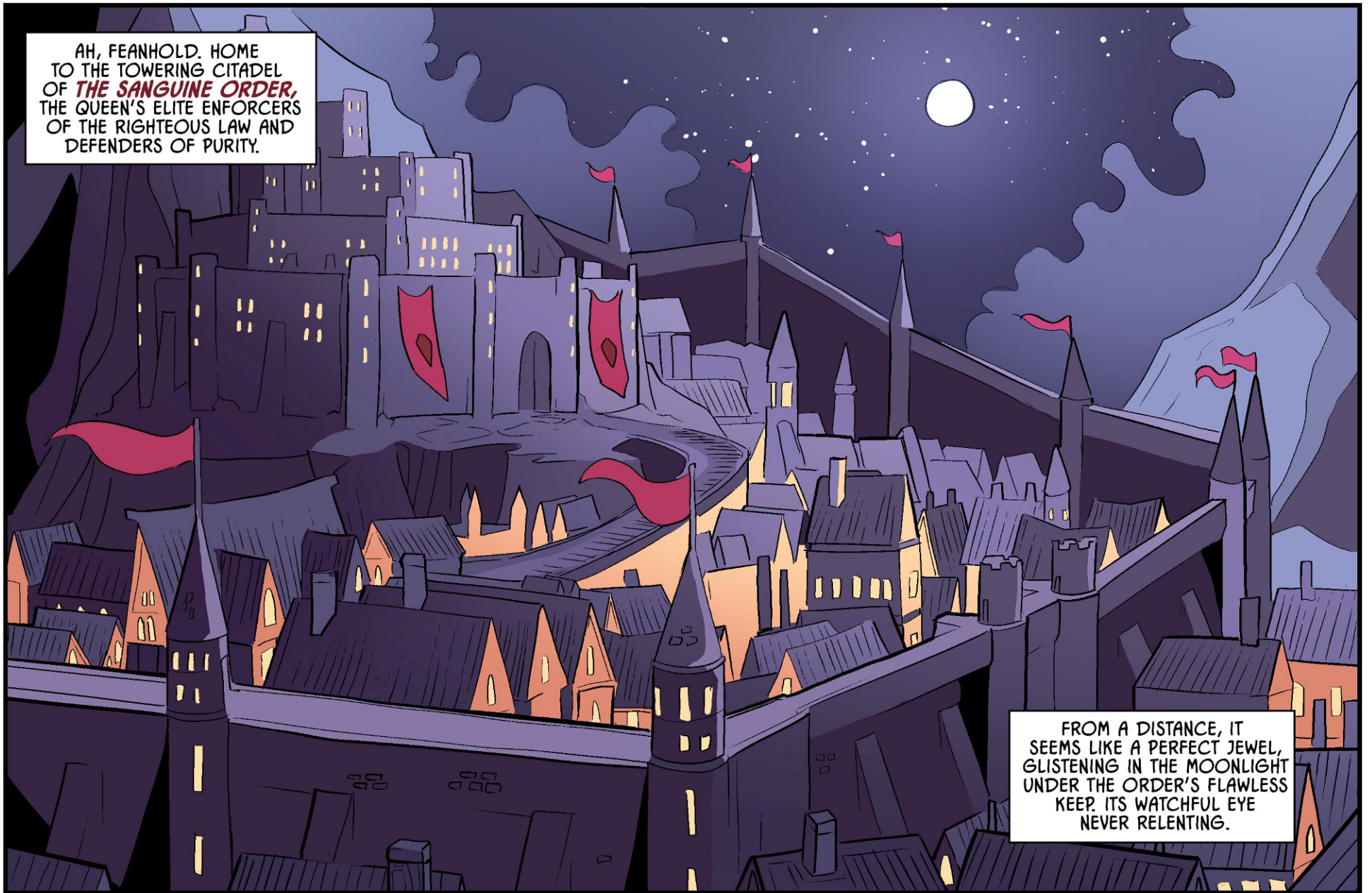




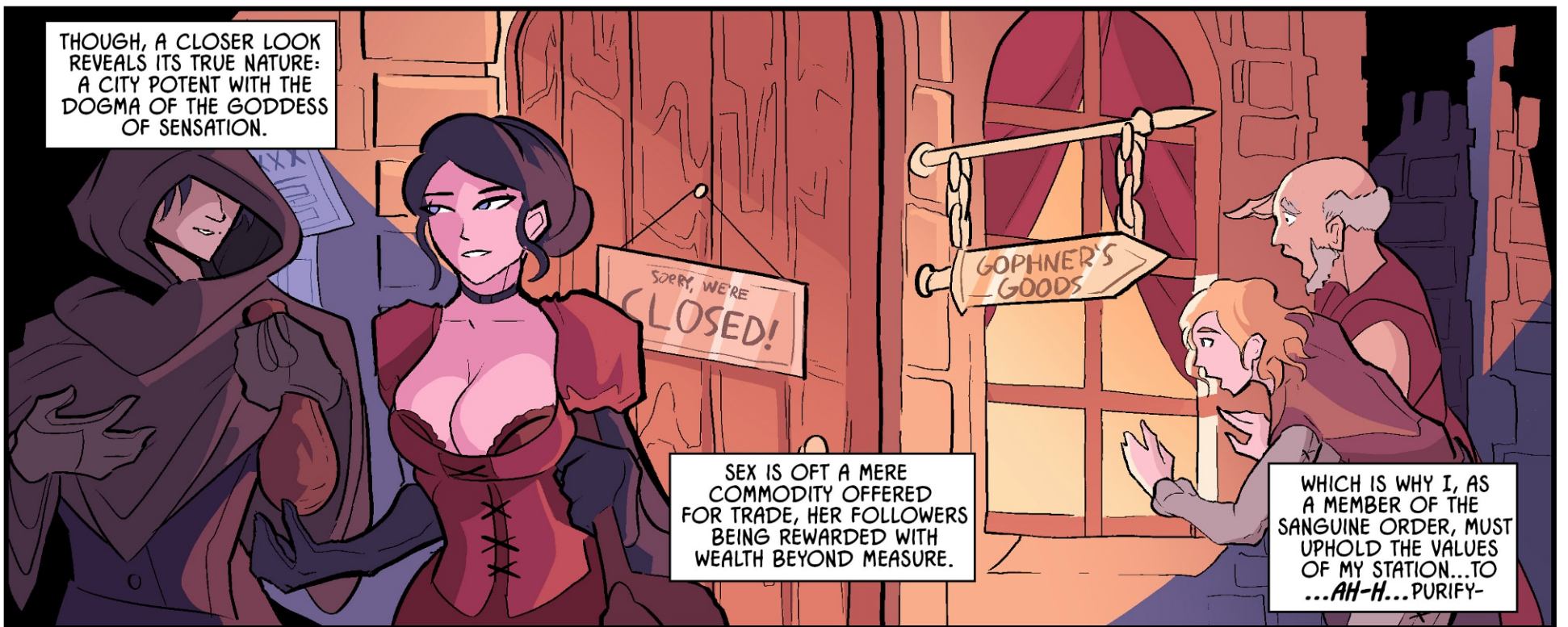
SHEATH THINE SWORD!

A COMIC OF KNIGHTLY ADVENTURES BY SALADBEARER



AH, FEANHOLD. HOME TO THE TOWERING CITADEL OF **THE SANGUINE ORDER**, THE QUEEN'S ELITE ENFORCERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS LAW AND DEFENDERS OF PURITY.

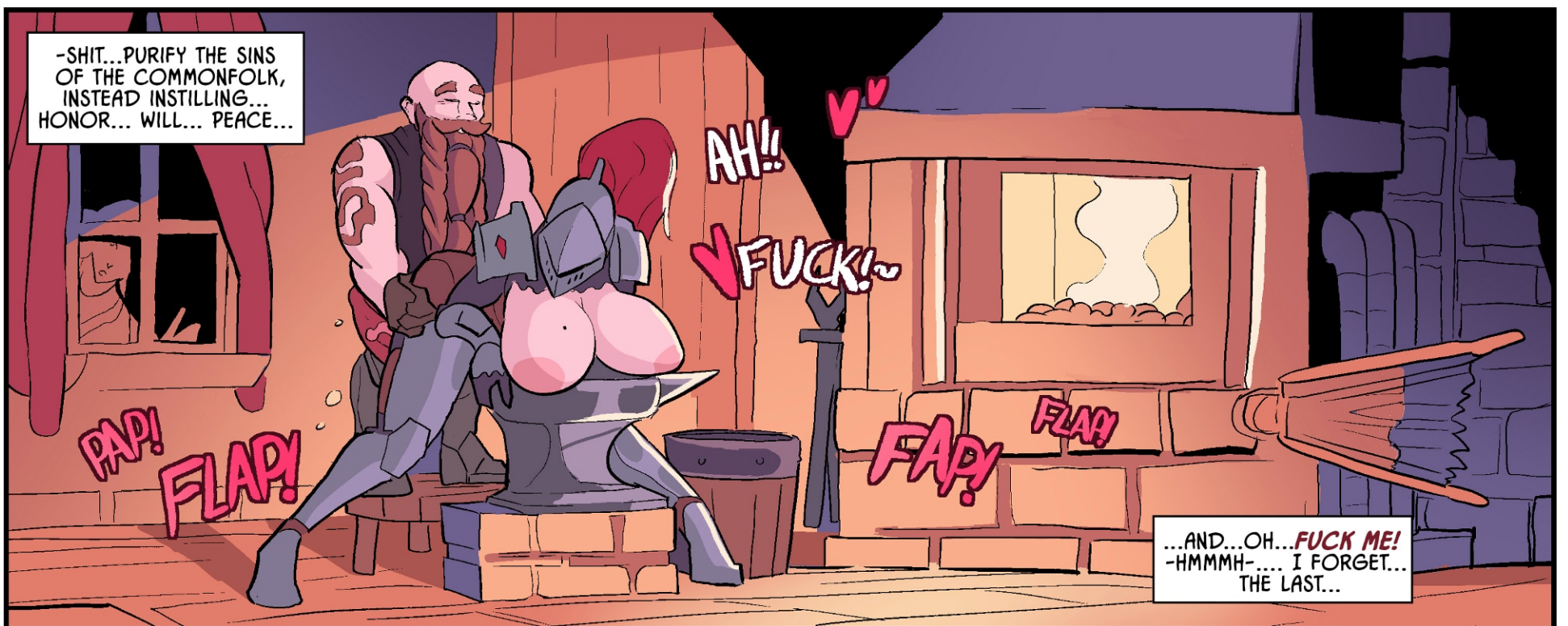
FROM A DISTANCE, IT SEEMS LIKE A PERFECT JEWEL, GLISTENING IN THE MOONLIGHT UNDER THE ORDER'S FLAWLESS KEEP. ITS WATCHFUL EYE NEVER RELENTING.



THOUGH, A CLOSER LOOK REVEALS ITS TRUE NATURE: A CITY POTENT WITH THE DOGMA OF THE GODDESS OF SENSATION.

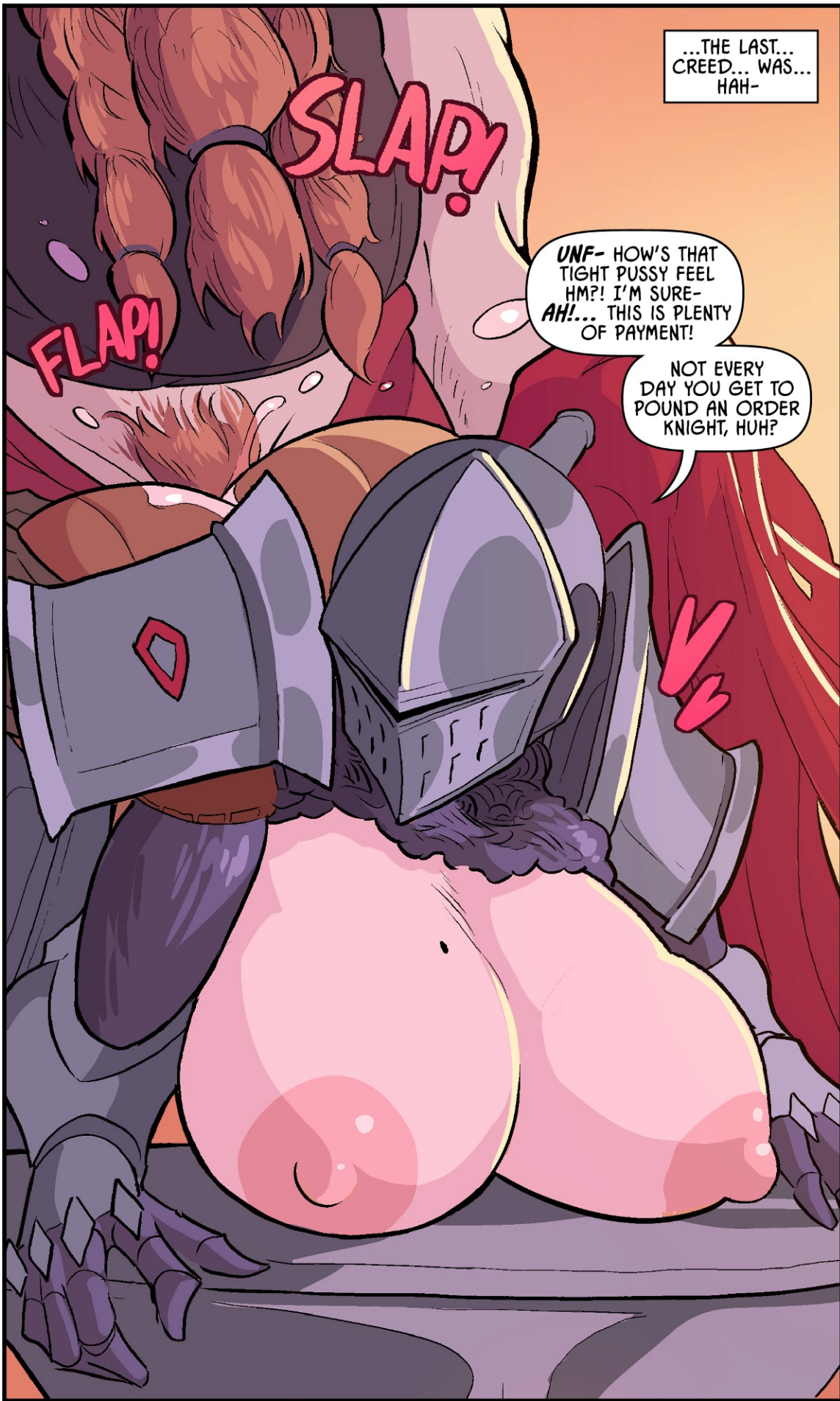
SEX IS OFT A MERE COMMODITY OFFERED FOR TRADE, HER FOLLOWERS BEING REWARDED WITH WEALTH BEYOND MEASURE.

WHICH IS WHY I, AS A MEMBER OF THE SANGUINE ORDER, MUST UPHOLD THE VALUES OF MY STATION...TO ...AH-H... PURIFY-



-SHIT...PURIFY THE SINS OF THE COMMONFOLK, INSTEAD INSTILLING... HONOR... WILL... PEACE...

...AND...OH...**FUCK ME!**
-HMMH-... I FORGET... THE LAST...



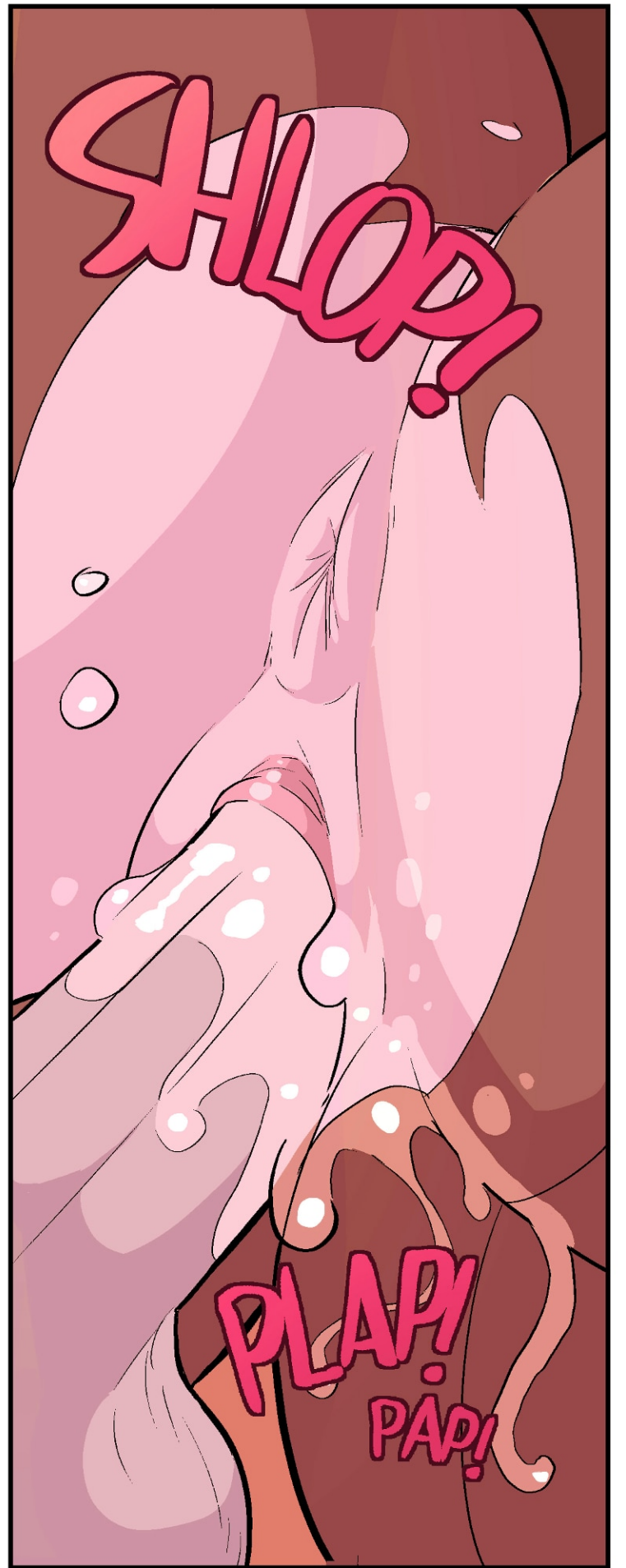
...THE LAST...
CREED... WAS...
HAH-

SLAP!

FLAP!

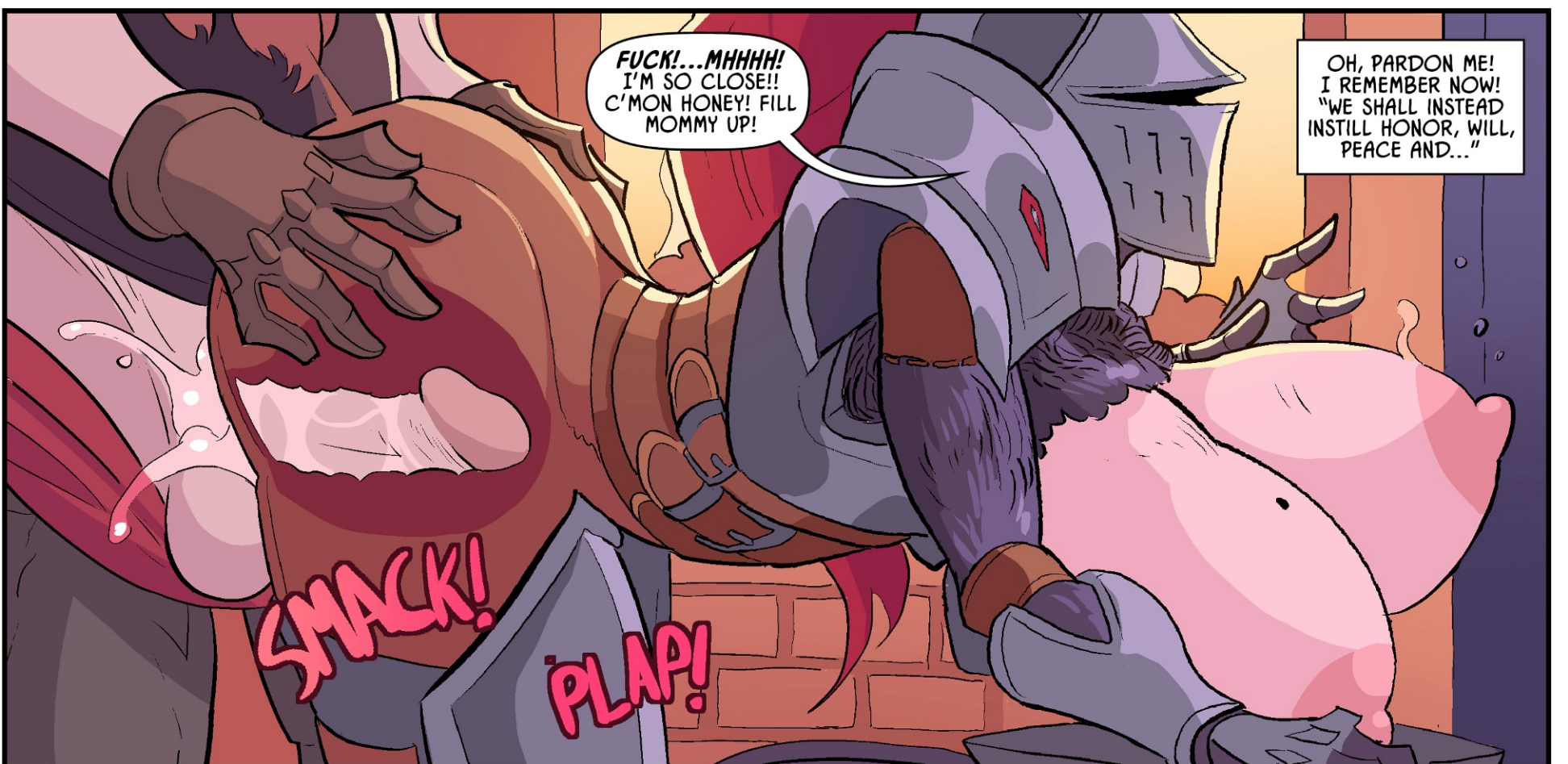
UNF- HOW'S THAT
TIGHT PUSSY FEEL
HM?! I'M SURE-
AH!... THIS IS PLENTY
OF PAYMENT!

NOT EVERY
DAY YOU GET TO
POUND AN ORDER
KNIGHT, HUH?



SHLOP!

PLAP!
PAP!

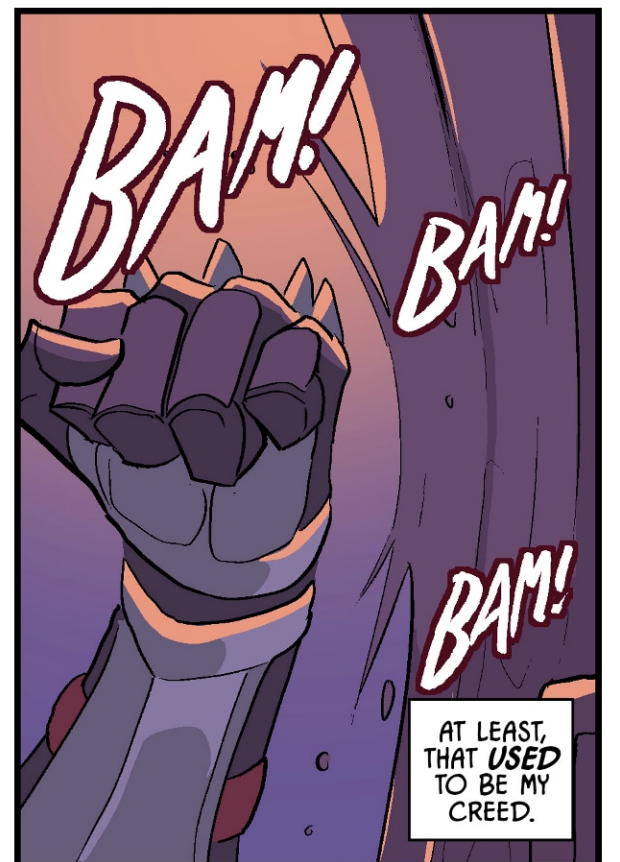
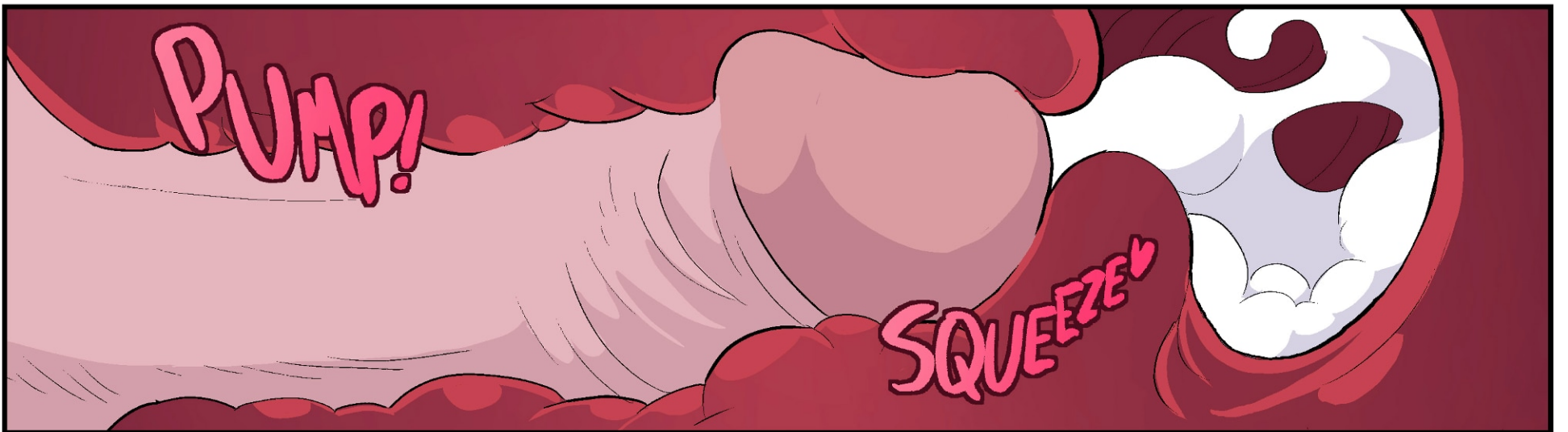
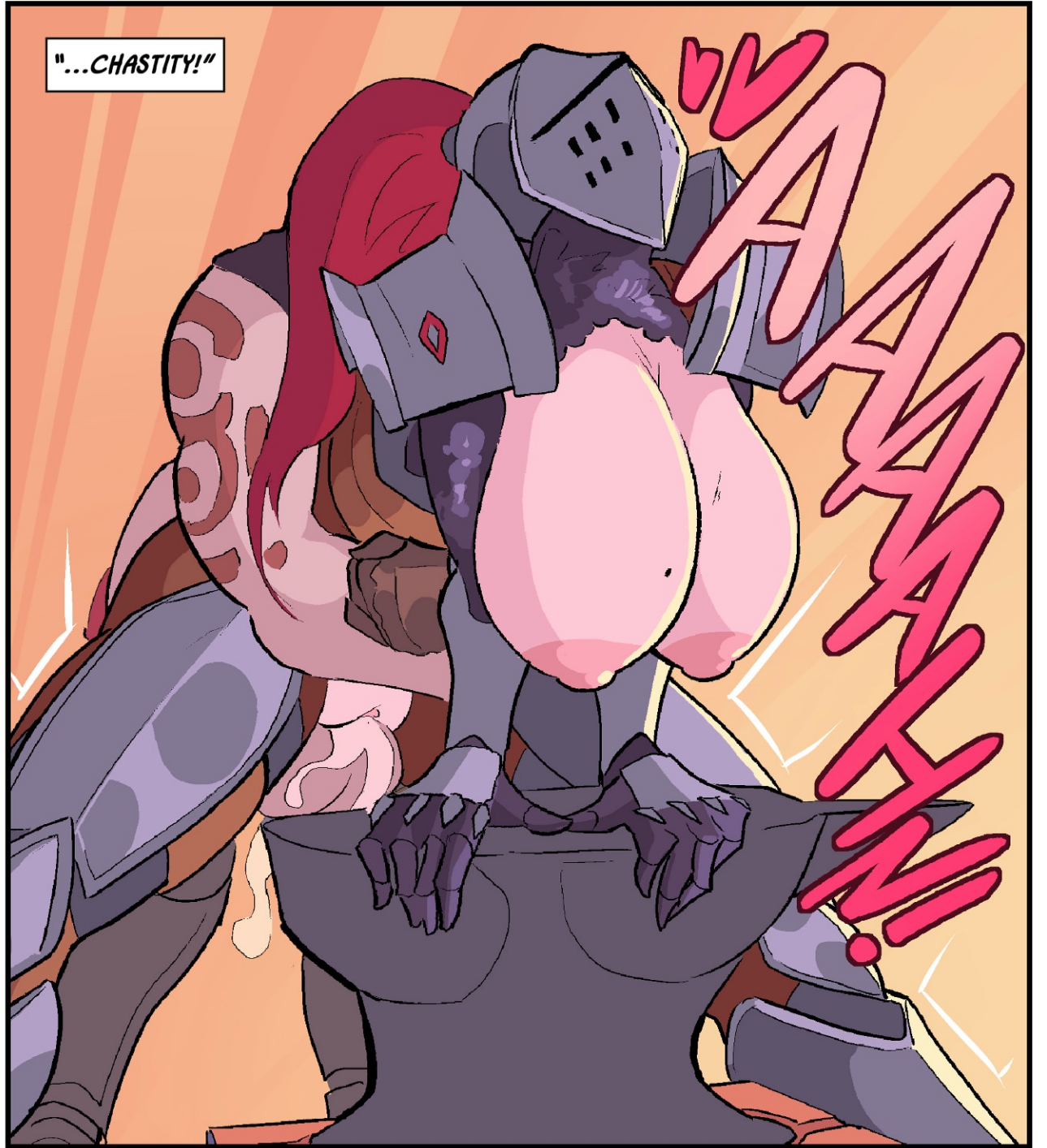


FUCK!...MHHHH!
I'M SO CLOSE!!
C'MON HONEY! FILL
MOMMY UP!

OH, PARDON ME!
I REMEMBER NOW!
"WE SHALL INSTEAD
INSTILL HONOR, WILL,
PEACE AND..."

SMACK!

PLAP!





BAM!

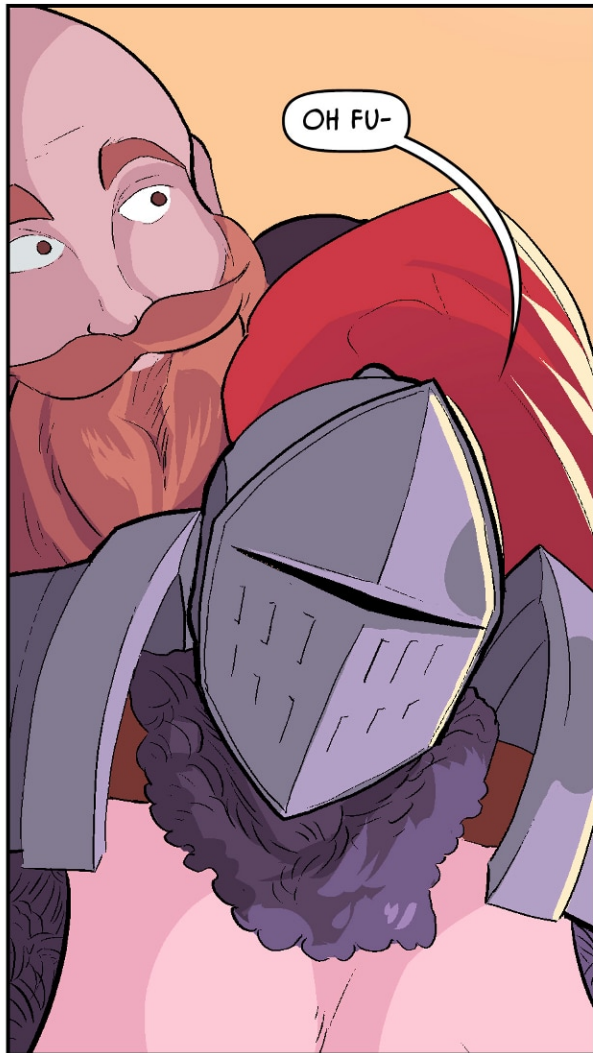
NO NEED TO WAIT... STEP BACK.

BAM!

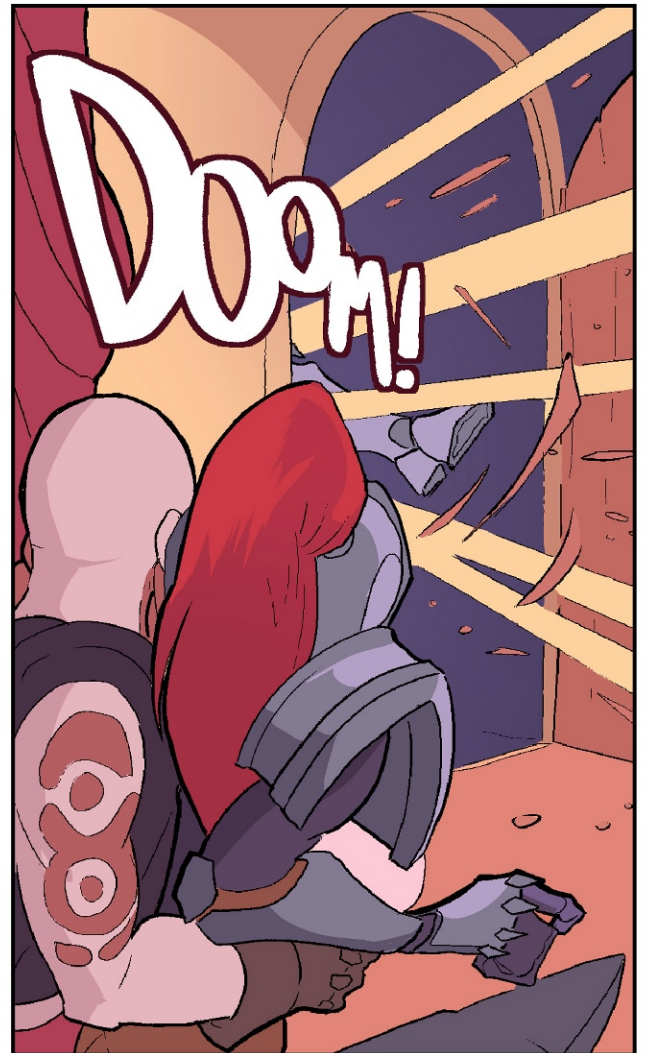
WE'RE
OPEN!
OPEN THE
FUCKING
DOOR OR I
SWEAR TO THE
GODS WE
WILL CHOP
IT DOWN!



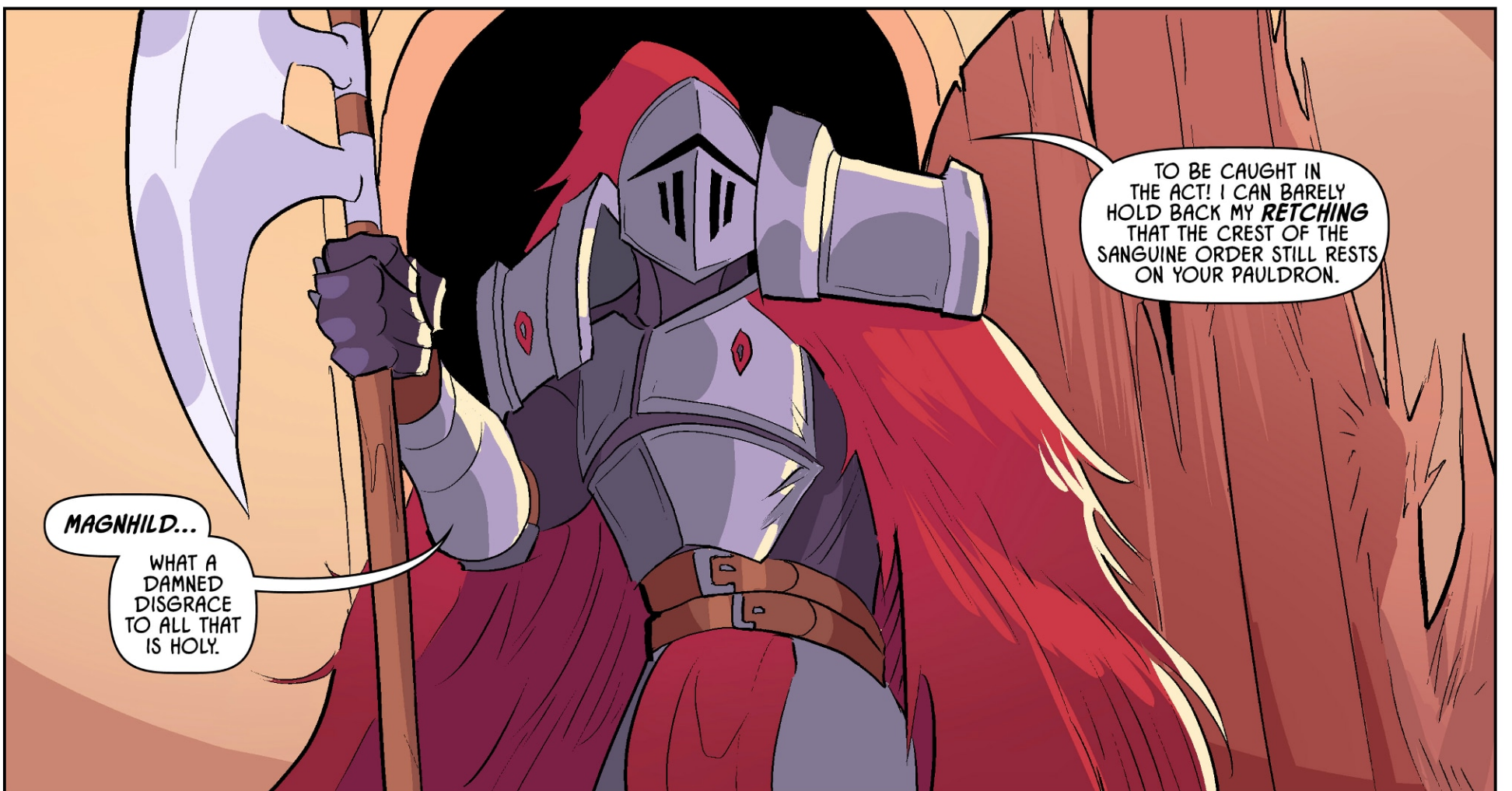
CRACK!



OH FU-



Doom!



TO BE CAUGHT IN THE ACT! I CAN BARELY HOLD BACK MY **RETCHING** THAT THE CREST OF THE SANGUINE ORDER STILL RESTS ON YOUR PAULDRON.

MAGNHILD...

WHAT A DAMNED DISGRACE TO ALL THAT IS HOLY.

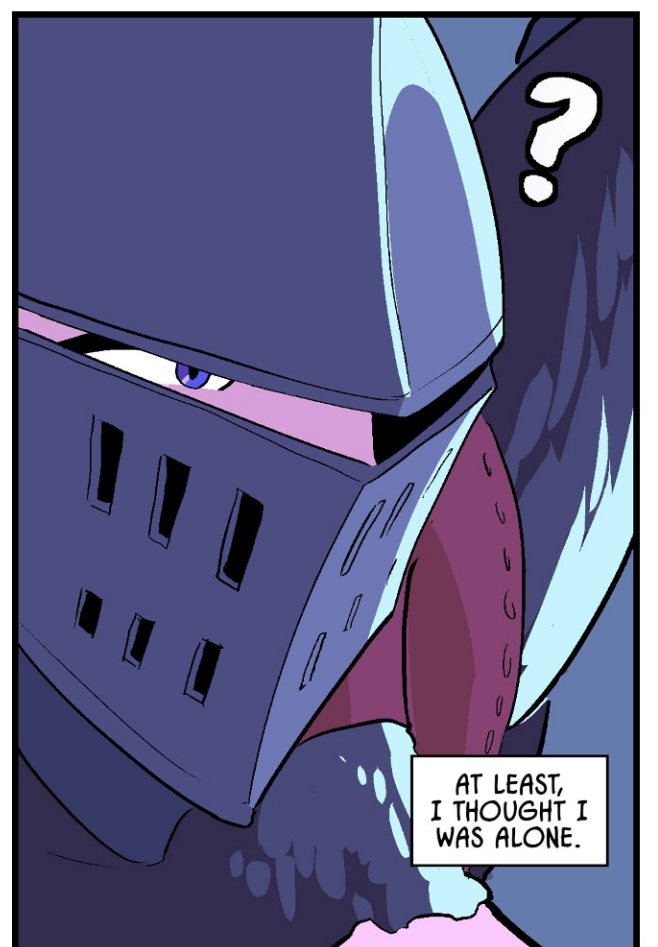
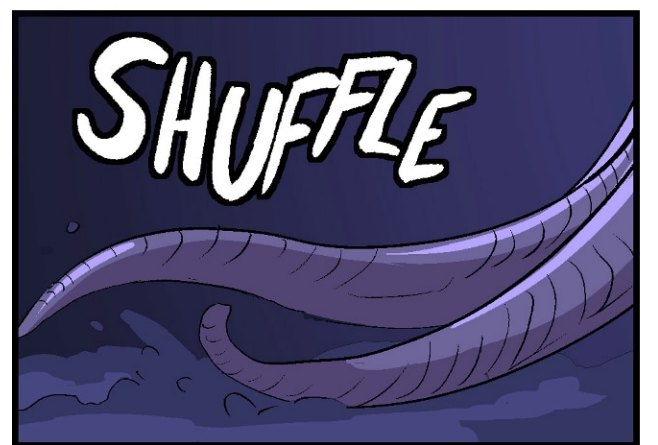


AS IT TURNS OUT...IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING. ALL MY TRAINING? A 'HOLY ORDER' WAS NO PLACE FOR A SOUL LIKE ME.

'PURIFY THE SINS OF THE COMMONFOLK... INSTEAD INSTILLING HONOR. WILL. PEACE. CHASTITY.' THAT CREED HAMMERED INTO MY HEAD OVER AND OVER AND OVER.



AND YET, I STILL ALLOWED THE TEMPTATION TO CLAIM ME. A LADY, WHO'S LIFE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SHINING EXAMPLE OF PURITY... NOW ALONE.



AT LEAST, I THOUGHT I WAS ALONE.



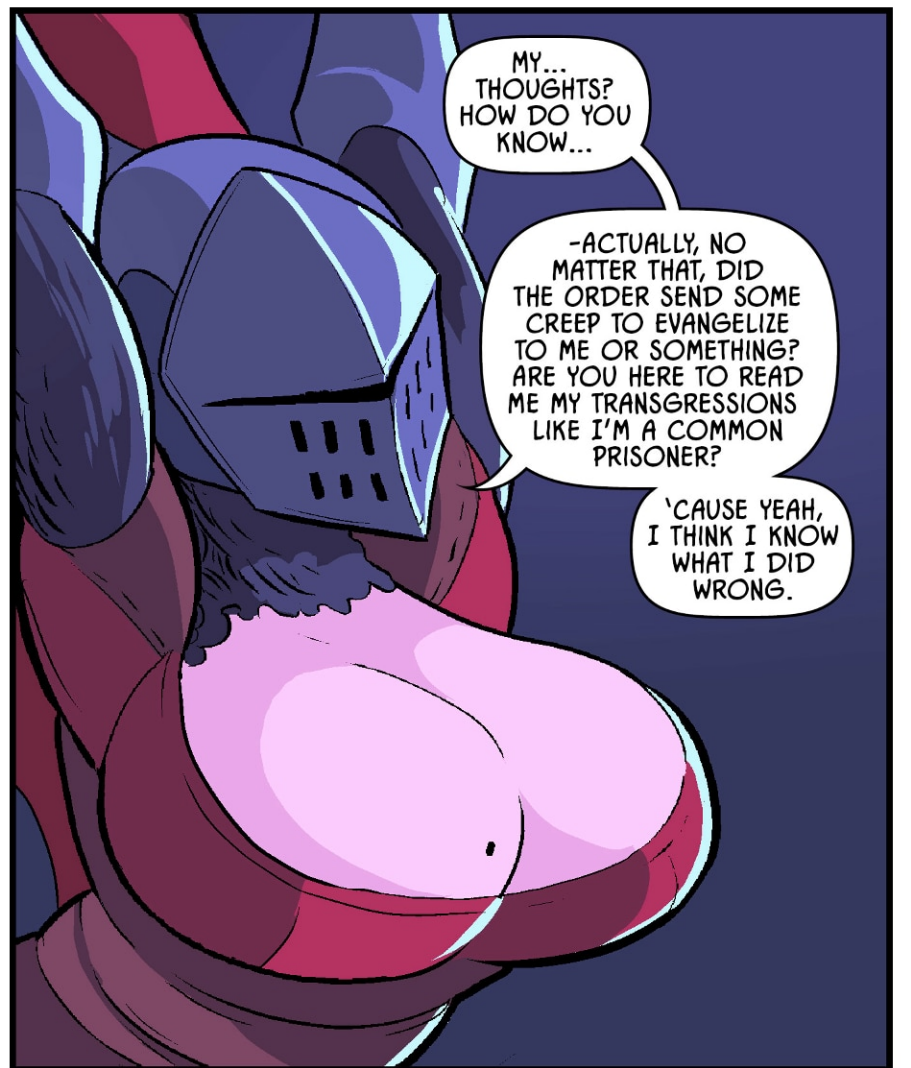
FOLLY IS IT, TO COMPARE THYSELF TO AN IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD.

W-WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? SHOW YOURSELF!



THINE THOUGHTS SPEAK'TH LOUDLY TO ME, THEE WHO HAST FALLEN PREY TO THINE OWN DOGMA.

A GLISTENING KNIGHT WHO ERRS FROM THE PATH, ONLY A LITTLE, IS CAST OUT AND TARNISHED, NE'ER TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AGAIN. SO IT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF THE SANGUINE ORDER.



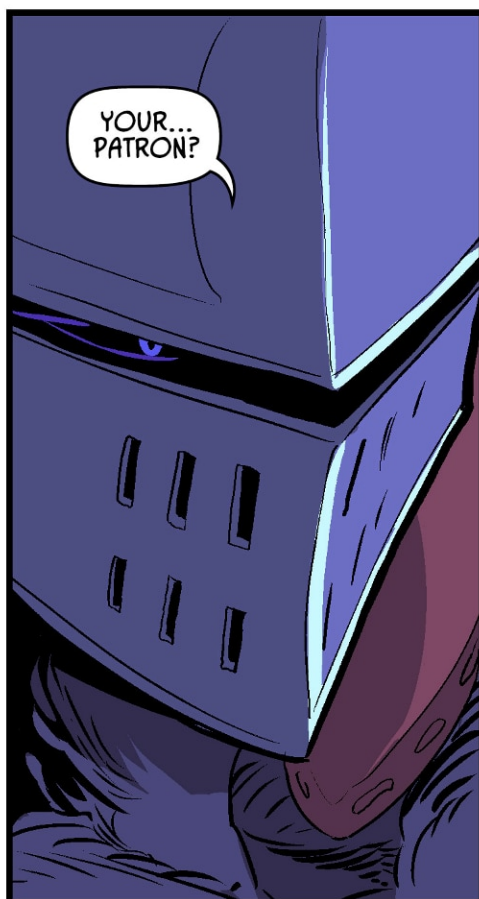
MY... THOUGHTS? HOW DO YOU KNOW...

-ACTUALLY, NO MATTER THAT, DID THE ORDER SEND SOME CREEP TO EVANGELIZE TO ME OR SOMETHING? ARE YOU HERE TO READ ME MY TRANSGRESSIONS LIKE I'M A COMMON PRISONER?

'CAUSE YEAH, I THINK I KNOW WHAT I DID WRONG.



QUITE THE CONTRARY, YOUNG ONE. MY PATRON AND I BELIEVE THEE TO BE QUITE INNOCENT.



YOUR... PATRON?



THE **GODDESS OF SENSATION.**



GREAT, YOU BANG *ONE* DWARF AND THE CUM GODDESS STARTS SENDING YOU SPAM MAIL.

FUCK OFF, CREEP, I'M NOT JOINING YOUR SEX CULT.



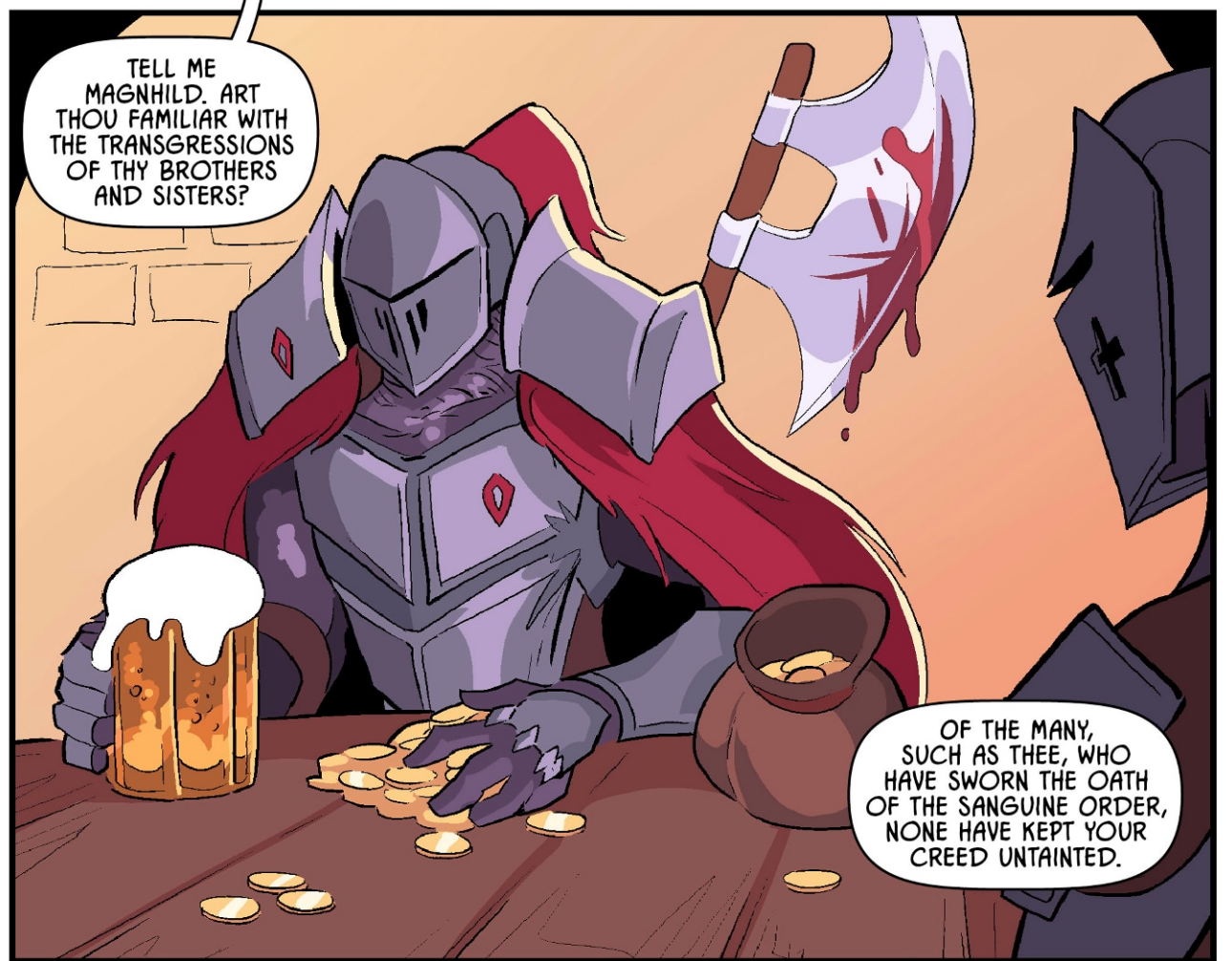
PERCEIVING MY GODDESS IN SUCH A WAY IS NARROW-MINDED.

THE GODDESS MERELY REPRESENTS THE FREEDOM TO DO WITH THINE FLESH AS THOU WISHEST.

TO NOT BE CONSTRAINED BY MAN, NOR BY GODS WITHIN ANY MANNER OF THE BODY.



SO TOO, IS IT NARROW-MINDED TO CONSTRAIN ONE'S SELF TO THE CREED OF THE SANGUINE ORDER, SIMPLY TO PLACE THYSELF ABOVE THE 'COMMONFOLK.'



TELL ME MAGNHILD. ART THOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF THY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

OF THE MANY, SUCH AS THEE, WHO HAVE SWORN THE OATH OF THE SANGUINE ORDER, NONE HAVE KEPT YOUR CREED UNTAINTED.



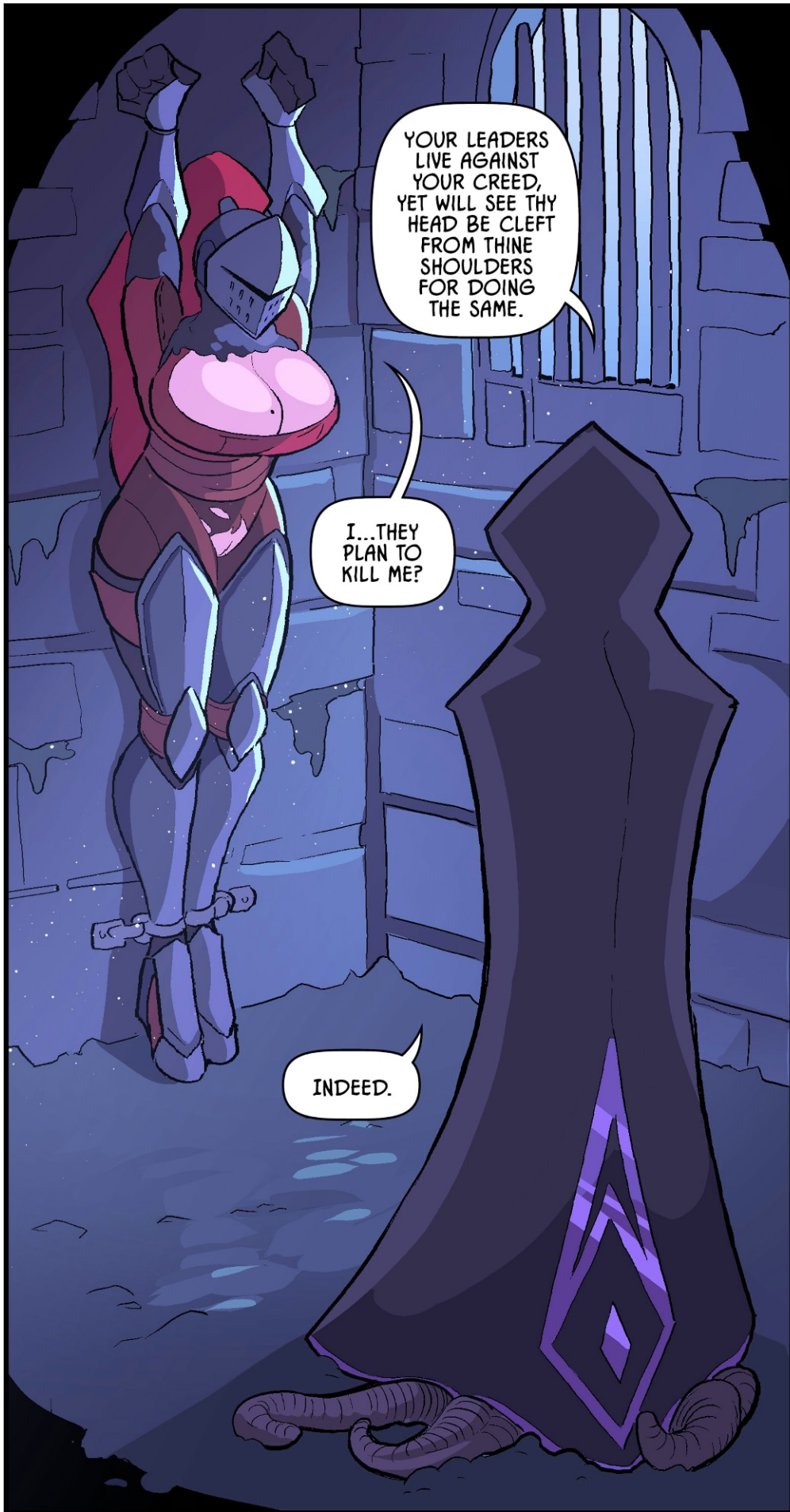
THERE IS CORRUPTION WITHIN THY ORDER THAT EXTENDS BEYOND HARMLESS DESIRES OF THE FLESH. TRUE, DISGUSTING CREATURES WALK WITHIN ITS RANKS.

EVEN NOW YOUR CAPTOR, **COMMANDER SEVER** SPILLS BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT FOR MERE COIN.

I SEE... YOU ALREADY KNOW IT TO BE TRUE.



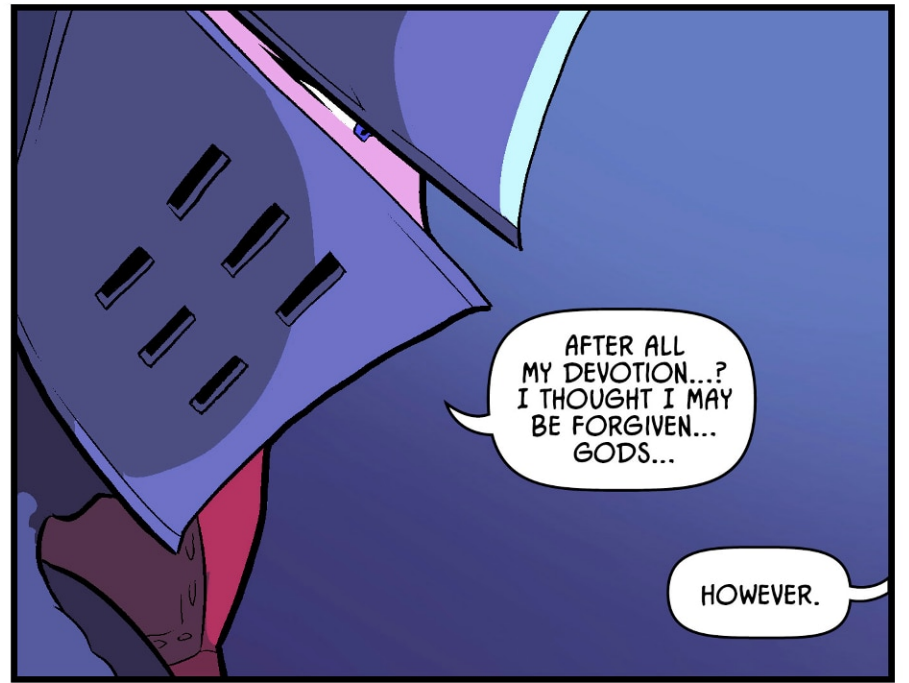
GET *OUT* OF MY HEAD.



YOUR LEADERS LIVE AGAINST YOUR CREED, YET WILL SEE THY HEAD BE CLEFT FROM THINE SHOULDERS FOR DOING THE SAME.

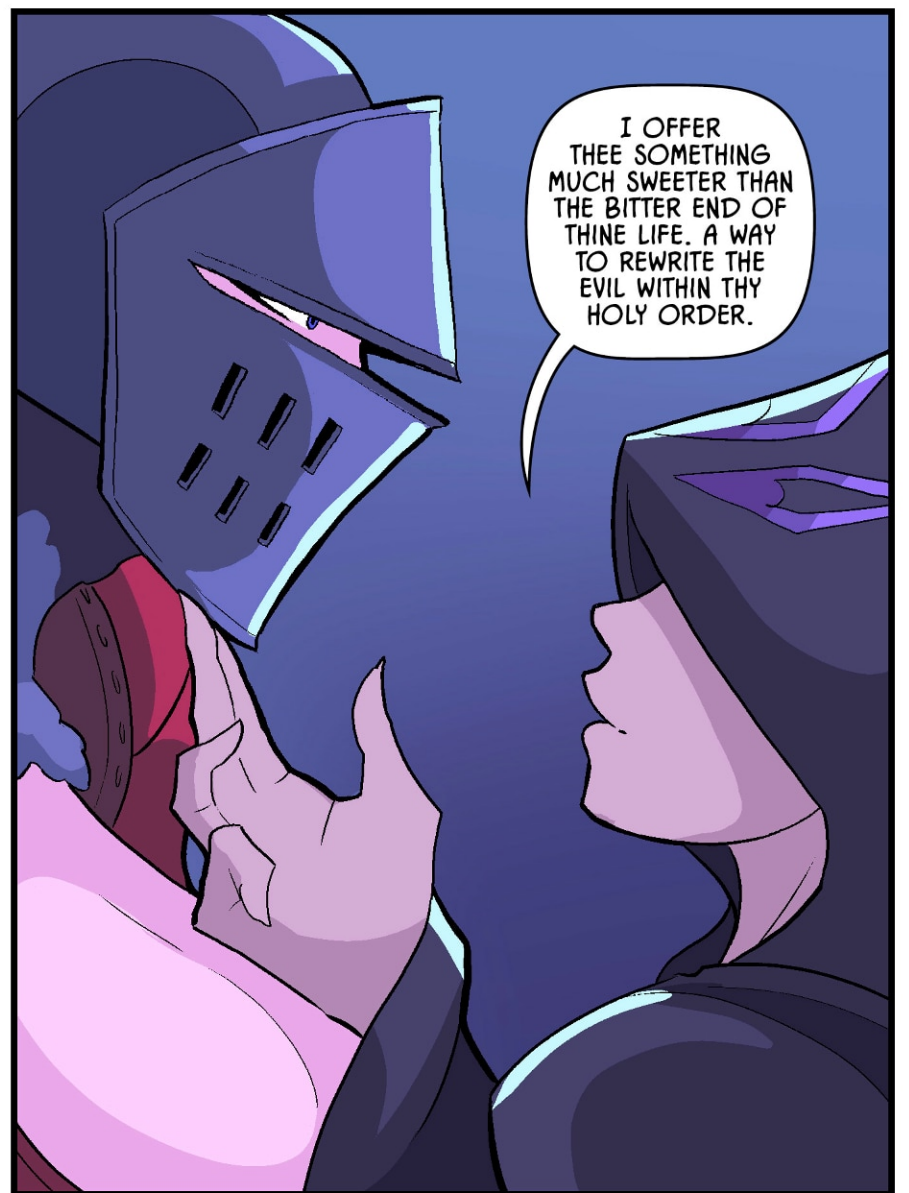
I...THEY PLAN TO KILL ME?

INDEED.



AFTER ALL MY DEVOTION...? I THOUGHT I MAY BE FORGIVEN... GODS...

HOWEVER.

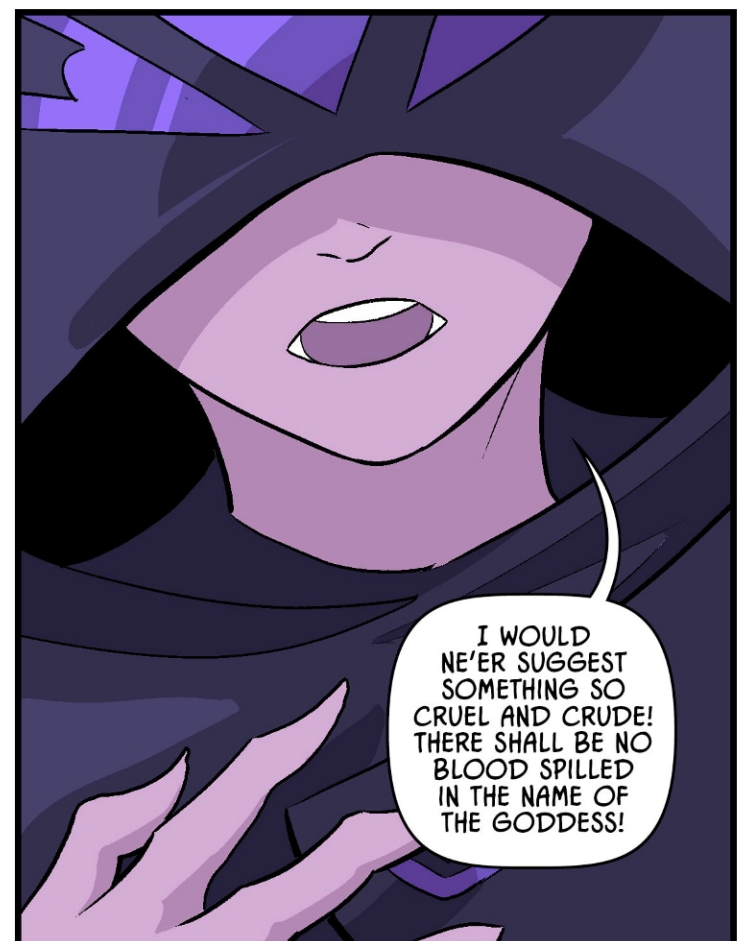


I OFFER THEE SOMETHING MUCH SWEETER THAN THE BITTER END OF THINE LIFE. A WAY TO REWRITE THE EVIL WITHIN THY HOLY ORDER.

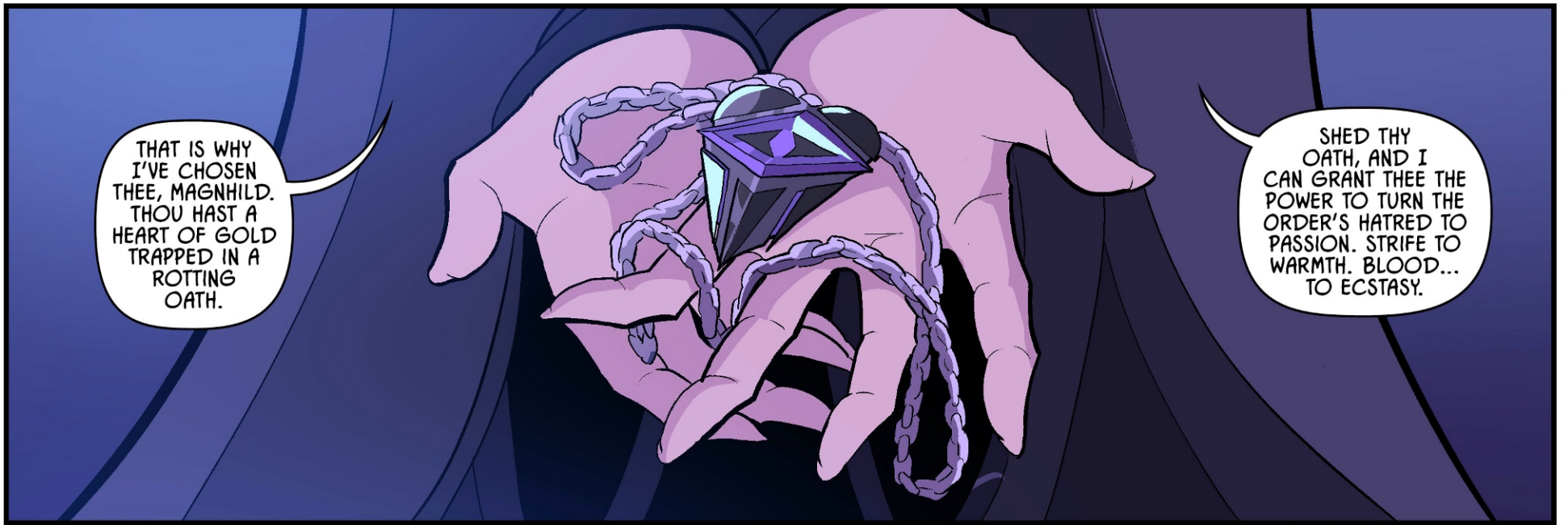


LISTEN, I STILL THINK YOU'RE A CREEP, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE SEEN THE CORRUPTION WITH MY OWN EYES...

THOUGH IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON TELLING ME TO FIGHT THEM... KILL THEM FOR MY FREEDOM, I WON'T HELP YOU.



I WOULD NE'ER SUGGEST SOMETHING SO CRUEL AND CRUDE! THERE SHALL BE NO BLOOD SPILLED IN THE NAME OF THE GODDESS!



THAT IS WHY I'VE CHOSEN THEE, MAGNHILD. THOU HAST A HEART OF GOLD TRAPPED IN A ROTTING OATH.

SHED THY OATH, AND I CAN GRANT THEE THE POWER TO TURN THE ORDER'S HATRED TO PASSION. STRIFE TO WARMTH. BLOOD... TO ECSTASY.

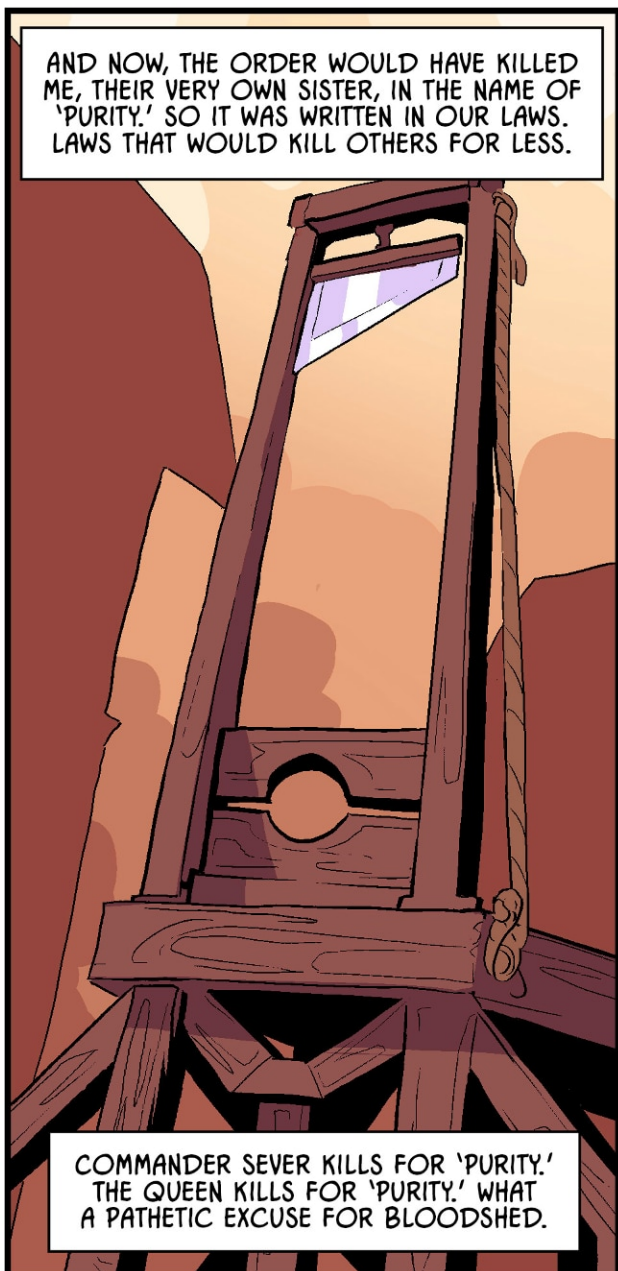


IF THOU DESIRES TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF TRUE PURITY, ILLUMINATING THE DARKNESS WITHIN THY ORDER...

...MY GODDESS REQUIRES I PERFORM A RITUAL OF COMMUNION.

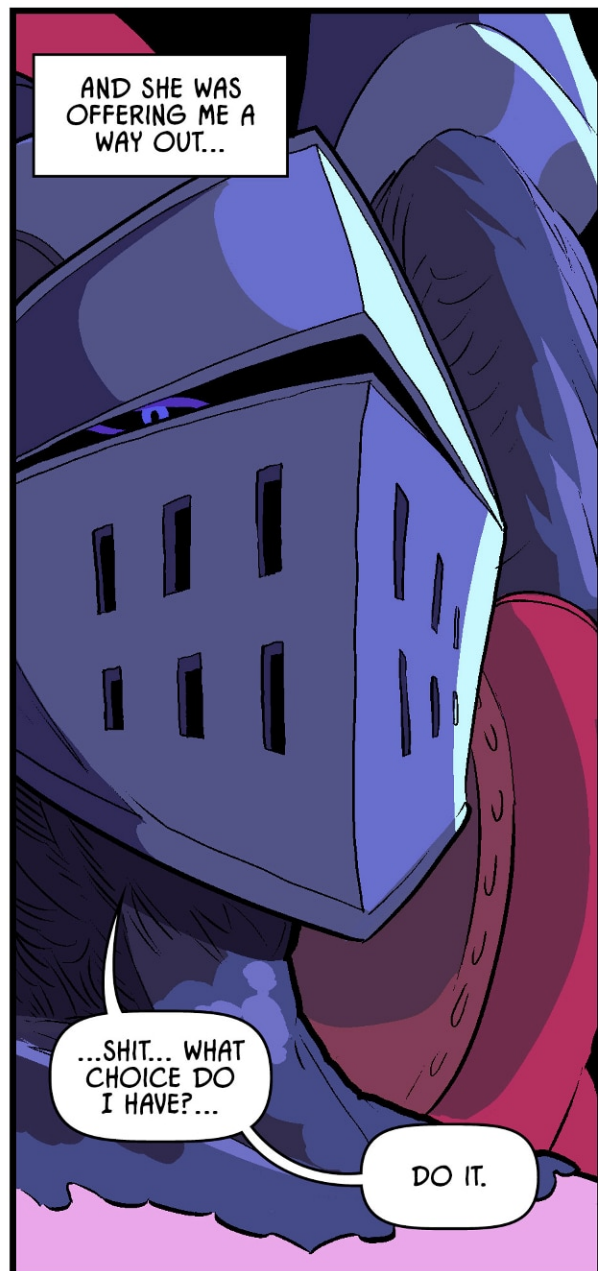
AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO DENY THE WORDS OF THE STRANGE WOMAN, SHE WAS RIGHT.

I HAD ALREADY BEEN HAVING DOUBTS IN MY FAITH, THEIR IDEAS OF 'PURITY' WERE ALWAYS TROUBLING TO ME.



AND NOW, THE ORDER WOULD HAVE KILLED ME, THEIR VERY OWN SISTER, IN THE NAME OF 'PURITY.' SO IT WAS WRITTEN IN OUR LAWS. LAWS THAT WOULD KILL OTHERS FOR LESS.

COMMANDER SEVER KILLS FOR 'PURITY.' THE QUEEN KILLS FOR 'PURITY.' WHAT A PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR BLOODSHED.



AND SHE WAS OFFERING ME A WAY OUT...

...SHIT... WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?...

DO IT.



VERY WELL...