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**DAVID HUTCHISON**

# BEOWULF



**AUGUST 2006**

*Hutchison 2006*





# ANTARCTIC PRESS

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# BEOWULF

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Welcome! Thank you for picking up the first issue of Beowulf. I hope you enjoy the experience.

Why did I decide to create a manga-styled version of this classic epic adventure? I'd noted renewed interest in Beowulf in other media as well as the news of an upcoming film. Not only did these recent developments make me feel it was the perfect time for such an adaptation, they also sparked my personal interest. I was raised on superheroes, and I view Beowulf as one of the very first of that archetype. All on his own, using nothing but his own two mits, he rescued an entire kingdom from a merciless fiend that had held the king and his subjects under siege for over twelve years.

This will not be as close of an adaptation as Oz: The Great and Powerful. I've changed much of the story to suit my needs, my intent being to keep its inspiration and key elements while adding my own spin. The setting is now in another time and place. Technology abounds in spite of the savagery of the characters. There is no magic, and no supernatural events occur. Beowulf is a battle-hardened soldier in a world where Hrothgar hopes finally to put an end to the wars ravaging the land. Hrothgar's goal is in now in reach, but his dream is in still danger thanks to the machinations of Grendel. In the summoning of Beowulf, all three of their lives will be changed forever.

I hope you will enjoy this version of Beowulf at least as much as I did creating it.

David Hutchison

## GLOSSARY

**ADVANCE**- Short for "Advanced Soldier." An Advance is a genetically and cybernetically enhanced human. All aspects of the soldier are boosted through the Advance program: speed, strength and intelligence. Since it was discovered that these enhancements can severely shorten the life-span of a soldier to only a couple of years, they are assigned to missions such as espionage, infiltration and assassination.

**DEMON**- Refers to a being created for battle. These creatures were engineered in research labs and fused with dangerous types of experimental equipment that a human could never use. Demons are believed to be completely soulless, and their ruthless efficiency on the battlefield seems to prove this out. No one is certain where the technology originated, but it spread quickly through the warring factions. Their use was

discontinued when it was found that the Demons tended to turn on their masters far too often.

**HEROD**- The much talked-about main fortress and command center for Hrothgar's armies. Now considered a folly by all who know of its existence, it has become a sore point for Hrothgar. He fears the lack of response to the attacks by Grendel may be seen as a sign of new weakness.

**EVAC**- Short for "emergency evacuation."

**MERC**- Short for "mercenary." A soldier for hire to the highest bidder. Beowulf and his men are all mercenaries.

## BEOWULF #1

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A NEW AGE  
HAS COME  
TO THE  
WORLD.

HAVING  
OVERWHELMED  
HIS ENEMIES,  
**KING HROTHGAR**  
NOW HOLDS THE  
KNOWN WORLD  
IN HIS GRASP.

NOW HROTHGAR  
IS POISED TO SEE  
HIS **TRUE** AMBITIONS  
FOR THE WORLD  
TAKE SHAPE.

HIS WILL HAS ENDED  
THE WARS THAT HAVE  
RAVAGED THE LAND  
AND ITS PEOPLE. THE  
ARMS AND CUSTOMS OF  
OLD ARE ABANDONED,  
AND THE *DEMONS* OF  
THE LAST AGE ARE  
SWEEPED **ASIDE** TO  
MAKE ROOM FOR THE  
FUTURE, FOR THE **TRUE**  
DESTINY OF MANKIND.

THE *BATTLE FLEETS* ARE  
BEING DECOMMISSIONED,  
FORTRESSES ARE BEING  
TORN DOWN. *SOLDIERS*  
ARE GOING HOME.

BUT EVEN AS THE  
LISTING *HULK* OF  
THE LAST WAR  
LUMBERS TOWARD  
ITS CONCLUSION,  
SOME *DEMONS*  
WON'T SLEEP SO  
**EASILY...**

**MERCENARIES**  
STILL HAVE  
*PLENTY* OF  
WORK IN THESE  
TIMES.

HROTHGAR HAS  
**NEED** OF SUCH  
PEOPLE JUST  
NOW...

**ONE** AMONG  
THEM HAS  
CAUGHT THE  
GREAT KING'S  
EYE...





GUARDIAN.

ANY-  
THING TO  
REPORT?

NO  
MOVEMENT  
FOR OVER  
AN HOUR.

DON'T THESE  
MERC'S HAVE  
WATCHES?

I HEAR  
THEIR  
LEADER  
WAS AN  
ADVANCE.

WELL,  
HE'S A  
MERC  
NOW.

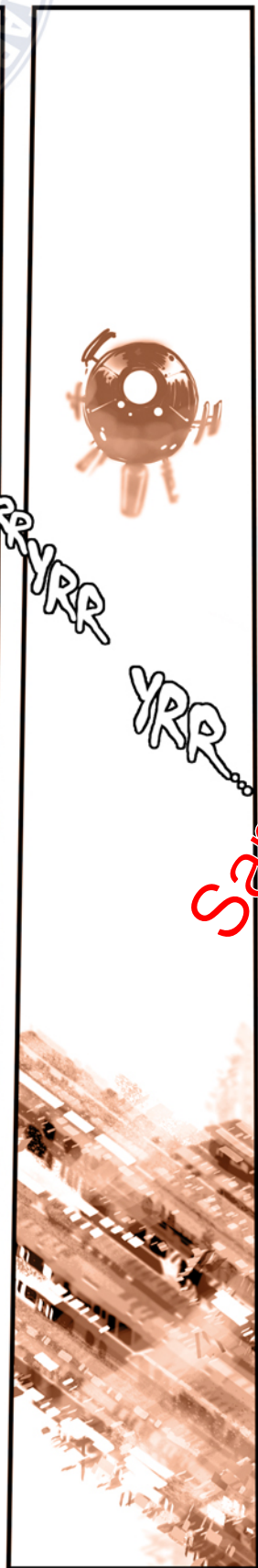
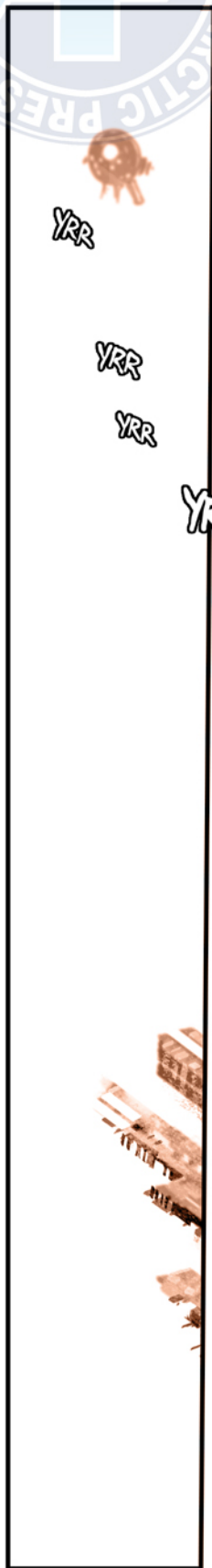
I JUST  
HOPE THIS  
IS THE  
RIGHT  
MOVE.

NOTHING  
ELSE SEEMS  
TO WORK ON  
THAT CURSED  
THING.

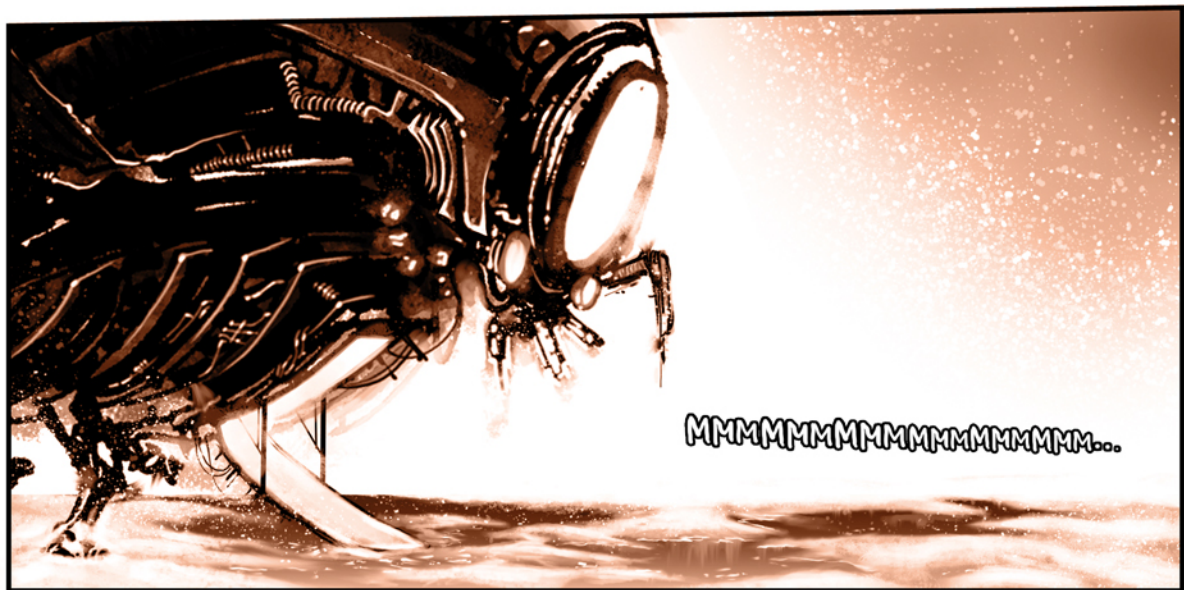
MAYBE  
THE STORIES  
WE'VE BEEN  
HEARING ARE  
TRUE--

...SOME-  
THING'S  
COMING.

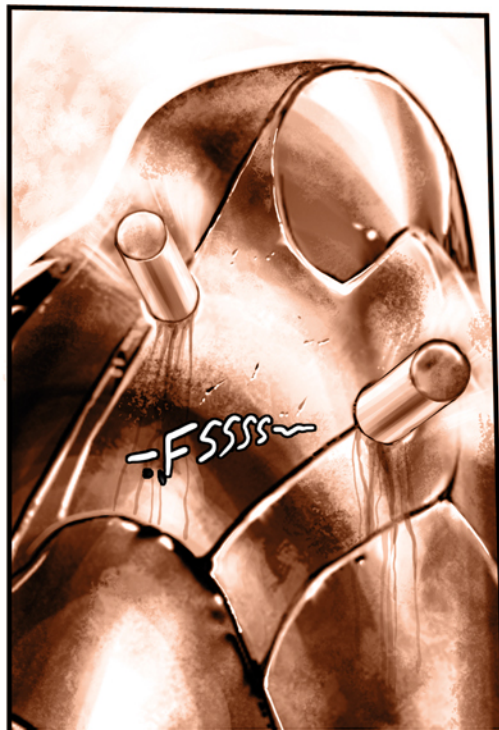
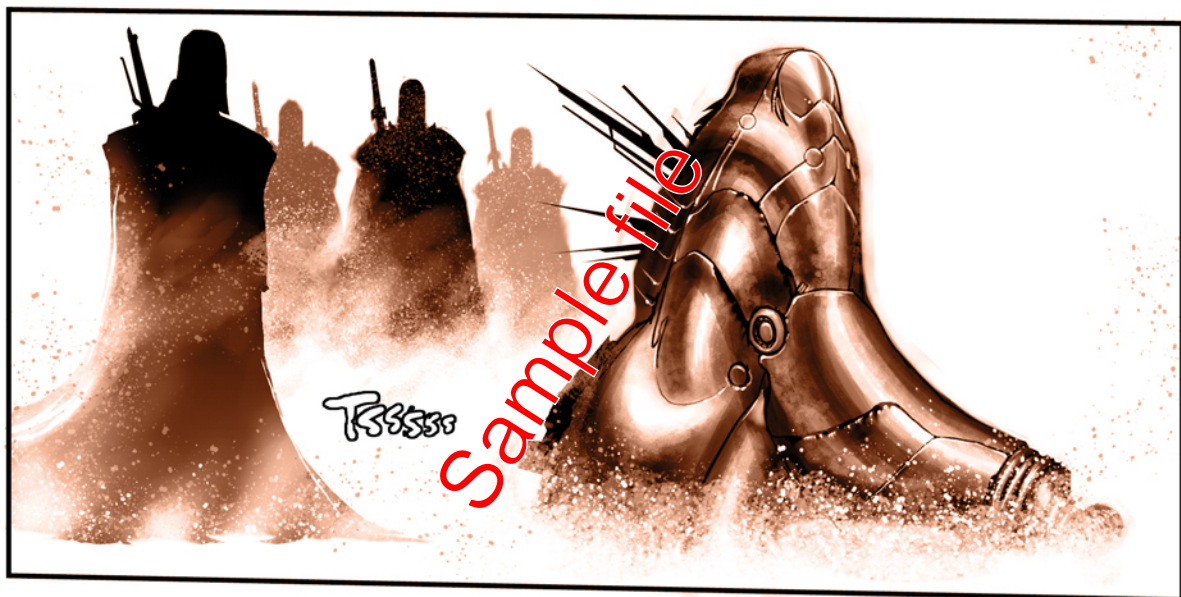
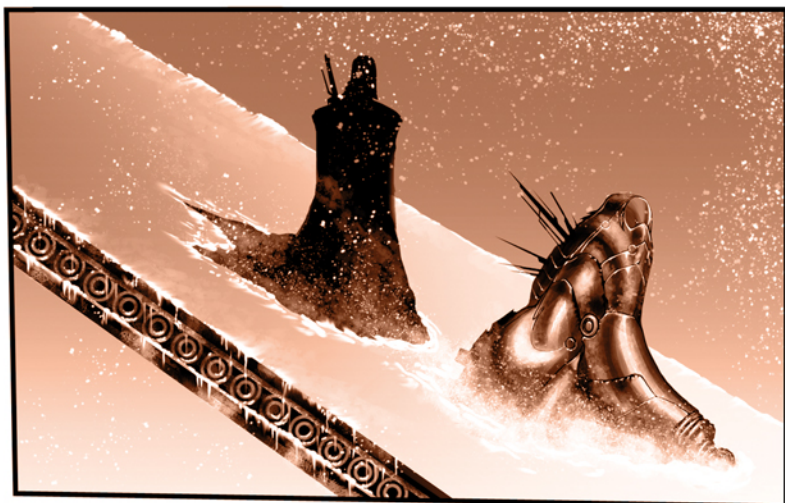
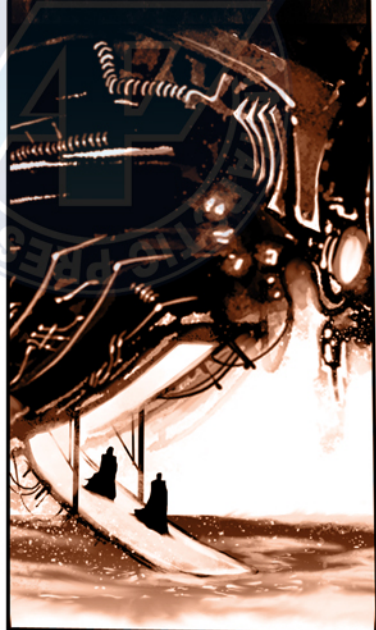




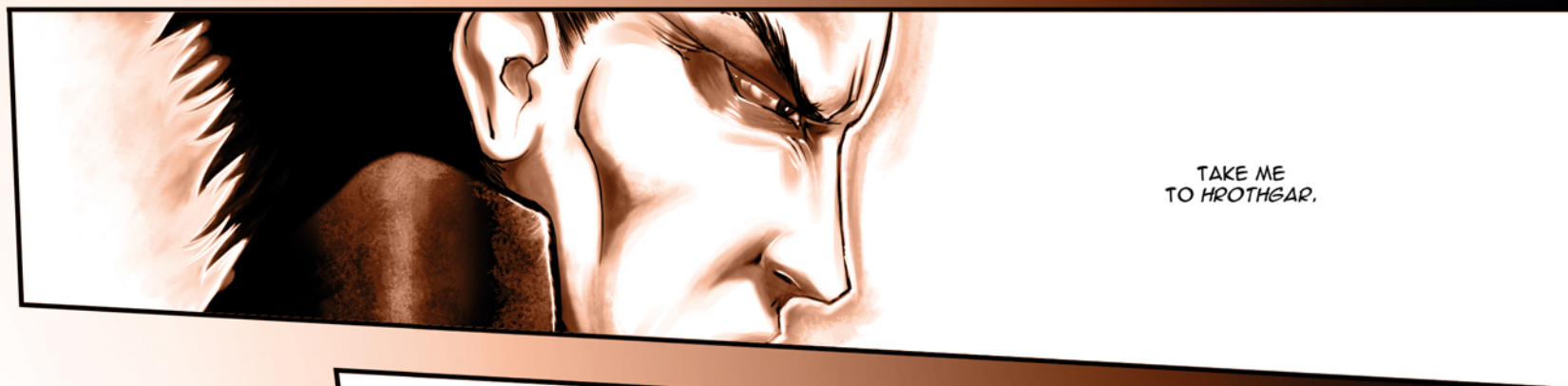












TAKE ME  
TO HROTHGAR.



YOU'RE  
BEOWULF?  
YOU LEAD THIS  
RABBLE?



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

WE'VE  
COME TO  
KILL YOUR  
MONSTER.