



KRAKK



AAGH!

THIS IS MADDENING.

SHLUKK



YOU WANTED TO GO BACK TO MERU.

KULAN'S GATH'S INFLUENCE IS ONLY GOING TO BE MORE POWERFUL THE CLOSER WE GET.



LERA AND TAYA ARE RIGHT. WE'LL ALMOST CERTAINLY ENCOUNTER MANY MORE WHO WOULD EITHER SEEK TO CAPTURE US--



HYEH-HAH. YER GONNA CRACK LIKE A--

--OH!



SHLUKK

--HRRK



--OR SIMPLY DO US HARM.

YES, QUITE SO.

...A LITTLE HELP, PLEASE?



HYAAHH!

YOUR FRIEND WALLACE IS AT LEAST MAKING PROGRESS!

YES--



--EVEN IF IT'S ONLY AGAINST A LESSER BREED OF MERCENARY.

CHAK



TWANG

GNNN!



STILL, THE CONSTANT OPPOSITION IS SLOWING US DOWN MORE THAN I'D LIKE.

WELL, WE CAN TRAVEL FAST, OR WE CAN TRAVEL STEALTHY. WE CAN'T DO BOTH.

PERHAPS WE CAN. I RECOGNIZE WHERE WE ARE--I PASSED THIS WAY ON MY LAST JOURNEY TO MERU. TELL ME--



--HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN A WYVERN?

**MEANWHILE,
BACK IN
SHAMBALLAH...**

SONJA!

NO, NOT
QUITE. CAN'T
YOU SENSE
THE MAGIC,
BOY?

THIS IS ONE
OF THE OLD MAN'S
DUPLICATES!

IT
SHOULD HAVE
EVAPORATED
BY NOW,
EXCEPT...

...YES, YOU
HAVE A LITTLE OF
MY POWER IN YOU,
AS WELL. THAT
ANSWERS SO MANY
QUESTIONS.



LIKE
WHY I HAVEN'T
KILLED YOU
YET?

WELL,
PERHAPS WHY YOU
HAVEN'T TRIED, AT
LEAST.



SONJA, YOU
CAN FIGHT HIM!
YOU CAN END
THIS ALL NOW!
YOU CAN--

--MMFF!

OH, DO
BE QUIET.





NOW TELL ME THE TRUTH, CLONE--IS SONJA ALIVE?

YOU CAN FEEL HER PRESENCE, IF YOU TRY.

I...YES. SHE IS ALIVE. AND SHE IS NOT FAR. A FEW DAYS RIDE.



I HAD HOPED SHE MIGHT DIE BEFORE SHE BECAME A NUISANCE ONCE MORE.

BUT LET'S GET BACK TO YOU.



YOU WERE MADE FROM A WEAK SPELL. A DEFENSIVE SPELL YOU WEREN'T MEANT TO LIVE FOR MORE THAN A FEW HOURS, AT BEST.

I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG, AND I KNOW YOU'RE FIGHTING IT...BUT YOU WILL LOSE, AND THEN FADE AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS.

YOU MAY REMEMBER A WHOLE LIFE, BUT YOU HAVEN'T LIVED ONE...YOU'RE SIMPLY A SOULLESS SHADE, AND CAN'T EVEN HOPE TO JOURNEY TO THE UNDERWORLD WHEN YOUR TIME COMES.

BUT I AM BETTER VERSED IN SORCERY THAN THE MAGE WHO MADE YOU. I COULD ENSURE YOUR EXISTENCE.



NOW TELL ME...WHAT PRICE WOULD YOU PAY FOR A SOUL?