

The Reign of King McCormick I

Prelude

The Time of Uncertainty had descended on the Myth Wood. Gods and Elves had departed. Yet dark demonic forces were rising. The Heroes of the Humans had vanished into the night, and a call for new champions had echoed through the World Tree. The answer to this call came from many realms, but Valhalla answered first and loudest.

From the land of fallen warriors, out of the Gardens of Eir came Vigo the Carpathian, Lugh Silverhand, Riven the Shadow Stalker, Blackstaff, and Shaun Sean. Balin Grumpkinsbane also came, as did Eragon, Tirza, Soulfire, and Calinos. So too came Dirk McCormick, who would come to be known as the King of the Wood. They all heard the call, and followed it. This was how they found themselves in the settlement of King's Rest.

It was not long after arriving before they became embroiled in the argument over the search for a new leader of the humans of the Wood. Much bloody battle ensued. It was said that Shaun Sean's dark blade sent Eir more flowers than she had room for in her Garden in Valhalla. In the end all but Lugh Silverhand returned to her garden.

A King is Crowned

After a rest in Valhalla's warm halls, again they found themselves in the Myth Wood. It was at this time that the people of King's Rest had discovered the nobility of spirit, and financial depths of Dirk McCormick, and they chose to name him King.

All were in attendance for his crowning, not all so pleased that the rule of law would be enforced in the Wood. When Brother Ravenwood, of the Brotherhood of Spirited Imbibers, presented King McCormick with the magical sword, Royal, any hope of anarchy was crushed. Brother Ravenwood claimed the Blade had been left outside his Tavern with a note addressed to King McCormick.

Sides are chosen, Battle follows

After the crowning, Blackstaff and Soulfire bent knee and swore themselves to the service of the King. So too did Eragon the Halfling. With his King's men surrounding him, King McCormick went to Grimner's mercenary guildhall to hire the extra men he would need. To his joy he was able to secure mighty Balin Grumpkinsbane, but failed to gain Shaun Sean's swift blade.

Vigo the Carpathian had joined forces with Lugh and Tirza in hopes of

increasing their fortunes. They had turned to the way of the Brigand and decided to hire Calinos for his strong arms and sure blade. Riven the Shadow Stalker saw the wisdom of this and threw his lot in with the band of freemen. They felt sure that their numbers would guarantee them mastery of the forest outside of King's Rest. Still they spent their last rupees to keep Shaun Sean's silent blade with them and not against.

So it came as no surprise when the Merchants of King's Rest cried out for protection from this band of thieves and opportunists. King McCormick did not let them down. He declared that all brigands should be killed on sight.

A standoff ensued within the town's limits, but quickly made it's way deeper into the Wood. It was here that Eragon proved the courage and valor of the Halfling. He quietly snuck around and quickly stabbed three of the brigands in the back. Once again Eir's garden bloomed with the fresh blood.

Battle rages in the Myth Wood

To the surprise of the brigands, and the King's men, they learned that they were not alone in the Wood. The beautiful and bewitching succubus Sexy Bexy was out, hunting for fresh souls to feed her carnal needs. Though men died without souls that day, still it can be said they died with a smile on their face. Vigo the Carpathian was one such victim, but Shaun Sean quickly cured him of the enchantment...with swift stab of his blade.

The brigands were forced to regroup deep in the Wood, at the ruins of Forest Ward. Here they rekindled their battle spirit and galvanized their tactics. Soon it was the King's men who met Eir at her Garden's gates. Balin learned why Riven was called the Shadow Stalker. Vigo's tremendous sword sheared through McCormick's men. Still, it was the silent blade of Shaun Sean that sent the most souls off to Valhalla.

King McCormick again paid a visit to the mercenary guildhall. Here he signed on Alfred the Fierce. Though mighty in stature he was feared more for his imitation of a Bard. With reinforcements at hand King McCormick made the final push to bring the rule of law to the Wood.

Order is restored to Myth Wood

The King's men hunted every road of the Myth Wood. They did not eat, or rest until every brigand had tasted of their steel. Blackstaff, Soulfire and Eragon returned to High Guard Keep to inform the King that the brigands had been vanquished, and his will had been done.

This was why Brother Ravenwood, Gayderf the Smithy, and Grimner the old mercenary were able to drink the night away in the Brotherhood Tavern

without fear of being robbed of any rupees. They did mention to each other in passing that they could not remember ever being robbed, but were still glad that they needn't fear they ever would be.

We celebrate with Battle

Once King McCormick returned from Eir's garden he decided to celebrate his victory by opening up the Arena. It was here that anyone could try their skill in battle, for the entertainment of the masses.

Many chose to compete, and many tasted defeat. In one such match up, Alfred the Fierce proved he was not a little testy by crushing Grimner Graybeard. The match ups were challenging and the fighting enthralling. At the end of the tournament the champions were acknowledged by all as Vigo the Carpathian, closely followed by the Blackstaff.

The celebration lasted long into the night, and everyone cheered the First Reign of King McCormick.