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# DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™



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ELIS AFTER  
FRAZETTA

# 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.

One of Fell's Five, the dwarf Khal, discovers that letters from his beloved Danni are forgeries. Khal brings the others to his Dwarven Stead to investigate, but the group is confronted by an infestation of swarming insect-like kruthiks and Khal's prospective mother-in-law, who claims Danni is dead—and the cause of all the chaos. Fleeing from the enraged woman, the five escape into the mines below. Pursued by a host of terrifying creatures, they at last find Khal's beloved Danni—alive—but only after she accidentally shoots six crossbow bolts into his chest!

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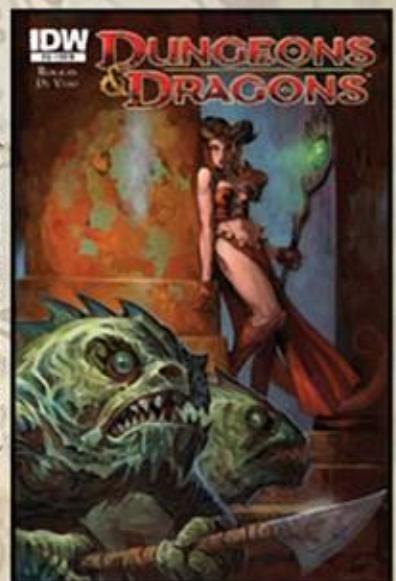
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Special thanks to Hasbro's Michael Kelly and Val Roca, and Wizards of the Coast's Jon Schindehette, James Wyatt, Chris Perkins, Liz Schuh, Kierin Chase, Laura Tommervik, Shelly Mazzanoble, Hilary Ross, and Chris Lindsay.

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THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE.

GET HIM  
TO COVER!  
NOW!

GNNNGGG.

KHAL JUST GOT SHOT  
IN THE CHEST BY HIS  
INTENDED. NOT QUITE  
THE REUNION HE WAS  
HOPING FOR.









I THINK  
THEY'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
THIS.

MORADIN'S  
BREATH.

IS IT  
LOCKED?

YES.

GOOD.

RIGHT, BEST TO  
LEAVE SLEEPING  
DEMONS LIE—

KICKKA  
CHUNK  
**THUNK**

UNLOCKED!



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WAIT, WEREN'T  
WE GOING  
DOWN?

YOU SANG  
"SONG OF THE  
ANVIL," DIDN'T  
YOU?

SOZ?

IT'S...  
SOMETHING  
ILLEGAL.

OOOO, PALADIN  
BREAKING THE  
LAAAAW.

LOOK, IF  
WE CAN GET  
UP THERE...

I'VE MAPPED  
ALL THE WATERWAYS  
THAT CROSS OVER WITH THE  
MINES. WE CAN DEFINITELY  
USE IT TO GET HOME!

AHHH, THEY  
MIGHT HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
SAY ABOUT  
THAT.

UNLESS YOU  
WANT TO RUN  
OVER THEIR  
BACKS...

"LET'S HOPE ADRIC'S HAVING MORE LUCK."

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT WAS SO BAD—

—WAIT, WEREN'T WE GOING UP?

SIGH! I HATE EVIL TEMPLES. I REALLY, REALLY DO.

OH, GREAT. EVIL WIZARD'S DEN.

MORE "WORKSHOP." LOOK BACK HERE—

WHAT THE DEVIL?

THIS ROOM'S BEEN ENTERED RECENTLY. TRACKS IN THE DUST.

THERE'S A LOT OF SYMPATHETIC MAGIC DOWN HERE, A FAIR BIT OF ALCHEMY...

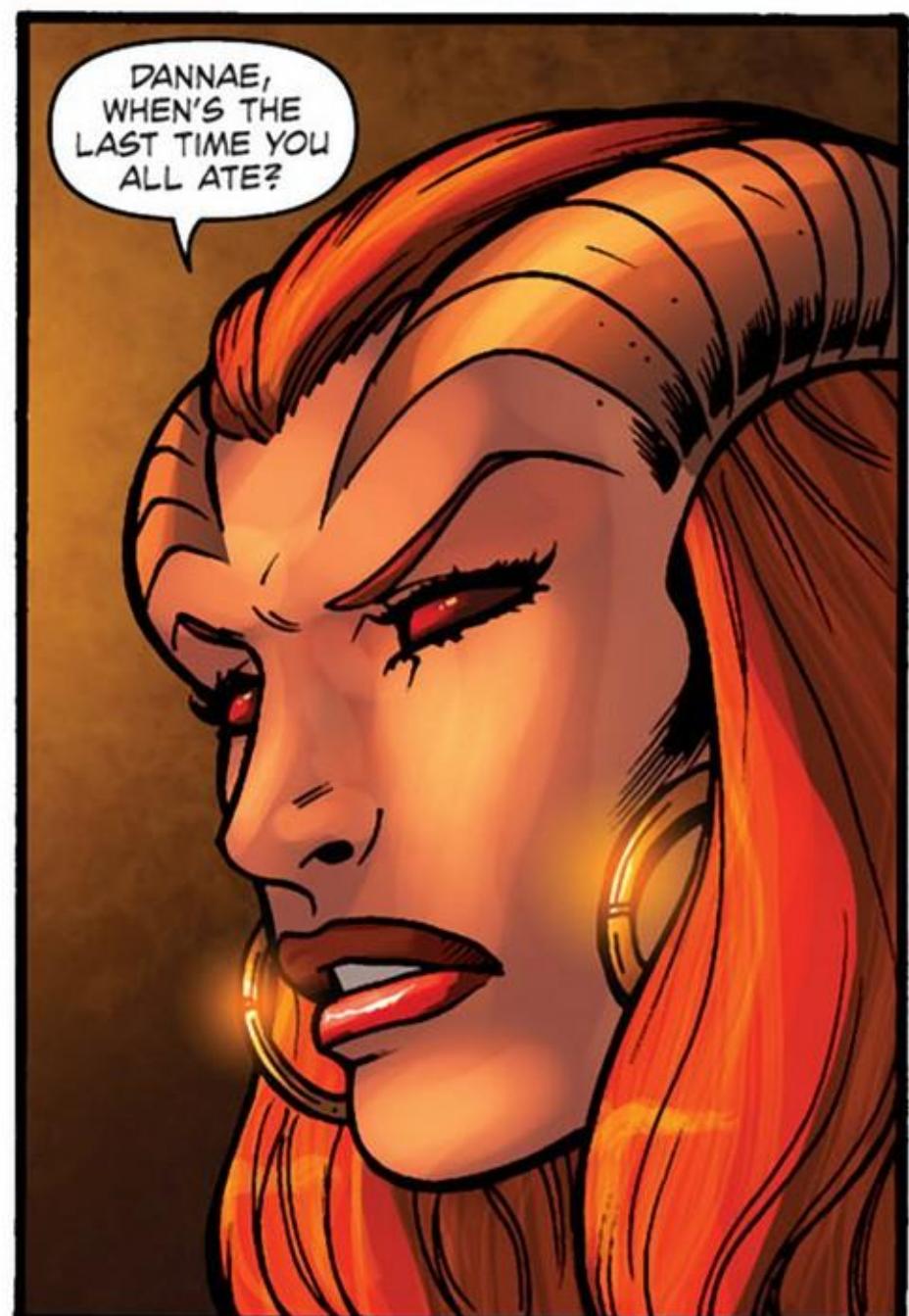
OH, HELL.

IS THAT—

WE NEED TO FIND THEM. NOW!







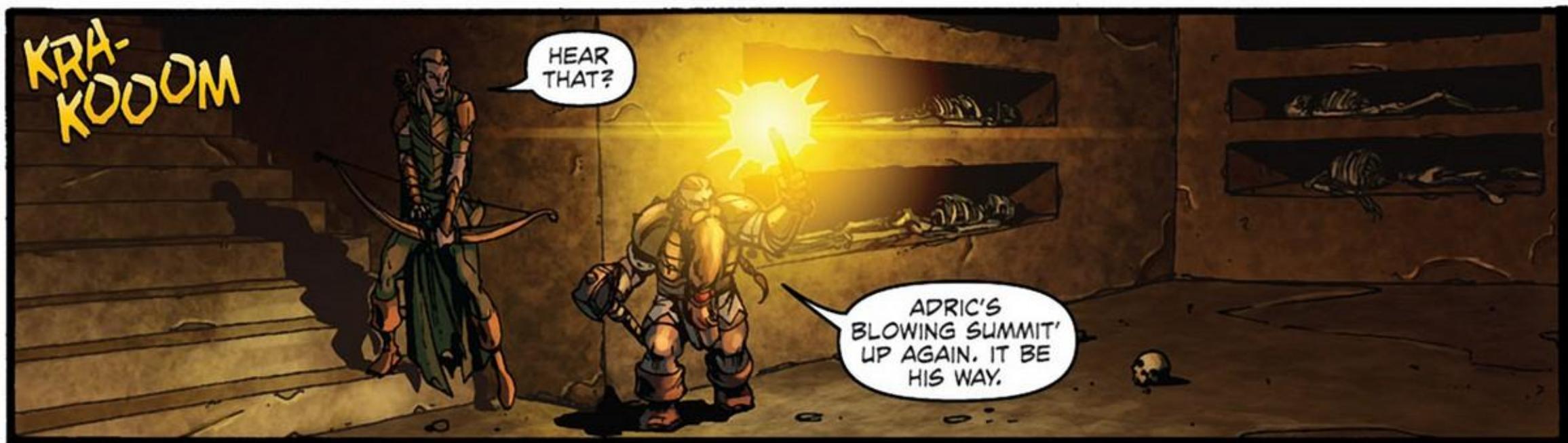




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BUT I  
HAVE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
TO KEEP.

SO I NEED  
TO MURDER  
YOU RATHER  
QUICKLY.

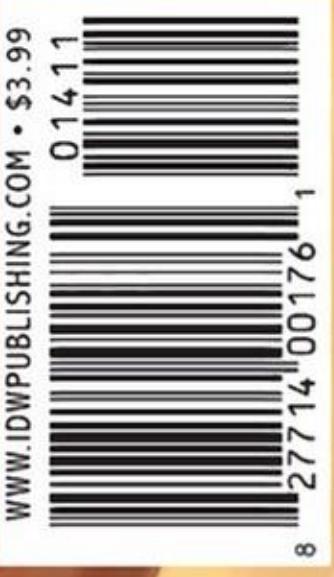
...THIS WAS TWO OF THEM.

NEXT ISSUE: EYESALKS!  
NEW FRIENDS—WHO  
STILL WANT TO EAT YOU!  
THE END OF "DOWN!"

# **NEXT MONTH: THE HEAT IS ON!**



Front Cover by Tyler Walpole



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# EMPIRE

