

MARVEL

8

LGY#243

JIM ZUB
PATCH ZIRCHER
JAVA TARTAGLIA

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN



PARENTAL
ADVISORY
\$3.99US



BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!

INCLUDES THE
NEXT CHAPTER
OF AN ALL-NEW
CONAN
NOVELLA

After fifteen winters, Conan the Barbarian headed south from his home in frozen Cimmeria, fighting to survive in the ancient time known as the Hyborian Age. In his travels, he has gained much, lost much, and thrived in bloodshed, as many foes have fallen before

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

CONAN THE GAMBLER

part two

Short of money in the city of Shadizar, Conan took a job as bodyguard to the merchant Maraudus. Heavily indebted to the gambling hall known as the Demon's Den, and looking to settle a dispute with rival merchant Kero, Maraudus sat down to a high-stakes game of Serpent's Bluff in an attempt to clear his ledger. A couple of hands in, Maraudus mysteriously dropped dead. With his patron deceased, Conan found himself forced to cover the debt or be subjected to death by the beast in the "Debtors Lounge." Outnumbered and surrounded, Conan sat down to try his luck at the card game, while keeping an eye toward uncovering who or what killed Maraudus...

JIM ZUB ♦ WRITER

PATCH ZIRCHER ♦ ARTIST

JAVA TARTAGLIA ♦ COLOR ARTIST

VC's TRAVIS LANHAM ♦ LETTERER

MARCO CHECCHETTO ♦ COVER ARTIST

LEONARDO MANCO & RAIN BEREDO

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

JAY BOWEN ♦ LOGO & NOVELLA DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO ♦ PRODUCTION DESIGN

MARK BASSO ♦ EDITOR
MARTIN BIRO ♦ ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO ♦ CONSULTING EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI ♦ EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA ♦ CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY ♦ PRESIDENT

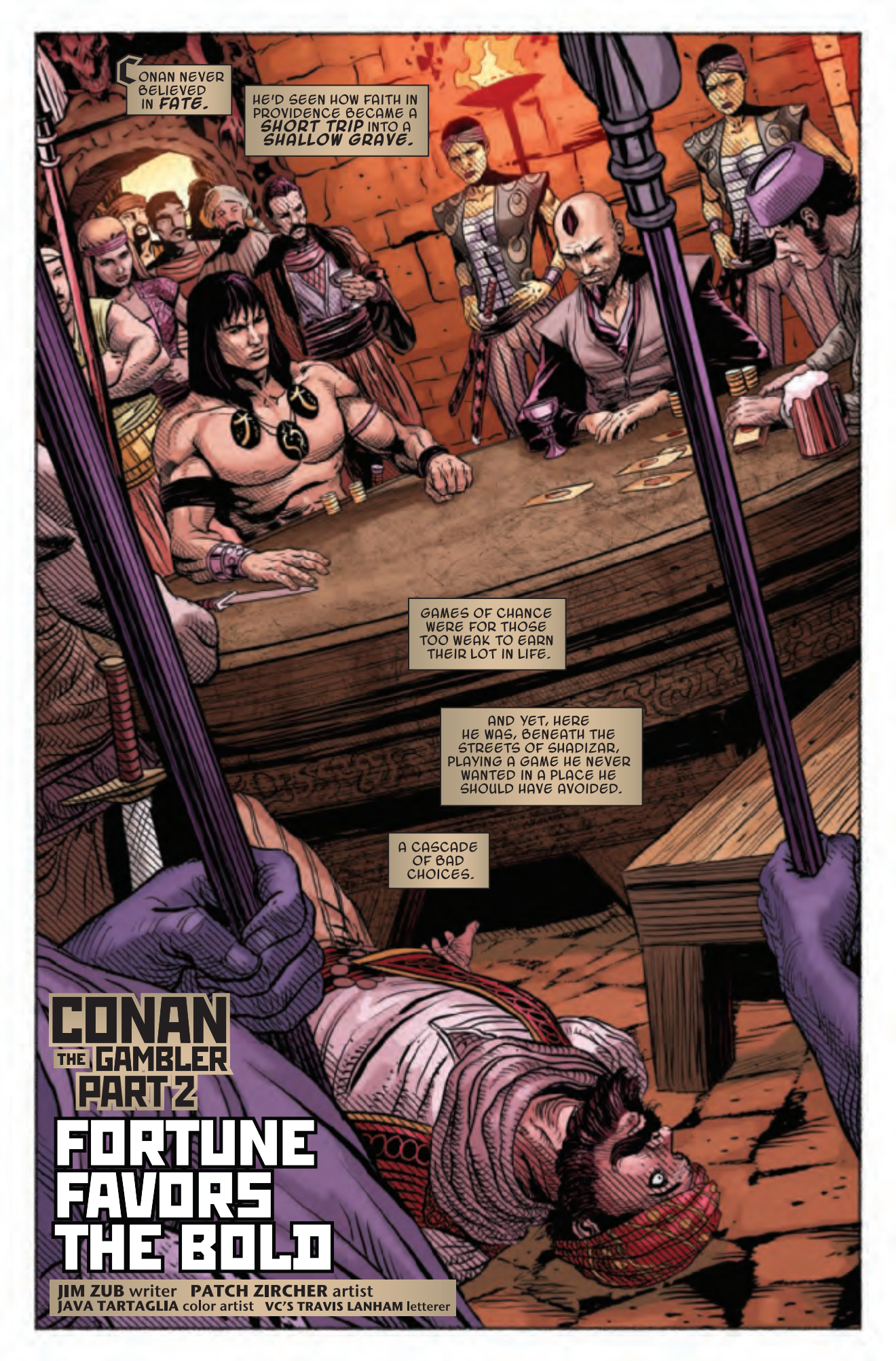
FOR CONAN PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL

FRED MALMBERG ♦ TREASURER OF TRANICOS
JAY ZETTERBERG ♦ ROYAL LIBRARIAN OF AQUILONIA
STEVE BOOTH ♦ COMMANDER OF THE BLACK DRAGONS
MIKE JACOBSEN ♦ THE FROST GIANT'S SON-IN-LAW
HOWARD ANDREW JONES ♦ EDITOR, PERILOUS WORLDS
PIERCE WATTERS ♦ PUBLISHER, PERILOUS WORLDS

SPECIAL THANKS TO BRIAN OVERTON

CONAN CREATED BY ROBERT E. HOWARD.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN No. 8, October 2019. Published Monthly except in February by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Copyright © 2019 Conan Properties International LLC ("CPI"). CONAN, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, HYBORIA, THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN and related logos, characters, names, and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks or registered trademarks of CPI. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market. Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOHN NEE, Publisher; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; DAVID BOGART, Associate Publisher & SVP of Talent Affairs; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; DAN EDINGTON, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vit DeBellis, Custom Solutions & Integrated Advertising Manager, at vdebellis@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 07/26/2019 and 08/05/2019 by FRY COMMUNICATIONS, MECHANICSBURG, PA, USA.



CONAN NEVER
BELIEVED
IN FATE.

HE'D SEEN HOW FAITH IN
PROVIDENCE BECAME A
SHORT TRIP INTO A
SHALLOW GRAVE.

GAMES OF CHANCE
WERE FOR THOSE
TOO WEAK TO EARN
THEIR LOT IN LIFE.

AND YET, HERE
HE WAS, BENEATH THE
STREETS OF SHADIZAR,
PLAYING A GAME HE NEVER
WANTED IN A PLACE HE
SHOULD HAVE AVOIDED.

A CASCADE
OF BAD
CHOICES.

CONAN THE GAMBLER PART 2

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD

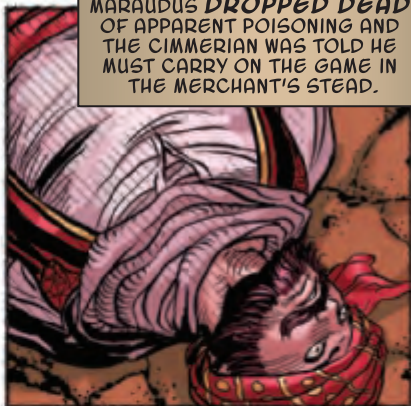
JIM ZUB writer PATCH ZIRCHER artist
JAVA TARTAGLIA color artist VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM letterer

THE CIMMERIAN SAVED A MERCHANT NAMED **MARAUDUS MAHTIR** FROM A GROUP OF **MURDEROUS THIEVES**.



CONAN AGREED TO BE HIS BODYGUARD DURING A HIGH-STAKES GAME AT A DANGEROUS GAMBLING HALL CALLED THE **DEMON'S DEN**.

SIMPLE ENOUGH, 'TIL MARAUDUS **DROPPED DEAD** OF APPARENT POISONING AND THE CIMMERIAN WAS TOLD HE MUST CARRY ON THE GAME IN THE MERCHANT'S STEAD.



SO NOW CONAN WAS PLAYING A DEAD MAN'S GAME, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO KILLED THE BLOATED BASTARD, AND WHETHER HE WOULD BE NEXT TO JOIN HIM DEAD ON THE FLOOR.



IN **SERPENT'S BLUFF**, EACH PLAYER DRAWS AND PLAYS CARDS IN FRONT OF THEM THAT ADD UP AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO **13** WITHOUT GOING OVER.



SPECIAL CARDS COMPLICATE THAT SEEMINGLY SIMPLE PROCESS.

A ROUND CONTINUES UNTIL BOTH PLAYERS HAVE PASSED.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST HANDS DID NOT INSPIRE **CONFIDENCE**.

KERO'S SERPENT EATS CONAN'S FIVE, LEAVING HIM WITH **EIGHT**.

KERO HAS **TWELVE**.



CONAN'S SERPENT IS BLOCKED BY KERO'S KINGS...

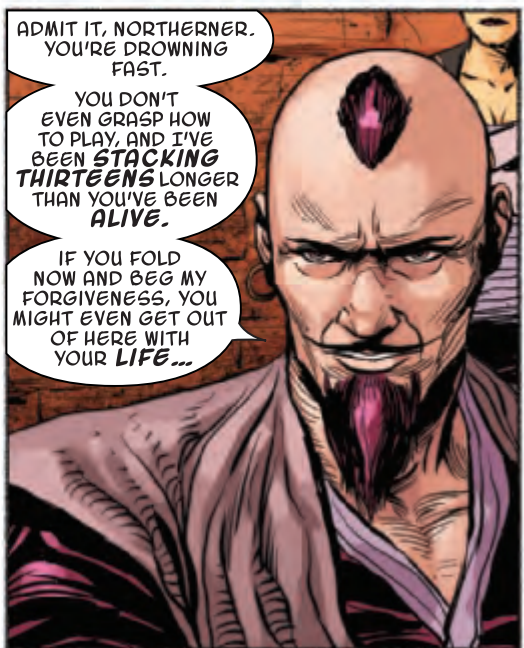
...THUS CONAN HAS A TOTAL OF **EIGHT** AND KERO HAS **NINE**.



ADMIT IT, NORTHERNER. YOU'RE DROWNING FAST.

YOU DON'T EVEN GRASP HOW TO PLAY, AND I'VE BEEN **STACKING THIRTEENS** LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN **ALIVE**.

IF YOU FOLD NOW AND BEG MY FORGIVENESS, YOU MIGHT EVEN GET OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR **LIFE**...



BEFORE CONAN COULD RESPOND TO THE GUILDMASTER'S THREAT, A **SOOTHING VOICE** CUT THROUGH THE DIN, RAISING THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF THE BARBARIAN'S NECK.

IT TAKES **COURAGE** TO REST ONE'S LIFE ON THE FICKLE HAND OF **FATE**.

THERE IS NO **FATE**, WENCH.

THERE ARE NO **GAMES**, EITHER, ONLY **CONQUERORS** AND THOSE **TRODDEN** UNDER THEIR FEET...

PRAY TO THE **GODSEND** FOR GOOD FORTUNE AND MAYBE **BOTH** OF US SHALL WIN THIS NIGHT.

THE **"GODSEND."**

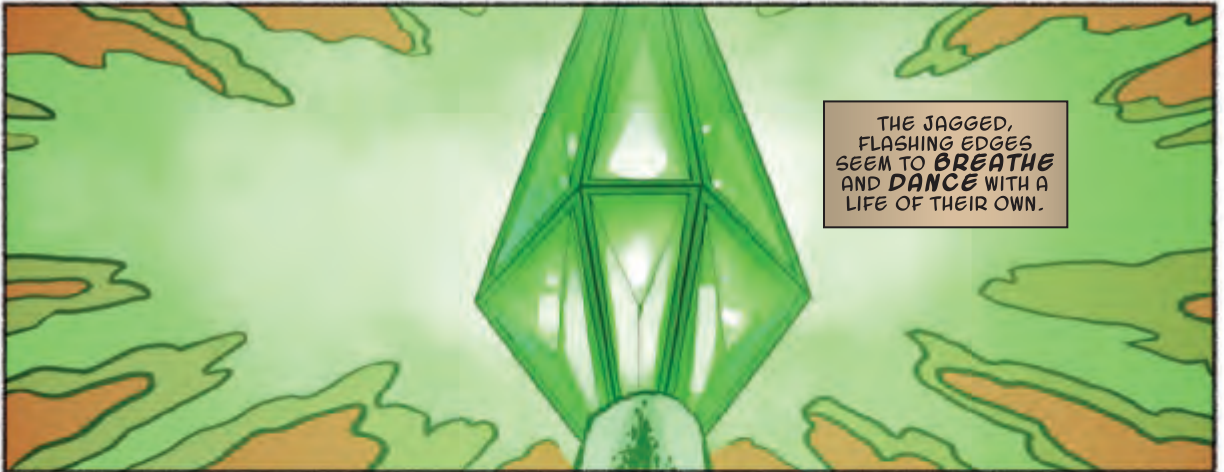
A FIST-SIZED **EMERALD** ENSHRINED IN THE DEMON'S DEN. MANY OF THE PATRONS BESEECH IT FOR **LUCK** WHEN THEIR CONFIDENCE IS SHAKEN AND DISASTER SEEMS IMMINENT.



CONAN PRAYS TO NO MAN OR GOD BUT, AT ITS MENTION, HIS GAZE DOES LINGER ON THE *GLITTERING GEMSTONE*.



LIGHT PLAYS ALONG ITS SURFACE AND THROUGH ITS SEEMINGLY ENDLESS FACETS.



THE JAGGED, FLASHING EDGES SEEM TO *BREATHE* AND *DANCE* WITH A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.



FOR A MOMENT, THE YOUNG BARBARIAN FORGETS WHAT BROUGHT HIM HERE AND THE TENSION COILED WITHIN HIS BODY.

THE GODSEND'S LIGHT IS WARM AND CALM, AND SO TOO IS EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES...