

THE BLOOD OF THE HIVE

BY JOSEF ROTHER (SCRIPT) & PAUL PEART-SMITH (ART)

THUS SPEAKS
THE BOOK OF
THE SWARM:

"AND WHEN THE FIRST
PRINCESS AND HER MAIDENS HAD
VANQUISHED THE SPIDERS AND DRIVEN
THEM FROM THE CITADEL, THE FIRST
PRINCESS TURNED TO THE FIRST
PRINCE AND SPOKE UNTO HIM:

"LONG HAVE YOU WEPT,
MY PRINCE, LONG HAVE YOU
FRETTED THAT YOU ARE TOO
FRAIL TO JOIN IN THE FRAY.

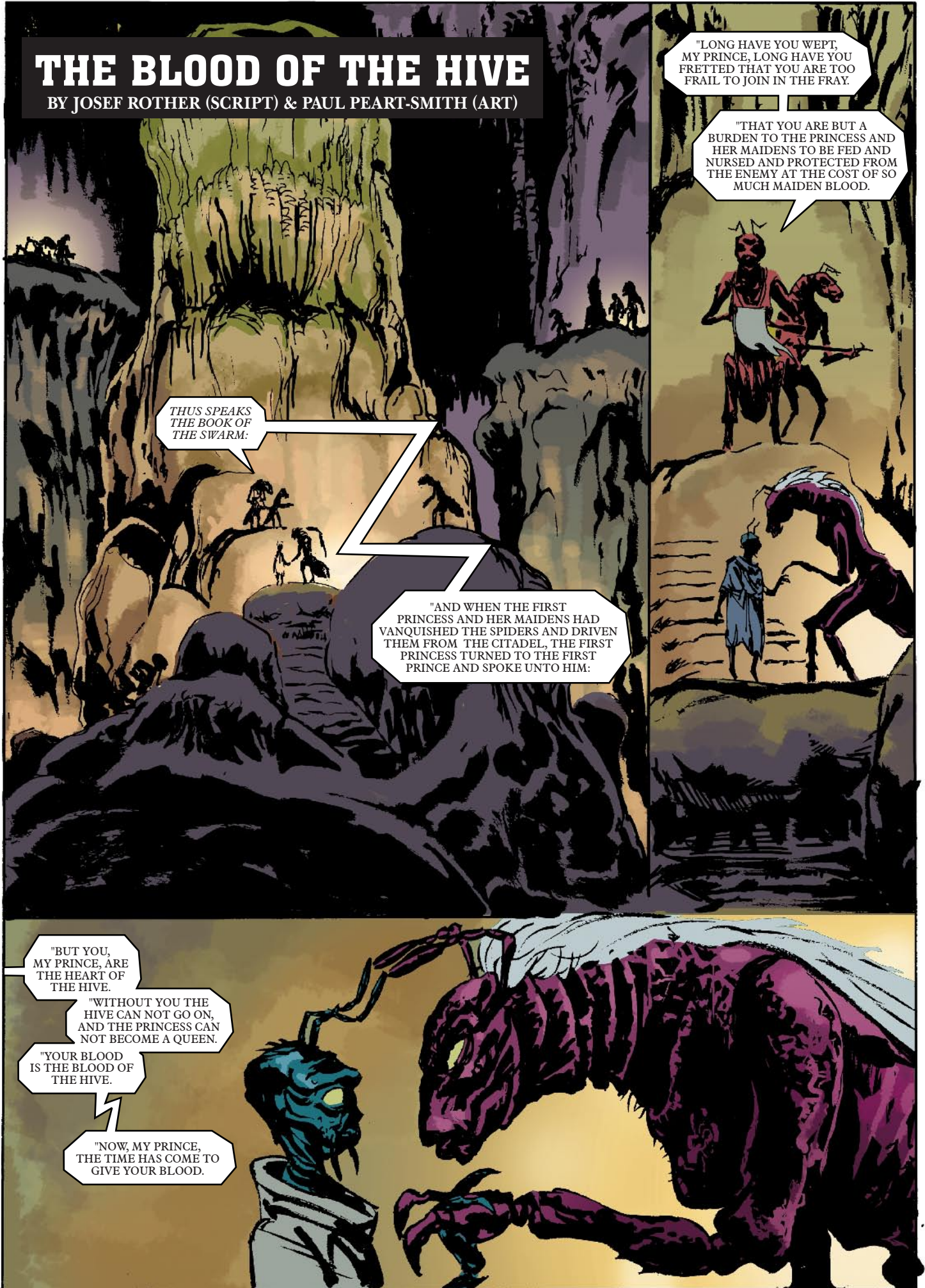
"THAT YOU ARE BUT A
BURDEN TO THE PRINCESS AND
HER MAIDENS TO BE FED AND
NURSED AND PROTECTED FROM
THE ENEMY AT THE COST OF SO
MUCH MAIDEN BLOOD.

"BUT YOU,
MY PRINCE, ARE
THE HEART OF
THE HIVE.

"WITHOUT YOU THE
HIVE CAN NOT GO ON,
AND THE PRINCESS CAN
NOT BECOME A QUEEN.

"YOUR BLOOD
IS THE BLOOD OF
THE HIVE.

"NOW, MY PRINCE,
THE TIME HAS COME TO
GIVE YOUR BLOOD.





"AND THEN THE PRINCE TOOK UP THE SACRED KNIFE."



"AND THE PRINCE RAISED THE KNIFE."



"AND THE PRINCE CUT HIS FLESH AND SPILLED THE BLOOD OF THE HIVE."



"AND THE HALLOWED PASSION SWEEPED OVER THE PRINCESS."



"AND THE FIRST PRINCESS BECAME THE FIRST QUEEN."



"AND SHE TORE HIM LIMB FROM LIMB AND WALLOWED IN HIS GUTS AND GORGED ON HIS BLOOD AND SLAUGHTERED HER BELOVED."



AND THEN THE BLOATED LEECH FELL INTO HER BREEDING COMA, AND THE STERILE WORKER VESTALS CARRIED HER OFF TO THE BROOD CHAMBER SO SHE COULD DEFECATE A LOAD OF GRUBS.

AND WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE PRINCE THEY SWEEPED INTO THE SEWERS...



DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO DO THIS TO YOU, MY PRINCE?



IT IS THE PRINCE'S SACRED DUTY TO GIVE HIS BLOOD FOR HIS PRINCESS AND HER LARVAE.

I DID NOT ASK YOU TO REITERATE THEIR PROPAGANDA TRIBE.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT, MY PRINCE?

I WANT WHAT MY PRINCESS WANTS.



AND I WANT YOU TO LIVE.



WE DO NOT HAVE TO SURRENDER TO SOME FABLE OF A BIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE THAT TELLS ME TO TAKE YOUR LIFE AND YOU TO OBEY MY EVERY ORDER.

WE HAVE OUR OWN FREE WILL.

SAY IT, MY PRINCE. SAY IT!

WE HAVE OUR OWN FREE WILL.

WE HAVE OUR OWN FREE WILL.



THE HIVE IS SO BIG AND SO FULL OF MINDLESS PRINCESSES AND PRINCES PREPARED TO DO THEIR DUTY.

"NOBODY WILL MISS US."



"THERE IS FREEDOM OUTSIDE THE HIVE."



"AND LIFE FOR YOU, MY PRINCE!"

"WE WILL FIND A LITTLE CAVE TO CALL OUR OWN..."



"... ONCE WE HAVE CROSSED THE ROCK GARDENS..."



"YOU ARE EXERTING YOURSELF, MY PRINCESS. PLEASE PUT ME DOWN."

YOU WOULD CUT YOURSELF, MY PRINCE,
AND YOU MUST NOT BLEED.

YOU MUST
NEVER EVER
BLEED.
...

WE HAVE TO GO BACK.
MY PRINCESS AND HER LARVAE
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE
OUTSIDE THE HIVE.

I DO NOT
WISH TO EVER
HAVE LARVAE.

AND I FOLLOW ALL MY
PRINCESS'S WISHES. BUT THE
HIVE WILL HUNT US AND FIND US. IT
WILL DRAG US BACK AND SURELY
PUNISH MY PRINCESS, ACCUSING
HER OF SINFUL DELUSIONS.

SHUT UP,
PRINCE!
I ORDER
YOU TO
NOT SPEAK
ANOTHER
WORD.







A SPIDER!



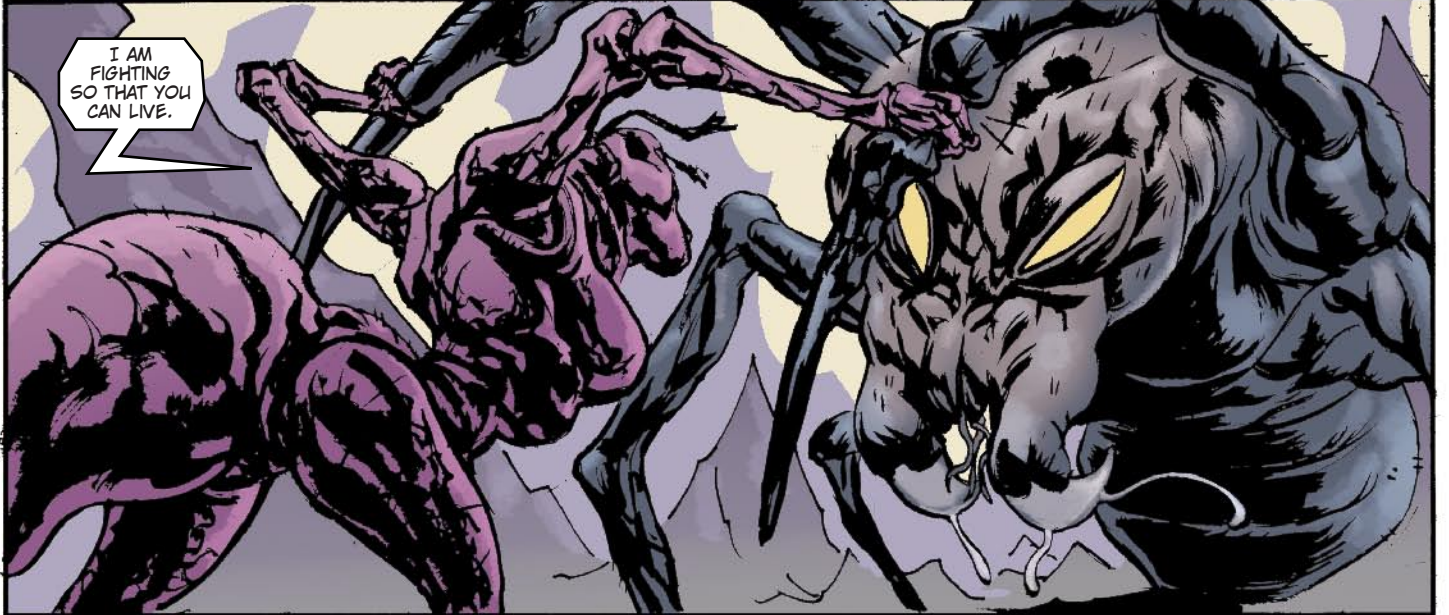
MY PRINCESS NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE HIVE!



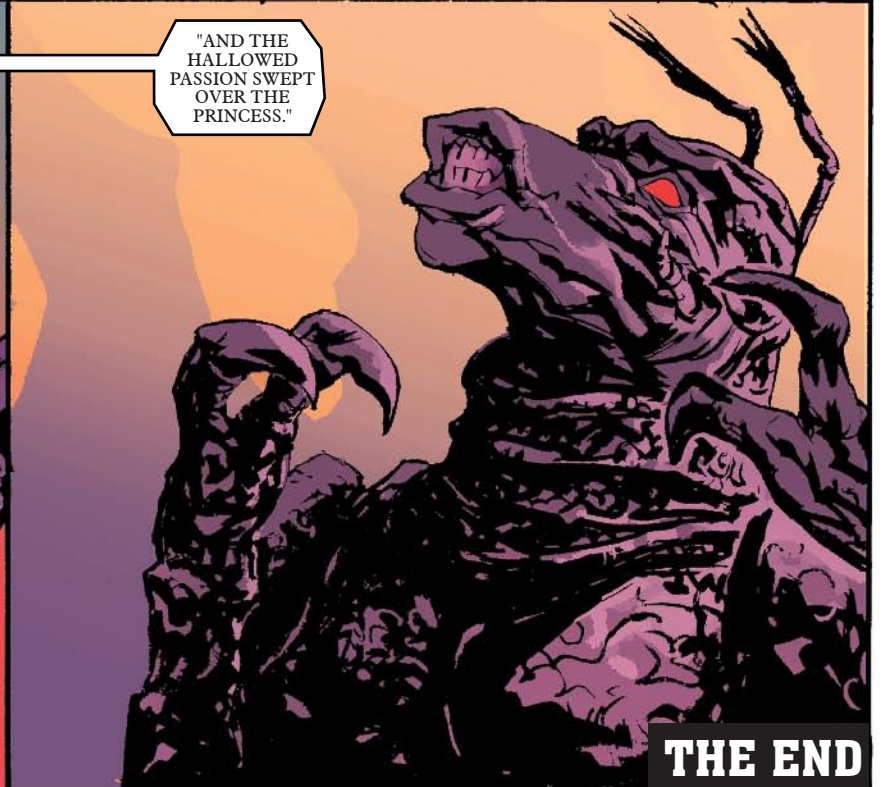
YOU WAIT ON THIS TREE.

BUT I NEED TO FIGHT AND PROTECT MY PRINCESS.

YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE WHILE I BATTLE THE BEAST. IF IT KILLS ME, YOU CLIMB INTO THE UPPER BRANCHES. THE SPIDER WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH YOU THERE.







THE END