

An Ignorance of *Romance*

Kai Carter &
Kelci D Crawford



THE FOLLOWING IS A WEBCOMIC BEGUN IN EARNEST BUT
ENDED FAR TOO PREMATURELY, FOR REASONS THAT WILL BE ELABORATED
ON IN A LETTER AT THE END OF THE DOCUMENT.

WRITTEN BY KAI CARTER, DRAWN BY KELCI D CRAWFORD.

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CHAPTER 2

PENCILS AND SKETCHES OF PAGES

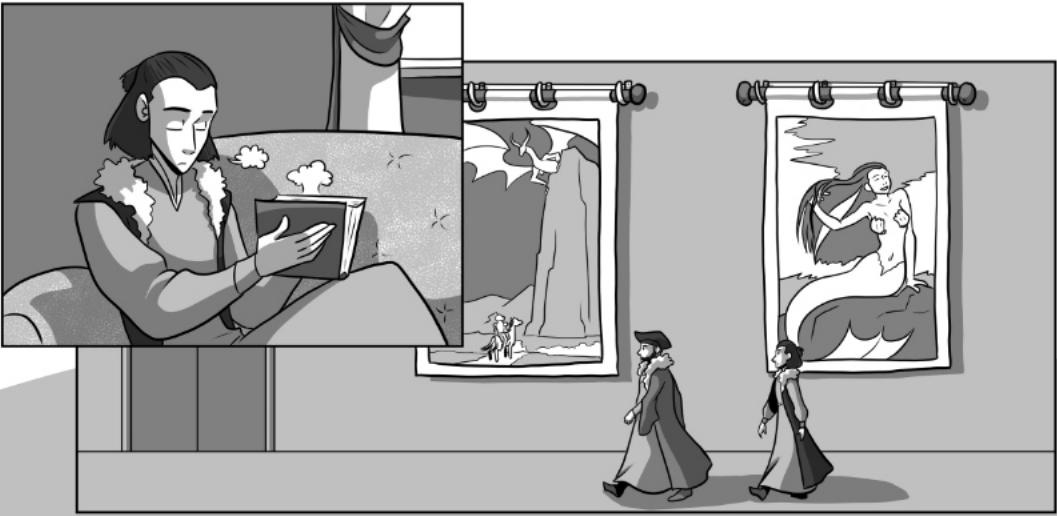
THUMBNAILS

ORIGINAL CONCEPT SKETCHES AND NOTES

LETTER OF CANCELLATION

LIAN, ACCOMPANY
ME TO MY STUDY.









YES, A QUEST.

THE LAST
THREE GENERATIONS
OF HEIRS TO THIS
DUKEDOM HAVE
COMPLETED QUESTS
BEFORE THEY
INHERITED.



I COMPLETED
ONE WHEN I WAS
ONLY 18.



YES, BUT
SURELY AN
EXCEPTION
COULD BE
MADE?

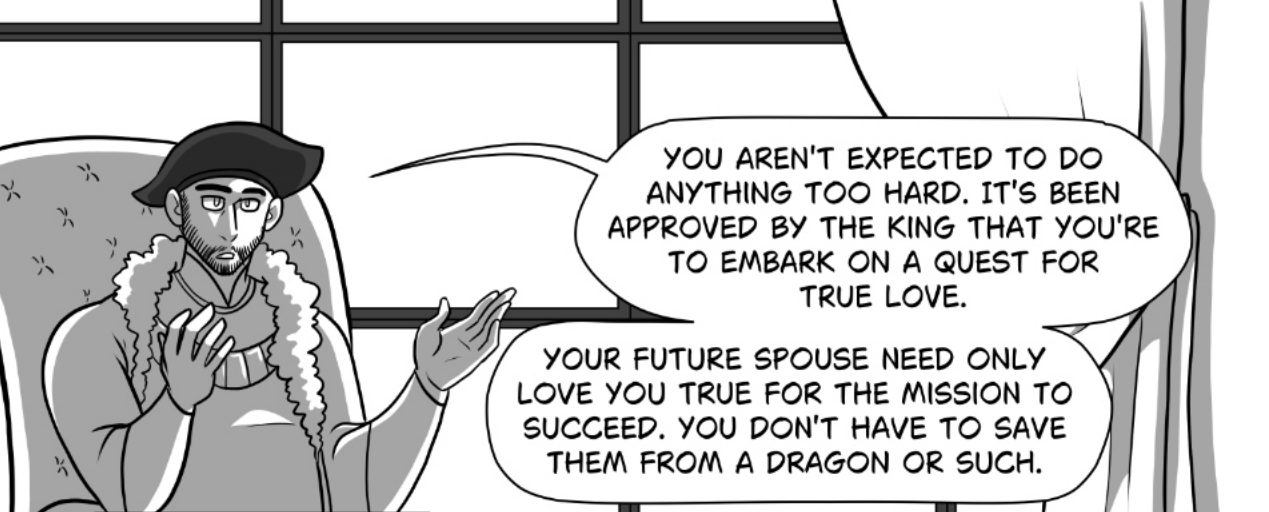


YOUR HEALTH
HAS MUCH IMPROVED
OVER THE YEARS.

AT 21 YOU ARE
MORE THAN READY.



I AM NOT A YOUNG MAN. IT IS TIME
YOU STARTED TO PREPARE FOR ONE
DAY TAKING OVER MANAGEMENT
OF THIS ESTATE.



YOU AREN'T EXPECTED TO DO ANYTHING TOO HARD. IT'S BEEN APPROVED BY THE KING THAT YOU'RE TO EMBARK ON A QUEST FOR TRUE LOVE.

YOUR FUTURE SPOUSE NEED ONLY LOVE YOU TRUE FOR THE MISSION TO SUCCEED. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAVE THEM FROM A DRAGON OR SUCH.



WELL THAT SOUNDS...EASIER, I GUESS?



WHAT HAPPENS IF I UM...FAIL? IS THERE A TIME LIMIT?

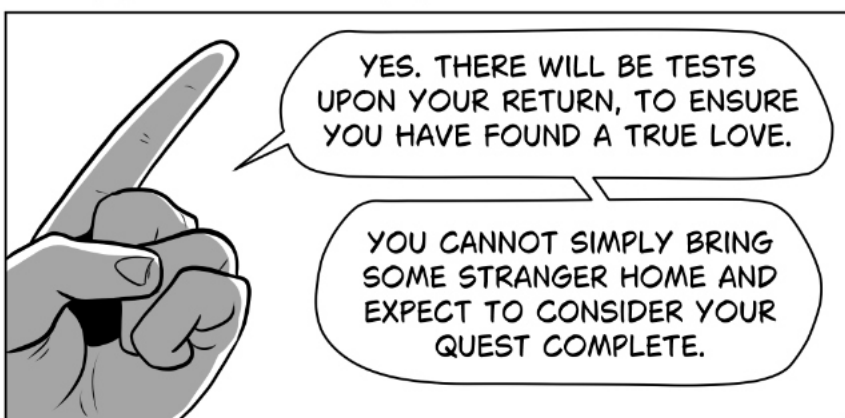


THERE IS NO SET DEADLINE...

...AND IF THE LOVE IS DEEMED UNTRUE YOU CAN TRY AGAIN WITH ANOTHER.

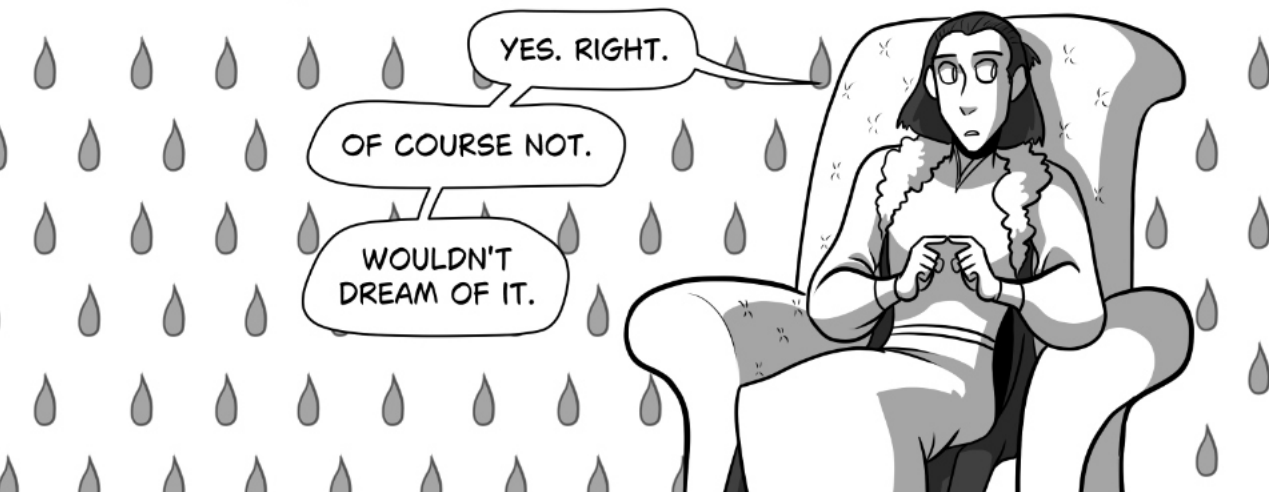


"DEEMED UNTRUE?"



YES. THERE WILL BE TESTS UPON YOUR RETURN, TO ENSURE YOU HAVE FOUND A TRUE LOVE.

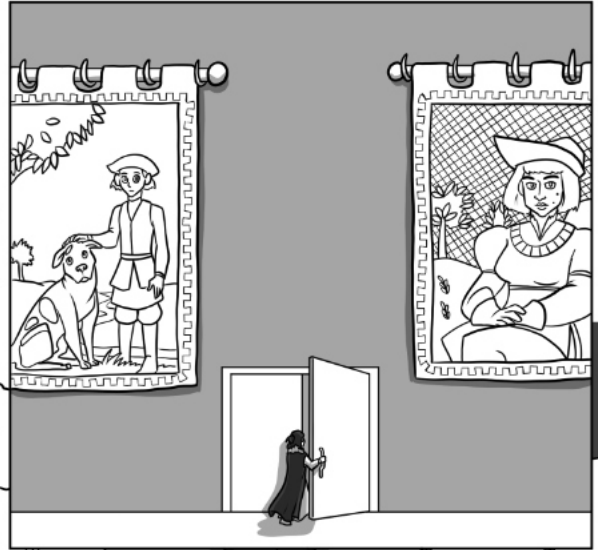
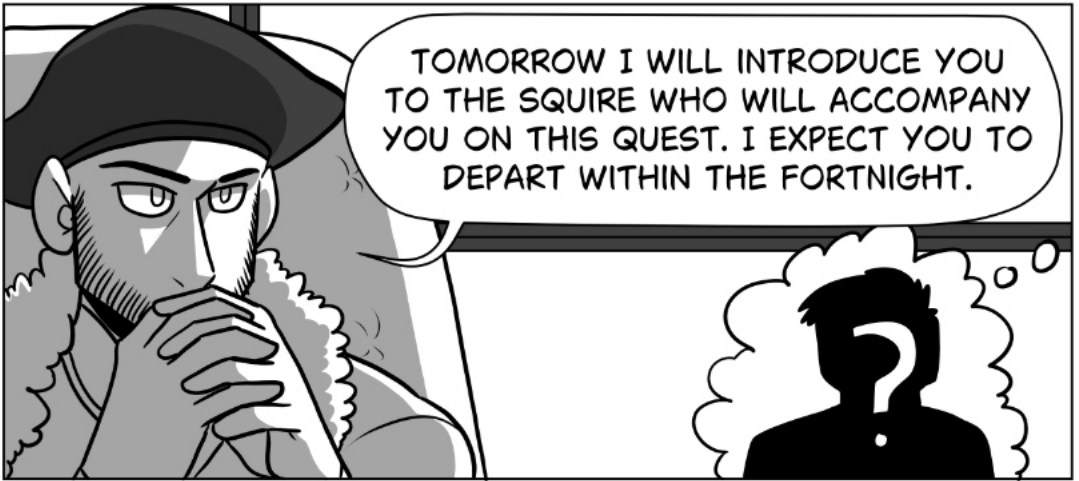
YOU CANNOT SIMPLY BRING SOME STRANGER HOME AND EXPECT TO CONSIDER YOUR QUEST COMPLETE.



YES. RIGHT.

OF COURSE NOT.

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.





SOMETHING
WRONG, DEAR
BROTHER?



THEY EXPECT ME TO
COMPLETE A QUEST.



LIKE A 'YOU'RE
ABOUT TO DIE'
KIND OF QUEST?



...MAYBE?



I'M GOING TO
NEED A LITTLE MORE
DETAIL THAN THAT!

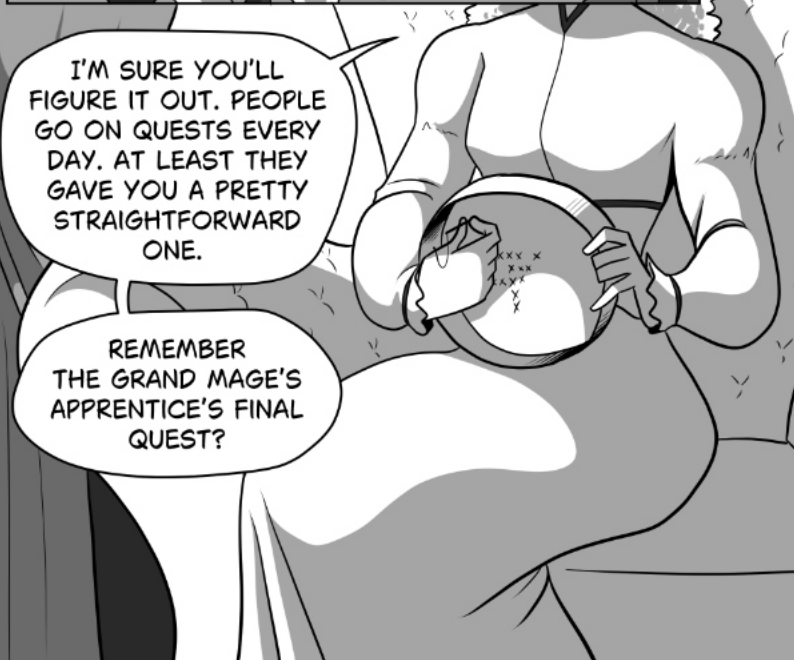
HE SAID IT'S A LOVE
QUEST AND THEY'RE SENDING
A SQUIRE WITH ME, -

- I GUESS TO KIND
OF GIVE ME SOME
PROTECTION?



SO I PROBABLY
WON'T DIE...RIGHT?







I THINK IF THEY
HAD ASKED ME TO
DO ANYTHING HARDER
THAN THIS...

I WOULD HAVE JUST
TOLD HIM TO GIVE THE
WHOLE PLACE TO
YOU AND...

I DUNNO, GONE OFF
TO LIVE IN THE WOODS
OR SOMETHING.



YOU WOULDN'T
LAST A WEEK IN
THE WOODS BY
YOURSELF.

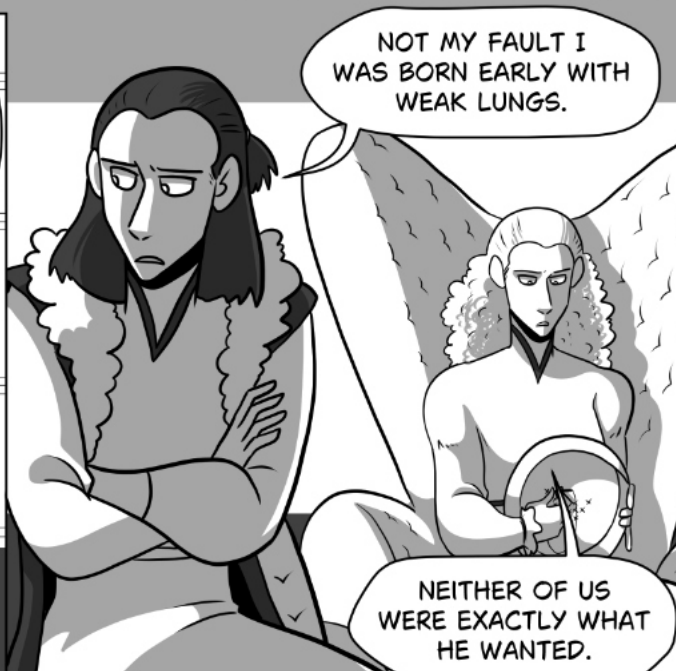


YEAH, BUT I COULDN'T SLAY A
GREAT BEAST OR CURE A GREAT
EVIL IN THE LAND EITHER.

I THINK I'VE HEARD OF A
RESEARCH QUEST BEFORE. I'M
SURPRISED FATHER DIDN'T SUGGEST
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



PROBABLY HE JUST
WANTS TO FORCE YOU TO
BE MORE ACTIVE AND LIKE
HIM. IT DID ALWAYS IRRITATE
HIM THAT YOU WEREN'T A
BIG, STRAPPING LAD.



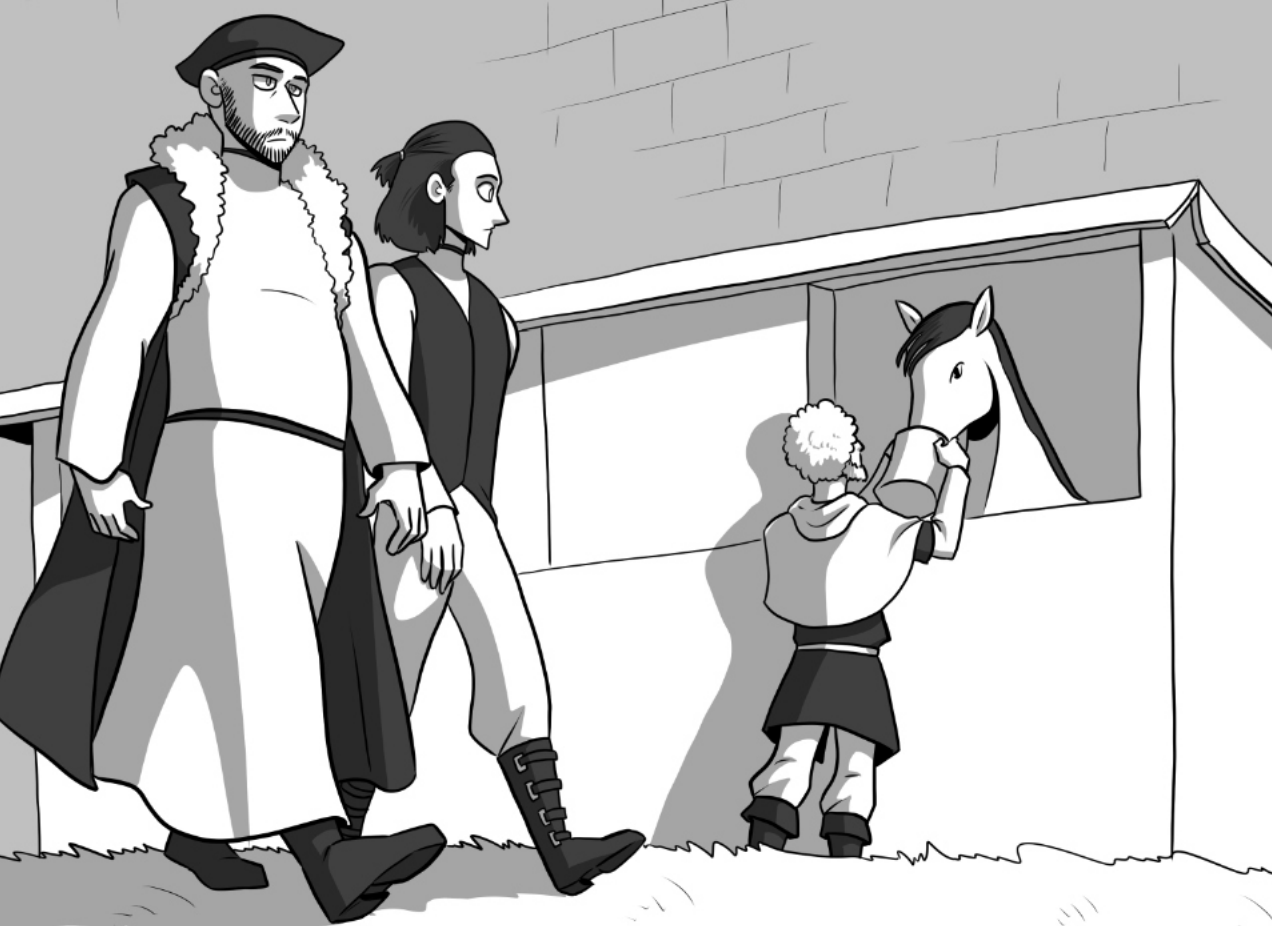
NOT MY FAULT I
WAS BORN EARLY WITH
WEAK LUNGS.



NEITHER OF US
WERE EXACTLY WHAT
HE WANTED.



An Ignorance of *Romance*



Chapter 2





THIS IS THE SQUIRE THAT WILL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU ON YOUR QUEST-

STEWART!

YES. YOU KNOW ONE ANOTHER?

YES, YOU REMEMBER FATHER, HE AND JESSA WERE MARRIED LAST YEAR.

AH. YES, YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.

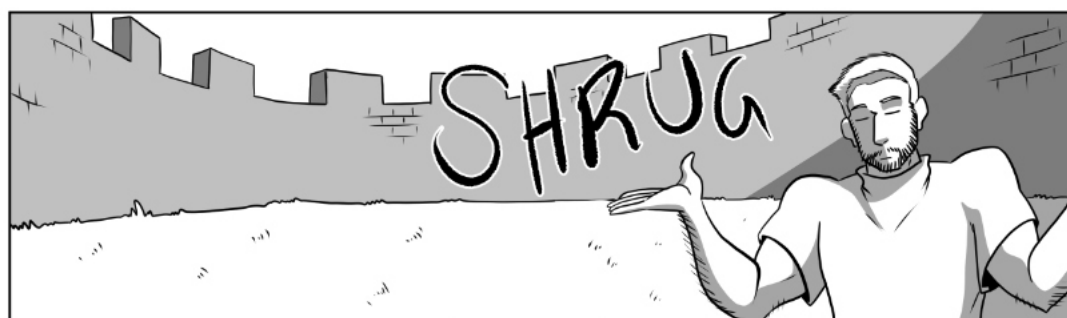
FATHER, SHE IS MARRIED WITH A CHILD. I THINK YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STOP CALLING HER MY 'LITTLE FRIEND' AT THIS POINT.

ANYWAY, I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. I KNOW WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER YET, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE WHEN I VISIT JESSA YOU ARE ALL OVER THE SQUIRE THINGS OR TENDING THE HORSES, BUT IT'S GOOD TO BE FRIENDLY FACE ALONG WITH ON THIS QUEST

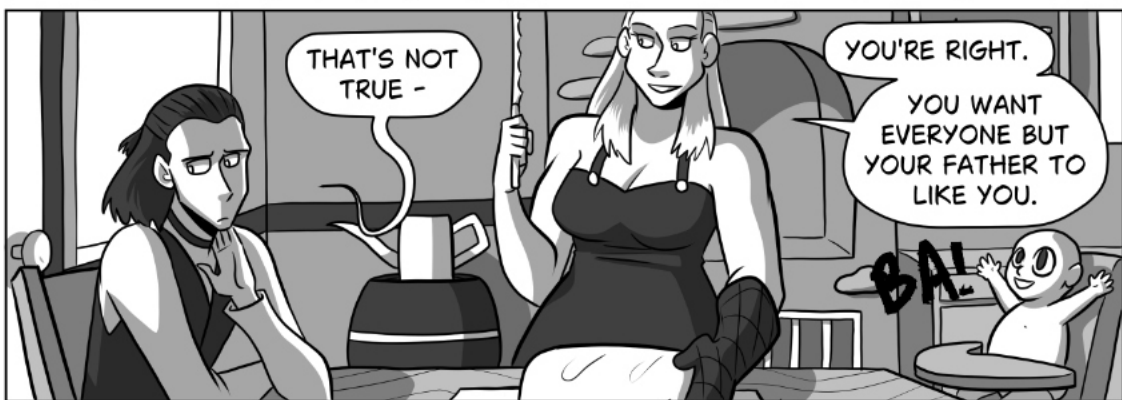
YEP.



WELL I'LL BE HEADED BACK TO THE HOUSE NOW.

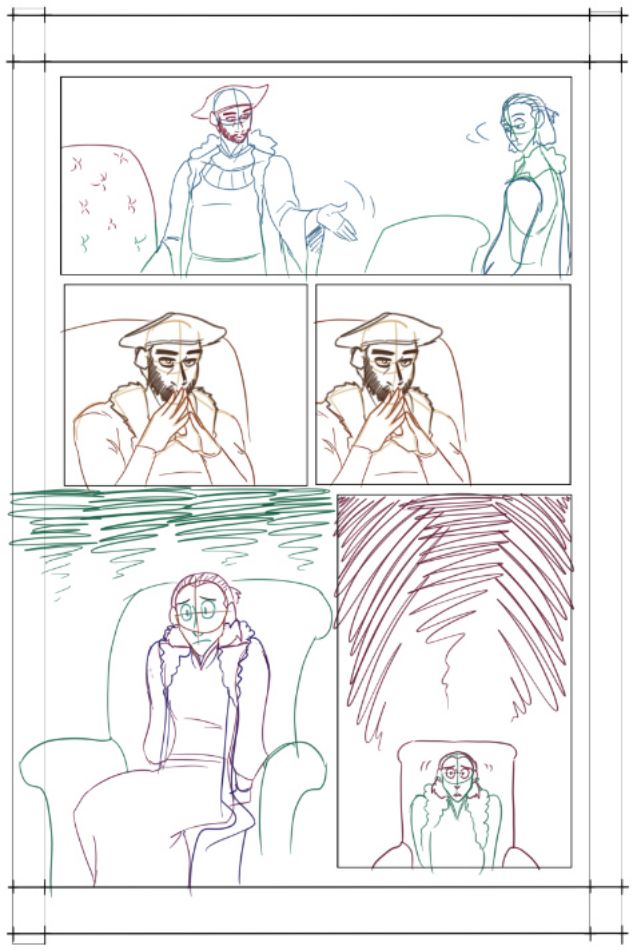
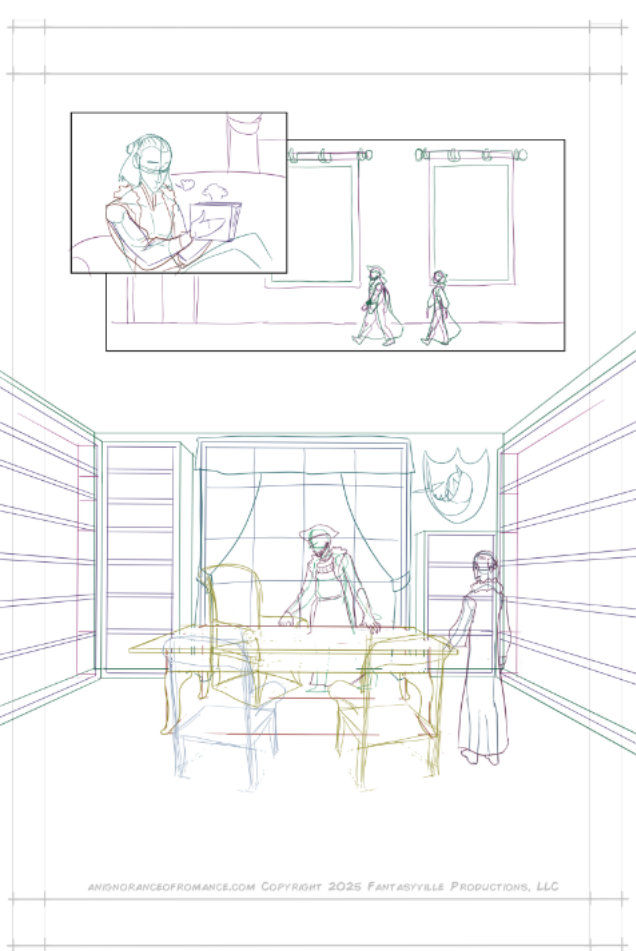
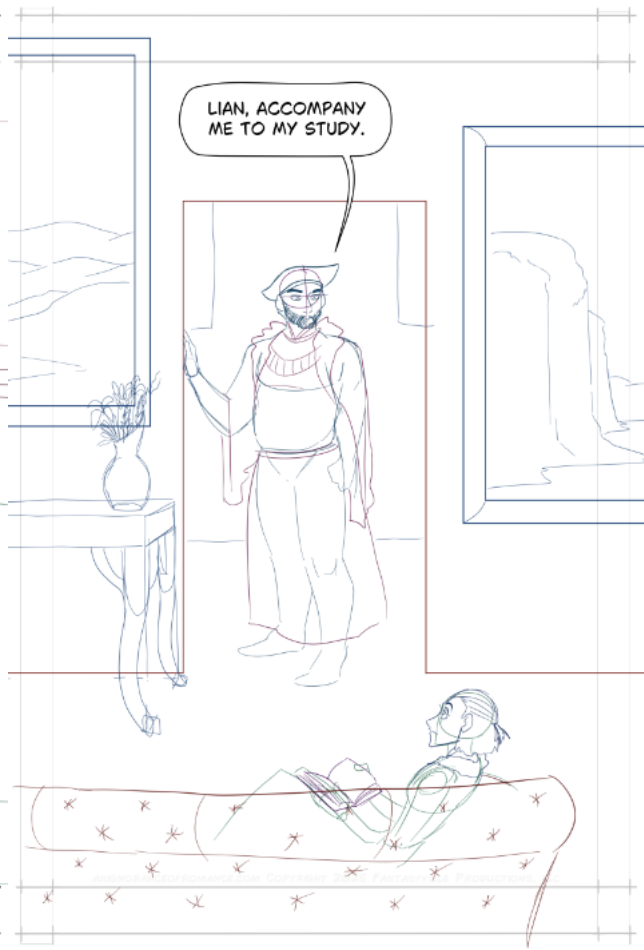
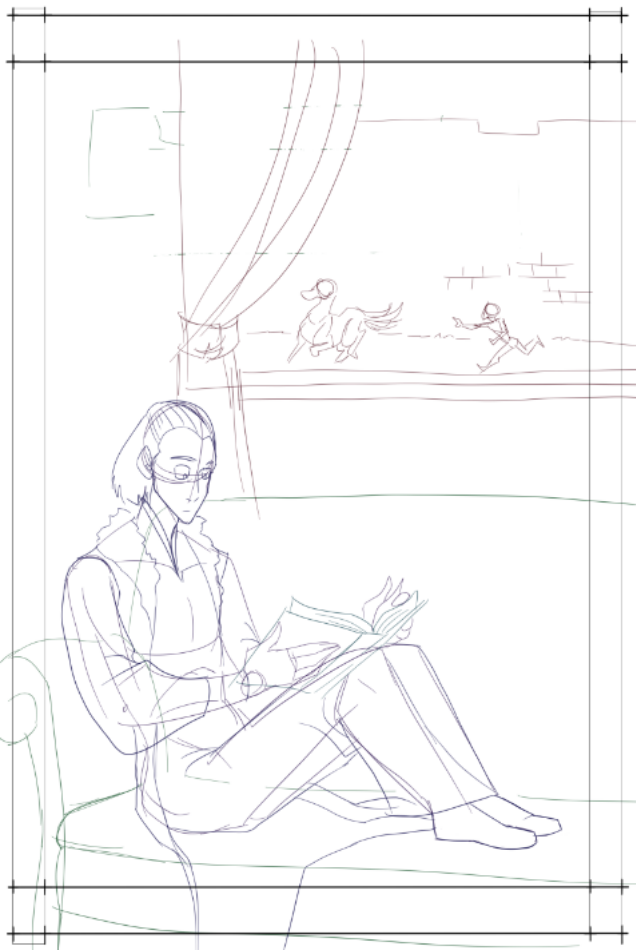






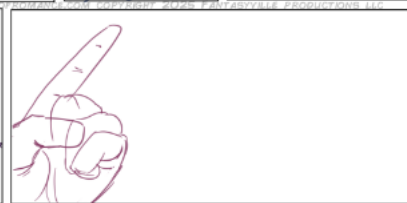
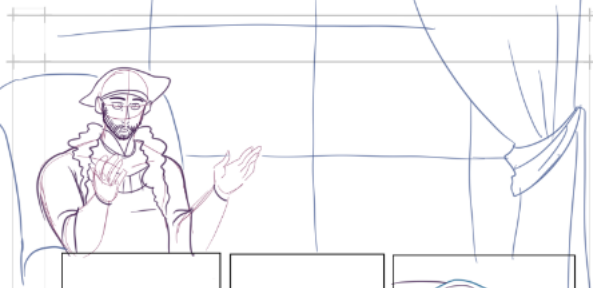




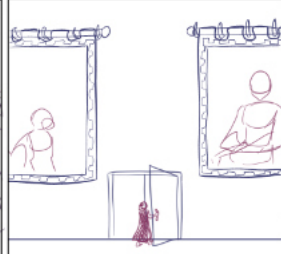




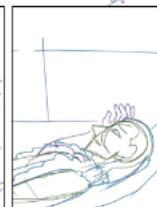
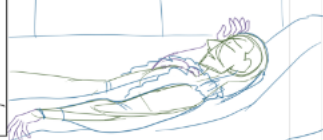
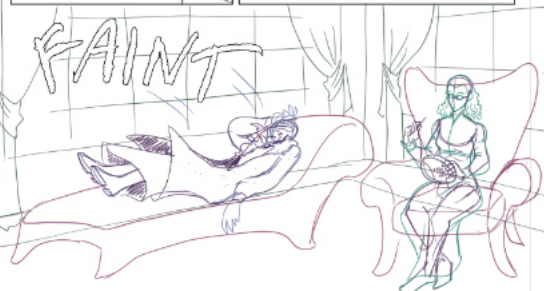
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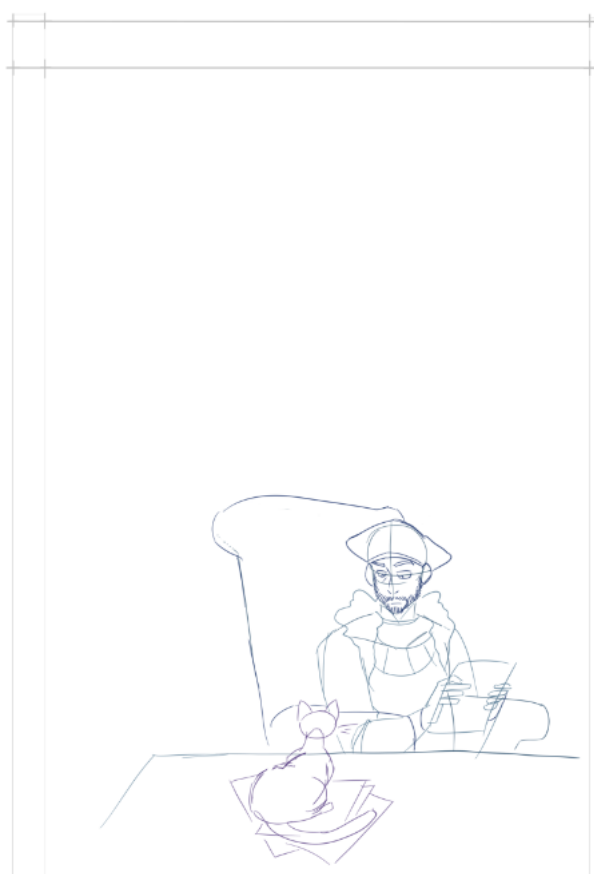
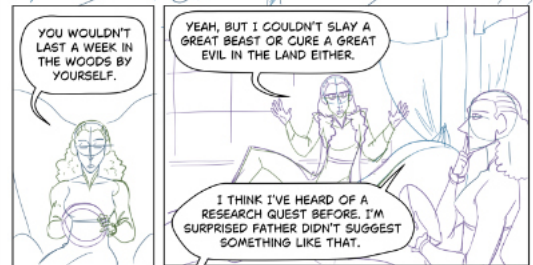
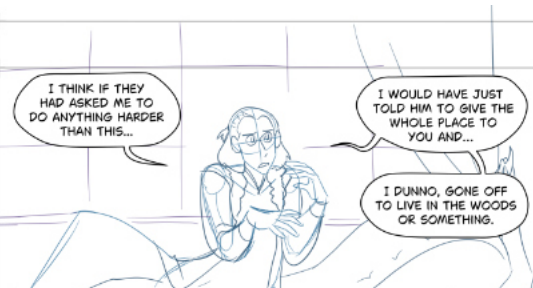
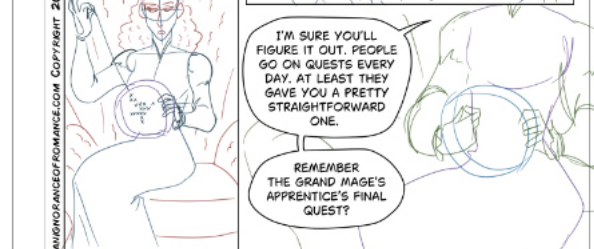
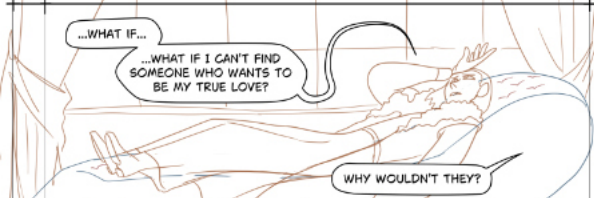
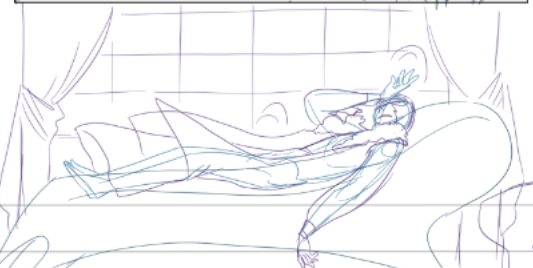
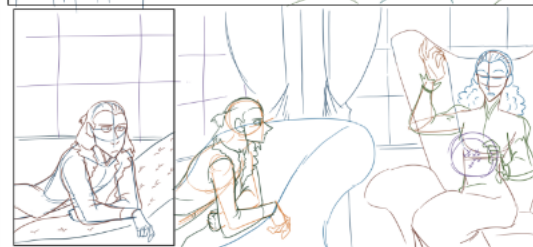
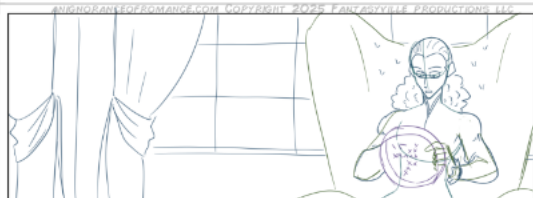
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FAINT



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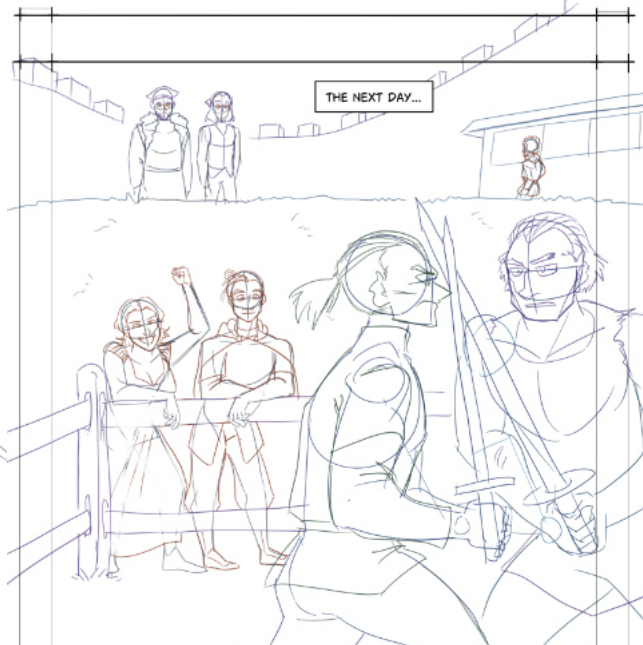


An Ignorance of Romance



Chapter 2

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THE NEXT DAY...



BE NICE.

I'M ALWAYS NICE.

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THIS IS THE SQUIRE THAT WILL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU ON YOUR QUEST-

STEWART!

YES, YOU KNOW ONE ANOTHER?

YES, YOU REMEMBER FATHER, HE AND JESSA WERE MARRIED LAST YEAR.

AH, YES, YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.

FATHER, SHE IS MARRIED WITH A CHILD. I THINK YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STOP CALLING HER MY 'LITTLE FRIEND' AT THIS POINT.

ANYWAY, I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. I KNOW WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER YET, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE WHEN I VISIT JESSA YOU ARE BUSY WITH SQUIRE THINGS OR TENDING YOUR HORSES, BUT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A FRIENDLY FACE ALONG WITH ME ON THIS QUEST.

YEP.

WELL I'LL BE HEADED BACK TO THE HOUSE NOW.



I THINK I'LL GO SAY GOODBYE TO JESSA, PROBABLY WON'T SEE HER AGAIN BEFORE WE LEAVE.

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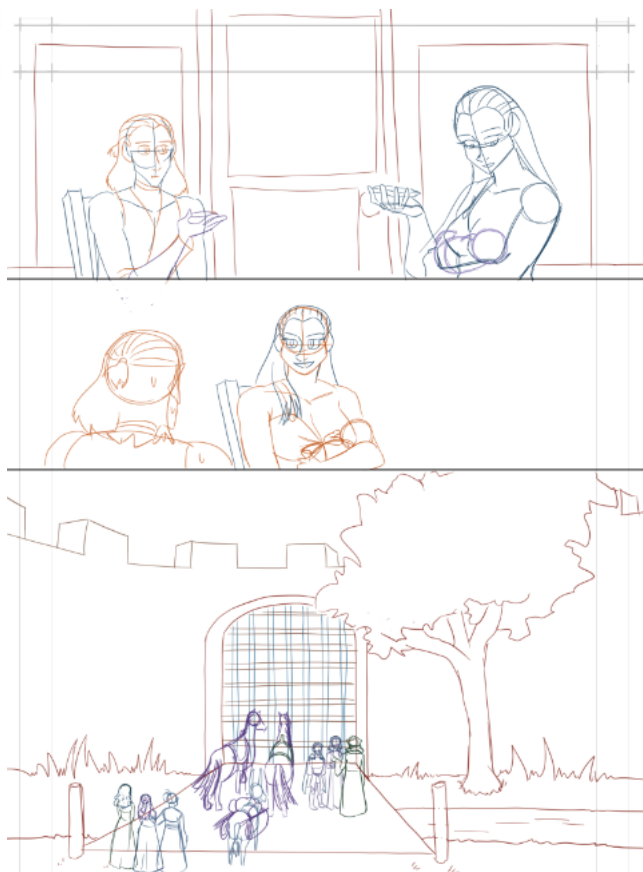
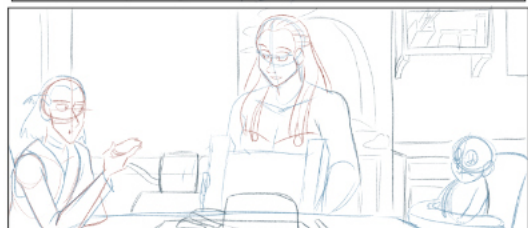
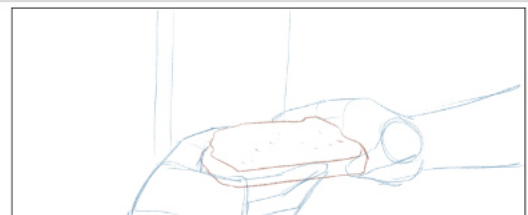
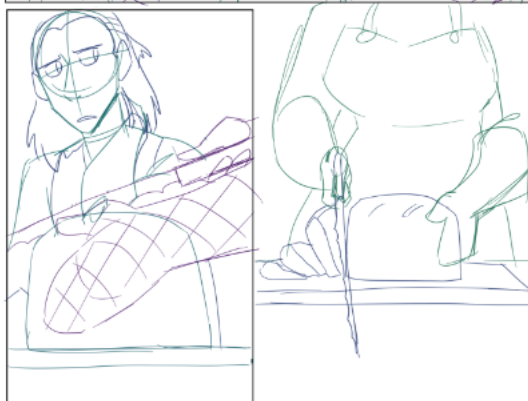
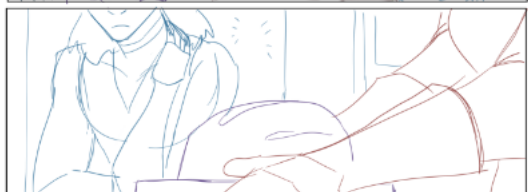
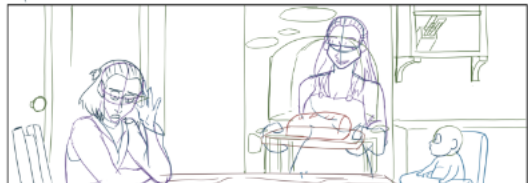
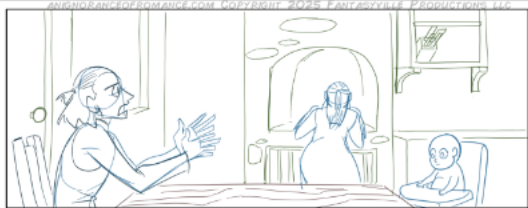


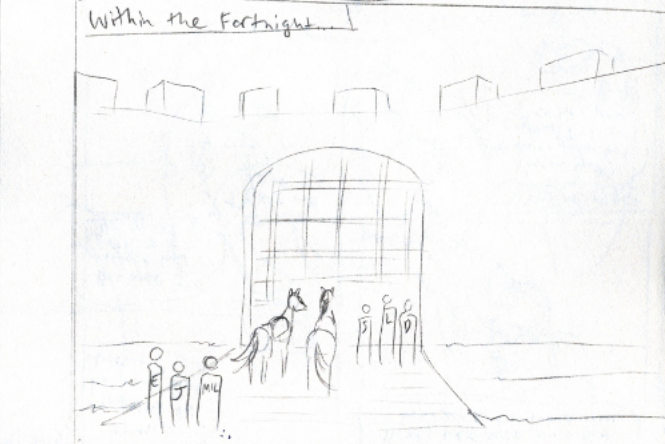
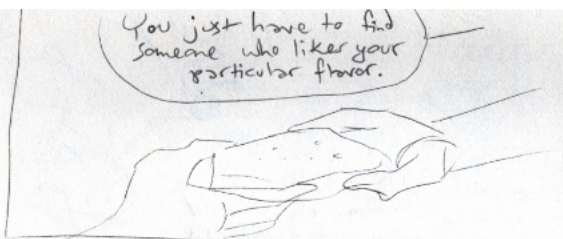
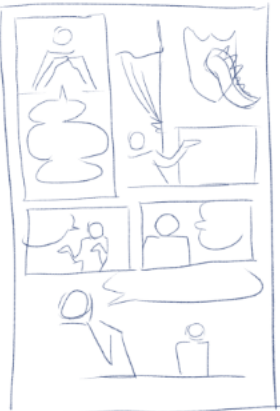
SHRUG

AT JESSA'S HOUSE...



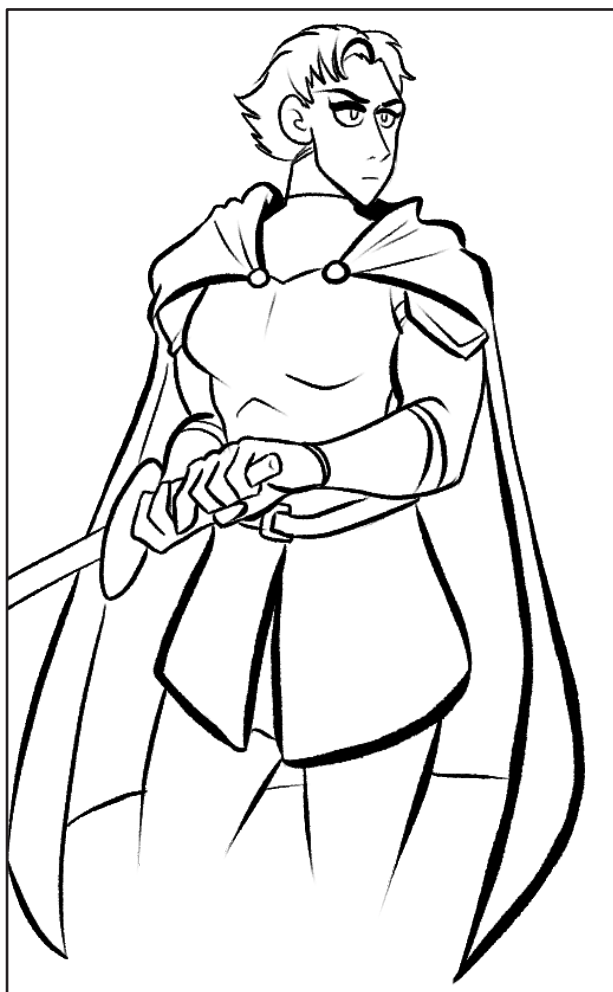
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An Ignorance of *Romance*

A Webcomic In the Making



HI! KELCI HERE. I'M THE ARTIST BEHIND THE UPCOMING AN IGNORANCE OF ROMANCE: ADVENTURES IN WOOING. THE WEBCOMIC WILL BE WRITTEN BY KAI, MY YOUNGER SIBLING AND MY OLD CO-CREATOR OF THE WEBCOMIC SEEING HIM.

ABOUT TEN YEARS AFTER WRAPPING UP SEEING HIM, WE'RE COMING BACK TOGETHER TO CREATE THIS WEBCOMIC - ABOUT AN EFFEMINATE AND UNFORTUNATELY HETEROSEXUAL YOUNG MAN NAMED LIAN, TASKED BY HIS FATHER, THE DUKE, TO GO ON A QUEST AND FIND TRUE LOVE™. AS HE STARTS HIS JOURNEY WITH HIS SQUIRE, STEWART, THE TWO ENCOUNTER AMBER, A LADY KNIGHT SEARCHING FOR HER LOST HUSBAND.

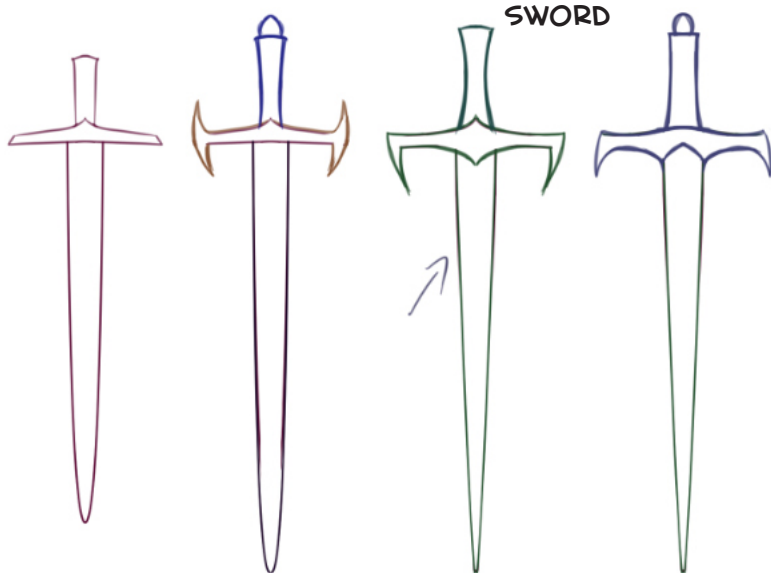


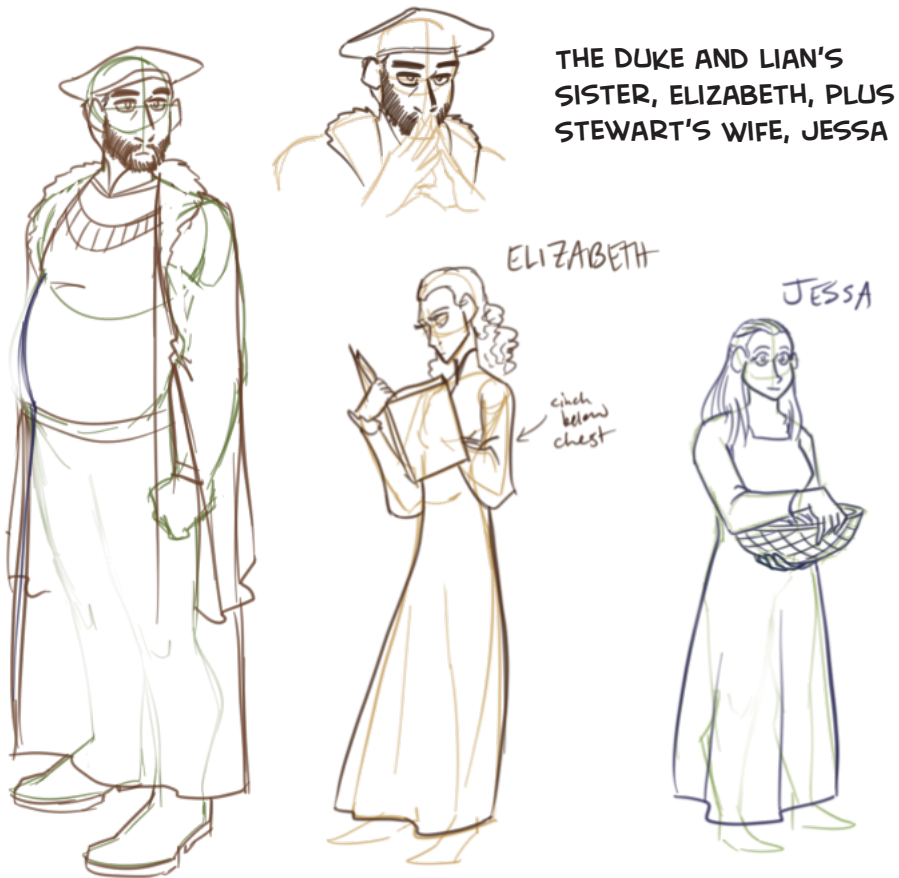
HERE IS LIAN
INKED IN,
WITH SKETCHES
OF AMBER



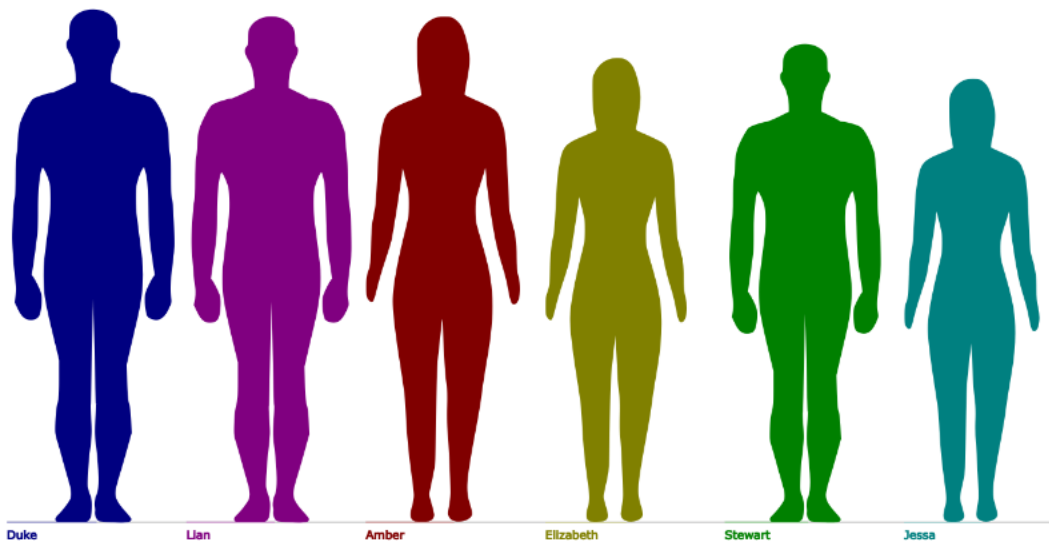


EARLY CONCEPTS OF
LIAN, PLUS STEWART
THE SQUIRE (ABOVE) AND
CONCEPTS FOR AMBER'S
SWORD





HEIGHT CHART OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS
(GENERATED COURTESY OF TINYURL.COM/COMPHEIGHT)





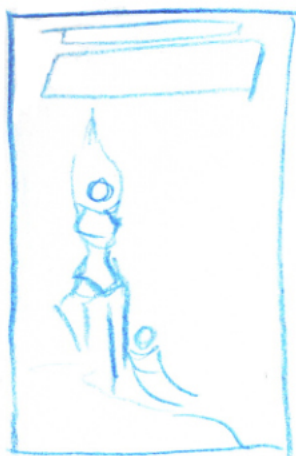
4/7/25



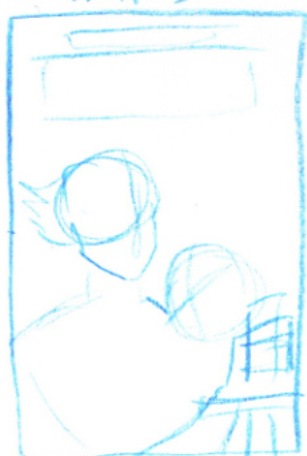
THE WORLD OF AN IGNORANCE
OF ROMANCE IS INSPIRED BY
THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD,
INCLUDING THE CRITTERS OFTEN
DRAWN IN THE MARGINALIA
OF ILLUSTRATED MANUSCRIPTS.

INSPIRED BY THESE CRITTERS,
KAI AND I CAME UP WITH
THE IDEA THAT THE CREATURES
IN THE WORLD OF THE COMIC
SHOULD LOOK LIKE THESE
CRITTERS.

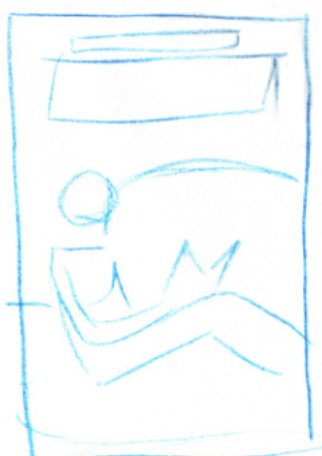
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE FIRST FEW PAGES OF
THE COMIC - THE HALIPHANT WILL MAKE A SUBTLE CAMEO.



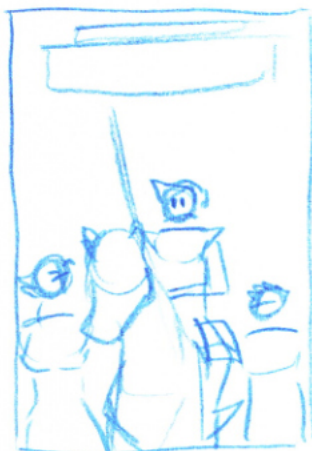
18r



18r



ch. 1 cover



MORE
HYDRO +
STEAM
POWER,
PERIOD!

WHEN COMING UP
WITH CONCEPT
ART FOR THE COVERS,
I DOODLED THESE
IDEAS.

KAI AND I ALSO
AGREED THAT THE
BOTTOM TWO
PANELS SHOULD
MAKE IT INTO THE
STORY LATER ON.



WE ALSO CAME UP
WITH THE IDEA OF
TOADS MAKING
RECURRING GAG
APPEARANCES.

SO KEEP AN EYE
OUT FOR THESE
BELCHES OF NATURE.

I HAVE TO CANCEL AN IGNORANCE OF ROMANCE. HERE'S WHY.

SO THERE'S A LONG FAMILY HISTORY OF ME BEING TASKED WITH TAKING CARE OF KAI. BECAUSE KAI HAS BOTH BORDERLINE PERSONALITY AND ADHD. IF THEY'RE NOT HYPER-FOCUSING ON HOW EVIL THEY BELIEVE SOMEONE TO BE (EVEN IF IT'S A RELATIVE), THEY'RE MAKING DECISIONS THAT JEOPARDIZE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF NOT JUST THEMSELVES, BUT OTHERS AROUND THEM. IT GOT BAD ENOUGH THAT I GOT CUSTODY OF THE CAT THEY ADOPTED SHORTLY AFTER BREEBREE PASSED AWAY IN MARCH/APRIL.

YES, I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A CAT AFTER LOSING MY BELOVED PET OF NEARLY 19 YEARS, BECAUSE KAI COULD NOT STOP THEIR IMPULSE OF TAKING A CAT FROM THEIR "FRIEND." (TO BE CLEAR, THIS CAT WAS STOLEN FROM THEIR "FRIEND" AND FORMER ROOMMATE. AND THIS CAT WASN'T EVEN THEIR FIRST PICK, BUT THEIR SECOND. THE STORY THEY TOLD ME WAS THEY WERE "SAVING THE CAT FROM THE DOGS PICKING ON HER.")

ON TOP OF THAT, HEAVEN FORBID THAT I HAD FRIENDS I HAD KNOWN FOR YEARS OVER FOR A GAME NIGHT, BUT IT WAS PERFECTLY OK FOR THEM TO BRING SOMEONE WHOM THEY MET ON HINGE AND HAVE HIM SPEND THE NIGHT? AND THEN THE NEXT MORNING IT'S REVEALED TO ME THAT HE NOT ONLY BROKE MY SLIDING GLASS DOOR, BUT THAT HE HAD A HISTORY OF WORKPLACE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?!

IT CAME TO A HEAD WHEN I WENT TO HOUSE SIT FOR A FRIEND OF MINE AND I TASKED KAI WITH BABYSITTING THE (STOLEN) CAT WHILE I WAS AWAY FOR 5 DAYS. WHEN I CAME BACK, I CAME BACK TO: A LITTER BOX THAT HAD NOT BEEN CLEANED SINCE I LEFT, FOOD DISH EMPTY, WATER FOUNTAIN EMPTY, PLANTS DYING (ONE ACTUALLY DIED), AND THE CAT HIDING. IT WAS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT KAI HAD NOT BEEN THERE FOR ANY OF THE 5 DAYS I WAS GONE.

THIS WAS THE LAST IN A LONG LINE OF A LIFETIME OF SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY. BECAUSE IT WAS ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT I WOULD CLEAN UP AFTER THEM.

WELL, NOT ANYMORE. I MADE THEM MOVE OUT. AND I PUT THE CAT IN FOSTER CARE. I HAD TO HAVE THE POLICE PRESENT TO ACT AS PEACE-KEEPERS THE DAY THEY MOVED OUT, BUT THEY'RE OUT. NORMALLY I DON'T WANT POLICE BECAUSE ACAB. BUT MY HAND WAS FORCED. I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK VIOLENCE ON MYSELF FROM KAI OR THEIR BOYFRIEND.

NOW COMES THE REBUILDING OF EVERYTHING NOW THAT KAI HAS LEFT. FOR SAFETY REASONS, I'M NOT DISCLOSING THE CAT'S LOCATION. BUT THE CAT AND I ARE SAFE.

ONCE KAI LEFT, I TRIED BRINGING BACK THE STORY TO BRING IT TO SOME KIND OF CONCLUSION, BECAUSE THIS COMIC HAD BEEN CROWDFUNDED ON CROWDFUNDR. I FELT AN OBLIGATION TO REACH THE FINISH LINE FOR THE READERS. UNFORTUNATELY, ONCE I RESUMED UPDATES (ON CHAPTER 2, PAGE 17), THE IGNORANCE OF ROMANCE WEBCOMIC SITE WAS INUNDATED WITH HATEMAIL AND COMMENTS FROM KAI. TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT I BLOCKED THEIR IP ADDRESS AND EMAIL FROM ALL OF MY WEBSITES AND I TOOK THE IGNORANCE OF ROMANCE WEBSITE DOWN.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS, IS AN ARCHIVE OF A FAILED WEBCOMIC PROJECT.

I AM SORRY I COULDN'T BRING THIS STORY TO A SATISFACTORY FINISH.

I AM NOT SORRY FOR BREAKING UP WITH THE COLLABORATOR ON THIS PROJECT TO PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS AROUND ME. EVEN IF - ESPECIALLY BECAUSE - THEY WERE MY SIBLING. GOOD SIBLINGS DO NOT TREAT THEIR SIBLINGS THE WAY THEY HAVE TREATED ME. (IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I AM MAKING THE LEGEND OF JAMIE ROBERTS, IS TO SHOW THAT SIBLINGS CAN BE THE WORST. CHOSEN FAMILY ABOVE SHITTY FAMILY.)

THANK YOU TO MY CHOSEN FAMILY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

SU
LYNN "ASHE" C
CHLOE
GARY
ALEX
LYNN I
BUFFI
THE FOLKS AT THE MAUMEE VALLEY UU CHURCH

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MY PATRONS ON KO-FI. I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.

SO WHAT NOW?

AN IGNORANCE OF ROMANCE WILL NOT COME BACK. IT'S DONE.

INSTEAD, I AM MAKING A NEW STORY FROM ITS ASHES. INSTEAD OF USING THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT, I AM MAKING MY OWN. WITH BETTER WOMEN CHARACTERS, A MORE INTERESTING ROMANTIC LEAD, AND ALL THE MAGIC I CAN POSSIBLY FIT INTO THE SETTING.

THE NEW STORY HAS THE WORKING TITLE:

"A VIKING MERCENARY'S GUIDE TO FALLING IN LOVE."

INGRID ONLIDOTTER IS A WOMAN AVOIDING HER WEDDING BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY - INCLUDING TAKING A NEW JOB FROM DUKE CHARLES. HIS TWIN CHILDREN NEED ESCORTING ACROSS THE CONTINENT, SO HIS DAUGHTER CAN BE MARRIED AND HIS SON CAN BECOME A MONK. BUT THE KIDS - AND INGRID - HAVE OTHER PLANS...