

# Act 3

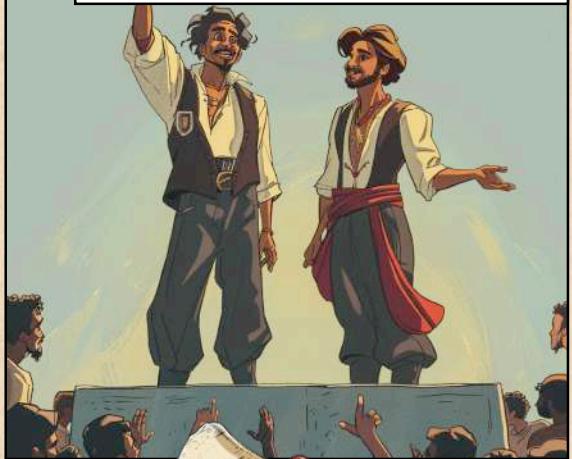
## APOLLO BE MY JUDGE

CLEOMENES AND DION - LORDS OF THE COURT OF LEONTES - HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THEIR LONG JOURNEY ACROSS THE SEA TO GREECE



THEIR FRIENDS CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT VISITING THE ORACLE WAS LIKE - THEY'RE ALL A LITTLE BIT JEALOUS THAT THEY DIDN'T GET TO GO ON THIS IMPORTANT TRIP!

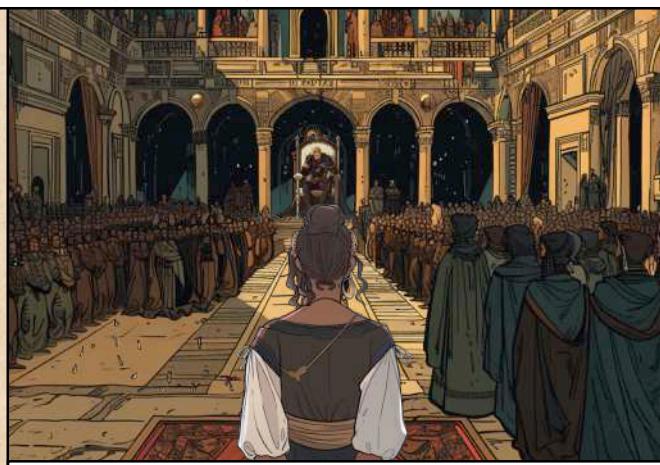
CLEOMENES TELLS THEM HOW BEAUTIFUL EVERYTHING WAS!



DION WAS SUPER-IMPRESSED BY THE HUGE STATUE OF APOLLO. BUT WHAT REALLY BLEW THEM BOTH AWAY WAS THE ORACLE HERSELF - HOW LOUD SHE WAS!

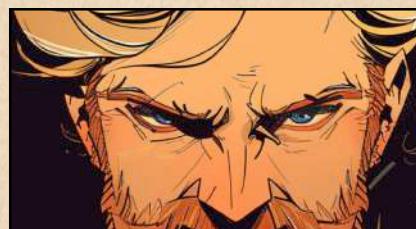
IT'S A BIT LIKE THEY'VE COME BACK FROM A HOLIDAY, TILL EVERYONE NOTICES THE SEALED SCROLL THAT DION IS CARRYING, AND THEY ALL FALL SILENT. SUDDENLY EVERYONE REMEMBERS WHAT MESSAGE IS HIDDEN INSIDE, AND HOW SERIOUS THIS MOMENT IS. WHAT IS THE TRUTH THAT THE ORACLE WILL REVEAL? WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HERMIONE?

THE ROOM IS FULL FOR THE TRIAL OF HERMIONE. EVERY MEMBER OF THE COURT IS THERE, YET, HERMIONE STANDS ALONE TO FACE HER ACCUSER.

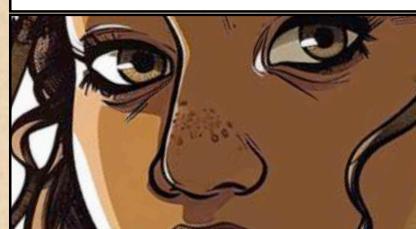


ALL BUT LEONTES BELIEVE HER TO BE INNOCENT, ALTHOUGH NO-ONE DARES SPEAK FOR HER.

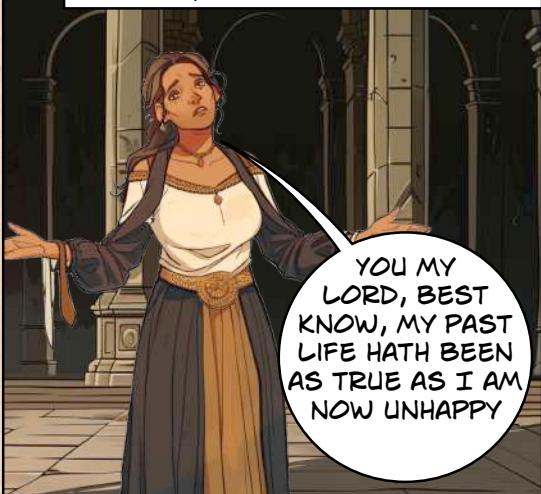
AN OFFICER READS THE CHARGES AGAINST HERMIONE...



LEONTES STARES AT HIS WIFE -ONCE THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE- WITH HATRED. BUT THERE IS NO HATRED IN THE LOOK THAT HERMIONE RETURNS TO HIM - ONLY SORROW.



FINALLY, HERMIONE SPEAKS...



YOU MY LORD, BEST KNOW, MY PAST LIFE HATH BEEN AS TRUE AS I AM NOW UNHAPPY



FOR POLIXENES, WITH WHOM I AM ACCUSED, I DO CONFESS I LOVED HIM AS IN HONOUR HE REQUIRED: WITH SUCH KIND AS YOU YOURSELF COMMANDED

LEONTES SHOULD KNOW HOW FAITHFUL HERMIONE HAD ALWAYS BEEN UP UNTIL THE POINT AT WHICH HE ACCUSED HER. SHE LOVED POLIXENES ONLY IN THE WAY THAT A QUEEN **SHOULD** LOVE A VISITING KING AND FRIEND TO HER HUSBAND. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG FOR HER **NOT** TO LOVE HIM LIKE THIS. AND ANYWAY, IT WAS LEONTES WHO TOLD HER TO GET POLIXENES TO STAY!



NOW FOR CONSPIRACY, I KNOW NOT HOW IT TASTES. CAMILLO WAS AN HONEST MAN AND WHY HE LEFT YOUR COURT THE GODS THEMSELVES ARE IGNORANT



YOU KNEW OF HIS DEPARTURE!



SIR, YOU SPEAK A LANGUAGE THAT I UNDERSTAND NOT.

AT THAT MOMENT, THERE IS A NOISE AND EVERYONE TURNS TOWARDS THE GREAT DOORS...



THERE STAND CLEOMENES AND DION, HOLDING THE SCROLL...

THE SCROLL CONTAINING THE WORDS OF THE ORACLE...



THE CROWD HOLDS ITS BREATH...

THE SCROLL IS HANDED TO THE OFFICER. THIS IS IT! THESE ARE THE WORDS THE ORACLE SPOKE - EVERYONE STRAINS TO HEAR, IT'S AS IF THEY WERE ALL TRANSPORTED TO THAT TEMPLE IN DELPHI...



...HERMIONE IS CHASTE!



...POLIXENES BLAMELESS



...CAMILLO A TRUE SUBJECT!



...LEONTES A JEALOUS TYRANT!



WOW! LET'S THINK ABOUT THE ORACLE'S WORDS FOR A MINUTE - HERMIONE HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG, NOR HAS POLIXENES, NOR HAS CAMILLO - BUT LEONTES HAS - HE'S A JEALOUS TYRANT - AND - HE SHALL LIVE WITHOUT AN HEIR? WHAT COULD THAT MEAN? ANYWAY, THE ORACLE HAS SPOKEN, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT NOW...



WAIT, WHAT? EVERYONE FREEZES. THIS IS THE GREATEST BLASPHEMY. LEONTES HAS JUST CALLED THE ORACLE, THE VOICE OF THE GOD APOLLO, A LIAR. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE - ONCE APOLLO SPEAKS, THAT'S IT, YOU LISTEN. YOU DON'T QUESTION THE WORD OF A GOD. EVERYONE LOOKS AT EACH OTHER, WONDERING WHAT TO DO NEXT, WHEN SUDDENLY....



LIKE A TREE FELLED BY AN AXE, LEONTES FALLS TO HIS KNEES. IT SEEMS THAT APOLLO IS ALREADY PUNISHING HIM FOR QUESTIONING THE WORD OF A GOD AND NOW POOR MAMILLIUS IS GONE! BUT THERE IS STILL MORE TO COME FOR LEONTES...

HERMIONE FAINTS!



LEONTES SLUMPS BACK ON HIS THRONE...



BUT THE WORST IS YET TO COME...

FAR AWAY FROM HERE, ANTIGONUS IS ABOUT TO CARRY OUT THE TERRIBLE TASK THAT LEONTES HAS SET HIM. HIS BOAT HAS LANDED ON THE SEA-COAST OF BOHEMIA AND A STORM LOOMS ON THE HORIZON...



ANTIGONUS IS ALSO IN A HURRY TO GET AWAY, BESIDES THE STORM, THIS COASTLINE IS A WILD DESOLATE PLACE PLAGUED BY WOLVES AND BEARS...



PERDITA MEANS  
'SHE WHO HAS BEEN  
LOST' IN LATIN. I THINK  
WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT,  
AT THIS POINT IN THE PLAY,  
IN THIS LONELY PART OF  
THE WORLD, THIS POOR  
BABY IS WELL AND  
TRULY LOST!

ANTIGONUS PLACES SOME GOLD  
AND SOME OF HERMIONE'S JEWELS  
IN THE BASKET...



ANTIGONUS IS ABOUT TO  
RETURN TO HIS SHIP, WHEN  
SUDDENLY...

A HUGE BEAR EMERGES FROM AMONGST  
THE TREES!

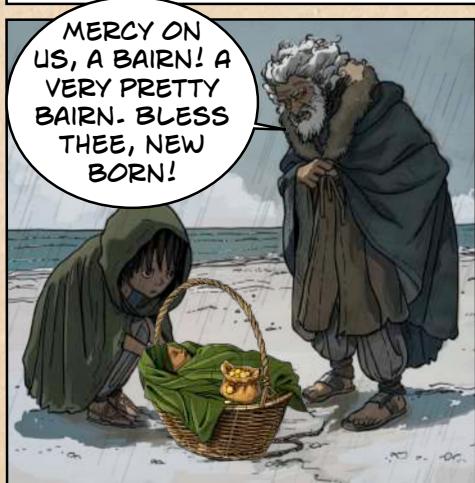


POOR PERDITA! HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLY  
SURVIVE - A NEW-BORN BABY  
ABANDONED IN A STORM IN THE MIDDLE  
OF NOWHERE, SURROUNDED BY  
FEARSOME CARNIVOROUS BEASTS? HOW  
CAN SHAKESPEARE DO THIS TO US?! I  
CAN ONLY SEE THIS STORY ENDING ONE  
WAY - IN TRAGEDY AND DESPAIR! I MUST  
BE RIGHT - AFTER ALL, EVERYTHING  
THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR HAS BEEN  
DISASTROUS; THERE'S NO HOPE. OH,  
HANG ON, WHAT'S THIS? OR RATHER,  
WHO'S THIS...?

SUDDENLY TWO FIGURES APPROACH...



IT'S AN OLD  
SHEPHERD  
AND HIS  
YOUNG SON,  
BATTLING  
THROUGH  
THE RAIN  
AND WIND,  
TRYING TO  
GET HOME  
BEFORE  
NIGHTFALL...



WELL, I MUST  
ADMIT, I WAS  
WRONG. AND SO, AS  
ACT 3 DRAWS TO A  
CLOSE, FOR THE  
FIRST TIME,  
SOMETHING SEEMS  
TO HAVE GONE  
RIGHT. BABY PERDITA  
HAS BEEN FOUND  
AND A SHEPHERD HAS  
GOT HIMSELF SOME  
GOLD! STILL NO  
JOKES, THOUGH....