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**DARK  
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**ALLIE  
GUEVARA  
STEWART**

# SOLOMON KANE™

*Eternity  
waits for*  
**SOLOMON  
KANE!**



II



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# SOLOMON KANE

SOLOMON KANE #5 / FEBRUARY 2009

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## THE CASTLE OF THE DEVIL

PART FIVE OF FIVE

“The face was rather long, was smooth-shaven and of a strange dark pallor which together with the somewhat sunken cheeks lent an almost corpse-like appearance at times—until one looked at the eyes. These gleamed with vibrant life and dynamic vitality, pent deep and ironily controlled.”

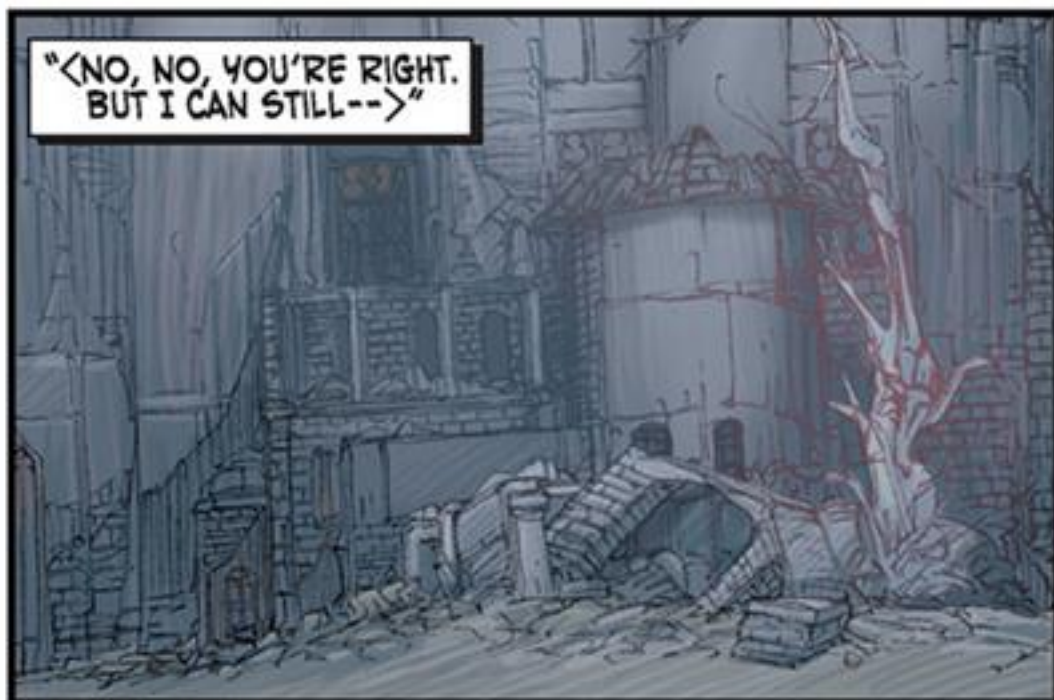
◆ NUMBER **5** IN A SERIES ◆



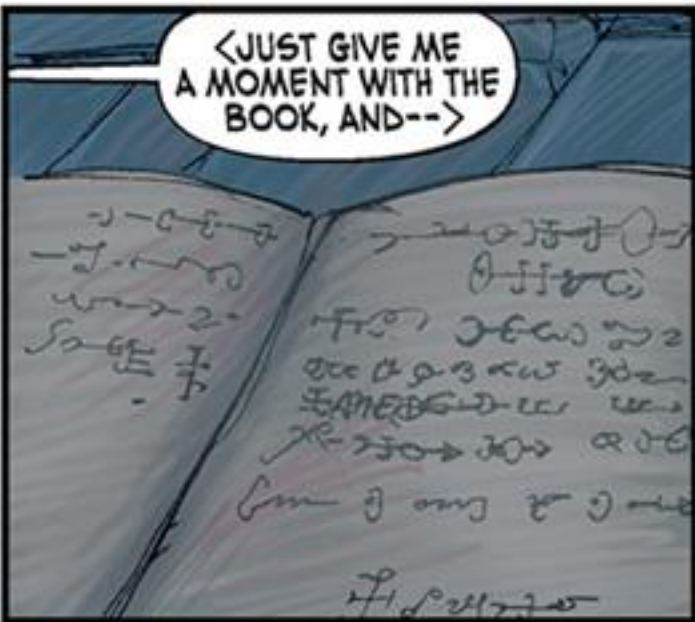
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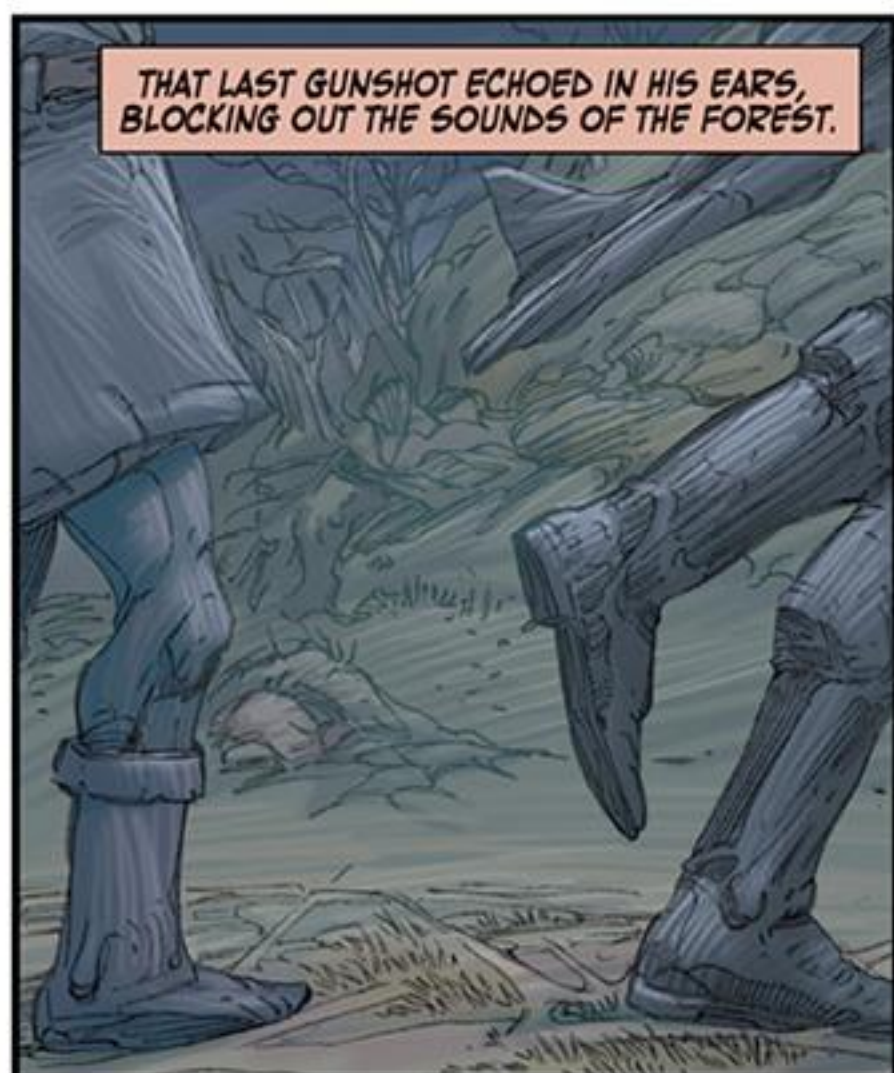














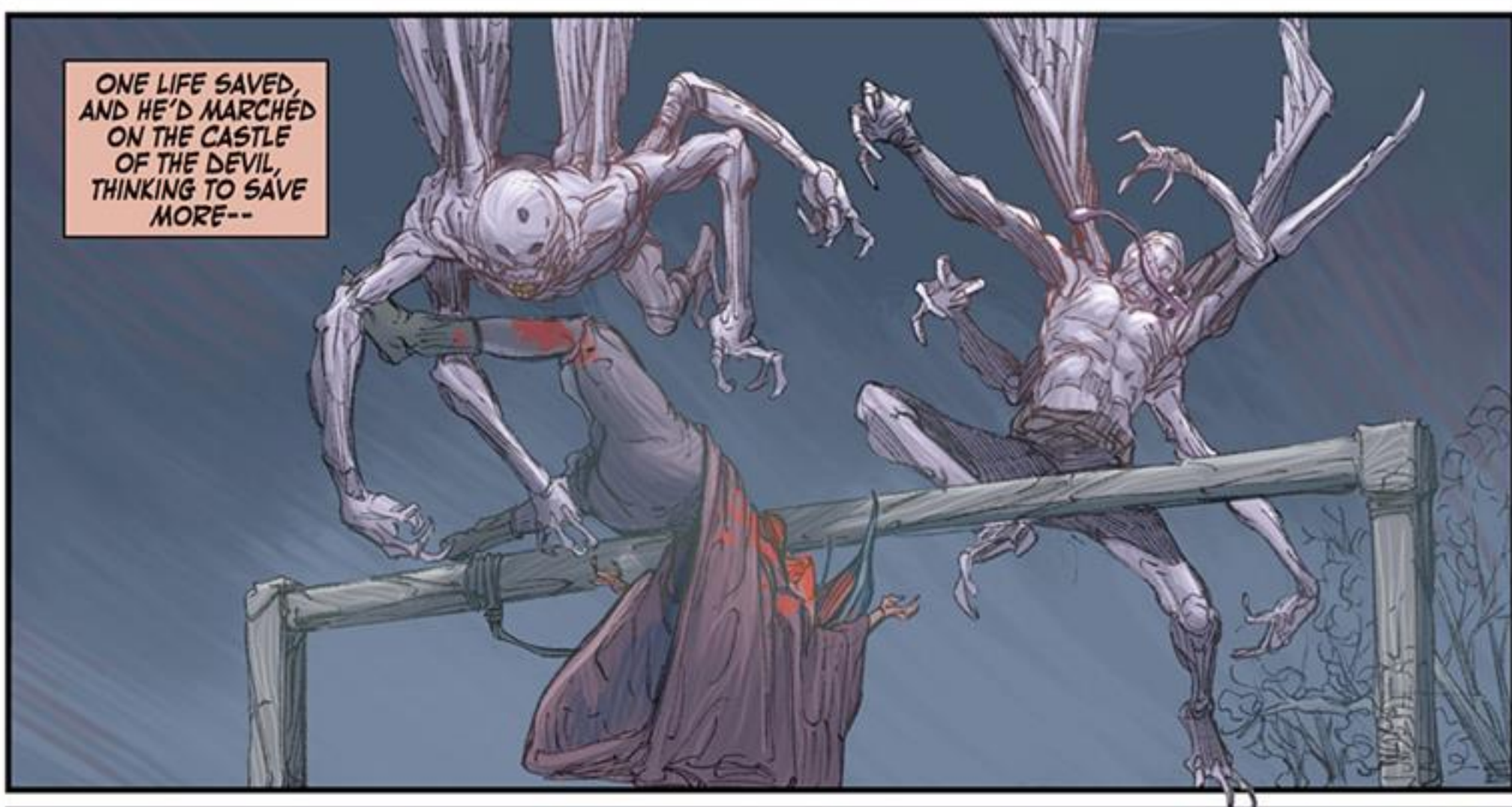


ONE LIFE SOLOMON KANE  
HAD DARED TO SAVE, ON  
A RICKETY GALLOWS IN A DARK  
CORNER OF THE BLACK FOREST.





ONE LIFE SAVED,  
AND HE'D MARCHED  
ON THE CASTLE  
OF THE DEVIL,  
THINKING TO SAVE  
MORE--



--NOT REALIZING THAT  
THE LORD WOULD SEND HIM  
MARCHING AGAINST A  
VERITABLE ARMY OF DEVILS.





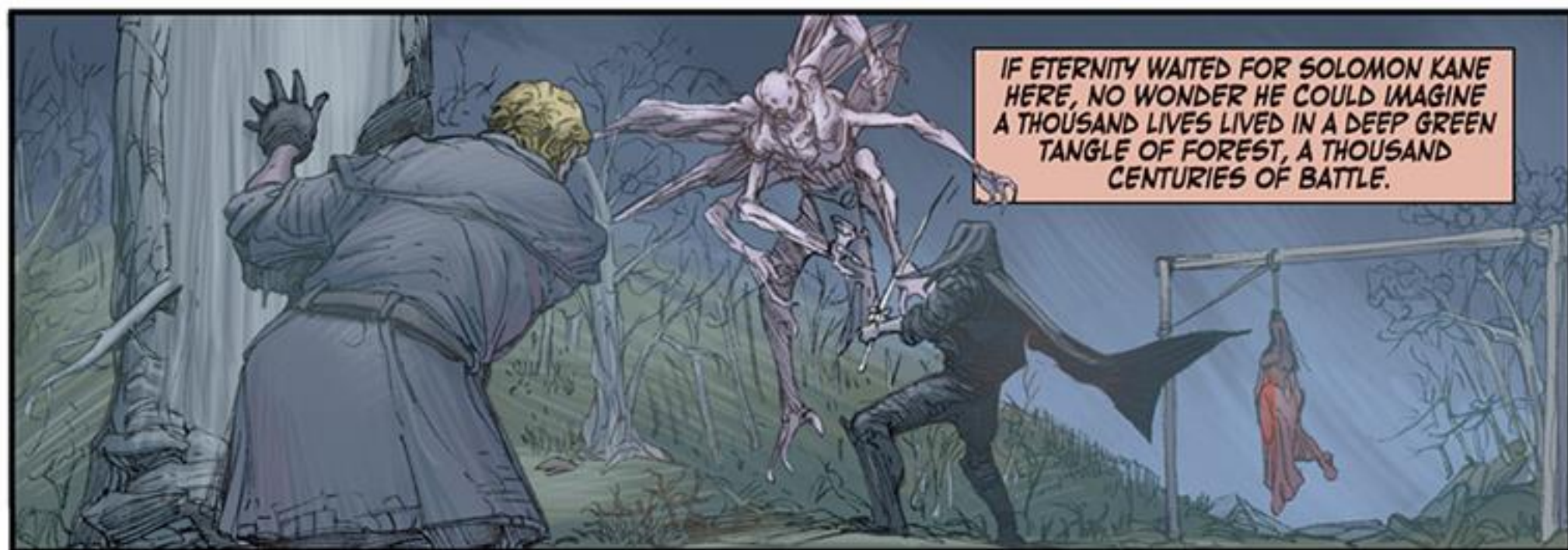
WOULD THIS  
BE KANE'S  
SALVATION?

TO DIE  
SENDING THESE  
THINGS BACK  
TO HELL?



WAS THIS WHY  
HE'D FELT HIS SOUL  
TUGGED INTO THE  
SHADOWED WOODS?







BUT WAS SALVATION EVER  
WITHIN MAN'S REACH AT ALL,  
WITH THE WORLD PLUNGED  
INTO SUCH DARKNESS AS THIS?

SHUNK



SWISHHH



BAM











HO!



THERE'S  
MORE OF  
THEM.



THERE SHOULD BE  
A FOURTH ONE. AND  
A DEAD ONE--IN THE  
RUINS UNDER THE  
CASTLE.



IT'S BEEN THERE  
HUNDREDS OF  
YEARS.

THE DEAD ONE IS WHAT'S  
REALLY BEHIND THIS, THIS  
"CASTLE OF THE DEVIL."  
IT TAUGHT THE BARON ...  
ALL SORTS OF MAGICAL  
SECRETS--

IT TOLD HIM  
HOW TO TURN  
INTO A WOLF,  
HOW TO LIVE  
FOREVER--



I KILLED  
THE BARON.





JOHN SILENT HAD SAID A DEAD THING LAY IN THESE CHAPEL RUINS, A DEMON LONG DEAD, AND KANE KNEW IT TO BE TRUE, KNEW THAT HE WOULD FIND THE DEVIL BENEATH THE CASTLE.



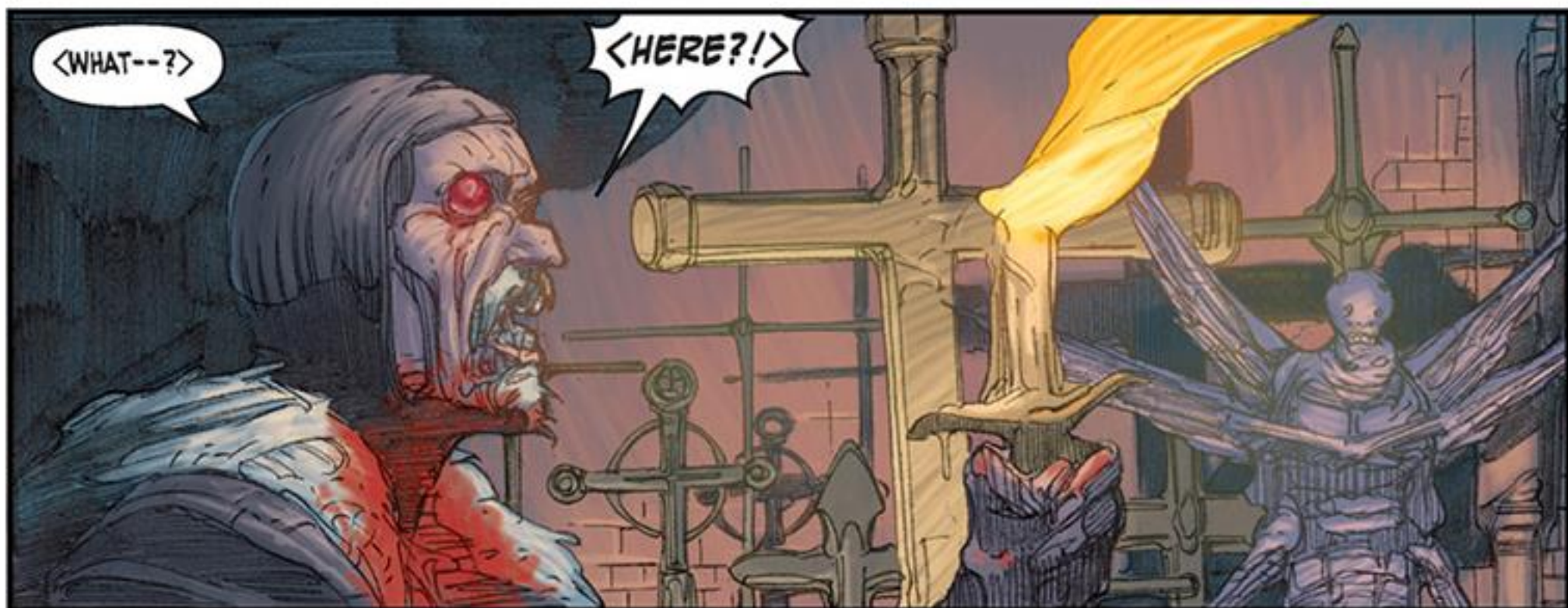
BUT EVEN IN THE GLOOMY CHAMBERS OF THE OLD MONASTERY, THE RELIGIOUS ICONS GLIMMERED. NONE OF THE FOUL AIR DARED SETTLE ON THEM, AS THEY TREMBLED IN THE TERRIBLE PRESENCE.



EVEN SOLOMON KANE, WHO HAD SEEN THREE OF THEM TO THEIR DEATH THAT DAY, SHUDDERED AT THE SIGHT OF IT.



















I-I AM  
SORRY--!  
OF COURSE--  
OF COURSE  
YOU DO NOT WANT  
THE BOOK--  
**HORRIBLE**  
THING!

YOU ARE A MAN  
OF VIRTUE--  
**FORGIVE ME,**  
KANE!



I WAS A MAN OF VIRTUE,  
**TOO, KANE!** THESE  
**MONSTERS** ... I DID NOT  
SEE THEM FOR WHAT  
THEY WERE UNTIL THEY  
TURNED THEIR HUNGER  
ON ME--

WHAT I DID  
TO STUTTMAN--  
**POOR FATHER**  
STUTTMAN--!



"SO LONG AGO!"



AND THE CHILDREN ...  
HOW **MANY**, OVER  
THE CENTURIES ...?  
LORD, **FORGIVE**  
**ME!**



I THOUGHT MYSELF A MODERN-DAY  
ABRAHAM, CALLED UPON TO CHOOSE  
**FAITH** ABOVE ALL OTHER LOVE--

BUT I  
WAS LIED  
TO--

I  
COULD NOT  
KNOW--!

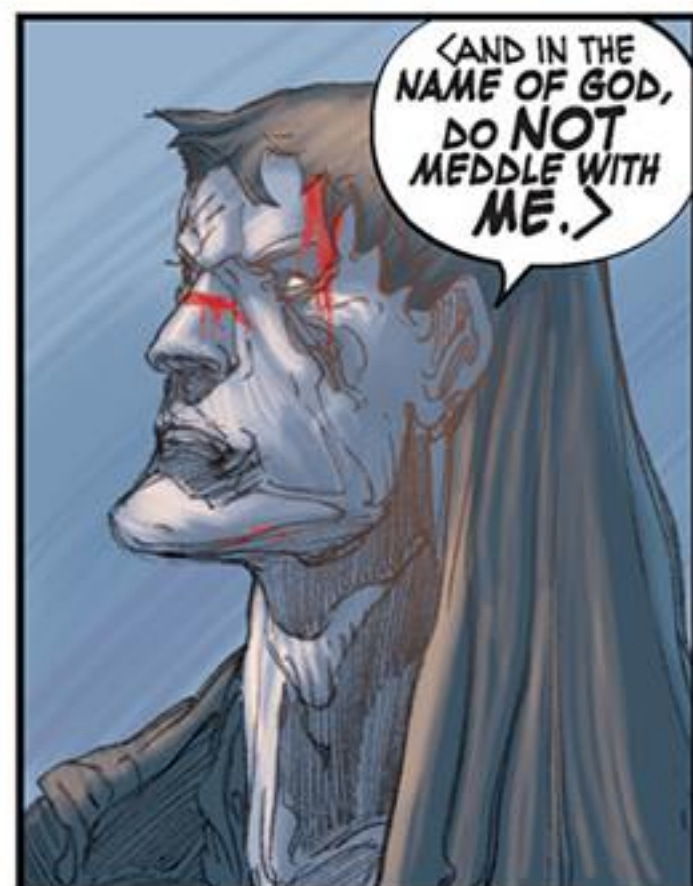
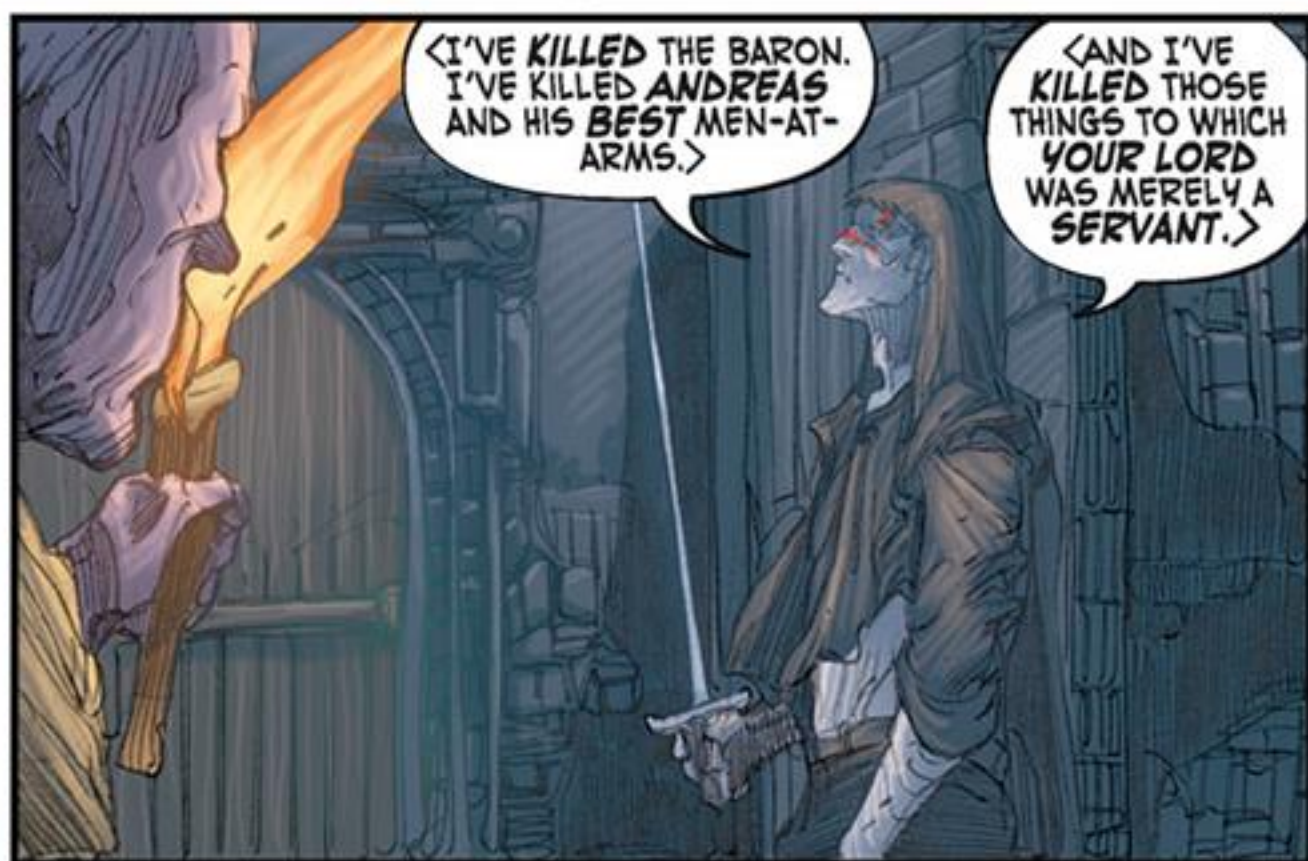


DEAR  
GOD, KANE,  
PLEASE--  
**FORGIVE**  
**ME!**

















THAT WOULD BE **FOOLISH**, SILENT.



OH--YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT ME?  
NAME OF THE **DEVIL**, KANE--  
I SAVED YOUR LIFE BACK THERE!  
YOU KNOW, YOUR PROBLEM IS YOU CAN'T TELL **FRIEND** FROM **FOE**. YOU AND THAT **BARON**--!



WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THE WOMAN?  
I WAS TRYING TO **HELP** HER, KANE. TO GET HER **AWAY** FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE.



WHO THE HELL DID YOU HELP BY COMING HERE?



I SPARED THE LIVES OF **EVERY CHILD** THOSE THINGS WOULD HAVE **CLAIMED** IN YEARS TO COME!



AYE, YOU DID THAT. AND, I SUPPOSE, YOU **AVENGED** THE ONES THAT HAD **FALLEN** BEFORE.



I ADMIT TO POOR **JUDGMENT**, THOUGH, JOHN SILENT. IN PLACING MY **TRUST** WHERE IT DID NOT BELONG.



I SHOULD HAVE SEEN YOU FOR A **MERCENARY** AND A **PIRATE** BY YOUR **CRUDE** TONE AND EASY "FRIENDSHIP."





KANE ... IF YOU WISH TO DO SOME **GOOD** HERE, GET RID OF THE **BODIES** OF THOSE THINGS.



"I'VE BURIED MAHASTI, BUT WE'VE GOT **FIVE DEAD FIENDS** LYING AROUND THE GROUNDS, AND **YOU'VE** JUST DISMISSED THE HELP.



"A **CORPSE** MIGHT BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LIVING ONES.



"THE DEAD ONE THE BARON KEPT IN **THERE** DICTATED A **BOOK** TO HIM.









"FRIEND."  
THE BASTARD  
TRIED TO BRIBE  
ME WITH HIS  
BOOK.

HE OFFERED YOU  
THE BOOK?

HE MUST NOT HAVE  
KNOWN YOU AT ALL,  
SOLOMON KANE.

NOT AT ALL.

GOD'S SERVANTS ON EARTH  
DISPENSE FORGIVENESS IN HIS  
NAME WHILE THE TRUE SHEPHERD  
SLEEPS. "VENGEANCE IS MINE,"  
SAYETH THE LORD, "I WILL REPAY."



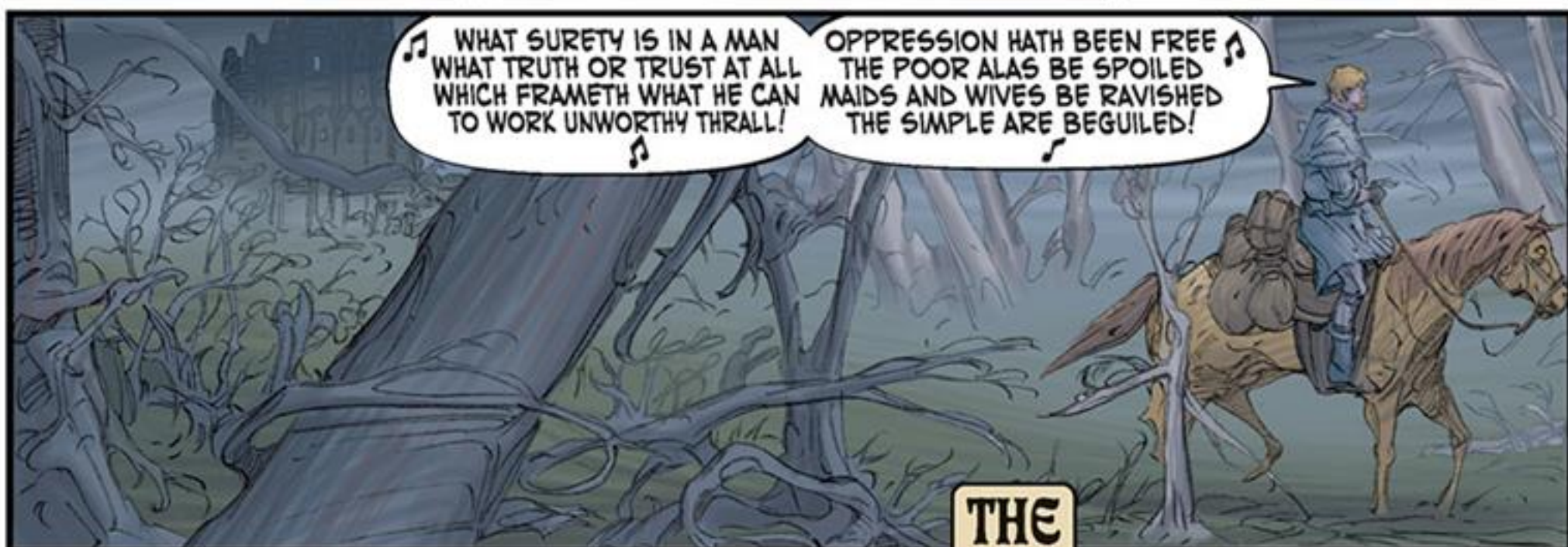
BUT PERHAPS IN THIS,  
TOO, GOD REQUIRES  
INSTRUMENTS ON EARTH  
TO METE OUT HIS WILL.



SO SOME  
ARE SET TO  
WANDER ...



... WITH NO DESTINATION SAVE WHERE  
GOD'S PLAN MIGHT LEAD THEM,  
ON A ROAD WITH NO SIGNPOSTS.



♪ WHAT SURETY IS IN A MAN  
WHAT TRUTH OR TRUST AT ALL  
WHICH FRAMETH WHAT HE CAN  
TO WORK UNWORTHY THRALL!  
♪

♪ OPPRESSION HATH BEEN FREE ♪  
THE POOR ALAS BE SPOILED  
MAIDS AND WIVES BE RAVISHED  
THE SIMPLE ARE BEGUILLED!  
♪

THE  
END