

Macabre Majesty



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Issue 1: Slave to the Bed

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**DUNGEON RAT
PRODUCTIONS**

1st Edition

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I FOUND A
BUNCH OF BUGS
FOR YOU.



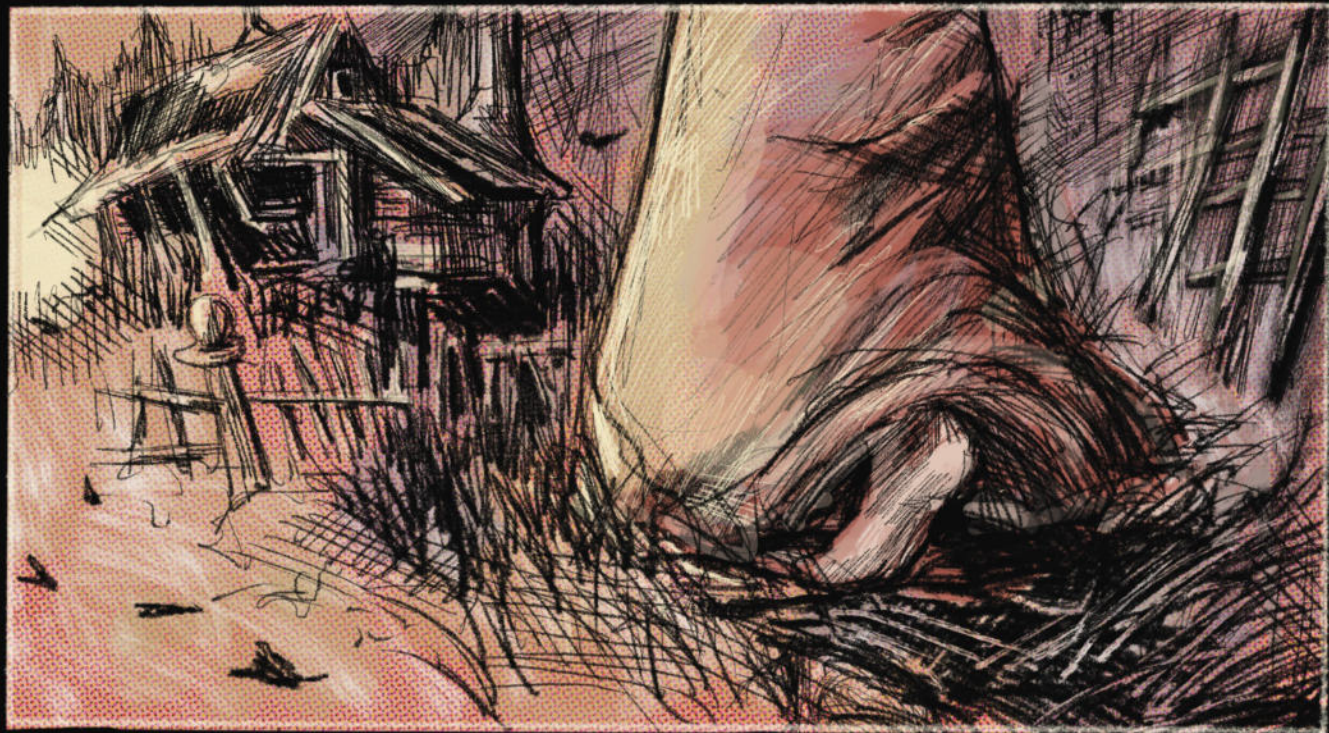
YOU'LL
BE WELL
FED FOR
WEEKS.



ARE YOU HAPPY?
I'D BE HAPPY
IF I GOT TO EAT
THAT MUCH.



ELEANOR,
COME HERE,
DEAR!



ELEANOR,
DEAR... I... I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO
SAY...



...WE'VE TRIED, BUT WE
CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE
CARE OF YOU ANY LONGER...
IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T LOVE
YOU. YOUR BROTHER WAS
LUCKY TO BE CONSCRIPTED...
AT LEAST LORD ARDEN
WILL FEED HIM.



YOU'LL
STARVE HERE.
WE ALL WILL.

BUT... BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO
LEAVE YOU. I LIKE
IT HERE.



YOU'LL STILL SEE
US FROM TIME TO TIME...
IF QUEEN BURKE'S WILLING.
THE CASTLE IS A STONE'S
THROW FROM OUR
PLOT, MY LOVE.

NO IT'S
NOT, I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
SEE YOU...

ELEANOR,
WE'RE MAKING
THIS DECISION
FOR YOU, NOT
FOR US...



THE ONLY OTHER
OPTION IS ABANDONING OUR
HOME AND GOING OUT ON THE
ROAD AGAIN. BUT WITH THE WAR...
THEY'D KILL ME AND DO WORSE
TO YOU AND YOUR MOTHER.
MUCH WORSE.



KING BRAOSE
IS NOT KNOWN
FOR HIS
CLEMENCY...



I'M SORRY,
ELEANOR.



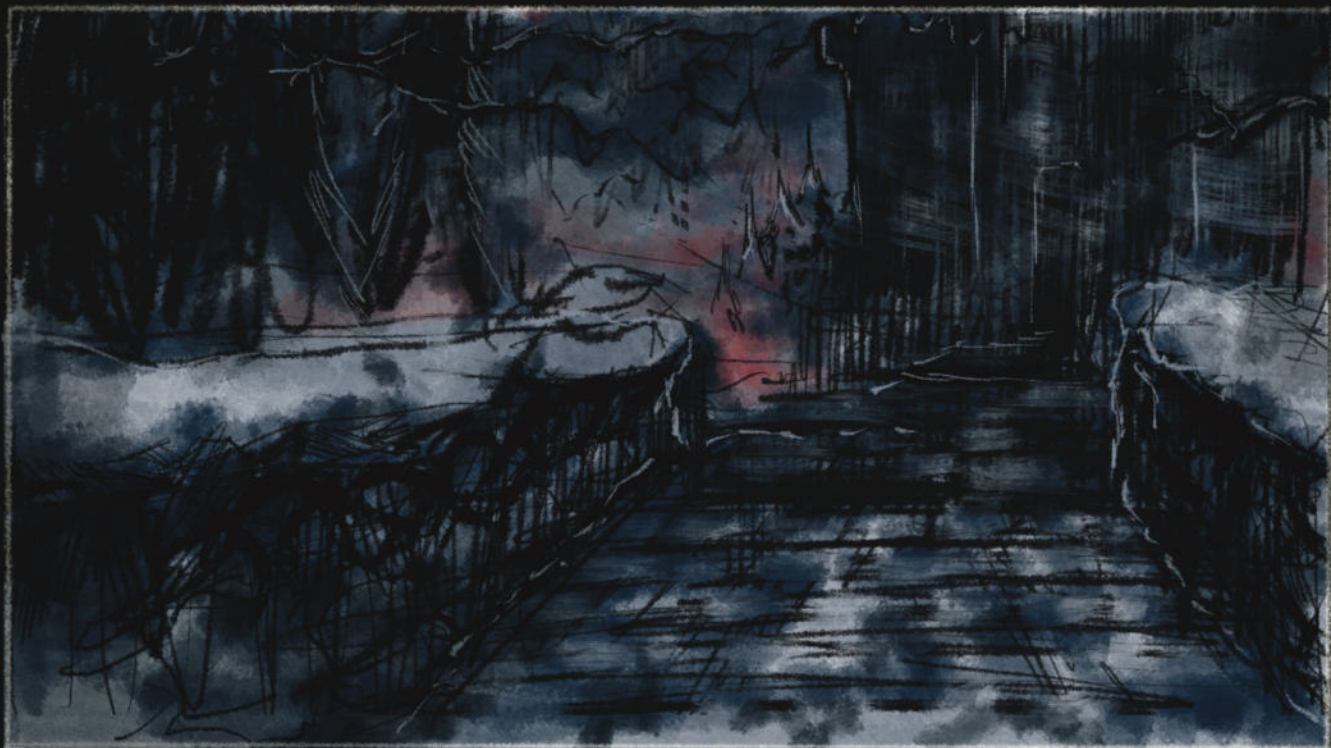
I'M TRULY SORRY...
YOU KNOW WE'VE TRIED
EVERYTHING. THERE'S
NO OTHER OPTION...
OUR LAND IS
CURSED.

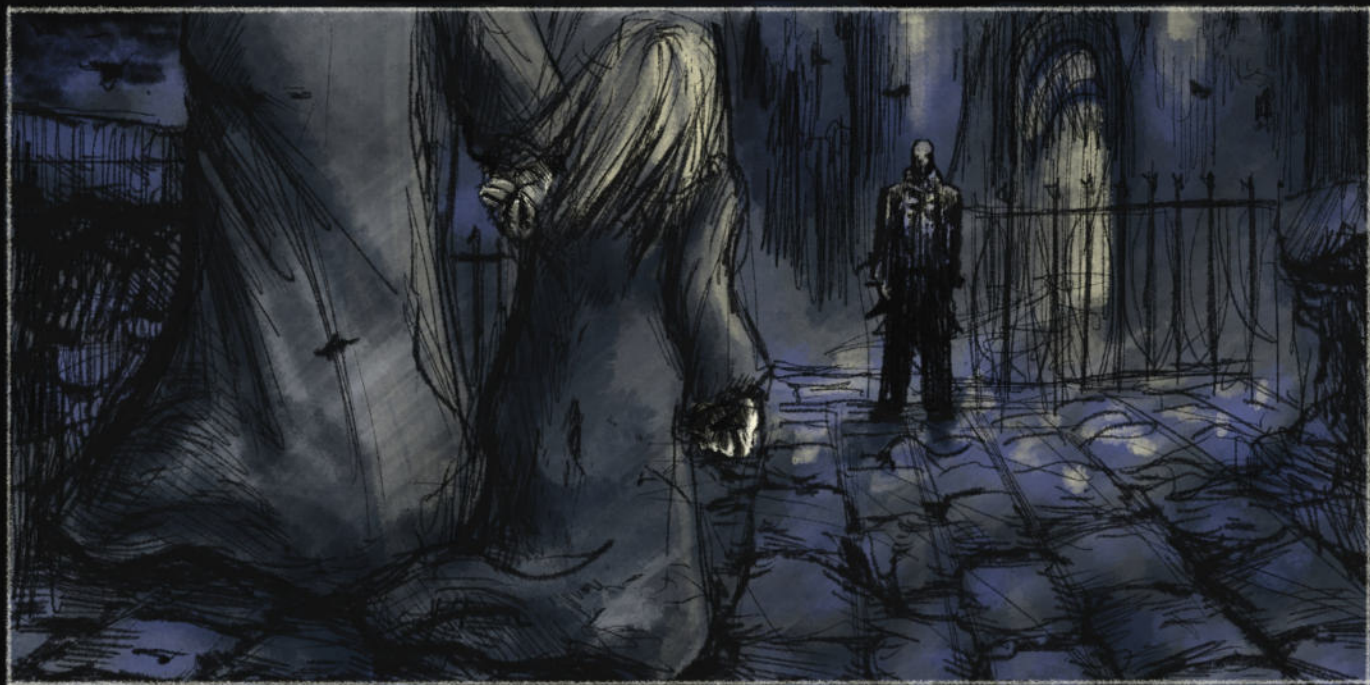
YOU'LL BE FED
AND TAKEN CARE
OF IF YOU FOLLOW
THEIR COMMANDS.
KNOW THAT THIS
IS BECAUSE WE
LOVE YOU.



I KNOW,
MY DEAR...
I KNOW...





















WHY HELLO
THERE, LITTLE ONE.
WELCOME TO MY CASTLE.
I HEARD YOU'D BE
JOINING US. WHAT
IS YOUR NAME?



...EL-ELEANOR...

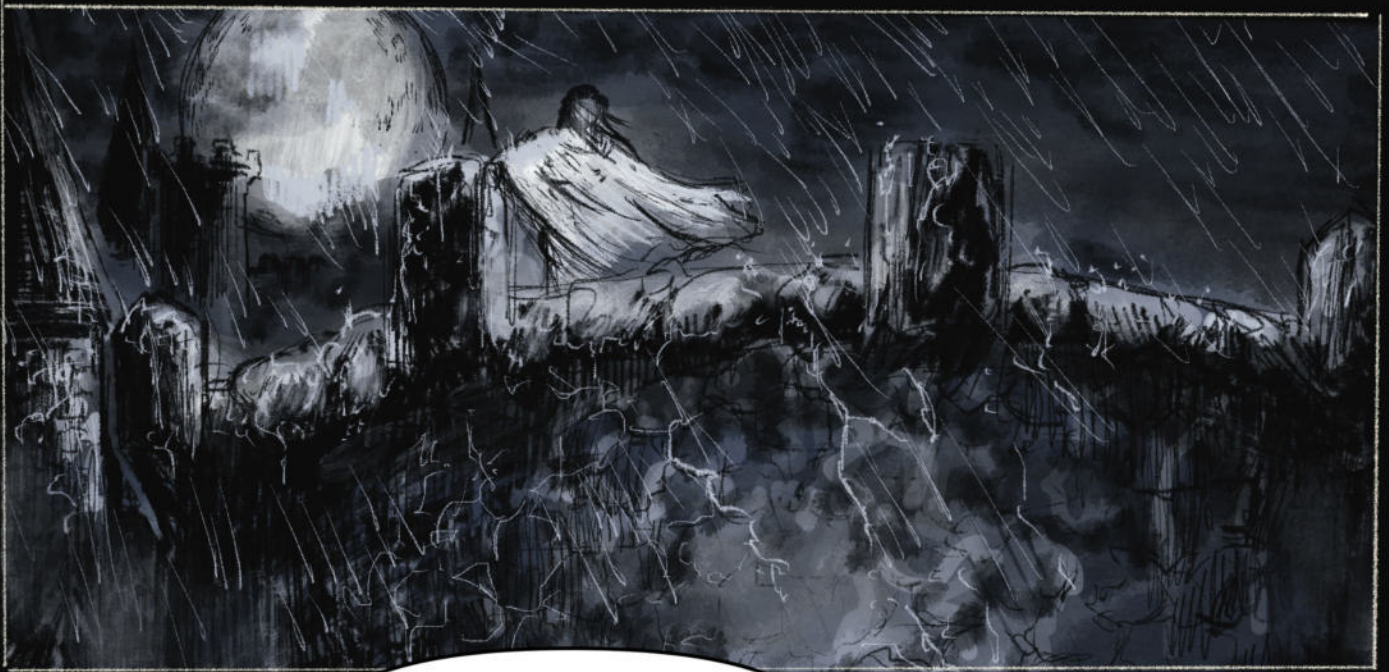
I KNOW HOW
HARD IT CAN BE
TO LOSE YOUR MOM,
OR BE AWAY FROM
HER AT LEAST.

MY MOM, QUEEN
BURKE, IS...WELL,
SHE'S DETERIORATED
RATHER QUICKLY.

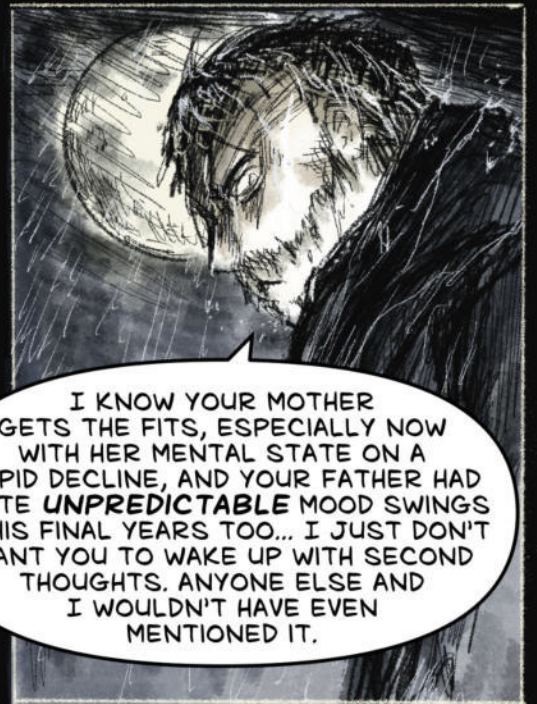
WE'RE DOING
WHAT WE CAN TO TAKE
CARE OF HER, BUT HER MIND IS
SIMPLY NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS.
YOU'LL STILL SEE YOUR FAMILY
FROM TIME TO TIME. WE'LL
INVITE THEM HERE, ON
HOLIDAYS PERHAPS.



HOW LOVELY TO
HAVE YOU HERE, MY DEAR.
WE'LL GIVE YOU A BATH, A FEAST,
AND A PROPER TOUR OF THE
GROUNDS AFTER WE FIRST
TAKE CARE OF A
LITTLE PEST.



YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, YOUR HIGHNESS? I MEAN NO ILL WILL WHEN I SAY IT, JUST CHECKING IT'S NOT A FOUL MOOD THAT'S POSSESSED YOU... AND THAT THIS IS ALL REASONABLE AND IN GOOD FAITH.



I KNOW YOUR MOTHER GETS THE FITS, ESPECIALLY NOW WITH HER MENTAL STATE ON A RAPID DECLINE, AND YOUR FATHER HAD QUITE **UNPREDICTABLE** MOOD SWINGS IN HIS FINAL YEARS TOO... I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO WAKE UP WITH SECOND THOUGHTS. ANYONE ELSE AND I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN MENTIONED IT.



I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, CAPTAIN SUTTON, BUT I'M QUITE CONFIDENT ABOUT MY DECISION.



WHILE YOU MAY HAVE KNOWN HER FOR HER DECADES OF INNOCENT CHARM AND MOTHERLY SPIRIT, SHE HAS, BEHIND MY BACK, DONE THE **UNTHINKABLE**.

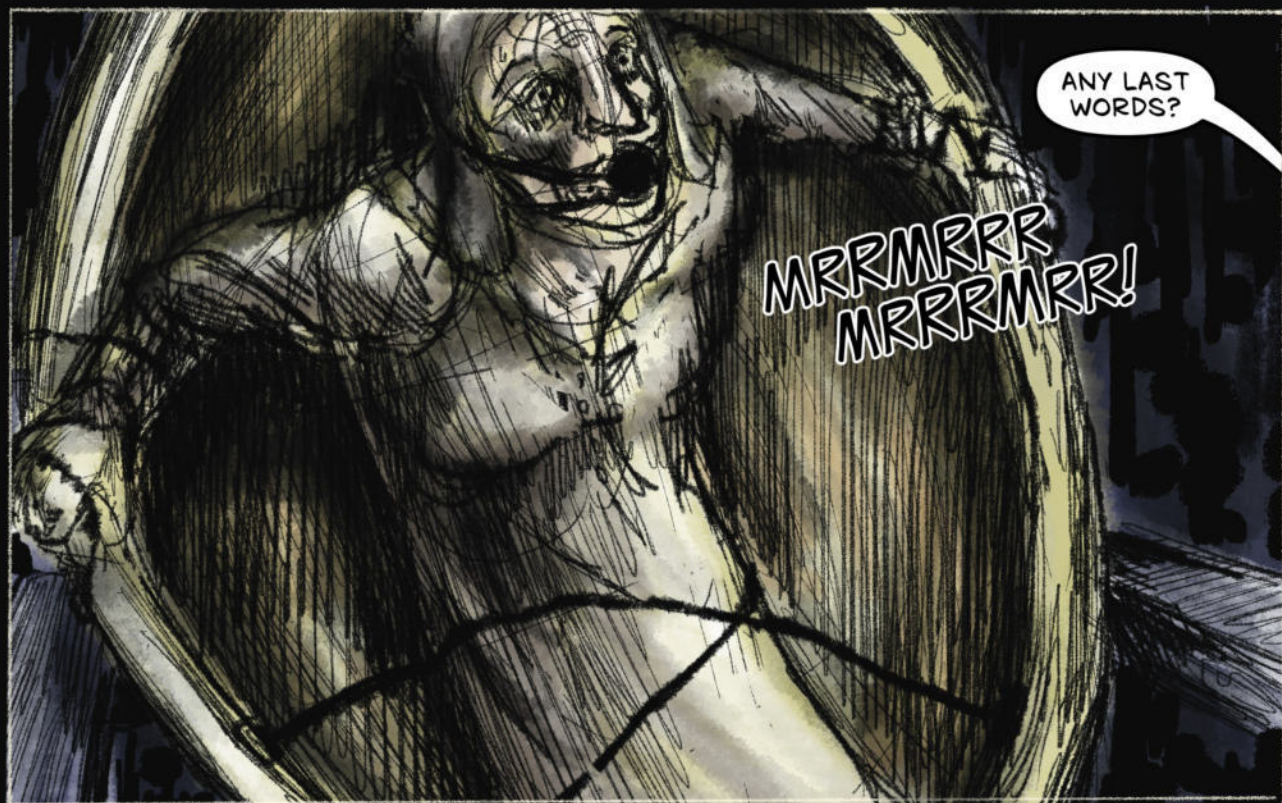


IF ONE OF YOUR MEN TRIED IN SECRET TO USURP YOU, WHAT WOULD BE THE PUNISHMENT?

DEATH, NO DOUBT.



PRECISELY.



ANY LAST
WORDS?

MRRMRRR
MRRMRR!



I DIDN'T THINK
SO. LAUNCH HER.





AW. PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE DONE IT IN THE DAYLIGHT. DID YOU SEE WHERE SHE LANDED?

NO, YOUR HIGHNESS.



AH... OH, WELL. THE MOONLIGHT GAVE IT A... **ROMANTIC** QUALITY. WORTH THE TRADEOFF.



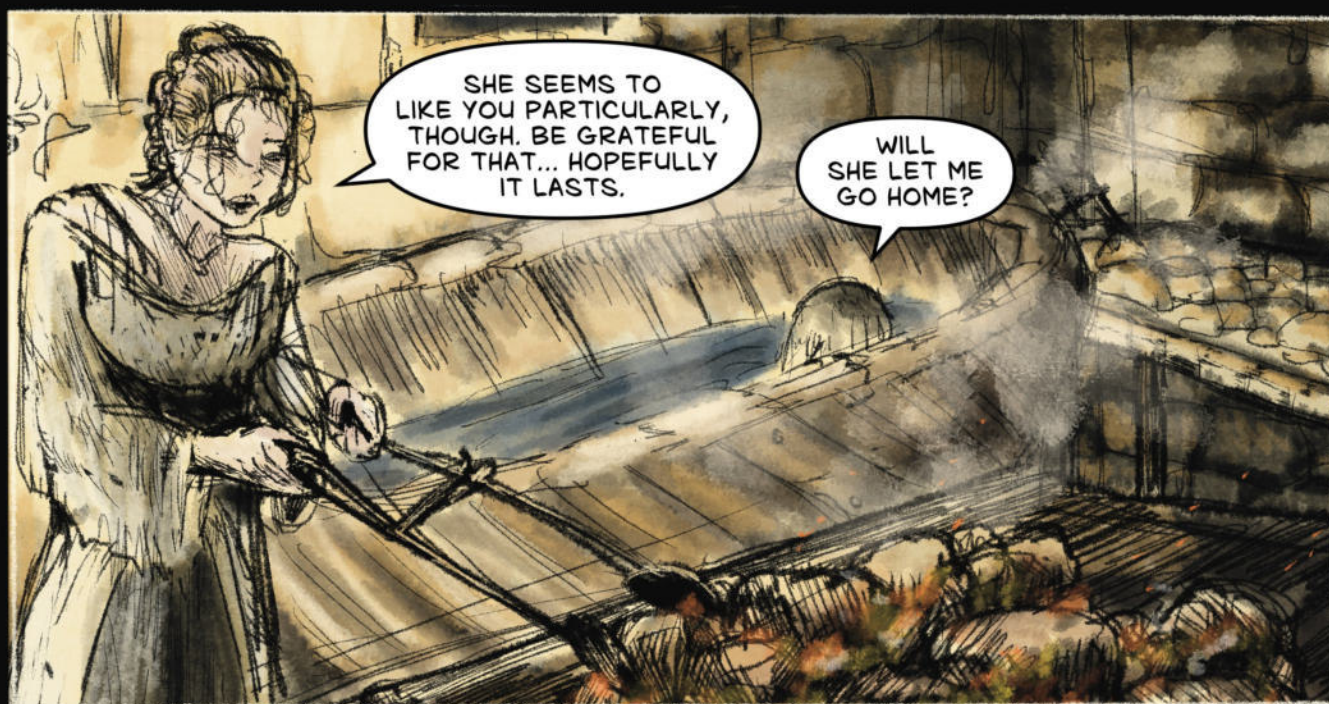
NOW THAT YOU'VE ALL SEEN THE COST OF TREASON, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.

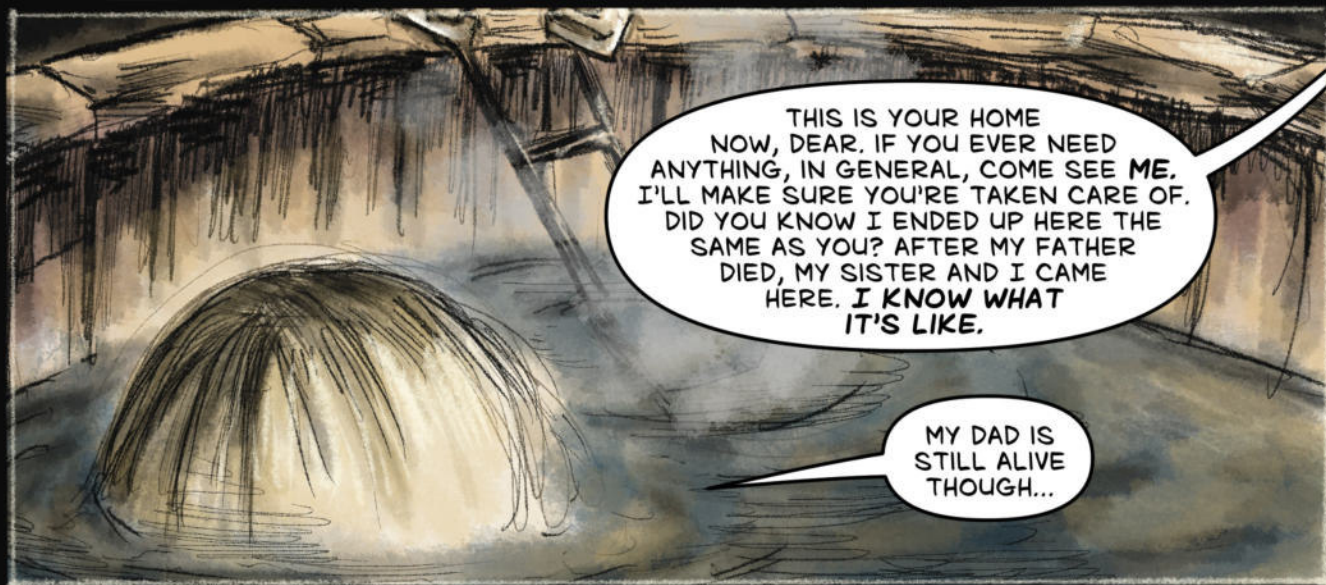
MAGDALIA, CAN YOU PLEASE CLEAN LITTLE ELEANOR UP BEFORE THE FEAST?



SHE'S ALL SWEET AND INNOCENT TIL SHE'S IN CONTROL. CLASSIC RICH KID. IF ONLY GERVASE HADN'T BEEN THE BASTARD SON...

I'VE SEEN IT IN POOR FOLKS TOO. CLIMB ONE RUNG ON THE LADDER AND THEY'RE WIPING THEIR LOAFERS ON THE PEOPLE BELOW THEM WHO WERE JUST THEIR EQUAL. IF I EVER END UP IN A POSITION OF POWER, REMIND ME NOT TO BE AN ARSEHOLE.





THIS IS YOUR HOME NOW, DEAR. IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, IN GENERAL, COME SEE **ME**. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE TAKEN CARE OF. DID YOU KNOW I ENDED UP HERE THE SAME AS YOU? AFTER MY FATHER DIED, MY SISTER AND I CAME HERE. **I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.**

MY DAD IS STILL ALIVE THOUGH...



OH? THEN YOU'RE EVEN LUCKIER! PERHAPS WE CAN BAKE HIM SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS. YOU'RE SHY AREN'T YOU? I CAN TELL THERE'S MUCH MORE GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD THAN MEETS THE EYE. YOU'RE A SMART ONE. MY SISTER WOULD HAVE **LOVED YOU.**

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?



...AN "ACCIDENT" THEY SAY... I'VE GOT A SECRET TO KEEP YOU SAFE, OK? BUT YOU CAN'T SAY YOU HEARD IT FROM ME. OR ELSE WE'LL BOTH BE TOSSED OFF THE CLIFFS OR FED TO THOSE... **THINGS IN THE DUNGEON.**



STAY AWAY FROM GERVASE. ONCE YOU GROW UP, IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM. BUT UNTIL THEN... **CONSIDER HIM A MONSTER.**



EADRIC, PLEASE
INFORM THE KITCHEN
TO MAKE ANOTHER PIE.
TWO IN FACT, HAVE THE
OTHER ONE READY
RIGHT BEFORE
BEDTIME.

YES, YOUR
HIGHNESS.



OH, YOU LOOK
ADORABLE.
COME JOIN US,
MY DEAR.



AH, EADRIC!
ONE MORE THING.
LET OSWIN KNOW THAT
I'LL NEED SOME
ADJUSTMENTS.

YES,
MA'AM.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

I CAN TELL YOU'VE
BEEN STARVED. **SHAMEFUL**
OF YOUR PARENTS TO DO THAT...
I'M GRATEFUL TO BE ABLE
TO TAKE **PROPER** CARE
OF YOU.



ARE YOU NICE AND
FULL NOW? HOPEFULLY NOT
TOO STUFFED. THERE'S WORK
TO BE DONE, NOW. IT'S TIME
FOR YOUR **DUTIES**.



AHHH. AFTER YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTIES, YOU CAN JOIN ME FOR DESSERT. CLEAN YOUR HANDS IN THE BASIN THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO **MOTHER**.



REMEMBER TO REFER TO HER AS "YOUR MAJESTY," THEN "MA'AM" AFTER THAT. SHE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THINGS, THOUGH WITH HER MIND DECAYING, SHE MAY PERHAPS NOT EVEN BE AWARE THAT WE'RE IN THE ROOM. IT'S RATHER SAD, AT TIMES...

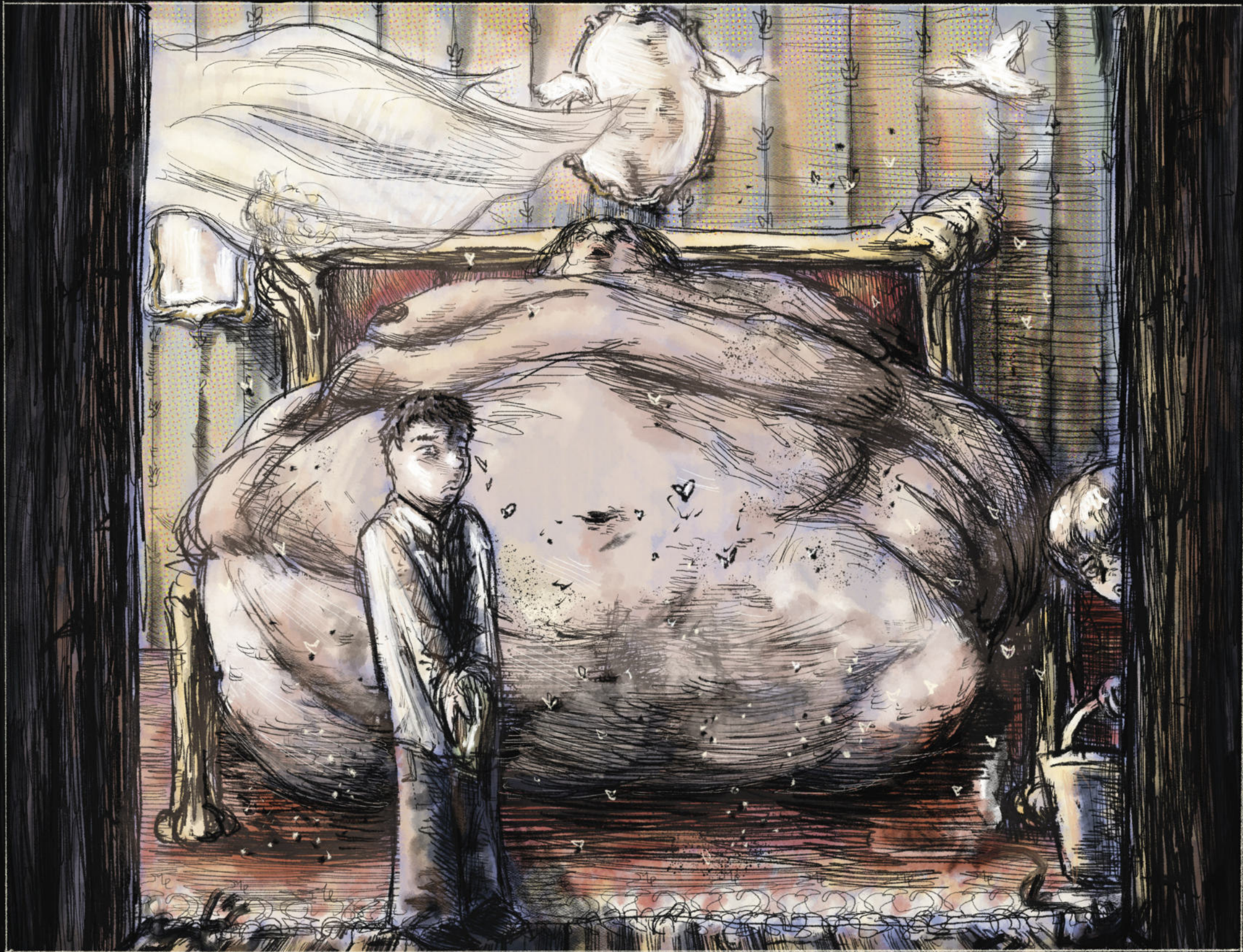


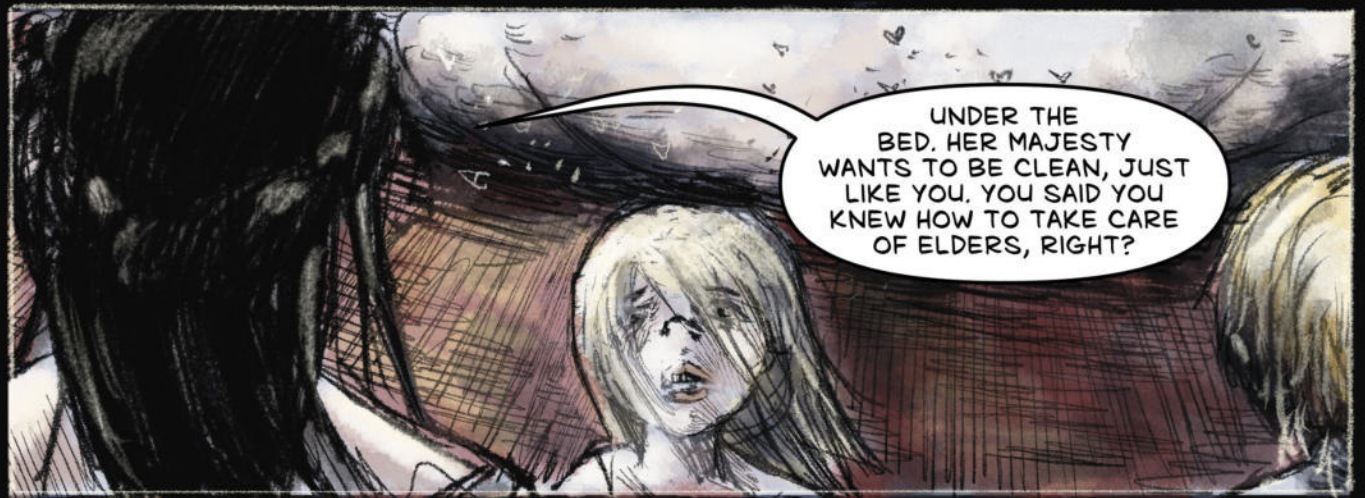
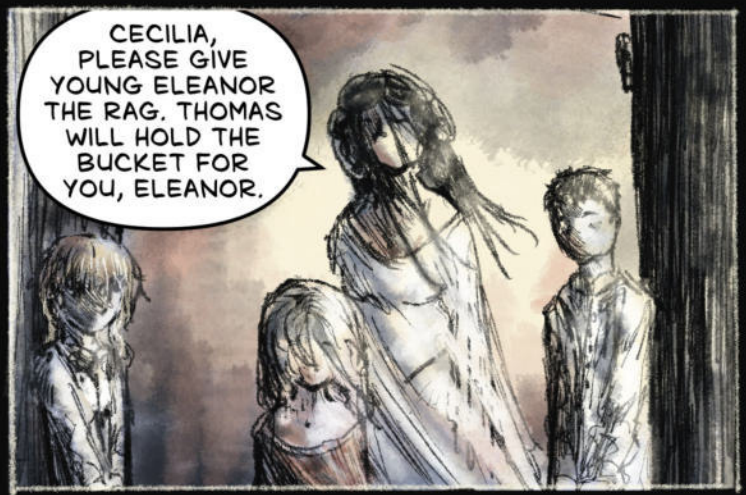
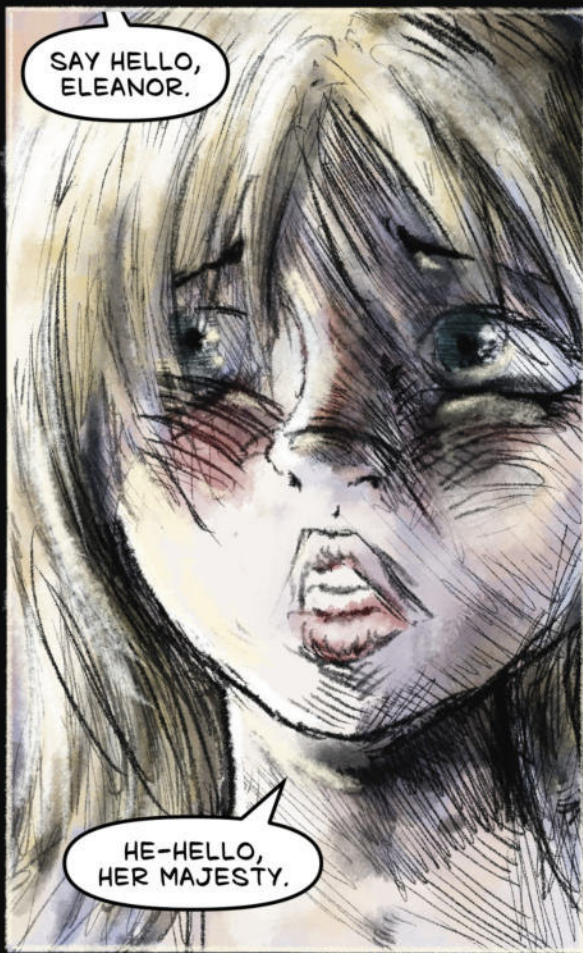
HAVE YOU EVER TENDED TO AN ELDER?

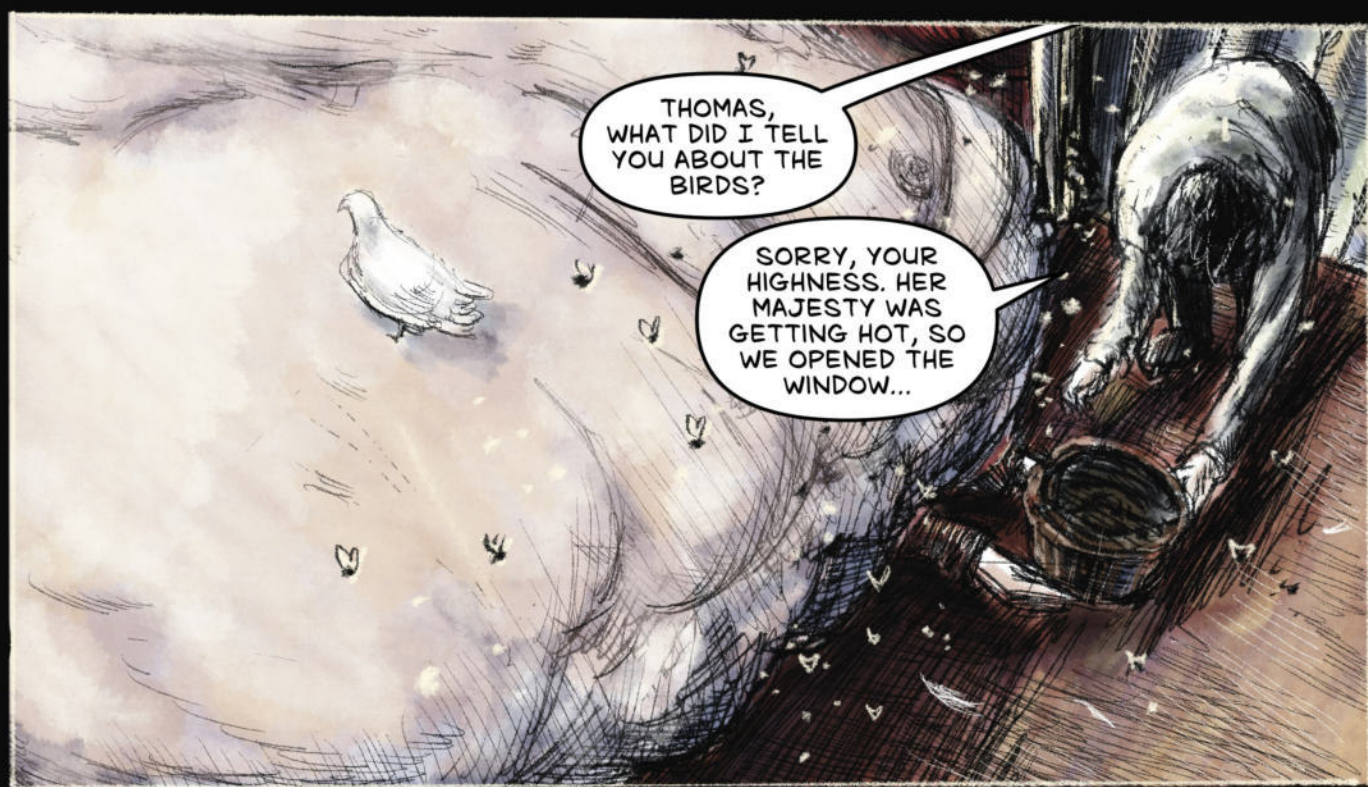
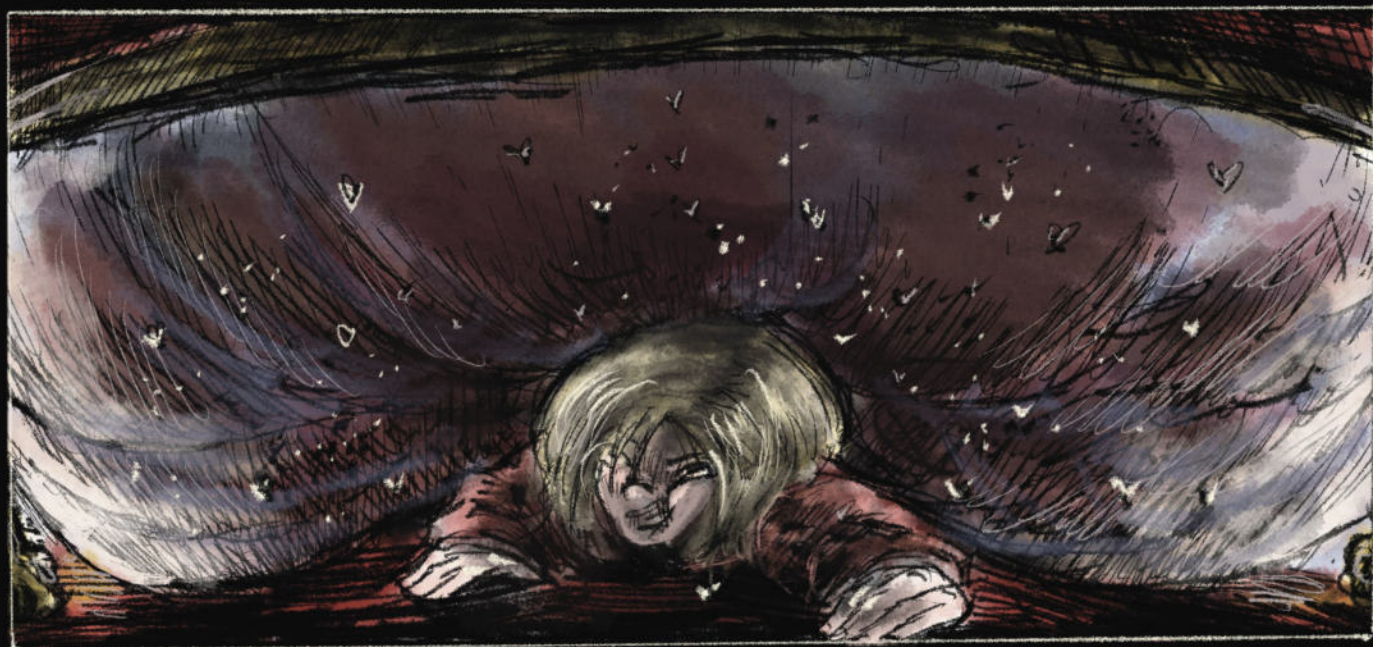
I HELPED MY GRANDMA, BUT SHE PASSED AWAY TWO WINTERS AGO. SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO COOK AND CLEAN.

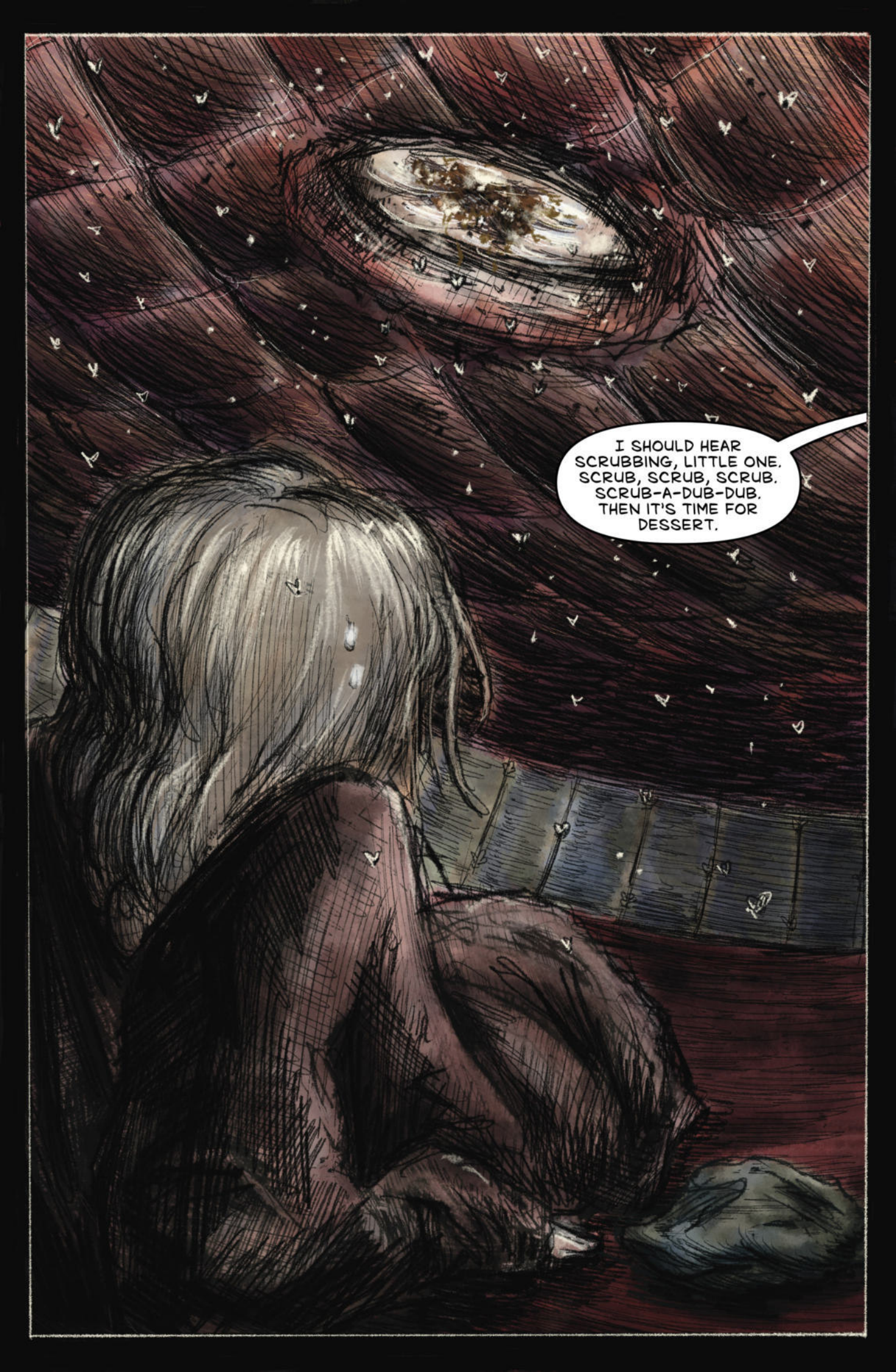


AH. PERFECT. YOU CAN PUT THOSE SKILLS TO USE HERE.









I SHOULD HEAR
SCRUBBING, LITTLE ONE.
SCRUB, SCRUB, SCRUB.
SCRUB-A-DUB-DUB.
THEN IT'S TIME FOR
DESSERT.

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