

THE GODS ABOVE-- THE BEASTS BELOW



BEGINNING OUR ADAPTATION
OF THE TOR NOVEL
**CONAN AND THE GODS
OF THE MOUNTAIN**
BY ROLAND
GREEN

A SEQUEL TO
THE CLASSIC STORY
"RED NAILS"
BY
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LETTERER
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FOR THREE DAYS,
N'KOSI THE
HUNTER HAS
BEEN RUNNING...



... RUNNING...



... AS IF THE LIVES OF ALL THE
LEOPARD CLAN OF THE
KWANYI TRIBE DEPENDS
UPON IT.



AND PERHAPS
THEY DO.



THE RELENTLESS
PACE HE KEEPS
HAS TAKEN ITS
TOLL, YET HE HAS
KEPT IT --



-- EVER SINCE HE SAW THE
MADDENING THINGS
THAT HE SAW.



JOLARI, HIGH CHIEF OF ALL
THE KWANYI, MUST BE TOLD
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



N'KOSI'S BREATH
COMES NOW IN
RASPING SOBS--



HIS
EYES
STARE
WILDLY
BLINDLY
AHEAD--

BUT HE DARES NOT HALT, OR
EVEN SLOW HIS STEP...



... UNTIL,
WITHOUT
WARNING...



... IT IS HALTED FOR HIM!



YYAAAA



WELL, BROTHERS OF THE LION CLAN--



--IT SEEMS WE'VE CAUGHT ONE OF THE LITTLE CATS.

L--LET ME DOWN, BROTHERS! I AM--

NO BROTHER OF OURS! SINCE WHEN WAS THERE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO CLANS?



OUR HIGH CHIEF SAYS, OTHERWISE!

LEOPARD--LION--SPIDER--COBRA--ALL ARE KWANYI, HE SAYS!

LET ME DOWN, YOU GELDED BABOONS! MY ANKLE IS BROKEN!



THERE! BUT WATCH YOUR TONGUE, N'KOSI!

EVEN JOLARI IS KNOWN TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO A BLOODING BETWEEN CLANS.

WHY DO YOU HUNT IN OUR PART OF THE FOREST?

I WAS NOT HUNTING. I WAS--FLEEING.

HAH! THE SPOTTED CAT WAS EVER A TOTEM FOR COWARDS!

ONLY LISTEN A LITTLE WHILE, LIONS, INSTEAD OF ROARING--

--THEN KILL ME, IF WHAT I HAVE SEEN DOES NOT AFFECT ALL KWANYI.

AGREED! SAY ON.



I WAS HUNTING THE LANDS BETWEEN THE GAO RIVER AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY OF KUCHOTL.

YOU ALL KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN TALES OF A GREAT DRAGON IN THAT PART OF THE FOREST.

AYE, FOR THERE ARE OTHER TALES THAT SAY NOTHING CAN KILL SUCH A CREATURE...

NOT JUST TALES! MY MOTHER'S FATHER'S BROTHER SAW IT ONCE--AND BARELY ESCAPED WITH HIS SKIN!

"WELL, THREE DAYS PAST, I HAPPENED UPON SUCH A DRAGON--LYING DEAD--"

"THERE SEEMED TO BE A DEEP SWORD WOUND ON ITS SNOUT, AS WELL."

"--DEAD, I TELL YOU-- BENEATH A HUGE FALLEN TREE UPON WHICH IT HAD APPARENTLY DASHED OUT ITS BRAINS."

"THE VULTURES AND THE NYENAS HAD ALREADY BEGUN THEIR WORK, YET THE MONSTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DEAD EVEN TWO HOURS OF DAYS."

"LEGENDS SAY THE DRAGON WAS THE GUARDIAN OF KUCHOTL, TO THE EAST."

"--THAT THIRCE-CURSED CITY MIGHT AT LAST BE SAFE TO APPROACH."

"AND SO SPEAR IN HAND, I HEADED TO WARD THE SUNRISE--AND KUCHOTL."

"THUS I BEGAN TO WONDER IF WITH ITS PROTECTOR NOW FOOD FOR SCAVENGERS--"

"AFTER ALL, WE HAVE ALL HEARD STORIES OF THE FABULOUS GREEN FIRE-STONES THEREIN."





"I TELL YOU, LION BROTHERS--
MY HEART BEAT WILDLY AS I
NEARED THAT GRIM-WALLED
FORTRESS UPON THE PLAIN.

"AND MY FEAR WAS
DOUBLED YET AGAIN...



"FOR ITS VAST
DOORS STOOD
OPEN, AS NO
KWANYI HAD
EVER BEHELD
THEM!

"IN THE DUST TWO PAIRS OF
BOOTPRINTS LED OUTWARD--
AND ONE OF THE WALKERS
MUST HAVE BEEN A GIANT
OF A MAN!

"WARILY I
VENTURED IN-
SIDE BENEATH
TOWERING
CEILINGS--



"--AND
INTO THE
CHAMBER
WHERE
YUCHOTL'S
CHIEFTAIN
MUST HAVE
HELD COURT



"THERE I FOUND
VARIOUS CORPSES,
DEAD NO MORE THAN
A HAND OF DAYS.



"THEY BORE THE MARKS
OF SWORDS AND
SPEARS AND KNIVES--
EVEN OF TEETH AND
NAILS.

"OTHERS WERE CHARRED
AS IF STRUCK BY LIGHT-
NING--IN A PLACE NO
THUNDERBOLT COULD
REACH, SAVE BY SORCERY!



"ONE OLD CARCASS
BORE AN EXPRESSION
SO FEARSOME
I HALF EXPECTED
IT TO RISE
AND SLAY
ME, EVEN
THEN!



"BY HIM LAY A
WAND OF
CRYSTAL STILL
SMOLDERING
AFTER SEVERAL
DAYS.

"IT LOOKED TO
BE A THING OF
POWER..



"BUT I
DARED NOT
TOUCH IT.



"NEARBY
LAY A
WOMAN,
WHO HAD
BEEN
BEAUTI-
FUL IN
LIFE.

"A DAGGER WOUND
HAD SPLINTERED
HER SPINE.



"THAT IS WHEN I KNEW THAT
KUCHOTL WAS STILL
ACCURSED--

"AND I MIGHT WELL
JOIN THE DEAD IF
I STAYED LONGER
WITHIN ITS WALLS!



"I RAN
FROM THE
CHAMBER,
AND FROM
THE CITY--

"NOR DID
I STOP
UNTIL
HOISTED BY
YOUR
SNARE!

"I KNOW NOT
WHO COULD
HAVE KILLED THE
WIZARDS OF
KUCHOTL--



--BUT SURELY
JOLARI
MUST BE
TOLD!
EVEN
SOONER,
LEOPARD!

SOMEONE
ELSE
MUST
KNOW
EVEN
SOONER,
LEOPARD!



ERE LONG, BEARING
N'KOSI UPON A
LITTER, THE LION
WARRIORS MAKE
FOR THUNDER
MOUNTAIN...!

...ABODE
OF THE
GOD-MEN!



AND, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING FOREST...

GOT HIM!

WRESTLE HIM OVER MY WAY, CIMMERIAN!

GRRUNNT

IF THE MASSIVE BRONZED WARRIOR HEARS THE BLONDE WOMAN'S SHOUT, HE GIVES NO SIGN--



--AS HIS KNIFE RISES AND FALLS, OVER AND OVER AGAIN--

--LIKE THE CLEAVER OF A GRAZED HOG-- BUTCHER!



NOW YOU'VE GOT BLOOD ALL OVER YOU AGAIN, CONAN.

AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOU HAD WASHING OFF WHAT YOU'D WORN OUT OF KUCHOTL!



STILL, I DOUBT A TUSK-HOG DIFFERS MUCH FROM A FISH.

YOU MAKE THE FIRE, I'LL SKIN IT.

NO FIRE.



YOU MEAN WE-- MUST EAT IT--

RAW!

RAW?