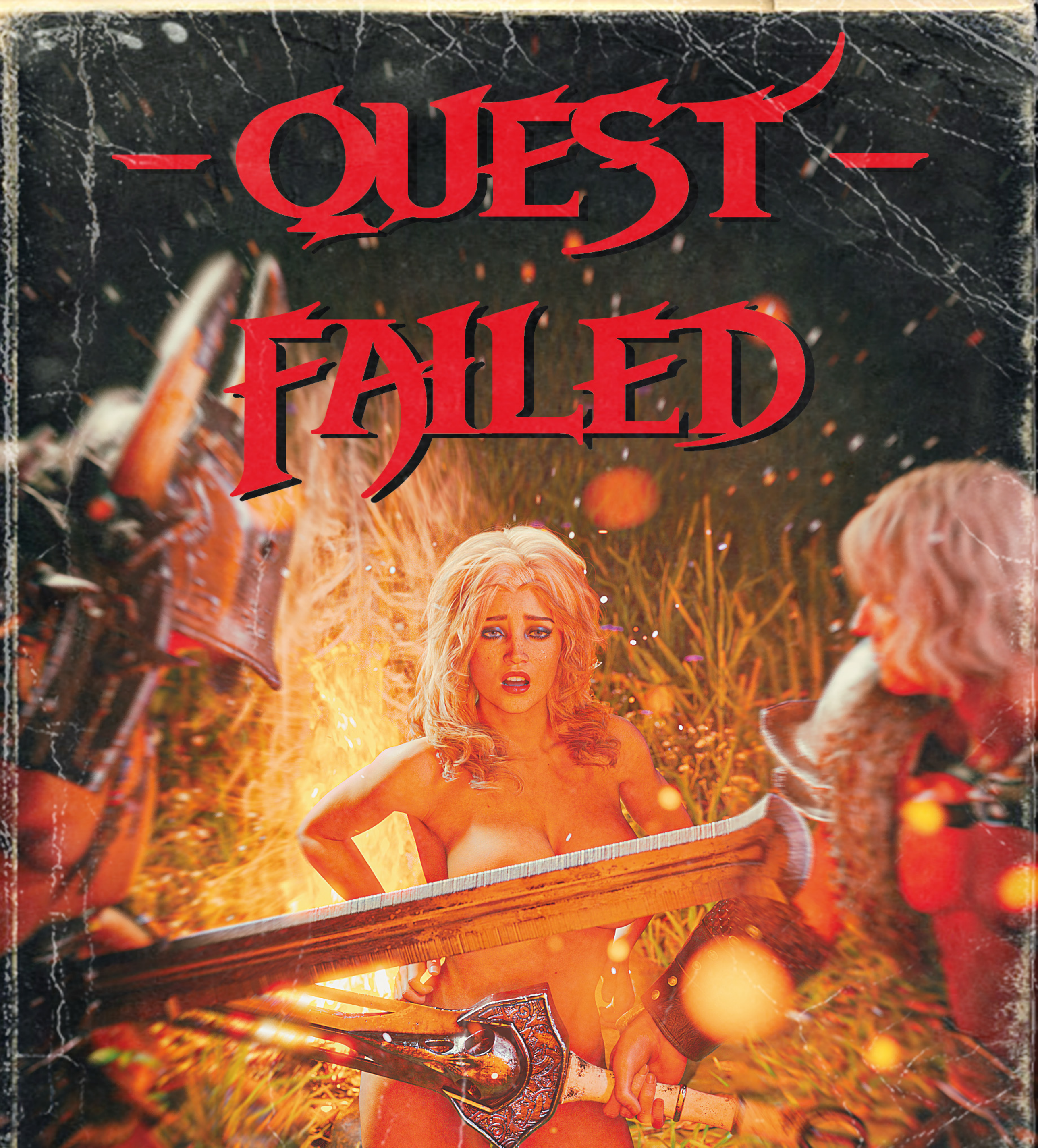
-QUEST-

FAILED



TOM REYNOLDS

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PYTERION THE BLACK, LORD OF DEADWATER ISLAND, CAPTAIN OF THE BLACKASTLE GUARD, AND THE LEADER OF PRINCE ASZOHLE'S KILL SQUADS GENUINELY BELIEVED HIS LIFE WAS AT AN END.

STANDING IN THAT BLACK CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE PRINCE'S CHAMBERS, HIS KNEES WERE ALMOST KNOCKING. IT HADN'T BEEN THE FIRST TIME THAT HE HAD FAILED TO CAPTURE THE BARBARIAN WARRIOR BLADETHORN, BUT THIS LATEST FAILURE HAD BEEN THE WORST.

ALL THOSE IN SERVICE OF THE BLACKASTLE KNEW THAT DEATH COULD BE THE PRICE OF DEFEAT.

THOUGH, KNOWING THE PRINCE, THERE WERE PUNISHMENTS EVEN WORSE THAN DEATH.


PYTERION! YOU MAY ENTER!




TURNING THE HANDLE FELT JUST LIKE THE TURNING OF THE RACK. HE KNEW HE'D BE THERE SOON ENOUGH.


YOUR GRACE, MY LORD.



GENERAL, I MUST SAY I AM DISAPPOINTED.

DID YOU ONCE AGAIN COWER IN FEAR BEFORE THE BARBARIAN?

THE MAN IN THE COMFORTABLE CHAIR WAS PRINCE ASZOHLE, THE USURPER RULER OF THE LAND. HE HAD WON A THOUSAND BATTLES, AND LOST TWICE AS MANY IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO SLAY BLADETHORN. WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS, PATIENCE WEARING THIN, AND EXTREMELY WELL-VERSED IN THE MAGIC ARTS; HE WAS NOT A MAN TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

YOUR GRACE, GENERAL PYTERION FOUGHT VALIANTLY BEFORE ULTIMATELY BEING DEFEATED.

IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT.

THE PRINCE'S MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATION WAS LORD CADOGAN. A FINE FRIEND OF THE GENERAL'S, BUT HE STILL KNEW WHERE HIS LOYALTIES TRULY BELONGED.

CADOGAN, IF OUR GENERAL FOUGHT SO WELL, PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME ON HOW HE FAILED ON THIS OCCASION.

BLADETHORN HAS MANAGED TO DELIVER FORTY TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES ON THE WESTERN BORDER INTO THE HANDS OF THE REBELLION.

THE BARBARIAN IS POPULAR WHEREVER HE GOES. ON THIS OCCASION, HE FREED THE WHORES OF SUMMERTREE, WHICH BANKRUPTED THE TOWN'S GOVERNMENT AND CREATED CHAOS IN THE STREETS.

ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS THE GENERAL WAS DEFEATED IN SINGLE COMBAT, AND ON THE LAST HE WAS DUMPED INTO...

DON'T BE SHY, PYTERION. SAY THE WORD.

MANURE, YOUR GRACE.

NOT THE WORD I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN, BUT VERY FITTING.

TELL ME, GENERAL, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER OTHER THAN YOUR SINCEREST APOLOGIES?

ALL I HAVE IS MY SERVICE, AND MY LIFE, WHICH I PLEDGED TO YOU.

NOT ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME, PYTERION!

I HEREBY STRIP YOU OF YOUR TITLE OF GENERAL.

YOUR WIFE AND LANDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG MY REMAINING KNIGHTS.

UH, YOUR GRACE?

HOW COULD I FORGET? YOUR WIFE NO LONGER RESIDES IN BLACKASTLE, DOES SHE?

LADY ROANNE SERVES THE ENEMY NOW.

JUST THE LANDS, THEN.

AND PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO ME WHY I SHOULDN'T HAVE YOUR HEAD PUT ON A *SPIKE*.

YOUR GRACE, I...

MINISTER CADOGAN, IS THE FORMER GENERAL *FORGETTING* SOMETHING?

YOU ARE A *COMMONER* NOW. YOU MUST *KNEEL* BEFORE THE PRINCE.

YOUR GRACE.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU NOTHING BUT FAILURE IN RETURN FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND SKILLFUL LEADERSHIP.

I HAVE NAUGHT TO OFFER BUT MY LIFE, WHICH I WOULD SURRENDER GLADLY.


PERFECT.




CADOGAN, HOW MANY TIMES HAS BLADETHORN DEFEATED THE MIGHT OF THE BLACKASTLE?

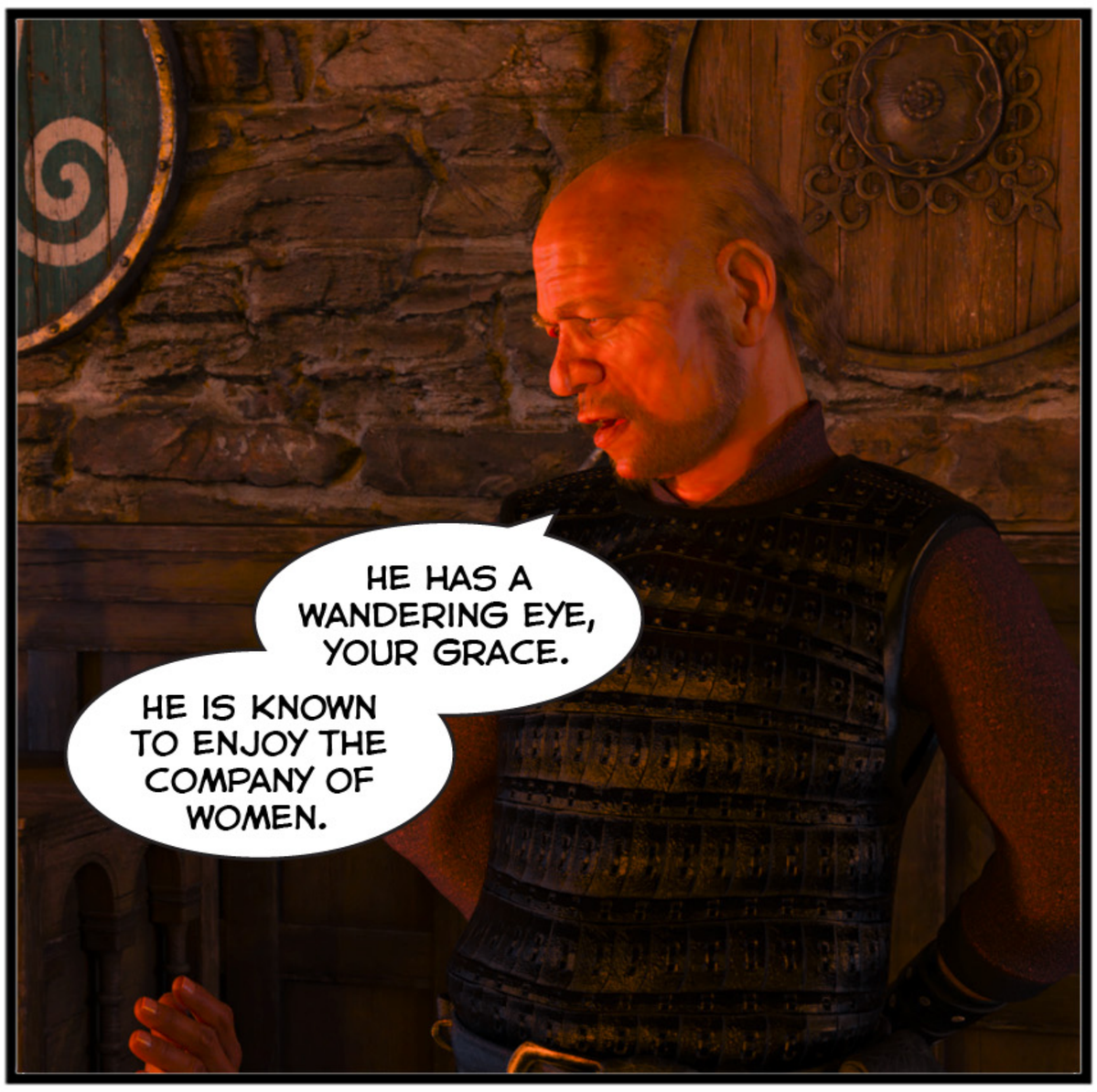
COUNTLESS, YOUR GRACE.

COUNTLESS.

IT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT BLUNT AND BRUTE FORCE IS NOT AN EFFICIENT WAY TO CONTINUE WHEN IT COMES TO THE BARBARIAN.

AND THE FORMER GENERAL HERE IS AS BLUNT A BRUTE AS I'VE EVER KNOWN.


DOES BLADETHORN HAVE A WEAKNESS? PERHAPS SOMETHING TO EXPLOIT?


HE HAS A WANDERING EYE, YOUR GRACE.
HE IS KNOWN TO ENJOY THE COMPANY OF WOMEN.


DON'T WE ALL?


ONE WEAKNESS, THEN, YET TO BE EXPLOITED.


PYTERION, YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CROWN IS TOTAL?

AYE, YOUR GRACE.

THEN YOU WILL PERFORM A SERVICE FOR YOUR PRINCE.

YOU HAVE NAUGHT TO GIVE BUT YOUR LIFE, BUT I HAVE ALL THE WONDERS IN THE WORLD TO OFFER.

KILL BLADETHORN, AND I WILL RETURN TO YOU ALL I HAVE TAKEN.

THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE. IT WILL BE DONE.

I'LL NEED TEN STOUT MEN AND THE DOGS OF WAR...

NO. YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS ALONE.

ALONE? I...
I DO NOT WANT TO FAIL YOU AGAIN, YOUR GRACE, BUT I FEAR THE TASK IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUPPORT.

PERHAPS FOR THE OLD PYTERION.

BUT I AM GOING TO GRANT YOU THE POWER YOU NEED TO DESTROY THE BARBARIAN.

TELL ME WHAT I MUST DO, MY LORD, AND I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO SUCCEED!

HEH.

OF COURSE YOU WILL. YOU DAMN WELL BETTER.


THOUGH YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU.

CHAPTER 2

BE STILL. THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE A MOMENT.

AAAA AAHH!

SO DRAMATIC.




HUH?








YOUR GRACE, I DON'T--

IT'S...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?




NO.
YOU CAN'T...
PLEASE!















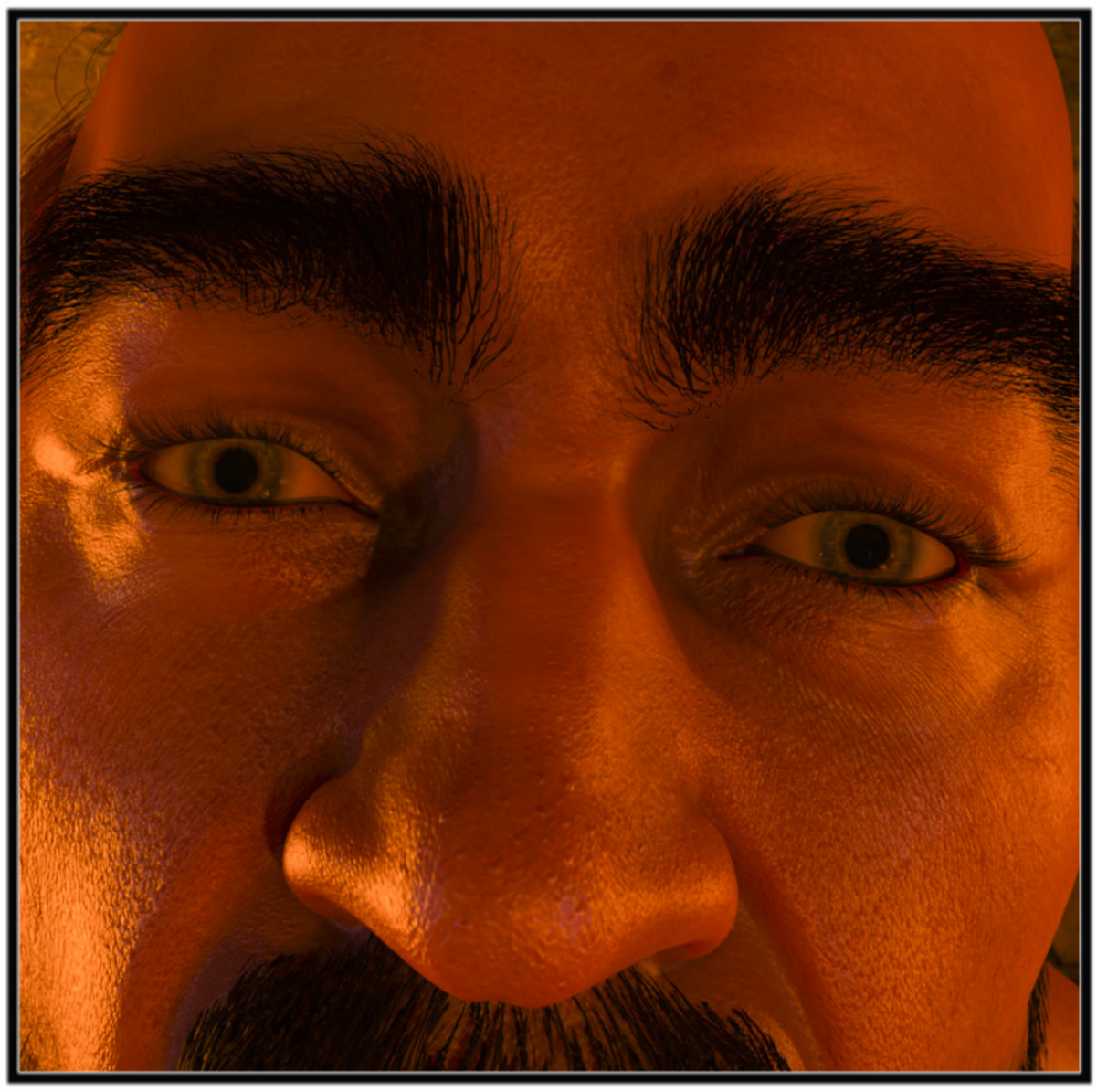




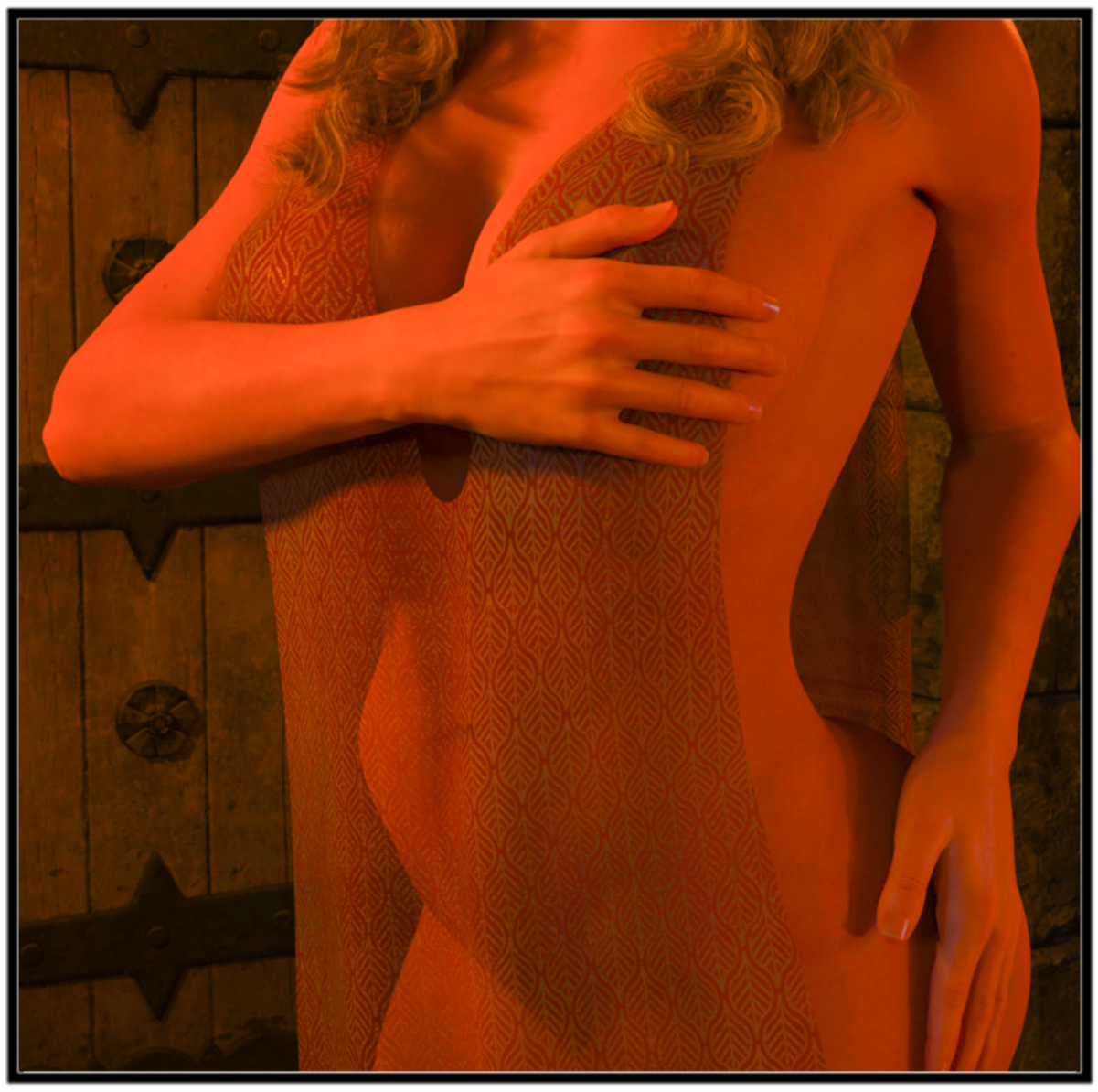


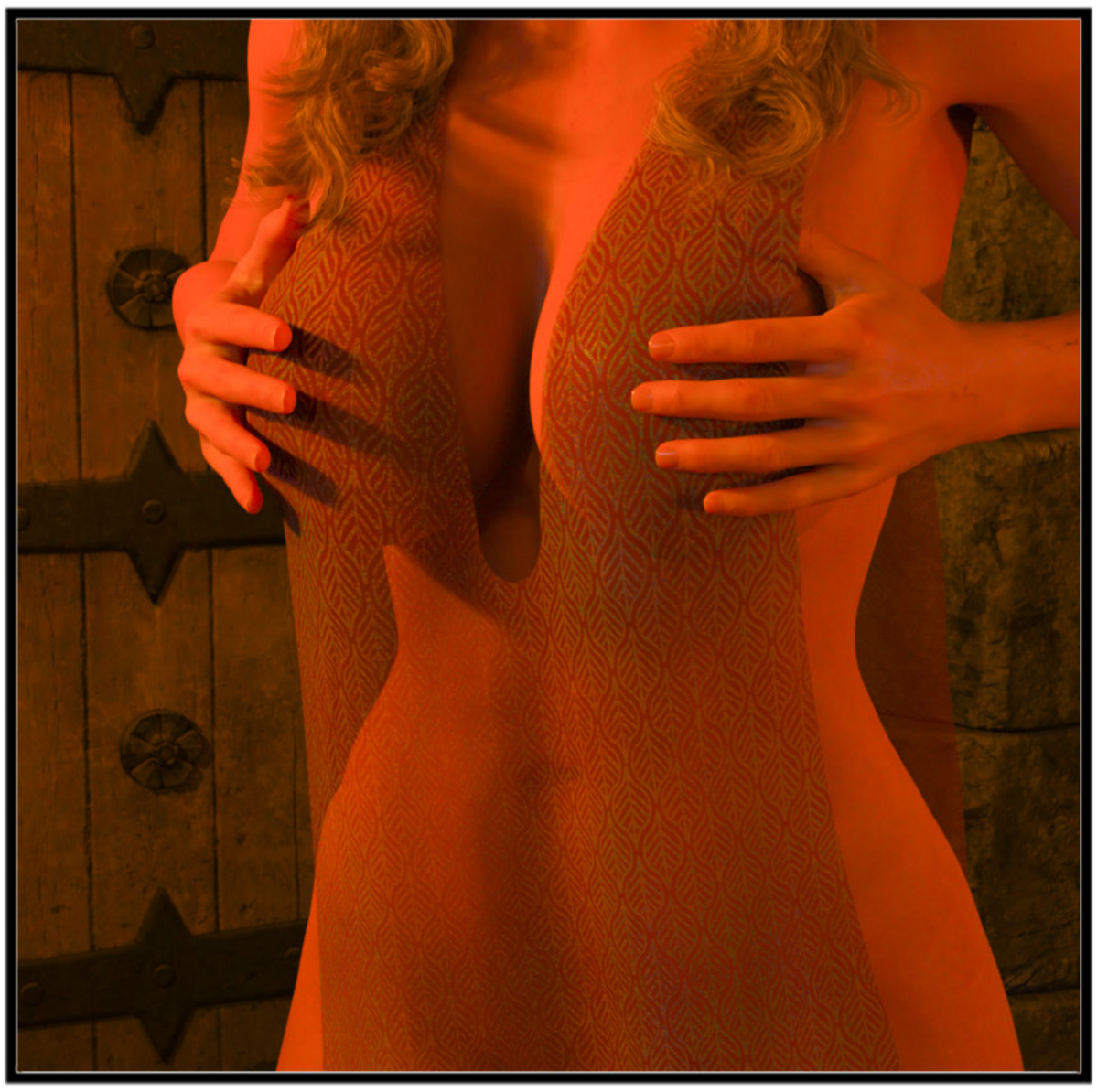


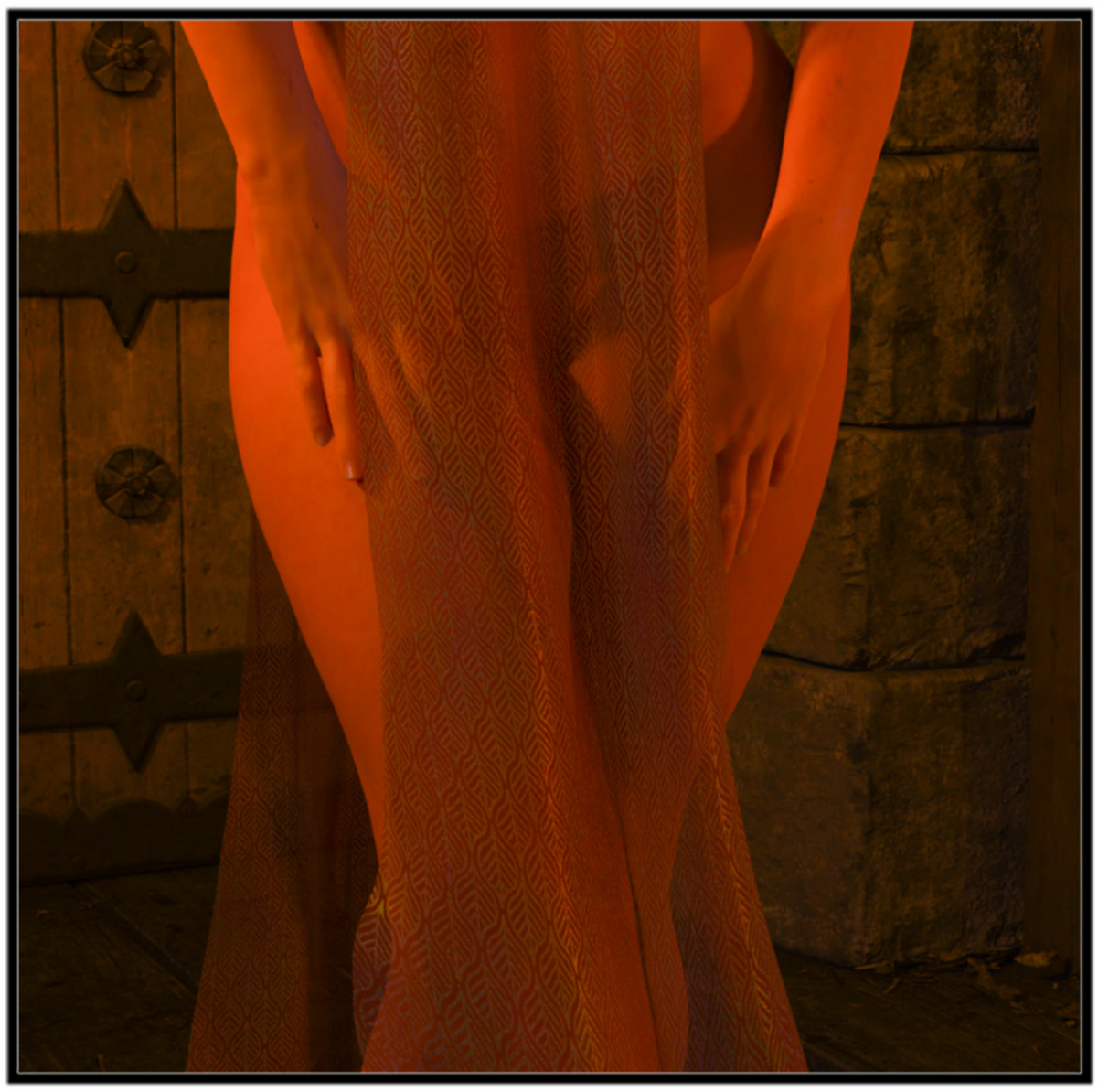










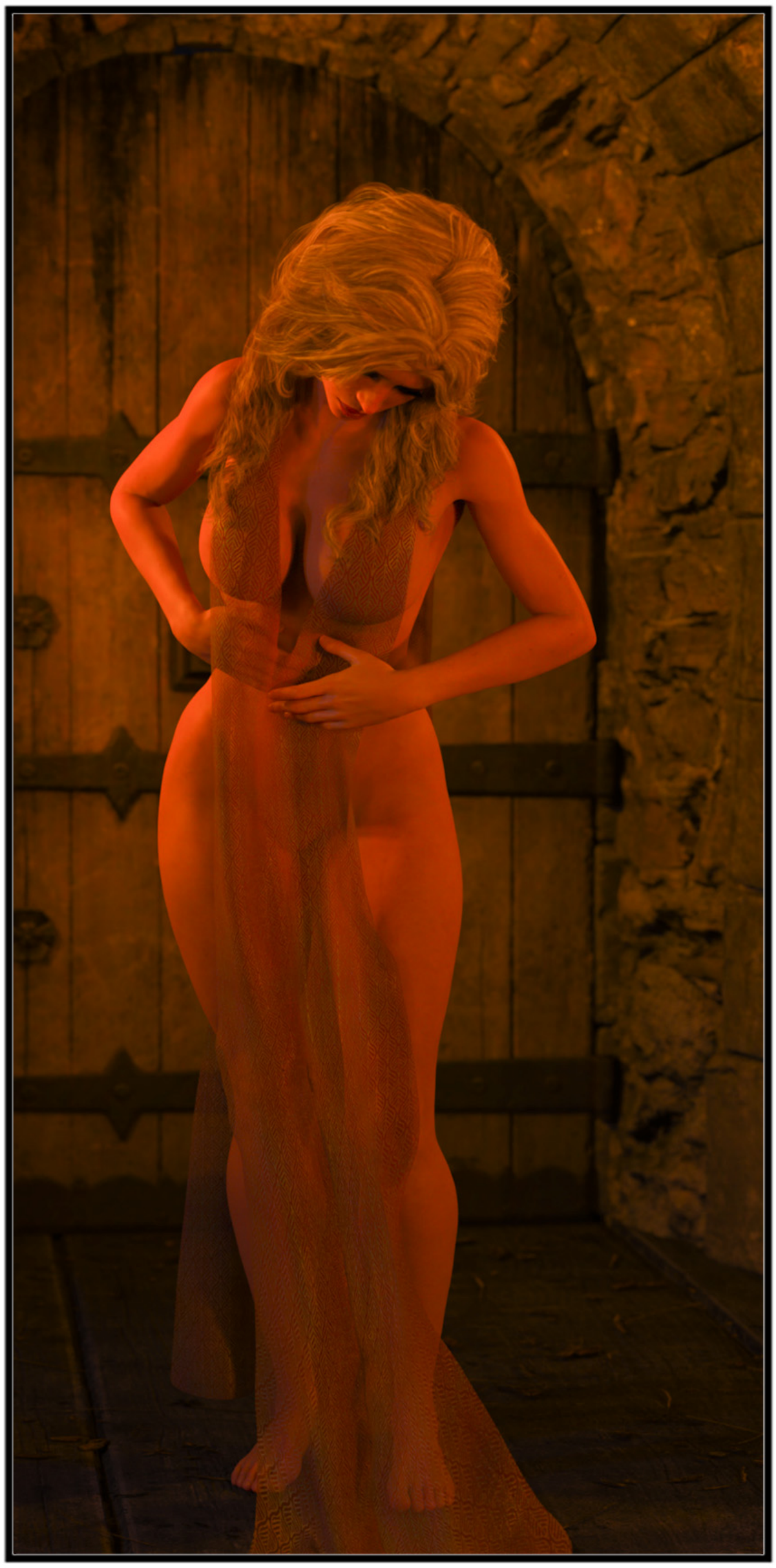
















DO YOU STILL REMEMBER YOUR VOW?

I LIVE TO SERVE YOU, YOUR GRACE, JUST AS BEFORE. BUT I DON'T...

DO YOU KNOW OF PRINCESS LANA OF THE JEWEL SEA?

I CONFESS THE NAME IS UNFAMILIAR.

I HAVE USED MY MEMORY OF HER AS A TEMPLATE. I EXPECT YOU TO PLAY THE PART EXQUISITELY!

IN A FEW MOMENTS I WILL SEND YOU THROUGH MY MAGIC TO A SPOT IN THE FOREST ABOUT A MILE FROM BLADETHORN'S CAMP.

HE WILL FIND YOU, LUST AFTER YOU, AND YOU WILL GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO PUT A DAGGER THROUGH HIS HEART!

BUT WILL HE NOT SUSPECT... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN APPEARING OUT OF THIN AIR?

OF COURSE HE WILL! UNLIKE YOU, THE MAN IS NOT AN IDIOT!

THAT'S WHY THERE IS A SECOND STAGE TO MY PLAN.

CADOGAN, SUMMON LONGLANCE.

LONGLANCE!

WHO?

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

IT CAN'T BE...

THE GIANT WHO LOOMED BEFORE PYTERION WOULD HAVE BEEN HEAD AND SHOULDER TALLER THAN HER EVEN IF SHE HAD STILL POSSESSED HER FORMER FRAME. WHERE HAD SUCH A BEHEMOTH COME FROM? THERE HAD NEVER BEEN SUCH A MIGHTY WARRIOR WHO SERVED BLACKASTLE BEFORE. AND YET... THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE MASSIVE BRUTE.

THOU CALLEST?

LANCE?

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED, PYTERION, THOUGH I'M SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR FORMER STABLE BOY.

PYTERION, THE TWO OF YOU WILL SOON BE TRANSPORTED TOGETHER TO THE FOREST.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, BOY?

BLADETHORN HAS NEVER FACED A WARRIOR THE LIKES OF LONGLANCE. I'LL WAGER THAT ONE OF YOU WILL MANAGE TO END THE BARBARIAN'S LIFE THIS EVENING. IT MATTERS NOT TO ME WHICH ONE OF YOU IS SUCCESSFUL.

I HAVE INSTRUCTED LONGLANCE TO GIVE CHASE AND DO HIS BEST TO CAPTURE YOU.

YOU HAD BEST RUN *FAST.*

BLADETHORN WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE ONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU.

THE BARBARIAN WILL EITHER DIE AT LONGLANCE'S HANDS... OR YOURS.

OF COURSE, IF LONGLANCE CAPTURES YOU FIRST, YOU'LL BELONG TO HIM. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THE LAD HAS NEVER BEEN WITH ANY WENCH, LET ALONE ONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

WHAT?!

NICELY PLAYED, YOUR GRACE. THE PAIR OF THEM HAVE A SPLENDID CHANCE AT TAKING DOWN THE BARBARIAN. SHE'LL MAKE AN EXTREMELY ENTICING DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, LIKE CATNIP FOR THE BARBARIAN.

WE'LL SEE. I HAVE HOPES FOR THE BRUTE, BUT SHE'LL BE LUCKY IF SHE MANAGES TO STICK BLADETHORN BEFORE HE STICKS HER!

IF SHE HAS ANY SENSE, SHE'LL ATTEMPT IT ONCE HE'S ASLEEP... AFTER THEIR COUPLING. IT'LL BE HER BEST SHOT.

SHE'LL NEED TO PUT THE BARBARIAN THROUGH HIS PACES BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, SIRE. I'VE HEARD TALK THAT HE PUTS EVEN YOUR LUSTS TO SHAME.

HEH.







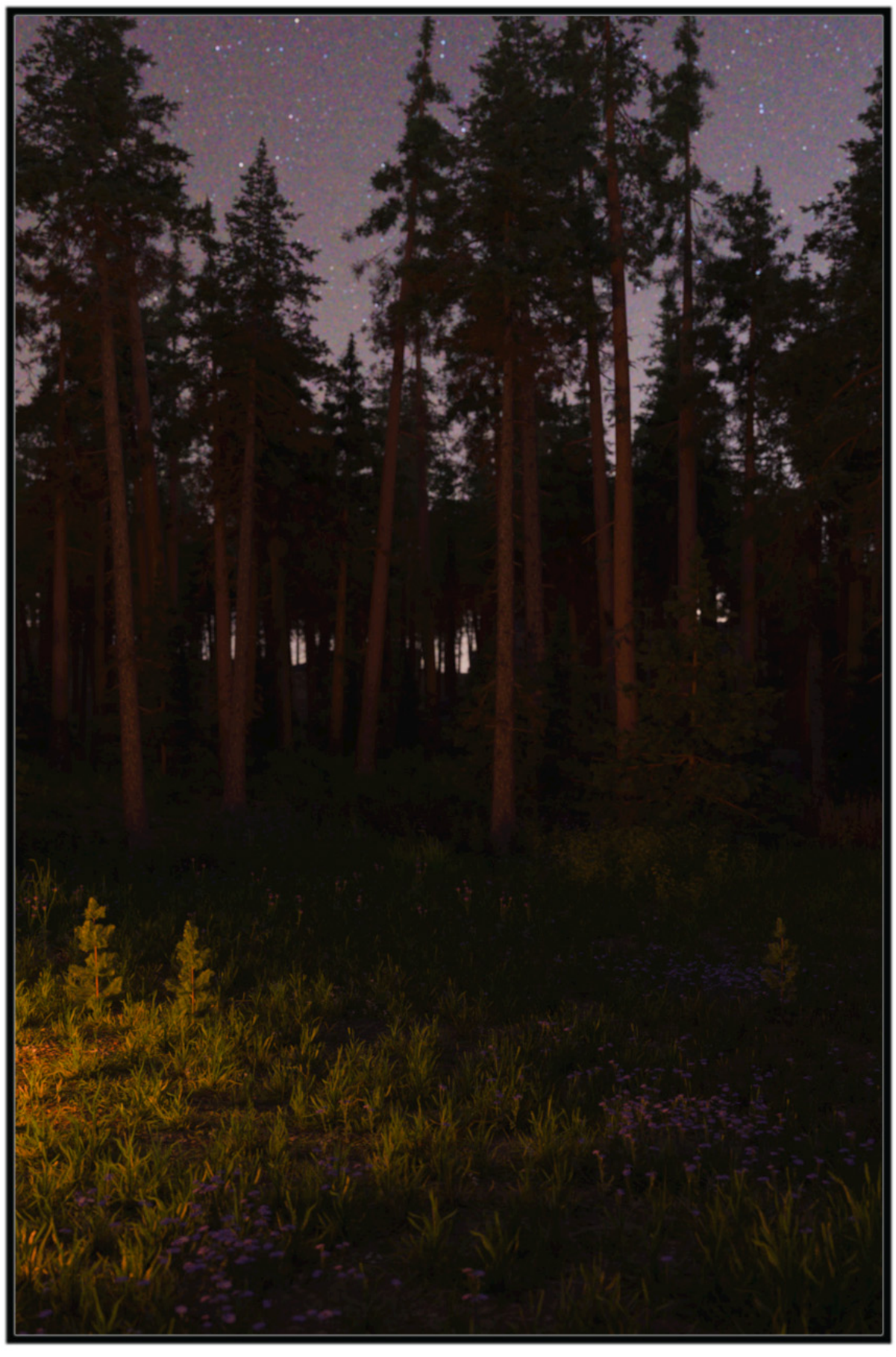





YOUR GRACE, I DON'T...

PERHAPS YOU'VE UNDERESTIMATED THE SIZE OF MY LUSTS, MINISTER...

CHAPTER 3














I HAVE A KNIFE, AT LEAST.




ALRIGHT, I JUST HAVE TO AVOID...

LANCE! YOU... YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. I WAS ALWAYS DECENT TO YOU, WASN'T I?

PRETTY LADY SMELLS SWEET!

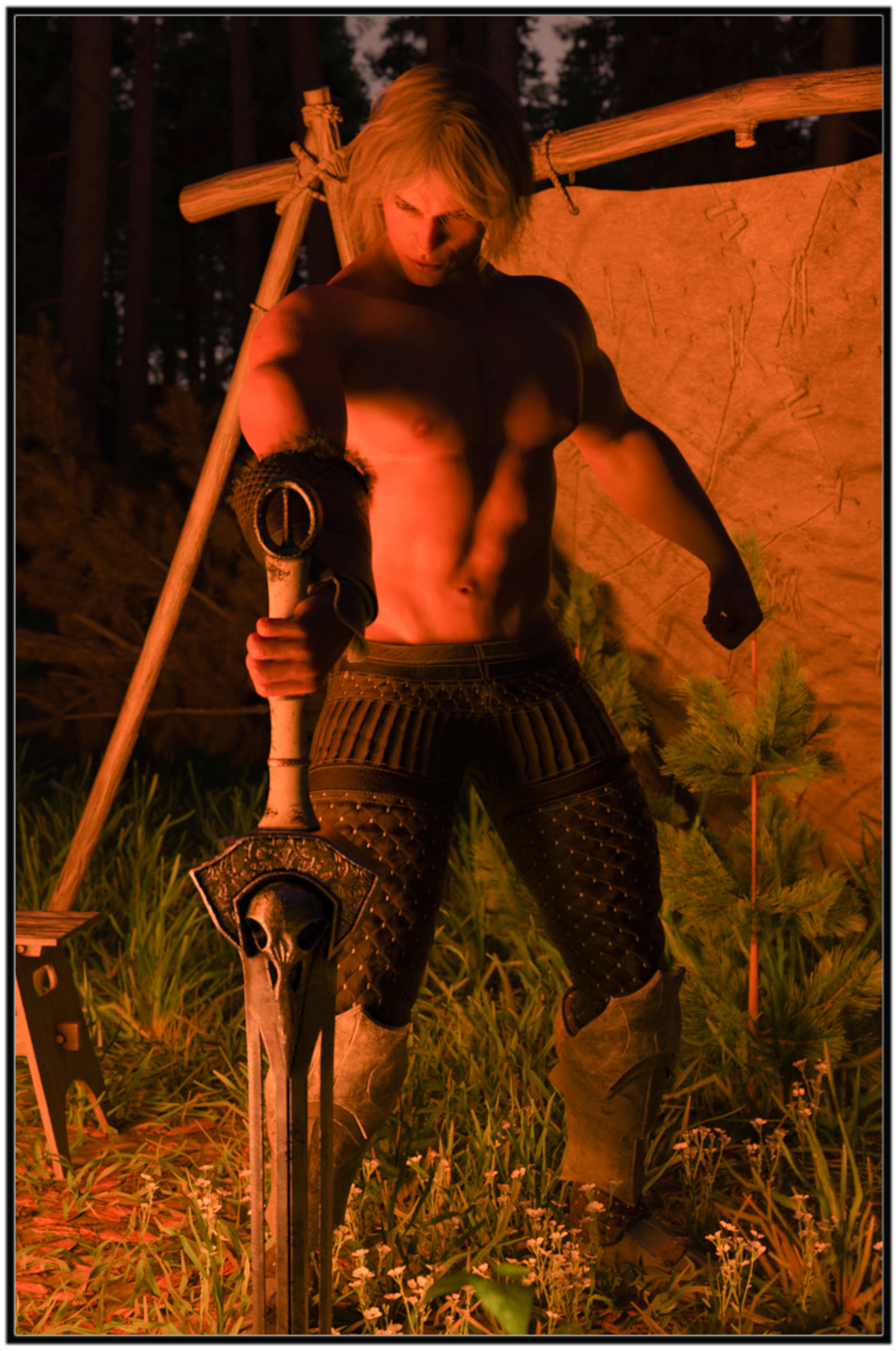
SLAM!

GRRR!

HELP! HELP ME!


HELP ME.
HELP!






IT WAS
TOO QUIET
ANYWAY.












GRAB!


NO!




PRETTY LADY MINE NOW!



I'LL MAKE A FINER DANCING PARTNER, SIR. NOW LET THE WENCH FREE.

BLADETHORN!

WOMAN MINE!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT. FIGHT ME FOR HER!

EEK!

COME ON, FELLA, LET'S GO.

BLACKASTLE!

WOMAN MINE!

YOU CANNOT STOP ME!

AND THEY CALL ME THE BARBARIAN.

PYTERION KNEW HER MISSION WAS TO KILL BLADETHORN, BUT NOW, HOLDING THE BLADE IN HER HAND, SHE HAD OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND. NAMELY, WERE SHE TO STAB THE HERO IN HIS BACK AND END THE FIGHT THERE AND THEN, SHE WOULD BE BE ALONE WITH LONGLANCE, HER FORMER STABLE BOY, AND HIS LONG LANCE.

LANCE HAD NEVER BEEN VERY BRIGHT, BUT THEY HAD DONE SOMETHING TO HIS BRAIN. SHE FEARED THAT BETWEEN THE BARBARIAN AND THE BRUTE, SHE'D NEVER RETURN TO BLACKASTLE.

"BEST SAVE THE DIRK FOR ONCE THE FIGHT IS OVER," SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF.


HAH! IT'S LIKE FIGHTING A CASTLE WALL!


TOO QUICK FOR YOU!
HAVE THIS!


PARDON ME, MY LADY.


TRY THAT AGAIN! I DARE YOU!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE KISS OF MY STEEL, BRIGAND?!

PYTERION COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WAS FEELING SO STRANGE.

WHERE THE NOTION OF SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH LONGLANCE FILLED HER WITH REVULSION AND TERROR, THE IDEA OF SPENDING THE SAME TIME WITH BLADETHORN MADE HER FEEL SAFE.

COMFORTABLE, EVEN.

THE THOUGHT OF HER TASK WAS SHRINKING IN HER MIND, REPLACED BY OTHER, MORE STRIKING FEELINGS.

SHE WASN'T SURE WHICH WAS MORE CONCERNING, THE FIGHT SHE WAS WITNESSING, OR THE FIGHT GOING ON WITHIN.

AS SHE BEGAN TO SETTLE INTO LETTING HER MIND AND IMAGINATION WANDER...

SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT FORCED HER TO INTERVENE!


THIS SHUT THAT DAMN MOUTH!


YOU LEAVE ME AND LADY...


YOU DIE NOW!


UGH!

I... I... I'M SORRY, LANCE.

UGH!

YOU KNOW, I HAD HIM EXACTLY WHERE I WANTED HIM.

REALLY? IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T *LOOK* LIKE IT!

WELL, PERHAPS HE DID HAVE THE UPPER HAND AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT.

AND MIGHT HAVE MADE MINCE-MEAT OF ME IF YOU HADN'T BEEN WAITING IN THE WINGS.

STANDING IN THE FIRELIGHT, SHE COULDN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE HOW HIS PERFECTLY GOLDEN SKIN WAS SHINING. HE HAD BEEN THE HERO OF A THOUSAND BATTLES, AND YET HE WAS COMPLETELY UNMARKED.

SHE COULDN'T STOP APPRECIATING THAT FACT. OR WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE... CAUSING HER GAZE TO LINGER? THE MAN HAD MADE A MOCKERY OF HER ON MANY OCCASIONS, AND NOW SHE WAS THE ONE WHO HAD SAVED HIM. HOW STRANGE!

SHE FELT GUILTY ABOUT KILLING LANCE, BUT THE BEHEMOTH HE HAD BECOME HARDLY SEEMED HUMAN, BARELY RESEMBLING THE SWEET LAD WHO HAD ONCE SERVED HER.

IN HER HEART, SHE HAD ***WANTED*** BLADETHORN TO TRIUMPH.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MISSION SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO CARRY OUT? IT WOULD BE SO EASY NOW. BLADETHORN WOULD NEVER SUSPECT...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SIT WITH ME BY THE FIRE, LADY...?

PRINCESS. PRINCESS LANA.

PRINCESS LANA? WELL, THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

AND YES, I THINK I WILL JOIN YOU.



CHAPTER 4

SIRE, I REALLY MUST PROTEST!

YOU CHOOSE TO PROTEST NOW? YOU CERTAINLY WEREN'T PROTESTING FIVE MINUTES AGO!

IF I CORRECTLY RECALL, IT WAS YOU WHO WAS URGING ME TO GO FURTHER... DEEPER.

YES, AND THAT'S WHY I MUST PROTEST!


WHY DID I *ENJOY* THAT SO MUCH?


I'M A PRACTICED FORNICATOR. I LIKE TO THINK OF LOVEMAKING AS AN ART.


THEN I MUST BE DEPRAVED.


I AM?


MINISTER CADOGAN, I HAVE HONORED YOU. REMEMBER THAT.
AND BESIDES, YOU'RE OVERLOOKING SOME VERY IMPORTANT DETAILS.

MY MAGIC DOESN'T SIMPLY CHANGE THE BODY. THAT WOULD BE TOO BLUNT, TOO RAW.

PYTERION WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RUN FIVE FEET BEFORE THE CHANGE OVERWHELMED HIM. HE WOULD HAVE PASSED OUT IN THIS VERY CHAMBER.

IMAGINE THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING LONGLANCE OFF HER.

GODS! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE. THUS, I HAVE TO CUSHION THE TRAUMA BY SUBTLY ALTERING THE TARGET'S SENSIBILITIES.

IT'S NOT THAT I MADE YOU WANT IT, IT'S THAT I MADE YOU CAPABLE OF WANTING IT.

I MUST CONFESS, THAT DOESN'T EASE MY MIND.

I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT MIGHT...

GODS...!

PYTERION WAS SURPRISED THAT BLADETHORNE TOOK THE TIME AND EFFORT TO BURY LONGLANCE. SHE DIDN'T THINK BARBARIANS HONORED THEIR FOES THE WAY CIVILIZED PEOPLE DID... CERTAINLY NOT AFTER THE WAY BLADETHORN HAD TREATED A DEFEATED PYTERION IN THE PAST.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED, IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE A FEW MOMENTS TO HERSELF. THE FOREST WAS SILENT, ASIDE FROM THE DISTANT ECHOES OF THE HERO'S EXERTIONS.

IN THE STILLNESS, AND WITH THE CRACKLING OF THE FIRE BESIDE HER, PYTERION HAD A CHANCE TO REFLECT ON THE CONFLICT INSIDE. SHE'D HAD THE CHANCE TO KILL BLADETHORN, BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO BRING HERSELF TO DO IT. WHAT'S MORE, SHE ACTED TO PREVENT BLADETHORN FROM BEING KILLED.

WHAT WAS FAR MORE DISCONCERTING WAS THE WAY SHE WAS COMPLETELY UNABLE TO AVOID GLANCING OVER AT HIM.

SHE REMINDED HERSELF THAT SHE HAD PLEDGED HER LIFE TO BLACKASTLE. IT WAS HER DUTY TO DO THE DEED AND DO IT QUICKLY. THERE WERE NO OTHER OPTIONS.

PUTTING AN END TO THE BARBARIAN WOULD ALSO PUT AN END TO HER TIME IN THIS TROUBLESOME FEMALE BODY.


THAT'S HIM BURIED DEEP ENOUGH TO KEEP THE DOGS OFF. BETTER THAN HE DESERVES, THE BRUTE.


CAN I OFFER YOU SOME WINE? IT'S NOT A GREAT STOCK, BUT IT'LL HELP KEEP YOU WARM.




YOU MAY CALL ME BLADETHORN, THOUGH THOSE WHO KNOW ME BEST CALL ME JAQ.


THAT WOULD DO NICELY, SIR.

JAQ? THE GENERAL HAD ONLY KNOWN THE HERO TO HAVE ONE NAME.

THOUGH A MOTHER WHO NAMED HER BABY "BLADETHORN" WAS NOT A GENEROUS ONE.

JAQ.

THAT WAS SOME FINE FIGHTING YOU DID BACK THERE, PRINCESS.

HOW IS IT YOU CAME TO BE RUNNING THROUGH THESE WOODS BY MY CAMP?

I WAS A CAPTIVE OF THE PRINCE.

HE CAST A SPELL ON ME. THE NEXT MOMENT I WAS RUNNING THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITH THAT GIANT ON MY TAIL.

THE PRINCE PLAYS CRUEL GAMES WITH PRISONERS, EVEN ROYAL ONES.

I'M SORRY FOR YOUR TROUBLE.

NOW! PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL PARTAKE OF MY GOBLET, AND TOAST TO YOUR UNMOLESTED HEALTH!

THAT'S THE BEST IDEA I'VE HEARD ALL NIGHT.

IT WAS PERFECT. THE HERO WAS LETTING HIS GUARD DOWN. ONCE IN HIS CUPS, HE WOULD BE AN EASY TARGET.

THE HOURS PASSED, AND THE WINE FLOWED. PYTERION FOUND HERSELF QUITE ENJOYING THE ROLE OF PRINCESS LANA.

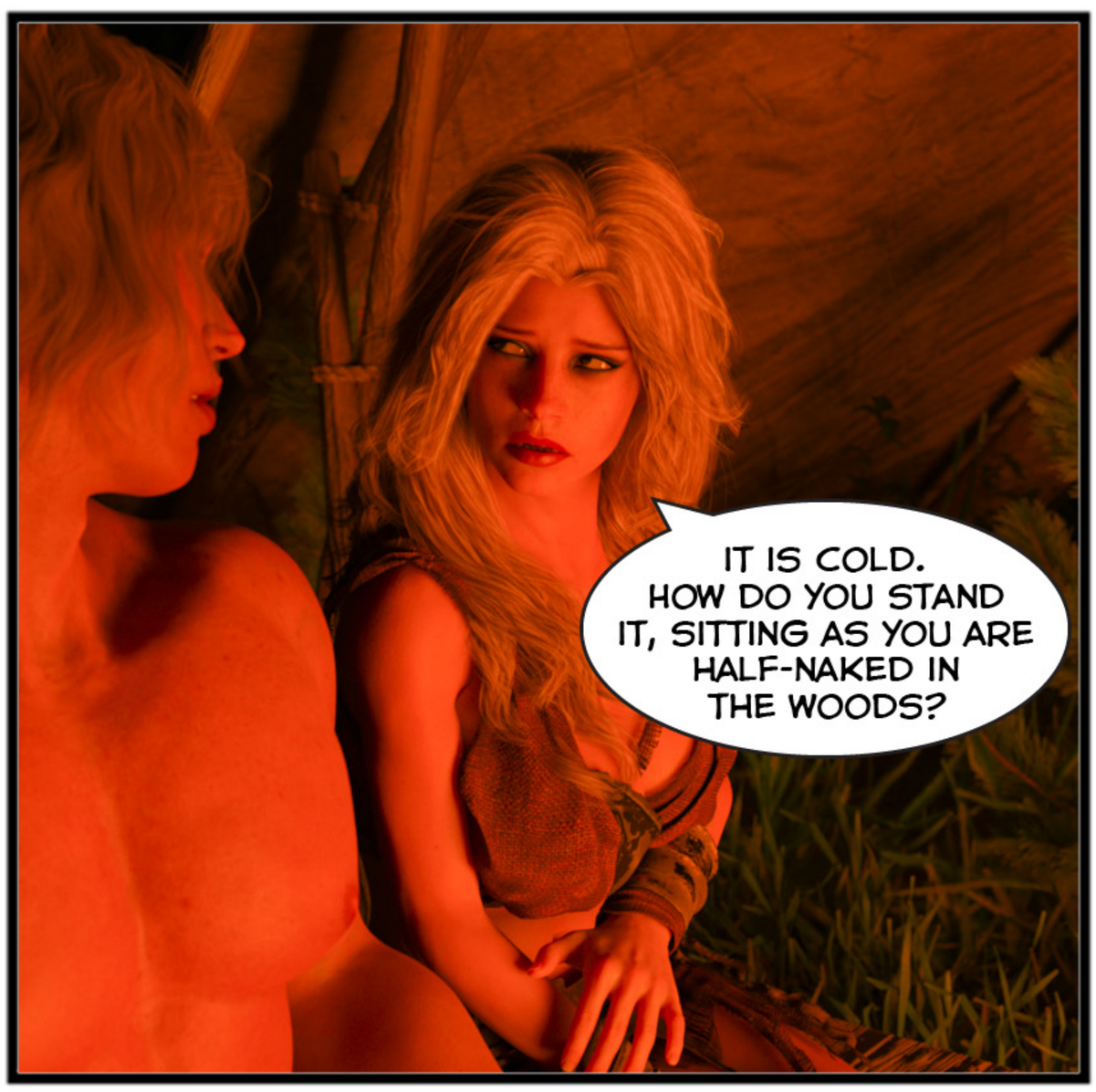
THERE HAD BEEN DRINKING IN THE BLACKASTLE, BUT NO MERRIMENT OR JAPES. SHE WAS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE LONE HERO ATTRACTED SO MANY PEOPLE TO HIS CAUSE.

HE WAS QUICK WITH A JOKE, GENEROUS WITH HIS COMPLIMENTS, AND A FINE STORYTELLER. SHE COULD SEE WHY THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED HIM AND NOT THE GRIM SPECTER THAT RULED THEM FROM THE DARK KEEP.

AND WHEN I AWOKE, I FOUND THE WOMAN I HAD TAKEN ABED WAS ACTUALLY THE MILLER'S WIFE.

AHAH HAHA!


YOU'RE SHIVERING.


IT IS COLD. HOW DO YOU STAND IT, SITTING AS YOU ARE HALF-NAKED IN THE WOODS?


IT'S WORTH THE COLD IF A FINE LADY LIKE YOU TAKES THE SLIGHTEST PLEASURE FROM MY PHYSIQUE.


I MENTIONED NOTHING OF PLEASURE, SIR. IT WAS MERELY AN OBSERVATION.


WELL, THE SIMPLE TRICK IS TO NOT MIND THAT IT'S COLD.


THOUGH THERE IS A MORE JOYFUL WAY TO WARM THE BODY.


IF YOU'RE COLD, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND SOME HALF-NAKED HERO TO WARM YOU UP.










WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?




HAVE YOU EVER MADE LOVE TO A MAN?


HULLO, WHAT'S THIS?
LOOKS LIKE A BODKIN.


NO, I THINK NOT.

A SHARP BLADE FROM THE BLACKASTLE.

OH. DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS.

NOW THAT YOU'RE WITH ME, YOU WON'T NEED THIS ANY LONGER.

BETTER TO DISPOSE OF IT BEFORE YOU HURT SOMEONE.

TAKE A BREATH. IT'S OVER. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

NOW, PRINCESS, WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO WARM YOU UP?

I... UH...

I THINK I NEED TO...

JAQ...







THE BEST DEFENSES CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO KEEP THEM.

PYTERION FELT THE RUSH OF DELIGHT AND PEAK OF AROUSAL AS SHE GAVE IN TO HIS ADVANCES.

DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS. I'LL BE GENTLE.

WITHOUT THE BLADE, HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY FINISH HER MISSION?

AS LONG AS YOU WANT ME TO BE GENTLE.

DID SHE EVEN WANT TO?

CHAPTER 5




HOW DID IT COMPARE, THEN?


YOUR GRACE?


YOU'VE HAD SEX NOW AS A MAN, AND AS A WOMAN.




I AM INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES.

SPEAK FREELY.

YOUR GRACE, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. I...

IF I MUST.

OF COURSE YOU MUST.

IT IS MY COMMAND.

THEN OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.


IT BEGINS LIKE AN ACHE...


BUT IT SOON TURNS INTO AN URGENT NEED.


YOUR HEART STARTS TO BEAT FASTER AND FASTER, LIKE A DRUM THUNDERING IN YOUR EARS.


YOUR THOUGHTS FOCUS FULLY ON YOUR PURPOSE.


ON ONE PURPOSE.


YOUR PUSSY DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'LL EVER BE RIGHT AGAIN UNLESS YOU GIVE IN TO THE FEELING AND FILL IT UP.









IT FEELS LIKE A LITTLE BOLT OF SHOCK AS YOU'RE FIRST ENTERED.

IT'S TRULY STARTLING, AND THERE'S AN INSURMOUNTABLE PRESSURE.

UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'D EVER DREAMED YOU MIGHT FEEL.

THE COCK SLIDING BACK AND FORTH... THE WEIGHT OF HIM PRESSING DOWN...

IT FEELS LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE THERE.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE A FLOWER OPENING AND CLOSING...

UP AND DOWN.

UP AND DOWN...

VERY POWERFUL.


YOUR BLOOD IS PUMPING SO HARD.


YOU CAN THINK OF NAUGHT ELSE.


YOUR ONLY FOCUS IS ON THE WARM FEELING WASHING OVER YOU, EMANATING FROM BETWEEN YOUR LEGS.


IT'S LIKE LYING ON THE BEACH, WITH THE WAVES LAPPING AT YOU.


SMALL AT FIRST, BUT THEY BUILD AND BUILD.

HAVING YOUR HAIR TUGGED.

HAVING YOUR ARSE SLAPPED.

IT JUST MAKES YOU FEEL SO NAUGHTY.

AND SEXY...

AND BEAUTIFUL ALL AT ONCE.


THEN IT HAPPENS.


IT'S LIKE YOU'VE CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN.


BUOYED UP ON THE RISING TORRENT OF PLEASURE.


ONCE YOU REACH THE SUMMIT...


THE WARM FEELING EXPLODES!


ELECTRICITY RUSHING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.


FROM YOUR HEAD TO YOUR FEET.


CRASHING DOWN AGAIN...


AND AGAIN...

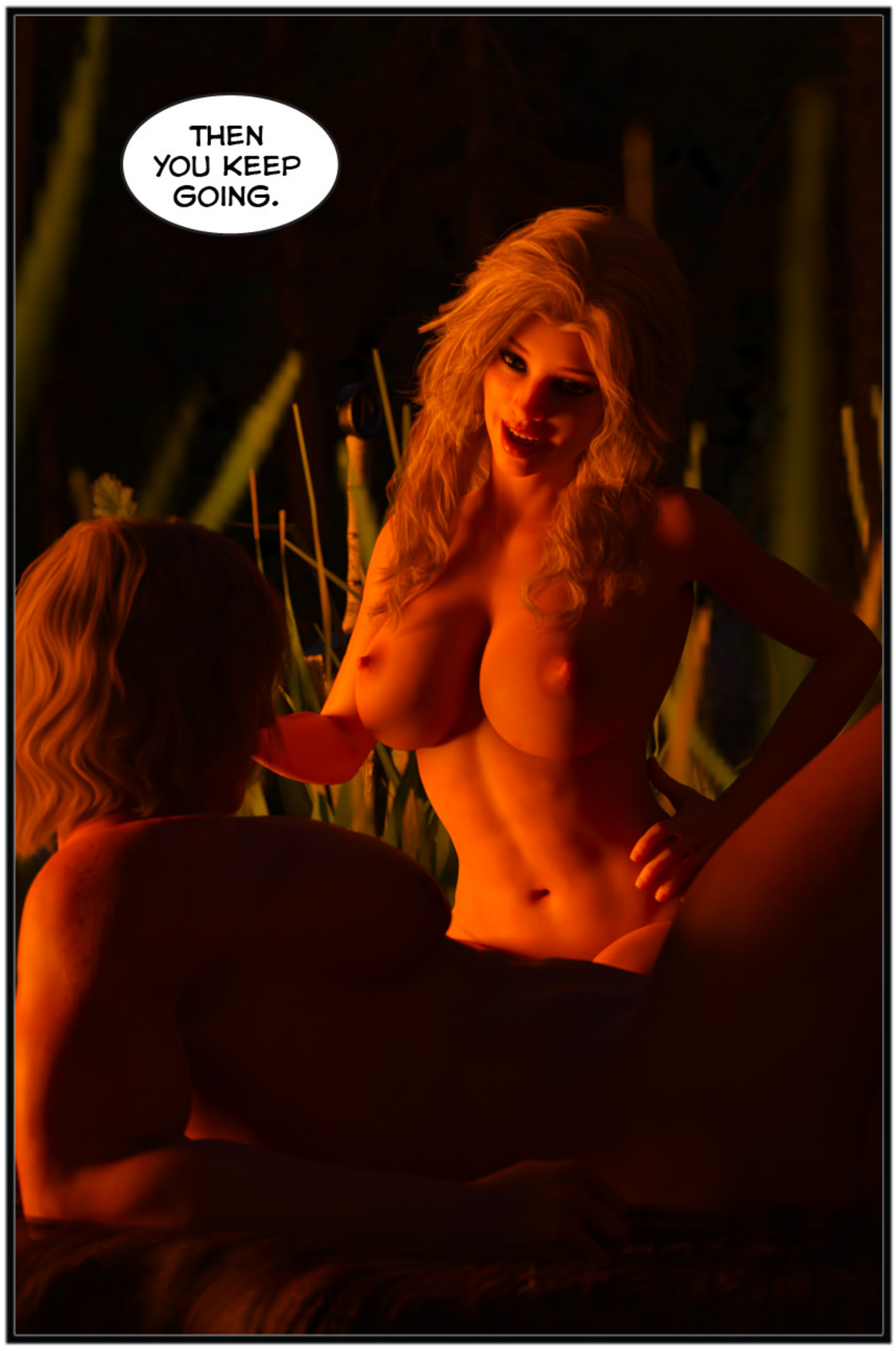

AND AGAIN...


AND AGAIN...

YOU LOSE YOUR MIND FOR A SECOND.

BEAUTIFUL BLISS.

TRULY.


THEN YOU KEEP GOING.


YOU STRAP YOURSELF BACK ON.


WITH DOUBLED EFFORTS, BRINGING YOUR LOVER CLOSER AND HARDER AGAINST YOU.


NOT BECAUSE YOU CAN...

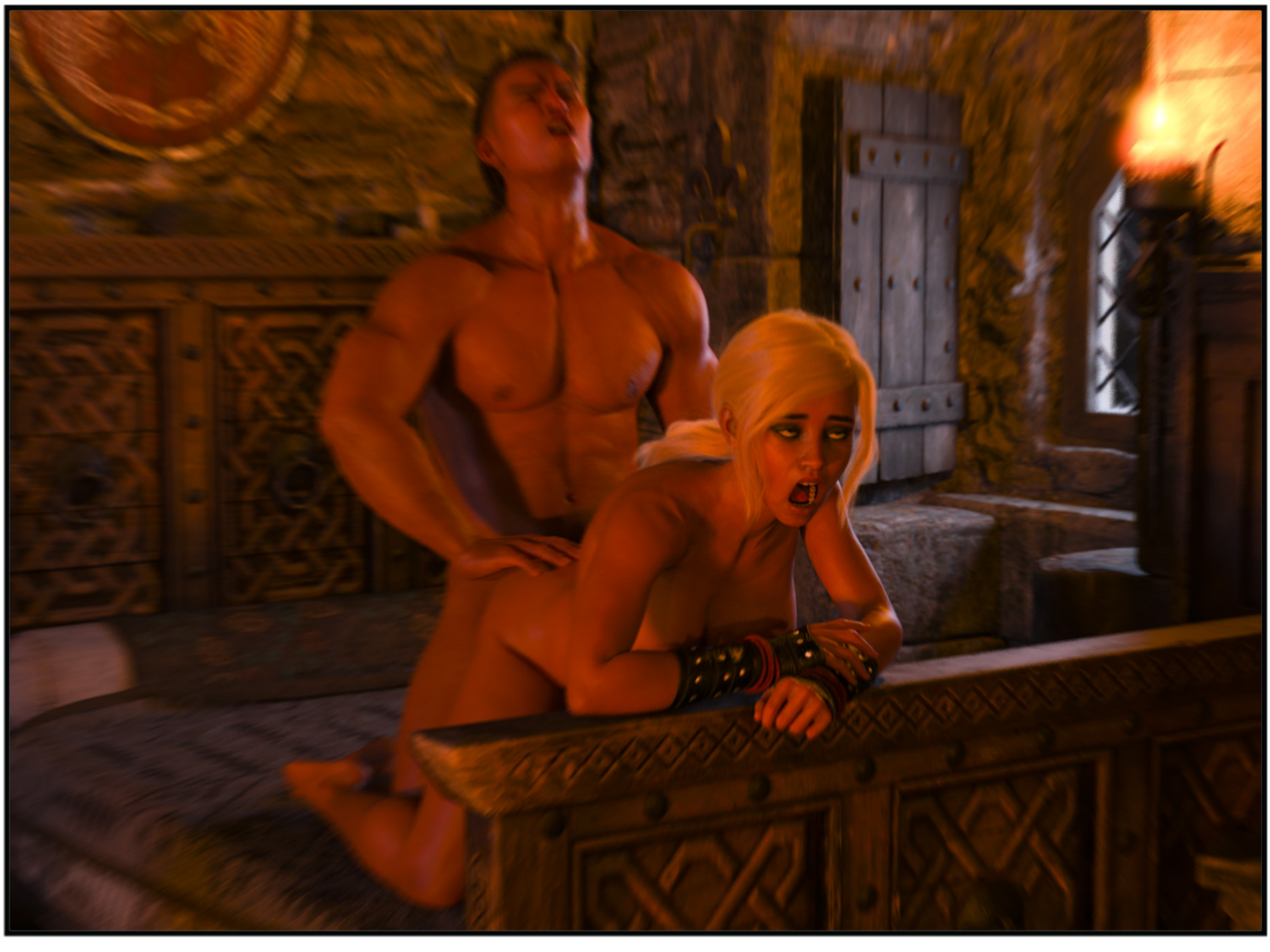
BUT BECAUSE YOU NEED TO.

CADOGAN, YOU HAVE THE SOUL OF A POET.

THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE.

I DEMAND THAT YOU GIVE ME ANOTHER IN-PERSON DEMONSTRATION!









CHAPTER 6




HMM?




SHIT.


SHIT,
INDEED.

ALRIGHT, LAST NIGHT WAS FUN. BUT STAYING UP TO MAKE SURE MY THROAT STAYED CLOSED WAS NOT.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT? I'M PRINCESS...

IF YOU'RE A PRINCESS, THEN I'M KING OF HIGHMORE.

I'VE MET PRINCESS LANA. SHE'S LOVELY.

AND GRACEFUL. REFINED, EVEN.

YOU ARE NOT PRINCESS LANA.

THOUGH, I CAN'T DECIDE WHO WAS BETTER IN THE SACK...




SPEAK!


I WORK FOR PRINCE ASZOHLE. HE'S AWARE OF YOUR WEAKNESS FOR WOMEN.
AS A PUNISHMENT, HE TURNED ME INTO A GIRL AND SENT ME TO KILL YOU.


I KNEW IT.


BUT YOU TREATED ME SO KINDLY! I COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.

I SUPPOSE THE MONSTER WAS YOURS, TOO?

THE MONSTER...

I HAVE NO DOUBT OF THAT, AT LEAST.

THE DANGER WAS REAL. THE PRINCE SAW TO THAT.

I'M SURE A FEW NIGHTS WITH THAT BEAST WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAR GREATER PUNISHMENT THAN THAT BODY.

THE PRINCE IS CRUEL. BUT THAT BODY IS DIVINE. YOU WOULD MAKE A FINE WIFE FOR A LORD. OR YOU COULD SELL YOUR WARES IN A PLEASURE HOUSE ON THE FAIR ISLES.

I DON'T WANT...

I DON'T WANT THAT.

NOR DO I WISH TO RETURN TO HIS SERVICE.

THE ANSWER IS NO. I WORK ALONE.

BUT, SIR... LAST NIGHT. IT WAS A REVELATION.

THE WAY YOU MADE ME FEEL NAUGHT BUT PLEASURE... EVEN BEFORE YOU TOOK ME ABED.

BLADETHORN... JAQ. I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY THE PEOPLE RALLY BEHIND YOU.

NOT OUT OF FEAR OF THE PRINCE.

BUT BECAUSE THEY LOVE YOU.

IF I TAKE YOU INTO MY SERVICE, THERE WILL BE NO TRUST.

I UNDERSTAND.

UNLESS, YOU TAKE A MAGIC VOW.

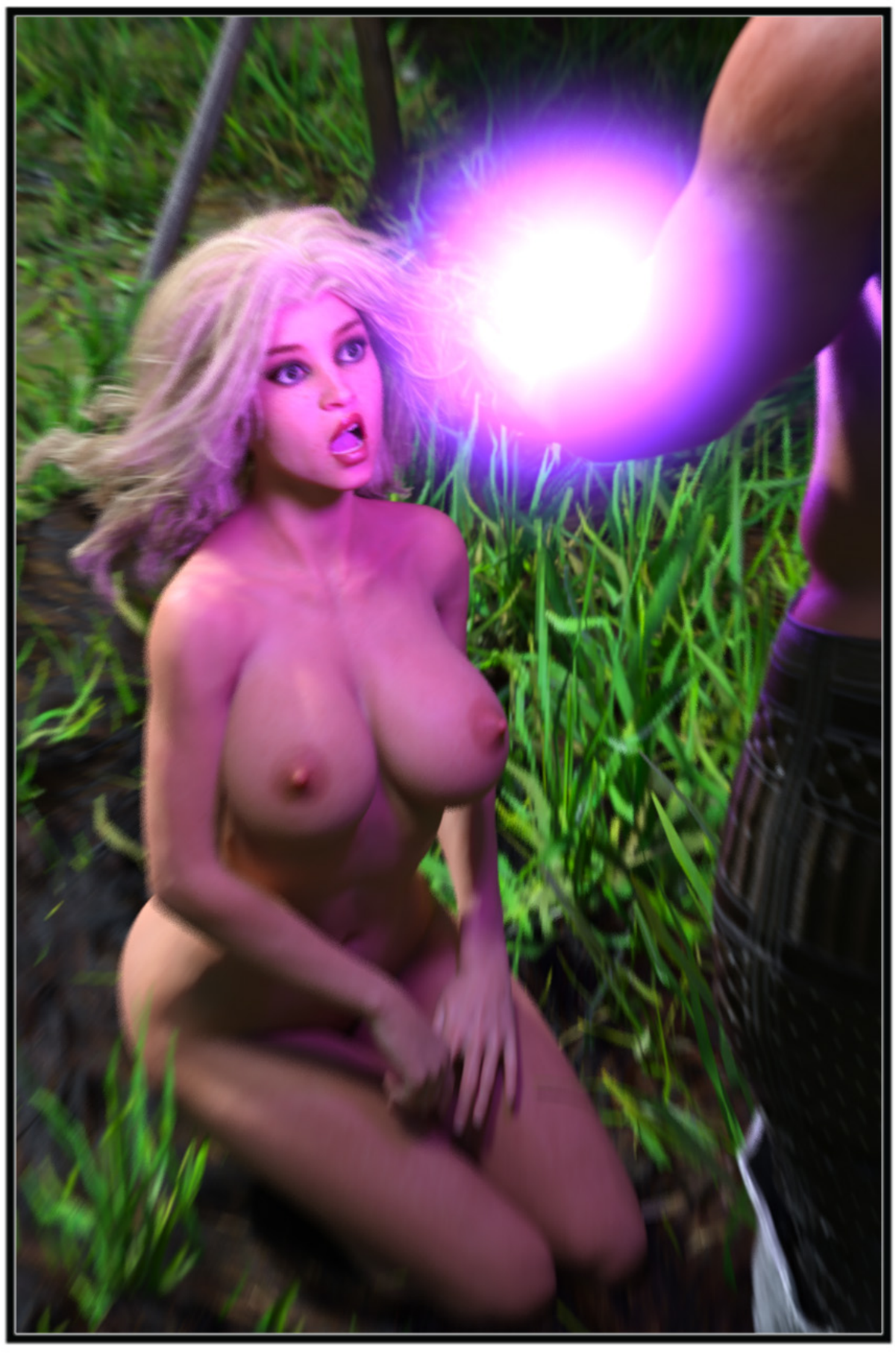
I WILL, IF IT PLEASES YOU.

WELL THEN, MY LADY, YOU MAY ACCOMPANY ME, SHARE IN MY VICTORIES AND DEFEATS, AND MY BED IF YOU DESIRE.

EVEN IF IT'S BUT A PILE OF LEAVES IN THE FOREST.

THEN KNEEL BEFORE ME, AS I SUMMON THE MAGIC.






ARE YOU READY?

SWEAR THAT YOU CANNOT LIE TO ME AGAIN, THAT YOU WILL BE TRUE.

SWEAR TO DEFEND THE WEAK AND HELP THE INNOCENT.

I SWEAR.

AND SWEAR TO LOVE SUCKING MY COCK EVERY NIGHT...

WHAT?!

NOT REALLY.

THOUGH YOU WILL.

I SWEAR.

AND SWEAR YOU WILL NEVER RAISE ARMS AGAINST ME AGAIN, OR PARTICIPATE IN A PLOT TO HARM ME.

UNDER PENALTY OF TORTURE, STAND AND BE RECEIVED.

AS YOU CAN NO LONGER CONCEAL ANYTHING FROM ME, I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR TRUE NAME.

PY... TER...

PYTERION.

PYTERION? AS IN GENERAL PYTERION THE BLACK?! THEN THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE DUELED, MY LORD.

NO... INDEED NOT.

YOU MAKE A FINE WOMAN, GENERAL, THOUGH YOU SHALL NOT CARRY THAT TITLE WITH ME.

I UNDERSTAND.

ONE MORE QUESTION.

DID YOU ENJOY LAST NIGHT AS MUCH AS IT SEEMED?

YES!

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE HAD THIS IDEA A LONG TIME AGO...

THIS IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN BEING SURROUNDED BY UGLY OLD MEN.

THANK YOU, SIRE.

AND WHAT OF PYTERION? DID HE ACCOMPLISH HIS TASK?

I'VE BEEN TOO DISTRACTED TO CHECK UP ON HIM.

OR DID LONGLANCE GET HIS SHARE?

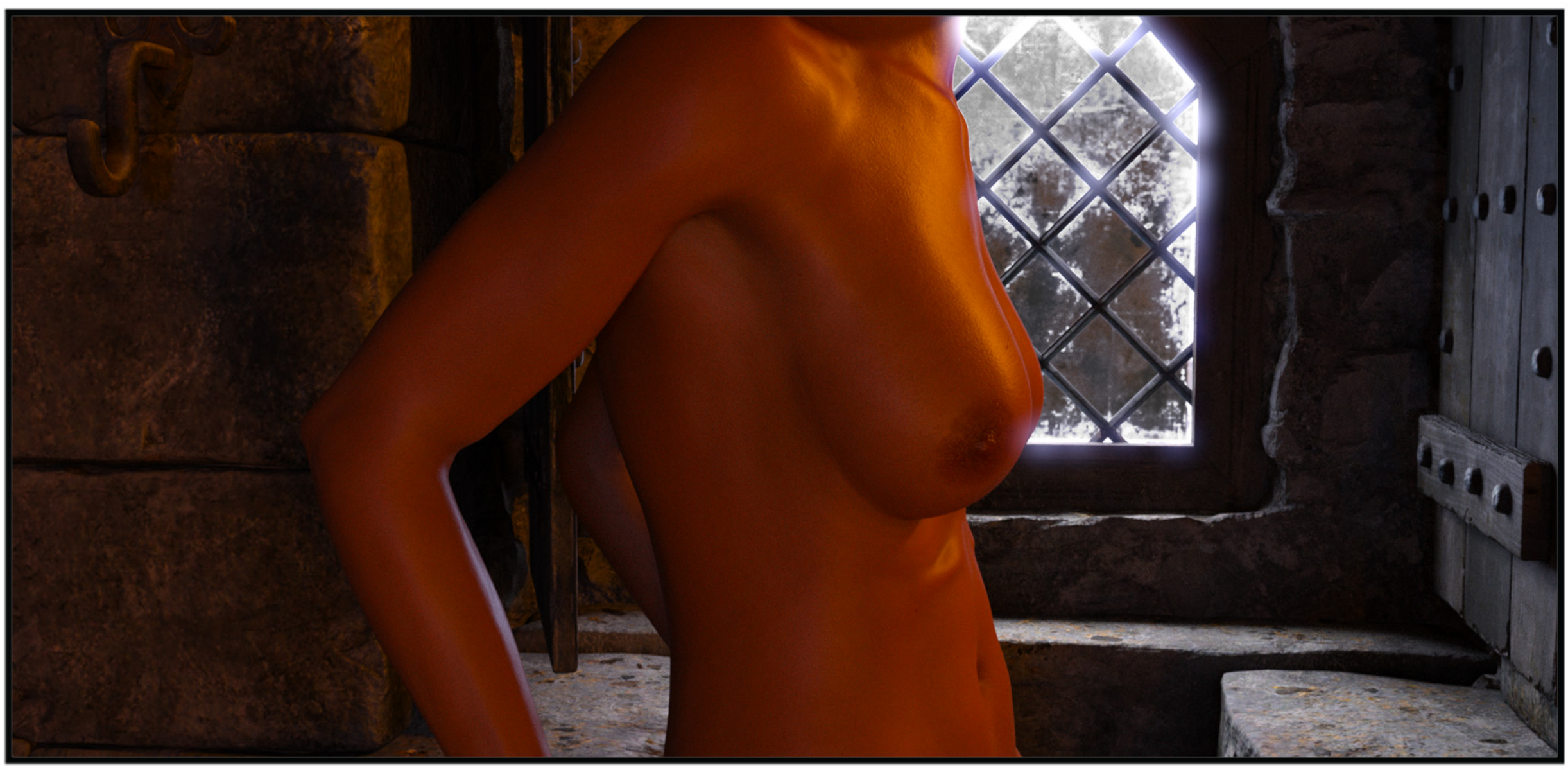
APPARENTLY NOT, SIRE. IT APPEARS HE'S NOW TRAVELING IN BLADETHORN'S SERVICE.

OH, FANTASTIC. TRUST PYTERION TO FUCK UP AGAIN. SEND A MAN TO DO A WOMAN'S WORK...


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?


I'M GOING TO SEND A PRINCE TO DO A PRINCESS'S WORK.





THE PRINCE HAD ONCE AGAIN BEEN DEFEATED AS PYTERION ENTERED THE SERVICE OF THE HERO BLADETHORN.

WHILE NO GREAT EVIL HAD BEEN VANQUISHED, NOR ANY POWER OF EVIL WEAKENED, THE PEACE OF THE FOREST CONTINUED... FOR A TIME, AT LEAST.

THE TWO WENT ON TO HAVE MANY GREAT ADVENTURES.

AND THE PRINCE?

NO MATTER WHAT FORM HE TOOK, HE REMAINED AN ASZOHLE.

THANK YOU!

FROM A GENUINE PLACE IN
MY HEART I WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR PURCHASING THIS COMIC.

SUPPORTING MY ART IN THIS
WAY ALLOWS ME TO CONTINUE
TO PRODUCE FREE COMICS, AND
IMPROVE MY SKILLS TO MAKE
EVEN BETTER STUFF NEXT TIME.

IT'S VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

TOM