

CODA™

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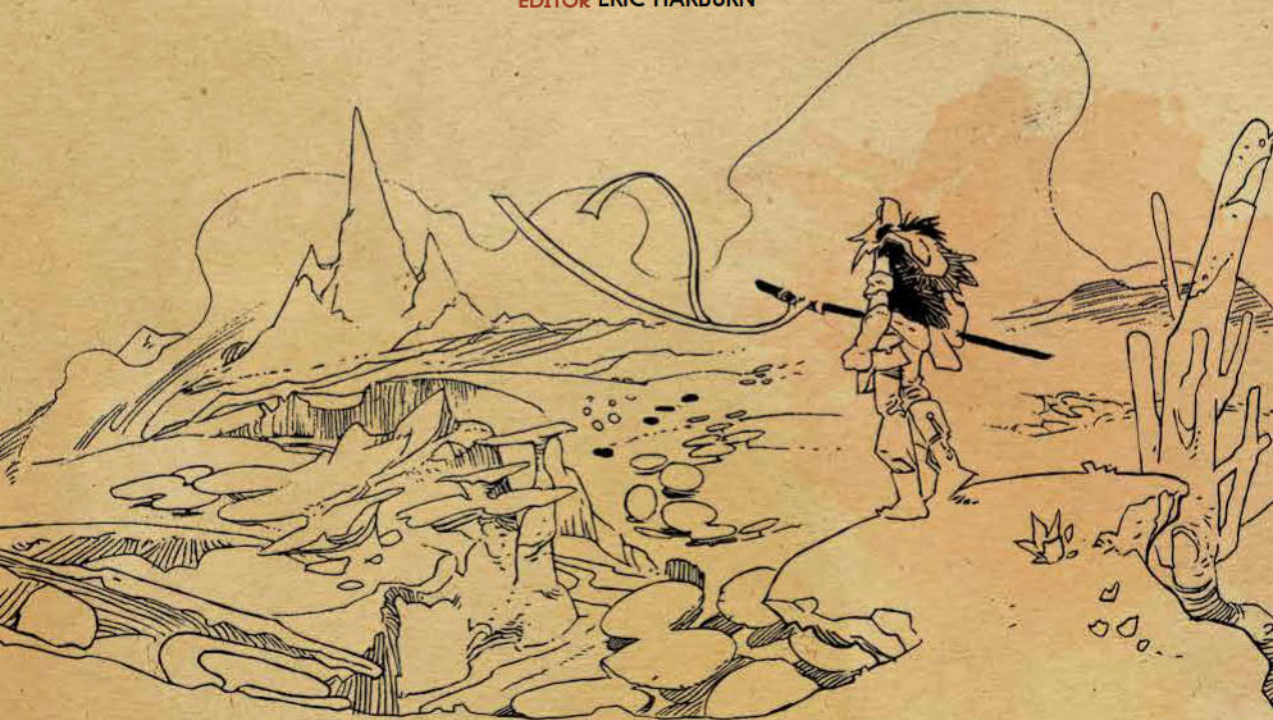
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BOOM![™]
STUDIOS

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MY DARLING
SERKA.

HERE IS TODAY'S GLIMMERING
DAGGER OF OBSERVATIONAL
WISDOM:

EVERYTHING'S CHANGED,
NOTHING'S CHANGED

#@%!!!

PEOPLE STILL
WANT. PEOPLE
STILL PROTECT
WHAT THEY'VE
ALREADY GOT.

I FOUND THAT
OUT YESTERDAY--
THE HARD WAY.

PEOPLE STILL PUNISH, AND
LIE TO THEMSELVES ABOUT
WHY.

PEOPLE STILL SPEND
THEIR TIME WORRYING
WHETHER TO BOND
OR BETRAY.

PEOPLE STILL LIVE THEIR
WHOLE LIVES SCARED
ABOUT ONE THING
OR ANOTHER.

WHAT THE
HELL--?



HULLO
THERE.

HRRRN!

AND ABOVE ALL? NO MATTER
HOW MUCH WE TELL OURSELVES
THIS NEW WORLD'S MADE US
CAUTIOUS, CAREFUL, CLEVER--

--STILL, DEEP
DOWN WE ALL
KNOW:





WH...
WH...

WE'RE
ALL JUST
BLUNDERING
AROUND IN
THE DARK.



SAME AS
EVER.



I SUPPOSE WHAT I'M
GETTING AT, MY LOVE,
IS THAT IT'S POSSIBLE
I MIGHT'VE MESSED
UP A TEENSY BIT.

BEST INTENTIONS, OF COURSE. YOU'RE BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY BLOODY DEMONS AND I NEED A CRAPLOAD OF AKKER TO GET YOU BACK.

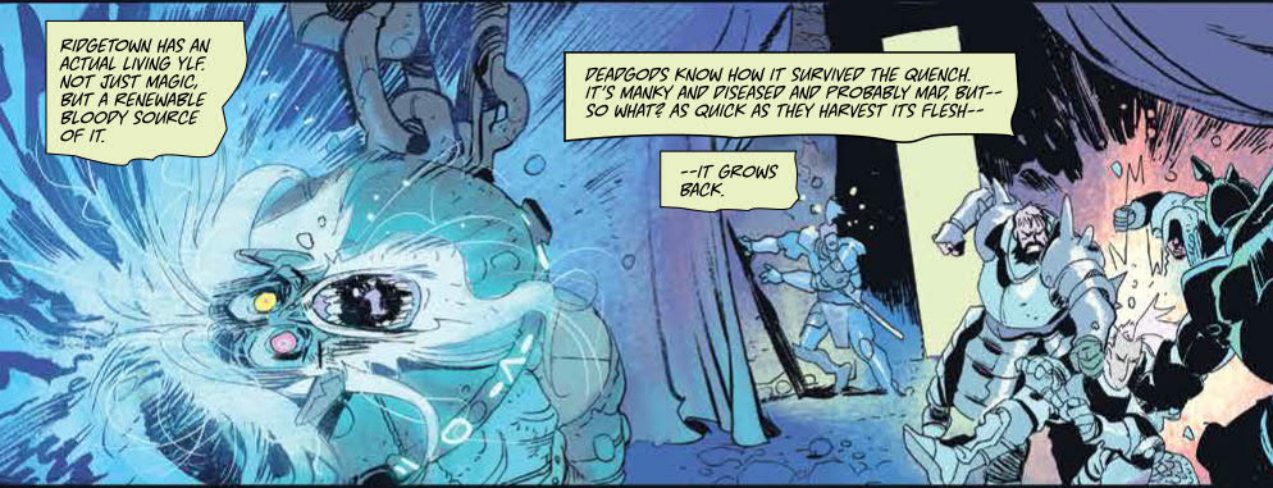
NOW, BEFORE YOU START--I KNOW: YOU'RE NOT A BIG FAN OF THEFT. BUT HERE'S THE THING:



RIDGETOWN HAS AN ACTUAL LIVING YLF. NOT JUST MAGIC, BUT A RENEWABLE BLOODY SOURCE OF IT.

DEARGODS KNOW HOW IT SURVIVED THE QUENCH. IT'S MANKY AND DISEASED AND PROBABLY MAD, BUT-- SO WHAT? AS QUICK AS THEY HARVEST ITS FLESH--

--IT GROWS BACK.



HOW CAN IT BE THEFT IF IT NEVER RUNS OUT, EH? STANDS TO REASON.

IT'S JUST PLAIN BAD LUCK THESE PARTICULAR GREEDY BASTARDS DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY.



PEOPLE ALWAYS ASSUME THE WORST, DON'T THEY?

(EVERYTHING'S CHANGED, NOTHING'S CHANGED?)



W-WAIT--!



WELL, ANYWAY, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.

I-IT MAIMED FIVE MEN! WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT IT, FAR LESS GET A BRIDLE ON! A-AND THE LANGUAGE IT USES!

MAKE IT CALM DOWN.

回々#!

BOLLOCKS. A DEAL, SENTENCE COMMUTED, SWITCH THE AXE FOR EXILE, OR I DON'T LIFT A FINGER.

HE'LL FLATTEN HALF THE TOWN BEFORE YOU LAND A SHOT.

YOU KNOW HOW GOOD I AM WITH WORDS.

...
...
...

SHARING, SERKA. SHARING'S THE ROAD TO DECENCY. THAT'S SOMETHING YOU TAUGHT ME.

YESTERDAY I SHARED MY FORGIVENESS, FORBEARANCE, AND MERCY WITH A BUNCH OF UNREASONABLE SODS.

RETURN TO MY SEWER, SIR--LIKE THE RAT THOU ART!

AND I'M SURE THAT WHEN I GO BACK THERE, THEY'LL FOLLOW MY LEAD AND SHARE THAT YLF OF THEIRS IN RETURN.

IN FACT, I INTEND TO INSIST ON IT.

I MADE A NEW FRIEND, BY THE WAY. I AM THE VERY ESSENCE OF SOCIABILITY, AFTER ALL. HE'S BIG ON SHARING, TOO.

WAKE, WAKE NOW. YOU MUST EAT.

B-BUGGER OFF! WH-WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT'S HAP--

ALL IN GOOD TIME! YOUR SORCEROUS DUEL AGAINST THE NECROTHAUM HAS LEFT YOU WEAK. YOU MUST EAT.

I-I'M NOT SWALLOWIN' ANYTHING UNTIL I KNOW WH--

...
MAYBE JUST A NIBBLE.

≡MPH≡
NO OFFENFF, BUT VIEH TAFTEF LIKE FOMEONE CHARRED A GOBLIN'S ARFFE, AND--

MMMM, YES! SUCKLING PIG FROM THE BOARHOLT! GRYPHON EGGS FROM THE BESTIARIES OF HIGH CHIVARIS! ONLY THE BEST!

COME!
COME!

MIND YOU--SOMETHING ELSE THAT HASN'T CHANGED: WHEN IT COMES TO THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS?