

## THE ENEMY WITHIN THE GATES

The once-mighty kingdom of Gilneas now finds itself under siege from outside and within. While Forsaken armies amass along its great wall, a slew of brutal murders within the capital hints at an even more sinister threat hidden amongst the populace.

Enter Halford Ramsey, famed investigator to the king, who will stop at nothing to catch the elusive killer. Unraveling the clues, Halford soon finds himself preyed upon by the true menace behind the killings: worgen, cursed wolf-men spoken of only in legend, and the mysterious "Wolf Cult" that worships them. Ramsey is quickly drawn into a ten-thousand-year-old epic of love, tragedy, and betrayal set amid the ancient night elves' war against the demonic Burning Legion. Now infected by the curse of the worgen, Halford must contain the beast seething within him and put an end once and for all to the diabolical plot that threatens to ruin Gilneas.

Micky Neilson and James Waugh tell this tale of mysteries and toppled realms, with artists Ludo Lullabi and Tony Washington.

U.S.A. \$14.95 FANTASY

ISBN: 978-1945683527

51495



9 781945 683527

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PRINTED IN CHINA



WORLD OF WARCRAFT

CURSE OF THE WORGEN

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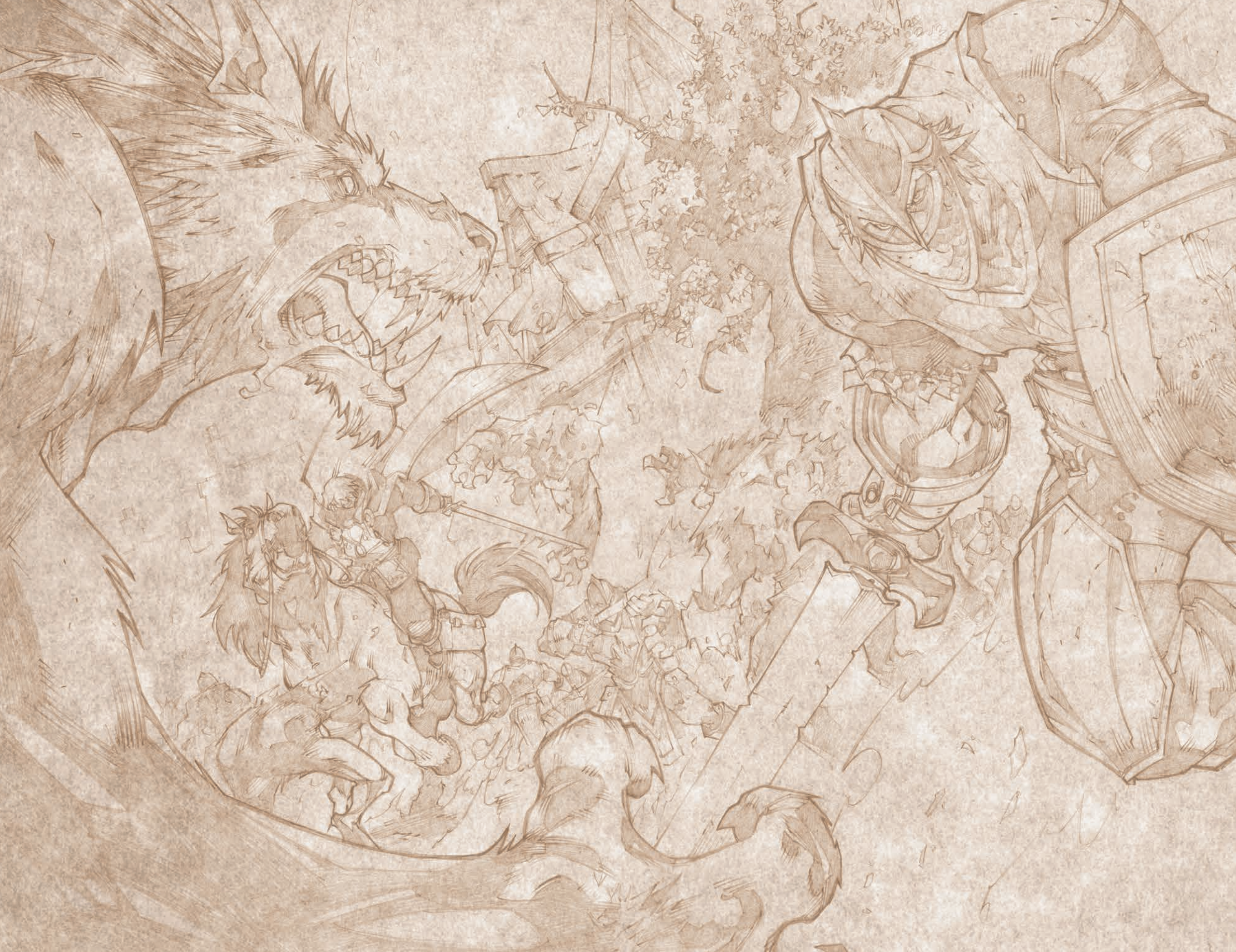
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NEILSON • WAUGH • LULLABI • WASHINGTON











WORLD  
WARCRAFT  
Curse of the Worgen











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WARCRAFT®  
Curse of the Worgen

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#### WORLD OF WARCRAFT: CURSE OF THE WORGEN

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This book contains material originally published by DC Comics in single magazine form in WORLD OF WARCRAFT: CURSE OF THE WORGEN 1-5.

First DC printing: 2011  
First Blizzard Entertainment printing: 2019

ISBN: 978-1-945683-52-7  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
Manufactured in China

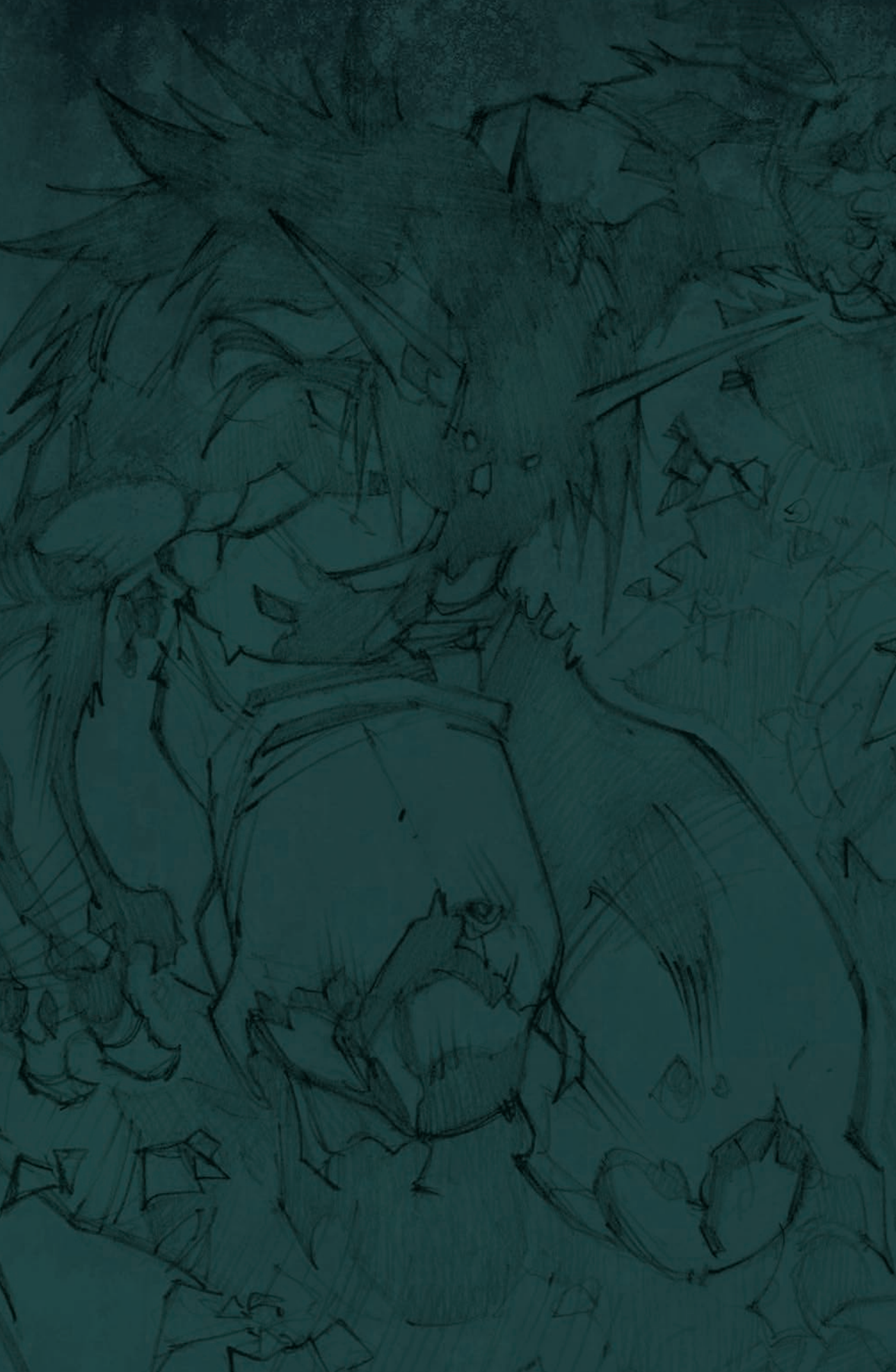






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Gilneas...

See it as it was **years ago**.  
See how it **began**: a nation  
**built** on noble intentions...

...forged by **strong will**. Tempered over  
**time**. Tested in periods of **great conflict**.

**Now**, look again.  
See what Gilneas  
has **become**.

**Isolated.**

**Withdrawn.**

**Besieged.**

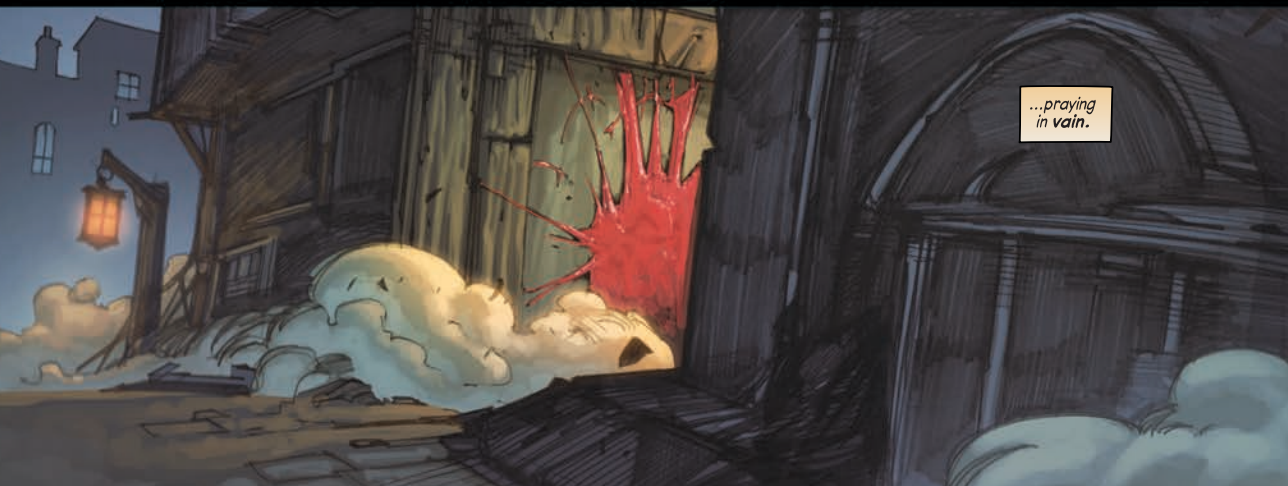


Recovering, ever so **slowly**,  
from a devastating  
civil war known as the  
**Northgate Rebellion**.


Its citizens **praying** for a  
return to the **happier times**...



...praying  
in **vain**.





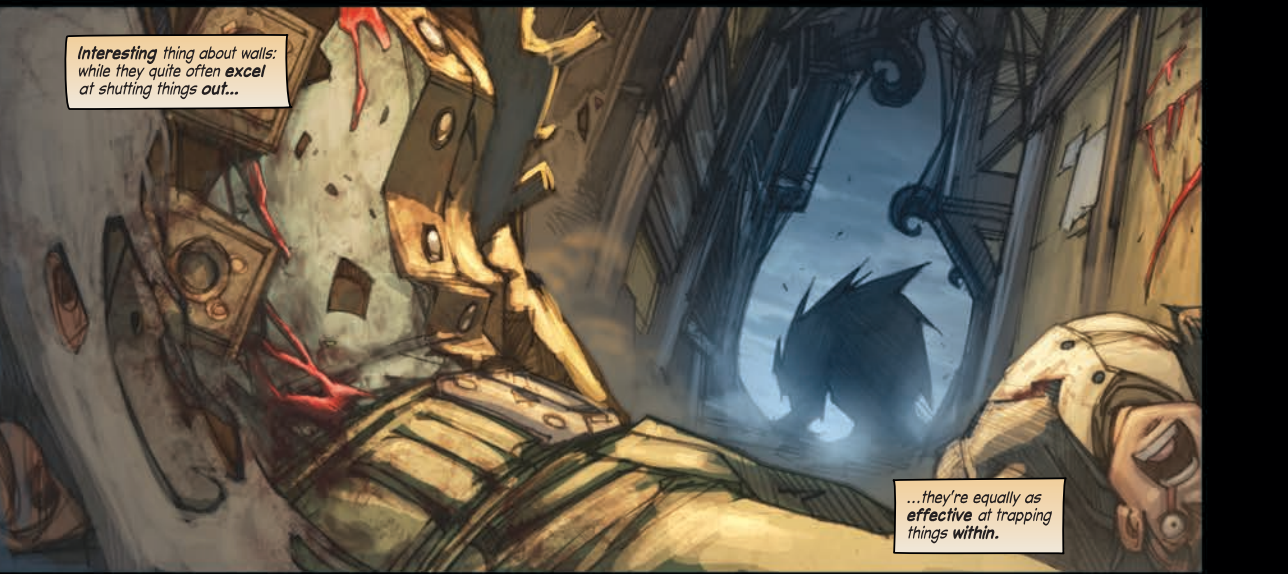


I know now that when the attack came, amid the screaming and the bleeding and the dying...

...some wondered, with their final thoughts...

...if perhaps this new enemy held ties to the marauding undead clamoring outside the Greymane Wall.

A wall built to protect. Built to prevent the rest of the world's troubles from becoming our own.



Interesting thing about walls: while they quite often excel at shutting things out...

...they're equally as effective at trapping things within.



Before the attack, this enemy had existed only in the timid whispers of the old.

Or the fanciful embellishments of the young.

Not a single victim truly knew where the nightmarish beasts came from or how they came to be.

Among the doomed, desperate citizens of Gilneas, no one knew.



Until now.



GILNEAS CITY  
STATION HOUSE

FOUR DAYS  
BEFORE THE  
ATTACK

PERHAPS MY  
NEXT FEATURE SHOULD READ:  
"HALFORD RAMSEY, FAMED  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, HUMILIATED  
BY HIS FAILURE TO CAPTURE THE  
STARLIGHT SLASHER...  
...HARASSES LOCAL  
MEDIA IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO  
GATHER INFORMATION."

AND I MIGHT ENTER INTO MY REPORT THAT MAXWELL  
WIGGINS, PERIODICAL SENSATIONALIST AND SUSPECTED  
REBEL SYMPATHIZER, REFUSED COOPERATION...

THEREBY WARRANTING FURTHER  
INVESTIGATION. ALL ENDEAVORS AND  
TRANSACTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER THE  
CLOSEST SCRUTINY UNTIL GUILT OR  
INNOCENCE BE DETERMINED.

SOUND  
ABOUT  
RIGHT,  
COX?

MM.

REBEL  
SYMPATHIZER?  
I'VE NEVER PRINTED  
AN LINKING  
WORD ABOUT HIS  
MAJESTY...

YOU PRINTED THAT THE VICTIMS WERE ALL  
KING GREYMANE SUPPORTERS.

AN OBSERVATION.  
ONE NOT SUPPORTED  
BY FACTS RELEASED TO  
THE POPULACE.

I HAVE MY  
SOURCES.

INDEED. MEMBERS  
OF THIS SO-CALLED "WOLF  
CULT," PERHAPS.

DON'T BE  
RIPICULOUS. THERE  
IS NO SUCH THING.

I BELIEVE THERE IS,  
AND I BELIEVE THIS SECRET  
SOCIETY IS CONNECTED TO  
OUR MURDERS.

SPECULATION.

PRESENTLY, YES, BUT THERE  
IS ONE MATTER THAT HAS  
STEADILY EMERGED TO ME AS  
IRREFUTABLE FACT...

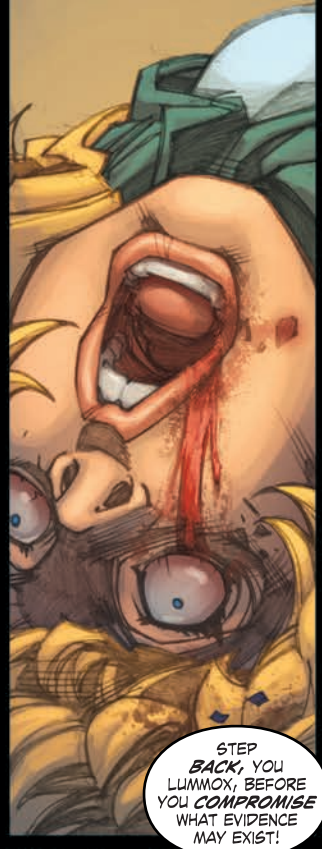
YOU, MY  
PORTLY FRIEND, HAVE  
LIED THROUGHOUT  
THIS INTERVIEW.

SIRS!

IT'S HAPPENED  
AGAIN! ANOTHER  
VICTIM!







STEP BACK, YOU LUMMOX, BEFORE YOU COMPROMISE WHAT EVIDENCE MAY EXIST!

I GOT EYES OF MY OWN, YOU KNOW. I CAN SEE SHE WAS TAKEN UNAWARES...

MOST LIKELY ON HER WAY HOME. SHE CUT THROUGH THIS UNLIT CLOSE, WHERE THE KILLER WAS NO DOUBT HIDING.

ATTACKED WITH A KNIFE. STABBED MULTIPLE TIMES.



YOUR ABILITY TO STATE THE OBVIOUS IS STUPEFYING.

WHAT IN MERCY'S NAME ARE YOU DOING, MAN? SHE'S NOT A HORSE FOR SALE!

NOR DO I WISH TO PURCHASE HER.

AND WERE I TO PURCHASE A DEAD HORSE FOR SOME UNKNOWABLE REASON, WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT IN CHECKING ITS TEETH? HONESTLY COX, YOU CONFOUND ME.

I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO GRASP THE COMPLEXITIES OF MY PROCESS, BUT I DO EXPECT YOU NOT TO INTERFERE. I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN TO STEP BACK.

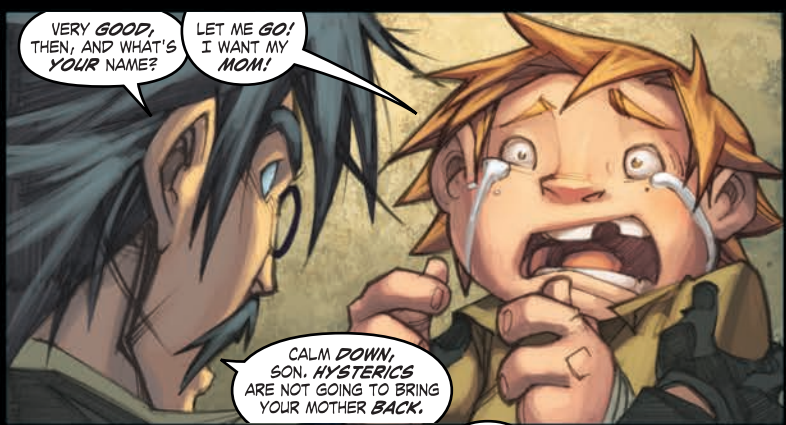






MOMMA!  
MOMMA!

EASY  
NOW, BOY.  
EASY...



VERY GOOD,  
THEN, AND WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?

LET ME GO!  
I WANT MY  
MOM!

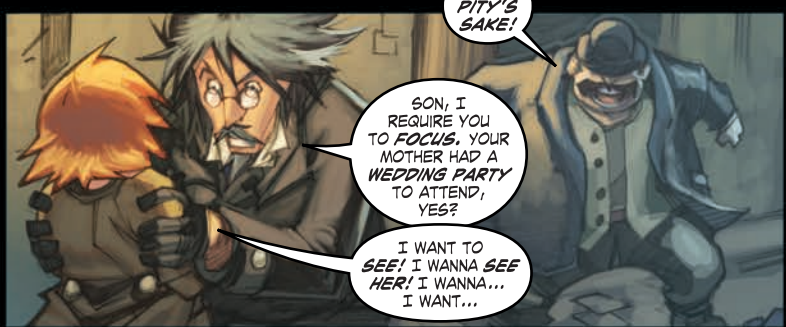
CALM DOWN,  
SON. HYSTERIC  
ARE NOT GOING TO BRING  
YOUR MOTHER BACK.



AHHAAAAHHH!!!!

WELL,  
THIS WON'T DO  
AT ALL.

I'LL...  
SEE HE HAS  
A PLACE TO  
STAY.



FOR  
PITY'S  
SAKE!

SON, I  
REQUIRE YOU  
TO FOCUS. YOUR  
MOTHER HAD A  
WEDDING PARTY  
TO ATTEND,  
YES?

I WANT TO  
SEE! I WANNA  
SEE HER! I WANNA...  
I WANT...



WHAT KINDA ANIMAL  
ARE YOU, ANYWAY? NOT AN  
OUNCE OF COMPASSION IN YOU,  
IS THERE?

ANIMAL?



I AM A  
LOGICIAN, SIR! IT IS  
INTELLECT, PRECISELY,  
THAT SEPARATES US  
FROM ANIMALS.

FURTHERMORE,  
IT IS COLD FORENSIC  
ANALYSIS THAT FORMS THE  
BASIS OF ANY SUCCESSFUL  
INVESTIGATION. BUT AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
SUCCESS IS SOMETHING  
THAT ELUDES YOU,  
IS IT NOT?

"FORENSIC  
ANALYSIS"? DID  
THIS SAME "COLD  
FORENSIC ANALYSIS"  
APPLY TO ANA? I  
SUPPOSE WITH HER  
THE FACTS OF THE  
CASE WERE  
OBVIOUS, THOUGH,  
YEAH?









YOU LIKE PUNCHIN' PEOPLE'S BUTTONS, RAMSEY. IT'S HIGH TIME YOU LEARNED THAT THERE'S CONSEQUENCES.

IT'S HIGH TIME YOU GOT YOUR OWN BUTTONS PUNCHED.

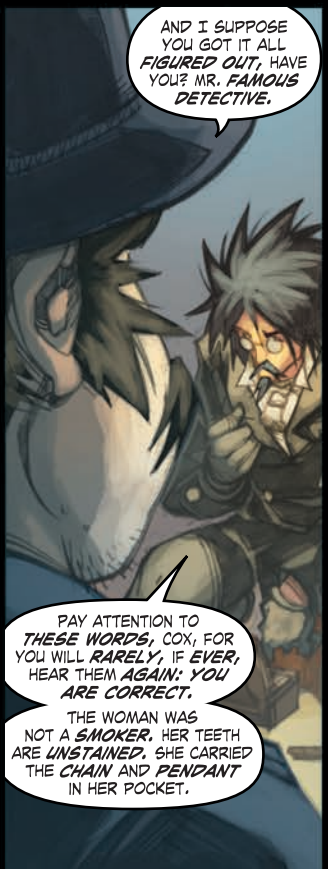


I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR WHO I AM, COX. AND AS FAR AS MY SISTER IS CONCERNED...



...YOU ARE NEVER TO SPEAK OF HER AGAIN.

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I STILL HAVE A CASE TO SOLVE.



AND I SUPPOSE YOU GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT, HAVE YOU? MR. FAMOUS DETECTIVE.

PAY ATTENTION TO THESE WORDS, COX, FOR YOU WILL RARELY, IF EVER, HEAR THEM AGAIN: YOU ARE CORRECT.

THE WOMAN WAS NOT A SMOKER. HER TEETH ARE UNSTAINED. SHE CARRIED THE CHAIN AND PENDANT IN HER POCKET.

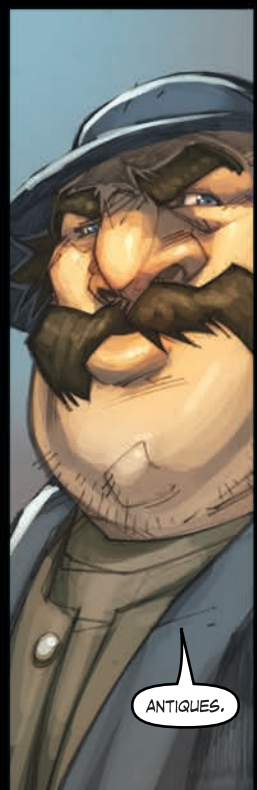


THE CHAIN IS UNBROKEN. THEREFORE, I HAVE REACHED THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION...

...ALL ITEMS WERE INTENDED AS GIFTS, WEDDING GIFTS MOST LIKELY, AND PURCHASED THIS VERY EVENING: THE CIGARS FOR THE GROOM, AND THE PENDANT FOR THE BRIDE. THE PENDANT'S AN ANTIQUE. THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD BY MY ESTIMATION.

THE NEAREST SMOKE SHOP IS TWO BLOCKS AWAY; THE NEAREST ANTIQUE DEALER, A BLOCK AND A HALF. THIS IS EXACTLY THE CONNECTION I'VE BEEN PRESSING FOR.

TELL ME NOW, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE FOUND AT THE LAST VICTIM'S HOUSE...WHAT IT WAS FILLED WITH? SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED...



ANTIQUES.

















WHOA,  
BOY!



SNAP  
CRACK!

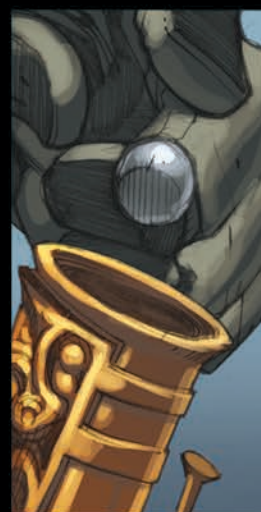




**GRRRRRWWLL...**

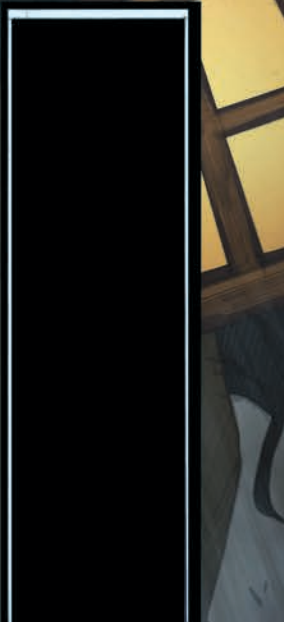


**RRROWWLL...**



**DAMN!**





*KRISH*





The **pain** in my **shoulder** informed me that I was **alive**.



In a manor house... **abandoned** after the war. It was then that I caught the **scent**...

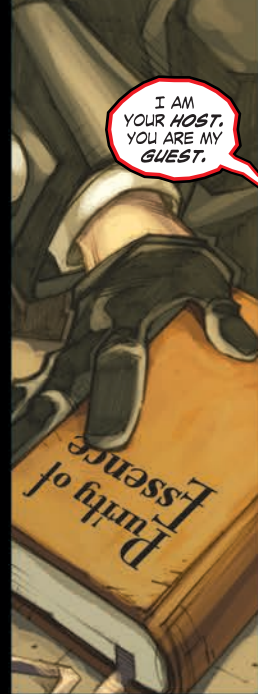


WELCOME.

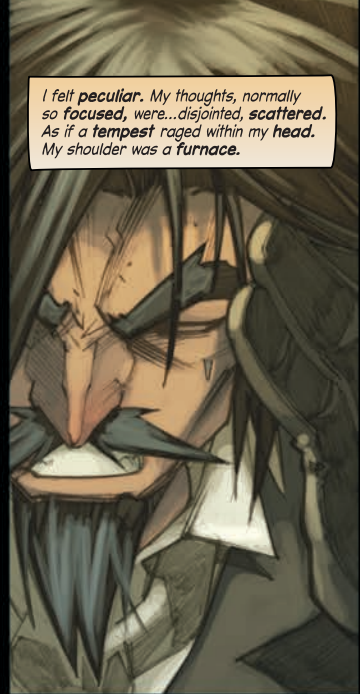




WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY AM I HERE?



I AM YOUR *HOST*. YOU ARE MY *GUEST*.



I felt *peculiar*. My thoughts, normally so *focused*, were...*disjointed*, *scattered*. As if a *tempest* raged within my *head*. My shoulder was a *furnace*.



I WAS *SET UPON* BY ONE OF THOSE *WOLF BEASTS*. HOW IS IT THAT I YET *LIVE*?

IT WAS NOT THE *INTENT* OF THE *PURE ONE* TO *KILL* YOU.



"THE *PURE ONE*"...THEY'RE CALLED *WORGEN*, YES? AND NO DOUBT THIS *WOLF CULT* WORSHIPS THE *BEASTS*.  
I'VE *CONSIDERED* FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT THE CULT WAS *INVOLVED* IN THE *STARLIGHT SLASHER* MURDERS, AND TONIGHT I'VE *UNCOVERED EVIDENCE* TO *PROVE* MY *SUSPICIONS*.





THE **MURDERS** WERE THE ACT OF A REBEL **SYMPATHIZER**-- A MAN WHO WAS **DETAINED** BY MY BRETHREN...

...IN THE PROCESS OF BEING HELD **ACCOUNTABLE** FOR HIS TRANSGRESSIONS WHEN **YOU** AND THE **CONSTABLE** INTERFERED.

MY **SOCIETY**, WHAT SOME **CHOOSE** TO CALL THE WOLF CULT, RALLIES BEHIND **KING GREYMANE**. THE **WORGEN** ARE **NOT** YOUR ENEMY.



I **DARESAY** YOUR **ENERGIES** WOULD BE BETTER DIRECTED AGAINST YOUR **TRUE** FOE...



"THE **RELENTLESS FORSAKEN** WHO ASSAULT YOUR **GREAT WALL** DAY AFTER DAY."



"YOUR WALL..."



IF YOU **SUPPORT** THE KING AS YOU **SAY**, THEN SURELY YOU **TRUST** IN HIS ABILITY TO **DEFEND** THE KINGDOM.

AND IF THE **WORGEN** ARE NOT AN **ENEMY**, THEN WHY WAS I **ATTACKED**? WHY AM I BEING **DETAINED**?



I SAY AGAIN, YOU ARE MY **GUEST**. YOU MAY TAKE YOUR **LEAVE** WHEN IT **PLEASES** YOU. AND WHAT YOU **DECLARE** AN **ATTACK**, I PROCLAIM A **GIFT**.  
YOU SEE, MR. **RAMSEY**, YOUR **REPUTATION** SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. WE BELIEVE ONCE YOU SEE THE **TRUTH**, YOU WILL BE A **GREAT ASSET**.

I felt the world **slipping away**, caught in the **tempest**, and I was to be **swept** along with it...





WHAT...  
AFFLICTION  
VEXES ME? I  
DEMAND TO  
KNOW!



AAAGGHH!!



AND YOU *SHALL* KNOW,  
HALFORD RAMSEY.  
ALL WILL BE REVEALED  
UNTO YOU. THE *TRUTH*  
OF THE WORGEN. *WHAT*  
THEY ARE AND *WHERE*  
THEIR JOURNEYS HAVE  
TAKEN THEM.

I SPEAK TRUTH,  
NOT *MYTH*  
OR *SUPERSTITION*.  
ONLY IN THE *WAKE* OF  
THESE *REVELATIONS*  
WILL I ASK YOU TO  
*FORM YOUR OWN*  
JUDGMENTS.

NOW LISTEN  
*CLOSELY*.



"MY TALE *BEGINS* IN THE  
LANDS OF THE *NIGHT*  
ELVES, IN AGES *PAST*...  
THE ERA FOLLOWING THE  
*GREAT SUNDERING* OF  
THE WORLD..."





*"DURING WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE WAR OF THE SATYR..."*

*"THE NIGHT ELVES OF KALIMDOR FACED, ONCE AGAIN, THE CRUEL REALITY OF CONFLICT--BLOODSHED, DEATH, AND DEEP, TERRIBLE LOSS."*

*"ARMIES OF SATYRS BURNED WITH UNQUENCHABLE VENGEANCE FOR THEIR FALLEN FATHER, THE SATYR LORD, KAVIUS."*

*SENTINELS,  
SISTERS OF ELUNE,  
STRIKE FIERCELY!!!  
**DO NOT FAIL!***

*FORWARD,  
SOLDIERS OF  
THE EMERALD  
FLAME!*





*"THE LITTER  
DESTRUCTION  
OF KALDOREI  
CIVILIZATION."*

*"ASHENVALE WAS  
ABLAZE WITH THEIR  
DESTRUCTIVE FEL  
MAGIC AS THEY  
STRUCK WITH BUT  
ONE GOAL..."*

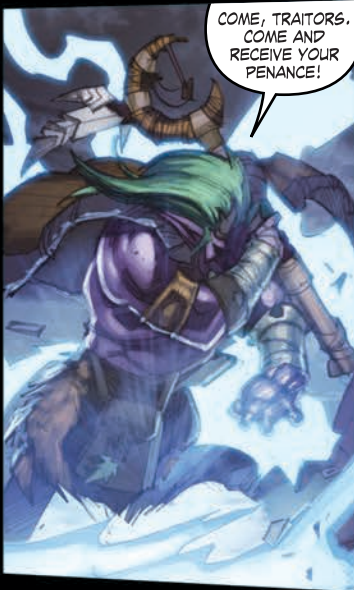
*"AS WELL THEY DREW UPON  
MIGHTY ALLIES--OTHER  
DEMONS OF THE BURNING  
LEGION WHO HAD YET  
LINGERED YEARS AFTER  
THE WAR OF THE ANCIENTS,  
POLLUTING AZEROTH."*





BROTHER DRUIDS, SHOW NO QUARTER, FOR NONE WILL BE SHOWN TO YOU!!!

SPARE NO ONE! THIS NIGHT WE FEAST UPON THEIR FLAYED FLESH!



COME, TRAITORS. COME AND RECEIVE YOUR PENANCE!



MUST YOU ALWAYS FOLLOW ME? THIS ONE IS MINE!

I SAW HIM FIRST!







OMPF... ON SECOND THOUGHT, HE IS ALL YOURS!

NO, NO. I DO BELIEVE YOU SAW HIM FIRST, ARVELL.



PUNY DRUIDS! WEAKLINGS! THE DAYS OF THE KALDOREI HAVE PASSED.

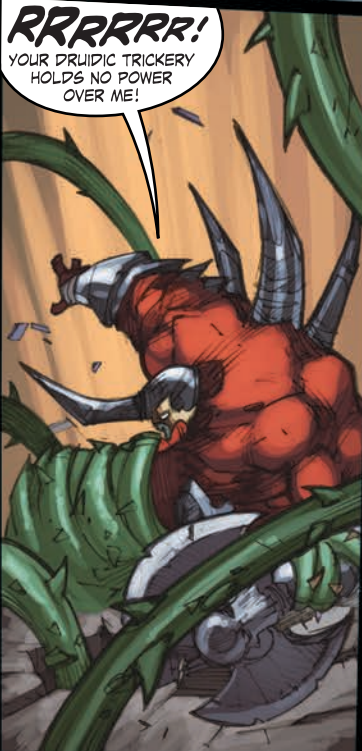


I WILL GIVE YOU THE MOMENTS YOU NEED.



AND I WILL SAVE OUR HIDES... ONCE AGAIN.

**RRRRRR!**  
YOUR DRUIDIC TRICKERY HOLDS NO POWER OVER ME!



**POP  
CRACK  
POP**



**ARRRR  
RRGGG**





WAAAAARRR!



I MUST BE HONEST WITH YOU, RALAAAR. YOU ARE A MOST FORTUNATE DRUID TO HAVE ME BY YOUR SIDE.



AAAAHHHHHHH!



ARVELL!!!



MY LOVE! COME, RALAAAR!





AND HERE WE ARE AGAIN...

ONE DAY YOU WILL RUN US HEADFIRST INTO OUR DOOM, FOLLOWING THAT FEMALE AROUND.

JUST PROMISE ME, OLD FRIEND, THAT YOU WILL BE AT MY SIDE.

ONLY SO I CAN SAY I TOLD YOU SO.



WE MUST RETREAT!

AAAH EAAAHH!



MY LOVE, ARE YOU UNHARMED?

I AM WELL, BUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE NOT. WE MUST RETREAT. THIS IS A TRAP. LOOK, MORE FELGUARD COME FROM THE HIGH GROUND!

I WILL NOT RETREAT! WHAT IS THIS COWARDICE?

JUST LOOK, YOU ARROGANT FOOL! WE ARE AMBUSHED.



THE LEGION BURNS ETERNAL!!!

AAHHHHHHH!!!



BACK, BEASTS!





FOR XAVIUS!



WE MUST PULL BACK! DRUIDS, RETREAT!



WE CANNOT JUST GIVE IN! NOT ANYMORE!

COME, RALAAR. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO QUESTION OUR SHAN'DO.\* WE CAN DO NO MORE HERE!

YOU KNOW WE CAN, BROTHER. YOU KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO.

WE WILL DISCUSS THIS LATER!

\* HONORED TEACHER



WE ARE LOST, MY LADY!

RETREAT AT RAYNEWOOD! FALL BACK, ALL OF YOU!!!



**R**AYNEWOOD RETREAT

"THE WAR OF THE SATYR HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THE KALDOREI, STILL STRUGGLING TO RESHAPE THEIR ANCIENT CULTURE AFTER THE SUNDERING.

BUT IT WAS, DESPITE THAT, A TIME OF INNOVATION... WHEN DRUIDS HAD A PASSION TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW FORMS, LEARNING WHAT THEY WERE TRULY CAPABLE OF.



"REGARDLESS, MALFURION STORMRAGE HAD BEGUN TO RESTRICT THE DRUIDS' FREEDOM AND ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES, LIMITING THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF HIS FLOCK... THE WISE AMONGST THEM SPOKE OUT."



SHAN'DO, WHAT COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE DIRE SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES? OUR LOSSES TODAY SPEAK TO THIS. WE MUST TRY THE FORM AGAIN.

RALAAR, YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE AMONGST US WHO BEAR THE MOST DRUIDIC POTENTIAL. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FIRE. YET I MUST SAY AGAIN THAT THE DRUID OF THE PACK FORM IS MUCH TOO DANGEROUS. TOO VOLATILE.

MASTER MALFURION, YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER DISOBEY YOUR GUIDANCE, BUT I DO THINK BROTHER RALAAR SPEAKS WITH REASON HERE.

I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FORM'S PURITY, ITS RAGE AND VICIOUS, POWERFUL ESSENCE. IS THAT NOT WHAT WE NEED NOW AGAINST THESE FEROCIOUS DEMONS?!



LOOK AROUND US. WE ARE A MOTLEY LOT. BRUISED, BEATEN. MANY DEAD, MANY WHOM WE LOVED DEARLY.

I IMPLORE YOU, SHAN'DO, DO NOT ASK US TO RESTRICT OURSELVES FROM THIS FORM.

HEAR, HEAR.



YOU HAVE HAD YOUR SAY, RALAAR. AS I ALWAYS ALLOW. NOW, PLEASE, SIT. WE HAVE LOST BROTHER DRUIDS NOT ONLY TO THIS WAR, BUT ALSO THIS FORM-- MANY NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

WE HAVE WATCHED THOSE WHO EMBRACE IT TURN ON EACH OTHER. CAN YOU NOT SEE, MY THERO'SHAN,\* THAT ALREADY WE WAR AGAINST ONE ENEMY, A POWERFUL ONE?

WE CANNOT RISK FIGHTING OURSELVES AS WELL.

\*HONORED STUDENT



WE COME TO AID IN THE HEALING EFFORTS, BROTHERS, TO SOOTHE YOUR ACHES.

MY LADY, WE ARE GRATEFUL.





YOU ARE MOST KIND, BELYGRA.

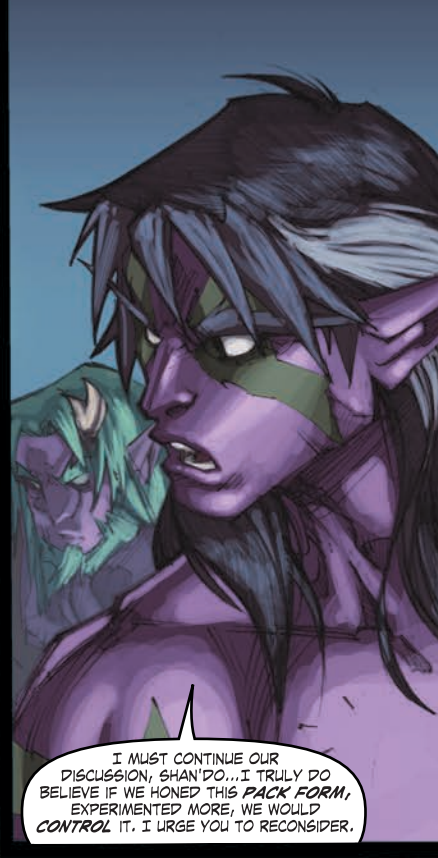
IT IS YOU, BROTHER DRUID, WHO OWNS THE KINDEST OF HEARTS.

DO NOT FORGET MY PAIN AS WELL, SISTER.

I'D RATHER KISS A *QUILBOAR*.

CHILDREN! PLEASE, A LITTLE CIVILITY FOR MY SAKE.

THOUGH HE IS UNPESERVING, FOR YOU, MY LOVE...*ANYTHING*.



I MUST CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION, SHAN'DO...I TRULY DO BELIEVE IF WE HONED THIS *PACK FORM*, EXPERIMENTED MORE, WE WOULD *CONTROL* IT. I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER.



IT IS INDEED A *POWERFUL* FORM, RALAAR, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS WITHOUT *BURDEN*.

PARDON MY TRESPASS, HIGH PRIESTESS TYRANDE, BUT HOW MUCH MIGHT A SISTER OF ELLINE KNOW OF A *DRUIDIC FORM* SUCH AS THIS?

I MAY NOT BE A DRUID, THIS IS TRUE, BUT I KNOW OF THE *PACK FORM* WELL, AS ITS *FEROCITY* IS TIED DIRECTLY TO ELLINE'S LEGACY.

I HAVE *NEVER* HEARD SUCH A THING! HOW CAN THAT BE?

IT IS BECAUSE YOU OFTEN *LISTEN LITTLE*, RALAAR.

THE *PACK FORM'S* *STRENGTH* COMES FROM THE WOLF DEMIGOD *GOLDRINN*; AS YOU KNOW, BUT ITS *ESSENCE* IS ROOTED IN HIS *RAGE* AGAINST OUR MOON GODDESS.



"YOU SEE, IT WAS GOLDRINN'S *FERAL* INSISTENCE THAT DISAPPOINTED ELLINE SO. IT WAS HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO TAME HIS *SAVAGERY* AND *BLOODLUST* THAT OVERSHADOWED HIS NOBLE HEART.





WHEN HER GREAT LIGHT ILLUMINATED THE DARK DURING THE FULL MOONS, IT WAS AS IF HER EYES **GLARED** DOWN UPON HIM IN **JUDGMENT**. HIS ANGER AT HER CONVICTION CAUSED GOLDDRINN TO BECOME EVEN MORE **BLOODTHIRSTY** AND INDOMITABLE THAN EVER.

IT IS THIS VOLATILE NATURE OF WHICH MALFURION IS MOST CONCERNED. IT IS THIS **ESSENCE** THAT IS ROOTED DEEP WITHIN THE FORM.

RALAAAR, IF GOLDDRINN THE WOLF ANCIENT HIMSELF COULD NOT CONTROL HIS **FERAL** SPIRIT, THEN HOW MIGHT WE? WE, WHO ARE NOT WOLF IN NATURE?



WE TRUST IN YOUR WISDOM, SHAN'DO. I KNOW I SPEAK FOR RALAAAR AS WELL.



I MIGHT ONLY HOPE THAT I HAVE EARNED THAT **TRUST**.



REST NOW, ALL OF YOU. ANOTHER BATTLE LOOMS JUST OVER THE HORIZON.

WE WILL **PREVAIL**. THEY HAVE TAINTED OUR MOONWELLS; THEY HAVE DESTROYED OUR LAND; BUT KNOW, ALL OF YOU, THAT THE SERVANTS OF THE BURNING LEGION WILL **FALL** ONCE AGAIN!



WE HAVE CONTROLLED THE PACK FORM, BROTHER. WE CAN HONE IT. **WE CAN SAVE LIVES.**

I BELIEVE THE LAST TIME I FOUND YOU IN PACK FORM I BARELY WAS ABLE TO STOP YOU FROM RIPPING THE HEAD OFF ONE OF THE PRIESTESSES. THAT IS **NOT** CONTROL.

ONLY BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS BELYSRA... I TELL YOU, ARVELL, I AM WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO END THIS BLOODSHED. YOU SHOULD BE; AS WELL.

LET US NOT SPEAK OF THIS ANYMORE HERE... MALFURION HAS ALWAYS GUIDED US TRUE.

**"AND PERHAPS IT IS TRUST, ABOVE ALL THINGS, THAT IS GIVEN TOO EASILY. IT IS TRUST IN THE OLD WAYS THAT STOPS SO MANY FROM SEEING THE TRUE PURITY OF ESSENCE."**

**"SUCH A DETAILED ACCOUNT..."**





...COULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF YOU WERE *THERE*. AND YOU *WERE* THERE, WEREN'T YOU?

THE *ANIMAL SCENT*, THE *TIMBRE* OF YOUR VOICE... YOU'RE ONE OF THEM. A *WORGEN*.



AS YOU SAY. I ONCE WAS KNOWN AS *RALAAAR*...

I AM NOW CALLED *ALPHA PRIME*.



I'VE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH. I--

NNNNH... WHAT'S... HAPPENING TO ME?

YOU ARE UNDERGOING THE *CHANGE*. THE MORE YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE *TRANSFORMATION*, THE MORE *DIFFICULT* IT WILL *BE*. NOW, TRY TO *RELAX*...

FOR MY *TALE* HAS ONLY JUST *BEGUN*.





GREYMANE MANOR

OUTSIDE GILNEAS CITY

THREE DAYS BEFORE  
THE ATTACK

...ATTACKED  
BEFORE MY *VERY EYES*  
BY SOME KINDA *WILD BEAST*.  
NO WAY ANYONE COULDA  
*SURVIVED* THAT.

AND THESE  
*MEN* YOU WERE  
CHASING?

*GONE*,  
MY KING.  
*DISAPPEARED*  
INTO THE  
*WOODS*.

HALFORD...  
WAS NOT *LOVED*  
BY EVERYONE, BUT HE  
WAS A DAMNED GOOD  
*INVESTIGATOR*.  
THE *BEST*.

MURDERS ON  
OUR *STREETS*; RUMORS  
OF *CROWLEY SUPPORTERS*  
REFORMING, THE *FORSAKEN*  
OUTSIDE OUR *WALL*, AND  
NOW *THIS*...

*GODFREY*, I WANT  
THE *WOODS SEARCHED*. ALERT  
THE NEARBY TOWNS OF THIS...  
*WILD ANIMAL*.

SEEMS  
LIKE A WASTE O'  
*TIME TO SEARCH*,  
BUT I'LL MAKE IT  
HAPPEN.

SEE THAT YOU *DO*.  
*MIA DEAR*, I'LL BE IN THE  
*OBSERVATORY*. I WISH  
TO BE ALONE.

A *WORSEN*, THERE'S  
LITTLE DOUBT OF IT.

IF SO, THEN  
HALFORD IS MOST LIKELY  
*DEAD*. IF HE SOMEHOW  
*SURVIVED*, THEN PERHAPS HE  
WILL FIND HIS WAY HOME--HIS  
*TRUE HOME*--IN TIME.

THIS ALPHA PRIME YOU'VE  
*SPOKEN* OF...COULD THIS  
BE *HIS* WORK?

I PRAY IT  
IS *NOT*. FOR ALL OF  
OUR SALES, I PRAY IT  
IS NOT *SO*...

BUT ONLY  
*TIME* WILL  
TELL.

THEN LET  
US *HOPE* TIME  
IS ON OUR SIDE,  
*BELYSRA*.

END CHAPTER ONE





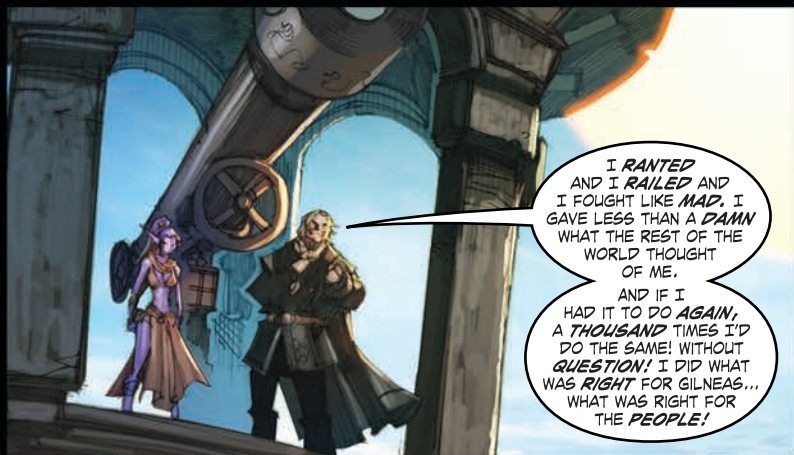




WHAT I DID...



...I DID FOR THE GOOD OF GILNEAS.



I RANTED AND I RAILED AND I FOUGHT LIKE MAD. I GAVE LESS THAN A DAMN WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD THOUGHT OF ME.

AND IF I HAD IT TO DO AGAIN, A THOUSAND TIMES I'D DO THE SAME! WITHOUT QUESTION! I DID WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR GILNEAS... WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE!



SO HOW IS IT, BELYSRA... THAT MY PROUD, BELOVED NATION HAS FALLEN SO LOW?



YOU MUST NOT ACCEPT ALL BLAME FOR THIS BURDEN. THE TRIALS THAT PLAGUE GILNEAS NOW WERE SEEDS LONG BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.



IT WAS A CURSE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THOUGH FEW WOULD BELIEVE IT.

AND I AM ALL TOO AWARE OF MY OWN COMPLICITY. IN THE INTERVENING MILLENNIA I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT I WAS BLINDED BY MY DESPERATE LOVE.

BLINDED TO THE TRUTH AND TO THE CONSEQUENCES...





GUIDE US ALL,  
MOTHER MOON. AID US  
NOW IN THIS TIME OF  
GREAT NEED.

WHOOOOSH



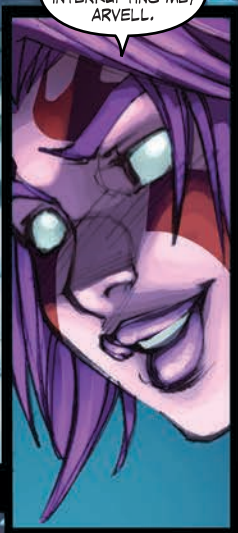
WHAT IS  
THIS?



ARVELL.



I AM SORRY TO INTERRUPT,  
MY LOVE. BUT I OFFER A GIFT;  
PEACEBLOOMS ALWAYS REMIND  
ME OF YOUR RADIANT EYES.  
BRIGHT. FULL OF LIFE.



NEVER  
APOLOGIZE FOR  
INTERRUPTING ME,  
ARVELL.





WHAT *AILLS* YOU, MY LOVE? YOU HAVE *WOE* WRITTEN ACROSS YOUR VERY BROW.

IT IS JUST THAT...IT IS NOTHING... OUR HIGH PRIESTESS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF *STRENGTH*. IT EMBARRASSES ME TO THINK THAT I AM SO SCARED BY THIS WAR, SO *FRIGHTENED* BY WHAT WE COULD LOSE.

*FEAR* IS NATURAL, MY LOVE. TYRANDE WOULD UNDERSTAND.

I FEAR FOR *YOU* MOST OF ALL. I CARE MORE FOR YOUR WELL-BEING THAN EVEN THAT OF MY SISTER PRIESTESSES. I WORRY THAT MY *LOVE* FOR YOU *DISTRACTS* ME FROM MY *DUTY* TO ELUNE, TO TYRANDE.

EVEN IF THAT IS SO... *NOTHING* WILL KEEP ME FROM YOU.

OR *ME* FROM *YOU*. BUT...TODAY WAS A HORROR. I CANNOT IMAGINE MY *SADNESS* IF IT WAS YOU THAT FELL.

THEN DO NOT IMAGINE IT, BELYSRA. *NEVER* IMAGINE IT. NOT EVEN DEATH COULD KEEP ME FROM YOU. FROM BEING THERE WHEN YOU NEED ME MOST. OUR LOVE *TRANSCENDS* DEATH.

IF ONLY THAT WERE POSSIBLE, MY LOVE. IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY TO *STOP* THIS *HORRID* WAR MORE QUICKLY.

WHERE THERE IS *DESIRE*, MY LOVE, THERE IS *HOPE*.

THEN LET US HOPE THAT TOMORROW BRINGS *VICTORY*.



"RETRIBUTION WAS DEMANDED FOR OUR PREVIOUS FAILURE. THE PLAN WAS TO STRIKE AT THE HEART OF THE SATYRS IN KAVIAN: A COVERT ASSAULT TO KILL THEIR MOST SUCCESSFUL GENERAL, XALAN THE FEARED, AND HIS ELITE GUARD."

THE PATROL HAS PASSED. WE MUST MOVE!

I WANT XALAN'S BLOOD, YOU ALL MAY TAKE THE REST.

DO NOT BE SO SURE OF YOURSELF, DRUID. IT MAY TAKE ALL OF US TO DEFEAT THIS GENERAL.



MAY YOUR GLAIVE STRIKE TRUE THEN, DEAR SENTINEL. COME!



THIS WILL AID YOU, LADIES.

MY APPRECIATION, DRUID.

"IT WAS A TWO-PRONGED STRIKE. SHANDRIS FEATHERMOON SPEARHEADED THE SENTINEL ASSAULT TO SLAY THE FELGUARD'S COMMANDERS WHILE ARVELL LED OUR OWN EFFORT."

"THIS WAS, IN THE SIMPLEST TERMS, REVENGE."



MINIONS OF SARGERAS, YOUR END HAS COME!



INFILTRATORS! RAISE THE ALARM!

I THINK NOT, DEMON!



AAAAHHHHH!!





I *SUBMIT*  
TO THEE, MASTER.  
I *SUBMIT* ALL THAT  
BURNS WITHIN ME.  
VENGEANCE IS *INEVITABLE*  
NOW AND WILL BEAR  
THE SWEETEST  
OF FRUIT.



**RRRAAAAR!**



INTRUDERS!!!  
MASTER!!!

HUSH,  
DEMON!

**ARRRGGGGG!**



WHO  
DARES TO  
FACE ME IN  
MY OWN  
DEN?



**BOOOOMMMKIN**

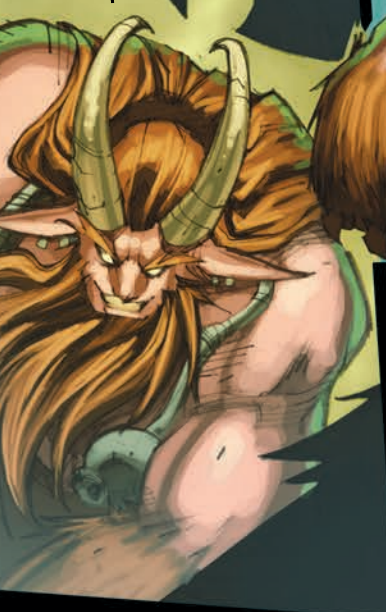




COME THEN,  
PUNY DRUID, I WILL  
ENJOY THIS.

DO YOU  
FEEL IT, NIGHT  
ELF? THAT IS  
YOUR LIFE SLIPPING  
AWAY...ALL YOU HAVE  
EVER KNOWN, UNTIL  
SOON YOU WILL  
KNOW ONLY  
DARKNESS.

BEL...  
BELYSRA...I...  
I HAVE FAILED  
US.



**RRRRROOOOAR!**



**ARRRRGGGGG!**

NOW  
REAP WHAT  
YOU HAVE  
SOWN!

**TH  
W  
A  
CK**



**RRRRRAAAAAR!**





WELL *DONE*.  
THOUGH ARVELL DOES NOT  
LOOK HIS BEST.

I HAVE FELT  
*BETTER*, NO DOUBT.  
BUT THE *GRIM* DEED  
IS COMPLETE.

ENOUGH TALK,  
DRUID. WE MUST  
RENDEZVOUS WITH TYRANDE  
AND MALFURION AT THE  
DEPARTURE POINT.

LET  
US MOVE  
THEN.

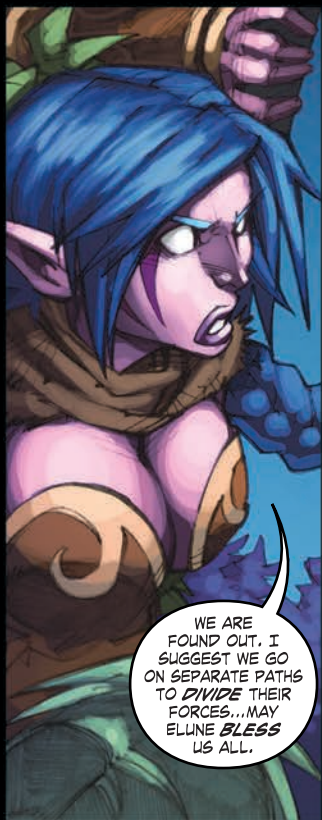


**ASSASSINS!!!  
FIND THEM!!!**



ASSASSINS!

UP THERE!  
*HUNT THEM*  
DOWN!



WE ARE  
FOUND OUT. I  
SUGGEST WE GO  
ON SEPARATE PATHS  
TO *DIVIDE* THEIR  
FORCES...MAY  
ELUNE *BLESS*  
US ALL.



WE MAY NEED  
MORE THAN ELUNE'S  
BLESSINGS THIS  
TIME, MISTRESS  
SHANDRIS.

HURRY, ARVELL.  
*SHIFT* INTO  
A SWIFTER  
FORM.

I AM TOO *WEAK* FROM  
THAT DEMON'S SPELL.  
GO, BROTHER, DO NOT  
WORRY ABOUT ME.

I WILL  
HEAR *NONE*  
OF THAT.



I HAVE  
HAD MY FILL OF  
WATCHING MY FRIENDS  
FALL. YOU WILL *NOT*  
*BE LEFT BEHIND*,  
BROTHER.



**ARRRGGGGG!**



YOU WILL **SUFFER** FOR KALAN'S DEATH, DRUIDS. YOU WILL FEEL HIS **PAIN** A MILLION TIMES OVER BEFORE YOU ARE GIFTED WITH **OBLIVION**.

I AM GOING TO DO WHAT **MUST** BE DONE, ARVELL. I WILL **UNLEASH** THE **PACK FORM**. READY YOURSELF. CHANNEL YOUR **RAGE!** IT WILL ALLOW YOU TO SHIFT EVEN IN YOUR WEAKENED CONDITION.

IT IS TOO **DANGEROUS**. WE HAVE NOT LEARNED TO **CONTROL** THE FORM AND I...

SHALL WE TURN BACK?

IT **PAINS** ME NOT TO, YET OUR DEFEAT HERE MIGHT SPELL **DOOM** FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT RAYNEWOOD.

WE MUST TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT THE **DEATHS** OF RALAAR AND ARVELL ARE NOBLE ONES. COME!

YOU MUST! MAINTAIN ONE **IMPERATIVE** ABOVE ALL OTHERS: SELF PRESERVATION AT ANY COST! ESCAPE IF YOU CAN!

**GRRRRRR!**  
**POP**

**WOOSH**

**SNAP**

I APOLOGIZE, SHAN'DO... I GIVE MYSELF...

...TO THE **BEAST!!!**

WHAT ARE THESE CREATURES?!

"FERAL POWER SURGED THROUGH EVERY FIBER OF OUR BEINGS WITH BUT ONE **PRIMAL**, **SAVAGE**, AND **BASE INSTINCT**-SURVIVAL. IT WAS IN THOSE VICIOUS MOMENTS WHEN THE **ULTIMATE POTENTIAL** OF OUR **PURITY** BECAME CLEAR."

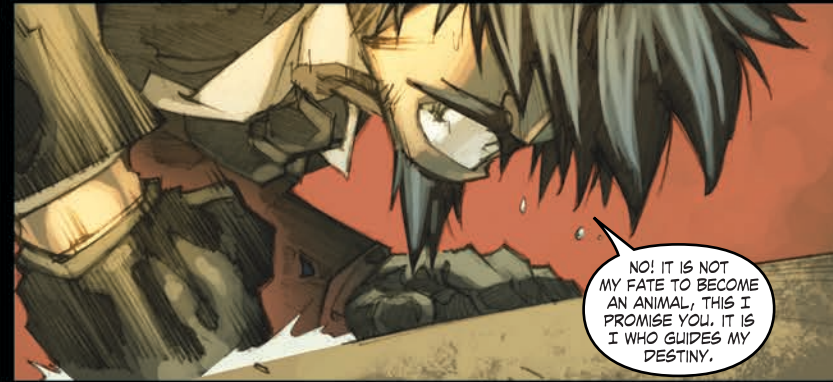




ANIMALS...  
LIGHT-DAMNED... BEASTS  
ARE WHAT YOU WERE, BY  
THE SOUND OF YOUR TALE,  
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU INTEND  
FOR ME? TO LOSE MYSELF  
TO THIS BASE INSTINCT?  
SOME "G/F/T."



**AAGGHH!**

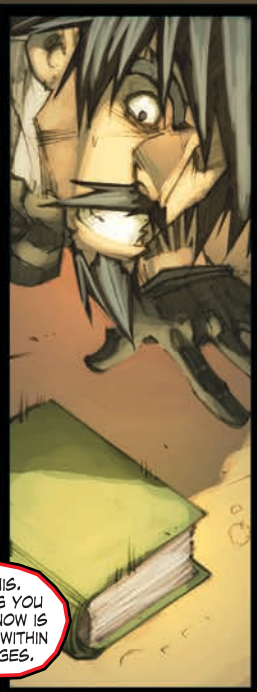


NO! IT IS NOT  
MY FATE TO BECOME  
AN ANIMAL, THIS I  
PROMISE YOU. IT IS  
I WHO GUIDES MY  
DESTINY.



FOR ONE  
WHOSE INSIGHT  
IS SO HIGHLY  
VALUED, YOU  
SEE PRECIOUS  
LITTLE.

READ THIS.  
EVERYTHING YOU  
NEED TO KNOW IS  
CONTAINED WITHIN  
THESE PAGES.



YOU EMBARK NOW ON A PATH TO  
UNLOCK THE TRUTH OF EXISTENCE.  
LONG-BURIED MEMORIES, SHADOWS OF  
THE PAST THAT LINGER WITHIN EACH AND  
EVERY ONE OF US, IN THE DARKEST  
RECESSES OF THE SPIRIT...

A PLACE WHERE NO GUILF, NO  
ARTIFICE, MAY INVADE. ONLY PRIMAL  
INSTINCT IN ITS PUREST FORM. THERE  
IS WHERE YOU TRULY LIVE, FREE OF  
YOUR DEDUCTIVE REASONING AND  
ALL ITS TRAPPINGS.

THERE YOU  
LIVE AS YOU  
WERE MEANT TO,  
AS IT WAS IN  
THE DISTANT  
PAST...



WHEN IT WAS RAW  
AND TRUE. THE SPRING OF  
OUR AWAKENING.  
IT WAS  
**BEAUTIFUL.**

IT WAS  
**HORRIBLE.**

I LEARNED FROM  
LATER ACCOUNTS THE TRUTH OF  
WHAT HAPPENED AT NIGHT RUN,  
YOUR MAJESTY.

IT WAS BASE AND  
IT WAS SAVAGE. IT WAS THE  
BEGINNING OF THE END...







**HSSSSS!**



**RRRRR!**

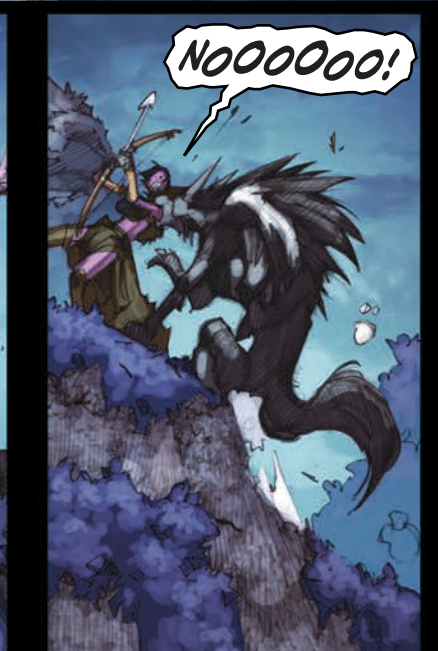


**PACK FORM!**

WE MUST PREPARE. THEY WILL HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF THEMSELVES!









STAND  
DOWN!!!!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO



HURRY...  
THE SATYRS  
ARE UPON  
US!  
I'LL PUT  
RALAAR ON  
YOUR BACK.  
WE MUST  
FLEE!



THEY'RE  
BREAKING  
THROUGH OUR  
LINES!

AAAAHHHH!



FOUR ARE  
DEAD DUE TO  
THESE DRUIDS' LACK  
OF CONTROL! THERE  
MUST BE JUSTICE  
FOR THIS, MY  
LOVE.



"THE INTENTION WAS A NOBLE ONE: *PRESERVING* LIFE IN THE FACE OF DEATH. BUT WHO CAN EVER FORESEE THE *CONSEQUENCE* OF ANY ONE ACTION? WHO WOULD HAVE ALGURED THAT SO MUCH TRAGEDY WOULD BE BIRTHED FROM ONE SIMPLE DECISION, ONE CHOICE CASCADING ONWARD?"

I SAID BEFORE THAT THIS WAR CAN *NOT* BE FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS! I *REFUSE* TO WORRY ABOUT MY OWN BROTHERS ASSAULTING ME!

IT IS TRUE, WE LOST CONTROL BRIEFLY IN THE *HEAT* OF THE BATTLE, AND FOR THAT I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED. YET IF IT WERE NOT FOR THIS *BANNED* FORM, WE WOULD NOT BE SITTING HERE BEFORE YOU, SHAN'DO!

BUT PERHAPS OUR SISTERS ALDOREI, ELANU, MORINA, AND TYRNAS *WOULD BE!* PERHAPS SHANDRIS'S WOUNDS WOULD NOT BE *SO SEVERE...* PERHAPS...

I SEE THAT THE FORM IS WHY I STILL *LIVE!* OUR EFFORTS AGAINST THE SATYRS ARE *NOT* SUCCEEDING! THERE WILL BE MORE THAN HER PRECIOUS SENTINELS *DEAD.*

THE *PURITY* OF THIS FORM IS THE *ANSWER.* ITS ANIMALISTIC FURY IS OUR *SALVATION.* ITS POWER AND FEROCITY WERE SHOWN TODAY. IF WE COULD JUST CONTROL IT, THEN...

WHAT IS DONE IS DONE, MY LOVE...RALAAR, NOT EVEN THE *HORN OF CENARIUS* HAS BEEN ABLE TO PACIFY THOSE *TRAPPED* IN THE PACK FORM. WHY THEN DO YOU STILL *REFUSE* TO SEE HOW *DANGEROUS* THE FORM IS?

WOULD YOU HAVE US LOSE ALL THAT IS KALDOREI? WOULD YOU HAVE US BECOME *MONSTERS* NO BETTER THAN THE *ENEMY* WE FACE IN ORDER TO WIN THIS WAR?

I WILL *NOT* LET RAGE, PASSION, AND FEAR GUIDE OUR CHOICES.

BUT SHAN'DO, *ARE NOT* RAGE, PASSION, AND FEAR PART OF WHAT MAKE US KALDOREI AS WELL?

ARVELL SPEAKS WITH *WISDOM.* IT IS TIME FOR US TO EMBRACE THE TRUTH OF THESE PURE EMOTIONS WITHIN US.

I WILL NOT BECOME A *MONSTER* TO DEFEAT *MONSTERS!*

BALANCE AND HARMONY ARE WHAT MAKE US DRUIDS. IF RAGE *DOMINATES* US, WE ARE NOT DRUIDS, NOR ARE WE TRUE KALDOREI.

SHAN'DO...I...I AM TRULY *SORRY.* HIGH PRIESTESS TYRANDE, I *APOLOGIZE* FOR YOUR LOSS. I...PLEASE, SHAN'DO, *FORGIVE* ME. I WILL NOT FAIL YOU AGAIN. I VOW IT ON MY LIFE.

I KNOW YOUR OATH IS *SINCERE,* THERO'SHAN...

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER. THIS FORM IS *NEVER* TO BE USED AGAIN. UNDERSTAND ME ON THIS.

AND WHAT IS TO BE THEIR PUNISHMENT?

THEIR OWN *GUILT...* RIGHT NOW WE CAN USE EVERY *ABLE BODY* WE CAN MUSTER. THEIR *PENANCE* WILL BE TO FACE THEIR *FAILURE,* TO LIVE WITH THE SUFFERING THEY HAVE CAUSED.



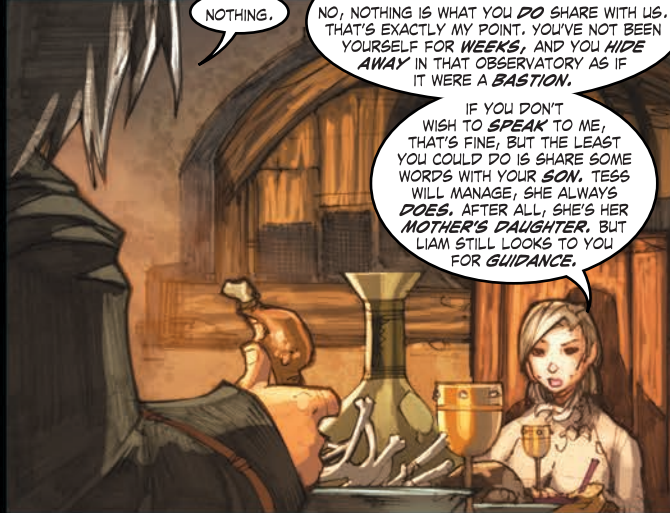
"...YOURS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE VOICE OF TRUTH."

GREYMANE MANOR, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ATTACK



I'LL BE IN THE OBSERVATORY AGAIN LATER THIS EVENING.

AND WHAT CAPTIVATING WONDERS DO YOU BEHOLD IN THAT TELESCOPE OF YOURS, THAT DRAW YOU AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY NIGHT AFTER NIGHT? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DON'T SHARE WITH US?



NOTHING.

NO, NOTHING IS WHAT YOU DO SHARE WITH US. THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT. YOU'VE NOT BEEN YOURSELF FOR WEEKS, AND YOU HIDE AWAY IN THAT OBSERVATORY AS IF IT WERE A BASTION.

IF YOU DON'T WISH TO SPEAK TO ME, THAT'S FINE, BUT THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SHARE SOME WORDS WITH YOUR SON. TESS WILL MANAGE, SHE ALWAYS DOES. AFTER ALL, SHE'S HER MOTHER'S DAUGHTER. BUT LIAM STILL LOOKS TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE.



YOU CALLED FOR ME, FATHER?



I...YES, I WANT YOU TO INCREASE OUR MILITARY PRESENCE ACROSS GILNEAS.

DO YOU WISH ME TO PULL TROOPS FROM THE WALL?

NO! WE MUSTN'T COMPROMISE THE WALL'S DEFENSES. THE FORSAKEN WOULD BE SURE TO EXPLOIT ANY WEAKNESS.

UNDERSTOOD. AND SHALL I OFFER THE CITIZENS A REASON FOR THE UPSURGE?



IT'S THESE RECENT ATTACKS THAT HAVE ME CONCERNED, BUT I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ALARM...

THE CITIZENS MUST NOT YET KNOW THE TRUE FACE OF THIS ENEMY.

PARDON?

CLAIM RENEWED CIVIL UNREST. TELL THEM THE DAMNED REBELS ARE ACTING UP AGAIN.

CONSIDER IT DONE.



AND...WILL THAT BE ALL, FATHER? IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

ANYTHING...? NO, NO. NOTHING ELSE. YOU MAY GO.





THE BLACKWALD

YOU MUST BE STARVING. *EAT.*

YOU'VE *DONE* THIS TO ME...BEFORE I LEAVE, I'LL SEE THAT YOU *UNDO* IT. YOUR *PREACHING* MAY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE *YOUNG* AND *IGNORANT*, BUT... I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM *NEITHER*.

THE *GIFT* CANNOT BE TAKEN *BACK*. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE *QUESTIONS*.

AS I HAVE ALREADY CONVEYED, THE *ANSWERS* YOU SEEK ARE IN THE *BOOK*.

...

YOU WILL EXCUSE ME. ANOTHER MATTER DEMANDS MY ATTENTION. I SUGGEST THAT YOU *EMBRACE* WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO *BECOME*. THE TIME OF YOUR *AWAKENING* GROWS NEAR.

Hours of *pain* had exacted a heavy toll. Numbness took over, pervading me to the very core. My prized intellect had *crumbled*, and so it was that I found myself following the *beast*...

Only in *retrospect* did I realize that the *answers* I sought then were evident. If only I had possessed the presence of mind to *decipher* them. Every clue was *there*...

Before my very eyes.





THIS ASPIRANT HAS COMPLETED THE FINAL TEST, ALPHA.

HE IS BLESSED BY BLADE AND PETITIONS NOW TO JOIN OUR CIRCLE.



AND WHO VOUCHES FOR THIS MAN?

I DO.

THE TEST OF LOYALTY IS CONFIRMED?

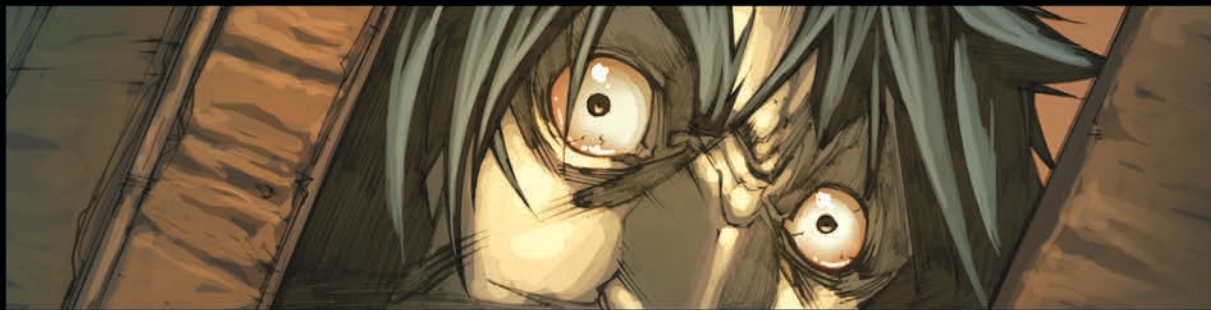
IT IS, ALPHA.

THEN I SEE NO REASON TO DELAY...



NGGHH!

WRINGH



Overcome with abject horror, galvanized into action, I fled...




... I reached the old property, at first not recognizing it. Not knowing what I had stumbled onto...




Rushing headlong into the Blackwald, reeling in blind panic. I cared not what direction I ran, only that I escaped...

How long I ran, I do not know, but eventually...






A cold realization, however, soon dawned. Memories trickled in. I remembered all too well the once-inviting home...




And the brave, caring woman who dwelled within, offering safe harbor for Crowley's rebel soldiers.

The mother who sent her own sons off to war, though it pained her soul...



And shattered her heart...



When those sons returned home in pine boxes.



I remembered Ana. My beloved sister. Beautiful, smart, courageous Ana...



Then, as I stood before the barn, the stream of memories **continued**.

I **cursed** myself for not stopping her.

The trickle had become a **flood**, and unwelcome emotions **crashed** over me: bitterness, resentment... but most of all, **fury**...

Fury that in the end the person I loved **most** in this world was claimed by terrible suffering... and left me to continue on **alone**.

In my compromised state these emotions felt more visceral. More pure. **Closer** than I had ever allowed. And somewhere deep **within**, I wondered: what if Alpha Prime was **right**?

What if the only **truth** to existence lay hidden deep within our **blood**?

**CRAACK**

There, in the **birthplace** of every living being's **struggle** for existence.

**POP POP POP CRAACK**

There to confront **each** of us with our own primal legacy...



The final ramparts  
within me crumbled.  
The tide surged,  
and in that moment...



I was overcome.

**RAAARGGHARRROOOOOO!!!**

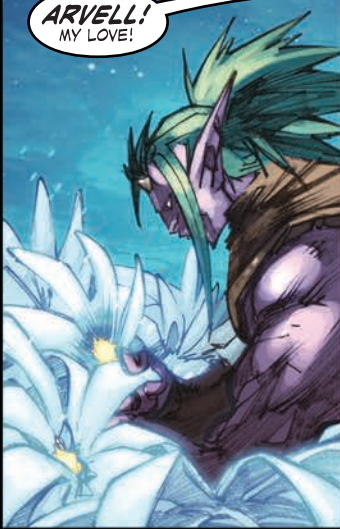






"YOU SEE, YOUR MAJESTY...WHAT OFTEN LEADS TO TRUE HATE, TRUE FURY, IS NOT MALICE, BUT THE LOSS OF SOMETHING WONDERFUL: THE FEAR OF LOSING THAT WHICH YOU CLUTCH SO TIGHTLY. IT IS SUFFERING THAT HAS DRIVEN COUNTLESS OVER THE MILLENNIA TO LOSE THEIR WAY."

ARVELL!  
MY LOVE!



I HAVE HEARD OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I...I...AM *OVERJOYED* THAT YOU ARE ALIVE. I...

DO NOT SPEAK OF THIS, MY LOVE. I HAVE *BETRAYED* MY SHAN'DO. MY FAILURE HAS AIDED IN THE *KILLING* OF OUR SISTERS.

BUT YOU ARE *ALIVE*, ARVELL. DO YOU NOT SEE, WITHOUT THAT *FORM* YOU WOULD NOT BE HERE NOW?

YES, BUT MY ACTIONS LED TO THE *DEATH* OF OTHERS. I *ENDANGERED* THE ENTIRE RETREAT, I COULD NOT CONTROL MYSELF.

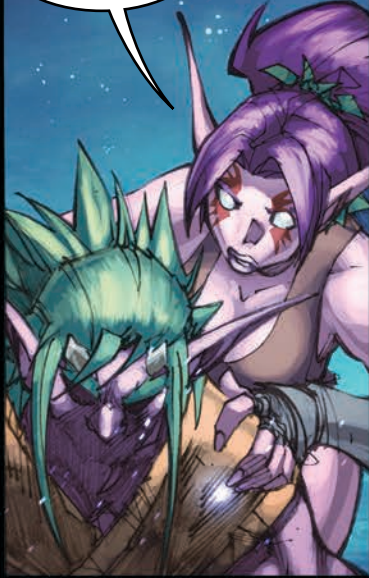
IT IS AS IF...I LOSE ALL THAT IS MYSELF IN THAT FORM. I ONLY RECALL FRAGMENTS...THE *THROBBING* PULSE IN MY HEAD. BLOOD *THRUSTING* IN MY VEINS.

A FURY *BOILING* INSIDE. THEN SCREAMS AND DEATH.



THIS BANISHED FORM BROUGHT YOU HOME TO ME! PERHAPS MALFURION IS *WRONG* ABOUT ITS NATURE.

FOR ONCE I *AGREE* WITH YOUR LOVER, ARVELL.



I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU MOPE HERE LIKE SOME POOR, SCOLDED CHILD. IT SICKENS ME. DO NOT APOLOGIZE FOR THAT WHICH SAVED OUR LIVES. FOR THAT WHICH GAVE US TRUE POWER.



THEN WITH A MIRACLE ACCOMPLISHED, I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU BOTH, HOPING THAT YOU WILL CEASE THIS *WALLOWING* AND RECONSIDER THIS VOW TO OUR SHAN'DO...

AND SO I *AGREE* WITH YOU TOO, RALAAR. AND THAT TRULY IS A MIRACLE.

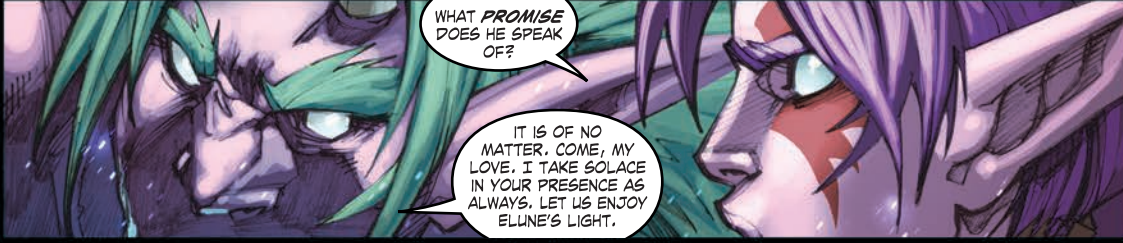


...MISTRESS, KEEP HIS HEAD HELD HIGH.



WHAT *PROMISE* DOES HE SPEAK OF?

IT IS OF NO MATTER. COME, MY LOVE. I TAKE SOLACE IN YOUR PRESENCE AS ALWAYS. LET US ENJOY ELUNE'S LIGHT.







LOVE...IT'S A **TRICKY THING**, IS IT NOT? NEVER EXACTLY BEEN MY AREA OF **STRENGTH**. ESPECIALLY NOW. WITH ALL MY TIME SPENT **HERE**, I'M SURE MY WIFE THINKS I'M PURSUING SOME **OTHER ROMANTIC INTEREST**.

WHY, YOUR MAJESTY, THERE **IS** QUITE AN AGE DIFFERENCE. I AM OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR GRANDMOTHER A **THOUSAND TIMES** OVER.



APOLOGIES, A MISGUIDED ATTEMPT AT BRINGING SOME LEVITY. IT **HELPS**, SOMETIMES.

YOU ARE **INDEED** MUCH OLDER AND WISER THAN I. SO WHAT **LESSON** DO YOU WISH TO CONVEY WITH THIS PART OF THE TALE? YOU SPEAK TO ME OF **FEAR** AND **LOSS**...

HOURS AGO I LEARNED THAT THE FORSAKEN MOUNTED AN **ASSAULT** AGAINST OUR GATES THAT MADE PREVIOUS ATTACKS SEEM AS NOTHING. AND NOT LONG AFTER THAT, ANOTHER **MURDER** IN THE STREETS OF OUR **CAPITAL**.



SIGHTINGS OF YOUR ESTRANGED KIN HAVE **GROWN**...

MONSTERS **OUTSIDE** THE WALL AND WOLVES **WITHIN**. I WOULD SAY I AM **WELL VERSED** NOW IN THE **LESSONS** OF FEAR AND **LOSS**. IN FACT, I'VE SUFFERED MORE THAN MY **SHARE!**

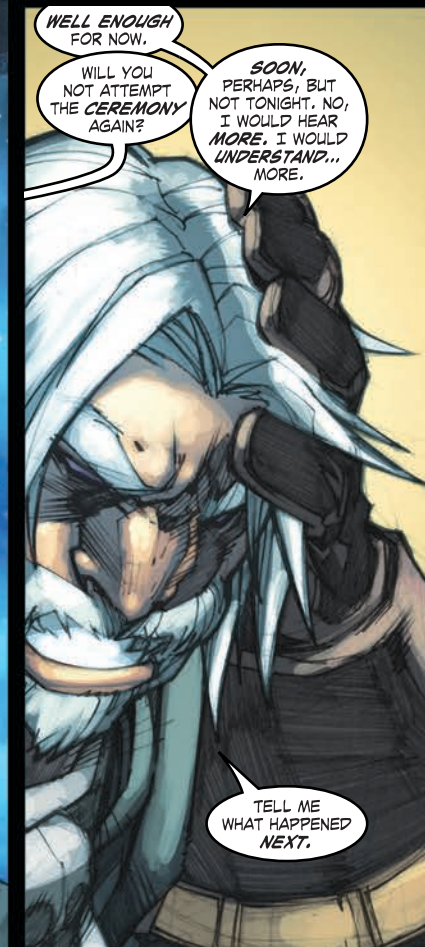


ENOUGH **TALK!** WE MUST **ACT!** WE MUST--



MAY ELLUNE'S LIGHT **CALM** YOU, YOUR MAJESTY, FOR A **TIME** AT LEAST.

HAS IT **PASSED?** ARE YOU **WELL?**



**WELL ENOUGH** FOR NOW.

WILL YOU NOT ATTEMPT THE **CEREMONY** AGAIN?

**SOON**, PERHAPS, BUT NOT TONIGHT. NO, I WOULD HEAR **MORE**. I WOULD **UNDERSTAND**... **MORE**.



**RRRGGGGHHH!!!**

TO RUSH INTO BATTLE WITHOUT FULLY **UNDERSTANDING** YOUR ENEMY IS **FOLLY**. AND TO UNDERSTAND THIS ENEMY, DEAR KING, YOU MUST **UNDERSTAND YOURSELF**.

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED **NEXT**.





I FEAR FOR YOU, BELYSRA, AS YOU DO FOR ME. I FEEL YOUR EARLIER CONCERNS ABOUT US MAY HAVE *MERIT*... YOU ARE RIGHT. I HAVE DISTRACTED YOU FROM YOUR CALLING. YOUR *AFFECTION* TOWARD ME HAS TAKEN YOUR THOUGHTS FAR FROM YOUR STUDIES.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MY LOVE?

YOU *GIVE* TOO MUCH OF YOURSELF TO *ME*, MY BRIGHT EYES.



DO *NOT* LET THIS GUILT EAT AT YOU, ARVELL. I SPOKE FROM FEAR BEFORE. DO *NOT* LET IT INTERFERE WITH THE GREAT BLESSING WE WERE GIVEN IN FINDING EACH OTHER.



YOU, AS ALWAYS, MAKE *SENSE*.

IF ONE COULD MAKE *SENSE* OUT OF THE MADNESS OF LOVE, THEN YES I DO.

EVERYTHING IS A BLUR NOW. I *DOUBT* MYSELF.



OH, NO!!!



SATYR FORTIFICATIONS! DANGEROUSLY NEAR OUR OWN... WE MUST *WARN* MISTRESS SHANDRIS!

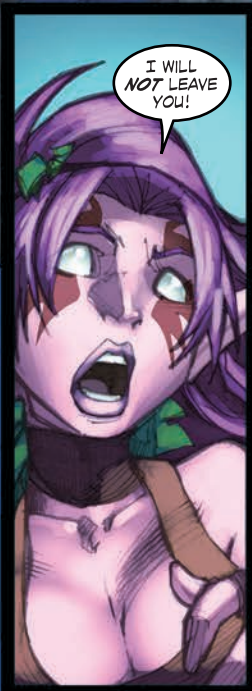




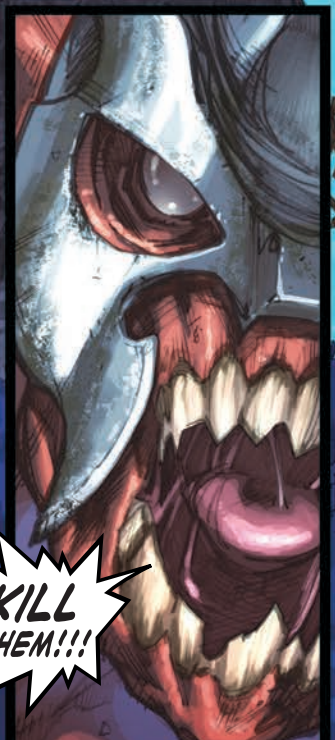
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE... TWO LOST *LITTLE* SHEEP STRAYING FROM THEIR WEAK FLOCK!



YOU MUST *RUN*, MY LOVE. I WILL HOLD THEM OFF. PLEASE, *GO* WHILE YOU CAN!

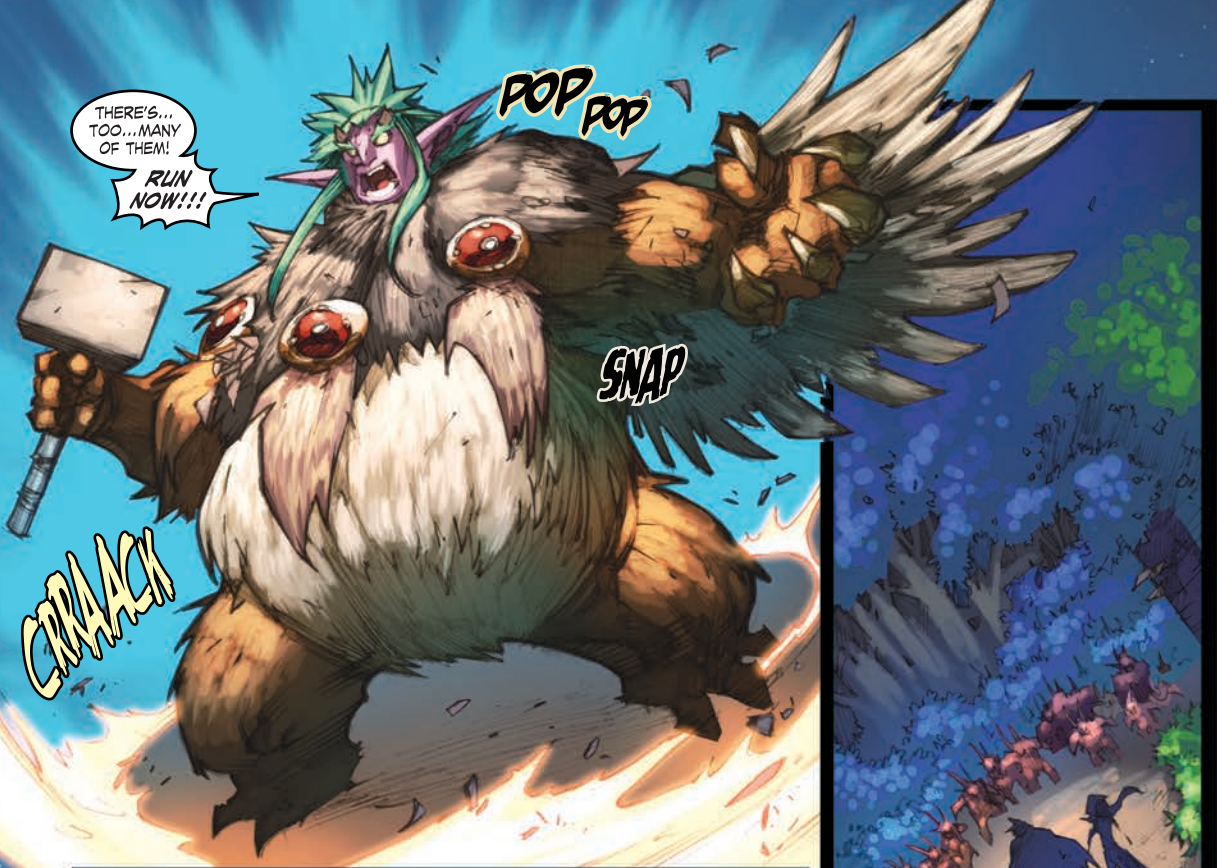


I WILL *NOT* LEAVE YOU!



**KILL THEM!!!**





THERE'S... TOO... MANY OF THEM!

**RUN NOW!!!**

**POP POP**

**SNAP**

**CRASH**

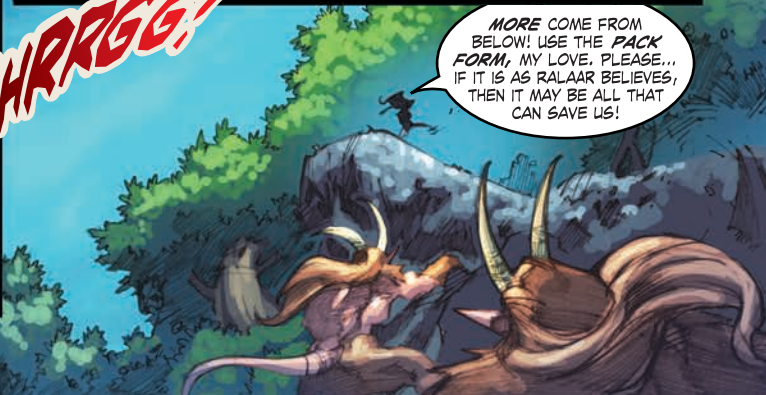


I STAND BY YOU UNTIL THE END. NOW FIGHT!



**AAHHRRGG!**

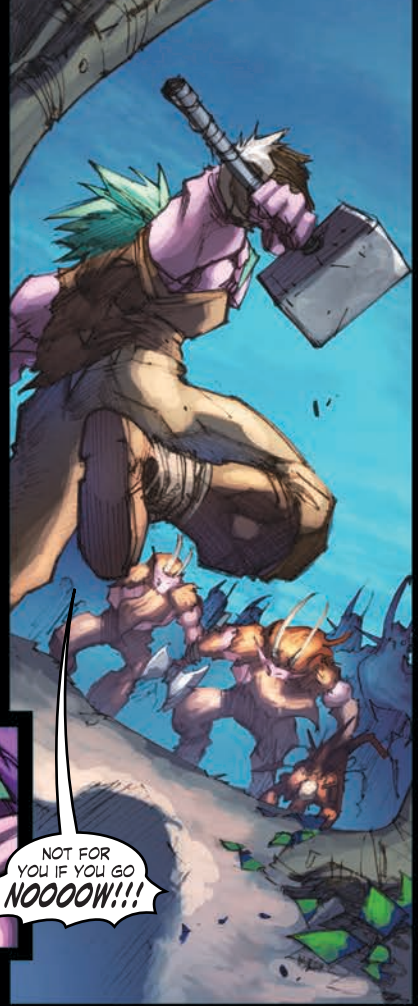
MORE COME FROM BELOW! USE THE PACK FORM, MY LOVE. PLEASE... IF IT IS AS RALAAR BELIEVES, THEN IT MAY BE ALL THAT CAN SAVE US!







I WILL NOT BREAK MY VOW, BELYSRA...

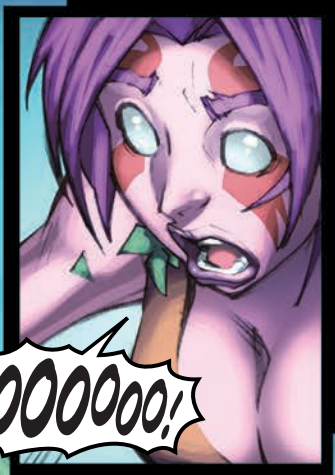


THEN DEATH IS ASSURED.

NOT FOR YOU IF YOU GO NOOOOW!!!



MY...MY LOVE... PLEASE...



NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!







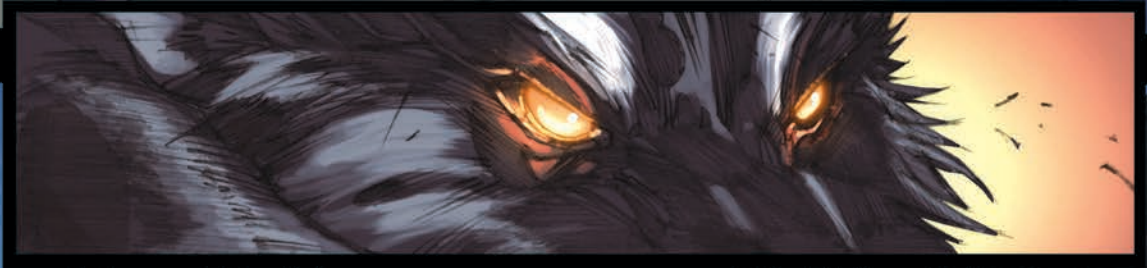
NO...NO...NO.  
DO IT THEN, I WOULD RATHER  
BE WITH HIM. DO IT, YOU  
BASTARDS!!!



RRROOOOWWWW!!!



RALAAR?!



GET IT!

WHAT  
IS THAT  
THING?!



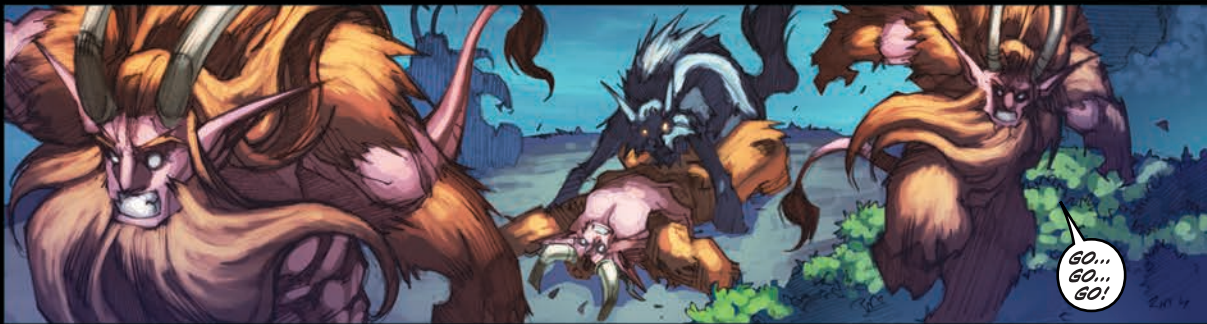


AHHHHH!



RUN!

GRRRRRRRRRRR!



GO...  
GO...  
GO!



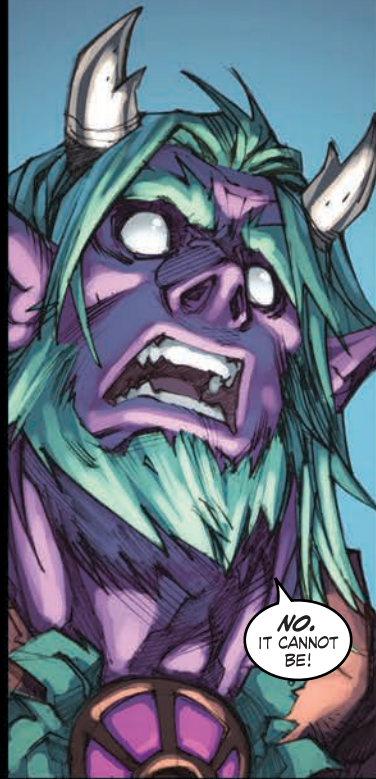
ARRROOOOO!!!



OH, MY LOVE... ELUNE, GODDESS, CAN YOU NOT HEAL HIM? PLEASE! ARVELL, YOU PROMISED ME, DEATH COULD NOT SEPARATE US! PLEASE COME BACK! COME BACK!

COME, SISTER. THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HIM... WE MUST SEE MALFURION AT ONCE!





NO.  
IT CANNOT  
BE!



ARVELL WAS LIKE KIN TO ME, SHAN'DO.  
HE WOULD BE *ALIVE* TODAY WERE IT NOT FOR  
YOUR FOOLISH *RESTRICTION*!

HE WOULD NOT  
ATTEMPT THIS PACK FORM.  
*WHY* IS THAT SO?!

THERE IS  
*NO* ASSURANCE  
THAT THE FORM  
WOULD HAVE SAVED  
HIM, BELYSRA.  
IT MAY HAVE LED  
TO YOUR DEATH  
AS WELL.

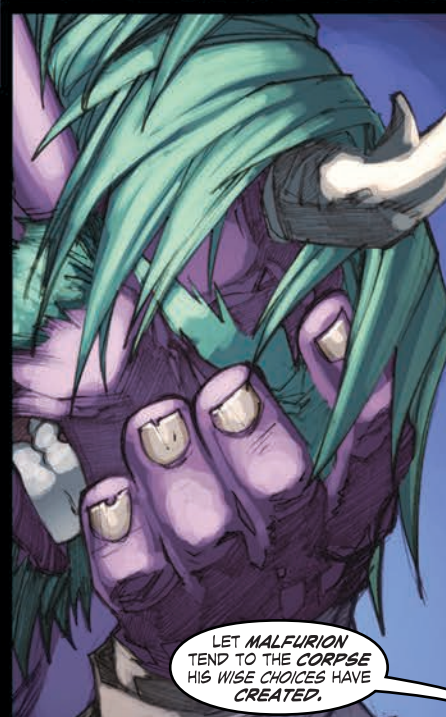
A DEATH  
I COULD HAVE  
ACCEPTED...*WHY* WOULD  
HE NOT DO THIS IN  
THE FACE OF HIS OWN  
DEMISE?! *WHY?!*



HE WOULD  
NOT BREAK  
HIS SACRED  
VOW.



OH, MY POOR  
*THERO'SHAN*.



LET *MALFURION*  
TEND TO THE *CORPSE*  
HIS WISE CHOICES HAVE  
CREATED.



COME, BELYSRA. OUR  
RECENT HOURS HAVE  
BEEN MOST TRAUMATIC.  
LET US REST.

**END CHAPTER TWO**





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THE BLACKWALD

ONE DAY BEFORE  
THE ATTACK

My blood sang.

Never had I known  
such **strength**. Such  
**speed**. Such **vigor**.

Such a...**keenness**.  
Not of intellect--  
to which I had grown  
so accustomed--  
but of the **senses**.

The **smell** of the earth, the  
flora...the lingering **scent** of  
foraging animals and their  
waste. Every odor **unique**.  
Immediately **perceptible**  
and **identifiable**.

And my eyes...  
my **eyes!** I could  
**see** as never  
**before**, more  
**clearly** than I had  
ever dreamed  
possible.

A new, uncharted  
**world** stretched  
before me. And  
yet raw **desire** and  
**emotion** warred  
within. A need to  
**sate** hunger, to  
**stake** thirst, to run  
with feet barely  
touching the ground...

And just **beneath** the surface  
of it all...a seething, bristling  
**rage**. **Primal** fury. A powder  
keg set to **explode**.

The sensations assaulting me  
were at once **exhilarating** and  
**repugnant**. I reeled. I struggled  
to regain some semblance of  
**control** over the man buried  
within the **beast**.


Then...

Inexplicably a sense of **calm**, of **peace**,  
settled over me. Quelled my rancor.  
I looked to the small **plants** at my feet.


The smell of them **steadied**  
me...Somehow their presence  
**sharpened** my concentration.

I had little time to **reflect**,  
however, as hushed voices  
nearby **compelled** me to  
**investigate** further...






I knew **not** who they were, nor had I ever seen their kind **before**. For reasons I could not name I felt **drawn** to them, to that **place**.




Then a sudden **shift** in the wind alerted me to **another** scent, an odor I had encountered **many times** in my work...

Blood.



Instantly, calm, peace, and serenity were **shattered**. Rage swelled **anew**. I **raced** toward the source...



Stormglen. A town of **survivors**. Tough, hardy men and women.

Deserted.

But why? Where had everyone gone? And why was the **scent** still so **overpowering**...?



**Carnage.**

Alpha Prime and his Wolf Cult, no doubt. I should have been repulsed by the scene, yet to the contrary, my heart **hammered** within my chest. My pulse **thundered**...

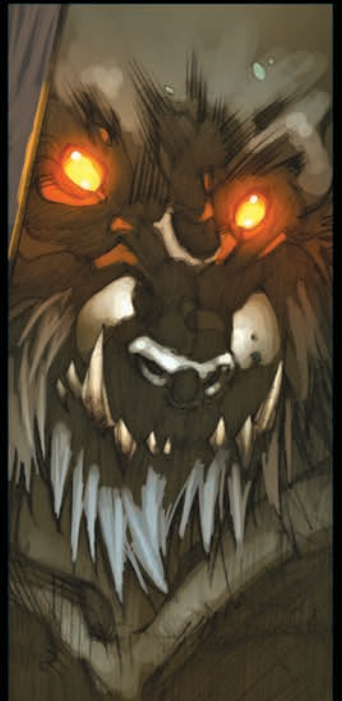
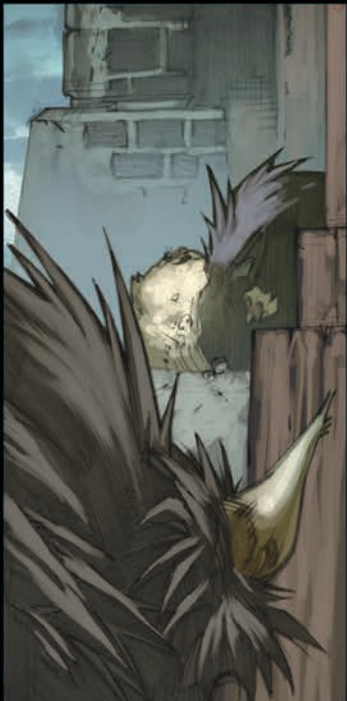
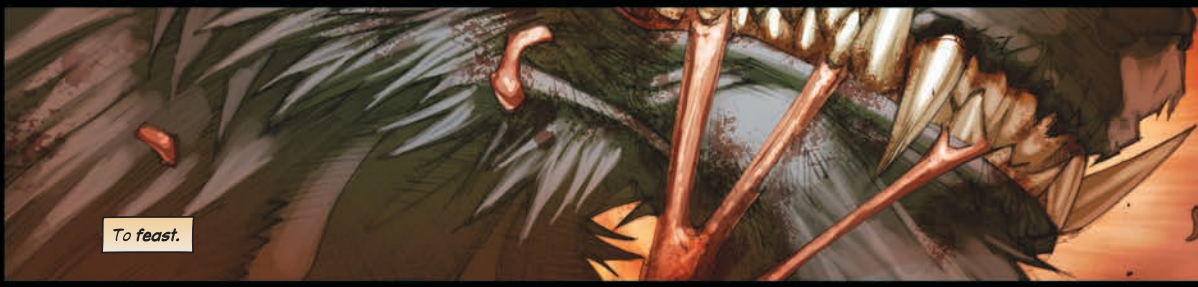




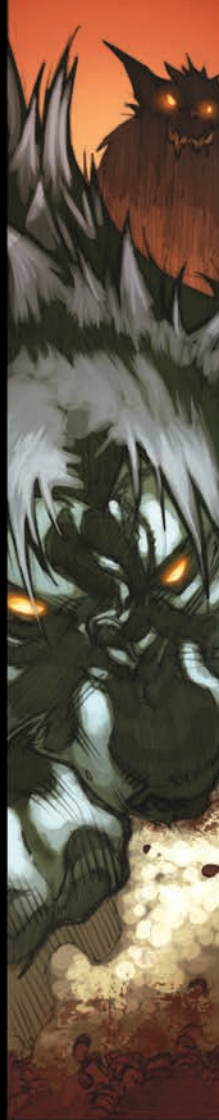
*There was no thought, only action. I attacked! Driven by hunger, overwhelmed by the desire to pierce flesh with my teeth, to rend and tear...*



*To feast.*









YOUR REPUTATION IS WELL DESERVED, HALFORD RAMSEY. YOU HAVE A VERY INTERESTING MIND INDEED.

YOUR INSTINCT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO DEFEND YOUR MEAL, TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH IF NEED BE...

YET YOU CAST AWAY YOUR KILL, KNOWING THE OTHERS WOULD ATTACK ONE ANOTHER AND NOT YOU.

YOU SOUND SURPRISED.

I ADMIT IT IS MOST PECULIAR.

He smelled like musty earth. And the mud on his robes was not from anywhere close by, which meant...what?

In the absence of the plants I had stumbled across earlier, I struggled to maintain the slightest clarity...but to no avail. I was lost within my animal self once again.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE OF STORMGLEN?

THEY HAVE EMBRACED A NEW UNDERSTANDING.

HAVE YOU READ THE "PURITY OF ESSENCE," AS I TOLD YOU TO?

NO. I DON'T WISH TO BECOME ONE OF YOUR BLOODY CONVERTS.

IS THAT SO?


TELL ME HOW IT FEELS TO BE FREE, TO BE TRULY ALIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

CONFLICTED, CONFLICTED IS HOW I FEEL. STILL HUMAN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THIS STATE I'M IN IS AN... ABERRATION.

NONSENSE. LONG AGO WE ASSUMED THE PACK FORM, AND IT WAS ADMITTEDLY IMPERFECT. BUT WHAT YOU AND THE OTHERS ARE NOW, WHAT I AM, IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.


IN ORDER FOR YOU TO FULLY UNDERSTAND... TO APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE, YOU MUST LEARN HOW THIS FORM CAME TO BE...





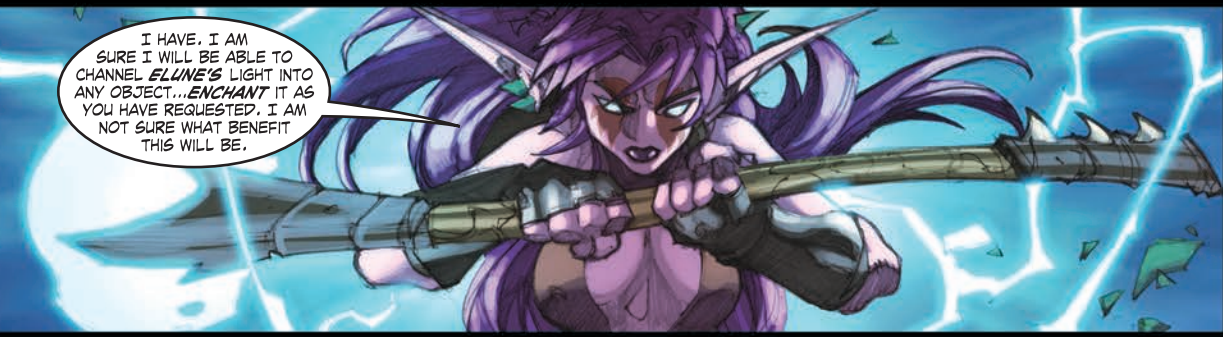
I WILL MAKE THIS RIGHT, *MY LOVE*... I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR *DEATH* WAS NOT IN VAIN. IT WILL NOT BE *MEANINGLESS!*

I ASSURE YOU, DEAR *PRIESTESS*, MY TRUE FRIEND'S DEATH WILL INDEED NOT BE *MEANINGLESS*. INSTEAD IT WILL LAY THE FOUNDATION OF OUR VICTORY.




*RALAAR!* THERE HAS BEEN MUCH CONCERN OVER YOUR WHEREABOUTS. SCOUTS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO FIND YOU. *MALFURION* AND THE *HIGH PRIESTESS* QUESTION ME DAILY.

LET THEM *SEARCH*. LET THEM *QUESTION*. WHEN I WISH TO BE FOUND, I WILL BE. THE PERTINENT INQUIRY IS, HOWEVER, MY *OWN*. HAVE YOU HAD ANY SUCCESS?

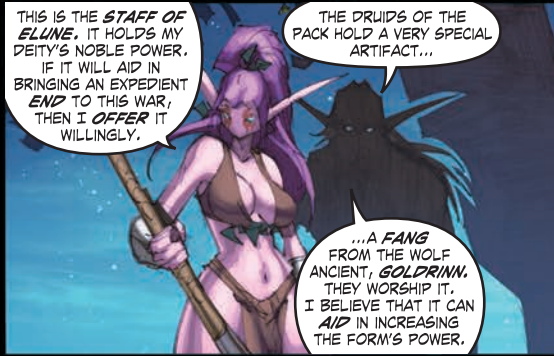


I HAVE. I AM SURE I WILL BE ABLE TO CHANNEL *ELUNE'S* LIGHT INTO ANY OBJECT...*ENCHANT* IT AS YOU HAVE REQUESTED. I AM NOT SURE WHAT BENEFIT THIS WILL BE.



*MALFURION* IS RIGHT. THIS *PACK FORM* IS...IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE* TO CONTROL FOR ANY LONG DURATION. I HAVE SPENT WEEKS WITH THE *DRUIDS OF THE PACK*, WHO MY *SHAN'DO* BELIEVES HAVE VANISHED. THEY ARE A RUGGED, WILD BUNCH. *VIOLENT*, BUT VERY *POWERFUL*.

IF THE LEGEND OF *ELUNE'S* DESIRE TO *TAME* *GOLDRINN'S* FEROCITY IS TRUE, THEN PERHAPS WE CAN FORGE AN ITEM THAT WILL HELP *SOOTHE* THE CHAOS OF THE FORM. *HONE* IT. USE IT AS WE DESIRE TO SATIATE OUR VENGEANCE.



THIS IS THE *STAFF OF ELUNE*. IT HOLDS MY DEITY'S NOBLE POWER. IF IT WILL AID IN BRINGING AN EXPEDIENT *END* TO THIS WAR, THEN I *OFFER* IT WILLINGLY.

THE *DRUIDS OF THE PACK* HOLD A VERY SPECIAL ARTIFACT...

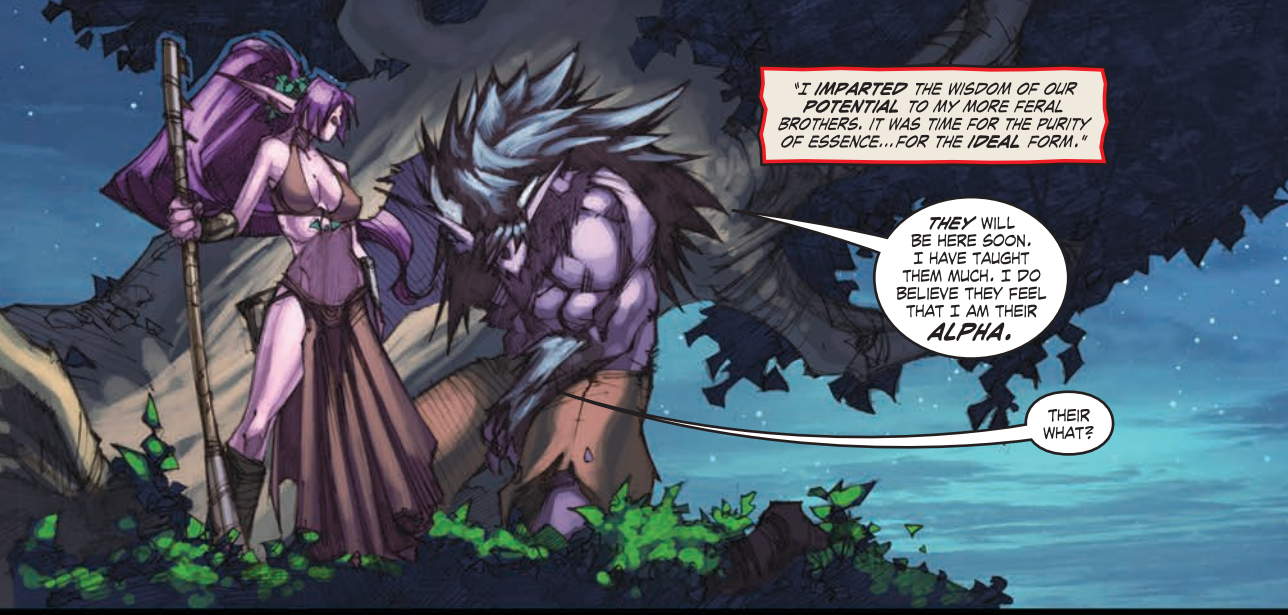
...A *FANG* FROM THE WOLF ANCIENT, *GOLDRINN*. THEY WORSHIP IT. I BELIEVE THAT IT CAN *AID* IN INCREASING THE FORM'S POWER.



WE WILL DO WHAT *MUST* BE DONE THEN, BROTHER *DRUID*.

YES, MY DEAR...I KNOW WE *WILL*.

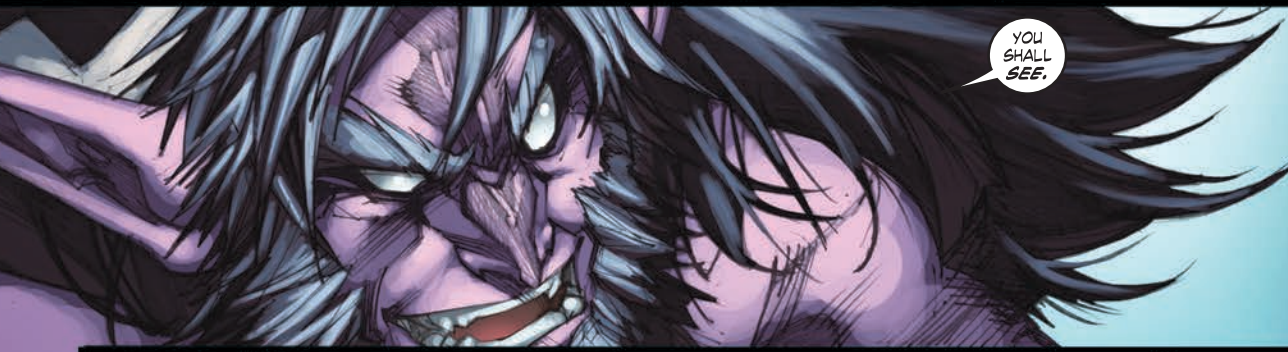




"I IMPARTED THE WISDOM OF OUR POTENTIAL TO MY MORE FERAL BROTHERS. IT WAS TIME FOR THE PURITY OF ESSENCE... FOR THE IDEAL FORM."

THEY WILL BE HERE SOON. I HAVE TAUGHT THEM MUCH. I DO BELIEVE THEY FEEL THAT I AM THEIR ALPHA.

THEIR WHAT?



YOU SHALL SEE.



THEY COME!

GRRRRRRRR...

CH CHCH CHCH



**RRRAAAAAR!**

**RRRRRR**







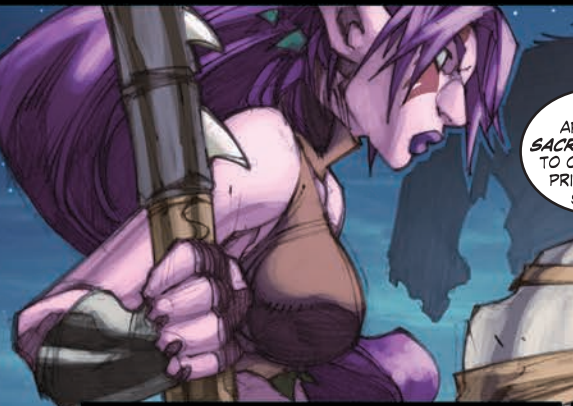
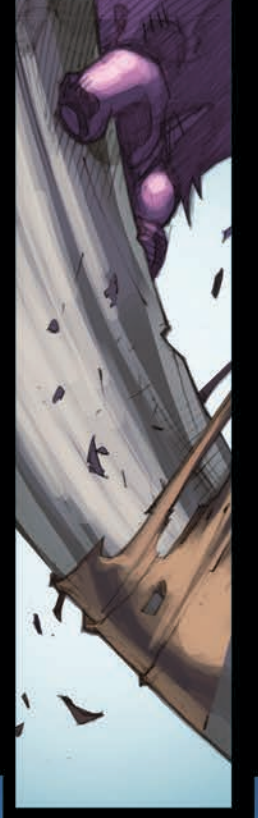
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY AND NOT CALL INTO QUESTION MY ORDERS AGAIN!

Y...Y...YES, ALPHA.

NOW, DID YOU BRING THE FANGS OF OUR FATHER?



WE DID AS YOU ASKED.



NOW AFFIX THE SACRED OBJECT TO OUR SISTER PRIESTESS'S STAFF.



AS YOU DESIRE, ALPHA.



IT IS DONE. BELYSRA, DEAR FRIEND...I BELIEVE ELUNE'S DESIRE TO TAME OUR FEROCITY IS AN EAGER ONE. PLEASE... DO WHAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED.



MOTHER MOON I OFFER YOU THAT WHICH YOU HAVE SOUGHT. I BESEECH YOU, THROUGH THIS SCYTHE, TO EASE THE FURY OF THESE BROTHERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY IN THE MADNESS OF THEIR FORM.

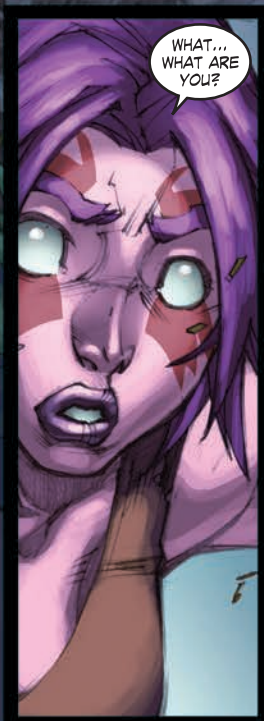
TAME THESE DISCIPLES OF GOLDRINN'S RAGE. I OFFER YOU THIS SCYTHE...FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, MAY IT BE KNOWN AS THE SCYTHE OF ELUNE!!!







WAIT...NO, THIS IS...THIS IS **POWER!!!**  
**HA HA HA HA HA!!!**  
THIS...THIS IS THE **TRUE FORM**,  
BROTHERS. THIS IS THE FORM  
WE WERE **MEANT** FOR. THIS IS  
THE **PURITY OF ESSENCE!**



WHAT...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU?



I AM A  
**DRUID OF THE**  
**SCYTHE** NOW, SISTER.  
COME, BROTHERS, WHO  
IS NEXT TO FULFILL  
YOUR **DESTINY?!**



I AM,  
**ALPHA!**

NO, LET  
IT BE **ME**,  
ALPHA!

NO, IT  
WILL BE **ME**,  
ALPHA!



I AM  
THE **FIRST**  
OF THIS **NEW**  
**FORM**. I AM NOW  
THE **ALPHA PRIME**,  
AND THERE IS **NONE**  
BEFORE ME. COME,  
BROTHERS, YOU  
WILL ALL HAVE  
YOUR TURN.



STORMGLEN

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW THE POWER OF WHAT YOU'VE BECOME? THE FURY AND UNBENDING WILL OF GOLDRINN... A JUGGERNAUT OF RAGE HELD FAST ONLY BY THE MAGIC OF THE MOON GODDESS, EMBODIED IN THIS PURE FORM.

DO YOU APPRECIATE THIS BLESSING? THE BLESSING OF TRUE FREEDOM?

FREEDOM IS THE ABILITY TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES. ONE MIGHT ASK WHY I CHOSE TO BECOME A SHEEP-EATING LUPINE MONSTROSITY. OH, THAT'S RIGHT: I DIDN'T.

ENLIGHTENMENT OFTEN COMES AGAINST OUR WILL. TAKE GILNEAS CITY, FOR EXAMPLE...

WERE I TO SHARE THIS BLESSING WITH THEM, MANY WOULD RESIST, MANY WOULD FIGHT. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD EVEN GIVE UP THEIR LIVES BEFORE SEEING THE TRUTH.

THEN THERE IS YOU... YOURS IS A MIND OF LOGIC. IT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU. THE FORM IS SO PURE THAT SOMETIMES... REASON IS LOST. BUT NOT SO WITH YOU. I SUSPECTED AS MUCH, AND I WAS CORRECT.

YOU COULD BE AN INCREDIBLE ASSET TO THE CAUSE, A LEADER, A LIEUTENANT WHO COULD MAINTAIN LOGIC IN TIMES OF PERIL. BUT ONLY IF YOU SEE THE TRUTH.

RIGHT NOW THE ONLY "TRUTH" I SEE IS THAT YOU'VE USED ME AS YOUR OWN PRIVATE TEST SUBJECT, AND I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.

YOU HAVE SPOKEN OF CHOICES. THERE IS A CHOICE YOU MUST MAKE, HALFORD RAMSEY, AND SOON. YOU MUST CHOOSE TO JOIN US, OR DENY YOURSELF OUR BLESSING.

YOU HAVE UNTIL MIDDAY TOMORROW. I COUNSEL YOU NOT TO SETTLE ON THIS CHOICE LIGHTLY, FOR ONCE YOUR COURSE IS CHOSEN...

IT MAY NOT BE REVERSED.



GREYMANE MANOR,  
LATER THAT NIGHT

I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR CONCERNS, ALL  
OF YOU...

WE ARE,  
EACH OF US,  
BESIEGED ON ALL  
FRONTS!

"AS OF LIAM'S LATEST  
REPORT, THE FORSAKEN  
OUTSIDE THE WALL HAVE  
RISEN TO A NUMBER  
BEYOND RECKONING..."

YES, WHILE  
WITHIN OUR WALLS  
THESE PAST MONTHS,  
ALL ACROSS OUR NATION,  
LIVESTOCK HAVE GONE  
MISSING...

LIVESTOCK,  
ASHBURY? WE'VE A  
GREAT DEAL MORE TO WORRY  
ABOUT THAN LIVESTOCK...OR DO  
YOU PLACE GREATER VALUE  
ON ANIMALS THAN HUMAN  
LIFE? OLD MAN LIVINGSTON'S  
SON DISAPPEARED JUST  
YESTERDAY.

HE'S  
PROBABLY  
PASSED OUT IN  
A DITCH--

AND  
THE MURDERS  
CONTINUE!

"NO LONGER CONFINED TO  
GILNEAS CITY, DUSKHAVEN  
HAS SEEN ITS FIRST VICTIM,  
DISPATCHED IN THE SAME  
MANNER AS THE OTHERS  
WHO FELL PREY TO THE  
STARLIGHT SLASHER.

"PEOPLE ARE AFRAID  
TO LEAVE THEIR  
HOMES AT NIGHT."

THIS?

YOU KNOW  
FULL WELL WHAT  
I'VE DONE! INCREASED  
PATROLS THROUGHOUT  
THE NATION, ISSUED  
ADVISORIES TO THE  
TOWNSHIPS...

BUT MORE THAN  
THAT, I'M GATHERING  
INFORMATION, VALUABLE  
KNOWLEDGE I CAN USE  
TOWARD MORE PERMANENT  
SOLUTIONS. IN THE  
MEANTIME I'LL INSTATE  
A CURFEW...

A CURFEW?  
HA! LITTLE GOOD  
IT'D DO. WE ALL KNOW,  
GENTLEMEN, WHAT HIDES  
OUT THERE IN THE  
WOODS.

IT'S BEEN FAR  
TOO LONG SINCE  
YOU'VE JOINED US  
ON A HUNT, YOUR  
MAJESTY.

YES, YES,  
ALL VALID POINTS.  
WHAT I WISH TO  
KNOW IS, WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
ABOUT...

THIS IS DIFFERENT. YOU  
DON'T UNDERSTAND.

TELL YOU WHAT:  
GIVE ME A FORCE OF  
TEN WELL TRAINED MEN.  
MEN WHO WON'T BOLT AT  
THE SIGHT OF THEIR OWN  
SHADOWS...

GIVE ME  
TEN MEN, AND SET ME  
LOOSE IN THE BLACKWALD,  
IF YOU'VE NO LONGER THE  
STOMACH FOR IT.

AND HOW WOULD  
THAT STOP THE SLASHER?  
OR STEM THE FORSAKEN TIDE?  
NO, WE'LL FIND A SOLUTION,  
BUT WE'LL DO IT ON MY TERMS,  
GODFREY, NOT YOURS. AND WE'LL  
DO IT WITHOUT STARTING A  
LIGHT-DAMNED PANIC!





THINGS HAVE GONE *HARD*, THESE PAST FEW YEARS. COULD BE THAT YOU'VE GROWN *TIRED*, MAJESTY. COULD BE THAT THE *YEARS* AND THE WAR AND THE ENDLESS *SIEGE* HAVE *DULLED* YOUR *EDGE* A BIT.

NONE OF US WOULD THINK LESS OF YOU FOR TAKING A BRIEF *RESPIRE...* FOR LEAVING THE DECISION MAKING TO SOMEONE ELSE FOR A TIME.



SOMEONE LIKE *YOU*, GODFREY? IF I DIDN'T NEED EVERY *CAPABLE LEADER* RIGHT ABOUT NOW, I'D HAVE YOUR *TREASONOUS ASS CHAINED* TO A *DUNGEON WALL!* NOW GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!



"*TREASONOUS*," YOU SAY? I SHED MORE *REBEL BLOOD* DURING THE WAR THAN YOU WOULD CARE TO IMAGINE, MAJESTY!



AND UNLIKE *YOU*, I DIDN'T CALL THE LEADER OF THOSE *TREACHEROUS BASTARDS* MY *FRIEND* BEFORE DOING SO!



**GET. OUT. NOW!**



IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

WE MIGHT GO AWAY, BUT YOUR *PROBLEMS WON'T!* THINK ABOUT THAT WHILE YOU GET YOUR MUCH NEEDED REST!



SEE THAT I'M NOT... DISTURBED!





I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULD NEVER--



ELUNE, WE CALL ON YOU ONCE AGAIN...

I THANK YOU... BUT YOU WON'T ALWAYS BE HERE TO RESCUE ME. I'VE... SPOKEN TO MY MASTER ALCHEMIST, KRENNAN ARANAS, ABOUT SEEKING A SOLUTION THROUGH SOME KIND OF... POTION.

WOULD YOU CONFER WITH HIM? OFFER ADVICE FOR INGREDIENTS? PERHAPS THE MOONLEAF...

OF COURSE. I'LL OFFER ANY AID POSSIBLE. NOW, WHAT HAPPENED?

GODFREY... HE WANTS TO TAKE A MILITIA OUT INTO THE BLACKWALD. IF HE STUMBLER UPON YOUR PEOPLE... HE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, AND I CAN'T TRUST HIM WITH THE TRUTH.

HE WOULD ONLY BE INVITING DEATH FOR HIMSELF AND HIS COMRADES, IF MY FEARS ARE FOUNDED.

EACH PASSING DAY BRINGS SIGNS THAT LEND WEIGHT TO MY SUSPICIONS... THAT THESE RECENT EVENTS ARE THE WORK OF RALAAR HIMSELF.

AND IF THAT IS SO?

THEN YOU NEED ALLIES. SOMEONE WITH WHOM TO UNITE AGAINST THIS COMMON ENEMY.

YOU SHELTER THE TRUTH... OF MY PEOPLE, OF WHAT YOU ARE. HOW LONG BEFORE THOSE RAMPARTS BEGIN TO CRUMBLE? HOW LONG WILL THESE SECRETS KEEP?

AS LONG AS IT TAKES. THE PEOPLE MUST NEVER KNOW THAT I WAS ATTACKED. THEY MUST NEVER FEAR THAT THEIR KING MIGHT LOSE HIMSELF TO SOME PRIMITIVE, FERAL STATE.

I'VE CONSIDERED... SETTING THE EVENTS OF THE WAR ASIDE. I'VE CONSIDERED REACHING OUT, GRANTING AMNESTY TO MY ONE-TIME FRIEND, DARIUS CROWLEY.

THE ONE YOU'VE SPOKEN OF? YES, PERHAPS. PERHAPS IF HE AND HIS REBELS WERE RELEASED AND YOU WERE ABLE TO SET ASIDE YOUR DIFFERENCES...

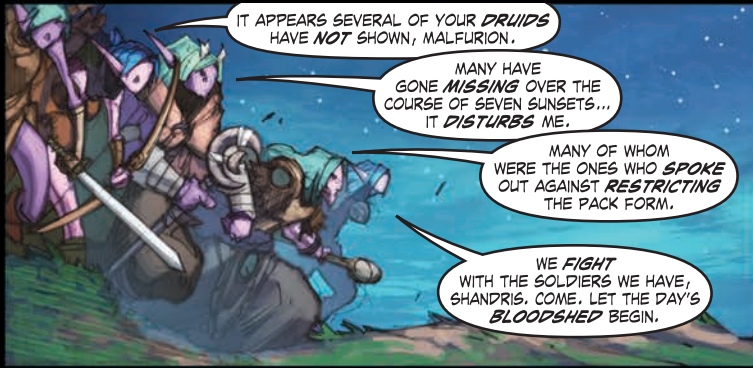
I'VE CONSIDERED IT, BUT I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IF WE CAN'T LET BYGONES BE BYGONES? WHAT IF OUR PRIDE IS STILL TOO GREAT? WHAT STRATEGY WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE EMPLOY AGAINST THIS RALAAR AND HIS WORGEN THEN?



PRAYER.



"AND EVEN THAT WILL NOT OFFER A GUARANTEE..."

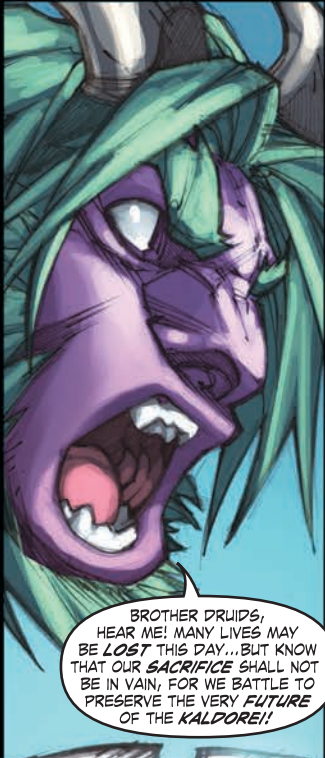


IT APPEARS SEVERAL OF YOUR **DRUIDS** HAVE **NOT** SHOWN, MALFURION.

MANY HAVE GONE **MISSING** OVER THE COURSE OF SEVEN SUNSETS... IT **DISTURBS** ME.

MANY OF WHOM WERE THE ONES WHO **SPOKE** OUT AGAINST **RESTRICTING** THE PACK FORM.

WE **FIGHT** WITH THE SOLDIERS WE HAVE, SHANDRIS. COME. LET THE DAY'S **BLOODSHED** BEGIN.



BROTHER DRUIDS, HEAR ME! MANY LIVES MAY BE **LOST** THIS DAY... BUT KNOW THAT OUR **SACRIFICE** SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN, FOR WE BATTLE TO PRESERVE THE VERY **FUTURE** OF THE **KALDOREI!**



SENTINELS, TO **WAR!!!**



TEAR IT **DOWN!!!**





AAR GG!

THEIR FORTIFICATIONS ARE **STURDIER** THAN EXPECTED. THIS SIEGE MAY TAKE DAYS.

THEN LET THEM **FEAR** THAT EACH DAY MAY BE THEIR **LAST**, MY LOVE.



COME, BROTHERS... THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR REVENGE!



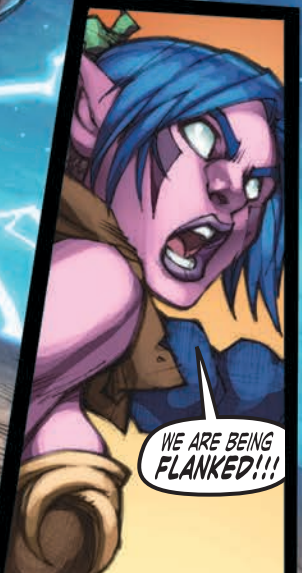
AAR GG!



WHAT IN THE NAME OF **ELUNE** IS THAT?

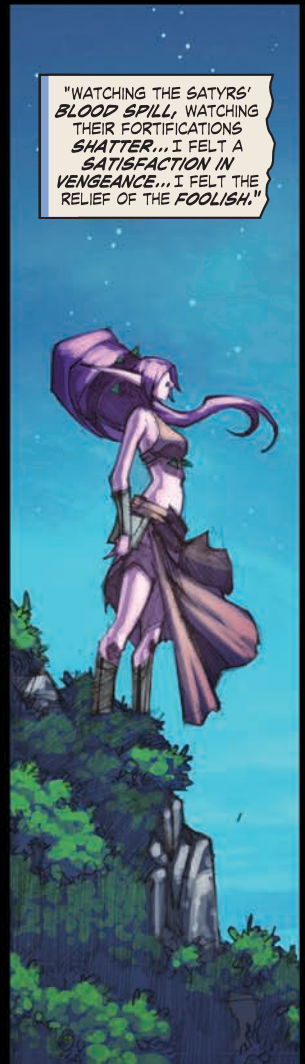
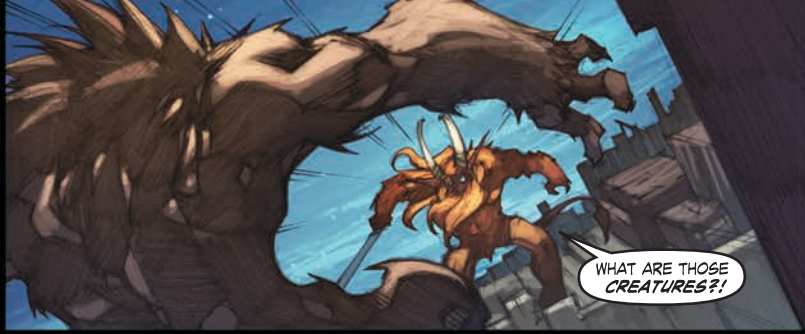


NO QUARTER... **EMBRACE YOUR RAGE...** INDULGE IN GOLDDRINN'S **DIVINE FURY!**



WE ARE BEING **FLANKED!!!**







"THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE DRUIDS, PRIESTESSES, SENTINELS, AND WORGEN WERE INDOMITABLE. THE SATYR ENCAMPMENT AND ALL THOSE IN IT FELL."



"THE SATISFACTION IN VENGEANCE WAS NOT TO LAST."

**MALFURION  
STORMRAAAAAAGE!**

RALAAAR... WHAT HAVE YOU... YOU ARE A MONSTROSITY!

EVEN NOW, AFTER YOU HAVE SEEN THE POWER WE, THE PURE, WIELD, YOU MOCK US, YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR, MY SHAN'DO. THERE IS BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS.

AND JUSTICE IS DEMANDED.



WHAT IS HE DOING?



**BROTHERS!!!  
VENGEANCE MUST  
BE WROUGHT!!!**

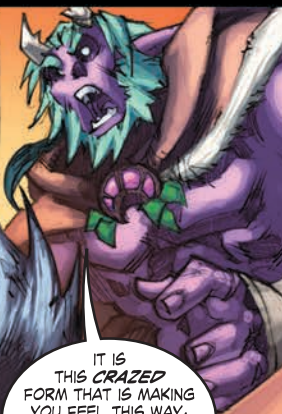




NO! NO NO NO  
**NOOOOOOO!**  
MOTHER ELUNE, WHAT  
HAVE I DONE?



YOU WILL PAY  
FOR **ARVELL**, SHAN'DO.  
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR  
SHORTSIGHTEDNESS!



IT IS  
THIS **CRAZED**  
FORM THAT IS MAKING  
YOU FEEL THIS WAY,  
RALAAR...YOU MUST GET  
HOLD OF YOURSELF. IT  
**FEASTS** ON YOUR  
**ANGER.**



THERE  
IS **NO** MORE  
**RALAAR...** THERE  
IS ONLY **ALPHA**  
**PRIME!!!**



SOMETHING IS  
**HAPPENING** TO THOSE  
WHO HAVE BEEN **BITTEN!**  
THEY...THEY ARE  
**CHANGING!**



**RRRR  
RRRR  
RRRR  
RRRR**

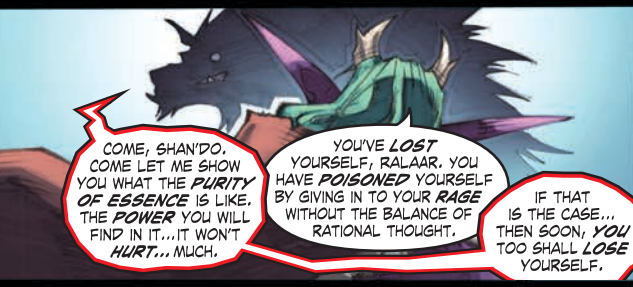




WE MUST **PULL BACK**. WE CAN'T RISK ANY MORE OF US BECOMING ONE OF THEM!



WOOO SHRRK



COME, SHAN'DO. COME LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT THE **PURITY OF ESSENCE** IS LIKE. THE **POWER** YOU WILL FIND IN IT...IT WON'T **HURT**... MUCH.

YOU'VE **LOST** YOURSELF, RALAAR. YOU HAVE **POISONED** YOURSELF BY GIVING IN TO YOUR **RAGE** WITHOUT THE BALANCE OF RATIONAL THOUGHT.

IF THAT IS THE CASE... THEN SOON, YOU TOO SHALL **LOSE** YOURSELF.



AHHRRGGGG. YOU CANNOT HOLD ME!

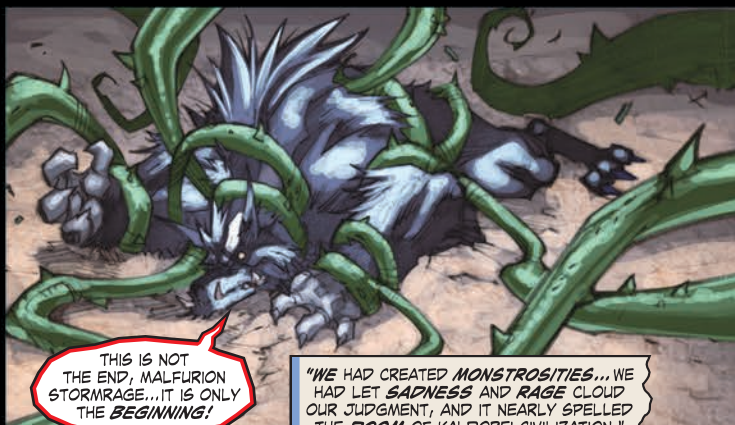
KALDOREI, MAKE HASTE WHILE YOU CAN. **RUN**. I CANNOT HOLD THEM FOREVER.



I... I CANNOT... NATURE DOES NOT HEED MY CALL.



**FLEE**, SENTINELS. WE MUST **REGROUP** AND FIGURE OUT HOW WE SHALL **COUNTER** THIS NEW MENACE!

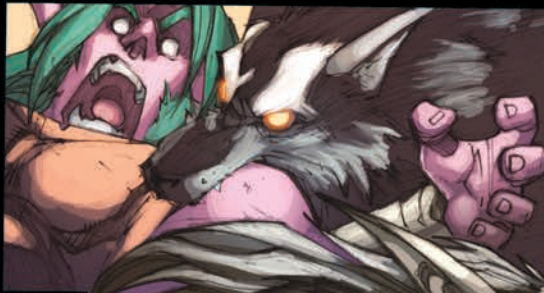


THIS IS NOT THE END, MALFURION STORMRAGE...IT IS ONLY THE **BEGINNING!**

"WE HAD CREATED **MONSTROSITIES**... WE HAD LET **SADNESS** AND **RAGE** CLOUD OUR JUDGMENT, AND IT NEARLY SPOILED THE **DOOM** OF KALDOREI CIVILIZATION."



"AS THE WEEKS WENT ON, THE DRUIDS OF THE SCYTHE, OR **WORGEN**, AS THEY ARE KNOWN TODAY, **TORE** ACROSS ASHENVALE, **ATTACKING** BOTH SATYR AND NIGHT ELF ALIKE IN THEIR **UNYIELDING FURY**."



"THE ORIGINAL CURSE BITE CHANGED ITS VICTIM MUCH **FASTER** THAN TODAY'S MORE **DILUTED VERSION**, AND WITH EACH **ATTACK** THEIR **NUMBERS GREW** AND GREW."




AAAAHHH...  
WHAT...WHAT IS  
HAPPENING?

"IT WAS, AS MALFURION HAD **FEARED MOST**, FIGHTING A **WAR** ON TWO FRONTS."



"MALFURION CALLED HIS DRUIDS TO THE MOONGLADE, THE SACRED GROUNDS OF THE DRUIDS. AND SO IT WOULD BE, THAT THE **HORROR** I AIDED IN CREATING WOULD LEAD TO THE DAWNING OF A **NEW ORDER**."



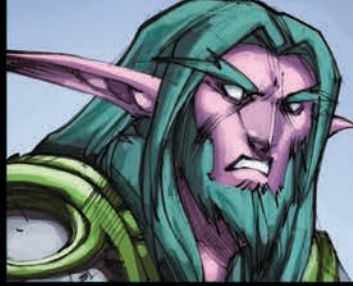


...IF THESE DRUIDS OF THE SCYTHE HAVE SHOWN US ANYTHING, BROTHERS, IT IS THAT OUR GREAT POWER COMES WITH A PRICE.

WE MUST ESTABLISH A WAY FOR OUR PRACTICE. WE HAVE EXPERIMENTED LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTHS OF EACH FORM.

I HAVE CONSULTED WITH CENARIUS, AND IT IS WITH HIS BLESSING THAT I ESTABLISH THE CENARION CIRCLE.

AN ORDER THAT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO PROTECT NATURE AND ESTABLISH A TRADITION OF DRUIDISM. IT WILL ENSURE THAT TRAGEDIES LIKE THIS, MISUSES OF OUR GREAT CONNECTION WITH NATURE, WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.



THEN IT SHALL BE SO, BROTHER MALFURION. LET THIS NEW ORDER GUIDE US TRUTHFULLY.



HEAR, HEAR!

BUT, SHAN'DO...WHAT OF THE DRUIDS OF THE SCYTHE? THESE ABOMINATIONS MUST BE DESTROYED. THEY HAVE MISUSED THE TEACHINGS OF CENARIUS AND BECOME THE MOST SAVAGE OF EVILS.



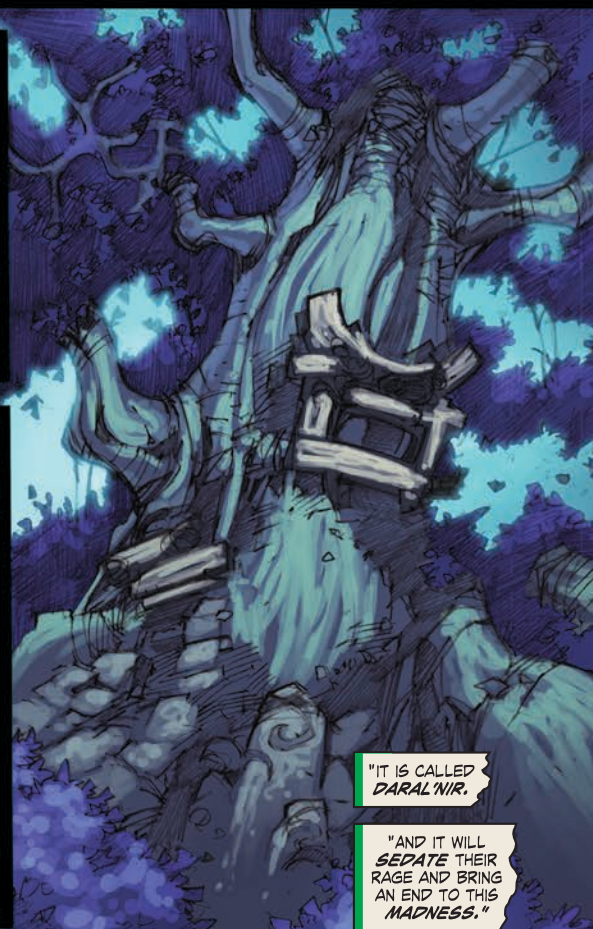
NARALEX, I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER. BUT THEY ARE STILL OUR BROTHERS, AND THEIR INTENT WAS A NOBLE ONE. THEY HAVE BECOME MISGUIDED, FLAWED, AND CONSUMED BY GOLDRINN'S GREAT FURY. SHOULD WE DESTROY THEM BECAUSE OF THIS?

SHAN'DO... WHAT OTHER OPTION DO WE HAVE?

I INTEND TO USE THE SCYTHE OF ELINE AGAINST THEM.

YOU SEE, THE SPIRIT OF GOLDRINN, LIKE THE SPIRITS OF ALL ANCIENTS, RESIDES IN THE EMERALD DREAM. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SCYTHE CAN TEAR THROUGH THE BOUNDARY THAT DIVIDES HIS FANGS FROM HIS SPIRIT.

IN DOING SO WE WILL BANISH THESE WAYWARD DRUIDS TO THE WILD REALM... THERE IS A TREE THAT SOOTHES THE FERAL NATURE OF MANY OF THESE ANIMAL FORMS WITHIN THE DREAM.



"IT IS CALLED DARAL'NIR.

"AND IT WILL SEDATE THEIR RAGE AND BRING AN END TO THIS MADNESS."





HOW DO YOU KNOW OF SUCH A TREE, SHAN'DO? IN ALL MY TRAVELING WITHIN THE DREAM, I HAVE YET TO ENCOUNTER IT OR HEAR WHISPERS OF ITS EXISTENCE.

THE HOW MATTERS LITTLE, FANDRAL. WHAT IS OF CONSEQUENCE IS THAT I DO NOT THINK OUR NEW ORDER'S FIRST DECISION SHOULD BE TO CONDEMN OUR OWN TO DEATH. AT DARAL'NIR, THEY CAN DREAM THE ETERNAL DREAM OF THE WILD.

BUT HOW SHALL WE GO ABOUT OBTAINING THE SCYTHE?



"A RELEVANT DETAIL, GOOD KING. HOW INDEED COULD I KNOW OF THESE THINGS..."



"YOU SPEAK OF THIS GATHERING AS IF YOU WERE THERE, BELYSRA."

"UNLESS I WAS THERE..."



I HAVE BROUGHT IT TO YOU, BROTHER DRUID.

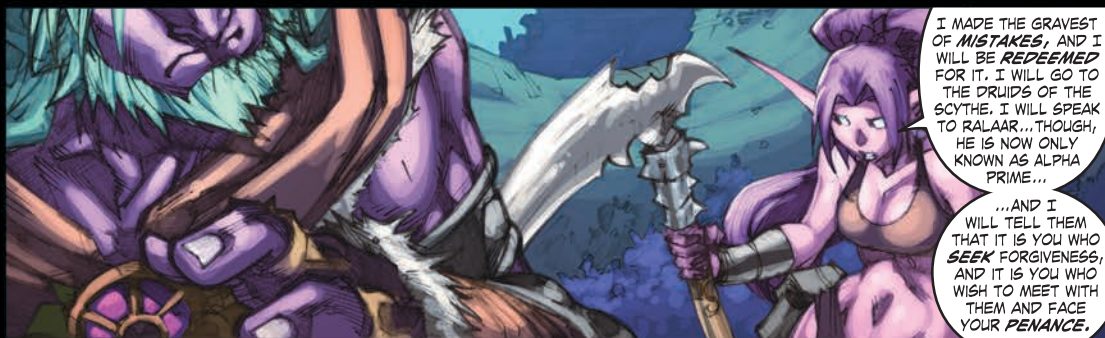


IT IS THE PRIESTESS! SEIZE HER!!!





**HALT!** BELYSRA HAS COME IN **REPENTANCE**, WITH THAT WHICH IS NEEDED MOST FOR OUR PLAN TO SUCCEED. BY DOING SO SHE HAS BEGUN HER **PELVENCE**.



I MADE THE GRAVEST OF **MISTAKES**, AND I WILL BE **REPEENED** FOR IT. I WILL GO TO THE DRUIDS OF THE SCYTHE. I WILL SPEAK TO RALAAAR... THOUGH, HE IS NOW ONLY KNOWN AS ALPHA PRIME...

...AND I WILL TELL THEM THAT IT IS YOU WHO **SEEK** FORGIVENESS, AND IT IS YOU WHO WISH TO MEET WITH THEM AND FACE YOUR **PELVENCE**.



SHE **RISKS** MUCH IN DOING SO. IT IS AT THIS MEETING PLACE THAT WE SHALL STRIKE, AND I WILL USE THE **SCYTHE** TO SEND THEM TO **DARAL'NIR**...



...AND THEN WE WILL **DESTROY** THE **SATYRS**!

"AND WITH THAT DECREE, THE **CENARION CIRCLE** EMBARKED UPON ITS FIRST GREAT TASK."







**THE BLACKWALD**

HE HARDLY **MOVED** ALL NIGHT. SHALL I **FETCH** HIM, ALPHA?

NO. HE MUST COME TO THIS DECISION ON HIS **OWN**. IF WE **MUST**, WE WILL PROCEED **WITHOUT** HIM.



I had read page after page of the "**Purity of Essence**." Philosophies, rites, rituals, preachings, rantings...

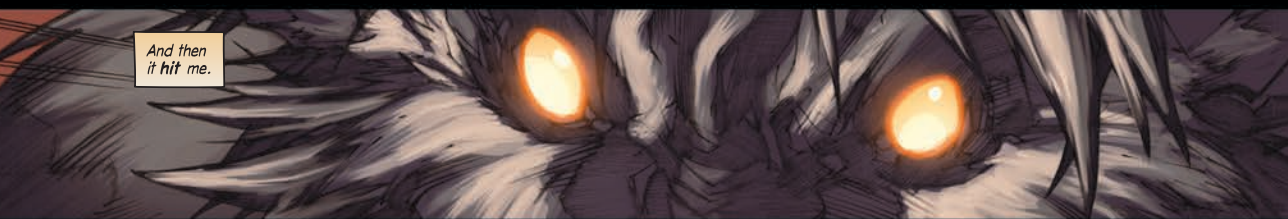
The book spoke of a "**test of loyalty**" for aspiring members... a "**righteous kill**," described as the elimination of a **foe** or **target** who **challenged** the mind, body, or spirit of the aspirant.

I **wondered**, not for the first time, just **how far** Alpha Prime was willing to go to **achieve** his "purity."

But there was something **else**...something **beneath** it all, something that I was overlooking. Something **wrong**. It lingered just **outside** my consciousness, just **beyond** my grasp.

The man I had **been** would have untangled the problem with the greatest of ease. But the thing I had **become**...struggled.

What could I do to **clear** my mind... to take a step **closer** to the truth?



And then it **hit** me.



I raced back to the field...



To the **strange plants** that had proffered such a singular **effect** upon me one day before.

A measure of **clarity** returned. Memories resurfaced. There had been an **assemblage** of purple-skinned beings **nearby**...

At the tree.





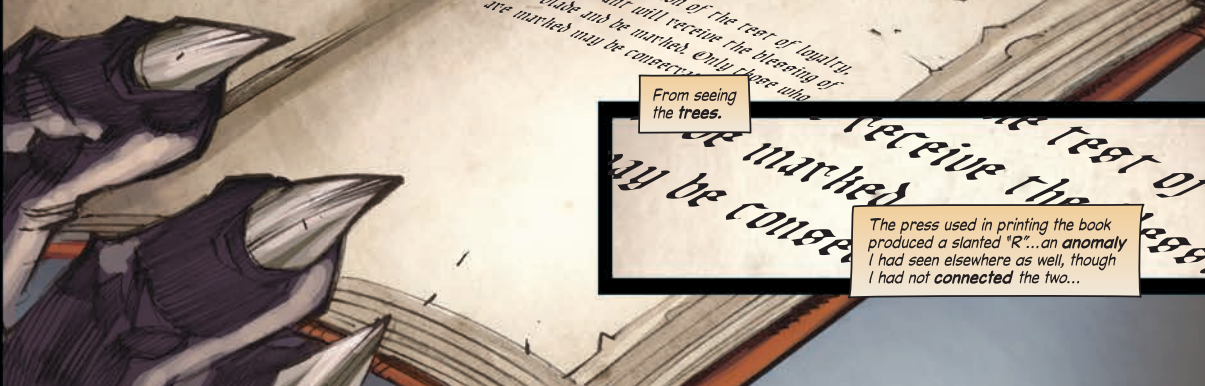
Gone. No sign of any living being.

But within the massive bole the effect was magnified. My concentration sharpened further...



The wheels turned, and slowly, almost painfully, someone began to emerge. Someone I had lost contact with...someone who resembled the man I used to be.

And there it was. I had it! As many times as I had read the text that evening, all the while the forest had prevented me...



Upon completion of the rest of tonight the aspirant will receive the blessing of the blade and be marked. Only those who are marked may be conserved.

From seeing the trees.

The press used in printing the book produced a slanted "R"...an anomaly I had seen elsewhere as well, though I had not connected the two...



Maxwell Wiggins' **gazette** evidenced the same **peculiarity...** the same slanted "R."

Maxwell had **printed** the books; therefore, it stood to reason that he was a **member of the cult...** I had also believed him to be a **rebel sympathizer**, though I'd never been able to **prove** it.

Alpha Prime claimed to support Greymane. A lie, if my suspicions proved correct. If he had lied about **that**, what else might he have lied about?

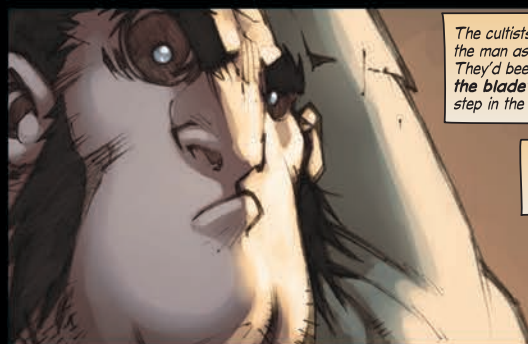


*Upon completion of the rite of loyalty, the aspirant will receive the blessing of the blade and be marked. Only those who marked may be consecrated.*

I remembered the **ritual** I witnessed in the **manor...**



The cultists' **positioning**, the **blade**, the **entire scene** exactly the same as the **tableau** Cox and I had stumbled upon in the **antique shop...**



The cultists hadn't been trying to **detain** the man as Alpha Prime had **claimed...** They'd been giving him the "**blessing of the blade**"...marking him for the next step in the **consecration** process.

Marking him because he had **passed the test of loyalty**. The "righteous kill."

I remembered the **woman** in the **alley**. She had been **unarmed, helpless**. **Defenseless.**



Some **righteous** kill.

Alpha Prime was **disobeying** his own **rules**.

He and the cultists were **liars**. **Murderers**. What if the **blood** I'd smelled in Stormglen hadn't all been from **animals**? What if Alpha Prime and his pack had **killed** those who **resisted**?

Where would they strike **next**?

Then I **remembered** his words from our conversation the day **before**: "**Many would resist. Many would fight.**"

"There are those who would even give up their **lives...**"

I remembered the **place** of which he spoke, and with a **grim certainty** I knew that the **Cult's next target** must be...

**Gineas City.**




**END**  
**CHAPTER**  
**THREE**










My investigations into the **Starlight Slasher** murders would have led me to the **Wolf Cult**. Alpha Prime knew this...

And so he hatched a cunning **plan**: fold me into his cult's ranks, **convert** me, and prevent my potential **discovery** of the cult from thwarting his planned **attack** on the city.



Distance from the **plants** from the **strange tree** they grew **near**, made it more difficult to **concentrate**.

As before, I felt the man **bowing** before the **beast**, careful deduction giving way to **dark clouds** of **rage**.

It was in this compromised state that I found myself outside the **Southeastern Gate** of **Gilneas City**.



**Too late.**

The guard killed. By **blade**, not claw or bite. How many **cultists** did Alpha Prime have on the **inside**?

Had **Cox** been in on it as well?


The **rage** within **swelled** and **thundered**. **Rage** at being **misled**, **duped**. **Rage** at being **outmaneuvered** and **outmanned**, but most of all...



**Rage** at being **outwitted**.

In all honesty I didn't **care** much for people. They irritated me. Still, **disliking** people was **one** thing; letting them get slaughtered was **another**.

And so I hoped, moving forward, to be capable of **focusing** my **rage** and **driving** the **storm** to greatest **effect**...



Against those who deserved it **most**.



6 FINEAS CITY  
THE DAY OF  
THE ATTACK

RALLY!  
RALLY! FORM ON  
ME AND HOLD  
THE LINE!











**BOOM**

**POW CRACK**



HOLD... AND PREPARE FOR ANOTHER WAVE.

YOUR MAJESTY! WE'VE REPORTS OF THE ENEMY **CLOSING IN** ON MERCHANT SQUARE...

MAJESTY?

WORD ALSO FROM THE NORTHEASTERN GATE, THAT PRINCE LIAM APPROACHES WITH A DETACHMENT OF SOLDIERS.

GET WORD TO LIAM: I WANT A FULL LOCKDOWN OF THE CITY. HE'S TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN MERCHANT SQUARE. TAKE TWO MEN WITH YOU! AND ONE MORE THING...

GO TO THE GUARD AT STONEWARD PRISON. TELL HIM TO GIVE DARIUS CROWLEY THIS MESSAGE:

"THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO PUT ASIDE OUR QUARREL. YOU LED A TIRELESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ME. I PRAY YOU MIGHT BRING THAT SAME RESOLVE TO BEAR AGAINST THE WORGEN... OR ELSE THERE MAY BE NOTHING LEFT FOR US TO FIGHT FOR."



THEN I WANT YOU TO TELL THE GUARD... TO RELEASE CROWLEY AND THE OTHERS.

SIR, YOU WISH HIM TO--

YES! RELEASE THE REBELS. ALL OF THEM! NOW GO!

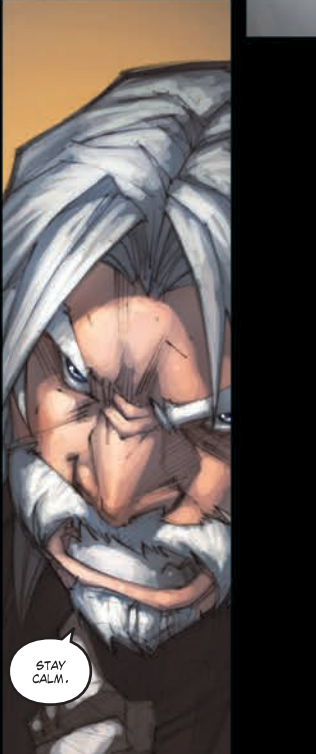
GET THESE CIVILIANS BEHIND LOCKED DOORS!

MAJESTY, THE ROOFTOPS!



READY, MEN! MAKE EVERY TRIGGER PULL COUNT!

ABOVE ALL, STAY CALM!



STAY CALM.







GREYMANE COURT IS ALL YOURS NOW, ALPHA.

MERCHANT SQUARE IS SURE TO FOLLOW. THE PLAN UNFOLDS AS INTENDED.

AND WHAT OF OUR GOOD KING?

HOLED UP IN THE MILITARY DISTRICT.



WASTE NO MORE TIME HERE. HARRY THE KING. KEEP HIM *BUSY*, BUT FOCUS YOUR ATTACK ON MERCHANT SQUARE FOR NOW. SEE TO IT *PERSONALLY*.

BY YOUR *COMMAND*, ALPHA.

COX, YOU HAVE PERFORMED *WELL*. YOUR *WORK* HERE IS DONE. I WILL CALL ON YOU *AGAIN* WHEN THE TIME IS *RIGHT*.

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO *SERVE*, ALPHA.



I *DETECTED* YOUR *SCENT* SEVERAL MOMENTS AGO. STEP OUT AND *FACE* ME, TRAITOR.



IT IS *YOU* WHO BETRAYED OUR PEOPLE, *RALAAAR*. BY EMBRACING A *DARKNESS* BEYOND YOUR *CONTROL*.



THE *YEARS* HAVE *DULLED* YOUR *MEMORY*, BELYSRA. THERE IS *ONE* WHO BEARS THE SCAR OF GUILT OVER ANY *OTHER*... ONE WHOM WE *TRUSTED*. WHOM *SOME* EVEN ADMIRE.

ONE WHO *PREACHED* A CODE OF *ETHICS*, IDEALS CONVENIENTLY *FORGOTTEN* WHEN THEY NO LONGER SUITED HIS *PURPOSE*. IT WOULD SEEM *DUPPLICITY* RUNS IN HIS FAMILY.





IS THAT *TRULY* WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?



*VENGEANCE*, YES. *VENGEANCE IS PURE...* AND I HAVE FOUND THAT IT *RIPENS* WITH AGE.

AND HOW DOES THIS *ATTACK* SERVE YOUR MASTER *PLAN*? WHY *DESTROY* A CITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR *QUARREL* WITH *MALFURION*?

THAT IS FOR ME TO *KNOW* AND YOU TO *LEARN...* MOST *PAINFULLY*. JUST A *TASTE* OF WHAT WAITS FOR MY FORMER *SHANDO!*



YOU MUST *LISTEN* TO ME! *MALFURION* AGONIZED MORE THAN YOU COULD POSSIBLY--



*SHBOOM!*



AMABEL, SHALFALANORE!





**ROOOO  
WRR!**



**SHRAAK**



UNNG!

**CRACK**



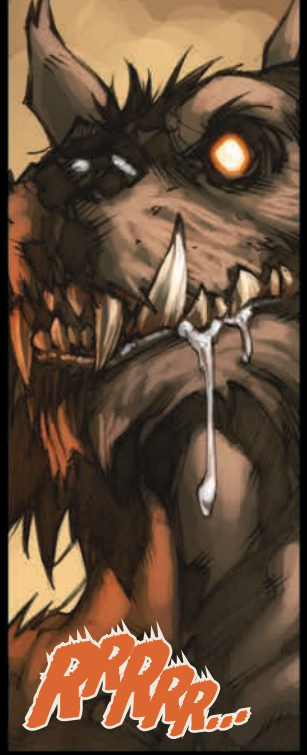
**OOOFE!**



HELP!  
HELP US!



SOMEONE,  
PLEASE!!!



**RRRR...**



NV?



**RRRRR!!!**

Enhanced senses  
made it easier  
to hear the screams.





A fallen officer's sword  
dispatched the first of them.



The second...



Met a much more  
painful demise.





TH-THANK YOU...

My blood roiled.  
My thoughts swam.

The beast I had become  
salivated at the thought  
of rending their flesh.



Had I saved these people from one grisly fate only to condemn them to another?



No. I am not a murderer.

No.

NO.

NO!



THERE'S ONE O' THEM!  
**FIRE!**



SPAK

PAKOW



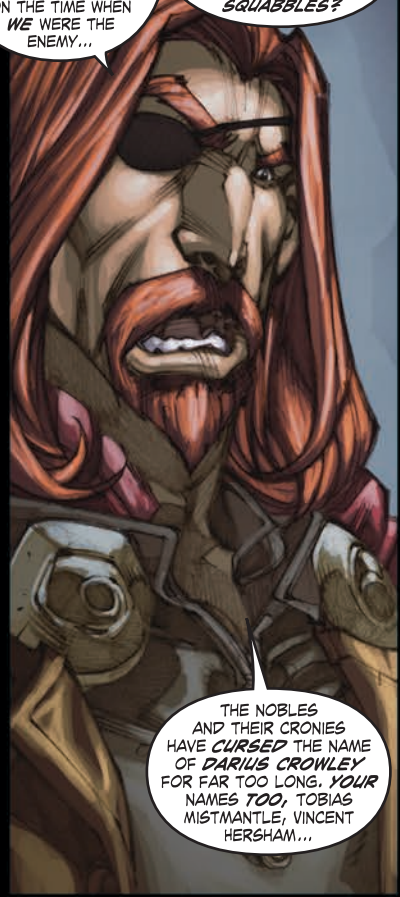
**STONEWARD PRISON**

*LISTEN UP, AND LISTEN GOOD! I KNOW MOST OF YOU DON'T CARE MUCH HOW WE WERE RELEASED AND WHETHER OR NOT THE ROYALS LIVE OR DIE. AND I CAN'T SAY AS I BLAME YOU...*

*FACT IS, IT WAS GENN THAT RELEASED US. BUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IS THAT ALL OF US, REBELS AND ROYALS ALIKE, FACE A COMMON ENEMY.*

*THE BEASTS ARE BACK. ME, I ALWAYS FEARED THIS DAY WOULD COME. SO DID GENN, THOUGH HE'D NEVER ADMIT IT. NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO STOP AND THINK BACK ON THE TIME WHEN WE WERE THE ENEMY...*

*I WANT YOU TO THINK BACK ON THAT TIME, AND I WANT YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT! BECAUSE THE WAR DON'T MATTER NO MORE! YOU THINK THEM BEASTS CARE ABOUT THE WAR? ABOUT OUR SQUABBLES?*



*THE NOBLES AND THEIR CRONIES HAVE CURSED THE NAME OF DARIUS CROWLEY FOR FAR TOO LONG. YOUR NAMES TOO, TOBIAS MISTMANTLE, VINCENT HERSHAM...*



*EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US! NOW I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT: THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE THE NEXT SUNRISE...*

*BUT IF WE DIE HERE TODAY, LET OUR NAMES BE REMEMBERED FOR DIFFERENT REASONS... LET US BE WRITTEN OF AND SPOKEN OF NOT AS WARMONGERS, BUT AS GUARDIANS, PROTECTORS... SAVIORS, EVEN!*

*FROM THIS MOMENT ON WE WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN, AND WE FORGE AHEAD WITH ONE PURPOSE: DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PRESERVE LIFE, REBEL OR ROYAL, AND PUT DOWN AS MANY OF THEM DAMNED MONGRELS AS WE CAN!*

*WE'RE WITH YA, DARIUS!*



**FOR GILNEAS!**



MILITARY DISTRICT

FIRE!



YOUR MAJESTY! WORD FROM PRINCE LIAM...  
MERCHANT SQUARE IS *LOST*. HE'S GIVEN THE ORDER TO *EVACUATE*. WE'RE TO EXPECT *CIVILIANS* AT OUR POSITION SHORTLY.



EVACUATE?  
NO CHOICE, SIR. THERE SEEMS NO END TO THE ANIMALS.

RIGHT. VERY WELL, THEN. SEE TO IT THAT ALL CIVILIANS ARE GATHERED HERE WITH *HASTE*.

SIR!

DAMN IT, BELYSRA, WHERE ARE YOU?

GREYMANE COURT



TELL ME WHERE TO *FIND* WHAT IT IS I *SEEK*, AND I WILL SHARE THE PURITY WITH YOU.

TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE *SCYTHE OF ELUNE*.




M-MALFURION AGONIZED... MORE THAN YOU COULD POSSIBLY KNOW. GUILT *P-PLAGUED* HIM; GUILT FOR *ARVELL*, AND GUILT FOR THE *CHOICE* HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT THAT DECEIVER *FELT*?

HE *C-CONFIDED* IN ME OF THIS *STRUGGLE*. STRUGGLE ENOUGH...





"TO WARRANT AN AUDIENCE... WITH THE DEMIGOD CENARIUS HIMSELF..."

SHAN'DO...I SEEK YOUR COUNSEL ONCE MORE. THE PATH I AM SET TO TREAD IS NOT ONE I WISH TO EMBARK UPON WITHOUT YOUR...ASSENT.

THERE COMES A TIME, THERO'SHAN, TO LET GO OF THE NEED FOR MY APPROVAL. YOU MUST EMBRACE WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME, MALFURION STORMRAGE. SOMEONE LOOKED TO AS A LEADER.

A TRUE ARCHDRUID, THOSE OF YOUR ORDER WILL TRUST YOU TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH AND AVOID THAT WHICH WILL LEAD THEM ASTRAY.

KNOW THAT THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP IS ONE OF GREAT BURDEN. YOU MUST TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR DECISIONS, FOR GOOD OR ILL. SEEK COUNSEL, YES, BUT NOT PERMISSION.

THIS MAY BE TRUE... BUT, LONG AGO RALAAK POSSESSED THE GREATEST OF POTENTIAL, YET ALSO WITHIN HIM I DETECTED A SMOLDERING FIRE. I THOUGHT THAT...HE REMINDED ME OF...

I THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN HE WOULD LEARN TO EXTINGUISH HIS RAGE... PERHAPS THIS IS TRULY MY FAILURE MORE THAN IT IS HIS.

WE ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT ON THIS. RALAAK'S DECISIONS WERE HIS OWN. THE CHOICES WE MAKE ARE INEVITABLY WHAT DEFINE US. RALAAK MADE HIS CHOICE. NOT YOU.





YOUR RULING ON THE PACK FORM WAS NOT MADE ARBITRARILY, THERO'SHAN.

IT IS TRUE. WITHOUT YOU, I WOULD HAVE BEEN AS LOST AS RALAAAR. PERHAPS, IF ANYTHING, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FORCEFUL.



"YOU EXPERIMENTED AND LEARNED THE PRICE...YOU WENT TOO FAR BUT WITHOUT THE FOREWARNING THAT RALAAAR WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE RECEIVED.



HOOOWWWWOOOOOWWLL!



"YOU HAD FALLEN SO FAR INTO THE FORM THAT YOU EVEN TURNED YOUR FURY..."



"TOWARD ME."



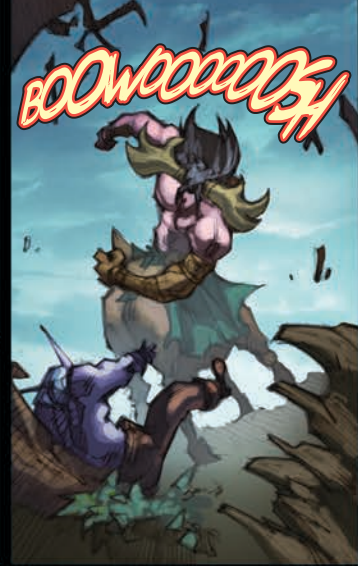
GRRRRR!





BACK, MALFURION!

**RRROOOOARR!**



**BOOWOOOOOOSH!**



"THE GREAT TREE DARAL'NIR TAMED THE SAVAGERY OF THE FORM. AND YOU WERE RETURNED TO YOUR SENSES. BUT THIS NEW FORM, MALFURION... RALAAR HAS PERVERTED OUR WAYS."



"THIS FORM IS BEYOND DRUIDISM. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE CAN BE UNDONE. BUT I DO KNOW DARAL'NIR CAN, AT THE VERY LEAST, KEEP THEM PACIFIED."

THE COUNTERPART OF DARAL'NIR EXISTS ON AZEROTH, YES?  
IT IS SO.

BUT HOW TO KEEP THEM THERE? TO CONTAIN THEM? NO...THEY MUST BE SENT AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE. AND TO DO THIS I MUST EMPLOY DECEPTION, TRICKERY.

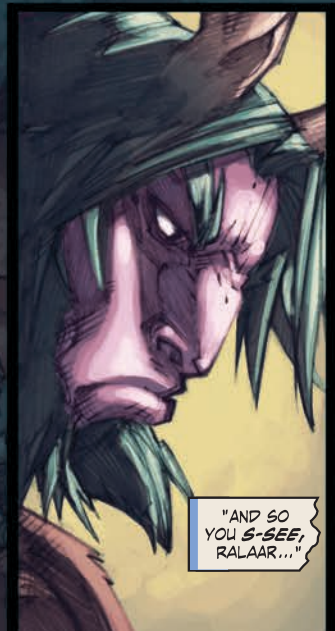
YOUR CHOICE IS NOT AN EASY ONE TO MAKE.

IF I SUCCEED, IT WILL MEAN LESS BLOODSHED THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

LESS POINTLESS DEATH. BUT...IS IT UNFORGIVABLE FOR A SHAN'DO TO BE DECEPTIVE TOWARD HIS BROTHERS, EVEN IF THEY HAVE FALLEN?

IT IS TRICKERY WITH PURPOSE, I AGREE. YET AGAIN I SAY IT IS NOT FOR ME TO COUNSEL YOU ON WHETHER IT IS RIGHT OR WRONG.

THE FATE OF THESE FALSE DRUIDS OF THESE SCYTHE RESTS IN YOUR HANDS, MALFURION... NOT MINE.



"AND SO YOU S-SEE, RALAAR..."





THAT YOU AND MALFURION...HAVE MORE IN *COMMON* THAN YOU KNOW. YOUR VENGEANCE IS *MISGUIDED*. END THIS...SENSELESS *BLOODSHED*.



HA HA  
HAHAHA  
HAAAA!!!



SO...MALFURION WAS NOT ONLY A BLIND *FOOL*...HE WAS ALSO THE ULTIMATE *HYPOCRITE*. YOU SEEK TO ENGENDER *EMPATHY*...

YET YOU HAVE ONLY *STOKED* THE FLAMES OF MY *HATRED*. MALFURION IS A SANCTIMONIOUS *WRETCH*. TOO *PROUD* TO ADMIT TO BEING *TOUCHED* BY THE *PURITY*.

NOT *PROUD*, RALAAAR... *ASHAMED*.



*ENOUGH!* YOU ARE NO LONGER OF *VALUE* TO ME, TRAITOR. I SHALL FIND THE SCYTHE ON MY *OWN*.

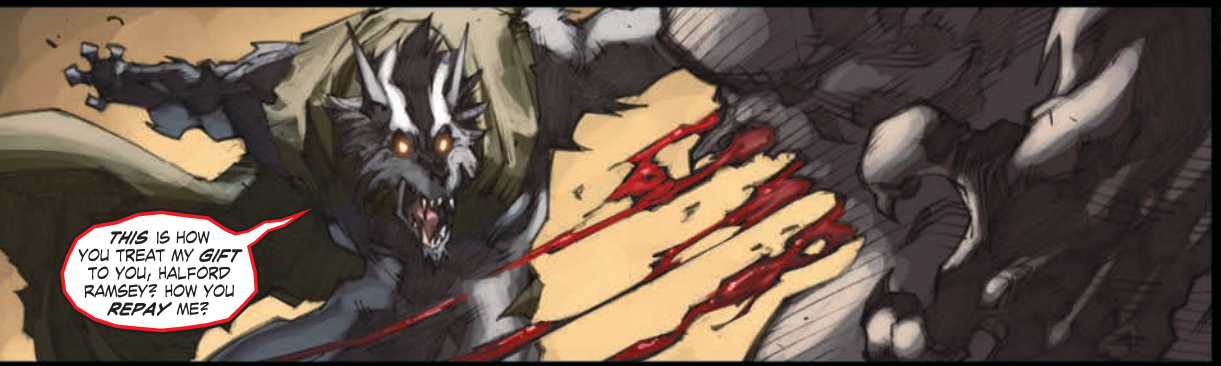
RRRRRRGH!







CRACK



THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT MY GIFT TO YOU, HALFORD RAMSEY? HOW DO YOU REPAY ME?



I MADE YOU...

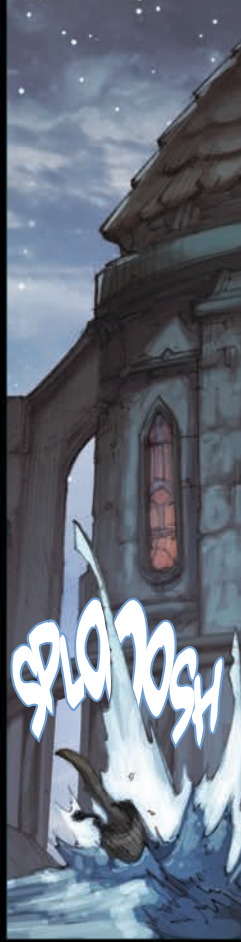


SMASH



I WILL UNMAKE YOU!



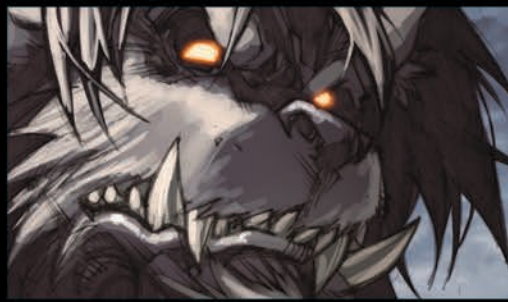


MOTHER MOON, GRANT ME YOUR **HEALING TOUCH**.

**THANK YOU, MOTHER MOON, AND THANK YOU, STRANGER...** FOR INTERVENING. YOU SHOW **REMARKABLE CONTROL** FOR ONE OF THE **CURSED**.

IT'S A **CEASELESS BATTLE**, AND ONE I'M IN **DANGER OF LOSING**.

ONCE THE **IMMEDIATE DANGER** HAS PASSED, I MAY BE ABLE TO **HELP YOU**.



COULD THAT HAVE **DESTROYED** HIM JUST NOW?

ELLUNE'S LIGHT IS ONLY **PART** OF WHAT CREATED HIM, SO I BELIEVE HER POWERS MAY HAVE **LIMITED EFFECT**. I FEAR THAT I HAVE GAINED US **LITTLE TIME**. HOW BADLY ARE YOU **HURT**?



I'M FIT **ENOUGH**, CONSIDERING THAT WE HAVE MUCH MORE **URGENT MATTERS** TO ADDRESS...



I SUGGEST WE TAKE OUR **LEAVE**.



THE ROAD TO DUSKHAVEN



YOU MEN, WATCH OUR **FLANKS!** KEEP THE LINE **MOVING!**



YOU MADE THE **RIGHT** DECISION, FATHER. THERE WAS NO OTHER **CHOICE**. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE WOULD HAVE **DIED** HAD WE **STAYED?**



LIAM! THANK THE LIGHT! I CAUGHT WORD THAT MY **FATHER** AND THE OTHERS HAD BEEN **RELEASED**. WHERE ARE THEY?

LORNA...



LORNA, NO ONE'S TOLD YOU... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO--

THE **COST** OF OUR EVACUATION WAS... **HIGH**. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR AN **ARMED CONTINGENT** TO REMAIN **BEHIND** AND DRAW THE WORGEN'S **ATTENTION** WHILE WE SHEPHERDED THE CITIZENS **SAFELY** TO **DUSKHAVEN**.

I VOLUNTEERED, BUT... BUT YOUR FATHER, **DARIUS**... INSISTED THAT **HE** AND HIS REB--PEOPLE REMAIN **BEHIND** AND MAKE A **STAND** AT **LIGHT'S DAWN CATHEDRAL**.



HE... **WHAT?**



**YOU!** **GENN GREYMANE, YOU SON OF A BITCH!**

LORNA, **NO!**





YOU GAVE HIM A TASTE OF **FREEDOM** ONLY TO TURN AROUND AND FEED HIM TO THOSE... **THINGS!** HOW **COULD** YOU? WAS IT NOT ENOUGH TO **LOCK** HIM AWAY? **SEPARATE** HIM FROM HIS **FAMILY?**

IS THIS YOUR FINAL **REVENGE**, THEN?

I NEVER MEANT--



UNHAND ME, LIAM!

I HOPE YOU **DIE**, GENN! I HOPE THOSE BEASTS **FIND** YOU. I HOPE THEY **HUNT** YOU DOWN AND PICK YOUR BONES **CLEAN...**

AND SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF **KILLING** YOU MYSELF!



LORNA, STOP!

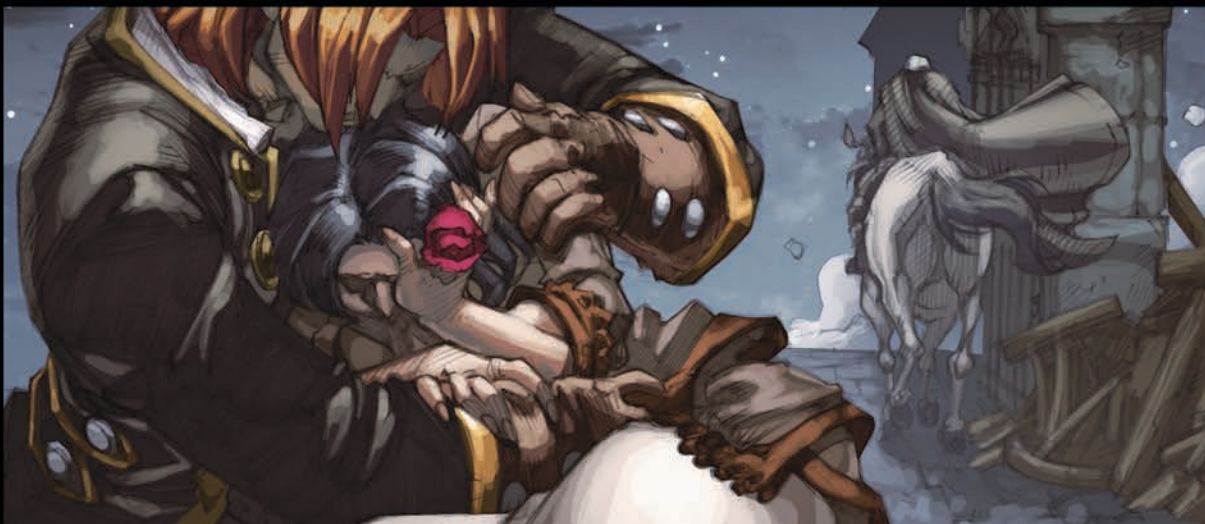
I WANT TO **DIE** WITH MY **FATHER!** LET ME **GO!**

YOU CAN'T JUST **TAKE** EVERYTHING! YOU CAN'T!

LET GO! LET ME **GO**, YOU **BASTARD!**



LET ME... LET ME...





GILNEAS CITY,  
OUTSIDE THE  
SOUTHWESTERN  
GATE

REPORT!

CROWLEY'S  
DISTRACTION SEEMS  
TO BE WORKING, SIR.  
NO SIGN OF THE  
BEASTS.

HOLD  
THAT LAST.  
LOOK!

THEY'RE  
NEARLY ON  
US.

STOP!

ARAMA SH'NALA  
FASIMA NEMELIA  
BORANNA...

WHATEVER IT IS  
YOU'RE DOING, MIGHT I  
RECOMMEND EXTREME  
HASTE?

SHOULD WE  
INTERVENE,  
SIR?

NO. LET'S  
SEE HOW THIS  
PLAYS OUT.

MANORIA  
FESALA  
MARANOR...

QUICKLY,  
QUICKLY...





MAL'NALA FAL!!



WELL DONE!

YES, BUT THE EFFORT HAS LEFT ME FATIGUED. WE SHOULD CONTINUE ON BEFORE MORE ARRIVE.



SOLDIERS!

THEY MUST NOT MISTAKE YOU FOR ONE OF RALAAAR'S WORGEN...

WE ARE NO THREAT! LET US ACCOMPANY YOU!

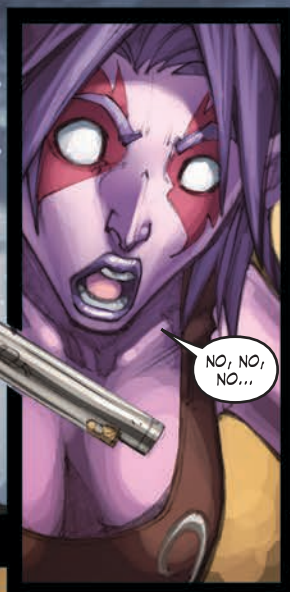


SHOULD WE ANSWER THEM, SIR?

OH, I'LL ANSWER THEM...



LOUD AND CLEAR.



NO, NO, NO...



POW





HE'S NOT ONE OF THEM!

FTMP

AGH!!!



WHAT OF THE WOMAN, SIR?

WHATEVER SHE IS, SHE'S NOT OUR KIND. SHE'S NOT A GILNEAN. LEAVE HER TO THE WOLVES.



LIGHT'S DAWN CATHEDRAL







AMMO REPORT!

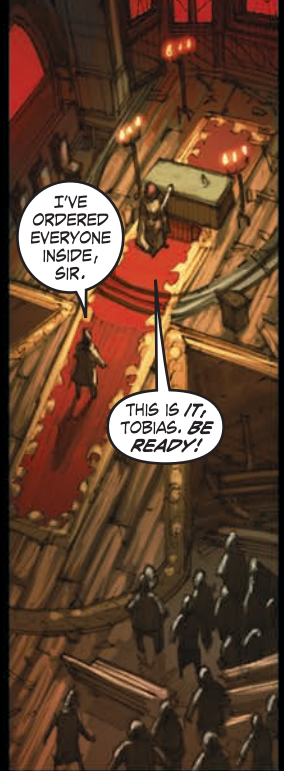
NEARLY TAPPED OUT, SIR. CANNONBALLS AS WELL. THERE'S MORE OF THE DOGS THAN WE HAVE AMMO.

WE FALL BACK, THEN!

EVERYONE INSIDE, NOW!



KA-THUNK



I'VE ORDERED EVERYONE INSIDE, SIR.

THIS IS IT, TOBIAS. BE READY!



ALL O' YOU, BE READY! AND BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE TODAY, OF THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED. THERE CAN BE NO GREATER HONOR. LET'S SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE BITTER END!



CRASSH

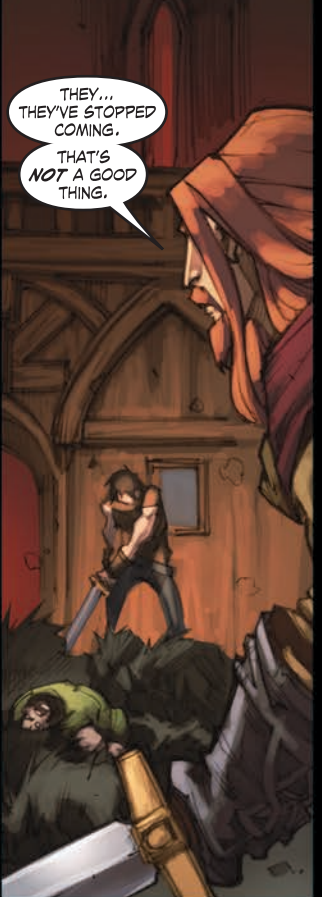


RRRARGHH!!

CRACK

PAKOW









DUSKHAVEN  
LATER

HOW LONG'S  
IT BEEN NOW?

TIME SEEMS  
TO HAVE *CRAWLED*  
SINCE THE *ATTACK*. ONE  
DAY *BLENDS* INTO  
THE NEXT.

AND *STILL*  
THEY WAIT  
WITHIN THE  
*CITY*.

YOU'RE QUITE  
RIGHT, *KRENNAN*.  
THEY *WAIT*. BUT THE  
QUESTION IS, WHAT  
ARE THEY WAITING  
*FOR*?



CAN'T HELP YOU  
*THERE*, I'M AFRAID.  
BUT I DO HAVE  
*SOMETHING* YOU'LL  
BE INTERESTED  
IN. I'VE BEEN  
*REFINING* THE  
*POTION*.

*HERE* IT IS,  
MAJESTY...  
THE *FRUIT* OF  
MY LATEST  
*EFFORTS*.

STILL NOT  
QUITE *THERE*, BUT  
IT OUGHTTA HELP  
KEEP YOUR SECRET  
*SAFE* FOR  
*NOW*.

THANK  
YOU, OLD  
FRIEND.



FATHER!

SOME OF THE MEN  
SPOTTED A *HANDFUL*  
OF THE *BEASTS* OUT  
IN THE WOODS LAST NIGHT.  
WE'VE ALL HEARD THE  
*HOWLING*...

THE MEN  
BELIEVE THEM TO  
BE *CITIZENS* WHO  
WERE BITTEN, THOUGH.  
NOT THE WORGEN  
WHO ATTACKED  
THE CITY.

GODFREY  
WANTS TO *HUNT*  
THEM, STARTING  
THIS *EVENING*.


OF *COURSE*  
HE DOES.







ARE YOU...  
*LINWELL?*

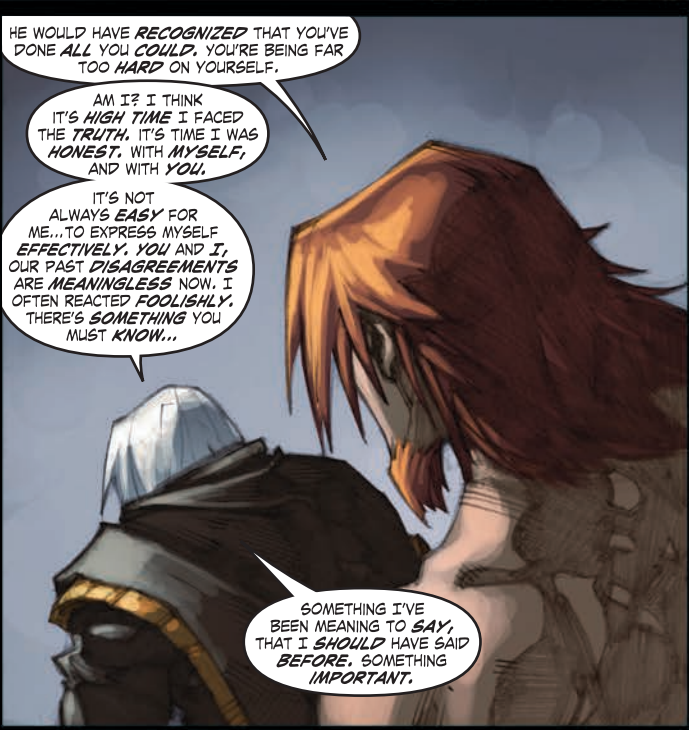


I'VE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE PAST, ABOUT THE DECISIONS I'VE MADE... ABOUT MY ROLE IN ALL OF THIS.

IF THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY BETWEEN DARIUS AND ME... WE COULD HAVE FOUGHT THESE DAMNED MONGRELS TOGETHER. WE COULD HAVE SAVED GILNEAS. IF SO MANY THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT...

LORNA WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR HER FATHER'S DEATH. AND I DON'T KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE WILL EVER FORGIVE ME FOR LOSING THE CITY. I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD.

YOUR GRANDFATHER MOST CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO.



HE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU COULD. YOU'RE BEING FAR TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.

AM I? I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME I FACED THE TRUTH. IT'S TIME I WAS HONEST. WITH MYSELF, AND WITH YOU.

IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR ME... TO EXPRESS MYSELF EFFECTIVELY. YOU AND I, OUR PAST DISAGREEMENTS ARE MEANINGLESS NOW. I OFTEN REACTED FOOLISHLY. THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW...

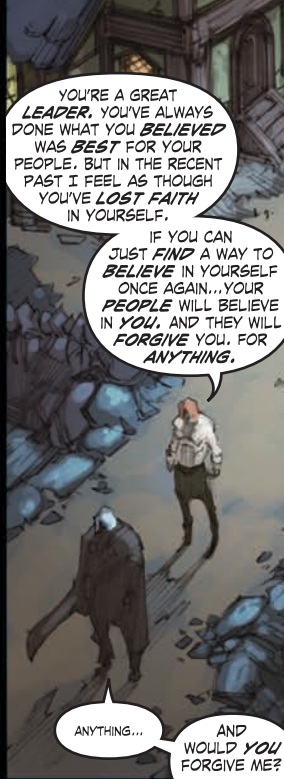
SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SAY, THAT I SHOULD HAVE SAID BEFORE. SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



I DO KNOW, FATHER. IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT...

I LOVE YOU, TOO.





YOU'RE A GREAT LEADER. YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE WHAT YOU BELIEVED WAS **BEST** FOR YOUR PEOPLE. BUT IN THE RECENT PAST I FEEL AS THOUGH YOU'VE **LOST FAITH** IN YOURSELF.

IF YOU CAN JUST **FIND** A WAY TO **BELIEVE** IN YOURSELF ONCE AGAIN...YOUR **PEOPLE** WILL BELIEVE IN YOU. AND THEY WILL **FORGIVE** YOU. FOR **ANYTHING**.

IN MY MIND, THERE'S **NOTHING** TO **FORGIVE**.

I SHOULD GET BACK TO THE **OTHERS**.

ANYTHING...

AND WOULD YOU FORGIVE ME?



LIAM!  
TELL GODFREY...TELL HIM THE WORGEN ARE **NOT** TO BE KILLED. I WANT HIM TO SET **TRAPS** ONLY. I WANT TO **CATCH** AS MANY OF THEM **ALIVE** AS POSSIBLE.

HE WON'T WANT TO **HEAR** IT, BUT I'LL TELL HIM.



SAY THAT THERE'S A **GOOD REASON**. TELL HIM THAT THEY MAY **PROVE**...



VALUABLE.

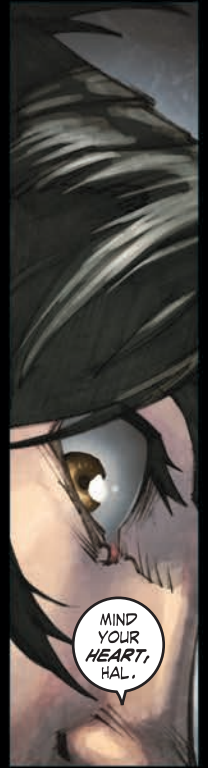
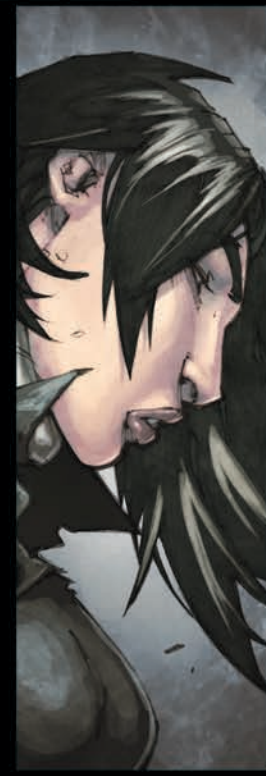
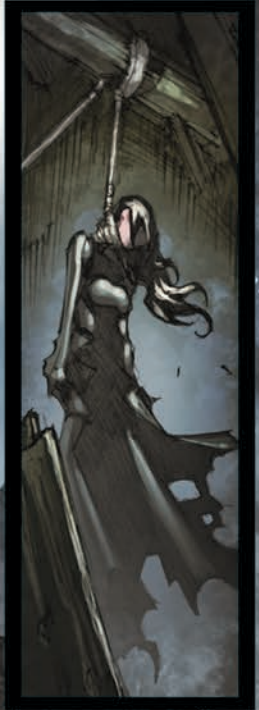
**-END CHAPTER FOUR-**





Glenn Rane





MIND YOUR HEART, HAL.

**KRAAAAAGGH!!!**





CALM YOURSELF!  
EVEN NOW THE VINES ARE  
SEARCHING FOR THE **STEEL**  
**BALL**, WHICH THREATENS  
TO WORK ITS WAY TO  
YOUR HEART.

WHAT MANNER  
OF...SADISTIC  
**TORTURE** IS THIS?  
RELEASE ME  
AT **ONCE!**

BE STILL!  
IF THE SHOT IS NOT  
REMOVED **SOON...**  
LET US JUST SAY  
YOUR PAIN WILL  
BE **ENDED.**



**schllup**

IT IS DONE!  
**NOW** WE MAY  
HEAL YOU  
**PROPERLY.**

HM, BETTER,  
ADMITTEDLY. I TRUST  
THAT AN EXTENSION OF  
MY **GRATITUDE** GOES  
WITHOUT **SAYING.**

WELL,  
OF COURSE  
IT--

**GOOD!**  
I WON'T WASTE YOUR  
TIME. HOW LONG WAS I  
INCAPACITATED?

BE STILL,  
YOU MUST  
REST.

I HAVE  
TO **INSIST**  
THAT--

HOLD!  
ANOTHER  
TREMOR!

WHAT  
OF GILNEAS  
CITY?

OCCUPIED,  
BY **ALPHA PRIME**  
AND HIS **WORGEN**. NOW  
**REST**, BROTHER...I STILL  
DO NOT EVEN KNOW  
YOUR **NAME.**

OCCUPIED?  
WHAT PRECISELY IS BEING  
DONE TO **RETAKE** IT?  
**WNG!** SOMEONE, CALL OFF  
THESE DAMN **VINES!** WHAT  
IS IT YOU PEOPLE ARE  
**DOING** HERE?



**RRRUUMMMBLLEEE!**





IT IS PAST. YOU SAID, "ANOTHER TREMOR."

THEY HAVE BEEN GROWING MORE FREQUENT. THAT LAST WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE LAND'S RECENT UNREST. NATURE IS EXPERIENCING TURMOIL FEW HAVE EVER SEEN, MAKING AN ALREADY TERRIBLE SITUATION WORSE.

YOU ASKED WHY WE ARE HERE. WE HAVE COME TO RESTORE BALANCE.



IT IS HERE AT LAST!

I ARRIVED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I PRAY IT IS NOT TOO LATE...



I SENSE A GREAT IMBALANCE WITHIN YOU AS WELL.

HALFORD.

PARDON?

MY NAME. HALFORD RAMSEY.

AH. I AM--

PRIESTESS BELYGRA!



...FOR THE SCYTHE OF ELUNE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IT WAS LIBERATED FROM DUSKWOOD MERE DAYS AGO.

THE SCYTHE... THE VERY ONE! IT STILL EXISTS, THEN... AND YOU NOW HAVE IT. THIS CASTS THINGS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT...

BUT FIRST, TELL ME... THE MUD THAT SULLIES YOUR CLOAK. WHERE DID IT COME FROM? BE SPECIFIC.



IT IS OKAY, VALORN. TELL HIM.

THE MUD? IT MUST HAVE COME FROM THE EARTHEN TUNNELS THAT RUN BENEATH THE WALL, CONNECTING GILNEAS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. FEW KNOW OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

IS THAT SO?

My thoughts were carried back to the mud--the very same mud on the robes of Alpha Prime. I thought also of the scythe...

And then, of a sudden, the pieces fell into place. Clarity sharpened in a flash.



THERE IS SOMETHING YOU ALL SHOULD KNOW:

ALPHA PRIME AND HIS WORGEN ARE NOT ACTING ALONE.





LIAM, THERE YOU ARE! WHAT OF THE POTION?

THE TEST SUBJECT HAS SET OUT ON TASKS FOR KRENNAN. SEEMS TO BE INTERACTING WELL WITH THE OTHERS.

GRRR...



HOW ABOUT WE CONCENTRATE ON THE MATTER AT HAND? THAT KENNEL KRENNAN'S RUNNING HAS THE TOWN TERRIFIED. FOR THESE BEASTS TO BE WALKING AROUND...

THESE ARE THE SAME MONSTERS THAT KILLED MANY A GILNEAN'S WIFE, HUSBAND, SON, OR DAUGHTER.

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW, GODFREY. THESE ARE VICTIMS. WHAT IF A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAD BEEN INFECTED? WOULD YOU NOT FIGHT TO THE LAST, GIVE YOUR FINAL BREATH EVEN, TO SEE THEM RETURNED TO YOU?

BESIDES, THE WORGEN HOUSED BY KRENNAN HAVE ONLY BEEN INFECTED FOR A SHORT TIME. THESE... THE FERALS THAT HAVE BEEN INFECTED THE LONGEST, THESE ARE THE ONES I WORRY ABOUT.



AND WHO'S TO SAY THE EFFECT ISN'T ONLY TEMPORARY, HIR? "OBEDIENT PET" ONE MOMENT, SLAVERING MAN-EATER THE NEXT.

THE TEST SUBJECT HAS REGAINED A SENSE OF IDENTITY AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF HOSTILITY.

MAYBE, BUT IT STILL WEARS THE FACE OF AN ANIMAL.

THEY ARE GILNEANS, GODFREY. NOW, IF ONLY KRENNAN COULD DEVISE A POTION THAT WOULD RESTORE THEM TO THEIR NATURAL HUMAN FORM.

KRENNAN HIMSELF BELIEVES THAT THEY'LL NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN. ON THAT MUCH, HE AND I AGREE.

SNIFF  
SNIFF



I PRAY THAT YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.

BOOM



THAT SOUNDED LIKE--

CANNON FIRE!



I WON'T FAIL AGAIN! I'LL SEE TO OUR DEFENSES, FATHER!

GILNEANS, TO ARMS!

LIGHT, NO...NOT THIS. NOT NOW.





NOT THE FORSAKEN.

*BOOM KABOOM*



*AYYIEEE!*

*HAAGGHHH!*

*SAHLIN*



KRENNAN! USE THE REMAINING POTION ON AS MANY FERALS AS YOU CAN AND **RELEASE** THEM IMMEDIATELY! DOUBLE DOSAGE!

RELEASE THEM? THIS IS **MADNESS!**

WE'LL NEED **EVERY** AVAILABLE BODY IF WE'RE TO **REPEL** THE ASSAULT! DO IT, KRENNAN! THE POTION **WORKS**, AND TO PROVE IT...

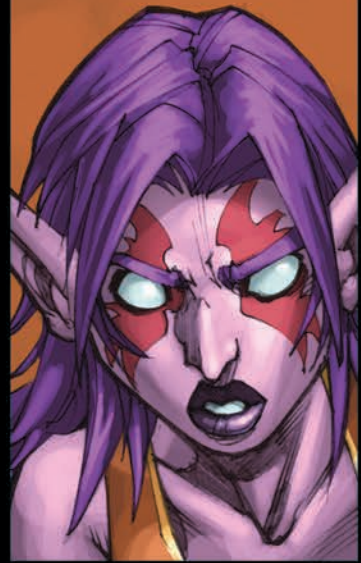


I'LL LEAD THE WORGEN **MYSELF.**



TAL'DOREN, IN THE BLACKWALD

THE FORSAKEN?



THE MOST LOGICAL CHOICE. BOTH SHARE THE SAME GOAL: THE SACKING OF GILNEAS.

WE CANNOT MAKE SUCH AN ASSUMPTION.

TAL'RAM, WE ARE SETTING OUT TO DELIVER THE SCYTHE TO KING GREYMANE AND THE OTHERS.

A FOOLISH MOVE.

YOU SPEAK THIS WAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT UNDERGONE THE CEREMONY. YOU HAVE NOT ACHIEVED BALANCE.



BALANCE DOESN'T LOOK SO AGREEABLE FOR THAT POOR MUTT.

THE CEREMONY FORCES YOU TO CONFRONT YOUR DOUBTS AND FEARS, THE ANCHORS THAT WEIGH YOU DOWN...AND OVERCOME THEM.

OH, REALLY? AND WHAT'S YOUR SUCCESS RATE?

HIGH. BUT THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES.

YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOUR SALES PITCH. I QUESTION THE WISDOM OF MOVING THE SCYTHE FOR TWO VERY GOOD REASONS:

ONE, I WAGER THAT THE ONLY REASON ALPHA PRIME HASN'T ASSAULTED YOU HERE IS BECAUSE HE BELIEVES YOU POSSESS THE SCYTHE AND WILL USE IT AGAINST HIM.

AND TWO, IF ALPHA PRIME LEARNS THAT THE SCYTHE IS NO LONGER KEPT HERE, HE WILL MOST ASSUREDLY ATTACK. THE BALANCE YOU SO STRIDENTLY ESPOUSE THREATENS HIS BELOVED "PURITY."

MM, PERHAPS. AND THIS TREE SYMBOLIZES MORE TO HIM THAN YOU KNOW. STILL, HE SEEKS TO TAKE THE SCYTHE. IF HE BELIEVES IT IS KEPT HERE, HE WILL ATTACK ANYWAY.

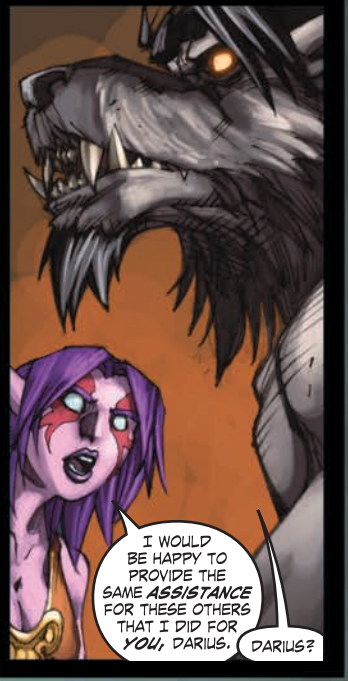


NO. HE'LL HAVE THE FORSAKEN DO IT FOR HIM.

SO YOU WOULD HAVE US DO NOTHING?

KEEP THE SCYTHE HERE. GATHER AS MANY REFUGEE WORGEN AS POSSIBLE, AND BRING BALANCE TO THOSE YOU CAN. BUILD AN ARMY, AND THEN DEPART AS ONE--WITH THE SCYTHE--TO UNITE WITH LORD GREYMANE.

COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING, PRIESTESS... HEIGHTENED SENSES AND ALL. WORGEN REFUGEES ARE SAID TO BE TAKIN' UP SHELTER IN STORMGLEN. MORE ARRIVE BY THE DAY. I COULD DIRECT THEM HERE.



I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE SAME ASSISTANCE FOR THESE OTHERS THAT I DID FOR YOU, DARIUS.

DARIUS?



DARIUS CROWLEY AT YOUR SERVICE, CHUM.





REBEL PIG!!!



ENOUGH!



DARIUS CROWLEY AND HIS MEN GAVE ALL TO PROTECT GILNEAS AND PROVIDE FOR ITS CITIZENS' ESCAPE.  
IF WE ARE TO WIN THIS BATTLE, THERE CAN BE NO ROYALS OR REBELS... NO WEDGES BETWEEN US. LET THE PAST FADE QUIETLY, FOR THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE UNLESS WE STAND TOGETHER.



AND REGARDING THE SCYTHE, HALFORD, I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS BEST.

DUSKHAVEN



KABOOOM

FWOOSH



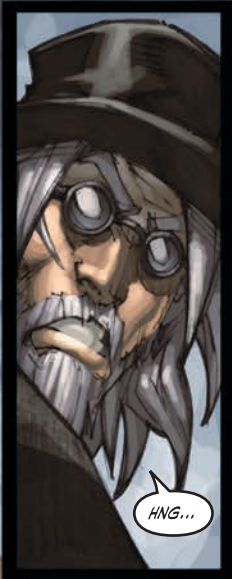
FATHER... IS THERE ANY WORD OF FATHER?

THERE, SIRE!



IT'S HIGH TIME THESE FORSAKEN BASTARDS LEARNED...

...THAT THERE'S NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN A CORNERED ANIMAL.



HNG...

FATHER, YOU LOOK...ARE YOU OKAY?

I AM.

WE'VE HELD OUR POSITION, BUT THEY'RE REGROUPING AND WILL SURELY RETURN WITH A LARGER FORCE. THIS BATTLEFIELD IS NO PLACE FOR A KING.

I WILL HEAR NONE OF THAT. GILNEANS STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET. KINGS AND SOLDIERS ALIKE.

WE CAN'T RISK LOSING YOU HERE. WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF, OUR PEOPLE NEED YOU...

...TO SET AN EXAMPLE.

NOW TRUST ME, FATHER. WILL YOU TRUST ME?



"FATHER?"



HAL?



HELLO, AN. WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY?

WHY DO YOU STILL KEEP IT, HAL?

KEEP WHAT?





THAT.



VAL'DOREN

AHH!

WHERE IS THE NEW ONE... HALFORD?

RESTING. HE PROTESTED STRONGLY AT FIRST, UNTIL EXHAUSTION TOOK OVER.

I SPOTTED SOMETHING IN THE WOODS NEAR HERE. CAUGHT ONLY A GLIMPSE. IT APPEARED TO BE A SPECTRAL WOLF. WHEN I PURSUED IT, I COULD FIND NO TRACKS.

CHASING GHOSTS THEN, ARE YOU?

OR JUST LOSING MY MIND, REGARDING THE SCYTHE, MISTRESS... WE COULD LEAVE IT HERE, AS THIS HALFORD HAS SUGGESTED, OR DELIVER IT TO GREYMANE NOW. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?



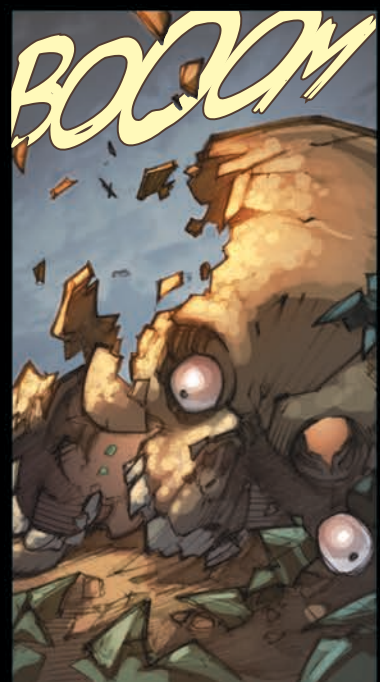
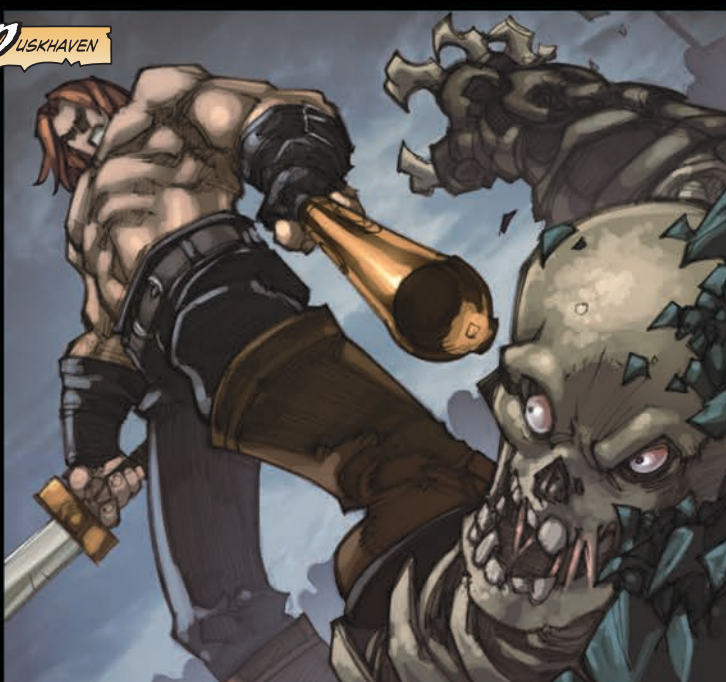
WHAT I WANT? IT MATTERS LITTLE WHAT I WANT.



HO THERE, PRIESTESS, A MOMENT IF YOU PLEASE...

I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS CEREMONY.

USKHAVEN







RECENT SINKINGS.  
THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN  
**BOARDED**, AND BOTH CAPTAINS...  
KILLED? DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE  
WORD, SIRE, FOR SOMETHIN' **ALREADY**  
**DEAD**. THEY WERE...**DESTROYED**  
BY...ONE OF THEM BEASTS.

AND HAVE  
THE WORGEN SHOWN  
ANY SIGNS OF LOSING  
**CONTROL**?

NOT THAT  
I'M **AWARE**  
OF, SIRE.

MORE  
SHIPS WILL BE  
**INCOMING**. THE  
RECENT QUAKES MUST  
HAVE COMPROMISED  
THE **REEFS** THAT ONCE  
PROTECTED US. I WANT  
US TO CLEAR THE  
**COASTLINE** OF ANY  
REMAINING--



ANOTHER  
**QUAKE!**

THE  
**STRONGEST**  
YET!



**AAAAHHH!!!**



**RRRUULIMMBLLEEE**



**AAAGGGH!!!**

LIGHT,  
HELP US  
**ALL!**





CALM DOWN,  
EVERYONE!

GREYMANE MANOR  
LATER

I LOST MY HOME,  
EVERYTHING!

WHAT ABOUT  
FOOD? IS THERE  
ENOUGH?

HOW LONG  
UNTIL THE FORSAKEN  
COME BACK?

WHAT  
IF THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
QUAKE?

WE HAVE ALL  
ENDURED HARDSHIPS  
UNLIKE ANYTHING WE HAVE  
EVER FACED BEFORE, AND WE  
WILL ALL GET THROUGH  
THIS TOGETHER.

BUT WE MUST  
REMAIN CALM AND STAY  
STRONG... EVEN IN THE  
MIDST OF SUCH ADVERSITY.  
HOLD YOUR QUESTIONS  
FOR NOW...

"THE KING WILL BE MAKING AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTLY REGARDING  
WHERE WE GO FROM HERE."

FATHER, LOOK!  
A PEACEBLOOM!

A WATCHMAN  
FOUND IT ON THE  
GROUNDS JUST OUTSIDE.  
I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE  
IN AGES!

A FLOWER? HAVE YOU ANY  
IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?  
WHAT WE'VE ALL JUST  
BEEN THROUGH?

AND YET YOU COME  
TO TALK TO ME  
ABOUT A FLOWER,  
DAUGHTER?

WHEN I WAS A  
LITTLE GIRL, YOU TOLD  
ME THAT I WAS TO FIND  
ONE BEAUTIFUL THING  
EVERY DAY. THAT IT WOULD  
MAKE THE HARD DAYS  
EASIER. WELL, I STILL  
DO THAT...

I'VE FOUND A  
BEAUTIFUL THING TODAY,  
EVEN AMONGST ALL THIS  
RUIN, I STILL FOUND  
SOMETHING.

IT'S...IT'S  
GIVEN ME...  
HOPE...

HOPE.





HUMAN REFUGEES ARE TRICKLIN' INTO STORMGLEN NOW AS WELL. JUST A FEW SO FAR, BUT WORD IS, GREYMANE ORDERED FOR ALL THE SURVIVORS TO BE RELOCATED THERE.

THE CARRIAGES SHOULD BE COMIN' IN OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

PRIESTESS?

HM? I AM SORRY, DARIUS, IF I SEEM DISTRACTED. I DID NOT KNOW PEACE BLOSSOMS GREW HERE. I HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOR THEM.

YOU BRING GOOD NEWS. THE CLOSER TOGETHER WE ARE, THE STRONGER WE WILL BE. YOU HAVE DONE WELL, SENDING THE LOST WORGEN TO US. OUR NUMBERS ARE GROWING.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MY DAUGHTER, LORNA, IS AMONG THE HUMANS WHO HAVE ARRIVED THERE. I... DON'T WANT HER TO SEE ME JUST YET.

THERE IS NO SHAME IN WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME. YOU STILL HOLD ON TO GUILT, DESPITE THE CEREMONY... I BELIEVE IT IS WHY YOU HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO RESUME HUMAN FORM, EVEN BRIEFLY.

I WILL SEE HER SOON, BUT FOR NOW...

OF COURSE, I WILL GO TO STORMGLEN MYSELF AND MAKE CONTACT WITH ANY MORE OF YOUR KIND WHO ARRIVE.

HAD I KNOWN THAT THE KING WOULD BE MAKING HIS WAY THERE NOW, I WOULD HAVE HELD ON TO THE SCYTHE RATHER THAN HAVING IT TAKEN AWAY AND RELOCATED EACH NIGHT.

I'M SURPRISED THAT ROYAL, HALFORD, DIDN'T THROW A FIT.

NO. IN FACT, HE HAS BEGUN THE CEREMONY, AND GIVEN THE EXTENT OF HIS... DIFFICULTIES...



"I IMAGINE HE WILL BE INDISPOSED FOR A WHILE."

DESPAIR SPREAD WITHIN ME... A SICKNESS, A WOUND I COULD NOT HEAL.

IN THE END IT FELT AS IF LIFE HAD BECOME UNBEARABLE... AND I NO LONGER WISHED TO BE A PART OF IT.

YOU'RE NOT REAL, OF COURSE... CLEARLY THERE WAS SOME KIND OF HALLUCINOGEN... THOSE MOONLEAFS IN THE WELL WATER I IMBIBED.

"IMBIBED?" OH, HAL... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.

YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE ME BECAUSE THE WATER GRANTED YOU TRANQUILITY. I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU NEED ME TO BE HERE.

IF THAT'S SO, THEN YOU'RE HERE TOO LATE. I COULDN'T HELP YOU. WHY COULDN'T I KEEP YOU FROM DYING?

DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES DURING THE WAR, I ALWAYS LOVED AND RESPECTED YOU. AND NOW, YOU'RE GONE! I WANTED TO HEAL TOGETHER!



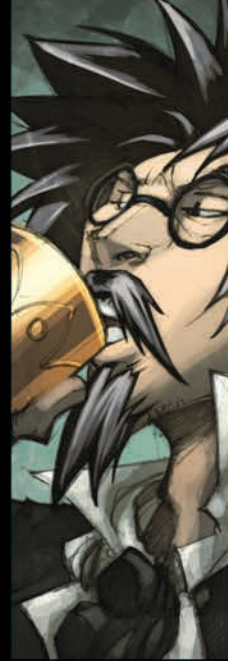


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? I LOST MY CHILDREN. I LOST HOPE.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO CONDONE WHAT I DID. I'M NOT EVEN ASKING YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

YOU MUST FORGIVE YOURSELF.

I'M ASKING YOU TO CALM THE FURY THAT HAS CONSUMED YOU. NOW DRINK.



DON'T ALLOW MY DEPARTURE FROM THIS LIFE TO PREVENT YOU FROM LIVING YOUR OWN. DON'T ALLOW MY ACTIONS TO CHART THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE. MY DECISION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, LITTLE BROTHER.

ONE MORE CLIP. DRINK. SOON YOU'LL AWAKEN. TIME WILL HAVE PASSED. BUT IF YOU HAVE TRULY LET GO... YOU WILL HAVE FOUND BALANCE.

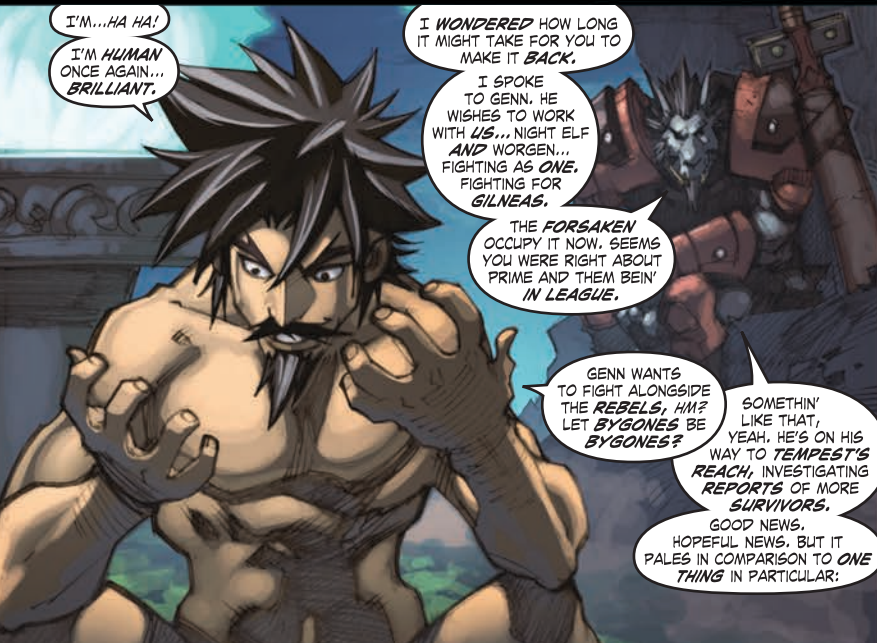
I DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU. I... I MISS YOU, ANA. SO VERY MUCH.



AND I, YOU, HAL... BUT THE BEST PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS BE RIGHT HERE.

I TOLD YOU TO MIND YOUR HEART.

NOW DRINK.



I'M...HA HA!

I'M HUMAN ONCE AGAIN... BRILLIANT.

I WONDERED HOW LONG IT MIGHT TAKE FOR YOU TO MAKE IT BACK.

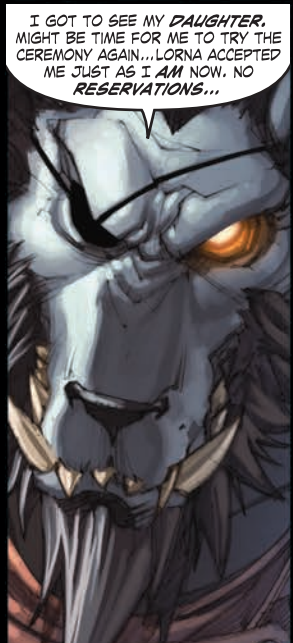
I SPOKE TO GENN. HE WISHES TO WORK WITH US... NIGHT ELF AND WORGEN... FIGHTING AS ONE. FIGHTING FOR GILNEAS.

THE FORSAKEN OCCUPY IT NOW. SEEMS YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT PRIME AND THEM BEIN' IN LEAGUE.

GENN WANTS TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE REBELS, HM? LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?

SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, YEAH. HE'S ON HIS WAY TO TEMPEST'S REACH, INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF MORE SURVIVORS.

GOOD NEWS. HOPEFUL NEWS. BUT IT PALES IN COMPARISON TO ONE THING IN PARTICULAR:



I GOT TO SEE MY DAUGHTER. MIGHT BE TIME FOR ME TO TRY THE CEREMONY AGAIN...LORNA ACCEPTED ME JUST AS I AM NOW. NO RESERVATIONS...



"NO JUDGMENT."

THE ROAD TO TEMPEST'S REACH

I KNEW A MAN ONCE: A PROUD, FIERCE, AND INTELLIGENT MAN. A MAN WHO MADE BOLD CHOICES FOR THE GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE DESPITE WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT. A MAN LIKE HIS FATHER. A PATRIOT.



THAT MAN IS DEAD.  
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT, GODFREY?



IT WAS FAR TOO EASY FOR US TO SET THIS TRAP FOR YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.  
"US?" MY FRIENDS, HM? MY BROTHERS... ASHBURY AND WALDEN AS WELL, THEN?



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE WERE OF LIKE MINDS, YOU AND I. TWO COMPATRIOTS STRENGTHENING A NATION WE LOVED.



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE HUNTED VILE WORGEN, SHOT THEM DEAD WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, AND NOW YOU'RE ALL BUT TAKEN THEM IN AS FAMILY.

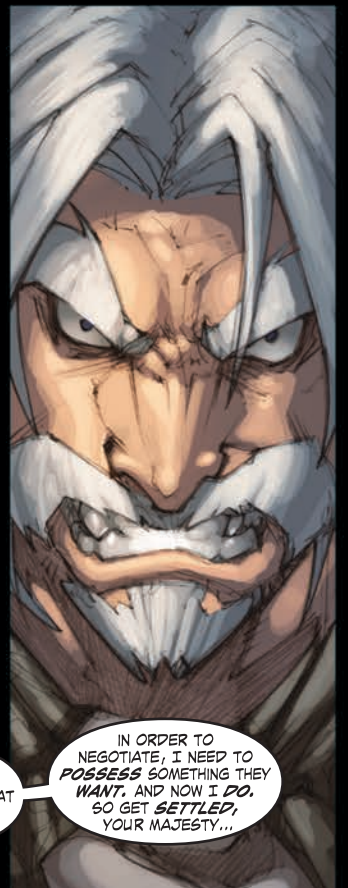
YOU IDIOT, HE'S--

I KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT HE IS!



WHF

NNG!



SON OF A--

SIT BACK! HE'S A TOUGH OLD CODGER. HE'LL BE FINE.

TRAITOROUS DOG.

"DOG?" THAT'S IRONIC, EH? YOU LOOK UPSET. GO AHEAD, TURN. IT'D BE A SHAME IF I HAD TO PUT A SHOT BETWEEN YOUR EYES, BUT I'D DO IT, JUST THE SAME. YOU KNOW I WOULD.

SEE, YOU'RE THE TRAITOR, AND YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT TRAITORS MUST BE PUNISHED.

THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTER THE FORSAKEN THREAT IS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM.

IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE, I NEED TO POSSESS SOMETHING THEY WANT. AND NOW I DO. SO GET SETTLED, YOUR MAJESTY...





"IT'S GOING TO BE A **ROUGH ROAD** AHEAD."

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH--

WAIT. ~~SNIFF~~ THAT SMELL...

**BETRAVERS!!!**



COME FORTH! YOUR FATE AWAITS...

OH, DAMN.



THE TIME FOR YOUR **JUDGMENT** HAS COME.

**HOLD!**

AH! THE TRAITOR COMES TO DIE WITH THE **REST** OF HER FLOCK!



YOU SPEAK OF **TREACHERY**, RALAAAR... BUT DO NOT ACT AS IF YOU WERE THE **ONLY ONE** BETRAYED...

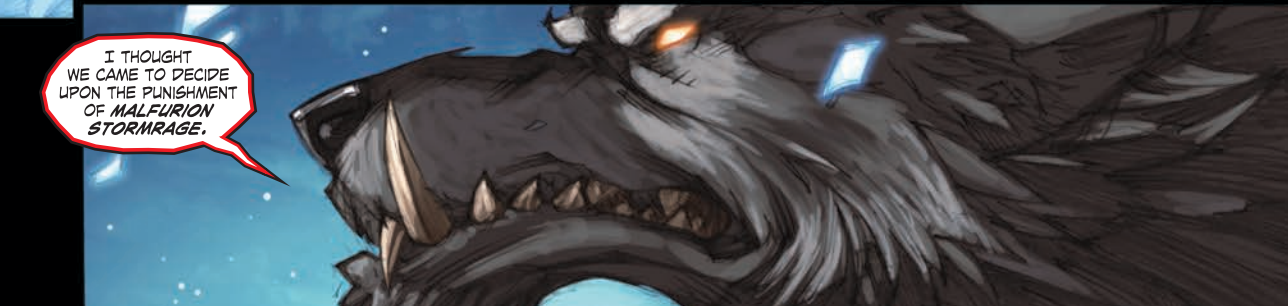


"...FOR I REMEMBER THE **TRUTH**."

WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS LOCATION BECAUSE IT IS THE **ROOT** OF THESE TRAGIC EVENTS. IT WAS **HERE** WHERE MY GREAT LOVE AND I WOULD DREAM OF OUR **FUTURE**.

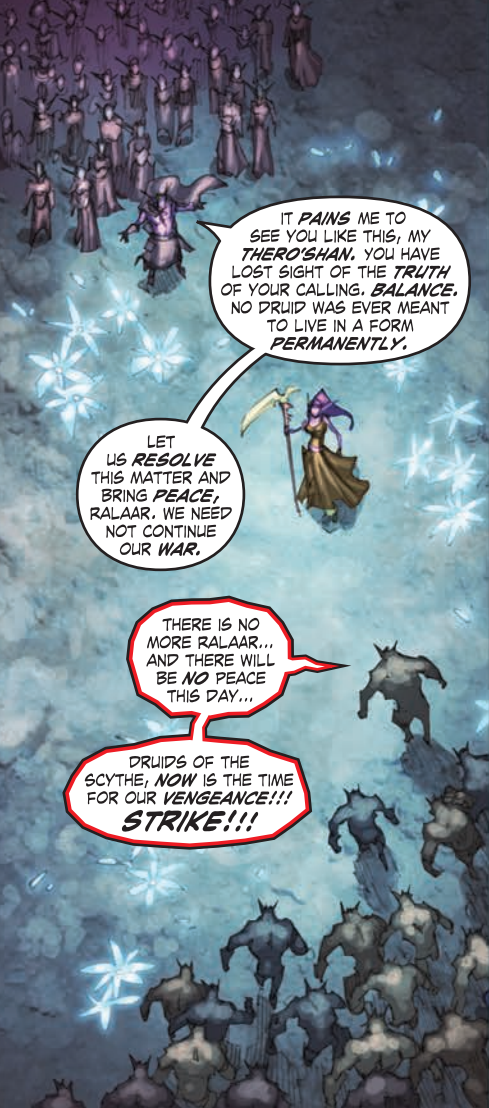
WE DREAMED OF BRINGING AN **END** TO THIS **WAR OF THE SATYR**. AND YET... WE ONLY MADE THE CONFLICT MORE **DANGEROUS**. WE HAVE COME HERE TO MAKE **PEACE**. TO **END** THIS POINTLESS MADNESS.

IS THAT WHAT WE HAVE COME HERE FOR, **SISTER**?



I THOUGHT WE CAME TO DECIDE UPON THE PUNISHMENT OF **MALFURION STORMRAGE**.





IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, MY THERO'SHAN. YOU HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THE TRUTH OF YOUR CALLING. *BALANCE*. NO DRUID WAS EVER MEANT TO LIVE IN A FORM PERMANENTLY.

LET US RESOLVE THIS MATTER AND BRING PEACE, RALAAR. WE NEED NOT CONTINUE OUR WAR.

THERE IS NO MORE RALAAR... AND THERE WILL BE NO PEACE THIS DAY...

DRUIDS OF THE SCYTHE, NOW IS THE TIME FOR OUR VENGEANCE!!! STRIKE!!!



BETRAYAL WAS THEIR PLAN ALL ALONG!!!

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR OURS, THEN!



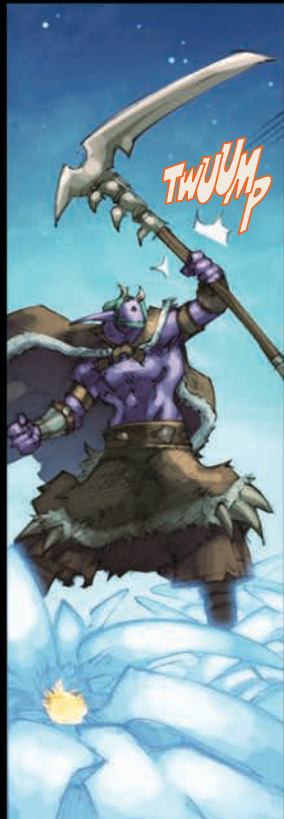
BELYSRA... NOW!!!



ELLINE, GUIDE MY HAND!!!



ARE YOU MAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



TWUMP



TRAITOR!!!

THEY HAVE THE SCYTHE!

THE FANG OF THE FATHER!!!

IT COMES TO AN END NOW, RALAAR. YOU HAVE MURDERED HUNDREDS. YOU HAVE TURNED MANY INTO MONSTERS JUST LIKE YOU. YOUR FURY KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

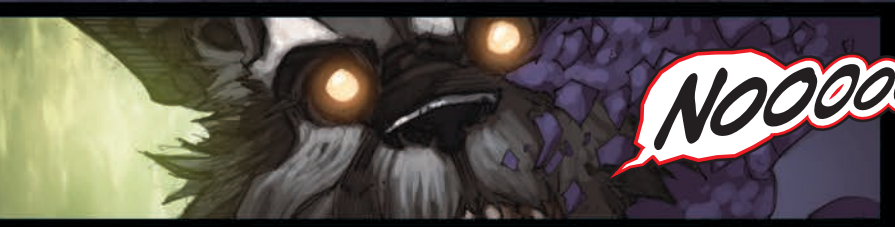
AND FOR THAT, YOU WILL BE BANISHED.

BROTHER DRUIDS, NOW!









**Nooooooo...**



AND SO IT  
**ENDS. REST SOUNDLY,  
SLEEP IN THE CALM OF  
THE EMERALD DREAM,  
AND...**

**DREAM THE  
DREAMS OF  
THE WILD.**

**BE AT PEACE.  
FOREVER.**







'BE AT PEACE?'  
AT **PEACE??!**  
WE ARE MEANT TO **RUN!**  
TO **HUNT!**

THE **EXILE** OF THE **DREAM** WAS  
A **TORTURE** YOU COULD NEVER POSSIBLY  
**COMPREHEND!** YOU CANNOT TAME WHAT  
IS MEANT TO BE **WILD!**

YOU LEFT US NO **CHOICE**.  
IT IS NOT TOO **LATE** TO TURN FROM  
THIS **FOOLISH QUEST**, RALAAR.

OH, I'LL NOT BE **ABANDONING** MY  
QUEST. I LEARNED NOT **LONG AGO** THAT THE  
FORSAKEN HAVE LAID CLAIM TO THE **SCYTHE**.  
A **PITY** YOU MAY NO LONGER HIDE **BEHIND** IT.

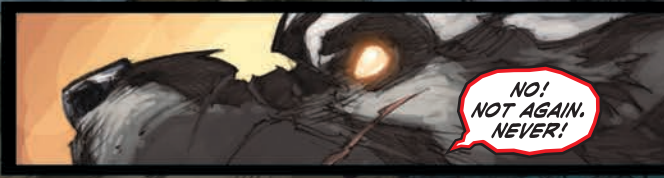


YOU ARE  
**ABSOLUTELY**  
**CORRECT!**  
RALAAR...

THE FORSAKEN DID  
TAKE **POSSESSION** OF THE  
SCYTHE...FOR A **TIME**. BUT IT  
WAS SECURED BY ONE OF THE  
VERY **CITIZENS** YOU **CURSED**.  
TALRAN, IF YOU PLEASE...



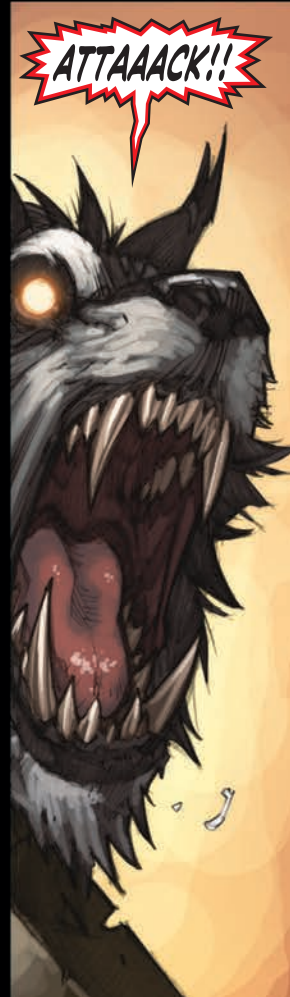
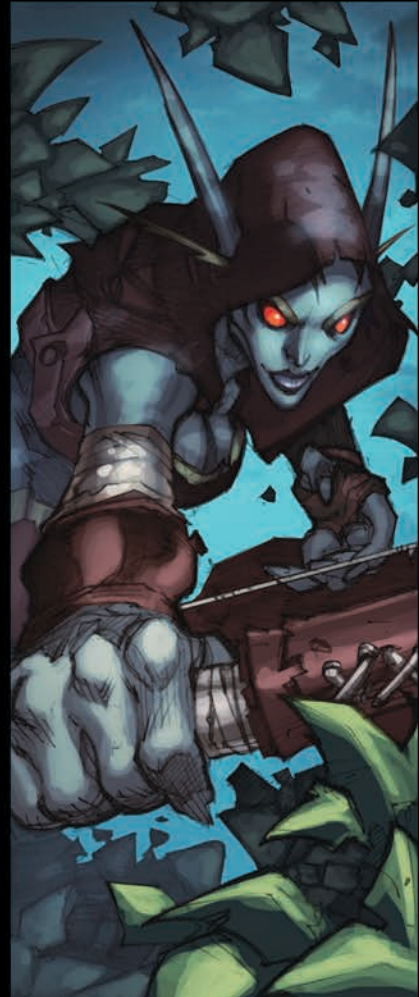
IMBUED WITH THE **POWERS** OF  
MY BROTHER **DRUIDS**, THE **SCYTHE** WILL NOW  
**STILL** THE **CHAOS** YOU HAVE SOWN...I WILL SEND  
YOU BACK TO THE "**TORTURE**" YOU ESCAPED.



**NO!**  
**NOT AGAIN.**  
**NEVER!**



**BACK TO**  
**THE DREAM,**  
**RALAAR!**



**ATTAACK!!**



**TH**  
**U**  
**NK**



FORSAKEN!!

IT'S ONLY A SCOUTING PARTY. THERE IS STILL HOPE! TAKE COURAGE AND FIGHT!

REST ASSURED, GOOD PRIESTESS, THAT VALORN WILL DO HIS PART!

SHUNK

YOUR GODDESS HAS ABANDONED YOU, TRAITOR!

FASHU MALDANAL--

SILENCE!

CRACK SNAP

HAGH!!!

POP

...AND IN DOING SO, YOUR OWN DEATH.

NNNGH!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE YOUR NATURE, HALFORD RAMSEY. PITY YOU CHOSE THE WRONG SIDE...

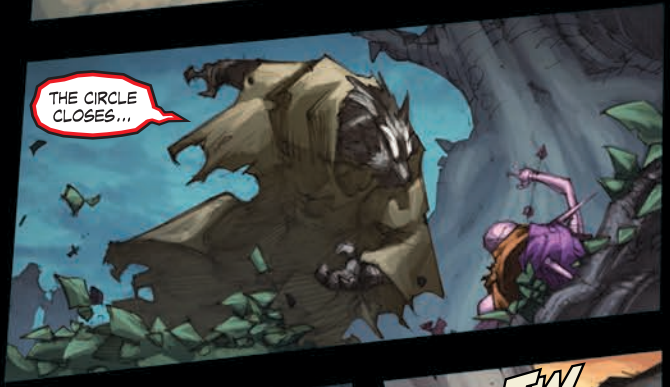




PRIESTESS!



YES!



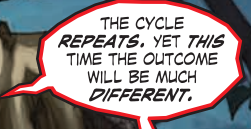
THE CIRCLE CLOSES...



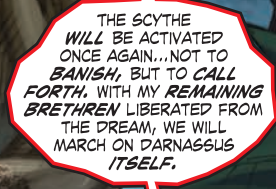
TWUMP



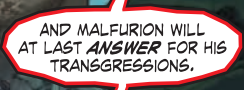
ALPHA, THE SCYTHE IS YOURS!



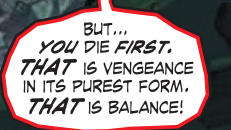
THE CYCLE REPEATS. YET THIS TIME THE OUTCOME WILL BE MUCH DIFFERENT.



THE SCYTHE WILL BE ACTIVATED ONCE AGAIN...NOT TO BANISH, BUT TO CALL FORTH. WITH MY REMAINING BRETHREN LIBERATED FROM THE DREAM, WE WILL MARCH ON DARNASSUS ITSELF.



AND MALFURIAN WILL AT LAST ANSWER FOR HIS TRANSGRESSIONS.



BUT... YOU DIE FIRST. THAT IS VENGEANCE IN ITS PUREST FORM. THAT IS BALANCE!





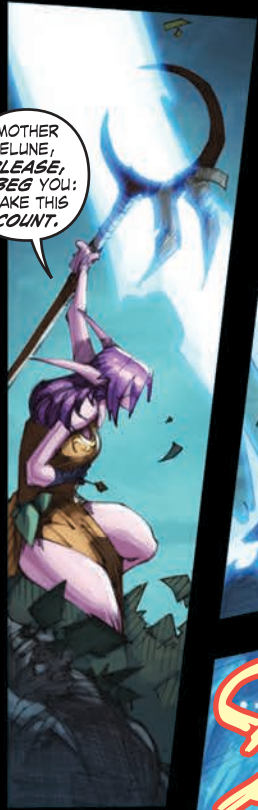
AGGHH!!



GGRRWILL!



YOU.



MOTHER ELUNE, PLEASE, I BEG YOU; MAKE THIS COUNT.



NNAAGH!!!



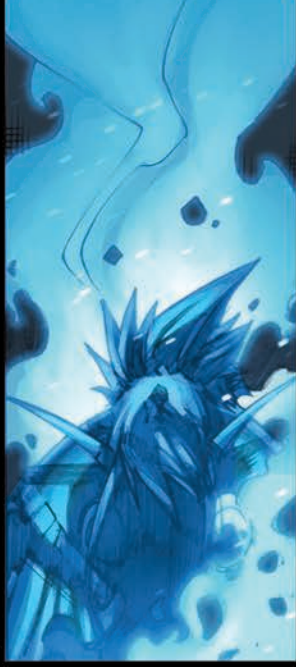
CRASH



APPROOOO!!!

GOLDRINN?





ARVELL... MY LOVE! ARVELL. IS IT TRULY...HOW CAN THIS BE?

LONG AGO I SWORE TO YOU THAT NOT EVEN DEATH WOULD KEEP US APART.

THIS I MEANT. I HAVE SO LONGED FOR YOU. I AM SORRY FOR ALL I HAVE DONE IN YOUR NAME. I HAVE...



ALL TRESPASSES ARE FORGIVEN IN LOVE; MY BRIGHT EYES, MAY YOUR WOUNDS, PHYSICAL AND OTHERWISE, BE HEALED.

ALTHOUGH I YEARN TO STAY... I CANNOT. MY VERY PRESENCE HERE GOES AGAINST THE NATURAL ORDER.

GOODBYE; MY LOVE. AND THANK YOU... ALWAYS.

HUMAN ONCE AGAIN. BUT HOW LONG WILL I STAY THIS WAY?

WELL THAT CERTAINLY DEFIES LOGIC...

AS DOES MOST OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE, BROTHER RAMSEY.

THE SCOUTING PARTY HAS BEEN DISPATCHED, AND THE REMAINING WORGEN FROM PRIME'S CULT HAVE EITHER DISPERSED OR BEEN KILLED.

YOUR FERAL SIDE WILL NEVER BE FULLY AT REST. WHEN YOU ARE DRIVEN TO ANGER OR WHEN YOU CONCENTRATE WITH A FORCE OF WILL, THE ANIMAL WITHIN YOU WILL COME FORWARD.

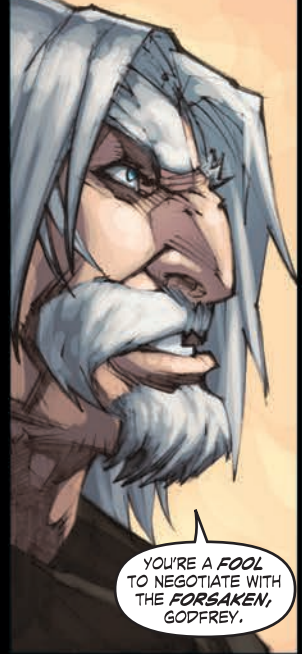
THERE IS NO FULL CURE. NOT YET. BUT WHAT YOU DO HAVE, BROTHER HALFORD...





"...IS TIME."

**TEMPEST'S REACH**



YOU'RE A **FOOL** TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE **FORSAKEN**, GODFREY.



GIVE YOUR MOUTH A **REST**, YOUR MAJESTY. IT WON'T BE **LONG** NOW.



IT'S **OVER**, GODFREY. YOUR HOLD ON THE **EASTERN LORDS** IS **BROKEN**.



WHAT...?

I'VE SEEN **ENOUGH** GILNEAN BLOOD SPILLED. DON'T MAKE THIS **DIFFICULT**.

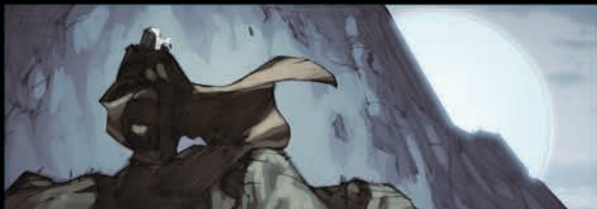
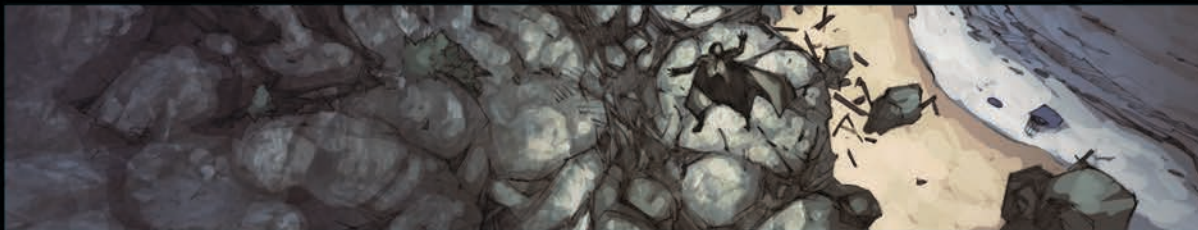




NO...  
I'D SOONER  
DIE THAN HAVE  
ONE OF YOUR  
KIND FOR A  
KING!



GODFREY,  
**NO!!!**



THEY'RE  
READY TO  
HEAR YOU,  
FATHER.

**OUTSIDE GILNEAS CITY, DAYS LATER**

FIRST, THERE'S  
SOMETHING I WISH  
TO *SHARE* WITH  
YOU...SOMETHING  
*IMPORTANT*.

OUR NATION'S  
*GREAT WALL* HAS  
ISOLATED *MORE* THAN A  
KINGDOM. IT'S ISOLATED  
THE *LIES* OF ITS *KING* AS  
WELL. THE TIME HAS  
COME NOW...

...FOR THE  
WALLS TO COME  
*DOWN*.

YOU  
REMEMBER  
ARUGAL?

YES, OF  
COURSE, THAT  
*IMBECILE* OF AN  
*ARCHMAGE*! HE  
RECKLESSLY CAST THE  
*SPELL* THAT PULLED  
THE WORGEN INTO  
OUR WORLD.

WHAT YOU HAVE  
*NOT* KNOWN, WHAT I'VE  
NEVER TOLD YOU, IS  
THAT ARUGAL...





"...DID NOT ACT ON HIS OWN."

MY LIEGE, NOT EVEN THIS GREAT WALL WILL HOLD AGAINST SO MANY.

WHAT CAN BE SAID OF SUCH A SIGHT? IT IS...AN UNRELENTING TIDE OF DEATH. IF I WEREN'T SEEING IT WITH THESE WEARY EYES, I WOULD SCARCELY COMPREHEND IT.

LET'S HAVE IT THEN, MASTER MAGE... TELL ME YOU'VE DISCERNED A SOLUTION TO THIS MADNESS.

MY RESEARCH HAS LED ME TO THE WORKS OF A POWERFUL SORCERER, UR. WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE, I MAY BE ABLE TO CONJURE A MEANS OF DEFEATING THIS SO-CALLED SCOURGE...

FOR I HAVE DIVINED THE PRESENCE OF A HOST OF BEINGS... TRAPPED WITHIN WHAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS ANOTHER DIMENSION...

BESTIAL CREATURES IMBUED WITH PRETERNATURAL STRENGTH AND PURE FEROCITY. AT THIS TIME THEY'RE IN SOME SORT OF RESTING STATE, BUT I...SENSED... THAT THEY WISH TO BE FREED.

I DESIRE TO PROCEED, MY LORD, BUT I REQUIRE YOUR BLESSING.

I MUST SEE THESE CREATURES FIRST, ARCHMAGE... SUMMON ONE. I WILL RESERVE MY DECISION UNTIL THEN.

I HAD LITTLE ASSURANCE THAT THE WORGEN WOULD BE OUR SALVATION, BUT IF SOMETHING WASN'T DONE, THE UNDEAD WOULD HAVE SWARMED THE STREETS OF GILNEAS CITY.

THE SCOURGE'S NUMBERS DWARFED THOSE OF EVEN THE CURRENT RANKS OF FORSAKEN.

"AT FIRST ARUGAL'S WEAPONS WORKED. THEY WERE A FORCE UNLIKE ANY WE HAD EVER SEEN: VICIOUS, UNYIELDING, AND EXACTLY THE BEASTS WE NEEDED TO FIGHT THE MONSTERS AT OUR GATES.

"I WAS WARNED BY MANY GENERALS THAT THEY WERE RECKLESS, WILD. BUT WE WERE FRIGHTENED AND BURNING WITH RAGE FROM THE LOSS OF SO MANY GILNEAN SOLDIERS.

"I DID NOT HEED THEIR WARNINGS... HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS TO COME?"

"THEY WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL. WITH THE SCOURGE IN RETREAT, THE WORGEN TURNED THEIR FURY..."



"UPON US.

"THAT DAY I CLOSED THE GATES OF GILNEAS...AND I NEVER OPENED THEM AGAIN. LATER I LEARNED OF ARUGAL'S FATE.

"HE HAD LOST HIS HUMANITY, BETRAYED HIS NATION. HE TREATED THE WORGEN AS IF THEY WERE HIS CHILDREN. THEY DEVELOPED A KIND OF... LOYALTY TO EACH OTHER."

ONLY AFTERWARD DID I DISCOVER THAT THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS BROUGHT INSIDE THE GATES WERE CURSED.

THEY WERE MY COUNTRYMEN... AND I ORDERED THEIR DEATHS, YOU DON'T KNOW PAIN UNTIL YOU'VE MADE A DECISION LIKE THAT.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY INFECTED WE PUT DOWN, STILL...ENOUGH HAD ESCAPED. GODFREY, WALDEN, ASHBURY, WE ALL TRIED TO HUNT THEM TO EXTINCTION. IT WAS ON ONE OF THOSE HUNTS THAT I WAS BITTEN.

YOU TOLD ME NOT LONG AGO...THAT YOU WOULD FORGIVE ME FOR ANYTHING. TELL ME...

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?

AS I SAID TO YOU ON THAT DAY...THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE.

YOU BROUGHT SOMETHING ELSE TO MY ATTENTION THEN AS WELL. WE'D NEVER SPOKEN OF IT, AND SOME THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS EASY FOR ME TO... COMMUNICATE.





WHEN I TOLD SOME OF YOU THAT I WANTED TO FORM AN *ARMY* TO RETAKE GILNEAS CITY FROM THESE *LIGHT-DAMNED* FORSAKEN... THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID THAT GILNEAS CITY WOULD *NEVER* BE RETAKEN; THAT IT WAS *IMPOSSIBLE*.

...FEAR THAT IF ALL OF YOU KNEW THE *TRUTH*, THE WHOLE TRUTH... YOU WOULD *REJECT* ME AS YOUR LEADER.

WELL I SAY TO YOU THAT WE MUST NO LONGER LET OUR *FEARS* CONTROL US!

FOR TOO LONG, I LET MY FEAR CONTROL *ME*... FEAR THAT I HAD MADE ALL THE *WRONG DECISIONS*... FEAR THAT OUR NATION WOULD *LOSE ITS IDENTITY*...



WELL, I WILL *GIVE IN* TO FEAR NO LONGER.



I stood there, watching our king *bare* his soul...



LOOK UPON ME *NOW*, AND SEE *THAT* WHICH I HAVE KEPT *HIDDEN*.



NOW THAT YOU SEE THE *TRUTH*, I ASK *EACH* OF YOU...

WHO WILL STAND *WITH* ME? WHO WILL FIGHT BY MY *SIDE*? WHO AMONG YOU WILL SET *ASIDE* YOUR *FEAR*?



It prompted me to consider my own journey...that which had gnawed at my heart, the fear and bitterness that I had secreted deep within.



I thought of how acutely ironic it was that I'd had to become an animal...



To find my humanity.



WE'RE WITH YOU!

THEN IT IS TIME NOW FOR THOSE FORSAKEN **PREPATORS** TO BECOME THE **PREY!**

**LONG LIVE GILNEAS!  
LONG LIVE THE KING!!**

It certainly defied logic.

But then again, as I had recently learned, much of what is important in life...


...does that very thing.

**END**



# ÉPILOGUE





"I AM **VELINDE STARSON**, AND THIS IS MY **TALE**. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, IT IS A **TALE OF WHAT WAS**, AND WHAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE **BEEN**.

"MY MOTHER SAID WHEN I WAS YOUNG THAT THE **TRUTH IS A GUIDING LIGHT**. A **GIFT OF ELINE**. I NEVER PAID THOSE WORDS MUCH HEED, JUST WORDS, I THOUGHT, TO MOLD ME IN HER IMAGE.

"BUT IT IS MOST **CERTAINLY** A GIFT OF ELINE. AS I LOOK BACK ON THE EVENTS I AM ABOUT TO CONVEY, I AM BLESSED WITH **CLARITY**. I AM BLESSED WITH KNOWING THE FULL **TRUTH** AT LAST.

"TO FULLY **UNDERSTAND** MY TALE, WE MUST TURN **BACK** THE HOURGLASS TO A TIME BEFORE GILNEAS CITY WAS SACKED BY THE **WORGEN** AND THE **FORSAKEN**, BEFORE THE **DRAENEI** MADE THEIR WAY TO OUR WORLD... AND BEFORE THE **SCARAB WALL** WAS BREACHED AT **AHN'QIRAJ**."

"IT WAS A **TIME OF BLOODSHED**. WE STARSONS ARE NO **STRANGERS** TO **WAR**. MY **SHAL'NAR**\* MEL'THANDRIS SACRIFICED HER **LIFE** TO SAVE HER FELLOW NIGHT ELVES IN THE FINAL BATTLE OF THE **WAR OF THE SATYR**.

"THOUSANDS OF YEARS **LATER**, THE DEMONS HAD RETURNED, CUTTING A **SWATH** THROUGH **FELWOOD**. THE **WOUNDED** AND THE **DYING**...MANY OF THEM MY **FRIENDS**, WERE TRANSPORTED **BACK** TO **DARNASSUS**. I KNEW THAT I MUST RETURN SOON FROM MY STUDIES TO MY POST IN **ASHENVALE**, AND THAT I WOULD BE NEEDED IN THIS LATEST **CONFLICT**...

\*AUNT

"A **CONFLICT** IT SEEMED THAT WE WERE **LOSING**, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS. I FELT THERE MUST BE SOME **STRATEGY** WE COULD EMPLOY AGAINST THEM. SOMETHING WE HAD **OVERLOOKED**.

"AND SO I **PRAYED** TO **ELINE** FOR A **SIGN**...SOME MANNER OF DEFEATING OUR **OLD ENEMIES**."

"I SPENT HOURS IN **STUDY**. MY TIME TO LEAVE DREW NEAR. I **PRAYED** AND **PRAYED** FOR ELINE'S **GUIDANCE**. AND THEN, SHORTLY BEFORE I WAS TO **DEPART** FOR **ASHENVALE**...

"MY **PRAYERS** WERE **ANSWERED**. I BECAME AWARE OF A **BOOK** I HAD NOT SEEN BEFORE; A JOURNAL FROM THE **WAR OF THE SATYR**. MOST ASSURELY AN **ANSWER** TO MY **PRAYER**.

"I COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THEN THAT THE ARCHDRUID **FANDRAL STAGHELM** HAD GROWN **DESPERATE** AND **RECKLESS** IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE **DEATH** OF HIS **SON**... THAT HE SOUGHT TO MAKE MALFURION'S FAILURE **PUBLIC**, TO **BOLSTER** HIS OWN EFFORTS IN REPLACING OUR BELOVED **MALFURION** IN THE **HEARTS** AND **MINDS** OF OUR **PEOPLE**.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE BOOK SPOKE OF A POWERFUL **WEAPON**, THE **SCYTHE OF ELINE**, USED TO SUMMON A **DEVASTATING FORCE** FROM THE **EMERALD DREAM**, A FORCE THAT **TURNED THE TIDE** IN THE **WAR**."



"THE *DEMON INCURSIONS* IN FELWOOD CONTINUED *UNABATED*. I RETURNED TO ASHENVALE, WHERE I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO UNCOVER THE *SCYTHE'S* LOCATION.

"I REMEMBERED *TALES* MEL'THANDRIS HAD TOLD ME OF A GREAT AND POWERFUL *ARTIFACT*, A WEAPON OF UNIMAGINABLE *IMPORT* THAT WAS SECRETLY *ENTRUSTED* TO HER BY MALFURION FOR *SAFEKEEPING*. I BELIEVED IT MAY BE *THE SCYTHE*...

"AND SO I *HASTENED* TO THE *SHRINE OF MEL'THANDRIS*, RECALLING THAT MY *MOTHER* HERSELF HAD OVERSEEN ITS CONSTRUCTION...



"RECALLING ALSO THE *ENGRAVING* THERE..."

"THE TRUTH IS A *GUIDING LIGHT*."


**THOOO**

"ELUNE *SMILED* UPON ME! I HAD *FOUND* IT! THE LEGENDARY *SCYTHE OF ELUNE*. AND AS I GRASPED IT, IT WAS AS IF THE *BARRIERS OF TIME AND SPACE* WERE *WEAKENED*. I WAS GRANTED A *VISION*...




"A VISION OF *CHAOS*. *WOLF-MEN*... THE *WORGEN*, AS I KNOW THEM *NOW*... BATTLED AN *INCREDIBLE ENEMY*. THE *WORGEN* FOUGHT *SAVAGELY*, AS FIT THEIR *PRIMITIVE* RACE, BUT THEIR ENEMY WAS *UNFLINCHING*: THE *LORDS OF THE EMERALD FLAME*.





"BY FOCUSING ON THE SCYTHE, I WAS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE WORGEN. THEY HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD ME. I LEARNED THAT BY FURTHER CHANNELLING THE ENERGY OF THE SCYTHE, I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DRAW THE WORGEN OUT."



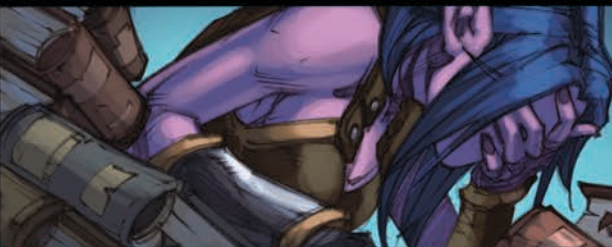
"MY ATTEMPTS WERE A SUCCESS! I CALLED FORTH A SCORE AND A HALF OF THE DEADLY BEASTS. BY THE GRACE OF ELUNE--AS I BELIEVED IT TO BE-- THE FORESTS WOULD BE CLEANSED."

"I HAD THE WEAPON I NEEDED. THE TIME HAD COME TO CONFRONT THE DEMON INVADERS OF FELWOOD. TO TIP THE SCALES IN OUR FAVOR!"

"FOR A TIME, ALL WENT WELL. YET SOMETHING WAS AMISS. I NOTED THAT THE NUMBERS OF THE WORGEN CONTINUED TO INCREASE WITHOUT MY INTERVENTION!"

"AS THE BATTLES WORE ON, MY CONCERN GREW. A PACK SET OUT AND WOULD NOT ANSWER MY CALL TO RETURN. I WAS LOSING CONTROL."

"THE BEASTS CONTINUED TO MULTIPLY. THEIR SHEER FEROCITY IN BATTLE WAS TERRIFYING. WHAT, IN THE NAME OF ELUNE, HAD I SET LOOSE?"



"I ORDERED THE REMAINING WORGEN TO HOLD AT THE SHRINE OF MEL'THANDRIS, A COMMAND THAT THEY SEEMED CONTENT TO OBEY. I RETURNED TO THE LIBRARY OF DARNAGSUS TO SEEK MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BEASTS. YET, NOT ONE SCRAP OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORGEN COULD I FIND."


"I DID, HOWEVER, HEAR WHISPERS... REPORTS OF A WIZARD OF THE KIRIN TOR NAMED ARUGAL WHO PURPORTEDLY HAD SUMMONED WORGEN AS WELL."



"ONLY NOW DO I KNOW THAT ARUGAL'S SUMMONING HAD IN FACT WEAKENED THE BARRIER TO THE WORGEN, ALLOWING ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM."

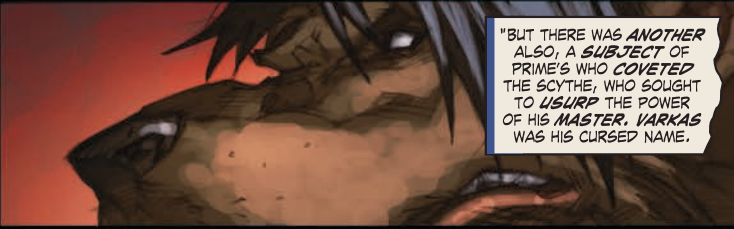
"I SET OUT THE VERY NEXT DAY FOR THE EASTERN KINGDOMS."

UPON MY ARRIVAL AT BOOTY BAY, I SENT WORD OF MY SOJOURN TO THE WIZARD ARUGAL."




"AGAIN, MY CURRENT STATE OF ALL-KNOWING HAS PARTED THE VEIL OF MYSTERY. I AM AWARE OF THE ONE CALLED ALPHA PRIME, MASTER OF THE WORGEN IN SILVERPINE FOREST, WHO HELD THE MADDENED ARUGAL UNDER HIS SWAY."

"HOW EAGER PRIME WAS TO RECEIVE THE SCYTHE! IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN THEN."



"BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER ALSO, A SUBJECT OF PRIME'S WHO COVETED THE SCYTHE, WHO SOUGHT TO USURP THE POWER OF HIS MASTER. VARKAS WAS HIS CURSED NAME."



"VARKAS STRUCK OUT, WITH THREE OTHERS WHO WOULD DEFEY PRIME TO INTERCEPT THE SCYTHE. I BECAME AN OBLIVIOUS TARGET, SET SQUARELY IN THEIR SIGHTS."



"MY CARAVAN ARRIVED IN *DUSKWOOD*, AND IT WAS THERE THAT I FELT THEIR *EYES* UPON ME. I KNEW NOT WHAT *ENEMY* LAY IN WAIT, ONLY THAT THEY WERE *SEVERAL* AND I WAS *ONE*.

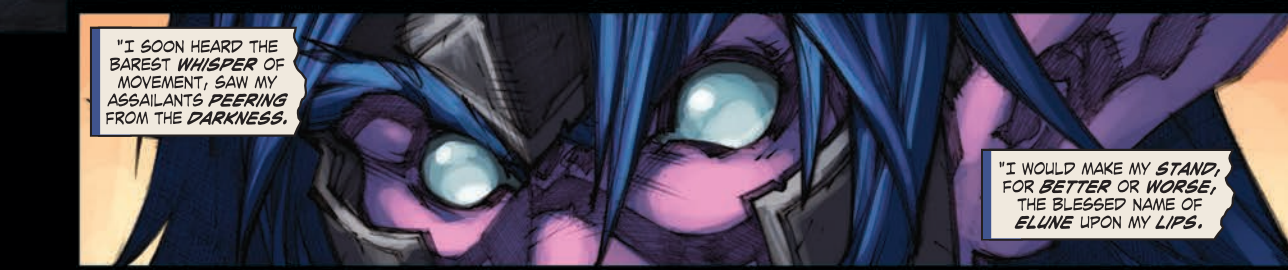
"I SOUGHT *REFUGE* WITHIN A NEARBY *MINE*. IT BORE THE SIGNS OF RECENT *EXCAVATION*. I HOPED THAT PERHAPS *WORKERS* REMAINED THERE WHO WOULD *TAKE MY SIDE* IN BATTLE.

"BUT VARKAS HAD *FORESEEN* SUCH A POSSIBILITY.



"I SOON HEARD THE BAREST *WHISPER* OF MOVEMENT, SAW MY ASSAILANTS *PEERING* FROM THE *DARKNESS*.

"I WOULD MAKE MY *STAND*, FOR *BETTER* OR *WORSE*, THE BLESSED NAME OF *ELUNE* UPON MY *LIPS*.



"I *REALIZED* THAT MY ENEMIES WERE *WORGEN*. THAT PERHAPS I COULD USE THE *SCYTHE* TO SEND THEM *BACK* TO WHATEVER CORNER OF THE DREAM THEY HAD BEEN *CALLED* FROM.


"I *REALIZED* THOSE THINGS...



"TOO LATE."








"THE WORGEN HAVE BECOME A *CURSE* TO *GILNEAS*, BUT SOME BELIEVE THAT WITHIN THEM LIES THE *SEED* OF *REDEMPTION*, OF *BALANCE*.

"AND THE *SCYTHE*..."




"THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO *SEEK* THE *SCYTHE*, THERE ARE *MANY* WHO BELIEVE THAT, IN THE *RIGHT HANDS*, IT COULD MEAN *SALVATION*.

"BUT I KNOW THE *TRUTH*."

"I AM *VELINDE STARSONG*, AND I KNOW THE *TRUTH* OF *MANY THINGS*: OF THE EVENTS THAT SURROUNDED THE *SCYTHE'S* *DISCOVERY*, AND ITS *DISAPPEARANCE*..."


"OF THE *CAUSE* AND *EFFECT* THAT LED TO MY *DEATH*."



"BUT MOST OF ALL I HAVE COME TO LEARN WHAT *MALFURION HIMSELF* NO DOUBT *KNEW*... WHAT MY *MOTHER* AND *MEL'THANDRIS* UNDERSTOOD..."

"THAT THE *SCYTHE* IS A *MENACE*. A *CURSED ABOMINATION*, A *BEACON* OF *DEATH* AND *DESTRUCTION*. A *THING* THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE *BEEEN*."

"I *DECRY* ITS *VERY EXISTENCE*..."



"AND SO IT IS THAT A *PART* OF ME SHALL *REMAIN* HERE, *VIGILANT*, *STRIVING* ALWAYS TO *PREVENT* THE *MISTAKES* OF THE *PAST* FROM *CASTING* A *SHADOW* UPON THE *FUTURE*."

"I WILL *REMAIN*, AND I WILL *IMPART* THE *TRUTH* TO THOSE WHO MIGHT *RECKON* IT..."

"FOR THE *TRUTH* IS A *GUIDING LIGHT*."

**-END-**







