

BOOM!
STUDIOS

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#1 OF 5

SPARROWHAWK™



Menchow

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STUDIOS

SPARROWHAWK™

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ERIC HARBURN



NORTHUMBERLAND,
ENGLAND, 1851.



IT SEEMS A STRANGE CUSTOM,
BURYING PEOPLE IN
BOXES IN THE
DARK EARTH.

AS IF THEY
NEVER
EXISTED.



CAROLINE?




ARTEMISIA! YOU
FRIGHTENED
ME!



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO. HEAVEN
KNOWS YOU CAN
HEAR OLD TRAVELER
WHEEZING WITH EVERY
LUMBERING
STEP.


I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU CAN
STILL RIDE... I MEAN...
IT WAS THE DUKE'S
FINE STALLIONS THAT
OVERTURNED THE
CARRIAGE. AND NOW
ELIZABETH--OUR
SISTER--IS...

I ABHOR
HORSES. AND
DUKES.

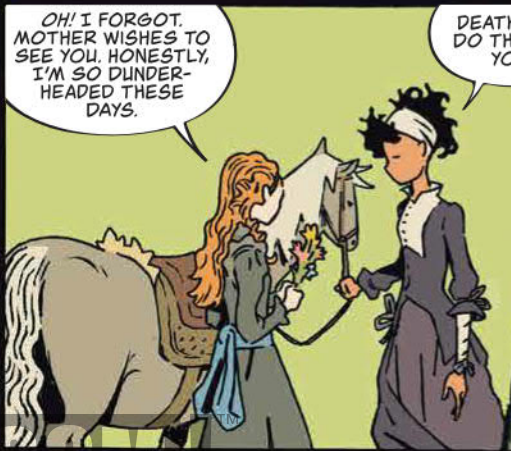


I KNOW YOU
DIDN'T LIKE
HER. SHE WAS
CRUEL TO
YOU.

BUT SHE
WAS KIND TO
ME, AND I LOVED
HER. WE DANCED
AND PAINTED
TEACUPS AND SANG
TOGETHER, AND
SHE HELPED
ME WITH MY
PIANO--



I REMEMBER.
I SAT IN THE TREE
OUTSIDE AND WATCHED
THROUGH THE WINDOW.
YOUR MOTHER SAID
I HAD NO NEED OF
SUCH SKILLS.



OH! I FORGOT.
MOTHER WISHES TO
SEE YOU. HONESTLY,
I'M SO DUNDER-
HEADED THESE
DAYS.

DEATH WILL
DO THAT TO
YOU.



ELIZABETH
MALLORY GREY
1831 — 1851



SHE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT, YOU SHOULD HURRY.

THAT'S ODD. SHE NEVER WANTS TO SEE ME.

SHE ONCE SAID I WAS THE WORST THING IN HER LIFE. THAT WHEN PAPA RETURNED FROM THE COLONY WITH ME IN MY BASKET, SHE ALMOST KICKED HIM OUT, DESPITE THE GOLD HE'D WON.



I'M SURE SHE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

I'M SURE SHE DID, BUT AT LEAST I HAVE YOU. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER TREATED ME LIKE FAMILY.

BE CAREFUL OUT HERE. PAPA ALWAYS SAYS THESE WOODS ARE STILL DANGEROUS, YOU SHOULD CARRY A KNIFE, LIKE I DO.

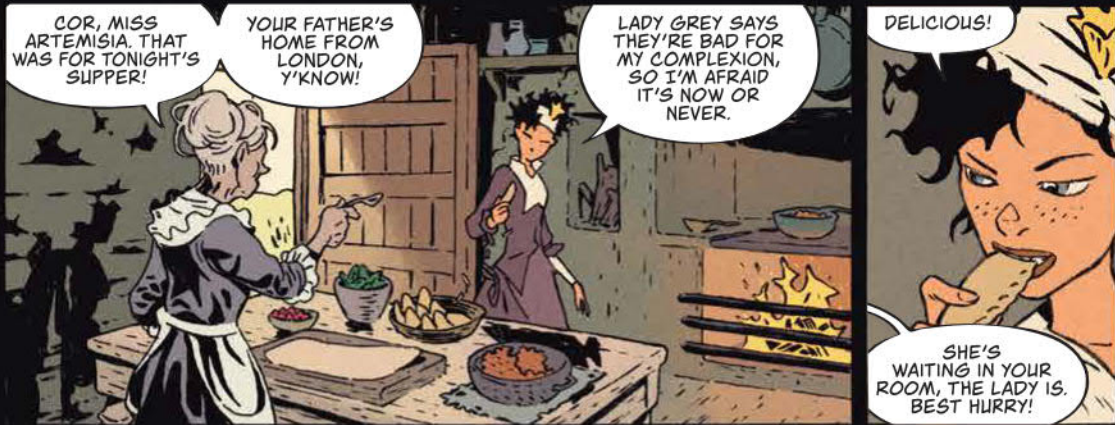
YOU BE CAREFUL, TOO. NOTHING FEELS SAFE ANYMORE.

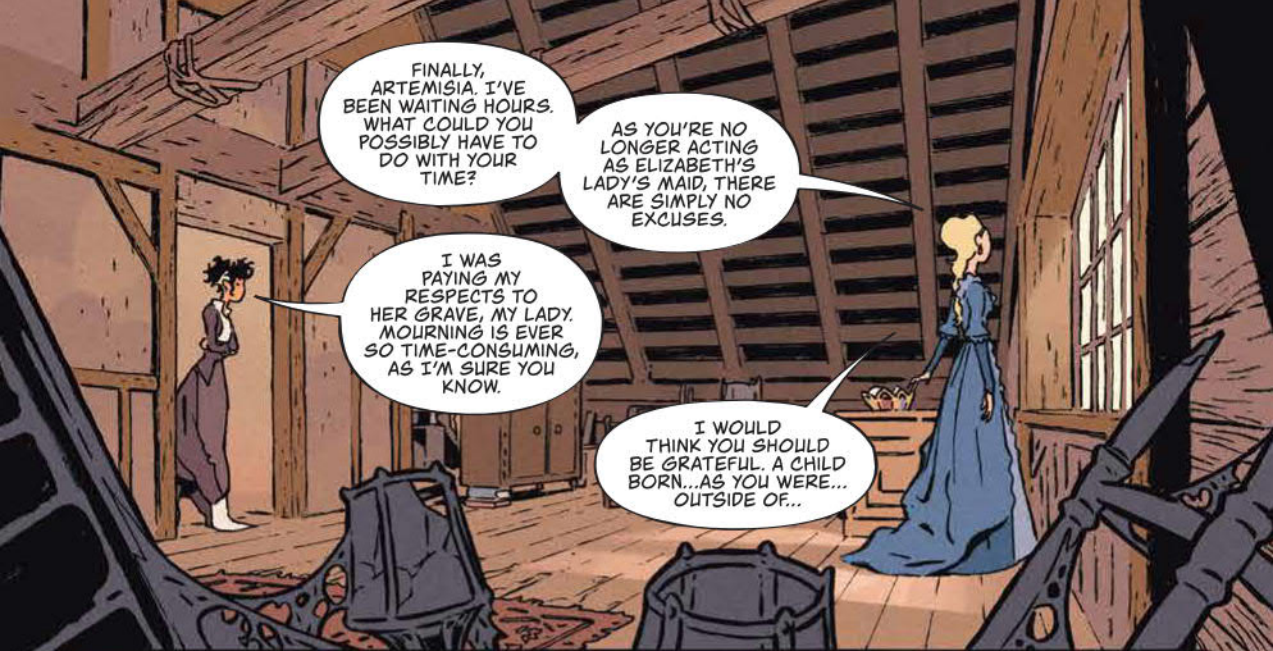


ONE DAY, DIABLO. ONE DAY, I'LL RIDE A REAL HORSE.

NO OFFENSE, TRAVELER, BUT YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME BY A LONG-SHOT.







FINALLY, ARTEMISIA, I'VE BEEN WAITING HOURS. WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR TIME?

AS YOU'RE NO LONGER ACTING AS ELIZABETH'S LADY'S MAID, THERE ARE SIMPLY NO EXCUSES.

I WAS PAYING MY RESPECTS TO HER GRAVE, MY LADY. MOURNING IS EVER SO TIME-CONSUMING, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW.

I WOULD THINK YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL. A CHILD BORN...AS YOU WERE... OUTSIDE OF...



≡SNIFF≡

...WE ALLOW YOU TO LIVE HERE, TO DINE WITH THE FAMILY. WE CLOTHE YOU AND--

YES, PAPA HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUS.



WELL, I'M GLAD THAT THERE'S ONE TOPIC ON WHICH WE AGREE.

THE CAPTAIN HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUS, AND HE DOES SO DOTE UPON YOU.

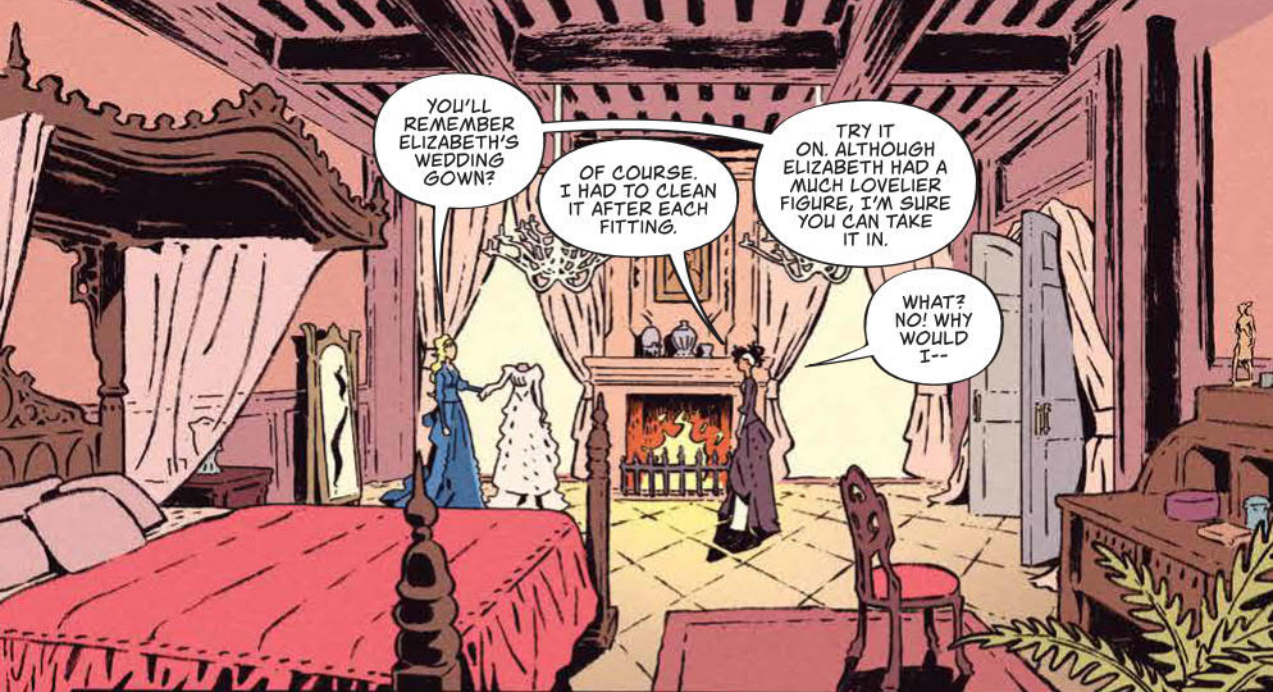


AND NOW, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, YOU CAN RETURN THE FAVOR. COME WITH ME.



BUT THIS IS...WAS... ELIZABETH'S ROOM.

PRECISELY.



YOU'LL REMEMBER ELIZABETH'S WEDDING GOWN?

OF COURSE, I HAD TO CLEAN IT AFTER EACH FITTING.

TRY IT ON. ALTHOUGH ELIZABETH HAD A MUCH LOVELIER FIGURE, I'M SURE YOU CAN TAKE IT IN.

WHAT? NO! WHY WOULD I--

STOP BEING SILLY, CHILD. ELIZABETH'S MATCH WITH THE DUKE WOULD'VE SAVED US.

SAVED YOUR FATHER'S REPUTATION AND THIS MANOR.

BUT SHE DIED IN THAT CURRICLE OF HIS, AND THAT MEANS WE MUST COUNT ON YOU.

COUNT ON ME?

TO MARRY AND MARRY WELL.

NO.

YES, YOU ALWAYS THROW IT IN MY FACE THAT HE'S YOUR FATHER, TOO, AND THAT MEANS HIS DEBTS ARE YOURS.

I DON'T BET ON PONIES OR GO TO GAMING HELLS. I DON'T VISIT--

SILENCE!

BESIDES, WHO WOULD WANT TO MARRY ME? I'M THE WRONG COLOR. YOU'VE TOLD ME SO OFTEN ENOUGH.

YOU'RE YOUNG AND PRETTY AND UNTOUCHED. OR WOULD YOU RATHER CAROLINE MARRY? MR. FISHER IS A BARONET, AND HE SAID SHE WAS CHARMING...

BUT HE'S SEVENTY!

THEN IT REALLY IS UP TO YOU, ISN'T IT? TRY IT ON. PRACTICE SMILING, FOR ONCE.

YOU'LL BE PRESENTED AT THE GRAND BALL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE, AND YOU WILL BRING HOME A TITLED HUSBAND.

OR I'LL SELL CAROLINE OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.