

# NAUGHTY LIST

1

## A STRANGE MAN IN THE WOODS

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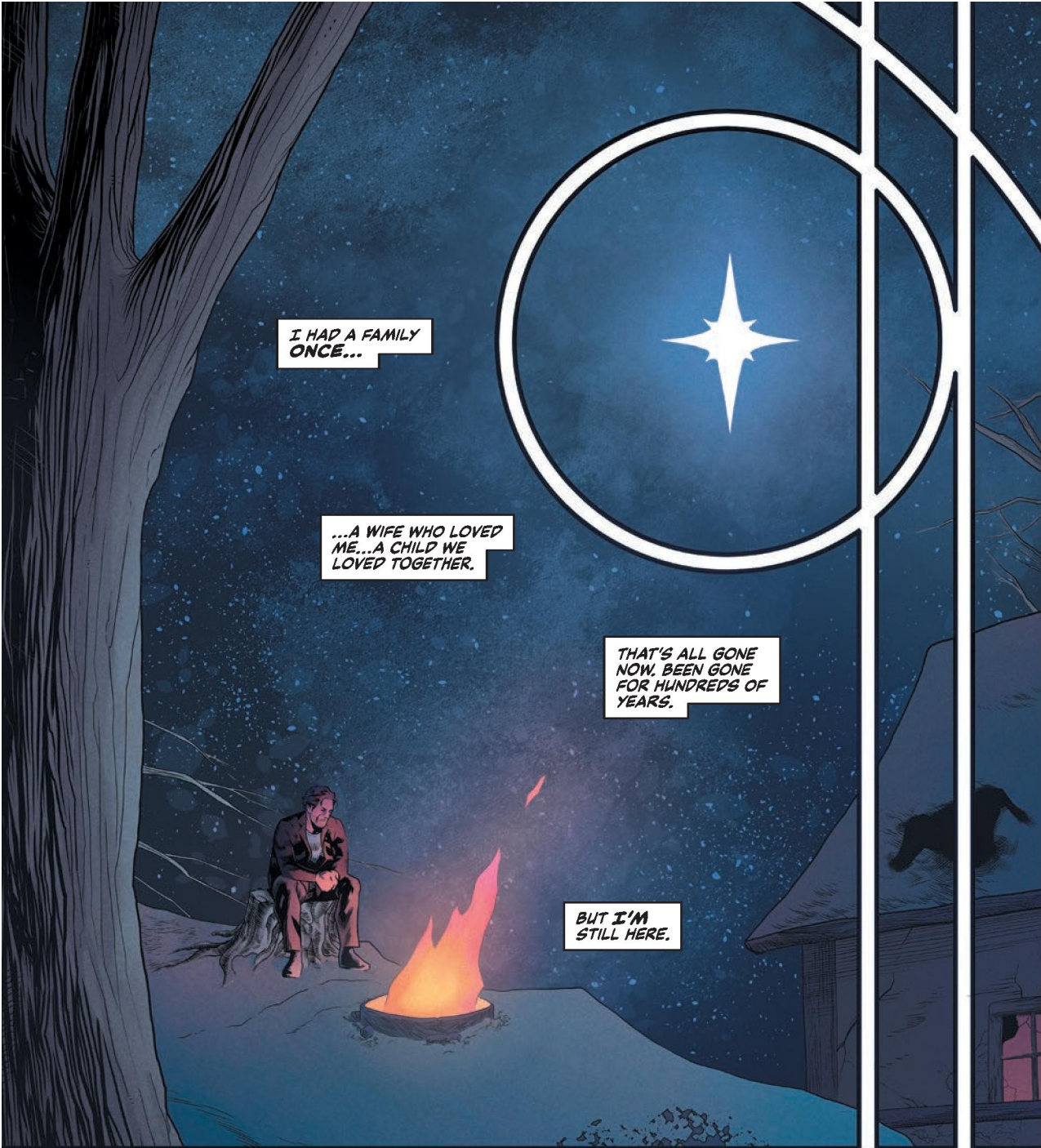
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*I HAD A FAMILY  
ONCE...*

*...A WIFE WHO LOVED  
ME... A CHILD WE  
LOVED TOGETHER.*

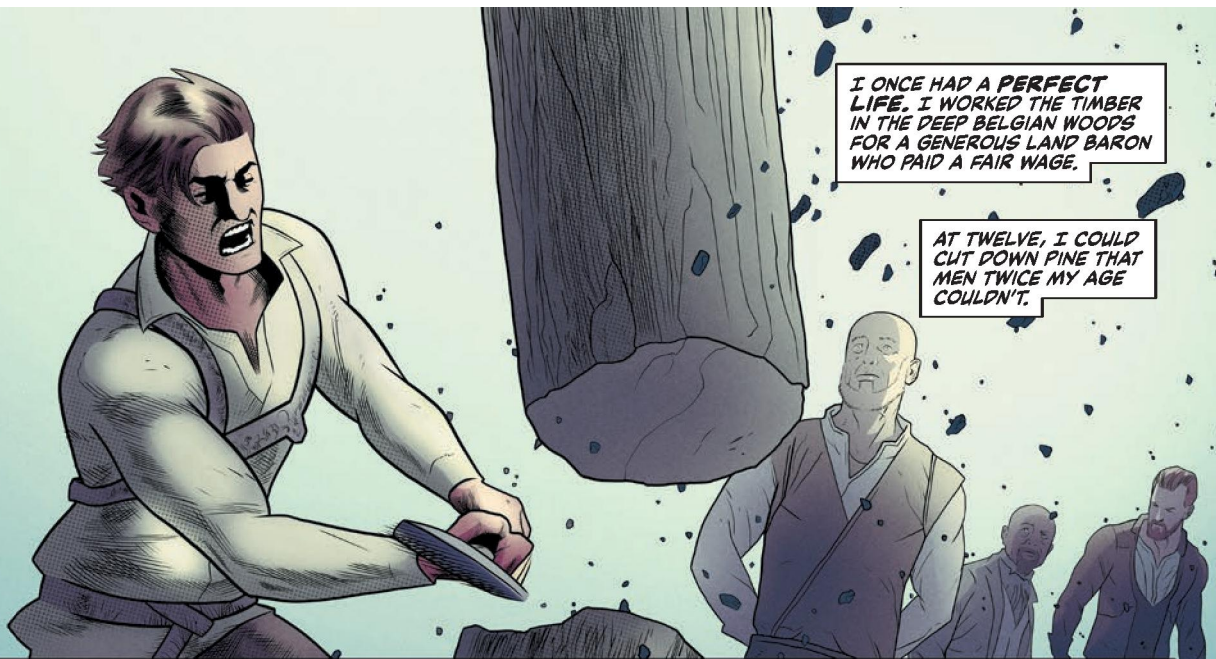
*THAT'S ALL GONE  
NOW. BEEN GONE  
FOR HUNDREDS OF  
YEARS.*

*BUT I'M  
STILL HERE.*



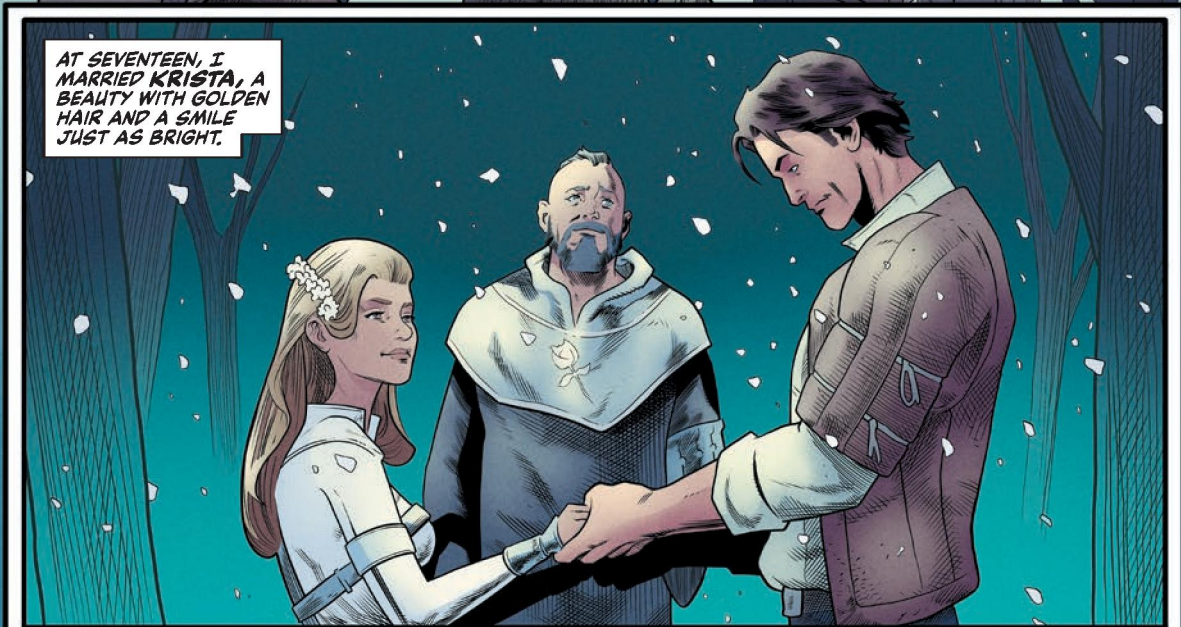
*I'M ALWAYS HERE.*



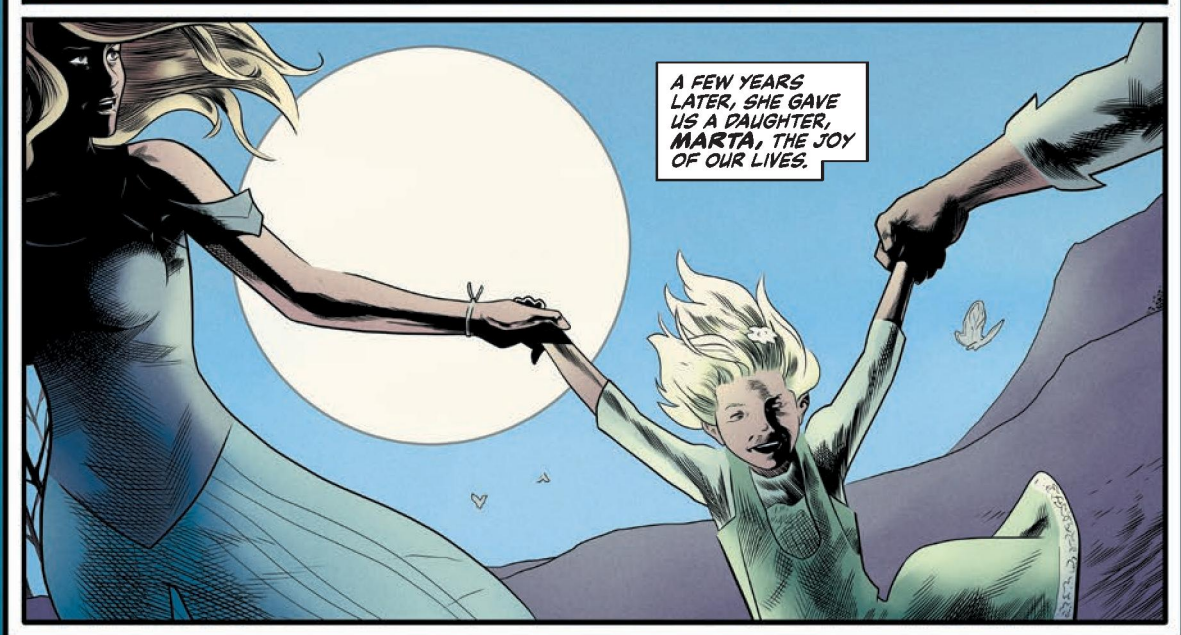


I ONCE HAD A PERFECT LIFE. I WORKED THE TIMBER IN THE DEEP BELGIAN WOODS FOR A GENEROUS LAND BARON WHO PAID A FAIR WAGE.

AT TWELVE, I COULD CUT DOWN PINE THAT MEN TWICE MY AGE COULDN'T.



AT SEVENTEEN, I MARRIED KRISTA, A BEAUTY WITH GOLDEN HAIR AND A SMILE JUST AS BRIGHT.



A FEW YEARS LATER, SHE GAVE US A DAUGHTER, MARTA, THE JOY OF OUR LIVES.



WE'D SWIM  
IN THE RIVER  
EDDY DURING  
SUMMER...



...AND SING  
BY THE FIRE  
IN WINTER.



IN A TIME OF DISEASE AND  
FAMINE, THE SINTERKLASS  
CLAN MAY NOT HAVE BEEN  
RICH, BUT WE WERE  
BLESSED.

AND I KNEW IT.



SO WHEN I  
CAME UPON  
SICKLY BEGGAR  
CHILDREN IN  
THE VILLAGE,  
MY HEART  
BROKE.



THE PLAGUE WAS RAVAGING  
THEM--NONE WERE MORE THAN  
A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN MY  
OWN MARTA. I'D GIVE THEM  
WHATEVER VEGETABLE ROOT AND  
COINS I HAD IN MY POCKET.

I KNEW THEIR RELIEF  
WOULD BE TEMPORARY--  
THEY'D ALL BE GONE  
WITHIN A FEW WEEKS,  
PILED WITH THE REST OF  
THE DEAD OUTSIDE THE  
CHURCH DOORS.





I COULDN'T STOP THINKING OF THE CHILDREN THAT WERE SUFFERING. AND I DON'T KNOW IF I SAW THE STAR OR IF THE STAR SAW ME...

...BUT I COULDN'T LOOK AWAY--I FELT COMPELLED TO ASK FOR HELP--COMPELLED TO WISH.

I WISHED THAT I COULD SOMEHOW BRING A LITTLE JOY TO THE CHILDREN THAT NEEDED IT MOST--EVEN IF JUST A TRICKLE OF HAPPINESS.

TO THIS DAY, I HATE THAT STAR. AND I HATE MYSELF FOR MAKING THAT WISH.