





I BECAME HER AGENT IN HER CAUSE AGAINST YOU. AND THERE ON THE ROCKS SHE CLAIMED ME ALTOGETHER, MADE ME HER SLAVE...

NOW, SOMEWHERE IN HELL.



BUT AT THE VERY END THERE... I WAS FINALLY MYSELF AGAIN. I AIMED THE BLADE AT YOU, BUT, REALLY, IT WAS MEANT FOR HER.

I GET IT.

I'M SORRY FOR IT.

I'VE HAD WORSE.



BUT THE BABA YAGA-- HOW'D YOU GET MIXED UP WITH HER?



AH...



IT'S A LONG STORY.

TO TELL IT PROPERLY, I WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING.


PAL, I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT TIME.



YES.
NOTHING BUT
TIME.

WELL,
IT WAS A **VERY**
LONG TIME AGO--
THERE WAS A
CERTAIN BOY, AN
UNREMARKABLE
BOY.

HE WAS
COMMON, BORN
OF COMMON PARENTS,
AND, HAVING NO CHOICE
IN LIFE, HE BECAME
A SOLDIER...



"...AND DISCOVERED
THAT OF ALL
THINGS HE HAD A
TALENT FOR THAT."

SURRENDER
AND I'LL SEE
YOU FAIRLY DEALT
WITH.


GAA!




HE'S
GODD.

A LITTLE
TOO GOOD.
AND HE
KNOWS IT.

YOU
ASK ME, THE
LAD NEEDS
TAKING DOWN A
NOTCH.



"SO ONE NIGHT MY
FELLOWS LURED ME
TO SOME LONELY
PLACE AND BEAT ME
NEARLY TO DEATH.



"THEY LEFT ME THERE
TO BE FOOD FOR
WOLVES, BUT THAT
NIGHT THERE WAS A
DRAGON WALKING IN
THOSE WOODS."

MAN, YOU ARE
GOING TO DIE
UNLESS I HEAL
YOU WITH MY
MAGIC.

WILL YOU
PROMISE TO BE MY
SERVANT FOR NINE
YEARS IF I SAVE
YOUR LIFE?

YES.



"SO THE DRAGON TOOK ME TO HIS CASTLE, HEALED MY WOUNDS, AND PUT ME TO WORK. I TENDED HIS FIRES, CARRIED WATER, SCRUBBED HIS FLOORS..."

"AND ALL THE WHILE I SAW A GREAT MANY STRANGE THINGS, FOR THE DRAGON KEPT COMPANY WITH ALL SORTS OF DEVILS, WITCHES, AND GHOSTS."



"BUT I WAS CAREFUL AND NEVER TOO CURIOUS."



"AND AT THE END OF NINE YEARS--"



"I WOULD HAVE EATEN YOU HAD YOU PROVED TOO CURIOUS, BUT YOU HAVE DONE WELL AND I HAVE GROWN FOND OF YOU."



KOSHCHEI, I WOULD HAVE YOU BE LIKE MY OWN SON. I WOULD TEACH YOU MAGIC, AND HAVE YOU LIVE HERE FOREVER.

I AM FLATTERED, MY LORD, BUT I AM A MAN, AND WOULD RATHER LIVE LIKE A MAN.



"HE WAS SAD TO SEE ME GO, BUT HE HONORED OUR ARRANGEMENT AND GAVE ME A MAGIC SHIRT AS A PARTING GIFT."

THANK YOU.



"HE TOLD ME THAT SO LONG AS I WORE IT, NO WEAPONS COULD HARM ME.



"AND HE WAS RIGHT.

