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Jae-Hwan Kim, artist of the bestselling *King of Hell* series and the *War Angels* series, and Richard A. Knaak, the *New York Times* bestselling author, bring you back to the world of Warcraft for the gripping conclusion to *The Sunwell Trilogy*!

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—Tina Coleman, Booklist Magazine

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BLIZZARD
WARCRAFT
THE SUNWELL TRILOGY
VOLUME THREE
GHOSTLANDS
RICHARD A. KNAAK • JAE-HWAN KIM





Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy Vol. 3

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WARCRAFT

THE SUNWELL TRILOGY™

VOLUME 3

GHOSTLANDS

WRITTEN BY
RICHARD A. KNAAK

ILLUSTRATED BY
JAE-HWAN KIM



HISTORY OF THE WORLD OF WARCRAFT®

The world of Azeroth has long been plagued by the misuse of magic. Originally, only dragons and night elves were able to practice the mystic arts, though eventually even humans began to wield the unstable energy. Unfortunately, the unrestrained spell casting eventually caught the attention of a malevolent, extra-dimensional force known as the Burning Legion.

The Burning Legion's first attempt to invade Azeroth, known as the War of the Ancients, was only thwarted after many lives were lost and the world's sole continent was shattered. With their second attempt, the Burning Legion used the orcs from the world of Draenor as their pawns.

Twisted and corrupted by the Burning Legion's influence, the orcs invaded Azeroth through the Dark Portal. After many ferocious battles, this Second War ended with the orcs' defeat and imprisonment. Still determined to conquer Azeroth, the Burning Legion created one of its most twisted servants, the Lich King, to weaken Azeroth's defenders.

The Lich King spread a plague of death and terror across Azeroth that was meant to snuff out human civilization. All those who died from the dreaded plague would arise as the undead, and their spirits would be bound to the Lich King's iron will forever.

The army of the dead swept across the land, and Quel'Thalas, the glorious homeland of the high elves which had stood for thousands of years, was devastated. The undead Scourge then moved south to Dalaran, and then to Kalimdor, home of the night elves.

Though the undead Scourge was stopped at Kalimdor, they had transformed Lordaeron and Quel'Thalas into toxic Plaguelands. Grieving for the loss of their homeland, most of the high elves have adopted a new name and a new mission. Calling themselves "blood elves," they now seek out and siphon magic from any available source, including demons.

Meanwhile, half of the undead forces staged a coup for control over the Scourge. Eventually, the banshee Sylvanas Windrunner and her rebel undead--known as the Forsaken--claimed the ruined capital city of Lordaeron as their own and vowed to drive the Scourge from the land.

Currently the Lich King resides in Northrend; he is rumored to be rebuilding the citadel of Icecrown. His trusted lieutenant, Kel'Thuzad, commands the Scourge in the Plaguelands. Sylvanas and her rebel Forsaken hold only the Tirisfal Glades, a small portion of the war-torn kingdom, while the humans, orcs, and night elves are trying to rebuild their societies.

WARCRAFT

THE SUNWELL TRILOGY™

THE STORY THUS FAR . . .

The Sunwell was a pool of mystical energy that was the essence of the high elves' lives. Located in the elven city of Quel'Thalas, this source of magic was as important to the elves as eating or breathing. They used its vast power to build their cities, mold the landscape and make whatever they desired. Unfortunately, Darkhan was a high elf who desired much more than the rest of his brethren, leading him to an unholy pact with Archas, the corrupted human knight who would later become the Lich King.

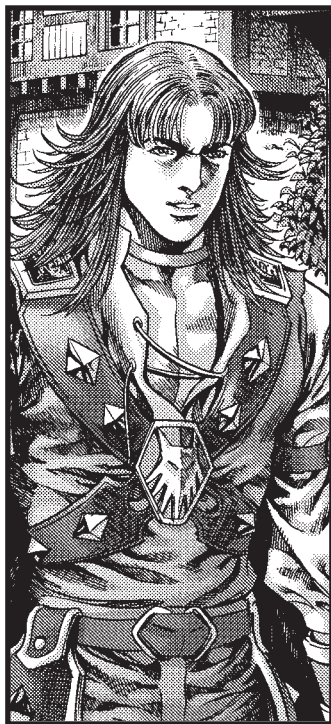
Darkhan enabled the undead Scourge to bypass Quel'Thalas's fabled defenses while he drained the Sunwell's energies. While his proud home was overrun by vicious, zombified corpses, and Darkhan fought his fellow elven sorcerers for control of the well, something went horribly wrong. The Sunwell's power exploded spectacularly, ravaging what little remained untouched by the Scourge. Darkhan was saved by the power of his dark lord, and sent across the continent in search of the Sunwell's escaped magic . . . though he was not alone in his quest.

MALYGOS, LORD OF THE BLUE DRAGONFLIGHT, COMMANDED YOUNG KALEEGOS TO INVESTIGATE A STRANGE SURGE OF MAGICAL POWER. HOWEVER, BEFORE HE COULD REACH HIS DESTINATION, KALEE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MOTLEY BAND OF DRAGON HUNTERS LED BY HARKYIN GRYMSTONE.

ASSUMING THE FORM OF A HALF-ELF TO ESCAPE THE HUNTERS' NETS, A WOUNDED KALEE WAS AIDED BY ANVEENA, A KIND, INNOCENT MAIDEN WHO LIVED NEARBY. KALEE TRIED TO WARN ANVEENA AWAY, BUT SHE SEEMED UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE PURSUING HUNTERS. EVEN MORE REMARKABLY, THE YOUNG WOMAN SEEMED UNFAZED BY KALEE'S TRUE NATURE, THOUGH MOST PEOPLE'S REACTION TO MEETING A DRAGON WOULD BE TO FLEE OR TRY TO KILL IT.

STILL ON THE RUN FROM GRYMSTONE'S BAND, KALEE AND ANVEENA FOUND ANVEENA'S HOME REDUCED TO BURNING WRECKAGE BY DARKHAN, WHO PLACED PAIN-INDUCING MYSTICAL COLLARS AROUND THEIR NECKS TO FORCE THEM TO REVEAL ALL THEY KNEW ABOUT THE SUNWELL.

DARKHAN TRIED TORTURING KALEE FOR INFORMATION, BUT HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF TYRYGOSA, A FEMALE BLUE DRAGON WHO IS ALSO



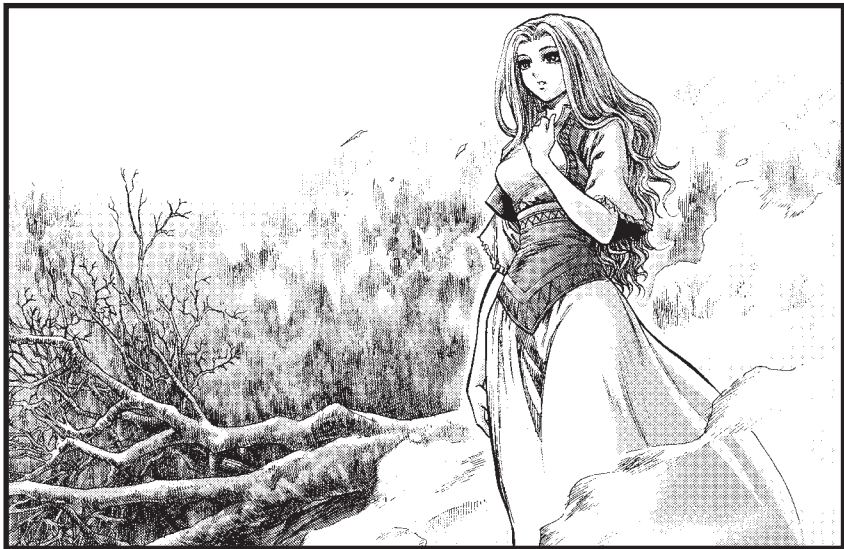
Kaleegos

A young blue dragon. Though trapped in humanoid form by a mystical collar Dar'Khan placed around his neck, Kalee retains many of his magical talents, including the ability to create a sword out of nothingness.

KALEC'S INTENDED. TOGETHER, TYRI AND KALEC MANAGED TO WIPE OUT DARKKHAN'S UNDEAD SERVANTS AND DRIVE THE ELF AWAY . . . BUT THEY COULD NOT REMOVE THE COLLARS HE HAD PLACED ON HIS TWO CAPTIVES.

SIFTING THROUGH THE SHATTERED TIMBERS OF ANVEENA'S HOME IN SEARCH OF HER PARENTS, THE TRIO INSTEAD DISCOVERED A STRANGE EGG, WHICH HOUSED AN EVEN STRANGER WINGED SERPENT. ANVEENA NAMED HIM RAE (FOR THE NOISE HE MAKES) AND KALEC AND TYRI SUSPECTED THAT THE BIZARRE CREATURE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SUNWELL ENERGY THAT HAD DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE BLUE DRAGONFLIGHT AND DARKKHAN.

SINCE KALEC'S COLLAR PREVENTED HIM FROM TRANSFORMING, TYRI CARRIED HER COMPANIONS TO THE TOWN OF TARREN MILL IN SEARCH OF BOREL, A MAN



Anveena

A caring, innocent young maiden. Anveena helped a wounded Kalecgos escape from dragon hunters, though her home and parents were destroyed.

whom Anveena's parents had spoken of often. Though she had never met him, she believed he might be able to help them remove Dar'khan's collars. The group attracted a lot of attention in the small town, including that of Paladin Jorad Mace.

At Tarren Mill, Grymstone had the dragons cornered when he suddenly found that he and his band were surrounded by the undead Scourge and Dar'khan. Dar'khan revealed that he had disguised himself as a human prince to provide the vengeful dwarf with the resources needed to kill any dragons that might be drawn to the area by the Sunwell's power. As Dar'khan prepared to take Rade from Anveena, a surprise attack from Jorad Mace helped the dragons and dragon hunters turn the tide.

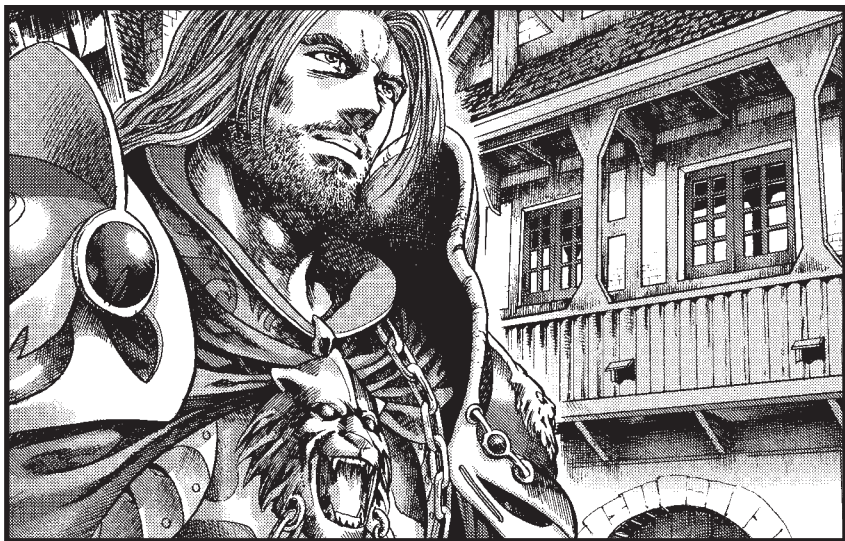
With their combined efforts, the undead were wiped out and Dar'khan was consumed in a blast of Tyri's dragon fire. When Mace informed the others that they might find Borel on Aerie Peak, an apologetic Harkyn Grymstone advised them to seek his cousin, Loggi, who resided in the mountains near there.

Hoping that Loggi might be able to remove the magical collars, Kalec, Anveena, Tyri, Rade, and Jorad Mace searched not only for the dwarf, but also for the mysterious Borel. Though they



Tyrygosa

A female blue dragon and Kalec's intended. When forced to assume a humanoid shape, she refuses to look merely human. In her words, "At least elves are aesthetically pleasing."



Jorad Mace

A human paladin whose loyalty was sworn to Arthas... before Arthas betrayed his father, his homeland and his species. Mace is continually haunted by his terrible loss.

EVENTUALLY FOUND LOGGI AT AERIE PEAK, THEY ALSO ENDED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR BETWEEN THE UNDEAD ICHOR AND THE FORSAKEN BARON MORPIS. MORPIS TRIED TO SACRIFICE ANVEENA TO DEFEAT ICHOR,

ONLY TO BE DESTROYED HIMSELF ALONG WITH HIS UNDEAD OPPONENT. IN THE MIDST OF THE MELEE, KALEC WAS RESCUED FROM A POTENTIALLY FATAL FALL BY A MYSTERIOUS FORCE THAT SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM ANVEENA. THE SURPRISES ONLY MOUNTED AS THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD DARKHAN SUDDENLY RE-APPEARED, KILLED LOGGI AND KIDNAPPED ANVEENA.

AND NOW--WITH ONLY THE QUESTIONABLE GUIDANCE OF RALE TO AID THEM--KALEC, JORAD, AND TYRI MUST GIVE CHASE. THE TERRIBLE CHILL FILLING THE YOUNG BLUE'S BEING IS NOT FROM THE BATTLE IN THE SNOW, BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE FEARS HE KNOWS JUST WHERE THE MURDEROUS RENEGADE IS TAKING ANVEENA...

CHAPTER ONE

THE NIGHTMARE PLAINS



*ISN'T IT
BEAUTIFUL?*



QUEL' THALAS...

FLAP
FLAP





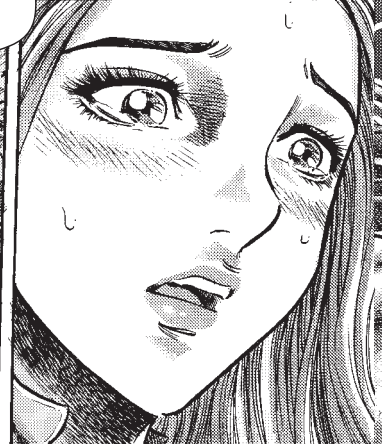
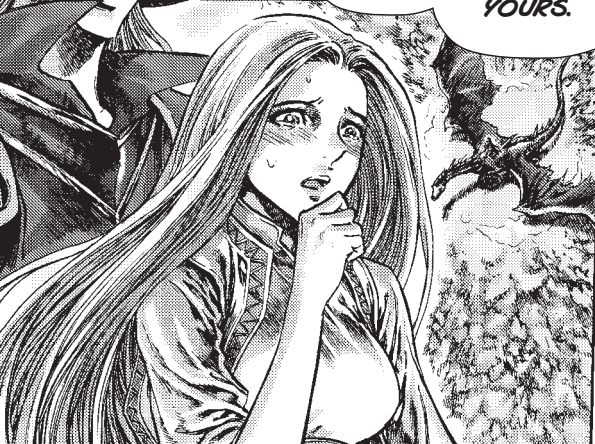
IT
BEGAN
HERE...

...SO IT IS
APPROPRIATE THAT
IT ENDS HERE.



THE
PLACE OF
MY BIRTH...

...AND
YOURS.





FASTER,
TYRI!
FASTER!

I CAN
GO NO FASTER,
KALECGOS!



WE HAVE
TO CATCH UP
TO THEM!
THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT
DARKHAN WILL
DO TO
ANVEENA!



SOMEHOW
RAAC KNOWS
WHERE THEY ARE.
HE'LL LEAD US
TO THEM, I
KNOW IT!



YOU
JUST HAVE
TO KEEP UP
WITH HIM!

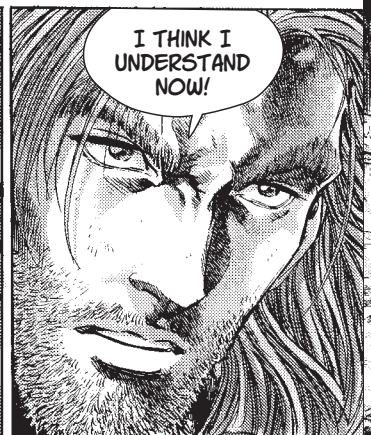
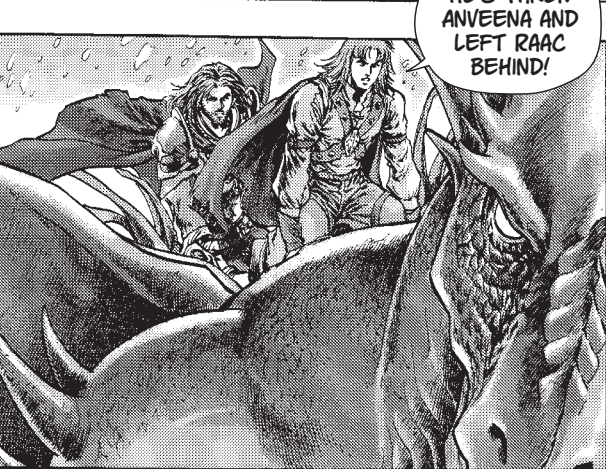
HOW
CAN HE...BE...
SO SWIFT?



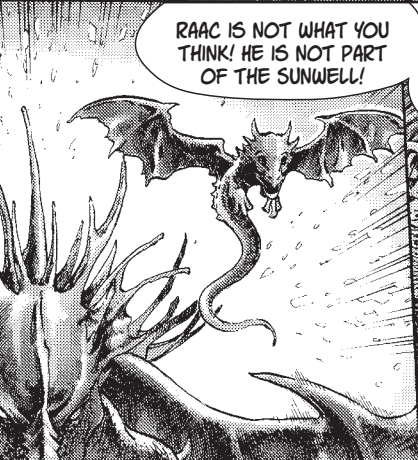
THIS...
RAAC
CREATURE.
YOU SAY IT
HATCHED
FROM AN EGG
UNDER HER
HOME?

YES...
AND I WAS
CERTAIN IT WAS
THE KEY TO THIS
SUNWELL DAR'KHAN
SEEKS!

ONLY...
HE'S TAKEN
ANVEENA AND
LEFT RAAC
BEHIND!

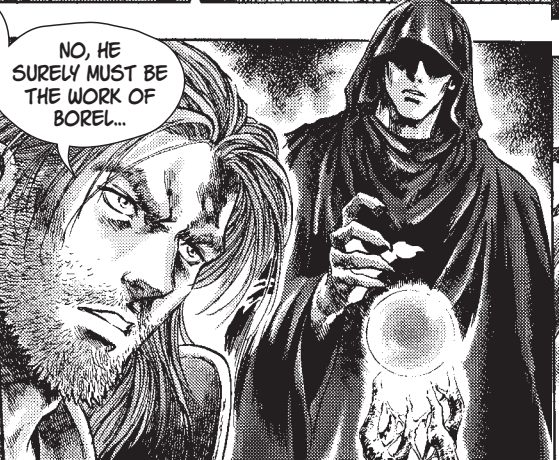


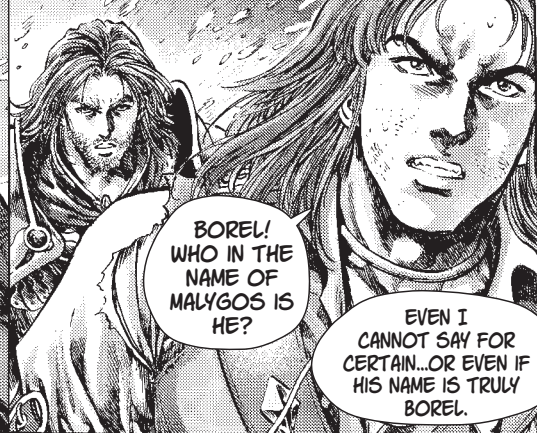
I THINK I
UNDERSTAND
NOW!



RAAC IS NOT WHAT YOU
THINK! HE IS NOT PART
OF THE SUNWELL!

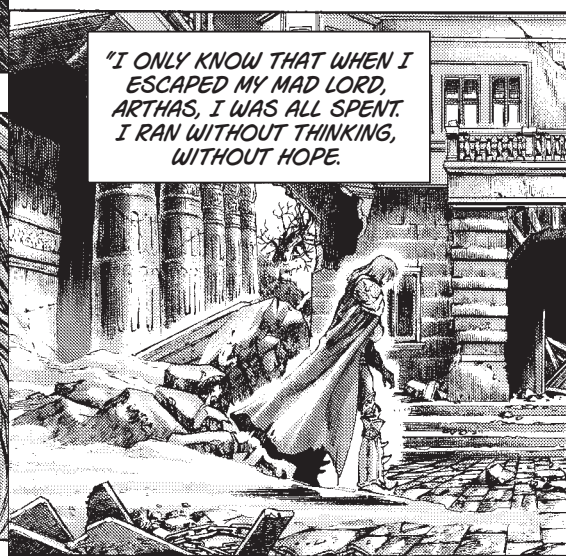
NO, HE
SURELY MUST BE
THE WORK OF
BOREL...



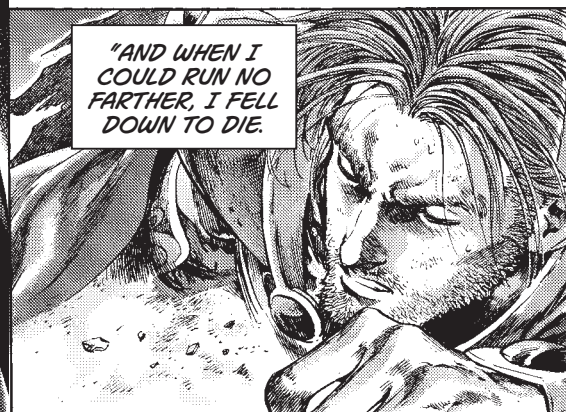


BOREL!
WHO IN THE
NAME OF
MALYGOS IS
HE?

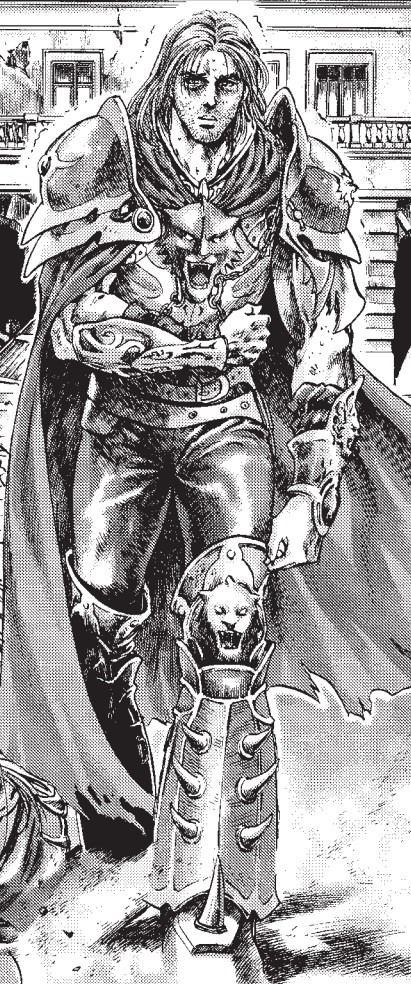
EVEN I
CANNOT SAY FOR
CERTAIN...OR EVEN IF
HIS NAME IS TRULY
BOREL.



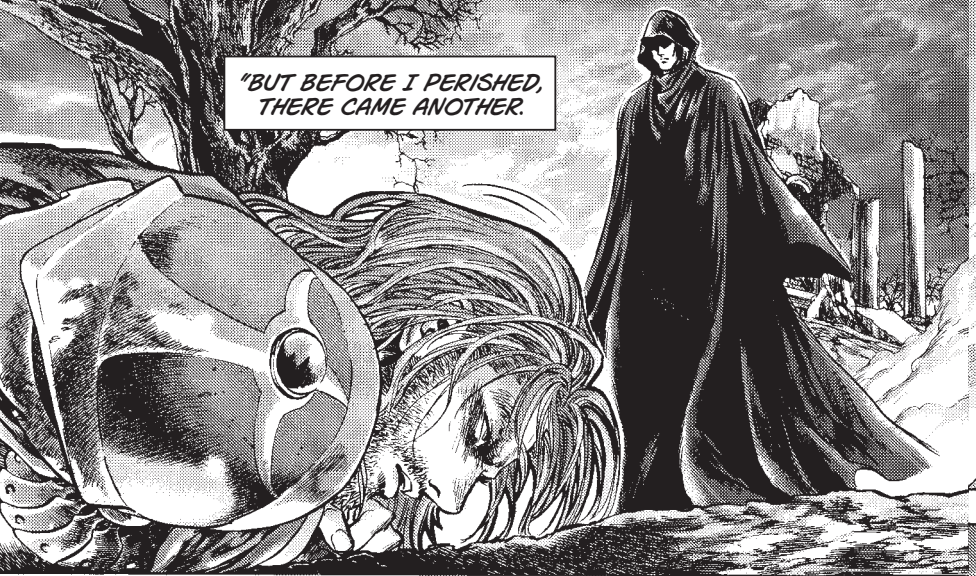
*"I ONLY KNOW THAT WHEN I
ESCAPED MY MAD LORD,
ARTHAS, I WAS ALL SPENT.
I RAN WITHOUT THINKING,
WITHOUT HOPE.*



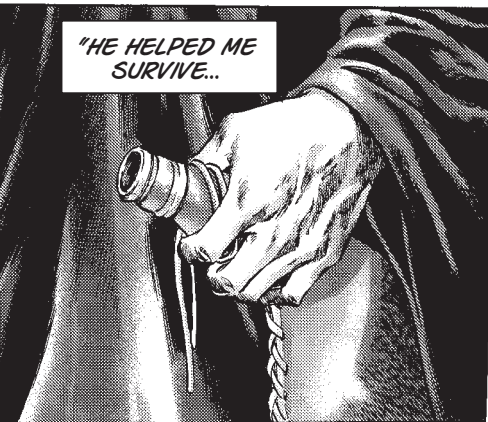
*"AND WHEN I
COULD RUN NO
FARTHER, I FELL
DOWN TO DIE.*



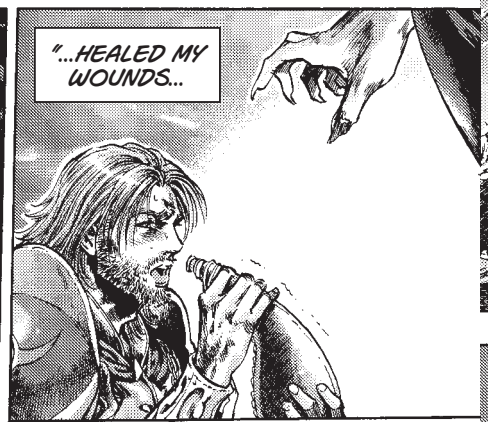
"BUT BEFORE I PERISHED,
THERE CAME ANOTHER.



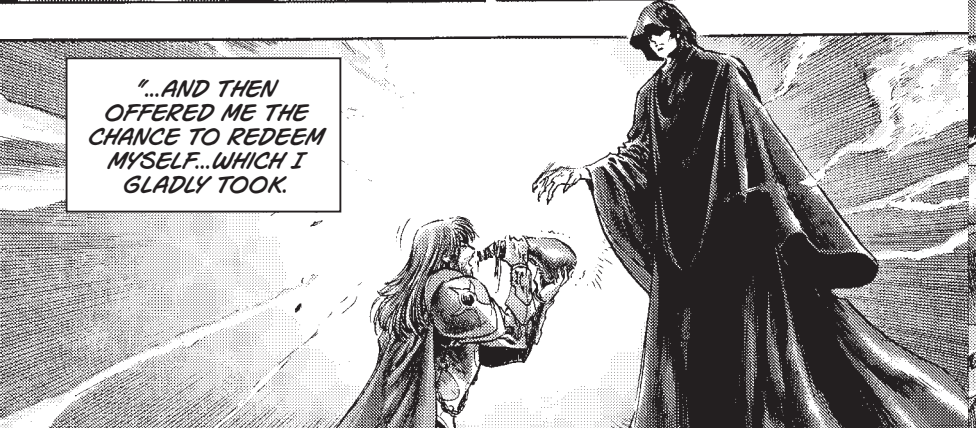
"HE HELPED ME
SURVIVE...



"...HEALED MY
WOUNDS...

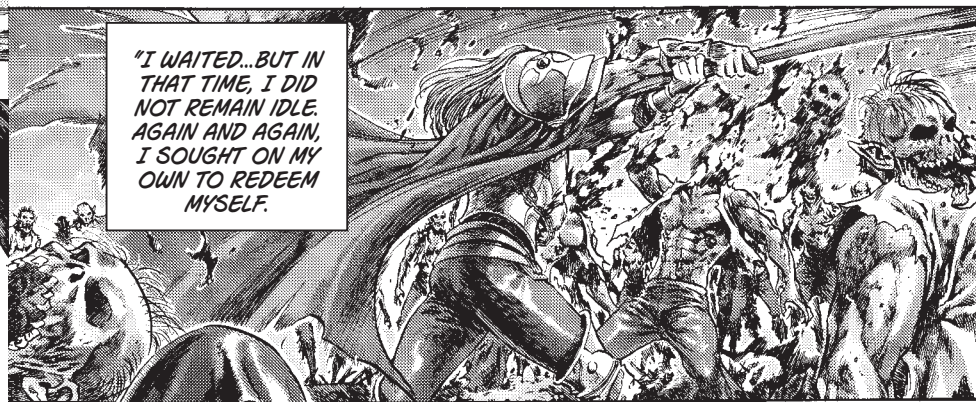


"...AND THEN
OFFERED ME THE
CHANCE TO REDEEM
MYSELF...WHICH I
GLADLY TOOK.

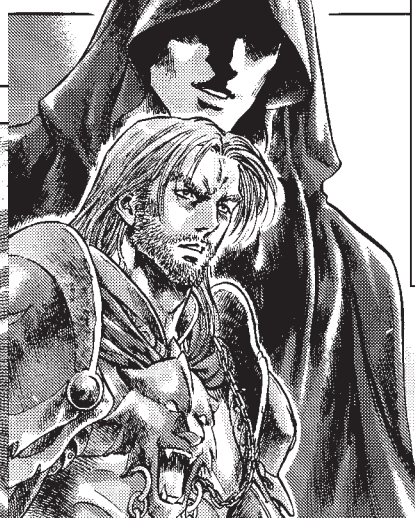




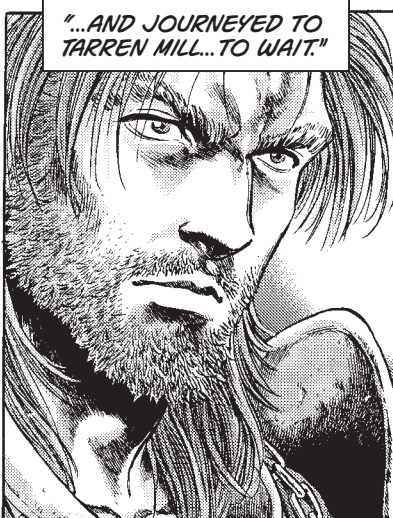
"HE SENT ME OUT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD SUMMON ME BACK.



"I WAITED...BUT IN THAT TIME, I DID NOT REMAIN IDLE. AGAIN AND AGAIN, I SOUGHT ON MY OWN TO REDEEM MYSELF.



"IT WAS NEVER ENOUGH, THOUGH... AND WHEN HIS VOICE ENTERED MY MIND, I WILLINGLY TURNED BACK...

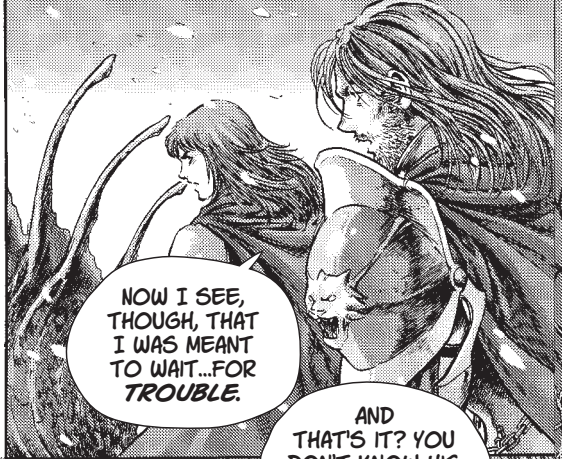


"...AND JOURNEYED TO TARREN MILL...TO WAIT."



AND WAIT
THERE I DID,
FOR WEEKS.
BOREL NEVER
CAME TO ME,
THOUGH IT
SEEMS HE
VISITED
ANVEENA.

THE WAIT
NEARLY DROVE
ME MAD...



NOW I SEE,
THOUGH, THAT
I WAS MEANT
TO WAIT...FOR
TROUBLE.

AND
THAT'S IT? YOU
DON'T KNOW HIS
CONNECTION
TO ANVEENA?

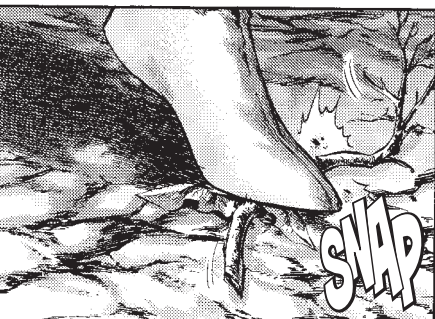


NO, I--

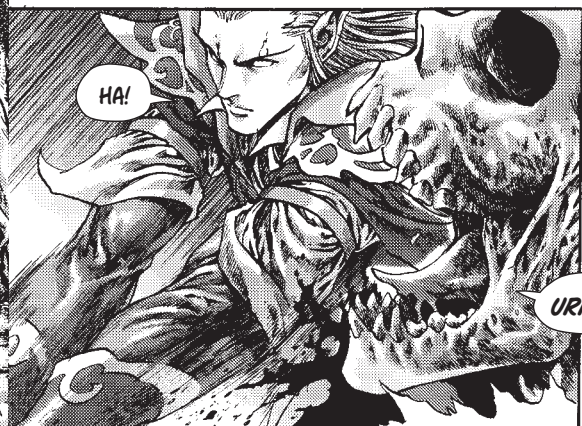
KALEC!
JORAD! LOOK!
WE ARE NEARLY
THERE!



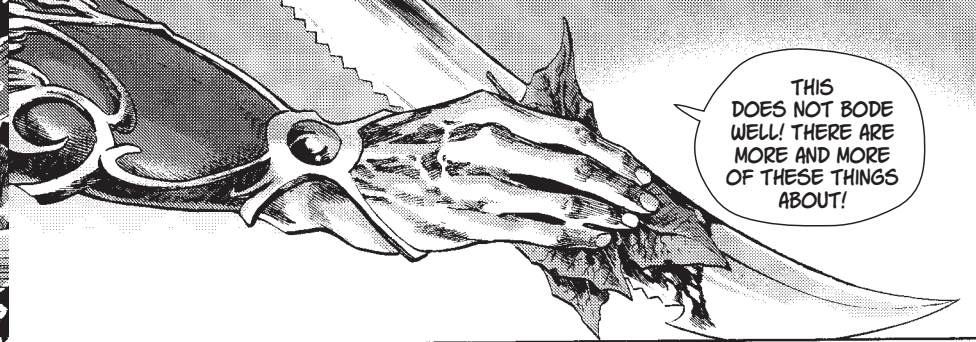
QUEL'THALAS...



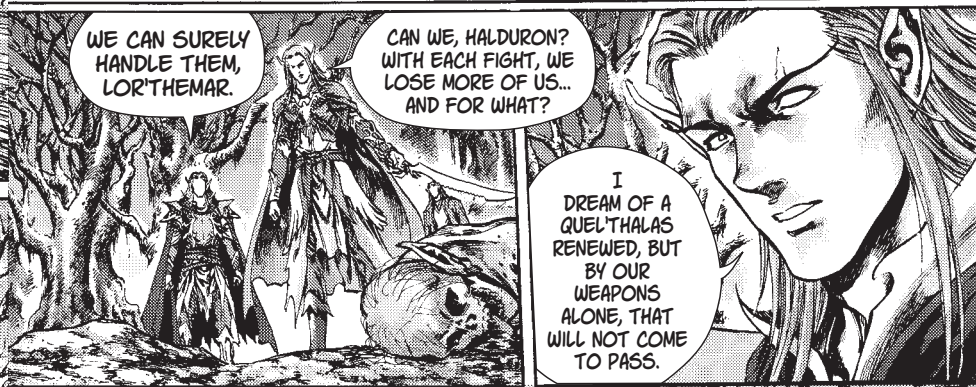
SLAASSH







THIS DOES NOT BODE WELL! THERE ARE MORE AND MORE OF THESE THINGS ABOUT!



WE CAN SURELY HANDLE THEM, LOR'THEMAR.

CAN WE, HALDURON? WITH EACH FIGHT, WE LOSE MORE OF US... AND FOR WHAT?

I DREAM OF A QUEL'THALAS RENEWED, BUT BY OUR WEAPONS ALONE, THAT WILL NOT COME TO PASS.



SIGH. LET US BURN OUR COMRADES AND THIS REFUSE SO THEY CANNOT BE RAISED AS UNDEAD BY THE SCOURGE.



THERE
MUST BE A
REASON WHY
SO MANY
SCOURGE HAVE
APPEARED
HERE OF
LATE.

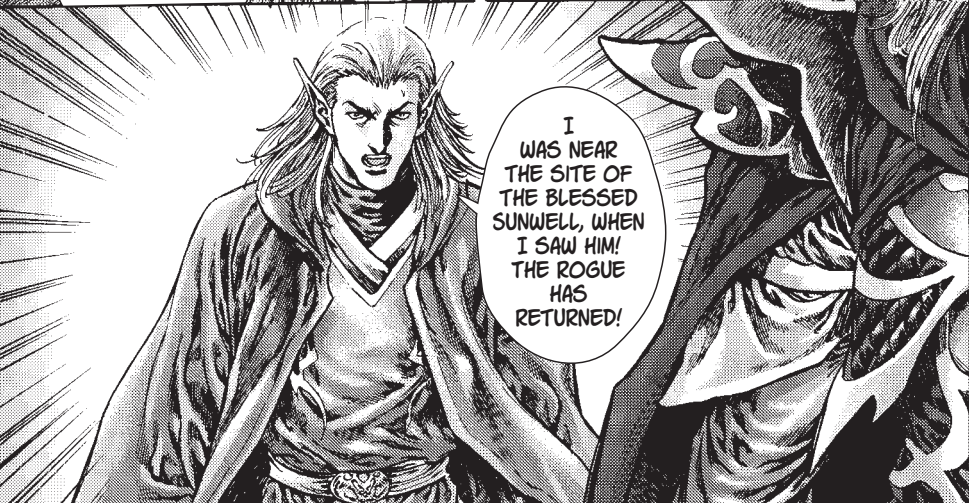


ALL BUT
ONE OF THE
SCOUTS HAVE
RETURNED,
THOUGH, AND THEY
REPORT NOTHING!



STILL,
THERE HAS
TO BE--
WAIT!

**LOR'THEMAR!
DIRE NEWS!**



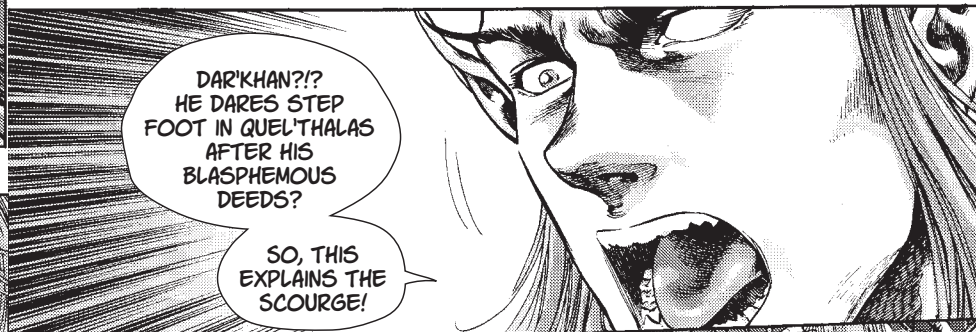
I
WAS NEAR
THE SITE OF
THE BLESSED
SUNWELL, WHEN
I SAW HIM!
THE ROGUE
HAS
RETURNED!



WHO?
WHO DID YOU
SEE?



'T WAS
DAR'KHAN!
THE
BETRAYER
HIMSELF!

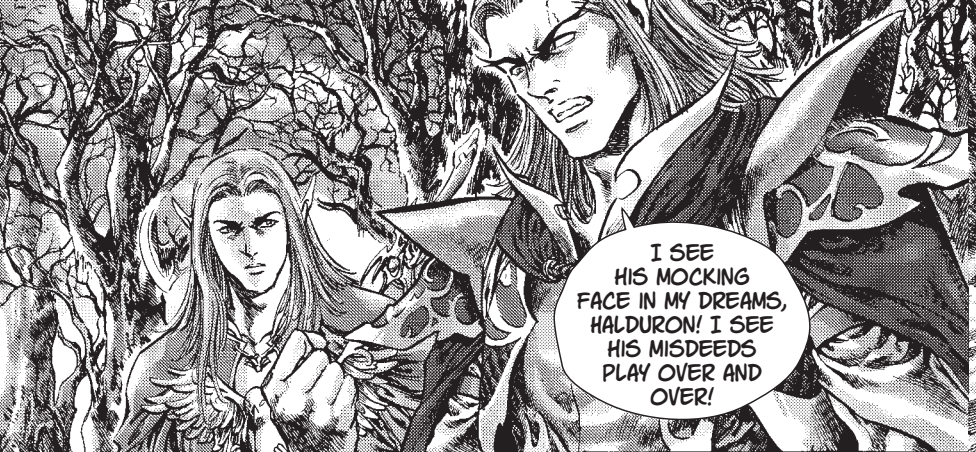


DAR'KHAN?!?
HE DARES STEP
FOOT IN QUEL'THALAS
AFTER HIS
BLASPHEMOUS
DEEDS?

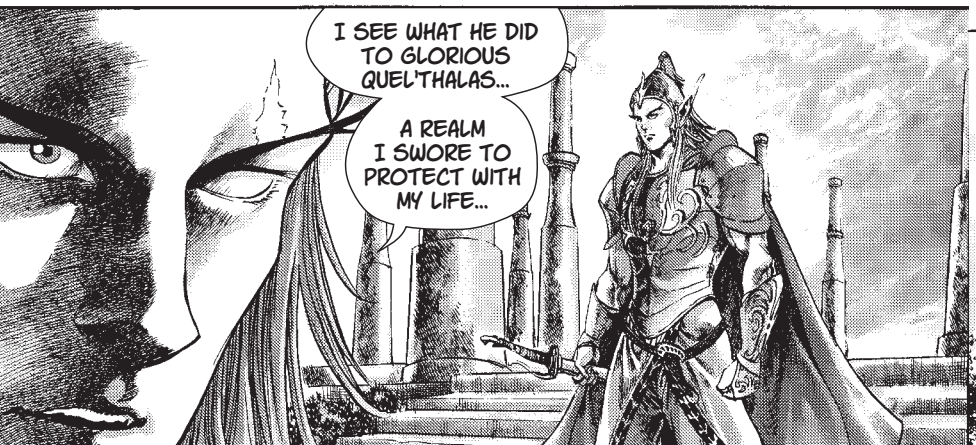
SO, THIS
EXPLAINS THE
SCOURGE!



EVERYONE!
QUICKLY! GATHER YOUR
WEAPONS! WE MUST
LEAVE THE PYRE FOR
LATER!



I SEE
HIS MOCKING
FACE IN MY DREAMS,
HALDURON! I SEE
HIS MISDEEDS
PLAY OVER AND
OVER!

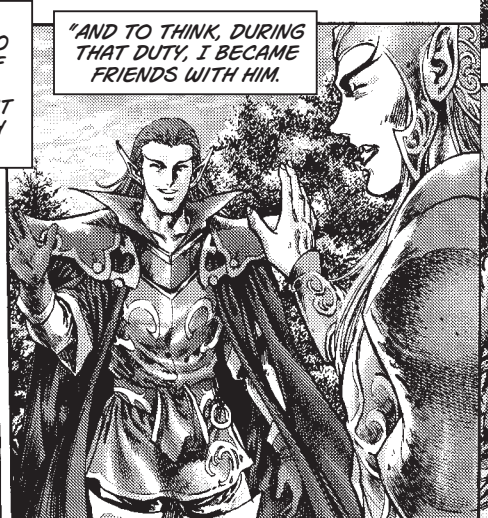


I SEE WHAT HE DID
TO GLORIOUS
QUEL'THALAS...

A REALM
I SWORE TO
PROTECT WITH
MY LIFE...



"AS A COMMANDER OF THE
RANGERS, IT WAS MY DUTY TO
WATCH OVER THE SAFETY OF
THOSE WHO GUIDED THE
SUNWELL'S ENERGIES SO THAT
THEY, IN TURN, COULD WATCH
OVER ALL OUR PEOPLE.



"AND TO THINK, DURING
THAT DUTY, I BECAME
FRIENDS WITH HIM.

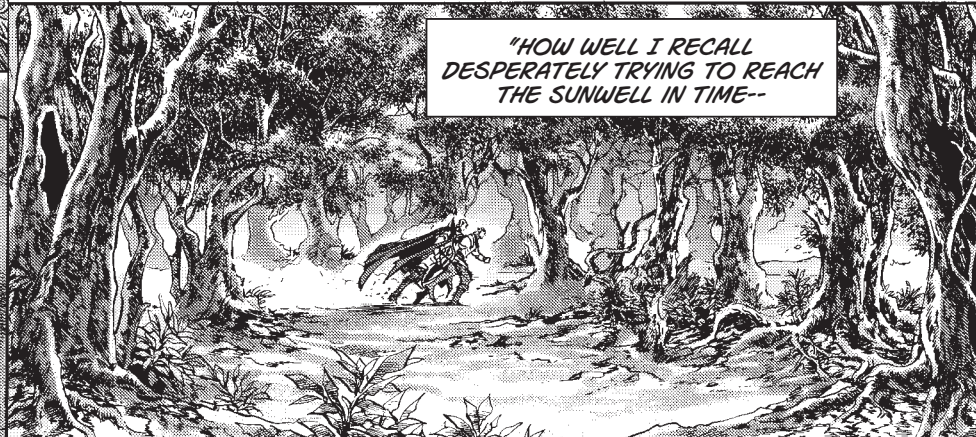
A black and white illustration of a man with long hair, wearing a tunic and a long cape, standing in a forest. He is gesturing with his hands as if in conversation. In front of him is a figure wearing a dark hooded cloak with a pointed top. The forest has large, gnarled trees and dense foliage.

*"AMONG THE MAGES, HE
SEEMED MOST APPRECIATIVE
OF OUR GOOD WORK AND
ASKED MUCH ABOUT IT.*

*"LIKE A FOOL,
I SHOWED HIM ALL..."*

A black and white illustration showing a close-up of the man in the cape from the previous panel. He is looking towards the hooded figure, who is partially visible in the foreground. The background shows a forest setting.

*"...AND ONLY
TOO LATE
DISCOVERED
HIS EVENTUAL
DUPLICITY!"*

A black and white illustration of a man in a cape running away from the viewer down a dirt path in a forest. The path is flanked by large, gnarled trees with thick roots. The scene is lit from behind, creating a bright glow at the end of the path.

*"HOW WELL I RECALL
DESPERATELY TRYING TO REACH
THE SUNWELL IN TIME--"*



"--ONLY TO
DISCOVER THAT
THE TREACHERY
WAS EVEN
GREATER THAN I
COULD HAVE
IMAGINED!

"ONLY THEN DID I KNOW THAT
HE HAD BETRAYED ALL
QUEL'THALAS BY AIDING THE
SCOURGE IN ENTERING!



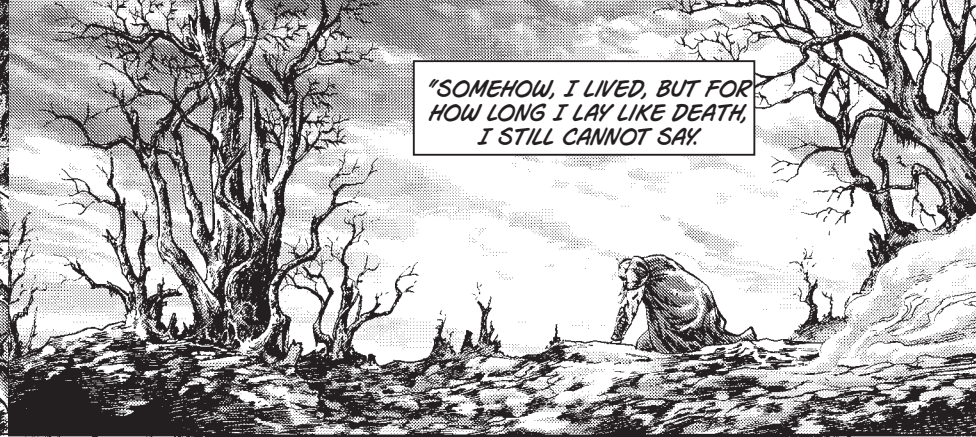
"I FOUGHT AS BEST I COULD, HOPING
THAT THERE WAS YET A CHANCE!



"BUT, DESPITE
MY EFFORTS...



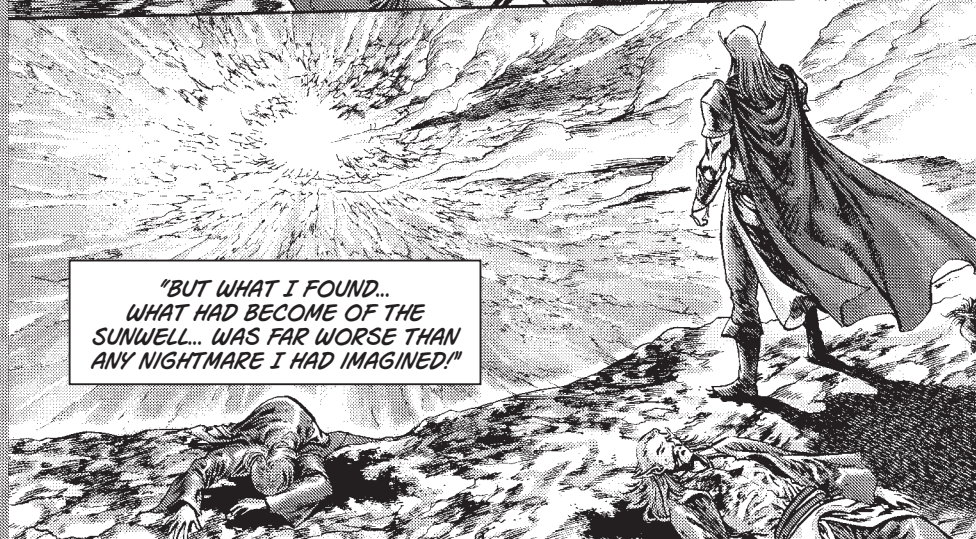
"...IT WAS
TOO LATE!"



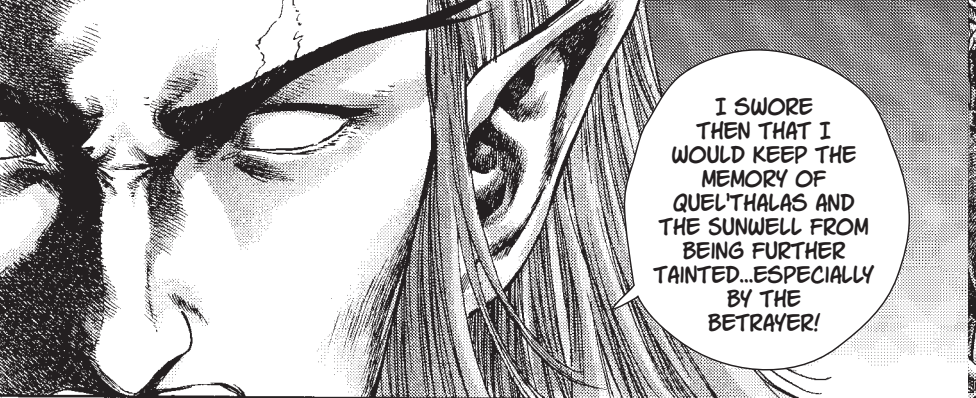
*"SOMEHOW, I LIVED, BUT FOR
HOW LONG I LAY LIKE DEATH,
I STILL CANNOT SAY.*



*"I PUSHED ON, YET HOPING THAT
WHAT I FEARED WAS NOT TRUE.*



*"BUT WHAT I FOUND...
WHAT HAD BECOME OF THE
SUNWELL... WAS FAR WORSE THAN
ANY NIGHTMARE I HAD IMAGINED!"*



I SWORE
THEN THAT I
WOULD KEEP THE
MEMORY OF
QUEL'THALAS AND
THE SUNWELL FROM
BEING FURTHER
TAINTED...ESPECIALLY
BY THE
BETRAVER!



COME, LET US
WELCOME OUR
WAYWARD BROTHER
HOME...

...BY
PLANTING HIS
GRINNING HEAD
ON THE END OF
A SPEAR!





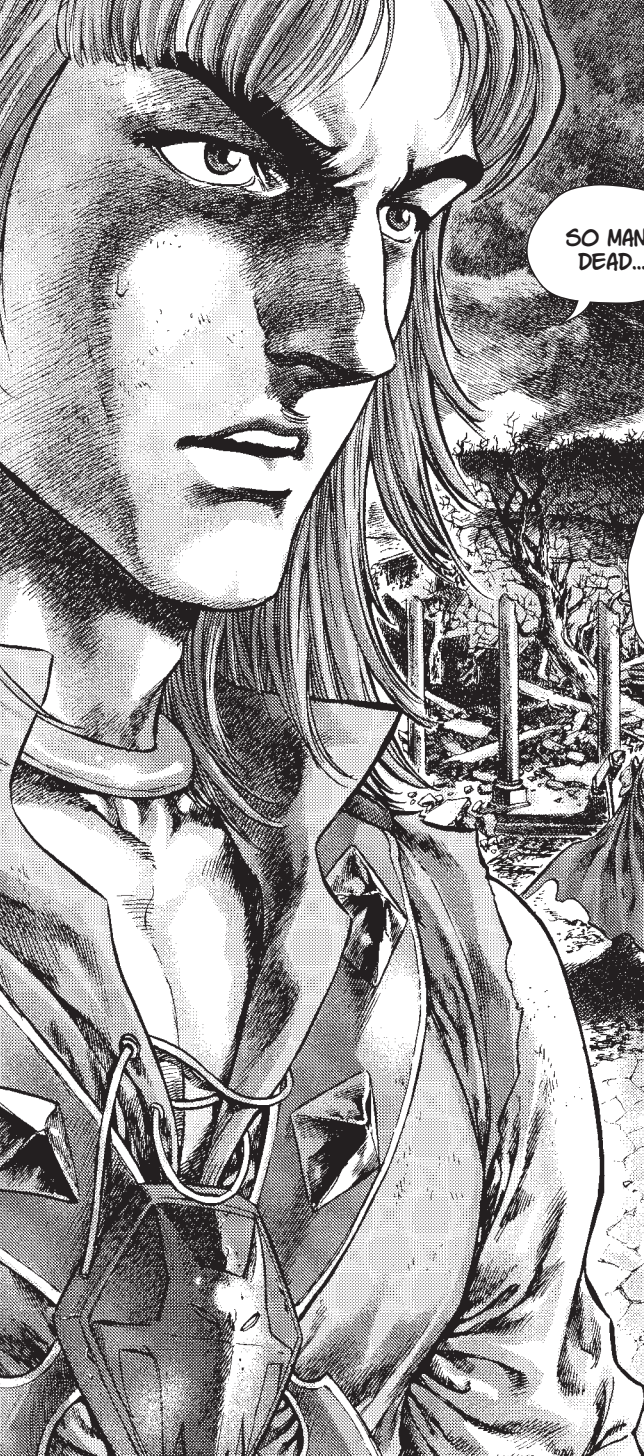


CHAPTER TWO

MASTER OF THE DEAD



HORRIBLE...

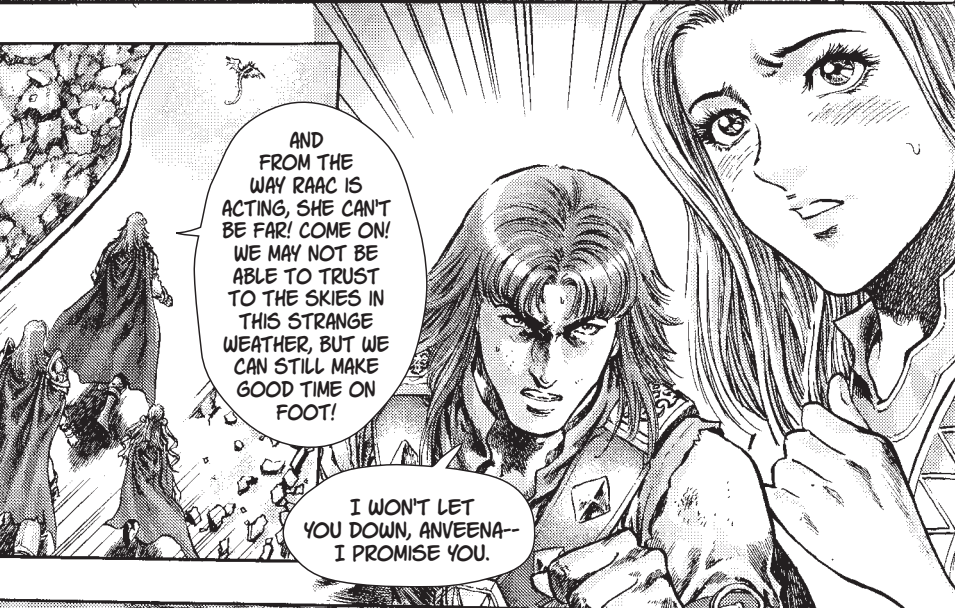


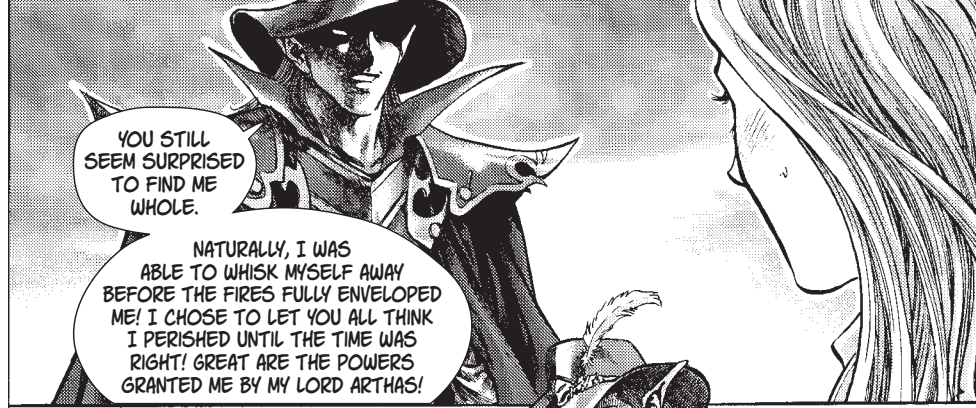
SO MANY
DEAD...

WE
CAN DO
NOTHING
FOR THEM
NOW,
KALEC.

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
WE CAN'T.
ALL THAT
MATTERS
NOW IS
ANVEENA.

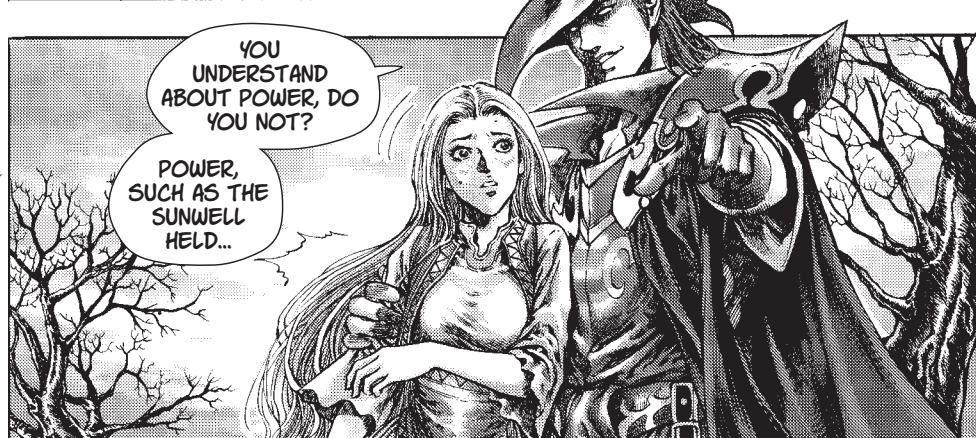






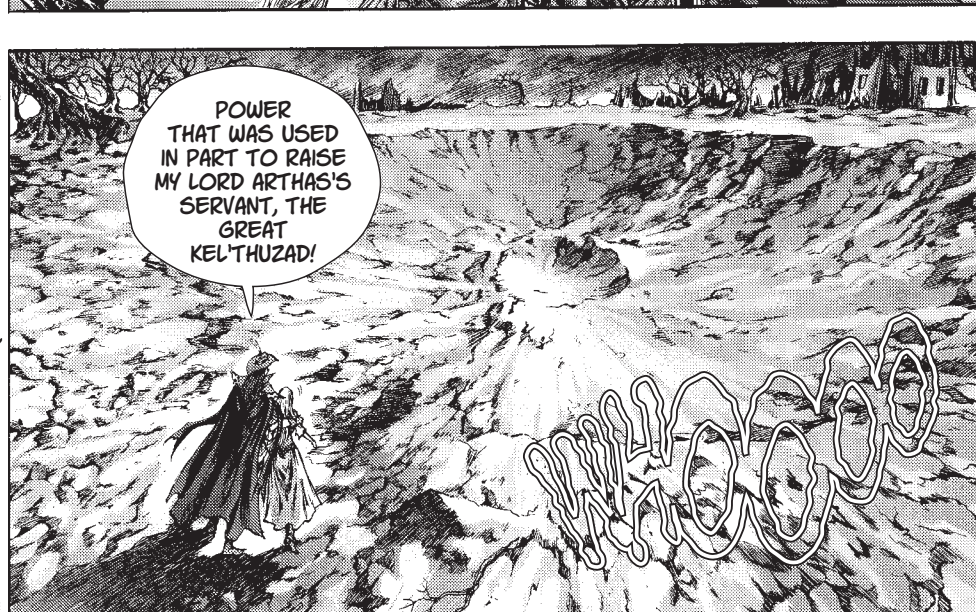
YOU STILL
SEEM SURPRISED
TO FIND ME
WHOLE.

NATURALLY, I WAS
ABLE TO WHISK MYSELF AWAY
BEFORE THE FIRES FULLY ENVELOPED
ME! I CHOSE TO LET YOU ALL THINK
I PERISHED UNTIL THE TIME WAS
RIGHT! GREAT ARE THE POWERS
GRANTED ME BY MY LORD ARTHAS!



YOU
UNDERSTAND
ABOUT POWER, DO
YOU NOT?

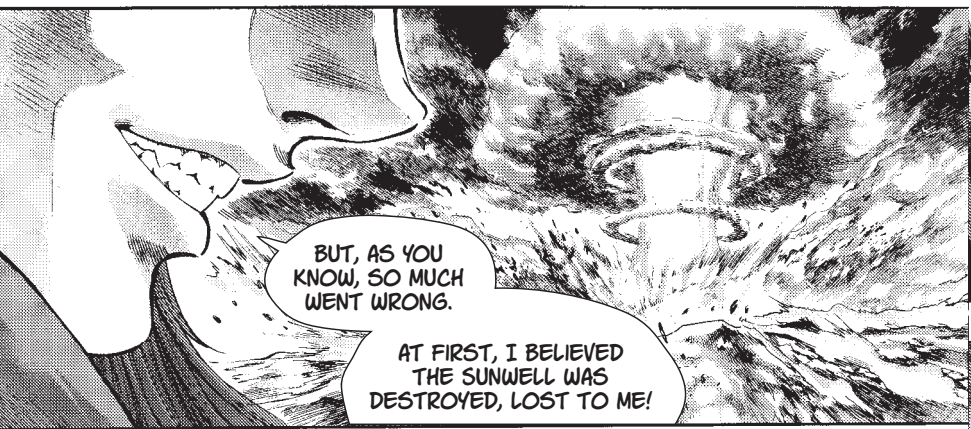
POWER,
SUCH AS THE
SUNWELL
HELD...



POWER
THAT WAS USED
IN PART TO RAISE
MY LORD ARTHAS'S
SERVANT, THE
GREAT
KEL'THUZAD!

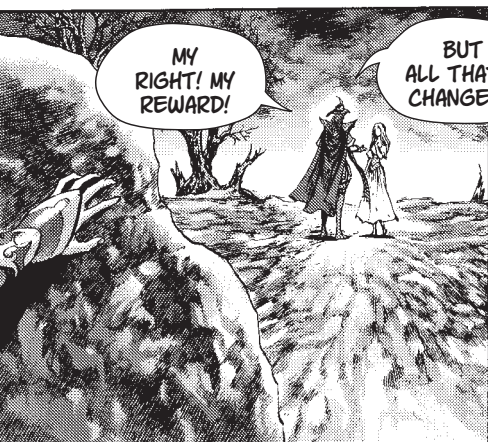


MY
REWARD FOR
AIDING IN
KEL'THUZAD'S
RETURN
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN
GRANTED
ME...



BUT, AS YOU
KNOW, SO MUCH
WENT WRONG.

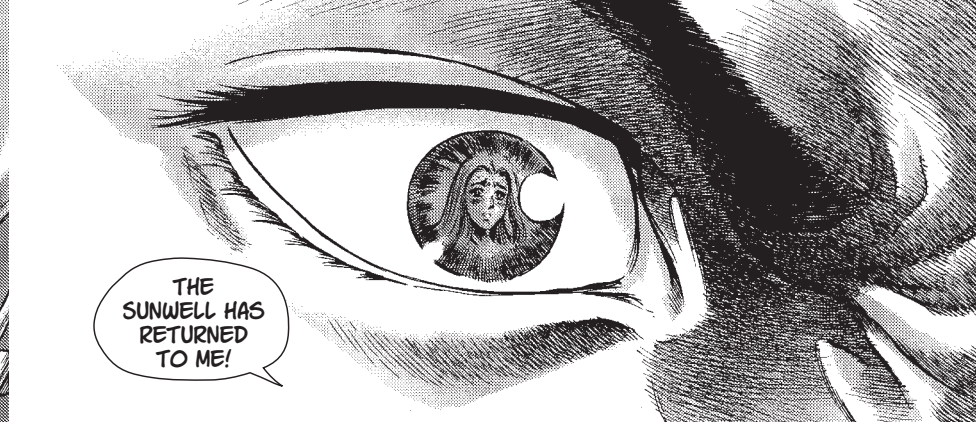
AT FIRST, I BELIEVED
THE SUNWELL WAS
DESTROYED, LOST TO ME!



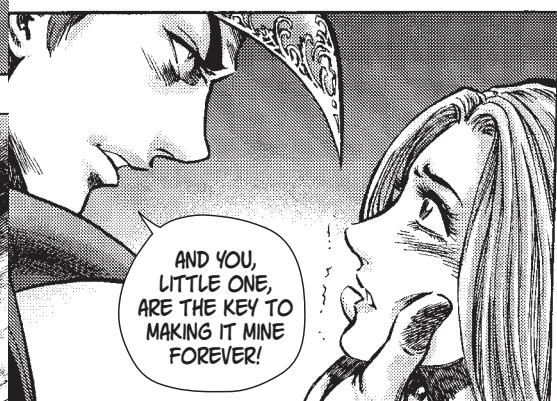
MY
RIGHT! MY
REWARD!



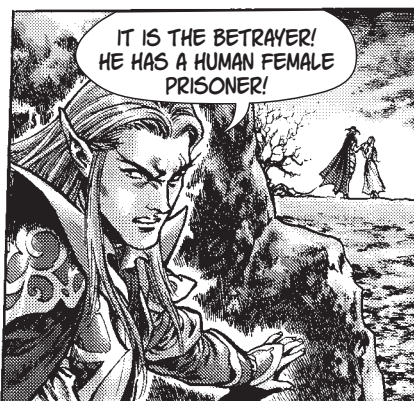
BUT
ALL THAT'S
CHANGED...



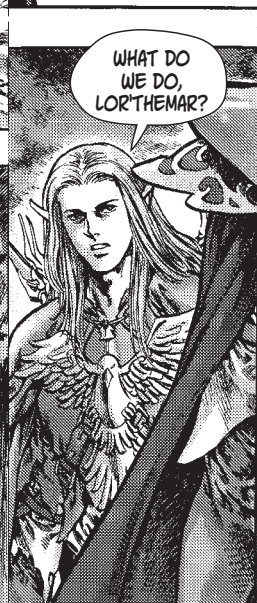
THE
SUNWELL HAS
RETURNED
TO ME!



AND YOU,
LITTLE ONE,
ARE THE KEY TO
MAKING IT MINE
FOREVER!



IT IS THE BETRAVER!
HE HAS A HUMAN FEMALE
PRISONER!



WHAT DO
WE DO,
LOR'THEMAR?



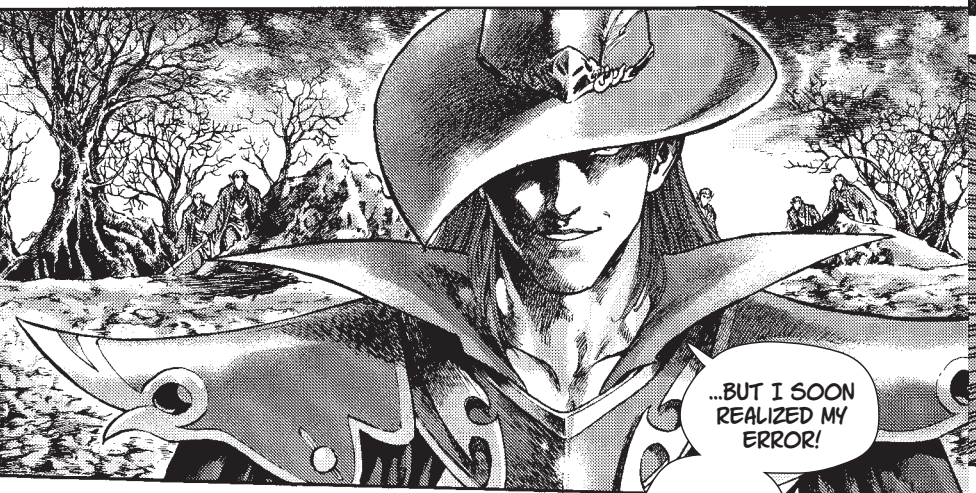
WE
SURROUND HIM
AS BEST AS
WE CAN!

HALDURON,
TAKE HALF
AND CIRCLE
TO THE
NORTH! I'LL
LEAD THE
REST...

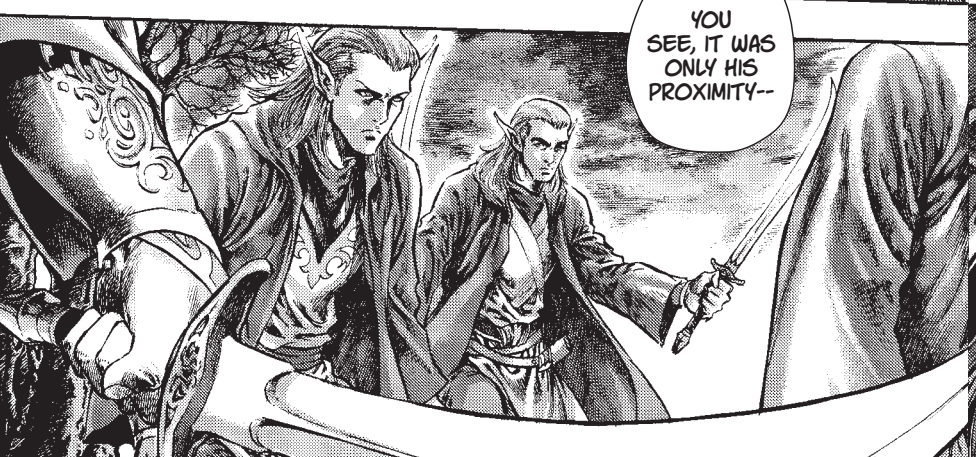


I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HOW CAN I DO ANYTHING? DON'T YOU NEED RAAC?

RAAC?
THAT FOUL LITTLE ABOMINATION?
NO, I THOUGHT HE WAS THE SUNWELL ITSELF...



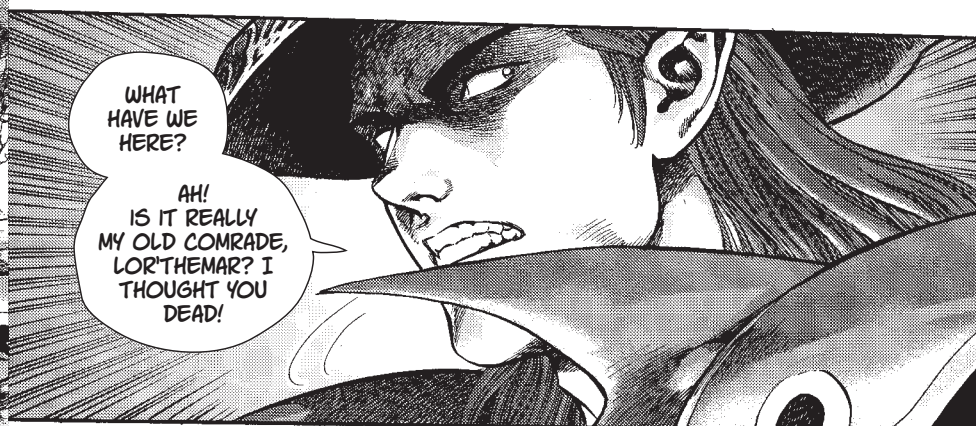
...BUT I SOON REALIZED MY ERROR!



YOU SEE, IT WAS ONLY HIS PROXIMITY--



DAR'KHAN!
YOUR TIME
HAS COME,
BETRAYER!

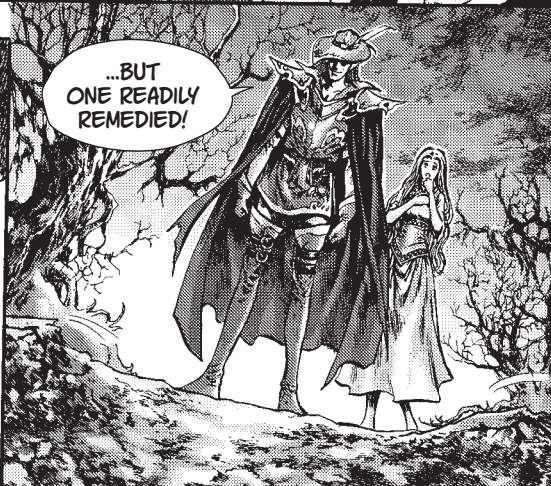


WHAT
HAVE WE
HERE?

AH!
IS IT REALLY
MY OLD COMRADE,
LOR'THEMAR? I
THOUGHT YOU
DEAD!



A MISTAKE,
I SEE...



...BUT
ONE READILY
REMEDIED!



SO
MANY OF
YOUR
COMRADES
PERISHED
PROTECTING
THE
SUNWELL...

THEY HAVE
MISSED YOU,
LOR'THEMAR!

I
THINK IT
IS TIME
YOU FINALLY
JOINED
THEM...



DO
YOU NOT
AGREE?

BY THE
WELL!



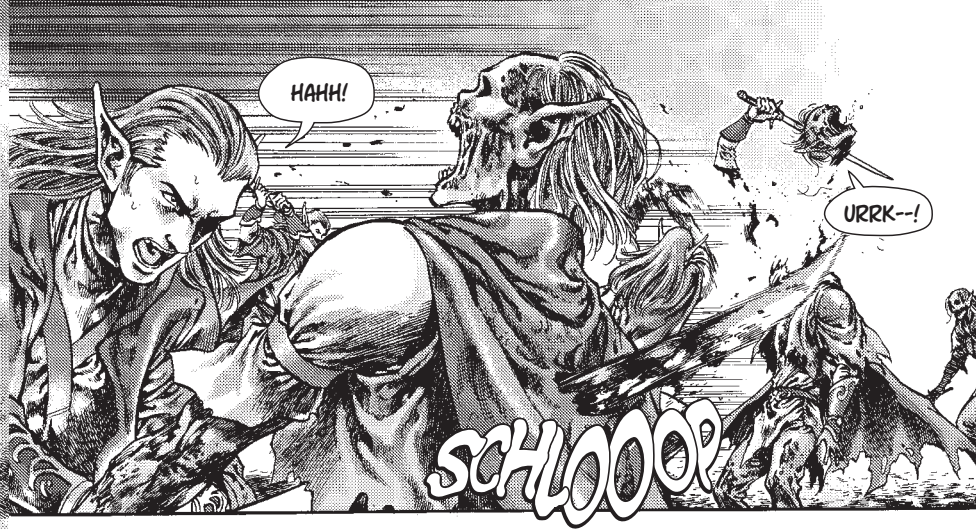


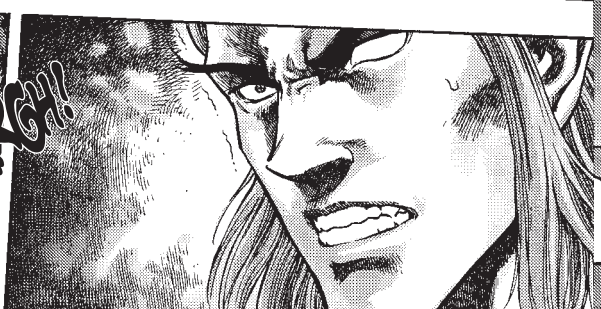
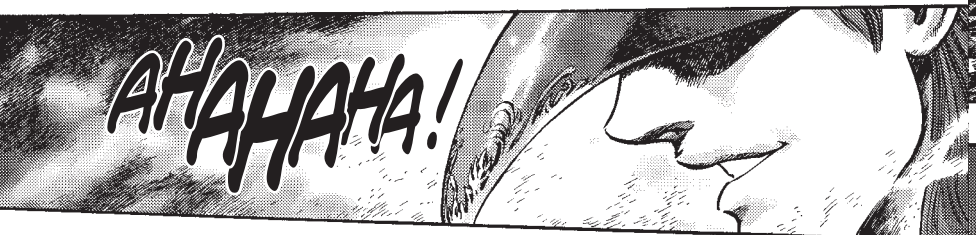
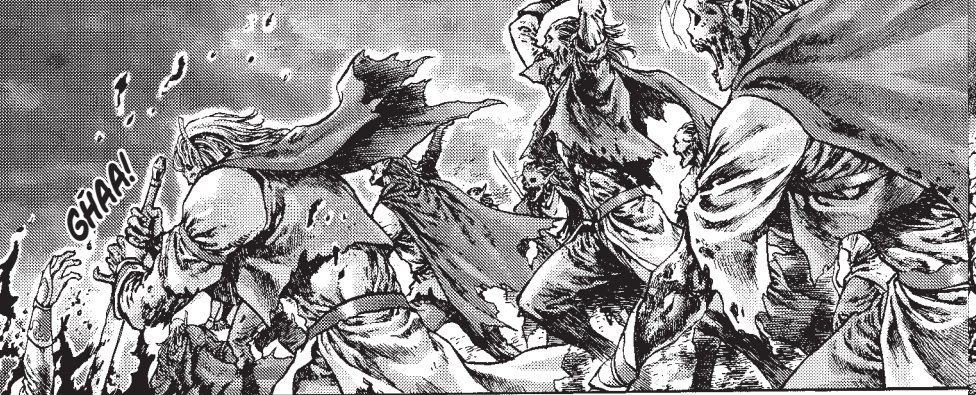
HURRGGH!




FOR
QUEL'THALAS!

CLANG









AH HA HA!
RUN ALL YOU
LIKE, FRIEND
LOR'THEMAR!

A wide-angle shot of a desolate, rocky landscape under a cloudy sky. In the distance, a large group of soldiers in dark, heavy armor and cloaks are marching in a line. The ground is uneven and rocky. The overall tone is grim and foreboding.



SOON,
THERE WILL
NOT BE
ANYWHERE
FAR ENOUGH
TO ESCAPE
ME!

A close-up, black and white illustration of a character's face. The character has a wide, confident smile and is looking slightly to the right. They are wearing a dark, ornate hat with a decorative band. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.



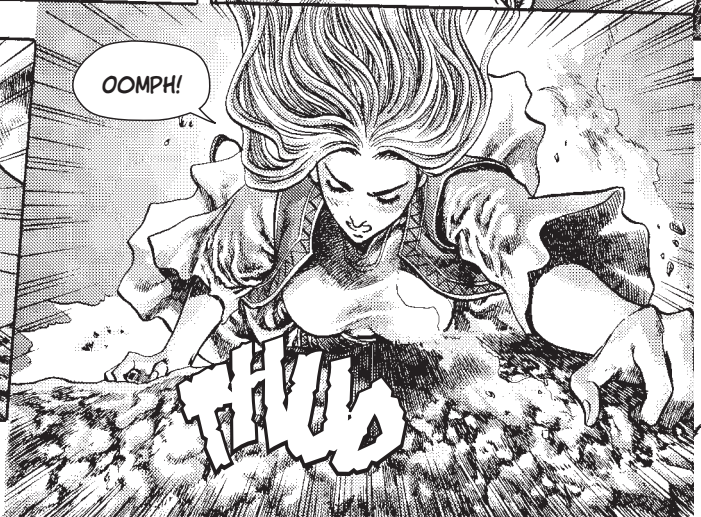
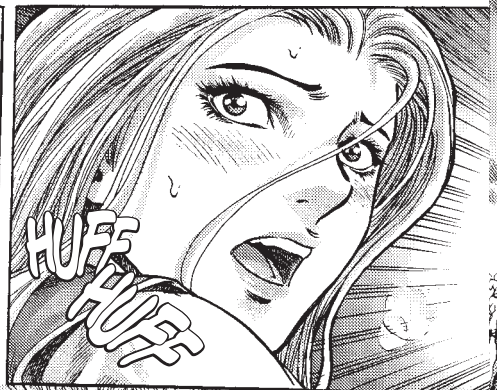
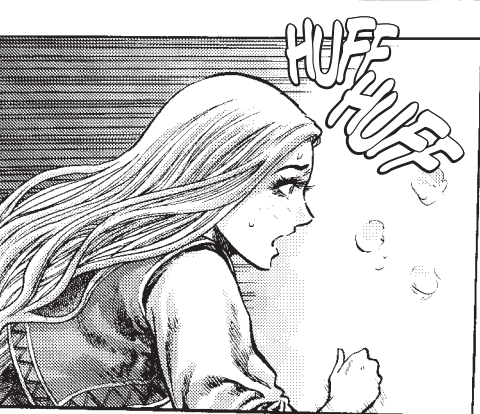
WELL!
THAT WAS
AN AMUSING
INTERLUDE,
WAS IT NOT,
LITTLE--

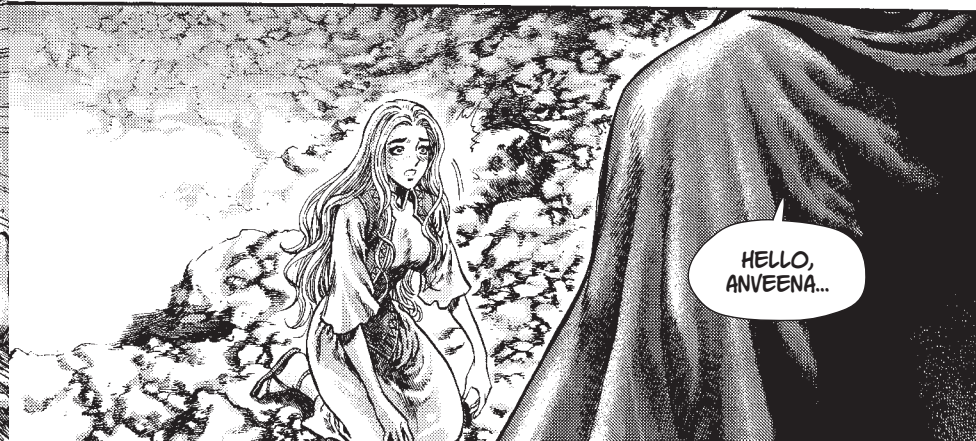
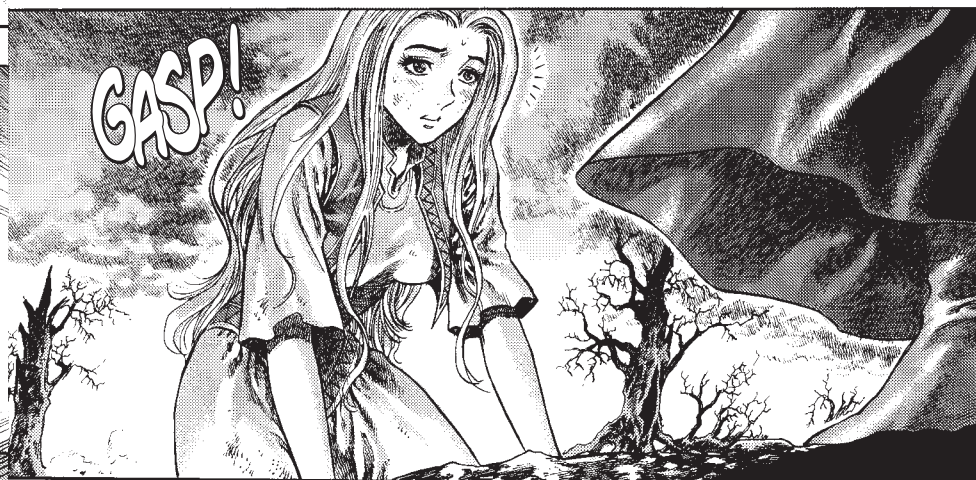
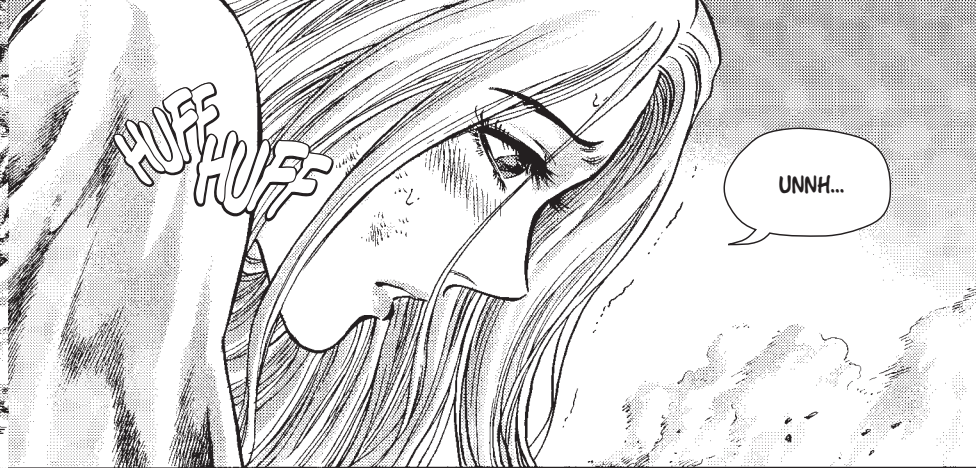
A character in a dark, ornate outfit with a cape stands on a rocky outcrop. They are looking towards the viewer with a slight smile. The background shows a desolate landscape with bare trees and a cloudy sky. The character's outfit is highly detailed with patterns and textures.



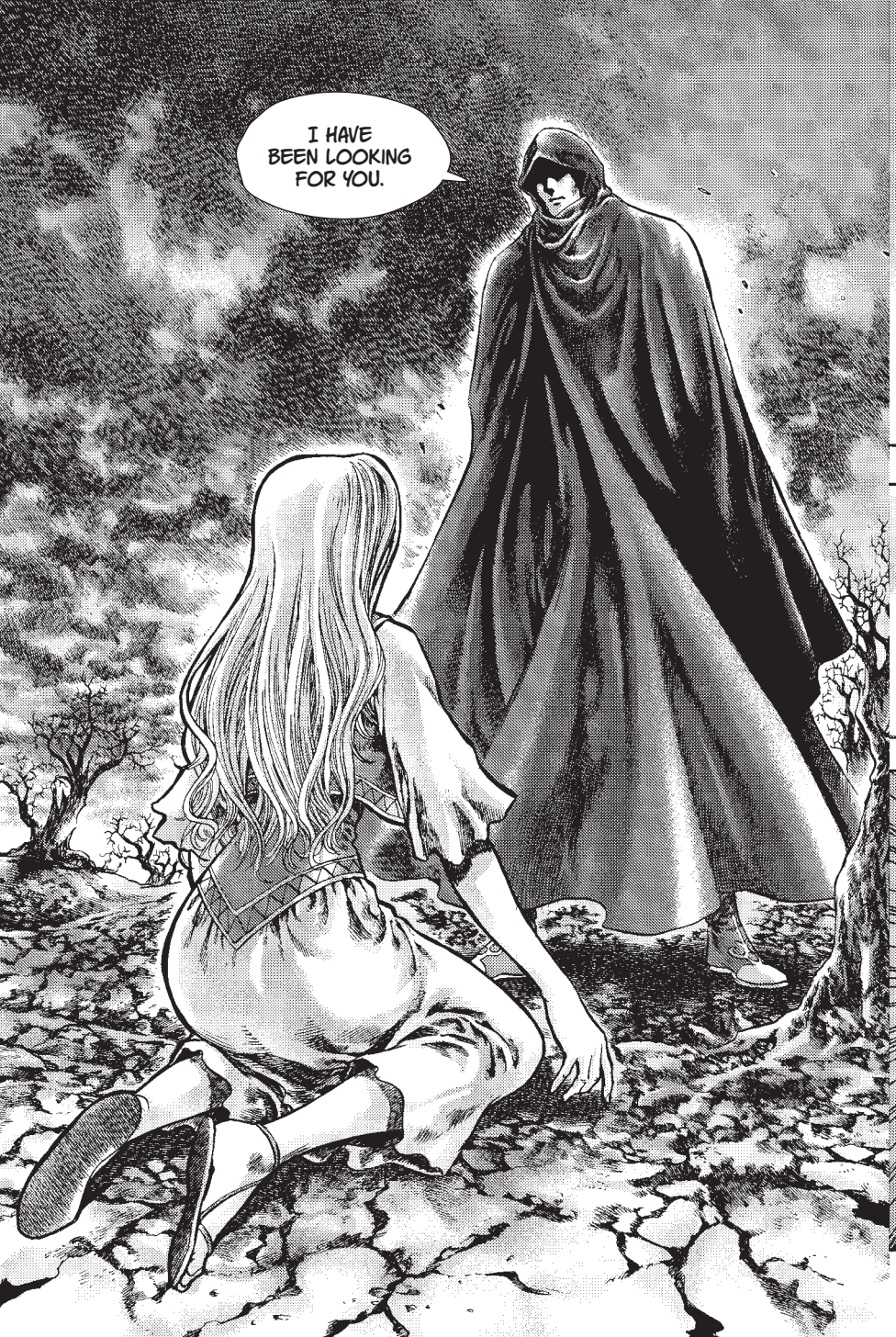
!!!

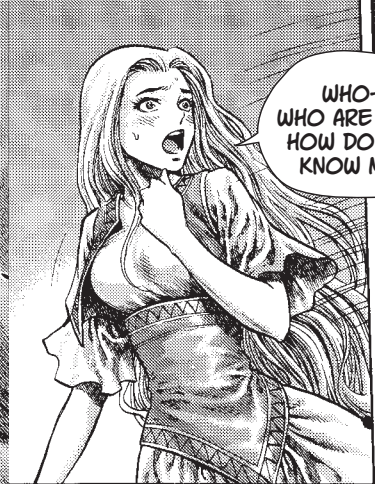
A close-up of a character's eye, looking directly at the viewer. The eye is large and detailed, with a dark iris and a white highlight. The surrounding area is dark and textured, suggesting a helmet or a mask. The overall effect is one of intense focus and a sense of being watched.





I HAVE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU.

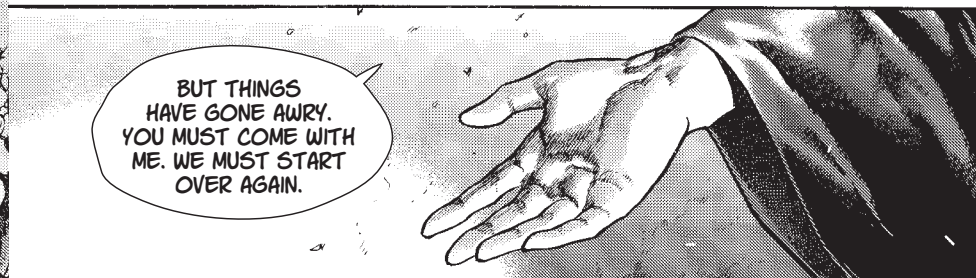




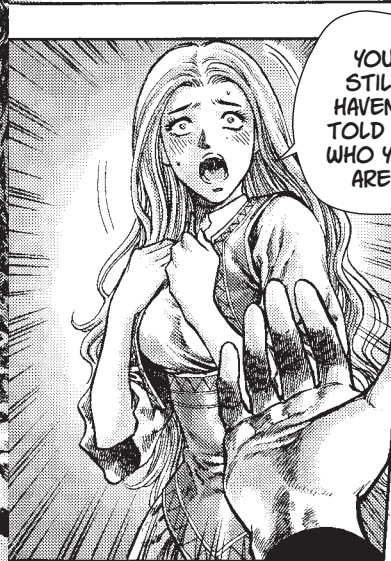
WHO--
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DO YOU
KNOW ME?



I KNOW YOU
BETTER THAN ANYONE.
I WAS THE ONE TO
INITIALLY FIND YOU, TO
HELP YOU HIDE UNTIL
THE TIME CAME.



BUT THINGS
HAVE GONE AWRY.
YOU MUST COME WITH
ME. WE MUST START
OVER AGAIN.



YOU
STILL
HAVEN'T
TOLD ME
WHO YOU
ARE!

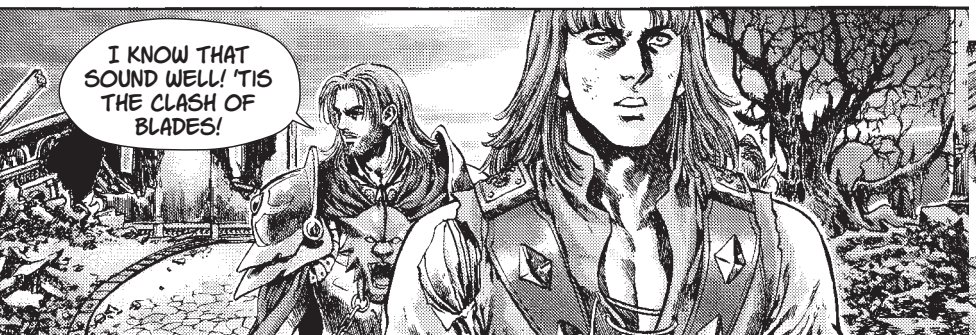


I HAVE
MANY, MANY
NAMES, ANVEENA,
BUT YOU... YOU
KNOW ME AS
BOREL.

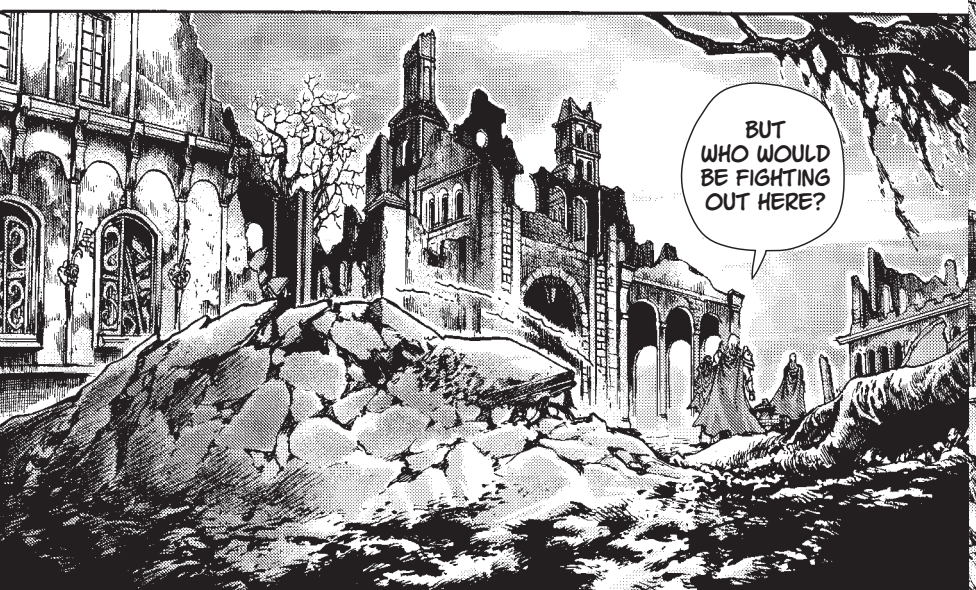


DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT CAME FROM UP AHEAD.

CLANG



I KNOW THAT SOUND WELL! 'TIS THE CLASH OF BLADES!



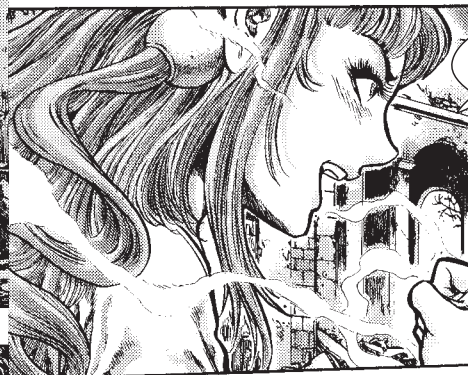
BUT WHO WOULD BE FIGHTING OUT HERE?



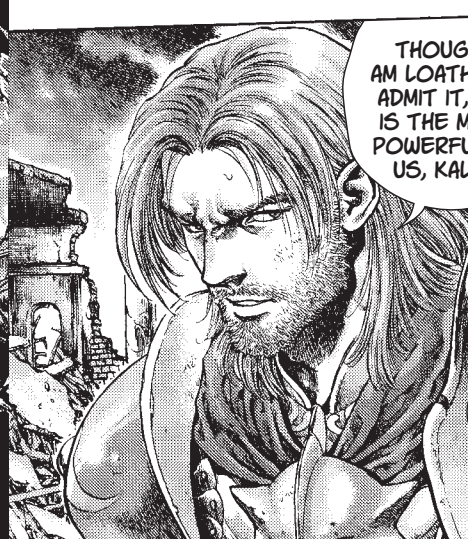
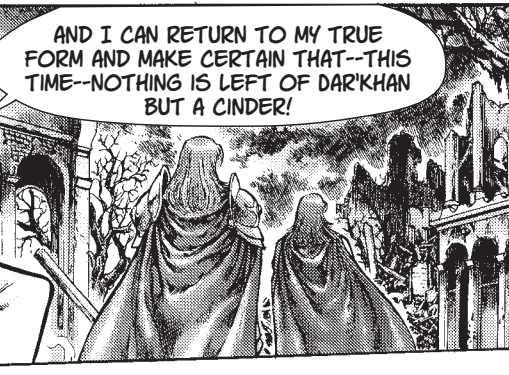
IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ANVEENA! SHE HAS TO BE NEAR!



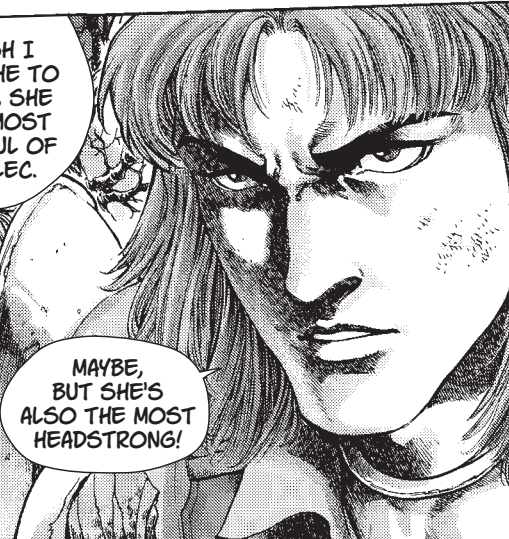
IF SO, THEN I SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD! YOUR MAGIC IS HINDERED BY THE COLLAR, WHILE MINE REMAINS STRONG!



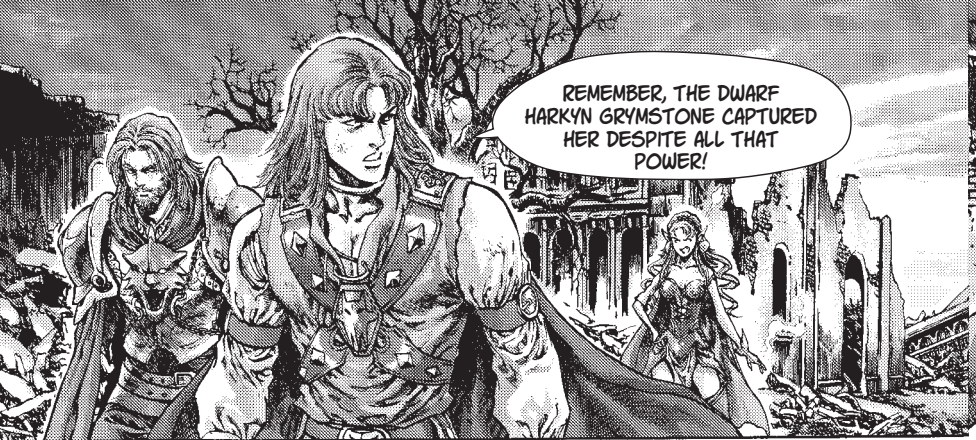
AND I CAN RETURN TO MY TRUE FORM AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT--THIS TIME--NOTHING IS LEFT OF DARKKHAN BUT A CINDER!



THOUGH I AM LOATHE TO ADMIT IT, SHE IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF US, KALEC.



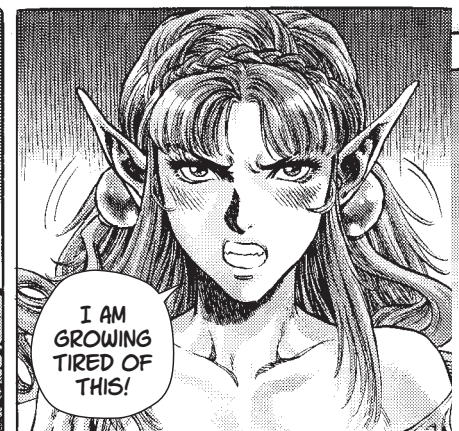
MAYBE, BUT SHE'S ALSO THE MOST HEADSTRONG!



REMEMBER, THE DWARF
HARKYN GRYMSTONE CAPTURED
HER DESPITE ALL THAT
POWER!



WE
DRAGONS MAY
BE STRONG,
BUT WE'RE
NOT
INVINCIBLE...



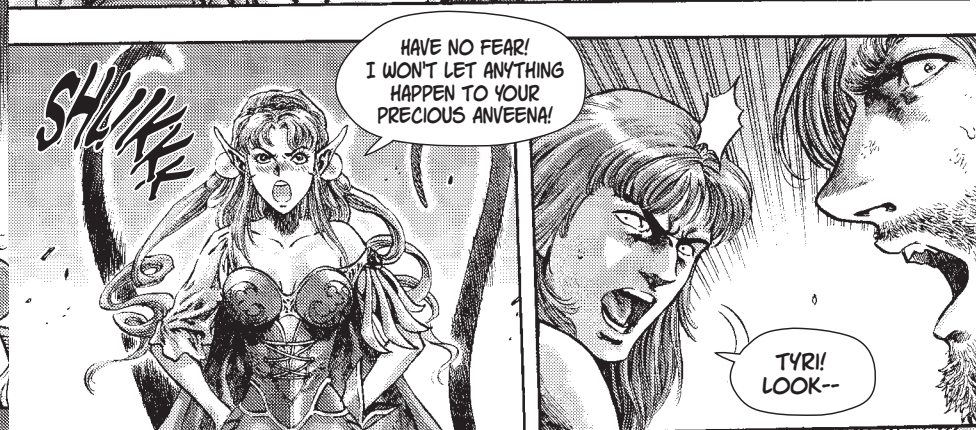
I AM
GROWING
TIRED OF
THIS!



YOU'VE BEEN
IN THAT MORTAL
FORM FAR TOO LONG,
KALEC! YOU'RE
SOUNDING LIKE ONE
OF THEM!

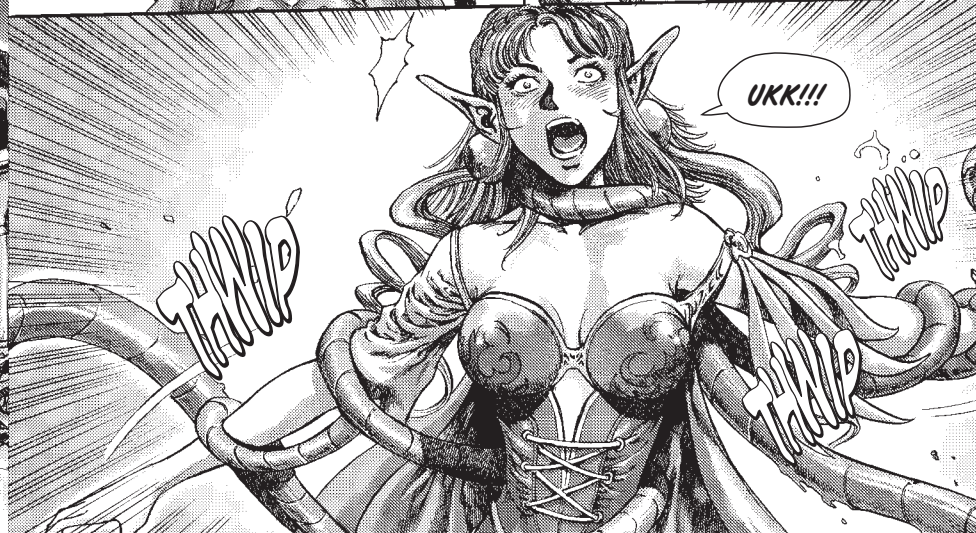


I JUST DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET HURT, TYR! YOU CAN'T SIMPLY GO CHARGING IN AGAIN! DAR'KHAN'S TOO CUNNING FOR THAT!



HAVE NO FEAR! I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOUR PRECIOUS ANVEENA!

TYR!
LOOK--



UKK!!!



RRRRRRG!!

TYRI!!

CHAPTER THREE

CRY OF THE BANSHEE



RRRAUGH!!

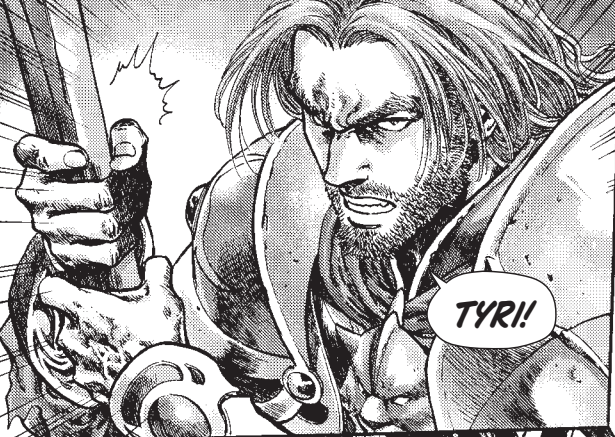




AAAKK!

TYRI!

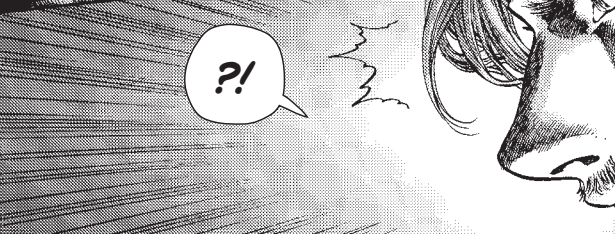
IT'S
ABSORBING
HER MAGIC--
SHE CAN'T
BREAK
FREE!



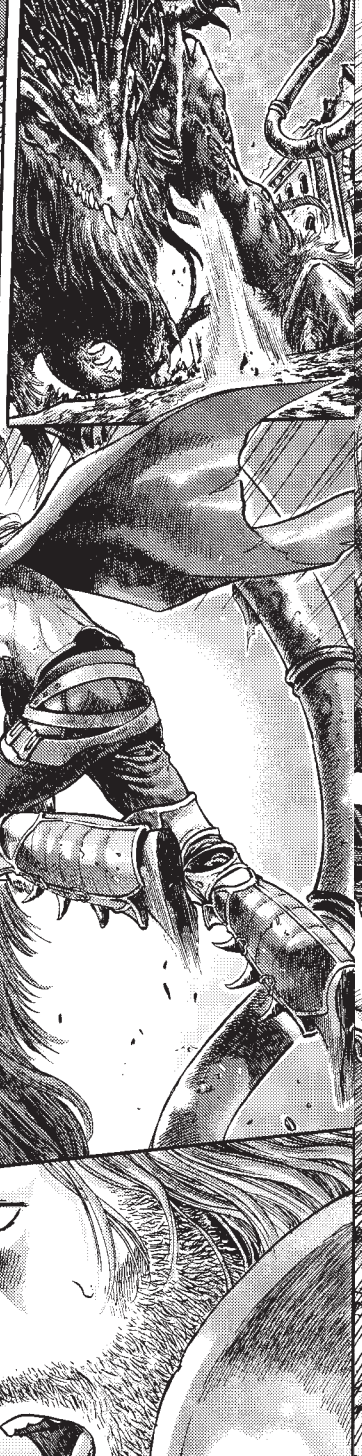
TYRI!



RELEASE HER, DAMN YOU!



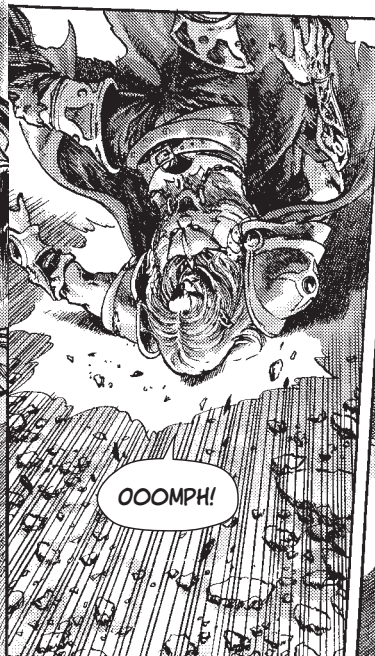
?!





THWAM

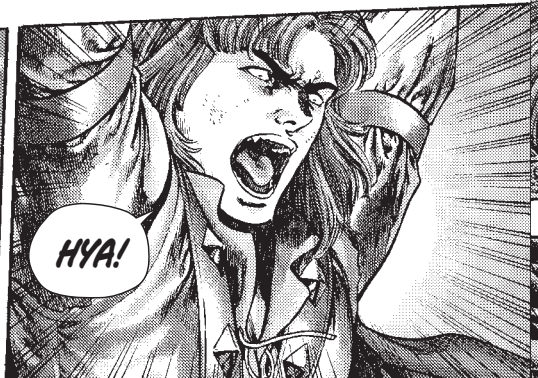
UNGH!

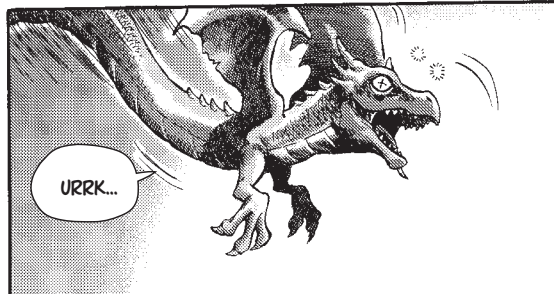
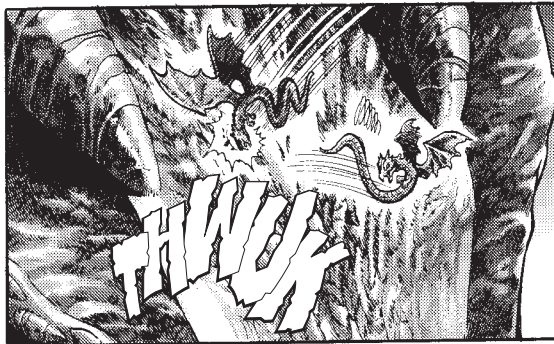
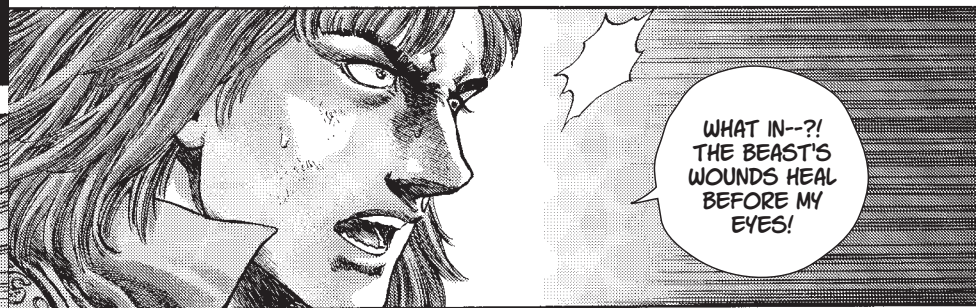


OOOMPH!



EYAAAHH!

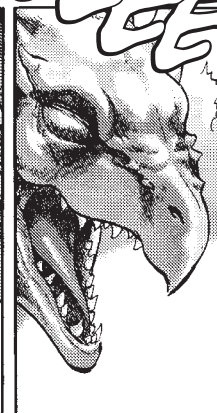
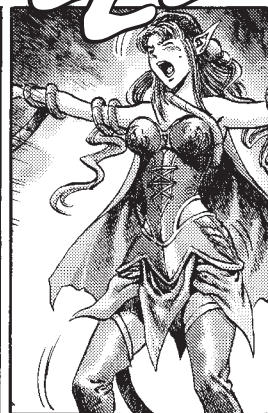




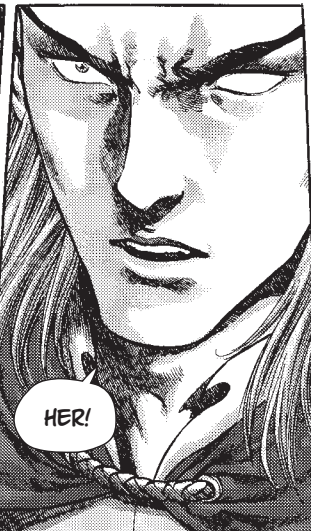




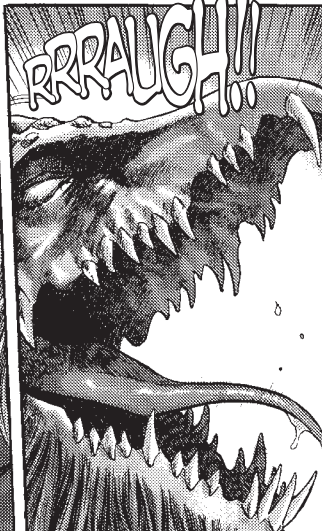
EEEEEEEEEE



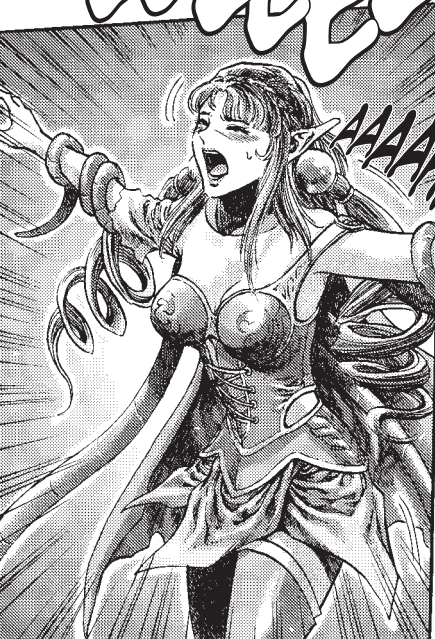
!!!

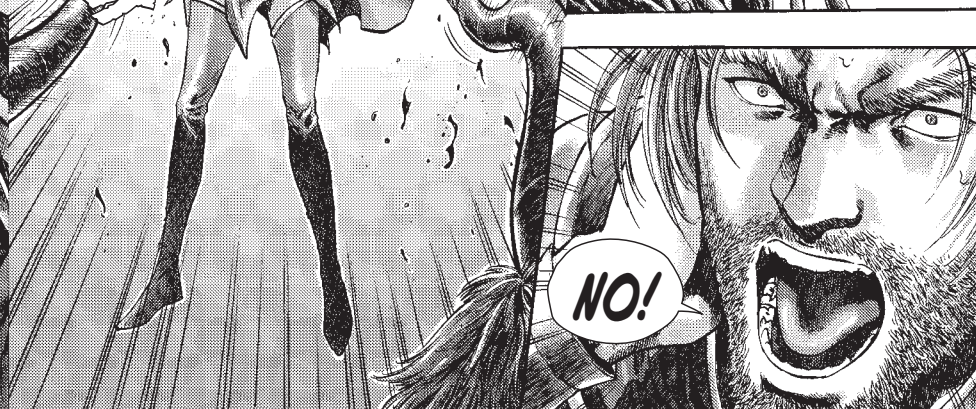
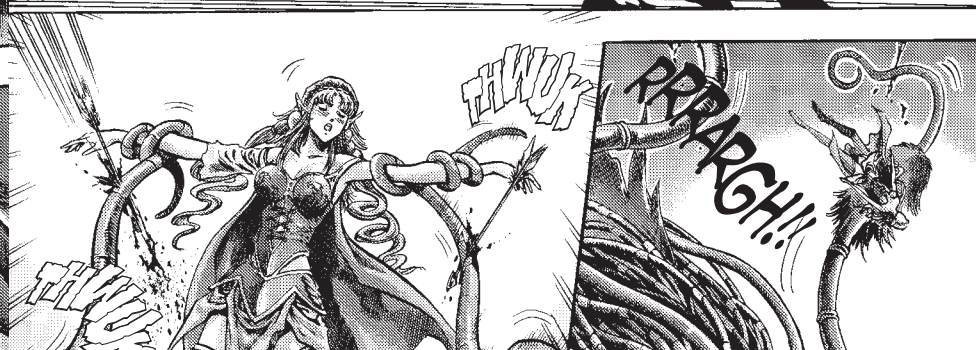
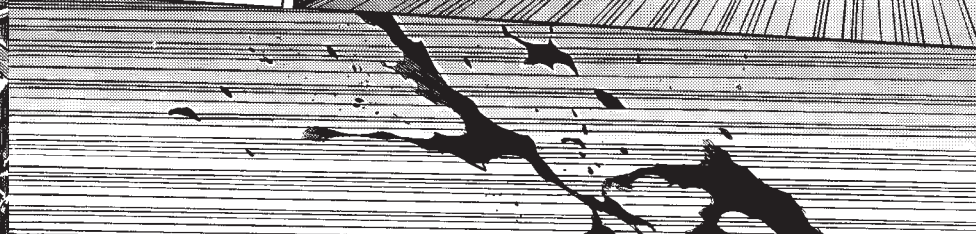


HER!



RRRAUGH!!







UMMPH!

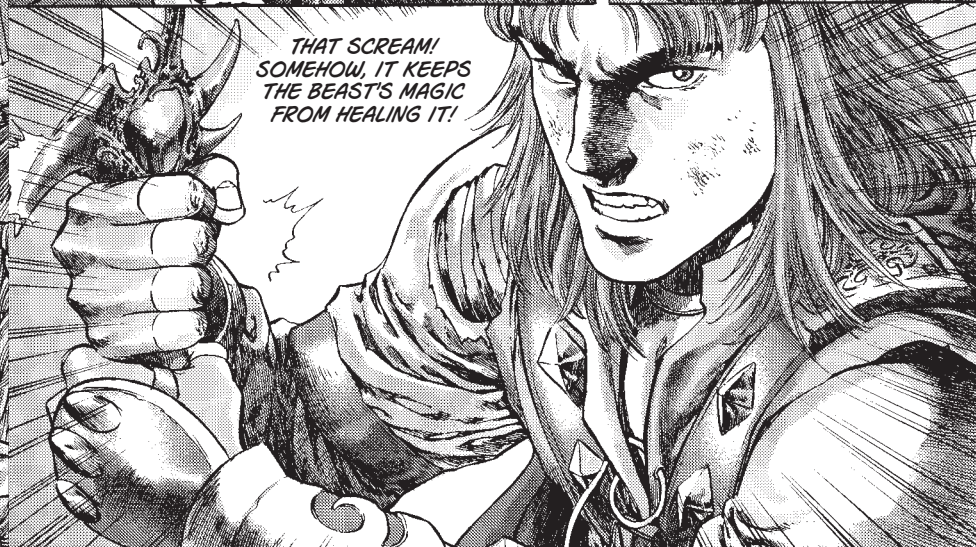
THUD

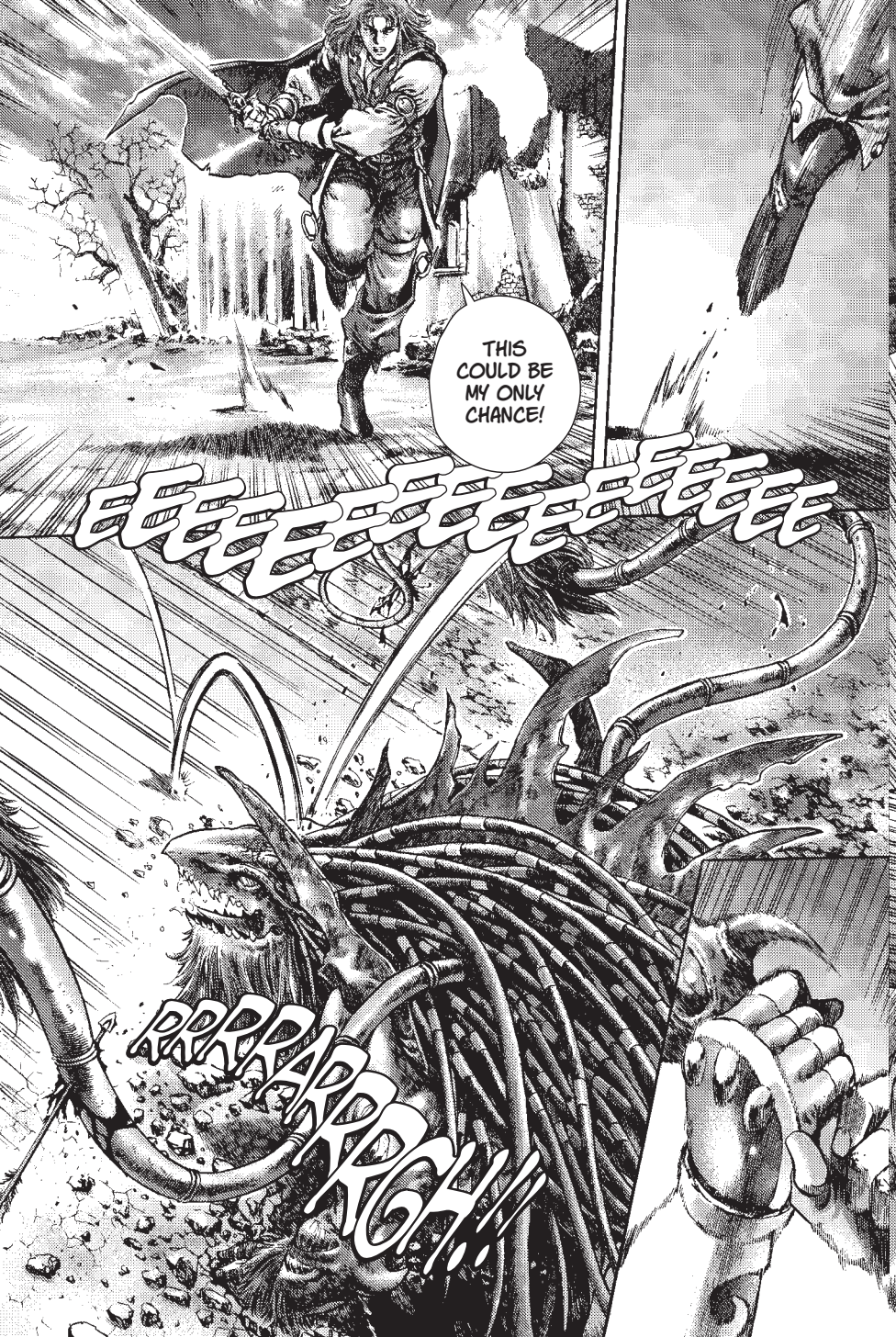
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

MY LADY?



THAT SCREAM!
SOMEHOW, IT KEEPS
THE BEAST'S MAGIC
FROM HEALING IT!





THIS
COULD BE
MY ONLY
CHANCE!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

RRRRRR
RRRRRR
RRGH!!

HAH!

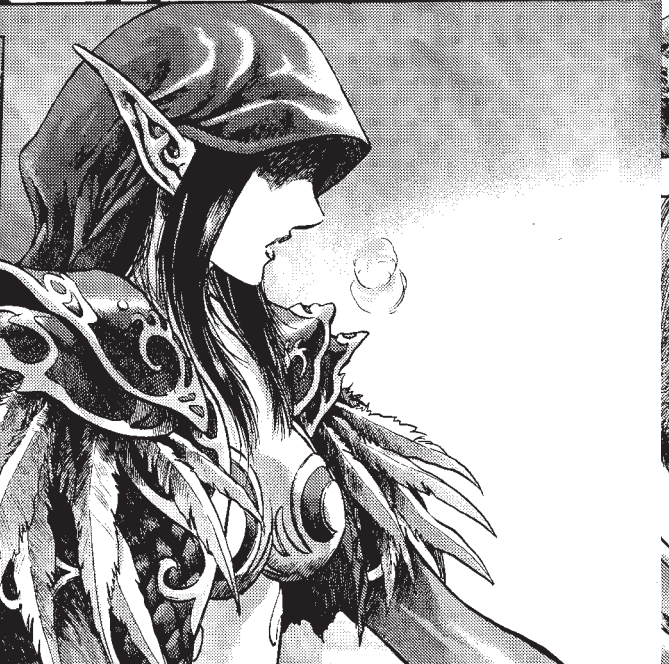
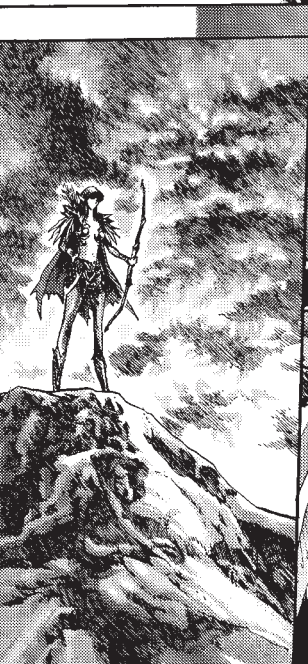
SLASH

HNH!

EEEEEEEEEEEE

WOOOSH

THE
BEAST IS
SLOWING!



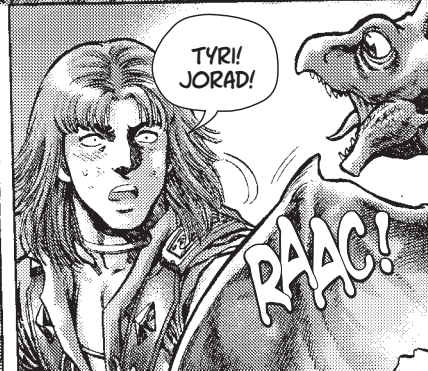


HUFF
HUFF

THE
SCREAM!
IT
STOPPED!



SOMEONE'S
OUT THERE!
C-COULD THEY
BE--

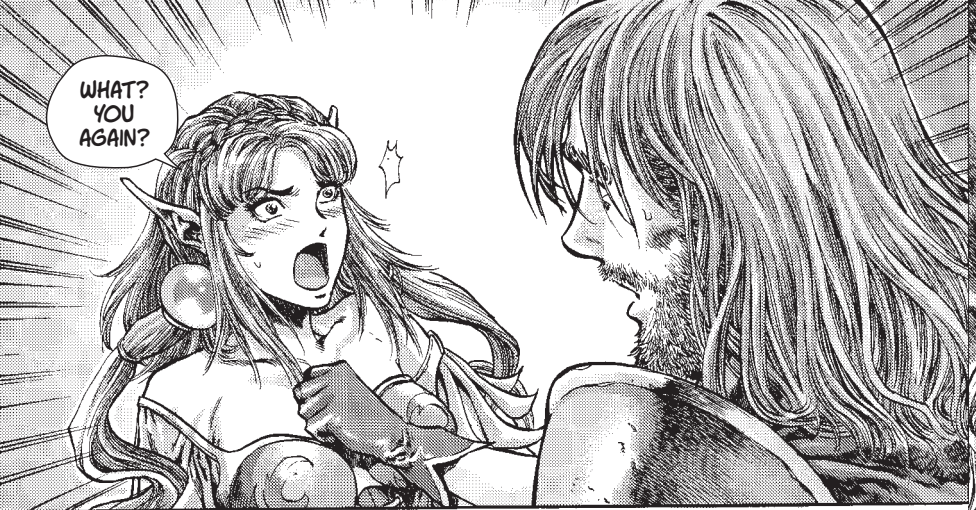


TYRI!
JORAD!

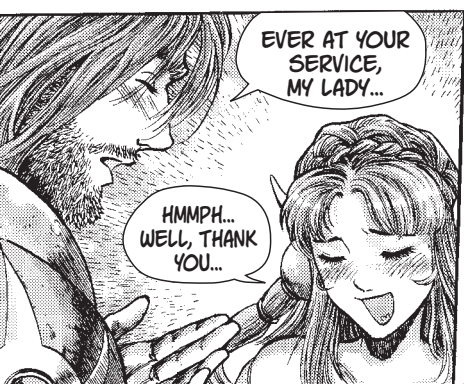
RAAC!



UNNH...



WHAT?
YOU
AGAIN?



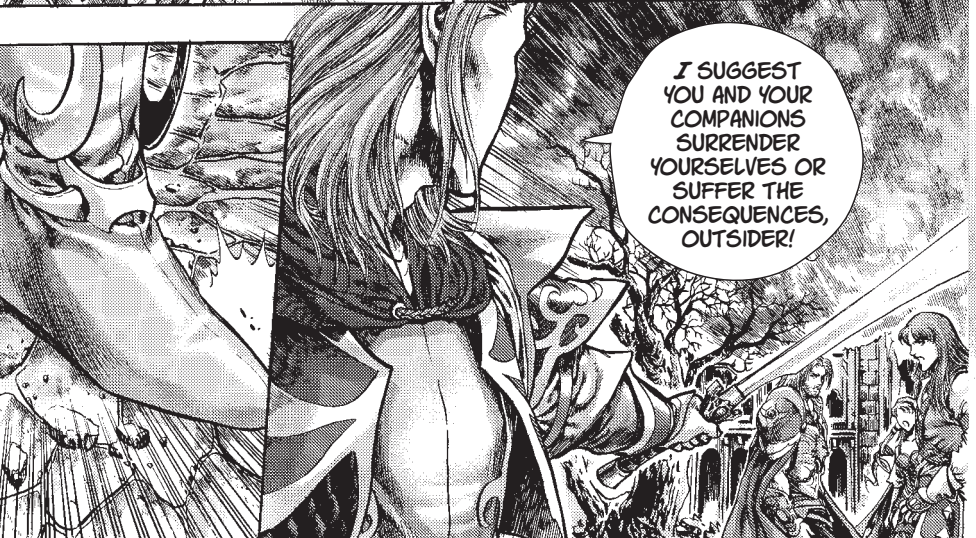
EVER AT YOUR
SERVICE,
MY LADY...

HMPH...
WELL, THANK
YOU...

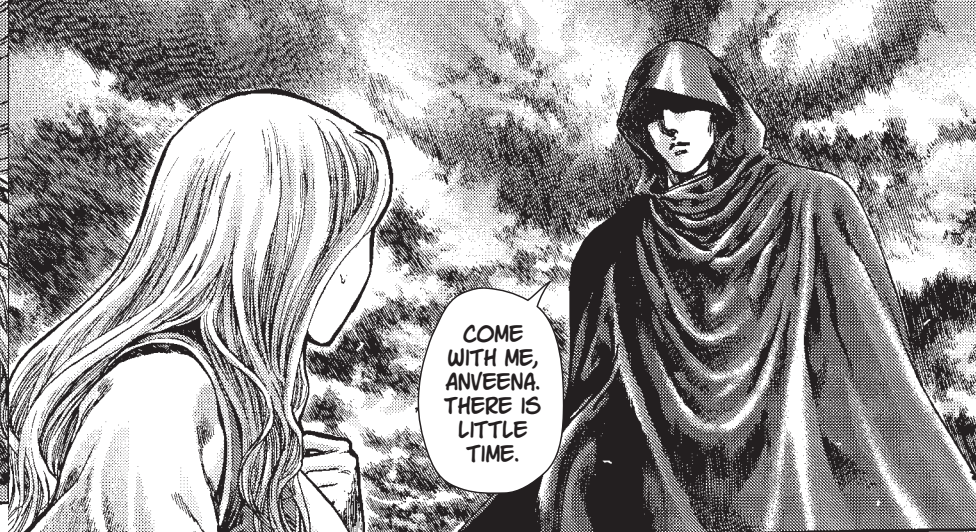


...NOT THAT I
NEEDED YOUR
HELP.

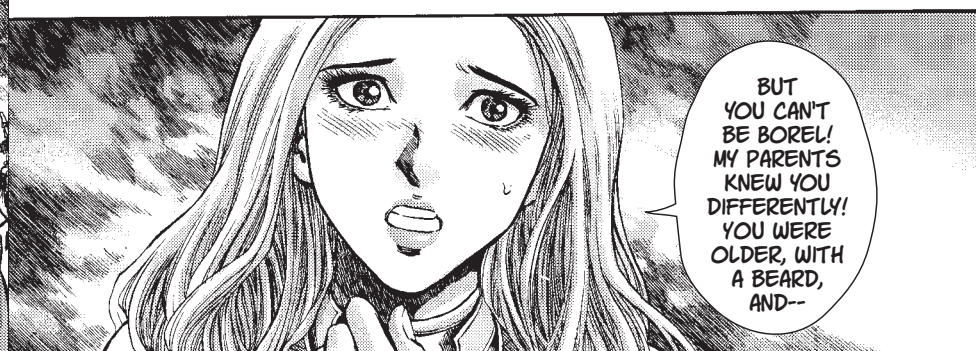
HA! IF YOU
TWO ARE ALL RIGHT,
THEN I SUGGEST--



I SUGGEST
YOU AND YOUR
COMPANIONS
SURRENDER
YOURSELVES OR
SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES,
OUTSIDER!



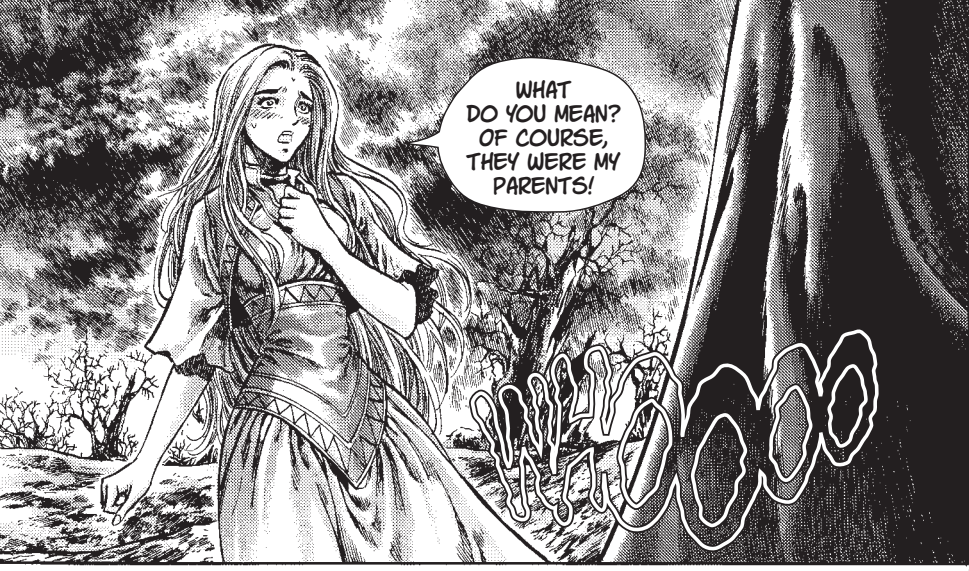
COME WITH ME, ANVEENA. THERE IS LITTLE TIME.



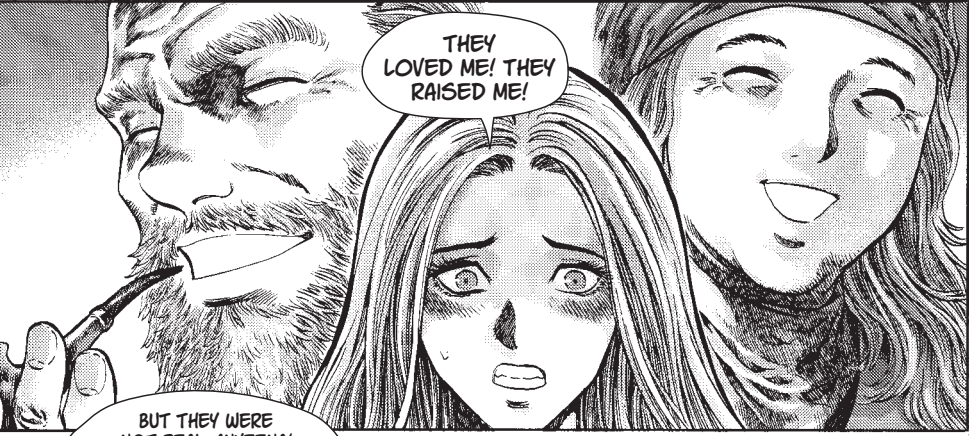
BUT YOU CAN'T BE BOREL! MY PARENTS KNEW YOU DIFFERENTLY! YOU WERE OLDER, WITH A BEARD, AND--



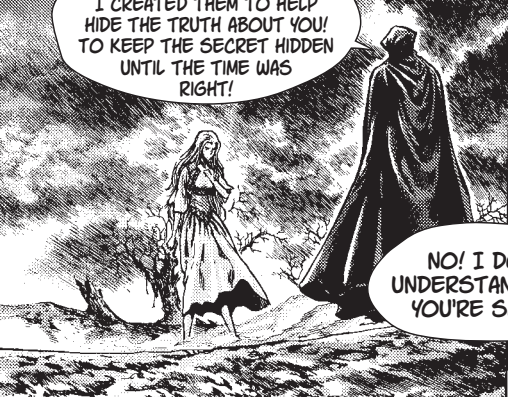
YOUR PARENTS? YOU STILL THINK OF THEM AS SUCH? HOW CURIOUS!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OF COURSE,
THEY WERE MY
PARENTS!



THEY
LOVED ME! THEY
RAISED ME!

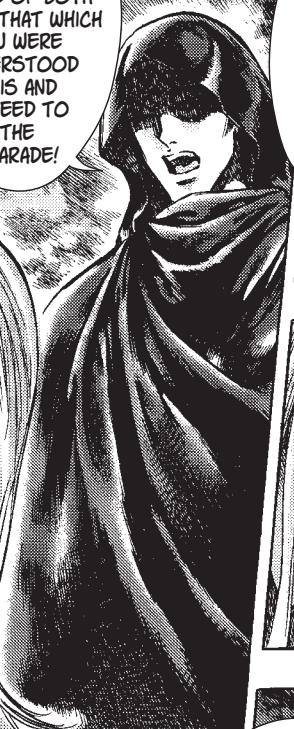


BUT THEY WERE
NOT REAL, ANVEENA!
I CREATED THEM TO HELP
HIDE THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU!
TO KEEP THE SECRET HIDDEN
UNTIL THE TIME WAS
RIGHT!



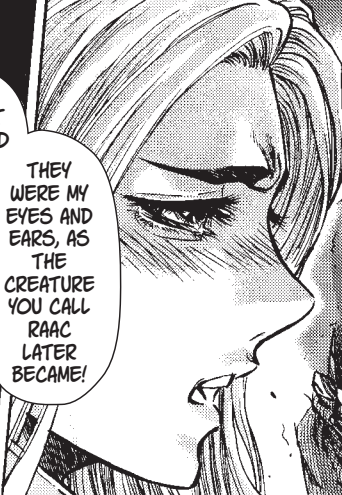
NO! I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING!

YOU'RE
SPEAKING
NONSENSE!

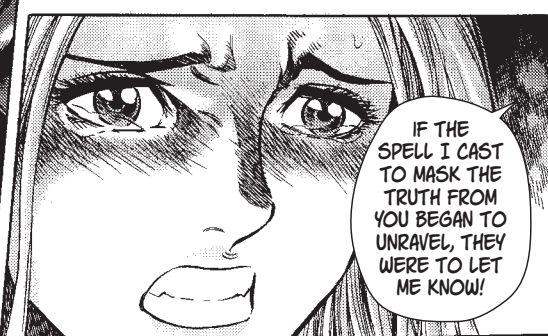


LISTEN!
THE
RE-GATHERING
OF SUCH POWER
COULD NOT HELP
BUT BE NOTICED BY
THOSE OF BOTH
SIDES! THAT WHICH
YOU WERE
UNDERSTOOD
THIS AND
AGREED TO
THE
CHARADE!


NO ONE
WOULD SUSPECT
A LITTLE GIRL AND
HER DOTING
PARENTS!



THEY
WERE MY
EYES AND
EARS, AS
THE
CREATURE
YOU CALL
RAAC
LATER
BECAME!

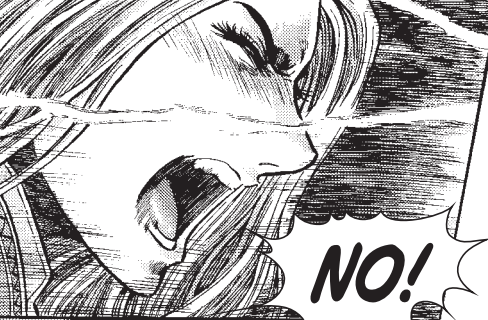


IF THE
SPELL I CAST
TO MASK THE
TRUTH FROM
YOU BEGAN TO
UNRAVEL, THEY
WERE TO LET
ME KNOW!



WHEN
THE SCOURGE
CAME, YOUR
PARENTS'
USEFULNESS WAS
AT AN END! THEY
CEASED TO BE AS
THE FLAMES
TOOK THE
HOUSE!

NOW COME,
ANVEENA! FORGET
THEM! THEY WERE NOT
REAL AND SO FELT NO
PAIN! WE WILL BEGIN
ANEW--

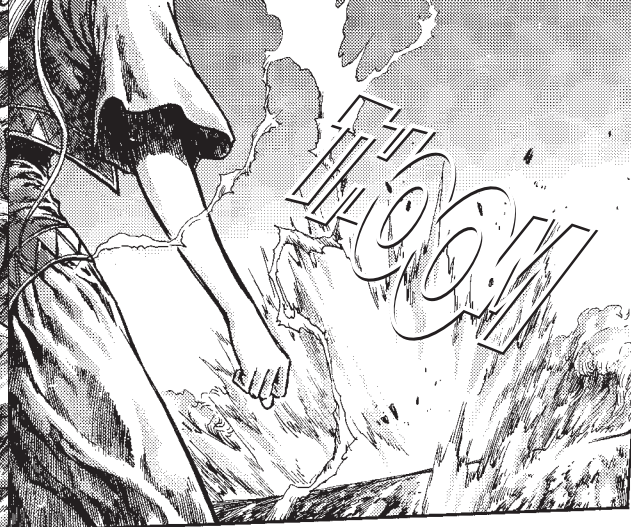


NO!



BOOM!

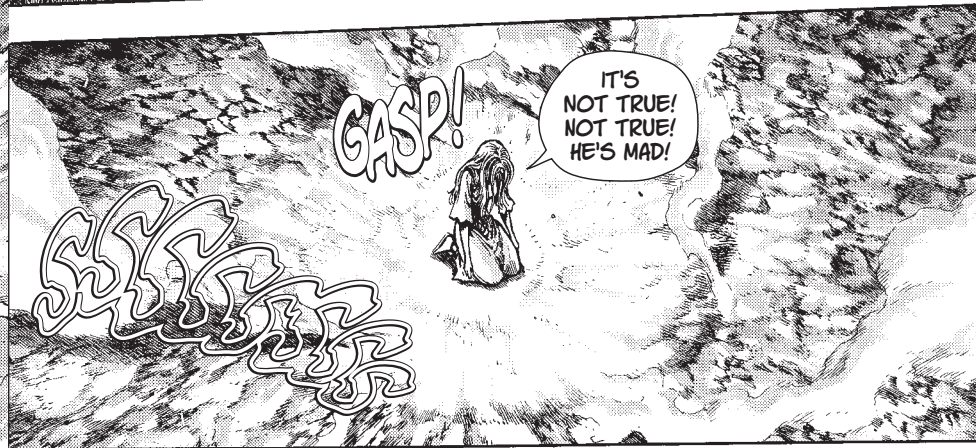




THUD

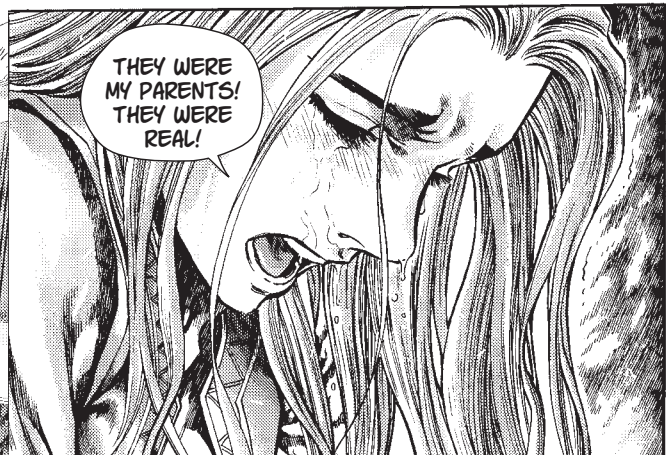


THUD

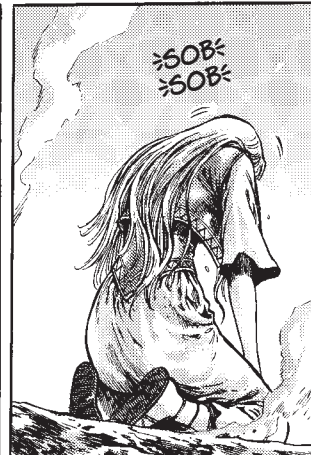


GASP!

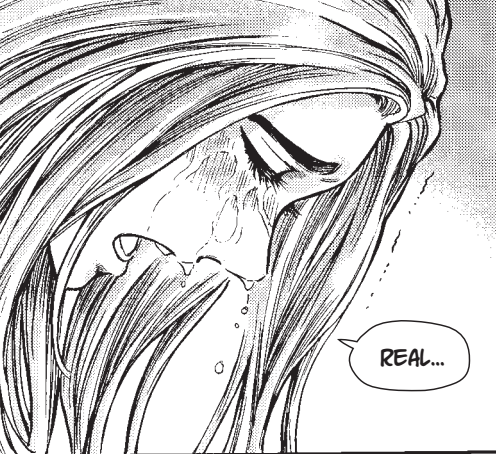
IT'S NOT TRUE!
NOT TRUE!
HE'S MAD!



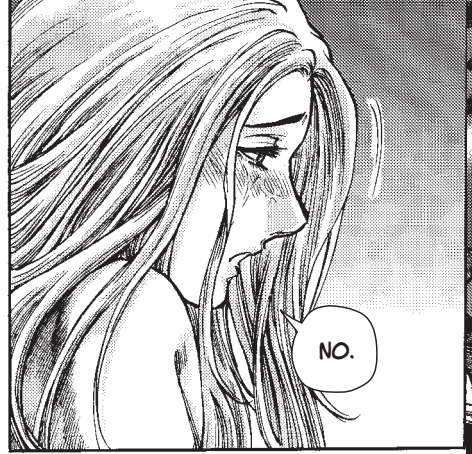
THEY WERE MY PARENTS!
THEY WERE REAL!



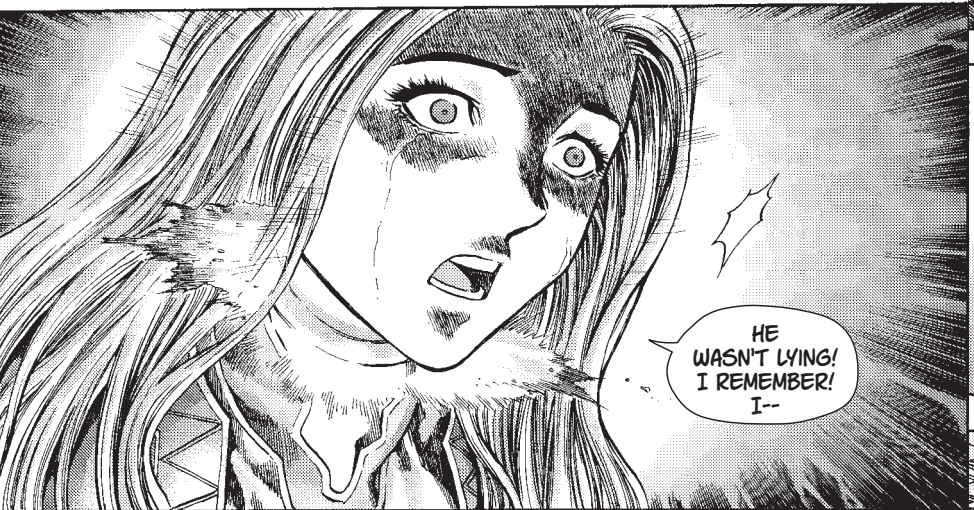
SOB
SOB



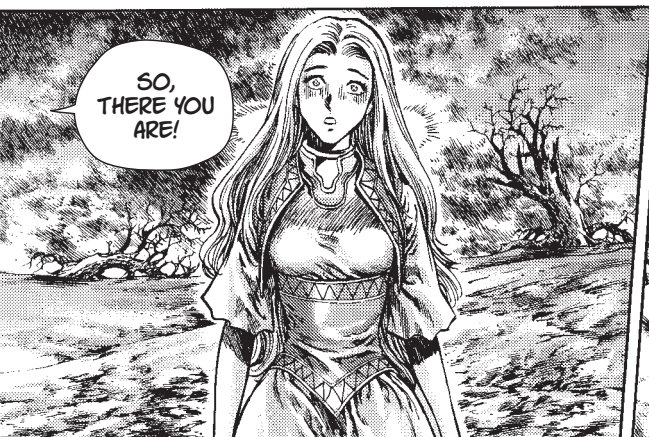
REAL...



NO.

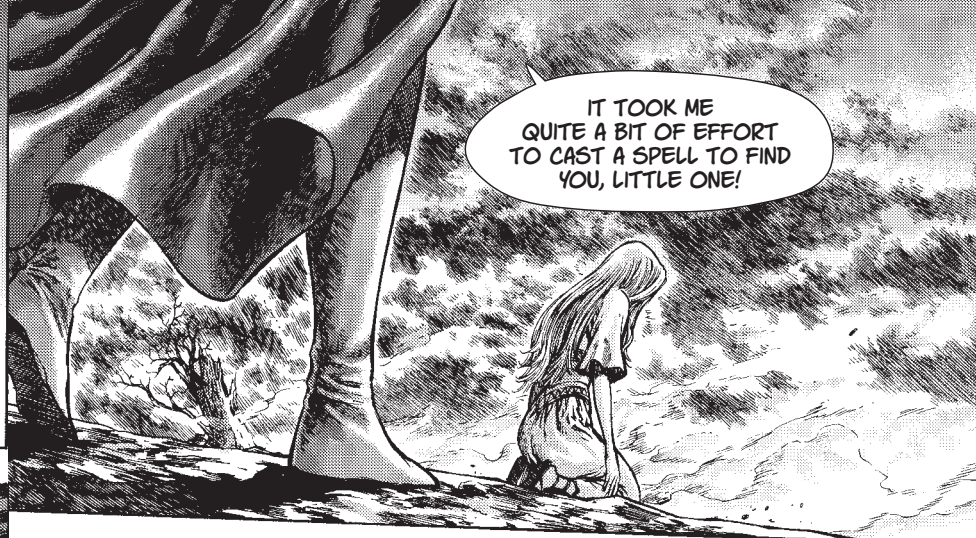


HE
WASN'T LYING!
I REMEMBER!
I--

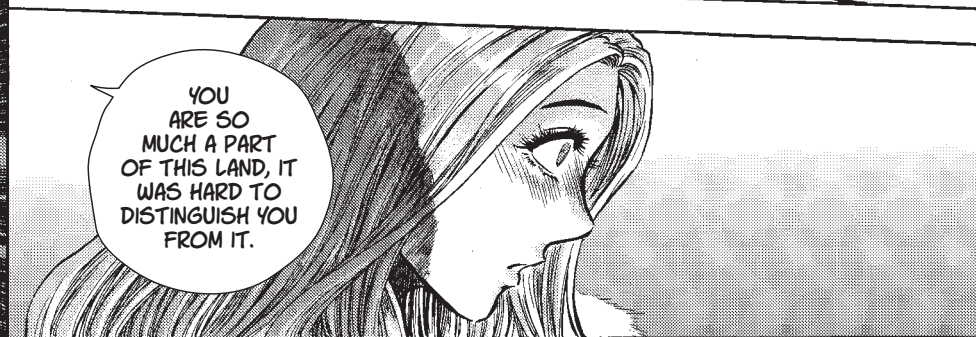


SO,
THERE YOU
ARE!

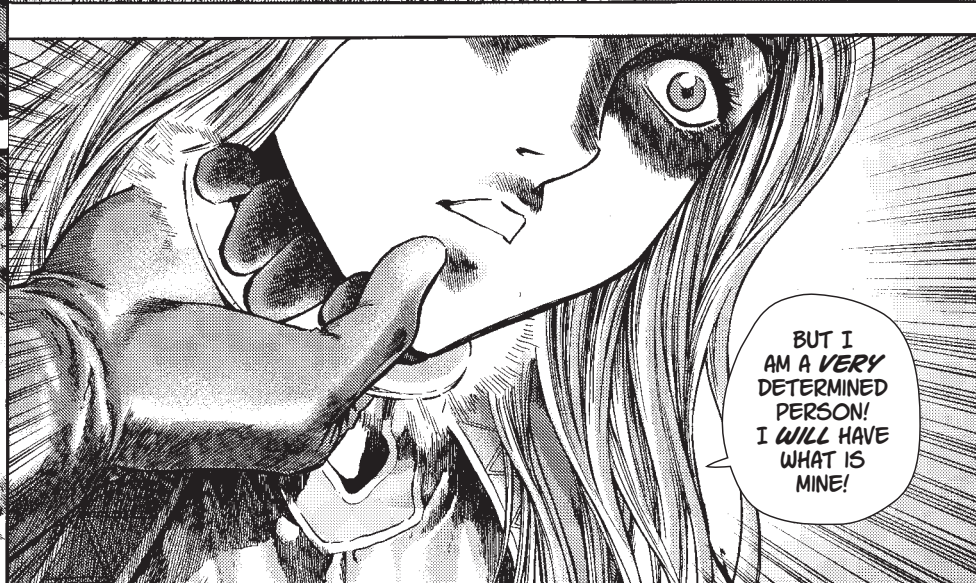




IT TOOK ME
QUITE A BIT OF EFFORT
TO CAST A SPELL TO FIND
YOU, LITTLE ONE!



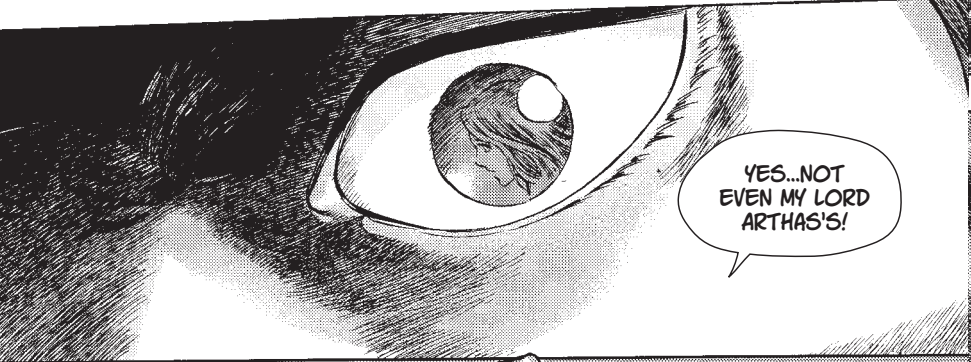
YOU
ARE SO
MUCH A PART
OF THIS LAND, IT
WAS HARD TO
DISTINGUISH YOU
FROM IT.



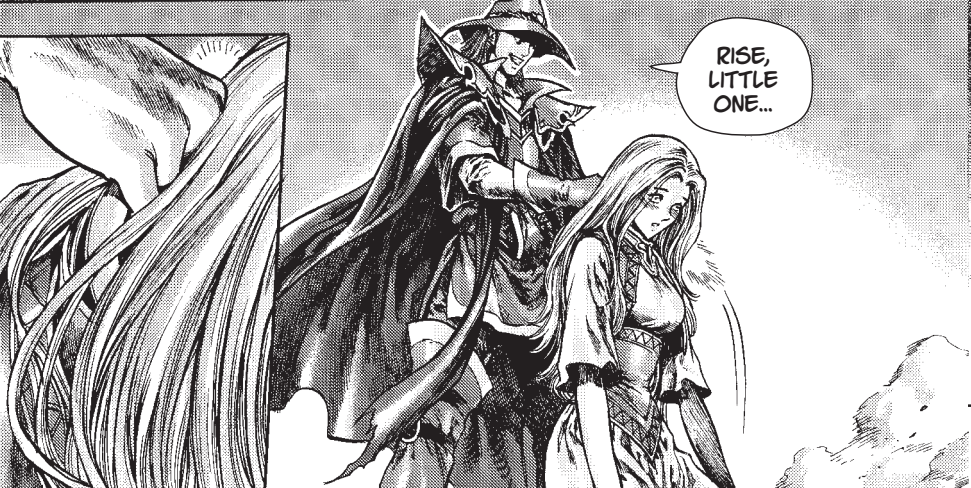
BUT I
AM A *VERY*
DETERMINED
PERSON!
I *WILL* HAVE
WHAT IS
MINE!



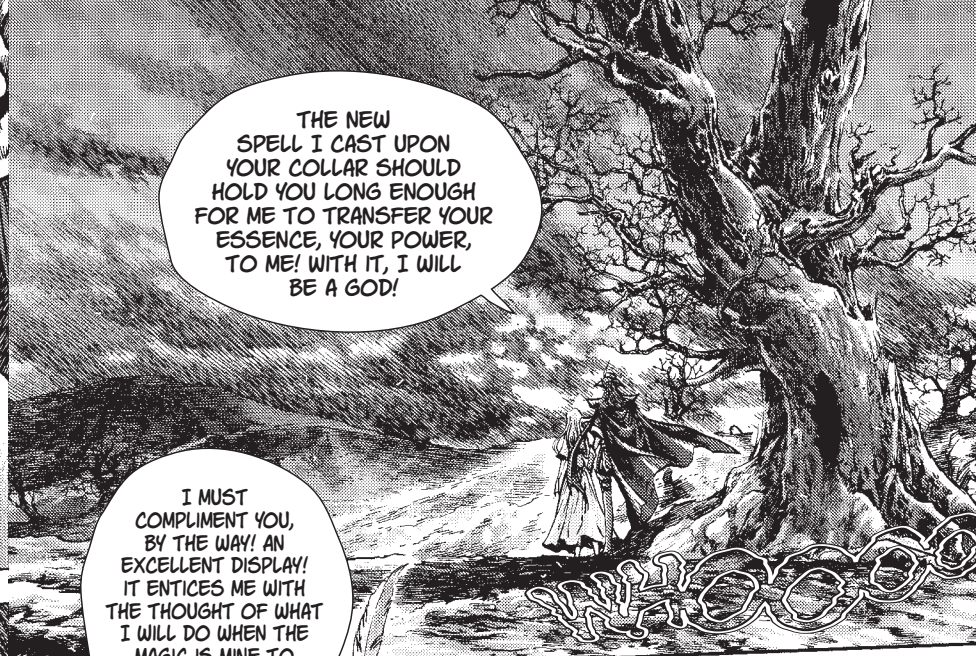
MINE...
NOT
KEL'THUZAD'S...
NOT EVEN...
NOT EVEN...



YES...NOT
EVEN MY LORD
ARTHAS'S!



RISE,
LITTLE
ONE...



THE NEW
SPELL I CAST UPON
YOUR COLLAR SHOULD
HOLD YOU LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO TRANSFER YOUR
ESSENCE, YOUR POWER,
TO ME! WITH IT, I WILL
BE A GOD!



I MUST
COMPLIMENT YOU,
BY THE WAY! AN
EXCELLENT DISPLAY!
IT ENTICES ME WITH
THE THOUGHT OF WHAT
I WILL DO WHEN THE
MAGIC IS MINE TO
COMMAND!




AND
IT GIVES
ME A
GRAND
IDEA...



...FOR
DEALING WITH
YOUR COMPANIONS
ONCE AND FOR
ALL!

CHAPTER FOUR

DARK REUNION



YOU HAVE
BUT ONE
CHANCE TO
LIVE...

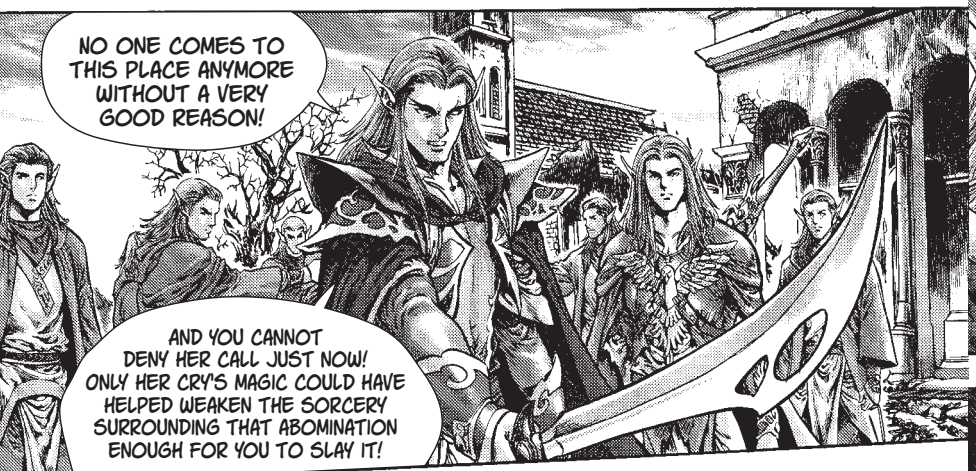
TELL
US WHERE
THE BANSHEE
HIDES NOW!
TELL US WHERE
SYLVANAS
IS!





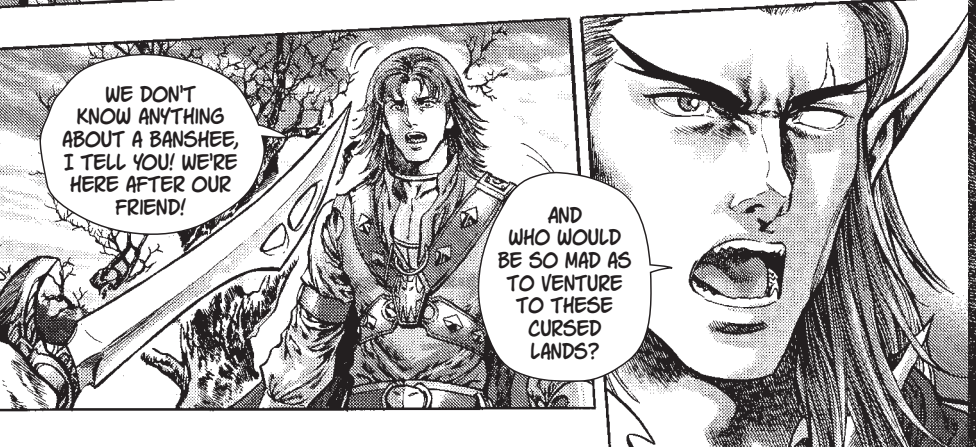


I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT--AND WE'RE
NOT YOUR ENEMIES!
WE MEAN NO
HARM!



NO ONE COMES TO
THIS PLACE ANYMORE
WITHOUT A VERY
GOOD REASON!

AND YOU CANNOT
DENY HER CALL JUST NOW!
ONLY HER CRY'S MAGIC COULD HAVE
HELPED WEAKEN THE SORCERY
SURROUNDING THAT ABOMINATION
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SLAY IT!

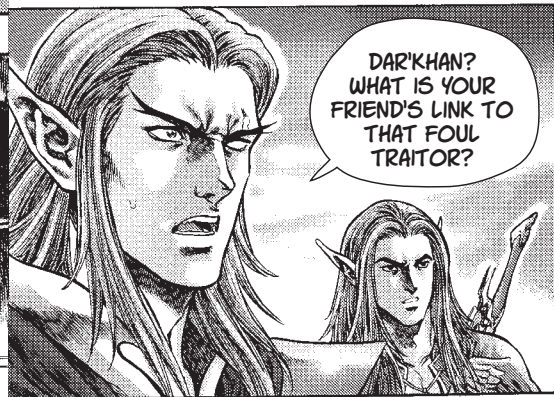


WE DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT A BANSHEE,
I TELL YOU! WE'RE
HERE AFTER OUR
FRIEND!

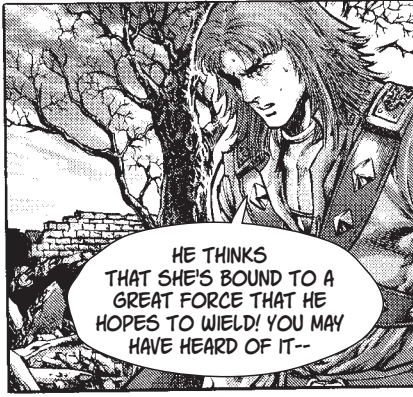
AND
WHO WOULD
BE SO MAD AS
TO VENTURE
TO THESE
CURSED
LANDS?



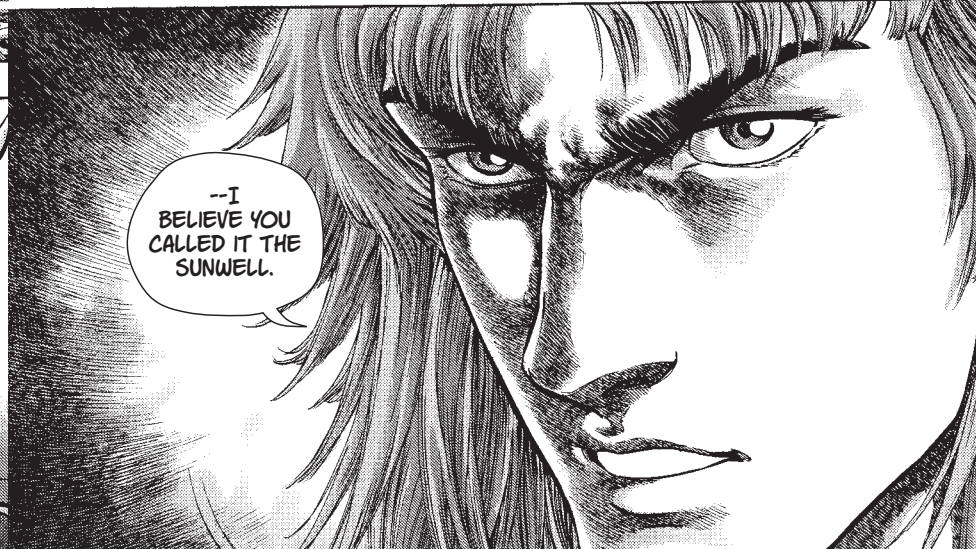
SHE'S A PRISONER OF ONE OF YOUR OWN! HIS NAME IS DAR'KHAN!



DAR'KHAN? WHAT IS YOUR FRIEND'S LINK TO THAT FOUL TRAITOR?



HE THINKS THAT SHE'S BOUND TO A GREAT FORCE THAT HE HOPES TO WIELD! YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF IT--



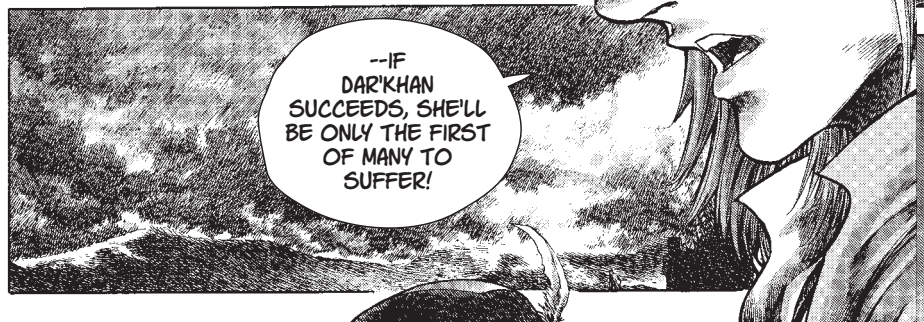
--I BELIEVE YOU CALLED IT THE SUNWELL.



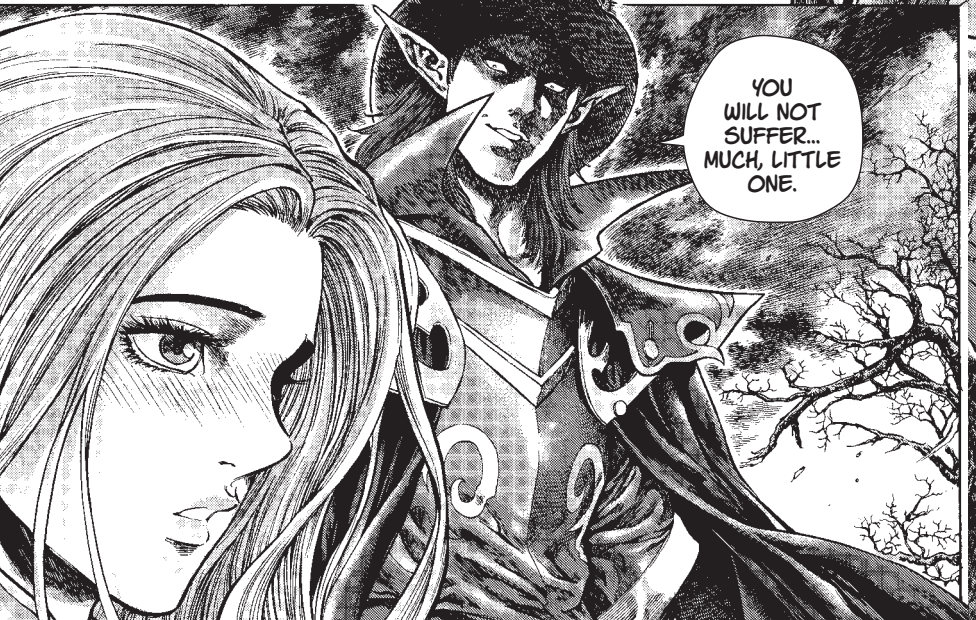
YOU ARE MAD! THE SUNWELL IS NO MORE-- DAR'KHAN IS AT FAULT FOR ITS DESTRUCTION!



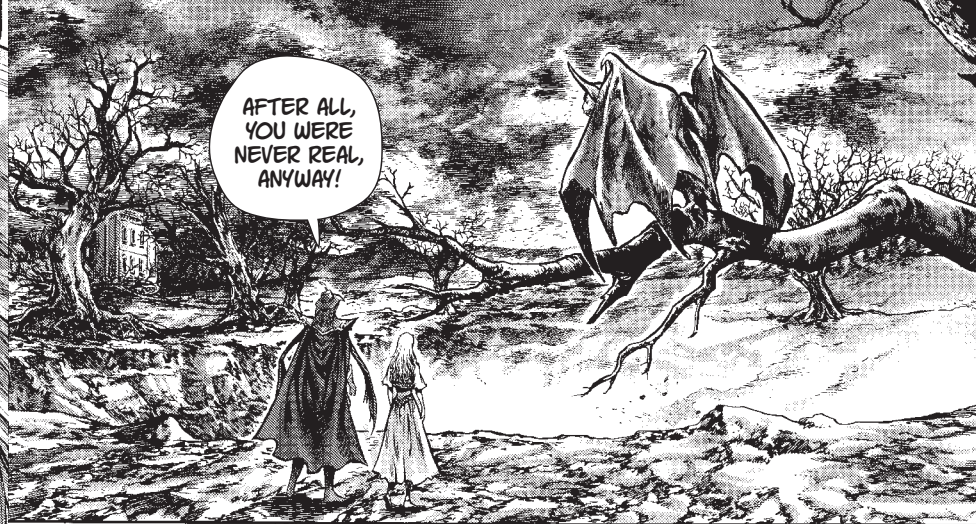
BUT HE MAY KNOW HOW TO SUMMON ITS MAGIC AGAIN... AND ALTHOUGH WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE OUR FRIEND--



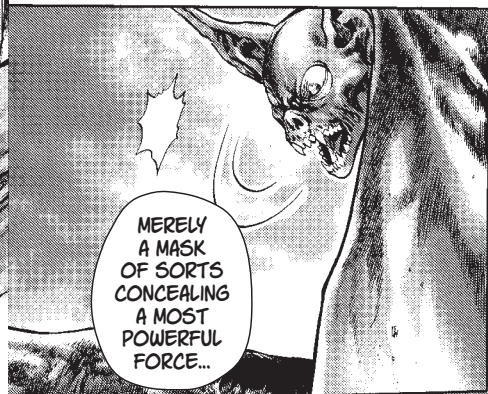
--IF DAR'KHAN SUCCEEDS, SHE'LL BE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY TO SUFFER!



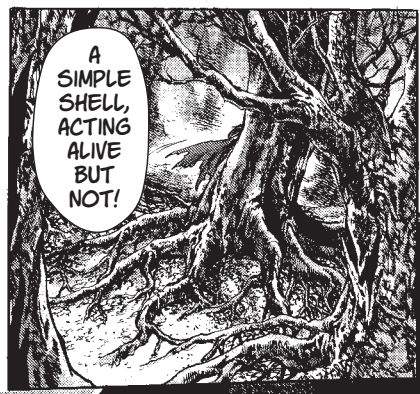
YOU WILL NOT SUFFER... MUCH, LITTLE ONE.



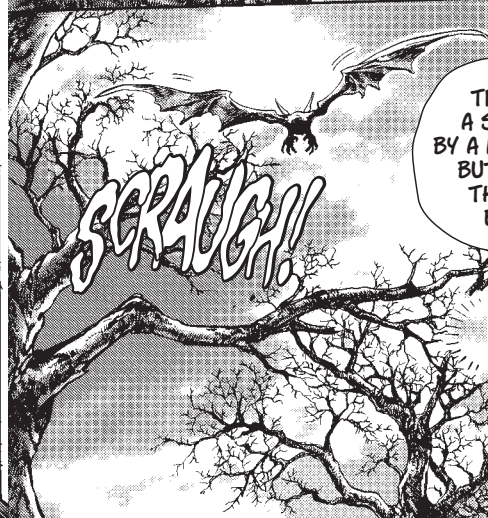
AFTER ALL,
YOU WERE
NEVER REAL,
ANYWAY!



MERELY
A MASK
OF SORTS
CONCEALING
A MOST
POWERFUL
FORCE...



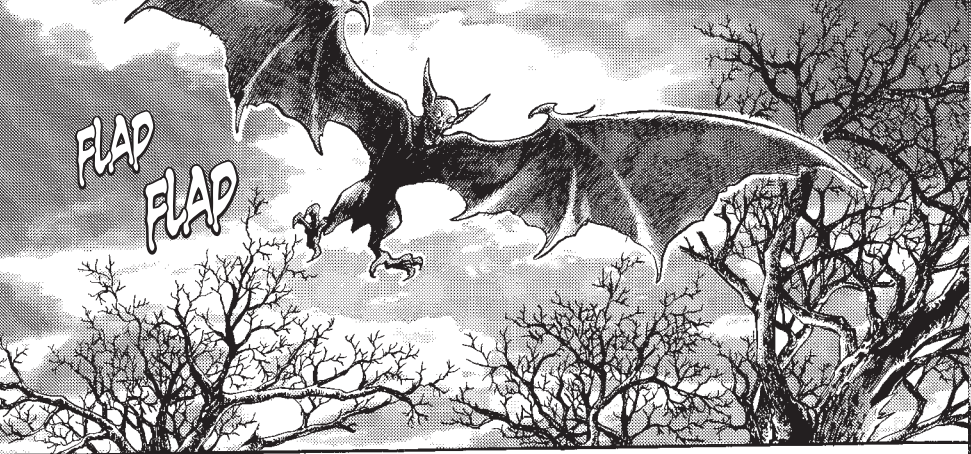
A
SIMPLE
SHELL,
ACTING
ALIVE
BUT
NOT!



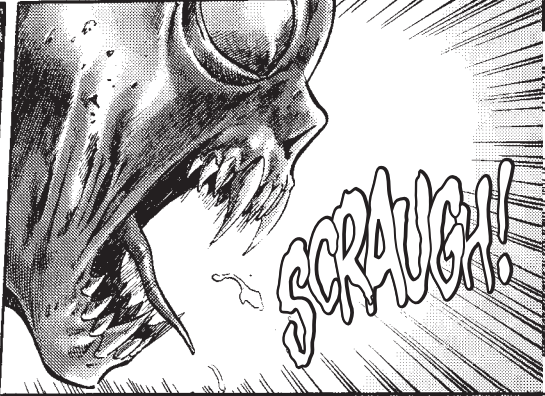
SCRAUGH!!



TRULY,
A SPELL
BY A MASTER,
BUT ONE
THAT--
EH?

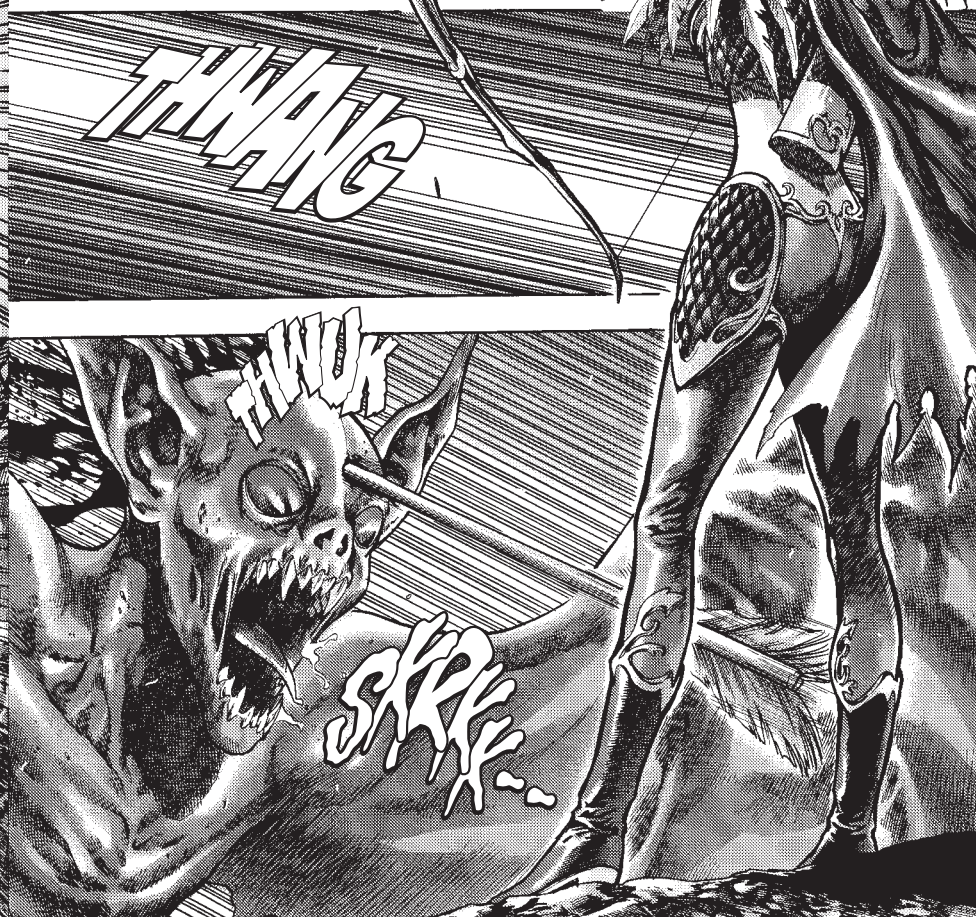


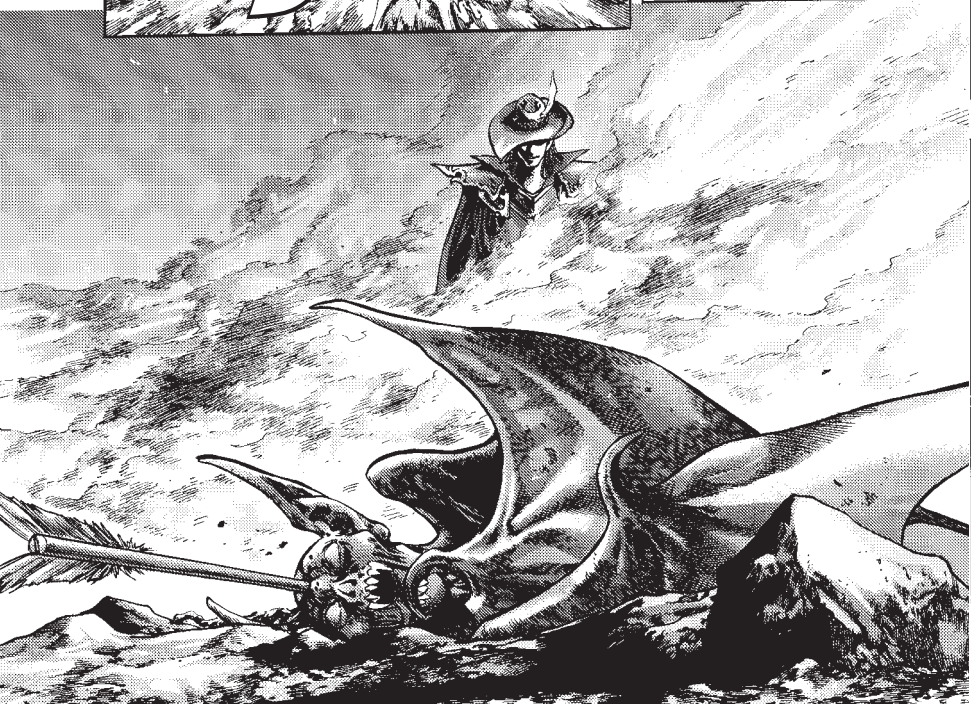
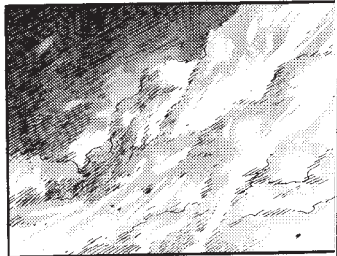
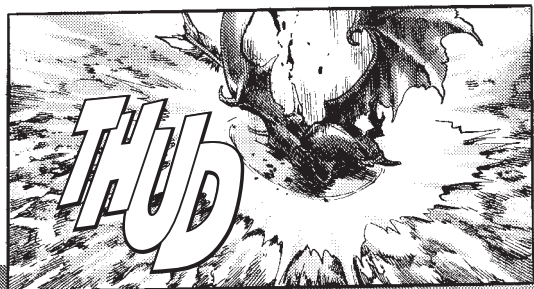
FLAP
FLAP

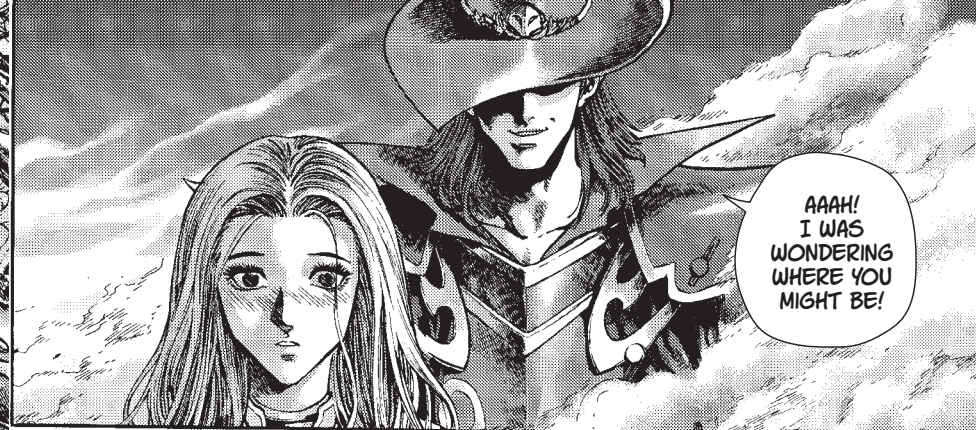


SCRAUGH!





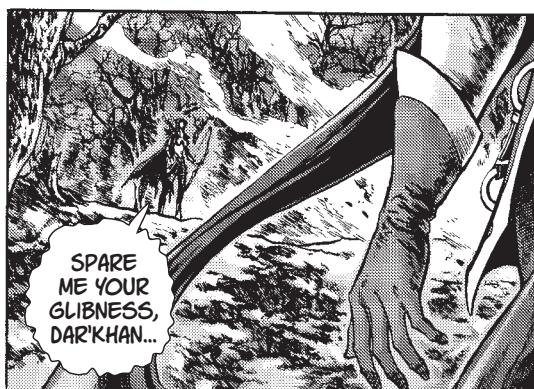




AAAH!
I WAS
WONDERING
WHERE YOU
MIGHT BE!



THIS TRULY WOULD
NOT BE THE SAME
WITHOUT YOU...




SPARE
ME YOUR
GLIBNESS,
DAR'KHAN...



I
HAVE
COME TO
SETTLE WHAT
WAS LEFT
UNFINISHED...



YOUR
DEATH IS
MINE, HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
MINE...



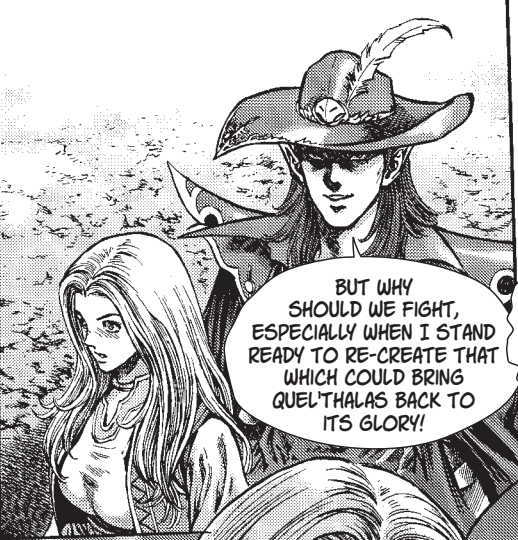
BUT
WHY SHOULD
YOU STILL FEEL
SUCH ENMITY,
DEAR SYLVANAS?
AFTER ALL, WE
ARE BOTH ON
THE SAME SIDE
NOW...

WE WILL
NEVER BE ON
THE SAME SIDE,
DAR'KHAN! AND I
DID NOT CHOOSE
TO BE WHAT
I AM...


...UNLIKE
YOU, WHO
CHOSE SO
WILLINGLY TO
BETRAY ALL OUR
PEOPLE!

I'VE
WAITED LONG
FOR THIS...


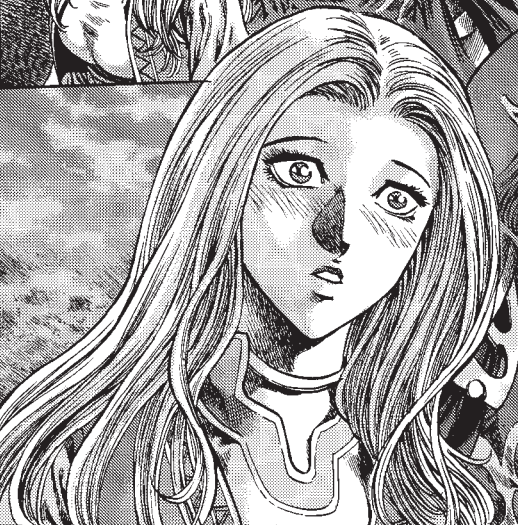
GO AHEAD
AND TRY TO CAST
A SPELL! YOU KNOW MY
CRY WILL CANCEL IT OUT
LONG ENOUGH FOR MY
BOLTS TO PIERCE YOUR
BLACK HEART!



BUT WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT, ESPECIALLY WHEN I STAND READY TO RE-CREATE THAT WHICH COULD BRING QUEL'THALAS BACK TO ITS GLORY!



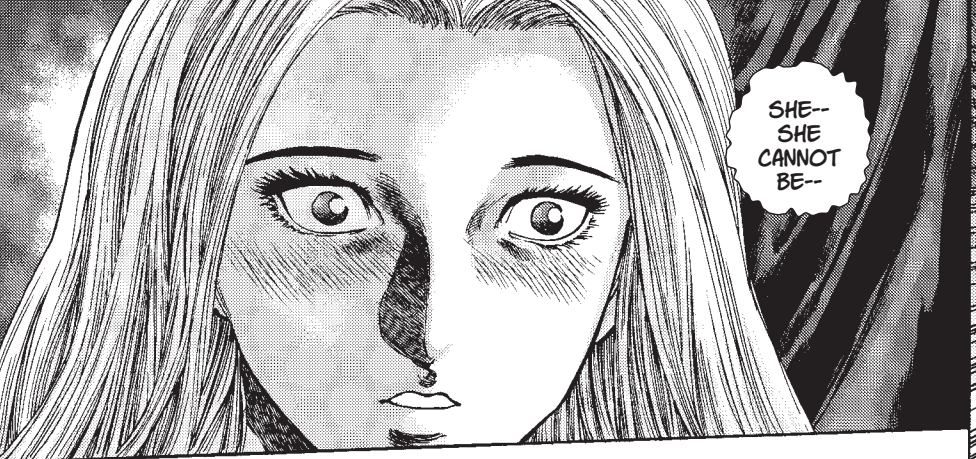
YOU MUST BE DESPERATE, TO BABBLE ON SO-IT WON'T SPARE YOUR WORTHLESS HIDE!



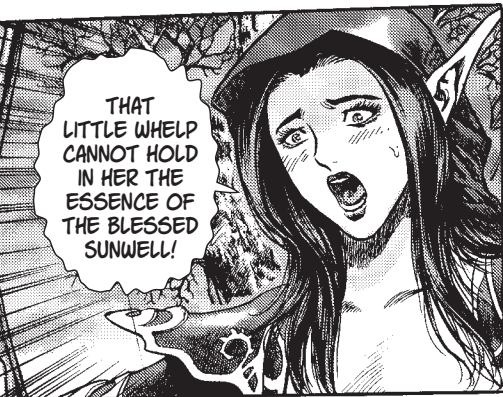
COME NOW, DEAR SYLVANAS! YOU ARE MUCH MORE THAN YOU ONCE WERE! SURELY YOU CAN SENSE THE TRUTH ABOUT MY LITTLE FRIEND HERE...



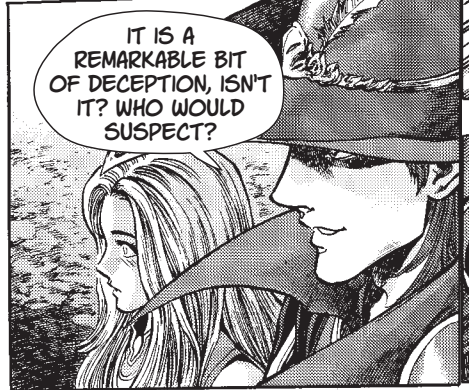
THAT HUMAN WHELP? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT-- IMPOSSIBLE!



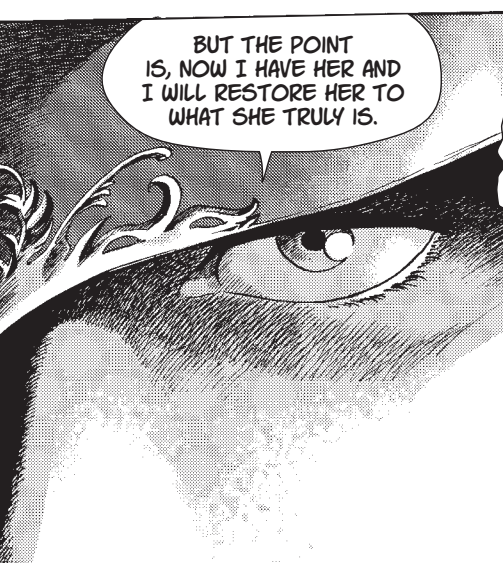
SHE--
SHE
CANNOT
BE--



THAT
LITTLE WHELP
CANNOT HOLD
IN HER THE
ESSENCE OF
THE BLESSED
SUNWELL!




IT IS A
REMARKABLE BIT
OF DECEPTION, ISN'T
IT? WHO WOULD
SUSPECT?



BUT THE POINT
IS, NOW I HAVE HER AND
I WILL RESTORE HER TO
WHAT SHE TRULY IS.

AND
AFTERWARD,
NOBLY RETURN
OUR HOMETLAND
TO ITS PRISTINE
PERFECTION?
I DOUBT THAT
OF YOU,
BETRAVER!





BUT I...
I WILL MAKE
PROPER USE OF
HER...AFTER YOU
ARE DEAD!



POOR, DEAR
SYLVANAS! SO
NAIVE, SO EASILY...
DISTRACTED.

SO
SIMPLE TO
OUTMANEUVER!



WHO?!



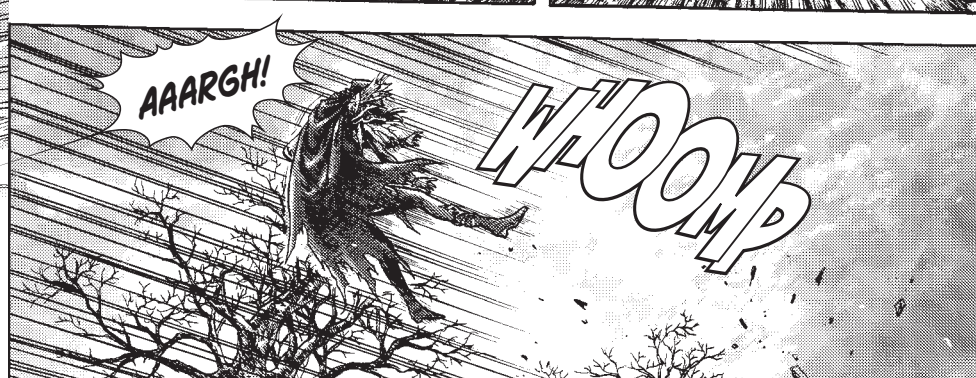
!!!

SKREEEE

BWAM

SSSSHHH
RUMPH

BOOM

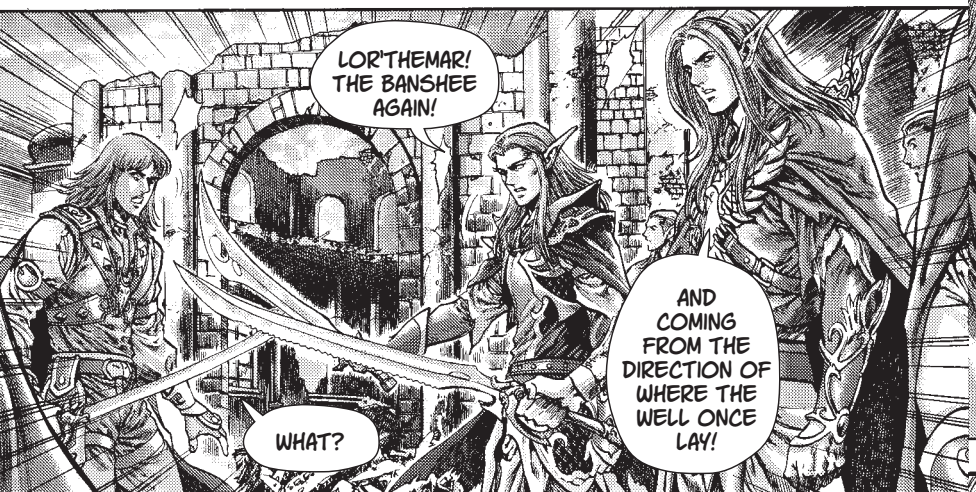




HH-NNH...



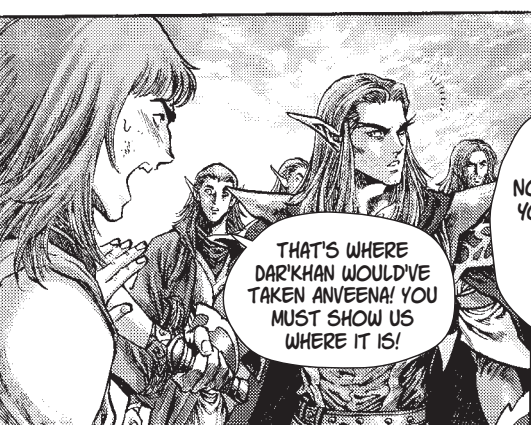
OR
RELEASE



LOR'THEMAR!
THE BANSHEE
AGAIN!

WHAT?

AND
COMING
FROM THE
DIRECTION OF
WHERE THE
WELL ONCE
LAY!



THAT'S WHERE
DAR'KHAN WOULD'VE
TAKEN ANVEENA! YOU
MUST SHOW US
WHERE IT IS!

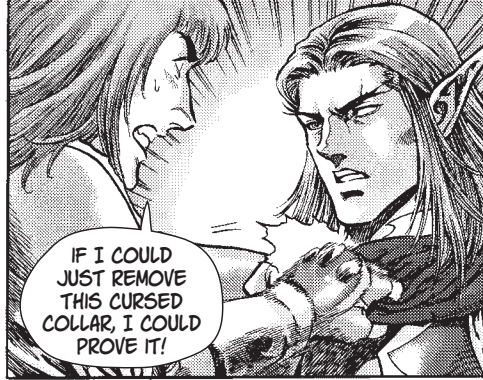


I
MUST DO
NOTHING FOR
YOU! A HALF-
BLOOD'S
DEMANDS
MEAN
NOTHING!



I'M NO
HALF-ELF!
I AM A BLUE
DRAGON, A
SERVANT OF
MALYGOS!

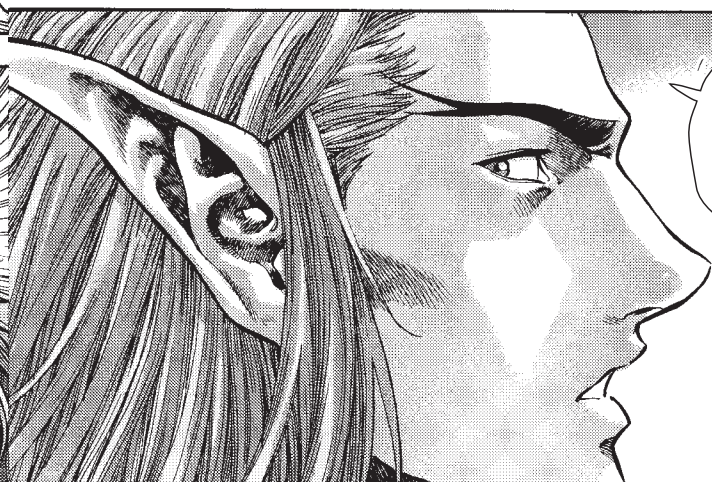
A
DRAGON?
YOU ARE
MAD!



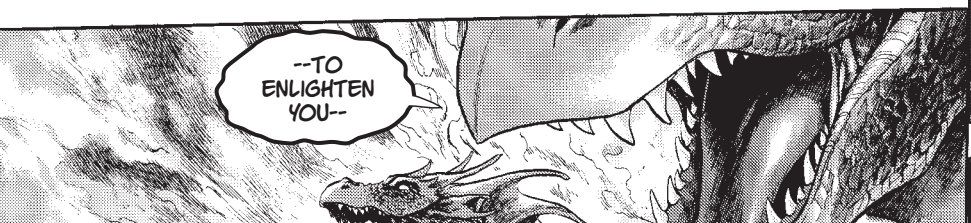
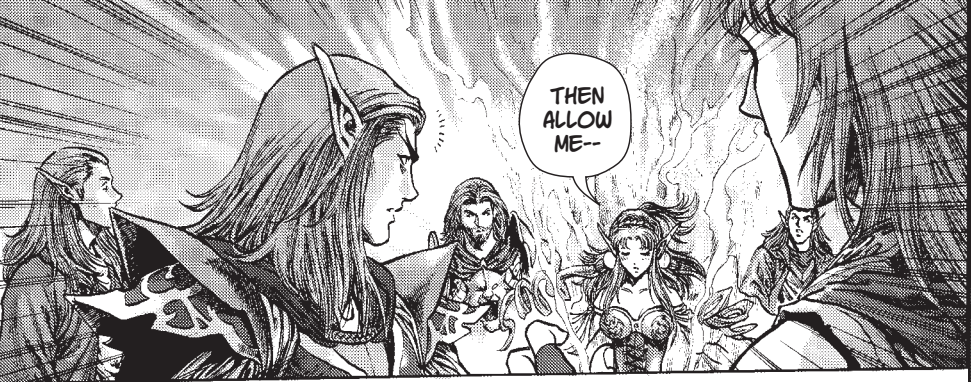
IF I COULD
JUST REMOVE
THIS CURSED
COLLAR, I COULD
PROVE IT!



SUCH A TRAGEDY! IF YOU
WERE A DRAGON, THEN WE WOULD
CERTAINLY TAKE YOUR TALE
SERIOUSLY, HALF-BLOOD!



WELL, IF
THAT IS ALL IT
WILL TAKE TO
PUT AN END TO
THIS USELESS
BICKERING...



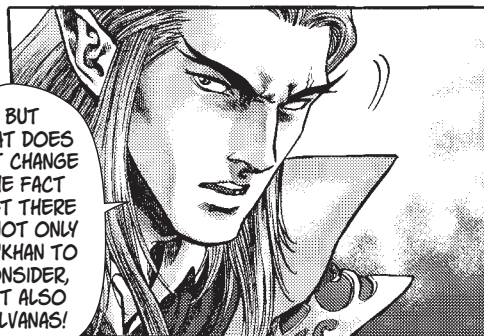


WHAT DO YOU SAY?

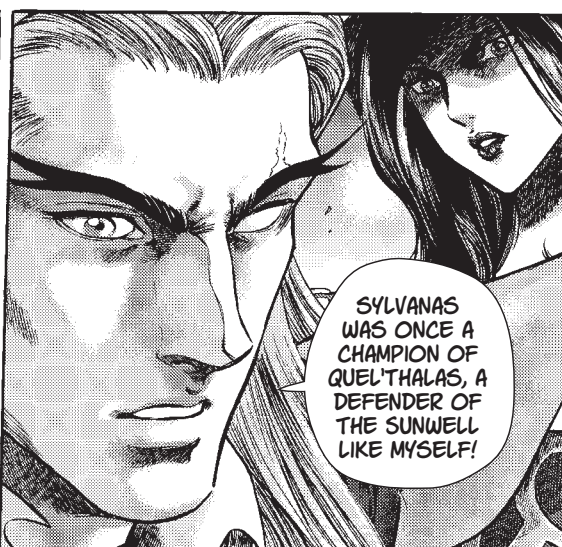
GREAT ONE, FORGIVE ME FOR MY DISBELIEF! I MEANT NO DISRESPECT TO YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS!



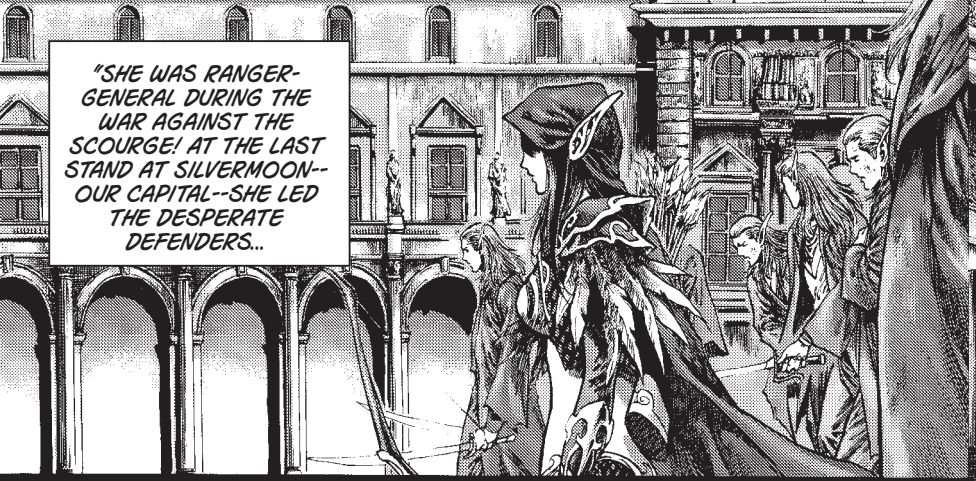
BUT THAT DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THERE IS NOT ONLY DARKKHAN TO CONSIDER, BUT ALSO SYLVANAS!



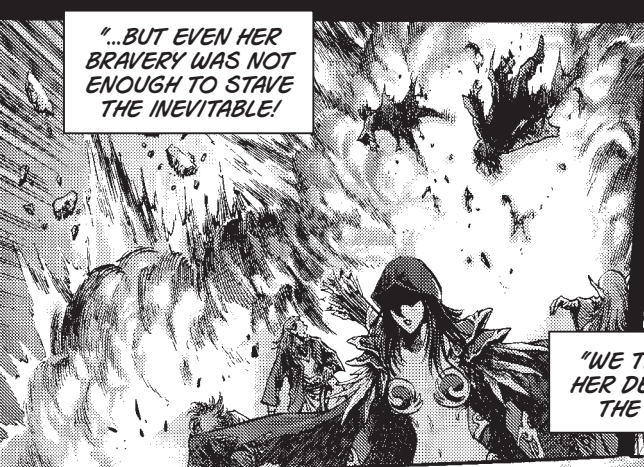
JUST WHO IS THIS SYLVANAS? WHERE DOES THIS BANSHEE COME FROM?



SYLVANAS WAS ONCE A CHAMPION OF QUEL'THALAS, A DEFENDER OF THE SUNWELL LIKE MYSELF!



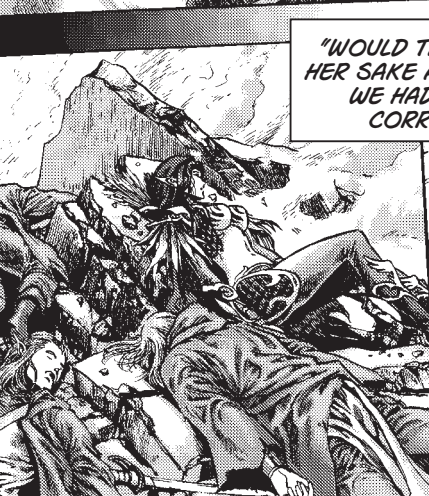
"SHE WAS RANGER-GENERAL DURING THE WAR AGAINST THE SCOURGE! AT THE LAST STAND AT SILVERMOON--OUR CAPITAL--SHE LED THE DESPERATE DEFENDERS..."



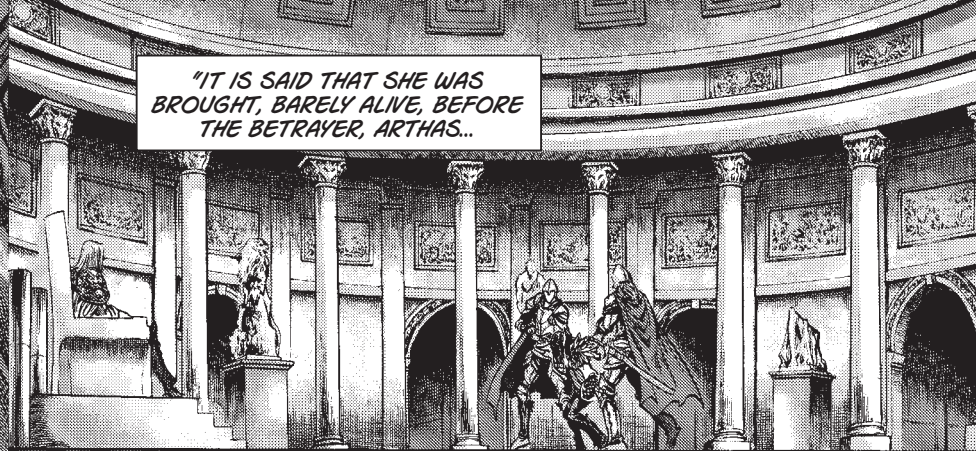
"...BUT EVEN HER BRAVERY WAS NOT ENOUGH TO STAVE THE INEVITABLE!"



"WE THOUGHT HER DEAD WITH THE REST..."



"WOULD THAT, FOR HER SAKE AND OURS, WE HAD BEEN CORRECT!"



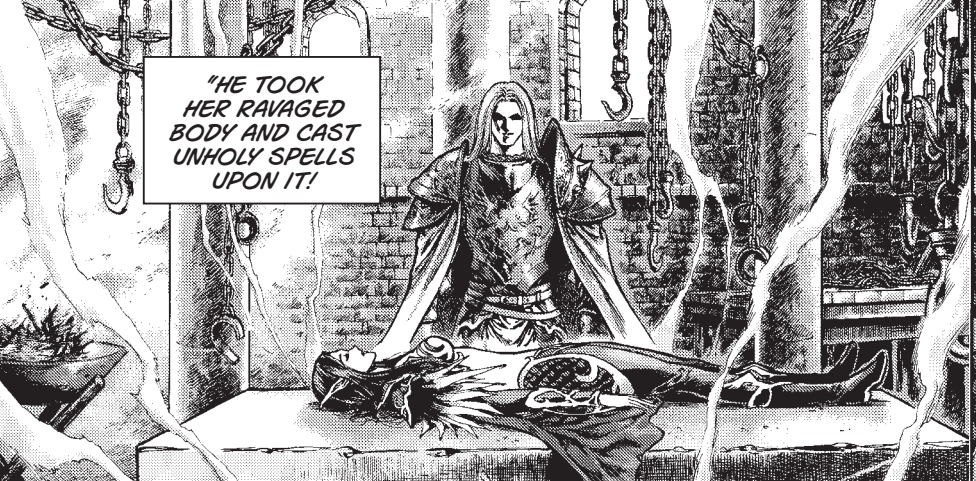
*"IT IS SAID THAT SHE WAS
BROUGHT, BARELY ALIVE, BEFORE
THE BETRAYER, ARTHAS..."*



*"HE HAD WHAT WAS LEFT OF
THAT LIFE RIPPED FROM HER..."*



*"...BUT WHEN
SHE FINALLY
DIED, HE
COULD NOT BE
SATISFIED
WITH THAT!"*



"HE TOOK
HER RAVAGED
BODY AND CAST
UNHOLY SPELLS
UPON IT!"



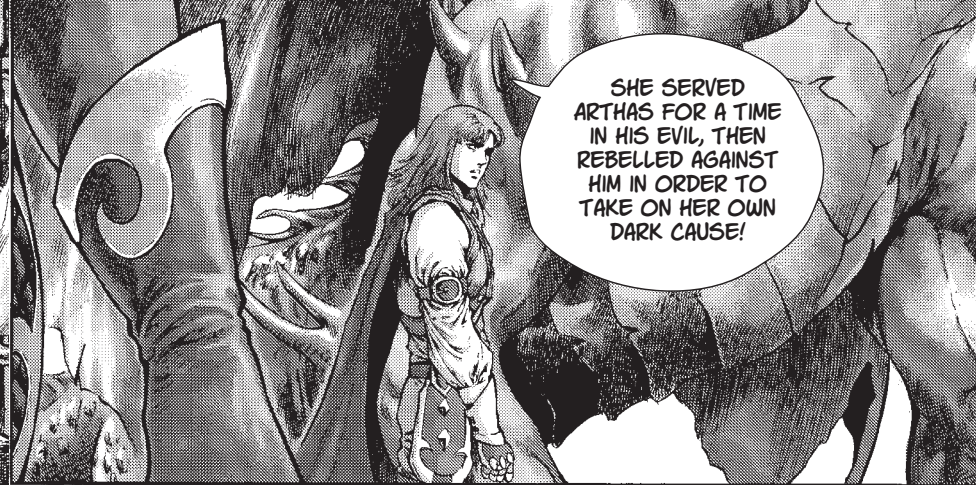
"GREATING
FROM WHAT
HAD ONCE
BEEN GOOD
A THING OF
EVIL!"



"HE TWISTED THE
SOUL OF SYLVANAS
WINDRUNNER--



"--AND
TURNED
HER INTO
THE
BANSHEE
SHE IS
NOW!"

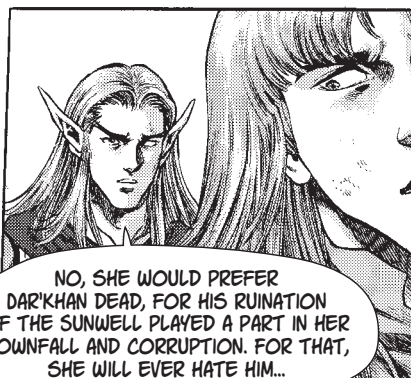


SHE SERVED
ARTHAS FOR A TIME
IN HIS EVIL, THEN
REBELLED AGAINST
HIM IN ORDER TO
TAKE ON HER OWN
DARK CAUSE!




AND WITH
DAR'KHAN HERE,
I CAN ONLY FEAR
THAT SHE HAS
PLANS FOR HER
OWN FOR THE
SUNWELL!

DO
YOU THINK
THAT THEY'RE
ALLIED WITH
ONE
ANOTHER?



NO, SHE WOULD PREFER
DAR'KHAN DEAD, FOR HIS RUINATION
OF THE SUNWELL PLAYED A PART IN HER
DOWNFALL AND CORRUPTION. FOR THAT,
SHE WILL EVER HATE HIM...



NO,
SURELY
IT IS DAR'KHAN
WHO MUST FEAR
SYLVANAS MORE
THAN US...

I
HOPE
YOU FIND
YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE,
DEAR
SYLVANAS...



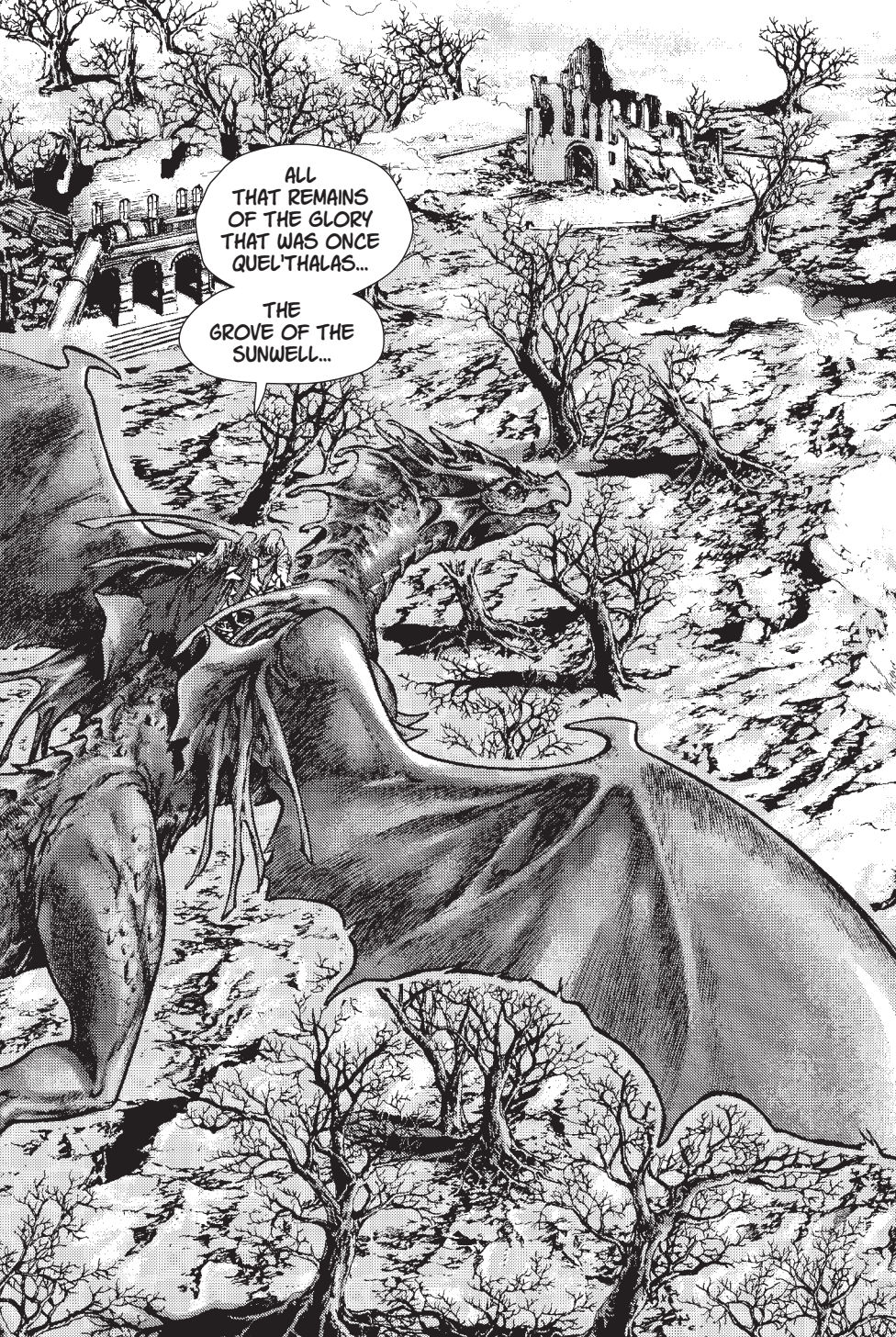
I
HAVE
GIVEN YOU
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
VIEW OF
WHAT IS TO
COME--

EVEN
IF IT DOES
MEAN THAT
WHEN IT
CULMINATES,
YOU WILL
DIE...
AGAIN!

CHAPTER FIVE

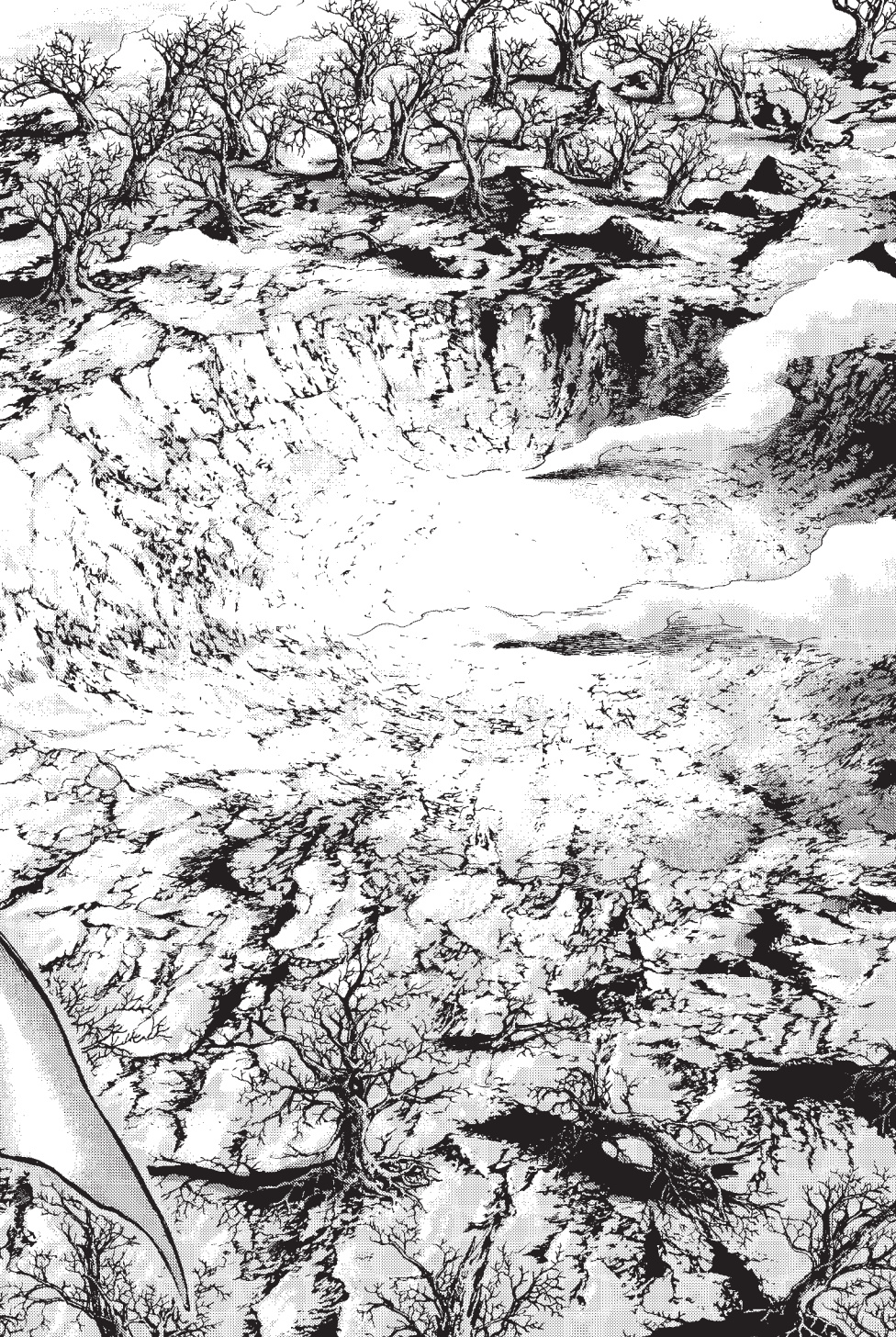
EDGE OF THE ABYSS





ALL
THAT REMAINS
OF THE GLORY
THAT WAS ONCE
QUEL'THALAS...

THE
GROVE OF THE
SUNWELL...



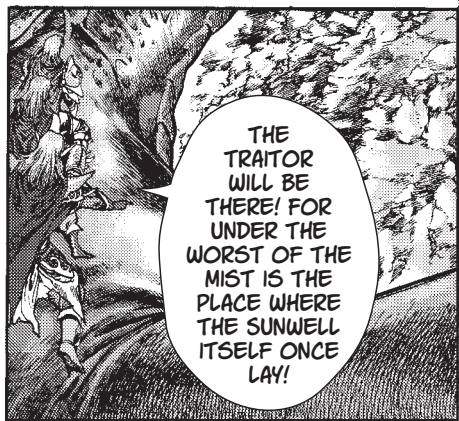


BUT THIS AREA IS HUGE! IF WE LAND WHERE YOU SAY, WE'LL STILL BE FAR FROM ANVEENA!



WE DARE NOT LAND NEARER! DARKKHAN MUST NOT KNOW OF OUR PRESENCE!

I SEND US AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE!



THE TRAITOR WILL BE THERE! FOR UNDER THE WORST OF THE MIST IS THE PLACE WHERE THE SUNWELL ITSELF ONCE LAY!



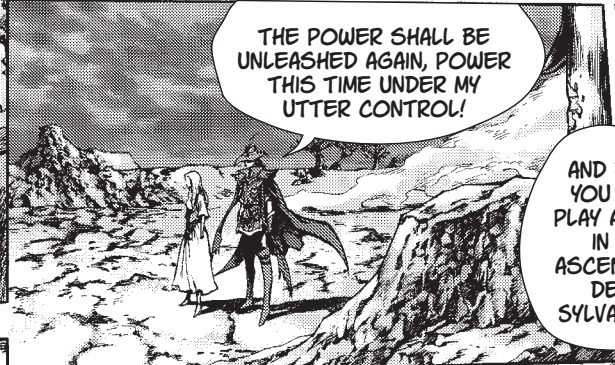
I DON'T CARE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUNWELL! ALL THAT MATTERS IS ANVEENA...



BUT DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND YET? I NOW DO!



"SHE IS THE
SUNWELL!"



THE POWER SHALL BE
UNLEASHED AGAIN, POWER
THIS TIME UNDER MY
UTTER CONTROL!

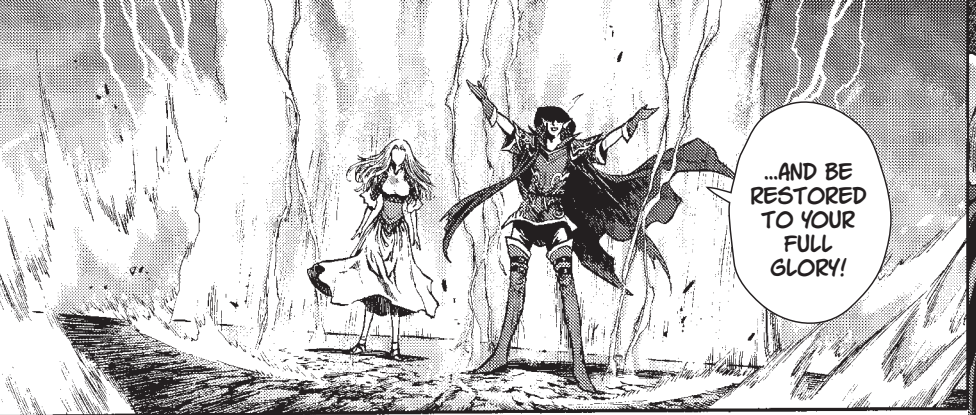


AND EVEN
YOU WILL
PLAY A PART
IN MY
ASCENSION,
DEAR
SYLVANAS--

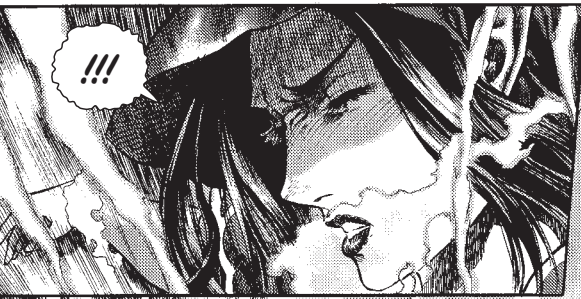


BUT
ENOUGH TALK!
COME, MY LITTLE
ONE...IT IS TIME
FOR YOU TO SHED
THIS UNWORTHY
SKIN...

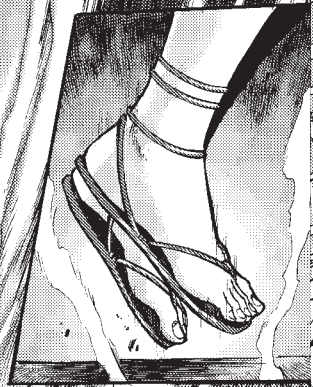




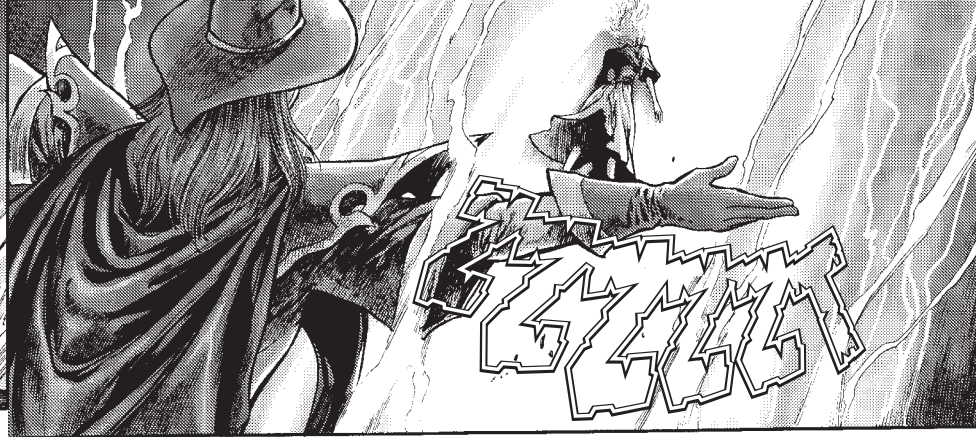
...AND BE RESTORED TO YOUR FULL GLORY!

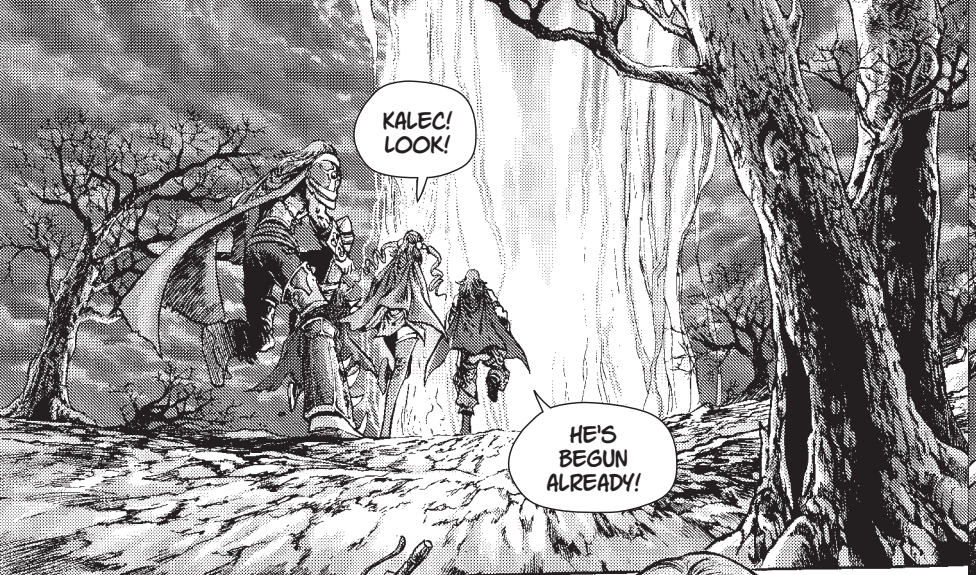


!!!



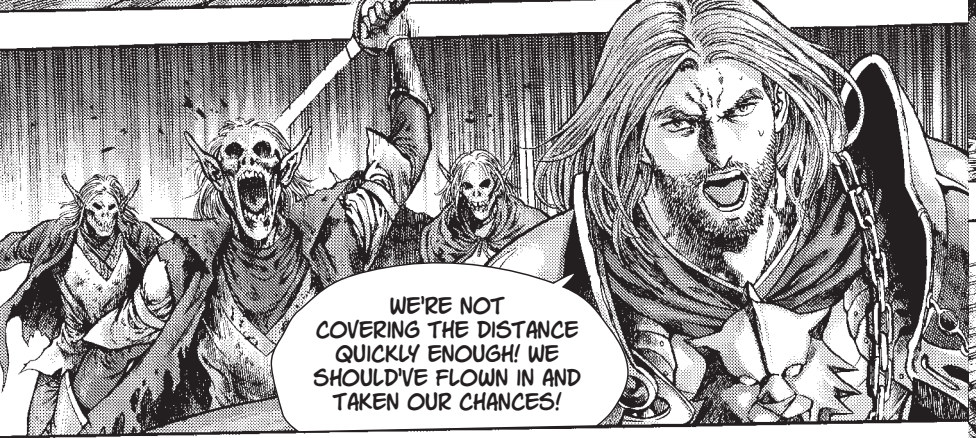
AHAHAHA!



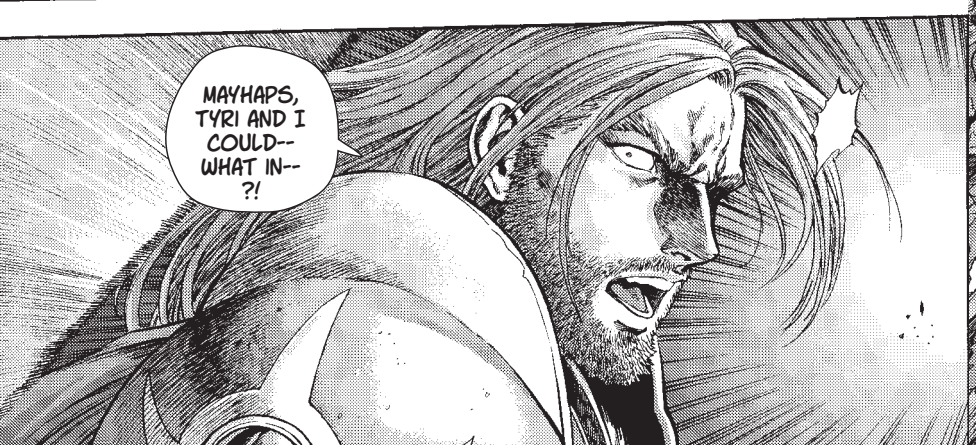


KALEC!
LOOK!

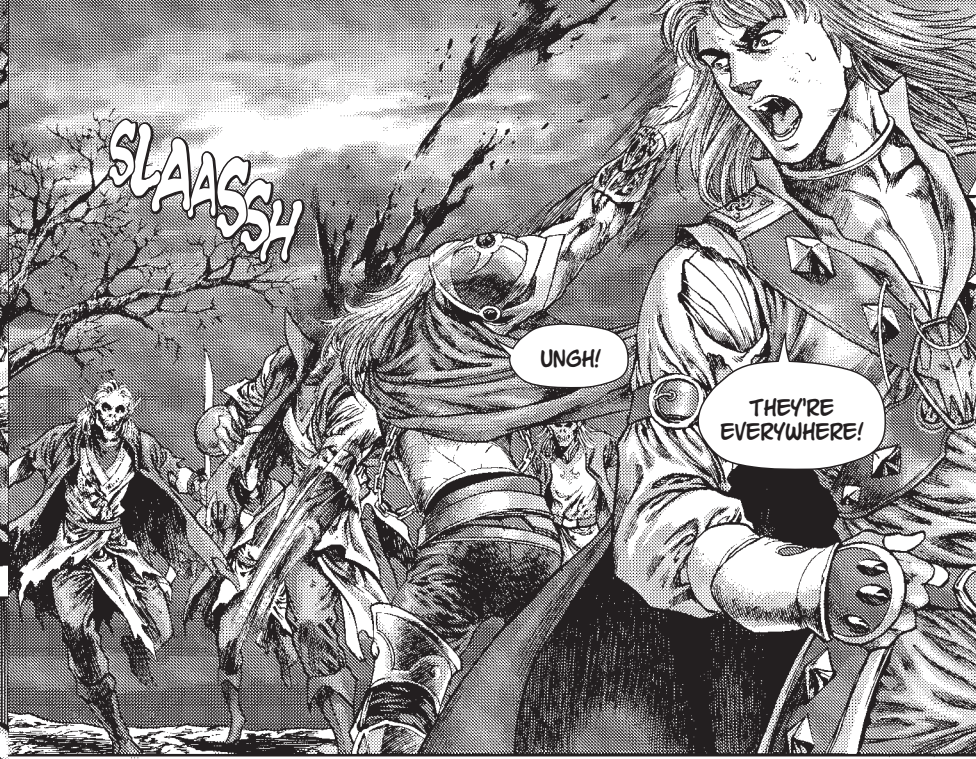
HE'S
BEGUN
ALREADY!



WE'RE NOT
COVERING THE DISTANCE
QUICKLY ENOUGH! WE
SHOULD'VE FLOWN IN AND
TAKEN OUR CHANCES!



MAYHAPS,
TYRI AND I
COULD--
WHAT IN--
?!



SLAASSH

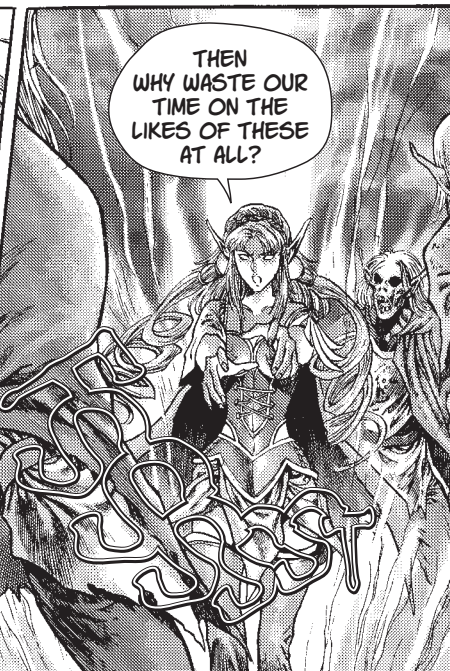
UNGH!

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!



MORE OF DAR'KHAN'S FOUL WORK! I FEAR I HAVE LED US AWRY! BY THE TIME WE FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH THESE, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!

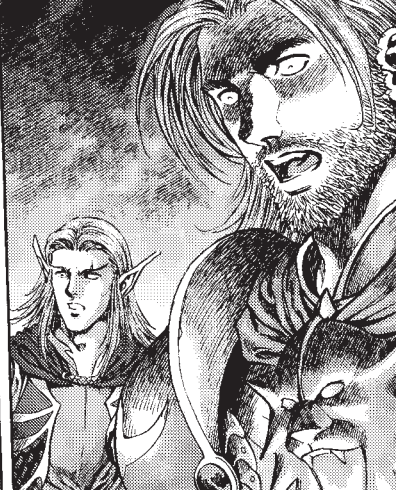
CLANG



THEN WHY WASTE OUR TIME ON THE LIKES OF THESE AT ALL?

CLANG



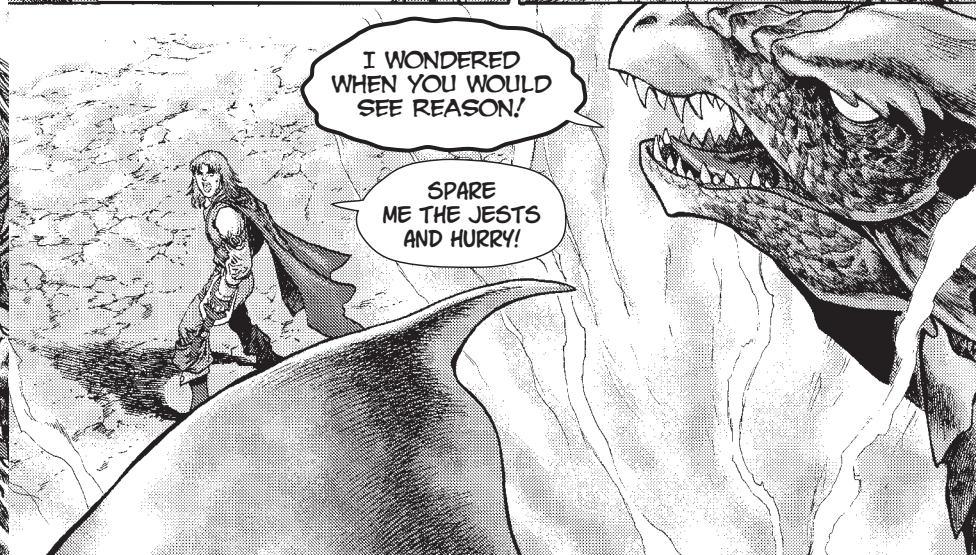


NOW,
WAS THAT NOT
QUICKER?

QUICKER, BUT
NOW DAR'KHAN SURELY
KNOWS WE'RE HERE! WE
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!



TYRI!
YOU NEED
TO CHANGE
AGAIN!



I WONDERED
WHEN YOU WOULD
SEE REASON!

SPARE
ME THE JESTS
AND HURRY!



LOR'THEMAR!
WHAT'RE YOU
WAITING FOR?

AH!



HALDURON
AND THE OTHERS
HAVE NEARLY CAUGHT UP!
I WILL COME WITH
THEM! YOU GO ON
AHEAD!



ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO,
TYRI!

HOLD
TIGHT,
THEN!



I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO MYSELF! WE WASTED VALUABLE TIME!

SHOOOSH



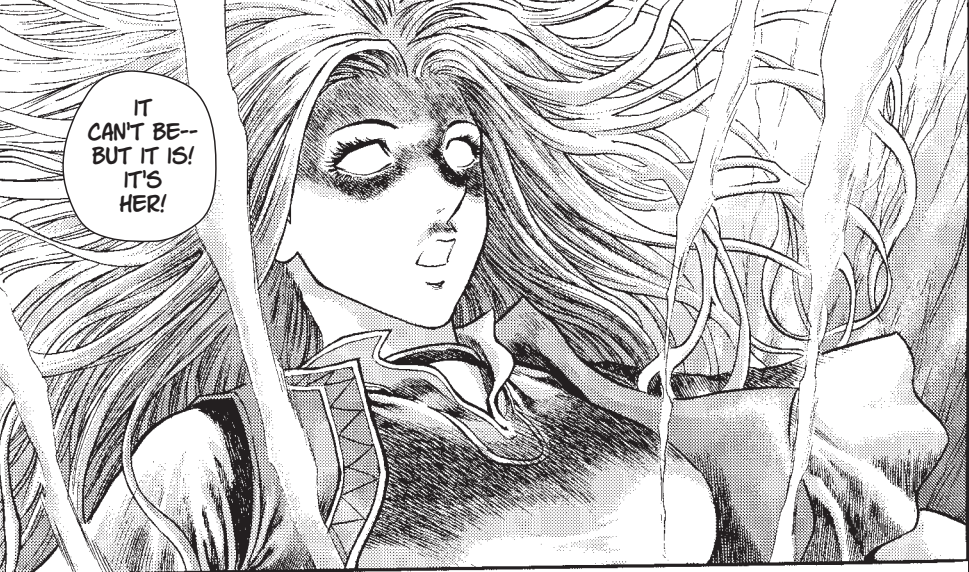
IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO ANVEENA-

COURAGE, KALEC! WE WILL REACH HER IN TIME!



WILL WE? LOOK AT THAT! WHATEVER DAR'KHAN'S CASTING COVERS THAT WHOLE GAP!

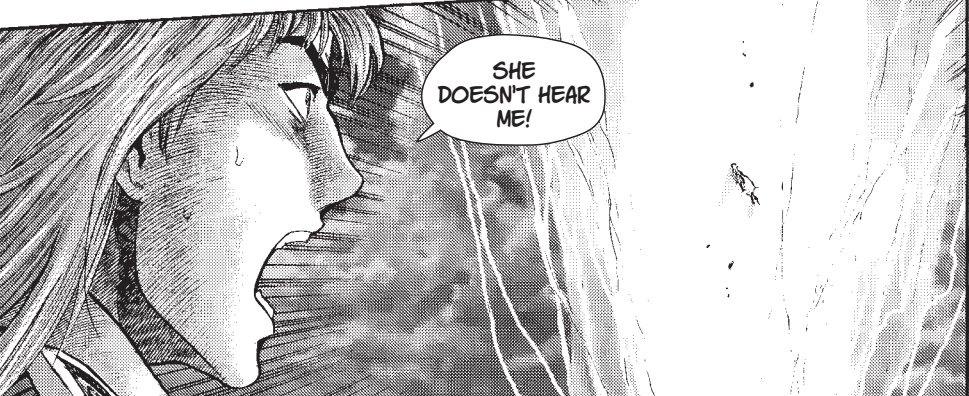
IT HAS TO-- WAIT! WHAT'S THAT ABOVE THE CRATER?



IT
CAN'T BE--
BUT IT IS!
IT'S
HER!



**ANVEENA!
ANVEENA!**



SHE
DOESN'T HEAR
ME!



NO
MATTER! I'M
NEARLY UPON
HER!



ALL I
NEED DO IS
GENTLY PLUCK
HER FREE--

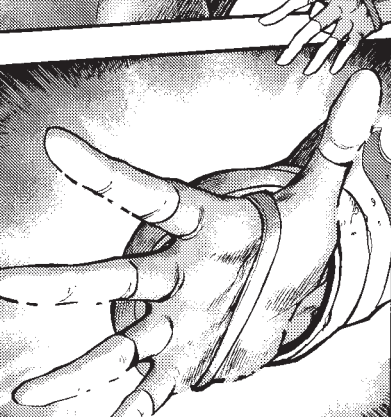
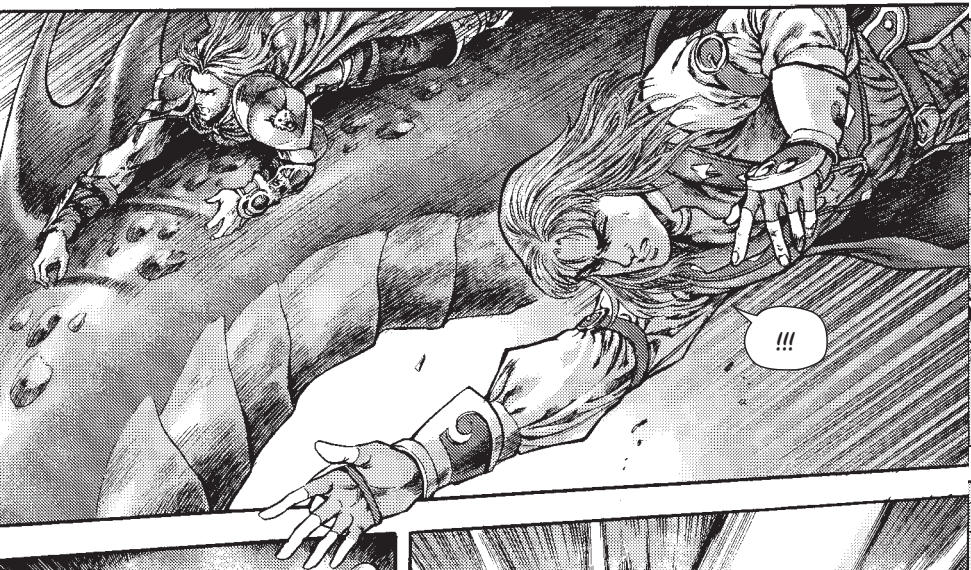
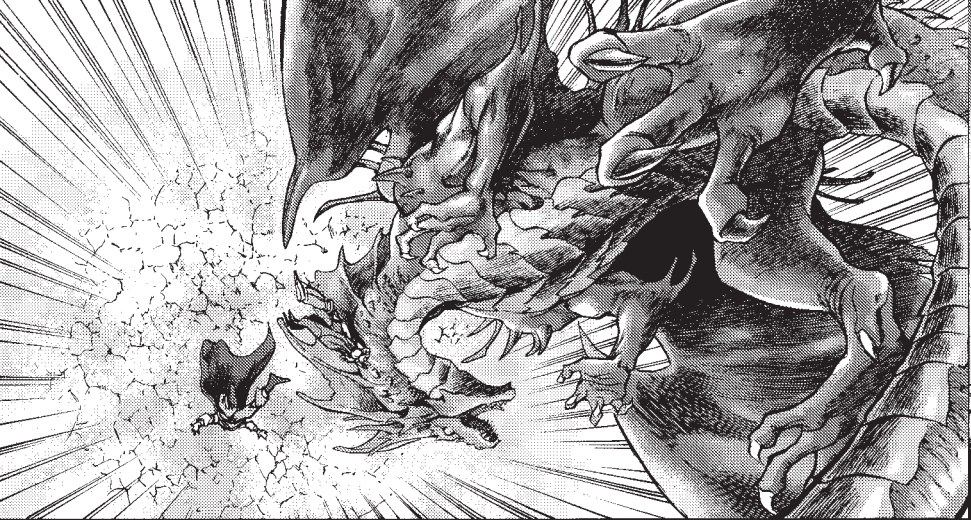
TYRI!
NO!



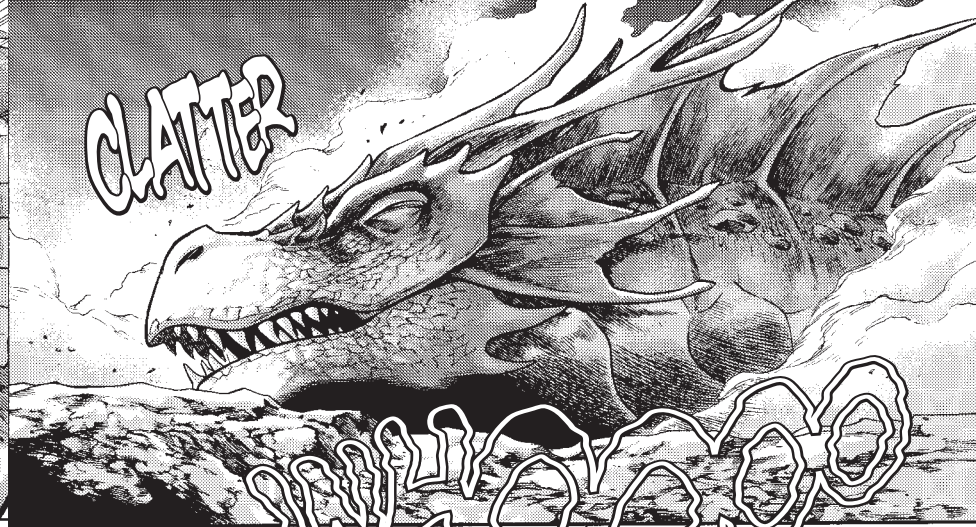
RRRAUGH!!

KRAK!

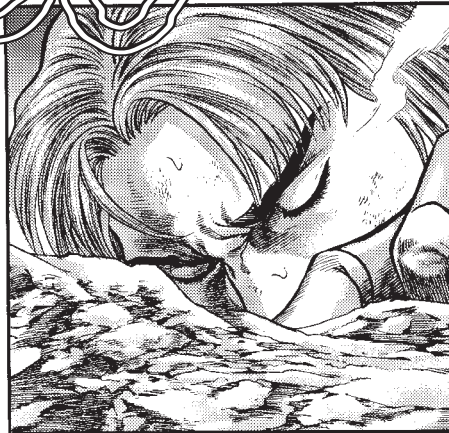
CRASH!



CLATTER

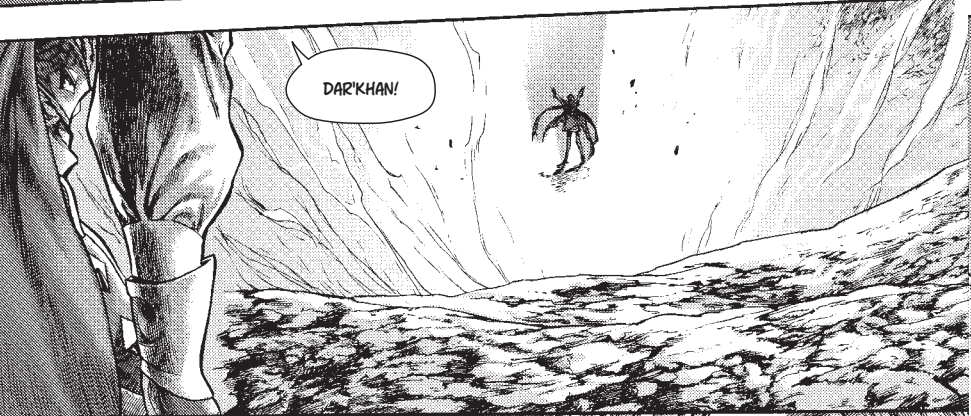


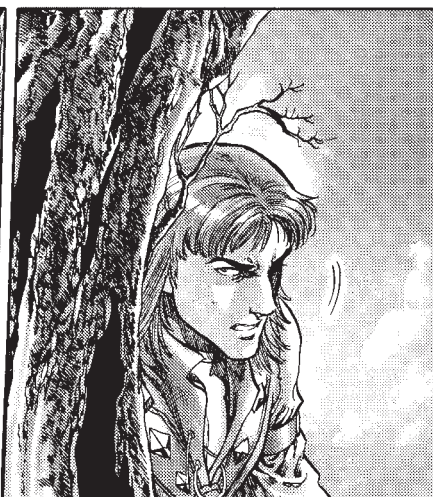
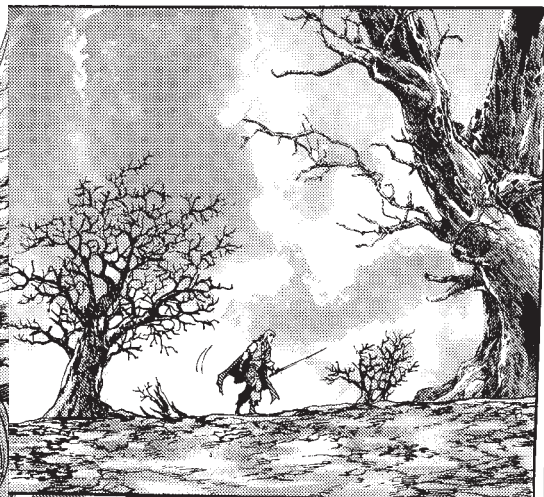
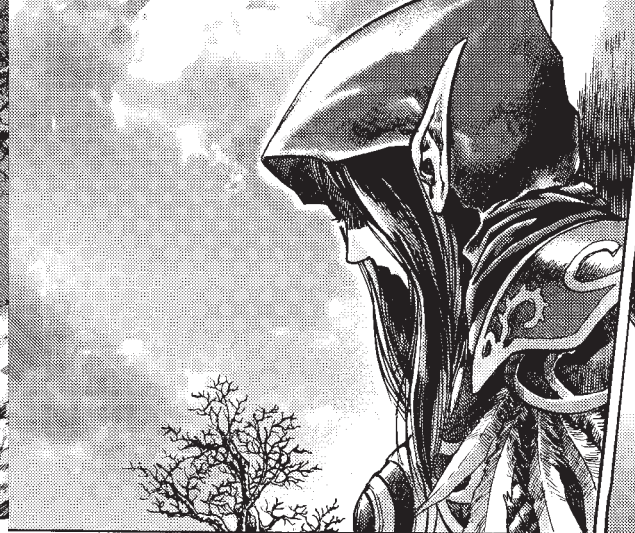
WRY O O O O

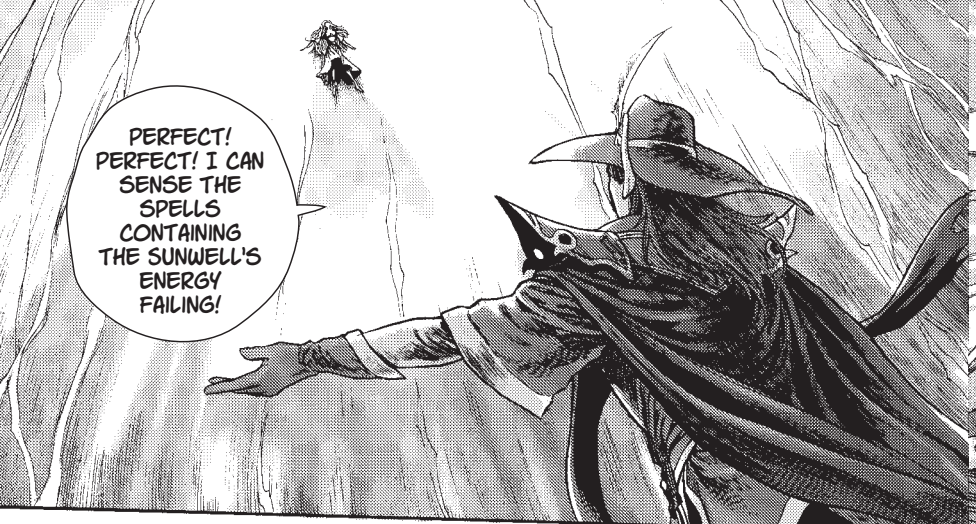


SCRAPE










PERFECT!
PERFECT! I CAN
SENSE THE
SPELLS
CONTAINING
THE SUNWELL'S
ENERGY
FAILING!



AND
NOW, MY DEAR
SYLVANAS, IT IS
TIME WE PUT
YOUR GLORIOUS
ABILITIES TO
WORK TO
FINISH THE--
HMM?



SO! OUR
WOULD-BE
HERO!

I
SHOULD
LEAVE YOU
TO ANOTHER,
BUT WHY
WASTE SUCH
FORCE ON
THE LIKES
OF YOU...



AAAUGH!

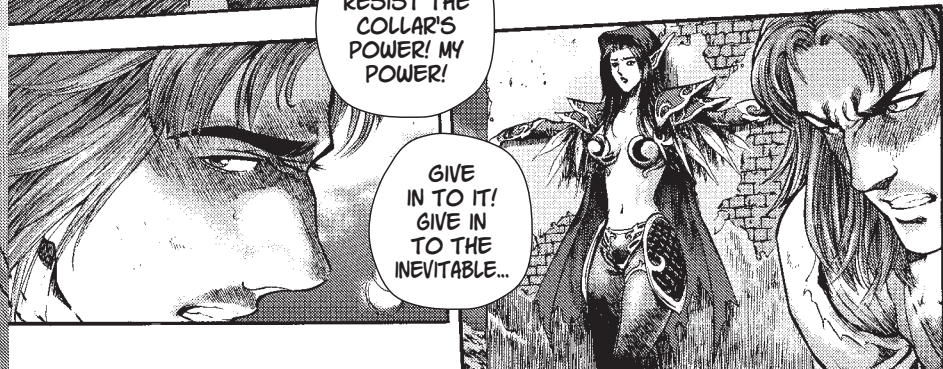
...WHEN YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPT AT RESCUE CAN BE THWARTED WITH MERELY A GESTURE?

UNNGH!

HMM...
A BIT MORE DEFIANT, EH?
HOW ADMIRABLE, IF FUTILE.

YOU CANNOT RESIST THE COLLAR'S POWER! MY POWER!

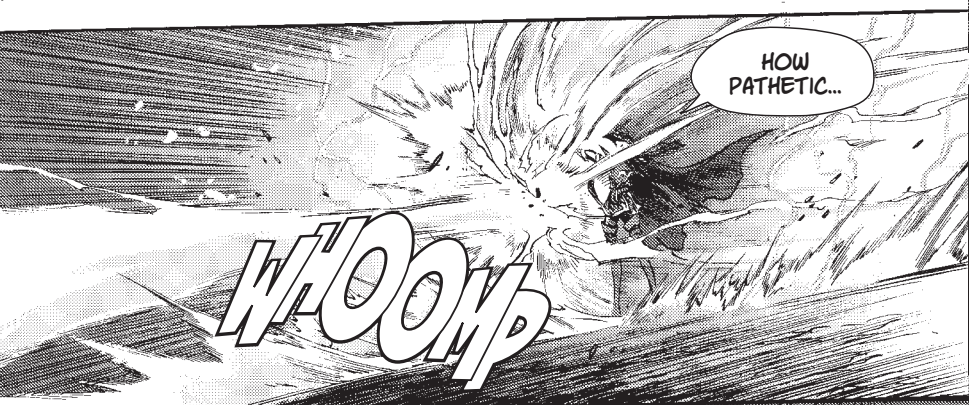
GIVE IN TO IT!
GIVE IN TO THE INEVITABLE...





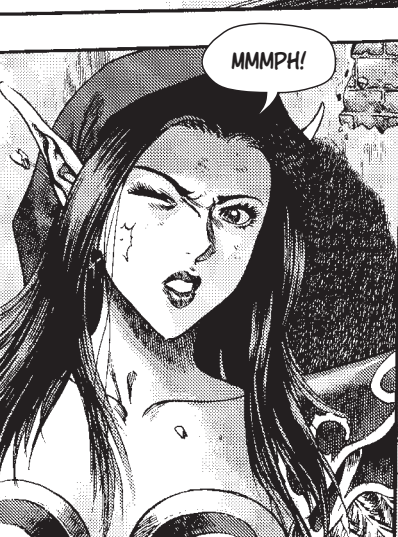
UNNN...
HYAA!

BOOM!

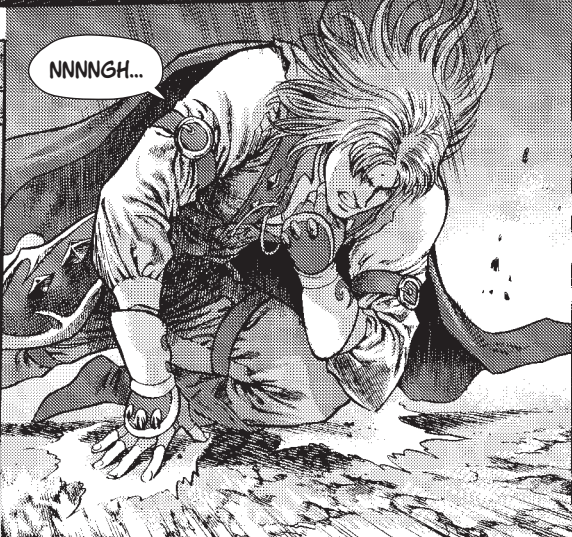


HOW
PATHETIC...

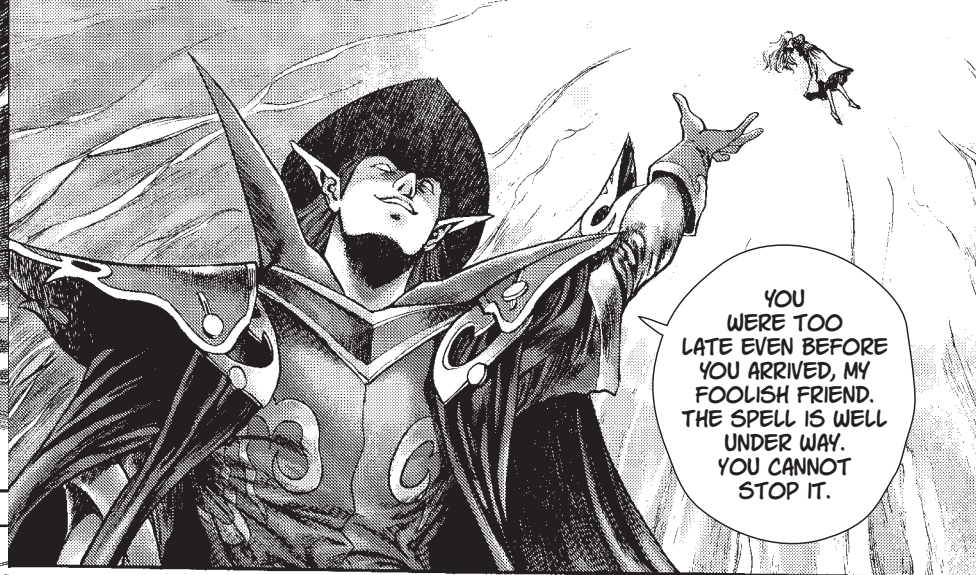
WHOOOMP



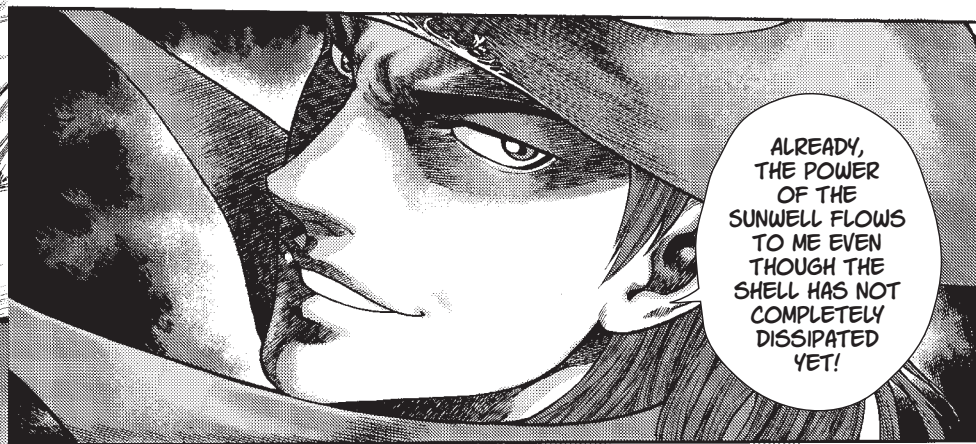
MMMMPH!



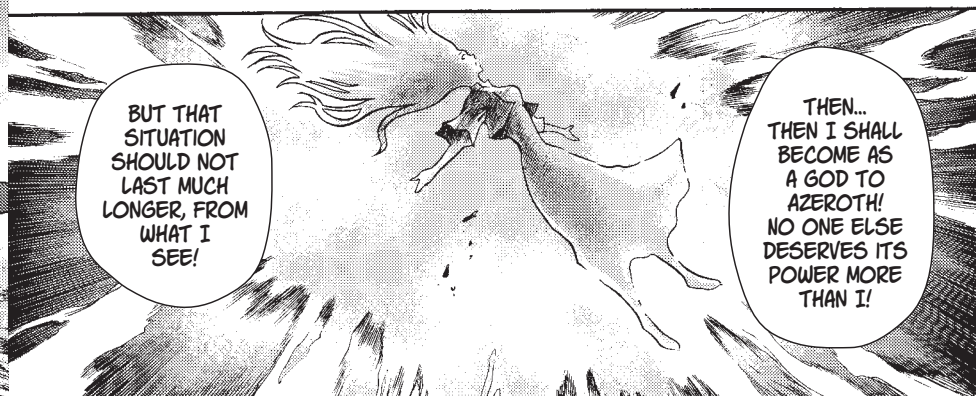
NNNGH...



YOU WERE TOO LATE EVEN BEFORE YOU ARRIVED, MY FOOLISH FRIEND. THE SPELL IS WELL UNDER WAY. YOU CANNOT STOP IT.



ALREADY, THE POWER OF THE SUNWELL FLOWS TO ME EVEN THOUGH THE SHELL HAS NOT COMPLETELY DISSIPATED YET!

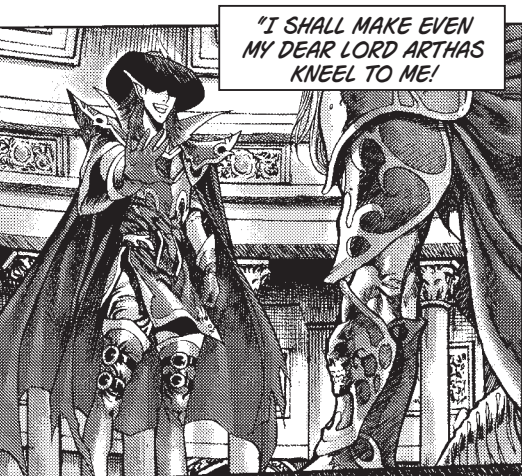


BUT THAT SITUATION SHOULD NOT LAST MUCH LONGER, FROM WHAT I SEE!

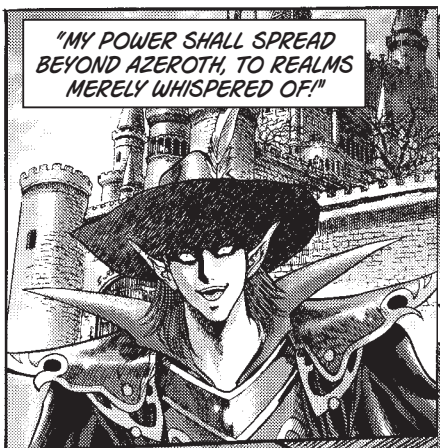
THEN... THEN I SHALL BECOME AS A GOD TO AZEROTH! NO ONE ELSE DESERVES ITS POWER MORE THAN I!



NO
MORE WILL
I BE TWISTED
OR FORCED TO
BOW TO THE
POWER OF
ANOTHER!



"I SHALL MAKE EVEN
MY DEAR LORD ARTHAS
KNEEL TO ME!"

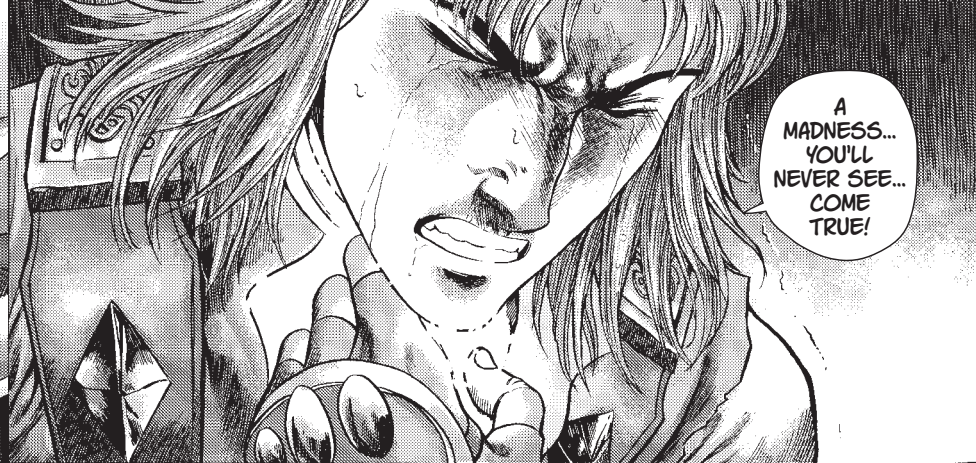


"MY POWER SHALL SPREAD
BEYOND AZEROTH, TO REALMS
MERELY WHISPERED OF!"

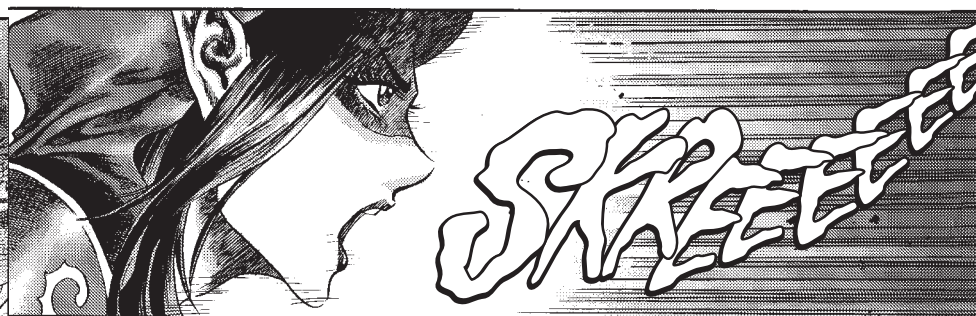


IT WILL BE
GLORIOUS!

IT'LL...
BE...
MADNESS...



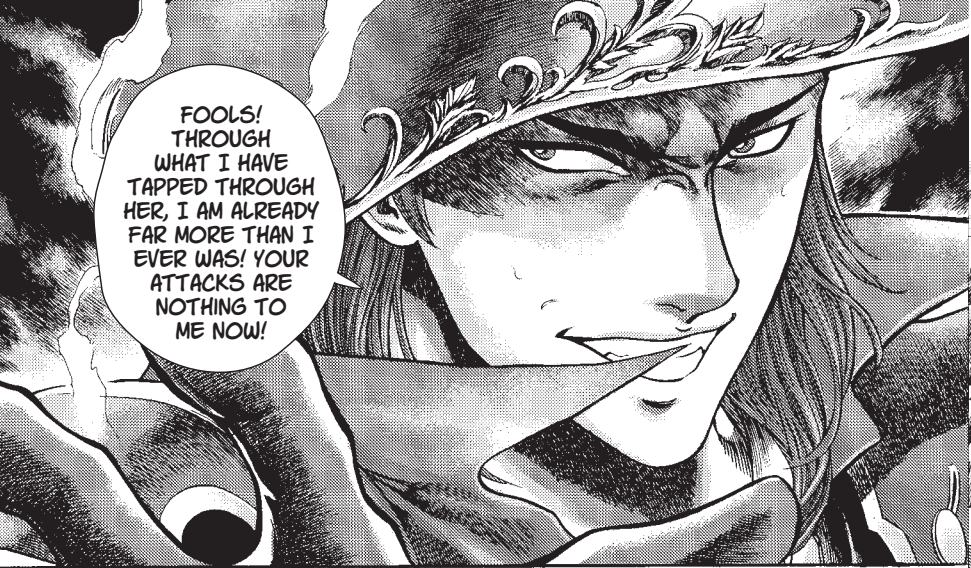
A
MADNESS...
YOU'LL
NEVER SEE...
COME
TRUE!



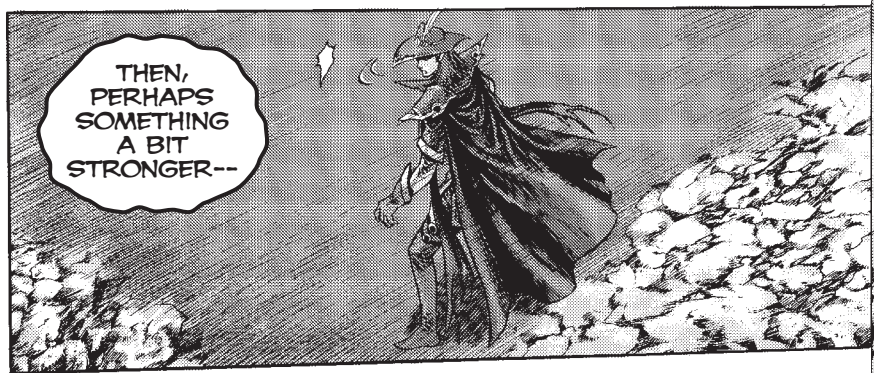
UNNGH...
HA!



MMMPH!



FOOLS!
THROUGH
WHAT I HAVE
TAPPED THROUGH
HER, I AM ALREADY
FAR MORE THAN I
EVER WAS! YOUR
ATTACKS ARE
NOTHING TO
ME NOW!



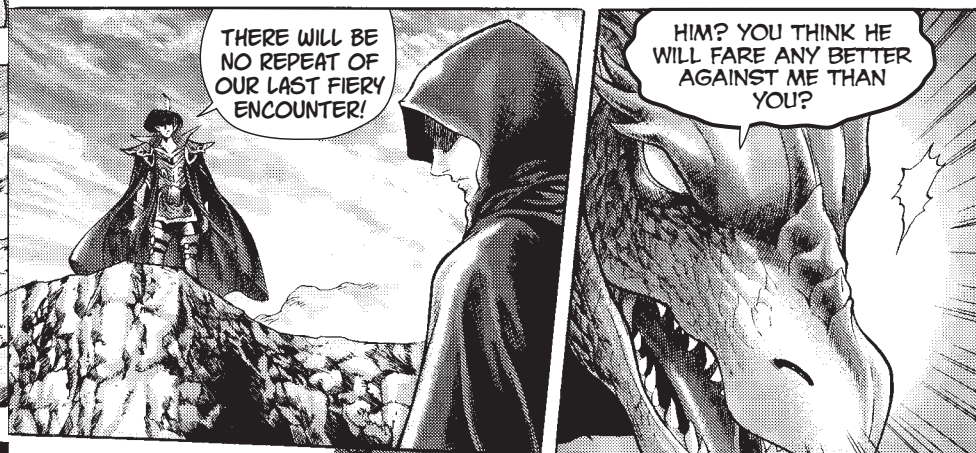
THEN,
PERHAPS
SOMETHING
A BIT
STRONGER--



--IS
CALLED FOR,
HMM?



AHH!
BUT I HAVE
PREPARED FOR
YOU, TOO,
MY DEAR!



THERE WILL BE
NO REPEAT OF
OUR LAST FIERY
ENCOUNTER!



HIM? YOU THINK HE
WILL FARE ANY BETTER
AGAINST ME THAN
YOU?



OH,
YES, I DO,
ACTUALLY!

IN
FACT...



RRRAUGH!!

I HAVE
NO DOUBT
WHATSOEVER!

CHAPTER SIX

FIRE AND FURY

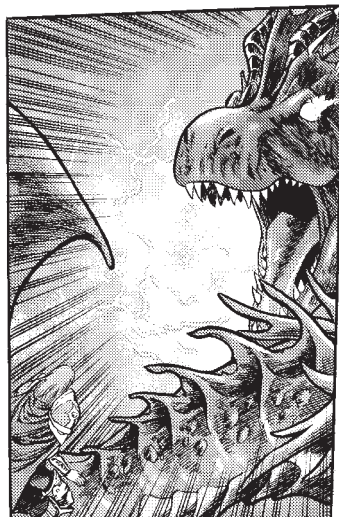
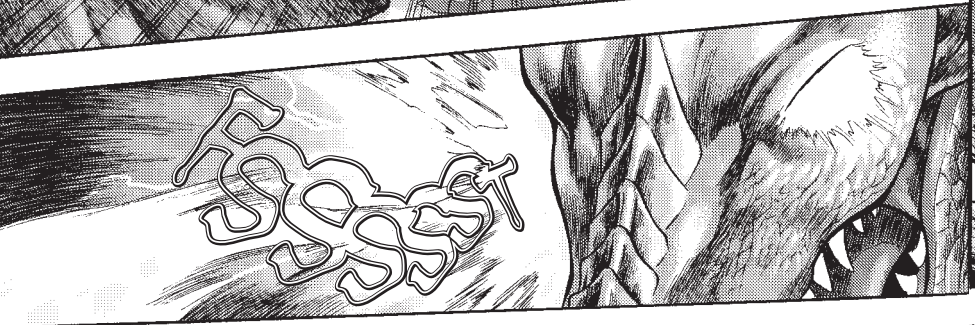
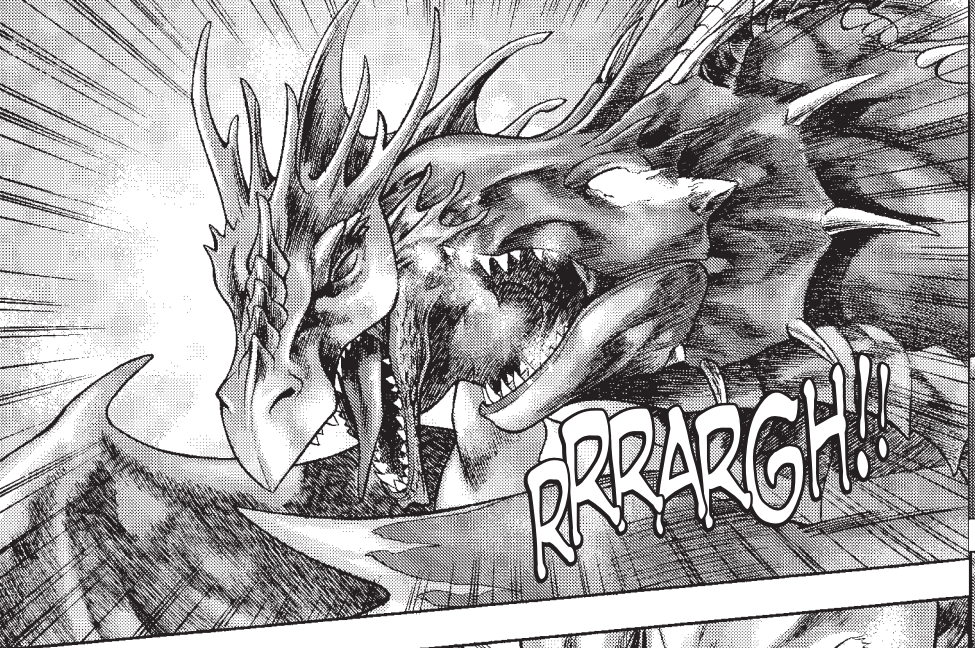




RRRRRRRR

HISSSSSS







AH AH AH!



AH! AND
NOW HERE COME
MORE FOOLS...

DEAR
LOR'THEMAR! WILL
YOU NEVER
LEARN?



BY THE
WELL!



WE
MUST
FIGHT OUR
WAY THROUGH
OR ALL IS
LOST!



BUT ALL IS LOST, MY OLD FRIEND! YOU'VE FAILED, JUST AS YOU ALWAYS DO...

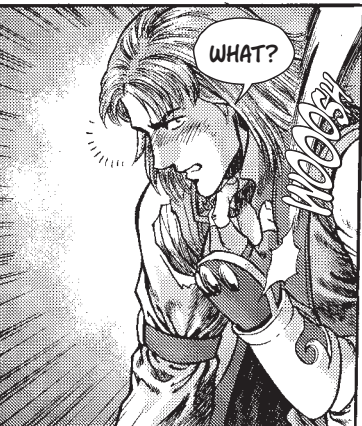


THERE ARE TOO MANY!

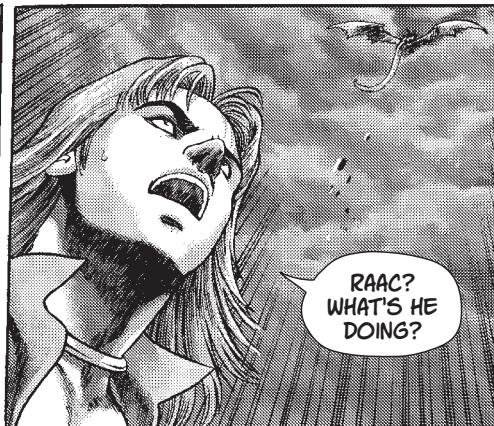
WE MUST NOT GIVE IN!



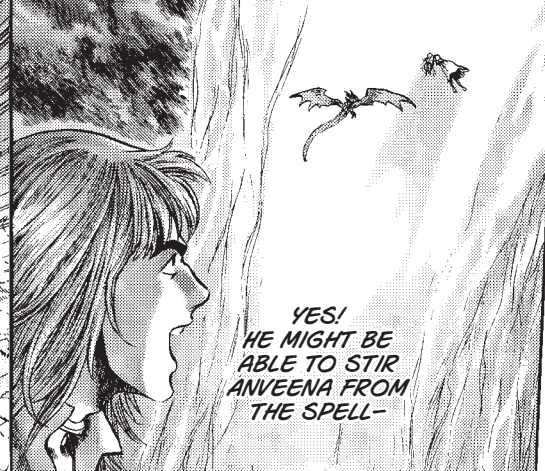
HE SWEEPS US ALL ASIDE AS IF WE'RE NOTHING! BUT THERE MUST BE SOME MANNER BY WHICH--



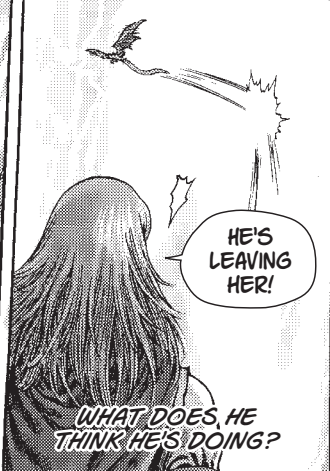
WHAT?



RAAC? WHAT'S HE DOING?

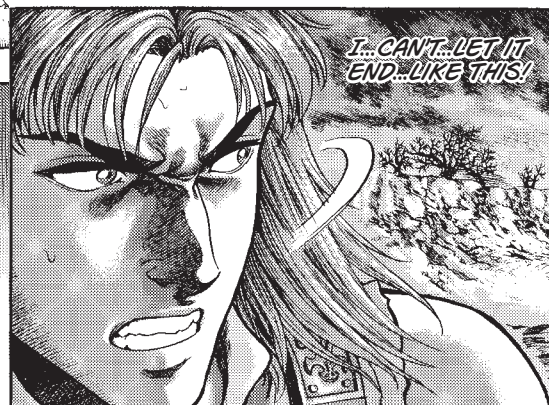


YES!
HE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO STIR
ANVEENA FROM
THE SPELL-

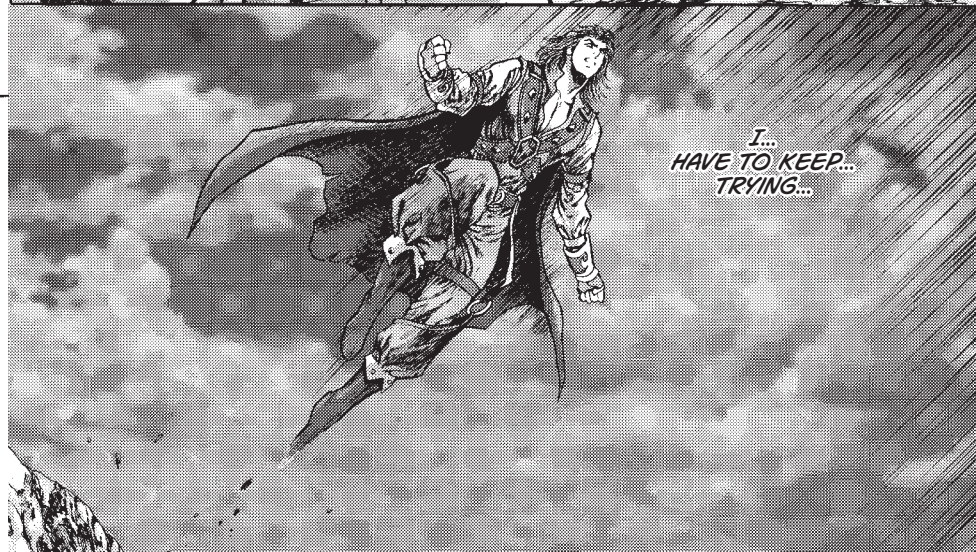
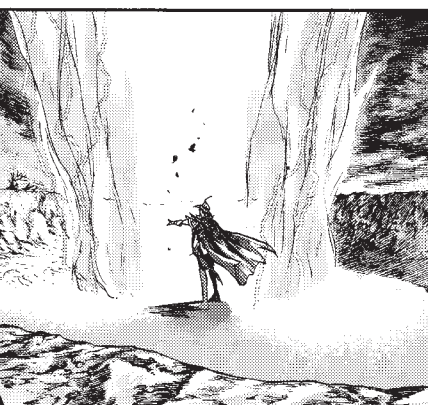


HE'S
LEAVING
HER!

WHAT DOES HE
THINK HE'S DOING?



I... CANT... LET IT
END... LIKE THIS!



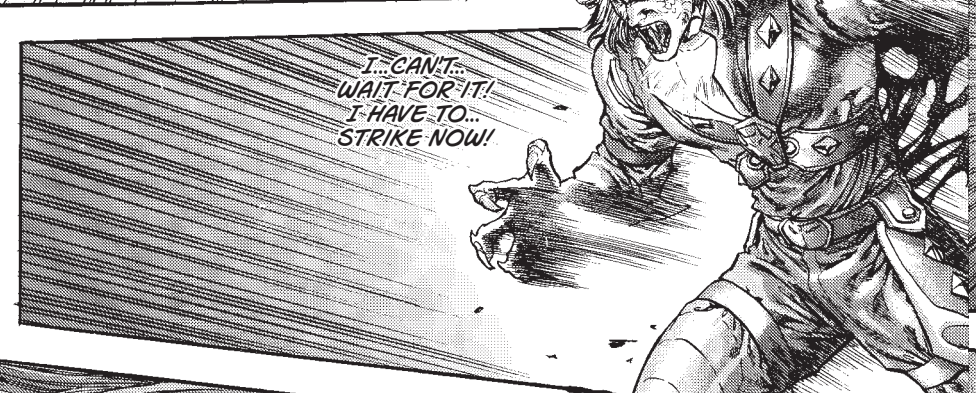
I...
HAVE TO KEEP...
TRYING...



*HAVE TO...
FOR ANVEENA!*



UNNGH!
BREAK, DAMN
YOU! BREAK!



*I... CAN'T...
WAIT FOR IT!
I HAVE TO...
STRIKE NOW!*



DAR'KHAN!!!

RRRAUGH!!!



OH,
SURELY YOU
JEST!

YOU
MUST BE
TAUGHT ANOTHER
LESSON!

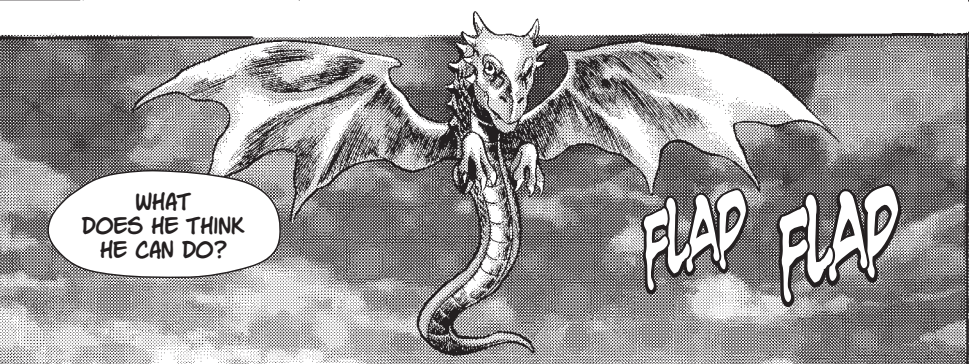
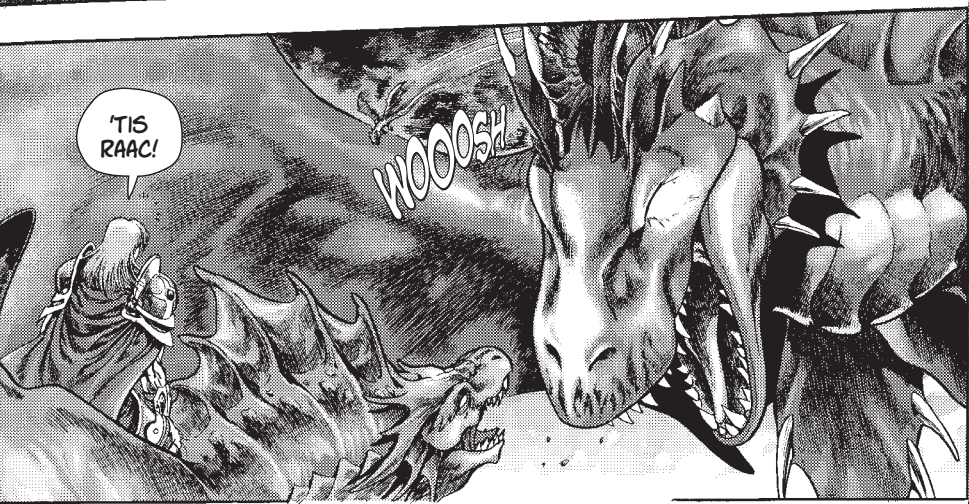
AAARGH!

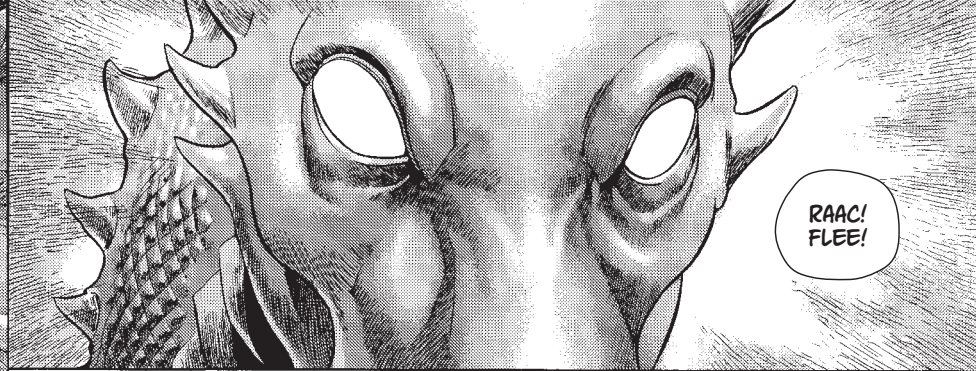
SSSSSSSS

THIS WILL BE
THE LAST ONE,
I PROMISE!

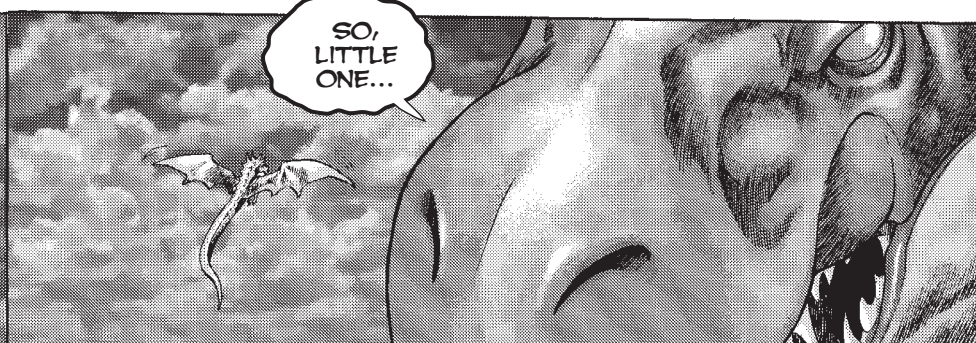
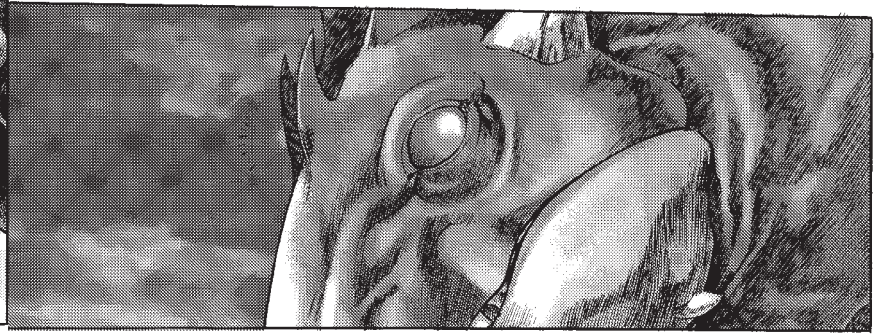
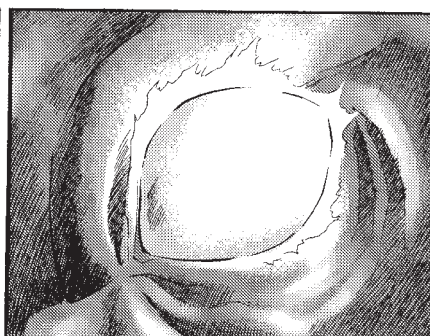
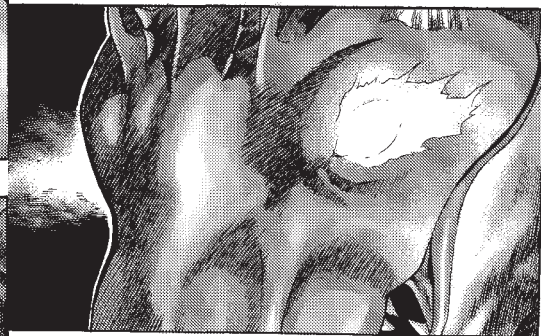
AFTER ALL,
WHEN I AM
DONE, THERE
WILL NOT BE
MUCH LEFT OF
YOU!

THWAM





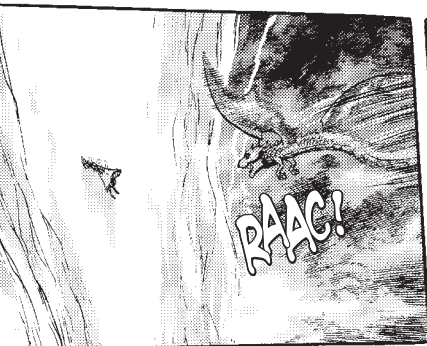
RAAC!
FLEE!



SO,
LITTLE
ONE...



...YOU HELPED FREE ME OF THE CURSED ONE'S SPELL, BUT I FEAR IT MAY BE ALL FOR NAUGHT!

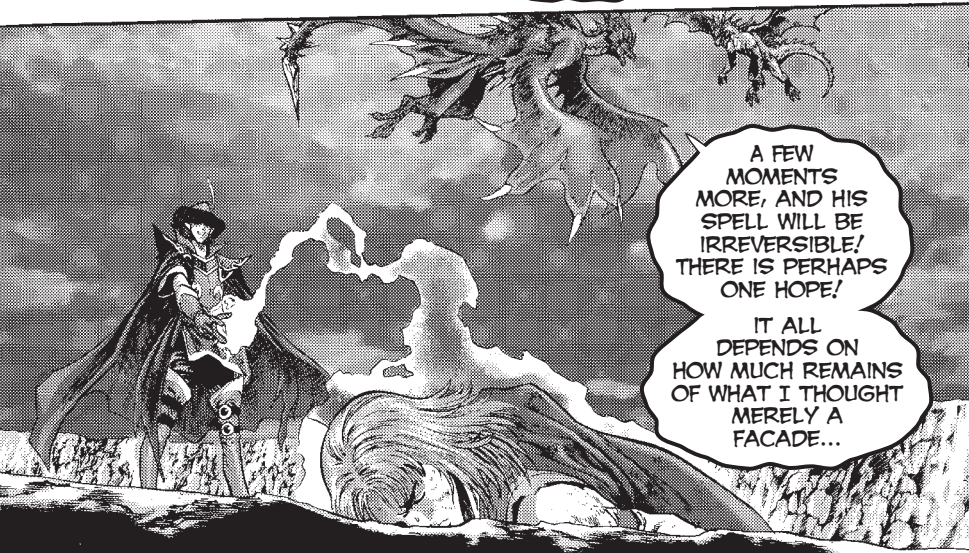


RAAC!




WHO ARE YOU? WHY--?

THERE IS NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS!

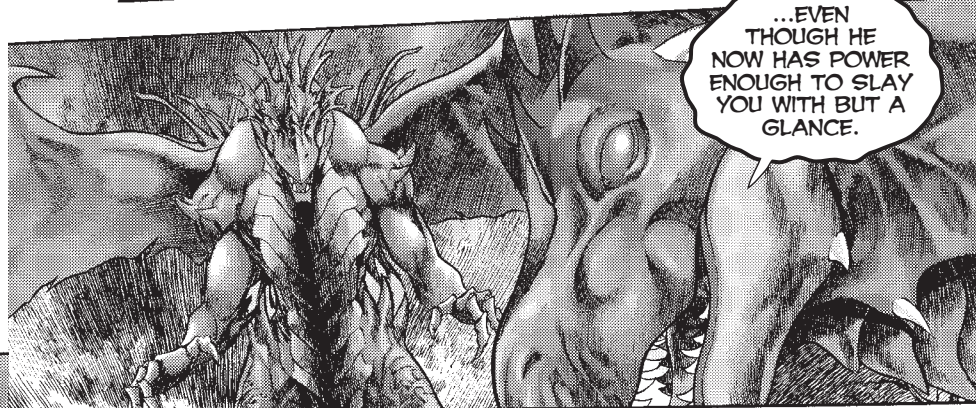


A FEW MOMENTS MORE, AND HIS SPELL WILL BE IRREVERSIBLE! THERE IS PERHAPS ONE HOPE!

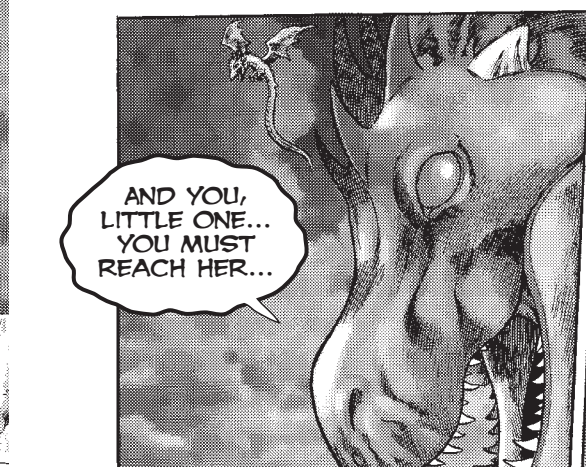
IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH REMAINS OF WHAT I THOUGHT MERELY A FACADE...



HURRY!
YOU MUST
STRIKE AT
DAR'KHAN WITH
ALL THAT
YOU CAN
MUSTER...



...EVEN
THOUGH HE
NOW HAS POWER
ENOUGH TO SLAY
YOU WITH BUT A
GLANCE.



AND YOU,
LITTLE ONE...
YOU MUST
REACH HER...



...YOU
MUST SHOW
HER...



AND
WHAT WILL YOU
BE DOING?

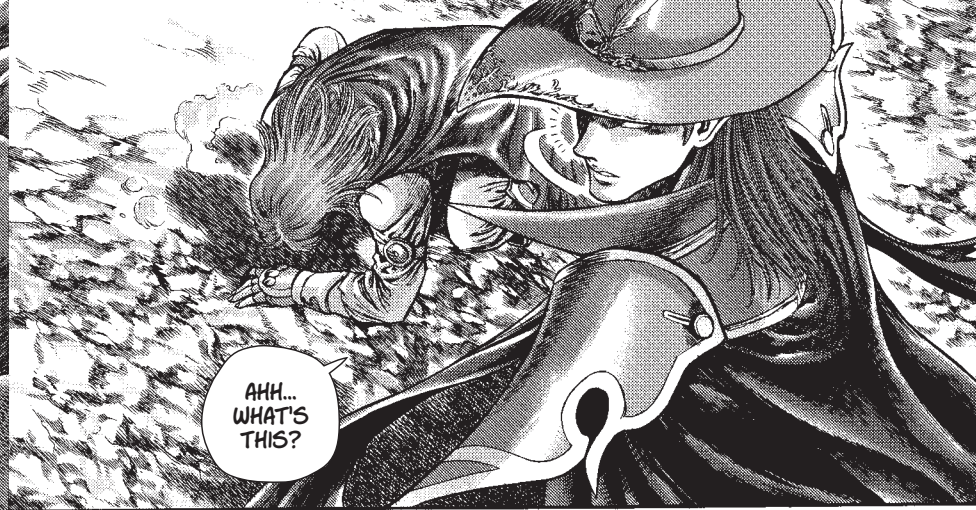
I?
I WILL BE WATCHING...
WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE
EITHER THE KEY TO OUR
VICTORY...

OR THE
FINAL ACT OF
OUR BLOODY
DEFEAT!



RRRARGH!!

NOW FLY!
FLY AND
FIGHT!



AHH...
WHAT'S
THIS?



YOUR
FRIENDS
HAVE COME
TO DIE WITH
YOU...

I SHALL
BE ONLY
TOO HAPPY
TO OBLIGE
THEM...

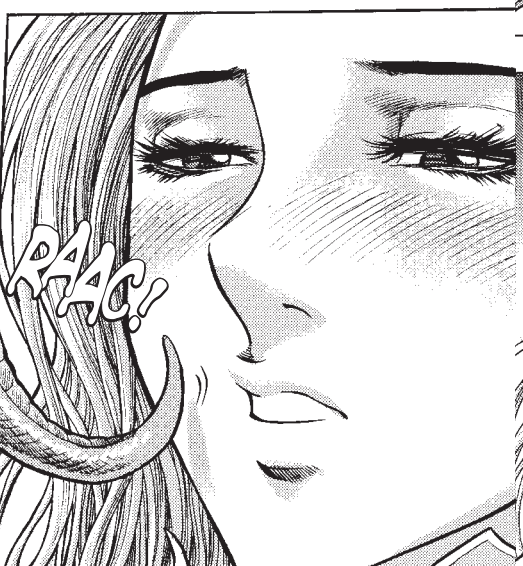
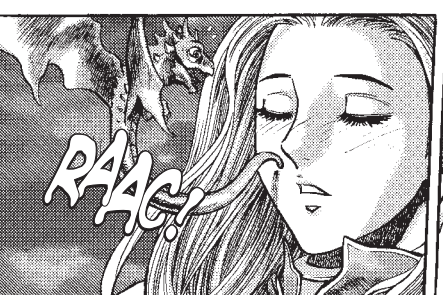
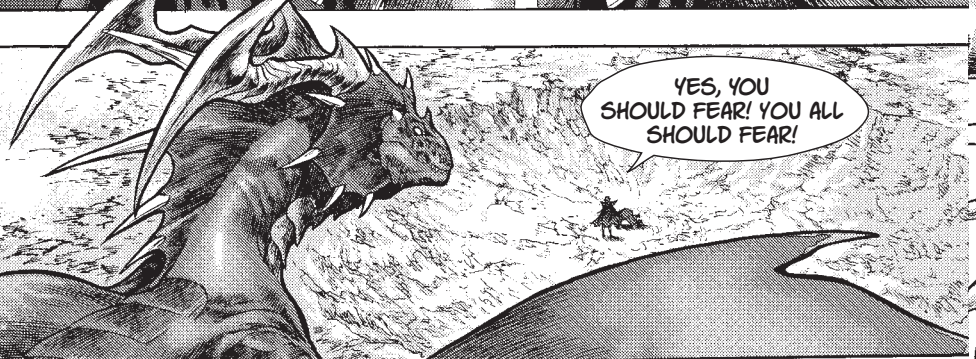
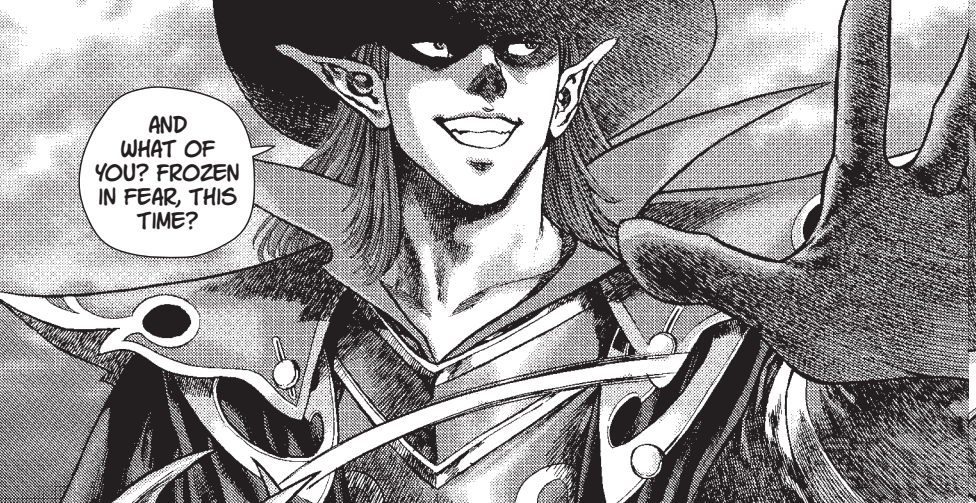


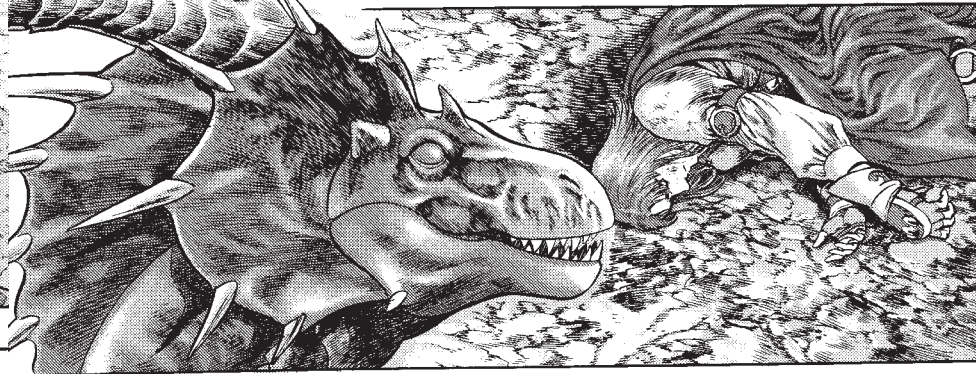
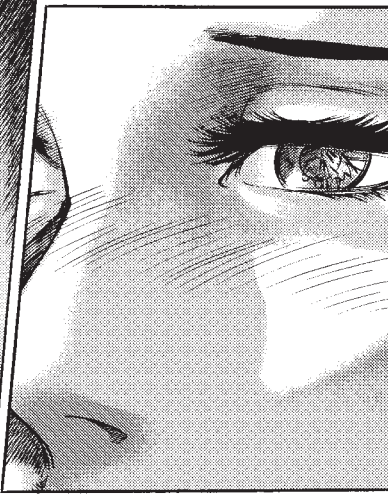
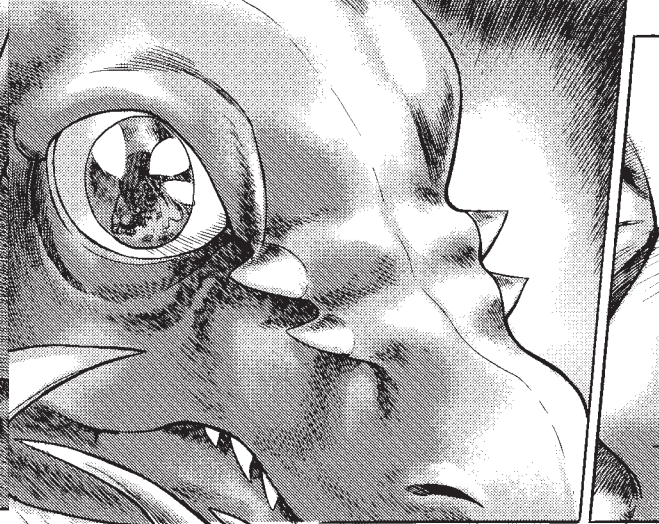
IT
SEEKS TO
SWALLOW
US!

RRRR...

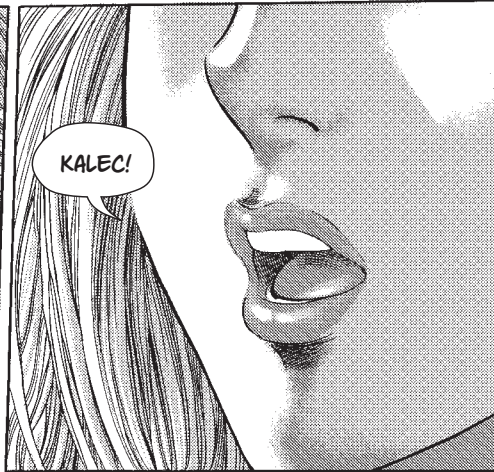


MY MAGIC
DOESN'T HOLD
IT BACK!





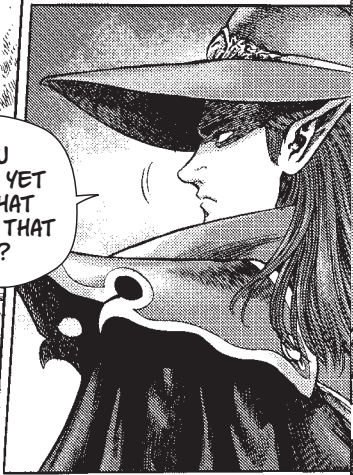
K-KALEC...



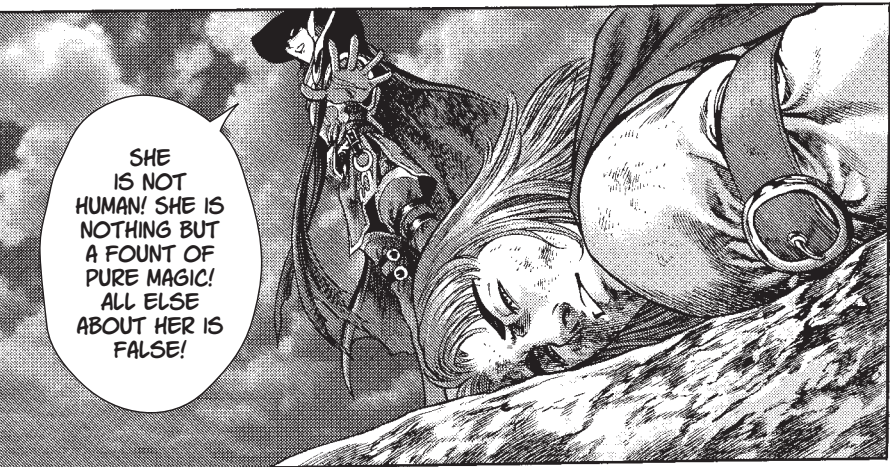
KALEC!



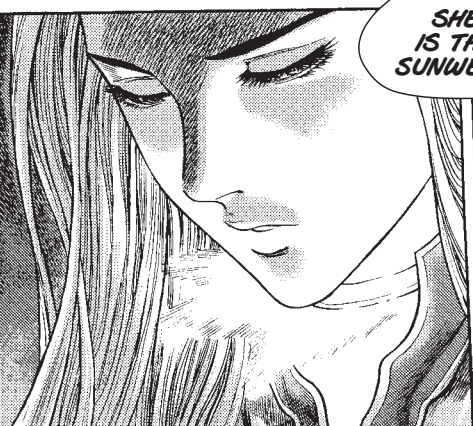
A-ANVE-
VEENA?



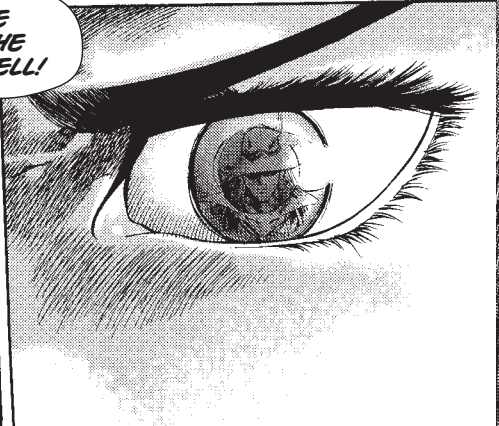
YOU
CLING YET
TO THAT
IMAGE? THAT
LIE?

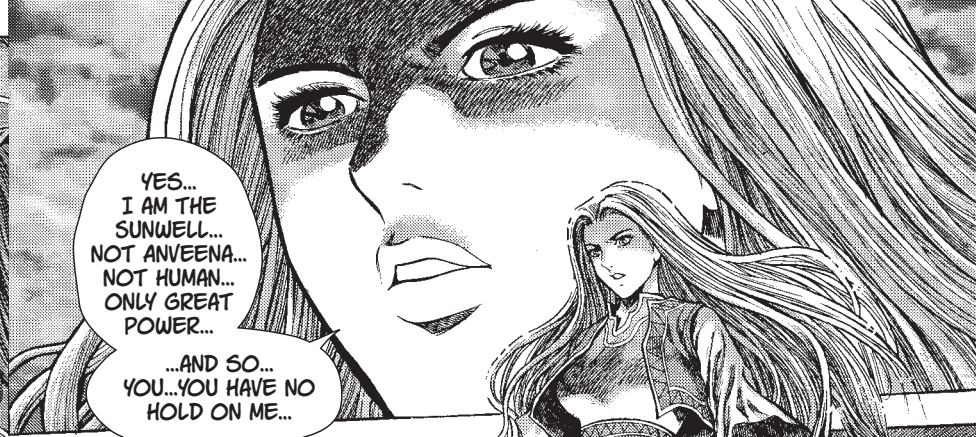


SHE
IS NOT
HUMAN! SHE IS
NOTHING BUT
A FOUNT OF
PURE MAGIC!
ALL ELSE
ABOUT HER IS
FALSE!



SHE
IS THE
SUNWELL!





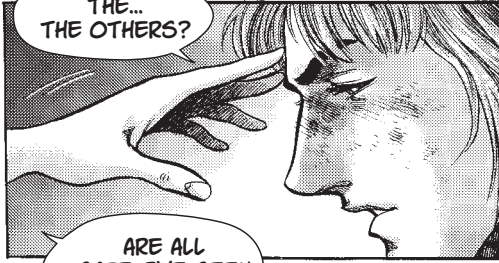
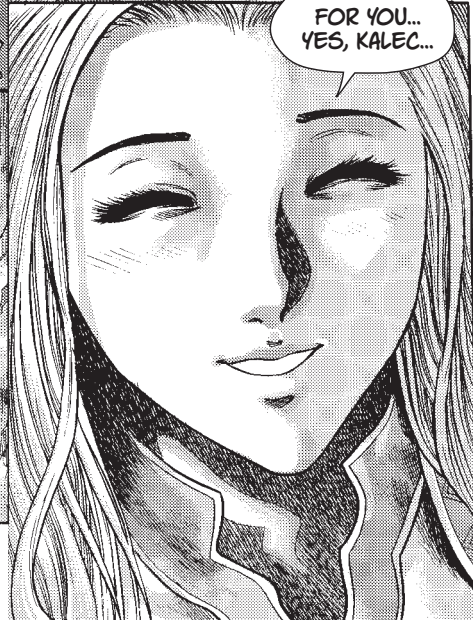
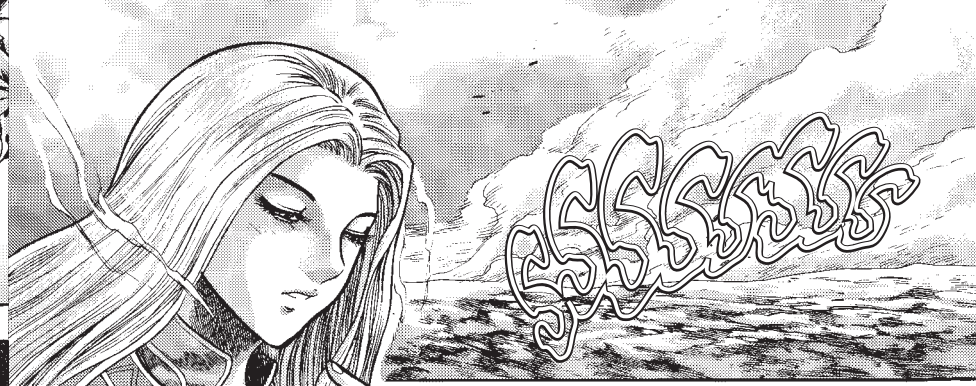
YES...
I AM THE
SUNWELL...
NOT ANVEENA...
NOT HUMAN...
ONLY GREAT
POWER...


...AND SO...
YOU...YOU HAVE NO
HOLD ON ME...



...AND
NO HOPE
AGAINST
ME.

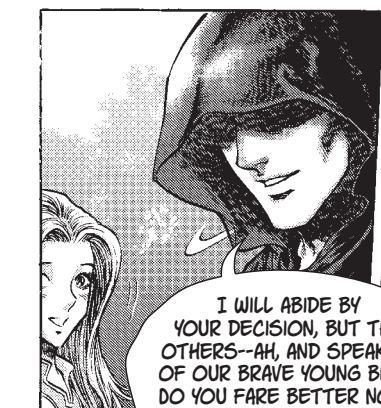






YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU WANT IT THIS WAY?

YES. THIS IS BEST, I THINK.



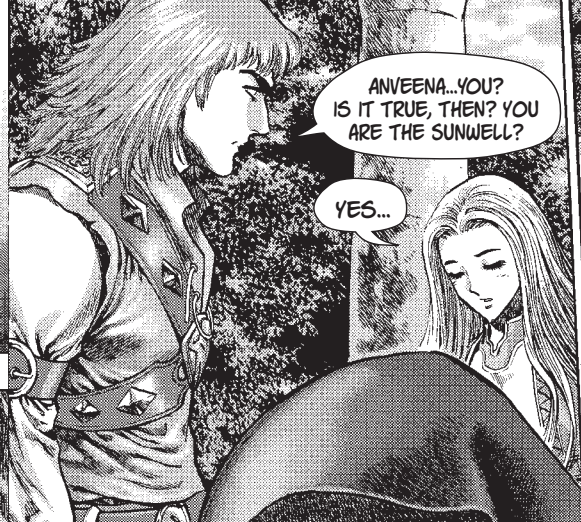
I WILL ABIDE BY YOUR DECISION, BUT THE OTHERS--AH, AND SPEAKING OF OUR BRAVE YOUNG BLUE! DO YOU FARE BETTER NOW?



I DO. IN FACT, I FEEL GREAT. I FEEL--



!!!
WHERE DID ALL THIS--



ANVEENA...YOU?
IS IT TRUE, THEN? YOU
ARE THE SUNWELL?

YES...



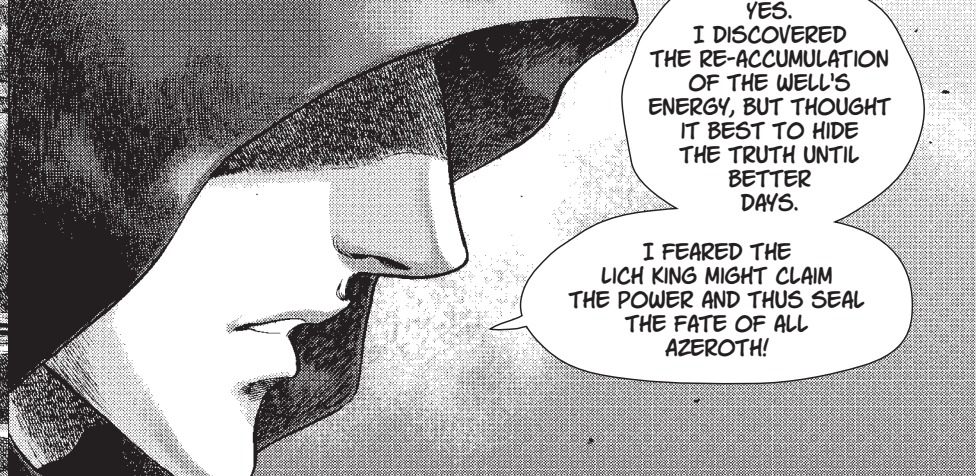
AND
MUCH MORE,
TOO. SHE IS
THE SUNWELL,
BUT STILL
THE ANVEENA
YOU
KNOW.

AND WHO ARE
YOU? IS BOREL
YOUR NAME?



NO...
MERELY
ONE MASK.
YOU SAW THE
TRUTH. MY
NAME IS
KORIALSTRASZ.

I
KNOW YOU!
CONSORT TO
ALEXSTRASZA,
QUEEN OF
THE RED
FLIGHT!



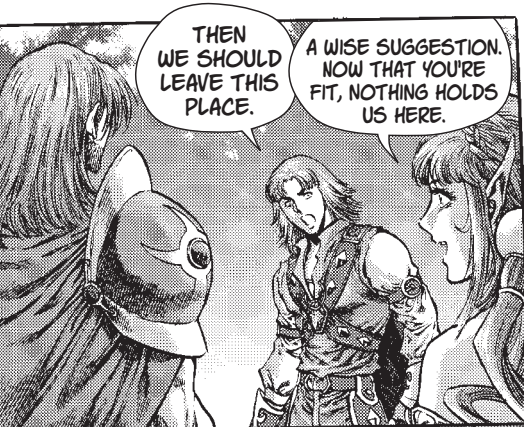
YES.
I DISCOVERED
THE RE-ACCUMULATION
OF THE WELL'S
ENERGY, BUT THOUGHT
IT BEST TO HIDE
THE TRUTH UNTIL
BETTER
DAYS.

I FEARED THE
LICH KING MIGHT CLAIM
THE POWER AND THUS SEAL
THE FATE OF ALL
AZEROTH!



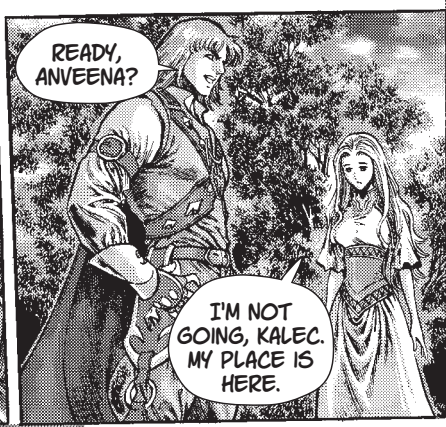
I BELIEVED I CREATED A MERE, IF MASTERFUL, ILLUSION TO HIDE IT...

...BUT THE ILLUSION BECAME LIFE ON ITS OWN, SOMETHING I NEVER EXPECTED.



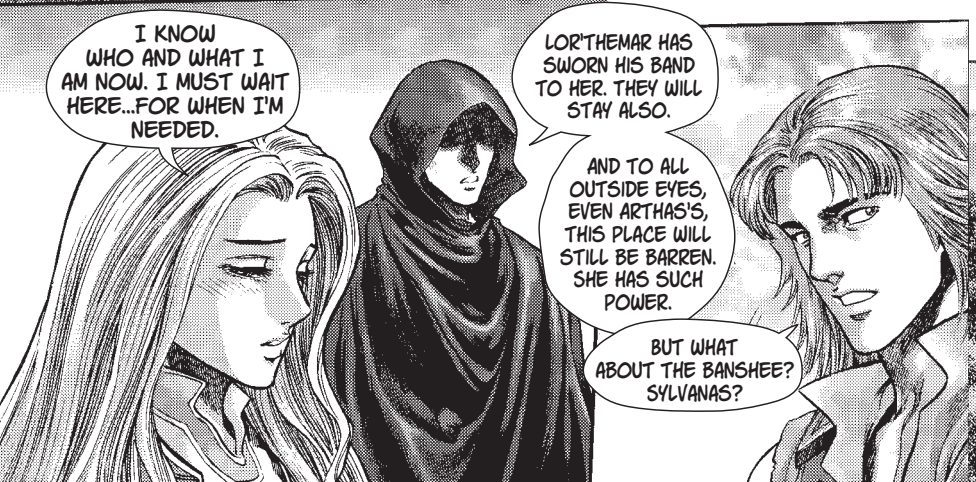
THEN WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE.

A WISE SUGGESTION. NOW THAT YOU'RE FIT, NOTHING HOLDS US HERE.



READY, ANVEENA?

I'M NOT GOING, KALEC. MY PLACE IS HERE.




I KNOW WHO AND WHAT I AM NOW. I MUST WAIT HERE...FOR WHEN I'M NEEDED.

LORTHEMAR HAS SWORN HIS BAND TO HER. THEY WILL STAY ALSO.

AND TO ALL OUTSIDE EYES, EVEN ARTHAS'S, THIS PLACE WILL STILL BE BARREN. SHE HAS SUCH POWER.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BANSHEE? SYLVANAS?



BEFORE SHE
SLIPPED AWAY, SYLVANAS
SWORE TO KEEP THE
SECRET. SHE IS NO FRIEND
OF ARTHAS...AND SHE STILL
RECALLS WHAT SHE
ONCE SERVED.

YOU SEE?
NOW, COME!
LET'S BE
OFF!



NO...I'M
STAYING,
TOO.

KALEC...
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO...



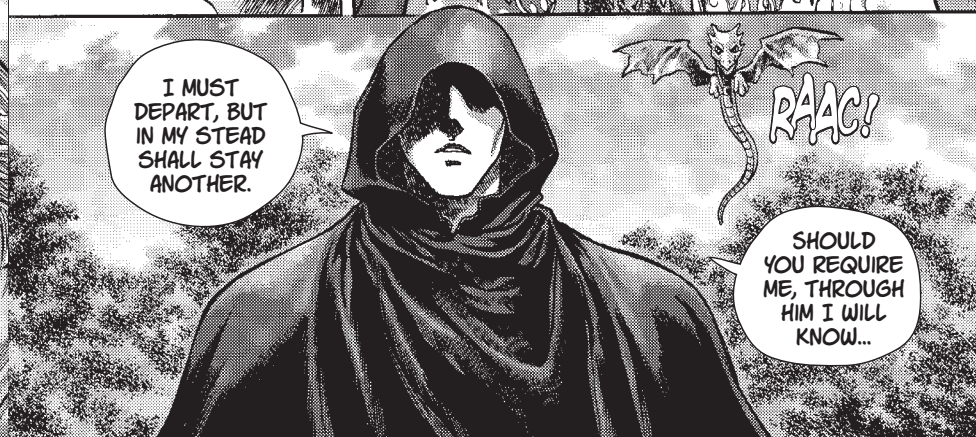
BUT
I WILL.
I SWORE
TO WATCH
OVER YOU.
I CAN'T
LEAVE
YOU.



BUT--

I'VE
MADE UP
MY MIND...
TYRYGOSA.

VERY WELL...
KALECGOS.

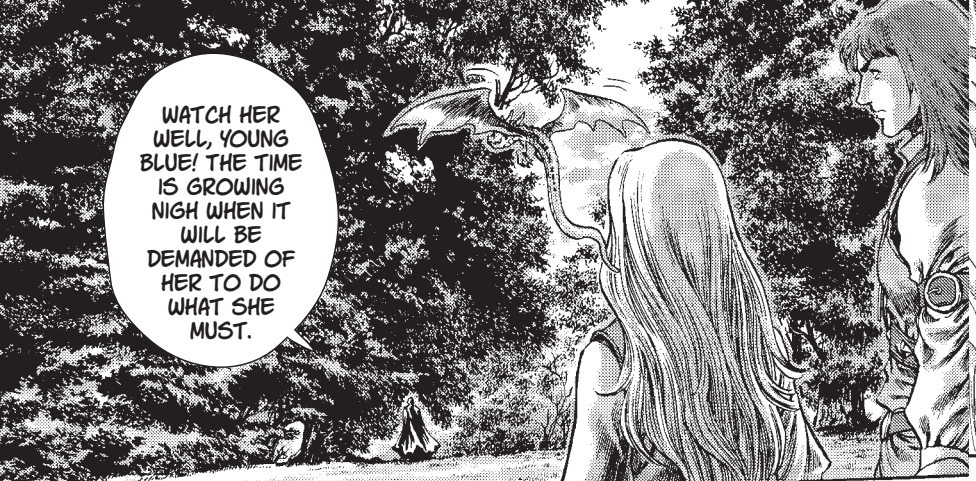


I MUST
DEPART, BUT
IN MY STEAD
SHALL STAY
ANOTHER.



RAAC!

SHOULD
YOU REQUIRE
ME, THROUGH
HIM I WILL
KNOW...




WATCH HER
WELL, YOUNG
BLUE! THE TIME
IS GROWING
NIGH WHEN IT
WILL BE
DEMANDED OF
HER TO DO
WHAT SHE
MUST.



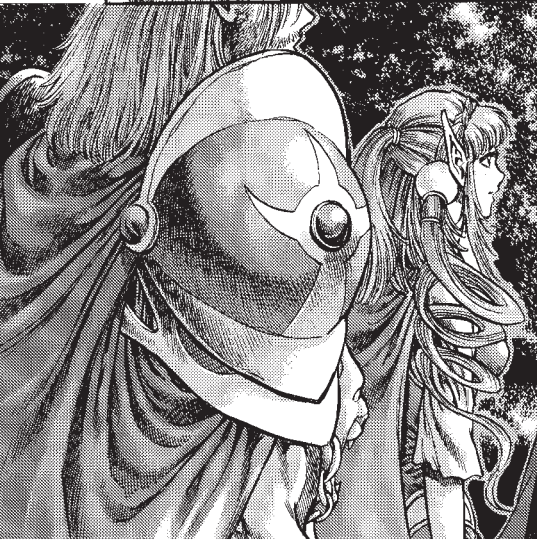
I'LL BE
READY.



AND I'LL
STAND
WITH HER.
I SWEAR
IT.



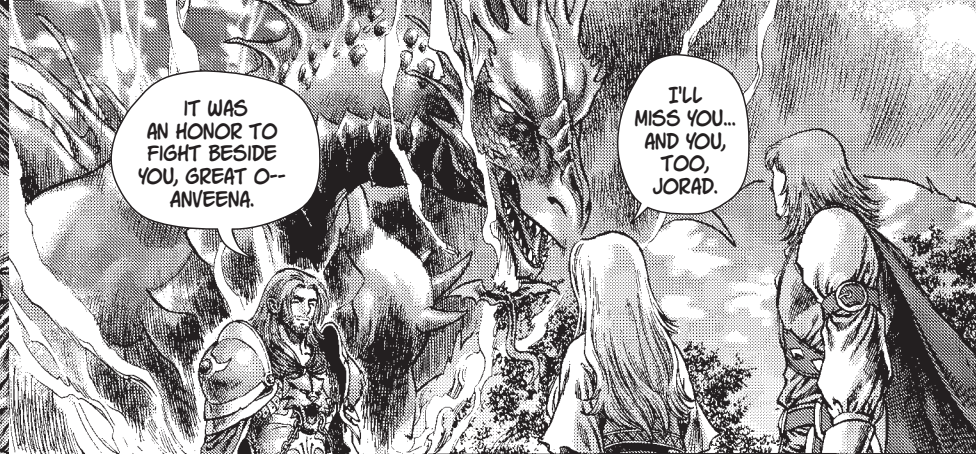
THEN
THERE IS
NO MORE
FOR ME
TO SAY,
BUT...
GOODBYE!



I WILL TELL
MALYGOS ALL
THAT HAS
HAPPENED.



THANK YOU...
TYRI.



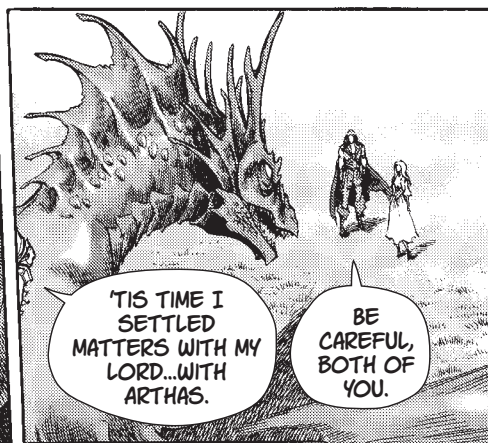
IT WAS AN HONOR TO FIGHT BESIDE YOU, GREAT O-- ANVEENA.

I'LL MISS YOU... AND YOU, TOO, JORAD.



WHERE WILL YOU GO?

JORAD WISHES ME TO FLY HIM BACK TOWARD HIS FORMER HOME.

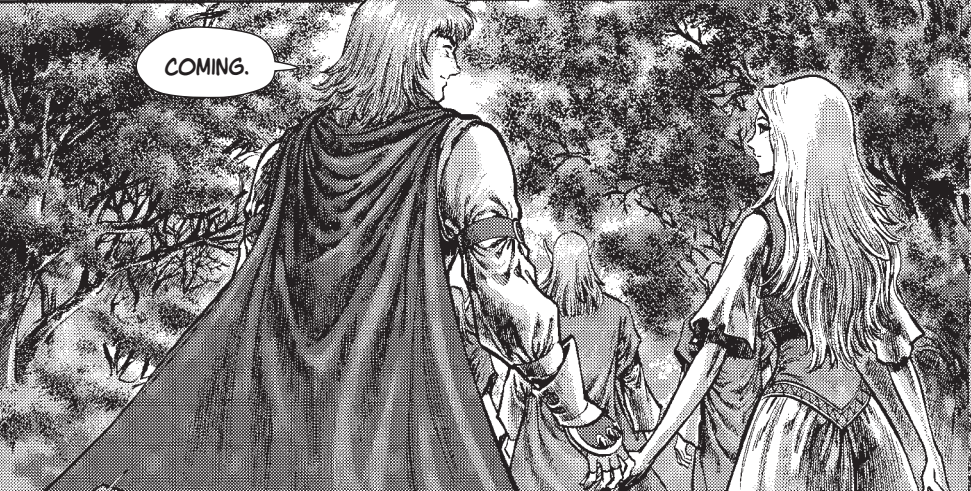
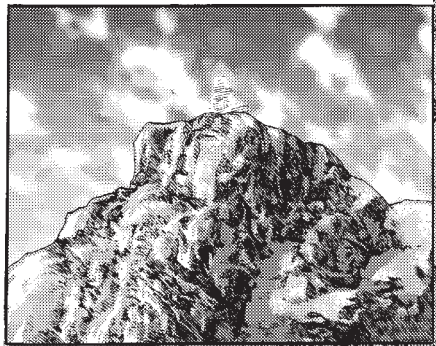
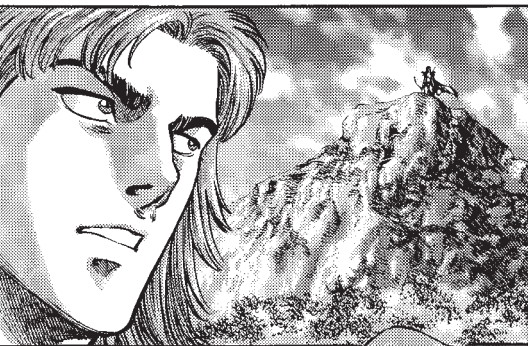
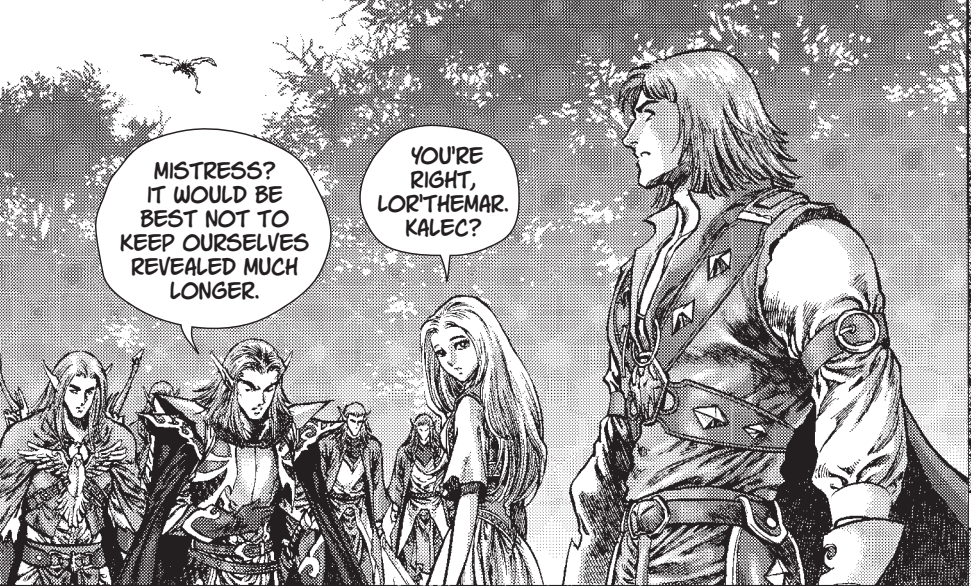



'TIS TIME I SETTLED MATTERS WITH MY LORD...WITH ARTHAS.

BE CAREFUL, BOTH OF YOU.



FARE YOU WELL, YOU TWO!





AND SO, IN THE
MIDST OF A LAND OF
DESPAIR AND DEATH,
THERE IS HOPE.



HOPE FOR QUEL'THALAS, HOPE
FOR A CRIPPLED REALM...

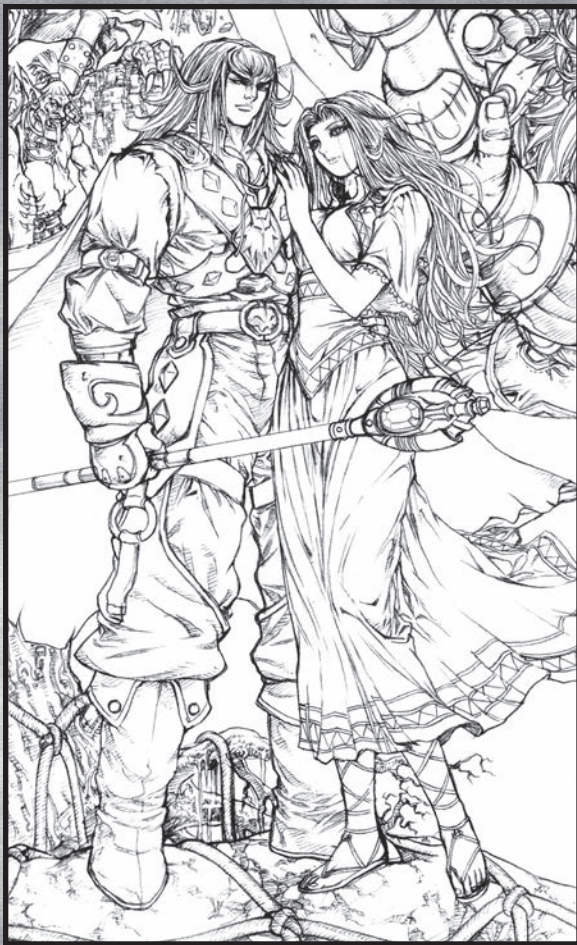


...AND, PERHAPS, HOPE
FOR ALL AZEROTH.

ABOUT The CREATORS

Richard A. Knaak is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of some fifty novels and numerous shorter works. He has written for such well-known series as WORLD OF WARCRAFT, DIABLO, DRAGONLANCE, CONAN, and PATHFINDER and is the creator of the long-running, popular epic fantasy saga THE DRAGONREALM. He has also written comic, manga, and gaming material, and his works have been translated worldwide.





Jae-Hwan Kim was born in 1971 in Korea. His best-known manga works include *Rainbow*, *Combat Metal HeMoSoo*, and *King Of Hell* (called *Majeh* in Korea). Jae-Hwan currently lives and works in Thailand.

