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ROBERT E. HOWARD'S

SAWAGE SWORD

80 ACTION-PACKED PAGES!



**FEATURING: CONAN • BRAN MAK MORN
DARK AGNES • EL BORAK • JOHN SILENT**

CONAN

the JEWELS of HESTERM

Part One

AT THE TEMPLE OF THE ELDER QUEEN, ON THE STREET OF ETERNAL SOLITUDE, IN THE CITY OF HESTERM, A NIMBLE DAGGER WORKS UPON THE FACE OF A MARBLE STATUE...



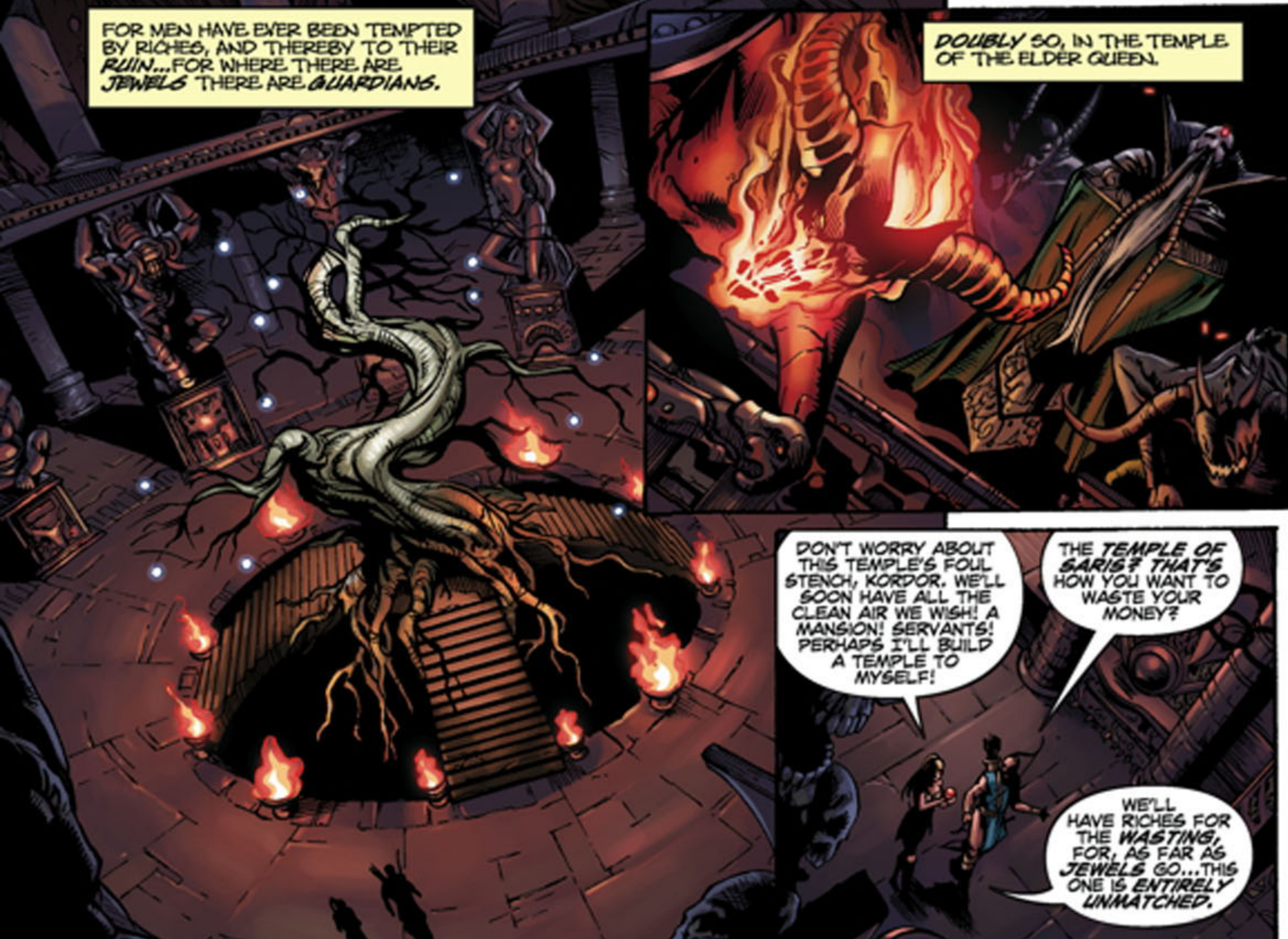
...THAT A THIEF MIGHT FREE A JEWEL.

THE QUEEN'S BREATH GEMSTONE.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT HURRY. THE AIR HERE IS FOUL.

FOR MEN HAVE EVER BEEN TEMPTED BY RICHES, AND THEREBY TO THEIR RUIN...FOR WHERE THERE ARE JEWELS THERE ARE GUARDIANS.

DOUBLY SO, IN THE TEMPLE OF THE ELDER QUEEN.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS TEMPLE'S FOUL STENCH, KORDOR. WE'LL SOON HAVE ALL THE CLEAN AIR WE WISH! A MANSION! SERVANTS! PERHAPS I'LL BUILD A TEMPLE TO MYSELF!

THE TEMPLE OF SARIS? THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO WASTE YOUR MONEY?

WE'LL HAVE RICHES FOR THE WASTING, FOR, AS FAR AS JEWELS GO...THIS ONE IS ENTIRELY UNMATCHED.

AT THE CHEWED GOAT INN, IN FILTH ALLEY, IN THE CITY OF HESTERM, NIMBLE FINGERS DANCE AMONG A COLLECTION OF GEMS.



ARE THOSE... REAL?

THEY ARE, BUT FIT FOR DOGS' COLLARS, NOT KINGS' CROWNS.

THE PICKINGS OF HESTERM ARE FAR LEANER THAN RUMORS WOULD HAVE IT.

ARE YOU A... MERCHANT?

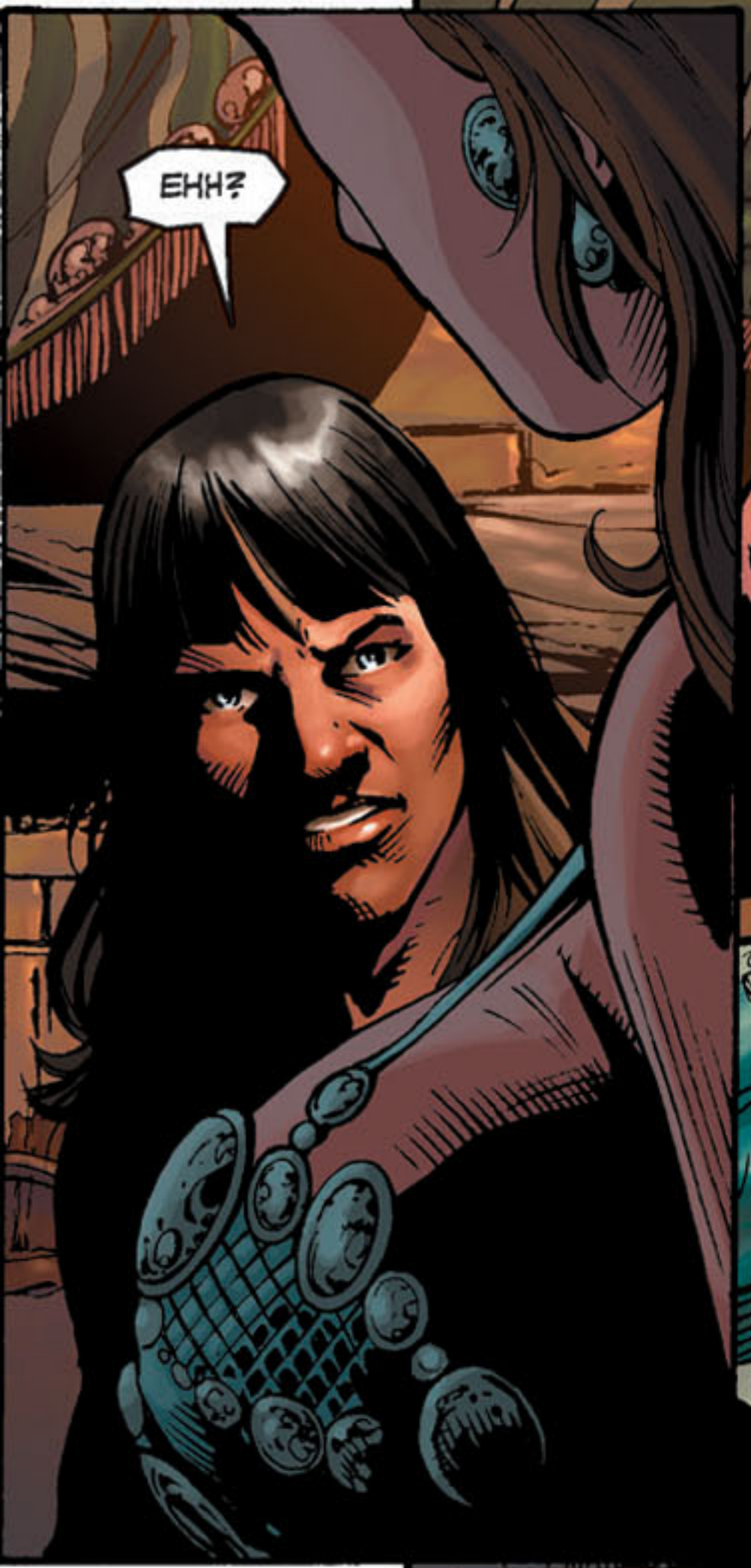


OF A SORT.

I TRADE IN LAPSES OF ATTENTION, AND PRACTICAL LESSONS ON HOW TO PROTECT ONE'S WEALTH.



BUT OF LATE I PLAY WITH THESE TRINKETS, INSTEAD OF--

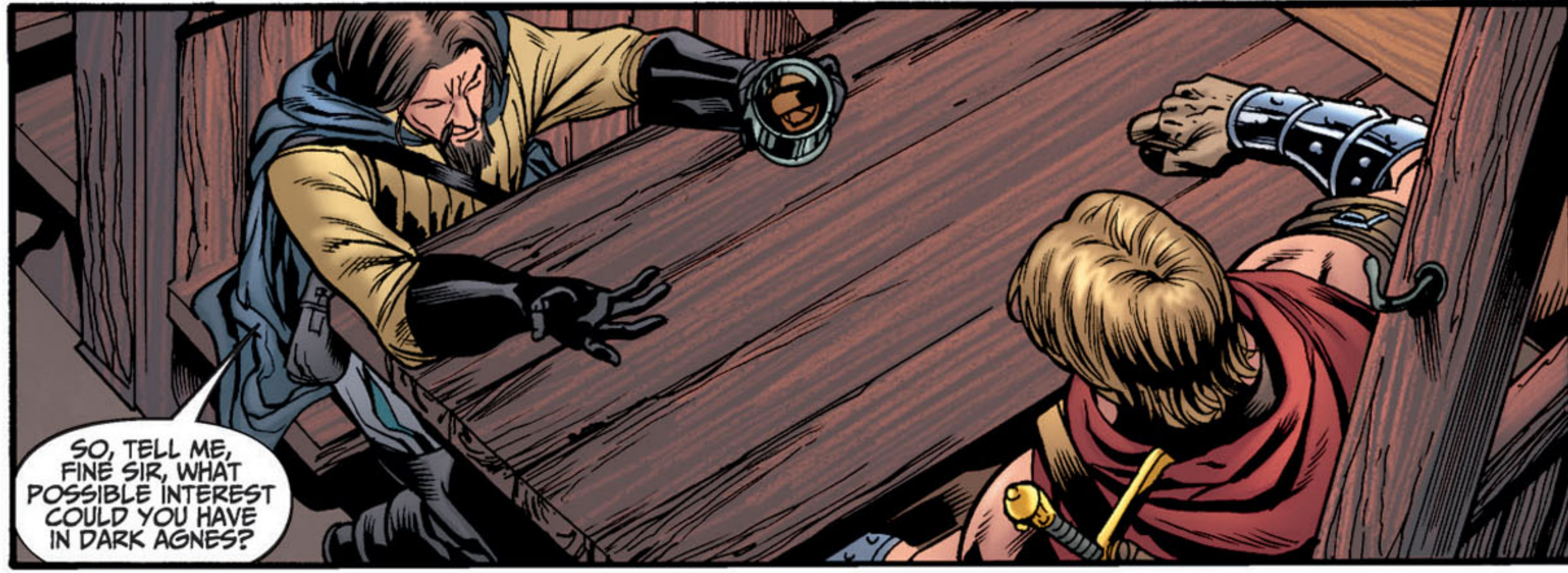
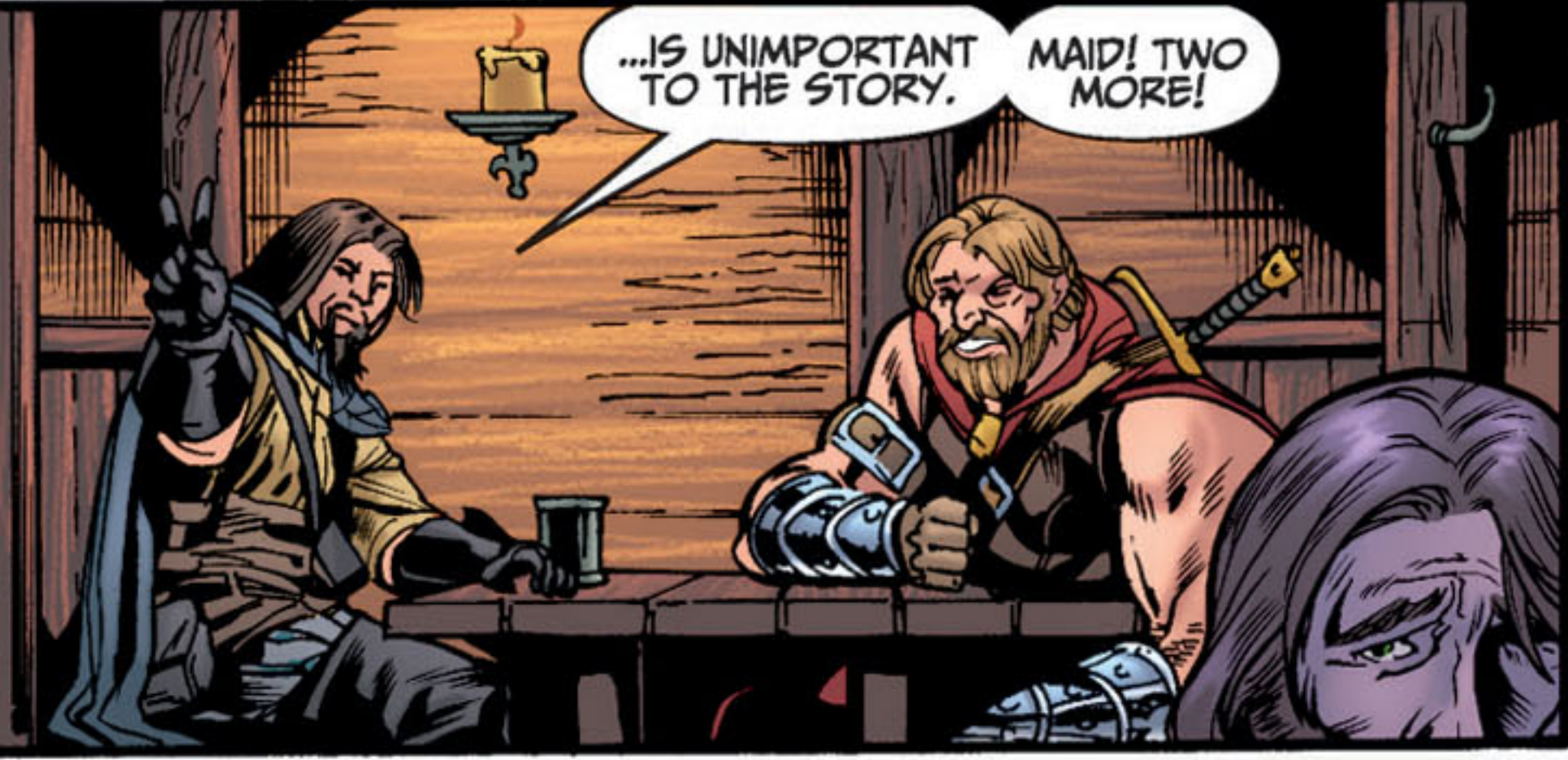
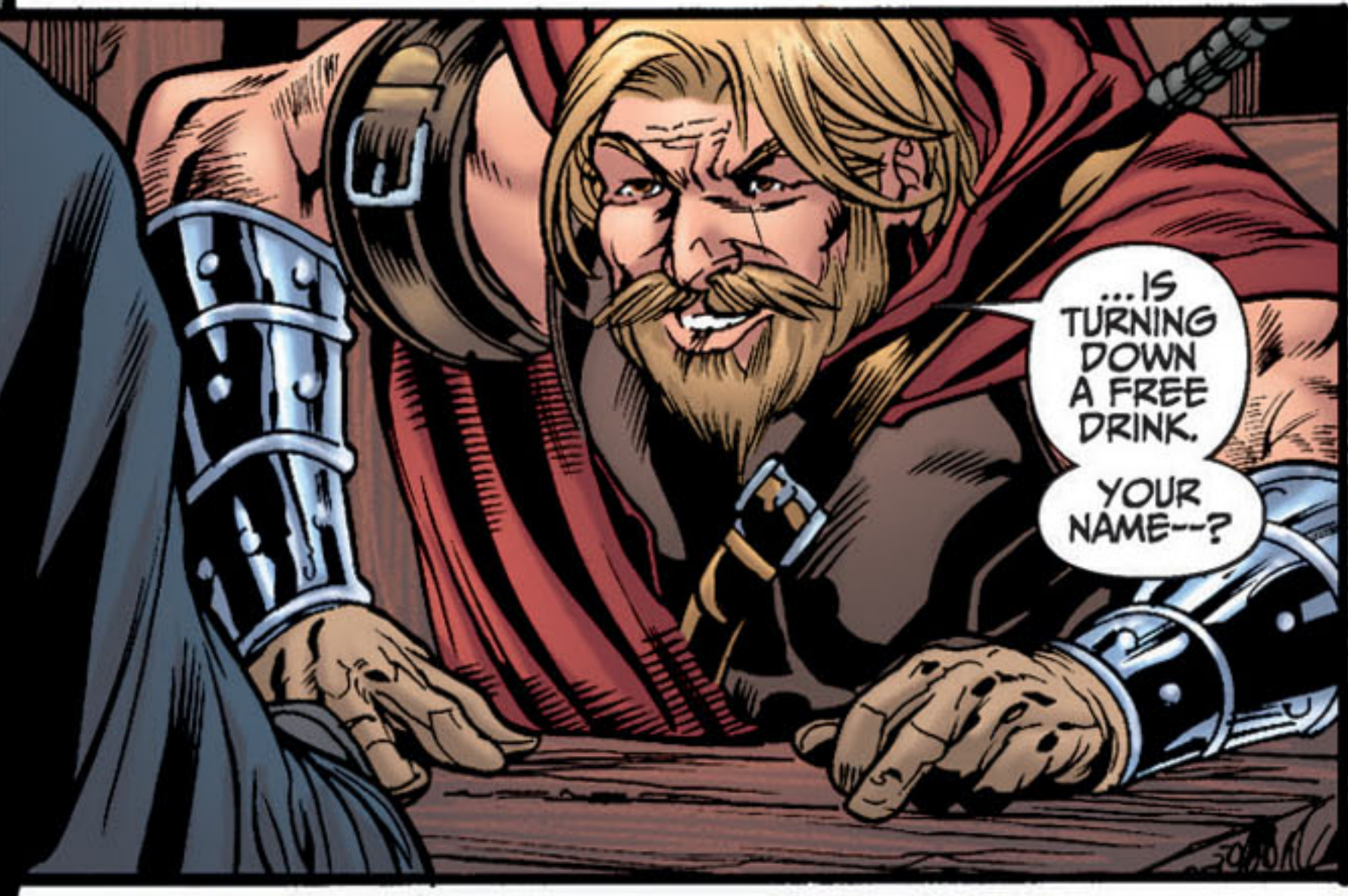


EHH?



WELL, THIS CITY MAY HAVE SOME WORTH, AFTER ALL! FOR, BY CROM, WOMAN, AS FAR AS JEWELS GO... YOU'RE ENTIRELY UNMATCHED!





John Silent in The Earthbound Dead

PRAGUE. THE LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

THIS WILL BE A GOOD NIGHT, PIERRE!

JOHN SILENT IS WHAT YOU CALL A BON VIVANT.

WE'LL GET HIM TO THE CEMETERY, THEN I GUARANTEE WE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT EATING, DRINKING, AND WHORING ON HIS TAB.

JANOS.

JOHN!

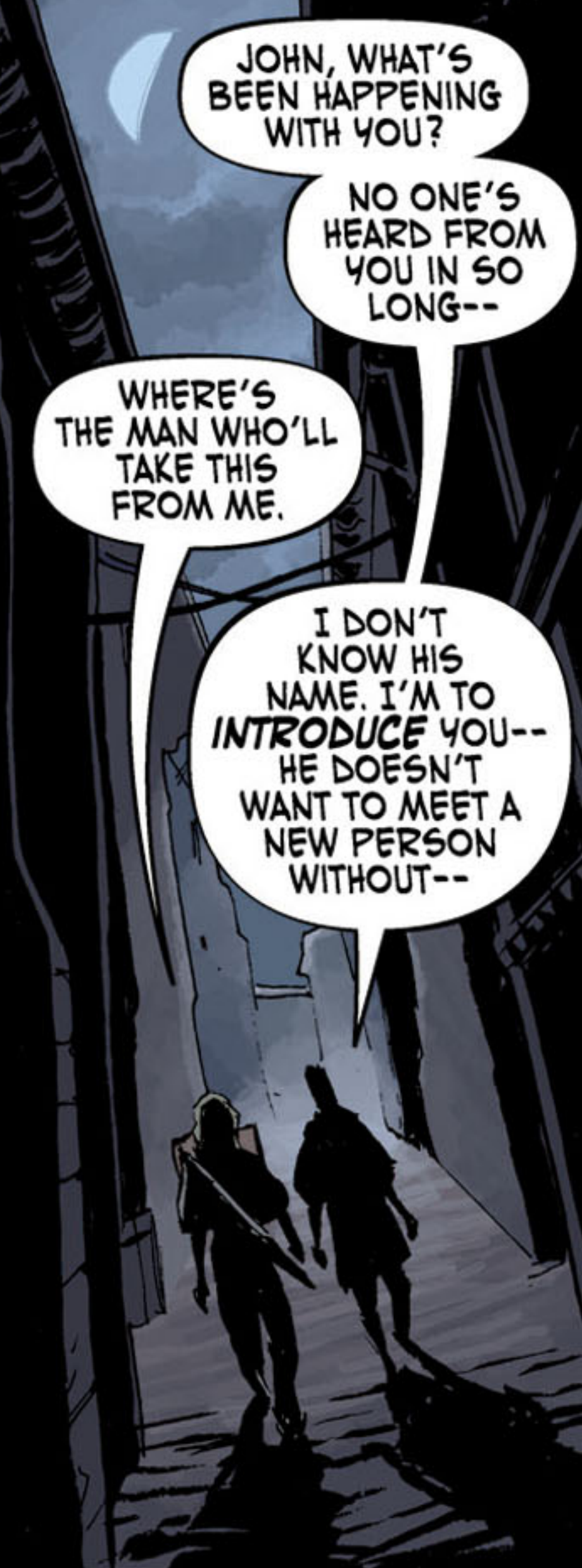
M'SIEUR SILENT! GOOD TO MEET--

WHO'S THIS? YOU TOLD HIM MY NAME?

MY FREQUENT COLLABORATOR IN PRAGUE--PIERRE MORNET--

THIS IS NO GOOD, JANOS.

WAIT--



YOU ALONE. SOMEWHERE PRIVATE.

JANOS--I'LL JUST BE INSIDE UNTIL THEY LOCK THE DOORS.

COME BACK IF I CAN BE OF ANY--

YOU CAN'T.

ALL RIGHT, JOHN. COME THIS WAY.

JOHN, WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH YOU?

NO ONE'S HEARD FROM YOU IN SO LONG--

WHERE'S THE MAN WHO'LL TAKE THIS FROM ME.

I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME. I'M TO INTRODUCE YOU-- HE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET A NEW PERSON WITHOUT--

NAME OF THE DEVIL! ME--ALONE--!

JOHN, PERHAPS YOU NEED A DRINK-- COME BACK--

DRINK LOOSENS THE TONGUE. I'VE SAID ENOUGH. WHERE'S THE BUYER?