

“Full of humor and heart.”  
—RAINBOW ROWELL, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eleanor and Park*

# NIMONA



NOELLE STEVENSON



# CHAPTER 1









# CHAPTER 2







We could do with some more general chaos. I'm talking fire everywhere.

We'll murder the king in front of everyone. Then you crown yourself the new King.

And since sir Goldenloin is sure to try and stop us, I'll disguise myself to get close to him and take him out before he even knows what's happening.



No. That is not how I work.



There's no profit in assassination or pointless violence. There are rules, Nimona.



What do you mean, there are rules? why would you follow the rules?



Isn't that the whole point of being a villain, that you don't follow the rules?



can I at least kill Goldenloin? The one guy who keeps ruining all your plans?



No. If anyone's going to kill him...

It's going to be me.





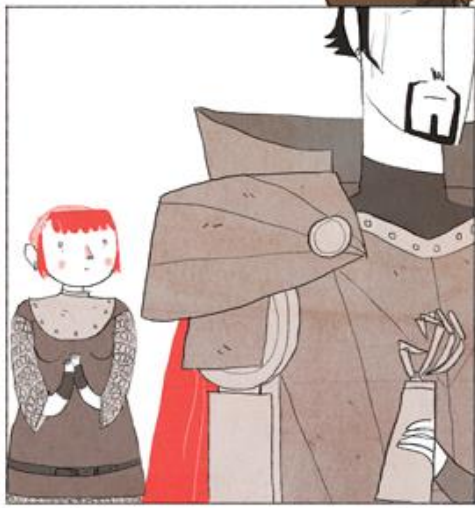
We'd never been pitted  
against each other before.







He always claimed it was an accident.  
No one could prove otherwise.



Turns out that the Institute had no use for a one-armed hero. I took the only other viable option.

Are you kidding? you got the boot for his shitty attitude?

And now they've got you locked into a system where you can't win! Doesn't that make you mad?

It's not about winning. It's about proving a point.

you don't need to prove a point. You need to destroy them.

As I said, Nimona, I go by the rules. Not their rules. Mine.

If it makes you feel better, I think your arm is pretty cool.  
Thank you.



# CHAPTER 3







Goldenloin! I should've known you'd show up!



Why are you still surprised after all this time?

shhh



I see you have a squire now! How nice for you, Ballister.



Ambrosius, this is my new sidekick, Nimona.

YEAH AND YOU'RE GOING DOWN GOLDENLOIN!



Well she's certainly... Spunky.

Oh yeah I'll show you spunky, fancy man



can I kill him now?

No.



charming.

she grows on you.

























wait! Nimona is still in there!

she'll be fine! I'm sure she'll turn into a turtle or something!











LIVE

EXPLOSION AT LABORATORY

... is believed to be the work of renowned supervillain Ballister Blackheart. The number of casualties has not yet been confirmed...



INCOMING CALL

(( [icon] ))

CHIEF OFFICER

Institution of Law Enforcement & Heroics



some heist you pulled today, Blackheart.

What do you want?



The body count seems... Uncharacteristic of you.

It didn't go according to plan.



you don't say.

Have they found any survivors yet?



Your sidekick? she didn't make it out. we made sure of that.



Then it was your people who set off the self-destruct!

we reacted to a potential threat.



she was just a kid!

That's none of our concern.







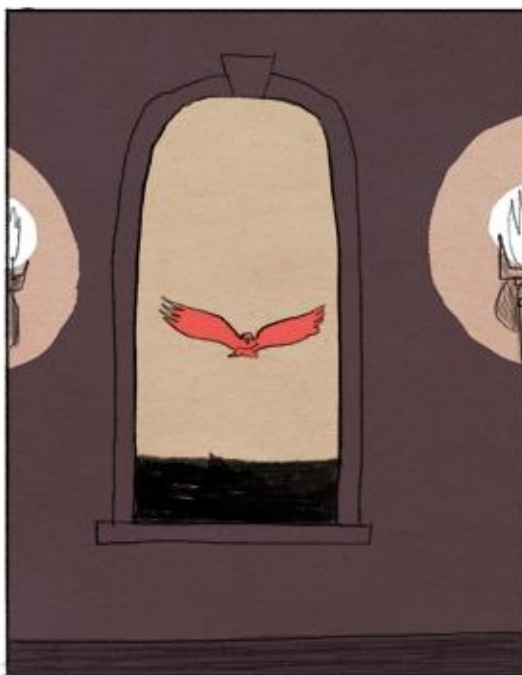




CHAPTER 4











you went against the plan and made a mess of things!



you almost got yourself killed!

you almost got ME killed!



No offense, but YOUR plan was just gonna end with us getting arrested. I like mine more.



People died in that explosion! Did you even think about that?

we're villains! Villains kill people sometimes!



Killing solves nothing, Nimona.

It's vulgar, it's messy -

If you're going to kill someone, you'd better be sure. you'd better be prepared to accept responsibility.

So I don't kill people just because they're in my way.















I lived with my parents in a tiny village.  
You know, super normal and boring stuff.



But we were always getting attacked  
by the raiders from the west.



I wanted to fight them,  
but I was only six, and  
there wasn't a lot I could do.



They'd come without warning,  
pillaging and burning everything.



Then one day I was gathering  
berries in the woods when I came  
across a hole in the ground.



Hey! You okay  
down there?









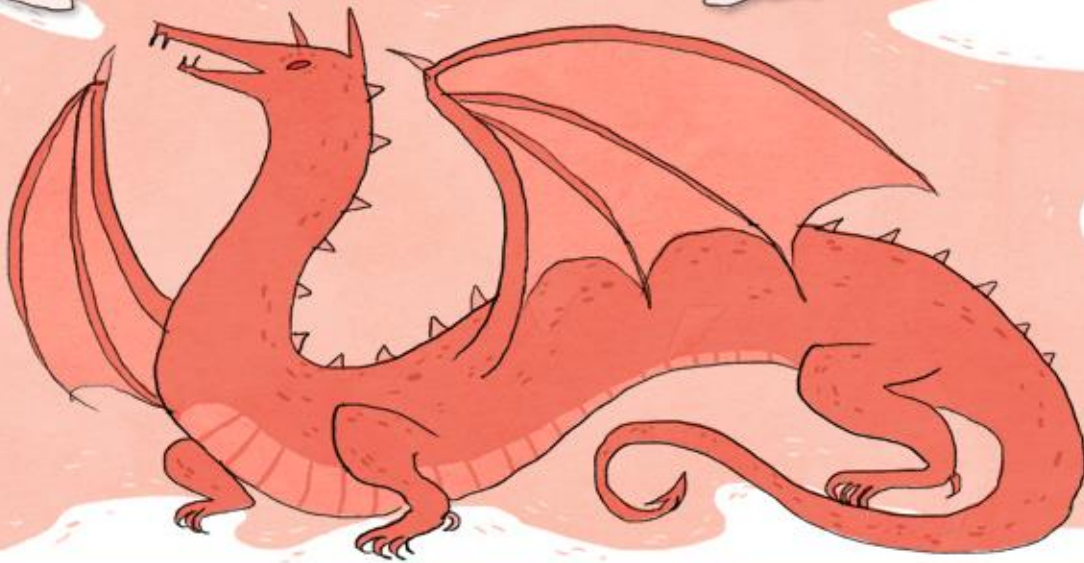
Anyway, it sounded like a good idea at the time.



so she cast the spell and everything went according to plan...



... I became a fearsome dragon.



... and saw her on her way.



I carried the witch to safety...





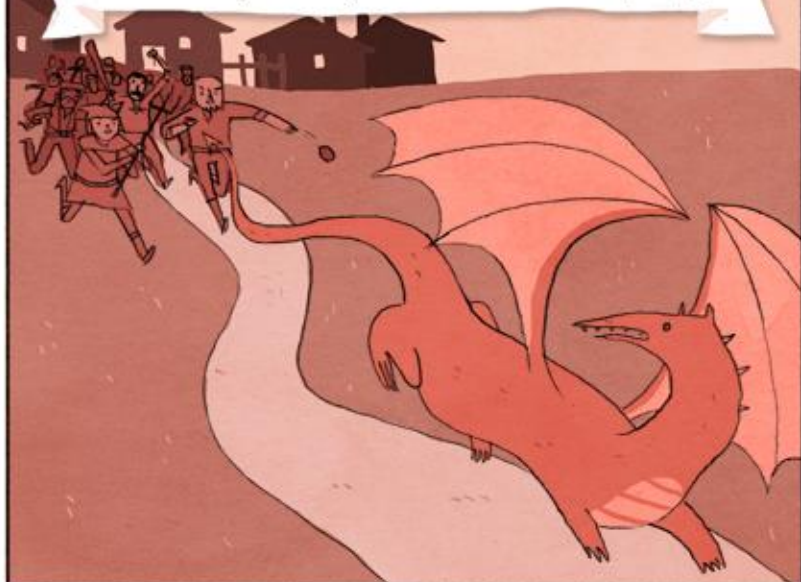
I was excited to show the village my new dragon's shape, and how strong I had become!



But when I got there, they weren't exactly glad to see me.



The witch had forgotten to show me how to change back, or even how to speak.



I had to run away and find a cave in the woods to hide in.



I spent the next few weeks attempting to change back.



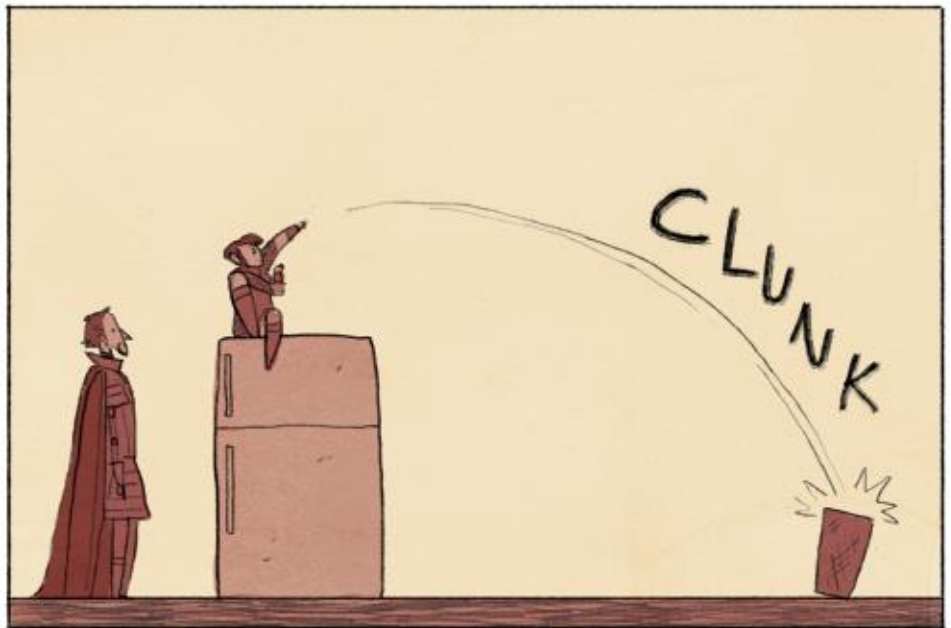
















yes, come in, sir Goldenloin.



I've been expecting you.



I was hoping you could explain all this to me.



It wasn't my Fault. Ballister's new sidekick broke the rules.



I didn't think she'd be such a problem. she's only a child, after all.

Tell me, how did a child bring about the destruction of our finest research facility right under your very nose?







# CHAPTER 5











Not high-security enough for me!

This is coming out of your paycheck.



see, that right there. You just altered your own mass. That's IMPOSSIBLE.

Tell that to your door!



Fine, so it's magic. What CAN'T you do? What are the rules?

Hmm.



Well, I can't turn into anything inanimate, for one.

Unless I want to BE inanimate, if you catch my drift.



Two, I can only turn into creatures that actually exist.



I can turn into any person, real or made-up, but that's harder.













TIME TO SNOOP THROUGH THE INSTITUTION'S STUFF!



Let's see what they consider "top secret plans," shall we?



Aw, these aren't secret plans! It's just a bunch of gibberish!

what a rip-off!



It's encoded.

And that's good?



They wouldn't be encoded unless they had something to hide.



And you can crack it?

I think so.

SYSTEM NO



Cool.

RUNNING PROGRAM

















My point is, this proves you're right! The Institution is totally crooked!

I KNOW I'm right.



Yeah, and everyone else will too, when we show them these.

It's not that easy. The Institution will discredit anything I say.



Even if we did get it out, they'd find a way to cover it up.



you DO have a plan though, right?

It's starting to come together, yes.



TELL ME TELL ME!

You have to PROMISE to stick to it this time.



Okay, I promise.

Good.



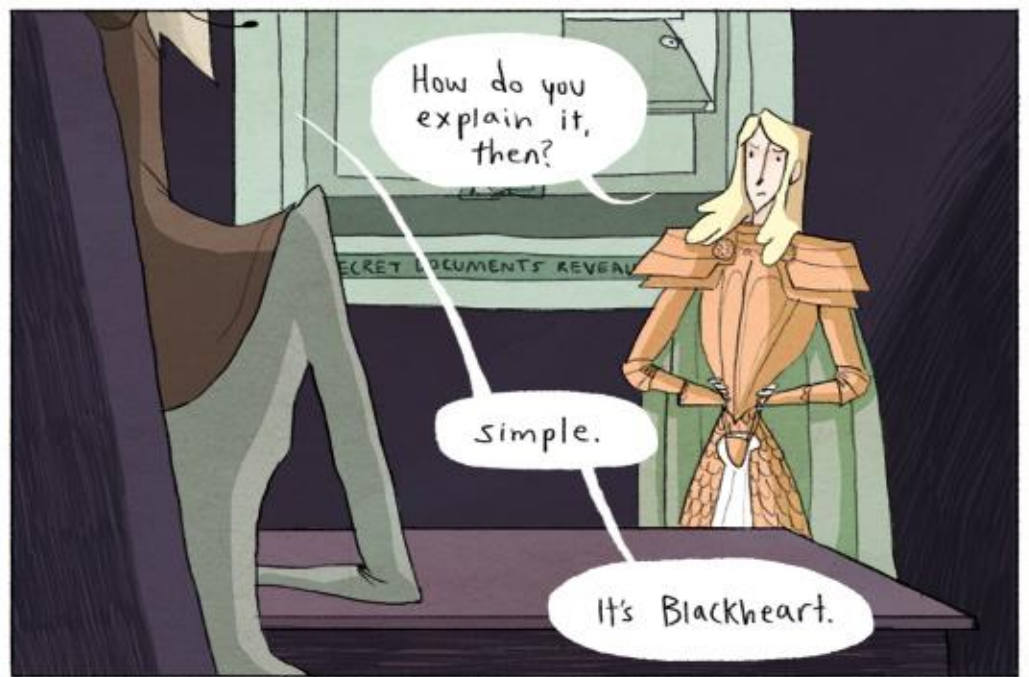
Then let's make some trouble for the Institution.

YEAH!

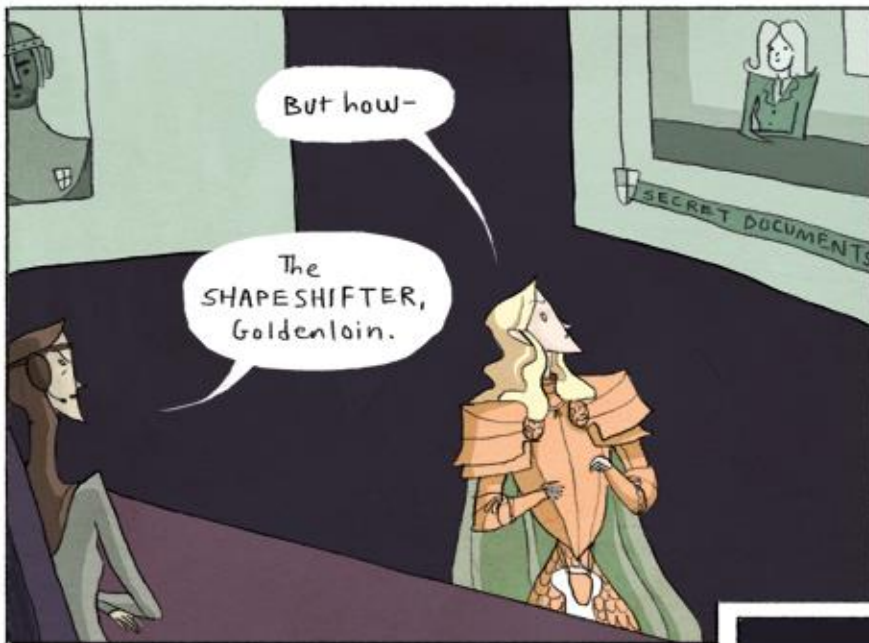












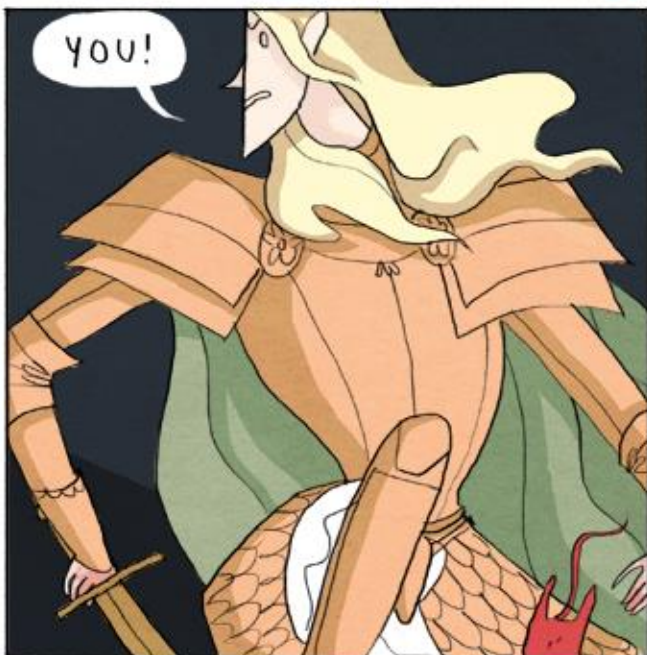














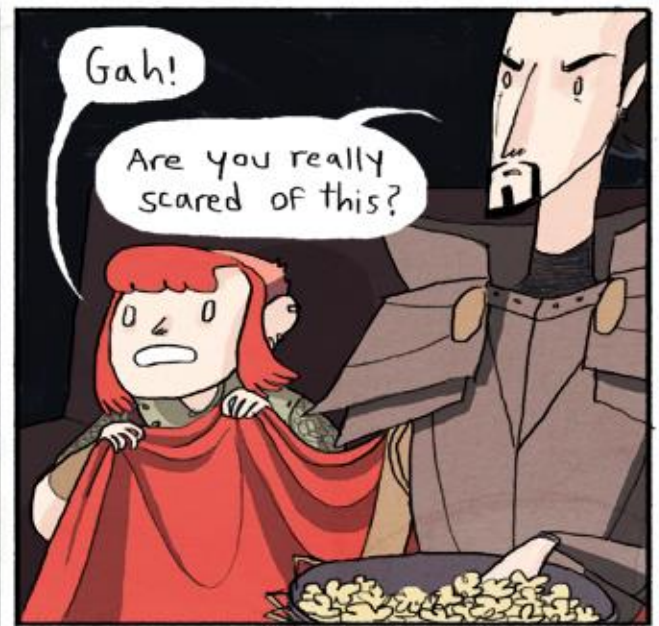






This movie is absurd.

It makes no logical sense and the production values are appalling.



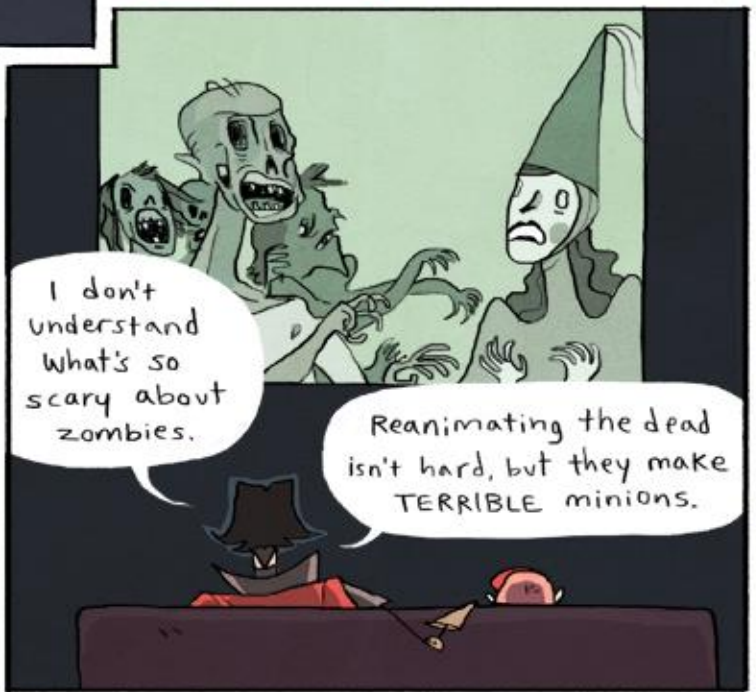
Gah!

Are you really scared of this?



You can take on a whole squadron of guards by yourself, and THIS is what scares you?

well maybe if they'd been UNDEAD guards, it would have been a different story!



I don't understand what's so scary about zombies.

Reanimating the dead isn't hard, but they make TERRIBLE minions.



They can't move quickly and they fall to pieces in a matter of days.

Will you just watch the movie?!



AAAIIII! SPLORTCH GLOMP NYARGH



Oh come on! That is NOT what intestines look like!

SHUT UPPPPP



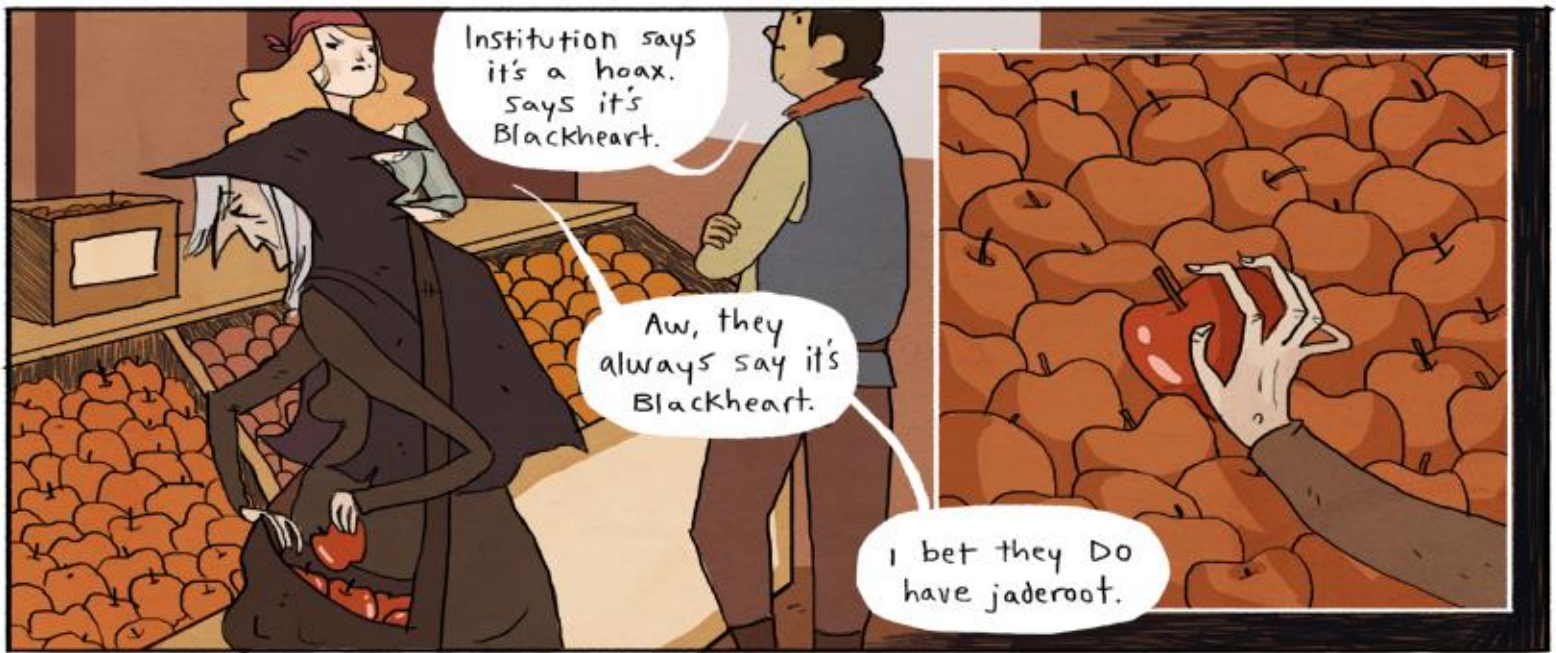




# CHAPTER 6







Institution says  
it's a hoax.  
says it's  
Blackheart.

Aw, they  
always say it's  
Blackheart.

I bet they DO  
have jaderoot.



Hey lady!  
you buying  
or what?



These apples  
are no good!

NO GOOD!



This one  
have worm!



This one  
lumpy!



This one too hard!  
I break last tooth!







ONE WEEK EARLIER



Watcha making?

If you're going to come in here, GLOVES and GOGGLES.



grumble

CLATTER  
CRASH



Goggles. Gloves.

Now are you going to tell me what you're making?



It's the next phase of our plan.



Yes! Phases! Evil potions! This is what I'm talking about!



CAREFUL













Apples planted, SIR!



Good. Now we wait.

For how long?



The toxin is time-released. The effects won't become apparent for at least a few weeks.

Aw, boring.



we have to make absolutely sure no one traces it back to us.



In the mean time...



...how would you feel about robbing a bank?



POSITIVELY! I FEEL POSITIVELY ABOUT ROBBING A BANK!

I thought you might.

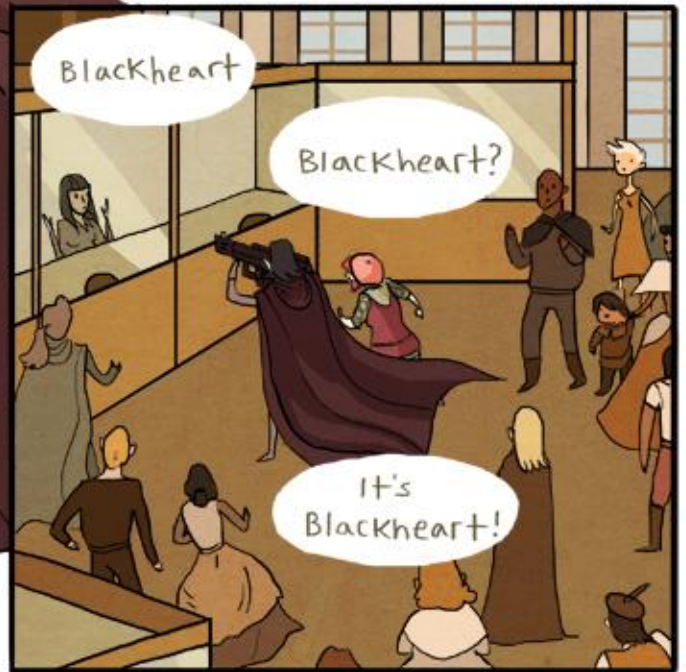








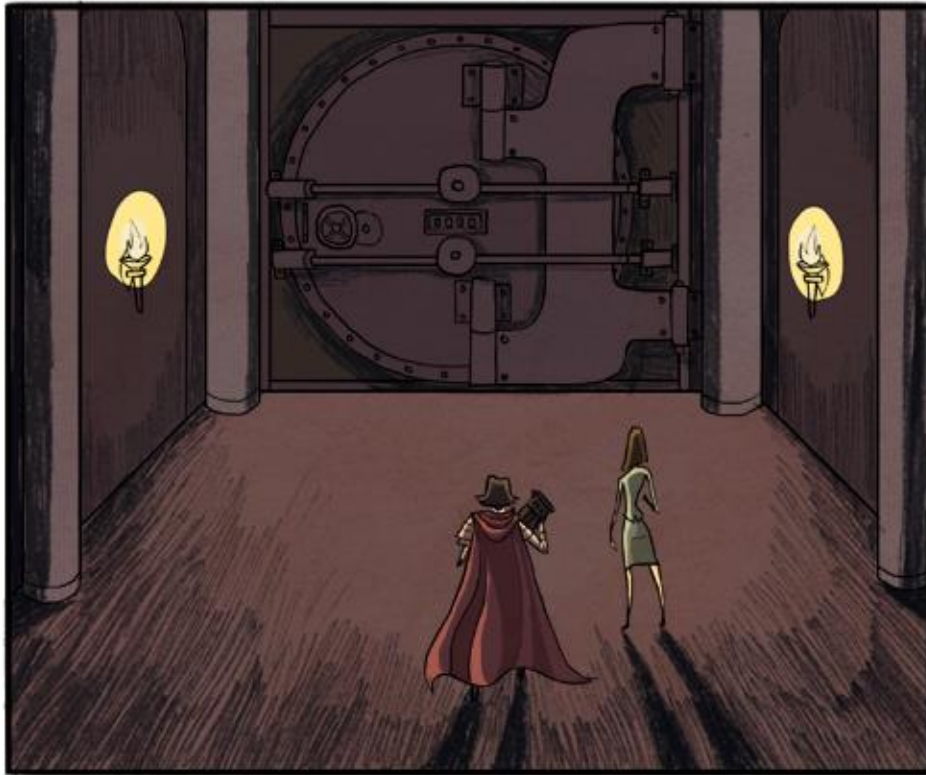




























whoooooa.



Easy.  
we're not in  
the clear yet.



It needs some  
time to  
recharge.

Bring me the  
chest, and then  
I want you up  
on the roof.



Why am I on  
the roof again?

we discussed  
this.

you need to  
clear the square  
for when the  
wall blows.



Oh, right.  
MORALS.

I thought  
maybe you  
could do the  
dragon thing.





Out of the way!  
Let me through!



What's going on in there?

Blackheart's robbing the bank, sir. we had to evacuate.



All right, with me, men. We're going in.

Sir, he's got some kind of MONSTER with him...



A little girl disguised as a monster. Don't tell me you're AFRAID.

Sir-



-the roof.



RRRAAAAAUGH









Red Fox to Tin Man. Come in Tin Man, do you copy!



I can hear you, Nimona.

Cool. well, the square's clear. Fire away.

Heads up, though—Goldenloin and his goons are on their way to you right now.



Duly noted.

CLK



Stand by.

VRRRRR

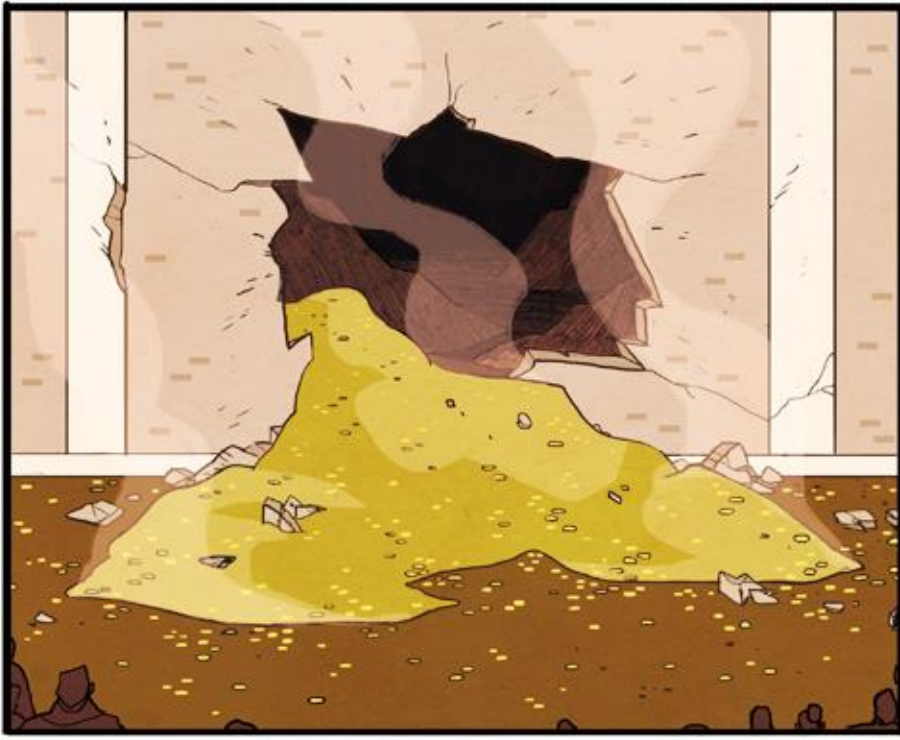




































I thought I got them all - one must have slipped through!

Boss, it's FINE.



NO DON'T TOUCH IT

You're such a GRANNY.



It's not even that dee AAA

AAAH!



I TOLD you not to touch it!

Ow Ow  
Ow Ow Ow  
Ow Ow



We have to get to my lab. I have medical supplies there.

It's bleeding a lot!



Will you stop SQUIRMING?

I'M SORRY, THAT MUST BE SO INCONVENIENT FOR YOU



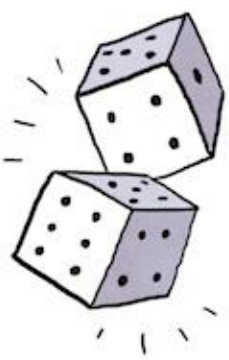








YES!  
a ten!



...eight... nine... ten!

Landing you in the Enchanted Forest, which is MY domain.

600 gold, please.



My scottie dog will not pay your tyrannical toll!

Nimona...

He rallies the oppressed woodland creatures and organizes a revolt!



It just so happens I am a just ruler, and greatly admired by all my subjects.

Squirrels scale the walls of the castle and bears batter down the gates!

Bloody chaos ensues!



The Enchanted Forest is ours!

Flick

I'm taking the 600 gold anyway.



HIGHWAY ROBBERY!

Plus another 600 for damages.



FOOOOOSH



That was fun! What do you want to do next?





HIS MAJESTY'S  
HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL CLINIC

I've never seen anything like this, Doctor.



Four cases in the last week alone!



They're not responding to any treatment we've tried.

we've run every test - but I don't know what to make of the results.



We don't know what's causing it. The patients have no ties to each other.



Do you remember that news report? The Institution's secret stash of jaderoot, poisoning the Kingdom's crops?

But the Institution debunked that...



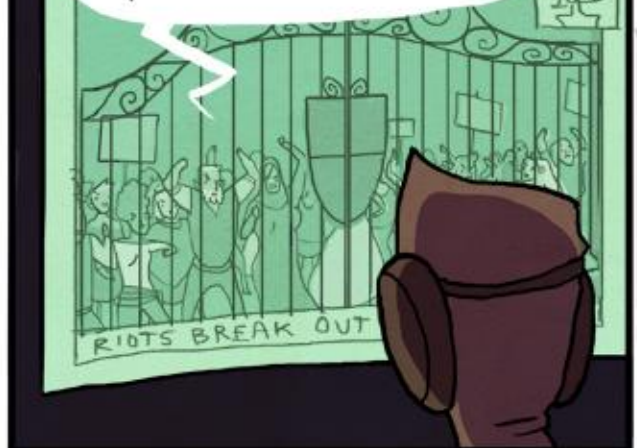
Yes... but suppose it's true?



Angry crowds congregate outside Institution headquarters as rumors of a jaderoot-related plague mount...



Four cases have been reported so far. The Institution has yet to comment...



This is a disgrace.



Due to your incompetence, Blackheart and his new ward are running CIRCLES around us.



What would you have me do? Stop the peasants from getting sick?

This is not the time for smarm. You know what you have to do.



Get rid of the sidekick.

By any means necessary.







I swear I will see them both captured and brought to justice...

Do I have to spell everything out for you?



DISPOSE OF the sidekick.



What?



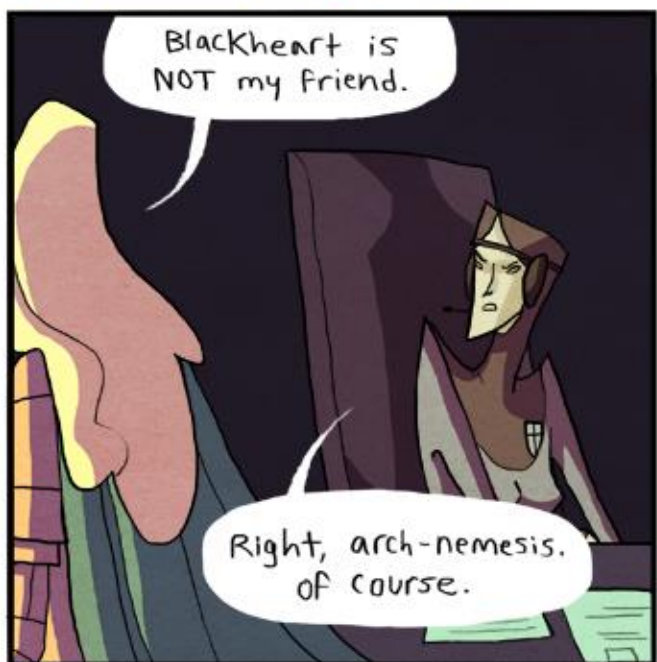
I'm not going to kill a little girl!

This is a matter of keeping your job. You think we can't replace you in an instant?



If this situation escalates any further, we will be forced to take drastic measures.

and your friend Blackheart WILL go down with her.



Blackheart is NOT my friend.

Right, arch-nemesis. of course.



And if you want him to REMAIN as such, you'll do as I say.

END OF CHAPTER 6



# CHAPTER 7























Where's your sidekick?

Is THAT what this is about?



Is she here?

she might be. you'd have no idea, would you?



I'D have no idea...

You've got to get rid of her.



Is that so? And, uh-



WHY WOULD I DO THAT



The Institution is very displeased-

Yes, that was the idea.



Ballister-

The Institution is ordering me to KILL your sidekick.









I can't believe you're still hung up about that.

It was a long time ago, you know.



Besides, it was an ACCIDENT.

I bet you've said that so many times you've started to actually believe it.



IT WAS!

It's just the two of us here, Ambrosius. You don't have to lie.



Wh- I'm not- everyone knows what happened that day! You're the only one who can't accept it!



Can't you just admit it, just this once?



you blew up my arm because you couldn't stand that I was better than you.



YOU WERE NEVER BETTER THAN ME!





you can't blame me for how your life turned out! you made the choice to turn evil!



choice? I never had a choice!

The Institution needed a villain. That lot fell to me. I never chose it.



And it could just as easily have been you, had that "accident" happened differently!



Oh please! Do you really believe that?



you never had it in you to be a hero!

Everyone always knew that you were going to be the one to go bad!







so THAT'S how it is.

YAA AAH!



POW!



WHUMP



ADMIT IT!



SHATTER!

NO!



hey! Take it outside, boys!



CLUNK!



CRASH













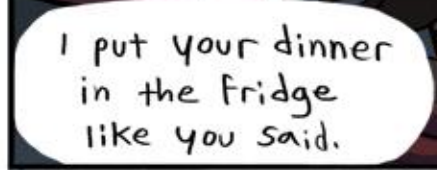
BEEP



FSS SHH



Hey! You're home!



I put your dinner in the fridge like you said.



Whoa, what happened?

Did you get in a fight without me?



Tell me where they are! I'll mess their faces up!



Boss?



I'm going to bed.

END OF  
CHAPTER SEVEN



CHAPTER 8























Carry me!

Hey!



Nimona, I'm not going to carry you.

Oh please, I carry you all the time!

And it's GREGOR.



Fine. But can you turn into something less ...heavy?

It's rude to comment on a lady's weight.



Is anyone looking?

No, you're fine.

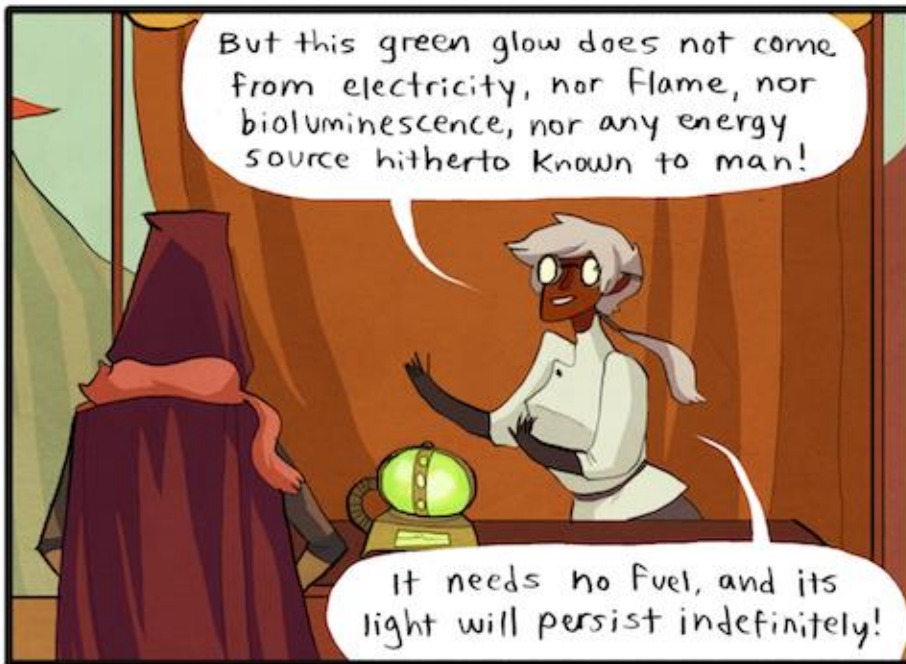


Okay, that works.









But this green glow does not come from electricity, nor Flame, nor bioluminescence, nor any energy source hitherto known to man!

It needs no fuel, and its light will persist indefinitely!



Mm-hmm.

I understand your skepticism. I'm the only one researching anomalous energy, and this is all I have to show for it.



Anomalous energy?

It's based on a theory of my own invention!



I have made the journey over the mountains to the lands beyond, where the great sorcerers still practice their craft.

I observed their methods, and noted that they seemed to draw their power from an invisible, apparently infinite source.



I theorized that there must be a vast field of energy that surrounds us all, but is only made detectable under very specific circumstances.

I dedicated myself to recreating those circumstances scientifically!



This humble device, good sir, is the first step to reconciling science and magic!





































WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!

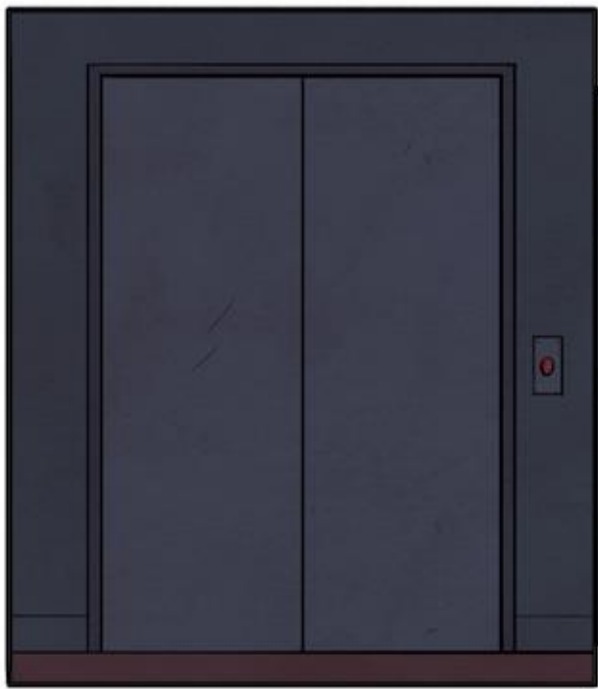
SHHHH.  
Can you get us out of here?

Yeah, damn straight I can. Hang on.

Hey.  
You okay?

Ngg hhh.









WHAT IF I'M LOSING MY POWERS?

BAM



STOP. You're not losing your powers.

You know that, huh?



As far as I can tell, this is just a bizarre side effect of Blitzmeyer's device.

which actually kind of lends credence to her crackpot theory.



It's got to take a lot of energy for you to shift from one form to another.

The device didn't affect your actual abilities, it just interfered with your access to that energy.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. SCIENCE IS STUPID.

SMASH



Now, there's no need to say hurtful things.











# CHAPTER 9















Blackheart is past the point of being controlled. I want him out of the picture.



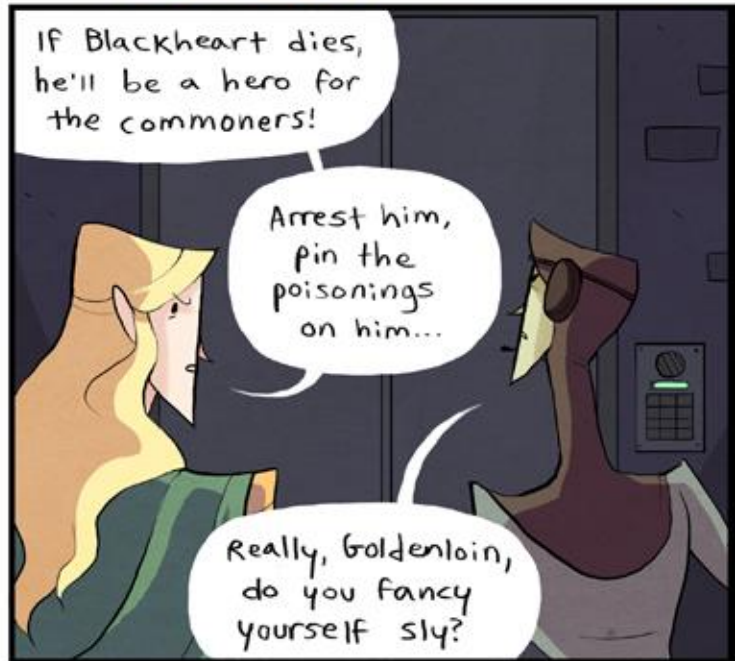
I'm telling you, he can still be useful to us!

That isn't your call.



You're already asking me to kill a young girl. If the public finds out you're sending me out on assassinations...

The public's opinion is not a priority right now.



If Blackheart dies, he'll be a hero for the commoners!

Arrest him, pin the poisonings on him...

Really, Goldenblain, do you fancy yourself sly?



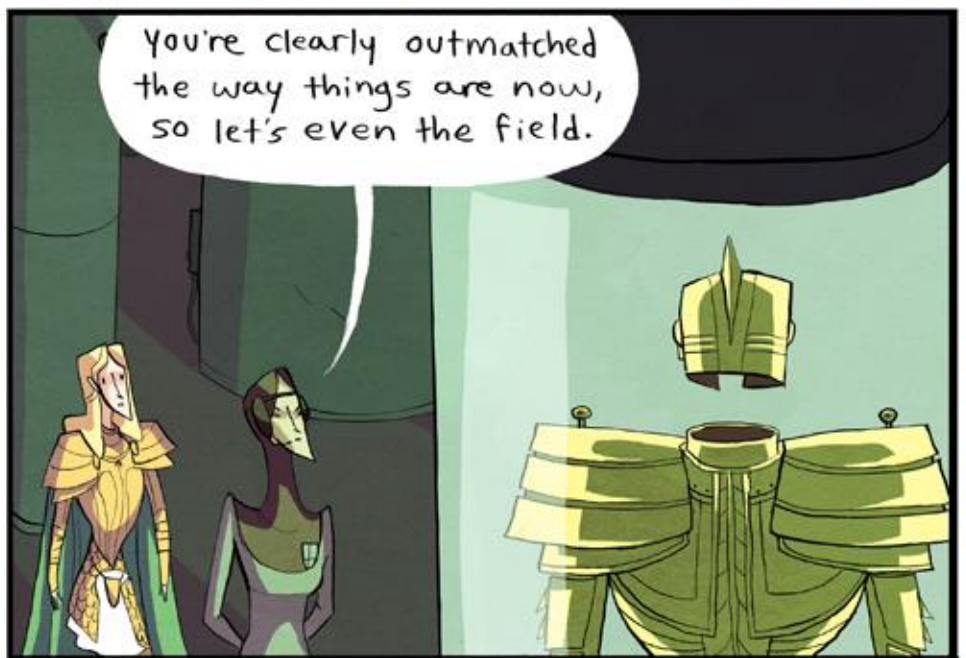
Your motivations are quite transparent. I KNOW what the nature of your relationship was.

I made it clear at the time that I disapproved.



If your fixation on him has impeded your ability to do your job, then he truly has outlived his usefulness.









shock-absorbent plating, robotically enhanced performance, electrical stun units in the gauntlets. It should be quite sufficient to subdue a half-mechanical man and a little girl.



You'll select a team to go with you. They'll be similarly outfitted.

I don't want any mistakes this time.



Should I lead an attack on his fortress?

It would be Unwise to Stage the conflict on his own turf.



We need to draw him out. Engage him on our own terms.

A trap? Ballister won't fall for that. He's too paranoid.



Hmm, perhaps.



It would not surprise me if he had become a little... overly confident these days, however.













Found it!



Enjoy!



On one side, Knight errant Sir Coriander Cadaverish!



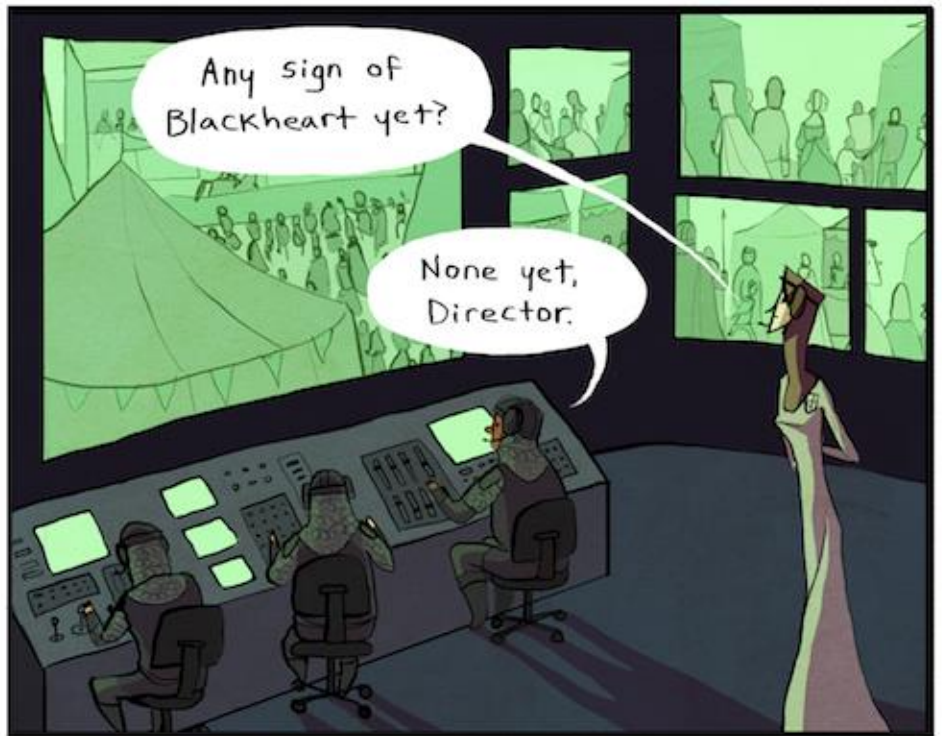
And on the other, representing the Institution - sir Mansley Girthrod!



Booooo  
Booooo

Booooo





Any sign of Blackheart yet?

None yet, Director.



He'll show, I'm sure of it.



What's going on over there?

Ma'am?



Unbelievable.





















People of the Kingdom.



My name is Ballister Blackheart, but I'm sure you know that already.

You may think of me as your enemy, but I have only ever fought against the Institution, not against you.



Your true enemies are the ones who have beaten you down and kept you in compliance through fear.

They took your children and raised them as soldiers. They mongered war at the expense of their people.



They've locked us into a system where they hold all the power.

In return, they promised you safety, but they've broken that promise.



In their quest for war, they've endangered the very people they swore to protect.



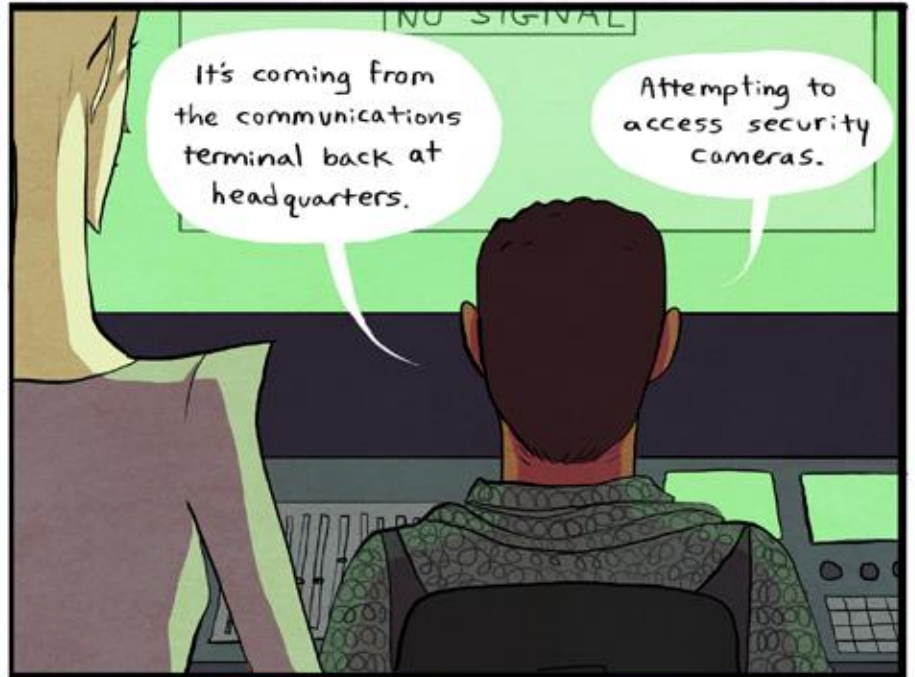
They took away your power.

It's time to take it back.

















Looks like **SOMEBODY** got an upgrade.

CRUSH  
QUIET,  
villain.



This is the end of the line for you, Blackheart.



Not so clever after all, are you?

you thought you were setting a trap for us, but all along it was a trap for you!



Ah well, you got me.

Good job.



we DID get you.

you did. you've done very well.



Is this another trap?

I just want you to feel proud of yourself!





Ahh, it's been a while since I've walked these halls.

Hasn't changed at all.

Keep walking!



There's no need to be so uptight. I'm cooperating.

Yes, well, I don't like it.



Would you rather I DIDN'T cooperate?

I WANT you to stop being so smug.



should I shake my fist and growl about how I'll come back stronger than ever?

Forget it.



Now this room, I don't remember.

what is this place?





This isn't my jail cell, is it?

It's awfully spacious.



Are we... waiting for something to happen?



yes, as a matter of fact. We're expecting someone else.

someone else-?



BAM

AAAH



SKID!



I'm here! what's going on?

I honestly have no idea.



WARNING. FULL LOCKDOWN IN PROGRESS.

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

CLANG

Ha! It's another trap! A DOUBLE trap!

Those walls are reinforced steel. Not even YOU could break through them!

yeah, you wanna bet?

Step aside, Blackheart.

It's the sidekick we want. Give her up and you needn't be harmed.

A double trap. clever. I'll give you that one.

However, it seems to me - you're stuck in this trap right along with us.

Ah, but we came prepared.

Bring it on.





























Nimona,  
be CAREFUL!











































No - no - they KILLED you. You were DEAD.

Obviously not.



I SAW. I SAW it happen.

Relax. It was a trick. To get them to lift the lockdown.



A trick- but how-

I said don't worry about it.



Goldenloin - is he - did you -

What was I supposed to do? He was trying to kill US.



Nimona, IS HE DEAD?

I don't know.



I'll go find out!

You can't go back out there! It's too dangerous!



NIMONA!



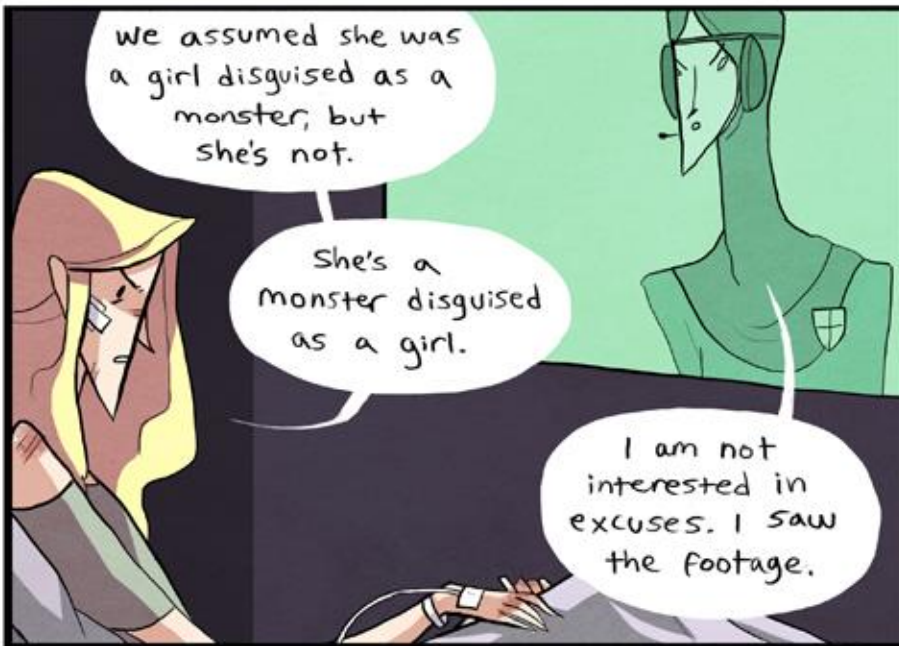


We did everything we could, Director. We didn't have a chance.



She's far more powerful than we thought.

She can't be KILLED.



We assumed she was a girl disguised as a monster, but she's not.

She's a monster disguised as a girl.

I am not interested in excuses. I saw the footage.



You didn't see what I saw.

You didn't see her FACE.



I don't even think Ballister's the one calling the shots anymore. I think she's controlling him somehow.

Whatever the case may be, it is no longer your concern.

You're being replaced.



What are you going to do? You can't FIGHT her.

Fighting her is no longer the plan.



VOIP

END OF CHAPTER NINE



# CHAPTER 10







It's looking pretty bleak out there.

You were right, they're definitely censoring the news channels.



They've got the rioters from the tournament locked up - couldn't find out where. Nobody knows.



And here's the kicker -

Two of the people infected with your virus have died.



WHAT?

Whoa!



That's IMPOSSIBLE. I engineered it to be non-lethal!

well, maybe it's some OTHER mysterious illness then.



But the point is, they're dead.





















Oh, I really should have seen this coming.

WHAT?



What was that you were just saying about not lying?

I'm NOT! what did I SAY?



You forgot your own backstory, Nimona. It wasn't TRUE.

I took it for granted that this was your natural form. But it's not, is it?

you wanted me to think you were less powerful than you are. WHY?

maybe I just didn't want you to freak out!



Like you're freaking out RIGHT NOW!

What are you hiding?

Who are you really?



WHAT are you really?





























well, I imagine that such a beast would be impossible to detect or track.

It's very rare that the powers of skin-walkers and those of doppelgängers overlap at all - and that's without even touching on the regeneration.



Although-hm.

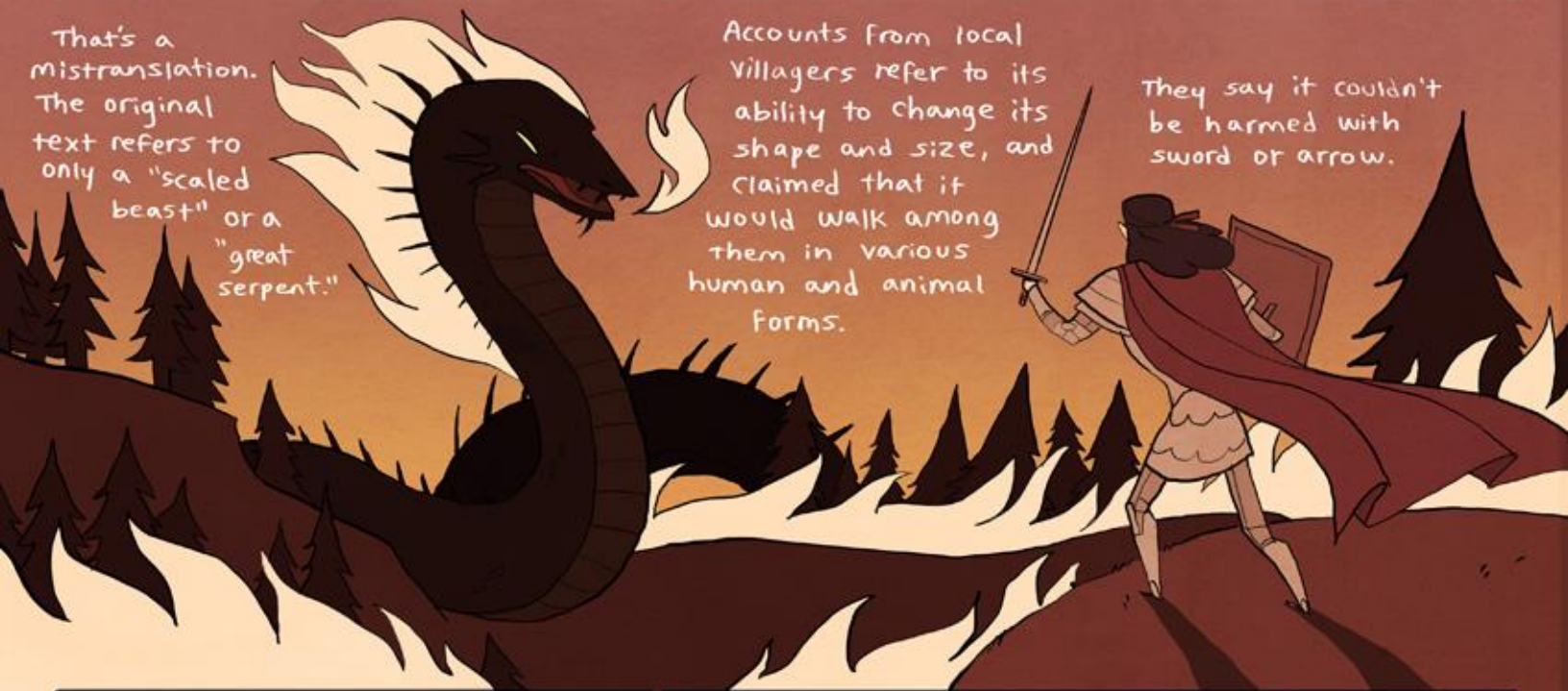
That DOES sound something like the beast Gloreth slew, doesn't it?



You do know the legend of Gloreth, yes?

Of course. I am - I was a Knight.

She slew a dragon though, didn't she?



That's a mistranslation. The original text refers to only a "scaled beast" or a "great serpent."

Accounts from local villagers refer to its ability to change its shape and size, and claimed that it would walk among them in various human and animal forms.

They say it couldn't be harmed with sword or arrow.



There's even a theory among certain circles that the beast **KILLED** Gloreth that day and took her place.



And by "certain circles" you mean... message board conspiracy theorists?

well, yes naturally.





But if there really were a species of creature like that- wouldn't we know?

power that great surely would have attracted some attention.



With the abilities you've described, it must be very good at hiding. Observers would likely conflate it with less powerful, better-known shapeshifter species.

Although if it were making itself known now, there must be a reason.



something must have changed.

Something making it more difficult to maintain a disguise for any long period of time, perhaps.



That, or it's a new species, instead of an old one.

A new evolution, or mutation, or even something-



Lab-modified.

It's possible, yes.

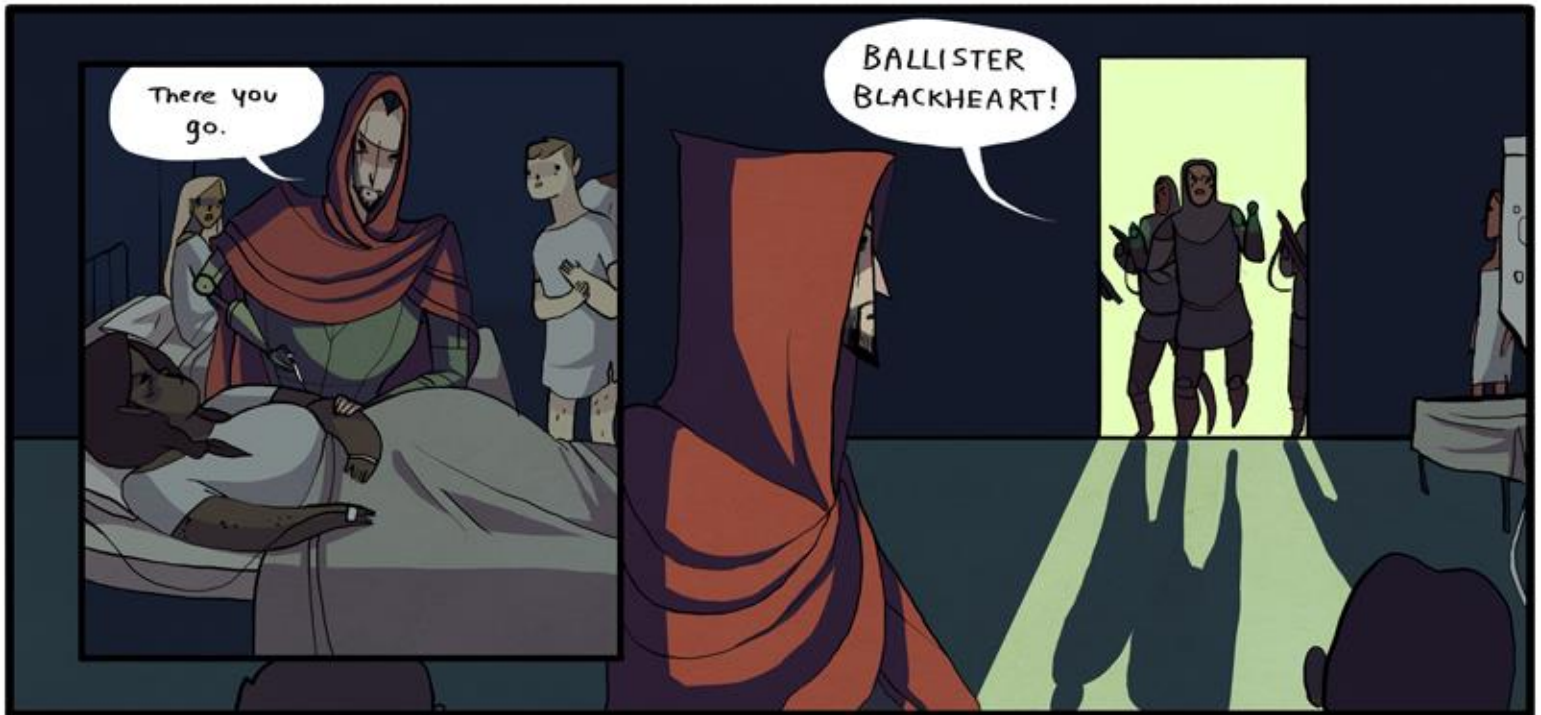


Are we still being hypothetical?

















Where's your sidekick, Ballister?

This again.



She's gone. Are you happy?

Gone where?

I don't know. She LEFT. She's not coming back.



Well, THAT's a relief.

It looks like you got what you wanted after all.



I'm glad she's gone. You're better off.

She was vicious, she was cruel, she was - EVIL.



So am I.

We both know that's not true.



How'd we end up like this?

You blew up my arm, for one.



...you really do have to bring that up every time, don't you?

Yes.





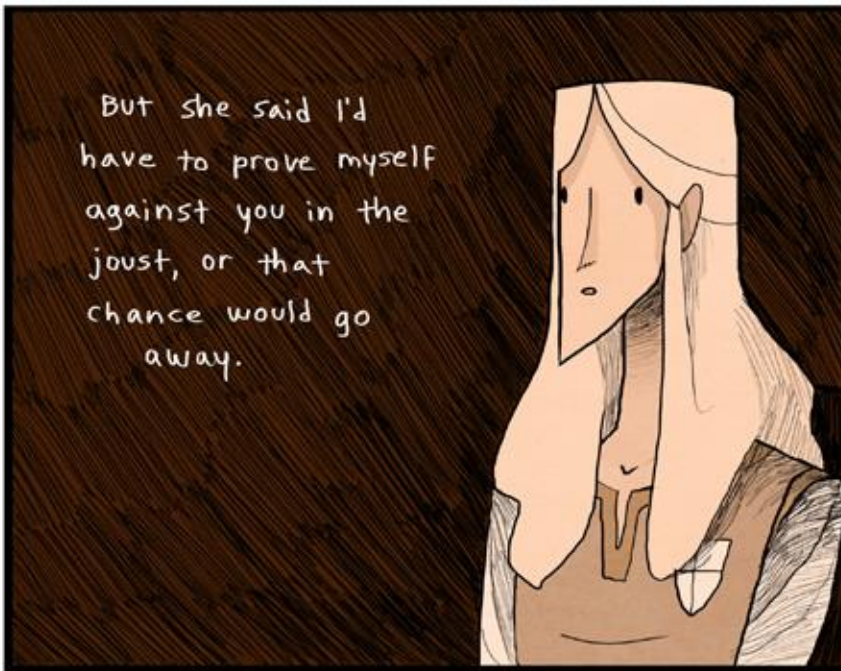




The night before the joust - the Director called me to her office.



she told me that I had promise. That I was her choice for the Institution's champion.



But she said I'd have to prove myself against you in the joust, or that chance would go away.



I wanted it, more than anything. You never wanted it as much as me.

You were just BETTER, without hardly even seeming to try.



Then... on the day of the joust...



This isn't my lance.

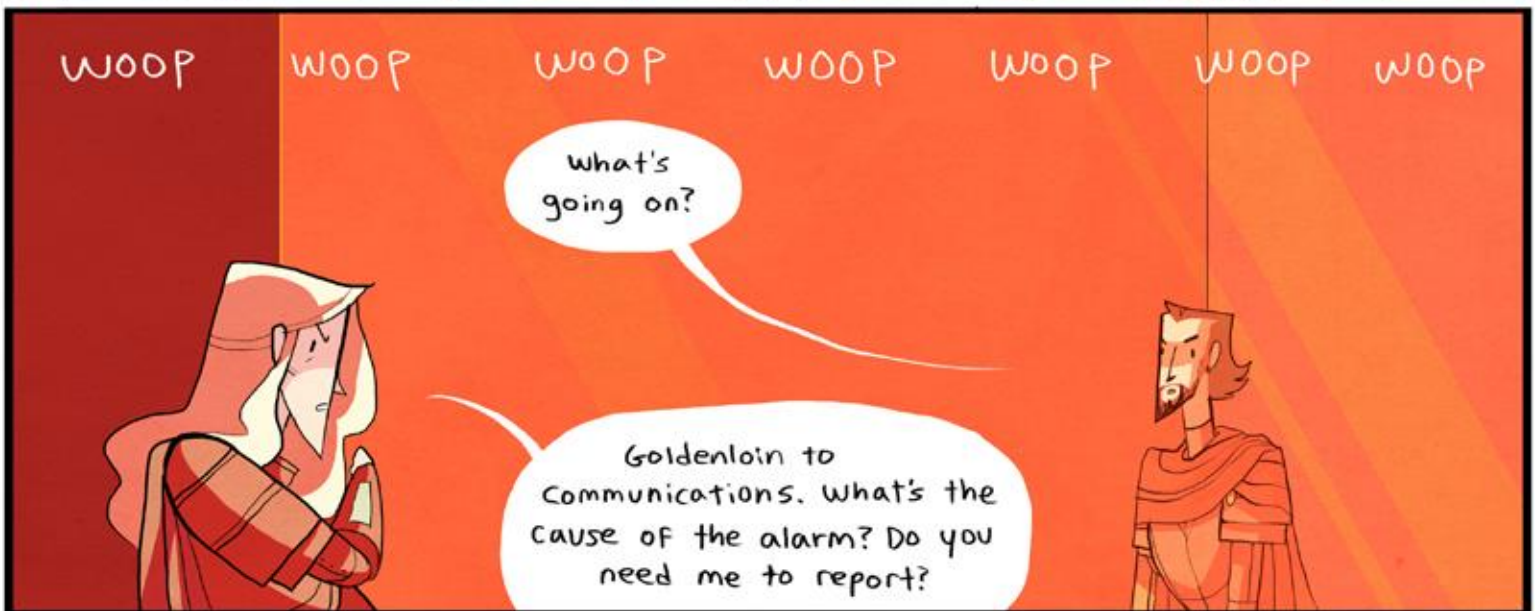




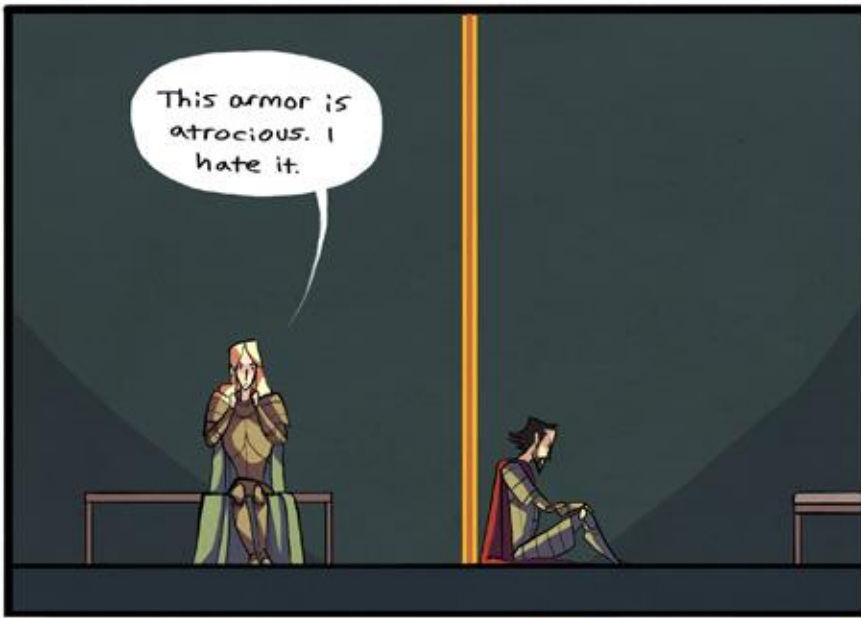






























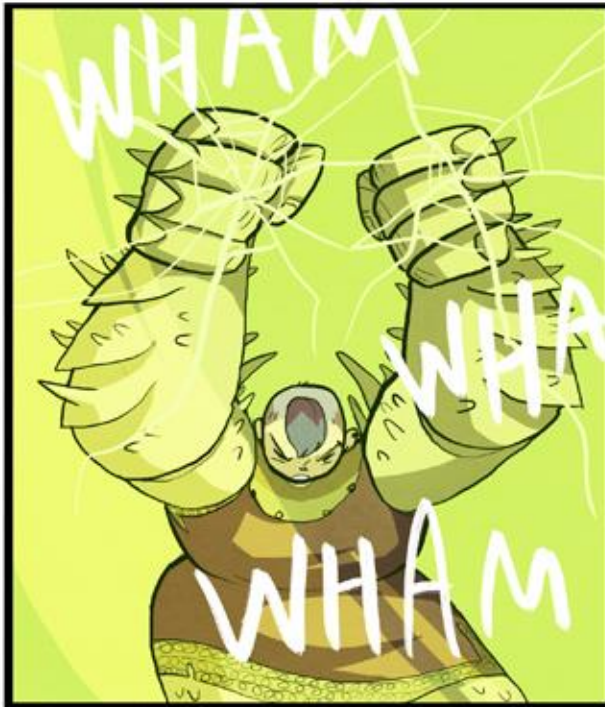


It won't do any good, you know.



That tank was made to contain jaderoot - the most destructive substance known to man.

It's made of a self-repairing alloy. It will hold no matter what you do.



Here we go again.

Let's teach you a lesson, shall we?



No, STOP IT!





Oh, clever trick.

Rudy, what's the read on her energy levels?

Energy readings are off the charts. I've never seen anything like it.

You have to stop. You can't do this.



It's incredible.

Every time she changes form, every single cell in her body is destroyed and new ones are generated in their place.



she's not molding herself into new forms, it's like - every time, her whole body dies and a new one grows in its place.



Amazing.

Imagine the uses we could find for that.











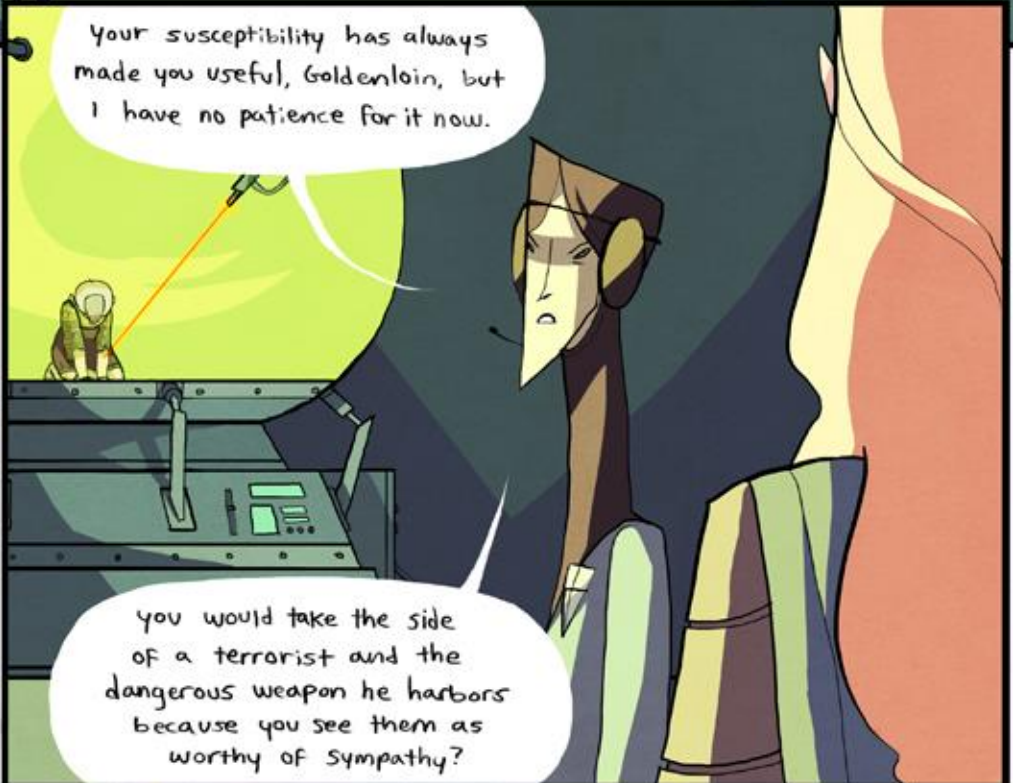




We're going to take some blood. Stay still or he'll get another shock.




Director, this is barbaric - this is not how we treat prisoners!



Your susceptibility has always made you useful, Goldenloin, but I have no patience for it now.

you would take the side of a terrorist and the dangerous weapon he harbors because you see them as worthy of sympathy?



I, too, made an oath to protect this kingdom. No matter the cost.



I'm not a WEAPON.





Have you decided to talk to me?



I want to know who made you, and why.



No?

Shall we give him another shock?



No one made me. I was always like this.



I know an abomination when I see one.

Yeah, sure. What are YOU, a goblin?



That's none of your business.



Shut up.









Heheheh.

you really don't know anything, do you?

I mean, you just really didn't do your research at all.



If you had, you'd know that this has all happened before.

And you'd know what happened to the others who thought they could break me.



Others? What others?

The breaking's not the hard part, though. Humans are so easy to break.



Nimona...?



What are you?



This is what you wanted, isn't it? You went looking for a monster.

well, here I am.

























I want all lower levels in complete lockdown, NOW.

LOCKDOWN INITIATED FOR LEVELS B1 - B3. PERSONNEL HAVE FOUR MINUTES TO EVACUATE.

rrrrrr



RRRAAUGH



RAAAAH



DING





















Why didn't you say so to start with?! That's exactly what we need!

We'll lock her in one form and get her contained until I can get the other one from the lab...



Ballister... no.

We've got to kill her.



It would be our only chance... with her powers turned off, she can't regenerate.

I'M NOT GOING TO HELP YOU KILL HER!



I'm sorry. But something like this was always going to happen.

She was a time bomb just waiting to go off.



Even if it all goes the way you want - you put her back together, calm her down...

What happens then? You take her home and pretend nothing happened?



...yes.

Ballister, she WILL do this again.







The city is under attack by a monstrous beast.

The kingdom is in a state of emergency.



Eyewitness reports describe a colossal dragonlike monster with fiery breath, its form and size constantly in flux.

Multiple buildings downtown have gone up in flames.

most of them Institution establishments.

Sir Goldenloin, assisting with evacuation, has advised viewers to be as far from the heart of the city as possible.



This just in... the beast has attacked the palace...

It... it's burning...

The King is dead.

END OF CHAPTER TEN



# CHAPTER II







There's no time for that, Doctor. You need to get out of here - it's not safe.

There's always time for a cup of tea!



I don't think

in this case

that there is.



I need your help, Doctor.

There's a - a creature out there, and it's going to kill a lot of people if I don't stop it.



A creature! What kind of creature?



Do you recall the last conversation we had...?

About the legend of Gloreth? yes, of course, why do you -



OH. OH. OH.

SHAPESHIFTER.













Two of our science facilities have been completely destroyed.

It's hit every one of our communication stations, along with the training center and the barracks.



It's looking for you, Director.



BOOM!

I think it found me.



We need to get you out of the city-

I'm NOT running.



I've had about enough of that wretched beast.



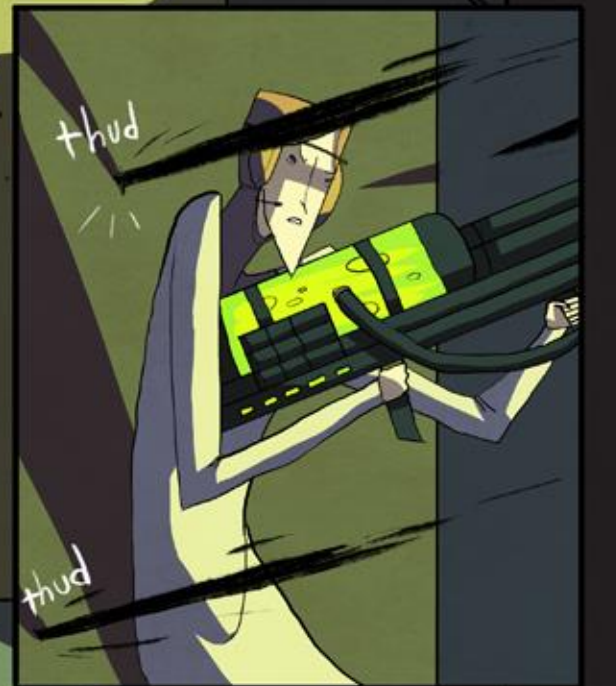
Let's see how she likes the taste of jaderoot.

WHRRR





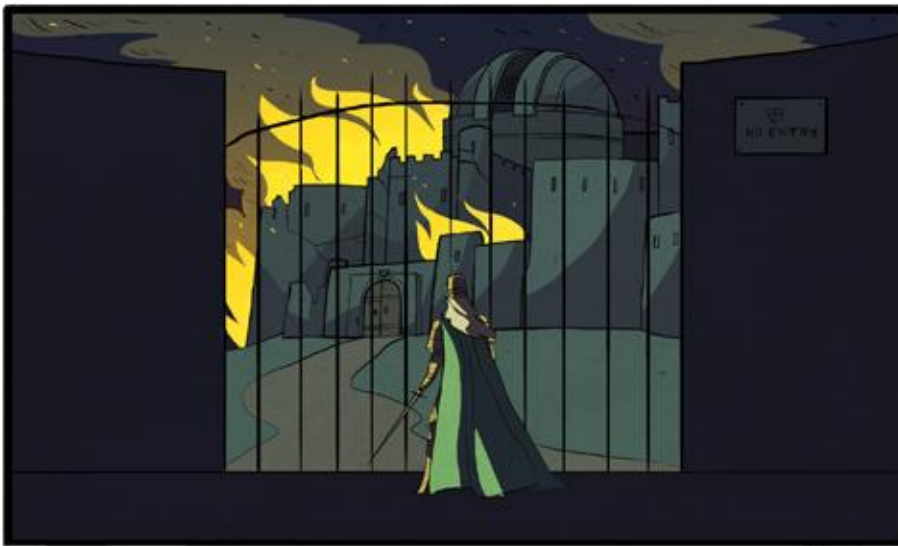




























Half the village saw it happen.

Some even say they saw her breathe fire.



The villagers think she's possessed.

Her parents have a different theory.



They claim that at birth, their daughter was feeble and sick, not expected to live long.

Until, after one particularly dire illness, she quickly recovered and grew into a healthy, robust girl.

Her parents thought nothing of it at the time.



But now they claim this child is an imposter.

That their natural child - the sickly one - is dead, and in its place - something else.



We're going to need a stronger enclosure than this.

Is that really necessary? I mean...

...she's just a kid.





Where's my mom and dad? I want to go home.



Your parents brought you here, didn't they? Why do you think they did that?



I - I burnt a man...



And how did you do that?



I killed them. The raiders.

But they wanted to kill us FIRST. I saved everybody.

I don't know.



You're not going home. Not until you're better. Do you want to get better?

Yes. Then can I see my mom and dad?

Of course.



We'll have her moved to our facility in the morning. Don't upset or excite her in the meantime.

We'll take care of the rest.





Nimona.

Nimona?

NIMONA!





NIMONA!



nnnNNOOO!



Go away!  
Just leave me  
ALONE!



Nimona, it's me,  
it's just me. You  
KNOW me.

...don't  
you?



...Boss?



You... you  
came back.



OF course  
I did.

come on,  
let's get you  
out of here.





Hey. Hey.  
It's okay.  
You're Okay.



How do  
you feel?

Not...  
great.



You're looking  
very... um...  
small.

I can't  
help it, okay?!

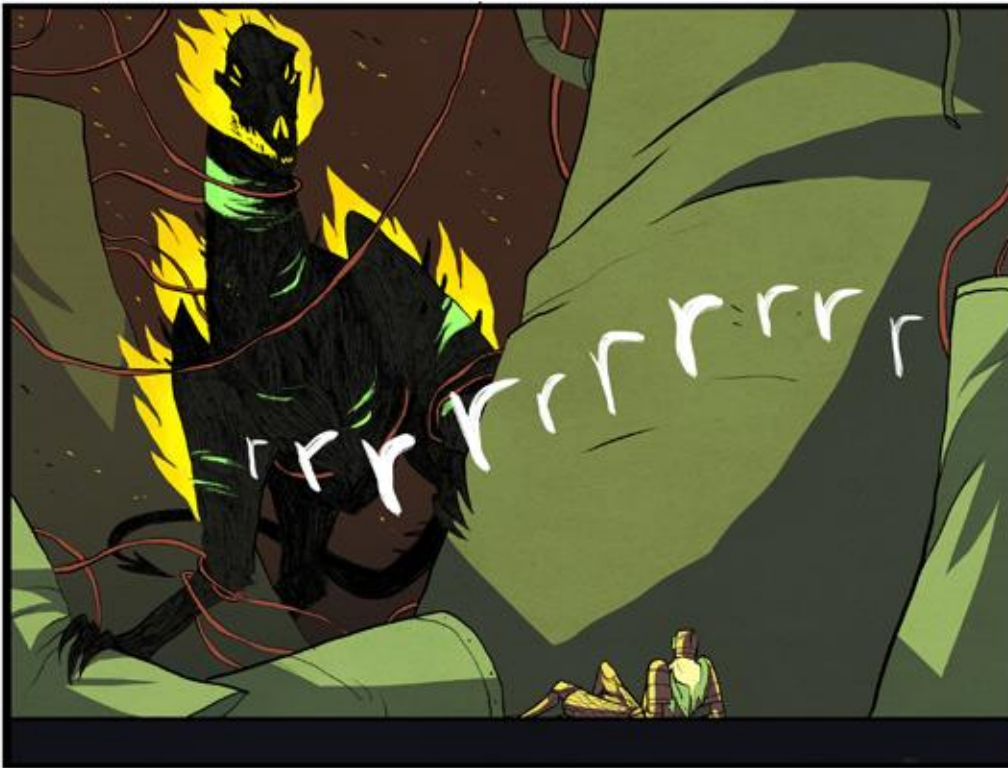








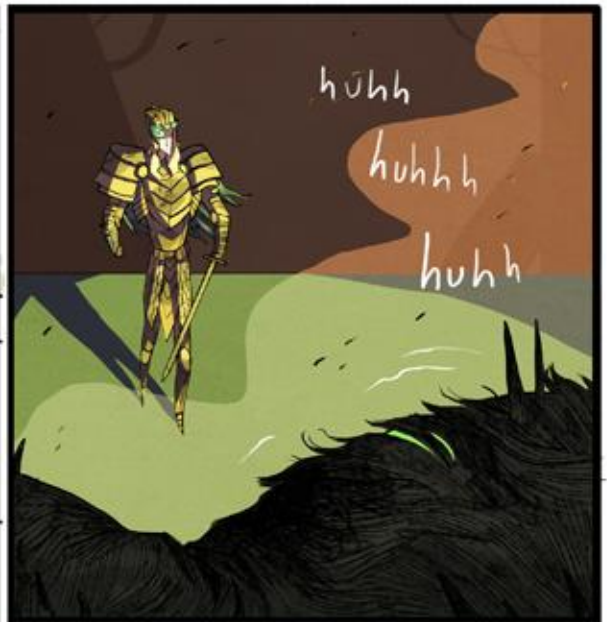












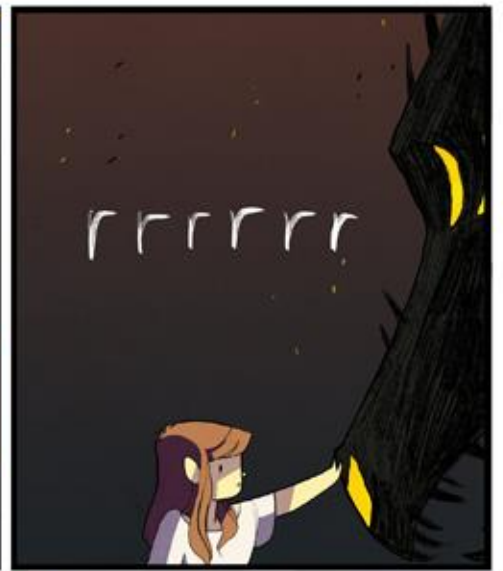
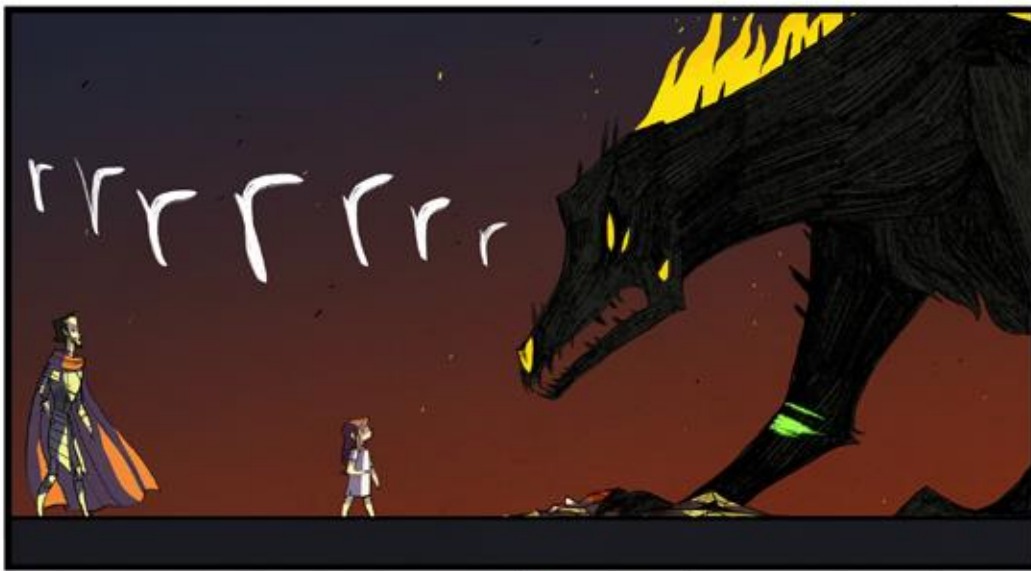
















Is that why you brought me here? so you could Kill vs both for good?

What- NO!



I'm your friend, Nimona!

I don't want to Kill you!



You're not my friend.



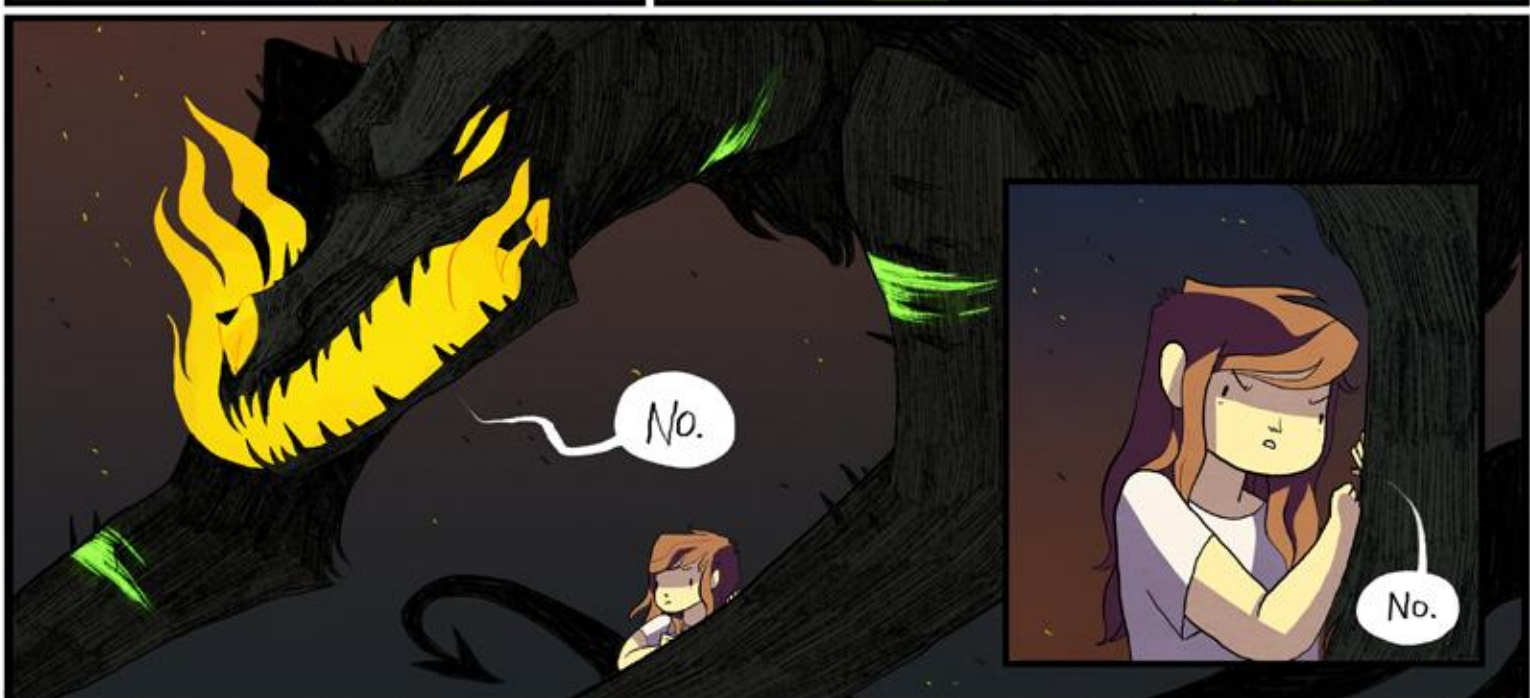
Nimona, please, just listen.

I can shut it off. The device. You can merge back together.

Just - just let him go. Please.



You're just like all the others.



No.



No.





I didn't want to do it, but I had to.

It was - you were - destroying the kingdom. You were KILLING people.



I've killed people before.

That's an understatement.

I've killed LOTS of people.



Nimona, STOP! I can HELP you!



You're not the first one who thought you could HELP me...

or FIX me...

or SAVE me...



you're not the first one who thought you could CARE about me until you found out how bad it really was.



They called you a monster too.

But in the end you still took their side.





You're not a monster.



YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!



You don't have to do this!

There's no one left who can hurt you!



NO.

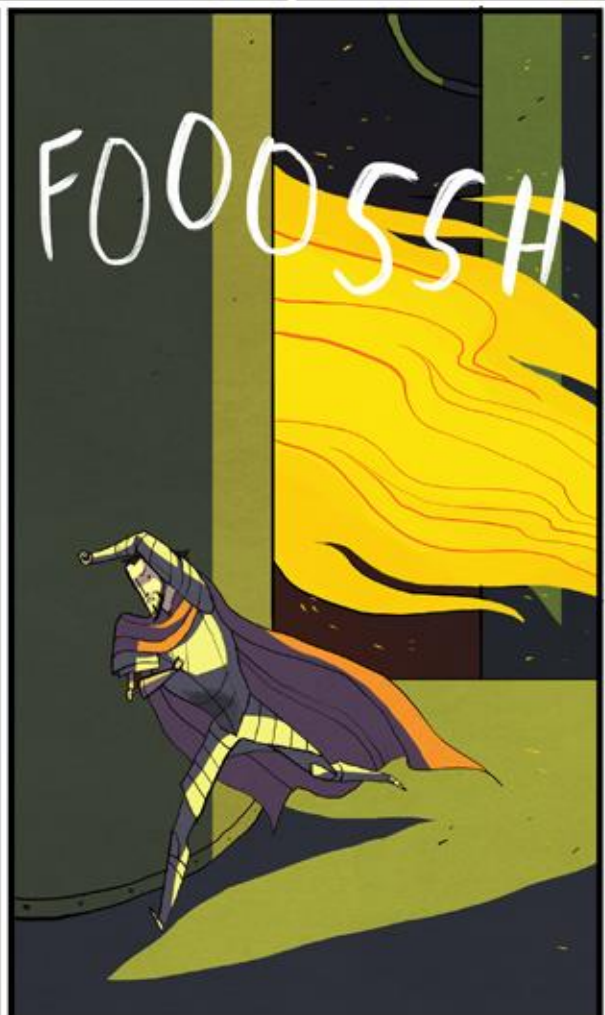
There's one left.



Nimona, PLEASE!



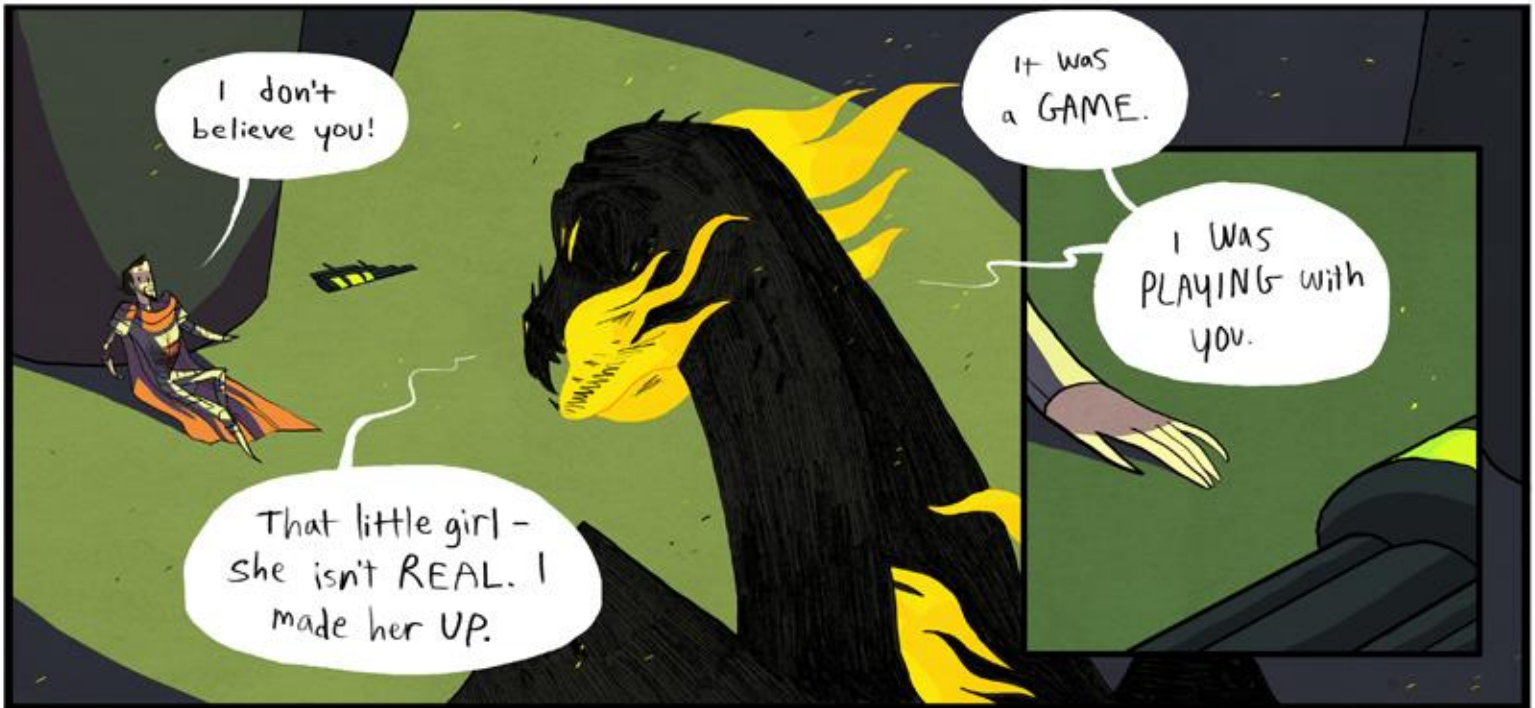




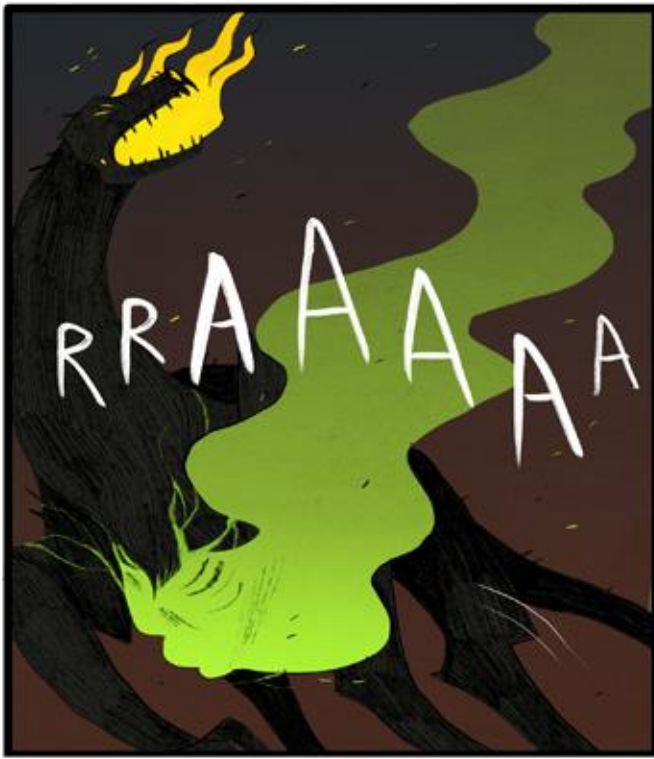
































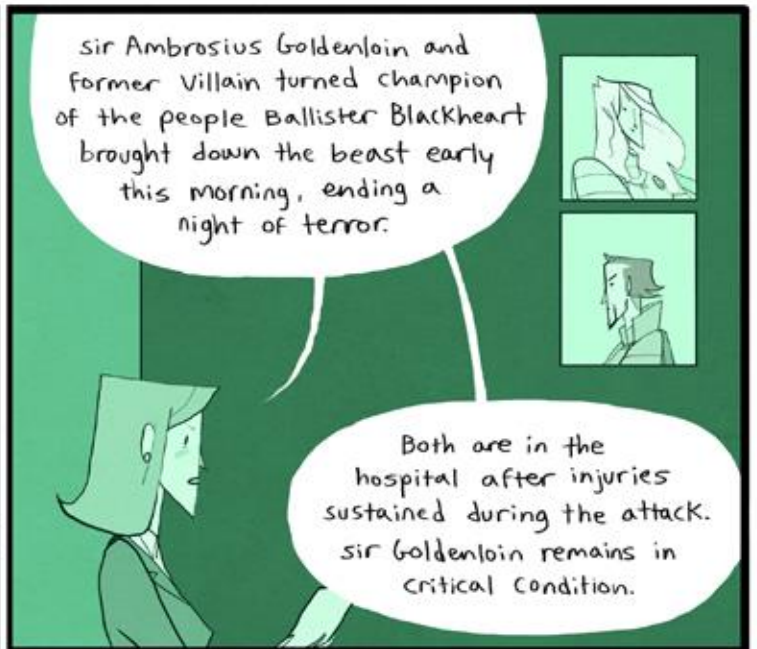
It's  
over.





The Kingdom is in shock after the murderous rampage of a mysterious beast last night that resulted in the deaths of the King and the Director of the Institution.

They are only two out of an extensive list of casualties.



sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and former Villain turned champion of the people Ballister Blackheart brought down the beast early this morning, ending a night of terror.

Both are in the hospital after injuries sustained during the attack. sir Goldenloin remains in critical condition.



The beast's origins remain unknown, although testimony from surviving employees at Institution headquarters suggest it may be an escaped Institution experiment gone awry.

The catastrophe has brought to light many of the Institution's illegal projects, including the stockpiling of massive quantities of jaderoot.



Prominent voices are already clamoring for the permanent disbanding of the Institution.



Despite this tragedy, we remain united.

We will stay strong, and we will rebuild.





Lord Blackheart? You shouldn't be in here. You need to be resting.

someone should be with him. For when he wakes up.

We don't know if he will wake up, M'Lord. He's suffered a lot of trauma.



We're monitoring him closely. If his condition changes, we'll know.



Go back to bed. The monster injured you too. You need your rest.



Don't call her that.

M'Lord?



she's not a monster.





Gregor?

Doctor!



Did you really put me as your emergency contact?

I don't have a lot of friends, okay?



Doctor, your device - it was destroyed. I'm sorry.

Never mind. I'll build another one.



I hear you're some sort of hero!

Not me, no.



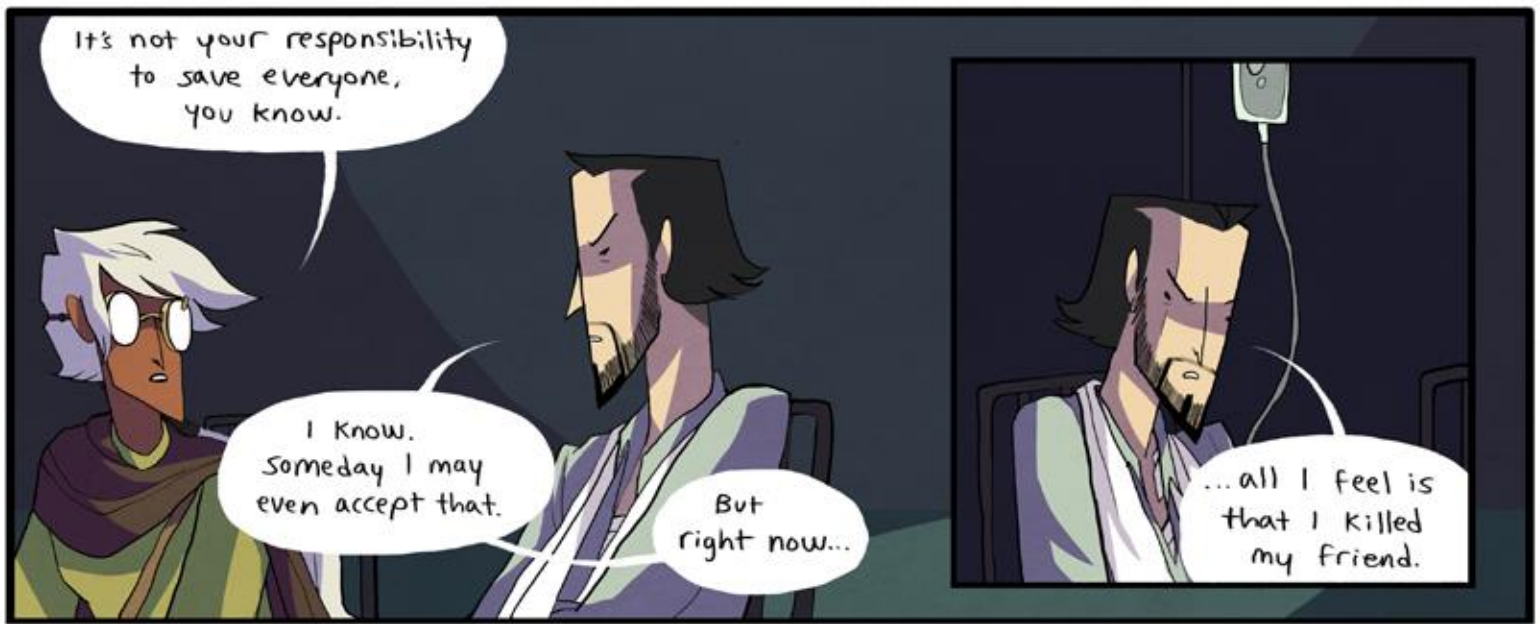
You did what you had to do, then?



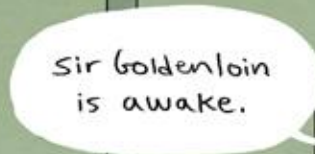
You saved a lot of people.

But I couldn't save her.









THE END.



# CHRISTMAS

at the  
INSTITUTION

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2013











THE END