

# TOIL AND TROUBLE™

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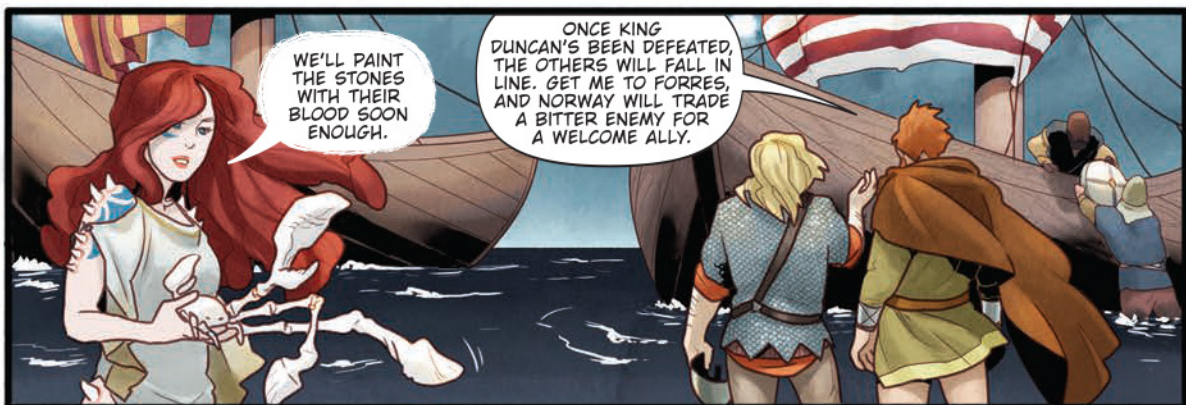


FATE IS LIKE THE TIDE, ONLY THE STRONGEST CAN MOVE AGAINST IT, AND ONLY FOR SO LONG.

YOU'D THINK I'D HAVE LEARNED THAT ALREADY.









THREE WITCHES  
RULE SCOTLAND,  
THE LAND CALLED  
ALBA BY THOSE  
WHO REMEMBER.

THREE WITCHES HAVE RULED IT SINCE  
BEFORE THE ICE RETURNED. BEFORE  
DOGGERLAND FELL INTO THE SEA.

WE GUIDE IT TO ITS FULL  
POTENTIAL. WE GUARD IT  
FROM ITS ENEMIES.

WE LEAD IT ON  
THE PATH THE  
GODS DECREE.

THE NORNS FALL SILENT AND  
THE MOIRAI FADE INTO THEIR  
OWN WEAVE, BUT THE WITCHES  
OF ALBA ENDURE.



WE WILL ALWAYS  
ENDURE.



HAIL  
AND HONOR,  
PADDOCK.  
WHERE IS YOUR  
MISTRESS?  
WHERE'S  
CAIT?

Hsss

SHE WAITS  
TO GREET YOU,  
SMERTAE. AND  
SHE APOLOGIZES  
FOR HAVING SO  
PRICKLY A  
FAMILIAR.

PADDOCK  
WAS ALWAYS  
MORE HEDGEPIG  
THAN SNAKE.

IT IS GOOD  
TO SEE YOU, CAIT.  
IT IS GOOD TO FEEL  
YOU BENEATH MY  
FEET ONCE  
MORE.

STILL THE  
FLATTERER. I  
TOLD YOU WHEN  
YOU JOINED US,  
HONEYED WORDS  
WILL GET YOU  
EVERYWHERE.

NOW  
GIVE THESE  
OLD BONES A  
LITTLE OF YOUR  
WARMTH,  
SMERTAE.

ALWAYS.

IF YOUR  
PLEASANTRIES ARE  
OVER, PERHAPS WE  
SHOULD FOCUS ON  
MATTERS MORE  
IN KEEPING WITH THE  
TIME AND PLACE.







RIATA IS GLAD TO SEE YOU AS WELL. BUT THAT WOULD MEAN ADMITTING TO SOMETHING.

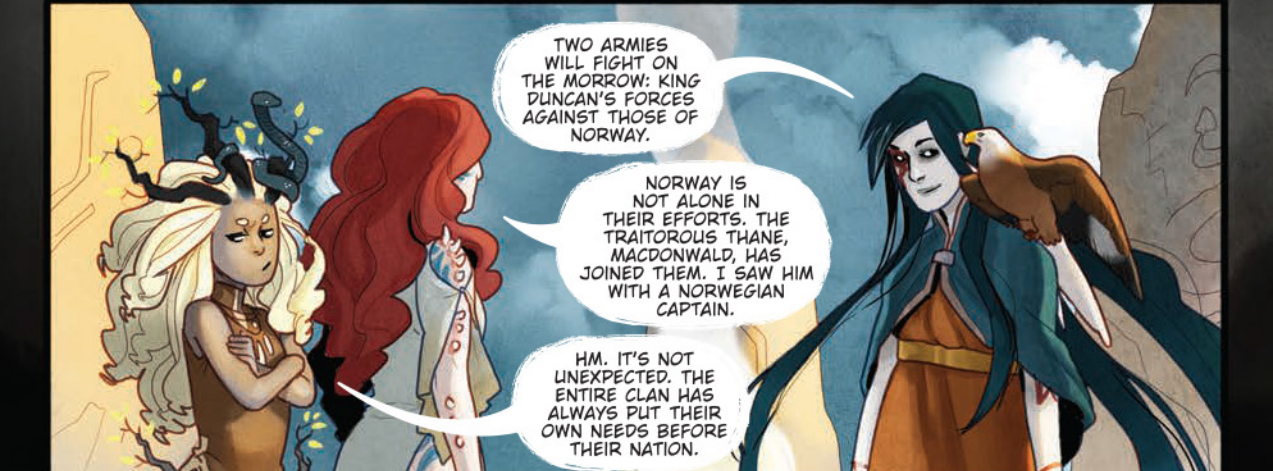
DO YOU WANT MY LOVE, SMERTAE, OR DO YOU WANT TO RID OUR SHORES OF THE FILTH YOU CAME HERE WITH?

WAR HAS COME TO ALBA. IF YOUR... JOURNEY... HAS NOT ALTERED YOU, I WOULD THINK YOU WOULD WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



A MORE FITTING WELCOME DOES NOT SPRING TO MIND, RIATA.

BY ALL MEANS, EXPLAIN YOUR PLAN.



TWO ARMIES WILL FIGHT ON THE MORROW: KING DUNCAN'S FORCES AGAINST THOSE OF NORWAY.

NORWAY IS NOT ALONE IN THEIR EFFORTS. THE TRAITOROUS THANE, MACDONWALD, HAS JOINED THEM. I SAW HIM WITH A NORWEGIAN CAPTAIN.

HM. IT'S NOT UNEXPECTED. THE ENTIRE CLAN HAS ALWAYS PUT THEIR OWN NEEDS BEFORE THEIR NATION.