



A KINGDOM DEATH'S STORY:

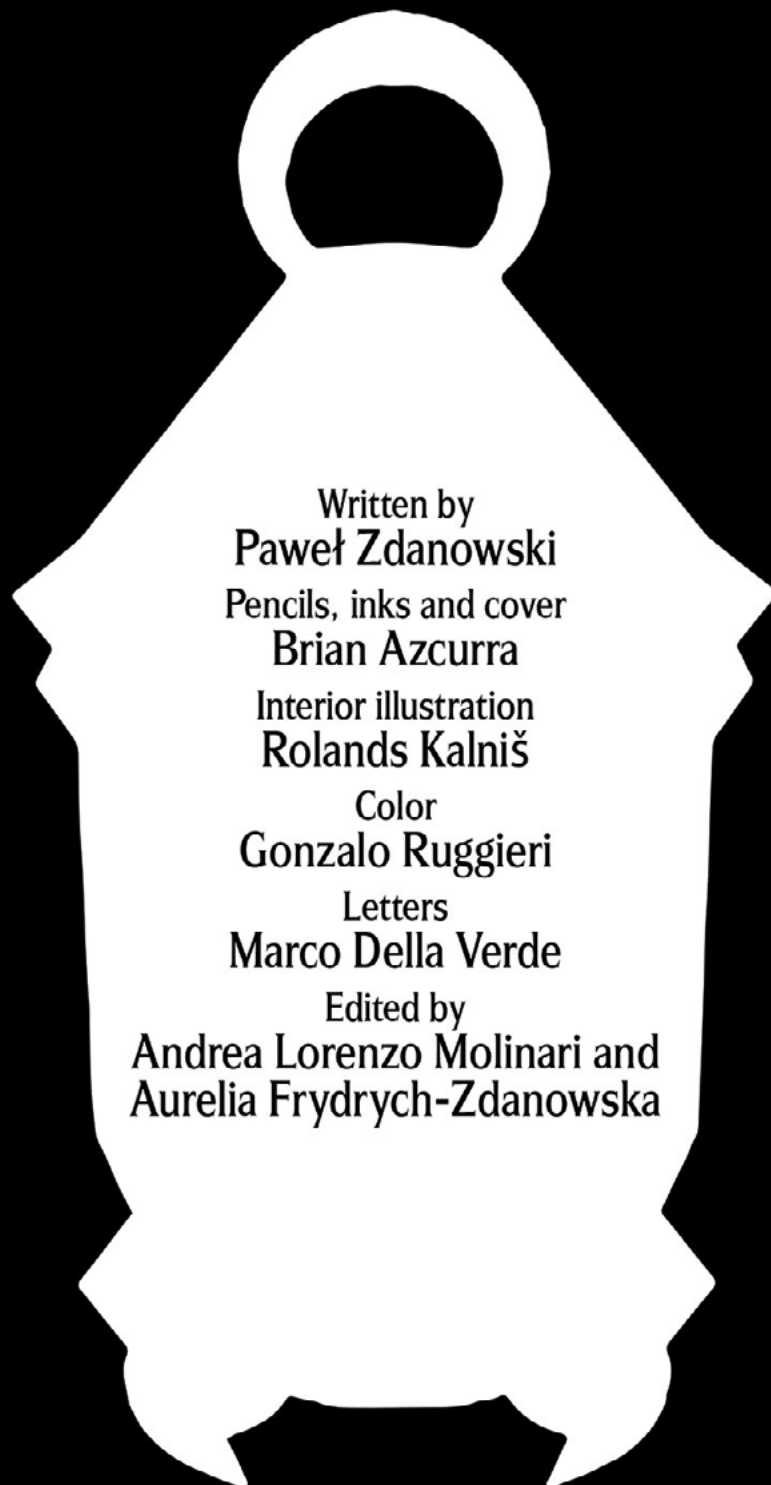
PHOBIA

THE HUNT





This is a work of fiction, but everything you glimpse in the darkness while reading is real.



Written by
Paweł Zdanowski
Pencils, inks and cover
Brian Azcurra
Interior illustration
Rolands Kalniš
Color
Gonzalo Ruggieri
Letters
Marco Della Verde
Edited by
Andrea Lorenzo Molinari and
Aurelia Frydrych-Zdanowska

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I dedicate this to my best friend
Uncle Tom, who rolled a “1” way too early.

I miss you every day, brother.



A heartfelt thank you to my amazing wife
for her unwavering support throughout this journey.

You are truly amazing.

IT'S THERE BEFORE
YOU EVEN DRAW
YOUR *FIRST BREATH.*



PHOBIA

PART 1 : THE HUNT

THE HUNT
PHOBIA



IT SETTLES IN BEFORE
YOU OPEN YOUR EYES
FOR THE FIRST TIME.



IT SCRATCHES AND
CLAWS ITS WAY INTO
YOUR HEART...



CLAP

CHIKA
K-K-K-K



TAP

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP



...TAKING *PIECES*
OF YOU, BEFORE YOU
EVEN KNOW THERE'S
ANYTHING TO LOSE.



AND ONCE
YOU WAKE
UP...

GASP!



AH!

SPLASH

THE *FEAR* IS
ALREADY HERE.

OH YES. THE FEAR
HAS **ALWAYS**
BEEN THERE.

IT DOESN'T JUST
EXIST—IT REIGNS.

ROARRRR!

SCHICKT.

SPLUT

HRR-!

A CONSTANT, INSIDIOUS
PRESENCE THAT'S
ALWAYS THERE.

ROAARRRGH!

**THUNK
KA-THUNK**

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

IT'S A PRIMAL FORCE
THAT **GOVERNS ALL**
LIFE.



IT LIES AT THE HEART
OF EVERY CREATURE'S
SURVIVAL INSTINCT.



YOU **MAY** RESIST
IT AND DISLIKE IT...



...BUT IF-FOR ANY
REASON-YOU FORGET
ABOUT IT...



...WHATEVER HAPPENS
NEXT IS YOURS
TO BEAR.



BZZ-IZZ



AND YOU PRAY TO IT
FOR TIME TO **SLOW**
DOWN...



TO PUMP YOUR BODY
FULL OF **ADRENALINE...**



...AND GIVE YOUR MUSCLE
MEMORY ONE LAST
FIGHTING CHANCE.



YES. FEAR IS THE
FIRST EMOTION
WE FEEL.

BZZIT?

SHIK?

AND MORE OFTEN
THAN NOT, IT'S THE
LAST ONE, TOO.

SPLATT

IT IS A
NIGHTMARE!

PANT!

PANT!

NUARGH!

I NEED TO
WAKE UP.

RUARRRGH!

PLEASE...

NGGH-

NOOO...

AND YET, WHEN YOU
THINK ALL IS LOST...

THE BRUTAL SONG
OF DESTINY IS JUST
ABOUT TO BEGIN.

THUNK

RHEEEE!

DOO-NA
KATA.

BONO.

NATA
IVRA!

THIS IS THE **SAGA** OF THOSE
WHO STAND AGAINST THE
DARKNESS...

DOO-HA
NATORO.

GRRRR!

MANA
OMA-
OMA!

NATA?

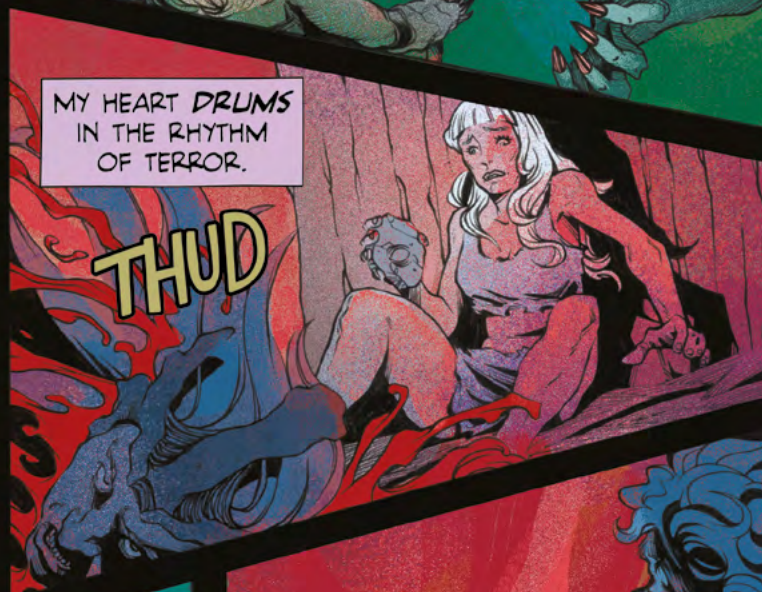
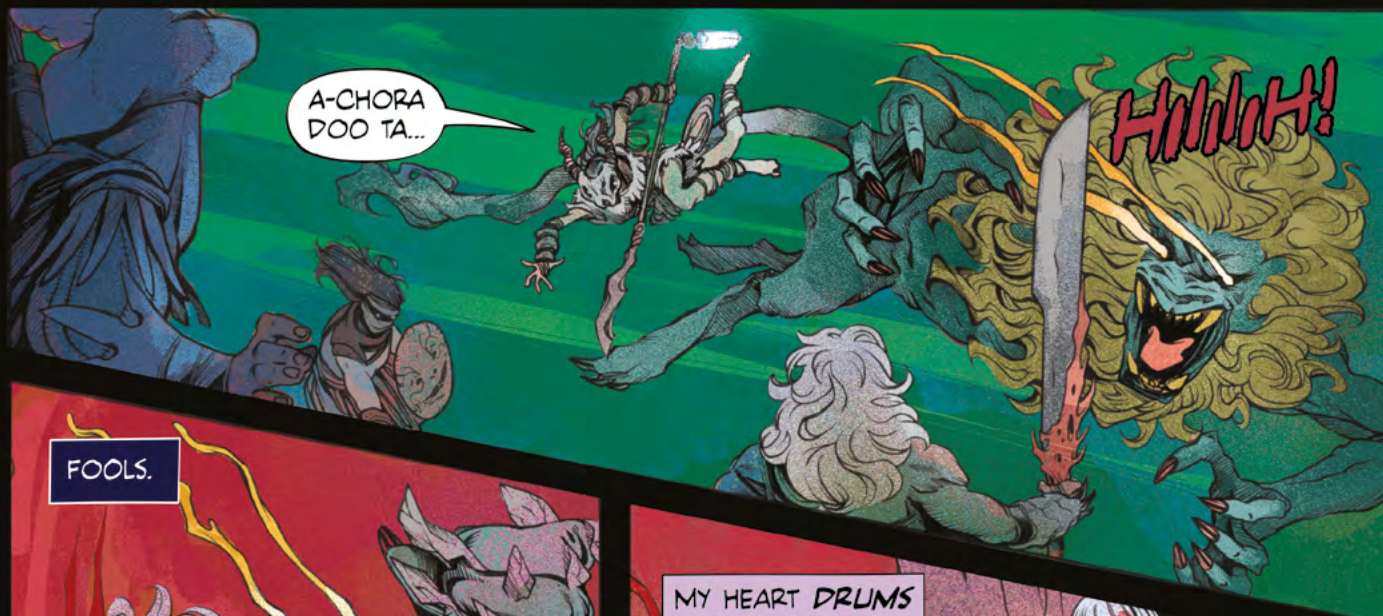
...MEN AND WOMEN
WHO LOOK INTO ITS
GAPING **VORACIOUS**
MAW AND MAKE
RECKLESS BOASTS.

IDA!

DERO!

FFFTT

ROAALUWRR!



OI
LUNA!

THWAP

HEH!
HEH! HEH!

A-DOO...

ENOUGH!

I WILL
NOT DIE!

HR-HRK!

THUMP

I WILL
SURVIVE!

PFFFT

LUNA
OMA-OMA
MANA!

THWACK

URGH...



I'M ALIVE.
BUT AM I
SAFE?

LU-OMA
KATAN-
ANNE.

MANA
MON Y...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING, BUT ONE
STEP CLOSER...

HAHAHAHAHA!

MANA
LU-HA I-IMA
OMA-OMA.



LINA
OMA-OMA-
KAH, ALE-KE
IRO IRO

THEY... LAUGH?
ONE OF THEIR OWN
JUST DIED, YET
THEY STILL LAUGH?



STRANGE FOLKS. **CRAZY.**
BUT PRACTICAL.

DOO LU-HA
OMA-OMA.
OBORO-DOO.
OBORO-KAH.

ALA RAN
IVRA FA,
GOR.

WANA, KE
OMA-OMA
IRO-IRO.

OMA-OMA
ALA ROGO,
DERE MANA
CHORA-DOO.

ROGO?
MANA-
MANA SA.



MAYBE IT'S
WORTH **STICKING**
AROUND THEM.

AT LEAST TILL I'LL
FIGURE OUT WHAT TO
DO AND WHO I AM.

I FOLLOW THEM
FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE
FOREVER, SLOWLY
LEARNING THEIR WAYS.

WANA! RONO -
TORO-TORO.
LINA CHORA-
LU?

BONO.

MANA
OMA-
OMA-LU
OBORO

HIKA K-K-K-K

THE ONE WITH THE SPEAR IS **WANA**—SHE IS A
TRACKER, ATTUNED TO THE SONGS OF THE LAND.

SHE SETS THE **RHYTHM**
OF THE JOURNEY,
WHEN TO MOVE AND
WHEN TO HIDE.

HISSSSS...

THE **SCARY BIG GIRL**
WITH AN AXE IS **GOR**.
SHE ALWAYS **HUNGERS**
FOR FOOD AND BATTLE.

XAR
GOR!

MANA
FIRA IVRA
LO!

XAR
GOR!

HER AXE IS AN
INSTRUMENT OF
BLOOD AND PAIN,
SINGING THE MAD
BALLADS OF DEATH
WITH SWIFT STRIKES.

IVRA
IRO!

SHUNK

DOO-
LAN!

THE ARCHER'S
NAME IS **MON**.

RHEEE!

RHEEE!

PFFFT

I CAN'T SHAKE THE
EERIE FEELING
THAT HIS SOOTHING
VOICE CARRIES A
FAMILIAR ECHO.

DOO!
DOO-LINA!
DOO-LINA!

DU-HAH-
FA.

OMA-
OMA SA.

SPLASH

SPLASH

HIKA-K-K-K-K

SHHHLUP

BUT EACH TIME I DWELL
ON IT, **FEAR** QUIETLY
CREEPS INTO MY MIND.

I FEEL A COLD TOUCH ON MY MIND AND START TO WONDER: WHAT IS IT THAT I **TRULY FEAR?**

BONO.

GOR IS **AFRAID OF HEIGHTS**. AND ME?

WHAT IF I NEVER FIND OUT **WHO I AM?**

WHAT IS **MINE DEFECT?**

WAS MY LIFE WORTH THEIR **FRIEND'S DEATH?**

WHAT IF I WILL LET **EVERYONE DOWN?**

YOU ARE **WORTHLESS.**

=GASP!=-

AAAAHHH!

TAP

MY THOUGHTS COMPOSED A SYMPHONY OF DOUBT THAT TRICKED MY SENSES. I **CAN'T TRUST MYSELF.**

I...YOU... **THANKS.**

LU-HA
LU-UK
ALA-KE?

MO
DOO-
HAH.

MO OMA-
OMA-HAH DERE
ROGO.

MANA-MANA
MO NATA O
MANA-MANA
IVRA.

BUT I TRUST HIM AND I FEEL LIKE OUR HANDS DON'T WANT TO PART EVER AGAIN.

THE OTHERS ARE NOT SO FOND OF ME.

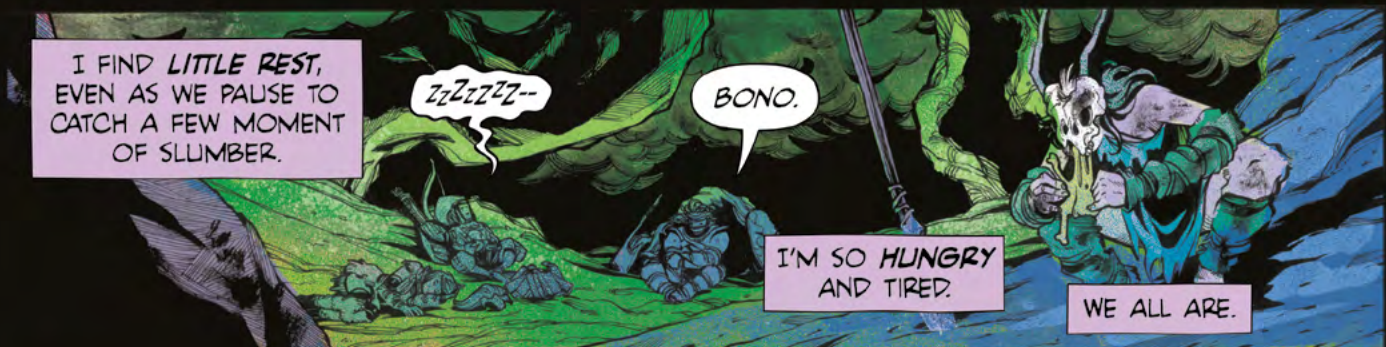


WE *PUSH FORWARD*,
MY MIND'S RESTLESS
ORCHESTRA KEEPS
ECHOING QUESTIONS
ABOUT MY NATURE.

IS IT
STILL
FAR?

XAR!

BONO.



I FIND *LITTLE REST*,
EVEN AS WE PAUSE TO
CATCH A FEW MOMENT
OF SLUMBER.

Zzzzzzz--

BONO.

I'M SO *HUNGRY*
AND *TIRED*.

WE ALL ARE.



THE WORLD AROUND
US IS A *COLD, LONELY*
PLACE WHERE EVERY
CREATURE'S BEING IS
A *HAUNTING MELODY*
OF *DESPERATION*.

BONO.

MY MIND *NEARLY*
FALTERS BEFORE WAN
FINDS A *SAFE PATH*.

<HIKA <K-<K-<K



THE WATER IS *SHOCKINGLY COLD*, RUSHING
OVER MY THOUGHTS LIKE A *TIDAL WAVE*.

SPLASH



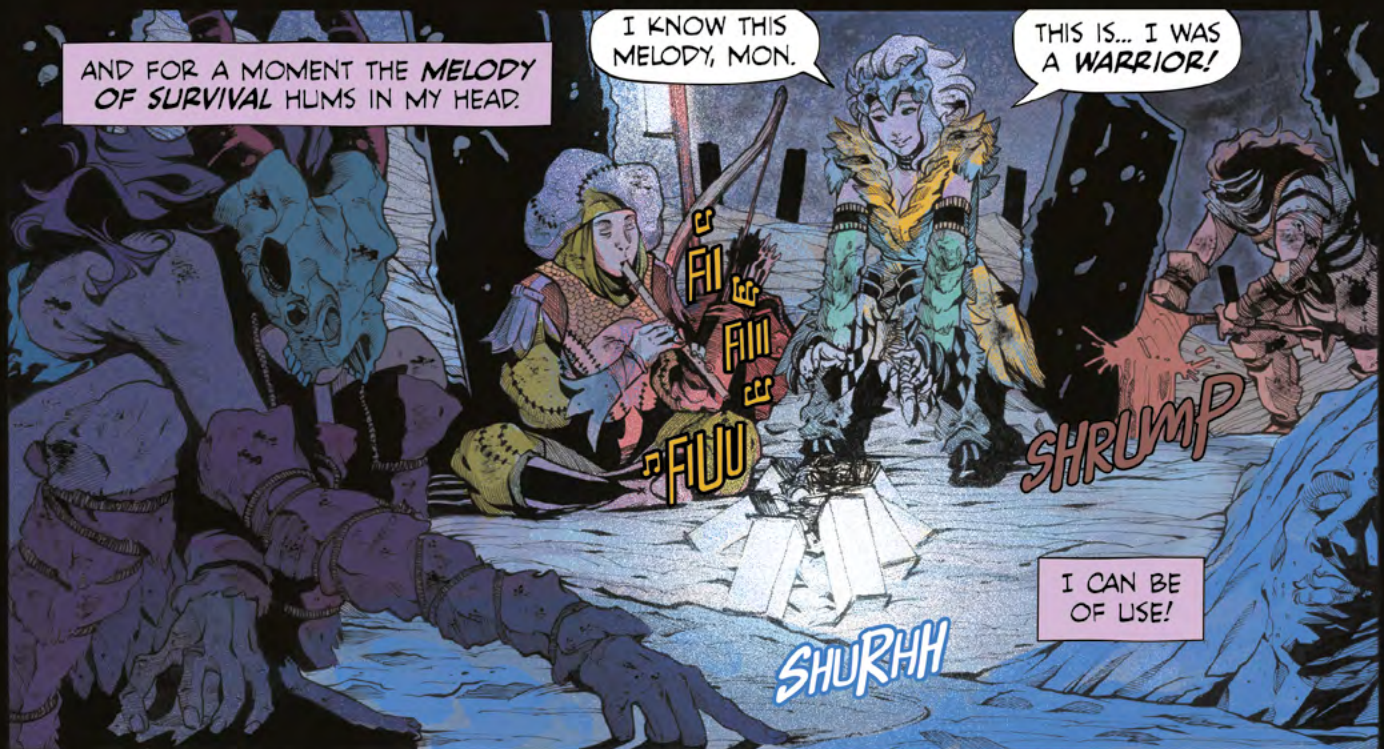
I WAS *HERE*
ALREADY!



MY
SWORD!

Swoosh

THE *SINGING OF THE*
STEEL CALMS MY MIND.



AND FOR A MOMENT THE *MELODY OF SURVIVAL* HUMS IN MY HEAD.

I KNOW THIS MELODY, MON.

THIS IS... I WAS A WARRIOR!

FIU
FIU
FIU

SHRUMP

I CAN BE OF USE!

SHURHH



GOR WANTS TO BE *SURE* OF IT.

NATA.

THUMP



UNA FEDE MANA NATA.



SHE IS FAST!

THUD

IDA!

AND HITS LIKE A DAMN DUNG BALL.



YOU CAN'T BEAT HER.

YOU ARE NOTHING.

YEAH? WE WILL SEE.

AND WHAT THE HELL IS A DUNG BALL?

SHE MAKES ME
REGRET TALKING
TO MYSELF.

WHOOOP

SHE IS A
GOOD
TEACHER.

GO'LO.
ROGO.

THOUGH I DON'T
UNDERSTAND A WORD,
HER INSTRUCTIONS STIR
FORGOTTEN MEMORIES.

I USED TO KNOW
HOW TO FIGHT AND IT
COMES BACK QUICKLY.

IRO!

THWACK

LU-HA!

THAKK

≡GASP!≡

BUT I GET MANY
MORE BRUISES
BEFORE THE LESSON
IS DONE.



LATER, WANA BEGINS HUMMING AN OLD SONG OF BRAVERY.

HMM-HMM-HMM...

SQUISH



ITS WORDS COME TO ME.

ONE SPLASH TO LURE THEM OUT.

CHIRP



TWO NOTES TO BIND THEM.

SLOP

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP



THREE VERSES TO MAKE THEM SING.

PLOP

AND IN A CAULDRON BIND THEM!



IT TASTES LIKE GORM'S PISS.

SLURP

BUT WITH EVERY SIP MY MIND IS FILLED WITH NEW MUSIC.

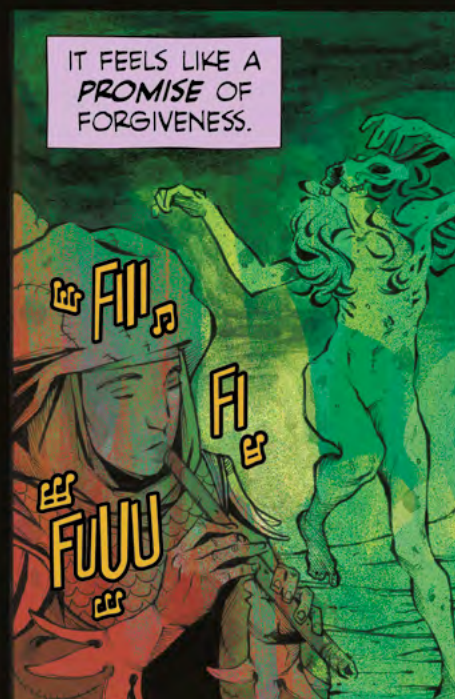


IT SOUNDS LIKE LANTERN'S LIGHT AND WARM BODY NEXT TO YOU.

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

WIGGLE



IT FEELS LIKE A PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS.

FIL FI

FI

FUUU



IT SINGS IT'S OK TO BE "NOT ENOUGH".

SOB

SOB



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME... I LAUGH.

HAHAHAHA!

I LOVE HOW IT SOUNDS.

THE **DARKNESS**
CREEPS ON US
CHANGING REALITY.



IT MUFFLES THE
MUSIC, **PLUCKING**
OUT NOTES ONE BY
ONE, LIKE A HUNGRY
PREDATOR.



IT **TWISTS OUR**
EMOTIONS, AND I
BEGIN TO TELL A
STORY I DIDN'T EVEN
KNEW WAS MINE.



IT HAPPENED
A LONG TIME
AGO, IN A PLACE YOU
WOULD NOT BE ABLE
TO UNDERSTAND OR
IMAGINE.



IN MY **ANCESTRAL**
HOME, A TALL
STAIRCASE LED
TO FLOORS OF
DUSTY BOOKS
AND ANTIQUE
WONDERS.



I'D CLIMB THOSE
STAIRS, **DANCING**
ON RAILS AND
SWINGING BETWEEN
BALUSTRADES.



I WAS A **FEARLESS**
CHILD, YEARNING
FOR DISTANT LANDS
AND TREASURES OF
A BYGONE ERA.



ONE DAY, AMONG
THE ORNAMENTED
CHESTS I'VE FOUND
AN **ARTEFACT**.



YOU **WOULDN'T**
UNDERSTAND WHAT
IT WAS—AND I
SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T
REALLY MATTER.



WHAT MATTERS IS
THAT I RAN BACK
TO THE STAIRCASE,
RUSHING TO JUMP
IN MY CHILDLIKE
EXCITEMENT...



MY HAND
SLIPPED... AND
I FELL.



ALL
THE WAY
DOWN.



I TRIED TO SCREAM
BUT MY LUNGS WERE
FROZEN WITH PAIN.

AND IN THE
OVERWHELMING
DARKNESS...

...A SMALL
CHILD DIED.

AND ALONG WITH
IT ANY SENSE OF
WONDER AND JOY
I EVER POSSESSED.

EONS
PASSED.

WHEN I FINALLY
OPENED MY EYES THE
ARTEFACT WAS GONE...

I TRIED TO TELL THE
ADULTS ABOUT MY DEATH,
BUT THEY DISMISSED IT
AS A DREAM.

WHEN I INSISTED,
THEY LAUGHED IT
OFF AS THE STORY OF
OVER-IMAGINATIVE CHILD

BUT I SAW IT IN
THEIR EYES—PERHAPS
FOR THE FIRST TIME.
FROM THAT DAY
FORWARD, I KNEW.

DON'T LET
IT GET TO
YOU!

COME
WITH
ME!

FEAR
REIGNS.

IT HIDES
BEHIND SMILES.

IN THE WAY THAT PEOPLE
TALK TO THEMSELVES
WHEN THEY THINK NO
ONE IS LISTENING.

IT'S IN THE BLANK
STARES PRETENDING
NOT TO NOTICE
NEITHER NEIGHBOURS,
NOR STRANGERS.

IN THE AWKWARD
SILENCES AND
UNFULFILLED
EXPECTATIONS.

I'VE SEEN HOW IT
ERODES SOULS, TAKES
AWAY DIGNITY, AND MAKES
LIVES UNBEARABLE.

SHNIKT

PHWARGH

HA!

HA! HA!

HA!

HA!

HA! HA!

HA!

GASP!

I TRIED TO FIGHT
IT. I BECAME THE
BRAVEST WARRIOR
OF THEM ALL.



BUT FOR EVERY
MONSTER I KILLED...
ANOTHER ONE—
A STRONGER
ONE—APPEARED.



AND ONE BY ONE
EVERYONE WHO STOOD
BY ME **PERISHED**. SO
WHAT WAS THE POINT?

GLOSH



I **HELPED THEM**
THROUGH THE
DARKNESS AND FOR A
MOMENT I THOUGHT
THEY UNDERSTAND ME.



LUNA LIN
MANA-
MANA.

KATAN
ANNE KE
LUNA ERE MO
OMA-OMA?



BUT WE STILL CAN'T
COMMUNICATE.

MON.



LUNA?

NOT
REALLY.



MON.



LUNA?

I **GUESS** MY
NAME CAN BE
LUNA. WHY NOT?





IT'S NICE TO BE APPRECIATED.

LU-OMA.

UNA RANO O ERA.

LU-HA OMA-OMA.

PAT



DID WE MEET ALREADY?



I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD I *FEEL* IF HE KISSED ME.

UNA LU-HA OMA-OMA.

UNA LU.



PERA... MANA PERA.

BUT THE MOMENT IS GONE.



HE CHANGES THE SUBJECT AND I HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT AGAIN, BUT I LIKE THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE.

OTO OBORO IDA.



SCRE-LAN DOO-HA, UNA-OMA?

HE SOUNDS LIKE AN OCEAN OF CONFIDENCE.

FLAP

FLAP



MANA-MANA KIN-FIRA A ALA-RO.

RAN LIN ALA-KE.

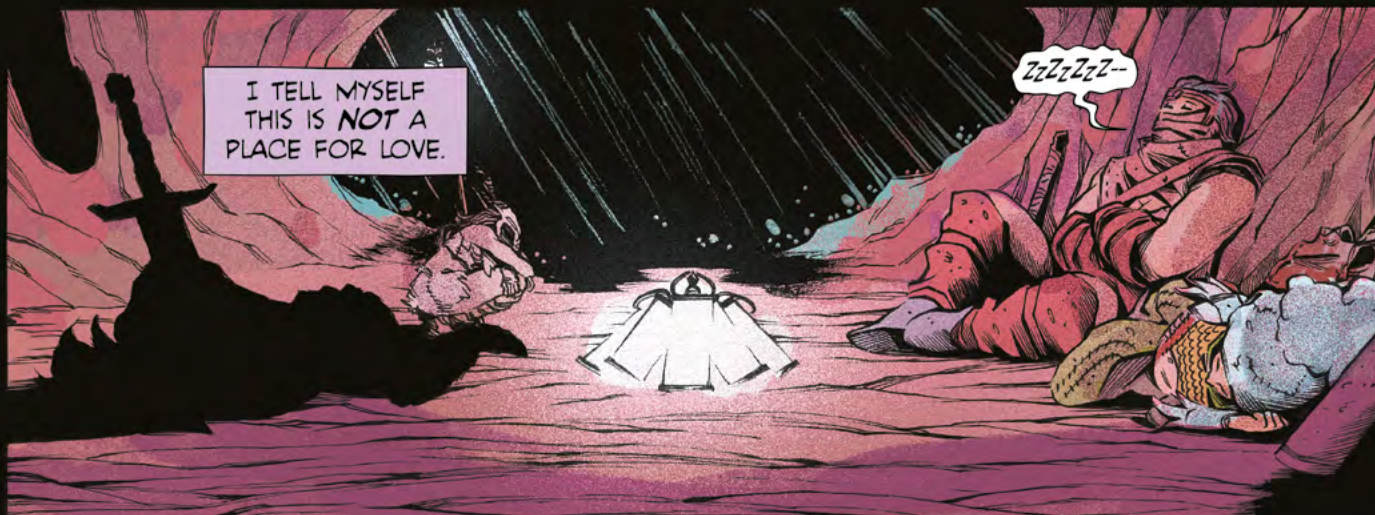
A LU-MANA-MANA DERO.

I COULD LISTEN TO HIM FOR HOURS. AND I DO.



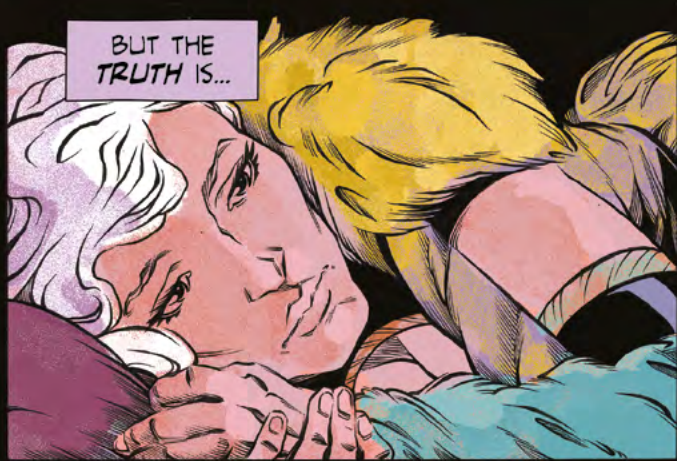
SOMETHING ABOUT A... BIRD? A RING?

I CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF HIS LIPS.



I TELL MYSELF
THIS IS **NOT** A
PLACE FOR LOVE.

Zzzzzzz--



BUT THE
TRUTH IS...



UNA
LU-HA?



FEAR
REIGNS!



I'M JUST AFRAID OF
GETTING TOO CLOSE.



I CAN **PRETEND**
ALL I WANT.

CHIKA CK-CK

BUT THE **FEAR** WILL
NEVER LEAVE ME.



WE MARCH ON TOWARDS
THEIR PRAY, BUT I CAN'T
SHAKE THE *FEELING OF
IMPENDING DOOM.*

WOOOOSH

SRE-LAN!

I WAS HERE
ALREADY.



EVERY STEP FEELS
FAMILIAR NOW.

TAP



TO-DOO
PONO!

KRRRR



OMA-OMA
OBORO
ROGO.

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD TELL
THEM TO GO BACK, BUT I
KNOW *THEY WON'T LISTEN.*



I DECIDE TO
TRY ANYWAY.

MON?

LUNA?



FEAR
REIGNS!

SCREEEE!

TOO
LATE.

RUOOOWRR!

MANA
UNA
IVRA!

RRUUUMMBBLLLEE

I REMEMBER
HOW IT ENDS NOW.

MON USES HIS RING, CONVINCED HE CAN CONDUCT THE FUTURE LIKE A SYMPHONY, GUIDING A SINGLE MELODY THROUGH THE BRANCHING MAZE OF EQUALLY POSSIBLE TUNES.

AND FOR A MOMENT IT LOOKS, LIKE IT COULD WORK...

IDA!

THUMP

SWAT

BUT THE ANCIENT CREATURE WHISPERS A SINGLE WORD.

CHTU-
ANG-
CHTU!

S
W
O
O
H

SPLAT

WE ARE IN THE PAST??

WHATEVER HAPPENED WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.



THEY WILL DO
THEIR BEST.

IVRA!



AND IT WILL NOT
BE ENOUGH.



OBORO-
KAH?

XAR
GOR!



SCREEEE!

GASP!

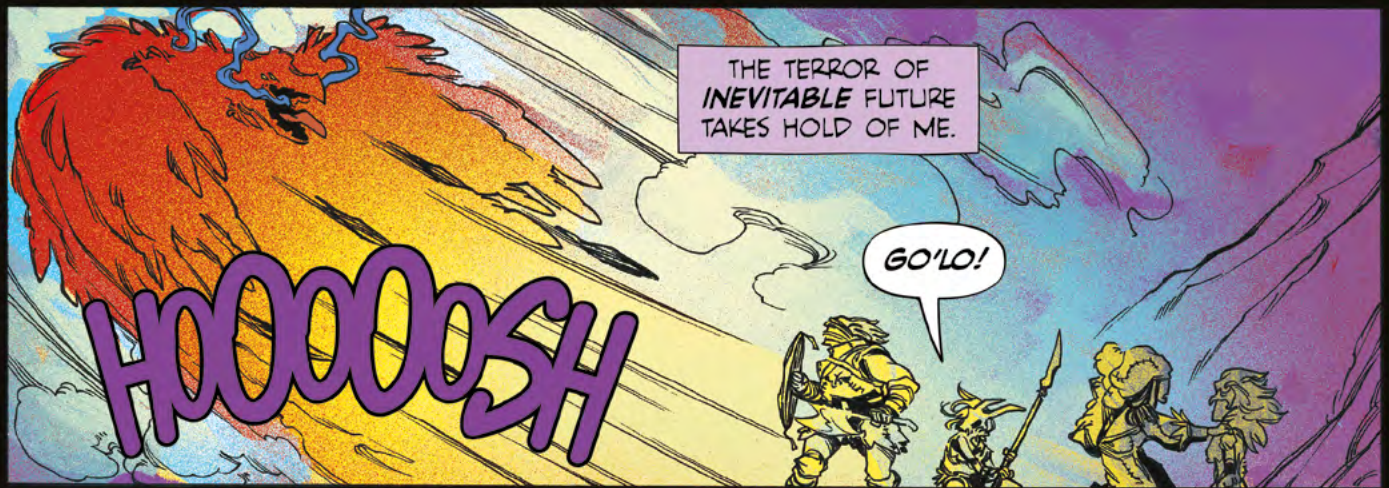


SCREEAAA!



SWOOSH

IT'S NEVER
ENOUGH.



THE TERROR OF
INEVITABLE FUTURE
TAKES HOLD OF ME.

GO'LO!

HOOOOOSH



NOTHING
WILL CHANGE.

WHUT

WHUT

WHUT

WHUT

SA!

WHUT



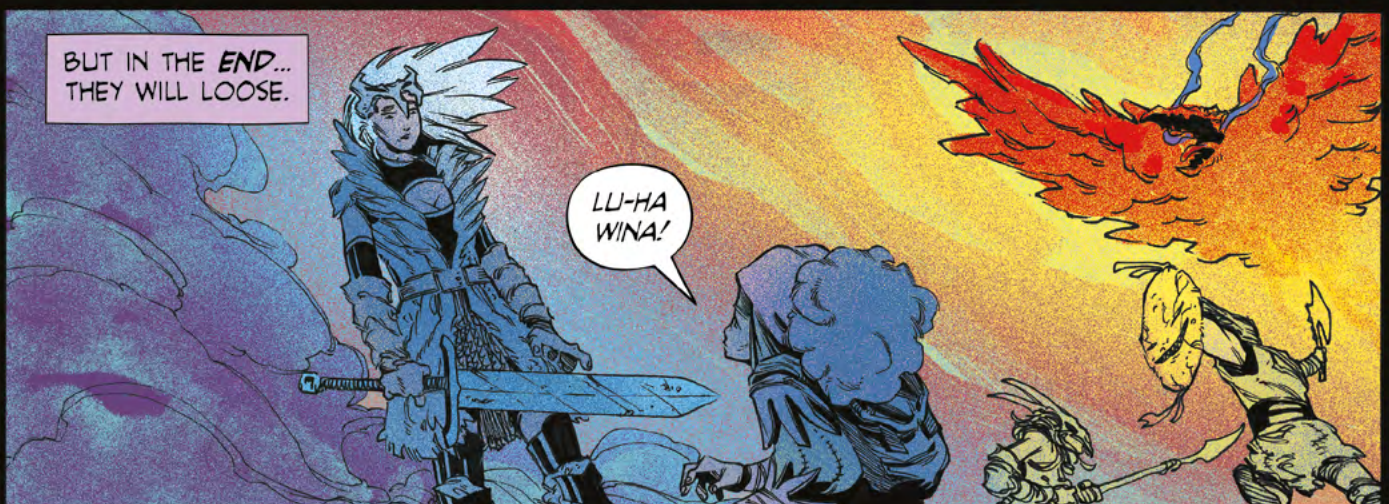
DERO!

WSSSSST

TSK

TSK

THEY CAN PROTECT
EACH OTHER...



BUT IN THE *END*...
THEY WILL LOOSE.

LU-HA
WINA!



MON,
KIN!

BECAUSE
THERE ARE NO
MYRIAD PATHS...



WHOOP



THIS SONG
IS **ALREADY**
WRITTEN.

CLAP

ARGH!

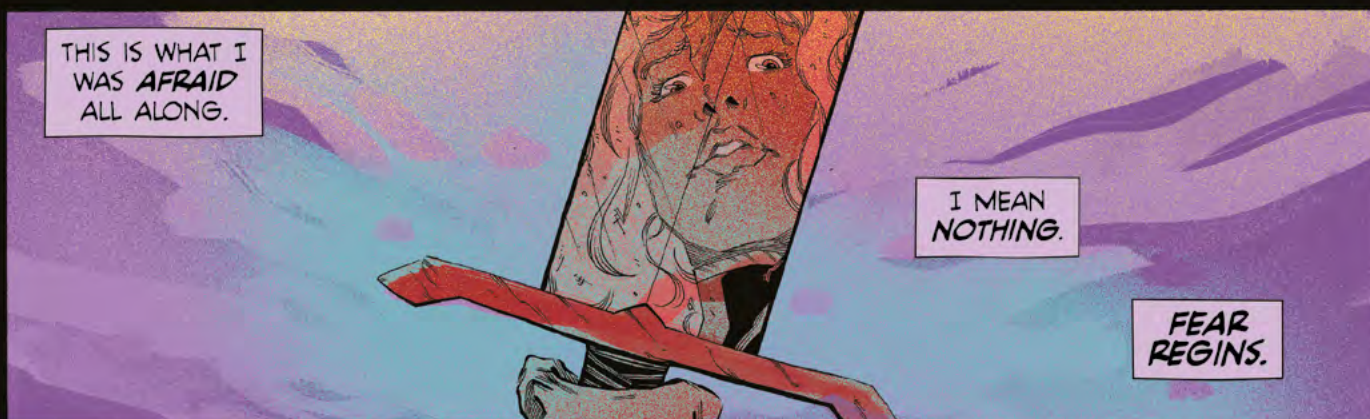


SCREEE!



AND I CAN'T
CHANGE IT.

BAM



THIS IS WHAT I
WAS **AFRAID**
ALL ALONG.

I MEAN
NOTHING.

FEAR
REGINS.





AND MON IS
THE LAST ONE.

DOO-
KAH!



MY LOVER
NOT TO BE...



I FAIL HIM
AGAIN.



NO!



THUD

SPLAT



I REBEL... LIKE
I ALWAYS DO.



I HAVE
HOPE.



AND
ANGER.

SWOOSH



AND
LOVE.

SNKT



AND YOU CAN'T
TAKE THAT AWAY!

SPLAT



BUT IT WAS
NEVER ENOUGH.



AND NEVER
WILL BE.

**DOO
GTAN**



ALL THOSE THING MEAN
NOTHING AND I FAIL.

GASP!

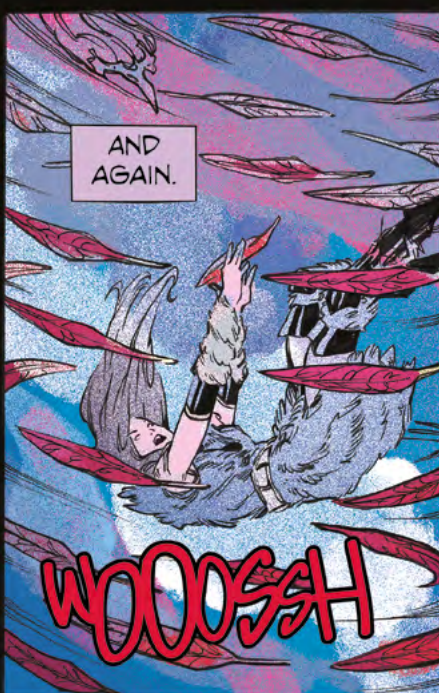


AGAIN.

**S
WOOSH**

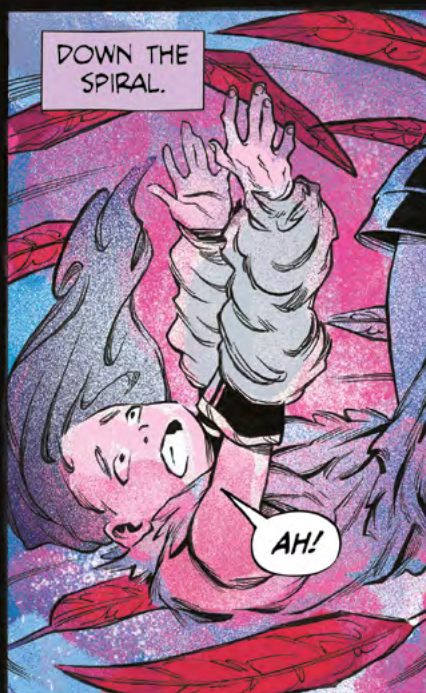


AND
AGAIN.



AND
AGAIN.

WOOSH



DOWN THE
SPIRAL.

AH!



BLINK

FOR ALL OF
THE ETERNITY.

AND SO I FIND MYSELF
BACK WHERE I STARTED.
WHAT HAS BEEN... WILL
BE AGAIN.

FEAR DOESN'T NEED
TO TAKE ANYTHING
FROM ME.



I DO IT
TO MYSELF

I JUST
FORGET.

LOVE.

FRIENDSHIP.

HOPE.

THEY DISSOLVE IN
THE DARKNESS.

BECAUSE WHEN I'M
BORN AGAIN... IT'S
ALREADY THERE.

IT'S THERE BEFORE I
EVEN DRAW MY FIRST
BREATH.



IT SETTLES IN BEFORE
I OPEN MY EYES FOR
THE FIRST TIME.



IT SCRATCHES AND
CLAWS ITS WAY
INTO MY HEART.



IT TAKES THING
FROM ME...

CHIKA
K-K-K-K



NO!

CHIK-CHIK-KK



NOT THIS
TIME.

FWOOOH



BECAUSE THERE IS ONE
THING THAT'S THERE
BEFORE FEAR COMES.



I HAVE A
FREE WILL TO
DECIDE!



AND THIS TIME I'LL
HOLD ON TO IT.

SPLASH

AND MY
DECISION IS...

NO
MORE
FEAR!



The End?

Thank you for sticking to the end!
Did you enjoy the ride?

Click [here](#) to let us know what you think
and [sign up for the newsletter](#) about future endeavors.

It would mean the world to us!

You can also follow us on [Instagram](#)!

So the big question: “Is another part coming?”.
I don’t know. Yes? Maybe. Hope so!

I have 5 more issues in mind that would complete Una’s story.

Having said that... the comic is based on Kingdom Death IP
belonging to Adam Poots and I fully respect Adam’s ownership of the brand.

It was always meant to be fan content
- a love letter, born from my deep fascination with the game.

That means I can’t simply Kickstarter next issues
and you wouldn’t believe how expensive
it is to craft a book like that!

So it may take a while before we get to see Una again.
But maybe a happy “lantern roll” will get us there one day.

Have a great day and always roll high.

