

DYNAMITE
28

Robert Jordan's
the **WHEEL**
of **TIME**



the **EYE** of the **WORLD**

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Robert Jordan's the **WHEEL** of **TIME**

the **EYE** of the **WORLD**

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WE WILL *NEVER* HEAR THE END OF THIS, ELAYNE, IF MOTHER FINDS OUT.

SHE TOLD US TO STAY IN OUR ROOMS, BUT YOU JUST HAD TO GET A LOOK AT LOGAIN, DIDN'T YOU? NOW LOOK WHAT IT HAS GOT US.

BE QUIET, GAWYN.

YOU THERE-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE, I JUST-- I'LL JUST CLIMB BACK OVER THE WALL.

YOU *ARE* HURT. YOU MUST HAVE STRUCK A BRANCH COMING DOWN. I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW ANYONE AS SKILLFUL AT CLIMBING AS YOU, BUT YOU DON'T DO SO WELL FALLING.

IT DOES NOT LOOK *TOO* BAD, THANK THE LIGHT. GIVE ME YOUR WATER FLASK, GAWYN, I NEED TO WASH THIS.

From the pockets on the inside of her cloak the girl began taking out an array of tiny vials, packets of paper, and a handful of wadded bandage.

It was the sort of thing Rand would have expected a Wisdom to carry, not someone dressed as she was.

ELAYNE'S ALWAYS FINDING STRAY CATS AND BIRDS WITH BROKEN WINGS. YOU'RE THE FIRST HUMAN SHE HAS HAD TO WORK ON.

BUT SHE DOES KNOW WHAT SHE IS DOING. SHE HAS HAD THE BEST TEACHERS--

--SO DO NOT FEAR, YOU ARE IN GOOD HANDS.

NOW HOLD STILL, I'M GOING TO USE THIS TO HOLD THE BANDAGE IN PLACE, AND--

YOU CAN'T USE THAT! IT'S FAR TOO--

I SAID HOLD STILL.

DOES SHE ALWAYS EXPECT EVERYBODY TO DO WHAT SHE TELLS THEM?

MOST OF THE TIME SHE DOES, AND MOST OF THE TIME THEY DO.

WELL, NOT MOTHER, OF COURSE. OR ELAIDA. AND GARETH, OF COURSE. NO ONE GIVES ORDERS TO GARETH.



NOT EVEN MOTHER.

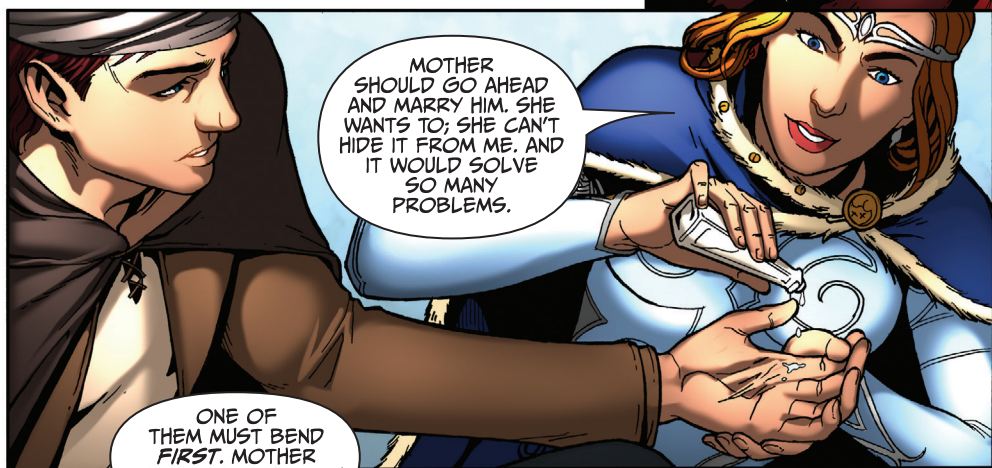
SHE MAKES SUGGESTIONS, AND HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT SHE SUGGESTS, BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD HER GIVE HIM A COMMAND.

I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT ALWAYS SURPRISES YOU. EVEN YOU DON'T TRY TELLING GARETH WHAT TO DO.



HE'S SERVED THREE QUEENS AND BEEN CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND FIRST PRINCE REGENT FOR TWO.

I DARESAY THERE ARE SOME THAT THINK HE'S MORE A SYMBOL OF THE THRONE OF ANDOR THAN THE QUEEN IS.



MOTHER SHOULD GO AHEAD AND MARRY HIM. SHE WANTS TO; SHE CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME. AND IT WOULD SOLVE SO MANY PROBLEMS.

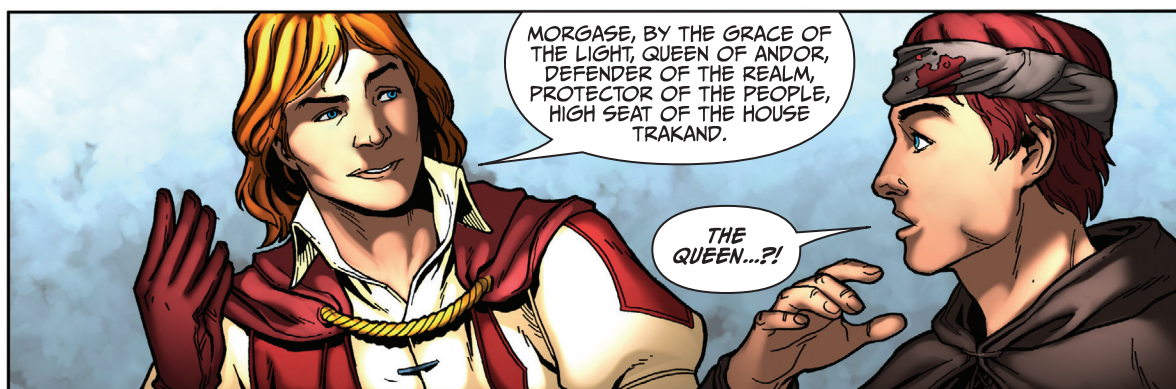
ONE OF THEM MUST BEND FIRST. MOTHER CANNOT, AND GARETH WILL NOT.

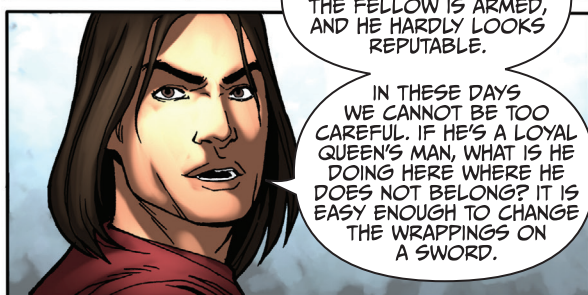
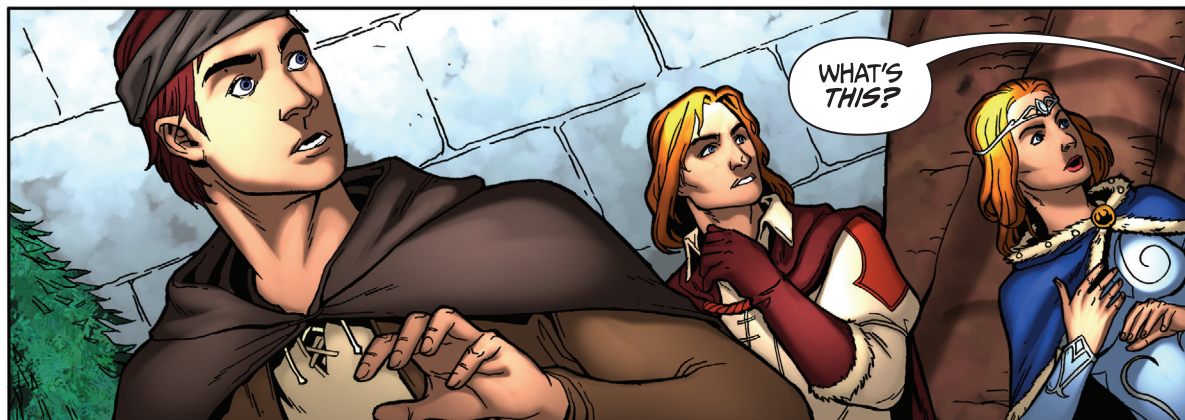
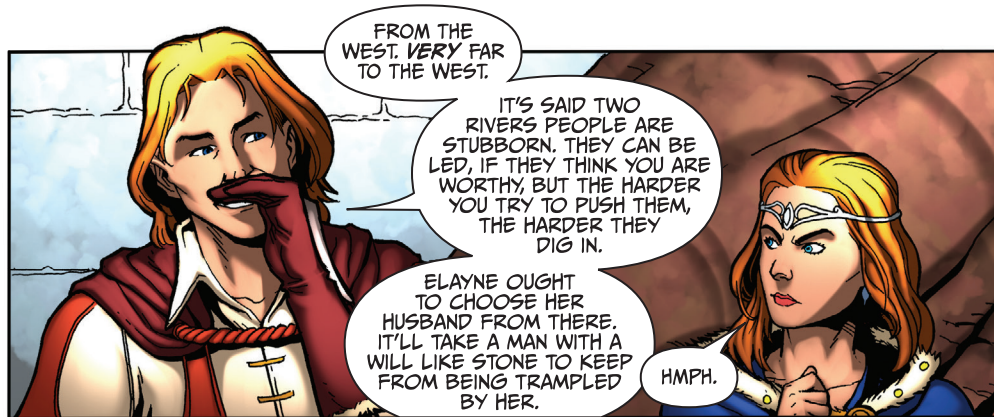


IF SHE COMMANDED HIM...

HE WOULD OBEY, I THINK. BUT SHE WON'T. YOU KNOW SHE WON'T.

WHO... UM... WHO IS YOUR MOTHER?

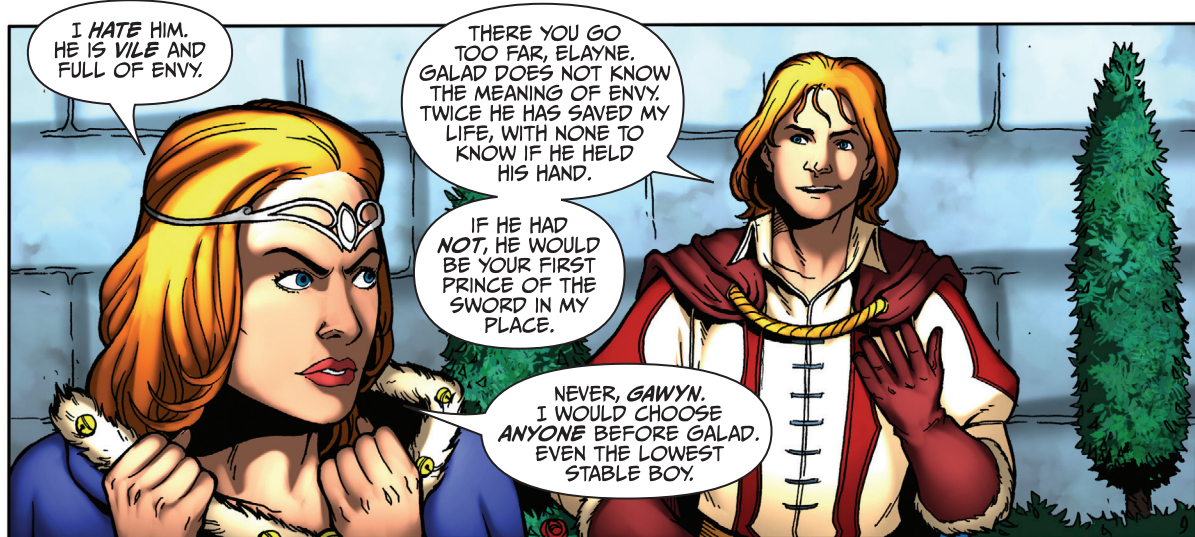


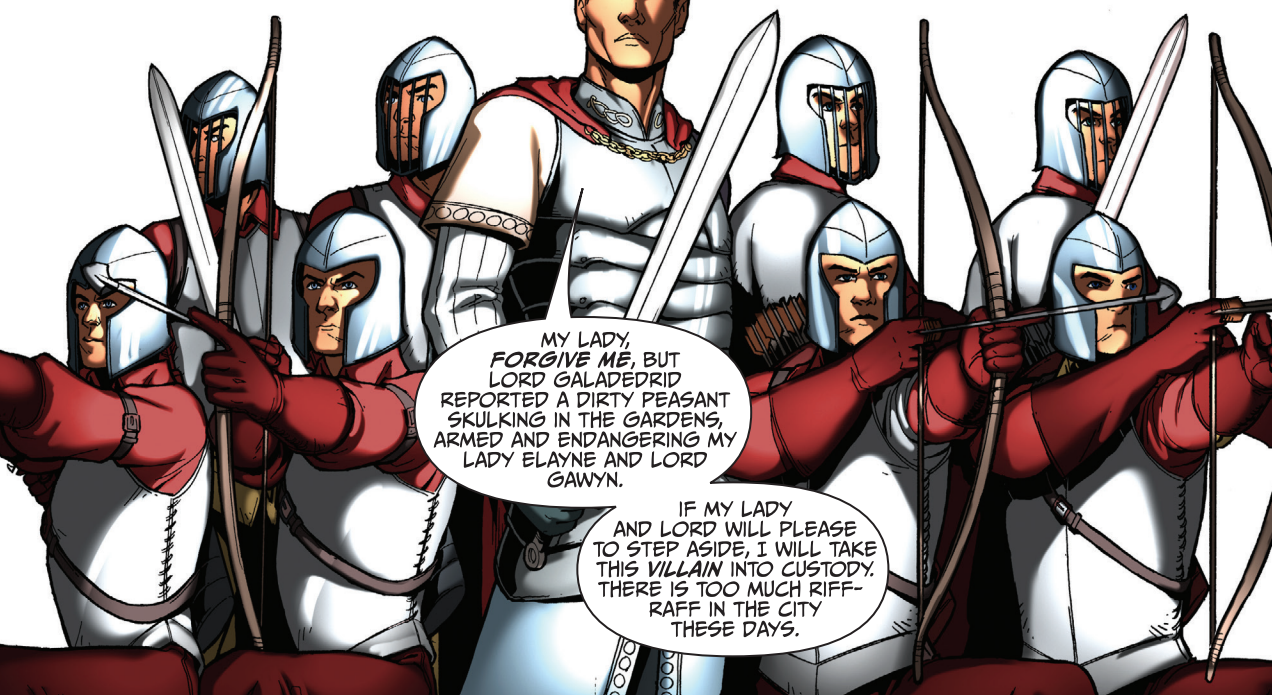
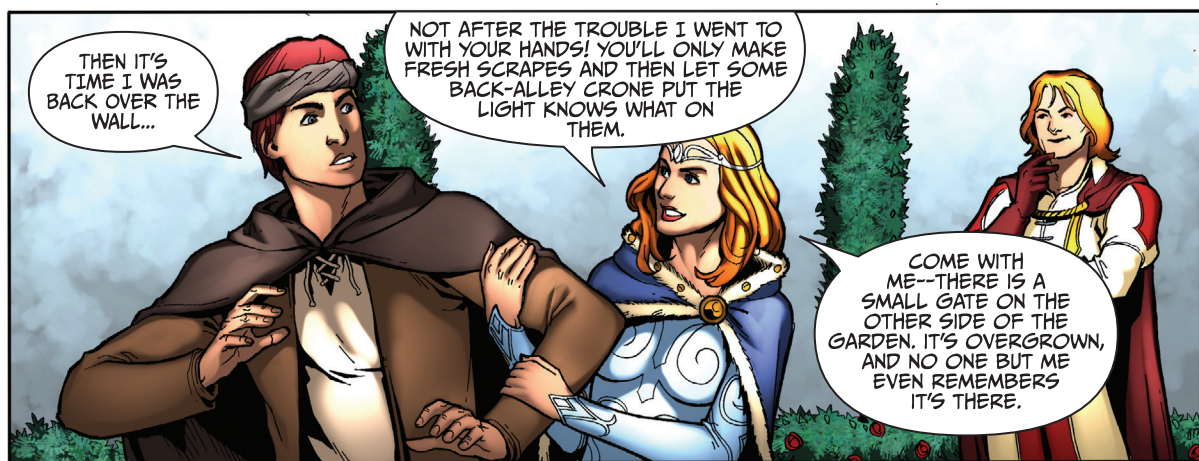




GAWYN,
HELP ME
CONVINCE HER.
OUR MOTHER
WOULD--









I DOUBT
VERY MUCH IF
GALAD REPORTED
ANYTHING OF THE
KIND. GALAD
DOES NOT
LIE.

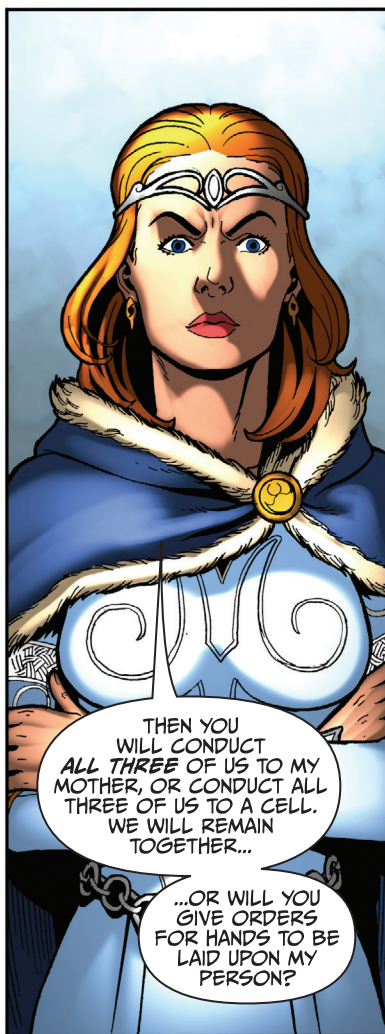
SOMETIMES
I WISH HE WOULD.
JUST ONCE. IT MIGHT
MAKE LIVING WITH
HIM EASIER.

THIS MAN
IS MY GUEST, AND
HERE UNDER MY
PROTECTION. YOU
MAY WITHDRAW,
TALLANVOR.



I REGRET
THAT THAT WILL
NOT BE POSSIBLE,
MY LADY.

AS MY LADY
KNOWS, THE QUEEN
HAS GIVEN ORDERS
REGARDING ANYONE ON
THE PALACE GROUNDS
WITHOUT HER MAJESTY'S
PERMISSION, AND WORD
HAS BEEN SENT TO HER
MAJESTY OF THIS
INTRUDER.



THEN YOU
WILL CONDUCT
ALL THREE OF US TO MY
MOTHER, OR CONDUCT ALL
THREE OF US TO A CELL.
WE WILL REMAIN
TOGETHER...

...OR WILL YOU
GIVE ORDERS
FOR HANDS TO BE
LAID UPON MY
PERSON?

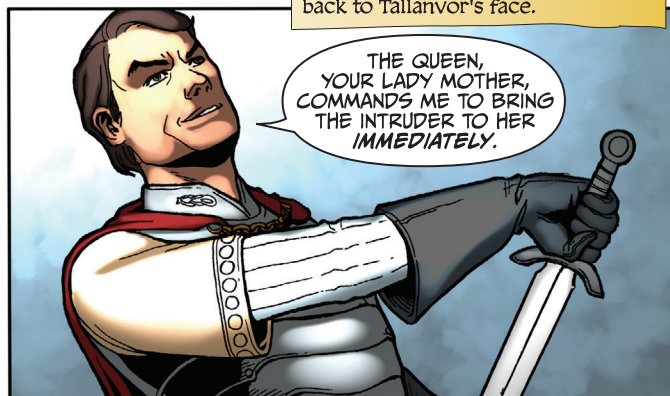


TALLANVOR
WOULD NOT DARE
TROOP INTO MOTHER'S
PRESENCE WITH ELAYNE
AND ME AS IF WE WERE
UNDER GUARD. MOTHER HAS
A BIT OF A TEMPER,
SOMETIMES.



Before Tallanvor could give any kind of response, another red-uniformed soldier came running down the path. The soldier saluted as he came to a stop, and then spoke softly to Tallanvor...

...and his words brought satisfaction back to Tallanvor's face.



THE QUEEN, YOUR LADY MOTHER, COMMANDS ME TO BRING THE INTRUDER TO HER IMMEDIATELY.



IT IS ALSO THE QUEEN'S COMMAND THAT MY LADY ELAYNE AND MY LORD GAWYN ATTEND HER. ALSO IMMEDIATELY.

IF MY LADY PLEASES? MY LORD?

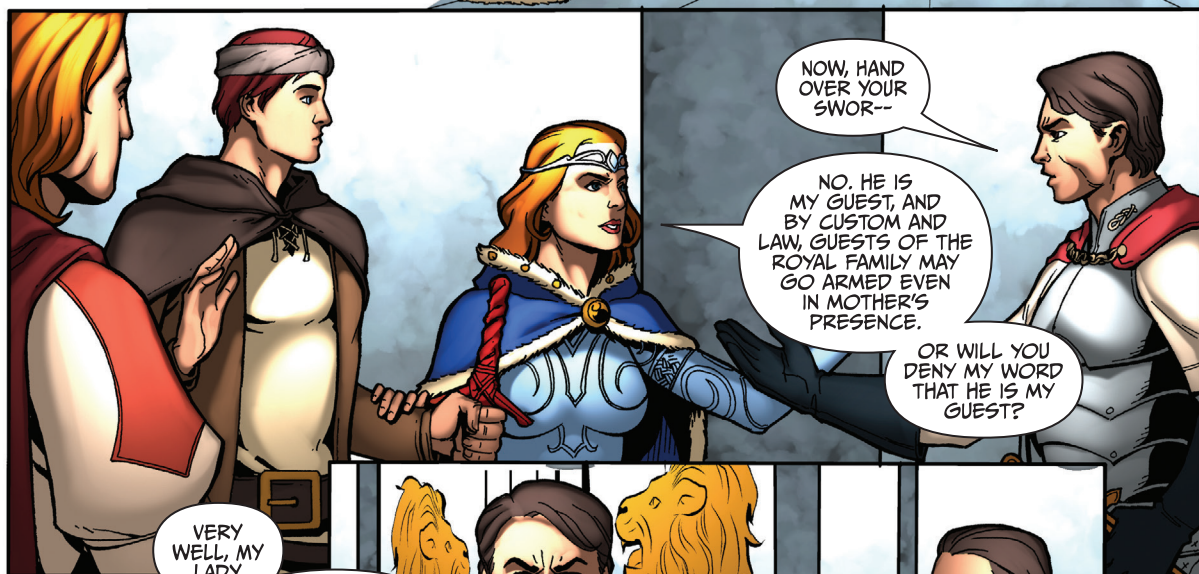
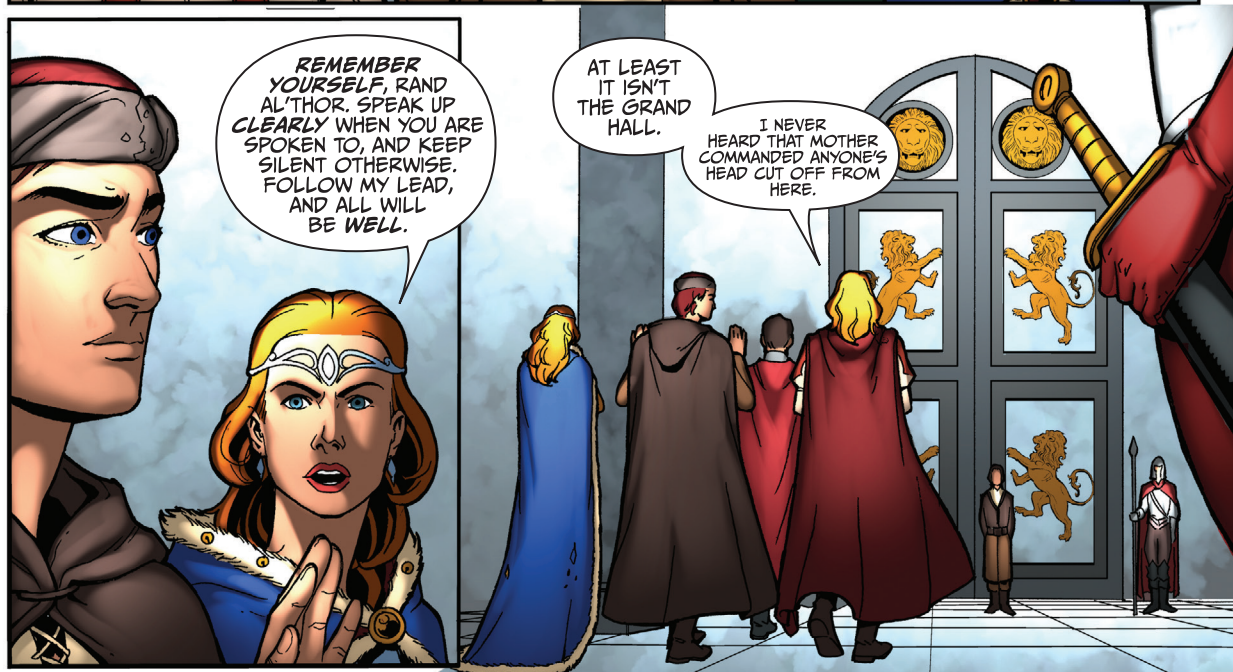
Soldiers formed around Rand, Elayne, and Gawyn in a hollow box that started along the slate path with Tallanvor in the lead. The soldiers had sheathed their swords, but were no less on guard than when they had their weapons in hand.

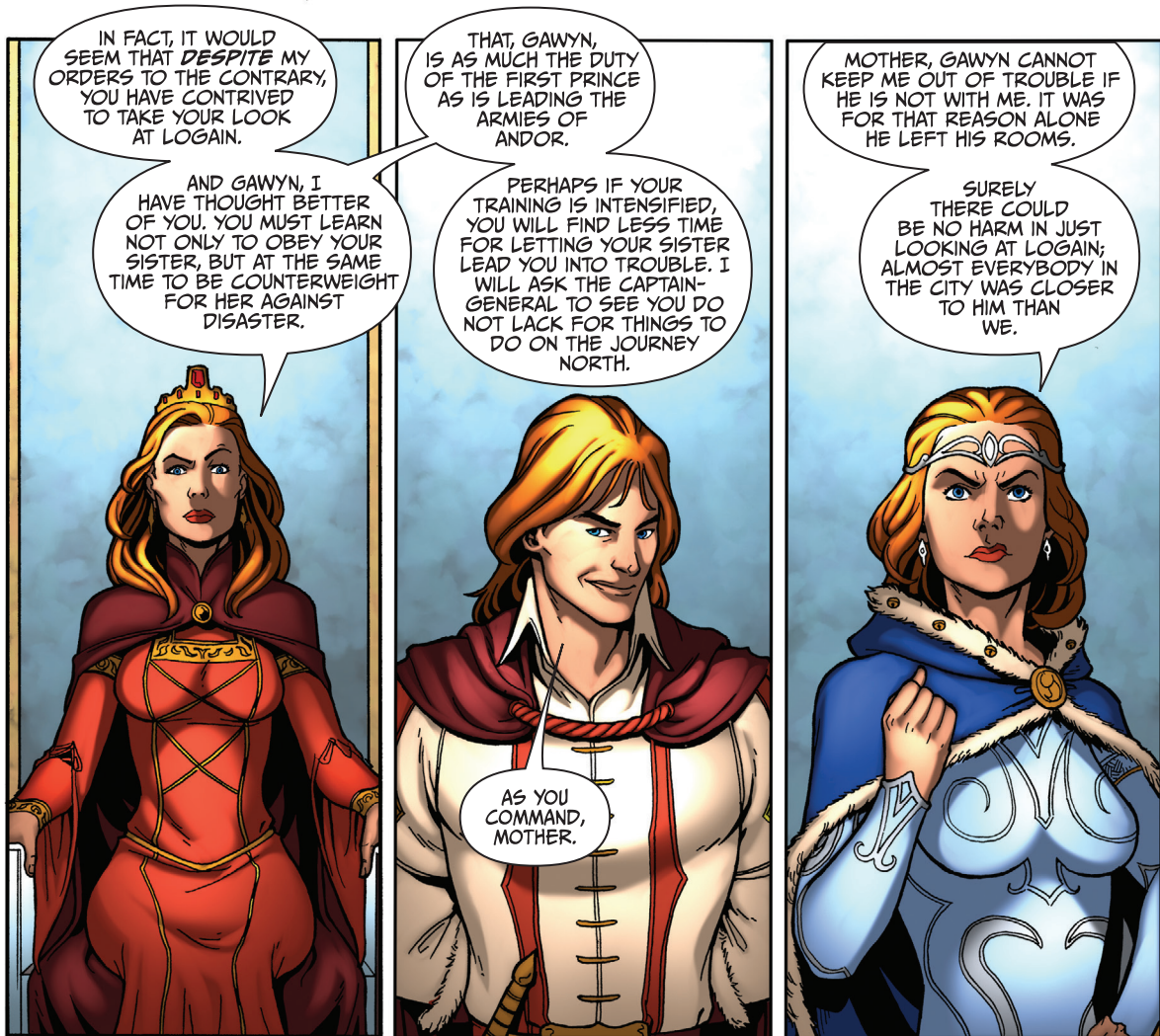
They watched Rand as if they expected him at any moment to snatch his sword and try to cut his way to freedom.

Watching the soldiers watching him, Rand suddenly became aware of the garden that he had not noticed before. It was green and lush and healthy and alive. He was so surprised, he actually whispered aloud:



GREEN. IT'S ALL... GREEN.





IN FACT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT *DESPITE* MY ORDERS TO THE CONTRARY, YOU HAVE CONTRIVED TO TAKE YOUR LOOK AT LOGAIN.

THAT, GAWYN, IS AS MUCH THE DUTY OF THE FIRST PRINCE AS IS LEADING THE ARMIES OF ANDOR.

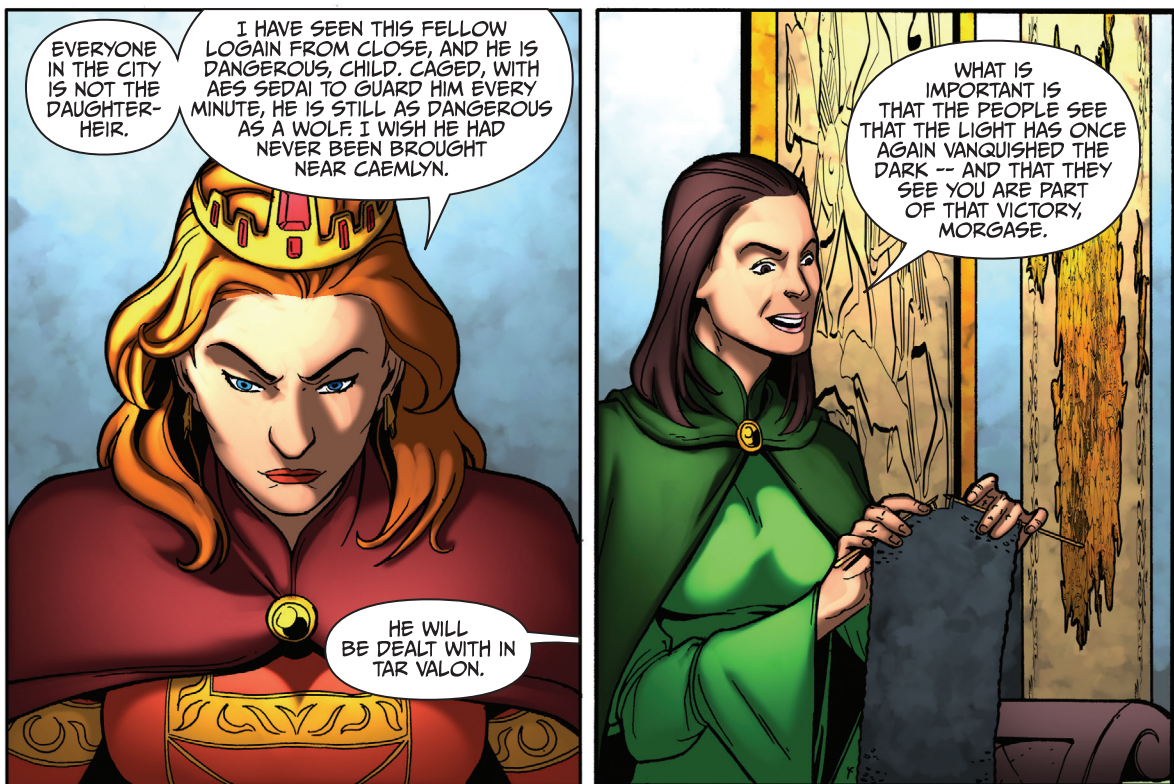
MOTHER, GAWYN CANNOT KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE IF HE IS NOT WITH ME. IT WAS FOR THAT REASON ALONE HE LEFT HIS ROOMS.

AND GAWYN, I HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF YOU. YOU MUST LEARN NOT ONLY TO OBEY YOUR SISTER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO BE COUNTERWEIGHT FOR HER AGAINST DISASTER.

PERHAPS IF YOUR TRAINING IS INTENSIFIED, YOU WILL FIND LESS TIME FOR LETTING YOUR SISTER LEAD YOU INTO TROUBLE. I WILL ASK THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL TO SEE YOU DO NOT LACK FOR THINGS TO DO ON THE JOURNEY NORTH.

SURELY THERE COULD BE NO HARM IN JUST LOOKING AT LOGAIN; ALMOST EVERYBODY IN THE CITY WAS CLOSER TO HIM THAN WE.

AS YOU COMMAND, MOTHER.

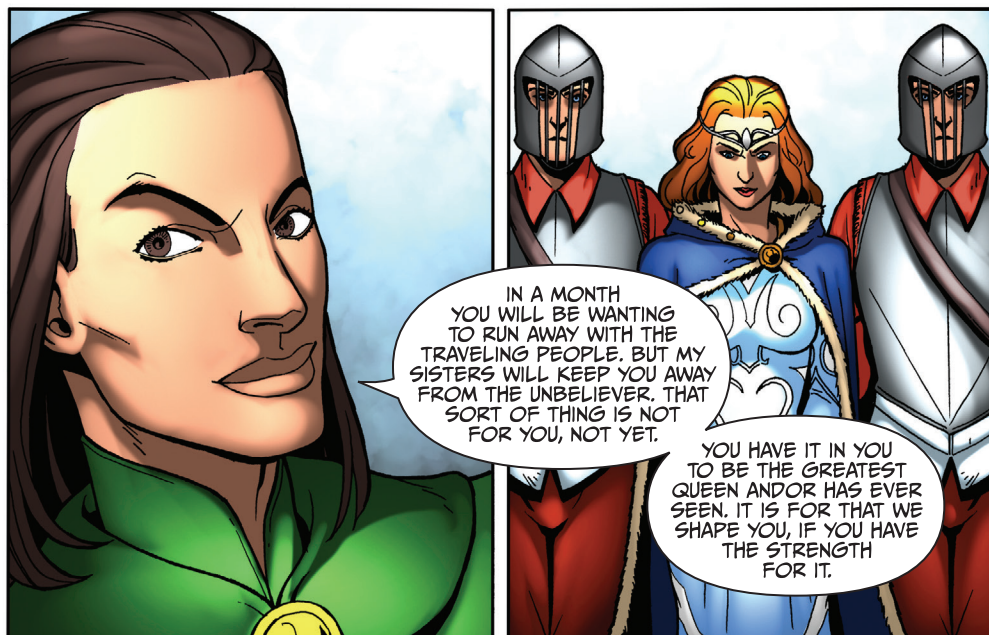
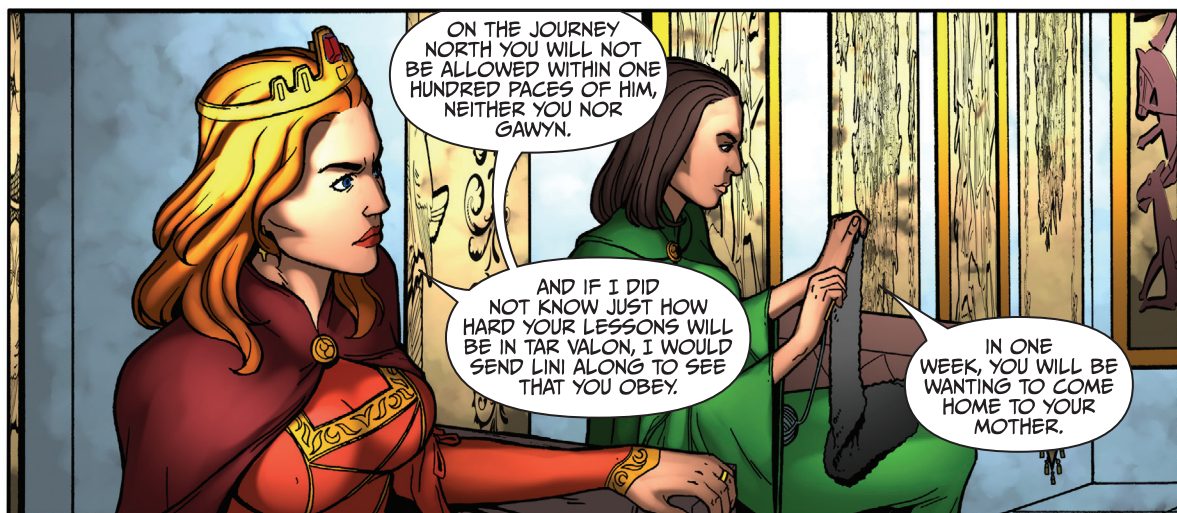
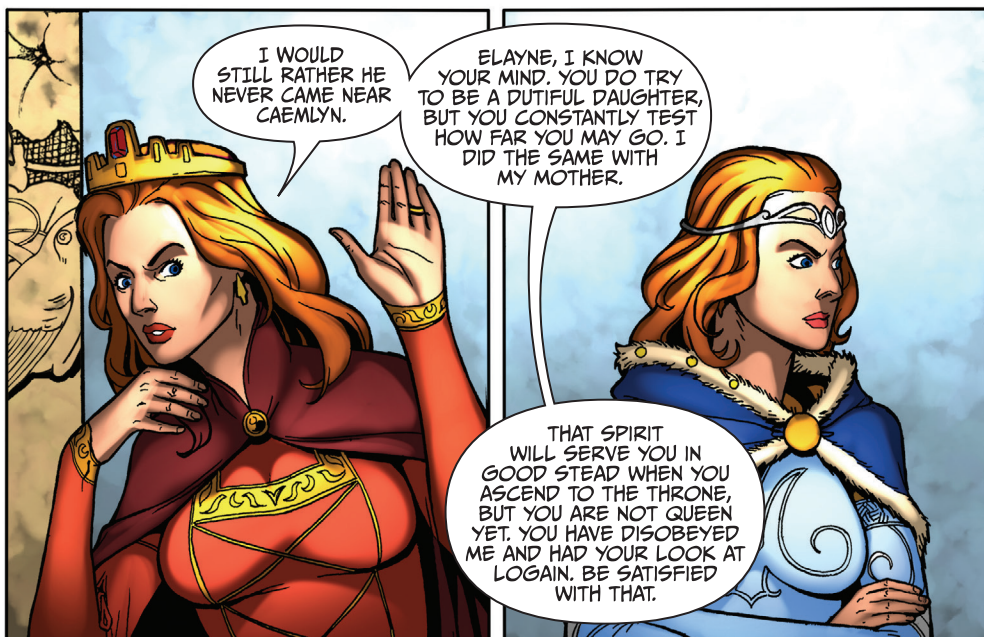


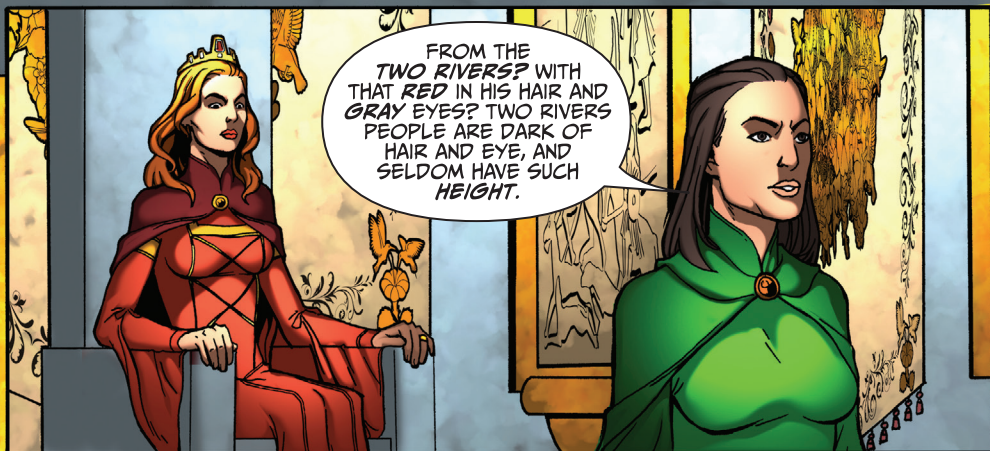
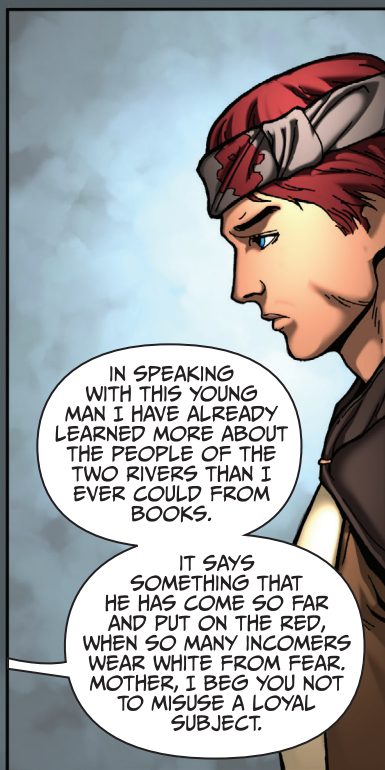
EVERYONE IN THE CITY IS NOT THE DAUGHTER-HEIR.

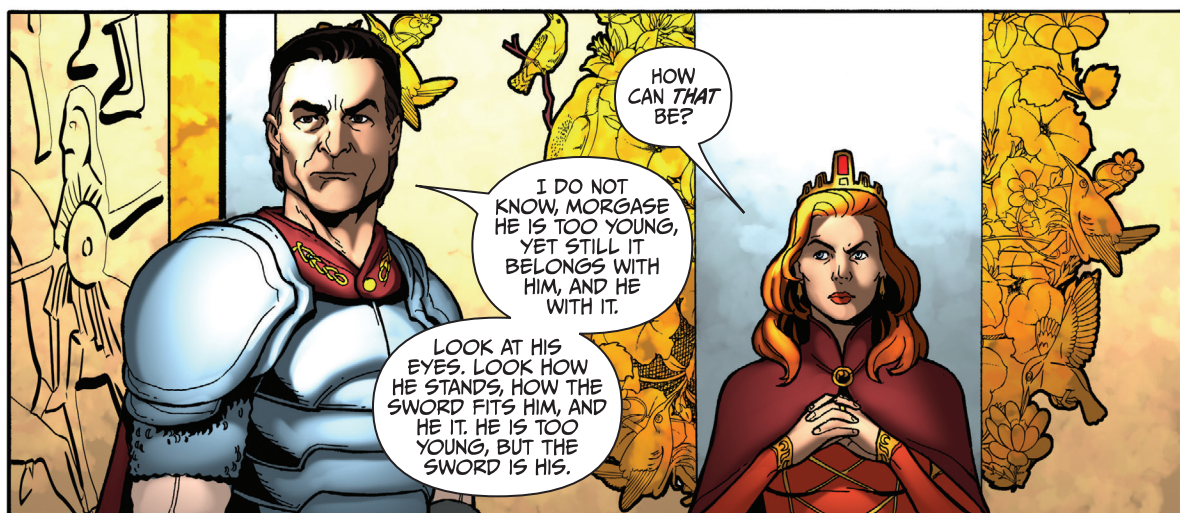
I HAVE SEEN THIS FELLOW LOGAIN FROM CLOSE, AND HE IS DANGEROUS, CHILD. CAGED, WITH AES SEDAI TO GUARD HIM EVERY MINUTE, HE IS STILL AS DANGEROUS AS A WOLF. I WISH HE HAD NEVER BEEN BROUGHT NEAR CAEMLYN.

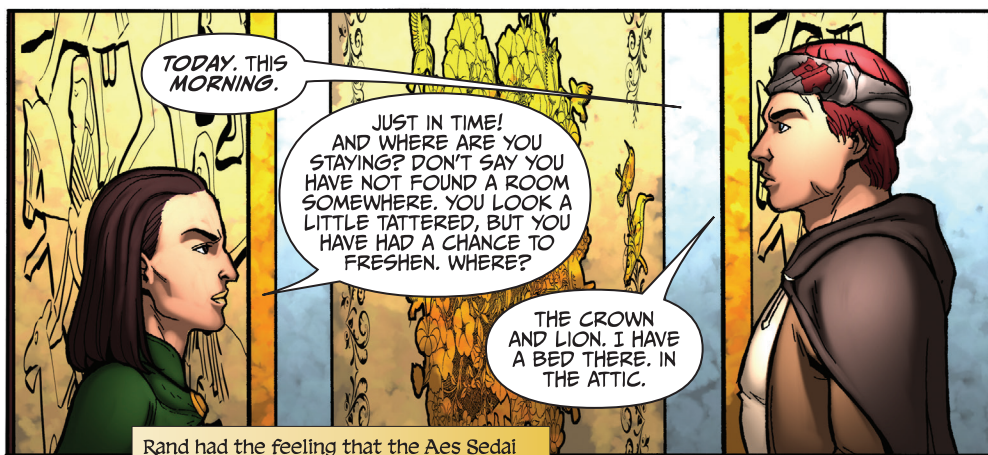
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE PEOPLE SEE THAT THE LIGHT HAS ONCE AGAIN VANQUISHED THE DARK -- AND THAT THEY SEE YOU ARE PART OF THAT VICTORY, MORGASE.

HE WILL BE DEALT WITH IN TAR VALON.







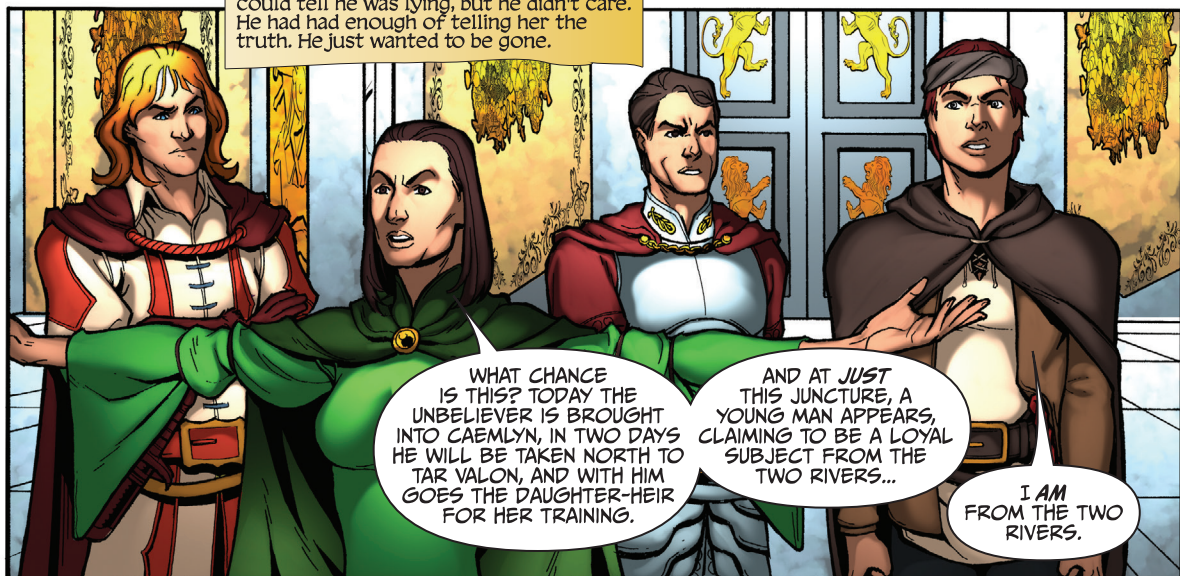


TODAY. THIS MORNING.

JUST IN TIME!
AND WHERE ARE YOU
STAYING? DON'T SAY YOU
HAVE NOT FOUND A ROOM
SOMEWHERE. YOU LOOK A
LITTLE TATTERED, BUT YOU
HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO
FRESHEN. WHERE?

THE CROWN
AND LION. I HAVE
A BED THERE. IN
THE ATTIC.

Rand had the feeling that the Aes Sedai could tell he was lying, but he didn't care. He had had enough of telling her the truth. He just wanted to be gone.



WHAT CHANCE
IS THIS? TODAY THE
UNBELIEVER IS BROUGHT
INTO CAEMLYN, IN TWO DAYS
HE WILL BE TAKEN NORTH TO
TAR VALON, AND WITH HIM
GOES THE DAUGHTER-HEIR
FOR HER TRAINING.

AND AT *JUST*
THIS JUNCTURE, A
YOUNG MAN APPEARS,
CLAIMING TO BE A LOYAL
SUBJECT FROM THE
TWO RIVERS...

I *AM*
FROM THE TWO
RIVERS.



...WITH A STORY
CALCULATED TO
ENTICE ELAYNE, AND
BEARING A HERON-
MARK BLADE.

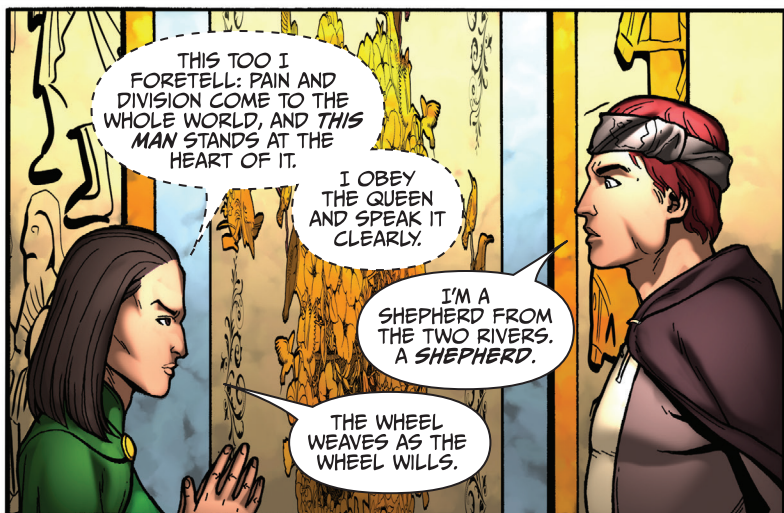
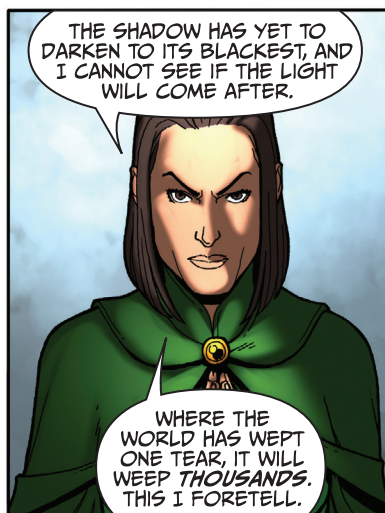
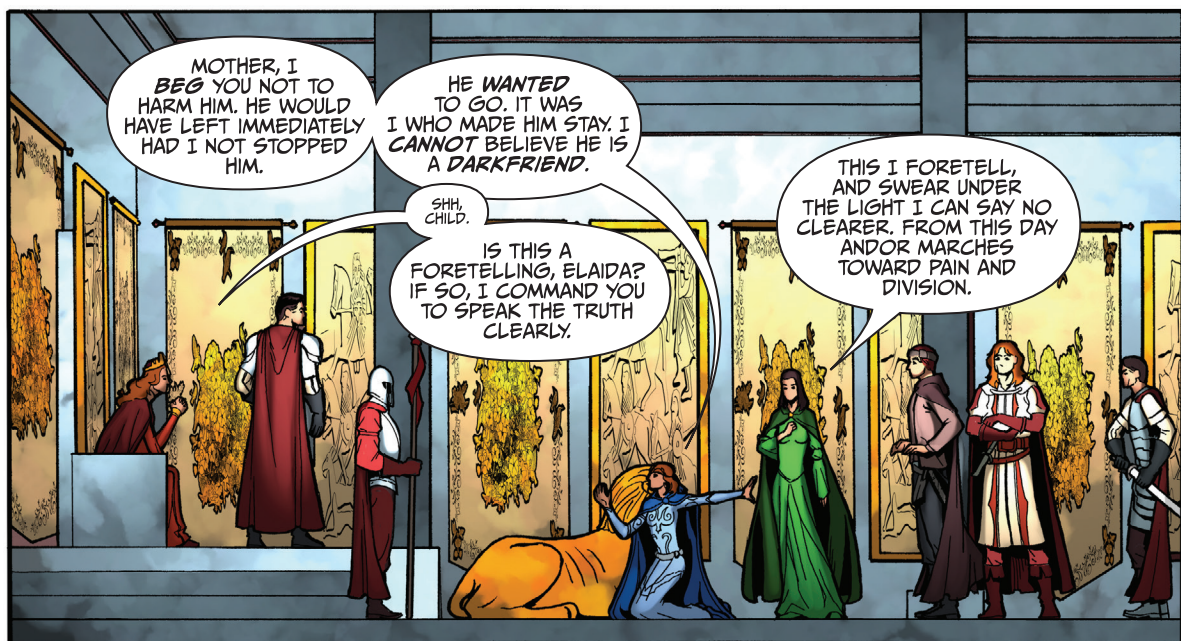
HE DOES NOT
WEAR AN ARMBAND OR
COCKADE TO PROCLAIM HIS
ALLEGIANCE, BUT WRAPPINGS
THAT CAREFULLY CONCEAL
THE HERON FROM INQUISITIVE
EYES. WHAT CHANCE THIS,
MORGASE?



WHAT ARE
YOU NAMING HIM?
DARKFRIEND?
ONE OF *LOGAIN'S*
FOLLOWERS?

THE DARK ONE
STIRS IN SHAYOL GHUL.
THE SHADOW LIES ACROSS
THE PATTERN, AND THE FUTURE
IS BALANCED ON THE
POINT OF A PIN.

THIS ONE IS
DANGEROUS.



ELAIDA SEDAI SAYS THE LAD IS DANGEROUS, MY QUEEN, AND IF SHE COULD TELL MORE I WOULD SAY SUMMON THE HEADSMAN.

MYSELF, I BELIEVE THE BOY IS HERE THROUGH MERE HAPPENSTANCE, THOUGH AN ILL ONE FOR HIM.



TO BE SAFE, MY QUEEN, I SAY CLAP HIM IN A CELL TILL THE LADY ELAYNE AND THE LORD GAWYN ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY, AND THEN LET HIM GO.

UNLESS, AES SEDAI, YOU HAVE MORE TO FORETELL CONCERNING HIM?



I HAVE SAID ALL THAT I HAVE READ IN THE PATTERN, CAPTAIN-GENERAL.

A FEW WEEKS IMPRISONED WILL NOT HARM HIM, AND IT MAY GIVE ME A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE.

PERHAPS ANOTHER FORETELLING WILL COME.



SUSPICION IS *SMOTHERING* CAEMLYN, PERHAPS ALL OF ANDOR. FEAR AND BLACK SUSPICION.

WOMEN DENOUNCE THEIR NEIGHBORS FOR DARKFRIENDS.



MEN SCRAWL THE DRAGON'S FANG ON THE DOORS OF PEOPLE THEY HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS.

I WILL NOT BECOME A PART OF IT.



MORGASE--

I WILL NOT
BECOME PART
OF IT.

WHEN I TOOK
THE THRONE I SWORE
TO UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR
THE HIGH AND THE LOW, AND
I WILL UPHOLD IT EVEN IF I
AM THE LAST IN ANDOR
TO REMEMBER
JUSTICE.

RAND AL'THOR,
DO YOU SWEAR
UNDER THE LIGHT THAT
YOUR FATHER, A SHEPHERD
IN THE TWO RIVERS, GAVE
YOU THIS HERON-MARK
BLADE?

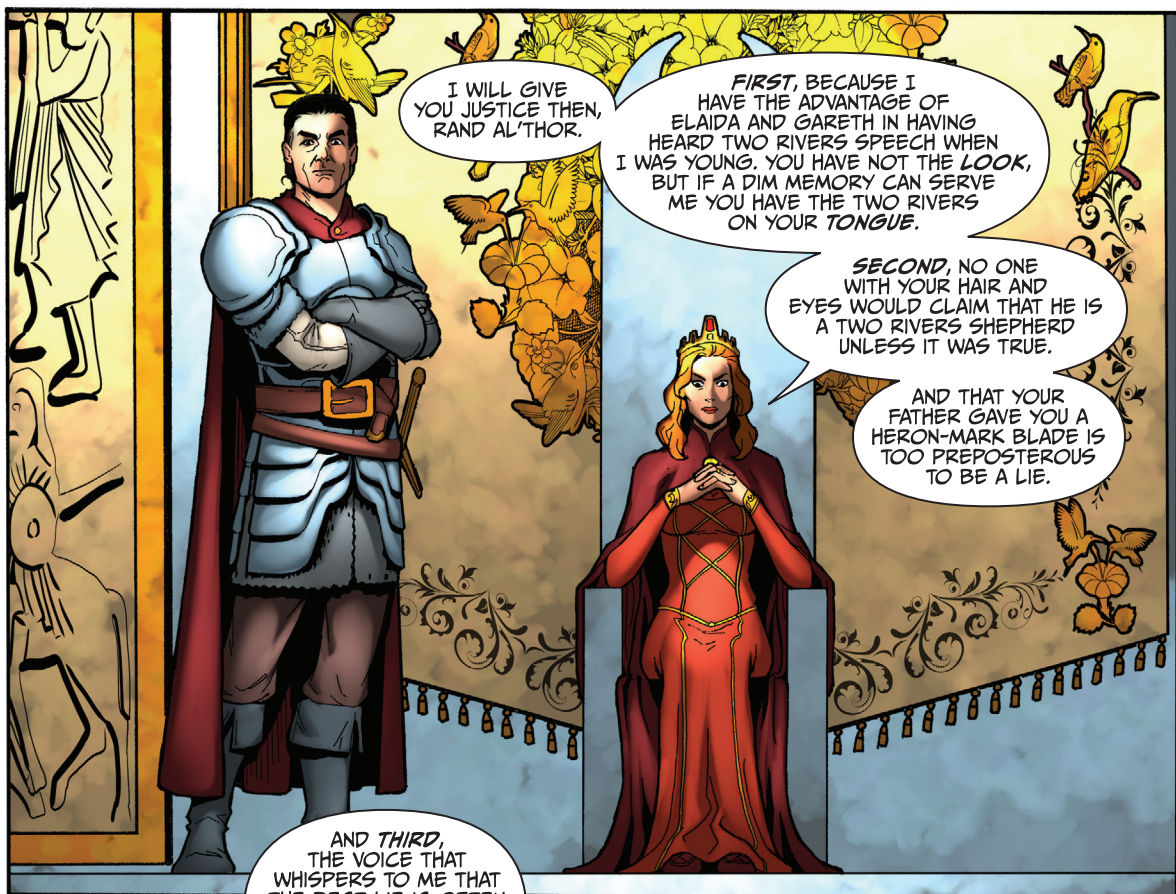
AND THAT
YOU CLIMBED
THE GARDEN WALL
SIMPLY TO GAIN A
LOOK AT THE FALSE
DRAGON?

I DO,
MY QUEEN.

YES,
MY QUEEN.

DO YOU
MEAN HARM
TO THE THRONE OF
ANDOR, OR TO MY
DAUGHTER, OR
MY SON?

I MEAN NO
HARM TO ANYONE,
MY QUEEN, TO YOU
AND YOURS LEAST
OF ALL.



I WILL GIVE YOU JUSTICE THEN, RAND AL'THOR.

FIRST, BECAUSE I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ELAIDA AND GARETH IN HAVING HEARD TWO RIVERS SPEECH WHEN I WAS YOUNG. YOU HAVE NOT THE LOOK, BUT IF A DIM MEMORY CAN SERVE ME YOU HAVE THE TWO RIVERS ON YOUR TONGUE.

SECOND, NO ONE WITH YOUR HAIR AND EYES WOULD CLAIM THAT HE IS A TWO RIVERS SHEPHERD UNLESS IT WAS TRUE.

AND THAT YOUR FATHER GAVE YOU A HERON-MARK BLADE IS TOO PREPOSTEROUS TO BE A LIE.

AND THIRD, THE VOICE THAT WHISPERS TO ME THAT THE BEST LIE IS OFTEN ONE TOO RIDICULOUS TO BE TAKEN FOR A LIE... THAT VOICE IS NOT PROOF.

I WILL UPHOLD THE LAWS I HAVE MADE. I GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM, RAND AL'THOR...



...BUT I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A CARE WHERE YOU TRESPASS IN THE FUTURE. IF YOU ARE FOUND ON THE PALACE GROUNDS AGAIN, IT WILL NOT GO SO EASILY ON YOU.

THANK--

THANK YOU, MY QUEEN.



TALLANVOR, ESCORT THIS--

ESCORT MY DAUGHTER'S GUEST FROM THE PALACE, AND SHOW HIM EVERY COURTESY.

THE REST OF YOU GO AS WELL. NO, ELAIDA, YOU STAY. AND IF YOU WILL TOO, PLEASE, LORD GARETH. I MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THESE WHITECLOAKS IN THE CITY.



IT IS THE CUSTOM TO ESCORT GUESTS AS FAR AS THE FRONT GATES, BUT NOT TO WATCH THEM GO.

IT IS THE PLEASURE OF A GUEST'S COMPANY THAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED, NOT THE SADNESS OF PARTING.

THANK YOU, MY LADY--



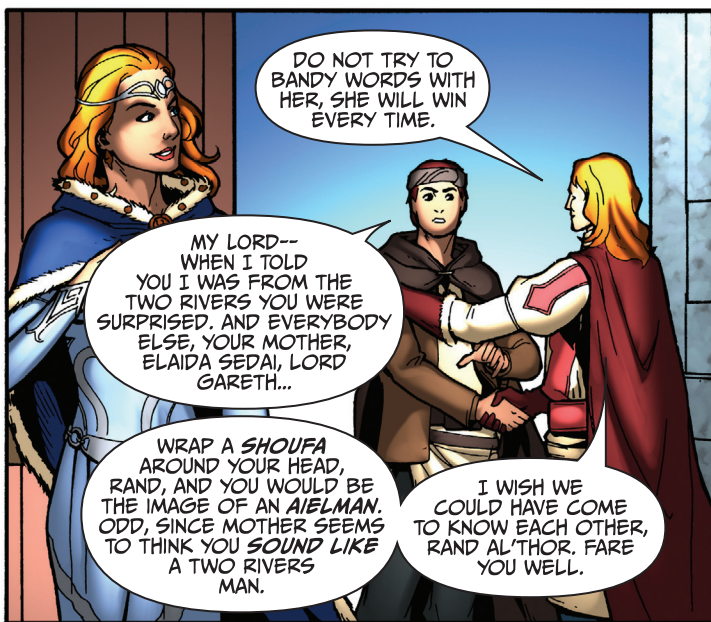
--FOR EVERYTHING.

CUSTOM IN THE TWO RIVERS IS FOR A GUEST TO BRING A SMALL GIFT. I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOTHING. ALTHOUGH... APPARENTLY I DID TEACH YOU SOMETHING OF TWO RIVERS FOLK.



IF I HAD TOLD MOTHER I THINK YOU ARE *HANDSOME*, SHE CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE HAD YOU LOCKED IN A CELL.

FARE YOU WELL, RAND AL'THOR.



DO NOT TRY TO BANDY WORDS WITH HER, SHE WILL WIN EVERY TIME.

MY LORD-- WHEN I TOLD YOU I WAS FROM THE TWO RIVERS YOU WERE SURPRISED. AND EVERYBODY ELSE, YOUR MOTHER, ELAIDA SEDAI, LORD GARETH...

WRAP A *SHOUFA* AROUND YOUR HEAD, RAND, AND YOU WOULD BE THE IMAGE OF AN *AIELMAN*. ODD, SINCE MOTHER SEEMS TO THINK YOU *SOUND LIKE* A TWO RIVERS MAN.

I WISH WE COULD HAVE COME TO KNOW EACH OTHER, RAND AL'THOR. FARE YOU WELL.

Rand barely registered Gawyn walking away -- the young lord's words stuck in his head: 'the image of an Aielman.'

An *Aielman*?

To be continued...