

# PRETENDO EMPOWER

## DUNGEONS & DOOMKNIGHTS

AN 8-BIT ZELDAVANIA?

## VAMPIRE QUEEN

DOES THE BOSS FIGHT BITE?

## UNDEAD SLAYING 101

ARTIX VS THE EVIL UNDEAD

## DALE COOP

THE NEW 8-BIT HERO

ADVENTUREQUEST 8-BIT

## DUNGEONS & DOOMKNIGHTS

[DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com](http://DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com)

**NEW! BUT OLD**

**WARNING! PUNS & RETRO REFERENCES INSIDE**



ADVENTUREQUEST 8-BIT

# DUNGEONS & DOOMKNIGHTS





**"BATTLE ON  
IN 8-BIT!"**



**CAN YOU DEFEAT THE DOOMKNIGHT  
AND HIS ARMY OF THE EVIL UNDEAD?**



**[WWW.DUNGEONSANDDOOMKNIGHTS.COM](http://WWW.DUNGEONSANDDOOMKNIGHTS.COM)**



## WELCOME!

In your hands is issue #001 of Pretendo Empower Magazine. I created this surprise bonus to thank and show my gratitude to the unbelievably amazing backers of Dungeons & DoomKnights. So... Surprise! Hope you enjoy this rare collectible.

I never got Nintendo Power when I was a kid, but I borrowed the highly controversial issue #2. Parents were furious that a kids magazine featured Simon Belmont holding Dracula's severed head. As a kid I thought it was the coolest freaking thing I had ever seen. So I made a parody of that cover for this magazine.

Hmmm. You know... I never made a magazine before. Really hope you enjoy this! *Battle Read on!*



**Dear Zorbak:** Why are there so many grammatical and spelling errors in Dungeons & DoomKnights?

We haven't been able to determine if Artix was trying to recreate the experience of playing badly translated games from the '80s, or if he needs to re-take English.

**I want to know Zorbak,** is the Chairboard a reference to that old video of Artix chairboarding in the Secret Underground Lab? Didn't he fall and fracture his wrist or something?

Yes. He's an idiot.

**Dear Zorbak:** Artix is a Paladin, right? So, why doesn't he have Paladin Powers?

Meh. Play AdventureQuest World's "DoomWood Saga". You're in for a shock. ([www.AQ.com](http://www.AQ.com))

**Dear Zorbak:** If Artix has a dog, then does Sepulchre have a cat?

They say there is no such thing as a stupid question. They were clearly wrong.





Yo, Zorbak! I have seen weird monsters before, but what the heck is a ChickenCow!?

When a Mommy Cow and a Daddy Chicken love each other very much...

Dear Zorbak:  
Why is D&DK so inconsistent and unpredictable?

Artix is very consistent at being inconsistent.

Dear Z: Why does Artix use Holy Wasabi instead of Holy Water?

Two words. Undead Sushi.

C'mon Zorbie! Why is the game called Dungeons & DoomKnights... KnightS... with an "S" if there is only one DoomKnight?

Meh. Either Artix is bad at math... or you should actually play the freaking game. I'm putting this in the magazine just so people make fun of you.

Dear Z: How can a Princess capture a dragon? Asking for my little sister.

Subscribe to Pretendo Empower for just 99 gold per month.

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There is no Chickencow Page.





# STORY OF DUNGEONS AND DOOMKNIGHTS

Pretendo Empower Interviews Adam Bohn

**Thank you for agreeing to this no-holds barred interview. First, can you tell our readers a little about yourself?**

Hiya! My name is Adam Bohn. I make puns and run a video game studio called Artix Entertainment in the swamps of Florida. ([www.Artix.com](http://www.Artix.com))

**What possessed you to make an NES game?**

8-bit ghosts of course! The ones found in my old game collection. It was 2018. I was rummaging through storage in my garage. Found it! My childhood Nintendo Entertainment System! My goal? To “classically train” my children. As I watched them play, I picked up a cart and stared at it inquisitively. How did they even make one of these things!?



**So, how did you learn to make the game?**

I discovered a documentary called *The New 8-Bit Heroes*. It was about Joe Granato and his quest to build a new game for the NES. This led me down a deep, deep retro rabbit hole.

**Where did this “retro rabbit hole” take you?**

Well, next thing I knew I was entering the NESMaker 2019 ByteOff competition. The challenge was to build a new NES game in just 30 days. My entry was “Artix: Knight of the Living Dead.”

**Did it win?**

No. But I loved working on it! The experience rekindled my passion for making games. Even better... I met so many amazing people and made new life-long friends.



### So how did this turn into Dungeons & DoomKnights?

... An April Fools joke. The best poor-life decision of my life!

### D&DK started as an April Fools joke?

Haha, yes! Fast-forward to April Fool's Day 2019. Players of Artix Entertainment games are accustomed to our yearly April Fools jokes. This year's joke was the announcement of a BRAND NEW AdventureQuest game — but exclusively for the 1985 NES! They laughed. Until they clicked the link and were shocked to discover... it was real.

**“The best *poor-life* decision of my life!”**

### Was this the Kickstarter?

Yup. We launched a surprise Kickstarter to create real, playable, physical NES carts. The game would be an expanded version of the ByteOff game featuring a new story and combination of platformer and adventure modes. It was titled “AdventureQuest 8-Bit: Dungeons & DoomKnights.”

### How did the Kickstarter do?

Funded in 3 hours. We had expected a little over \$5K total to do a small run of physical carts. But 1,025 backers pledged \$54,715 making it one of the top-grossing new NES games of the year. Which really stirred the beehive of other homebrew NES devs. Because of all the unexpected attention, it was clear that this needed to be more than just a small side project... it had to be the best game I had ever made! My 8-bit Magnum Opus.

### You were getting noticed in the press too, right?

Aye. Dungeons and DoomKnights caught the attention of *Popular Mechanics*, *The Washington Post*, and several “new” retro magazines. The transparent and regular Kickstarter posts chronicled the game's unusual and comical development over 2 years.

### Who is on the Dungeons and DoomKnights team?

I highly recommend checking out the credits on [DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com](http://DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com)! There is Dale Coop from France. He is a 6502 Assembly Language wizard who won the Byteoff's “New 8-Bit Hero Award.” The endlessly creative Clarion is responsible for the game's beautiful pixel art. FJ contributed even more art— he was the winner of the 2020 ByteOff's best new game, *Chaos Between Realms*. We gathered the most amazing group of testers in the world, and befriended a lot of

talented people from the NESMaker community. Including Gil.... who somehow ended up living just down the road!



### You run a series of weekly updated games, how did this game project fit in your busy work schedule?

It did not. Things got crazy. I would wake up and work all day on my normal projects. Then I would eat and spend a little time with the kids. Then, the moment they went to sleep... normally around 9:30pm I would start my Dungeons and DoomKnights work with Clarion, Gil, FJ, and the team on Discord. We would work until I could not keep my eyes open anymore. Never later than 6am. Because I had to wake up at 7 am to do it all again.

### Are you excited the game is finally complete?

Well, we are “almost” done! It is 6:50 pm on a Saturday and I am still building this magazine, haha. I am really proud of what our team accomplished. Dungeons & DoomKnights is a complete, fun, unique, and extremely entertaining “zeldavania.” There is a bit of my soul in this game. I hope you and everyone who plays Dungeons & DoomKnights has fun exploring the crazy and massive world of adventures. Words cannot express how grateful I am to the backers who made this dream project a reality. To them and everyone chasing their life's ambitions...

Battle on!



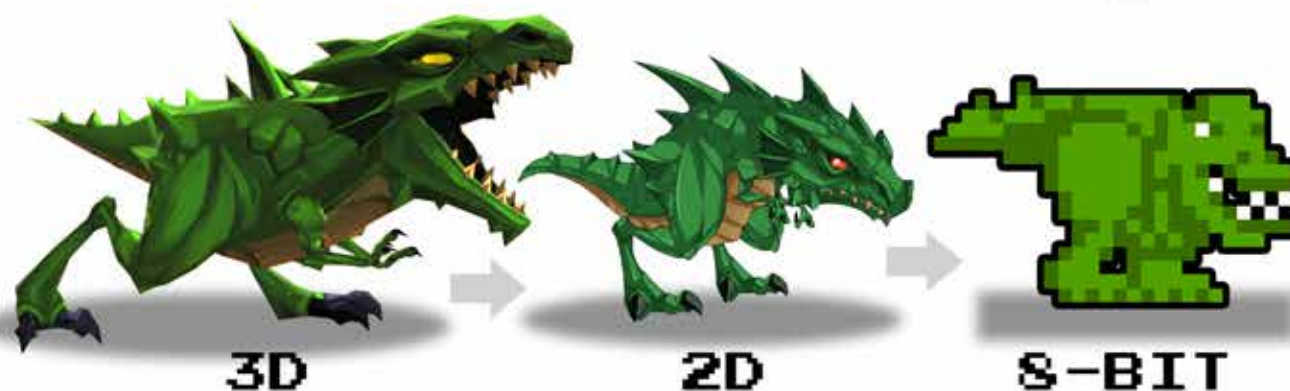




## 100% REAL ARTIX ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE TO MAKING PIXEL ART

MAKING PIXEL ART IS EASY! JUST FOLLOW THIS  
EASY STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE...

1. START WITH A FULLY RENDERED 3D MODEL.
2. COMPLETELY RE-DRAW IT IN FLASH USING VECTOR ART.
3. YELL "DE-ENHANCE!" AT YOUR COMPUTER UNTIL IT GETS SO TINY YOU CAN BARELY ZOOM IN ON IT.
4. REALIZE THE NES CAN ONLY SUPPORT 3 COLORS PER SPRITE.
5. CRY UNDER YOUR DESK A LI'L.
6. REDUCE COLORS TO BLACK + 2 OTHERS.
7. REPEAT FOR EVERY MONSTER AND CHARACTER IN GAME!

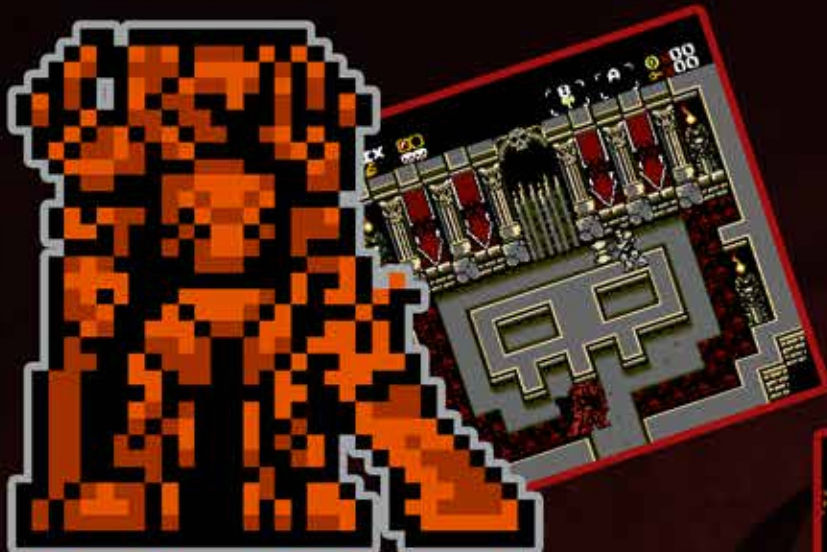






8-BIT ART





## EVIL TREE

### ROOT OF ALL EVIL

You can only hurt the evil spirit when it is possessing a tree. So wait until it goes inside of one of the trees to attack it.

## SEPULCHURE

### THE DOOMKNIGHT

Land a few hits before the DoomKnight shadow-steps away. Carefully evade his follow-up attacks before making your next move.



## SKELE-TITAN

### HE'S JUST BIG-BONED

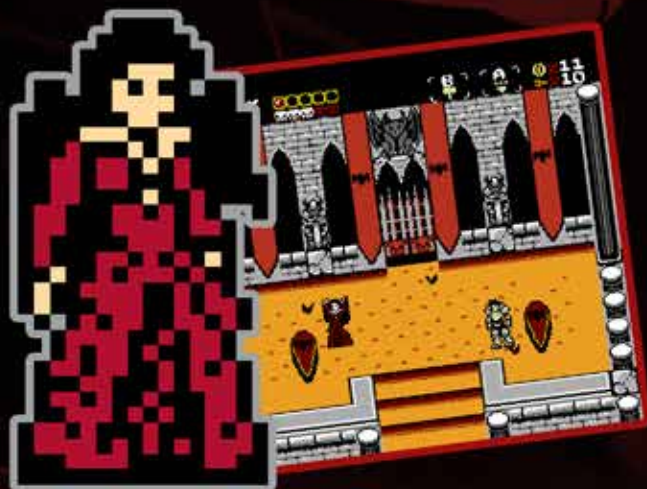
He's stuck in the door. Dungeon doors were just not designed for an undead monster of this size. Attack his heart with your axe to destroy him and clear the path forward.



## SAFIRIA

### THE VAMPIRE QUEEN

She is a little batty... and immune to your attacks while in her bat form. So use a ranged attack, then handle her bat spawns until she transforms back.







## CHICKEN COW

COMPLETE BREAKFAST IN ONE MONSTER!

TIP: Destroy the eggs first. Beware... once you land a hit, the ChickenCow lays an egg and becomes invincible for a bit.

## KING SNEED

BOX FORT TIME-SHARE OWNER

We at Pretendo Empower believe you already possess the skills to smack down this baddy. But the easiest way to “perfect” him is to drop some Holy Wasabi in his path.

# BOSS FIGHTS

WANTED! UNDEAD OR ALIVE



## DRAGONLORD

... AND HIS DRAGONS

The DragonLord is immune to your attacks. Try knocking him off his dragon instead. Getting the right angle is important!

Oh, and the Dragons? Aim for the head. Just beware their spicy-hot fire breath.

## PRO GAMER TIPS!

“Move and jump and attack sometimes?”





ADVENTUREQUEST 8-BIT

# DUNGEONS & DOOMKNIGHTS

## WALKTHROUGH

1. "Old Man's" Cave
2. The Graveyard
3. Shadow Lord's Prison
4. Town of Battleon
5. Guardian Tower
6. ChickenCow Farm
7. The Well
8. Vampire Castle
9. Red Dragon's Lair
10. Wizard Tower
11. The Broken Bridge
12. DoomWood Cabin
13. Sandsea Pyramids
14. Frost Lich's Keep
15. Chaos Labyrinth
16. DoomKnight's Fortress

## ***PRETENDO EMPOWER EXCLUSIVE!***

Our expert ROM hackers cracked the game to expose the its actual overworld map for the first time ever! The world is vast and fraught with undead peril. Need a clue on where to go next? Pretendo Empower is here to help! Go to [www.DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com](http://www.DungeonsAndDoomKnights.com) for more tips & walkthroughs.







# SOUNDTRACK



## 19

### CHIP TUNES

& HEAVY METAL REMIXES BY  
JONGAAR AND BROOMTOOL

Dungeons & DoomKnights  
Fight Knight  
Crypt Crusader  
Artix's Theme (Based on  
Warlic's original)  
Symphony of the Knight  
Despyramid  
Labyrinth of Chaos  
Frostbyte  
Heart Beat  
HeroMart  
Subterrane  
Son of a Lich  
Polyhedron  
SadNES  
Long Unlive  
8-Bit Town of Battleon  
Grave Mistake  
DarkNES  
Warcry (Based on John  
Quarles' original)

## GAME STATS

Many undead were slain during the making of this game. Sooooo many.

GAME: Dungeons & DoomKnights

SCREENS: 500+

BACKER ROMS: 342

CHIP TUNES: 19 (23 created)

MONSTERS & NPCS: 123-ish

ENDINGS: 3

SKULLS: MORE SKULLS!

ROM SIZE: 512KB

MAPPER: 30

On the subject of skulls... we call all those skull tiles "Caddeus blocks." This is because the super-tester named Caddeus slammed his face into every tile to test it.



Filled our memory banks to the max! The empty one is where your save file goes.



VICTORIA CAN'T KEEP A SECRET

# SECRET CORNER



SELECT START

Pssst! Over here, gamers. Vicky here with yet another round of secrets & tricks. This week I'm sharing a few hidden gems from Dungeons & DoomKnights. No, I'm not talking about the Konami Code. Everyone knows you can unlock all the skills by using that at the start of the game. No, I am talking about the good stuff!

## SECRET DAGE THE EVIL FIGHT

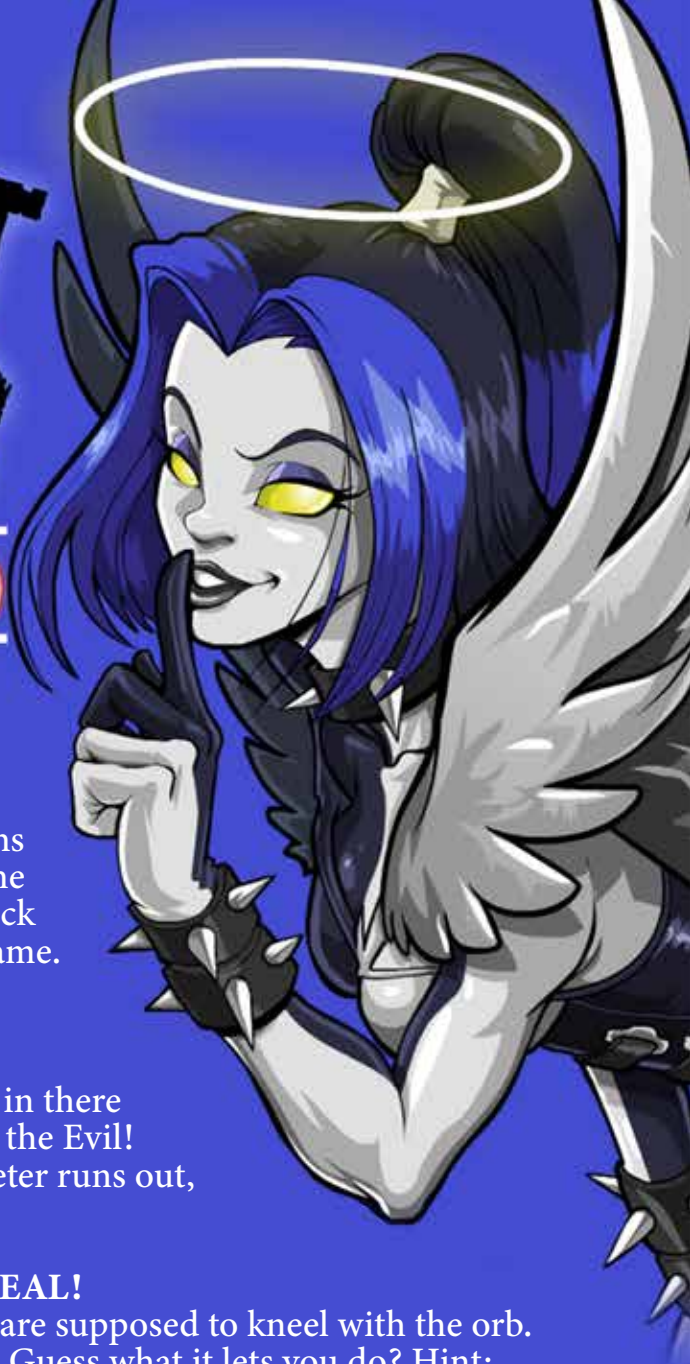
Carefully study your manual. There's a secret in there involving a statue to unlock a fight with Dage the Evil! He's hard! But if you can survive until the meter runs out, you will score 99 gold!

## CHANGE YOUR ARMOR COLOR - IT'S REAL!

Hah! I found the cliff. You know, the one you are supposed to kneel with the orb. Want a spoiler? See the middle picture below. Guess what it lets you do? Hint: When the skullnado takes you to the next screen... attack the moon!

## UNLOCK THE 3RD ENDING

At the end of the game, ignore choosing. Instead, fly straight up! Listen, any time anyone tells you that "There's no ChickenCow Level", you KNOW there's a ChickenCow Level. There is a hidden path in the final dungeon's giant eye room.







# KUBO 3

NES GAME DESIGNED BY A... 6 YEAR OLD!?

Meet Seiji, the world's youngest retro game developer. He is the creator of Kubo. Play as a gun-slinging cowboy turtle who explores and battles wacky monsters to save his friends. This game world was designed by Seiji and starts at a crossroad with 4 directions. Each one leading to interesting gameplay and a sacred object.

Seiji created the first Kubo for the ByteOff competition with his father, Dale Coop—the 6502 Assembly wizard who helped on Dungeons & DoomKnights.

Kubo 3 is where Seiji's pixel art, animation, and game design skills really hit their stride. I highly recommend it to any collector. He has made several other titles, as well. Keep your eye on this kid. He is going places.



Right before the pandemic, Dale Coop and Seiji flew to Florida, USA to spend time at Artix Entertainment and the NESmaker studios. Above is an ultra-rare pic of the children of Dale Coop, Gil, Joe Granato, and Artix playing Nintendo & Connect 4 on a 1988-inspired video set!



Get KUBO 3 at [www.Artix.com/NES/Kubo](http://www.Artix.com/NES/Kubo)



# NEW NES GAMES



## NEW HOMEBREW GAMES BY THE FRIENDS WE MADE ALONG THE WAY

Check out the hottest new games for a 30+ year old video game system!

Each of the games pictured was created by someone from the NESMaker community who inspired or helped the creation of Dungeons & DoomKnights.

Be sure to check out *DoodleWorld*, a platformer by Nate and his daughter. Next up is

a game featuring the Milwaukee band, *Space Raft*! It was created by the talented Jordan Davis. Next is the super-unique *Turtle Paint*. It's the latest in a series of turtle-themed games by Joe Sherman— who claims to have been raised by turtles. Also, check out upcoming games by people who helped on Dungeons & DoomKnights.



COMING SOON



### HAZARD

You must tell the cops what REALLY happened at the lab that night. Currently in development by Gil Vera.

COMING SOON



### CHAOS BETWEEN REALMS

An epic time traveling adventure! 1st place "Best Game" of the 2020 ByteOff Challenge. Created by FJ.



# PRETENDO EMPOWER

## 8-BIT CLASSIFIEDS

### PERSONALS



**ZOMBIE GIRL**  
R U a slow runner?  
Looking for a guy  
with brains.



**DRAYGUN LORD**  
Look'n for someone  
HOT! Your lair or  
mine? FYI: I smoke.



**PAUL TERGEIST**  
Most girls can see  
right through my  
best pick-up lines.  
But I am good in the  
sheets.



**ARF?**  
ARF ARF ARF. ARF,  
ARF, ARF. ARF! ARF!



**WANNA HANG OUT?**  
Hoping to get picked  
up by someone  
special just outside  
of the Ebil Dread  
forest.

### CHEAT CODES

DOES YOUR EMULATOR SUP-  
PORT GAME GENIE CODES?

**MAX HP/SKULLS: AEPNSE**  
**ALL ITEMS: YUGNKE**  
**CHAOS MODE: AXYKOO**  
**RANDOM PALLETE: LGZKZI**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY EBIL-  
CORP. A NAME YOU CAN  
TRUST! (THANKS JBYRDAB!)

 **EBILCORP**



### WANTED



**PRINCESS PLOT**  
Looking for plumber  
to help with a  
boss turtle I am  
planning to kidnap  
next.



**CHAOS WELL**  
Missing family  
amulet that will  
turn me into a  
Chaos Lord. -  
DRAKATH



**NEED VAMP SLAYER**  
Help! Sister  
kidnapped by  
vampires.



**DOG CATCHER**  
Beware unleashed  
undead-slaying  
pomeranian in  
graveyard!  
Sincerely, the Evil  
Undead



**MISSING MOGLINS**  
Shipment of moglins  
missing. Contact  
Aria at the Pet  
Shop.



**FOUND: GIFT BOX!**  
Free to good  
home. No trace of  
previous owner.



**HIDING PLACE**  
Know where I can  
hide a stolen  
axe? Asking for  
a friend. - Old  
Undead Man from  
intro.



**DRAGON GATE**  
Paying well for ANY  
information about  
the fabled Dragon  
Gate which connects  
game worlds  
together.



### FOR SALE



**YOUR DREAM HOME!**  
One room, no bath,  
pixelated home  
with save book just  
99 gold. Located  
one screen north  
of town. Contact  
Quibble Coinbiter.  
Upgrades available.



**NEED KEYS?**  
There is no key  
master, only Zu...  
Oh, wait. Yeah, I  
gots yer keys! 33  
gold next to Aria's  
Pet shop.

### COOK 'N CORNER

#### DELICIOUS WALL MEAT RECIPE



How to prepare  
100% natural  
organic, non-GMO  
Darkovian wall meat.

1. Cook a steak.
2. Pickaxe your wall.
3. Put wall meat in wall.
4. Cement up the wall.
5. Wait for Belmonts  
to attack your  
vampire castle!

**TIP FROM XOR PIZZA**  
Our wall meat  
topping pizza is  
every BIT as  
good as you  
deserve.



### PRETENDO EMPOWER HOTLINE

Want the raddest tips & tricks? Call our hotline  
now. 9 gold the first minute. 99 gold each additional  
minute! Our video game counselors have been standing  
by since the 1980s... maybe we should have fed them.

**CALL US! [WWW.ARTIX.COM/NES/HOTLINE](http://WWW.ARTIX.COM/NES/HOTLINE)**



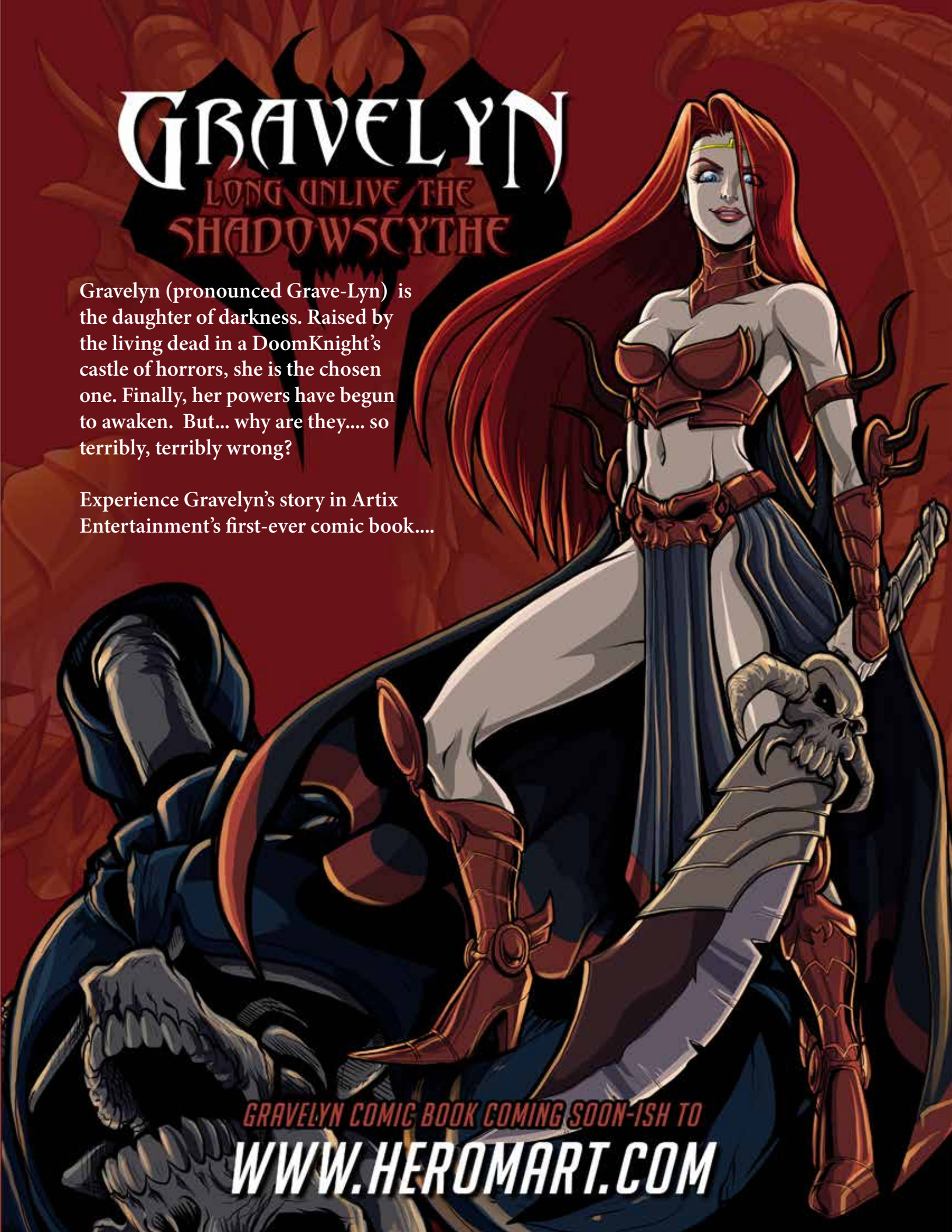
# GRAVELYN

LONG UNLIVE THE  
SHADOWSCYTHE

Gravelyn (pronounced Grave-Lyn) is the daughter of darkness. Raised by the living dead in a DoomKnight's castle of horrors, she is the chosen one. Finally, her powers have begun to awaken. But... why are they.... so terribly, terribly wrong?

Experience Gravelyn's story in Artix Entertainment's first-ever comic book....

GRAVELYN COMIC BOOK COMING SOON-ISH TO  
**[WWW.HEROMART.COM](http://WWW.HEROMART.COM)**







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