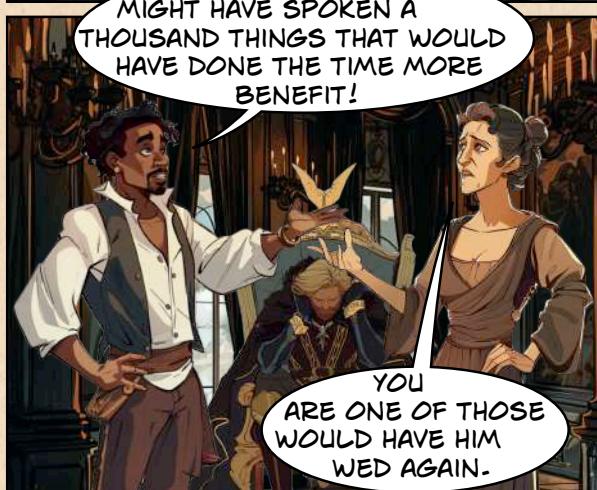
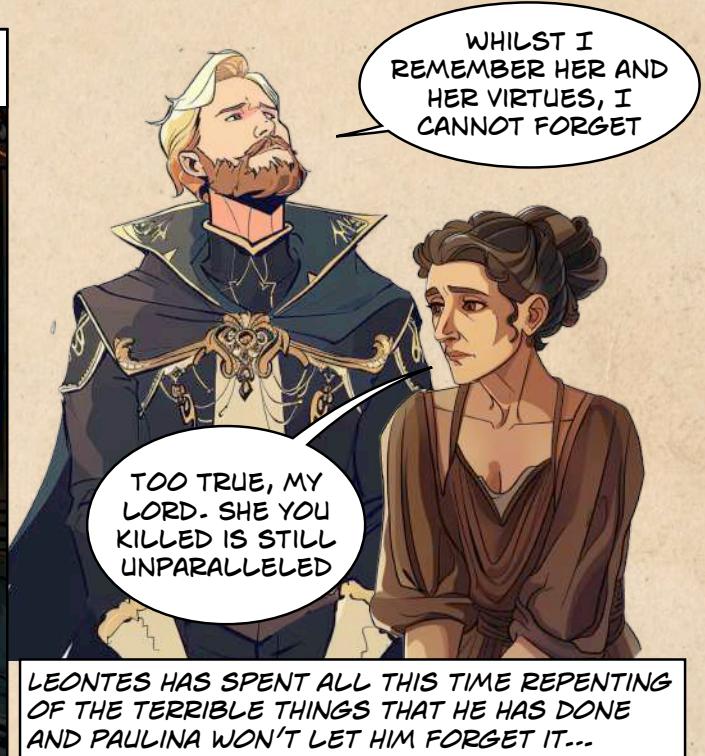


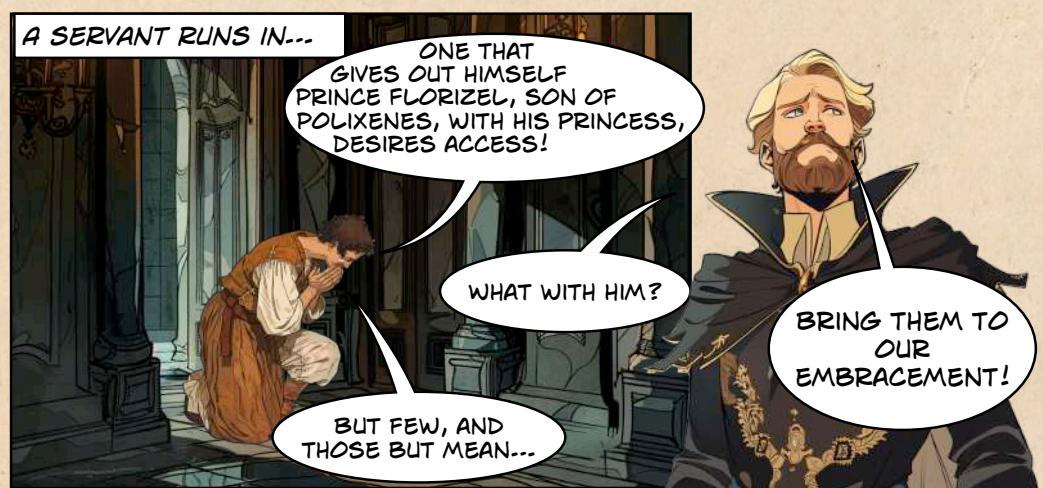
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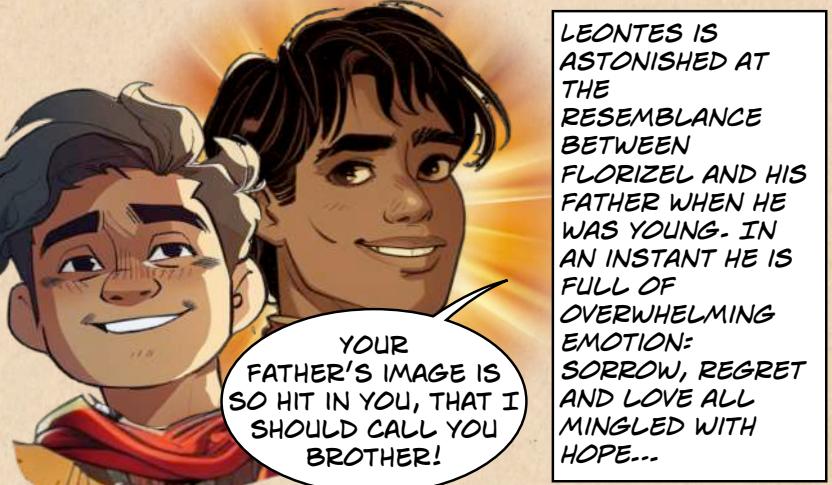
DEAR LIFE REDEEMS you

SIXTEEN YEARS HAVE SEEMED A VERY LONG TIME IN THE COURT OF SICILIA. LET'S PAY LEONTES A VISIT...



AND THERE YOU HAVE WHAT IS WORRYING SO MANY IN LEONTES' COURT. IF HE DOESN'T MARRY AGAIN, IF THERE ARE NO MORE CHILDREN, THERE WILL BE NO HEIR TO THE THRONE - WHICH MIGHT WELL LEAD TO WAR!





LEONTES IS
ASTONISHED AT
THE
RESEMBLANCE
BETWEEN
FLORIZEL AND HIS
FATHER WHEN HE
WAS YOUNG. IN
AN INSTANT HE IS
FULL OF
OVERWHELMING
EMOTION:
SORROW, REGRET
AND LOVE ALL
MINGLED WITH
HOPE...



FLORIZEL IS
TELLING A
BIT OF A LIE,
HE'S NOT
HERE TO
SEND
GREETINGS
FROM
POLIXENES
IS HE? QUITE
THE
OPPOSITE,
HE'S ON THE
RUN FROM
HIM! HE'S
HOPING THIS
LITTLE LIE
WON'T GET
FOUND OUT...



OOPS! WELL FLORIZEL'S STORY
DIDN'T HOLD UP FOR LONG..

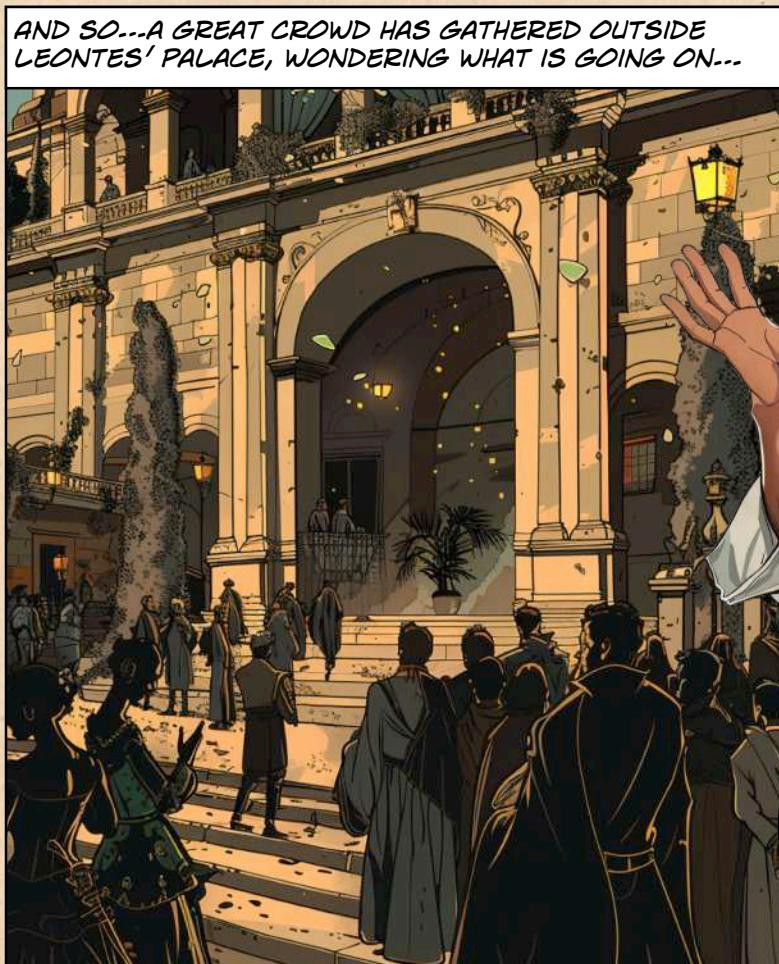
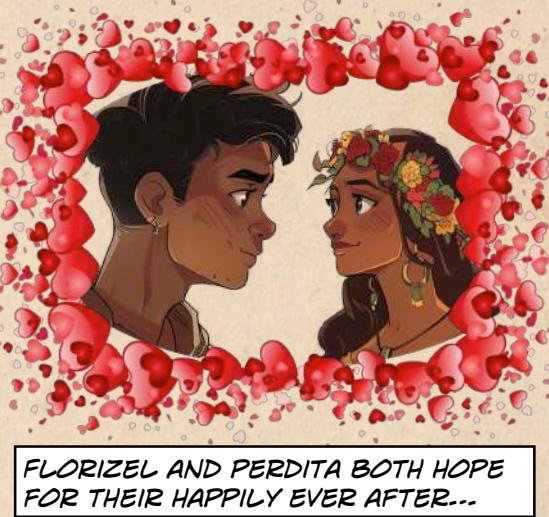


SO POLIXENES HAS CAUGHT UP WITH THE
OLD SHEPHERD...





STEP FORTH MINE ADVOCATE? WOW, HE'S ASKING LEONTES TO SPEAK TO POLIXENES ON HIS BEHALF! WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED: PRINCES SHOULD MARRY PRINCESSES AND THEY SHOULD MARRY TO MAKE THEIR KINGDOMS MORE POWERFUL, NOT FOR LOVE. LEONTES IS A KING, HE UNDERSTANDS THIS. BUT HE IS ALSO A MAN, AND ONE WHO HAS SPENT THE LAST 16 YEARS THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH HE LOVED HIS OWN WIFE AND HOW HE DID HER WRONG...



SO, THE SHEPHERD SHOWED LEONTES ALL THE STUFF IN THE FARDEL THAT WAS LEFT WITH PERDITA - WHICH, OF COURSE, LEONTES RECOGNISED BECAUSE IT HAD BELONGED TO HERMIONE BEFORE!



AS NEWS SPREADS ROUND THE CROWD, YOU CAN FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR. SICILIA IS SAVED! AN HEIR TO THE THRONE! THE KING REUNITED WITH PERDITA, HIS LONG-LOST CHILD! IT'S LIKE A FAIRYTALE! AND OF COURSE, NOW THAT PERDITA IS PROVED A PRINCESS, SHE AND FLORIZEL CAN MARRY!

DID YOU SEE THE MEETING OF THE TWO KINGS? THEN YOU HAVE LOST A SIGHT WHICH WAS TO BE SEEN...



OUR KING, BEING READY TO LEAP OUT OF HIMSELF FOR JOY OF HIS FOUND DAUGHTER CRIES...

THEN ASKS POLIXENES FORGIVENESS

THEN EMBRACES FLORIZEL

NOW HE THANKS THE OLD SHEPHERD

O THY MOTHER, THY MOTHER!

OK, OK. BEFORE ANYBODY POINTS THIS OUT, YES, CAMILLO WAS RIGHT AT THE END OF ACT 4, AND I WAS WRONG. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN HUGS ALL ROUND... AND THE SHEPHERDS ARE SAFE!

ARE THEY RETURNED TO COURT?

NO! THE PRINCESS HEARING OF HER MOTHER'S STATUE - WHICH IS IN THE KEEPING OF PAULINA - THITHER ARE THEY GONE...

WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A STATUE OF HERMIONE? WHY AM I ONLY HEARING ABOUT THIS NOW?

A PIECE MANY YEARS IN THE DOING AND NOW NEWLY PERFORMED BY THAT ITALIAN MASTER, JULIO ROMANO

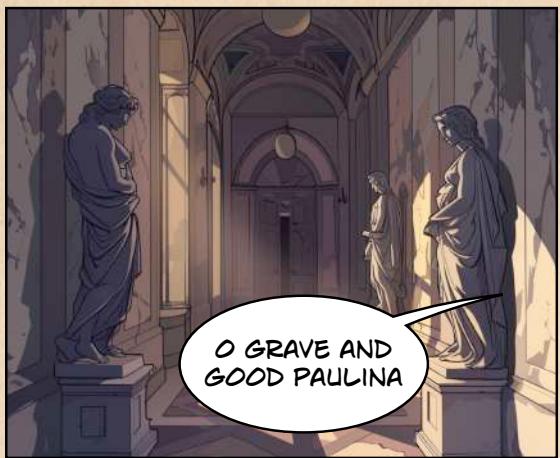
OH, RIGHT. SO IT'S A STATUE THAT THIS JULIO ROMANO HAS BEEN WORKING ON FOR A LONG TIME, I JUST HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT. AND PAULINA'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER IT?



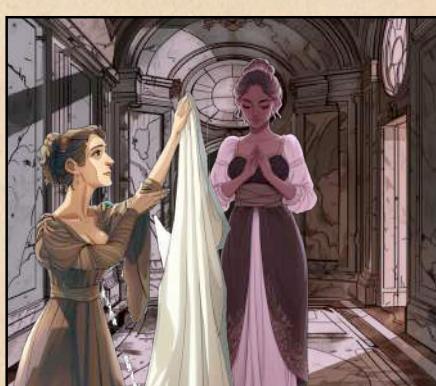
OK! THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP, WE'D BETTER GO AND HAVE A LOOK FOR OURSELVES. THIS IS THE PLACE THAT PAULINA HAS KEPT SECRET FOR ALL THESE YEARS...



SO, HERE WE ARE INSIDE, AND THE GANG'S ALL HERE: LEONTES, POLIXENES, CAMILLO, FLORIZEL AND PERDITA. THEY ARE ALL **SO** HAPPY TO BE BACK TOGETHER. THERE ARE MANY STATUES TO LOOK AT, BUT THEY REALLY ONLY CARE ABOUT ONE IN PARTICULAR...



THE STATUE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE QUEEN. MAYBE IT'S THE WAY THAT IT'S HIT BY THE LIGHT, BUT IT LOOKS SO LIFELIKE. AND IT BRINGS ALL THOSE MEMORIES FROM SIXTEEN YEARS AGO BACK FOR LEONTES.

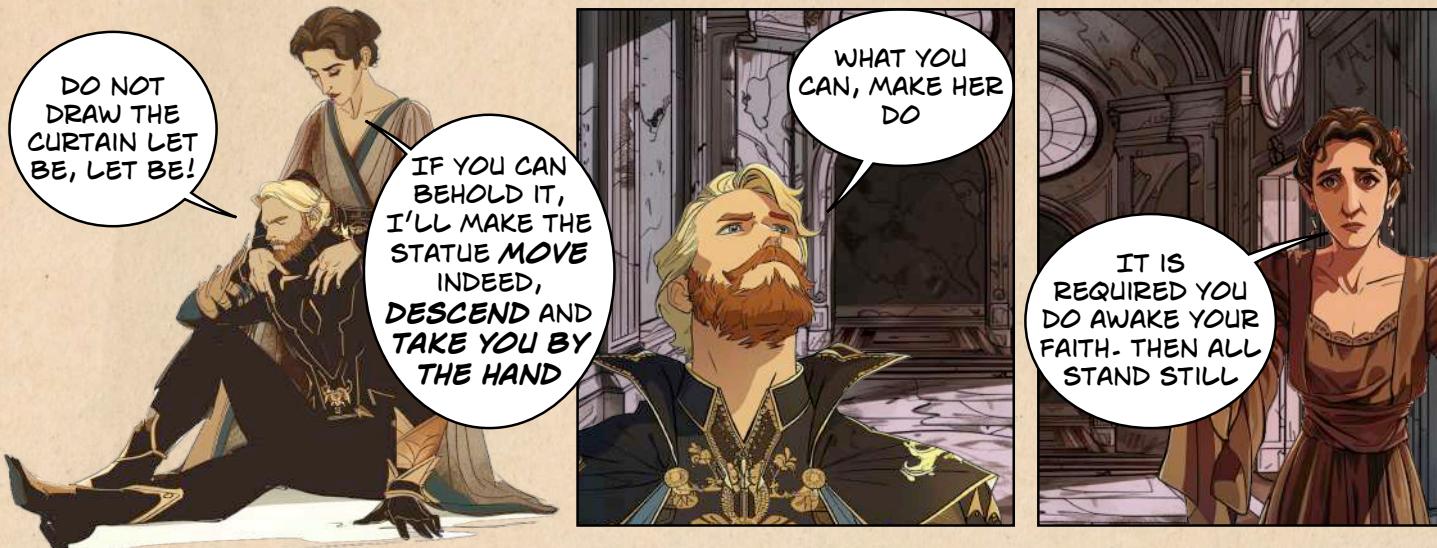


DO NOT
DRAW THE
CURTAIN LET
BE, LET BE!

IF YOU CAN
BEHOLD IT,
I'LL MAKE THE
STATUE MOVE
INDEED,
DESCEND AND
TAKE YOU BY
THE HAND

WHAT YOU
CAN, MAKE HER
DO

IT IS
REQUIRED YOU
DO AWAKE YOUR
FAITH. THEN ALL
STAND STILL

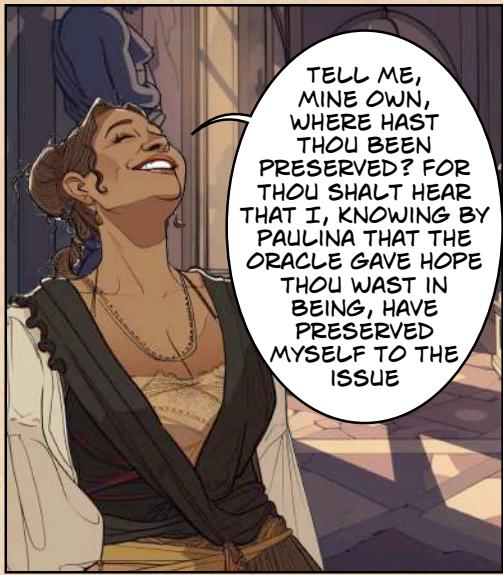


O, SHE'S
WARM! IF THIS BE
MAGIC, LET IT BE AN
ART AS LAWFUL AS
EATING!

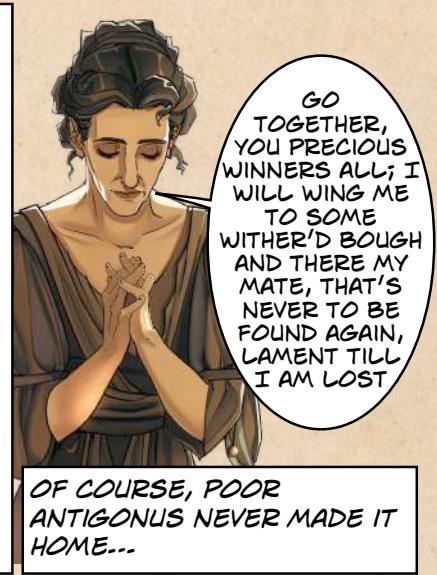
TURN, GOOD
LADY; OUR
PERDITA IS
FOUND

YOU GODS
LOOK DOWN, AND
FROM YOUR
SACRED VIALS POUR
YOUR GRACES ON
MY DAUGHTER'S
HEAD





WAIT, I'M A BIT CONFUSED HERE.... I THINK THE STATUE HAS JUST SAID THAT SHE HAS STAYED ALIVE BECAUSE PAULINA TOLD HER THAT THE ORACLE SAID THAT HER BABY - PERDITA - HAD SURVIVED. BUT STATUES CAN'T HAVE BABIES, CAN THEY? AND IF THEY DID, WOULDN'T THEY BE STATUE BABIES? HMM. COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE THE REAL HERMIONE! WHAT? YOU'VE ALREADY WORKED THAT OUT? GREAT. RIGHT, SO PAULINA HAS PRETENDED THAT SHE'S BEEN HAVING A STATUE OF HERMIONE MADE, TO KEEP THE REAL HERMIONE SAFE ALL THIS TIME, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT LEONTES IS PROPERLY SORRY. I GET IT NOW...



OF COURSE, POOR ANTIGONUS NEVER MADE IT HOME...



SO, THAT'S IT, EVERYONE'S OFF, PROBABLY TO HAVE LUNCH, AND CERTAINLY TO TELL EACH OTHER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED IN THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS. WE DON'T GET TO HEAR THAT, THOUGH, AS THIS IS WHERE THE STORY ENDS FOR US - MUCH MORE HAPPILY THAN I HAD THOUGHT IT WOULD HALF WAY THROUGH! WHAT A WINTER'S TALE IT WAS! SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED AND SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED. THINGS WORKED OUT FOR EVERYONE IN THE END - APART FROM POOR ANTIGONUS. MAYBE ONE OF THE MORALS OF THE STORY IS DON'T GO TO A BEACH WHERE THERE ARE BEARS? OR MAYBE, THE MAIN THING TO LEARN IS THAT JEALOUSY CAN RUIN EVERYTHING, BUT LOVE WILL ALWAYS WIN IN THE END! OH LOOK, THE BLIZZARD OUTSIDE SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED AND IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE LAND OF SICILIA. SAFE JOURNEY, PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY?

THE END!