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• NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING MANGA •

WARCRAFT



LEGENDS VOLUME FIVE

GOLDEN • RANDOLPH • SIMONSON • FREDERICKSEN
KNAAK • KIM • AWANO • KAWAKAMI • PAS

LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

GOLDEN • RANDOLPH • SIMONSON • FREDERICKSEN • KNAAK • KIM
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Warcraft: Legends Vol. 5

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WARCRAFT

LEGENDS™

VOLUME FIVE



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A WARRIOR MADE--PART 2 06*

BY CHRISTIE GOLDEN & IN-BAE KIM

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NIGHTMARES 160

BY RICHARD A. KNAAK & ROB TEN PAS



WARCRAFT®

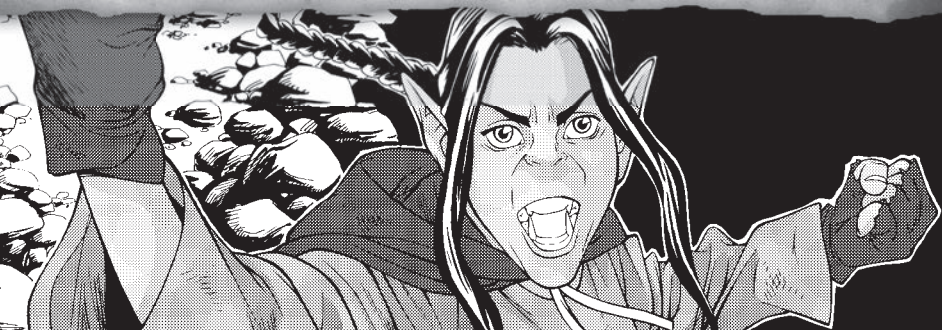
LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

A WARRIOR MADE--PART 2

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STORY SO FAR

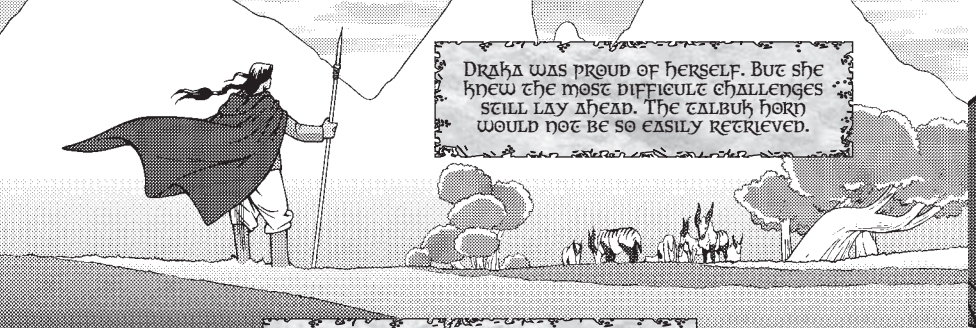
Draka was a Frostwolf clan orc born with a frail and weak body. Though loved unconditionally by her parents, the same can't be said for her fellow clan members, who viewed Draka's condition as an embarrassment--so much so that they banished Draka and her parents to the outskirts of the village.

Years later, when Draka was a young woman, she decided to take her destiny into her own hands and restore her family's honor. To do this she sought the council of Mother Kashur, the kind, elderly village shaman. Draka begged Mother Kashur to create a potion or spell to make her stronger and rid her of her shameful, sickly body.

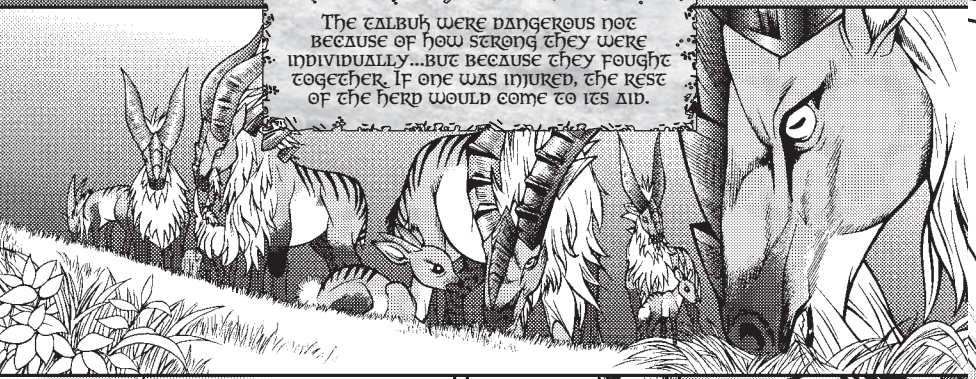
Mother Kashur agreed to help, and requested Draka make an arduous journey to find the three ingredients she would need for the spell: for speed and grace she would need the feather of a windroc, for support of her clan the horn of a talbuk, and finally, for strength and determination, the fur of a clefthoof. With renewed hope for redemption, Draka set out on her dangerous journey.

At first it was difficult even finding shelter and hunting food for herself, but through perseverance Draka gradually developed enough skills and confidence to not only survive, but to face her first challenge--the windroc. Tracking the bird to its nest in Terokkar forest proved difficult as the terrain was harsh, but Draka managed to overcome her fears and confront the bird. Through skills she developed while hunting game for food, Draka was able to spear and kill the bird--and obtain the first ingredient of the spell!

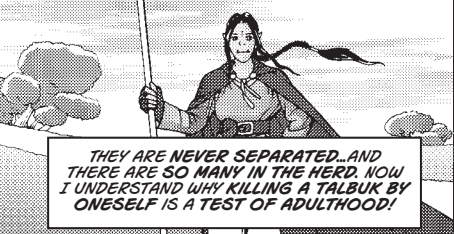
And now, with two more ingredients left, her path to honor has only just begun as the hardest challenges have yet to be conquered...



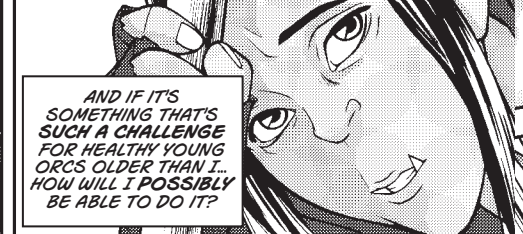
DRAGA WAS PROUD OF HERSELF. BUT SHE KNEW THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES STILL LAY AHEAD. THE TALBUK HORN WOULD NOT BE SO EASILY RETRIEVED.



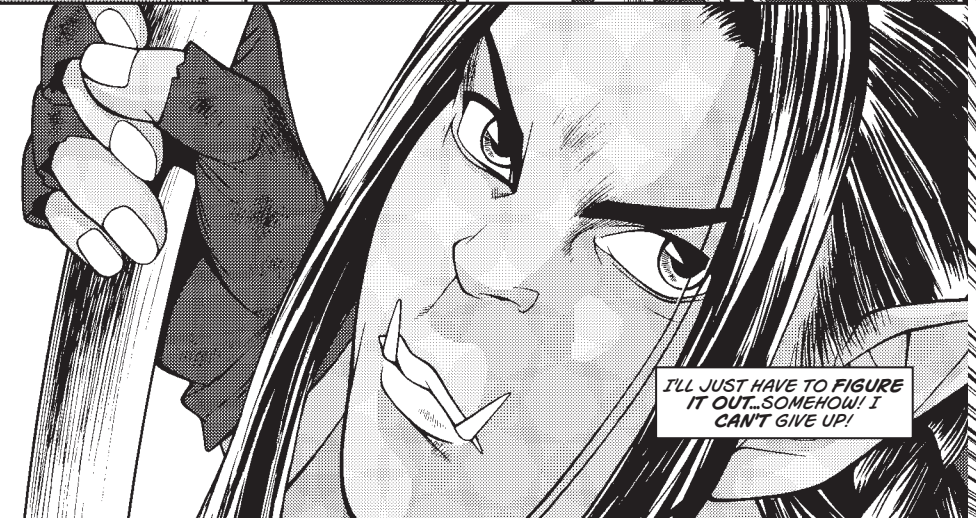
THE TALBUK WERE DANGEROUS NOT BECAUSE OF HOW STRONG THEY WERE INDIVIDUALLY...BUT BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT TOGETHER. IF ONE WAS INJURED, THE REST OF THE HERD WOULD COME TO ITS AID.




THEY ARE NEVER SEPARATED...AND THERE ARE SO MANY IN THE HERD. NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY KILLING A TALBUK BY ONESELF IS A TEST OF ADULTHOOD!



AND IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S SUCH A CHALLENGE FOR HEALTHY YOUNG ORCS OLDER THAN I... HOW WILL I POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO DO IT?



I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT...SOMEHOW! I CAN'T GIVE UP!



So for the next turn of the moon,
Draka simply watched the herd. She
saw where they ate, noticed when
and where they slept. She observed
their patterns and routines...

...and she knew what to do.
But she would have to be
prepared to act swiftly once
she put her plan in motion.

**THE
GOAT
HUNT**

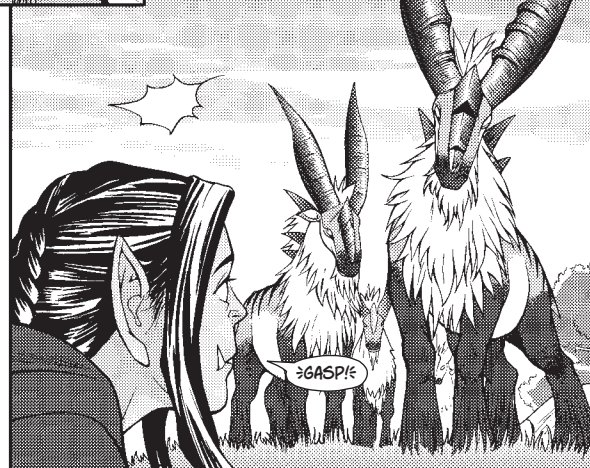
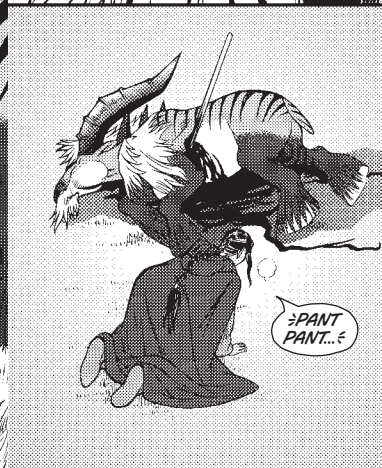
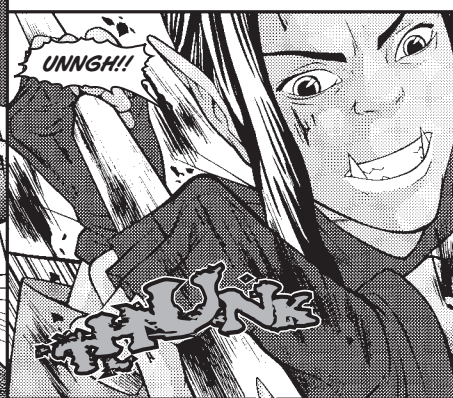


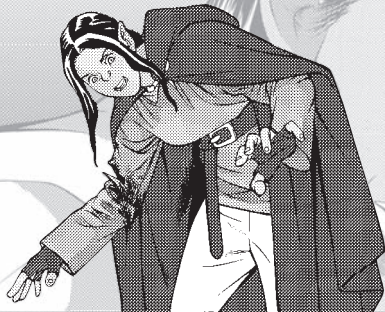
SNAG

THWANG

BLEAT!!

THWUMP





IF YOU ARE EVER IN DANGER FROM A TALBUK, CHILD, REMEMBER--THEY SUPPORT EACH OTHER, BUT THEY WILL RUN AWAY FROM A POWERFUL PREDATOR WHO HAS KILLED A HERD MEMBER.


WHAT DID I TEACH YOU TO DO, DRAKA?

TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK AS BIG AND SCARY AS I CAN, MOTHER!


RRRAAAAAGHHHHHHH!!!

...THANK YOU, MOTHER! THANK YOU...


AND SO DRAKA WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN THE SECOND ITEM SHE NEEDED FOR THE POTION.



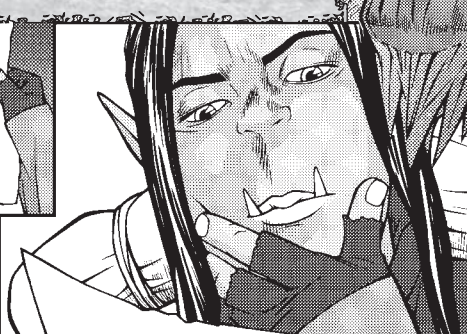
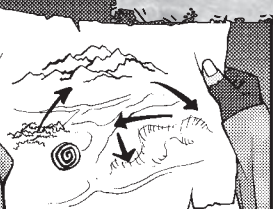
The moon waxed and waned yet again before Draha was ready to travel to the shadow of Oshu'gun to hunt the mighty elechoof.

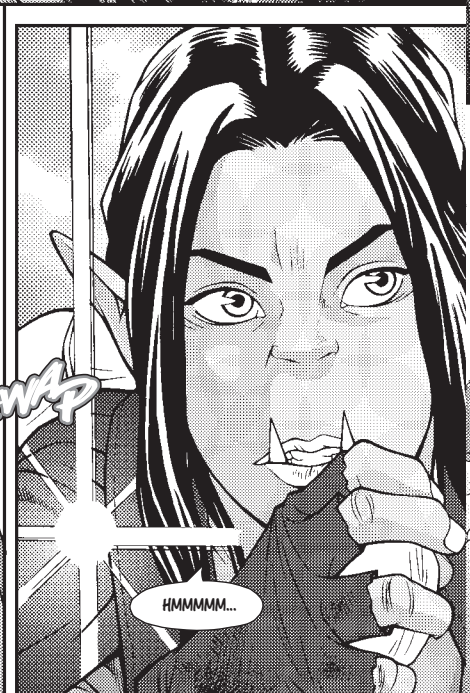
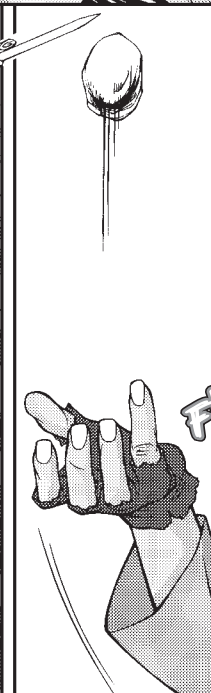
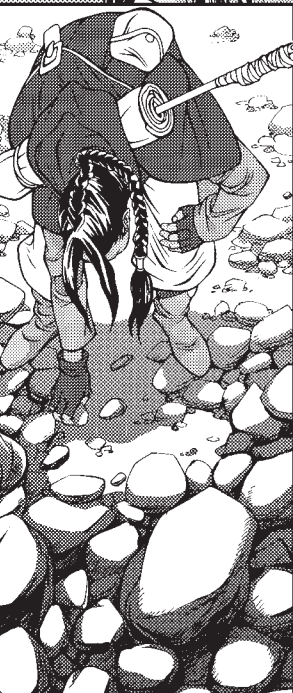
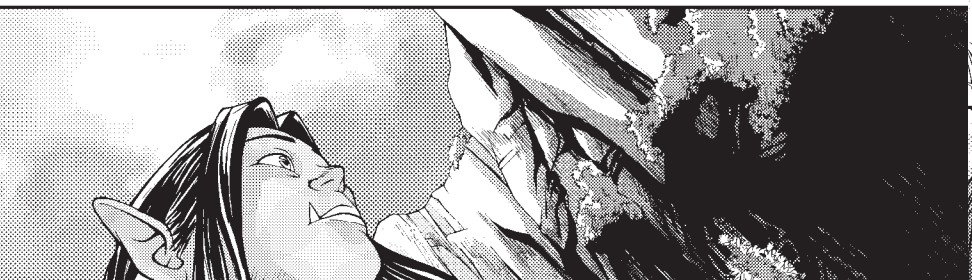
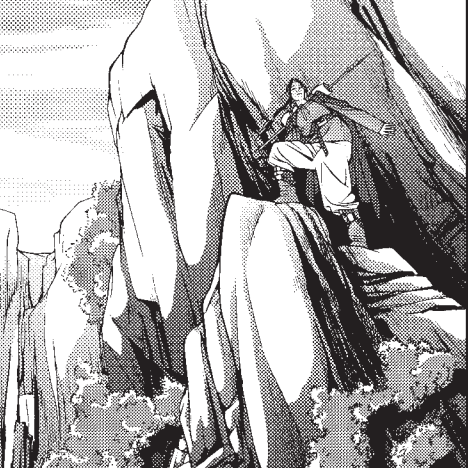


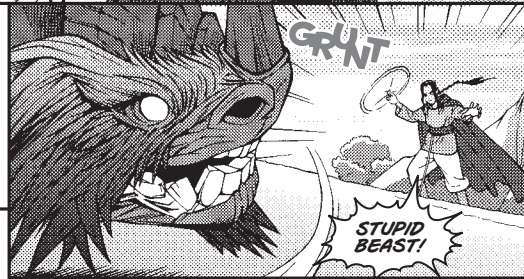
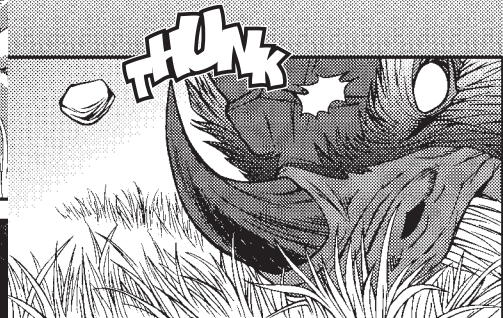
They were powerful animals, stronger by far than the talbuk or the windroc, and they knew little fear. Many an ore had been trampled beneath the cloven hooves for which the great beasts were named.



Draha knew she would have to use everything she had learned so far if she were to not become one of those ores. She would have to take her time—observe everything—and make a plan.









YES! I'M TALKING TO
YOU, YOU GREAT LUMBERING
OAFISH CREATURE!

I, DRAKA,
DAUGHTER OF KELKAR,
SON OF--



RRRRRR



THOOM

THOOM



...TH-THAT WAS
FAST...





NYUH!!

UNGH!

WHEW!



I FELL SO FAR--IT'S SUCH A LONG WAY UP, AND MY BODY ACHES SO MUCH...

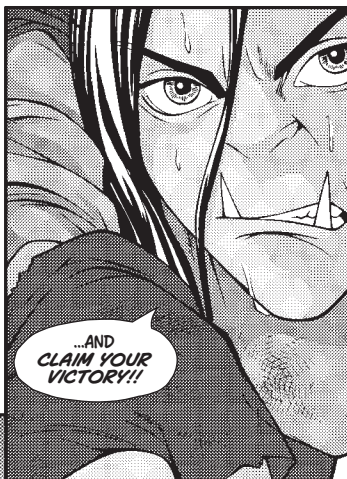


AAAHHHH!



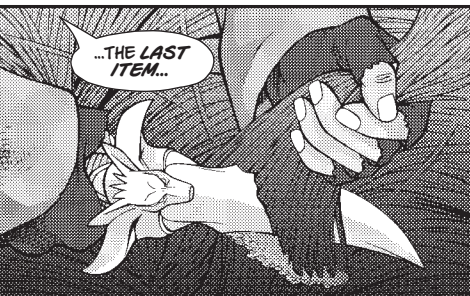
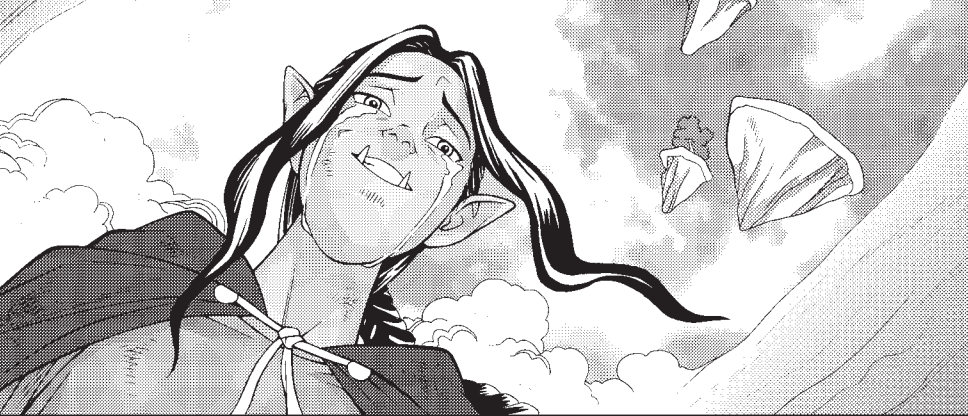
C-COME ON, DRAKA...YOU CAN DO THIS!!

YOU'RE ALMOST D-DONE...JUST GET TO THE TOP, THEN WALK BACK D-DOWN...



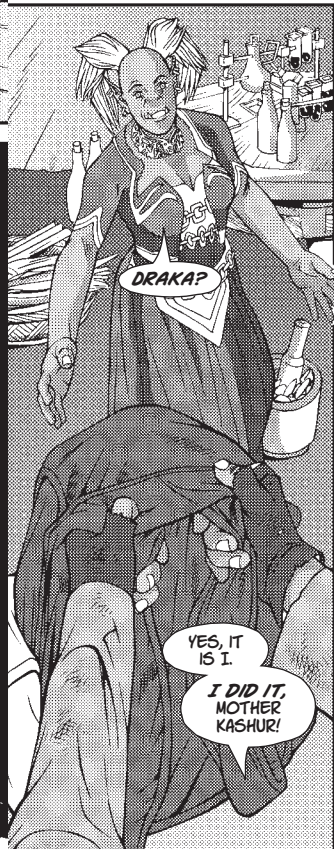
...AND CLAIM YOUR VICTORY!!







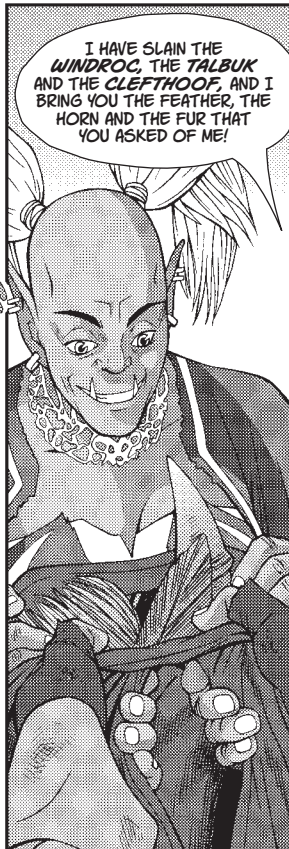
WHAT!
WHO...?



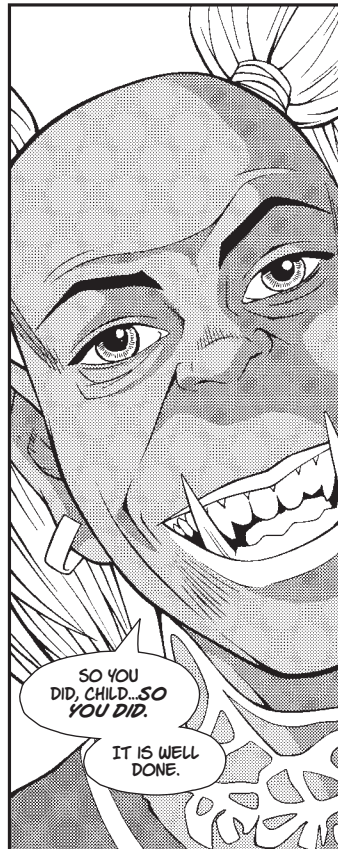
DRAKAP

YES, IT IS I.

I DID IT,
MOTHER
KASHUR!



I HAVE SLAIN THE
WINDROC, THE TALBUK
AND THE CLEFTHOOF, AND I
BRING YOU THE FEATHER, THE
HORN AND THE FUR THAT
YOU ASKED OF ME!



SO YOU DID, CHILD...SO
YOU DID.

IT IS WELL
DONE.



SO...YOU WILL
DO WHAT YOU
PROMISED?


YOU WILL MAKE ME A
POTION THAT WILL MAKE
ME A PROUD AND STRONG
FROSTWOLF WARRIOR?



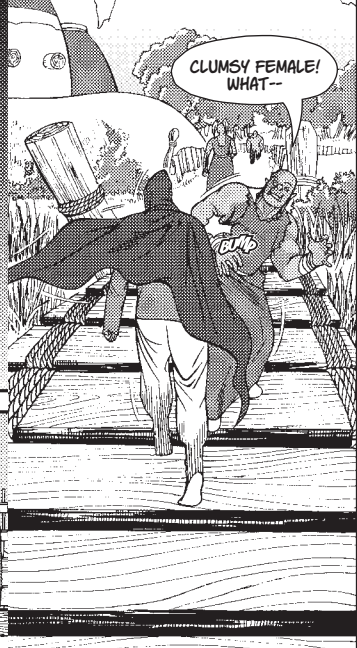
NO. I WILL
NOT MAKE YOU
A POTION.

WH-WHAT?! TELL
ME WHY YOU WILL NOT
DO THIS?!

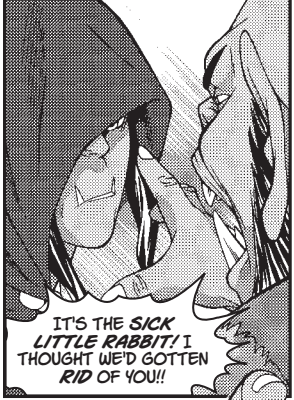
I HAVE DONE
EVERYTHING YOU
ASKED OF ME!!



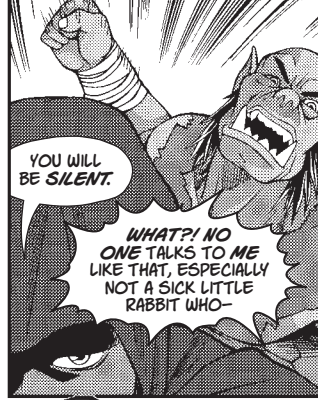
COME WITH ME,
DRAKA...AND I WILL
SHOW YOU WHY.



CLUMSY FEMALE!
WHAT--

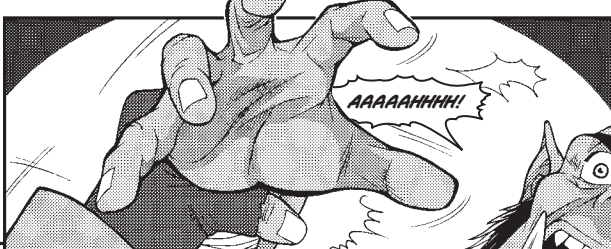


IT'S THE SICK
LITTLE RABBIT!
I THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN
RID OF YOU!!



YOU WILL
BE SILENT.

WHAT?! NO
ONE TALKS TO ME
LIKE THAT, ESPECIALLY
NOT A SICK LITTLE
RABBIT WHO--



AAAAHHHHH!

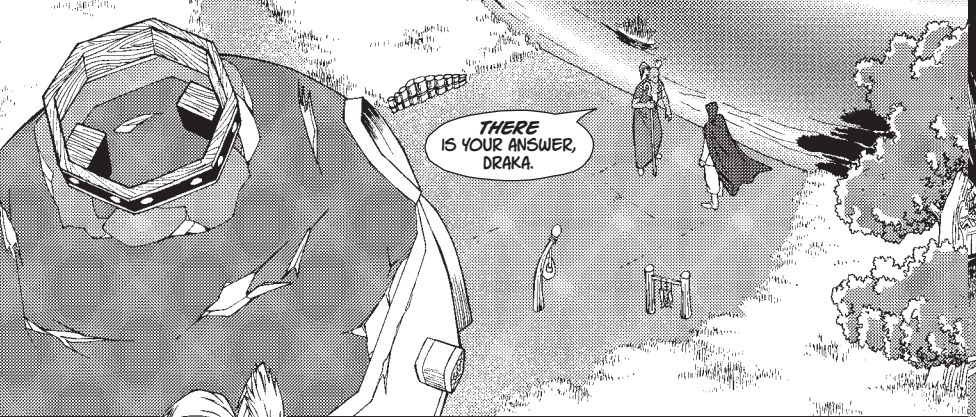


I SAID BE
SILENT!!

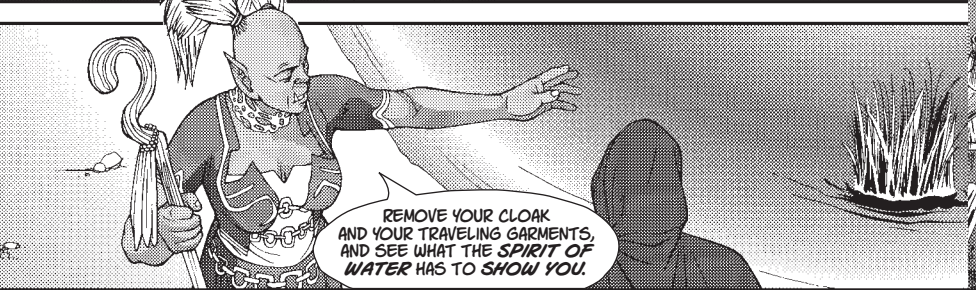
WHA..?
HOW DID I...?

COME ALONG
CHILD, I GROW NO
YOUNGER!

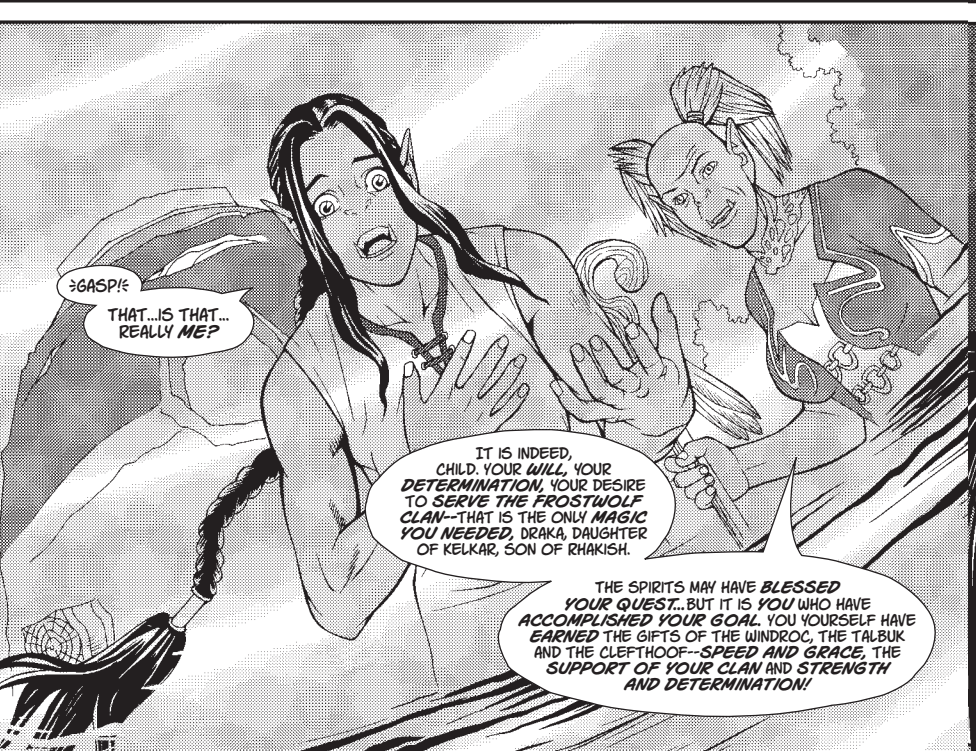
MOTHER
KASHUR! I...
WHAT... I AM
COMING!



THERE IS YOUR ANSWER, DRAKA.



REMOVE YOUR CLOAK AND YOUR TRAVELING GARMENTS, AND SEE WHAT THE SPIRIT OF WATER HAS TO SHOW YOU.



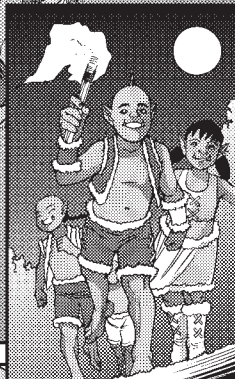
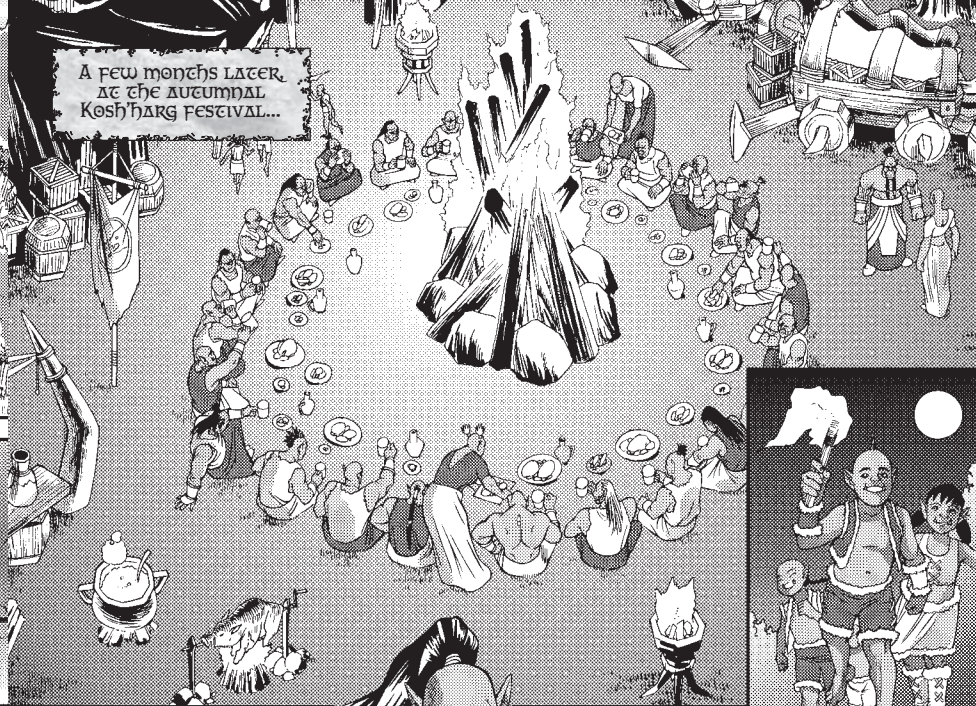
>GASP!<

THAT...IS THAT... REALLY ME?

IT IS INDEED, CHILD. YOUR WILL, YOUR DETERMINATION, YOUR DESIRE TO SERVE THE FROSTWOLF CLAN--THAT IS THE ONLY MAGIC YOU NEEDED, DRAKA, DAUGHTER OF KELKAR, SON OF RHAKISH.

THE SPIRITS MAY HAVE BLESSED YOUR QUEST... BUT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR GOAL. YOU YOURSELF HAVE EARNED THE GIFTS OF THE WINDROC, THE TALBUK AND THE CLEFTHOOF--SPEED AND GRACE, THE SUPPORT OF YOUR CLAN AND STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION!

A FEW MONTHS LATER,
AT THE AUTUMNAL
KOSH HARG FESTIVAL...

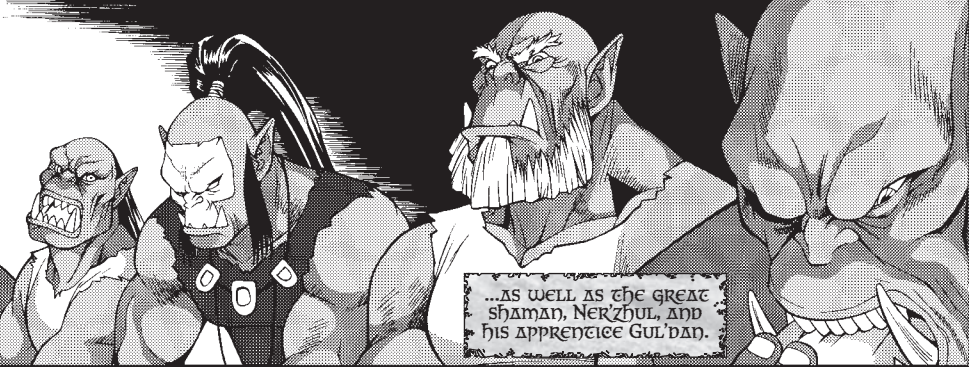


...DURGAN, SON OF GARAD, FUTURE
CHIEFTAIN OF THE FROSTWOLF CLAN,
AND HIS FRIEND ORGRIM DOOMHAMMER
OF THE BLACKROCK CLAN, SAT FACE TO
FACE WITH SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS
ORES THAT HAD EVER LIVED.



GROM HELLScream, YOUNG
LEADER OF THE WARSong CLAN...
BLACKHAND, CHIEFTAIN OF THE
BLACKROCK CLAN...KARGATH
BLADEFIST...KILROGG DEAD-EYE...





...AS WELL AS THE GREAT SHAMAN, NERZHUL, AND HIS APPRENTICE GUL'DAN.

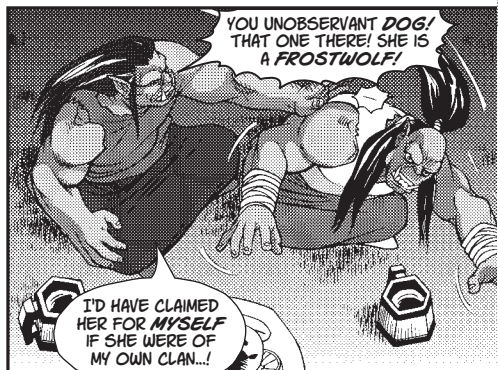


I THINK THAT GUL'DAN WOULD BETTER SERVE HIS PEOPLE IF HE WERE SET OUT AS BAIT.



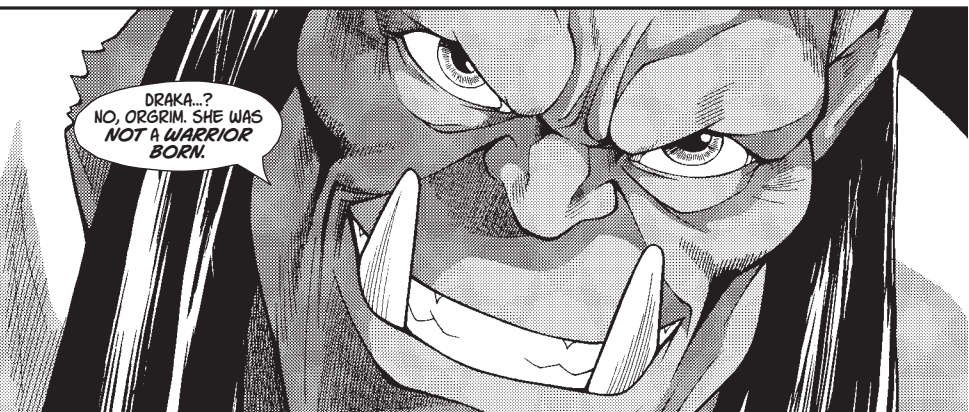
NOW THAT ONE... SHE IS A WARRIOR BORN.

WHO...?



YOU UNOBSERVANT DOG! THAT ONE THERE! SHE IS A FROSTWOLF!

I'D HAVE CLAIMED HER FOR MYSELF IF SHE WERE OF MY OWN CLAN...!



DRAKA...? NO, ORGRIM, SHE WAS NOT A WARRIOR BORN.

SHE IS A
WARRIOR MADE.

A WARRIOR MADE,
IN TRUTH...

...BY HER OWN
HAND.

ДРАЖА... МАЦЕ ОФ
ДУРОЌАН...

...МОЧЕР...

...ОФ ТРАЛЛ...

END



WARCRAFT®

LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

WARRIOR: UNITED

WRITTEN BY GRACE RANDOLPH

PENCILS BY ERICA AWANO

INKS BY TOMAS AIRA & LEANDRO RIZZO

TONES BY GONZALO DUARTE

RETOUCH ARTIST & LETTERER: MICHAEL PAOLILLI



STORY SO FAR

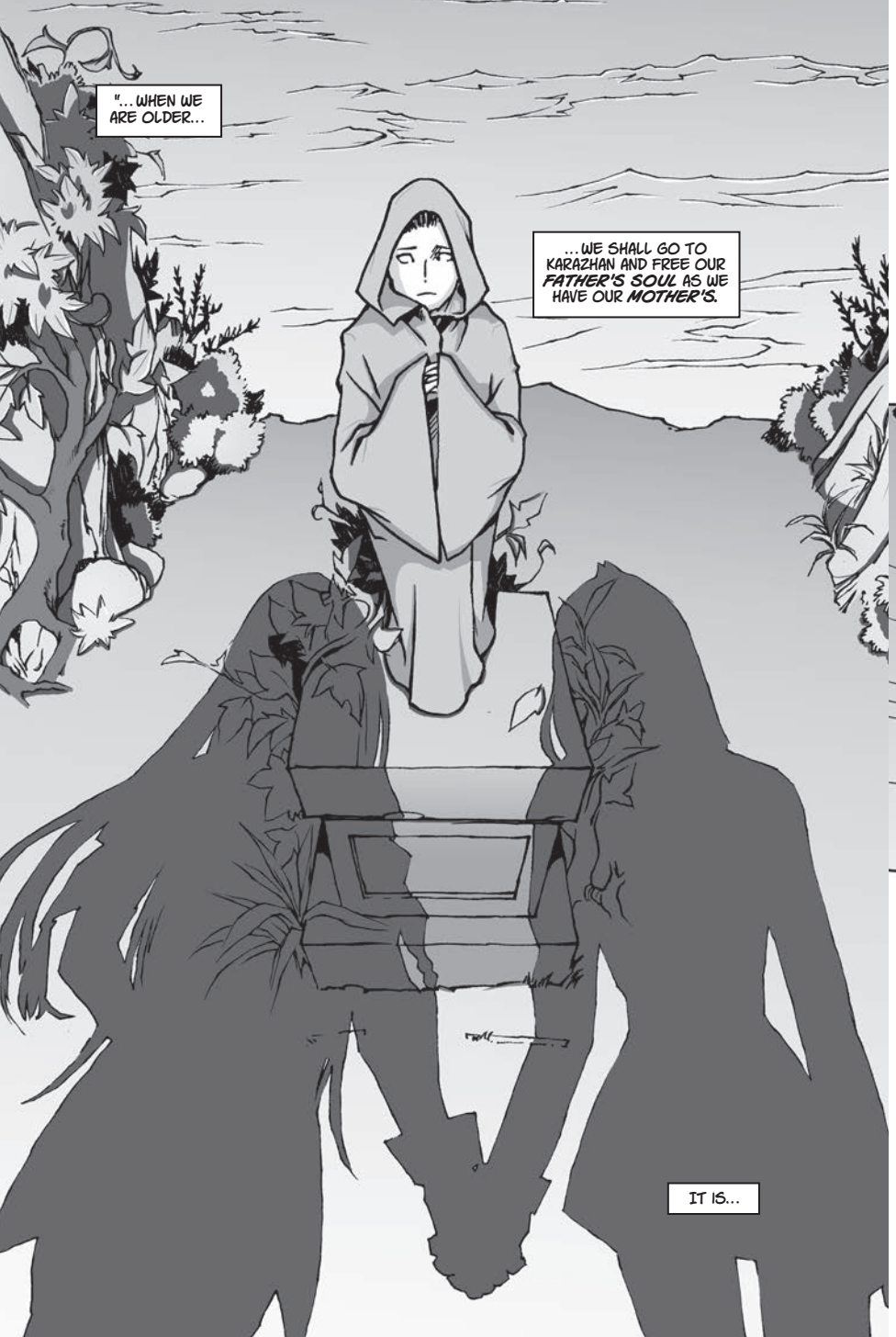
The Wildhammer dwarves are a close-knit clan, yet one of their own, a dwarf named Kardan, was raising a human girl named Lieren. Kardan kept the details surrounding Lieren's past a secret, even to Lieren herself. And though he raised her as any loving father would, Lieren still felt like an outsider, which led to an obsession with uncovering her past.

One night Lieren secretly followed Kardan to the high elf retreat Quel'Danil, where she made a shocking discovery... she had a twin sister named Loania. Raised by a high elf named Voldana, Loania—just like Lieren—had no knowledge of her past, or that she had a twin sister.

With their ruse revealed, it was with guilty hearts that Kardan and Voldana told the girls how they accompanied their birth father, a human paladin named Dougan, on his mission to rescue villagers from the cursed tower of Karazhan. Unfortunately, brave hearts and noble intentions were not enough to defeat the evil within and they were forced to retreat...but not before Dougan was killed in the process. Kardan and Voldana sadly delivered the news to Dougan's wife but, so immense was her grief her mind snapped, rendering her unfit to raise their twin baby girls. And so Kardan and Voldana decided to honor their fallen colleague by raising the twin daughters as their own.

While Lieren and Loania shared little in common besides their appearance, they both insisted on going to see their mother. However, upon arrival at their old home, the twins learned that their mother had died, only to be reborn as one of the undead. The girls set upon the grisly task of finding and freeing their mother from her rotting prison of flesh...by beheading her.

It was then, with their mother's soul finally laid her to rest, Lieren and Loania swore an oath at her grave...

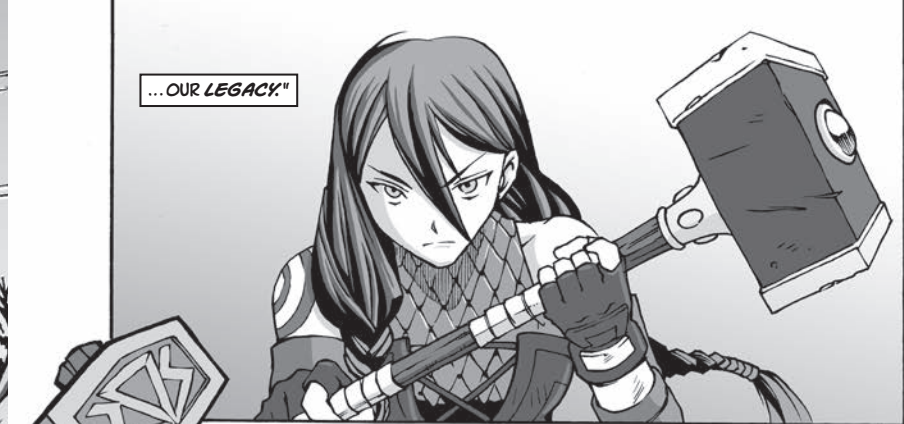


"... WHEN WE
ARE OLDER..."

... WE SHALL GO TO
KARAZHAN AND FREE OUR
FATHER'S SOUL AS WE
HAVE OUR MOTHER'S.

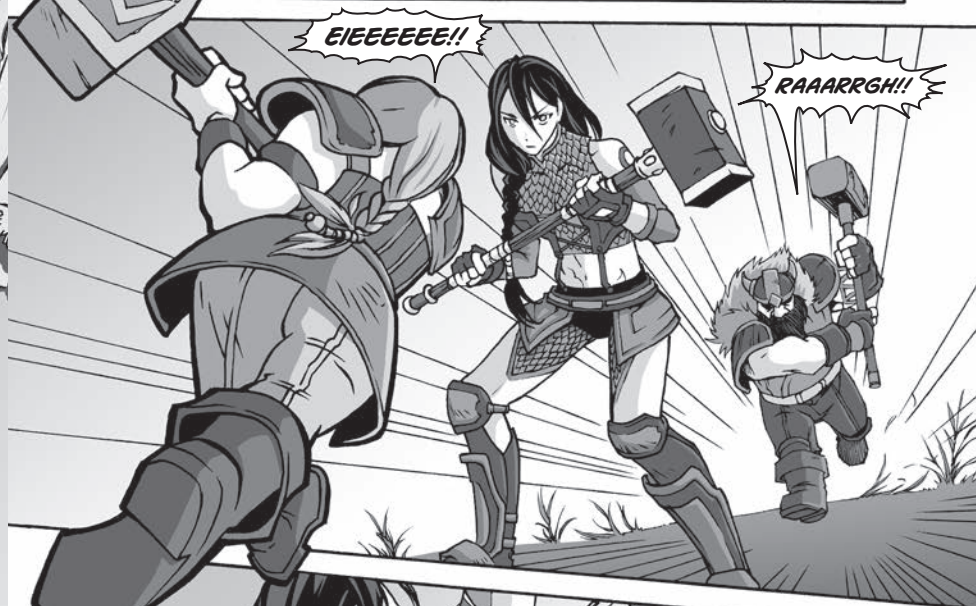
IT IS...

...OUR LEGACY!"



EIEEEEEEE!!

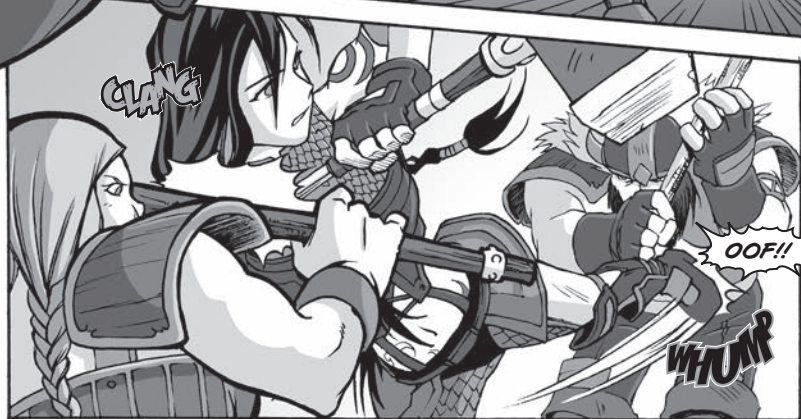
RAAARRGH!!



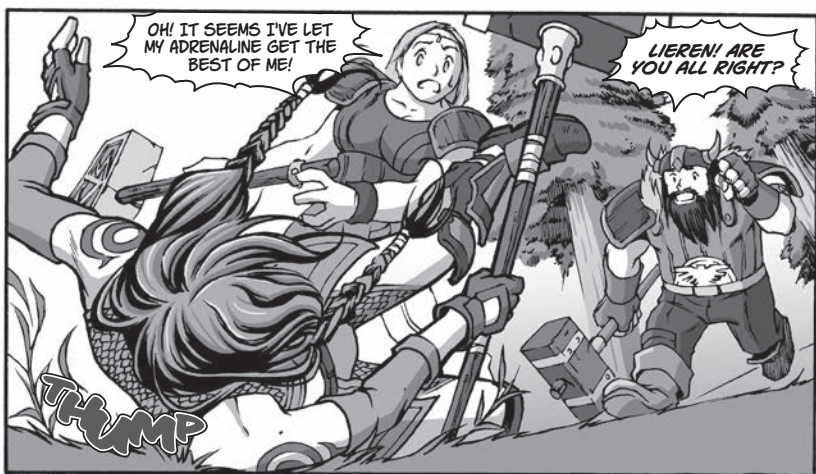
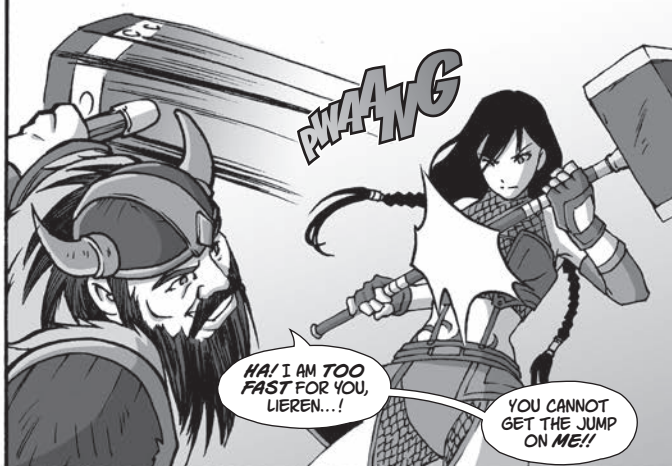
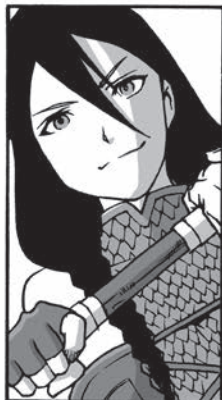
CLANG

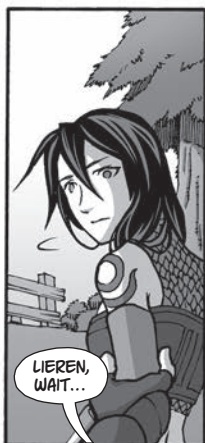
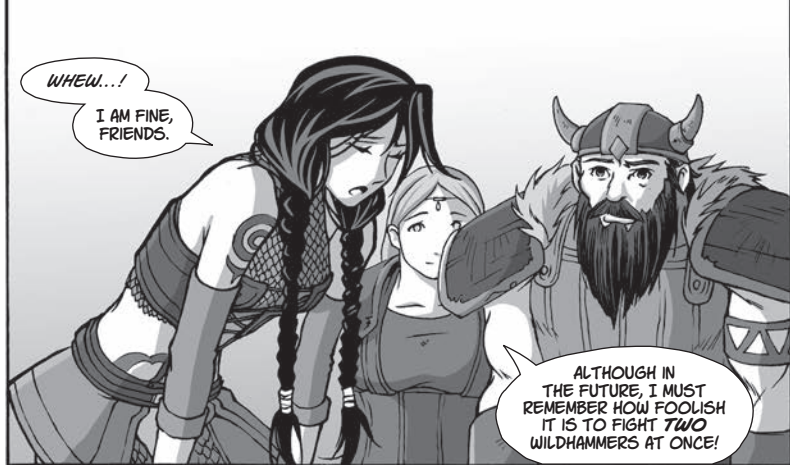
OOF!!

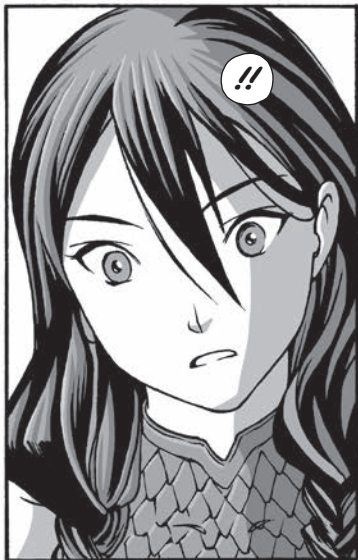
WHUMP













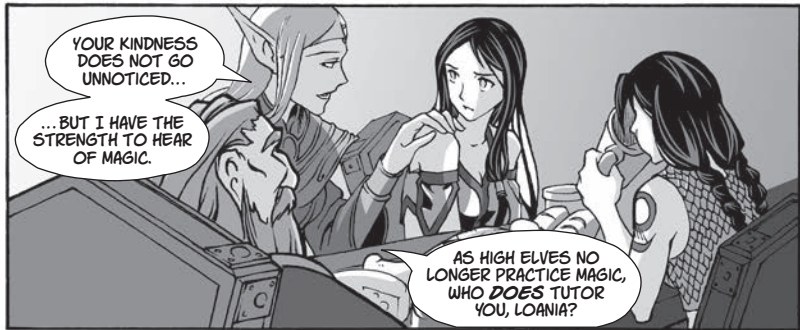
THAT HIGH...

SO TELL ME,
LOANIA...



...HOW DO
YOUR STUDIES
IN MAGIC?

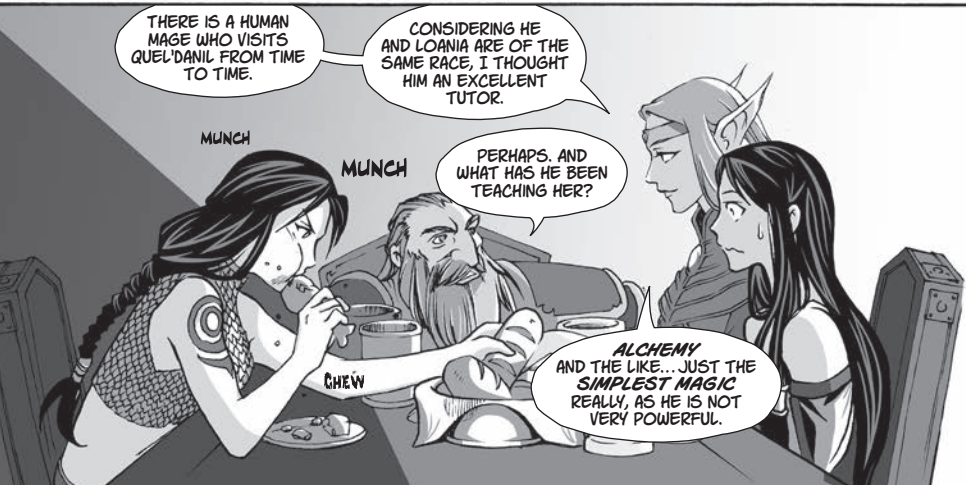
I...I DO NOT
WISH TO TALK OF
MY STUDIES BEFORE
VOLDANA...



YOUR KINDNESS
DOES NOT GO
UNNOTICED...

...BUT I HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO HEAR
OF MAGIC.

AS HIGH ELVES NO
LONGER PRACTICE MAGIC,
WHO DOES TUTOR
YOU, LOANIA?



THERE IS A HUMAN
MAGE WHO VISITS
QUEL'DANIL FROM TIME
TO TIME.

CONSIDERING HE
AND LOANIA ARE OF THE
SAME RACE, I THOUGHT
HIM AN EXCELLENT
TUTOR.

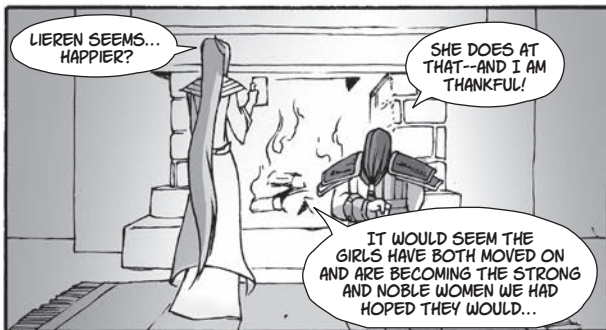
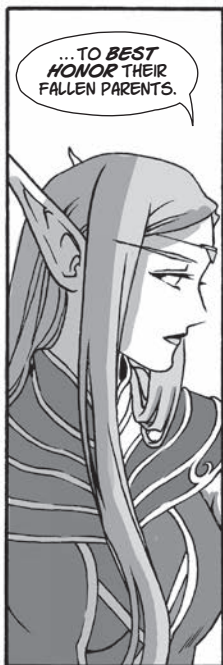
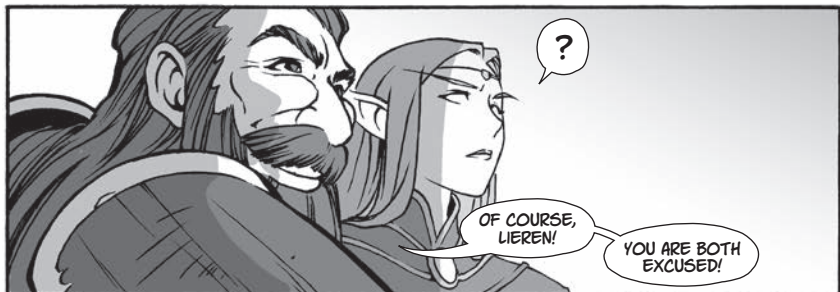
PERHAPS. AND
WHAT HAS HE BEEN
TEACHING HER?

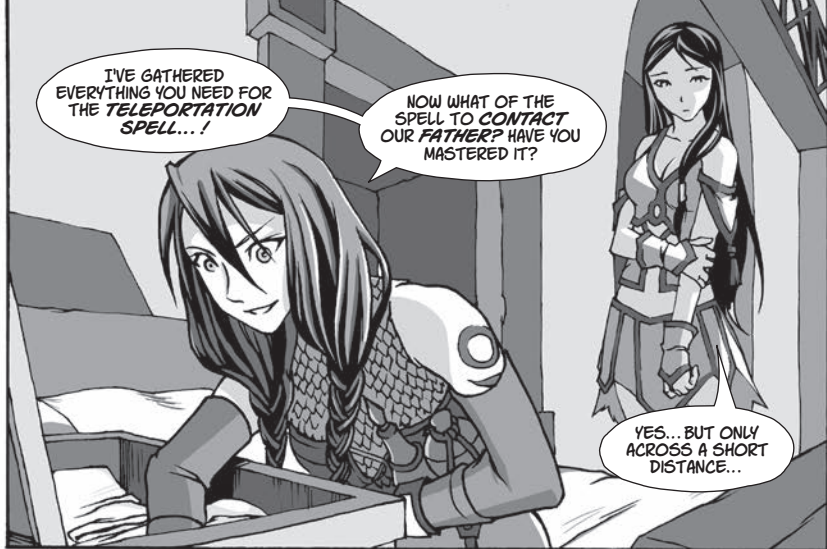
ALCHEMY
AND THE LIKE... JUST THE
SIMPLEST MAGIC
REALLY, AS HE IS NOT
VERY POWERFUL.

MUNCH

MUNCH

CHEW

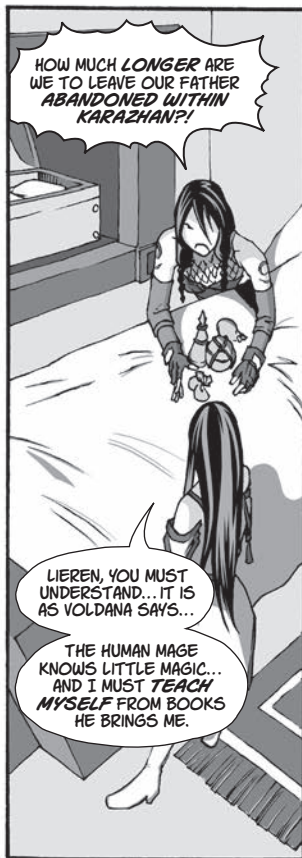




I'VE GATHERED EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE TELEPORTATION SPELL...!

NOW WHAT OF THE SPELL TO CONTACT OUR FATHER? HAVE YOU MASTERED IT?

YES... BUT ONLY ACROSS A SHORT DISTANCE...



HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE TO LEAVE OUR FATHER ABANDONED WITHIN KARAZHAN?!

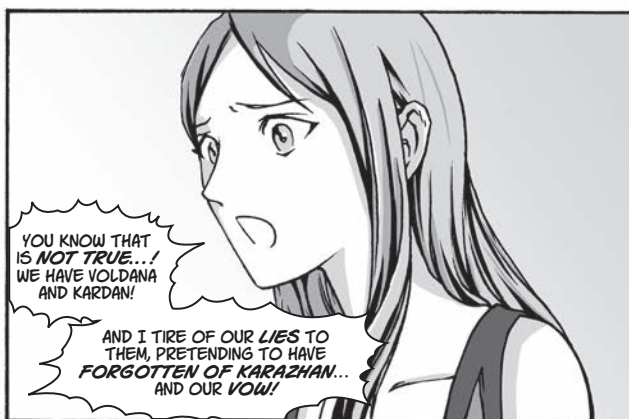
LIEREN, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND... IT IS AS VOLDANA SAYS...

THE HUMAN MAGE KNOWS LITTLE MAGIC... AND I MUST TEACH MYSELF FROM BOOKS HE BRINGS ME.



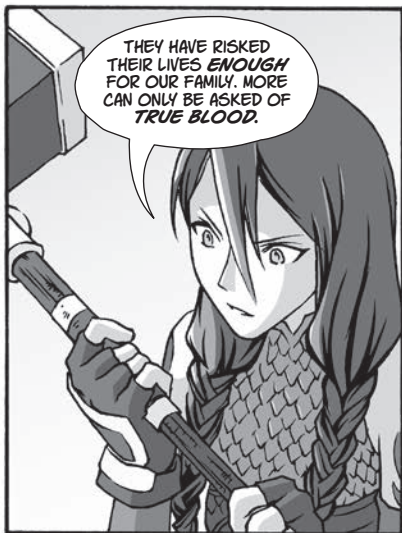
AND WHO DO YOU THINK TEACHES ME HOW TO FIGHT DEMONS AND GHOSTS?!

WE ARE BOTH ON OUR OWN, SISTER-- SAVE FOR EACH OTHER.



YOU KNOW THAT IS NOT TRUE...! WE HAVE VOLDANA AND KARDAN!

AND I TIRE OF OUR LIES TO THEM, PRETENDING TO HAVE FORGOTTEN OF KARAZHAN... AND OUR VOW!



THEY HAVE RISKED
THEIR LIVES *ENOUGH*
FOR OUR FAMILY. MORE
CAN ONLY BE ASKED OF
TRUE BLOOD.

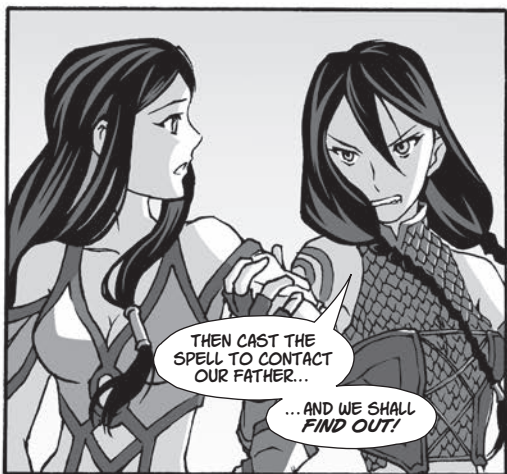


I AM NOT
EVEN SO SURE OF
THAT, LIEREN.

WOULD OUR
FATHER WANT US
TO ENDANGER
OURSELVES...

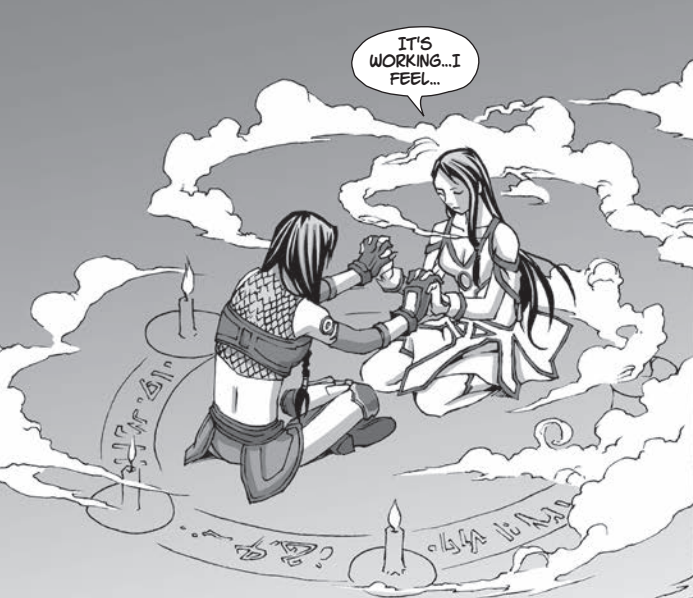


... WHEN WE DO NOT
EVEN *KNOW* IF HE
STILL *LIVES*... ?

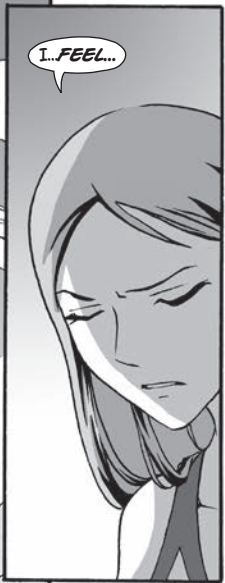


THEN CAST THE
SPELL TO CONTACT
OUR FATHER...

... AND WE SHALL
FIND OUT!



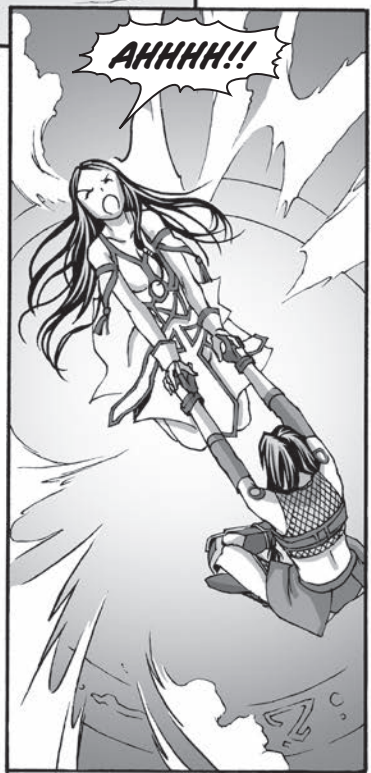
IT'S WORKING... I FEEL... I FEEL...



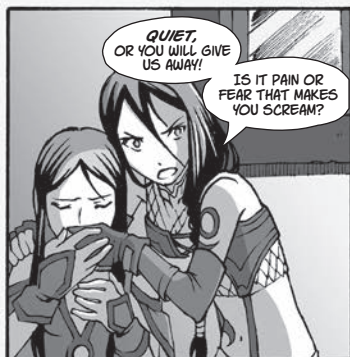
I... FEEL...



LEAVE ME!!!

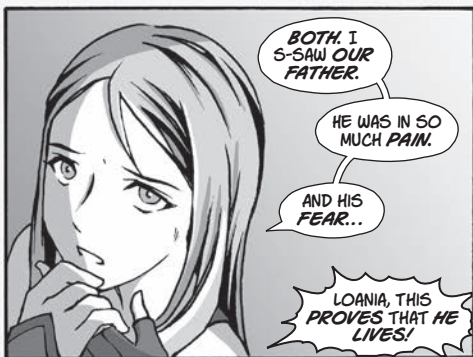


AHHHH!!



QUIET,
OR YOU WILL GIVE
US AWAY!

IS IT PAIN OR
FEAR THAT MAKES
YOU SCREAM?

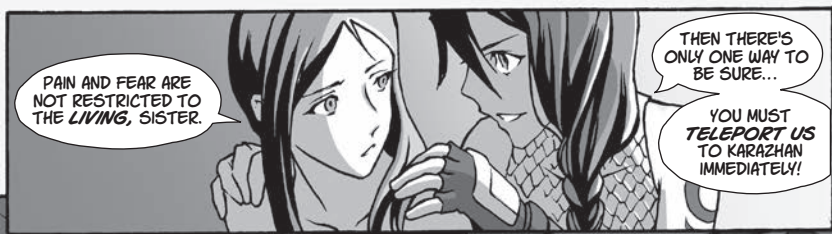


**BOTH. I
S-SAW OUR
FATHER.**

HE WAS IN SO
MUCH PAIN.

AND HIS
FEAR...

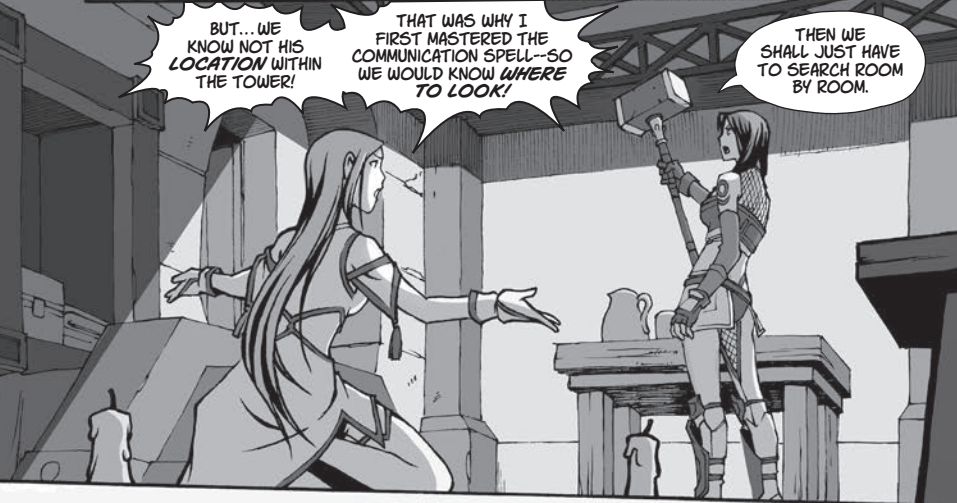
LOANIA, THIS
PROVES THAT HE
LIVES!



PAIN AND FEAR ARE
NOT RESTRICTED TO
THE LIVING, SISTER.

THEN THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY TO
BE SURE...

YOU MUST
TELEPORT US
TO KARAZHAN
IMMEDIATELY!



BUT... WE
KNOW NOT HIS
LOCATION WITHIN
THE TOWER!

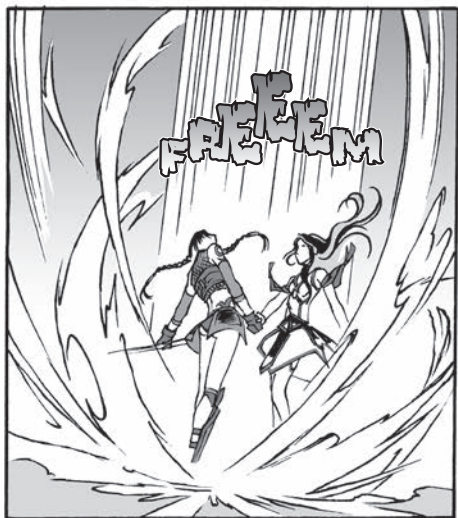
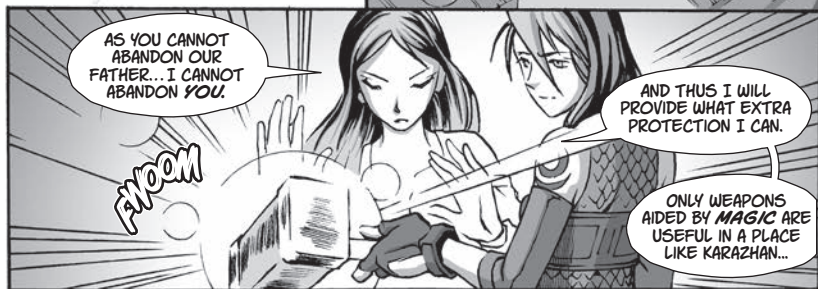
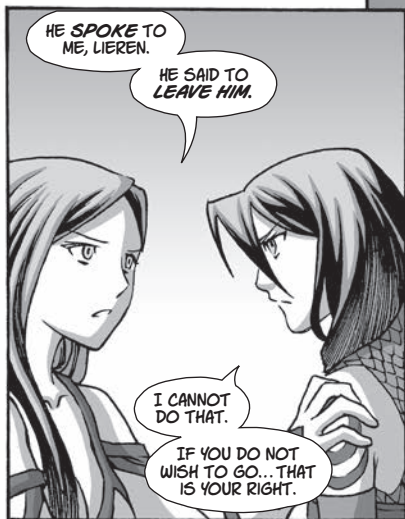
THAT WAS WHY I
FIRST MASTERED THE
COMMUNICATION SPELL--SO
WE WOULD KNOW *WHERE*
TO LOOK!

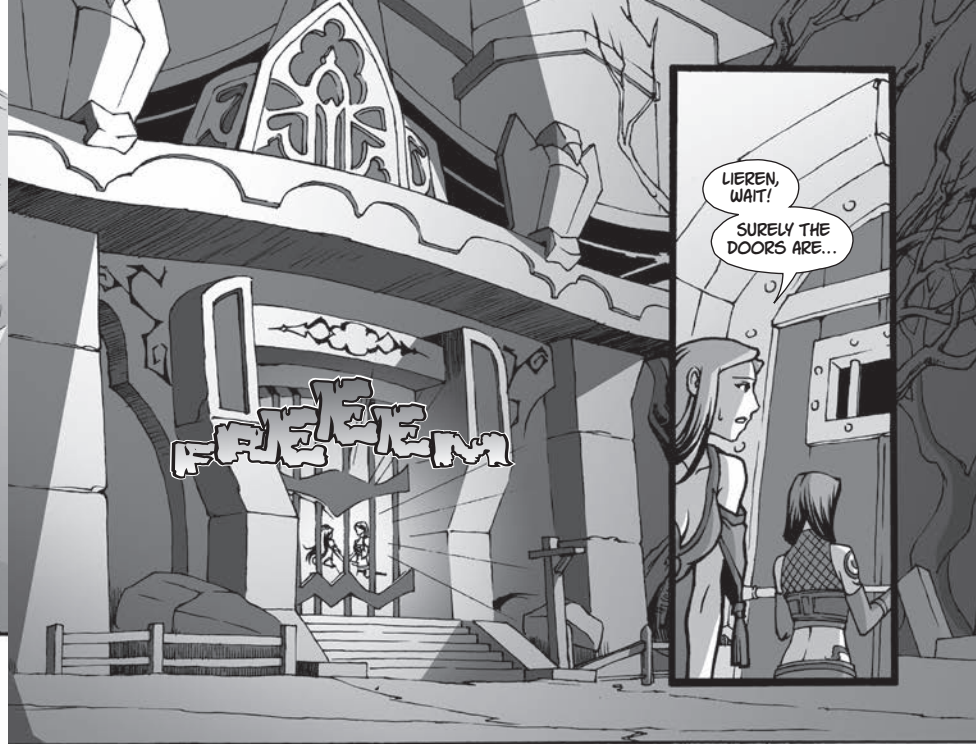
THEN WE
SHALL JUST HAVE
TO SEARCH ROOM
BY ROOM.



SURELY YOU JEST!
THEY SAY THE TOWER
IS INFINITE AND--

I TIRE OF YOUR
DOUBTS! DO YOU
WANT TO ABANDON
OUR FATHER?!





LIEREN,
WAIT!

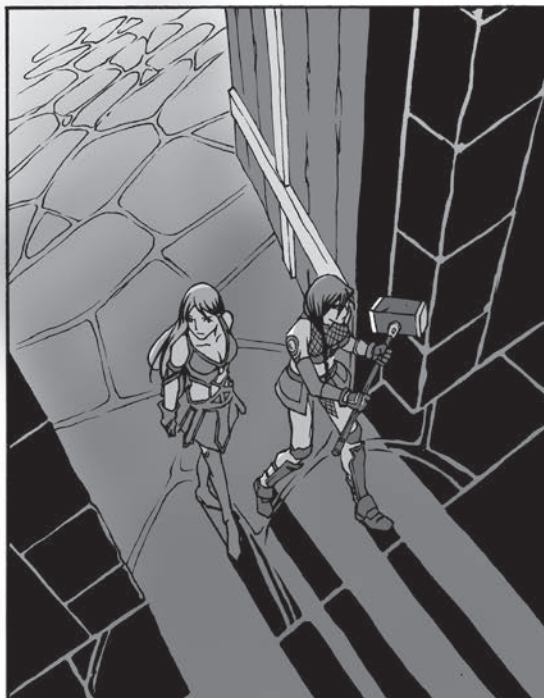
SURELY THE
DOORS ARE...

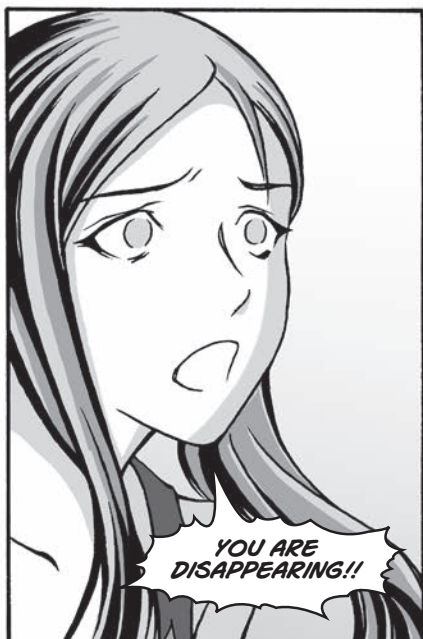
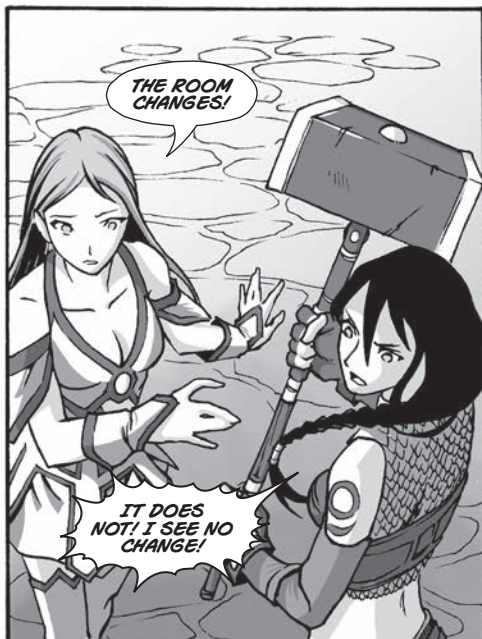
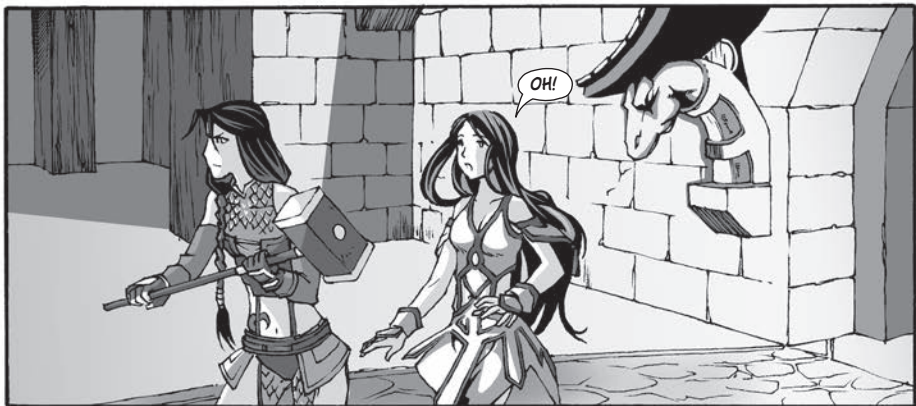
CRACK

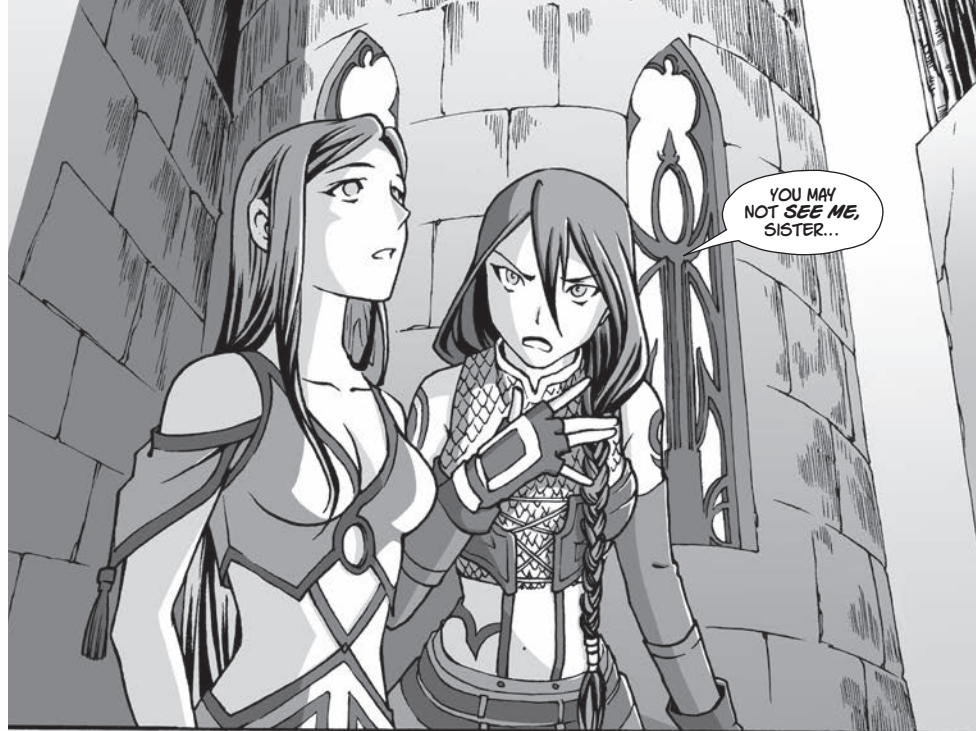


CRACK

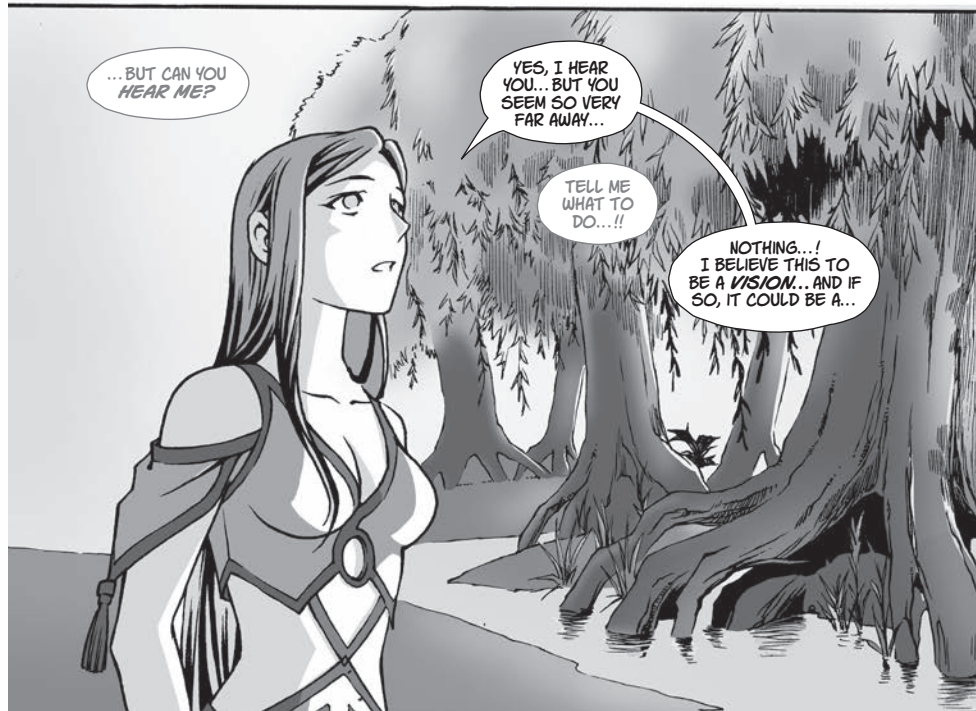
... LOCKED?







YOU MAY NOT SEE ME, SISTER...

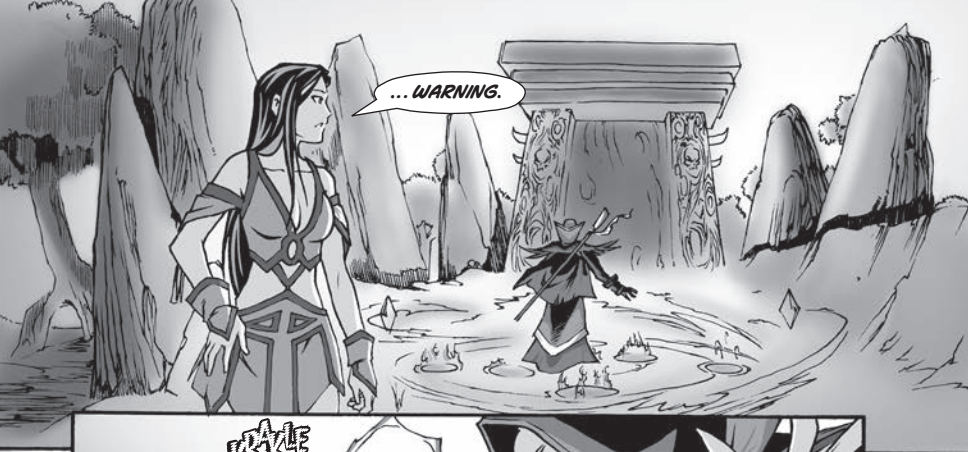


... BUT CAN YOU HEAR ME?

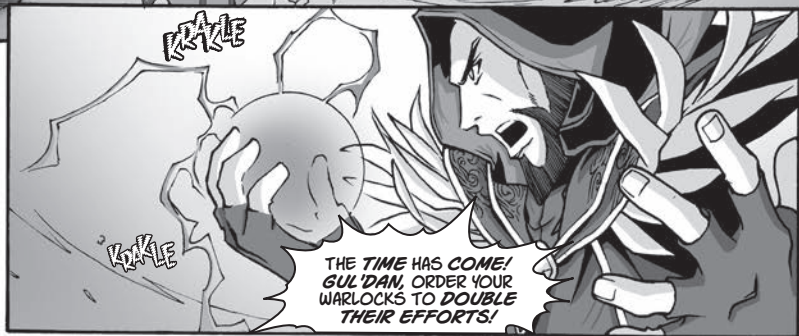
YES, I HEAR YOU... BUT YOU SEEM SO VERY FAR AWAY...

TELL ME WHAT TO DO...!!

NOTHING...! I BELIEVE THIS TO BE A VISION... AND IF SO, IT COULD BE A...



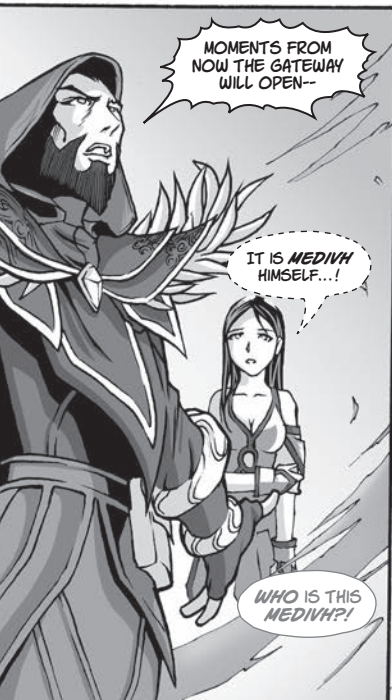
... WARNING.



KRALE

KRALE

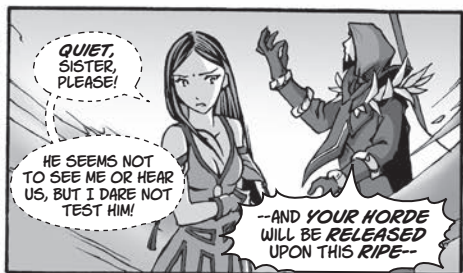
THE TIME HAS COME!
GUL'DAN, ORDER YOUR
WARLOCKS TO DOUBLE
THEIR EFFORTS!



MOMENTS FROM
NOW THE GATEWAY
WILL OPEN--

IT IS MEDIVH
HIMSELF...!

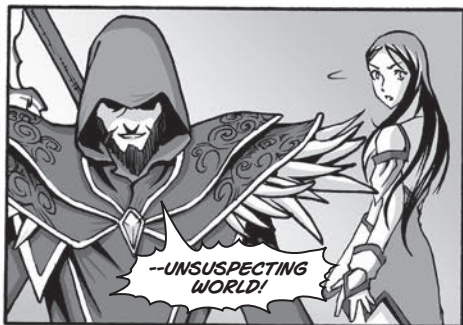
WHO IS THIS
MEDIVH?!



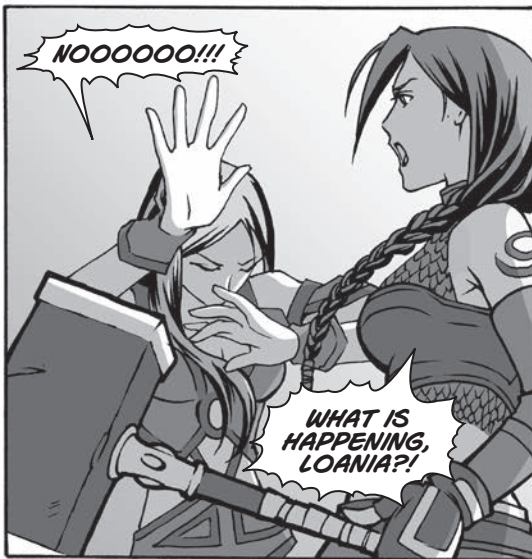
QUIET,
SISTER,
PLEASE!

HE SEEMS NOT
TO SEE ME OR HEAR
US, BUT I DARE NOT
TEST HIM!

--AND YOUR HORDE
WILL BE RELEASED
UPON THIS RIPE--



--UNSUSPECTING
WORLD!



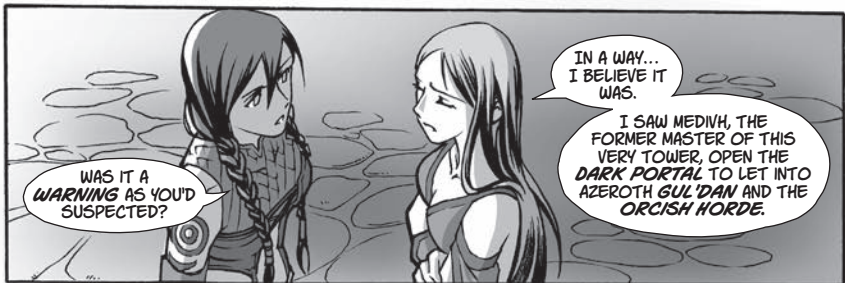
NOOOOOO!!!

**WHAT IS
HAPPENING,
LOANIA?!**



I... I SEE YOU
AGAIN, SISTER...!

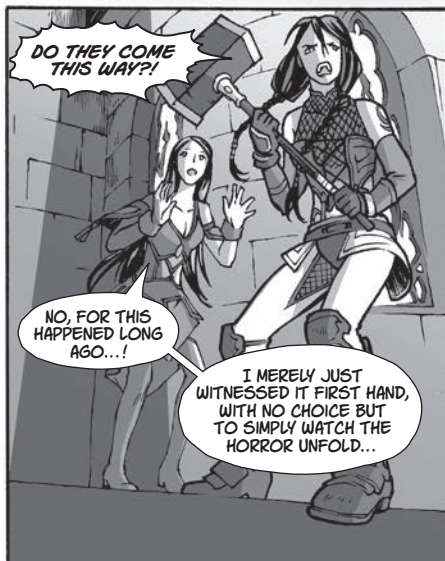
**MY VISION
IS OVER!**



WAS IT A
WARNING AS YOU'D
SUSPECTED?

IN A WAY...
I BELIEVE IT
WAS.

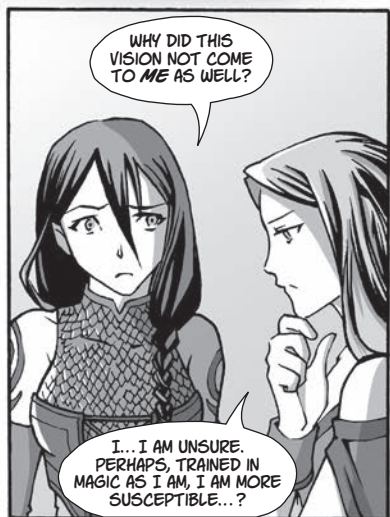
I SAW MEDIVH, THE
FORMER MASTER OF THIS
VERY TOWER, OPEN THE
DARK PORTAL TO LET INTO
AZEROTH **GUL'DAN** AND THE
ORCISH HORDE.



**DO THEY COME
THIS WAY?!**

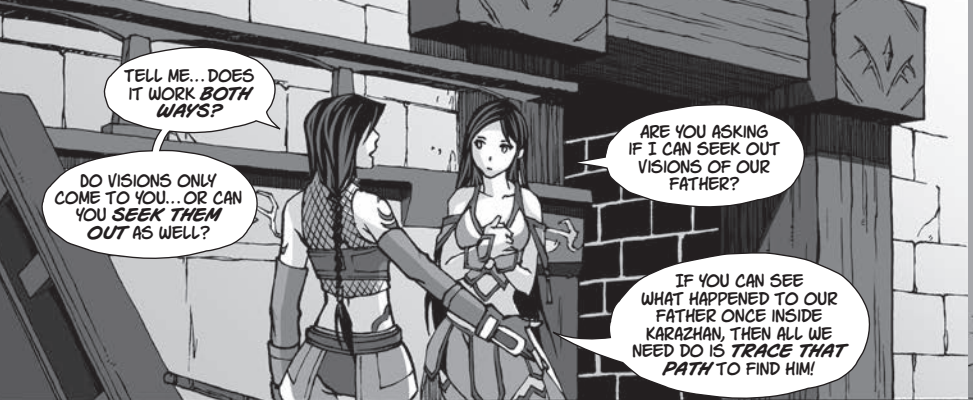
NO, FOR THIS
HAPPENED LONG
AGO...!

I MERELY JUST
WITNESSED IT FIRST HAND,
WITH NO CHOICE BUT
TO SIMPLY WATCH THE
HORROR UNFOLD...



WHY DID THIS
VISION NOT COME
TO ME AS WELL?

I... I AM UNSURE.
PERHAPS, TRAINED IN
MAGIC AS I AM, I AM MORE
SUSCEPTIBLE...?

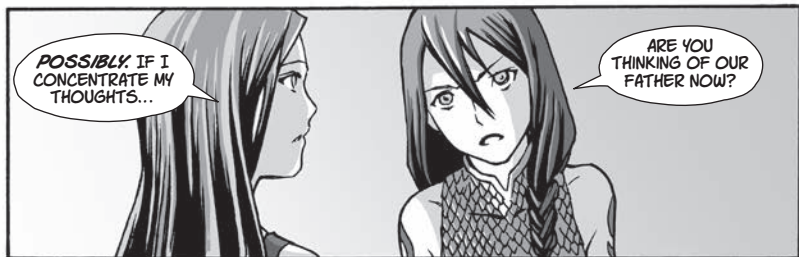


TELL ME... DOES IT WORK BOTH WAYS?

DO VISIONS ONLY COME TO YOU...OR CAN YOU SEE THEM OUT AS WELL?

ARE YOU ASKING IF I CAN SEEK OUT VISIONS OF OUR FATHER?

IF YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FATHER ONCE INSIDE KARAZHAN, THEN ALL WE NEED DO IS TRACE THAT PATH TO FIND HIM!



POSSIBLY IF I CONCENTRATE MY THOUGHTS...

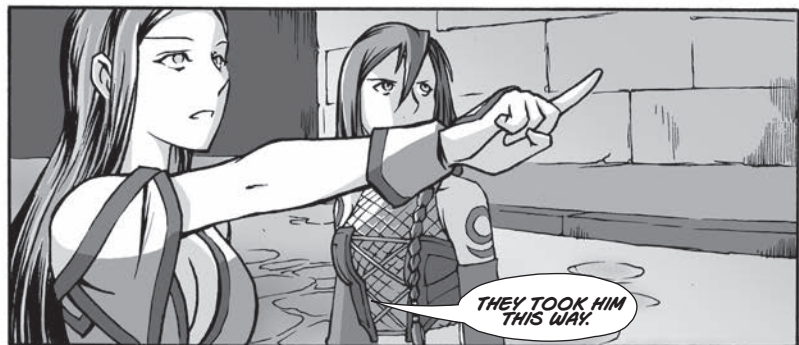
ARE YOU THINKING OF OUR FATHER NOW?



YES, BUT...

I SEE HIM!!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

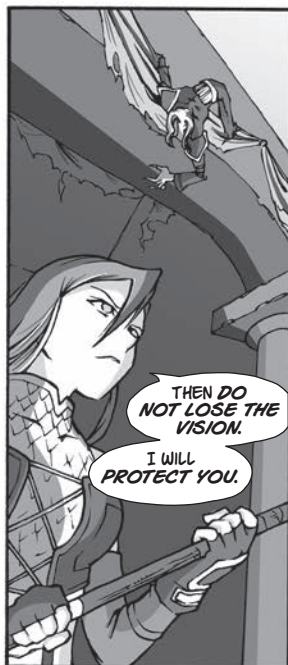
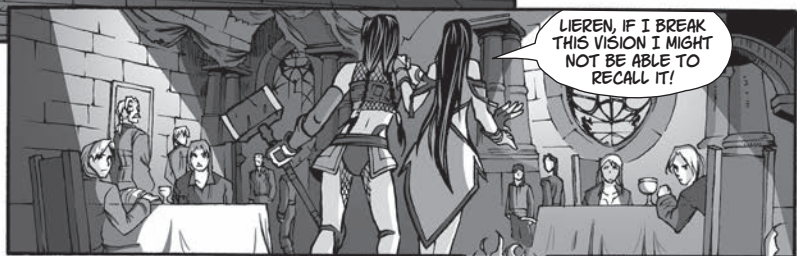


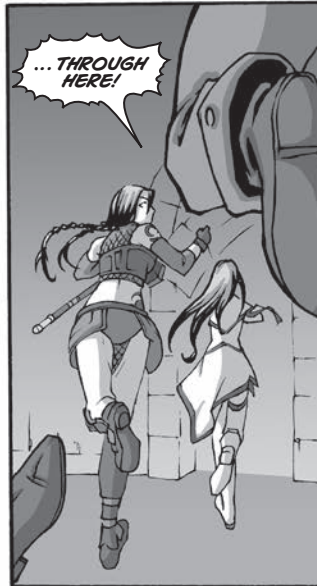
THEY TOOK HIM THIS WAY.

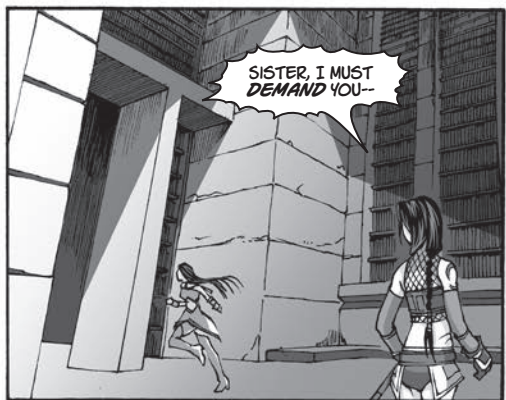
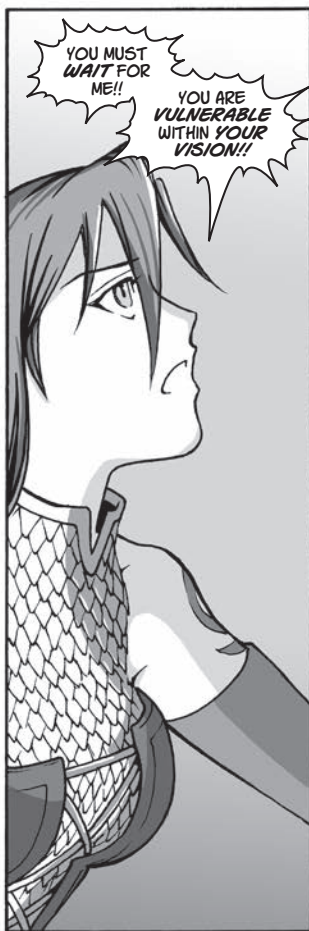


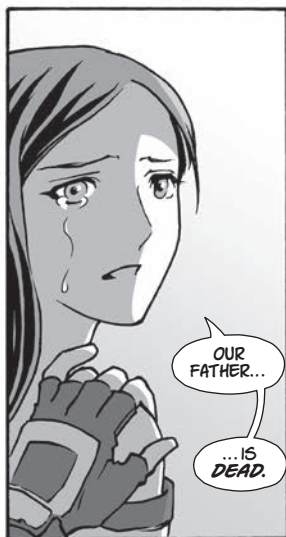
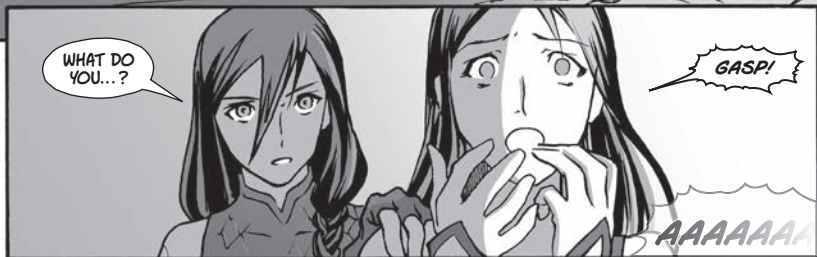
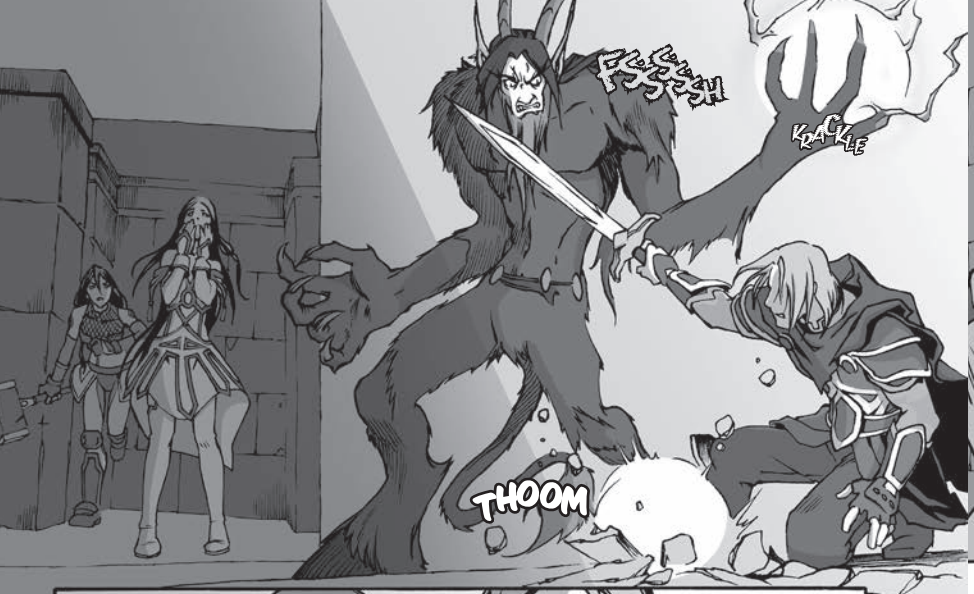
HURRY!!

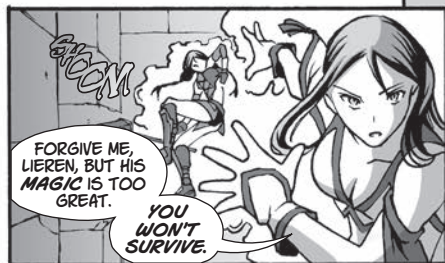
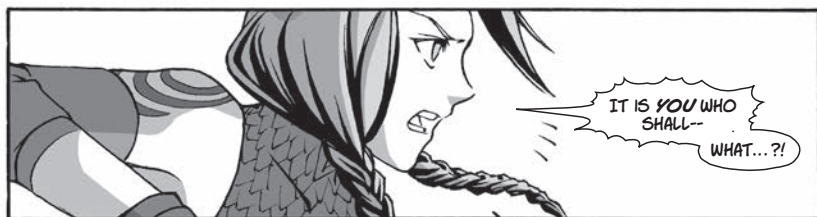
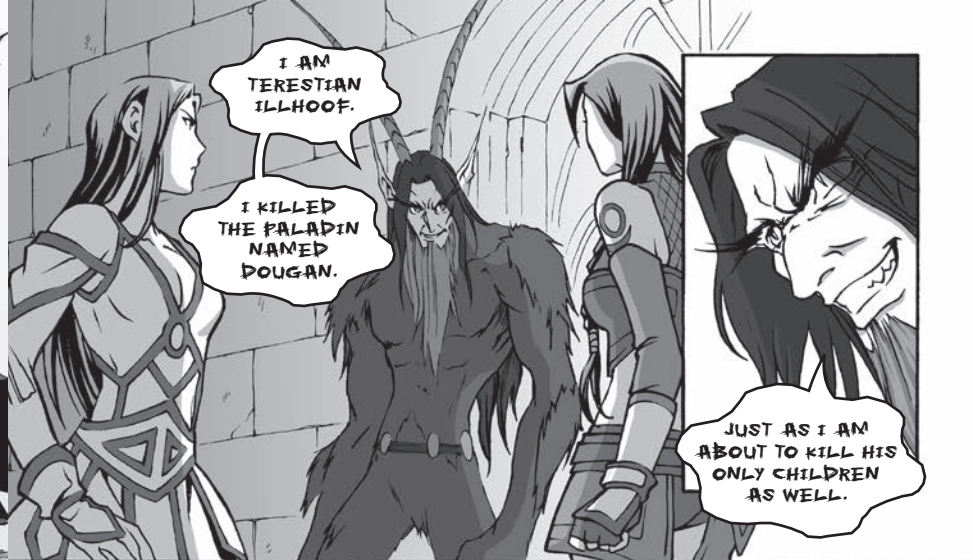
PATIENCE! I SEE THE ROOM NOT AS IT ACTUALLY IS, BUT ONLY AS IT **ONCE WAS!**

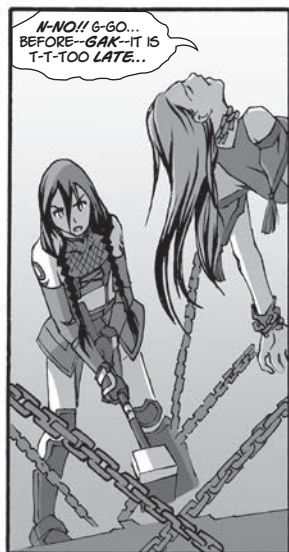
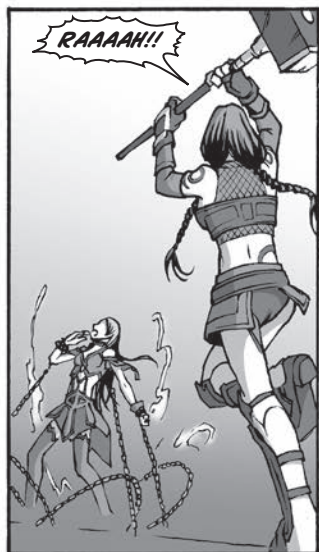
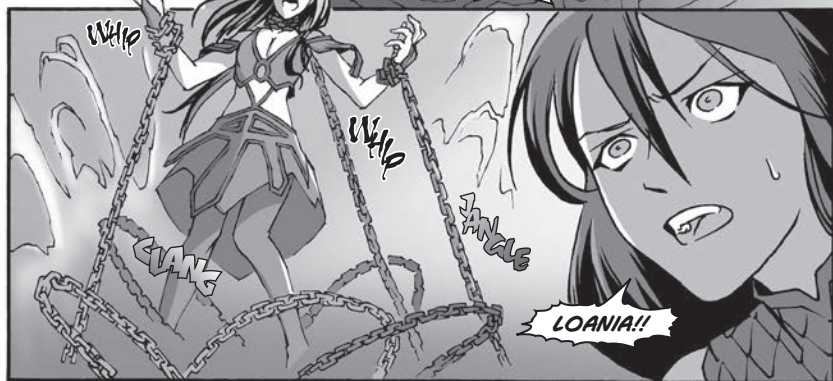
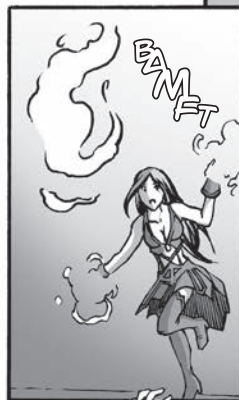








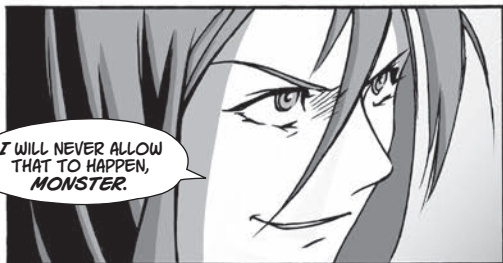






THERE IS NO
MAGIC WITHIN YOU.

THEREFORE
YOU SHALL JOIN
YOUR FATHER
IN DEATH.



I WILL NEVER ALLOW
THAT TO HAPPEN,
MONSTER.



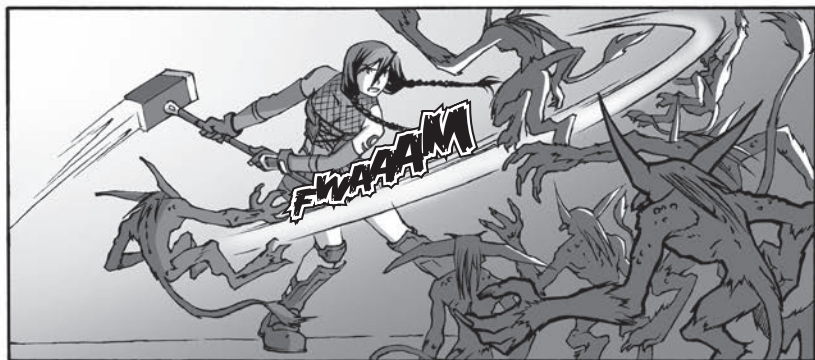
FWAAAM

ALLOW ME...



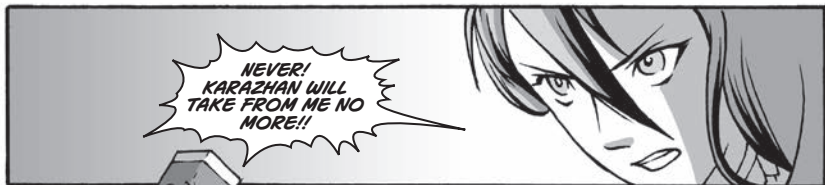
...TO ILLUMINATE
THE REALITY OF THE
SITUATION.

YOUR PRIDE ONLY
MAKES YOUR DEATH
MORE DELICIOUS.

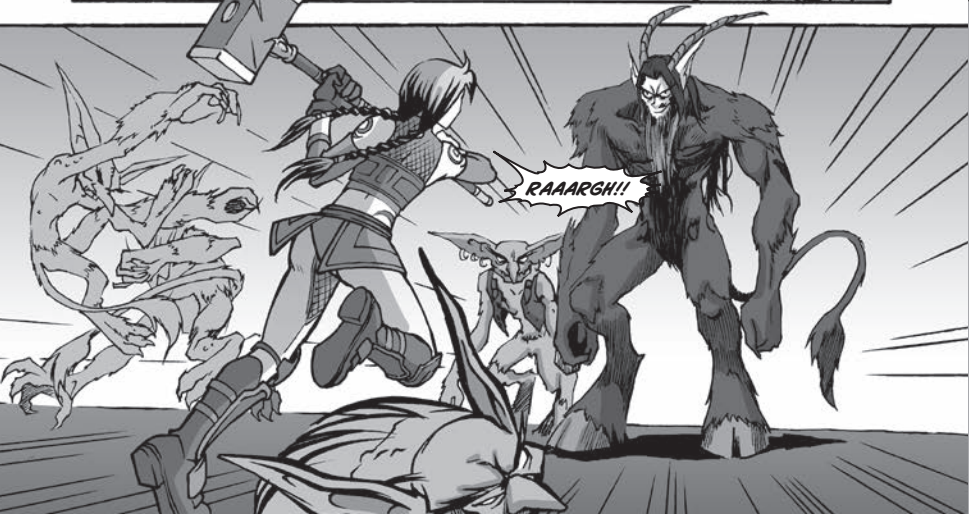


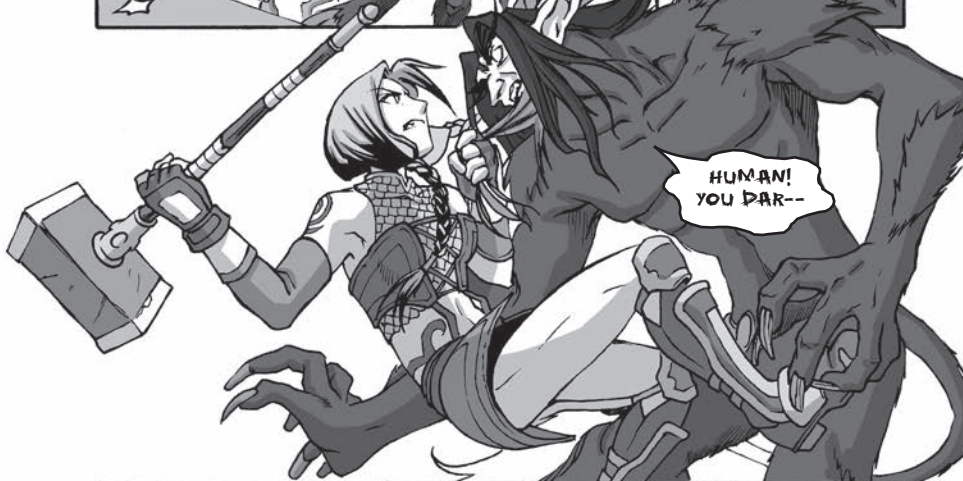
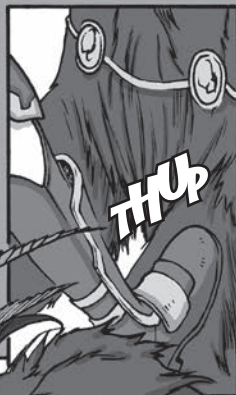


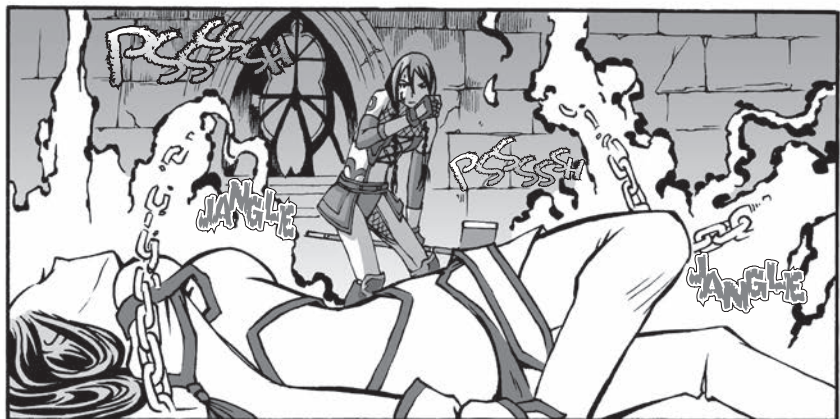
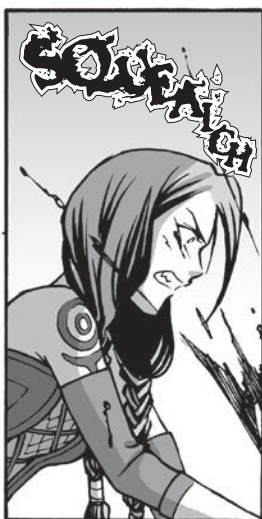
LOOKS LIKE
I'M TWO FOR TWO,
HUMAN.

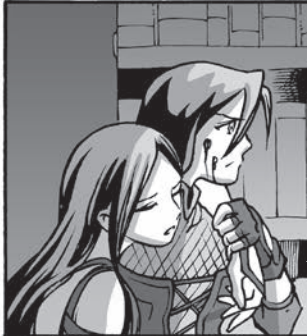
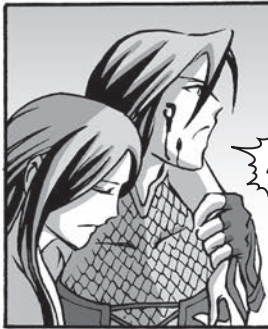


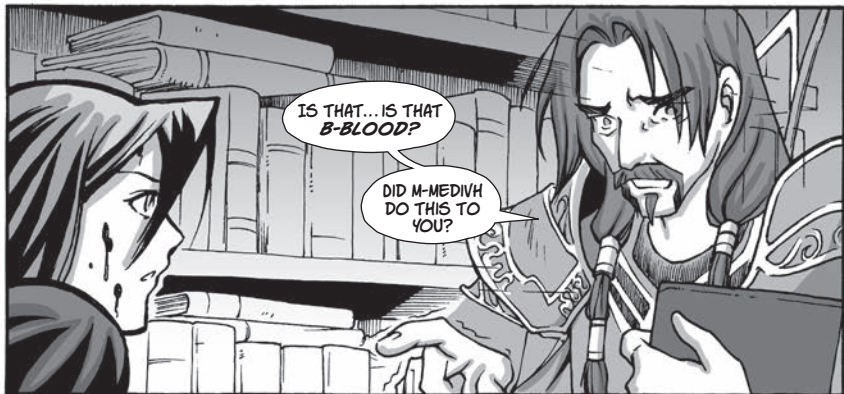
NEVER!
KARAZHAN WILL
TAKE FROM ME NO
MORE!!







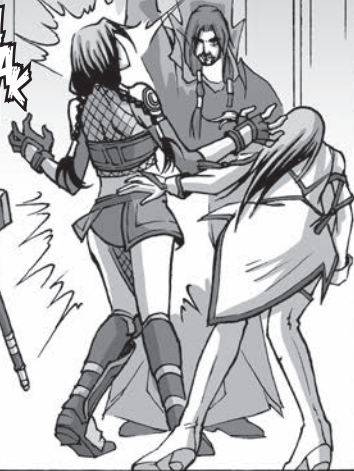




KRS-THOOH

UNNH!!

KRACK



AM I NOT A FATHER AS WELL?!

WHY DOES MY SON, MEDIVH, NOT COME FOR ME?!

INSTEAD OF THE PEACEFUL SLEEP OF DEATH, I AM TRAPPED IN KARAZHAN FOREVER!!



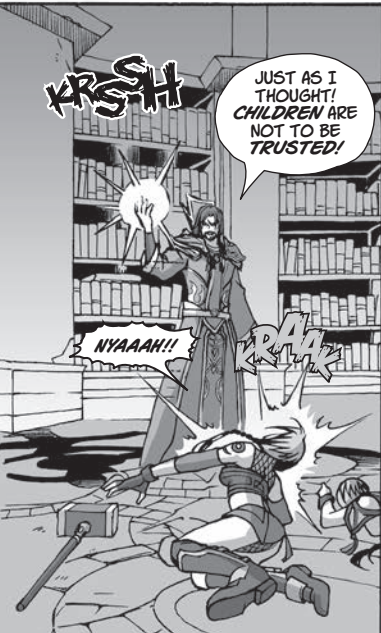
K-KILL YOU...

KRS-H

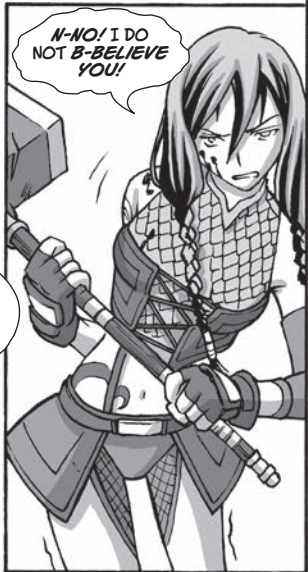
JUST AS I THOUGHT! CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED!

NYAAAH!!

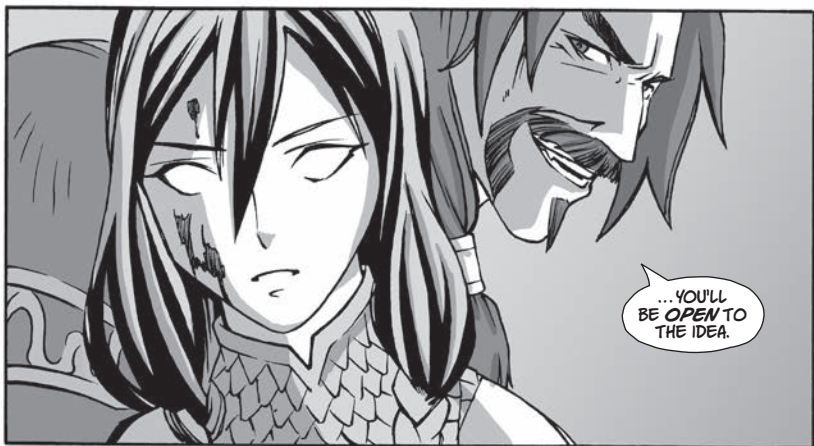
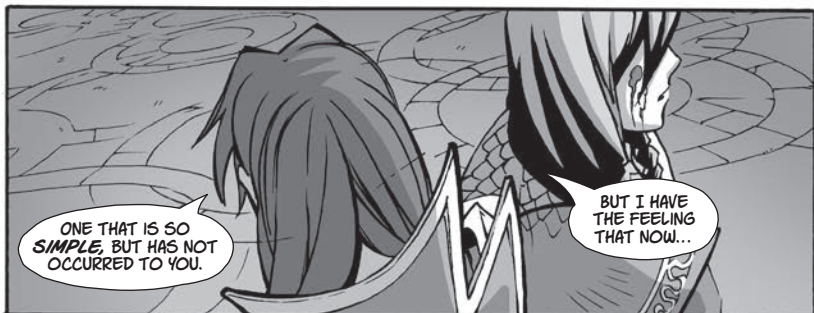
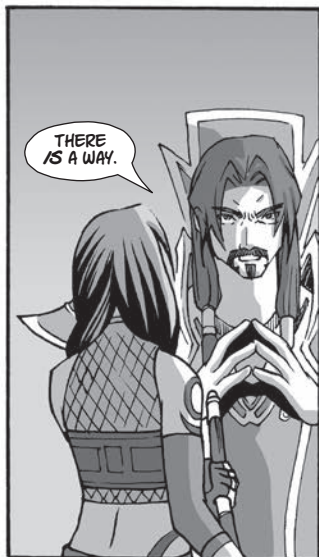
KRACK



BUT I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T MATTER. I CANNOT BE SAVED... NOR CAN YOUR FATHER.



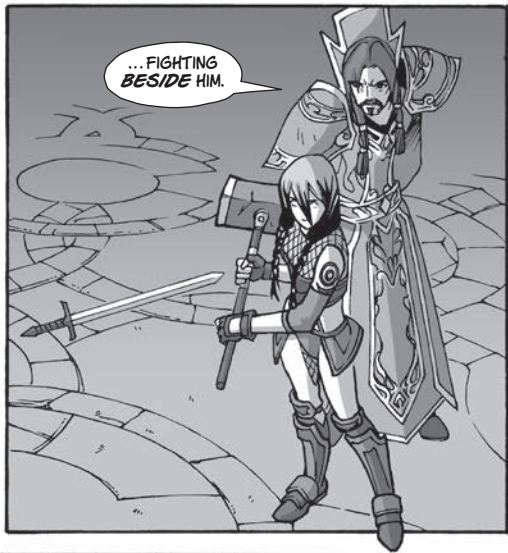
N-NO! I DO NOT B-BELIEVE YOU!





YOU FEAR FOR YOUR FATHER'S PLIGHT WITHIN THESE WALLS...

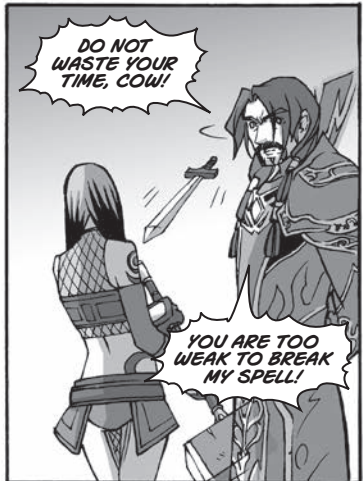
THINK HOW MUCH EASIER IT WOULD BE IF HE HAD A WARRIOR LIKE YOU...



... FIGHTING BESIDE HIM.



L-LIEREN...
... AWAKEN...



DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME, COW!

YOU ARE TOO WEAK TO BREAK MY SPELL!



THEN...

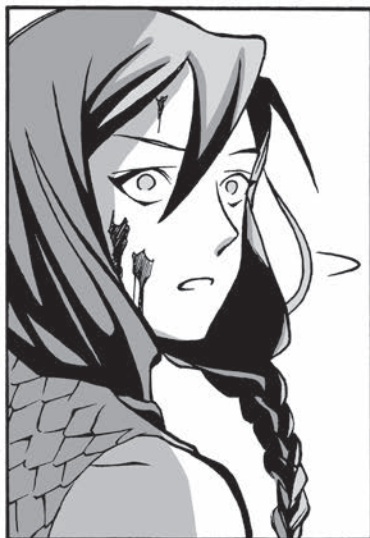
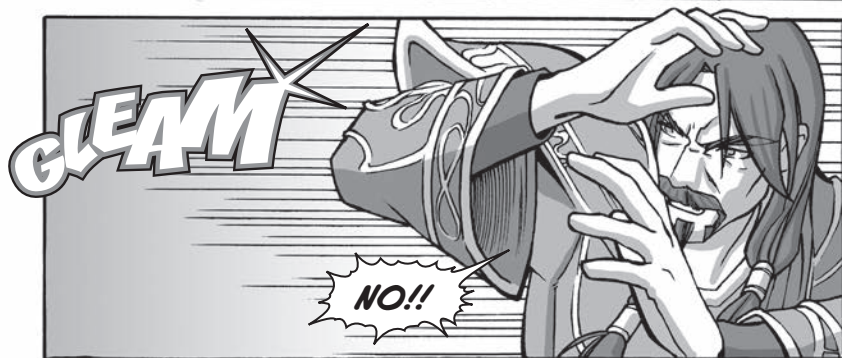
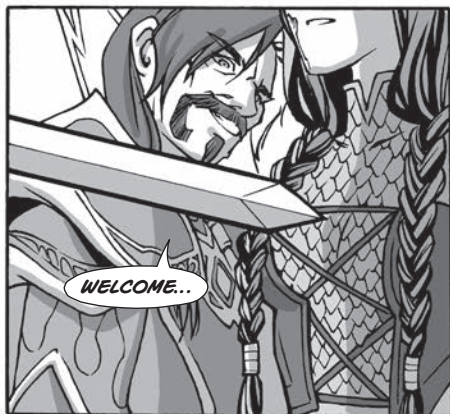
... I H-HAVE NO CH-CHOICE...

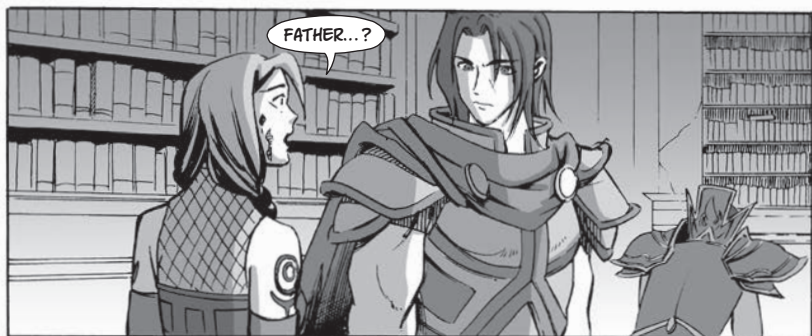
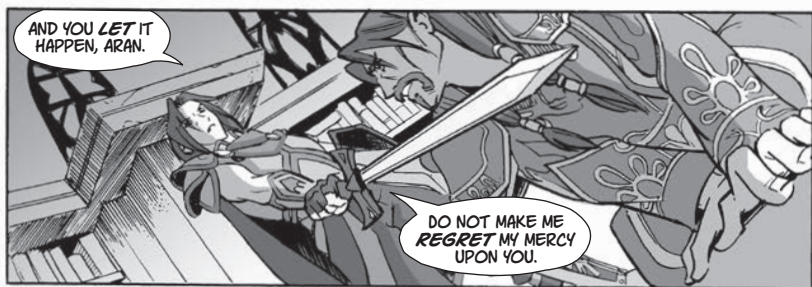
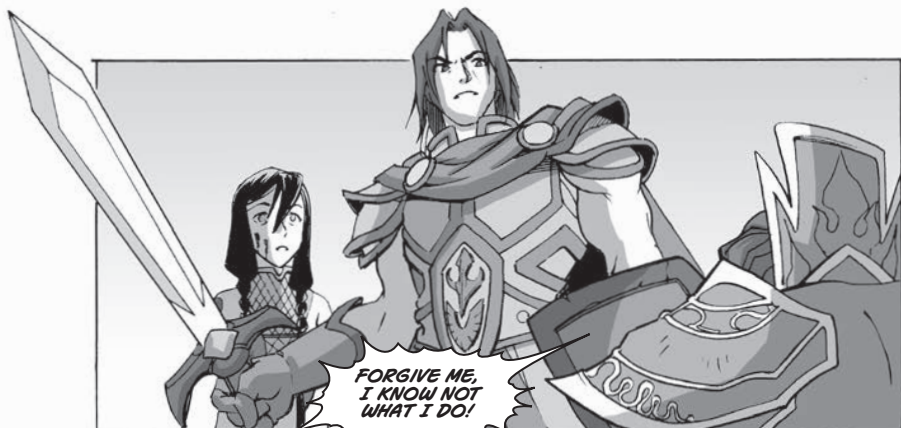
... BUT TO TRY MY C-CONTACT SPELL...

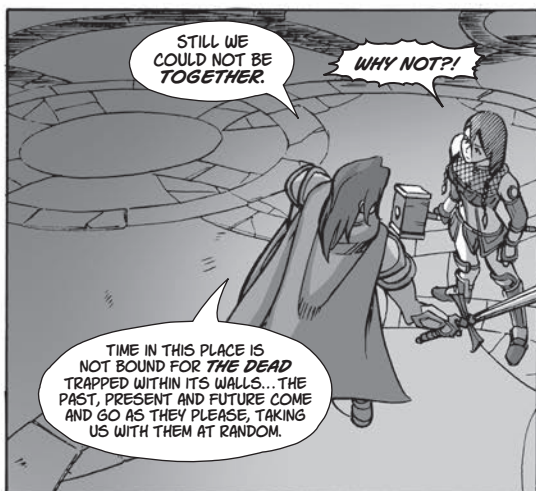
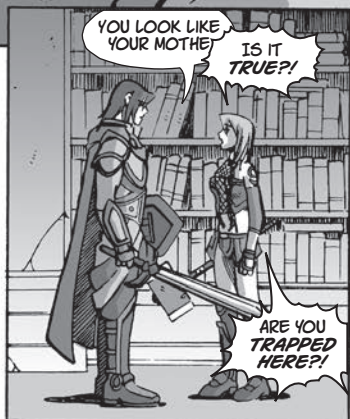
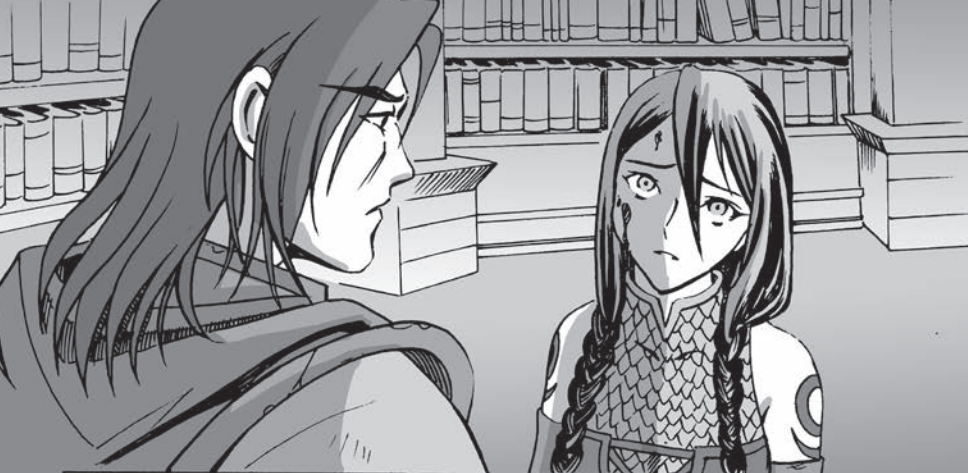
... ONCE... MORE...

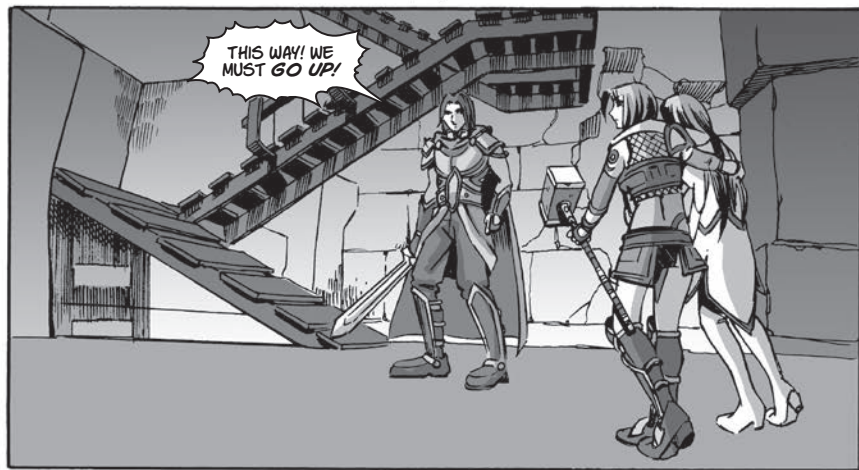
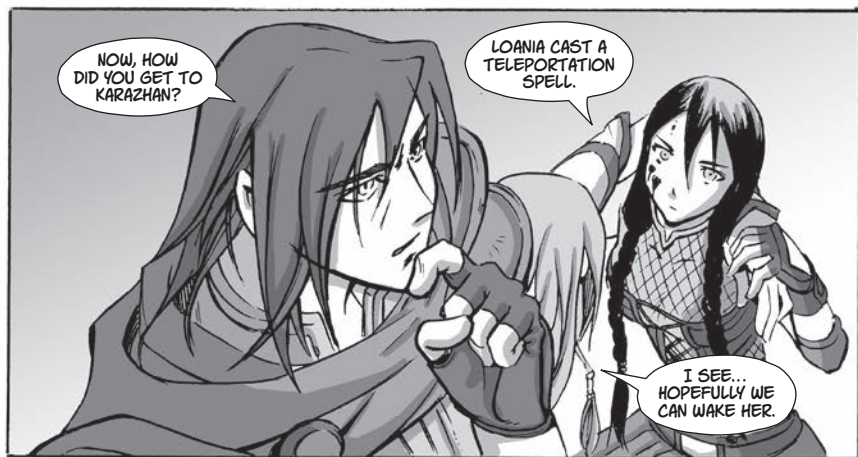


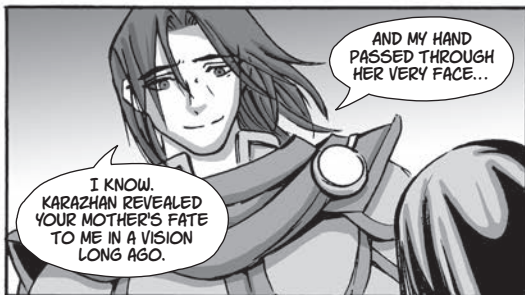
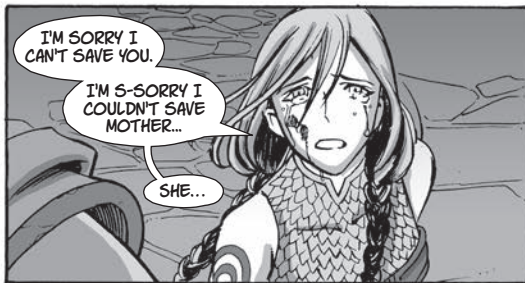
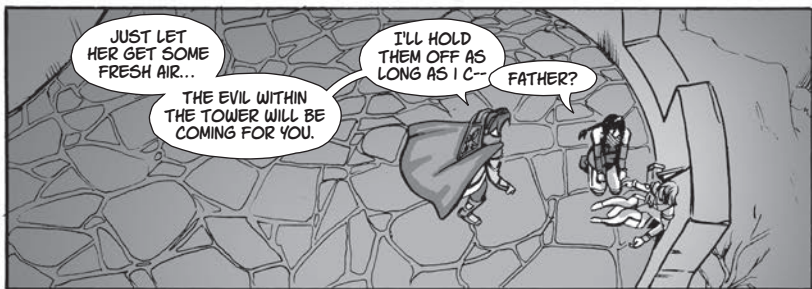
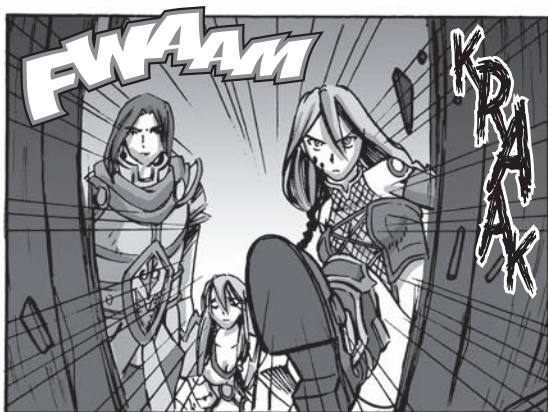
... UUH...

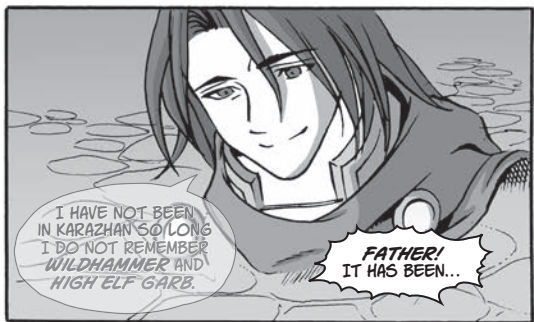
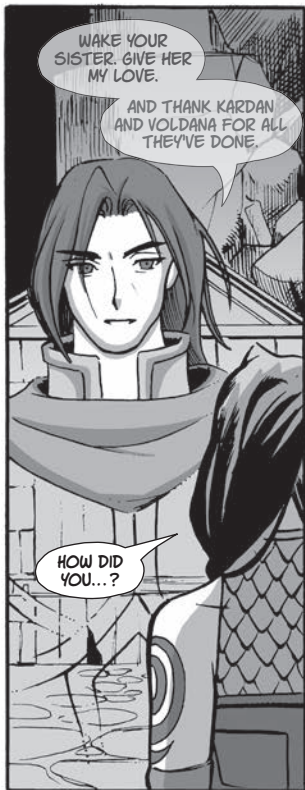
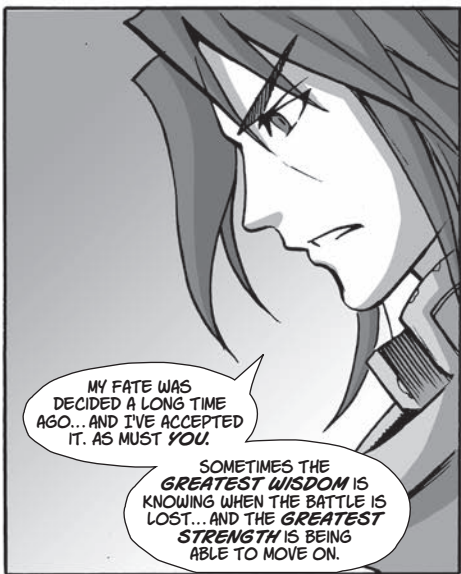


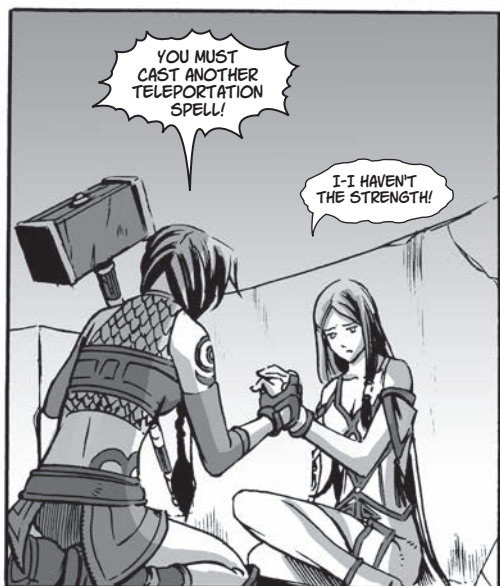
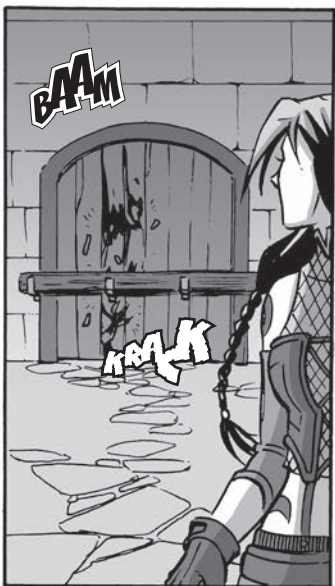
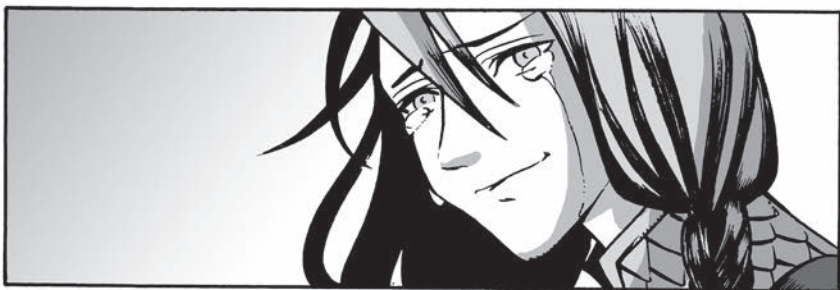
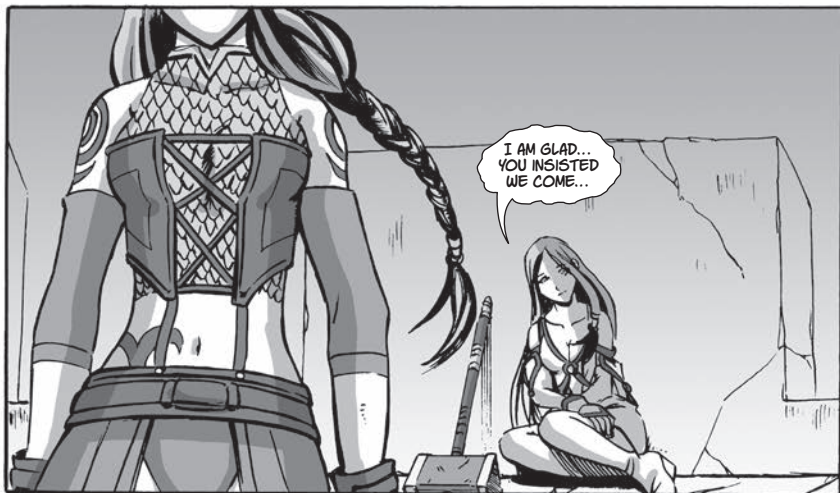


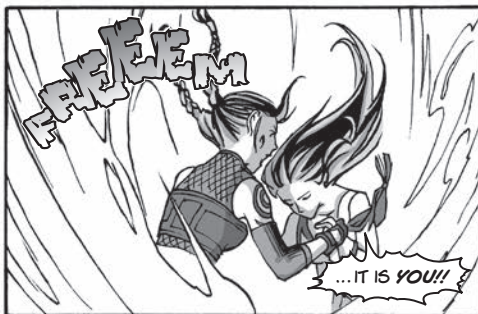
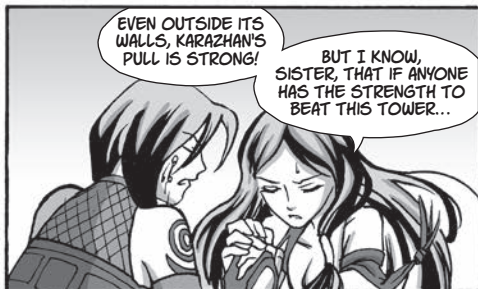
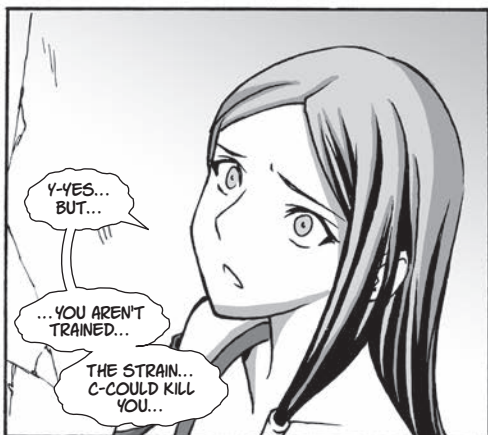


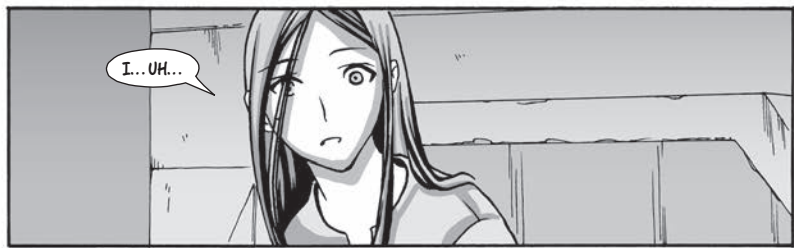


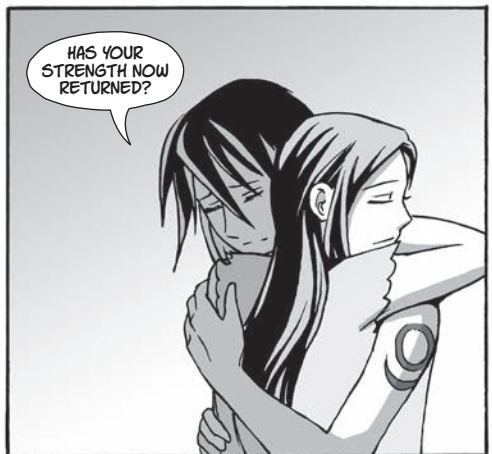
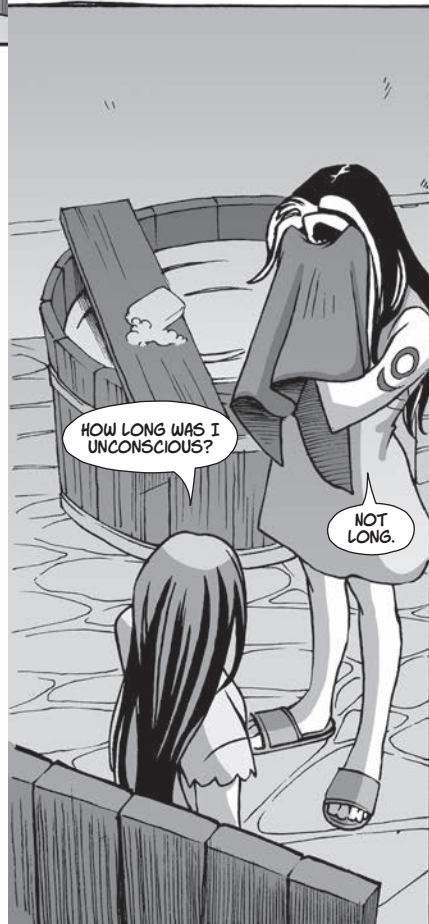
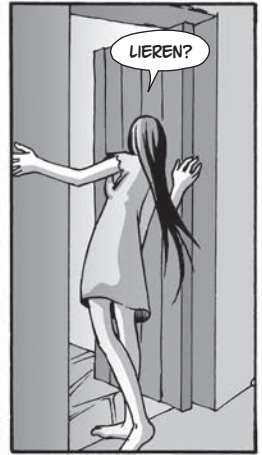
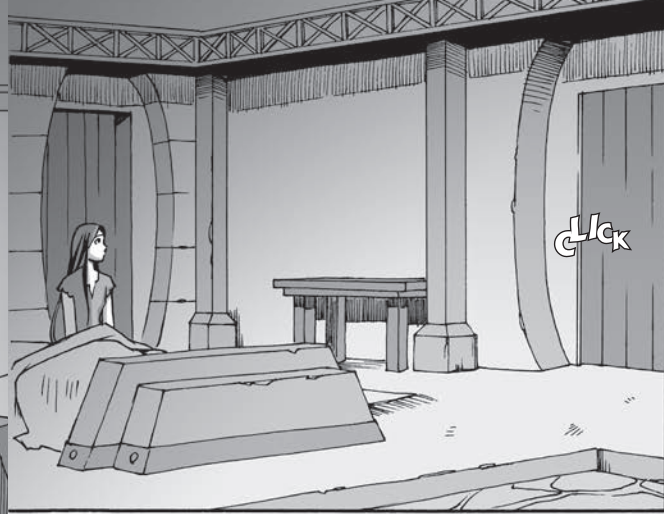


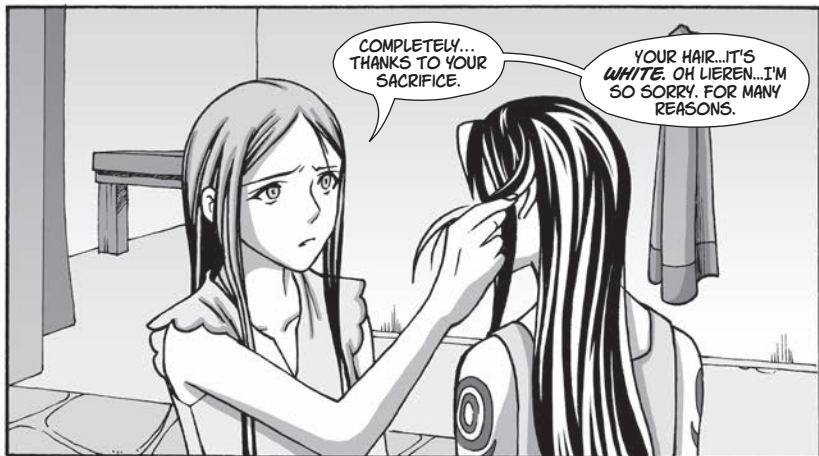






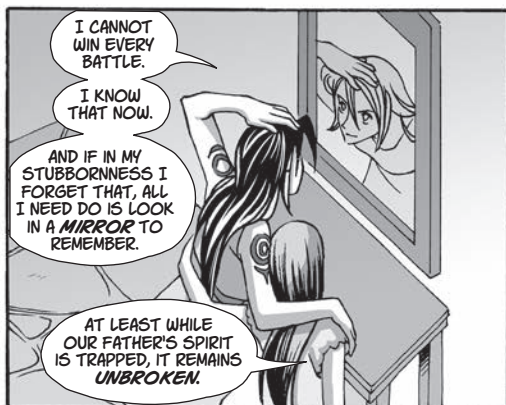






COMPLETELY...
THANKS TO YOUR
SACRIFICE.

YOUR HAIR...IT'S
WHITE. OH LIEREN...I'M
SO SORRY. FOR MANY
REASONS.

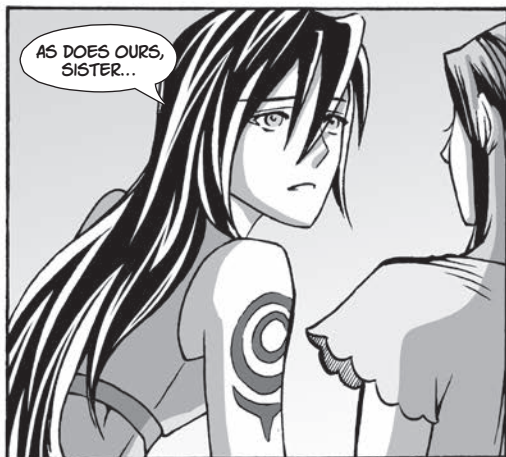


I CANNOT
WIN EVERY
BATTLE.

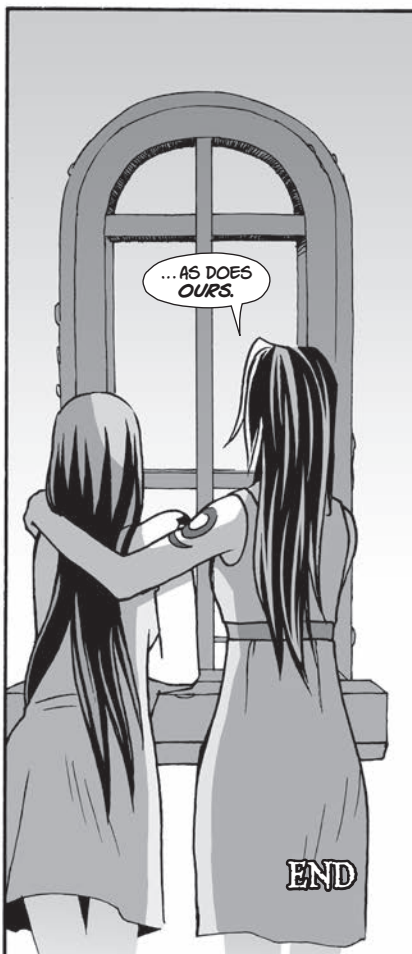
I KNOW
THAT NOW.

AND IF IN MY
STUBBORNNESS I
FORGET THAT, ALL
I NEED DO IS LOOK
IN A *MIRROR* TO
REMEMBER.

AT LEAST WHILE
OUR FATHER'S SPIRIT
IS TRAPPED, IT REMAINS
UNBROKEN.



AS DOES OURS,
SISTER...



... AS DOES
OURS.

END



WARCRAFT

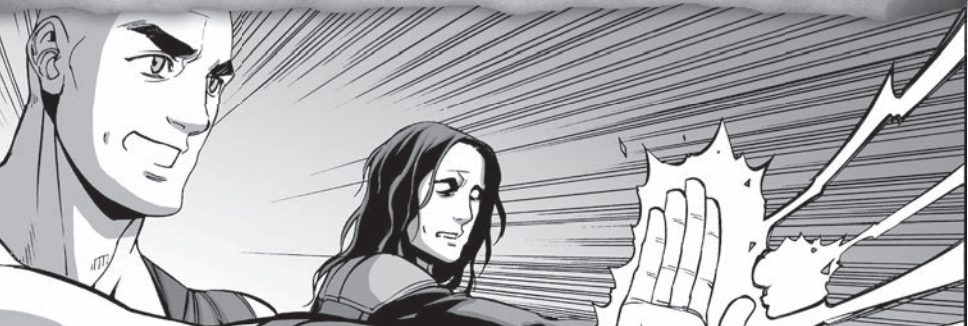
LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

THE FIRST GUARDIAN

WRITTEN BY LOUISE SIMONSON

PENCILS BY SEUNG-HUI KYE
INKS BY SEUNG-HUI KYE, ARIEL IACCI
& FERNANDO MELEK
TONES BY GONZALO DUARTE

RETOUCH ARTIST & LETTERER: MICHAEL PAOLILLI



DALARAN: A BRIEF HISTORY

Almost 3,000 years ago, a group of human magi, feeling fettered by strict laws governing magic in Strom, journeyed north to Lordaeron. On the southern shore of Lordamere Lake, these magi founded the city-state of Dalaran, where they hoped to practice their craft with less restraint.

The ruling archmagi, called Magocrats, eagerly devoted themselves to the arcane. They housed their growing libraries and research laboratories in the Violet Citadel, a towering spire raised by magic in the heart of the city.

Magi flocked to Dalaran in ever-increasing numbers to study at its schools, do research in its vast libraries and practice their craft freely in the company of their peers. Soon non-magical beings moved to Dalaran to provide necessary services for the residents of the thriving magocracy.

The citizens of Dalaran thought that their shining city was impregnable and that its glory would never end.

But, in time, the constant and ungoverned use of magic began to tear the fabric of reality around the city. These tears sent bright beacons out into the Twisting Nether and drew the attention of the banished denizens of the Burning Legion. Through these rents, demons began to slip back into Azeroth, bringing with them conflict and cruelty, misery and corruption.

Consulting the high elves, the Magocrats learned that as long as they used magic, they would need to protect their citizenry from the Legion's agents. Yet mankind could not be allowed to learn of this threat lest the people riot in fear. Thus, the elves and Magocrats formed a secret order known as the Council of Tirisfal.

The order began to experiment, trying to discover the most effective way to deal with the demon incursions.

One group held that the magi should work together as a team of equals. Another group believed that their magic should be funneled through a single head, though how that should be managed was another challenge.

In time, the solution was found by... THE FIRST GUARDIAN.

DAEARAH. TWENTY-SIX HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST WAR BETWEEN ORCS AND HUMANS...

HUGA TELLS ME SOME MALIGN... *THING*... HAS BEEN CREEPING AROUND OUR VAULTS.

IT'S DESTROYED SEVERAL ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS... AND LEFT ITS STENCH ON THE CASNET THAT HOLDS THE AMULET OF WATERS.

A DEMON?

PERHAPS WE CAN USE THE AMULET TO BAIT A TRAP...

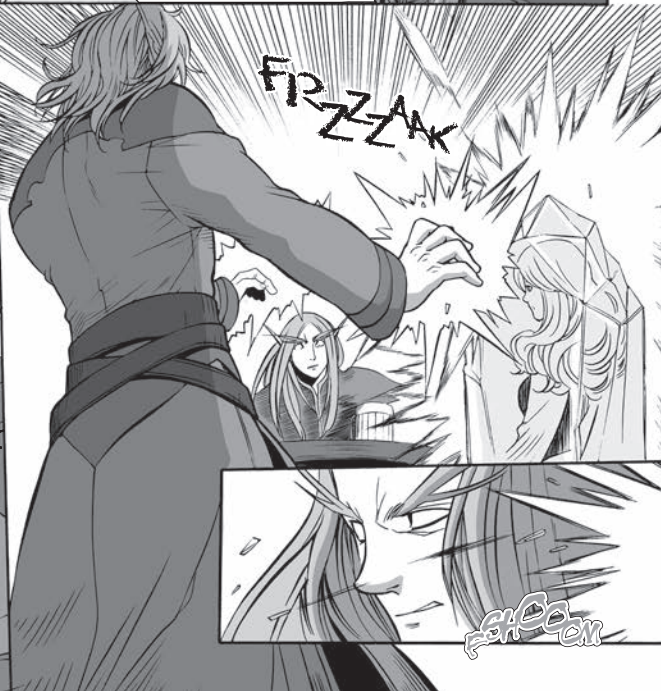
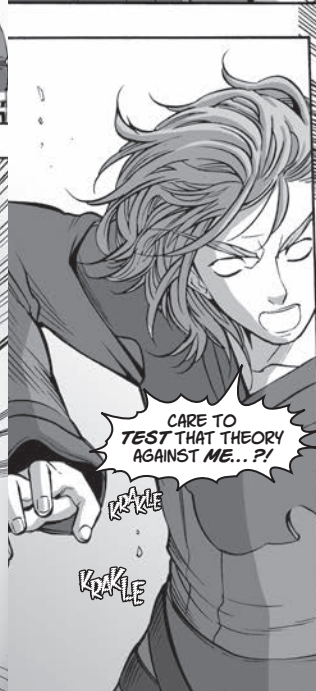
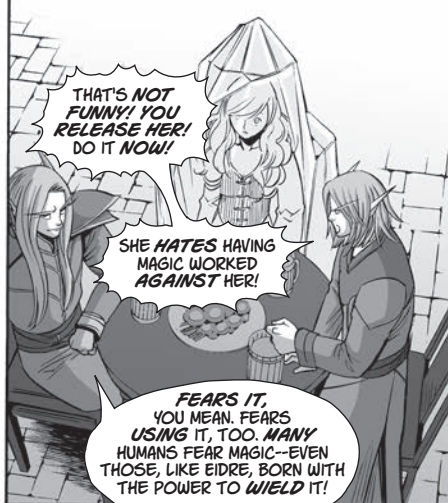
ANOTHER TANKARD?

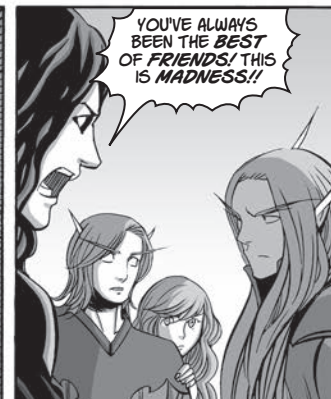
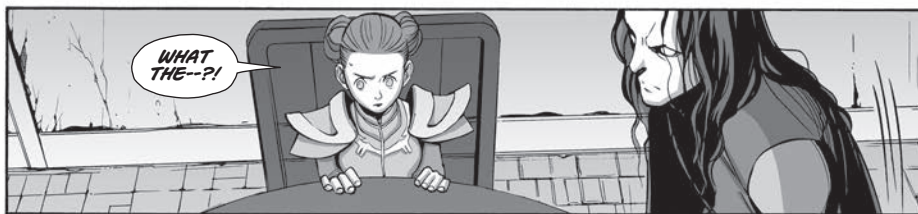
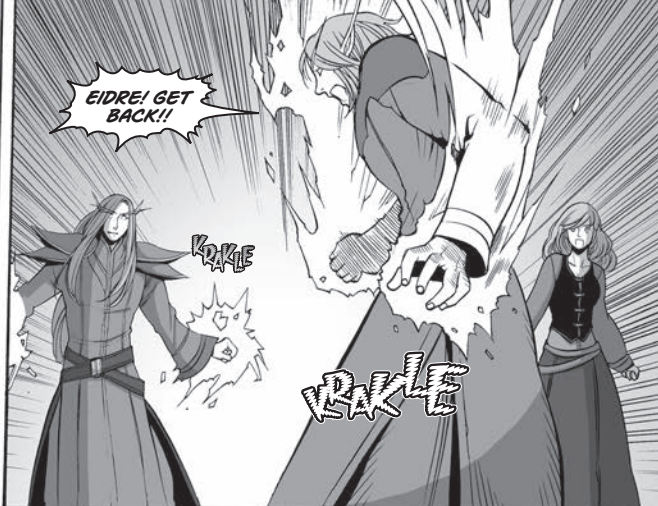
YES. AND A POWERFUL ONE, IF IT CAN MAKE ITS WAY INTO THE VIOLET CITADEL.


ONLY IF WE GO INSIDE, I'M GETTING HOT!

ARE YOU?

FREEEM



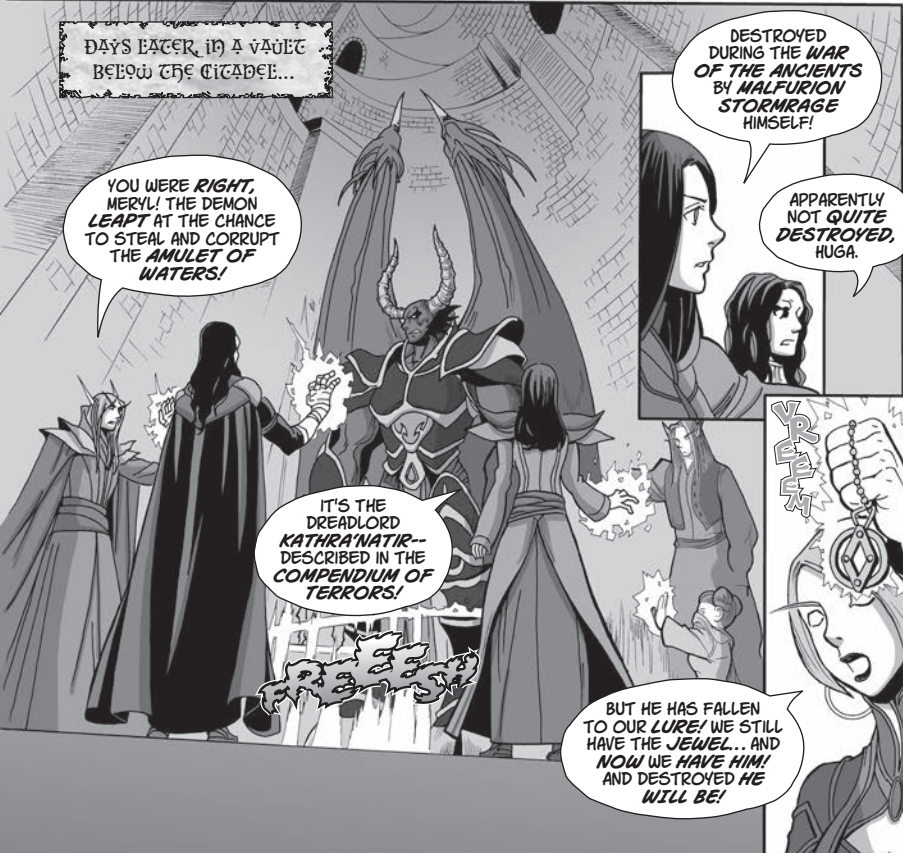




**DUELS TO THE DEATH!
PARANOIA! PLAGUE! STINGING
INSECTS AND RAVENING
RODENTS! NOT SEPARATE
INCIDENTS BUT A SYMPTOM
OF A LARGER MALAISE...!**



**INDUS IS RIGHT! A
POWERFUL DEMON IS
POURING ITS POISON
INTO DALARAN!**



**DAYS LATER, IN A VAULT
BELOW THE CITADEL...**

**YOU WERE RIGHT,
MERYL! THE DEMON
LEAPT AT THE CHANCE
TO STEAL AND CORRUPT
THE AMULET OF
WATERS!**

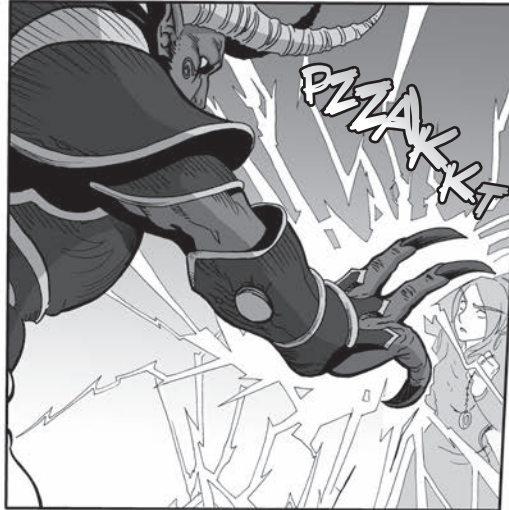
**IT'S THE
DREADLORD
KATHRA'NATR--
DESCRIBED IN THE
COMPENDIUM OF
TERRORS!**

**DESTROYED
DURING THE WAR
OF THE ANCIENTS
BY MALFURION
STORMRAGE
HIMSELF!**

**APPARENTLY
NOT QUITE
DESTROYED,
HUGA.**

**BUT HE HAS FALLEN
TO OUR LURE! WE STILL
HAVE THE JEWEL... AND
NOW WE HAVE HIM!
AND DESTROYED HE
WILL BE!**

YEEH!



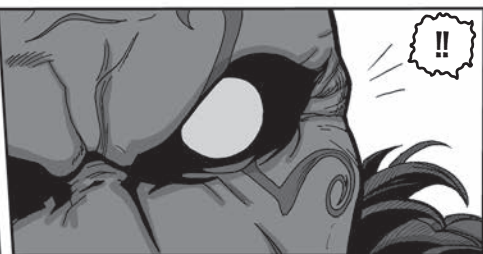
PZZAKKT



YEARRGHH!!



EH?



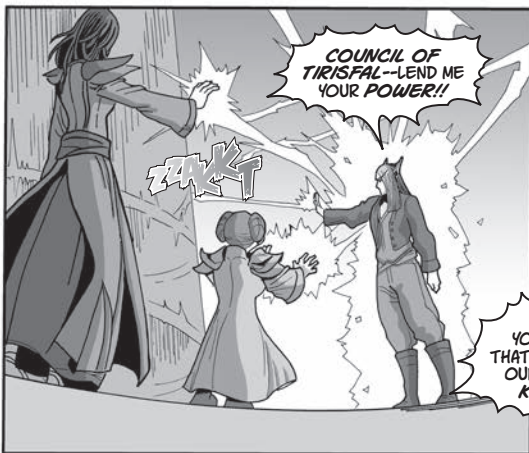
!!



ZAKKT!

ENOUGH DISCUSSION!!

ZAKKT!

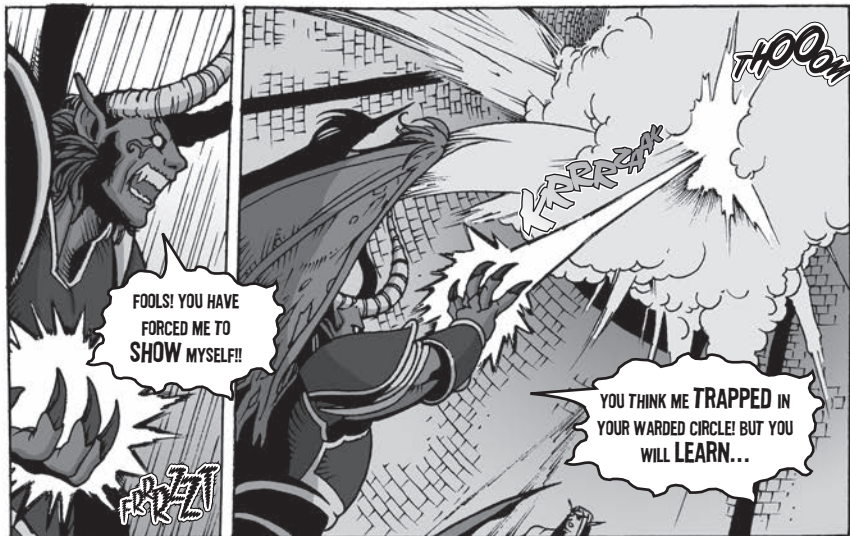


COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL--LEND ME YOUR POWER!!

ZAKKT!



LET ME BE YOUR SPEARHEAD THAT I MIGHT DESTROY OUR GREAT ENEMY KATHRA'NATIR!!



FOOLS! YOU HAVE
FORCED ME TO
SHOW MYSELF!!

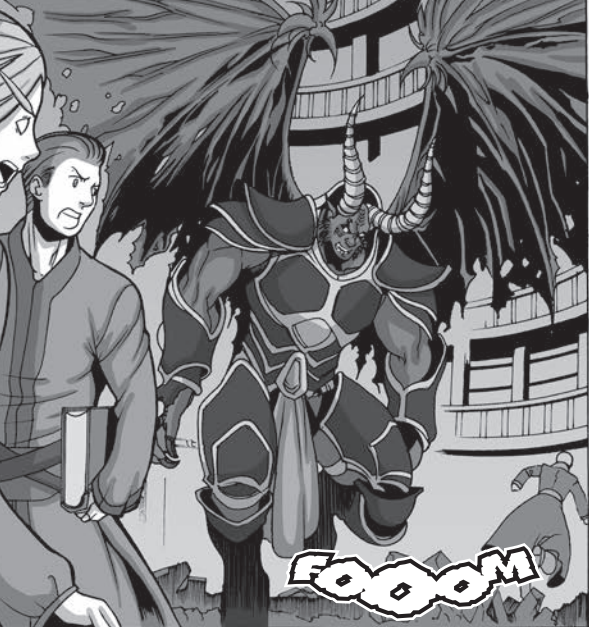
YOU THINK ME TRAPPED IN
YOUR WARED CIRCLE! BUT YOU
WILL LEARN...



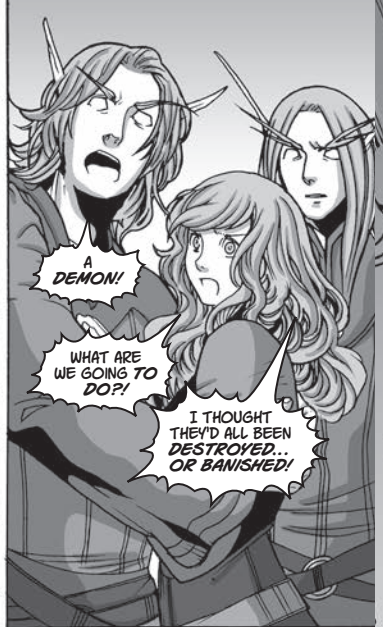
NO!!



...THAT
KATHRA'NATIR
IS NOT SO EASILY
DESTROYED!!



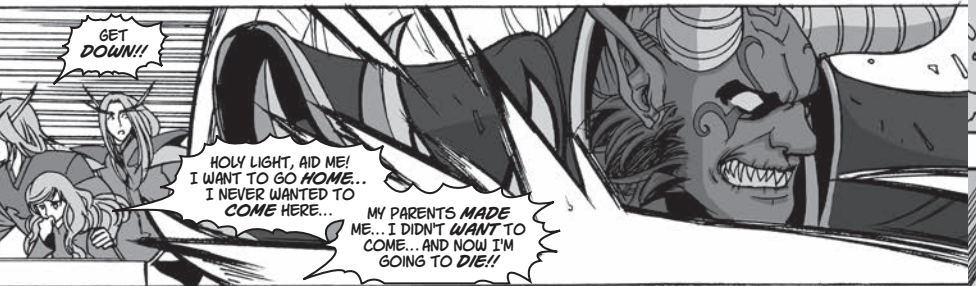
BOOM!



A
DEMON!

WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO
DO?!

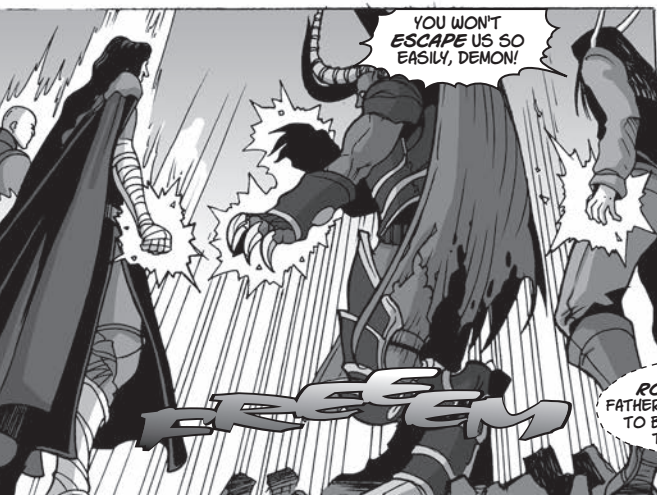
I THOUGHT
THEY'D ALL BEEN
DESTROYED...
OR BANISHED!



GET
DOWN!!

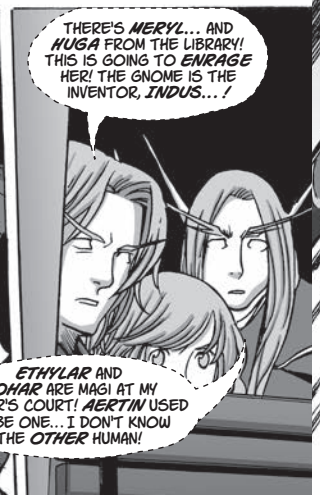
HOLY LIGHT, AID ME!
I WANT TO GO HOME...
I NEVER WANTED TO
COME HERE...

MY PARENTS MADE
ME... I DIDN'T WANT TO
COME... AND NOW I'M
GOING TO DIE!!



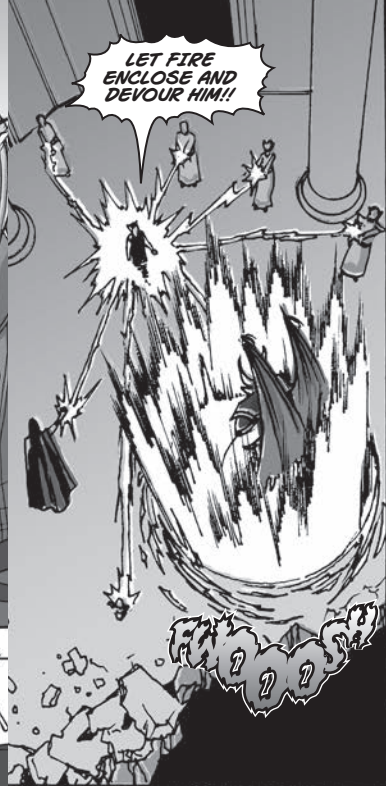
YOU WON'T
ESCAPE US SO
EASILY, DEMON!

FREEE



THERE'S MERYL... AND
HUGA FROM THE LIBRARY!
THIS IS GOING TO ENRAGE
HER! THE GNOME IS THE
INVENTOR, INDUS...!

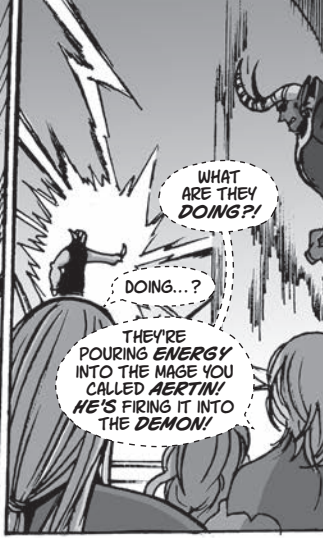
ETHYLAR AND
ROHAR ARE MAGI AT MY
FATHER'S COURT! AERTIN USED
TO BE ONE... I DON'T KNOW
THE OTHER HUMAN!



LET FIRE ENCLOSE AND DEVOUR HIM!!



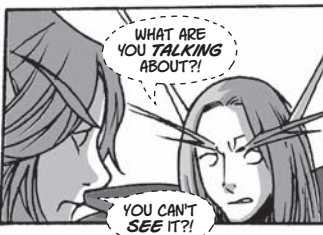
GHRRRH!!



WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!

DOING...?

THEY'RE POURING ENERGY INTO THE MAGE YOU CALLED AERTIN! HE'S FIRING IT INTO THE DEMON!



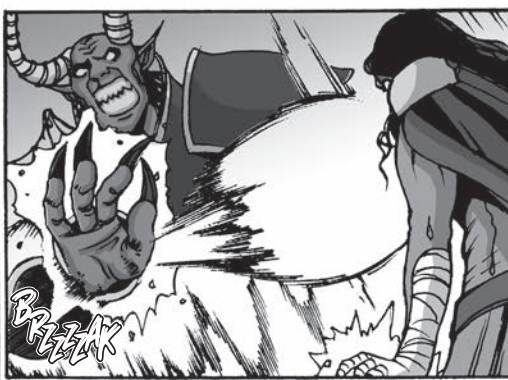
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

YOU CAN'T SEE IT?!

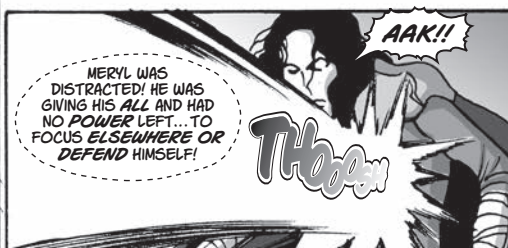


THE ENERGY MISSILES, YES, BUT NOT--

SHHRRRAAK



BZZAK



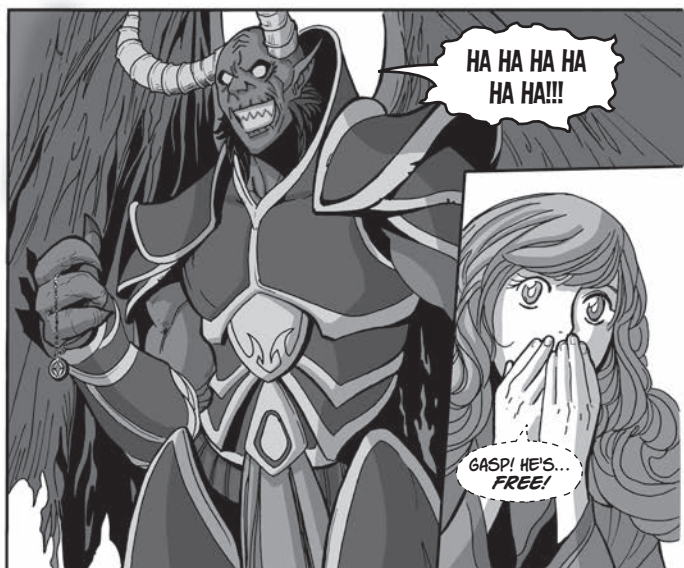
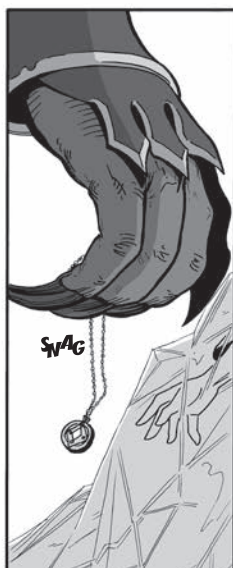
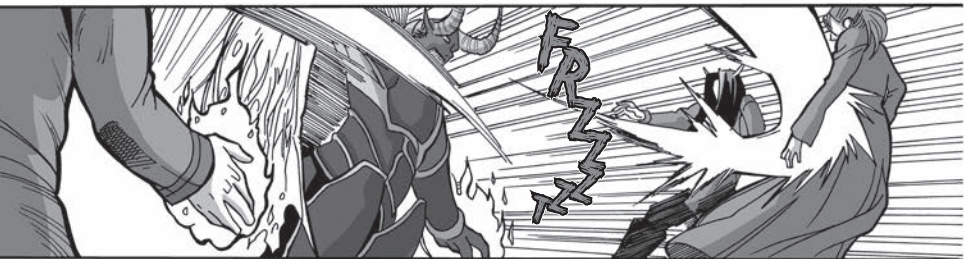
AAK!!

MERYL WAS DISTRACTED! HE WAS GIVING HIS ALL AND HAD NO POWER LEFT... TO FOCUS ELSEWHERE OR DEFEND HIMSELF!

THOOON



AND THE LOSS OF HIS MAGIC WEAKENS THE OTHERS!





I SEE THERE ARE
OTHERS HERE WHO
WISH TO DIE.



I'LL... I'LL
DISTRACT HIM,
NALL! JUST GET
EIDRE OUT OF
HERE!

BUT--



DO IT!!

I JUST WISH
I'D PAID MORE
ATTENTION DURING
LECTURES...
I DIDN'T
THINK--!!



NO ONE ELSE WILL
DIE THIS DAY!!

SHEESH

HA HA HA!
SO VALIANT!
SO DETERMINED!
SO DOOMED!

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BREAK
THAT FLIMSY SHIELD AND
DESTROY YOU, HMM?

KRAAK

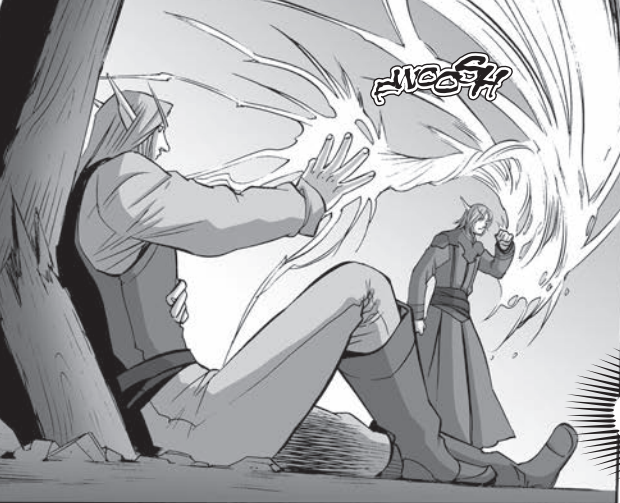


ONE
LITTLE BLAST?
TWO...?

...N-NO...

KRALE

KRALE



SWOOSH!



AERTIN'S
DOING FOR ME WHAT
THE OTHERS DID FOR HIM--
FEEDING WHAT POWER HE
HAS LEFT TO STRENGTHEN
MY SHIELD!



**I HAVE IT
NOW!!**

SWOOSH!

FREE!

IF ONLY I
COULD WIELD IT AS A
WEAPON AS AERTIN DID...
BUT I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE
TO DO EVEN THIS!!



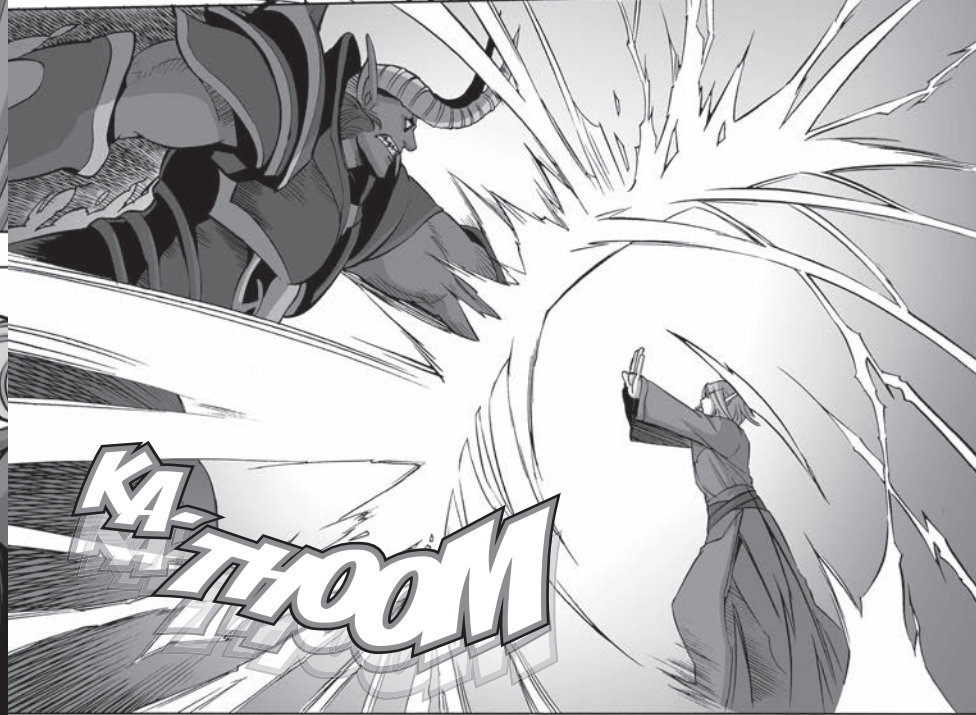
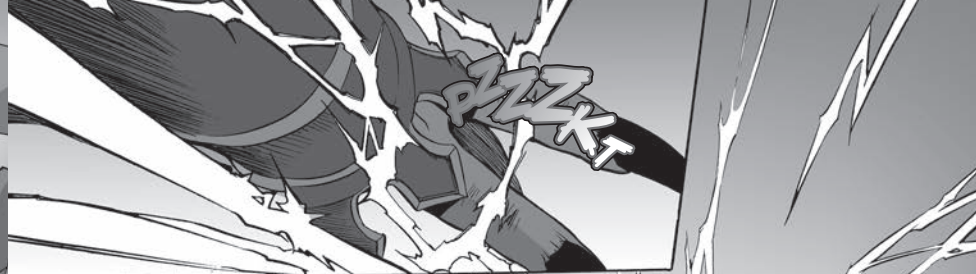
GET MASTER
AERTIN OUT OF
HERE!!

AND MERYL!!
AND--



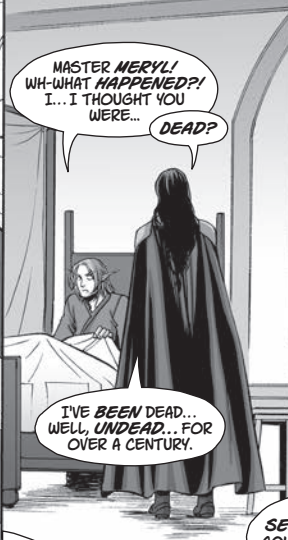
WHOM ARE YOU
ORDERING ABOUT,
BOY?! EVERYONE ELSE
HAS RUN AWAY!!

SOON ENOUGH, THERE'LL
BE NO ONE ALIVE TO
HEAR YOU SCREAM--
EXCEPT FOR ME!!



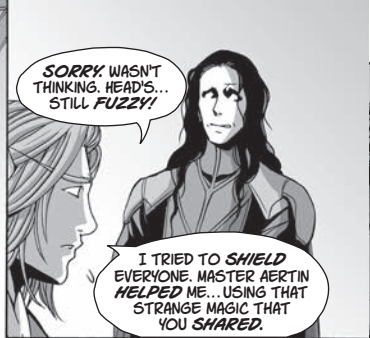


AH... YOU'RE AWAKE.



MASTER MERYL! WH-WHAT HAPPENED?! I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE... DEAD?

I'VE BEEN DEAD... WELL, UNDEAD... FOR OVER A CENTURY.

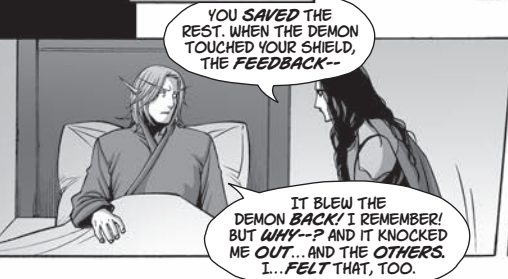


SORRY, WASN'T THINKING. HEAD'S... STILL FUZZY!

I TRIED TO SHIELD EVERYONE. MASTER AERTIN HELPED ME... USING THAT STRANGE MAGIC THAT YOU SHARED.

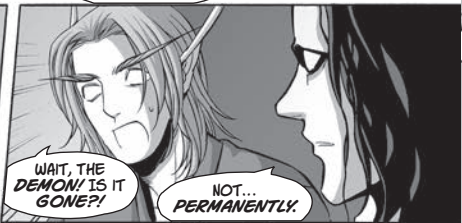


I COULD SEE IT... BUT NALL COULDN'T. I THINK... I FELT AERTIN DIE.



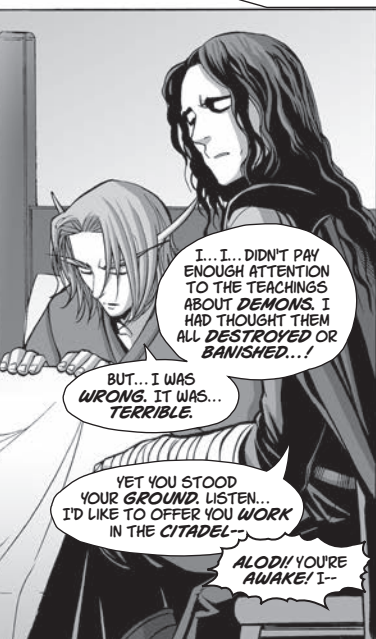
YOU SAVED THE REST. WHEN THE DEMON TOUCHED YOUR SHIELD, THE FEEDBACK--

IT BLEW THE DEMON BACK! I REMEMBER! BUT WHY--? AND IT KNOCKED ME OUT... AND THE OTHERS. I... FELT THAT, TOO.



WAIT, THE DEMON! IS IT GONE?!

NOT... PERMANENTLY.

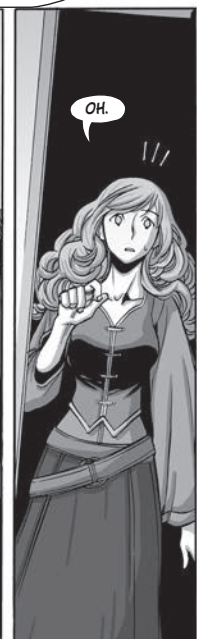


I... I... DIDN'T PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO THE TEACHINGS ABOUT DEMONS. I HAD THOUGHT THEM ALL DESTROYED OR BANISHED...!

BUT... I WAS WRONG. IT WAS... TERRIBLE.

YET YOU STOOD YOUR GROUND. LISTEN... I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU WORK IN THE CITADEL--

ALODH! YOU'RE AWAKE! I--



OH.



MASTER MERYL.

I SEE YOU HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR. WE'LL SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN, SOON. I TRUST YOU BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY'S BATTLE IS TO BE A CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRET...?

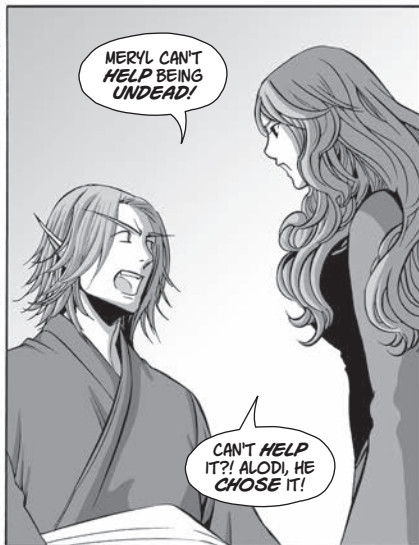
WE... UNDERSTAND!

I WILL SPEAK TO NALLORATH, ALSO. AND PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE YOU'LL ATTEND YOUR STUDIES MORE CLOSELY?



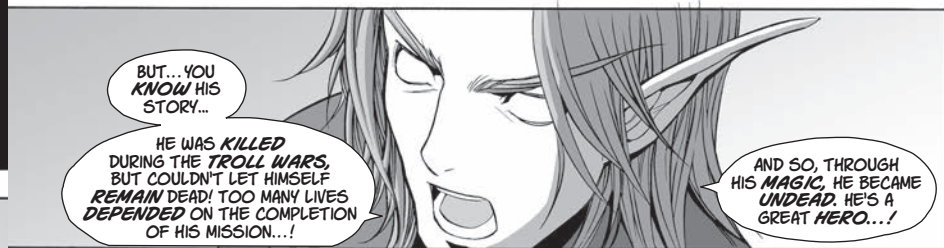
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?!

HE'S *DISGUSTING!* ALMOST AS *HORRIBLE*, IN HIS OWN WAY, AS THE *DEMON!*



MERYL CAN'T HELP BEING UNDEAD!

CAN'T HELP IT?! ALODI, HE *CHOSE* IT!



BUT... YOU *KNOW* HIS STORY...

HE WAS *KILLED* DURING THE *TROLL WARS*, BUT COULDN'T LET HIMSELF *REMAIN DEAD!* TOO MANY LIVES *DEPENDED* ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS MISSION...!

AND SO, THROUGH HIS *MAGIC*, HE BECAME *UNDEAD*. HE'S A GREAT HERO...!



HE'S A *WALKING CORPSE!* IF HE'S SO *GREAT*--IF THEY'RE ALL SO *GREAT*--WHY DID YOU HAVE TO *STOP* THAT THING?!

BUT... *EVERYONE* THERE WAS HELPING! *ADDING POWER*--

NO! YOU THREW UP THAT *SHIELD!* YOU SAVED *EVERYONE!* I *SAW!*



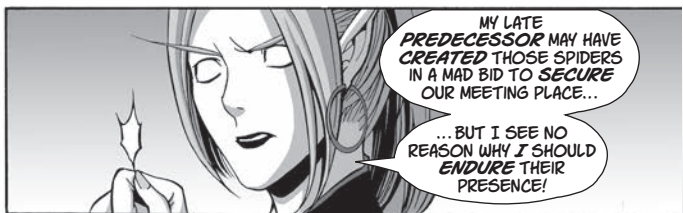
WAIT... YOU COULDN'T SEE IT *EITHER?*

BUT IT *WASN'T* ME *ALONE*. I WAS... *TIED* TO THEM. SO THAT I CAN'T QUITE TELL WHERE *THEIR* ACTIONS *STOPPED* AND *MINE* *BEGAN*.

VENOMWEB VÄEER IN
TIRISFAL GEÄDES

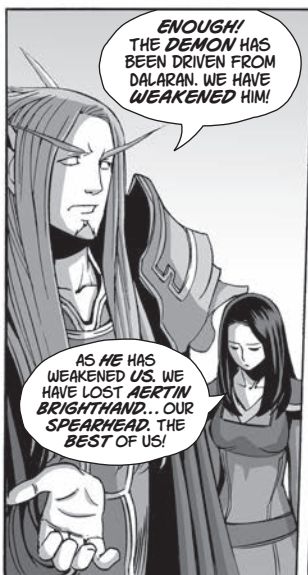


**DON'T WASTE
THEM, ETHYLAR!**



MY LATE
PREDECESSOR MAY HAVE
CREATED THOSE SPIDERS
IN A MAD BID TO SECURE
OUR MEETING PLACE...

... BUT I SEE NO
REASON WHY I SHOULD
ENDURE THEIR
PRESENCE!



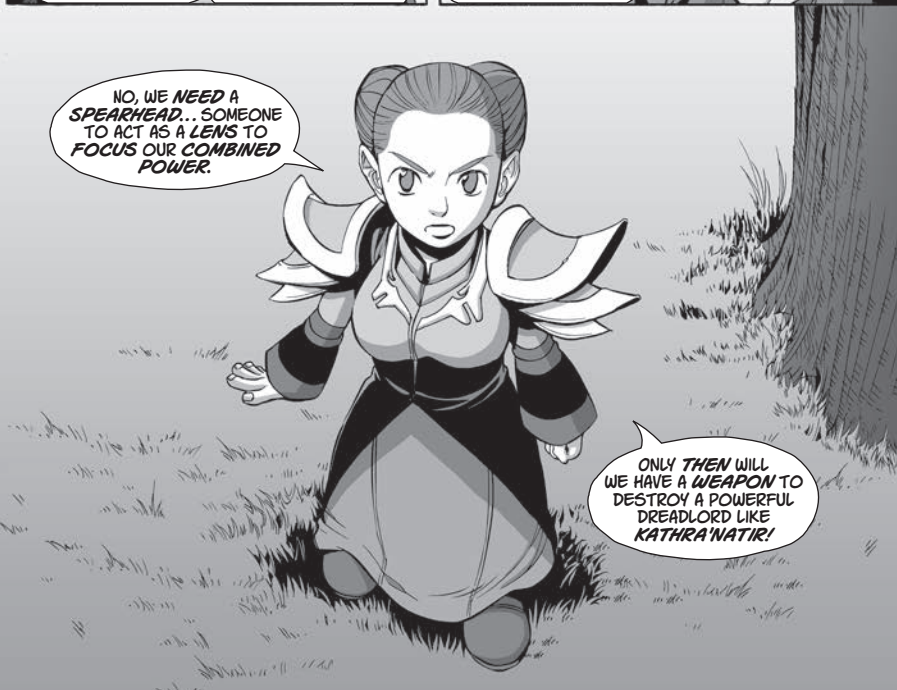
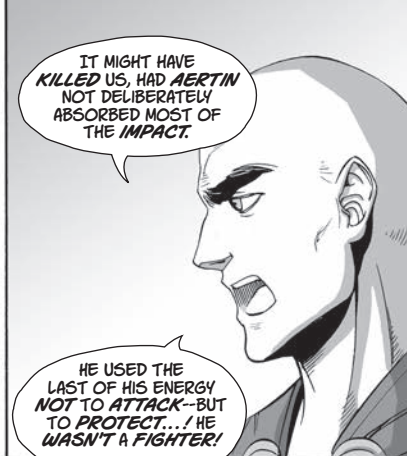
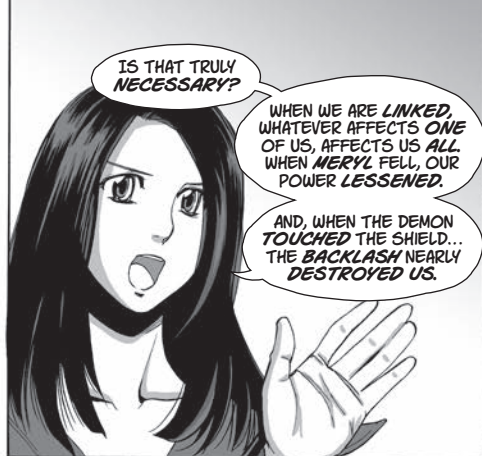
ENOUGH!
THE DEMON HAS
BEEN DRIVEN FROM
DALARAN. WE HAVE
WEAKENED HIM!

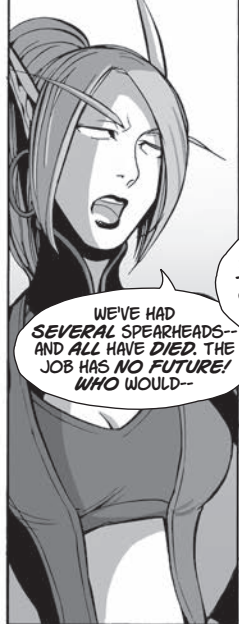
AS HE HAS
WEAKENED US. WE
HAVE LOST AERTIN
BRIGHTHAND... OUR
SPEARHEAD. THE
BEST OF US!



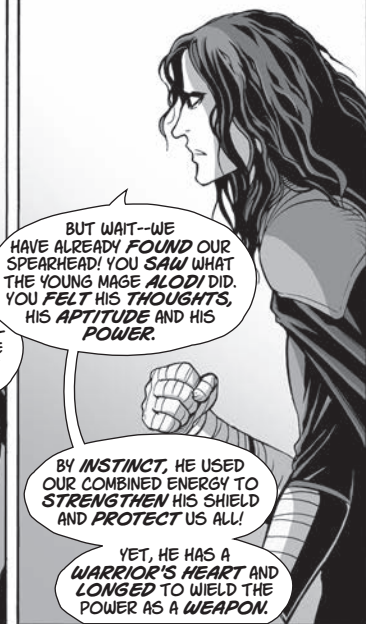
WE HAVE ALSO
LOST THE AMULET
OF WATERS. WITH
IT, KATHRA'NATIR
COULD CORRUPT
LORDAMERE LAKE.

WE NEED TO
CHOOSE ANOTHER
MEMBER FOR OUR
COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL,
AND WE NEED TO SELECT
A NEW SPEARHEAD!





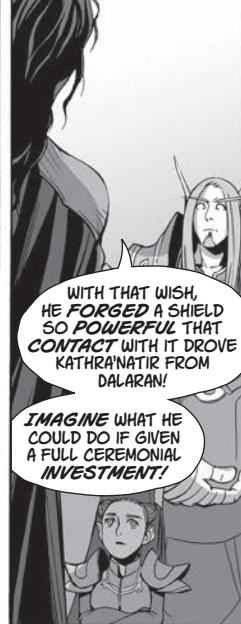
WE'VE HAD SEVERAL SPEARHEADS-- AND ALL HAVE DIED. THE JOB HAS NO FUTURE! WHO WOULD--



BUT WAIT--WE HAVE ALREADY FOUND OUR SPEARHEAD! YOU SAW WHAT THE YOUNG MAGE ALODI DID. YOU FELT HIS THOUGHTS, HIS APTITUDE AND HIS POWER.

BY INSTINCT, HE USED OUR COMBINED ENERGY TO STRENGTHEN HIS SHIELD AND PROTECT US ALL!

YET, HE HAS A WARRIOR'S HEART AND LONGED TO WIELD THE POWER AS A WEAPON.



WITH THAT WISH, HE FORGED A SHIELD SO POWERFUL THAT CONTACT WITH IT DROVE KATHRA'NATIR FROM DALARAN!

IMAGINE WHAT HE COULD DO IF GIVEN A FULL CEREMONIAL INVESTMENT!



THAT BOY? HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING! NO EXPERIENCE AT ALL!

A HALF-ELF ORPHAN OF NO BREEDING! A NOBODY!

PRODIGIOUSLY TALENTED, OF COURSE, AS THOSE RARE HYBRIDS SOMETIMES ARE. BUT LAZY! HE'S NEVER REALIZED HIS POTENTIAL.



I'VE OFFERED ALODI A POSITION RESEARCHING SPELLS. I SUSPECT WE'LL FIND THAT, UNTIL NOW, HE SIMPLY HASN'T BEEN GIVEN A REASON TO EXCEL.



I CAN'T WAIT TO RETURN HOME AND TAKE YOU WITH ME... AWAY FROM HERE FOREVER!

I'LL BRING LITTLE MATERIAL TO OUR MARRIAGE...

YOU BRING *MAGIC*. MY PARENTS VALUE THAT GREATLY. I'M THEIR *HEIR*...

... AND TOGETHER, THEY'RE SURE WE CAN RESTORE MY FAMILY'S *PRESTIGE*.

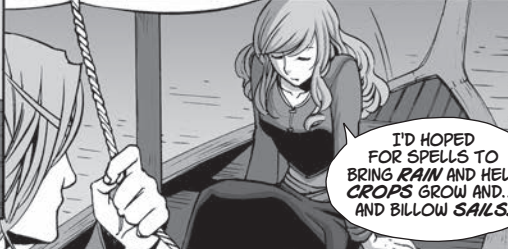
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?



IT'S WHY MY PARENTS SENT ME HERE.



THEY KNOW MY TALENT IS *MINOR*, BUT THEY WANTED ME TO MAKE A *GOOD MATCH*.



I'D HOPED FOR SPELLS TO BRING *RAIN* AND HELP *CROPS* GROW AND... AND *BILLOW SAILS*.



INSTEAD I GOT *FIRE* AND *ICE!* USELESS...

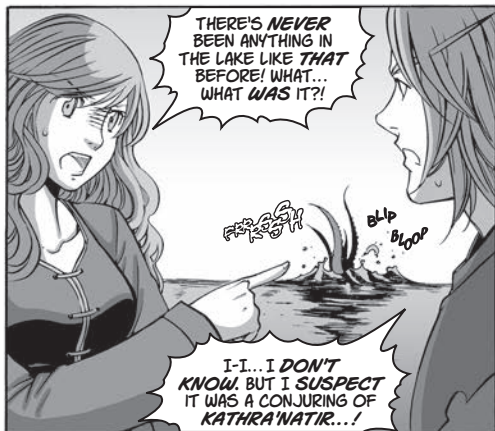


RRRRSSSH!



EXCEPT IN BATTLE!

EIDRE! GET DOWN!!



LORDAMERE LAKE

THIS CAMPAIGN
TO RID THE LAKE OF
KATHRANATIR'S TAINT WILL
BE A *FAIR TEST*.

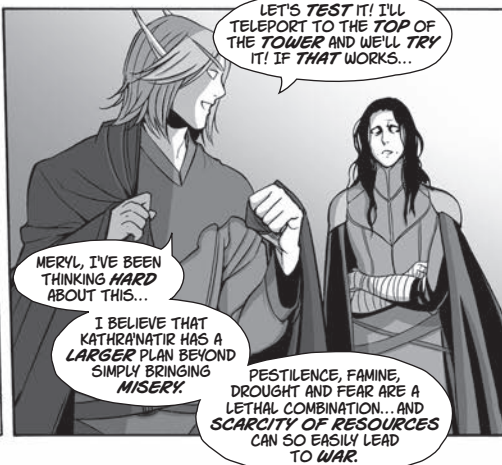
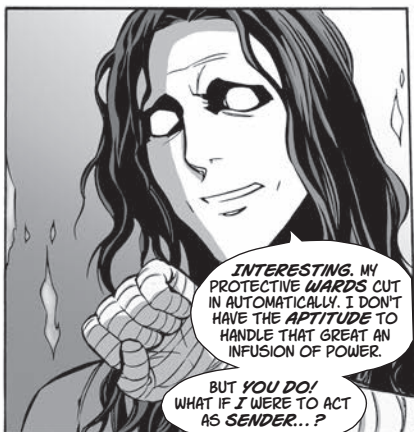
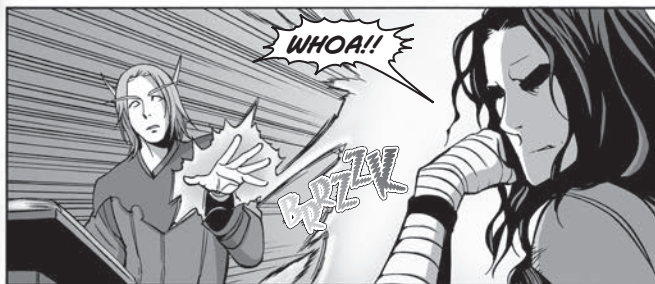
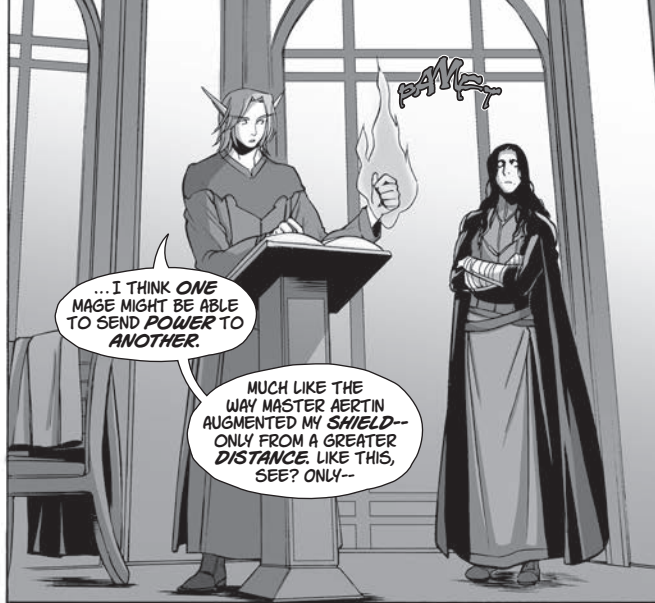
THE COUNCIL
MAY WELL SUCCEED
WITHOUT A
SPEARHEAD.

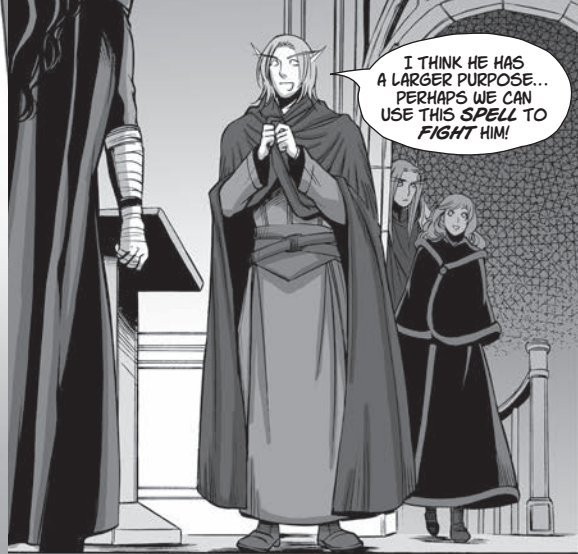
WE'RE *READY*,
INDUS...!



HA! YOU SEE
HOW *EASILY* WE
DESTROY THESE
MONSTERS...!

TAKE HEED...
THEY ARE THE DEMON'S
PETS, IRAR--NOT THE DEMON
HIMSELF. KATHRANATIR HAS
LEFT DALARAN TO SPREAD HIS
MISERY ACROSS *ARTHOR*.



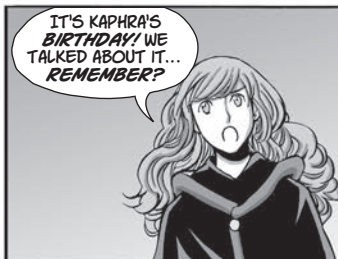


I THINK HE HAS A LARGER PURPOSE... PERHAPS WE CAN USE THIS **SPELL** TO **FIGHT** HIM!

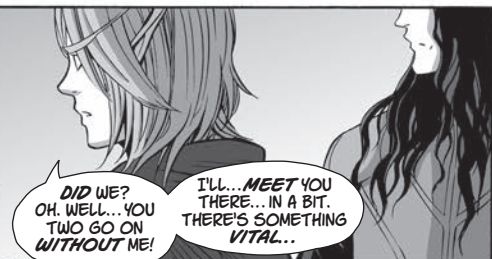


OH GOOD, YOU'RE READY...!

READY...?

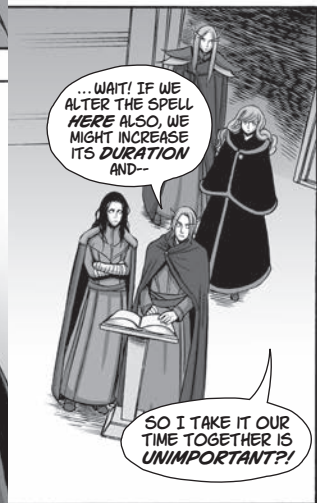


IT'S KAPHRA'S **BIRTHDAY!** WE TALKED ABOUT IT... **REMEMBER?**



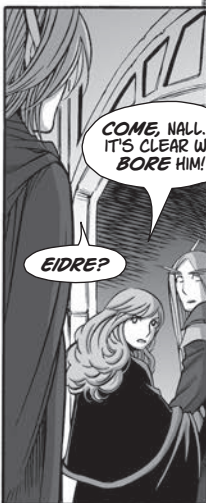
DID WE? OH. WELL... YOU TWO GO ON **WITHOUT** ME!

I'LL... **MEET** YOU THERE... IN A BIT. THERE'S SOMETHING **VITAL**...



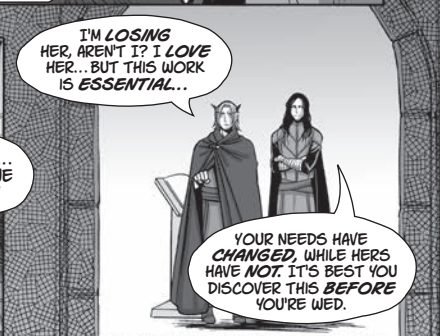
...WAIT! IF WE ALTER THE **SPELL** **HERE** ALSO, WE MIGHT INCREASE ITS **DURATION** AND--

SO I TAKE IT OUR TIME TOGETHER IS **UNIMPORTANT?**!



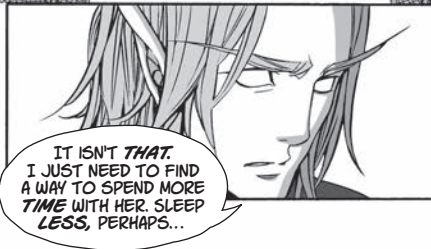
COME, NALL... IT'S CLEAR WE **BORE** HIM!

EIDRE?



I'M **LOSING** HER, AREN'T I? I **LOVE** HER... BUT THIS WORK IS **ESSENTIAL**...

YOUR NEEDS HAVE **CHANGED**, WHILE HERS HAVE **NOT**. IT'S BEST YOU DISCOVER THIS **BEFORE** YOU'RE WED.

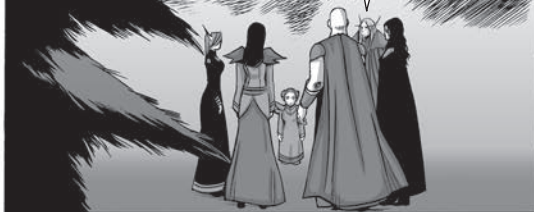


IT ISN'T **THAT**. I JUST NEED TO FIND A WAY TO SPEND MORE **TIME** WITH HER. SLEEP **LESS**, PERHAPS...

Weeks Later...

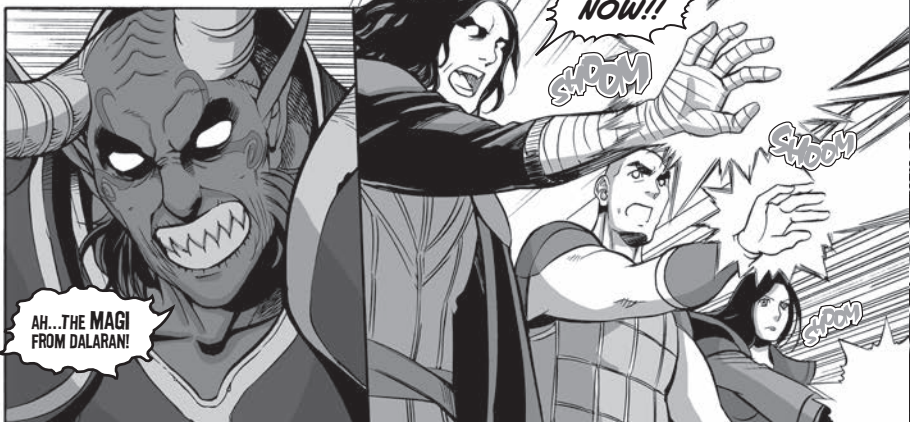
KATHRA'NATIR HAS BEEN SPOTTED ON THE EDGE OF SILVERPINE FOREST!

HE'S BROUGHT A BLIGHT OF LOCUSTS TO DESTROY THE TREES AND RAVAGE THE CROPLAND!



LET'S GET TO IT! I'M ITCHING TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER!!

FREEEEM!



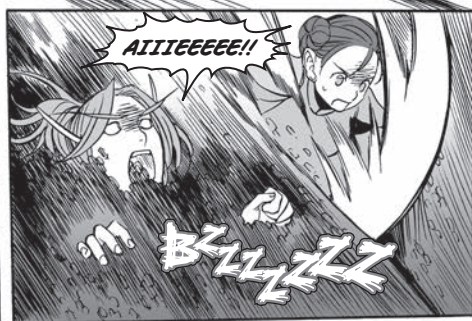
AH...THE MAGI FROM DALARAN!

NOW!!

SHOOM

SHOOM

SHOOM

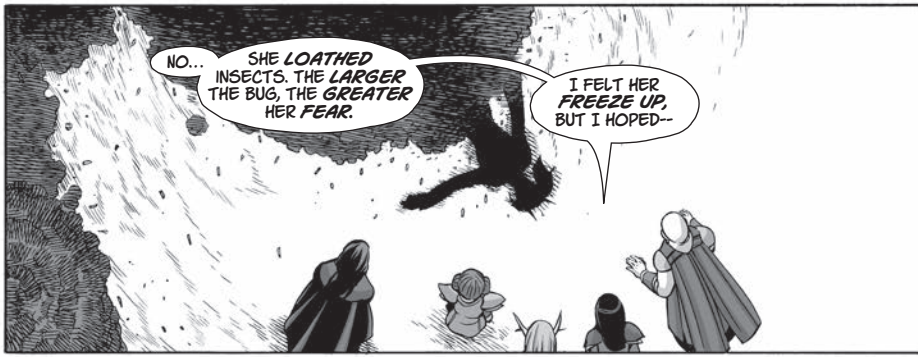




WELL...
THAT DIDN'T
WORK!

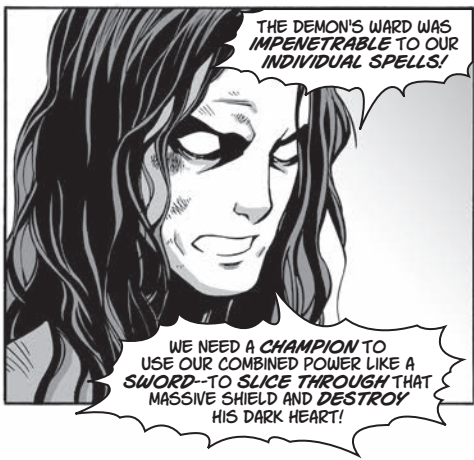
EXCEPT AS A
DEMONSTRATION
OF HOW *NOT* TO
PROCEED.

WAIT...
ETHYLAR? SHE
ISN'T AMONG US!



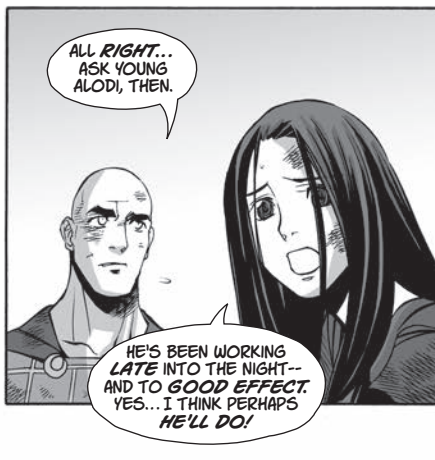
NO... SHE LOATHED
INSECTS. THE LARGER
THE BUG, THE GREATER
HER FEAR.

I FELT HER
FREEZE UP,
BUT I HOPED--



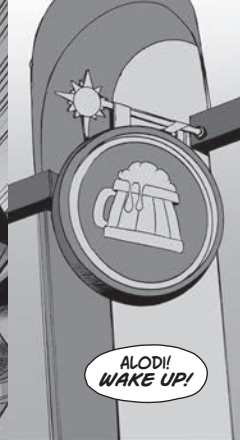
THE DEMON'S WARD WAS
IMPENETRABLE TO OUR
INDIVIDUAL SPELLS!

WE NEED A **CHAMPION** TO
USE OUR COMBINED POWER LIKE A
SWORD--TO SLICE THROUGH THAT
MASSIVE SHIELD AND DESTROY
HIS DARK HEART!

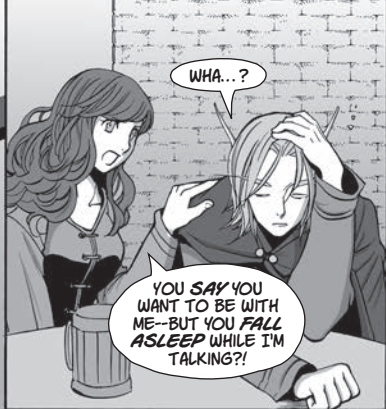


ALL RIGHT...
ASK YOUNG
ALODI, THEN.

HE'S BEEN WORKING
LATE INTO THE NIGHT--
AND TO GOOD EFFECT.
YES... I THINK PERHAPS
HE'LL DO!

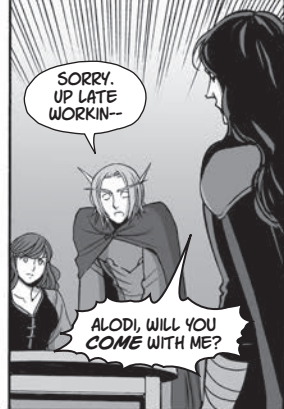


ALODI!
WAKE UP!



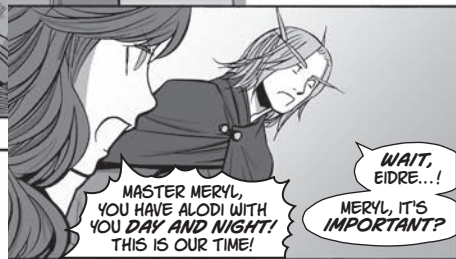
WHA...?

YOU SAY YOU
WANT TO BE WITH
ME--BUT YOU FALL
ASLEEP WHILE I'M
TALKING?!



SORRY.
UP LATE
WORKIN--

ALODI, WILL YOU
COME WITH ME?



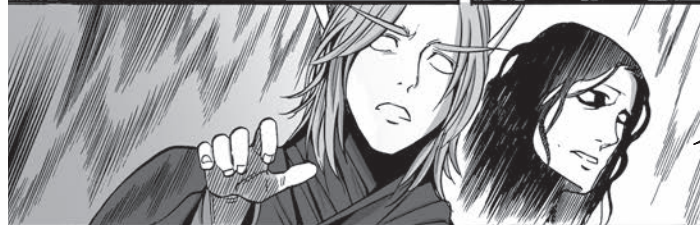
MASTER MERYL,
YOU HAVE ALODI WITH
YOU DAY AND NIGHT!
THIS IS OUR TIME!

WAIT,
EIDRE...!

MERYL, IT'S
IMPORTANT?



MORE IMPORTANT
THAN I AM, THAT
MUCH IS CLEAR!



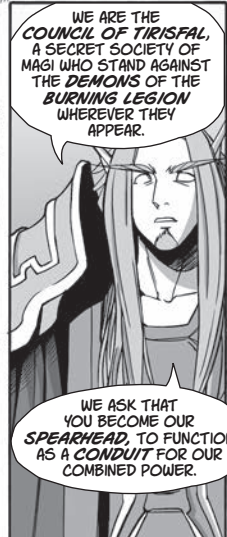
COME! WE
LEAVE AT ONCE
FOR...



"...TIRISFAL GLADES."

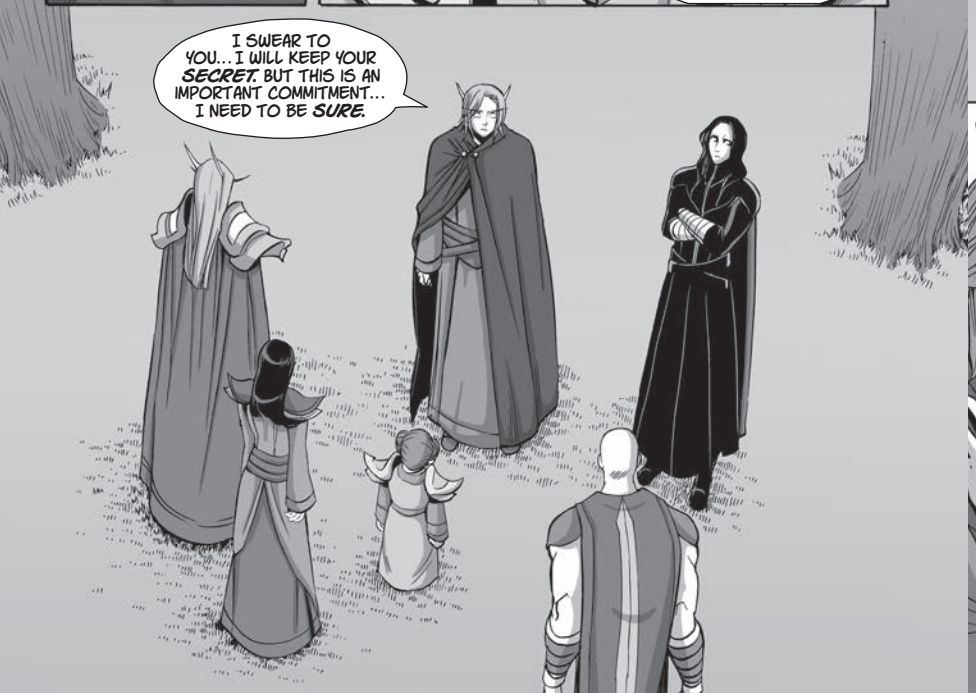
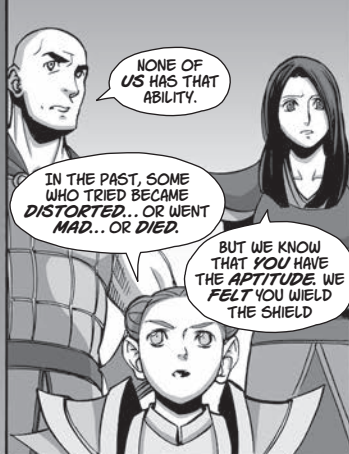
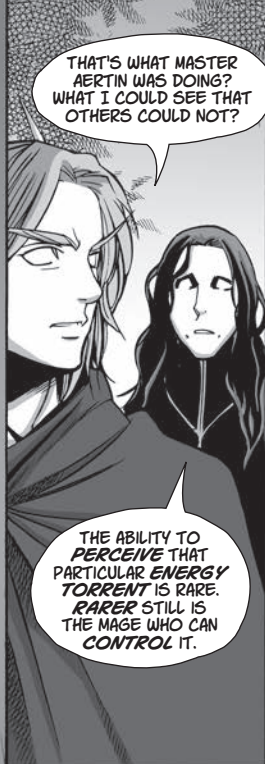


I-I... I KNOW
YOU ALL. BUT...?



WE ARE THE
COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL,
A SECRET SOCIETY OF
MAGI WHO STAND AGAINST
THE DEMONS OF THE
BURNING LEGION
WHEREVER THEY
APPEAR.

WE ASK THAT
YOU BECOME OUR
SPEARHEAD, TO FUNCTION
AS A CONDUIT FOR OUR
COMBINED POWER.



LATER...

KATHRA'NATIR HAS DISAPPEARED. ONLY WHEN HE IS FOUND AGAIN WILL A SPEARHEAD BE NEEDED. I HAVE TIME TO THINK...TO DECIDE.

ALODI!

MY F-FATHER... IS DEAD! MY MOTHER IS ILL! OUR LAND IS BESET BY SWARMING INSECTS AND VERMIN! THE WELLS HAVE RUN DRY!!

FISHERMEN SAY A DEMON STALKS THE SHORE OF BRIGHTWATER LAKE!!

THE LAND... ITS PEOPLE ARE MINE NOW! I NEED TO GO HOME!

COME WITH ME! RULE BESIDE ME! WITH ALL OUR TRAINING, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!

A... DEMON...?

AS SPEARHEAD, I'D HAVE THE POWER TO BANISH HIM... BUT THAT CHOICE WOULD BIND ME TO DALARAN...

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU, EIDRE. MY DUTY LIES HERE.

WHAT GOOD IS DALARAN TO ME IF IT CAN'T HELP ME SAVE MY PEOPLE?!

...AND I WOULD LOSE EIDRE-- AND MY PLACE BY HER SIDE. I CAN'T LOSE HER! AND YET...

WITH DALARAN?! THEN IT'S OVER BETWEEN US! IT HAS TO BE!

WHAT GOOD INDEED...

KATHRA'NATIR IS LURKING NEAR BRIGHTWATER LAKE... WE MUST HURRY!

YOU'LL JOIN US, THEN?

ON SEVERAL CONDITIONS. I'VE BEEN REVIEWING THE BATTLE, OVER AND OVER... I THINK I KNOW WHY WE FAILED BEFORE... AND WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NOW TO SUCCEED.

FIRST, WE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE TRANSFER CEREMONY. THROUGH IT, YOU WILL GRANT ME ACCESS TO YOUR ENTIRE FUND OF POWER FOR THE DURATION OF THE UPCOMING BATTLE.

ALL? BUT HOW WILL WE PROTECT OURSELVES?!

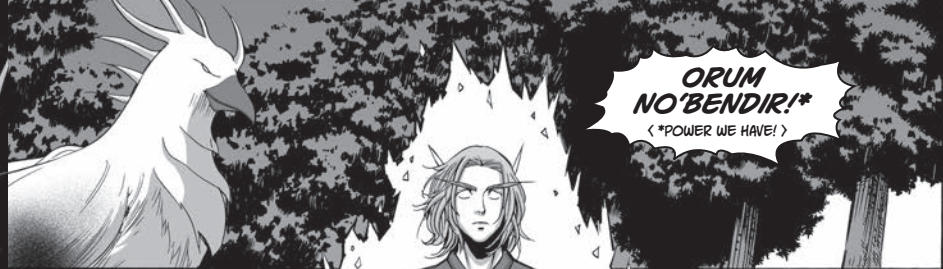
YOU WON'T NEED TO. WHILE I FACE THE DEMON AT THE LAKE, YOU WILL REMAIN HERE, IN VENOMWEB VALE. MERYL AND I HAVE DEvised A SPELL THAT WILL LINK US ACROSS GREAT DISTANCES.

ONCE THE DEMON IS BANISHED OR DESTROYED, I WILL RETURN THE POWER YOU HAVE LENT ME... UNTIL THE NEXT ENCOUNTER.

TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE, WE WILL ALTER MY TITLE.

I WILL NOT BE SPEARHEAD, BUT GUARDIAN-- OF YOUR POWER, SAFETY AND TRUST... AND OF THE DEFENSE OF AZEROTH!

WE AGREE. LET US BEGIN!



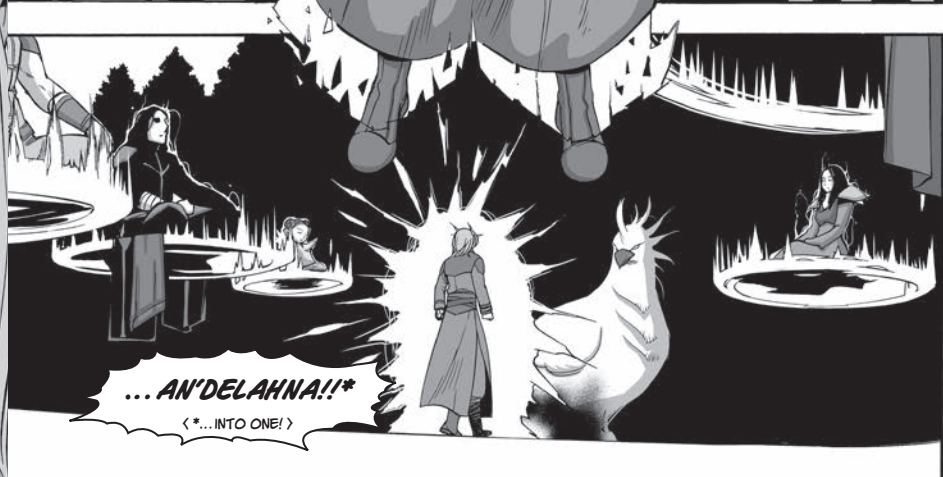
**ORUM
NO'BENDIR!***
〈 *POWER WE HAVE!〉




**ORUM
NO'MALLAH!***
〈 *POWER WE SHARE!〉



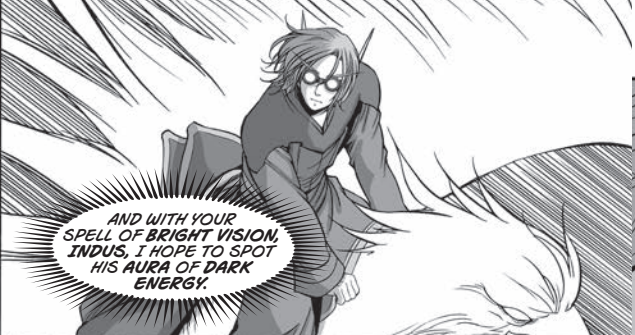
**VOHL UM
ARANAR...***
〈 *OUT OF MANY...〉



... AN'DELAHNA!!*
〈 *...INTO ONE!〉



**KATHRA'NATIR
IS NEARBY... I CAN
ALMOST FEEL
HIM FEEDING OFF
THE MISERY HE'S
CAUSED!**



**AND WITH YOUR
SPELL OF BRIGHT VISION,
INDUS, I HOPE TO SPOT
HIS AURA OF DARK
ENERGY.**



**THERE'S EIDRE'S
KEEP...! SHE'S
THERE!**



ALODI...!



**IT'S ALODI!
I KNEW HE'D
COME!**



ALODI...!!



**EIDRE!
FORGIVE
ME!**

**THE
DESTRUCTION
SEEMS TO SPREAD
OUT FROM THAT
ISLAND...**



**BY THE LIGHT!
IT ISN'T ME HE'S
COME FOR... BUT
THE DEMON!**



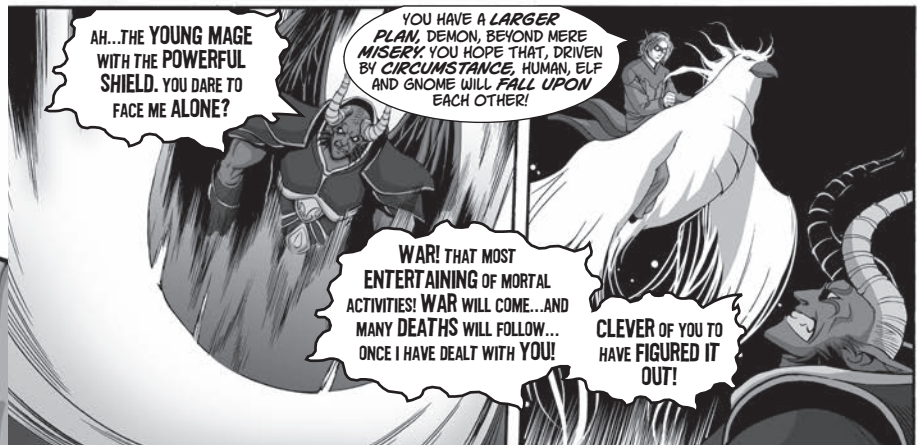
THERE'S
A KIND OF...
PATTERN.



AND AT ITS
CENTER...

THWOOSH

RUUUUMBLE



AH...THE YOUNG MAGE
WITH THE POWERFUL
SHIELD. YOU DARE TO
FACE ME ALONE?

YOU HAVE A **LARGER**
PLAN, DEMON, BEYOND MERE
MISERY. YOU HOPE THAT, DRIVEN
BY **CIRCUMSTANCE**, HUMAN, ELF
AND GNOME WILL **FALL UPON**
EACH OTHER!

WAR! THAT MOST
ENTERTAINING OF MORTAL
ACTIVITIES! **WAR** WILL COME...AND
MANY DEATHS WILL FOLLOW...
ONCE I HAVE DEALT WITH YOU!

CLEVER OF YOU TO
HAVE FIGURED IT
OUT!



YOUR KIND TRIED TO TRAP ME
ONCE BEFORE IN A RING OF
FIRE...AND FAILED!

SHRRRA



BRZZANK

I'VE HEARD HUMANS SAY THAT MADNESS
IS DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND
OVER...AND EXPECTING A DIFFERENT
RESULT.



TELL ME, MAGE...
HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

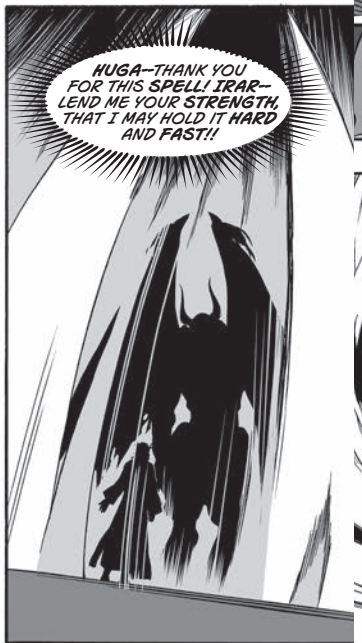


PSSSSH



THIS TIME IT'S
DIFFERENT, MONSTER!
THIS TIME YOU WON'T
ESCAPE!

THIS TIME... YOU'RE
TRAPPED INSIDE THIS
WARD WITH ME!!



HUGA—THANK YOU
FOR THIS SPELL! IRAR—
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH,
THAT I MAY HOLD IT HARD
AND FAST!!



HA HA HA!

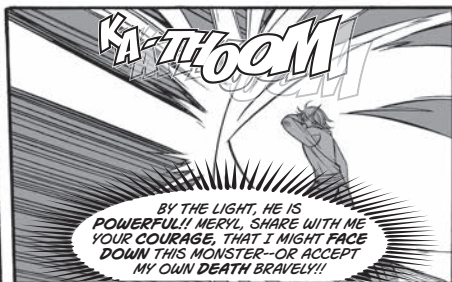
I'M TREMBLING,
MAGE.

SHOOOM



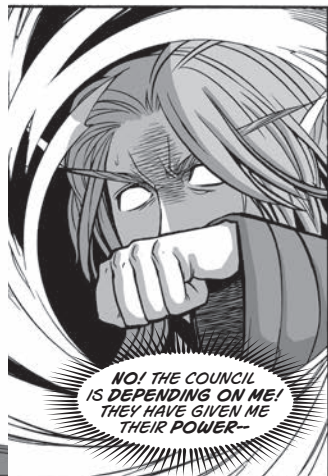
LET ME SHOW YOU
WHO IS TRAPPED WITH
WHOM!

KRACKLE

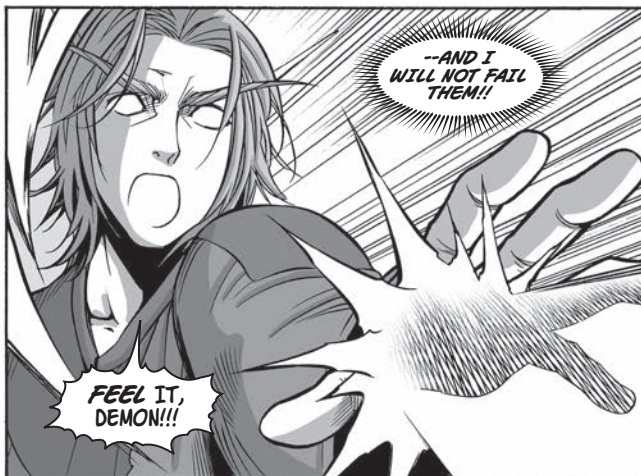


KA-TTBOOM!

BY THE LIGHT, HE IS
POWERFUL!! MERYL, SHARE WITH ME
YOUR COURAGE, THAT I MIGHT FACE
DOWN THIS MONSTER--OR ACCEPT
MY OWN DEATH BRAVELY!!



NO! THE COUNCIL
IS DEPENDING ON ME!
THEY HAVE GIVEN ME
THEIR POWER--



--AND I
WILL NOT FAIL
THEM!!

FEEL IT,
DEMON!!!



**FEEL OUR
INEXORABLE
FURY!!!**

FRZZZAK



FRASSH

**THIS TIME
IT IS YOU WHO
WILL BURN!!!**

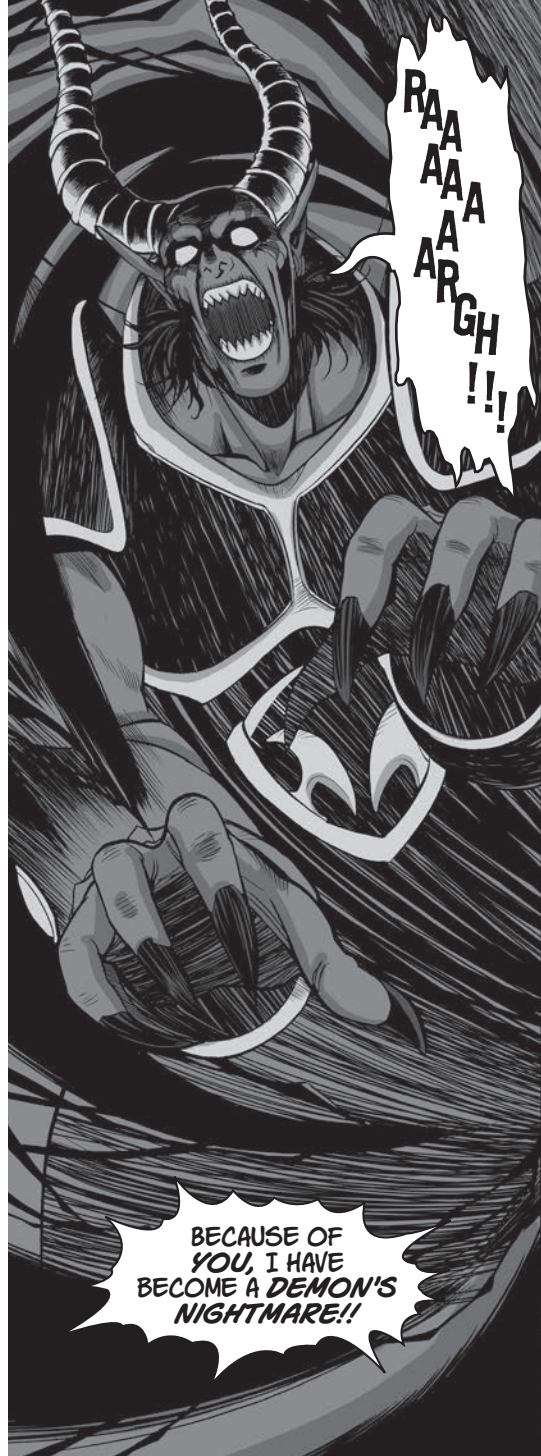


**NOW! POUR YOUR
POWER THROUGH ME--
EVERY SEARING SPELL
THAT WE POSSESS--THAT
I MAY TWIST THEM INTO
AN EXPLOSIVE
NEGATION!!**



**NOW LEARN
THE COST OF
WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE--**

**--TO THIS
LAND... TO ITS
PEOPLE... AND TO
MY LIFE!!!**

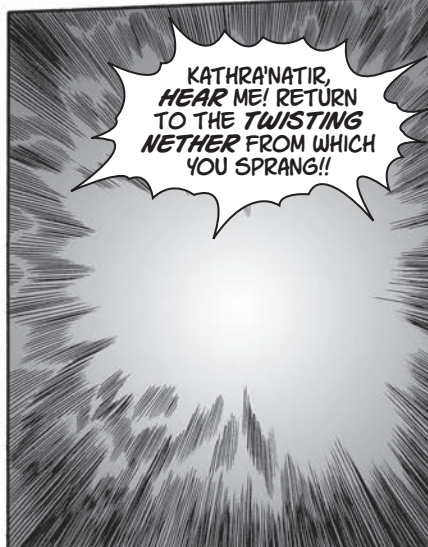


RAAA
AAA
ARRGH!!!

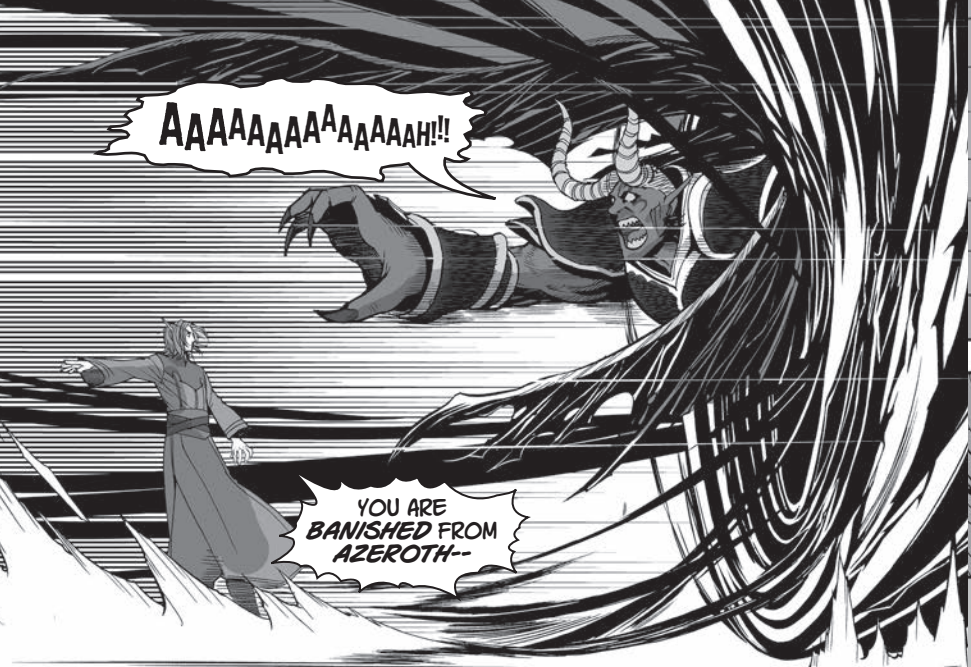
BECAUSE OF
YOU, I HAVE
BECOME A *DEMON'S*
NIGHTMARE!!



RIFT
OPEN!!!

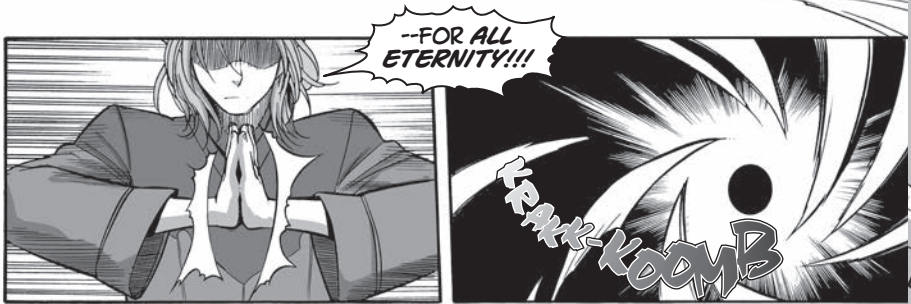


KATHRA'NATIR,
HEAR ME! RETURN
TO THE *TWISTING*
NETHER FROM WHICH
YOU SPRANG!!



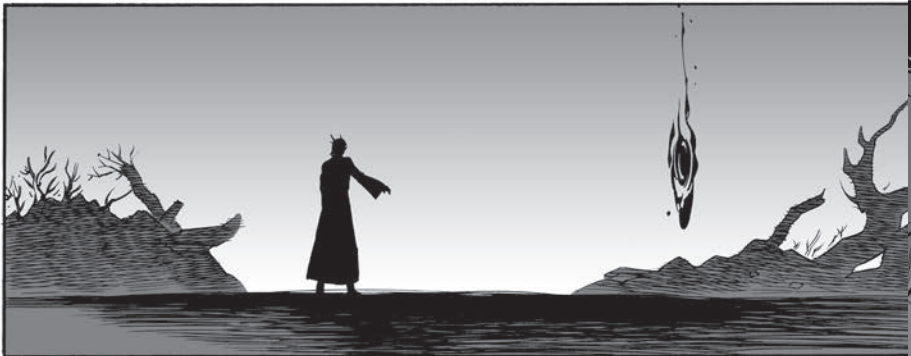
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

YOU ARE
BANISHED FROM
AZEROTH--



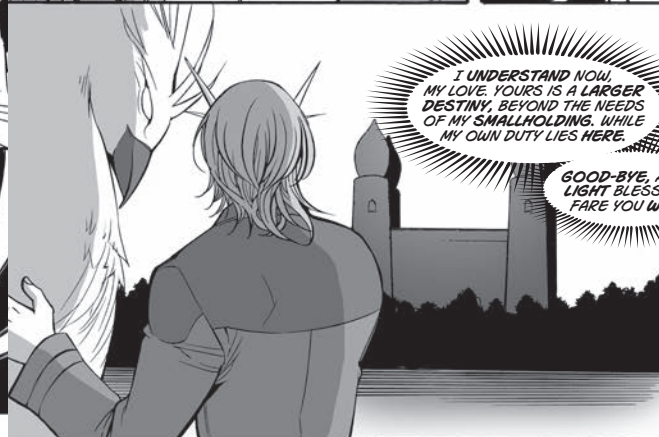
--FOR ALL
ETERNITY!!!

KRAKK-KOOMB






THANK THE LIGHT...!
THE DEMON IS GONE!
AND ALODI'S ALIVE!
BUT HOW--?



I UNDERSTAND NOW,
MY LOVE, YOURS IS A LARGER
DESTINY, BEYOND THE NEEDS
OF MY SMALLHOLDING. WHILE
MY OWN DUTY LIES HERE.



GOOD-BYE, ALODI.
LIGHT BLESS YOU.
FARE YOU WELL!



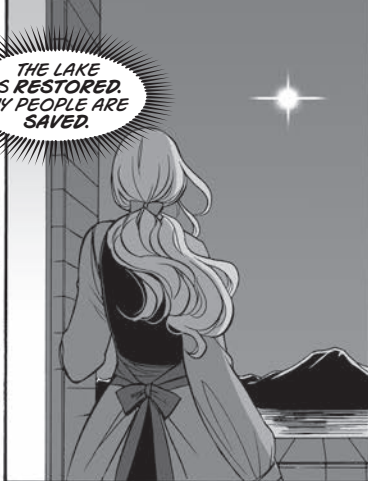
ROHAR, LEND
ME YOUR WISDOM
THAT I MAY DO WHAT
IS RIGHT!



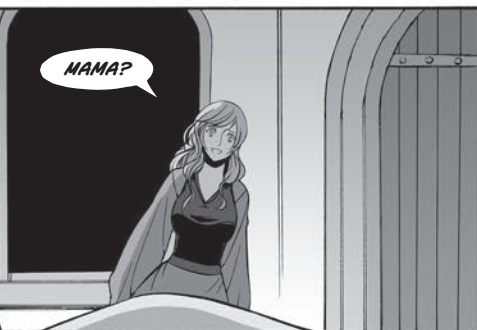
EIDRE...
GOOD-BYE.



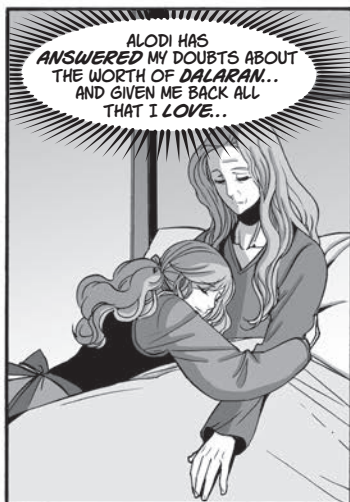
THE LAKE IS RESTORED.
MY PEOPLE ARE SAVED.



EIDRE...?



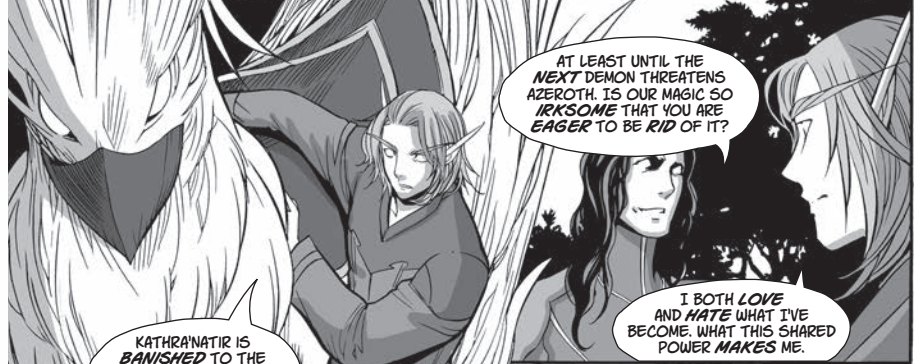
MAMA?



ALODI HAS
ANSWERED MY DOUBTS ABOUT
THE WORTH OF DALARAN...
AND GIVEN ME BACK ALL
THAT I LOVE...



... EXCEPT
HIMSELF.

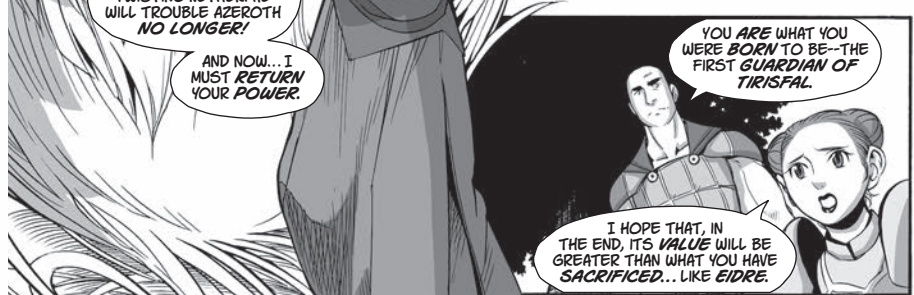


AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT DEMON THREATENS AZEROTH. IS OUR MAGIC SO IRKSOME THAT YOU ARE EAGER TO BE RID OF IT?

KATHRANATIR IS BANISHED TO THE TWISTING NETHER. HE WILL TROUBLE AZEROTH NO LONGER!

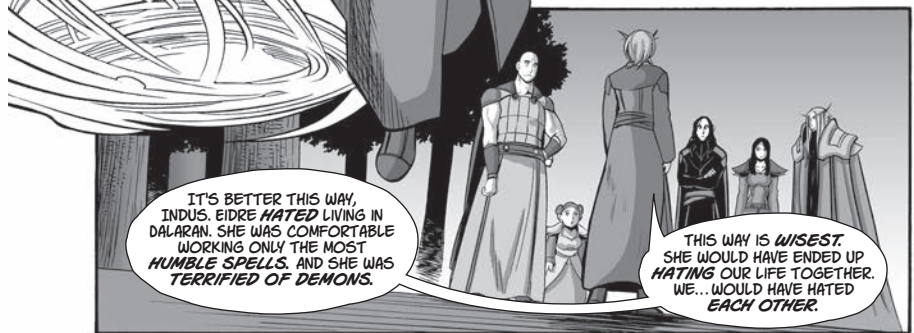
AND NOW... I MUST RETURN YOUR POWER.

I BOTH LOVE AND HATE WHAT I'VE BECOME. WHAT THIS SHARED POWER MAKES ME.



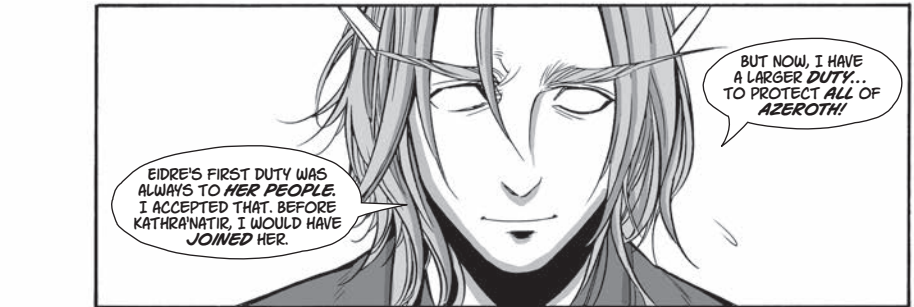
YOU ARE WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO BE--THE FIRST GUARDIAN OF TIRISFAL.

I HOPE THAT, IN THE END, ITS VALUE WILL BE GREATER THAN WHAT YOU HAVE SACRIFICED... LIKE EIDRE.



IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, INDUS. EIDRE HATED LIVING IN DALARAN. SHE WAS COMFORTABLE WORKING ONLY THE MOST HUMBLE SPELLS. AND SHE WAS TERRIFIED OF DEMONS.

THIS WAY IS WISEST. SHE WOULD HAVE ENDED UP HATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER. WE... WOULD HAVE HATED EACH OTHER.



EIDRE'S FIRST DUTY WAS ALWAYS TO HER PEOPLE. I ACCEPTED THAT. BEFORE KATHRANATIR, I WOULD HAVE JOINED HER.

BUT NOW, I HAVE A LARGER DUTY... TO PROTECT ALL OF AZEROTH!

WARCRAFT

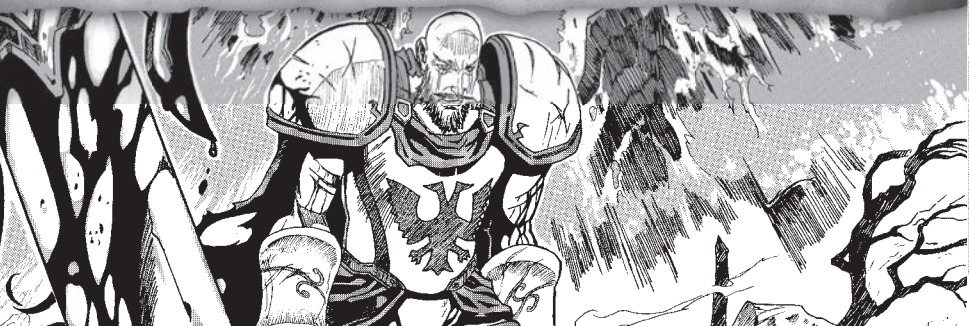
LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

A CLEANSING FIRE

WRITTEN BY EVELYN FREDERICKSEN

PENCILS & TONES BY RYO KAWAKAMI
INKS BY FERNANDO MELEK

LETTERER: MICHAEL PAOLILLI



PREPARE
YOURSELVES:
THE BELLS HAVE
TOLLED!

SHELTER YOUR
WEAK, YOUR YOUNG,
AND YOUR OLD!

EACH OF YOU
SHALL PAY THE
FINAL SUM.

CRY FOR MERCY;
THE RECKONING
HAS COME!

ALTHOUGH HE RIDES AT HALLOW'S END, NONE KNOW WHAT HORRORS GAVE RISE TO THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN.

GYAAAAAAH!!!

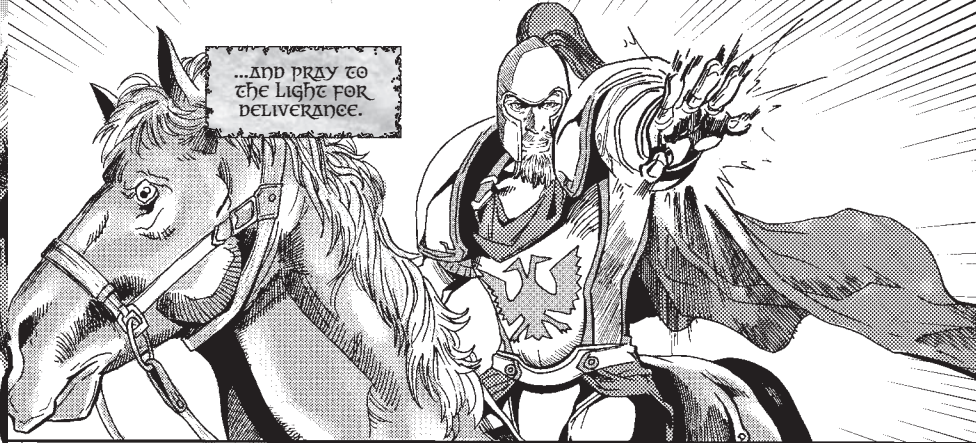
AIIIEEEE!!

HE SPEAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND YET IT IS RAGE THAT DRIVES HIM.

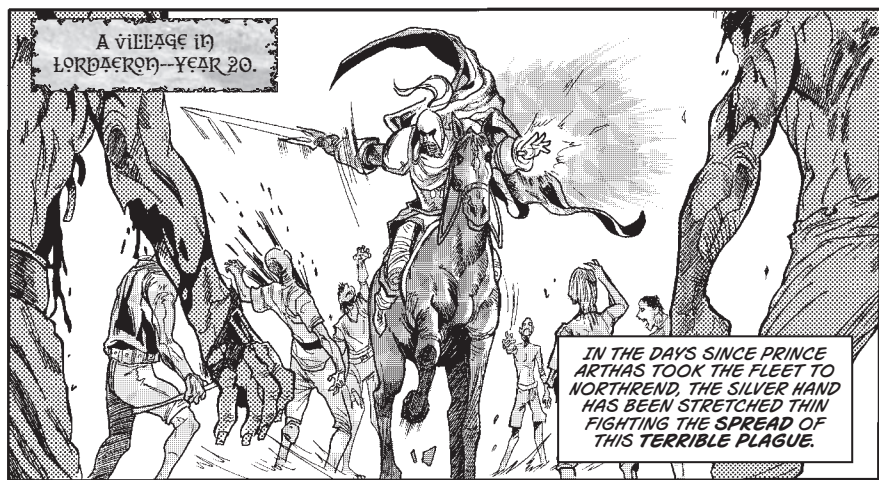
EMPOWERED BY DEMONIC MAGIC, HE BURDS THE INNOCENT AND GUILTY ALIKE.

NO MEASURES HAVE SERVED TO STOP HIM.

THE LIVING CAN ONLY TRY TO ESCAPE THE FIRES OF HIS WRATH...



...AND PRAY TO
THE LIGHT FOR
DELIVERANCE.



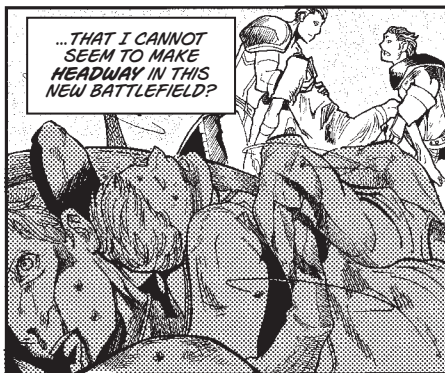
A VILLAGE IN
LORDAERON—YEAR 20.

IN THE DAYS SINCE PRINCE
ARTHAS TOOK THE FLEET TO
NORTHREND, THE SILVER HAND
HAS BEEN STRETCHED THIN
FIGHTING THE SPREAD OF
THIS TERRIBLE PLAGUE.

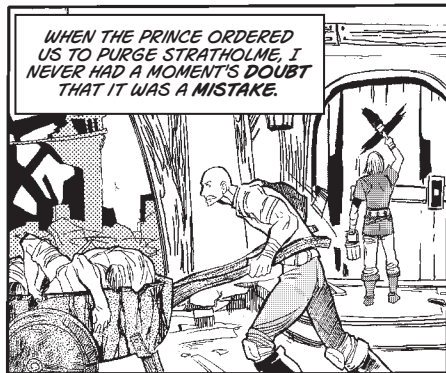


WE PROTECTED ANOTHER
VILLAGE LAST WEEK,
ALTHOUGH THE SCOURGE
ATTACKERS OUTNUMBERED
US MORE THAN FIVE TO ONE.

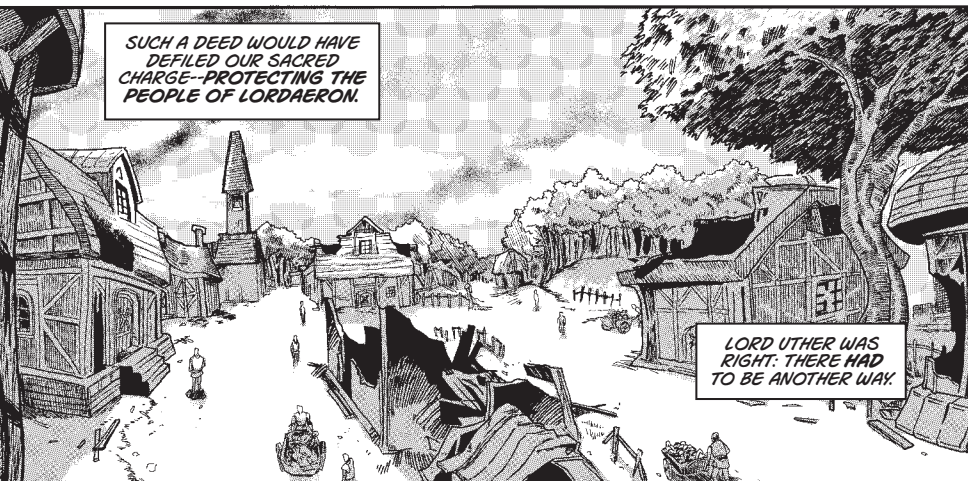
IT WAS A GREAT VICTORY
FOR THE LIGHT, AND I
RODE TO MY NEW POSTING
IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD.
WHY IS IT, THEN...



...THAT I CANNOT SEEM TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THIS NEW BATTLEFIELD?



WHEN THE PRINCE ORDERED US TO PURGE STRATHOLME, I NEVER HAD A MOMENT'S DOUBT THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE.



SUCH A DEED WOULD HAVE DEFILED OUR SACRED CHARGE--PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF LORDAERON.

LORD UTHUR WAS RIGHT: THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER WAY.



STILL, FOR ALL MY PRAYERS, THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN ARE DYING.



WHY DO MY EFFORTS ONLY SLOW THIS DAMNABLE PLAGUE, INSTEAD OF DRIVING IT OUT?

NOW OUR SUPPLIES GROW SHORT, FOR WE CANNOT RELY ON GRAIN FROM ANDORHAL THE SICK AND THE HEALTHY SUFFER ALIKE.



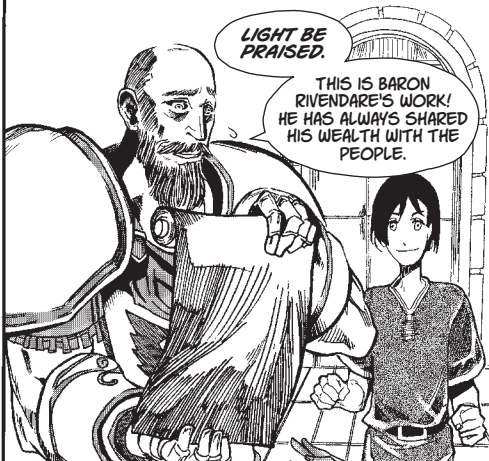
THEIR SUFFERING MUST HAVE SOME HIGHER PURPOSE, BUT I CANNOT SEE IT.

O LIGHT, GUIDE MY WAY. HELP ME UNDERSTAND.



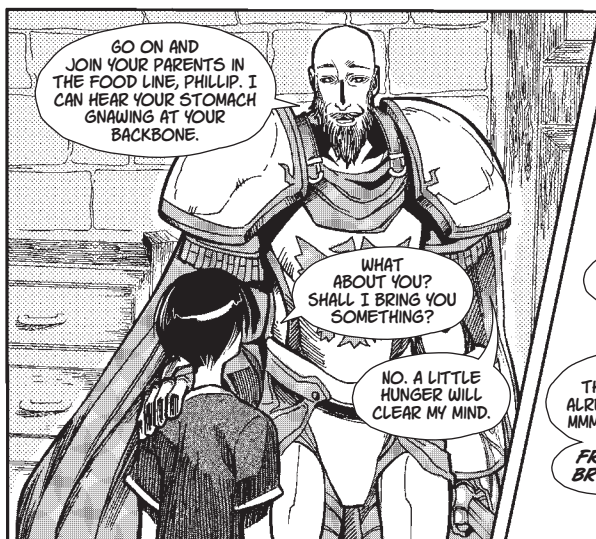
SIR THOMAS!
FRESH FOOD
HAS ARRIVED!

THREE
WAGONS FULL!
AND A MESSAGE
FOR YOU!



LIGHT BE
PRAISED.

THIS IS BARON
RIVENDARE'S WORK!
HE HAS ALWAYS SHARED
HIS WEALTH WITH THE
PEOPLE.



GO ON AND
JOIN YOUR PARENTS IN
THE FOOD LINE, PHILLIP. I
CAN HEAR YOUR STOMACH
GNAWING AT YOUR
BACKBONE.

WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
SHALL I BRING YOU
SOMETHING?

NO. A LITTLE
HUNGER WILL
CLEAR MY MIND.



ARE YOU
SURE?

LAST I SAW,
THE FEAST WAS
ALREADY UNDERWAY!
MMM, SMELL THAT?

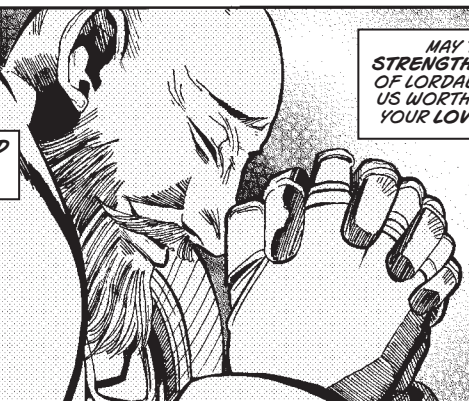
FRESH
BREAD!

OFF WITH
YOU, VILE
TEMPTER!

PLEASE, HOLY LIGHT,
FORGIVE YOUR
SERVANT'S DOUBTS.

A FAITH UNTESTED
IS A BLADE
UNTEMPERED.

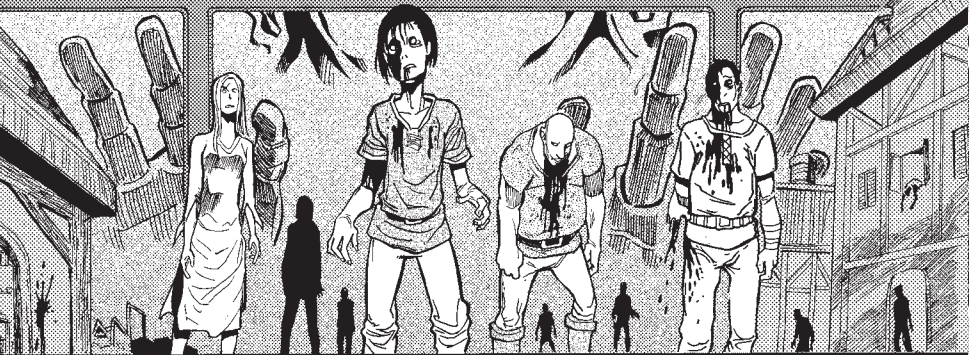
MAY THIS TRIAL
STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE
OF LORDAERON AND MAKE
US WORTHIER AGENTS OF
YOUR LOVING PURPOSE.



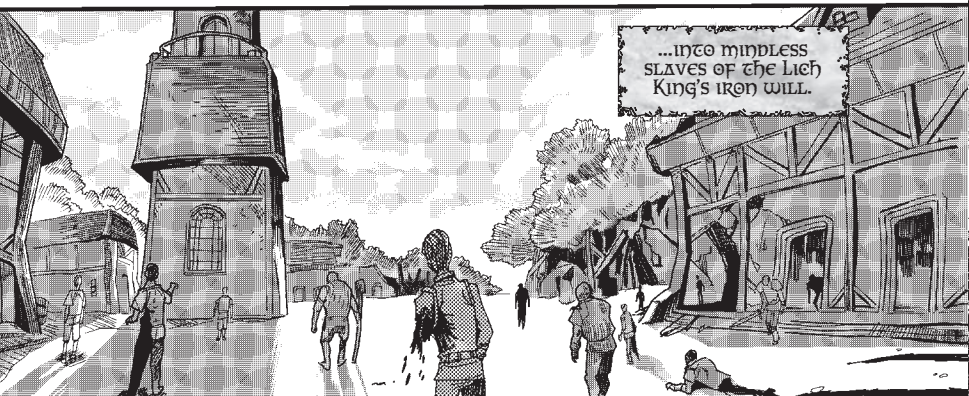


BUT THOMAS'S HOPES WERE SHATTERED THAT NIGHT; HIS PRAYERS, TWISTED INTO A MOCKERY HE FOUND HARD TO FATHOM.

THIS TRIAL WOULD INDEED TRANSFORM THE TOWNSPEOPLE...



...INTO MINDLESS SLAVES OF THE LICH KING'S IRON WILL.





"THE ENTIRE
TOWN WAS
LOST?"

"YES,
MY LORD."

"THAT TOWN ALONE
HOUSED NEARLY A
THOUSAND SOULS."

"THE LIGHT CAME TO MY
AID, AND I SENT THEM
TO THEIR FINAL REST."

"THE BARON
HAS MUCH TO
ANSWER FOR."

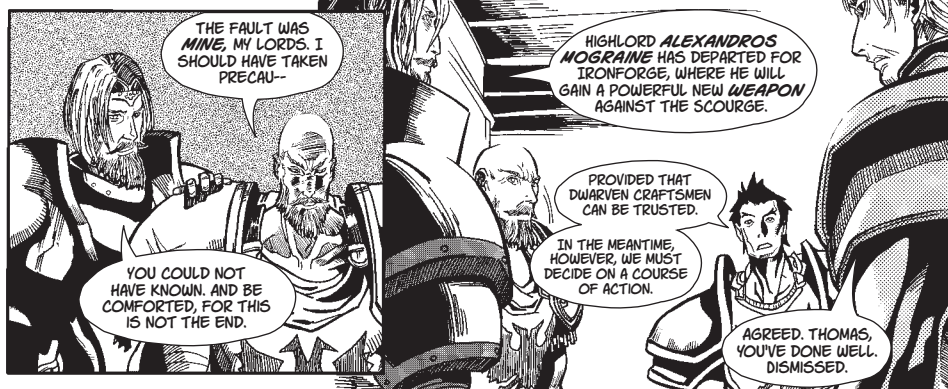
"LET US BE THE JUDGE
OF THAT. THE SCROLL,
IF YOU PLEASE."



MARK MY WORDS:
THIS WILL *NOT* BE
THE ONLY TOWN
AFFECTED.

THE EVIDENCE IS
INCONTROVERTIBLE,
WRITTEN IN RIVENDARE'S
VERY HAND. HE HAS
BETRAYED US.

IF THAT IS SO, OUR
LOSSES WILL BE HIGH,
AND EVERY DEATH MEANS
ANOTHER *SOLDIER* FOR
THE SCOURGE.



THE FAULT WAS
MINE, MY LORDS. I
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN
PRECAU--

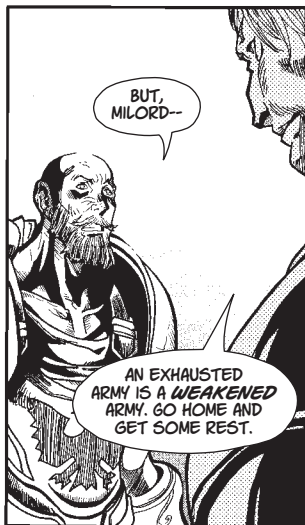
HIGHLORD *ALEXANDROS
NOGRAME* HAS DEPARTED FOR
IRONFORGE, WHERE HE WILL
GAIN A POWERFUL NEW *WEAPON*
AGAINST THE SCOURGE.

YOU COULD NOT
HAVE KNOWN, AND BE
COMFORTED, FOR THIS
IS NOT THE END.

PROVIDED THAT
DWARVEN CRAFTSMEN
CAN BE TRUSTED.

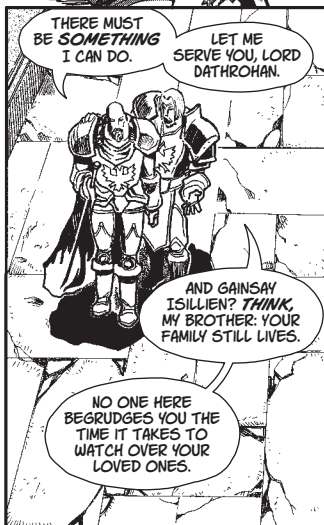
IN THE MEANTIME,
HOWEVER, WE MUST
DECIDE ON A COURSE
OF ACTION.

AGREED. THOMAS,
YOU'VE DONE WELL.
DISMISSED.



BUT,
MILORD--

AN EXHAUSTED
ARMY IS A *WEAKENED*
ARMY. GO HOME AND
GET SOME REST.



THERE MUST
BE *SOMETHING*
I CAN DO.

LET ME
SERVE YOU, LORD
DATHROHAN.

AND GAINSAY
ISILLEN? *THINK*,
MY BROTHER. YOUR
FAMILY STILL LIVES.

NO ONE HERE
BEGRIDGES YOU THE
TIME IT TAKES TO
WATCH OVER YOUR
LOVED ONES.



SO MANY
HAVE DIED. WE MUST
FIND JOY WHERE
WE CAN.

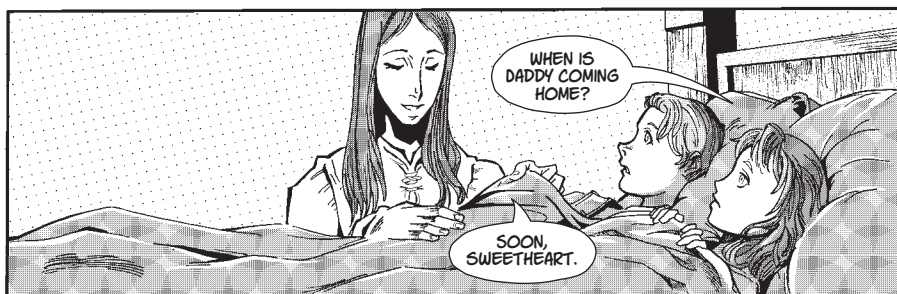
REJOICE IN
YOUR GOOD FORTUNE.
IT IS A *LUXURY* FEW
AMONG US *KNOW*.

FIVE DAYS LATER, AT THE THOMPSON FARM, JUST SOUTHWEST OF THE AGAMAND MILES...

BRING THE REST OF THE FOOD INSIDE, AND BE CAREFUL WITH THE PRESERVES. THEN IT'S OFF TO BED WITH YOU.

AWW, MOM...

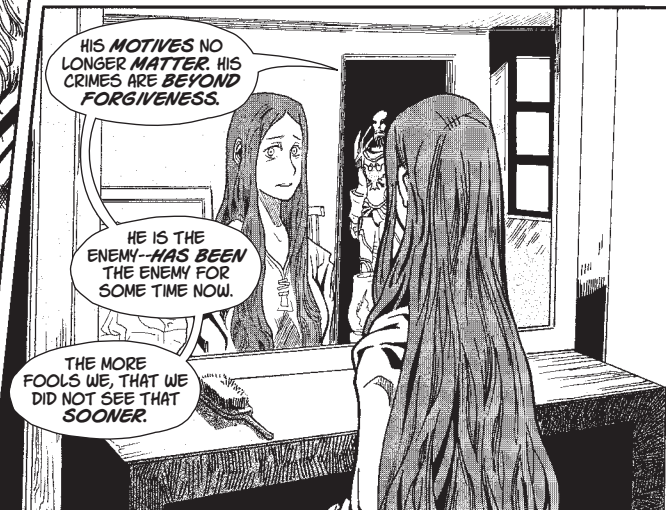
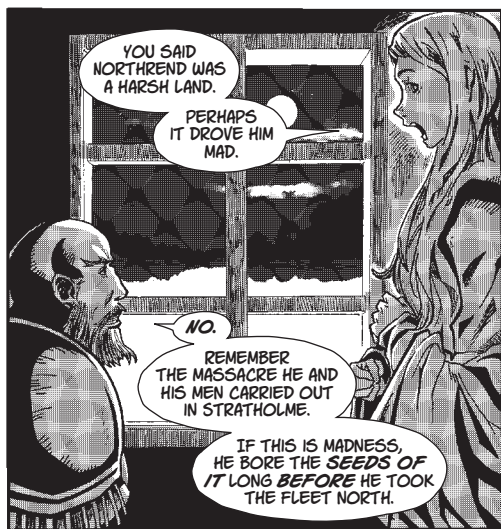
AND DON'T "AWW, MOM" ME.



I KEEP TELLING THEM, "SOON," MY LOVE.

BUT I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THEY-OR I-CAN BELIEVE.





FOUR DAYS LATER...

"YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNSET OF THE THIRD DAY!"

INFURIATED BY THE SPOILED PRINCE'S CARELESSNESS, THE MYSTERIOUS OLD WOMAN CURSED HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

"THE KING HAS FALLEN INTO AN ENCHANTED SLEEP," SHE TOLD THE PRINCE. "RETRIEVE THE SWORD FROM THE LAKE, OR HE WILL DIE IN *THREE DAYS' TIME*."

THE SPOILED PRINCE WADED INTO THE LAKE, BUT SOMETHING NIPPED AT HIS TOES, AND HE JUMPED OUT.

HE SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE LAKE WAS NOW FULL OF *MAN-EATING FISH*.

THE MYSTERIOUS OLD WOMAN HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRINCE HAD TO RETRIEVE THE SWORD ALONE AND UNAIDED.

FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS HE TRIED EVERYTHING HE COULD THINK OF TO GET THE SWORD OUT OF THE LAKE.

HE TRIED FISHING IT OUT, BUT THE HOOK WAS TOO SMALL, AND THE SWORD WAS TOO HEAVY.

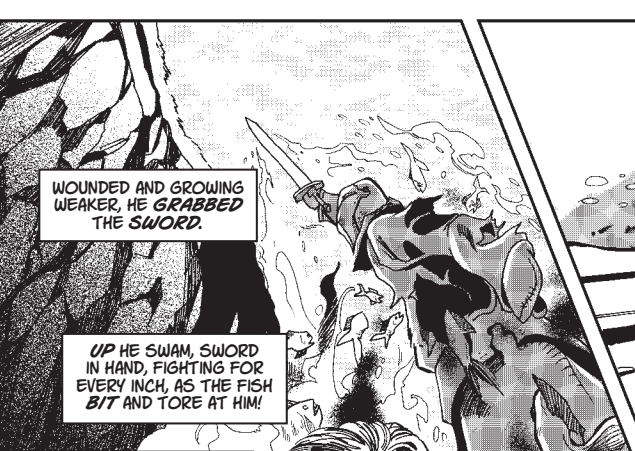
HE WRAPPED PIECES OF MEAT IN CLOTH AND LEATHER AND THREW THEM INTO THE LAKE, BUT THE HUNGRY FISH GNAWED THROUGH THE MATERIAL IN *SECONDS*.

THE LAKE WAS DEEP--AND HEAVY ARMOR WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION: AS HE WOULD SINK AND DROWN.

THERE WERE SO MANY FISH, AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE FED THEM, THEY WERE ALWAYS *HUNGRY FOR MORE*.

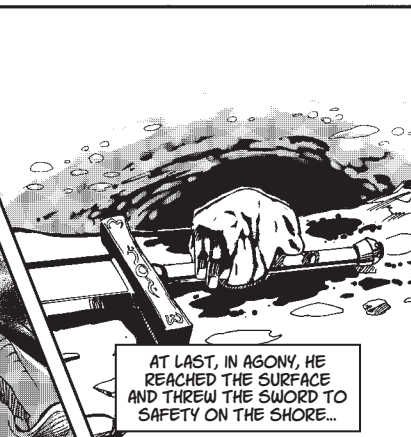
FINALLY THE DESPERATE PRINCE KNEW HE HAD TO TAKE ACTION, OR HIS FATHER WOULD DIE.

SO HE WRAPPED HIMSELF UP IN LEATHER AS BEST HE COULD, AND HE DROVE INTO THE LAKE. THE FISH *ATTACKED HIM IMMEDIATELY*, YET HE KEPT SWIMMING AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD!

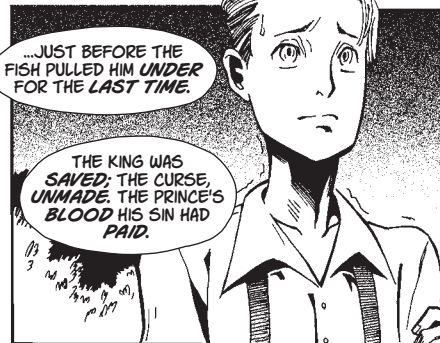


WOUNDED AND GROWING WEAKER, HE **GRABBED** THE **SWORD**.

UP HE SWAM, SWORD IN HAND, FIGHTING FOR EVERY INCH, AS THE FISH **BIT** AND TORE AT HIM!



AT LAST, IN AGONY, HE REACHED THE SURFACE AND THREW THE SWORD TO SAFETY ON THE SHORE...



...JUST BEFORE THE FISH PULLED HIM **UNDER** FOR THE **LAST TIME**.



WH-WHAT DOES IT MEAN...?

THE KING WAS **SAVED**; THE CURSE, **UNMADE**. THE PRINCE'S **BLOOD** HIS SIN HAD **PAID**.



YOU ASKED WHY PRINCE ARTHAS DID THOSE BAD THINGS. HE DID THEM BECAUSE THOSE WERE THE **EASY CHOICES**.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH **HARDER** TO STAY AND FIGHT FOR LORDAERON. GOOD PEOPLE HAVE DIED DOING **JUST THAT**.

BUT NO ONE SAID FOLLOWING THE LIGHT WOULD BE EASY. IT'S HARD TO BE SELFLESS AND HONORABLE.



IT'S HARD TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.

IF IT **WEREN'T HARD**, IT WOULDN'T BE **HEROIC**.

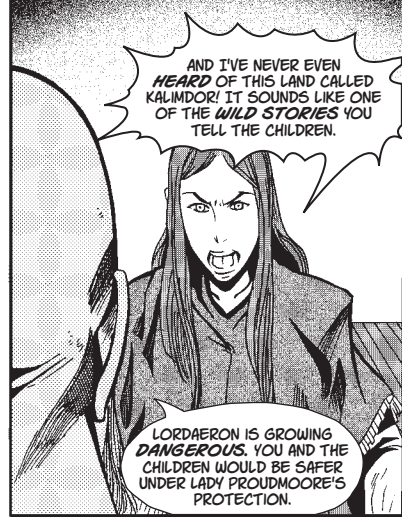
That night...



I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL A SORCERESS THIS JAINA PROUDMOORE IS, OR HOW MANY NATIONS HER FATHER RULES!

SURELY ONE IS ENOUGH. KUL TIRAS HAS A NAVY THAT WOULD MAKE ANY COUNTRY PROUD.

SUCH THINGS DO NOT NECESSARILY MAKE HER A LEADER...!



AND I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS LAND CALLED KALIMDOR! IT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THE WILD STORIES YOU TELL THE CHILDREN.

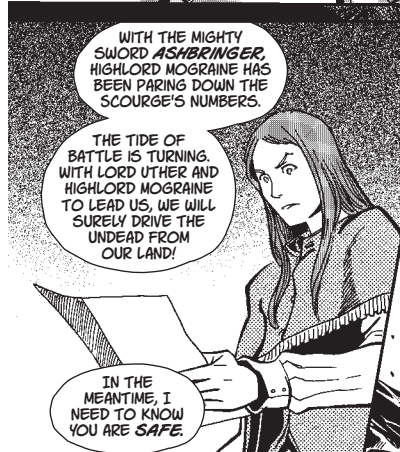
LORDAERON IS GROWING DANGEROUS. YOU AND THE CHILDREN WOULD BE SAFER UNDER LADY PROUDMOORE'S PROTECTION.



THEN COME WITH US.

YOU KNOW I CANNOT. NO MATTER HOW MANY SHIPS KUL TIRAS SENDS, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH SPACE FOR EVERYONE.

THE SILVER HAND MUST PROTECT THOSE LEFT BEHIND.



WITH THE MIGHTY SWORD ASHBRINGER, HIGHLORD MORGRAINE HAS BEEN PARING DOWN THE SCOURGE'S NUMBERS.

THE TIDE OF BATTLE IS TURNING. WITH LORD Uther and HIGHLORD MORGRAINE TO LEAD US, WE WILL SURELY DRIVE THE UNDEAD FROM OUR LAND!

IN THE MEANTIME, I NEED TO KNOW YOU ARE SAFE.



AND WE NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAFE.

NO!

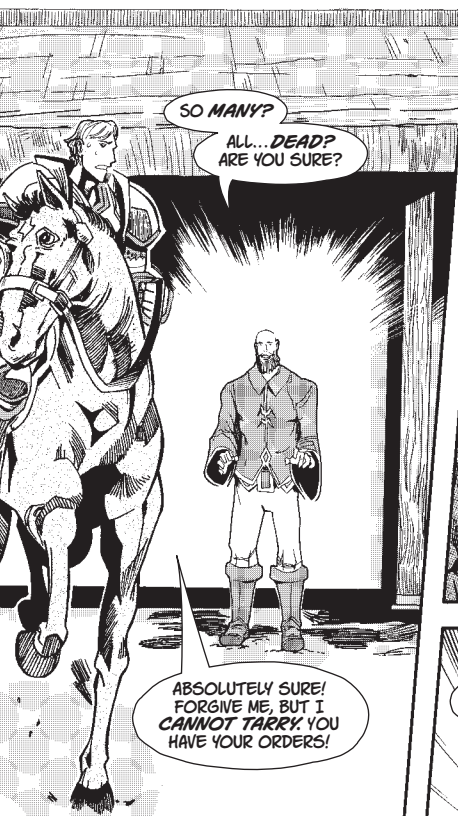
FWUMP



I KNOW YOU TOO WELL: YOU WORRY ABOUT EVERYONE EXCEPT YOURSELF! IF WE LEFT FOR KALIMDOR, WE WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. WOULD WE?

IF YOU STAY, MY LOVE...WE ALL STAY.

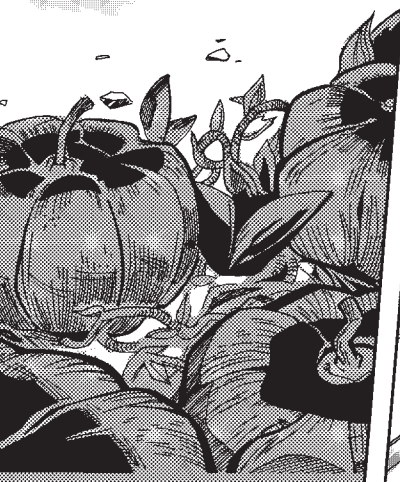
The next morning...



SO MANY?

ALL... DEAD?
ARE YOU SURE?

ABSOLUTELY SURE!
FORGIVE ME, BUT I
CANNOT TARRY. YOU
HAVE YOUR ORDERS!



THOMAS?
PLEASE STOP.

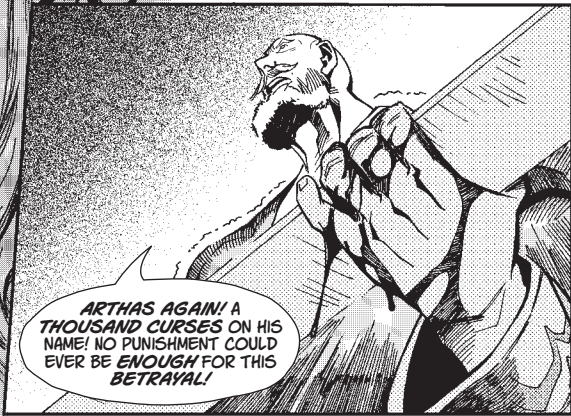
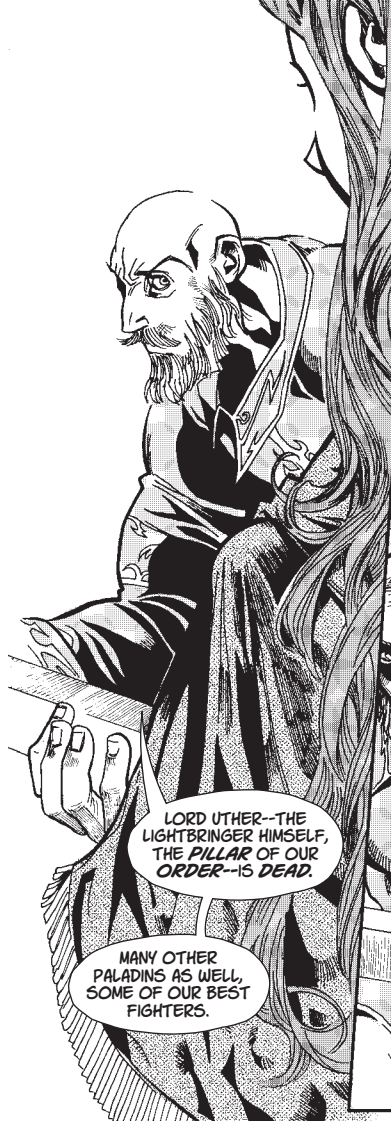
STOP FOR A
MOMENT AND TELL ME
WHAT'S WRONG.



I... I NEED
TO...

SWEETHEART,
YOU'VE BEEN SHARPENING
THAT SWORD FOR
HOURS NOW.

COME BACK
TO ME. YOU'RE SCARING
THE CHILDREN...AND
SCARING ME, TOO.

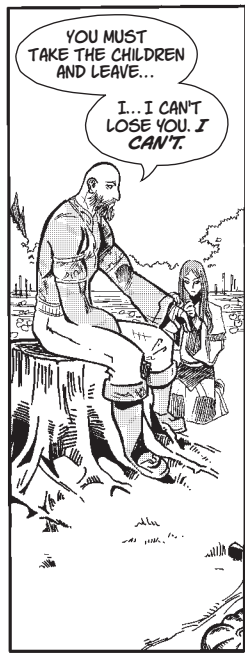


ARTHAS AGAIN! A THOUSAND CURSES ON HIS NAME! NO PUNISHMENT COULD EVER BE ENOUGH FOR THIS BETRAYAL!



LORD Uther--THE LIGHTBRINGER HIMSELF, THE PILLAR OF OUR ORDER--IS DEAD.

THOMAS, YOUR HAND! LET GO!

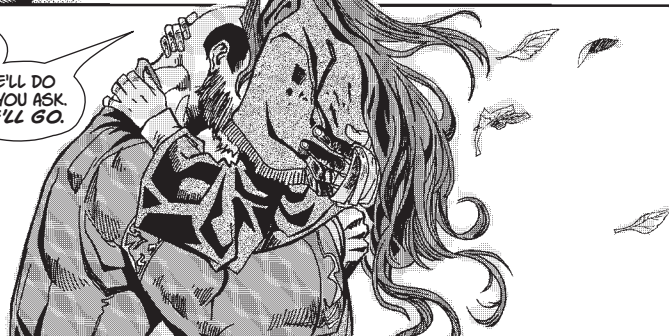


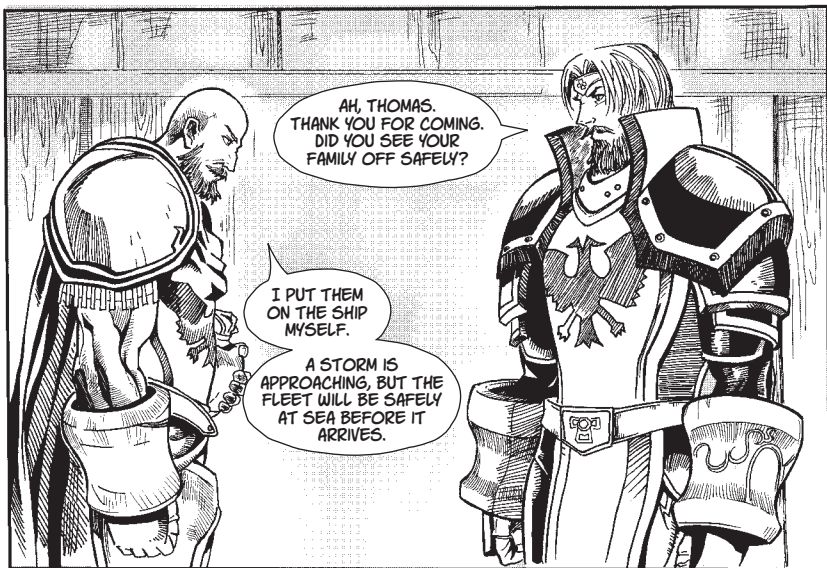
YOU MUST TAKE THE CHILDREN AND LEAVE...

I... I CAN'T LOSE YOU. I CAN'T.

MANY OTHER PALADINS AS WELL, SOME OF OUR BEST FIGHTERS.

VERY WELL, MY LOVE. WE'LL DO AS YOU ASK. WE'LL GO.





AH, THOMAS.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
DID YOU SEE YOUR
FAMILY OFF SAFELY?

I PUT THEM
ON THE SHIP
MYSELF.

A STORM IS
APPROACHING, BUT THE
FLEET WILL BE SAFELY
AT SEA BEFORE IT
ARRIVES.



SUCH
PARTINGS CAN BE
DIFFICULT...

MY WIFE
DID NOT WANT
TO GO.

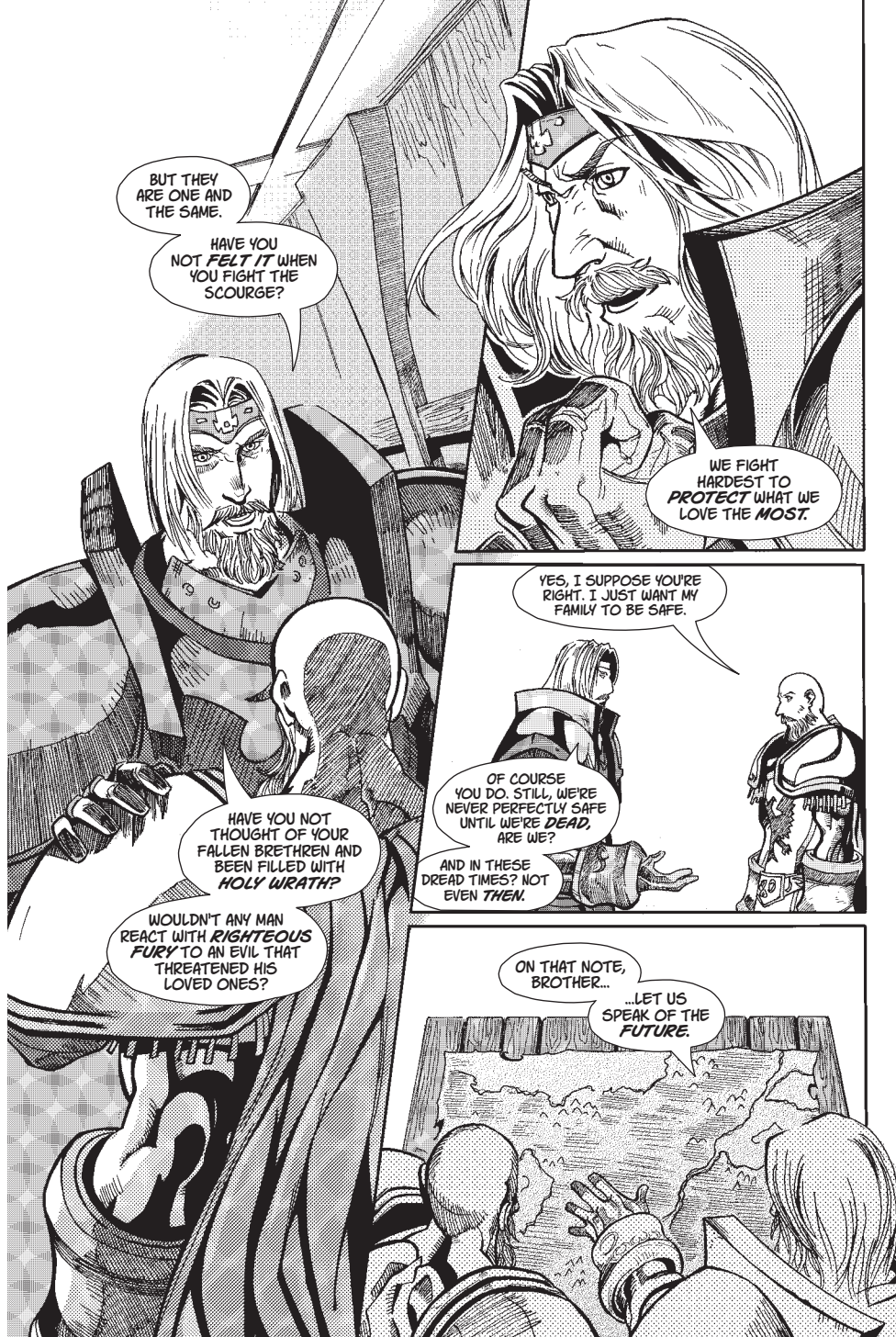


TRULY?

YOUR SUZANNAH
HAS THE HEART OF
A WARRIOR.



I COULD WISH SHE
HAD THE HEART OF A
MOTHER INSTEAD.



BUT THEY
ARE ONE AND
THE SAME.

HAVE YOU
NOT *FELT IT* WHEN
YOU FIGHT THE
SCOURGE?

WE FIGHT
HARDEST TO
PROTECT WHAT WE
LOVE THE *MOST*.

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE
RIGHT. I JUST WANT MY
FAMILY TO BE SAFE.

OF COURSE
YOU DO. STILL, WE'RE
NEVER PERFECTLY SAFE
UNTIL WE'RE *DEAD*,
ARE WE?

AND IN THESE
DREAD TIMES? NOT
EVEN *THEN*.

HAVE YOU NOT
THOUGHT OF YOUR
FALLEN BROTHERN AND
BEEN FILLED WITH
HOLY WRATH?

WOULDN'T ANY MAN
REACT WITH *RIGHTEOUS
FURY* TO AN EVIL THAT
THREATENED HIS
LOVED ONES?

ON THAT NOTE,
BROTHER...

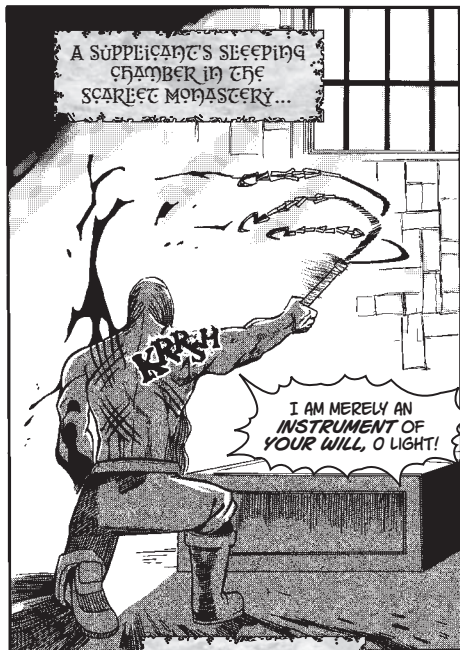
...LET US
SPEAK OF THE
FUTURE.

Many of the order's mightiest paladins had fallen in battle, and yet the ragged knights of the Silver Hand continued their struggle.



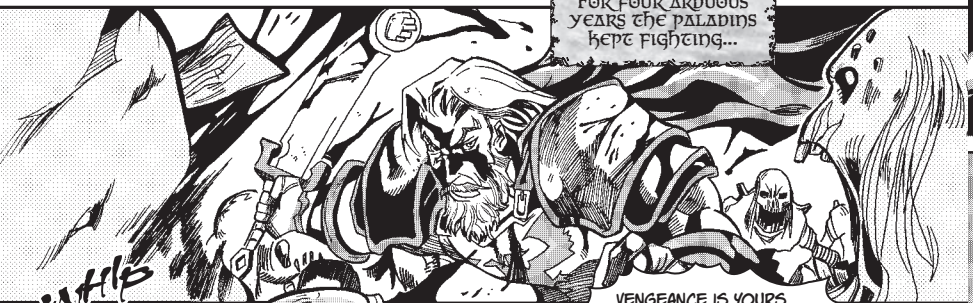
The forces of the Lich King showed no signs of relenting in their campaign to ravage Lordaeron.

A supplicant's sleeping chamber in the Scarlet Monastery...



I AM MERELY AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR WILL, O LIGHT!

FOR FOUR ARDUOUS YEARS THE PALADINS HERE FIGHTING...

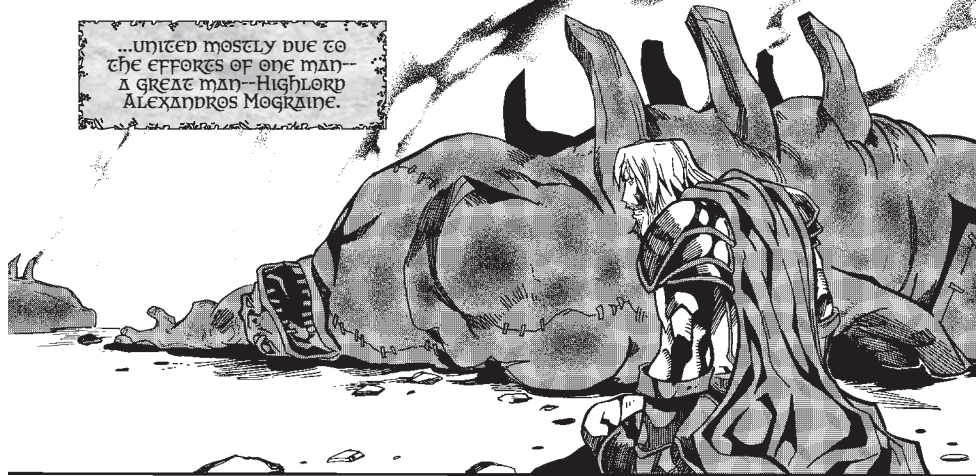


VENGEANCE IS YOURS. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU LET MY FLESH BE YOUR VESSEL!



FWACK

...UNITED MOSTLY DUE TO
THE EFFORTS OF ONE MAN—
A GREAT MAN—HIGHLORD
ALEXANDROS MEGRAINE.

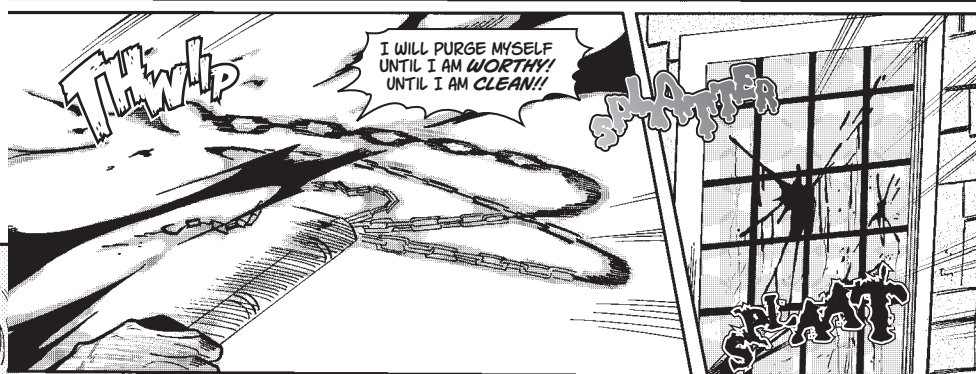


THWIP

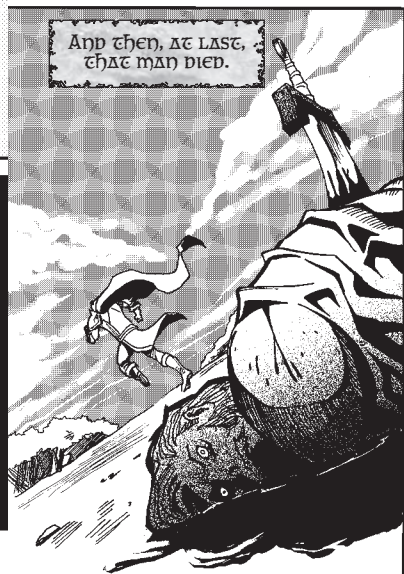
I WILL PURGE MYSELF
UNTIL I AM WORTHY!!
UNTIL I AM CLEAN!!

SLATTER

SLAT

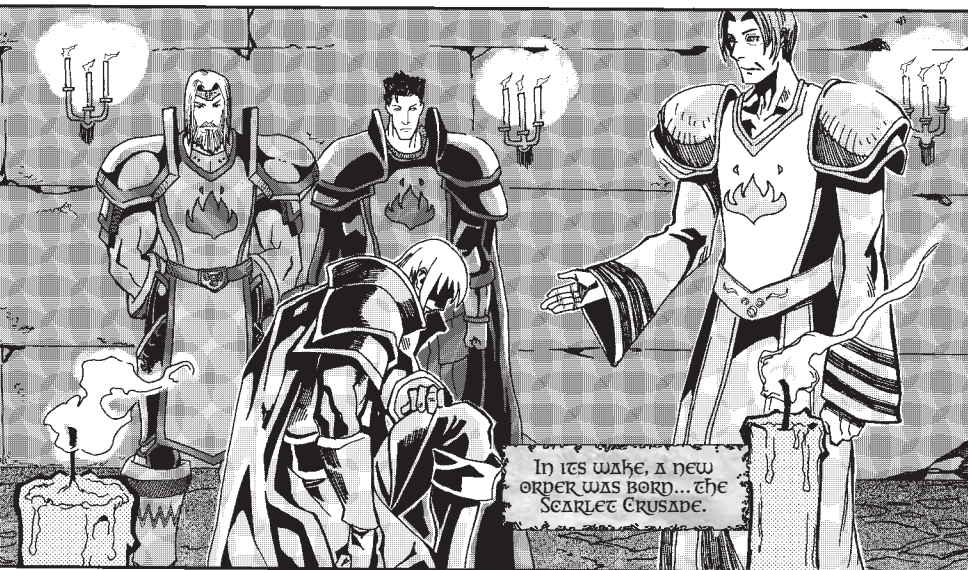
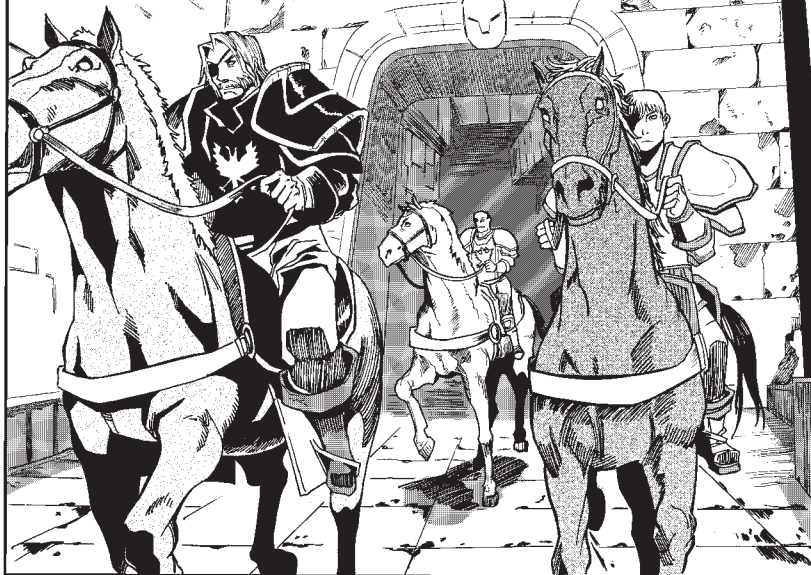


AND THEN, AT LAST,
THAT MAN DIED.




FILL ME
WITH YOUR HOLY
WRATH.

The Silver Hand
was shattered.

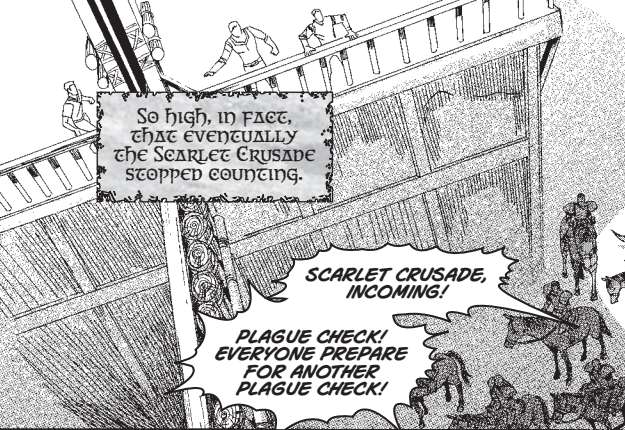


In its wake, a new
order was born... the
Scarlet Crusade.



AN ORDER WHOSE MEMBERS VOWED
TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF THE
UNDEAD, NO MATTER THE COST.

AND THE COST SEEMED
TO GROW HIGHER WITH
EVERY BATTLE.




So high, in fact,
that eventually
the Scarlet Crusade
stopped counting.



**SCARLET CRUSADE,
INCOMING!**

**PLAGUE CHECK!
EVERYONE PREPARE
FOR ANOTHER
PLAGUE CHECK!**



NOW, THERE'S
NO NEED FOR ANY
TR-TROUBLE. YOU
CRUSADERS ARE ALL
WELCOME HERE.

INDEED, WE ARE
MOST GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS
AGAINST THE PLAGUE.

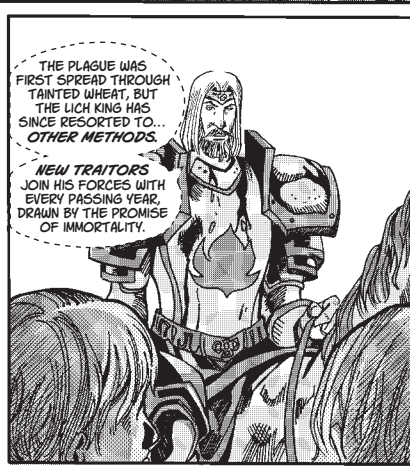
YOU'LL FIND NO
SICKNESS IN MY TOWN.
WE'LL SUBMIT TO ANY
TESTS YOU LIKE!



IT'S JUST AS I
SUSPECTED.

ALTHOUGH IT
GRIEVES ME TO SAY
THIS, I FEAR WE HAVE
ARRIVED TOO LATE.

TOO LATE? I
SEE NO SIGN OF
PLAGUE.



THE PLAGUE WAS
FIRST SPREAD THROUGH
TAINTED WHEAT, BUT
THE LICH KING HAS
SINCE RESORTED TO...
OTHER METHODS.

NEW TRAITORS
JOIN HIS FORCES WITH
EVERY PASSING YEAR,
DRAWN BY THE PROMISE
OF IMMORTALITY.



**IMMORTALITY,
BAH! MORE LIKE SLAVERY
WITHOUT END.**

YET MANY HAVE LOST
THEIR FAITH IN THE LIGHT.
MANY HAVE CHOSEN TO SAVE THEIR
LIVES BY SACRIFICING
THEIR SOULS.

THE ENEMY HAS
GROWN IN SUBTLETY. SO
TOO, MUST WE.



LOOK AT THEM CLOSELY, BROTHER, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY: THE TOWN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SPARED SO FAR. THESE PEOPLE LOOK CLEAN AND WELL FED.

INDEED. REFUGEES FROM THE SCOURGE, DRAWN HERE BY THE PROMISE OF SHELTER. WORD MUST HAVE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE.

I SEE CLOTHING OF MANY DIFFERENT TYPES.

AN UNUSUAL SIGHT IN THESE TIMES, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE TOWN'S FLIMSAY DEFENSES.

FEW GUARDS. AND THEY ALL LOOK YOUNG. INEXPERIENCED.



EXACTLY. I DOUBT THEY COULD REPEL EVEN *ONE* ATTACK BY THE UNDEAD. HOW COULD THEY HAVE GUIDED *OTHERS* TO SAFETY HERE?

THESE ARE NO BATTLE-HARDENED VETERANS. THEY'RE *FRIGHTENED CHILDREN* COWERING IN THE DARK.

BY WHAT MEANS COULD THEY SECURE THE SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN A TOWN OF *THIS* SIZE?

YOU'RE SAYING WE HAVE ANOTHER *SCOURGE CONSPIRATOR* ON OUR HANDS.

A CREATURE OF GREAT PATIENCE AND COLD-BLOODED CUNNING.



SOMEONE WHO KEPT THE TOWN SUPPLIED AND PROTECTED FOR WEEKS, EVEN MONTHS...

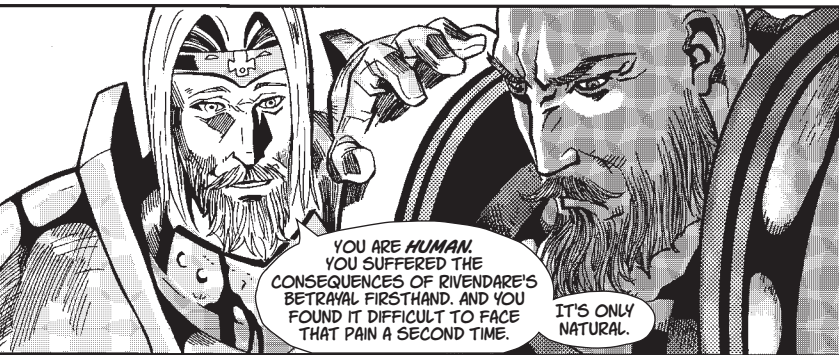
...WHILE HE SPREAD THE WORD THAT THIS TOWN WAS A *HAVEN* FROM THE PLAGUE.

HE WAS WAITING FOR THE TOWN TO REACH CRITICAL MASS, ALL THE WHILE *PLOTTING* TO UNLEASH THE PLAGUE.

YES, THOMAS. AND GIVEN THE SIZE OF THIS TOWN, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE PROCESS IS ALREADY IN MOTION.



I AM A
FOOL.



YOU ARE **HUMAN**.
YOU SUFFERED THE
CONSEQUENCES OF RIVENDARE'S
BETRAYAL FIRSTHAND. AND YOU
FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO FACE
THAT PAIN A SECOND TIME.

IT'S ONLY
NATURAL.



SOMEDAY
I HOPE TO SHARE
YOUR UNFLINCHING
SPIRITUAL INSIGHT.

YOU WILL,
BROTHER.

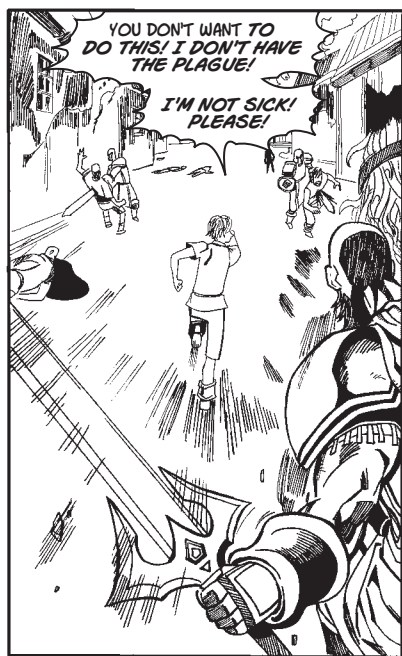
BUT FOR NOW
WE MUST **ACT**. YOU
HAVE SEEN WHAT THESE
PEOPLE WILL SUFFER.



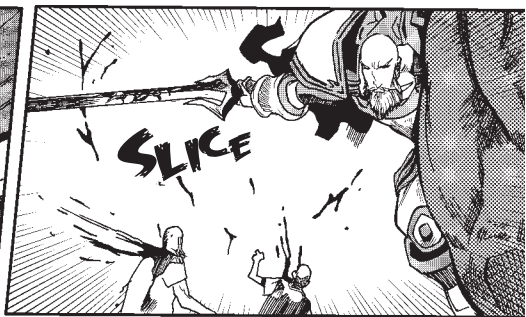
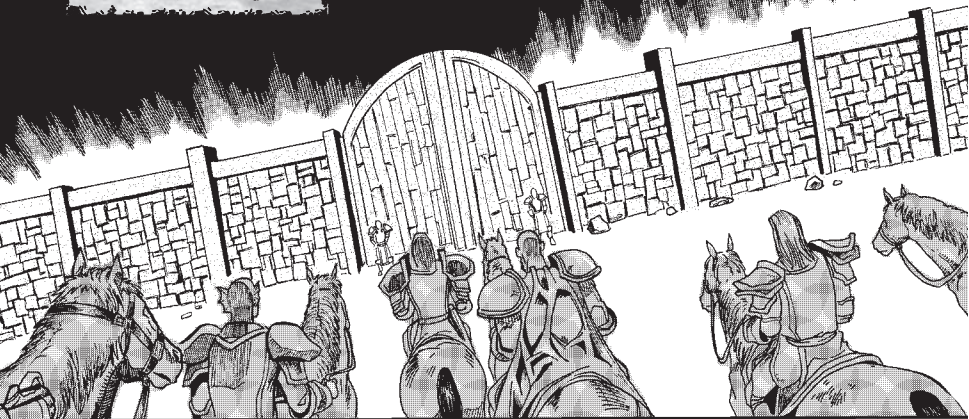
THEY ARE THE
WALKING DEAD, AND
THEY DO NOT EVEN
KNOW.

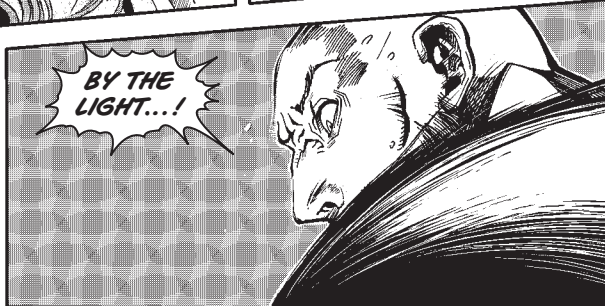
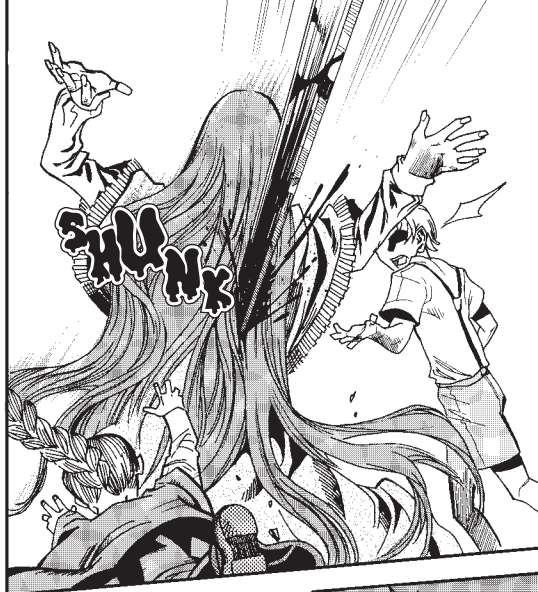
THE BEST WE
CAN HOPE TO DO IS
GIVE THEM A **CLEAN
DEATH**.

GOOD MAN.



TWO MONTHS LATER, AN
HOUR'S RIDE NORTH OF
DAESON'S FEARS...





NOT HERE.
SAFE IN KALIMDOR.
UNLESS...

WHAT IF THE
STORM ARRIVED
TOO SOON?

THEIR SHIP WAS TO
BE ONE OF THE LAST TO
LEAVE THE HARBOR.

WHAT IF THE STORM
DAMAGED IT BEFORE IT
COULD DEPART?

WITH LORDAERON IN
TATTERS, THERE WOULD
BE NO SHIPWRIGHTS TO
REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

THERE
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
ANY ROOM TO
SPARE ON THE
OTHER SHIPS.

TOO MANY
PEOPLE TAKING
THEIR CHANCES
WITH KALIMDOR.

FORCED
TO STAY IN
LORDAERON...

TAKING REFUGE
WHEREVER THEY
COULD...

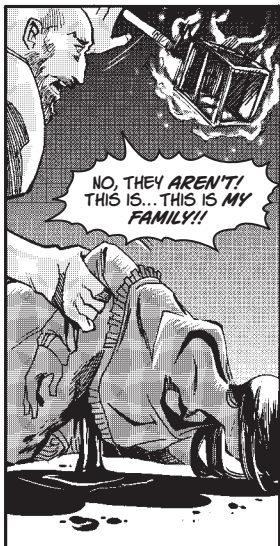
NO WAY
TO LET ME
KNOW...

STOP!

WHAT WERE YOU
THINKING?!

DON'T TOUCH
THEM! THEY'RE
INFECTED!

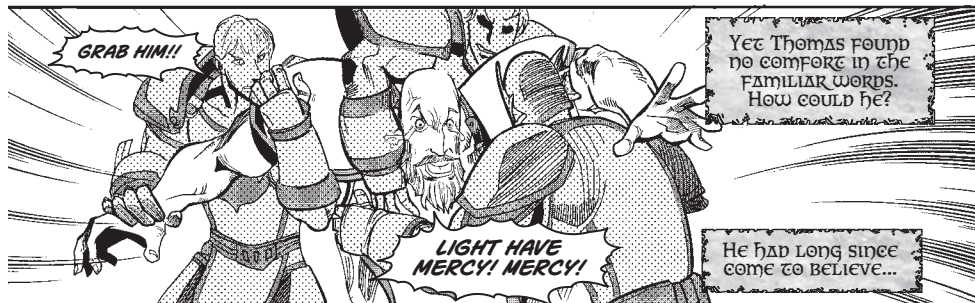
CLANG



NO, THEY AREN'T!
THIS IS... THIS IS MY
FAMILY!!



WHAT HAVE
I DONE?!



GRAB HIM!!

LIGHT HAVE
MERCY! MERCY!

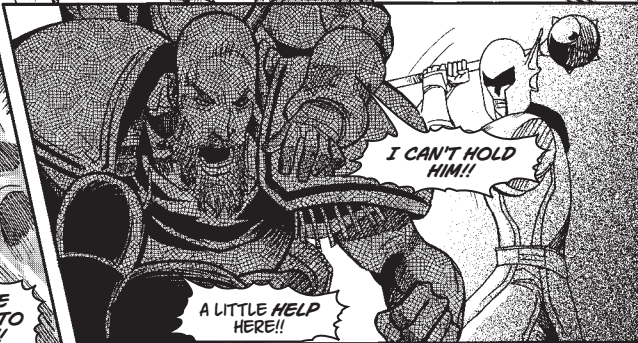
Yet Thomas found
no comfort in the
FAMILIAR WORDS.
How could he?

He had long since
come to BELIEVE...



THEY WERE
SUPPOSED TO
BE SAFE!!!

Explosion!



I CAN'T HOLD
HIM!!

A LITTLE HELP
HERE!!

...that the Light had
no mercy to give.



OUTSIDE THOMAS' SLEEPING CHAMBER IN THE SCARLET MONASTERY...

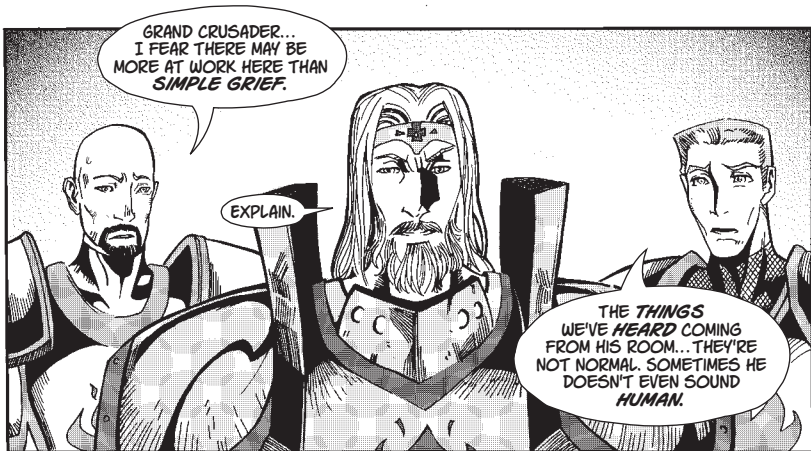
NO CHANGE. OUR BROTHER IS STILL LOST IN HIS GRIEF.

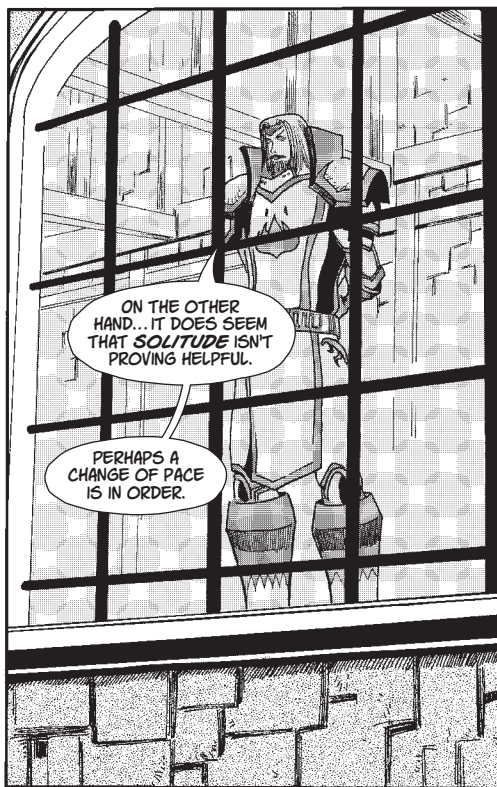
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE SHOCK, FINDING OUT THAT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE INFECTED.



AND BEING FORCED TO END THEIR SUFFERING HIMSELF...

...WELL, THAT IS A TRAGEDY MANY OF US CAN EMPATHIZE WITH ALL TOO WELL.





ON THE OTHER HAND... IT DOES SEEM THAT *SOLITUDE* ISN'T PROVING HELPFUL.

PERHAPS A CHANGE OF PACE IS IN ORDER.



TODAY IS *HALLOW'S END*, AND WE MUST KEEP LORDAERON'S TRADITIONS ALIVE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THIS STRUGGLE.


WHAT ELSE, AFTER ALL, ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?



IN THIS CASE, OF COURSE, I REFER TO *THE WICKERMAN*.

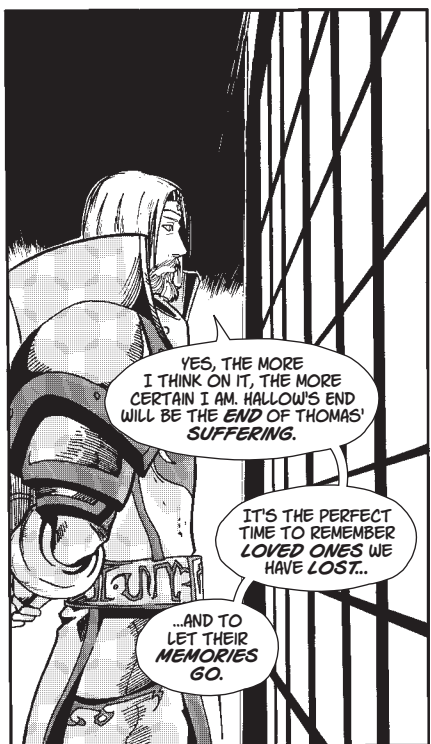
AH, I SURPRISE YOU. I TAKE IT YOU TWO NEVER SPENT *HALLOW'S END* NEAR CAPITAL CITY?

THEN YOU MISSED QUITE A SIGHT: A GIANT STRAW EFFIGY THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER LORDAERON CAME TO SEE.



IT WAS SAID THAT IF YOU THREW A BRANCH ONTO THE WICKERMAN'S FIRE, YOU COULD BURN AWAY WHATEVER YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE WITH YOU INTO WINTER.

FEARS, SORROWS, OLD LOVES, NEW HATES-- YOU COULD PUT THEM ALL BEHIND YOU.



YES, THE MORE I THINK ON IT, THE MORE CERTAIN I AM. HALLOW'S END WILL BE THE END OF THOMAS' SUFFERING.

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO REMEMBER *LOVED ONES* WE HAVE LOST...

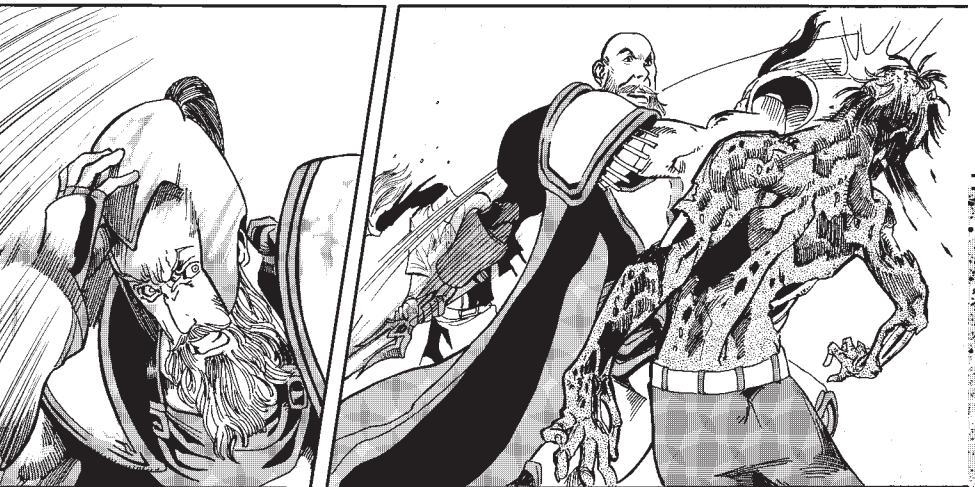
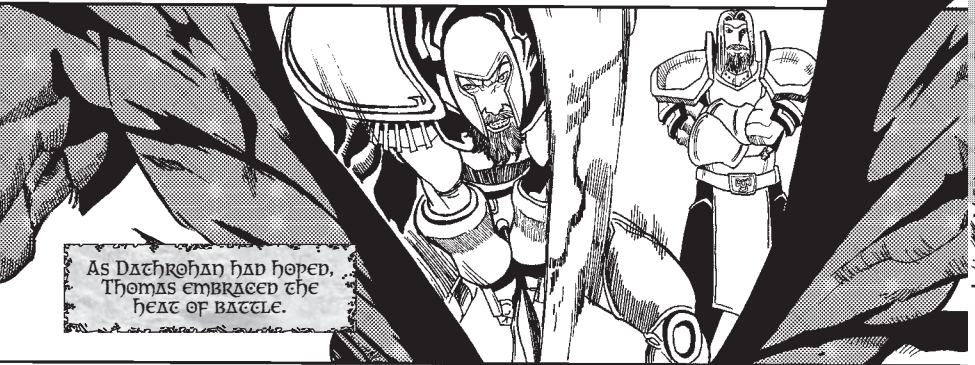
...AND TO LET THEIR *MEMORIES* GO.

AFTER ALL, LORDAERON
NEEDED HEROES.

AND SO GRAND CRUSADER
DATHROHAN PERSUADED
THOMAS TO JOIN THE FIGHT.

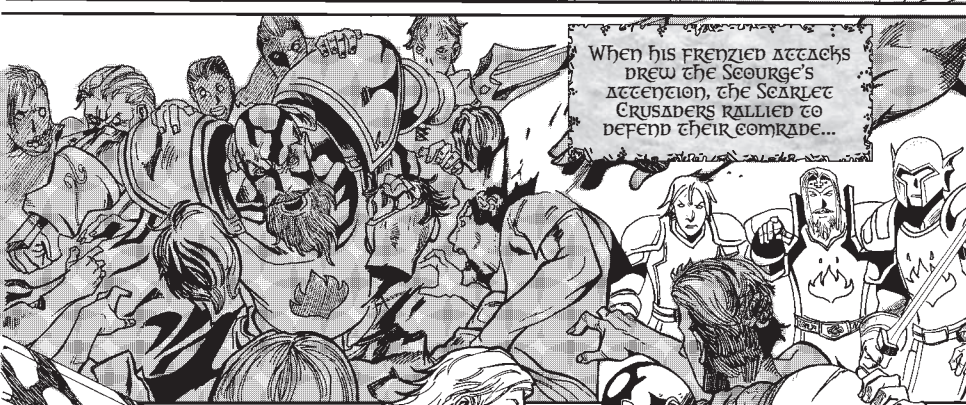


AS DATHROHAN HAD HOPED,
THOMAS EMBRACED THE
HEAT OF BATTLE.

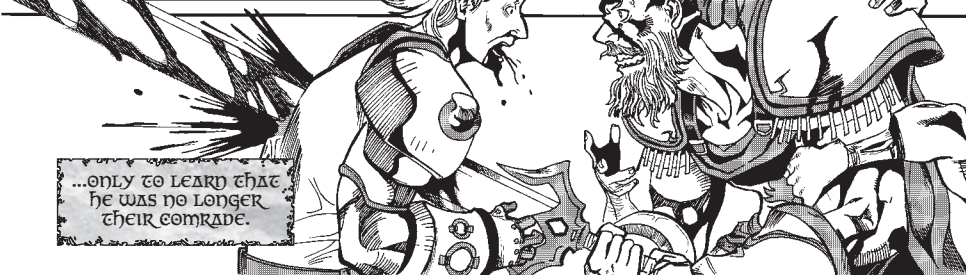




When his frenzied attacks drew the Seourge's attention, the Searlec Crusaders rallied to defend their comrade...



...only to learn that he was no longer their comrade.



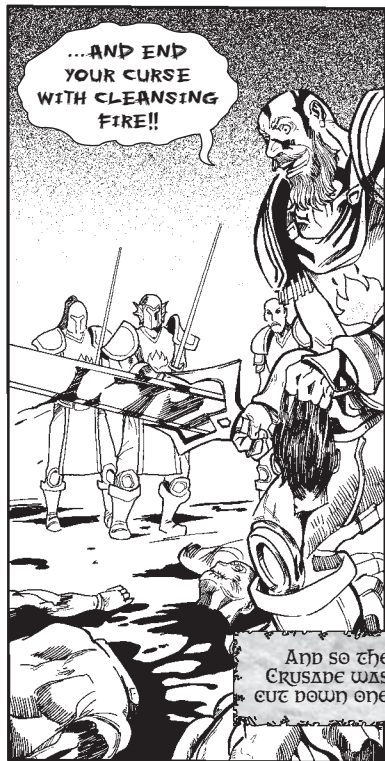
DUPED FOR FAR TOO LONG BY LIES, I SEE YOU NOW THROUGH CLEARER EYES!

INFECTED ALL, YOU TOO SHALL FALL; THE LIGHT, WIN OUT THROUGH YOUR DEMISE!

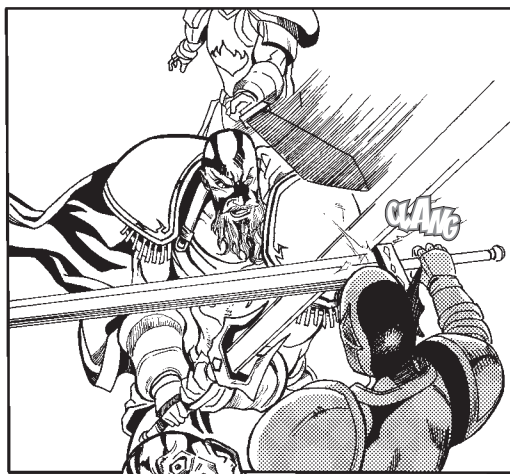




I'LL MAKE OF THIS LAND A FUNERAL PYRE...



...AND END YOUR CURSE WITH CLEANSING FIRE!!



CHANG



CHOP

And so the Scarlet Crusade was forced to cut down one of its own.

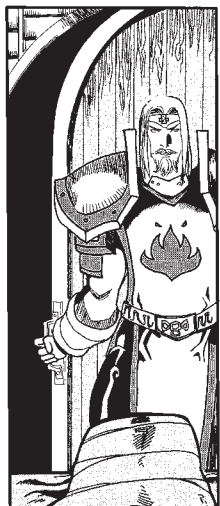
LATER THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE
THOMAS' SLEEPING CHAMBER IN
THE SCARLET MONASTERY...

I'LL PREPARE
THOMAS' BODY FOR
BURNING.

ALTHOUGH HIS MIND
WAS SHATTERED BY GRIEF,
HE FOUGHT BRAVELY FOR
OUR CAUSE.

REMEMBER
HIM IN YOUR
PRAYERS.

BUT PRAYERS FROM THE SCARLET
CRUSADE WERE AN OBSCENE JEST;
THE ORDER'S MURDEROUS DEEDS,
A VIOLATION OF THE LIGHT.



A TRAGEDY THAT NEVER
FAILED TO AMUSE THE
MALEVOLENT BEING WHO
HAD STEERED THE ORDER
SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

CORRUPT TO ITS CORE,
THE SCARLET CRUSADE
COULD GIVE RISE TO
NOTHING BUT EVIL.



HA HA HA HA

LITTLE WONDER
THEN, THAT THE
ONLY BURNING
THOMAS WOULD
KNOW THAT NIGHT...




... WOULD BE THE
BURNING OF RAW FEL
ENERGIES AS THEY
RACED ALONG HIS BODY,
CHANGING IT TO SUIT THE
DREADLORD BALNAZZAR'S
TWISTED PURPOSES.



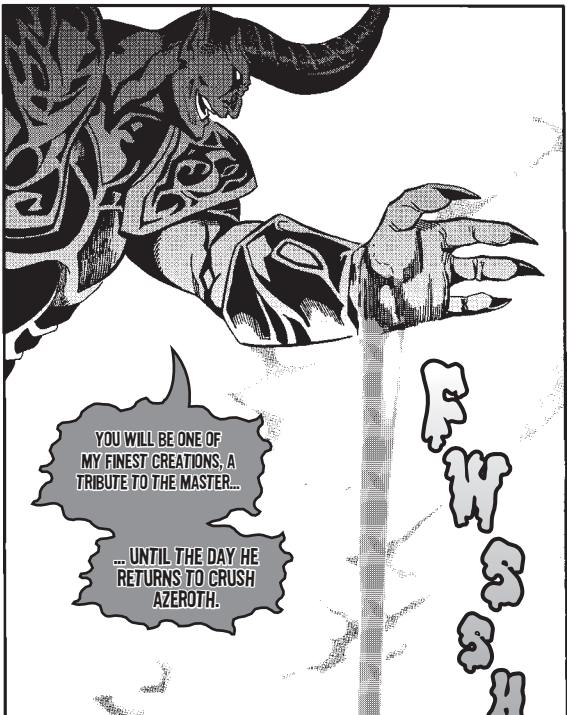
EXACTLY AS I'D HOPED.
HUMANS...SO WEAK AND
MALLEABLE.

HOW YOU EVER MANAGED TO
OPPOSE THE LEGION, I CANNOT
FATHOM. YOU HAVE MERELY
DELAYED THE INEVITABLE.




ARISE, MY DEAR
"BROTHER." FEEL THE
STRENGTH RETURN TO
YOUR LIMBS, STRENGTH I
GIVE YOU FREELY TO USE
AS YOU WILL.

WHATEVER YOUR
CHOICES, I KNOW THEY
WILL SERVE MY ENDS.



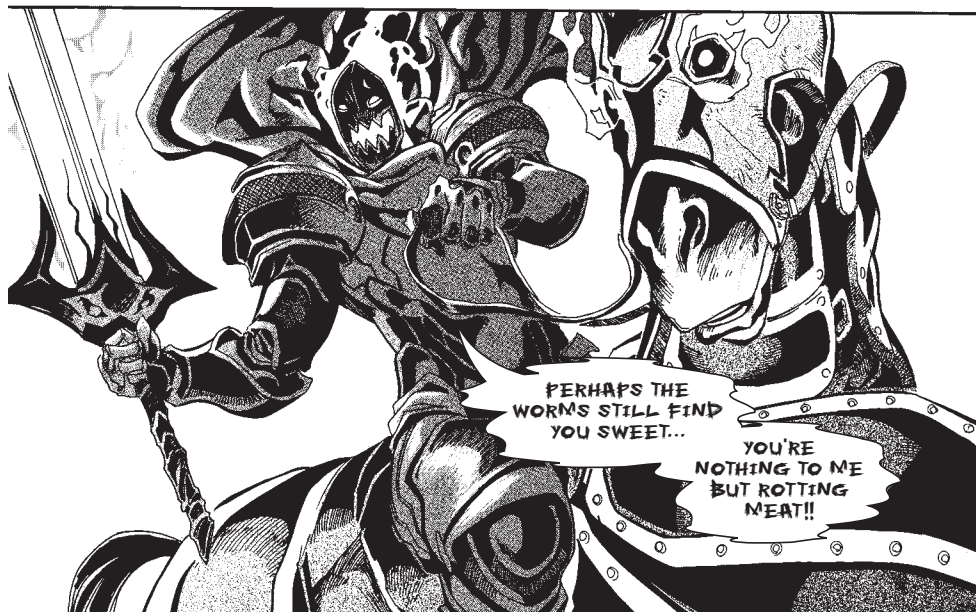
YOU WILL BE ONE OF
MY FINEST CREATIONS, A
TRIBUTE TO THE MASTER...

... UNTIL THE DAY HE
RETURNS TO CRUSH
AZEROTH.



SCREAM, YOU
DOGS! CURSE
MY NAME!

I'LL SET YOUR
MATCHSTICK
HOMES AFLAME!



PERHAPS THE
WORMS STILL FIND
YOU SWEET...

YOU'RE
NOTHING TO ME
BUT ROTTING
MEAT!!



I FOUGHT
FOR YOU...

I FOUGHT
IN VAIN.

NOW SCATTER,
SCURRY, SHRIEK
IN PAIN!

NO MERCY
ON THIS NIGHT
ABIDES...

...ON HALLOW'S
END, WHEN THE
HORSEMAN
RIDES!

END



WARCRAFT

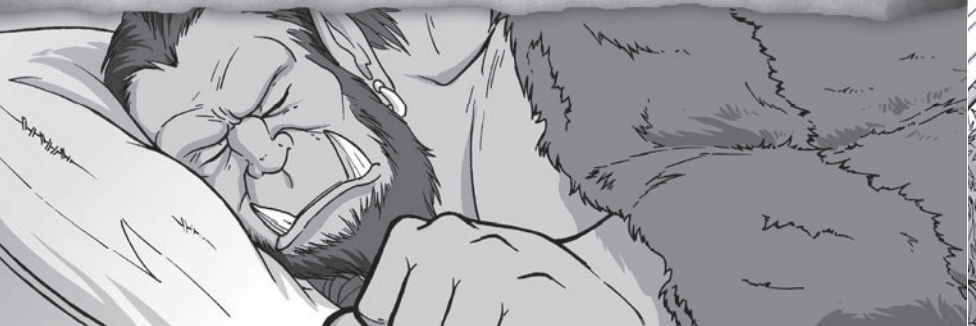
LEGENDS™ VOLUME FIVE

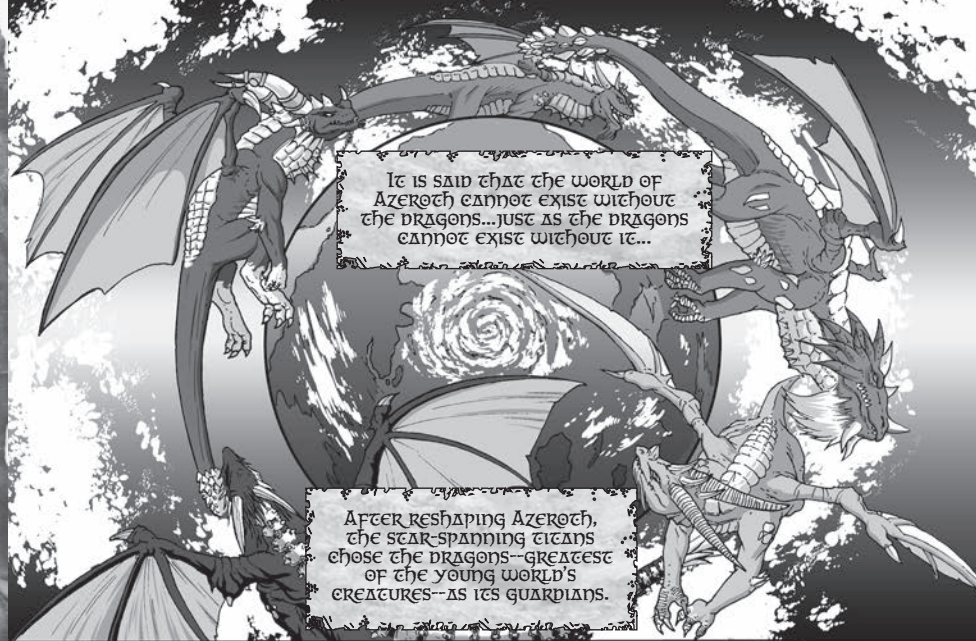
NIGHTMARES

WRITTEN BY RICHARD A. KNAAK

PENCILS BY ROB TEN PAS
INKS BY WALTER GOMEZ, LEANDRO RIZZO
& ARIEL IACCI
TONES BY WALTER GOMEZ

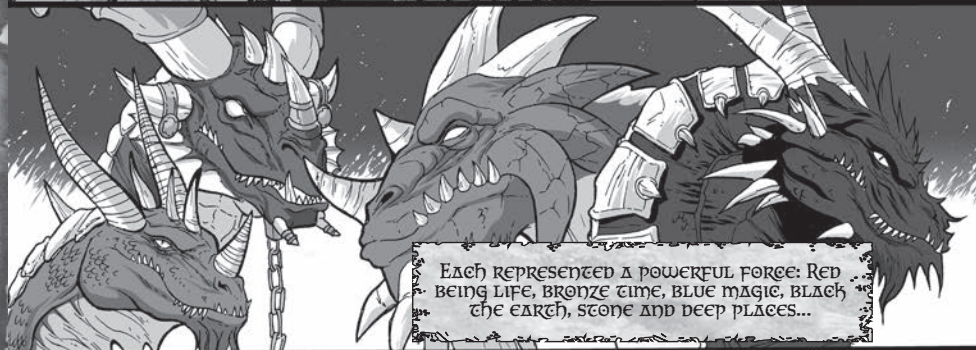
LETTERER: MICHAEL PAOLILLI






IT IS SAID THAT THE WORLD OF AZEROTH CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE DRAGONS...JUST AS THE DRAGONS CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT IT...

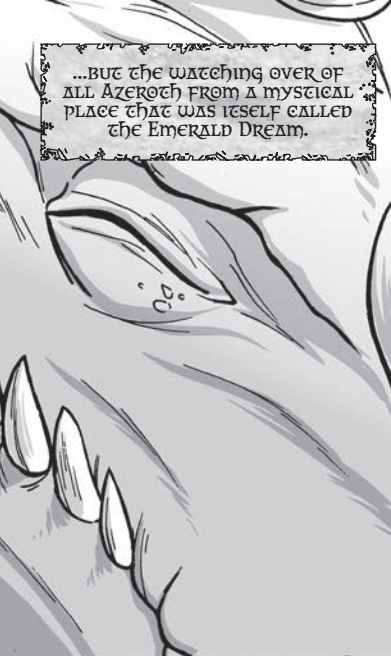
AFTER RESHAPING AZEROTH, THE SEAR-SPANNING TITANS CHOSE THE DRAGONS—GREATEST OF THE YOUNG WORLD'S CREATURES—AS ITS GUARDIANS.



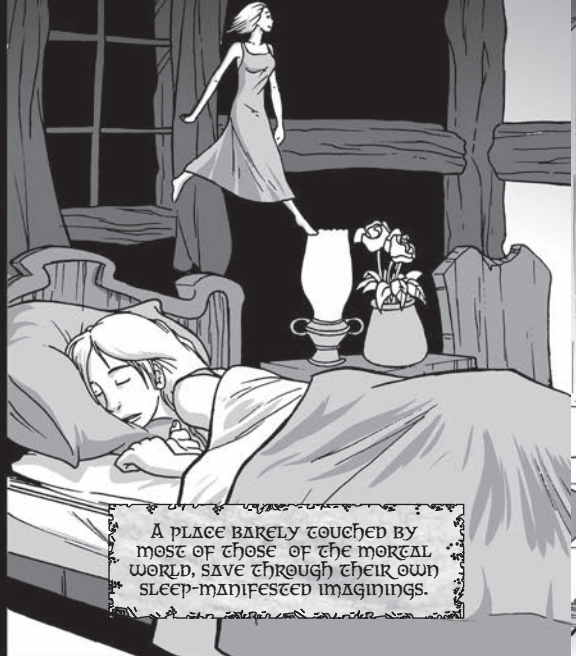
EACH REPRESENTED A POWERFUL FORCE: RED BEING LIFE, BRONZE TIME, BLUE MAGIC, BLACK THE EARTH, SCORCH AND DEEP PLACES...



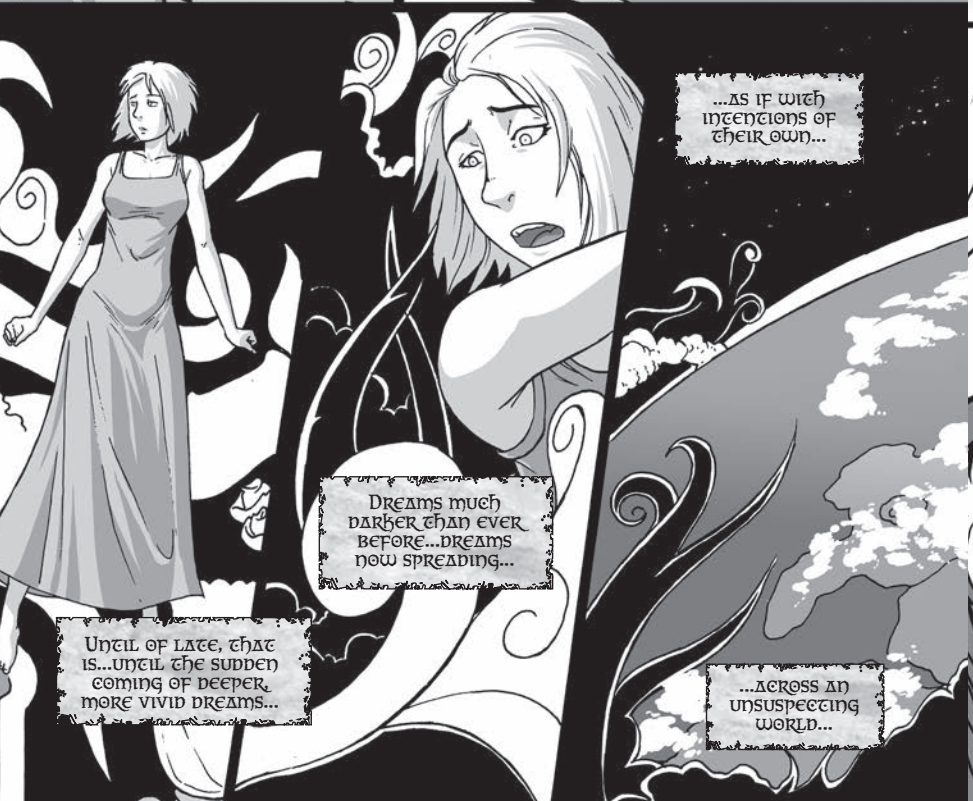
AND FOR GREEN...WHOSE MISTRESS WAS THE GREAT LEVIATHAN YSERA...THERE WAS NOT ONLY SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE LUSH WILDS OF THE WORLD...



...BUT THE WATCHING OVER OF ALL AZEROTH FROM A MYSTICAL PLACE THAT WAS ITSELF CALLED THE EMERALD DREAM.



A PLACE BARELY TOUCHED BY MOST OF THOSE OF THE MORTAL WORLD, SAVE THROUGH THEIR OWN SLEEP-MANIFESTED IMAGININGS.




...AS IF WITH INTENTIONS OF THEIR OWN...


DREAMS MUCH DARKER THAN EVER BEFORE...DREAMS NOW SPREADING...

UNTIL OF LATE, THAT IS...UNTIL THE SUDDEN COMING OF DEEPER, MORE VIVID DREAMS...

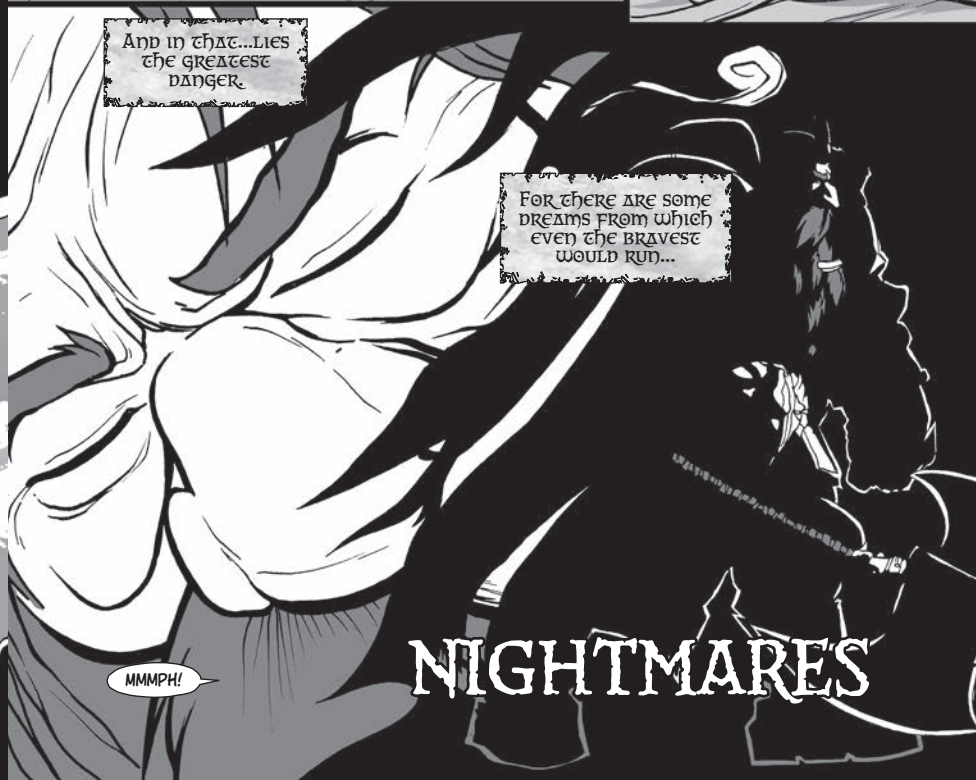
...ACROSS AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD...



Touching any
sleeper...



HUMAN, ORC, TAUREN,
DWARF...INDEED, ALL
CREATURES...



AND IN THAT...LIES
THE GREATEST
DANGER.

FOR THERE ARE SOME
DREAMS FROM WHICH
EVEN THE BRAVEST
WOULD RUN...

MMMPH!

NIGHTMARES

The bad blood between the Bronzebeard dwarves and the Dark Irons spanned nearly three centuries...

FWAAACK

ONWARD!! WE'VE GOT THE DAMNED DARK IRONS ON THE RUN!! 'TIS TIME TO FINISH THE FILTHY TRAITORS!!

...with most of it due to the treachery of the ancient Dark Iron ruler, Thaurissan, and his sorceress-queen, Modgud.

The War of the Three Hammers had ended Thaurissan and Modgud...

DAGRAN, YOU COWARD!! COME AND FACE ME!!

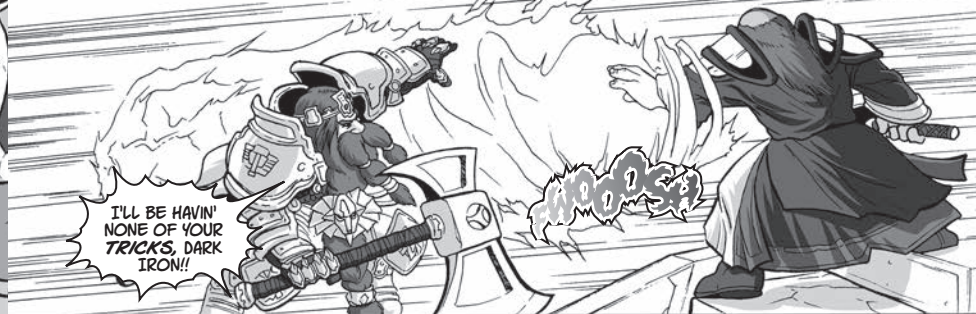
I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU, OLD ONE...

But their legacy of hatred and envy of the Bronzebeards lived on to this day in the present ruler...Dagran...

...and he had found the one sure path to seizing the Bronzebeard throne.

...COME AND EMBRACE YOUR SON-IN-LAW!!

SON-IN-LAW?! KIDNAPPER AND THIEF'S MORE LIKE IT!!



I'LL BE HAVIN' NONE OF YOUR TRICKS, DARK IRON!!

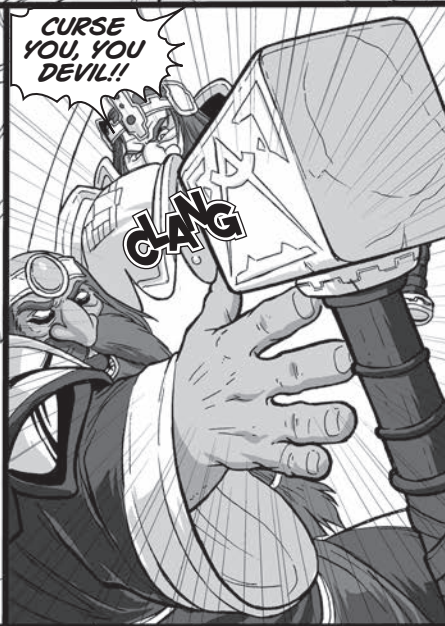
WOOOOSH!



WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!

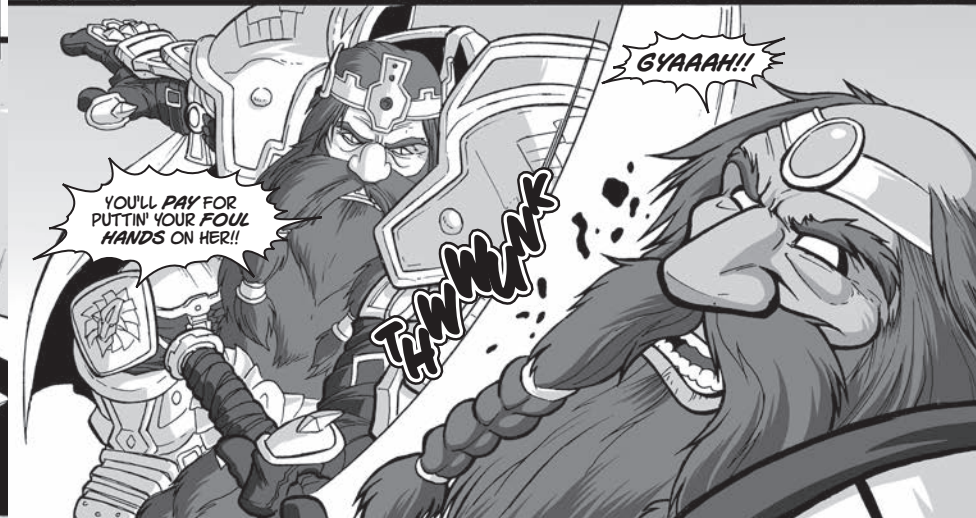
IF YOU'VE DONE SOMETHIN' TO HER IN HONOR OF YOUR ACCURSED FIRELORD, RAGNAROS--

ON THE CONTRARY...! SHE'S STILL IN MY BED... WHERE SHE LONGS TO STAY...!!



CURSE YOU, YOU DEVIL!!

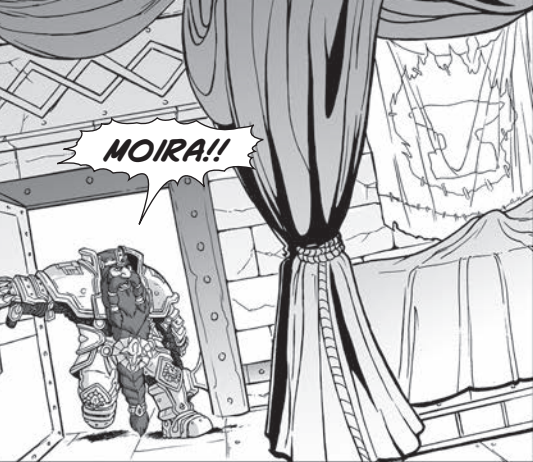
CLANG



YOU'LL PAY FOR PUTTIN' YOUR FOUL HANDS ON HER!!

GYAAAHH!!

THWUNK



MOIRA!!



HERE I AM,
FATHER...



MOIRA...

WHAT'S THAT
DEVIL DONE...



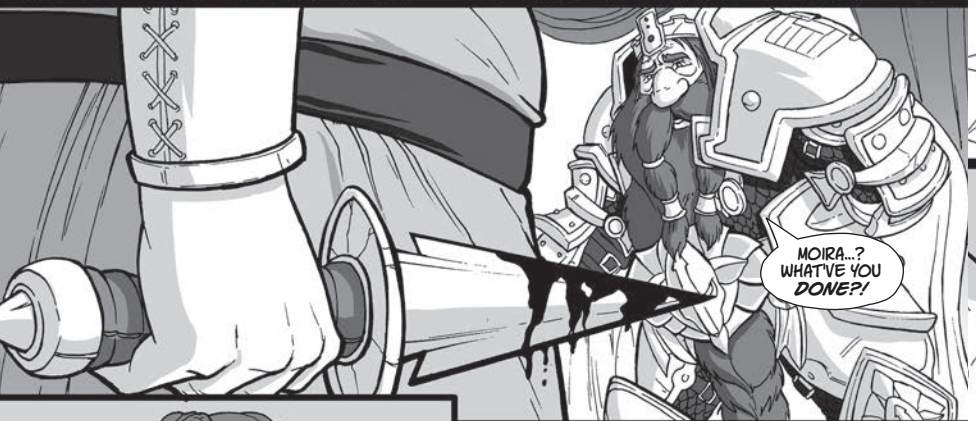
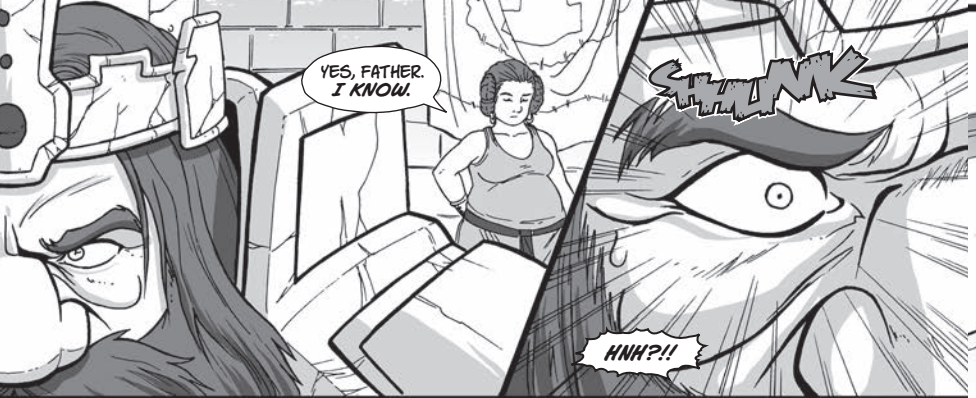
NEVER MIND...!
WE'LL DEAL WITH
THIS! COME ON!

WHERE...WHERE'S
DAGRAN?



THE DOG'S DEAD,
MOIRA. NO MORE NEED
TO WORRY YOURSELF
ABOUT HIM...



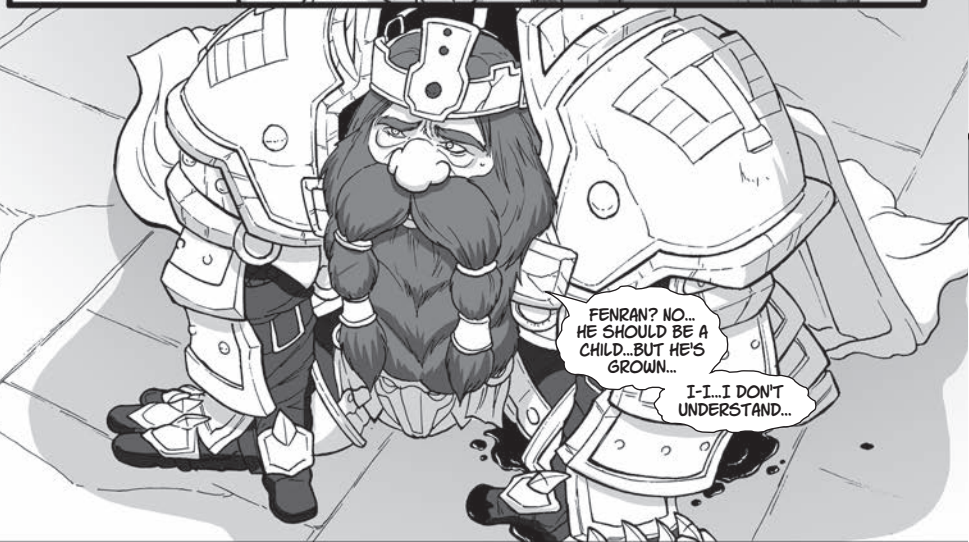
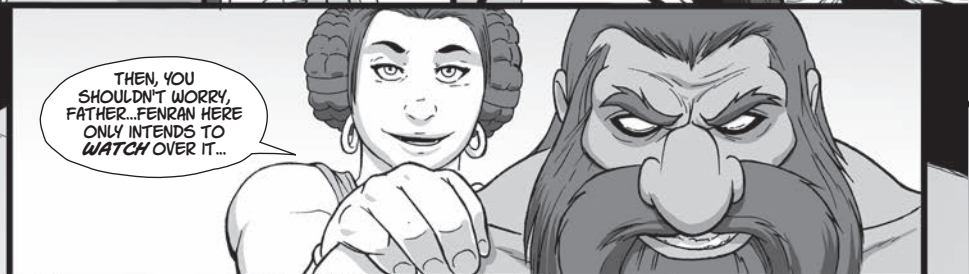




I...I SW-SWORE
NO...NO SON OF DAGRAN
WOULD S-SIT...WOULD
SIT ON THE IRONFORGE
TH-THRONE...



THEN, YOU
SHOULDN'T WORRY,
FATHER...FENRAN HERE
ONLY INTENDS TO
WATCH OVER IT...



FENRAN? NO...
HE SHOULD BE A
CHILD...BUT HE'S
GROWN...

I-I...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...



THE *THRONE*
WILL GO TO HIS
HALF-BROTHER
INSTEAD.




"*BROTHER*"?!
DAGRAN'S F-FORCED...
ANOTHER BASTARD
ON YOU?!!



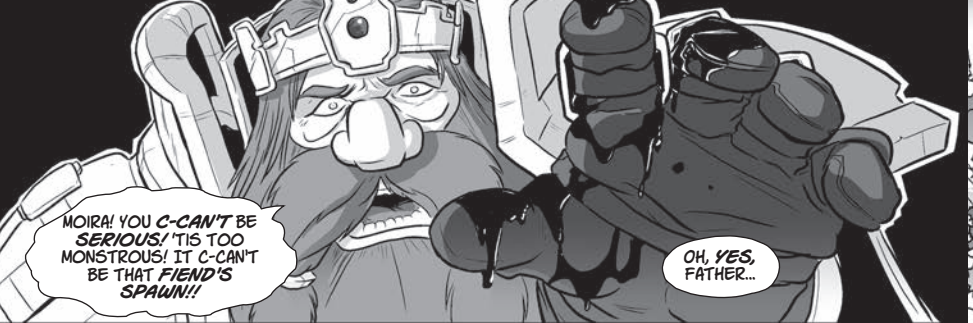
OH, NO...! I SAID
"HALF-BROTHER"! THIS
ISN'T DAGRAN'S...



I'VE BEEN
GRANTED AN
EVEN *GREATER*
GLORY...



FENRAN WILL
HELP ME WATCH OVER THE
THRONE UNTIL OUR *GREAT*
LORD'S CHILD IS READY
FOR IT...WHICH WON'T
BE LONG...



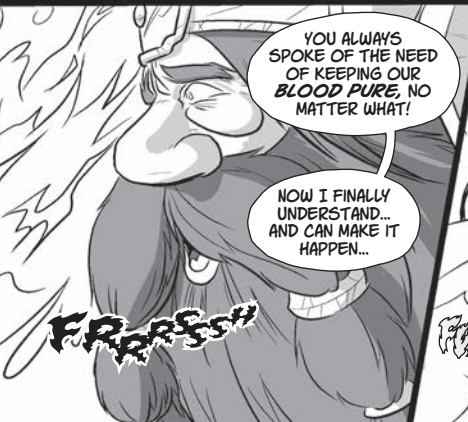
MOIRA! YOU C-CAN'T BE SERIOUS! 'TIS TOO MONSTROUS! IT C-CAN'T BE THAT FIEND'S SPAWN!!

OH, YES, FATHER...



...THE BABY'S FATHER IS RAGNAROS.

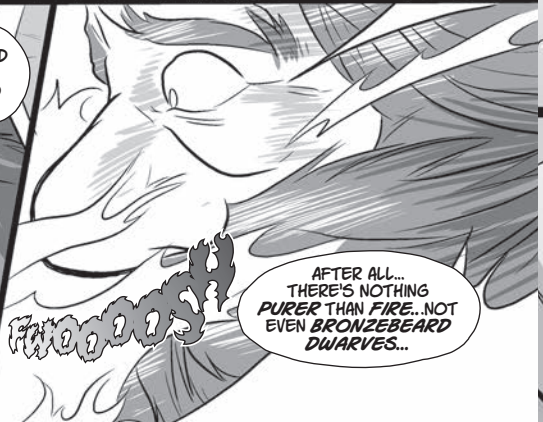
AND THROUGH HIS SON, RAGNAROS WILL CLEANSE ALL AZEROTH... STARTING WITH OUR PEOPLE!



YOU ALWAYS SPOKE OF KEEPING OUR BLOOD PURE, NO MATTER WHAT!


NOW I FINALLY UNDERSTAND... AND CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN...

FRASS!




AFTER ALL... THERE'S NOTHING PURER THAN FIRE... NOT EVEN BRONZEBEARD DWARVES...


FRASS!




KING MAGN'S SCREAM IS
PART OF HIS NIGHTMARE...
AND SO GOES UNHEARD.



BUT HE IS NOT ALONE
IN HIS DISTRESS...



...FOR OTHERS ARE
DREAMING THIS NIGHT...



...OTHERS WITH
TRAGEDIES OF THEIR OWN.



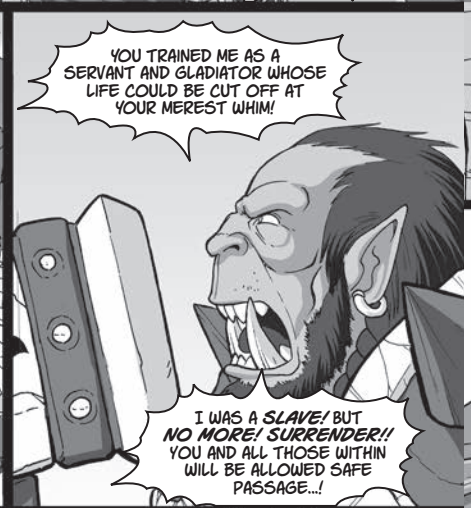
**AEDELAS
BLACKMOORE!!
YOU HAVE NO
HOPE!!**

**SURRENDER
OR DIE!!**



**TRAITOROUS CHILD!! I RAISED
YOU!! I GAVE YOU PURPOSE!! I
LET YOU FIGHT FOR ME...AND THIS
IS HOW I AM REPAID!!**

**YOU RAISED ME, HUMAN--BUT
ONLY AFTER TAKING ME AS AN
INFANT FROM MY MURDERED
PARENTS!**



**YOU TRAINED ME AS A
SERVANT AND GLADIATOR WHOSE
LIFE COULD BE CUT OFF AT
YOUR MEREST WHIM!**

**I WAS A SLAVE! BUT
NO MORE! SURRENDER!!
YOU AND ALL THOSE WITHIN
WILL BE ALLOWED SAFE
PASSAGE...!**



**"ALL THOSE WITHIN"?
AH! NOW WE KNOW
WHAT YOU TRULY WANT
FROM ME!!**

**IT'S THE WENCH
YOU WANT! I KNEW SHE'D
BEEN IN YOUR BED!**



**TARETHA GREW UP
BESIDE ME! SHE IS MY SISTER
IN SPIRIT AND THE ONLY
STAIN UPON HER HONOR
COMES FROM YOU!!**



YOU STOLE HER FROM HER FATHER, YOUR OWN SECRETARY! YOU FORCED HER TO BECOME YOUR MISTRESS! NO ONE USED HER BUT YOU, AEDELAS!!

SHE AND SHE ALONE IS THE REASON I GRANT YOU THE CHANCE OF LIFE!!



SEND HER OUT FIRST--AND SHE WILL LEAD THE REST OF YOU TO WHERE THE ALLIANCE CAN CLAIM YOU!

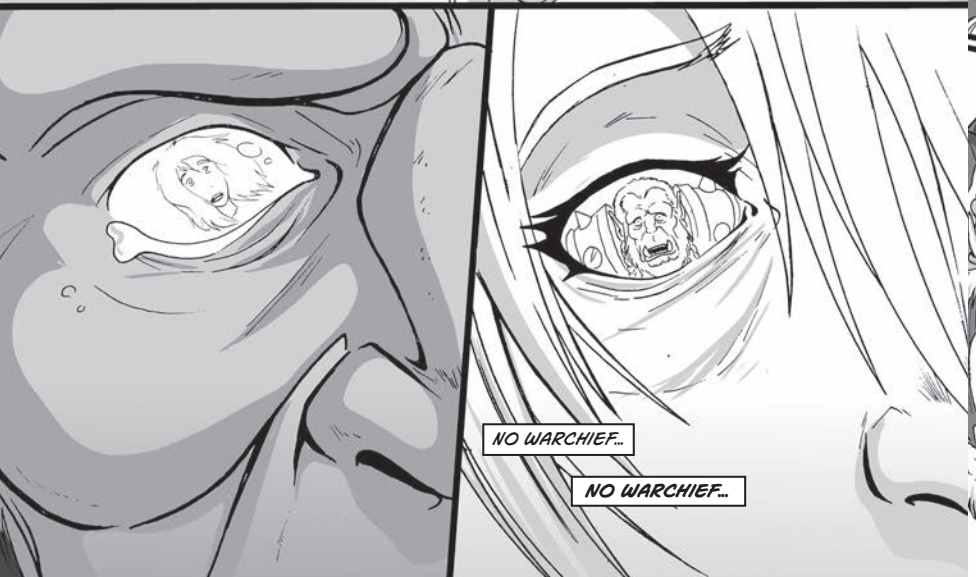
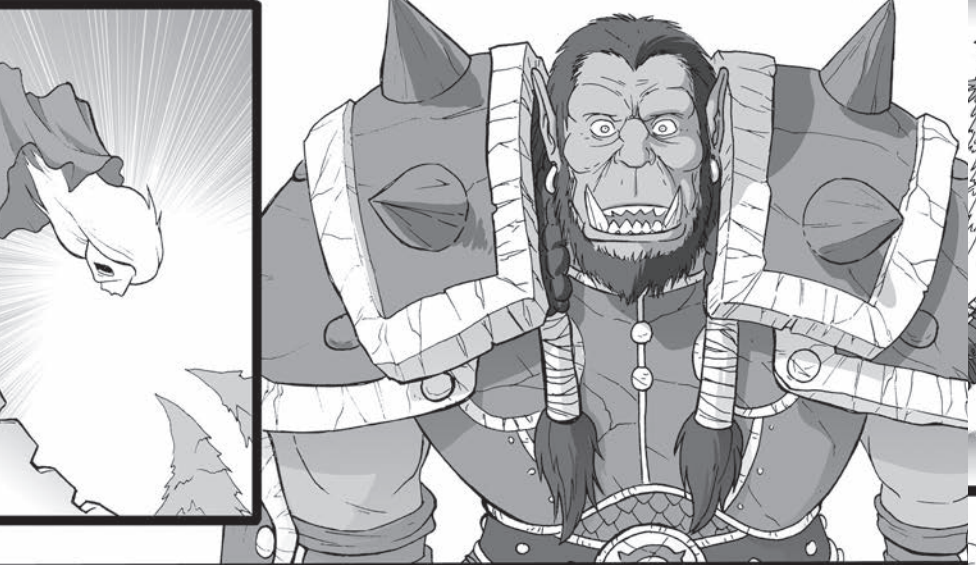


OH, I INTENDED TO SEND HER TO YOU FROM THE BEGINNING...



...AND SHOW YOU THE FATE OF ALL TRAITORS!!

TO's



NO WARCHIEF...

**WARCHIEF!
WHY DO YOU STAND
STILL? DURNHOLDE IS
OURS! BLACKMOORE'S
TRAPPED!**

DURNHOLDE...

**I WILL NOT
MAKE THE SAME
MISTAKE...**

**BREAK THROUGH!!
DO NOT TOUCH THE
FEMALES, BUT ALL
FIGHTERS MUST DIE!!**

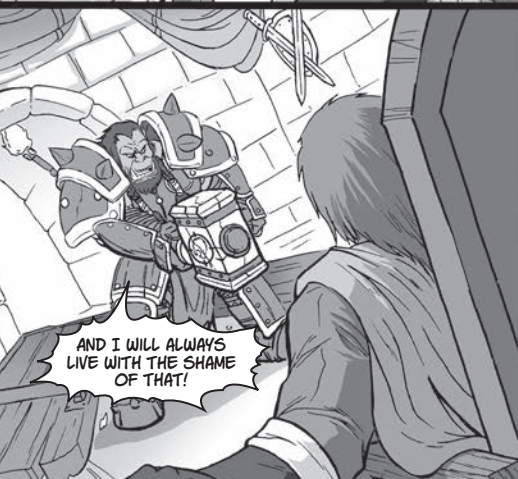
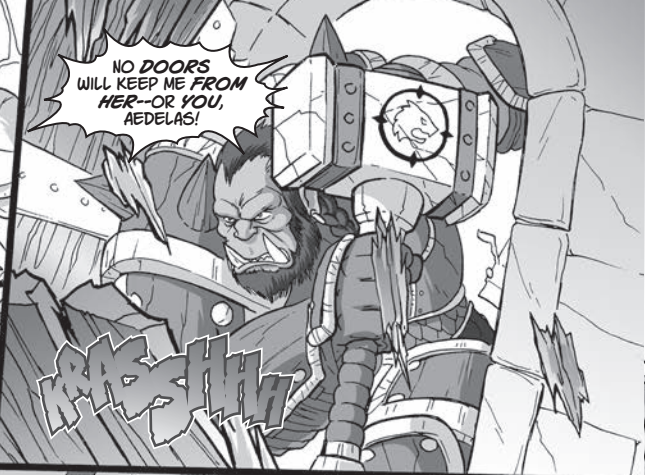
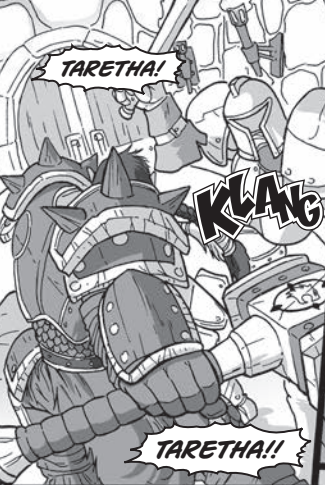
RAAAH!!


YAAAH!!

**THIS TIME I WILL
SAVE YOU, TARETHA!
I SWEAR IT!**

CLANG

CLANG





YOU KNOW THAT
I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO
OBLIGE YOU, AS IF YOU
WERE MY OWN SON...

*WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR YOU...
AS YOU SEE...*

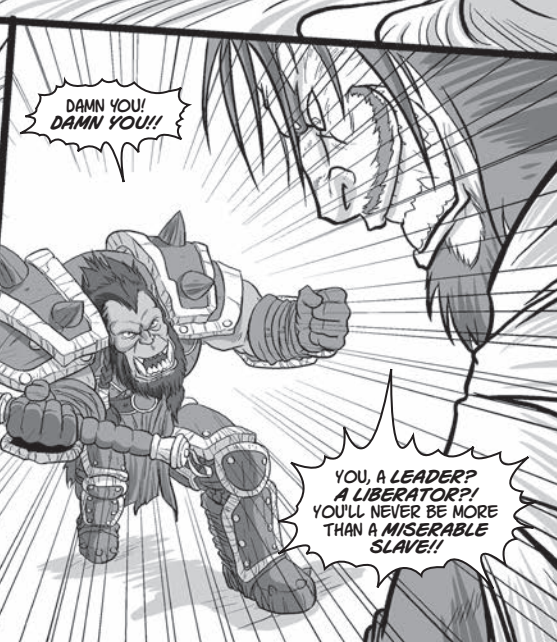


YOU'VE FAILED
ME *AGAIN*, THRALL!
YOU KEEP FAILING
EVERYONE...



DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!!

NO...NOT
AGAIN...



YOU, A LEADER?
A LIBERATOR?!
YOU'LL NEVER BE MORE
THAN A MISERABLE
SLAVE!!




A MISERABLE FAILURE...!!


THRALL...? DOES SOMETHING ALL YOU?!



DURNHOLDE KEEP...WHERE...?



OVER THAT DIRECTION...WHERE IT SHOULD BE, WARCHIEF...

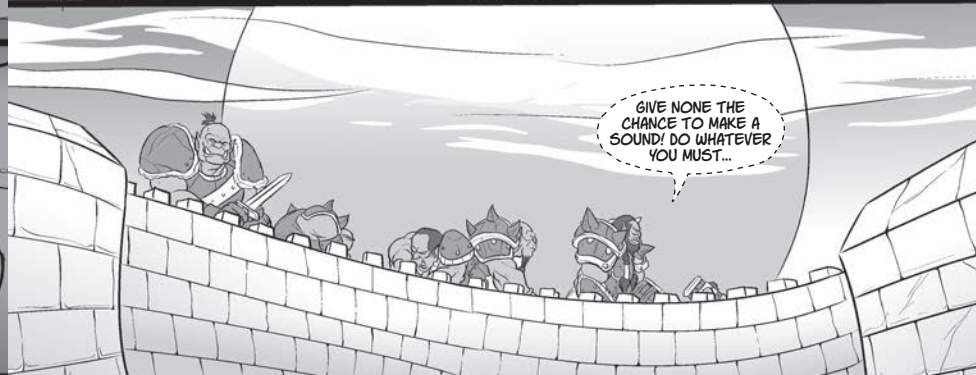
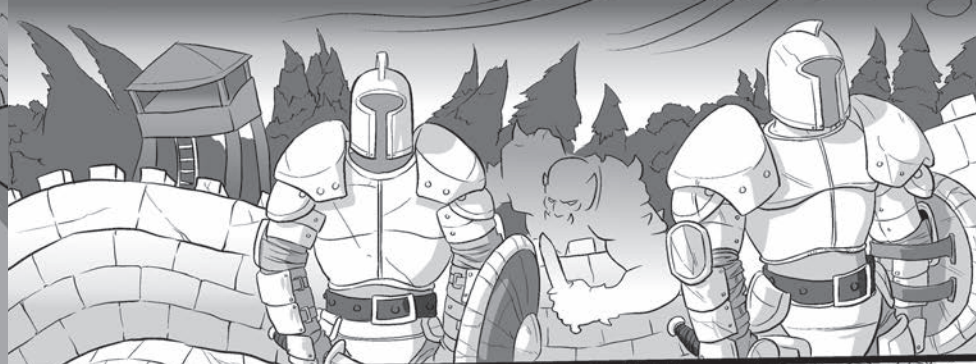


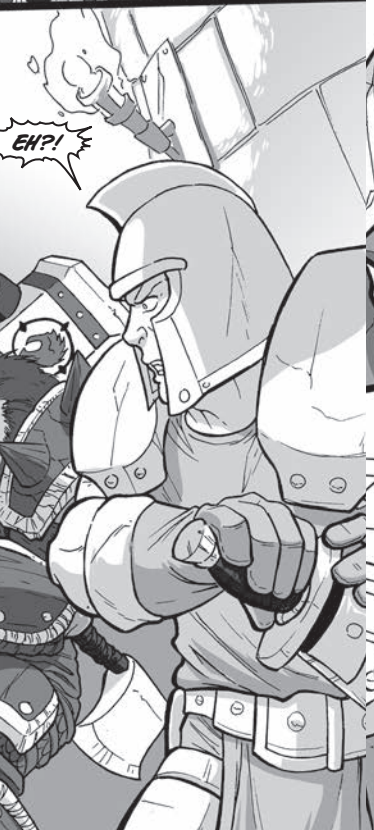
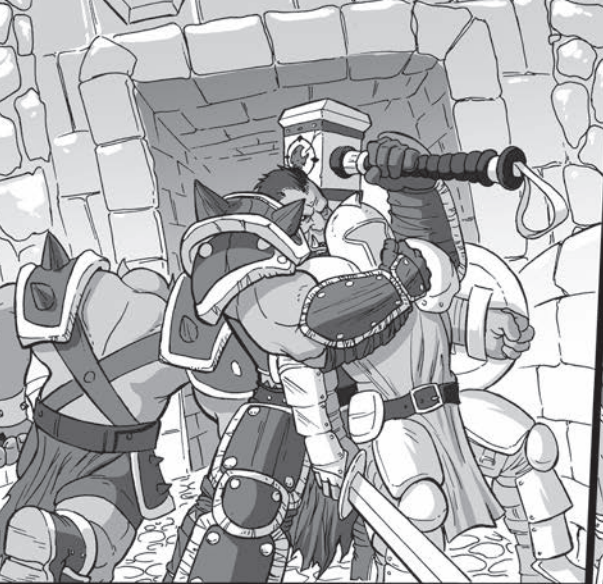
YOU WERE SPEAKING OF TOMORROW'S BATTLE...



THE BATTLE...

NO...THIS TIME, WE TAKE DURNHOLDE BY STEALTH.







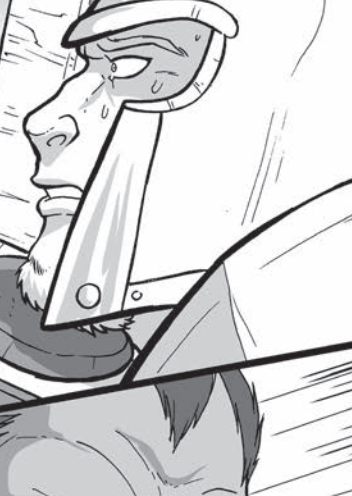
YOUR ONE CHANCE!! *WHERE* IS THE WOMAN TARETHA FOXTON?!



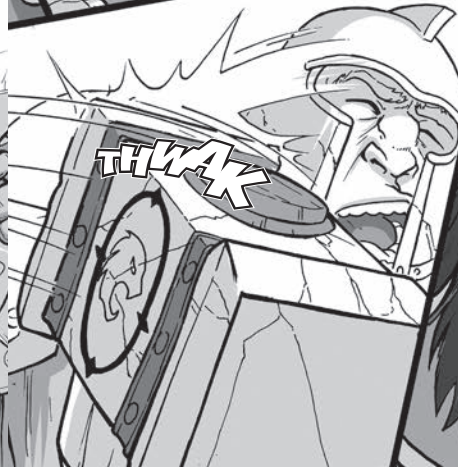
TH-THEY--THEY'RE TOGETHER! THE MASTER TOOK HER TO HIS CHAMBERS AN HOUR AGO...!



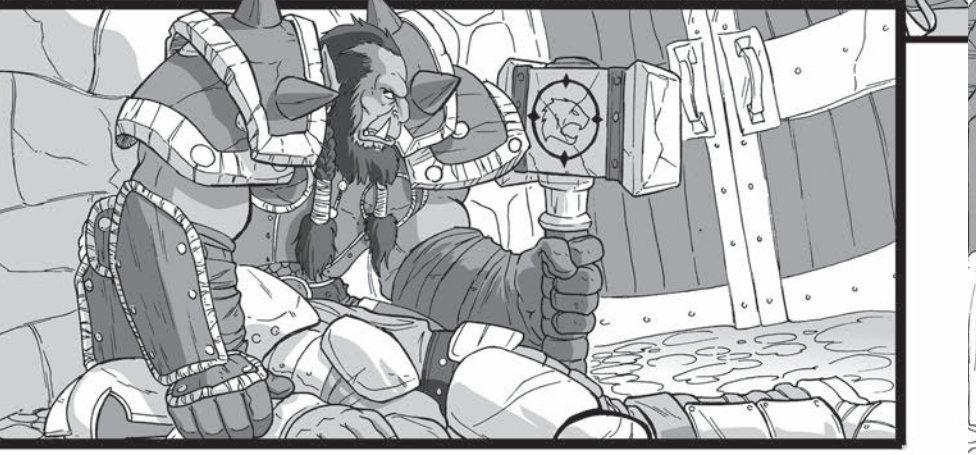
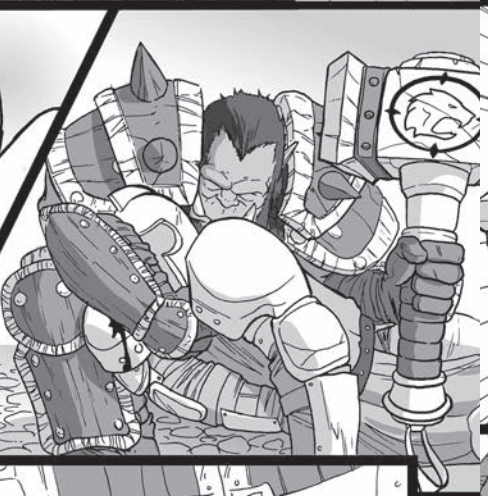
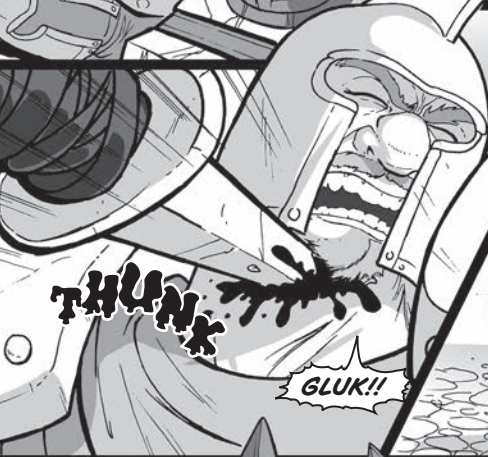
HAS HE...HAS HE SLAIN HER?!



NAY! NAY! THOUGH HE TALK'S OF D-DOING IT IF DURNHOLDE'S DEFENSES ARE B-BREACHED...

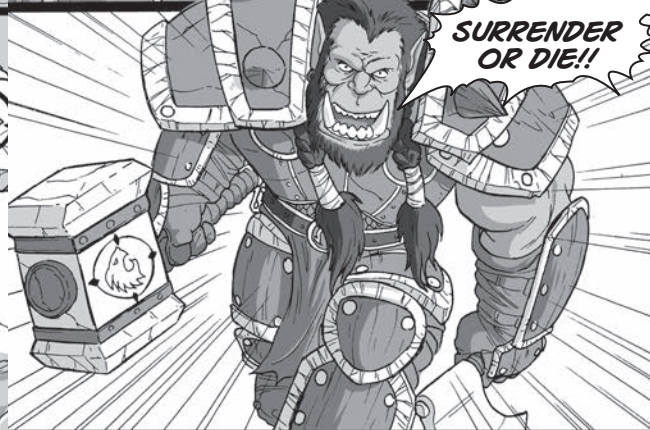


SHE STILL LIVES...! I'M FINALLY IN TIME!

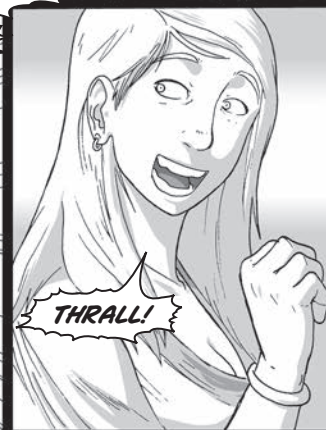




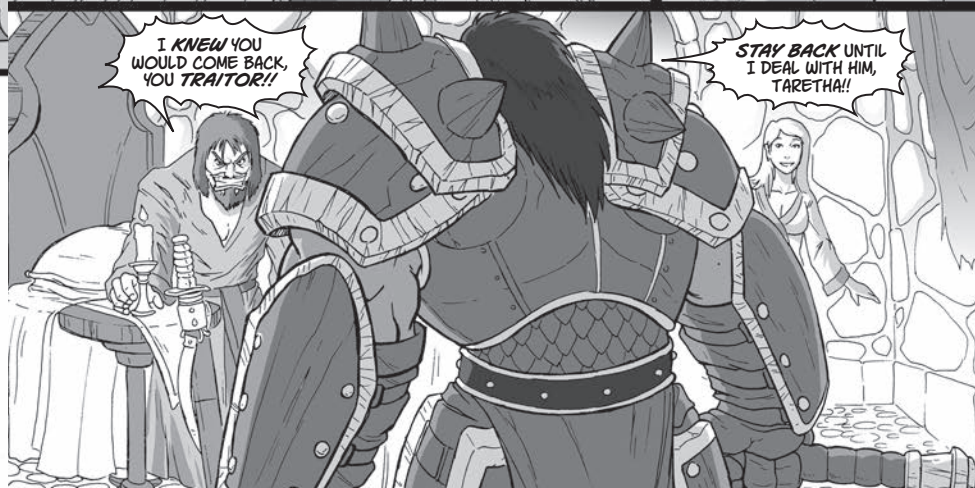
AEDELAS!!



**SURRENDER
OR DIE!!**

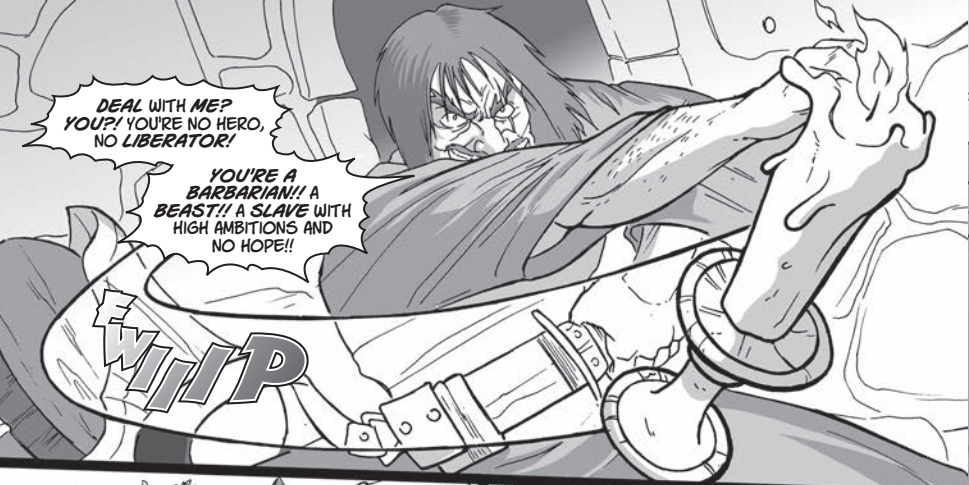


THRALL!



**I KNEW YOU
WOULD COME BACK,
YOU TRAITOR!!**

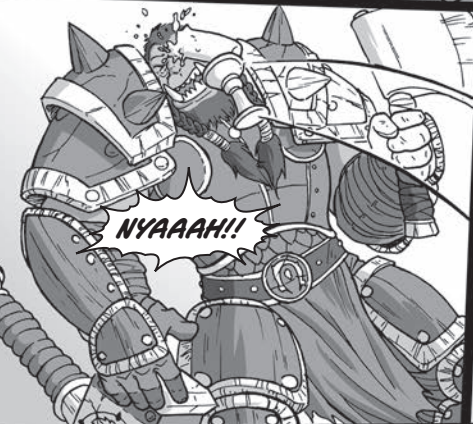
**STAY BACK UNTIL
I DEAL WITH HIM,
TARETHA!!**



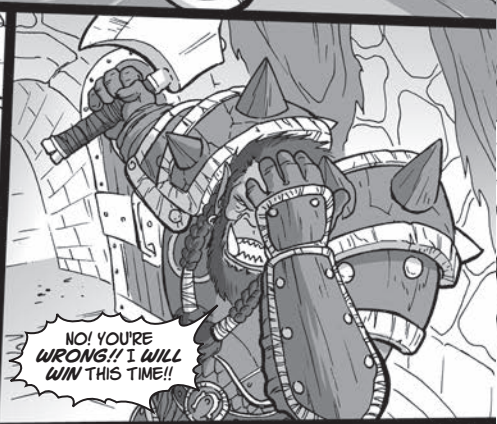
DEAL WITH ME?
YOU? YOU'RE NO HERO,
NO LIBERATOR!

YOU'RE A
BARBARIAN!! A
BEAST!! A SLAVE WITH
HIGH AMBITIONS AND
NO HOPE!!

FWIIP



NYAAA!!



NO! YOU'RE
WRONG!! I WILL
WIN THIS TIME!!



HAAH!!

BOOSH!

CHOP



I CAUGHT HIM HARD!
I'VE SAVED YOU THIS
TIME, TARETHA! I'VE
FINALLY SUCCEEDED--

...YOU...

N-NO...NOT
AGAIN...

YOU'VE FAILED
ME AGAIN, THRALL...YOU'LL
ALWAYS FAIL...THIS IS
YOUR FAULT...

YOU ARE NO
LEADER...

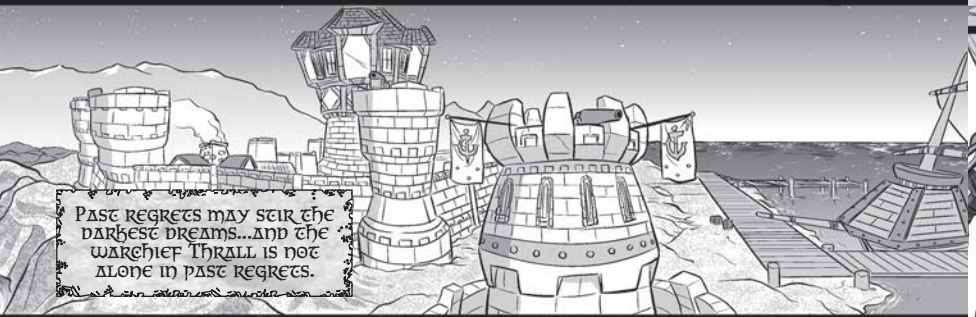
IT'S ALL
YOUR
FAULT...

YOU NEVER
WILL BE...

NOT AGAIN...I...
F-FAILED...



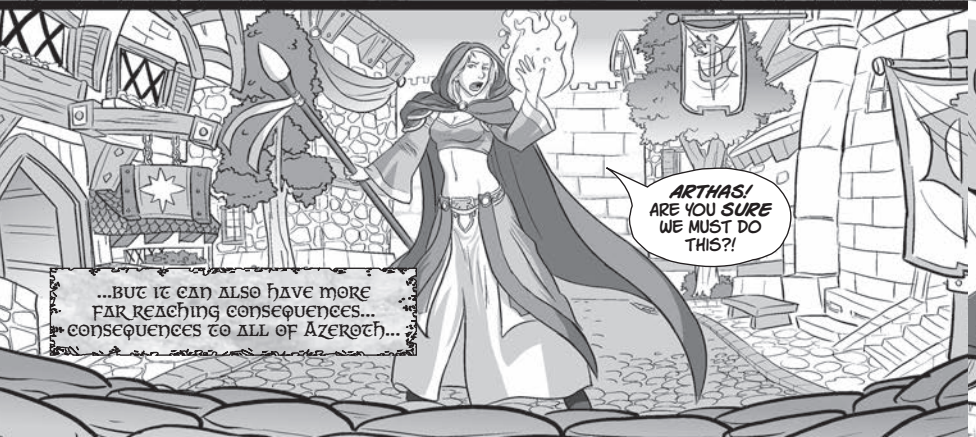
LOST YOU... LOST EVERYTHING... NO LEADER... NO LIBERATOR... ALL LOST...



Past regrets may stir the darkest dreams...and the warchief Thrall is not alone in past regrets.

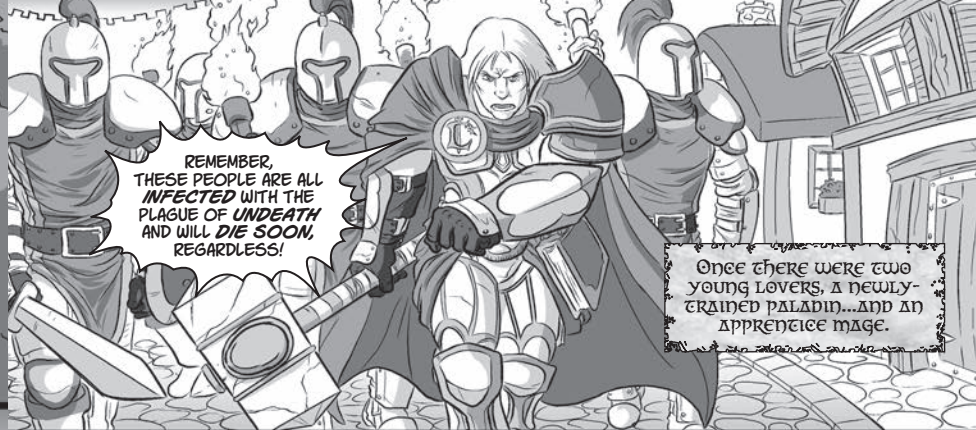


An inaction or delayed action may often lead to personal tragedy...



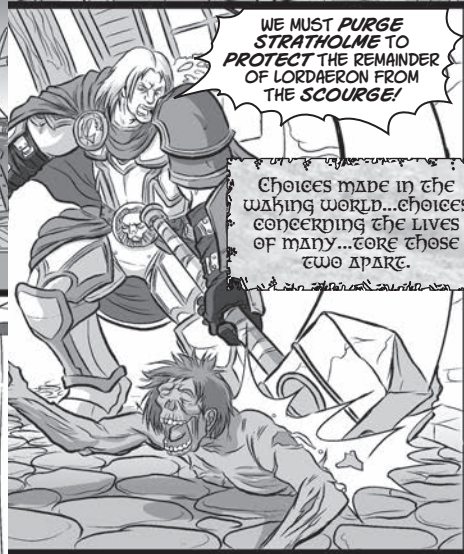
ARTHAS! ARE YOU SURE WE MUST DO THIS?!

...BUT IT CAN ALSO HAVE MORE FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES... CONSEQUENCES TO ALL OF AZEROTH...



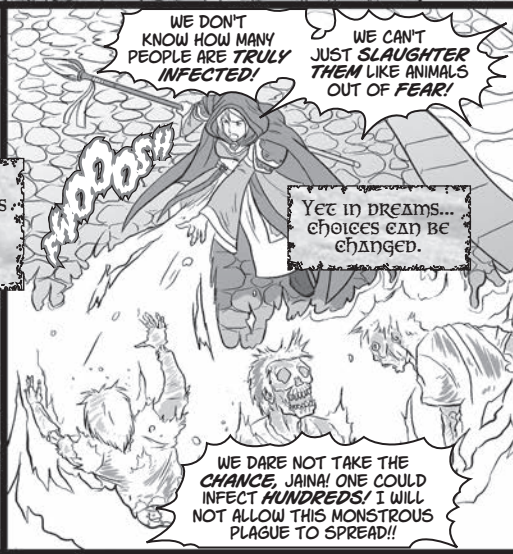
REMEMBER,
THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL
INFECTED WITH THE
PLAGUE OF **UNDEATH**
AND WILL **DIE SOON**,
REGARDLESS!

Once there were two
young lovers, a newly-
trained paladin...and an
apprentice mage.



WE MUST **PURGE**
STRATHOLME TO
PROTECT THE REMAINDER
OF LORDAERON FROM
THE **SCOURGE!**

Choices made in the
waking world...choices
concerning the lives
of many...**TORE** those
two apart.



WE DON'T
KNOW HOW MANY
PEOPLE ARE **TRULY**
INFECTED!

WE CAN'T
JUST **SLAUGHTER**
THEM LIKE ANIMALS
OUT OF FEAR!

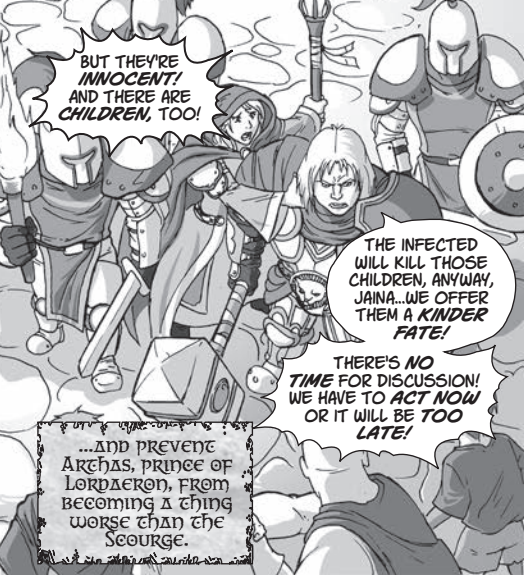
Yet in dreams...
choices can be
changed.

WE DARE NOT TAKE THE
CHANCE, JAINA! ONE COULD
INFECT **HUNDREDS!** I WILL
NOT ALLOW THIS MONSTRIOUS
PLAGUE TO SPREAD!!

Choices that
could change
history...



MAY THE **LIGHT**
HAVE **MERCY.**





NO!! I DIDN'T MEAN TO--!!

JAINA PROUDMOORE HAS OFTEN WONDERED IF SHE HAD STAYED WITH ARTHAS, IF SHE HAD BELIEVED IN HIM, BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER SHE COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE DIRE MOMENT...



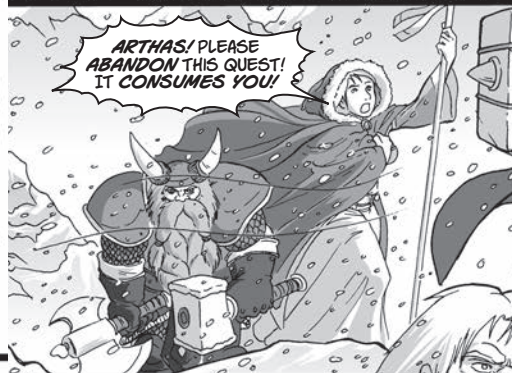
IT IS ALL RIGHT... YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO... JUST AS I WOULD'VE DONE. IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST.

NOW...WE NEED TO GO AFTER MAL'GANIS...

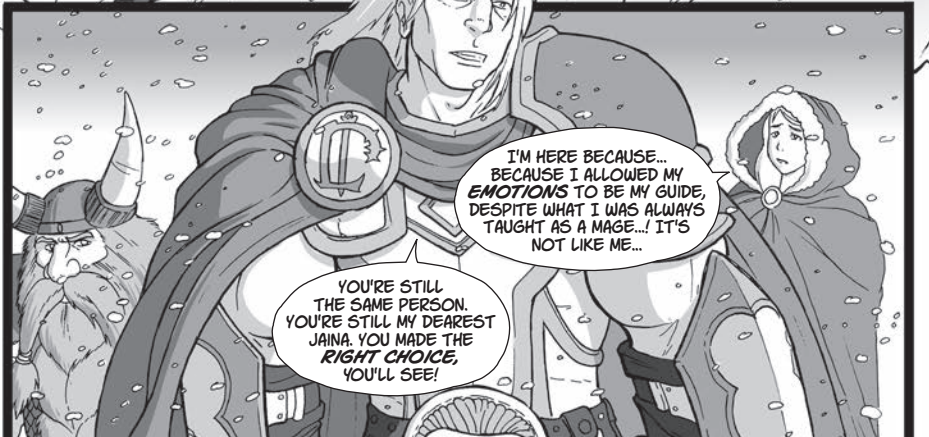


"...WHO HAS FLED TO NORTHERND."

I WILL DO ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PROTECT OUR KINGDOM! YOU FEEL THE SAME--YOUR PRESENCE HERE CONFIRMS IT!



ARTHAS! PLEASE ABANDON THIS QUEST! IT CONSUMES YOU!



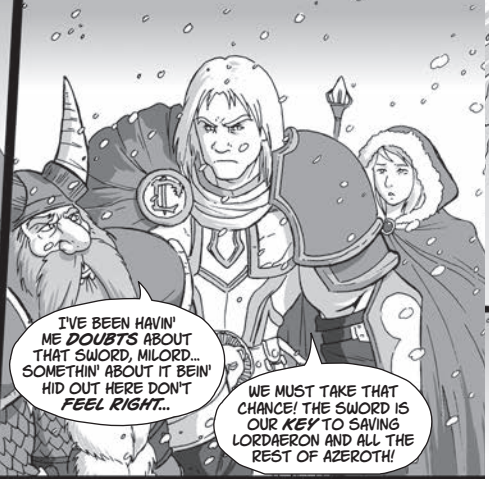
I'M HERE BECAUSE... BECAUSE I ALLOWED MY EMOTIONS TO BE MY GUIDE, DESPITE WHAT I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT AS A MAGE... IT'S NOT LIKE ME...

YOU'RE STILL THE SAME PERSON. YOU'RE STILL MY DEAREST JAINA. YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, YOU'LL SEE!



ONCE WE DESTROY MAL'GANIS...IT WILL ALL WORK OUT.

MURADIN HAS SPOKEN OF A POWERFUL RUNEBLADE, FROSTMOURNE, HIDDEN HERE IN COLD NORTHERD, WHICH CAN SLAY THE DEMON!

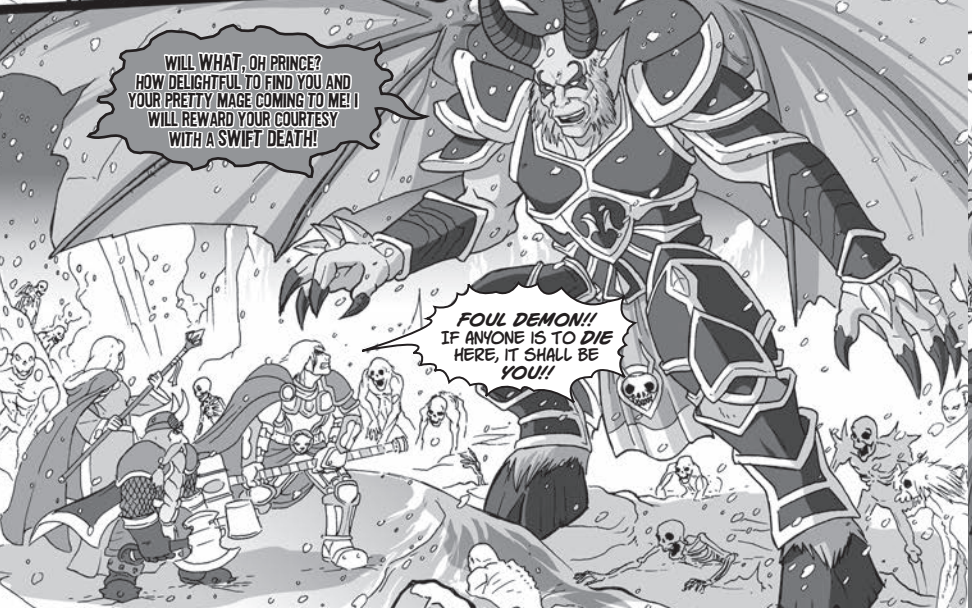


I'VE BEEN HAVIN' ME DOUBTS ABOUT THAT SWORD, MILORD... SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT BEIN' HID OUT HERE DON'T FEEL RIGHT...

WE MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE! THE SWORD IS OUR KEY TO SAVING LORDAERON AND ALL THE REST OF AZEROTH!

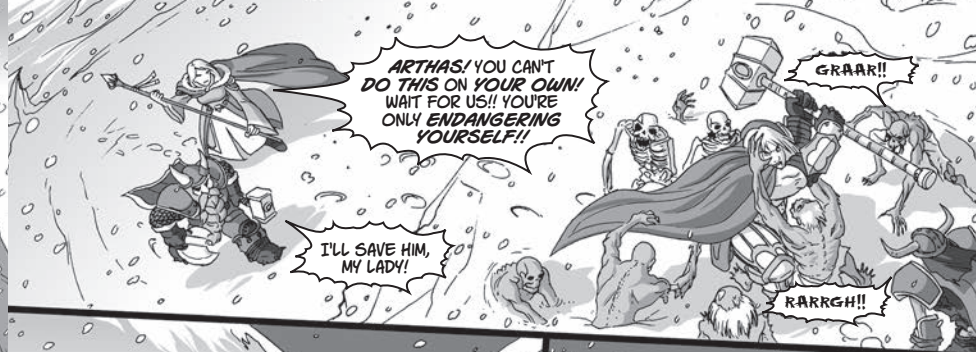


NOW HURRY!! ONCE I WIELD IT, MAL'GANIS WILL--



WILL WHAT, OH PRINCE? HOW DELIGHTFUL TO FIND YOU AND YOUR PRETTY MAGE COMING TO ME! I WILL REWARD YOUR COURTESY WITH A SWIFT DEATH!

FOUL DEMON!! IF ANYONE IS TO DIE HERE, IT SHALL BE YOU!!

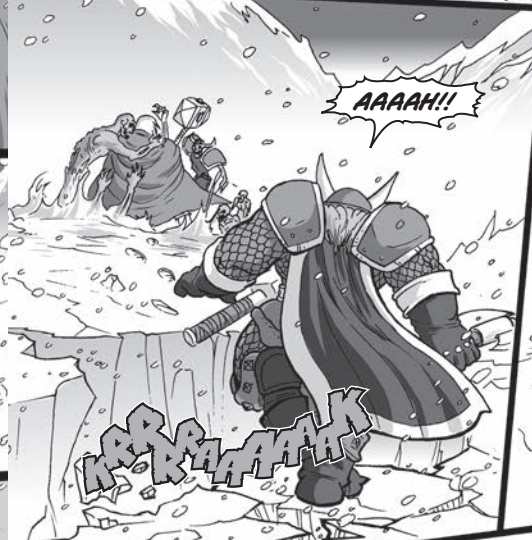


ARTHAS! YOU CAN'T DO THIS ON YOUR OWN! WAIT FOR US!! YOU'RE ONLY ENDANGERING YOURSELF!!

GRAAR!!

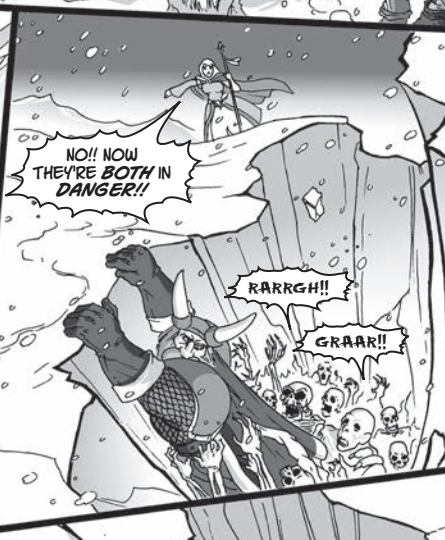
I'LL SAVE HIM, MY LADY!

RARRGH!!



AAAAH!!

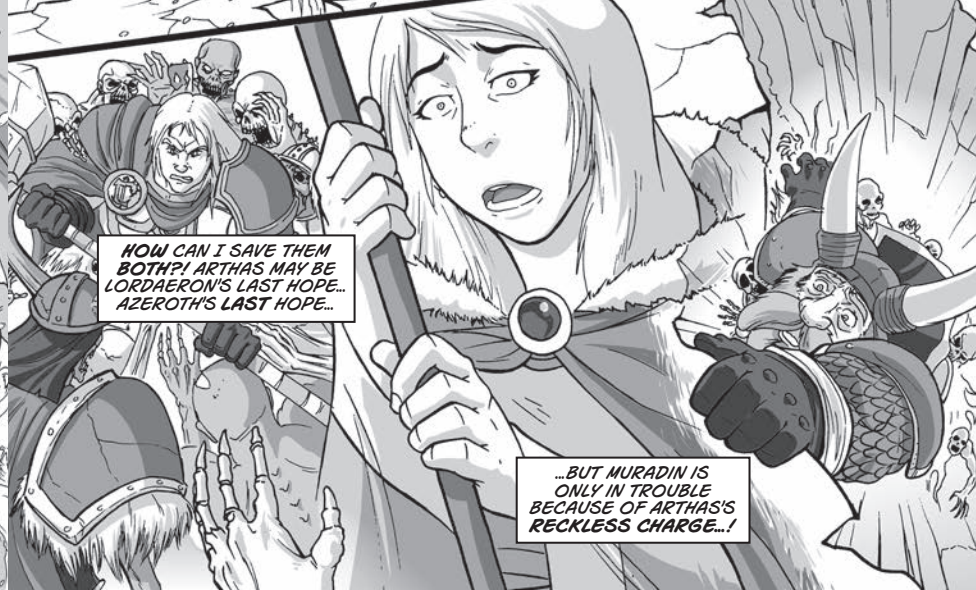
**KRRRAAAAK
KRRRAAAAK**



NO! NOW THEY'RE BOTH IN DANGER!!

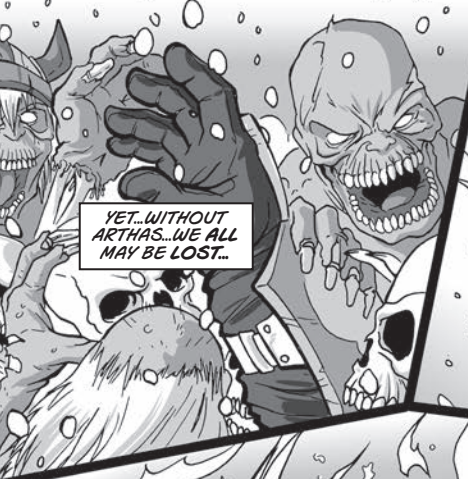
RARRGH!!

GRAAR!!



HOW CAN I SAVE THEM BOTH?! ARTHAS MAY BE LORDAERON'S LAST HOPE... AZEROTH'S LAST HOPE...

...BUT MURADIN IS ONLY IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ARTHAS'S RECKLESS CHARGE...!



YET...WITHOUT
ARTHAS...WE ALL
MAY BE LOST...



FWUMP

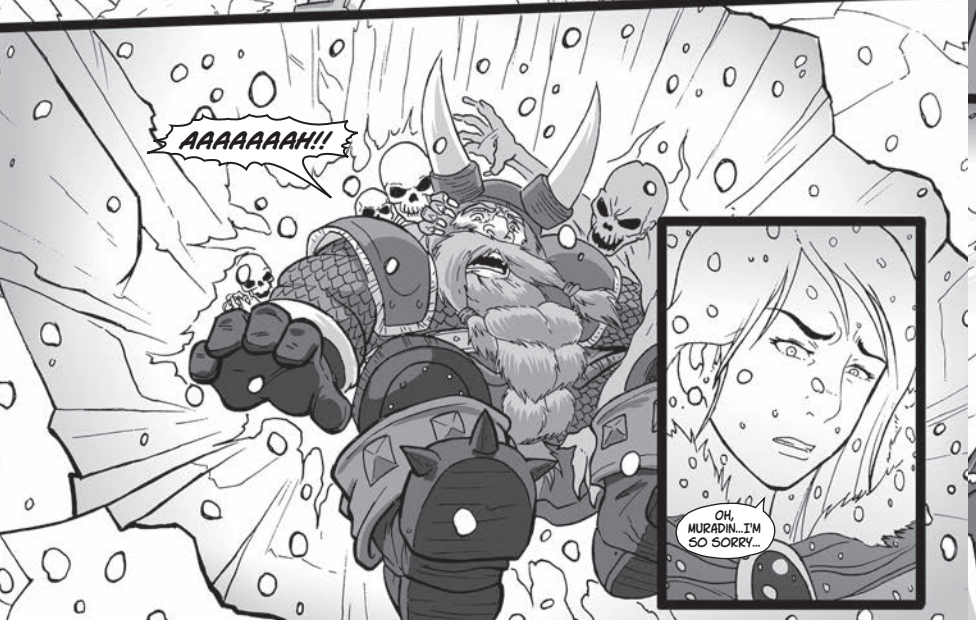
I'M SO SORRY,
MURADIN...I HAVE
TO SAVE HIM...I
NEED TO SAVE HIM...



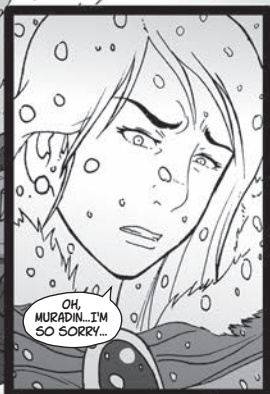
PRAASH

HA!!

SWISS SWISS



AAAAAAAH!!



OH,
MURADIN...I'M
SO SORRY...



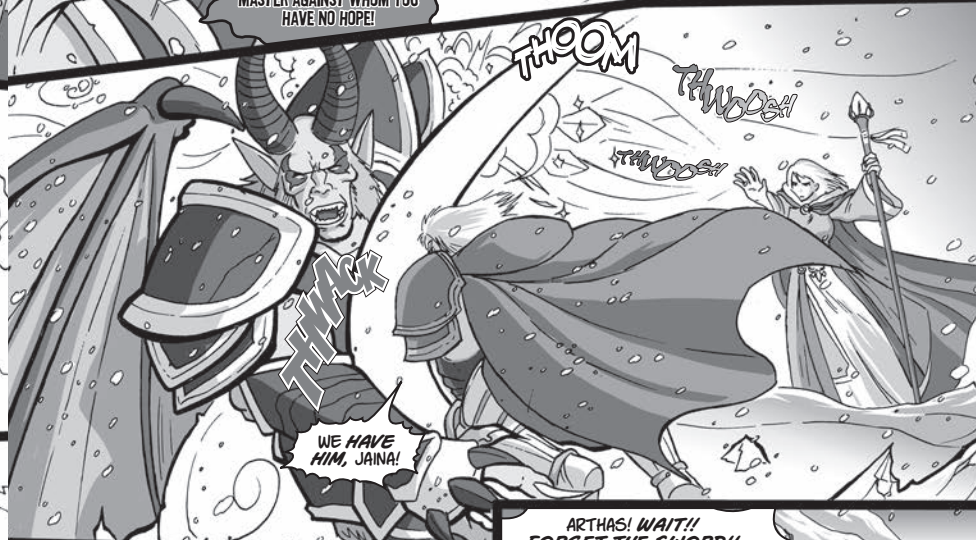
CRY NOT OVER HIS LOSS OR THAT OF THOSE OF STRATHOLME, DEAREST JAINA! WE *DID* WHAT WE *MUST*!

TO FALTER NOW WOULD MEAN THAT THEIR SACRIFICES WERE IN VAIN! THROUGH MY ARM AND YOUR MAGIC, *THEY'LL BE AVENGED!*

PATHETIC FOOL! EVEN SHOULD YOU SLAY ME, I SERVE A MORE POWERFUL MASTER AGAINST WHOM YOU HAVE NO HOPE!



IN VAIN...YES...I SUPPOSE SO...WE MUST KEEP ON...



THOOM

THWOOSH!

THWOOSH!

THWACK

WE HAVE HIM, JAINA!



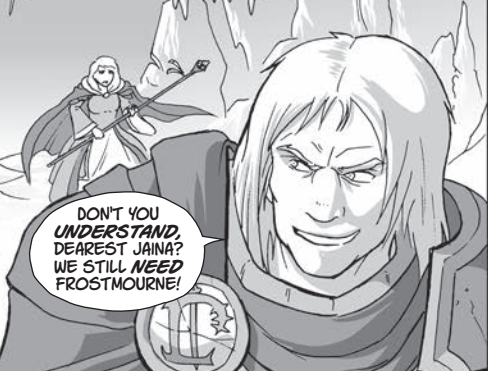
THE DEMON LORD IS DEAD...AND THAT MUST BE WHERE FROSTMOURNE LIES!

WE'LL STILL NEED IT IF WE'RE TO HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST HIS MYSTERIOUS MASTER!



ARTHAS! WAIT!! FORGET THE SWORD!! MAL'GANIS IS DEAD AND WE'VE ALREADY SACRIFICED TOO MUCH!! LET THERE BE AN END TO IT FOR US!!

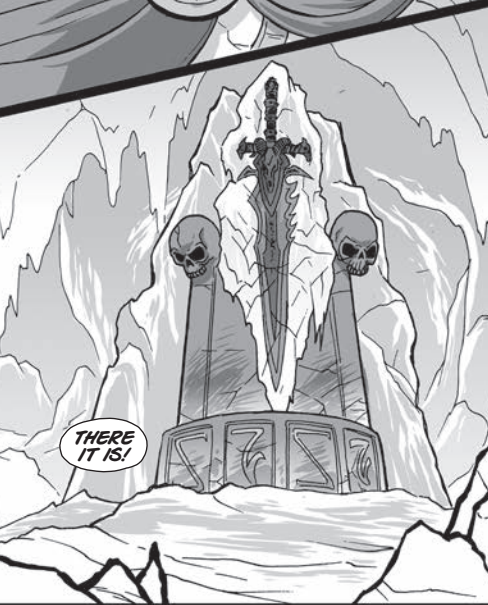
FRASH



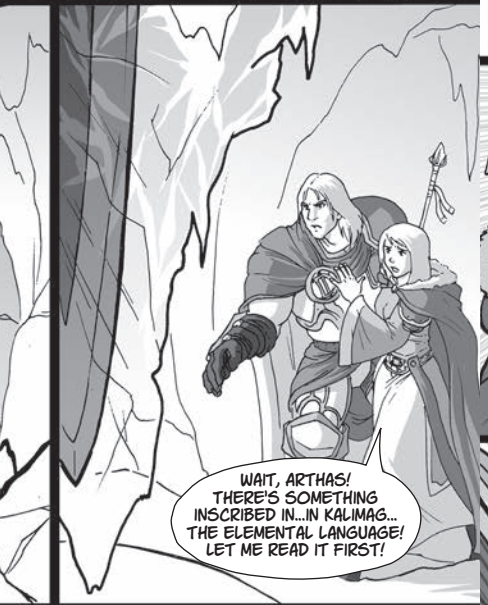
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, DEAREST JAINA? WE STILL NEED FROSTMOURNE!



THERE!



THERE IT IS!



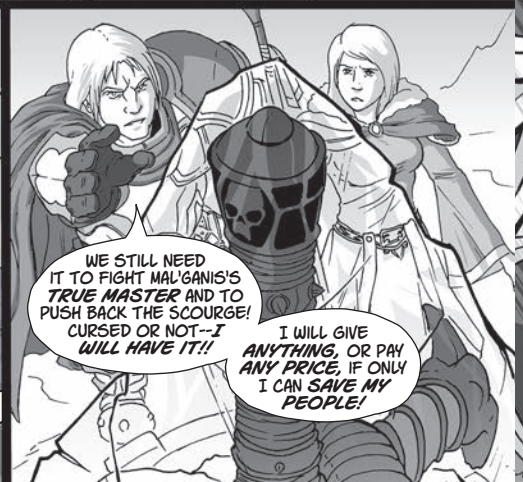
WAIT, ARTHAS! THERE'S SOMETHING INSCRIBED IN...IN KALIMAG... THE ELEMENTAL LANGUAGE! LET ME READ IT FIRST!



"WHOEVER TAKES UP THIS BLADE SHALL WIELD POWER ETERNAL. JUST AS THE BLADE RENDS FLESH, SO MUST POWER SCAR THE SPIRIT."

A DIRE WARNING! WE'D BEST HEED THIS, ARTHAS--

NO!!

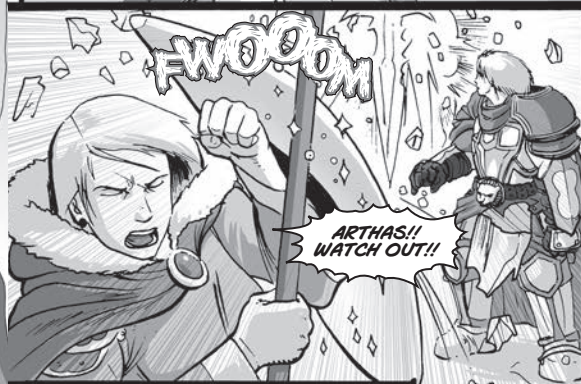


WE STILL NEED IT TO FIGHT MAL'GANIS'S TRUE MASTER AND TO PUSH BACK THE SCOURGE! CURSED OR NOT--I WILL HAVE IT!!

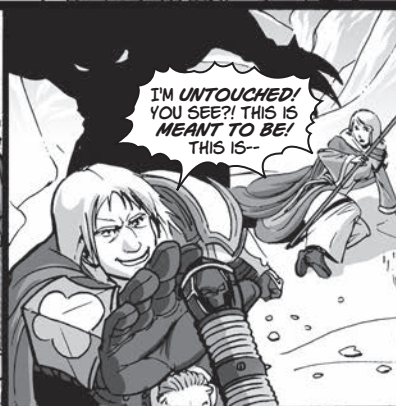
I WILL GIVE ANYTHING, OR PAY ANY PRICE, IF ONLY I CAN SAVE MY PEOPLE!



ARTHAS WON'T LISTEN! AND HE SURELY ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THIS BLADE'S CURSE! IF HE SHOULD GRIP IT--



ARTHAS!! WATCH OUT!!

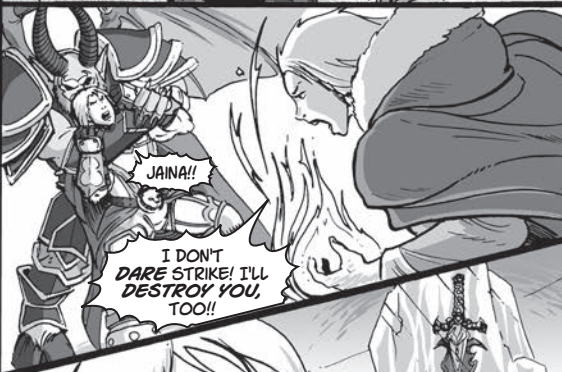


I'M UNTOUCHED! YOU SEE?! THIS IS MEANT TO BE! THIS IS--



--TO BE YOUR TOMB, PRINCE OF LORDAERON!

UNGH!!

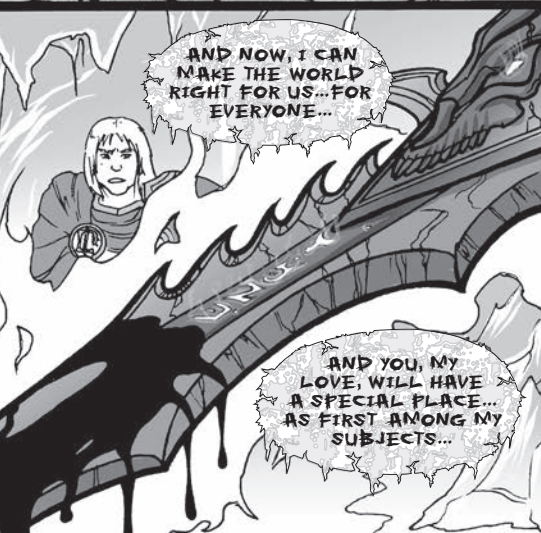
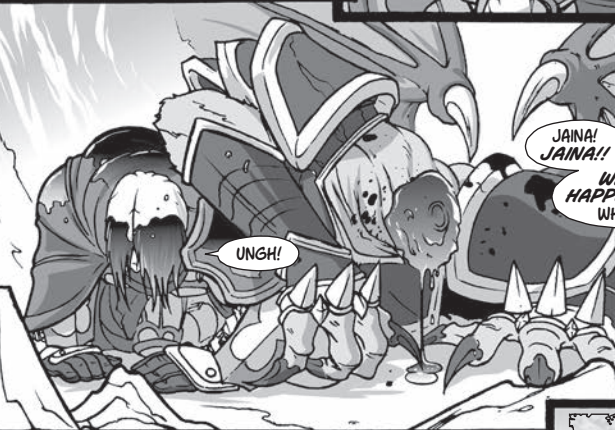
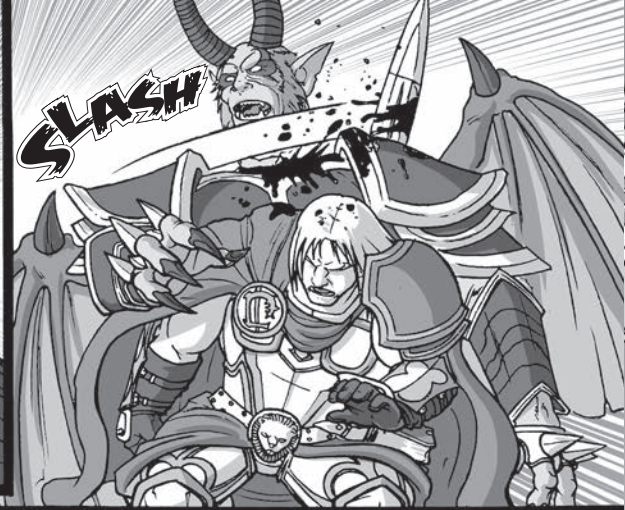


JAINA!!

I DON'T DARE STRIKE! I'LL DESTROY YOU, TOO!!



THE SWORD! IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME, I WILL NOT LET YOU DIE, MY LOVE!



AND NOW, I CAN MAKE THE WORLD RIGHT FOR US...FOR EVERYONE...

AND YOU, MY LOVE, WILL HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE... AS FIRST AMONG MY SUBJECTS...

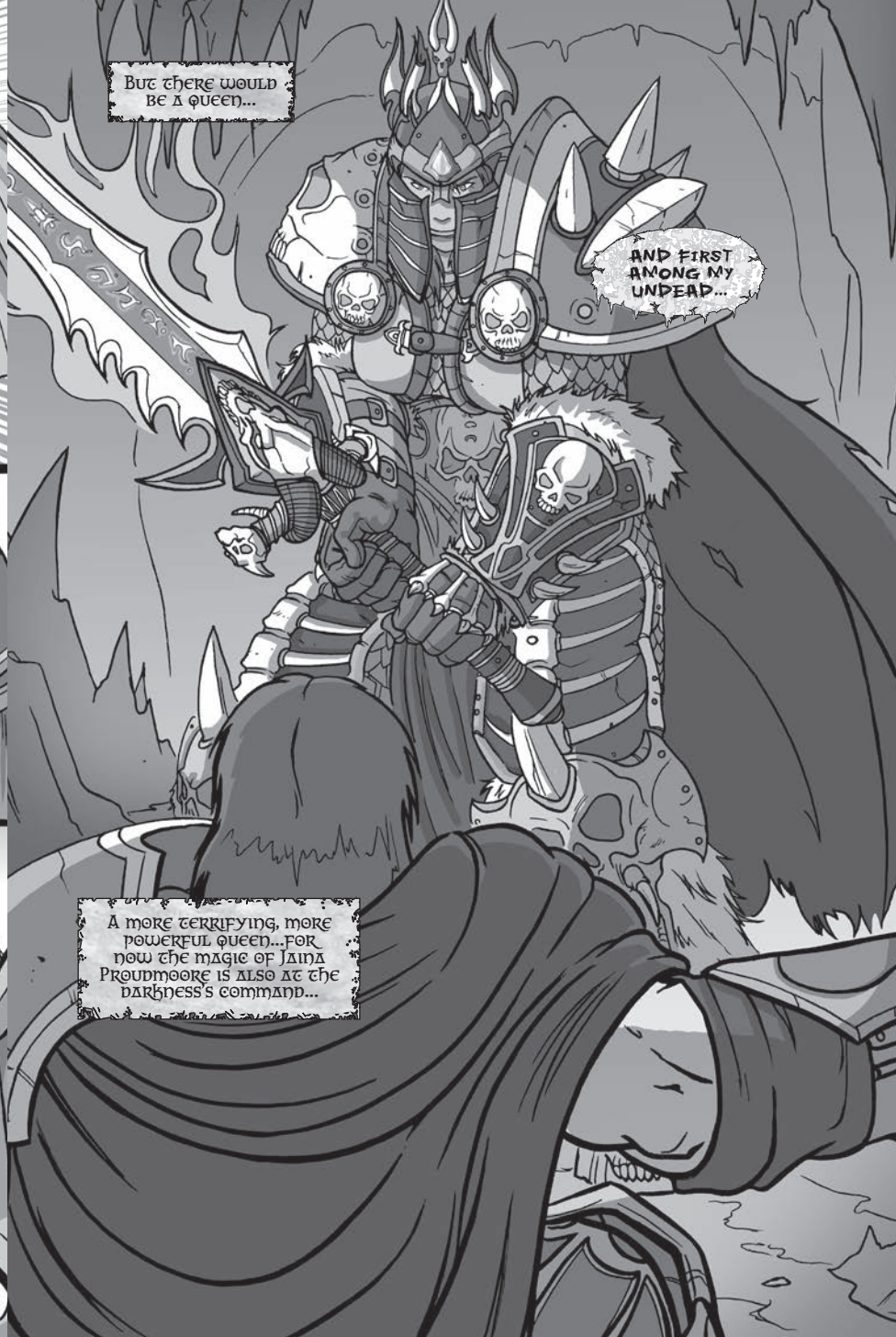
JAINA HAD TRIUMPHED. SHE HAD SAVED ARCHAS FROM HIS TERRIBLE DESTINY...THERE WOULD BE NO LICH KING TO SEND HIS EVIL FORTH OVER THE WORLD.

SLASH

JAINA!
JAINA!!

WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT--

HAVE NO FEAR, DEAREST...YOU'RE SAFE...I DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO KEEP YOU FROM A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...



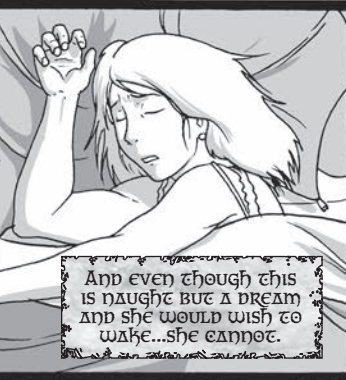
BUT THERE WOULD
BE A QUEEN...

AND FIRST
AMONG MY
UNDEAD...

A MORE TERRIFYING, MORE
POWERFUL QUEEN...FOR
NOW THE MAGIC OF JAINA
PROUDMOORE IS ALSO AT THE
DARKNESS'S COMMAND...



What remains of Jaina Proudmoore screams for release, but none is forthcoming...



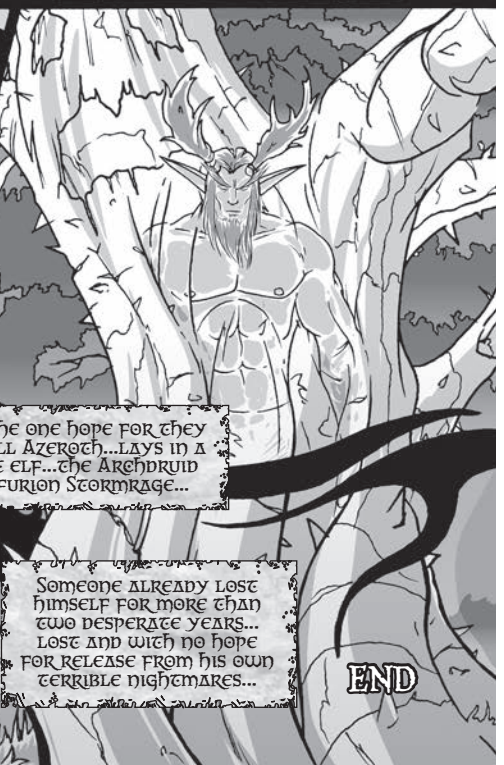
And even though this is naught but a dream and she would wish to wake...she cannot.



They cannot...for the true Nightmare is just beginning...



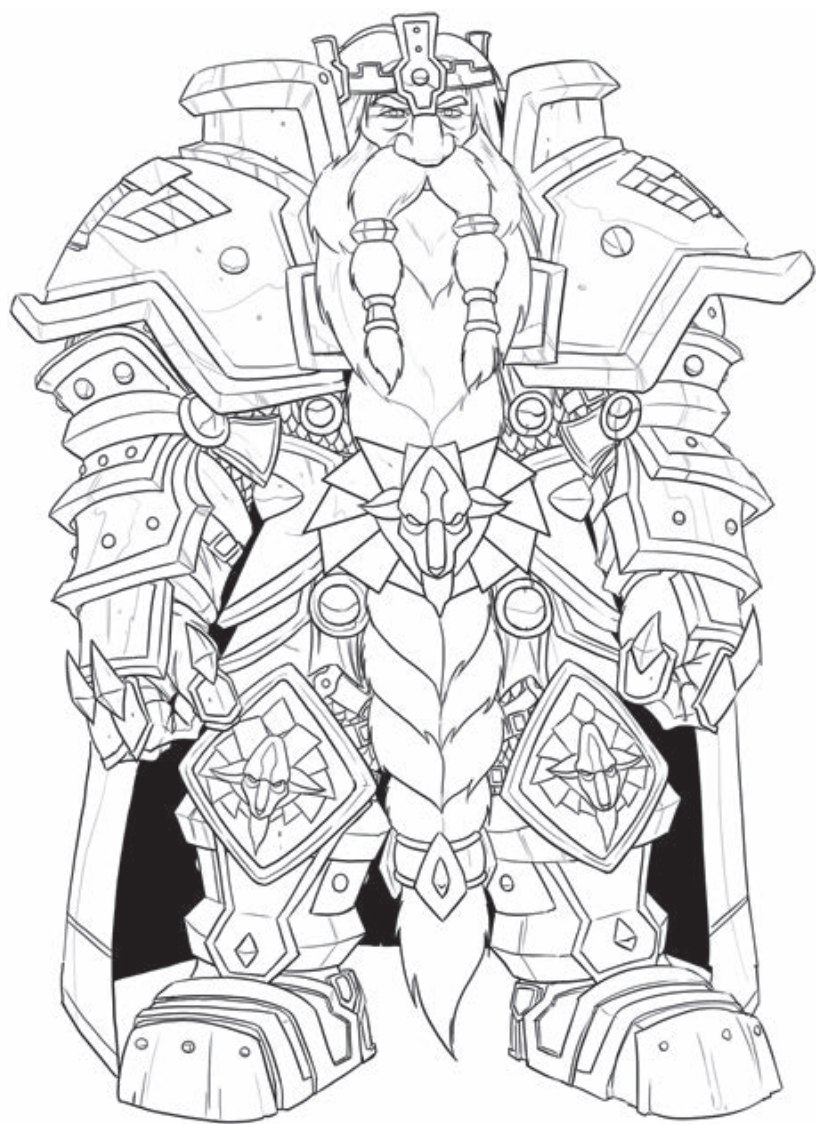
And spreading...



And the one hope for they and all Azeroth...lays in a night elf...the Archdruid Malfurion Stormrage...

Someone already lost for more than two desperate years... lost and with no hope for release from his own terrible nightmares...

END



ABOUT THE WRITERS

CHRISTIE GOLDEN

New York Times best-selling author Christie Golden has written over thirty novels and several short stories in the fields of science fiction, fantasy and horror. She has written over a dozen *Star Trek* novels, several original novels, the *StarCraft: The Dark Templar Saga*, and several *Warcraft* novels, including *Lord of the Clans*, *Rise of the Horde*, as well as the *New York Times* best-seller, *Arthas: Rise of the Lich King*. Christie is currently hard at work writing on a yet-to-be-titled *Warcraft* novel. Christie has also written two short manga stories, "I Got What Yule Need" and "A Warrior Made," for *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 3, 4, and 5.

GRACE RANDOLPH

Grace Randolph is a comedic actor and writer born and raised in New York City. Her previous writing credits include *Justice League Unlimited #41* for DC Comics and *Nemesis: Who Me?* for TOKYOPOP's Pilot Program. She also has an upcoming manga adaptation of Meg Cabot's *Jinx*, as well as "Newsworthy" and "Last Call," short stories in *StarCraft: Frontline* Volumes 2 and 3. Outside of comics, Grace is the host/writer/producer of the webshow *RevYOU*. Grace also studies at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre where she has written, performed and produced the shows "Situation: Awkward" and "Igor On Strike."

LOUISE SIMONSON

Louise Simonson has written and edited comic books for many years, including those in the superhero, science fiction, horror, and fantasy genres. She wrote the award-winning *Power Pack* series, best-selling *X-Men*-related titles, *Web of Spider-Man* for Marvel Comics and *Superman: Man of Steel* and *Steel* for DC Comics. She has also written twenty books for children and adults, many about comic book characters. "First Guardian" is her first manga story.

EVELYN FREDERICKSEN

Blizzard historian Evelyn Fredericksen spends her time writing and talking about the stories from *Diablo*, *StarCraft*, and *Warcraft* games and publications. This is her third foray into Blizzard fiction. Her previous two were short stories also set in the *Warcraft* universe: "Road to Damnation," the story of Kel'Thuzad's journey to Northrend, and "Glory," a retelling of the events at the Wrath Gate.

RICHARD A. KNAAK

Richard A. Knaak is the *New York Times* bestselling fantasy author of 40 novels and over a dozen short stories, including *The Legend of Huma & The Minotaur Wars* for *Dragonlance* and the *War of the Ancients* trilogy for *Warcraft*. In addition to *Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy*, he is the author of its forthcoming sequel trilogy, *Warcraft: Dragons of Outland*, as well a four-part short story featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 1-4, as well as the short story entitled "Nightmares" featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volume 5. His latest *Warcraft* novel, *Night of the Dragon*, is a sequel to the best-selling *Day of the Dragon*. He also recently released *The Fire Rose*, the second in his *Ogre Titans* saga for *Dragonlance*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

IN-BAE KIM

In-Bae made his Korean manga debut in 1998 with *Tong-hwa-joong* (On the Phone). He followed that with several webzine short manga including "Film Gengin Nar" (The Day I Blacked Out Drinking) and "Call Me." His serialized manga, "Buggooigi" (Cuckoo Bird), has been featured in several newspapers. In-Bae was also the artist for the short manga stories "Family Values" and "A Warrior Made" featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 2, 4, and 5.

ERICA AWANO

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Erica grew up reading manga due to her Japanese heritage. She attended the University of São Paulo, where she graduated with a degree in language and literature. Soon after she turned her focus on her passion for comics and in 2001 drew several prize-winning series. In 2007, she was one of the finalists for a MOFA, a prize awarded by the Ministry of External Relations of Japan for manga artists that are active outside Japan. *Warrior: United* is her debut as the main penciller on a foreign publication.

SEUNG-HUI KYE

After publishing thirteen manwha and illustrating two light novels in South Korea, Seung-hui made her Japanese manga debut in 2008 with the one-shot story "Kuroi Ude" in *MiChao!* magazine, published by Kodansha. She made her English-language debut with the short manga story "Last Call" in *StarCraft: Frontline* Volume 3, which led to her drawing the art for "First Guardian" in *Warcraft: Legends* Volume 5.

RYO KAWAKAMI

Born in Miyako Island, Japan, Ryo lived in Okinawa Island until 1990, after which he and his family moved to the United States. Ryo currently resides in Greenville, North Carolina, where he studied fine art for two years at Coastal Community College. Ryo was runner-up artist in *Rising Stars of Manga* Volume 6 for the short story "Little Miss Witch Hater." Ryo was the artist for "Blood Runs Thicker" and "A Cleansing Fire," two short manga stories featured in *Warcraft: Legends* Volumes 4 and 5.

ROB TEN PAS

Born and raised in Wisconsin (where he currently resides), Rob studied art at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His previous works include the short story "Bomango" in *Rising Stars of Manga* 6, as well as the business manga *The Adventures of Johnny Bunko: The Last Career Guide You'll Ever Need* by author Daniel H. Pink. When not indulging in sketching and recreational comics, he works as a sign crafter and painter. Oh, and he's also an undercover narcotics agent, but that's a story for another bio...

