

CODA™

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BOOM!™
STUDIOS

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"MY WIFE SAYS
I HAVE A TALENT
FOR HELPING
PEOPLE."

HIGHLY
DEBATABLE,
I KNOW.

SORT
OF HANGS
ON YOUR
DEFINITION OF
"PEOPLE,"
DOESN'T
IT?

SINGLE
TRAVELER.
FEMALE. TRACKS
GO IN THE CAVE--
NOT OUT.

HRR. AN
AMBUSH. BRING UP
THE BULLROARERS.
THE RATS AND THE
BATS.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT SURVIVAL.
ANY OLD ANIMAL--ANY
WORTHLESS SCRAP OF
LIFE--WANTS THAT."

WHAT MAKES
PEOPLE PEOPLE--
I'D SAY--IS THAT WE
COMPLICATE
MATTERS.

WE THINK
ABOUT SURVIVAL. WE
FEEL, WE IMAGINE,
WE GNAW...

"WE GET
ABSTRACT,
SEE?"

LOUDER. AND
BE READY WHEN SHE
BOLTS. SHE'LL BE EXPECTIN'
ARMIES AND HORRORS.
HEH. QUAKING IN HER
BOOTS.

EASY
PREY.

YOU GET
RIGHT DOWN TO IT,
"PEOPLE" ARE JUST
ANIMALS WITH DESIGN
FLAWS.



THERE ARE
EXCEPTIONS, OF
COURSE.

"FOLKS WHO CAN--I DON'T KNOW--WHO CAN HIDE THE CRACKS SO WELL YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE THEM. CALM, FOCUSED--CLEAR AS GLASS."

"BUT THE FLAWS'RE THERE, ALL THE SAME. LIKE A HAIRLINE IN A BLOODY WINDOW, BAKED IN BY THE GLAZIER--"

"--BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN."

"FOLKS LIKE THAT? THEY CAN TRY AND DENY IT. THEY CAN FILE DOWN THE EDGES AND HIDE THE WEAK SPOTS SO THEY'RE NOT ON SHOW."

RRRR

"JUST MEANS THEY'LL SPLIT EVEN HARDER WHEN THEY'RE OUT IN THE OPEN."

BAM
BAM

"YOU ASK ME? BEST YOU CAN HOPE--WHEN IT COMES TO BREAKS AND PEOPLE?"

"...IS TO FIND THE ONE WHO HOLDS YOU TOGETHER, JUST BY BEING THERE."

"AND DEAD GODS
HELP YOU IF YOU
DON'T RETURN THE
FAVOR."

SSH. SSH.
SSH. IT'S
OKAY.

YOU
REFER TO
LOVE.

HM.

S'R'IGHT...

"THOUGH SOMETIMES
I THINK MAYBE THAT'S THE
BIGGEST DESIGN FLAW
OF ALL."

BUT YOU...? ARE
YOU A PEOPLE
OR A THING?

I DO
WONDER.

WH-WH-WHERE
ARE WE? H-HOW
DID WE GET
HERE?

HOW LONG
HAS PASSED SINCE
YOU STOLE MY
HEAD?

HM.

WELL
NOW.

THEREBY
HANGS A
TALE.

"LAST FEW DAYS? RELAXING,
MOSTLY. CUTE LITTLE PLACE
I KNOW, OFF THE BEATEN
TRACK.

"IT'S ONE THING TO HAVE A
RIGHTEOUS MISSION TO
DESTROY EVIL, BUT YOU'VE
GOT TO KNOW WHEN TO TAKE
IT EASY."

...BUT
IT'LL DO, AT A
PINCH. LET'S JUST
KEEP SOME BITS
ASIDE, EH? MIGHT
NEED 'EM.

THIS
IS ALL
WASTED
TIME.

WHITTLED
CHARM. VIAL
OF ENCHANTED
WATER. INVISIBLE
COIN...

IT'S SLIM
PICKINGS.

THERE'S
A WHITLORD
IN THUNDERVALE.
O-ONE OF THE DEVILS
WHO MADE
ME.

I MUST
KILL IT, HUSBAND.
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING, TO MAKE
ME TARRY
HERE.

THIS IS THE
SMART PLAY,
SERKA. SLOW
AND SNEAKY.

OTHERWISE--THEY'D
ONLY **RECOGNIZE** US. WE
WOULDN'T GET ANYWHERE
NEAR, AND WE **DEFINITELY**
WOULDN'T GET OUT
AFTER.

GETTING
OUT ISN'T A
PRIORITY.

WH--WHAT
WAS IT YOU SAID,
JUST NOW...?

"ANY OLD
ANIMAL--ANY
OLD SCRAP OF
LIFE--WANTS TO
SURVIVE."

NOBODY
ASKED YOU.