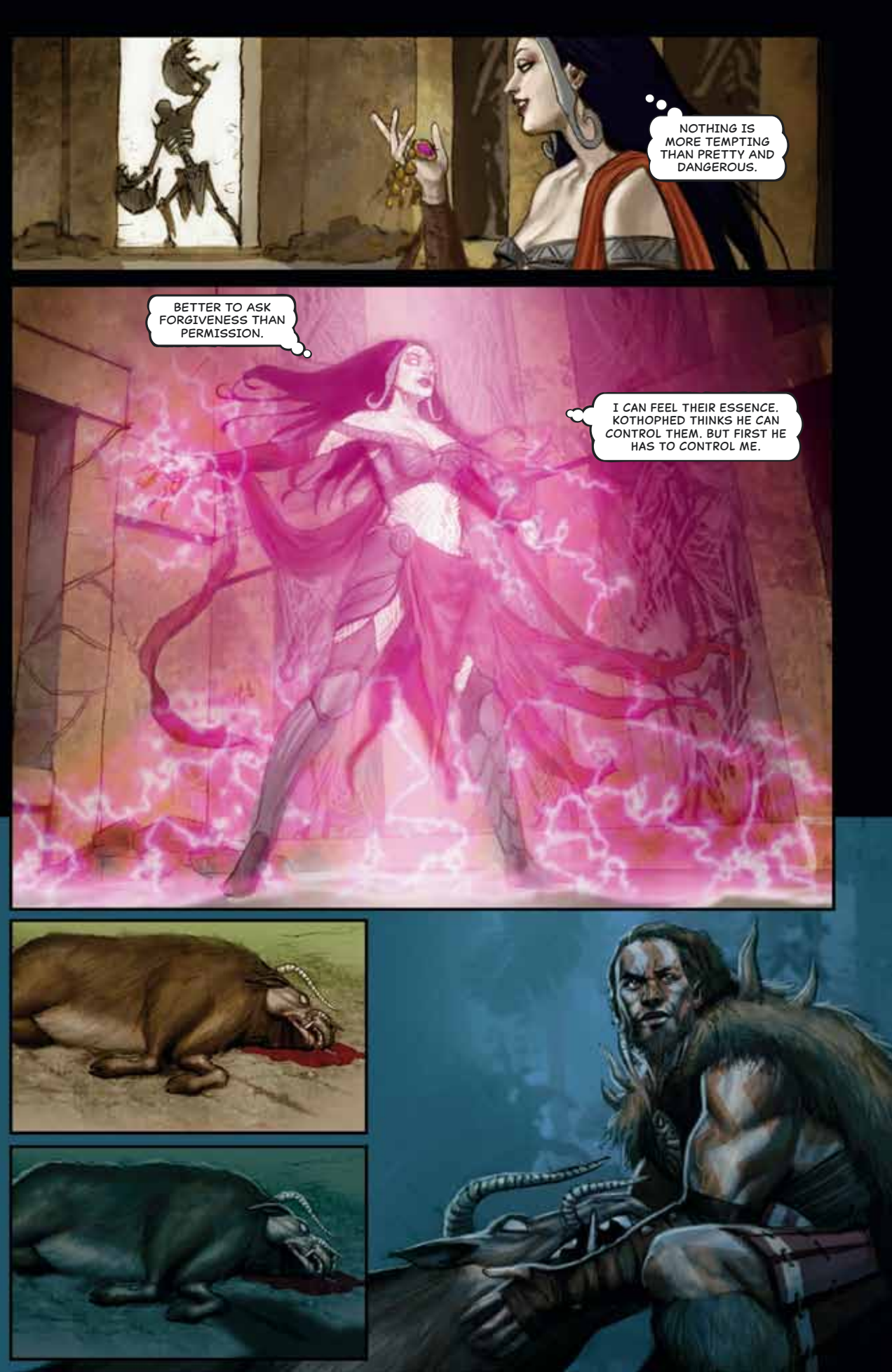
"IT'S DEFEATED."
"BUT ALIVE."
"SAFE THING WOULD BE TO END IT NOW."
"EXCEPT FOR A CAST OFF CLAW— IT'S IN ONE PIECE."
"INSTEAD I CONNECT IT TO ME."
"IT BECOMES A PART OF ME."
"THEY CALL ME A MONSTER."
"THEY'RE WRONG."
"I AM A THOUSAND OF THEM."


SOON AFTER. . .
IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED FROM KOTHOPHED...
"IT'S SIMPLE COMMERCE, LILIANA. I GAVE YOU WHAT YOU ASKED FOR. IN RETURN, YOU WILL GIVE ME WHAT I WANT."
NEVER NEED SOMEONE MORE THAN THEY NEED YOU.
"FIND THE MAUSOLEUM. BRING ME THE CHAIN VEIL. ITS KEEPERS ARE LONG GONE. SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILLS SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE..."
ANIMALS ARE ALWAYS TROUBLE.
SMACK!

KOTHOPHED CLAIMS IT'S A SIMPLE ERRAND.
HOW NAIVE DOES HE THINK I AM?
THHWIPPP!
HHORRUNKH

"THE PURPOSE OF THE VEIL? IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN. BUT IF YOU TRY TO USE IT, YOU'LL REGRET IT."
I'LL FIND THE DEMON'S LITTLE TRINKET, BUT THAT'S IT. I DON'T CARE WHAT HE DOES.
I'M OUT.
"...AND SURELY YOU HAVE ENOUGH REGRETS."
HEY BIG GUY, YOU'RE TOO HANDSOME TO HIDE BEHIND A VEIL.
GREAT. THE REST OF THE LITTER.

WAKE UP. IT'S TIME TO CULL THE HERD.
AND I'LL HOLD ON TO THAT.
"I WILL GIVE YOU THIS ADVICE. WHEN YOU FIND THE VEIL, KEEP IT IN THE LIGHT."


NOTHING IS MORE TEMPTING THAN PRETTY AND DANGEROUS.
BETTER TO ASK FORGIVENESS THAN PERMISSION.
I CAN FEEL THEIR ESSENCE. KOTHOPHED THINKS HE CAN CONTROL THEM. BUT FIRST HE HAS TO CONTROL ME.

FOR EONS WE HAVE ROTTED IN THIS TOMB. TOO SLOWLY THE GRAINS OF TIME SLIDE THROUGH THE HOURGLASS.
THE STARS CRAWL THEIR ETERNAL CIRCUIT THROUGH THE HEAVENS WHILE WE REMAIN TRAPPED IN THE DARKNESS WAITING FOR THE ONE WHO WILL SET US FREE.
ALL THESE SHADOWS. MAYBE VEILS AREN'T JUST FOR WIDOWS AND MATRONS.
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE. QUIT ECHOING IN MY HEAD AND SHOW YOURSELVES.
COULD IT BE HER? SHE HAS FOUND THE KEY. BUT IS SHE STRONG ENOUGH TO USE IT?
TIME STOPS.
DAMN, KOTHOPHED WANTED THAT INTACT. NOT GOOD.
OUR VESSEL HAS ARRIVED.
OR MAYBE IT IS. SHOW ME, OLD ONES.

SHE IS ON THE VERGE.

ONLY ONE THING CAN STOP HER NOW.

HALT, SHADOWMAGE!
IS THIS YOUR MESS?

YOU'RE CUTE AND ALL, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

STOP!

THIS IS HALLOWED EARTH. HERE THE SEED TOOK ROOT.
BUT SHE IS HIS QUARRY...
HERE THE VOID DREW ITS FIRST BREATH. SHE SHOULD TREAD WITH CARE.
...AND HAS NO TIME TO WASTE.
HIS POWER IS IMPRESSIVE BUT PRIMAL. SHORT-SIGHTED.

THE HOURGLASS IS SHATTERED. FINALLY, IT HAS BEGUN.
KKRAK
WHAT ARE YOU?
BORED.
YOU REEK OF DEATH.
I LIKE YOUR AXE. VERY MANLY.
HRAAUGH!
I KEEP ALL MY BRUTES ON A SHORT LEASH. DOWN, BOY.

THIS IS OUR GIFT TO YOU, VESSEL. POWER YOU CAN'T YET FATHOM.
YOU ARE UNABASHED CORRUPTION. BUT YOU ARE A CHILD COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'LL BECOME.
THE REAL VEIL. THE OTHER WAS JUST A KEY. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
THIS VEIL WILL MASK YOUR SOUL FROM THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE IT FROM YOU.
KOTHOPHED HAD NO IDEA WHAT DWELLS HERE. ONLY I CAN FEEL THE PULSE OF THE DEAD.
SOMEBODY NEEDS TO CUT...
YOU...
DOWN!
RWAUGHHH
LEASH THIS, DEATHBRINGER!

WHHUMP
CONCEAL YOURSELF BENEATH THE VEIL...
NOT BAD FOR A DIRT MAGE.
PARDON ME WHILE I SLIP INTO SOMETHING...
...A LITTLE MORE POWERFUL!
...AND MAKE HIM COME TO YOU.
RRRRRAGH!

WITH THE VEIL, YOU ARE NO LONGER ONE IN A MILLION.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
FWOKK
YOU ARE A MILLION IN ONE.

I'LL NEVER DIE AT THE EDGE OF A BLADE.
I TOLD YOU TO GET DOWN AND STAY THERE. I'VE GOT DEMONS TO SEE.
THE HUNTER LIVES, BUT HE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE FINDS HER.
JUST AS WE WANTED.
SHE'LL BE WAITING.

FLIGHT OF THE WHITE CAT

"I ALMOST DIED THAT DAY, STRANGER."
"MY BROTHER JAZAL, THE LEADER OF OUR PRIDE, PUT ME ON TENOCH AND QALA'S PATROL THAT DAY."
"THEY PROTESTED, SAID I WAS JINXED. WHITE AS DEATH. NOTHING NEW TO ME."
"WE HEARD THEIR APPROACH—HUMANS STOMP LIKE DRUNKEN RANNETS—BUT WE THOUGHT WE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THEM."
"WE WERE WRONG."

"THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM. WE RAN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE DEN."
"I HEARD THEIR SHOUTS AND THE WHISTLE OF THEIR SPEARHEADS."
"TENOCH FELL. QALA STOPPED TO HELP."
"BUT THE HUNTERS RAN PAST THEM."
"THEY WERE HUNTING ME."
"NOT THE THREE OF US."
"ME."

"THEY ABANDONED ME. MY OWN PRIDEMATES."
"I RAN FASTER THAN I HAD EVER RUN..."
"...BUT THE HUMANS ENCIRCLED ME IN THE MEADOW, LIKE A WILD PIG FIT FOR THEIR SUPPER."
"HOW IRONIC THAT MY OWN SORCERY CAN ONLY AID MY FRIENDS—THOSE WHO LEFT ME TO DIE."

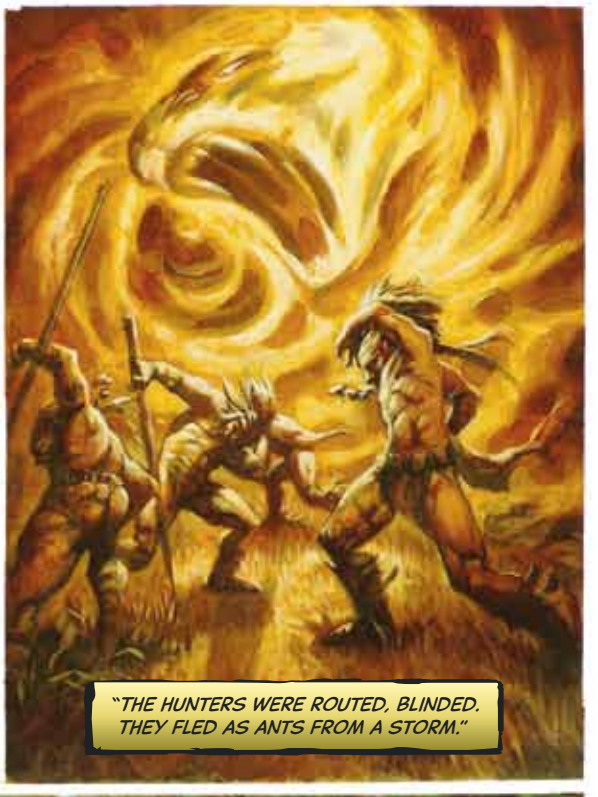
"BUT I AM NO WEAKLING. I WOULD NOT COWER FROM THEM."
THWAK!
"TOO MANY. I WAS... OVERCOME."
"THEN..."

"A ROAR."
"OF DEFIANCE. OF SALVATION. MY BROTHER'S ROAR. JAZAL HAD COME."

"HOPE AROSE LIKE GOLD FIRE."

"HIS PRESENCE ENABLED MY MAGIC. I CALLED UPON THE LAND..."

"AND BROUGHT FORTH JAZAL'S SOUL."


"THE HUNTERS WERE ROUTED, BLINDED. THEY FLED AS ANTS FROM A STORM."

"I EVADED DEATH THAT DAY AS I ALWAYS HAD—WITH JAZAL'S AID."

"HE PROMISED ME HE WOULD FIND OUT WHY I WAS HUNTED, WHO WANTED MY HEAD."

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO WITHOUT HIM."

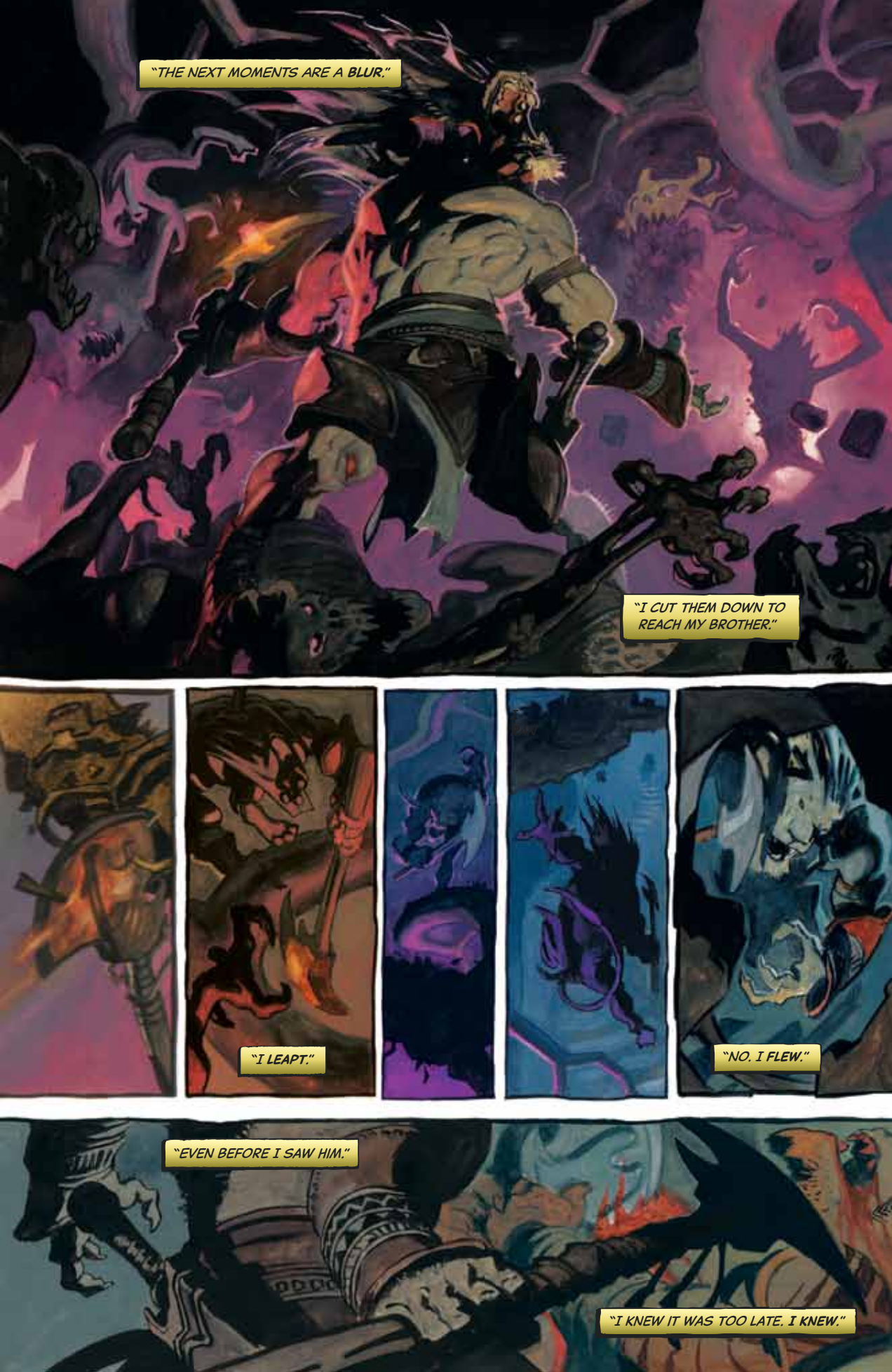
"FEELS LIKE SO LONG AGO, STRANGER."
"BUT IT WAS YESTERDAY."
"THE FESTIVAL OF MARISI. A CELEBRATION DAY FOR MY PEOPLE."
TODAY, FRIENDS, WE REMEMBER THE FALL OF THE COIL!
"JAZAL KNEW HOW TO ROUSE THE PRIDE. BUT THIS YEAR HE SEEMED DISTRACTED."
WE WILL NOT FORGET QASAL. NOR WILL WE LET ITS LAWS TAME US LIKE PLOWBEASTS!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
"I SAW OUR SHAMAN ZALIKI LEAVE THE CROWD. WHY WOULD SHE LEAVE DURING THE KHA'S SPEECH?"
CLAP CLAP CLAP
...RENEW OUR STRENGTH, AND RECLAIM OUR NATURE!
"I WAS CONCERNED FOR HER."
"I FOLLOWED."

"ZALIKI KEPT CLIMBING..."
"...TO THE HIGHEST LAIR..."
"JAZAL'S"
ZALIKI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU LEFT WHILE JAZAL STILL SPOKE.
I... LEFT ONE OF MY TALISMANS. I CAME TO RETRIEVE IT.
ZALIKI, WAIT.
"THEN I NOTICED THE SCRAWL ON JAZAL'S WALL."
BROTHER, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING?

"I SHOULD HAVE HEEDED MY SUSPICIONS."
"I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAKE AT THE DEN'S HOME FIRE."
"BUT THE WHOLE PRIDE SLEPT DEEPLY."
ZZZZ
ZZ-ZZZ-Z
ZZZZZZZZZ
"NUMBED BY THE FESTIVAL'S EXCESSES."
FORGIVE ME.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

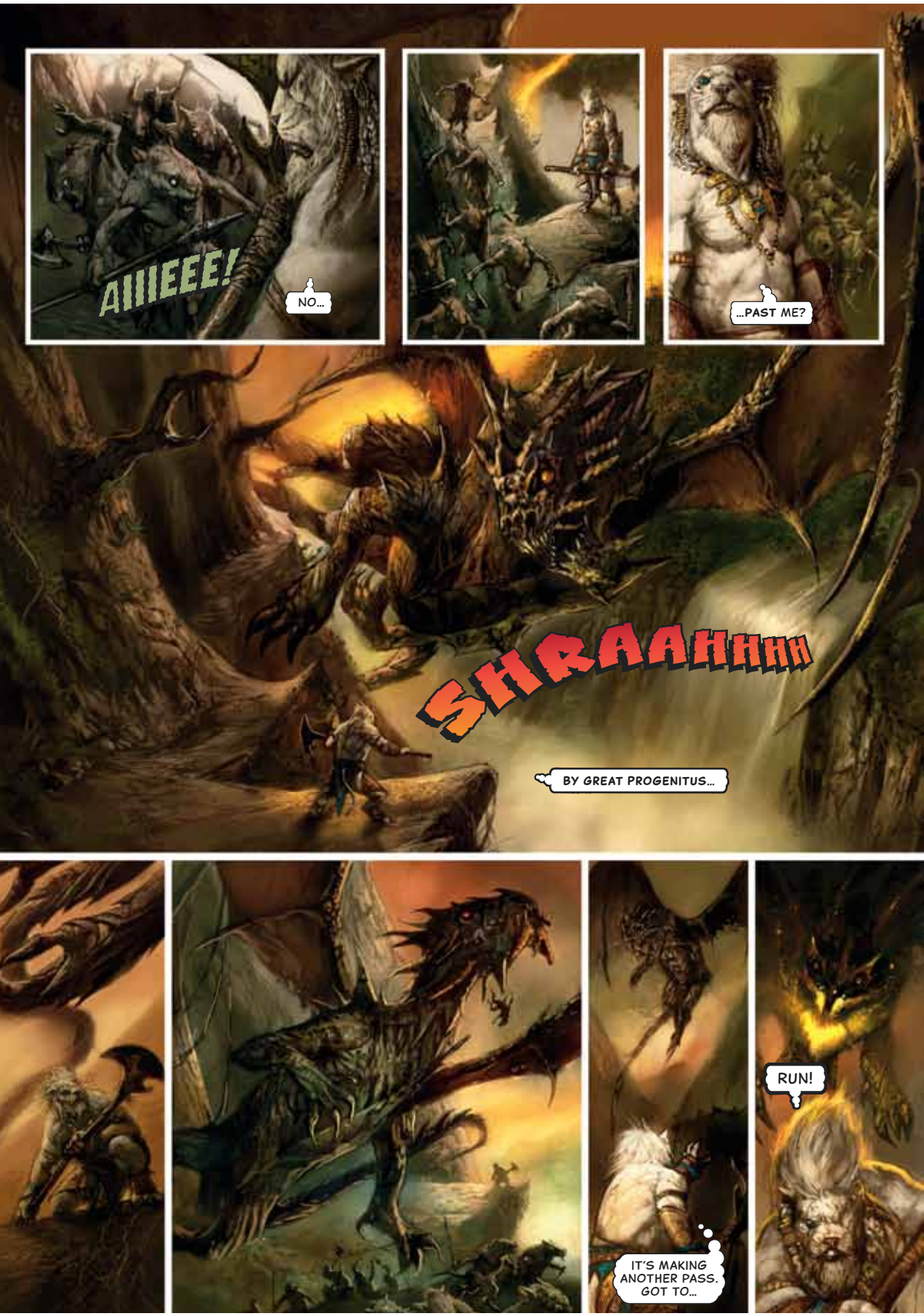
"MY SLEEP WAS FITFUL..."
"...AS THOUGH MY MIND WAS FILLED WITH BLACK SMOKE."
"I AWOKE TO ROARS AND HOWLS OF THE DYING."

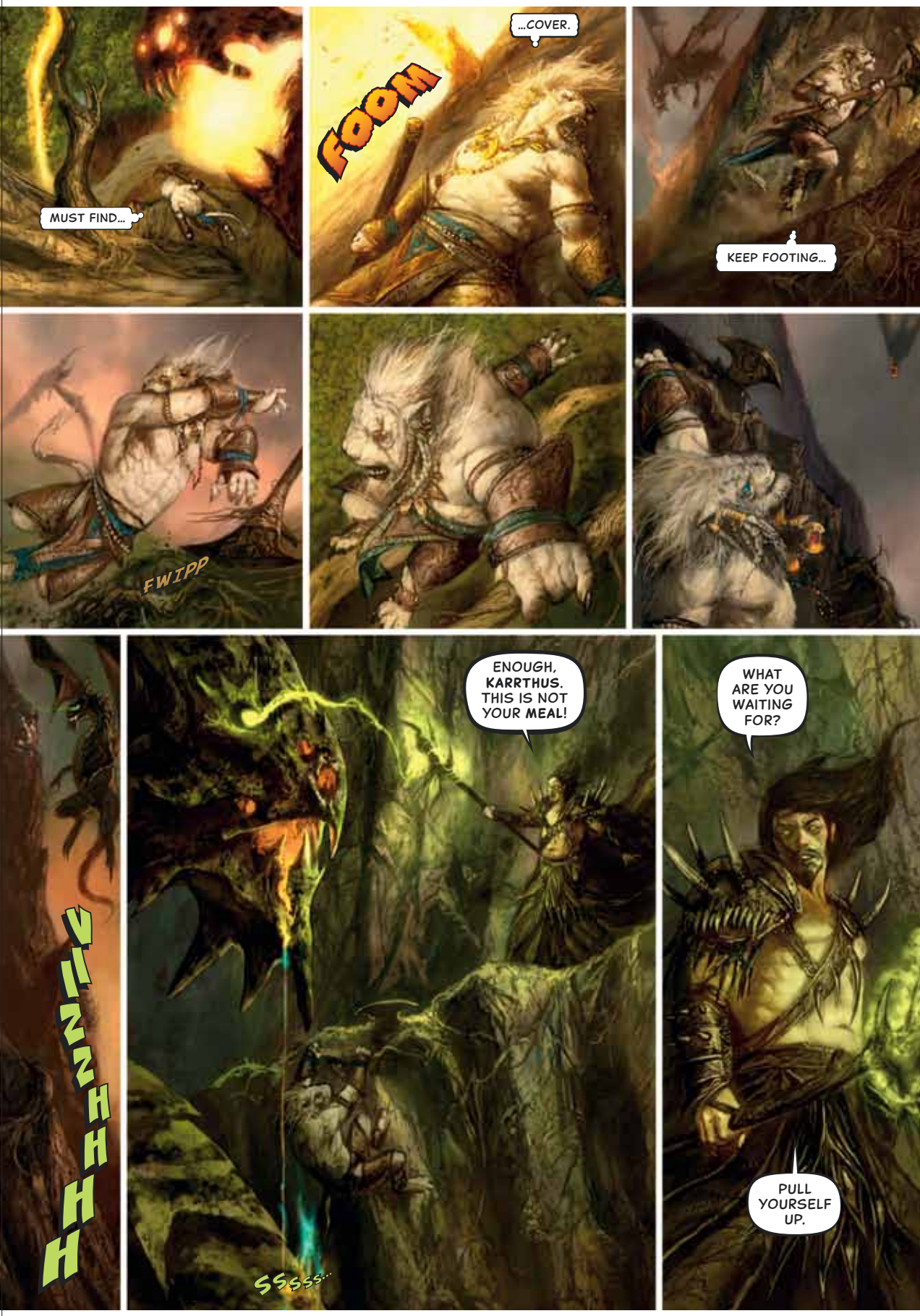
"THE FIENDS WERE TERRIFYING, ABOMINABLE."
"BEYOND NIGHTMARE."
"I CALLED ON MY MAGIC. THE HORRORS SHRANK FROM ITS LIGHT."
"THEN..."
THE KHA! JAZAL IS IN TROUBLE!

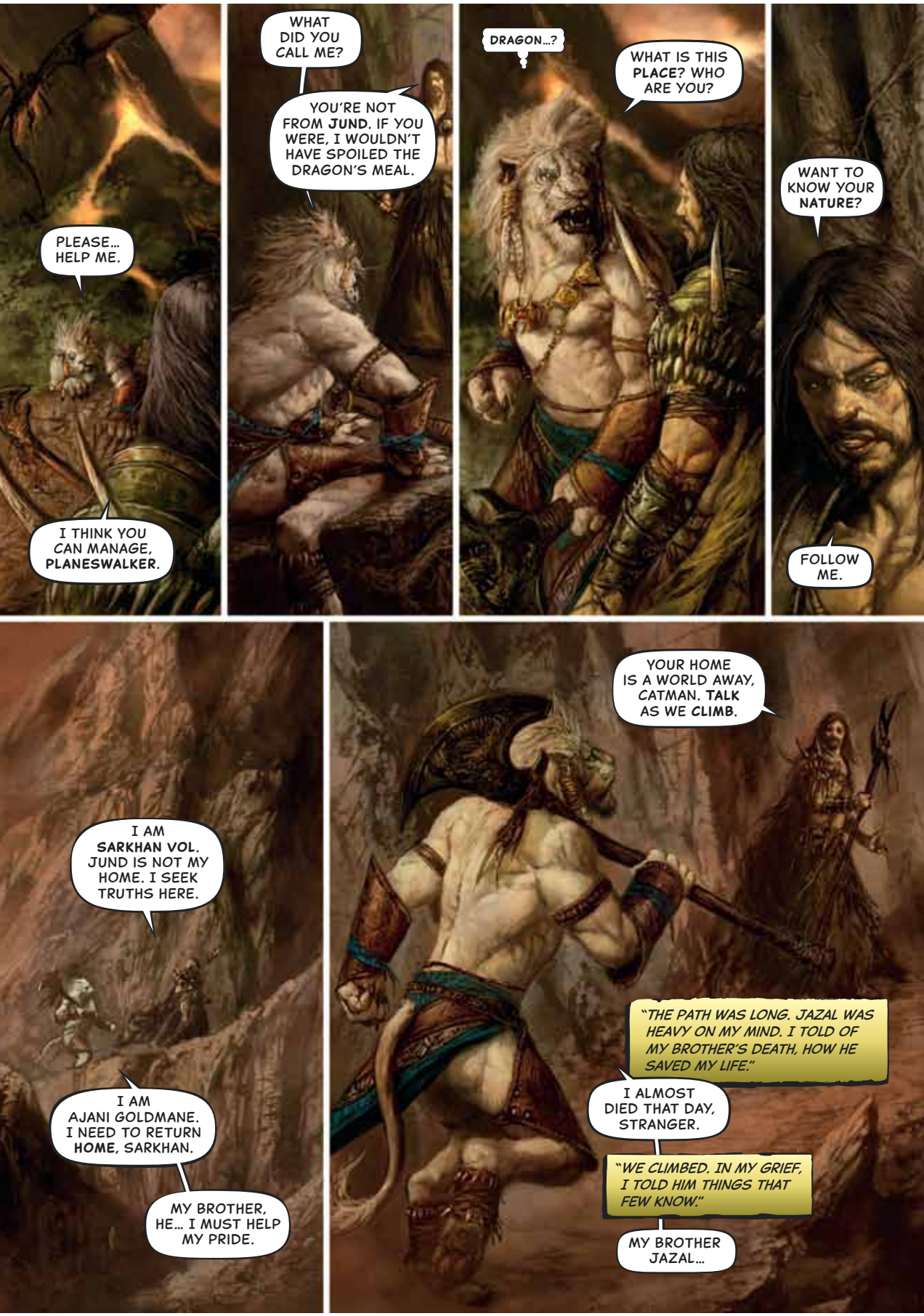

"THE NEXT MOMENTS ARE A BLUR."
"I CUT THEM DOWN TO REACH MY BROTHER."
"I LEAPT."
"NO. I FLEW."
"EVEN BEFORE I SAW HIM."
"I KNEW IT WAS TOO LATE. I KNEW."

"MY SOUL CRACKED THAT MOMENT."
NO, PLEASE. NOT JAZAL. PLEASE.
"MEMORIES BARRAGED MY MIND."
"TO MY EYE, BLOOD BECAME FIRE."
"AND FIRE BECAME ALL."
"THEN, STRANGER, I WAS... HERE."

AM I DREAMING?
AM I DEAD?
SULFUR. DEATH. A DARK DREAM.
I SAW FLASHES OF OTHER PLACES, STRANGE PLACES. THIS PLACE. A FEVERED VISION.
I WAS WITH JAZAL...
HUH?
COMING RIGHT AT ME!


AIIIEEE!
NO...
...PAST ME?
SHRAAHHHH
BY GREAT PROGENITUS...
RUN!
IT'S MAKING ANOTHER PASS. GOT TO...


MUST FIND...
FOOM
...COVER.
KEEP FOOTING...
FWIPP
HHHHNNNN
ENOUGH, KARRTHUS. THIS IS NOT YOUR MEAL!
SSSSS...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
PULL YOURSELF UP.


PLEASE… HELP ME.
I THINK YOU CAN MANAGE, PLANESWALKER.
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
YOU'RE NOT FROM JUND. IF YOU WERE, I WOULDN'T HAVE SPOILED THE DRAGON'S MEAL.
DRAGON…?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHO ARE YOU?
WANT TO KNOW YOUR NATURE?
FOLLOW ME.
I AM SARKHAN VOL. JUND IS NOT MY HOME. I SEEK TRUTHS HERE.
I AM AJANI GOLDMANE. I NEED TO RETURN HOME, SARKHAN.
MY BROTHER, HE… I MUST HELP MY PRIDE.
YOUR HOME IS A WORLD AWAY, CATMAN. TALK AS WE CLIMB.
"THE PATH WAS LONG. JAZAL WAS HEAVY ON MY MIND. I TOLD OF MY BROTHER'S DEATH, HOW HE SAVED MY LIFE."
I ALMOST DIED THAT DAY, STRANGER.
"WE CLIMBED. IN MY GRIEF, I TOLD HIM THINGS THAT FEW KNOW."
MY BROTHER JAZAL…

HIS DEATH BROUGHT YOU HERE, GOLDMANE.
TO JUND, A BROTHER PLANE TO YOUR OWN.
I... I DON'T...
YOU THINK IT A MISTAKE? YOUR RAGE AT HIS DEATH BROUGHT YOU HERE, WHERE RAGE REIGNS!
PERHAPS YOU MUST LEARN SOMETHING HERE, CATMAN.
LONG HAVE I SOUGHT A WORLD THIS VITAL, THIS UNSPOILED BY CIVILIZATION'S DECEITS.
HERE LIFE IS AS IT SHOULD BE: HUNGRY, STRONG, FED ON FEAR AND FURY!
YOU KNOW WHAT I SPEAK OF. YOU FEEL IT.
IT IS THE BLOOD THAT FLOWS THROUGH THIS LAND.
BEHOLD, PLANESWALKER! THIS IS WHAT RAGES UNDER THE SURFACE OF ALL LIFE!

SARKHAN. I MUST RETURN **HOME**.
MY BROTHER...
SHOW ME HOW.
I CANNOT, CATMAN. YOU MUST **WILL** IT.
CALL JUND'S **MANA** INTO YOUR BLOOD! FALL **THROUGH** IT!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, AJANI GOLDMANE.

YES.
I UNDERSTAND.
I WILL AVENGE YOU, BROTHER!

PART II

The Veil's Curse

Illustrated by Steve Prescott, Scott Hampton, Mark Texeira
Script by Doug Beyer

Honor Bound

Illustrated by Nils Hamm, Tomas Giorello, Steven Belledin
Script by Jenna Helland

Journey to the Eye

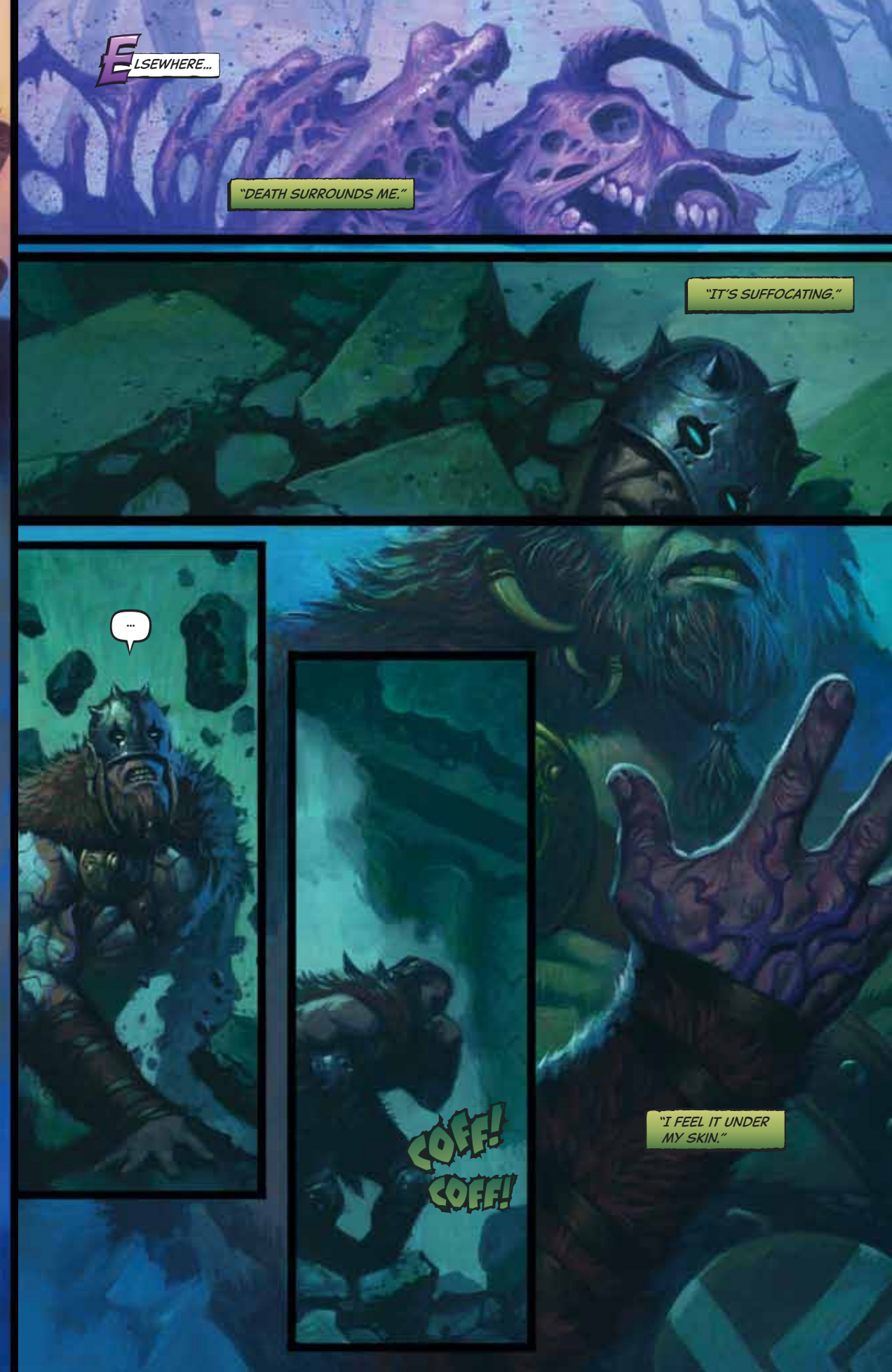
Illustrated by Nic Klein, Izzy, Brian Haberlin & Geirrod Van Dyke
Script by Jenna Helland

Awakenings

Illustrated by Vince Evans, Karl Kopinski,
Arthur Suydam
with various contributing artists
Script by Doug Beyer

THE VEIL'S CURSE

DON'T TELL ME. YOU'VE FOUND NOTHING.
I'M SORRY, SIR. WE EXHAUSTED EVERYTHING.
IF THE SCROLL IS A MAP, THE CONSORTIUM HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD.
THIS IS MORE THAN A SPELL SCROLL. THESE CODED RUNES MAKE NO SENSE—
"INVISIBLE EYE?" "SHEER FIRE?"
LIVES MAY DEPEND ON IT.
CHECK AGAIN.
YES, SIR.

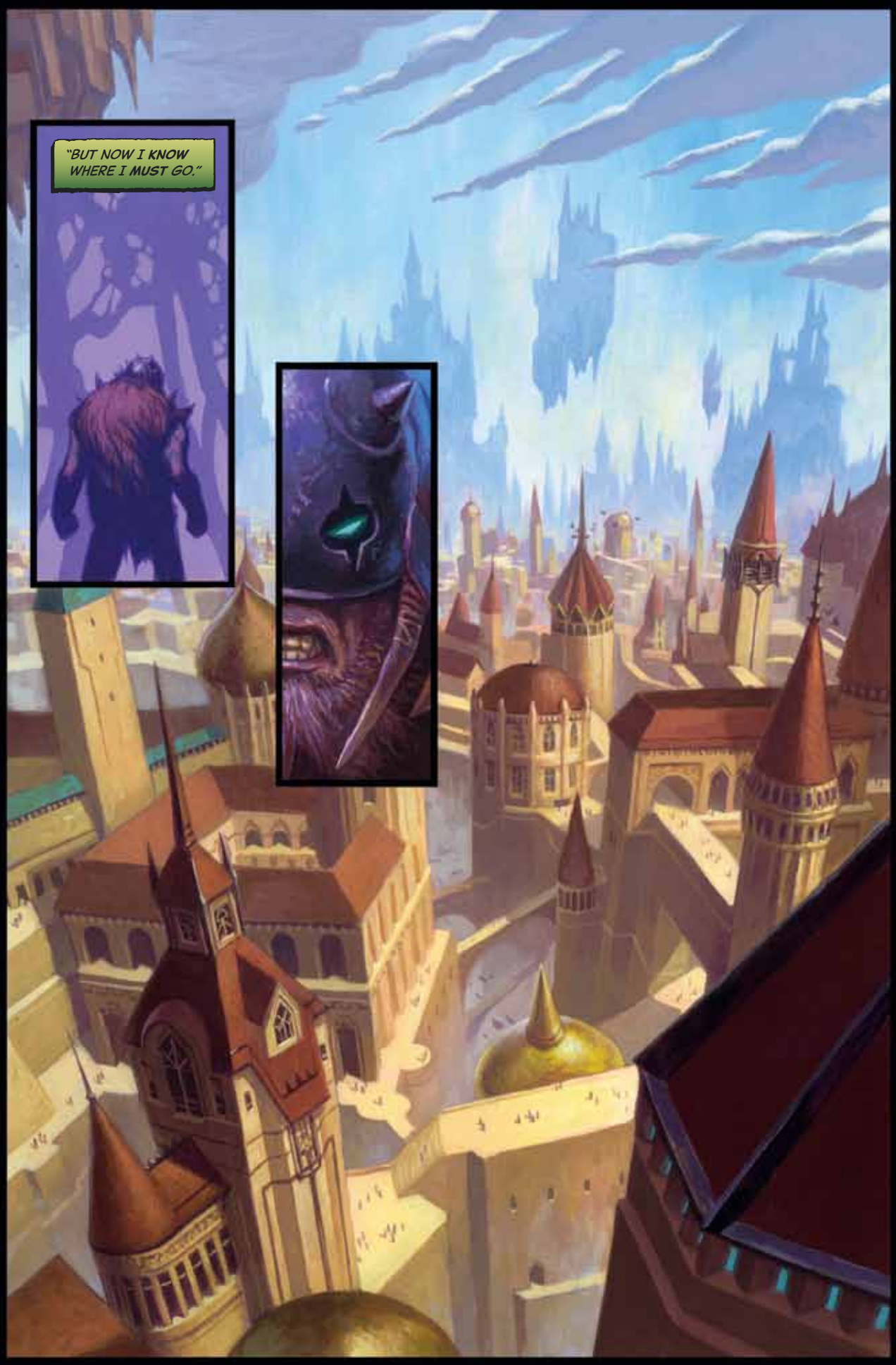

ELSEWHERE...
"DEATH SURROUNDS ME."
"IT'S SUFFOCATING."
...
COFF!
COFF!
"I FEEL IT UNDER MY SKIN."

"IT MUST BE THE WITCH."
"REEKS OF DEATH IN HERE. CAN'T BREATHE. CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT. NEED TO SUMMON SOME MUSCLE TO GET OUT OF HERE."
!

"IT'S... IN AGONY. WHATEVER CURSE IS ON ME—I PASS IT ON TO THEM."
"MY TOUCH, MY MAGIC. I'M CORRUPT."
"COME HERE, OLD FRIEND."
KERKTRP

"THE CORRUPTION BITES INTO MY VEINS AS I WORK."
"I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HEAR WHEN I EMERGE."
"...NOTHING."
"NO BELLOWING. NO BIRDSONG. THE FOREST IS ALL AROUND ME. BUT I'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM ITS VOICE."

"THE CURES I KNOW DO NOTHING."
"MAYBE IT'S THE CURSE. MAYBE IT'S MY OWN TOUCH."
"AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE DEATH MAGE. TRAIL'S GONE COLD."
"SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE. ANY PLANE."
"NEEDLE IN AN INFINITE HAYSTACK."
"I KNOW OF ONE WHO KNOWS HER. I VOWED NEVER TO GO BACK THERE..."


"BUT NOW I KNOW WHERE I MUST GO."

HERE THEY COME! REINFORCE THE GATE!
BY MY FATHER'S SOUL. YES, RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF!
THMP!
THMP!
GET THAT BARRICADE UP! OUR LIVES MAY DEPEND ON IT.
THMP-KACH!
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW. JUST HOLD THIS DOOR SHUT.
UGHHH...
WHAT OF OUR CAVALRY? HOW HAVE THEY FARED?
CHIEF?

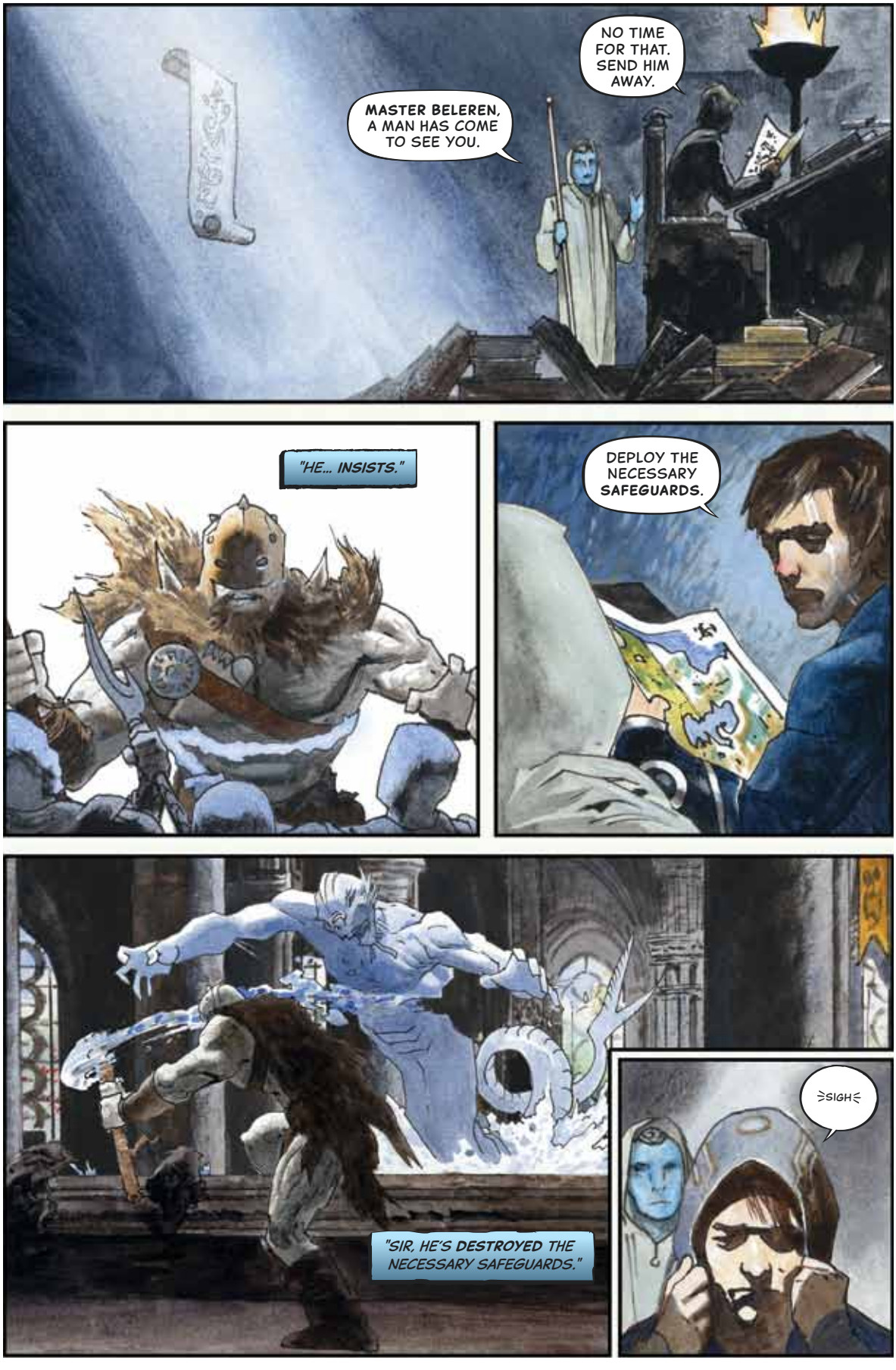
KA-KA-KACH!

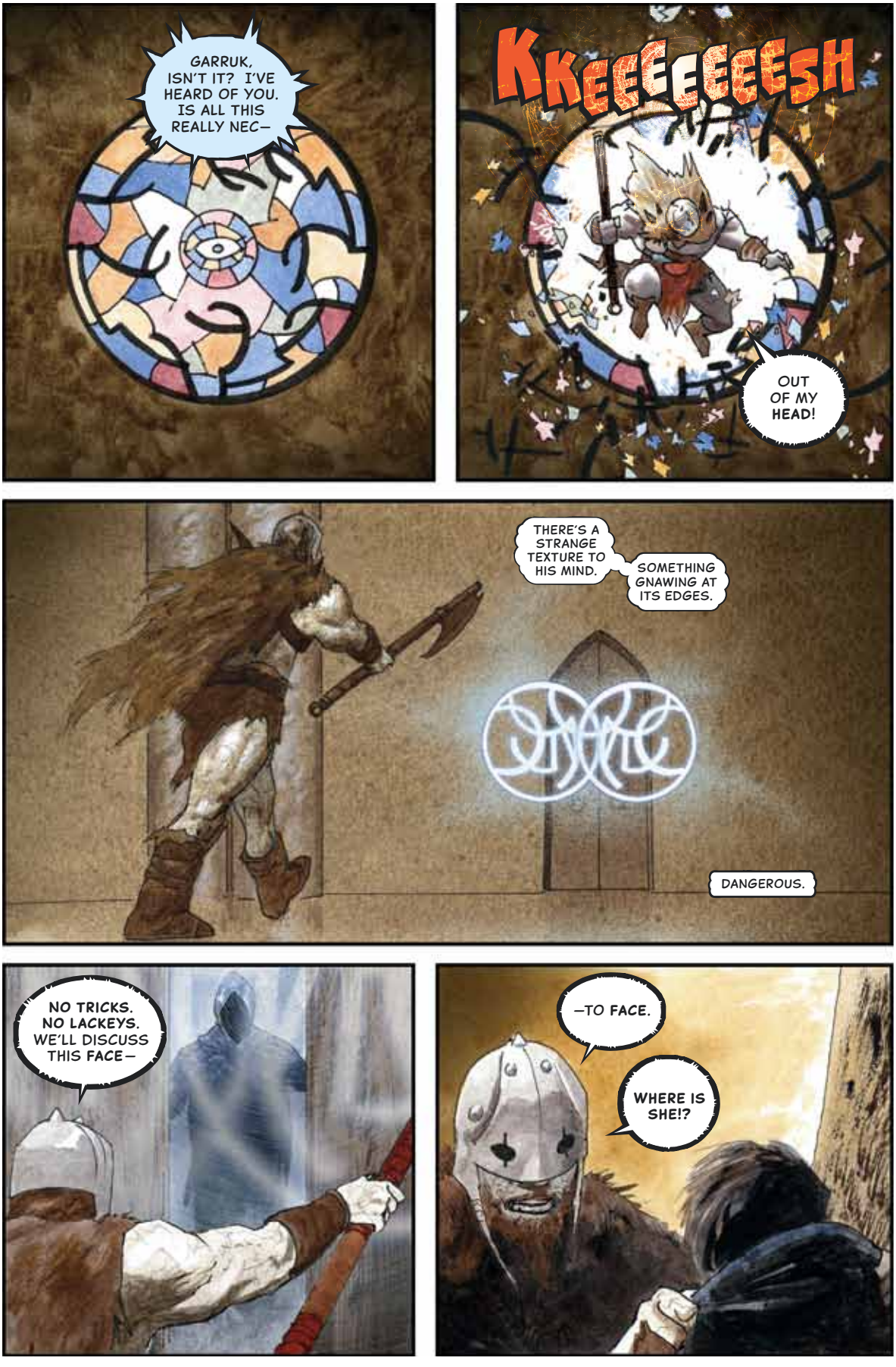
LISTEN UP! THIS IS OUR TIME.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHOW THIS ENEMY WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

FOR ALL TIME, HISTORY WILL REMEMBER THIS FORTRESS. FOR ALL TIME, HISTORY WILL REMEMBER THE NAME—

LILIANA VESS!
THIS IS THE LIFE.
YOU'LL NEVER TRIUMPH, FOUL BEING OF—
TZZTAAK!
AAAGH!


MASTER BELEREN, A MAN HAS COME TO SEE YOU.
NO TIME FOR THAT. SEND HIM AWAY.
"HE... INSISTS."
DEPLOY THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS.
"SIR, HE'S DESTROYED THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS."
≥SIGH≤


GARRUK, ISN'T IT? I'VE HEARD OF YOU. IS ALL THIS REALLY NEC—
KKEEEEEEEESH
OUT OF MY HEAD!
THERE'S A STRANGE TEXTURE TO HIS MIND.
SOMETHING GNAWING AT ITS EDGES.
DANGEROUS.
NO TRICKS. NO LACKEYS. WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FACE—
—TO FACE.
WHERE IS SHE!?

I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
KOTHOPHED WANTED THIS LITTLE TRINKET IN HIS CLAWS SO BADLY.
NOW I SEE WHY.
WITH A WEAPON AS POTENT AS THIS, SOMEONE COULD PROBABLY EVEN...
...DESTROY THAT OLD DEMON HIMSE—
I THINK IT'S TIME I PAID HIM A VISIT.

YES, MY MASTER. SHE IS GONE—AND SHE'S TAKEN THE VEIL WITH HER.

YES MASTER.
VOL IS EVER YOUR SERVANT.

I NEED TO FIND HER.
YOU NEED A HEALER.
LILIANA.
SO YOU DO KNOW HER.
TELL ME WHERE SHE IS.
YOU SMASH YOUR WAY IN HERE, AND EXPECT ME TO HELP YOU?
SHE DID THIS TO ME.
AND IF YOU DON'T HELP ME—

TsSSsS
TsSSsS
TsSSsS
TsSSsS
RRAAGHH!
SMACK
HOW...
DARE YOU—
THIS IS NOT A NEGOTIATION.
THIS IS NOT A CONTEST OF WILLS.
THIS IS YOU TELLING ME WHERE THE WITCH IS—
MONSTER!

I... I'M SORRY, BOY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER ME.
LOOK, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP YOU, HERE ON RAVNICA. EMMARA, A HEALER.
GO TO HER, AND THEN I'LL LEAD YOU TO LILIANA.
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE AN ILLNESS OF THE FLESH.
I JUST NEED TO FIND HER. JUST NAME A PLANE, AND I'LL GO.

...TAVELIA.
CAN I TRUST YOU?
WHAT ANSWER COULD I GIVE THAT WOULD CONVINCE YOU?
...I'LL TELL THE WITCH YOU SAID HELLO. OH, AND BELEREN...
YOUR MAP LEADS TO ZENDIKAR. BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP THERE.

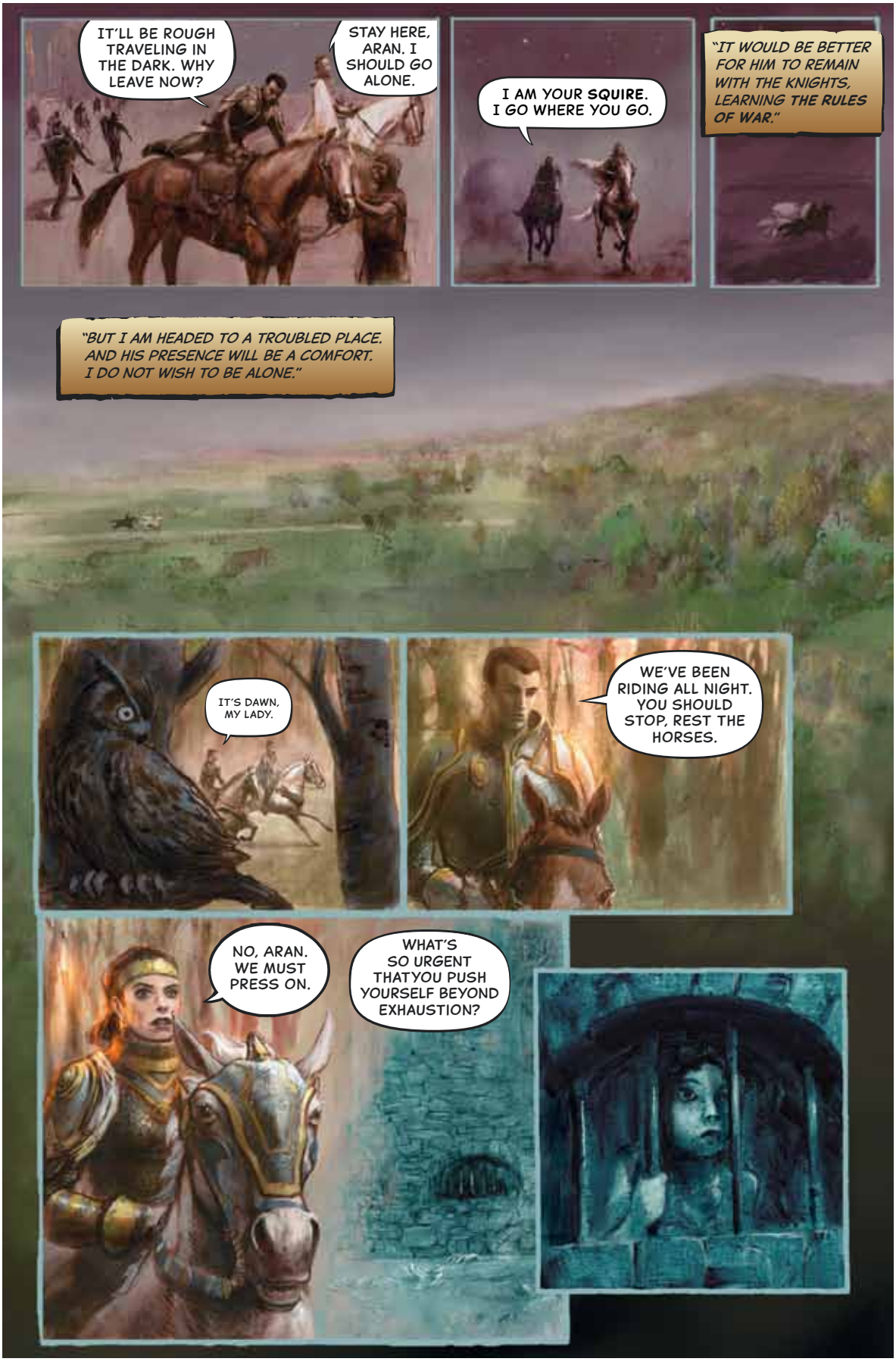
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE FAR FROM TAVELIA...
KOTHOPHED. I'VE RETURNED.
NEW DEAL.
I'M KEEPING THE VEIL. AND I WANT OUT OF MY CONTRACT.
DO YOU NOW?
YOU HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS YOUTH. THE VEIL, AND YOUR SOUL, ARE FORFEIT.
LILIANA. YOU'RE WEARING WHAT'S MINE. THAT WAS NOT THE—
RAAARRGHHH!

TZZZSSTRREWW!
STOP! LILI—THE VEIL! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE—
AUGH!
THIS IS NOT A NEGOTIATION, KOTHOPHED.
THIS IS NOT A CONTEST OF WILLS.
TZZZSSTRREWW!
KILLING ME... WILL NOT GET YOU... WHAT YOU SEEK.
THERE'S NO TRUTH IN THE PLEAS OF THE DAMNED.

YOUR TIME IS AT AN END, DEMON.
GET YOUR WORDS OFF MY SKIN.
AAAAAGGGCCCKN!!
ONE DOWN.

HONOR BOUND

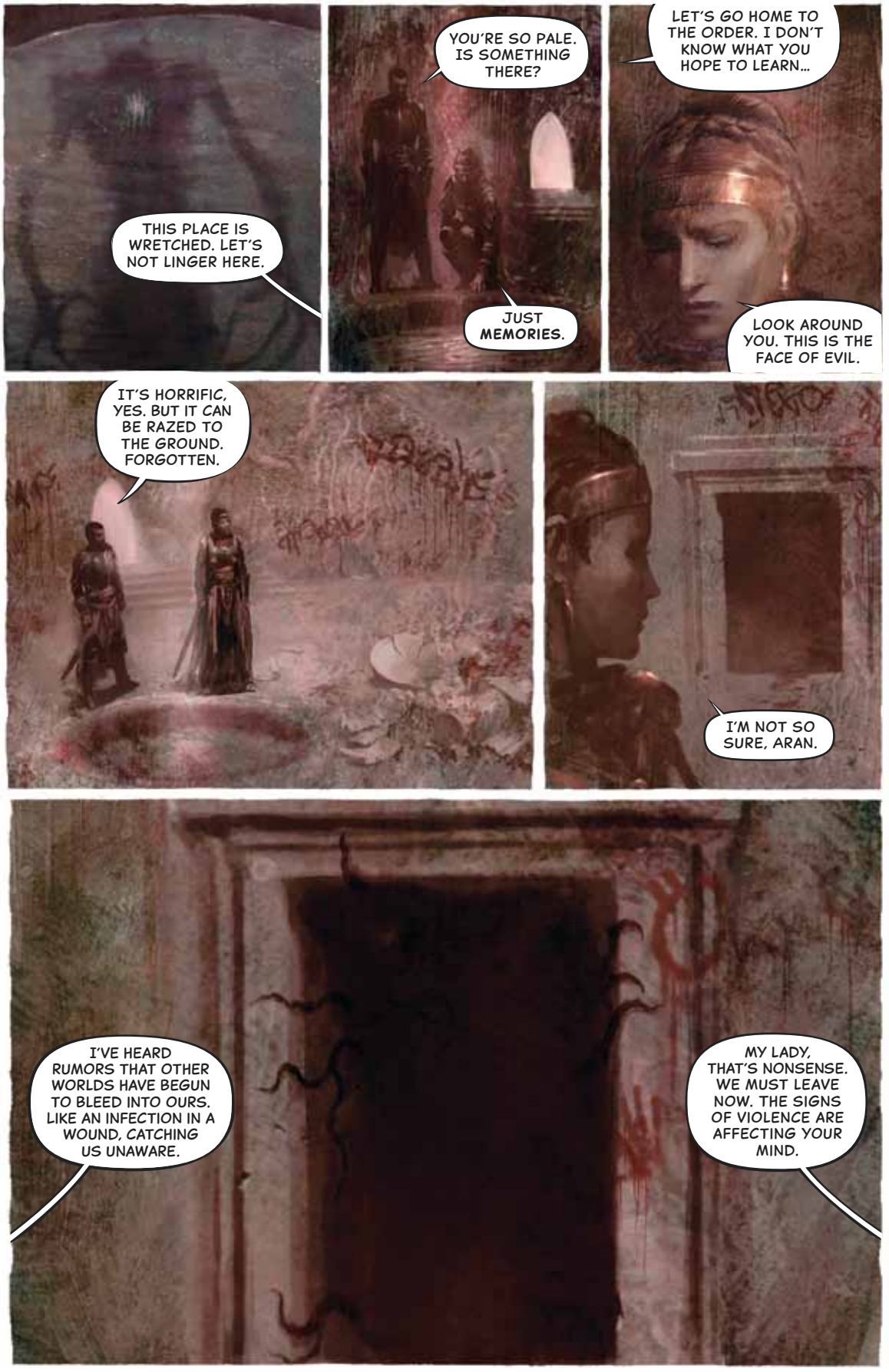
I AM ELSPETH, KNIGHT OF BANT. EVERYTHING I WANT IS HERE."
"IF THE OTHERS KNEW WHAT I COULD DO, THEY WOULD CALL ME AN ANGEL."
"BUT SUCH A "GIFT" COULD NOT BE TRUSTED."
"I PREFER TO EARN—"
"—MY PLACE IN THE HEAVENS."
"RUMORS ARE SPREADING ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE. FRIGHTENING TALES PASS BETWEEN CARAVANS AND VILLAGES."
"I CAN'T IGNORE THEM ANY LONGER. I MUST RIDE OUT AND SEE FOR MYSELF."
"I WONDER WHEN... OR IF I'LL STAND WITH MY FELLOW KNIGHTS AGAIN."

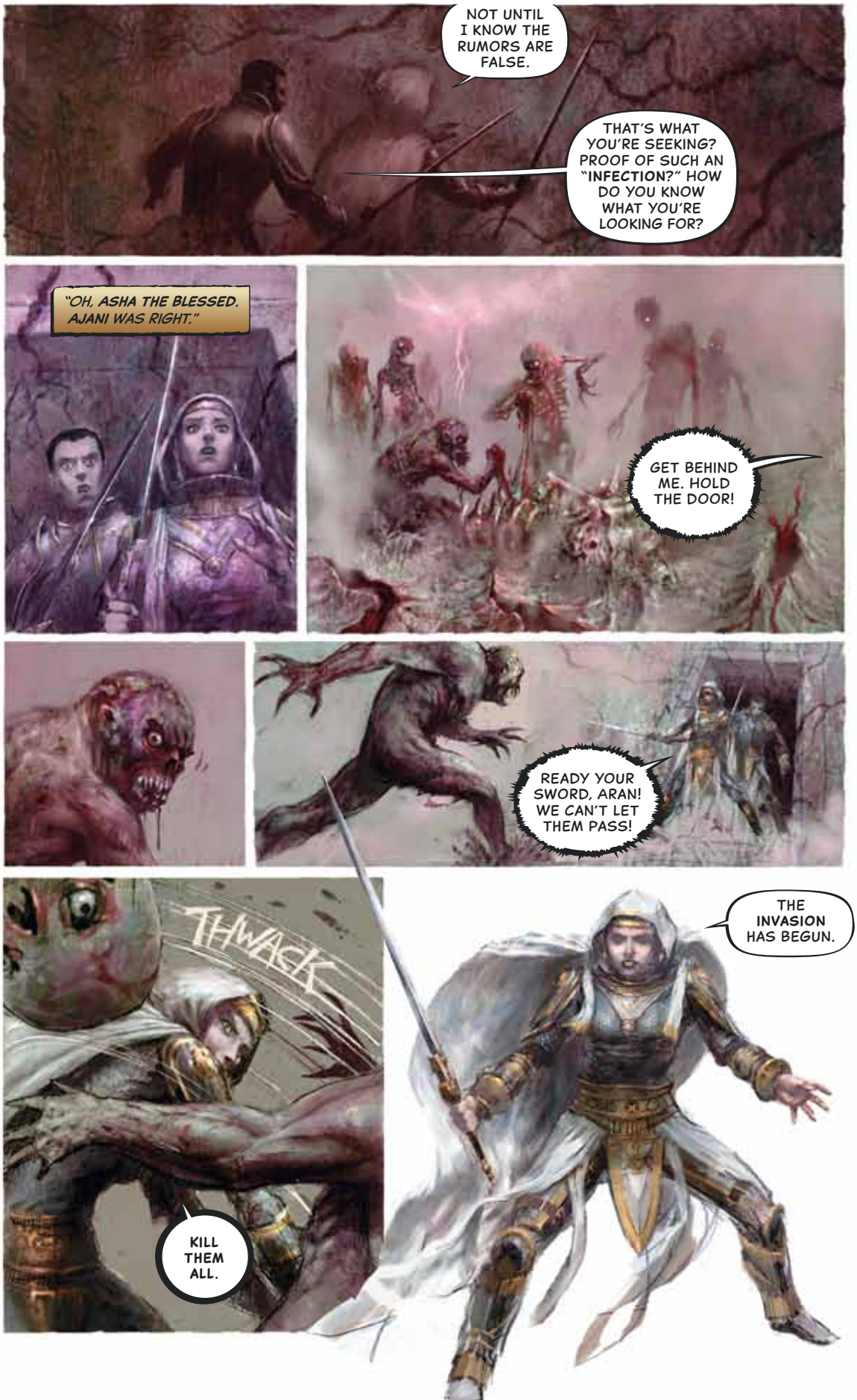

IT'LL BE ROUGH TRAVELING IN THE DARK. WHY LEAVE NOW?
STAY HERE, ARAN. I SHOULD GO ALONE.
I AM YOUR SQUIRE. I GO WHERE YOU GO.
"IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO REMAIN WITH THE KNIGHTS, LEARNING THE RULES OF WAR."
"BUT I AM HEADED TO A TROUBLED PLACE. AND HIS PRESENCE WILL BE A COMFORT. I DO NOT WISH TO BE ALONE."
IT'S DAWN, MY LADY.
WE'VE BEEN RIDING ALL NIGHT. YOU SHOULD STOP, REST THE HORSES.
NO, ARAN. WE MUST PRESS ON.
WHAT'S SO URGENT THATYOU PUSH YOURSELF BEYOND EXHAUSTION?

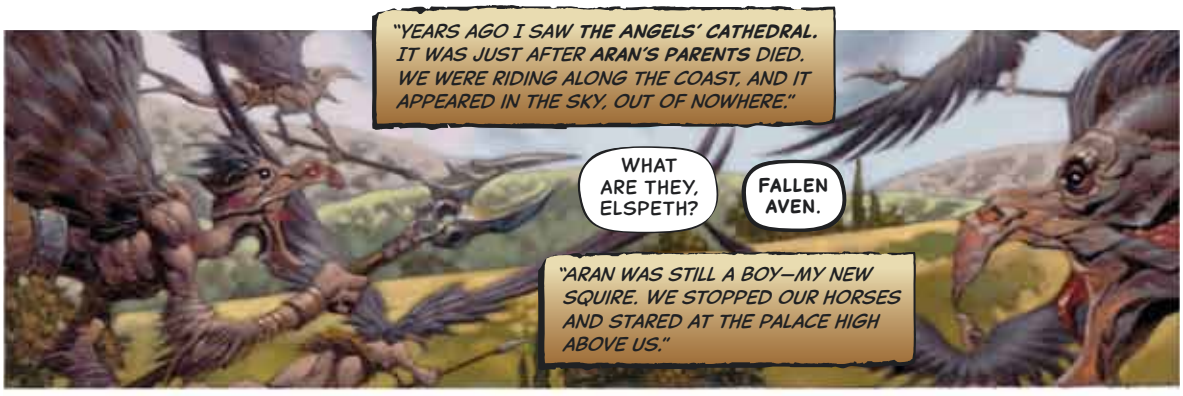
WE'RE RIDING TOWARD AKRASA. DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS AT FORT DAWNRAY?
ELSPETH?
DID YOU HEAR ME?
I AM CONCERNED, MY LADY. YOU ARE DISTRACTED, LOST IN THOUGHT.
DO YOU DREAM, ARAN? SUFFER NIGHTMARES?
NOT SINCE I WAS A CHILD. HAVE YOU BEEN TROUBLED BY DREAMS?
IMAGINE IF THE WORST NIGHTMARE FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD CAME TRUE. EVERYTHING YOU LOVE WAS DEFILED AND CORRUPTED.
A THING IS ONLY PURE ONCE. IF TARNISHED, IT CAN NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.
"I'M NOT SURE HE COULD EVEN COMPREHEND SUCH DARKNESS."
"AND THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE."

PURITY IS NOT THE SAME THING AS HONOR, ELSPETH. THE ANGELS TEACH THAT EVEN THE UNBEHOLDEN CAN BECOME BLESSED.
I KNOW THE **ANGELIC TEACHINGS**, ARAN.
YOU'VE ALWAYS LIVED IN A WORLD OF RULES, ORDER, AND DECENCY. BUT WITHOUT GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE ARE LITTLE MORE THAN ANIMALS.
I KNOW YOU HAVE TRAVELED MORE THAN ME, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IS TRUE.
WAIT HERE, ARAN.
NO, I WON'T LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
WHY ARE YOU SEEKING COUNSEL AT A **RHOX MONASTERY**? CAN THEY CALM YOUR DREAMS?
THERE ARE NO **MONKS** HERE, ARAN.
THIS IS NO LONGER A **HOLY PLACE**.
IS THAT **BLOOD**? I HEARD THAT BANDITS RUN WILD IN THE BORDERLANDS.
IT WASN'T BANDITS. A MONK SLAUGHTERED HIS BRETHREN WHILE THEY SLEPT.
THAT'S HORRIBLE. MAY THE ANGELS CLEANSE HIS SOUL.
"I ENVY ARAN'S FAITH IN INNATE GOODNESS. IN THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSCENDENCE."
"BUT I KNOW— SOME SOULS ARE LOCKED IN DARKNESS."

NOT EVERYONE IS WORTH SAVING, ARAN.
"ARAN IS LIKE BANT ITSELF. SUCH A NAIVE PERSPECTIVE, SUCH AN INNOCENT'S HEART."
ELSPETH, YOU'VE EARNED MORE SIGILS THAN ANYONE ELSE IN OUR ORDER. BUT YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS AND WARY. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
"NEITHER DO I. I SHOULD HAVE DIED. BUT I WAS RIPPED AWAY. SPARED, WHEN SO MANY OTHERS HAD DIED. I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS MERCY, AN ACCIDENT, OR SOMETHING MORE INSIDIOUS."
"I HAVE SO MUCH POWER, BUT I CAN'T USE IT. NOT WITHOUT LOSING WHAT I LOVE."


THIS PLACE IS WRETCHED. LET'S NOT LINGER HERE.
YOU'RE SO PALE. IS SOMETHING THERE?
JUST MEMORIES.
LET'S GO HOME TO THE ORDER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HOPE TO LEARN...
LOOK AROUND YOU. THIS IS THE FACE OF EVIL.
IT'S HORRIFIC, YES. BUT IT CAN BE RAZED TO THE GROUND. FORGOTTEN.
I'M NOT SO SURE, ARAN.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT OTHER WORLDS HAVE BEGUN TO BLEED INTO OURS. LIKE AN INFECTION IN A WOUND, CATCHING US UNAWARE.
MY LADY, THAT'S NONSENSE. WE MUST LEAVE NOW. THE SIGNS OF VIOLENCE ARE AFFECTING YOUR MIND.


NOT UNTIL I KNOW THE RUMORS ARE FALSE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SEEKING? PROOF OF SUCH AN "INFECTION?" HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
"OH, ASHA THE BLESSED, AJANI WAS RIGHT."
GET BEHIND ME. HOLD THE DOOR!
READY YOUR SWORD, ARAN! WE CAN'T LET THEM PASS!
THWACK
KILL THEM ALL.
THE INVASION HAS BEGUN.


"YEARS AGO I SAW THE ANGELS' CATHEDRAL. IT WAS JUST AFTER ARAN'S PARENTS DIED. WE WERE RIDING ALONG THE COAST, AND IT APPEARED IN THE SKY, OUT OF NOWHERE."
WHAT ARE THEY, ELSPETH?
FALLEN AVEN.
"ARAN WAS STILL A BOY—MY NEW SQUIRE. WE STOPPED OUR HORSES AND STARED AT THE PALACE HIGH ABOVE US."

THEY DIDN'T SEE US?
I DON'T THINK SO.
"IT WAS SUMMER, AND THE SKY WAS AS CLEAR AS BLUE CRYSTAL."

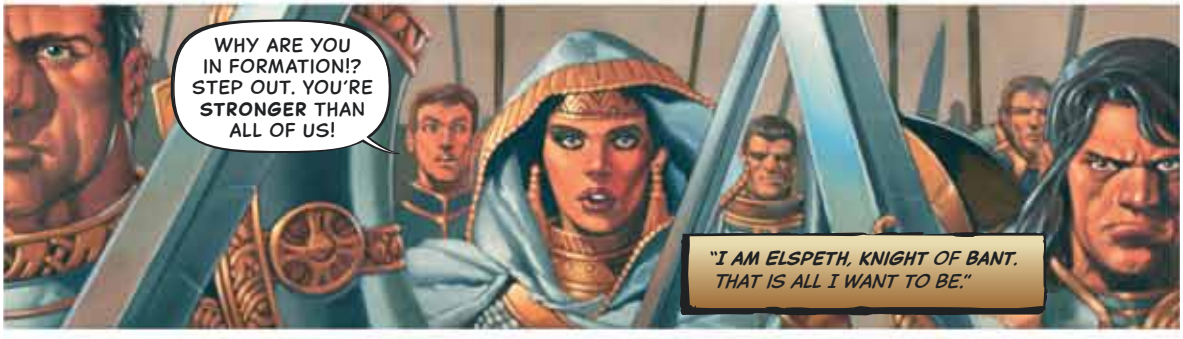
BUT THOSE ARE JUST SCOUTS. MORE WILL BE ON THE WAY.

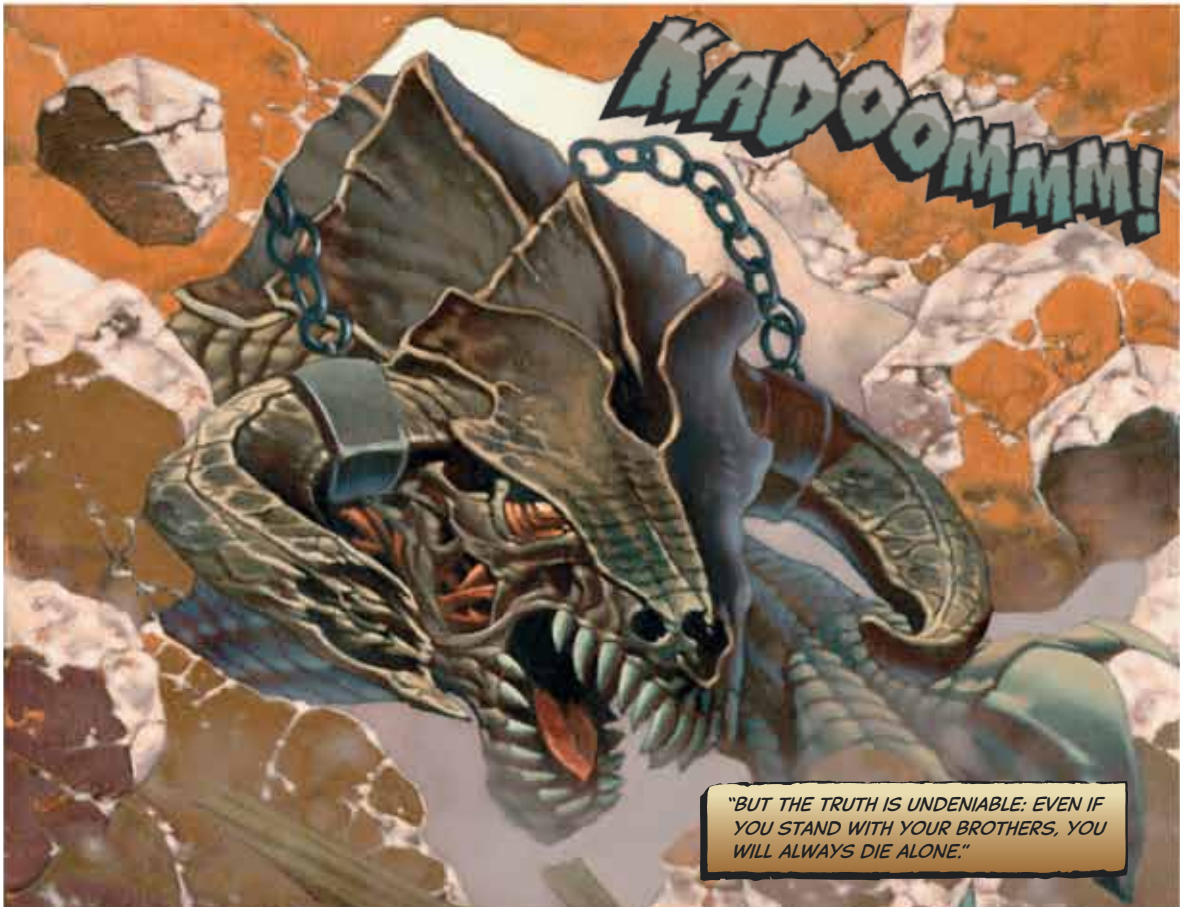
"EVEN THOUGH WE WERE EXPECTED IN VALERON, WE WATCHED FOR HOURS, AWESTRUCK. I FELT SUCH A SENSE OF SAFETY, BUT A RESPONSIBILITY TOO. TO ARAN, TO BANT, AND EVEN TO MYSELF."
ARAN! WHAT HIT US?
UURGH!

I CAN'T SEE YOU! ARE YOU HURT? ARAN! ANSWER ME!
GRARCH!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
YOU KNOW I'M A MAGE!
BUT THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! YOU'VE NEVER SHOWN POWER LIKE THAT!
ELSPETH, WAIT! TALK TO ME! CAN YOU CAST LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME?
THERE'S NO TIME TO TALK. WE MUST WARN THE OTHERS!

"THE ANGELS RODE AIR CURRENTS ABOVE WAVES THAT GLISTENED WITH WHITE LIGHT. IT WAS A GLIMPSE OF PERFECTION."
≥LAST RIDERS IN!≤
≥BAR THE GATE!≤
"IT FELT LIKE I'D WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE TO SEE SOMETHING SO PROFOUNDLY BEAUTIFUL. BUT EVEN THEN, I FELT NOSTALGIC FOR A PRESENT THAT WOULD NEVER LAST."
≥ARCHERS!≤
≥TOP THE WALL!≤
≥KNIGHTS, FORM UP!≤
≥SWORDS AT THE READY!≤
"I MAY SEEM POWERFUL. I MAY SEEM RESOLVED."
"BUT I AM GOVERNED BY FEAR. FEAR THAT MY SOUL WILL BE TORN OPEN, AND ALL THAT IS GOOD WITHIN ME WILL BLEED AWAY."
"FEAR THAT EVEN THE ANGELS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT US."

"LIKE A HERALD ABOUT TO SIGNAL THE BIRTH OF WAR, I AM ON A PRECIPICE."
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? THERE ARE THOUSANDS OUTSIDE THE WALLS. AND MORE COMING! CAN YOU STOP THEM?
≥ STAND FAST, KNIGHTS. THE ENEMY IS UPON US. ≤
STEADY YOUR SWORD, SQUIRE.
≥ HOLD THE LINE! MAY THE ANGELS PROTECT US! ≤


WHY ARE YOU IN FORMATION!? STEP OUT. YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ALL OF US!
"I AM ELSPETH, KNIGHT OF BANT. THAT IS ALL I WANT TO BE."


KADOOMMM!
"BUT THE TRUTH IS UNDENIABLE: EVEN IF YOU STAND WITH YOUR BROTHERS, YOU WILL ALWAYS DIE ALONE."

"WHILE ARAN AND I WATCHED, THE SKY DEEPENED TO ROSE, THE ANGELS BECAME SHADOWS IN THE GATHERING TWILIGHT, AND THE ANGELS' CATHEDRAL VANISHED FROM SIGHT."
"THAT WAS THE MOMENT I VOWED NEVER TO LEAVE."
"I WOULD BE DEFINED BY THESE BORDERS. AND NOTHING ELSE."

ELSPETH, WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED!
MIND THE RULES OF WAR! HOLD THE LINE!
ARE YOU BLIND? THE LINE IS BROKEN.
ELSPETH! YOUR SWORD ISN'T ENOUGH!
IT HAS TO BE ENOUGH!
SWAK!
SHIIIINNNKK!

"IF I COULD RELIVE JUST ONE DAY, THAT'S WHAT I WOULD CHOOSE. STANDING ON THE SUNLIT SHORE WITH ARAN WATCHING THE ANGELS. BUT IT'S LOST. I AM WITNESS TO THE END."
"DESOLATION REIGNS."

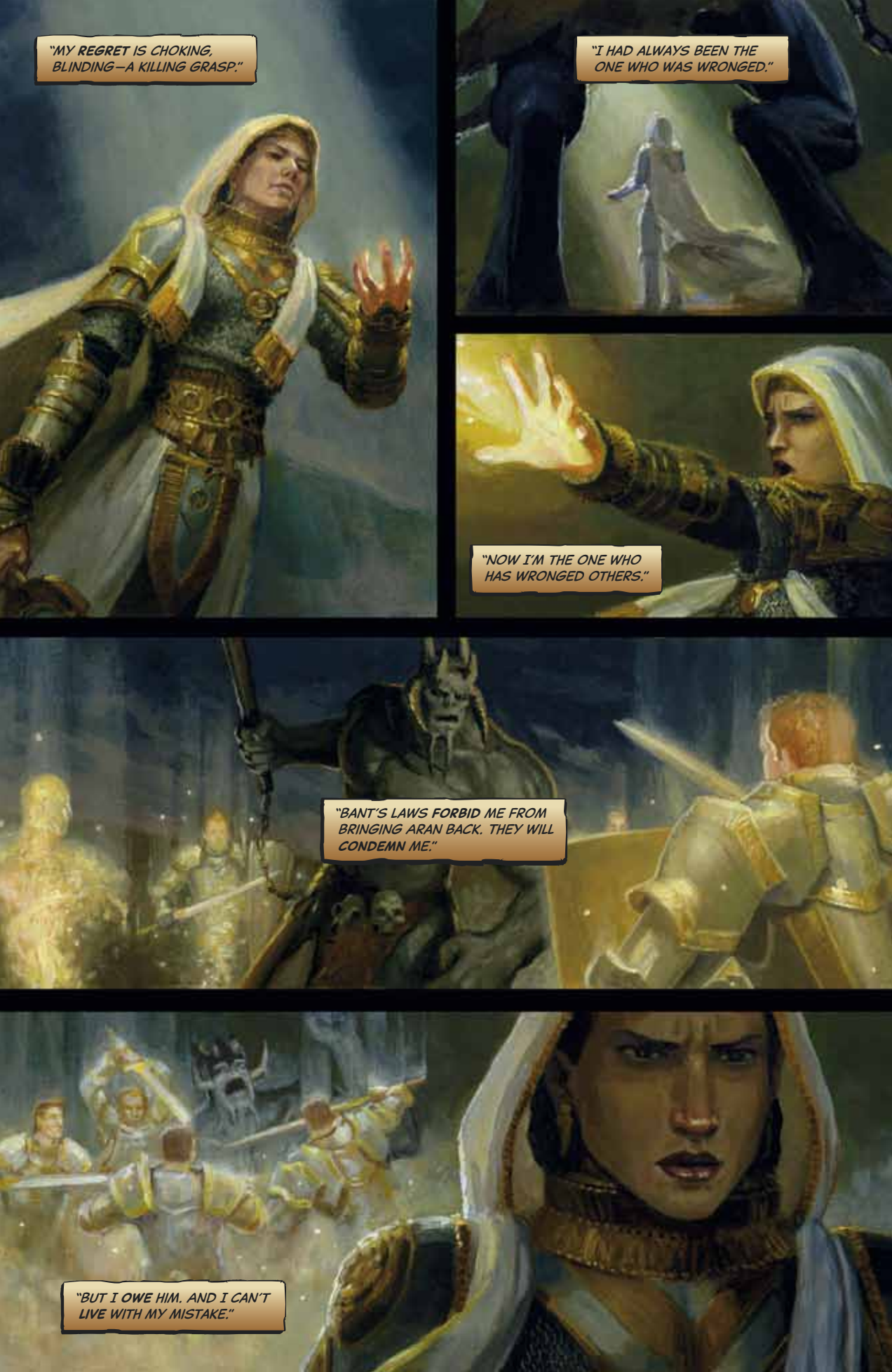
"BORDERS, CODES, LAWS... SUCH WALLS SHOULD KEEP US SAFE. YET, THEY'RE SO EASILY SHATTERED."

"ARAN, I'M SO SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU."

LET ME MOURN HIM!

"HE'S LOST."

"MY HOME IS RUBBLE."


"MY REGRET IS CHOKING, BLINDING—A KILLING GRASP."
"I HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO WAS WRONGED."
"NOW I'M THE ONE WHO HAS WRONGED OTHERS."
"BANT'S LAWS FORBID ME FROM BRINGING ARAN BACK. THEY WILL CONDEMN ME."
"BUT I OWE HIM. AND I CAN'T LIVE WITH MY MISTAKE."

"INNOCENT. TRUSTING. PURE."

"HE DIED BECAUSE OF ME, BECAUSE OF MY INACTION."
"I MUST CORRECT MY ERROR, NO MATTER THE COST."

"WAS HE RIGHT? CAN EACH SOUL BECOME SOMETHING GREATER THAN IT WAS?"

"I DON'T CARE. I WANT HIM HERE. PRESENT IN THE WORLD. EVEN WHEN I AM NOT. HE IS **REBORN**."

"AS FOR THE FETID ABOMINATIONS THAT HAVE SULLIED MY HOMELAND..."
"THEY DESERVE NOTHING. NO TOMB. NO PITY. **NOTHING**. THEY DON'T DESERVE TO BECOME THE DUST UPON WHICH MY BROTHERS WILL REBUILD THEIR LIVES."

"WE WON THE BATTLE, BUT NOT THE WAR. THIS IS THE AFTERMATH OF MY SELFISHNESS."

"HOW THEY STARE: THE ACCUSATION IN THEIR EYES, THE EXPECTATIONS."

"ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE ONE OF THEM, AND NOW I NEVER WILL BE."

LADY ELSPETH, MY **HUSBAND** FELL EARLY IN THE BATTLE. I SAW YOUR MIRACULOUS LIGHT DEVASTATE THE INVADERS.

YOU **SAVED** US.

THIS SIGIL HONORS MY GALEN'S MEMORY. WILL YOU BLESS IT?

NO, I'M NOT THE ONE YOU WANT.

"I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO GIVE **A BLESSING**. I CAN'T EVEN HONOR MY OWN SIGILS."

MY LADY! YOU'RE ALRIGHT!
AND SO ARE YOU, ARAN. **THANK THE ANGELS**. ARE YOU HEALING WELL?
BETTER THAN EXPECTED. THE **BALMGIVER** SAID MOST WOULD HAVE DIED FROM SUCH WOUNDS.
YOU'RE **YOUNG**. **STRONG**. WE NEED YOU IN THE FIELD.
YOU'RE NEEDED MORE THAN ME, ELSPETH.

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR FEAT IN THE BATTLE. WITH YOU LEADING US, WE ACTUALLY HAVE A CHANCE IN THIS WAR.

YOU'VE GIVEN US **HOPE**.
I'M NOT FIT TO LEAD THEM. YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT TO.
WE'RE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SELF DOUBT OR HUMILITY.

I KNOW YOU, ELSPETH. I TRUST THAT YOU'LL DO THE HONORABLE THING.

"THESE BORDERS WERE MY WALLS. THEY HELD THE MONSTERS AND NIGHTMARES AT BAY."
"I LOVED THE SKY AND SEA. EVERY BLADE OF GRASS ON THE ROLLING HILLS."

"I WANTED TO BELONG SO BADLY."
"BUT I WAS PRETENDING. AND PEOPLE SUFFERED FOR IT."

"HONOR."
"DUTY."

"I WILL NEVER FIND ANOTHER HOME LIKE BANT."

JOURNEY TO THE EYE

AFFA TOWN
AKOUM MOUNTAINS
ZENDIKAR
"I'VE LIVED HERE IN AFFA TOWN MY WHOLE LIFE, YOUNG LADY. THIS IS THE LAST CIVILIZED NOTCH BEFORE ANOWAN'S BASECAMP."
"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S BETWEEN HERE AND THE TOP OF THOSE PEAKS?"
"THE SPIKE FIELDS ARE BAD, BUT THEY'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO WINDBLAST GORGE. A DRAKE WILL RIP YOU TO SHREDS BEFORE YOU CAN BAT AN EYELASH."
"AND MARK MY WORDS—ZENDIKAR MAKES YOUR MAGIC WILD. DON'T TRUST IT."
"THE HIGHER YOU CLIMB, THE WORSE THE ROIL GETS. THE LAND WRITHES LIKE ITS GOT A MIND OF ITS OWN. IF YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF A ROIL TIDE, YOU'RE A GONER."
"SO WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO AFFA TOWN ANYWAY?"
"WAIT, LET ME GUESS. YOU FOUND SOME CRYPTIC RELIC AND WANT ANOWON, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED RUIN EXPERT, TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT."
"EVEN IF YOU MAKE IT TO THE TOP OF THE PEAKS ALIVE, WHAT IF ANOWON DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR LITTLE TREASURE?"

THEN I'LL KNOW MORE THAN I DO NOW. SO WHY DON'T YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT, PATCHES.
THE NAME'S SACHIR.
WHATEVER.
SLAM!
AND I NEED A GUIDE, NOT A PROTECTOR. CAN YOU HELP ME OR NOT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAN.
THIS IS URDOM, THE LEGENDARY WARRIOR OF TAZEEM.
HE KILLED THE STALKING HYDRA OF VASTWOOD—WITH HIS BARE HANDS.
HE CLIMBED THE KAZANDU SKY CLIFFS WITHOUT A ROPE.

"HE'S MADE COUNTLESS EXPEDITIONS WITH ⟩AHEM⟨ TRAVELERS LIKE YOURSELF."
"THERE'S ONLY ONE PATH THROUGH THE SPIKE FIELDS, BUT URDOM KNOWS IT LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND."
"WITH HIM AT YOUR SIDE, IT'LL BE LIKE A STROLL THROUGH A FIELD OF WILDFLOWERS."
FRRSSH
BOOM!

ROCK LIZARDS? YOU'RE LUCKY YOU SURVIVED.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT URDOM WAS **OVERRATED**. WHOEVER SAW A STALKING HYDRA ANYWAY? RUBBISH, IF YOU ASK ME.
SLAM!
BUT DON'T YOU FRET. I'VE GOT JUST WHAT YOU NEED. MEET MIRA AND TAU OF ONDU.
THEY'RE **HOOKMASTERS** OF UNPARALLELED SKILL. THEY'RE RENOWNED FOR THEIR BREATH-TAKING **TECHNIQUE**.
NOBODY CAN REIN A HEDRON LIKE THESE TWO.
"THEY'VE LED DOZENS OF EXPEDITIONS THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF THE SKY RUIN."
*"THEY RAPPELLED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE **BOTTOMLESS SHAFT**."*
*"**THE KOR** WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER. THEY'LL TREAT YOU LIKE YOU'RE ONE OF THE FAMILY."*

JAGWASPS? THAT'S TOO BAD. I REALLY THOUGHT MIRA AND TAU WERE SOMETHING SPECIAL.
WELL, ZENDIKAR DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES, THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE.
SLAM!
IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS. NO MORE AMATEURS. MAY I PRESENT ILVORO, AN ESTEEMED LULLMAGE FROM HALIMAR. HE JUST HAPPENS TO BE HEADING TO THE TOP OF THE PEAKS.
I'D WAGER YOU COULDN'T FIND A BETTER GUIDE ANYWHERE.
"IT WAS ILOVRO WHO DECIPHERED THE RUNIC PROPHECIES OF IOR RUIN."
"HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY LULLED A TSUNAMI JUST AS IT WAS ABOUT TO CRASH INTO SEA GATE."
"THEY SAY HE CAN CALM A RAMPAGING BALOTH WITH HIS VOICE ALONE."

A ROIL TEMPEST? THOSE ARE BAD. VERY BAD.
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE STONEWORK PUMAS ARE SO POPULAR.

SLAM!

WELL, WE'RE CLEAN OUT OF EXPERIENCED GUIDES AT THE MOMENT. BUT SACHIR WOULDN'T LET YOU DOWN. IN FACT, I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A BARGAIN.
THESE ARE THE GURGEL BROTHERS.
THEY'RE BRAND NEW TO THE GUIDE BUSINESS. BUT THEY'RE BRIMMING WITH LOCAL LORE, AND THEY REALLY WANT YOU TO SUCCEED. READY TO MEET YOUR CREW?

"GONKA SAYS HE'S A GRAPPLER."

"AND TORKE HERE IS YOUR DEMOLITIONS MAN."

"ULARK KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA."

"AND THAT'S GURG. HE NEVER SAYS MUCH. BUT THE MORE EYES, THE BETTER. THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY."

THE WHOLE SHARE GOES TO YOU. YOU DESERVE IT, LITTLE FRIEND.
THIS IS THE LEAGUE OF ANOWON? IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.
ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GET HERE.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS A WASTED EFFORT.

THE EYE OF UGIN
ZENDIKAR
ONE STICK, TWO STICKS, THREE AND FOUR. ONE MORE STICK MAKES THE FIRE ROAR...
BE QUIET, INTRUDER. YOU'RE NOT REALLY HERE.
NO, THAT WAS MY VOICE. CHANTING A CHILD'S VERSE FROM THE HINTERLANDS.
THE HINTERLANDS. WE SCORCHED THEIR CLANS.
STRUNG THEIR WARRIORS ON TREES—
—AND BURNED THEM ALIVE.
THE REST OF THE WEAKLINGS FLED. WE LAUGHED AT THEM—PATHETIC, MEWLING KITTENS. WANDERING LOST IN THE GRIM WILDS.
NOW LOOK AT ME. I CAN SEE THE SKINS OF WORLDS. HOW COULD I POSSIBLY LOSE MY WAY?
IT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY HAS PASSED SINCE I ARRIVED. THIS PLACE PULSES WITH BRIDLED POWER.
BUT I CAN BARELY CAST A SPELL TO LIGHT MY PATH. SUCH POWER, BUT JUST BEYOND MY GRASP. HE'S TAUNTING ME.
HAVE YOU SENT ME TO SUFFER?
NO, YOU ARE NICOL BOLAS, LORD OF THE BLIND ETERNITIES. IF YOU WANTED TO PUNISH ME, SOLITUDE WOULDN'T BE YOUR WEAPON.

LITTLE SCRATCHINGS OF A KING.
WHERE'S YOUR CROWN, SERPENT?
TIME HAS FORGOTTEN YOU, INTERLOPER.
GO BACK TO YOUR WISP-KINGDOM, OR I'LL CUT YOU CHIN TO NAVEL.
YOU'RE THE PREDATOR? THE KILLER OF CHILDREN? SWINGING BROKE-NECK IN THE WIND?
GIVE ME BACK MY FACE, BOLAS. THE SERPENT'S CROWN WILL BE MINE.
TRICK!
CALM YOURSELF, HANGMAN. IT'S MERELY A DRAGON'S TRICK.
BUT WHICH DRAGON?

MY FLESH ISN'T MARRED. IT IS MY MIND THAT HAS BETRAYED ME.
STILL, THIS IS NO MERE STONE. IT'S A MASON'S BLOCK. A MASTER'S TOOL.
WAIT, SOMETHING SKITTERS. I HEAR A TWILIGHT SPY.
RATS. ENTRAILS. KEEP OFF MY FINGERS.
YOU! FALSE GOD! I'VE KILLED YOUR KIND BEFORE.
YOU CAN'T RULE IN THE PIT OF NIGHT.
KRACK!

THE CREATURE VANISHED.
CONQUERED, OR AN ILLUSION?
HERE IN THIS CAVERN, FALSEHOODS SHRED MY EYES.
IT'S LEECHING ME. LIKE A PARASITE.
THE DRAGON KING BIRTHED THIS LABYRINTH. HIS SACRIFICE BECAME THE MORTAR—
—AND HIS BLOOD PULSES IN ITS VEINS. SEE? IT SEEPS LIKE A WOUND.
LIKE A FIST GRIPPING A BEATING HEART. THIS IS A CAGE OF DIAMONDS.

SO, I AM TESTED. AN INSOLENT PUZZLE. THE CROWN WILL GLITTER IN THE ASHES.
IT ALL BEGAN WITH DRAGON'S FIRE.
AND DRAGON'S FIRE WILL BE WITNESS TO THE END.
THE WALLS STILL STAND? IF NOT THAT, THEN WHAT?

WHISPER TO ME, KING. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF SACRIFICE?
THE BODY OF A TRAVELER, BEATEN AND SCORNED. HIS SOUL FADES BUT THE CHEST REMAINS CLOSED. MORE RIDDLES FOR THE WAYWARD SCION.
DECEIT STAINS THE WALLS. WORDS TO STRANGLE ME.
ONE BODY, TWO BODIES, THREE AND FOUR. ONE MORE BODY MAKES THE DRAGON...
QUIET! THE CHANTS DISTRACT ME. THE ANSWER IS HERE. I NEED MORE TIME.
THOUGHT ROTS FLESH. SHREDS OF SKIN CLINGING TO A NEST OF BONES.

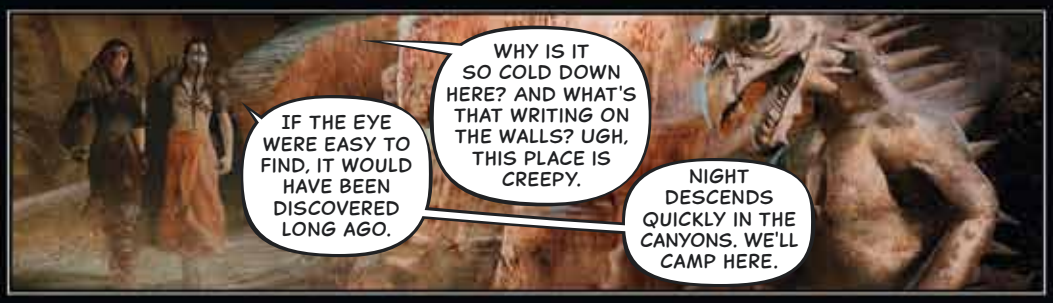
MUST I BECOME PART OF THE MOUNTAIN? AN INFANT WITHOUT A VOICE?
NO, CLAWS ON THE BRINK. A SERPENT WITH A SPINE.
STAND UP, SLAUGHTER-PRINCE. FOOTSTEPS SHAKE THE MOUNTAIN.
INTRUDERS MEAN TO STEAL YOUR TREASURE. TURN YOUR EYES.
TURN YOUR EYES AND KILL THEM ALL.

ANOWON'S BASECAMP
AKOUM MOUNTAINS
ZENDIKAR
ARE YOU ANOWON? THE RUIN EXPERT? I NEED YOUR HELP.
DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, I DO NOT HELP TOMB RAIDERS.
I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GET HERE!
YOUR WOES DO NOT INTEREST ME. YOU DO NOT INTEREST ME.
I HAVE COIN. AND WE CAN SPLIT THE SPOILS.
YOU'RE A FILTHY SCRAP OF A GIRL WHO REEKS OF SULFUR. I DOUBT YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT I WANT.
HOW ABOUT I DON'T BLOW YOU AND YOUR GRUNGY LITTLE CAMP TO HELL?
I'D ADVISE YOU TO WATCH YOUR TONGUE. A LESSER MAN WOULD SIMPLY CUT YOUR THROAT AND TAKE YOUR COIN, BUT I'M A SCHOLAR WHO JUST WANTS HIS PEACE.
HEAR ME OUT!
I ACQUIRED THIS MAP.
LET'S JUST SAY IT WAS WELL-GUARDED.
FINE. I'LL FIND THE EYE BY MYSELF.
I'M WEARY OF OUTSIDERS WHO SEEK TO PLUNDER MY PEOPLE'S HERITAGE. LEAVE NOW, BEFORE I LOSE MY DESIRE FOR POLITE CONVERSATION.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EYE?
LIKE I SAID, I'VE GOT A MAP. BUT I GUESS YOU AREN'T INTERESTED.
MY APOLOGIES. APPARENTLY WE HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT AFTER ALL.

EXPEDITION TO THE EYE, DAY TWO
AKOUM HEDRON FIELD
I AGREED TO GUIDE YOU. BUT I MUST SEE THE MAP FOR MYSELF.
I DON'T HAVE IT WITH ME. IT'S IN A SAFE PLACE.
THEN HOW...
IT'S BURNED IN MY MEMORY.
SO, IS THE EYE IN ONE OF THOSE ROCKS? THEY LOOK LIKE THEY FELL OUT OF THE SKY.
LAST NIGHT, I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE ANCIENTS. THE HEDRONS ARE MONUMENTS OF THEIR TYRANNY. THE EYE IS CRUCIAL TO HEALING THE LAND.
YEAH, I REMEMBER THE SPEECH. WELL, MOST OF IT.
MY LIFE HAS BEEN A QUEST FOR TRUTH, CHANDRA.
OH NO, HERE WE GO AGAIN.
"...I'VE STUDIED EVERY SCROLL IN EVERY ARCHIVE. I'VE BECOME A MASTER EXPLORER AND LED COUNTLESS EXPEDITIONS TO RUINS ON EVERY CONTINENT, ALWAYS RESPECTFUL OF THE SECRETS I FIND INSIDE."
"I UNEARTHED MANY LOST TRUTHS DURING MY METICULOUS INVESTIGATIONS. ONCE I FIND THE EYE, I WILL DISCOVER HOW TO SAVE MY PEOPLE."
"THAT'S QUITE A TALE, ANOWON. BUT YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE SCHOLARLY TYPE TO ME."
"AND NO OFFENSE TO YOU, CHANDRA. BUT YOU ARE YOUNG AND PRONE TO MISINTERPRETATION."

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT YOU CAME TO ME.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN FATE?
PEOPLE MAKE THINGS SO SERIOUS AND COMPLICATED.
NOT EVERYTHING HAS TO MAKE SENSE.
KRRKRKRK
KRKRK
KRKRK
KARUUM!
SEE? THE LAND CHALLENGES YOUR LACK OF VISION.
THANKS FOR THE HAND, ANOWON. BUT SOMETIMES A LOOSE ROCK IS JUST A LOOSE ROCK.

ARE WE GOING IN CIRCLES?
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE IN SHOCK FROM YOUR FALL.
NO, I RECOGNIZE THAT RIDGE LINE...
MAYBE YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE MAP AS WELL AS YOU CLAIMED.
OR MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD A GUIDE AS YOU THOUGHT.


WHY IS IT SO COLD DOWN HERE? AND WHAT'S THAT WRITING ON THE WALLS? UGH, THIS PLACE IS CREEPY.
IF THE EYE WERE EASY TO FIND, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED LONG AGO.
NIGHT DESCENDS QUICKLY IN THE CANYONS. WE'LL CAMP HERE.

HERE? BY THE GARGOYLE? I'D RATHER NOT.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO WANDER AT NIGHT. I'M GOING TO SCOUT THE AREA. WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND START A FIRE?

IDIOT.
FOOL.

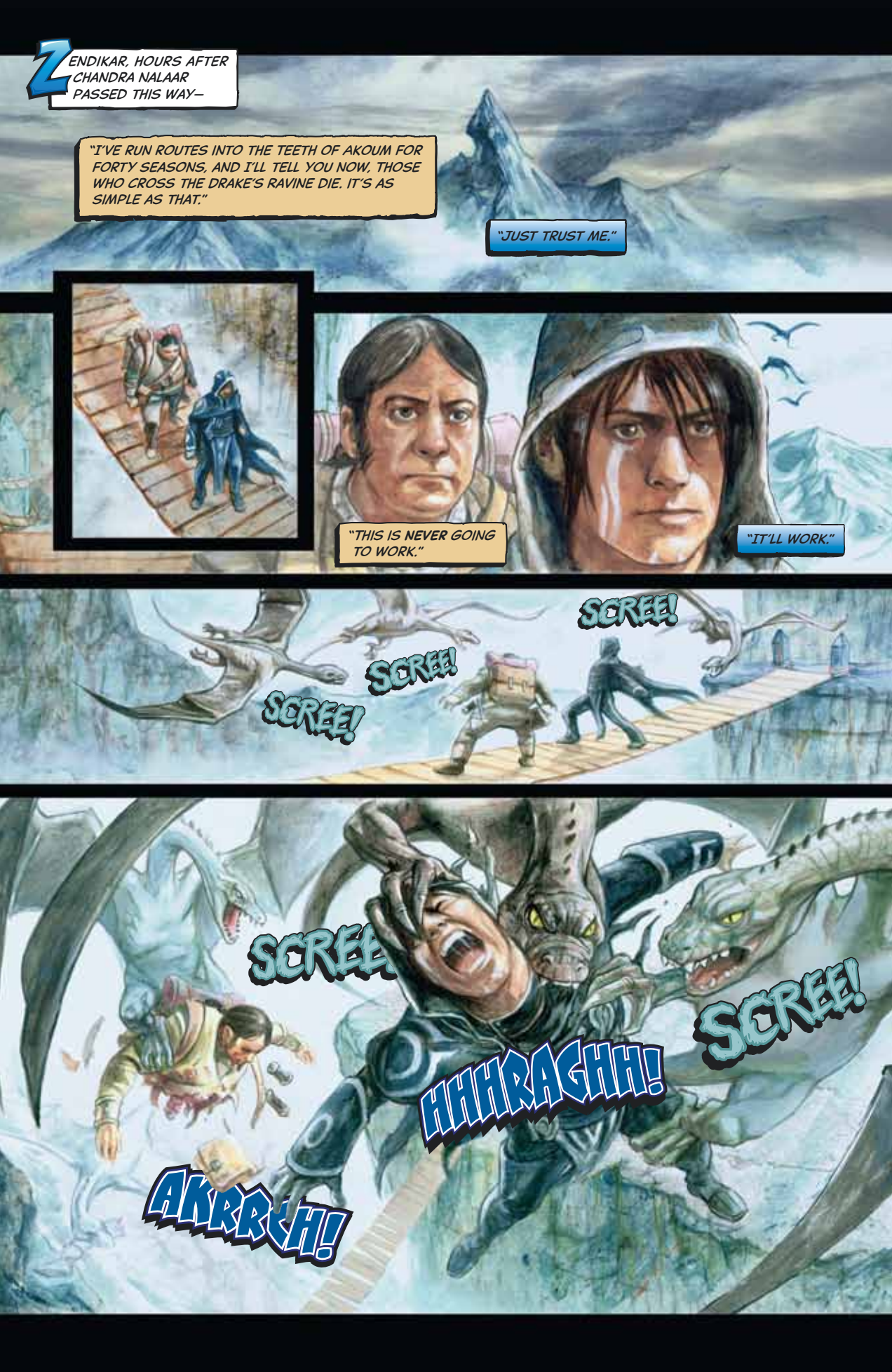
DAMN YOU, GIDEON. THE MONK'S COPY ISN'T AS GOOD AS THE REAL THING.
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...EVERYONE WHO DIED IN SEARCH OF THAT MAP... AND IT APPEARS IN THE HANDS OF AN ARROGANT ADOLESCENT.

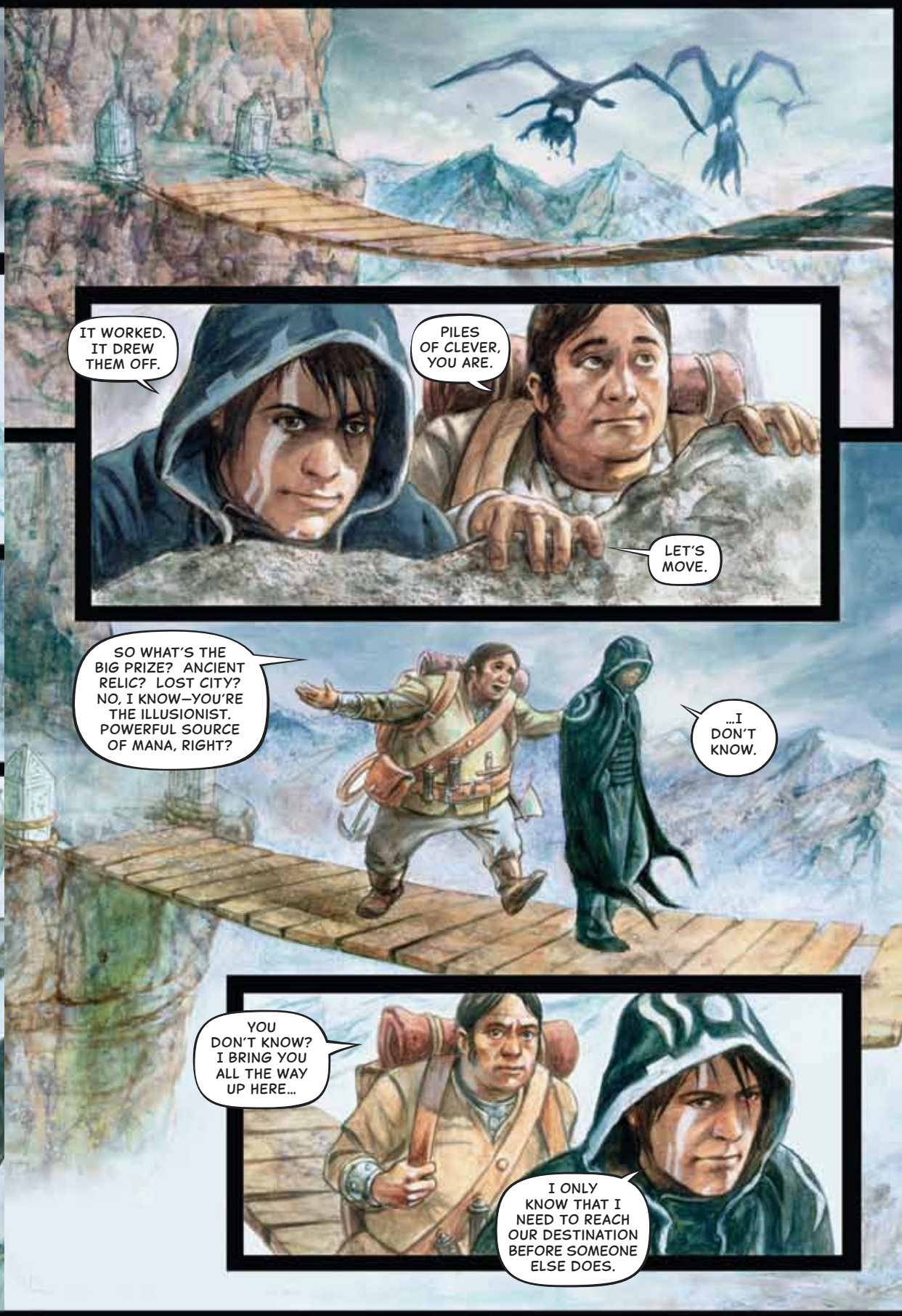
YOU THINK THE EYE IS A PRETTY BAUBLE YOU CAN PLUCK FROM ZENDIKAR TO WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK?
I'D NEVER PERMIT YOU TO RANSACK SUCH SACRED GROUND.
THERE'S NOTHING BURNED IN YOUR MEMORY, CHILD. I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU AS SOON AS WE LEFT CAMP.
YOU PUT YOUR FANGS ANYWHERE NEAR ME, AND I'LL RIP THEM OUT.
SMACK!

THE MAP IS RIGHTFULLY MINE.
GET YOUR ROTTING HANDS OFF ME!
KRAKK!
I STOLE THAT MAP FAIR AND SQUARE.
AND I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE TRYING TO TAKE IT FROM ME!
OH, NO! WHERE'S MY MAGIC? SACHIR WAS ACTUALLY RIGHT ABOUT SOMETHING?

THIS CAN'T HAPPEN. NOT HERE. NOT AT THE HANDS OF A MONSTER...
SMACK!
THUD

AWAKENINGS


ZENDIKAR, HOURS AFTER CHANDRA NALAAR PASSED THIS WAY—
"I'VE RUN ROUTES INTO THE TEETH OF AKOUM FOR FORTY SEASONS, AND I'LL TELL YOU NOW, THOSE WHO CROSS THE DRAKE'S RAVINE DIE. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."
"JUST TRUST ME."
"THIS IS NEVER GOING TO WORK."
"IT'LL WORK."
SCREE!
SCREE!
SCREE!
SCREE
SCREE!
HHHRAGHH!
AKRRCH!


IT WORKED. IT DREW THEM OFF.
PILES OF CLEVER, YOU ARE.
LET'S MOVE.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG PRIZE? ANCIENT RELIC? LOST CITY? NO, I KNOW—YOU'RE THE ILLUSIONIST. POWERFUL SOURCE OF MANA, RIGHT?
...I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW? I BRING YOU ALL THE WAY UP HERE...
I ONLY KNOW THAT I NEED TO REACH OUR DESTINATION BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES.

AN ERRAND FOR THE PRELATE BECAME A SHOWDOWN WITH A PLANESWALKER, AND A SCROLL BECAME A QUEST.
NOW I DISCOVER THAT THE FIRE MAGE HAS ALREADY MADE HER WAY HERE. I CAN SENSE HER CHARRED MAGIC ALL AROUND.
SHE MUST HAVE DISCOVERED THE MAP AS I HAVE— AND PERHAPS WHAT IT LEADS TO.
LET'S STEP QUICKLY. SHE HAS A HEAD START.
AHH, SAY NO MORE. A RIVAL, A WORTHY COMPETITOR! AND LET ME GUESS— AN OLD FLAME?
...YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I GOT IT, I GOT IT. WELL, DON'T YOU FRET. IF YOUR GIRL'S STILL ON THE MOUNTAIN, WE'LL FIND HER.
AND PERHAPS MY MASTER, AS WELL.
THE SCROLL WAS ANCIENT, CRYPTIC. "THE INVISIBLE EYE"... "THE SHEER FLAME?" I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF THE PYROMANCER GETS HOLD OF THE SECRET FIRST.

AT LAST, IT SHOULD BE JUST UP AHEAD.
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
IT'S BLOOD.
IT'S MINE.
YOU'LL FORGIVE MY INTRUSION.
SAGE ANOWON! YOU'RE HURT. WHAT HAPPENED?
I RAN INTO A TRAVELER WHO... MANAGED TO GET THE BETTER OF ME. I MUST PURSUE.
BUT I *BLEED*. I NEED TO FEED, AND SOON.
MASTER, I MAY HAVE JUST THE MEAL FOR YOU. THIS MAGE HIRED ME BACK AT CAMP... I THINK THAT BETWEEN THE TWO OF US...

MASTER, NO!
AUGHH—GLK—
SSSLIRK SSSLIRK
DON'T RUN. I'LL FIND YOU—OR *THEY* WILL.
STAY BACK, VAMPIRE. I DON'T FEAR YOU, OR THE GIRL.
YOU'VE SEEN HER, HAVEN'T YOU? THE FIRE MAGE? HOW LONG AGO?
I DON'T MEAN *THOSE* TWO. I MEAN THEY WHO DWELL WITHIN THE CAGE OF THE WORLD—THOSE WHOSE TIME WILL COME AGAIN. *THEY* WILL FIND US *ALL*.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?
I SEE IT NOW. YOU AND SHE ARE SOMEHOW THE KEY TO THIS PUZZLE. UNLESS I STOP YOU—
—THEN ON MY PEOPLE, ON THIS WORLD, THEY SHALL FEED!
TSSSSS
TSSSSS
TSSSSS
TSSSSS

ALL I WANT...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DO, MAGE.
...IS TO KNOW...
FOOL! I'LL SLAKE MY THIRST WITH YOUR BEATING HEART.
...WHAT HAPPENED.
AS I SUSPECTED, SHE'S HERE.
AND SHE'S ABOUT TO DISCOVER A SECRET THAT SPANS WORLDS AND MILLENNIA.

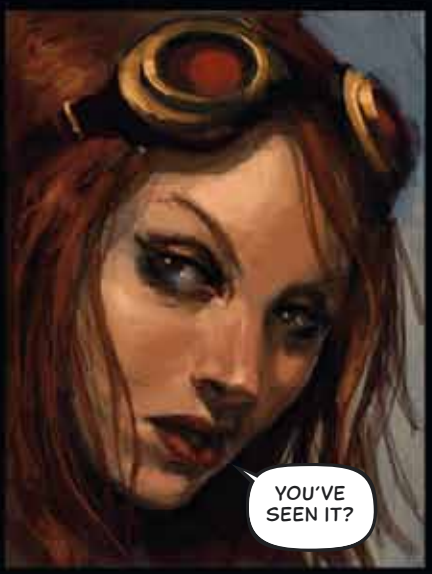
HOURS EARLIER, AS THE VAMPIRE ANOWON BLED FROM SARKHAN'S BLOW...
NO ONE ENTERS THE DRAGON'S EYE.
WWFF!
FFTT!
I'M WARNING YOU, BANDIT, OR WHATEVER YOU ARE. I'M NOT SOMEONE TO ROB ON A MOUNTAIN PASS.
QUIET YOUR SHRILL VOICE. I GUARD THE DIAMOND REALM. I CAN'T LET YOU PASS.
I SHOULDN'T EVEN LET YOU BREATHE.

FRRSSHH

KABOOM!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY FIRE MAGIC? THIS WORLD… THE MANA HERE… IT'S STRONG—AND WILD.

YOUR FIRE IS ARTLESS, BUT DRAGON-STRONG. IS THIS THE OFFERING? THE ASH-GIFT FOR WHOM UGIN HUNGERS?
UGIN? AS IN THE EYE OF UGIN?


YOU'VE SEEN IT?

TAKE ME THERE.
YES.
ONE BODY, TWO BODIES...
A GUIDE IS A GUIDE, RIGHT? ANYWAY, YOU'VE BRAINED MY OTHER ONE.
THE MIND MAGE JACE BELEREN FOLLOWS THE TRAIL OF THE VAMPIRE'S MEMORIES, TRACKING HIS FELLOW PLANESWALKERS.
"THE INVISIBLE EYE."
"THE SHEER FIRE."
IT ALL POINTS TO THE SAME SECRET AND THEY'RE BEATING ME TO IT.

THE EYE IS... THIS WAY?
THE EYE IS THE PROMISE. THE EYE IS THE DIAMOND OF OLD DREAMS.
IT IS THE BARLESS CAGE. IT IS THE CLARION VOICE, CHANTING FOR ALL WORLDS.
I HAVE THE WORST LUCK WITH GUIDES.
WHAT, IT'S JUST OPEN TO ANYONE?
I AND MY SENTRIES SHIELD THE GATE, AS BIDDEN BY MASTERS, ONE AND TWO.
I HATE TO TELL YOU, BUT YOUR SENTRIES ARE NOT LOOKING SO FRESH.
SOFT, NOW. SHRINEWARD GO OUR STEPS.

LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
THE EYE IS THE CRYSTALLINE FIRE, THE SUCCOR OF THE ANCIENTS FOR THE ILLS OF THE DEEPEST PAST.
RIGHT. AND I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON IT. SO IT'S... IN HERE, SOMEWHERE?
IT IS HERE.

THE EYE IS ALL AROUND US.
OHHHH... I FEEL IT NOW. THE EYE OF UGIN ISN'T A THING. IT'S THE POWER LOCKED IN THIS PLACE.
THE EYE IS THE INVISIBLE RAGE. IT IS THE INSATIABLE PRISON, WHOSE ONLY KEY IS SACRIFICE.
THE ENTIRE CHAMBER—MADE OF ANCIENT FIRE, FROZEN IN STONE. THIS PLACE IS THE SECRET I'VE SEARCHED SO LONG FOR.
ONE BODY, TWO BODIES, THREE AND FOUR...
AND YOU. IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO USE MY DEATH TO UNLOCK IT... MY FRIEND, YOU ARE SORELY—
I'VE BROUGHT MANY SACRIFICES, BUT NOW MY EYES SHINE TRUE. YOU ARE THE ONE TO BRING ME THE SERPENT'S CROWN.

NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE EYE OF UGIN.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO KILL YOU, VAMPIRE. YOU'RE ONLY TRYING TO DEFEND YOUR WORLD FROM OUTSIDERS LIKE ME. I UNDERSTAND THAT.
YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING.
THEN SHOW ME, OR THE FIRE MAGE BEATS US BOTH.
THE EYE IS NO BAUBLE TO BE CARRIED OFF. IT'S A CHAMBER.
CONTAINING WHAT?
HEDRONS. RUNES. ANCIENT COMMANDS THAT KEEP OUR WORLD SAFE FROM THE DEVOURERS, THE ELDR–
NO!
CHHHHSHOOM!

THREE TO ARRIVE.
CHANDRA'S ALREADY HERE. AND HOW DID A DRAGON FIT THROUGH THAT DOOR?
WELL, PYROMANCER... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME.
YOU!
HATE TO POINT OUT THE OBVIOUS, BUT I THINK WE'VE TRIGGERED SOMETHING HERE IN THIS CHAMBER.
I'M A LITTLE BUSY AT THE MOMENT!

JUST STAY BEHIND ME, AND YOU WON'T GET A HOODFUL OF—
FWOOOSHH HHHFFWP!
RRRRRRAAKCCH!
WELL THAT DIDN'T GO SO HOT.
IF YOU NEEDED MY HELP, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK.
HOW THE—? THAT SPELL NEVER MISSES.

IT'S ABSORBING THE DRAGON'S MAGIC, AS WELL—SO AT LEAST WE'RE EVEN.
KRSHKRIKKRIK
EXCEPT IT'S A DRAGON!
SO, HATE TO POINT OUT THE OBVIOUS—
BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING I SHOULD KNOW, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME.
WHUMMKRTCH!
THE SCROLL'S CIPHER...
"THE INVISIBLE EYE"—
"SHEER FIRE!" A FORM OF HEAT WITHOUT LIGHT—INVISIBLE TO THE EYE...

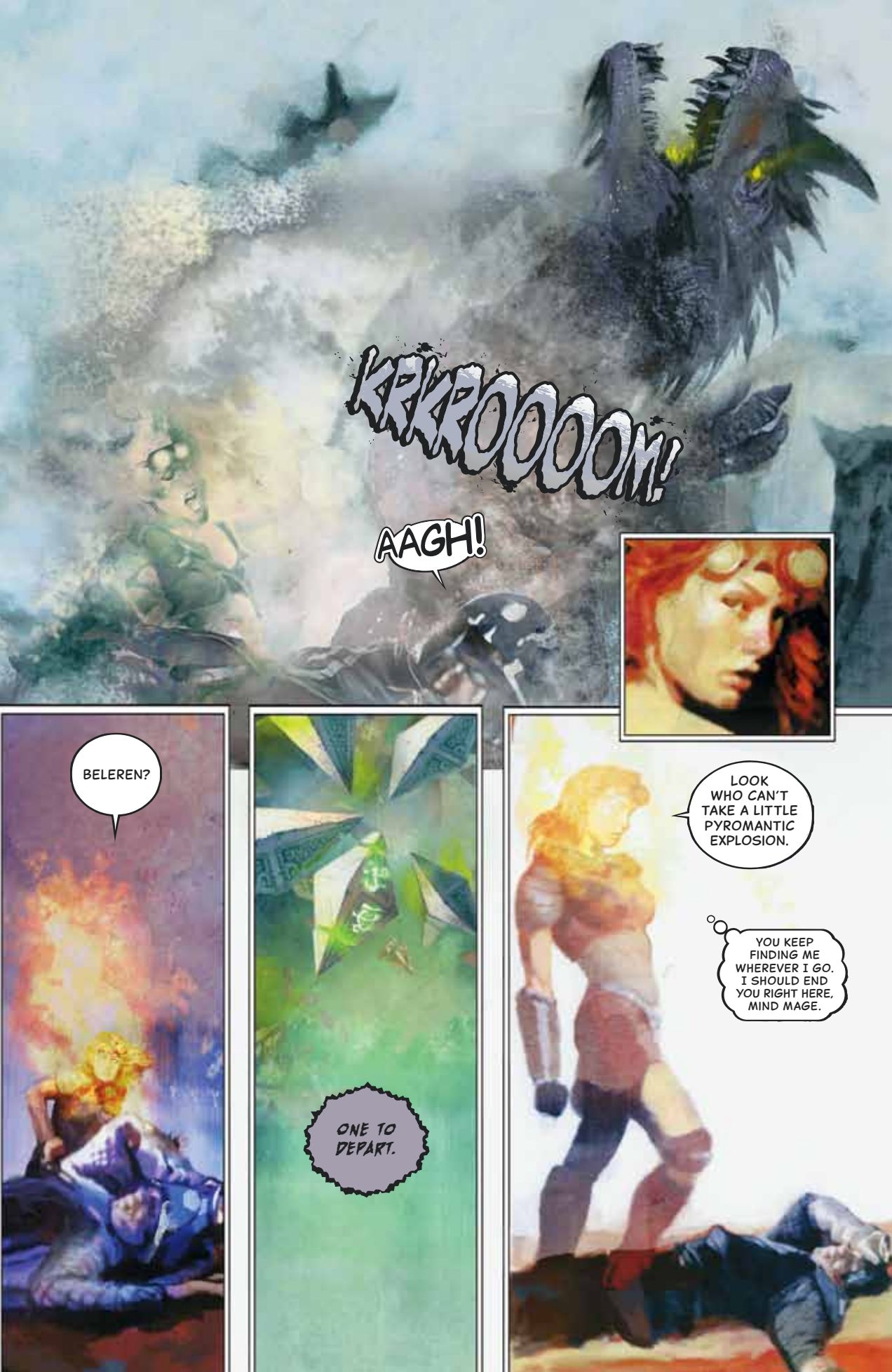
FIRE THAT CAN'T BE SEEN, CAN'T BE STOPPED.
COME ON CHANDRA. YOU CAN DO THIS.

ADVERSITY INTO ADVANTAGE.

KFWOOSHHH

ROOARRHH!

WHATEVER YOU JUST DID, DO IT AGAIN!


KRKROOOOM!
AAGH!
BELEREN?
ONE TO DEPART.
LOOK WHO CAN'T TAKE A LITTLE PYROMANTIC EXPLOSION.
YOU KEEP FINDING ME WHEREVER I GO. I SHOULD END YOU RIGHT HERE, MIND MAGE.

COME ON. WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
I'M FINE. CHANDRA—

THAT DRAGON WAS A PLANESWALKER— HE'LL RECOVER SOON.
ALL THIS... CAN'T HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT. WE WERE **LED** HERE.

THE SCROLL?
WE WERE **MEANT** TO SEE IT. WHO TOLD YOU WHERE TO FIND IT?

I'LL SEE TO THAT. I'M GOING BEFORE YOU PRY IT OUT OF MY MIND.

WHO CAUSED YOUR PATH TO CROSS MINE?

Illus. Aleksi Briclot

Illus. Aleksi Briclot

Illus. Aleksi Briclot

Illus. Aleksi Briclot

Illus. Aleksi Briclot

Illus. D. Alexander Gregory

About the Authors

Doug Beyer started out as a Magic: the Gathering fan, became web developer for magicthegathering.com, moved on to prolific flavor text writer, and eventually became the coordinator for Magic creative text. His background is in philosophy, computer programming, and cognitive science. He is the author of *Alara Unbroken* and *A Planeswalker's Guide to Alara* (with Jenna Helland). He resides in Seattle, Washington.

Brady Dommermuth is the Magic: the Gathering creative director and world-building lead. He has worked on Magic for over twelve of its sixteen years, during which time his training in literature, theater, and drama criticism has actually been relevant! He started reading comics and playing Dungeons & Dragons® in 1982. It was a very good year.

Jenna Helland is a writer and editor for Wizards of the Coast in Seattle, Washington. Her short story, "The Cloudbreaker," appeared in Magic: the Gathering's *The Shadowmoor Anthology*. Her books include *A Planeswalker's Guide to Alara* (with Doug Beyer) and *The Fanged Crown*.

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About the Artists

Christopher Moeller has been writing and painting graphic novels from his studio in Pittsburgh since 1991. His two creator-owned Iron Empires graphic novels are published Dark Horse Comics. Moeller was the cover artist for the monthly comic *Lucifer* from Vertigo, and *Batman: Shadow of the Bat* from DC Comics. An avid wargamer, Moeller has provided illustrations for a variety of game publishers, including Wizards of the Coast, OSG, White Wolf, FASA, Wiz Kids and Columbia Games.

Andrew Robinson has been working on comic books for over fifteen years. He has illustrated issues of Jack of Fables, X-Men, Barbwire, Starman, and Gen 13. He's also worked as a cover artist on such titles as Star Wars, Batman: Detective, Teen Titans, JSA, Hawkman, Starman, and Superman. His biggest accomplishment has been the creation of *Dusty Star*, a sci-fi western that he writes (with Joe Pruett) and draws.

Lucio Parrillo began working for the newspaper *Il Cavatore*. He has painted covers for *Lanciostory* and *Skorpio*, two of Italy's most famous comics magazines

Trev Hairsine's work includes runs on Judge Dredd, Ultimate Spiderman, and the X-Men. He's currently drawing a graphic novel for the French publishers, Éditions Delcourt.

Dan Scott, the artist for over seventy Magic: the Gathering® cards, has read comics as far back as he can remember. He has had the opportunity to do paintings of some of his favorite comic characters including a series of puzzles for DC Comics and covers for the various Star Wars titles by Dark Horse.

Aleksi Briclot has been producing illustrations, as well as concept art for videogames and comic books for ten years. He has painted covers for Dark Horse and Marvel, in addition to work for the Spawn graphic novels *Simony* and *Architects of Fear.*

Jason Shawn Alexander's art is primarily rooted in illustration and comics, although his personal paintings are gathering gallery attention. He's completed several collections for Dark Horse including *Abe Sapien: The Drowning*, The Escapists, and The Secret. He's worked with Oni Press, where he received two Eisner Award nominations for his run on Queen & Country. In addition, Jason was awarded a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators West for his cover work on Damn Nation. He lives in Los Angeles.

Paul Lee is a freelance illustrator. His projects include Conan, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Batman, Green Arrow, and Star Wars. In his free time, Paul is a competitive Lego builder.

Alex Horley-Orlandelli was born in the outskirts of Milan, Italy. He spent his early career working for DC Comics (Lobo), Dark Horse, Image, and *Heavy Metal*. In recent years his main focus has been producing artwork for Magic: the Gathering and World of Warcraft trading card games.

Greg Staples is an award-winning British artist best known for his energetic paintings for Magic: the Gathering, World of Warcraft, and for illustrating Judge Dredd for 2000 AD. He was a concept artist on many movies including *Doomsday* and for the forthcoming Solomon Kane. He was voted Artist of the Year 2005 by *Fantasy Magazine* and has recently illustrated the critically acclaimed *Horror Stories of Robert E Howard*. He lives in the north of England with his family.

Rafa Garres has been drawing as long as he can remember. After studying painting at the Massana School in Barcelona, Rafa went into professional illustration, working on comics like Hombres y Bestias (Glénat), Slàine (2000 AD), Lobo, Jonah Hex, Jaguar God, and many more.

Dave Kendall's first professional work was for the writer Pat Mills of *2000 AD* fame. That was followed by illustration for Brian Lumley's Necroscope series, as well as work on a comic for the rock band Metallica. Dave has provided one-shot stories for Mam Tor, *2000 AD*, and Magic: the Gathering.

Since the mid 90's, **Steve Prescott** has created a tsunami of top-notch artwork for a slew of games, books, and magazines, as well as a fistful of seven-page comic shorts for White Wolf games.

Scott Hampton began drawing comics professionally in the early '80s. His credits include *Batman: Night Cries* with Archie Goodwin (DC Comics), *The Life Eaters* with David Brin (WildStorm), and *Spookhouse* (IDW Publishing).

Fine art illustrator **Mark Texeira** is known for his work on Ghost Rider, Moon Knight, Black Panther, and his creator-owned series Pscythe. His work can be seen in Wolverine: Origins, as well as a five-issue Punisher mini-series. For more information on Mark and his work, visit www.marktexeira.com.

Nils Hamm was born in 1973 in Ratingen, Germany. He has been a freelance illustrator, painter, comic artist since 2000. His graphic novel ASTRO was published by Image Comics. He lives in Duesseldorf, Germany. Visit his website www.raketula.de.

Tomás Giorello studied how to draw comics at the Villagran Studio in Buenos Aires, and learned everything related to illustration and painting techniques by himself. He started working with comics and illustration in 1995, and hasn't stopped.

Steven Belledin was raised in Pennsylvania. He started his career completing high school art assignments for his older sisters in exchange for enough money to buy more Swedish Fish than he probably should have eaten. He currently resides among the drones of New York City, viewing life through the slats of his venetian blinds, while painting things that don't exist.

Nic Klein has worked for Marvel, Radical Comics, Panini Comics, and on such titles as New Warriors, Man-Thing, and Star-Lord. His new creator-owned series VIKING with Ivan Brandon is published by Image Comics. His work can also be found in *Spectrum* 13, 14, and 15. Visit his website www.nic-klein.com.

Izzy "Cannibalcandy" **Medrano** was trained as a visual development artist for video games and film, but also picked up some story-boarding techniques along the way. You can find his concept art and visual development work (including his sequential art) in such games as *Gun*, the Tony Hawk series, *God of War: Chains of Olympus*, and *God of War III*.

Brian Haberlin is known as a *Witchblade* co-creator, for his work on titles such as Aria and Hellcop, and for his recent run on Spawn with David Hine. He is currently working on a graphic novel.

Geirrod Van Dyke was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. The son of two artist parents, Van Dyke spent his formative years immersed in creative surroundings. In 2007 he graduated from Sonoma State University with distinction, receiving a BFA in Painting.

Vince Evans works primarily as a comic and book cover painter for titles including The Punisher, Conan, Star Trek, Black Panther. Most notable were his Nick Fury comic, top selling Spider-Man poster, plus work for the Matrix and Acclaim comics.

Karl Kopinski's career began as co-creator of Kal Jerico for Warhammer Monthly. He went on to spend 7 years as an in-house artist for Games Workshop until leaving to go freelance in 2004.

Arthur Suydam is the award-winning artist of Marvel Zombies. Combining classical painting with comic book art, he helped to create a movement that made comics more accessible to a more mature audience.

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Tezzeret, from his humble beginnings on the plane of Esper, has always desired more, but power, status and respect come hard to a scrapper's son... If he wants what he thinks he deserves, he is going to have to take it.

Liliana Vess carries the weight of several lifetimes on her beautiful shoulders. And the magic of her new-found veil will help her live many more... But she has to get that cursed barbarian, Garruk Wildspeaker, off her back first.

No matter their mission, no matter their power, the path of the planeswalker is one of otherworldly adventure, discovery and danger.

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