

infinite

ODYSSEY

edge
COMIX

No. 1

#12-

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brad daniels



JODIE LOST TRACK OF TIME.



SHE WAS LOST IN HER ADVENTURES, EXPLORING THE HILLS AND CRANNIES AROUND HER VILLAGE.



IT WAS LATE WHEN SHE REALISED THE SHADOWS WERE LENGTHENING. BUT AS SHE APPROACHED HOME, WHAT SHE HEARD MADE HER BLOOD RUN COLD.

IN HER MEMORY SHE HEARS HER MOTHER CALL FOR HER TO TAKE CARE, AND BE BACK BEFORE THE SUN SETS. SHE LAUGHS AS SHE LEAVES MAMA AND THE TWINS BEHIND - SHE WILL BE GONE BUT A FEW SHORT HOURS.



THE CLASH OF IRON PULLS HER BACK TO THE PRESENT. HER BREATH COMING IN PAINFUL RASPS AS SHE CRESTS THE HILL.



THE SMELL OF BURNING FILLS HER LUNGS, AND BEFORE SHE CAN SEE THE FLICKERING RED HAZE RISING FROM HE VILLAGE, SHE KNOWS IT IS TOO LATE.



JODIE WATCHED AS THE CHIEFTAIN WAS SLAIN. SHE HAD HEARD TALK OF THE ROMANS, BUT DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD COME THIS FAR NORTH.

THE LEGION KILLED THE MEN AND TOOK EVERYTHING. JODIE NEVER FOUND OUT WHY.



MAYBE THEY WERE JUST TO BE AN EXAMPLE.




THE WOMEN OF THE TRIBE WENT ON. BUT LIFE WAS HARDER, THE WORLD DARKER.




AND THE CHILDREN... GREW UP.

THERE'S SOME BOAR WE COULD HUNT NEAR THE NORTH RIDGE.


THEM BOARS ARE DANGEROUS. WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL.



I HEARD TELL THAT THE ROMANS ARE MOVING ABOUT THESE PARTS!



LET THEM COME!
IF I SEE ANY OF THEIR KIND AROUND THESE HILLS I'LL SHOVE THEIR FANCY HELMS UP THEIR ARSES.



SETTLE DOWN JODIE!
YOU DON'T WANT TO SET THEM OFF AGAIN. I HEARD THEY DECIMATED THE DONALD CLAN WHEN ONE OF THEIR BOYS CAUSED TROUBLE.



IT IS A CHANGED JODIE WHO WALKS THE VILLAGE NOW. QUIET, WITHDRAWN. IS IT THE TRAUMA OF THE SLAUGHTER OF HER FRIENDS THAT HAS CHANGED HER - OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAS AFFECTED THE GIRL? IN EITHER CASE, HER FELLOW VILLAGERS AVOID HER NOW, AND CONSIDER HER "TOUCHED".





FIRE!



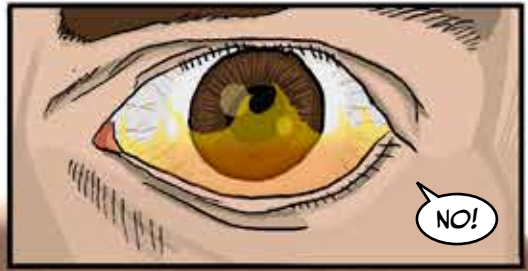
AMBUSH!
FULL RETREAT
BY NUMBERS!



AIEE!!



DIE YOU
BASTARDS!



NO!

IN THE YEAR AD 163 THE ROMAN PUSH NORTH WAS HALTED. PICTISH RESISTANCE WAS SO GREAT THAT AN EMPIRE ALREADY STRETCHED TAUT COULD ILL AFFORD TO EXPEND TROOPS AGAINST SUCH STAUNCH OPPOSITION.



HISTORICAL RECORDS ON THE PICTS ARE VERY SKETCHY AT BEST, BUT THERE ARE LEGENDS OF A WARRIOR WITCH, UTTERLY RUTHLESS AND USING THE POWERS OF NATURE AGAINST HER ENEMIES. RUMOURS SAID SHE WAS NOT BORN OF MAN, BUT OF FIRE. HER NAME IS LOST TO TIME.

NO DREAMS PENETRATE HER SOUL AS HER BODY, PUSHED PAST THE LIMITS OF HUMAN ENDURANCE, TAKES RESPIRE IN ICY SLEEP.



HAHH!



THE WOMAN TAKES IN HER SURROUNDINGS. EVEN BEFORE SHE CAN GAIN HER SENSIBILITIES, HER TRAINING KICKS IN SCANNING FOR DANGER AROUND HER.



SURVIVAL INSTINCTS PRESS HER BODY INTO THE STREAMING MUD, AND BY A MIRACLE SHE IS NOT SPOTTED. SHE ALMOST FALLS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN.

