

WILL FATE REPEAT ITSELF?

After his split personality is reintegrated, King Varian/Lo'Gosh and his companions attempt to heal the rift between Horde and Alliance by meeting with the orc warchief, Thrall, and his advisors. But Garona—the assassin who killed Varian's father—is back, still trapped by the spell that made her betray King Llane.

The Twilight's Hammer cult has discovered how to exploit Garona, and want her to commit murder while under their influence—but Varian and friends aren't so easy to foil!



Van Tony

U.S.A. \$14.95 FANTASY

ISBN-13: 978-1-945683-33-6
5 1495



For more great Blizzard merchandise, visit:



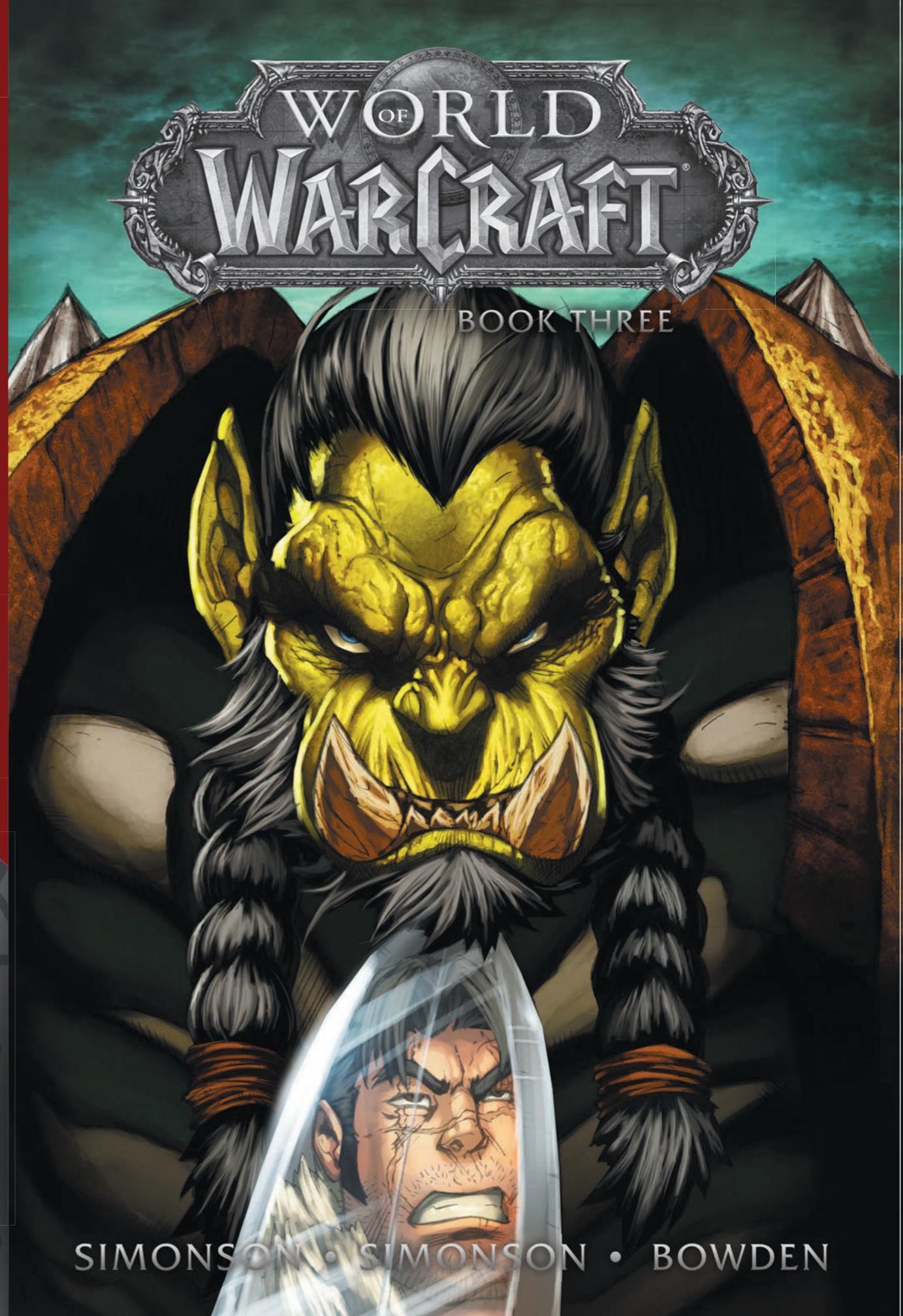
© 2018 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.
PRINTED IN CHINA



WORLD OF WARCRAFT

BOOK THREE

SIMONSON • SIMONSON • BOWDEN



WORLD OF WARCRAFT

BOOK THREE

SIMONSON • SIMONSON • BOWDEN



WORLD WARCRAFT

BOOK THREE



WRITERS: WALTER & LOUISE SIMONSON

PENCILS: MIKE BOWDEN
WITH JON BURAN AND POP MHAU

INKS: JEROME MOORE, POP MHAU,
TONY WASHINGTON, AND WALDEN WONG
WITH DEREK FRIDOLFS, RICHARD FRIEND,
SANDRA HOPE, JOHN LIVESAY, AND PHILIP MOY

COLORS: RAN DY MAYOR, GABE ELTAEB,
AND TONY WASHINGTON WITH JOPPY RENCH
LETTERS: WES ABBOTT

STORY CONSULTANTS: CHRIS METZEN, MICKY PEILSON, AND ALEX AFRASIABI

COLLECTED EDITION COVER AND ORIGINAL SERIES COVERS
#15-18 BY JON BURAN AND TONY WASHINGTON
COVER #19 BY PETE WOODS AND TONY WASHINGTON
COVER #20 BY WALTER SIMONSON AND RAN DY MAYOR
COVER #21 BY MIKE BOWDEN AND TONY WASHINGTON

For DC Comics:

Hank Kanalz
Sarah Gaydos
Kristy Quinn
Ed Roeder

Diane Nelson
Dan DiDio and Jim Lee
Geoff Johns
John Rood

Patrick Caldon

Amy Genkins
Steve Rotterdam
John Cunningham
Terri Cunningham
Alison Gill
David Hyde
Hank Kanalz
Sue Pohja
Alysse Soll
Bob Wayne
Mark Chiarello

Editor, Original Series
Assistant Editor, Original Series
Editor
Art Director

President
Co-Publishers
Chief Creative Officer
Executive Vice President—Sales,
Marketing and Business Development
Executive Vice President—
Finance and Administration
Senior VP—Business and Legal Affairs
Senior VP—Sales and Marketing
VP—Marketing
VP—Managing Editor
VP—Manufacturing
VP—Publicity
VP—General Manager, WildStorm
VP—Book Trade Sales
VP—Advertising and Custom Publishing
VP—Sales
Art Director

For Blizzard Entertainment:

Lydia Bottegoni
Ralph Sanchez
Robert Simpson
Micky Neilson
Glenn Rane
Matt Beecher
Byron Parnell

Senior Vice President—Story and
Franchise Development
Director—Creative Development
Lead Editor—Publishing
Story Consultation and Development
Art Director
Vice President—Consumer Products
Senior Manager—Global Publishing

Additional Development:

Samwise Didier, Evelyn Fredericksen, Cameron Dayton,
Tommy Newcomer

Blizzard Special Thanks: Chris Metzen, Cate Gary,
Brianna M Loftis, Allison Monahan, Alix Nicholaeff

©2018 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. World of Warcraft, Warcraft, and Blizzard Entertainment are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. in the U.S. and/or other countries. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

This publication is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

This book contains material originally published by WildStorm Productions, an imprint of DC Comics.

First Wildstorm printing: 2010
First Blizzard Entertainment printing: 2018

ISBN: 978-1-945683-33-6
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1









WARRIORS
OF STORMWIND,
THE DRAGON...
IS DEAD!

YOU HAVE
EARNED THE GRATITUDE
OF YOUR KING FOR YOUR
BRAVERY AND DEVOTION
TO YOUR NATION.

YOU RETURN TO
STORMWIND AS HEROES.
THIS TRIUMPH WILL HONOR YOUR
COURAGE AND THE SACRIFICE
OF THOSE WHO DIED IN SERVICE
TO OUR LAND.

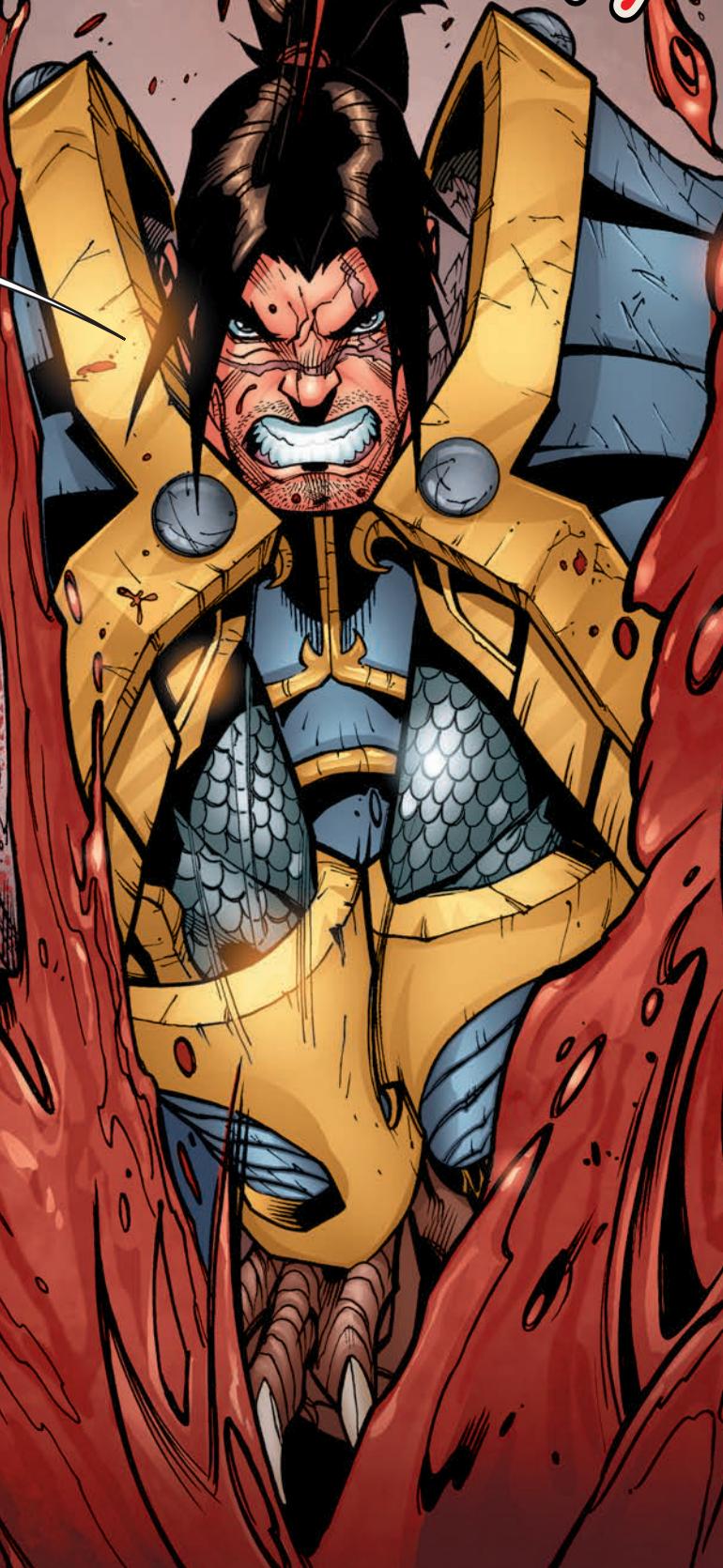
AFTERWARDS,
A NATIONAL FETE
WILL CELEBRATE OUR
VICTORY OVER ONYXIA
AND THE RESTORATION
OF STORMWIND'S
RULER.

CONFLICTING LOYALTIES

YOU WILL
JOURNEY HOME WITH
THIS *PROOF* OF YOUR
VICTORY!

THE *DRAGON'S*
HEAD WILL DECORATE THE
CASTLE'S RAMPARTS...

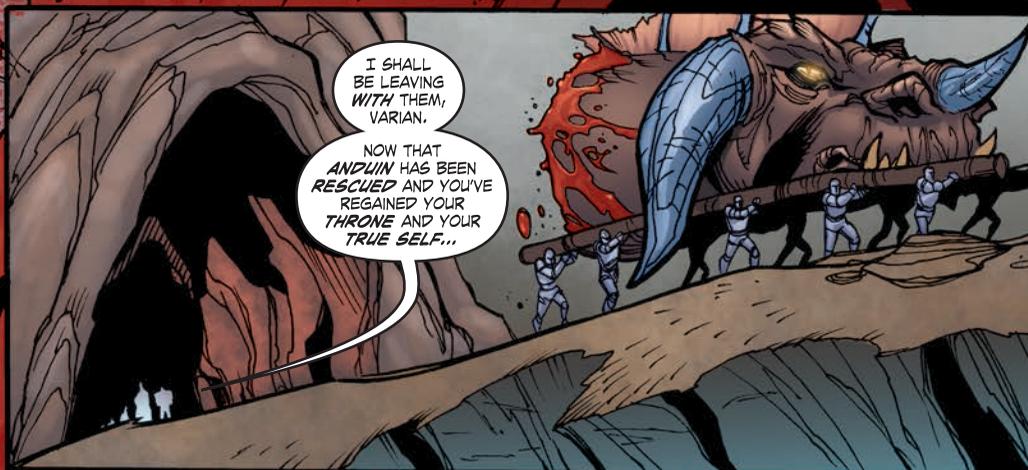
...AS A *TRIBUTE*
TO YOUR PROWESS AND
A *WARNING* TO OUR
ENEMIES.





I MUST RETURN TO **THERAMORE** FOR A SHORT WHILE, THARGAS, BUT A ZEPPELIN WILL TRANSPORT OUR **TROPHY** BACK TO STORMWIND...

...ALONG WITH OUR LIVING **HEROES** AND THE **BODIES** OF THE HONORED SLAIN.



I SHALL BE LEAVING WITH THEM, **VARIAN**.

NOW THAT **ANDUIN** HAS BEEN **RESCUED** AND YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR **THRONE** AND YOUR **TRUE SELF**...



...I MUST MAKE **ARRANGEMENTS** REGARDING MY BROTHER'S DEATH AND MY OWN **ESTATES**.

THEN I **THANK** YOU, THARGAS, FOR YOUR **AID** AND FOR YOUR **FRIENDSHIP**.

IF EVER **STORMWIND** CAN AID **ANVILMAR**, YOU HAVE BUT TO **ASK**.

THERE IS YET ONE BIT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEFORE US.

THIS EVIL FIRE AND LAVA, THE ENEMIES OF ALL THAT IS GREEN AND GROWING, STILL WAIT TO BE BORN.

ARISE YOU ROOTS!

ROLL THE LIVING EARTH AND SEAL THE OPENING!

DESTROY THE DRAGON'S UNHATCHED PROGENY!

"TIS DONE."

BUT EVEN AS THE **VICTORS** RETRACE THEIR STEPS THROUGH **DUSTWALLOW MARSH...**

...FAR AWAY BENEATH THE CAP OF **SPIRIT RISE** IN THE **POOLS OF VISION...**

...THE WATERS LAP AROUND THE ANKLES OF THE **FORSAKEN MAGE, STASIA FALLSHADOW**. SHE IS TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT.

SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER IN A SMALL CAVE BETWEEN **HELLFIRE PENINSULA** AND **SHATTRATH CITY...**

...AN **ORC SHAMAN** UNEARTHED AN INDECIPHERABLE SCROLL ENCASED IN A CASKET OF PUREST **KHORUM**.

RECOGNIZING ITS VALUE, HE TOOK THE PARCHMENT TO **STASIA**, WHO HAD A SPECIAL TALENT FOR TRANSLATING **ANCIENT TOMES**.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE **ORC**, SHE **SUCCEEDED** ALL TOO WELL.

HAVING DISPOSED OF HIS **BODY**, **STASIA TOOK** THE SCROLL AND EMBARKED ON THE DANGEROUS JOURNEY TO THE **POOLS OF VISION**.

IN HER HANDS SHE NOW HOLDS A **PROPHECY** SO MOMENTOUS IT COULD ALTER THE FUTURE OF THEIR WORLD.

THROUGH HER **POWERS--** AND THE MAGIC OF THESE **WATERS--** SHE STANDS READY TO LOCATE THE FORETOLD **SAVIOR OF AZEROTH...**

...FOR WHOEVER **CONTROLS** THIS HERO WILL HOLD THE KEY TO THE WORLD'S **FATE!**

SHE SPEAKS THE **WORD...**

...AND THE VISIONS COME.

A HALF-ORC FEMALE STANDS OVER THE BODY OF A DEAD KING. TEARS COURSE DOWN HER CHEEKS.

THE ASSASSIN'S BODY BARELY SHOWS THE PREGNANCY THAT IS, IN ITSELF, A KIND OF MIRACLE.

EVEN MORE MIRACULOUSLY, HER HYBRID SON LIVES.

THE FEMALE ABANDONS THE INFANT, LEAVING HIM WITH AN ANCIENT HUMAN SORCERER, UNDEAD FOR MILLENNIA.

YOU WERE ALWAYS MY FRIEND.

BUT KING LLANE WAS ALSO MY FRIEND AND I KILLED HIM--ON IMPULSE, WITHOUT REASON.

I'M MAD-- A DANGER TO MY CHILD. TAKE HIM. CARE FOR HIM, MERYL.

HE IS CALLED MERYL. TELL HIM NOTHING OF ME. FAREWELL.



FOR A MOMENT STAGIA IS SHAKEN BY THE AURA OF AGE AND AUTHORITY THAT SURROUNDS THE UNDEAD MAGE...

...FOR HE IS NOT A RECENT VICTIM OF NER'ZHUL'S UNDEAD PLAGUE AS SHE IS, BUT SURVIVES AFTER DEATH BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS OWN SORCERY AND WILL.

SHE WATCHES MERYL CARRY THE CHILD FROM HARM'S WAY TO DUSKWOOD.

THE WAR-TORN LAND IS LAWLESS. HE TRAINS THE CHILD TO DEFEND HIMSELF WITH WHATEVER WEAPON IS AT HAND...

...AS LATER, HE TRAINS THE YOUTH TO CONTROL HIS BURGEONING POWER.



AS STASIA STEPS FROM THE POOLS, HER MIND CONSIDERS WHAT SHE HAS LEARNED.

THE MAGE EMBODIES ANCIENT POWER, BUT THE CHILD GLOWS AS BRIGHT AS A NEWBORN STAR.

POTENT, UNIQUE, SOMETHING UNPRECEDENTED.



I HAVE SEEN A VISION. THE PROPHECY IS TRUE. OUR HOUR IS AT HAND.

THE BOY IS IN THE EASTERN KINGDOMS.



WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR BRIGHTWOOD GROVE.

DUSTWALLOW MARSH
IN EASTERN KALIMDOR

FATHER, JAINA, LOOK!
ORCS!

LEAVE
YOUR SWORD IN
ITS SCABBARD,
VARIAN.



AS HUMANS, WE
ARE AS MUCH GUESTS
ON KALIMDOR AS THE
ORCS ARE.



I SAW A
CAPTURED ORC
WHEN I WAS VERY
YOUNG, JAINA.

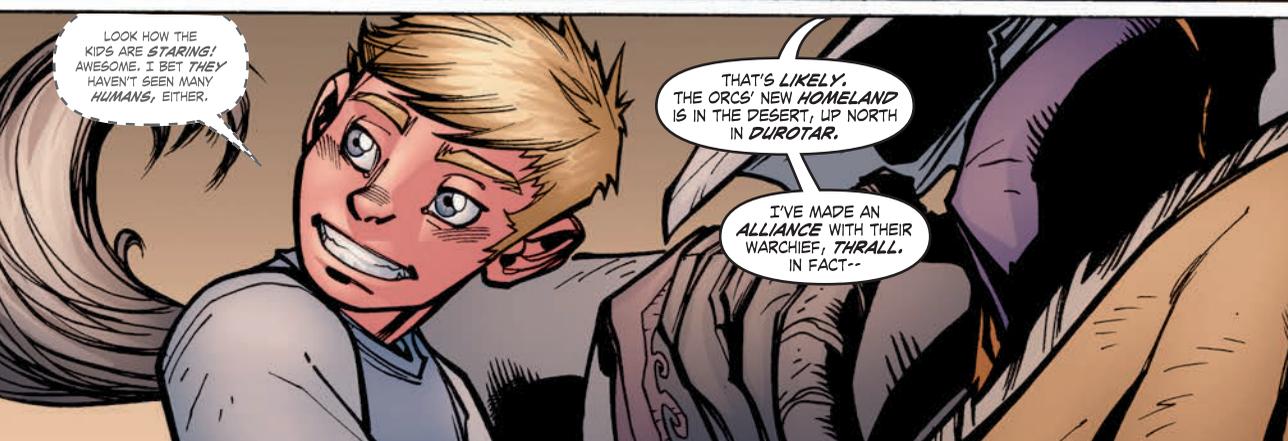
THAT
ORC LOOKED
SAD BUT THESE
GUYS SEEM...
COOL!



LOOK HOW THE
KIDS ARE STARING!
AWESOME. I BET THEY
HAVEN'T SEEN MANY
HUMANS, EITHER.

THAT'S LIKELY.
THE ORCS' NEW HOMETLAND
IS IN THE DESERT, UP NORTH
IN DUROTAR.

I'VE MADE AN
ALLIANCE WITH THEIR
WARCHIEF, THRALL.
IN FACT--





--VARIAN, WE COULD
RESCHEDULE YOUR **SUMMIT**
WITH THRALL--THE ONE ONYXIA'S
MACHINATIONS **INTERRUPTED**
SO MANY MONTHS AGO.

WHY BOTHER,
JAINA? WHAT WOULD BE
THE **POINT**?



THE ORCS BURNED
STORMWIND KEEP
AND **OVERRAN** MY
COUNTRY.

I SAW AN
ORC **ASSASSIN**--
A **BETRAYER** WHO
PRETENDED TO BE MY
FATHER'S FRIEND--
STANDING OVER HIS
CORPSE.

I DIDN'T
TRUST THEM
FROM THE BEGINNING.
I'M NOT GOING TO
START NOW.



THE **DEMONS** OF THE
BURNING LEGION **EXPLOITED**
THE ORCS AND **TRICKED** THEM
INTO INVADING AZEROTH. IT
ENDED UP **DESTROYING**
THEIR WORLD.

JUST AS THE DEMONS
HAVE TRIED FOR AGES TO
TWIST AND DESTROY **US**,
THEY ARE THE **TRUE ENEMIES**,
OF BOTH HUMANS
AND ORCS.

I WOULD
TRUST--I HAVE
TRUSTED--**THRALL**
WITH MY **LIFE**.

HE THINKS
DEEPLY AND HE
CARES ABOUT HIS
PEOPLE. HE WANTS
TO LEAD THEM
TO **PEACE**.



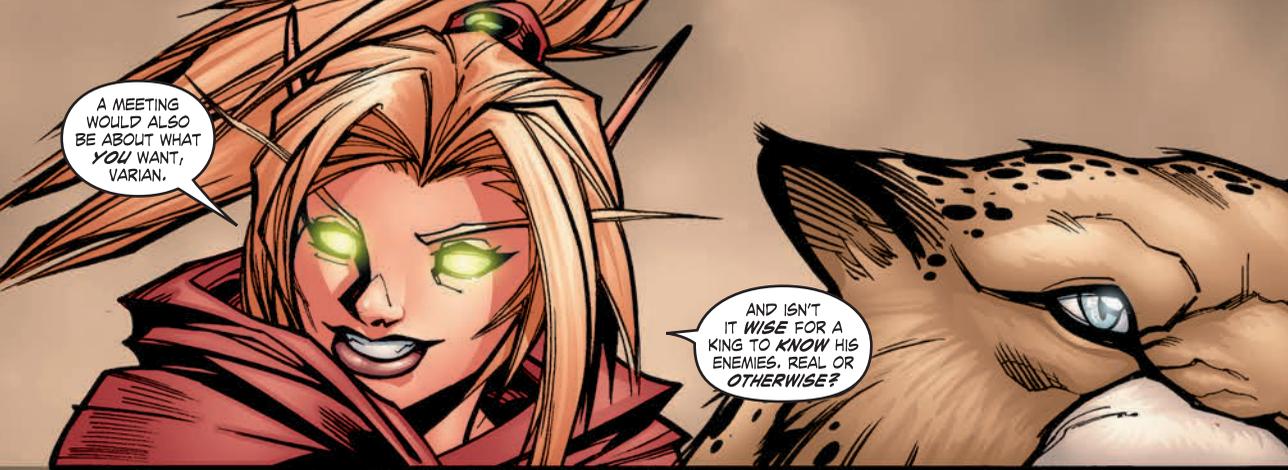
MEETING THRALL
WOULD BE **GREAT**, DAD.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, HE'S...
EXTRAORDINARY.

AND ISN'T
ESTABLISHING
PEACE SOMETHING A
KING SHOULD DO?
IF HE CAN?

YOU MEAN **DRAG**
HIS PEOPLE INTO PEACE,
WHETHER THEY **WANT**
IT OR **NOT**!

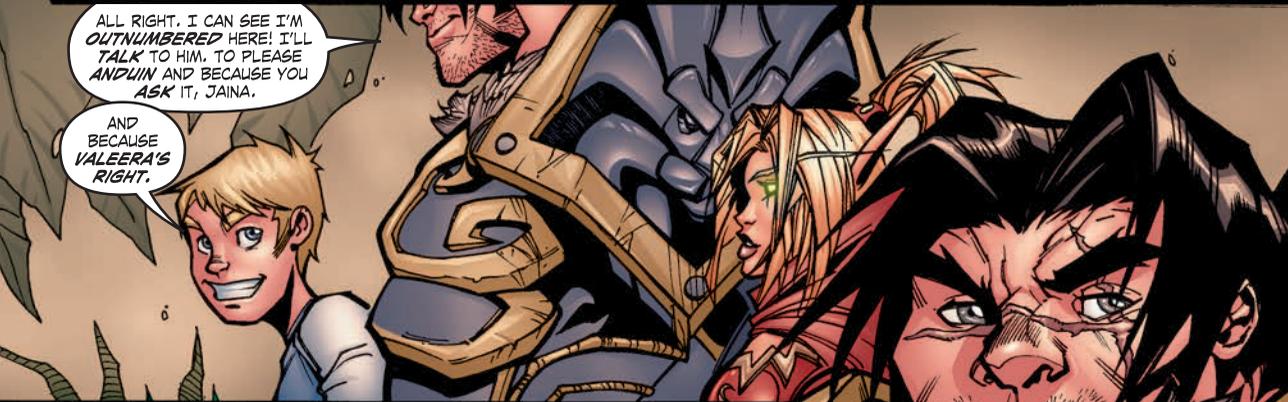
THERE'S NO
LONGER **OUTRIGHT**
WAR BETWEEN ORCS
AND HUMANS, ANDUIN.
WHAT MORE CAN
THRALL **WISH**?

IF YOU
TALK TO HIM,
MAYBE YOU'LL
FIND OUT!



A MEETING WOULD ALSO BE ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT, VARIAN.

AND ISN'T IT WISE FOR A KING TO KNOW HIS ENEMIES, REAL OR OTHERWISE?



ALL RIGHT. I CAN SEE I'M OUTNUMBERED HERE! I'LL TALK TO HIM, TO PLEASE ANDUIN AND BECAUSE YOU ASK IT, JAINA.

AND BECAUSE VALEERA'S RIGHT.



SHUMPH! DON'T MAKE ME REGRET RESCUING YOU, SON. I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING TO COME OF SUCH A MEETING. STILL...

VALEERA, I OFFER YOU AND BROLL--FORMALLY--A PERMANENT PLACE AT STORMWIND.

DO IT, VALEERA! YOU COULD BE BODYGUARDS... AND ADVISORS. AND TEACH ME HOW TO THROW DAGGERS. AND...

AND YOU'D TELL FATHER AND ME THE TRUTH... EVEN WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS KINGS NEED MOST!



OF COURSE WE'LL DO IT!

OH, BROLL, ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?!

GRRUMPH!

DON'T BE SUCH A GROUCH. I HAVEN'T HAD A HOME SINCE I WAS YOUNGER THAN ANDUIN. I'LL FINALLY BELONG!

B BRIGHTWOOD GROVE, DUSKWOOD

TH-CHUKT

CAN WE GO GET SOME SUPPER, MERYL?

I'M STARVING!

YOU'RE ALWAYS STARVING. GATHER THE WOOD, THEN, AND WE'LL CALL IT A DAY.

THAT ONE STRANGE LOOKING KID! ORC?

NO, SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING... STRANGE.

STASIA SAYS THE UNDEAD HUMAN'S A POWERFUL MAGE!

HE'S GONNA BE ONE REAL DEAD UNDEAD MAGE IN A MINUTE. LET'S GO.

TROUBLE!

NO KIDDING!



WHO ARE THESE GUYS... AND WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH US?

THWOK!

HORDE, BY THE LOOK OF THEM, LEAVE ONE ALIVE, LAD, SO WE CAN FIND OUT!



WHUMMP!

AAARRGH!



SKRASSSH

THWOK!

THERE MAY BE TOO MANY--!

RUBBISH! DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND FIGHT WITH MAGIC, MED'AN! HAVE I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING?



KRAKT

HA!
NO MORE
TEACH
NOW!



GRAB KID,
I CRUSH DEAD
GUY'S HEAD!

YOUR
HEAD-CRUSHING
DAYS ARE OVER,
OGRE!!

CHOKK

GGGGK KKKK!

MED'AN--!



I'M ON IT!

TOO SLOW,
ORC! AND IN THIS
BUSINESS--

--THAT MEANS
DEATH!



SLIKKKT



WHAT...?
WHO--?

MERYL!
I'LL COVER
YOU!



GET...

...THE BOY...

... TO SAFETY!



I'VE SEEN... THAT WOMAN BEFORE. THOUGHT... IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

I WAS VERY SMALL AND SHE... SHE SHELTERED ME! CAN'T REMEMBER MORE...

WHO IS SHE?

JUST... A HALF-ORC. AN OUTCAST. NO ONE.





WHAT WAS THAT--?!

SOUNDED LIKE EREDUN!

THE BURNING LEGION?!

THEY'LL KILL HER!

UNLIKELY! SHE'S--

MED'AN! NO--! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--!



SHE'S GONE! AND THERE'S NOT A SINGLE THUG LEFT ALIVE TO TELL US WHAT THEY WANTED.

Theramore

WELCOME
BACK, JAINA!

I SEE THAT YOUR
MISSION WAS **SUCCESSFUL...**
AND THAT BOTH KING **VARIAN** AND
YOUNG **ANDUIN** HAVE BEEN
RESTORED TO US!

IT'S **TRUE**, AEGWYNN.
NOW I'M **OFF** AGAIN--THIS TIME
TO TALK TO **THRALL**. WE NEED TO
SET UP A NEW **SUMMIT**.

WILL YOU
SPEAK WITH HIM
IN A **SCRYING**
GLASS?

THAT ISN'T
NECESSARY, ANDUIN. BY
THE POWER OF THIS **AMULET**,
I'LL **SIGNAL** THRALL OF
MY **INTENT...**

...THEN
TELEPORT TO
AWAIT HIS ARRIVAL
ON **RAZOR**
HILL.

BUT THAT'S
WAY OFF IN
DUROTAR.

A BIT SOUTH OF
ORGRIMMAR, YES. YOUR
TUTORS HAVE TRAINED
YOU WELL.

IT'S ONLY
FAIR THAT I
SHOULD JOURNEY
FARTHEST.

THRALL IS
NO **SORCERER** AND
MUST TRAVEL BY
ORDINARY MEANS,
WHILE I CAN BE IN
DUROTAR IN THE
BLINK OF AN
EYE.

WOW.

W HILE FAR TO THE NORTH, IN ORGRIMMAR...

IT'S MADNESS, REHGAR, TO SUGGEST TO THRALL THAT WE SHOULD COOPERATE WITH HUMANS!

COLLABORATIVE COEXISTENCE ISN'T MADNESS, GARROSH! IT'S COMMON SENSE!

ORCS AND HUMANS HAVE COMMON ENEMIES!

PFAGH! THE ALLIANCE IS THE ENEMY!

WAS, PERHAPS. BEFORE WE SIGNED A TREATY--

YOU'VE BOTH MADE EXCELLENT POINTS... BUT WE MUST TABLE THIS DISCUSSION FOR ANOTHER DAY!

I'LL BE LEAVING ORGRIMMAR FOR A SHORT WHILE.

DID YOU SEE? THE AMULET GLOWED... AND THRALL LEAPT TO HIS FEET!

RUSHING OFF TO MEET THE HUMAN FEMALE LIKE A TRAINED HAWK RECALLED TO ITS MASTER.

HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN SHOWS WEAKNESS. HE'S LOST THE FIRE AND PASSION HE ONCE HAD. HE HAS NO HEIR!

BUT THRALL HAS LED US TO MANY VICTORIES!

WE NEED NEW BLOOD! GARROSH HELLScream KNOWS HOW THINGS SHOULD BE...



JAINA PROUDMOORE STANDS ON A BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE TOWN OF RAZOR HILL.

SHE WAITS CALMLY FOR THRALL TO ANSWER HER CALL... AS SHE WOULD ANSWER HIS.

AND WHEN HE ARRIVES, SHE REALIZES THAT HE HAS MISSED HER AS MUCH AS SHE HAS MISSED HIM.



WELL, JAINA! YOU PULLED ME FROM AN INTERMINABLE AND RECURRING ARGUMENT BETWEEN TWO OF MY MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS...

...AND FOR THAT I THANK YOU! WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME HERE?

SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAS HAPPENED. KING VARIAN OF STORMWIND HAS BEEN RESTORED TO HIS THRONE, THRALL...

...AND HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH YOU AT THERAMORE. A NEW SUMMIT--



RESTORED?! WHAT--?

IT'S A LONG STORY, MY FRIEND. LET US BASK IN THE SUN'S WANING RAYS WHILE I TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.

IT BEGAN LONG AGO. THE BLACK DRAGON ONYXIA, WHO COVETED THE KINGDOM OF STORMWIND, TOOK A HUMAN FORM...



LATER...

SO NOW
VARIAN IS **WHOLE**
ONCE AGAIN.

AND WILLING
TO FULFILL HIS
ORIGINAL **AGREEMENT**
TO MEET WITH ME AT
THERAMORE?

I PRESUME
YOU'LL STILL INSIST
THAT BOTH SIDES
BE **UNARMED** AS
GESTURES OF
GOOD WILL?

SOME OF
MY PEOPLE GROW
IMPATIENT WITH BOTH
THE PRESENT **PEACE...**
AND **ME** AS ITS
AUTHOR.

THIS ISN'T A
GOOD TIME TO BE
AWAY FROM ORGRIMMAR
FOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD.

IT WILL
ONLY BE FOR
A COUPLE
OF **DAYS**,
THRALL.

IN TRUTH,
VARIAN IS NO
MORE THRILLED TO
ATTEND A SUMMIT RIGHT
NOW THAN **YOU** ARE.
AND HE IS **CHANGED**
SOMEWHAT. OLDER.
TOUGHER.

STILL, A **GOOD**
COMPROMISE OFTEN
LEAVES BOTH PARTIES
DISGRUNTLED.

AND THE
PAIR OF YOU HAVE
MUCH TO DISCUSS. A
REAL **ALLIANCE** WOULD
BENEFIT BOTH OUR
PEOPLE.

VERY WELL.
I'LL **DO THIS** THING.
BECAUSE **YOU** ASK
ME, JAINA.

BUT I HAVE
A **BAD FEELING**
ABOUT IT.

I SINCERELY
HOPE THAT THIS SOLEMN
OCCASION DOES **NOT** TURN
ITSELF INTO THE BIGGEST
CATASTROPHE OF MY
CAREER!

CHAPTER 2



Jan
02

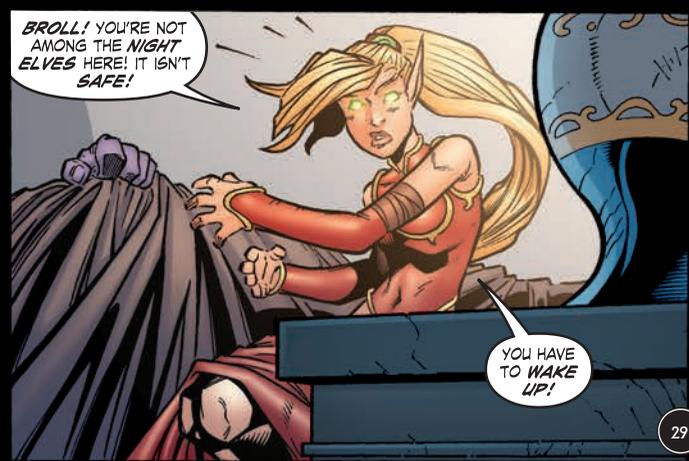


Tony

THERAMORE

THE PEACE OF *NIGHT* DESCENDED UPON THE FORTRESS AND ALL IS QUIET...

...SAVE ONLY FOR A MUFFLED *CRY* IN THE DARK.



BUT BROLL IS *BEYOND* THE CALL OF EVEN ONE HE LOVES LIKE A DAUGHTER.

HIS SHAPE IS THAT OF A *STORM CROW*. HE IS CIRCLING TELDRASSIL...

...THE *WORLD TREE*...

...NOT THE *PHYSICAL* WORLD TREE CONTAINING DARNASSUS, BUT ITS *MANIFESTATION* IN ANOTHER REALITY.

HE HAS BEEN *SUMMONED*...

...AND THOUGH THE AIR ITSELF SEEMS *TAINTED* WITH AN EVIL THAT MUFFLES ALL SOUNDS...

BRO...LL...
COM...E...

THREAT!

...HE FINDS AT LAST
THE SUMMONER...

...FANDRAL STAGHELM, LEADER OF
THE DRUIDIC CENARION CIRCLE, NEARLY
HIDDEN AMONG THE MASSIVE BOUGHS.

...TELDRASSIL...
IN PERIL!

SOME...
BEYOND...
CALLING.

SOME...
TRAPPED...IN...
DREAM.

I HOLD THE
IDOL OF REMULOS,
WHICH IS BONDED
TO YOU, HOPING THAT
IT WILL ACT AS A
BEACON.

IF YOU
CAN HEAR ME...
IF YOU RETAIN
CONTROL...

...I SUMMON
YOU TO--

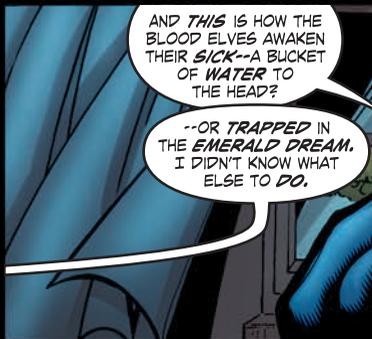


RRRRRAAH?!?!?

BROLL!
NO!!

IT'S ME--
VALEERA!

I COULDN'T WAKE
YOU. I WAS WORRIED!
THAT YOU WERE SICK OR--



AND THIS IS HOW THE
BLOOD ELVES AWAKEN
THEIR SICK--A BUCKET
OF WATER TO
THE HEAD?

--OR TRAPPED IN
THE EMERALD DREAM.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
ELSE TO DO.



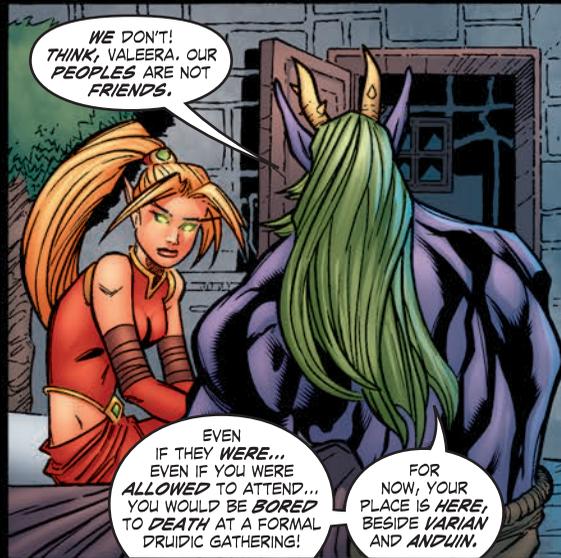
YOUR INSTINCT
WAS GOOD. I MIGHT
QUARREL WITH YOUR
METHOD, AND YOUR
TIMING.



THERE'S TROUBLE IN
DARNASSUS. FANDRAL STAGHELM
HAS SUMMONED ME HOME.



OH,
WHEN DO WE
LEAVE?



WE DON'T
THINK, VALEERA. OUR
PEOPLES ARE NOT
FRIENDS.

EVEN
IF THEY WERE...
EVEN IF YOU WERE
ALLOWED TO ATTEND...
YOU WOULD BE BORED
TO DEATH AT A FORMAL
DRUIDIC GATHERING!

FOR
NOW, YOUR
PLACE IS HERE,
BESIDE VARIAN
AND ANDUIN.



YOU KNOW, BLOOD
ELVES AREN'T USUALLY
FRIENDS WITH HUMANS,
EITHER!

AH, BUT
WE BOTH KNOW
THERE'S NOTHING
USUAL ABOUT KING
VARIAN... OR HIS SON!
AND SOMETHING TELLS
ME ANDUIN MAY
NEED YOU.



RHN'QIRAJ

THE OLD GOD C'THUN, WHO ONCE LAY BENEATH THE ANCIENT RUINS, IS DEAD...

...AND A SECRET, Nihilist quasi-religious sect, **THE TWILIGHT'S HAMMER**, HAS SECRETLY OCCUPIED THE CITY...

...GATHERING SELECT MEMBERS OF HORDE AND ALLIANCE IN A DARK AND TERRIBLE COALITION.

OUR PRISONER IS DANGEROUS, STASIA! SHE SLEW MANY OF US--!

WHICH IS WHY OUR MASTER WANTS HER, STONEHOOF.

DID NO ONE TELL YOU THAT SHE SERVED AS CHIEF ASSASSIN TO GUL'DAN, FOUNDER OF THE ORC SHADOW COUNCIL?

THE ONE WHO HELPED OPEN THE DARK PORTAL TO AZEROTH?

THE SAME. SHE BECAME GUL'DAN'S EMISSARY TO THE HUMAN SORCERER MEPIVH...

...AND KILLED KING LLANE OF STORMWIND, THEN SHE DISAPPEARED...

I HAD FELLED THE LOT OF YOU! BY WHAT TREACHERY DID YOU CAPTURE ME? WHERE IS--

--THE BOY? WE LET HIM GO...FOR NOW, YOUR SON WAS BAIT, GARONA, YOU WERE OUR TARGET.

HE'S NOT MY--
SPARE ME! NOW, SILENCE, ALL OF YOU...!

...WE ENTER C'THUN'S CHAMBER... AND OUR MASTER'S PRESENCE.

...THERE IS SOON TO BE A SECRET SUMMIT.

KING VARIAN OF STORMWIND MEETS WITH WARCHIEF THRALL OF ORGRIMMAR...

...AT THE HUMAN STRONGHOLD THERAMORE!



PERFECT!
THE MOMENT WHEN
WE WILL **CHANGE**
HISTORY IS NEARLY
AT HAND.

AND YOU,
STASIA, I SEE YOUR
VISION WAS **ACCURATE**.
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS,
THE ASSASSIN **GARONA**
IS STILL ALIVE.

AND
OURS!



SHE IS AS **LETHAL** AS HER REPUTATION. SHE STRUCK LIKE **LIGHTNING** IN DEFENSE OF HER **WHELP...**

...AND **KILLED** MOST OF OUR COMPANY BEFORE I **INTERVENED**. SHE HASN'T LOST HER **SKILL**.

AND THE **CONTROL WORD** STILL **HOLDS?**



YES, MASTER! SHE **FROZE** INSTANTLY.



AS **TREACHEROUS** AS EVER, **CHO'GALL?** HOW IS IT THAT **YOU** ARE STILL **ALIVE?** WHO ARE YOUR **MINIONS?**

WHAT IS THE **MEANING** OF THIS? WHY **ATTACK** ME? WHY **ATTACK...** THE **BOY?**

YOU ASK MANY **QUESTIONS** FOR A CAPTIVE, **GARONA**. WE KNOW THE **BOY--MEP'AN--** IS YOUR SON. THERE IS NO POINT IN **DENYING** IT.

HE IS THE **FOCUS** OF AN ANCIENT **PROPHECY...** AND HAS THE **POTENTIAL** FOR **POWER** UNDREAMT OF.

WHEN THE TIME IS **RIPE**, THE **TWILIGHT'S HAMMER** WILL HELP HIM **FOCUS** THAT POWER TO **OUR OWN** ENDS.

AS FOR THE **REST...** WHAT DOES IT **MATTER?**

FOR **NOW**, **YOU** ARE THE MORE **VALUABLE** PROPERTY; FOR **YOUR DEEDS** WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS **ASCENSION!**



THE MORE KEEP

I'M SORRY, VARIAN, THAT I'LL MISS YOUR SUMMIT WITH THRALL.



RIIIIGHT!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK YOU MADE UP FANDRAL'S SUMMONS JUST TO GET OUT OF IT!

I'LL MISS YOUR COMPANY, MY FRIEND... BUT NOTHING WILL COME OF THIS MEETING BUT A LOT OF MEANINGLESS BLATHER.

AND VALEERA--?

I'LL KEEP HER SAFE UNTIL YOU RETURN.

LIKE I CAN'T KEEP MYSELF SAFE!

YOU UNDERSTAND, VALEERA... THIS PROBLEM IS SERIOUS. I MAY BE GONE FOR A WHILE.

OH...ALL RIGHT. I HEAR YOU. I'LL BE CAREFUL.

IF YOU PROMISE TO BE CAREFUL, TOO!



UNTIL YOU RETURN AND BEYOND, BROLL, VALEERA HAS A HOME AT STORMWIND.

JUST... DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH WHILE I'M AWAY...?

ME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TRIPSING OFF--



THAT ALLAYS MY FEARS FOR HER.

NOW ALL I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS WHETHER YOUR KINGDOM WILL SURVIVE VALEERA!



I'VE SEEN
BROLL SHIFT
SHAPES BEFORE--
BUT IT'S ALWAYS
AWESOME!
ISN'T IT?

THAT
IT IS,
SON!

GO ON,
BROLL. I'LL
BE FINE!



I'LL SEE
YOU WHEN
YOU...

...WHEN YOU...
G-GET BACK!



VALEERA,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

**NOTHING...
EVERYTHING.**
I JUST...HAVE THE
AWFUL FEELING...I
MIGHT NEVER SEE
HIM AGAIN.

HE WOULDN'T
TELL ME BUT...I
THINK...WHAT HE NEEDS
TO DO IS **DANGEROUS.**
AND SOMETIMES...
PEOPLE...DON'T
SURVIVE.

BROLL WILL.
NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS, HE'S
TOO TOUGH
TO KILL.



NOW DRY YOUR EYES.
IT'S TIME WE WENT
INSIDE TO **PREPARE**
FOR THIS EVENING'S
SUMMIT...

"...WITH THE
'MIGHTY'
THRALL."

I DON'T
LIKE THE IDEA OF
BRINGING *GARROSH*
TO THERAMORE,
THRALL.

THERE IS
A GROWING
RESTLESSNESS
AMONG THE
ORCS...!

GARROSH'S
FATHER *DID* KILL THE
PIT LORD MANNOROTH, THUS
FREED OUR PEOPLE
FROM THE *DEMON'S*
CURSE.

GROMMASH WAS ALSO
THE *FIRST* TO *DRINK*
MANNOROTH'S *BLOOD* AND
GET US *CURSED* TO
BEGIN WITH!

GARROSH IS
NO *FRIEND* TO YOU.
HE SHOULD HAVE STAYED
ON *OUTLAND*!

GARROSH
THINKS *YOU*
SHOULD HAVE
REMAINED A
GLADIATOR
MASTER!

HE MAY BE *RIGHT*.
I MAKE A *POOR*
DIPLOMAT.

BUT THE
HUMANS HAVE A
SAYING--"*KEEP YOUR*
FRIENDS CLOSE,
AND YOUR ENEMIES
CLOSER."

GARROSH'S
VISION FOR WHAT
IS *GOOD* FOR
OUR PEOPLE MAY
DIFFER FROM
YOURS...

AND
YOURS!

THAT
DIDN'T MAKE HIM
MY *ENEMY*.



NOT YET.

IS THIS THE BEST WAY TO SPEND YOUR ENERGY, THRALL? CONFERRING WITH STORMWIND?

BUT YOU'LL BE THERE WITH US, GARROSH!

TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE...

AS YOU SEE THEM.

AND I'M CURIOUS TO SEE THIS IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS.



TO DETERMINE HOW EASY IT WILL BE TO DRIVE THE HUMANS OUT?

KALIMDOR SHOULD BE HOME TO THE ORCS, REHGAR. ALL OF KALIMDOR!

WE DESTROYED OUR OWN HOMETOWN. WE ARE GUESTS ON KALIMDOR...AS ARE THE HUMANS.



HOW WILL THE SORCERESS JAINA PROUDMOORE REACT TO HAVING HER FORTIFICATIONS SURVEYED BY A POTENTIAL ENEMY?



I EXPECT SHE'LL WELCOME IT. THE STRENGTH OF JAINA'S RAMPARTS MAY ENCOURAGE GARROSH TO RETHINK HIS ATTITUDE.

I ALWAYS ENJOY VISITING WITH HER, REHGAR. I JUST WISH ALL HUMANS WERE AS HONORABLE.

RHN'QIRAJ

I REFUSE TO REMAIN TRUSSSED UP LIKE A BOAR WHILE MY SON IS THREATENED...

HA!

CHINK

SHUNK

THWAKK



EXCELLENT!

GARONA, HEAR ME AND OBEY!

YOU ARE TO FOLLOW STASIA'S ORDERS AS IF THEY WERE MY OWN.

YOUR PRIMARY TARGET FOR ASSASSINATION IS KING VARIAN OF STORMWIND.

YOUR SECONDARY TARGETS WILL BE PRINCE ANDUIN AND THE ORC WARCHIEF THRALL.

BUT YOU WILL KILL VARIAN AT ALL COSTS!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

KING, PRINCE, WARCHIEF, AS YOU COMMAND.

WHEN I RELEASE YOUR SHACKLES, YOU WILL AWAKEN...



...AND FOLLOW MY ORDERS WILLINGLY AND TO THE LETTER.

YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF THE FIGHT THAT ENDED IN YOUR CAPTURE.

ONCE YOU LEAVE ANH'GIRAJ, YOU WILL FORGET ITS EXISTENCE AND OURS...

BUT BELIEVE THAT THE TASKS WE SET FOR YOU REFLECT ONLY YOUR OWN DESIRES.

AS YOU COMMAND.

CHINK

KU
NKK



WHERE WILL I FIND MY TARGETS, CHO'GALL?

THERAMORE KEEP. STASIA WILL LEAD THE SQUADRON THAT WILL AID YOU IN YOUR MISSION.





NO SQUADRON.
I WORK ALONE.

I'M AFRAID,
THIS TIME, THAT WILL
BE **IMPOSSIBLE**. YOU'LL
FIND YOUR MOUNT AND KIT
OUTSIDE. WAIT FOR
STAGIA THERE.



THE **HORDE** AMONG YOUR
GROUP WILL ATTACK THE
HUMANS, STAGIA.

THOSE OF
THE **ALLIANCE** WILL
TARGET **THRALL** AND
HIS ADVISORS.

AND
IF **GARONA**
FAILS?



THRALL AND
VARIAN OR THEIR PEOPLE
WILL HOLD THE **OTHER**
SIDE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE ATTACK.

THEY'LL
FALL ON EACH
OTHER. SOON THERE
WILL BE **OPEN**
WAR.

GARONA SHOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **BREAK**
FREE OF HER **CONDITIONING**
TO ATTEMPT ESCAPE.

CAN WE **TRUST** HER
TO DO HER PART...AND TO
MAINTAIN HER **SILENCE**
IF CAPTURED?



I'VE
PUT **BLOCKS**
ON HER MEMORY,
BUT, IN TIME, SUCH
BARRIERS CAN BE
BROKEN. SHE MUST
NOT BE ALLOWED
TO **SURVIVE** THE
ATTACK.

ONCE HER
JOB IS DONE,
SAY THE WORD.
FREEZE GARONA AND
LET THE HUMANS
KILL HER.

OR--IF
NECESSARY--
KILL HER
YOURSELF.



THERAMORE KEEP



YOU MISS HIM ALREADY.

BROLL HAS BEEN FATHER AND TEACHER, BROTHER AND FRIEND IN ONE UNLIKELY BEING.

BUT IN YOUR LIFE, YOU'VE SEEN CENTURIES OF LOSS. MY SADNESS MUST SEEM TRIVIAL TO YOU, AEGWYNN.

AT ONE TIME IT WOULD HAVE, BUT... NO MORE. SORROW IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD, CHILD.



I KNEW YOUR ANCESTOR RELFTHRA--AN ANCIENT HIGH ELF MAGE AND A VALUED MEMBER OF... AN ORDER I ONCE BELONGED TO.

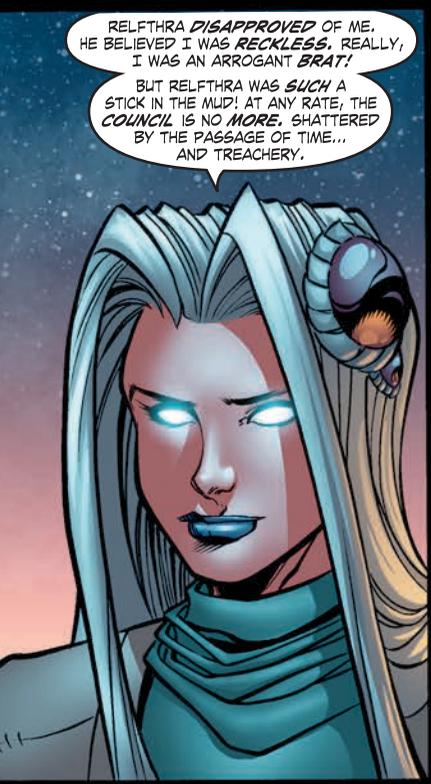
THE COUNCIL OF TRISFAL? I KNOW.

I... FOUND SOME SECRET RECORDS, BACK WHEN I WAS A CHILD.



"AN ORDER OF *SORCERERS* FOUNDED BY THE *HIGH ELVES* TO PROTECT AZEROTH FROM THE *DEMON INVADERS*."

"WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WANTED TO GROW UP TO BE JUST *LIKE HIM*."



RELFTHRA *DISAPPROVED* OF ME. HE BELIEVED I WAS *RECKLESS*. REALLY, I WAS AN *ARROGANT BRAT!*

BUT RELFTHRA WAS *SUCH* A STICK IN THE MUD! AT ANY RATE, THE *COUNCIL* IS NO *MORE*. SHATTERED BY THE PASSAGE OF TIME... AND *TREACHERY*.



I DON'T HAVE HIS *GIFT*.

YOU HAVE YOUR *OWN* TALENTS, VALEERA, AS YOUR ABILITY TO FERRET OUT THE *COUNCIL'S SECRETS* SHOWS.



BUT YOU ALSO HAVE YOUR *BURDENS*. NOW THAT BROLL IS GONE, YOU MUST TAKE EVEN *GREATER CARE*.

THERE ARE *DARK FORCES* IN THE WORLD. AND A *DEMON* WHO HAS TASTED YOUR *SOUL*.

I *KNOW*. I'VE LEARNED THE *TRUE COST* OF *DARK MAGIC*, AND HAVE NO FURTHER DESIRE TO *PARTAKE* OF IT.

TRULY, AEGWYNN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO *WORRY*.

15 RIGHTWOOD GROVE
IN DUSKWOOD

ADMIT IT! HUNTING BOAR WAS JUST AN *EXCUSE* TO WANDER THE FOREST.

WHAT I REALLY WANT IS TO FIND THE *WOMAN* WHO CAME TO OUR RESCUE.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

I SAW HER WATCHING ME ONCE... FROM A DISTANCE... WHEN I WAS *SMALL*... SHE LOOKED SO FIERCE... AND *SAD*. I ALWAYS WONDERED--

GRRRAHHH!

BACK, WORGEN!

WHACK

YOU'LL NOT DINE ON *PIG FLESH* THIS NIGHT! NOR *MINE*, EITHER!

CHOK



NOT EVEN THAT MONSTER BROUGHT HER OUT OF HIDING.

BECAUSE SHE KNEW I COULD HANDLE IT? OR BECAUSE SHE'S GONE?

MERYL CLAIMS HE DOESN'T KNOW HER! WHY WOULD HE LIE?

WHAT COULD ANY ORC FEMALE BE TO A HUMAN MAGE WHO WAS BORN... AND DIED... CENTURIES BEFORE ORCS ARRIVED ON AZEROTH?

WHO IS THIS APPROACHING MERYL NOW?



LET THE WIND WAFT THEIR WORDS TO ME!

GREETINGS, KORON! YOU HAVE INFORMATION...?



WHY ELSE WOULD I HAVE COME? THE OGRE CHO'GALL HAS CAPTURED YOUR QUARRY.

CHO'GALL? I THOUGHT HE DIED ON THE BROKEN ISLES.

A WIDESPREAD BUT UNFOUNDED RUMOR. MY INFORMANT SAYS CHO'GALL SENT THE ASSASSIN ON A MISSION TO THERAMORE.



SHE IS TO KILL THE HUMAN KING VARIAN, AMONG OTHERS, THE OGRE HAS A HOLD OVER HER, WHICH WILL MEAN HER CERTAIN DEATH.

THIS IS THE END OF IT, MERYL. THE FAVOR YOU DID FOR ME IS REPAYED AND I WILL SPY FOR YOU NO LONGER!



THE **DARK LADY** IS A JEALOUS MISTRESS. SHOULD SHE LEARN I AIDED YOU, SHE WOULD **DESTROY ME!**

THEN COME INSIDE **QUICKLY**. JUST FOR A MOMENT. I NEED TO KNOW **MORE** AND THE BOY WILL **RETURN SOON**. HE MUSTN'T LEARN OF HIS **MOTHER**, OR HER **CAPTURE!**



THE **ORC FEMALE** WHO **WATCHED** AND **PROTECTED** ME... IS MY **MOTHER?!** AND AN **OGRE** IS GOING TO **KILL HER?**

BUT... **MERYL** SAID MY **MOTHER** WAS **DEAD!**



THERAMORE'S FAR ACROSS THE SEA! BUT THAT **VAMPIRE BAT** HAS CARRIED **KORON** THERE AND BACK! HE'LL **KNOW** THE WAY!



FLY **QUICKLY**, MY FRIEND! WE NEED TO **STOP HER!** TO **SAVE HER**--LIKE SHE **SAVED ME!**

I CAN'T **BELIEVE IT!** I HAVE A **MOTHER!**

MED'AN? MED'AN! **DAMNATION!**



THE BOY **OVERHEARD** US! AND NOW HE'S OFF TO **PLAY THE HERO!**

I WAS AFRAID THAT IF HE EVER **LEARNED** THE TRUTH HE WOULD DO SOMETHING **FOOLHARDY!**

BLAST, GARONA! THIS IS GOING TO BE A COMPLETE **DISASTER!**

THERAMORE

OH, AEGWYNN, I DO HOPE THIS SUMMIT WILL BEGIN AN ERA OF TRUE PEACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ORCS AND HUMANS.

I THINK THAT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A CEREMONIAL MEETING BETWEEN THE LEADERS.

IF WE CAN REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CONTESTED AREAS WHERE HORDE AND ALLIANCE BATTLE OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, IT WOULD BE A START.

TRADE MIGHT CALM THOSE BATTLES... OR WORSEN THEM. HUMANS AND ORCS DON'T TRUST EACH OTHER.

I KNOW, BUT VARIAN AND THRALL SHARE A GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE.

THEY'RE BOTH STATESMEN... AND WARRIORS. THEY... THINK AHEAD.



THEY'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT AS THEY BELIEVE.

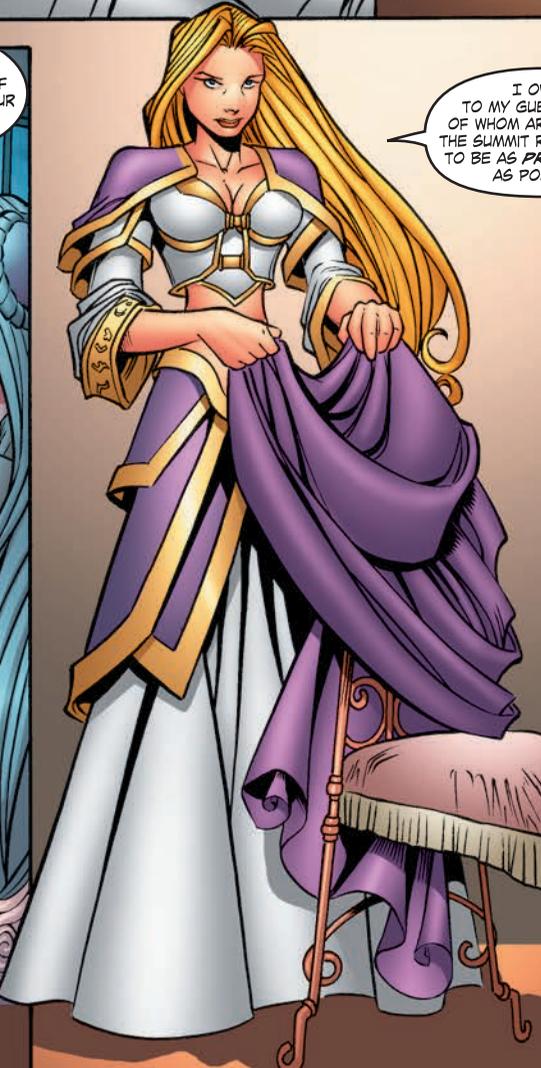
YOU'RE TAKING A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH YOUR APPEARANCE, JAINA.

I OWE IT TO MY GUESTS--BOTH OF WHOM ARE ATTENDING THE SUMMIT RELUCTANTLY-- TO BE AS PRESENTABLE AS POSSIBLE.

AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR BEST BEHAVIOR.

MY CLOAK WILL KEEP THE WIND AND RAIN AT BAY. IF IT FAILS, THEN MAGIC WILL SUFFICE.

THAT DELUGE WILL DESTROY YOUR EFFORTS IN A TRICE.



THRALL AND HIS CONTINGENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW.

THE FOG'S SO DENSE, HIS ZEPPELIN MIGHT MISS OUR LIGHTS AND BYPASS THE KEEP ENTIRELY.

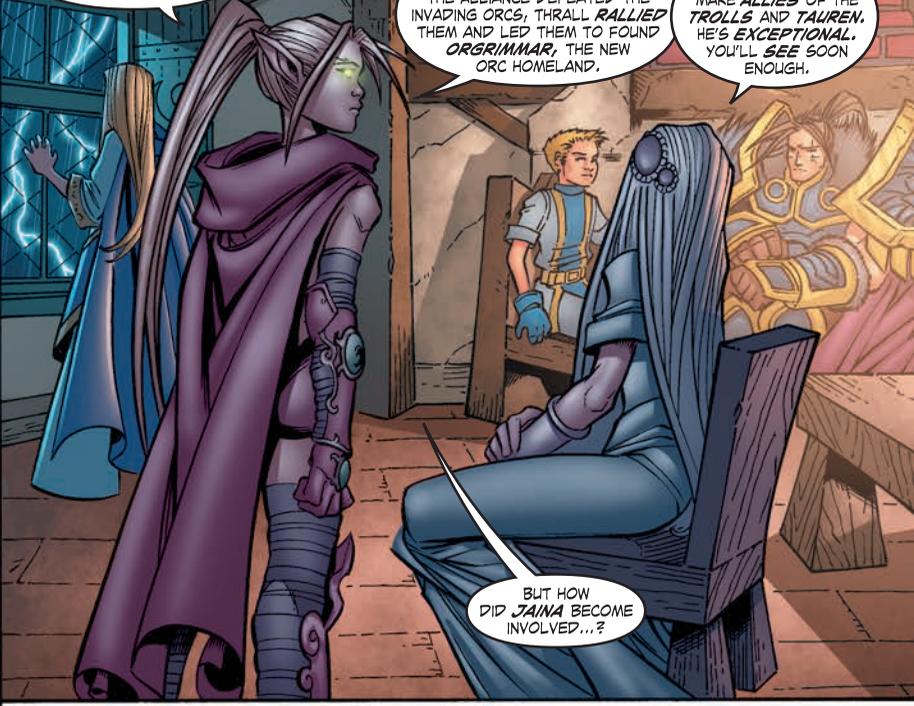
SHE CARES FOR HIM, DOESN'T SHE? HOW DID THRALL AND JAINA BECOME SUCH GREAT FRIENDS...?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THRALL'S HISTORY?

ONLY THAT, AFTER THE FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE DEFEATED THE INVADING ORCS, THRALL RALLIED THEM AND LED THEM TO FOUND ORGRIMMAR, THE NEW ORC HOMETLAND.

THERE, HE MANAGED TO MAKE ALLIES OF THE TROLLS AND TAUREN. HE'S EXCEPTIONAL. YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

BUT HOW DID JAINA BECOME INVOLVED...?



YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO STORMWIND?

OH, YES! I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO DISCUSS HERE THAT MAY INSURE OUR KINGDOM'S FUTURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

THAT'S THE REAL REASON I AGREED TO THIS TALK, SON. I THINK--MAINLY--I HATE THE IDEA OF MEETING THRALL UNARMED.

IT GOES AGAINST INSTINCT TO PUT DOWN MY SWORD IN THE PRESENCE OF ANY ORC--EVEN THE FAMOUS THRALL!

THERE HE IS! I SEE HIS ZEPPELIN!

COME--TO THE COURTYARD! WE'LL MEET HIM THERE.





YOU AND THAT PROUDMOORE HUMAN BECAME ALLIES BEFORE THE BATTLE OF MOUNT HYJAL?

YES! AS YOU RECALL, THE THREAT OF THE DEMON ARCHIMONDE WAS TOO GREAT. WE EVEN UNITED WITH THE NIGHT ELVES AGAINST HIM.

SIDE BY SIDE, WE FOUGHT THE BURNING LEGION... AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE. AS ARCHIMONDE DID NOT.

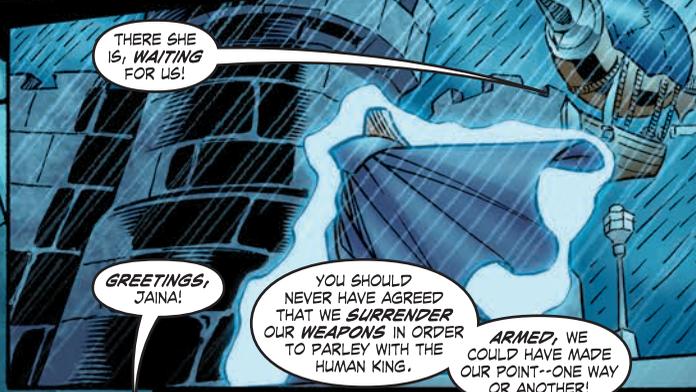
OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS SURVIVED... MANY TESTS SINCE THEN. I TRUST HER, REHGAR, WITH MY LIFE.

WELL, SHE IS WELCOME TO THIS PLACE. I PREFER THE DESERT OF ORGRIMMAR. MY OLD BONES CREAK IN THIS DAMP CLIMATE.



IT'S WET, YES, EVEN WITHOUT THIS FOUL STORM! BUT THERE'S TIMBER... AND THE STONE FOR THE KEEP WAS QUARRIED SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

THIS PLACE IS RICH IN MANY THINGS OUR PEOPLE NEED.



THERE SHE IS, WAITING FOR US!

GREETINGS, JAINA!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED THAT WE SURRENDER OUR WEAPONS IN ORDER TO PARLEY WITH THE HUMAN KING.

ARMED, WE COULD HAVE MADE OUR POINT--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!



UNLIKELY-- AS THEY ALSO WOULD HAVE BEEN ARMED.

AND THRALL IS WELL AWARE THAT ANYTHING CAN BECOME A WEAPON...WHEN ONE IS NEEDED.

HAS THE ZEPPELIN LANDED?

YOU TELL ME! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ANYTHING THROUGH THE FOG AND RAIN BELOW!

QUIT WHINING AND DROP BELOW THE CLOUDS! COME ON!

IT'S GOOD COVER! YOUR QUARRY HAVEN'T A CLUE WE'RE HERE!

DROP CLOSER THEN!

INTO THAT TEMPEST?

YOUR SPELLCASTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT MESS OF A STORM! IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF STEALTH, IT STINKS!

AND WE HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE THEY ARE, EITHER!

NOW STAND CLEAR, STASIA. I DIDN'T WANT YOUR HELP AND I WON'T TOLERATE YOUR INTERFERENCE!

YOU MAY NOT NEED IT. BOTH SIDES WILL BE UNARMED.

GO, NOW! IT WILL BE LIKE BUTCHERING FATTENED LAMBS.

WHY DID I AGREE TO THIS MAD ATTACK? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

THE WAY IT'S GOING, I'M FAR LIKELIER TO DIE THAN VARIAN IS!

IT'S LIKE THE ASSASSINATION OF KING LLANE... ALL OVER AGAIN!

CHAPTER 3





KRAK-KA-DOOM!

AN
INAUSPICIOUS
START TO YOUR
SUMMIT!

THIS IS MERELY
A STORM, GARROSH,
NOT SOME PORTENT
OF DISASTER!



THRALL,
I'M GLAD YOU'VE
COME!

THOUGH I'M AMAZED
YOU CAN WALK, FOR
BEARING THE WEIGHT OF SO
MANY WEAPONS!

WHAT POINT IN HAVING A CEREMONIAL
LAYING DOWN OF ARMS, JAINA,
IF THERE ARE NO ARMS TO
LAY DOWN?

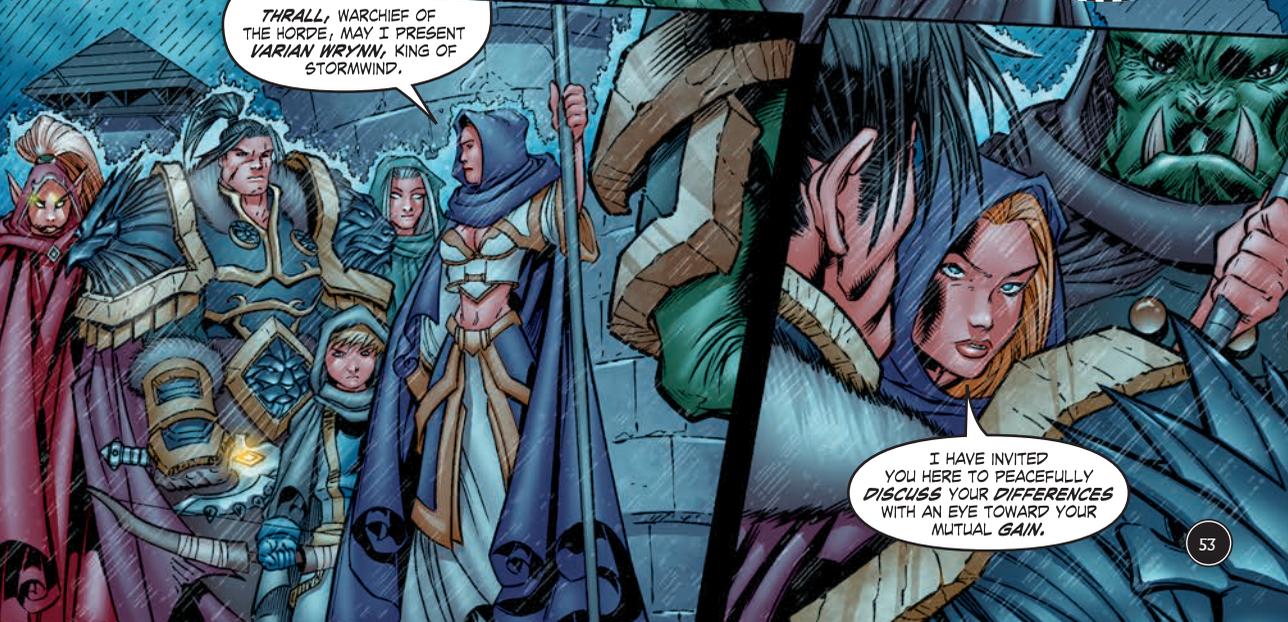
AND YOU'VE
BROUGHT KOR'KRON
BODYGUARDS?

FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.
ONCE THIS CEREMONY IS COMPLETE, THEY'LL
RETURN TO ORGRIMMAR.

A SHOW OF
FORCE NEVER GOES
AMISS, AS YOU WELL
KNOW.

YOU AND VARIAN
THINK MUCH ALIKE. HIS
CREW IS ALSO BRISTLING
WITH BLADES! IT SEEMS WE'VE
ALREADY FOUND ONE THING
ON WHICH YOU CAN
AGREE.

THRALL, WARCHIEF OF
THE HORDE, MAY I PRESENT
VARIAN WRYNN, KING OF
STORMWIND.



I HAVE INVITED
YOU HERE TO PEACEFULLY
DISCUSS YOUR DIFFERENCES
WITH AN EYE TOWARD YOUR
MUTUAL GAIN.

GATHERING THUNDER!

IT IS NOW
TIME TO *LAY DOWN* OUR
WEAPONS AND ENTER
THERAMORE KEEP.

WOW.
ORCS ARE
REALLY
BIG!

BUT FAR ABOVE,
AMIDST THE THUNDER
CLOUDS...

YOUR
TARGETS WERE
IN THE OPEN--
KING **VARIAN**, PRINCE
ANDUIN, WARCHIEF
THRALL.

WHY ARE
THEY NOT
DEAD?

YOU SAID
THEY'D BE **UNARMED!**
THEY'RE CARRYING ENOUGH
WEAPONS TO SLAUGHTER
AN **ARMY!**

EVEN WERE THEY **NOT**,
I COULDN'T HAVE TOLD WHICH
CLOAKED FIGURE TO ATTACK.
THIS **STORM--!**

A **LITANY** OF
EXCUSES! IF I DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER, I'D SAY YOU LACKED
ENTHUSIASM FOR THE
ASSIGNMENT!

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER, I'D
SAY YOUR **SPIES** AND
THE **SHAMAN** WHO CALLED
FORTH THIS **STORM** ARE
INCOMPETENT
KODOS!

STEALTH AND
PATIENCE ARE THE MAIN
TOOLS OF THE **ASSASSIN**,
STASIA, AND YOU HAVE
NEITHER.

YOUR BRILLIANT
STRATEGY WILL GET
US KILLED!

NOT ALL OF
US, GARONA!

BUT ONCE
YOUR **TARGETS** ARE
DEAD, IT WILL BE
MY GREAT **PLEASURE**
TO SEE THAT YOU
JOIN THEM!

100 MILE BELOW...



FATHER.
LORD THRALL.



FOR THE
DURATION OF OUR
SUMMIT...



...PEACE!



HA! IT SEEMS THERE IS A DIPLOMAT AMONGST US, AFTER ALL.



WHAT IS YOUR NAME, MY YOUNG DIPLOMAT?

I AM ANDUIN, MY LORD, SON OF VARIAN WRYNIN, KING OF STORMWIND.



THEN LEAD ON, ANDUIN, SON OF VARIAN WRYNIN, AND WE WILL FOLLOW.



MY LORDS... TRUSTED GUARDS WILL CARRY YOUR WEAPONS OUT OF THE RAIN, INTO THE ARMORY WHERE THEY WILL BE WELL CARED FOR.

NOW COME INSIDE! THE FEAST IS WAITING!

FATE IS LAUGHING AT US, REHGAR!

LET US HOPE OUR LEADERS ARE AS EASILY AMUSED!

YOU WHISPERED
TO THE BIG ORC WITH
THE FUR HEADRESS.
WHO IS HE?

HIS NAME IS
REHGAR EARTHFURY.
HE... OWNED YOUR FATHER
AND ME WHEN WE WERE
GLADIATORS!

GLADIATORS?!
COOL! WAIT... HE OWNED
MY FATHER?

LONG STORY.
IT DIDN'T LAST... TELL
YOU LATER.

I KNEW MY
AMNESIAC CHAMPION,
LO'GOSH, HAD BEEN
WELL TRAINED,
THRALL...

... BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT HE'D TURN OUT
TO BE *STORMWIND'S*
MISSING KING.

AS WELL
THAT YOU'VE
ABANDONED
THAT LIFE, MY
FRIEND!

LIKE YOU-
AND *VARIAN--I*, TOO,
WAS ONCE A GLADIATOR
WHO ESCAPED MY SERVITUDE
AND ASSUMED A LARGER
ROLE IN SHAPING THIS
WORLD'S FUTURE.

IT SEEMS
THAT *STORMWIND'S*
KING AND I HAVE THAT
IN COMMON.

ELSEWHERE, AS MED'AN APPROACHES KALIMDOR'S EASTERN SHORE, THE GREAT SEA ROILS BENEATH THUNDERING FURY...

NO MATTER WHAT I'VE *TRIED*, SNUBNOSE, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO *SHIFT* THE *STORM*.

I DON'T THINK IT'S *NATURAL*, BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT *STOP* US.

I'D HOPED THE LIGHTS OF *THERAMORE KEEP* WOULD GUIDE US, BUT ONCE WE ENTER THAT MESS, WE'LL BE *FLYING BLIND*.

MAYBE IF WE *SKIM* THE WAVES...THOUGH *MERYL* WOULD SAY THAT'S OFFERING OURSELVES AS *BAIT* TO WHATEVER LIES BENEATH THEM.

WHY SHOULD I *CARE* WHAT *MERYL* SAYS?

GARONA IS MY *MOTHER!* HE *KNEW* SHE WAS *ALIVE!* WHY DID HE *LIE* TO ME?

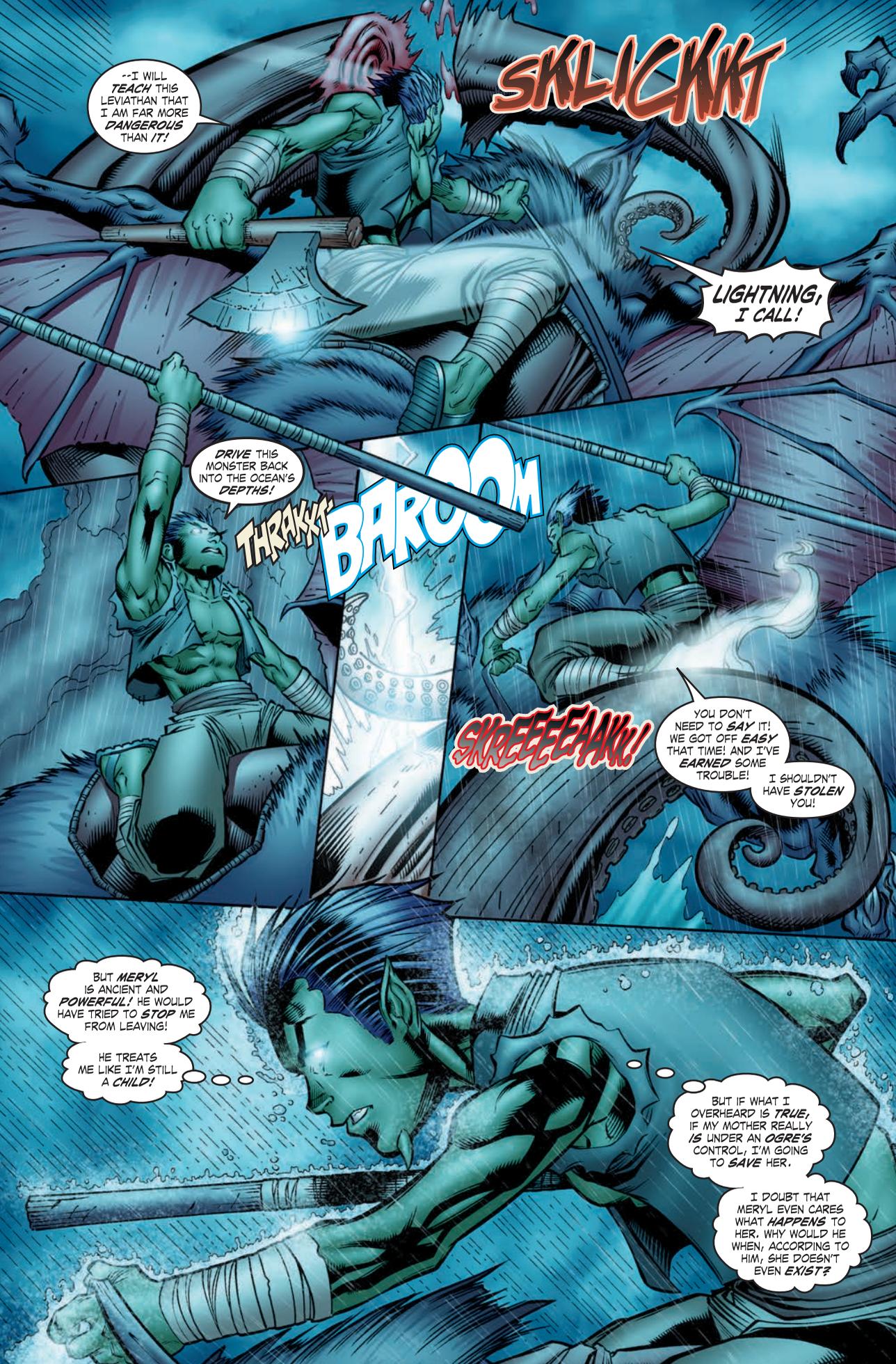
HAS *EVERYTHING* HE TOLD ME BEEN A *LIE?* HOW CAN I *KNOW?*

BLAST IT!!

SKREEE!

MERYL WAS RIGHT... THOUGH I HATE TO ADMIT IT.

I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT LATER, RIGHT NOW--



--I WILL TEACH THIS LEVIATHAN THAT I AM FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN IT!

SKLICKKIT

LIGHTNING, I CALL!

DRIVE THIS MONSTER BACK INTO THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS!

THRAK!

BAROOM

SKREEEAAK!

YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY IT! WE GOT OFF EASY THAT TIME! AND I'VE EARNED SOME TROUBLE!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOLEN YOU!

BUT MERYL IS ANCIENT AND POWERFUL! HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO STOP ME FROM LEAVING!

HE TREATS ME LIKE I'M STILL A CHILD!

BUT IF WHAT I OVERHEARD IS TRUE, IF MY MOTHER REALLY IS UNDER AN OGRE'S CONTROL, I'M GOING TO SAVE HER.

I DOUBT THAT MERYL EVEN CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO HER. WHY WOULD HE WHEN, ACCORDING TO HIM, SHE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST?

HERAMORE KEEP

...SO YOU SEE, THRALL, BEFORE THE PREVIOUS SUMMIT, VARIAN WAS KIDNAPPED AND ENSORCELLED...

IT IS CLEAR, VALEERA, THAT YOU AND LO'GOSH HAVE *COME UP* IN THE WORLD. WHILE YOUR *WINNINGS* MADE ME *RICH*, WHEN LO'GOSH--

THAT WAS THE *NAME* YOUR FATHER *WON* IN THE ARENA, ANDUIN.

--AND BROLL *ESCAPED*, I REALIZED MY HEART WAS WITH *THEM* INSTEAD OF THE *PROFIT* I COULD HAVE MADE FROM THEIR SERVICE.

YOU LET *THEM* ESCAPE... BUT YOU *SOLD* ME! WHY?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN *ALREADY*? YOU AND BROLL *FOUGHT* CONSTANTLY, THEN HELKA OFFERED A *FORTUNE* FOR YOU ...

...AND OFFERED YOU *LEADERSHIP* OF HER GROUP--A ROLE YOU WERE WELL SUITED FOR.

IT WAS A KIND OF *ADVANCEMENT*. BUT I SEE YOU, TOO, *CHOSE*... A NEW CAREER PATH. WHERE IS BROLL?

AT THAT MOMENT, I KNEW I HAD HAD MY *FILL* OF THE *CRIMSON RING*. I *CHOSE*. INSTEAD, TO OFFER MY SERVICES TO *THRALL*.

HUMPH!

THE CHAMPIONS YOU CREATED STAYED *TOGETHER*. HE AND VALEERA HELPED ME *KILL* THE *DRAGON ONYXIA*.

NOW HE'S RETURNED TO *TELDRESSIL*, ON URGENT BUSINESS.



I, TOO, WAS ONCE A **GLADIATOR... OWNED**, IN MY YOUTH, BY ONE OF KING TERENAS'S SUBJECTS IN **LORDAERON**.

I, TOO, **ESCAPED** AND BECAME A **RULER** OF MY PEOPLE. WE HAVE THAT IN COMMON. I IMAGINE WE ALSO SHARE A **DISLIKE** OF **SLAVERY**.



SLAVERY IS **WRONG**. BUT BROLL, VALEERA AND I **DID** LEARN TO FIGHT AS A **TEAM**. IT WAS **US** AGAINST **THE WORLD**.



EVEN WHEN YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOUR TRUE IDENTITY, YOUR **BODY** HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HOW TO **FIGHT**.



REMEMBER THE TIME SPARKEYE'S **GLADIATORS** JUMPED US...? THEY SAW YOU REFUSE TO FIGHT FOR **ENTERTAINMENT** AND THOUGHT WE'D BE **EASY**.



WE...WELL, **YOU** MOSTLY...**FINISHED** THEM. THEN REHGAR SICKED HIS MASTER TRAINER, **HYKU STEELEDGE**, ON US AND YOU **ACED** HIM, TOO.

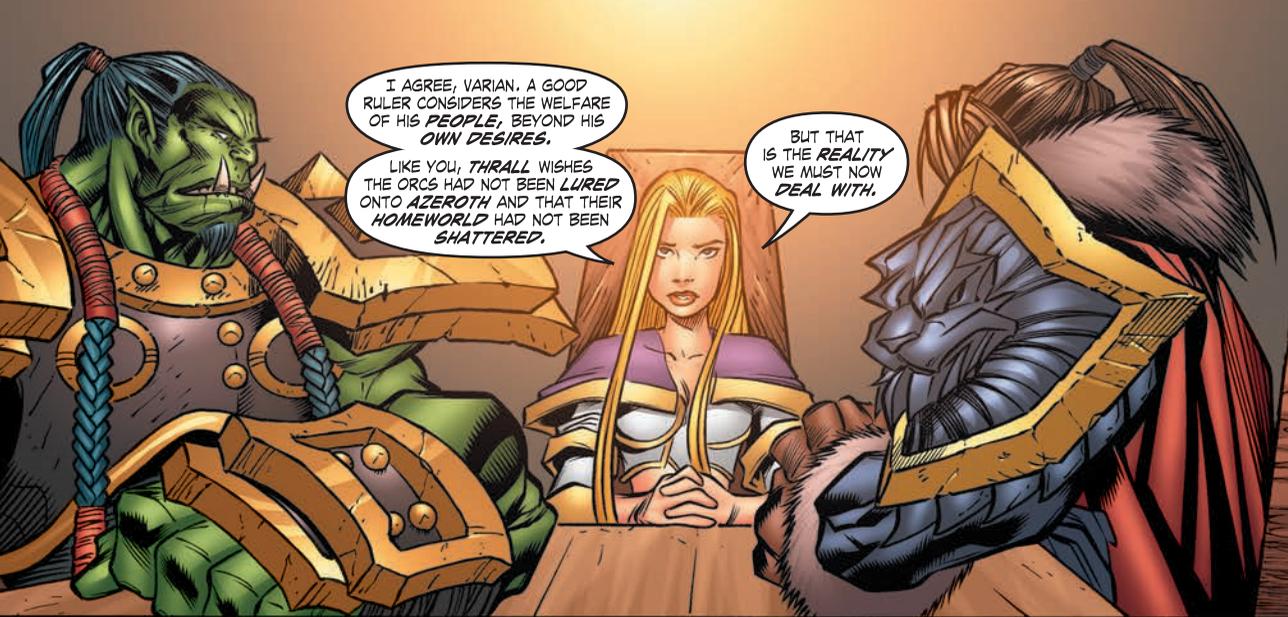


LO'GOSH WOULD NOT FIGHT TO **ENTERTAIN OTHERS...** BUT HE WOULD FIGHT TO **PROTECT** YOU AND **BROLL**.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, THEN, THAT HE WAS NO **NAMELESS WARRIOR** BUT A **KING**.

A **GLADIATOR'S** LIFE IS **SIMPLE**. YOU **WIN** AND **LIVE...** OR YOU **LOSE** AND **DIE**.

A **KING'S** LIFE IS **MORE COMPLEX**. THE ONLY TRUTH FOR A KING IS THAT THERE ARE NO **EASY ANSWERS**.



I AGREE, VARIAN. A GOOD RULER CONSIDERS THE WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE, BEYOND HIS OWN DESIRES.

LIKE YOU, THRALL WISHES THE ORCS HAD NOT BEEN LURED ONTO AZEROTH AND THAT THEIR HOMEWORLD HAD NOT BEEN SHATTERED.

BUT THAT IS THE REALITY WE MUST NOW DEAL WITH.



THERE'S NO GOING BACK FOR US. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THERE WERE SOME WAY TO EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.

WE ORCS HAVE FOUND A HOMETLAND ON KALIMDOR ACROSS THE SEA FROM THE EASTERN KINGDOMS...

...BUT WE LACK CERTAIN RESOURCES.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN CONSTANT CONFLICT WITH THE NIGHT ELVES OVER THE FELLING OF TREES FOR TIMBER.

YOU CAN BUILD ONLY SO MUCH OUT OF SAND AND MUD.

OUR MERCHANTS MIGHT BE GLAD TO TRADE THEIR TIMBER. WHAT CAN YOU OFFER IN RETURN?



WE HAVE LARGE COPPER DEPOSITS NEAR ORGRIMMAR, AND EXOTIC HIDES FROM THE CREATURES THAT ROAM THE BARRENS.

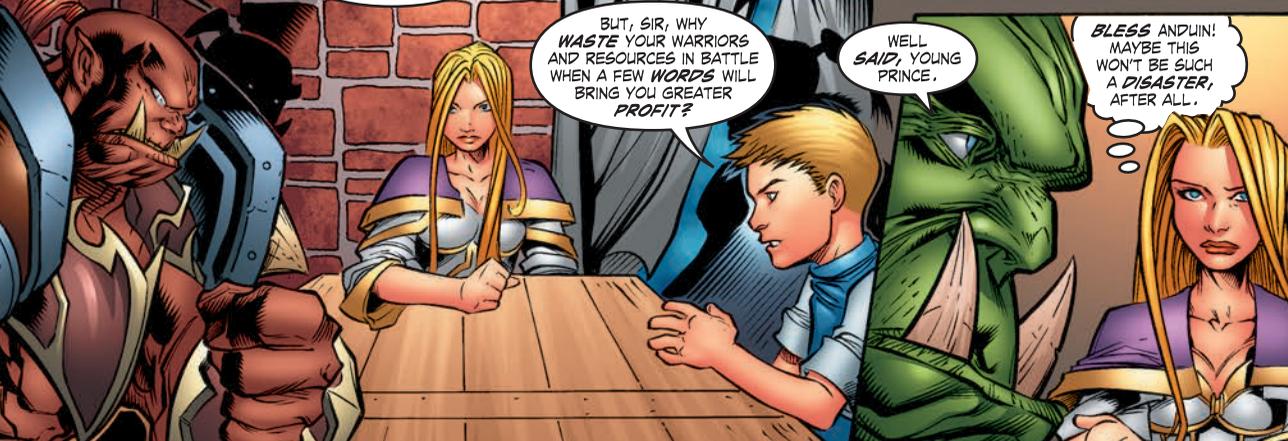
BAH! A DISCUSSION FIT FOR MERCHANTS!

WHY SHOULD WE ORCS MAKE CONCESSIONS WHEN WE HAVE THE STRENGTH TO TAKE WHAT WE WANT?

BUT, SIR, WHY WASTE YOUR WARRIORS AND RESOURCES IN BATTLE WHEN A FEW WORDS WILL BRING YOU GREATER PROFIT?

WELL SAID, YOUNG PRINCE.

BLESS ANDUIN! MAYBE THIS WON'T BE SUCH A DISASTER, AFTER ALL.





10 **WUSTWALLOW MARSH**

SO NOW WE'RE OUT OF THE RAIN AND INTO THE FOG!
I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF TURNED AROUND...OR HAVE I? IN THIS FOG I CAN'T TELL. WHERE'S THERAMORE KEEP?!

WAIT--!



IS THAT MY MOTHER?
AND THOSE MUST BE HER CAPTORS!



DOWN, SNUBNOSE! WE'LL LAND ON THE NEXT ISLAND! I'LL SNEAK BACK OVER AND--



HHIISSSS

UH-OH!

HHIISSSS

WIND SERPENTS!



IT IS MY MOTHER! AND SHE'S FIGHTING THEM! BUT IF SHE'S A CAPTIVE, WHY ISN'T SHE IN CHAINS?

STAY BACK!
I'LL HANDLE THIS.

SHE NEEDS MY HELP!
I'LL SAVE HER AND THEN--!

OOOPS!

GRAP
RW!
CHONK

ANOTHER MONSTER! I SHOULD GET OUT OF THE WATER-- NOW--BEFORE I GET MYSELF KILLED!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE...

"...SHE DOESN'T
NEED MY HELP!"

THAT'S
IT!

WELL DONE,
GARONA. YOU'VE FINALLY
LIVED UP TO YOUR
REPUTATION.

STOW IT, STASIA! I'M
NOT FIGHTING THESE
BEASTS FOR YOUR
BENEFIT!

WHY, THEN?
SHE COULD HAVE
ESCAPED... OR USED
HER BLADE TO SLAY
HER CAPTORS.

MERYL'S SPY
SAID THEY'RE
CONTROLLING HER.
BUT HOW? THROUGH
SORCERY?

HE'S ALWAYS
TELLING ME TO
THINK BEFORE
I ACT! MAYBE HE
WASN'T ALWAYS
LYING.

I WANTED TO
PROVE MYSELF
TO HER... MAKE HER
SORRY SHE LEFT ME!
NOW I WONDER WHY
I SHOULD EVEN HAVE
BOTHERED...!

HERAMORE KEEP

AT LEAST THE RAIN HAS STOPPED, BUT I MAY HAVE TO CUT SHORT OUR SUMMIT, THRALL.

I JUST RECEIVED WORD OF SIMULTANEOUS SCOURGE ATTACKS ON SOUTHSHORE AND GOLDSHIRE IN STORMWIND.

YES, THE LICH KING HAS STIRRED, AND NOW BEGINS A NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LIVING.

I'VE ALREADY BEGUN TO SEND A FEW SHIPS TO NORTHERNDRIFT.

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOME LEVEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES BEFORE WE HAVE TO FACE THIS COMMON ENEMY.

NEITHER OF US WANTS TO FIGHT A WAR ON TWO FRONTS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THEY'RE ACTUALLY GETTING ALONG.

GARROSH DOESN'T LIKE IT. CLEARLY HE ISN'T HAPPY WITH WHAT HE SEES HERE.

GARROSH ISN'T A SHAMAN BUT A WARRIOR. HE COVETS THE VERY THINGS THAT MAKE THERAMORE IMPREGNABLE.

IT WOULD BE MADNESS TO ATTACK THIS PLACE.

I HAVE HAD MY FILL OF BATTLE, BUT GARROSH IS YOUNG. HE BELIEVES THAT ONLY THE FIERCEST THRIVE...

...AND THAT ANY LIAISON WITH HUMANS WOULD BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.

DUSTSWALLOW MARSH

...IF YOU **MUST** COME, STASIA, YOU'LL REMAIN **HIDDEN** IN THE CLOUDS. I'LL **SLIP** INTO THE GARRISON AND--

NO, GARONA! WE GO IN AS A **UNIT!**

HUH...
WHA--?

A **UNIT?**!
THIS PALTRY NUMBER?

I **FELL ASLEEP!** I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT'S **GOING ON?** WHAT DID I **MISS?**



ON MY **SIGNAL**, **OTHERS** WILL **TELEPORT** IN TO **JOIN** US!

WE WILL **PROTECT** YOU, WHILE YOU **CONCENTRATE** ON YOUR **ASSIGNED TARGETS**.



PROTECT ME, YOU **FORSAKEN WITCH?**! YOU'LL GET **ME--GET US ALL--KILLED!**

I **TOLD** YOU! I **WORK ALONE!**!

AFTER HER--QUICKLY!

SHE'S **BEGINNING** TO **SHAKE OFF** HER **PROGRAMMING**.

IT WILL **HOLD LONG ENOUGH!** SHE WILL **OBEY** MY **ORDERS**. AND THEN SHE WILL **DIE**.

SHE **IS ENSORCELLED!** OR **WORSE!**

AND THEY'RE **GOING TO KILL** HER WHEN SHE'S **DONE** THEIR **DIRTY WORK!**

"EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT,
MY MOTHER NEEDS MY HELP... AND
THIS TIME, SHE SHALL HAVE IT!"

**VARIAN!
THRALL!
ABOVE YOU!
LOOK OUT!**





DOWN!
NOW--
OWWW!

YOU
OKAY?

MINOR
FLESH WOUND. I
WON'T SIT DOWN
FOR A WEEK.



GUARD
ANPUIN!

WITH MY
LIFE!

WHO
ARE THESE
ASSASSINS?!



GARONA
FAILED! TAKE
THEM OUT--NOW!
WHILE THEY'RE
UNARMED!

CHOK

CHONK

THKUNK

THWANK



YOU IDIOTS!
YOU'VE LOOSED ENOUGH
WEAPONS...



WHOOSH!

"...TO ARM
THEM ALL!"





VARIAN!
BEHIND
YOU!

TOO SLOW. YOU
WOULDN'T LAST A MINUTE IN
THE CRIMSON RING.



THRRITTTT



YOU SAID THIS
MEETING WOULD BE
UNEVENTFUL!



WHAKKT

APPARENTLY, I WAS WRONG.



CHONK

HUMAN TREACHERY!

HAVE YOU NO EYES, GARROSH? THERE ARE ALSO PLENTY OF TAUREN, ORCS, AND TROLLS!



KTHONK

HIRED BY THE HUMAN KING TO BRING DEATH TO OUR OWN!



THIS IS MADNESS! WHY AM I DOING THIS? WHY? WHY? WHY? WHY?...



GARONA--!



WHO--?

THE ORC ASSASSIN WHO OFFERED FRIENDSHIP... THEN SLEW MY FATHER IN COLD BLOOD!

YOUR ASSASSIN!

MINE?!!

DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HER? I WAS A FOOL TO THINK THE GREAT THRALL MIGHT BE DIFFERENT!

FOR NOW IT'S CLEAR THAT TREACHERY REMAINS THE ORCS' MAIN TOOL OF DIPLOMACY!

CHAPTER 4





Jon
Tony



HAVE YOU SO LITTLE CONFIDENCE OF THE BATTLE PROWESS OF YOUR PEOPLE, THRALL, THAT YOU NEED AN ORC ASSASSIN TO SLAY ME?

"A CLUMSY ONE..."



...WHO HANDS ME THE WEAPON...



...THAT WILL BRING ABOUT HER DOWNFALL!

SLIKT

AK!

CLUMSY, AM I?!



THRALL DOES NOT
HIRE ASSASSINS, KING
VARIAN! I DO MY OWN
KILLING, AND LOOK AROUND
YOU! *SHE* MAY BE THE
LEAST OF OUR
PROBLEMS!



SHOWDOWN!



I HUNTED YOU FOR YEARS, GARONA! NOW--FINALLY-- YOU WILL DIE!!

AS I SLEW YOUR FATHER, I WILL NOW SLAY YOU!

CHEAP TALK! TWO MISSES! TWO MISTAKES IN ONE MISSION! THAT'S NOT LIKE ME!

IT'S AS IF I'M FIGHTING MYSELF AS WELL AS THIS WARRIOR KING!

WHO ARE YOU, MERCENARY? WHO'S PAYING YOU TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES?

WE ARE NOT MERCENARIES... BUT ONES WHO BRING DEATH TO ALL!



ANDUIN! WHAT ARE YOU--?

I'VE BEEN SCHOOLED IN THE USE OF GUNS, VALEERA!



A WISE PRECAUTION, BUT TAKE CARE!

GOBLIN WEAPONS ARE UNRELIABLE!





THE BOY'S RESOURCEFUL, VALEERA, BUT GUNS CAN'T BE TRUSTED! TEACH HIM TO THROW A BLADE!

I HEAR YOU, REHGAR! NEXT ON THE AGENDA!



JAINA! ABOUT TIME YOU TELEPORTED INTO THE FRAY!



DIE, THRALL! YOUR TIME IS OVER!

THOUGHT I'D EVEN THE ODDS A BIT, OLD FRIEND! I'LL FACE THE L'NDEAD WITCH...



...WHILE YOU CONFRONT THE OTHERS... BUT A BIZARRE COALITION!



THEY SAY THEY'RE DEATH-BRINGERS!

AND THEY SPOKE THE TRUTH. BY COMING HERE, THEY'VE BROUGHT THEIR OWN DEATHS WITH THEM!



FATHER TRUSTED YOU-- I KNOW BETTER! YOU WON'T FIND ME SUCH AN EASY TARGET!

HE FIGHTS LIKE TWO MEN! NEVER HAVE I SEEN A HUMAN WITH HIS SKILL IN BATTLE!



I WAS MERE MOMENTS BEHIND... BUT IT SEEMS I'VE MISSED HALF THE BATTLE!

IT'S CHAOS DOWN THERE! WHERE'S MY MOTHER?!

"THERE!"

LIGHTNING--
AID HER!



SHAKK

BOOM

MOTHER!

YOU
KNOW... ?

CURSES!
I FEARED
SOMEDAY
THIS MIGHT
HAPPEN!

MED'AN!
GO BACK! KEEP
AWAY! THERE'S
NOTHING YOU
CAN--!

BEHIND
YOU!

SHWISKT





SLAY THE ELF! I'LL KILL THE PRINCELING!

ANDUIN--
RUN!
I CAN'T STOP THEM BOTH--!



NO!



WHO ARE--?
WHY?!

THESE ARE MY MOTHER'S FOES... AS MUCH AS THEY ARE YOURS...

...AND THOUGH YOU HAVE MANY ENEMIES, YOU'RE JUST A CHILD!

GHO



I'M AS OLD AS YOU--! NEARLY!

WAIT-- THE ASSASSIN'S YOUR MOTHER...?! BUT--YOU'RE NOT AN ORC...ARE YOU?!

DIE SCUM!

KRAKK



THAT'S GARONA'S SON-- THE SUBJECT OF OUR PROPHECY!

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

IF HE DIES IN THAT MELEE-- OUR PLANS ARE FOILED!

FANGHORN! SPARE THAT ONE!

KID! THE WITCH IS HURLING FIRE BOLTS! WATCH OUT!



I HAVE IT!

THKRH
AKKT

MED'AN! QUIT THIS PLACE!



MOTHER--



--DON'T TRUST THE UNDEAD WITCH! SHE'S NO ALLY! SHE MEANS TO KILL YOU! SHE--

SKRKTFTFT

--AKKK!



LIGHTNING!
BLAST...
THE UNDEAD
WITCH!



A GOOD
TRY, BOY! BUT
FANGHORN HAS
WEAKENED
YOU--!

DESPITE
OUR NUMBERS,
WE'RE LOSING!
WE'VE SOWN
THE SEEDS OF DISCORD...
BUT THE BOY'S PRESENCE
HERE THREATENS OUR ENTIRE
ENTERPRISE!

TIME TO CUT OUR LOSSES!
I'LL PARALYZE GARONA! THEN LET
HER FALL TO VARIAN'S BLADE AND
I'LL TAKE THE BOY!



MOTHER!



WHAKKT





LEAVE
MY MOTHER
ALONE!

SHE'S
UNDER
A *SPELL!*
CAN'T YOU
SEE?!!



OUT OF THE WAY, LAD!

FATHER! SPARE HIM! HE'S HURT AND HE SAVED ME--!



I'VE BEEN NO CHILD KILLER--BUT FOR GARONA'S CUB, I COULD MAKE AN EXCEPTION!

I'LL TAKE THE BOY!

AND LEAVE THE MOTHER TO YOUR TENDER CARE!



A SPELL TO STRENGTHEN MY MOUNT! ANOTHER TO RENDER MED'AN UNCONSCIOUS...! AND WE'RE AWAY!

PULL BACK! OUR MISSION HERE IS DONE!

MED'AN! NO! OH... NO...!



IT MAKES NO SENSE, VARIAN! WHY WOULD THE UNDEAD WITCH ABANDON THE ASSASSIN BUT TAKE HER SON?

NO MATTER!



THE ASSASSIN WILL NOT LIVE FOR LONG!

STAY YOUR HAND!



THE ATTACK IS OVER! THE ENEMY IS VANQUISHED! AND I AM STILL THE RULER OF THERAMORE! GARONA IS MY PRISONER.

GUARDS--TAKE HER TO THE DUNGEON AND PREPARE HER FOR QUESTIONING!

A WISE MOVE! GARROSH MEANS TO DISPATCH THE BITCH BEFORE SHE IMPLICATES HIS MASTER!



CLEARLY, THESE ORCS ARE IN LEAGUE WITH MY FATHER'S MURDERER!

FOR THAT OFFENSE, HUMAN, YOU WILL DIE!

YOU *FORGET* YOURSELF, GARROSH! DESPITE THIS *CARNAGE*-- AND THE *INSULT* GIVEN TO OUR PEOPLE-- THERE IS STILL A *TRUCE!*

LOWER YOUR WEAPON! **NOW!**

BATTLE RAGE IS STILL ON YOU AND OTHERS. NONE OF YOU ARE THINKING CLEARLY.

WE, TOO, WERE ATTACKED!

THE PRISONER IS THE ORC ASSASSIN GARONA WHO MURDERED MY FATHER. I CLAIM HER FOR PUBLIC EXECUTION AT STORMWIND.

I SUPPOSE WE ALL *LOOK ALIKE* TO YOU! PERHAPS I WAS WRONG TO EXPECT BETTER FROM A HUMAN.

LOOK AGAIN, AND PAY ATTENTION THIS TIME, THE FEMALE IS BUT A *HALF-ORC*... AT BEST--

FULL OR HALF, AN ORC IS AN ORC. NONE OF YOUR BLOOD CAN BE TRUSTED!

BACK OFF--BOTH OF YOU!

WHATEVER HER BIRTH, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, GARONA HAS BEEN ENSORCELLED AND ABANDONED HERE!

UNTIL WE KNOW THE REASONS, SHE IS MY PRISONER AND WILL REMAIN HERE AT THERAMORE!



THE GUILT OF YOU HUMANS IS OBVIOUS! YOU PROTECT THE PRISONER!

YOU LURED THRALL INTO A SITUATION WHERE HE'S UNARMED AND THREATENED!

STORMWIND IS BEHIND THIS... WITH THERAMORE AS THEIR ALLY!

HAD I PLANNED THIS ATTACK, YOU ORCS WOULD ALREADY BE LYING DEAD ON THE PARAPETS!



I'LL QUESTION HER MYSELF! BEFORE I LEAVE FOR STORMWIND, I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



THRALL WOULDN'T--

NEITHER WOULD VARIAN, NOR JAANA, EITHER.

WHO, THEN--?

CAN THIS DISASTER STEW FROM THE RESTLESSNESS AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

PERHAPS! OR BE PROMPTED BY THE SCOURGE... OR A RESURGENCE OF THE BURNING BLADE.

OR TWILIGHT'S HAMMER, A LONG SHOT... BUT THAT CULT IS CLEARLY UP TO SOMETHING...



THERAMORE DUNGEON



BEFORE YOU DIE, I WANT THE TRUTH!

WHO HIRED YOU TO KILL ME? TO ORPHAN MY SON AS I WAS ORPHANED?

HIRE ME? NO ONE. MY IDEA.

WASN'T IT?

ORPHANED...? NO, WOULDN'T BE... ORPHANED. KILL THE KING...

...KILL THE PRINCE.

KILL MY SON...?



AS YOU KILLED MY FATHER... IN COLD BLOOD?

A PRICK OF THE BLADE... AND HE'S GONE. GOOD MAN. SO EASY. NO CALLING HIM BACK. WHY...? WHY DID I--?



AND SHE'S CLEARLY BEEN ENSORCELLED... A MAGICAL ENSLAVEMENT THAT REACHES FAR AND DEEP.

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW WHAT THAT IS LIKE!

QUESTION GARONA, THEN, WHILE I PREPARE TO FACE THE SCOURGE! LEARN WHAT YOU CAN, THEN GIVE HER TO ME FOR EXECUTION.



SHE HAS TARGETED MY SON!

AND ENSORCELLED OR NOT, I WILL KILL HER AS SURELY AS I KILLED THE DRAGON ONYXIA!



YOU SAID THE SUMMIT WOULD MEAN TROUBLE...

I ONLY WISH I'D BEEN WRONG. I... LIKED VARIAN, BEFORE THE ATTACK, THERE WAS A CHANCE BUT...

...IF THE PLAN WAS TO *DISRUPT* A POTENTIAL ORC-HUMAN ALLIANCE, IT HAS SUCCEEDED.



WATCH OUT FOR GARROSH, THRALL, HE'S CHAFING UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP.

HE FEELS THAT HE... AND WE ORCS... LOST FACE HERE. ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE OF THIS ATTACK.

HE'LL CHALLENGE ME SOON. HE'S A GOOD FIGHTER. IT WILL BE A WASTE OF A SKILLFUL WARRIOR IF HE FORCES ME TO KILL HIM.



FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND. I'M SORRY.

AS AM I, FAREWELL.





AND SOON...

I HEARD LADY PROUDMOORE COULDN'T REMOVE THE SPELL-- OR NOT SO EASY. REAL HARD TO GET AT ITS SOURCE.

SHE WAS FIGHTIN' IT. OUR LADY THINKS IT FORBIDS THE ORC'S COOPERATION... AND FORCIN' IT MIGHT KILL HER.

KILL 'ER THEN, I SAY, AND SAVE KING VARIAN THE TROUBLE!



A BULLSEYE, ANDUIN! GOOD THROW--!

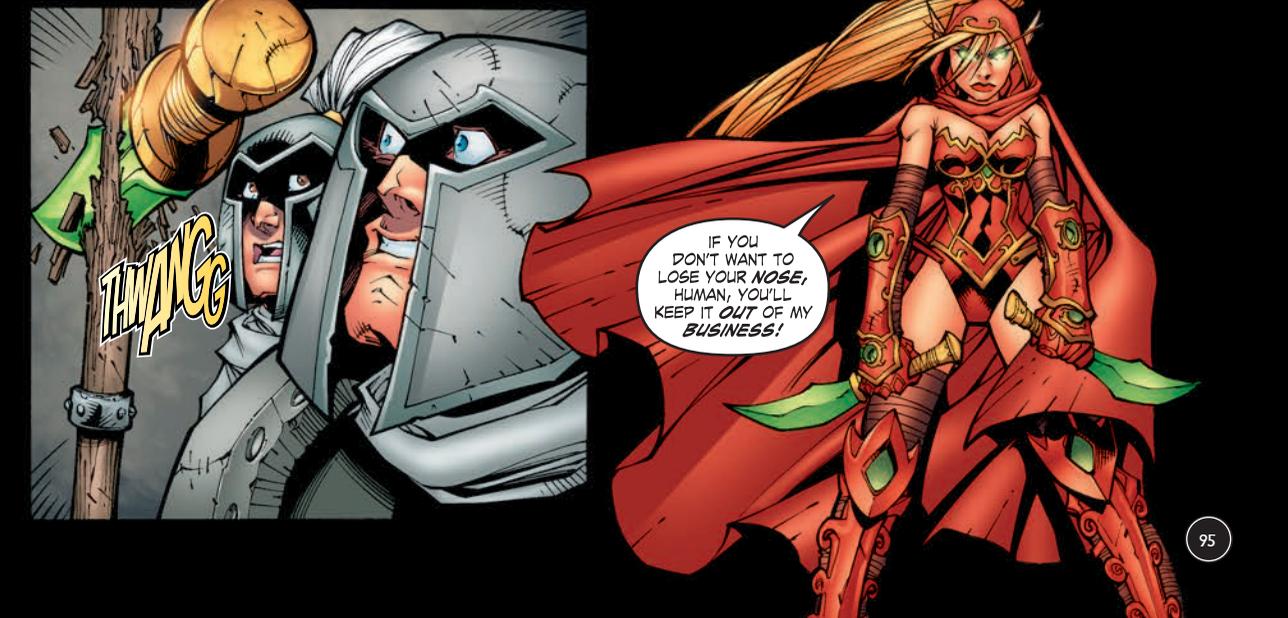
VAL! IT'S GARONA!

I SEE.



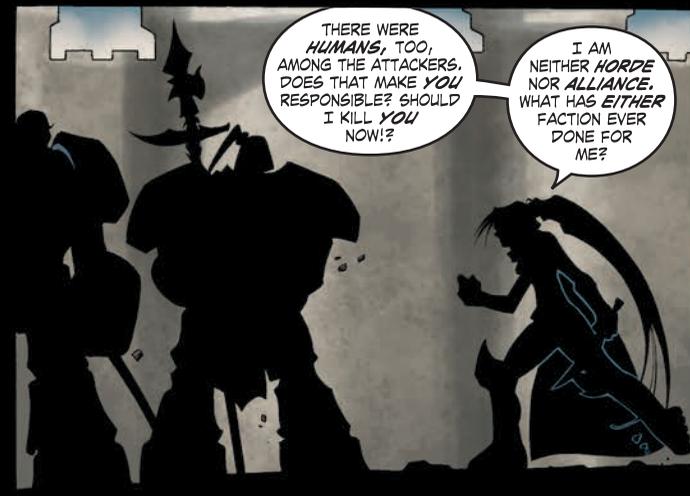
THE BLOOD ELF PRETENDS TO SERVE KING VARIAN, BUT ALL OF 'EM ARE TRAITORS.

THERE WERE PLENTY OF HORDE AMONG THE ATTACKERS. BET SHE'S IN LEAGUE WITH 'EM!



THWANG!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR NOSE, HUMAN, YOU'LL KEEP IT OUT OF MY BUSINESS!



THERE WERE *HUMANS*, TOO, AMONG THE ATTACKERS. DOES THAT MAKE *YOU* RESPONSIBLE? SHOULD I KILL *YOU* NOW!?

I AM NEITHER *HORDE* NOR *ALLIANCE*. WHAT HAS *EITHER* FACTION EVER DONE FOR ME?



MY LOYALTIES ARE *PERSONAL*-- TO KING *VARIAN* AND TO HIS SON!



MY LOYALTIES WERE *PERSONAL* ONCE. YET I *BETRAYED* KING *LLANE*. A *KIND* MAN. A *GOOD* KING.

WHY? AND FOR WHAT? WHY HIS *PROGENY*? WHY...?

I AM NO STRANGER TO *DIVIDED LOYALTIES*. I THINK THAT'S ALSO TRUE OF *YOU*.

NOTHING IS WORSE THAN *BETRAYING* THOSE YOU *LOVE*!



JUST SEE WHERE YOUR *DIVIDED LOYALTIES* HAVE LED YOU. *AND YOUR SON*!

SHE'S RIGHT! *MEDIAN*! OH, GODS AND DEMONS, WHERE IS HE?! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM? HAVE I BETRAYED HIM, TOO?

TELL *JAINA PROUDMOORE* AND YOUR PRECIOUS *VARIAN*-- SAVE MY *SON* FROM THE MONSTER WHO STOLE HIM AND I WILL *FIGHT* THIS ENSORCELLMENT.

FIGHT... TO TELL YOU *EVERYTHING* YOU SAY I KNOW. EVEN IF I MUST *DIE* IN THE TRYING...!

BUT PLEASE... HELP ME *SAVE* MY *SON*!



AND THEN GARONA SAID SHE'D TRY TO **FIGHT PAST** THE BLOCKS ON HER MIND IF WE'D GO AFTER THE BOY, **MED'AN!**

I WANT TO **STAY** HERE; **VARIAN**, AND **SEARCH** FOR HIM.

YOU HAVE SUCH **SYMPATHY** FOR THAT MURDERER?

I AM NOT **BLINDED** BY THE NEED FOR **VENGEANCE**; MY LORD.



FOR YOUR **SAFETY** AND **ANDUIN'S**, WE NEED TO **KNOW** WHAT'S GOING ON... AND WHO'S **BEHIND** THE ATTACK!

GARONA HOLDS THE KEY.



MED'AN WASN'T ON THE **ATTACKERS' SIDE**, FATHER. HE JUST WANTED TO **PROTECT HIS MOTHER**.

HIS **MOTHER** KILLED YOUR GRANDFATHER!

AND HER **SON** SAVED MY LIFE.



I THINK HAD WE MET A **DIFFERENT WAY**, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN **FRIENDS**.



HUMPH. YOUR WORDS ARE HARSH BUT TRUE, **VALEERA**. **STAY** THEN! **HELP QUESTION** GARONA! **LEARN** THE TRUTH! **RESCUE** THE BOY!

I STILL THINK **ORCS** ARE BEHIND THE ATTACK.

IF NOT **THRALL**, THEN **GARROSH**-WHO SEEMS TO BE AMONG THE **WORST** OF HIS **BLOODTHIRSTY**, **TREACHEROUS** KIND!



FORGET GARONA, VARIAN. AT LEAST, FOR NOW. THE SCOURGE POSE A FAR LARGER THREAT!



TWICE, I'VE COME TO THERAMORE TO PARLEY AT A SUMMIT, AND TWICE I HAVE BEEN ATTACKED. I'LL NOT RETURN FOR A THIRD PARLEY.

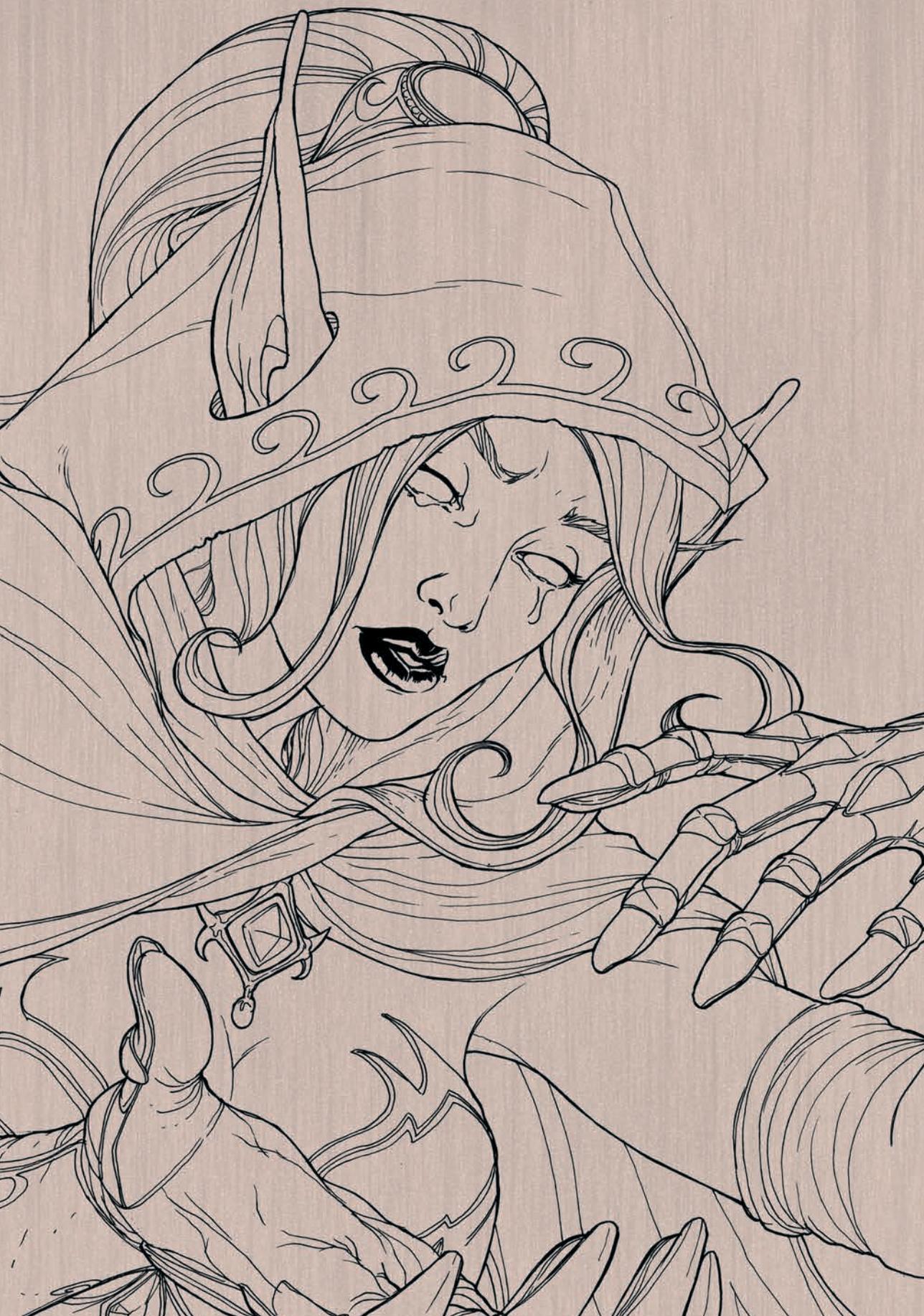


BUT I WILL COME BACK FOR MY FATHER'S MURDERER.

AND NOBODY, NOT EVEN YOU, JAINA, WILL SAVE GARONA FROM THE PUNISHMENT SHE DESERVES.



CHAPTER 5





WITHIN THE LIFETIMES OF MOST OF HER CITIZENS, THE HUMAN NATION OF **STORMWIND** HAS BEEN RAZED BY INVADING **ORCS**...

...SEEN ITS KING **KILLED**, AND WATCHED AS YOUNG **PRINCE VARIAN** FLED NORTH. THE **RESTORATION** OF **STORMWIND** BROUGHT FURTHER CALAMITIES.

BUT THE **PLAGUE** THAT THE **LICH KING** NOW THREATENS TO UNLEASH IS FAR MORE TERRIBLE, FOR IT TURNS LIVING BEINGS INTO THE UNDEAD **SCOURGE**.

FIGHTIN' THOSE LIFELESS **MONSTERS**'LL BE A NIGHTMARE, **KING VARIAN**, AN' NO MISTAKIN' IT.

THE SOONER WE TAKE THIS WAR TO THE **SCOURGE** IN **NORTHREND**, THE SAFER OUR PEOPLE HERE WILL BE.

FOG'S DROPPING LIKE A SHROUD!
GET A MOVE ON! WE NEED TO LOAD THIS **WARSHIP** WHILE WE CAN SEE TWO FEET AHEAD.

FEAR NOT, HOVIK! WE CAN **WIN** THIS WAR!
I...I **KNOW**, SIRE. IT'S JUST...THIS **FOG**!

THIS **FOG'S** UNNATURAL!
AND THAT **STENCH**! WHERE--?

BY THE **LIGHT**! WHAT IS THAT--?!



HEAR
ME, FOOLISH
CHILDREN OF THE
ALLIANCE!

TODAY, WE
WILL FORGE A
NEW ALLIANCE—
FOR TODAY, YOU
WILL FIGHT
AND DIE!

AND YOUR
BOOIES WILL
RISE TO JOIN
THE LICH KING'S
UNDEAD
ARMY!

ALL HAIL
THE LICH KING...
SOON TO BE KING
OF STORMWIND...
AND ALL OF
AZEROTH!

the Winds of WAR



WARRIORS OF
STORMWIND, DRAW
YOUR WEAPONS AND
FOLLOW ME! TODAY,
WE CONQUER DEATH
ITSELF!



BOLVAR!
GET ANDUIN TO
SAFETY!

FATHER!
NO! I'M NOT
AFRAID--!



NO ONE
QUESTIONS
YOUR BRAVERY,
ANDUIN!

BUT A TOUCH
OF THAT GREEN
SLIME AND YOU
BECOME ONE OF
THEM.

THEN
WHERE WOULD
OUR PEOPLE
BE?



VARIAN'S
RIGHT, ANDUIN.
YOU CAN'T BOTH
BE AT RISK!

YOUR PRESENCE
HERE DISTRACTS
YOUR FATHER. HE'LL NEED
ALL HIS WITS TO FIGHT
THIS HORROR.

STORMWIND,
ATTACK! SEND
THE LICH KING'S
UNDEAD ARMY
TO THE TWISTING
NETHER!

MAGI,
SHIELD THE CITY!
FORCE THAT FLYING
FORTRESS
SEAWARD!

SEAWARD,
SIRE?

DO IT!
JUST AVOID OUR
FLEET!

FATHER!
BEHIND
YOU--!

CHOMP

FATHER
NEVER SAW THAT
SCOURGE! HE COULD
HAVE DIED!

UP IN THE TOWER,
ANDRIN. QUICKLY! FROM
THERE, YOU CAN USE YOUR
BOW AND ARROWS TO
PROTECT HIM!

FATHER
GLORIES IN
BATTLE, BOLVAR!
BUT I... I KNOW WE
NEED TO FIGHT...
BUT I JUST LONG
FOR PEACE!

ORRIGIMMAR: THE VALLEY OF HONOR

BY YOUR "STATECRAFT" YOU TURN THE ORCS TO WEAKLINGS, WARCHIEF!

WE SHOULD CONQUER THE HUMANS, WHO ARE AS NOTHING--

--THEN SEND OUR FORCES ON TO NORTHERN TO CRUSH THE LICH KING AND HIS UNDEAD ARMY!

THE HORDE SHOULD RULE ALL OF AZEROTH!

GARROSH IS CLOSE TO CHALLENGING YOUR LEADERSHIP, THRALL.

I FEAR YOU ARE RIGHT, REHGAR. IT WOULD BE BEST TO FORCE HIS HAND BEFORE SUPPORT FOR HIS IDEAS GROWS!

THE HUMANS ARE NO THREAT TO US. WHILE THE LICH KING IS A WILY OPPONENT.

I WILL NOT WALK BLINDLY INTO HIS TRAP! NOR WILL I MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AS YOUR FATHER!

YOU INSULT MY FATHER THUS? AFTER ALL GROMMASH HELLSCREAM DID FOR YOU AND OUR PEOPLE?

MAK'GORA!

A CHALLENGE, BOY? INSIDE THEN! WE FINISH THIS QUICKLY--

"--IN THE RING OF VALOR."

KRAK-KOOMB



WARCHIE!
SCOURGE FORCES
ARE ATTACKING
ORGRIMMAR!



WE WILL
FINISH THIS LATER,
GARROSH!





BUT FOR NOW,
THE ISSUE IS **DECIDED!**
WE SPEND OUR **FURY** ON
THE **SCOURGE!**

HEAR ME,
ORCS OF
ORGRIMMAR!
BRASH UPSTARTS
OF THE
HORDE!

TREMBLE
AND KNOW
YOUR DOOM, FOR
THE LICH KING'S
GAZE IS FIXED
UPON YOU!



THE **SCOURGE**
MUST HAVE BEEN
BEHIND THE ATTACK
AT THERAMORE!

HAD YOU BEEN
KILLED, WE ORCS WOULD
HAVE BEEN IN **DISARRAY**
BEFORE THE LICH KING'S
LINDEAD ARMY!



WHOEVER'S
PLOT IT WAS, IT
FAILED!



WE FACE
THE **SCOURGE**
UNITED...



...AND
VICTORY
WILL BE
OURS!

THERAMORE KEEP

I'M READY TO GO AFTER YOUR SON, GARONA, THE MOMENT WE HAVE A CLUE WHERE THE ATTACKERS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HIM.

WE SAW ONE OF THEM-- AN UNDEAD WITCH-- CARRY HIM OFF! WE NEED TO KNOW--

STASIA. HER NAME IS STASIA. SHE'S-- SHE'S GONE--

--GONE...
AKKK! CAN'T... REMEMBER.

A SERIES OF SPELLS... OF MENTAL BLOCKS-- MANY DEEPLY EMBEDDED FROM CHILDHOOD... OBSTRUCT YOUR ABILITY TO RECALL THINGS YOU'VE BEEN COMMANDED TO FORGET.

REMOVE ANY OF THEM, AND THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF YOUR MIND COULD CRASH DOWN... LIKE A TOPPLED WALL.

THE FASTER WE PROCEED, THE GREATER THE DANGER, WE MUST GO CAREFULLY.

NO! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? TO DELAY RISKS MY SON'S LIFE!

BREAK ME... IF THAT'S WHAT IT WILL TAKE. FOR THE SAKE OF MY SON, DO IT NOW!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME, STASIA! VARIAN, ANPUIN, THRALL, GARONA. ALL STILL LIVE.

YOU WILL HAVE WATCHED THE BATTLE IN YOUR SCRYING GLASS, CHO'GALL.

AND YOU, OF ALL BEINGS, KNOW THAT I HAVE SUCCEEDED AT THE ONE REALLY VITAL PART OF MY MISSION.

THE BOY MED'AN LEARNED THAT GARONA IS HIS MOTHER. HE TRIED TO JOIN THE FIGHT. HE WAS IN DANGER.

I FROZE THE MOTHER-- FULLY EXPECTING VARIAN TO KILL HER. AND BROUGHT MED'AN HERE TO YOU!

UNCONSCIOUS.

I'M NO FOOL. HE'S A WELL OF UNTAPPED POWER... AS YOU KNOW.

AS FOR GARONA, THE MERE ATTEMPT TO MAKE HER TALK WILL LIKELY KILL HER...! IF NOT, WE CAN DEAL WITH HER LATER.

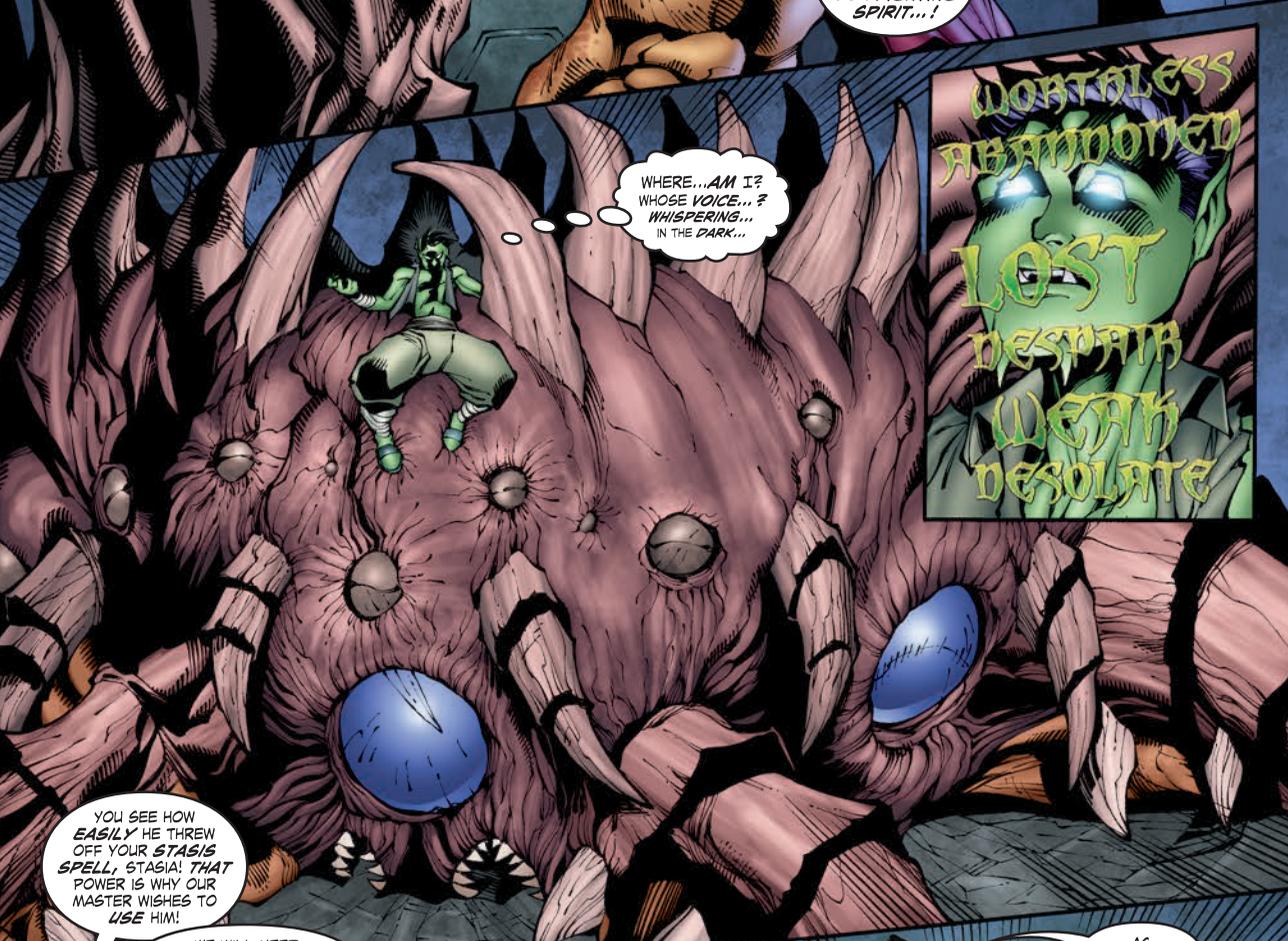
MAYBE EVEN SEND THE BOY TO KILL HER FOR US.

NO!



I THINK NOT, BOY!

TIME SPENT WITH THE VOICE OF OUR MASTER SHOULD **QUELL** THAT **FIGHTING SPIRIT...**!



WHERE...AM I? WHOSE VOICE...? WHISPERING... IN THE DARK...

**DORTLESS
ABANDONED
LOST
DESPAIR
WEAR
DESOLATE**

YOU SEE HOW **EASILY** HE THREW OFF YOUR **STASIS SPELL**, STAGIA! THAT POWER IS WHY OUR MASTER WISHES TO **USE** HIM!

WE WILL NEED TO PLACE PERMANENT **CONTROLS** ON HIS MIND, OF COURSE! LIKE THOSE USED ON HIS **MOTHER--**



HUMPH! SPEAK!

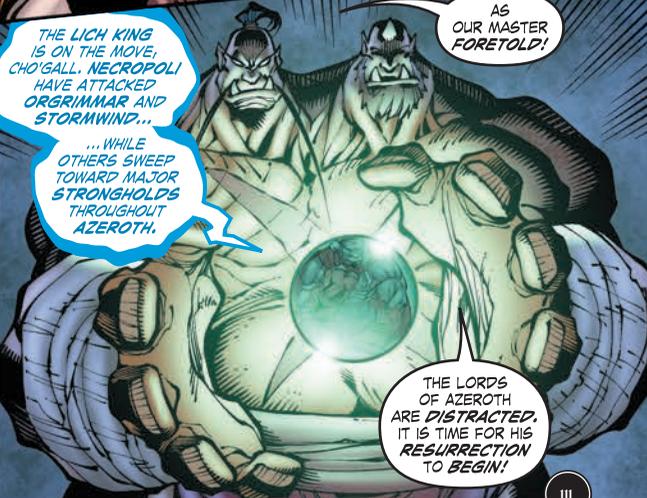
THE **LICH KING** IS ON THE MOVE; **CHO'GALL**, **NECROPOLI** HAVE ATTACKED **ORGRIMMAR** AND **STORMWIND...**

AS OUR MASTER **FORETOLD!**

...WHILE OTHERS SWEEP TOWARD MAJOR **STRONGHOLDS** THROUGHOUT **AZEROTH**.



CHO'GALL-- YOUR TAUREN **SPY** IS TRYING TO **CONTACT** YOU!



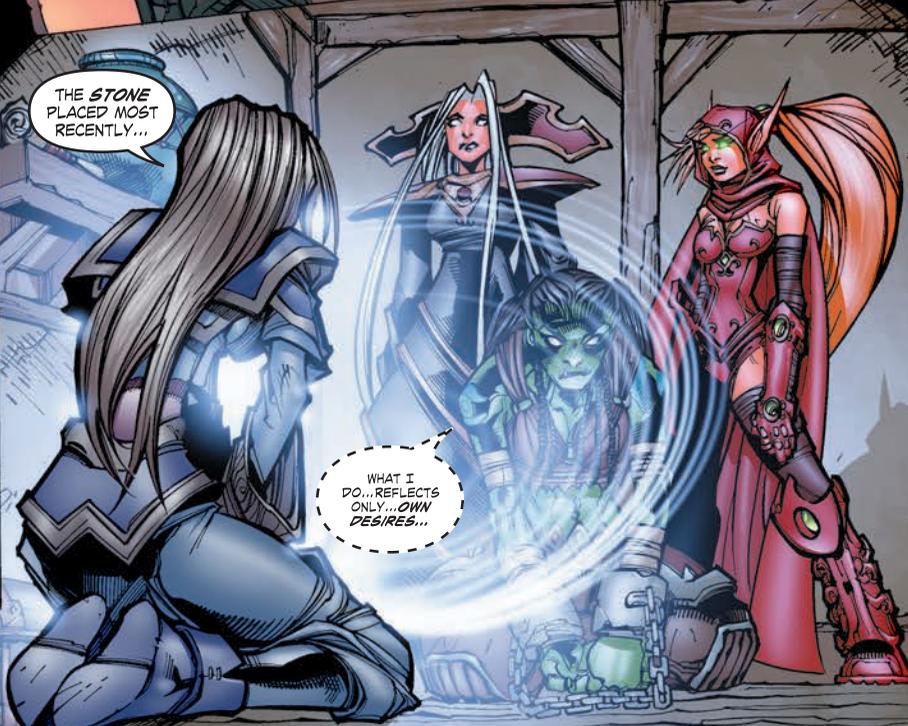
THE LORDS OF AZEROTH ARE **DISTRACTED**. IT IS TIME FOR HIS **RESURRECTION** TO **BEGIN!**

YOUR TRUE SELF LIES BEHIND A WALL OF LIES...

THE STONE PLACED MOST RECENTLY...

...BUILT BY OTHERS... CEMENTED BY TIME!

WHAT I DO... REFLECTS ONLY... OWN DESIRES...



...REMEMBER NOTHING... FORGET EXISTENCE OF...

AAAAA

VEN NA'RANU!*

AHN QIRAA
AA
RR
GH

I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH COURAGE.

SHE HAS SPOKEN AGAINST ALL ODDS. THE BOY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO THE RUINED CITY OF AHN'QIRAJ.

I'LL GET MY GEAR.

*REMEMBER!



NEARBY...

MED'AN HAS BEEN LIKE MY OWN SON. I KNOW HIM! HOW HE THINKS. PFFAH! I'VE SHAPED HIS BELIEFS--

--THAT THE STRONG AID THE WEAK. AND THAT, ABOVE ALL, TRUTH MATTERS.

SO WHY DID I SWEAR TO GARONA THAT I WOULD LIE TO HIM...?

YES, HIS MOTHER WAS CRAZED-- A MAD MURDERESS ON THE RUN! REFUSED TO NAME THE FATHER.

YES, I FEARED FOR THE BABE... BUT STILL, TO TELL HIM THAT SHE WAS DEAD!

BY THE LIGHT, YOU'D THINK-- AFTER NEARLY THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF EXISTENCE-- I'D KNOW BETTER! BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WAS A CHILD!

OF COURSE, THE BOY RAN OFF TO THERAMORE!

MED'AN'S POWER IS GROWING DAY BY DAY. THANK THE LIGHT, HE'S MATURING SLOWLY. HE'S HAD TIME TO GAIN SOME CONTROL.

WISH I'D ASKED MORE QUESTIONS... DIDN'T THINK HIS PARENTAGE MATTERED. NOW... I'M NOT SO SURE--!

A SCOURGE NECROPOLIS! THE LICH KING IS MOVING ON THERAMORE! MED'AN IS IN GREATER DANGER THAN I THOUGHT!

QUICKLY! WARN YOUR MISTRESS! THE SCOURGE ARE COMING!

SCOURGE!?

THE LINDEAD FIEND IS ONE OF THEM!

GET HIM!

FREEZE, THEN!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SUCH STUPIDITY!



JAINA... IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO KEEP GARONA IN CHAINS?



I PROMISED VARIAN SHE WOULD REMAIN MANACLED.

SHE TRULY IS IN A COMA.



BUT SHE COULD AWAKEN AT ANY TIME. HER MIND COULD BE AFFECTED--

I SEE GARONA IS YOUR PRISONER. DO YOU HAVE HER SON...?

WHAT? WHO--?



TROUBLE IS COMING IN THE FORM OF A SCOURGE ATTACK. BEFORE IT ARRIVES, I NEED TO FIND THE BOY.

AND YOU'RE WHAT... THE SCOURGE'S UNDEAD HERALD?

AEGWYNN-- IS THAT YOU!?



VALEERA-- WAIT!

YOU KNOW THIS WALKING CORPSE?

I WOULD COUNCIL CIVILITY, VALEERA.



THIS IS THE LEGENDARY HERO MERYL WINTERSTORM-- A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRIFAL, TO WHICH I ONCE BELONGED.

HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED DURING THE TROLL WARS, BUT WAS... FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCE... TO SURVIVE AS ONE OF THE UNDEAD.

HIS PURPOSE HAS EVER BEEN TO PROTECT AZEROTH AND HIS HONOR WAS A BEACON FOR THE REST OF US.



IN MY ARROGANT YOUTH, I DIDN'T APPRECIATE HIM AS I SHOULD HAVE...



BUT HOW DID YOU COME TO HAVE GARONA'S SON IN YOUR CARE?

SHE LEFT THE BOY WITH ME, BUT WATCHED OVER HIM IN SECRET.

SHE WANTED MED'AN TO THINK SHE WAS DEAD. BUT IN THE END, HE LEARNED THE TRUTH.

AND CAME TO FIND HER. IT'S NATURAL, AND HIS FATHER?



GARONA NEVER SAID. I THOUGHT IT DIDN'T MATTER BUT--



LIGHT SHINE ON ME! MED'AN LOOKS LIKE AEGWYNN! THAT'S WHO HE REMINDED ME OF--! CAN THAT MEAN HIS FATHER--?



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. NO...THE TIMING'S RIGHT. ALL THESE YEARS, I'VE WONDERED--

SHOULD I TELL AEGWYNN?

MERYL?



NO, NOT YET. FIRST, WE GET HIM BACK! I KNEW THE BOY HAD POTENTIAL BUT NOT--NO WONDER THAT STRANGE BAND ATTACKED US!

THE SCOURGE ARE UPON US!



I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU FIGHT, BUT MY DUTY IS TO MED'AN! I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO REALIZE HIS IMPORTANCE IN THE LARGER SCHEME.

THERE HAS BEEN ONE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE ALREADY! IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING--?



HE WAS CARRIED OFF BY A FORSAKEN MAGE!



VALEERA! YOU'RE READY TO GO AFTER THE BOY. TAKE MERYL WITH YOU!



NO! THE SCOURGE KILLED MY KIN AND DEVASTATED MY HOMELAND!

MERYL MAY NOT BE SCOURGE BUT, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, UNDEAD IS STILL UNDEAD! I WANT TO STAY AND FIGHT! NOT--



LISTEN TO ME, VALEERA! YOUR DESTINY... AND PERHAPS THAT OF ALL AZEROTH... MAY WELL REST IN MERYL'S HANDS.

TRUST HIM--OBEY HIM, AS YOU WOULD OBEY ME!



ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE YOU ASK IT OF ME, AEGWYNN! BUT I DON'T LIKE IT!



MERYL-- WE GO TO ANH'QIRAJ, YOU HAVE A MOUNT?

I HAVE BEEN THERE! I CAN TRAVEL THAT PATH.

SUCH A TELEPORT WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH RISK BUT IT IS FASTER THAN FLIGHT...



...AND OUR NEED IS DESPERATE. BE READY. I WILL ARRIVE DRAINED...



...BUT OUR LANDING MAY BE--

--CROWDED?

STAGIA! COMPANY!



BLAST IT ALL!

MED'AN'S GUARDIAN! AND THE BLOOD ELF FROM THE BATTLE AT THERAMORE!

KILL THEM!



NOT HAPPENING, YOU UNDEAD HORROR!



THIS TIME YOU DIE--

SWANNY

--FOR REAL!

WHUMFT



GO INTO THE MAIN BUILDING! SEE IF MEDIAN IS INSIDE! I'LL DEAL WITH OUR ADVERSARIES!

BUT--THERE ARE TOO MANY... AND THE TELEPORT DRAINED YOUR POWER! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN FIGHT THEM ALL, ALONE!

DO IT! THE SOONER YOU GET THE BOY... THE SOONER WE CAN TELEPORT OUT OF HERE!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'M GOING!

NEVER THOUGHT I, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD BE TAKING ORDERS FROM A WALKING CORPSE!



BY THE SUNWELL, WHAT IS THIS PLACE... WHAT IS THAT THING... ?!

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO THE KID?

WHO--?

SHE WAS AT THERAMORE! KILL HER!



"...OUTSIDE..."

MERYL WINTERSTORM-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE DESTROYED IN THE SECOND WAR.



CHO'GALL! THEY SAY YOU DIED ON THE BROKEN ISLE!

BUT I SEE YOU HAVE JUST GROWN LARGER... AND HIDEOUS BEYOND RECOGNITION!



WHAT YOU SEE IS THE MANIFESTATION OF MY POWER!

FOR I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MISSION A GOD MIGHT ENVY... AND DEMONS SHOULD DREAD!



THROUGH ME, MADNESS WILL BE VISITED UPON THIS WORLD... AND CHAOS WILL REIGN!

YOU THINK YOU'VE COME TO SAVE THE BOY! BUT IN TRUTH, HE WILL AID ME IN CREATING A NEW DESTINY... WHILE YOU...

...HERE IN THIS HAUNTED PLACE, WILL DIE YOUR FINAL DEATH!



WILL I?

BOOM!



OH, YES...

...AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.



...UH...

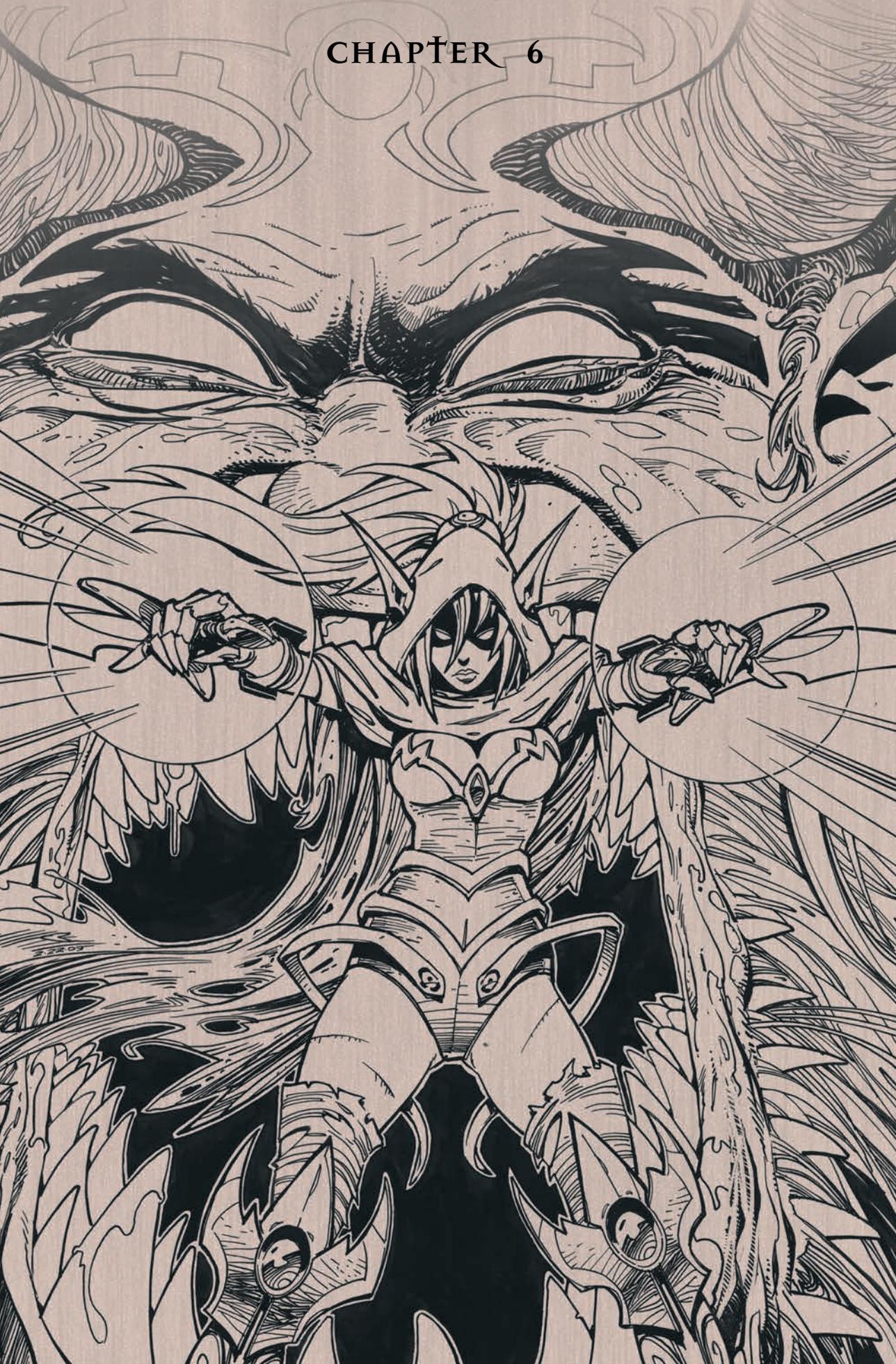
WELL, WELL,
WHAT HAVE WE
HERE? IT SEEMS
THE *SORCERER'S*
APPRENTICE HAS
COME TO THE
RESCUE.

AND...DO
I DETECT A
DEMON LURKING
WITHIN THAT TINY
FRAME?

I *LOVE*
DEMONS! THEY'RE SO
SUCCULENT...AND FULL
OF SUCH *DELICIOUS*
ENERGY!

Chaz

CHAPTER 6







ACROSS AZEROTH, THE LICH KING'S GREAT NECROPOLI ARE THREATENING CITIES WITH THE PLAGUE OF UNDEATH.

NOW STORMWIND IS UNDER ATTACK!

BUT KING VARIAN'S MAGI, CASTING SPELLS OF FIRE AND ICE, HAVE CREATED SWIRLING WINDS TO DRIVE THE DEADLY FLYING FORTRESS OUT OVER THE OCEAN, AWAY FROM STORMWIND AND ITS MOORED FLEET.

A CANNONADE!
NOW!

GUNNERS!
YOU HEARD KING VARIAN!

WE'LL GIVE THOSE UNDEAD FIENDS A TASTE OF REAL DEATH!!

WHAT'S THAT?!

FLIERS FROM IRONFORGE! KING MAGN! MUST HAVE SENT THEM! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

BOOM!

REPERCUSSIONS



A DEATH KNIGHT! GET HIM!

HE'S SMALL FRY, MANOC.

KING VARIAN'S GUNNERS HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA! WE MUST BRING DOWN THE FORTRESS!



HMM!
THE BIG **CRYSTAL**
BENEATH THE THING! A
STABILIZER?

OUR MAGI THINK AN
AMPLIFIER FOR THEIR
SPELLCASTING.

THEN LET'S
BLOW THE CHAINS
AND SEE WHAT
HAPPENS!

BWAAWWW

BOOM
BROOM
DOOMB

SNAP

CRACK

POP

THAT'S
DONE IT!



BAWDOOMMB!



THIS SMALL VICTORY WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!

COME! COME TO NORTHREND. MY MINIONS ARE WAITING, AND THEY ARE HUNGRY!

SPLOOOSH

BAWROMMB!



THEN WE WILL FEED THEM A DIET OF STEEL!

FOR SOON, WE TAKE THIS WAR TO THE LICH KING'S FROZEN SHORE!

ORGRIMMAR,
CAPITAL OF DUROTAR,
THE HOMETLAND OF THE
ORCS ON AZEROTH.

THE LICH KING'S
NECROPOLIS IS ALMOST
UPON US, THRALL.

IT CANNOT
BE ALLOWED TO
DESTROY WHAT
WE HAVE **BUILT**
HERE!

LET THE **EARTH**
RISE UP IN ANGER! LET
FIRE RAIN FROM THE
HEAVENS!

LET THE
WIND CARRY OUR
DEFIANCE TO
THE LICH KING'S
MINIONS...!

**KRAKKA
DOOM**

"...AND LET THE FURY OF THE SANDSTORM BE THEIR UNDOING--"

--FOR NEITHER LICH KING NOR SCOURGE ARE WELCOME HERE!

WATTOOMB

THIS SMALL VICTORY WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING!

COME! COME TO NORTREND. MY MINIONS ARE WAITING, AND THEY ARE HUNGRY!

TELL YOUR MASTER WE ACCEPT HIS INVITATION!

MARSHAL OUR FORCES, SAURFANG! CONTACT THE GOBLIN SHIPWRIGHTS! THE HORDE PREPARES FOR WAR!





THEM MORE KEEP, THE LONE HUMAN
OUTPOST ON THE CONTINENT OF
KALIMDOR, RULED BY THE POWERFUL
SORCERESS JAINA PROUDMOORE.

COME,
BASTION OF
EVIL!

COME
CLOSER THAT I
MAY EMBRACE
YOU!

NOW!



AN ICY
COFFER TO
SHEATHE THE
FORTRESS OF
DEATH...!



"...AND FREEZE THE LICH
KING'S NECROPOLIS TO
MATCH HIS ICY HEART!"



**NOW, FIRE!
STRIKE!!**

**SHATTER
THE ARMAMENTS!
BREAK THE RAMPARTS!
CRACK THE STONY
SHELL!**

K'WHAMPT



CRACKX

**THE
FORTRESS
IS DAMAGED!
IT'S MOVING
OFF!**



**HUMAN WITCH!
YOU HAVE NOT SEEN
THE LAST OF US!**

**COME FACE
US, IF YOU DARE,
ON NORTHREND'S
ICY SHORES!**



**BE CAREFUL
WHAT YOU WISH
FOR, HERALD OF EVIL.
YOUR NECROPOLIS
WILL NEVER REACH
ITS HOME!**

**FIGHT ON,
MEN! THE LICH KING'S
FORCES ARE IN
RETREAT...**

**...AND
THE BEST
HE CAN OFFER IS AN
EMPTY THREAT,
VOICED BY AN
ILLUSION!**

THE RUINS OF AHN'QIRAJ,
IN THE SILITHUS DESERT...
...NOW HOME TO THE
TWILIGHT'S HAMMER CULT.

W-WHO ARE
YOU?

I AM
CHO'GALL!

NOW...
WHY DON'T
YOU LET THAT
LOVELY DEMON
RESIDING INSIDE
YOU COME OUT
AND FACE
ME?

AN OGRE
GIANT! TOO TALL!
TOO WIDE! TOO
MANY HEADS! TOO...
TERRIBLE! WHAT DO
I DO NOW--?

MERYL WAS
IMMENSELY
POWERFUL...
AND THE OGRE
FELLED HIM
EASILY.

WE'RE
DOOMED
UNLESS--

MED'ANI!
WAKE UP!
LISTEN
TO ME!

U.N.H.

THERE'S NO WAY
I CAN FACE THAT OGRE AS
I AM. AND YOU AND MERYL
ARE USELESS. I NEED
MORE ENERGY... MORE
EVERYTHING.

I'M GOING TO
TAKE MOST OF THE
ENERGY MERYL HAS LEFT.
I'D TAKE YOURS, TOO,
BUT YOU'LL NEED IT
TO HELP HIM GET
BETTER!

THE MAGE
STILL GLOWS WITH
ARCANE POWER! IF I
CAN ABSORB ENOUGH
ENERGY, MAYBE I CAN
STAY ALIVE LONG
ENOUGH--

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO RESTORE HIM, DO IT! GET HIM FUNCTIONING! OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON IT.

YOU CAN'T TELEPORT, I SUPPOSE?

DON'T HAVE... ENERGY... FOR THREE OF US...

THEN MERYL'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET US OUT OF HERE! I'LL TRY TO DISTRACT THE OGRE LONG ENOUGH. JUST...HURRY!

NEARLY DRAINED THE MAGE, DIDN'T YOU? STILL, HIS ENERGY IS BUT A MORSEL TO THE DEMON INSIDE YOU.

HE'S BEEN QUIET FOR A WHILE, HASN'T HE? RESTING, STARVED, BIDDING HIS TIME... BUT THAT SURGE OF ENERGY HAS AWAKENED HIM.

HE'S BEGINNING TO STIR. CAN'T YOU FEEL HIS HUNGER?

HE'S RIGHT! THE DEMON IS WRITHING WITHIN ME, FIGHTING TO EMERGE.

I'D KEPT IT SO WEAK BY RATIONING MY USE OF ARCANIC ENERGY, I'D FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH STRONGER IT COULD BECOME.

MAYBE THIS WASN'T A GOOD IDEA.

NO! STOP SECOND-GUESSING YOURSELF! YOU KNEW THE DANGER. JUST PLAY THE HAND YOU'VE DRAWN!

MAKE YOUR
MOVE NOW--
WHILE YOU HAVE
CONTROL!

FTHSSSSSPF

...OH
NO...

I SMELL FEAR,
YOUNG ELF. YET
YOU SEEM TO DREAD
THE DEMON INSIDE YOU
MORE THAN YOU
DREAD ME!

**WEAK LOST
DOOMED
MINE
HELPLESS
DESOLATE**

NO! SHUT UP!
NOT WEAK! NOT
HELPLESS!

FOOLISH, FOOLISH CHILD! WHEN I RIP YOU IN TWO, I'LL FIND THAT COWARDLY FIEND STILL CRINGING INSIDE YOUR BROKEN BODY!

WHACK

WHAMM



FIGHT THE VOICE!

SPIRITS OF EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER AND THE WILD. CLEANSE MY SPIRIT...

... QUIET THE WHISPERS!

HEAL ME... THAT I MAY RESTORE MERYL... AND SAVE THE ELF GIRL WHO RISKS HER LIFE TO SAVE US BOTH!

BETTER... MUCH BETTER!

BATTLE WEAR ACCURSED NOTHING EASY TO BROKEN WITHOUT THE





MERYL...
COME ON!
WAKE UP!

NEED TO SEND
HEALING ENERGY
TOWARD THE GIRL,
AS WELL, IF SHE'S
TO SURVIVE!

WHY IS HE
TAKING SO LONG TO
RECOVER? OH, GODS,
I HOPE THE ELF GIRL'S
STILL ALIVE!

YOU HAVE
MORE TO WORRY
ABOUT, BOY, THAN THE
FATE OF A POSSESSED
ELF AND AN UNDEAD
SORCERER!

I'M...
BETTER! THE
BOY--MEDAN'S--
DOING! HE'S HEALING
ME, AS WELL AS
MERYL!

GOOD
THING HE
IS!

BUT HE'S SO FOCUSED ON
THE SPELL, I DON'T THINK HE
SEES HIS DANGER!

MY
MASTER HAS
NEED OF
YOU--

--AND
NONE MAY
REFUSE
HIM!



MOVE
LIKE **REHGAR**
TAUGHT ME!

YES! A CLEAN
SLICE THROUGH
THE **HAMSTRING**
TENDON!



YEARRGH!

AND **CHO'GALL**
WILL **DROP**
LIKE A **FELLED**
KODO!

I HOPE.

MAYBE EVEN
GIVE ME THE
CHANCE TO **TAKE**
HIM OUT!



WITH THAT
BLOW...

...YOU
HAVE **CEASED**
TO **AMUSE**
ME!



NO!



MEDAN...?

THANK THE GODS, YOU'RE ALIVE!

THE GIRL-- WHO IS SHE?-- CARRIED ME OUT HERE! SHE'S TRYING... BUT SHE'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT HIM!



HOW DID YOU FIND ME--?

SHE'S ALIVE!? I THOUGHT SHE WAS--WAIT! YOU SAID "YOUR MOTHER"?

GARONA... YOUR MOTHER... IS AT THERAMORE KEEP! SHE SENT US! I FEARED--

THE TIME FOR TRUTH IS UPON US. I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING--



--IF WE LIVE.

LET LOOSE YOUR DEMON--PUNY AND WORTHLESS THOUGH IT MUST BE, TO HIDE IN SUCH A WEAKLING BODY!

SHE'S NO MATCH FOR HIM. HE HAS A DARK POWER... LIKE NOTHING I'VE SEEN.



NOR I? HELP ME UP!

WHAT WAS I THINKING? NO MATTER HOW MUCH ENERGY I TAKE, I CAN'T FIGHT THIS MONSTER.

THE FIEND WANTS OUT NOW! IT'S HOWLING INSIDE YOU-- FIGHTING FOR THE CHANCE TO ANSWER MY CHALLENGE! FREE HIM!

...NO...

AND YET... I CAN HEAR LITTLE ELSE OVER THE DEMON'S CRIES AND PROMISES! CAN IT TRULY STOP THE OGRE? DO I DARE LET IT TRY?

I'M NO WARLOCK! ONCE IT'S LOOSED, I CAN'T HOPE TO CONTROL IT! BROLL WOULD SAY-- BETTER TO DIE THAN TO FREE IT--

--BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER TO LIVE, FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT THE MORROW MIGHT BRING!

MED'AN! WAIT!
BY THE HOLY LIGHT, DO YOU NOT SEE WHAT SHE'S ABOUT TO DO? THE GIRL IS MAD!

DEMON-- I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER! I GIVE MYSELF TO YOU... IF YOU WILL SAVE ME AND THE OTHERS!



AAAAAAAAAAH!
**FREE!
FREE AT
LAST!**



HA! FINALLY!
YOUR DEMON
HAS COME OUT
TO PLAY!

PLAY...P
**I AM
THE DREADLORD
KATHRA'NATR!**



SHRAKKKT!

**I AM NOT
HER DEMON.
SHE IS MY VESSEL!
SHE OFFERED
HERSELF TO ME
WILLINGLY!
AND THIS
IS NO CHILD'S
GAME!**



GAK!



KATHRA'NATIR!?

YOU
KNOW THIS
DEMON?

I FACED
HIM ONCE...ALMOST
THREE THOUSAND
YEARS AGO.

I THOUGHT
HE WAS GONE...
BANISHED... LEFT
TOO WEAK TO
TROUBLE AZEROTH
AGAIN.



NOT A
GAME?

A TEST
THEN...TO SEE WHO IS
STRONGER!



WHOSE
POWER IS
GREATER!

WHICH OF
OUR MASTERS
WILL, IN THE
END, OWN THIS
WORLD!



I WAS RIGHT, KATHRA'NATIR! YOU ARE A WEAK AND PUNY THING!



YOU ARE NOTHING AGAINST MY POWER AND THAT OF MY GREAT MASTER! NOTHING!



IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD, SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR NOTHING!

NOT... NOTHING, SHE BOUGHT US TIME TO RECOVER... BUT AT A TERRIBLE PRICE.



WE MUST GET HER AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE FOR US ALL!



NOOOO!

THERAMORE KEEP

IN THE AFTERMATH OF BATTLE, PALLETS LINE THE COURTYARD.

A DARK FIGURE GLIDES THROUGH THE SHADOWS, UNNOTICED BY JAINA PROUDMOORE AND THE HEALERS WHO MOVE AMONG INJURED...

...OR BY THE CHAMBERLAIN, AEGWYNN, WHO KNEELS BESIDE A WOUNDED FRIEND...

IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH PAIN AND DEATH; IT SEEMS... SELFISH...

...THAT I SHOULD HAVE EVER SQUANDERED MY MAGIC TO PRESERVE YOUTH AND BEAUTY.

SOMEHOW... I NEVER CONSIDERED THAT BEFORE.

DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO WASTE YOUR MAGIC ON ME, LADY. LET US WAIT FOR THE HEALERS!

FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU WERE A FAILURE AT DOMESTIC TASKS.

YES, OLD FRIEND... YOU'RE RIGHT. I WAS ALWAYS BETTER FIGHTING DEMONS.



10 HIDE IN THE SILITHUS DESERT...

WHERE ARE WE?

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO THERAMORE!

WE CAN'T! NOT NOW! NOT WITH VALEERA... LIKE THAT!

MERYL WINTERSTORM! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE MET!

KATHRA'NATIR! RELEASE THE GIRL...OR FACE MY WRATH!



**POWERFUL
THOUGH YOU
ARE, MAGE,
YOU ARE NO
GUARDIAN!
YOU HAVE
NOT THE
POWER TO
COMMAND
ME!**

**YOU'RE
DIMINISHED,
DEMON! FORCED
TO TAKE REFUGE
IN THE FLESH OF A
YOUNG BLOOD
ELF FEMALE.
EVEN THAT
CHILD COULD
COMMAND
YOU!**

**SHE HAS
STRENGTH THAT
EVEN SHE IS
UNAWARE OF!**



**SHE FOUGHT
ME! STARVED ME!
KEPT ME WEAK--!**



**REFUSED TO
ACCEPT WHAT I
OFFERED...**

**... UNTIL
SHE HAD NO
CHOICE!**

**AND SHE
DOES HAVE
POWERFUL
FRIENDS. I HAD
PLANNED TO
MOVE ON TO
ONE OF THEM,
EVENTUALLY!**

**PERHAPS
THAT TIME
IS NOW.**



**YOU, MERYL,
GLOW WITH
ARCANE
POWER!**

**BUT THE BOY... IS
INCANDESCENT!**



**WHAT
A FINE HOST
HE WILL MAKE
FOR ME!**

CHAPTER 7





Secrets

YOU ARE MINE
POWERLESS
LOST ALONE

I HEAR IT
TOO, BOY, BUT THE
VOICE IS ONLY AN
ECHO OF THE PAST!
IT PROMISES
DEATH...

...WHILE I
OFFER YOU LIFE...
AND POWERS BEYOND
DREAM OF REDEMPTION!
SURRENDER TO ME
AND BECOME GREATER
THAN THE GODS
THEMSELVES!
COME!

EMBRACE
ME. AND BE
MINE!

LOST ALONE
MINE MINE MINE
DESTROYED
WORTHLESS
NOTHING YOU ARE
MINE!

THE VOICES...
TEARING ME APART!!
THEIRS... AND NOW MINE!
CAN'T SHUT THEM OUT!!
BUT I MUST!

NO!



NO!

UHHH!

**DESTROYED
WORTHLESS
YOU ARE POWERLESS
I AM THE ANSWER!
YOU WILL BE MINE MINE
MINE! MINE! MINE! MINE!**



AHHH. NOW THAT, BOY, WAS POWER! SUCH DELICIOUS POTENTIAL! WE WILL SHAKE THE MIGHTY FROM THEIR HIGH THRONES!

THERE IS MORE HAPPENING HERE THAN I UNDERSTAND!

MED'AN'S RAPIDLY BURGEONING POWER IS HIS BLESSING AND HIS CURSE.

AND NOW IT HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF BOTH THE DEMON WHO POSSESSED VALEERA AND SOME VILE AND ANCIENT ENTITY...

...AND HAS MADE HIM THE PRIZE IN A SKIRMISH BETWEEN TWO DARK POWERS.

YET IT HAS ALSO GIVEN HIM THE STRENGTH TO RESIST... AT LEAST, FOR NOW.

HE CAN'T FIGHT BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY. EVENTUALLY, HE'LL FALL... TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, UNLESS--





KATHRA'NATIR!
THE BOY IS TOO **POWERFUL** FOR YOU! YOU HAVEN'T **STRENGTH** ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM!

WHY NOT **RELEASE THE GIRL...** AND TRY FOR **ME**, INSTEAD.

UNLESS YOU'RE **AFRAID...** ?



MERYL!
NO!

QUIET, BOY!
I **KNOW** WHAT I'M DOING!



YOU OFFER ME A PLACE INSIDE YOU...

... **THINKING YOURSELF POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONTROL ME?**

I AM A **DREADLORD!**

YOU WERE... **ONCE.**



IT HAS TAKEN YOU **THREE THOUSAND YEARS** TO SLIP BACK INTO AZEROTH... ONLY TO INHABIT AN **ELF CHILD'S** FRAIL SHELL.

AND EVEN THIS **BOY** HAS WITHSTOOD BOTH YOUR **BLANDISHMENTS** AND YOUR **ATTACK.**

YOU HAVE NOT THE **MAGIC** TO CONJURE YOUR OWN **DEMON BODY...** MUCH LESS TO **CONFRONT** THAT **OTHER DARKNESS.**

CONTAINING YOU SHOULD POSE LITTLE DIFFICULTY!



IF IT IS
A BATTLE OF
WILLS YOU WANT,
MAGE...!

...WE
SHALL
SEE WHOSE
POWER IS
GREATER!



MERYL...?

OH, BLESSED
SUN! I HAVE BEEN
HAUNTED BY THAT
WRITHING HORROR FOR
MONTHS! AND NOW...
IT IS OVER.

I THANK
YOU, MERYL!
FOR YOU HAVE
SAVED ME!



AS YOUR HEROIC ACTIONS SAVED MED'AN AND ME!

MORE STUPID AND DESPERATE THAN HEROIC. IT... WAS HORRIBLE. LIKE BEING BURIED IN A DEEP PIT FILLED WITH OFFAL.

MY BODY... MY MIND... WEREN'T MY OWN. I... SHOULD HAVE REALIZED... I HAVE BECOME UNCLEAN.

CAN YOU TRULY... SEND THAT MONSTER TO YOUR WILL?

AS YOU SEE.

KATHRA'NATIR IS A WEAK THING, EASILY CONTAINED BY ONE WHO HAS THE ABILITY...!



AND YOU WILL RECOVER. YOU ARE YOUNG.

I ONLY ASK THAT YOU PROMISE TO TELL NO ONE WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE. NO ONE!



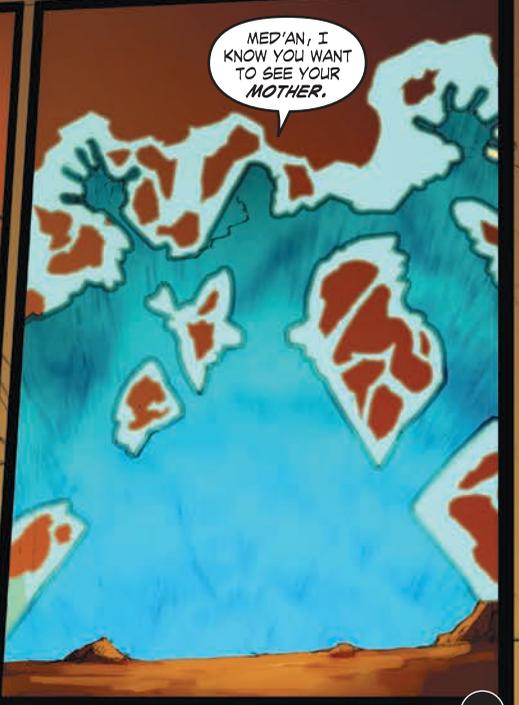
WE WOULDN'T WANT EVERY DEMON ON AZEROTH TO TAKE MY ABILITY TO CONTROL KATHRA'NATIR AS A CHALLENGE!

OR TO COME TO HIS AID.



BUT--!

IT'S TIME THAT WE RETURNED TO THERAMORE!



MED'AN, I KNOW YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER.

THEM MORE

WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?

SCOURGE ATTACK. IT WAS JUST STARTING WHEN WE LEFT, I'D... FORGOTTEN. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY...



I SEE YOU RESCUED THE BOY.



SO THIS IS GARONA'S--

MEDIVH?



NO... IT CAN'T BE. MY SON IS DEAD...! BUT GARONA--! AND MEDIVA...?



OH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD. CAN IT BE TRUE?

HAVE I BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION?



AEGWYNN, WHAT IS IT?

IT'S... NOTHING. JUST...

YOU MUST BE MED'AN.



I'M AEGWYNN. I... EXPECT... YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER.

WALK WITH ME, AEGWYNN. WE NEED TO TALK.



YOU... KNEW MED'AN'S PARENTAGE?

ONLY SINCE I CAME HERE, HE LOOKS LIKE YOU.

HE LOOKS LIKE MERVH. AND, LIKE MY SON, HE IS A BEACON OF POWER.

NOT SURPRISING... SINCE YOU ARE HIS GRANDMOTHER.



BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? MED'AN IS AN ADOLESCENT, BUT MERVH WAS KILLED ALMOST THIRTY YEARS AGO.

IT'S HIS MIXED BLOOD, I THINK. HUMAN... ORC... AND SOMETHING ELSE.

HAVE YOU TOLD HIM?

THERE'S BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY, AND... HE JUST LEARNED THAT GARONA IS HIS MOTHER. ONE SHOCK AT A TIME, I THINK.



DON'T BE ALARMED. GARONA IS UNCONSCIOUS AND IN CHAINS... OUR PRISONER.

A PROMISE TO KING VARIAN OF STORMWIND.

HER EFFORT TO GET PAST THE BLOCKS PUT ON HER MIND--TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND YOU--FELLED HER, BUT--

I KNOW SHE ATTACKED YOU, BUT THE OGRE CHO'GALL HAD HER UNDER A SPELL AND--



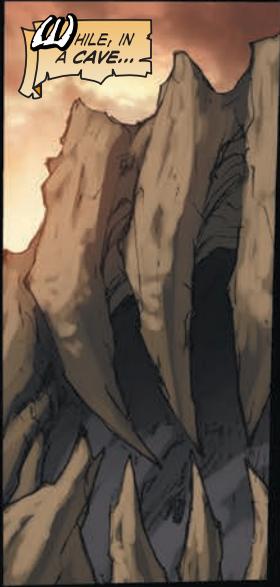
SHE'S GONE. ESCAPED!

BUT... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SHE WAS IN A DEEP COMA.

I KNEW YOU COULDN'T HOLD HER! SHE'S PROBABLY ON HER WAY TO RESCUE ME RIGHT NOW. I NEED TO GO AFTER HER!



WE'LL DISCUSS THAT IN THE MORNING. BUT TONIGHT, YOU NEED TO REST.



W HILE, IN A CAVE...



...NOT FAR AWAY...



WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?

DRAENEI MONSTER! LEAVE ME ALONE!

STOP THAT! I MEAN YOU NO HARM. I AM YOUR UNCLE. MY NAME IS MARAAD.



UNCLE--? ARE YOU MAD? I'M NO DRAENEI!

THEY MAY HAVE TOLD YOU THAT, BUT LOOK AT YOURSELF. CAN YOU TRULY BELIEVE IT?

I--AIIIIII!

FACE WRONG. FEET... ALMOST LIKE HOOVES. SAID... I WAS DEFORMED.

CRUELTY IS EVERYWHERE. THE ORC GUL'DAN BRED MY SISTER TO ONE OF HIS WARRIORS. YOU WERE THE RESULT.

I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU EVER SINCE I LEARNED OF YOUR BIRTH.

RAISED...IN BARRACKS. OTHER, BIGGER ORCS...HATED ME...BECAUSE I WAS DIFFERENT.

I ALSO DISCOVERED GUL'DAN PLT CONTROLS ON YOUR MIND. AND YOU BECAME HIS KILLING MACHINE.

UGLY... DEFORMED. LOOKED SOMEHOW... MORE HUMAN.

GUL'DAN SENT ME TO MEDIVH. TO... OTHERS. LIED... SAID I WAS HALF-HUMAN. I KILLED... KING LLANE.

UNDER GUL'DAN'S COMPULSION.

AARGH!

DOESN'T MATTER. OGRE CHO'GALL... HAS CONTROL WORD. IF HE COMMANDED... I WOULD KILL AGAIN. KILL ANYONE. MAYBE EVEN...MY OWN SON.

CAN YOU REMOVE THE CONTROL?

IN TIME, PERHAPS. BUT--

THEN...ONLY WAY TO BE FREE... IS TO KILL CHO'GALL... OR TO DIE.



THAT GARONA'S SON SHOULD BE...

BE WHAT--? I CAN'T HEAR THEM!

WIND, CARRY THEIR WORDS TO ME...!



"HOW DID IT HAPPEN?"

"HOW DID WHAT HAPPEN?"



...THAT I SHOULD FEEL SUCH... JOY! I WAS NEVER MATERNAL.



NO.

HIS MÉLANGE OF RACES DOESN'T TROUBLE YOU?



ORCS ARE INDIVIDUALS... WITH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES LIKE ANY OTHERS.



AND ORCISH SHAMANISM IS AS POTENT AS OUR OWN ARCANIC MAGIC. HE'S GROWING IN POWER.



AND POWER HAS ALWAYS MATTERED TO YOU.



IT DID, ONCE, AN END IN ITSELF, FOOLISH. NOW, MY OWN POWER IS GONE... A PUNISHMENT FOR MY SINS...!

I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR POWER TO FIND GARONA! JAINA WILL BE BOUND BY HER PROMISE TO VARIAN TO RECAPTURE HER.



I... NEED TO KNOW WHERE GARONA HAS GONE.

AND I NEED TO FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION.



TO SEE HIS MOTHER DIE WOULD BREAK MED'AN'S HEART.



DIE? THEY WANT TO KILL HER? I HAVE TO STOP THEM!

GARONA'S ESCAPED. I'VE VOWED TO SERVE VARIAN. IT'S MY DUTY TO GO AFTER HER...

...THOUGH SHE SEEMS AS MUCH A VICTIM AS ANY SHE HAS KILLED...

YEAH, RIGHT... TRY TELLING THAT TO VARIAN!

MAYBE IF I TALK TO AEGWYNN ABOUT IT, SHE MIGHT--

I'VE FOUND HER, AEGWYNN. GARONA IS IN ONYXIA'S LAIR.

A BETTER HIDING PLACE THAN MOST, NOW THAT THE DRAGON AND HER BROOD ARE DEAD. WHO WOULD THINK TO LOOK FOR HER THERE...?

I GUESS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE SEARCHING FOR GARONA. BUT... ONYXIA'S LAIR?! THAT'S MAD! STILL, IT WON'T HURT TO CHECK IT OUT...

WHERE'S ONYXIA'S LAIR?

LOOKS LIKE VALEERA KNOWS!



GOOD! THAT MAKES IT EASIER!



I'M LEAVING, MARAAD. I'M GOING TO GET MY SON BACK. AND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'M GOING TO DESTROY CHO'GALL!

I'LL COME WITH YOU.

BUT...YOU SAID JAINA PROUDMOORE PROMISED TO SEND THE BLOOD ELF GIRL FOR MED'AN.



EVEN IF JAINA DID AS SHE PROMISED, WHAT CHANCE WOULD THAT ELF CHILD HAVE AGAINST AN OGRE SORCERER?



WHAT'S THAT?

I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD TO AGREE--

IT'S THE ELF CHILD HERSELF! HERE! NOT SEARCHING FOR MY SON, AFTER ALL! BUT SHE HAS BROUGHT A MOUNT.

GO THEN!

I'LL DISTRACT HER WHILE YOU SLIP OUTSIDE!



DON'T KILL HER, MARAAD.

THE PATH OF DEATH WAS CHOSEN FOR ME.

I DON'T WANT--



GO!

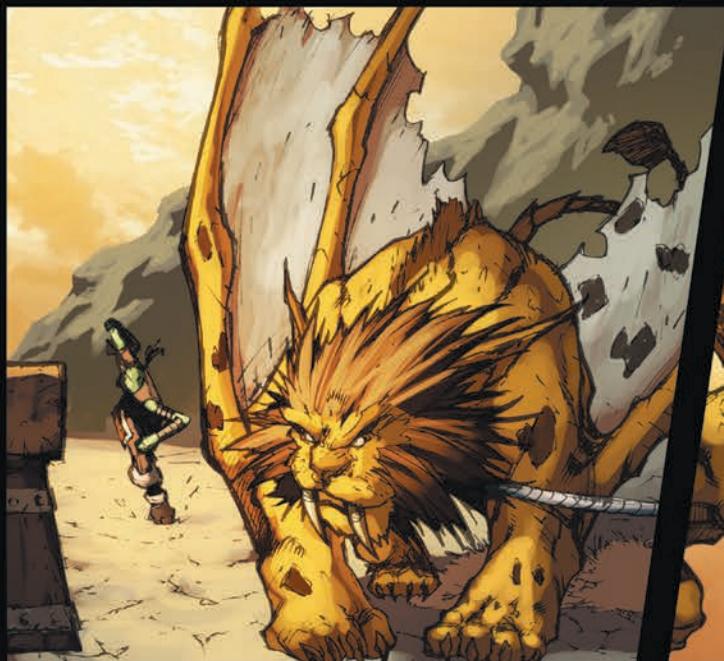


GARONA! I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. I'M COMING IN. WE NEED TO TALK--



TALK, THEN!

OOPS!





ANCESTORS BE PRAISED! BUT HOW--?

VALEERA AND MERYL CAME FOR ME. THEY SAID YOU'D SENT THEM... THAT YOU RISKED YOUR MIND TO TELL THEM WHERE I'D BEEN TAKEN.

AEGWYNN SAID IT WAS ONE OF THE BRAVEST ACTS SHE'D EVER SEEN. BUT VALEERA WAS COMING AFTER YOU. I FOLLOWED HER AND--

MED'AN, MY...SON, I NEED TO LEAVE.



YOU MEAN... ESCAPE? ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO WITH YOU! WE CAN--

NO! YOU MUST STAY HERE! A TERRIBLE MAGIC HAS BEEN USED ON ME.

I KNOW. BY CHO'GALL. BUT--

UNTIL IT'S REMOVED I'M A DANGER TO YOU. IT'S WHY I LEFT YOU WITH MERYL.



I...LOVED YOU TOO MUCH TO KEEP YOU WITH ME.

BUT YOU WATCHED ME. I SAW. WHEN I WAS SMALL. AND--



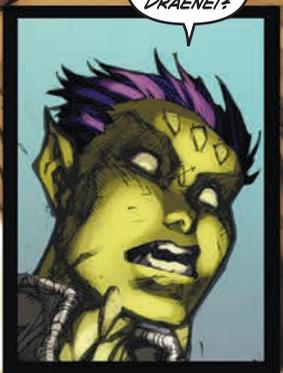
I...COULDN'T MAKE MYSELF STAY AWAY. NOT...ENTIRELY.



AND NOW-- FINALLY--I KNOW HOW TO UNDO WHAT WAS DONE TO ME.

YOUR GREAT UNCLE IS IN THAT CAVE. HE'S A DRAENEI PALADIN.

YOU DO? THEN--



A DRAENEI? I'M...PART DRAENEI?



AS AM I, MY SON, HE'LL *EXPLAIN* EVERYTHING. HE'S A GREAT *HEALER*.

WAIT WITH HIM AND MERYL. TELL *JAINA PROUDMOORE* ALL YOU KNOW. THE OGRE *CHO'GALL--*

THAT *MONSTER!* HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING *TERRIBLE!* HE--



IF I *FAIL*, THEY MAY...NEED TO *STOP* HIM.

YOU'LL HAVE TO RESCUE THE ELF GIRL. SHE'S BELOW, IN THE CAVE, *FIGHTING YOUR UNCLE.* HE DOESN'T KNOW SHE'S A *FRIEND!*



BUT--SHE'LL BE *KILLED!* SHE... SAVED ME, I CAN'T LET HER DIE!

MOTHER--BE *CAREFUL!*

YOU, ALSO, MY SON!



VALEERA! STOP! STOP BOTH OF YOU!

THEY AREN'T *LISTENING!*



WIND, BLAST THEM APART!

WHOOSH



MED'AN--
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
I FOLLOWED
YOU.

THAT WILL
TEACH ME TO WATCH MY
BACK MORE CAREFULLY IN
THE FUTURE!



YOU'RE
GARONA'S SON?
MY GRAND NEPHEW,
MED'AN?

NEPHEW...?

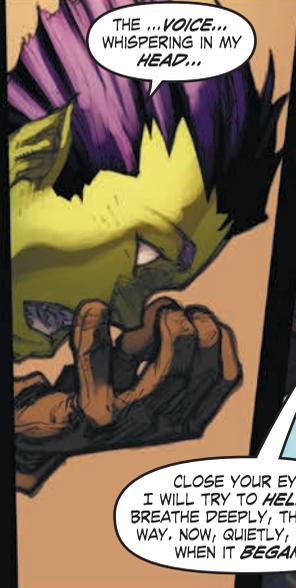
MY MOTHER
TOLD ME. SHE'S
GONE NOW, VALEERA.
SHE WOULDN'T SAY
WHERE. SHE--

AAAAAK!
I'M
LOST
IN
TIME



MED'AN!
WHAT IS IT?

IT'S COME
BACK!



THE ...VOICE...
WHISPERING IN MY
HEAD...



CLOSE YOUR EYES.
I WILL TRY TO HELP YOU.
BREATHE DEEPLY, THAT'S THE
WAY. NOW, QUIETLY, TELL ME
WHEN IT BEGAN...

STORMWIND HARBOR

THE VALIANCE EXPEDITION SAILS FOR NORTHREND ON THE EVENING TIDE, SIRE.

THERE IS NO ONE I'D TRUST MORE TO CREATE THE BASE AT ANGRATHAR, MY FRIEND.

IN THE SHADOW OF ICECROWN! THAT WILL TWEAK THE LICH KING'S NOSE, VARIAN...

...AND PAY HIM BACK FOR DARING TO SEND A NECROPOLIS AGAINST STORMWIND!

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, BOLVAR!
BE CAREFUL!

I'LL DO MY BEST!

I WISH BOLVAR DIDN'T HAVE TO GO. I WISH THERE WERE NO ENEMIES OR BATTLES...

YOU ARE MORE BROTHER TO ME THAN EVEN BLOOD!

KEEP SAFE! STORMWIND NEEDS YOU!





BUT...YOU AREN'T *LIKE* THAT, ARE YOU, FATHER?

YOU'RE SORRY NOT TO BE GOING WITH BOLVAR. YOU LOVE TO FIGHT.

FATHER...DO YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH ME THAT I DO NOT?

YOU'RE A *VALIANT* LAD, ANDUIN. AND WHEN YOU *HAVE* TO FIGHT, YOU ACQUIT YOURSELF *BRAVELY*. WITH HONOR. THAT IS ENOUGH.



I DO NOT *THRIST* FOR WAR AS SOME MEN DO.

BUT...IT'S TRUE THAT I FEEL MOST *ALIVE* IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE.

MAYBE THAT MEANS THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH *ME*... THOUGH THAT'S JUST AS *WELL*... CONSIDERING OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

A GREAT AND *TERRIBLE* WAR IS COMING.



WHEN WE WIN AND THE *LICH KING* HAS BEEN DEFEATED...



...THEN LET US HOPE *YOUR TIME*, A TIME OF *PEACE* AND *HEALING*, WILL BEGIN.



WHEN THAT DAY COMES, *YOU* WILL BE GREATER THAN *I*.

ONYXIA'S CAVE



WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

CHANNELING
THE HOLY LIGHT. IT'S...
HEALING MAGIC.

YOU SAY
THE WHISPERS
STARTED WHEN
CHO'GALL HURLED
YOU AGAINST
THE SHELL OF
THE OLD ONE,
C'THUN?

YES. THE
VOICE BEGAN...LIKE A
GONG VIBRATING IN
MY HEAD.

AND NOW
IT'S QUIET. I
FEEL...

THANK
YOU!

I FEAR THAT
YOU'VE DRAWN
THE INTEREST
OF SOMETHING
MALEVOLENT!



WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS
WITH JAINA PROUDMOORE.
VALEERA AND I WILL
NEED MOUNTS. GARONA
TOOK VALEERA'S
HIPPOGRYPH.



MARAAD, AFTER
WE GET THERE, DO
YOU THINK I COULD
BEGIN TO LEARN TO
DO WHAT YOU
JUST DID?

IT'S A KIND OF
MAGIC I'VE NEVER
SEEN... BUT ONE I
WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW.

TO LEARN
TO WIELD THE HOLY
LIGHT TAKES YEARS OF
DISCIPLINE. BUT IF THAT
IS A PATH YOU WISH
TO FOLLOW...

IT'S OKAY. I
KNOW THE WAY TO
THERAMORE.

NOW THAT
THE NOISE IN MY
HEAD HAS STOPPED,
I CAN TELEPORT
US THERE.



...I WILL TEACH YOU WHAT I CAN.



WE'RE HERE!

MUCH FASTER THAN A ZEPPELIN! I GUESS YOU WERE WORTH RESCUING, AFTER ALL!

THANKS, MERYL TAUGHT ME. THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE TELEPORTED THREE PEOPLE, THOUGH!

GUESS WE'RE LUCKY I DIDN'T LEAVE HALF OF YOU BEHIND.

NOW YOU DECIDE TO MENTION THAT POSSIBILITY?



VALEERA! MED'AN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

YOU BROUGHT BACK A DRAENEI?!

I AM VINDICATOR MARAAD. IT WAS I WHO FREED YOUR PRISONER GARONA.



YOU?! WHY SHOULD I NOT CALL MY GUARDS TO ARREST YOU, THEN?

BECAUSE I WOULD HATE TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE FOR NAUGHT.

GARONA IS MY NIECE... HALF-ORC, HALF-DRAENEI. I HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER FOR MANY YEARS.



RECENTLY, I HAD A VISION THAT LEP ME HERE.

IT SAID THAT GARONA WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SALVATION OF AZEROTH... THAT HER ACTIONS COULD HELP AVERT AN UPCOMING CATASTROPHE.

IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH CHO'GALL.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT EACH OF US HOLDS A DIFFERENT PIECE OF THIS PUZZLE. IT IS TIME WE POOLED OUR INFORMATION...

...IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT.

I...
OVERHEARD
CHO'GALL AND THE
OTHERS. HE'S PART
OF A GROUP CALLED
THE **TWILIGHT'S**
HAMMER.

HE
STAGED THE **ATTACK**
ON THERAMORE, AND HE'S
PLANNING SOMETHING THAT
WILL BRING **DISASTER**
TO AZEROTH.

I **HEALED** GARONA
AS BEST I COULD, BUILDING
ON WHAT JAINA BEGAN.
GARONA **REMEMBERED** THAT
THERE WAS A **PROPHECY**
ABOUT **MED'AN**...

...THAT HE
WAS **IMPORTANT** TO
CHO'GALL'S PURPOSE.
THAT LED TO HIS
ABDUCTION.

MED'AN
IS NOW BEING...
STALKED... BY SOME
EVIL... IN **AHN'QIRAJ**
AND, PERHAPS,
BEYOND.

NOT A **DEMON**...
SOMETHING **ANCIENT**,
MORE TERRIBLE. WE
SAW HOW ITS **MAGIC**
TRANSFORMED
CHO'GALL.

CHO'GALL
WANTS TO **CONTROL**
MED'AN.

AND
GARONA WILL
HAVE SOME PART
TO PLAY IN ALL THIS.
OF THAT, I AM
CERTAIN.

THE QUESTION
IS...WHAT DO WE DO
NOW? THE **ARMIES** OF
AZEROTH ARE FOCUSED ON
NORTHREND AND THE
SCOURGE.

AND, IN ANY
CASE, THE THREAT MAY
NOT BE SOMETHING AN
ARMY CAN DEAL WITH. IT
MAY REQUIRE **MAGICAL**
INTERVENTION.

THREE THOUSAND
YEARS AGO, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF
AZEROTH WERE THREATENED BY AN
INFLUX OF **DEMONS**...

...A GROUP OF **MAGI**
IN DALARAN SECRETLY
FORMED THE **COUNCIL**
OF **TIRISFAL** TO DEAL
WITH THEM.

THE **COUNCIL**
CREATED A **CHAMPION**,
CALLED A **GUARDIAN**, A
CONDUIT FOR THEIR
POWER.

MERYL
WAS ONE OF THE
ORIGINAL MEMBERS
OF THAT COUNCIL. AND
AEGWYNN WAS ONCE
A **GUARDIAN**.

THROUGH MY **ARROGANCE**,
THE COUNCIL FAILED, BUT THE
TIME HAS COME TO **BEGIN**
ANEW. WE NEED TO FORM A
NEW COUNCIL.

AND, SOON, I
MUST **TELL** MED'AN
THE **TRUTH** ABOUT
HIS FATHER.

CURSE THE BOY!

THE PROPHECY SAID HE WAS A BEING OF IMMENSE POWER... AND SO HE HAS PROVEN.

NOT EVEN I-- CHO'GALL, THE MASTER'S CHOSEN-- WAS ABLE TO HOLD HIM!

WAN' QIRAJ

IT SAID THAT HIS POWER COULD RELEASE MY MASTER... OR DESTROY IT!

THE BOY WAS STUBBORN! HE WOULD NOT SERVE ME! HE WOULD NOT SERVE OUR MASTER! HE HAS LEFT US NO CHOICE!

OUR MASTER IS SHIFTING... STRETCHING... AND THOSE IT WILL COMMAND ALSO STIR!

I CAN FEEL THEIR POWER GROWING!

I CAN HEAR ITS VOICE!

CHAOS
INCITE VIOLENCE
PROVOKE DESTROY
I WANT THE BOY
THE BOY THE BOY

BRING ME THE BOY!
BRING ME MED'AN!



CREATING A COVER

Covers usually start with sketches—the artist and editor discuss dynamic moments coming up in the story, pick a character or scene to focus on, then the artist distills those ideas into an image (or two, or three). For cover twenty-one, the original focus was Maraad's charge at Cho'gall. Everyone involved selects a favorite cover, then we pick the image apart—and sometimes you discover none of the sketches fits quite right.



Mike went back to the drawing board, and came up with these layouts, to bring the focus back to Cho'gall. They were close, but not quite there.



When the changes we wanted became a little hard to describe, an anonymous non-artist grabbed a pen to demonstrate!

Fortunately, Mike Bowden was able to take that pose, and make something awesome.



Once the final pencils for cover twenty-one were approved, we turned it over to Tony Washington for coloring. Here you can appreciate just a little of the time Tony spends.



Stage 1: Flats. This is where the colorist blocks out the large areas of color, and starts to figure out important points—like where the folds of Cho'gall's loincloth end and where his toes begin!



Stage 2: Lighting. This step often gets blended into step 3, but here, Tony took a moment to show Blizzard how this scene would be lit. Now the top of the platform pops out, making it more three-dimensional, and the sky of Ahn'Qiraj is an eerie orange-red.

Stage 3: Rendering. This is where Tony's attention to detail starts to pay off. The anubisaths are first colored, then cast into shadow. The hair (on both heads) gets highlights, making it look more natural. Each of Cho'gall's many, many muscles are highlighted, playing off the shadow lines Mike established in the pencils.





Stage 4: Effects. Not every book gets to have characters lit by their own magic, but **WORLD OF WARCRAFT** makes the best of every opportunity—not only does the entire body glow, so do the eyes!

Garona's failed to complete her mission...but she still must seek redemption. Her story continues in

WORLD OF WARCRAFT®

BOOK FOUR





