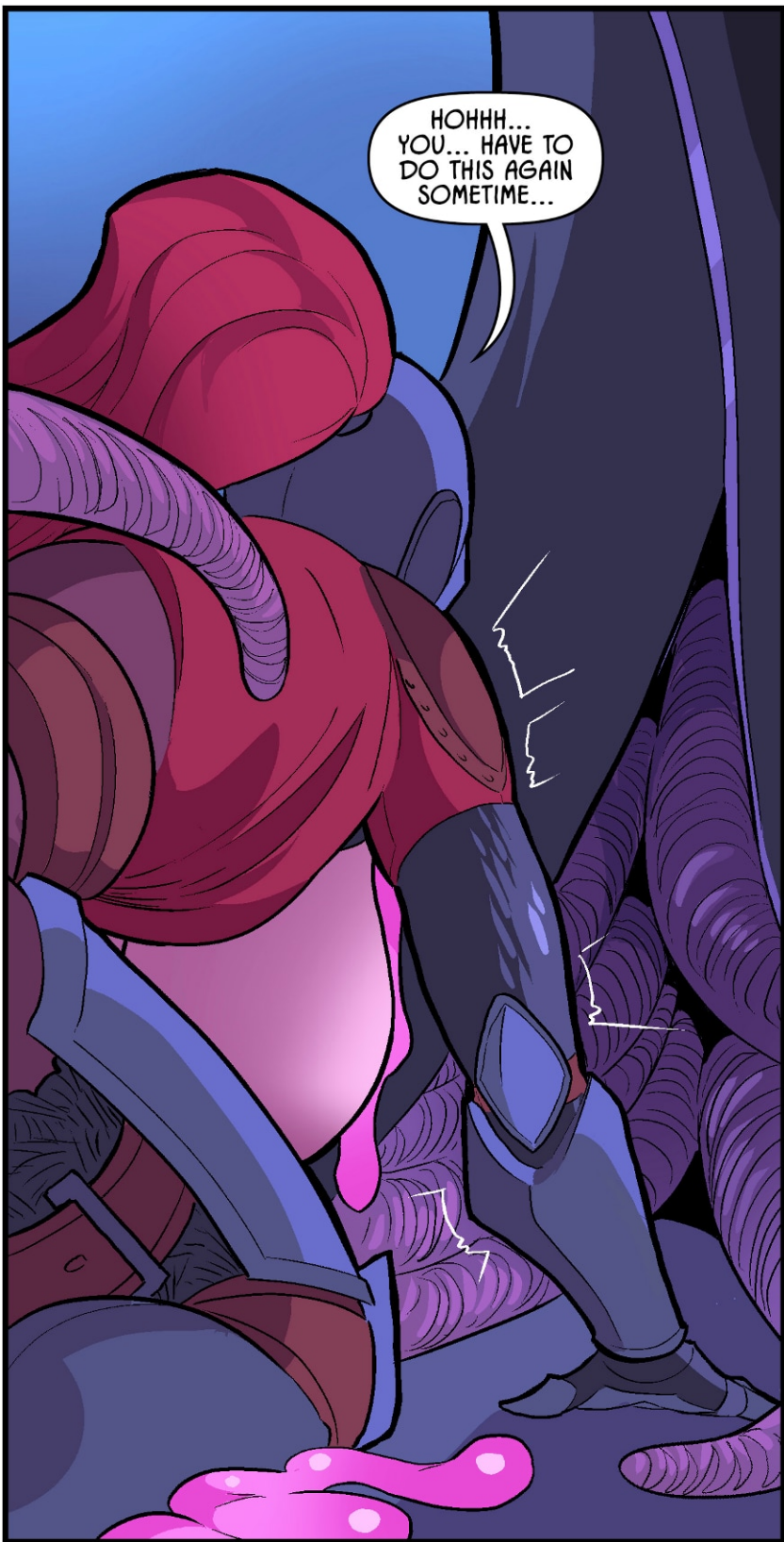
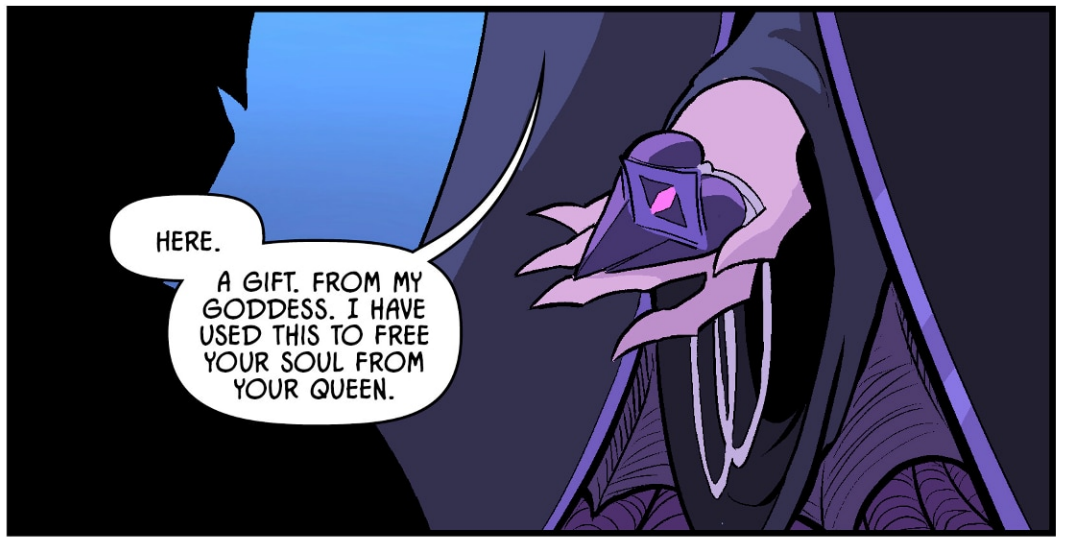




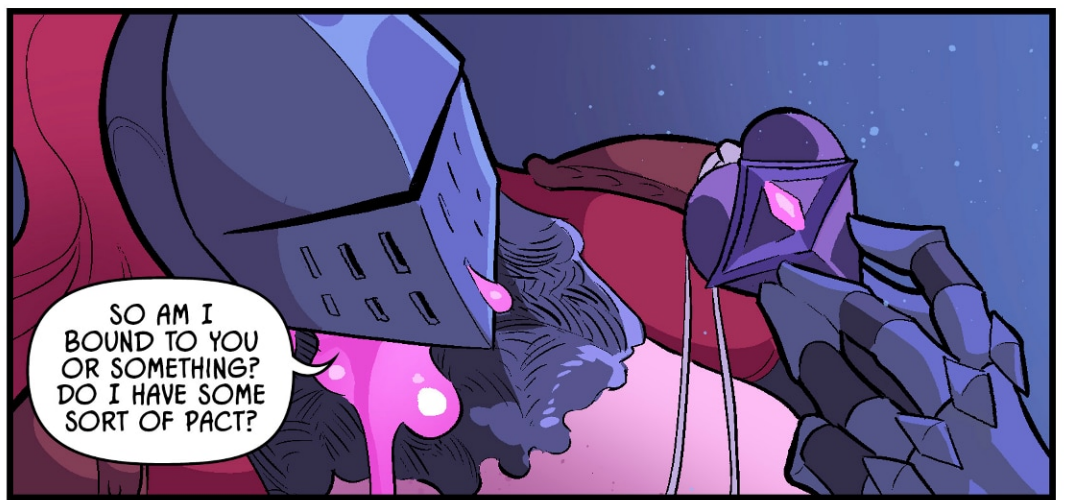
EASY THERE, MY WARRIOR.



HOHHH... YOU... HAVE TO DO THIS AGAIN SOMETIME...



HERE.
A GIFT. FROM MY GODDESS. I HAVE USED THIS TO FREE YOUR SOUL FROM YOUR QUEEN.



SO AM I BOUND TO YOU OR SOMETHING? DO I HAVE SOME SORT OF PACT?



HAH! NONSENSE!
THOU ART NO LONGER BEHOLDEN TO ANYONE. NOT ME, NOR THE GODDESS. YOU ARE YOUR OWN WOMAN.



BUT WITH THIS... SHOULD YOU CHOOSE, YOU CAN NOW DO TO OTHERS, WHAT I HAVE DONE TO THEE.

FOR YOU, SEVERING YOUR OATH WAS ONE OF YOUR GREATEST DESIRES, BUT FOR THOSE IN YOUR ORDER...

TO SEVER THEIR OATH WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC TO THEIR STATION.



THEY WOULD BE FOREVER DISHONORED BY PARTAKING IN THE FLESH WITH ONE WHO POSSESSES AN ARTIFACT OF THE GODDESS.

THEY WILL HAVE WISHED THAT YOU HAD WRESTLED THEM WITH A SWORD INSTEAD OF WITH THY BODY.

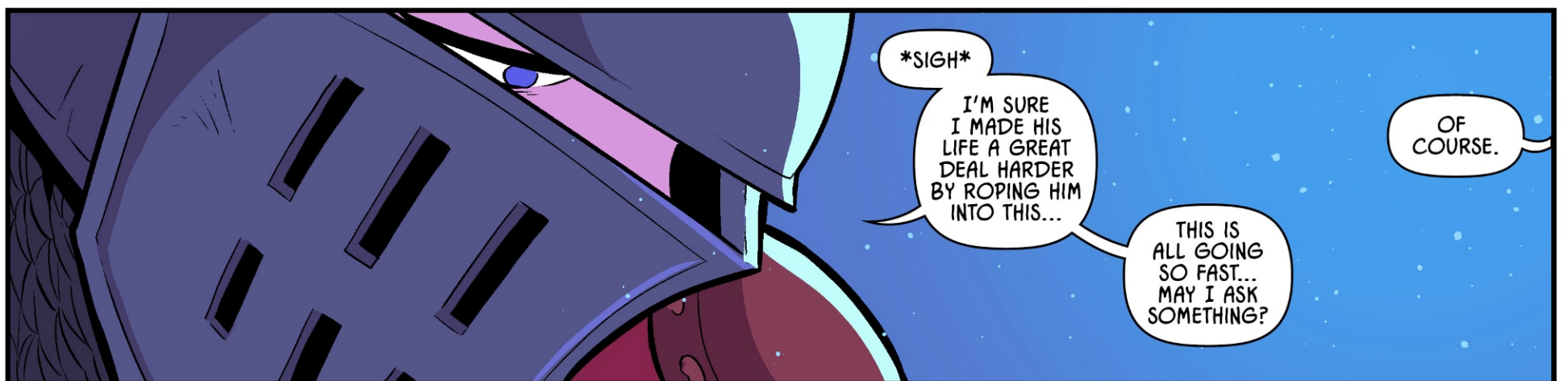


I HAVE... ALSO ENSURED GOPHNER'S SAFETY.



HE'S ALIVE?? THANK GODS!

WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE, GO SPEAK WITH HIM. I HAVE GIVEN HIM INSTRUCTION.

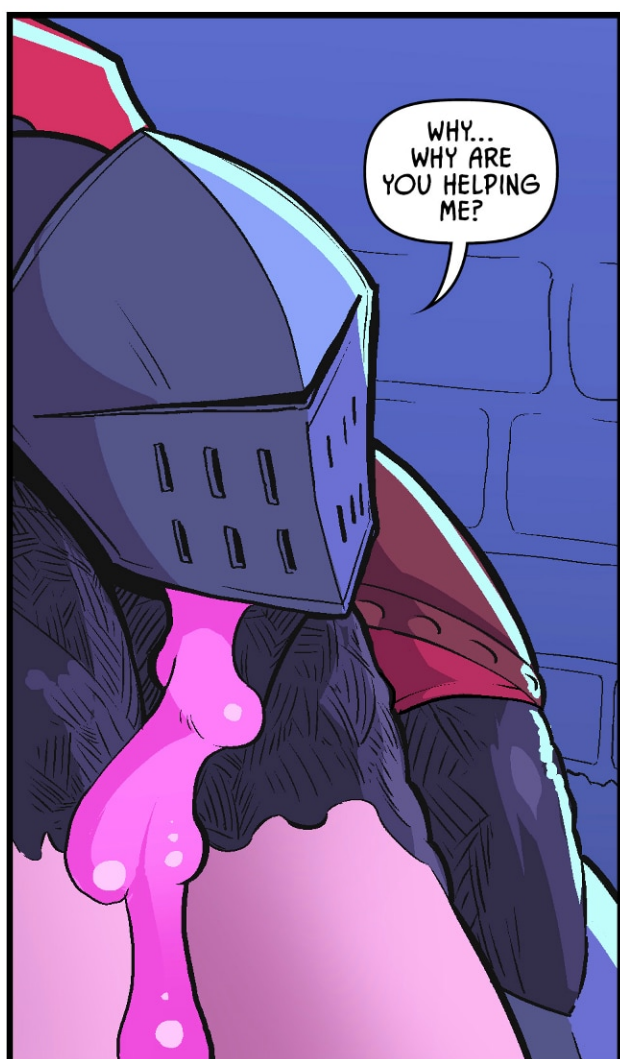


SIGH

I'M SURE I MADE HIS LIFE A GREAT DEAL HARDER BY ROPING HIM INTO THIS...

OF COURSE.

THIS IS ALL GOING SO FAST... MAY I ASK SOMETHING?

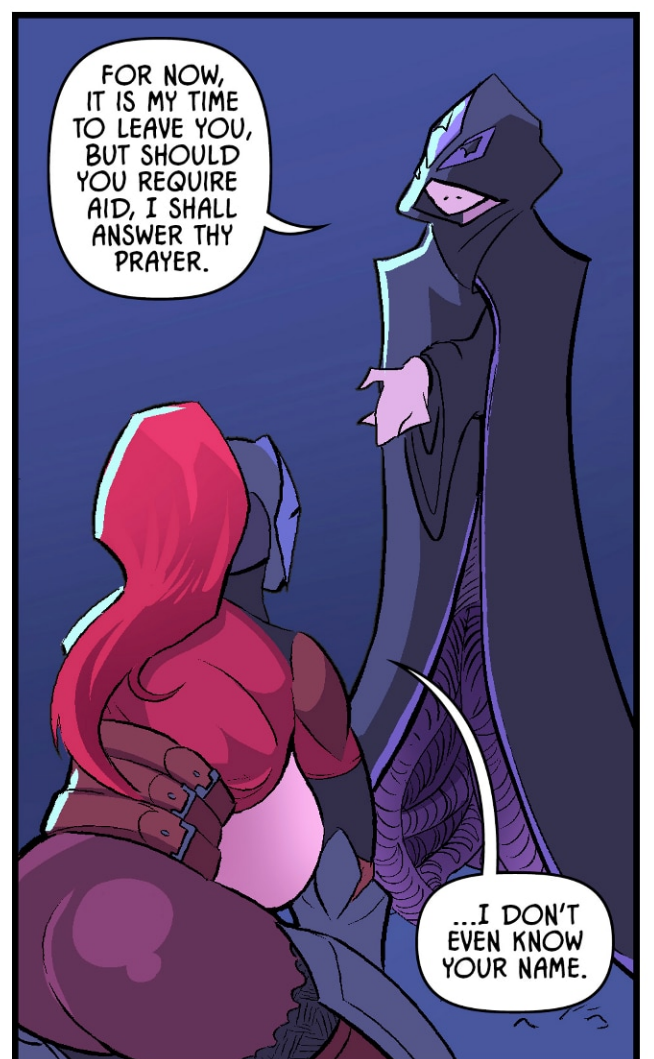


WHY... WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?



THE GODDESS BELIEVES THAT YOU WILL DECIDE TO DISMANTLE AN ENTIRE ORDER AS ONE WOMAN.

BUT I'M HELPING YOU BECAUSE I BELIEVE SOME DESERVE BETTER THAN THE LOT LIFE HAS GIVEN THEM.



FOR NOW, IT IS MY TIME TO LEAVE YOU, BUT SHOULD YOU REQUIRE AID, I SHALL ANSWER THY PRAYER.

...I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

