

SIEGE AT BLUE MOUNTAIN

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PART
2

INKS
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-- WHY KILL ME
FOR THIS ONE?

AAAA!
AWAAN!

OOWW! D-DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

THE WOLFRIDERS
CAN ALWAYS BEAR
MORE CHILDREN --

SHOUTING IN VAIN,
ARREE GLIDES
BEHIND THE COVER OF
HER GIANT MOUNT'S
OUTSPREAD WINGS.

OBEY ME,
PRESERVERS!
FOLLOW ME!

AAK!
COUGH-

SPOOT!

NO!

NO!

NO GO
WITH BAD
FLYRIGH~
TRUNG!

LOOK OUT! SHE'S
DIVING AT US
LIKE WE'RE FISH
IN A LAKE!!

SKREEAAW!





EASE DOWN,
NOW, LAD. LET
GO OF HIM!

YOU LET GO,
TREESTUMP!

WELL, SOMEBODY BETTER
LET GO OF SOMEBODY OR
SOMEBODY'S GOING TO LOSE
A **FINGER!**

GRRRR...

NO, STAR-
JUMPER! SEE?
I'M ALL RIGHT...

ACTING CHIEF OF HIS TRIBE,
AND ALL BUT A FATHER TO
SCOUTER, TREESTUMP
WINS WITH A FIRM SENDING.
THE DISTRAUGHT YOUTH'S
SHOULDERS SAG SUBMISSIVELY.

HALF THE NIGHT IS
GONE SINCE **CUTTER**
LEFT US TO SEEK
HIS HUMAN
FRIENDS' AID. HE
THINKS
THEY CAN
HELP US
UNDO
BLUE
MOUNTAIN'S
POWER.

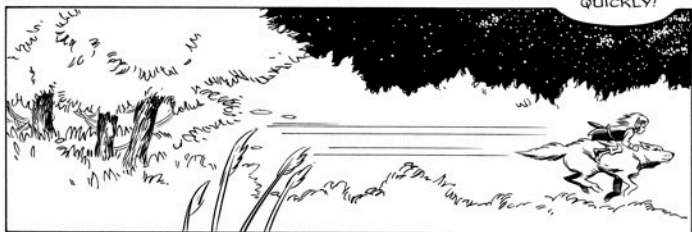
BUT **AROREE...**
SHE'LL TAKE **DEWSHINE**
AND **WINDKIN**-- TO THAT
DARK PLACE-- TO
WINNOWILL!

AYE,
LEETAH.

WE
NEED A
PLAN--

AND WE DARE
NOT GO RUSHING IN
AFTER THEM!

--AND WE
NEED **CUTTER**
TO APPROVE IT
QUICKLY!



THERE IS A SUBTLE LIST TO THE GIANT HAWK'S FLIGHT, ALMOST AS THOUGH HE BEARS THE EXTRA WEIGHT OF PREY IN HIS GREAT TALONS. BUT **AROREE** CHOOSES TO IGNORE IT.

THE TOPMOST CRAGS OF BLUE MOUNTAIN'S AERIE LOOM BEFORE HER--

--AND HER MIND IS OCCUPIED--

--LIKE HER ARMS, WITH A WRIGGLING, SQUEALING BUNDLE.

DON'T SCREAM
DON'T SCREAM
DON'T SCREAM!

THINK...!
WHAT DO I HAVE WITH ME-- ONLY **WINDKIN'S** TETHER--

--AND--

--MY KNIFE!

CAUTIOUSLY PULLING HERSELF UP TO PEER ACROSS THE LEDGE, **DEWSHINE** SEES THAT NOT ONLY SHE HAS NEED OF STEALTH,

SHH! YOU TROUBLESOME LITTLE CREATURE! HUSH!

IF I ATTACK NOW, SHE MIGHT HURT HIM!



I AM FORTUNATE.
"SHE" HAS NOT
POSTED ANY OF
THE EIGHT HERE
TONIGHT!

YOU ARE
MY SECRET
FOR NOW,
TINY
FLOATER--

COME!
MUST I
GAG
YOU?

NO!

WINDKIN,
PRECIOUS
CUBLING,
STOP YOUR
HOWLS!
I'M HERE!

NNNH?
MUH...!

THE YOUNG
MOTHER'S
SENDING HAS
ITS EFFECT,
DESIRED--

--AND--

--OTHERWISE!

AROREE
ACTS SO
STRANGELY--
SO MUCH
ALONE!

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY--

-- BUT I BELIEVE WHAT
SHE TOLD US IN THE HOLT JUST
BEFORE SHE TOOK WINDKIN!

