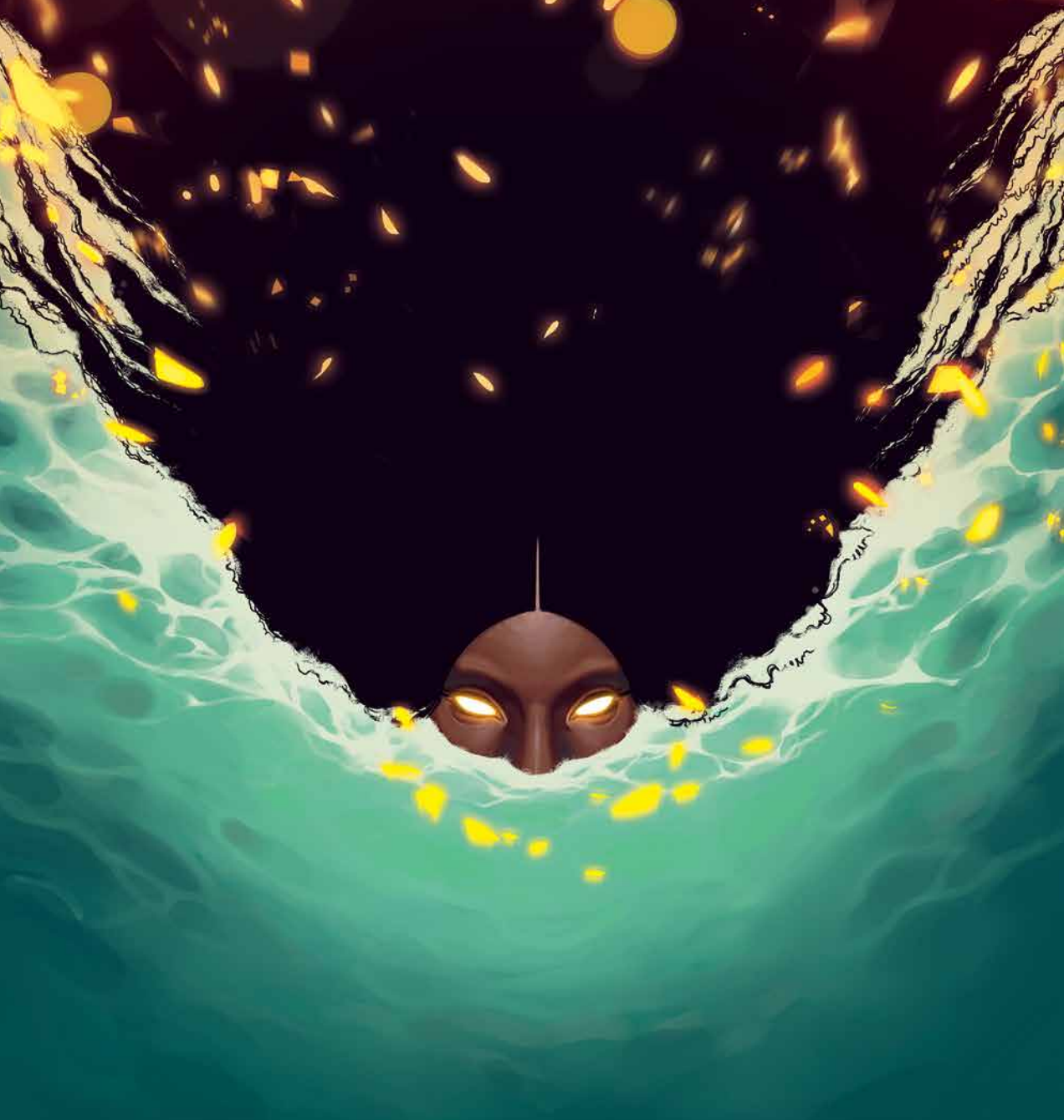


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MCCREERY • GLASS • NESTERENKO

#3

# THE LAST WITCH





# THE LAST WITCH™

CREATED BY CONOR McCREERY

ISSUE #3

## THE BURNING OF BALLYDOOLIN

*After defeating Black Annis with the power of her witchmark and learning of her village's destruction, Saoirse is blindsided again when Nan reveals her destiny. As she tests her powers, Saoirse discovers her affinity for fire, ensuring that the next witch she must face is the water witch, Bronagh...*

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WELCOME TO BALLYDOOLIN.



A LITTLE SPECK ON THE OCEAN. IT WOULDN'T MATTER AT ALL, EXCEPT FOR WHAT LIES BEYOND THE WALLS...



...BRONAGH'S BAILE.

THE HOME OF BRONAGH THE BEAUTIFUL--THE ELDEST OF MY SISTERS.



BRONAGH'S A WATER WITCH. SHE ONCE CALLED UPON THE OCEAN TO CARVE HER LIKENESS INTO THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF.

THE LOCALS TOOK TO CALLING IT "HAG'S HEAD."



WHAT DID BRONAGH DO?

"THERE USED TO BE ANOTHER VILLAGE CLOSER TO THE TOWER--LISCANNOR. BRONAGH WASHED IT AWAY INTO THE SEA.

"THERE'S A REASON HER NAME MEANS 'SORROW.'"





SO, SHE'S STRONG.

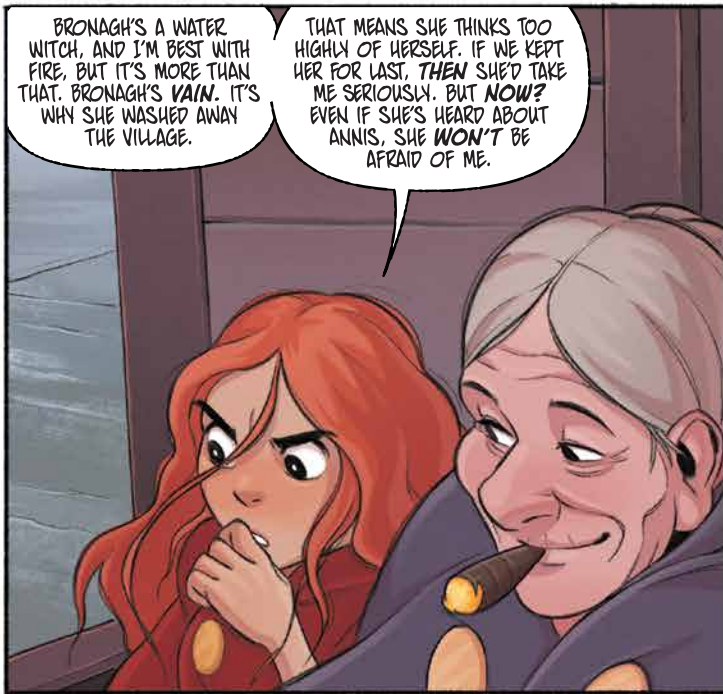
PERHAPS THE STRONGEST OF ALL THE SISTERS.

THEN WHY IS SAOIRSE FIGHTING HER NOW?



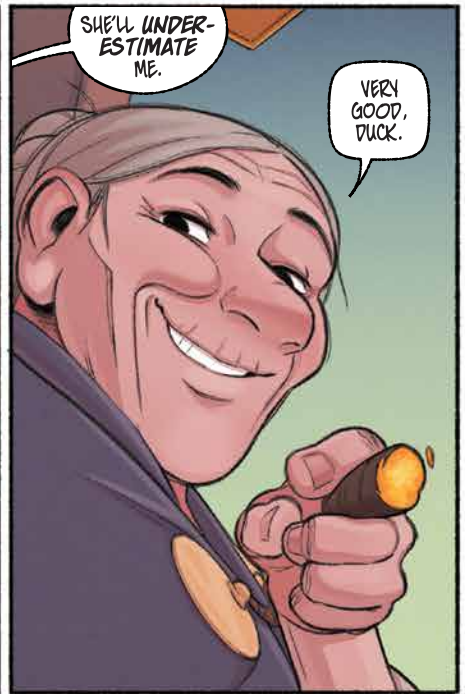
FIRE AND VANITY.

HUH?



BRONAGH'S A WATER WITCH, AND I'M BEST WITH FIRE, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT. BRONAGH'S VAIN. IT'S WHY SHE WASHED AWAY THE VILLAGE.

THAT MEANS SHE THINKS TOO HIGHLY OF HERSELF. IF WE KEPT HER FOR LAST, THEN SHE'D TAKE ME SERIOUSLY. BUT NOW? EVEN IF SHE'S HEARD ABOUT ANNIS, SHE WON'T BE AFRAID OF ME.



SHE'LL UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

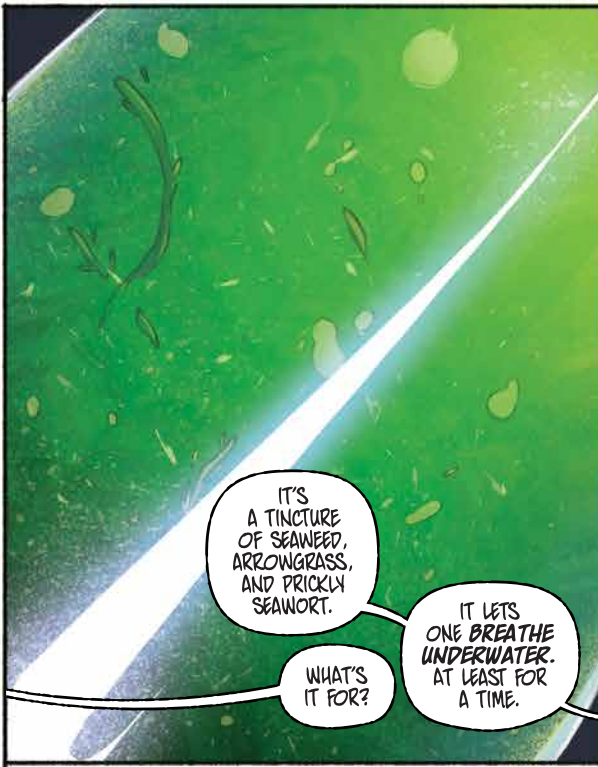
VERY GOOD, DUCK.



AND WE'LL HAVE A FEW MORE SURPRISES FOR HER.

LIKE THIS.

WHAT IS IT?



IT'S  
A TINCTURE  
OF SEAWEED,  
ARROWGRASS,  
AND PRICKLY  
SEAWORT.

WHAT'S  
IT FOR?

IT LETS  
ONE BREATHE  
UNDERWATER.  
AT LEAST FOR  
A TIME.



I CAN COME UPON HER  
THROUGH THE SEA. SHE'LL  
BE FOCUSED ON--

NO.



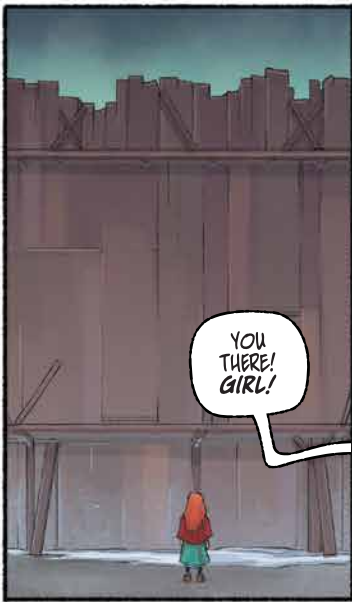
YOU CAN'T  
COME, NEITHER  
OF YOU CAN.

SAOIRSE--

I HAVE THE  
WITCHMARK. I'M  
PROTECTED FROM  
BRONAGH'S MAGIC.  
YOU AREN'T. BESIDES,  
SOMEONE NEEDS  
TO STAY WITH  
BRAHM.







YOU THERE!  
GIRL!



YER GOING UP THE HILL TO SEE HER, AREN'T YOU? TO FIGHT HER.

DON'T DENY IT. I HEARD YOU BEFORE. I SEE YOUR BATTLE MARK. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?



SHE DESTROYED A TOWN BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SAID IN JEST!

IF YOU TRY TO HURT HER, AFTER COMING OUT OF THE BALLYDOOLIN GATES? WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE'LL DO TO US?



WHAT'S YOUR DAUGHTER'S NAME?

NEVER YOU MIND THAT.

I HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER, BRAHM. HE'S THE SAME AGE AS YOUR DAUGHTER.

WE LOST OUR DA BECAUSE OF WITCHES.



I WON'T LET WHAT HAPPENED TO US HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE.

...  
CIARA.



HER NAME IS CIARA. PLEASE, DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT WILL SEE HER HURT.



YOUR DAUGHTER ISN'T THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SCARED.





ROOOOAAAAR







...YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO KILLED ANNIS?

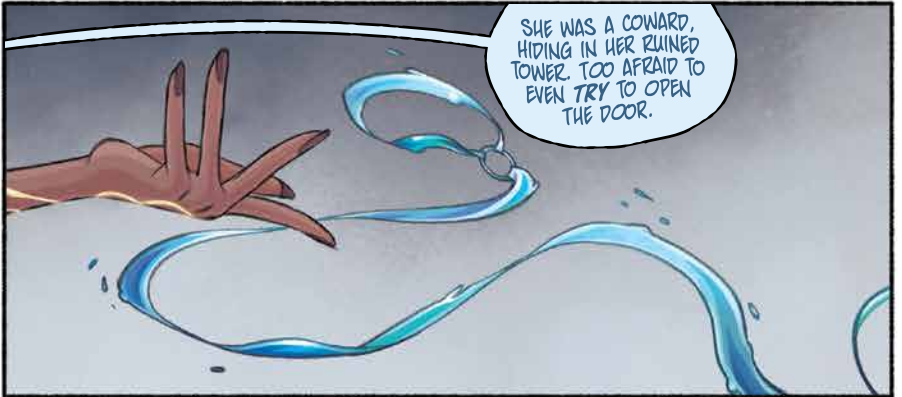
HM.



I GIVE YOU THIS CHANCE TO EMBRACE VIRTUE, BRONAGH. LEND YOUR POWERS TO MINE, SO THAT TOGETHER WE MAY STOP THE FAERIE KING.



AHAHAHA!  
YOU ARE BRAVE. NO WONDER YOU DEFEATED ANNIS.



SHE WAS A COWARD, HIDING IN HER RUINED TOWER. TOO AFRAID TO EVEN TRY TO OPEN THE DOOR.



I'LL HAVE TO ASK MY PETS IF BRAVE MEAT IS TASTIER THAN A COWARD'S.

SNARL



FWOOSH

SCREEEE!



FWOOSH

AWROOOO!



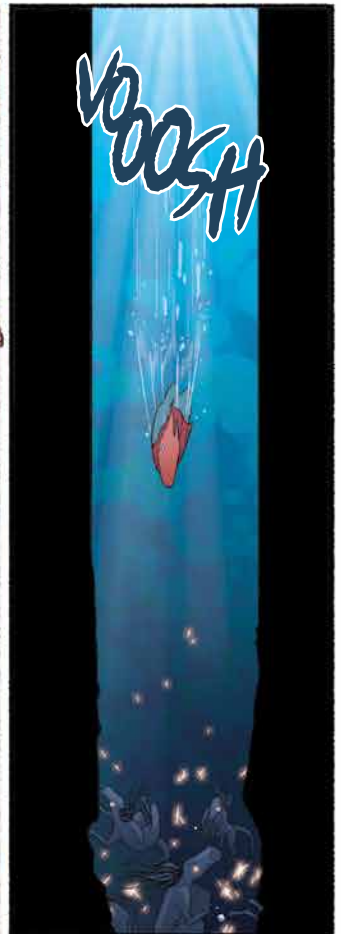
TEACH!



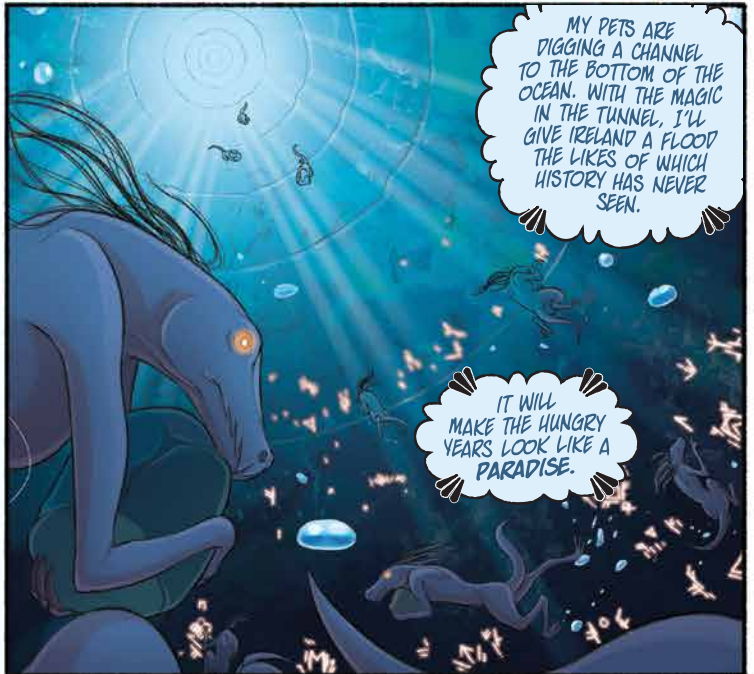
THAT DIDN'T  
WORK FOR  
YOUR SISTER,  
EITHER.











BUT NOT TODAY, CHILD.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN? THE PRESSURE THAT THOUSANDS OF TONS OF WATER PUTS UPON A BODY?

AFTER A MINUTE OR TWO, YOUR BONES CRACK. YOUR HEART BURSTS.

TRYING TO BOIL ME? I CAN ACTUALLY FEEL THE WARMTH. IMPRESSIVE.  
ONE DAY YOU COULD BE A GREAT THREAT.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW.

SOON, ALL OF IRELAND WILL FEEL IT TOO.

MY PETS ARE DIGGING A CHANNEL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN. WITH THE MAGIC IN THE TUNNEL, I'LL GIVE IRELAND A FLOOD THE LIKES OF WHICH HISTORY HAS NEVER SEEN.

IT WILL MAKE THE HUNGRY YEARS LOOK LIKE A PARADISE.



THE PEOPLE WILL DIE IN DROVES, AND I WILL HAVE THE POWER TO OPEN THE DOOR ALL BY MYSELF.

AND THEN I WILL BE THE ONE TO RULE BESIDE THE EATER OF THE WORLD.



EH?



MOVE.

TRYING TO BECOME A WATER WITCH? YOU ARE AMBITIOUS, GIRL.



BURY HER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.



MOVE!



SLASH



PLEASE, MOVE!



PLEASE!



"I WANT TO GO HELP SAOIRSE!"



SKRAASH

GRRRAHH!

HRRGHH!

OOF!

AG FAS!

SNARRL!

SKREEEEAK





GRRRR...



FWOOSH



GRRRR...



ARRROOO!



SMASH



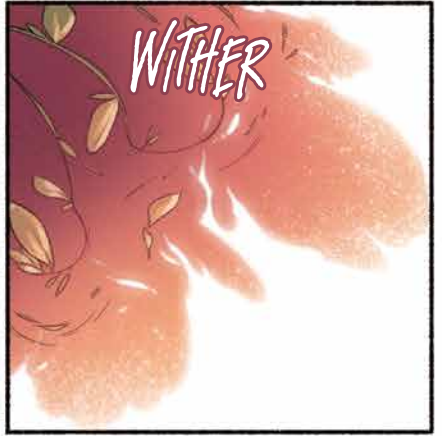
BRAHM!



STAY STILL,  
PET! I'M  
COMING!



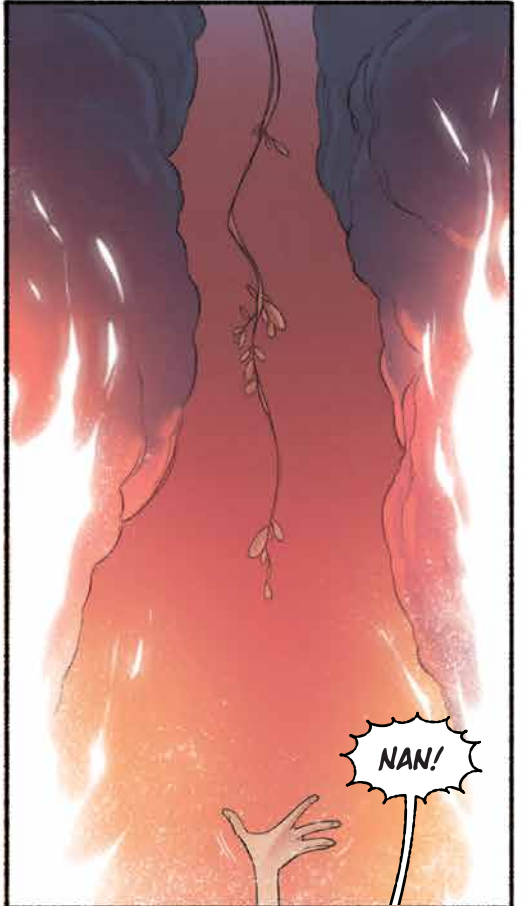
AG FÁS!



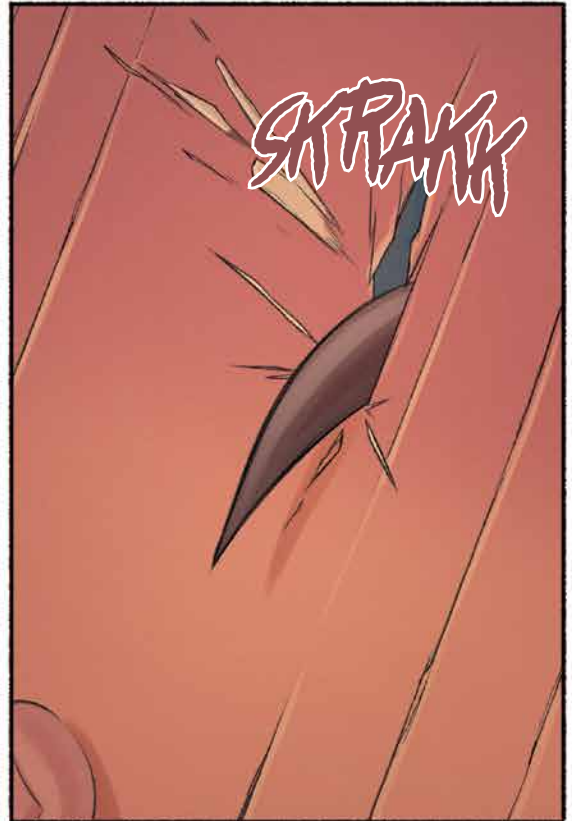
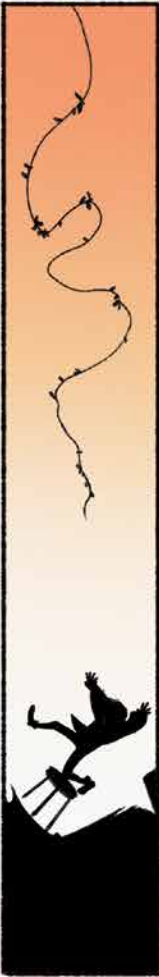
WITHER



LOWER,  
NAN!



NAN!





HAHAHAHA!



THE CHILD FAILED, DIGDE...



...AND NOW YOUR TIME IS AT AN END.



EH?

FRPPPP UNNMMBLE



FWOOSH





YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE CALLEACH!

YOU THINK YOU SAVED SOMEONE TODAY?



SHOOOM

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE SEARCHED FOR MY SISTER?

AND YOU BROUGHT HER RIGHT TO ME.



THAT HAG THOUGHT YOU COULD BEST ME? WHY? BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE MARK SHE LACKED?

AFTER I FINISH WITH YOU, I'M GOING TO GO TO BALL'DOOLIN AND END HER...AND YOUR BROTHER.



IF MY PETS HAVEN'T ALREADY KILLED THEM.

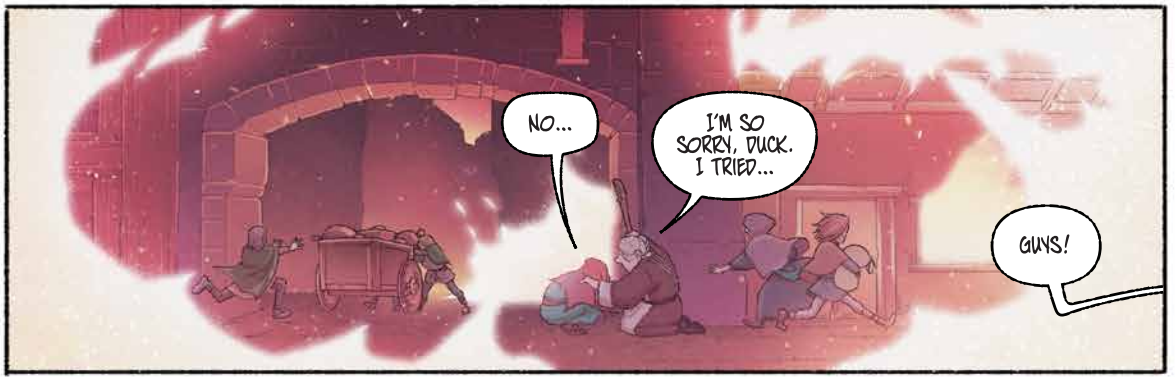
GRRRAA--















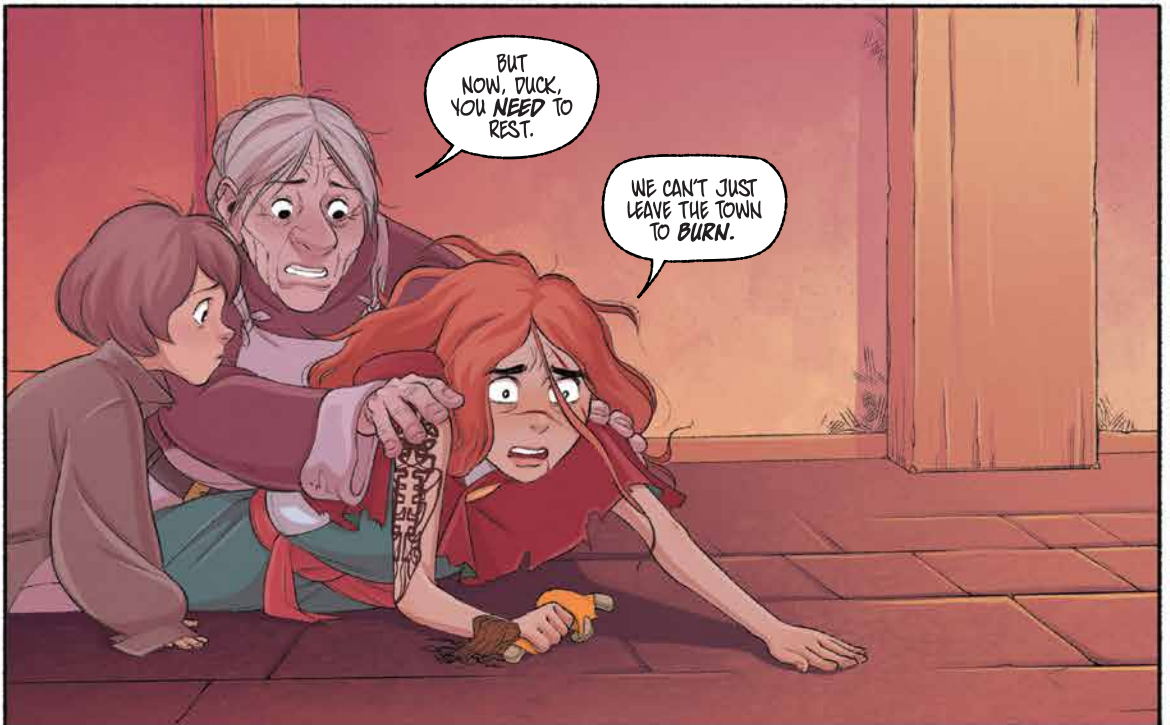
PULSE



NAN! IT'S...  
GROWING!

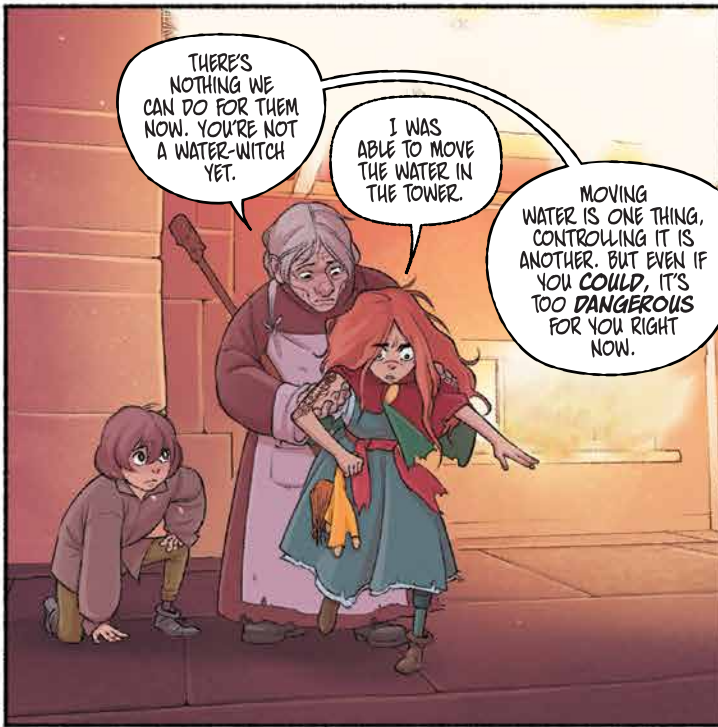


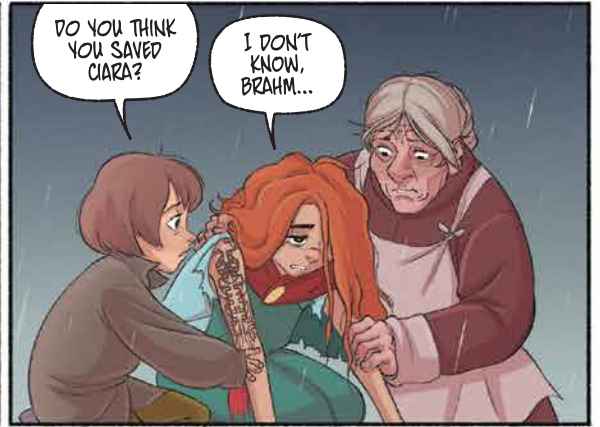
THE MARK  
HAS FED ON  
BRONAGH'S  
POWER. THE  
GREATER IT  
GROWS, THE  
STRONGER  
SHE IS.



BUT  
NOW, DUCK,  
YOU NEED  
TO REST.

WE CAN'T JUST  
LEAVE THE TOWN  
TO BURN.





TO BE CONTINUED...