

# GRASS KINGS™


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"I'M NOT TELLING  
YOU THIS TO JUSTIFY  
WHAT I DID."

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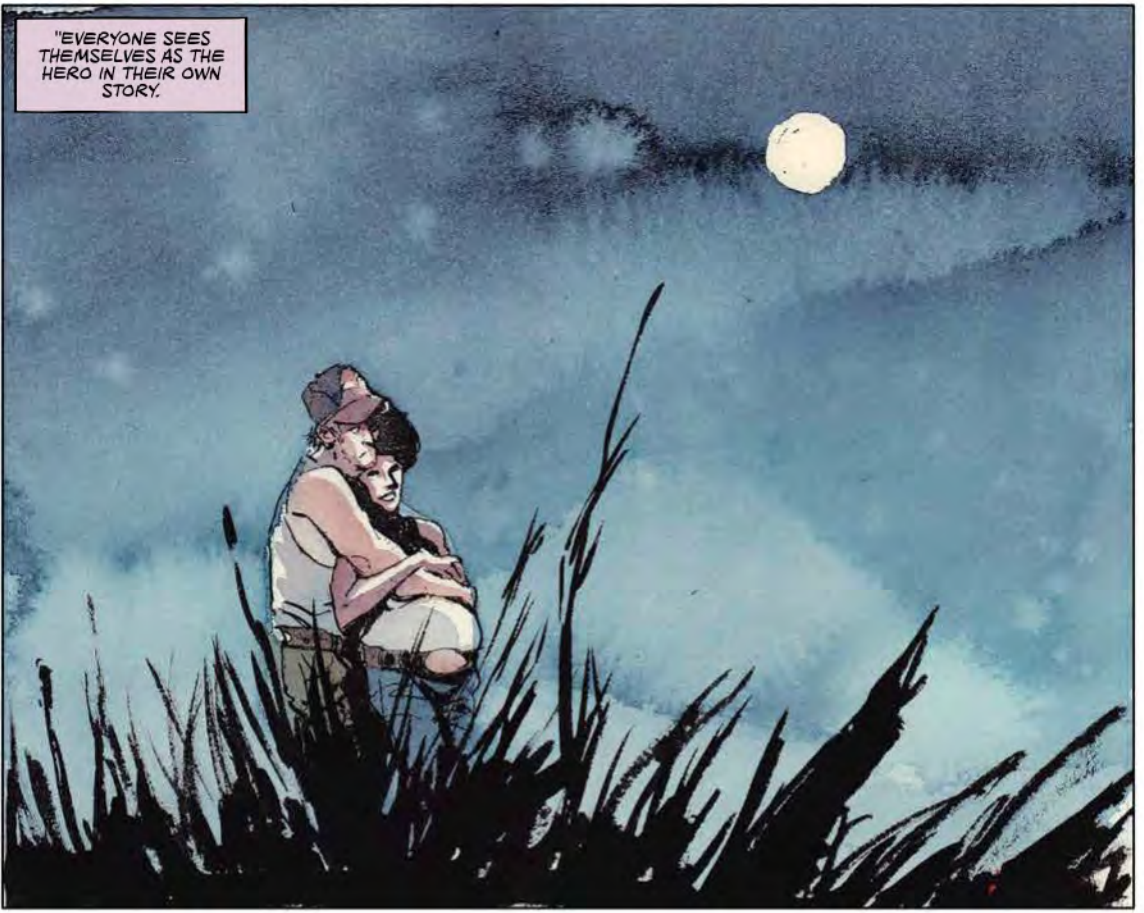
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"EVERYONE SEES THEMSELVES AS THE HERO IN THEIR OWN STORY."



"AND I THINK ALLISON SAW ME AS THE HERO IN HERS, AS WELL."



"I TOLD MYSELF THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO THE FATHER WAS."



"I'D BE HIS FATHER."

"AND I WAS. BUT DEEP DOWN? I GUESS IT DID MATTER. IT BOTHERED ME. I WAS ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT."







"I THOUGHT HAVING OUR OWN WOULD MAKE THE FEELING GO AWAY, AND FOR A WHILE IT DID."



"LISTEN, I WAS YOUNG, TOO. WE WERE KIDS. WHAT ARE THE ODDS WE WOULD GROW IN THE SAME DIRECTION, AFTER A FEW KIDS AND YEARS?"



"EVENTUALLY WE TURNED INTO THE PEOPLE WE WERE ALWAYS GONNA BE."



"PROBLEM WAS, SHE WAS STILL HAPPY WITH ME, SHE NEEDED ME, HER LAST PREGNANCY WAS DIFFICULT. SHE WAS SICK A LOT, HAD TO GIVE UP TEACHING THE KIDS."



"MY PROBLEM WAS I WANTED SOMETHING ELSE. I WAS SEARCHING FOR IT AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT 'IT' WAS..."



"UNTIL  
I SAW IT.



"ALLISON WAS LAID UP,  
SO THE KINGDOM HIRED  
A TUTOR TO TAKE OVER  
TEACHING THE KIDS.  
JEN HANDEL.



"SHE WAS SOMETHING ELSE. I REMEMBER  
THE FIRST TIME IN HER TRAILER. ALL THE  
BOOKS SHE HAD. COULDN'T REMEMBER  
THE LAST TIME I'D READ A BOOK, BUT  
SHE INSPIRED ME.



"NOT JUST ME. ALL THE  
KIDS. WE HAD A ONE-ROOM  
SCHOOL HOUSE FOR 'EM ALL  
AND SHE TOOK OVER WHERE  
ALLISON LEFT OFF."



