



The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich

DEYA MUNIZ

The
Princess
and the
Grilled
Cheese
Sandwich

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DEYA MUNIZ



Little, Brown and Company
New York Boston

About This Book

This book was edited by Andrea Colvin and designed by Ching N. Chan and Megan McLaughlin. The production was supervised by Bernadette Flinn, and the production editor was Marisa Finkelstein.

The text was set in Action Man and Landleibe, and the display type is Zooja.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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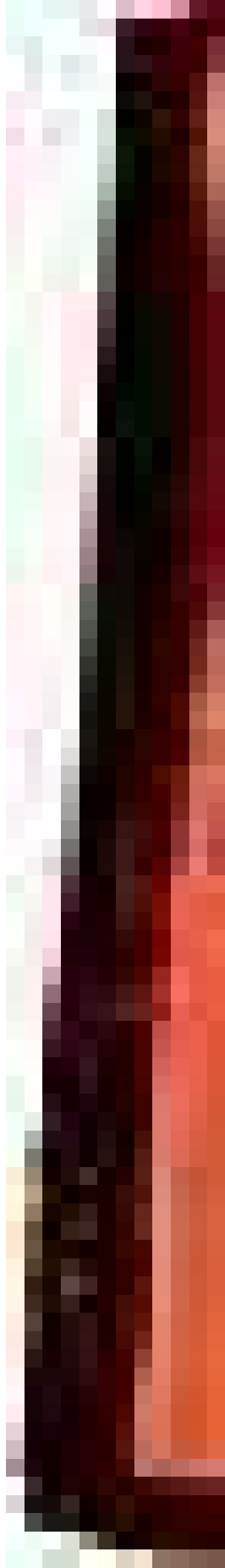
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This story is dedicated to my lovely wife, Emily, my very own Princess Brie. May our cheesy love story never end!





















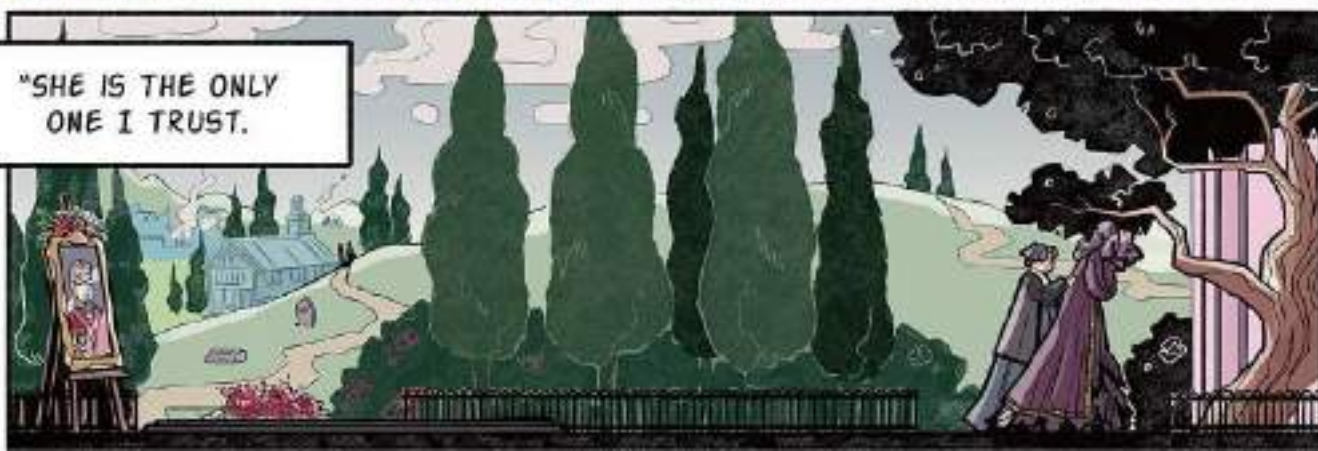
"ONCE I AM GONE, YOU WILL HAVE TO
LEAVE YOUR LIFE HERE BEHIND.



"DISMISS THE SERVANTS, ALL BUT FETA.
SHE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF YOU.



"SHE IS THE ONLY
ONE I TRUST.



"BURN YOUR DRESSES."



"MY CLOTHES WILL PROBABLY FIT YOU.
TAKE THOSE OR BUY NEW ONES IF YOU WANT."



"SPARE NO EXPENSES IN MAKING
SURE YOUR DISGUISE IS CONVINCING."



"MOVE TO THE CAPITAL. FONDUE
IS FAR AWAY AND CROWDED.
NO ONE WILL KNOW YOU.



"I OWN A TOWN HOUSE THERE.
BY THE RIVER. IT ISN'T VERY LARGE,
BUT I AM SURE IT WILL DO.



"ONCE YOU ARE THERE,
START YOUR NEW LIFE.



"AS COUNT CAMEMBERT.

"TELL NO ONE THE TRUTH."

"NO ONE."











GODS, THIS
SUCKS!

THE CLOTHES ARE FINE!
I LIKE THE CLOTHES!
BUT THIS ISOLATION
IS UNBEARABLE...



I MISS HAVING DINNER
PARTIES AND GOING TO
BALLS AND SEANCES...



I MISS FATHER...

THE PRINCESS?



OH, IT'S AGAINST
WEARING FUR!

OH, I WANNA GO!



THERE'S NO WAY
WE COULD AFFORD
TICKETS...

AHHH, I WONDER
WHAT SHE'LL WEAR
THIS TIME!

No-Furs Ball

Hosted by Crown Princess Brie







A ROYAL BALL?! YOU
CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!



FETA, I'M PERFECTLY
SERIOUS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO
NOTHING SCANDALOUS?!



THERE IS NO WAY I'M
MISSING THIS BALL, FETA.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.

I'VE WANTED TO
MEET THE PRINCESS FOR
YEARS NOW. THIS IS THE
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.



GRRRRRRRRRR



IT'S DANGEROUS, CHILD!

AHHH, FETA!



Royal Palace of Fromage.



WHO'S THAT?



I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE...



IS HE WEARING A-?



NO WAY...

AND THEY LET HIM IN?!



OH MY...

IS HE TRYING TO
MAKE A STATEMENT?

BY THE
GODS, CAN HE
NOT READ?

HE IS A SNACK,
THOUGH...

DOES HE KNOW-?



THE PRINCESS-!

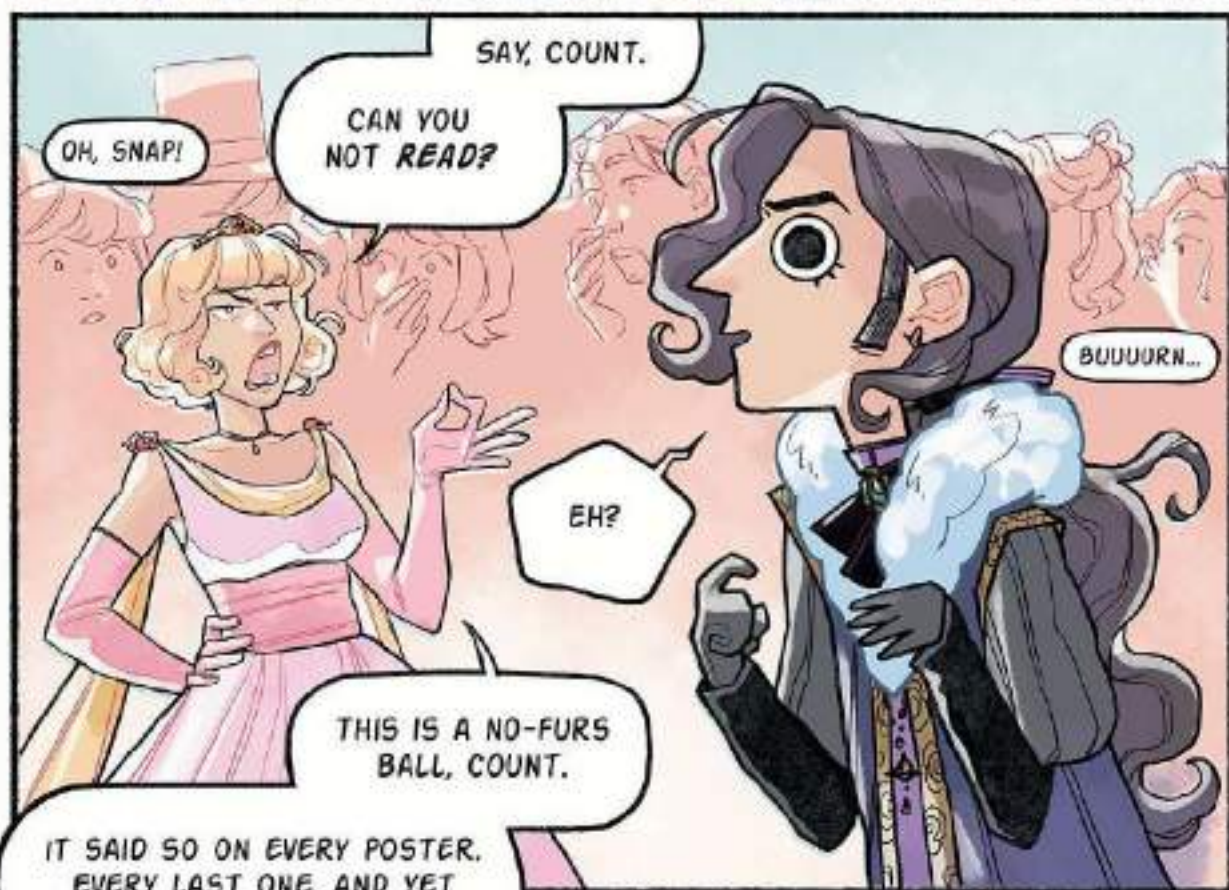




EXCUSE ME?!









I AM *WELL*
AWARE THIS IS A
NO-FURS BALL.

TRUST ME, I WOULD
NEVER DISREGARD
A THEME!



THIS NECK WRAP MAY LOOK
AND FEEL LIKE MINK FUR, BUT
IN FACT, IT IS MADE OF AN
INNOVATIVE NEW MATERIAL-

THEY CALL IT
FAUX FUR.



IT WAS DEVELOPED
BY A BRAND FROM MY
HOMETOWN, *MAISON
DE GORGONZOLA*.

BEFORE MOVING, I HEARD THEY
WERE LOOKING TO EXPAND, AND
THIS SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE
SOME OF THEIR WORK.

THEY NEVER USE ANIMAL
PRODUCTS, AND EVERYTHING THEY
MAKE IS OF EXCELLENT QUALITY!
THERE'S NO REASON TO EVER
BUY REAL FUR AGAIN.

MINK FUR FEELS LIKE HAY
COMPARED TO HOW SOFT
THIS IS-TRUST ME.



OR BETTER
YET, HERE!





FEEL IT.



I THOUGHT YOU,
MOST OF ALL, WOULD
FIND THIS INTERESTING,
YOUR HIGHNESS.



I'VE BEEN A FAN
OF YOUR ACTIVISM
FOR A LONG TIME.



A couple of days later.



YOU MADE
THE NEWS?!

A Furry Surprise at the Princess's Ball!



AAAAAHN...

AH, SO YOU
FOUND OUT...



CAMEMBERT!



SMACK!!

OW!







GODS, YOU'RE RIGHT-
EVERYONE AND THEIR MOM
IS INVITING ME TO THEIR
LITTLE GET-TOGETHERS...



SIGH

YEAH, FETA. LOW
PROFILE, I KNOW...

CAMEMBERT, I AM
WARNING YOU. YOUR
FATHER SAID-



LISTEN, I REFUSE TO LIVE
FOREVER LOCKED UP IN THIS
HOUSE. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO
GO OUT AND ENJOY MYSELF
EVERY SO OFTEN, OK?

THAT BEING SAID,
I RECOGNIZE I WENT
OVERBOARD, AND I'M
VERY SORRY.

I'LL LIE LOW
UNTIL THIS BLOWS
OVER-I PROMISE.



OK, GOOD.

Two weeks later.





...a little
get together,
you can come!!

Yours truly,
Brie



COUNT CAMEMBERT, HERE
TO SEE HER ROYAL HIGHNESS,
PRINCESS BRIE OF FROMAGE.



OH, HELLO, COUNT!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU!

Y-YOU HAVE?



WHY, OF COURSE!
YOU MADE QUITE THE
IMPRESSION AT THE BALL.



COME, COME, LET
ME INTRODUCE YOU!

THIS IS MY DEAREST
FRIEND, LADY RICOTTA.

IT'S NICE TO MAKE
YOUR ACQUAINTANCE,
COUNT!

BRIE HAS BEEN TALKING
ABOUT YOU NONSTOP SINCE
THE BALL. I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

SH-SHE WAS
TALKING
ABOUT ME?!

AH-HA-HA,
WELL!

RICOTTA WAS ABROAD
WHEN I HELD THE BALL.
I NEEDED TO FILL HER IN
ON ALL THAT WENT DOWN-

MOVING ON!

YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR
WITH LADY GORGONZOLA.

SHE HAS BEEN RUNNING
MAISON DE GORGONZOLA SINCE
HER HUSBAND'S PASSING!

TRAGIC.







HOW IS A RUNWAY SHOW
HOSTED BY THE PRINCESS
EXPECTED?

A RUNWAY SHOW IS LITERALLY
THE FIRST THING THAT COMES
TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK
OF A FASHION EVENT!

BOOF
BOOF

HAVE ANY OF THE
PRINCESS'S PREVIOUS
EVENTS BEEN A
RUNWAY SHOW?

NO, BUT—

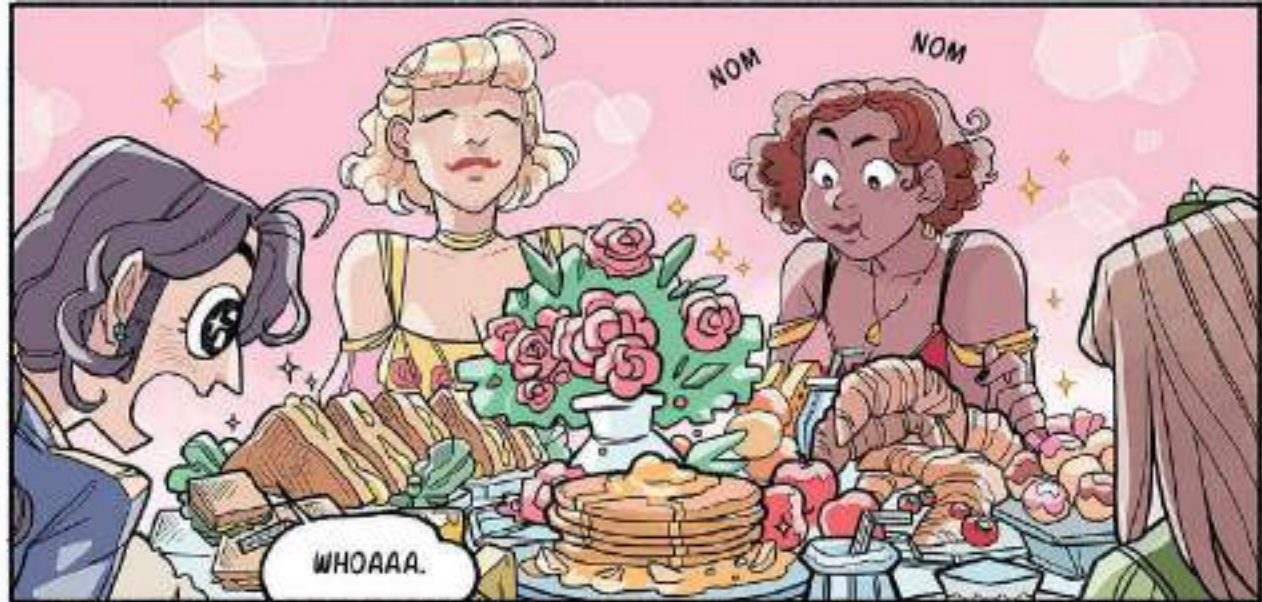
HOW ABOUT WE MAKE IT
AN EXHIBIT? WE COULD
HAVE MODELS STAND ON
PEDESTALS AS IF THEY
WERE SCULPTURES.

PUT SHINY PLAQUES
NEXT TO THEM WITH INFO
ABOUT THE CLOTHES AND
THE BRAND'S MISSION
STATEMENT AND STUFF.

THAT WAY, PEOPLE WILL
BE INTRODUCED TO THESE
LESSER-KNOWN BRANDS IN
AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL
ELEVATE THEIR PRODUCTS TO
THE STATE OF FINE ART!







AND PLEASE,
CAM—

CALL ME BRIE.



BRIE...

FETA,
I'M HOME!

SHOULD I EXPECT YOUR
FACE TO BE ALL OVER
TOMORROW'S PAPER?

PEW
PEW

I CAN ASSURE YOU, DEAR FETA,
YOU WILL SEE NO SUCH THING. WE
HAD A PERFECTLY LOW-KEY TIME.

WITH THE
CROWN PRINCESS.

YES! AND HER FRIEND
RICOTTA AND GET THIS—

LADY GORGONZOLA!

SHE HAS BEEN RUNNING
MAISON DE GORGONZOLA FOR
YEARS NOW, EVER SINCE HER
HUSBAND DIED. ISN'T IT COOL?

THAT HER
HUSBAND
DIED?

NO, FETA! THAT SHE'S
A *WOMAN* RUNNING
A BUSINESS!

YES, THE PRIVILEGES
OF BEING WIDOWED...

WHAT DID THE
PRINCESS WANT
WITH YOU?













YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON THE PRINCESS!





WH-WHAAAAAAT?!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

AH-HA...HA-HA!



NOT CONVINCING?



NOT AT ALL.



FINE, I HAVE AN ITTY-
BITTY CRUSH ON BRIE.

GODS...



SHE HAS A CRUSH ON
THE CROWN PRINCESS.

CRUSHES COME AND GO,
FETA. I'M SURE I'LL BE
OVER IT IN NO TIME!

THE DAUGHTER OF
THE KING OF THIS
KINGDOM HIMSELF.





I'M SERIOUS!

WE ASKED FOR MODELS
WITH DIFFERENT LOOKS, BUT
AGENCIES KEPT SENDING US
TALL, SKINNY, FAIR GIRLS WITH
DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLES.

SO WE DECIDED TO INVITE
PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO WE
THINK WOULD BE A GOOD
FIT, AND I THOUGHT OF
YOU RIGHT AWAY!



BEFORE YOU SAY NO, KNOW
THAT THE OUTFIT WE HAVE
IN MIND FOR YOU IS SIMILAR
TO THAT BLUE LOOK WE
SAW LAST SEASON—

YEAH, I'LL DO IT.



OH? I THOUGHT
IT'D TAKE MORE
CONVINCING.

I HAD A WHOLE
SPIEL PLANNED.

WE'RE DOOMED
ANYWAY; I MIGHT
AS WELL HAVE
SOME FUN...



NOW, THAT'S WHAT
I LIKE TO HEAR!





WOW!

CAM IS RIGHT!
YOU LOOK AMAZING!





YOU MUST BE FETA!
CAM HAS TOLD ME
SO MUCH ABOUT YOU!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO
FINALLY MEET YOU!



O-OH! THE PLEASURE IS
ALL MINE, Y-YOUR ROYAL
HIGHNESS, I-!



NO NEED FOR SUCH
FORMALITIES, FETA! ANY
FRIEND OF CAM'S IS A
FRIEND OF MINE!

BESIDES, YOU ARE
DOING US A HUGE
FAVOR HERE!



YOUR HIGHNESS,
YOU AND THE COUNT
ARE NEEDED IN
THE KITCHENS.

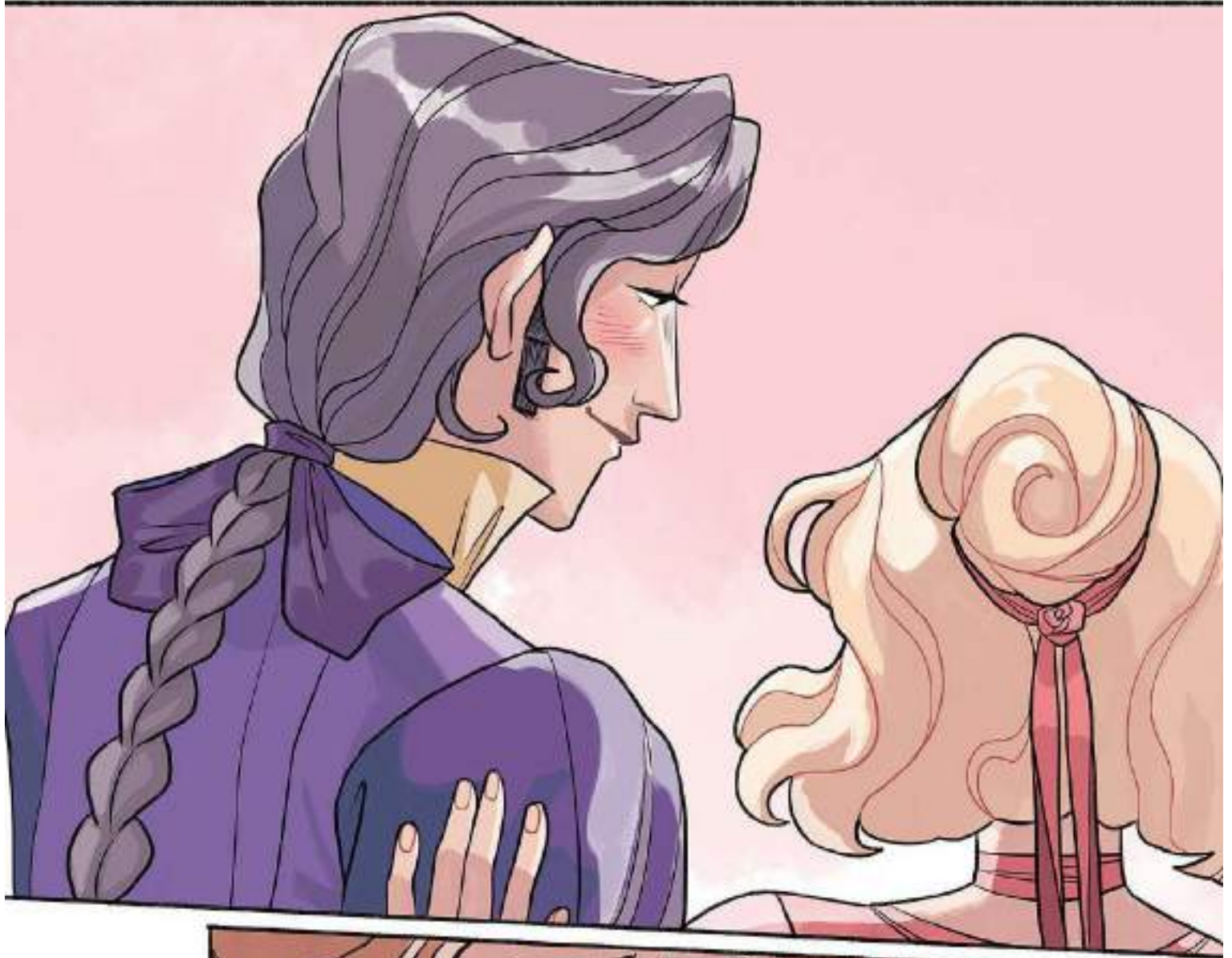
AH, YES!



FORGIVE ME, FETA-
IT SEEMS I MUST
STEAL THIS ONE AWAY
FOR A BIT NOW!

OH, OF COURSE,
YOUR HIGHNESS!





















FETA, I KNOW HOW STRESSED AND WORRIED YOU ARE, BUT I *PROMISE* YOU, I'M NOT A CHILD.

I KNOW THIS SITUATION—NO, THIS *PATH I CHOSE* MEANS LOVE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR ME ENTIRELY.

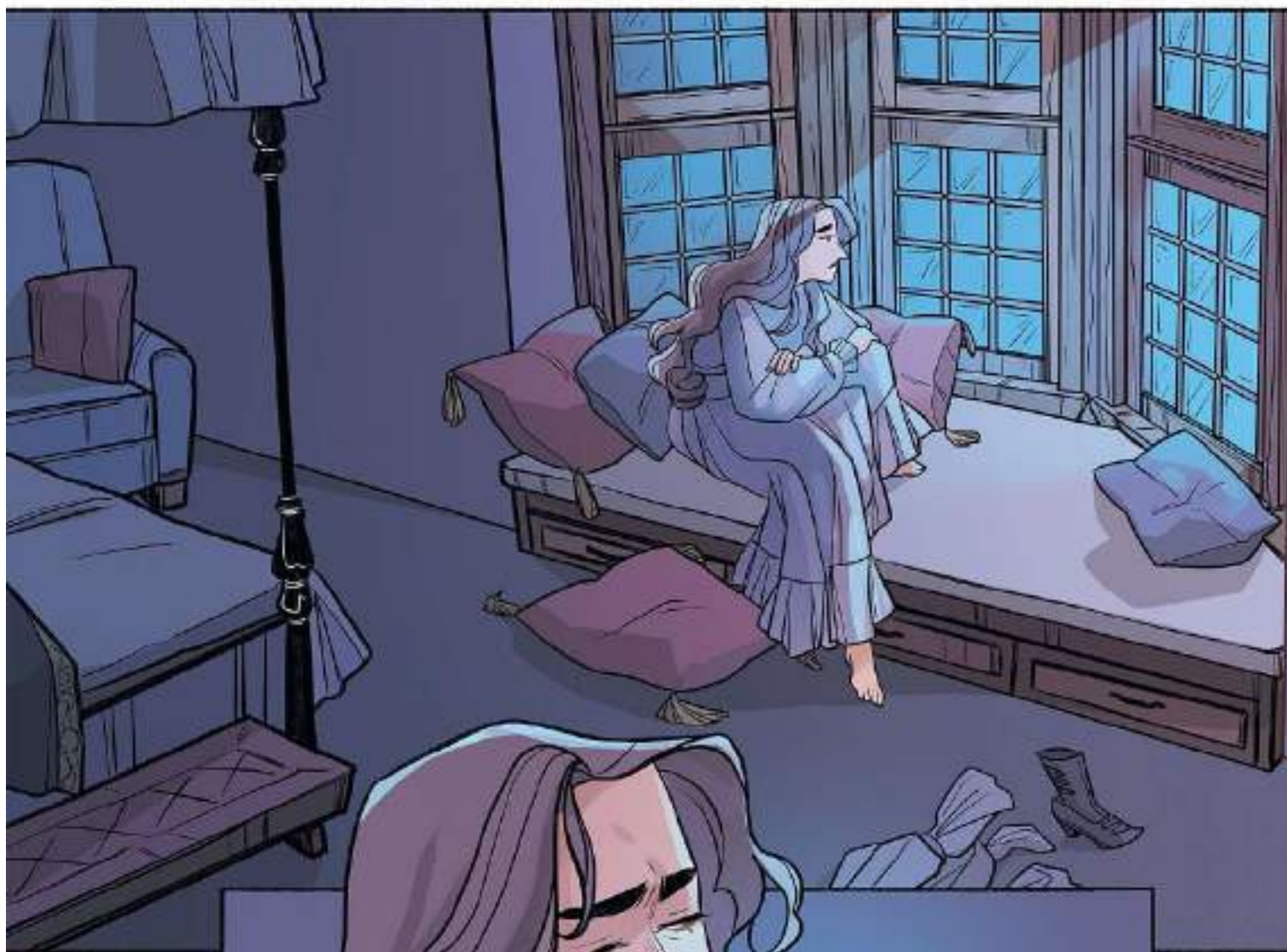
I KNOW THIS.

BRIE IS MY *FRIEND*, NOTHING MORE.

I MAY HAVE A CRUSH RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO THINK SOMETHING COULD COME OF IT. IT WON'T DEVELOP ANY FURTHER.

CAM...

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M GOING TO BED.



The following morning.

RICOTTA,
IT SEEMS I HAVE
DEVELOPED FEELINGS
FOR THE COUNT!

IS THIS WHY YOU SHOWED
UP AT MY HOUSE AT EIGHT IN
THE MORNING AND DEMANDED
I BE WOKEN UP?

W-WELL, I'M SORRY! I HAVE A
LOT OF FEELINGS RIGHT NOW, AND
THERE'S NO ONE AT THE PALACE
I CAN CONFIDE IN!

AND SOMETHING
HAPPENED LAST NIGHT,
AND I COULDN'T SLEEP—

SOMETHING
HAPPENED?!







OH!

IT'S PROBABLY
BECAUSE HE'S A
COUNT AND YOU'RE
A PRINCESS!

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING,
HIS RANK IS TOO LOW
TO MARRY YOU!



Fromage Nobility for Newbies



King/Queen

Prince/Princess

Duke/Duchess

Marquess/Marchioness

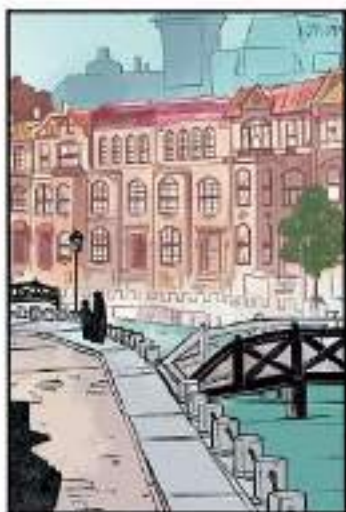
Count/Countess



HE MIGHT EVEN THINK
YOU'D BE OFFENDED IF
HE TRIED ANYTHING.

BY THE GODS...
THAT MUST BE IT...













EVER SINCE THEY GOT THEIR NEW CREATIVE TEAM, THEY'VE BEEN DOING AMAZING WORK, NOT JUST AESTHETICALLY, BUT ALSO WITH THEIR BRAND MESSAGE! I WASN'T A FAN BEFORE; THEY WERE PRETTY BORING, AND THE DESIGNS FELT DATED, BUT NOW THEIR LEAD FASHION DESIGNER IS, LIKE, MY FAVORITE OUT OF ALL THE BIG NAMES IN BIG BRANDS!

HE'S REALLY COOL AND BROUGHT THIS WHOLE IDEA OF CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO TO THE BRAND, WHICH THEN INFLUENCED MANY OTHER BRANDS TO FOLLOW SUIT, AND IT'S REALLY CHANGED THE MARKET!

SO BASICALLY, HE'S THE WHOLE REASON LACE AND FLORAL PATTERNS ARE CURRENTLY SO POPULAR IN MEN'S FASHION AND WHY MORE ANGULAR AND STRUCTURED FROCKS ARE BEING MARKETING TO WOMEN, AND ALSO WHY TARTAN IS GAINING BACK POPULARITY IN VARIOUS CIRCLES!



I'VE HEARD SOME TALK THAT HE'S ACTUALLY PUSHING TO MAKE PANTS FOR WOMEN BUT IS GETTING PUSHBACK BECAUSE IT'D *MAYBE* SHOW ANKLE! THAT'S REALLY RIDICULOUS FOR MANY REASONS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GUY WHO POPULARIZED THE FUN, PATTERNED SOCKS WITH LOW ANKLE BOOTS COMBO FOR MEN! THE SAME CAN BE EASILY BROUGHT TO WOMEN'S FASHION!

I ACTUALLY THINK THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN DOING SOCK LINES TO MATCH EVERY SINGLE COLLECTION HE'S PUT OUT SINCE HE'S BEEN IN CHARGE...



I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO WEAR A GUCCEESE FROCK COAT TO THE BALL, BUT FETA THOUGHT IT CLASHED WITH THE NECK WRAP-

AH!

I WENT ON FOR A WHILE THERE, DIDN'T I? FORGIVE ME-!

HA-HA, IT'S OK! I ALSO REALLY LIKE THEM!

ACTUALLY, THE REASON I WANT TO GET GOUDA A NEW COLLAR IS THAT I JUST GOT A NEW DRESS FROM THEM, AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE ONE THAT MATCHES IT.

OH?

THE DRESS IS FROM LAST SEASON, BUT IT TOOK A WHILE FOR THEM TO FINISH MY CUSTOM ORDER. IT DIDN'T COME IN MY COLORS.

OH! IS IT PERHAPS THE SILK STARLIGHT PLEATED DRESS? IT ONLY CAME IN DARK SHADES, RIGHT?

YES, THAT'S THE ONE!







Thursday.



HI, CAM-!



HI, PRINCESS!

'SUP.

LADY...GORGONZOLA...
YOU ARE...ALSO...HERE.



I THOUGHT YOU WERE
BUSY WITH WORK.

CAM TOLD ME YOU
HAVE VINTAGE CHEDDIOR.
WHERE IS THE VINTAGE
CHEDDIOR?

















I...I EXPECTED YOU TO WANT TO GO THROUGH A FORMAL COURTSHIP PERIOD BEFORE A PROPOSAL...



FORMAL COURTSHIPS ARE FOR COUPLES WHO DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER YET...I KNOW CAM.



HE'S AN AIRHEAD WITH THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A WORM.

AND HE'S SWEET, AND FUNNY, AND PASSIONATE, AND THOUGHTFUL, AND HE'S RIDICULOUSLY CHARMING WITHOUT EVEN TRYING.




AND...



I LOVE HIM.

I KNOW HE LOVES ME,
TOO. I CAN FEEL IT.



HE WON'T ASK ME TO
MARRY HIM FOR WHATEVER
ANTIQUATED REASONS, SO...

...I'LL JUST DO
IT INSTEAD.

DOESN'T MATTER WHO
ASKS, REALLY. I JUST
WANT TO BE WITH HIM.





FETA, I'M OFF
TO BRUNCH!



ALL RIGHT! SEND
THE PRINCESS MY
REGARDS!



WILL DO!





COUNT CAMEMBERT,
HERE TO SEE HER ROYAL
HIGHNESS, THE-

CAM!



Y-YOU'RE
EARLY!



A-AAH, GOOD!
GOOD, GOOD!

THAT WAY I GET TO
SAY GOODBYE TO YOU
BEFORE I LEAVE!

YOU'RE LEAVING?







S-SO WHEN'S
ZOLA COMING?



OH...UM...SHE CAN'T
COME TODAY! HER MESSAGE
ONLY CAME IN THIS MORNING,
SO I DIDN'T HAVE TIME
TO LET YOU KNOW...



S-SO IT'S JUST
THE TWO OF US?

UM...YES...







I WOKE UP HUNGRY,
AND SHE MADE TWO
NEW ATTEMPTS.

THEY LOOKED
SO. SO GOOD!




I JUST
COULDN'T RESIST!



I ENDED UP EATING
BOTH...AND THEN ALSO
SOME CHEESE PUFFS I HAD
NEAR MY BED...UH...





SO, YEAH, I DON'T THINK
I CAN STOMACH ANOTHER
GRILLED CHEESE...

I WAS STILL HOPING
TO EAT SOME BURRATA
SALAD HERE, THOUGH,
OF COURSE!



PRINCESS?













ARE YOUR FRIENDS NOT
JOINING YOU TODAY,
YOUR HIGHNESS?



NO, NOT
TODAY.

I'LL CLEAR
THE PLATES RIGHT
AWAY, THEN.

THANK
YOU.





The next day.



The day after that.



The day after that.



And the day after that.



That goes on for a while...







THERE SEEMS TO
BE A GOOD CROWD
OUTSIDE—PERFECT!



SAY, ZOLA...
HAVE YOU HEARD
FROM BRIE AT ALL
RECENTLY?



YEAH, I RAN INTO HER
SOME DAYS AGO, ACTUALLY.

OH...



WHY DO YOU ASK? DID
SOMETHING HAPPEN?



AH, WELL...

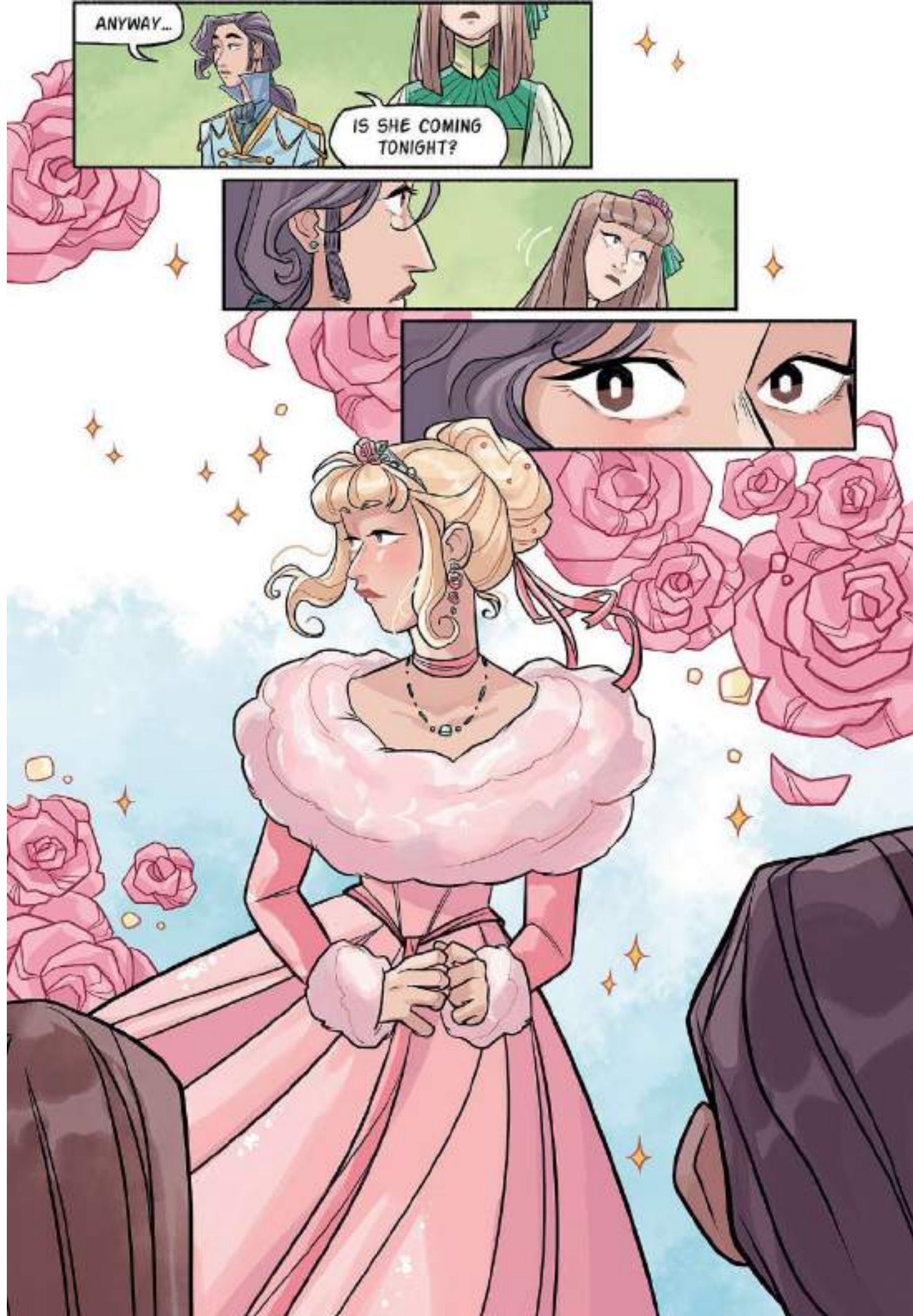
LAST TIME I SAW HER,
SHE ACTED REALLY ODDLY...
AND SHE HASN'T REACHED
OUT SINCE.

I THINK SHE'S MAD
AT ME, BUT I HAVE
NO IDEA WHY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER
IN ALMOST A MONTH.



SHE HASN'T INVITED
ME OVER FOR A BRUNCH
OR ANYTHING...









BRIE, WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOTHING AT ALL. WHY?



THEN WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING CAMEMBERT?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT—

TSK.



Y'ALL ARE BOTH TERRIBLE LIARS...



WHAT?

FORGET IT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW.







OH, I KNEW I *HAD* TO DO IT AS SOON AS I HEARD OF THE NO-FURS BALL! I HAD JUST GOTTEN THE NECK WRAP DAYS BEFORE I MOVED!

AND NO ONE WOULD'VE PAID ATTENTION IF I HADN'T KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT BEING FAUX FUR AT FIRST.

OOH.

SO SMART!



ANYWAY, I DIDN'T EXPECT
THE PRINCESS HERSELF TO
PAY ME SUCH ATTENTION.



WHEN I SAW HER
WALKING MY WAY, I WAS
HALF-AFRAID SHE'D THROW
ME IN THE DUNGEONS!



HMM...


PERHAPS I
SHOULD HAVE.







BRIE...




ANYWAY,
I'D NEVER DO
SUCH A THING.


MY GRANDFATHER
WOULD'VE DEFINITELY
DONE IT, THOUGH-
VICIOUS OLD MAN.

IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU
HAD SHOWN UP TO COURT
BACK THEN, WITH SUCH
PRETTY, LONG HAIR...

Y'KNOW,
IT MAKES YOU
LOOK LIKE A G-




THAT'S IT!
PARTY'S OVER.




THANK YOU FOR
COMING. SERVANTS
WILL SEE YOU OUT.



SURE.



HAVE A
GOOD NIGHT.



THANK YOU FOR
INVITING ME, ZOLA.







OH, CAM...



NO, NO—THIS IS
A GOOD THING!



THIS WILL MAKE
IT WAY EASIER FOR
ME TO GET OVER THIS
AWFUL CRUSH!

CAN'T FOOL MYSELF
ANYMORE THAT SHE
MIGHT LIKE ME BACK.



WHAT GOOD WOULD
THAT EVEN DO, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD
BE TOGETHER. I CAN'T
TELL HER THE TRUTH.

I'M KIND OF RELIEVED.
THIS WAY, I CAN JUST GET
OVER IT AND MOVE ON
WITH MY LIFE.

ONE LESS THING
TO WORRY ABOUT.





ZOLA-

NO, EXPLAIN TO ME WHY
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OK
TO TALK TO CAMEMBERT
THAT WAY.



TSK...

HE THINKS YOU
HATE HIM-



AND WHAT
IF I DO?

OH, PLEASE. *THE*
DOG CAN SEE YOU
HAVE FEELINGS
FOR HIM.



BOOF.
(SHE'S RIGHT.)



YOU DON'T
KNOW-!





WHAT?



WHAT DON'T
I KNOW?

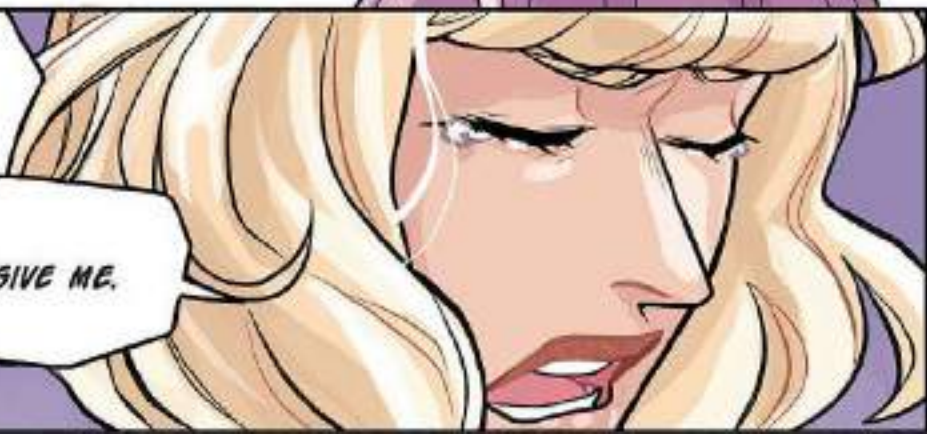
THIS IS NONE
OF YOUR BUSINESS,
ZOLA...

YOU MADE
A SCENE AT
MY EVENT!

I HAD TO MAKE
SURE THOSE GIRLS DIDN'T
GO TO THE TABLOIDS AND
MAKE A LAUGHINGSTOCK
OF MY FRIEND!

AND FOR WHAT?
WHAT DID CAM DO TO
DESERVE THAT?

FORGIVE ME.





MY BEHAVIOR AT YOUR
EVENT WAS UNACCEPTABLE.
FOR THAT, I OFFER MY
APOLOGIES. I PROMISE IT
WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME, ALL THIS YELLING
HAS UPSET THE DOG.

SEE LADY
GORGONZOLA OUT,
WILL YOU?

YES, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

BRIE-!



THIS WAY,
MY LADY.

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!



I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR THIS
ANYWAY...



SLAM!!



CAM THINKS I
HATE HIM, HUH?



I WISH IT WERE
THAT SIMPLE...



HEY, CAM, HOW'S THE
GETTING OVER YOUR
CRUSH GOING?

THE WAY I FEEL
IS REALLY BAAAAD!!

SWIMMINGLY.

THIS PAIN
INSIDE MAKES ME
WANT TO DIE!

BUT DEATH IS SCARY
SO INSTEAD I
CRYYY!!

CLICK!

I SEE.

CAM, YOU HAVEN'T
LEFT THIS ROOM
IN DAYS...

IS THAT SO?








A comic panel set against a pink background with floating roses and sparkles. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a pink corset and a full pink skirt, is gesturing with her hands while speaking. She has a small floral headband and a choker. Two other characters are seen from behind: a person with long brown hair in a green tunic, and a person with long grey hair in a blue coat with a red sash.

COUNT
CAMEMBERT!


FANCY MEETING
YOU HERE. IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU!

A comic panel showing a close-up of the two characters from the previous panel. The person with grey hair is on the left, wearing a blue coat with a red sash and a large red gem. The person with brown hair is on the right, wearing a green tunic over a white collared shirt. They are both smiling.


H-HELLO,
YOUR HIGHNESS!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE
YOU AS WELL!

THIS OUTING
HAS BACKFIRED
IMMENSELY...






A-AH, NO WORRIES,
PRINCESS! ALTHOUGH I HAVE
TO ADMIT, I WAS AFRAID YOU
NO LONGER WANTED TO BE
MY FRIEND, SINCE-




OH, THAT'S JUST
SILLY, CAM!

IF I COULD HAVE IT
MY WAY, WE WOULD HANG OUT
ALL THE TIME LIKE WE USED TO,
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE
BEEN VERY BUSY.



I'M PLANNING THE
NEXT BALL. I'VE HAD TO DO
SOME DIPLOMATIC TRIPS, AND
I'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT
OF TIME WITH THE DUKE OF
BRUSSELS SPROUT.



IT SEEMS WE WILL
SOON BE ENGAGED TO
BE MARRIED.



ENGAGED?



YES! I BELIEVE THE
DUKE PLANS TO PROPOSE
AT THE BALL.

YOU'VE PROBABLY
SEEN HIM AROUND. HE'S
BEEN AT EVERY EVENT I'VE
GONE TO SINCE WAY BEFORE
THE NO-FURS BALL!



HE'S BEEN PURSUING
ME FOR AGES, BUT I
PAID LITTLE ATTENTION
UNTIL RECENTLY.

I'VE REALIZED IT'S
THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
FATHER HAS WANTED THIS
FOR A WHILE, SO HE'S
VERY PLEASED!



I OFFER YOU MY
CONGRATULATIONS,
YOUR HIGHNESS.



AND IT'S BEEN
LOVELY SEEING YOU,
BUT I'M AFRAID FETA
AND I MUST GET GOING.

OH, BUT I HAVEN'T
EVEN TOLD YOU ABOUT
THE BALL YET-

SOME OTHER TIME,
PRINCESS. WE'RE ON
QUITE THE TIGHT
SCHEDULE.











NOT HUNGRY
AGAIN?



HMM...

HEY...I KNOW IT
HURTS RIGHT NOW...



BUT IT *WILL*
GET BETTER
WITH TIME-

FETA, PLEASE...
I JUST WANT TO
BE ALONE...

OH, CAM...

THIS IS EXACTLY
WHAT I WANTED
TO AVOID...

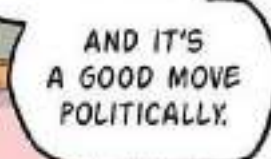
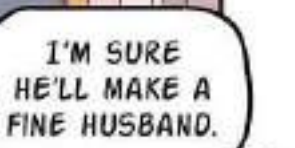
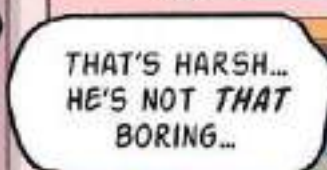


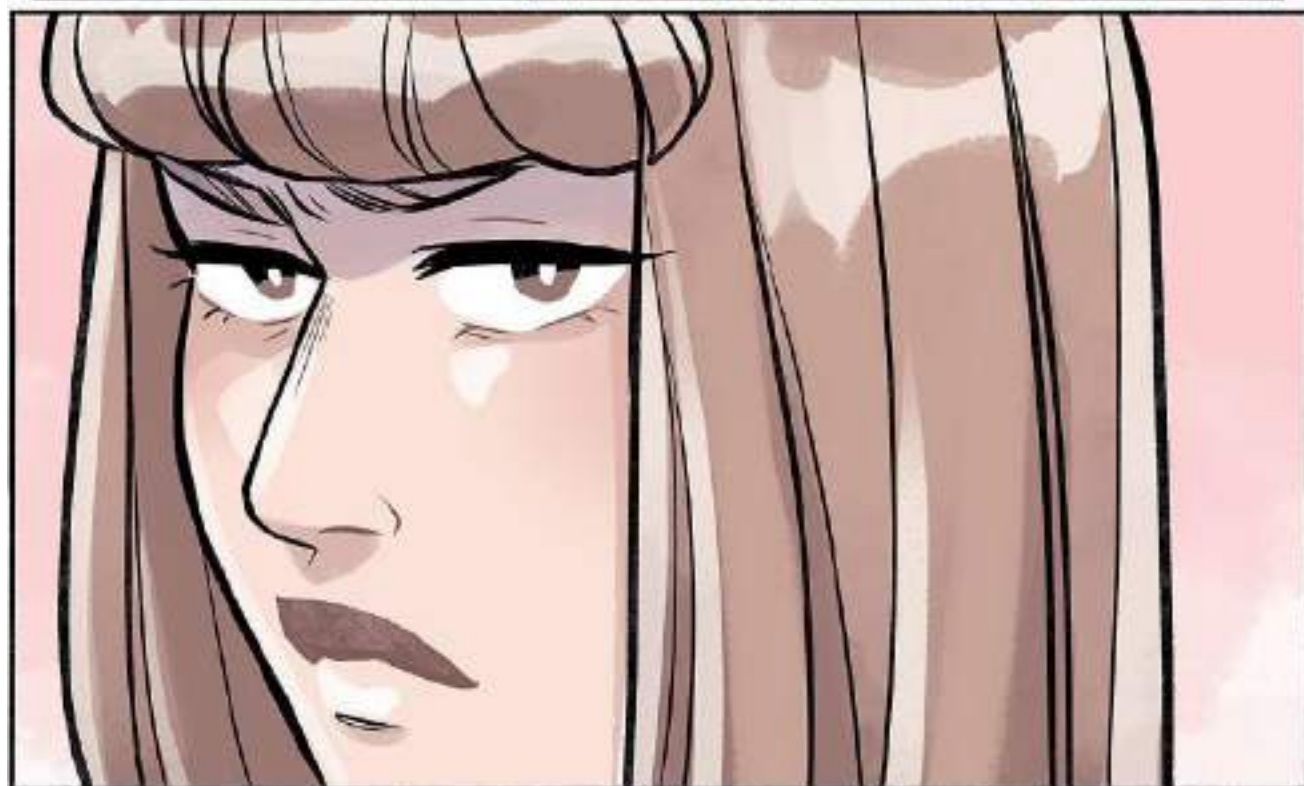
I KNOW.

I WISH I'D
LISTENED...











OK. ENOUGH WITH
THIS CHARADE.



I KNOW CAM
IS A GIRL.





CAM?



OH GODS, IT'S
BEEN SO LONG!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE ALL ALONE?!



I'M JUST GETTING SOME
AIR! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
WERE BACK YET!

OH, I JUST
GOT BACK.



ENOUGH ABOUT
ME, THOUGH!

YOU LOOK TIRED. I
GATHER THE WEDDING
PREPARATIONS ARE
TAKING THEIR TOLL
ON YOU, HUH?

W-WEDDING?

D-DID BRIE
ALREADY GET
ENGAGED?



UH...I SURE
WOULD
HOPE SO?



GUESS HE
COULDN'T WAIT
UNTIL THE BALL...





SNITCHES GET STITCHES.

IT WASN'T MY SECRET TO TELL.

AND NOT THAT I THINK YOU'D THROW CAM IN PRISON FOR IT, BUT YOU *COULD*. AS FAR AS THE LAW IS CONCERNED.



CLINK



I'M ASSUMING YOU FOUND OUT SOMETIME BEFORE MY EVENT.

AH...THAT'S RIGHT...

THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T TALK TO CAM FOR A WHILE, ISN'T IT?

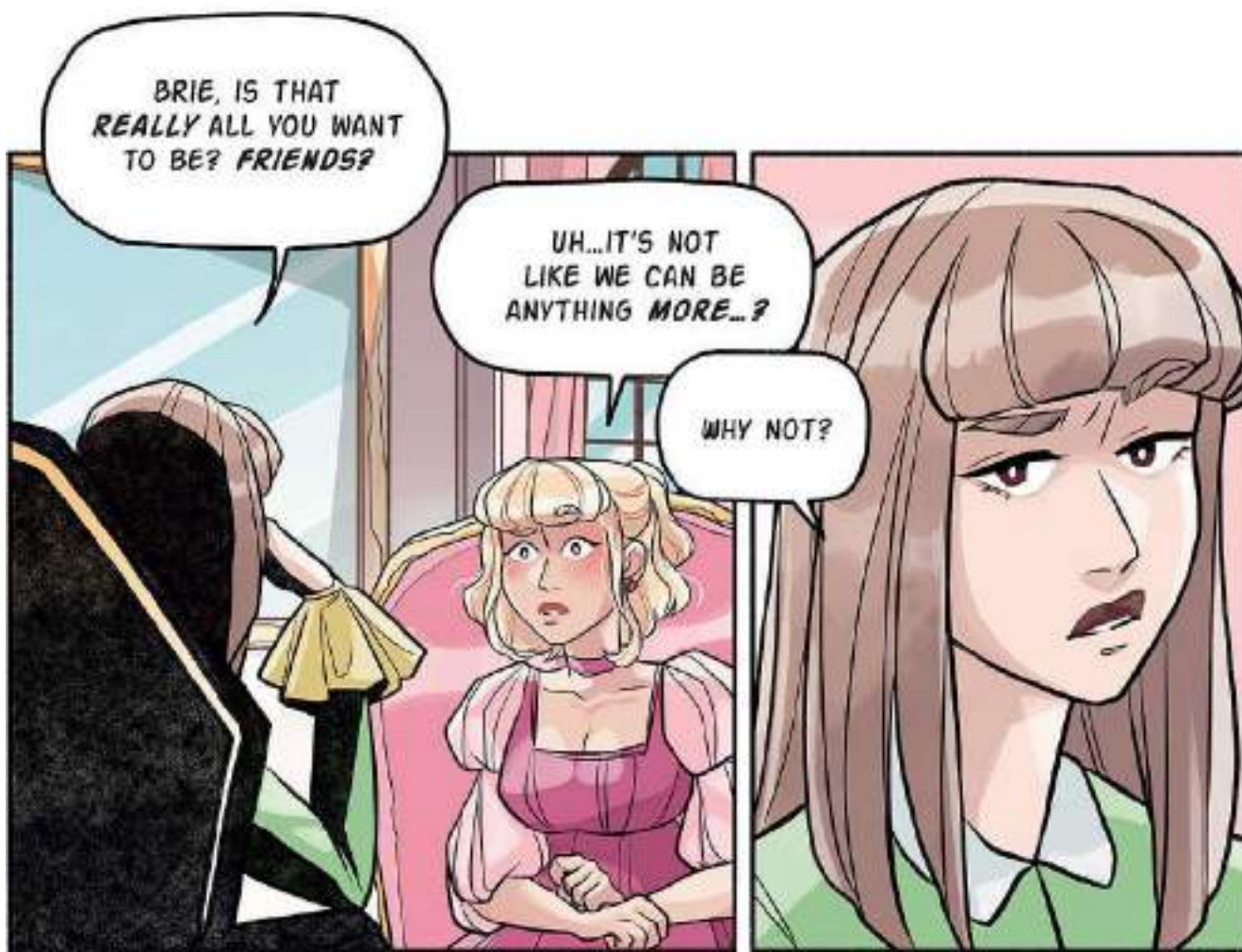
AH...YES...UH...THE WAY I FOUND OUT...I REACTED...BADLY...



I DON'T KNOW WHY EXACTLY CAM'S DOING THIS, BUT I'M SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS...

THIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN EASY PATH TO TAKE...





WHETHER CAM IS A
MAN OR A WOMAN, DOES
THAT REALLY CHANGE
YOUR FEELINGS?



SO YOU KNOW THE
DAY YOU WENT TO THE
PALACE FOR BRUNCH AND
I LEFT RIGHT AWAY?


YEAH...

I WAS ACTUALLY SUPPOSED
TO LEAVE WAY BEFORE YOU
ARRIVED. IT WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE JUST YOU AND BRIE...


PREPARATIONS DIDN'T GO
AS PLANNED, AND BRIE WAS
REALLY NERVOUS, SO I
STAYED LONGER THAN
I SHOULD HAVE...

WH-WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?






BRIE WAS GOING
TO *PROPOSE* TO
YOU THAT DAY.



I DON'T KNOW
WHY SHE WOULDN'T GO
THROUGH WITH IT!



SHE HASN'T WRITTEN
ME AT ALL. I THOUGHT
SHE WAS BUSY WEDDING
PLANNING AND SUCH!

IT'S OK...







I RAN INTO
RICOTTA...

SHE TOLD ME
BRIE HAD PLANS OF
PROPOSING... TO ME...



WHAT? BUT...THAT'S
RIDICULOUS...

I KNOW! BUT SHE
WAS GOING TO!



SHE HAD A WHOLE THING
PLANNED WITH RICOTTA BUT
BACKED OUT LAST MINUTE
FOR SOME REASON!

I HAVE *NO IDEA*
WHY! I CAN'T THINK
OF ANYTHING-



SHE LOVES ME!
O-OR SHE *DID*
FOR A BIT...



IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER;
SHE THINKS I'M A *MAN*,
AND SHE CAN'T KNOW I'M
NOT. IF SHE KNEW,
SHE WOULDN'T-



DOES SHE STILL
HAVE FEELINGS
FOR ME?!

WHY DID SHE
BACK OUT?!





SO CAM TOLD ME HE
REFUSED THE SANDWICH—
WHICH THE CHEF HAD
ALREADY PREPARED,
MIND YOU—

BECAUSE HE HAD
EATEN SOME AT HOME
BEFORE SHOWING UP
TO *BRUNCH*!

WHO EATS
BEFORE GOING
TO *BRUNCH*?!

ANYWAY, MY THEORY IS THAT
REJECTING THE GRILLED CHEESE
THREW BRIE OFF *HARD*, SINCE SHE WAS
ALREADY NERVOUS ABOUT PROPOSING,
AND SHE CHICKENED OUT.

...SURE,
THAT'S WHY...



WHY DID SHE
WHIPLASH AND GO FOR
BRUSSELS SPROUT?!

IT'S WHO
THE KING WANTS
HER TO MARRY.

APPARENTLY IT'D
HELP WITH A WEIRD
DISPUTED-TERRITORY
SITUATION...I DON'T KNOW
ALL THE DETAILS-

OK, BUT
THAT'S BESIDES
THE POINT!

SHE DOESN'T
LOVE HIM.

SHE LOVES CAM!

LOVE CAN'T PROTECT US
FROM THE PUBLIC SCRUTINY
WE'D BE SUBJECTED TO
IF WE GOT MARRIED.

CAM'S SECRET WOULD
COME OUT. YOU SAID IT
YOURSELF: CAM DOES A
HORRIBLE JOB *KEEPING*
IT UNDER WRAPS.





HAVE YOU NOTICED THERE'S NOT BEEN ANY ATTEMPT ON CAM'S PART TO PURSUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME?

THAT'S PROBABLY IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO ALL THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES—

WHAT CONSEQUENCES?! YOU'RE THE CROWN PRINCESS. I'M SURE YOU CAN FIGURE *SOMETHING* OUT—

STOP, ZOLA!

BEING THE CROWN PRINCESS DOESN'T MEAN I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT! WHAT WOULD MY FATHER THINK? WHAT WOULD THE OTHER NOBLES THINK?

WOULD I BE BANNED FROM COURT?! WOULD I BE LOCKED AWAY?! I DON'T KNOW! FOR ALL I DO KNOW, THE MARRIAGE WOULDN'T EVEN BE *VALID*!

YOU HAVEN'T JUDGED THE DECISIONS CAM MADE TO STAY SAFE...

...SO PLEASE DON'T JUDGE MINE.



WE GOTTA SMACK SOME *SENSE* INTO THOSE *FOOLS*!





Come!
Would you be available for
tea this coming Friday
afternoon? We have
much to discuss!!

- Ricotta

I do understand.
If you don't want
to discuss it with me
fine!! But you can't let
me marry that boring man
you must know
you must know



Dear Count Camembert,

waiting a
very long time,
figure out
fix this!!

Ricotta



I TOLD YOU THERE
WAS NOTHING FROM
ANY COUNT...

I'M GOING TO
KILL HIM!

Come,
Come on
please!!

At least write

e Brie w
answer me either
Ricotta

THE CROWN PRINCESS BRIE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Royal Spring Ball

Camembert,
STOP
IGNORING ME!
Ricotta



RAAAAAUGH

THE PRINCESS
ASKED FOR MORE
ADJUSTMENTS, HUH?

RRrip!!



**KNOCK
KNOCK!!**

OH, LADY RICOTTA,
WHAT A SURPRISE!

WHERE
IS HE?!

A-AH!

P-PLEASE WAIT
HERE. I'LL GO GET
HIM FOR YOU-

CAMEMBERT!

**STOMP
STOMP
STOMP**





OH, LADY
RICOTTA!

WHAT A SURPRISE!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?





I HAVE JUST BEEN TO THE PALACE, WHERE I LEARNED FROM BRIE THAT YOU'RE APPARENTLY MOVING AWAY?!

OH, YES. I LET HER KNOW WHEN I RSVP'D TO THE BALL.

I WAS PLANNING ON TELLING YOU THEN.



WHEN-?

WHY-?

WHAT?!



WE LEAVE THE DAY AFTER THE BALL, ACTUALLY.

AND I'M AFRAID THAT MEANS I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY VERY LONG, SINCE WE MUST GET GOING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.



SUCH A SHAME, REALLY...

YOU'RE INFURIATING, YOU KNOW THAT?

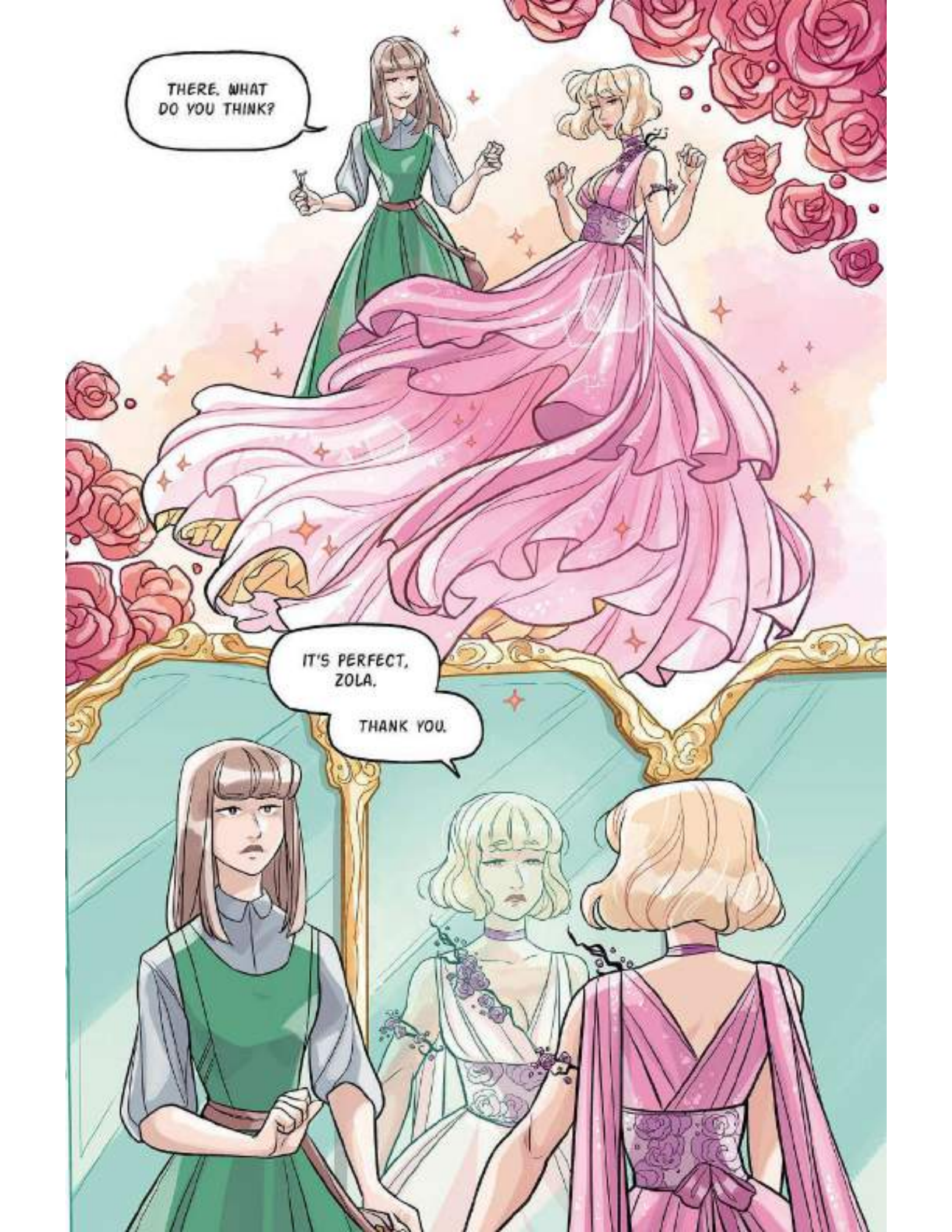












THERE. WHAT
DO YOU THINK?

IT'S PERFECT,
ZOLA.

THANK YOU.



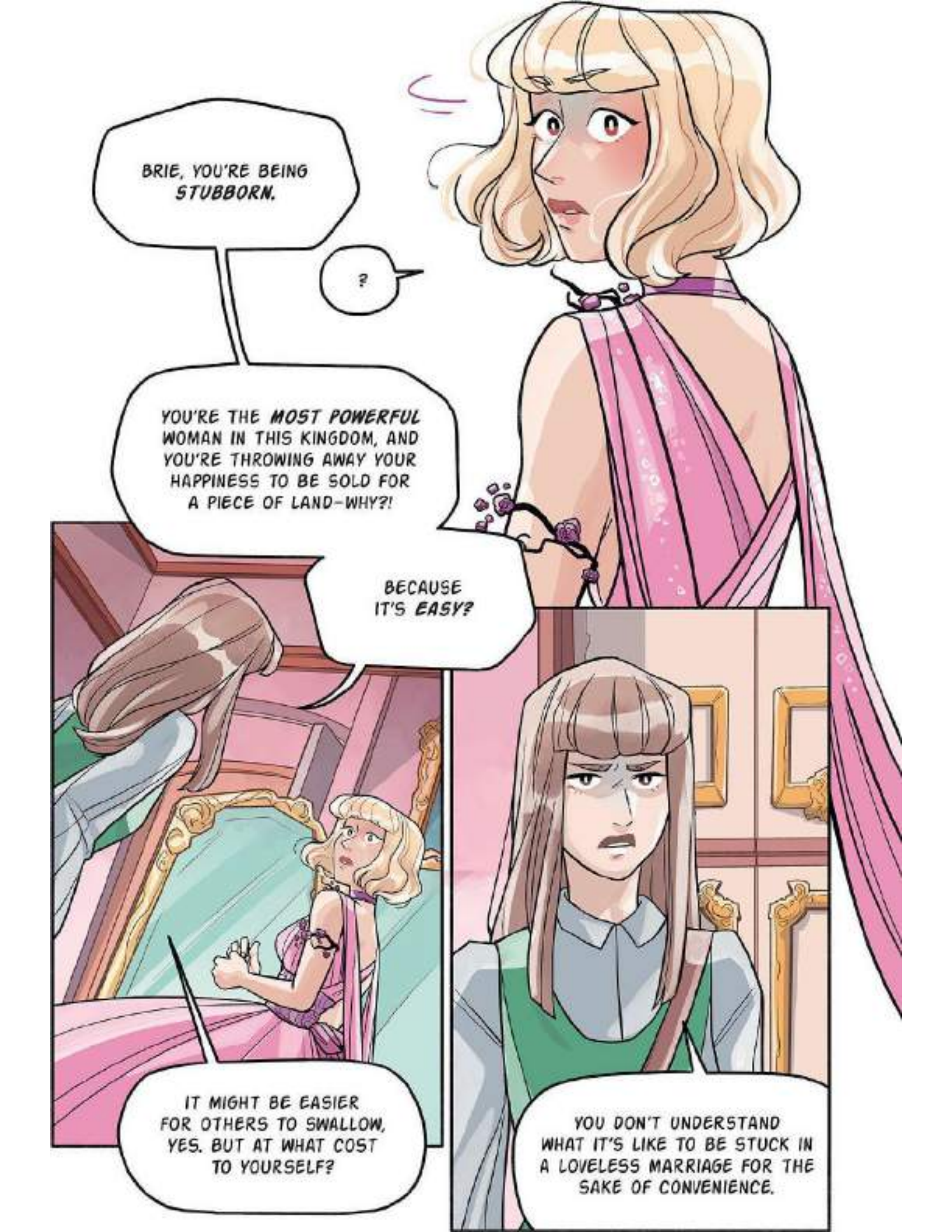
YOU'RE GOING
TO WANT TO LOOK
MORE ENTHUSIASTIC
TOMORROW, BRIE.

THE DUKE MIGHT
TAKE OFFENSE.

RIGHT...





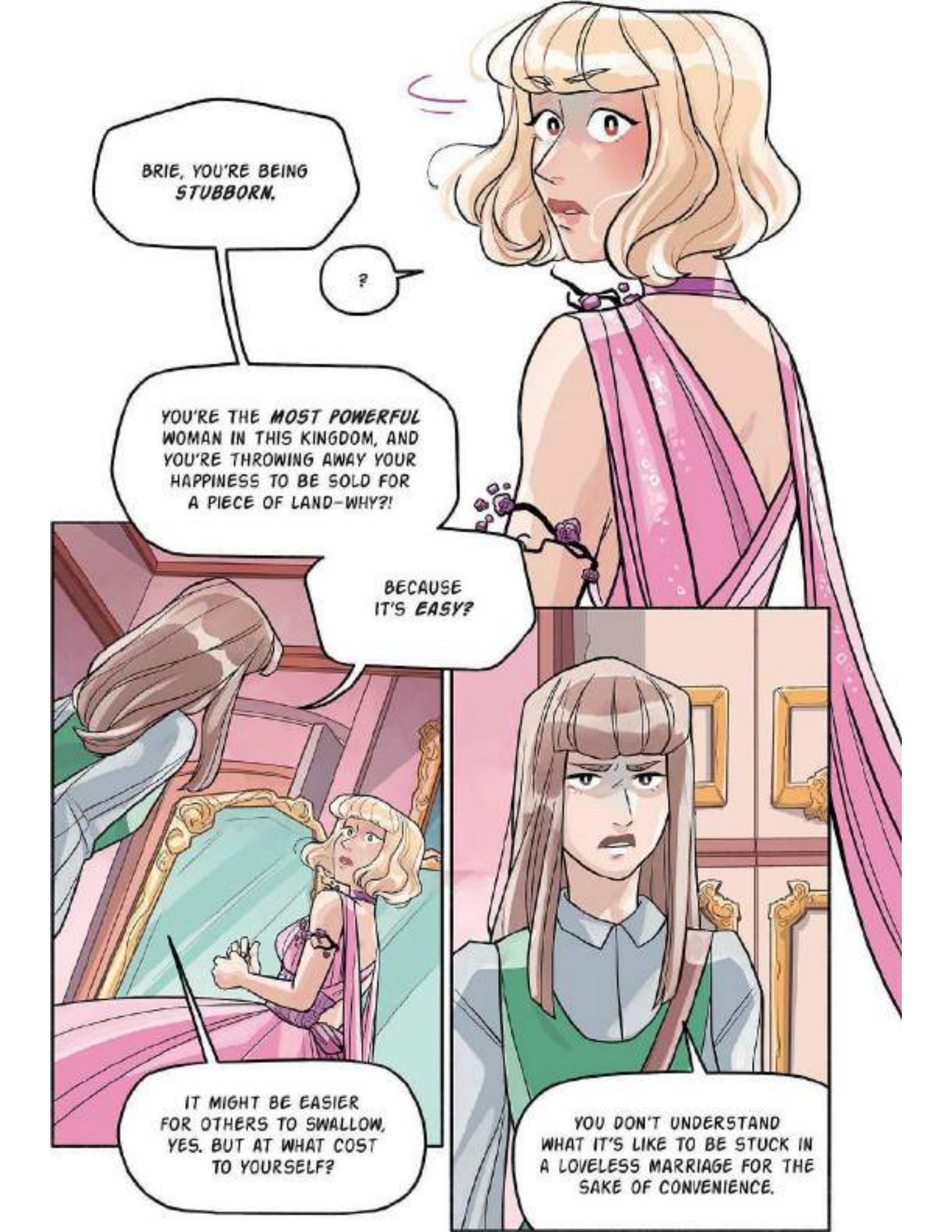


BRIE, YOU'RE BEING
STUBBORN.

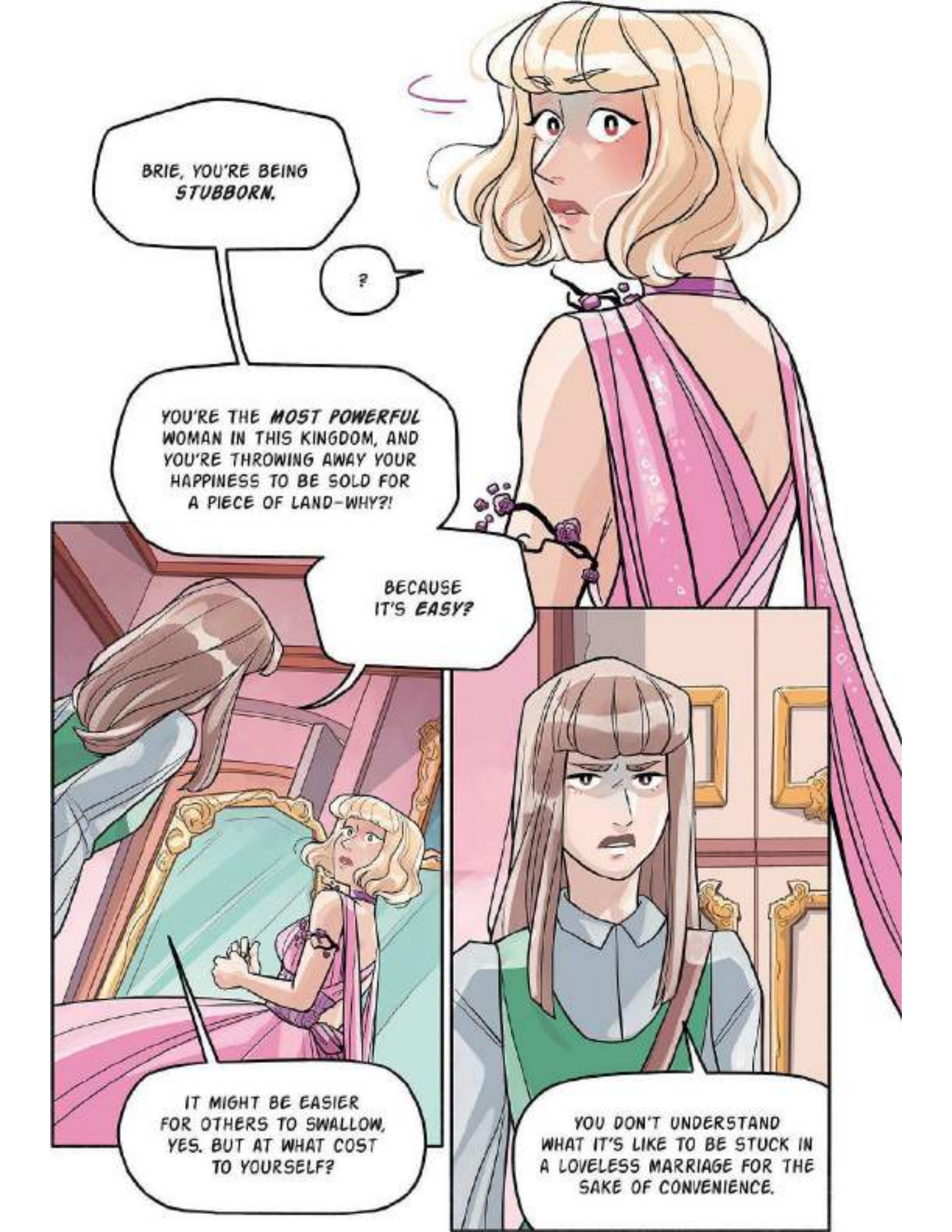
?

YOU'RE THE *MOST POWERFUL*
WOMAN IN THIS KINGDOM, AND
YOU'RE THROWING AWAY YOUR
HAPPINESS TO BE SOLD FOR
A PIECE OF LAND-WHY?!

BECAUSE
IT'S *EASY*?



IT MIGHT BE EASIER
FOR OTHERS TO SWALLOW,
YES. BUT AT WHAT COST
TO YOURSELF?



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE STUCK IN
A LOVELESS MARRIAGE FOR THE
SAKE OF CONVENIENCE.

I WAS LUCKY TO MARRY A MAN WHO ALLOWED ME TO USE HIS NAME TO START A BUSINESS HE HAD NO INTEREST IN, SINCE I COULDN'T LEGALLY DO IT UNDER MY OWN.



I WAS LUCKY HE WAS KIND TO ME AND ALLOWED ME MORE FREEDOM THAN MOST.




I WAS LUCKY TO GET TO WATCH HIM TAKE CREDIT FOR MY WORK.




HE WAS HAILED AS A GENIUS, AND I WAS SEEN AS NOTHING MORE THAN HIS *TROPHY WIFE*.






THE ONLY WAY I COULD
OWN THE BRAND I STARTED
WAS FOR HIM TO LEAVE IT TO
ME IN HIS WILL, AND ONLY IF
WE REMAINED CHILDLESS.

I AM VERY FORTUNATE IT
ALL WORKED OUT IN MY FAVOR,
AND NOW I GET TO LIVE THE
LIFE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

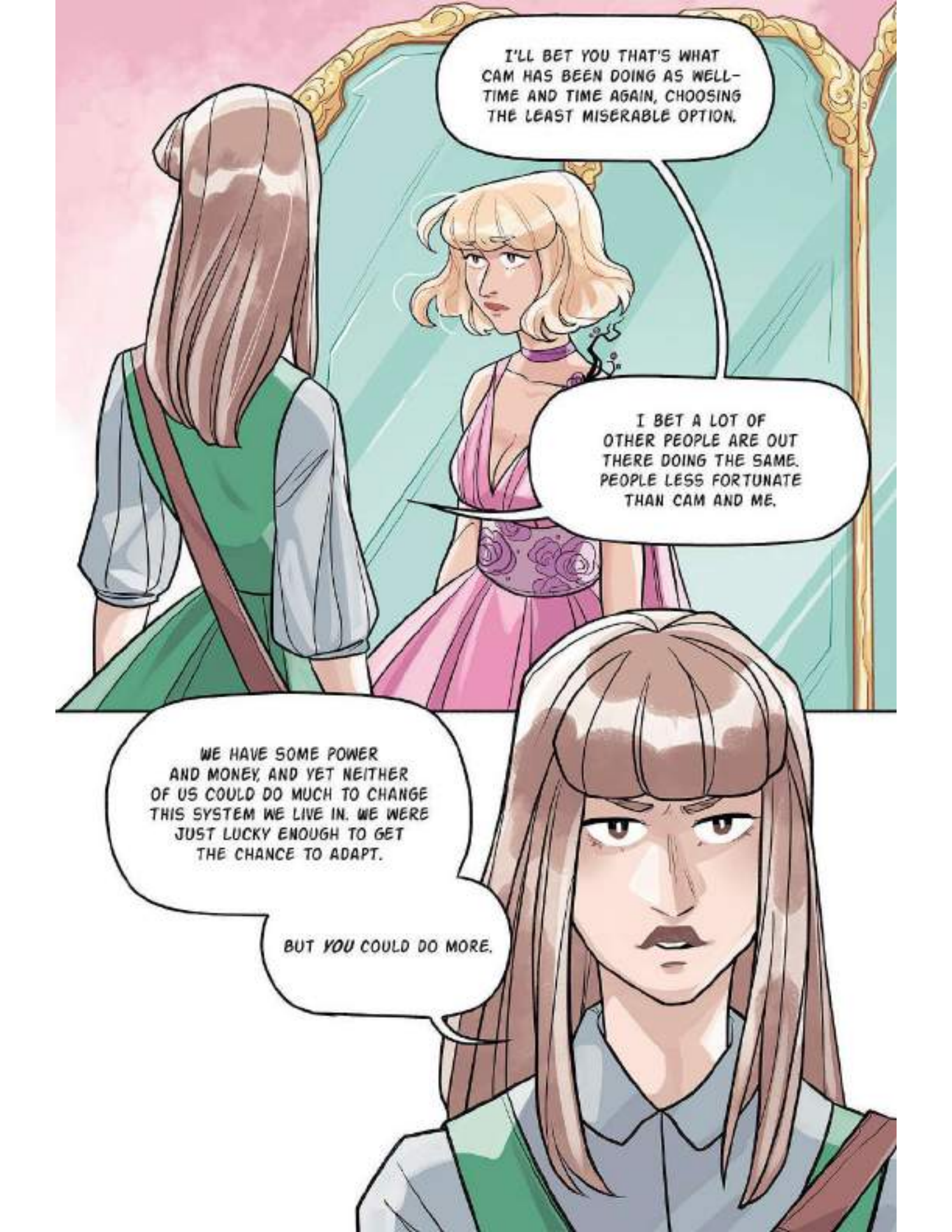


MARRYING HIM WAS
A DELIBERATE CHOICE I
MADE SO I COULD LIVE AS
FREELY AS POSSIBLE.
I DON'T REGRET IT.

BUT STILL, I *HATED*
EVERY SECOND I WAS
MARRIED TO HIM.



IT WAS JUST...
THE LEAST MISERABLE
OPTION AVAILABLE TO ME.




I'LL BET YOU THAT'S WHAT
CAM HAS BEEN DOING AS WELL-
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, CHOOSING
THE LEAST MISERABLE OPTION.

I BET A LOT OF
OTHER PEOPLE ARE OUT
THERE DOING THE SAME.
PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE
THAN CAM AND ME.

WE HAVE SOME POWER
AND MONEY, AND YET NEITHER
OF US COULD DO MUCH TO CHANGE
THIS SYSTEM WE LIVE IN. WE WERE
JUST LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET
THE CHANCE TO ADAPT.


BUT *YOU* COULD DO MORE.



YOU'RE THE
CROWN PRINCESS.

YOU'VE BEEN AN
ACTIVIST FOR *YEARS*. YOU CAN
ACTUALLY INFLUENCE THE LAW.
YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE!

I ALREADY TOLD
YOU. THERE WOULD BE
CONSEQUENCES—



WHAT CONSEQUENCES,
BRIE? GOSSIP FROM STUCK-UP
NOBLES YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE?
REJECTION FROM A COURT
YOU CAN'T STAND?

THINK OF EVERYONE ELSE
IN THIS KINGDOM WHO IS IN
A SITUATION LIKE YOURS
BUT HAS NO POWER!

THINK OF HOW MANY PEOPLE
MIGHT ALSO GET A CHANCE AT
HAPPINESS IF YOU DECIDED TO
CHASE YOUR *OWN* INSTEAD
OF PLAYING IT SAFE!

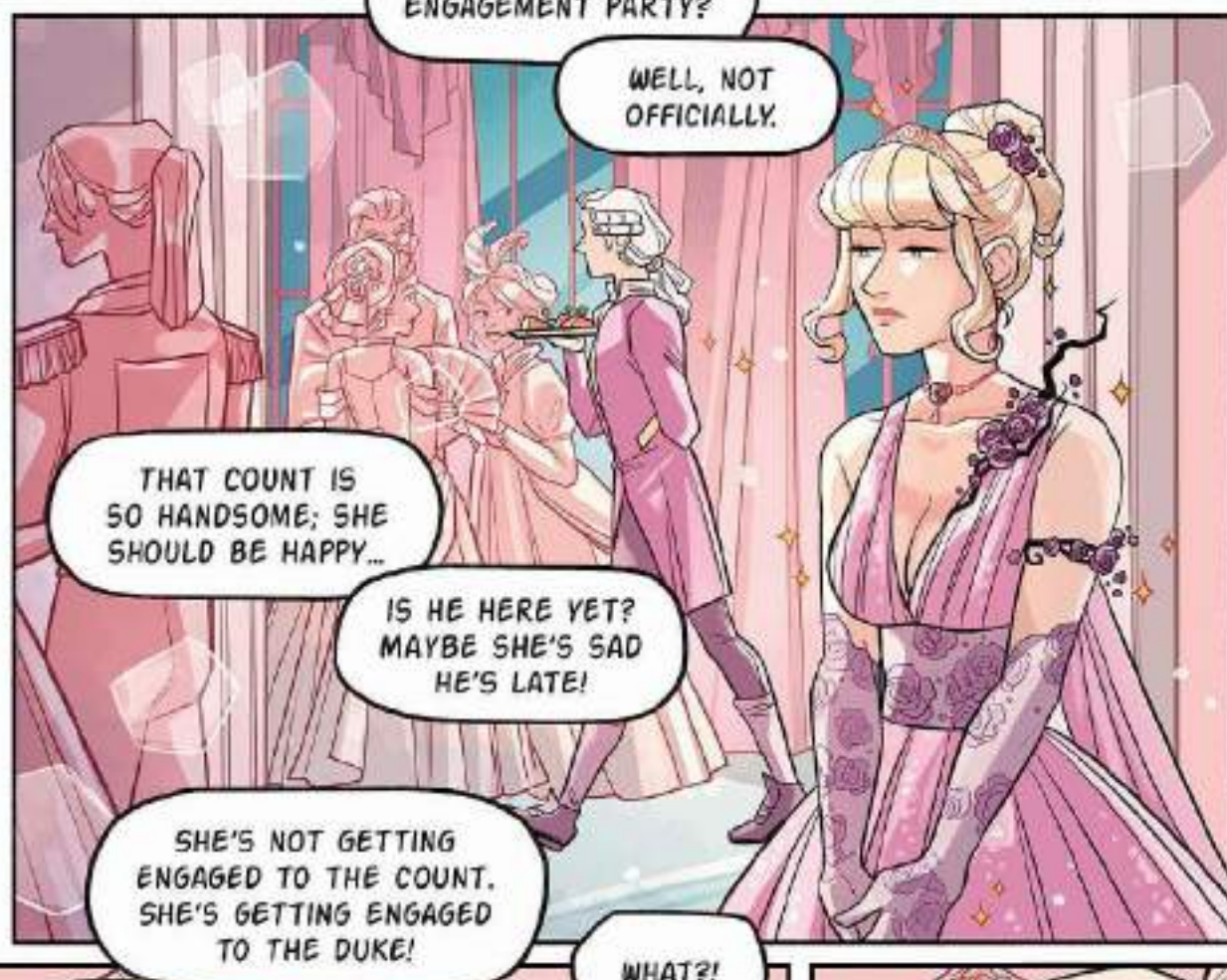
THEY DESERVE BETTER.
YOU DESERVE BETTER, AND
CAM DESERVES BETTER!











BUT I COULD'VE SWORN
SHE AND THE COUNT
WERE COURTING!

OOH, I WONDER
IF THERE'LL BE
DRAMA...

WHERE THE *HECK* IS
CAM?! HE SAID HE'D LEAVE
EARLY. DOES HE PLAN ON
STAYING FOR A GRAND
TOTAL OF TEN MINUTES?

IF THAT BOY DOESN'T
SHOW UP IN THE NEXT
FIVE MINUTES, I'LL GO
TO HIS HOUSE AND
DRAG HIM OUT—

CAM SHOWING UP WILL
ACCOMPLISH NOTHING
UNLESS BRIE STOPS
BEING UNREASONABLE.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

LOOK, IT'S
HIM!

AH, SPEAK
OF THE DEVIL...

OH, THAT
COAT...

IS HE TRYING
TO UPSTAGE
THE DUKE?!



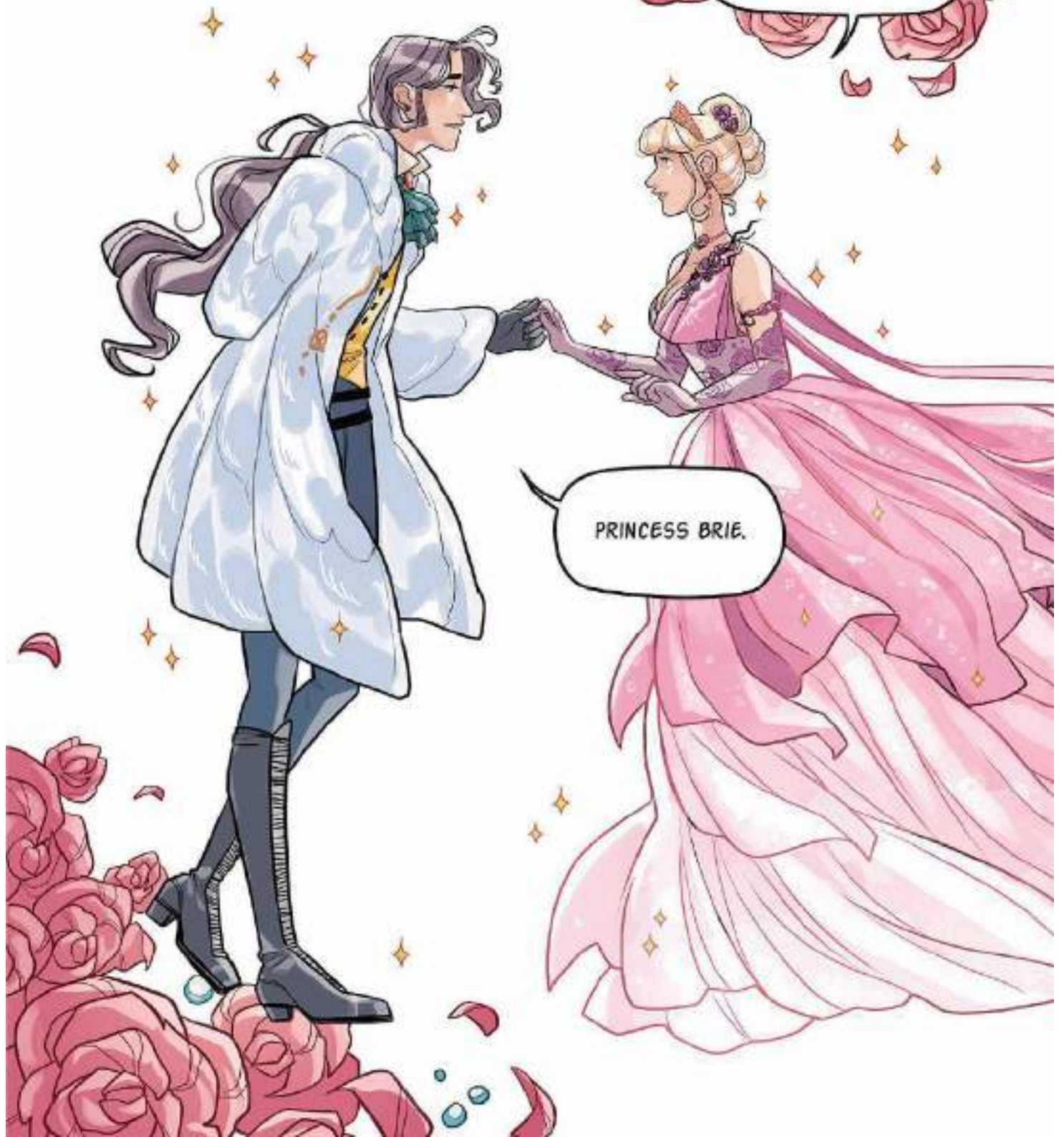
TIME TO SMACK
SOME SENSE INTO
THIS BOY-

SMACK-
SMACK-

WAIT!




COUNT CAMEMBERT!



PRINCESS BRIE.









WHAT DID YOU
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT?




AH...




IS SOMETHING
WRONG, PRINCESS?



SORRY. I'M JUST
TRYING TO GATHER
MY THOUGHTS. UM...



O-OK. TAKE
YOUR TIME...





IT CAME OFF AGAIN...



LET ME
SEE...






A man with long blonde hair and a mustache, wearing a white suit, stands on a balcony. He is looking towards a woman who is seen from behind. The woman is wearing a long, flowing purple dress and has her hair styled in an elaborate updo with flowers. They are on a balcony with a stone railing and large windows in the background.

YOU...KNOW?

YES...

I HAVE FOR
A WHILE NOW.



A close-up of a woman's face. She has blonde hair with bangs and is wearing a purple dress with a large floral corsage. She is looking slightly to the side with a serious expression. The background is dark and filled with many red roses.

THAT'S ACTUALLY
WHAT I WANTED TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT...



IT'LL BE OK.
IT'LL BE FINE.

SHE'LL BE HOME SOON.
IT WILL ALL BE FINE!

SHE WILL BE
JUST FINE!

TAP
TAP
TAP



HMMMM...

TAP
TAP




GODS, WHERE DID
I PUT MY COAT?












OH, YOU KNOW,
THE STUFF WITH
HER HUSBAND...



THE WAY SHE SEES IT,
BOTH YOU AND SHE WERE
CORNERED WITH HAVING TO
PICK BETWEEN REALLY
CRAPPY OPTIONS.

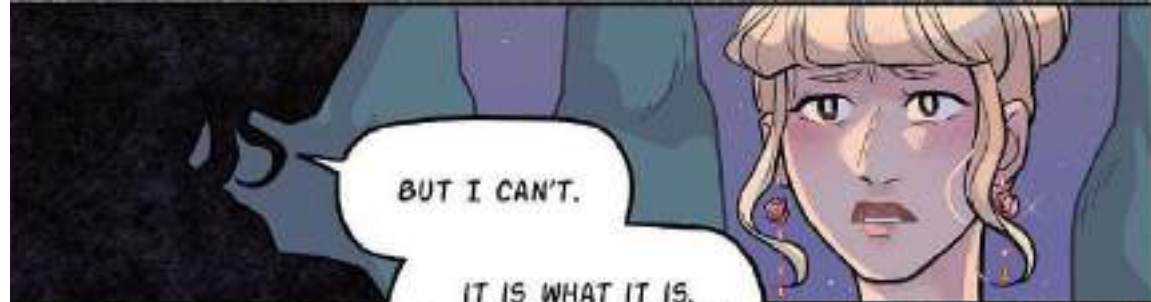


HEH...YEAH,
THAT'S ONE WAY
TO PUT IT.



I THOUGHT THIS
WAS GOING TO BE EASY.
LIVING AS A MAN DOESN'T
REALLY BOTHER ME, BUT...

...I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS I JUST WISH I
COULD CHANGE THINGS,
YOU KNOW?



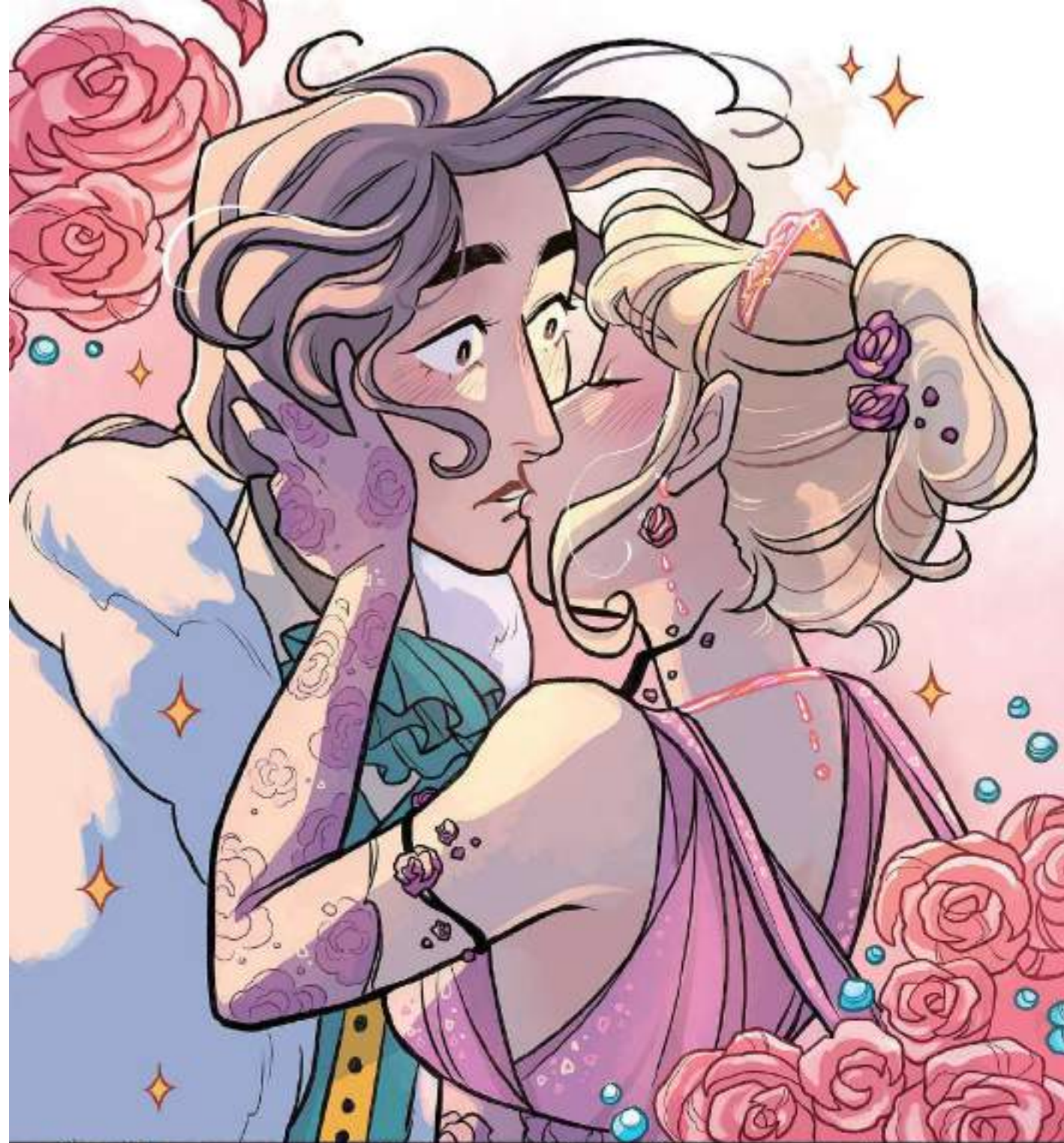
BUT I CAN'T.

IT IS WHAT IT IS.
I JUST HAVE TO DEAL
WITH IT, SO...



OH, CAM...







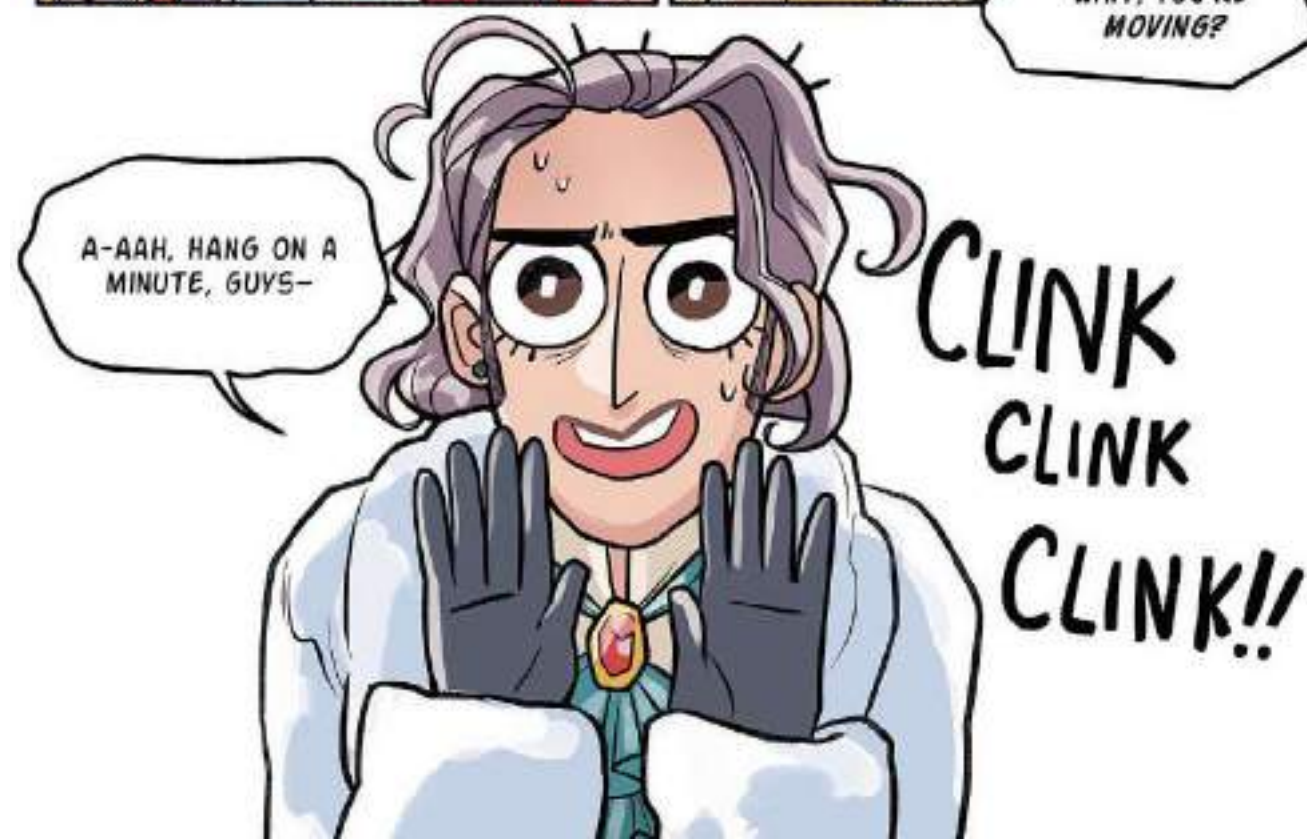
YOU'RE BEING
REQUESTED
INSIDE.



AH, YES, YES!









ATTENTION,
PLEASE!

CLINK!
CLINK!

OH NO, NO, NO,
NO, NOOO, NO!

HOO BOY...













FASTER, FETA!

DON'T RUSH ME
WHEN I'M DOING YOU
A FAVOR, YOU PUNK!

W-WE NEED THAT
STOVE TOP...



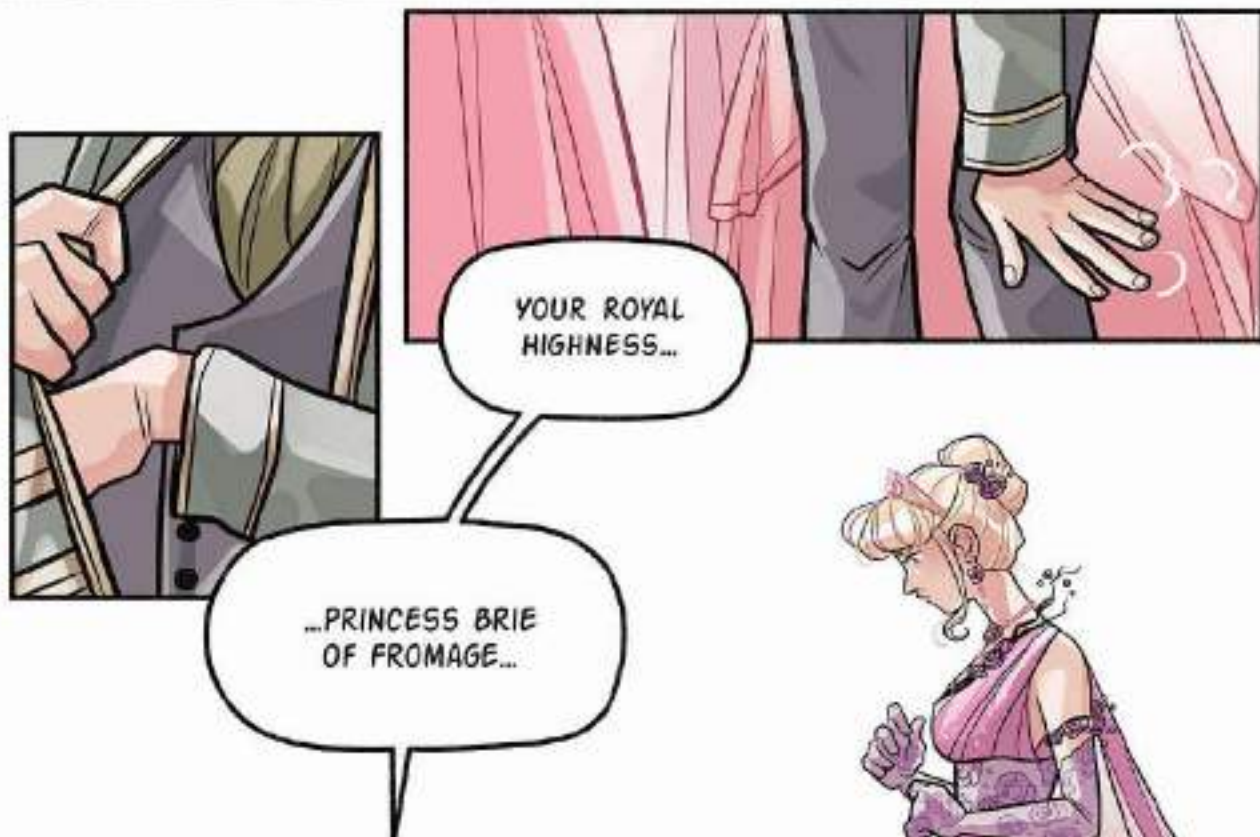
...AND TO FULFILL THE
EXPECTATIONS OF MY
FAMILY AS WELL AS MY
DUTIES AS A MAN...

HE IS SO
UNROMANTIC...

GODS, THIS IS
SO BORING...

HOW MANY CUE
CARDS DOES HE
HAVE LEFT?

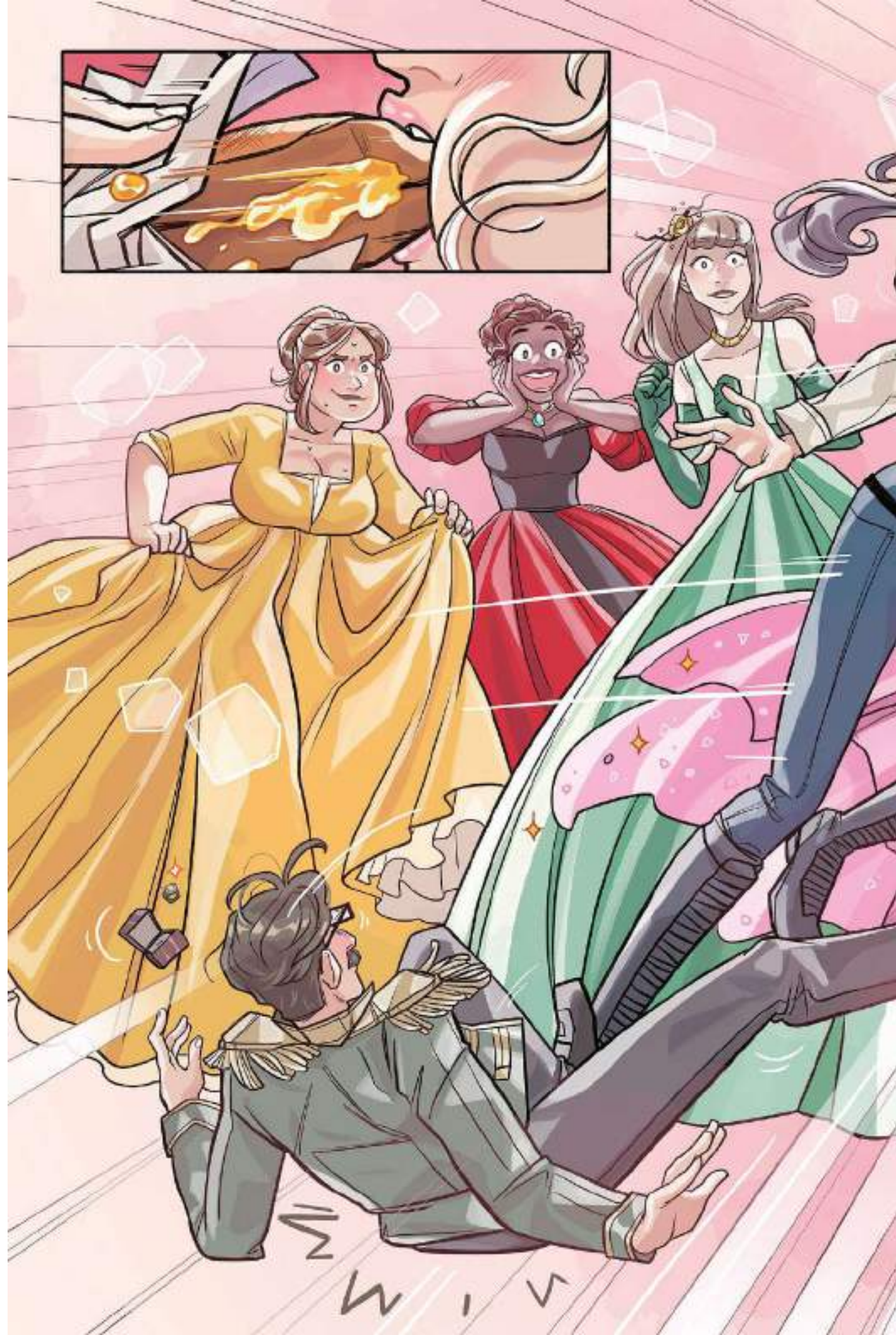
...AND I *KNOW* FROM
YOUR FATHER THAT YOU
UNDERSTAND THE ADVANTAGES
OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE TWO OF US...

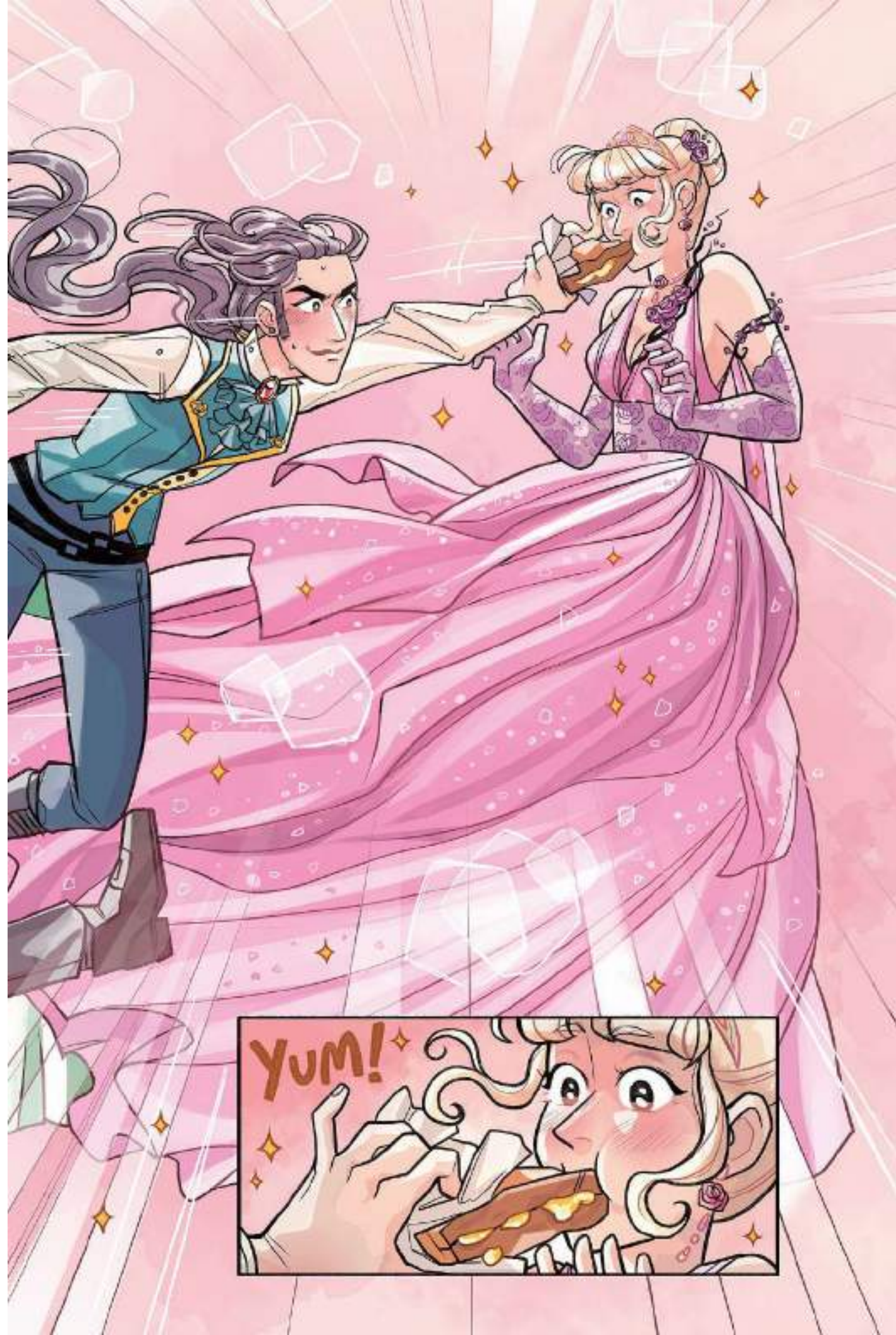




...WILL YOU MARRY ME?















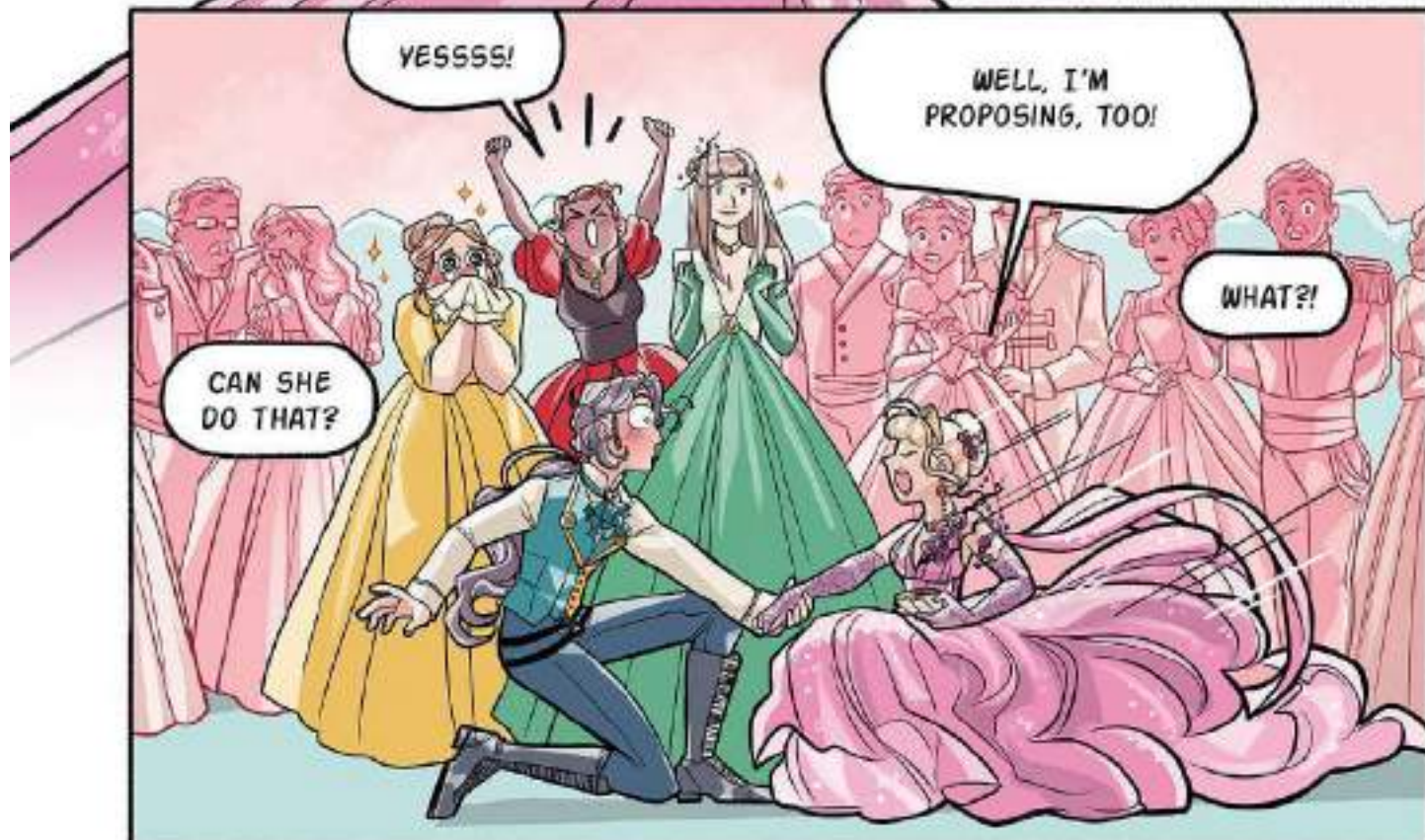
I BELIEVE IT'S
MY TURN NOW...







HEY, I'M THE ONE
PROPOSING HERE!





I LOVE YOU...



I LOVE YOU, TOO!

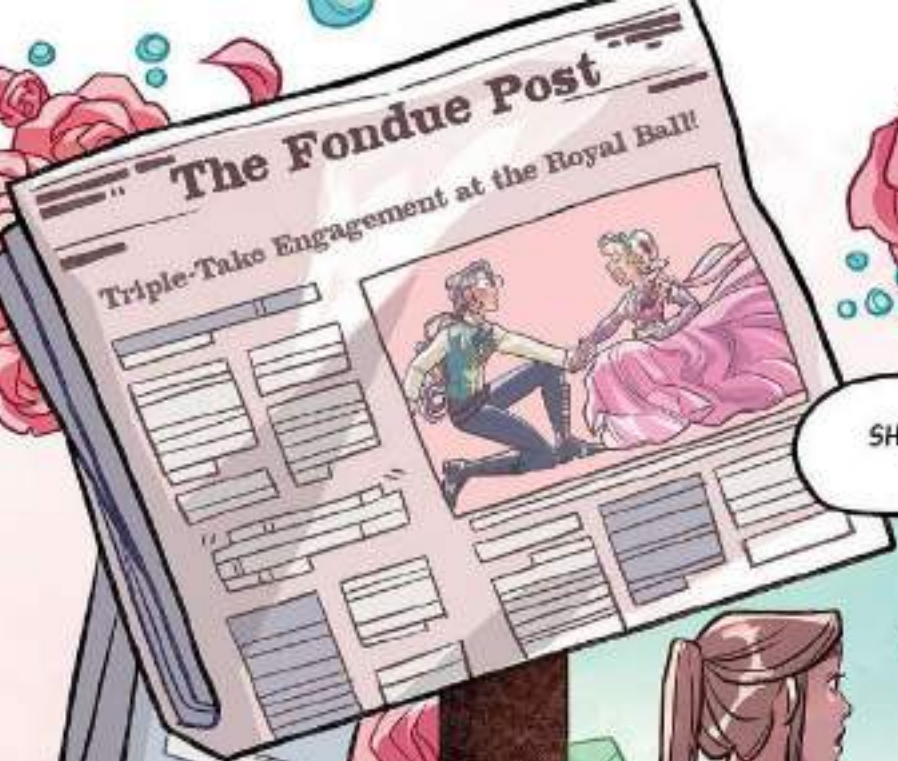


A comic book panel depicting a romantic moment between a man and a woman in wedding attire. The man, with long, wavy grey hair and a yellow ring, is on the left, wearing a pink and white floral-patterned suit. The woman, with blonde hair in an updo adorned with a purple flower, is on the right, wearing a pink dress. They are both crying and holding each other. The background is a soft pink. Three speech bubbles, each containing the text "I LOVE YOU!", are positioned around them. The bottom of the panel features a large, detailed bouquet of dark red roses and a grey high-heeled shoe with a red rose on its toe. Small pink hearts and yellow sparkles are scattered throughout the scene.

I LOVE YOU!

I LOVE YOU!

I LOVE YOU!



SHE PROPOSED
TO HIM?!


YEAH! I
SAW IT WITH
MY OWN EYES!

WAIT, HOLD ON—
HE PROPOSED
TO HER FIRST!


I HEAR THE KING IS NOT
HAPPY ABOUT PRINCESS
BRIE'S ENGAGEMENT...



OH? I THOUGHT HE
CANCELED HIS TRIP TO
HELP WITH WEDDING
PLANNING...

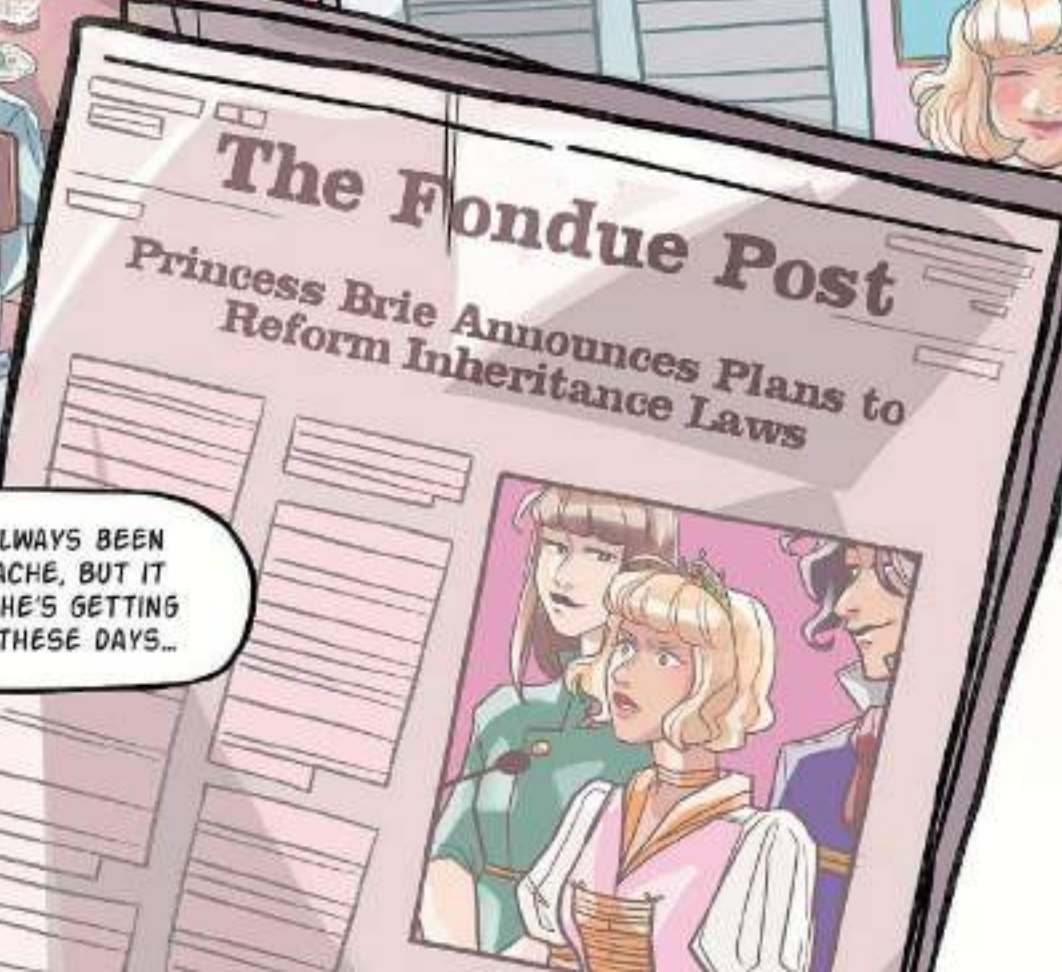


I HEAR THEY'LL HAVE
A LIVE FULL ORCHESTRA
AT THE WEDDING!

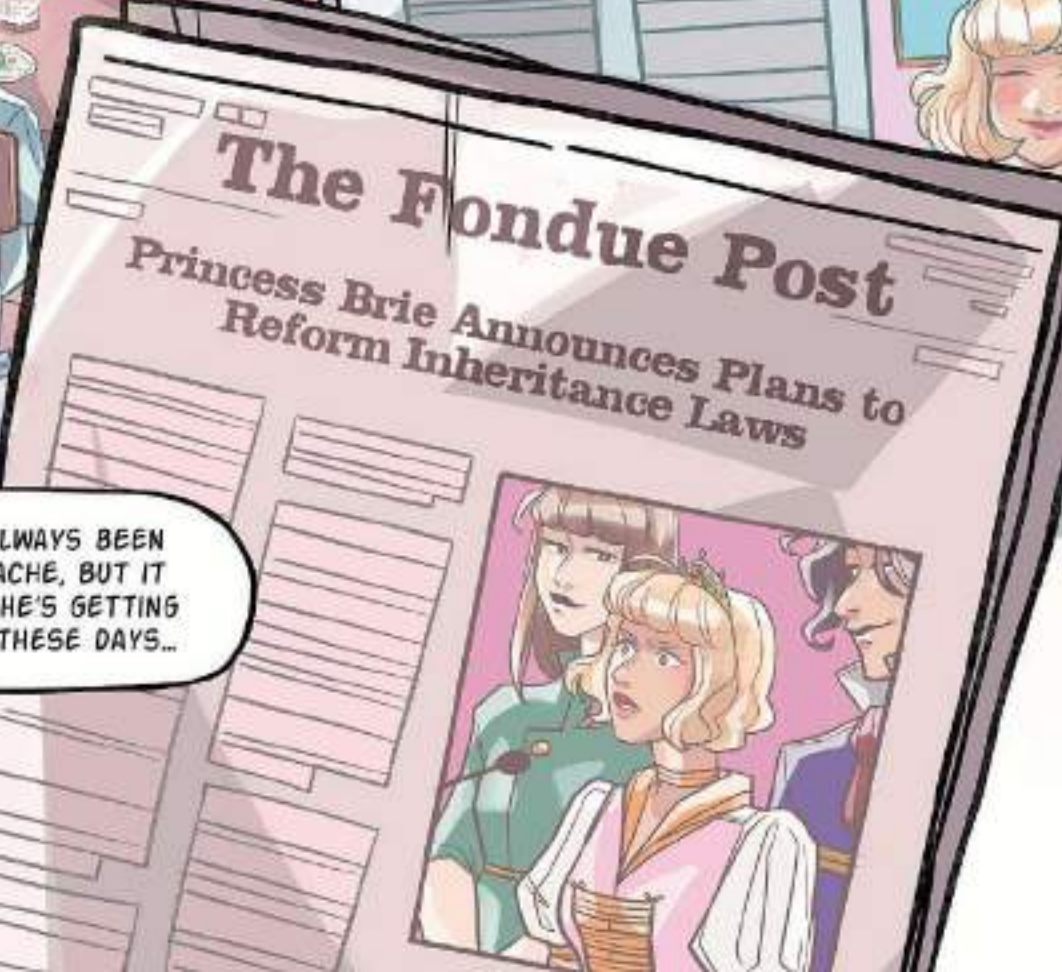


Menu
Appetizers
Entrée
Grilled Cheese
Sandwiches &
Tomato Soup
Dessert
Chocolat

OH MY, CAN
YOU IMAGINE?!



IT SEEMS THE
PRINCESS IS GETTING
INVOLVED WITH THE
MATTER...



SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN
A HEADACHE, BUT IT
SEEMS SHE'S GETTING
BOLDER THESE DAYS...

The Fondue Post

Princess Brie Announces Plans to Reform Inheritance Laws





RICOTTA,
OVER HERE!

OH, THERE
YOU GUYS
ARE!

EVERYONE'S
LOOKING SO
DAPPER!

DOES BRIE
LOOK BEAUTIFUL?
ETHEREAL?

YES, SOME OF
MY BEST WORK.

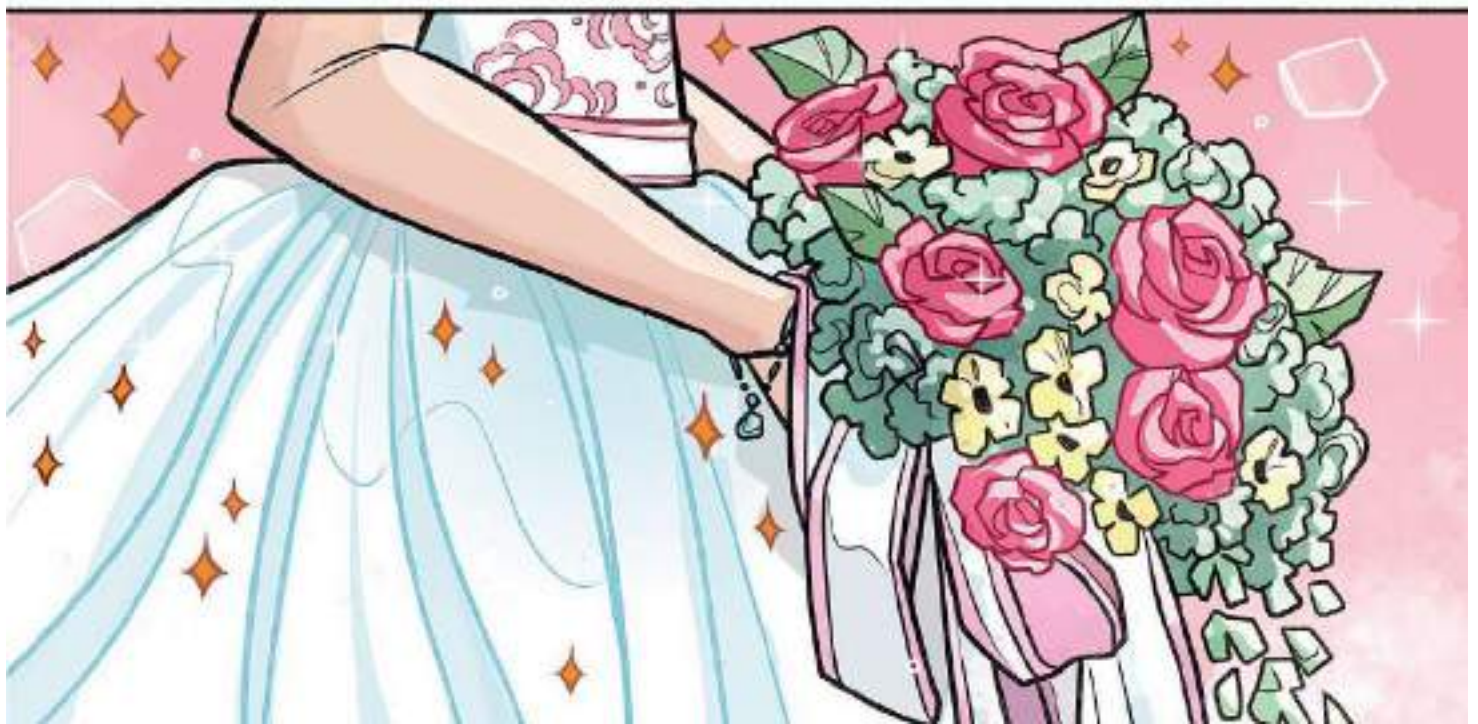
HOW ABOUT CAM, FETA?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN
A PROPER TUX YET.

HEH

HEH

HEH

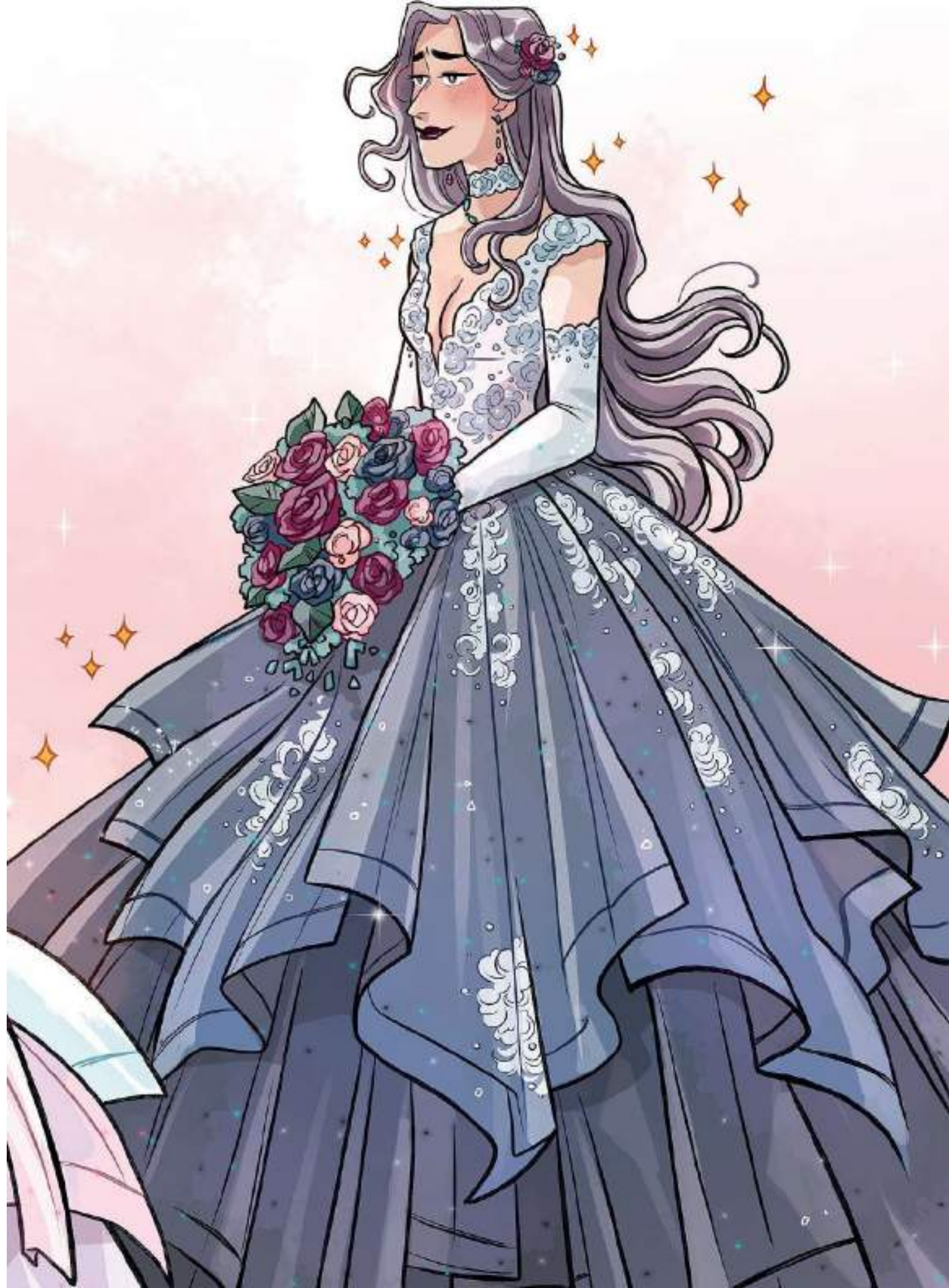


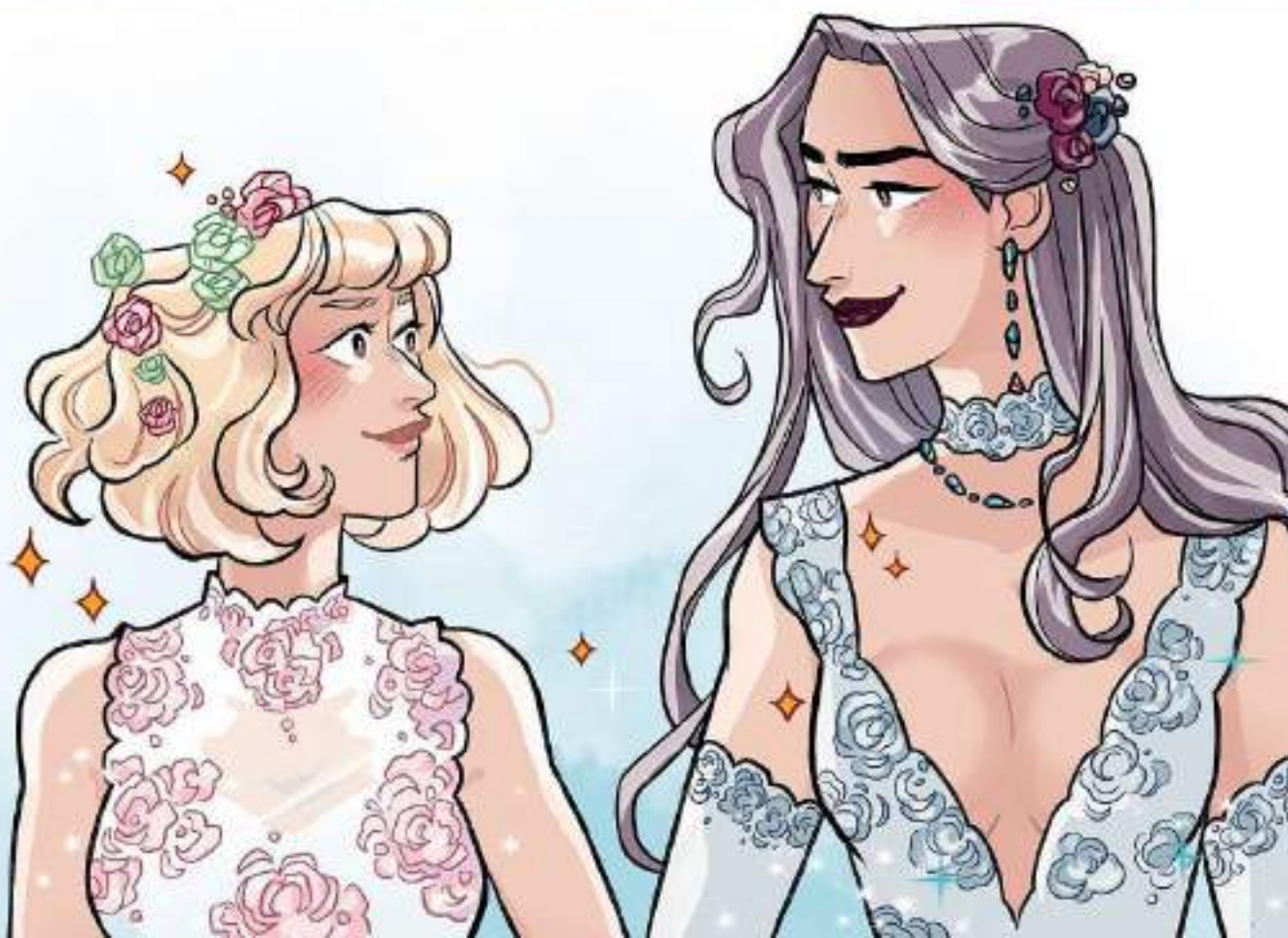














WHAT THE-?



The End

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion, and the number of people aged 65 and over has increased from 0.2 billion to 0.4 billion (United Nations, 2002). The United Nations predicts that by 2050, the number of people aged 65 and over will be 1.1 billion, and the number of people under 15 years of age will be 1.9 billion (United Nations, 2002).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the need to address the needs of young people. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a framework for addressing the needs of older people, and the United Nations has developed a framework for addressing the needs of young people. The WHO framework is based on the idea of 'active ageing', and the United Nations framework is based on the idea of 'youth development'.

The WHO framework for active ageing is based on three pillars: health, participation, and security. The United Nations framework for youth development is based on four pillars: education, employment, income, and social services. The WHO framework is based on the idea that older people should be able to live independently, and the United Nations framework is based on the idea that young people should be able to live independently.

The WHO framework for active ageing is based on the idea that older people should be able to live independently, and the United Nations framework for youth development is based on the idea that young people should be able to live independently. The WHO framework is based on the idea that older people should be able to live independently, and the United Nations framework is based on the idea that young people should be able to live independently.

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Author's Note



Hi, this is Deya! I hope you enjoyed the book!

I am a comic artist from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I moved to the United States in 2017 to pursue my master's degree in sequential art at the Savannah College of Art and Design, where I met my now wife, Emily!

Those who are familiar with Emily and me through my *Brutally Honest* comic strips or our WEBTOON series *Blades of Furry* **probably** have noticed the main characters in this book carry a striking resemblance to us. That, my dear, is **not** a coincidence.

You see, this story first came about as an assignment for one of our script-writing classes at SCAD.



Emily and I had started dating shortly before we took that class, and I had taken to calling her Princess.

I wanted this script to be a silly love story vaguely based on ours, and I liked the idea of calling it *The Princess and the...something?*

I couldn't figure out what that **something** would be. One day, we had a brainstorming session while walking the dog. The best idea I had by that point was *The Princess and the Backpack*, based on a situation from the previous year...



While it was a funny anecdote, I wasn't sure how to make it into a proper story, so I was still trying to figure out a **better** idea.

We got home from walking the dog, and Emily offered to make us grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch. She had taught me the beauty of grilled cheese sandwiches made with buttery, crispy bread and gooey Kraft cheese, and I was a little bit obsessed.

(I already liked grilled cheese sandwiches, but she made them **special**!)



I took such a liking to them I had started making them at home as well, and it just so happened on that day I had already eaten one for breakfast.

She became **FURIOUS** when I refused her kind offer.



Her explosion of fury was so cute and memorable I decided then and there that my story would be called *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich*.

I wanted a scene where the princess became furious when her count refused her lunch offer.



In real life, Emily's frustration didn't come from a thwarted proposal plan, but we eventually did get our happily ever after as well—and that's where Brie's and Cam's wedding dress designs came from!

When I first sketched them, we were still keeping our dresses a secret from each other, so Emily wasn't allowed to see any pages for a while with Cam in her wedding dress!



Anyway, since that first idea, this story has changed quite a lot. It grew and evolved, and turning it into this book was way harder than I thought it would be.

(Cam and Brie didn't change that much, but here's a glimpse of their evolution anyway!)



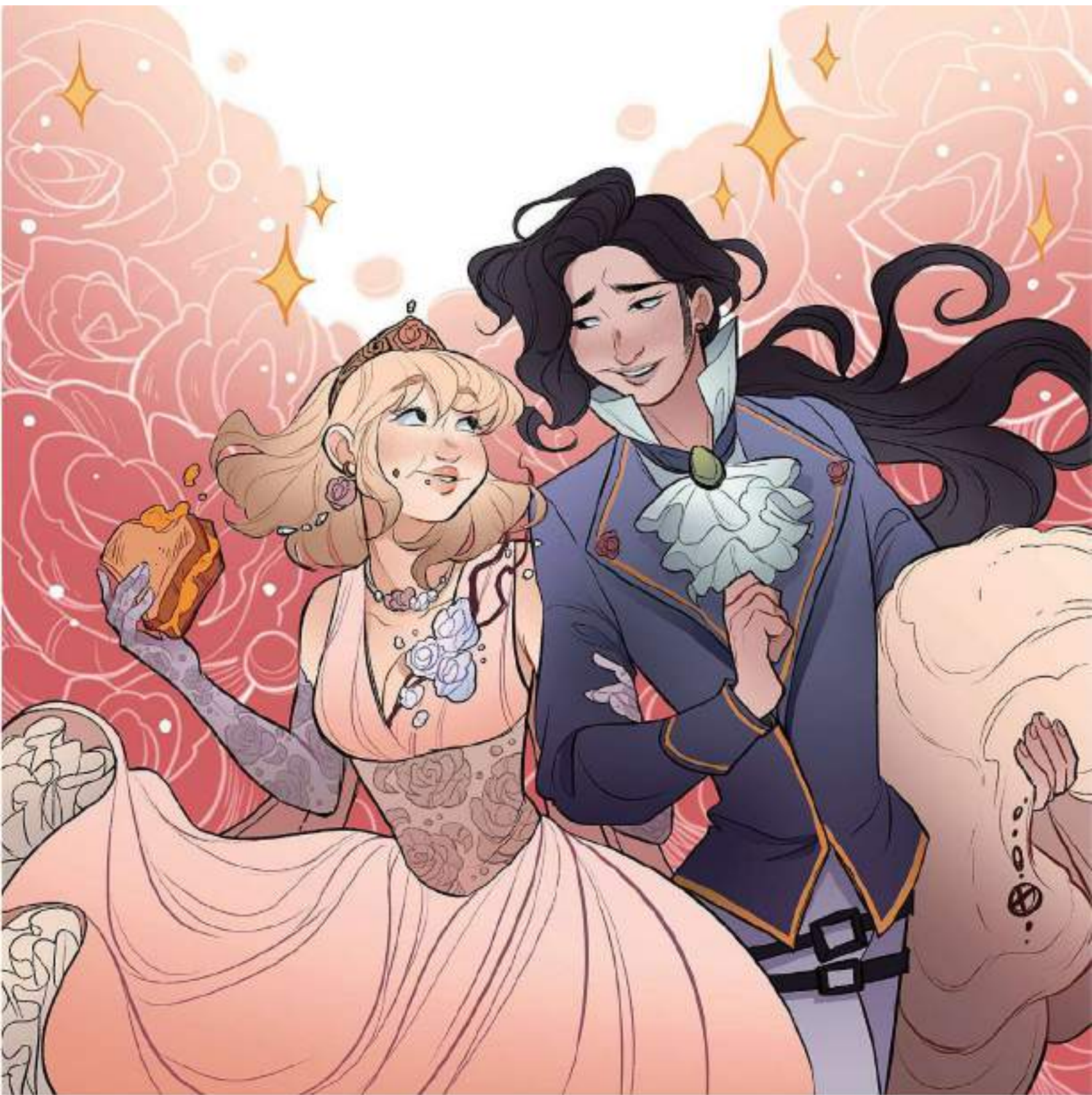
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This story saw me through some pretty tough struggles related to my sexuality, and the character of Camembert, with her nonchalant attitude toward gender and how she presented, allowed me to explore things about my own identity that I had been bottling up for a very long time!

I hope this story did something for you, too, even if it was just a laugh!

-DEYA♥





Acknowledgments

Thank you to my professor Mark Kneece for guiding me through the first few versions of this story, back when it was a silly script-writing assignment.

Thank you to my other professors, Robert Atkins and John Paul Lowe, for helping me put my ideas together into a pitch.

Thank you to my editor, Andrea Colvin, for liking the pitch so much she wanted to make it into a book! You gave me confidence that this story was worth telling. Thank you for all your patience and understanding through this whole process!

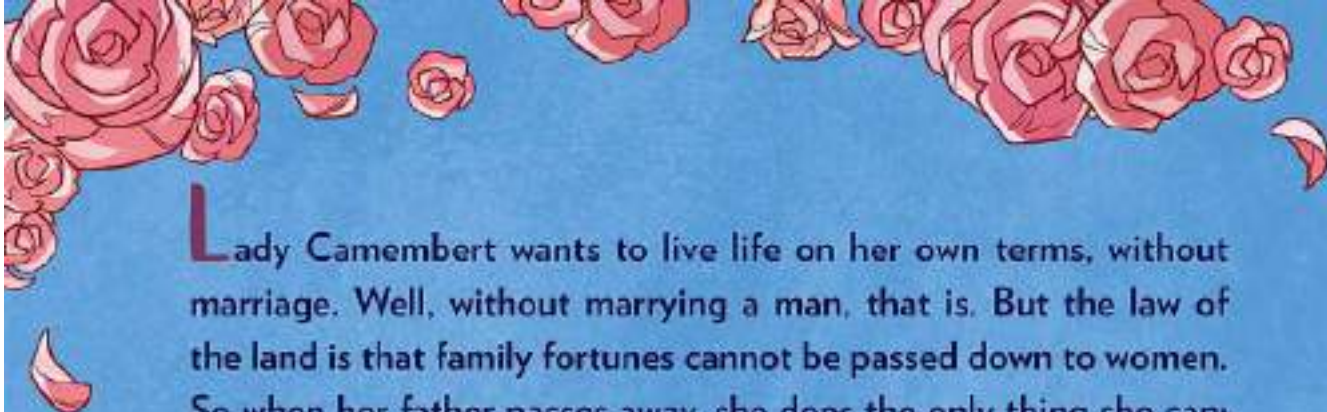
Thank you to my wife, our dog, and my dear friends Caroline and Gabi for being the basis for the colorful characters in this book! Thank you to all my other friends as well, but especially Vivi and Rachel, for helping me out and supporting me through the production of this book.

Thank you to Megan McLaughlin and everyone at Little, Brown involved in this project for their wonderful work!

A huge thank-you and a round of applause to Dominic Bustamante for his beautiful inks and Eleonora Bruni for the gorgeous colors. Your art elevated this book to heights I could have never achieved on my own!

Lastly, a huge thank-you to whoever invented cheese. Great job there.





Lady Camembert wants to live life on her own terms, without marriage. Well, without marrying a man, that is. But the law of the land is that family fortunes cannot be passed down to women. So when her father passes away, she does the only thing she can: She disguises herself as a man and moves to the capital city in the kingdom of Fromage to start over as *Count* Camembert.

But it's hard to keep a low profile when the beautiful Princess Brie, with her fierce activism and great sense of fashion, catches Cam's attention. Cam can't resist getting to know the princess, but as the two grow closer, will she be able to keep her secret?

Readers will devour this romantic comedy about mistaken identity, true love, and lots of grilled cheese.

DEYA MUNIZ was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they grew up watching *Pride and Prejudice* and reading copious amounts of shōjo manga. In 2017, they moved to the United States to pursue a master's degree in sequential art, where they met and fell in love with a wonderful girl who makes delicious grilled cheese sandwiches. They invite you to visit them on Twitter @deyamuniz and Instagram @deyathemuniz.



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#ThePrincessandtheGrilledCheeseSandwich

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