

YOU THINK I HOLD  
MACBETH ABOVE ALL  
CONSEQUENCE, RIATA,  
BUT THERE'S NO  
TRUTH IN THAT.

"THIS MURDER WILL NOT  
STAND UNPUNISHED. TO  
KILL SOMEONE IN THE  
ARMS OF SLEEP IS VILE.

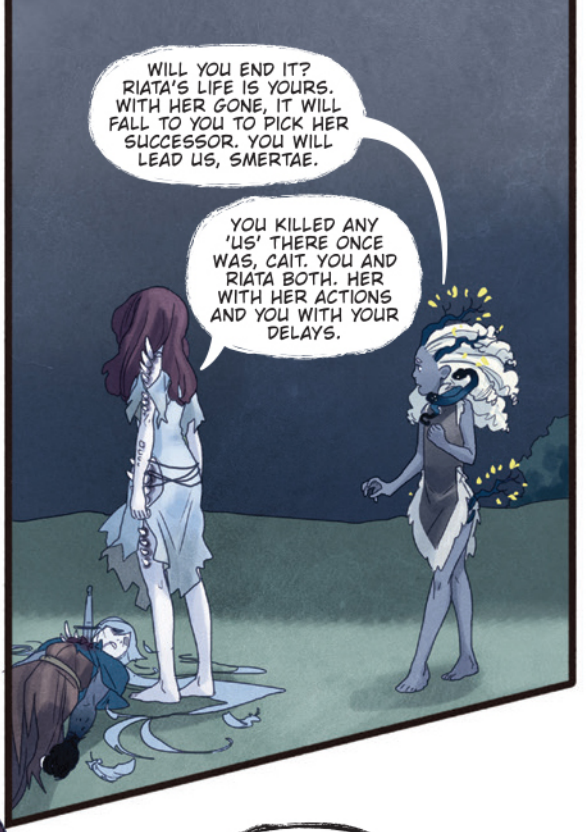


"AND AS MACBETH  
HAS MURDERED  
SLEEP, SO HE WILL  
SLEEP NO MORE."





THAT IS MY CURSE, MY JUSTICE.



WILL YOU END IT? RIATA'S LIFE IS YOURS. WITH HER GONE, IT WILL FALL TO YOU TO PICK HER SUCCESSOR. YOU WILL LEAD US, SMERTAE.

YOU KILLED ANY 'US' THERE ONCE WAS, CAIT. YOU AND RIATA BOTH. HER WITH HER ACTIONS AND YOU WITH YOUR DELAYS.



DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH HER. SAVE HER IF YOU CAN. I CARE NOT.

I AM DONE WITH BOTH OF YOU.



I HAVE A KING TO ADVISE. IF I SEE YOU AGAIN, I WILL GRIND YOU INTO DUST.



**T**HE REST OF THE NIGHT AND THE NEXT MORNING PASSED IN A BLUR.

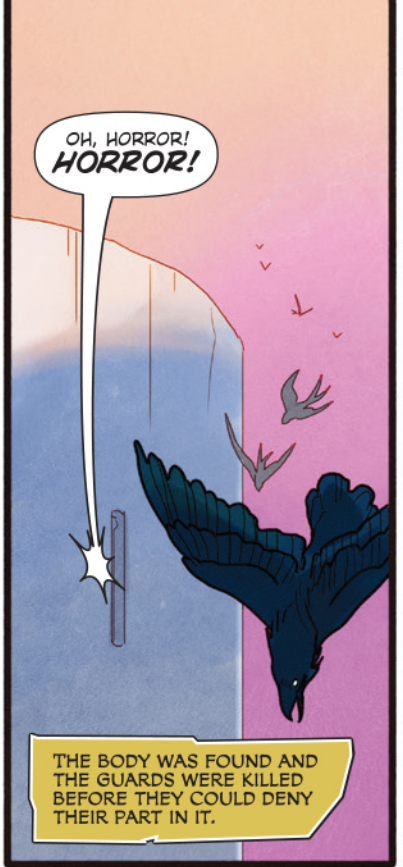
MACBETH ESCAPED THE SCENE AND HIS WIFE AIDED HIM IN FRAMING THE GUARDS FOR MURDER.

...QUICKLY AND A LITTLE WATER WILL WASH AWAY THE SIN.



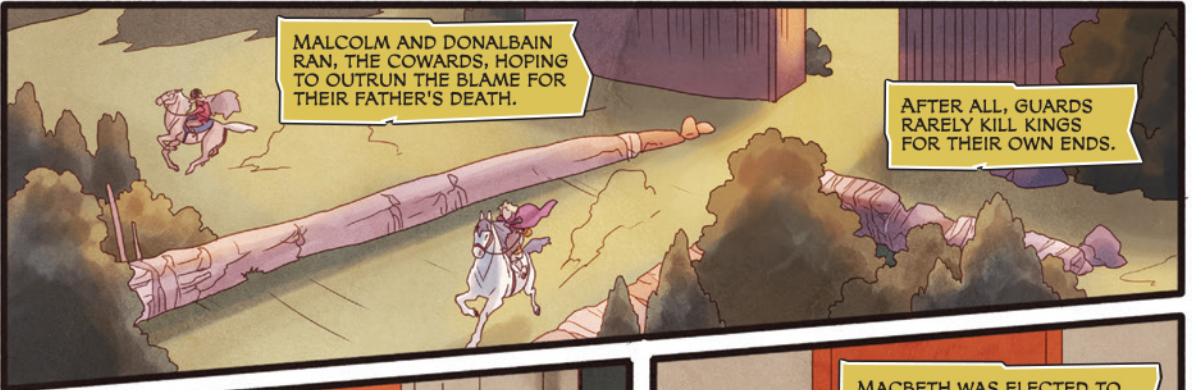
OH, HORROR!  
**HORROR!**

THE BODY WAS FOUND AND THE GUARDS WERE KILLED BEFORE THEY COULD DENY THEIR PART IN IT.



MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN RAN, THE COWARDS, HOPING TO OUTFRAN THE BLAME FOR THEIR FATHER'S DEATH.

AFTER ALL, GUARDS RARELY KILL KINGS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.



I COULD ALMOST FEEL THE COURSE OF FATE STRAIGHTENING, FALLING COMFORTABLY BACK IN LINE WITH PROPHECY.



MACBETH WAS ELECTED TO BE THE NEXT KING AND STILL I HELD MY BREATH, UNEASY.





"LET IT BE DONE," I BEGGED WHICHEVER GOD MIGHT STILL PITY ME.



LET IT BE DONE.



AT LONG LAST, LET IT BE DONE.



LONG LIVE THE KING!



LONG MAY HE REIGN, HARRIER.





FLEANCE, WALK WITH ME. KEEP AN OLD WOMAN COMPANY.



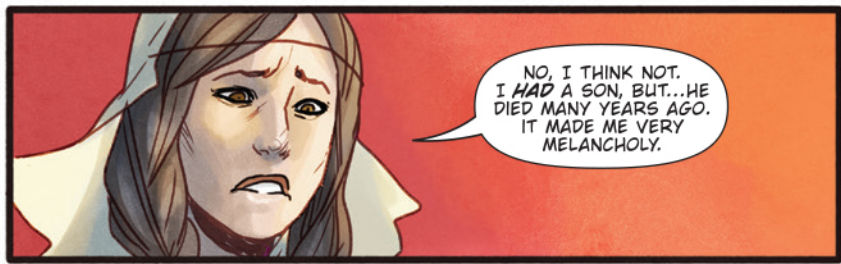
YOU SHOULD HURRY, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU SHOULD BE WITH YOUR HUSBAND.

NO. HE IS KING NOW AND A KING SHARES HIS LIFE WITH HIS NATION. LET THIS LAST TRIUMPH BE MY HUSBAND'S ALONE.



BESIDES, A WOODLAND SPRITE TOLD ME ONE DAY YOU MAY BE KING AND I WANTED A GOOD LOOK AT YOU BEFORE IT HAPPENED.

ME? BUT YOU'LL GET A SON NOW. HE'LL BE KING NEXT.



NO, I THINK NOT. I HAD A SON, BUT...HE DIED MANY YEARS AGO. IT MADE ME VERY MELANCHOLY.



THEN YOU MUST HAVE ANOTHER SO YOU CAN BE HAPPY AGAIN.

I--YOU MUST GO AHEAD, FLEANCE. FIND YOUR FATHER.



WHY IS IT ALWAYS CARELESS WORDS THAT CUT SO DEEP?