

THE BIG MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE A DOCTOR WATCHED IMPASSIVELY AS BARBARIANS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH TO AMUSE THEIR IMPERIAL CAPTORS... NO HINT OF THE OUTRAGE, THE SMOLDERING HATE WITHIN HIM COULD BE PERMITTED TO SHOW, FOR HE WAS HERE FOR ONE PURPOSE, AND ONE PURPOSE ONLY...



ENJOYING THE GAMES, DOCTOR? I HOPE YOU ARE NOT **BORED**...

DOES HE SUSPECT?



DOES HE KNOW THAT THOSE ARE **MY PEOPLE DYING**?

HOLD! THERE SHE IS!



MARISSA! MY WOMAN!

WELCOME DEAR LADY! YOU MAY DIE KNOWING YOUR SCREAMS HAVE GIVEN US PLEASURE!



WAR OF THE WIZARDS

I ONLY WISH YOUR BELOVED **TORIN** WERE HERE TO SHARE YOUR FATE! BUT...



YOUR
WISH IS
GRANTED,
FIG!

WHAT FOLLOWS IS INCREDIBLE... A HUNDRED ARMED MEN
AGAINST ONE NAKED SAVAGE... AND YET... HOW MANY
SHEEP WOULD IT TAKE TO KILL ONE TIGER?

NO! NO!

SAVE
ME...

EYAAA

STOP
HIM!
HE'S
UNGH!


TORIN! HOW...?

NO
QUESTIONS,
JUST RUN!

THIS
WAY... I
HAVE A
HORSE
READY!

WHAT... IF A
MOUNTED PATROL
THEY'VE
SEEN
US!

RIDING
DOUBLE, WE
CANNOT OUT-
RUN THEM!
OH TORIN!
WE ARE
DOOMED!



THEY ARE GAINING!
AND THOSE
ARROWS ARE
GETTING MORE
ACCURATE...

LEAVE ME, MY
LOVE! SAVE
YOURSELF!


WHAT -

EEEE!

SUDDENLY, TO THE
AMAZEMENT OF
THEIR PURSUERS,
AS WELL AS THEIR
OWN, THEIR STEED
BECOMES AIRBORNE!

DO NOT BE
AFRAID,
MARISSA...
WHATEVER
MAGIC THIS
IS, IT HAS
SAVED OUR
LIVES!

AWED INTO SILENCE,
THEY CONTINUE THEIR
UNCANNY RIDE, AND AT
LENGTH THE TOWERS AND
BATTLEMENTS OF A CASTLE
APPEAR BEFORE THEM...
A CASTLE IN THE AIR!



WELCOME, MORTALS /
THE GREAT THANOS HAS
DECIDED TO PROLONG
YOUR MISERABLE LIVES,
FOR WHAT REASON
I KNOW NOT.

HASTEN / HE
AWAITS YOU
WITHIN...AND
YOU MUST NOT KEEP
HIM WAITING /

...AND WHATEVER
HE PROPOSES, YOU
MUST ACCEPT AT
ONCE OR YOU DIE
AT ONCE /

THANOS...?

SILENCE / BUT
FOR ME, YOU
ARE ALREADY
DEAD /

DO YOU AGREE TO DO ONE
THING FOR ME, IN EXCHANGE
FOR YOUR LIVES ?

YES, I
AGREE...

GOOD!
THEN...

YOU WILL KILL THE
WIZARD AROS FOR ME /

KILL A WIZARD...? BUT...
HOW? I CANNOT...

I WILL PROVIDE THE MEANS...
I CANNOT DO IT MYSELF, FOR I
LACK THE PHYSICAL PROMISE AND
THE COURAGE NECESSARY /

THIS IS THE WEAPON... I HAVE CREATED THIS JEWEL SPECIFICALLY TO COUNTER THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER...

WHEN AROS LOOKS UPON IT, HE NOT ONLY WILL LOSE HIS MAGICAL ABILITIES, BUT WILL BE RENDERED TOTALLY HELPLESS...

HMMM... THE **WOMAN**... YES! SHE WILL BE...

NO! SHE GOES WITH **ME!**



CALM YOURSELF, MY IMPULSIVE FRIEND! I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, SHE IS PERFECT FOR THE SUCCESS OF MY LITTLE ENDEAVOR...

FOR SHE SHALL **WEAR** THE JEWEL... HIDDEN BENEATH HER TUNIC...

THERE! NOW, PLEASE REMEMBER... YOU MUST GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE UNCOVERING IT!

TORIN, YOU MUST MAKE HIM COME TO **YOU!** STAY ALIVE, KILL HIS CREATURES UNTIL HE LEAVES HIS MAGIC SANCTUARY...



IN CASE YOU WAVER, TORIN, REMEMBER THIS - HE IS THE POWER BEHIND THE EMPIRE. / AND IF YOU FAIL ME, YOU SHALL DIE!



I THANK YOU FOR THOSE PARTING WORDS, WIZARD... THEY HAVE FIRMED MY RESOLVE!

SOON...

THIS MUST BE THE CAVE!
OH, TORIN...
I AM SO AFRAID!

SO AM I,
MARISSA, BUT WE
MUST - AH! HERE
THEY ARE! THE
GUARDIANS OF
AROS!



THEN, AS
TORIN IS ABOUT
TO DESPAIR...



MARISSA!
LOOK! IT
MUST
BE...

BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU WILL TELL ME SOME THINGS...

WHY DID YOU COME HERE? WHO SENT YOU...?

WOMAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



IT WORKED! HE IS HELPLESS!

THE GEM DID IT!

QUICK—REMOVE HIS BELT, RINGS... ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE A SOURCE OF MAGICAL POWER!



PLEASE... DO NOT KILL ME! I BEG OF YOU... ASK WHAT YOU WILL OF ME...

I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT WIZARD... I MUST KNOW HOW TO KILL THANOS!



I DO HAVE IN MY POSSESSION, ONE THING THAT WILL NULLIFY HIS MAGIC... IN FACT, ALL MAGIC... THE LODESTONE OF XAN! BUT I CANNOT USE IT, FOR TO USE IT I WOULD HAVE TO BE ON HIS AERIAL CITADEL...

YES? WHAT OF IT?



SINCE IT IS HELD ALOFT BY SORCERY, THE WHOLE STRUCTURE WILL COME CRASHING TO THE GROUND, AND EVERYONE IN IT WILL DIE.

AND, SINCE THE LODESTONE WILL RENDER MY MAGIC IMPOTENT, I WOULD BE KILLED ALSO...



...AND YOU NOW HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM! IN FACT A GREATER ONE, FOR YOU CANNOT GET TO HIS CASTLE...

I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY SOLVED THE PROBLEM!



AND SO, A FEW DAYS LATER, TORIN'S BARBARIANS APPEAR ON A SUMMIT NEAR THE SKY CASTLE, HAULING A CATAPULT...

FOOM!

READY? LET FLY!





THAT IS THE
END OF THANOS!
OH, TORIN!
YOU HAVE
DONE IT!

YES... BUT
FOR *ONE*
THING...

I AM SORRY,
AROS...

TORIN!

CHOP!

WHY...
WHY DID YOU
HAVE
TO KILL
THEM
BOTH?

I MAY BE A BARBARIAN,
BUT I AM NOT STUPID,
MARISSA. BUT THEY WERE
ENEMIES, BUT THEY
WERE BOTH FORCES
FOR THE SPREAD OF
LAW AND ORDER...

... AND THEREFORE A THREAT TO
MY WAY OF LIFE. FOR I
SERVE THE GODS OF **CHAOS**,
AND I AM SWORN TO ETERNAL
WARFARE AGAINST ALL
IMPERIAL ORGANIZATION...

... AND BEYOND THAT, IT IS
ONLY COMMON SENSE TO KILL
TWO RIVAL WIZARDS WHO
HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST
IN ME...

...FOR
SOONER
OR LATER
THEY
WOULD
FIND A
WAY TO
KILL
ME?

TORIN! YOU
SAID **RIVAL**...
DOES THAT MEAN
THAT YOU...

YES, MARISSA...
I AM A WIZARD...
BUT I PREFER NOT
TO HAVE IT KNOWN!
IT GIVES ME AN
ADVANTAGE!

NOW, COME...
WE HAVE UNFINISHED
BUSINESS WITH
THE EMPIRE!

AND SO TORIN
SET BACK CIVILIZATION
A WHILE, BUT EVENTUALLY
IT WON OUT... OR
DID IT? HEE HEE!