

Anglo-Saxon England.

A THRIVING NATION OF SHEPHERDS AND SHOPKEEPS,
BARDS AND BAILIFFS, CLANS AND CO-OPERATIVES.



ALL THAT CHANGED IN 1066.

THE NORMAN CONQUEST SAW THE ANGL0-SAXON NOBILITY
RUTHLESSLY ERADICATED, AND THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND CRUSHED
BENEATH THE BOOT HEEL OF A FOREIGN AND FASCISTIC NEW REGIME.



A REGIME THAT HAD COME TO STAY.



One hundred and twenty-five years later.









ROBIN!
LITTLE JOHN!

COME
AT ONCE...



...AN INTERLOPER
APPROACHES.

SHOW
ME WHERE,
KENNETH.

ALAN! ARTHUR!
TO ARMS...!



MUCH THE
MILLER'S SON SPOTTED HIM
ENTERING THE OUTER PERIMETER
AT SOUTH-BY-SOUTHWEST.

GOD BE THANKED
FOR YOUNG EYES.



SPEAKING
OF WHICH...

MAY THIS ONE BE
OF ASSISTANCE,
MY LORD?

POSSIBLY,
SABIB...



...THOUGH MY GOAL
IS TO DEAL WITH OUR INTRUDER
BEFORE HE COMES WITHIN RANGE
OF YOUR SHIMMY BLADE.

IT IS CALLED
A SCIMITAR,
MY LORD.

AS I HAVE
TOLD YOU MANY
TIMES BEFORE...





...I AM CALLED SCARLET.

TILL OF LATE, I HAVE LIVED IN ELTON, WITH MY FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR, DANIEL OF DONCASTER.

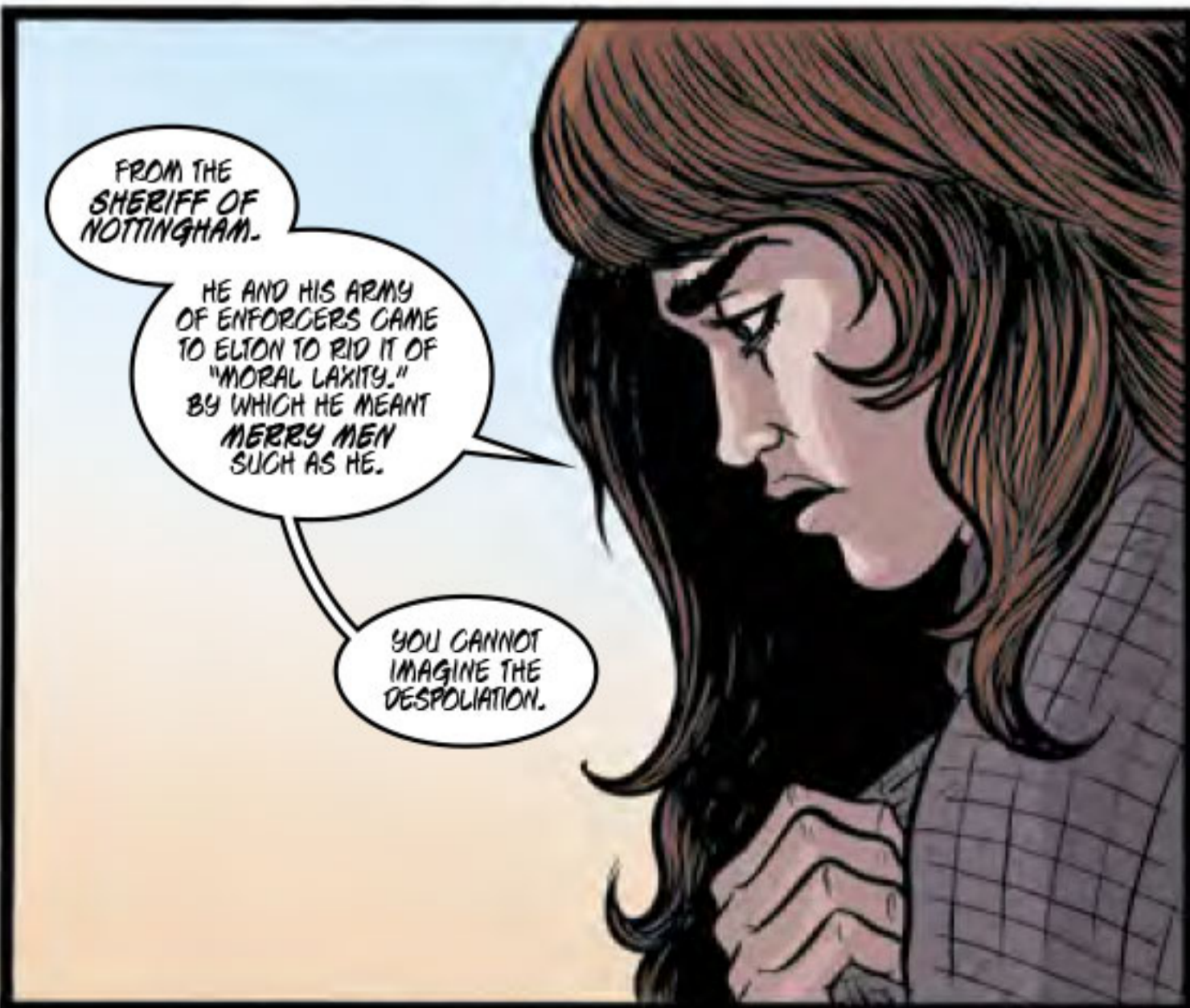


I KNOW DANIEL WELL. HE IS MY FRIEND OF OLD.

SO HE TOLD ME... WHEN HE SET ME IN SEARCH OF YOU.

"FIND ROBIN OF SHERWOOD," HE SAID. "SEEK HIM OUT AMIDST THE WILDERNESS. HE WILL GIVE YOU SANCTUARY."

"SANCTUARY"?... FROM WHAT THREAT DO YOU REQUIRE SUCH A THING?



FROM THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM.

HE AND HIS ARMY OF ENFORCERS CAME TO ELTON TO RID IT OF "MORAL LAXITY," BY WHICH HE MEANT MERRY MEN SUCH AS HE.

YOU CANNOT IMAGINE THE DESPOLIATION.



OH.

BUT I CAN.



...COME WITH US, DANIEL. THE SHERIFF IS LEAVING NO PLACE FOR MEN SUCH AS WE IN SUTTON.

BUT... THESE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES ARE ILLEGAL. SURELY THEY CANNOT CONTINUE.

OUR KIND HAS BEEN DECLARED BENEATH THE PROTECTION OF LAW, MY FRIEND...



...THE SHERIFF'S MEN MAY TAKE ALL OF WHAT YOU HAVE THAT PLEASES THEM AND BURN THE REST, AND DO SO WITH IMPUNITY.

WE'VE GATHERED A SMALL COMPANY WHO WILL NOT WAIT TO FALL PREY TO THEIR NOTIONS OF JUSTICE, BUT WILL SEEK TO EVADE THEM BY TAKING REFUGE IN THE FOREST. YOU ARE WELCOME TO A PLACE AMONG US.

I THANK YOU, ROBIN... BUT NO.



I AM TOO OLD FOR ROUGH LIVING. I WILL GO TO ELTON, WHERE I HAVE WAREHOUSES AND OTHER INTERESTS, AND WAIT FOR ALL THIS TERRIBLE CONFUSION TO ABATE.

UNTIL THEN, I WISH YOU WELL, MY FRIEND.

AND I YOU...





...KENNETH LESTER IS NOW A SWORD-ARM WORTHY OF ANY KING'S SERVICE...



... WHILE MUCH THE MILLER'S SON WIELDS A LANCE AS TO THE MANNER BORN...



...AND SABIB AL HASAN, YOUR SARACEN PAGE, IS UNEXCELLED IN ALL ENGLAND WITH HIS SHIMMY BLADE...

SCIMITAR. IT IS CALLED A SCIMITAR.



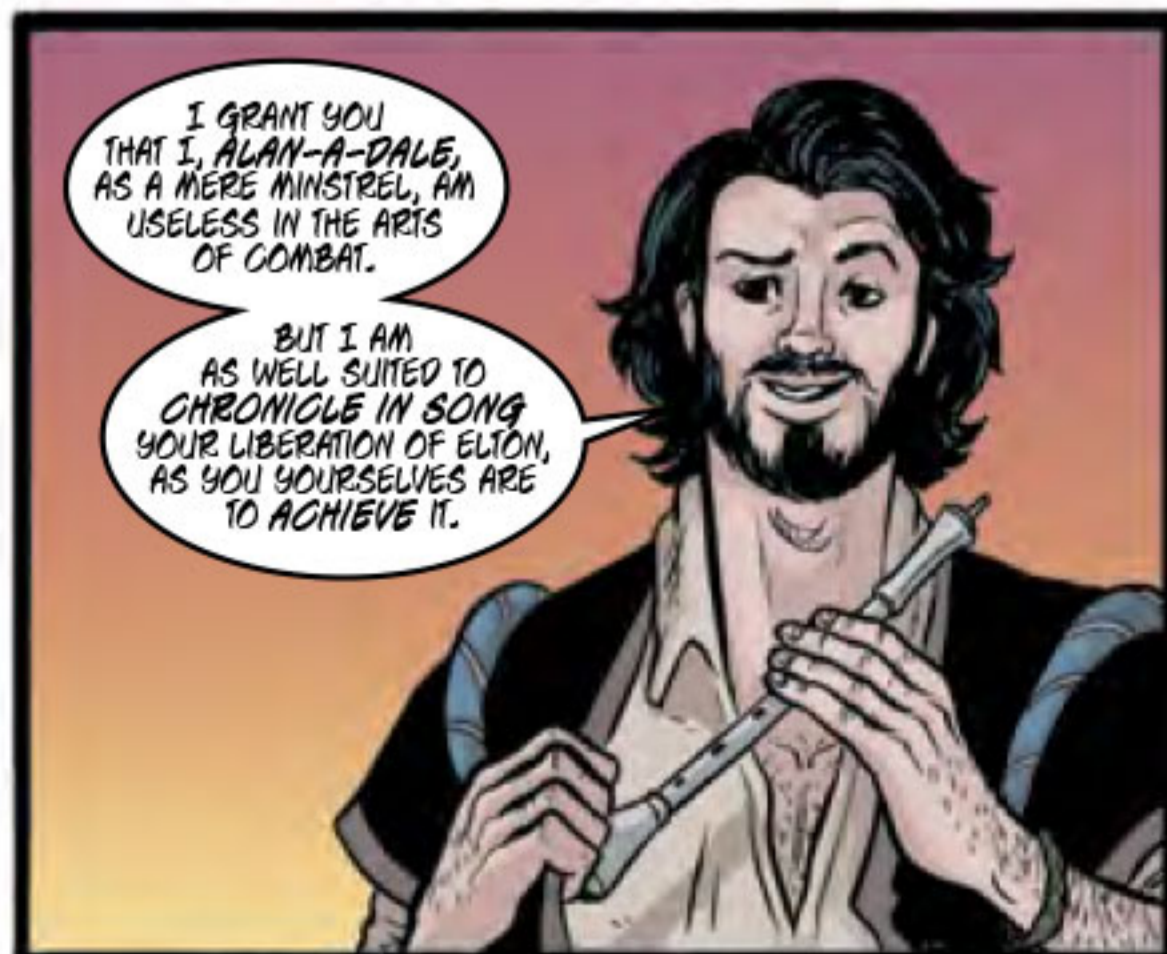
...LET US NOT FORGET YOUR OWN BELOVED LITTLE JOHN, WHO WITH HIS QUARTERSTAVES CAN CAUSE NO END OF MAYHEM...



...NOR MY OWN SWEET ARTHUR-A-BLAND, WHO FROM HIS FORMER TANNER'S TRADE HAS MASTERED EVERY KNOWN USE OF THE KNIFE...



...AND LEAST OF ALL YOU YOURSELF, ROBIN, THE GREATEST ARCHER OF OUR ERA, AND THE SCOURGE OF INFIDELS IN THE LAST CRUSADE.



I GRANT YOU THAT I, ALAN-A-DALE, AS A MERE MINSTREL, AM USELESS IN THE ARTS OF COMBAT.

BUT I AM AS WELL SUITED TO CHRONICLE IN SONG YOUR LIBERATION OF ELION, AS YOU YOURSELVES ARE TO ACHIEVE IT.



THE MORE I CONSIDER THAT LAD'S NIMBLE TONGUE, THE MORE I ENVY THE USE TO WHICH HE PUTS IT IN YOUR SERVICE, ARTHUR, YOU SCOUNDREL.

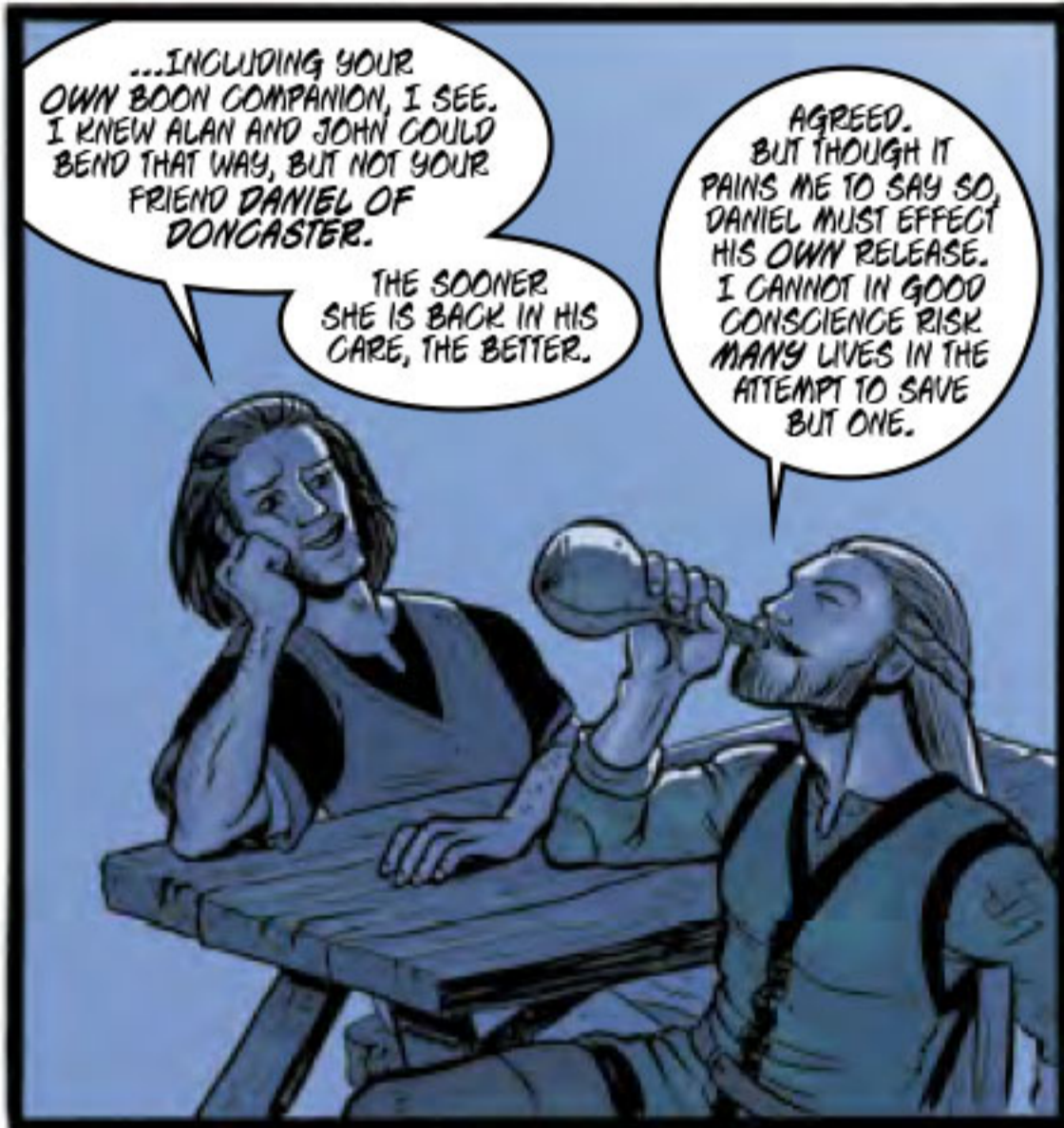
HAHAHA





IT APPEARS SCARLET'S WINSOME CHARMS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO STIR THE LONGINGS OF SOME OF THE OTHERS...

Waggoner the algon for over than him from the others



...INCLUDING YOUR OWN BOON COMPANION, I SEE. I KNEW ALAN AND JOHN COULD BEND THAT WAY, BUT NOT YOUR FRIEND DANIEL OF DONCASTER.

THE SOONER SHE IS BACK IN HIS CARE, THE BETTER.

AGREED. BUT THOUGH IT PAINS ME TO SAY SO, DANIEL MUST EFFECT HIS OWN RELEASE. I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE RISK MANY LIVES IN THE ATTEMPT TO SAVE BUT ONE.



MEN ARE NOT SHEEP, ROBIN. WITHOUT OCCUPATION-- WITHOUT CHALLENGE-- THEY WILL INVENT THEIR OWN REASONS FOR CONFLICT, WHETHER THEIR LEADER WILLS IT OR NO.

YOUR CHOICE, MY DEAR, IS WHETHER TO LEAVE THESE SIMMERING PASSIONS TO BOIL OVER HERE AT CAMP...



...OR TO DIRECT THEM AT A WORTHIER ADVERSARY ELSEWHERE.



VERY WELL, THEN.

AT FIRST LIGHT, WE COMMENCE THE LIBERATION OF ELTON.