

MARVEL

4

TINI HOWARD
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AGE OF CONAN™

BÊLIT



INCLUDES THE
NEXT CHAPTER
OF AN ALL-NEW
BÊLIT
NOVELLA

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BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!



Asgulin, long ago.

A
TOAST!

TO DREAD
ADMIRAL ATRAHASIS,
LORD OF THE
CHURNING SEAS--



--AND **PROUD
PAPA!**

MY
DEAREST FRIEND,
N'YAGA.

PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
LOOK AFTER
HER IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS
TO ME.



AH, DON'T JOKE. YOU HALE AND
HEARTY OLD MAN. SEA AIR AND
RUM HAVE **PICKLED** YOU INTO
GOOD HEALTH, SURELY.

I'M NOT KIDDING.

I HAVE
CHOSEN THE SALT
PATH--OF COLD SEAS
AND WARM BLOOD. A
VIOLENT WAY TO LIVE,
AND DIE.

IF SOMETHING
SHOULD HAPPEN TO
ME, BÊLIT WILL
NEED YOU.



LOOK AT HER
BEAUTIFUL MOTHER,
SLEEPING
THERE.

SHE WILL LIVE TO
RAISE HER DAUGHTER
AND GIVE YOU MANY MORE
BABIES, SHOULD YOU
WANT THEM.

YOU WILL HAVE
NO NEED OF ME
TO RAISE HER.

N'YAGA...



HER BODY IS STRONG, YES, BUT HER **MIND**, N'YAGA.

FOR MONTHS NOW, HER MIND IS FULL OF **STORMS**.

VASTIA HAS BEEN WITH CHILD. LET YOUR WIFE BE STORMY.



YOU MISUNDERSTAND. SHE WAKES IN THE NIGHT AND **HOWLS** WITH MADNESS. SHE WANDERS OUT TO THE BEACH AND STARES INTO THE SEA, OUT INTO THE BLACK HORIZON.

SHE WAKES IN THE MORNING AND REMEMBERS NONE OF IT.

I FEAR FOR HER LIFE.

MY FRIEND...



I SAY BLESSINGS FOR OUR SHIP EACH TIME WE SET SAIL. I SAY BLESSINGS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR HOME AT NIGHT WHEN I AM IN MY HOME, PRAYING FOR MY OWN FAMILY.

THE GODS HAVE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME.



I DO NOT LIKE MAGIC.

IT IS BUT PRAYER.



DO NOT, MY FRIEND.

BECAUSE IF YOU TRY SUCH MAGICS ON MY WIFE AND THEY **FAIL** HER OR **WORSE**--

--I WOULD BE **UNABLE** TO FORGIVE YOU.



THE GIFTS
OF YOURS I CHERISH
MOST ARE YOUR
FRIENDSHIP AND
YOUR **WISDOM**.

SUPERSTITION AND
MAGIC ARE DANGEROUS
AT BEST.



AND I WILL
NEED YOU
AT SEA, MY
BROTHER.
WITH **ME**.

I PRAY
EVERY VOYAGE
FOR FAIR WINDS AND
FOLLOWING SEAS.
PERHAPS IT IS NOT
MAGIC, BUT I PRAY
FOR YOU, TOO.



YOU
WOULD NOT
HAVE ME PRAY
FOR HER?

THE GODS
CANNOT CURSE
ME WORSE THAN
I HAVE CURSED
MYSELF BY
MY DEEDS.

BUT
THEM?



I LOVE
BOTH OF
THEM.



I FEAR
WHATEVER
CALLS HER TO
THE BLACK
HORIZON...

I FEAR
THAT THE
SAME MADNESS
SLEEPS IN OUR
DAUGHTER.



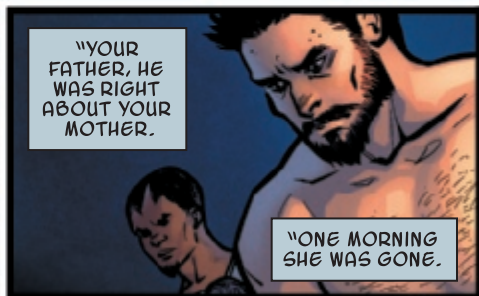
"THAT IS THE PROMISE I MADE TO YOUR FATHER.

"WHEN HE DIED, YOU NEEDED NO NURSEMAID. YOU WERE AS STUBBORN AS HE AND STOLE AWAY FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, GOT YOURSELF **KIDNAPPED**.



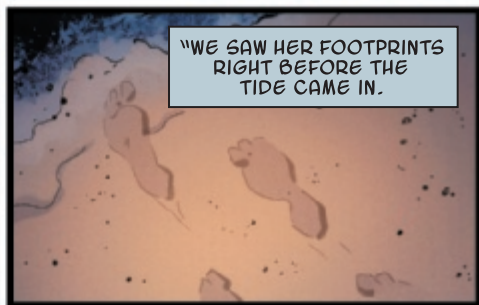
"YOU WOULD NOT HAVE LISTENED TO ME, NOR WOULD YOU HAVE LEARNED A THING.

"SO I CHOSE TO LOOK AFTER YOU QUIETLY. NOT TO GUIDE YOU **UNDER** MY HAND, BUT TO WATCH YOU GROW IN GRACE AND POWER UNTIL I FEARED FOR YOU AND HAD TO STEP IN.



"YOUR FATHER, HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.

"ONE MORNING SHE WAS GONE.



"WE SAW HER FOOTPRINTS RIGHT BEFORE THE TIDE CAME IN.



"HE MOURNED HER FOR A FULL FORTNIGHT IN RAGE AND DRINK AND AGONY.

"AND THEN, NEVER AGAIN.

"AFTER THAT, I UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOUR FATHER **FEARED**."