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THE HARTOT AND THE THIEF

"WHEREIN FASTRADA FALLS IN LOVE AND SEEKS A FAMILY OF HER OWN."

VILLAGE OF ZEVEN OUTSIDE TRIER, 1629.

"LIFE WAS DIFFERENT THEN. SIMPLER. MORE FRAGILE."

FASTRADA!
QUICKLY,
PLEASE!*

* TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN.

"EVEN THEN,
PEOPLE CAME TO
ME FOR ANSWERS.
FOR HOPE."

YOU MUST
HELP. HANS,
HE'S... I FEAR
HE WON'T SEE
ANOTHER
DAWN.

REMAIN
CALM, URSULA.
LET US STUDY HIS
AFFLICTION
BEFORE WE
FORSAKE HIM SO
EASILY.

STUDY
WON'T BE
NECESSARY,
FASTRADA...

THE
MARK OF
DEATH
IS UPON
HIM.

YOUR
DIAGNOSIS IS
PREMATURE. I
MUST EXAMINE HIM
FURTHER, BUT
SUCH INTIMATE
PROBING MAY
PROVE DIFFICULT
TO WITNESS.

YOU
SHOULD
LEAVE
US.

YES...
YES, OF
COURSE.





"A FAMILY."

AUNT
FASTRADA!

GWYNN, WHAT
A PLEASANT
SURPRISE! HAVE
ALL YOUR
MOTHERS GONE
TO THE MILL?

NO.
THEY'RE
INSIDE,
WAITING
FOR YOU.



"MY **SISTERS**. A DREADFUL
UNEASE FOLLOWED THEM
EVERYWHERE AND I WAS ALL
TOO HAPPY TO AVOID THEIR
PRESENCE. BUT ONE CANNOT
AVOID FAMILY FOREVER."

SISTERS. I
FEAR WHAT
SPURS THIS
JOYOUS
REUNION.

IS IT WRONG
FOR US TO SEEK
THE ENJOYMENT
OF YOUR
COMPANY, DEAR
FASTRADA?

NO, OF
COURSE NOT,
MORWYNN.



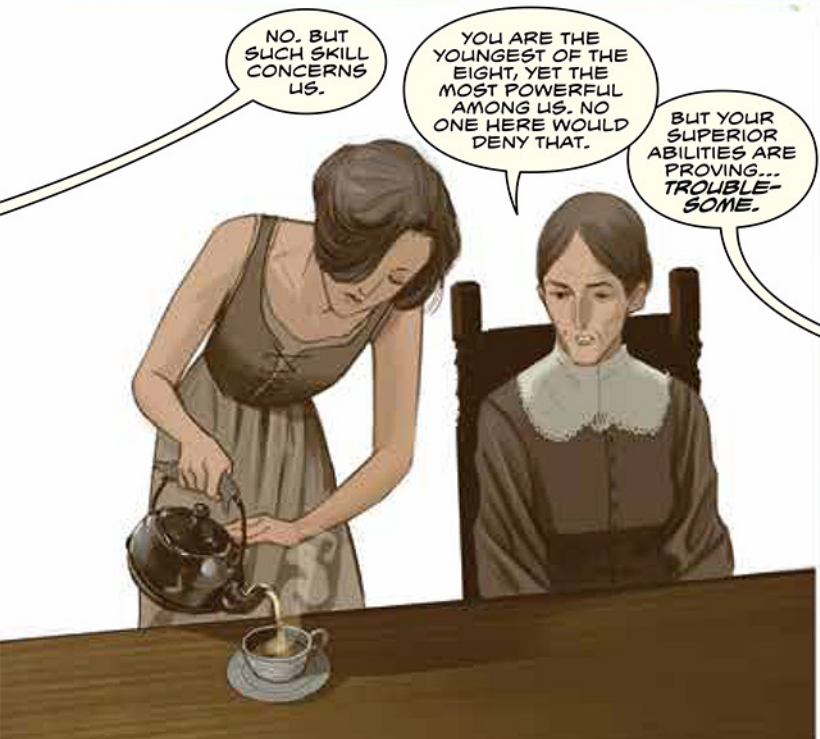
BUT YOUR
FEARS ARE NOT
COMPLETELY
UNFOUNDED. WE
ARE HERE TO
DISCUSS YOUR
VISIT WITH
URSULA'S
HUSBAND.



HANS WAS ILL. I'M A HEALER. WHAT'S TO DISCUSS?

ILL? HE WAS STRICKEN WITH THE PLAGUE, FASTRADA.

SHOULD I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SKILLED AT MY WORK?



NO. BUT SUCH SKILL CONCERNS US.

YOU ARE THE YOUNGEST OF THE EIGHT, YET THE MOST POWERFUL AMONG US. NO ONE HERE WOULD DENY THAT.

BUT YOUR SUPERIOR ABILITIES ARE PROVING... TROUBLE-SOME.



I DOUBT URSULA AND HANS WOULD AGREE.

THEY WOULD IF THEY KNEW THE SOURCE OF YOUR HEALING WAS ROOTED IN MAGIC.



WAR RAVAGES THE COUNTRYSIDE. THE **BLACK DEATH** EMERGES ONCE AGAIN FROM THE SHADOWS.

YET YOU HAVE SPARED ZEWEEN FROM THESE **AFFLICTIONS**. SOME MAY BELIEVE IT IS GOD WHO PROTECTS THEM, BUT **OTHERS** WILL BE MORE SUSPICIOUS.

OTHERS? WHAT OTHERS?



THE ABBOT OF WÜRZBURG SENDS FORTH ACOLYTES IN SEARCH OF MORE **WITCHES** FOR HIS FIRES.