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DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™

It is a time of magic and monsters, a time when the civilized world has been reduced to a few scattered points of light glowing with stubborn determination amid a rising tide of shadows. It is a time when only the bravest dare tread the wilds of the unknown.

A small town built upon the ruins of a larger city, Fallcrest lies at the crossroads of the Nentir Vale, a great wilderness dotted with a handful of inhabited villages and towns where bandits and monsters roam freely, threatening all who venture far from settlements.

This is a place in need of a few heroes.

OUR TALE THUS FAR...

The town of Fallcrest is home to many adventurers, and Adric Fell leads one such group. Joined by Kahl the dwarf, Varis the elf, Bree the halfling, and Tisha the tiefling, Fell's Five have found themselves embroiled in a supernatural zombie attack plaguing the town. The trail has led the group to ancient dwarven ruins that house a dark forge used in making dark, magical weapons...

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THERE IS ONE GOOD THING ABOUT FIGHTING IN A RAPIDLY FLOODING DWARVEN DEATHTRAP...
...MAYBE THE OTHER GUYS CAN'T SWIM? I DON'T KNOW, I'M REACHING HERE.
SHADOWPLAGUE
PART FOUR: GOING DOWN

WE OUTNUMBER THEM! PUT 'EM DOWN!

WE DID OUTNUMBER THEM.
BUT BREE'S GONE MISSING!

TRAP / TYPE / CONTAINMENT.
WATER (COLD/FRESH) = NOT STALE = RIVER SO WATER = ∞

ALL TRAPS RESET / HOW?
NO PUMP / DRAIN / FLOOR SLOPE!
KK-SKKRITCH

AHA! BUT PROBLEM / PRESSURE PLATE.

HAND CROSSBOW / UNDERWATER =☺

-:GASP:-
TIME TO GO SWIMMING!
ACH! NO I DON'T–

WHOOOSH
KCHUNK

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HUGGHHH!

WHAT ARE YOU—
FINISHING THE—
SNAP
—DAMN. JOB.

BREE. YOU'RE HIRED.
CAN I GO HOME NOW?
NO. WHERE ARE WE?

YE EVER WONDER HOW PEOPLE BREATHE BELOW GROUND?
KLANG
CKKK
FIZZZ

SOME OF THESE HOLDS HOUSE A THOUSAND DWARVES. A THOUSAND SOULS BREATHING IN SEALED STONE BOXES.

BEHIND THE WALLS OF EVERY PROPERLY BUILT DUNGEON—

—IS *THIS*.

PERFECT. WE BYPASS ALL THOSE NASTY DWARVEN TRAPS.
WAIT, KHAL, DID YOUR PEOPLE EVER TRAP THESE SHAFTS?

NAE. ENOUGH PEOPLE DIED WORKING IN 'EM, SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE DEADLY ENOUGH ON THEIR OWN.

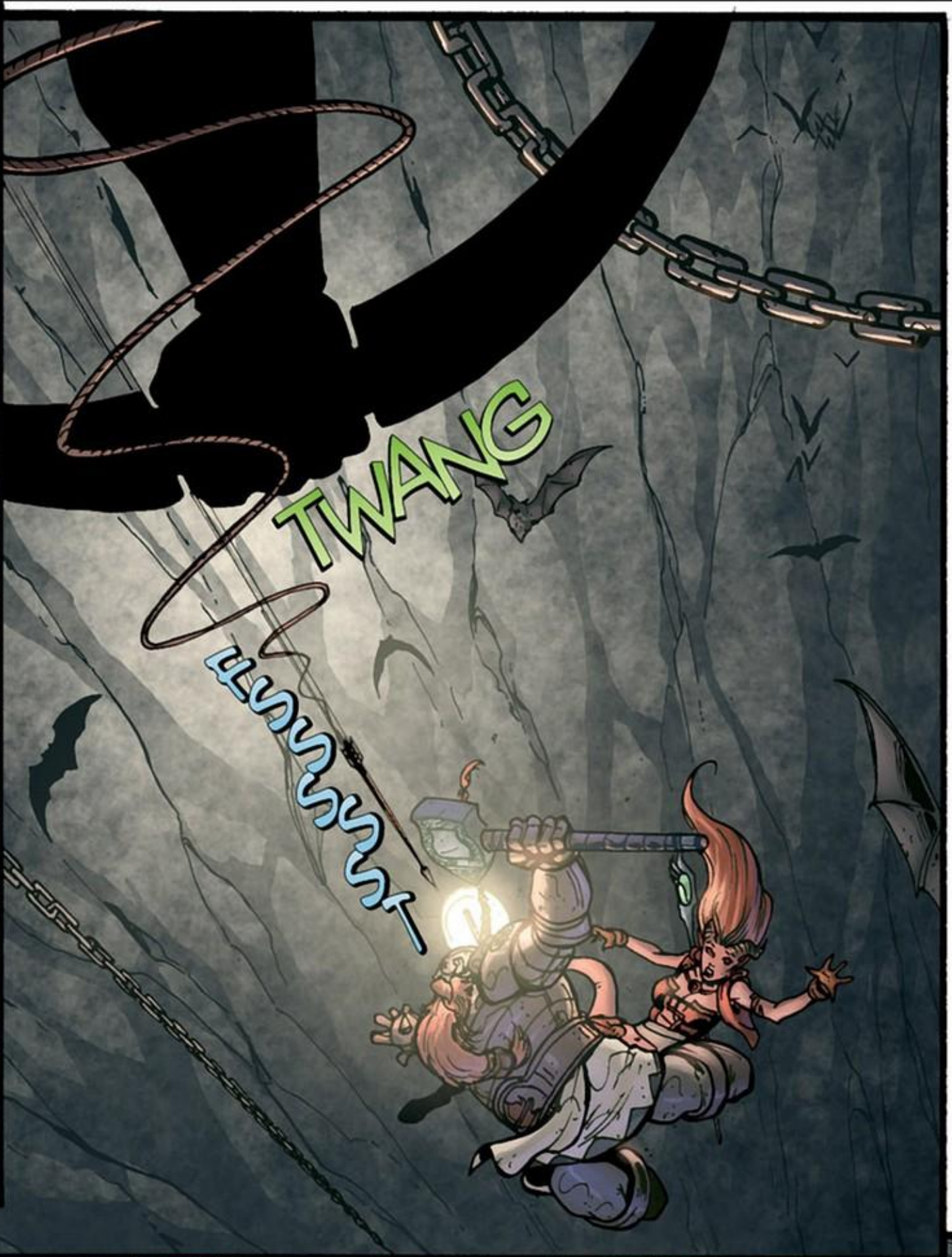
OH, GOOD.
INTERLOPERS! YOU ARE DOOMED!

YOU WILL DIE SOON! IN AGONY!
WHO IS THAT?
BIGGER PROBLEM...

...WHAT DID IT WAKE UP?

THESE AREN'T SO TOUGH!
DON'T PROVOKE THEM!
GOT IT—WAIT, "DON'T"?
BREE, STAY CLEAR!
YOU COULDN'T TAG ME ON YOUR BEST DAY!
OH, NO—
KHAL!
WHUMMF

THIS IS GOING TO HURT.


TWANG
ZZZZZZZZZT

GAHHHH!

AGH! YOU FITLHY FERN-LOVER! YOU'VE BEEN WAITING TO DO THAT!
WHUD
NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD...

ROPE'S NOT GOING TO HOLD!
THERE! SWING US OVER!

YOU HAPPENED -NNNG- TO HAVE A ROPE ARROW?

YOU HAVE YOUR PLANS, I-UUNF- HAVE MINE.

CREEEEAK

GOOD! GOOD! A LITTLE FARTHER!

NO! NO! PULL BACK!

SNAP

AAAHHH!

KHAL! TISHA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

ACH! WE'RE FINE! DON'T COME DOWN HERE! TOO TIGHT!

KEEP GOING DOWN! WE'LL TRY TO FIND EACH OTHER AT THE BOTTOM!

AGREED. MORADIN'S BLESSING.

KLING KLANG FZZZT

REMIND ME AGAIN WHY WE DO THIS?

CALLED BY MY GOD, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE. MUST BE NICE TO HAVE THAT SORT OF FAITH.

BAH. FAITH IS NEVER EASY. FAITH WITHOUT DOUBT IS MEANINGLESS.

AND DOUBT'S A HARD MASTER.

DIDN'T EVEN START AS A PALADIN. STARTED AS A POET.

SURE, A POET.

WAIT, *WHAT?*

WHAT KIND OF POETRY?

YOU WROTE LOVE POEMS?

-SIGH- LOVE.

I'M GONNA SAY IT.
DON'T.

KRASH
NEVER SPLIT THE PARTY!

TECHNICALLY, IT'S JUST A DELAYED FLANK.
LISTEN, THE ENTRANCE TO THIS PLACE NEARLY KILLED US. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BET THE REST OF THOSE SCRUFFY GRAVE ROBBERS—

YOU MEAN THE ONES WHO NEARLY TURNED US INTO MEAT PIES?
WHEN WE OUTNUMBERED THEM.
—ARE HUDDLED IN THE FORGE, WAITING TO BE RESCUED?

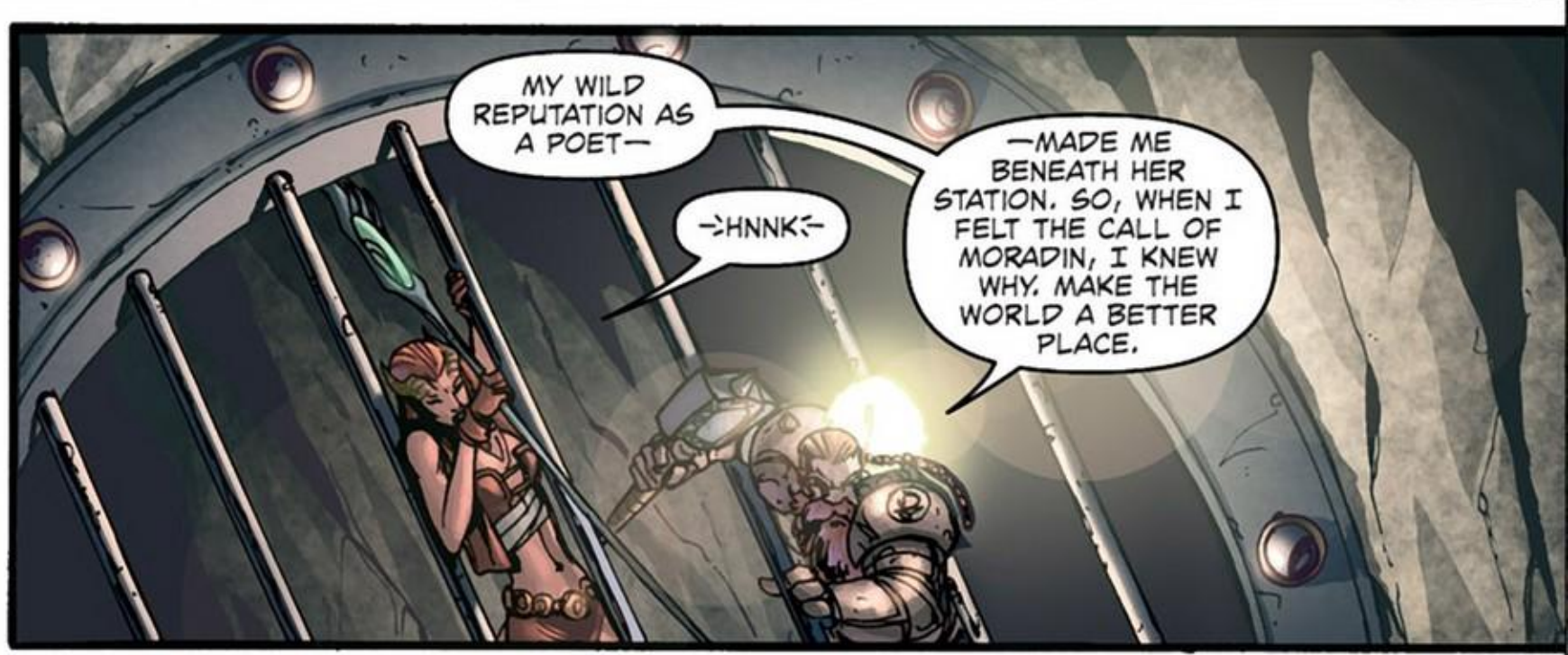
YOU'RE IN A MOOD, THEN.
THEY MAKE WEAPONS OUT OF FEY GUTS. ANYONE ELSE HERE HAVE A FEY HEART IN THEIR CHEST?

FAIR ENOUGH.
INTERLOPERS?

GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE.
"IS OUR LOVE WORTH DISOBEYING OUR CLAN?"
"NO."

I DON'T GET IT.
THEY DON'T DISOBEY BECAUSE THEY'RE DWARVES. BUT THEY *CONSIDER* IT. FOR *LOVE*.
THERE WERE RIOTS WHEN I READ THAT ONE.

MAYBE IT SOUNDS BETTER IN ITS ORIGINAL DWARVEN.
'COURSE, THAT'S PART OF MY PROBLEM. WHY MY SWEET DANNAE'S FAMILY DOES NOT APPROVE OF ME.


MY WILD REPUTATION AS A POET—
—HNNK—
—MADE ME BENEATH HER STATION. SO, WHEN I FELT THE CALL OF MORADIN, I KNEW WHY. MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

IF I RETURN WITH THE BLESSINGS OF MORADIN, WHO ARE THEY TO DOUBT ME?
NOW, WHY ARE YOU OUT IN THE WORLD?

I'M TRYING TO FIND MY PARENTS' MURDERER.

ON MY MARK.

TAKE THE RUNNER!

DON'T LET HIM RAISE AN ALARM!

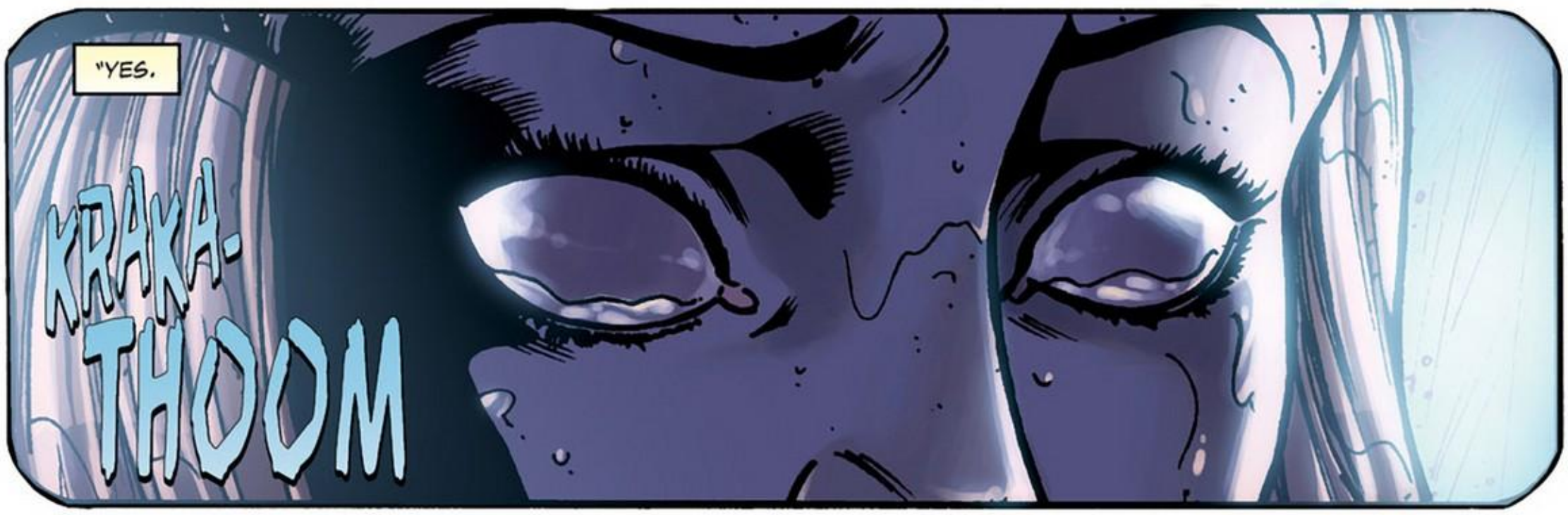
FWOOOOOSH
AAAAGHHHHH

INTERLOPERS.

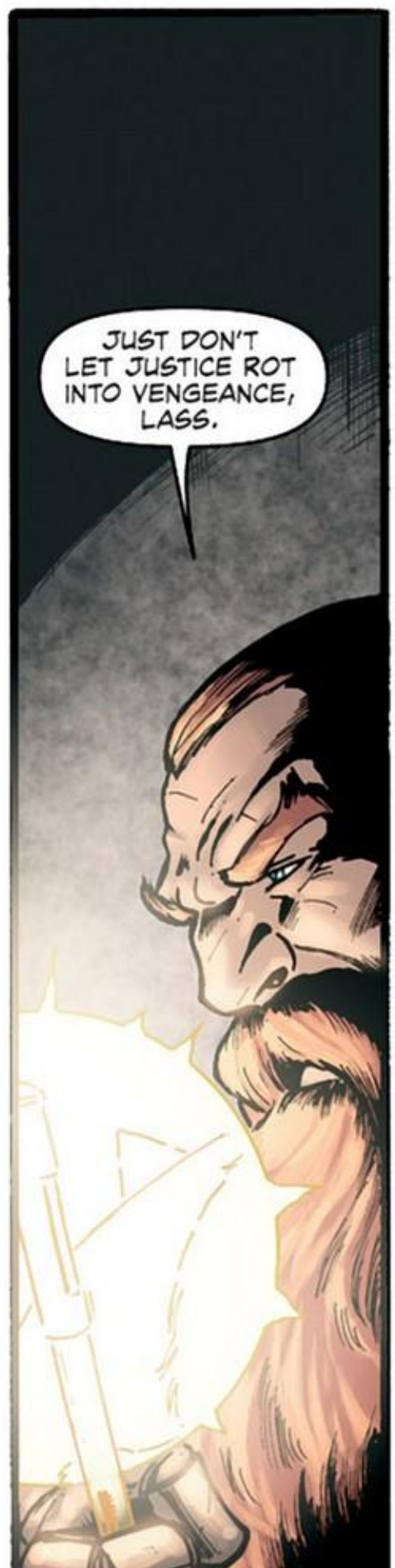
MY PEOPLE MADE A DEAL WITH DEVILS AGES AGO TO WIN A WAR. WE LOST THE WAR, LOST OUR EMPIRE, AND GAINED OUR VISAGE.
"MY PARENTS DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO FINDING THE KNOWLEDGE WE LOST IN THAT WAR. I HELPED THEM FROM THE DAY I COULD WALK.
"LIFE IN THE BOOKS MADE THEM SO HAPPY.
"MY LITTLE SISTER, TARA, TURNED THOSE STUDIES INTO AN ART. SHE BECAME A WIZARD. I STAYED IN THE BOOKS WITH MY PARENTS...
"...UNTIL THE DAY THEY DIED.
KRAKA-THOOM
"IN A FLASH OF LIGHTNING, I GOT A GLIMPSE OF THE THIEF WHO'D KILLED THEM.
"ALL TO STEAL A SINGLE BOOK. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS IN IT."

THE TRAIL LED ME TO FALLCREST. I WAS SNATCHED BY THE SLAVERS YOU KILLED, AND SO WE MET.
ACH. THAT'S A HARD LOT, I WON'T LIE.

BUT DINNAE WORRY. A HEART FULL O' JUSTICE IS A POWERFUL THING. YOU'LL FIND THE SCUM.


"YES.
KRAKA-THOOM

"AND I WILL MAKE THEM PAY."


JUST DON'T LET JUSTICE ROT INTO VENGEANCE, LASS.

AND HAVE A WEE BIT O' FAITH THAT SOMEONE'S LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDER.
HISSSSSSSSS

INTERLOPERS!

READY, SET—

OH, THEN *THESE* PEOPLE.

THEY'RE INTERLOPERS!

HOW MANY OF THESE BLOODY GRAVE ROBBERS *ARE THERE?!*

I DON'T KNOW THAT WORD.

THESE ARE SHADAR-KAI, FROM THE REALM OF SHADOWFELL. SERVANTS OF THE RAVEN QUEEN OF DEATH.

HOW'D THEY FIND THIS PLACE?

OH, THEY DID NOT *FIND* CHAD' MARAGH. THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE TO *PROTECT* IT.

PROTECT IT FROM *WHAT?!*

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FROM DISCOVERY.

WOW.

THIS PLACE IS INTACT. NOT NORMAL FOR GRAVE ROBBERS.

"GRAVE ROBBER."

I DO NOT KNOW THAT WORD.

KSHAK

CHUNK

WHIRRRR

* - DWARVEN FOR "GRAVE ROBBER." - DD.

OH NO, THEY ARE NOT HERE TO *ROB* THE DARK FORGE.

THEY ARE HERE TO *RESTORE* IT.

"SOMETHING'S HAPPENING."

"HE IS RETURNING. THE ONE WHO DRIVES THEM.

"HE IS... NOT WHAT ONE EXPECTS."

"A CYCLOPS?!"

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EMPIRE