



# THE REVIVAL

CHAPTER 17  
THE PRISONER





FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE, MY SOUL  
REACHED OUT FOR RESCUE. SOMETHING ANSWERED  
THE CALL, BUT I KNEW NOT IF IT WAS AN ANGEL OR  
A DEMON. IT TOOK MY HAND. BUT WAS IT LIFTING  
ME UP, OR WAS I PULLING IT DOWN?"

-Spellbook of The Patriarch

CHAPTER  
SEVENTEEN  
THE PRISONER





Normally, The Pessimist doesn't like to waste ammo on target practice.



But it calms him down. Or at least it used to.



Now it doesn't seem to matter. It's all gone to hell. And it's only a matter of time...



CRITCH



...before The Engine comes for them.











HEY! WAKE UP!  
LISTEN TO ME.

WHO ELSE IS  
WITH YOU? YOU  
SAID WE.



...I'M SORRY.  
YES... IT'S OKAY.  
ADAM, YOU CAN  
COME OUT.



...SHE'S LED THEM  
RIGHT TO US!



KLI--



NO! PLEASE,  
STOP! WE'RE  
NOT ON EGO'S  
SIDE!

WE'RE REFUGEES FROM  
THE ENGINE. WE'VE COME  
HERE FOR HELP.

YOU EXPECT ME TO  
BELIEVE THAT? THAT'S  
A DAMN CABBAGE HEAD!  
OUTTA THE WAY!



NO! THIS IS ADAM. HE'S NOT ONE OF THEM.  
HE WAS A DEFORMED CLONE, FLUSHED AFTER  
THE HARVEST... HE CRAWLED OUT OF THE  
GARBAGE PAIL AND KEPT HIMSELF HIDDEN IN  
THE BOWELS OF THE ENGINE. HE'S SURVIVED  
FOR YEARS, SCAVENGING.

HE SAVED MY LIFE. RESCUED ME FROM EGO'S  
SOLDIERS AND LED ME OUT OF THE COMPOUND.



ALL I SEE IS A CABBAGE HEAD, AND I SURE AS HELL  
WON'T TAKE THE WORD OF A DAMN SYLPH. EVERY  
SINGLE ONE OF YOU HAS TURNED ON US.



PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP! THERE ARE SURVIVORS HERE, YEAH?  
WE HAVE INFORMATION FROM THE PRINCESS... SHE WANTED US TO  
FIND YOU AND WARN YOU ABOUT AN ATTACK ON YOUR BASE.

THE PRINCESS? YOU'VE GOT TO  
BE KIDDING ME! I SHOULD DROP  
YOU BOTH RIGHT NOW.



PLEASE, JUST  
LISTEN--



NOT UNTIL YOUR  
FRIEND PUTS HIS HANDS  
WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!  
THAT'S BOTH HANDS,  
FREAK! PUT 'EM UP OR  
YOU'RE DEAD.



HE... HE CAN'T.

...IT'S OKAY, ADAM.  
YOU CAN SHOW HIM.









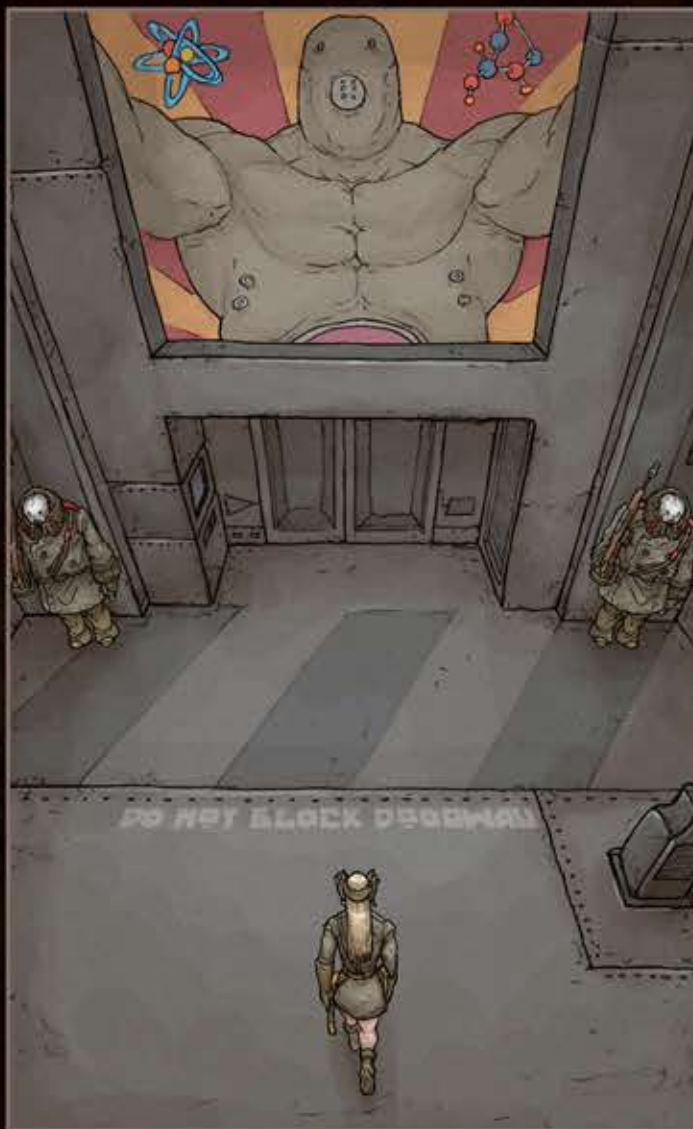
















...FROM THERE WE HEADED SOUTH, TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN. WE SAW A FEW PARTOLLING SOLDIERS, BUT THEY NEVER SPOTTED US. WE TRIED TO LAY LOW AND KEEP NEAR THE ROCKS.



...THAT'S WHEN WE WERE, UH... INTRODUCED TO YOUR LIEUTENANT.



I'M SORRY. WE'RE A BIT ON EDGE AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED. THINGS HAVE TAKEN... A TURN FOR THE WORSE.



BUT THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE! WE CAN CHANGE THIS. THE PRINCESS INTENDS TO STOP EGO, AND WE CAN HELP HER.



HOW? WE'RE STILL JUST A HANDFUL OF SOLDIERS. EVEN WITH THE HORSEMEN WE FAILED.



ATTEMPTING OPEN WAR, YES... BUT WITH THIS KEY, WE CAN INFILTRATE THE ENGINE.

WE CAN FIND THE PRINCESS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE AND HELP HER STOP EGO.



PRIESTESS, HOW LONG DO WE HAVE BEFORE THE ARMY GETS HERE?



THAT I DON'T KNOW. SHE DIDN'T SAY WHEN THE FORCES WOULD BE SENT OUT.

KNOWING EGO, I'M SURE IT'S SOONER THAN LATER. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.



WE SHOULD JUST MOVE. GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY GET HERE. SET UP A CAMP SOMEWHERE ELSE.



TATER'S IN NO SHAPE TO BE MOVED. I THINK IT WOULD KILL HIM.



THEN WE MAKE OUR STAND HERE. DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND.

WE WON'T NEED TO DEFEND THE BASE IF WE GET TO THE PRINCESS IN TIME. SHE CAN STOP THE ARMY.

HOW? WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE GET THERE? DO YOU EVEN HAVE A PLAN?



WELL... NO. NOT REALLY. NOT YET. MY PLAN WAS TO GET HERE, THEN WE WOULD FIGURE THAT PART OUT.



ALL RIGHT...

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?



YOU'RE... ASKING ME? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE?









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...I BLEW OUR ADVERTISING  
BUDGET ON CANDY. THINK  
ANYONE WILL NOTICE?





...YOU ALREADY KNOW THE MESS HALL, BACK THERE. LATER, WE'LL GO OUT PAST THE BRIEFING ROOM.

OVER THERE'S RAINBOW'S ROOM. I'D AVOID THAT...

WE'LL GETCHA SITUATED HERE, NEAR NECROMANCER'S ROOM.

THANK YOU, WOODS. WHAT DO YOU THINK, ADAM? BETTER THAN THE BOWELS OF THE ENGINE.



IS GOOD. IS WARM. VERY BRIGHT, BUT GOOD.



JUDE, WHY DO THEY CALL YOU NECROMANCER..?

I WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM BY THAT MONIKER, PARTICULARLY AS THE WAR LOOMED... THE RESULT OF A POPULACE INCREASINGLY DISTRUSTFUL OF ALL THINGS MAGIC.



NONSENSE. YOUR MAGIC REFLECTS LIGHT AND LIFE, NOT DEATH.



Y'KUDDA TOLD US... JUDE, YOU SAID?

INDEED, MY FRIEND! I AM JUDE O'ROKOW. SON OF ROKOW THE TAILOR.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO MORE PROPERLY MEET YOU!

PLEASE FORGIVE MY SECRETS. I SHALL HIDE NOTHING MORE FROM ANY OF YOU. YOU HAVE MY WORD!



NO, IT'S FINE. THE OTHERS DON'T USE MY REAL NAME, EITHER. WOODS IS JUST EASIER FOR 'EM.

THEN PLEASE, TELL US! WHAT IS YOUR TRUE NAME?



Woods? Huh?

AH, STALKING DEER?



A STRONG NAME. TRULY FITTING OF YOUR NATURAL SETTING.

YER FAUNTISH 'S REALLY GOOD, JUDE! WE SHUD SPEAK IT AROUND RAINBOW. IT'D DRIVE 'ER CRAZY!



HA, HA! THAT IS A FIRE THAT NEEDS NO MORE FUEL.



WHATEVER NAME YOU GO BY, YOU WERE RIGHT. ON THE BATTLEFIELD. YOU KEPT YOUR HEAD WHILE THE REST OF US DANCED UPON THE BRINK.

JUST FOLLOWIN' M'GUT. GUESS I'M NO GOOD AT THIS WAR THING.

YOU ARE ALL THE BETTER FOR IT.



SNAP

THAT REMINDS ME...



WHAT WAS THAT, JUDE?

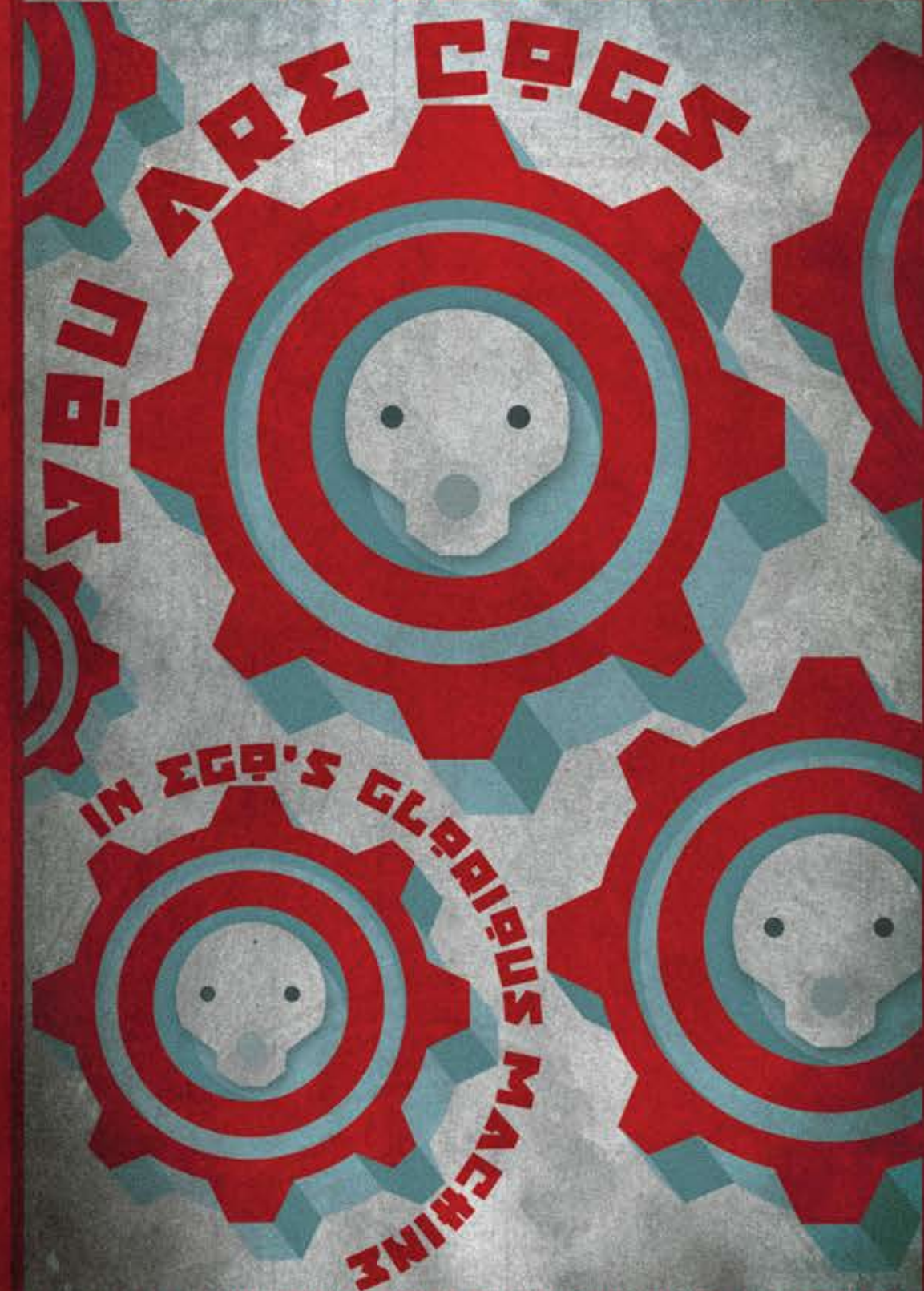
WE'VE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE. IF WE PREPARE TO SHOW OUR FINAL HAND TO EGO, THEN I INTEND TO... STACK THE DECK.





NEXT CHAPTER: THE PRINCESS

ENGINEERING



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