

THE HAMMER

JOHN C. RICHARDS ROGER KUPELIAN



ROGER MATTER



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VOLUME I

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BOOK DESIGN BY ZEN

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THE MACCABEES
(THE HASMONEAN CLAN)

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(PATRIARCH,
HIGH PRIEST)



MIRIAM
(HIS WIFE)



JONATHAN
(THE WISE)



JUDAH (THE
HAMMER)



ELEAZAR
(THE BRAVE)



JOHN (THE
CLEVER)



SIMON (THE
YOUNGEST)



ELIA
(HIS WIFE)

THE SELEUCIDS



MARISSA

ANTIOCUS
(THE KING)



HIS QUEEN

HIS GENERALS



NICANOR



BAGRIS



APOLLONIUS



DAGRON

SOMETIMES TYRANTS
KILL IN THREES.

THAT'S HOW THEY
SEND A MESSAGE.





THIS GUY'S A PROFESSIONAL.

LOVES WHAT HE DOES, HAS A WIFE AND KIDS, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.



THESE ARE HIS TOOLS.

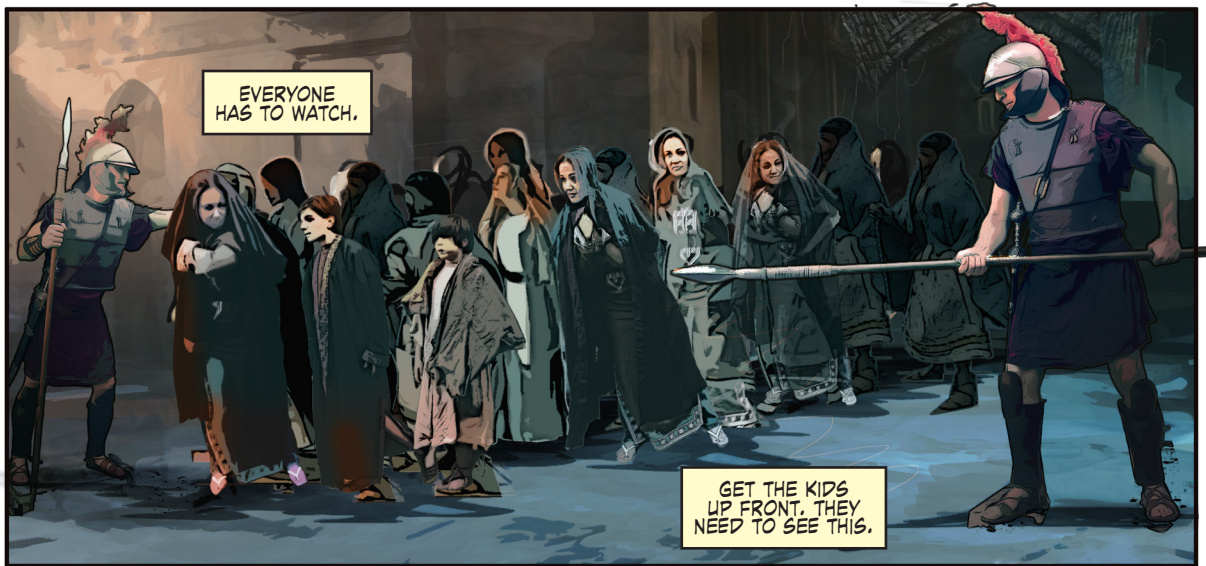


IT'S A SHOW.

WE OWN YOU.



WATCH HOW WE TAKE OUR TIME WHEN WE KILL YOU.



EVERYONE HAS TO WATCH.

GET THE KIDS UP FRONT. THEY NEED TO SEE THIS.



OH, YEAH, ALMOST FORGOT.

THEY NEED TO SAY WHY -- IN PUBLIC -- WE'RE KILLING THREE GUYS IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES.

GOTTA MAKE IT OFFICIAL, RIGHT?



IT'S ALL ABOUT POWER.



THIS IS HOW IT
WENT DOWN IN
168 B.C.



ANTIOCHUS IS THE
KING. JUDEA IS A
TINY PART OF HIS
MASSIVE EMPIRE.



THE SELEUCID
EMPIRE.



ANTIOCHUS HAS TO PROVE HE'S TOUGH, NOT SOMEONE TO MESS WITH.

"IF YOU REFUSE TO OBEY, CONFORM, DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD, THIS KINDA SHIT CAN REALLY HAPPEN TO YOU."

THAT'S HIS MESSAGE.

THIS IS *DAGRON*, HIS EXECUTIONER.

ONE DOWN, TWO TO GO.

NICE DAY, ISN'T IT?



WHAT'D YOU SAY?



WHAT ARE YOU, *DEAF*? HE SAID IT'S A NICE DAY.



NICE DAY TO KILL SOME *UNARMED* MEN.



HE'S TOUGH, ISN'T HE?



THE PROFESSIONAL KNOWS WHEN SOMEONE HAS ALREADY MADE HIS PEACE WITH DEATH.

HE FINDS IT... *INTRIGUING*.



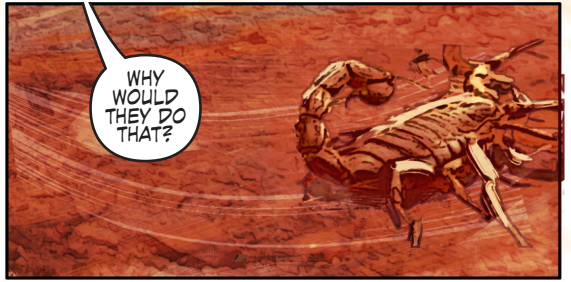




THEY SAY ARON AND ISHAI TAUNTED THE EXECUTIONER RIGHT UP UNTIL THE MOMENT THEY DIED.



I BELIEVE IT.



WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?



TO SHOW THOSE FUCKERS THEY DIDN'T REALLY OWN THEM.

THEY HAD THEIR BODIES, BUT NOT THEIR SOULS.

I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS. WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, YOU'RE DEAD.

SIMON

JUDAH

JONATHAN



NO, MAN. GOTTA HAVE SOME PRIDE.

JERUSALEM.

ISN'T THAT
WHAT GOT 'EM
THERE?
JUST
SAYIN'...



WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT?

