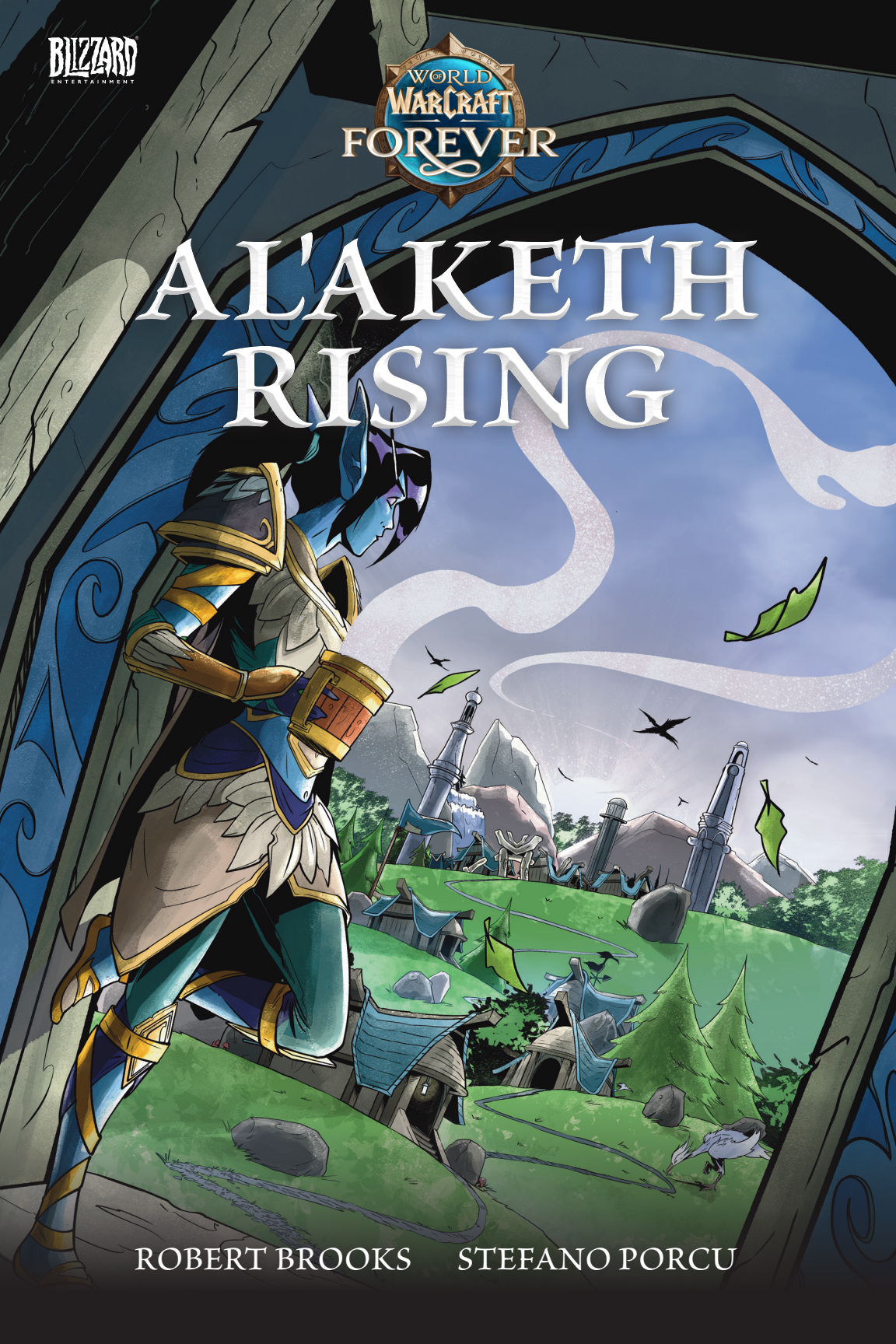

BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT
WORLD OF WARCRAFT FOREVER
AL'AKETH RISING
ROBERT BROOKS
STEFANO PORCU



AL'AKETH RISING

WORLD OF WARCRAFT FOREVER

A local constable travels into a remote settlement that appears to be under strict control. Prisoners march under close guard, strangers smile with an eerie conviction, and an uncomfortable silence provides cover for a growing threat. As she plays along to get closer to the truth, she finds herself overwhelmed by hidden agendas and fanatic devotion.

WRITTEN BY **ROBERT BROOKS** COVER & ART BY **STEFANO PORCU**
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NEAR FALAATH, ZEPHRAS ISLE
THAT'S FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE.
CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP
WINDS SAVE ME, I'LL BE BADLY OUTNUMBERED IN THERE.
I COULD SLIP AWAY...
...BUT I'D GET NO ANSWERS.
CURSES TO THAT.
HAIL, STRANGER.
STRANGER? ME?
HAVE WE NOT MET?
WINDS BLESS YOU, SIR!
WHY SO MANY PRISONERS? HAVE THERE BEEN TROUBLES?
UNENDING TROUBLES, YES.
YET BETTER DAYS LOOM.
NOW... WHO ARE YOU?


I AM AONDA! CONSTABLE OF SHEN'DAR VILLAGE.
TRACKING THIEVES AND ARSONISTS.
AH. SO, SHEN'DAR HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THIEVES?
HOW...
...UNFORTUNATE.
SHEN'DAR VILLAGE, LAST NIGHT.
"QUITE SO.
"THOSE POOR MERCHANTS. LOST EVERYTHING.


"IT WASN'T HARD TO TRACK THE CULPRITS.
"THEIR CRIME WAS ONE OF DESPERATION, NOT GUILE.
"FOUND THEIR CAMPSITE.
"HALF-EATEN FOOD. SWADDLING CLOTHES.
"ALL ABANDONED. I FEARED THEY HAD BEEN WAYLAID."
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU SIMPLY APPREHENDED THEM!
WHAT A... RELIEF.
SOON THE GUILTY WILL HAVE A CHOICE.
"TO ATONE... OR NOT.
"AS IS PROPER."
INDEED.


DID YOU, PERHAPS...
...RECOVER ANY OTHER ITEMS AT THEIR CAMPSITE?
INDEED.
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.
"AFRAID NOT.
"THE MERCHANTS WILL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED.
"OH, IS YOUR CONSTABLE AROUND?
"PROPRIETY INSISTS I CHECK IN WITH HIM."
HE'S...
...ELSEWHERE.
BUT I CAN TAKE YOU TO HIM.
A BIT OF A DISTANCE, BUT IT'S NO TROUBLE.
SHE'S A FOOL.
I'LL HAVE HER ENLISTED TO THE CAUSE BY NIGHTFALL...
...OR PROPERLY ADMONISHED.

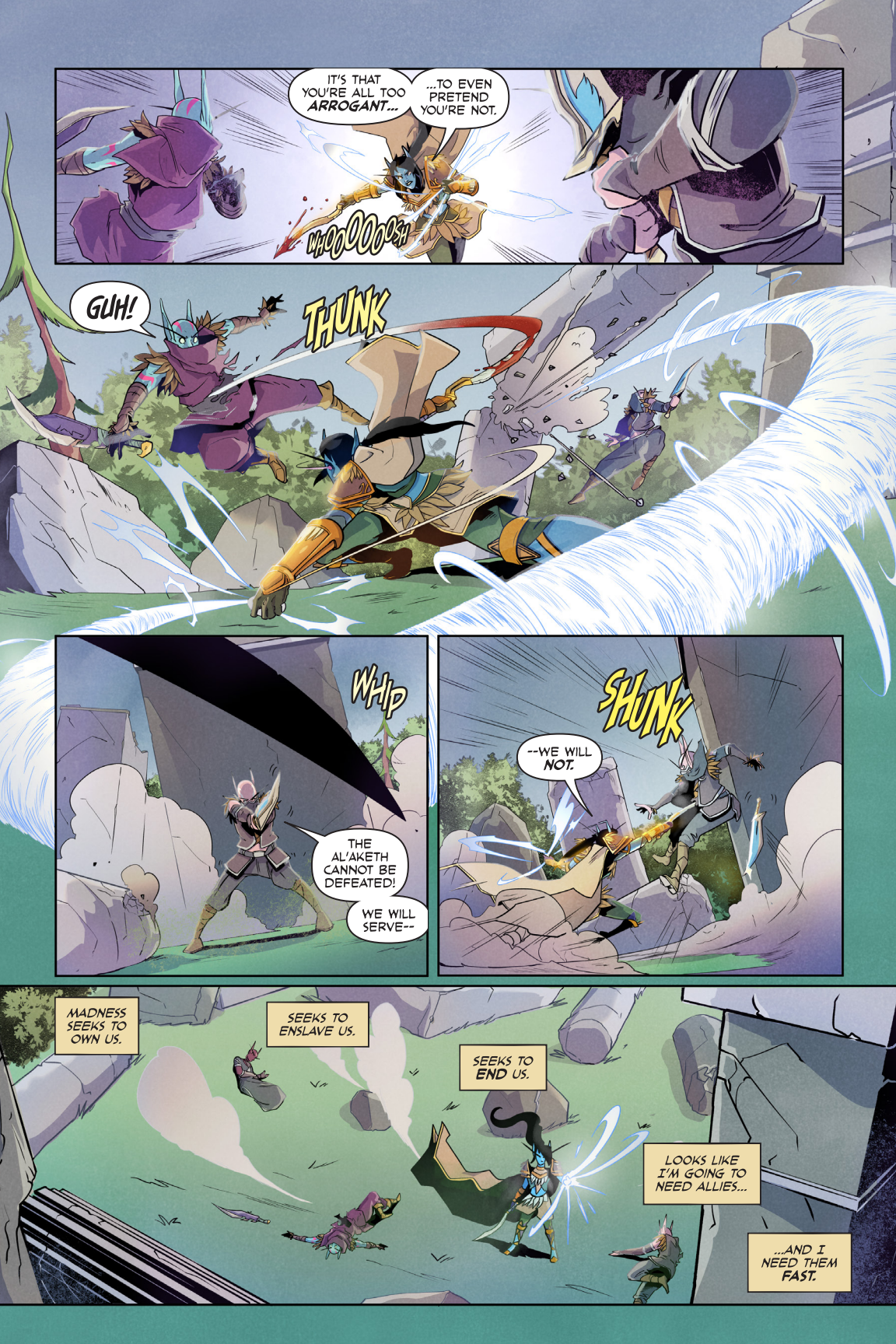

CLEARLY, THIS IS A TRAP.
THE AL'AKETH? TAKING PRISONERS?
THEY'RE NOT PRETENDING TO BE HARMLESS ANYMORE.
WINDS BLESS US, WE'LL BE IN BAN'AETHAL SOON.
WHAT HAPPENED TO BAN'AETHAL?
MONTHS LATER, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT'S SIMPLE.
"THE WINDSHAPER SKYSEERS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT THE WIND SPIRITS WERE OUR BENEFACTORS.
"BUT THEY WERE OUR OPPRESSORS.
"OPPRESSORS WHO ABANDONED US. IN TRUTH, WE ARE BETTER OFF--"
"WAIT."
THE WIND SPIRITS LEFT US YEARS AGO.
I ASKED ABOUT BAN'AETHAL.
HMM.
YOU CARE NOT FOR NUANCE?
FINE.


THE ISLAND WARDS GREW WEAK.
BAN'AETHAL WAS JUST THE FIRST TO FALL.
NOW IT FALLS TO *US* TO SEEK A NEW PROTECTOR.
WHO?
WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT OUR OLD MASTERS.
NOW WE CAN SUBMIT TO NEW ONES. *STRONGER* ONES.
JUST IMAGINE.
NOT SOME TRAITOROUS LESSER SPIRITS.
THE WINDLORD, AL'AKIR HIMSELF!
MADNESS.
WE'RE BEING CONQUERED BY MADNESS.


THANK THE WINDS, WE'VE ARRIVED.
THE END DRAWS NEAR.
HE KNOWS IT.
WHY WAS IT YOUR CONSTABLE CAME HERE?
IT'S TOO SOON. KEEP YOUR COVER.
WHAT COULD BE SO PRESSING TO MAKE HIM COME HERE?
HE, TOO, WANTED TO LEARN THE CAUSE OF BAN'AETHAL'S FALL.
NO. I CAN'T STOMACH THIS STORM-CURSED FOOL ANY LONGER.
YOU OFFERED THE INFORMATION FREELY TO ME.
WHY NOT HIM?
HEH.


WHERE IS FALAATH'S CONSTABLE?
IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY.
"LAST SAW HIM DAYS AGO.
"THEY SAY SKYWALL IS INFINITE.
"WHO KNOWS HOW FAR HE'S FALLEN?"
BECAUSE HE REFUSED...
...TO HELP YOU ENSLAVE US TO YOUR WINDLORD?!
WELL, YES.
MYSELF, AND MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS--


--WILL SAVE US ALL.
SO...TELL ME, CONSTABLE. WILL YOU BE MORE AGREEABLE THAN--
SHHHHKKKK
FINE. ONE LESS CLOSE-MINDED--
KLANG
JUST TO BE CLEAR.
IT'S NOT THAT YOU'RE ALL MAD.
TOCK
KHMMMMMM


IT'S THAT YOU'RE ALL TOO ARROGANT...
...TO EVEN PRETEND YOU'RE NOT.
WHOOOOOOSH
GUH!
THUNK
WHIP
THE AL'AKETH CANNOT BE DEFEATED!
WE WILL SERVE--
SHUNK
--WE WILL NOT.
MADNESS SEEKS TO OWN US.
SEEKS TO ENSLAVE US.
SEEKS TO END US.
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO NEED ALLIES...
...AND I NEED THEM FAST.