





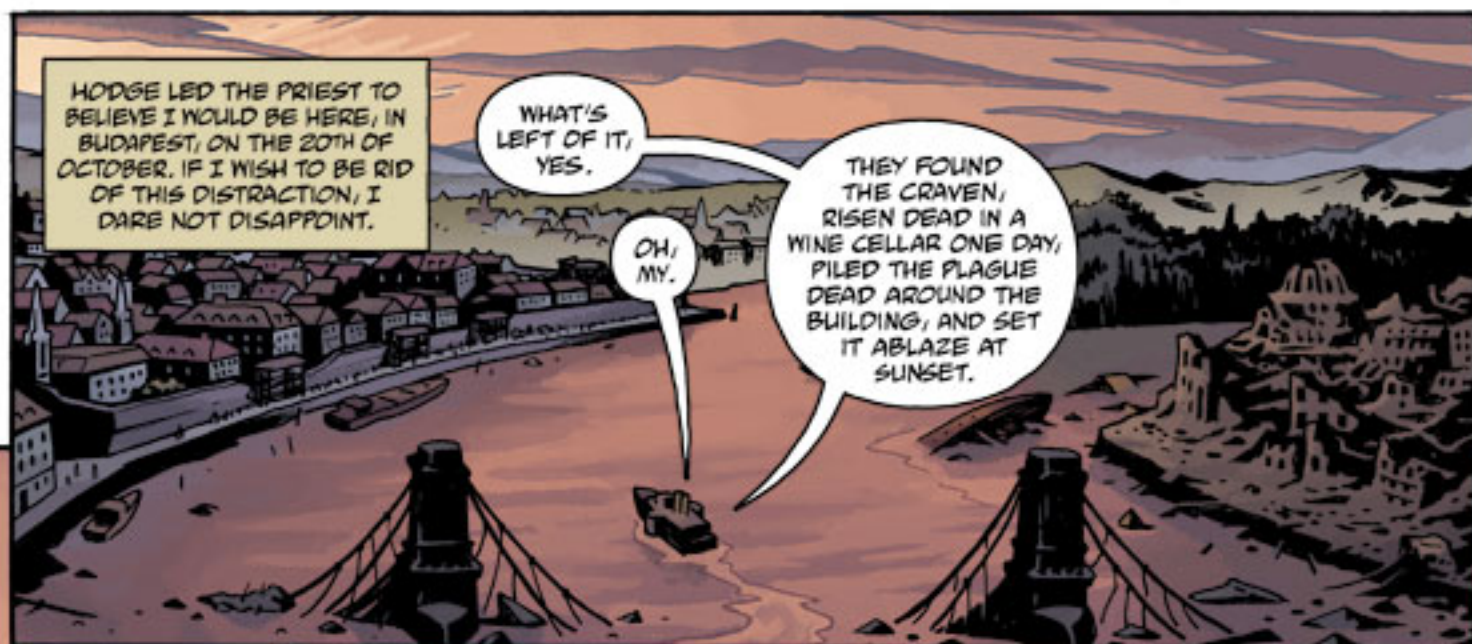


THESE PAST TWO YEARS AND MORE I HAVE LIVED ONLY TO DESTROY THE VAMPIRE HAIGUS.

NOW I FIND MYSELF DIVERTED BY A LETTER FROM MY ASSOCIATE, SIMON HODGE, WHO INFORMS ME THAT A PRIEST-- A JUDGE OF THE NEW INQUISITION-- IS INTENT UPON KILLING ME.



IS IT TRUE, THEN? IS BUDAPEST REALLY THE SANCTUARY FROM THE PLAGUE THAT WE'VE HEARD...?



HODGE LED THE PRIEST TO BELIEVE I WOULD BE HERE, IN BUDAPEST, ON THE 20TH OF OCTOBER. IF I WISH TO BE RID OF THIS DISTRACTION, I DARE NOT DISAPPOINT.

WHAT'S LEFT OF IT, YES.

OH, MY.

THEY FOUND THE CRAVEN, RISEN DEAD IN A WINE CELLAR ONE DAY, PILED THE PLAGUE DEAD AROUND THE BUILDING, AND SET IT ABLAZE AT SUNSET.



NOW THEY'VE GOT THIS WALL GOING UP, AND LET ME TELL YOU, THEY'RE BEING DAMN CAREFUL ABOUT WHO THEY LET THROUGH THE GATES.



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.  
OCTOBER 19, 1917.  
THE LAST PLACE I  
OUGHT TO BE.

HAIGUS'S TRAIL  
GROWS COLDER  
WITH EVERY  
PASSING HOUR.

THIS PRIEST, DUVIC,  
BELIEVES I HAVE SEEN  
SO MUCH EVIL THAT IT  
HAS STAINED MY  
SOUL...AND PERHAPS  
HE'S RIGHT...

BUT UNLIKE HAIGUS,  
I WILL TURN AND  
FACE MY HUNTER.

I WILL SHOW HIM THAT I  
FEAR NEITHER MAN NOR  
MONSTER, SERVANT OF GOD  
NOR MINION OF THE DEVIL.

I CANNOT DIE. THE CREATOR HOLDS FAST  
THE SKEINS OF MY FATE LIKE A PUPPET'S  
STRINGS, AND HE WILL NOT LET ME FALL  
UNTIL THE FINAL ACT. UNTIL THE LAST  
DROP OF BLOOD IS SHED.

THE BASTARD.







YOUR NAME  
AND YOUR  
PURPOSE,  
SIR.

LORD HENRY BALTIMORE. MY  
ERRAND IS MY OWN AFFAIR,  
BUT I MEAN NO HARM TO YOUR  
CITY OR ITS PEOPLE, I SEEK  
NO CHARITY, AND I'LL BE  
GONE IN A DAY OR  
TWO.



FINE. SEE THE DOCTOR.  
HE'LL HAVE TO CLEAR YOU  
BEFORE YOU'RE ALLOWED  
TO STAY, AND THEN THE  
BROTHERS WILL CLEANSE  
YOUR SOUL.



COME ALONG,  
TRAVELER. WE  
SHALL PURIFY  
YOU.

AS BEST YOU  
CAN, BROTHERS.  
AS BEST YOU  
CAN.



ÁLDASSÉK EZ  
AZ UTAZÓ AZ  
ATYA, A FIÚ ÉS A  
SZENTLÉLEK  
NEVÉBEN.

ARE YOU  
FAMILIAR WITH JUDGE  
DUVIC OF THE NEW  
INQUISITION?

HE HAS  
PASSED THIS  
WAY.



IF HE COMES TO  
YOUR GATES, TELL  
HIM THAT LORD  
BALTIMORE IS AT  
THE HOTEL  
HUNYADI.

TELL HIM  
THAT I  
AWAIT THE  
PLEASURE  
OF HIS  
COMPANY.











