

ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

# THORNGAL

## The Cage



Colours: GRAZA

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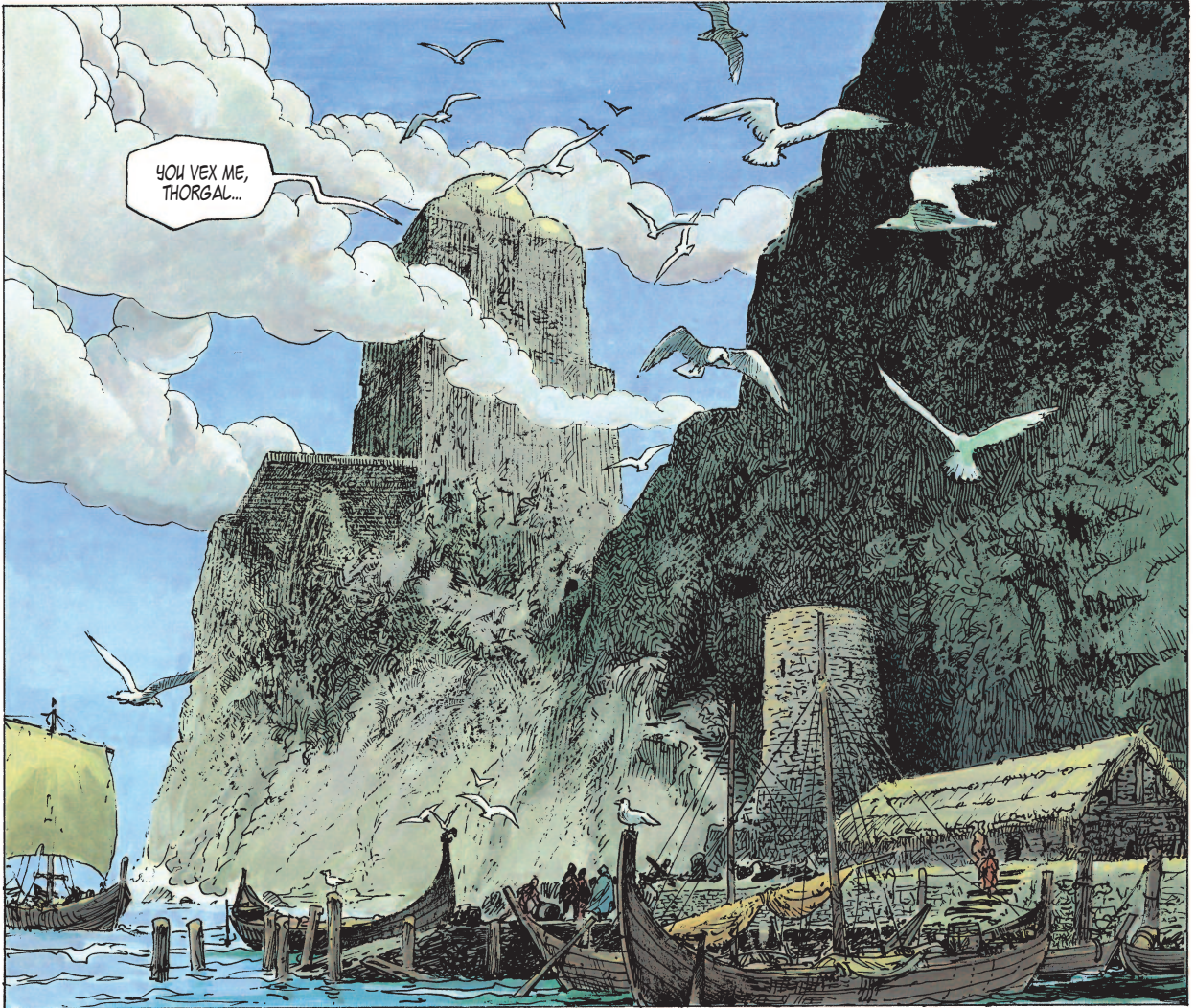
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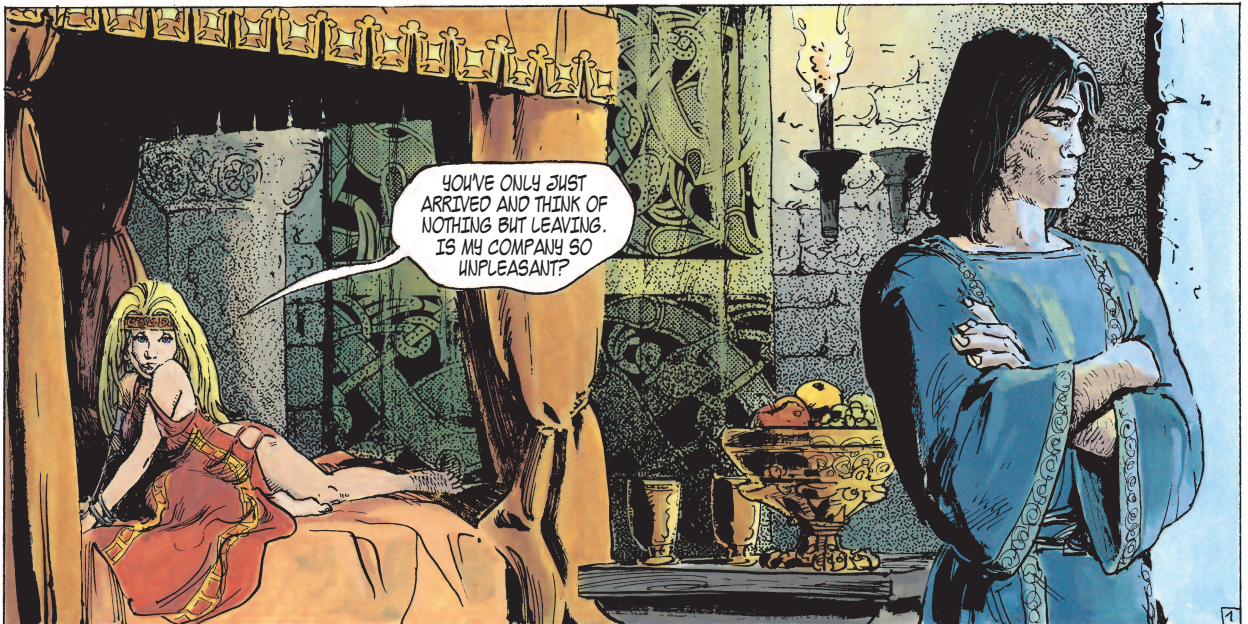
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YOU VEX ME,  
THORGAL...

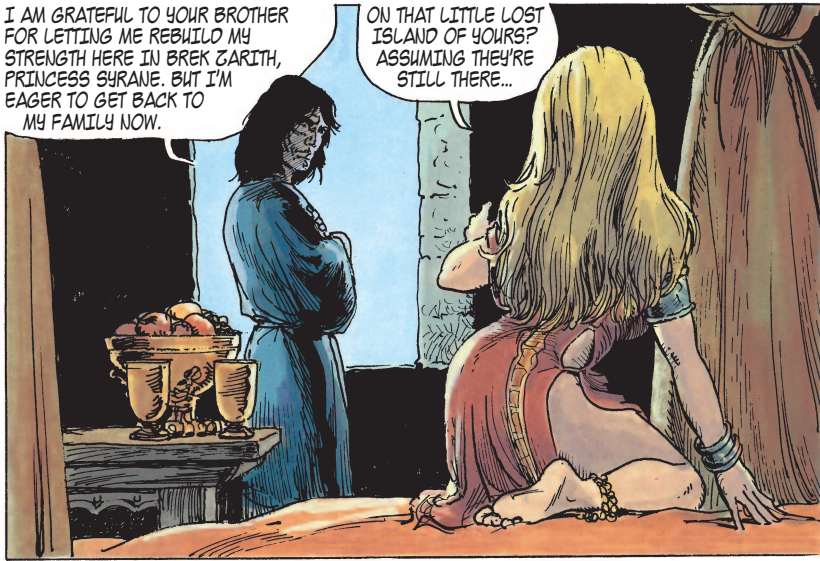


YOU'VE ONLY JUST  
ARRIVED AND THINK OF  
NOTHING BUT LEAVING.  
IS MY COMPANY SO  
UNPLEASANT?



I AM GRATEFUL TO YOUR BROTHER FOR LETTING ME REBUILD MY STRENGTH HERE IN BREK ZARITH, PRINCESS SYRANE. BUT I'M EAGER TO GET BACK TO MY FAMILY NOW.

ON THAT LITTLE LOST ISLAND OF YOURS? ASSUMING THEY'RE STILL THERE...

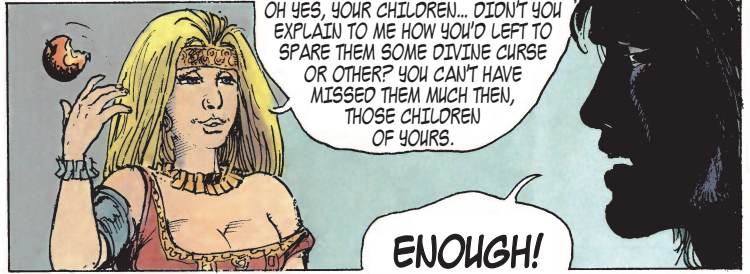


HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SAY YOU SPENT WITH THAT KRISS OF VALNOR, THORGAL AEGIRSSON? TWO? THREE? I'M AFRAID YOUR BELOVED AARICIA HAS LONG FORGOTTEN YOU.



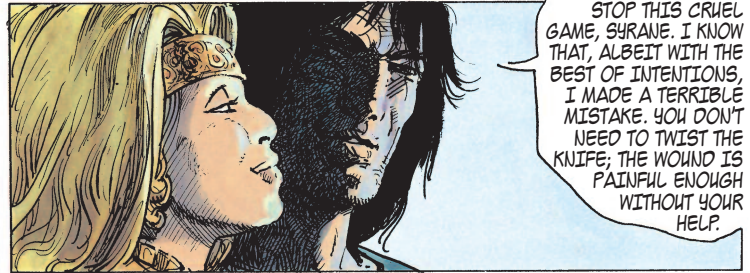
OR AT THE VERY LEAST SHE'LL HAVE REPLACED YOU. PEASANT OR PRINCESS, NO WOMAN CAN SURVIVE ALONE IN THIS MAN'S WORLD. YOUR HOPES OF FINDING YOUR WIFE AGAIN WILL ONLY LEAD TO A MOST CRUEL DISAPPOINTMENT.

OH YES, YOUR CHILDREN... DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU'D LEFT TO SPARE THEM SOME DIVINE CURSE OR OTHER? YOU CAN'T HAVE MISSED THEM MUCH THEN, THOSE CHILDREN OF YOURS.



**ENOUGH!**

YOU DON'T KNOW AARICIA. AND DON'T FORGET MY CHILDREN.



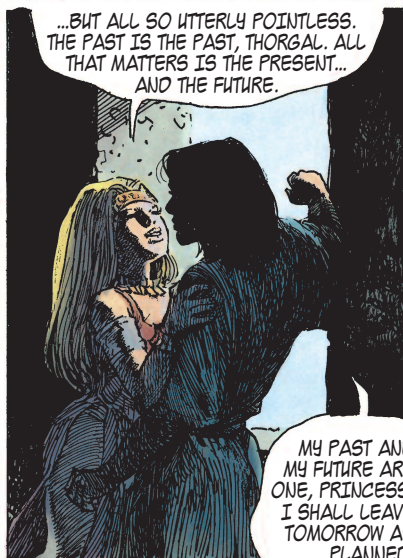
STOP THIS CRUEL GAME, SYRANE. I KNOW THAT, ALBEIT WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, I MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. YOU DON'T NEED TO TWIST THE KNIFE; THE WOUND IS PAINFUL ENOUGH WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I MADE MANY MISTAKES. THE REST OF MY LIFE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO MAKE AMENDS.

HOW WONDERFULLY NOBLE, HOW ADMIRABLY VIRTUOUS OF YOU...

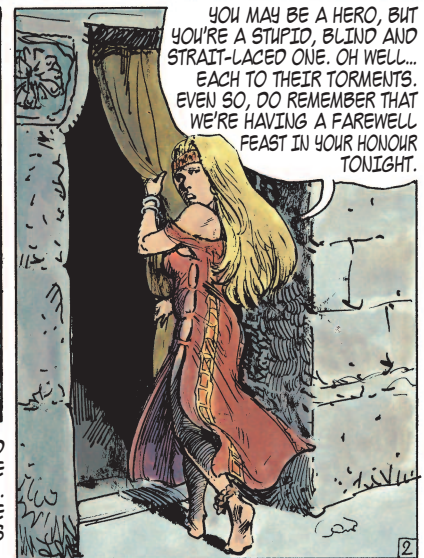


...BUT ALL SO UTTERLY POINTLESS. THE PAST IS THE PAST, THORGAL. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE PRESENT... AND THE FUTURE.



MY PAST AND MY FUTURE ARE ONE, PRINCESS. I SHALL LEAVE TOMORROW AS PLANNED.

YOU MAY BE A HERO, BUT YOU'RE A STUPID, BLIND AND STRAIT-LACED ONE. OH WELL... EACH TO THEIR TORMENTS. EVEN SO, DO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE HAVING A FAREWELL FEAST IN YOUR HONOUR TONIGHT.





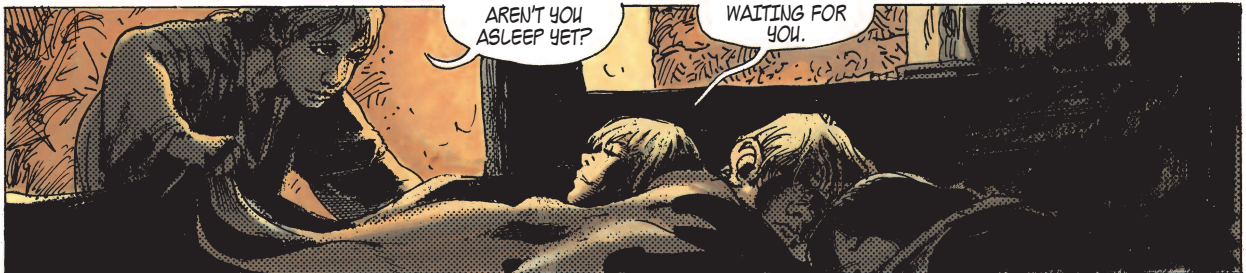


I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA, AARICIA.

I HAVE NO CHOICE, SOLAN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF.



GO TO SLEEP NOW. WE LEAVE EARLY TOMORROW.



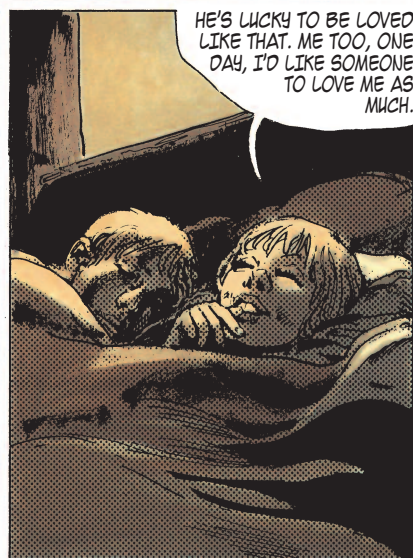
AREN'T YOU ASLEEP YET?

WAITING FOR YOU.



IS SHE THINKING OF THORGAL AGAIN?

OF COURSE. LIKE EVERY NIGHT. LIKE EVERY DAY.

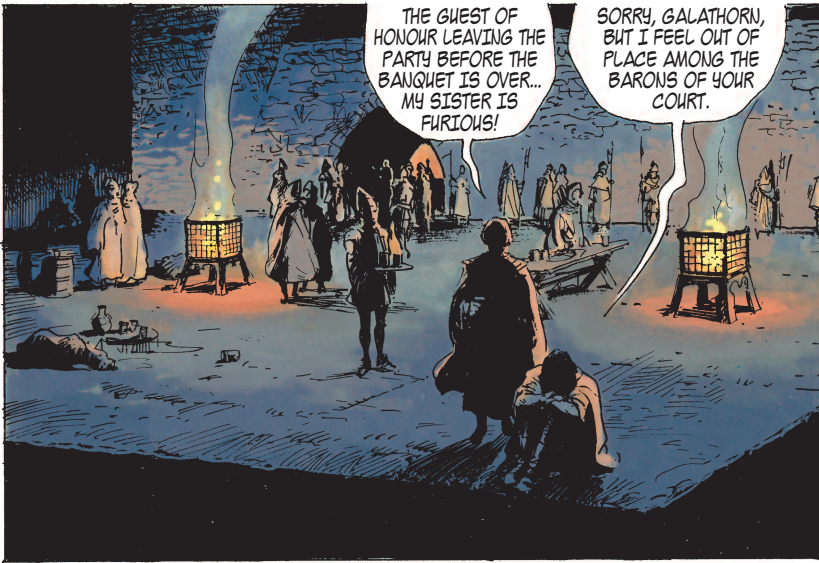


HE'S LUCKY TO BE LOVED LIKE THAT. ME TOO, ONE DAY, I'D LIKE SOMEONE TO LOVE ME AS MUCH.



WELL, THORGAL...



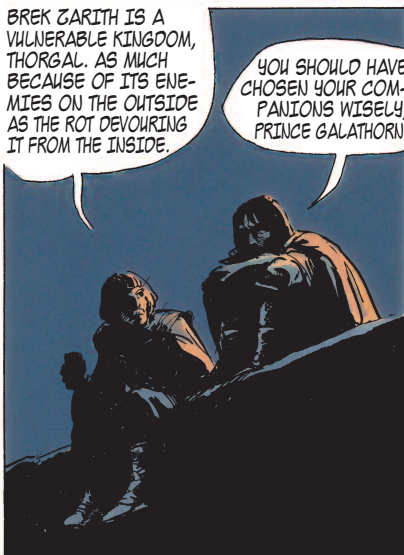


THE GUEST OF HONOUR LEAVING THE PARTY BEFORE THE BANQUET IS OVER... MY SISTER IS FURIOUS!

SORRY, GALATHORN, BUT I FEEL OUT OF PLACE AMONG THE BARONS OF YOUR COURT.



I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THOSE DOGS ARE EACH MORE SYCOPHANTIC AND GRASPING THAN THE LAST, ALL READY TO BETRAY THEIR PRINCE TO GAIN A LITTLE MORE POWER AND PRESTIGE.



BREK ZARITH IS A VULNERABLE KINGDOM, THORGAL. AS MUCH BECAUSE OF ITS ENEMIES ON THE OUTSIDE AS THE ROT DEVOURING IT FROM THE INSIDE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN YOUR COMPANIONS WISELY, PRINCE GALATHORN.



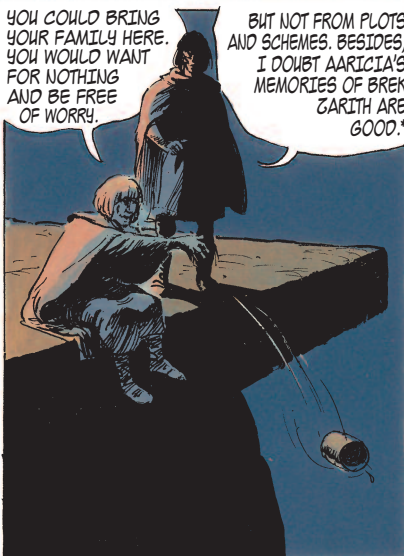
A KING DOESN'T CHOOSE HIS VASSALS, THORGAL. THEY CHOOSE HIM AND ACCEPT HIM, UNTIL ONE OF THEM FEELS STRONG ENOUGH TO TRY AND BECOME KING HIMSELF.



THAT IS WHY I HAVE SUCH NEED OF YOU, MY FRIEND. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST WITH MY EYES SHUT.

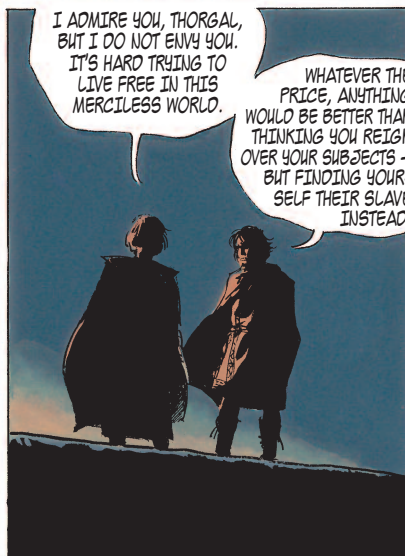


I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED THAT, GALATHORN. I COULD NO MORE HAVE A MASTER THAN I COULD BE ONE.



YOU COULD BRING YOUR FAMILY HERE. YOU WOULD WANT FOR NOTHING AND BE FREE OF WORRY.

BUT NOT FROM PLOTS AND SCHEMES. BESIDES, I DON'T AARICIA'S MEMORIES OF BREK ZARITH ARE GOOD.\*



I ADMIRE YOU, THORGAL, BUT I DO NOT ENVY YOU. IT'S HARD TRYING TO LIVE FREE IN THIS MERCILESS WORLD.

WHATEVER THE PRICE, ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THINKING YOU REIGN OVER YOUR SUBJECTS - BUT FINDING YOURSELF THEIR SLAVE INSTEAD.



GO BACK TO YOUR PLEASURES, PRINCE GALATHORN. I MUST RETURN TO THE PATH I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT.

\*SEE BEYOND THE SHADOWS