

# CHAPTER ONE

THE RAIN STOPPED.  
NOW IT'S SO QUIET IN THE FOREST. THE SCENT OF  
WET SOIL AND DECAYING LEAVES LOOMS IN THE AIR.



THERE IS THE SAME MOULDY SMELL  
IN THE CATHEDRAL IN CROWNSTON.  
FOUR KINGS ARE BURIED UNDER  
THE FLOORING.

SO CLAIMS THE COBBLER, WHO  
HAS HIS WORKSHOP IN THE ALLEY  
BETWEEN ST. JOHN'S AND THE  
MAIN SQUARE. HE IS A STRANGE  
FELLOW WITH HIS SQUEAKY VOICE  
AND BLIND EYE, BUT HIS BOOTS  
ARE OF EXQUISITE QUALITY.



NEXT TO HIS SHOP IS A BAKERY.  
A FRIENDLY GIRL SELLS YOU THE  
SWEETEST CAKES AND PASTRIES.



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ALLEY  
IS A SAUSAGEMAKER. HIS SALAMI  
WITH ROSEMARY IS GORGEOUS.

YOU CAN GET PHEASANTS COOKED  
IN WINE IN A NARROW STORE.  
STUFFED WILDBOARS ARE THE  
SPECIALITY OF ANOTHER SHOP.



THERE ARE FRUITS  
SO STRANGE THAT  
PEOPLE DON'T EVEN  
HAVE A NAME FOR  
THEM.  
THAT ALLEY IN  
CROWNSTON IS A  
MARKET OF UNREAL  
DELICACIES.

KING GALIAN'S  
SERVANTS EMPTIED  
ALL THE SHOPS FOR  
THE BANQUET HE  
HELD BEFORE THE  
ARMY WENT IN  
THE FIELD.

I ATE MUCH TOO MUCH, GOT SICK AND HAD TO GO TO BED. NONE OF THE FOOD STAYED IN ME.

ALL THAT GOOD STUFF JUST WENT TO WASTE. WHAT A PITY!

I'M HUNGRY.



THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I FEEL DIZZY! OR MAYBE THE WOUND IN MY HEAD IS GETTING INFECTED.

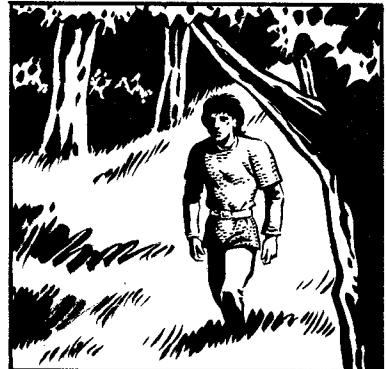
I WONDER WHAT'S MORE PAINFUL —TO DIE OF FEVER OR STARVATION? NEVER MIND, IF THE RAIN STARTS AGAIN PNEUMONIA IS GONNA GET ME FIRST.

THIS FOREST IS VAST! I'VE ALREADY BEEN IN HERE FOR THREE DAYS! OR IS IT FOUR?



DON'T KNOW! MOST LIKELY, I'M WALKING IN CIRCLES. DIDN'T I SEE THESE TREES BEFORE?...

PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP AND LAY DOWN TO DIE. MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH.



I'M HUNGRY.

I HEARD STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO ATE PARTS OF THEIR OWN LIMBS, BUT YOU HEAR SO MUCH BY THE CAMPFIRES! I DON'T..... HEY !!

..... ISN'T THAT.....



... AN ANIMAL!



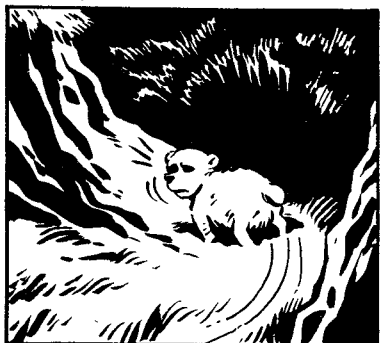
IT'S A RABBIT!  
OR MAYBE A BADGER!



FOOD, ANYWAY!



HEY, IT'S A BEAR CUB!



OH MY GOD! THE CUB'S MOTHER!

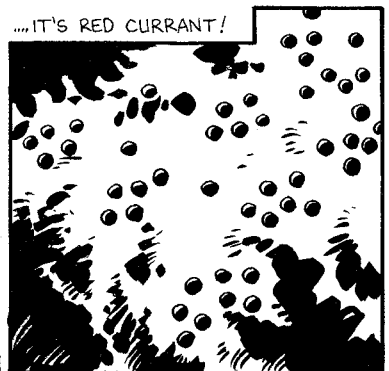




WHAT  
THE.....?  
  
WHO'S  
THAT  
GUY?  
  
IS HE  
CRAZY?  
  
THE  
BEAR  
IS  
GONNA  
KILL  
HIM!  
.....

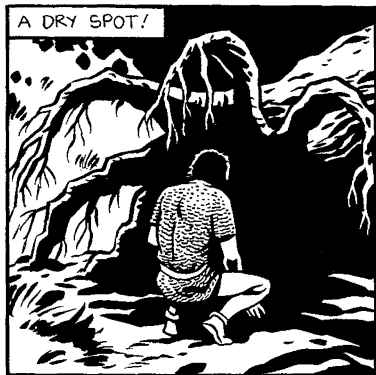


TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE!





AH FINALLY.....FULL!



A DRY SPOT!

