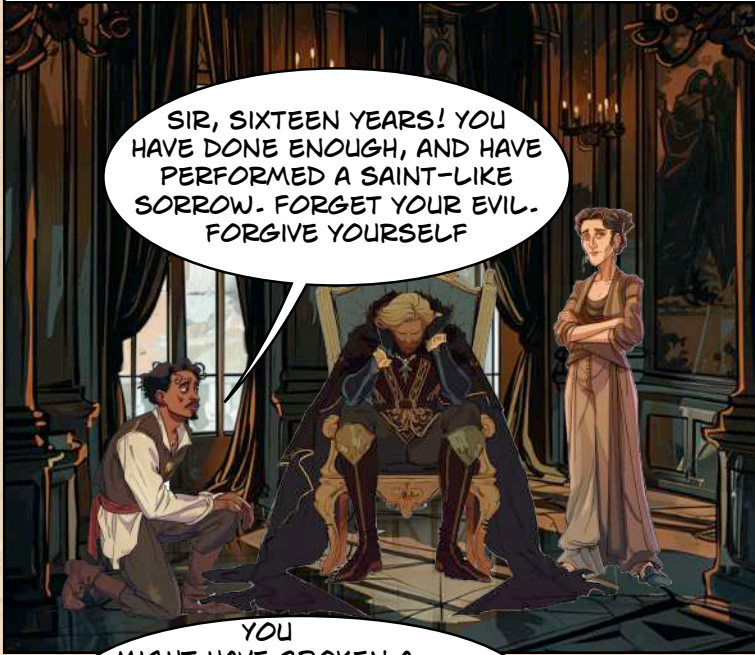


# Act V

## DEAR LIFE REDEEMS YOU

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



SIR, SIXTEEN YEARS! YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH, AND HAVE PERFORMED A SAINT-LIKE SORROW. FORGET YOUR EVIL. FORGIVE YOURSELF

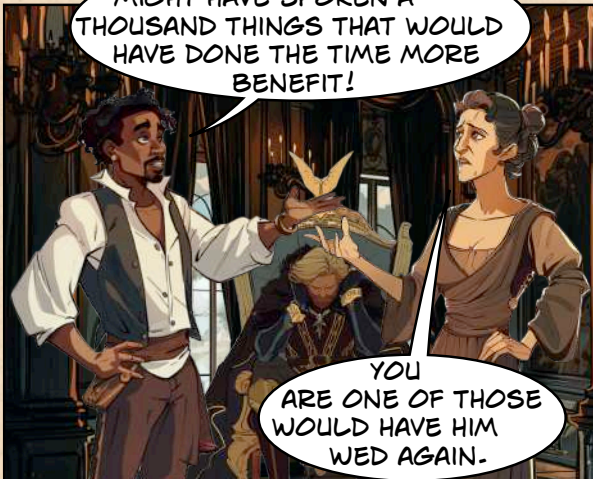
YOU MIGHT HAVE SPOKEN A THOUSAND THINGS THAT WOULD HAVE DONE THE TIME MORE BENEFIT!

YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE WOULD HAVE HIM WED AGAIN.

WHILST I REMEMBER HER AND HER VIRTUES, I CANNOT FORGET

TOO TRUE, MY LORD. SHE YOU KILLED IS STILL UNPARALLELED

LEONTES HAS SPENT ALL THIS TIME REPENTING OF THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE AND PAULINA WON'T LET HIM FORGET IT...



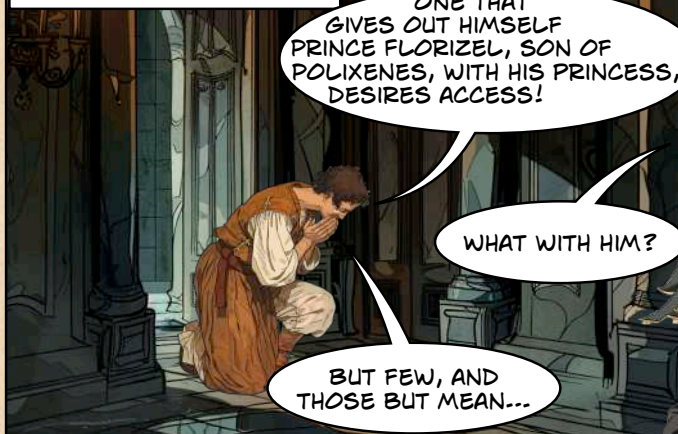
IF YOU WOULD NOT SO, YOU PITY NOT THE STATE!

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!



THERE IS NONE WORTHY, RESPECTING HER THAT'S...

A SERVANT RUNS IN...



ONE THAT GIVES OUT HIMSELF PRINCE FLORIZEL, SON OF POLIXENES, WITH HIS PRINCESS, DESIRES ACCESS!

WHAT WITH HIM?

BUT FEW, AND THOSE BUT MEAN...



BRING THEM TO OUR EMBRACEMENT!





MOST DEARLY WELCOME, AND YOUR FAIR PRINCES



YOUR FATHER'S IMAGE IS SO HIT IN YOU, THAT I SHOULD CALL YOU BROTHER!

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...



BY HIS COMMAND I GIVE YOU ALL GREETINGS THAT A KING CAN HIS BROTHER



O MY BROTHER, GOOD GENTLEMEN, THE WRONGS I HAVE DONE THEE...

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...

A LORD ARRIVES...



PLEASE YOU GREAT SIR, POLIXENES GREET'S YOU FROM HIMSELF BY ME. DESIRES YOU CATCH HIS SON, WHO HAS FLED FROM HIS FATHER WITH A SHEPHERD'S DAUGHTER!

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

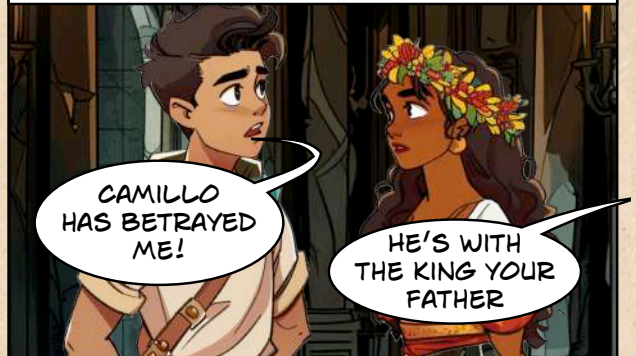


WHERE'S POLIXENES?



HERE IN YOUR CITY. IN THE CHASE OF THIS FAIR COUPLE MEETS HE THE FATHER OF THIS SEEMING LADY AND HER BROTHER

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



CAMILLO HAS BETRAYED ME!

HE'S WITH THE KING YOUR FATHER



WHO, CAMILLO?

CAMILLO, SIR. I SPAKE WITH HIM, WHO NOW HAS THESE POOR MEN IN QUESTION.

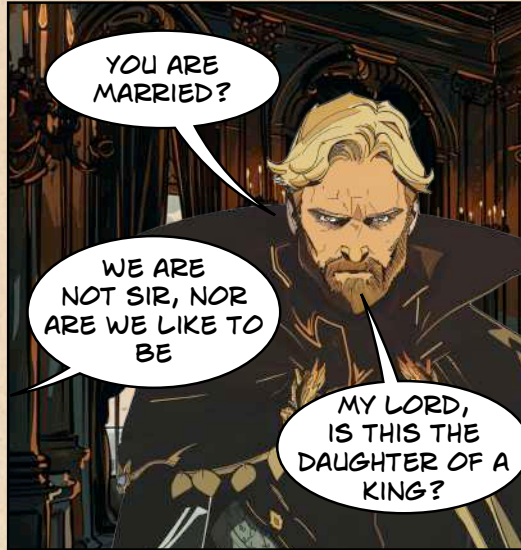


NEVER SAW I WRETCHES SO QUAKE! POLIXENES THREATENS THEM WITH DIVERS DEATHS IN DEATH!





O MY POOR FATHER! THE HEAVENS WILL NOT HAVE OUR CONTRACT CELEBRATED!



YOU ARE MARRIED?

WE ARE NOT SIR, NOR ARE WE LIKE TO BE

MY LORD, IS THIS THE DAUGHTER OF A KING?



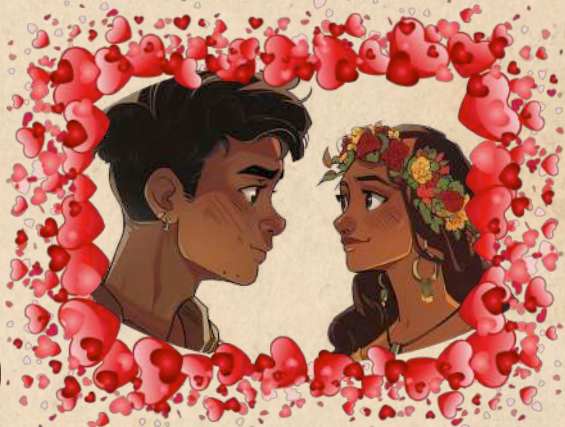
SHE IS WHEN ONCE SHE IS MY WIFE. BESEECH YOU SIR, STEP FORTH MINE ADVOCATE

STEP FORTH MINE ADVOCATE? NOW, 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...**



EVERYONE HOLDS THEIR BREATH, UNTIL...

I WILL TO YOUR FATHER, THEREFORE FOLLOW ME AND MARK WHAT WAY I MAKE.



FLORIZEL AND PERDITA BOTH HOPE FOR THEIR HAPPILY EVER AFTER...

AND SO...A GREAT CROWD HAS GATHERED OUTSIDE LEONTES' PALACE, WONDERING WHAT IS GOING ON...



AUTOLYCUS HAS FOLLOWED THE SHEPHERDS HERE BUT HAS HAD TO WAIT OUTSIDE. HE IS DESPERATE TO FIND OUT THE NEWS...



BESEECH YOU, WERE YOU PRESENT AT THIS RELATION?

I WAS BY AT THE OPENING OF THE **FARDEL** THAT WAS LEFT WITH PERDITA, HEARD THE OLD SHEPHERD DELIVER THE MANNER HOW HE FOUND IT, WHEREUPON WE WERE ALL COMMANDED OUT OF THE CHAMBER

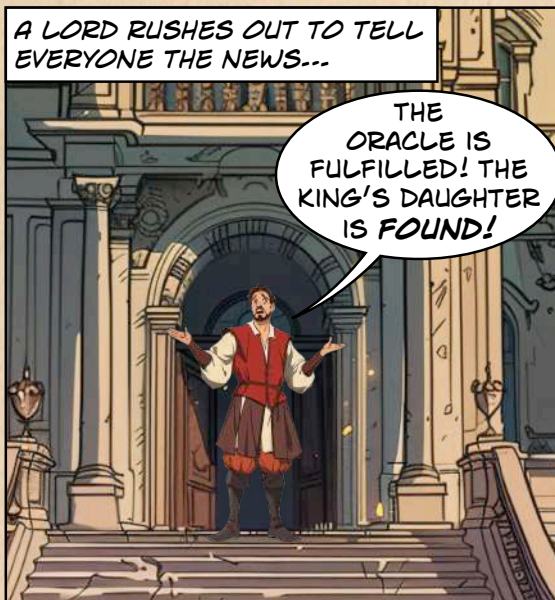
A **FARDEL** IS A BUNDLE - THE ONE THAT PERDITA WAS LEFT WITH ON THE SHORE, WITH THE GOLD AND JEWELS IN





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!

A LORD RUSHES OUT TO TELL EVERYONE THE NEWS...



THE ORACLE IS FULFILLED! THE KING'S DAUGHTER IS FOUND!

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...



O THY MOTHER, THY MOTHER!

THEN ASKS POLIXENES FORGIVENESS



THEN EMBRACES FLORIZEL

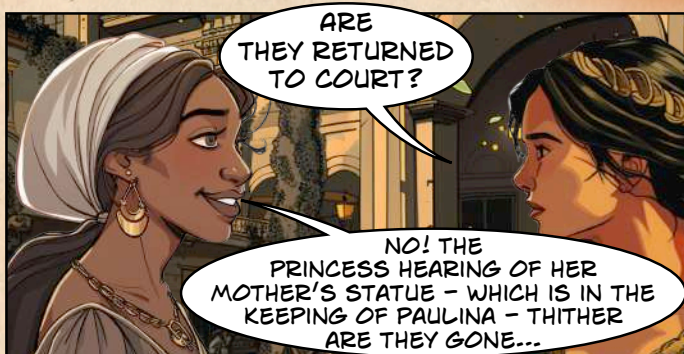


NOW HE THANKS THE OLD SHEPHERD



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?



SHE HATH

FOR HOW LONG?

EVER SINCE THE DEATH OF HERMIONE

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...

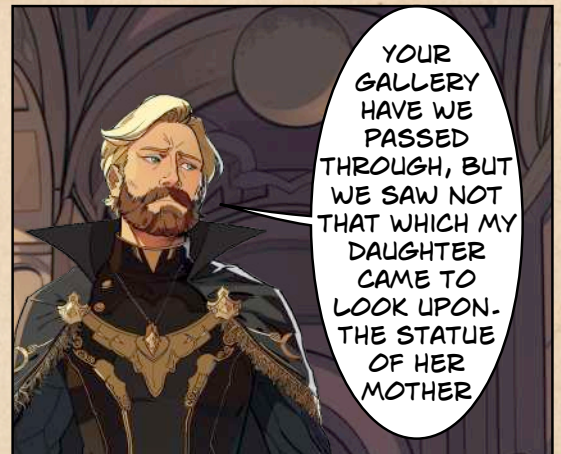




SO, HERE WE ARE INSIDE, AND THE GANG'S ALL HERE: LEONTES, POLIXENES, CAMILLO, FLORIZEL AND PERDITA. THEY ARE ALL **SO** HAPPY TO BE BACK TOGETHER. THERE ARE MANY STATUES TO LOOK AT, BUT THEY REALLY ONLY CARE ABOUT ONE IN PARTICULAR...



O GRAVE AND GOOD PAULINA



YOUR GALLERY HAVE WE PASSED THROUGH, BUT WE SAW NOT THAT WHICH MY DAUGHTER CAME TO LOOK UPON. THE STATUE OF HER MOTHER



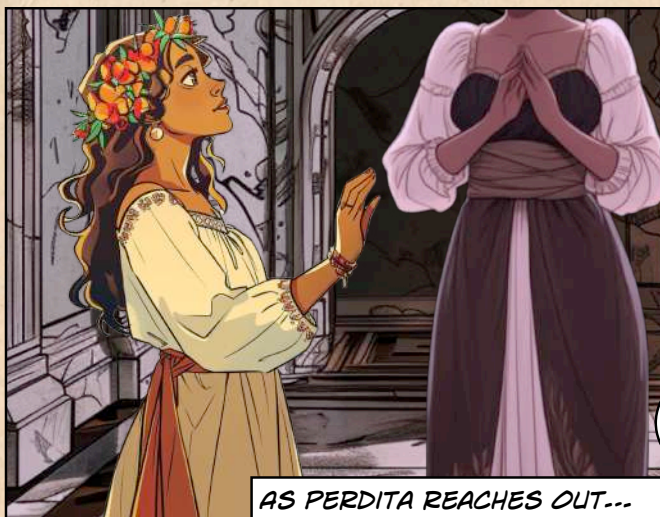
I KEEP IT LONELY, APART. BUT HERE IT IS. BEHOLD, AND SAY 'TIS WELL!



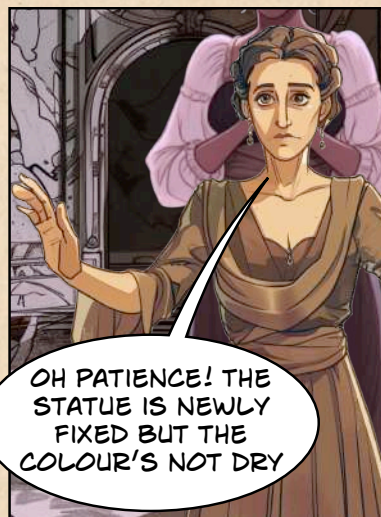
THERE IS A GASP FROM EVERYONE PRESENT...

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.

O, THUS SHE STOOD WHEN FIRST I WOODED HER! I AM ASHAMED...



AS PERDITA REACHES OUT...



OH PATIENCE! THE STATUE IS NEWLY FIXED BUT THE COLOUR'S NOT DRY



IT'S ALL TOO MUCH FOR LEONTES...



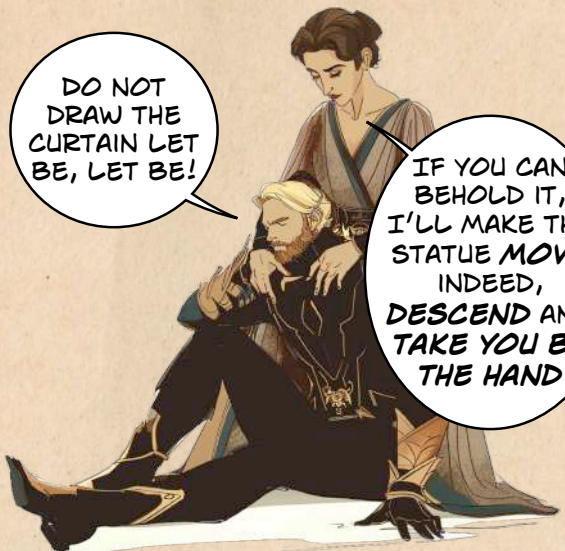
DEAR BROTHER

MY LORD



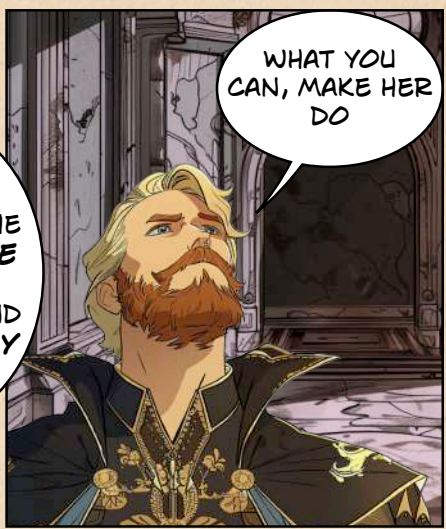
NO-ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CALM LEONTES DOWN, SO PAULINA, SEEING HOW UPSET HE IS, DECIDES TO COVER UP THE STATUE...





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



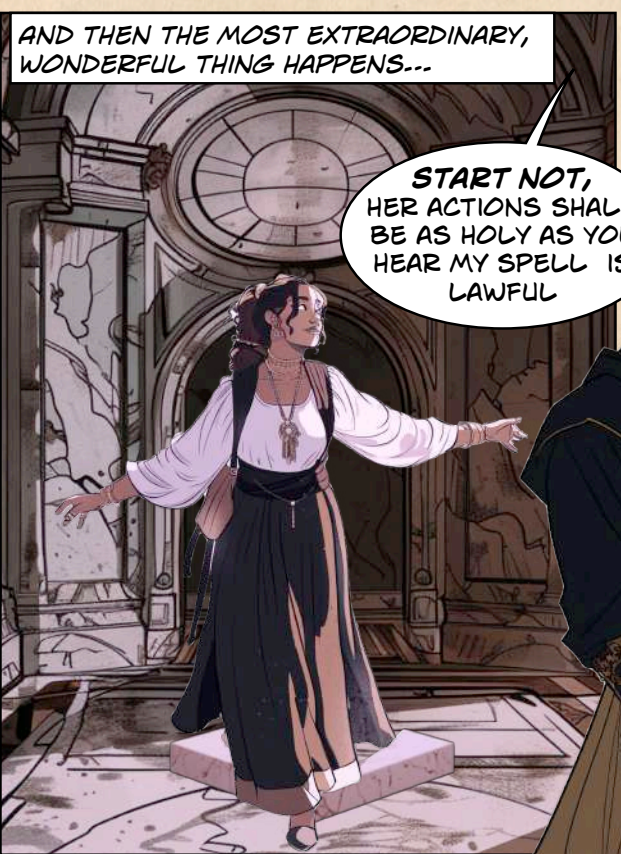
WHAT YOU  
CAN, MAKE HER  
DO



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



'TIS  
TIME; DESCEND;  
BE STONE NO  
MORE!



AND THEN THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY,  
WONDERFUL THING HAPPENS...

**START NOT,**  
HER ACTIONS SHALL  
BE AS HOLY AS YOU  
HEAR MY SPELL IS  
LAWFUL



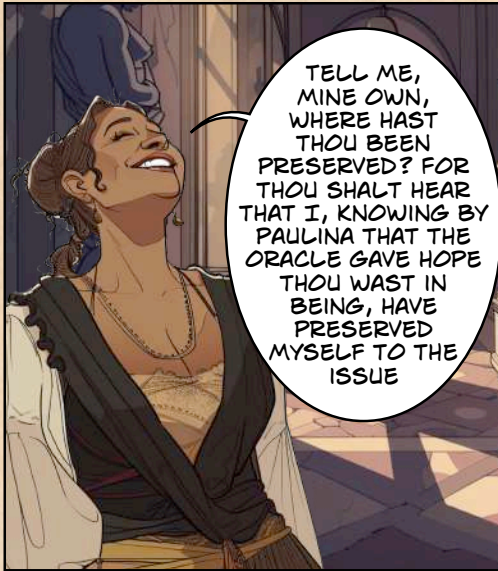
O, SHE'S  
WARM! IF THIS BE  
MAGIC, LET IT BE AN  
ART AS LAWFUL AS  
EATING!

TURN, GOOD  
LADY; OUR  
PERDITA IS  
FOUND



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





TELL ME, MINE OWN, WHERE HAST THOU BEEN PRESERVED? FOR THOU SHALT HEAR THAT I, KNOWING BY PAULINA THAT THE ORACLE GAVE HOPE THOU WAST IN BEING, HAVE PRESERVED MYSELF TO THE ISSUE

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...



GO TOGETHER, YOU PRECIOUS WINNERS ALL; I WILL WING ME TO SOME WITHER'D BOUGH AND THERE MY MATE, THAT'S NEVER TO BE FOUND AGAIN, LAMENT TILL I AM LOST

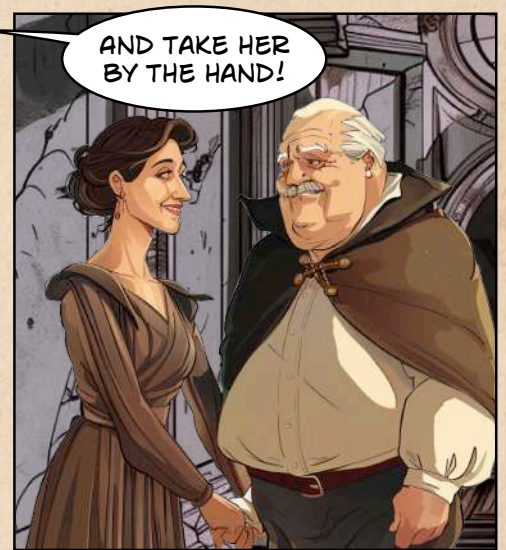
OF COURSE, POOR ANTIGONUS NEVER MADE IT HOME...



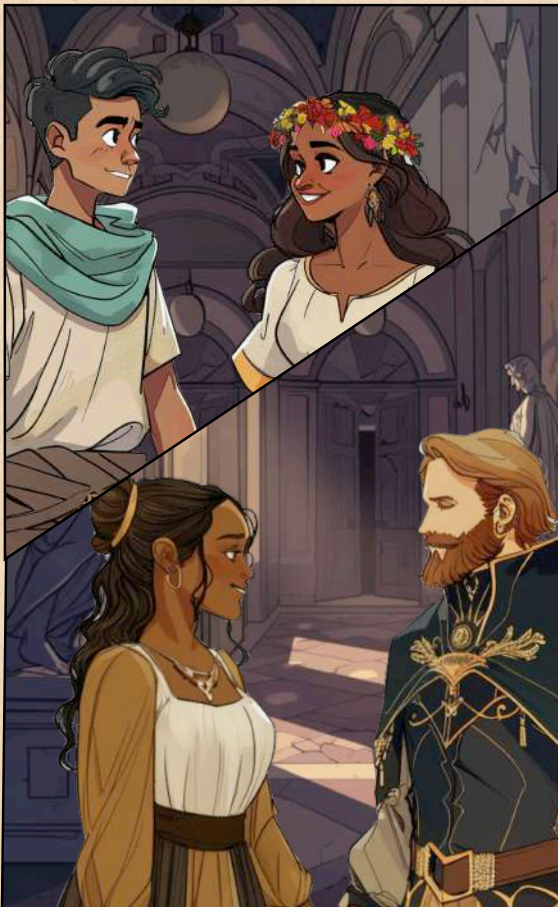
O, PEACE, PAULINA! THOU SHOULDST A HUSBAND TAKE BY MY CONSENT, AS I BY THINE A WIFE.



COME, CAMILLO!



AND TAKE HER BY THE HAND!



GOOD PAULINA, LEAD US FROM HENCE, WHERE WE MAY LEISURELY EACH ONE DEMAND AN ANSWER TO HIS PART PERFORM'D IN THIS WIDE GAP OF TIME SINCE FIRST WE WERE DISSEVER'D: HASTILY LEAD AWAY

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!**