

MELTING SNOW

STORY AND ART BY
CHRISTOPHER

SAMURAI PENGUIN
CREATED BY
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"SINCE TIME BEGAN
THE DEAD ALONE KNOW PEACE.
LIFE IS BUT MELTING SNOW."
-JAPANESE DEATH POEM





DO YOU MEAN TO SAY, THAT YOU REGRET THE LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED?

FEH. I REGRET NOTHING.

BUT IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE AGAIN... I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN A DIFFERENT PATH.

NOW, GO HOME TO YOUR MOTHER, BOY.



MY MOTHER IS DEAD.

SHE WAS KILLED WHEN A BAND OF LEOPARD SEALS ATTACKED OUR VILLAGE.

THE VILLAGE OF "YUKI NO MACHI"



THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL...

IF NOT FOR A LONE SAMURAI.



I WATCHED AS HE... AS YOU... STOOD AGAINST THEM.

AND I VOWED, THAT ONE DAY, I TOO, WOULD BECOME A CHAMPION FOR OUR PEOPLE.



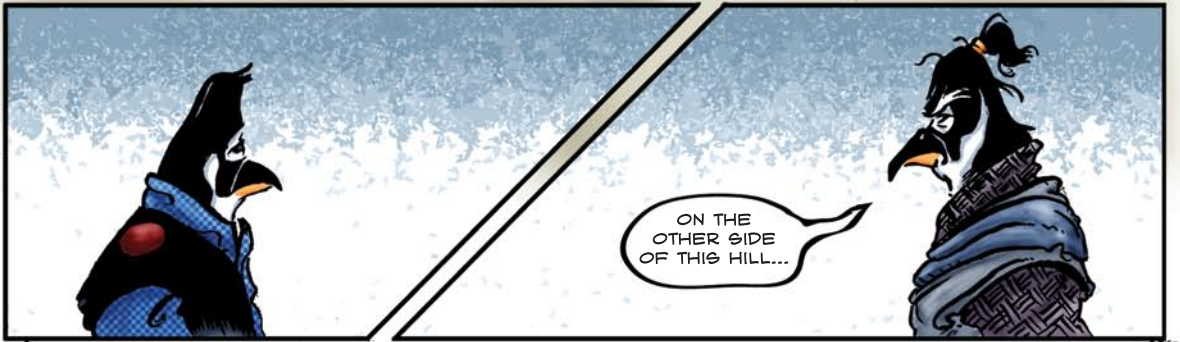
IN MY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE I HAVE TRAVELLED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE AND HAVE HEARD MANY STORIES, ALL SIMILAR TO MY OWN. STORIES OF A LEGENDARY WARRIOR WHO HAS INFLUENCED THE LIVES OF MANY OTHERS, MOST OFTEN WITH NO HOPE OF ANY PERSONAL GAIN OR REWARD.

SOME OF THESE VILLAGES, THAT WOULD OTHERWISE NOT HAVE STOOD ANY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, NOW THRIVE.

LIVES HAVE BEEN CHANGED. COLONIES HAVE SPRUNG ANEW.

YOU SAY YOU MAY HAVE CHOSEN A DIFFERENT PATH FOR YOURSELF, BUT IF NOT FOR YOU...

VOICES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE ICY WIND, NOW SING SONGS OF HOPE.



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS HILL...



THREE OF ARTIMUS WALRUS' FIERCEST ASSASSINS ARE WAITING FOR ME.

I DO NOT KNOW IF THEY WILL KILL ME.

OR IF I WILL KILL THEM.

I KNOW ONLY, THAT WHEN THE SUN SETS, THE SNOW WILL BE SOAKED IN BLOOD.



EVERY DAY IS LIKE THIS.



IS THAT THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE?



"BEGINNING IS EASY. CONTINUING IS HARD."
-JAPANESE PROVERB

