

OLIMPIERI

V.E. SCHWAR

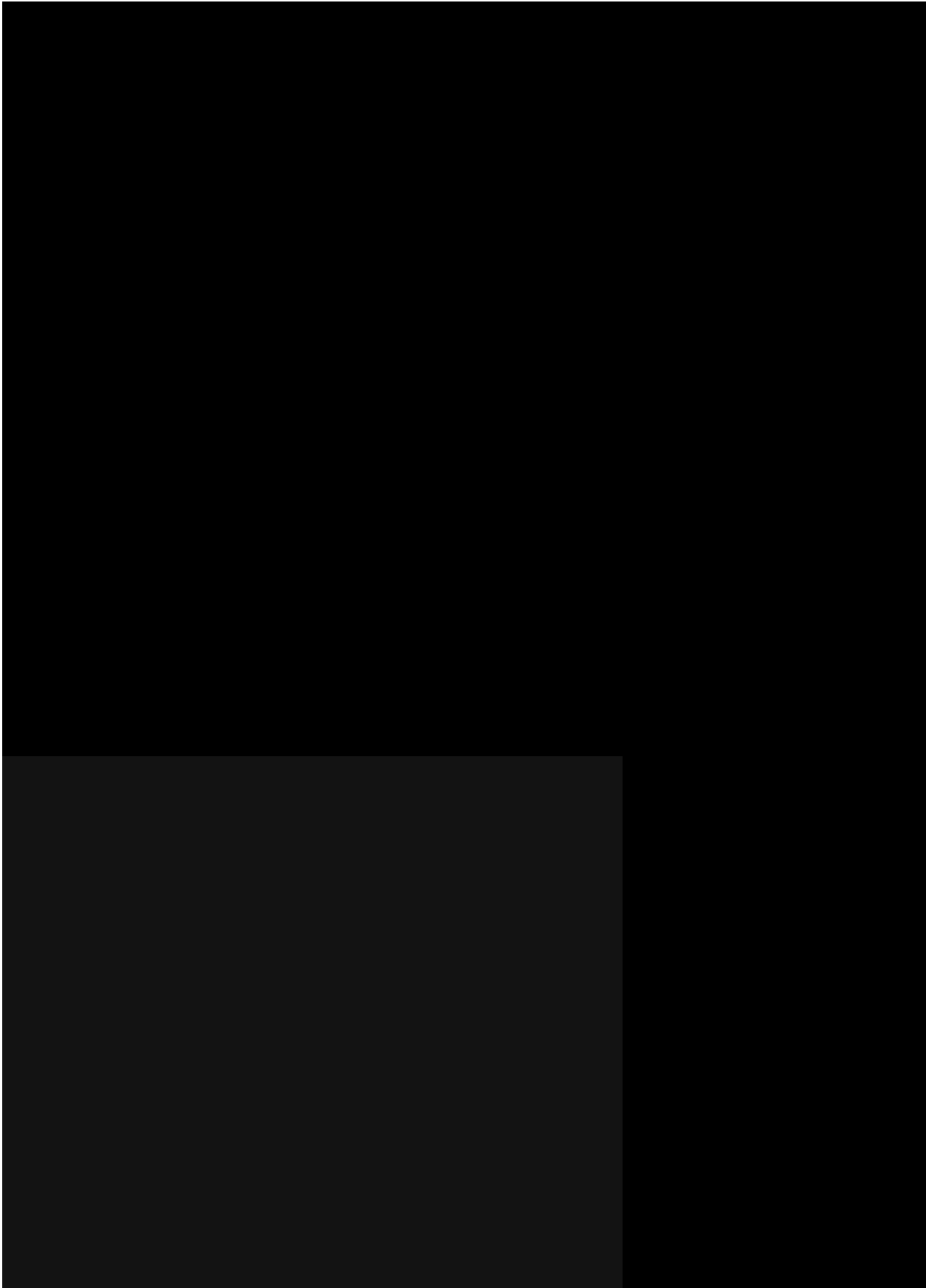
SHADES OF MAGIC

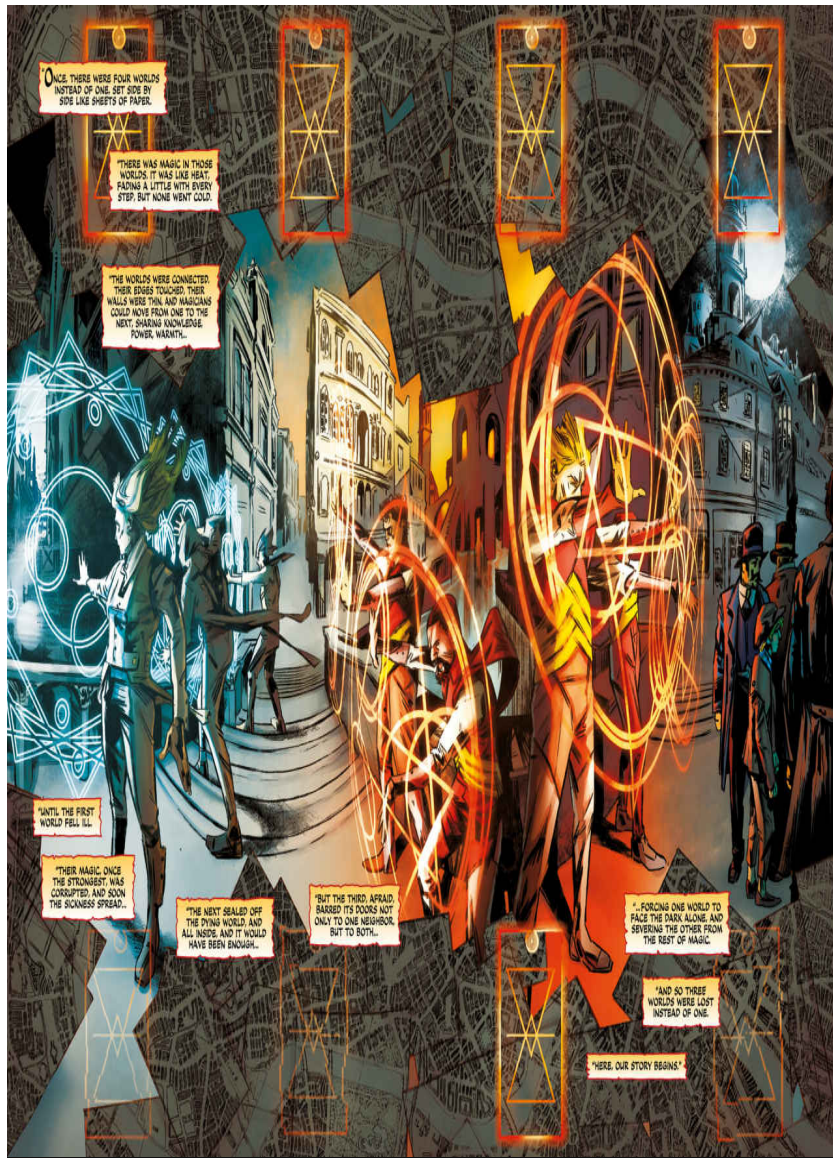
ANGIOLINI

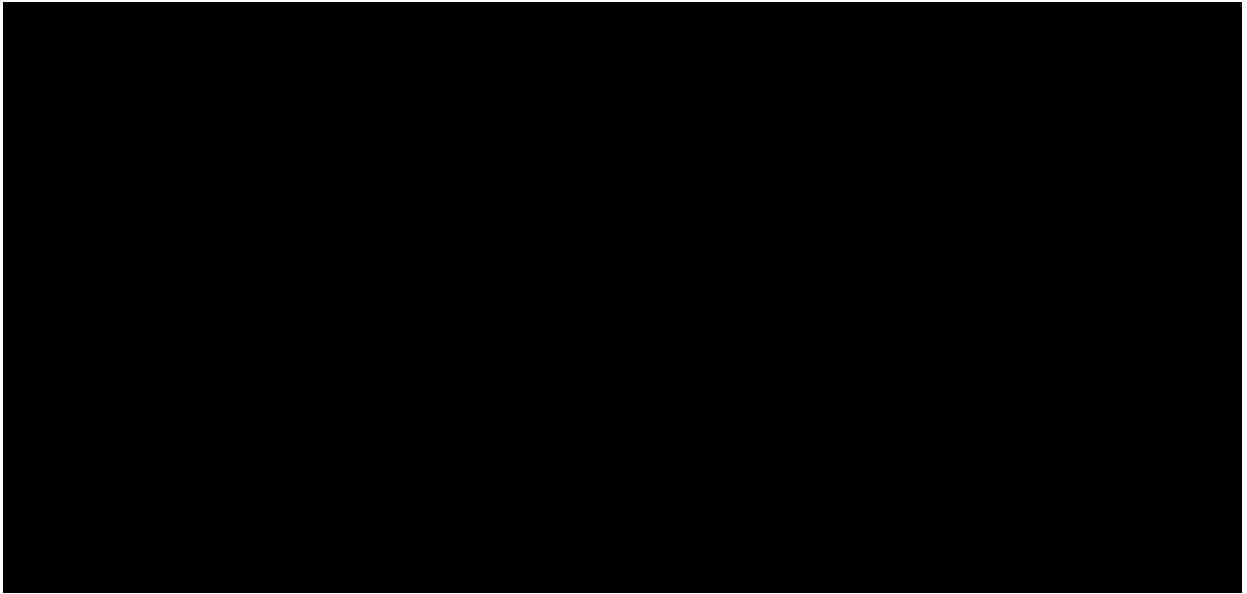
THE STEEL
PRINCE

WITH
ROB STEEN









V. E. SCHWAB

SHADES OF MAGIC

THE STEEL PRINCE



**"The Steel Prince," said Sol-in-Ar, and then, reading Maxim's expression:
"It surprises you, that the tales of your exploits reach beyond your own borders?"
The Faroan's fingers grazed the edge of the map. "The Steel Prince, who tore the heart
from the rebel army. The Steel Prince, who survived the night of knives.
The Steel Prince, who slayed the pirate queen."**

Maxim finished his drink and set the glass aside.

**"I suppose we never know the scale of our life's stories.
Which parts will survive, and which will die with us."**

~A Conjuring of Light

Maxim Maresh became one of the most controversial figures in the Shades of Magic series. Father to Rhy, adopted parent to Kell, he was more often painted as an antagonist than a hero. His role was a necessary, but also frustrating, one—there was so much more to Maxim's life than I could fit on the page, and by showing him as he was during the time of someone else's story, I was forced to neglect his own.

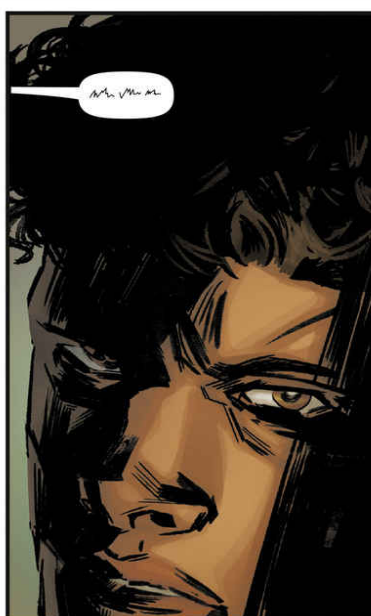
When I wrote the above passage, I knew I was cracking open a door, one I so hoped I'd have the chance to walk through. And here we are.

Before he was the King of Arnes, Maxim Maresh was a young, headstrong prince with a penchant for metal magic and a lot to learn about the world beyond Red London. Banished by his own father to Verose, a city on the dangerous Blood Coast, Maxim was plunged into a world of danger and adventure. A place where he would make a few friends and many enemies, and gain a reputation that would follow him onto the pages of Shades of Magic.

The title he would earn? The Steel Prince.

This is his story.







Tieren Serense,
Head Priest of London

Nokil Maresh,
King of London

Maxim Maresh,
Prince of London

MAXIM.

FATHER.

YOU
TOOK YOUR
TIME.

APOLOGIES.
I WAS
OCCUPIED.

YES, YOU
HAVE BEEN BUSY
LATELY, HAVEN'T
YOU?

DESPITE
MY EXPLICIT
ORDERS-

I'M... NOT
SURE WHAT
YOU-

ENOUGH.

DO
YOU THINK
ANYTHING
HAPPENS IN
THIS PALACE
WITHOUT MY
KNOWLEDGE?

"YOU SENT WORD
ACROSS THE WORLD.

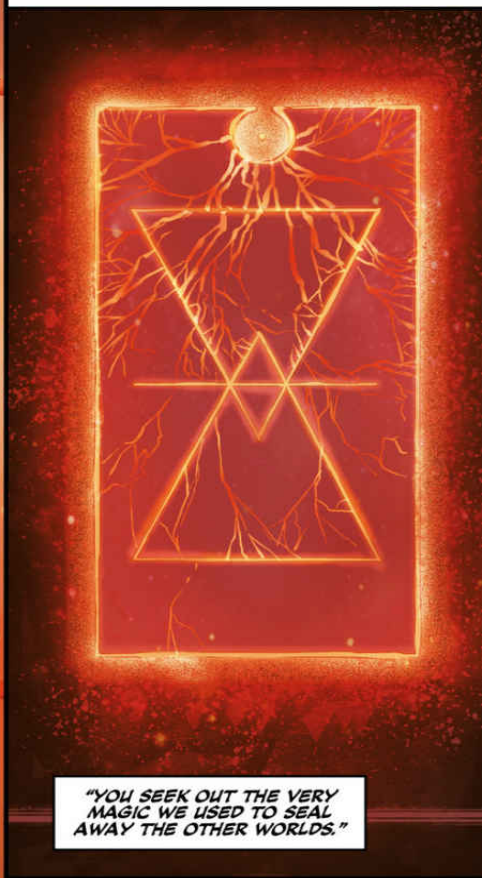
"DID YOU HONESTLY THINK IT
WOULDN'T REACH ME?"



"YOU SEND SCOUTS LOOKING FOR ANTARI MAGICIANS."



"SCOUR THE EMPIRES FOR SIGNS OF THEIR POWER."



"YOU SEEK OUT THE VERY MAGIC WE USED TO SEAL AWAY THE OTHER WORLDS."



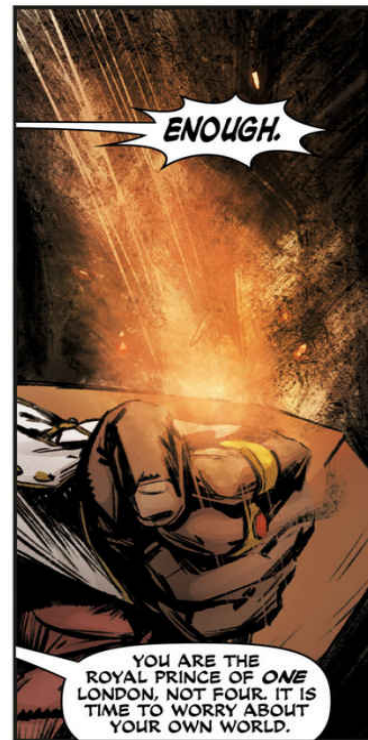
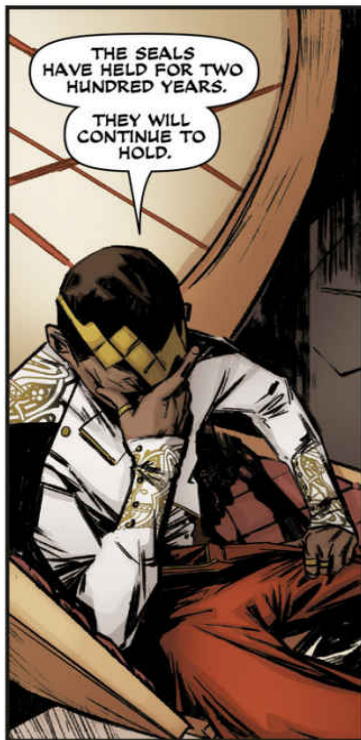
WHY WOULD YOU SEE THOSE DOORS PRIED OPEN AGAIN?

BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER, ALL SPELLS FAIL.



AND ONE DAY THE DOORS TO THOSE WORLDS WILL OPEN...

...WHETHER WE WISH IT OR NOT.

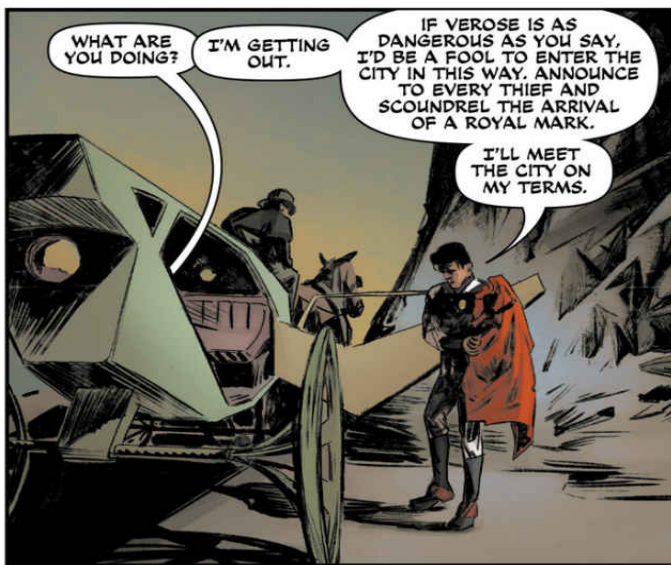




HOW LONG AM I TO STAY?







WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M GETTING OUT.

IF VEROSE IS AS DANGEROUS AS YOU SAY, I'D BE A FOOL TO ENTER THE CITY IN THIS WAY. ANNOUNCE TO EVERY THIEF AND SCOUNDREL THE ARRIVAL OF A ROYAL MARK.

I'LL MEET THE CITY ON MY TERMS.



YOU RIDE ON TO THE BASE AND DELIVER MY THINGS. I'LL MEET YOU THERE.



...AS YOU WISH...



WAS THAT WISE?



HE HAS TO LEARN.

PERHAPS...



ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY ORDER?

NOT AT ALL.



I ADVISE YOU, NOKIL. I ALWAYS HAVE. BUT I *SERVE* MAGIC. AND THE PRINCE MAY HAVE A POINT ABOUT THE OTHER WORLDS...



AND YET HE NEGLECTS HIS OWN.

MY SON HAS GROWN STRONG, BUT ALSO ARROGANT. HE WANTS TO PROVE HE'S READY TO BE A KING. SO LET HIM PROVE IT...



MASTER, SPARE A LIN?

COME IN, AND REST YOURSELF.

FANCY A DRINK? WE MAKE IT STRONG.



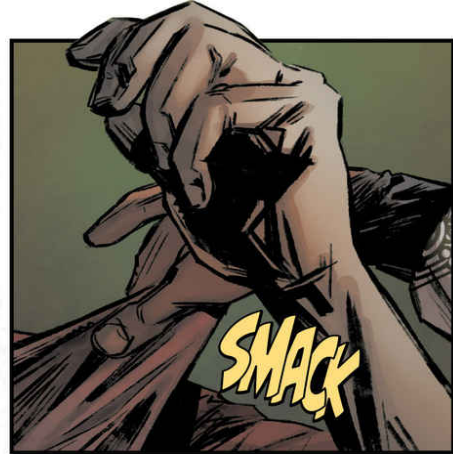
...TURN A HEART TO STONE...

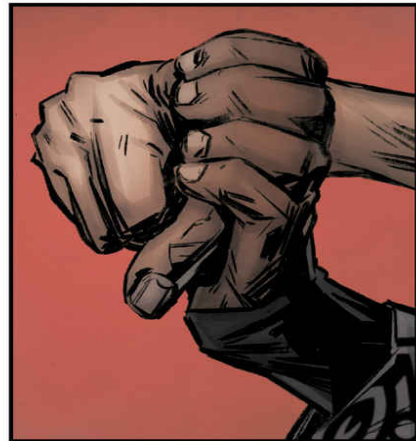
...BRING HER TO HER KNEES...

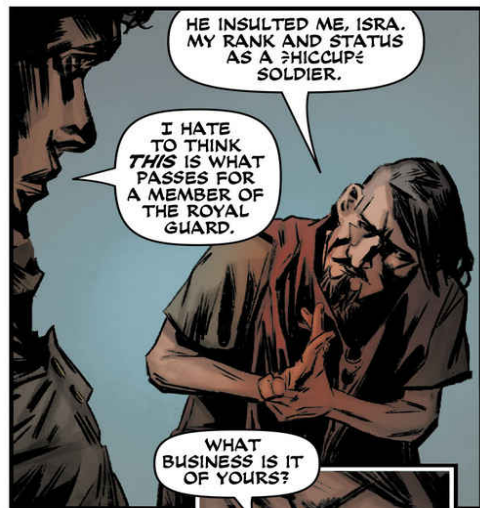
LOST, SIR?









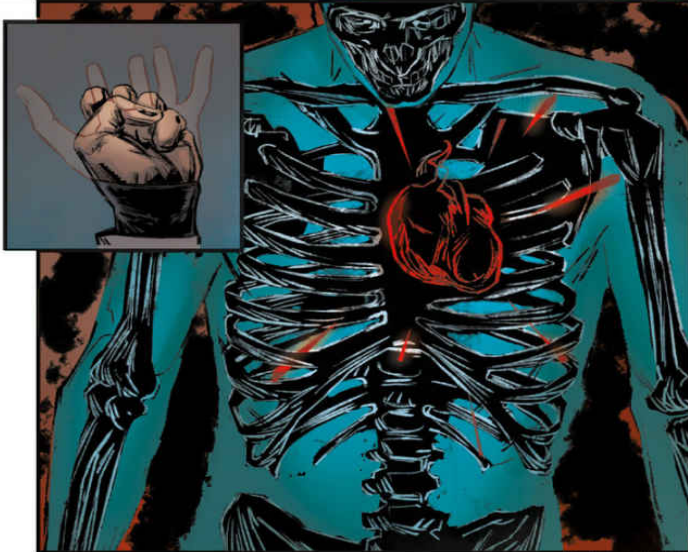
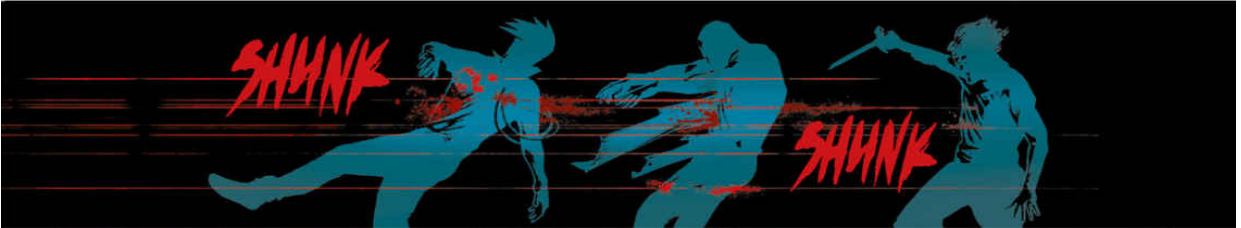
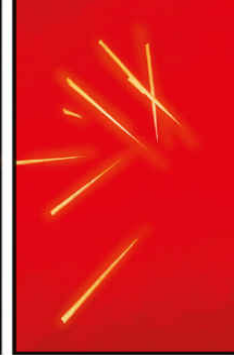












WE SHOULD GO AFTER HIM.

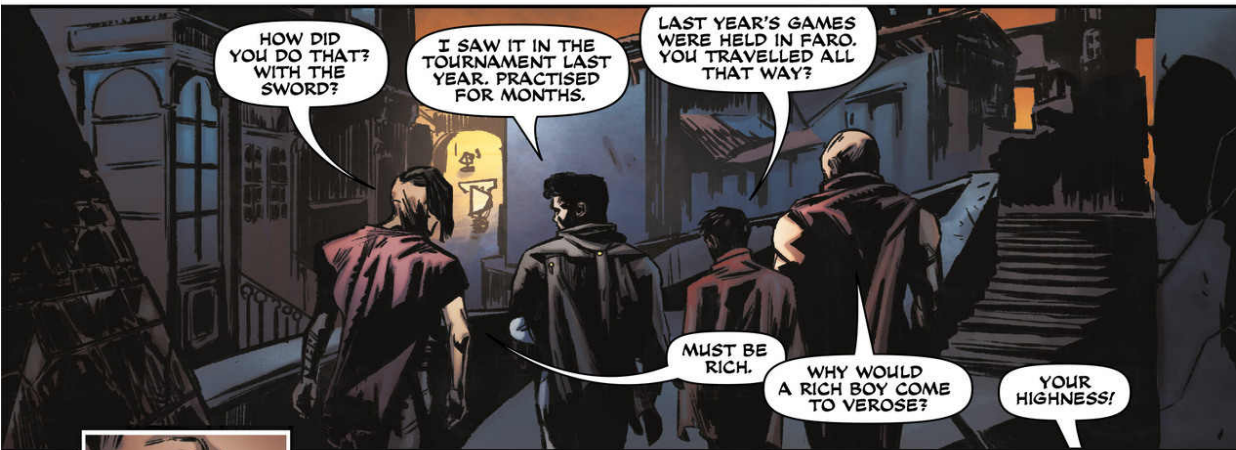
WHAT'S THE RUSH?

PLENTY MORE WHERE HE CAME FROM. AND THEY'LL STILL BE HERE TOMORROW.

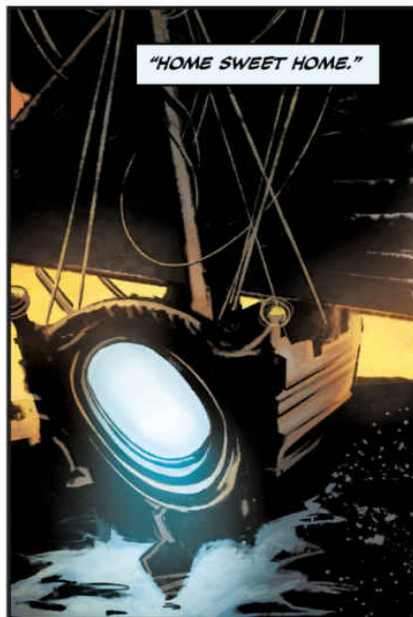


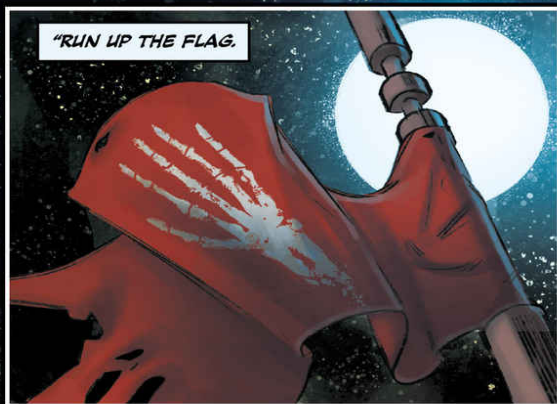
COME ON, STRANGER.

WE'LL GET YOU CLEANED UP.









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THE STEEL PRINCE

WRITER

V.E. SCHWAB

ARTIST

ANDREA OLIMPIERI

COLORIST

ENRICA EREN ANGIOLINI

LETTERER

ROB STEEN

EDITOR

AMOONA SAOHIN

MANAGING & LAUNCH EDITOR

ANDREW JAMES

SENIOR DESIGNER

ANDREW LEUNG

TITAN COMICS

Titan Comics Editorial
Dan Boulwood

Production Assistant
Rhiannon Roy

Production Supervisor
Maria Pearson

Production Controller
Peter James

Senior Production Controller
Jackie Flook

Art Director
Oz Browne

Circulation Executive
Frances Hallam

Sales & Circulation Manager
Steve Tothill

Press Officer
William O'Mullane

Publicist
Imogen Harris

Brand Manager
Chris Thompson

Ads & Marketing Assistant
Bella Hoy

Direct Sales & Marketing Manager
Ricky Claydon

Commercial Manager
Michelle Fairlamb

Head Of Rights
Jenny Boyce

Publishing Manager
Darryl Tothill

Publishing Director
Chris Teather

Operations Director
Leigh Baulch

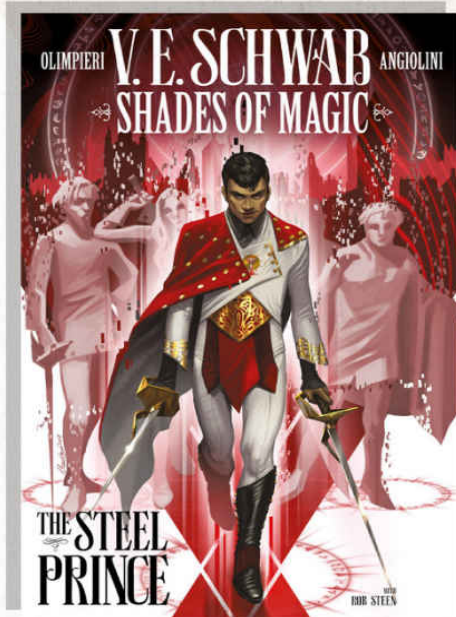
Executive Director
Vivian Cheung

Publisher
Nick Landau

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For international rights information, contact Jenny Boyce: jenny.boyce@titanemail.com

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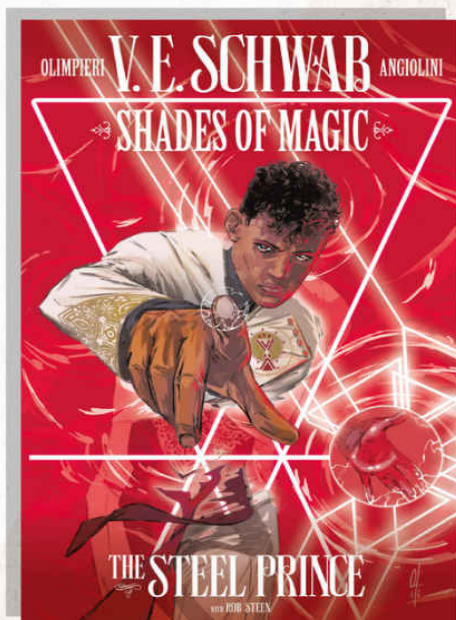
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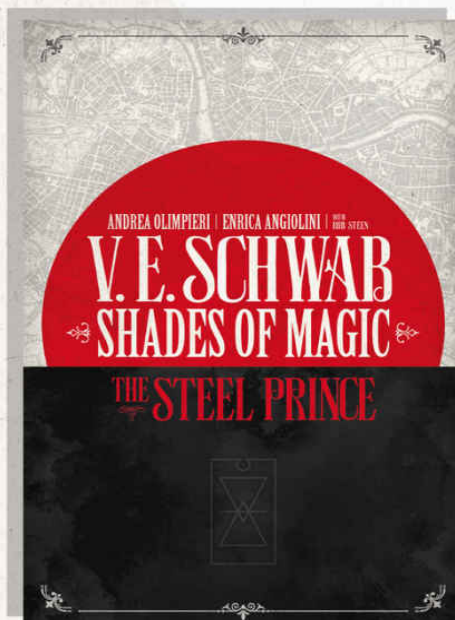
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COVER B TOMM COKER



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COVER D ANDREW LEUNG

#2 ON SALE NOVEMBER



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COVER B
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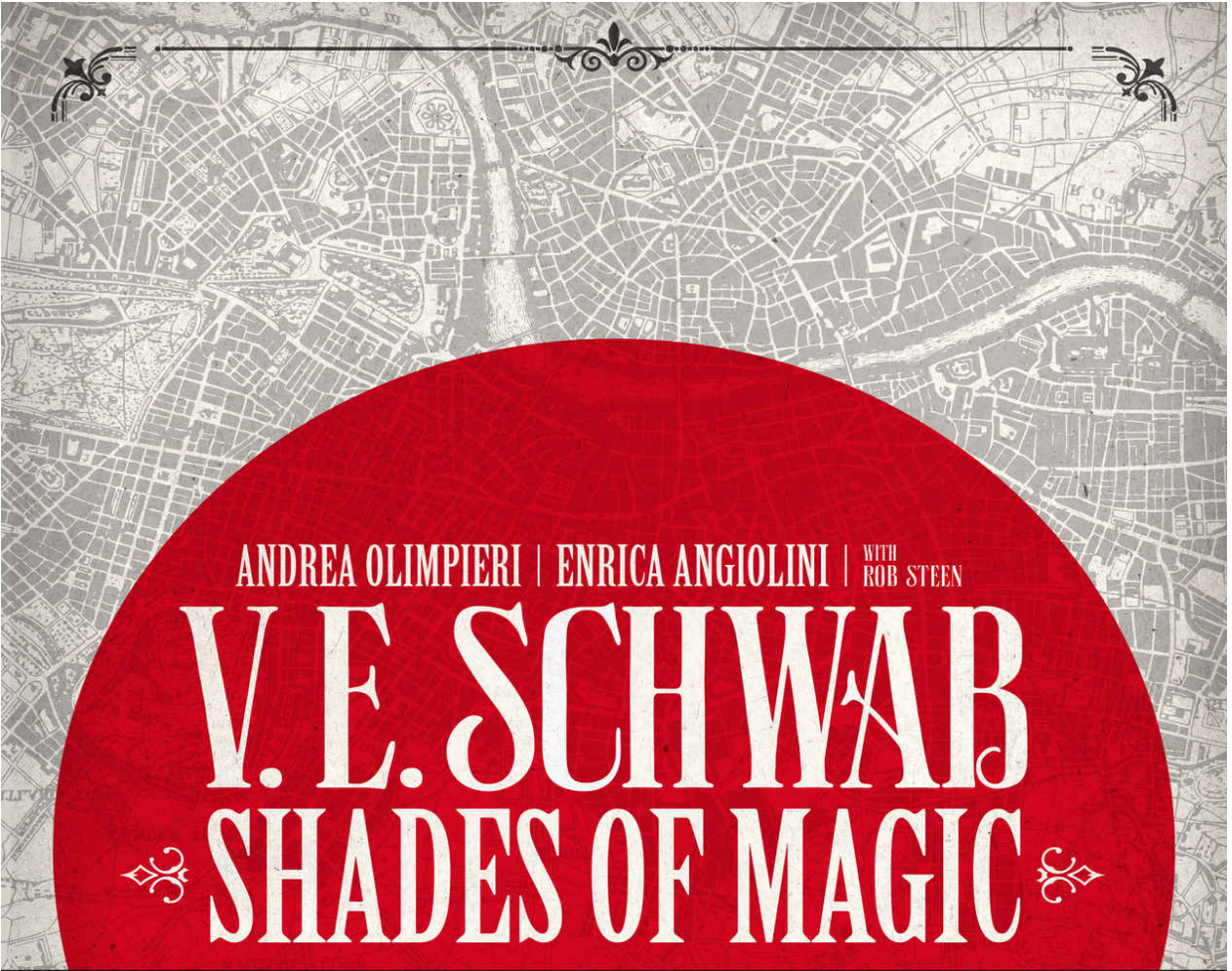
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