

HEARTS & IRON™



**BIG PULL
PRESS**

4 WEB
PREVIEW

**MATURE
READERS**



Καλλικράτης Ιωάννης



ENTWINED
LIVES

PART ONE: A GAME OF GODS

ENTWINED LIVES

How long have Carl and John been together? Perhaps longer than they remember. The next story arc ranges from the far past to the near future. In ancient Greece, Kallikrates and Ioannes meet and fall in love as they train for the Olympics, and the seeds are planted for millenia-spanning adventure and romance. Members of the Greek pantheon have their favorites in the competition and attempt to influence the outcome, in "Entwined Lives, Part One: A Game of Gods."

HEARTS & IRON

Book Four
"Entwined Lives,
Part One: A Game
of Gods"

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Entire contents
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PROLOGUE: UNDER THE STARS
OLD BOYFRIENDS, NEW WORLDS



CATCH, BOY!

INDIAN SUMMER.
I LOVE THIS TIME
OF YEAR, CARL.

IT'S GREAT TO GET AWAY UP
HERE IN THE HIGH COUNTRY,
JOHN, JUST THE TWO OF
US...

...WELL,
THREE.



GOOD BOY,
REX, GOOD
BOY...HE'S
GOING WILD
WITH ALL THIS
SPACE TO PLAY
IN.

SO, LET'S
CHECK OUT
THE TRAILS AND
GIVE HIM A WALK...
WHILE THERE'S
STILL PLENTY OF
LIGHT.



SECLUDED HERE, LIKE THE WORLD OUTSIDE CAN'T TOUCH US.

SECLUDED, GOOD...BECAUSE I WANT TO TOUCH YOU.



LET'S GET PUMPED FIRST...I SEE SOME WEIGHTS RIGHT HERE.



THAT IS FUCKIN' HOT...



NOW I'M GONNA USE THIS L'IL TWIG TO PUMP THESE MONSTER ARMS TO THEIR FULL SIZE AND AND CRUSH YOU IN 'EM.

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS VIKING MUSCLE...

HEY!



GOTTA CATCH ME FIRST!

THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT, HUH?

YOU'RE STRONG, LET'S SEE HOW FAST YOU ARE!





MOVE YOUR HEAD A LITTLE...MY SHOULDER'S GOING TO SLEEP.

BETTER?

MMM.

SO PEACEFUL. IMAGINE US BUILDING A HOUSE UP HERE...

THIS PROPERTY'S PRICEY, CARL...

I CAN DREAM. JOHN, THE CHARTER SERVICE I'M GONNA START -

VALKYRIE AIR.

- I'LL BE FLYING SOME BIG BUCKS PASSENGERS... AND MY MMA FIGHTS ARE GETTING ATTENTION... WHEW, TOO MANY PLANS, EH?

JUST AS LONG AS I'M IN 'EM.

YOU ARE. COUNT ON THAT. WE SHOULD GET BACK TO CAMP... SUN'S GOING DOWN. GONNA GET COLD...



WE SURE DO.

BUT, WE'VE GOT COMPANY. FOOTSTEPS COMING UP THE TRAIL.

WE'VE BOTH GOT PLENTY OF FUR TO KEEP WARM.



YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING FROM HERE...THE WHOLE CITY SPREAD OUT. LIKE A CARPET OF LIGHTS AT NIGHT.

BUT, MAN, IT JUST KEEPS GROWING...

I'M GLAD TO LEAVE IT BEHIND FOR AWHILE.



HELLO, STRANGERS... BEAUTIFUL VIEW UP HERE AT THE SUMMIT, HMM?



WE'RE CAMPED DOWN THE TRAIL.

WE'VE BEEN ON THIS MOUNTAIN FOR GENERATIONS. WE LOVE IT HERE, TREES AND DEER AND COYOTES FOR NEIGHBORS...

WHEW. YOU BOYS SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN THE GYM, DON'T YOU?



FUNNY CREATURE, THE COYOTE. HE'S ALSO CALLED THE TRICKSTER GOD.



WE BETTER GET BACK TO CAMP.

NICE MEETING YOU.



ANOTHER BEER?

I'M GOOD, MAN.

NAH. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE HUNT. UNDER THE STARS WITH YOU IS WHERE I WANT TO BE.

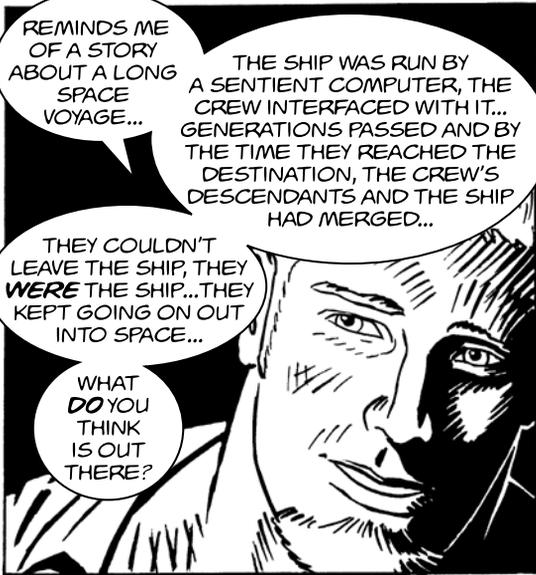
SO. SATURDAY NIGHT, UNDER THE STARS. SURE YOU DON'T MISS GOING TO THE BARS, ESPECIALLY ON HALLOWEEN WEEKEND?



HEY, GOOD NEWS. OUR TEAM AT ORION AEROSPACE HAS A CONTRACT TO BUILD GROUND TO SPACE TRANSPORT. PRIVATE SPACE FLIGHT...

YOU BUILD 'EM, ROCKET SCIENTIST, I'LL FLY 'EM.

I KNEW WHEN WE MET...WE'D BE A GOOD TEAM.



REMINDS ME OF A STORY ABOUT A LONG SPACE VOYAGE...

THE SHIP WAS RUN BY A SENTIENT COMPUTER, THE CREW INTERFACED WITH IT... GENERATIONS PASSED AND BY THE TIME THEY REACHED THE DESTINATION, THE CREW'S DESCENDANTS AND THE SHIP HAD MERGED...

THEY COULDN'T LEAVE THE SHIP, THEY WERE THE SHIP...THEY KEPT GOING ON OUT INTO SPACE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS OUT THERE?



THE FRONTIER. NO ROADS, NO RULES...

NEW WORLDS... WAITING TO EXPLORE.



SETTLE DOWN, BOY. IT'S JUST THE TRICKSTER.



MY GRANDPA CALLED TONIGHT SAMHAIN - THE END OF SUMMER. THE SPIRIT WORLD AND THIS WORLD WERE SUPPOSED TO TOUCH AND YOU COULD CROSS OVER...THEY SET OUT FOOD AND DRINK FOR THEIR ANSCESTORS' SPIRITS...



WELL, IF YOU'RE OUT THERE... HERE'S TO YA.



HEH. THAT REMINDS ME...



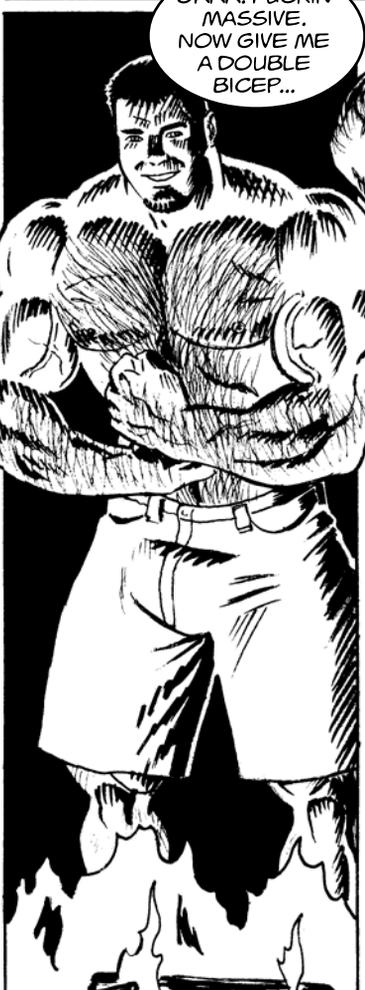
MY LAST BOYFRIEND... I REMEMBER WHEN WE MET, AT THE BAR: HIS LIPS WERE COLD FROM THE BEER BOTTLE, HIS KISS WAS COLD.

WAS THAT AN OMEN?



HA. THAT IT WAS. WANDERING SPIRITS AND OMENS....

LET'S GO FROM THE METAPHYSICAL TO THE PHYSICAL. SHOW ME SOME MUSCLE, BIG MAN.



GRRR. FUCKIN MASSIVE. NOW GIVE ME A DOUBLE BICEP...



OHH YEAH. LOOK AT THOSE PEAKS. MOUNT EVEREST AND MOUNT MCKINLEY.

SIDE CHEST, BIG MAN.



YOUR TURN, STUD. SHOW ME THAT VIKING MUSCLE.



MMM.
LOOK AT
YOU, BABE.
6 FOOT
THREE OF
BAD ASS
MUSCLE...



YEAH! SPREAD
THOSE WINGS.



ALRIGHT,
FIGHTER.
NOW SHOW
ME THAT
BAD BOY
FACE.



MAN,
YOU LOOK READY
TO KICK SOME
ASS. NOBODY
BETTER MESS
WITH YOU...

I AM
GONNA POP MY
ZIPPER. TIME
FOR BED...





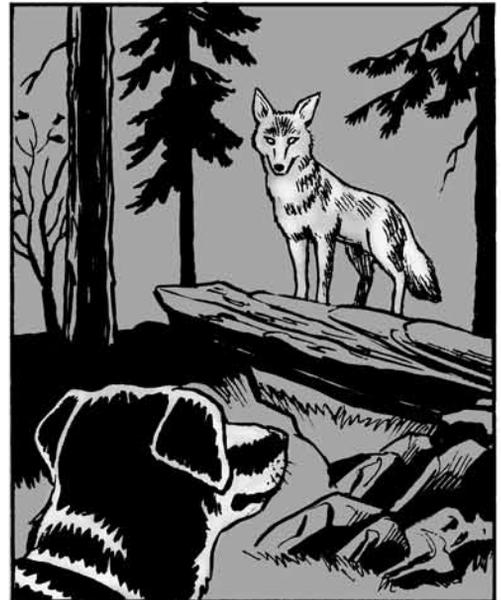
SOME CALL HIS KIND THE DARK
GUARDIAN. HE SURVEYS THE CAMP
AND HIS SLEEPING MASTERS; THE
MEN ARE SAFE.

THE SCENTS HERE
ARE WILD AND
STRANGE, BUT HE IS
NOT AFRAID.



AS THE STARS WHEEL OVERHEAD IN
PATTERNS AS OLD AS TIME, HE HEARS
DISTANT VOICES AND FOOTSTEPS...

OLD
GHOSTS,
OLD LIVES
AND LOVES,
WALK THE
EARTH
AGAIN,
BRIEFLY.





UP LATE, LITTLE COUSIN?
HEEHEE. COME AWAY, AND
HUNT WITH ME.

GOOD. YOU ARE
LOYAL.

GRRRR

AN ASPECT OF
YOUR MASTERS'
SPIRITS WILL ROAM
FAR TONIGHT. THE
FIRST JOURNEY IS
ALMOST UPON THEM.
BE STRONG, AND
GUARD THEM WELL.



BE
STRONG, AND
PERHAPS WE
WILL HUNT
TOGETHER
SOME NIGHT...
COYOTE
AND THE
GUARDIAN.



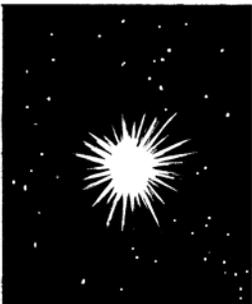
HE RETURNS TO
HIS MASTERS.

THE MEN ARE SAFE; HE IS THE DARK
GUARDIAN, AND HE IS NOT AFRAID.
WATCHFUL, WARY, HE WAITS.

ENTWINED LIVES

PART ONE:
A GAME OF GODS

STORY / ART: JEFF
JACKLIN





KALLIKRATES?
SHHHH.

YOU NEED REST,
SON, CONSERVE
YOUR STRENGTH.

THAT,
I HAVE PLENTY OF. AS
YOU'LL SEE AT OLYMPIA.
AS WILL ALL HELLENES.

I WAS
ALREADY AWAKE,
FATHER. A STRANGE
DREAM WOKE ME...



YOU HAD
STRANGE
DREAMS TOO,
BOY?



THE
DREAMS I HAD... I
WAS FAR AWAY, IN A
STRANGE PLACE... AND
WITH A FRIEND... IT'S
GONE NOW.



DAWN'S
CHARIOT
BRINGS THE
MORNING LIGHT.
WELL, CERBERUS,
WATCH THE SUN
RISE WITH
ME.



IT'S A
SPECIAL DAY... TODAY
WE BEGIN TRAINING
FOR THE GAMES.

750 BCE
NEAR OLYMPIA,
GREECE

EVERYONE
UP! BATHE AND HAVE
YOUR BREAKFAST ... THEN
WE MEET AT THE
GYMNASIUM.



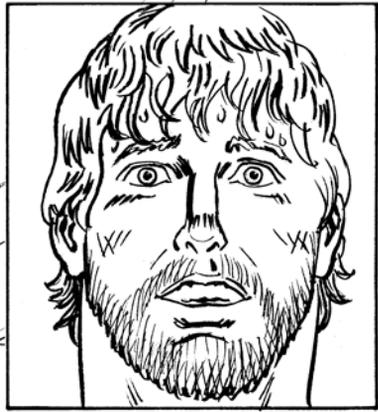


ENOUGH SHOWING OFF!
COME HERE!

YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T
LIFT IT!

HE DID
IT!

HE WON'T
THROW
IT.



HE'S LIKE...
HERAKLES...

THAT IS IOANNES; HE
CLAIMS TO
BE A SON OF
HERAKLES.

IOANNES...
HERAKLES...



HE LOOKS
STRONG.
WHO IS HE?

HEH.
LET'S
FIND
OUT...

Continued in
Hearts &
Iron #4