

Eight mercenary knights, each of them base born, each of them bound by unspeakable torture in a Saracen prison, each of them branded with the mark of the sword for life. Each of their destinies marked by a woman.

'Twas whispered along the Marches the demon knights who rode upon black horses donned in black mail wielding black swords would slay any man, woman or child who dared look upon them. 'Twas whispered their loyalty was only to the other and no man could split them asunder, nor was there enough gold or silver in the kingdom to buy their oath. 'Twas well known each of them was touched not by the hand of God but by Lucifer himself.

'Twas also whispered, but only by the bravest of souls, that each Blood Sword was destined to find only one woman in all of Christendom who would bear him and only him sons, and until that one woman was found, he would battle and ravage the land...

Sir Rohan du Luc

bastard son of a the comte to Monfort

Sir Wulfson de Trevelyn

bastard son of a Norman noble and a Saxon maid

Sir Stefan de Valrey

bastard son of the comte de Valeroix and Beatrice sister of duchess Mathilde

Sir Rorick de Moray

bastard son of MacBeth

Sir Warner de Conde

bastard son of the duke d'Anjou

Sir Ioan the Irish

baseborn grandson of the Irish king Ivar

Sir Rhys

bastard son of the Welsh prince of Gwent

and

Sir Thorin Haraldsson

bastard son of a Byzantinian gypsy and the late King Harald of Norway