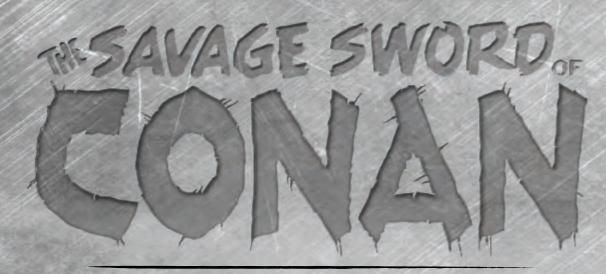


After fifteen winters, Conan the Barbarian headed south from his home in frozen Cimmeria, fighting to survive in the ancient time known as the Hyborian Age. In his travels, he has gained much, lost much, and thrived in bloodshed, as many foes have fallen before



Conan was recruited by Lady Serra and her hired swordsman, Zubair, for an expedition into the Himelian Mountains. Serra was in search of her brother, Lord Fallo, who disappeared in the Himelians while searching for a legendary treasure. When the group was beset by a band of Afghuli hillmen, Conan revealed his ulterior motive for joining the quest—to take over leadership of the hillmen. He challenged their leader, Pakim, to combat but was captured by the hillmen and left to die, while Pakim forcibly took the others in search of the treasure.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story takes place before the events of Robert E. Howard's "The People of the Black Circle."

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