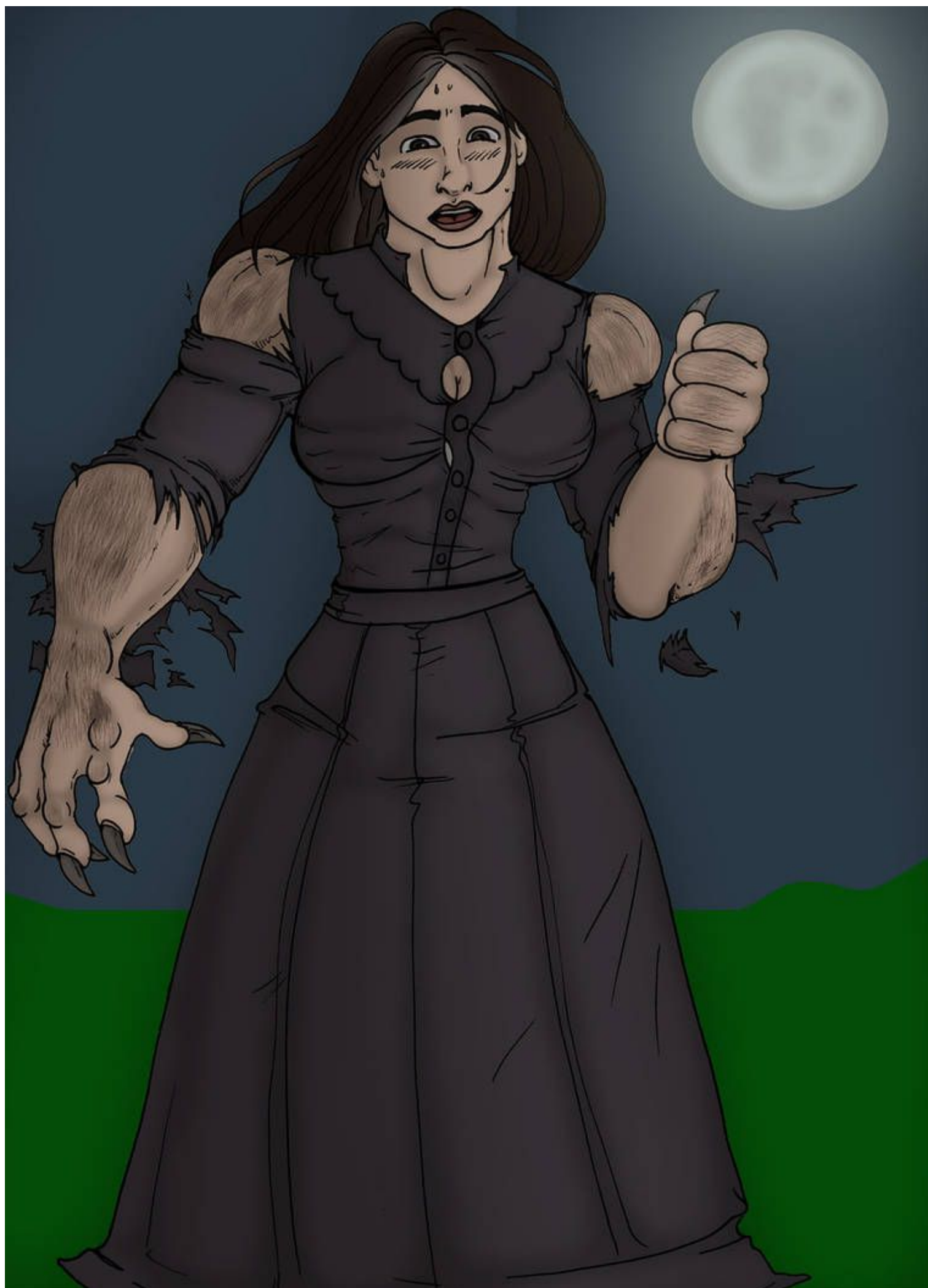




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Mary Todd Lincoln

IT WAS JUST A FEW NIGHTS AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION, AND THE KILLER HAD YET TO BE CAUGHT WHEN I FOUND MYSELF IN A TERRIBLE FRAME OF MIND, CONSIDERING THINGS THAT I HAD FORBIDDEN MYSELF FROM THINKING A LONG TIME AGO. IT HAD NOT BEEN A CONSCIOUS CHOICE THAT I LEFT MYSELF UNRESTRAINED AND SET OFF INTO THE WOODS, NEAR WHERE HE HAD LAST BEEN SEEN. AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT I TOLD MYSELF. BUT NONETHELESS, I DID NOT CARE. I HAD LOST ALMOST EVERYTHING... AND IF THIS... THIS CURSE COULD BE PUT TO A GOOD USE... TO AVENGE HIS DEATH... THEN SO BE IT.



I FOUND MYSELF IN A CLEARING JUST AS THE MOON CRESTED THE TREES.



AND I BRACED MYSELF FOR THE COMING NIGHTMARE. I TOOK DOWN MY HAIR IN PREPARATION.



AS THE FIRST WAVE OF FAMILIAR PAIN HIT ME, I BRACED MYSELF AGAINST A TREE. THE BEAST WAS A PART OF ME AFTER ALL - I KNEW THAT NOW - HOPEFULLY IT WOULD TAKE ON MY MENTAL CHARGE AND HUNT THE MURDERER DOWN.

BUT AS THE PAIN BEGAN TO FILL ME, FEAR GRIPPED MY HEART. WHAT WAS I DOING? HOW COULD I TRUST IT? WHAT IF IT WERE TO HURT OTHERS - INNOCENTS??

BUT AS I STARED AT MY HAND BEGINING TO POP AND CONTORT - ALWAYS THE FIRST SIGN THAT THE CHANGE WAS UPON ME - I KNEW IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE MY MIND.

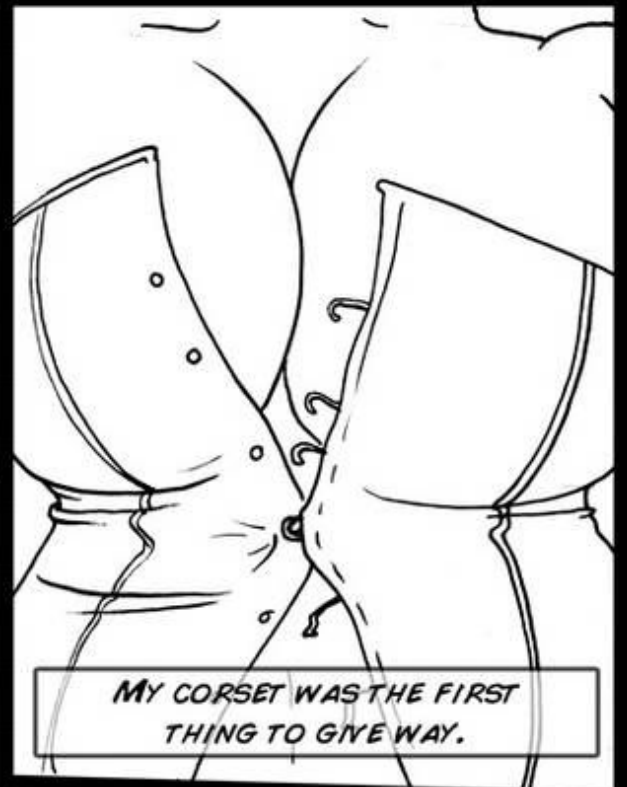


I WATCHED IN HORROR - BUT NOT SURPRISE - AS MY HANDS CHANGED INTO BESTIAL THINGS WITH CLAWS THAT TORE DEEP GOUGES INTO THE TREE.





**AND I BEGAN TO FEEL MY WHOLE
BODY TIGHTENING AND SWELLING,
MY BLACK MOURNING DRESS BEING
PULLED TIGHT ACROSS MY BODY,
BARELY ABLE TO HOLD THE
BUILDING MUSCLES.**



**MY CORSET WAS THE FIRST
THING TO GIVE WAY.**



**AND THEN THE BUTTON OF MY
COLLAR...**



**AND THEN THE SEAMS
OF MY DRESS AT THE
SLEEVES POPPED
OPEN AS MY
SHOULDERS
BROADENED AND
GREW.**

AND I COULD ONLY
WATCH AS MY ARMS
SUDDENLY WENT
THROUGH A SPURT
OF GROWTH,
TEARING THROUGH
THE ONCE-LOOSE
SLEEVES.

I WAS NO LONGER A
YOUNG WOMAN, BUT THE
CHANGE - THE WOLF -
DIDN'T SEEM TO NOTICE OR
CARE. IT WAS RESHAPING
ME INTO A POWERFUL
MONSTER THAT KNEW NO
AGE.



BUT I DO NOT KNOW
HOW LONG MY AGING
BODY WILL BE ABLE TO
KEEP UNDERGOING THE
STRESS OF THE
CHANGES.

*THE FRONT OF MY DRESS POPPED OPEN,
REVEALING MY BROKEN CORSET. I CLENCHED
MY TEETH TO RIDE THE PAIN.*



*BUT THE PAIN WAS EVERYWHERE NOW... IN
MY TOSO, IN MY FEET AS THEY PINCHED IN
THE POINTED TOES OF MY BOOTS.*



*THE BACK OF MY DRESS SOON FOLLOWED
SUIT, MATCHING THE FRONT.*



*AND I COULD FEEL THE CHANGES EDGING IN
ON MY FACE NOW - MY TEETH... MY EARS...*

EVERY MOVE NOW SEEMED TO SEND MORE
PIECES OF MY DRESS TEARING AWAY FROM
MY MONSTROUS FRAME. I NO LONGER
FELT HUMILIATION AS MY BOSOMS WERE
EXPOSED TO THE NIGHT AIR - I HAD BEEN
DOWN THIS ROAD MANY TIMES BEFORE.



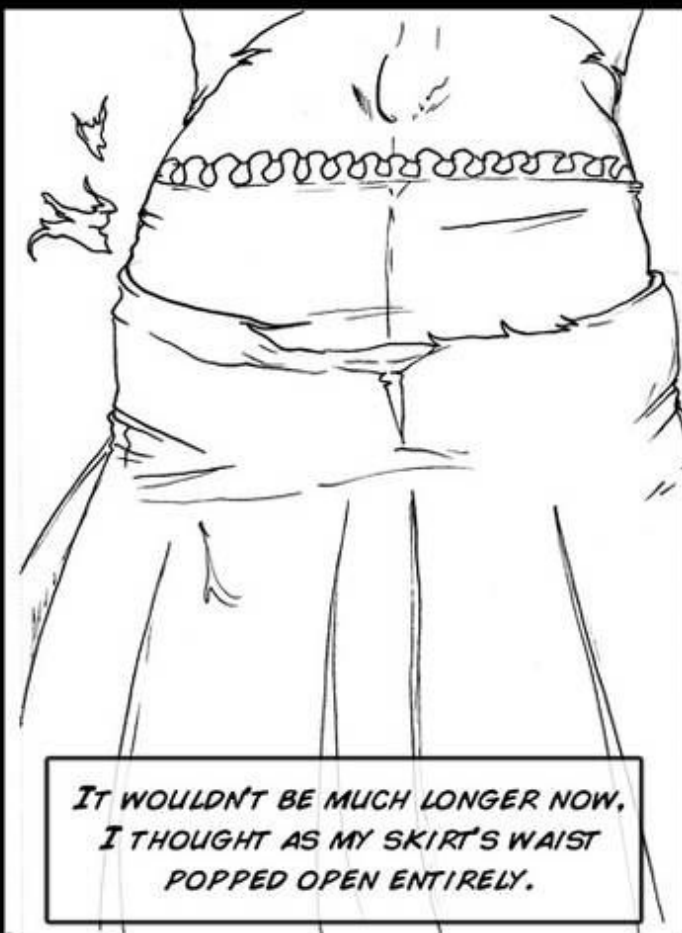
MY FEET - BESTIAL PAWS NOW - COMPLETED
THEIR CHANGE AND TORE THROUGH MY WALKING
BOOTS. THEY WOULD BE MORE USEFUL LIKE THIS
THAN THE FINEST SHOE IN CARRYING ME ON MY
HUNT OF VENGEANCE TONIGHT.



THE TOP OF MY SKIRT BEGAN TO TEAR
NOW AT MY WIDENING TORSO,
REVEALING GLIMPSES OF MY
UNDERCLOTHING.



ANOTHER SURGE OF
GROWTH.. I LEANED
TO THE TREE AGAIN
FOR SUPPORT...



*IT WOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER NOW,
I THOUGHT AS MY SKIRT'S WAIST
POPPED OPEN ENTIRELY.*



*TONIGHT, I ALMOST WELCOMED THE BEAST
- NOT ONLY IN ITS CAPABILITIES TO CARRY
OUT MY REVENGE... BUT ALSO STEALING THE
PAIN FROM ME - SENDING ME INTO BLACK
OBLIVION AS IT TOOK OVER. FOR A NIGHT, I
WOULD NOT HURT.*



*TONIGHT I WOULD BE THE ONE
CAUSING THE PAIN.*



*MY NEW TAIL WAS ALMOST WAGGING IN THE
DARK ANTICIPATION.*

*A PART OF ME KNEW THAT THESE DARK THOUGHTS AND ANTICIPATION WAS JUST THE BEAST
ALREADY EXERTING ITS INFLUENCE INTO MY MIND. BUT I DID NOT CARE. TONIGHT, I WASN'T
FIGHTING THEM. I WAS FEEDING THEM.*





AND AS I COULD FEEL IT TAKING
OVER, I DIDN'T FIGHT IT...



INSTEAD, I CONCENTRATED EVERY OUNCE OF MY WILL ON
THE ANGER I FELT AND THE FACE OF MY HUSBAND'S
KILLER. BURNING THAT MEMORY INTO MY MIND'S EYE.



VISUALIZED
SINKING MY TEETH
INTO HIM... MY
CLAWS....

ROOOOAAAR!





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