

NATHAN HAWTHORNE



CHAPTER 2

ARKSONG



ARKSONA

STORY AND ART BY
NATHAN HAWTHORNE

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CHAPTER 2: THE SONG



YOUR SOURCES ARE RIDICULOUS! WE RISKED OUR MEN FOR SCROLLS OF GIBBERISH, NOT A WEAPON!



BAM!



GORDO, SHUT UP AND GET YOUR BELLY OFF MY DESK. I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE



IT SEEMS LIKE SOME SORT OF CODE

PFT!



ANY IDEA HOW TO DECIPHER IT, CAPTAIN? SHOULD I HAVE IT FLOWN TO THE CODEBREAKER ON CORAL ISLE?

MORE TIME WASTING!



QUIET GORDO

AND THERE'S NO NEED FENG, IT'S NOT A CODE.



IT'S NOT?



IT'S A LANGUAGE.



IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S ONLY ONE WRITTEN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD



YOU MEAN...?



IN TERMS OF LITERATURE MAYBE... BUT NOT IN TERMS OF MUSIC.



THIS IS PHONICIAN SCRIPT. IT'S PART OF A PIECE OF MUSIC... BUT NOT LIKE ANY I'VE SEEN BEFORE...



I DON'T KNOW IF YOUR MEMORY SERVES YOU CORRECTLY, GORDO, BUT OUR CAPTAIN IS PHONICIAN.

A SONG OF THOSE ACCURSED PEOPLE?! THROW IT OUT THE WINDOW, IT'S NO USE TO US!

MY SOURCE SAID TWO OF THE CASES WERE DELIVERED. THE SECOND WENT TO THE CENTRAL WAREHOUSE. TURN THE SHIP AROUND! WE'RE HEADING TO CENTRAL AERISIA



YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS?! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD IS IN CHARGE! POINTLESSLY CHASING THE SONGS OF A LOST PEOPLE, LEADING HER CREW TO THEIR DEATH!



SCREEECH



CLACK!

SEE... THAT'S INTERESTING



LAST TIME I CHECKED, NO ONE'S DIED THESE PAST FEW YEARS.



BUT ONE CAN MEET HIS END HERE IF HE SO WISHES.

Y-YOU'RE INSANE!



FENGHUANG, LEAVE IT.



CLACK



I WILL CONSIDER WHERE THE CREW WISH TO GO LATER, BUT FOR NOW WE INVESTIGATE WHAT THE EMPIRE IS UP TO



GORDO, YOU ARE A FOOL TO TAKE THINGS AT FACE VALUE.



SLAM!

RELAY THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PILOT, AND FULL SPEED AHEAD... HOPEFULLY WE CAN AVOID THE BLACK DIVISION



THIS
PIECE, THIS
PIECE, THIS
PIECE!

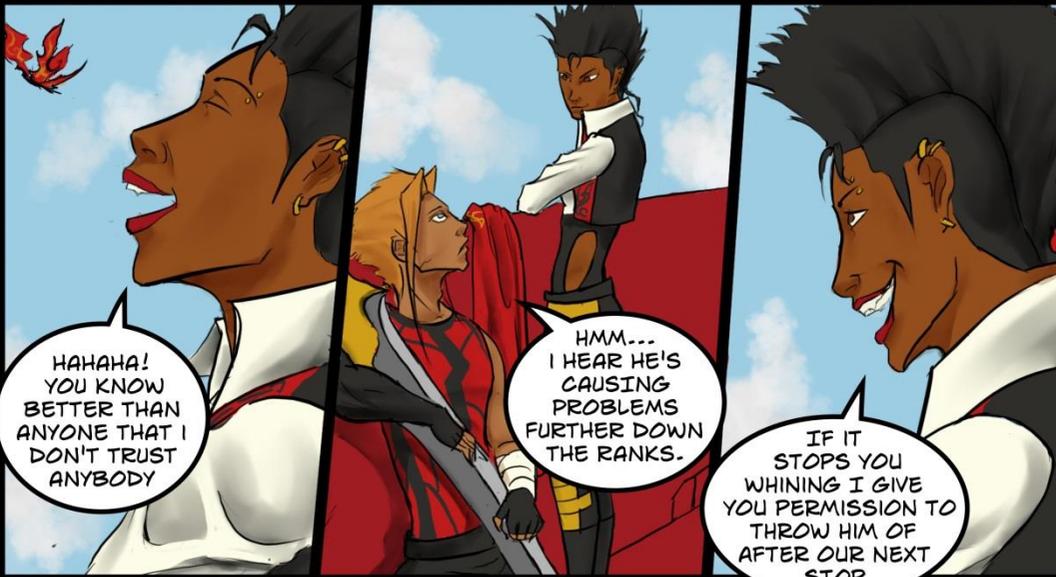
IT'S
INCOMPLETE, AND
SO STRANGE...
WHAT EXACTLY IS
IT?



YOU HAVE
MORE PRESSING
THINGS TO WORRY
ABOUT. GORDO
NEEDS TO GO

WHY? YOU
DON'T TRUST
HIM?

YOU DO?



HAHAHA!
YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN
ANYONE THAT I
DON'T TRUST
ANYBODY

HMM...
I HEAR HE'S
CAUSING
PROBLEMS
FURTHER DOWN
THE RANKS.

IF IT
STOPS YOU
WHINING I GIVE
YOU PERMISSION TO
THROW HIM OF
AFTER OUR NEXT
STOP



NA... YOU DO IT, I PREFER IT WHEN YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT LOOKS MEAN

YOU ATTACKED HIM WITH FURNITURE...

HEY, IN THIS ECONOMY I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE PERSON THAT PAYS MY BILLS



THAT'S SELF-SERVING, NOT MEAN.



MPHLMPH!

WE'RE PIRATES! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK MEAN!



NOW KEEP THAT ON, FIRST MATE! WE'RE ABOUT TO ARRIVE, AND THIS TIME, I'M LEADING PERSONALLY

TAK!



THERE WE GO! LIKE A PRO!



GAH!







CRASH!!!



LET'S KEEP THIS SHORT AND SNAPPY BOYS AND GIRLS!



SAME AS USUAL, KNOCK OUT ALL BUT A FEW FOR INFORMATION





SEE FENG? 5 MINUTES AND WE'RE ALMOST DONE

WATCHU GRINNING ABOUT? I SAID ALMOST DONE



DOORS, DOORS, DOORS EVERYWHERE...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CHECK EVERYTHING CAPTAIN



YOU THERE,
WITH THE
SMASHED
ARM



WITH THE
GOOD ARM
OBVIOUSLY...



BRILLIANT!



OH...THIS'LL BE
EASIER THAN WE
THOUGHT



OR NOT...

STOP
RIGHT
THERE,
PIRATE!

CODENAME: CUWAKE BLACK

COMMANDER
BLACK DIVISION

B
56





SKY
PIRATE
LIRIKA
OVERLORE!
YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST IN THE
NAME OF THE
AERISIAN
EMPIRE! RESIST
AND I CANNOT
GUARANTEE
YOUR
SAFETY!

AND IF I
SURRENDER?



WELL...

I STILL
CAN'T
GUARANTEE
YOUR SAFETY



SOUNDS LIKE
MY KIND OF
TERMS!





GIVE ME THAT GLADIATOR SPIRIT, FENGHUANG! FIGHT LIKE YOU MEAN IT!

CLANG!

MEANINGLESS WORDS, THERE'S A REASON YOU'VE NEVER WON



OPEN THE CRATE, FIND A CHEST, OPEN THE CHEST AND - HELLO! MORE SCROLLS!

CLACK



CLANG!

THERE'S A REASON I'VE NEVER LOST EITHER



UHUH, THIS IS DEFINITELY FROM THE SAME PIECE

OOF!

CRASH!!!

STILL INCOMPLETE THOUGH...





WHAT?
YOU CAN READ
THAT?



BLACK,
BLACK,
BLACK, AFTER
CHASING ME FOR
2 YEARS IT
CONCERNS ME
THAT YOU LACK
SUCH BASIC
INFORMATION.
NOW LISTEN
AND LEARN



THWACK!

CEEE



BLACK
DIVISION! ON
THE PIRATE
CAPTAIN!



HUMMMM

YES SIR!







Handwritten symbols in a speech bubble.

WHAT ON GAIA?



HMPH, THIS AGAIN... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE JOINING THE GANG, PIRATE

YOU'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE?

YES, BUT I'M READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT, ARE YOU?



WHAT'S GOING ON?



CLANG



UGH!





FENG!



GRIP



NOT SO FAST! YOU PLAYED THE SONG, NOW DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES!



SWISH



YARGH!!!



THAT'S NOT
CURRENTLY YOUR
BIGGEST CONCERN

CRA-CRA-CRA-CRACK!!

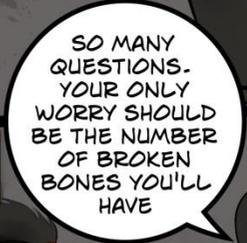




WHAT?!
HOW DID
HE?!



HEAD-ON
CHARGE? ON MY
GROUND?



SO MANY
QUESTIONS.
YOUR ONLY
WORRY SHOULD
BE THE NUMBER
OF BROKEN
BONES YOU'LL
HAVE



TAK!



HOW DID
YOU-?



Woosh



CRRR



I KNEW THIS WOULDN'T WORK

RETREAT!

BUT... THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY!



I NEED TO GET FENG BACK TO THE SHIP

YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION!

SWISH!



AND YOU SHOULD STOP TALKING FOR ONCE!

FENG! I'M COMING!



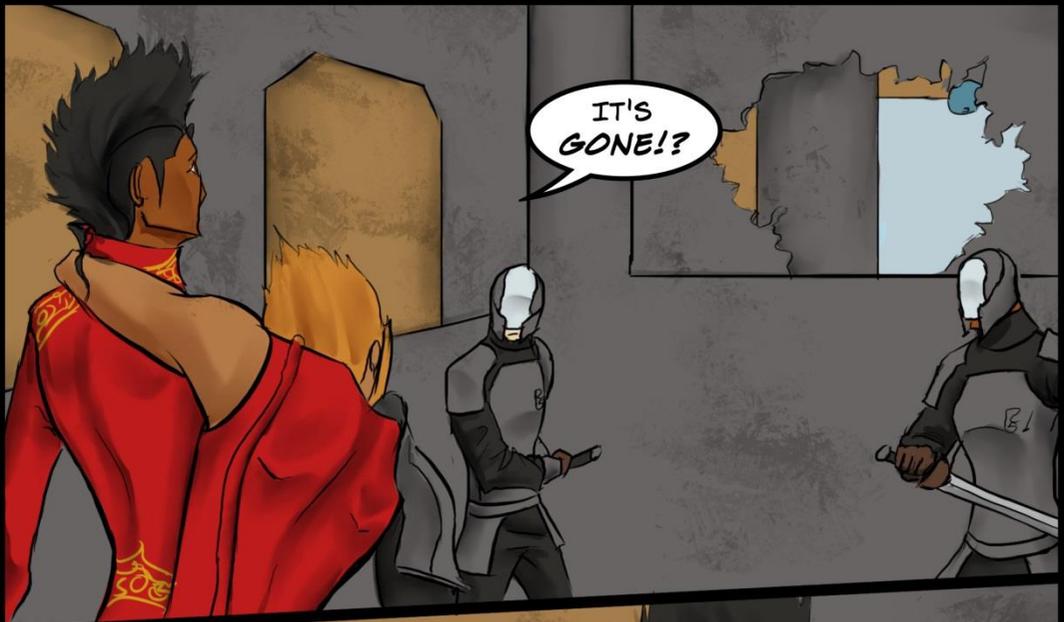
CRACK!



HANG IN THERE!



JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER AND WE'LL BE ON THE SHIP. IT'S CLOSE, IT'S-



THE SKYWATER ISLES



COULD IT BE?

GRAND AERISIA

DID YOU
FEEL THAT?

ONE... NO,
TWO MORE!

IT APPEARS
THINGS ARE
MOVING FASTER
THAN WE
EXPECTED...

THIS
SHOULD BE
FUN

YOU
HAVE YOUR
ORDERS

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NOT EVERYTHING IS AS IT SEEMS...

WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A NORMAL RAID
TURNED OUT TO BE SO MUCH MORE... OR LESS
– LIRIKA STILL DOESN'T KNOW.

THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGE LIRIKA
FOUND PUZZLE HER MORE THAN ANY
OTHER TREASURE SHE HAS ACQUIRED
IN HER PAST ADVENTURES. AND TO
MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ENEMIES ARE
APPROACHING FROM ALL SIDES

CAN LIRIKA AND CREW FIND THE ANSWERS
SHE SEEKS BEFORE THE BLACK DIVISION
FIND THEM?

