

THE ADVENTURES OF  
**GRAVAHA**  
THE  
**CLEVER**

MORE PLEASE.

READ MORE.

"AND SO IT WAS THAT POOR GRAVAHA, BEING ONLY EIGHT, WATCHED AS THE GREAT BEAR GOD ATE HER FATHER AND MOTHER BEFORE HER EYES.

"LEAVING HER, A CHILD, TO CARE FOR THEIR FARM AND PROTECT HER SMALL VILLAGE.

"BUT SHE MISSED HER PARENTS, ESPECIALLY HER MOTHER'S COOKING. SHE MISSED OATS AND HONEY FOR BREAKFAST AND HOT STEW FOR SUPPER.

"AND SHE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING QUITE IMPOSSIBLE."

I SHALL GO FIGHT THE BEAR GOD AND RETRIEVE MOTHER AND FATHER.

YES, IT IS TO BE DONE.

"THE VILLAGERS THOUGHT HER ADDLED. 'YOU HAVE NO SWORD, CHILD,' THEY SAID.

GRAVAHA? THE CHILD OF THOSE DELICIOUS FARMERS?

YOU CHALLENGE ME?

I WILL EAT YOU AND THEN ALL YOUR VILLAGE FRIENDS FOR THIS IMPERTINENCE!

COME OUT, BEAR GOD. IT IS I, GRAVAHA OF THE MUD!

I CHALLENGE YOU!

"GRAVAHA ANNOUNCED HERSELF, AS ALL KNEW THE BEAR GOD WAS VAIN, AND DID NOT LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW HE WAS ALMOST BLIND."



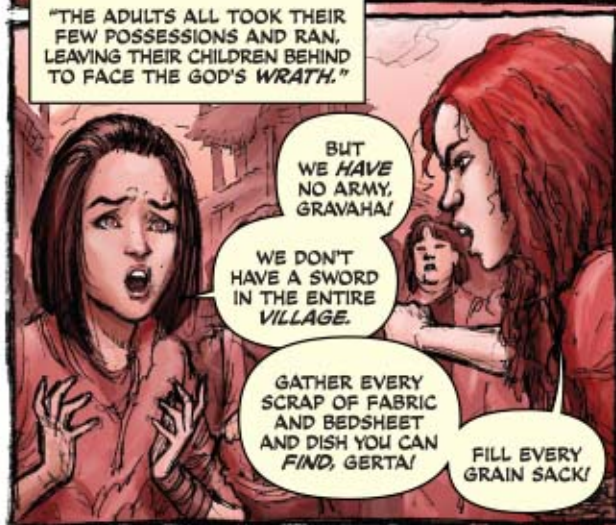
YOU'LL NOT, GOD OF DUNG!

COME TO FACE MY ARMY IN MY VILLAGE AT DAWN.

OR IS THE GREAT BEAR AFRAID?

"FOR IT WAS WELL KNOWN, THAT EVEN MORE THAN HIS VANITY, THE BEAR GOD COULD NOT STAND TO BE CALLED A COWARD.

"THE ADULTS ALL TOOK THEIR FEW POSSESSIONS AND RAN, LEAVING THEIR CHILDREN BEHIND TO FACE THE GOD'S WRATH."



BUT WE HAVE NO ARMY, GRAVAHA!

WE DON'T HAVE A SWORD IN THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.

GATHER EVERY SCRAP OF FABRIC AND BEDSHEET AND DISH YOU CAN FIND, GERTA!

FILL EVERY GRAIN SACK!

"BY THE TIME DAWN ARRIVED, THE BEAR GOD WAS QUITE ANNOYED AND FIENDISHLY HUNGRY."



WELL, TOT? WHERE IS THIS ARMY YOU SPEAK OF?

IT IS BEHIND, ME, DEAR BEAR.



BEHOLD MY ENDLESS WARRIORS, BEAR!

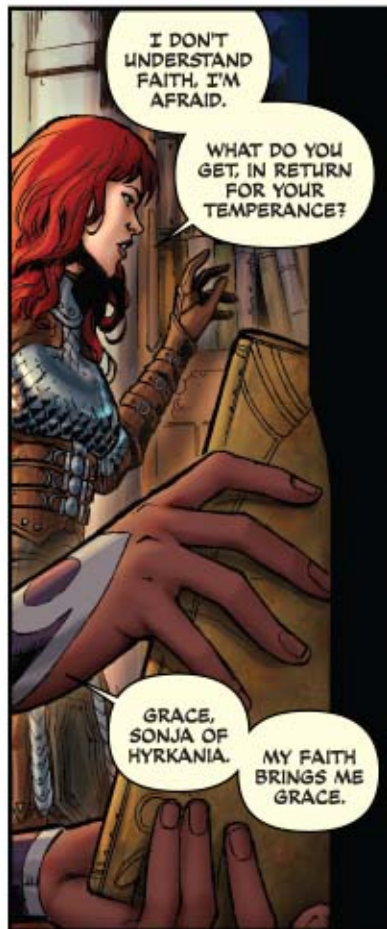
I'LL TAKE YOUR SURRENDER NOW, PLEASE.

"AND THE BEAR GOD, BEING PAINFULLY NEARSIGHTED, SAW ONLY VAST FIELDS OF SILENT SOLDIERS, AND WAS STRUCK WITH FEAR..."



"AND PROMPTLY VOMITED UP HER MOTHER AND FATHER, WHO WERE SO GRATEFUL...."

"...GRAVAHA GOT TWO BOWLS OF OATS AND HONEY FOR BREAKFAST THAT DAY!"





HALLO, MISS.

NICE NIGHT, INNIT?

I KNOW YOU.

I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE.



"YOU'RE THAT OBSTINATE FELLOW FROM EARLIER TODAY."

"YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT 'NO' MEANT."



'AT'S RIGHT, MISS.

THRUCK THE FIERCE, I AM.

AND YOU HUMILIATED ME GOOD AND PROPER FOR MY TENDER OFFER.



DO YOU WORK FOR THE EMPRESS, THRUCK?

YOU MISJUDGE ME, MISS.

I COME WIF NEWS.




"SEE, THE EMPRESS, SHE DONT LIKE 'ER FEMALE SUBJECTS TO HAVE LEARNING. SAYS IT MAKES THEM FORGET THEIR HONEST PLACE."

"SO SHE'S WANTS THIS PLACE BURNT PROPER. CRISP, SHE SAYS."



OH, AND MISS...

SHE'S RIGHT PEEVED AT YOU, MISHANDLING HER GUARDS AND ALL.



"SHE'S GONE AND SENT HER *VIPERS*, MISS. ICY COLD KILLERS, THE LOT OF THEM.

"SAID YOU WASN'T WORTH THE COST OF SENDING A BATTALION, AND THE VIPERS WILL DO YOU MORE *PERSONAL*-LIKE, YOU SEE?

"MAKE IT *MEMORABLE*. OH, AND THEY CAN. THEY CAN, MISS.

"THERE'S *LITRO THE NEEDLE*. USES DAGGERS DIPPED IN *DUNG*...CAUSES A SCREAMING DEATH FROM *FEVER*.

"THERE'S *RUDUS THE QUICK* WHOSE BLADE, THEY SAY, CRIES FOR BLOOD EACH NIGHT, EVIL OR INNOCENT.

"AND THERE'S *HARON THE CRUEL*. THE FINEST BOWMAN IN THE LAND...LIKES TO PIN HIS TARGETS WITH ARROWS, THEN TAKE *DAYS*, USING THEM FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

"OOOH, THERE'S A BAD LOT, MISS.

"YOU'VE NEVER MET THEIR *LIKE*, I PROMISE YOU. AND THEY'RE COMING, *TONIGHT*."