The Dark Empress



The Empress Chronicles
Book 16

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PRINCESS CALLE'S SMALL BAND OF TROLLS AND SOLDIERS HAS ENTERED VERNIA, WITH HUNDREDS MORE TROLLS MARCHING TOWARD VERNIA.
CALLE HAS DEMANDED THAT LYDIA SURRENDER TO HER OR SHE WILL LAY VERNIA TO WASTE.


EMPRESS, PLEASE. YOUR ORDERS?
IT'S NOT FAIR. EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR IS ABOUT TO BE TAKEN FROM ME.
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I'M GOING TO SURRENDER.
NO. DON'T BE A COWARD. LET US FIGHT AND DIE WITH HONOR.


I KNEEL BEFORE YOU, CALLE.
THE WEAK BITCH IS SELLING US OUT.


A WISE DECISION, LYDIA. NOW, YOUR WEAPONS. THROW THEM TO THE GROUND IN FRONT OF YOU.


YOU'LL SPARE MY PEOPLE?


I'LL SPARE THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT TO MY RULE. NOW, I WANT TO SEE THE WEAPONS ON THE GROUND OR I'LL HAVE COMMANDER RELIA TAKE THEM FROM YOU..ALONG WITH YOUR HEADS!
DO IT NOW!!


THE WEAPONS ARE THROWN TO THE GROUND.
CLANG
CLANK
6


SERUS, YOU'LL ESCORT LYDIA TO HER CHAMBERS. OH, LET ME CORRECT THAT. PLEASE ESCORT HER TO MY CHAMBERS AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE SHORTLY.


RELIA, FIND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUR PRISONERS. AFTER THEY ARE LOCKED AWAY, TAKE SOME OF SLEGAR'S TROOPS AND SECURE THE BARRACKS. IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY RESISTANCE, SLAY THEM ALL.


AT ALBANUS' WORKSHOP.
APOLLO HELP US, THERE'S ANOTHER TROLL. AND A SOLDIER. WE'RE BEING INVADED.


WHAT'S WRONG, ALABANUS.
QUICK, GATHER YOUR CLOTHES. WE NEED TO GET TO THE PALACE.
8


WHY? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I THINK THE CITY IS BEING INVADED. THERE ARE TROLLS AND SOLDIERS IN THE STREET.
I KNOW A WAY THRU THE BACK ALLEYS TO THE PALACE. WE'LL BE SAFE THERE.


THEY BOTH QUICKLY DRESS AND LEAVE THRU A BACK ENTRANCE.
I'M SURE LYDIA WILL HAVE A PLAN. TURN RIGHT AT THE NEXT OPENING.
MOST OF OUR TROOPS ARE UP NORTH. HOW CAN WE DEFEND OURSELVES?
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XENIA'S VILLA.
THAT WAS ANOTHER FABULOUS FEAST, XENIA. NOW I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO INDULGE IN A BIT OF DEBAUCHERY, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?


I THINK SABINA AND I NEED TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE TO XENIA.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. YOU TWO GO ON AND START WITHOUT ME. I JUST WANT TO CLEAN UP A BIT.


THAT'S WHAT YOUR SLAVES ARE FOR, XENIA.
OH, I KNOW. BUT I LIKE TO HELP OUT. NOW, RUN LONG. I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY.


XENIA TREATS THOSE SLAVES MUCH TOO WELL.
THAT JUST GIVES US MORE TIME TOGETHER.
AND I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO PROPOSE TO YOU.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WANT TO VISIT VERNIA. AND YOU SAID YOU'LL GO BACK SOMEDAY, RIGHT?


SOMEDAY. BUT I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY RIGHT NOW. EXCEPT FOR A FEW THINGS, ALL THE CLOTHES I HAVE ARE XENIA'S.
I'LL NEED MONEY FOR CLOTHES AND FOOD AND LODGING ALONG THE WAY.
I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY FOR BOTH OF US TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET US TO VERNIA.


REALLY?
IT'S A LITTLE CRAZY, BUT WITH YOUR HELP, I THINK WE CAN PULL IT OFF.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER. RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOU TO TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES SO I CAN TASTE THE NECTAR BETWEEN YOUR LEGS.


YOU DON'T EVER GIVE THAT COCK OF YOUR A REST, DO YOU?
I TRY NOT TO.


I ASSUME THE GODS GAVE ME A COCK FOR A REASON.
NOT TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO THE GODS.


AFTER A BIT OF NECTAR SAMPLING...
WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE, ACANTHA? SHALL I PLUG THAT DELECTABLE ASS OF YOURS?
WHY DON'T WE BOTH ATTEND TO XENIA FIRST, AS THANKS FOR HER WONDERFUL FEAST.


I'D RATHER BURY MY COCK INTO YOU. YOU RELISH THE CARNAL PLEASURES, AS DO I. XENIA IS TOO RESERVED.
SHHH. SHE'S COMING.


XENIA, DEAR. WOULD YOU MIND OILING UP ACANTHA'S BOTTOM?
LET ME GRAB THE OIL.
NOW GO LET YOUR COUSIN ATTEND TO YOUR LUSCIOUS ASS WHILE I RECLINE ON THE DIVAN.
SOMEDAY, MAYBE. I'M JUST NOT READY FOR THAT.
I DON'T MIND.
XENIA, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I POKE ACANTHA'S BOTTOM FIRST.
WE DO HAVE TO GET YOU TO ENJOY TAKING A COCK IN YOUR ARSE.
WE'LL WORK ON CHANGING YOUR MIND.
15


BE GENEROUS WITH THAT OIL. I'M A BIT SORE, AND THE MORE LUBRICANT, THE BETTER. AND USE TWO FINGERS TO OPEN ME UP A BIT.


AS XENIA WORKS THE OIL INTO HER, ACANTHA BEGINS A RHYTHMIC THRUST IN CONCERT WITH XENIA'S FINGERS.
EASY ACANTHA, SAVE YOUR THRUSTS FOR MY COCK.
OOOH..IT FEELS SO GOOD.
THANKS, XENIA. THAT WILL DO FOR NOW.
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TAKE IT SLOW, ACANTHA.
UHHH... OH, IT'S TIGHT... AHHHH...
ACANTHA CERTAINLY ENJOYS TAKING IT UP THE ARSE. MAYBE I'LL LET SABINA HAVE A GO AT ME.


SLOWLY DEAR. LET'S TRY NOT TO SNAP MY TWIG OFF.
=GASP= I'M NOT SURE IT'S GOING TO... EEK!


MAYBE SOME EXTRA STIMULATION WILL HELP.


SUCCESS! GODS, YOU HAVE A TIGHT LITTLE HOLE.
OOH... DON'T STOP RUBBING XENIA. YESSS!!
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.
PLOP
18


SHH..THIS IS...AHHGG..
sluurp


ACANTHA SQUEALS IN DELIGHT AS SHE GRINDS HER ASS INTO SABINA'S THRUSTING COCK. AS XENIA'S LIPS ENGULF ACANTHA'S LABIA, THE FIRST WAVES OF ORGASM WASH OVER ACANTHA.
AHHEEE!!


OH, XENIA--GRAB MY BALLS... HURRY--
OH--UH--I-- GAA----


THAT'S IT- EEEYAHH!


UHN... DON'T YET ME SPURT YET..PLEASE, PRIAPUS, HOLD BACK MY SEED..
OH..FUCK..LET ME SIT UP..OH..OH..


UHN.. =PANT=..OH, GODS...=PANT= XENIA, KISS ME... AHHGH..


MMM
smack


OH--OH--SSH-
;GASP; LET ME PULL OUT, ACANTHA--OH--DAMN--
smack


I'M GOING TO SPURT..
EEYYAHHH !!
MMM


=UHHHN=


PRAISE VENUS, THAT WAS GOOD.
IT WAS. BUT NOW I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU MENTIONED BEFORE. HOW..


ACANTHA IS INTERRUPTED BY XENIA.
I DO HOPE YOU'VE SAVED SOMETHING FOR ME.
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WE CAN START RIGHT NOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE YOUR MOUTH ON MY LIMP COCK.
ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER WATCH ACANTHA MAKE YOU RISE.
AND AFTER THAT, MAYBE YOU CAN TRY OUT MY NETHER HOLE.


MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT A BIT. YOU ARE QUITE SOFT.


I'VE NO DOUBT THAT ONCE YOU TAKE ME IN YOUR MOUTH, I'LL STIFFEN UP NICELY.


GODS, WHAT A LOVELY VIEW.
26


I MUST TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE BEYOND A DOUBT THE BEST COCKSUCKER I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.
AND THE GODS KNOW I'VE KNOWN MORE THAN A FEW. BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.
I EVEN CONSIDER MYSELF QUITE SKILLED AT THE ART, BUT I PALE IN COMPARISON TO YOU.


AS ACANTHA WORKS TO STIFFEN SABINA'S COCK, DIONA AND ALBANUS HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES IN A BIT OF TROUBLE.
I TOLD YOU THEY WEREN'T VERNIAN SOLDIERS.
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME TO ME.
WITH THE PALACE OVERRUN WITH THESE FOREIGN SOLDIERS, I'D SAY LYDIA'S RULE HAS COME TO AN END.


WHOSE WORK IS THIS? MORRENTIA IS THE ONLY OTHER REALM THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE A DANGER TO US. AND RELATIONS WITH THEM HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER.
MAYBE IT WAS ALL A RUSE. MAYBE THEY'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS ALL ALONG.
GUARD...WE WANT TO SEE SOMEONE IN CHARGE. WE'RE NO THREAT TO ANYONE. I'M AN ARTISAN, A SCULPTOR.
PLEASE...LET US SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN CHARGE.
I WONDER WHO IS IN CHARGE?


LYDIA'S CHAMBERS.
THE ROOM IS CLEAR OF WEAPONS. I DID FIND A KNIFE.
VERY GOOD. PLEASE GO FIND SLEGAR AND BRING HIM TO THE THRONE ROOM. WE'LL MEET HIM THERE.


HAVE YOU EVER WORN ARMOR, LYDIA. NASTY BUSINESS IT IS. RUBS YOU RAW IN THE MOST UNFORTUNATE PLACES. I'M HAPPY TO BE OUT OF IT.
UGH. THE DECOR IN HERE IS HORRENDOUS. I'LL HAVE TO HAVE THIS ROOM TOTALLY RENOVATED.


WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, CALLE? YOU SIGNED THE TREATY WITH VERNIA. YOU SIGNED A NON-AGGRESSION PACT. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHY? BECAUSE MY ANCESTORS HAVE WANTED THE VERNIAN LANDS FOR GENERATIONS. EACH ATTEMPT TO TAKE VERNIA ALWAYS ENDED IN FAILURE. UNTIL NOW.


NOW, TELL ME. WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOUR TROOPS?
WHY WOULD I TELL YOU?


DON'T TEST ME, LYDIA, OR YOU'LL REGRET THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.
OWW! STOP! ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU.


THEY'RE UP NORTH, QUELLING SOME DISTURBANCES.
IS HARIAN WITH THEM?
YES.


I EXPECT THAT YOU SENT A MESSENGER TO WARN THEM OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING?
YES. I--I ASKED THEM TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY.


AND YOUR GUESS ON WHEN THEY MIGHT ARRIVE BACK IN VERNIA?
UM--IF THEY MARCH HARD, TWO DAYS AT THE MOST.
ARE YOU GOING TO SLAUGHTER THEM?


SLAUGHTER THEM? THERE MAY BE SOME CASUALTIES, MOST NOTABLY THE OFFICERS, BUT I INTEND TO SHOW THE LOWER RANKS THE BENEFITS OF BEING LOYAL TO ME.


THEY'LL FIGHT FOR ME.
34


MAYBE SO, BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS – DO YOU PAY THEM WELL ENOUGH TO DIE FOR YOU?
I'M BETTING THAT YOU DON'T. I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL OFFER THEM DOUBLE THE WAGES YOU PAY THEM, PLUS A PLOT OF LAND AT THE END OF OF THEIR SERVICE.


DON'T KILL THE OFFICERS.
YOU REALLY MEAN, HARIAN, DON'T YOU?


YOUR COOPERATION WILL DETERMINE THEIR FATE.
NOW, GO PUT ON SOMETHING YOU CAN SLIP OUT OF EASILY.
WHY?


REMEMBER, HARIAN AND THE FATE OF THE OTHER OFFICERS DEPEND ON YOUR COOPERATION. ASKING YOUR EMPRESS WHY MAKES HER THINK THAT YOU ARE NOT BEING COOPERATIVE.
A GUEST WANTS TO MEET YOU. AND I EXPECT YOU TO BE ACCOMMODATING TO HIM.
OH, GODS..SHE PLANS TO HAVE BE SUBMIT TO ONE OF HER MEN.


LATER, CALLE AND LYDIA ENTER THE THRONE ROOM.
AS PROMISED, SLEGAR. THE FORMER EMPRESS OF VERNIA.
÷GASP÷ JUNO HELP ME, THAT'S NOT A MAN, BUT A TROLL.


I'VE SEEN HER FUCK AND I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY HER.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FUCK THAT CREATURE.


DON'T LOOK SO SAD. TAKING HIS COCK WON'T BE SO BAD. AFTER HE STRETCHES YOU OUT, IT WON'T BE BAD AT ALL.
I CAN'T--PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS.


YOU FAIL TO DO THIS AND HARIAN AND HIS MEN DIE. AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE FUCKED BY EVERY TROLL IN SLEGAR'S COMMAND.


I THINK SHE'LL DO CALLE. NOT AS PRETTY AS I HOPED SHE WOULD BE. MAYBE WHAT'S UNDERNEATH HER GARMENTS WILL MAKE UP FOR THAT.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT YOU ARE HIDING BENEATH THAT FABRIC.
I THINK I'LL SIT UP HERE AND ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE.


I KNOW WHAT WILL MAKE HER FACE A BIT PRETTIER – A COCK BETWEEN HER LIPS.


GET TO WORK, WENCH.
=GASP= IT'S HUGE!


ITS BALLS ARE THE SIZE OF AN ONION SACK.


I CAN BARELY GET MY LIPS AROUND IT.
=GAG=--
=CHOKE=


I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE--
=CHOKE=--
=COUGH=--
=EHH=


VERY DISAPPOINTING CALLE.
GIVE HER TIME, SLEGAR. SHE JUST HAS TO WARM UP TO YOU. HEH HEH.
÷SLURP÷ ÷GAG÷


I THINK I'LL BE BETTER SERVED PARTING YOUR THIGHS.
÷GAG÷ ÷CHOKE÷


TIME TO BEND YOU OVER, BITCH.
EEEII !!


OWW!
IT'S GOING TO HURT MUCH WORSE IF YOU DON'T SPREAD YOUR LEGS.


GAHHH---I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF HIM. ÷GASP÷


OW...FUCK...
AHHHHGG!!


SHE'LL BE SORE FOR A WEEK AFTER THE POUNDING SHE'S TAKING.
I WONDER HOW SHE'D DO WITH SERUS AND SOME OF HIS MEN. I'LL HAVE TO ARRANGE THAT.
46


ARRGH!!
OH, FUCK--IT HURTS--OWWW !


AHHOOO
GAHHH !!


A BIT LATER...
IT WASN'T TOO BAD WHILE SHE WAS CONSCIOUS, BUT I'LL TELL YOU I'VE HAD BETTER RUTS WITH PEASANT GIRLS. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH HER CALLE?
JUST LAY HER ON THE FLOOR. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
SHE TOLD ME THAT THE REST OF VERNIA'S TROOPS ARE UP NORTH. SHE SENT A MESSENGER TO THEM AND EXPECTS THEM TO RETURN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS.
POST YOUR MEN AT THE NORTH ENTRANCE TO THE CITY. BRING THE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS TO ME. I'M LOOKING FOR ONE IN PARTICULAR.
AS FOR THE FOOT SOLDIERS, USE THE BARRACKS TO CONTAIN THEM.
48


MY MEN ARE HUNGRY FOR SOME WOMEN.
TAKE SOME FROM THE NORTH END OF THE CITY. BE DISCRETE ABOUT IT.
RIGHT NOW THE CITIZENS FEAR US. YOU START WHOLE SCALE RAPING OF THEIR WOMEN AND THEIR FEAR WILL TURN TO ANGER AND REBELION.


BE PATIENT. I PROMISED YOU WOMEN AND I'LL KEEP THAT PROMISE. ON YOUR WAY OUT FIND COMMANDER RELIA AND HAVE HER SEND A COUPLE OF SOLDIERS HERE.


CALLE WAITS FOR LYDIA TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.
IT FEELS GOOD JUST TO SIT HERE AND REST FOR A BIT.
EVERYTHING HAS GONE BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.
ONCE WE REIGN IN THE REST OF THE VERNIAN TROOPS, THE REAL WORK CAN BEGIN.
LOOKS LIKE LYDIA'S STIRRING.
HAVE A NICE NAP, DID YOU?
UHH--I HURT--


TWO SOLDIERS ENTER THE THRONE ROOM.
PERFECT TIMING.


TAKE HER TO RELIA. HAVE HER FIND A CELL TO HOLD HER FOR THE NIGHT.
MAKE SURE SHE ISN'T HARMED AND MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR COCKS SHEATHED WHILE SHE'S IN YOUR CARE.


I'D SURE LIKE TO DIP MY COCK INTO THIS ONE.


DON'T GET ANY IDEAS. CALLE WILL HAVE YOUR BALLS ON A PLATTER IF YOU DISOBEY HER.


LATER THAT EVENING.
OPEN THAT ONE'S CELL AND BRING HER OUT.


I DO HOPE THE ACCOMMODATIONS MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL.
I'VE HAD BETTER.


I THOUGHT IT TIME WE HAD A LITTLE CHAT.
I'M QUITE BUSY AT THE MOMENT. CAN WE DO THIS ANOTHER TIME?


ARE THOSE SHACKLES TOO TIGHT? SHALL I HAVE THEM LOOSENED UP A BIT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, CALLE? I'VE LITTLE PATIENCE FOR SMALL TALK.


I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT, HERTA. I THINK YOU ARE A LOT LIKE ME.
WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, I'M GOING TO KILL ALL THE HIGH LEVEL OFFICERS IN LYDIA'S ARMY.
I'M PREPARED TO DIE. GET ON WITH IT.
I THINK YOU COULD BE ONE OF THOSE EXCEPTIONS.
I HAVE A NEED FOR SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T MIND GETTING THEIR HANDS DIRTY. I THINK YOU MIGHT BE THAT PERSON.
I'LL GIVE YOU A FEW DAYS TO THINK ABOUT IT. NOW LET'S GET YOU BACK TO YOUR CELL. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE SCRUMPTIOUS GRUEL WE HAVE PREPARED FOR SUPPER.


THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT MY OFFER, HERTA. I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THOSE WHO REBUFF ME.
NOW, OFF YOU GO. I HOPE THE REST OF YOUR DAY IS PLEASANT.


I DO HOPE SHE ACCEPTS MY OFFER. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO SLIT HER THROAT.


ONE OF THE PRISONERS IS MAKING QUITE A STIR, DEMANDING TO SEE YOU.
IS THIS THE BIG MAN RELIA WAS TELLING ME ABOUT?
IT IS, YOUR MAJESTY.
TAKE ME TO HIM. MIGHT AS WELL DEAL WITH HIM NOW.


CALLE IS TAKEN TO ALBANUS' AND DIONA'S CELL.
MY, HE IS A LARGE FELLOW. THE GIRL LOOKS FAMILIAR.

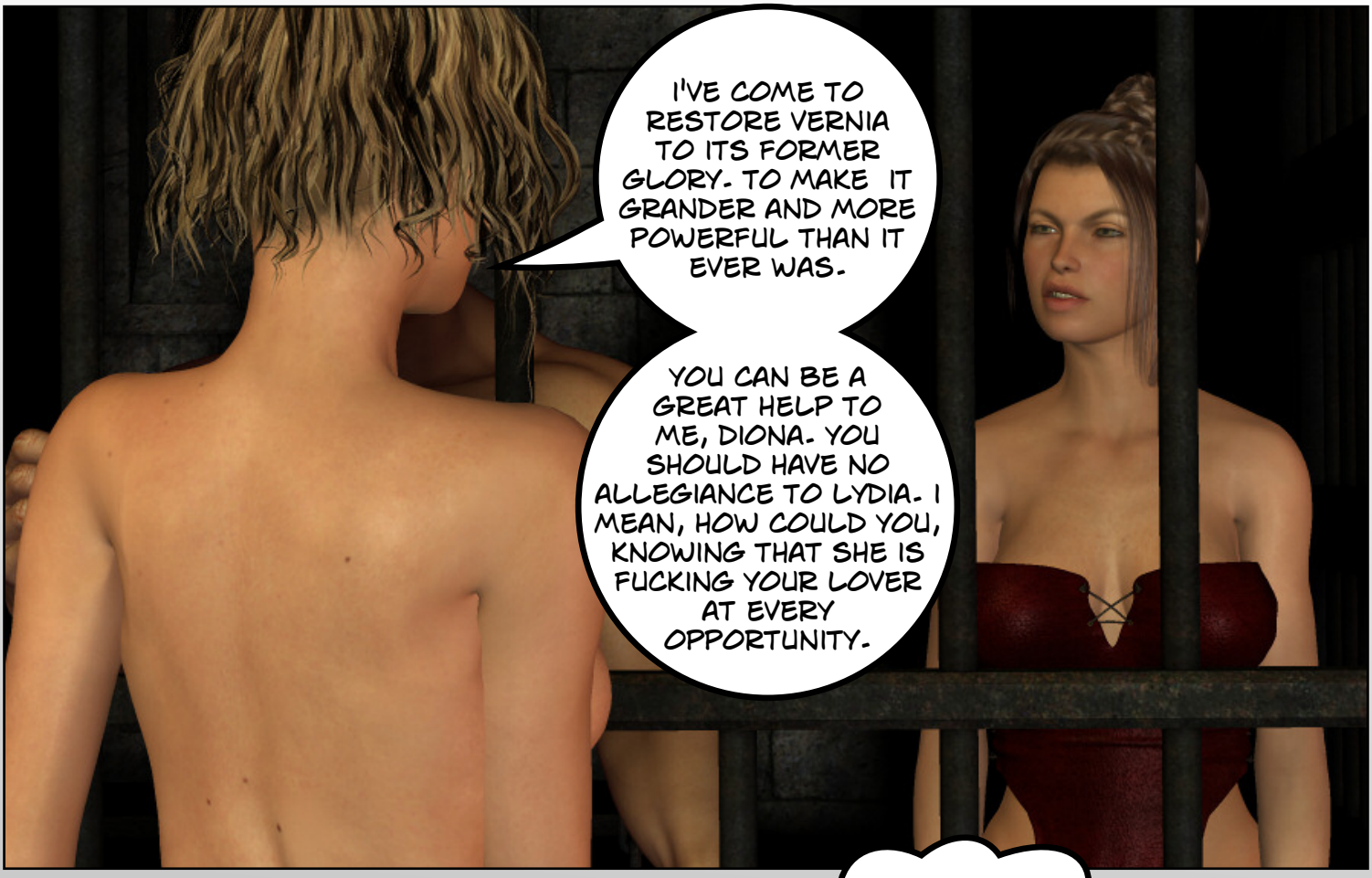

I HAVE. WE'VE BEEN UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED. I DEMAND THAT WE BE RELEASED.
MY MEN TELL ME THAT YOU'VE BEEN MAKING QUITE A RACKET.
AND MY FRIEND IS DIONA. SHE WAS POSING FOR A WORK WHEN WE SAW THE TROLLS IN THE STREETS.
I AM ALBANUS. A STONE MASON BY TRADE.
AND YOU ARE?


WE WERE TERRIFIED AND WE RAN TO THE PALACE FOR SANCTUARY.
YOU LOOK FAMILIAR. I THINK I MET YOU AT LYDIA'S BANQUET.
YES, HARIAN, MY BETROTHED INTRODUCED ME TO YOU.


WHAT IS GOING ON? WHY ARE THERE TROLLS AND FOREIGN SOLDIERS IN THE STREETS? IS THIS OF YOUR MAKING?


I'VE COME TO RESCUE VERNIA FROM THE DYSFUNCTIONAL RULE OF LYDIA AND HER CRONIES.
AMONG OTHER THINGS, HER DECADENCE HAS LED TO THE MURDER OF NOBLE CITIZENS AND SHE MURDERED HER OWN HUSBAND, THE EMPEROR.
EVEN YOU MUST BE AWARE OF HER PLANS TO STEAL YOUR BETROTHED FROM YOU.


I'VE NO LOVE FOR LYDIA, THAT'S FOR SURE. SO YOU'VE NOT COME TO DESTROY VERNIA?

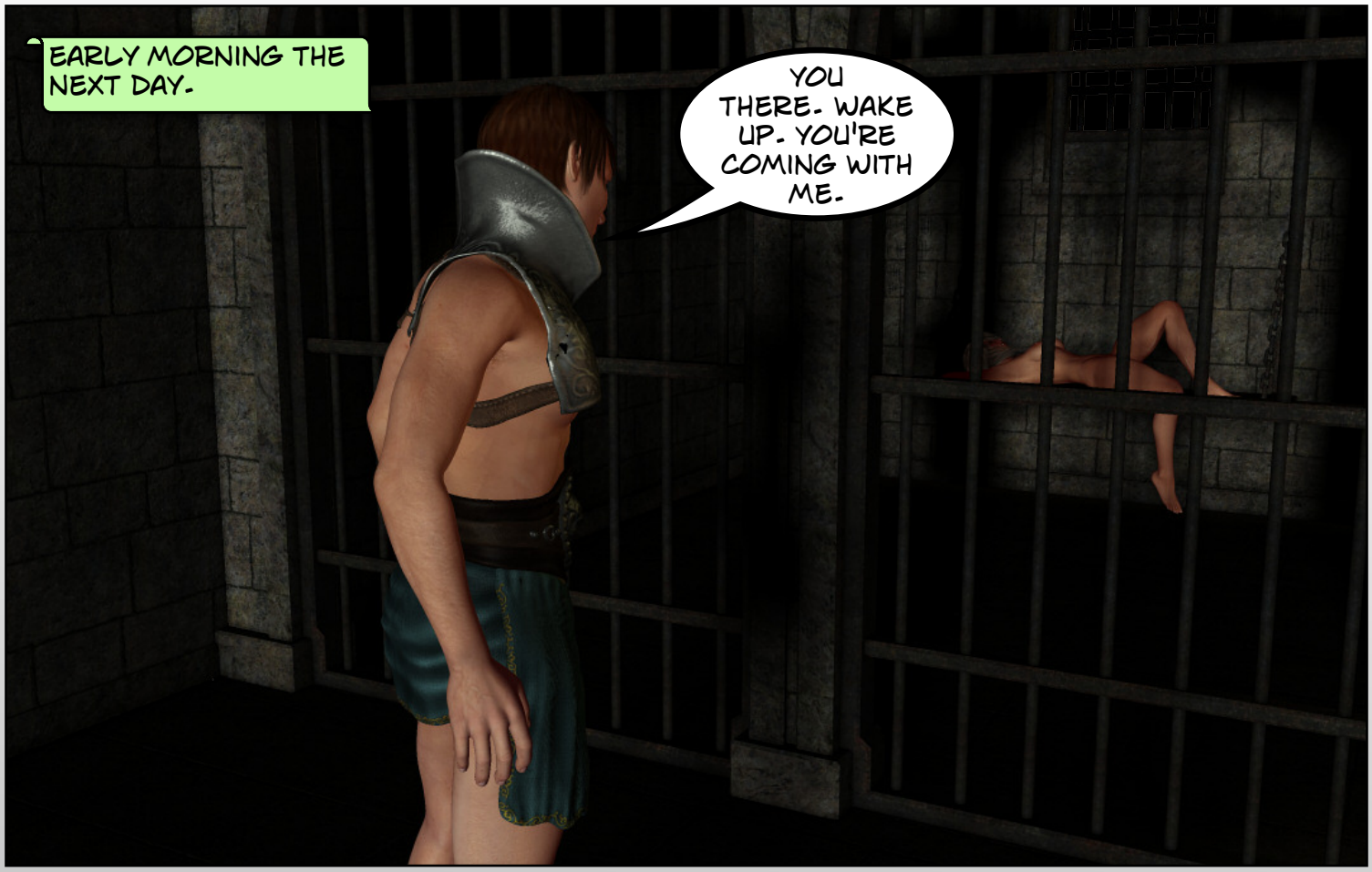

I'VE COME TO RESTORE VERNIA TO ITS FORMER GLORY. TO MAKE IT GRANDER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN IT EVER WAS.
YOU CAN BE A GREAT HELP TO ME, DIONA. YOU SHOULD HAVE NO ALLEGIANCE TO LYDIA. I MEAN, HOW COULD YOU, KNOWING THAT SHE IS FUCKING YOUR LOVER AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.


I'M NOT SURE I CAN TRUST THIS ONE ANY MORE THAN I COULD TRUST LYDIA.
WHEN HARIAN RETURNS TO THE CITY, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING HIM OF MY GOOD INTENTIONS.
WILL YOU RELEASE ME NOW?
61


YOU'LL BE SAFER IN THIS CELL FOR NOW. LYDIA HAS SPIES AND ASSASSINS EVERYWHERE. I'M SURPRISED YOUR BODY HASN'T TURNED UP IN A DITCH SOMEWHERE. IF I WAS LYDIA, YOU'D HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF LONG AGO. AFTER ALL, YOU STAND IN HER WAY OF HAVING HARIAN ALL TO HERSELF.
WHEN IT'S SAFE, I'LL COME FOR YOU DIONA.
ALBANUS, ONCE I CONFIRM YOUR STORY, I'LL HAVE YOU RELEASED. I'LL BE NEEDING A GOOD STONE MASON.

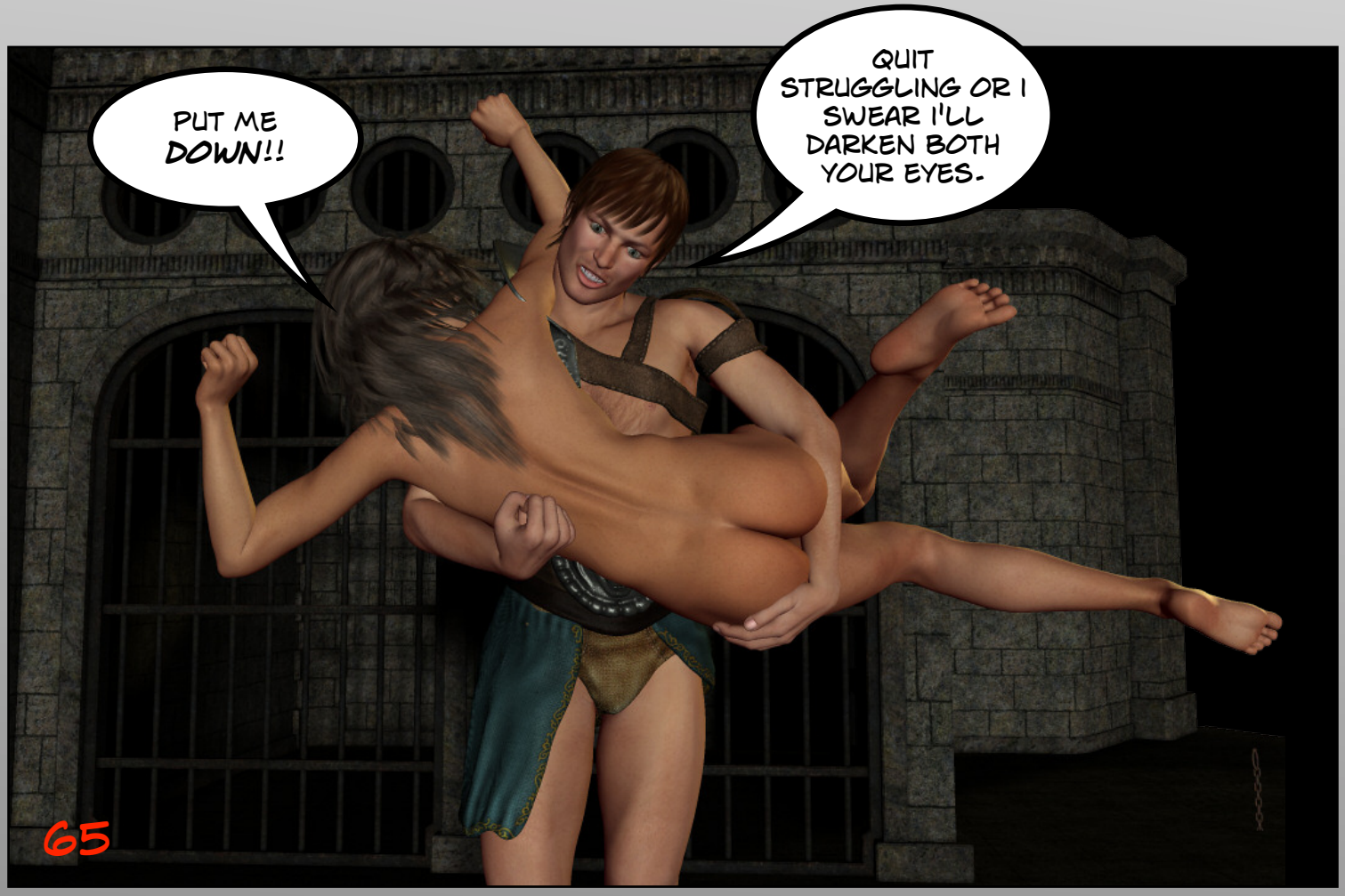

A WEARY BAND OF SOLDIERS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO VERNIA.
HARIAN'S MEN ARE TIRED AND THIRSTY.


WE SHOULD REACH THE RIVER BY SUNDOWN. WE'LL CAMP THERE OVERNIGHT.
WE'LL BREAK CAMP AT SUNRISE AND HOPEFULLY BE IN VERNIA BY MID-AFTERNOON.


EARLY MORNING THE NEXT DAY.
YOU THERE. WAKE UP. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.


WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? DID YOU BRING ME MY CLOTHES?
64


YOU DON'T NEED CLOTHES WHERE YOU ARE GOING.
I CAN'T FACE THAT BEAST AGAIN.
NO, PLEASE...DON'T TAKE ME.


PUT ME DOWN!!
QUIT STRUGGLING OR I SWEAR I'LL DARKEN BOTH YOUR EYES.


PLEASE... DON'T TAKE ME. I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. PLEEEASEE!
SORRY LASS. I HAVE MY ORDERS.
66


EARLY MORNING AT XENIA'S VILLA. SABINA HAS JUST TOLD ACANTHA ABOUT HER PLAN TO ACQUIRE MONEY SO THAT THEY CAN TRAVEL TO VERNIA.
SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?


I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD JUST ASK YOUR HUSBAND FOR THE MONEY.
THAT MONEY GRUBBER HAS HIS FIRST GOLD COIN. HE'D NEVER AGREE TO IT.


HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU MET WITH THESE MERCHANTS?
USUALLY A COUPLE OF TIMES A MONTH. I BRING A GIRL AND WE ALL FUCK HER. THEY LIKE TO WATCH ME FUCK HER FIRST, AND THEN IT'S JUST ONE MASS OF BODIES ON HER.


AND THEN THEY SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE BY GIVING YOU A GOLD COIN.
DON'T JUDGE ME, ACANTHA. I LIKE THE SEX AND I LIKE THE EXTRA MONEY.
AND YES, I'VE SEEN THE CHEST WHERE THEY HAVE THE GOLD. A COUPLE OF HANDFULS OF GOLD IS ALL WE NEED. I'LL SNEAK AWAY WHILE YOU KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED AND GRAB THE COINS. THEY'LL NEVER MISS IT.


I DON'T KNOW, SABINA. I NEED TO TAKE A WALK AND THINK ABOUT THIS.
THIS WILL WORK, ACANTHA.


JUST LET ME THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY? I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO SELL MY BODY FOR MONEY AGAIN. THE LAST TIME I DID THAT IT DIDN'T END VERY WELL.
69


THESE MEN ARE NOT LIKE THE MEN THAT RAPED YOU. THEY'RE RESPECTED CITIZENS OF APPOLONIA.
I'LL GIVE YOU MY ANSWER WHEN I RETURN.


WHY AM I SO HESITANT ABOUT THIS? IS IT MY RETURN TO VERNIA THAT FRIGHTENS ME?


TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE AROUND HIM, BRAKSUS IS ENJOYING THE WARM, MOIST FURROW OF ANOTHER LONELY MATRON.
I DO WISH MY HUSBAND COULD FUCK LIKE THIS.


OH, GODS... ÷GASP÷..HARDER. -OH..YES.
DON'T SPURT IN ME. I WANT YOU IN MY MOUTH.
71


I CERTAINLY WILL MISS YOUR LOVELY MOUTH, DEVIA.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO CONVINCE YOU TO STAY IN VERNIA. WHAT WILL YOU DO IN APPOLONIA?


WILL YOU AT LEAST COME BACK AND VISIT?


I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF VERNIA. MY BROTHER'S DEATH HAS SOURED ME ON THIS PLACE.
AND LYDIA'S REJECTION.


MMMGHPH
BUT THE WAY YOU USE THAT MOUTH OF YOURS MAY COMPEL ME TO VISIT HERE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.


AHHGH
74


VERNIA, AT THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE CITY.
THE TROLLS HAVE TAKEN UP THEIR POSITIONS AS THEY WAIT FOR HARIAN'S TROOPS TO RETURN TO VERNIA.


INSIDE THE PALACE.
YOU'LL BE SPENDING A BIT OF TIME IN HERE. LOOKS LIKE AN INTERESTING ROOM.
76


THIS IS WORSE THAN FACING THE TROLL.
I WISH I HAD MORE TIME TO FONDLE THESE LOVELY BREASTS OF YOURS, BUT CALLE INSISTED THAT I NOT DALLY.


I WARNED YOU TO QUIT STRUGGLING, DIDN'T I? DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER THAN IT HAS TO BE.
NO. DON'T...


WHAACK


DON'T MAKE ME HIT YOU AGAIN.


I DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS, BUT I WILL. NO MORE RESISTING. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES...I...I.. =SOB= UNDERSTAND. =SOB=


NOW THE YOU'RE ALL SETTLED IN, I'LL LET CALLE KNOW THAT YOU ARE WAITING FOR HER.
I DO HOPE THAT YOU TWO ENJOY YOUR TIME TOGETHER.


NOOOOOO
81


LYDIA DEAR, HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? THAT REALLY DOESN'T LOOK VERY COMFORTABLE.
DAMN YOU CALLE. I'VE BEEN COOPERATEIVE. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS.


I BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF COOPERATION.
COMMANDER RELIA TOLD ME THAT YOU WOULD NOT PROVIDE HER WITH THE INFORMATION SHE REQUESTED.
WHAT I TOLD HER IS THE TRUTH.
SO THAT PITTANCE YOUR TREASURER SHOWED US IS ALL THAT IS LEFT IN THE TREASURY?
THEN I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEED TO FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDS, WON'T WE?


I'LL WANT A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE RICHEST NOBLES IN VERNIA.
YES..YES. I CAN GIVE YOU THEIR NAMES. WILL YOU LET ME UP FROM THIS TABLE NOW?
YOU SURPRISE ME LYDIA. THESE ROOMS YOU HAVE DOWN HERE BELOW THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE PALACE ARE QUITE INTERESTING.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THE TYPE TO EMPLOY SUCH METHODS OF INTERROGATION.
OR MAYBE YOU USE THEM FOR A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT.


I'VE NEVER USED THESE ROOMS. THEY WERE HERE BEFORE MARCUS AND I GAINED THE THRONE.
I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A USE FOR THEM.


THIS TABLE EXPOSES YOU QUITE NICELY. IN FACT, YOU LOOK QUITE TASTY. WOULD YOU MIND IF I HAD A TASTE?
PLEASE CALLE. UNTIE ME. PLEASE. I'LL SUBMIT TO YOUR WISHES.
OH, I THINK IT'S MUCH MORE FUN HAVING YOU RESTRAINED LIKE THIS.
GODS, SERUS WILL LOVE THIS VIEW. WOULD YOU MIND IF I LET HIM HAVE A TASTE AS WELL?
NO!


GOODNESS, LYDIA. YOU'RE QUIVERING. DO YOU LIKE THE WAY I RUN MY HANDS OVER YOUR MOUND? YOU WANT MY TONGUE IN YOUR CUNT, DON'T YOU?
CALLE, DON'T DO THIS. PLEASE, I BEG YOU.


MMM.
SLURP


I THINK YOUR BODY IS STARTING TO RESPOND TO THIS. I KNEW YOU WANTED IT.
OH, GODS..I DON'T WANT THIS..BUT...MY BODY...


NOW I THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU RECIPROCATE. EVER SINCE I SAW YOU USE THAT MOUTH OF YOURS, I'VE WONDERED HOW IT WOULD FEEL. LET ME STEP OUT OF THESE GARMENTS AND THEN YOU CAN PLEASURE ME.


DO YOUR BEST LYDIA. YOU DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT ME.


YES..OH YES.
mmmph


EEEIYAAAH!!


AFTER CALLE'S INTENSE ORGASM SUBSIDES, SHE CLIMBS ON TOP OF LYDIA.
I MAY JUST HAVE TO KEEP YOU AROUND.
I CAN SEE MANY USES FOR THAT MOUTH OF YOURS AND THESE FINE GLOBES.
I HAVE ONE QUESTION FOR YOU. WHERE IS THE EMPEROR'S BROTHER?


BRAKSUS? I HAVE NO IDEA.
OWWW.THAT HURTS.
THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER I WANTED TO HEAR.


WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH SERUS.
WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT BRAKSUS?
HE'S A LOOSE END. IN MY EXPERIENCE, A BROTHER OF A FALLEN RULER OFTEN WANTS WHAT THE DECEASED BROTHER USED TO HAVE.


YOUR BREASTS ARE LOVELY, LYDIA. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO CUT THEM OFF YOUR BODY. TELL ME WHERE BRAKSUS IS.
90


BRAKSUS HAS NO POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS. HE'S NO THREAT TO YOU.


TELL ME WHERE HE IS.
SLAAP


YOU'RE MAKING THIS VERY DIFFICULT, LYDIA. I WAS HOPING OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD START OFF ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE.
YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT IT'S NOT WISE TO RAISE MY IRE. WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER NICE CHAT LATER. I'LL SEND IN SERUS IN SHORTLY.
PLEASE..I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH.


A BIT LATER...
HELLO LYDIA.
=SOB=

THE NEXT MORNING. HERTA HAS ACCEPTED CALLI'S OFFER. IT WASN'T A HARD DECISION TO MAKE. SHE WASN'T READY TO MEET THE GODS. SHE KNEW HER FIRST ASSIGNMENT FOR CALLE WAS A TEST OF HER OBEDIENCE. SHE WAS GIVEN A TASK AND SHE WOULD COMPLETE IT. BLOOD WOULD BE SPILLED, AND TRUTH BE TOLD, SHE LOVED THE ANTICIPATION OF VIOLENCE. SHE SELDOM HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE HER BLADES UNDER MARCUS' AND LYDIA'S RULE.

HER ASSIGNMENT WAS TO KILL A PRISONER THAT CALLE HAD INTERROGATED AND HAD NO FURTHER USE OF. HERTA WONDERED WHO IT WAS. SHE HOPED IT WASN'T ANYONE SHE KNEW, BUT, IN THE END, THAT WOULDN'T MATTER. SHE HAD TO PROVE TO CALLE THAT SHE COULD BE TRUSTED. HER FOOTFALLS ECHOED IN THE CORRIDOR AS SHE WALKED TO HER DESTINATION.




NICOLA? I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
SHE TURNED YOU? I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BETRAY VERNIA.
VERNIA CAN BE EVEN GREATER UNDER CALLE'S RULE. LYDIA IS A COWARD. WE SAW THAT FIRST HAND.
YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS. LET ME GO TO CALLE AND TELL HER YOU'LL JOIN US.
NO. I'VE ALREADY TURNED HER DOWN.


BUT...
JUST DO WHAT YOU'VE COME HERE TO DO. YOUR PRESENCE SICKENS ME.


I'M SORRY NICOLA. IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE VERNIA WITH YOU.
JUST DO IT. MAKE IT QUICK.


MAY THE GODS FORGIVE ME.


THIS IS LYDIA'S FAULT. I'LL MAKE HER PAY FOR THIS.
96


HARIAN AND HIS MEN ARE MAKING GOOD TIME. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH THE FIRST VIEWS OF VERNIA WITHIN THE HOUR.


LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY BECOME VISIBLE AHEAD OF THEM.
THINGS LOOK PEACEFUL ENOUGH.
WAIT... THERE'S MOVEMENT IN THE TREES.


HALT. THE SCOUTS HAVE SPOTTED SOMETHING.


TROLLS.
98


THE SCOUTS RETREAT AS THE TROLLS POUR OUT FROM THE TREES.
ROAAARR


HARIAN QUICKLY REALIZES THAT EVEN THOUGH HIS TROOPS PROBABLY OUT-NUMBER THE TROLLS, IT WOULD BE CERTAIN DEATH TO ENGAGE THEM.
WE'RE DOOMED.
PRAY TO THE GODS THAT THEY ACCEPT OUR SURRENDER.
99


I AM HARIAN, COMMANDER OF THESE TROOPS. WHO IS IN CHARGE THERE?
WE DO NOT WISH TO ENGAGE YOUR TROOPS.


WISE CHOICE HUMAN. HAVE YOUR MEN THROW DOWN THEIR WEAPONS.
IF YOU AND YOUR MEN SHOW NO RESISTANCE, YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED.
THE EMPRESS OF VERNIA HAS DECLARED THIS TO BE SO.
100


DROP YOUR WEAPONS MEN.
THEY'LL BE NO FIGHT IN US THIS DAY.
HARIAN'S HEART IS HEAVY AS HE HEARS THE SOUNDS OF HIS MEN'S WEAPONS HITTING THE GROUND. THERE IS SO MUCH HE DOESN'T KNOW. IS DIONA SAFE? AND WHO SITS ON THE THRONE NOW? IS LYDIA STILL ALIVE?


HARIAN AND HIS MEN SURRENDER TO THE TROLLS AND ARE MARCHED TO THE CITY.
AS THEY APPROACH VERNIA, HARIAN REALIZES HIS PLANS TO BECOME EMPEROR HAVE TAKEN A TERRIBLE BLOW.

WHILE THE EVENTS IN VERNIA ARE TAKING PLACE, ACANTHA TELLS XENIA OF HER PLANS TO GO TO APPOLONIA WITH SABINA. IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION. SHE WAS FINALLY READY TO RETURN TO VERNIA. BUT SHE NEEDED MONEY AND SABINA'S PLAN WAS AS GOOD AS ANY. SHE'D PLEASURED COCKS FOR MONEY BEFORE. IF THIS IS WHAT SHE'D HAVE TO DO TO GET BACK TO VERNIA, THEN SO BE IT.




I COULD LEND YOU SOME MONEY
XENIA, YOU'VE HELPED ME ENOUGH. I NEED TO GET BACK ON MY OWN. SABINA SAYS THE TAVERN WORK IN THE CITY PAYS WELL.
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT I'LL REALLY BE DOING.


I'M GOING TO MISS YOU SO MUCH.
OH GODS, XENIA. STOP. I'M GOING TO CRY.
I HAVE TO GO. SABINA IS WAITING FOR ME.
ACANTHA WALKS OUT INTO THE DAYLIGHT, TEARS STREAMING DOWN HER FACE. SHE AND SABINA BEGIN THEIR TREK BACK TO APPOLONIA.


LYDIA IS HAVING AS BAD A DAY AS HARIAN IS. SHE HAD SPENT THE PREVIOUS NIGHT IN A CAGE.

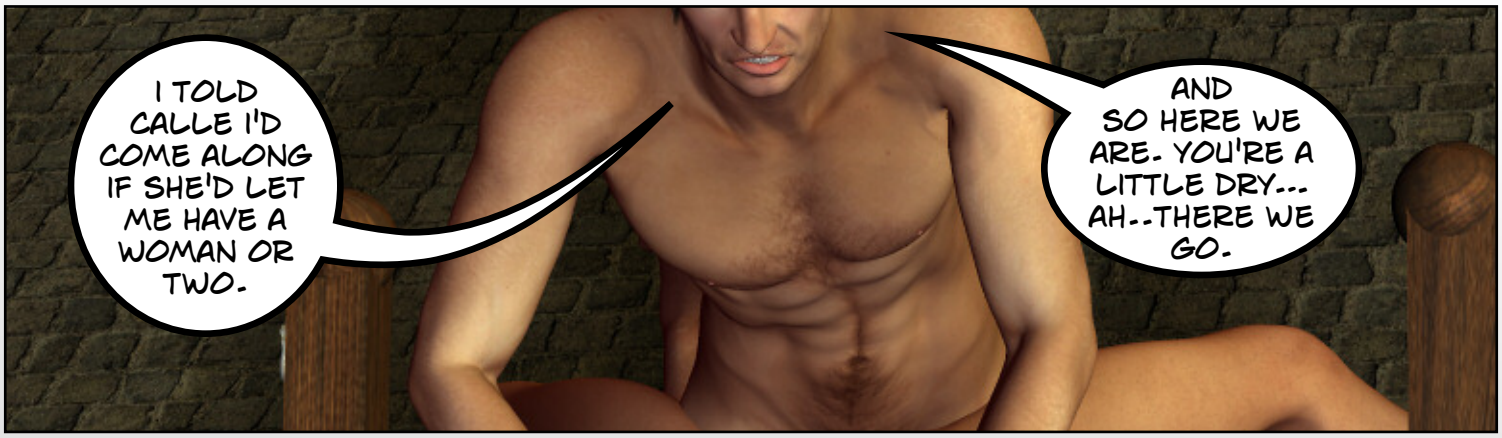

SERUS HAD AWAKENED HER EARLY IN THE MORNING, TOOK HER OUT OF THE CAGE AND RESTRAINED HER ON A NEW TABLE.
SHE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG SHE HAD BEEN IN THIS POSITION, BUT HER BACK WAS KILLING HER.
SHE HEARS A DOOR OPEN AND FOOTSTEPS COMING TOWARDS HER.


MY, MY,MY. THEY DO HAVE YOU ALL TIED UP, DON'T THEY?
MY NAME IS NOT IMPORTANT. BUT IT IS YOU THAT ARE GOING TO HELP ME.
I HAVEN'T HAD A WOMAN IN QUITE SOME TIME. YOU'RE A GIFT TO ME FROM CALLE.
WHO.. WHO ARE YOU? CAN YOU HELP ME?


BACK HOME, THAT'S MORRENTIA IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, I'M CALLE'S PERSONAL COOK.
OH, I DO YOU LOVE YOUR BREASTS. MY WIFE USED TO HAVE BREASTS LIKE YOURS, BUT OUR THREE CHILDREN SUCKED THE FUN RIGHT OUT OF THEM.


MY WIFE'S BEEN REAL SICK LATELY. HAVING THE THREE YOUNG ONES HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON HER.


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE SHE'S TAKEN ME TO HER BED.
CALLE ASKED ME TO MAKE THIS TRIP WITH HER. SHE HAS A SENSITIVE PALATE.
PLEASE--JUST GET THIS OVER WITH----



THE COOK PUSHES INTO LYDIA. HIS THRUSTS ARE GENTLE, NOT LIKE SERUS' WERE LAST NIGHT. AGAINST HER WILL, LYDIA FEELS A STIRRING IN HER LOINS.




OH YES, THAT'S MUCH BETTER. MY WIFE USED TO TELL ME HOW MUCH SHE LOVED WHEN I PLAYED WITH HER PETALS. I'LL BET I CAN EVEN GET YOU TO SQUEAL LIKE SHE USED TO.
=MMPGHH=


THIS IS WONDERFUL. YES. MAYBE NEXT TIME I CAN CONVINCE CALLE TO FREE YOUR HANDS. I DO SO LIKE MY SHAFT STROKED WHEN I'M PUMPING AWAY.
NEXT TIME??


OH..I THINK I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE... YES..THIS IS IT!!


AHHRRGHHH


THE COOK'S THRUSTS SLOW AS THE LAST SPURTS OF HIS COCK EMPTY INTO LYDIA'S MOUTH.
PRAISE THE GODS! THAT WAS EXQUISITE. I'LL INFORM CALLE THAT YOU WERE QUITE COOPERATIVE.
MAYBE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET YOU WON'T BE SO RESTRAINED.
112


PLEASE ---LISTEN--YOU CAN HAVE MORE OF WHAT I GAVE YOU--ANYTIME YOU WANT IT---JUST HELP ME OFF OF THIS TABLE.
SORRY, LASS. I HAVE TO GO. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE I HERE TO PAY YOU A VISIT.


LYDIA.
OH...I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES..HERTA...THANK THE GODS... ≒SOB≒
HERTA LOOSENS THE RESTRAINTS SO THAT LYDIA CAN FREE HERSELF.


IT'S BEEN TERRIBLE, HERTA. WE MUST...WAIT, HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?


I'M WITH CALLE NOW, YOU BITCH.
THHWAAP
OWW!


BECAUSE OF YOU, NICOLA IS DEAD, SLAIN BY MY OWN HAND.
SMAAACCK
STOP--OWW!


YOU'LL PAY FOR IT, LYDIA. WHEN CALLE TIRES OF PLAYING WITH YOU, I'LL BE THE ONE THAT SENDS YOU TO YOUR ANCESTORS.
I SHOULD JUST SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF HER RIGHT NOW..BUT NO..NOT NOW. I'LL GET MY REVENGE.
ON YOUR FEET. CALLE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
÷GAG÷..÷COUGH÷.. ÷CHOKE÷
116


HERTA ENTERS WITH LYDIA.
AH, HERE THEY ARE NOW.
LYDIA, DEAR. IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU. AND I SEE YOU'VE MET MY NEW RECRUIT.
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I HAVE HARIAN IN A CELL RIGHT NOW. IF YOU ANSWER MY QUESTION, I MAY EVEN LET YOU SEE HIM.
WHERE IS BRAKSUS?


YOU BITCH, I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW.


I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR INSOLENCE, YOU MISERABLE COW. HERTA, DO AS WE DISCUSSED.


LAY FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR BADK.


HERTA TIES LYDIA'S WRISTS BEHIND HER.
120


USE THE KNIFE, HERTA.


IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE.
NOOO!!


WAIT. I'LL TELL YOU WHERE BRAKSUS MAY BE.
THERE ARE TWO WOMEN THAT HE HAS BEEN ATTENDING TO WHILE THEIR HUSBANDS ARE AWAY.
LYDIA GIVES CALLE THEIR NAMES AND THE LOCATION OF THEIR RESIDENCES.


HERTA, YOU CAN CONTINUE.
AT THIS POINT, I FAIL TO SEE ANY USEFULNESS THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE ME.
TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, LYDIA. WE CAPTURED BRAKSUS TRYING TO LEAVE THE CITY.


PLEASE, DON'T KILL ME. MARCUS AND I WERE TAKING MONEY FROM THE TREASURY AND HIDING IT. I CAN SHOW YOU WHERE IT IS. IT'S A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT.
I HAVE TO TELL HER ABOUT THE MONEY. MAYBE THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR HER TO SPARE ME.


WAIT HERTA. YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE ANOTHER DAY TO SLIT HER THROAT.
YOU'RE STARTING TO IMPRESS ME LYDIA. STEALING FROM YOUR OWN PEOPLE. FUCKING YOUR HUSBAND'S BROTHER ALONG WITH YOUR HUSBAND'S CENTURION. I WONDER WHAT OTHER THINGS YOU'RE HIDING. I MAY HAVE TO KEEP YOU AROUND LONGER THAN I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.
PLEASE. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WISH.


INDEED YOU WILL, LYDIA. INDEED YOU WILL.
I'VE GROWN TIRED OF LOOKING AT THE OLD LYDIA. HERTA, LET'S TRIM THAT UNSIGHTLY MANE OF HERS.
WHEN HER HEAD IS BETWEEN MY THIGHS, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT RAT'S NEST.


HERTA GRABS A HANDFUL OF HAIR AND SLICES IT OFF. LYDIA CRIES OUT IN DESPAIR.
NO!
126


HERTA SLICES THRU THE LONG STRANDS OF LYDIA'S HAIR.
THE LAST OF IT, EMPRESS.


THAT'S MUCH BETTER.


LYDIA STANDS BEFORE CALLE, HER LONG STRANDS OF HAIR LITTERING THE FLOOR, FEELING EVEN MORE NAKED THAN BEFORE. CALL'S EYES TAKE IN HER NAKEDNESS.
TURN YOUR HEAD SO THAT YOUR EMPRESS CAN SEE HOW YOU LOOK.
IT'S ONLY MY HAIR. IT'LL GROW BACK. AT LEAST I'M ALIVE.


TAKE HER OFF TO THE BATHS AND SCRUB HER DOWN. THEN BRING HER TO MY CHAMBERS.
IF SHE HADN'T OFFERED UP BRAKSUS' LOCATION, I WOULD HAVE LET HERTA SLIT HER THROAT. BUT I'VE STARTED TO BREAK HER.
IT'LL BE FUN TOYING WITH HER FOR A WHILE. AND, IF SHE WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP BRAKSUS, SHE'LL GIVE ME THE NAMES OF HER SUPPORTERS.
QUASH THEM AND I'LL HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR FROM LYDIA.


THE HALF DAY WALK TO APPOLONIA IS UNEVENTFUL. AS THEY APPROACH THE CITY, ACANTHA BEGINS TO FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO.
NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, MAYBE WE SHOULD RETHINK OUR PLAN.
I'VE NO PROBLEM WORKING IN A TAVERN FOR A WHILE TO ACQUIRE THE MONEY.
NONSENSE, ACANTHA. EVEN IF YOU WORKED IN THE BROTHEL, IT WOULD TAKE YOU WEEKS TO EARN WHAT WE CAN STEAL IN ONE NIGHT.
NOW, LOOK AT THAT VIEW. WHENEVER I'M AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS AND I COME BACK TO THE VIEW OF THE CITY, IT ALWAYS TAKES MY BREATH AWAY.


I IMAGINE VERNIA MUST EVEN BE MORE SPECTACULAR.
VERNIA IS A MUCH OLDER CITY. IT DOESN'T HAVE THE SPARKLE OF A NEW TOWN SUCH AS APPOLONIA.
ITS CHARMS ARE MORE SUBTLE.


I'M SURE I'LL LOVE IT. IF WE'RE LUCKY MY HUSBAND WILL NOT BE AT HOME. WHEN I'M AWAY HE'LL OFTEN SPEND HIS DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE COMPANY OF ONE OF HIS LADY FRIENDS.
AND IF HE IS HOME, HE'LL WANT TO FUCK YOU. I'D RATHER WE SAVE OUR ENERGY FOR MY CLIENTS.


THIS IS THE LAST I'LL SPEAK OF THIS: YOU'RE STILL CONFIDENT WITH YOUR PLAN?


MORE THAN EVER. AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR A BIT, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET TO THE MONEY.
I'LL TAKE A FEW HANDFULS OF THE GOLD COINS AND STUFF THEM IN A SMALL LEATHER BAG. THE ROOM WHERE THEY KEEP THE MONEY HAS A WINDOW THAT LOOKS OUT ONTO A SMALL GARDEN. I'LL DROP THE BAG OUT OF THE WINDOW.
WHEN WE'RE FINISHED WITH MY CLIENTS, WE'LL RECOVER THE BAG.
PRAY THE GODS IT GOES WELL.


THE GODS WILL SMILE ON US. HAVE FAITH, ACANTHA.
FORTUNE TURNED ITS BACK ON ME LONG AGO. FAITH IS ONE THING I DO NOT HAVE.


CALLE SITS IN HER MAKESHIFT CHAMBERS AND WAITS FOR LYDIA TO BE DELIVERED TO HER. LYDIA'S OLD CHAMBERS WERE TOO SMALL AND THE DECOR TOO DRAB FOR CALL'S TASTE. THIS ROOM WAS BIGGER AND HAD A RICHER LOOK TO IT.
THANK YOU HERTA. I'LL NEED YOUR SERVICES LATER SO PLEASE WAIT IN THE HALL - WE'LL BE A WHILE SO MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.
SHE'S FREASH AS A DAISY, MAJESTY.


YOU'RE LOOKING MUCH BETTER LYDIA. A WARM BATH CAN DO WONDERS FOR A GIRL.


I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME THAT WE SPEND A LITTLE TIME TOGETHER.
I'M SURE YOU'RE HAPPY TO BE FREE OF THOSE GRUESOME TABLES.


TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.
IN DUE TIME, LYDIA.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE? IT'S QUITE TASTY.
TAKE A GOBLET AND SIT BY THE DIVAN.


I'LL HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH HER NOW. WITH HARIAN CAPTURED THERE IS NO HOPE OF RESCUE.


HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HARIAN AND ME?


MARCUS TOLD ME.
LIAR.
IT'S TRUE.HE TOLD ME AT THE BANQUET. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW YOU WERE FUCKING SOMEONE AND HE HAD APPROACHED BRAKSUS TO SEE IF HE KNEW ANYTHING.


BRAKSUS TOLD HIM YOU WERE LAYING WITH HARIAN.
MARCUS NEVER KNEW YOU WERE FUCKING HIS BROTHER AS WELL AS HARIAN.
NOW FINISH YOUR WINE AND COME HERE.


REMOVE YOUR GARMENT. I WANT TO SEE WHAT I OWN.


DON'T LOOK SO GLUM LYDIA. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT I FIND ATTRACTIVE AND IT IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT IS KEEPING ME FROM ENDING YOUR LIFE.


DO YOU WANT TO LIVE, LYDIA?
OF COURSE.
ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO STAY ALIVE?
I--UH--


DON'T STUTTER, LYDIA. YES OR NO. IT'S A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION TO ANSWER.


YES..YES.. WHATEVER IT TAKES..


VERY GOOD. AND AS LONG AS PERFORM YOUR DUTIES TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES, YOU'LL BE USEFUL TO ME.


MY DUTIES? WHAT..WHAT WILL THEY BE?


FOR NOW, YOU ONLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PLEASING ME.
HOW FAR I'VE FALLEN. FROM AN EMPRESS TO A COMMON SLAVE.


I'M TO BE YOUR HAND MAIDEN?
GOODNESS NO, LYDIA. THAT WORK IS BELOW YOUR TALENT LEVEL.


YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY PLEASURE SLAVE.
NO--I MEAN--I CAN'T--I'M A HIGHBORN WOMAN, NOT A SLAVE--- I CAN'T POSSIBLY---


OH, YOU HAVE THE TALENT FOR IT LYDIA. YOU FORGET I SAW YOU PERFORM WITH LUCRETIA AND HER HUSBAND.
I SAW YOU DRIVE HER CRAZY WITH THAT PHALLUS.

"AND I WATCHED YOU ENJOY HAVING LUCRETIA POUND THAT PHALLUS INTO YOU."





"AND MY, HOW YOU SUCKED GORDIOUS' COCK. IT WAS MASTERFUL."

"MARCUS THOUGHT HE WAS TEACHING YOU A LESSON BUT YOU ENJOYED EVERY BIT OF IT...AND YOU EVEN LET GORDIOUS ENTER YOU, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR HUSBAND."



"I WATCHED YOUR FACE AS YOU TOOK EVERY STROKE OF HIS COCK--HOW YOU ENJOYED EVERY THRUST."



"AND THEN, EVEN WITH YOUR HUSBAND WATCHING, YOU LET THAT MAN SPURT HIS SEED INTO YOUR CUNT."


YOUR SEXUAL APPETITE IS ASTOUNDING. IT RIVALS MY OWN.
YOU HAVE A TALENT LYDIA... AND YOU AND I WILL NURTURE IT AND WATCH IT GROW.
IF YOU TRULY WANT TO LIVE, YOU'LL COME TO ME NOW AND SHOW ME HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO LIVE.


LYDIA WALKS OVER TO CALLED AND STARES INTO HER EYES. THEN SHE BENDS DOWN AND TAKES ONE OF CALLE'S BREASTS INTO HER MOUTH.
SHE SUCKS ON THE NIPPLE, THEN FLICKS IT WITH HER TONGUE. SHE FEELS IT STIFFEN IN HER MOUTH.
JUST REMEMBER; AS LONG AS YOU ARE USEFUL TO ME, I'LL KEEP YOU ALIVE.


NOW ATTEND TO MY CUNT.


CALLE SQUEALS WITH PLEASURE AS LYDIA'S TONGUE DIPS INTO HER CUNT.
CALLE PUSHES LYDIA DOWN ONTO THE FLOOR AND THEN KNEELS OVER HER.


THAT'S NICE LYDIA, BUT I KNOW YOU CAN DO MUCH BETTER.
MMMPHHGH


I CAN TELL YOUR HEART ISN'T INTO THIS. THAT'S OKAY. THIS IS ALL NEW TO YOU.
MMGAGH


CALLE SCOOTS DOWN OVER LYDIA'S ABDOMEN.
NOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME MORE WINE WHILE YOU GIVE ME ME THE NAMES OF YOUR MOST LOYAL SUPPORTERS.
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THEM, AREN'T YOU?


NOT NECESSARILY. I MAY FIND A USE FOR SOME OF THEM.
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL BRAKSUS AND HARIAN?


I DO LOVE THESE MARVELOUS BREASTS.
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU.
YOU SHOULD ONLY WORRY ABOUT PLEASING ME. AND BY ASKING THESE QUESTIONS, YOU ARE NOT PLEASING ME, ARE YOU?
NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.


I'VE HAD MANY PLEASURE SLAVES, LYDIA. BUT I'VE ONLY HAD ONE THAT HAS KEPT MY INTEREST. YOU MAY BE ANOTHER. I DO HOPE SO. FOR YOUR SAKE.
NOW, LET'S HAVE THAT WINE, SHALL WE?


AFTER THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR WINE AND CALLE HAS TAKEN THE NAMES FROM LYDIA, CALLE SHOWS LYDIA THE PHALLI SHE HAS TAKEN FROM LYDIA'S CHAMBERS.
REMEMBER THESE? TOMORROW YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO USE THESE ONCE AGAIN. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION.


HERTA WILL TAKE YOU BACK NOW.
CAN'T I STAY WITH YOU?


PLEASE... I'LL DO BETTER.
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MY DEAR. NOW PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES WHILE I SUMMON HERTA.
I'M SURE YOU WILL, BUT NOT TONIGHT.


LYDIA DRESSES WHILE CALLE SUMMONS HERTA.
HAVE HER SLEEP IN THE CAGE TONIGHT. AND INTRODUCE HER TO LIVY. I'D LIKE THEM TO START TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
I WONDER WHO LIVY IS?


WHEN THEY GET TO THE ROOM, THEY FIND LIVY WAITING FOR THEM.
HE'S A PLEASURE SLAVE?
LYDIA, MEET LIVY. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE IS ANOTHER OF CALLE'S PLEASURE SLAVES.
SO THIS IS THE FORMER EMPRESS.


NOT AT ALL WHAT I EXPECTED. CALLE RAVES ABOUT HER. I'M NOT SURE I SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT.


LET'S TAKE OFF THAT DRESS AND SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.


I CAN HANDLE THIS FROM HERE, HERTA. THANK YOU. I'LL MAKE SURE SHE IS SECURE IN THE CAGE WHEN WE'RE THROUGH.


LET'S SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP.
YOUR BREASTS ARE FIRM ENOUGH.


YOU PIG. YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SLAVE LIKE ME. KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF.
YOU DARE RAISE YOUR HAND TO ME, YOU INSOLENT WENCH.


PUT ME DOWN!
I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON. TOO BAD I CAN'T LEAVE ANY LASTING MARKS ON YOU. I'D ENJOY THAT MORE.


BUT SPANKING A PLUMP ASS HAS ITS CHARMS.
SMAACK


YOU'LL HAVE A NICE RED GLOW TO YOUR ASS WHEN I'M DONE.
OW!
WHAACK


REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT AN EMPRESS ANYMORE.
STOP!! ENOUGH! PLEASE!
WHAACK


AFTER A FEW MORE SWATS, HE PUSHES LYDIA OFF THE CAGE AND STANDS IN FRONT OF HER.
YOUR ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVING THIS NIGHTMARE YOU FIND YOURSELF IN IS TO LISTEN TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU.


I'VE BEEN IN CALLE'S EMPLOY FOR THREE YEARS. I LIKE TO CONSIDER MYSELF A PERFORMER, NOT A SLAVE.
I'VE SEEN LOTS OF WOMEN COME AND GO. CALLE TIRES OF THEM QUICKLY.


AND HOW HOW HAVE YOU LASTED SO LONG? COULD IT BE BECAUSE YOU HAVE A COCK?


CALLE VERY SELDOM TAKES A COCK. SHE'S MORE INTERESTED IN THE LADIES.
BUT WHAT SHE REALLY ENJOYS IS WATCHING OTHERS FUCK.
I'VE LASTED THIS LONG BECAUSE I AM A GOOD PERFORMER.

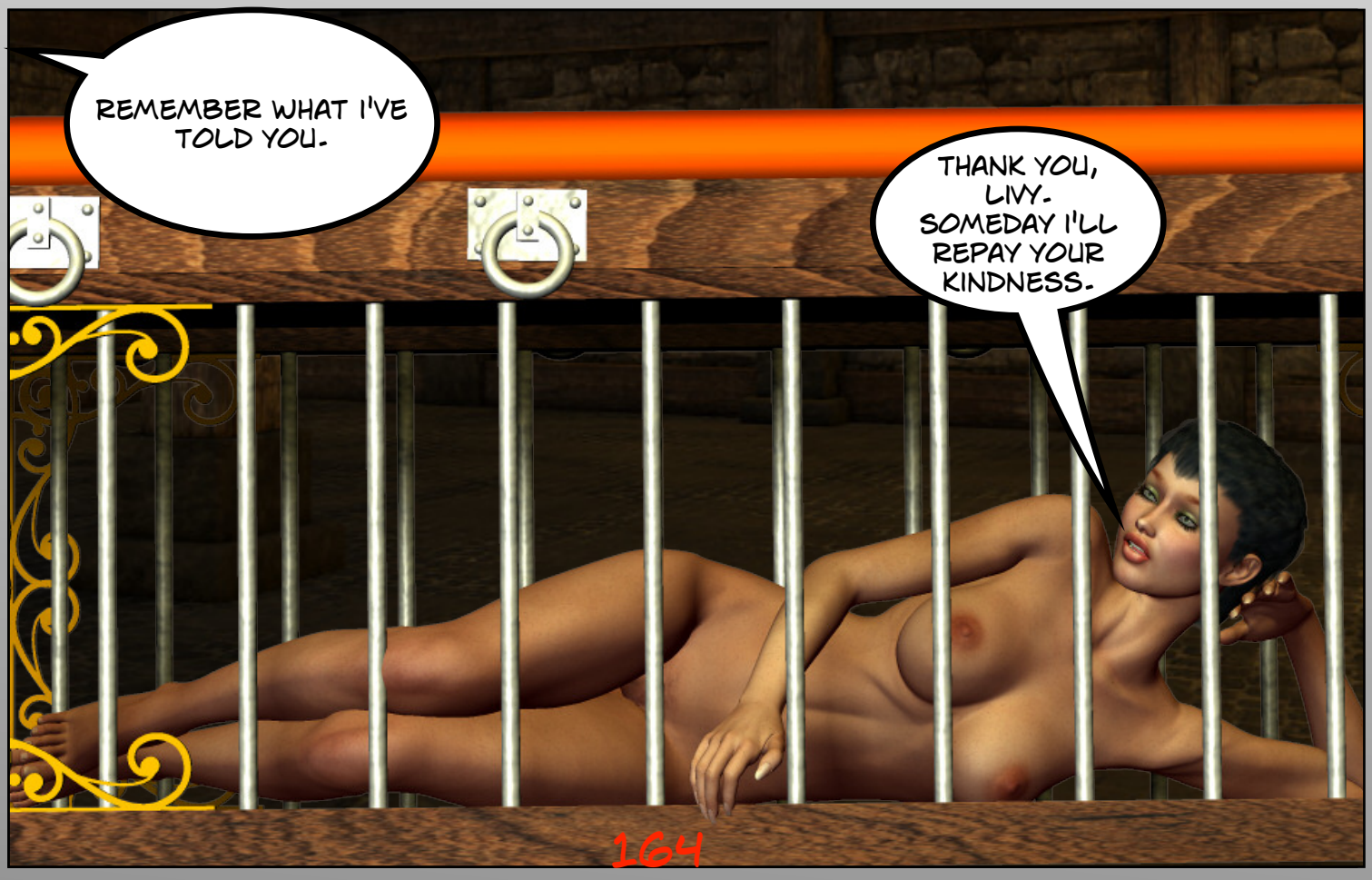

WILL SHE HAVE ME PERFORM WITH YOU?
OH YES. QUITE OFTEN. BUT SHE'LL HAVE YOU PERFORM WITHOUT ME AS WELL.

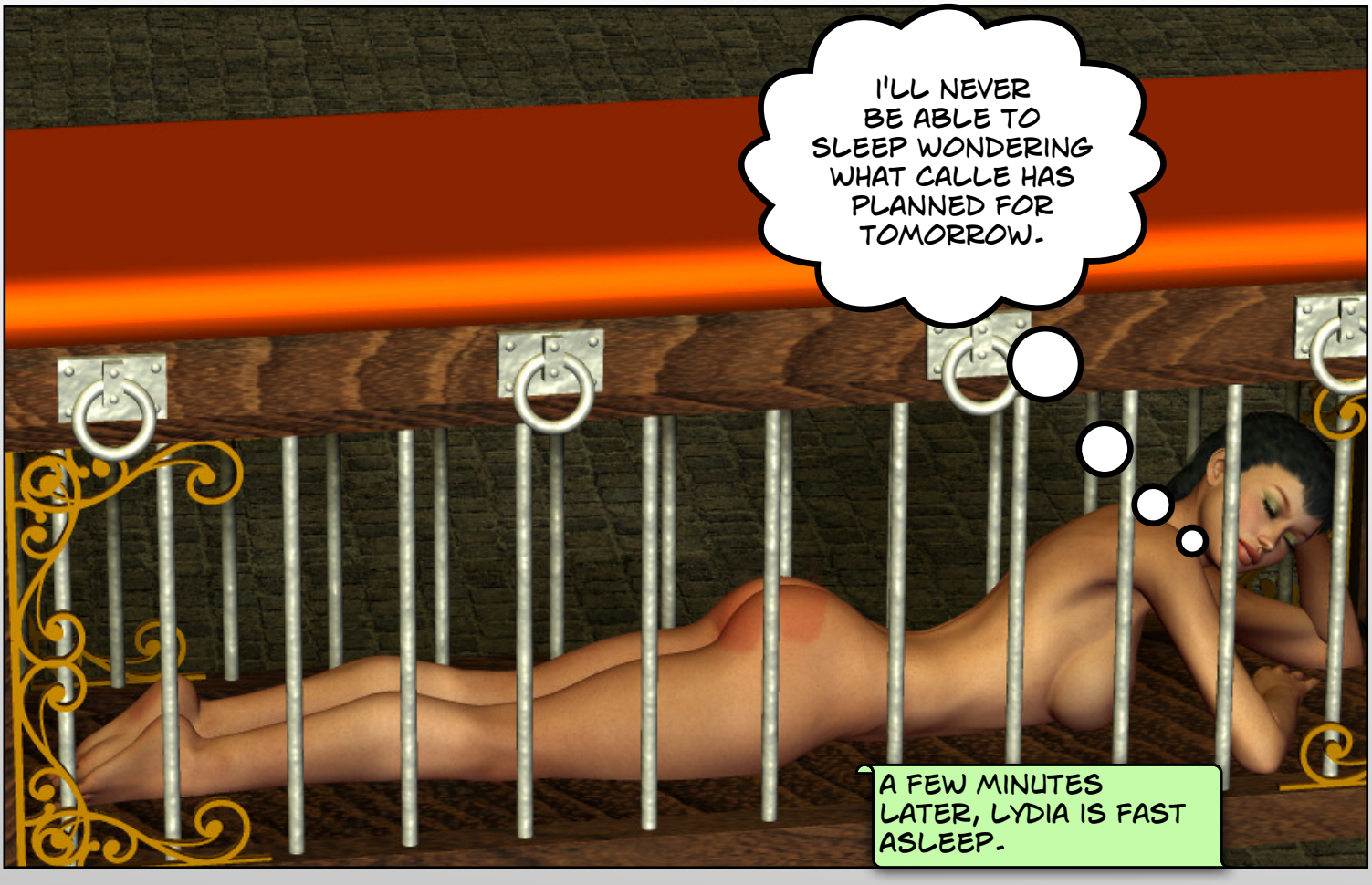

YOU'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS YOU DO WHAT SHE WANTS.
WHEN WE PERFORM TOGETHER, SHE MAY ASK ME TO BE ROUGH WITH YOU.
I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW HER INSTRUCTIONS.


WHY ARE YOU BEING SO HELPFUL? WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?


WHEN YOU PERFORM WITH ME, WE'LL BOTH BE JUDGED TOGETHER. IF ONE OF US FAILS TO IMPRESS, IT AFFECTS BOTH OF US.
163


NOW, INTO THE CAGE. TRY AND GET SOME SLEEP. YOU'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH TOMORROW.


REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU.
THANK YOU, LIVY. SOMEDAY I'LL REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.


I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SLEEP WONDERING WHAT CALLE HAS PLANNED FOR TOMORROW.
A FEW MINUTES LATER, LYDIA IS FAST ASLEEP.


IN A ROOM NOT FAR FROM WHERE LYDIA IS, HARIAN AND BRAKSUS FIND THEMSELVES IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITIONS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY CALLE IS DETAINING ME. YOU, I UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE A THREAT, BUT I'M NOT.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHATEVER THAT BITCH HAS PLANNED FOR US TOMORROW, IT WON'T BE GOOD.


I WONDER IF LYDIA IS STILL ALIVE.


CALLE'S PROBABLY SLIT HER THROAT BY NOW. LET'S TRY AND GET SOME SLEEP.
I HAVE A FEELING TOMORROW WILL BE A LONG DAY.


WHEN THEY GOT TO THE APARTMENT, SABINA WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT JARGUS WASN'T THERE. SHE SHOWED ACANTHA AROUND THE MODEST APARTMENT AND THEN WENT TO SEE HER CLIENTS. WHEN SHE RETURNED...
HERE..SOME WINE TO CELEBRATE.
WE'RE ON FOR TOMORROW?


TOMORROW NIGHT. I TOLD THEM ABOUT YOU AND THEY ARE QUITE EXCITED.
I WISH I FELT THE SAME AS THEM.


YOU'LL DO FINE TOMORROW. YOU LOVE SEX AS MUCH AS I. IT'S JUST SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO TO GET BACK TO VERNIA.


LET'S HAVE A TOAST FOR GOOD LUCK.


TO SUCCESS.
YES. SUCCESS.
CLANG


AND FOR EXTRA LUCK, LET'S KISS TO OUR GOOD FORTUNE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?


MMM
THE KISS IS LONG AND SENSUOUS.


AS THEIR LIPS PART, ACANTHA FEELS SABINA'S HAND ON HER BREAST.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE SHOULD SAVE OUR STRENGTH FOR TOMORROW?


I KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT JUST THINKING ABOUT IT HAS TURNED MY COCK TO STONE. I KEEP IMAGINING YOUR MOUTH AROUND MY COCK.
WOULD YOU MIND?
YOU ARE SO BAD, SABINA. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU. DROP YOUR SKIRT. AND NOTHING MORE THAN THIS.


YOU'RE A DEAR, ACANTHA.
CAN I ASK – HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN JARGUS TO DO THIS?
I HAVE, BUT HE'D RATHER USE HIS HANDS. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET HIM TO COME AROUND.
I'D MAKE HIM KNEEL BEFORE ME AND USE HIS HANDS. I SATRTED STICKING MY FINGERS IN HIS MOUTH WHILE HE PLEASURED ME.


FIRST A THUMB, LIKE THIS. I MOVED IT IN AND OUT AND AFTER A WHILE HE WOULD SUCK ON IT.


SOON, I HAD HIM SUCKING ON TWO FINGERS.
AND WHEN I FINALLY STUCK MY COCK IN HIS MOUTH, HE DID A COMMENDABLE JOB.


HAVE YOU EVER EMPTIED YOUR SEED IN HIS MOUTH?
OH YES. WHAT A FIASCO THAT WAS. HE WOULDN'T SPEAK TO ME FOR A WEEK.

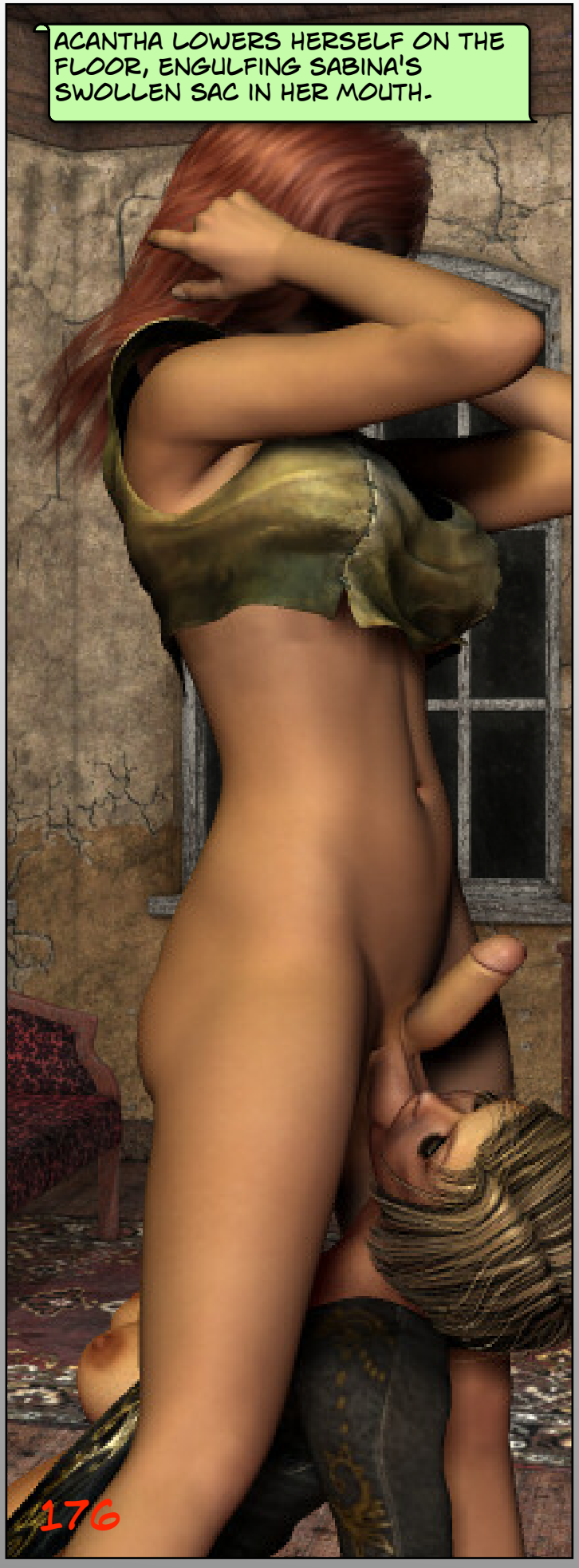

YOU ARE SO GOOD AT THIS. YOU'RE GOING TO ABSOLUTELY DRIVE MY CLIENTS NUTS WITH YOUR MOUTH.
173


I'VE ALWAYS LOVED EMPTYING COCKS WITH MY MOUTH.

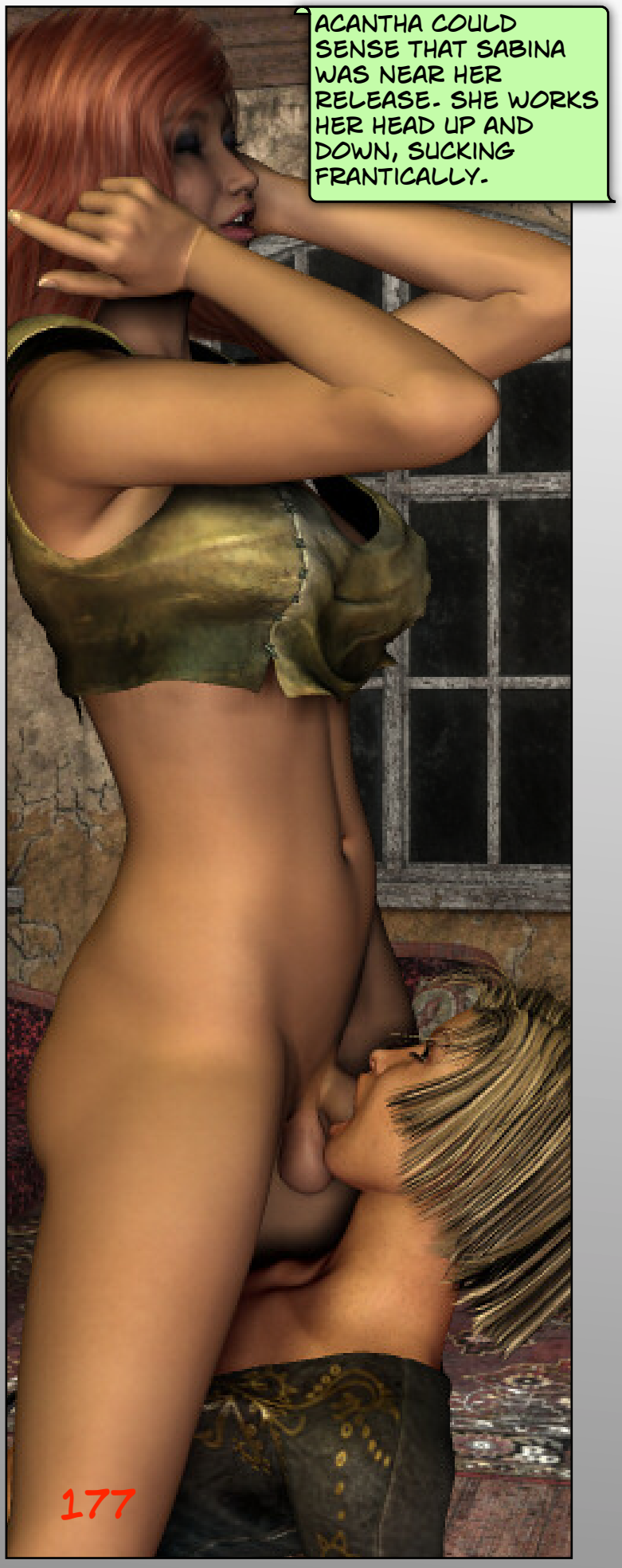

NOW, NO MORE TALKING. I'M THIRSTY FOR YOUR SEED.
174


SABINA CAN'T BELIEVE HOW GOOD ACANTHA'S MOUTH FEELS ON HER COCK.


THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH THE SOUNDS OF ACANTHA'S SUCKING MOUTH.
SABINA LETS OUT A LOW GROAN AS ACANTHA PLUNGES HER THUMB INTO HER ANUS.
175


ACANTHA LOWERS HERSELF ON THE FLOOR, ENGULFING SABINA'S SWOLLEN SAC IN HER MOUTH.
176


THEN SHE WRAPS HER LIPS AROUND SABINA'S COCK AND SLIDES HER LIPS UP AND DOWN ITS SHAFT.
SABINA'S MOANS ACCOMPANY ACANTHA'S SUCKING SOUNDS.


ACANTHA COULD SENSE THAT SABINA WAS NEAR HER RELEASE. SHE WORKS HER HEAD UP AND DOWN, SUCKING FRANTICALLY.


SABINA PULLS ACANTHA'S HEAD INTO HER, THRUSTING HER WHOLE LENGTH INTO ACANTHA'S THROAT.


SUDDENLY, SABINA'S SEED EXPLODES FROM HER SWOLLEN COCK. ACANTHA'S SWALLOWS REPEATEDLY AS HER MOUTH AND THROAT ARE FILLED WITH THE THICK SEED.
GODS...
AHHRRGH !
GULP
GULP
178


TOTALLY SPENT, SABINA COLLAPSES ONTO ACANTHA.
GREAT GODS, ACANTHA---THAT WAS----
AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS WHEN A COCK SPURTS IT'S SEED INTO ACANTHA'S MOUTH, AN INTENSE ORGASM GRIPS HER BODY.


--WONDERFUL-
KISS ME, SABINA-


THEY KISS, ACANTHA'S TONGUE, STILL HEAVY WITH SEED, PUSHES DEEP INTO SABINA'S MOUTH.
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN; THE CLIENTS ARE GOING TO LOVE THAT MOUTH OF YOURS. SHALL WE RETIRE? WE CAN SHARE MY BED.
PROMISE ME YOU'LL KEEP THAT COCK OF YOURS UNDER CONTROL. IF IT SPRINGS UP AGAIN, I'LL NEVER GET TO SLEEP.
SABINA SMILES AT ACANTHA AND THEY HEAD OFF TO THE BEDROOM.

NORTH OF VERNIA, GLABITE THE STRONG MEETS WITH HIS TOP WARRIORS. THE ORCS WERE SURPRISED WHEN THE VERNIAN SOLDIERS CALLED OFF THEIR PURSUIT OF THE ORCS. IT HAD BECOME A GAME WITH THE ORCS TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE HUMANS AS THEY SLOWLY HEADED SOUTH TOWARD VERNIA. THE QUICK DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HUMANS PERPLEXED GLABITE, BUT NOW HE KNEW WHY THEY HAD LEFT. A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE HUMANS HEADED BACK TO VERNIA, GLABITE HAD SENT A COUPLE OF SCOUTS TO VERNIA, TO GAUGE TROOP STRENGTH AND POSSIBLE WEAK POINTS OF THE CITY'S DEFENSE. WHEN THEY SAW THE FOREIGN SOLDIERS AND HUNDREDS OF TROLLS, THEY QUICKLY HEADED BACK TO TELL GLABITE.




WE'LL JUST HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR ATTACK.
FOR HOW LONG? WE HAVE COME THIS FAR ONLY TO BE THWARTED BY FILTHY TROLLS?


WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE. THE TROLLS WON'T STAY LONG. THEY'LL TAKE THEIR SPOILS BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND SOON ENOUGH. THEN WE CAN DEAL WITH WHATEVER NEW ENTITY HAS TAKEN OVER THE CITY.
THIS MAY EVEN BE A BOON TO OUR CAUSE. THE CITY WILL BE IN A STATE OF FLUX. IT CAN ONLY BENEFIT US.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. THE SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTORS HAVE WAITED TOO LONG FOR VENGEANCE.


IN THE MEANTIME, THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF SMALL FARMS AND VILLAGES TO SACK.
AND WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE VERNIAN SOLDIERS. I'VE A TASTE FOR HUMAN FLESH. SHALL WE?


ENRAGED THAT CALLE HAS HER STILL SITTING IN A CELL, DIONA DEMANDS TO SEE CALLE.
THE OTHER GUARD TOLD ME THAT HE'D SEND CALLE TO SEE ME.
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THAT, LASS. PROBABLY JUST TOLD YOU THAT TO PACIFY YOU.
I SUPPOSE I COULD BE CONVINCED TO TAKE YOUR REQUEST TO THE EMPRESS.
CONVINCED HOW?
LET ME HAVE A PEEK AT THOSE JUGS OF YOURS.
185


YOU'LL HONOR YOUR WORD? I MUST SEE THE EMPRESS.
OF COURSE. BRING THEM UP CLOSE TO THE BARS.

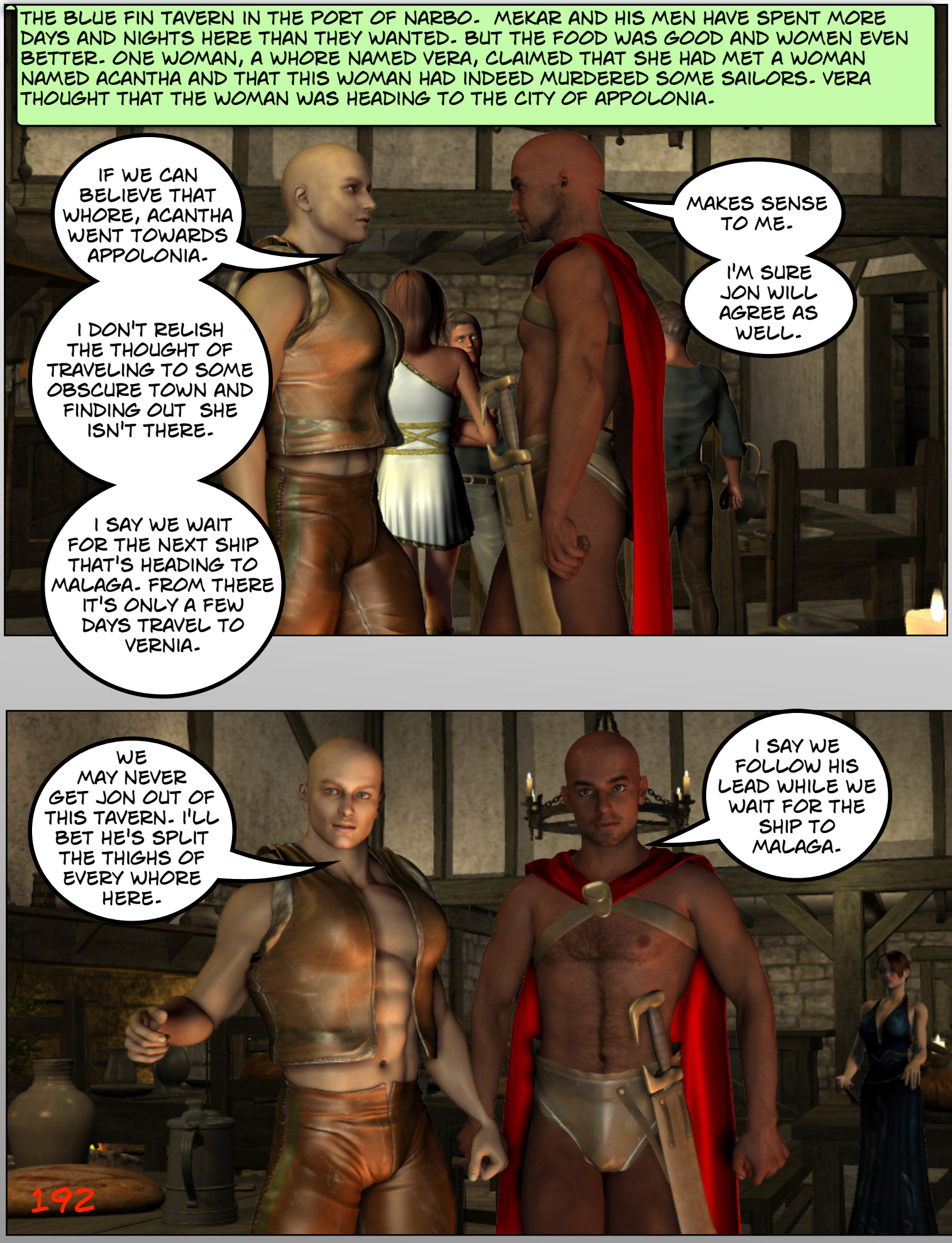

CLOSER, SWEETS, MY EYES AIN'T SO GOOD.


CAN YOU SEE THEM WELL ENOUGH NOW?
MMM. FOR A FEEL I'LL GUARANTEE THE EMPRESS COMES TO SEE YOU.
DAMMIT. I KNOW I CAN'T TRUST HIM, BUT WHAT CAN I DO.
GO AHEAD.


DIONA GRIMACES AS THE GUARD MANHANDLES HER BREASTS.
LOVELY.
PIG.


NOW GO. HONOR YOUR WORD.


DIONA SITS WAITING, DISGUSTED WITH HERSELF FOR ALLOWING THE GUARD TO FEEL HER UP. WOULD CALLE SHOW UP? SHE KNEW IN HER HEART THAT THE GUARD PROBABLY NEVER EVEN APPROACHED CALLE. WHY HAS CALLE KEPT HER IMPRISONED? SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HARIAN. WOULD SHE EVER SEE HIM AGAIN? IN THE COMING DAYS, SHE'D HAVE HER ANSWERS.
WHAT A FOOL I AM.
191


THE BLUE FIN TAVERN IN THE PORT OF NARBO. MEKAR AND HIS MEN HAVE SPENT MORE DAYS AND NIGHTS HERE THAN THEY WANTED. BUT THE FOOD WAS GOOD AND WOMEN EVEN BETTER. ONE WOMAN, A WHORE NAMED VERA, CLAIMED THAT SHE HAD MET A WOMAN NAMED ACANTHA AND THAT THIS WOMAN HAD INDEED MURDERED SOME SAILORS. VERA THOUGHT THAT THE WOMAN WAS HEADING TO THE CITY OF APPOLONIA.
IF WE CAN BELIEVE THAT WHORE, ACANTHA WENT TOWARDS APPOLONIA.
I DON'T RELISH THE THOUGHT OF TRAVELING TO SOME OBSCURE TOWN AND FINDING OUT SHE ISN'T THERE.
I SAY WE WAIT FOR THE NEXT SHIP THAT'S HEADING TO MALAGA. FROM THERE IT'S ONLY A FEW DAYS TRAVEL TO VERNIA.
MAKES SENSE TO ME.
I'M SURE JON WILL AGREE AS WELL.
WE MAY NEVER GET JON OUT OF THIS TAVERN. I'LL BET HE'S SPLIT THE THIGHS OF EVERY WHORE HERE.
I SAY WE FOLLOW HIS LEAD WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE SHIP TO MALAGA.
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IT IS THE END OF A LONG DAY. CALLE DRINKS VALERIAN WINE FROM A BEAUTIFUL GOLD GOBLET. SHE HAS ACCOMPLISHED ALMOST ALL THAT SHE HAD SET OUT TO DO ON THIS DAY. THERE IS STILL ONE THING SHE WANTED. HER VISITOR WOULD HELP HER COMPLETE THAT TASK.
193


AH, THERE YOU ARE. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE?
NO, I'M FINE, YOUR MAJESTY.
194


DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE READY TOMORROW?
I THINK SHE'LL DO FINE.
CALLE HOPS DOWN OFF THE ALTAR.


EXCELLENT. THAT'S WHAT I WANED TO HEAR.
AND NOW I THINK I'M READY FOR YOU LIVY.


AND THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, YOUR MAJESTY.
OH!
THE END
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The Dark Empress
The Empress Chronicles
Book 16
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