

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO MISSOURI.

OF COURSE NOT.

IT'S A DOUBLY LANDLOCKED STATE.

EVEN AN EXILED KING.

...HOW'D THEY BUILD IT SO TALL?

HOLD YOUR MOTHER'S HAND, PLEASE.

SUCH A PRETTY DAY.

CAN WE DO CARMINE'S FOR LUNCH?

NO PLACE FOR A KING OF ATLANTIS.

WHAT IS THAT?

LOOK OVER THERE!

WHERE DID--

MY GOD!



BUT THINGS
CHANGE.

THEY DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THEY'RE
LOOKING AT.

WHERE
DID THAT COME
FROM?

--LOOKS
OLD.

--HEARD
ABOUT SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

THEIR BRAINS
WORK OVERTIME
TRYING TO MAKE
SENSE OF IT ALL.

A FRAGMENT
FROM...

... SOMEWHERE
ELSE...

... SUDDENLY
GROWING UP
FROM THE
EARTH...

GET
BACK!
DON'T
LET IT TOUCH
YOU!

... CLAIMING THE
SPACE THAT WAS
ONCE OCCUPIED
BY OUR WORLD...

... DEVOURING
IT...

... AND STILL
HUNGRY FOR
MORE.

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I FIT IN WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.

I WAS ALWAYS OUT OF PLACE.

SHHHRAAGK

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

BUT FEAR... CONFUSION...

... THE FEELING THAT THE WORLD'S SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS DIG IN AND HANG ON...

... THAT I GET.

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AND STILL
IT COMES...

...RELENTLESS...

...DRIVEN INTO A
FRENZY BY THE
THREAT OF ITS OWN
DESTRUCTION.

ENCHANTED
BLADE BITES
DEEP...

...UNNATURAL
FLESH TORN
ASUNDER
BENEATH ITS
EDGE.

BUT THE
BANE-FIELD IS
HELD AT BAY.

I'M THE
BULWARK
UPON WHICH
IT BREAKS.

THE
BLESSINGS
ARE HOLDING
TRUE.

FOR NOW.

SLLSHHK

SLLSHHK

SLLSHHK

ALL
RIGHT! LET'S
GET THIS OVER
WITH!

COME
ON OUT!

LET'S
SEE WHAT
ELSE YOU'VE
GOT!



THE FORCES WITHIN ANSWER THE CHALLENGE...

...THOUGH THEY KNOW THEY MAY PERISH.

IF THEY DON'T, THEIR KINGDOM... THEIR WORLD...

...MAY CEASE TO EXIST.

AND I GUESS I CAN RELATE TO THAT, TOO.

