



# Nemedia.

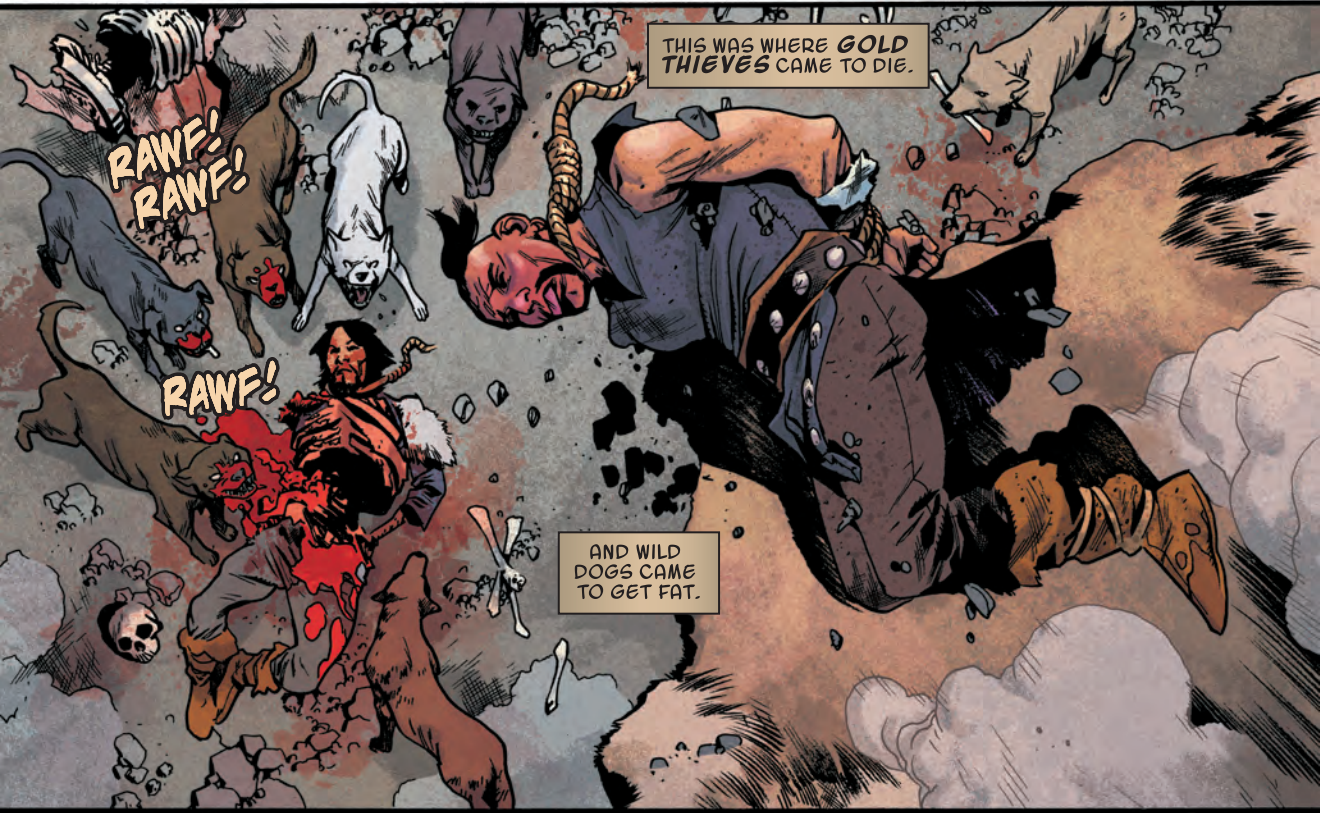
THE MINING TOWNS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE BORDER RANGE BETWEEN NEMEDIA AND AQUILONIA WERE SO CRUDE AND ROUGHLY HEWN FROM THE ROCK THAT MOST HAD NEVER WARRANTED A PROPER NAME.

BUT THIS PARTICULAR HARDCRABBLE HAMLET HAD COME TO BE KNOWN FOR ITS ONE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE.

AHHH HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO DEAD. CUT HIM LOOSE.



THIS WAS RED TREE HILL.



THIS WAS WHERE GOLD THIEVES CAME TO DIE.

RAWF!  
RAWF!

RAWF!

AND WILD DOGS CAME TO GET FAT.





NO ONE CAME TO RED TREE HILL TO GET RICH.

MOST CAME AGAINST THEIR WILL, AND THE NUGGETS THEY DUG OUT OF THE MINE ENDED UP ADORNING THE FINGERS OF NOBLEMEN AND THEIR WIVES BACK IN BELVERUS, THE NEMEDIAN CAPITAL.

COMMIT A MISDEMEANOR CRIME LIKE OFFENDING A RICH MAN OR MURDERING A COMMONER, AND YOU WERE SENT TO THE MINES.

BUT GOLD THIEVES WERE SENT TO THE TREE.



DOGS ARE GOOD AND RILED UP NOW. BRING OUT THE MAIN COURSE.

MOST OF THE THIEVES WHO'D BEEN ROPED TO THAT GREAT RED TREE OVER THE YEARS HAD BEEN DESPERATE, HUNGRY PEOPLE WHO STOLE TO SURVIVE.

THE MINERS OF RED TREE HILL COULD UNDERSTAND THOSE SORTS OF THIEVES.

THEY STILL CHEERED THE HANGINGS AND BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN TO SEE THE DOGS GET FED, BUT THE MINERS UNDERSTOOD HOW HUNGER COULD DRIVE ANY FREE MAN TO THIEVE IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

WHAT THEY COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND, AS PROUD NEMEDIANS (EVEN THE MURDERERS)...

...WHAT THEY HAD BEEN RAISED TO DESPISE, MORE THAN THEY HATED CAVE-INS OR MUDSLIDES OR MOUNTAIN GRIZZLIES...

HERE COMES A MEAL THOSE MUTTS WON'T SOON FORGET!



...WAS A MAN WHO STOLE FOR A LIVING.

THAT, IN THE MINERS' EYES, WAS NO KIND OF MAN AT ALL.



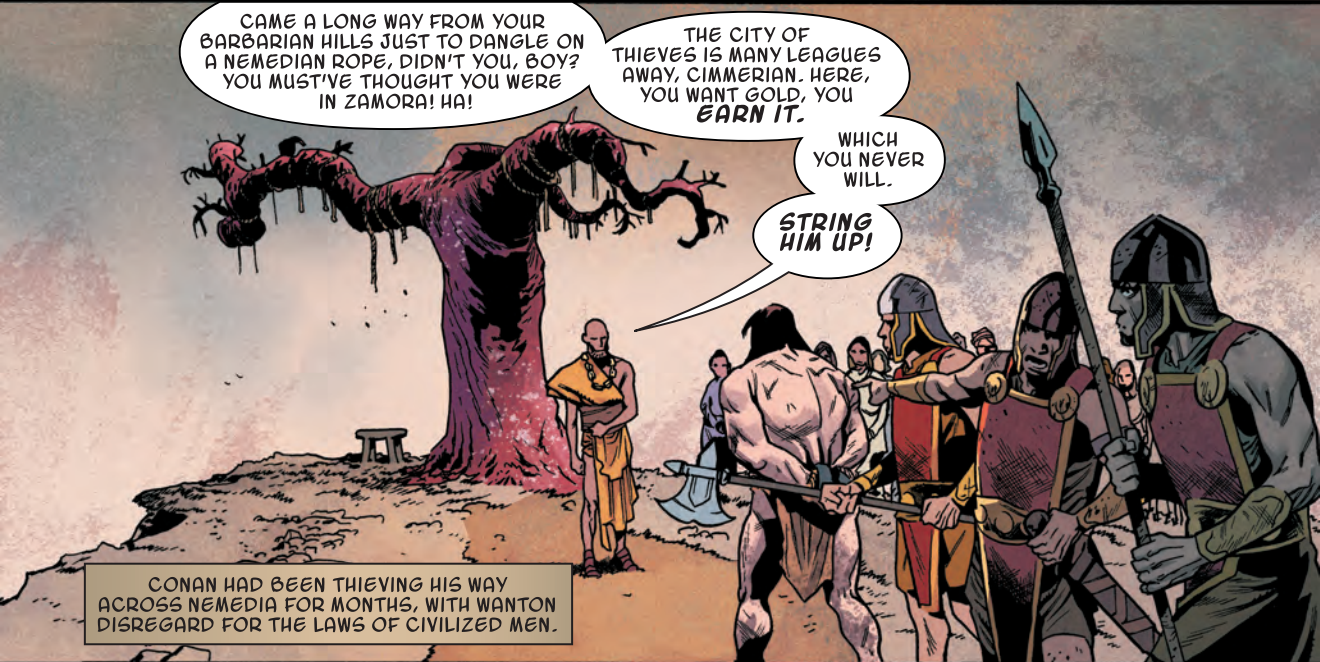
I DOUBT OUR DOGS HAVE EVER HAD CIMMERIAN FOR SUPPER!

CAME A LONG WAY FROM YOUR BARBARIAN HILLS JUST TO DANGLE ON A NEMEDIAN ROPE, DIDN'T YOU, BOY? YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE IN ZAMORA! HA!

THE CITY OF THIEVES IS MANY LEAGUES AWAY, CIMMERIAN. HERE, YOU WANT GOLD, YOU EARN IT.

WHICH YOU NEVER WILL.

STRING HIM UP!



CONAN HAD BEEN THIEVING HIS WAY ACROSS NEMEDIA FOR MONTHS, WITH WANTON DISREGARD FOR THE LAWS OF CIVILIZED MEN.



HE CAME TO RED TREE HILL WITH A PAIR OF HYRKANIAN BROTHERS HE'D MET OUTSIDE NUMALIA, LOOKING TO ROB THE ROYAL GOLD STORES.

AND THEY WOULD'VE DONE IT, IF THE INQUISITOR AND HIS GUARDS HADN'T BROUGHT THE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON TOP OF THEM JUST TO STOP THEIR ESCAPE.

IT TOOK THREE DAYS TO DIG CONAN OUT FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE.

EVEN THEN HE SLEW FIVE GUARDS BEFORE THEY COULD SUBDUDE HIM.

ONE OF THE HYRKANIAN HAD A SMASHED SKULL. THE OTHER COULDN'T STAND OR SPEAK. THE INQUISITOR STILL HANGED THEM BOTH.

AND TO HEAR THE FERAL NORTH MAN'S FINAL SNARLS.

YOU GOT ANY LAST WORDS OR PRAYERS, BOY, BEST SAY THEM NOW.

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO OUGHT TO BE PRAYING. ALL OF YOU.

THE ENTIRE TOWN CAME OUT TO WATCH THE DOGS GET FED.

PRAY I DON'T SEE YOU IN HELL.

ONLY PLACE WE'LL BE SEEING YOU IS IN SOME DOG DROPPINGS. BUT FIRST YOU FEED THE TREE!

CONAN WAS SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD.

HGGGHK!

