

# DARK MAN

## THE DARK CANDLE

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 **SADDLEBACK**  
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## **Chapter One: A Great Power**

The Old Man comes to the bad part of the city to see the Dark Man.

With him is a girl in her late teens.

The Dark Man knows her. She has helped him and the Old Man more than once.



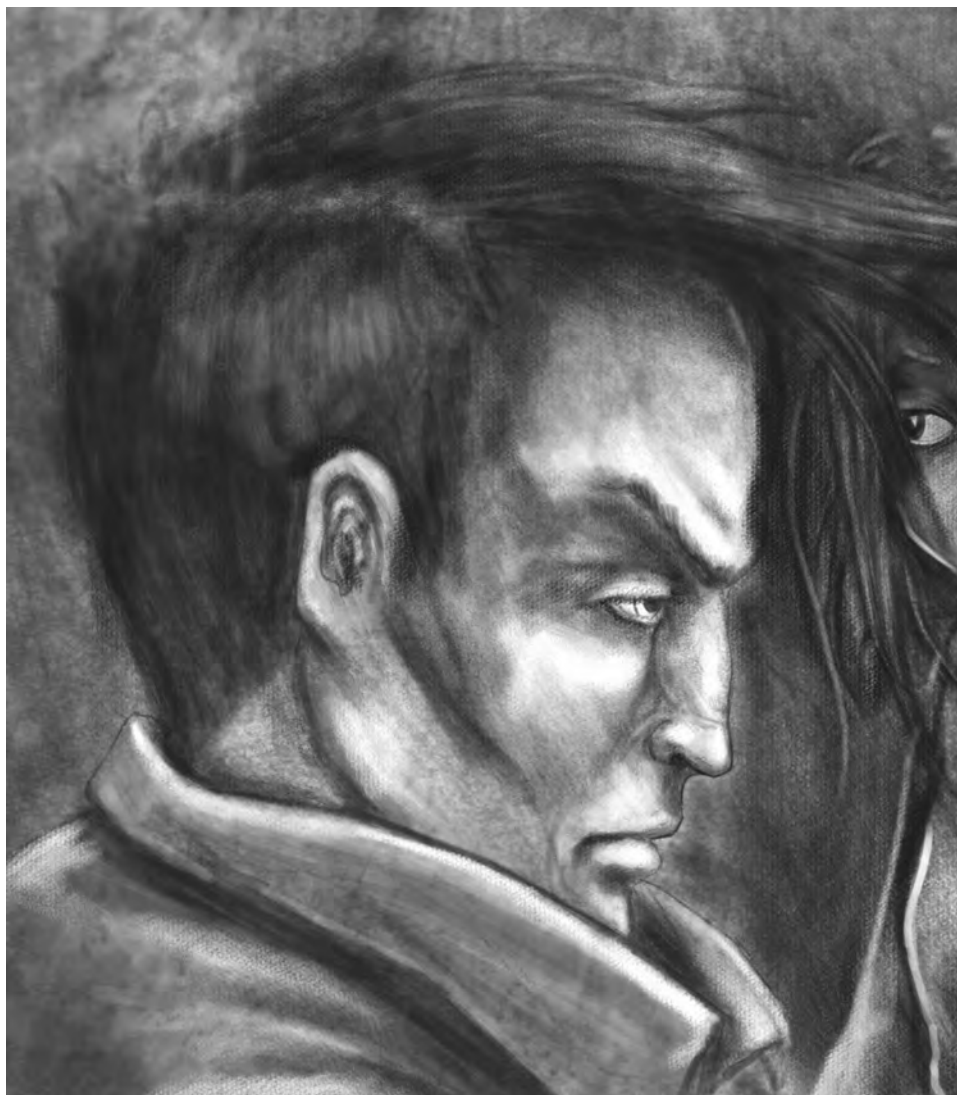
“Take her to find the Dark Candle,” the Old Man says, looking at the girl.

“She is very sick. Even our magic cannot help her. But the Dark Candle can make her well.”



“What does it do?” the Dark Man asks.

“It gives people what they need,” the Old Man replies. “If health is what someone needs, it gives health.”



“That is a great power,” the Dark Man says.



“The Dark Candle can also see through lies,”  
the Old Man continues.

“It sees what you truly need, not what you  
simply want.”

## **Chapter Two: Black Clouds**

Three days later, the Dark Man is sitting in a cave near the ocean.

It is cold. The sky outside is gray.

Next to him, the girl lies sleeping. She presses closer to him for warmth, then she begins to stir.

As he looks at her, the Dark Man is sad. She is lovely, but her sickness is killing her. She gets tired very easily, but she is very brave.



“Do you think the Dark Candle is near here?”  
the girl asks.

“Yes,” the Dark Man replies. “I think so.”

He takes some food from his shoulder bag.

“Here, you need to eat.”

“No,” the girl says. “Let’s move on. I’m ready.”

