

## **The King of Sin City**

**by Eric Barcelos**

"What witchery be this?" I yelled clasping a glowing box in my palm. "Can you please give me back my phone now?" a woman said from behind. Holding the magical object aloft I asked, "You dare address a king in such a manner? You shall bow down before me naive!"

"I really don't have time for your larping." she said holding out her hand. "Where are my guardsmen? This witch must not go unpunished!" She scowled deeply and withdrew a small metal container, "Keep going and I'll pepper spray you."

"Your foul witchcraft shall not work on me! I am of divine right, an exemplar of humanity in and of itself!" I said in my infinite humbleness.

She pressed her finger to the metal canister and a vile liquid assailed my eyes, "I will not be late to work again!" The woman snatched up her magical trinket and stalked off. "Exemplar of humanity, please."

My eyes had never seared so much, it was as if I had poured liquid bronze into my eye sockets. To think such a noble creature as I be laid low by such a filthy witch. The monster lacked the decency to cover her arms! I had never experienced such a flagrant display of public nudity.

After my eyes had ceased watering took stock of where I was. I must have been in a noble capitol for the buildings soared higher than any he had ever seen before. Lights had been fixed to them so that they blinked incessantly. Hulking metal in various shapes and sizes launched themselves at high speeds mere feet away and as one they stopped and started. I decided that my best strategy was to find the highest point I could and survey more from there, and perhaps locate a castle or something familiar.

Once I had taken my perch in the starry night I found exactly what I had been looking for. Down what I had presumed to be a road I noted a castle that had the word 'Excalibur' emblazoned upon it. I had no idea where I was or even when I was but there was nothing left to do but to glean what information I could from the Excalibur.

I walked into the castle only to discover that it was a hollow facade meant harbor a loud and utterly rancid gambling ring so large that any man can lose himself. After a fruitless attempt at finding their king I attempted to find a place of residence only to find that the gold in my pockets was worth nothing. While I had started out as a king I had wound up a lowly pauper on the streets of some foreign city.