

HALF DWARF, HALF ORC, ALL...

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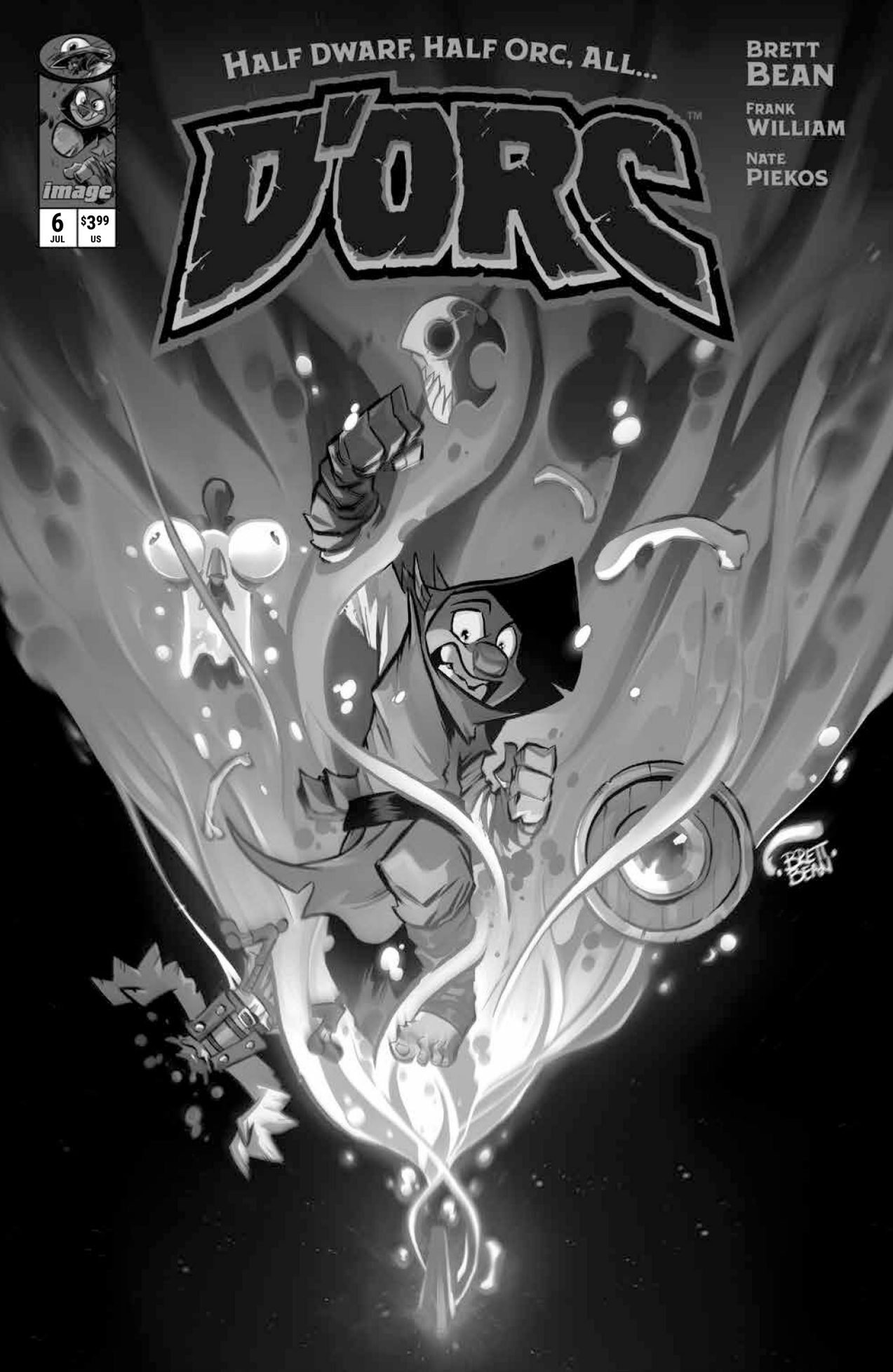
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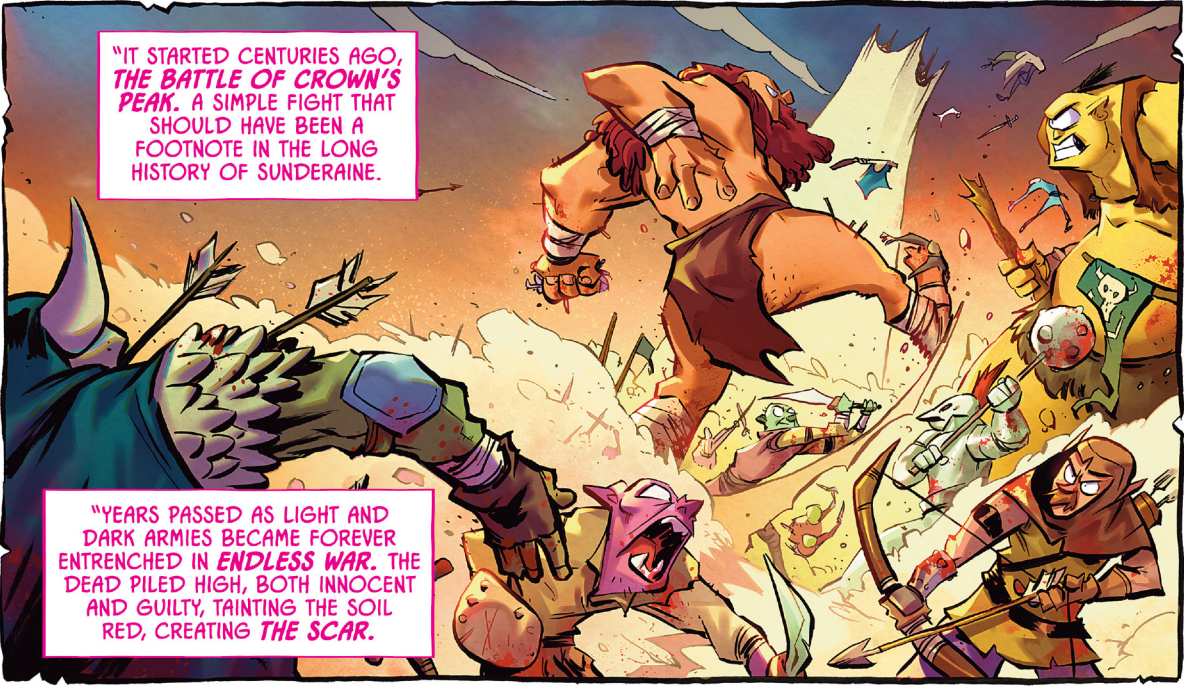
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"IT STARTED CENTURIES AGO, THE BATTLE OF CROWN'S PEAK. A SIMPLE FIGHT THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A FOOTNOTE IN THE LONG HISTORY OF SUNDERAINE.

"YEARS PASSED AS LIGHT AND DARK ARMIES BECAME FOREVER ENTRENCHED IN *ENDLESS WAR*. THE DEAD PILED HIGH, BOTH INNOCENT AND GUILTY, TAINTING THE SOIL RED, CREATING *THE SCAR*.

"UNTIL AT LAST, THERE WERE BUT *TWO SURVIVORS* LEFT.

"THE *LIGHT DWARF* AND THE *DARK ORC* HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL, NEITHER COULD WIN--LOCKED IN EVERLASTING COMBAT. THEY SHARED THEIR FEROCITY, DETERMINATION, AND PAIN *TOGETHER*.

"SO, DAY BY DAY, AS THE WORLD BURNED AROUND THEM, THEY SOFTENED THEIR GAZES.

"SHE HAD NICE *THIGHS*.

"HE HAD NICE *EYES*."

AND THIS WAS EXACTLY 20 YEARS, 2 MONTHS, AND 15 DAYS AGO.

BECAUSE, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THESE TWO WARRIORS, LIGHT AND DARK, SHARED A WAR FOR CENTURIES, A BATTLEFIELD FOR DECADES, A FIGHT FOR WEEKS, AND ONE NIGHT TOGETHER GETTING IT ON.

AW GROSS, ARE THOSE MY PARENTS?!

YEP, THE OL' DWARF 'N' ORC THRUST 'N' STAB! FACE IT, YOU WERE A PASSION BABY.

C'MON, NOBODY SHOULD WATCH THEIR PARENTS SMOOSHING BOOTS!

AW, YES, LOOK AT THAT. THEY ARE SMOOSHING BOOTS.

PLEASE, FATE, STOP. I NEED TO ESCAPE THIS.

ESCAPE WHAT? SEX? THERE'S NO ESCAPING THAT. ONE DAY YOUR LOINS WILL BE BURSTING FOR A PIECE OF--

DONE HERE!

I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO THEY ARE. IT'S JUST BLOOD AND BODIES DOWN THERE.

OPPOSITES ATTRACT. YEARS OF PENT-UP ANGER AND FRUSTRATION CAN LEAD TO MANY THINGS, EVEN THE MAKING OF A D'ORC AND THE END OF THE WORLD.

HA! YOU ARE THE SCREWING THE WORLD GETS FOR THE SCREWING THOSE TWO LOVEBIRDS, GOT.

GREAT, THANKS FOR THAT.

HEY, YOU ASKED FOR ALL THIS WHEN YOU SHOOK THE BONES. THE WITCH WARNED YOU.

FAIR ENOUGH. IS WHAT THE WITCH SAID TRUE?

THAT YOU HAVE SOME DESTINY TO FULFILL THAT WILL BRING ABOUT SUNDERAINE'S DOOM? WELL, D'ORC--



# FATE IS PICKLE

BRETT BEAN  
ART & STORY

FRANK WILLIAM  
COLORING

NATE PIEKOS  
LETTERING, LOGO & DESIGN



THE REAL WORLD DOESN'T GET THE LUXURY OF BEING THAT BLACK AND WHITE.

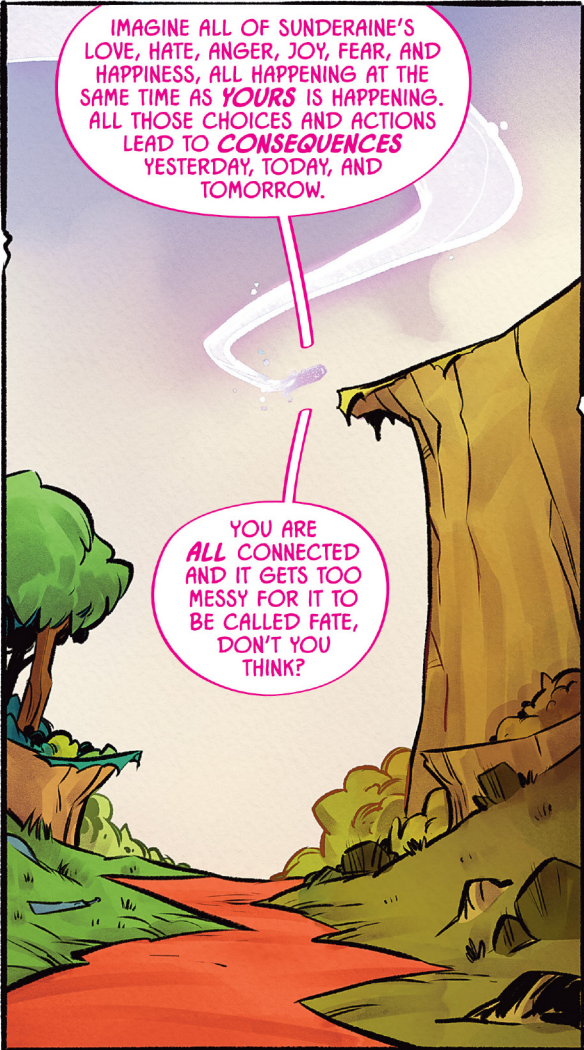
IT'S ALL **GRAY** IN THE REAL WORLD.

HOLD ON TIGHT, WE'LL LEAVE THESE TWO ALONE IN THE PAST.



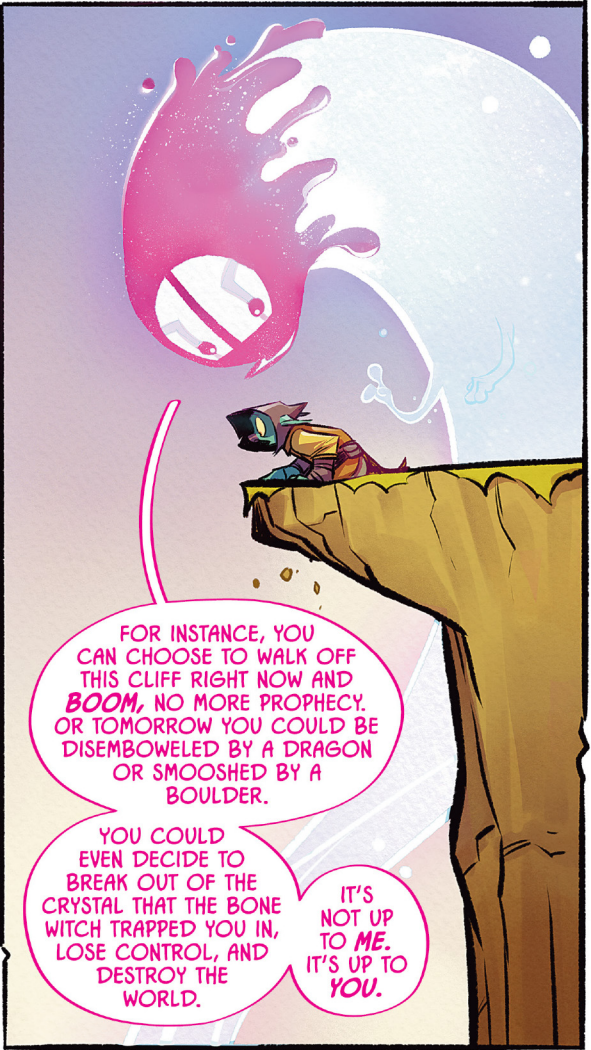
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT FATE IS ONLY ACKNOWLEDGED **AFTER** CHOICES MEET ACTIONS, NOT **BEFORE**.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



IMAGINE ALL OF SUNDERAINE'S LOVE, HATE, ANGER, JOY, FEAR, AND HAPPINESS, ALL HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME AS **YOURS** IS HAPPENING. ALL THOSE CHOICES AND ACTIONS LEAD TO **CONSEQUENCES** YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW.

YOU ARE **ALL** CONNECTED AND IT GETS TOO MESSY FOR IT TO BE CALLED FATE, DON'T YOU THINK?



FOR INSTANCE, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO WALK OFF THIS CLIFF RIGHT NOW AND **BOOM**, NO MORE PROPHECY. OR TOMORROW YOU COULD BE DISEMBOWELED BY A DRAGON OR SMOOSHED BY A BOULDER.

YOU COULD EVEN DECIDE TO BREAK OUT OF THE CRYSTAL THAT THE BONE WITCH TRAPPED YOU IN, LOSE CONTROL, AND DESTROY THE WORLD.

IT'S NOT UP TO **ME**. IT'S UP TO **YOU**.