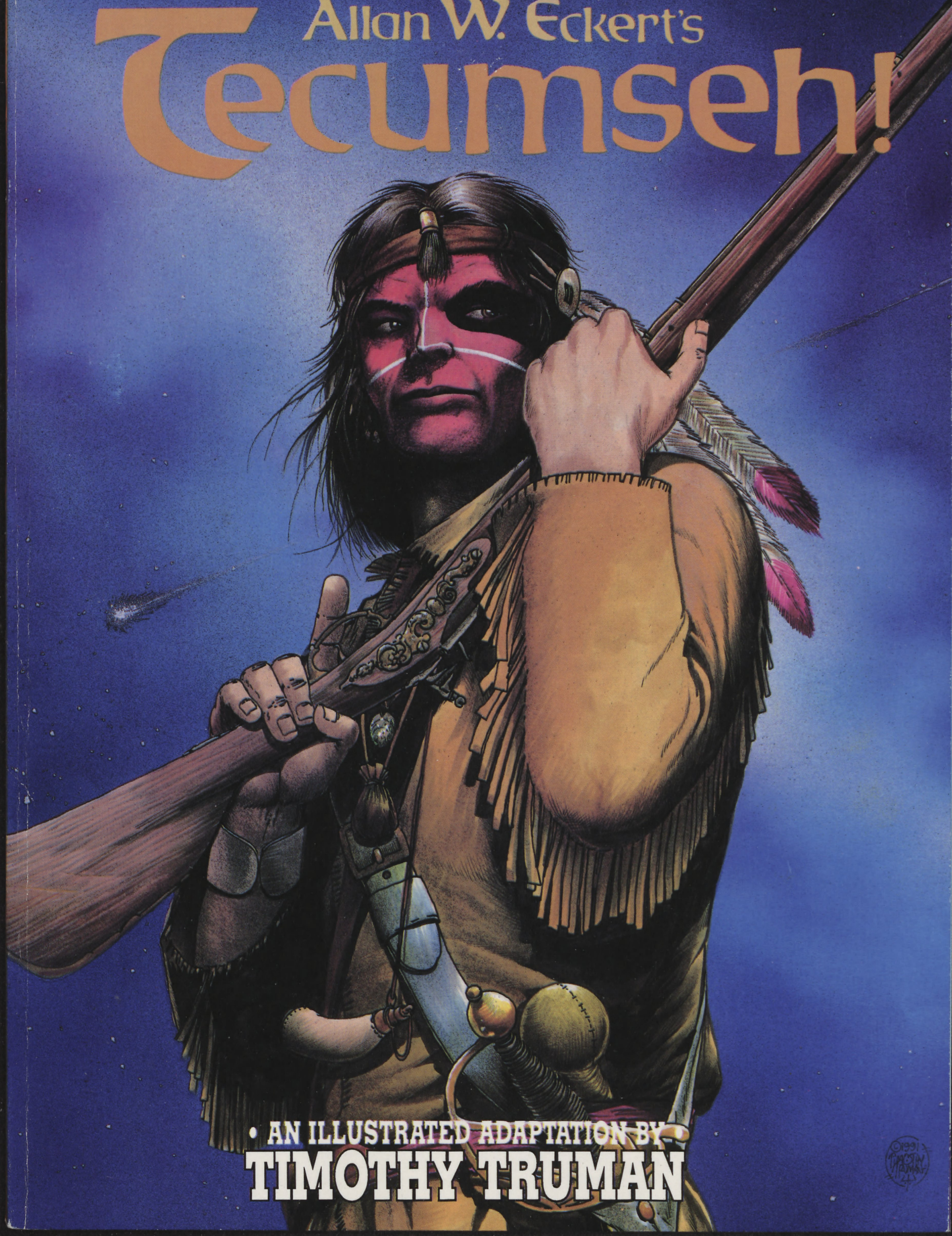
Allan W. Eckert's

Tecumseh!



• AN ILLUSTRATED ADAPTATION BY •

TIMOTHY TRUMAN

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Allan W. Eckert's

Tecumseh!

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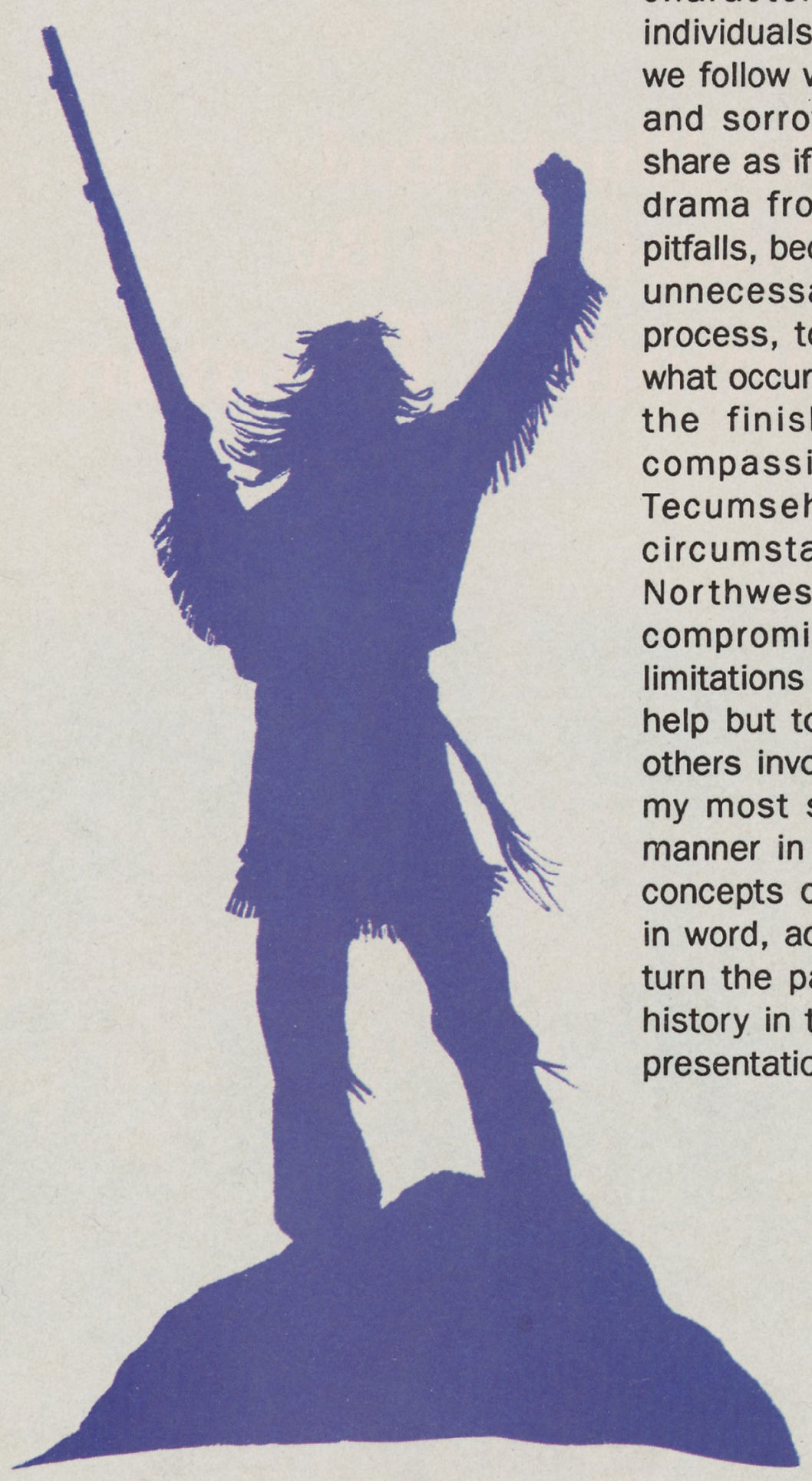
ECLIPSE BOOKS



There is a very special knack involved in taking the bare dry bones of history and fleshing them out so that the characters become living, breathing individuals whose actions and adventures we follow with excitement and whose pains and sorrows, joys and triumphs we can share as if we were a part of it all. Creating drama from history in this way has its pitfalls, because it is all too easy to become unnecessarily melodramatic and, in the process, to lose the historical accuracy of what occurred and, as a result, the value of the finished work. In any work encompassing so strong a character as Tecumseh and so complex a set of circumstances as the wresting of the Northwest Territory from the Indians, compromises must be made within the limitations of space and time; yet, I cannot help but to extend to Timothy Truman and others involved in the creation of this work my most sincere congratulations for the manner in which they have adhered to the concepts of maintaining historical accuracy in word, action, dress, and weaponry. Now, turn the pages and enjoy your plunge into history in this new and wonderfully exciting presentation.

—Allan W. Eckert
1991

Tecumseh!

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Timothy Truman
Artist

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Editor

Based on the play
Tecumseh!
by Allan W. Eckert
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in Chillicothe, Ohio.
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TECUMSEH!
NAKLIDE FANWI'LIDAWA!

TECUMSEH!

THIS IS THE LAND WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO THE GREATEST SHAWNEE -- THE GREATEST INDIAN!

SOUTHWARD OF HERE, MY CHILDREN, THERE STANDS CHILLICOTHE ON THE BANKS OF THE SCIOTO RIVER -- NEAR WHERE OUR OWN CHALAHGAWTHA WAS LOCATED, BEFORE THAT TOWN OF OUR FATHERS WAS DESTROYED. NORTHWARDLY, ON THE PICKAWAY PLAINS, WERE THE VILLAGES OF HOKOLESQUA -- THE GREAT CHIEF KNOWN AS CORNSTALK! AND JUST ACROSS THE SCIOTO NORTH OF THESE WAS KISPOKO TOWN, VILLAGE OF THE WAR CHIEF PUCKSINWAH, WHO GAVE HIS PEOPLE MORE THAN HIS STRENGTH AND HIS COURAGE... HE GAVE THEM A SON ...NAMED TECUMSEH!

TECUMSEH WAS A SON WISE AND ABLE, FILLED WITH VISION AND PURPOSE. BEFORE HIS TWENTIETH SUMMER HE WAS RESPECTED BY ALL SHAWNEES AND FEARED BY ALL WHITES. THERE WAS GOOD REASON...

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SEVERAL SUMMERS BEFORE, WITH HIS OLDEST BROTHER, CHIKSIKA, TECUMSEH HELPED ATTACK A PARTY OF WHITES ON THE OHIO RIVER SHORE NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE SCIOTO...

CHIKSIKA was the leader of the warriors who waited in the laurel that day.

and TECUMSEH, then only 15 years old, worshipped CHIKSIKA with a love that only brothers can share.

with them were RED HORSE,,, wise old FROG HUNTER,,, TECUMSEH's and CHIKSIKA's BROTHER-IN-LAW, WASEGOBOAH,,,

PESHEWA ... MUGA ... WEPE-NIPE ... STAND-IN-WATER ... BIG OWL ... WABETE ... WAWILAWAY ... KITATE ... THIN WARRIOR ... OTHERS ...

many warriors, young and old, waiting there ... waiting ...

THE LONG KNIVES were coming.

SOUTHERN OHIO, 1783:

AWRIGHT, BOYS... I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED. SO AM I.

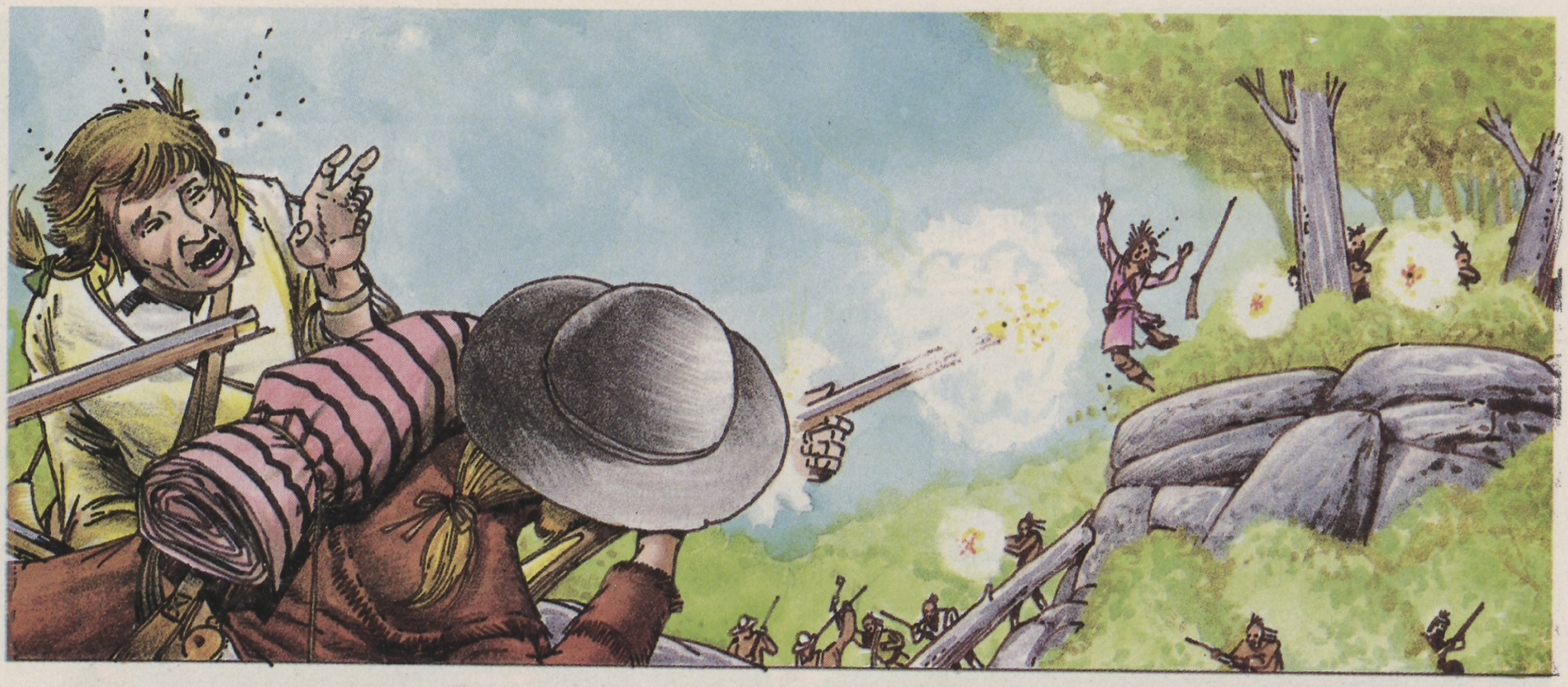
BUT WE AIN'T GONNA CAMP HERE.

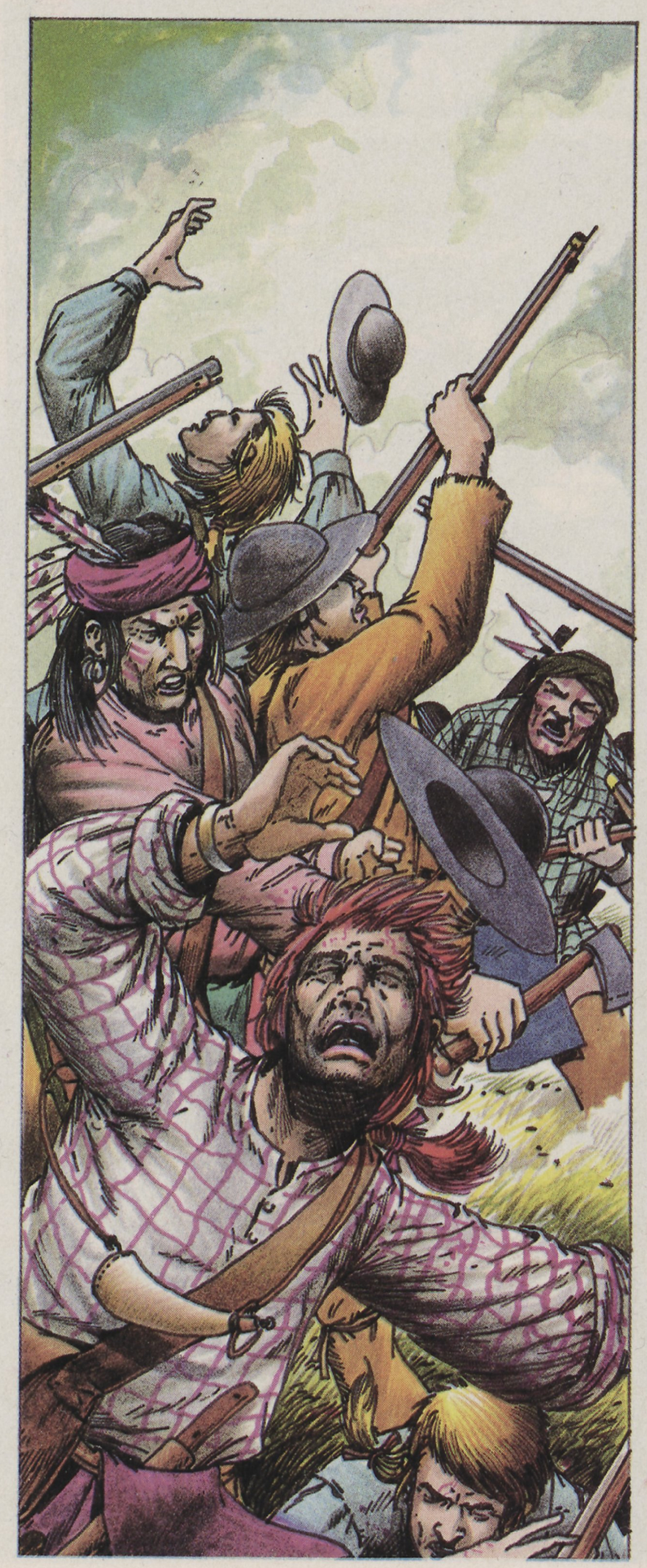
YOU MIGHT BE RESTIN' HERE LONGER'N YOU **THINK**, SIKES! THIS IS STILL **SHAWNEE** COUNTRY... AND I GOT ME A BAD **FEELIN'**...

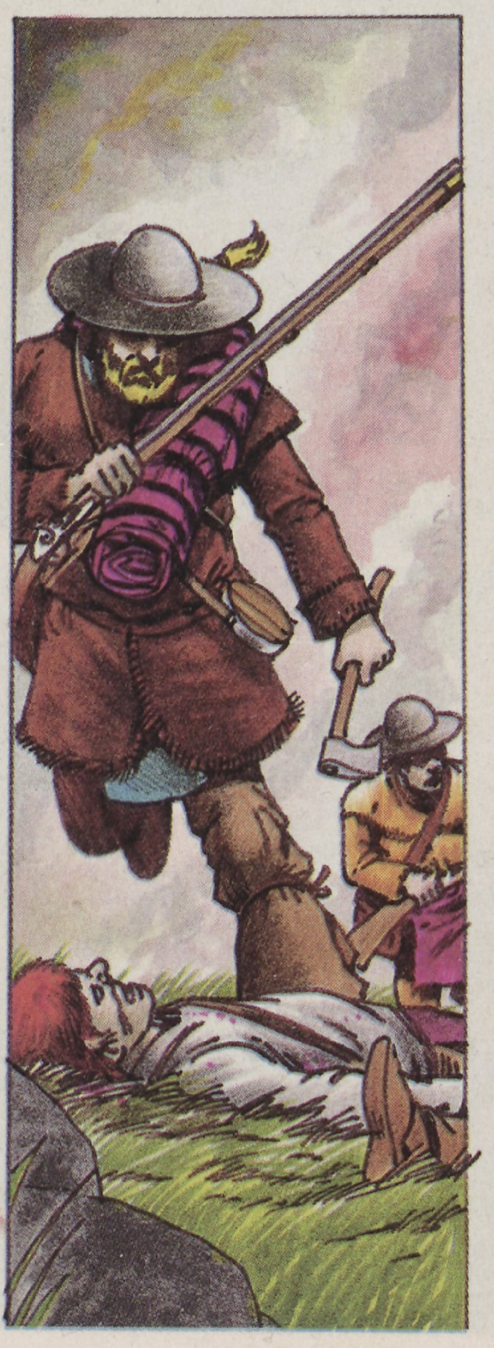
LORD *SAKES*, **SIMON KENTON**! WHY **NOT**!? YOU KNOW WE AIN'T ALL **IRON MEN** LIKE **YOU**! WE'RE JUST POOR DUMB **HUMAN BEINGS** WHAT GOTTA REST UP MAYBE ONCE'T, TWICE'T A **WEEK**...!

LISTEN NOW-- I AIN'T GONNA SAY IT **TWICE**! PUT OUT THAT FIRE! WE'RE GOIN' BACK ACROSS THE OHIO 'FORE WE **CAMP**!

ANY OF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT I SAY, WELL THEN, YOU CAN JUST...







CHIKSIKA! YOU'RE HURT!

IT'S NOTHING, TECUMSEH. GET RID OF THESE DEAD MEN!

LOOK! THIS ONE IS STILL ALIVE!

NO, PESHEWA! WE'LL ALL SHARE IN THE DEATH OF THIS TRESPASSER!

YOU ARE MY ENEMY, LONG KNIFE! FOR THAT YOU WILL DIE!

AAIIIEEHH!

NO!

HA! HE'S **DEAD!** OUR BROTHER BARKING FOX IS **AVENGED!**

YOU TRIED TO **STOP** ME, **TECUMSEH!** WHY? ARE YOU A LITTLE GIRL, AFRAID OF BLOOD?

RED HORSE! TECUMSEH! STOP! YOU FOUGHT WELL... **ALL** OF YOU! NOW IT'S OVER! WOULD YOU KILL EACH **OTHER?**

YOUR LITTLE BROTHER TRIED TO STOP ME, **CHIKSIKA!** HE NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!

BUT NOT BY **YOU**, RED HORSE! **I'M** THE LEADER HERE, AND **I** WILL DECIDE WHO REQUIRES BEING **TAUGHT!** TECUMSEH FOUGHT **WELL** IN THE AMBUSH. BETTER THAN **I**... BETTER THAN ANY OF **YOU!**

I WOULD SPEAK, CHIKSIKA...

I'M MARRIED TO YOUR SISTER! TECUMSEH IS MY BEST **FRIEND!** I, TOO, SAW HIM FIGHT TODAY! BUT MY EYES ALSO SAW HIM GO **AGAINST** OUR TRADITIONS OF **WAR!**

IT'S **ALWAYS** BEEN OUR WAY TO DESTROY ANY ENEMY WHO MIGHT FALL INTO OUR HANDS! AM I TO BELIEVE THAT MY FRIEND, TECUMSEH, CONSIDERS THIS **WRONG** -- ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S NO LESS THAN THE WHITES DO TO **US?**

THE SAME QUESTION SITS ON **MY** TONGUE, BROTHER...

I HAVEN'T YET PUT THE WORDS INTO MY MOUTH... BUT THEY HAVE LONG BEEN IN MY HEART...

I DO **NOT** WISH TO LISTEN TO A **CHILD** SPEAKING TO **MEN!**

HA! AND YOU CLAIM THIS WOMAN IS YOUR **BROTHER**, CHIKSIKA?

UHHNNH!

NOW, RED HORSE -- I WILL SPEAK AND **YOU** WILL LISTEN!

YOU ARE MY BROTHER BY **BLOOD**, CHIKSIKA! THE REST OF YOU ARE BROTHERS IN MY **HEART**! BROTHERS MUST SPEAK FROM THEIR HEARTS IF LOVE IS TO REMAIN. AND MINE IS HEAVY WITH **SHAME** AT WHAT WE HAVE DONE HERE!

IS IT **COURAGE** TO TORTURE AND KILL A MAN WHO CANNOT **DEFEND** HIMSELF? YOUNG I AM, YES... BUT SUCH AS THAT **SICKENS** ME!

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, TECUMSEH, WHEN THESE WHITES SLAUGHTER THE GAME WE NEED TO FEED OUR FAMILIES?

I WILL GLADLY KILL ANY FOE IN **BATTLE**. BUT I WILL NOT KILL A **HELPLESS** MAN!

HE WAS OUR ENEMY. BUT HE DESERVED THE DEATH OF A **MAN**, NOT A **BEAST**!

SHOULD WE TURN OUR BACKS, THEN, WHEN THESE MEN ENTER OUR COUNTRY TO **KILL** US, TECUMSEH? YOU HAVEN'T **FOUGHT** ENOUGH TO SPEAK AS YOU DO,,, NOR **SUFFERED** ENOUGH!

WHAT DO **I** KNOW OF SUFFERING? THE WHITES KILLED OUR **FATHER!** THEY DESTROYED OUR **VILLAGES!** THEY FORCED US FROM THE LAND WE LOVED!

I CANNOT STAND ASIDE AND WATCH THEM DO THIS. WE MUST **STOP** THEM! BUT I SAY TO YOU, RED HORSE, THERE IS NO **HONOR** IN TORTURING **ANY** MAN!

A MOMENT AGO, YOU WERE ANGRY ENOUGH TO **KILL** ME! TAKE MY KNIFE! PIERCE MY HEART **NOW** IF WHAT I SAY ISN'T **TRUE!**

I -- I COULD NOT KILL YOU IN SUCH A WAY...

BECAUSE THERE'S NO **HONOR** IN IT? WHAT HONOR, THEN, WAS THERE FOR US IN **HIS** DEATH? IF THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN TRADITION AND HONOR, WHO HERE WOULD CHOOSE **TRADITION?**

NOT I. I, TOO HAVE FELT THE SHAME MY BROTHER SPEAKS OF. WHO HERE HAS **NOT?**

TECUMSEH, I VOW TO YOU THAT I WILL NEVER AGAIN TORTURE ANY LIVING CREATURE.

I WILL VOW THE SAME.

I, **FROG HUNTER**, AM THE OLDEST HERE! I HATE THE WHITES, AND WITH THIS KNIFE HAVE TORTURED MANY PRISONERS!

BUT IT WILL DRAW **NO MORE** BLOOD!

TECUMSEH'S WORDS ARE WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS. ALL SHAWNEES WILL LEARN NOT ONLY OF HIS **BRAVERY** THIS DAY, BUT ALSO OF HIS **WISDOM!**

GOOD! WE WILL GIVE THIS *SHEMANESE* A BURIAL OF RESPECT TO **SEAL** OUR VOW.

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, THE BIG FRONTIERSMAN NAMED **SIMON KENTON** AND A FEW STRAGGLING SURVIVORS HURRIED TO CROSS THE OHIO RIVER TO SAFETY.

...WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU, **KENTON**?! I GOT A **RIGHT** TO KILL THIS INJEN IF'N I WANT--'**SPECIALLY** AFTER WHAT THEY DONE TO US! I'M TAKIN' HIS **SCALP**! YOU HEAR?

WITH THEM WAS A **PRISONER**...

NOT 'LESS YOU AIM TO KILL ME **FIRST**, TOMPKINS.

HE'S A **MAN**, NOT A HAWG BEIN' SLAUGHTERED. I AIM TO QUESTION HIM, SO HE AIN'T BEIN' KILLED. NOT **NOW**... NOT **LATER**!

NOW GET OUT OF HERE. **BOTH** OF YOU. 'FORE I LOSE MY TEMPER...

DANGED INJEN-LOVER...

HEY...YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? YOU'RE A **MAKUJAY** SHAWNEE BY YOUR MARKIN'S. RECKON YOU KNOW YOU AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT.

ALL MEN DIE... LEANING TREE NOT AFRAID...

I KNOW YOU... WE CALL YOU... **BAHD-LER** WHEN YOU SHAWNEE PRISONER AT... MACKACHACK...

HUH! WELL, YOUR WAR PARTY WHIPPED US GOOD, AND WITH LESS MEN THAN US, TOO. WHO FIGURED YOUR ATTACK?

CHIKSIKA. AND... **TECUMSEH**. SONS OF WAR CHIEF **PUCKSINWAH**, WHO DIE... MANY SUMMERS AGO.

CHIKSIKA. HEARED TELL OF HIM. WHAT ABOUT THIS **TECUMSEH**?

SOON BE **GREAT** INDIAN... GREATER THAN FATHER. GREATER THAN BROTHER. ONE DAY EVERY-ONE **SEE**...

ONE DAY, MAYBE... HE KILL **YOU**.

THE SUMMERS PASSED, AND ALTHOUGH WE RESISTED, THE WHITE MEN CONTINUED TO FILL OUR LAND. THE LONG KNIVES CROSSED THE RIVER, BURNING OUR TOWNS AND CROPS, LOOTING AND KILLING.

SOON, TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES SAFE, THE SHAWNEES BEGAN MOVING NORTHWEST. IT WAS 1787, AND TECUMSEH WAS 19 YEARS OLD...

TECUMSEH, I BEG YOU! WHAT YOU DO AFFECTS THE FUTURE OF OUR WHOLE TRIBE! THIS, THE SADDEST TIME IN ALL SHAWNEE HISTORY, COULD BE LIGHTENED IF ONLY YOU WOULD **COME** WITH US!

YOU HAVE ALWAYS LED US WELL, CHIEF KIKUSGOWLOWA. YET I CAN'T AGREE WITH YOUR PLANS... AND I CAN'T GO WITH YOU! NOR CAN I SAY WHICH COURSE **OTHERS** MIGHT FOLLOW...

...I'M NO CHIEF. SO WHAT I SAY OR DO MEANS **LITTLE**...

YOU ARE **WRONG**! YOUR INFLUENCE AMONG OUR PEOPLE IS ALREADY MUCH GREATER THAN THAT OF MANY **CHIEFS**! YOU'VE FOUGHT MANY BATTLES WITH THE LONG KNIVES! THEY'VE COME TO **FEAR** YOU!

BUT EVEN **YOUR** GREAT ABILITY COULD NOT PREVENT THE WHITES FROM FLOATING DOWN THE *SPAY-LA-WI-THEEPI* IN, THEIR BIG BOATS!

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GO **WITH** YOU. WE MUST **STOP** THEM!

CAN YOU STOP THE BREEZE FROM BLOWING? CAN YOU STOP THE CLOUD WHICH BRINGS STORM? NO! THE WHITES SPREAD THROUGH OUR COUNTRY LIKE A DISEASE!

THE WAR BETWEEN US AND THEM HAS BEEN LONG AND BITTER -- BUT IT IS ONE WE CANNOT WIN!

WE CAN WIN! WE MUST! BUT NOW, THE TRIBE IS SPLITTING AND THE MAJORITY ARE MOVING WEST WITH YOU. THERE WILL BE FEW OF US LEFT NOW TO FACE THE WHITES!

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST COME WITH US, TECUMSEH. WE NEED YOU! IF YOU DO, OTHERS WHO WOULD ALSO STAY BEHIND WILL FOLLOW. WE CAN THEN STOP THE WHITES AT THE MISSISSIPPI!

YOU ARE WRONG! YEARS AGO, WE SAID WE COULD STOP THEM AT THE *SPAY-LAY-WI-THEEPI*, BUT WE COULD NOT. THE MISSISSIPPI WILL BE NO BARRIER TO THEM EITHER!

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU. THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN! MY FATHER IS BURIED HERE! THIS IS SHAWNEE LAND...

...I CANNOT ABANDON IT!

GO, MY CHIEF. IF WE FAIL HERE, LEARN WELL FROM OUR FAILURE.

MUCH TIME PASSED BEFORE TECUMSEH SAW HIS PEOPLE AGAIN...

ACROSS THE OHIO RIVER, AT KENTON'S STATION, KENTUCKY:

...1787:

...AN' NOW, SIMON, DO YOU ACCEP' MARTHA HERE AS YOUR LAWFUL-WEDDED WIFE, TO HAVE AN' TO HOLD, TO LOVE AN' HONOR AN' OBEY, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH AND ALL THAT BUSINESS, 'TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?

I... I...

...DO?

INJEN!

HOLD YOUR FIRE. HE'S ALONE AND UNARMED. STAY READY. I'LL SEE WHAT HE WANTS.

13.

I COME IN PEACE. YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED **SIMON KENTON**. I COME TO SEE **YOU**!

YOU KNOW ME, AND I THINK I KNOW YOU. AIN'T YOU **BLUE JACKET**?

LET'S **KILL** 'IM, SIMON!

YOU TOOK A BIG RISK, SHAWNEE.

TECUMSEH SAID YOU WOULD LISTEN, AND RESPECT THE TRUCE FLAG.

TECUMSEH AGAIN! EVERYWHERE I GO, I HEAR ABOUT HIM.

YOU HAVE SHAWNEE PRISONERS. WE HAVE WHITE PRISONERS. WE WANT OUR PEOPLE BACK. YOU WANT YOURS. WILL YOU AGREE TO A PRISONER EXCHANGE?

HUH! I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE ADOPTED MOST OF YOUR PRISONERS.

WE HAVE ADOPTED MANY. BUT WE WILL GIVE THEM UP BECAUSE WE WANT OUR OWN PEOPLE BACK EVEN MORE.

MEET US ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE OHIO, ACROSS FROM HERE, ON THE DAY AFTER THE NEXT FULL MOON. WE WILL MEET IN TEMPORARY PEACE.

COULD BE MORE'N JUST THAT. MAYBE WE COULD TALK ABOUT A PERMANENT PEACE? MAYBE SET A NEW TREATY?

THAT I DO NOT KNOW, BUT IT WOULD BE GOOD. OUR PEOPLE ARE WEARY OF WAR.

NO MORE THAN WE ARE. ALL RIGHT, WE'LL BE THERE WITH OUR PRISONERS. JUST KEEP HOLD OF THEM HOT-HEADED YOUNG BUCKS OF YOURS, HEAR?

IF THERE IS TROUBLE, IT WILL START FROM YOUR PEOPLE, NOT OURS. WE'VE GIVEN OUR WORD TO COME IN PEACE. WE WILL!

THE NEW CHALAHGAWTHA VILLAGE ON THE LITTLE MIAMI RIVER:

MY HUSBAND WASEGOBOAH,,, DO YOU THINK THERE MIGHT REALLY BE **PEACE**?

I DON'T KNOW, TECUMAPESE. I HOPE SO.

YOUR LITTLE BROTHER **TENSKWATAWA** IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL TONIGHT. I ONLY HOPE THAT HE WILL NOT LET HIS TONGUE WAGGLE TOO FREELY -- AS **USUAL!**

TECUMAPESE! TONIGHT IS THE TIME, SISTER! TODAY I AM A **MAN**, AND SIT AT MY FIRST COUNCIL, WITH **OTHER** MEN!

CAN YOU REALLY BE SO GROWN UP? AH, **TENSKWATAWA** ,,, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY BABY BROTHER ...

NO! I AM NO ***BABY!*** I AM A ***MAN!***

I -- I'M **SORRY**, TECUMAPESE... I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPEAK TO YOU SO SHARPLY. IT'S JUST THAT I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SIT AT COUNCIL, AND EXPRESS MY VIEWS...

IN **COUNCIL**, LITTLE BROTHER, IT IS OFTEN MORE IMPORTANT TO **LISTEN** THAN TO **SPEAK!**

LOOK!

CHIKSIKA! TECUMSEH! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

AND WE'RE GLAD TO BE HOME, SISTER!

GLAD WE'RE BACK, LITTLE BROTHER?!

YES.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

THIS IS NO LONGER OUR "LITTLE BROTHER". THIS IS A MAN, NAMED TENSKWATAWA!

AH! HE'S RIGHT!

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, TENSKWATAWA, FOR YOUR BROTHER AND ME TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD WE ARE!

COME! WE SHOULD JOIN CHIEF BLACK HOOF AT THE COUNCIL!

YES, WE'LL TALK WITH YOU LATER, TECUMAPESE.

GOOD DAY, CHIEF BLACK HOOF!

UH--YES. TENSKWATAWA. I -- (A-HEM!)-- I WELCOME YOU AMONG US. CHIKSIKA... TECUMSEH. IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE RETURNED...!

...NOW, AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, BLUE JACKET, YOU TOOK A GREAT CHANCE GOING TO THE WHITES. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE SUCH A WARRIOR CHIEF AS YOU.

THE WAR CANNOT BE ENDED UNTIL THE WHITES RETURN NOT ONLY OUR PEOPLE, BUT THE LANDS THEY HAVE TAKEN FROM US!

IT WAS WORTH THE RISK, CHIEF BLACK HOOF. NOW THERE IS EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF ENDING THE WAR!

THE WHITES ARE WHERE THEY ARE, TECUMSEH. WE CAN'T CHANGE THAT! WE MUST GRASP THIS CHANCE FOR PEACE.

AT WHAT PRICE, MY CHIEF? WHENEVER PEACE IS ARRANGED, IT'S WE WHO LOSE! IS THIS NEW PEACE TO BE ARRANGED ON THE WHITE MAN'S TERMS?

IF SO, I OPPOSE IT!

MY BROTHER TECUMSEH SPEAKS THE TRUTH! I BELIEVE WE CAN *NEVER* HAVE PEACE WITH WHITES! WE MUST *DESTROY THEM ALL!*

HOLD YOUR TONGUE, TENSKWATAWA! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF OUR PROBLEMS!

WE MUST COOPERATE IN THIS MEETING BLUE JACKET HAS ARRANGED! IF THE WAR CONTINUES, IT CAN ONLY END IN OUR DESTRUCTION!

I'VE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOU, CHIEF BLACK HOOF. BUT I'M CONCERNED OVER WHAT I SEE AHEAD. I CANNOT BELIEVE THE WHITES TRULY WANT PEACE! I BELIEVE KENTON CAN BE TRUSTED, BUT HE SPEAKS ONLY FOR HIMSELF!

I FORESEE TREACHERY AT THIS PRISONER EXCHANGE!

I AGREE WITH MY BROTHER!!

IT IS KNOWN THAT YOU DO! NOW BE SILENT, SO THAT WISER TONGUES MAY SPEAK!

ALL OTHERS HERE HAVE SAID THAT THEY AGREE WITH THE PLAN TO MEET THE WHITES! CHIKSIKA,,, DO YOU AGREE WITH YOUR BROTHER TECUMSEH?

IF THERE IS NO BEGINNING OF TRUST BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, THEN PEACE CAN NEVER COME. BUT TECUMSEH'S WORDS MUST NOT BE IGNORED.

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THEN WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE PRISONER EXCHANGE!

BUT TECUMSEH WILL BE IN CHARGE, FOR HE WILL BE THE MOST ALERT FOR THE TREACHERY HE FORESEES.

IF THERE IS TO BE TREACHERY, IT WILL COME FROM THE WHITES--NOT FROM US!

GLAD TO SEE YOU, BLUE JACKET! RECKON YOU'RE READY TO MAKE THE TRADE AS AGREED. KINDA FIGURED YOU'D BE IN CHARGE OF THE DEALIN'S, THOUGH. WHO'S THIS?

I AM TECUMSEH. AND THESE ARE MY BROTHERS, CHIKSIKA AND TENSKWATAWA.

SO YOU'RE TECUMSEH! I RECOLLECT MEETIN' YOU ONCE'T, ON THE MOUTH OF THE SCIOTO...

I REMEMBER WELL. WE WHIPPED YOU!

HMMPH! WELL, THAT'S LONG PAST NOW. BEST LET IT LIE AND GET TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND. WE GOT SOME PEOPLE OF YOUR'N WHO'RE MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO GET EXCHANGED.

AND WE HAVE SOME OF YOURS, BUT SOME OF THEM HAVE GROWN TO LOVE THEIR INDIAN FAMILIES.

CAN'T SEE HOW NO WHITE'D BE CONTENT LIVIN' WITH STINKIN' INJENS! I'D SOONER LIVE IN A HAWGWALLER!

I--UH--I 'POLOGIZE FOR WHAT HE SAID.

LET'S JUST GET ON WITH IT.

ALL RIGHT-- CUT 'EM LOOSE!

NIK-YAH! NIK-YAH! NO! NO! WANT NIK-YAH!

MOMMY? DADDY? MOMMY...?

THE EXCHANGE IS OVER! YOU TOLD BLUE JACKET WE WOULD TALK OF PEACE!

YEP. GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DID! BEEN ENOUGH MISERY ON BOTH SIDES.

MAYBE WE OUGHTTA...

TECUMSEH! THE WHITES HAVE STOLEN OUR HORSES! THEY'RE SWIMMING THEM ACROSS THE RIVER!

WE'VE BEEN BETRAYED!

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UHHNH!

NO!
CHIKSIKA!

CHIKSIKA...

"KO-NAH PO-WEHN-NA..."

"OUR BROTHER... IS DEAD."

THE LOSS OF HIS BROTHER CHIKSIKA TURNED TECUMSEH INTO A GREAT AVENGER! IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, THE WHITES CAME TO FEAR HIM GREATLY.

TENSKWATAWA REMAINED ALMOST CONSTANTLY WITH TECUMSEH, WORSHIPPING HIM AS TECUMSEH HAD WORSHIPPED CHIKSIKA. TECUMSEH CAME TO DEPEND ON HIS YOUNGER BROTHER EVER MORE STRONGLY.

THE WAR REACHED ITS PEAK. IN 1791, OUR PEOPLE WON THEIR GREATEST TRIUMPH WITH THE DEFEAT OF THE AMERICAN GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR'S GREAT ARMY! WE LOST SIXTY-SIX WARRIORS, BUT OF ST. CLAIR'S NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SOLDIERS, WE KILLED SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO! THE SNOW WAS RED WITH THEIR BLOOD!

YET, THE NEXT YEAR, GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE DEFEATED US AT THE PLACE CALLED FALLEN TIMBERS. IN THE TREATY OUR CHIEFS SIGNED WE LOST HALF OF OUR OHIO COUNTRY LAND... INCLUDING THE VERY GROUND UPON WHICH CHALAHGAWTHA -- THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH'S CHILDHOOD -- HAD STOOD!

OPPOSED TO THIS TREATY, TECUMSEH, ALONG WITH A FEW FOLLOWERS, LEFT THE SHAWNEE TRIBE, FOR HE COULD NO LONGER AGREE WITH THE TERMS ACCEPTED BY HIS CHIEFS.

BUT DURING THOSE YEARS HE OFTEN RETURNED TO THE SITE OF *CHALAHGAWTHA*, TO ONCE AGAIN FEEL BENEATH HIS FEET THE LAND HE LOVED SO DEARLY...

'92 TIMOTHY TRUMAN

ALREADY, SETTLERS WERE CLAIMING HIS PRECIOUS HOMELAND.

1797:

OH, MOTHER! LOOK AT THE LOVELY FLOWERS!

REBECCA GALLOWAY! DON'T GO RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT IN THE FOREST!

JAMES! DON'T YOU THINK THAT WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE TOO FAR FROM THE WAGON?

BY HEAVEN, WE'RE HERE AT LAST! THIS IS THE PLACE, MY DEAR! THIS IS WHERE WE GALLOWAYS ARE GOING TO SET ROOTS PERMANENTLY!

WE CALL IT "CHILLICOTHE," BUT THE SHAWNEES CALL IT *CHALAHGAWTHA* ... A THOUSAND HOMES, AND BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD BACK IN '82! EVEN AS GENERAL CLARK ORDERED THE TOWN PUT TO THE TORCH, I MADE UP MY MIND THAT ONE DAY I'D CLAIM THIS LAND!

OH, FATHER! IT'S SIMPLY--

--!

EASY NOW. DON'T BE AFRAID. WE'VE BEEN AT PEACE WITH THEM FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

GREETINGS. MY NAME IS JAMES GALLOWAY. I SPEAK A LITTLE SHAWNEE. YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

YES! I SPEAK ENGLISH!

WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MY FAMILY AND I COME TO SETTLE HERE. AT LEAST,,, WE **WANT** TO SETTLE HERE, IF IT'S NOT **YOUR** LAND.

IT WAS **ONCE**. IT IS **NO MORE**. I LIVE IN WHAT YOU CALL "INDIANA COUNTRY," FAR FROM HERE

I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE BEAUTIFUL PLACE. I ADMIRE THE SHAWNEES FOR HAVING PICKED IT FOR THEIR *CHALAHGAWTHA*. IT'S A LAND A MAN MIGHT WILLINGLY DIE FOR.

MANY DID. THE HEARTS OF THE SHAWNEES STILL WEEP IN THEIR MEMORY.

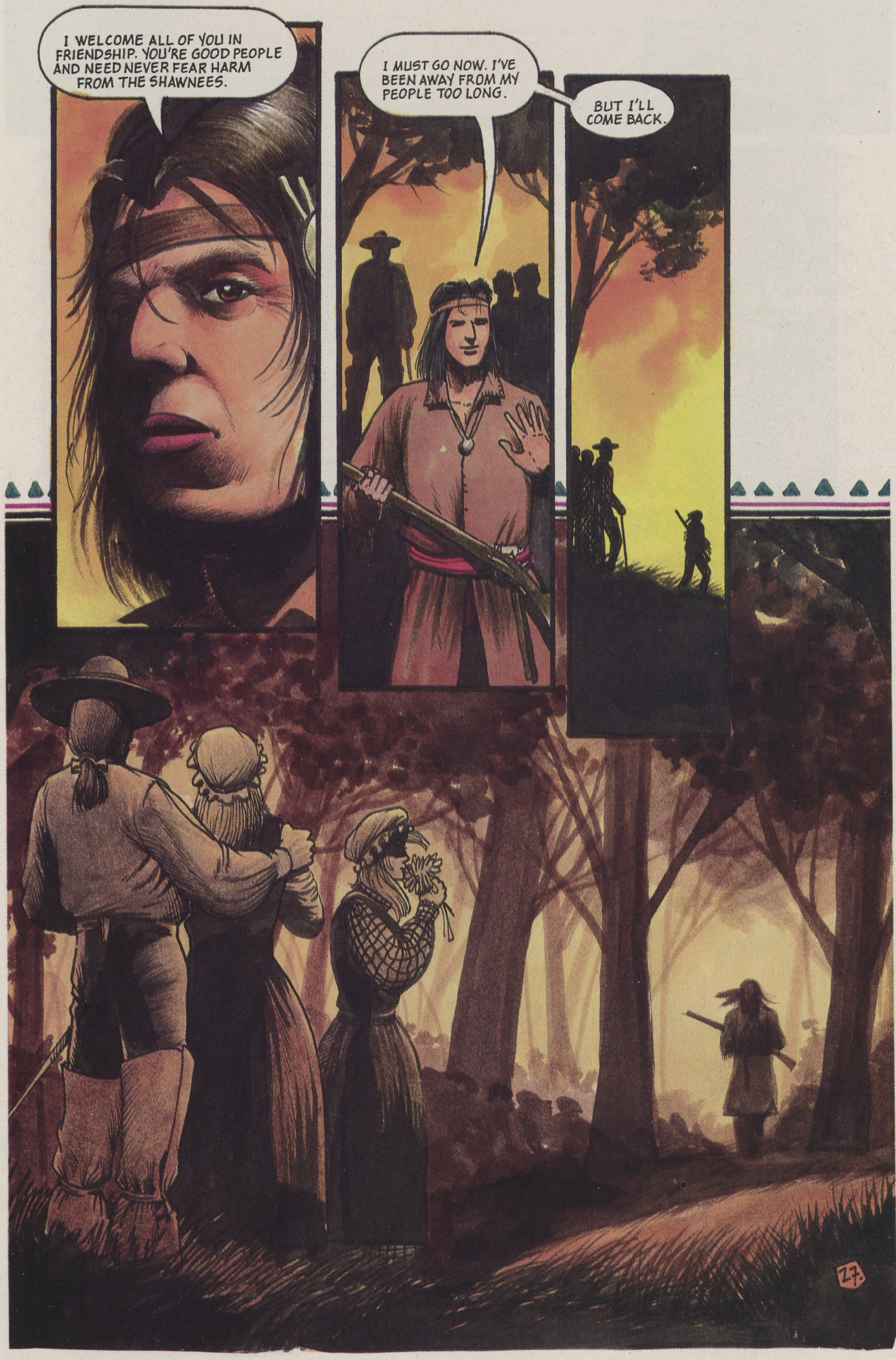
WAS-HE-KEE-SHE-KE NE CANA,,,

I GREET YOU IN PEACE, JAMES GALLOWAY. IT'S GOOD THAT THE FIRST WHITE MAN TO LIVE HERE IS ONE WHO LOVES THE LAND AND WILL NOT BREAK IT INTO PIECES TO SELL TO OTHERS.

AYE. IN THAT WE AGREE.

THIS IS MRS. GALLOWAY, WHO LOVES THIS LAND AS I DO. AND THIS,,,

,,, IS OUR REBECCA.


I WELCOME ALL OF YOU IN FRIENDSHIP. YOU'RE GOOD PEOPLE AND NEED NEVER FEAR HARM FROM THE SHAWNEES.
I MUST GO NOW. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM MY PEOPLE TOO LONG.
BUT I'LL COME BACK.

INDIANA TERRITORY, 1807:

I ONCE KNEW A HAWK WHO HAD ONLY ONE EYE! ALL HE COULD DO WAS FLY IN CIRCLES!

HA-HA-HA-HA!

ARRR--!

DON'T GET UPSET ABOUT WHAT OTHERS SAY, TENSKWATAWA. BECAUSE YOU HAVE ONE EYE, THEY THINK YOU CAN'T BE **WHOLE** -- THAT YOU SEE NO BEAUTY IN THE WORLD!

YET WITH YOUR ONE EYE, YOU CAN SEE EVEN **MORE**! YOU CAN LOOK **DEEPER** THAN THE SURFACE OF THINGS ...INTO THE **HEARTS** OF MEN!

DON'T HARBOR SUCH HATRED. INSTEAD, THINK **KINDLY** OF THEM.

I'VE **NO** KIND THOUGHTS FOR THEM, SISTER! THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WHO THINKS OF ME AS A **MAN** AND WHO DOESN'T MIND MY **APPEARANCE**. THAT'S MY BROTHER **TECUMSEH**!

I FOLLOW **NO ONE** BUT **HIM**!

YOU'RE RIGHT, TENSKWATAWA. THERE'S NONE BETTER THAN **TECUMSEH.** HE DOES WHAT HE **HAS** TO DO -- DESPITE ANY OBSTACLE!

FEW OF THE SHAWNEES HAVE FOLLOWED HIM, FOR FEW HAVE THE COURAGE TO DEFY TRIBAL **TRADITIONS.** BUT TECUMSEH SEES THINGS THAT OTHERS DO NOT. HE ALWAYS HAS.

OFTEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM, SISTER. YET HE **LISTENS** TO ME, WANTS ME **BESIDE HIM**... LETS ME DO THINGS THAT HE **ALONE** COULD DO MUCH BETTER!

BECAUSE **YOU** ARE PART OF THE PLAN BY WHICH OUR LOST LANDS WILL BE **RETURNED** TO US. TONIGHT HE'LL TELL YOU HOW THIS WILL BE.

HE WAITS FOR YOU NOW. GO TO HIM.

BROTHER...?

AT TIMES I THOUGHT THIS MOMENT WOULD NEVER COME! TELL ME!

AH, TENSKWATAWA. THE TIME HAS COME TO PUT MY **PLAN** INTO EFFECT, AND TO TELL YOU WHAT **YOUR** VERY IMPORTANT PART WILL BE!

MY FIRST JOURNEY BEGINS TONIGHT--THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH JOURNEYS. I'LL BE GONE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. WHILE I'M AWAY, YOU WILL ACT AS CHIEF TO OUR FOLLOWERS.

ME! BUT THEY WON'T ACCEPT ME! THEY WON'T OBEY ME AS THEY DO YOU!

THEY WILL, AND THIS IS WHY: YOU WILL BECOME A GREAT PROPHET TO OUR FOLLOWERS!

I? HOW? YOU WERE GIVEN THE GIFT, NOT ME!

I'LL GIVE YOU PROPHESIES WHICH YOU'LL PASS ON TO OUR PEOPLE. WHEN THESE COME TRUE, YOU WILL BECOME KNOWN AS A GREAT PROPHET AND ALL WILL DO YOUR BIDDING.

BUT IN ALL MATTERS, TENSKWATAWA, YOU MUST DO AS I DIRECT YOU!

I UNDERSTAND, TECUMSEH! I'LL ALWAYS DO AS YOU SAY! YOUR VISION IS MINE! MY TONGUE IS YOURS!

BUT BE WARNED, TENSKWATAWA: AMONG THE WHITES WE HAVE A GREAT ENEMY!

THE ONE CALLED SIMON KENTON?

NO! NOT KENTON! THE ONE I SPEAK OF IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS! HE COMMANDS THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT VINCENNES AND IS GOVERNOR OF THIS SO-CALLED "INDIANA TERRITORY."

HIS NAME IS WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON!

HARRISON? HOW CAN THIS ONE SOLDIER BE A THREAT TO US?

BECAUSE HARRISON UNDERSTANDS US TOO WELL! HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO CRUSH US!

NOTHING MUST OCCUR WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK! SUCH AN ATTACK WOULD LET DOUBT AND FEAR ENTER THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE! THEY WOULD DESERT US! ALL WOULD BE LOST!

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, TECUMSEH! ALWAYS!

I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU, MY BROTHER.

NOW COME... IT IS TIME FOR OUR COUNCIL.

MY CHILDREN... MY BROTHERS!
YOU HAVE HEARD HINTS AND WHISPERS OF MY PLAN TO DRIVE THE WHITES FROM OUR COUNTRY!
NOW YOU SHALL HEAR ALL!
MY PLAN IS READY, BUT IT WILL TAKE MUCH TIME! I MUST TRAVEL TO DISTANT TRIBES TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT!
WITH THEIR SUPPORT, NO WHITE FORCE SHALL EVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST US!

BUT TECUMSEH,,, IF YOU'RE AWAY IN DISTANT LANDS, WHO'LL BE OUR CHIEF HERE AT TIPPECANOE?

MY BROTHER, *TENSKWATAWA!*

HAH! HE'S BUT A CHILD!

YES! AND A LITTLE DEVIL!

WAIT! I KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS -- BUT LISTEN!

AT MY REQUEST, TENSKWATAWA HAS HARBORED A GREAT SECRET! HE IS A GREAT PROPHET,,, THE GREATEST WHO HAS EVER LIVED! BY HIS PROPHESIES YOU WILL BE GUIDED AND DIRECTED -- AS WILL THE OTHERS WHO WILL SOON BE COMING HERE TO LIVE!

YOU WILL FOLLOW HIS ORDERS AS THOUGH THEY WERE MINE!

HOLD!

I HAVE FOLLOWED YOU FOR MANY YEARS, TECUMSEH. I **BELIEVE** IN YOU... BUT HOW CAN WE HOPE TO DRIVE OUT THE WHITES WHEN WE ARE SO FEW?

YOU KNOW, FROG HUNTER, THAT WITH EQUAL ARMS AND NUMBERS WE CAN DEFEAT **ANY** WHITE FORCE! WHEN WE FACE THEM **THIS** TIME, IT WILL **NOT** BE WITH JUST A FEW THOUSAND WARRIORS! IT WILL BE WITH A SINGLE, **UNIFIED** BODY OF *FIFTY THOUSAND WARRIORS!*

EVEN NOW THE AMERICANS SEND EXPEDITIONS WESTWARD OF THE *MISSISSIPPI!* THE FUTURE OF **ALL** TRIBES LIES ONLY IN **UNION!** WE MUST **BURY** ANY PAST HOSTILITIES THAT HAVE COME BETWEEN US!

MANY INDIANS WILL SOON COME HERE TO LIVE. BUT **HEAR ME!** THIS VILLAGE WILL **NOT** BE A VILLAGE OF **SHAWNEES**... OR **CHIPPEWAS**... OR **SIOUX**... OR **CHEROKEES!** WE WILL BE *INDIANS!* **ALL** OF US!

WITH ALL TRIBES UNITED, THE AMERICANS WILL BE SWEPT AWAY LIKE LEAVES BEFORE THE WEST WIND!

THE WHITE LEADERS WILL SEE OUR POWER AND GIVE IN TO **OUR** TERMS! IF POSSIBLE WE WILL **AVOID** WAR! BUT IF WAR COMES **WE WILL NOT** TURN ASIDE!

"YOU MUST NOT TAKE UP THE HATCHET UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT!

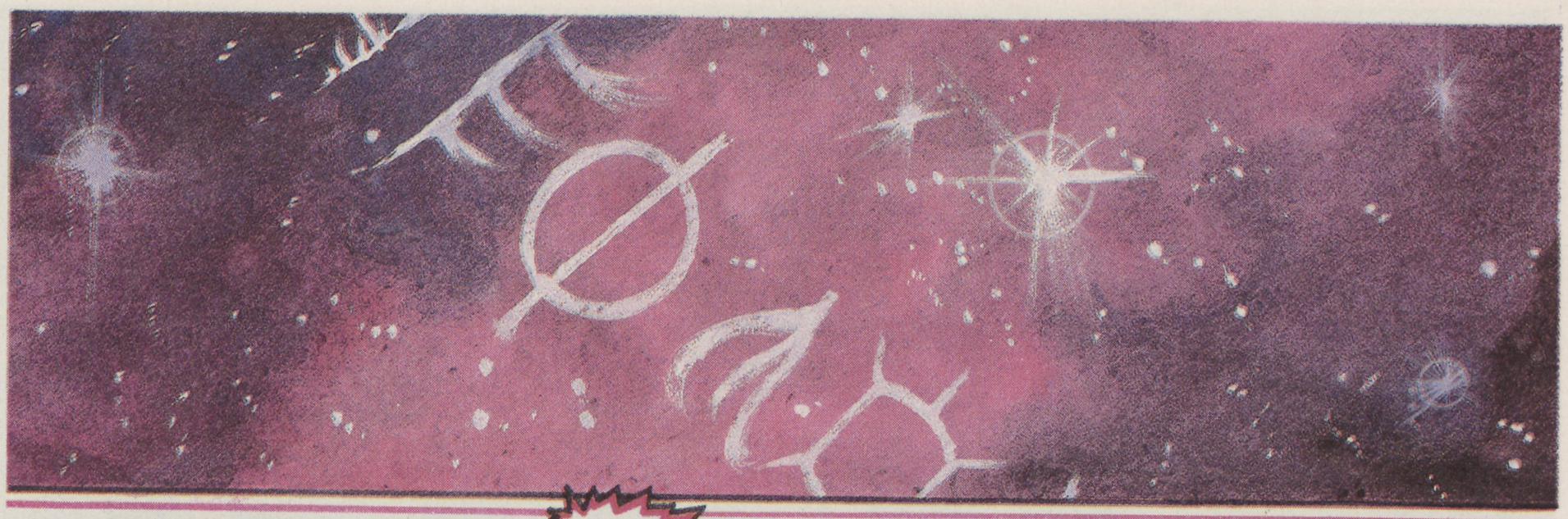
"I WILL GIVE ALL TRIBES A GREAT SIGN! THE EARTH BENEATH THEIR FEET WILL ROAR AND TREMBLE! FORESTS WILL FALL! STREAMS WILL CHANGE DIRECTION!

WHEN THAT SIGN COMES, ALL TRIBES WILL ASSEMBLE ON THE TIPPECANOE! ALL TRIBES...

"...ONE PEOPLE...

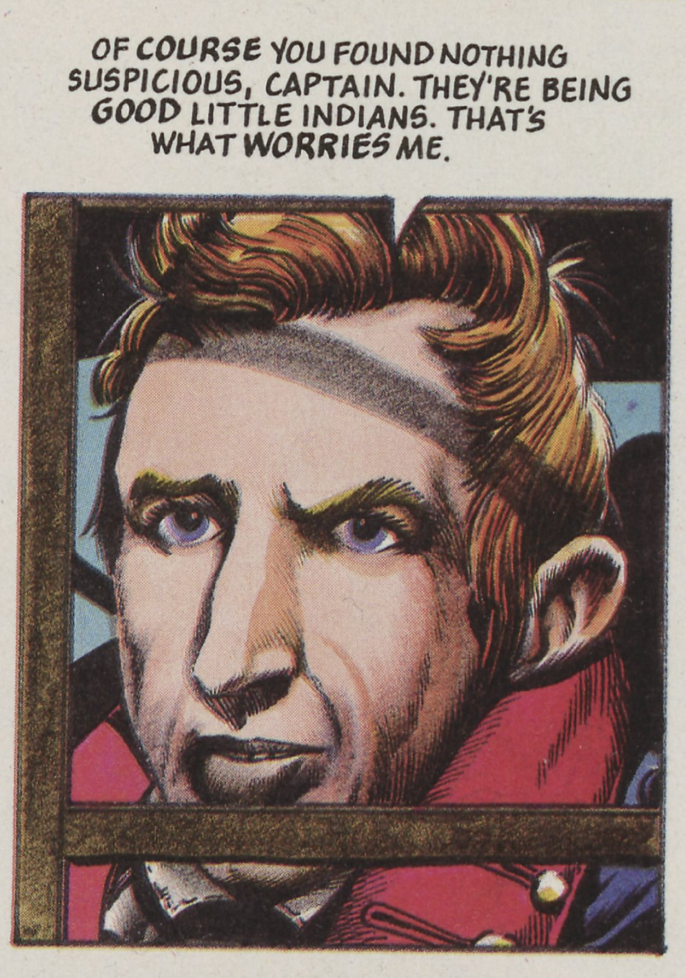
"...UNITED...

"...FOREVER!"



FALL IN!
VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY, 1810. THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, GOVERNOR:

...WE FOUND NOTHING SUSPICIOUS, SIR. THE PROPHET REMAINS IN CHARGE IN TECUMSEH'S ABSENCE. THE ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE SINCE THE LAST RECONNAISSANCE IS A CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THEIR VILLAGE ON THE TIPPECANOE.
THE PROPHET CONTINUES PROFESS-ING PEACE, AND...


OF COURSE YOU FOUND NOTHING SUSPICIOUS, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE BEING GOOD LITTLE INDIANS. THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME.

AND WHAT ABOUT TECUMSEH?
THIS IS HIS THIRD MAJOR ABSENCE, SIR. THIS TIME HE'S BEEN GONE ALMOST A YEAR. STILL WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, WE PRESUME. THERE'S NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT HE'S PLOTTING AN UPRISING...

HAH!
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SIR,,, MAY I SPEAK FREELY?

INDEED, CAPTAIN. I INSIST.

NO DISRESPECT, SIR, BUT THE MEN THINK YOU'RE STABBING AT **SHADOWS.** SOME SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE STRONG **POLITICAL** ASPIRATIONS,,, AND THAT YOU WOULD **BENEFIT** IF A WAR BROKE OUT.

THEY FEEL...

LET ME FINISH FOR YOU, CAPTAIN. THEY FEEL THAT, IF POSSIBLE, I'LL **PROVOKE** A NEW WAR, FOR PERSONAL GAIN. IS THAT IT?

WELL, YES, SIR, I GUESS THAT'S...

AND BY HEAVEN, THEY AREN'T FAR WRONG! BUT THEIR **REASONING** IS FAULTY! IN **TECUMSEH** OUR GOVERNMENT FACES A GREAT AND IMPLACABLE **FOE!** TENSKWATAWA MIGHT BE THE VILLAGE CHIEF, BUT **TECUMSEH'S** OUR MAN!

IF IT WERE NOT FOR US, HE WOULD PERHAPS BE FOUNDER OF AN **EMPIRE** THAT WOULD RIVAL THE GLORY OF **MEXICO** OR **PERU!** NOTHING DETERS HIM. HE'S CONSTANTLY IN MOTION!

AND WHEREVER HE GOES, THE TRIBES LISTEN,,,

GOVERNOR HARRISON, THERE'S A **SCOUT** OUTSIDE. SAYS HIS NAME IS **KENTON...!**

SIMON KENTON! GLAD YOU'RE HERE. YOU HAVE NEWS?

HAD SOME BUSINESS DOWN SOUTH, GOVERNOR HARRISON. STOPPED BY TO SEE CHIEF BIG WARRIOR AT TUCKABATCHEE, IN THE ALABAMY COUNTRY. HE'D ALREADY HAD COMP'NY, THOUGH...

...TECUMSEH!

TECUMSEH SURE STIRRED UP SOME BLOOD DOWN THERE. WAY I HEAR IT, HE'S ALREADY SEEN THE IROQUOIS, OTTAWA, SIOUX, AND A WHOLE PASSEL OF OTHERS. TOLD 'EM ALL THERE'S GONNA COME A BIG SIGN. WHEN IT HAPPENS, THEY'RE TO COME A'RUNNIN' TO TIPPECANOE.

GOVERNOR, I'M SCARED OF ONLY ONE INDIAN, AND HE'S TECUMSEH! IF HE AIN'T STOPPED, THERE AIN'T GONNA BE NO UNITED STATES GUV'MINT! HE AIMS TO TAKE THIS WHOLE COUNTRY BACK!

WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF IT WEREN'T ALREADY TOO LATE TO STOP HIM.

GENTLEMEN... WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS PLANNING TO DO...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, FRIEND GALLOWAY?

WHY, TECUMSEH! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME! DON'T YOU KNOW? I'M PLANTING CORN.

CORN? AT NIGHT?

WHY SURE! OLD INDIAN TRICK...

FORGIVE ME MY FRIEND... BUT DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS A JOKE THE INDIANS HAVE PLAYED ON THE WHITES, WHO SO OFTEN MAKE FUN OF OUR BELIEFS!

WE MAKE UP A STRANGE STORY THAT CORN PLANTED AT NIGHT GROWS BETTER! AND WHEN WE SIT BY OUR FIRES AT NIGHT WE CAN LAUGH AT THE WHITE MEN... AS THEY SO OFTEN LAUGH AT US!

HMMPH!!! THEN FEELIN' AS YE DO ABOUT US WHITES AND OUR WAYS, WHY DO YE COME TO VISIT US?

I HAVE BEEN ALMOST CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE THESE LAST FEW YEARS. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO COMING BACK HERE... TO BE WITH MY FRIENDS.

I ASK YOUR PERMISSION TO TAKE REBECCA FOR THE MOONLIGHT CANOE RIDE I'VE LONG PROMISED HER. I WILL CARE FOR HER AND RETURN HER SAFELY...

UH... OF COURSE ... IF SHE WANTS TO GO...

YOU KNOW,,, I REALLY DON'T KNOWA GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU, EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. YOU RARELY SPEAK ABOUT YOURSELF, EXCEPT IN THE MOST GENERAL WAY.

WHY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'RE MARRIED...

NO. I'M NOT MARRIED, BECKY.

DO YOU... WANT TO BE?

YES, SOME DAY. THERE'S ONE WOMAN IN PARTICULAR. I'VE KNOWN HER A LONG WHILE.

YOU HAVEN'T ASKED HER?

NO. BUT I WISH I COULD... SOME DAY.

HER PEOPLE MIGHT NOT APPROVE. AND IT'S HARD TO TELL HOW MY PEOPLE,,, MY **BROTHER**...WOULD REACT.

YOUR BROTHER? THE PROPHET?

IS HE REALLY ABLE TO FORETELL THE FUTURE?

THE PROPHESIES THAT HE GIVES OUR PEOPLE AL-WAYS COME TO PASS.

IT'S GETTING LATE NOW, BECKY. TIME FOR ME TO GET YOU HOME, THEN GO TO SEE MY BROTHER.

WILL YOU RETURN HERE SOON, TECUMSEH?

GOODBYE, REBECCA.

THE VILLAGE ON THE TIPPECANOE:
TECUMSEH, DEAR BROTHER! I'D HEARD YOU HAD RETURNED!
YOU HEARD.., YET YOU DID NOT STIR FROM YOUR HOUSE TO GREET ME!
I'VE HEARD THINGS FROM OUR SISTER TECUMAPESE AND HER HUSBAND WASEGOBOAH THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE!
YOU'RE GREATLY FEARED, BROTHER! THEY SAY YOU'VE MURDERED THREE OF OUR WARRIORS! IS IT TRUE?
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NOT MURDERED, BROTHER. *EXECUTED*. THEY WERE A THREAT TO ME,,, TO US.

A THREAT? HOW?

TECUMSEH, THEY WERE STIRRING UP **RESENTMENT**... SAYING THEY HAD COME TO FOLLOW YOU, NOT ME! A SHOW OF POWER WAS REQUIRED!

I PREDICTED THEIR DEATHS BEFORE MORNING. AND THE PROPHESY CAME **TRUE**! RESPECT AND OBEDIENCE WAS **RESTORED**.

I SHOULD REMOVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE! WE DO *NOT* EXECUTE OUR OWN PEOPLE! DO YOU *UNDERSTAND*?

WHY ARE YOU **DRESSED** THIS WAY?!

WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU'RE ACTING AS IF I WERE A BAD CHILD! I AM THE *PROPHET*!

HAS THE POWER I'VE LAID AT YOUR FEET RISEN UP TO DEVOUR YOU? MUST I TURN TO **WASEGOBOAH** TO LEAD IN MY ABSENCE?

NO! MY ONLY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO SERVE YOU! I LIVE IN YOUR SHADOW GLADLY! BUT TAKE AWAY MY PURPOSE AND I WILL SHRIVEL AWAY!

MUST I BEG, TECUMSEH...?

REMOVE THAT COSTUME! IT ONLY CAUSES FEAR AND RESENTMENT! HARM NO ONE WHO COMES TO JOIN US! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES NOW! I'VE WARNED YOU OF GOVERNOR HARRISON! HE YEARNS FOR ANY EXCUSE TO ATTACK US! IF HE SHOULD EVER MOVE TOWARDS THE TIPPECANOE, ABANDON THIS VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY AND MOVE OUR PEOPLE OUT OF REACH!

SOON, WE WILL MEET WITH HARRISON! THEN, I MUST JOURNEY SOUTH! AFTER I MEET WITH THE SOUTHERN TRIBES, ALL WILL BE READY!

MY BROTHER, I NEED YOUR HELP. CAN I COUNT ON YOU?

Y-YES! OF COURSE! I'VE BEEN IMPATIENT. FOR THAT, I'M TRULY SORRY...!

I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU, LITTLE BROTHER. TOGETHER WE ARE STARTING A NEW WORLD FOR OUR PEOPLE.

THEY'VE ARRIVED, SIR! THEY'RE ENTERING CAMP!

GREETINGS, TECUMSEH. I WELCOME YOU IN FRIENDSHIP.

THE COLDNESS IN MY HEART, GENERAL HARRISON, LEAVES LITTLE ROOM FOR FRIENDSHIP!

THE LANDS YOU HAVE JUST TAKEN IN THIS "INDIANA TERRITORY" ARE OUR HUNTING LANDS! WE WILL NOT GIVE THEM UP. YOU MUST LEAVE THEM!

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BOUGHT THOSE LANDS FROM THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS, THE CHIEFS OF THE MIAMI TRIBE.

WHAT YOU SAY IS NOT TRUE! NO VILLAGE CHIEF CAN SELL THOSE LANDS TO YOU! WE WILL PUNISH THOSE WHO TRY!

MY PEOPLE ON THE TIPPECANOE REPRESENT ALL TRIBES! WE ARE ALL INDIANS! AND WHAT YOU HAVE TAKEN IS INDIAN LAND!

WRONG! THE MIAMIS OWNED IT. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELL THEIR LAND IF THEY WISH. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CHEATED OF YOUR SHARE, WE HAVE BROUGHT GIFTS FOR YOU.

IT'S RIDICULOUS TO SAY THAT THE INDIANS ARE NOW ONE PEOPLE! IF THE GREAT SPIRIT MEANT THIS TO BE, THEN WHY DO THE DIFFERENT TRIBES SPEAK IN DIFFERENT TONGUES?

DO NOT INSULT OUR INTELLIGENCE. YOU AMERICANS ARE ENGLISH, GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH... ALL SPEAKING DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, BUT UNITED AS AMERICANS!

THUS, TOO, ARE THE MANY DIFFERENT TRIBES UNITED UNDER MY LEADERSHIP!

DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAME HERE FOR YOUR PRESENTS!

STOP! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

RRGGH...!

WINNEMAC! YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE WHO ARRANGED THE SALE OF OUR LAND TO THE AMERICANS! TELL THIS GENERAL BY WHAT RIGHT YOU DID SO!

N-NO RIGHT... W-WE HAD... NO RIGHT... B-BUT WE NEEDED WHAT THE AMERICANS... OFFERED US...

SO! FOR TRINKETS AND TRASH YOU BETRAYED US! FOR LIQUOR AND CHEAP BLANKETS YOU DID THIS!

47

THERE ARE THE TRUE CHIEFS OF THIS TERRITORY! THERE ARE THE CHIEFS OF THE WYANDOTS, THE POTAWATOMIES, AND THE WINNEBAGOS!

WHITE LOON, CHIEF OF THE MIAMIS, WILL SAY IF HIS TRIBE SOLD YOU LAND!

THIS WINNEMAC WAS A MINOR VILLAGE CHIEF ONCE!

NO MORE! HE HAS NO MORE RIGHT TO SELL LAND THAN A CHILD HAS TO SELL A FATHER'S HORSE! AND YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO BUY!

I AM ROUNDHEAD, CHIEF OF THE WYANDOTTS! WHAT TECUMSEH SAYS IS TRUE! WE ARE TRIBES NO MORE! WE ARE INDIANS! AND THIS IS INDIAN LAND!

WE BOUGHT THIS LAND FAIRLY! IF NECESSARY, OUR TITLE WILL BE DEFENDED BY THE SWORD!

THIS IS HOW GOOD YOUR TITLE IS!

I DO NOT WISH TO MAKE WAR ON THE UNITED STATES! BUT IF YOU HAVE NOT LEFT THIS LAND IN FOUR MOONS, WE WILL TAKE IT FROM YOU!

SOON AFTERWARD, TECUMSEH LEFT FOR THE SOUTH, AND HIS LAST GREAT MEETING WITH THE SOUTHERN TRIBES. AS ALWAYS, HE LEFT THE VILLAGE AT TIPPECANOE IN THE HANDS OF HIS BROTHER, TENSKWATAWA, THE PROPHET.

DURING THIS TIME, THE PROPHET MADE A GREAT MISTAKE. WISHING TO MAKE HIS POWER KNOWN TO THE AMERICANS, TENSKWATAWA SENT SOME OF HIS WARRIORS ON A RAID. THE THEFT OF A FEW COWS AND HORSES WAS ALL THE EXCUSE THAT HARRISON NEEDED TO LAUNCH A RECONNAISSANCE-IN-FORCE!

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, THE GREAT ENEMY, WAS AS SMART AS HE WAS DANGEROUS. TECUMSEH WAS GONE, AND THE PROPHET HAD BECOME ARROGANT.

HARRISON'S GOVERNMENT HAD FORBIDDEN HIM TO ATTACK THE INDIANS ON THE TIPPECANOE DIRECTLY.

SO HE ENTICED THE PROPHET TO COME TO HIM!

THE ENEMY IS BEFORE US! THEY WAIT FOR DAWN TO ATTACK!

BUT WE WILL ATTACK THEM FIRST! WHITE MEN CANNOT FIGHT IN THE DARK! WE MUST SMASH THEM BEFORE THE SUN RISES!

NO! WE MUST NOT ATTACK! TECUMSEH WARNED THAT THEY MIGHT COME AGAINST US! HE'LL BE BACK SOON! WE MUST FALL BACK AND AWAIT HIS ORDERS!

CHAU-BE-NEE! YOU ARE CHIEF OF THE SAC TRIBE, BUT YOU ARE NO CHIEF HERE! YOU TEMPT DEATH BY DEFYING ME!

TENSKWATAWA! YOU KNOW ME WELL! I SAY THERE IS EVIL IN YOUR HEART! WE MUST MOVE AWAY! THIS WAS TECUMSEH'S ORDER!

YOU LIE, WASEGOBOAH! YOU WISH TO TAKE POWER FOR YOURSELF! TECUMSEH IS NOT HERE BECAUSE I SENT HIM AWAY!

WHO HAS LED YOU? WHO HAS GIVEN YOU THE PROPHESIES BY WHICH YOU HAVE LIVED, WITH NEVER AN ERROR?

THE PROPHET THE PROPHET

TENSKWATAWA! YOU KNOW THAT TECUMSEH WOULD NOT PERMIT THIS! HEED THE WORDS OF CHAU-BEE-NEE AND WASEGOBOAH AND--

SILENCE! *SILENCE*, TECUMAPESE, OR I WILL ORDER YOUR *DEATH*!

I'VE SPOKEN TO THE GREAT SPIRIT! HE EASED MY FEARS, AND NOW HE SHALL EASE YOURS! I CALL ON HIM NOW TO SAY TO YOU WHAT HE TOLD ME!
OH, GREAT SPIRIT... SPEAK! SPEAK!
"WARRIORS OF TIPPECANOE! DO NOT FEAR THIS ARMY! IT CANNOT HARM YOU! THOUGH AT FIRST SOME OF YOU MAY FALL, YOU WILL RISE TO FIGHT AGAIN!
TIMOTHY TRUMAN: 92-2
"THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET ARE TO BE OBEYED, FOR HE SPEAKS MY WORDS!

"YOU CANNOT BE HURT! YOU CANNOT DIE! THERE CAN ONLY BE *GREAT VICTORY!*

"GO! PAINT YOUR FACES! SEE TO YOUR WEAPONS!

"I WILL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE BIG ROCK, AND THERE, JUST BEFORE DAWN YOU WILL HEAR MY DRUM AND VOICE.

"WHEN YOU HEAR MY DRUM AND VOICE ATTACK BOLDLY AND *KILL THEM!*

"KILL THEM!

"*KILL THEM!*"

WHEN YOU... HEAR MY DRUM...

...LISTEN... FOR... MY DRUM...

MY LITTLE BROTHER.

TECUMAPESE...OH TECUMAPESE! LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ME! PLEASE... HELP ME!

IT WOULD BE A FAVOR TO KILL YOU, TENSKWATAWA, WERE I TO LET MY HAND HAVE ITS WAY!

MANY OF OUR PEOPLE ARE DEAD. THOSE WHO WEREN'T KILLED HAVE FLED BACK TO THEIR OWN TRIBES, WITH WORD OF YOUR DEFEAT AND THE SMELL OF FEAR AND DEATH FOLLOWING THEM!

IN ONE DAY YOU'VE DESTROYED WHAT IT HAS TAKEN OVER TEN SUMMERS TO BUILD--AND WHICH NOW CAN NEVER BE REBUILT! IN ONE DAY, YOU'VE DESTROYED THE HOPES OF ALL INDIANS!

YOU ARE A LIAR, A CHEAT, A FOOL, FILLED WITH THE LUST FOR POWER. YOU ARE NO LONGER THE PROPHET! YOU ARE NO LONGER MY BROTHER!

I WILL NOT KILL YOU, BUT YOUR DEATH BEGINS THIS DAY. IT WILL BE YEARS IN COMING, FOR EACH DAY YOU WILL DIE A LITTLE MORE. YOU WILL BE WITHOUT FAMILY OR FRIENDS. AND WHEN AT LAST DEATH COMES FOR YOU, NO LIVING CREATURE WILL MOURN.

GO NOW. I AM FINISHED WITH YOU.

ON DECEMBER 16, 1811, A MONSTROUS EARTHQUAKE ROCKED THE EASTERN HALF OF THE CONTINENT. THE LAND ROARED. THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLED. ENTIRE FORESTS FELL INTO HEAPS OF SPLINTERED TIMBER. THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOWED BACKWARD AND NEW LAKES APPEARED.

...JUST AS TECUMSEH HAD PREDICTED.

BUT BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE THAT TENSKWATAWA HAD CAUSED TO THE TRIBAL UNION, THE FINAL, GREAT GATHERING THAT TECUMSEH HAD LABORED FOR DID NOT OCCUR.

INSTEAD OF 50,000 TRIBESMEN, ONLY 2,000 CAME TO HIS SIDE. STILL, TECUMSEH AND HIS PEOPLE FOUGHT ON, JOINING THE BRITISH IN THEIR NEW WAR AGAINST THE AMERICAN INVADERS IN CANADA.

THAMES RIVER, ONTARIO, 1813:

...YOU CAN'T EXPECT THESE SAVAGES TO GRASP PROPER MILITARY STRATEGY! WHEN HARRISON TIRES OF CHASING US, WE'LL FALL ON HIS REAR BY SURPRISE.

IT'S A WISE GENERAL WHO RUNS AWAY TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY, EH, GENTLEMEN?

YOU ARE NO WARRIOR, PROCTOR! YOU SHOULD BE WEARING PETTICOATS!

I WANT YOU TO FIGHT, NOT RUN! HARRISON IS ALMOST UPON US! IF YOU RUN AGAIN, MY WARRIORS AND I WILL ABANDON YOU NOW!

HOW DARE YOU! I'LL NOT TAKE THAT SORT OF TALK FROM--

HOLD! WITH THESE WORDS I AM FINISHED! I ASK YOU: WILL YOU STAND AND FIGHT?

...WELL... NEVER MIND. YES, BY HEAVEN, WE'LL STAND!

YOU KNOW THAT PROCTOR'S WORD'S ARE HOLLOW, TECUMSEH! DO WE FIGHT THE AMERICANS, OR AGAIN WATCH THAT FAT ANIMAL DROP HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS AND RUN?

SAD THING WHEN A COMMANDER OF THE KING MUST TAKE ORDERS FROM A... A...

WE RUN NO MORE, MY FRIEND. WE'LL SOON BE IN OUR ENEMY'S SMOKE.

BUT, MY CHILDREN, HEAR ME WELL! THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL BATTLE WITH THE AMERICANS.

IN THIS BATTLE ,,, I WILL BE KILLED!

TO YOU, MY CLOSEST FRIENDS, I GIVE MY WEAPONS... MY KNIFE, MY SWORD, MY RIFLE, MY TOMAHAWK. I KEEP ONLY MY WAR CLUB, WHICH I'VE USED SINCE MY FIRST BATTLE BESIDE **CHIKSIKA**, LONG AGO.

WASEGOBOAH, WHEN YOU SEE ME FALL, STRIKE MY BODY FOUR TIMES WITH THIS RAM-ROD. IF THIS CAN BE DONE, I WILL RISE AGAIN AND LEAD YOU TO VICTORY!

IF THIS CAN'T BE DONE, RETREAT AT ONCE. FURTHER FIGHTING WILL BE USELESS.

"NOW, LET US GO TO MEET OUR **ENEMY**."

OCTOBER 5, 1813, THE BATTLE OF THAMES RIVER, CANADA:

BUGLER! COMMIT THE LEFT WING! RIGHT WING! KNEEL! FIRE!

COLONEL JOHNSON! CAPTAIN DAVIDSON! ATTACK THOSE INDIANS!

TECUMSEH! THAT FAT ANIMAL PROCTOR HAS FLED!

BE STRONG, MY BROTHERS! BE BRAVE!

UHHNH!

HARRISONNN-!

TECUMSEH!

WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT TECUMSEH HAD FALLEN, THE WARRIORS IMMEDIATELY RETREATED, JUST AS THEIR LEADER HAD ORDERED.

ONLY MUCH LATER AS THE HOT SUN BEAT DOWN UPON THE DEAD, DID THE GREAT ENEMY HARRISON RETURN.

IS SIMON KENTON WITH US, PRIVATE?

YES, SIR, BUT ONLY AS AN OBSERVER, SIR!

KENTON KNOWS TECUMSEH, IF ANYONE DOES--DEAD OR ALIVE! SEE IF KENTON CAN FIND HIM OUT THERE!

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, GEN'REL.

THAT'S HIM, AIN'T IT, SIMON? THAT'S TECUMSEH, AIN'T IT?

LOT OF DIFFERENCE 'TWEEN A LIVE MAN AND A DEAD ONE, BUT... YEAH, SURE, I RECKON THAT'S HIM.

WHOO-EEE! GOT ME HIS SCALP!

LOOKEE HERE! GOT ME SOME SKIN FER A 'BACCY POUCH!

HEY! HANDS OFF THEM MOCCASINS! THEY'S MINE!

THEY'S COWARDS HERE, TECUMSEH.

YOU DESERVE BETTER'N THAT.

NO WHITE MAN KNOWS... OR WILL EVER KNOW... WHERE WE TOOK THE BODY OF OUR BELOVED TECUMSEH AND BURIED HIM.

BUT TECUMSEH ONLY SLEEPS!

TECUMSEH! NAKUDE-FAN-WI UDAWA!

TECUMSEH!

This adaptation is proof that wonderful projects are sometimes born under very surprising circumstances. I became acquainted with Allan W. Eckert in 1988, while working on my graphic biography of frontier renegade Simon Girty, *Wilderness*. Eclipse sales manager Beau Smith and I are ardent admirers of Allan's *Narratives of America* series (and every other book that the man has brought us). Allan frequently mentions Girty in his books—always in a more forgiving light than is usually afforded in the works of other historians—and Beau suggested that we contact Mr. Eckert regarding sources for rare research material that might shed more light on Girty's overly-vilified career. Thanks to Beau's efforts, Allan and I established contact. Not only was he enthusiastic about the Girty biography, he also seemed very excited about the illustrated story format that I'd decided to use. Allan applauded the chances I was taking in presenting *Wilderness* in a non-traditional format, and supplied me with many leads. Later, when I prepared *Straight Up To See The Sky,* an illustrated history of the Trans-Allegheny region in the late 18th century, Allan was again very helpful.

Soon after that, while flipping a sizzling hamburger in the skillet, an idea occurred to me. I dialed Allan and asked, "Allan, would there be any trouble in acquiring the rights to adapt your outdoor drama *Tecumseh!* into a graphic novel?"

Allan is a very frank person. You always know where your ideas stand with him. Suffice it to say that Allan liked the idea. No more than five minutes later, I was talking to Marion Waggoner of the Scioto Society, the organization that produces the drama. Marion, too, was enthusiastic. Everything seemed to be fated to be. One week later, I sat with Allan in the impressive outdoor complex in Chillicothe, Ohio, where *Tecumseh!* is presented. Upon viewing the play for the first time, the Tribal Chairman of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe ran up to Allan, buried his face in Eckert's chest, and wept: "You have brought Tecumseh to life again!"

Not long after, contracts were signed in what both Eclipse and the Scioto Society have termed the smoothest-running negotiations ever. Everyone wanted this adaptation to happen. Unlike some of my other historical comics, this adaptation should not be viewed as a chronological, authoritative history of Tecumseh. This book and the play it's based on were concieved as drama. However, both are deeply rooted in fact. *Tecumseh!* reminds me of a living, moving memorial garden. Let this book have much the same function. Perhaps *Tecumseh!* can go a long way towards amending the fact that Native American leaders in this country have not been canonized as heroes. I'd like to thank Mr. Eckert, the Scioto Society, and Eclipse for their assistance and support of this work. A tip of the hat to Roger Petersen for assistance in the studio. Also thanks to the actors who bring the play and the people it represents so vividly to life for me and millions of other people. This work is dedicated to the members of the Shawnee Nation...a people still very much a living forceful society in our country. Nakude Fanwi Udawa. And to my mother, Judy Truman, with much love.

—Timothy Webster Truman
1991

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"Remarkable...the text is very exciting and the art is, expectedly, just great. I commend it most heartily."—Allan W. Eckert

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