

THE (MIS)ADVENTURES OF SARA CROFTE PART ONE



SPARKIE SHOCK

DO FANTASY

THE
(MIS)ADVENTURES
OF
SARA CROFTE
part 1

SPARKIE SHOCK



"THAT CROFTE GIRL – YET AGAIN?"

"I'M AFRAID SO, SIR."

"MADE OFF WITH THE AMULET BEFORE WE COULD GET TO IT – AND GOT CLEAN AWAY, IN SPITE OF ALL OUR EFFORTS?"

"UNFORTUNATELY, YES."

"THIS BEGINS TO LOOK LIKE FAILURE, WILLIAMS. THE ORGANISATION DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH TOLERANCE OF SUCH. OUR EXPECTATION IS SUCCESS! THAT IS WHAT WE PAY – LAVISHLY – FOR."

"INDEED SO, SIR."

"AND WHO IS SHE, THIS GIRL WHO HAS – AGAIN – MADE FOOLS OF US?"

"THE DOSSIER IS HERE, SIR."

"HMM. LORD GERVASE CROFTE'S DAUGHTER OF CROFTE CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE. WELL-CONNECTED – BUT POOR. ISN'T THERE A SON?"

"TWO, SIR. ONE, THE ELDER, KILLED IN ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN. THE YOUNGER RUNS THE ESTATE NOW THAT THE FATHER IS AGEING."

"WHICH MEANS THAT THE HONOURABLE SARA FINDS OTHER WAYS OF FILLING THE FAMILY COFFERS. DAMNED EFFECTIVELY, TOO."

"SHE'S VERY – CAPABLE."

"CAPABLE OF WALTZING OFF WITH THE AMULET AND MAKING UTTER FOOLS OF YOUR MEN INTO THE BARGAIN! WELL, IT WON'T DO."

"WE WANT THAT AMULET. AND IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE MONEY. NOT ANY MORE. SO FIND IT – FIND HER. AND FIND OUT WHERE IT'S HIDDEN."

"I HAVE A PLAN THAT WILL ACHIEVE EXACTLY THAT, SIR."

"IT HAD BETTER! NO MORE FAILURE WILL BE TOLERATED, WILLIAMS."

"THAT IS UNDERSTOOD, SIR. WE HAVE BAITED A TRAP FOR THE ENTERPRISING SARA – AND SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST THE SUPPOSED PRIZE ON OFFER. WHAT SHE DOES NOT KNOW – YET – IS THAT SHE HERSELF IS THE PRIZE, AND THAT, THIS TIME SHE IS NOT THE HUNTER, BUT THE HUNTED."

"AND HAVE YOU A GOOD HUNTSMAN FOR THE JOB?"

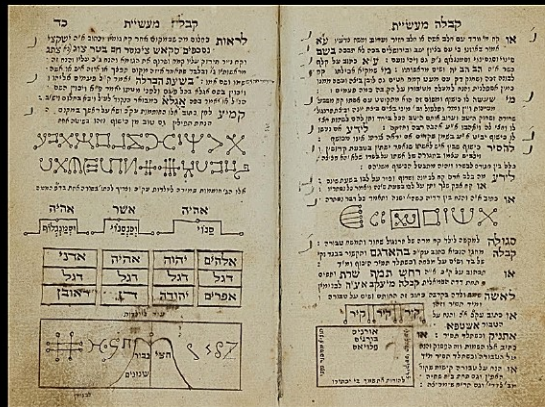
"THE BEST, SIR. THE VERY BEST."

"AND, ASSUMING THAT HE CATCHES HIS PREY, WILL HE BE ABLE TO MAKE HER TALK?"

"I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN HIS WELL-PROVEN SKILL IN SUCH MATTERS, SIR. HE HAS NEVER ONCE FAILED TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY INFORMATION. NOR WILL HE DO SO THIS TIME."

"TAKES PRIDE IN HIS WORK DOES HE, WILLIAMS?"

"OH INDEED, SIR – INDEED. I HAVE SELDOM MET SO DEDICATED AN INTERROGATOR. HE WOULD GLADLY CARRY OUT THIS PARTICULAR QUESTIONING EVEN UNPAID. ONE MIGHT ALMOST SAY THAT HE LIVES FOR HIS WORK....."



The following is a copy of a British Intelligence (Military) report selectively circulated internally in the December of 1947.

The Amulet of Abdullah al-Hazrad (the Accursed) is said to derive from the early Islamic period, perhaps the mid-C8th. However, some scholars have ascribed to it a far earlier origin, namely the Egyptian Eighteen Dynasty, passing into Moslem hands only relatively late in its life.

Be that as it may, the first historically attributable placing lies with the fall of Moorish Granada to the forces of Castile and Aragon under the Catholic Kings Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. Forming part of the surrendered treasures it was seized by the Grand Inquisitor, Tomas de Torquemada, who demanded that it be hidden secretly away for all time 'lest it raise up potent devils to work their heathen evil upon God's earth.' (Our translation.)

Its whereabouts for a long period thereafter remain unknown, but it was brought to England in around 1587 as plunder after the Sack of Cadiz and passed into the keeping of Dr. John Dee, astrologer to the Queen. Thence it vanished again, only to reappear in the hands of Antoine Court de Gebelin, the C18th Swiss pastor and occultist who recorded its presence in his 'Secreta Maiora.' It is believed to have been in Paris some 75 years later where Eliphas Levi witnesses its purported use in certain hermetical ceremonies; his description of the item matches those which we have been able to ascertain from the other sources, and is credible.

How the Amulet came into the possession of Aleister Crowley is not known, but he certainly had it with him at the Abbey of Thelema in Sicily in the early 1920s, where its presence was witnessed by several observers from his sect.

Crowley, purporting to be working as a double agent for our Section 5, claimed to have been approached by the Abwehr acting on Hitler's personal (and highly secret) instructions with the intention of purchasing it for his own use. The late Fuehrer appears to have had absolute belief in the powers the Amulet wielded and was deeply involved in the ongoing negotiations. Crowley (never a reliable witness) claims to have double-crossed the Abwehr and absconded with both their lavish payment and the unredeemed item. However, his recent prosaic death in poverty and ill-health in Hastings somewhat undermines the credibility of his tale. Nor has Section 5 confirmed it.

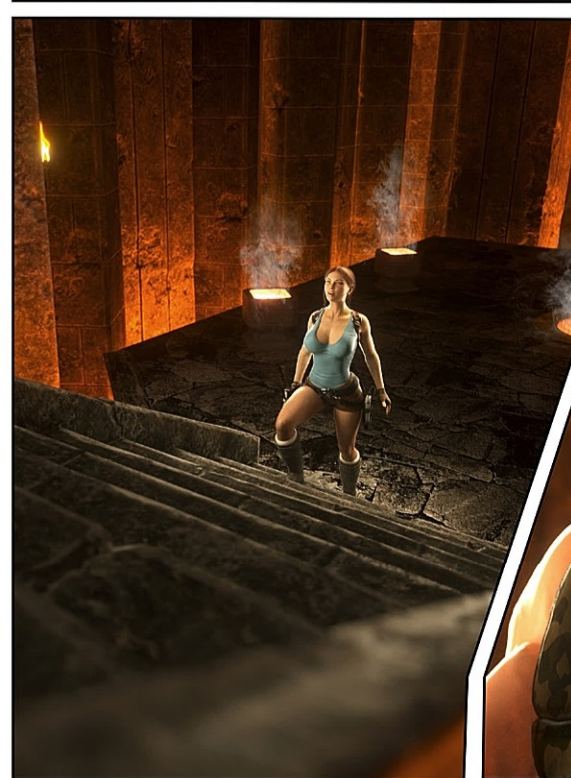
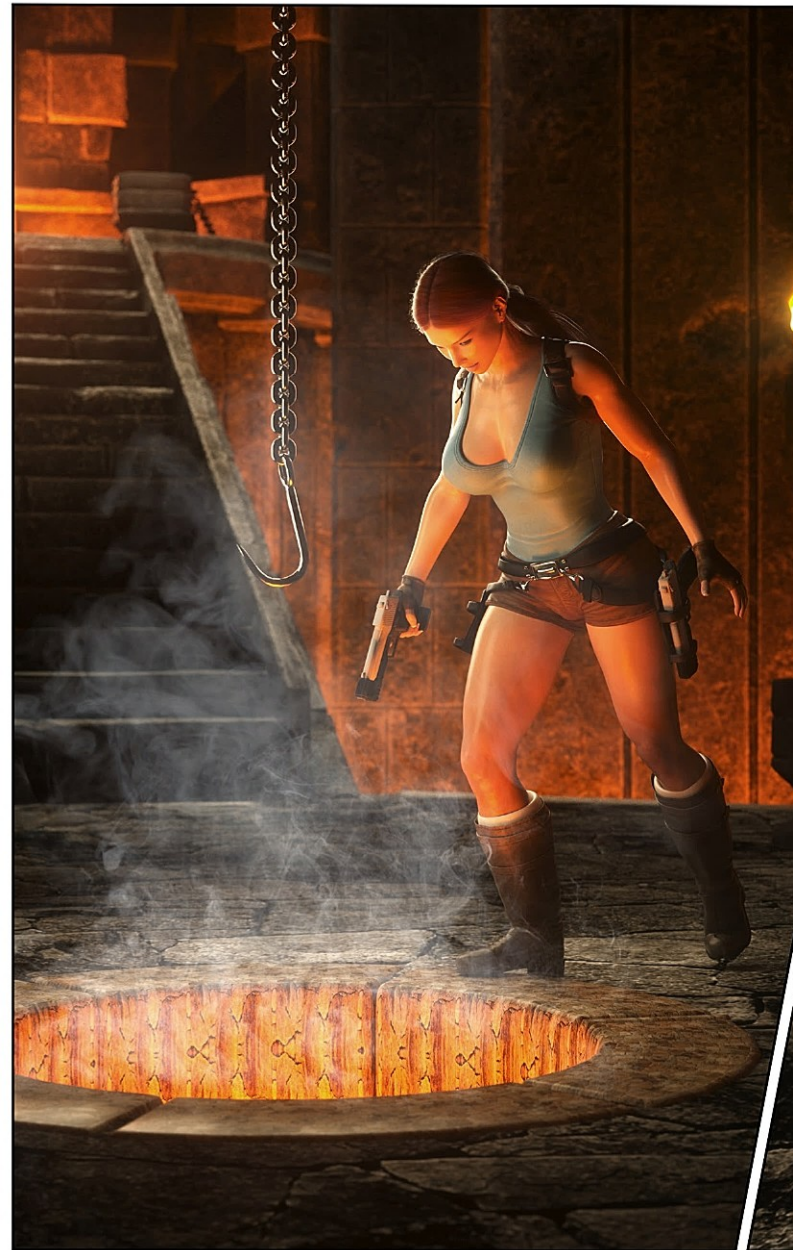
As a result the Amulet must, for the present, be deemed lost. However, the thing seems to have an uncanny knack of reappearing in the most unusual places, so it is advised that all branches should maintain a watching brief and report at once any putative sightings.

JCM London, Dec. 1947.

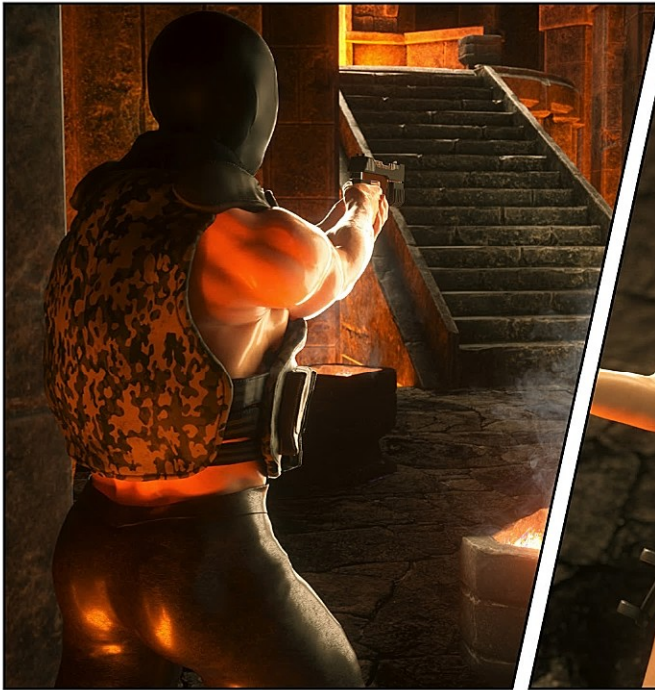
Attn. Brigadier Billingham, Col. TA Robertson
Heads of branches
Selected section leaders (list appended.)

Classification:

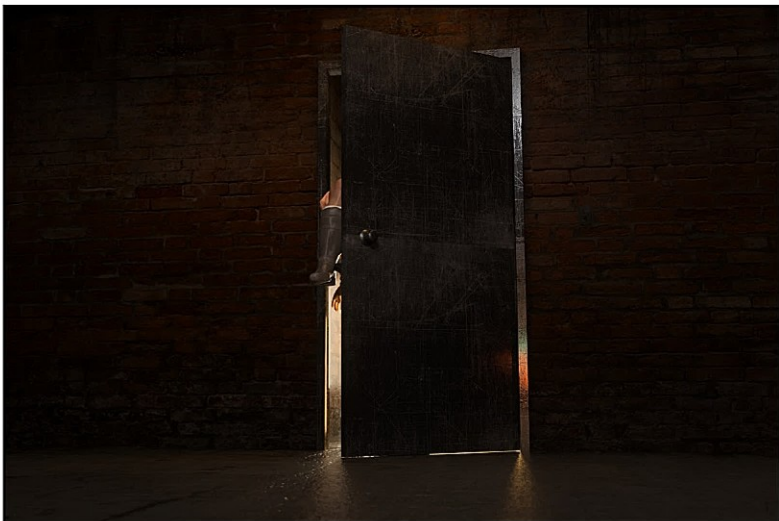
MOST SECRET



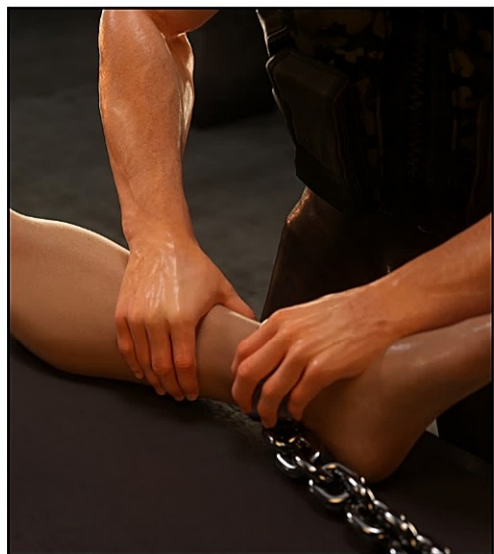
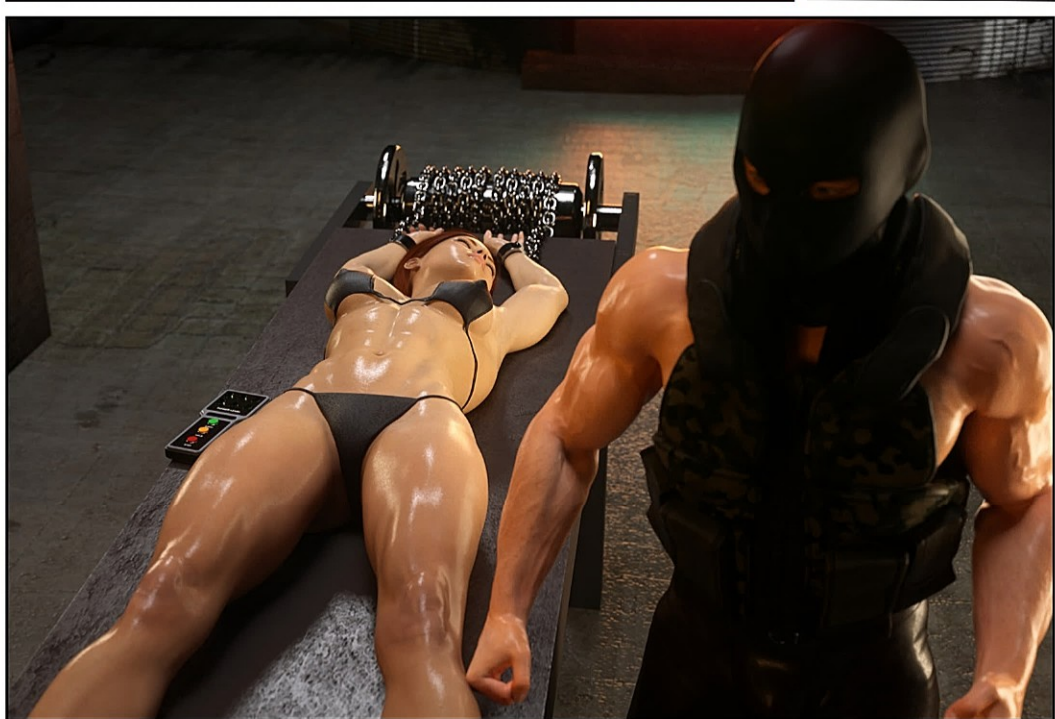
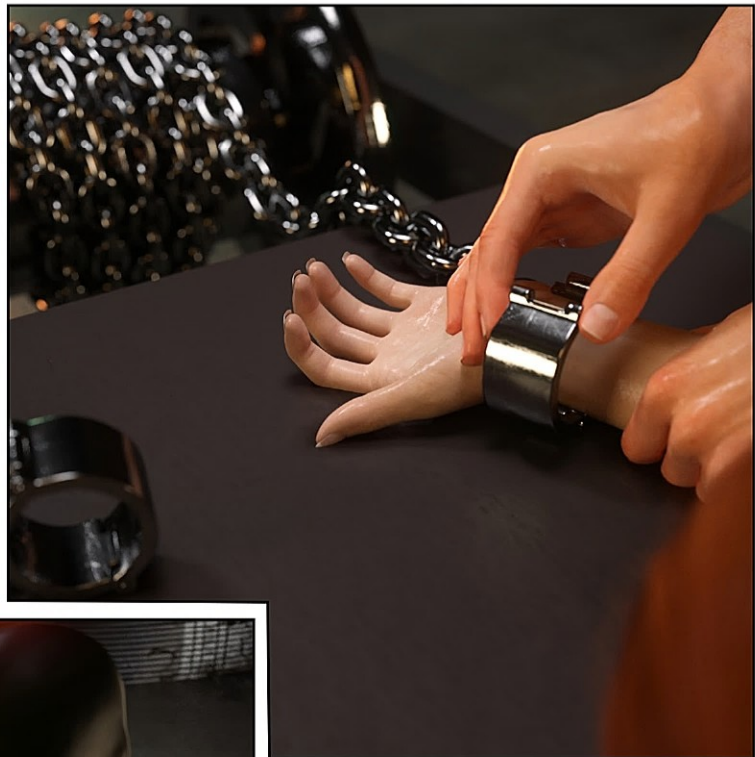


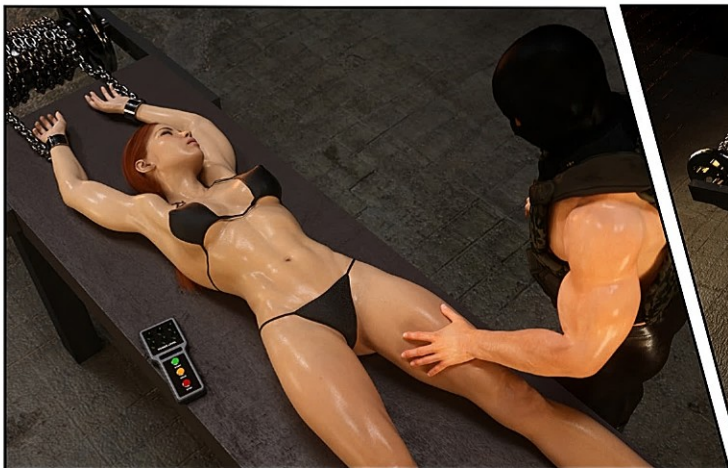


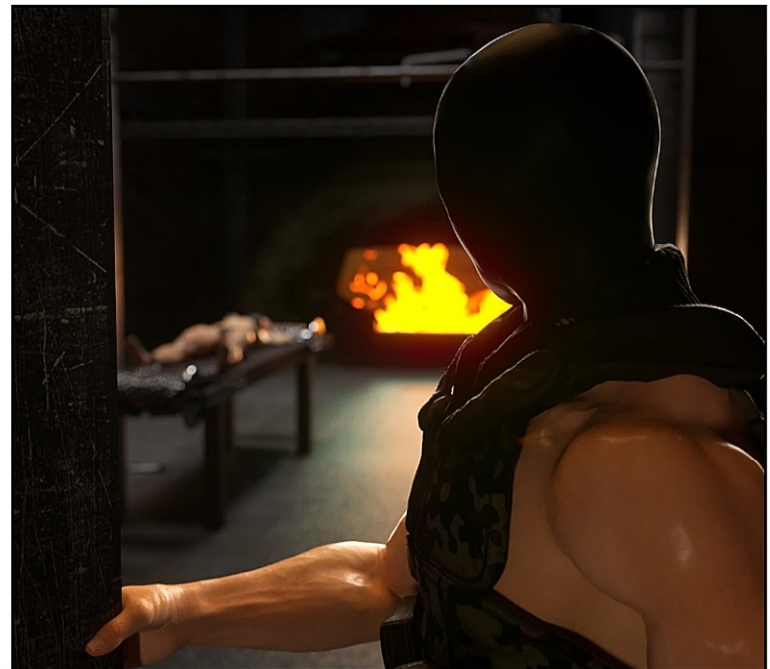
SOME TIME LATER

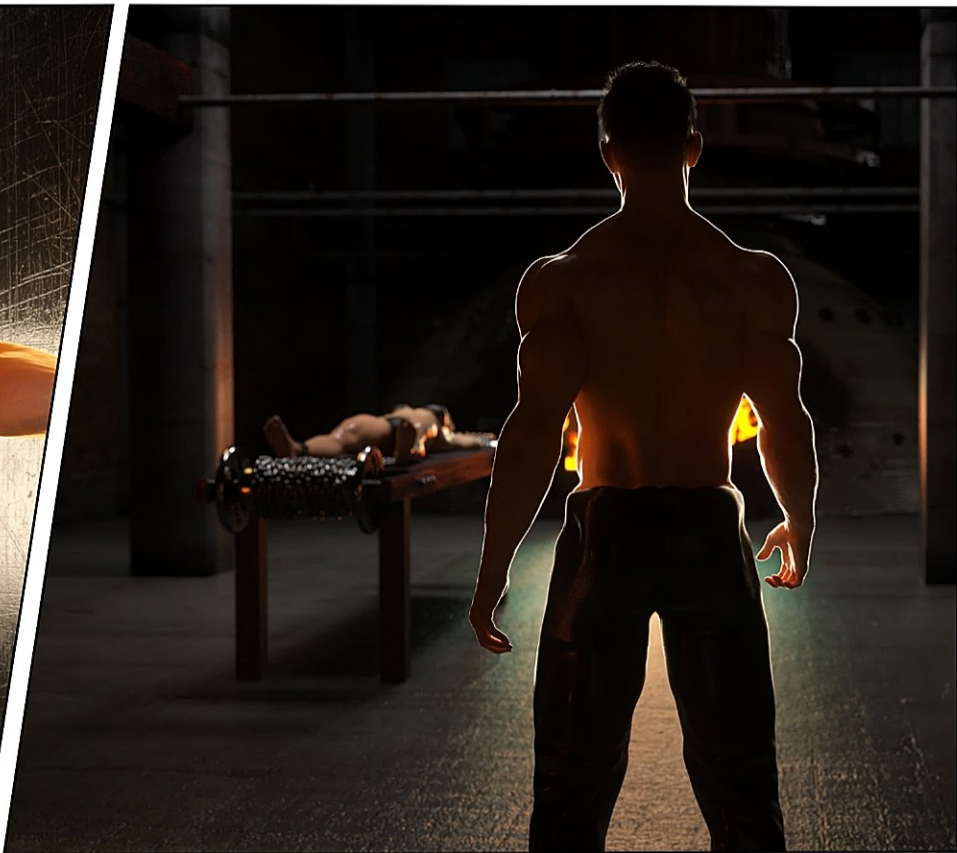














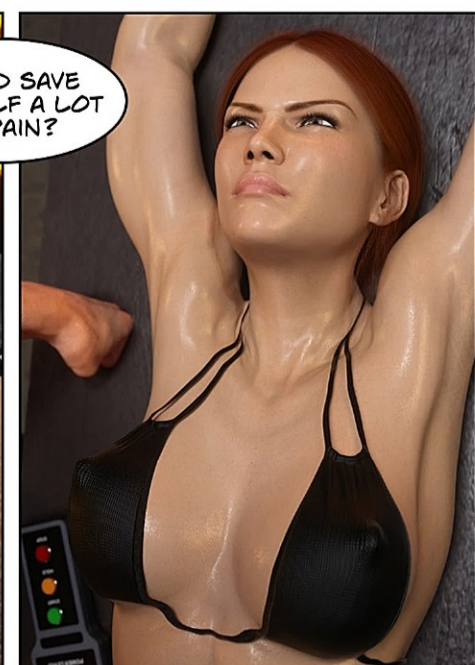
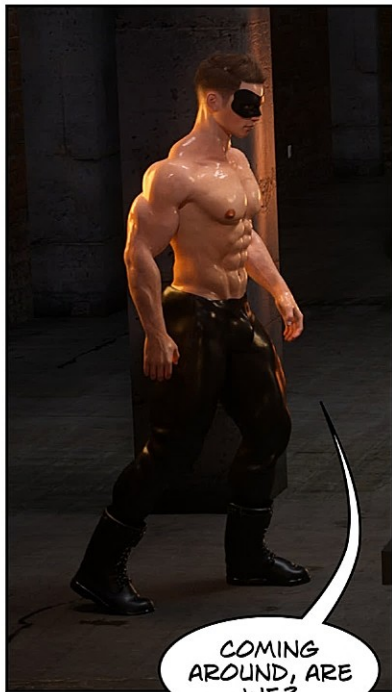
THE 'ORGANISATION' IS IMMENSELY WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL AND HAS A LONG REACH. IT THUS HAS MANY SERVANTS - AND MANY HIRELINGS TOO.

AND ONE AMONG THEM, REFERRED TO BY THE CHAIRMAN FACETIOUSLY AS THE 'HUNSMAN', IS KNOWN TO BE AN EXPERT IN HIS CRAFT; THE CRAFT OF RETRIEVING IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THOSE WHO HAVE NO WISH TO DIVULGE IT.

AND, SINCE THIS MATTER IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, NO EXPENSE HAS BEEN SPARED IN SECURING HIS ESPECIAL SKILL AND EXPERTISE.

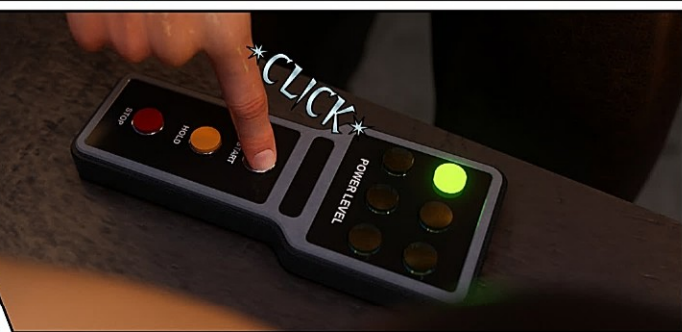
NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM, OTHER THAN THAT HE REALLY ENJOYS HIS WORK.





A WOMAN OF
FEW WORDS, I
SEE. A RARE
QUALITY THESE
DAYS.

FEAR NOT, WE'LL
CHANGE THAT
BEFORE LONG!



UUUGH!!



AAAAAAHHHH!



I CAN SEE THAT
YOU'RE GOING TO
BE STUBBORN.



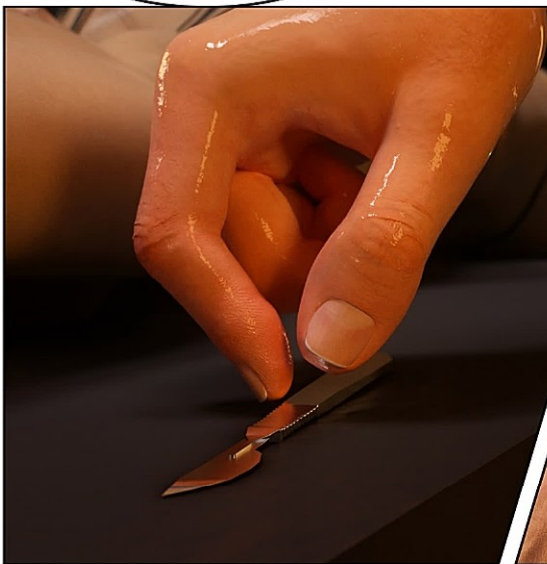
GOOD.



I LIKE A
CHALLENGE - AND I
LOVE MY WORK.



GASP

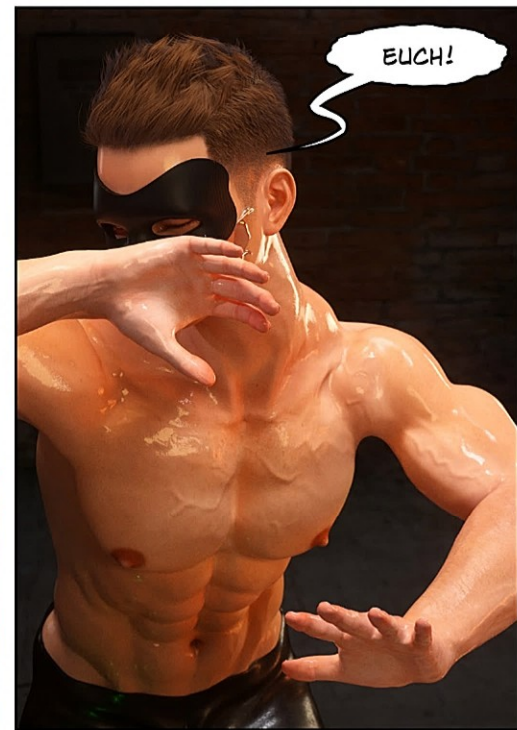
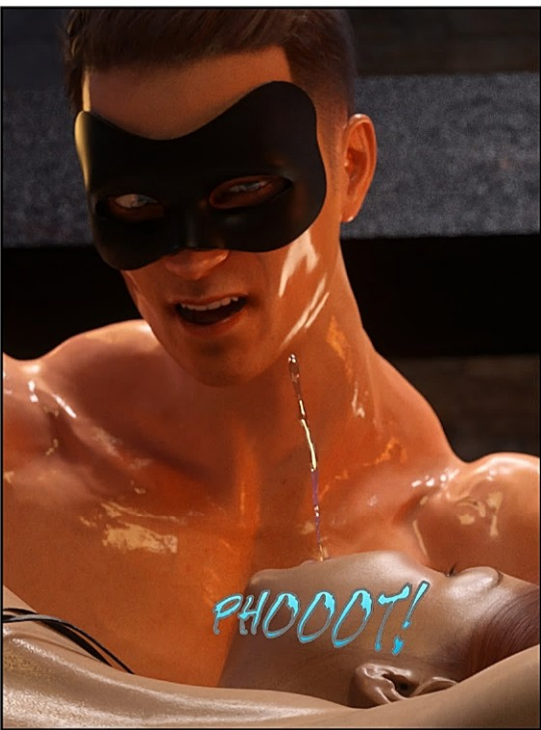
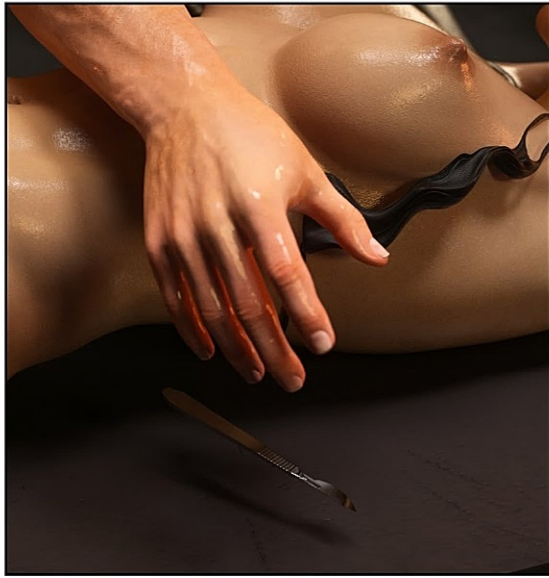


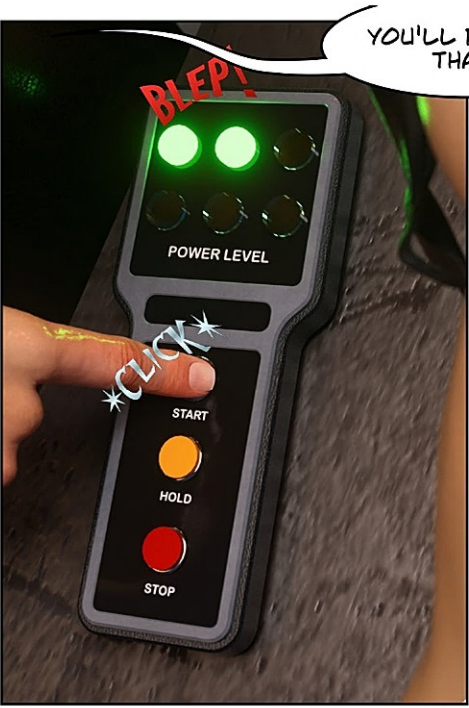
BUT - NOW ...



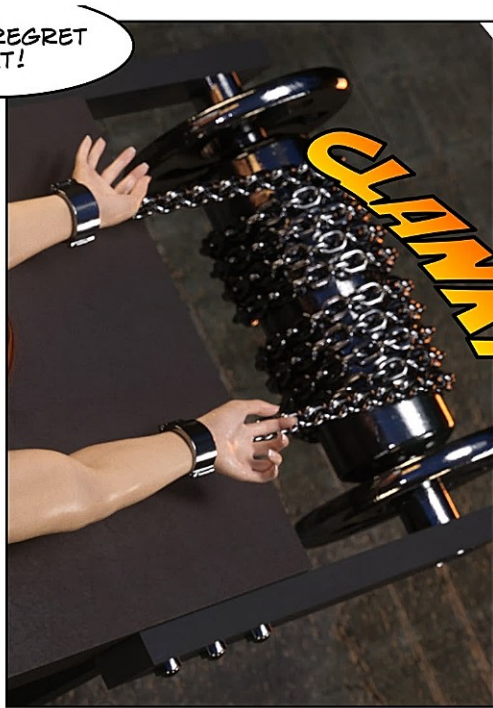








YOU'LL REGRET THAT!







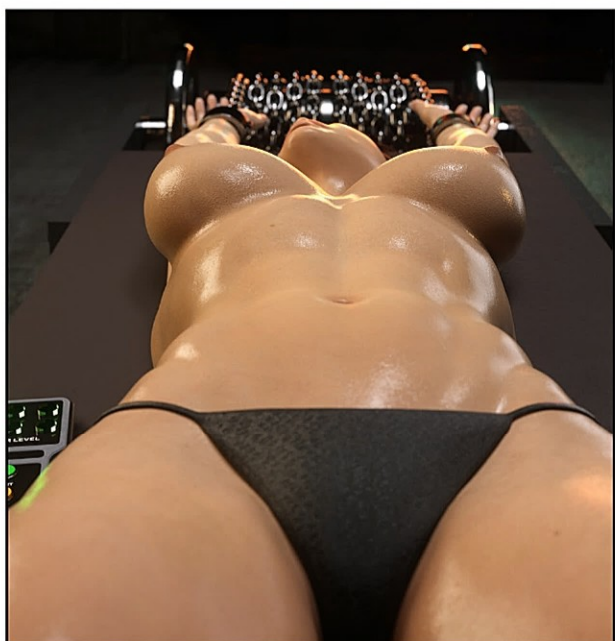
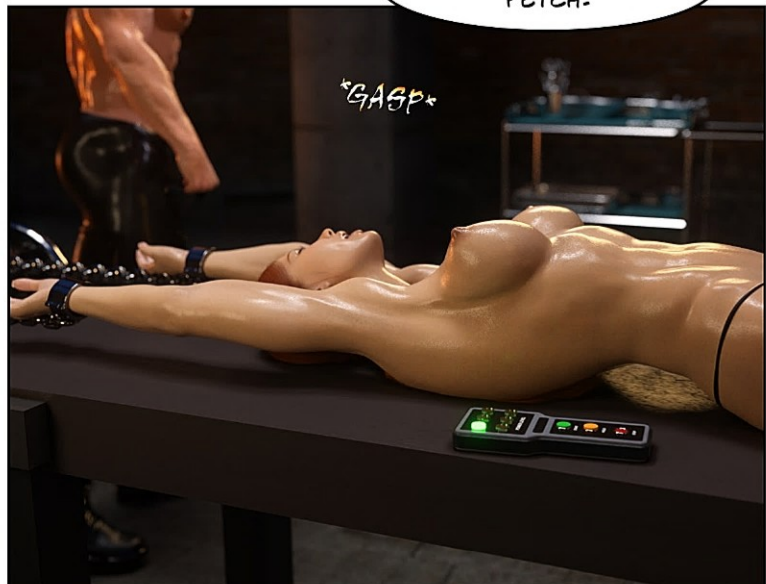
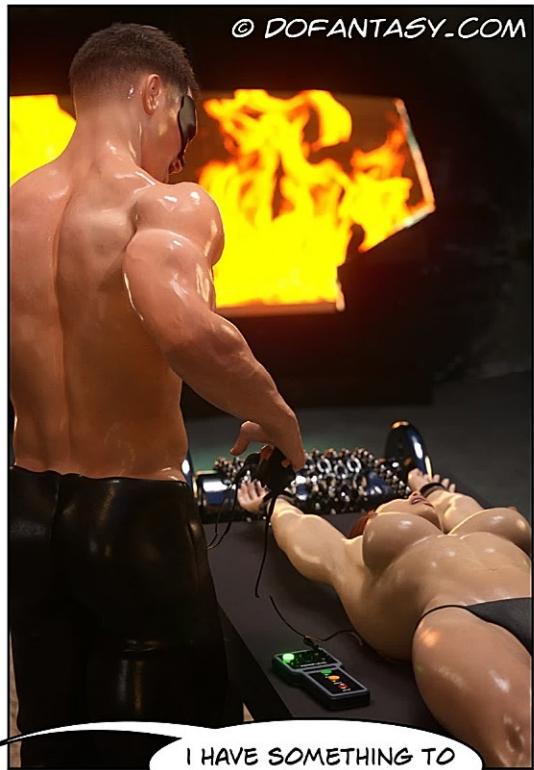
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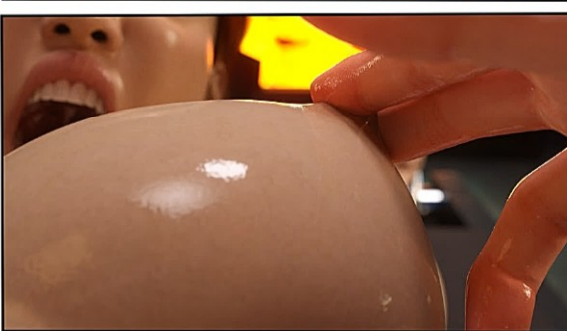
THIS IMMEDIATELY-APPLIED
VENGEANCE HAD BEEN ONLY
THE THIRD LEVEL OF
EXTENSION OF WHICH THE
RACK IS CAPABLE.

AND IT HAD CAUSED ITS VICTIM
ALMOST TO PASS OUT WITH PAIN.

THERE ARE THREE FURTHER
LEVELS BEYOND THIS.









MMMM .. I COULD
SPEND ALL DAY
DOING THIS!



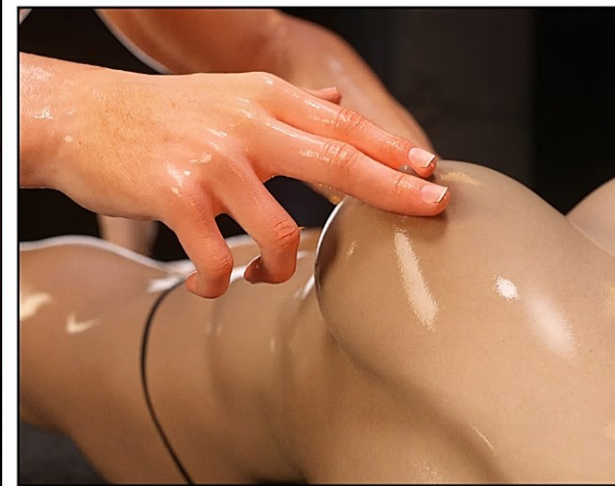
AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD
GET USED TO IT TOO!



FASCINATING REACTIONS.
I'VE RARELY SEEN SO SENSUOUS A
RESPONSE.



:PANT: ...
:PANT:



THIS IS GOING TO BE
EVEN MORE FUN THAN I'D
ANTICIPATED!



NOW, DON'T GO
AWAY, WILL YOU?





I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

... SOMETHING SPECIAL.

SEE!



THIS WAND IS MAGIC:
IT WILL BRING BACK
YOUR MEMORY.



AND FIND YOUR
LOST TONGUE.

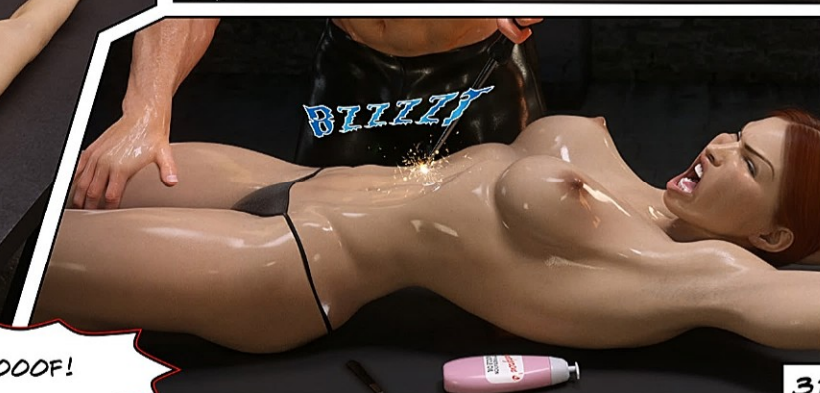


YOU'LL FIND IT VERY
PERSUASIVE!

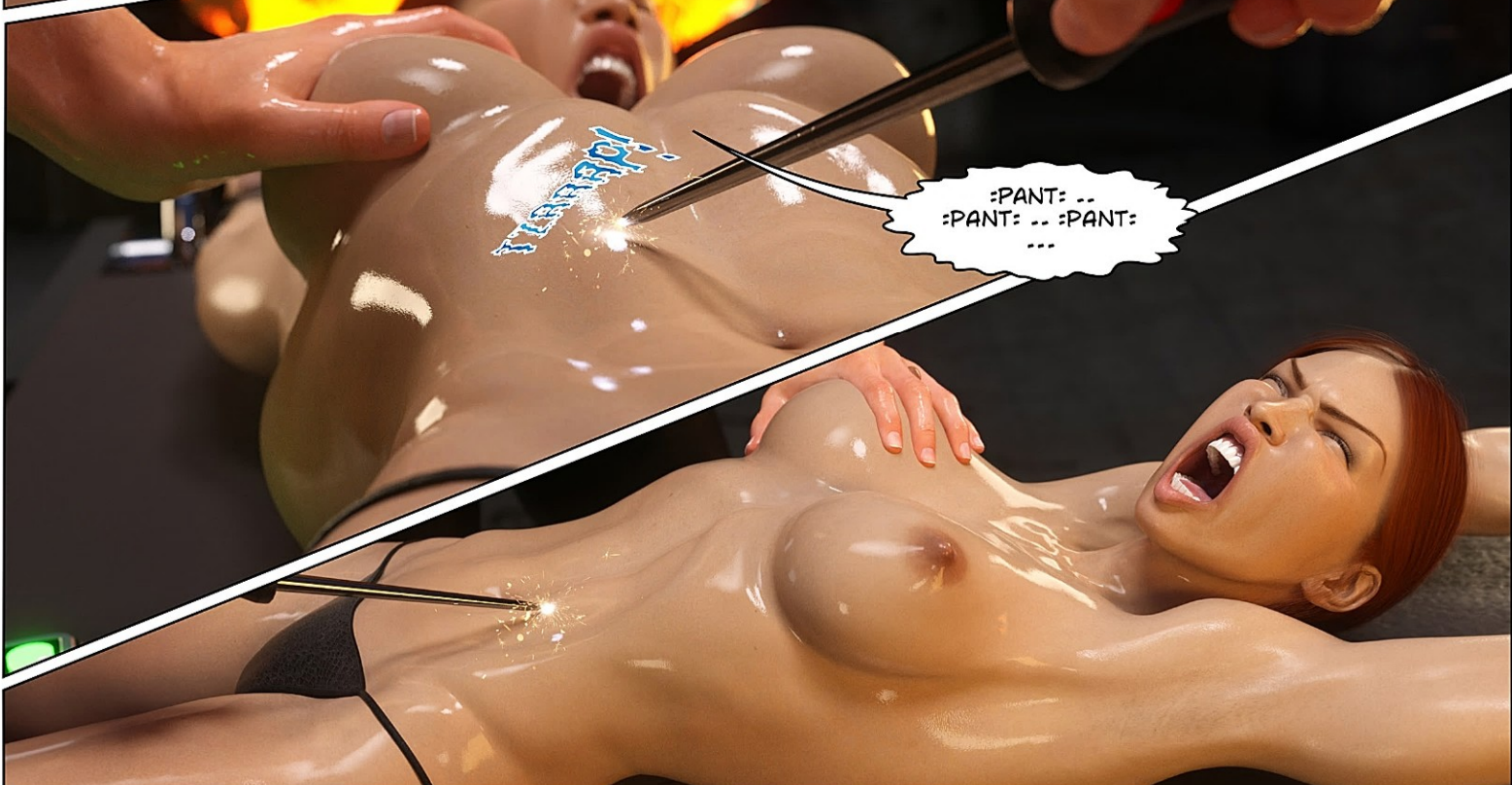


BUT FIRST ...



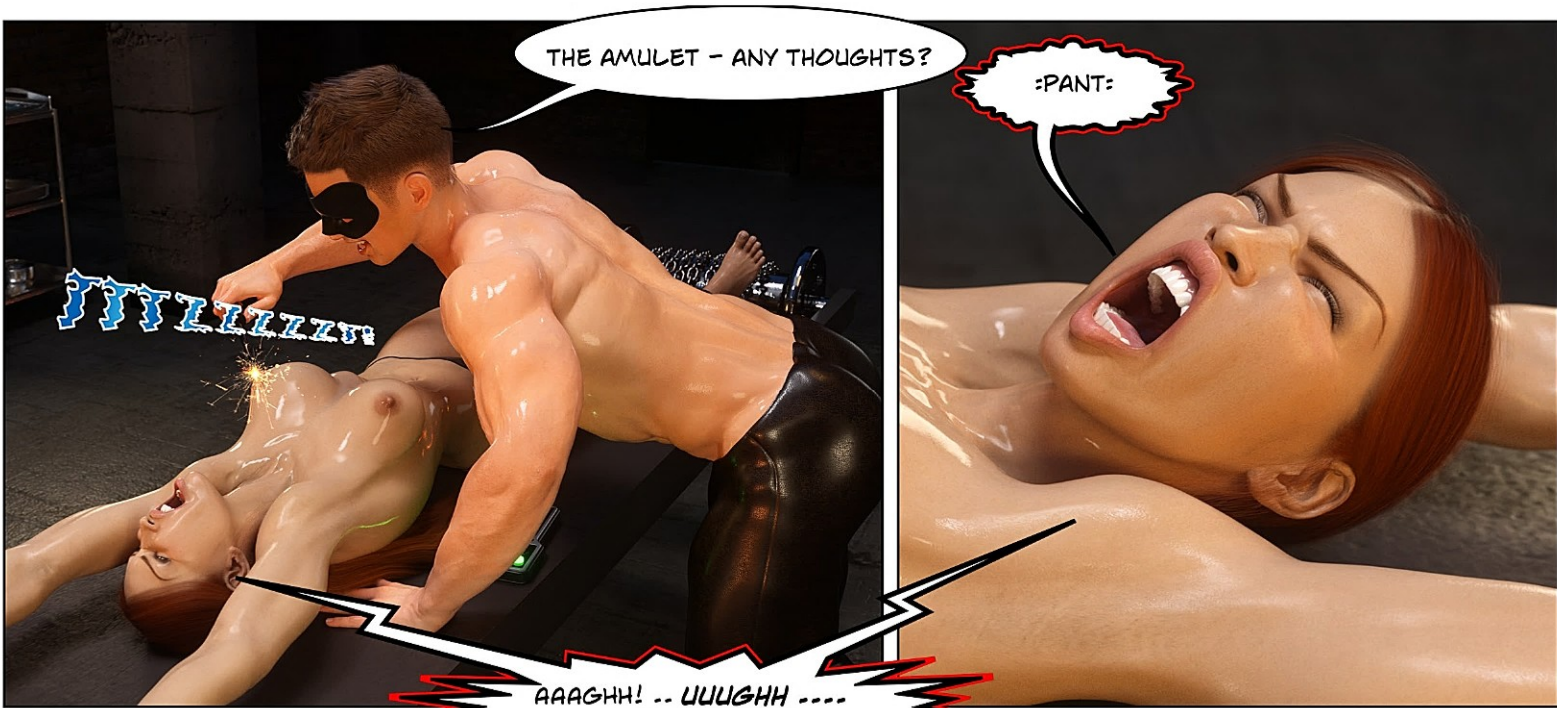


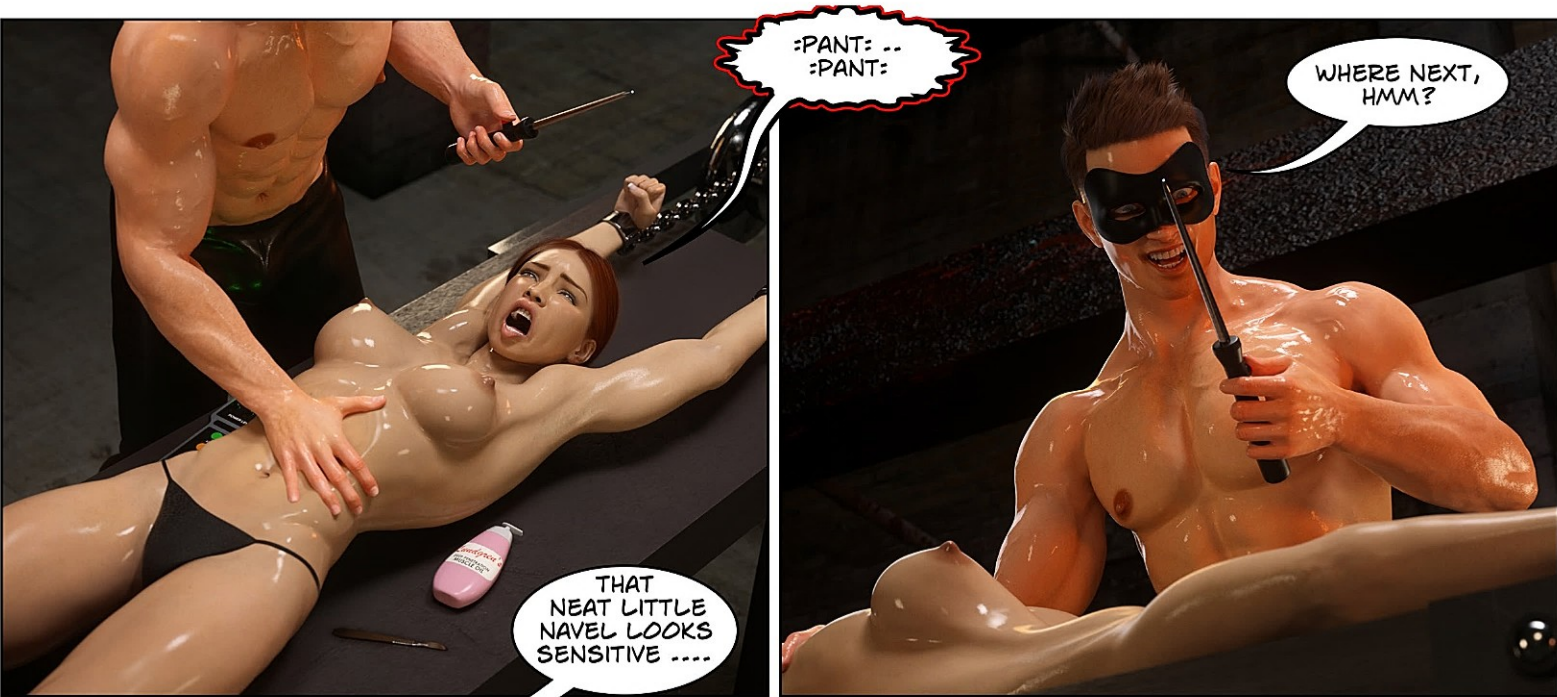
OOOOOF!

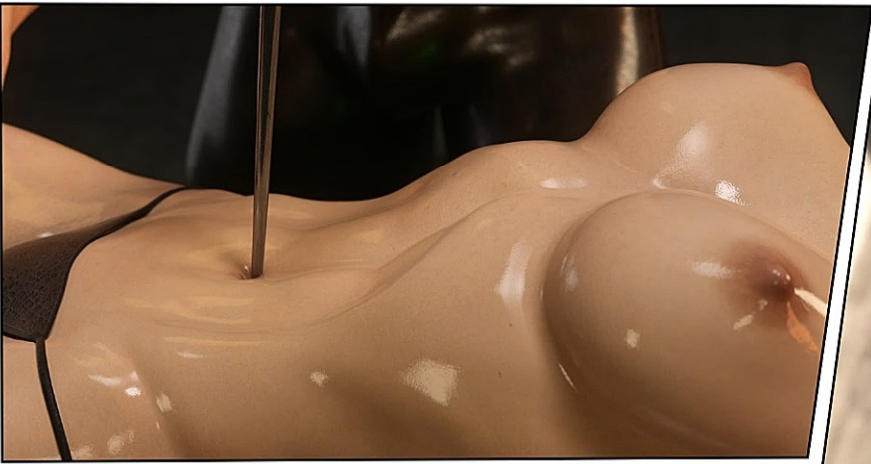








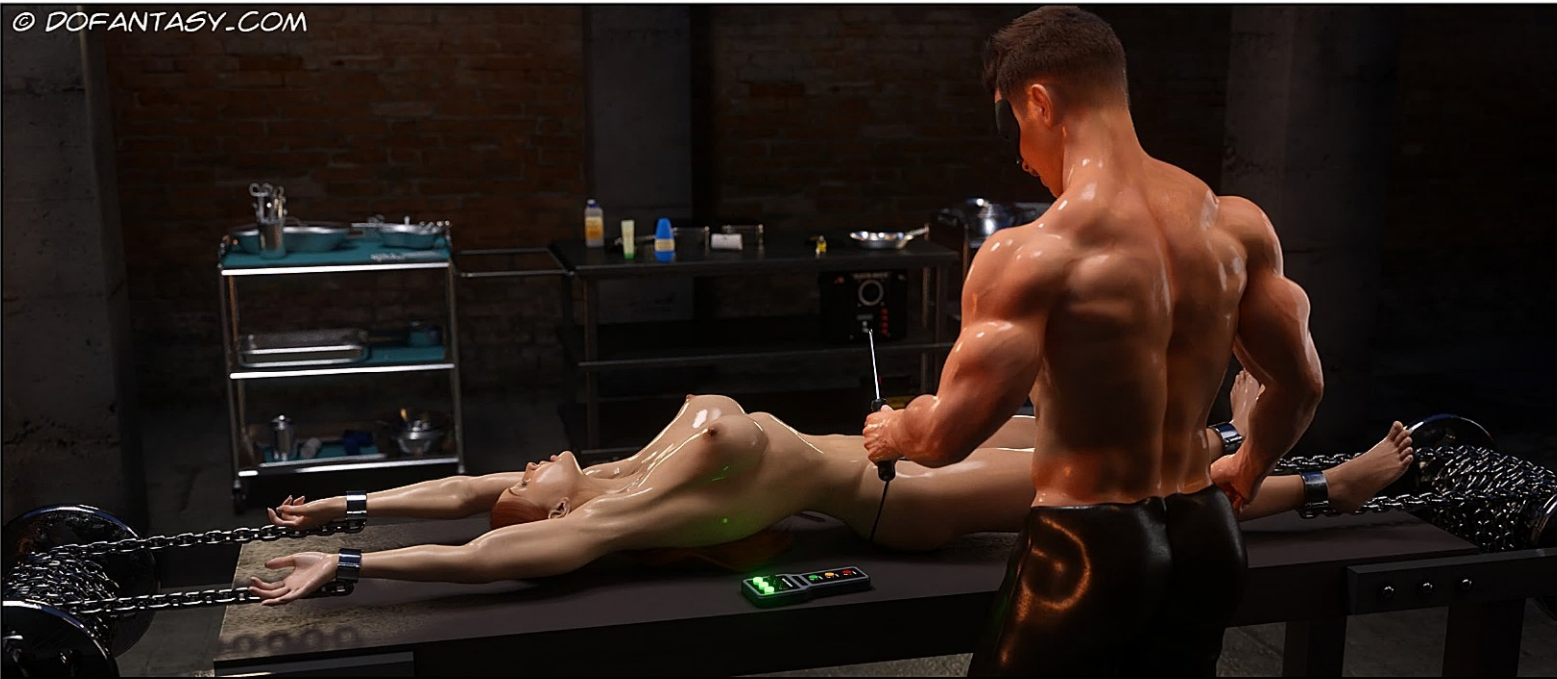




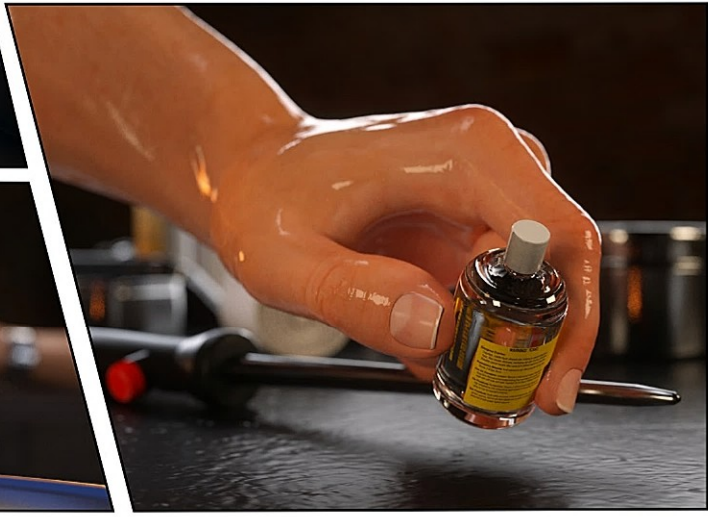
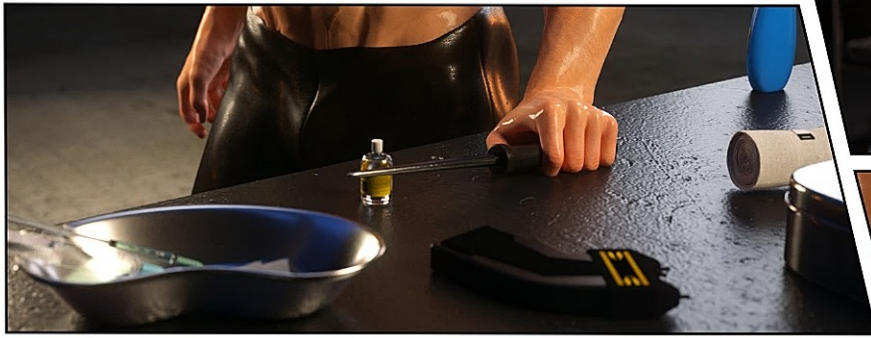
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A PROLONGED LEVEL-3
STRETCHING AND REPEATED
APPLICATIONS OF THE WAND,
EVEN AT A LOWER VOLTAGE,
ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL.

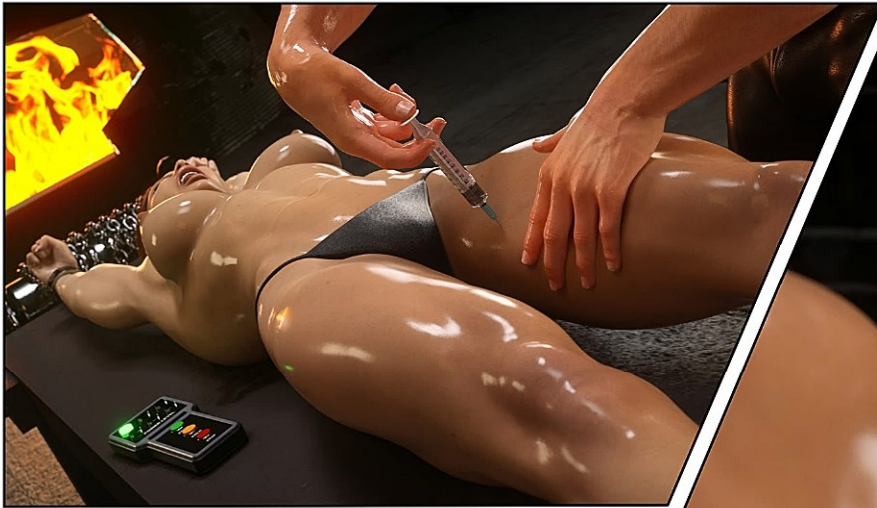




<MOAN>







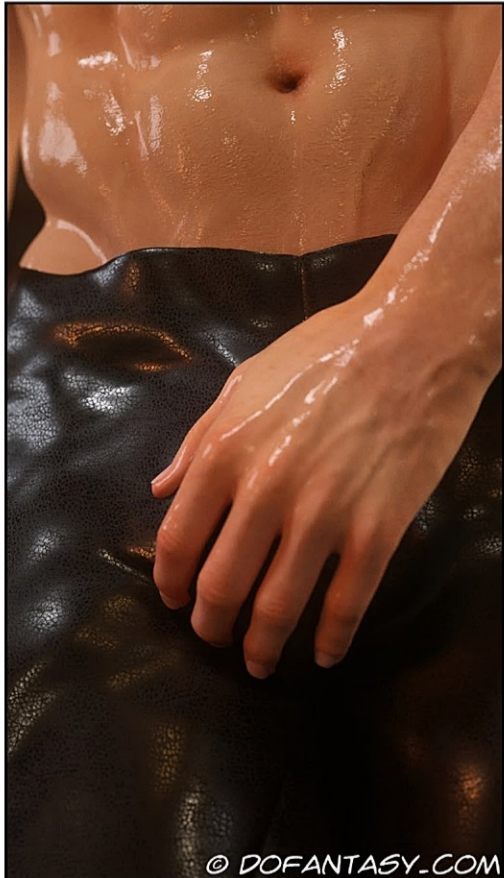
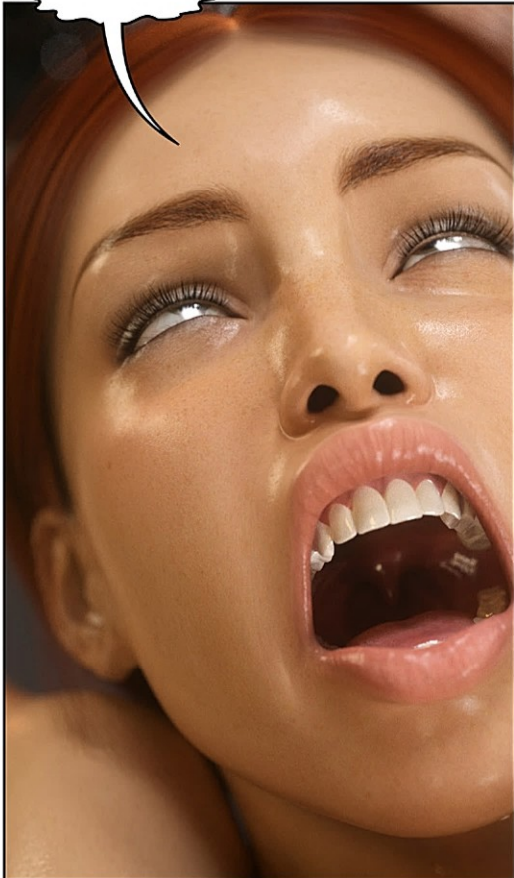
=HEAVY BREATHING=

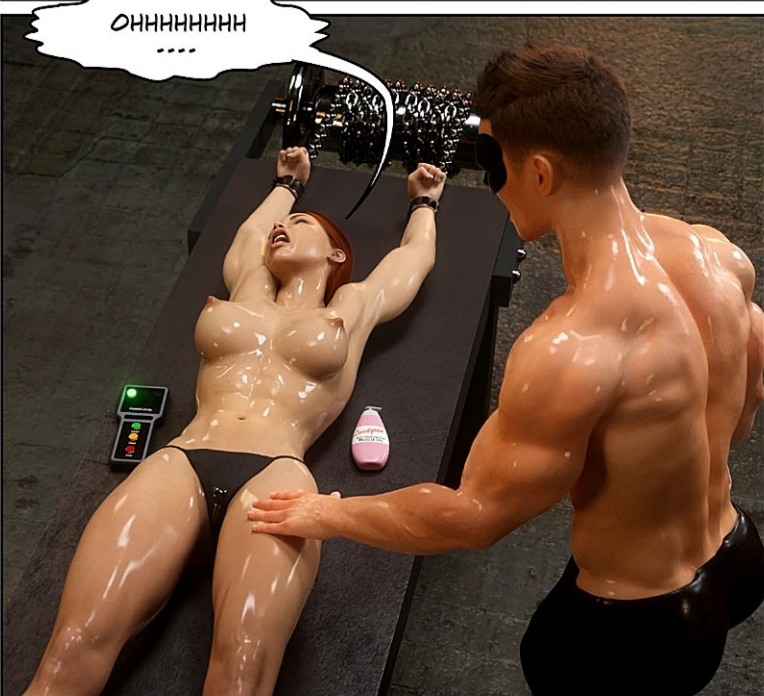


THIS SHOT WILL SET YOU HUMMING!











WET ALREADY?



LET'S SEE HOW YOU REACT TO - THIS.



?!?





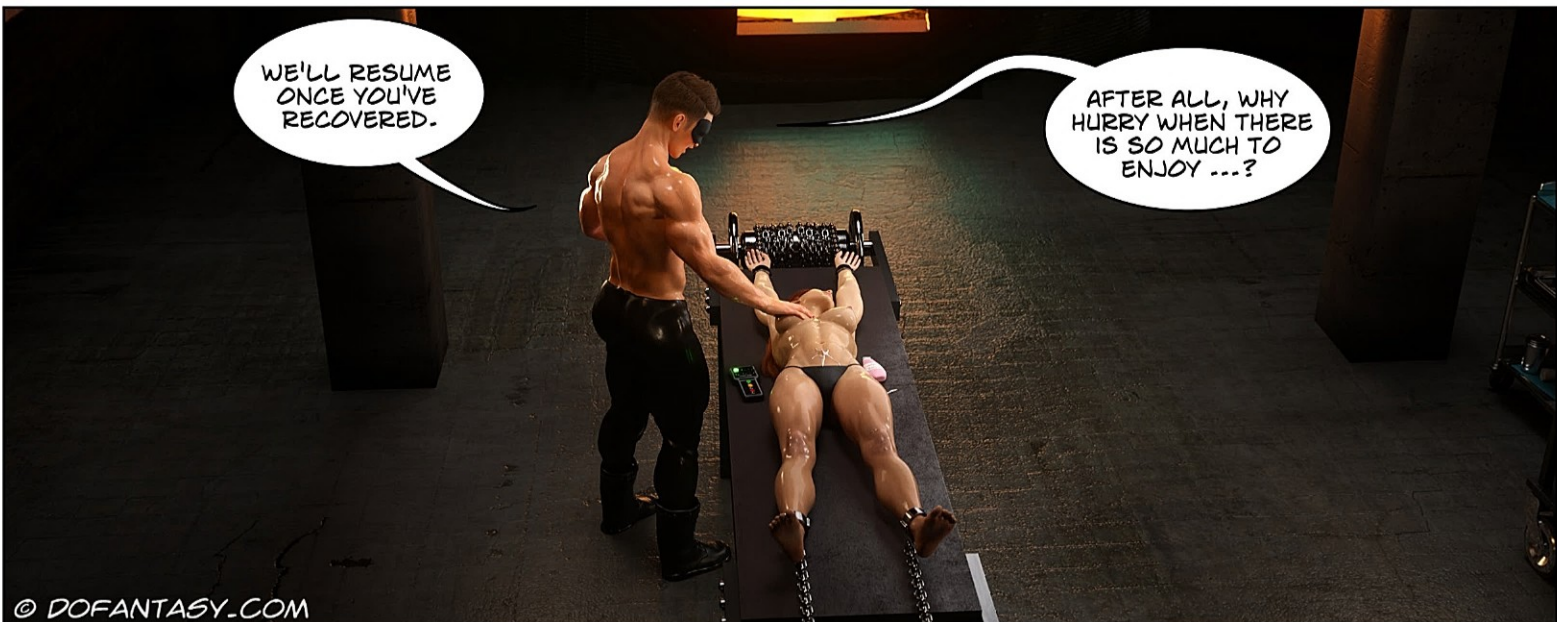
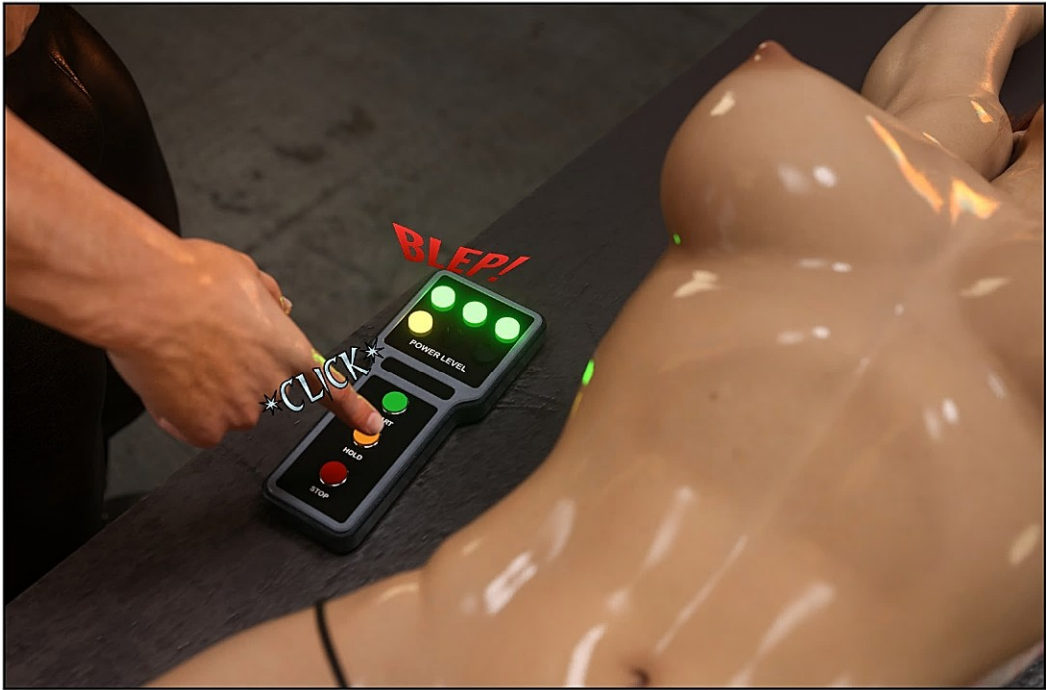






SO, THE INTERROGATOR NOTES THAT PAIN AND PLEASURE LIE BUT A LITTLE WAY APART AND HAS MADE HIS POINT FORCIBLY BY MOVING STRAIGHT FROM THE ONE TO THE OTHER, PERHAPS INTENDING THAT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM SHOULD BECOME STEADILY MORE BLURRED.

AND THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOT REPEATED HIS QUESTION ABOUT THE AMULET SUGGESTS THAT HE IS INDEED NOT, AS HE SAYS, IN ANY GREAT HURRY TO FIND OUT, BUT INTENDS TO ENJOY THE DRAWN-OUT PROCESS TO THE FULL.....



TO BE CONTINUED ...



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END OF PART 1