

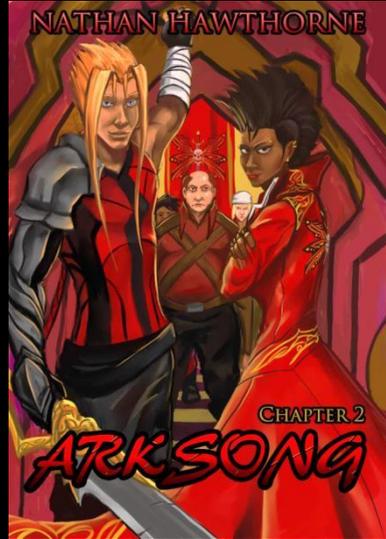
ARKSONG

CHAPTER 5



NATHAN HAWTHORNE

OTHER BOOKS IN THE ARKSONG SERIES



ARKSONA

STORY AND ART BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE

©2018 NATHAN HAWTHORNE







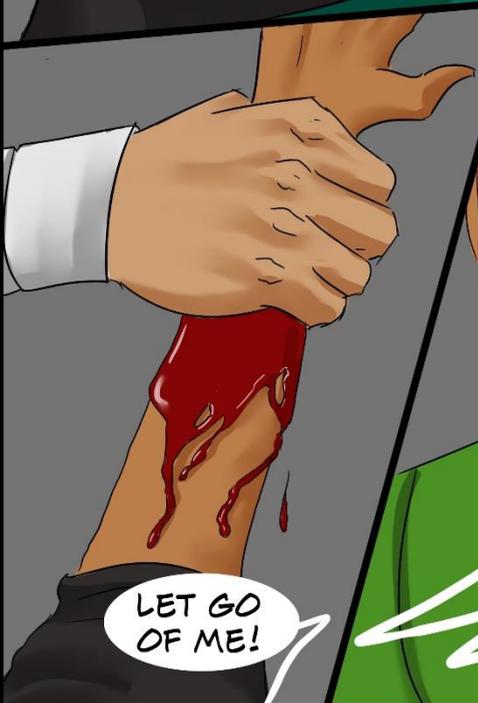
MY, MY!
WHAT DO WE
HAVE HERE?

LOOKS LIKE
PRIME STOCK.



I GUESS WE'LL HAVE THIS ONE THEN!

AGH!



LET GO OF ME!



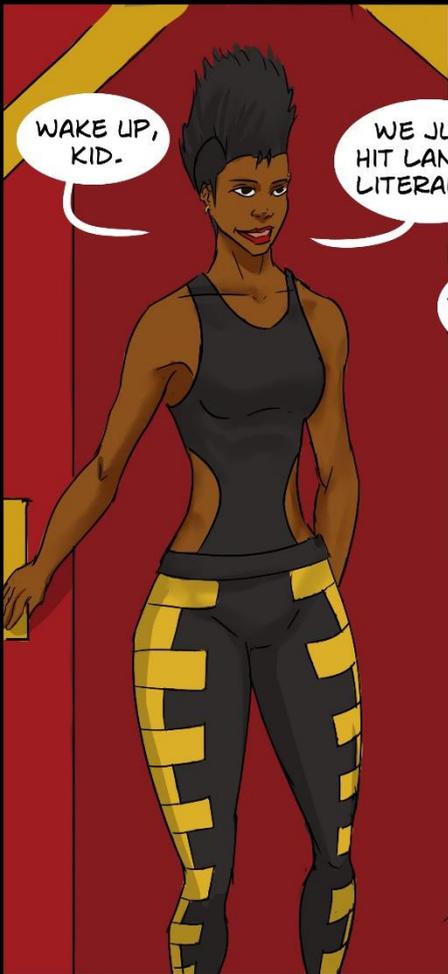
NOOOOOOOO!





CHAPTER 5: LOST AND FOUND





WAKE UP, KID.

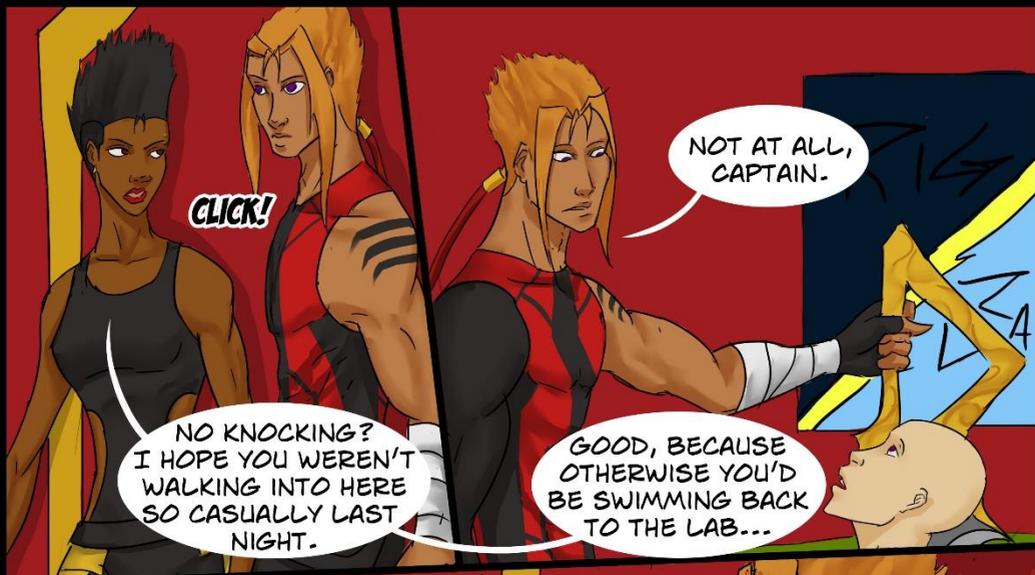
WE JUST HIT LAND - LITERALLY.



WE'RE AT THE UNIVERSITY ALREADY?



YEP! YOU SLEPT LIKE A LOG. IT'S PAST MIDDAY!

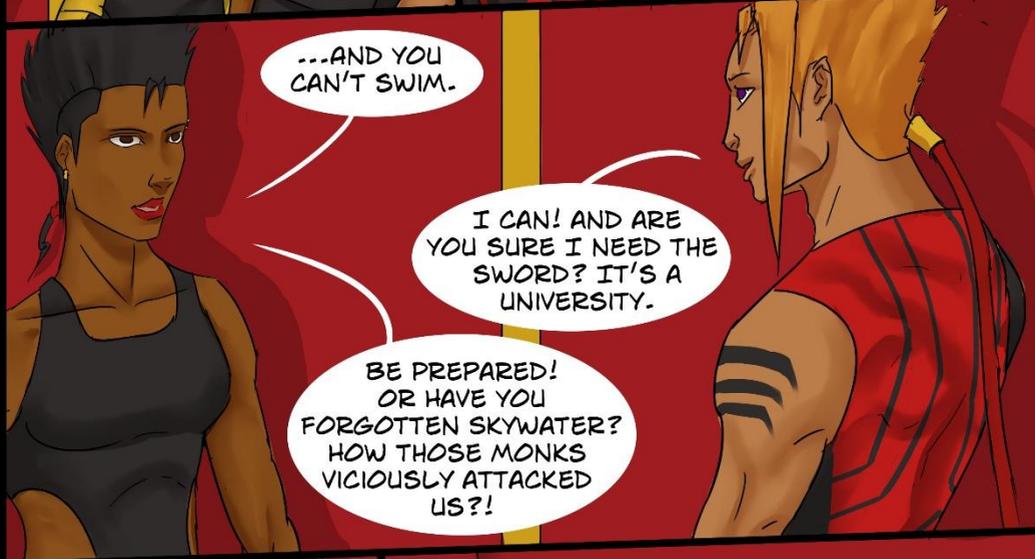


CLICK!

NOT AT ALL, CAPTAIN.

NO KNOCKING? I HOPE YOU WEREN'T WALKING INTO HERE SO CASUALLY LAST NIGHT.

GOOD, BECAUSE OTHERWISE YOU'D BE SWIMMING BACK TO THE LAB...



...AND YOU CAN'T SWIM.

I CAN! AND ARE YOU SURE I NEED THE SWORD? IT'S A UNIVERSITY.

BE PREPARED! OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SKYWATER? HOW THOSE MONKS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED US?!



CLICK!

KELPIE. WASH THE SLEEP OUT OF YOUR EYES. WE'VE GOT AN ENGINEER TO FIND!

AYE, AYE CAP'N... (IS THAT WHAT THEY SAY?)

30 MINUTES LATER





EASY!

SO EASY, WE'LL
TURN IT INTO A
CONTEST!



FIRST
ONE TO FIND
AN ENGINEER
WINS.

WHAT DO
WE WIN?



THAT'S A
SURPRISE!

THAT
MEANS NOTHING,
DOESN'T IT?

YUP.



LEAVE IT
TO HER, SHE'S
GOOD AT THIS.

WHAT
WILL YOU
DO?



ME?

KASHIK



I'M
GONNA GET
SOME REST.

DON'T
WANDER TOO
FAR.





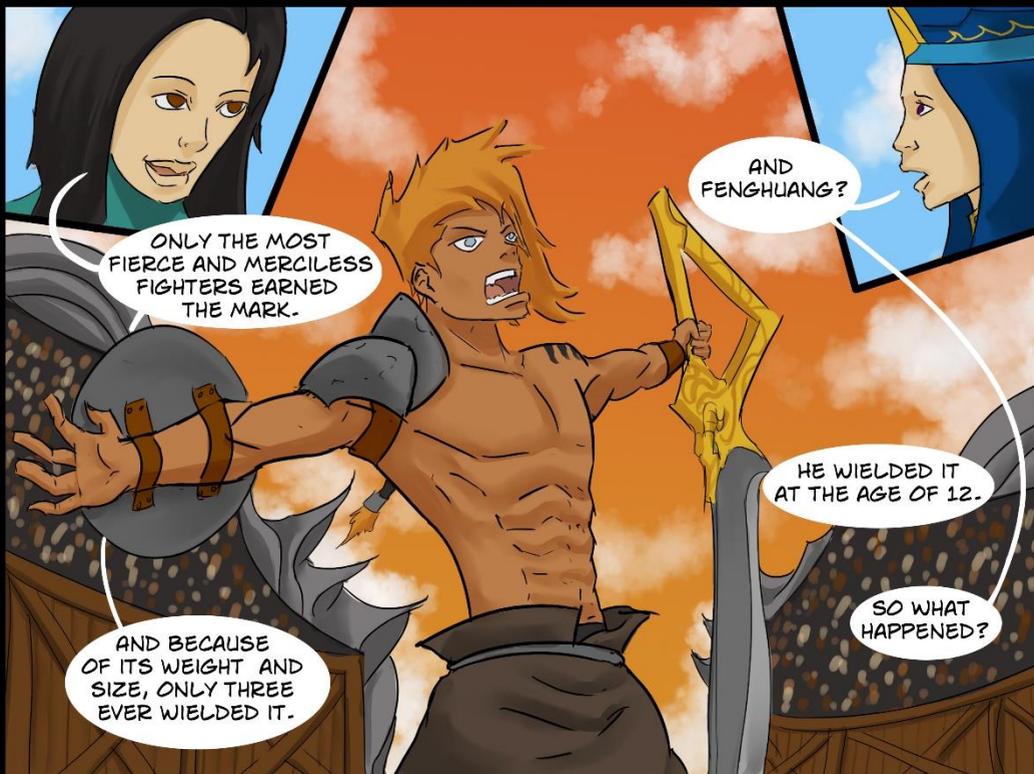
THE MARK OF A CHAMPION WAS KEPT ON THE ISLE OF CHAMPIONS IN THE OUTER RIM.

BACK THEN THE GLADIATOR CONGLOMERATE RAN A FIGHTING ARENA WHICH FEATURED CHILD AND TEENAGE FIGHTERS.

“BUT THAT’S ILLEGAL!” YOU MIGHT SAY.

TRUE, BUT THE EMPIRE LIKED THE HIGH QUALITY SOLDIERS THAT CAME OUT OF IT, SO THEY TURNED A BLIND EYE.





ONLY THE MOST FIERCE AND MERCILESS FIGHTERS EARNED THE MARK.

AND FENGHUANG?

HE WIELED IT AT THE AGE OF 12.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

AND BECAUSE OF ITS WEIGHT AND SIZE, ONLY THREE EVER WIELED IT.



THE EMPEROR CHANGED HIS MIND.
UNLIKE OORUNELL'S ARENA
WHICH COLLAPSED IN A FREAK ACCIDENT,
THIS ARENA WAS DESTROYED BY THE SKY NAVY.
THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS...

EXCEPT FENGHUANG.



THEY SAY HE ALONE EMERGED FROM THE
FLAMES, HIS SKIN STAINED RED WITH
THE BLOOD OF A HUNDRED SOLDIERS.





DID YOU HEAR ALL OF THAT?

YUP.



WAS WHAT THEY SAID ACCURATE?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MEANWHILE...

DENTISTRY

REMAIN EXTREMELY STILL. YOUR REGULAR DENTIST IS A FOOL, HE MADE A COMPLETE MESS OF THIS.

YOU ARE MY REGULAR DENTIST!

STOP!!!!

AHH!

THIS TRULY IS ART IN ITS PUREST FORM.

WA-WAIT!!

Life Drawing

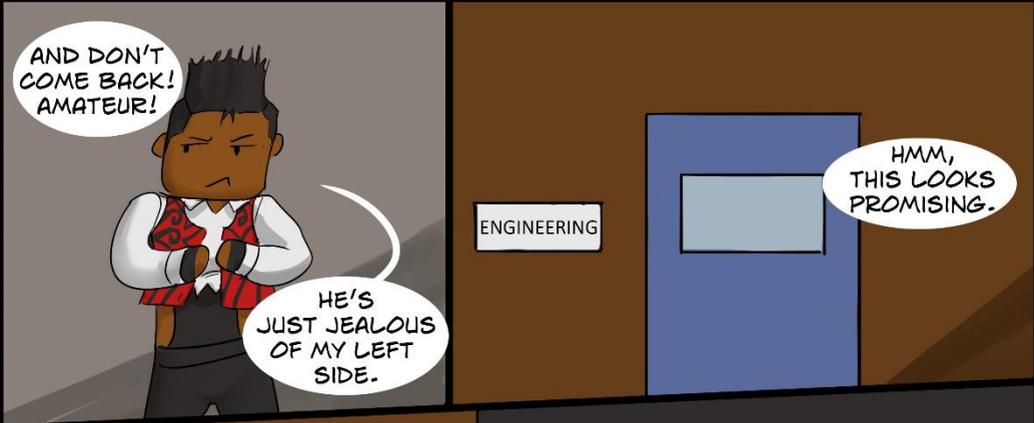
HEY! IS THAT OUR MODEL?

I THOUGHT THE ATHLETE WAS COMING NEXT WEEK?

MY LEFT SIDE IS MY BEST SIDE, GUYS!

AHEM! THAT'S MY SPOT!

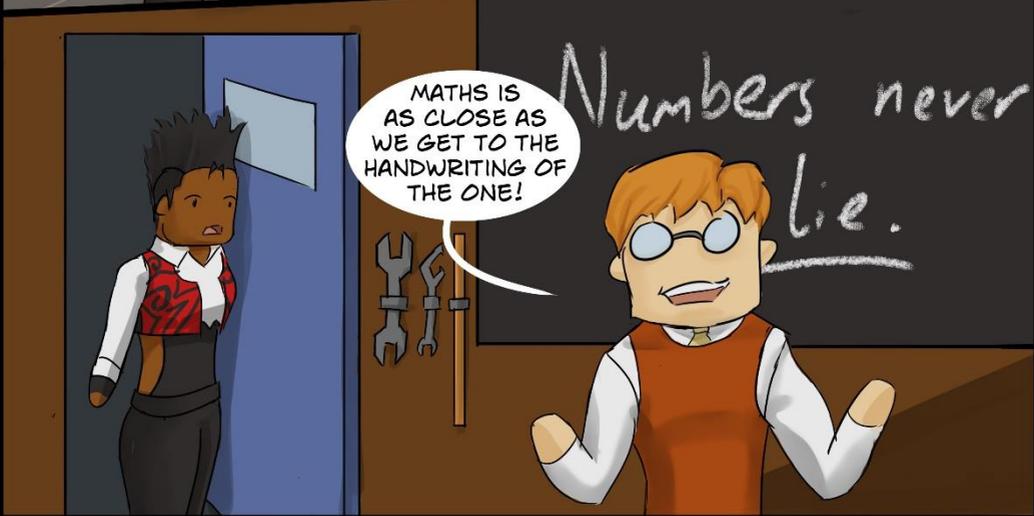




AND DON'T COME BACK!
AMATEUR!

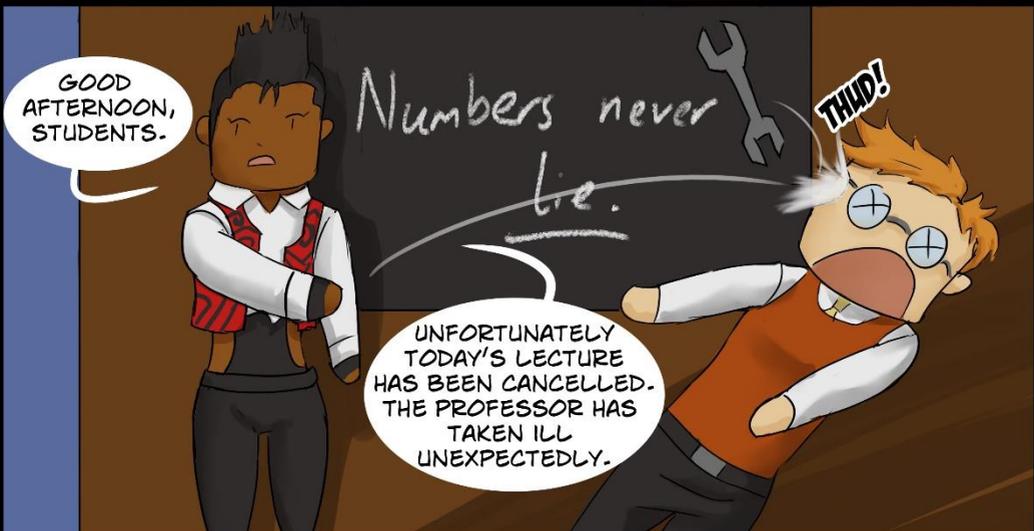
HE'S JUST JEALOUS
OF MY LEFT
SIDE.

HMM,
THIS LOOKS
PROMISING.



MATHS IS AS CLOSE AS
WE GET TO THE
HANDWRITING OF
THE ONE!

Numbers never
lie.



GOOD
AFTERNOON,
STUDENTS.

UNFORTUNATELY
TODAY'S LECTURE
HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
THE PROFESSOR HAS
TAKEN ILL
UNEXPECTEDLY.

THUD!

Numbers never
lie.



WH-WHO ARE YOU?

CAPTAIN LIRIKA OVERLORE AT YOUR SERVICE!

SO WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS A JOB?



AHH!

RUN!

CALL SECURITY!



CONGRATULATIONS.



EHEHEH...



HEY, KELPIE.



YES?



YOU LOST.



MEET OUR NEW, TEMPORARY ENGINEER.

HI THERE.



YOU'LL BE HIS ASSISTANT FOR TODAY.

THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG ABOUT THIS.

LATER

HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON?

I THINK I'M ALMOST THERE. BUT THIS IS A STRANGE ENGINE, SO WHO KNOWS...

YOU WORK FAST FOR A STUDENT.

STUDENT IN NAME ONLY. I'M AT PRO-LEVEL. THE EDUCATION IS JUST A FORMALITY.

I SEE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

JUN.

WELL THAT'S SUPER CHEESY, SO I'LL STICK WITH JUN.

I'M KELPINA. BUT CALL ME KELPIE.

BUT THE GUYS IN MY DAD'S WORKSHOP USED TO CALL ME ENJUN.

DON'T MIND IF I DO.



YOU DON'T SEEM THE TYPE TO TRAVEL WITH PIRATES.

ARE YOU A HOSTAGE OR SOMETHING?



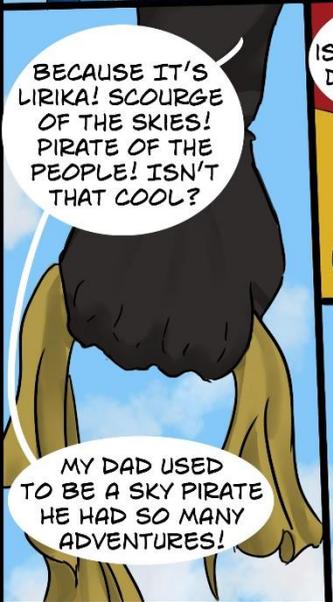
WHY? ARE YOU GOING TO SAVE ME?



NORMALLY - YES. THIS TIME - NO.



WHAT? WHY?



BECAUSE IT'S LIRIKA! SCOURGE OF THE SKIES! PIRATE OF THE PEOPLE! ISN'T THAT COOL?

MY DAD USED TO BE A SKY PIRATE HE HAD SO MANY ADVENTURES!



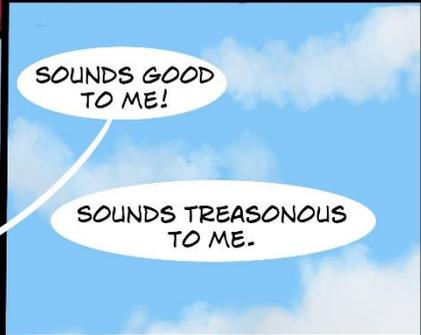
SO THIS IS A CHILDISH DREAM FOR YOU?



TO HELP LIRIKA STOP THE EMPIRE.



JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION.



SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

SOUNDS TREASONOUS TO ME.



I HEAR THE DUNGEONS UNDER GRAND AERISIA ARE QUITE GLAMOROUS. YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO LOSE AT LEAST TWO TOES ON DAY ONE.



SLOWING DOWN
ISN'T BAD ONCE IN A WHILE,
IS IT?

I GUESS SO.
PROVIDING WE'RE
STILL MOVING
FORWARD.



LIRIKA!
WE'VE GOT A
PROBLEM!

H-HEY!
WHAT IS THIS?



GOOD TO SEE
YOU UP AND ABOUT
AGAIN FENGHUANG, IT
SEEMS THE BIG ONE
PROVIDED GOOD
INFORMATION
AFTER ALL.



AW GOSH!
NOT YOU AGAIN!



GORDO
MUST HAVE TIPPED
HIM OFF.

THAT OAF!
WHAT A
LIABILITY.



NOT BY
CHOICE. THE
ADMIRAL IS
VERY...
PERSUASIVE.

THAT
ADMIRAL OF
YOURS...



HER AND
I OUGHT
TO HAVE
A CHAT.



WELL, I
CAN MAKE THAT
HAPPEN TODAY IF YOU
SURRENDER.

NO CHANCE!
IN FACT, WE
OUTNUMBER
YOU!



IS THAT SO?



GARUDA!



WOOSHSHHHH!



DID YOU SEE THAT?
A PERFECT
LANDING!

TAK



NOW WHO'S
GONNA GET A
HURTING?





I HEAR YOU
HAVE NO POWERS,
BESIDES ENHANCED
STRENGTH.

BUT CAN
THAT STAND AGAINST
MY WIND BOOSTED
BLADE?



STOP!

STOP!

CLANG!

CLANG!

CLANG!



THAT
WON'T
WORK.



I FEEL
LIKE I'M BEING
BLOCKED!







BLACK!

HEY!



I SAID HEY!
I'M YOUR
OPPONENT
TOO!



I HAVE NO
TIME FOR SMALL
FRY!



CONCENTRATE
ON THE CAPTAIN,
RUKHI.



I WANT
TO SEE FENGHUANG'S
NEWFOUND POWER.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE CONCLUDED FENGHUANG?

CLANG!!

THAT ONE DAY I MAY KILL YOU?



AMUSING, BUT NO.



FENGHUANG, I'VE COME TO SEE THAT I'M NOT STRONGER THAN YOU.

HMPH-

IN FACT, THE OPPOSITE MAY BE TRUE.



THAT TINGLED.







FENHUANG.



YOU FIGHT LIKE A WILD ANIMAL.

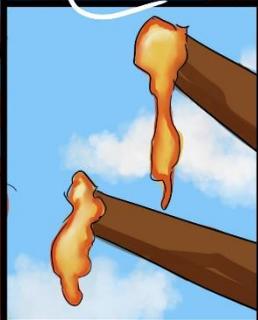
STRIKING RELENTLESSLY, WITHOUT CONTROL.



YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED ONE ROUND IN THE OORUN GLADIATORUM.



NOT WITH YOUR IMMATURITY.





IS THAT WHERE YOU LEARNED TO OPPRESS THE WEAK?!

NO, IT'S WHERE I SAW THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT WAS. I SAW SONS TURN ON FATHERS. FRIENDS TURN ON ONE ANOTHER.



RAARGH!



HUH?



AND ALSO WHERE I UNDERSTOOD THE NEED TO HONE BOTH MY BODY AND MIND.

YOU SEE, NOW THAT I'VE REFINED MY NEW POWERS, IT SEEMS THIS OLD BATTLE OF OURS IS AT ITS END.



YOUR FAILINGS
ARE DISAPPOINTING
CONSIDERING
OUR SHARED
HERITAGE.



NOT THAT YOU
KNEW.



ANYHOW,
LET'S TAKE
A TRIP UP.



THIS QUEUE.
YOU GROW IT,
BUT DO YOU EVEN
KNOW WHAT IT
SYMBOLISES?

KR-KR-KRAK!



IT IS PRECIOUS
TO OUR PEOPLE, THE NIDAR.
IT MEASURES HOW LONG AN
INDIVIDUAL HAS GONE WITHOUT
GIVING WAY TO
VIOLENCE.





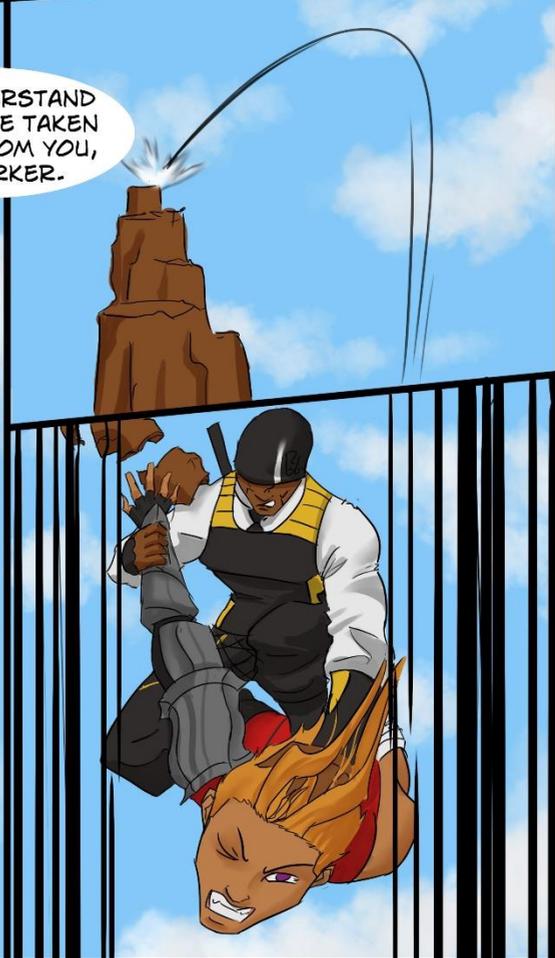
NOTICE THAT I HAVE NO QUEUE.

ARGH!

SNAP!



AND UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE TAKEN YOURS FROM YOU, BERSERKER.





CRASHHHH!!



OUR BATTLE IS DECIDED.



CRACK!

CRACK!



YARGHHH!!!



DON'T WORRY, BROKEN BONES HEAL STRONGER.



IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?!!

HUH?



GRRR!



I KNOW YOUR TYPE!



I'VE BROUGHT ENOUGH OF YOU DOWN!



THOSE BORN BELIEVING THEY DESERVE VICTORY!

THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THEIR TRUE PLACE IN THE WORLD!



YOU THINK-



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?

I'M... NOT SURE



YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME!

LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE AN ARKNIIGHT.



WHAT IT REALLY MEANS ...

... TO BE GREAT.



OTHER WORKS BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE



THE
FALLING WANDERER

NATHAN HAWTHORNE



THE CHRONICLES OF THE NOVUS AEVUM

BY NATHAN HAWTHORNE



READ IT NOW FOR FREE ON:

WWW.TAPASTIC.COM/SERIES/COTNA



HAWTHORNE GAMES

"I DON'T WANT YOUR RANKS.

I DON'T WANT YOUR PRIVILEGES.

I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR ARKNIGHTS."



A NEW STORY BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE

DUSK 22

COMING SOON

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ARKSONG
AND OTHER PROJECTS BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE ONLINE:**



WWW.NATHANHAWTHORNE.COM



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HAWTHORNEARTS



WWW.TWITTER.COM/HAWTHORNEARTS



[@HAWTHORNEARTS](https://www.instagram.com/HAWTHORNEARTS)

ASTER

IS COMING

THE CHASE IS ON...

LIRIKA'S JOY AT RETRIEVING THE LYCANIDE WAS SWIFTLY OVERSHADOWED BY THE DAMAGE IT TOOK WHILE DEPARTING VOLEURNID. DRIFTING SLOWLY TOWARDS A NEARBY UNIVERSITY ISLE, LIRIKA AND CREW HOPE TO FIND A SKYSHIP ENGINEER THERE AND RETURN TO THE OUTER RIM.

MEANWHILE COMMANDER BLACK IS HOT ON THEIR HEELS, MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION.

CAN LIRIKA AND HER CREW, MAKE IT OUT IN TIME?



WWW.HAWTHORNEARTS.COM
DIGITAL EDITION

