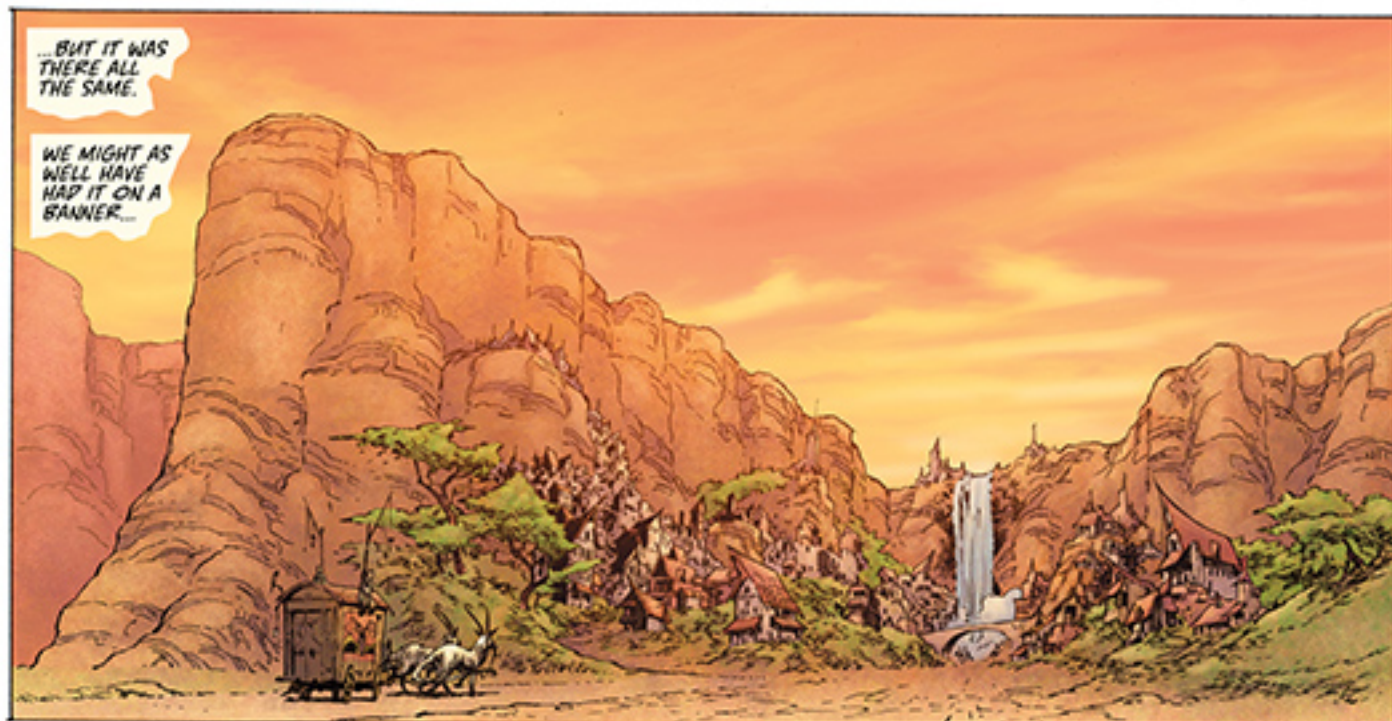


...BUT IT WAS THERE ALL THE SAME.

WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE HAD IT ON A BANNER...



...MISTRUST HAD SET IN.

MEN
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
OF SUSSEL!



WE BEG OF
YOU, CEASE
YOUR DAILY
CHORES!

ALLOW THIS BRIEF,
REFRESHING RESPITE
FOR ONE GRAND
MOMENT!

OUT OF THE
WAY, OUT OF
THE WAY!

THE
RUMORS
WERE
TRUE!

EY,
WATCH IT,
GUTTER
ROACH!



SO
BEAUTIFUL...

THIS ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

COME! BASK
WHILE YOU CAN,
FOR IT IS BUT
ONCE IN A
LIFETIME--





OH, IT'S LOVELY!

BY THE GOLDEN WELL!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.



OH! YOU HAVE NO PERMIT FOR THIS INTRUSION.

WE PERFORM AS A GIFT AND LIVE OFF DONATIONS. OUR TRAVELS BRINGING JOY AND--



STICK YOUR JOY SOME OTHER PLACE.

KEEP MOVING, OR I'LL THUMP DA LOT O' YA.



UNNECESSARY, CAPTAIN.

NOTHING KILLS MAGIC FASTER THAN THE UNWANTED PERFORMANCE.

WE TAKE OUR LEAVE.



--THAT THE
**SPRINK
CIRCUS**
COMES TO
YOUR
TOWN!

IS THAT A
ROSINDE?
I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
EXTINCT!

MOMMY,
MOMMY
CAN I HAVE
ONE?



I HOPE OUR
VIBRANCY HAS CAST
SOME BEAUTY ON
YOUR LIVES, IF BUT
FOR A BRIEF
MOMENT.



HOW DOES
ONE HIDE A
WHISPER...?



"...WITHIN A SCREAM."

...THE BALANCE BETWEEN DOING WHAT'S RIGHT AN' THE OVERWHELMINGLY HUMAN SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION, LAD.

JUSTICE IS A MORTAL-MADE CONCEPT...



AND EVERY MAN'S DEFINITION IS DIFFERENT.

A BILLION SOULS, ALL KNOWING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR EVERYONE ELSE--

UNTIL THEIR JUSTICE CONFLICTS WITH THEIR INTERESTS, GOBLIN.

MY FAMILY PAID FOR OUR IDEALS, OUR NAME IS A CURSE FOR IT.



NOT ONCE THE WORLD KNOWS THE GREAT SACRIFICE YOU MADE TO AID US, ADAM.

WHAT SOME MOB O' FOOLS THINKS O' ME AIN'T IMPORTANT.

LEFT MY FAMILY A THOUSAND MILES AWAY LIVING IN CONSTANT, UNCERTAIN FEAR.



A CONCEPT EASILY UNDERAPPRECIATED FOR THOSE WHO'VE NEVER SUFFERED IT.

DID YOU ACCIDENTLY SIT ON THE KAREEBI RELEASE HANDLER?

NO, WHY?



THE LASS IS INSINUATIN' YE'VE GOT A STICK UP YER ARSE.

ONCE UPON A TIME I HAD A LIGHTER HEART, GOBLIN.

NOW? WITH EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING I LOVE AT RISK, ALL COUNTING ON ME TO COME THROUGH, TO COME HOME...



HOW MANY GENERATIONS'D SUFFER THE STAIN ON YER NAME IN A WORLD RULED BY THIS MONSTER IF YE'D CHOSEN DIFFERENT?



DO NOT ALLOW OUR COMPANION'S MELANCHOLY TO SHROUD YOUR MIND, GOBLIN.

WE HAVEN'T ACHIEVED OUR GOAL YET--THE TARNISH ON HIS FAMILY REMAINS UNTIL WE DO.

SLOOMY PAIR IN THE ARSE...



YOUR NEED TO SAVE THE DAMNED, AND TRUST IN THE UNTRUSTWORTHY WILL BE OUR UNDOING.



YOU SURE SEEM TA PICK AN' CHOOSE WHO YOU APPLY THAT COLD, PRAGMATIC GAZE TO.



WHAT ABOUT YOUR SILENT METAL FRIEND OVER THERE?

YOU HIDE HIS TRUE IDENTITY, BUT I'VE PIECED IT TOGETHER CLEAR ENOUGH.



"BEARS STRIKIN' RESEMBLANCE TO A TALE OF THE CORRUPTED MOSAK GENERAL, VELLOR, FIRST TO HEAR THE MUD KING'S OFFER.

"SAME MAN WHO BEGAN THE CAMPAIGN OF WHISPERS.

"WIPE OUT ANY MOSAK WHO WOULDN'T HEAR AN OFFER..."



...THOUGH THE RANKS OF THE UNCORRUPTED MOSAK WERE NOT QUITE AS SWOLLEN AS THEIR COUNTERPART.

YOU FEAR HIM, HIS ABILITY TO SMELL A WHISPER WOULD CAUSE DISTRESS TO ANY WHO'VE HEARD AN OFFER.



WHAT COULD HE OFFER TO MAKE ME BETRAY ALL MY FAMILY SUFFERED FOR?