

JUDITH

CAPTIVE TO CONQUEROR



Story by **Gabrielle Gniewek** Art by **Sean Lam**

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Story by Gabrielle Gniewek

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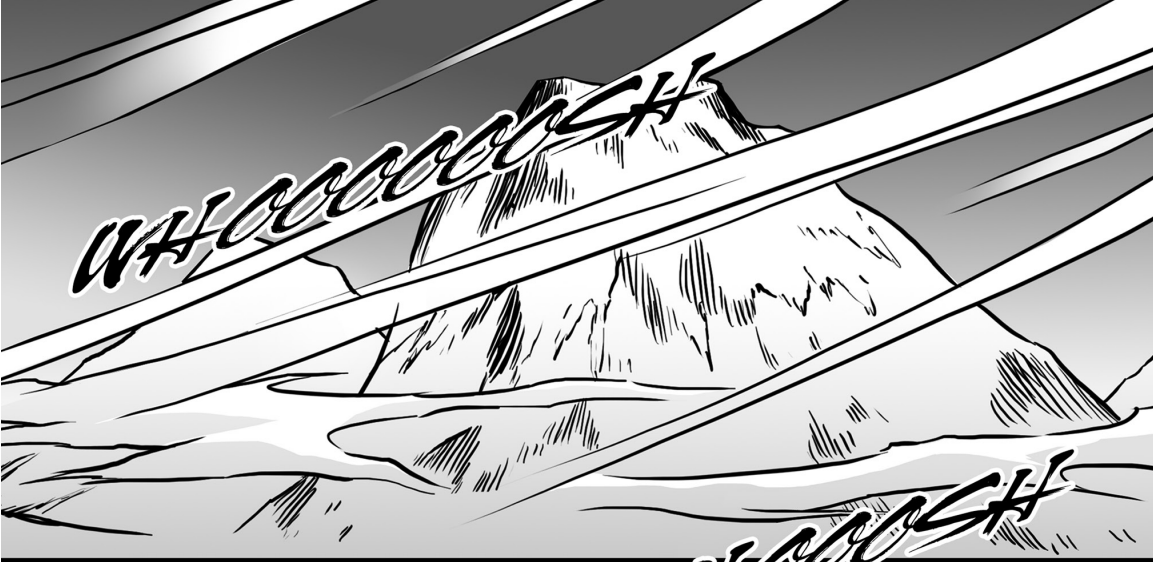
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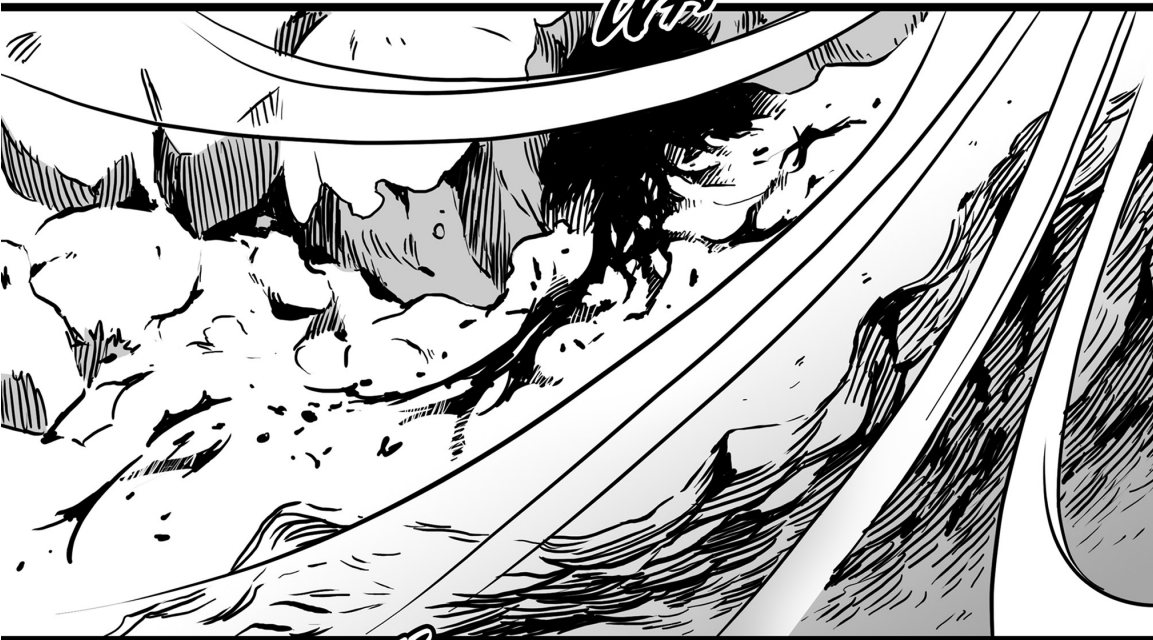
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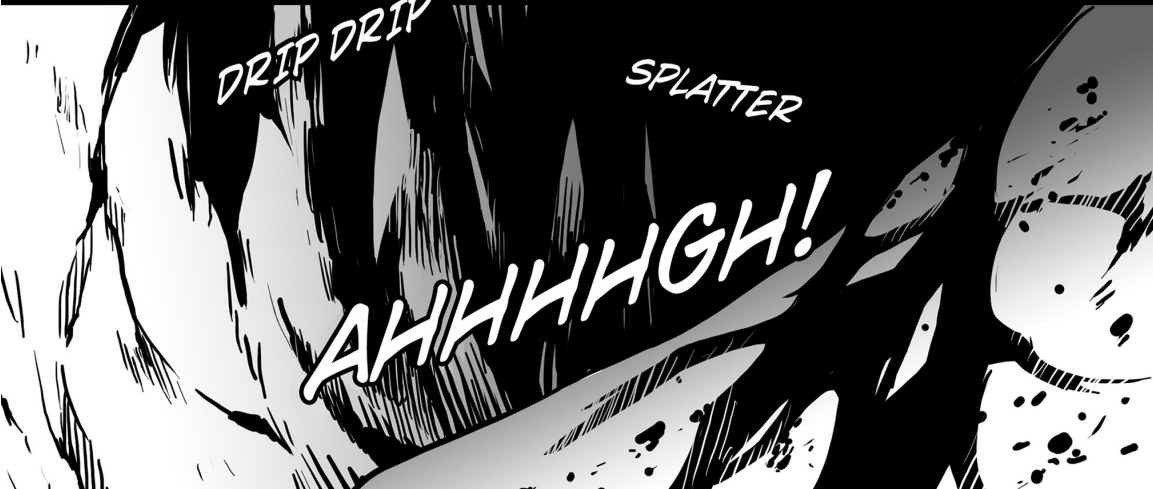
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WAH-OOOSH!



WAH-OOOSH!



DRIP DRIP

SPLATTER

AHHHHGH!

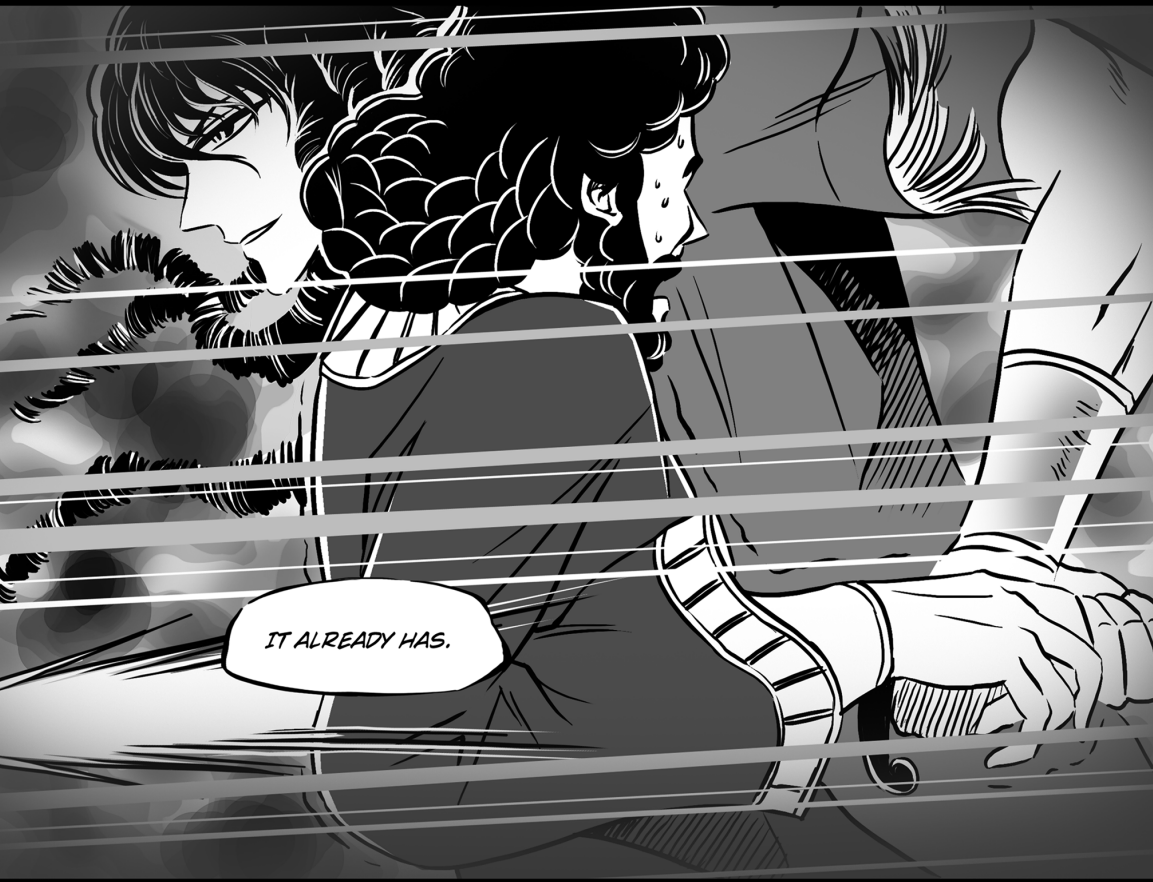
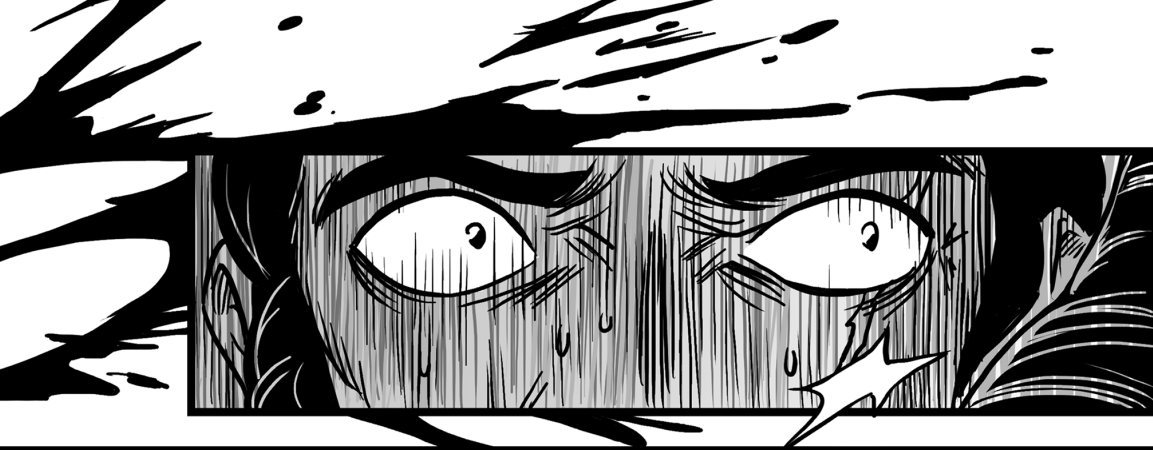




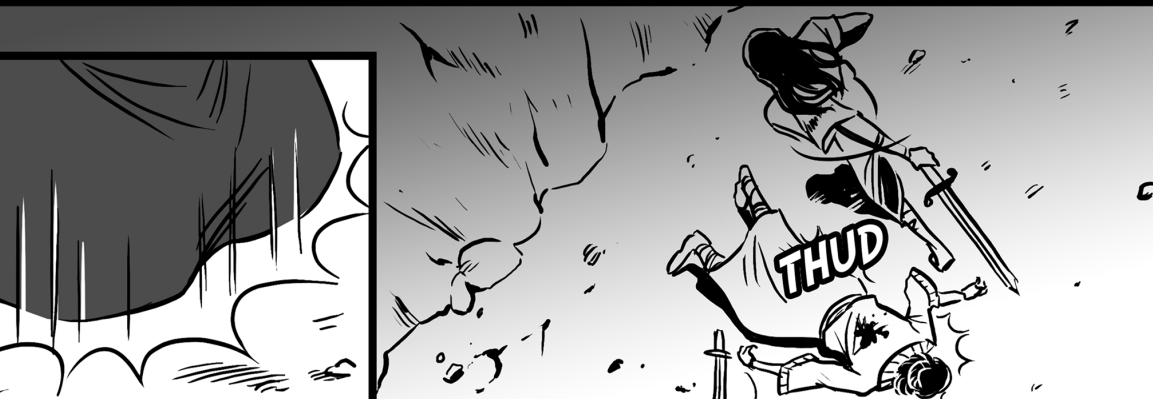
ESPECIALLY
TO THE LIKES
OF YOU!

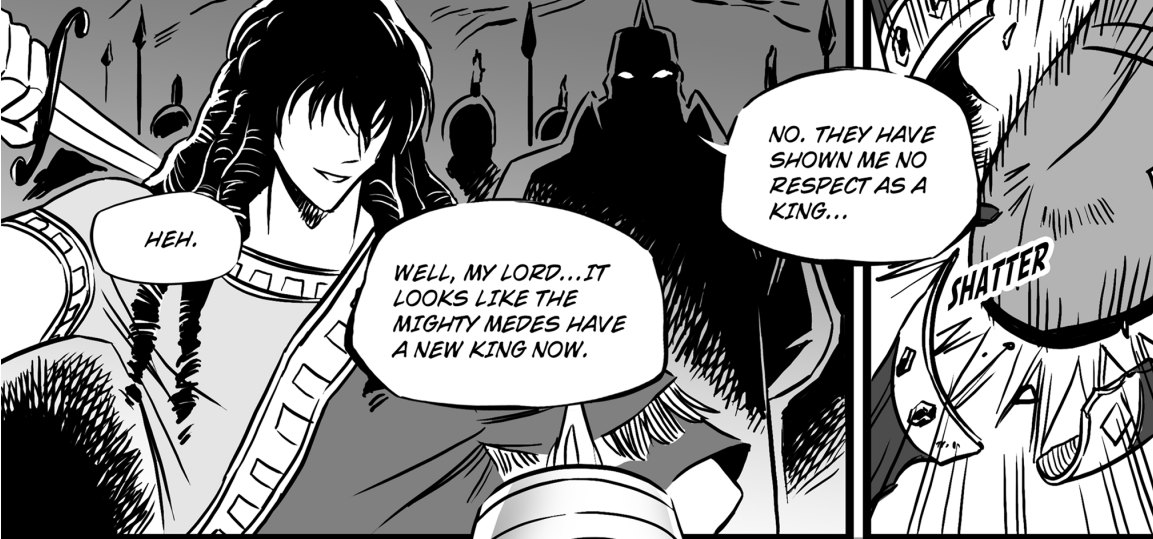


HMM. NOW, I FIND
THAT HARD TO
BELIEVE, BECAUSE...



IT ALREADY HAS.





HEH.

WELL, MY LORD...IT
LOOKS LIKE THE
MIGHTY MEDES HAVE
A NEW KING NOW.

NO. THEY HAVE
SHOWN ME NO
RESPECT AS A
KING...

SHATTER



I AM GOD.

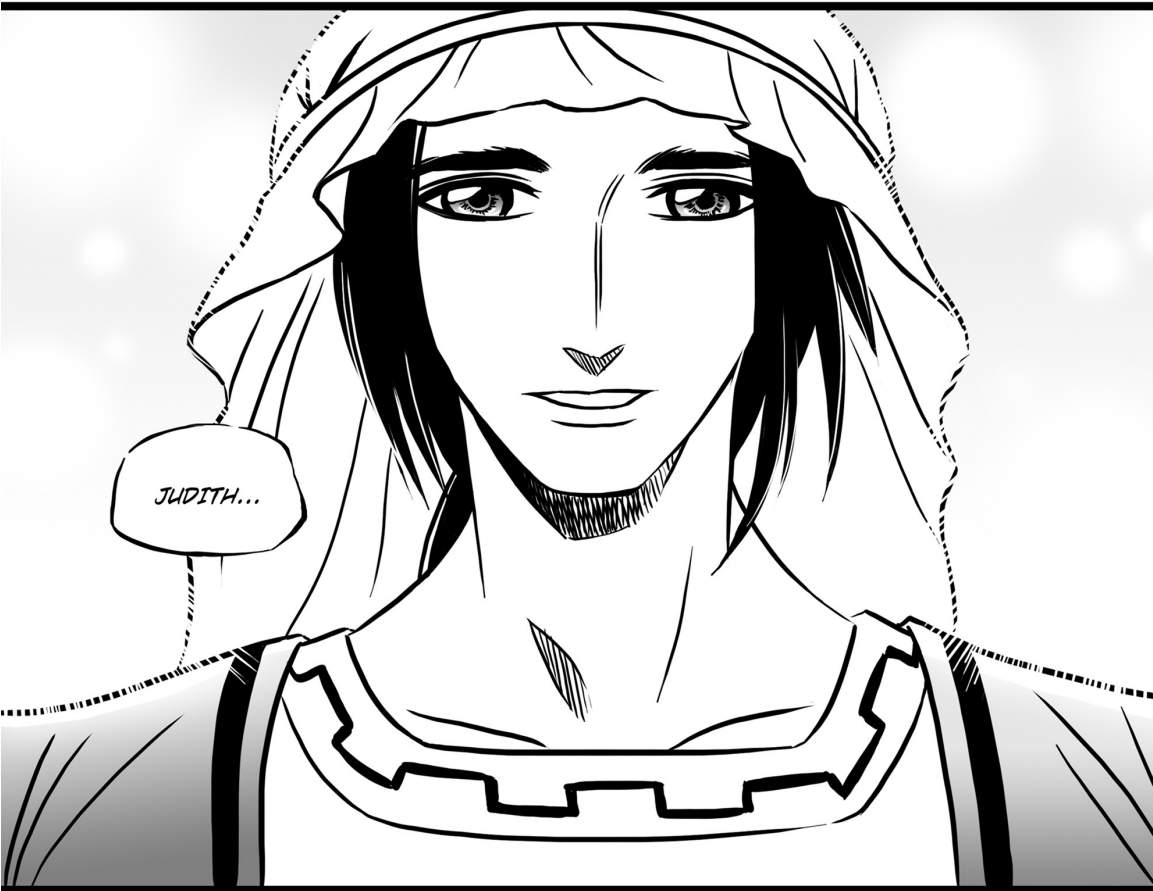


I DON'T SEE HIM... I LOOK EVERYWHERE
BUT CAN NEVER SEEM TO FIND HIM.

THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE...

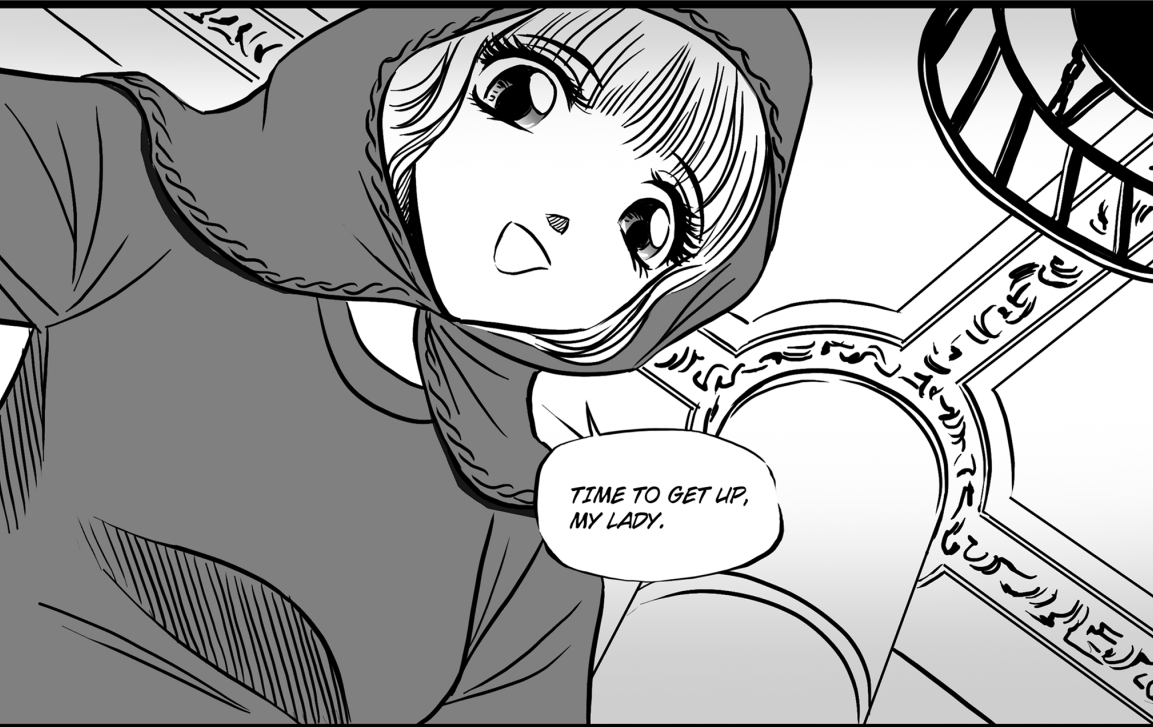


HE NEVER REALLY LEAVES MY SIDE.



JUDITH...

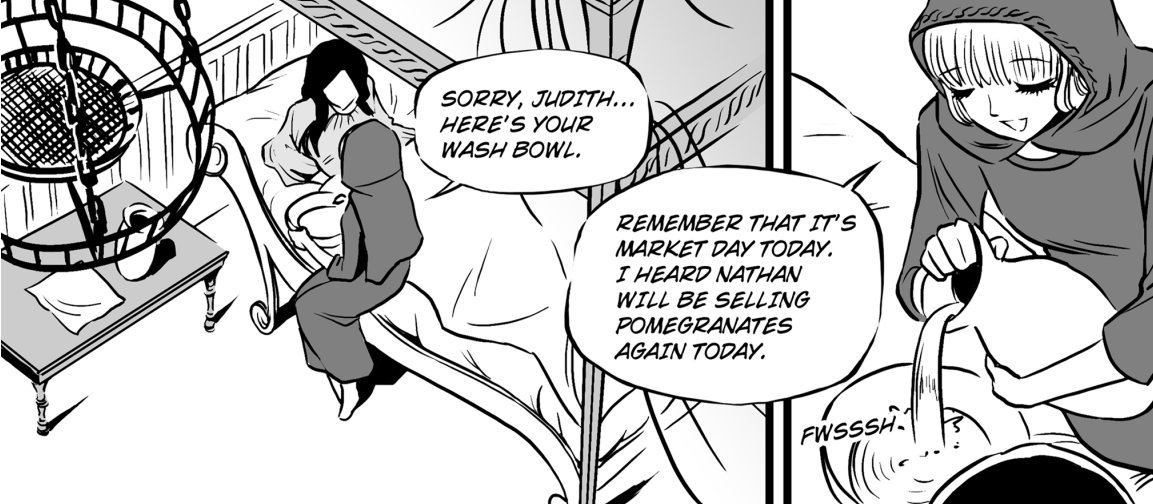
JUDITH...



TIME TO GET UP,
MY LADY.



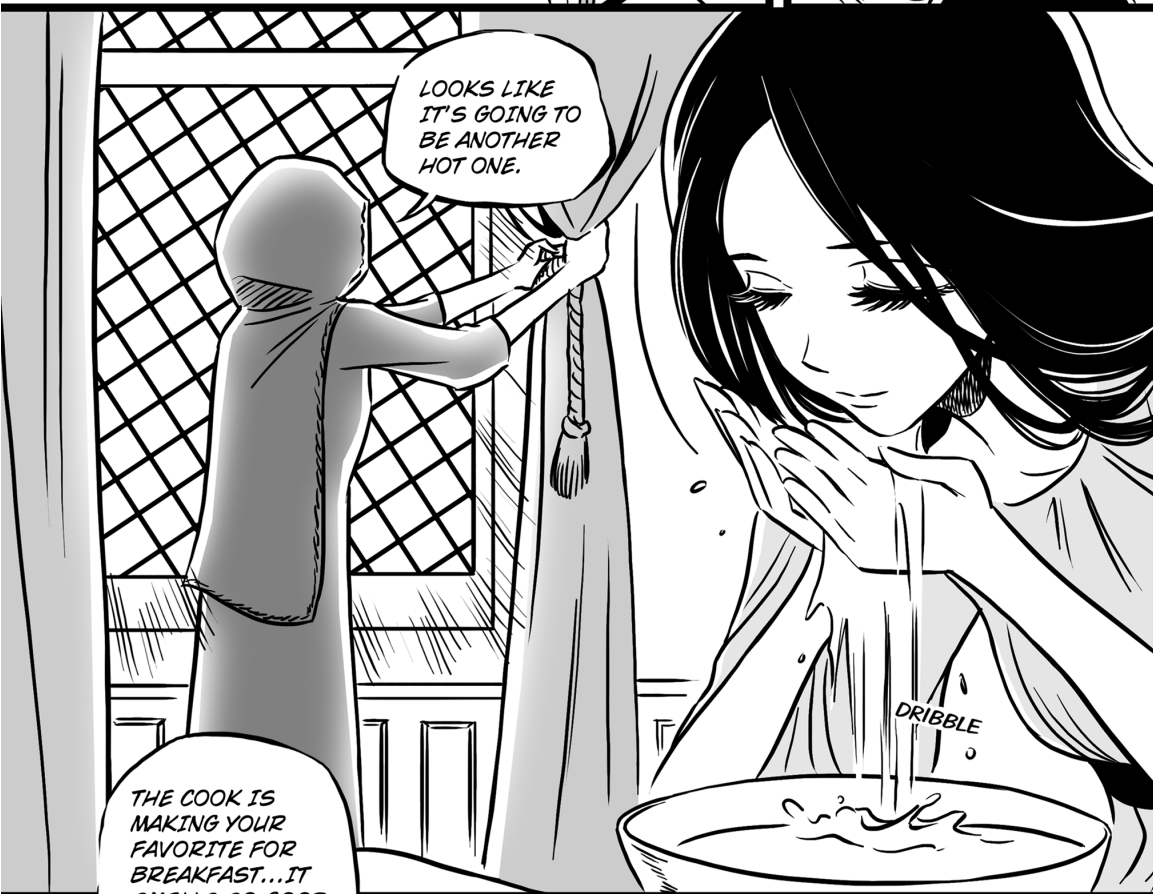
I TOLD YOU NOT TO
CALL ME THAT.



SORRY, JUDITH...
HERE'S YOUR
WASH BOWL.

REMEMBER THAT IT'S
MARKET DAY TODAY.
I HEARD NATHAN
WILL BE SELLING
POMEGRANATES
AGAIN TODAY.

FWSSSH...

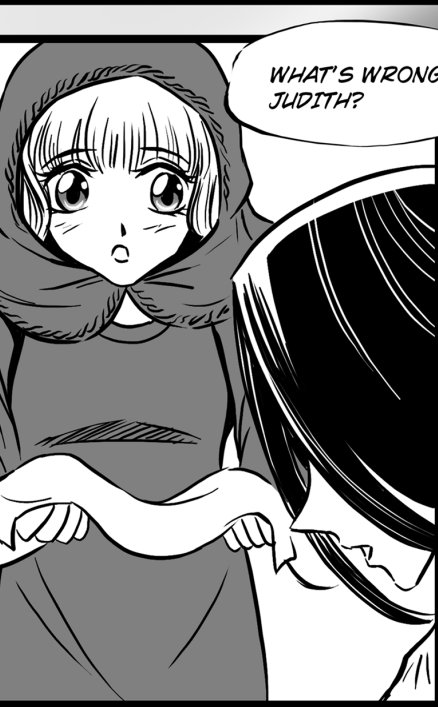
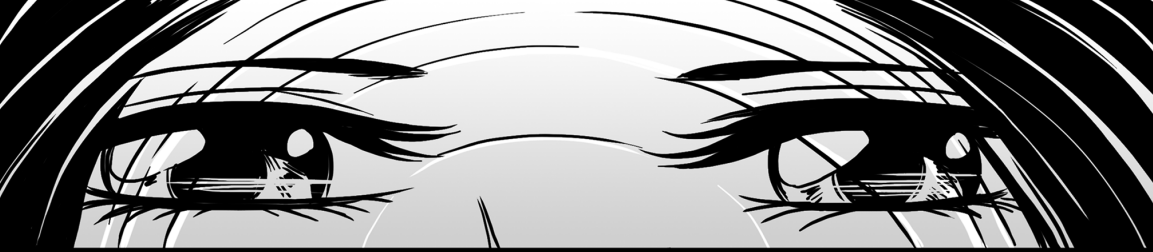


LOOKS LIKE
IT'S GOING TO
BE ANOTHER
HOT ONE.

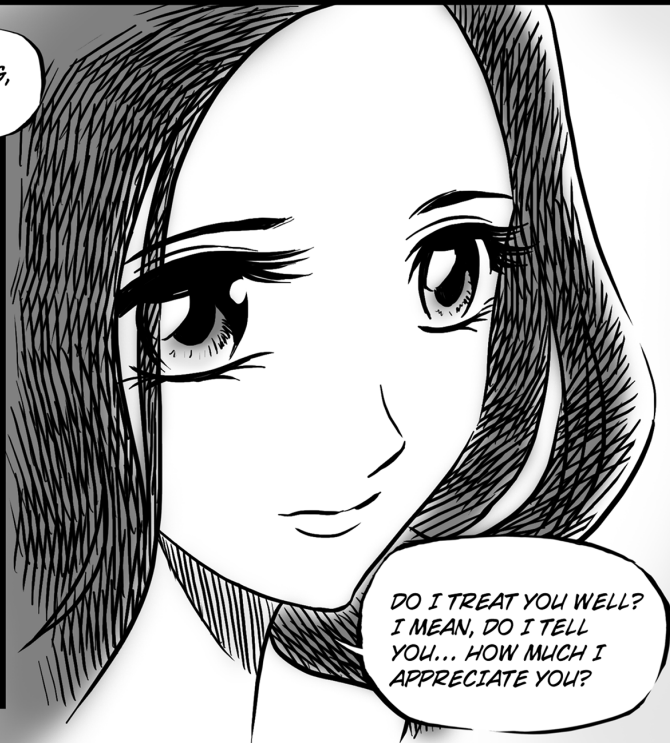
DRIBBLE

THE COOK IS
MAKING YOUR
FAVORITE FOR
BREAKFAST...IT
SMELLS SO GOOD,
SHE ACTUALLY HAD
TO CHASE ME OUT
OF THE KITCHEN!





WHAT'S WRONG, JUDITH?



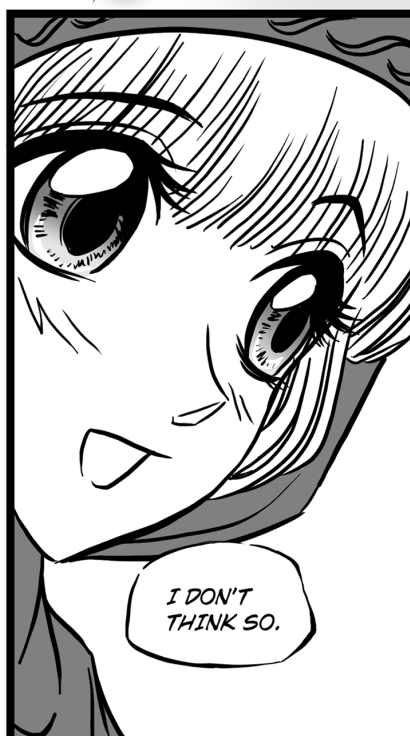
DO I TREAT YOU WELL?
I MEAN, DO I TELL
YOU... HOW MUCH I
APPRECIATE YOU?



YOU REALLY MISS HIM
DON'T YOU?

HEH.

IT'S BEEN
THREE YEARS
NOW... YOU'D
THINK I'D BE
OVER IT.



I DON'T
THINK SO.



BECAUSE, IF YOU REALLY LOVE SOMEONE...

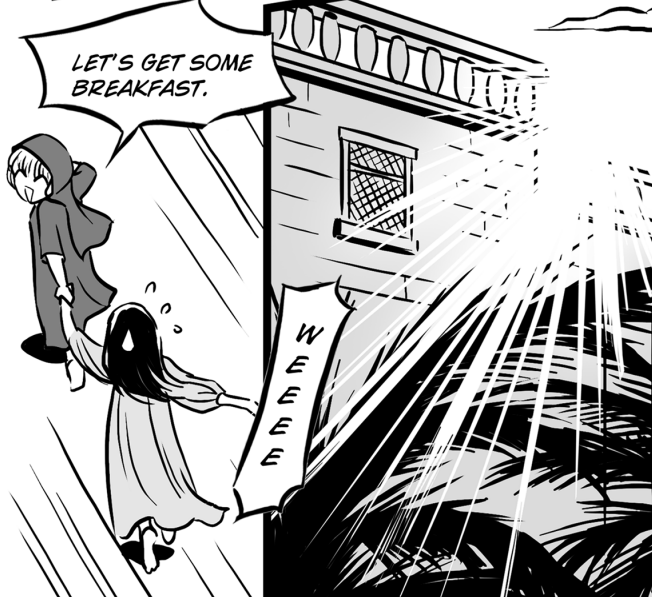
THEY NEVER REALLY LEAVE YOU.



DON'T YOU GO ANYWHERE SOON.

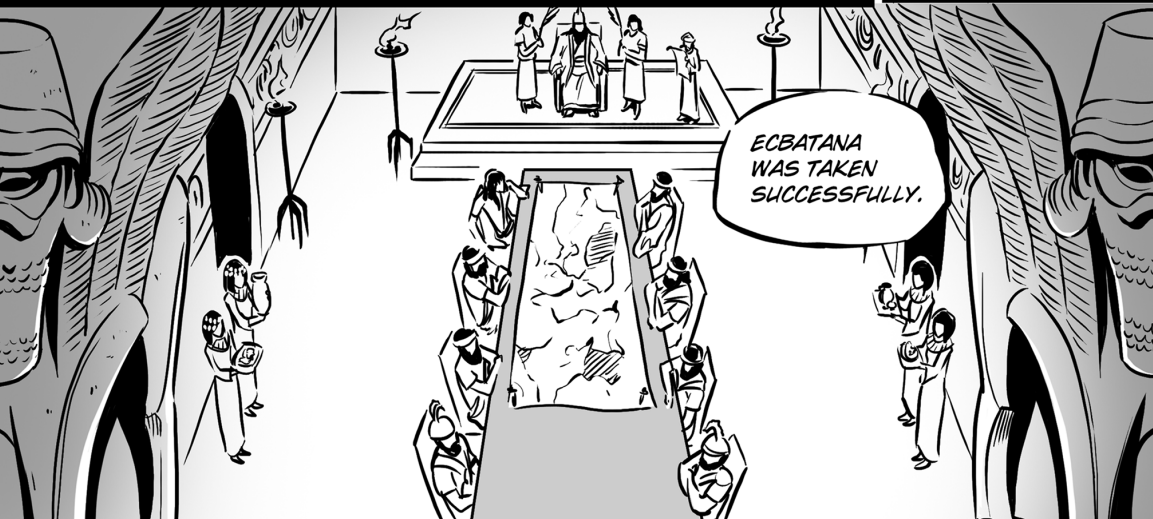
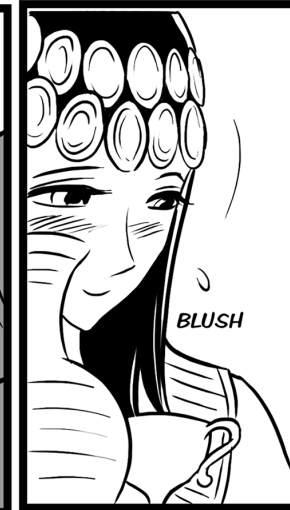
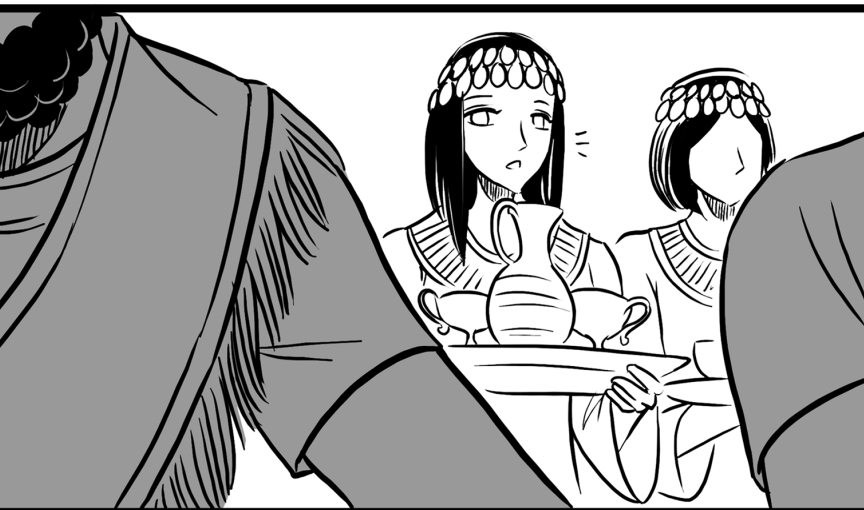


COME ON...



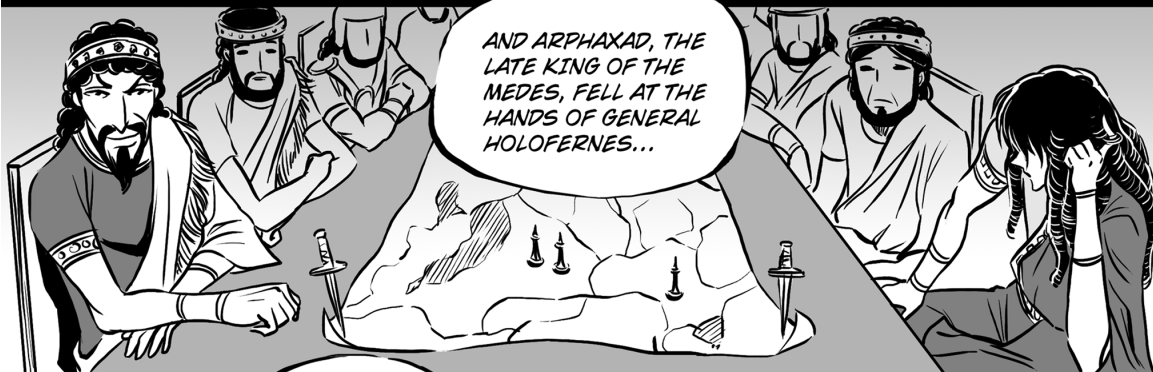
LET'S GET SOME BREAKFAST.

WEEEEE

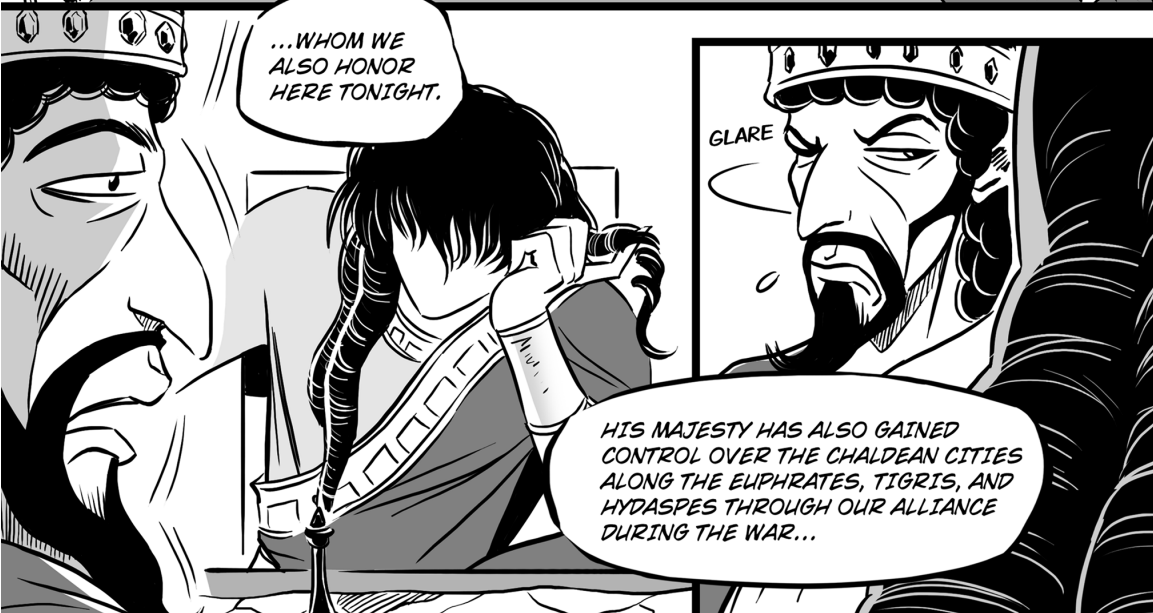




2ND IN COMMAND
LIEUTENANT ASHUR
CONQUERED THE
MEDES IN THE BATTLE
ON THE PLAINS, AND
IS HONORED HERE
TONIGHT.



AND ARPHAXAD, THE
LATE KING OF THE
MEDES, FELL AT THE
HANDS OF GENERAL
HOLOFERNES...



...WHOM WE
ALSO HONOR
HERE TONIGHT.

GLARE

HIS MAJESTY HAS ALSO GAINED
CONTROL OVER THE CHALDEAN CITIES
ALONG THE EUFRATES, TIGRIS, AND
HYDASPES THROUGH OUR ALLIANCE
DURING THE WAR...

A NUMBER OF UPRISINGS HAVE
OCCURRED ALL OVER ECBATANA,
WHEN THE PEOPLE HEARD OF
THE LATE KING'S DEATH.

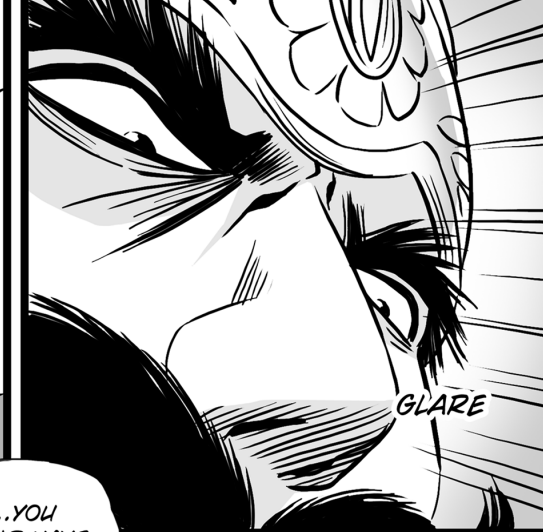
SLAM!

IF THEY DON'T
RESPECT ME...
I'LL MAKE THEM
WORSHIP ME!

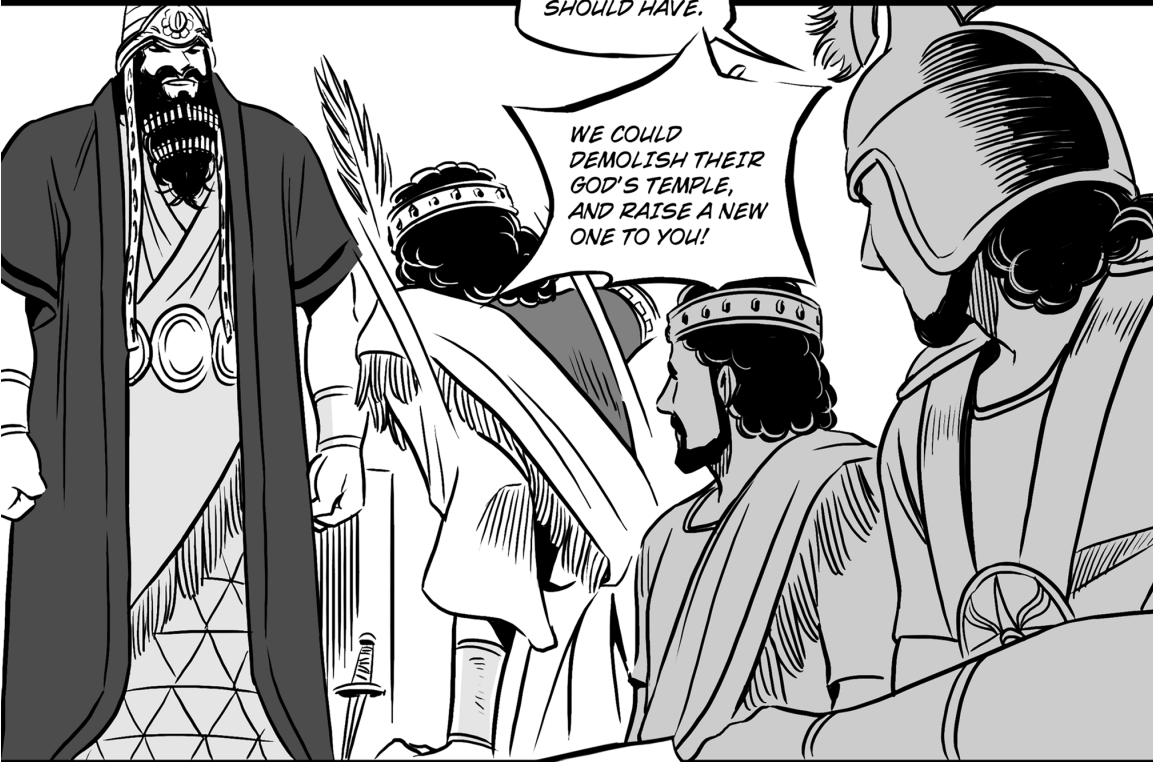
ANYONE WHO GOES
AGAINST MY WILL...
WILL SUFFER MY WRATH.



YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN
THEIR LAND AND WOMEN,
AND DRAFTED OR KILLED
THEIR MEN-



GLARE



...AS...YOU
SHOULD HAVE.

WE COULD
DEMOLISH THEIR
GOD'S TEMPLE,
AND RAISE A NEW
ONE TO YOU!



JUST SAY THE WORD
AND I'LL LEAD THE
BATTALION MYSELF!





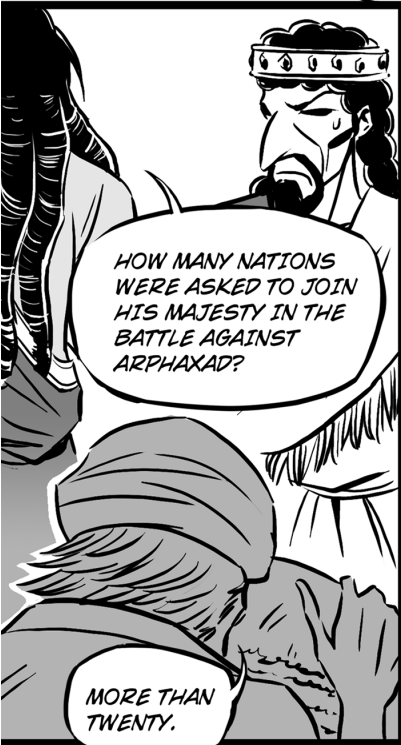
HIS MAJESTY THE
GOD-KING HAS BEEN
GREATLY DISHONORED.



I'M NOT SURE A
SIMPLE TEMPLE
WILL BE ENOUGH
TO ATONE...BUT...



CHINK



HOW MANY NATIONS
WERE ASKED TO JOIN
HIS MAJESTY IN THE
BATTLE AGAINST
ARPHAXAD?

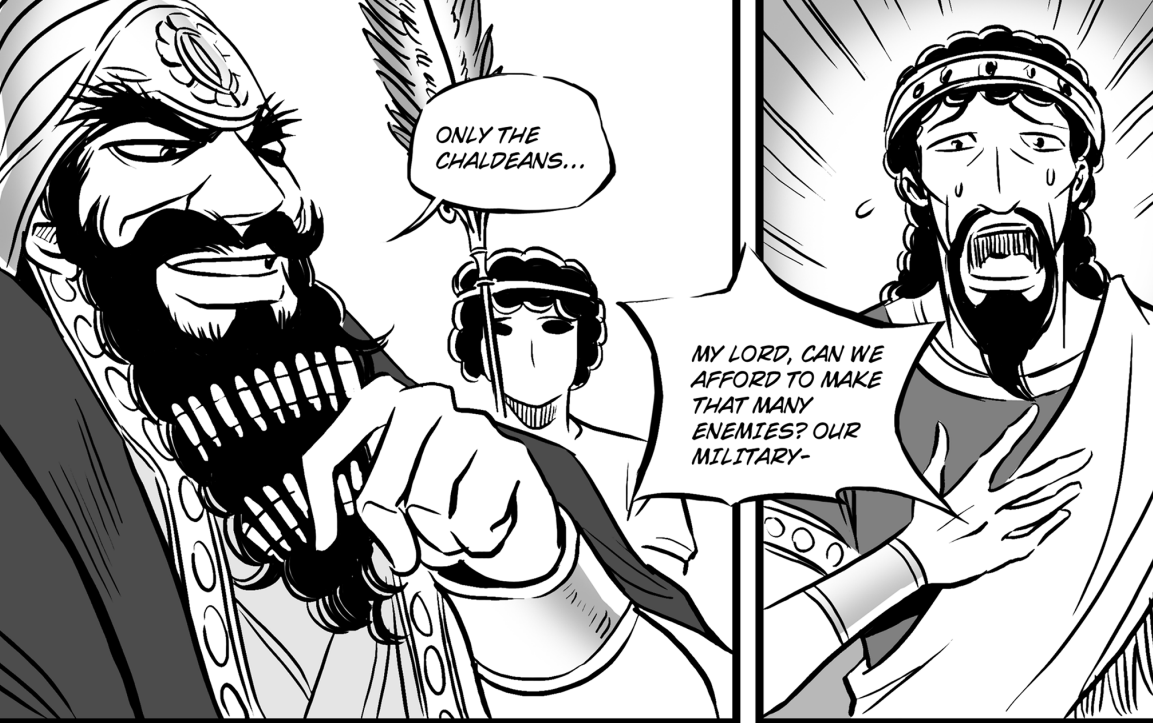


AND HOW
MANY JOINED?



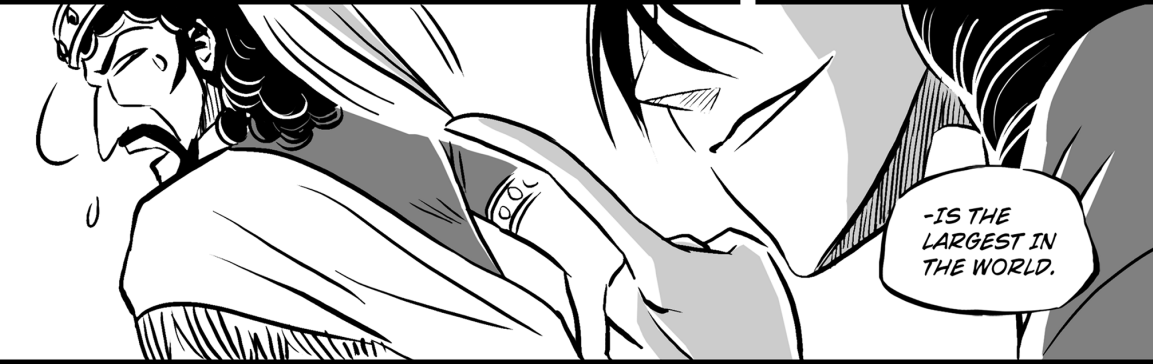
MORE THAN
TWENTY.





ONLY THE CHALDEANS...

MY LORD, CAN WE AFFORD TO MAKE THAT MANY ENEMIES? OUR MILITARY-



-IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD.



A GOD SHOULD RULE THE WHOLE EARTH SHOULD HE NOT? WHY HAVE ONE TEMPLE WHEN YOU CAN HAVE HUNDREDS?

YES...I'LL MAKE THEM ALL PAY. LORD ASHUR WILL LEAD MY TROOPS AND-

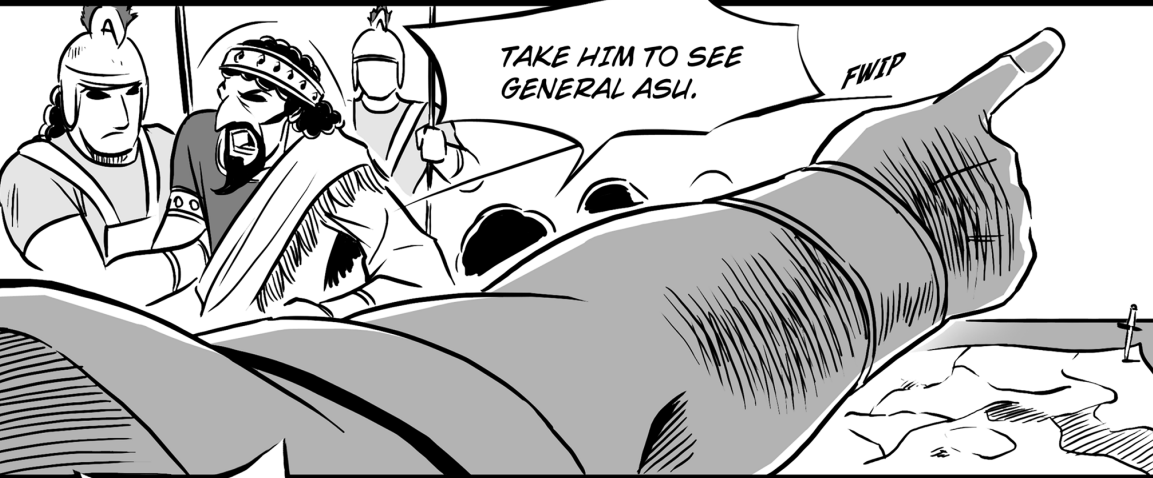
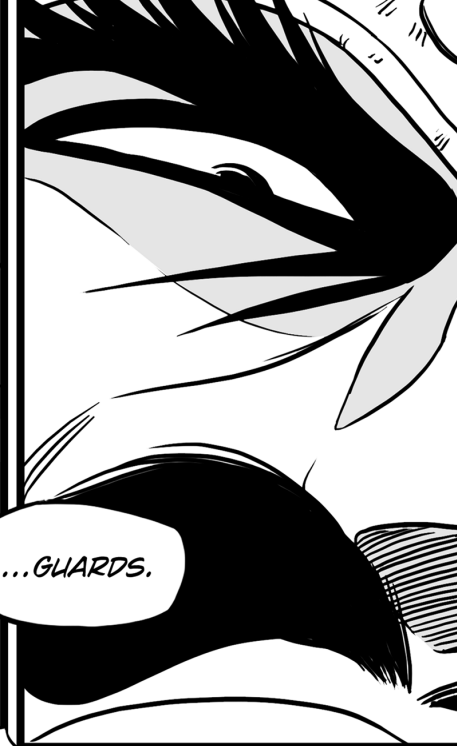
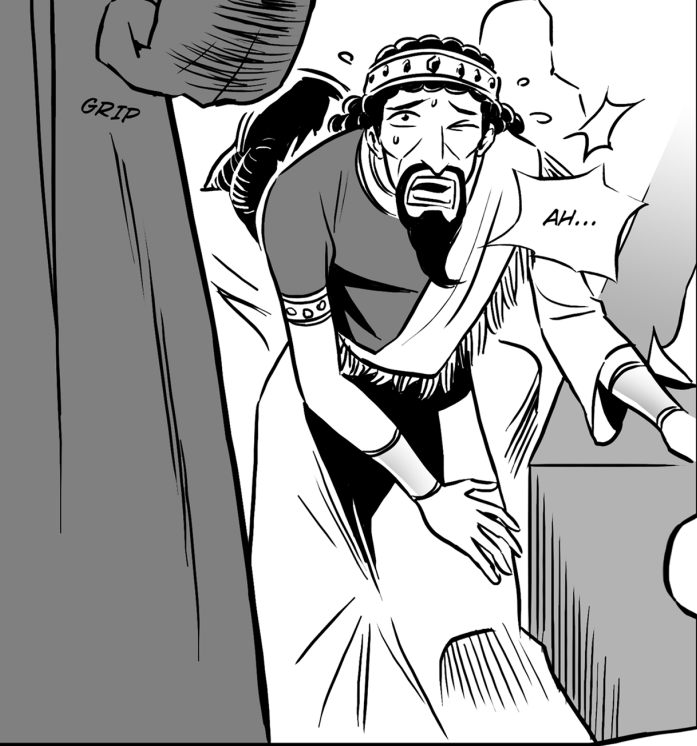


A H H H G G H !

FZZT

SLAP







NO!
NOOOO!



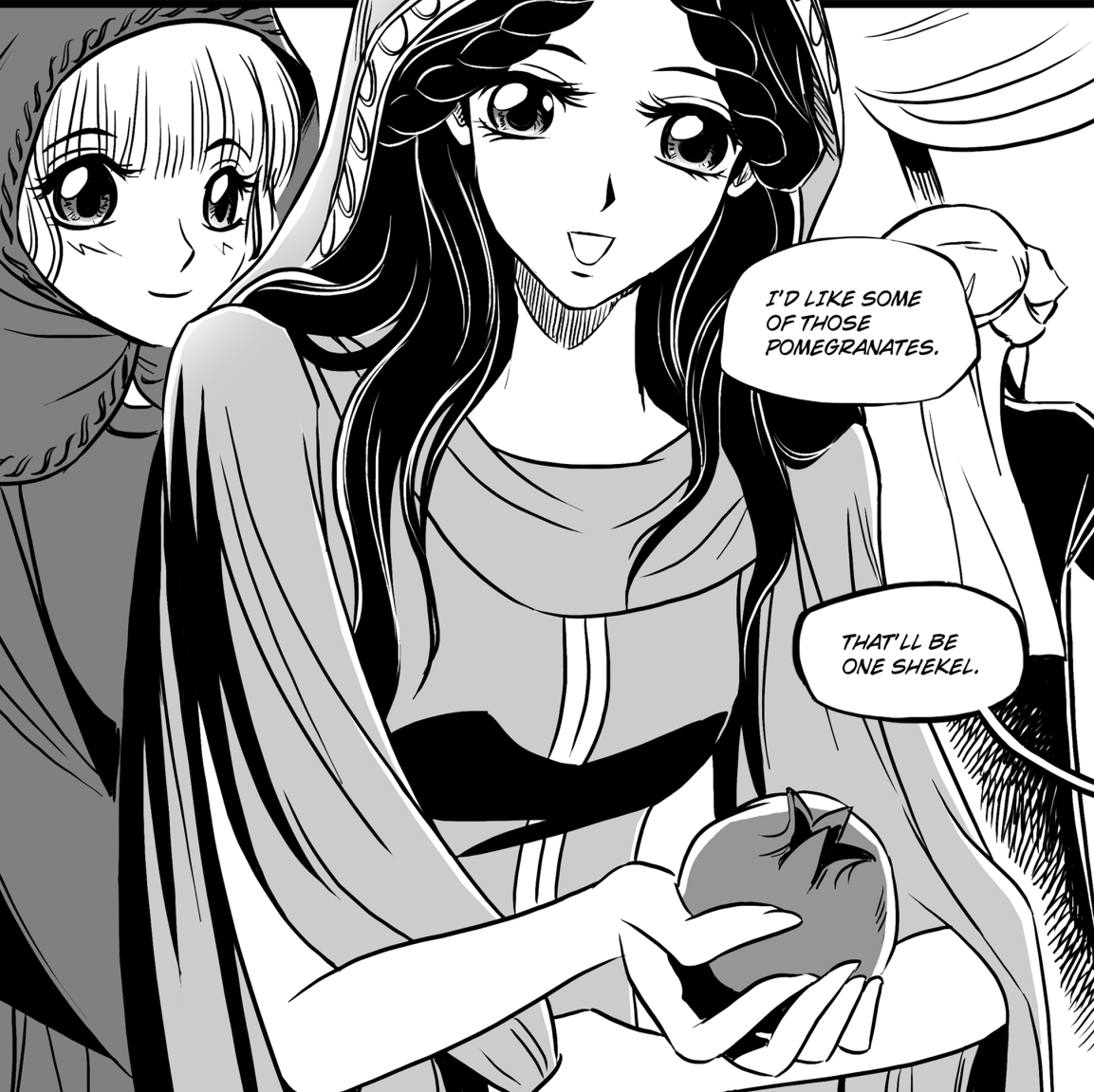
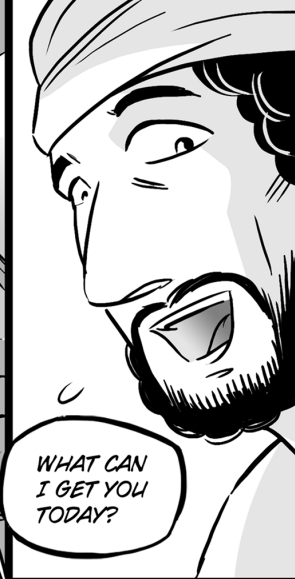
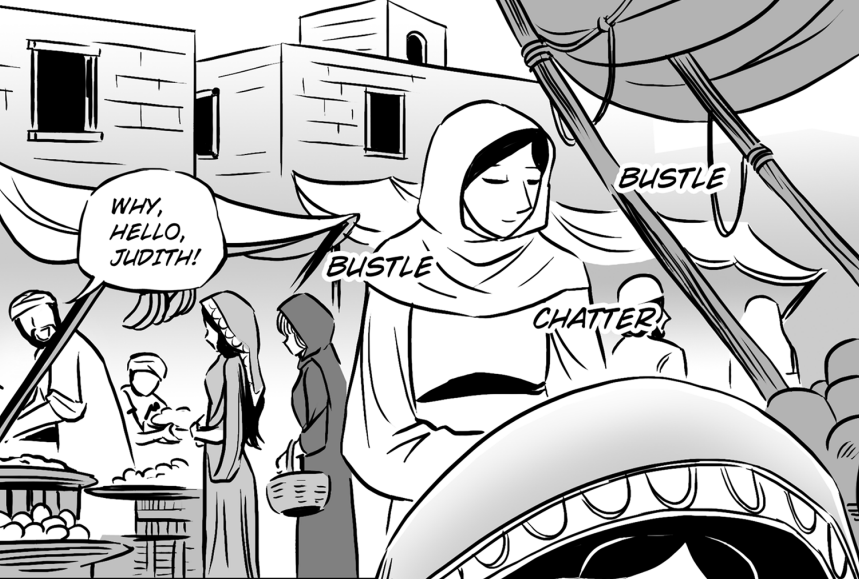
HOLOFERNES...



YOU ARE NOW LIEUTENANT
OF THE ASSYRIAN ARMY,
AND 2ND IN COMMAND. YOU
WILL GO IN ASHUR'S STEAD.



YES YOUR
MAJESTY...



WHY, HELLO, JUDITH!

BUSTLE

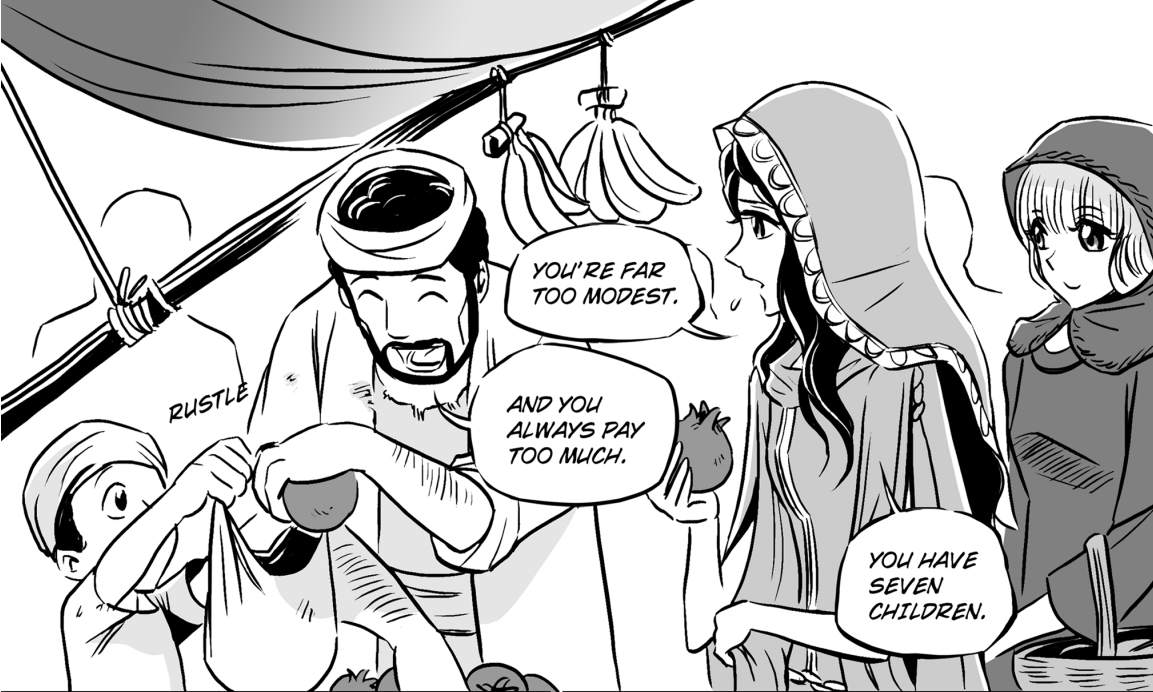
BUSTLE

CHATTER!

WHAT CAN I GET YOU TODAY?

I'D LIKE SOME OF THOSE POMEGRANATES.

THAT'LL BE ONE SHEKEL.



RUSTLE

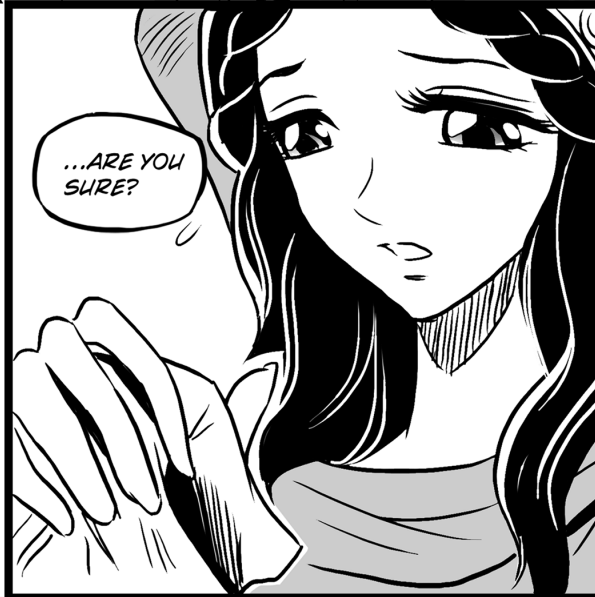
YOU'RE FAR TOO MODEST.

AND YOU ALWAYS PAY TOO MUCH.

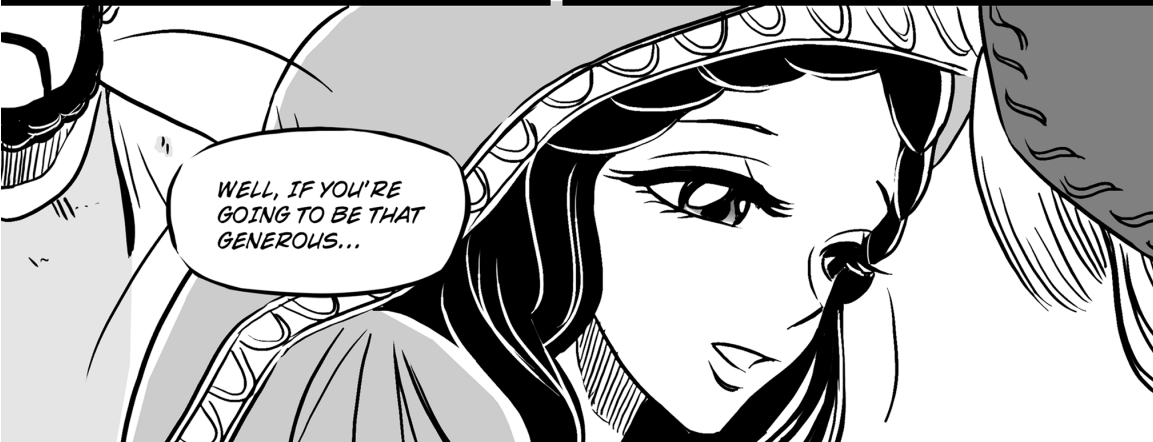
YOU HAVE SEVEN CHILDREN.



AND NOW YOU HAVE SEVEN POMEGRANATES.



...ARE YOU SURE?



WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE THAT GENEROUS...



AT LEAST TAKE
THIS LOAF OF
BREAD I MADE
AS WELL.

WE'RE GOING TO
RUN THESE TO SOME
NEEDY FAMILIES...
BUT WE MADE TOO
MANY... PLEASE?

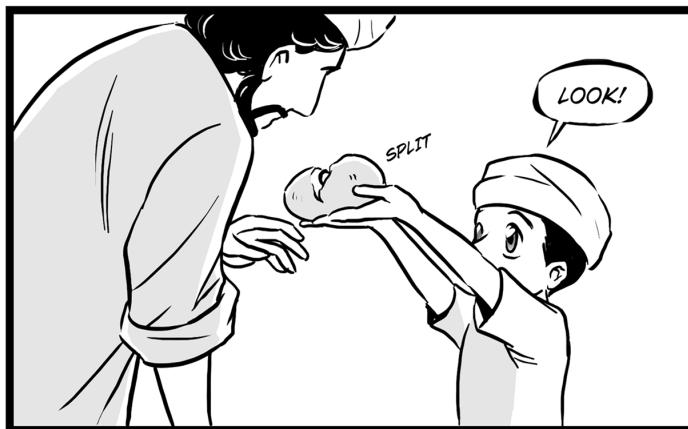


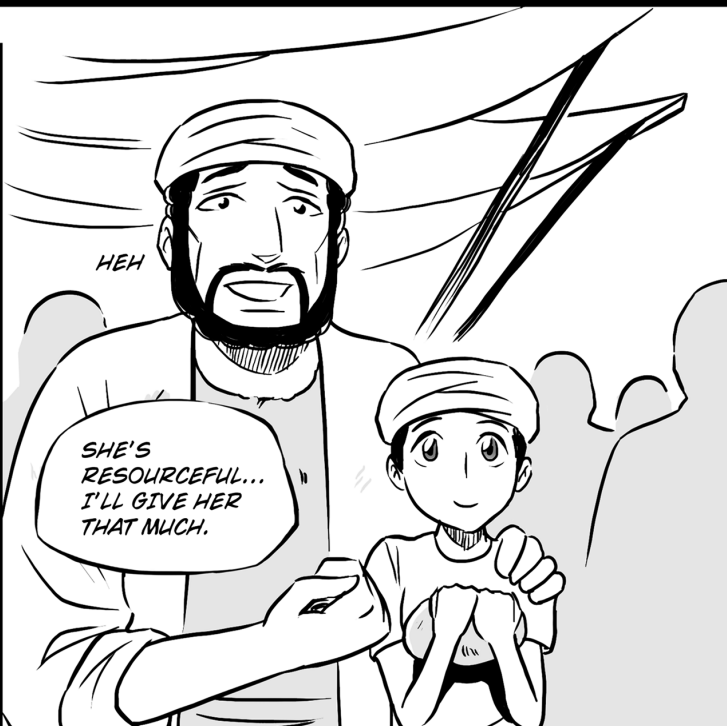
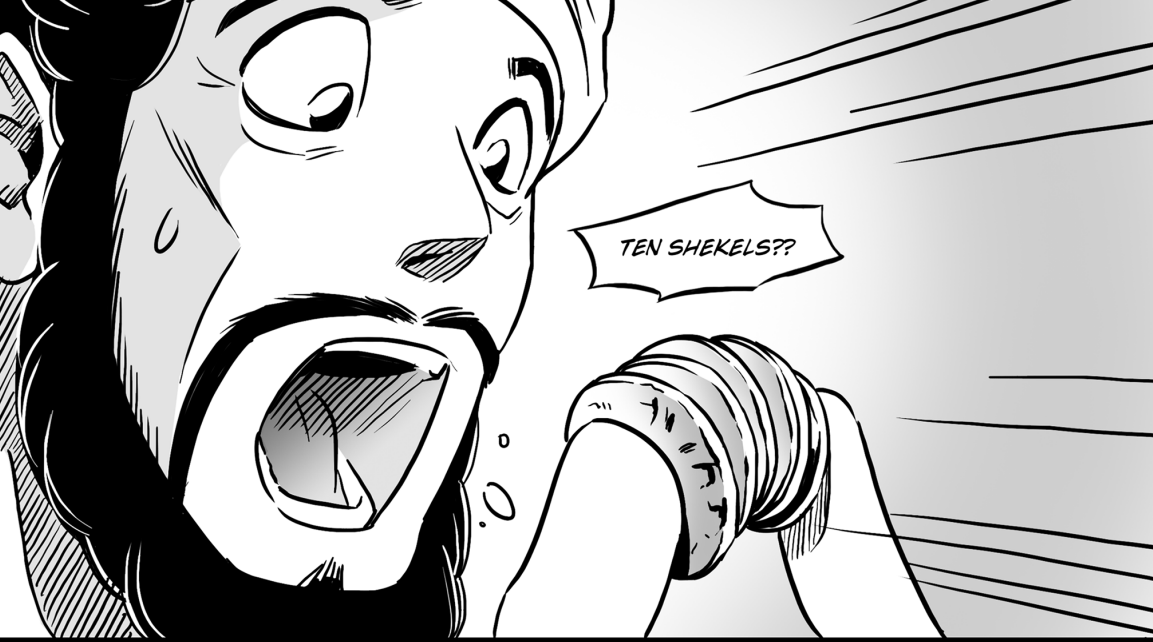
ALRIGHT, JUDITH...
IF IT MAKES YOU
FEEL BETTER, I'LL
TAKE A LOAF OF
BREAD.

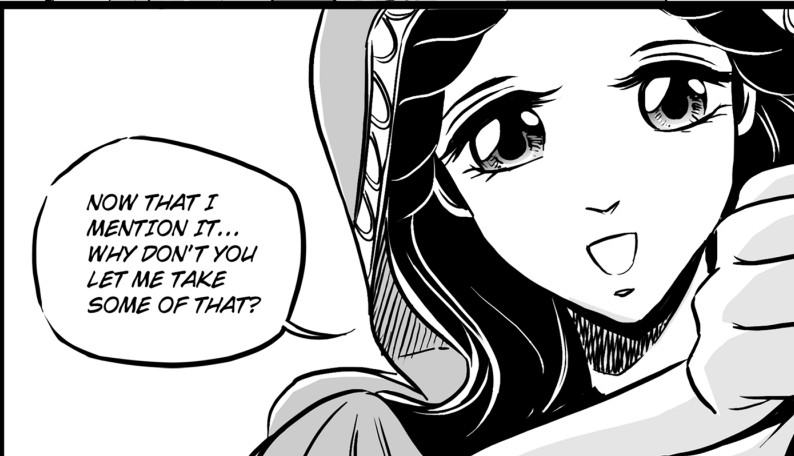
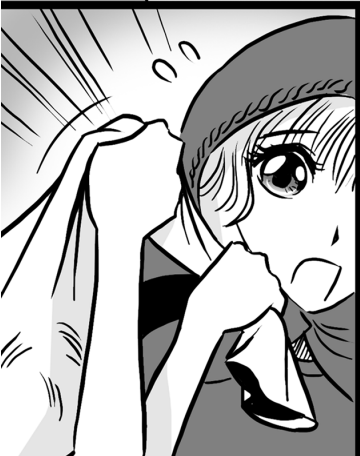
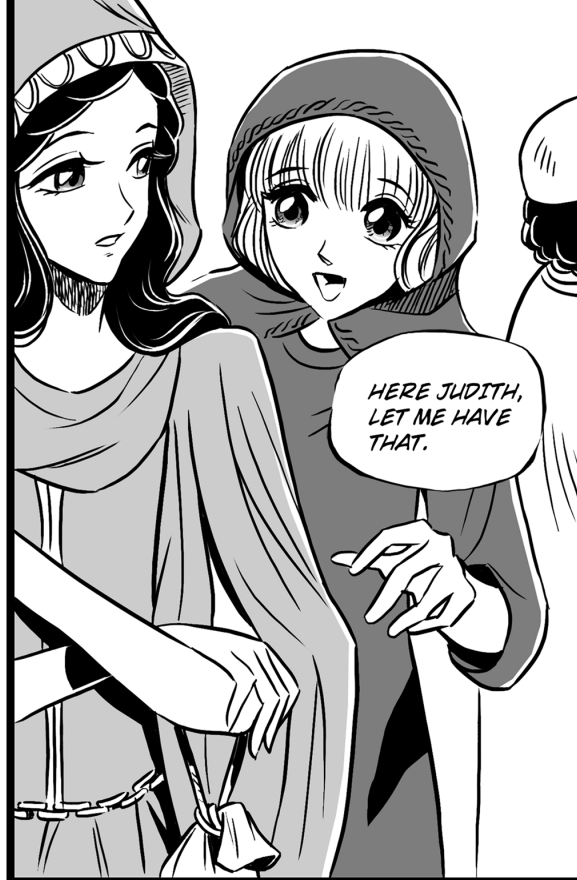
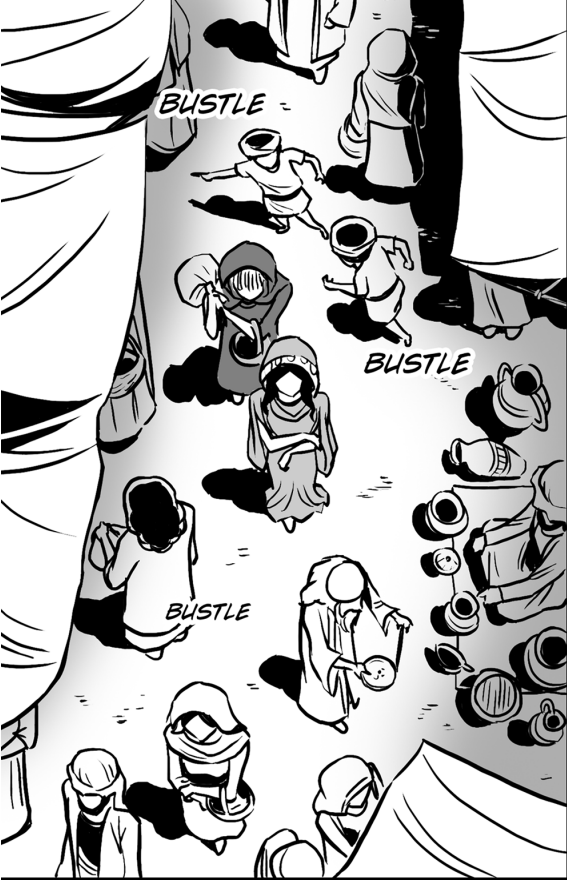


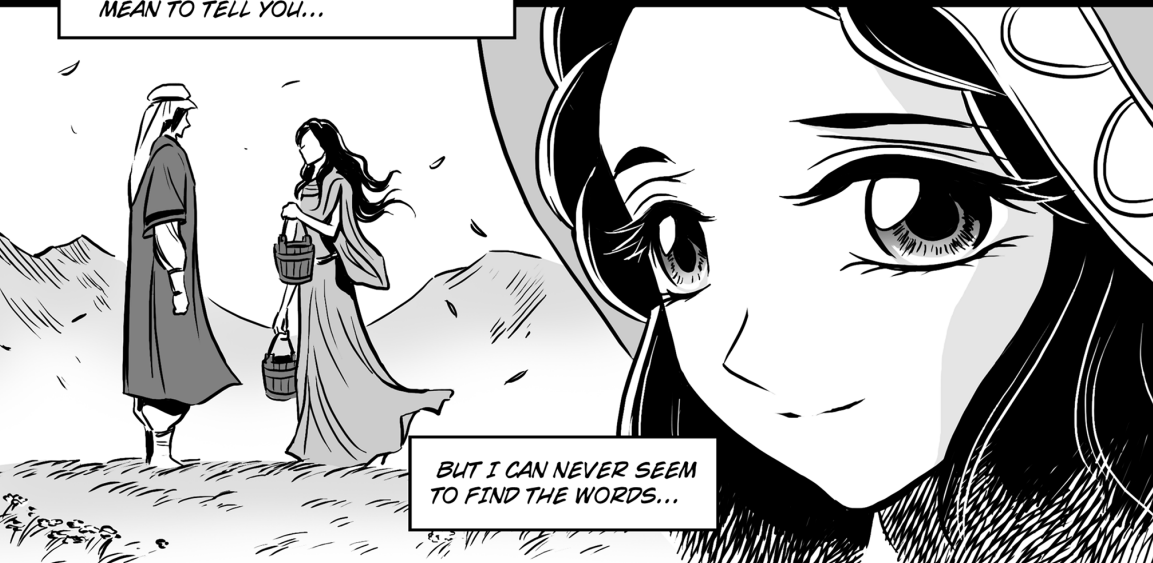
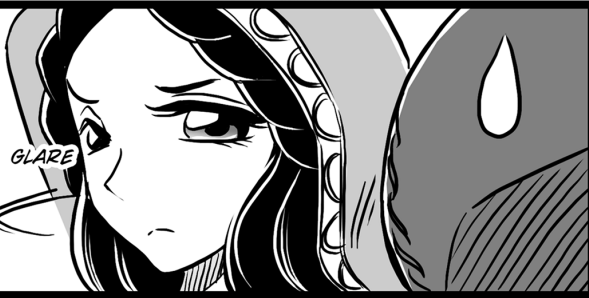
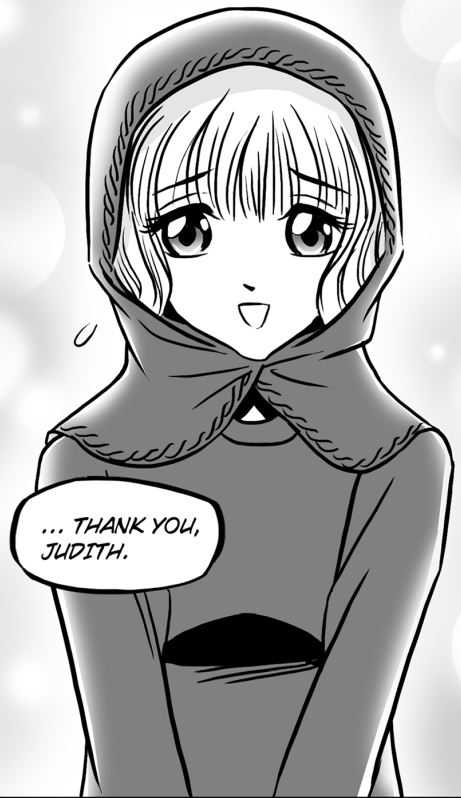
HERE.

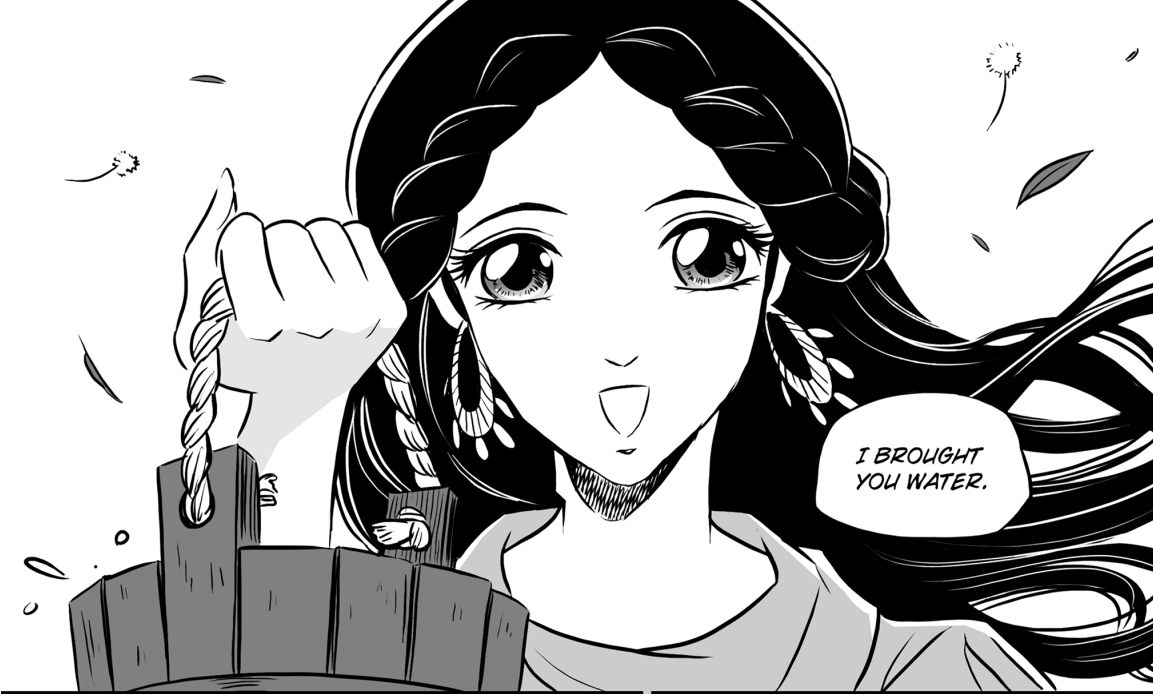




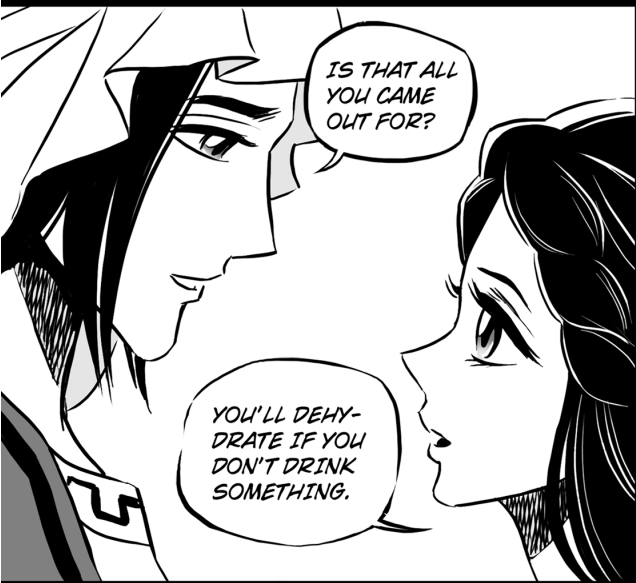








I BROUGHT
YOU WATER.

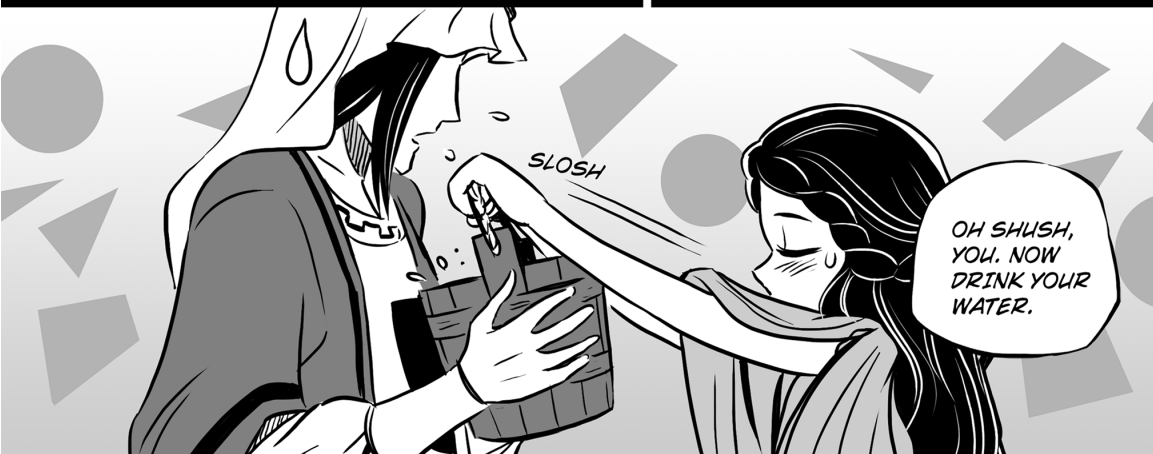


IS THAT ALL
YOU CAME
OUT FOR?

YOU'LL DEHY-
DRATE IF YOU
DON'T DRINK
SOMETHING.

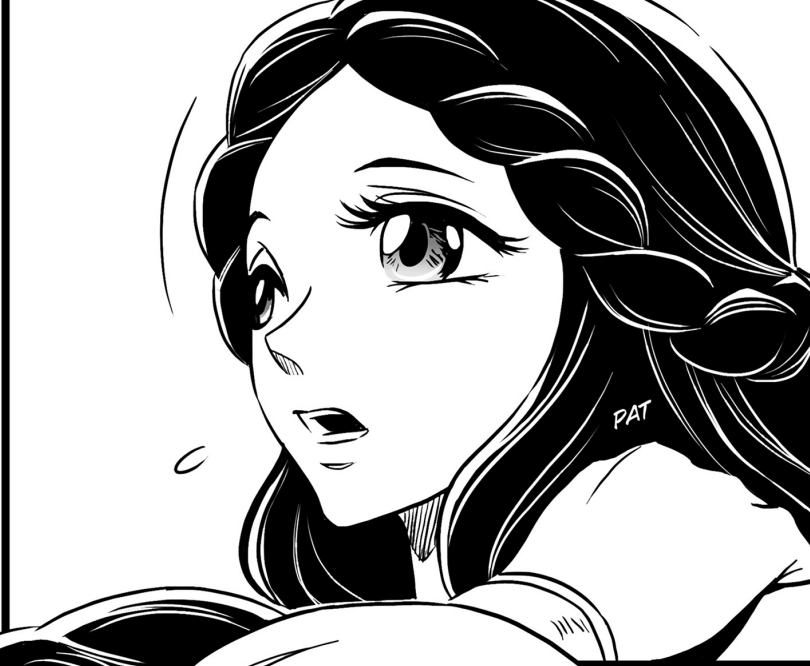


THE SIGHT OF
YOU IS MORE
REFRESHING
THAN ANY
WATER YOU
COULD BRING.



SLOSH

OH SHUSH,
YOU. NOW
DRINK YOUR
WATER.



WHO WOULD'VE
THOUGHT I'D
MARRY THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN IN THE
WORLD?

MANASSEH!
STOP!