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JOE HILL'S THE APES FALLEN



CIARAMELLA • HOWARD • DANIEL

JOE HILL'S THE CAPE FALLEN

HERE WE BE KINGS

As the LARP begins, there's a feeling of ease and joy among the players. Eric takes on the persona of Darkhole, a powerful mage of little renown who uses his spells to aid the group in their battle against the evil vampire queen. But things go too far, and Eric finds himself shunned by the others. Have they figured out who he is? What he's capable of? Helpless against his own paranoia, Eric will stop at nothing to protect his secret from leaving these grim woods.

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THEN.



ERIC, HEY,
WAKE UP, YOU
HAVE TO SEE
THIS.

HUWHAA?



HURRY,
AND KEEP
IT DOWN.



WHAT
IS IT?

SHHH!
JUST COME
OUT HERE.



NO!



IS THIS THE
SICKEST THING
YOU'VE EVER
SEEN OR
WHAT?



I SEE
WE'VE ALREADY
FORGOTTEN RULE
NUMBER ONE...

GAHH!



WHAT HAPPENED TO IT, DAD?!

IT'S OKAY, KIDDO. LET ME TAKE A LOOK.



HARD TO SAY EXACTLY, BUT MY GUESS WOULD BE BLACK BEAR.

IT KILLED THE DEER?!

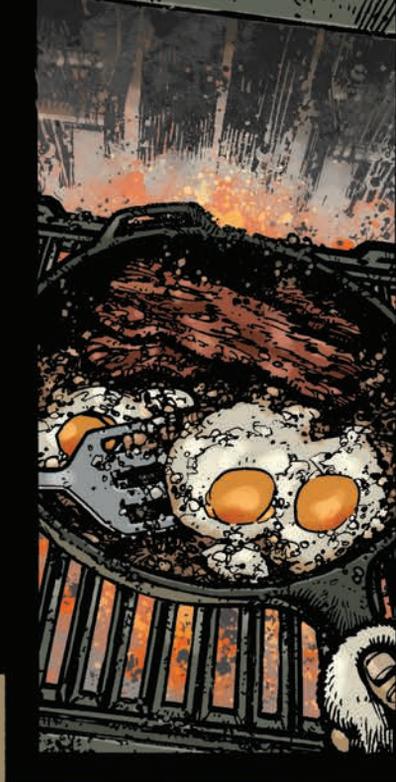
PROBABLY NOT, LITTLE MAN. IT MIGHT HAVE FOUND IT ALREADY DEAD AND DRAGGED IT INTO THE CLEARING HERE. THEY'RE OMNIVORES—WHICH MEANS THEY'LL EAT PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING.



INCLUDING YOU TWO, WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE RULE NUMBER ONE.



I'LL DRAG IT FAR OFF INTO THE WOODS AFTER BREAKFAST. LET'S GET BACK INSIDE, I HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU TWO.



I HOPE YOU BOYS WILL TAKE RULE NUMBER ONE MORE SERIOUSLY AFTER SEEING WHAT THE WILDLIFE OUT HERE IS CAPABLE OF.

DAD, YESTERDAY WHEN YOU SAID THAT THE ONLY MONSTERS OUT HERE ARE US, WHAT DID YOU MEAN? WE'RE NOT MONSTERS.



NO, WE'RE NOT REALLY MONSTERS. I JUST MEANT THAT MEN ARE CAPABLE OF DOING MUCH SCARIER THINGS THAN ANY ANIMAL THAT LIVES AROUND HERE. THAT'S ALL.

LIKE... STUFF YOU SAW IN THE WAR?

I GUESS SO, YEAH.

ARE YOU SCARED TO GO BACK?

I'M NOT SCARED TO GO BACK, NO.



WHAT I'M SCARED OF MOST IS BEING AWAY FROM YOU TWO AND YOUR MOTHER FOR SO LONG.

BUT HEY, ENOUGH ABOUT THAT STUFF, OKAY? WE'RE HERE TO HAVE FUN, AND I HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE.



LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN ONE OF THE CABINETS.



MY OLD MAN GAVE THOSE TO ME WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER—SOME GREAT STORIES IN THERE.



AIR WALKER WAS MY FAVORITE. HE'S THIS AVERAGE GUY WHO GETS THE POWER OF FLIGHT FROM A RADIOACTIVE COMET OR SOMETHING. HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY SUPER STRENGTH, SO HE HAS TO BE VERY CLEVER WHEN FIGHTING THE BAD GUYS.

HE WAS ALWAYS THREATENING TO DROP THEM. IF I REMEMBER, IN ONE OF THE ISSUES, HE DROPS A TOILET ON A GUY'S HEAD. OR MAYBE IT WAS AN ANVIL...

