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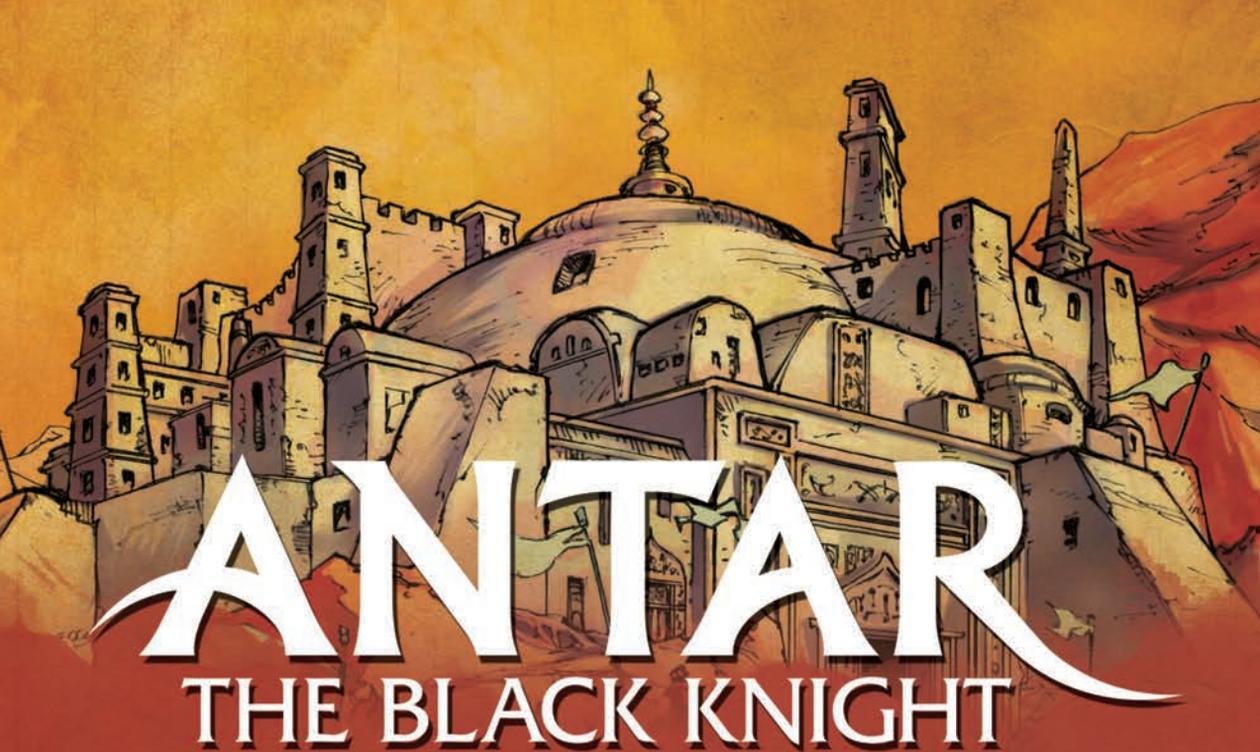
ANTAR

THE BLACK KNIGHT



ERIC BATTLE

BATTLE



ANTAR

THE BLACK KNIGHT

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*"I pierced him with my spear, and then I set upon him with
my Indian sword pure of steel, and keen. A warrior, so stately
in size as if his clothes were on a high tree: soft leather shoes
are worn by him and he is not twinned."*

—From "The Poem of Antar"
(580 C.E.) by Antar ibn Shaddad.





FROM A YOUNG AGE,
I LEARNED THAT THE
PRIVILEGED WILL DO
THE NASTIEST THINGS
TO PROTECT THEIR
POSITION.

HOWEVER,
ONE BECOMES
MORE WITHOUT
COMFORT.

BREAK
HIM!







CHIEF ADDISU SAYS SLAVERS ARE COMING. LEAVE NOW, MEET IN THE FOREST. THEY'RE TAKING EVERYONE.



THEY'RE THE SAME SLAVERS WHO WIPED OUT GETE VILLAGE. THEY TAKE US TO DO THEIR WORK. THEY'RE A LAZY PEOPLE.



SEE WHAT MY LONG-LEGGED NIECE SAYS?



WE SHOULD LEAVE NOW.

UNCLE, AUNTIE, MAY I GO? I HAVE TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO OTHERS.



HURRY! GET YOUR THINGS!

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING, RUNNER?



NO.

I HAVE TO GO.



MY MOTHER TOLD ME HER FINAL NIGHT IN HER HOMELAND WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NIGHT ON EARTH.



UNTIL...



IT'S A WOMAN MESSENGER.

THESE AXUM ARE TRULY ANIMALS.



SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS BEATING ONLY ONCE. SHE SAID EVEN WITH THE FULL MOON, IT WAS TOO DARK TO SEE THEIR FACES.