Battleborn

1 Year Anniversary Edition





Battleborn



1 year anniversary edition

by Jake Shandy

This ebook is dedicated to everyone who has supported me this last year. With special thanks to my Patreon supporters,
my quality checker Steph,
and to KD Edwards, David R Slayton, and Keith & Ben from Two Gay Geeks for using their platforms to encourage and support me.


UGH...
C-CAN'T STOP BLEEDING...
SHH....
I'M SORRY...
DON'T BE...
...IT WAS SNOWING THAT NIGHT TOO...
WHICH NIGHT?
THE NIGHT WE... AW, HELL... YOU GONNA MAKE ME SAY IT?


NO, I WON'T...
HEY, REMEMBER THE STORY I TOLD YOU THAT NIGHT?
OF COURSE...
WELL... THAT'S US.
YOU THINK SO?
HEH... I KNOW SO.
HEY, HEY... DON'T CRY...
=SNIFF=


THE SUN FINDS THE MOON ONCE EVERY DAY...
ONLY FOR A MOMENT... BEFORE THEY'RE PARTED...
IN THAT PLACE...
FIND ME.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU...

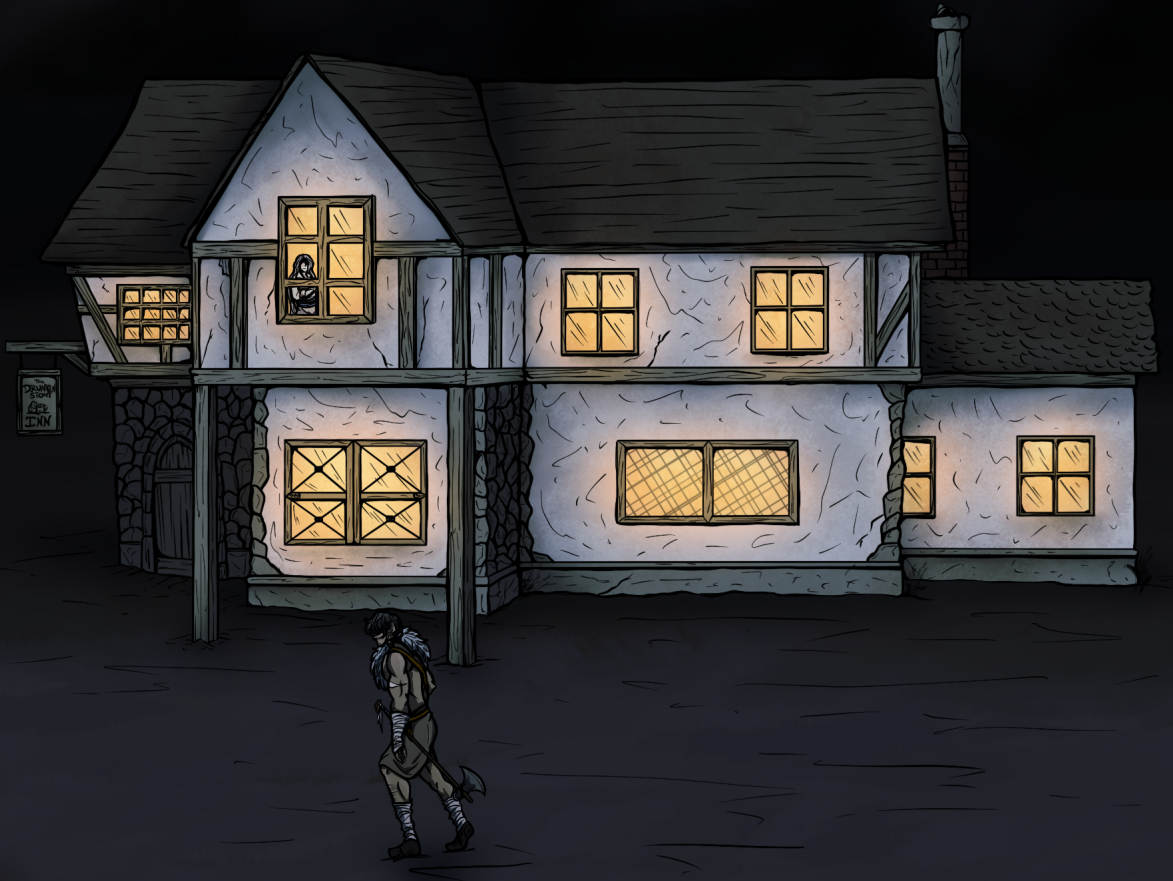

WE'LL FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN... WE FOUND EACH OTHER BEFORE...
...REMEMBER?


AH! FINALLY!
NORSTEAD
INN
CAN'T WAIT FOR A BIG TANKARD OF...
NORSTEAD
INN
...AW, HELL...

BATTLEBORN

CHAPTER I

THE DRUNKEN STONE




THE DRUNKEN STONE INN
WELCOME TO THE DRUNKEN STONE! WE'VE FOOD, SUPPLIES, AND ROOMS!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, YOUNG MASTER?
HELLO! A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, A MEAL, AND ENOUGH ALE TO DROWN, PLEASE!
OF COURSE, LAD! WHAT BRINGS YEH TO NORSTEAD?
MY FEET! BEEN ON THE ROAD A FEW DAYS FROM SOUTH ROCK.
I'M NEW TO EDGMERE. CAME OVER FROM FARGLOAM LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF.

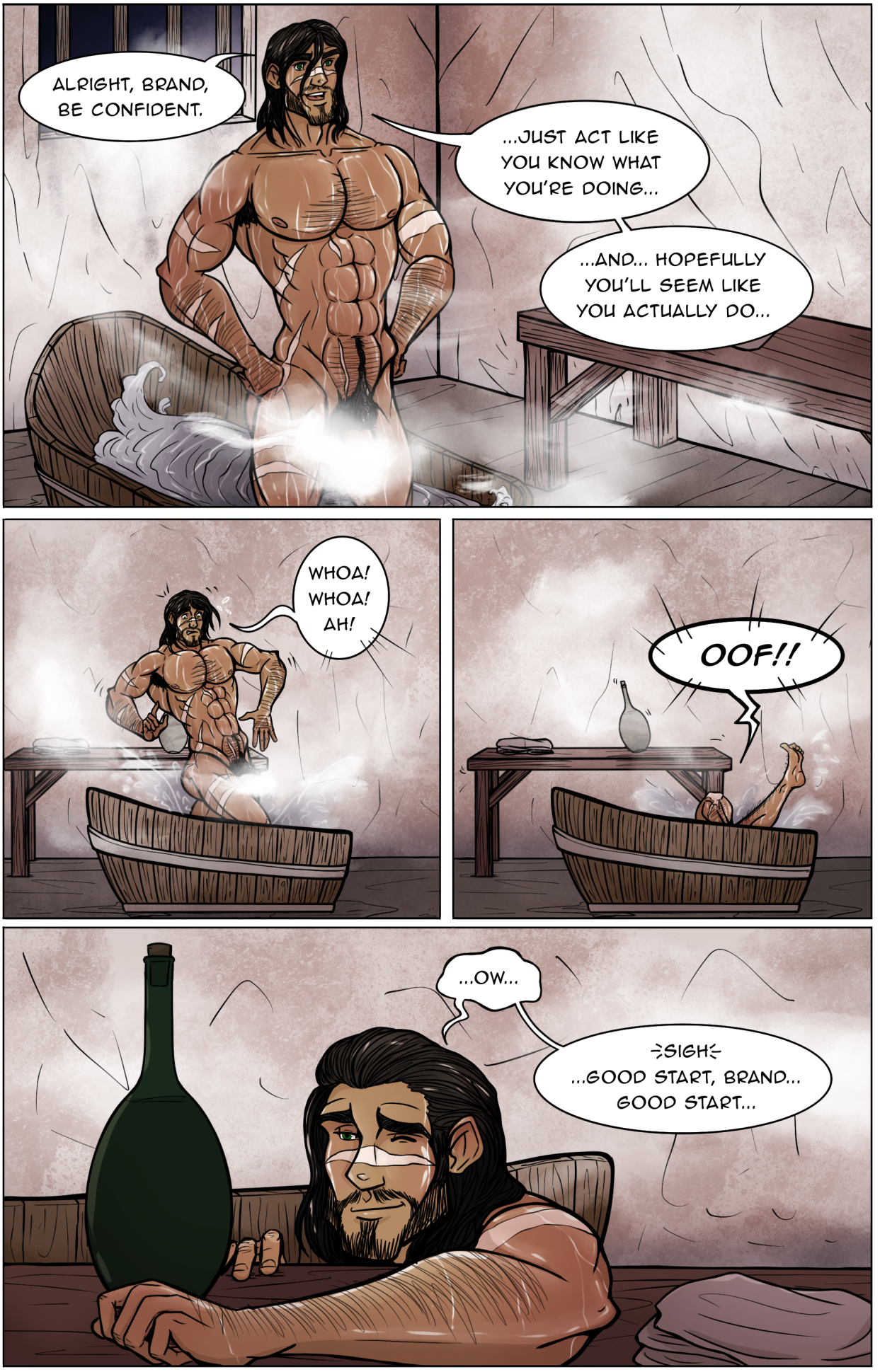

FARGLOAM? NOT OFTEN WE GET FOLKS FROM THERE SINCE TRADES CEASED. WELL, BUSINESS 'ROUND HERE'S BEEN SLOW AS IT IS... I HOPE EDGEMERE IS TREATING YOU WELL?
SO FAR! DID SOME WORK IN SOUTH ROCK, AND I CLEARED OUT SOME BANDITS IN CRAGDULL BEFORE THAT! BOTH PAID ME QUITE WELL.
HA! WELL DONE, LAD! WELL ON YOUR WAY TO MAKING THAT NAME FOR YOURSELF, MASTER...?
OH! BRAND! MY NAME IS BRAND.
=AHEM= PARDON ME.

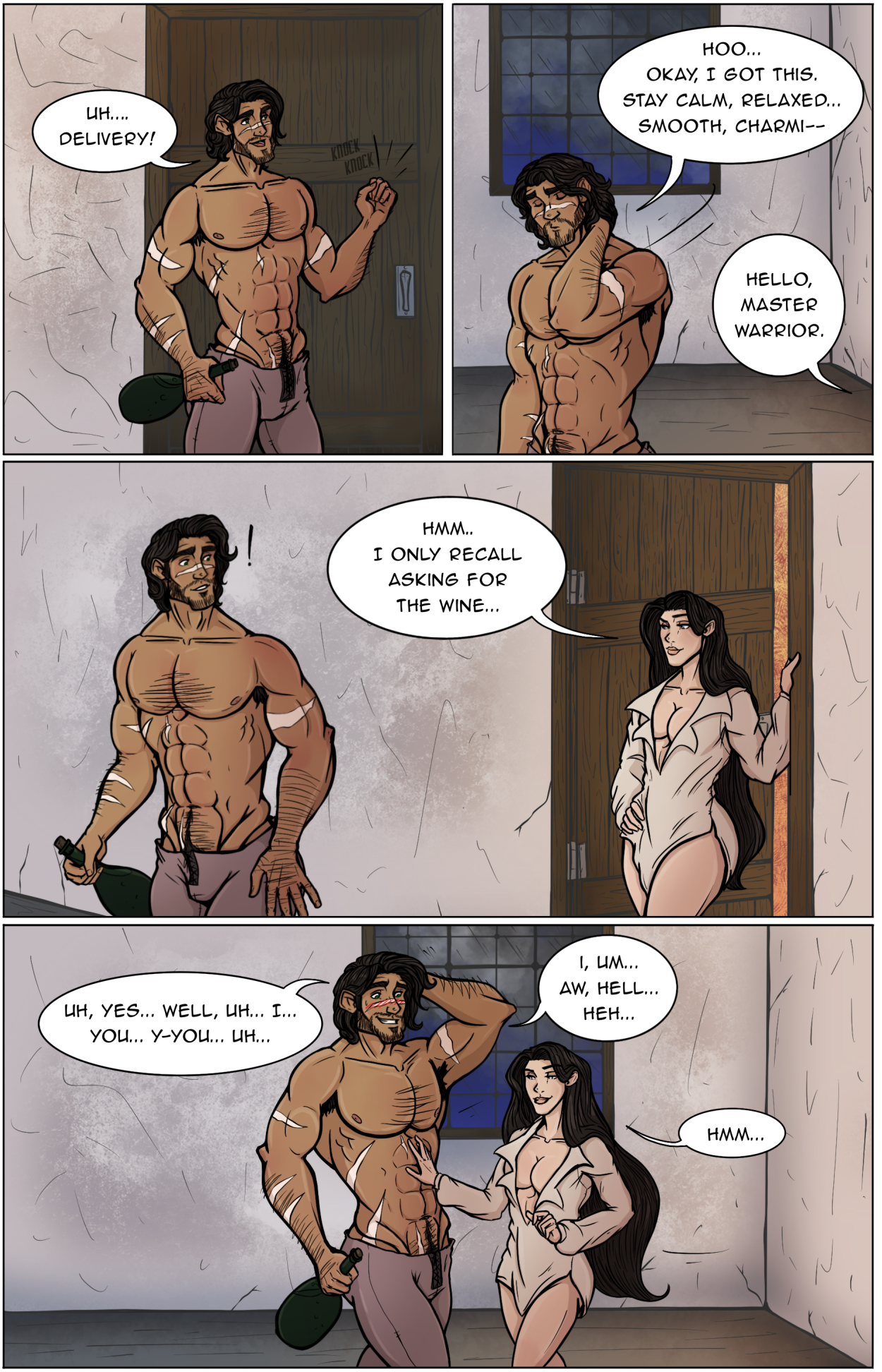

OH!
GOOD EVENING,
MY LADY.
GOOD EVENING, DIRN...
...AND GOOD EVENING
TO YOU, SIR.


SO SORRY TO INTERRUPT, DIRN. I FEAR A SNOW STORM IS BLOWING IN AND I THINK I'D ENJOY A BOTTLE OF WINE.
OF COURSE, MY LADY.
WONDERFUL. BRING IT UP IN AN HOUR OR SO, AS YOU LIKE.
OR, PERHAPS, YOU COULD FIND SOME **HANDSOME** WARRIOR TO DELIVER IT FOR YOU.
WELL... GOODNIGHT!
N-NIGHT...


...SEEMS MY GOOD LUCK CONTINUES! I THINK I *WILL* DELIVER THE WINE.
OH-HO! QUITE AMBITIOUS, LAD!
THE WARRIOR'S WAY! A BOTTLE OF YOUR BEST, PLEASE!
=SNIFF SNIFF=
...NOT TO OFFEND, LAD... BUT IF YOUR AIM IS TO IMPRESS THE FAIR LADY.... MIGHT I SUGGEST A PAIR OF PROPER TROUSERS?
...AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY... A BATH?
...AYE, THAT'D BE BEST...


AHH...
I DEFINITELY NEEDED THIS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WANTS ME TO GO UP TO HER ROOM!
HA!
MY LUCK JUST KEEPS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER SINCE I CAME TO EDGEMERE!
...IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT HERE...
NOW, TO DELIVER THAT WINE...

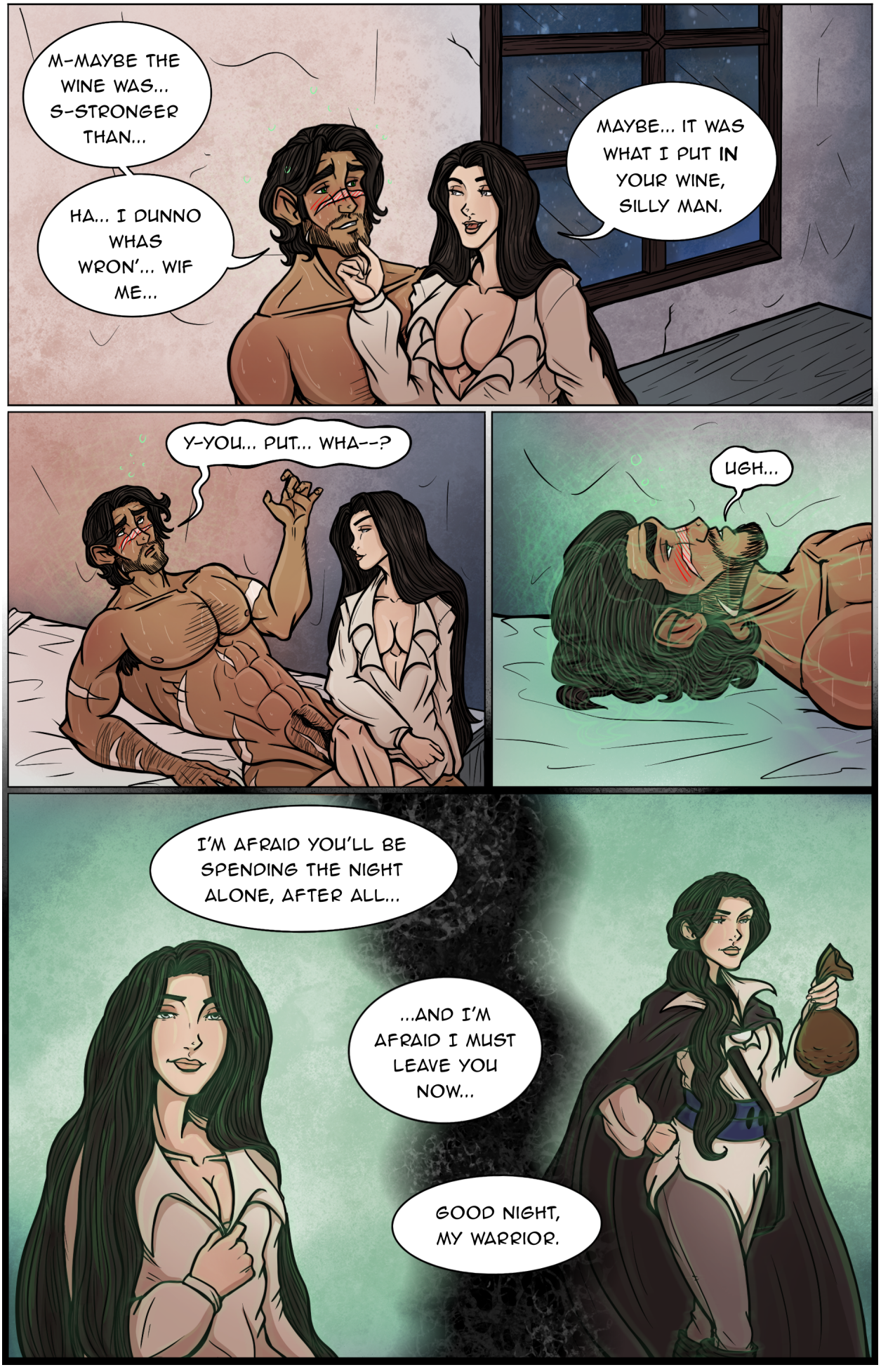

ALRIGHT, BRAND, BE CONFIDENT.
...JUST ACT LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
...AND... HOPEFULLY YOU'LL SEEM LIKE YOU ACTUALLY DO...
WHOA! WHOA! AH!
OOF!!
...OW...
=SIGH=
...GOOD START, BRAND... GOOD START...


UH....
DELIVERY!
KNOCK
KNOCK
HOO...
OKAY, I GOT THIS.
STAY CALM, RELAXED...
SMOOTH, CHARMI--
HELLO,
MASTER
WARRIOR.
!
HMM..
I ONLY RECALL
ASKING FOR
THE WINE...
UH, YES... WELL, UH... I...
YOU... Y-YOU... UH...
I, UM...
AW, HELL...
HEH...
HMM...


O-OH!
WHAT A *FINE* BOTTLE OF WINE... I'LL ACCEPT IT.
AND I THINK I'LL TAKE **YOU** AS WELL.
COME IN, WARRIOR. IT'S TOO COLD TO SPEND THE NIGHT ALONE, DON'T YOU THINK?
UH, Y-YES!
LET ME POUR YOU SOME WINE.


IT'S A NICE ROOM... UH... HA, I DON'T BELIEVE I GOT YOUR NAME.
I DIDN'T GIVE IT.
TH-THAT'S A PITY. I'D LOVE TO KNOW IT.
IF YOU STILL WANT TO KNOW IN THE MORNING, YOU MAY ASK ME THEN.
FOR NOW... DRINK UP...
PFFF!
...AND TAKE OFF YOUR TROUSERS.


HEH... WOW...
YOU SMELL LIKE... LIKE LAVENDER AN' HONEY...
YOU'RE RATHER... IMPRESSIVE YOURSELF, WARRIOR.
HEH... REALLY? AW, HELL... YER SO... B-BEAUTIFUL...
UHH...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MASTER WARRIOR?
UHH... Y-YEH, JUS' GOTTA S-SIT... SIT DOWN...
I'M ALL... HOT N' D-DIZZY....


M-MAYBE THE WINE WAS... S-STRONGER THAN...
HA... I DUNNO WHAS WRON'... WIF ME...
MAYBE... IT WAS WHAT I PUT IN YOUR WINE, SILLY MAN.
Y-YOU... PUT... WHA--?
UGH...
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT ALONE, AFTER ALL...
...AND I'M AFRAID I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW...
GOOD NIGHT, MY WARRIOR.


THE NEXT MORNING...
MASTER BRAND? I FOUND A NOTE FROM THE LADY SAYING YOU'D FALLEN ILL IN THE NIGHT... YOU ALRIGHT, LAD? MASTER--
OH! BY THE GODS!
UHHNNN... C- COME BACK... WITH... MY GOLD...
Dearest Warrior
Thank you for
wine
Gold
and


I'M SORRY, LAD... AT LEAST SHE LEFT A FEW COINS TO PAY FOR THE ROOM. ANYWAY, I HOPE YOU WON'T HOLD ANY ILL AGAINST MY INN...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT SHE KNOCKED ME OUT, TIED ME UP, AND STOLE MY GOLD...
IN YOUR DEFENSE, LAD, SHE WAS QUITE LOVELY.
I **KNOW** SHE WAS! BUT SHE KNOCKED ME OUT AND WE DIDN'T EVEN ***DO*** ANYTHING! I THOUGHT SHE ACTUALLY LIKED ME BUT SHE JUST--
THERE, THERE...
=SIGH=
FAREWELL, LAD...


THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR THINKING MY LUCK WAS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER...
...FOR THINKING SHE WAS ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN...
WHY AM I RUNNING? I'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO HER...
HUFF
HUFF
UGH... MY HEAD'S STILL FUZZY FROM WHATEVER SHE SLIPPED ME...
HUH...?
GUH...
...THIS IS RIDICULOUS...
NEVER SAW US COMIN'!
AHAHA!


IT'S A DECENT AXE. TOO BAD HE HAD NO GOLD.
AT LEAST THAT DARK HAIRED BEAUTY HAD PLENTY ON HER!
WAIT! BLACK HAIRED WOMAN? SMELLS LIKE HONEY AND LAVENDER?
UH... YEAH. CAUGHT HER TRUDGING THROUGH THE SNOW. THE BOSS HAS HER IN THE TENT...
AAAUUGHH!!


GODS!!
ARGH!!
B-BOSS?
BOSS, WHAT
HAPPENED?
YER BLEEDIN'...
URGH...
OH, GODS...
OH, GODS...
SH... SHE...
C-CUT IT OFF!


AH!
GRR...
I'LL KILL HER FOR YA, BO--
--SSSSS....
GAHHHGHHHH
AH! AH! AH!


ANYONE ELSE WANT TO TRY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME?
I'LL SHOW YOU *EXACTLY* WHAT I THINK OF THOSE KINDS OF **PIGS.**
SO... WHO'S NEXT?


UH...
TAKE HIM.
AHHH!!
HEY!
WELL.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE
YOU AGAIN, MY WARRIOR.
YOU DID STEAL
MY GOLD.
FIGURED I
MIGHT TRY AND
GET IT BACK.
AH, YES.
SADLY IT WAS
STOLEN FROM
ME BY THOSE
FOUL THUGS...
BUT I DID FIND QUITE A BIT
OF GOLD IN THAT TENT!
ISN'T THAT FORTUNATE?
SOME OF THAT
IS MY GOLD.


SEEMS IT'S MY GOLD NOW. FAREWELL!
H-HEY! WAIT! WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?
...
...REALLY?
YOU SAID I COULD ASK IN THE MORNING!


HM.
UHH...
RIVEN.
MY NAME IS RIVEN.
I'D ADVISE YOU NOT TO MOVE, WARRIOR.
EEP!
SLICE
NOW, HANDS TO YOURSELF.
Y-YES, MA'AM.
...AND HOPEFULLY YOU CAN GET OUT OF THE REST OF THOSE ROPES ON YOUR OWN...
M-MY OWN?
WELL, I DOUBT THOSE FOOLS TIED THEM HALF AS WELL AS *I* COULD HAVE. GOODBYE, WARRIOR.


RIVEN, HUH?
...STRANGE NAME...
...EH...
STRANGE WOMAN...
...
AW, HELL, WHAT KIND OF KNOT DID THEY USE!?


WELL, THAT TOOK FAR TOO LONG...
UH... WHERE IS MY...
...AXE...
DAMN.
=SIGH= WELL, I'VE MADE DO WITH LESS...
BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH WITHOUT MY GOLD...
ALRIGHT, RIVEN... I DOUBT YOU MADE IT FAR...
AND EVEN IF YOU DID... I'M AN EXCELLENT TRACKER.


AH-HA!
FOUND YOU.
NOW, HOW DO I GET MY GOLD BACK WITHOUT GETTING ROASTED...?
UHH...


...
WHA...
THERE. THAT'S BETTER. NOW, TO KEEP MOVING BEFORE THAT OAF CATCHES UP.
=AHEM= HEY.
...
=SIGH= DAMN.


END CHAPTER 1

Battleborn



ALL CONTENT © JAKE SHANDY

Battleborn



BONUS CONTENT

Battleborn is one of those stories that's been knocking around in my head for years and it took far too long for me to finally start doing something with it. I've technically started and stopped Battleborn three times since I had the story more fleshed out, but before I can talk about that I have to mention Battleborn's origins.

Battleborn started with a simple image; a sorcerer and a warrior, bruised and bloody, lying in the snow and sharing their last moments together after a long journey. This image would become what is now the prologue of Battleborn. I always knew I wanted to start with their journey's end and take the reader back to see how they met and how their adventure eventually reaches how we first see them.



I've had this image and this skeleton of a story filed away since at least 2013. I recently found sketches of Riven and Brand I had done back then and they, like my art, have come a long way since then.
The truth of the matter is, when I decided to jump headfirst into webcomics, Battleborn isn't the story I thought I'd start with. It was something I cared about but I didn't feel as strongly about it as some of my other stories. But somehow over the last year Brand and Riven have become my favorite and most cherished creations and I'm so happy that I've found an audience that is invested in their story. I can't wait to tell you the rest of it. One year down and more to go.



-Jake



BRAND

(HE/HIM)

AGE: 26
BIRTHDAY: MID-WINTER
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 204

HAILING FROM THE CONTINENT OF FARGLOAM ACROSS THE SEA, THE KIND AND GOOD-HEARTED BRAND LEFT HIS HOME ON HIS 26TH BIRTHDAY AND SET OUT TO EDGEMERE TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.

BRAND'S FATHER DIED BEFORE HE WAS BORN, AND HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN HE WAS A SMALL CHILD SO HE WAS RAISED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER IN A SEASIDE VILLAGE OUTSIDE OF THE CRIMSON CITY, THE CAPITOL OF FARGLOAM.

THOUGH A FORMIDABLE FIGHTER, BRAND WOULD RATHER RESOLVE A BATTLE IN A NON-LETHAL WAY, OFTEN SUFFERING THE STING OF A BLADE RATHER THAN DEAL THE LETHAL BLOW HIMSELF.

A HEREDITARY GENETIC CONDITION CAUSES BRAND TO HEAL FROM CUTS AND WOUNDS WELL BUT THEY LEAVE ODDLY PALE SCARS.

Riven Greysight



(they/them)

Age: 19
Birthday: Early Spring
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 131

A strange orphan from Fallbranch, a small village on the edge of the Glimhaven forest. Riven was found as an abandoned newborn by the hermits of Glimhaven who raised and nurtured the silver-haired child's natural talent for magic.

Riven left the forest at the age of 16 and began to travel Edgemere looking for clues to their lost family and the circumstances of their abandonment. Quickly learning the cruelty of the world outside of their beloved forest, Riven adopted a cold and harsh attitude. Relying on tricks and magic to con their way through life, Riven is distrustful of most people and prefers solitude.

Riven was born with the ability to change shape at will, as well as a deep, magical connection to nature allowing them to draw from the nature around them to heal themself and others.



BATTLEBORN'S COVER FROM THE FIRST REVAMP.

BRAND AND RIVEN PICKING APPLES. A SPECIAL ILLUSTRATION DONE FOR TAPAS.



THANK YOU FOR READING THIS EBOOK. IF YOU ENJOY BATTLEBORN YOU CAN READ IT ON TAPAS OR MY PATREON.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND ME ON TWITTER OR ON INSTAGRAM @JAKESHANDYART

BATTLEBORN



Battleborn

After just arriving in Edgemere, Brand is looking to make a name for himself. However, a chance encounter with the young sorcerer Riven changes his plans and drags him on a whirlwind adventure.
With a kingdom in turmoil, a missing prince, and two secrets that could change the course of history, Brand might finally become known by all— but at what cost?

