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# Courtney VOLUME SIX Crumrin



The Final Spell

—❖— TED NAIFEH —❖—

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## The Final Spell

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Published by Oni Press, Inc.  
*founder & chief financial officer*, Joe Nozemack  
*publisher*, James Lucas Jones  
*editor in chief*, Sarah Gaydos  
*v.p. of creative & business development*, Charlie Chu  
*director of operations*, Brad Rooks  
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*executive assistant*, Michelle Nguyen  
*logistics coordinator*, Jung Lee

Originally published as issues 6-10 of the Oni Press comic series  
*Courtney Crumrin*.

Courtney Crumrin: The Final Spell. January 2020. Published by Oni Press, Inc. 1319 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite 240, Portland, OR 97214. Courtney Crumrin is <sup>TM</sup> & © 2020 Ted Naifeh. All rights reserved. Oni Press logo and icon <sup>TM</sup> & © 2020 Oni Press, Inc. Oni Press logo and icon artwork created by Keith A. Wood. The events, institutions, and characters presented in this book are fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders.



1319 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Suite 240  
Portland, OR 97214

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First Edition: January 2020

ISBN 978-1-62010-683-9  
eISBN 978-1-62010-056-1

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019939963

*For Carol Garcia*





# Chapter One







WHAT IS IT?

THE ENTRANCE TO GOBLIN TOWN, YOU NINNY.



FANCY A CLOSER LOOK?

YOU WOULDN'T DARE.

TRY ME.



SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE HEAVEN!

I WONDER HOW IT TASTES.

THEY SAY YOU SHOULDN'T LET EVEN A CRUMB PASS YOUR LIPS.





HELLO?  
IS ANYONE  
THERE?

I WARNED  
YOU!



DON'T  
WORRY,  
I'LL GET  
YOU OUT!

BEHIND  
YOU-



TWO FOR  
THE PRICE OF ONE.  
IT HARDLY SEEMS  
SPORTING.



I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE GOING  
TO FETCH  
GRANDMOTHER.

IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN WISER.  
BUT I'LL MAKE A  
BARGAIN WITH  
YOU.





WHEN YOU HAVE BROUGHT COURTNEY CRUMRIN BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF MYSTICS, YOU WILL RECEIVE AS MUCH AS YOU DESIRE.

FOR A FAIR TRIAL?



I KEEP MY WORD, ALOYSIUS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T.

BUT DECIDE QUICKLY.



THE MARSHALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISPATCHED.



YOU DON'T WANT THEM CATCHING UP WITH HER BEFORE YOU DO.

DO YOU SEE ANYONE BEHIND US?



IT'S CLEAR. YOU REALLY THINK THESE COVEN BOZOS ARE GONNA BE A PROBLEM?

OH, YEAH.



SURRENDER!



HE'S CASTING AN ENSNAREMENT SPELL! WE'RE TRAPPED!

NOT YET.



WHAT THE-



HA! YOU'RE A TRICKY ONE, MISS CRISP.



SO ARE THEY.

HANG ON!

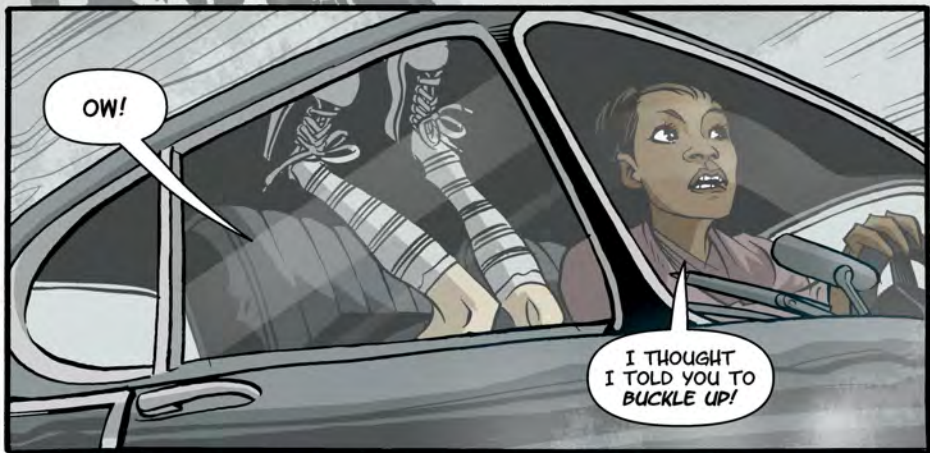


LOOK OUT! THE CLIFF!

DON'T WORRY.



THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN FLY.





COURTNEY,  
LISTEN  
CAREFULLY!

WE CAN'T  
LET THEM  
CATCH US.

DO YOU  
KNOW ANY  
MAGIC THAT  
MIGHT STOP  
THEM?



I JUST  
KNOW THE HAND  
OF FIRE!

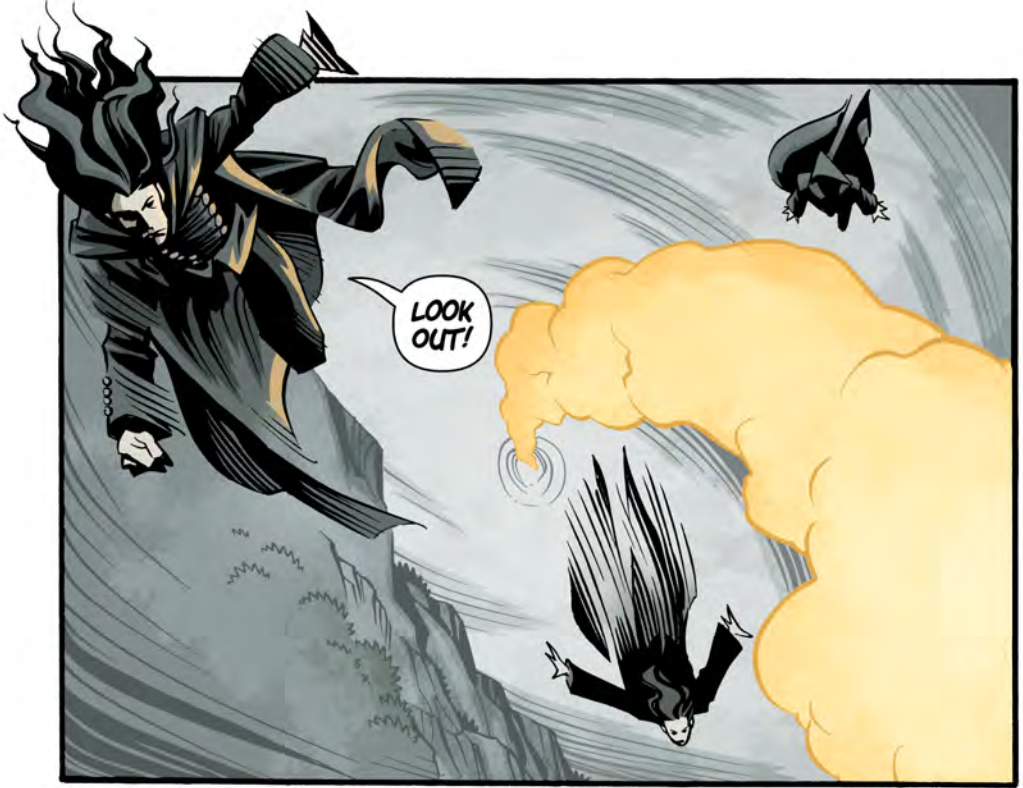
BUT UNCLE A  
SAID I CAN'T USE  
IT ON PEOPLE, OR  
I'LL GET INTO  
TROUBLE.

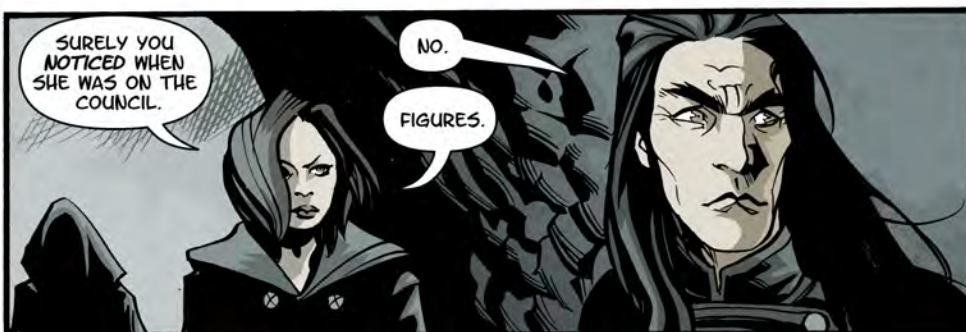
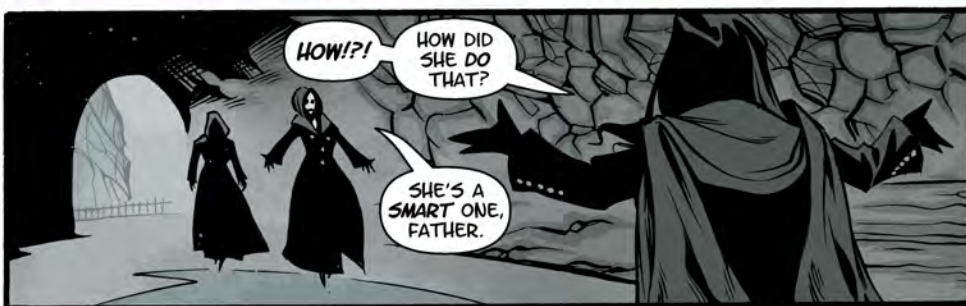


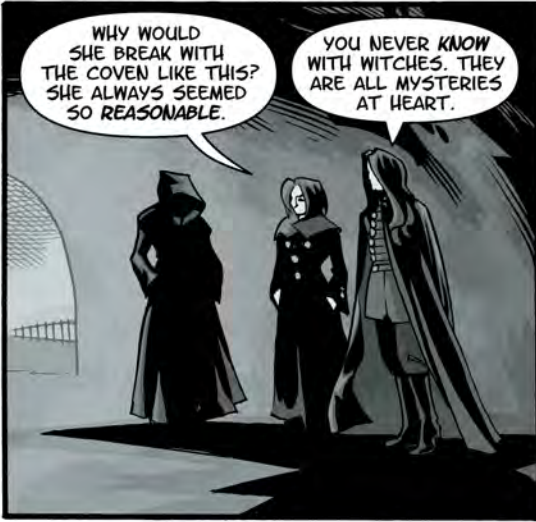
COURTNEY!  
WE'RE IN  
REALLY BIG  
TROUBLE!



AAAAAGH!







WHY WOULD SHE BREAK WITH THE COVEN LIKE THIS? SHE ALWAYS SEEMED SO REASONABLE.

YOU NEVER KNOW WITH WITCHES. THEY ARE ALL MYSTERIES AT HEART.



THEN TO FIND THIS WITCH, WE MUST UNCOVER HER SECRET HEART.



GOODNESS, WHAT A SURPRISE!



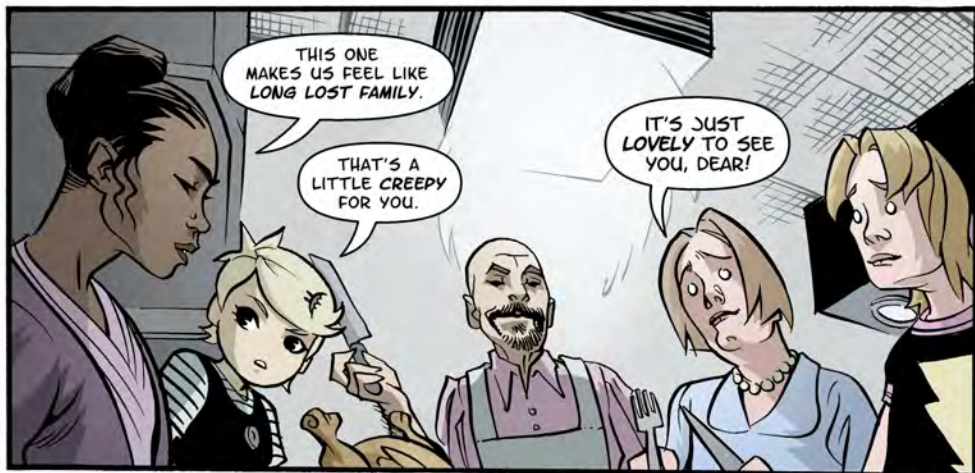
COME IN! WE WERE JUST SITTING DOWN TO DINNER.



HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY, GALS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?

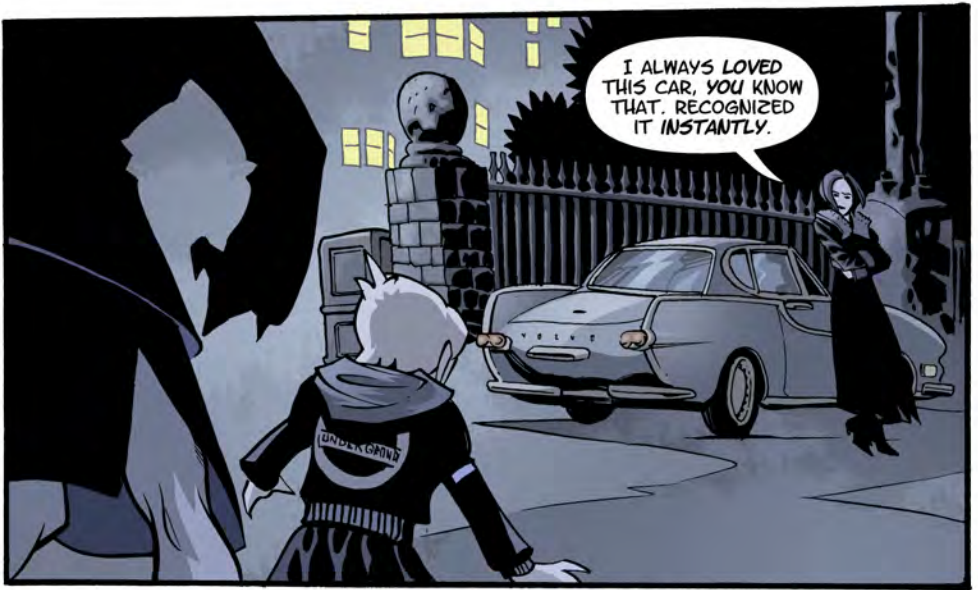
I DON'T. BUT I DO KNOW GLAMOUR SPELLS.













GAAAAAHHH!



I'M REALLY SORRY, ISOBEL, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

I JUST HOPE YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.



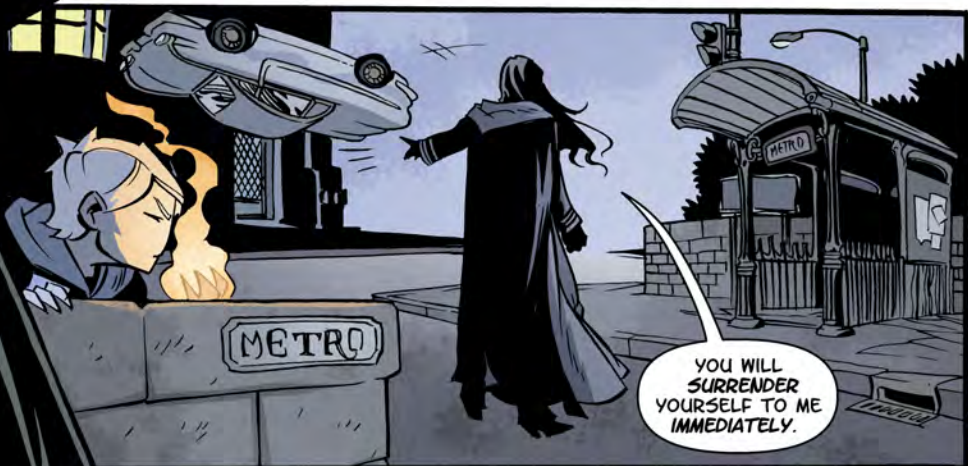
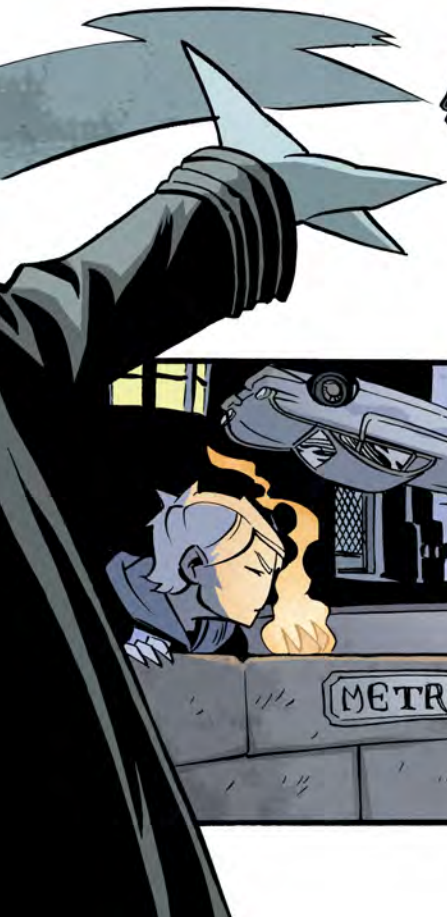
COURTNEY! GET IN THE CAR!



WHOA!

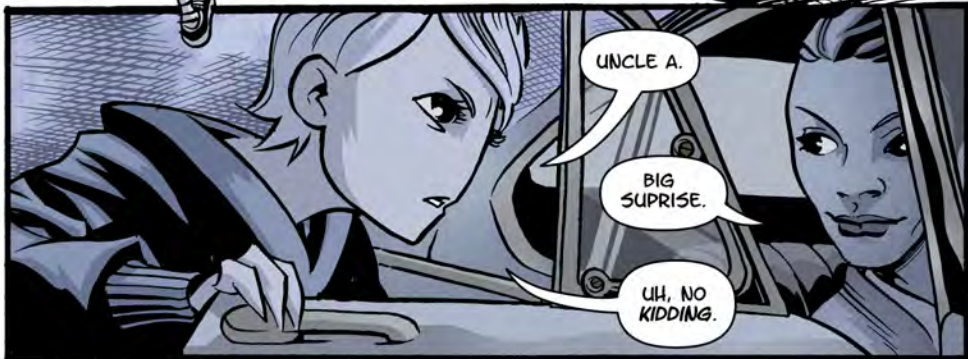
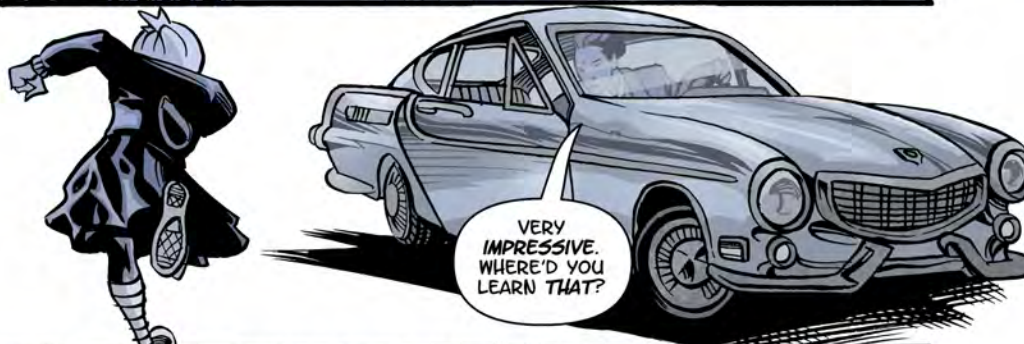


I KNOW YOU'RE DOWN THERE, MISS CRUMRIN. IF YOU WANT TO SEE MISS CRISP ALIVE AGAIN...



YOU WILL SURRENDER YOURSELF TO ME IMMEDIATELY.







HELLO,  
CALPURNIA.

COURTNEY.




IT'S TIME TO  
COME HOME.

# Chapter Two







ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL NAMED COURTNEY CRUMRIN...

COURTNEY...

IT'S TIME TO COME HOME.

...WHOSE WORLD REVOLVED AROUND HER GREAT UNCLE ALOYSIUS.



HE TAUGHT HER MAGIC, AND OPENED UP A PLACE IN HIS HEART FOR HER.

WHAT ABOUT THE COVEN?



HE BECAME HER BEST FRIEND.

I WILL PROTECT YOU.

OH, REALLY?



HOW'D THAT WORK OUT FOR YOUR CHANGELING FRIEND, SKARROW?



UNTIL THE MOMENT SHE REALISED HE WAS HER WORST ENEMY.



SKREEEEEEEE







YOU LITTLE MONSTER!



I'LL RING YOUR SKINNY-



TRIANNE!



DON'T FORGET, MY FRIEND...



MARSHAL OR NOT, IF YOU HARM MY NIECE, YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REGRET IT.

BACK AWAY, BOTH OF YOU.



YOU WOULDN'T DARE-

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT A DETERMINED WITCH WOULD DARE, KRISTOF.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, CALPURNIA, PUT THAT DOWN. YOU'VE TAKEN THIS TOO FAR ALREADY!



YOU DON'T SEE WHAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME, DO YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK I DID ON THE COUNCIL? I WATCHED AND I LISTENED!



THEY'RE THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON EARTH, AND THEY'RE DYING OF BOREDOM.



THEY WANT TO REPEAL RAVANNA'S LAW. THEY WANT THE WORLD AS THEIR PLAYTHING.

THIS WHOLE GOOSE CHASE IS TO GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY.



YOU GIVE WOODRUE TOO MUCH CREDIT FOR BRAINS...



...AND NOT ENOUGH FOR ETHICS.

BESIDES, COURTNEY SHOULDN'T SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE RUNNING.



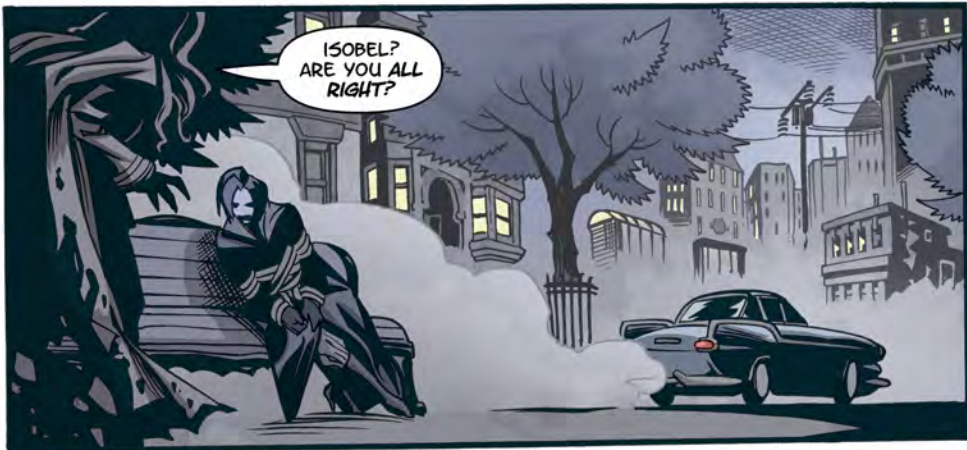
SHE JUST NEEDS TO TELL HER SIDE OF THE STORY.

TO WHO? HIM?



IF YOU HURT HER, SO HELP ME-

CALM YOURSELF, MAN. WE'VE LOST THIS ROUND.



ISOBEL?  
ARE YOU ALL  
RIGHT?



THANK  
GOODNESS-

IS IT TRUE,  
FATHER? DO YOU  
INTEND TO REPEAL  
RAVANNA'S LAW?

WHATEVER  
THAT WOMAN  
TOLD YOU-



DON'T  
PLAY GAMES  
WITH ME. I'M  
NOT A CHILD.

YOU WATCH  
YOUR TONE,  
YOUNG LADY.



BUT SINCE  
YOU ASK...

THE COUNCIL HAS  
BEEN DISCUSSING  
A REASSESSMENT  
OF THE POLICY.

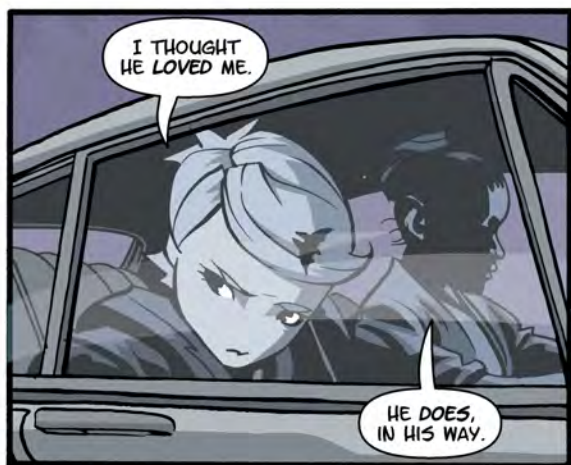


WE HAVE  
A DUTY TO USE  
MAGIC FOR THE  
BETTERMENT OF  
MANKIND.

AND WE  
CAN HARDLY DO  
THAT FROM OUR  
COMFORTABLE  
LITTLE  
BOROUGH.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND? WHY IS HE DOING THIS?



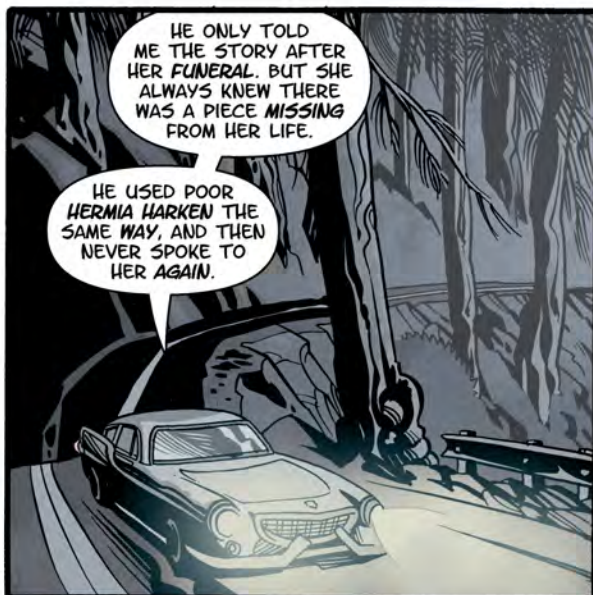
I THOUGHT HE LOVED ME.

HE DOES, IN HIS WAY.



HE LOVED MY MOTHER, YOU KNOW. ALICE CRISP.

BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM USING HER IN HIS LITTLE PLOTS AND THEN WIPING HER MEMORY AWAY.



HE ONLY TOLD ME THE STORY AFTER HER FUNERAL. BUT SHE ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS A PIECE MISSING FROM HER LIFE.

HE USED POOR HERMIA HARKEN THE SAME WAY, AND THEN NEVER SPOKE TO HER AGAIN.



THEN THERE WAS HIS BROTHER, WILBERFORCE.

WHAT?



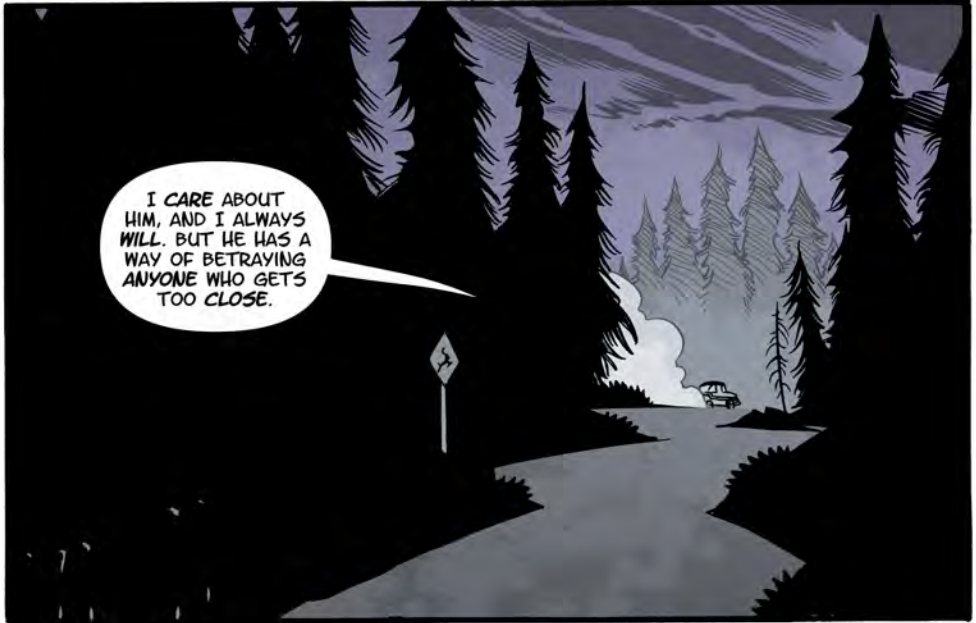
YOU DIDN'T KNOW? WELL, HOW COULD YOU? IT'S NOT LIKE HE WOULD HAVE SAID ANYTHING.



THEY WERE TWINS. THEY WENT DOWN INTO THE GOBLIN WORLD ONE DAY, AND ONLY ALOYSIUS CAME BACK.



HE CLAIMED THAT WILBERFORCE WANTED TO STAY, BUT ONLY ALOYSIUS KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED DOWN THERE.



I CARE ABOUT HIM, AND I ALWAYS WILL. BUT HE HAS A WAY OF BETRAYING ANYONE WHO GETS TOO CLOSE.



WHERE ARE WE?

THE SAFEST PLACE I KNOW.



YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?



MRS. WRATHUM, IT'S ME!

CALPURNIA.

IT'S MS. OLDS, YOUNGSTER. BEEN DIVORCED 30 YEARS. LEMME GUESS.



OL' WOODRUE DIED AND YOU'RE HERE TO GIMME MY INHERITANCE.

AFRAID NOT.



SO YOU'RE ALOYSIUS'S GREAT GRANDNIECE, EH? LAST O' THE CRUMRIN WITCHES.

I GUESS SO.

IT'S JUST FOR A DAY OR TWO.





BUGGERED  
IF I KNOW.  
DIDN'T LEARN  
IT IN NO BOOK.  
THE TRICK JUST  
COMES TO ME.

LIKE  
'EM?



ACTUALLY,  
THEY'RE  
PRETTY  
COOL.



THAT'S A FIRST.  
THEY USED TO SCARE  
YOUNG CALLIE HERE  
SOMETHIN' AWFUL  
WHEN SHE WERE A  
GIRL. ME HUSBAND  
DIDN'T MUCH LIKE  
'EM EITHER.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN,  
IT JUST COMES  
TO YOU? FROM  
WHERE?

WHERE  
DID YA THINK  
MAGIC COMES  
FROM, EH?



ALL  
SORCERERS  
HAVE A SECRET  
POWER. IT DON'T  
COME FROM NO  
BOOK, BUT UP  
FROM THE  
DEEPEST PART  
O' YA.





SHE SAID WE'D HEAR THE ALARM IF ANYONE COMES.

YOU THINK ALOYSIUS WOULDN'T THINK OF THAT? SUE ME IF I'M A LITTLE EXTRA CAUTIOUS.



DO YOU HAVE A SECRET POWER?

IF I DID, I NEVER FOUND IT.



ME NEITHER. I PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ONE.

I DON'T KNOW.



YOUR POETRY CAN BE PRETTY POWERFUL.

ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?



LET'S WASTE NO TIME.

IF IT'S WHO I THINK IT IS, I'D PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

WHY-



I DO WISH YOU'D LEARN TO RESPECT EXPERIENCE, COUNCILOR.



THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED YOU.

A TRACKING SPELL.



IMPOSSIBLE.

HE'D NEED SOMETHING WITH A PIECE OF COURTNEY'S PSYCHE IN IT.

I TOOK EVERYTHING, DIDN'T I?



IT'S HIM. HE'S USING HIMSELF.



GOOD HEAVENS!  
WHO IS THIS  
SORCERESS?

SHE'S FROM BEFORE  
YOUR TIME.



BUT HER  
POWER HAS GROWN  
CONSIDERABLY.

BEYOND  
YOURS?

WE  
SHALL-

STAY BACK,  
DEMON!

I TOLD  
YOU, IT'S JUST  
A GOLEM-

UNCLE A!



>GASP<

YOU SHOULDN'T  
HAVE FOLLOWED  
US.





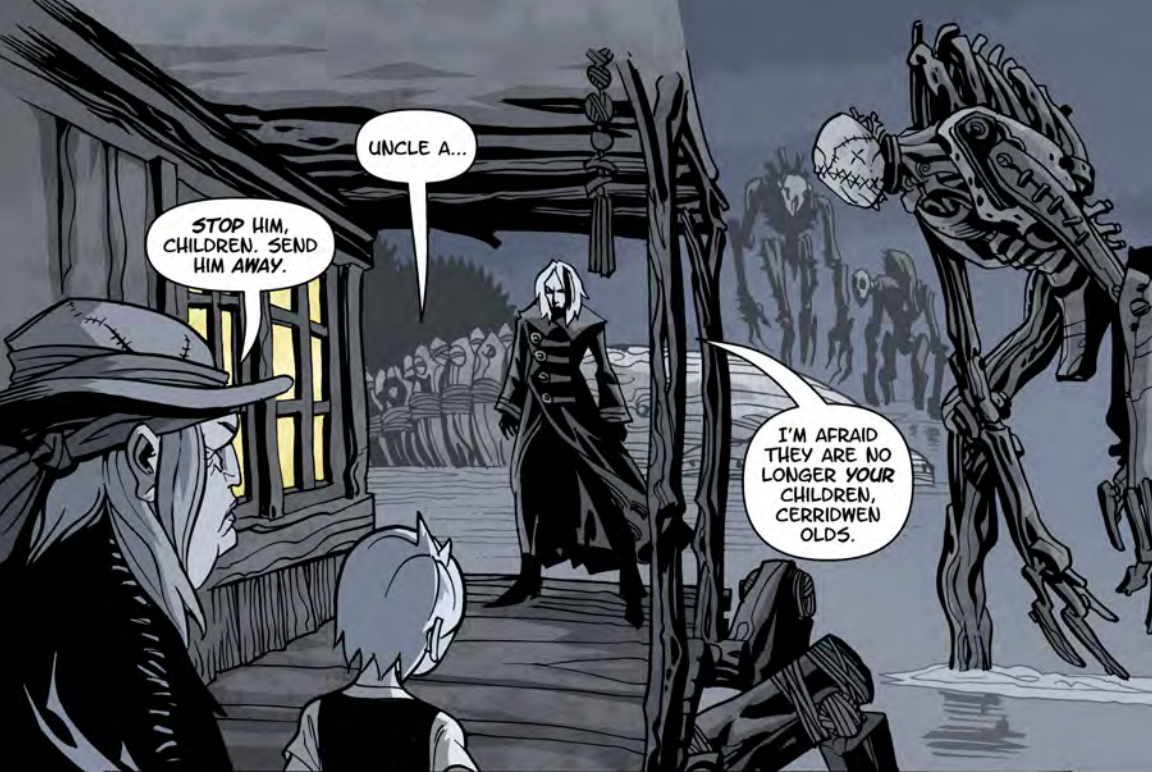


LET ME  
SHOW YOU WHAT  
HE TAUGHT ME.



GET BACK  
INSIDE!

LET ME  
GO! I'VE GOT  
TO HELP HIM!



UNCLE A...

STOP HIM,  
CHILDREN. SEND  
HIM AWAY.

I'M AFRAID  
THEY ARE NO  
LONGER YOUR  
CHILDREN,  
CERRIDWEN  
OLDS.



THEY ARE  
MINE.



CRUMRIN!  
HELP ME!



PLEASE!  
DON'T LET  
HER KILL  
ME!

I  
WARNED YOU,  
TRIANNE.

CALPURNIA  
IS A DEADLY  
FOE.

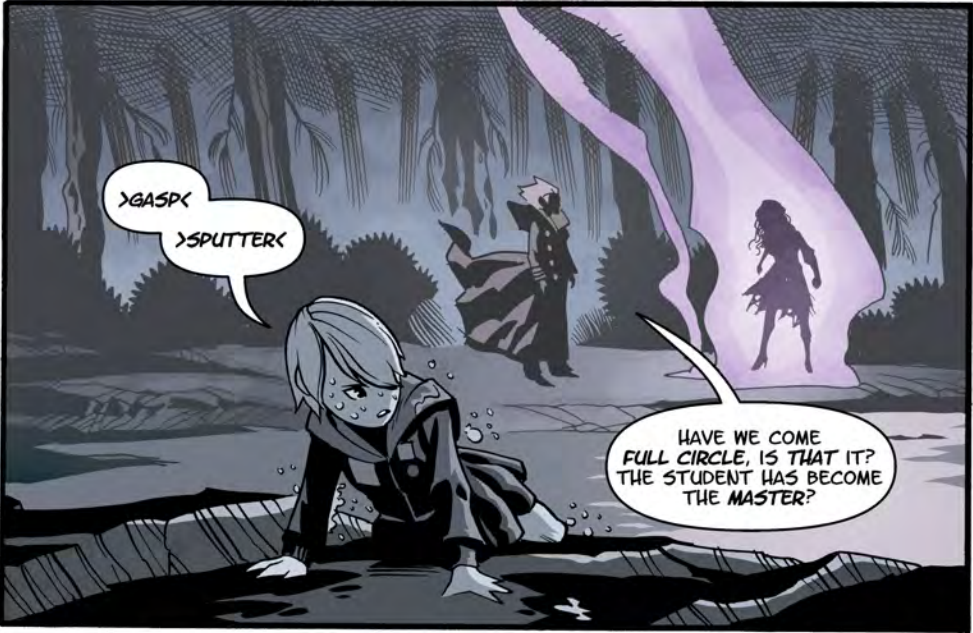
YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO FIND  
OUT JUST HOW  
DEADLY.



# Chapter Three







>GASP  
>SPUTTER

HAVE WE COME  
FULL CIRCLE, IS THAT IT?  
THE STUDENT HAS BECOME  
THE MASTER?




I'VE LEARNED  
A LOT SINCE WE PARTED  
WAYS, ALOYSIUS. I THINK  
YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

NO!



VERY WELL.  
SURPRISE ME.



I WISH  
THERE WERE SOME  
OTHER WAY-

AS DO I,  
MY DEAR.



SLEEP.

OH, CALPURNIA.  
ALWAYS TRYING  
TO SHOW OFF WHEN  
A SIMPLE SPELL  
WILL SUFFICE.

YOU  
OLD...




...SMART-ASS...



ONE RARELY APPRECIATES WHAT  
ONE HAS UNTIL IT'S TAKEN AWAY.





ONLY NOW DID COURTNEY REALIZE HOW MUCH COMFORT SHE'D TAKEN IN THE FACT THAT THE MOST POWERFUL BEING WHO WALKED THE EARTH WAS LOOKING AFTER HER.



THIS LUXURY MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT ALLOWED HER TO BECOME SUCH AN EXPERT AT MAKING ENEMIES.



WHICH, IRONICALLY, MADE ALOYSIUS HIMSELF HER MASTERPIECE.



COURTNEY?

DON'T BE  
TIREDSOME!



COME  
NOW. THERE'S  
NOTHING TO BE  
AFRAID OF.



COURTNEY?



BLAST IT,  
GIRL.

WHERE  
ARE YOU?



I THINK  
HE'S GONE.

FOR NOW.  
YOU CAN'T  
STAY HERE.



NOT THAT  
THERE'S MUCH  
LEFT ANYWAY.

I'M  
SORRY.



YOU CAN COME WITH ME. I'M ALL ALONE TOO.

I'M A TIRED OLD LADY, CHILD. WHAT GOOD WOULD I BE? LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.



DON'T WAIT TIL YOU'RE ON THE RUN, OR MY AGE, BEFORE YOU REALIZE YOU NEED FRIENDS.



KEEP HIM. YOU NEED HIM MORE THAN ME.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SOMEPLACE WHERE UNCLE A ISN'T THE BIGGEST, BADDEST DUDE AROUND.



I'M AFRAID  
THE MATTER HAS  
PROVEN TRICKIER  
THAN I EXPECTED.



SHE'S A  
RESOURCEFUL  
GIRL.

ARE YOU  
UP TO THE TASK  
OR NOT? SHALL I  
SUMMON A NEW  
DETAIL OF  
MARSHALS?



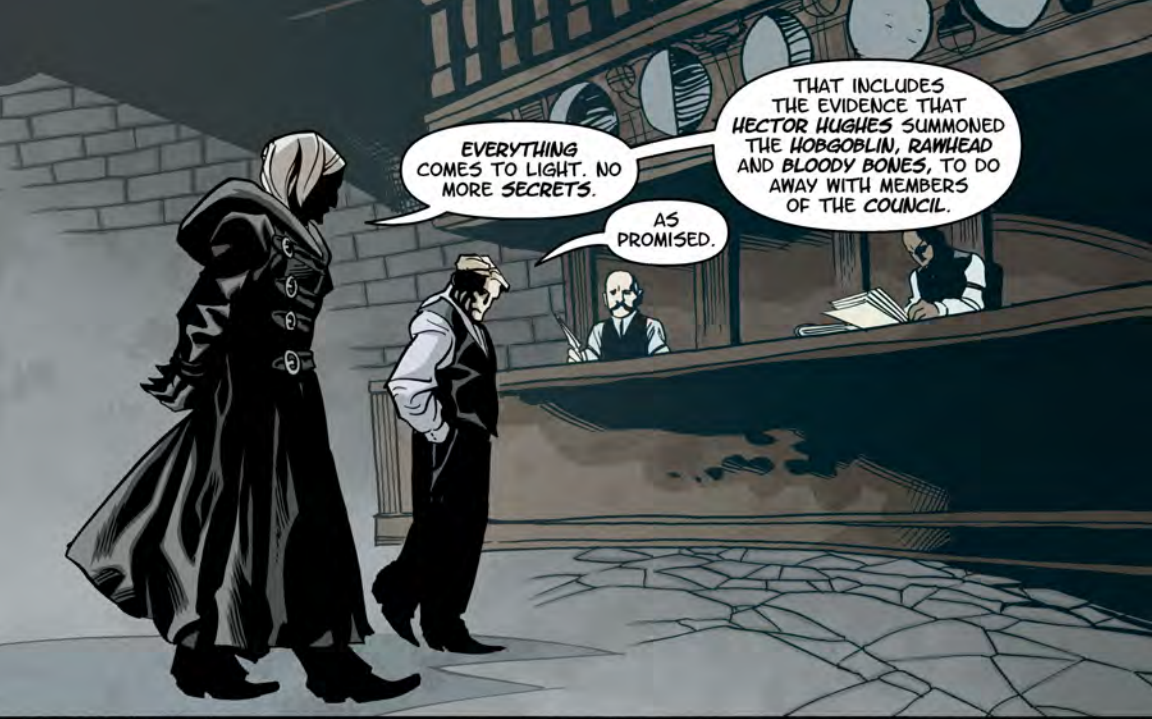
I HARDLY  
THINK ANYONE HERE  
WILL SUCCEED WHERE  
KRISTOFF TRIANNE AND  
I HAVE FAILED.



I WILL BRING  
HER TO TRIAL  
IN 48 HOURS.

SEE THAT  
YOU DO.

AND IT WILL BE  
A PUBLIC HEARING,  
BEFORE THE WHOLE  
COMMUNITY.



EVERYTHING  
COMES TO LIGHT. NO  
MORE SECRETS.

THAT INCLUDES  
THE EVIDENCE THAT  
HECTOR HUGHES SUMMONED  
THE HOBGOBLIN, RAWHEAD  
AND BLOODY BONES, TO DO  
AWAY WITH MEMBERS  
OF THE COUNCIL.

AS  
PROMISED.



AND THE  
CHILDREN'S  
TESTIMONY THAT  
SHE SAVED THEIR  
LIVES IN THE GOBLIN  
UNDERWORLD.



BELIEVE ME,  
ALOYSIUS.

ALL FACTS  
WILL BE TAKEN  
INTO ACCOUNT.



NOT LEAST THAT  
YOU SURRENDERED  
MY SON TO THE  
TWILIGHT KING...

AND TOLD  
NO ONE.





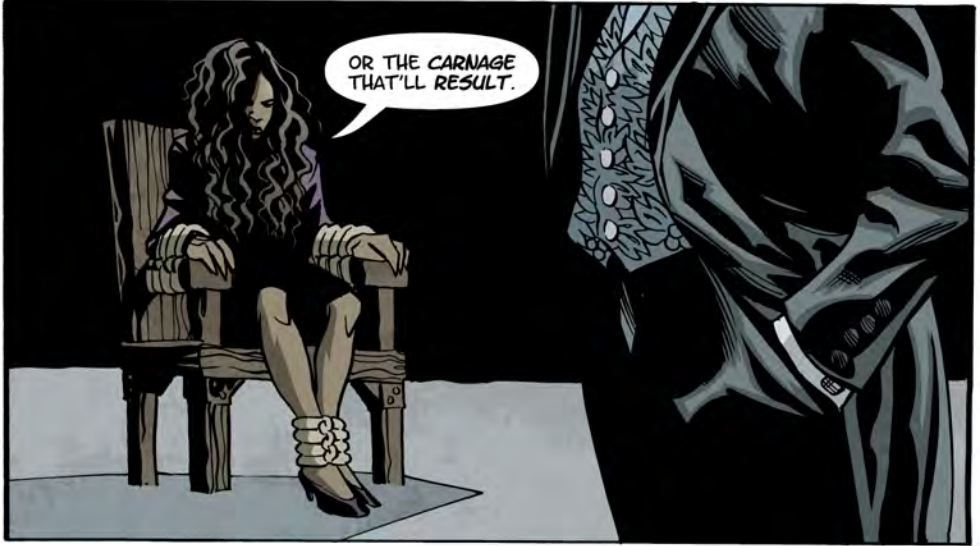
YOU'LL SOON WATCH HELPLESSLY AS YOUR WISE PANEL OF COUNCILORS BREAKS EVERY ONE OF THE LAWS SET DOWN TO CONTROL THE COVEN'S USE OF MAGIC.



THEY'LL ENSLAVE THE NIGHT THINGS, AND SET THEMSELVES AS MASTERS OF ORDINARY FOLK.



IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE YOUR FINE, UPSTANDING COMMUNITY OF SORCERERS ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEMSELVES GODS OF THE EARTH.



OR THE CARNAGE THAT'LL RESULT.



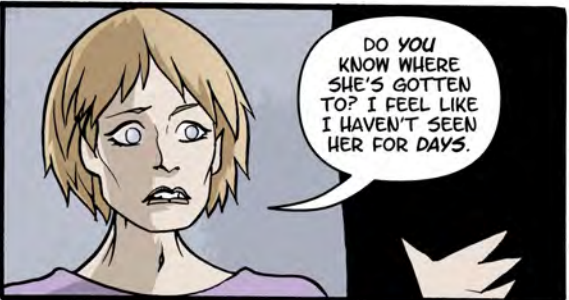


OH, UNCLE ALOYSIUS. I WAS LOOKING FOR COURTNEY.



DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING?

ERRR... JUST LOOKING FOR ANYTHING THAT MEANS SOMETHING TO COURTNEY.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOTTEN TO? I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR DAYS.



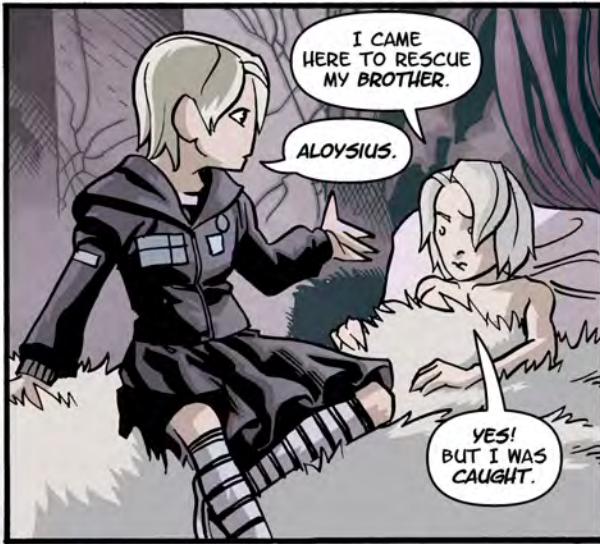
SHE'S GONE CAMPING WITH SOME FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL.

SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU? THAT'S ODD.











IT WAS ONLY AFTERWARD THAT THE DUCHESS EXPLAINED HER BARGAIN. IF HE'D CHOSEN TO STAY INSTEAD, WE WOULD BOTH HAVE BEEN FREED.

BUT HE LEFT ME HERE.



WHY DID HE DO THAT? I THOUGHT HE CARED ABOUT ME!



IS IT SO AWFUL HERE?

NO, IT'S OKAY. SHE TAKES CARE OF ME. AND I'VE SEEN SOME WONDERFUL THINGS, THINGS THAT MORTALS WOULD NEVER BELIEVE.

BUT IT'S NOT HOME. I MISS THE SUNLIGHT, AND THE WAY THE AIR USED TO SMELL.



I MISS MY FAMILY. EVEN ALOYSIUS.



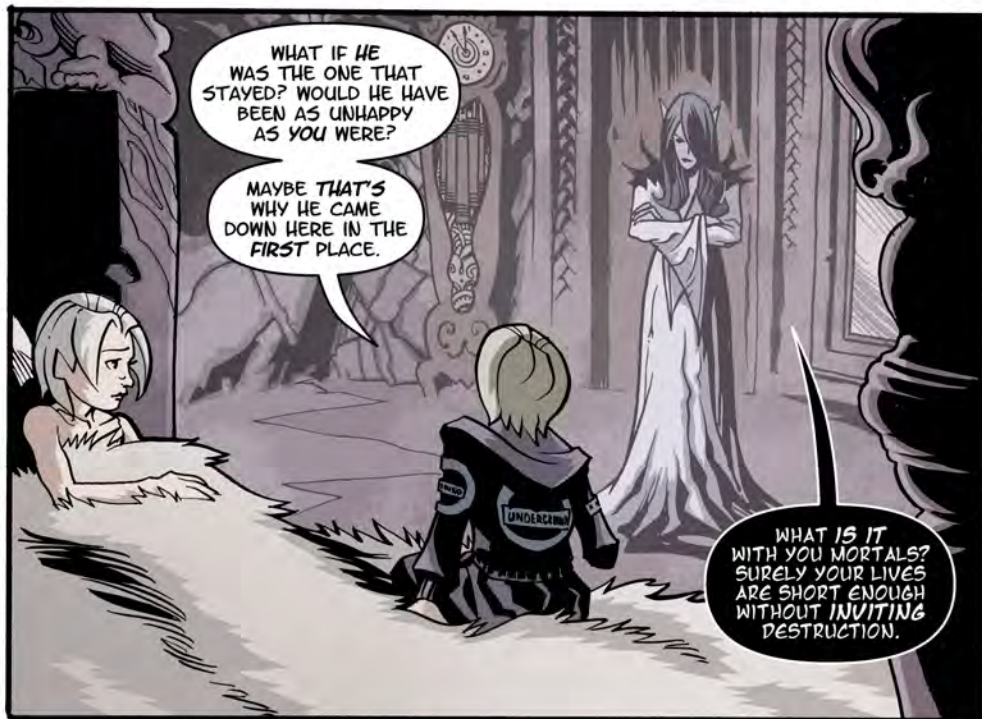
SELFISH AS HE IS.



HANG ON.

WHAT IF HE WASN'T BEING SELFISH AT ALL? WHAT IF HE WAS JUST LETTING YOU HAVE WHAT HE WANTED?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



WHAT IF HE WAS THE ONE THAT STAYED? WOULD HE HAVE BEEN AS UNHAPPY AS YOU WERE?

MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE CAME DOWN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU MORTALS? SURELY YOUR LIVES ARE SHORT ENOUGH WITHOUT INVITING DESTRUCTION.



YOU DON'T FOOL ME ANYMORE. YOU ACT LIKE THE BIGGEST HARD-ASS AROUND TO SCARE PEOPLE OFF.



AND YOU SUPPOSE I'M NOT AS DANGEROUS AS I PRETEND? I WOULDN'T ADVISE TESTING THAT THEORY.



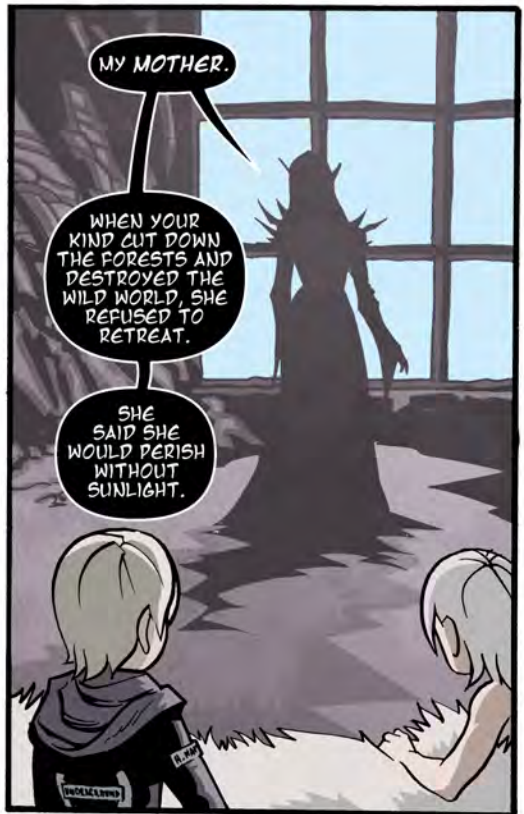
I THINK YOU'RE JUST HIDING YOUR LONELINESS.



WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW OF LONELINESS, MORTAL?



MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK. WHO WAS IT THAT ABANDONED YOU?



MY MOTHER.

WHEN YOUR KIND CUT DOWN THE FORESTS AND DESTROYED THE WILD WORLD, SHE REFUSED TO RETREAT.

SHE SAID SHE WOULD PERISH WITHOUT SUNLIGHT.



I DON'T BLAME HER. I MISS THE SUN SO MUCH. I MISS THE GREEN. NO ONE, FAERIE OR MORTAL, WOULD FORSAKE THE WORLD ABOVE WILLINGLY.



THAT'S WHY I CHOSE AN INFANT MORTAL TO BE MY NEW FAMILY.

I THOUGHT HE WOULDN'T MISS THE SUN.



BUT I WAS WRONG.

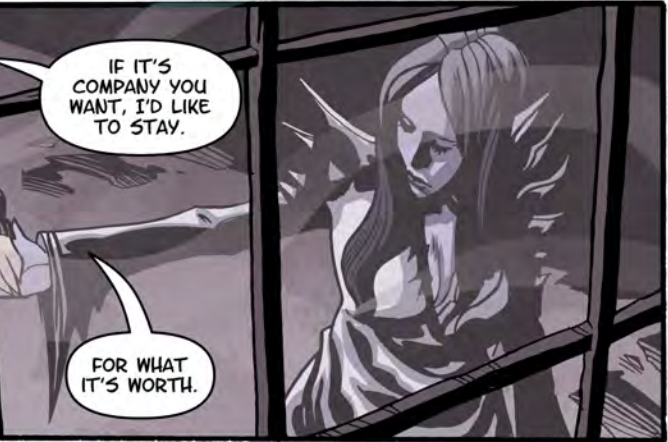


I DON'T THINK I'D MISS IT ALL THAT MUCH. OR ANYTHING ELSE UP THERE.



IF IT'S COMPANY YOU WANT, I'D LIKE TO STAY.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.



PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.

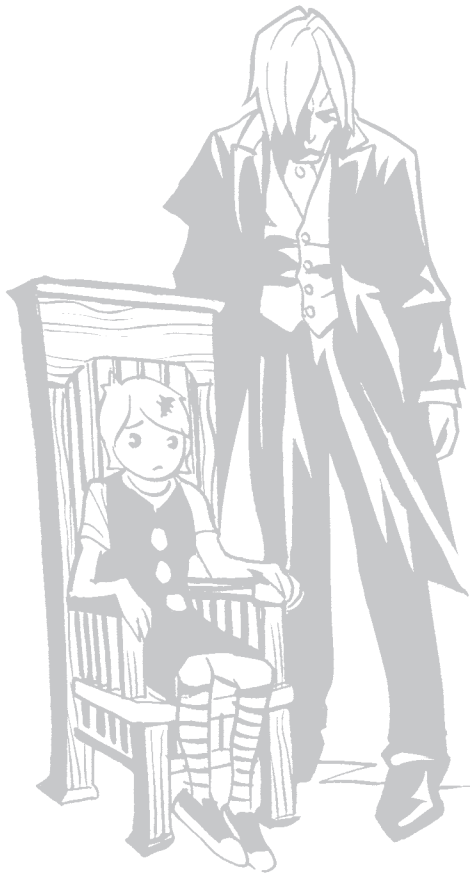


IT'S BETTER TO BE LONELY TOGETHER.



# Chapter Four







CALPURNIA  
WAS RIGHT.

THIS WAS ALL  
A CONSPIRACY TO  
TAKE THE COUNCIL  
FROM WOODRUE.



ONLY MANDRAKE  
AND CHARLES LONDON  
STOOD IN THE WAY.

WE NEVER  
COULD DISCOVER  
WHAT MARSHAL HUGHS  
WOULD GAIN FROM  
THEIR DEATHS.



BUT WHAT  
IF HUGHS WAS  
ACTING UNDER  
ORDERS?

WHOSE?



THINK!  
WHO BENEFITED?  
WHO IS NOW THE  
HEAD OF THE COUNCIL,  
PUSHING POLICIES  
WHICH THEY  
OPPOSED?

STOCKBROOK!



GOODNESS,  
MY EARS ARE  
BURNING.

YOU  
THINK ME A  
VILLAIN, MY  
DEAR?



THOSE  
MEN CONSPIRED  
TO KEEP US ALL  
PRISONER IN THIS  
LITTLE TOWN  
FOREVER.

THE  
PUNISHMENT  
FOR ESCAPE WAS  
DEATH, AS YOU  
WELL KNOW.

YOUR GAME  
IS OVER. I'LL  
EXPOSE YOU!



TO  
WHOM?

EVEN  
YOUR FATHER  
AGREES WITH  
ME.



I'M SORRY,  
ISOBEL.



DESTROY THOSE FILES.

SHE'LL COME AROUND. EVERYONE ELSE HAS.



AND IF SHE DOESN'T?

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, TRIANNE.

THERE'S NO ROOM IN OUR FUTURE FOR DOUBTERS.



UNCLE ALOYSIUS HAD WARNED COURTNEY INNUMERABLE TIMES TO NEVER AGAIN VENTURE INTO THE TWILIGHT REALM OF THE FAERIES.



HE SAID THAT IT WAS THE ONE PLACE WHERE HIS POWERS WERE OUTMATCHED...



...AND IF THE FAERIES WERE DETERMINED TO KEEP HER...



...IT WOULD NOT BE WITHIN HIS POWER TO SAVE HER.



COURTNEY PRAYED THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, AND NOT JUST TRYING TO FRIGHTEN HER.

EAT, LITTLE MORTAL. WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?



THAT ONCE HAVING TASTED FAERIE FOOD, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

HEH, NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.



MMMM! THIS IS INSANE.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?



THE ORCHARDS OF THE KING, SWEETENED BY HIS OWN DARKNESS. YOU LIKE IT?

IT... IT'S THE BEST THING I'VE EVER TASTED.

EVEN DARKNESS HAS ITS MERITS.

TRY THE ELDERFLOWER WINE.



I NEVER THANKED MY UNCLE FOR BEING SO NICE TO ME. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW.



I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.



WHAT UNDER EARTH IS HAPPENING OUT THERE?

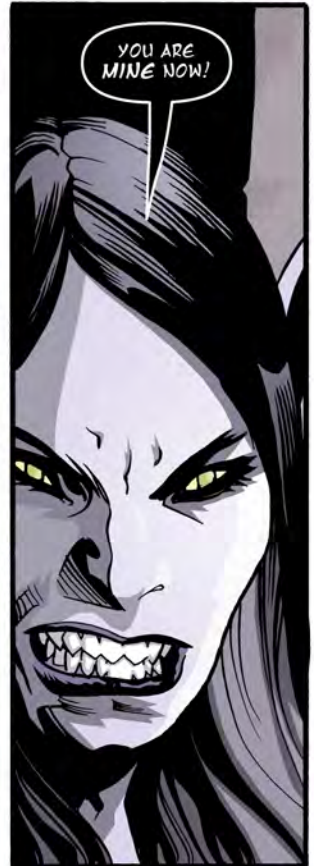
IT'S HIM.



ALOYSIUS?

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK HE'D COME HERE. IS THERE A SECRET WAY OUT?

NO.



YOU ARE MINE NOW!



IF HE THINKS HE CAN COME INTO MY LAND ONCE AGAIN AND TAKE WHATEVER HE PLEASES, AFTER ALL HIS KIND HAVE DONE TO ME...



HE WILL LEARN DIFFERENT.



MAGNUS?  
VINCENT?





BEHIND YOU!



THEY GOT THROUGH!

WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT.







STOP!



DRINK  
THIS ELIXIR,  
LITTLE ONE.  
IT WILL HEAL  
YOU.



I HAVEN'T  
GOT LONG  
ANYWAY.





YOU DARE CHALLENGE ME ON MY OWN GROUND?



YOU CANNOT HAVE HER.

BE GONE, OR I WILL DESTROY YOU UTTERLY!



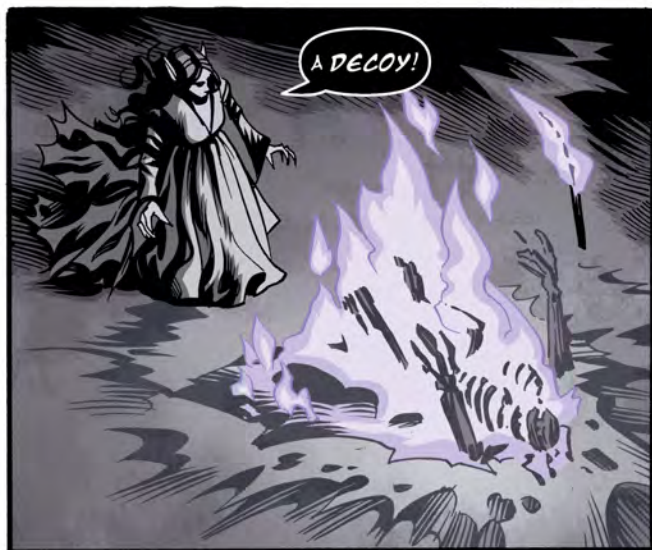
I WOULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN THIS OUTCOME, BUT YOU FORCE MY HAND.

GO IN PEACE, OR STAY AND DIE.





SO BE IT!



A DECOY!



COURTNEY?



OKAY, UNCLE A.  
LET'S SEE HOW DEEP  
THESE TUNNELS GO.



YOU CAN'T  
CHASE ME-



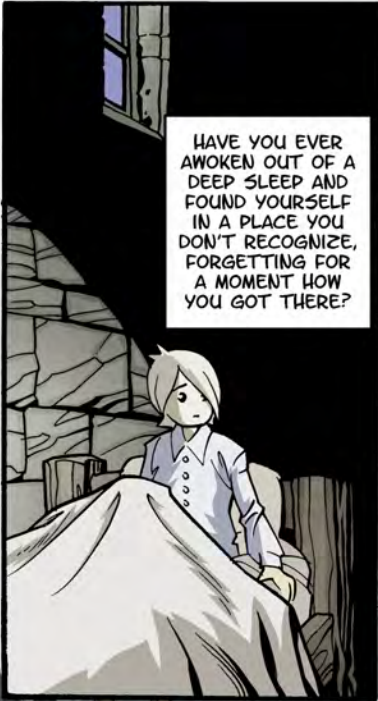
-FOREVER...



NO NEED.



SLEEP.



HAVE YOU EVER AWOKEN OUT OF A DEEP SLEEP AND FOUND YOURSELF IN A PLACE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE, FORGETTING FOR A MOMENT HOW YOU GOT THERE?



SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU REMEMBER AT LAST, IT'S A RELIEF. AND SOMETIMES IT'S NOT.

GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE. PLEASE COME THIS WAY, MISS CRUMRIN.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE LAID ALL THE FACTS BEFORE YOU.

NONE HAVE BEEN DISPUTED BY THE COUNCIL. AND NOW...



MISS CRUMRIN  
WILL ANSWER ANY  
QUESTIONS.

I WILL?



JUST  
TELL THE  
COMPLETE TRUTH,  
COURTNEY,  
AND  
EVERYTHING WILL  
BE ALRIGHT.

OH YEAH?  
FOR WHO?



TRUST ME.



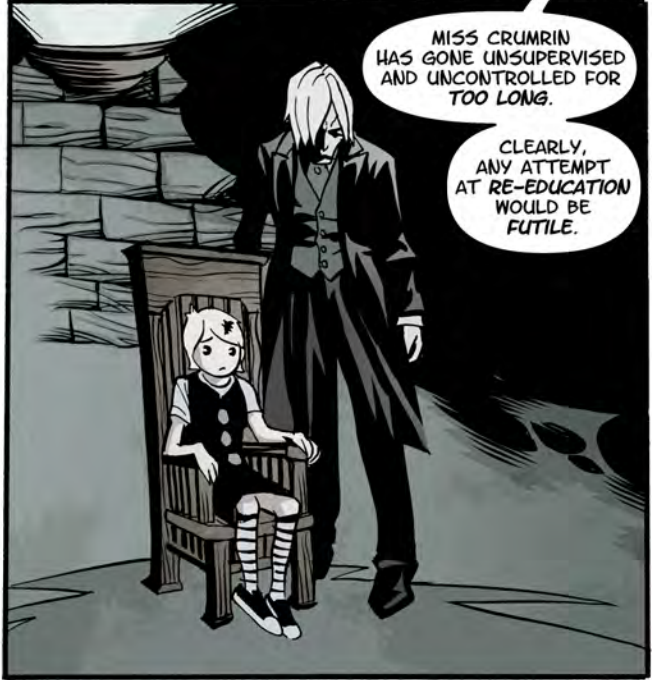
THANK YOU,  
PROFESSOR CRUMRIN.  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
CANDOR IN THIS MATTER.  
YOUR HONESTY IS  
COMMENDABLE.

BUT WE DON'T  
REQUIRE ANY MORE  
ANSWERS. OUR COURSE  
OF ACTION IS CLEAR.



MISS CRUMRIN  
HAS GONE UNSUPERVISED  
AND UNCONTROLLED FOR  
TOO LONG.

CLEARLY,  
ANY ATTEMPT  
AT RE-EDUCATION  
WOULD BE  
FUTILE.



THIS COUNCIL,  
AS WITNESSED BY  
THE GATHERED COVEN  
OF WITCHES, WARLOCKS,  
SORCERERS AND MYSTICS,  
DECREES THAT COURTNEY  
CRUMRIN SHALL BE  
BANISHED FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY...



...AND STRIPPED  
OF ALL KNOWLEDGE  
OF MAGIC.

YOU CAN'T  
DO THAT!







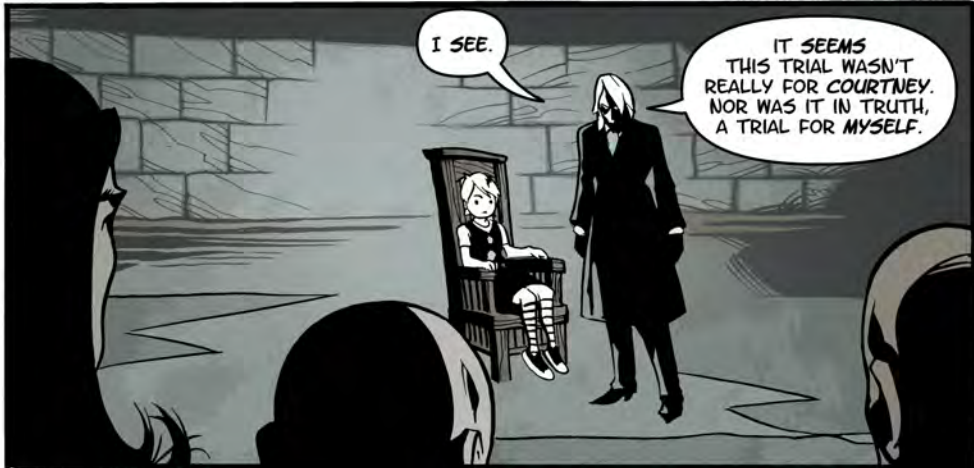
THE MAGICAL PEOPLE OF HILLSBOROUGH SHOULD NOT BE PRISONERS OF THEIR POWERS.

IF THEY WISH TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNE IN THE LARGER WORLD, AND USE MAGIC TO DO SO, THEY SHOULD NOT FEAR ASSASSINATION IN THE NIGHT.



I THINK THE JUDICIOUS SUPERVISION OF THIS COUNCIL OUGHT TO SUFFICE.

IT'S TIME FOR THE COVEN OF MYSTICS TO TAKE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY.



I SEE.

IT SEEMS THIS TRIAL WASN'T REALLY FOR COURTNEY. NOR WAS IT IN TRUTH, A TRIAL FOR MYSELF.



IT WAS A TRIAL FOR YOU ALL.



...AND I'M AFRAID YOU'VE ALL BEEN FOUND GUILTY.



TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES AGO, MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDMOTHER GAVE MAGIC TO THE PEOPLE OF HILLSBOROUGH, SO THEY WOULD SURVIVE.

YOU CAN'T CAST SPELLS IN THIS COURTROOM! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT YOU NEED IT NO LONGER.



YOUR TIME IS UP.





UNCLE A!  
WAKE UP!



SEHEK IF  
THERE ARE NO  
MORE OUTBURSTS,  
WE WILL NOW PASS  
SENTENCE.

SLAM!



COURTNEY  
CRUMRIN!



YOU ARE  
NO LONGER  
A WITCH.





# Chapter Five







RISE  
AND SHINE,  
LAZY BONES.  
IT'S MONDAY.



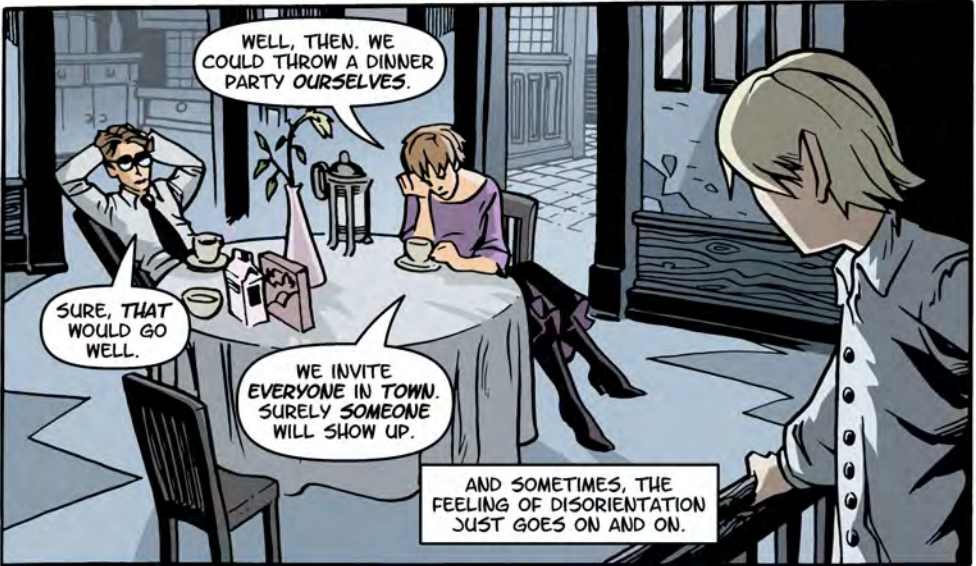
HAVE YOU EVER  
AWOKEN OUT OF A  
DEEP SLEEP AND  
FOUND YOURSELF  
IN A PLACE YOU  
DON'T RECOGNIZE,  
FORGETTING FOR  
A MOMENT HOW  
YOU GOT THERE?  
I KNOW I HAVE.



SOMETIMES, WHEN  
YOU REMEMBER AT  
LAST, IT'S A RELIEF.

I'M POURING  
YOUR CEREAL IN  
FIVE MINUTES. IF  
YOU DON'T LIKE IT  
SOGGY, YOU'D BETTER  
GET UP.

AND SOMETIMES  
IT'S NOT.

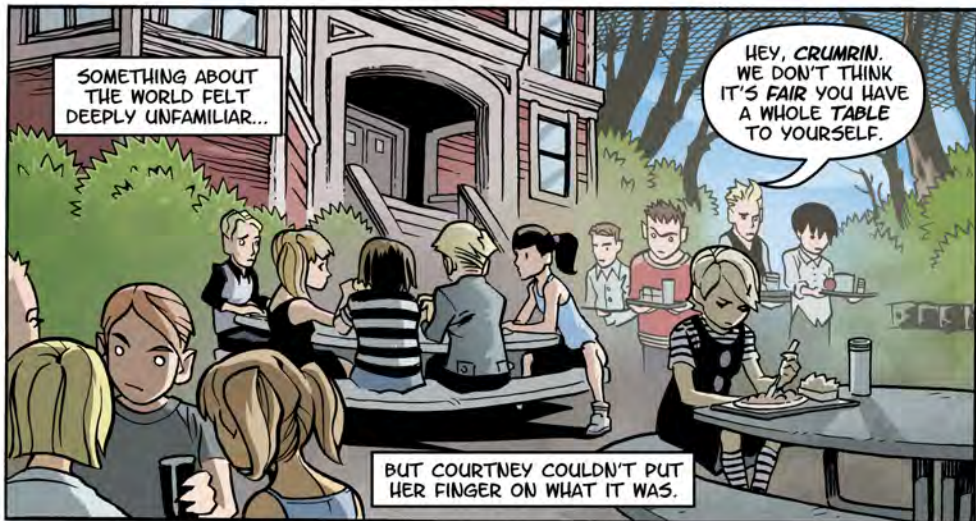


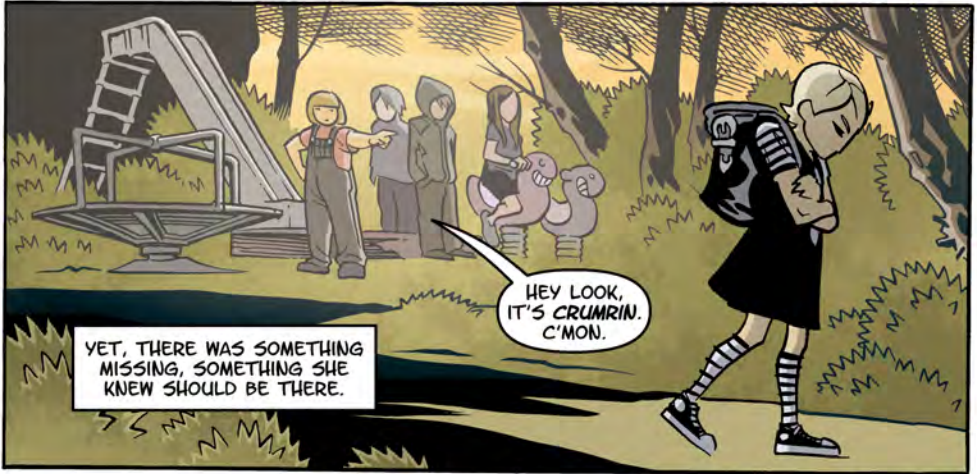
WELL, THEN. WE  
COULD THROW A DINNER  
PARTY OURSELVES.

SURE, THAT  
WOULD GO  
WELL.

WE INVITE  
EVERYONE IN TOWN.  
SURELY SOMEONE  
WILL SHOW UP.

AND SOMETIMES, THE  
FEELING OF DISORIENTATION  
JUST GOES ON AND ON.





YET, THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING, SOMETHING SHE KNEW SHOULD BE THERE.

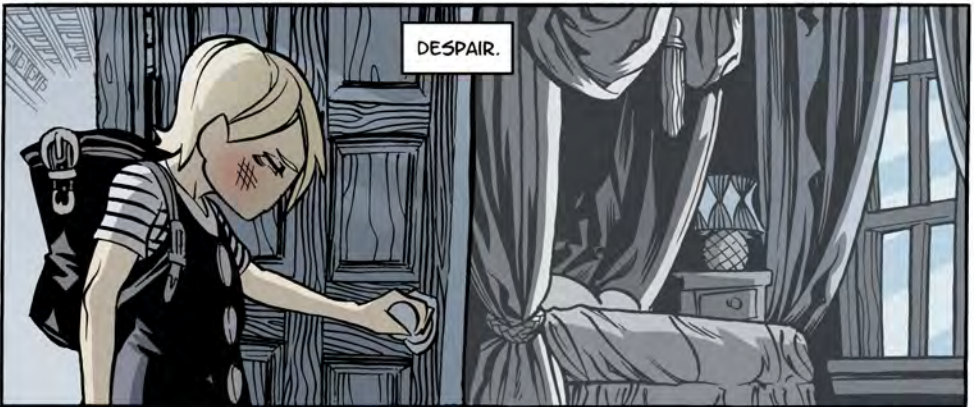
HEY LOOK, IT'S CRUMRIN. C'MON.



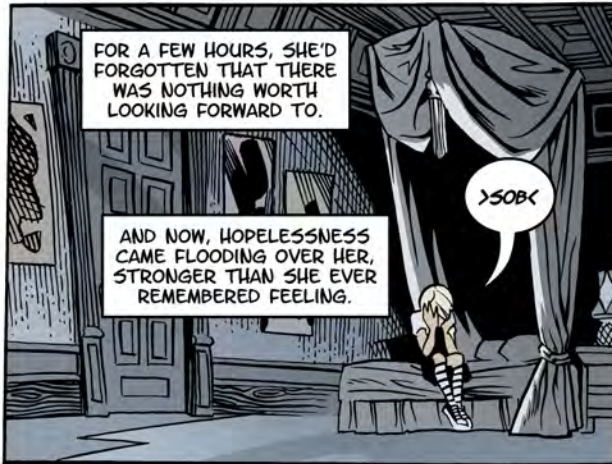
HEY, Q-TIP. YOU GOTTA PAY THE TOLL, REMEMBER?

Q-TIP, HAH! THAT NEVER GETS OLD, MAN.

IT WASN'T TILL LATER THAT AFTERNOON THAT SHE REALIZED WHAT IT WAS.



DESPAIR.



FOR A FEW HOURS, SHE'D FORGOTTEN THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WORTH LOOKING FORWARD TO.

>SOB<

AND NOW, HOPELESSNESS CAME FLOODING OVER HER, STRONGER THAN SHE EVER REMEMBERED FEELING.

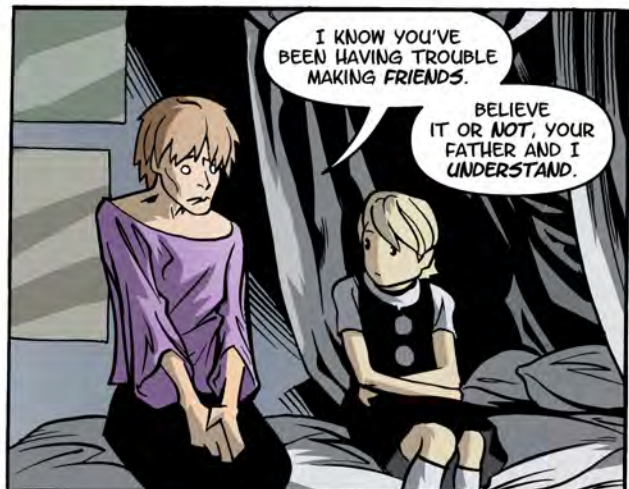


HONEY?  
ERR... YOU OKAY?  
DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN?



NO,  
NO MORE THAN USUAL.  
I JUST...

I JUST FEEL KINDA...  
CRAPPY.



I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT,  
YOUR FATHER AND I UNDERSTAND.



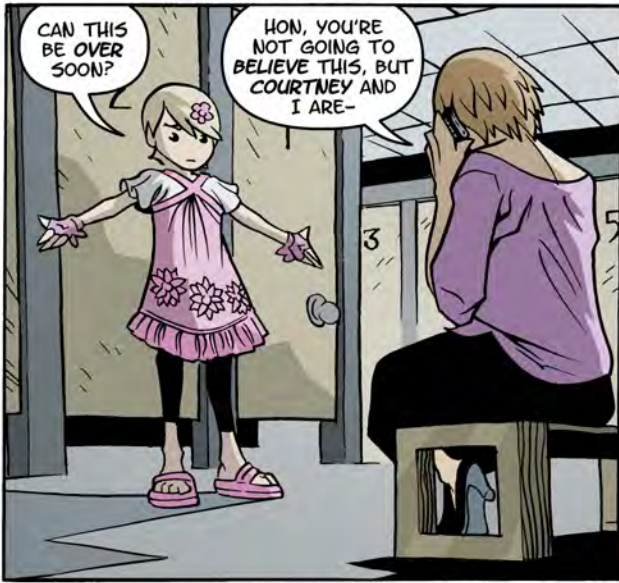
REMEMBER WHAT I LIKE TO DO WHEN I'M FEELING DOWN?

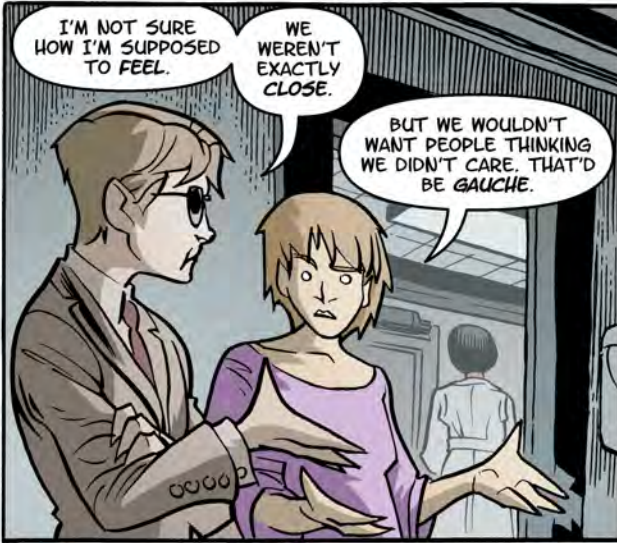
KILL ME NOW...



STANDING OFFER...









ERR...  
OKAY. WHAT  
DID YOU-



WHAT  
THE... ?

Courtney's  
Diary  
Don't ever  
THINK about  
it.



WHEN  
DID I  
WRITE  
THIS?

...READ...



"I WILL  
REMEMBER."



"WHEN I REACH  
THE AGE YOU ARE,  
A HUNDRED YEARS  
OR SO...

"I'LL PROBABLY  
HAVE FORGOTTEN ALMOST  
EVERYTHING I KNOW."

WOW, THIS  
SUCKS.







"AND SO LONG AS I REMEMBER HIM..."



"...I'LL NEVER BE ALONE."



GOBLIN, GET THIS MESS CLEANED UP.

I SUPPOSE YOU REALIZE THIS IS NO ORDINARY STORM, STOCKBROOK.



ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS CRUMMIN? HE'S IN A COMA.

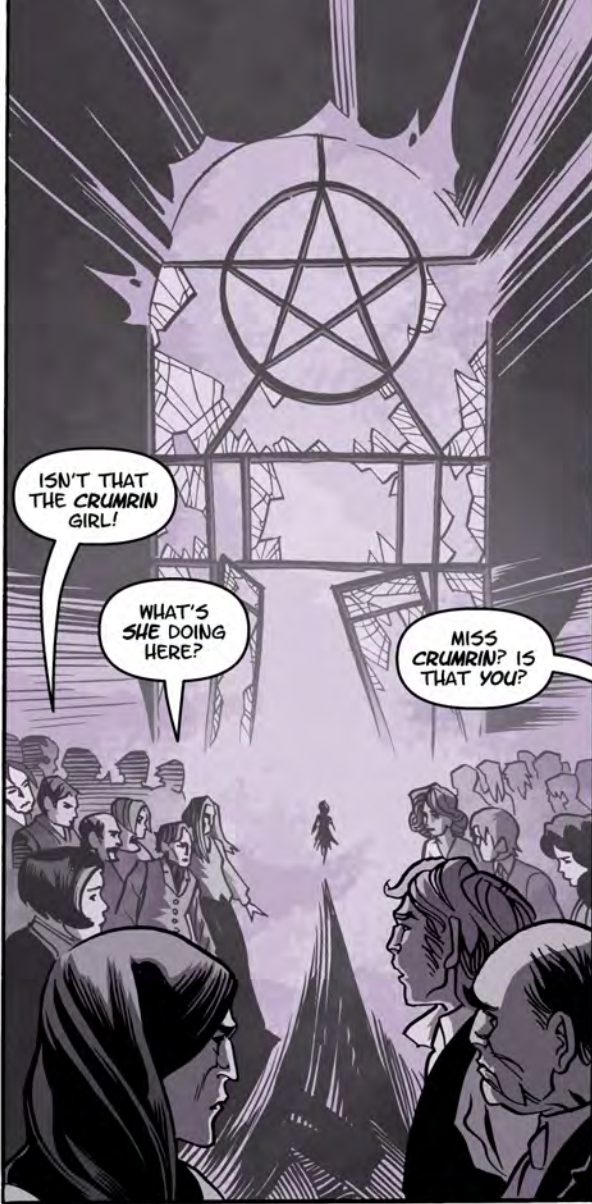
HAAH, SUCH POWER WAS BEYOND THE REACH OF ALOYSIUS IN HIS PRIME.



THEN WHO?







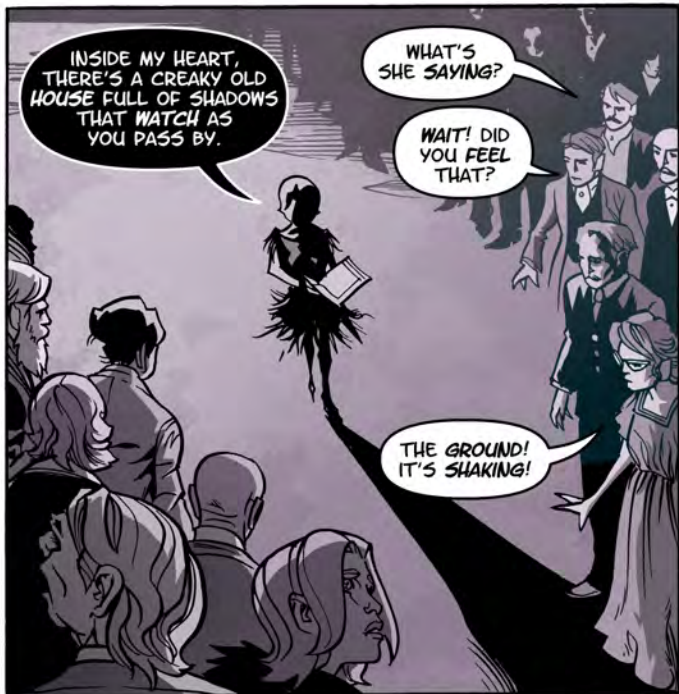


THAT SPELL IS IRREVERSIBLE.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT MYSTERY AND POWER LIES WITHIN THE HEART OF A WITCH.

DO THEY?





INSIDE MY HEART,  
THERE'S A CREAKY OLD  
HOUSE FULL OF SHADOWS  
THAT WATCH AS  
YOU PASS BY.

WHAT'S  
SHE SAYING?

WAIT! DID  
YOU FEEL  
THAT?

THE GROUND!  
IT'S SHAKING!



INSIDE MY  
HEART, THERE'S  
A TANGLED FOREST  
FULL OF SECRETS  
BEST LEFT  
ALONE.



RUN!

INSIDE MY  
HEART, THERE  
ARE DARK TUNNELS  
THAT GO ON  
FOREVER.



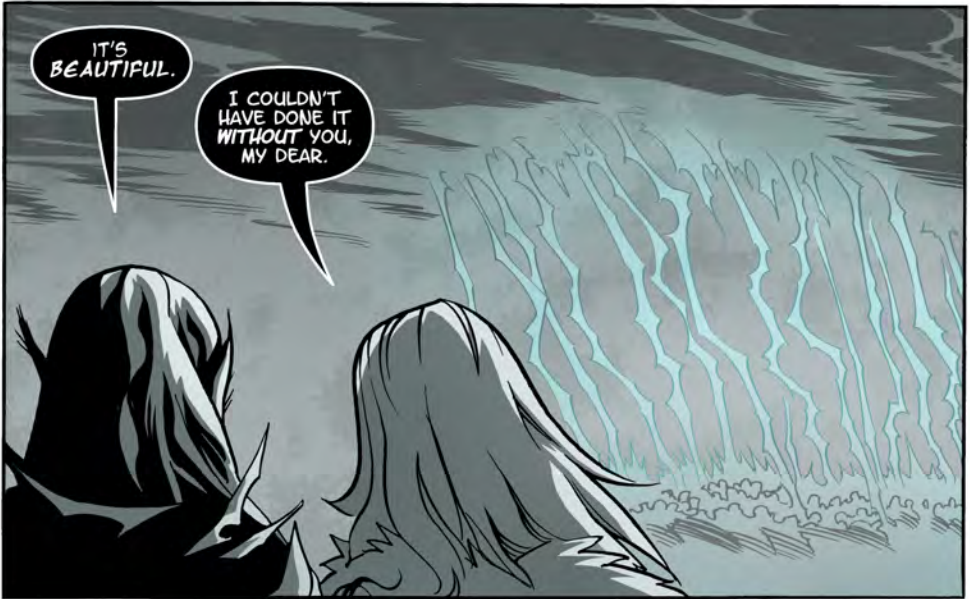
INSIDE MY HEART, A  
MOTHER WITH NO CHILDREN.  
INSIDE MY HEART, A KING  
WITH NO HOPE.

THIS  
CAN'T BE!















WHEN COURTNEY AWOKE THE NEXT MORNING, IT TOOK HER A MOMENT TO REMEMBER SHE WAS THE ONLY WITCH IN HILLSBOROUGH.




WHICH WAS THE FIRST IN A DAY FULL OF SURPRISES...




NO, THE EXERCISE MACHINES FIRST. I CAN'T GO MORE THAN A DAY WITHOUT MY TREADMILL.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH, GOOD MORNING, DEAR. WE'RE MOVING!



UNCLE ALOYSIUS, BLESS HIS HEART, LEFT US EVERYTHING.



EXCEPT THE HOUSE. THAT'S GOING TO SOMEONE NAMED CRISP. A FORMER MAID OR SOMETHING.

WE NEVER LIKED IT ANYWAY, DID WE?



OR THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

NOTHING BUT SNOBS AROUND HERE, RIGHT, SWEETIE?

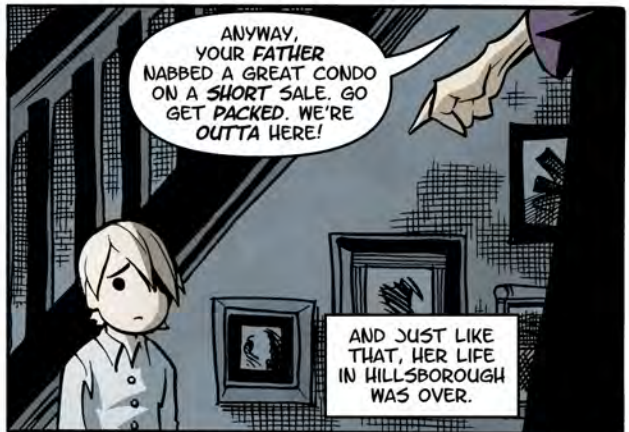
HE'S... GONE?

YESTERDAY, JUST AFTER WE LEFT.



OH, HONEY, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU.

WE WERE BUSY ALL AFTERNOON WITH THE LAWYER.



ANYWAY, YOUR FATHER NABBED A GREAT CONDO ON A SHORT SALE. GO GET PACKED. WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

AND JUST LIKE THAT, HER LIFE IN HILLSBOROUGH WAS OVER.



SHE FOUND HERSELF WONDERING IF ANY OF IT HAD BEEN REAL, OR IF THE MEMORIES OF HER LIFE THERE, WHICH HAD COME FLOODING BACK THE DAY BEFORE, WERE JUST A VIVID, DESPERATE DREAM.



OH, AND BE A GOOD GIRL AND GO WAKE UP YOUR BROTHER.



...BROTHER?



UNTIL SHE TURNED  
AROUND AND SAW...

WHAT, DID  
YOU FORGET I  
EXIST?

...ME.



COME THIS WAY,  
SUSAN. SHE'S BEEN  
ASKING FOR YOU.



BUT THAT'S  
LIFE, ISN'T IT?

ALICIA?





JEB, PEOPLE ARE STARING.

YOU WANT HIM TO RUN AWAY AGAIN?

WHATEVER WE REMEMBER...



WHOEVER WE'VE BEEN...

I FOUND THIS IN THE UNDERBRUSH. THERE'S SOME DRIED BLOOD ON IT.

HE'S REALLY GONE, ISN'T HE?



...IS NOTHING BUT WORDS AND PICTURES IN OUR HEAD.

WELL, MISS CRISP, HERE IT IS.

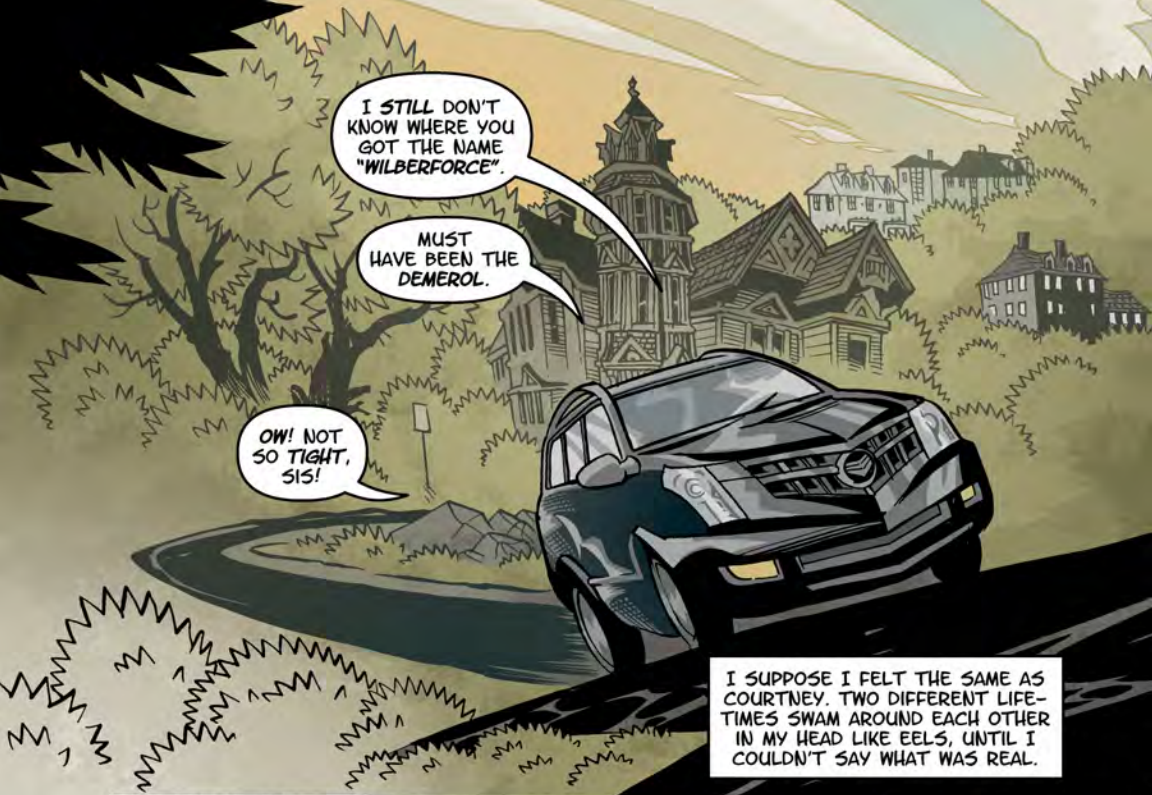
I ASSUME YOU'LL WANT TO PUT IT ON THE MARKET RIGHT AWAY.

NO.



IT'S UP TO US TO DECIDE WHICH ONES TELL OUR STORY.

I THINK I'LL GET TO KNOW THE PLACE. I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING.



I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THE NAME "WILBERFORCE".

MUST HAVE BEEN THE DEMEROL.

OW! NOT SO TIGHT, SIS!

I SUPPOSE I FELT THE SAME AS COURTNEY. TWO DIFFERENT LIFETIMES SWAM AROUND EACH OTHER IN MY HEAD LIKE EELS, UNTIL I COULDN'T SAY WHAT WAS REAL.



SORRY.

YOU'RE GONNA MISS THAT PLACE, AREN'T YOU?

BUT I KNEW ONE THING FOR CERTAIN.



JUST ONE PART OF IT.



I THINK HE'S GONNA MISS YOU, TOO.



AND THAT IS THE TALE OF COURTNEY CRUMRIN, THE WICKEDEST WITCH OF HILLSBOROUGH.





# Courtney VOLUME SIX Crumrin

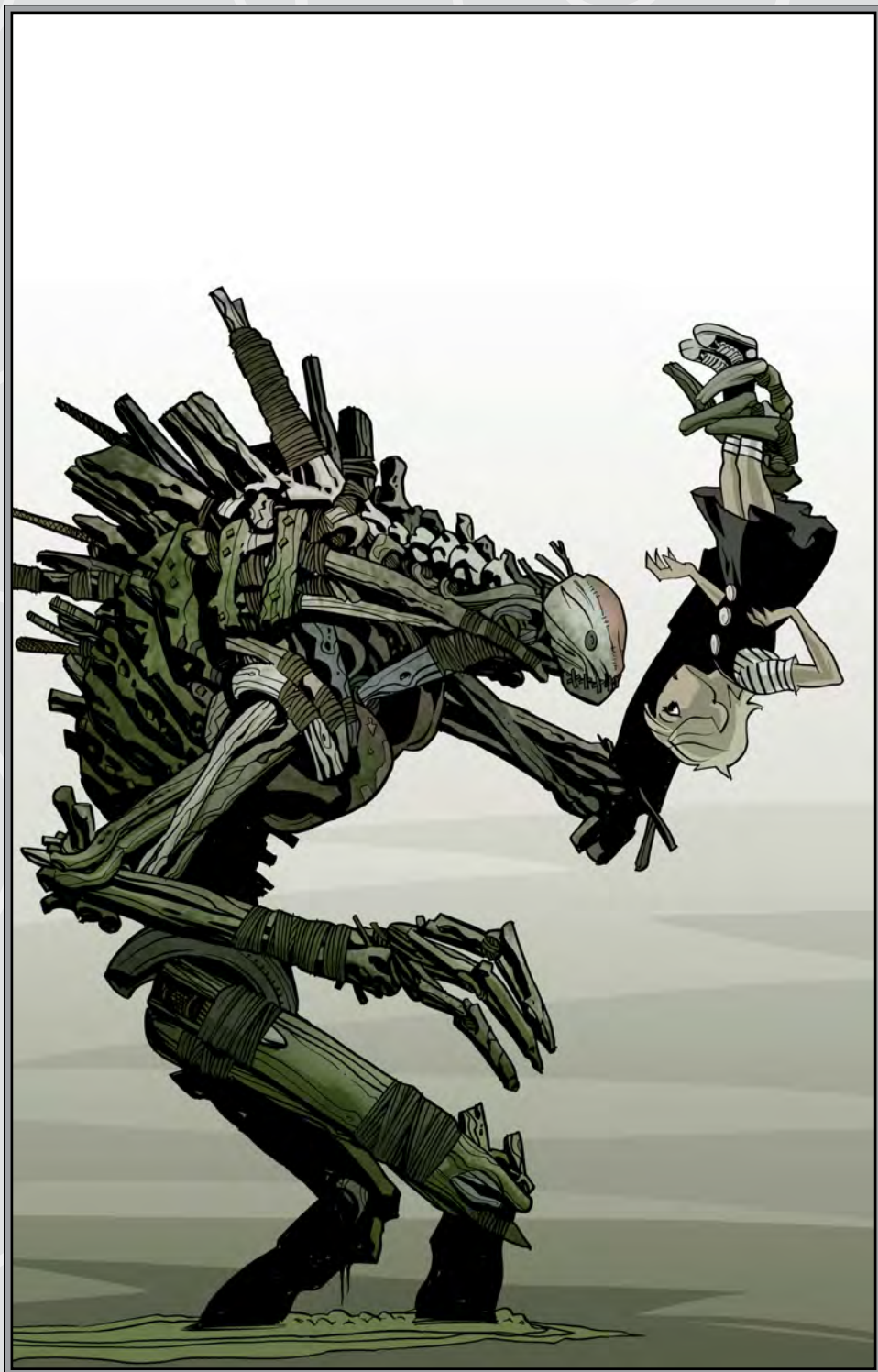
## The Final Spell

*Cover Gallery*





Cover artwork for Courtney Crumrin issue #6.



Cover artwork for *Courtney Crumrin* issue #7.



Cover artwork for *Courtney Crumrin* issue #8.



Cover artwork for *Courtney Crumrin* issue #9.



Cover artwork for *Courtney Crumrin* issue #10.

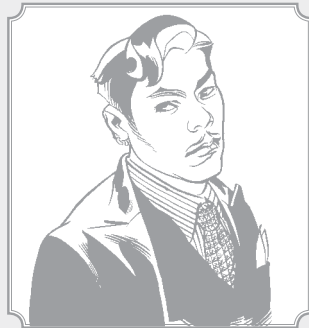
## — ✦ • TED NAIFEH • ✦ —

Ted Naifeh first appeared in the independent comics scene in 1999 as the artist for *Gloomcookie*, the goth romance comic he co-created with Serena Valentino for SLG Publishing. After a successful run, Ted decided to strike out on his own, writing and drawing *Courtney Crumrin and the Night Things*, a spooky children's fantasy series about a grumpy little girl and her adventures with her Warlock uncle.

Nominated for an Eisner Award for best limited series, *Courtney Crumrin's* success paved the way for *Polly and the Pirates*, another children's book, this time about a prim and proper girl kidnapped by pirates convinced she was the daughter of their long-lost queen.

Over the next few years, Ted wrote four volumes of *Courtney Crumrin*, plus a spin-off book about her uncle. He also co-created *How Loathsome* with Tristan Crane, and illustrated two volumes of the videogame tie-in comic *Death Junior* with screenwriter Gary Whitta. More recently, he illustrated *The Good Neighbors*, a three volume graphic novel series written by *New York Times* bestselling author Holly Black, published by Scholastic.

In 2011, Ted wrote the sequel to *Polly and the Pirates*, and illustrated several *Batman* short stories for DC Comics. In 2012, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Courtney Crumrin*, he wrote and illustrated the final two volumes of the series. Currently, you can find Ted everywhere: from the pages of *Batman '66* to his newest original series for adults, *Night's Dominion*.



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*“Courtney Crumrin is the grimmest, bravest, most sarcastic girl in all of comics. I adore her.” — Holly Black (The Spiderwick Chronicles, Folk of Air series)*

# Courtney BY TED NAIFEH Crumrin

## The Final Spell



Courtney Crumrin has never shied away from making sure justice is served, but now it will cost her dearly. On the run from the Coven with her former teacher, Calpurnia, Courtney quickly learns just how sinister the witches and warlocks of Hillsborough can be—but she never thought she'd see the day when Uncle Aloysius turned on her as well. And it's much harder to fight a battle when the only family you care about stands against you.

Courtney's only salvation lies in the Twilight Kingdom, where witches and warlocks dare not enter. But Aloysius is no ordinary warlocks, and he won't give up on his niece so easily... even if it means going to war with the night creatures.

