



"I WANT TO MAKE ONE THING CLEAR, FROM THE VERY *BEGINNING*.

"WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT *FABLES* AS YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCEPT UP TO NOW."

THEY'VE BEEN ON ME SINCE ELLISVILLE. THESE THINGS ARE *RELENTLESS!*

WHY NOT SEND A FEW OF THEM MY WAY? I'M MARGINALLY LESS ENCUMBERED FOR THE NONCE.

"IN THE PAST, WE LIVED HERE SECRETLY, EXILED FROM OUR HOMELANDS AND CLOISTERED IN THE MUNDANE WORLD."

"THE MAGIC OF OUR TALES BLEED OUT IN DRIBS AND DRABS, SEEPING INTO THE MUNDANE MINDS AND LODGING THERE."

"WE BECAME THEIR FAIRY TALES AND NURSERY RHYMES."

"THEIR FROG PRINCES AND FAIRY GODMOTHERS AND BIG BAD WOLVES."

THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN YOU, HANSEL.

THEY'RE ZOMBIES. THEY WANT BRAINS.

"BUT NOW? NOW EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. MANY OF US HAVE LEFT, AND THOSE WHO REMAIN LIVE OUT IN THE OPEN."

"WE CAN DO SO BECAUSE THIS WORLD IS CREATING ITS OWN LEGENDARY BEINGS, NEW FABLES."

"AND WE FEW, THE OLD GUARD, ARE THE ONES WHO COMPREHEND MAGIC. WE'RE THE ONES WHO UNDERSTAND ITS TRUE POWER..."

"...AND WE--THE SHADOW PLAYERS--ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN SAVE THIS WORLD FROM ITSELF."

"NEW MAGIC IS BEING CREATED EVERY DAY. NEW LORE IS BEING WRITTEN."

I KNOW YOU STRIVE ALWAYS TO KEEP YOUR TONGUE AS SHARP AS YOUR KNIVES, BO PEEP.

PERHAPS IT COULD USE A THOROUGH ABRADING WITH A WHETSTONE.

"NO TWO OF THESE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CANON ARE THE SAME."

DAMNABLE MONSTROSITIES! YOU'VE MADE ME MISS MY QUARRY!

"NO SINGLE RESPONSE ON OUR PART IS APPROPRIATE FOR EVERY OPERATION..."

I'LL LANCE YOUR HEAD LIKE AN OVERFILLED BOIL!

EACH OF YOU, IN TURN!

UNDER EVERY ROCK I OVERTURN THESE DAYS, SOME NEW ABOMINATION AGAINST GOD.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THIS WORLD?

"...RATHER, IT IS OUR JOB TO HANDLE ALL CASES INDIVIDUALLY, ON THEIR OWN MERITS."





...IF THE DAMN ARCH IS EVEN STILL **STANDING** BY THE TIME WE MAKE IT BACK DOWN MARKET STREET.

"...DESTROYING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES..."

THE SHOW ME STATE

CHAPTER ONE OF THE PANDORA PROTOCOL

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