



*So this is how it came to pass,
that twelve lords of death,
twelve gifted murderers, came
down from the mountains with
but one goal in mind.*

**HALT,
GREY
RIDERS!**

*To kill a small slip
of a thing, a girl,
some might say.*

*I do not call her
a girl, for I know
her true nature.*

**We hunt
the DEVIL.**



WE CAMP
HERE, AND
MAKE FOR
THE STYGIAN
PORT WITH
THE DAWN.


Among my traveling
companions are few
scholars.

There is KAHAR,
a Cimmerian, who
leads our number.



HER TRAIL
ENDS HERE,
LIEGE. SHE'S
NOT LONG
GONE.

ANDEUS, our tracker,
a genuinely reprehensible
conversationalist.



The one we
call the PAZYRYK,
who speaks even less
than Kahar.


If he HAS a
name, he's never
told any of US.



THE DOGS
HAVE HER SCENT.
WE'LL HAVE A
RED SCALP
TOMORROW.

There is DAGAR, of
the dogs. Pictish is
he and his hounds.

They would kill us all
with but a word from him.



And there is PIRANUS,
our preening peacock, and
a fine, honorable man of
integrity by all rights.

I trust him
least of all.

I'LL START
THE FIRE. IT'S
TIME FOR WINE
AND FOOD, MY
FRIENDS.



And then is your humble narrator, *ELES*. Formerly a monk, now called the *Learned Assassin*.

I have waited three *YEARS* for this venture.

HO, *ELES!*

WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME OUT OF THE SADDLE SCRIBBLING NONSENSE ONTO PARCHMENT?

HARDLY A FIT PURSUIT FOR A *MAN*.



I'M WRITING A BOOK, MY FRIEND. TO TELL OF OUR GLORIOUS TASK.



GLORY. AYE.

I APPROVE, *STYGIAN*.



I READ A BOOK ONCE. NONSENSE ABOUT DEAD KINGS AND QUEENS.

I KILLED THE PRIEST WHO FORCED IT ON ME.



AS WELL YOU SHOULD, *GLASFINDIL*. HOW *DARE* HE, I ASK YOU?



ENOUGH. WE DON'T HUNT THIS WENCH FOR *GLORY*.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT SHE'S DONE?

WE HUNT HER FOR *REVENGE*. AND WE MAKE HER *SUFFER*.



FOR THE BELOVED *PRINCE* SHE MURDERED, SHE DIES.

YOU THINK IT WILL BE SO EASY, DO YOU?

MOST OF YOU HAVE NEVER *MET* HER.



I HAVE BEEN HUNTING THIS WOMAN FAR LONGER THAN ANY OF YOU!

YOU CALL HER A WARRIOR, A MERCENARY, A SLAYER OF MEN...



"I FIRST CAME TO KNOW HER FOR FAR LESS NOBLE DEEDS..."

"YOU CALL HER A 'SHE-DEVIL WITH A SWORD'..."



"BUT I CALL HER A THIEF."

