

CRITICAL ROLE
THE
MIGHTY NEIN
ORIGINS™

NOTT THE BRAVE



SAM MAGGS ♦ SAM RIEGEL ♦ MATTHEW MERCER
WILLIAM KIRKBY ♦ EREN ANGIOLINI ♦ ARIANA MAHER

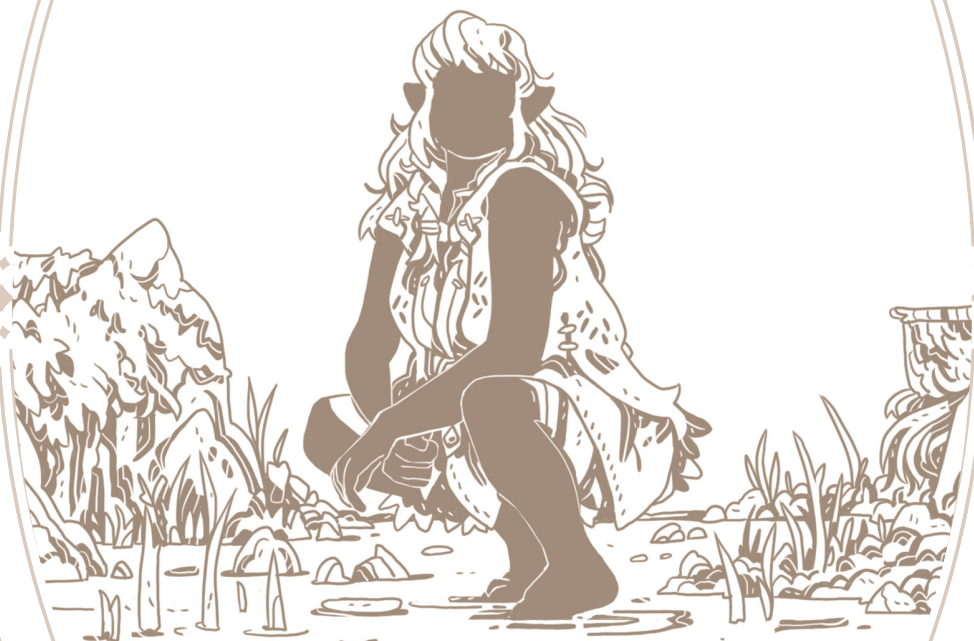


THE
MIGHTY·NEIN
ORIGINS™

◆ NOTT THE BRAVE ◆



CRITICAL ROLE



◆ N.B. ◆

THE MIGHTY NEIN ORIGINS

CRITICAL ROLE
**THE
MIGHTY NEIN**
ORIGINS™

NOTT THE BRAVE

WRITTEN BY

Sam Maggs

WITH

**Sam
Riegel**

♦ *AND* ♦

**Matthew
Mercer**

OF
CRITICAL ROLE

ART BY

William Kirkby

COVER COLORS BY

Mildred Louis

INTERIOR COLORS BY

Eren Angiolini

LETTERS BY

Ariana Maher



DARK HORSE BOOKS





PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Mike Richardson

EDITOR

Rachel Roberts

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jenny Blenk

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Anastacia Ferry

DESIGNER

Cindy Cacerez-Sprague

DIGITAL ART TECHNICIAN

Samantha Hummer



PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER Mike Richardson EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Neil Hankerson CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Tom Weddle
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER Dale LaFountain VICE PRESIDENT OF LICENSING Tim Wiesch VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION AND
SCHEDULING Vanessa Todd-Holmes VICE PRESIDENT OF BOOK TRADE AND DIGITAL SALES Mark Bernardi VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT AND SALES Randy Lahrman GENERAL COUNSEL Ken Lizzi EDITOR IN CHIEF Dave Marshall EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Davey
Estrada SENIOR BOOKS EDITOR Chris Warner SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING Cara O'Neil DIRECTOR OF SPECIALTY PROJECTS Cary
Grazzini ART DIRECTOR Lia Ribacchi SENIOR DIRECTOR OF LICENSED PUBLICATIONS Michael Gombos DIRECTOR OF CUSTOM PROGRAMS
Kari Yadro DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL LICENSING Kari Torson DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULING Christina Niece

Published by Dark Horse Books, a division of Dark Horse Comics LLC
10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222

DarkHorse.com ♦ Comic Shop Locator Service: ComicShopLocator.com ♦ CritRole.com

First edition: January 2023
eBOOK ISBN: 978-1-50672-388-4
ISBN: 978-1-50672-378-5

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2
Printed in China

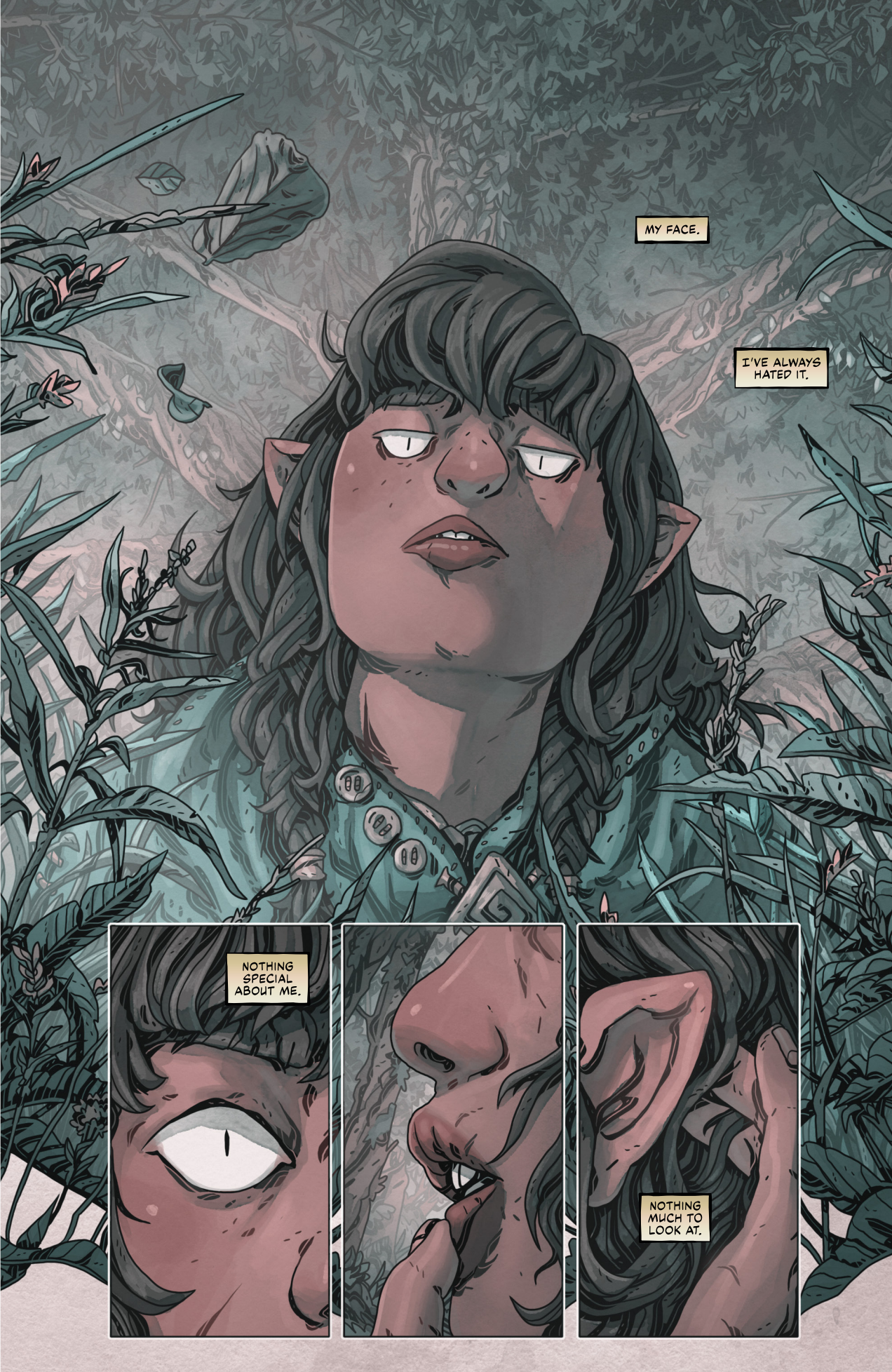


**Critical Role: The Mighty Nein Origins—
Nott the Brave**

Critical Role © 2023 by Gilmore's Glorious Goods LLC. All Rights Reserved. © 2023 Critical Role Productions LLC. All Rights Reserved. Critical Role names, logos, characters, likenesses thereof and all related elements are trademarks and copyrighted properties of Critical Role LLC. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Maggs, Sam, writer. | Mercer, Matthew, 1982- author. | Riegel, Sam, 1976- author. | Kirkby, William (Comics artist), artist. | Louis, Mildred, colourist. | Angiolini, Eren, colourist. | Angiolini, Eren, colourist. | Maher, Ariana, letterer.
Title: Critical role, the Mighty Nein origins : Nott the Brave / written by Sam Maggs with Matthew Mercer and Sam Riegel of Critical Role ; art by William Kirkby ; colors by Mildred Louis and Eren Angiolini ; letters by Ariana Maher.
Other titles: Nott the Brave | Critical Role (Game)
Description: First edition. | Milwaukie, OR : Dark Horse Books, 2022.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021043007 (print) | LCCN 2021043008 (ebook) | ISBN 9781506723785 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781506723884 (ebook)
Subjects: LCGFT: Comics (Graphic works)
Classification: LCC PN6728.C6996 M36 2022 (print) | LCC PN6728.C6996 (ebook) | DDC 741.5/973--dc23
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021043007>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021043008>



MY FACE.

I'VE ALWAYS
HATED IT.



NOTHING
SPECIAL
ABOUT ME.



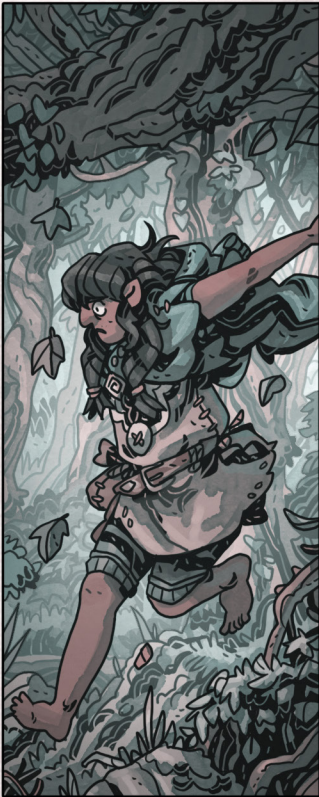
NOTHING
MUCH TO
LOOK AT.

AND
CERTAINLY
NOTHING...











OH.

RIGHT.



THAT WAS
A LONG
TIME AGO.

BUT SOME
THINGS...

SOME THINGS
NEVER REALLY
LEAVE YOU.



YES, THAT WILL
DO NICELY.

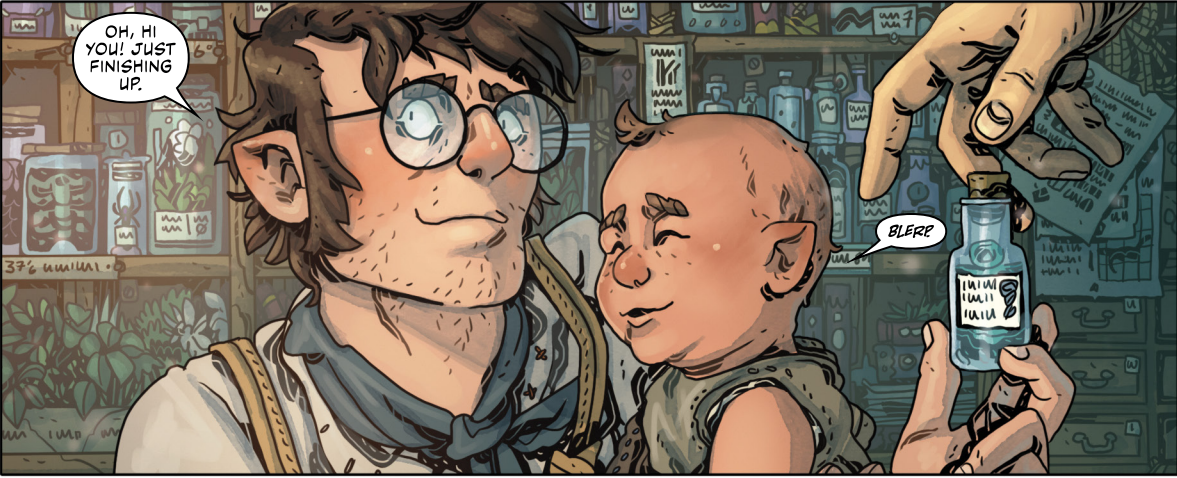
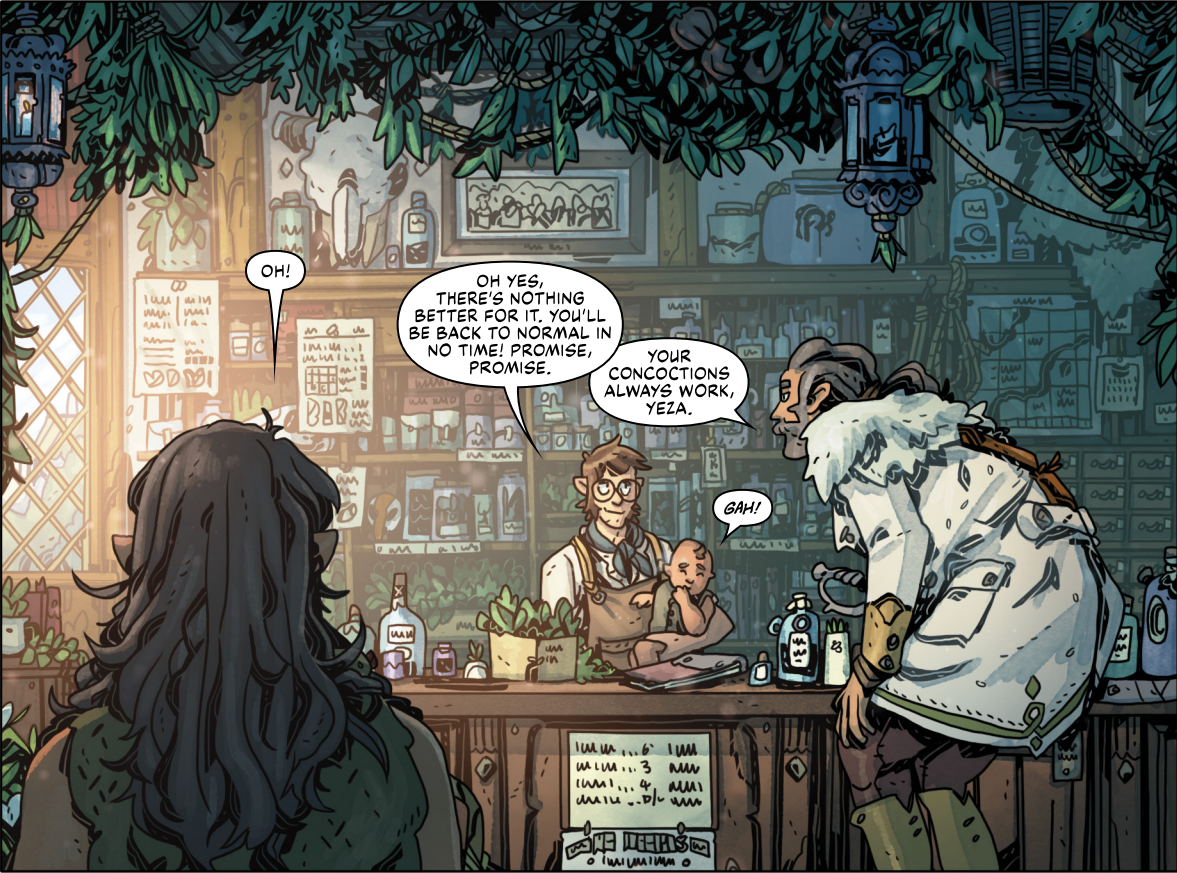


SLASH



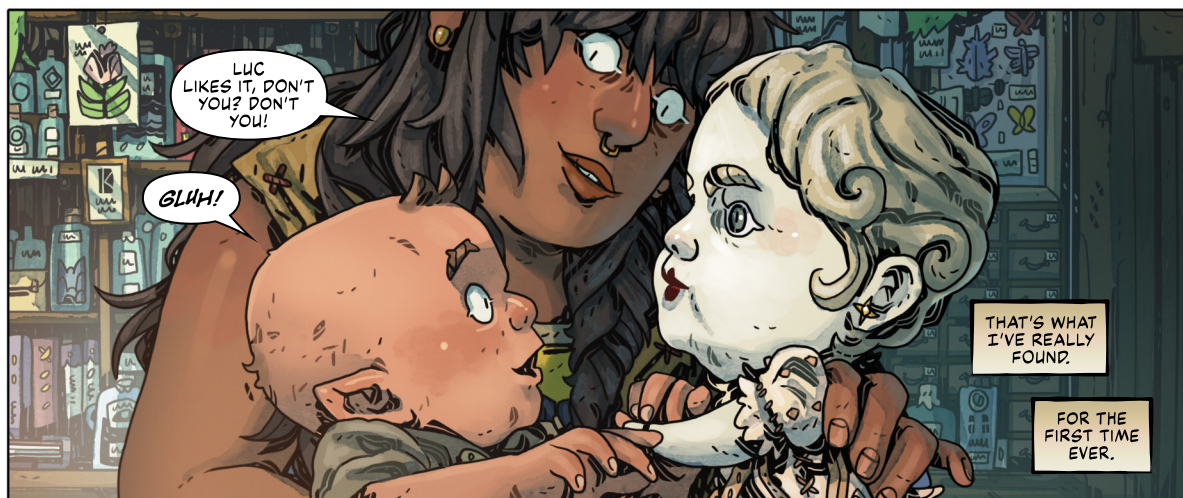
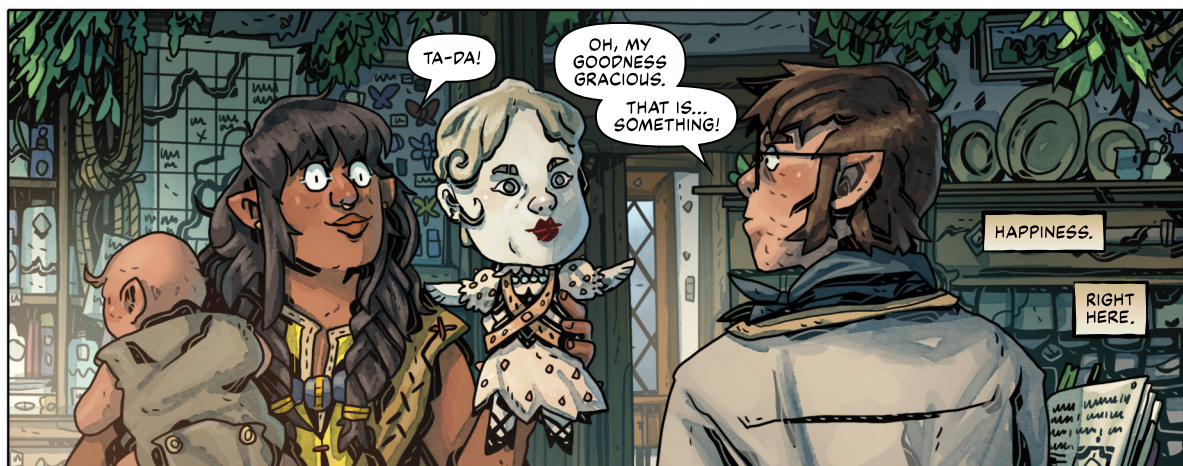
IT HASN'T
BEEN EASY.

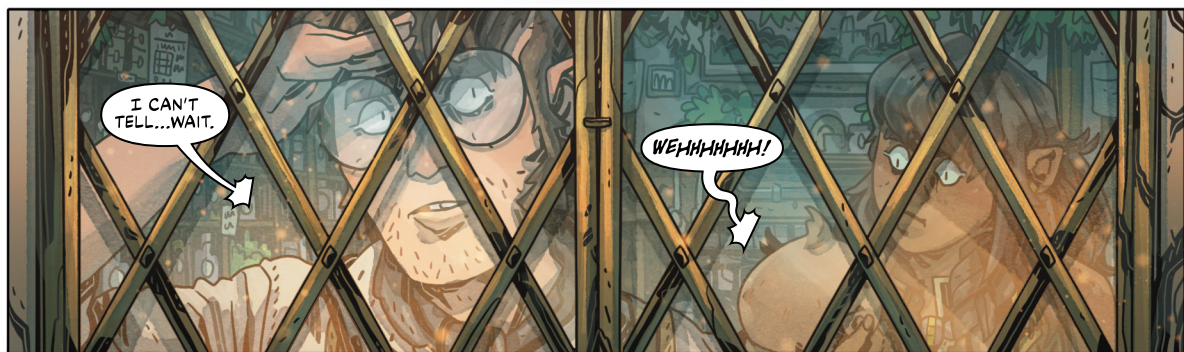
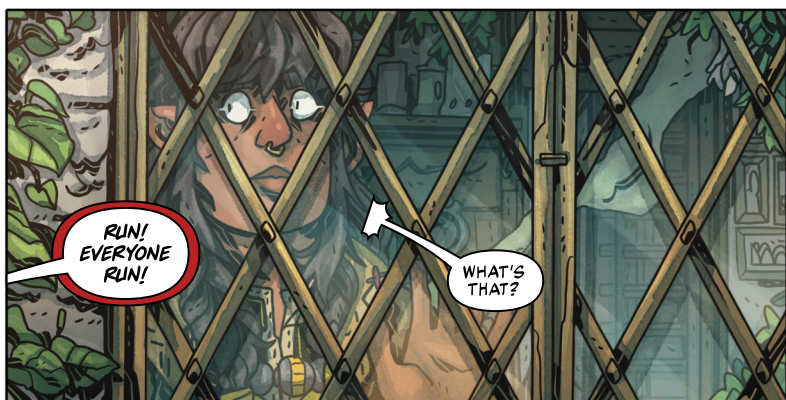
BUT I'VE FINALLY
FOUND A HOME.



















LET THEM
GO--!

WEHHH!

LUC!

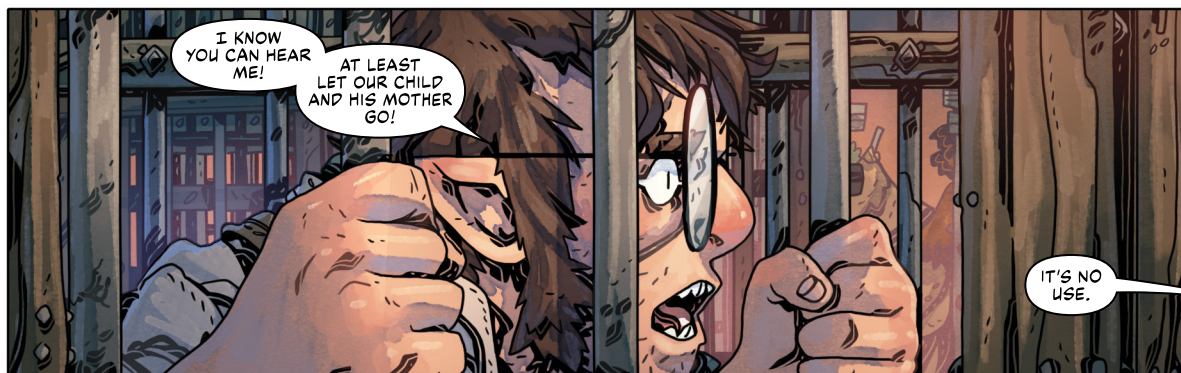
YOU!
COME,
NOW!



THERE'S NO
HELP COMING
FOR US.

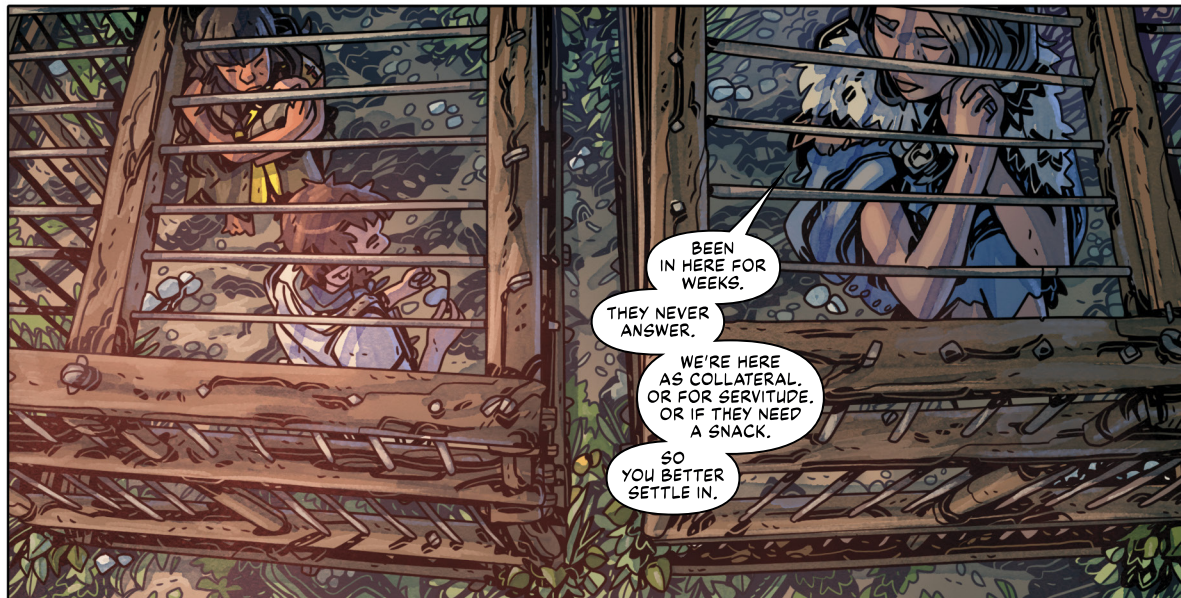
I WAS SO HAPPY,
AND JUST LIKE
THAT...

NO, I WON'T LET
MYSELF FEEL THAT
WAY AGAIN.



I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
AT LEAST LET OUR CHILD AND HIS MOTHER GO!

IT'S NO USE.



BEEN IN HERE FOR WEEKS.
THEY NEVER ANSWER.
WE'RE HERE AS COLLATERAL.
OR FOR SERVITUDE.
OR IF THEY NEED A SNACK.
SO YOU BETTER SETTLE IN.



OH, YEZA...

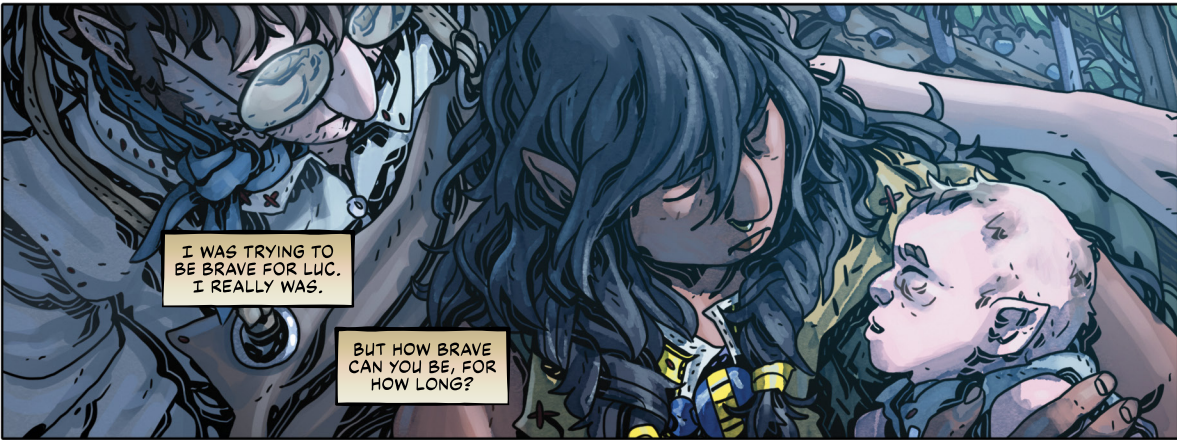
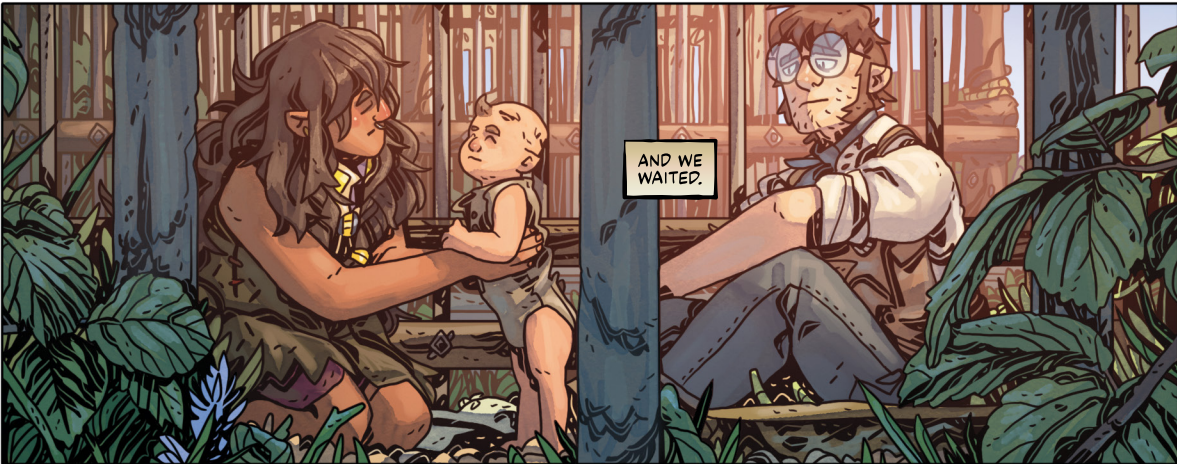
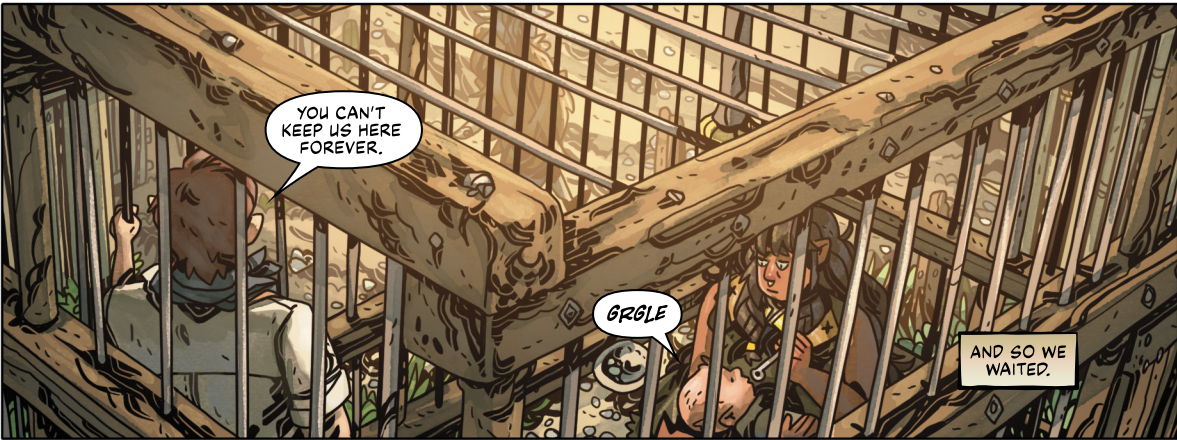


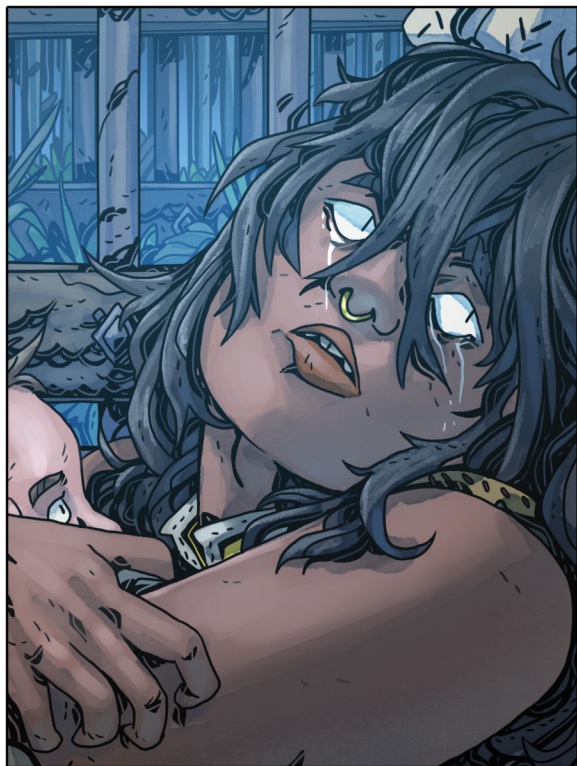
PUT ON THAT BRAVE FACE, VETH.
I KNOW YOU HAVE ONE IN THERE, FOR LUC.



OKAY.

FOR LUC.









I DIDN'T
ASK FOR YOUR
FORGIVENESS.

ALSO,
YOUR MATE IS
ANNOYING.



SOMETIMES,
BUT
I RESPECT
HIM. AND I RELY
ON HIM.

WE RELY
ON EACH OTHER,
REALLY. AND LUC
RELIES ON US
BOTH.



I HAVE AN
ANNOYING MATE.
DREKKIT. WE RUN
THIS CAMP
TOGETHER.

I RELY
ON HIM,
TOO.

...DON'T
EVER TELL
HIM I SAID
THAT.



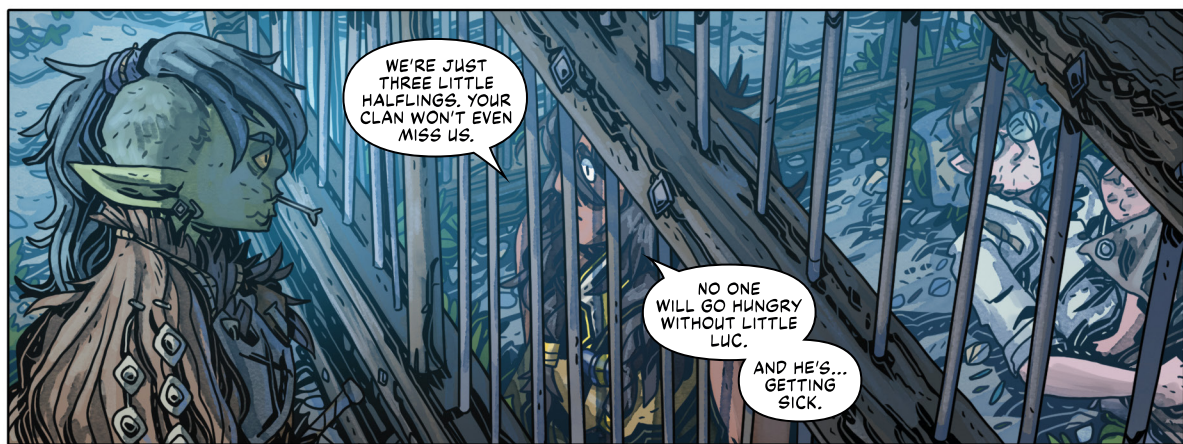
WHY
DO YOU KEEP
PEOPLE LIKE
THIS?

IF WE
DON'T RAID, WE
STARVE.



THRALLS
LIKE YOU MAKE
WORK EASIER. OR
STRUGGLE FOR US, OR
BECOME MEAT IF
TOO WEAK.

IF WE DON'T
KEEP SPARES,
WE DIE.





INTERESTING...

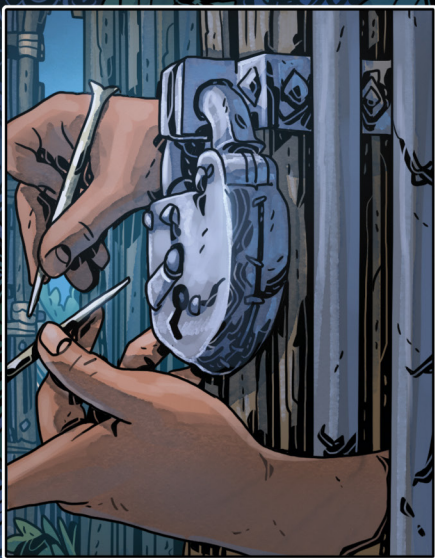


YEZA, WAKE UP!

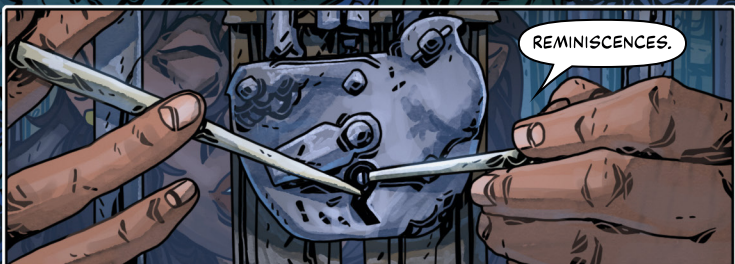


WHAT
ARE YOU--HOW
DID YOU GET
THOSE?

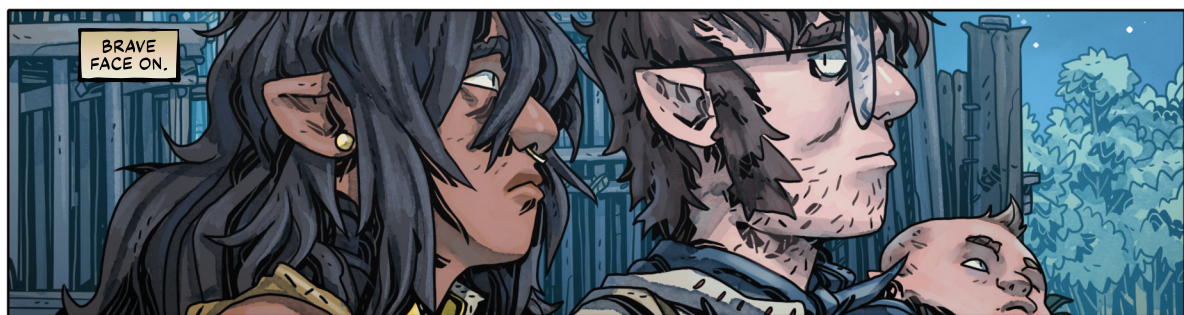
WHERE
DID YOU LEARN
HOW TO DO
THAT?



REMINISCENCES.

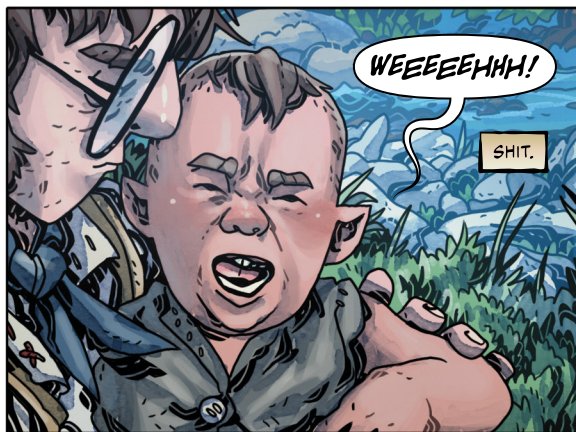


GOT
IT.





COULD THIS
ACTUALLY WORK?
COULD WE--



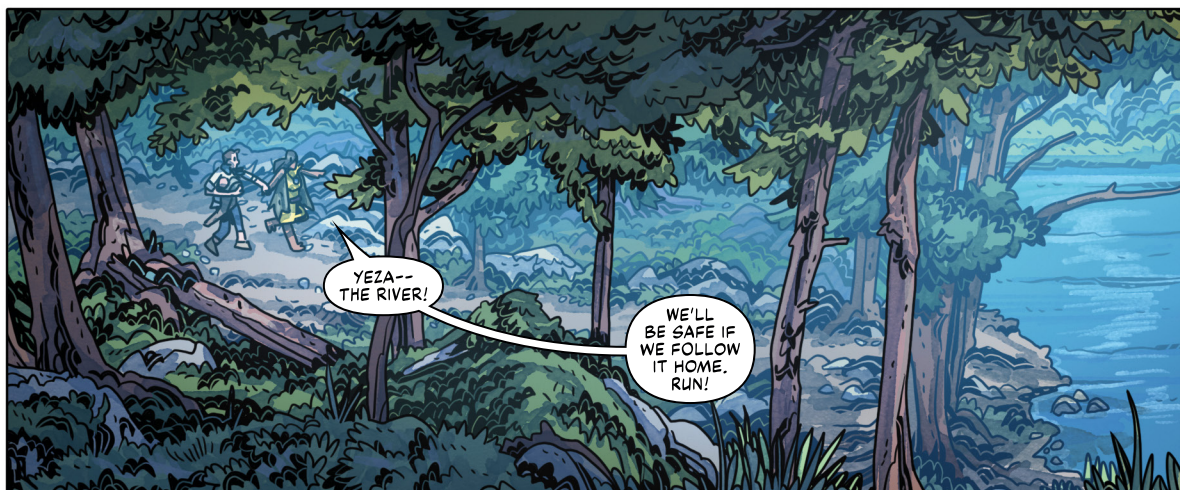
WEEEEEHHH!

SHIT.



WHERE--
WHERE--?

THERE.



YEZA--
THE RIVER!

WE'LL
BE SAFE IF
WE FOLLOW
IT HOME.
RUN!

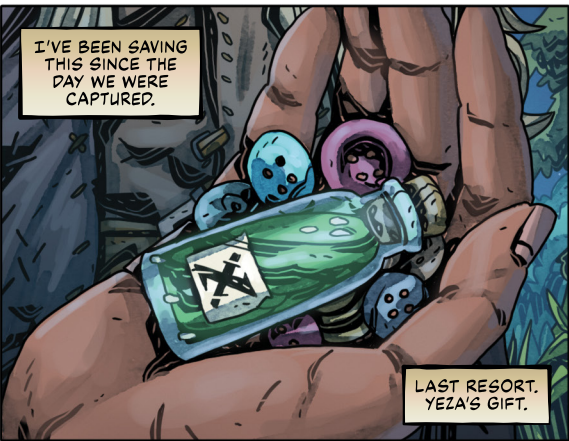
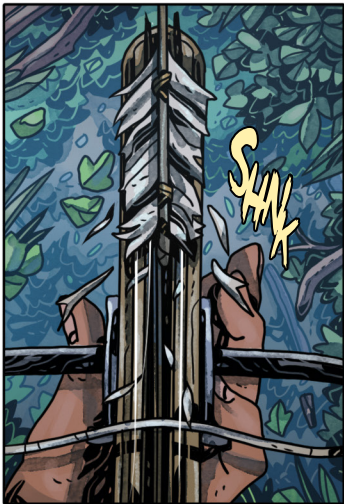


STAY
BEHIND
ME!



NOT A
CHANCE.







ARGHHH!





YOU DID THIS.
TO MY MATE, YOU DID THIS.

WAIT, I'M SORRY--HE WAS TRYING TO--



SHE IS MINE.



I COULDN'T LET HIM--I'M SO SORRY...



YES.

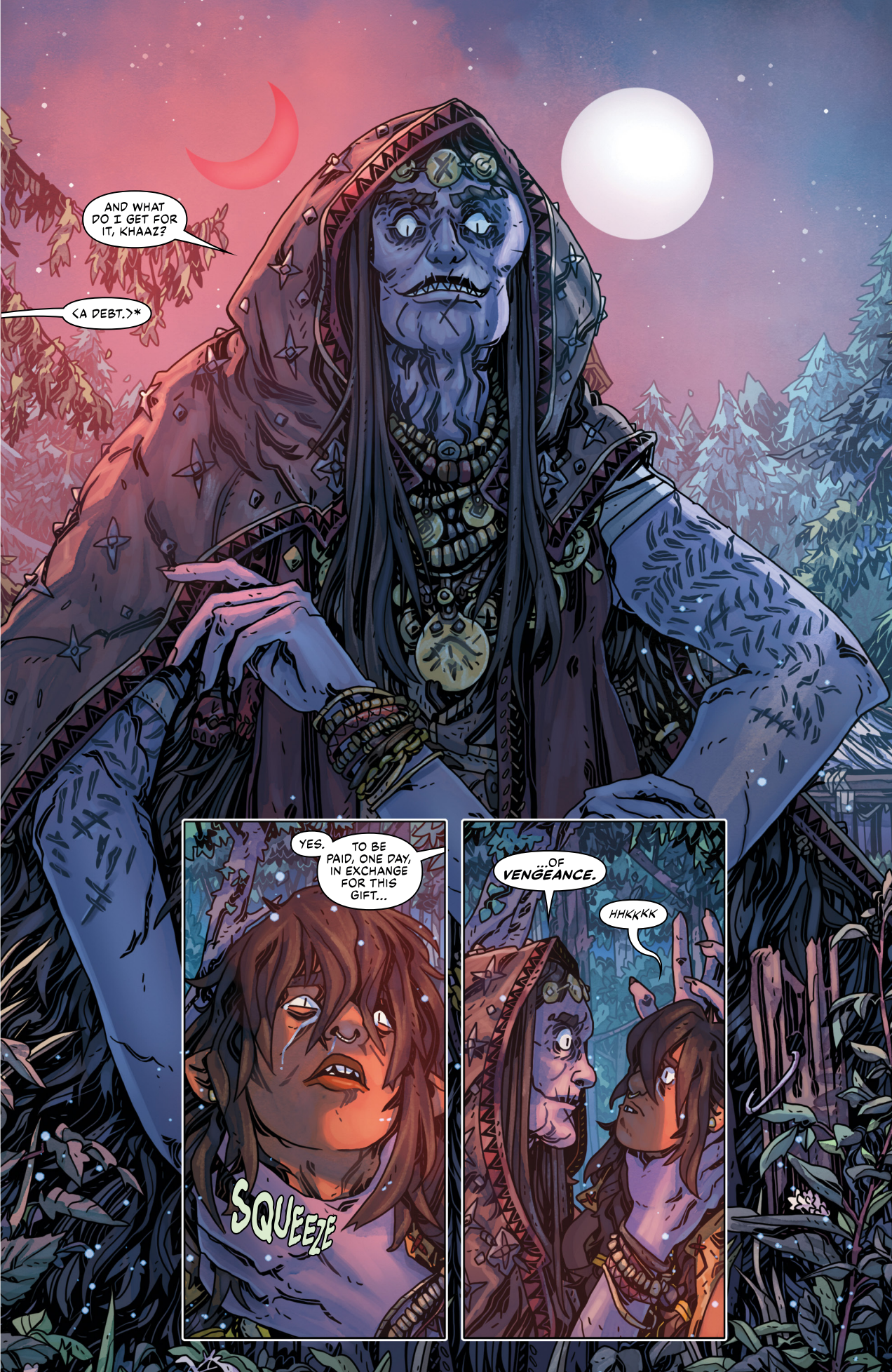


YOU WILL BE.





<MAKE HER
SUFFER.>*



AND WHAT
DO I GET FOR
IT, KHAZZ?

<A DEBT.>*



YES.
TO BE
PAID, ONE DAY,
IN EXCHANGE
FOR THIS
GIFT...

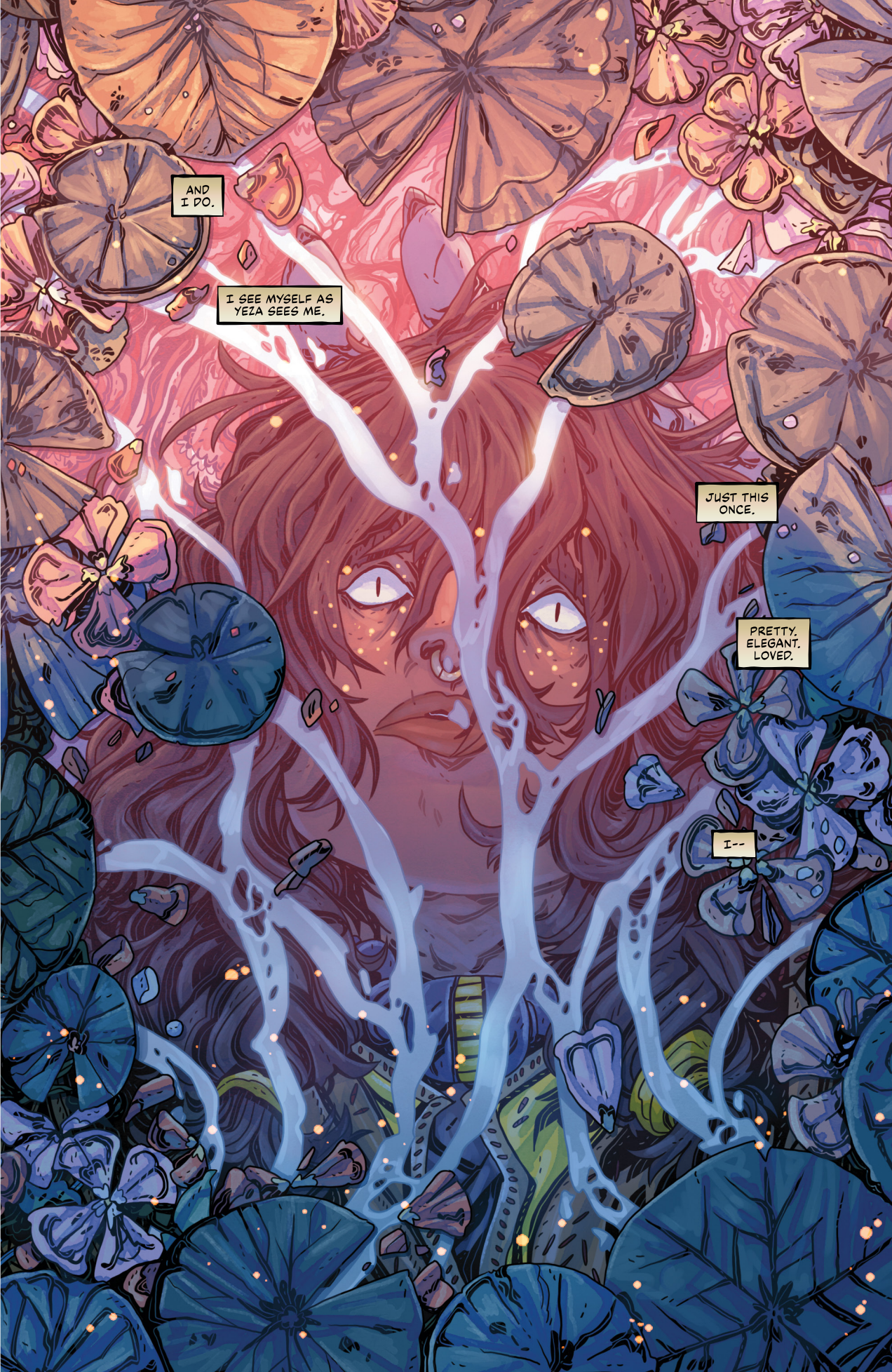
SQUEEZE



...OF
VENGEANCE.

HHKKKK





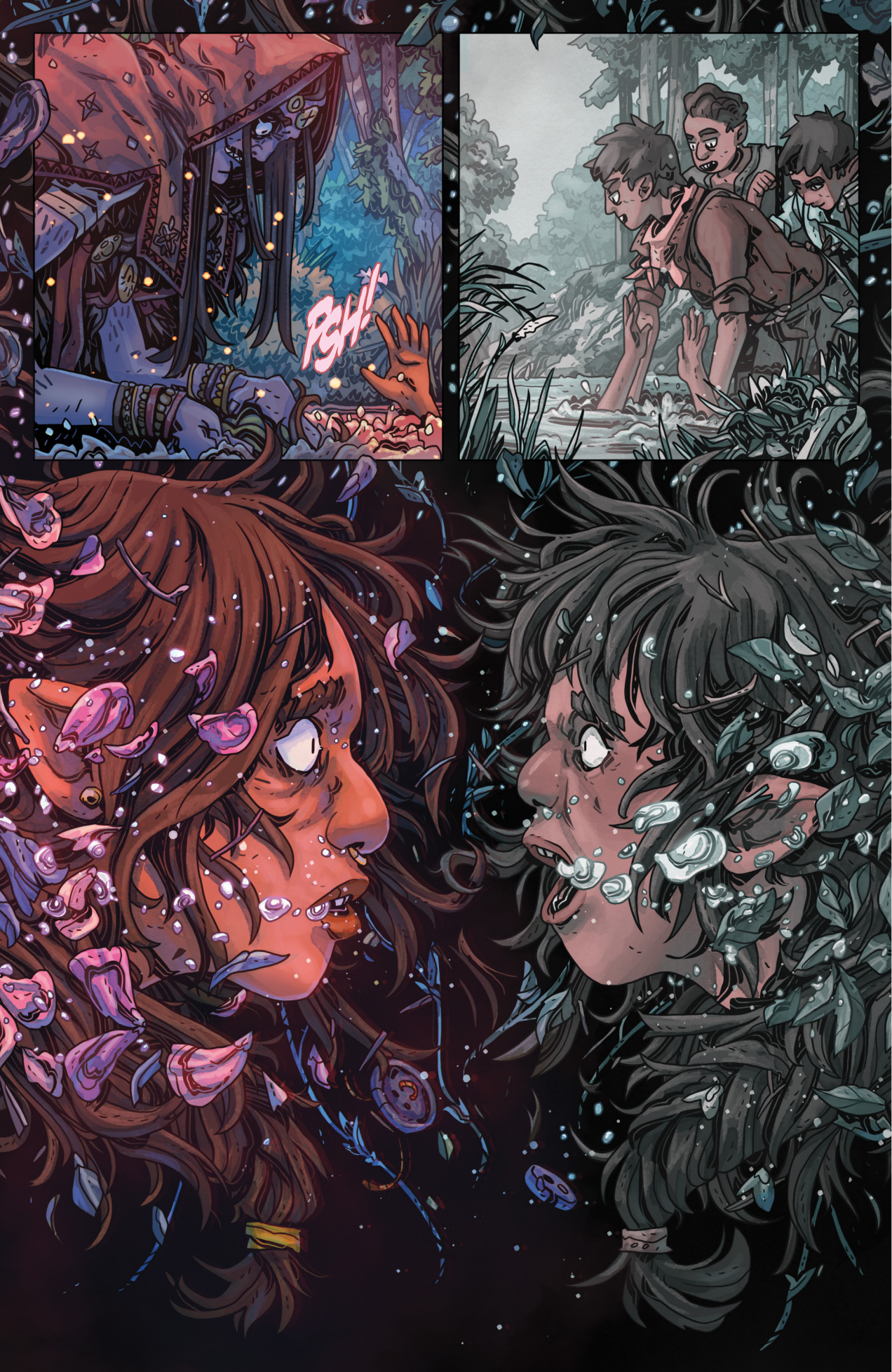
AND
I DO.

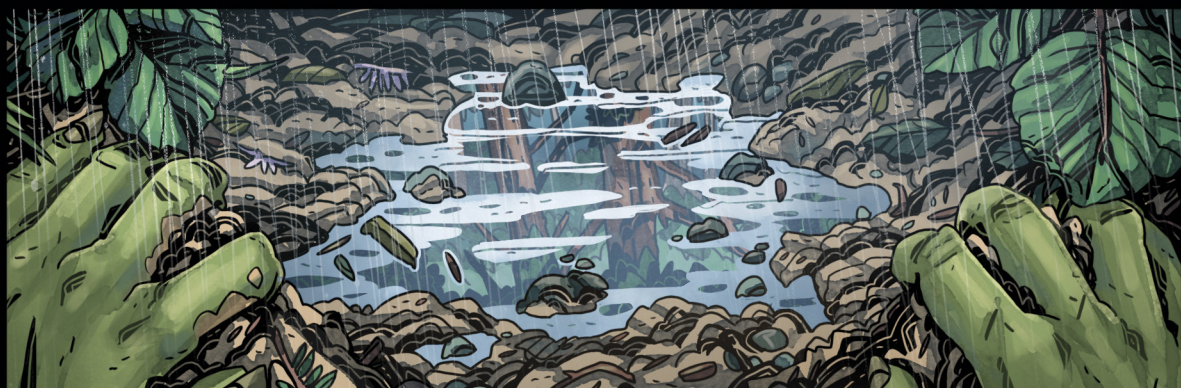
I SEE MYSELF AS
YEZA SEES ME.

JUST THIS
ONCE.

PRETTY.
ELEGANT.
LOVED.

I--





I LIVED.

BUT EVERYTHING
I SAW IN THE
WATER BEFORE...

IT'S GONE.

AND I DESPERATELY
NEED IT BACK.



AND SO I WAS
TO SERVE HER.

KHAAZ.



IT WAS MY
PUNISHMENT.

BECOMING
EVERYTHING I WAS
SO SCARED I HAD
ALWAYS BEEN.



EVERYTHING
I FEARED.



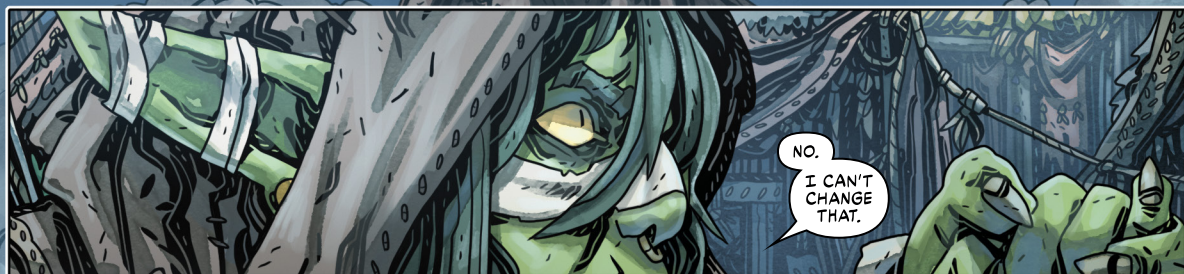
BUT A PART OF
ME THINKS...

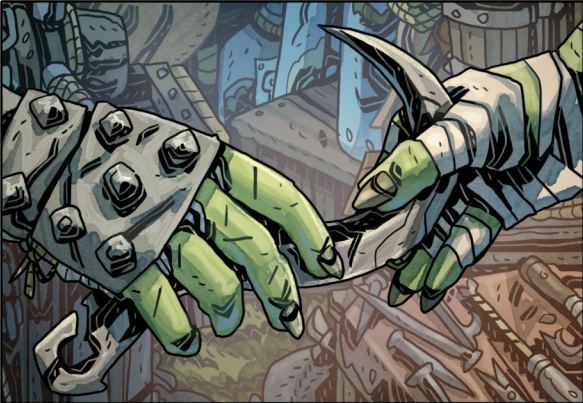


I DESERVE IT.

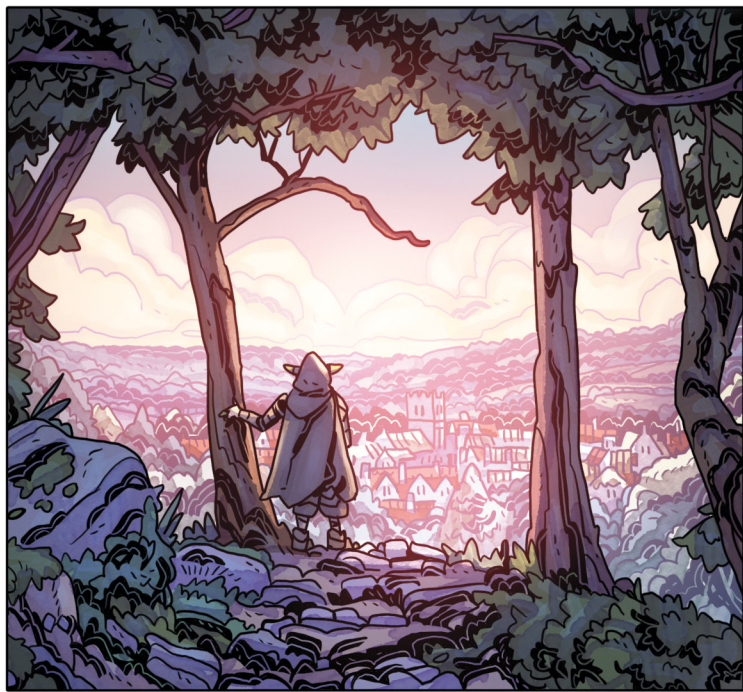
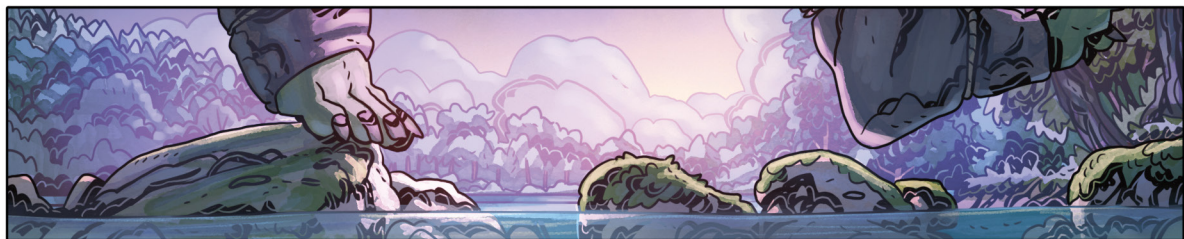
I KILLED
SOMEONE.

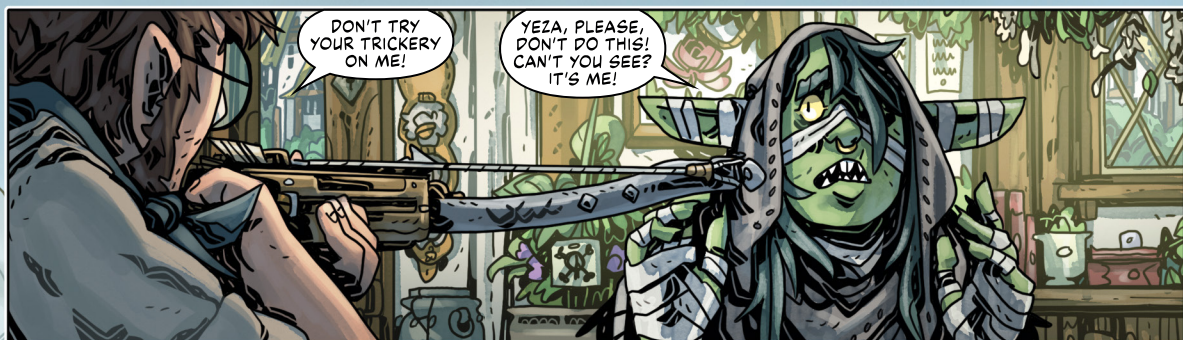
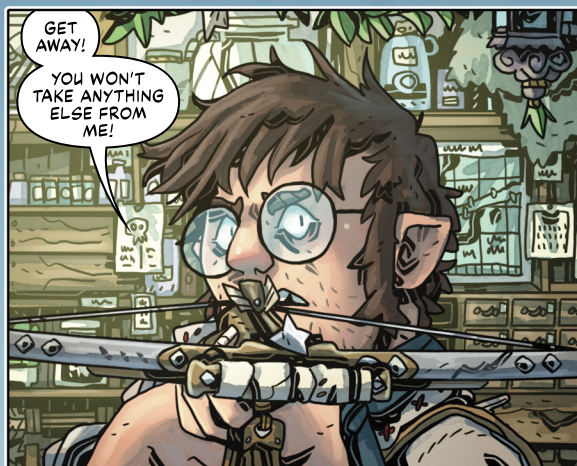
SOMEONE WHO
WAS LOVED.

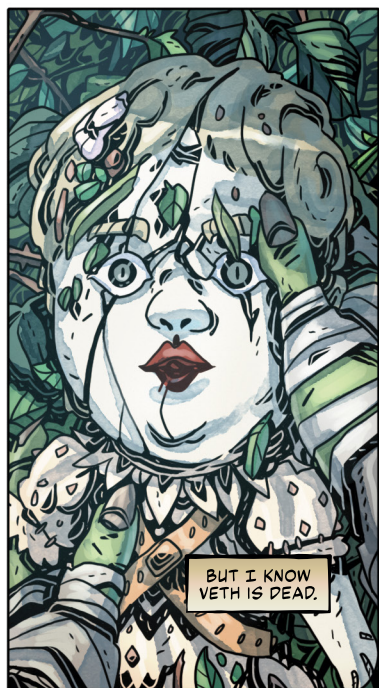


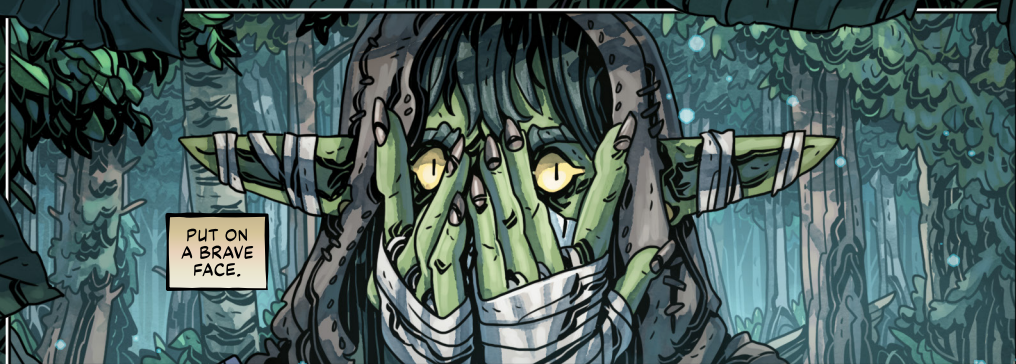












PUT ON
A BRAVE
FACE.



BUT I'M
NOT THAT.

NOT AT
ALL.



THOUGH THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN BEHIND BARS.



A man with long, wavy brown hair and a full beard stands in a dark, rustic interior. He is wearing a heavy, dark brown coat with a thick, white fur collar and cuffs. He is looking slightly to his right with a serious expression. His hands are clasped in front of him, and he is wearing a gold bracelet on his right wrist. The background is filled with wooden beams, stone walls, and various wooden crates and barrels. The lighting is dim, creating a somber atmosphere.

BUT I'VE BEEN
THROUGH WORSE.

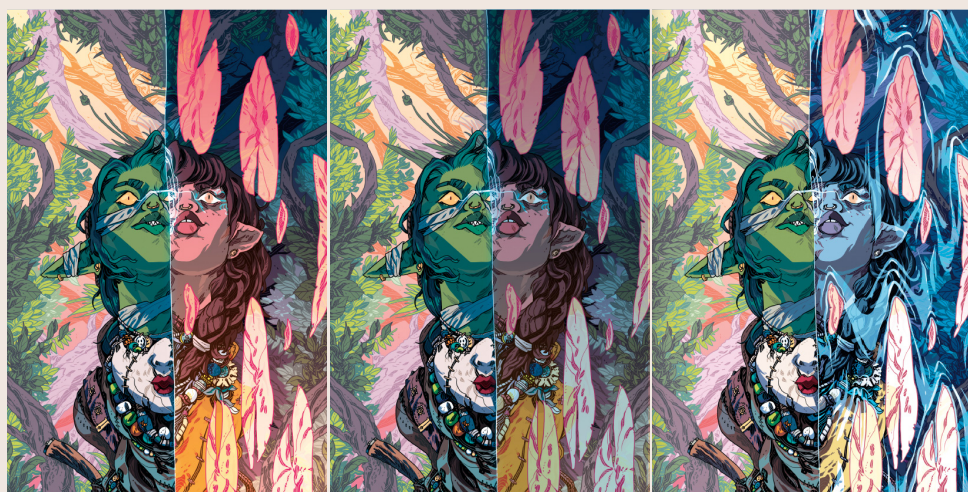
AND I
THINK...

A close-up of a woman with a green face and white mask. She is wearing a white hooded cloak with green trim. Her face is painted green, and she has white bandages wrapped around her eyes and mouth. She has a small, dark, crescent-shaped mark on her forehead. She is looking directly at the viewer with a slight smile. Her hands are visible, wearing green gloves with white bandages. The background is a dark, wooden interior with various wooden beams and crates. The lighting is dim, creating a somber atmosphere.

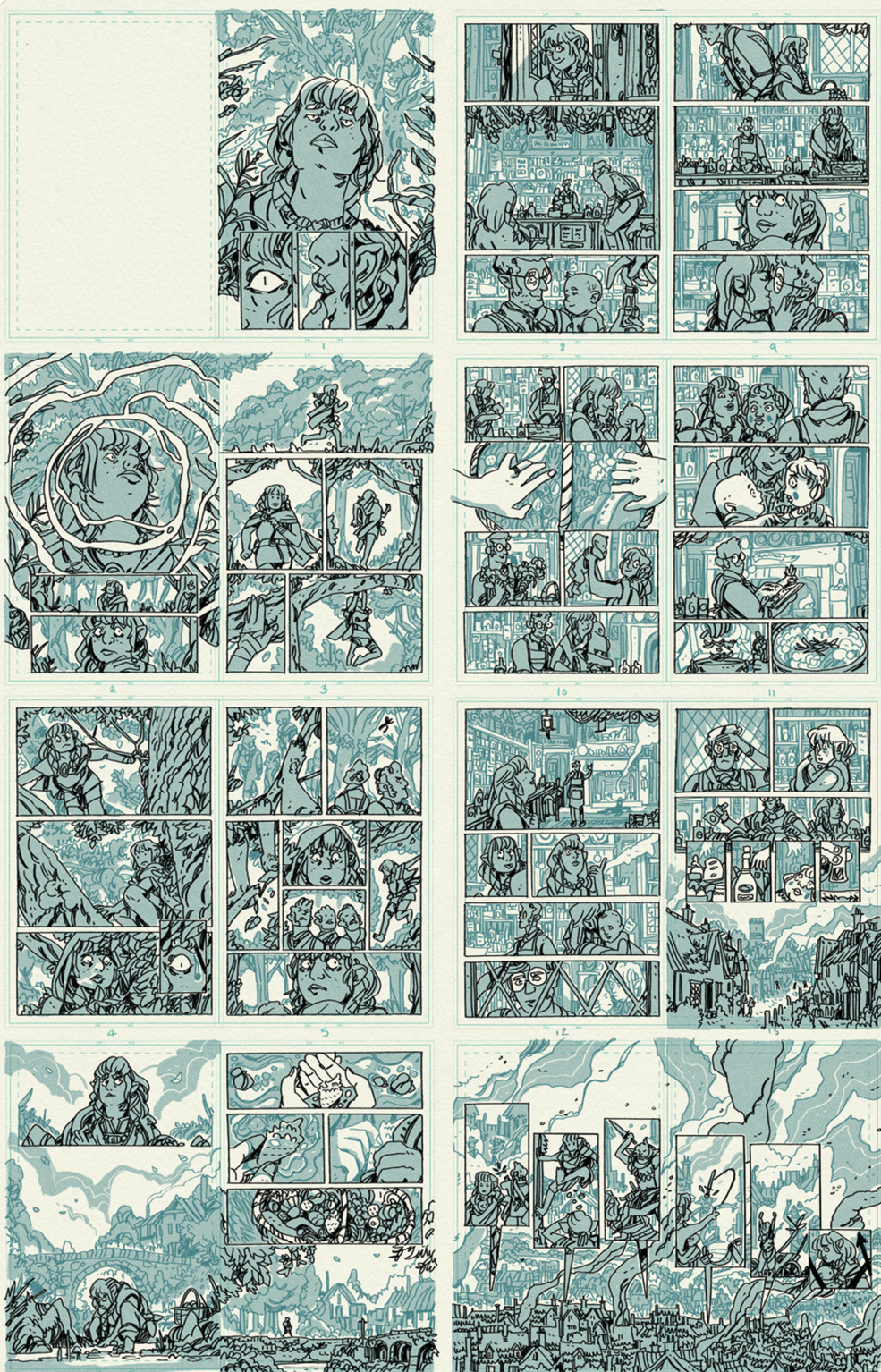
TODAY, THINGS
MIGHT JUST GET A
LITTLE BIT BETTER.

NOTT THE BRAVE

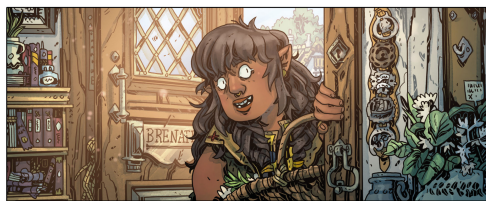
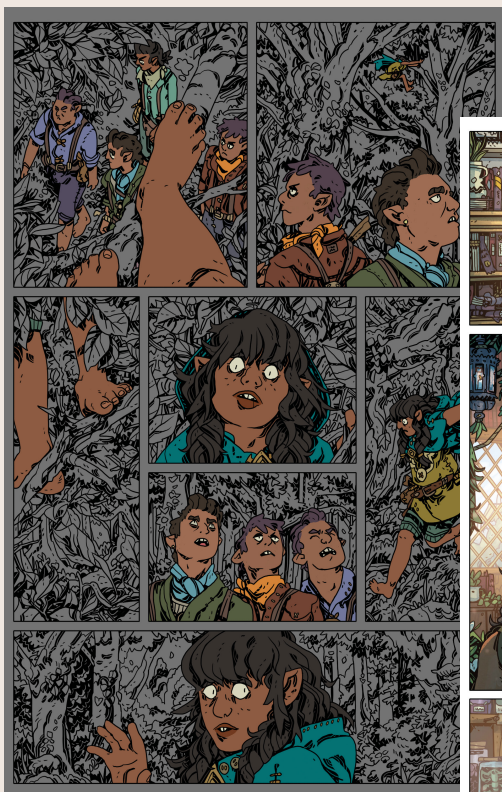
ILLUSTRATIONS BY William Kirkby, Eren Angiolini, AND Mildred Louis
COMMENTARY BY Rachel Roberts



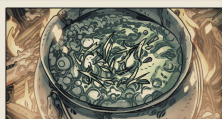
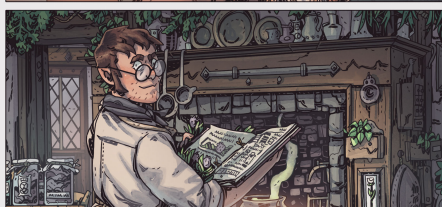
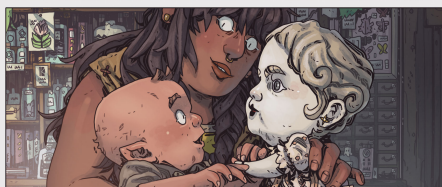
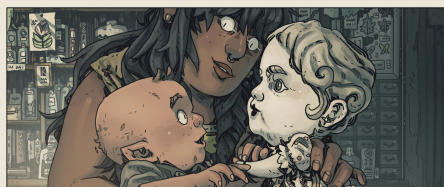
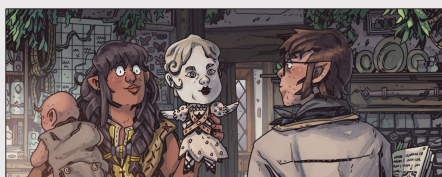
Will provided two cover sketches to choose from, complete with rough color (*top*). The chosen sketch communicates Veth's story very well, even at a glance. He ultimately combined the two sketches by adding Nott's mask to the final line art, which was a happy medium. Cover colorist Mildred Louis then provided three color palette options based on Will's color rough (*bottom*).



A selection of Will's preliminary layouts. The amazing way he layers the layouts with both blue and black lines makes it easy to visually comprehend foregrounds and backgrounds, characters, props, and other important details.



Eren's preliminary color tests came in multiple stages: flat colors to establish the overall palette (*top left, middle left*), full rendering (*top right, middle right*), and final tweaks to hair and skin tones (*bottom left and center*).



Color tests were also required for Veth's flashbacks, since they needed to appear visually distinct from the other pages. Eren provided several versions to choose from, including traditional sepia tones, cool blues, and a sickly green.

CRITICAL ROLE THE MIGHTY NEIN ORIGINS™



◆ WHEN YOU BECOME THAT WHICH YOU FEAR MOST, ◆
HOW DO YOU CARRY ON?

Veth Brenatto doesn't have an exciting life, but she likes it that way. Unlike her childhood, it's safe. Predictable. And her husband and son love her almost as fiercely as she loves them. But Veth's cozy existence is turned on its head when she and her family are captured by raiders. In order to save them, Veth will commit an atrocity that will sever her from all that she loves—maybe forever—and lead her to become Nott the Brave of the Mighty Nein.

Celebrated writer Sam Maggs (*Captain Marvel*, *The Unstoppable Wasp*) is joined by Critical Role cast members Matthew Mercer and Sam Riegel, with the expert art of William Kirkby (*Rat Queens*), colors by Eren Angiolini (*Agents of the Realm*), and letters by Ariana Maher for a heartbreaking look at a halfling's end and a goblin's beginning.



Comics & Graphic Novels / Media Tie-In
DarkHorse.com CritRole.com