



IF WHAT YOU SAY IS **TRUE**... THIS STRANGER IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN WE MIGHT HAVE EVER IMAGINED!

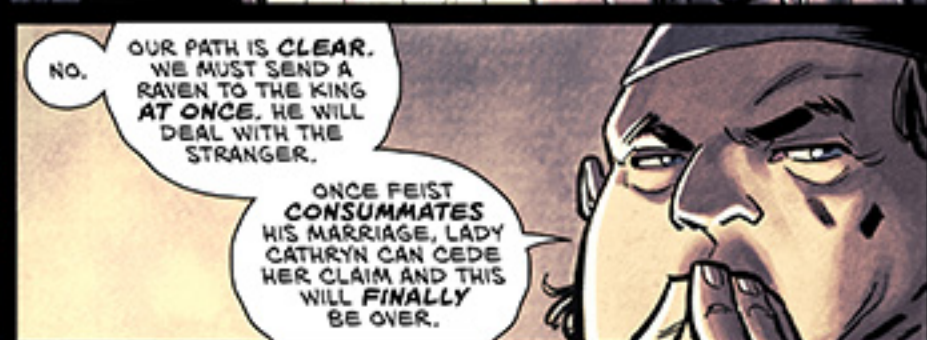


BUT HIS CLAIM--

--ONLY GUARANTEES A PUBLIC EXECUTION.

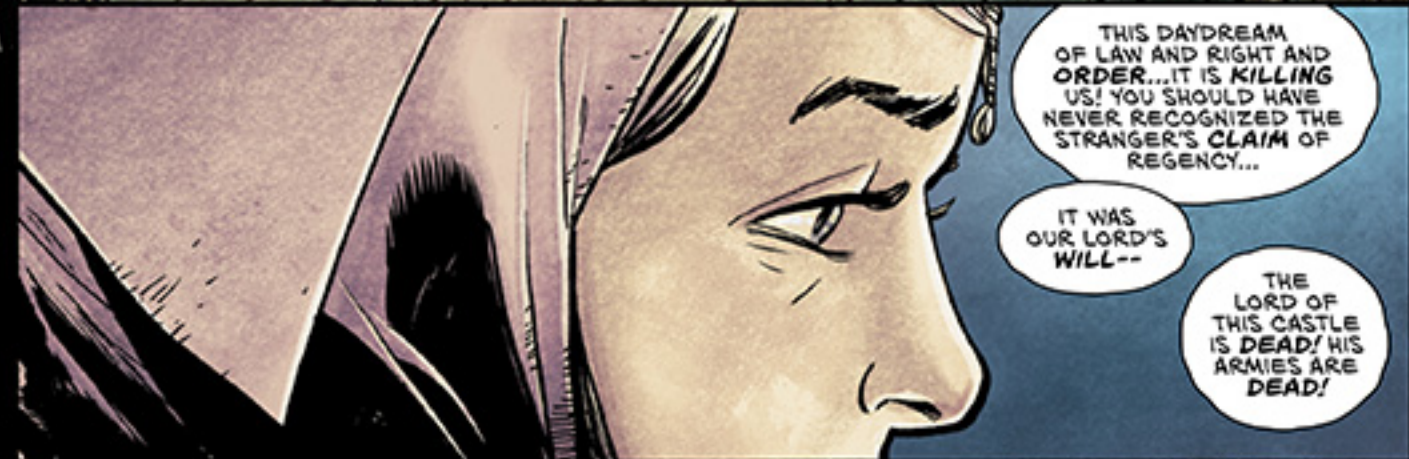


FROM THE **BEGINNING** I SAID THIS MAN WAS TROUBLE. NOW HIS PLANS ARE LAID BARE. TO THINK, OUR LORD WOULD SEND THIS **DEVIL** TO US.



NO. OUR PATH IS CLEAR. WE MUST SEND A RAVEN TO THE KING **AT ONCE**. HE WILL DEAL WITH THE STRANGER.

ONCE FEIST **CONSUMMATES** HIS MARRIAGE, LADY CATHRYN CAN CEDE HER CLAIM AND THIS WILL **FINALLY** BE OVER.





I WARNED YOU OF THIS FROM THE START...WE LOST THE WAR...BUT WE HAD A PATH THAT WOULD HAVE SAVED LIVES--

ONLY OUR OWN.



AND WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR US?

WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE. DESPITE EVERYTHING... LORD FEIST STILL WANTS A LEGAL WEDDING BEFORE THE KING AND HIS ARMY ARRIVE.

THE PEASANTS WILL BE HAPPIER, THE LINE OF SUCCESSION WILL BE TRUE, FEIST IS A PROPER KINGDOM MAN...

I SEE...





IT WAS YOU THEN, WAS IT?

FEIST LEFT HERE IN SHACKLES AND SWORDS. HE FOUND A WAY PAST THE GATE AND ONTO THE WALLS, ALL UNDETECTED.

YOU DID THIS.



WHAT DID LORD FEIST PROMISE YOU? GOLD? A SEAT ON HIS COUNCIL? YOUR LIFE?

WE KEEP HAVING THIS SAME ARGUMENT! DAY AFTER DAY! AND SOMEHOW YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...



THE KING'S ARMY WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT. WITHOUT A BARGAIN, WE ALL DIE! EVERY ONE OF US! ALL TO SAVE A CHILD?

SHE IS OUR LADY!



HH...