

# **THE BLACK MAGE – CHAPTER 1**

BM01 (Final Draft) – Daniel Barnes – 7/9/2017

PAGES: 26

## **PAGE ONE** (Full-page Splash)

FULL-PAGE SPLASH – We open on a clearing in the middle of a SWAMP, at night. HARRIET TUBMAN and FREDERICK DOUGLASS stand back-to-back, surrounded by a WIZARD CAPTAIN and five KLAN WIZARDS. HARRIET holds her saber in a defensive stance. FREDERICK has his MAGUS STAFF drawn.

(A) **CAPTION**

The South. 1852.

(1) **FREDERICK**

Well, this is a fine mess...

**PAGE TWO** (4 Panels)

PANEL 1 – HARRIET and the WIZARD CAPTAIN stare one another down.

- (1) **WIZARD CAPTAIN**  
Well, well, well. If it ain't Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass – two of the Underground Railroad's Elite Conductors.
- (2) **WIZARD CAPTAIN**  
How 'bout y'all come along quietly, and no one gets hurt?

PANEL 2 – Tight shot of HARRIET. She smirks arrogantly.

- (3) **HARRIET**  
Heh. Never been the type to “come along quietly”, I don't think.
- (4) **HARRIET**  
I see no reason to start now.

PANEL 3 – Magical energy coalesces around the tip of the WIZARD CAPTAIN's staff, as he prepares to cast a spell.

- (5) **WIZARD CAPTAIN**  
That's some mighty brave talk from someone who's outnumbered 6-to-2.

PANEL 4 – High-angle shot of everyone, as they look upward at a voice addressing them from above. HARRIET and FREDERICK are smirking.

- (6) **JOHN HENRY** (off-panel)  
Someone needs to learn how to count.

**PAGE THREE** (5 Panels)

PANEL 1 – A tall, cloaked figure (JOHN HENRY) stands on a thick branch, in a tall tree. His cloak blows in the wind dramatically.

- (1) **WIZARD CAPTAIN** (off-panel)  
And who the hell are you?

PANEL 2 – Close-up of JOHN’s cloaked face, which is obscured by shadow, save for his grinning mouth.

- (2) **JOHN HENRY**  
“Who the hell am I?!”

PANEL 3 – JOHN is in mid-air descent, having just leapt from the tree.

- (3) **JOHN HENRY** (burst balloon)  
I’M THE ONE WHO LAYS DOWN THE TRACKS FOR THE UNDERGROUND  
RAILROAD, AS IT STEAMS AHEAD ON ITS ONE-WAY TRIP TO FREEDOM!

PANEL 4 – JOHN does a badass “superhero landing”, with HARRIET and FREDERICK at his back. He lands with one fist firmly planted in the swamp water, while wielding his HAMMER in his other hand.

- (4) **JOHN HENRY** (burst balloon)  
THE ONE WHO BROKE FREE OF HIS OPPRESSIVE CHAINS AND FORGED  
THEM INTO THIS MIGHTY HAMMER!

**SFX**  
SPLOOSH!

PANEL 5 – JOHN, with his face now fully revealed, points his HAMMER at the WIZARD CAPTAIN, like a baseball player confidently declaring a home run.

- (5) **JOHN HENRY** (burst balloon)  
I’M THE FREEDOM-FIGHTIN’, BIGOT-BUSTIN’, STEEL-DRIVIN’ **JOHN  
HENRY!**

**PAGE FOUR** (2 Panels)

PANEL 1 – JOHN dashes toward the WIZARD CAPTAIN, as he winds back his HAMMER for a mighty blow. The WIZARD CAPTAIN and the KLAN WIZARDS around him assume a defensive posture.

- (1) **JOHN HENRY**  
And, as God is my witness...

PANEL 2 – We jump to the PRESENT DAY. The ST. IVORY EXPRESS is quickly chugging along, its headlight cutting through the foggy night air like a knife.

- (A) **CAPTION** (John Henry)  
“... The Klan will *never* derail this train!”

- (B) **CAPTION**  
Present Day.

**SFX**  
Choo-Choo!

**PAGE FIVE** (5 Panels)

PANEL 1 – We open on JIM CROW soaring through the sky. It's a very foggy night.

(A) **CAPTION** (letter, parchment-style)

Dear Mr. Token,

(B) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

I am pleased to inform you of your admission to *St. Ivory Academy of Spellcraft and Sorcery*.

PANEL 2 – JIM swoops down toward the ST. IVORY EXPRESS, which is pulling into a *large, outdoor, railway platform*.

(1) **INTERCOM**

Now arriving at Alabaster Station.

PANEL 3 – From JIM's POV, we see our protagonist, TOM TOKEN, disembark the train. He holds a briefcase in one hand and has a backpack thrown over his shoulder. The train lets off copious amounts of steam.

**SFX**

Hsssssssss

PANEL 4 – Same POV shot as PANEL 3, only pushed in a bit further, as JIM flies toward TOM. TOM looks at us, now noticing our presence.

PANEL 5 – We get a nice, full-body shot of TOM as he lifts his forearm for JIM to perch upon. They both smile, glad to see one another, after the long trip.

(C) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

As the country's highest-ranking magical institution, St. Ivory is committed to giving you the very best education in all things pertaining to the arcane arts.

**PAGE SIX** (4 Panels)

PANEL 1 – An empty trail in the middle of an extremely foggy forest.

(A) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

Your admission to St. Ivory is evidence of our faculty's confidence in your potential...

PANEL 2 – Same shot as PANEL 1, only now, we see a *distant, murky form* walking on the trail, slowly emerging from the fog and drawing nearer.

(B) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

... as well as recognition of your fine scholastic achievement and unique personal qualities.

PANEL 3 – Same shot as PANELS 1 and 2. It's TOM, with JIM perched on his shoulder.

(C) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

Please find enclosed a list of all necessary books and equipment.

PANEL 4 – TOM and JIM both look up at something in front of them, their brows furrowed with apprehension and determination. They've cleared both the forest and the fog.

(D) **CAPTION** (letter, cont'd)

We look forward to seeing you on campus and, again, offer our warmest congratulations.

**PAGE SEVEN** (Full-page Splash)

FULL-PAGE SPLASH – Before TOM and JIM, in all of its gigantic majesty, is ST. IVORY ACADEMY – a massive, extremely intimidating castle *floating high above a lake*. A full moon shines radiantly in the night sky. Low-hanging clouds and fog ominously spiral around the castle’s base.

(A) **CAPTION** (letter, cont’d)  
Welcome to St. Ivory Academy!

(B) **CAPTION** (letter, cont’d)  
Yours Sincerely,

**Atticus Lynch III**  
**Headmaster**

(C) **CAPTION** (Professor Silverbell, bottom-right corner)  
“Everyone please direct your attention to the front of the class, and join me in welcoming our new transfer student!”