

BRAWL



Script - Dan Abnett
Art - Karl Kopinski
Letters - David Pugh

SO THAT NIGHT IN THE **TEN-TAILED CAT**, IN THE BACK STREETS OF **TALABEC**, IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL.

THE DRINKING WAS AS HEARTY, THE OATHING AS VULGAR AND THE ALE AS **WATERED** AS EVER.



ZERN SLITBELT'S IN A BOOTH AT THE BACK, TALKING PRICES WITH **JUDDER THE FENCE**.

NEXT THING, THEIR PEACEFUL **TETE-A-TETE** IS SHATTERED BY **OXTONGUE VOLT**.



WHISPER IS, ZERN GOT SOME SHINIES TO SHIFT, AND FAST.



SOMEONE'S JUST TOLD OXTONGUE THAT ZERN HAS BEEN PLAYING LORDS AND WENCHES WITH HIS SISTER **ZELDA**.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO.

THAT'S WHEN THE FIGHT STARTS.



ZERN BREAKS HIS LEFT HAND...

... AND THEN
A RAFTER.

KRAKKK!

AND IN THE CONFUSION,
ZERN'S SHINIES GO
WALKABOUT.



BY DINT OF WHERE HE LANDS, ZERN
IS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING THE FOUR
OFF-DUTY **MERCENARIES** FROM ARNULF
SCHWARZ'S NOTORIOUS BAND INVOLVED.



THEN EVERYTHING GETS RATHER EXCITED.



ABELARD VRIES STAYS
WELL OUT OF THE WAY
AT A BACK TABLE.



HE'S JUST ENJOYING
A '43 PINOT DRAK.

SMASSHHH!



HE ISN'T QUITE READY
FOR THE SECOND BOTTLE.



OXTONGUE DECIDES TO
FIND OUT HOW MANY
TEETH THE TROOPERS
HAVE GOT BETWEEN THEM.

BY REMOVING THEM
AND COUNTING THEM
OUT INTO PILES.

ONE OF THE TROOPERS
BREAKS A STOOL OVER
OXTONGUE'S NOGGIN.



IN ABOUT A WEEK, HE'LL
REMEMBER TO SAY 'OW'.

JUDDER THE FENCE DOES
HIS EMPIRE-FAMOUS
WORM IMPRESSION...

... AND HEADS
FOR THE EXIT.



LO AND BEHOLD, HE
RUNS ACROSS ZERN'S
SHINIES, BOLD AS YOU
LIKE, WHERE THEY FELL.



"MUST BE MY
LUCKY NIGHT,"
HE MUTTERS.

IT ISN'T.



THIS IS WHERE I COME IN.

IT TAKES A LOT OF LIP
AND A LOT OF GUILF TO
START UP A TAVERN
BRAWL ON CUE.

A BRAWL TO
COVER YOUR
OWN BUSINESS
TRANSACTIONS.



BY THE TIME THE MILITIA HAVE
DRAGGED EVERYONE OUT, NO
ONE WILL BE ANY THE WISER
AS TO WHAT REALLY STARTED IT.



OR WHAT THE PERSON
WHO STARTED IT WAS
AFTER.



A GOOD NIGHT'S WORK,
IF I SAY SO MYSELF.



I'M JUST THINKING
WHAT I'LL SPEND
THE PROCEEDS ON
WHEN I TURN INTO
DARKDOG LANE...



...AND FIND OUT WHO ZERN
GOT THE SHINIES FROM IN
THE FIRST PLACE. AND WHY
HE WANTED SHOT OF
THEM SO FAST.



GIVE US
BACK OUR
TALISMAN...

SOMETIMES YOU PLAY
ALL SIDES OFF AGAINST
THE MIDDLE...

...AND FIND OUT THAT'S
EXACTLY WHERE
YOU'RE STANDING.

AAIIIEEEEE!

END





INFERNO!