

# CODA™

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**BOOM!**<sup>™</sup>  
STUDIOS

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M-MAGIC BLACK OHHH Like THE SEA it SLITHERS DEEP I TASTE IT DEFEND DEFEND!

DEFEND YOURSELF, HUMAN!

WH-WHAT THE DEVIL'S BALLBAG ARE YOU?

THX





DEAD.  
THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
IS.

N-NOTCH.

HMP.

NEVER  
TOLD YOU  
MY NAME, OH  
MYSTERIOUS NEW  
RECRUIT.



THOK



UHM.



AAAA!  
OH! IT  
HURTS!

AAAAOOOW!



GIVE IT A REST, THAT LEG'S GLAMOURED WOOD, YOUR CAMEL CUSSES LIKE A PENTACORN, AND YOUR BEARD'S RUBBISH.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, HUM?



I, UH... THAT IS, M-MY PARTNER AND ME, WE...



NOTCH. IS THE CITY'S PILOT A \$\$\$%&ING WHTLORD?



... HUH.



≡SIGH≡ NOBODY KNOWS. NOT REALLY.

BUT, LOOK, IF IT IS ONE? I MEAN-- SO WHAT? FEAR'S USEFUL, PLACE LIKE THIS.

MAKES PROMOTION A BASTARD, I'LL GRANT YOU, BUT HOW ELSE D'YOU KEEP A CITY OF CUTTHROATS FROM TEARING ITSELF APART?

NO, WHAT I DON'T LIKE-- WHAT BUGS ME-- IS THE SECRETY.

M-MEANING?



THESE CREEPY \$\$\$%HOLES. BEEN VISITING FOR MONTHS, HAVING MEETINGS UP IN THE MINARET...

THUNDERVALE'S S'POSED TO BE OPEN TO ANYONE, LONG AS THEY BRING SOME PLUNDER FOR THE GIANT. WE DON'T DO SCHEMING.



BUT-- WAIT, THESE THINGS SABOTAGED THE AMMO AT RIDGETOWN. THAT'S WHAT STARTED ALL THIS! WHERE ARE THEY FROM IF NOT FROM HERE?

FUNNY, INNIT? NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW ANYTHING, THESE PAYS.



"THERE'S THIS--  
ROUTINE. SAME  
EVERY MORNING.

"FIRST THING I DO,  
SOON AS MY EYES  
OPEN, IS CHECK  
THE RING.

"IF IT IS? THEN I KNOW. WITHOUT  
EVEN TURNING 'ROUND--I KNOW  
SHE'S STILL THERE.

"IS IT GLOWING?"

"MOST DAYS I'LL TAKE A  
MINUTE OR TWO, JUST  
TO LISTEN TO HER  
BREATHE.

"PAYS TO TAKE NOTE OF THE  
LITTLE THINGS, I FIND IT'S  
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME,  
AFTER ALL.

"SOONER OR LATER, A  
MORNING COMES WHEN THE  
RING DOESN'T GLOW.

"OH, MAYBE THERE'S A  
NOTE, MAYBE NOT. BUT  
NO BREATHING. NO  
WARMTH.

"IT'S THAT THE DEMON  
HAS HER--

"--AND I DON'T."

"COULD BE GONE A WEEK OR A  
MONTH. SHE'S OFF TO THE DESERT,  
TO RAGE AND HOWL AND FUME, TO  
LET THE DEMON OUT, JUST THE  
WAY SHE WAS MADE.

"BUT--HERE'S THE TRUTH, IT'S  
NOT THE LONELINESS  
THAT HURTS, WHEN  
SHE'S AWAY.

MORNIN',  
LOVE. FANCY A  
CUPPA?

"I TRY, OF COURSE, TO PUT IT  
OFF, TO KEEP HER CALM, TO  
STEER HER AWAY FROM THE  
E&E THAT SETS HER OFF..."