

OLIMPIERI

V. E. SCHWARZ

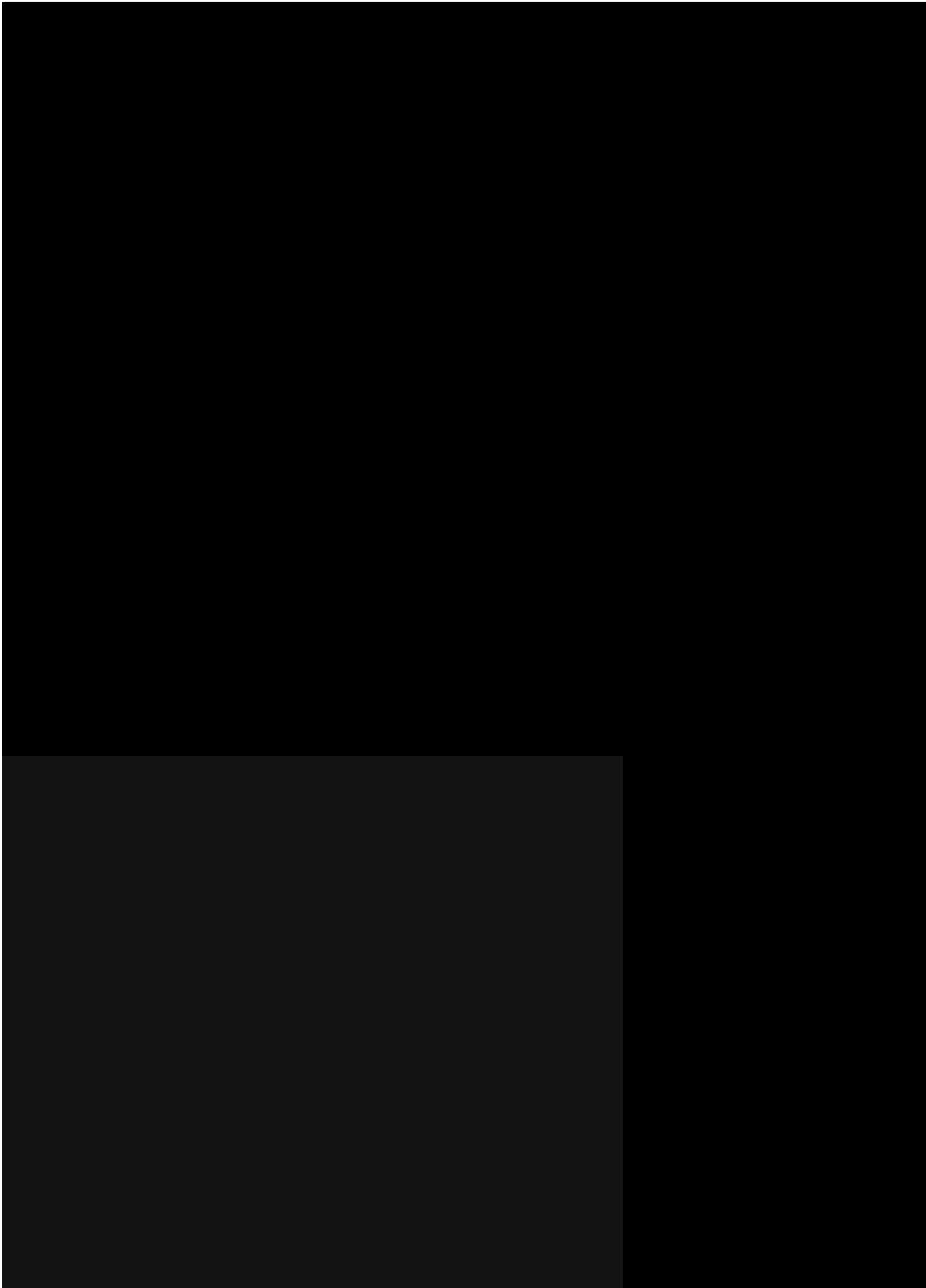
SHADES OF MAGIC

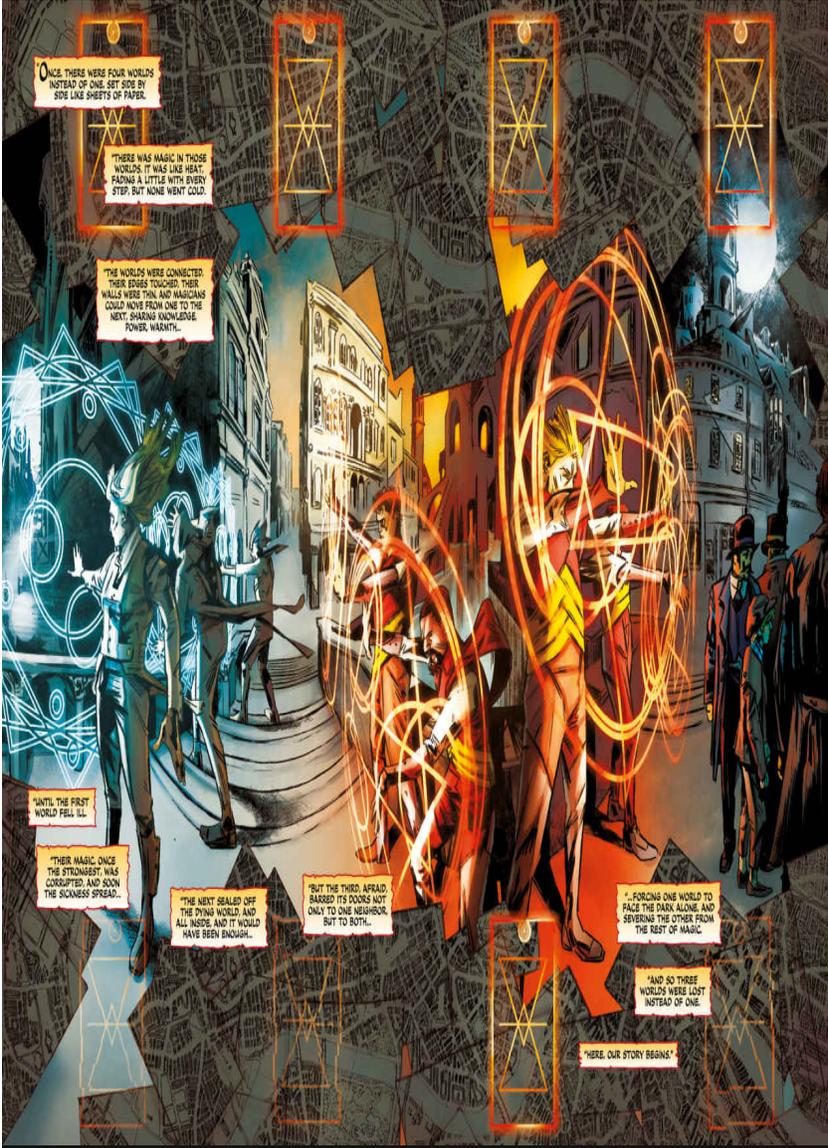
ANGIOLINI



THE STEEL
PRINCE

WITH
ROB STEEN





ONCE THERE WERE FOUR WORLDS INSTEAD OF ONE SET SIDE BY SIDE LIKE SHEETS OF PAPER.

THERE WAS MAGIC IN THOSE WORLDS. IT WAS LIKE HEAT, FADING A LITTLE WITH EVERY STEP, BUT NONE WENT COLD.

THE WORLDS WERE CONNECTED. THEIR EDGES TOUCHED. THEIR WALLS WERE THIN AND MAGICIANS COULD MOVE FROM ONE TO THE NEXT, SHARING KNOWLEDGE, POWER, WARMTH.

UNTIL THE FIRST WORLD FELL ILL.

THEIR MAGIC ONCE THE STRONGEST WAS CORRUPTED AND SOON THE SICKNESS SPREAD.

THE NEXT SEALED OFF THE PYING WORLD AND ALL INSIDE AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

BUT THE THIRD, AFRAID, BARRED ITS DOORS NOT ONLY TO ONE NEIGHBOR, BUT TO BOTH.

...FORCING ONE WORLD TO FACE THE DARK ALONE AND SEVERING THE OTHER FROM THE REST OF MAGIC.

AND SO THREE WORLDS WERE LOST INSTEAD OF ONE.

HERE, OUR STORY BEGINS.



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 Faraon’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 Maresch,
King of London

Maxim Maresch,
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?

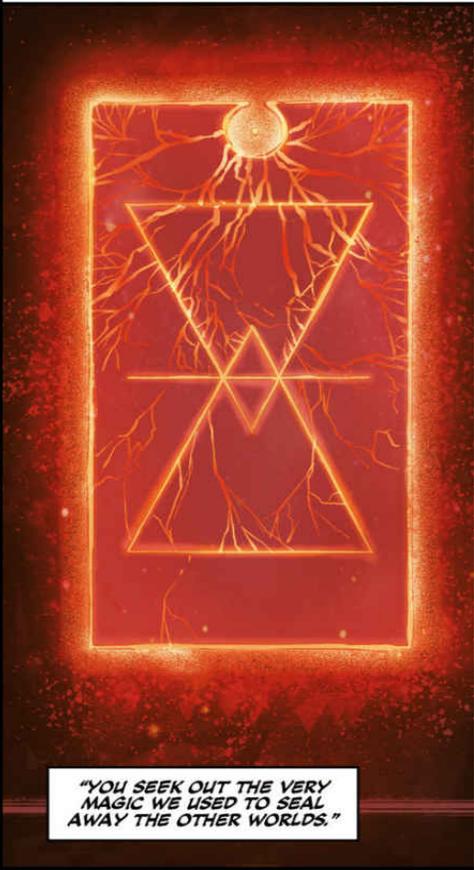
"YOU SENT WORD
ACROSS THE WORLD.
"DID YOU HONESTLY THINK IT
WOULDN'T REACH ME?"



"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?





YOU FORGET, MASTER TIENEN, I AM SOLDIER AS WELL AS A PRINCE. I HAVE LED TROOPS BEFORE.

AT NORTHERN BASES WHERE THE GREATEST DANGER WAS A WILD ANIMAL, OR A FOREST THIEF.

VEROSE IS A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE. A PORT CITY, KNOWN FOR ITS VIOLENCE. ITS LAWLESSNESS. ITS **FORBIDDEN** MAGIC.

MY FATHER WISHES TO PUT ME IN MY PLACE BY CASTING ME OUT OF IT. THRUSTING ME INTO DEEP WATER.

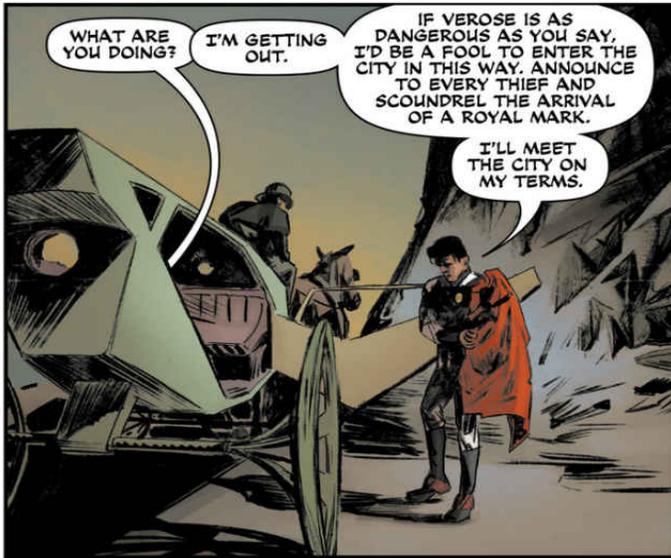
I WILL SHOW HIM HOW FAR I CAN SWIM.



WELL, SOON YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR CHANCE.



HALT!



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?

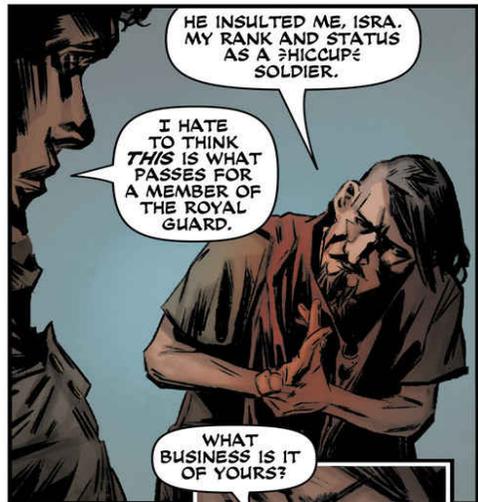
















LOOK AT THAT.

A BUG IN MY NET.

SHALL I LET HIM GO?



MAGIC IS NOT MUSCLE, MY PRINCE.

YOU CANNOT BREAK IT WITH BRUTE STRENGTH.

BUT YOU CAN FIND ITS WEAKEST POINT.

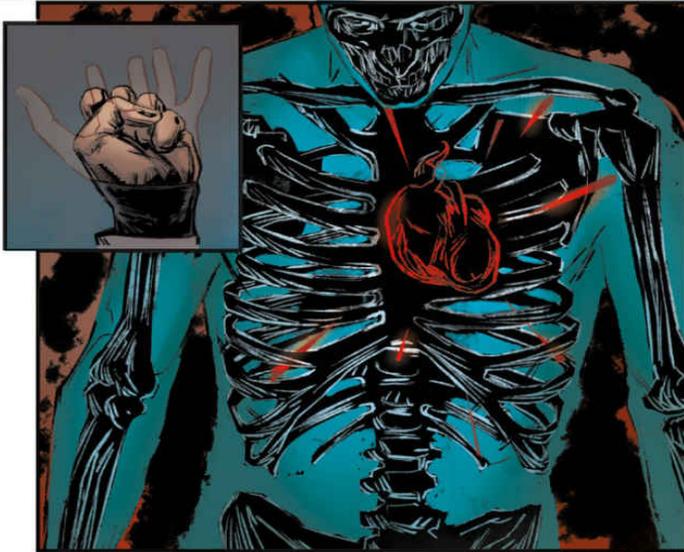
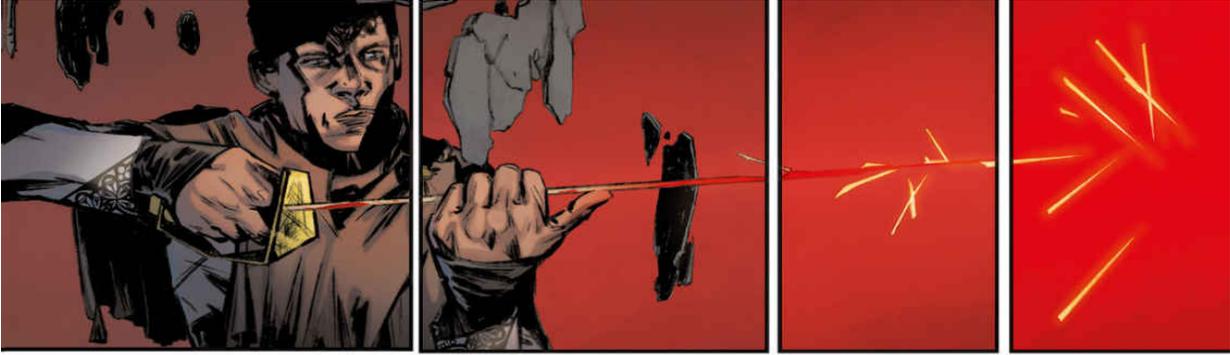
"TELL ME, BUG, WHAT WILL YOU GIVE, TO KEEP YOUR LIFE?"



THIS.









...LET'S GET A DRINK, YOU SAID...

...WAS MY FAVOURITE SHIRT...

...LUCKY THAT'S ALL YOU LOST...



HOW DID YOU DO THAT? WITH THE SWORD?

I SAW IT IN THE TOURNAMENT LAST YEAR. PRACTISED FOR MONTHS.

LAST YEAR'S GAMES WERE HELD IN FARO. YOU TRAVELLED ALL THAT WAY?

MUST BE RICH.

WHY WOULD A RICH BOY COME TO VEROSE?

YOUR HIGHNESS!



DAMN.



PRINCE MAXIM, WE EXPECTED YOU AN HOUR AGO...



DON'T CALL ME THAT.

PRINCE?

OH SANCT, I TRIED TO HIT THE PRINCE.

MAS AVEN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



YOUR VALET SAID YOU CAME ON FOOT.

I WARNED HIM. THIS CITY IS NO PLACE FOR A-

ENOUGH.

THIS CITY AND I HAVE MADE OUR INTRODUCTIONS. WE WILL GET ALONG FINE.



RIGHT NOW, I WANT ONLY A CLEAN PAIR CLOTHES.

OF COURSE.

COME, I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.



I CAN'T STAY HERE.

I KNOW IT'S SMALL...

GOOD LUCK, MY PRINCE.



WHERE DO THE OTHER SOLDIERS SLEEP?

IN THE BARRACKS, MAS VARES.

THEN I WILL SLEEP THERE.



YES SIR.

THUD



YOU'LL HAVE A SCAR, MAS VARES.



YOU ALREADY KNEW WHO I WAS. HOW?

THE WAY YOU WALK. THE WAY YOU TALK. BUT MOST OF ALL, THE WAY YOU FIGHT.

I FIGHT LIKE A SOLDIER.

YOU FIGHT LIKE A ROYAL.

HOW DOES A ROYAL FIGHT?



LIKE THE WEAPONS ARE MADE OF WOOD. LIKE NO ONE MEANS TO HURT YOU.

BUT THIS IS NOT LONDON, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THE PEOPLE HERE WON'T SPARE YOU FOR YOUR BLOOD.

IF ANYTHING, THEY'LL LOOK TO SPILL IT.

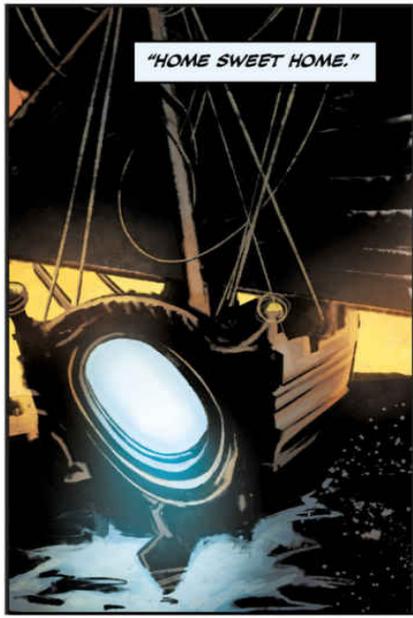


SO I SUGGEST YOU LEARN TO FIGHT LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.



"IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?"

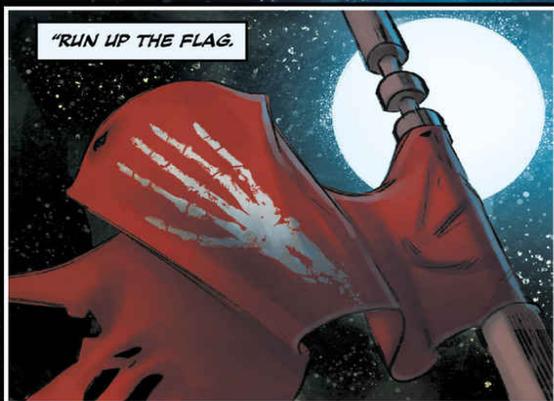
"TOO LONG, IF YOU ASK ME."



"HOME SWEET HOME."



RAISE THE LIGHTS.



TO BE CONTINUED!

SHADES OF MAGIC

THE STEEL PRINCE

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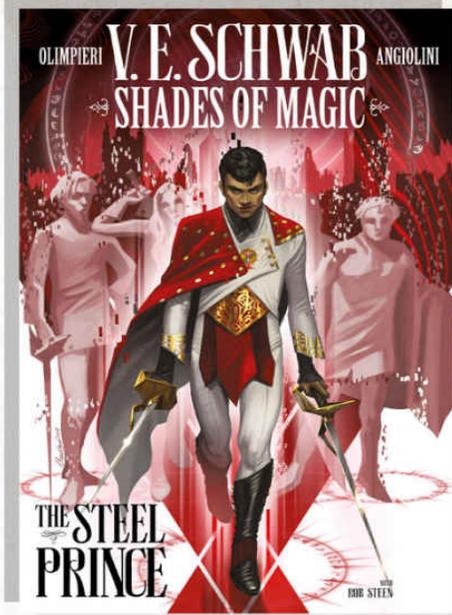
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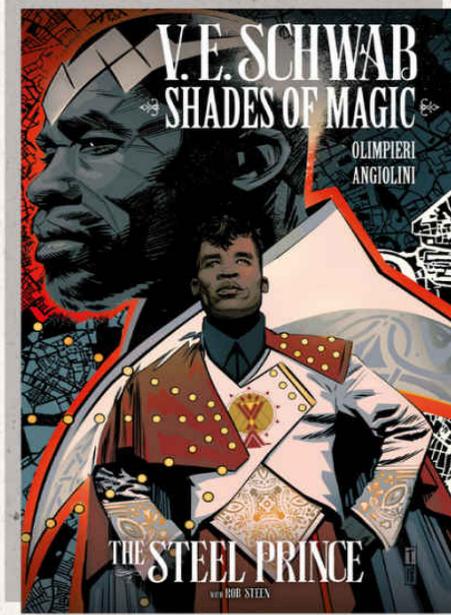
DISTRIBUTION: Direct Sales Diamond Comic Distributors
NEWSSTAND DISTRIBUTION: Total Publishers Services Inc, John Dziewiatkowski, 610-851-7683
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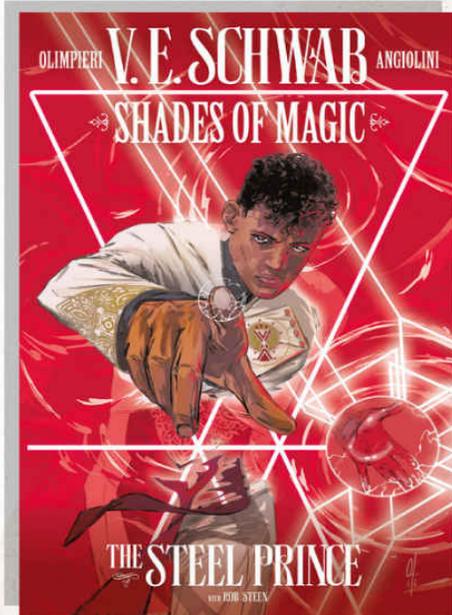
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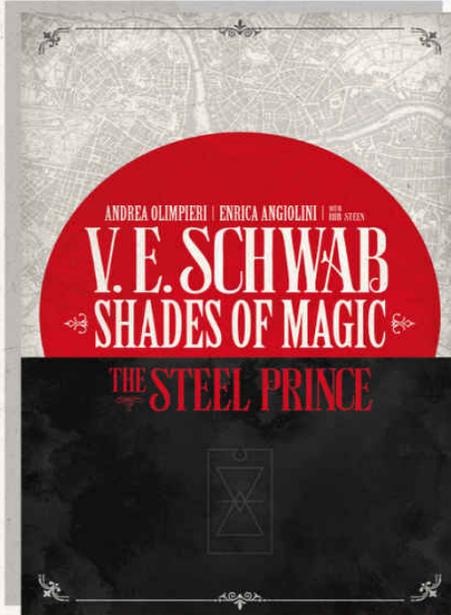
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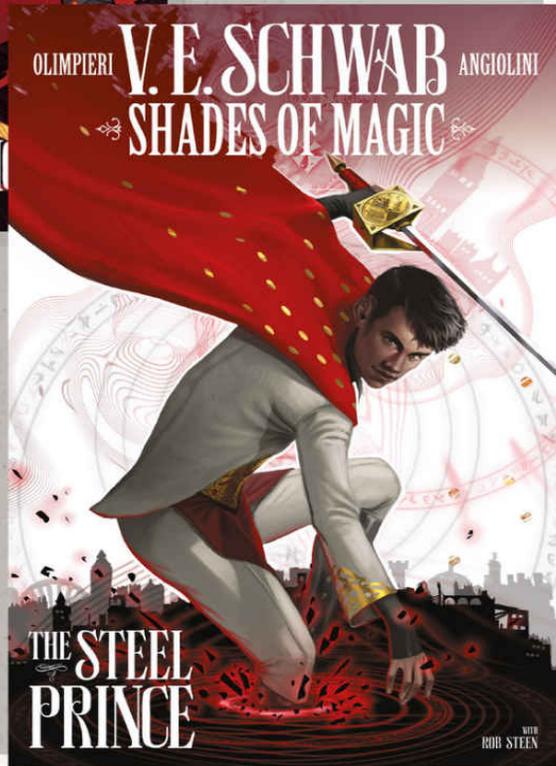


COVER D ANDREW LEUNG

#2 ON SALE NOVEMBER



COVER A
LENKA ŠIMEČKOVÁ



COVER B
CLAUDIA IANNICIELLO

THE SECRET HISTORY OF BELOVED CHARACTER *THOMAS NIGHTINGALE*
IS REVEALED FOR THE FIRST TIME!

RIVERS OF LONDON

BEN AARONOVITCH

#1
ON SALE
OCTOBER

**ACTION AT A
DISTANCE**

ANDREW CARTMEL
BRIAN WILLIAMSON | STEFANI RENNE

THE STEEL PRINCE #1
TITAN
COMICS



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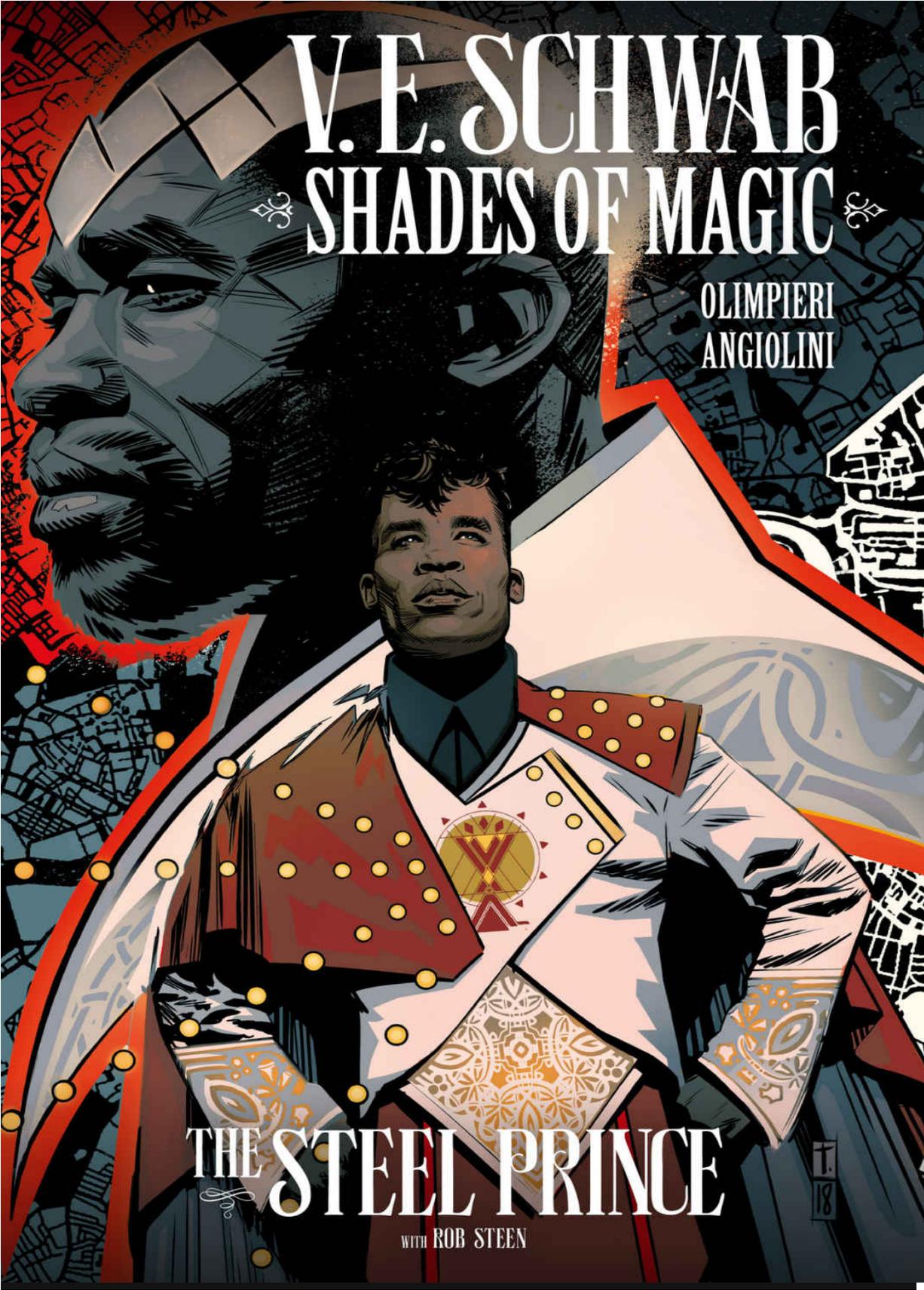
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SHADES OF MAGIC



THE **STEEL PRINCE**

WITH ROB STEEN





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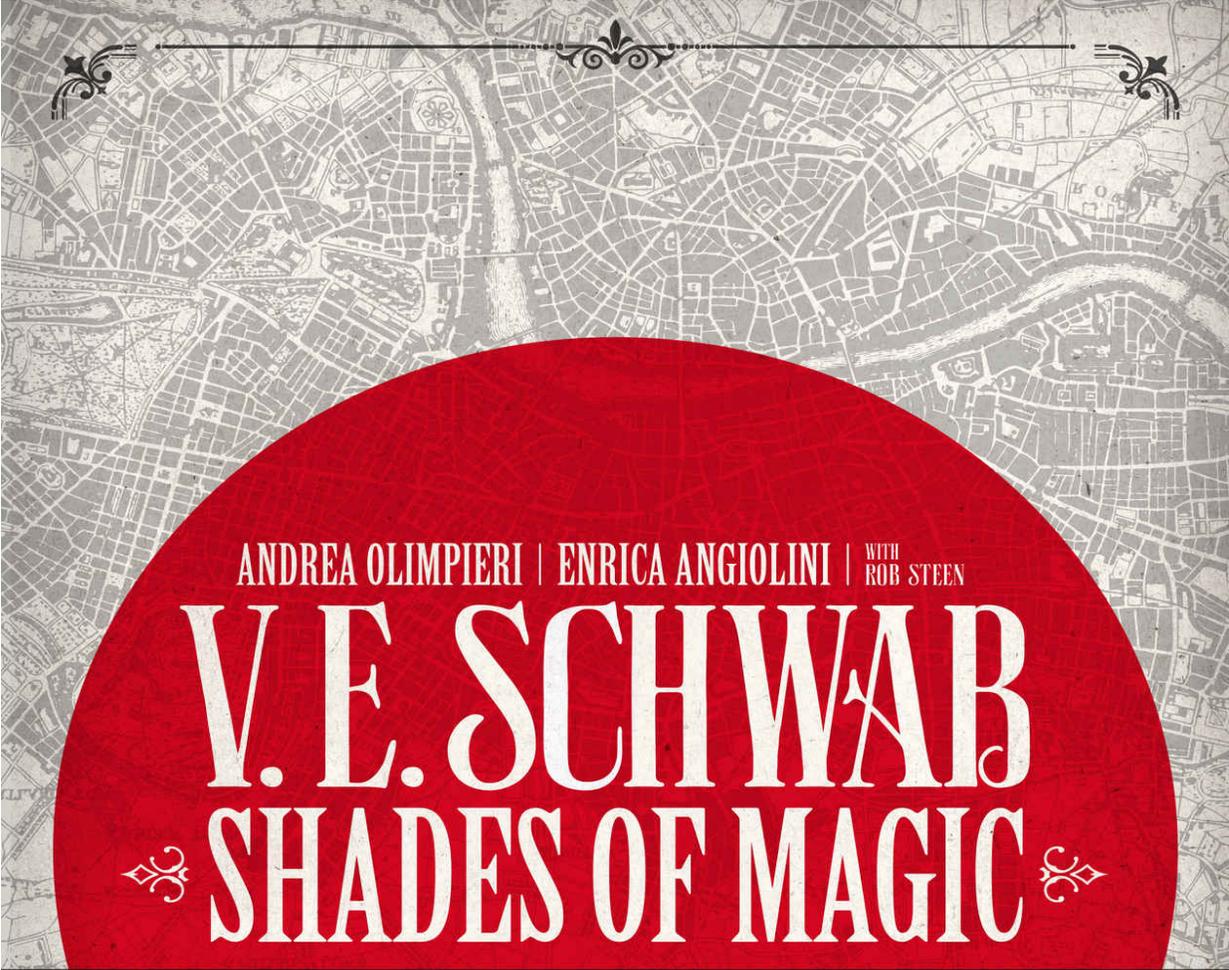
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