



















GET US MOVING. HEAD FOR OPEN WATER!

IGNORE THAT ORDER! STOP ROWING!



WE'RE HEADED FOR KUSH!

THEN SO AM I. *GET MOVING!*



HAVE YOU SILVER TO PAY FOR PASSAGE, BARBARIAN?

I PAY WITH *STEEL.*



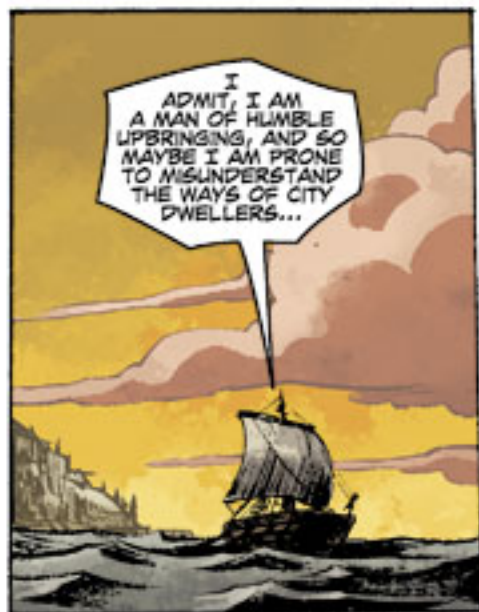
AND I PROMISE YOU, IF YOU DON'T PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THOSE GUARDSMEN ON SHORE, I WILL DRENCH THIS SHIP IN YOUR BLOOD AND THAT OF YOUR CREW.











I ADMIT, I AM A MAN OF HUMBLE UPBRINGING, AND SO MAYBE I AM PRONE TO MISUNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF CITY DWELLERS...



...AND PERHAPS MORE THAN A FEW QUARTS OF ALE HAD PASSED MY LIPS. YOU MEN MUST SURELY KNOW THE PLACE, THE BONE IN THE THROAT, THAT INN DOWN THE OLD WHARF ROAD?

WITH THE TWIN REDHEADS WORKING THE ALE TAPS?

AS I SAID, I AM JUST A MAN.



"SO, MY HEAD HEAVY WITH ALE AND MY HEART YEARNING FOR BATTLE, I HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO WITNESS AN OFFICER IN THE KING'S GUARD MISTREATING A YOUNG WOMAN.

"THE SWEETHEART OF A SOLDIER, WHO HAD THE GREATER MISFORTUNE OF BEING DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THIS GIRL..."



...AND RAN THE CAPTAIN THROUGH, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TAVERN.

BUT, CONAN...



...SURELY YOU COMMITTED NO CRIME IN WITNESSING THIS?

AND SURELY YOU WERE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH EYES ON THIS MURDER?

NO CRIME, BUT EVERYONE ELSE FLED, AND I WAS THE FOOL FOR STAYING TO FINISH MY DRINK!



"MORE GUARDSMEN APPEARED, AND I, AS THE SOLE REMAINING WITNESS, WAS HAULED OFF TO THE CLINK. I SPENT THE NIGHT BEHIND BARS."