

Madeleine LaPlante

TATTOO OF FINNEGAN



Vol. ONE

Light of Life | Face of Death

Tattoo Finnegan



chapter **one**

It begins with Death



Arakesh



Over the fields of Arakesh, past the City of Tournò and through the Blackmallow Forest lies the Village of Hollypot. It is on the outskirts of this village that you'll find a tiny cottage, this is where Tattoo Finnegan lives.

The Haber River

Hobston

Hobb's Wood

Tournò

Wessum

Galiston

Felborough

Haberton

Willowstock

Black Mallow Forest

Hollypot





Now Tattoo isn't her real name. Named after her Great Aunt Tartoomiska, she is called Tattoo on account of the birthmark on her left hand. Many have guessed as to the mark's meaning, but so far it has proven itself to be just a birth mark.



Now, Tattoo, the thirteenth and youngest of the Finnegan children, lives alone with her dog Apollo. Her brothers and sisters have all left to pursue their own futures, and her parents have since passed on. So, naturally, as the only child left, she is the current caretaker of the Finnegan cottage. Having no desire to venture out into the world beyond Hollypot's border, this has suited Tattoo just fine.





On Mondays, she tends the garden. On Tuesdays, she cleans the cottage. On Wednesdays, she collects wood. On Thursdays, she tends to the laundry. On Fridays, she picks the fruits of the forest. On Saturdays, she goes to the village market and on Sundays, she reads a book and makes jam.

And so her days progressed, until three years had passed since she came to live alone in the cottage with Apollo...

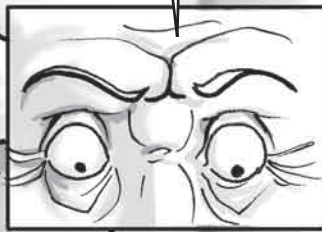
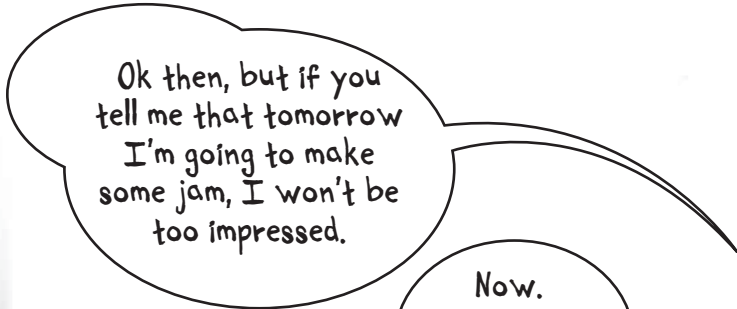
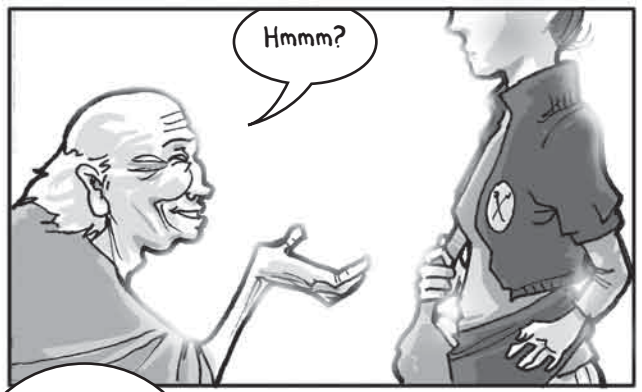


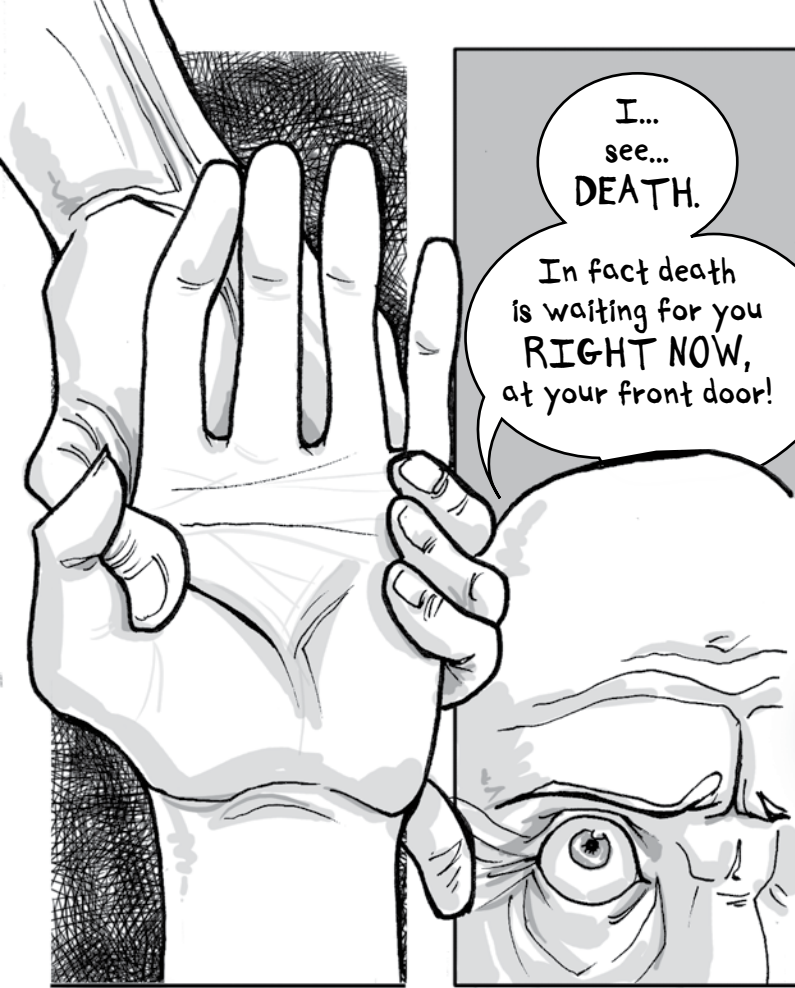
It was a Saturday when
Tattoo's comfortable routine
would be interrupted...











I...
see...
DEATH.

In fact death
is waiting for you
RIGHT NOW,
at your front door!



Death!?



Well good
luck with
that...

Huh?!
HEY WAIT!



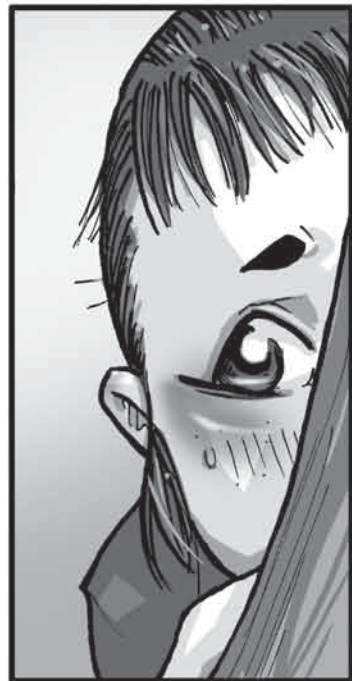
Well I suppose
one day death will
come calling...



but still, he must
be crazy!







...

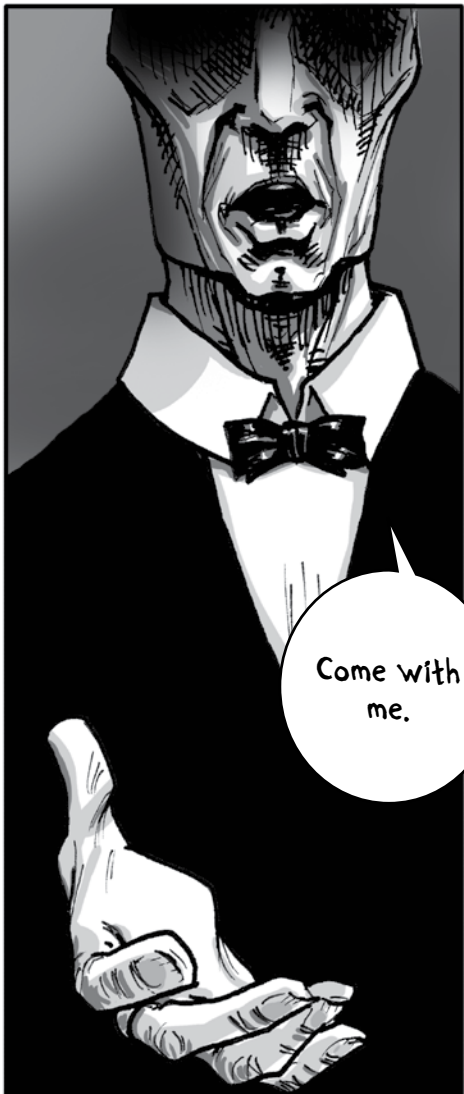


Tattoo
Finnegan
...

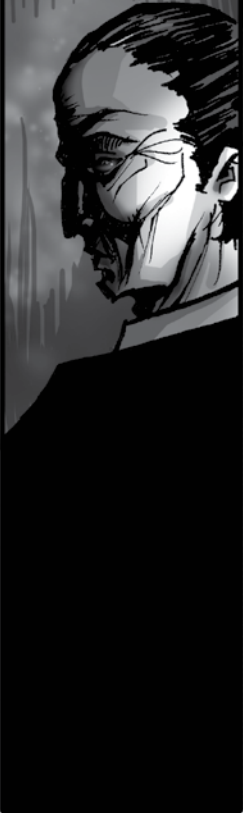


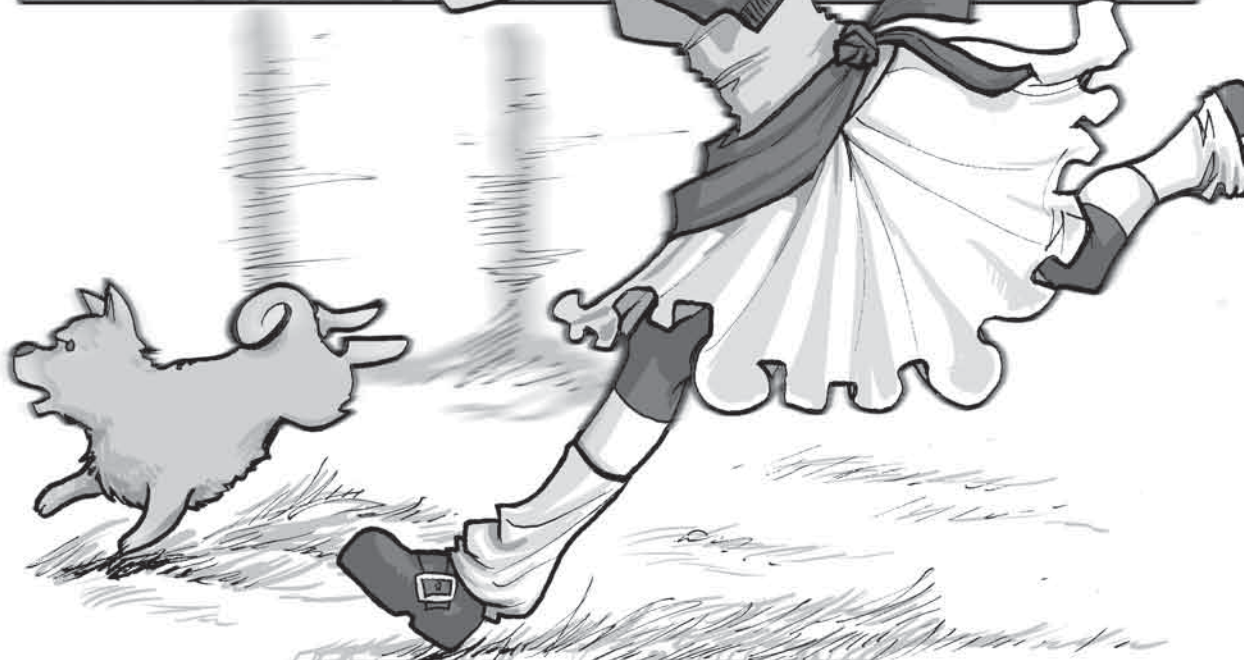
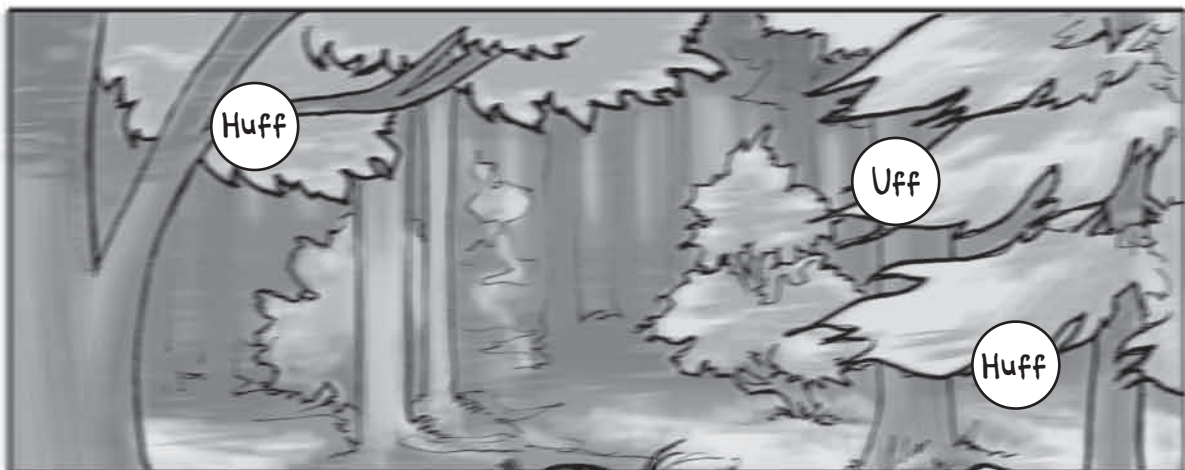
Y-
yes?

urrr



Come with
me.

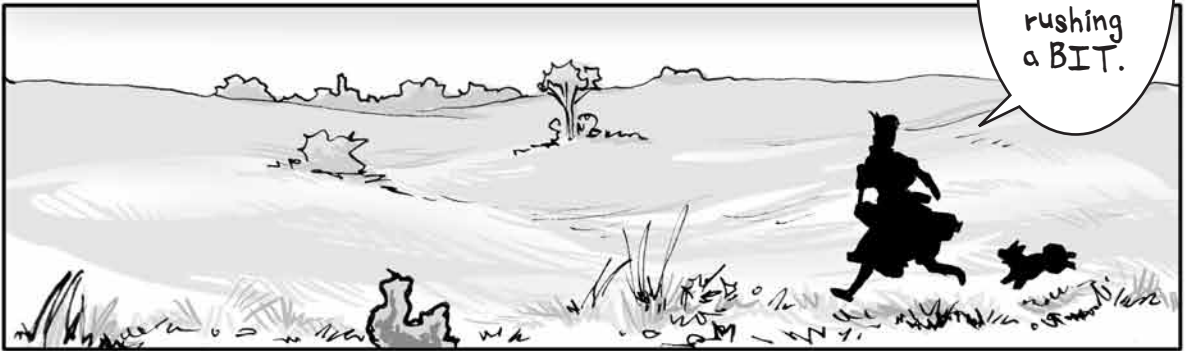
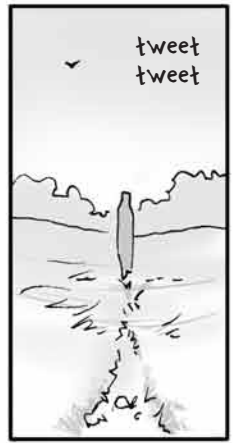














It's so
BIG...I doubt
Death could
find **ANYONE**
here.



Must be
why
it's so
popular...



Well this
should be it.



12

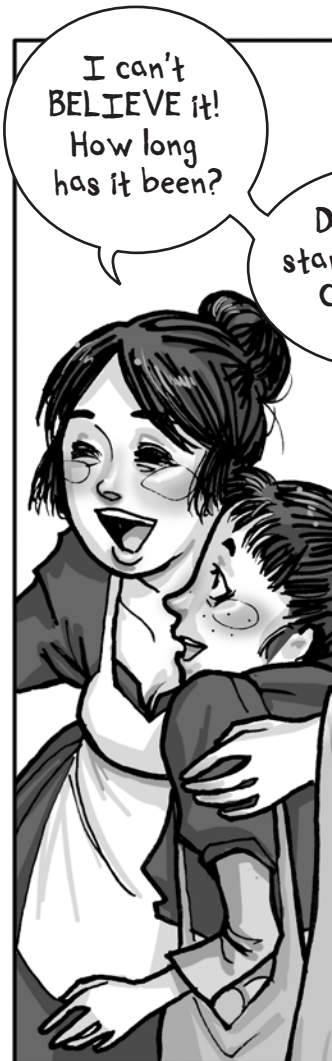
• knock
knock



EEK!
OH MY
GOODNESS
TATTOO!



12



I can't
BELIEVE it!
How long
has it been?

Don't just
stand out here
COME IN!



Hey
Sis.





Well, I'm glad to hear you're doing well.

I've been so busy now with little Dooley here and another one coming!

That's great, congratulations!

I meant to write y'know, I've been worrying with you all alone and- >sniff< um you smell that?



OH NO!! The stew!

Pretty lively here, eh?

A-Da!



Who could that be?



Tattoo Finnegan?



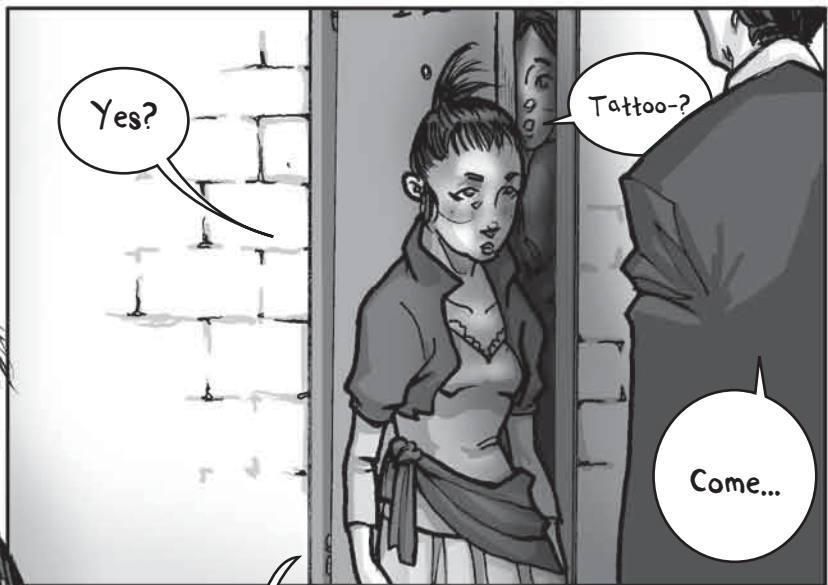
Knock Knock



It's for you?



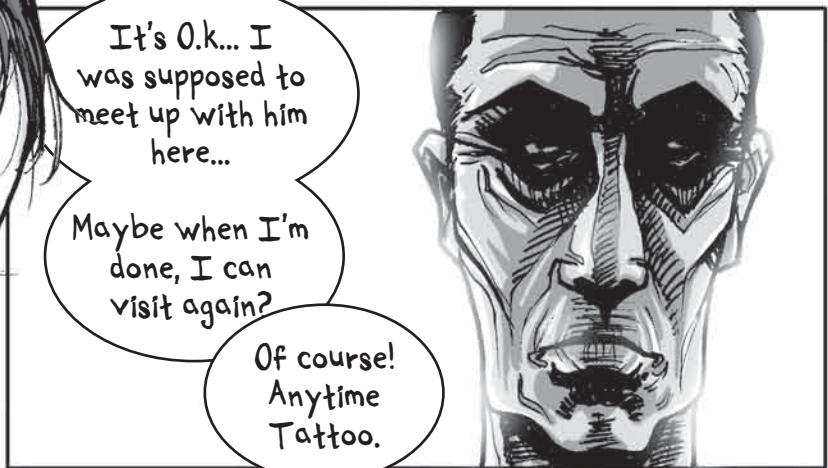
Tattoo Finnegan?



Yes?

Tattoo-?

Come...



It's O.k... I was supposed to meet up with him here...

Maybe when I'm done, I can visit again?

Of course! Anytime Tattoo.



Take care, sis.

Sigh

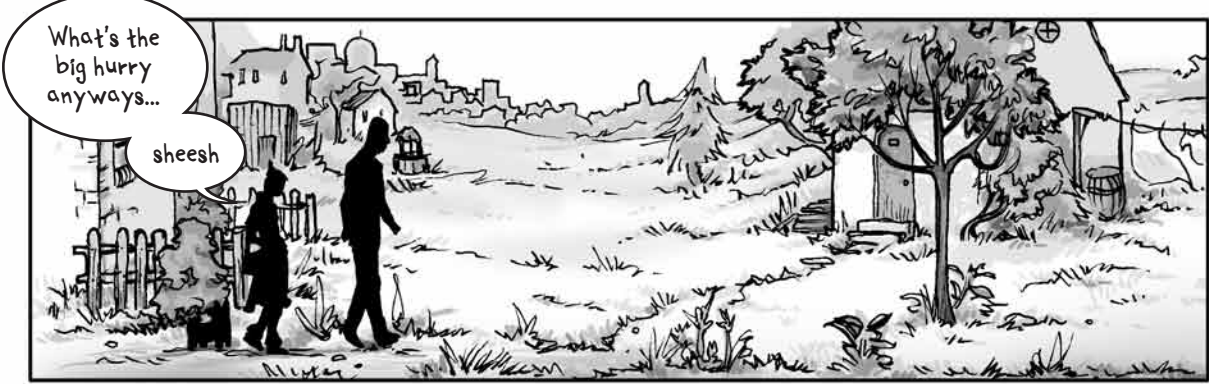


Apollo I think you should stay...

COME!

Ok Ok!





What's the big hurry anyways...

sheesh



Rest Now.

yawn



Who would've thought that death-



... would be so much work?







Well- I don't know...
I was travelling with a
man, who was um- Death!?



CAW
///
///

Death?
No wonder you're
tired! Why go with
him if you thought
that's who he was?



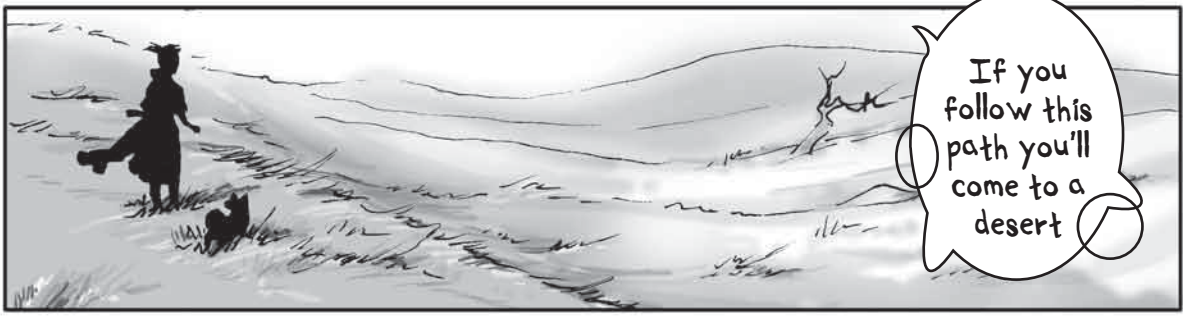
I know it's odd and at
first I didn't want to...
but he can find you any-
where. He may be gone
now, but, he might come
back....

flap
flap

I know it's
hard to believe,
but I don't
know what
to do...



Well there is
one place he
cannot go. A
village not far
from here
in fact



If you
follow this
path you'll
come to a
desert



and the village
is right there
at its center.

I've been
there once
myself. I'm
sure you'll
find it.

Sigh
Oh Apollo!
This is not what I
was expecting...



Whaaat!?
Am I crazy
or have you
actually
come to visit
this damned
place!?



H-Hello!
I um- was told
Death couldn't
come here?

It's true!
Y'see dear I've
lived longer then
most men and
I've even met
Death!

He came here when
I was a younger man,
bringing a disaster
which would finish
us all!
You can imagine how
upset we all were-

so I
made a
wager with
"im!





He'd leave
and ne'er
return, only
if I suffered
no wound-



When
stabbed by
this knife-

OOFF!

PISH



Heh heh...
As you can
see I won
the wager!



-A
trick knife!

shk

I can't believe
you fooled him!
Maybe I should've
talked to him...

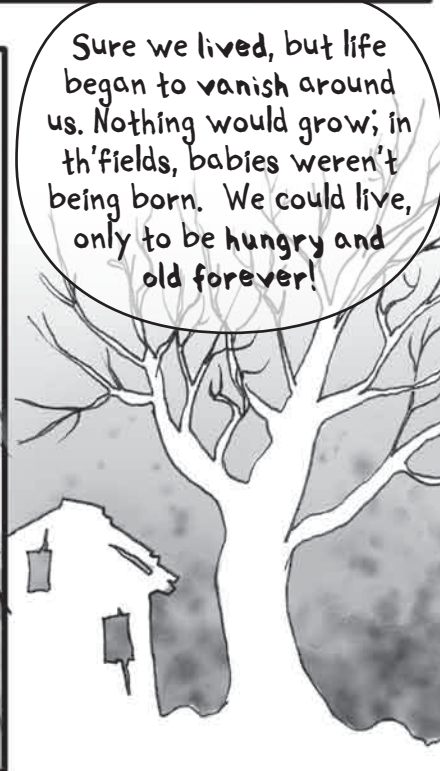
But, I'm surprised
he would agree
to it.



I
wonder too.
But a deal's a
deal and he
did make good
on his
promise.

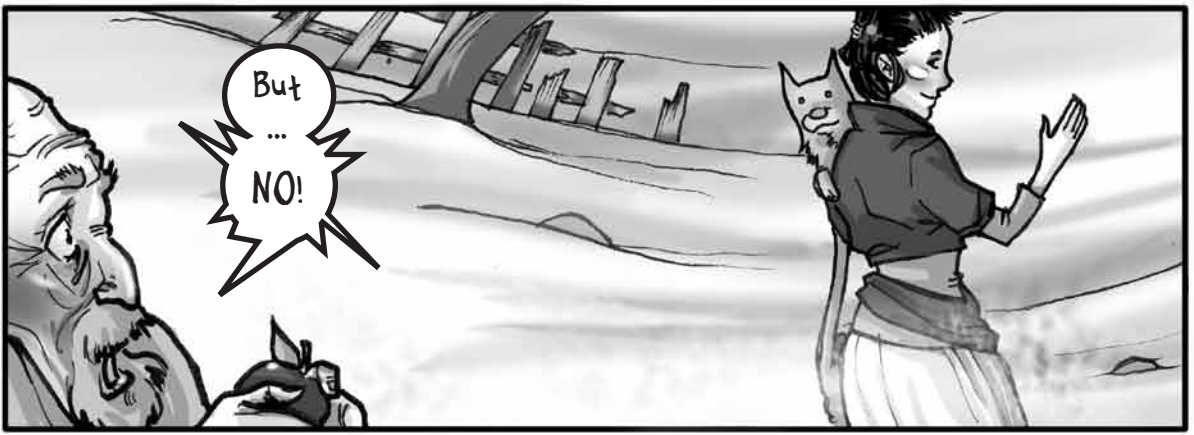


Or so I
thought-
that
CHEAT!



Sure we lived, but life
began to vanish around
us. Nothing would grow; in
th'fields, babies weren't
being born. We could live,
only to be hungry and
old forever!







You win, I
take it all
back!

I was a
CHEAT,
but I see
it now!

Please!
I want you to
come **BACK**!

Very
well.



