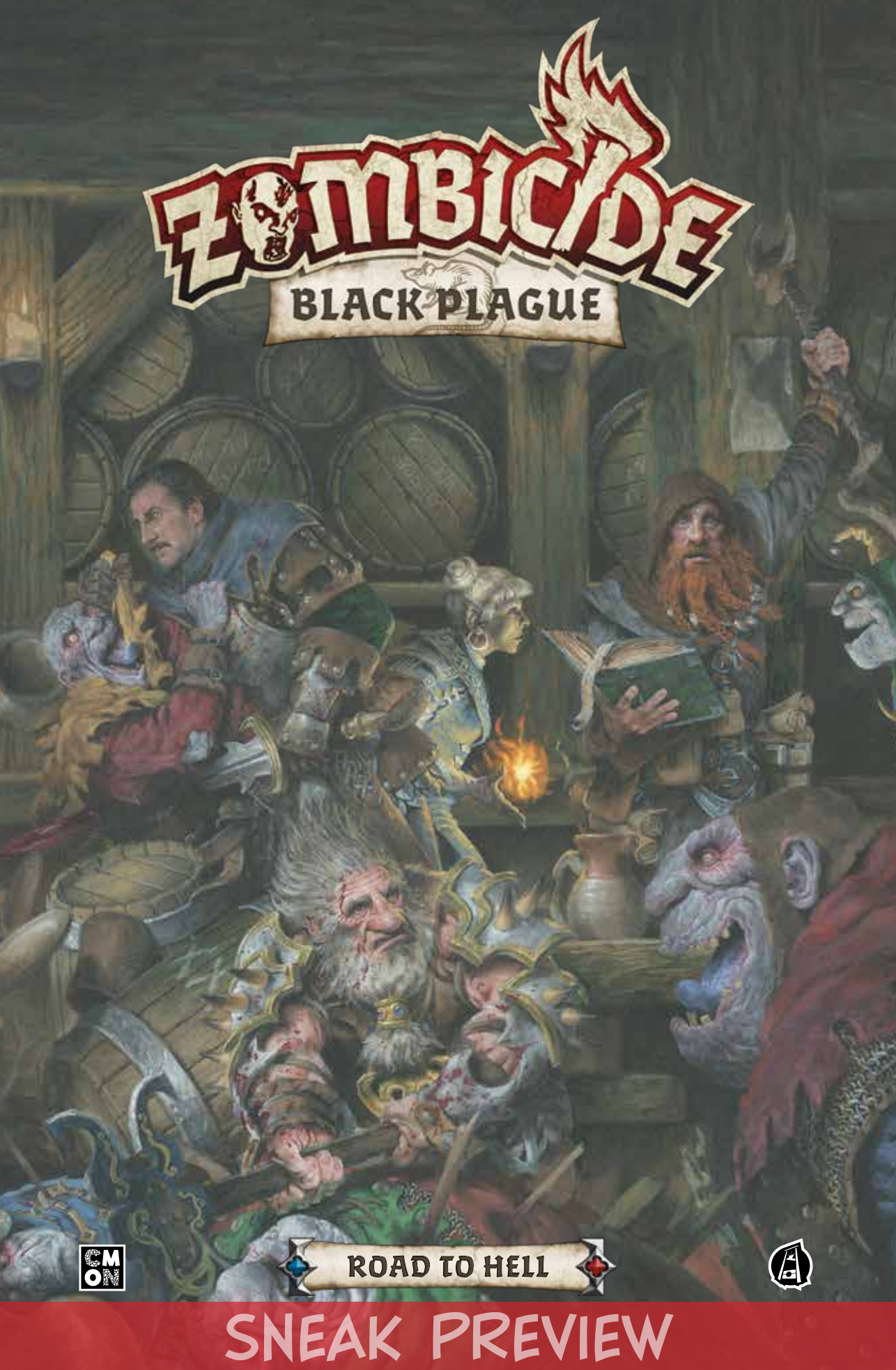


ZOMBICIDE

BLACK PLAGUE



ROAD TO HELL



SNEAK PREVIEW









CHAPTER

1

ZOMBICIDE

BLACK PLAGUE

ROAD TO HELL

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SNEAK PREVIEW

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NOT MUCH FURTHER, *MASTER*... I GREW UP IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTY OF *OLNIAK*... I REMEMBER IT WELL... A LITTLE FURTHER AND WE'LL BE THERE.

CAAAA!



BUT IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, HERE'S *THE MAP*...

THE VILLAGE IS LARGE AND SURELY FORTIFIED.



THERE IT IS, JUST AS I SAID, MASTER.

WE'VE ARRIVED AT TRIHER AND BEFORE DARK.



A GOOD SOLID PORTCULLIS, READY TO LOWER, YOU SEE? HERE, THEY WANT TO FEEL SAFE AT NIGHT.



I'LL FIND OUT WHERE WE CAN STAY, MASTER... A COMFORTABLE INN, AND NOT TOO DEAR, I KNOW.



WE'VE JUST ARRIVED... WHERE CAN WE DINE AND SLEEP WITHOUT SPENDING TOO MUCH?

KEEP GOING ALONG THE MAIN STREET... THERE'S AN INN ON THE LEFT.



THEY'RE LIGHTING THE LAMPS... CLOSING UP THE HOUSES... DOUBLING THE GUARD...

THE SAME AS EVERYWHERE ELSE NOW, MASTER.



THIS IS THE MAIN STREET BUT I DON'T SEE ANY INNS... MAYBE THE GUARD WAS MISTAKEN... OR...



...NO... THERE IT IS!



THE LILY
INN... THE NAME
BODES WELL.



WELCOME...
NELLY, AT YOUR
SERVICE. DINNER
AND LODGINGS FOR
THE NIGHT, OR
JUST DINNER?

FIRST DINNER,
AND THEN **TWO**
ROOMS, IF YOU
HAVE THEM.



I'VE ONLY **ONE ROOM LEFT...**

IF YOUR HUSBAND SNORES YOU CAN PLUG WAX PLUGS IN YOUR EARS.

MY... **HUSBAND?**



HE'S NOT MY HUSBAND...

AH, NO? YOUR **LOVER**, PERHAPS?



HE IS MY **MASTER!**

BAH... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE...



...THERE'S ONLY ONE ROOM AND YOU'D BETTER TAKE IT BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES. **WELL?**

WE'LL TAKE IT.



VERY WELL... DINNER WILL BE RIGHT HERE: SOUP, APPLE CAKE AND BEER.



THAT NELLY IS **TERRIBLE**, BUT AT LEAST SHE'S PUT US NEAR THE FIREPLACE... THE PLACE SEEMS CLEAN AND THE AIR SMELLS GOOD.



TRULY, YOU ALWAYS MEET THE STRANGEST PEOPLE IN INNS.



I'LL NEVER TIRE OF SAYING... OUR WHOLE LIFE IS IN THE HANDS OF POLITICIANS!

BELIEVE ME, MY FRIENDS... I'VE TRAVELLED THE WORLD, AND I'VE SEEN THINGS YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE...



...AND I'VE FOUGHT IN I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY **BATTLES**... SO YOU CAN TAKE WHAT I SAY AS THE GOSPEL TRUTH.



WE'RE ALL IN THE HANDS OF BUREAUCRATS... THE CAPITAL'S **INFESTED** WITH THEM AS INN MATTRESSES ARE INFESTED WITH **LICE!**



WATCH WHAT YOU SAY... THERE ARE NO LICE HERE... SOME TICKS, MAYBE... AND FLIES... BUT NO LICE!



WELL SAID, MY FRIEND, BUT WHAT CAN WE PEASANTS DO?

FOR A START, YOU COULD STOP PUTTING UP WITH EVERYTHING WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.



WE WORK, PAY TAXES AND PRAY THE PLAGUE DOESN'T COME AGAIN...

WE'VE ALREADY LIVED THROUGH ONE AND IT WAS TERRIBLE.

THE PLAGUE, YES...



...HOW MANY OF YOU, CONTAMINATED, REDUCED TO HUNGRY UNDEAD, FILTHY AND STINKING, HAVE I FINALLY LAID TO REST.

UGH!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.



YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN... WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME AROUND YOU CAN REST EASY.



YOU CAN SLEEP SOUNDLY... YES... BECAUSE IF I PASS BY ONE OF YOUR FARMS AND YOU NEED HELP, I'LL BE READY TO ASSIST YOU!



...AND YOU TWO THERE... YES... I'M TALKING TO YOU! HOW MANY RANGERS I'VE SAVED WITH MY SWORD! NEVER MIND BOWS AND ARROWS... THAT'S A REAL WEAPON!



AND YOU, GIRL, YOU CAN REST EASY... WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH YOUR HUSBAND AND FIND THE ROADS SAFE, IT'S BECAUSE OTTO THE PALADIN WAS THERE FIRST... THAT'S ME!

STILL GOING ON ABOUT A "HUSBAND"?



HOW THAT PALADIN BLATHERS ON... AS IF HE WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CRACKED HEADS.

LET IT GO, DRAKKA.



LET IT GO?



YOU KNOW ME, FREYA... NOW I'LL GET UP AND SMASH HIS FACE IN.



GLUB



NOW YOU'LL SEE...



GET READY FOR A GOOD BRAWL.



OH... HERE'S A PROUD DWARF, COME TO HAVE HIS SAY!

YEAH... YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW, FRIEND...

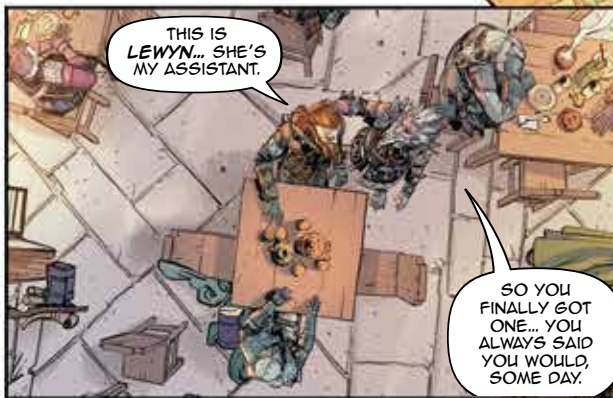
WELL, HIT ME IN THE HEAD WITH AN AXE...

...I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

THUX

EINAR! IS IT REALLY YOU? WHO'D'VE THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN IN A LOUSY TAVERN!

STILL GOING ON ABOUT LICE?





YEAH...
WHAT TIMES... MY
AXE AND YOUR
MAGIC!

YOU'VE NO IDEA
WHAT MONSTERS WE
LEFT IN THE DIRT ALONG
MILES AND MILES
OF UNDERGROUND
TUNNELS.



THERE, WHERE
BEFORE OPPRESSIVE
DARKNESS RULED, WE
FOUGHT AND CAME OUT
WITH OUR HEADS
HELD HIGH!



NOT THAT THE
SITUATION IS ANY
BETTER HERE...

THE COMING
OF THE PLAGUE HAS
LEFT EVEN THE NORTH
UNSAFE, NOW.



OH... THIS ONE
COMING OVER
IS A FRIEND OF
MINE... I TRAVEL
WITH HER, NOW.



FREYA... THESE
ARE MY OLD FRIEND
EINAR, A WIZARD OF
GREAT EXPERIENCE,
AND LEWYN, HIS
ASSISTANT.

IT'S A PLEASURE...
ORAKKA WENT OFF TO
BEAT UP THE PALADIN, BUT
IN THE END HE STARTED
TALKING LIKE HIM... MORE
THAN THAT, HE BOUGHT
EVERYONE A ROUND.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU LOOK TIRED, **NO ENERGY...** AS IF YOU WERE COMING BACK FROM WHO KNOWS WHAT ADVENTURE.

MY MAGIC GOT **OUT OF HAND**, OLD FRIEND...

A YEAR AGO, MY ARROGANCE LED TO **DISASTER**, AND I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE IT RIGHT EVER SINCE.



DO YOU NEED HELP? COME ON, TELL ME...

NOT HERE... **NOT NOW...** WHEN EVERYONE ELSE HAS GONE, I'LL TELL YOU...



...BUT... WAIT A MINUTE... **SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...**







WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN A REAL WIZARD MAKE AN ENTRANCE? I AM **LORD JANAS**... PERSONAL COUNSELLOR TO THE **COUNT WHO RULES THESE LANDS!**

A RULER WHO MUST SOON YIELD TO THE INEVITABLE... THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT IS ENDING! **THE DARK LORD IS COMING**, AND WILL RULE IN THE DARKNESS!



A DAY YOU'LL NEVER SEE, **NECROMANCER!**



YEAH... HOW DO I PUT IT?



YOU PICKED THE WRONG PLACE TO THREATEN!

FWOOSH

YOU'VE HAD YOUR SAY... NOW GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM

EINAR...

...COULD IT BE THAT YOU DON'T RECOGNISE ME?

I... NO...



IS IT YOU?

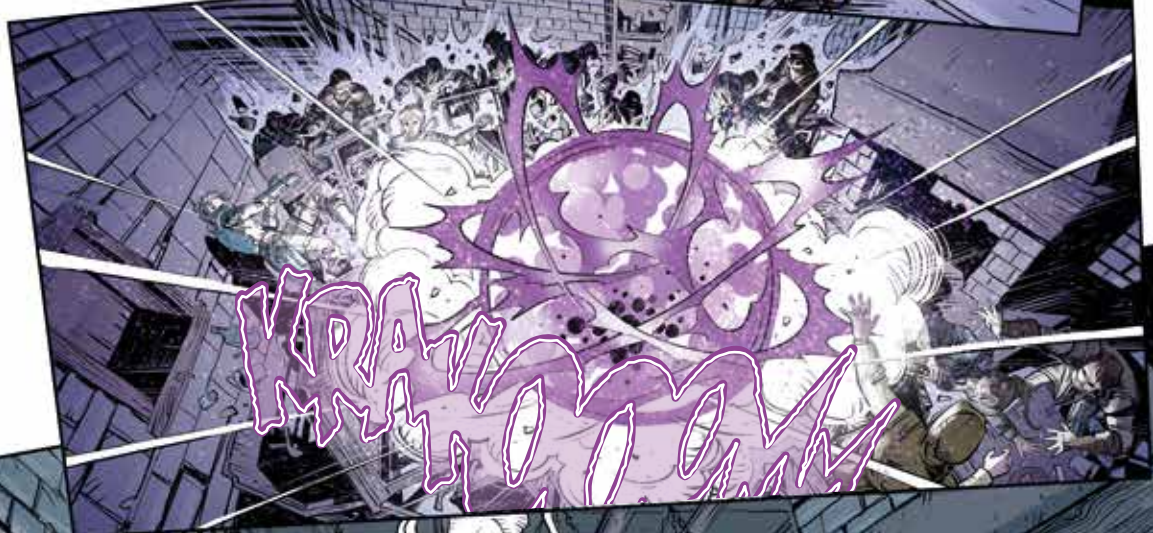
YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE, REMEMBER? BUT IT HAPPENED!

AND NOW I'LL DO AS YOU WISH... I'LL GO BACK WHERE I CAME FROM...

KK-ZSHARRK!

...BUT NOT ALONE!

Ughhh!



BY THE GODS... THEY'VE VANISHED! THAT BASTARD TOOK MY FRIEND WITH HIM!

MASTER...

QUIET... LISTEN... WHAT'S THAT NOISE OUTSIDE?

SSSSSS







FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT!

TO ARMS!
THE PLAGUE
IS HERE

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EVERY GAME HAS
A STORY TO TELL

KEER RAAKK