



THREE THIEVES  
BOOK FOUR



# The King's Dragon

SCOTT CHANTLER

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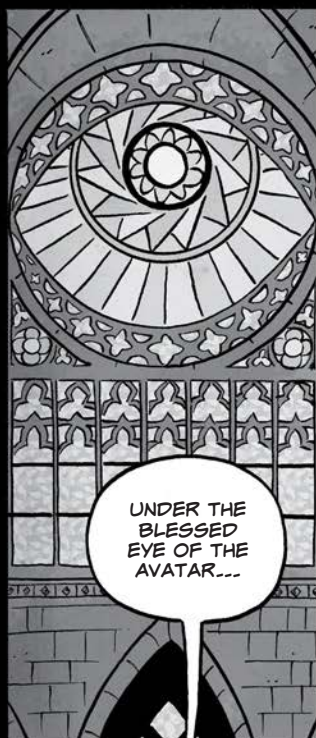




ACT ONE

# *Knighted*





UNDER THE  
BLESSED  
EYE OF THE  
AVATAR---



---I DO AFFIRM  
MY OATH OF  
FEALTY AND  
SERVICE TO  
THE CROWN  
OF NORTH  
HUNTINGTON.



I SOLEMNLY  
SWEAR TO  
BE A GOOD  
AND WORTHY  
KNIGHT, IN  
WORD AND  
IN DEED.

TO DEFEND  
TO MY UTMOST  
THE WEAK, THE  
OPPRESSED,  
THE WIDOWED  
AND THE  
ORPHANED.



TO UPHOLD THE  
VIRTUES OF  
HONOR, VALOR,  
CHARITY, HOPE,  
TRUTH---

---AND  
LOYALTY..



TO BE TRUE  
TO MY FAITH,  
AND FAITHFUL  
TO MY DUTIES.



AND ABOVE  
ALL, TO  
DEFEND  
THE CROWN  
AND MY  
KING.

SO  
SWEAR  
I.



THIS WE DO  
HEAR AND  
SHALL NOT  
FORGET---



...FOR DIVINE  
RETRIBUTION  
SHALL BE THE  
PUNISHMENT  
OF ANY  
KNIGHT  
WHO IS  
PROVEN  
FALSE.



NOR SHALL WE  
FAIL TO REWARD  
ONE WHO IS  
TRUE, REPAYING  
SERVICE WITH  
HONOR---

...AND  
DEVOTION  
WITH LOVE.

BY YOUR VALOROUS  
DEEDS IN OUR RECENT  
WAR AGAINST LOTHAR  
—INDEED, BY SAVING  
MY VERY LIFE ON THE  
BATTLEFIELD—HAVE YOU  
EARNED A PLACE IN OUR  
COMPANY.



SO THIS DAY,  
IN THE ROYAL  
CITY OF  
KINGSBRIDGE,  
AND UNDER  
THE AVATAR'S  
WATCHFUL  
EYE---



...I HEREBY  
ADMIT YOU  
TO THE  
ORDER OF  
THE KING'S  
DRAGONS.











SO YOU'RE  
SURE  
THEY'RE IN  
THERE?

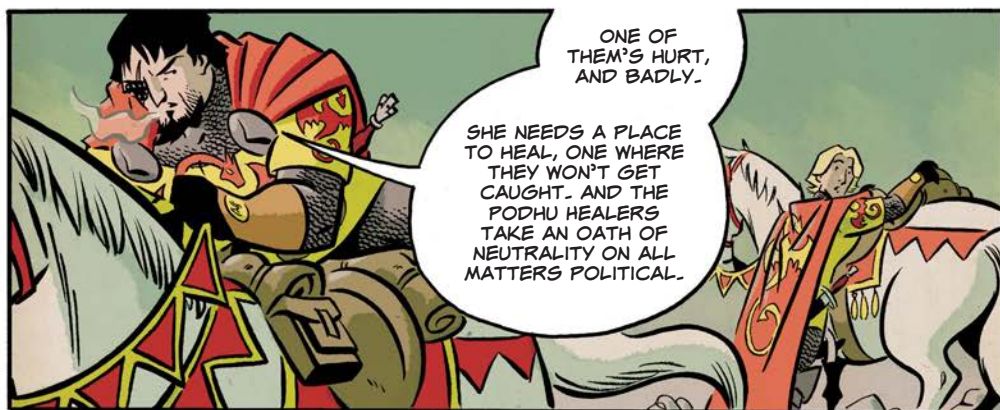
VICTOR OF  
MEDORIA SAID  
THE GIRL LEFT  
HIS CITY WITH  
A BROKEN  
LEG.

IF YOU WERE  
WOUNDED IN FLORIN  
AND COULDN'T USE  
A LOCAL HEALER  
FOR FEAR OF BEING  
CAPTURED, WHERE  
WOULD YOU GO?



HERE, I  
SUPPOSE.

IT'S A SHORT JOURNEY  
ACROSS THE MEDORIAN  
BORDER, AND THE  
BIGGEST HEALING  
COLONY IN THE SIX  
KINGDOMS.































THIS MAN  
WE'RE GOING  
TO SEE. WHO  
IS HE?

A TAILOR.  
SUSPECTED TO  
BE IN LEAGUE  
WITH THE IRON  
HAND.



"THE IRON  
HAND"....?

ASSASSINS.  
GOOD ONES, TOO.  
MIGHT BE RIGHT  
UNDER YOUR NOSE  
AND YOU'D NEVER  
KNOW IT.



YET WE KNOW  
ABOUT THIS  
TAILOR.

HE'S MADE  
SOME THREATS  
AGAINST THE  
KING.

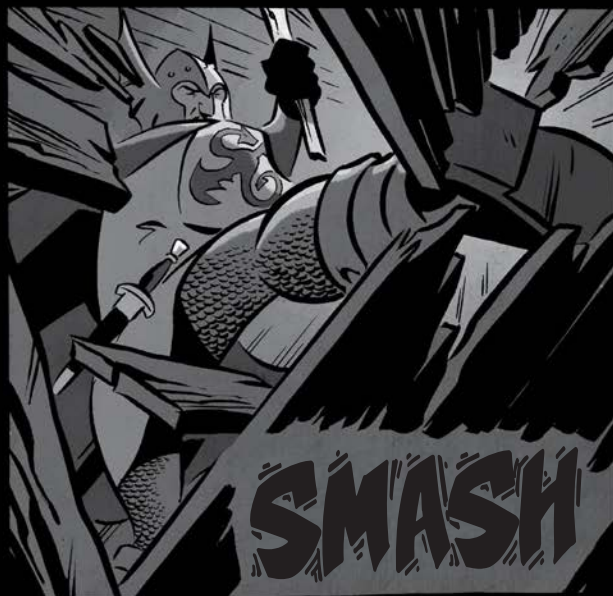
WE'RE  
TO SEE  
THAT THE  
THREATS  
STOP.

















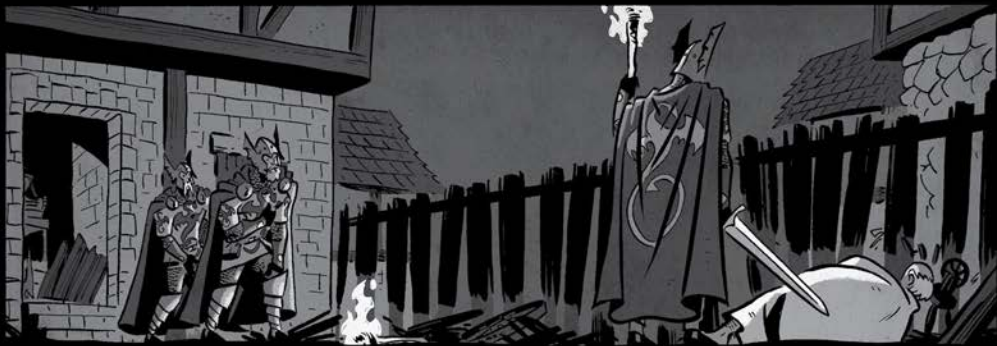
















YOU PICKED  
AN AWFULLY  
INCONVENIENT  
TIME TO TURN  
SOFT, DRAKE!

I SAW YOU ON  
THE BATTLEFIELD  
SLAUGHTERING  
LOTHARS BY THE  
DOZENS. IT'S  
THE REASON  
YOU'RE WEARING  
THAT UNIFORM!



THAT WAS  
DIFFERENT.  
THAT WAS  
**WAR.**

THE KING  
WAS THERE.  
THERE WERE  
**ORDERS.**

THERE WERE  
ORDERS  
HERE, TOO.



FROM  
THE  
KING?

FROM  
SOMEONE  
WHO SPEAKS  
**FOR** THE  
KING, YES.



CAPTAIN TANIS?  
DID **HE** KNOW  
ABOUT THIS?

YES.

AMONG  
OTHERS..



WE SWORE  
AN OATH...

HA!  
YOU'RE WORRIED  
ABOUT THE **OATH?!?**  
TRUTH, JUSTICE,  
ORPHANS AND  
WHATEVER ELSE?





ACT TWO

# Tested













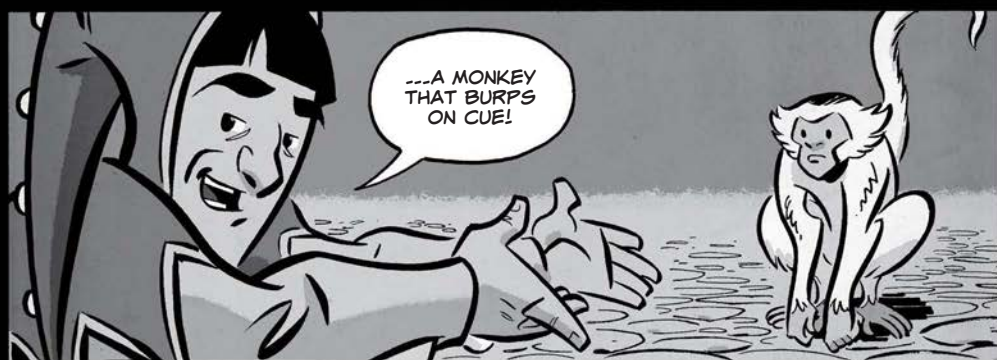


STATE YOUR BUSINESS.



OUR BUSINESS....?

ENTERTAINMENT  
IS OUR BUSINESS,  
GOOD SIR!









---I WON'T  
ASK AGAIN.  
NOW *WHERE*  
IS IT?

I  
ASSURE  
YOU,  
SIRE---



---THE LETTER  
HAS BEEN  
DESTROYED.  
JUST AS YOU  
WISHED.



GOD'S TEETH,  
GREYFALCON! IF IT  
WAS TO BE DESTROYED,  
I'D HAVE SEEN TO IT  
MYSELF, TO BE—

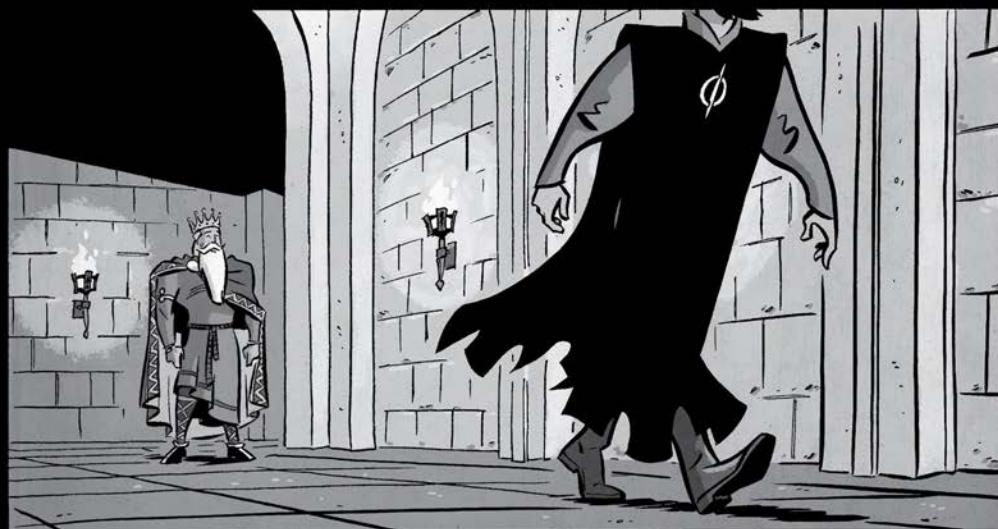
TO BE  
CERTAIN  
IT REALLY  
WAS?

MAJESTY, I  
AM INJURED  
BY YOUR  
LACK OF  
TRUST.



YOU'LL BE INJURED  
BY THE *POINT OF MY*  
*SWORD* IF YOU DON'T  
WATCH YOUR STEP,  
CHAMBERLAIN.











ARE YOU CERTAIN?  
THEIR NAMES  
AREN'T ON  
THE—

LISTEN, BOY, WHAT  
WE NEED AROUND  
HERE IS FOR YOU  
TO SPEND LESS  
TIME **QUESTIONING**  
ORDERS AND MORE  
TIME **FOLLOWING**  
THEM.

SIR FRAYNIR  
HAS INFORMED  
ME OF YOUR...  
**BEHAVIOR.**



I JUST CAN'T  
BELIEVE THAT  
THE KING  
WOULD—

I SPEAK FOR THE  
KING IN THESE  
MATTERS!



I DON'T KNOW HOW IT  
WAS ON THE  
BATTLEFIELDS, LAD,  
BUT HERE IN THE  
PALACE THE KING  
CAN'T BE DISTRACTED  
BY EVERY PIECE OF  
MINOR BUSINESS THAT  
COMES ALO—

**"MINOR  
BUSINESS" ---?**



WE'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
A MAN'S  
LIFE!

CRUNCH

OH, GROW  
UP! WHAT  
FLEA-RIDDEN  
BACKWATER  
DID RODERICK  
FIND A RUBE  
SUCH AS YOU  
IN, ANYWAY?



THIS IS THE WAY  
OF THE WORLD,  
BOY. POLITICS IS  
POWER. AND YOU  
DRAGONS ARE  
THE ARM THAT  
WIELDS IT.

IF YOU DIDN'T  
SUFFER SUCH A  
TRAGIC LACK OF  
IMAGINATION, YOU  
WOULD LEARN TO  
BENEFIT FROM IT,  
AS THE OTHERS  
HAVE.



TONIGHT, I'LL BE  
RIDING OUT WITH  
THE REST OF YOUR  
ORDER ON URGENT  
BUSINESS FOR  
PRINCESS MAGDA.

YOU WILL  
STAY HERE TO  
GUARD  
THE KING.



WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE BOUTS OF  
CONSCIENCE INTERFERING WITH YOUR  
DUTIES TO THE THRONE. UNTIL YOU  
CAN PROVE THAT YOU'RE WORTHY OF  
WEARING THAT UNIFORM, YOU'LL BE  
CONFINED TO THE PALACE.

NOW BE BACK  
ABOUT YOUR  
BUSINESS...



...AND ADMIT  
THOSE  
TUMBLERS!











SORRY, MAJESTY?

I ASKED IF YOU WERE ALL ALONE. NONE OF MY OTHER DRAGONS WITH YOU THIS EVENING?



NO, SIRE. THEY RODE OUT WITH MASTER GREYFALCON ON SOME SORT OF ERRAND.



HM.

DID THEY NOW?



KNOW WHAT IT WAS ABOUT?



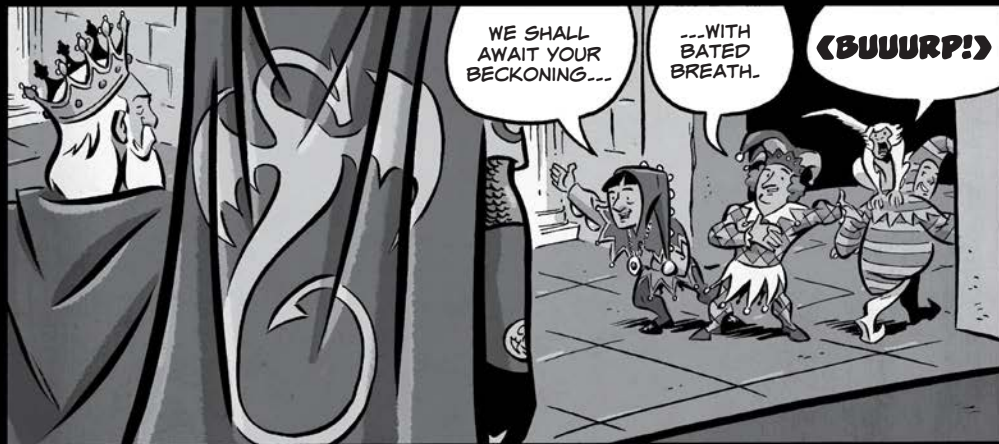
NO, SIRE. I'M NOT... **TRUSTED**... WITH THAT KIND OF INFORMATION.

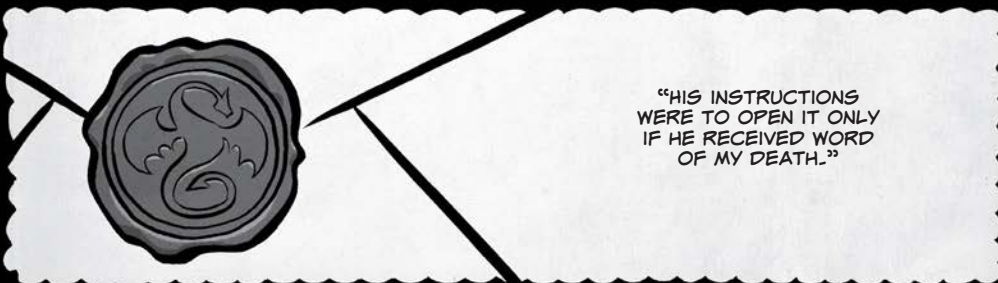
HA!

WELL, THAT'S AS GOOD A RECOMMENDATION OF YOUR CHARACTER AS ANY.





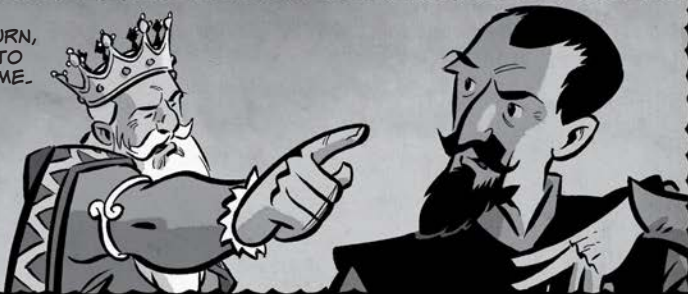






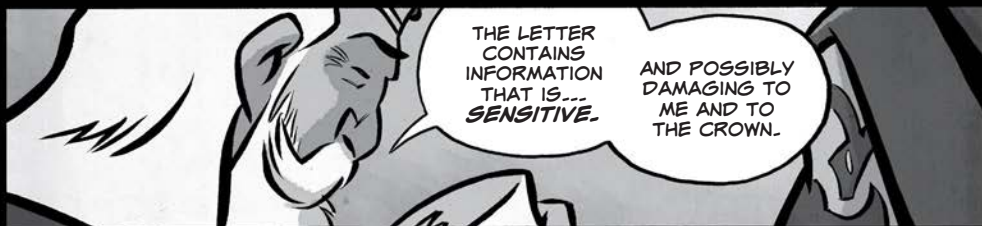
"UPON OUR RECENT RETURN,  
I ASKED GREYFALCON TO  
RETURN THE LETTER TO ME.

HE WOULDN'T,  
CLAIMING THAT  
HE'D DESTROYED  
IT UPON NEWS OF  
OUR VICTORY."



THE LETTER  
CONTAINS  
INFORMATION  
THAT IS...  
*SENSITIVE.*

AND POSSIBLY  
DAMAGING TO  
ME AND TO  
THE CROWN.



I TRUSTED  
HIM WHEN I  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE.

I'VE SINCE  
BECOME  
AWARE OF THE  
CORRUPTION  
HE OVERSAW IN  
MY ABSENCE.  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHY MAGDA  
DIDN'T DO  
SOMETHING.

ALAS.



I FEAR THAT  
GREYFALCON OPENED  
THE LETTER, READ IT  
AND IS KEEPING THE  
KNOWLEDGE TO HIMSELF  
FOR NEFARIOUS  
PURPOSES.

I STRONGLY SUSPECT  
THAT THE LETTER HAS  
NOT BEEN DESTROYED  
BUT IS STILL HERE IN  
THE PALACE.



THOUGH, TRY AS I MIGHT,  
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO  
DISCOVER WHERE  
GREYFALCON HAS IT  
HIDDEN.

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, IT'S  
DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MOVE  
AROUND WITHOUT CALLING  
ATTENTION TO MYSELF.

BUT  
YOU...





YOU'RE ON GUARD  
ALL NIGHT. AND  
WITH GREYFALCON  
AND THE OTHER  
DRAGONS GONE,  
YOU COULD SEARCH  
HIGH AND LOW  
WITHOUT RISKING  
NOTICE.



IF THE LETTER  
STILL EXISTS, AS  
YOU SUSPECT,  
SIRE, IT WILL BE  
IN YOUR HANDS  
BEFORE SUNRISE.

I'D LIKE TO  
GET STARTED  
RIGHT AWAY.



I TRUST YOU,  
DRAKE. BUT IF YOU  
SHOULD FIND THE  
LETTER, PLEASE  
DON'T READ IT.



IT'S...

IT'S  
PERSONAL.



I SERVE  
THE THRONE  
OF NORTH  
HUNTINGTON,  
SIRE.

YOUR WILL  
IS MY  
COMMAND.































CARRIER  
PIGEONS,  
DRAKE?

GREYFALCON  
OFTEN  
RECEIVED  
THEM IN HIS  
CHAMBER.  
WHERE WERE  
THEY COMING  
FROM?



NEVER  
GAVE  
IT MUCH  
THOUGHT.

BECAUSE  
IT'S *NONE*  
OF OUR  
CONCERN.



THIS WAY,  
DRAGONS,  
THIS WAY.

STAND  
ASIDE,  
FRAYNIR.



THAT'S AN  
ORDER.













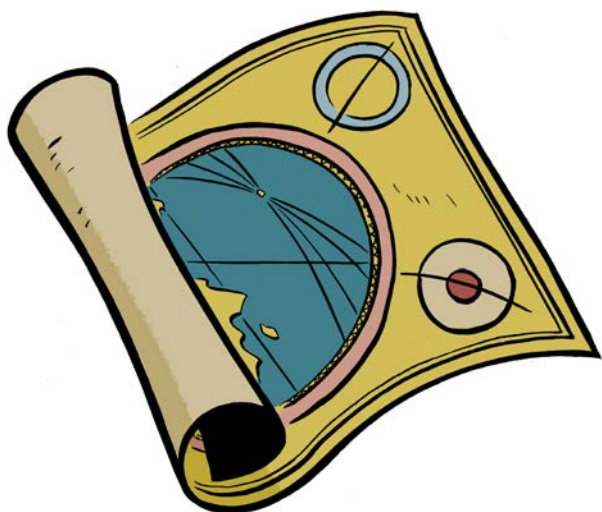






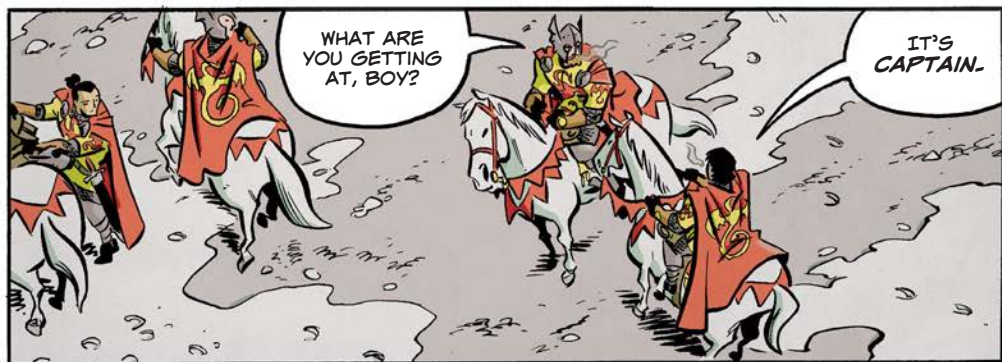
ACT THREE

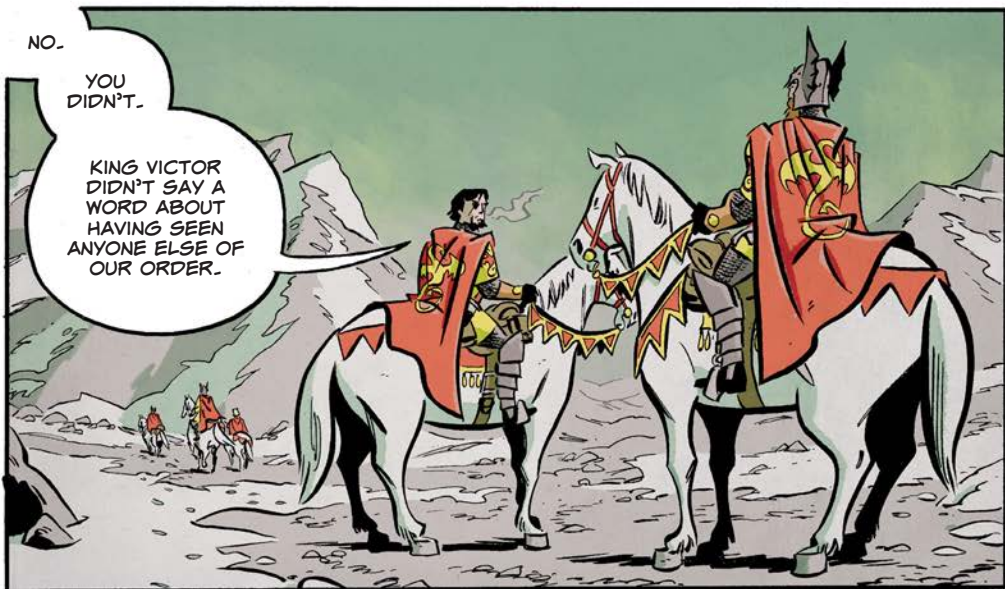
# Blinded

















FATHER....?



GOD'S  
TEETH!



FATHER!

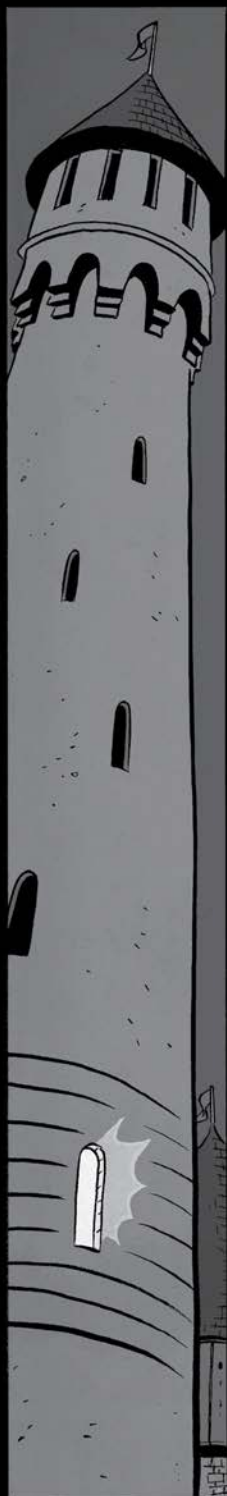












THE  
TREASURY,  
DRAKE...?

IT'S THE TALLEST  
TOWER IN THE CITY,  
AND HAS THE  
STRONGEST DOORS  
IN THE PALACE.  
IF WE CAN—



WHUMP



MAJESTY...?

I-I  
CAN'T.

THE STAIRS. THERE...  
THERE ARE TOO MANY.

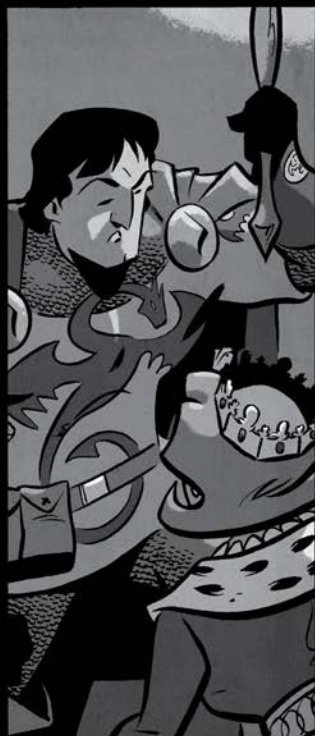


MADAM,  
YOU ARE  
THE *QUEEN*  
NOW.

AM I?

AM I  
REALLY?

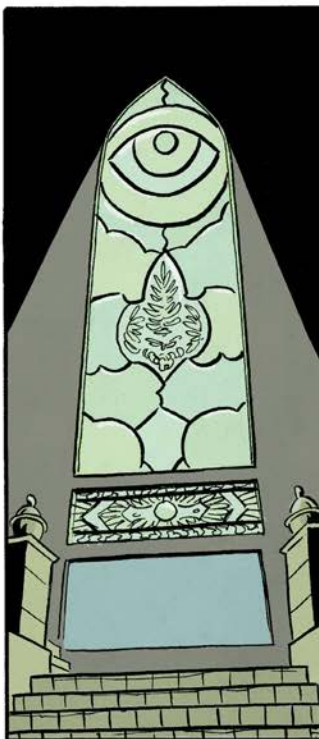




# NOG













<HUFF!>

MADE  
IT.



SIR DRAKE!  
ARE YOU  
WELL....?

THE POISON  
IS STILL IN MY  
BODY.

<HUFF!>



BUT THE  
IMPORTANT  
THING IS THAT  
YOU'LL BE OUT  
OF HARM'S  
WAY UP HERE.

I ASSURE  
YOU, YOUR  
FATHER'S  
TREASURY IS  
THE SAFEST  
PLACE IN THE  
CITY.



**GOD'S  
TEETH!**



"SAFEST  
PLACE IN THE  
CITY," EH,  
DRAKE?

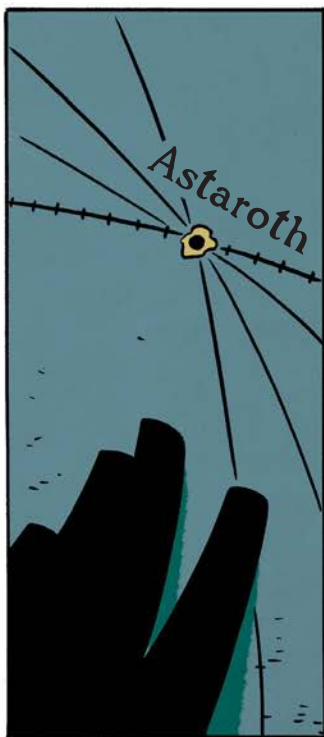
BET *YOU'RE*  
FEELING LIKE A  
RIGHT NITWIT.

HEH HEH.  
NOW...



...WHERE'S  
THAT  
LETTER?











WHAT  
LETTER?

DON'T PLAY DUMB,  
DRAGON. THE ONE  
YOU WERE SEARCHING  
FOR IN GREYFALCON'S  
CHAMBER.



YOU MEAN THE ONE  
YOU WERE LOOKING  
FOR WHEN I  
SURPRISED YOU IN  
THE CORRIDOR.

YEAH.  
THAT  
ONE.



WHEN WE SAW  
YOU DRINKING  
WITH THE KING,  
WE'D HOPED TO  
FIND YOU LYING  
DEAD NEXT TO  
HIM, A VICTIM  
OF THE SAME  
POISON WE PUT  
IN HIS JUG.

THAT WOULD  
HAVE GIVEN US  
ALL NIGHT TO  
SEARCH THE  
PALACE.



WHEN THE LETTER DIDN'T  
TURN UP, WE THOUGHT  
MAYBE IT GOT LOCKED UP  
HERE.

BUT AFTER SEEING YOU COME OUT  
OF GREYFALCON'S CHAMBER...

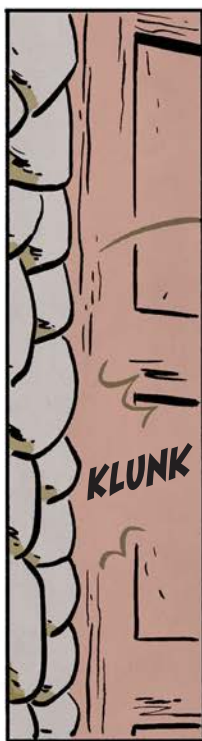


I THINK  
**YOU'VE**  
GOT IT.



WHY DON'T  
YOU COME  
AND FIND  
OUT.

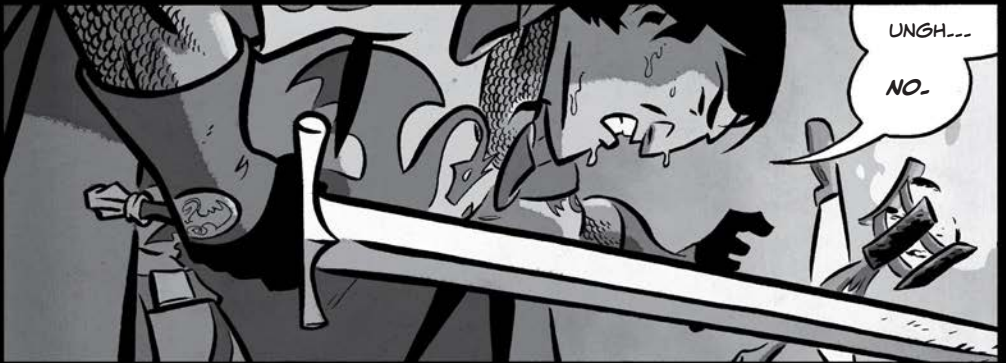
















































**THE  
IRON  
HAND!**



LIKE OUR  
DISGUISES?

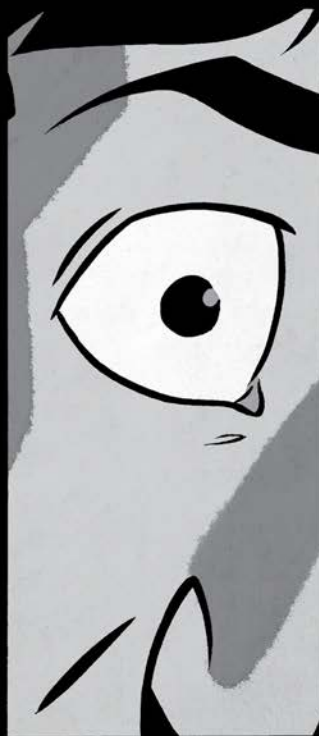
MADE BY THE  
VERY SAME  
TAILOR YOU  
SILENCED  
FOR US, THAT  
SQUEALING  
RAT. WE  
OUGHT TO  
THANK YOU.



YOU CAN  
THANK ME  
FROM THE  
**GALLOWS,**  
ASSASSIN.



I DON'T  
THINK SO....



KEEP STILL! I'LL THROW YOU THE ROPE AND LIFT YOU BACK UP. BUT ONLY IF YOU SURRENDER TO ME AT THE TOP.

NEVER!

WILLFUL CHILD!

WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THAT WEATHER-BITTEN SEA CHART?

WHAT'S ON THIS ISLAND OF ASTAROTH?

MY BROTHER! I THINK.

SO YOU'RE NOT JUST RUNNING FROM US.

YOU'RE ALSO CHASING GREYFALCON.

HE KIDNAPPED MY BROTHER. AND YOU AND YOUR DRAGONS HELPED HIM DO IT!















HE'S LOST  
THE EYE, I'M  
AFRAID---

---AND  
THAT SCAR  
WILL NEVER  
FULLY HEAL.

BUT HE'LL LIVE.  
HOPEFULLY TO  
SERVE YOUR  
MAJESTY FOR  
MANY YEARS  
TO COME.

ON THIS MOST HORRIBLE  
OF EVENINGS, WE'VE AT  
LEAST THAT ONE BLESSING  
TO CLING TO.

THE ASSASSINS  
HAVE FLED?

JUMPED RIGHT  
FROM THE  
TOWER.

PERHAPS  
CHAMBERLAIN  
GREYFALCON'S  
PLAN TO  
BETTER  
SECURE THE  
TREASURY HAS  
MERIT AFTER  
ALL.

G---

HE STIRS,  
MADAM!

GR---



GREYF---

WHAT IS HE  
ATTEMPTING  
TO SAY?

"GRIEF"?



"GREYFALCON"....?



THAT'S  
IT.

HE HEARD US  
TALKING ABOUT  
CHAMBERLAIN  
GREYFALCON.



HUSH NOW,  
BRAVE  
MAN. SAVE  
YOUR  
STRENGTH.

YOU MAY  
HAVE FAILED  
TO PROTECT  
YOUR KING  
TONIGHT, BUT  
I'LL HAVE  
NEED OF YOU  
IN THE TIMES  
AHEAD.



AND YOU'LL  
NEVER FAIL  
ME, WILL  
YOU?



YOU  
OWE MY  
FATHER  
THAT  
MUCH.















**SCOTT CHANTLER is an acclaimed graphic novelist. His epic historical-adventure series, Northwest Passage, was nominated for an Eisner Award, the comic industry's top honor. Scott lives in Waterloo, Ontario.**



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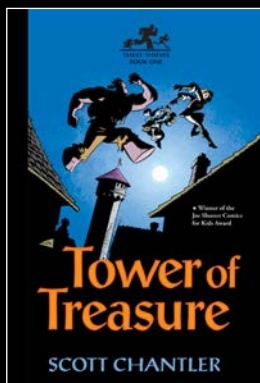


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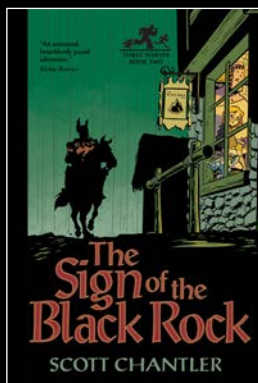




# ebooks in this series



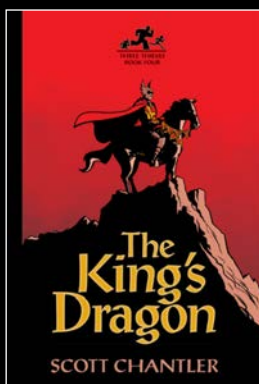
**Three Thieves Book One:  
Tower of Treasure**



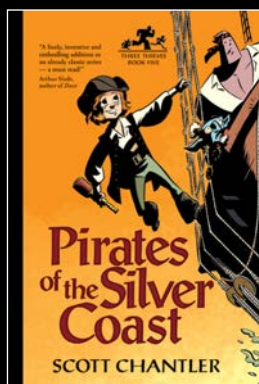
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The Sign of the Black Rock**



**Three Thieves Book Three:  
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**Three Thieves Book Four:  
The King's Dragon**



**Three Thieves Book Five:  
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