

BOOM!
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MCCREERY • GLASS • NESTERENKO

#1

THE LAST WITCH™



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ISSUE #1
THE TOWER IN THE WOODS

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YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO'S
AFRAID OF THE
WOODS.



LET'S MAKE IT
INTERESTING, PADRAIG.
WHOEVER BRINGS A
PIECE BACK FROM THE
CAILLEACH'S TOWER
WINS.

NO, SAOIRSE! THIS
IS MY CHALLENGE. SO,
IT'S MY RULES. I SAY
IT'S FIRST TO SEE
THE TOWER.





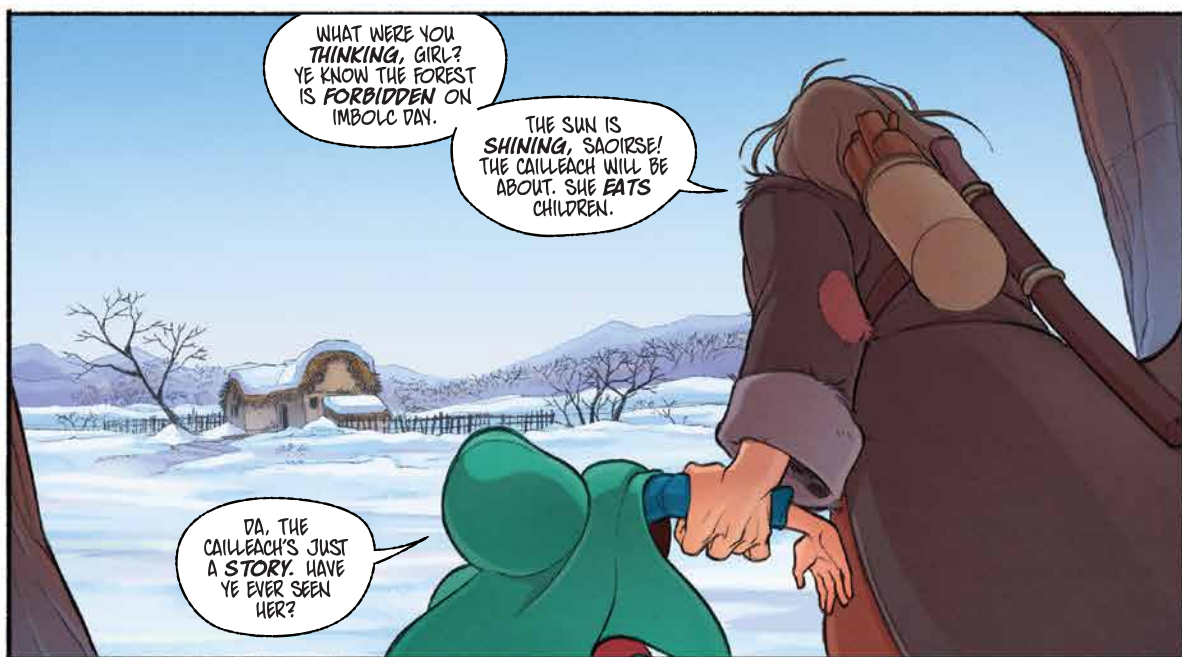
NO FAIR, SAOIRSE!
WE PROMISED WED GO
IN TOGETHER!

WAIT!
SAOIRSE!

DON'T GO
PAST THE HEDGE
WITHOUT ME!

SAOIRSE!





WHAT WERE YOU **THINKING**, GIRL? YE KNOW THE FOREST IS **FORBIDDEN** ON IMBOLC DAY.

THE SUN IS **SHINING**, SAOIRSE! THE CAILLEACH WILL BE ABOUT. SHE **EATS** CHILDREN.

DA, THE CAILLEACH'S JUST A **STORY**. HAVE YE EVER SEEN HER?



I'VE NEVER BEEN **FOOLISH** ENOUGH TO GO LOOKING FOR HER ON THE **ONE** DAY SHE WANDERS THE LAND.

IT'S TIME I HAD A **PROPER** ADVENTURE, DA!



I'VE BEEN **TRAPPED** IN THIS VILLAGE FOR **TWELVE** YEARS, AND I'M SICK OF HOW THEY LOOK AT ME!

WHEN I GO PAST THE HEDGE, THEY'LL SEE I'M **MORE** THAN SOME POOR GIRL WITH AN UGLY MARK. THEY'LL SEE I'M **SPECIAL**, LIKE NAN SAYS I AM!



BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT! EVER SINCE MA DIED, YOU'VE WANTED TO KEEP ME LOCKED AWAY LIKE I WAS YOUR **MAID**! LIKE I WAS YOUR **PRISONER** AND IT'S NOT **FAIR**!



LISTEN TO ME, YOUNG LADY. I BELIEVE IN YOU, MORE THAN YOU KNOW. BUT WE ARE WHO WE ARE, AND WE HAVE WHAT WE HAVE. I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU'RE ASHAMED OF IT.

I CAN'T BE LOSING YOU TO THE WITCH BECAUSE OF SOME FOOL CHALLENGE WITH A BOY.





IS THAT NAN'S
SLEEPING TEA?



IT IS.

I DON'T WANT
TO SLEEP ANYMORE!
≈SNNNF≈ I WANT TO
GO OUTSIDE. ≈SNNNF≈
I WANT TO GO TO THE
FESTIVAL!



SO DO I, BRAHM. BUT
YOU'RE SICK, AND I'M IN
TROUBLE, AND NEITHER OF
US IS GETTING WHAT
WE WANT TODAY.



DRINK THIS.
IT'LL BRING DOWN
YOUR FEVER.

≈SNNNF≈



YOU'LL BE
RIGHT AS RAIN
TOMORROW.



"SHHH, LITTLE
ONE. IT'LL BE
ALRIGHT..."

≈SNNNF≈



...EVEN
IF THE FEVER
TAKES ME. YER
STRONG, MY
LOVE.



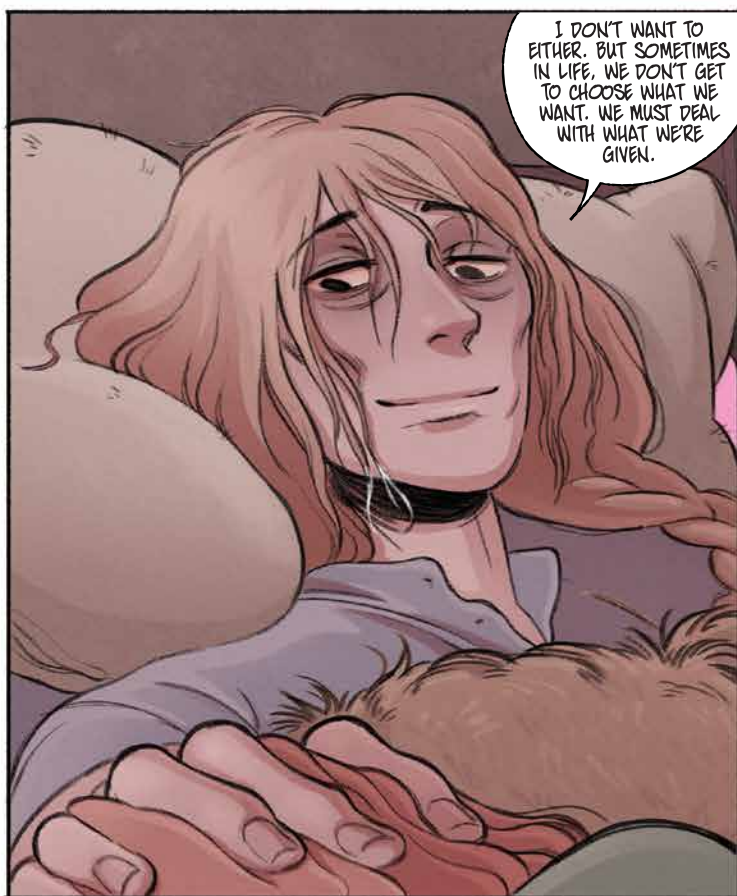
WHY CAN'T NAN
MAKE IT GO AWAY?
WITH ONE OF
HER TEAS?



SHE TRIED, BUT I
DON'T THINK NAN'S
TEAS CAN HELP
THIS TIME.



I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO GO.



I DON'T WANT TO
EITHER. BUT SOMETIMES
IN LIFE, WE DON'T GET
TO CHOOSE WHAT WE
WANT. WE MUST DEAL
WITH WHAT WE'RE
GIVEN.

















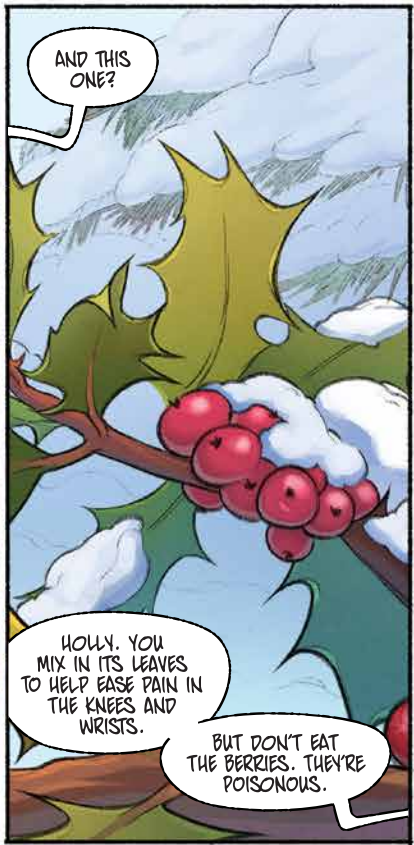




WHAT'S THAT ONE?



CAMELLIA. NAN CALLS IT THE TEA PLANT. SHE USES IT IN ALMOST ALL OF HER BREWS. IT'LL KEEP YOU AWAKE FOR HOURS.



AND THIS ONE?

HOLLY. YOU MIX IN ITS LEAVES TO HELP EASE PAIN IN THE KNEES AND WRISTS.

BUT DON'T EAT THE BERRIES. THEY'RE POISONOUS.



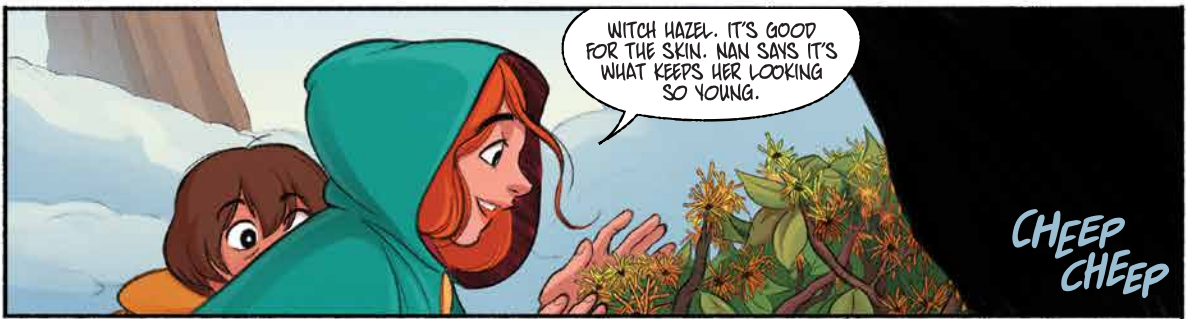
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, SAOIRSE.

JUST WHAT NAN TAUGHT ME.



≡SNIFF≡

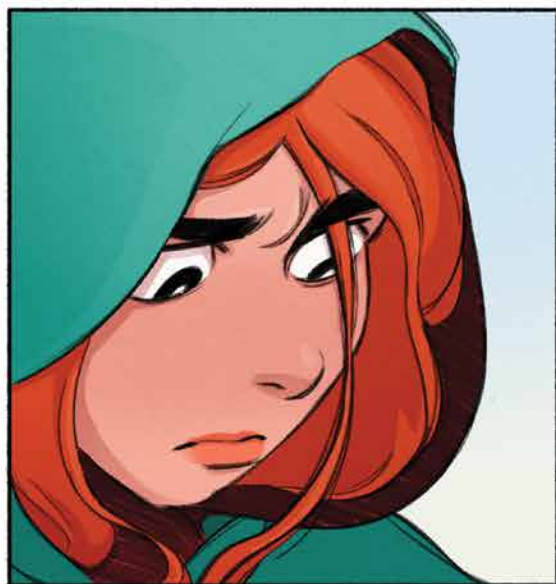
≡SNIFF≡
SMELL THAT?



WITCH HAZEL. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SKIN. NAN SAYS IT'S WHAT KEEPS HER LOOKING SO YOUNG.

CHEEP
CHEEP









WITH THE
SUN SHINING **SO**
BRIGHTLY? YOU MUST
BE **VERY** BRAVE
CHILDREN.

NAN!



IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU
BOTH.



≡PUFF≡

≡PUFF≡

NOW TELL
ME, DUCK. WHAT
HAS YOU SO
FAR INTO THE
WOODS?

I'M GOING
THROUGH THE
HEDGE. I'M GOING
TO FIND THE
TOWER.

WE'RE GOING
TO TRY TO FIND
THE WITCH'S
TOWER?

HUSH, BRAHM. THE
CAILLEACH ISN'T
REAL.

TELL HIM,
NAN.



WELL...IT IS
IMBOLC.







SO, I HAVE TO GO. BUT DON'T TELL DA. HE'D NEVER GO PAST THE HEDGE. HE'D RATHER STAY STUCK IN THAT VILLAGE BECAUSE OF SOME OLD STORY.



WELL, YOUR FATHER, BLESS HIS HEART, HAS NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPECIAL.

YOU CAN'T HIDE A GREAT LIGHT LIKE YOURS.



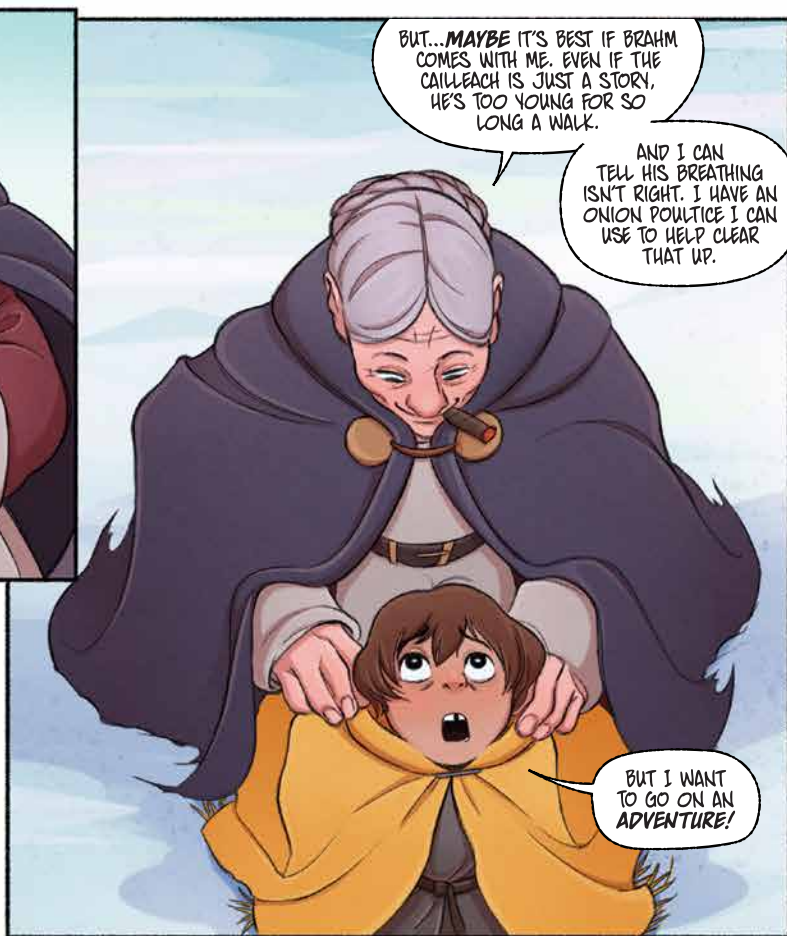
I TOLD HIM THAT WHEN YOU WERE FIRST BORN, AND I SAW THE SIGN ON YOUR SHOULDER.



"THIS GIRL'S MARKED FOR GREATNESS."



SO, YOU WON'T TELL?





C'MON, BRAHM, STAY WITH NAN. YOU WERE SCARED ANYWAY.

I AM NOT! I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!



AH, COME WITH YOUR NAN.

YOU PROMISED I COULD COME WITH YOU, SAOIRSE! YOU PROMISED. YOU KNOW WHAT MA SAID ABOUT PROMISES!



A PROMISE IS A BIRD YOU CAN NEVER SET FREE.

≡SIGH≡

IT'S TRUE, NAN. I DID PROMISE.



IT'S ALRIGHT, DUCK. JUST, PROMISE ME THIS. IF YOU DO FIND AN OLD TOWER OUT THERE... BE CAREFUL.



I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY'RE JUST STORIES.



IT JUST FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S IN THE WIND.

"...AND THE SUN
IS SHINING."

MAYBE WE
SHOULD TURN BACK.
WE'RE REALLY FAR, SAOIRSE.
I WON'T THINK YOU'RE
SCARED.

SHHH.
LET ME THINK,
BRAHM.

CAN'T
CATCH
ME!

...PADRAIG!

HE'S NOT
FRIGHTENED AT ALL.
HE'S **LAUGHING**
AT ME.

WHAT IS
THAT?

I'M GONNA
WII-IIN!

IT'S...



SACU-OIRSE...



WELL?
COME ON.



I'M SCARED. I DON'T
THINK THAT WAS PADRAIG.
WHAT IF THERE REALLY
IS A WITCH?

YOU WANTED
AN ADVENTURE. WELL,
THIS IS WHAT AN ADVENTURE
IS. GOING FORWARD.
SCARED OR NOT.



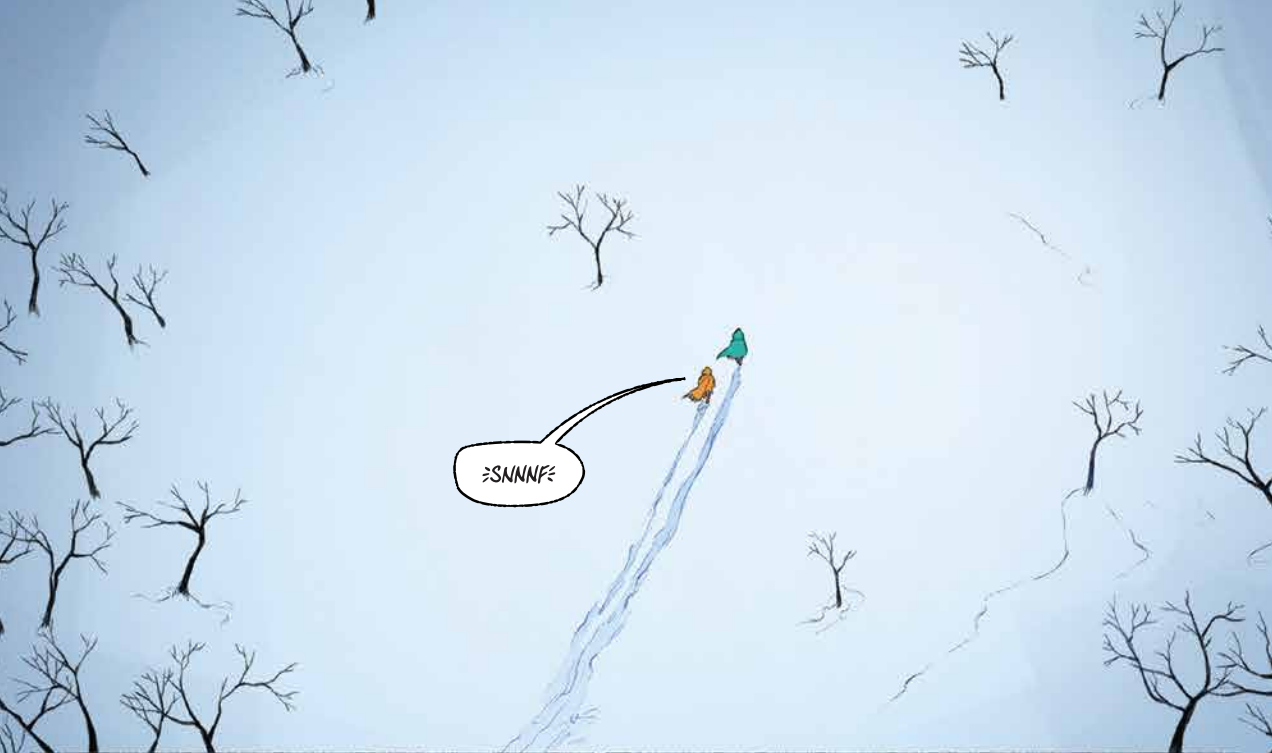
I'M NOT GOING TO LET PADRAIG
WIN. YOU **COME**, OR I'LL **LEAVE**
YOU WHERE YOU STAND.

YOU PROMISE
YOU'LL KEEP ME
SAFE?

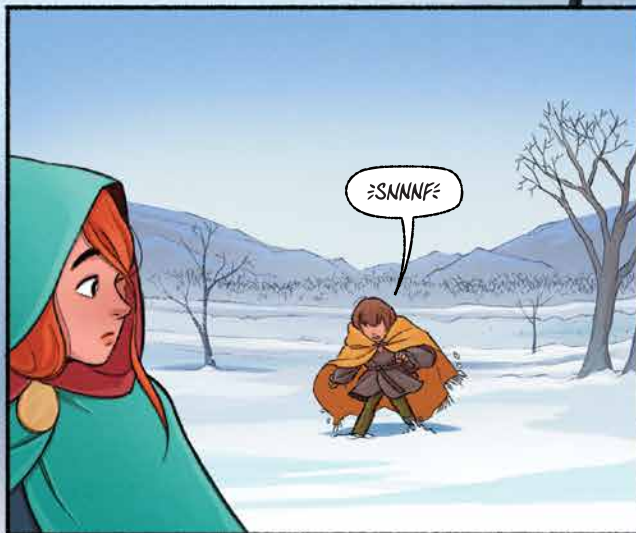


YES.
I PROMISE!





SNNNF



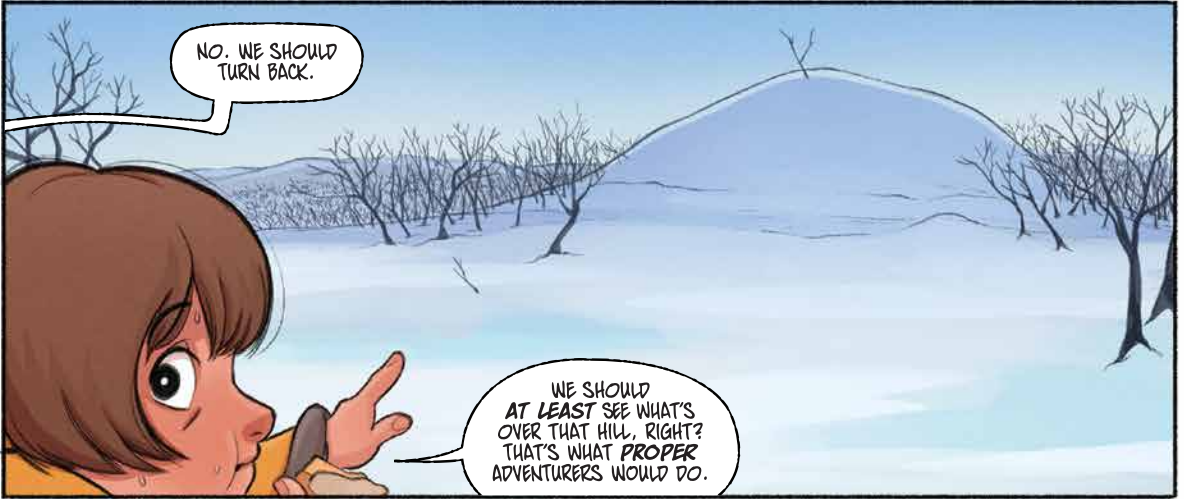
SNNNF



I'M COMING...
I'M COMING...

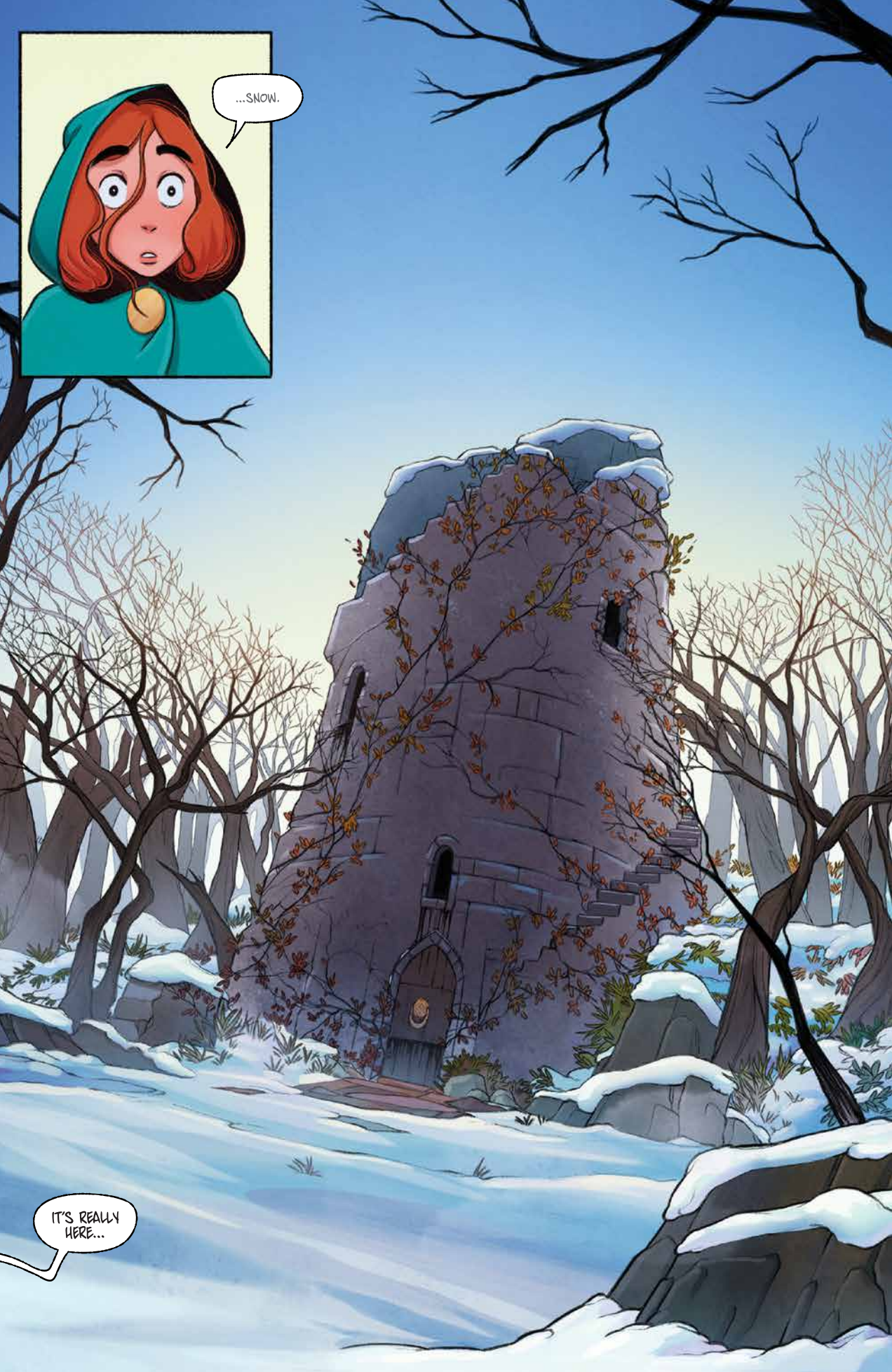


IT'S ALRIGHT,
BRAHM. LET'S
TAKE A BREAK.





...SNOW.



IT'S REALLY
HERE...







