



THE TRIBAL ELDERS SAY THAT "A STORY IS CREATED BY HE WHO TELLS IT."

GONZALES! WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE WHO CURSED THE ALCALDE?

THAT ONE?!



THAT ONE WILL NEVER CURSE HIS BETTERS AGAIN! AT LEAST NOT OUT LOUD!

IT'S HARD TO VOICE SUCH COMPLAINTS--WITHOUT A TONGUE! HE MIGHT STILL WANT TO PUT UP A FUSS...

BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THAT HE SAYS...

"BLBB-BLBB... BLBB-BLBB..."



CHIQUITA--WANT TO HELP ME CLEAN MY MUSKET? IT'S GOT A LOONG BARREL! HEH-HEH-HEH...

NO, GRACIAS, SENOR...

THANK THE SAINTS THAT LED YOU INTO THE ARMY AT SUCH AN EARLY AGE, SENOR GONZALES! OTHERWISE...



... YOU'D BE STUCK BEHIND A PLOW THE SAME AS ANY LOWLY PEON! HA-HA-HA!



YOU THINK YOU'RE ANY BETTER THAN ME, RAMIREZ?! JUST BECAUSE YOU GREW UP IN A HACIENDA...?

NO! NO! I-I DIDN'T MEAN...

YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO ADDRESS A SUPERIOR OFFICER. YOU DAMNED DOG!



NO! S-SERGEANT! I MEANT NOTH--

BUT A LEGEND...

A LEGEND IS FORMED BY THOSE WHO HEAR IT...

MADRE DIOS! I AM... I HAVE... NEVER--

WHAT THE HELL--?!

THERE IS... IT WAS... SO FAST! WE NEVER SAW--

WINE! WINE FOR OUR COMRADE! AT ONCE!

WHAT HAPPENED, PEREZ?

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

PEREZ! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

I SENT YOUR SQUAD TO PUT SOME FEAR INTO THAT UPPITY SHEEP FARMER!

WHERE ARE YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS?

WE WERE ON OUR WAY... LIKE YOU SAID... WE WERE GOING TO BURN DOWN HIS BARN... KILL HIS RAMS!

BUT THEN WE... WE WERE... IT WAS ALL SO FAST! OUT OF NOWHERE!

CALMLY, JOSE. YOU'RE MAKING NO SENSE. THE PEONS RESISTED?

WE--WE WERE ATTACKED... YES! BUT NOT BY ANY PEONS!

IT WAS A DEMON THAT FACED US THIS NIGHT!

A DEVIL FROM HELL, I TELL YOU!

...BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, DIEGO... AREN'T YOU SCARED?

OF WHAT? ANYTHING THAT'S DOWN THERE IS PROBABLY FAR MORE SCARED OF US.

BUT EVERY LEGEND NEEDS ITS RACONTEUR.

LIKE A BEAR? OR A PUMA?

THOSE ARE IN THE HILLS! MORE LIKELY JUST SOME BATS OR SOME LIZARDS. MAYBE A FOX...

A VOICE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUTH, THAT CUTS THROUGH ALL THE GLORY AND FAME.

C'MON... LET'S MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE FOX! LET'S FLY THROUGH THE DARKNESS LIKES BATS!

DIEGO!

IN THIS CASE, I AM THE VOICE BEHIND A MAN WHO BECAME JUST SUCH A LEGEND.

THE MAN WHO BEGAN LIFE AS MY MILK-BROTHER...

DIEGO DE LA VEGA.

DIEGO?! ARE YOU OKAY? BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE!

THE MAN WHO FOUGHT AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS, FOR JUSTICE.

CHKCHKCHK

WHOSE ADOPTED NAME SENT SHIVERS THROUGH THE HEARTS OF THE BRUTAL AND CRUEL.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BERNARDO!

COME, MY BROTHER! LET'S SEE WHAT MYSTERIES WE CAN FIND BENEATH THE WORLD'S SURFACE!

IF I LET YOU BE KILLED, YOUR MOTHER'S HEART WOULD BREAK. AND MY MOTHER WOULD NEVER LET ME HEAR THE END OF IT!

MOTHERS SHOULD NEVER FACTOR INTO A BOY'S ADVENTURES. MY FRIEND, THAT'S WHY GOD CREATED SIESTAS!

EVEN SINCE BIRTH, DIEGO WAS FAR MORE AUDACIOUS THAN I.

MY MOTHER SAID THAT, IF SHE HAD TO NURSE TWO BABIES WHO FED AS VIGOROUSLY AS DIEGO... SHE'D NEED UDDERS LIKE A COW.

YOU SEE, BERNARDO? NO BEARS!

AREN'T YOU GLAD MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD US ABOUT THIS PLACE?

YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS VERY WISE, DIEGO.

BUT EVEN SHE CANNOT SEE INTO THE VERY BOWELS OF THE EARTH.

DIOS! SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN DOWN HERE A THOUSAND TIMES HERSELF ALREADY!

ACCORDING TO MY FATHER'S COMPASS, WE MUST BE DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH MY FAMILY'S HACIENDA.

I WONDER HOW FAR DOWN THE CAVE EXTENDS?

WE SHOULD EXCAVATE A NEW TUNNEL UP--TOWARDS THE HOUSE! WE COULD BUILD A HIDDEN ENTRANCE THAT WOULD BE OUR SPECIAL SECRET!

WE COULD COME AND GO AS WE PLEASE! LIKE SPIES OR PIRATES...

OR HAVE IT CAVE IN ON OUR HEADS, SENOR DREAMER!

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...

... DIEGO ALWAYS WANTED--AND IMAGINED-- SOMETHING BETTER.

YOU KNOW, PEOPLE SAY THAT YOUR FATHER WILL BE ALCALDE ONE DAY.

I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT. THE PEONS ALWAYS HATE THE ALCALDE...

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER HAD A GOOD ONE.

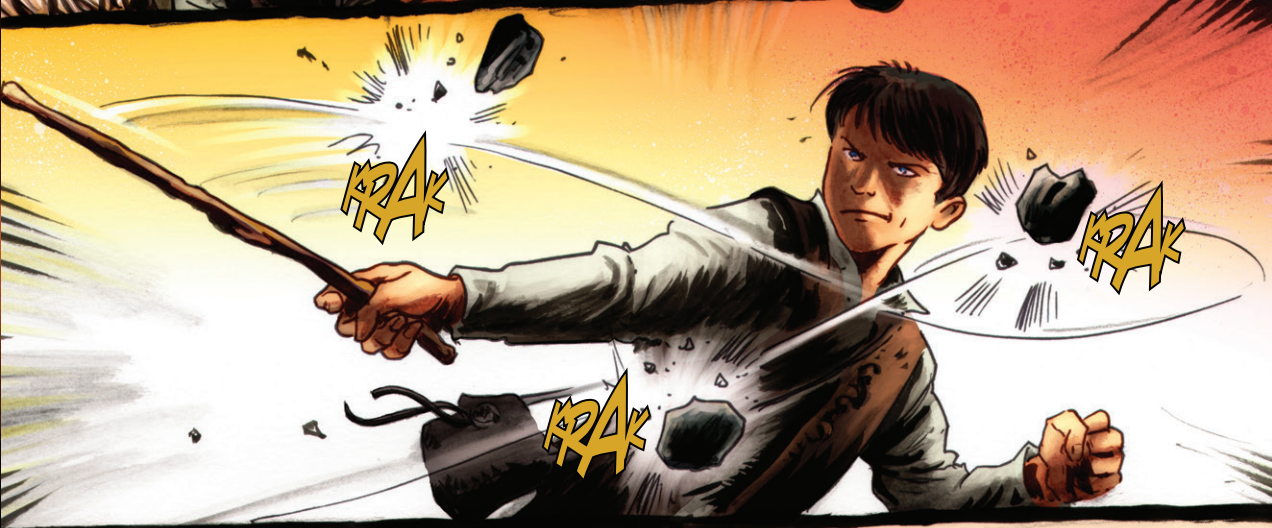
YOUR FATHER IS A JUST AND HONORABLE MAN. WHO ELSE COULD HAVE WON YOUR MOTHER'S LOVE?

I SUPPOSE. IT'S JUST... HE ALREADY SPENDS SO MUCH TIME IN EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES.

HE'S BUSY ENOUGH AS IT IS...

YOU SOUND LIKE THE WHINY WHELP OF A PEON, MY BROTHER. NOT THE SON OF A BOLD CABALLERO!

THINK FAST!



YIELD, VILLAIN! OR FIND YOUR END ON THE TIP OF MY BLADE!

OKAY, HOMBRE. YOU'VE GOT ME. I GIVE UP.

EVEN MOPING, YOU'RE STILL FAST AS A RATTLESNAKE!



AIIIEEE!!