

GARLIC

& the
VAMPIRE

BREE PAULSEN

Garlic

& the

VAMPIRE





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& the
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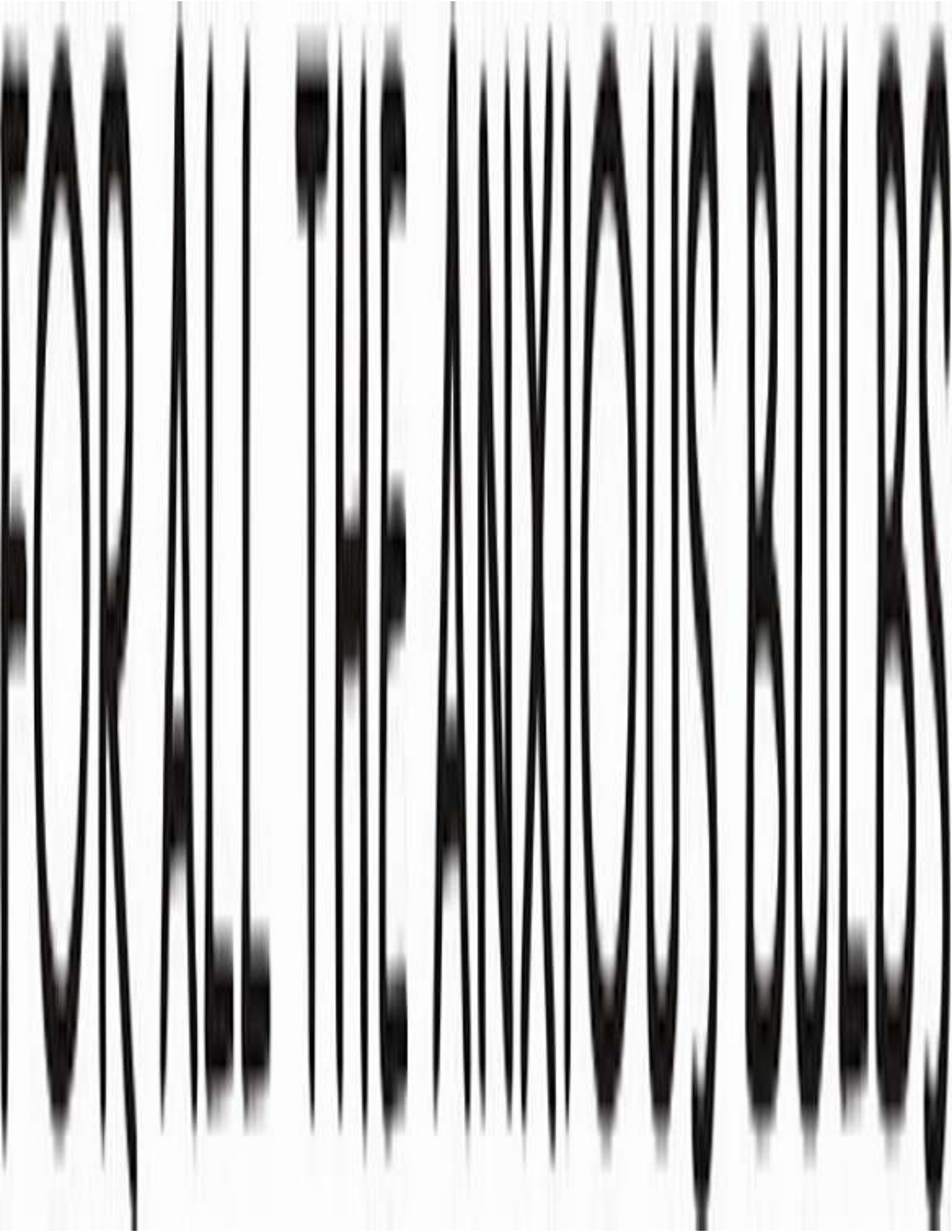
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FIRST EDITION



chapter one































GLA... ARE













IGNORE HIM.



I CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK HOME AND TAKE A NAP.



WHAT?

SLEEPING IN WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YA?



TODAY WAS STRESSFUL, OKAY!

I NEED ONE.



OKAY, OKAY...



chapter two







MORNING!

OH, GOOD MORNING!



AH!
YOU'RE STILL
ALIVE!

OH, SHUSH.

HA
HA



GOOD
MORNING.

MORNING!

MORNING!





HELLO,
MY LITTLE
ONES.



HOW
ARE YOU TODAY?
GOOD?



WOULD
YOU LIKE SOME
WATER?

SORRY
IT'S NOT FRESH
RAIN BUT—

HMMM,
TRYING A LITTLE
MAGIC TO HELP
THEM GROW?



NO!
AT LEAST I
DON'T THINK
SO—

I MEAN,
I DON'T KNOW
IF IT'S MAGIC,
BUT I THINK
THAT IT
HELPS.



MMM,
LOOKS LIKE IT
IS HELPING.



THANKS...

AND I'M
SORRY ABOUT
ARRIVING LATE
YESTERDAY.



OH,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

IN FACT,
IF YOU EVER NEED
A BREAK AND WANT
TO SKIP IT, JUST LET
ME KNOW.




WHAT?
BUT—




BUT
THIS IS WHAT
I'M SUPPOSED
TO DO.

I'M SUPPOSED
TO HELP YOU WITH
THE GARDEN.



THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN MY INTENT
AT FIRST, BUT...




YOU'VE ALL GROWN
SO MUCH OVER THE YEARS.
YOU'RE NO LONGER MUTE
LITTLE HELPERS THAT KEEP
ME COMPANY.

YOU ARE
YOUR OWN BEINGS
WITH THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS.



I'M GLAD
YOU STILL ENJOY
HELPING ME WITH SO
MUCH ATTENTION
AND CARE.



SOME OF YOU
HAVE EVEN BRANCHED
OUT ON YOUR OWN,
GROWING HERBS AND
OTHER CROPS.





NOPE, NO ADVENTURES FOR ME.

I LOVE GARDENING.

IT'S NICE AND SAFE.



THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.



AND MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO MAGIC AND BREATHE LIFE INTO YOUR BULBS.



HA, MAYBE...



WAIT, YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE CAPABLE?



I JUST WANT TO HELP THEM GROW.

I DON'T WANT TO BRING THEM TO LIFE!

WHAT IF
I ALREADY SOLD
GARLIC THAT'S
ALIVE AND DIDN'T
KNOW!

THAT
WOULD
MEAN—

OH,
GRAPES!

OH, SHH—
IT'S FINE.

EVEN IF
YOU ARE ALREADY
CAPABLE, IT ALL
DEPENDS ON YOUR
INTENT.

YOU WHISPER
WITH INTENTIONS OF
GROWTH AND GOOD
HARVEST, YES?

YOU
SHOULD BE
FINE.

SHOULD
BE?!

WILL! YOU
WILL BE!





WILL YOU STOP STARING LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE WEIRDING ME OUT!

IT'S THERE AGAIN.



HUH? WHAT'S THERE AGAIN?



THE SMOKE.



HMM! THERE IS SMOKE.





OR NOT!
LOOK AT THE
CASTLE!

SOMETHING
TERRIBLE MUST BE
IN THERE!



SO THE WHISPERING AND TALKING ARE FINE AS LONG AS MY INTENTIONS ARE TO HELP THEM GROW.

CORRECT.

GROW LIKE PLANTS...NOT LIKE PEOPLE.

SURE.

OF COURSE THIS IS ASSUMING THAT I CAN ACTUALLY DO THIS KIND OF MAGIC. I DON'T THINK I—

WHAT IS GOING ON OVER THERE?

HMM?


LOOKS LIKE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SPOOKY CASTLE ON THE HILL.






THERE'S SOMETHING **TERRIBLE** IN THE CASTLE, AGNES!


LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS LIVING THERE, WITCH AGNES.



THERE'S SMOKE RISING FROM THE CHIMNEY, MA'AM.



I SEE...



I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.

BASED ON THE LOOK OF THOSE CLOUDS, SOMEONE IS PROBABLY TAKING REFUGE FROM A POSSIBLE STORM.



SEE,
I TOLD
YOU.

WE STILL
DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE.



THOUGH,
THERE IS A CHANCE
IT IS...



WELL,
I DON'T WANT
TO ALARM YOU
BUT...



...THERE
IS A CHANCE
IT MIGHT BE A
VAMPIRE.



VAMPIRE?!

YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS.

MY MOTHER
TOLD ME ONE RESIDED
IN THAT CASTLE A LONG,
LONG TIME AGO.

BUT FOR
THE PAST CENTURY OR SO,
THE CASTLE HAS LAIN VACANT,
COLLECTING DUST AND
COBWEBS.

IT LOOKED AS
THOUGH THE VAMPIRE
HAD LEFT...

HE SIMPLY
DISAPPEARED.

IF SOMEONE IS
IN THAT CASTLE, IT
COULD BE HIM.







BUT AGAIN!
IT MIGHT NOT
BE THE VAMPIRE,
JUST A RANDOM
TRAVELER.



PUMPKIN
AND I CAN SCOPE
OUT THE CASTLE AND
SEE IF THE VAMPIRE
IS THERE.

IT WOULD
BE MY HONOR,
MA'AM!



THAT IS
VERY KIND,
BUT THERE'S
NO NEED.



BESIDES,
IF ANYONE IS
GOING UP THERE,
SHOULDN'T IT BE
GARLIC?

?





NO ONE HAS TO GO UP TO THE CASTLE.

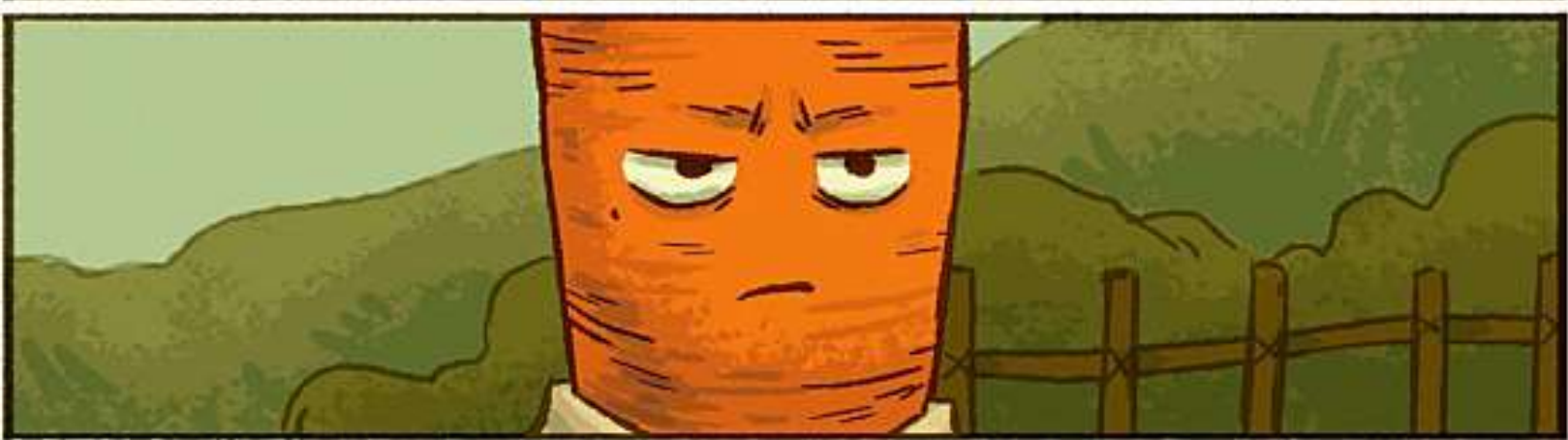
THERE'S A MUCH EASIER SOLUTION.



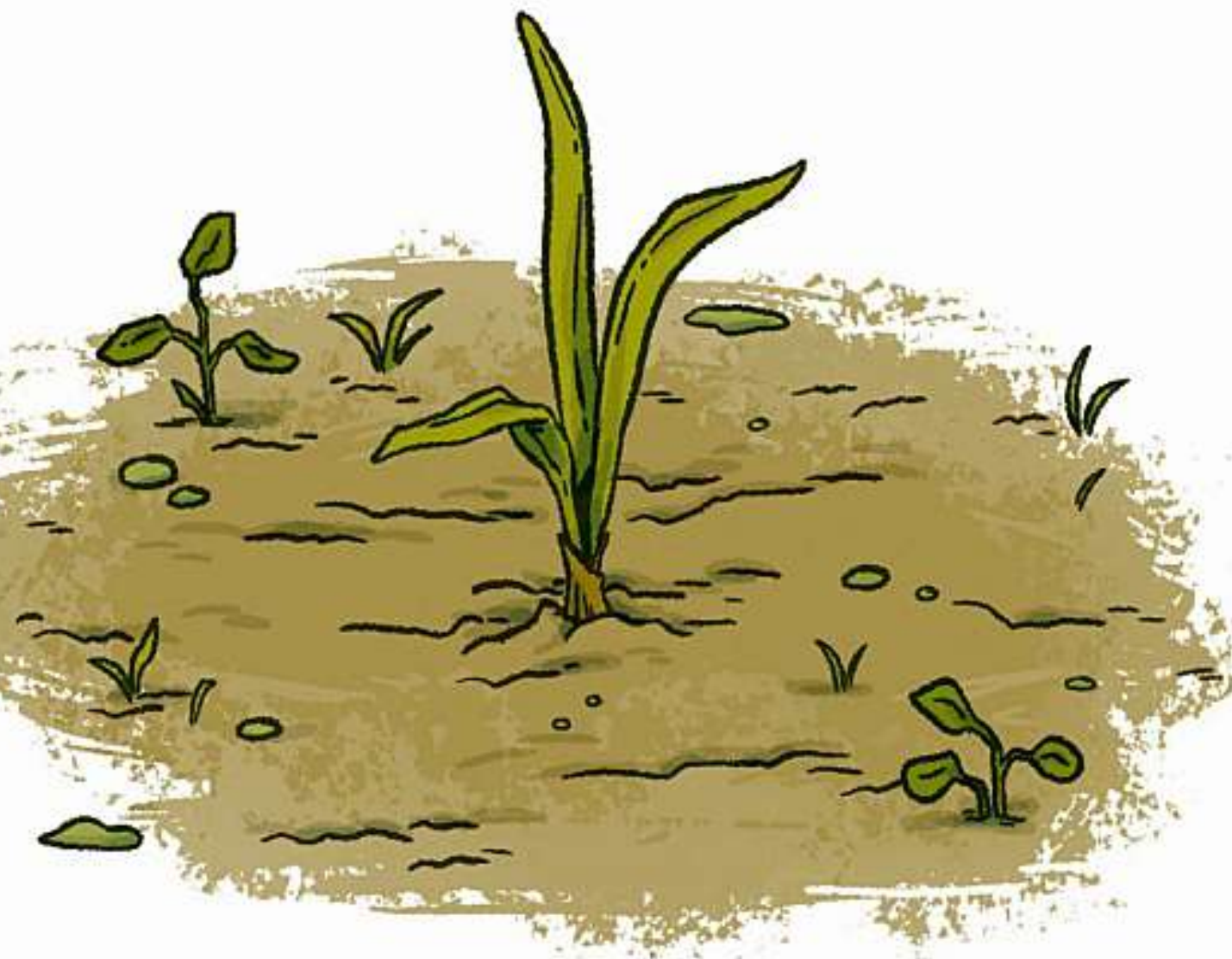
FOLLOW ME.



DO YOU THINK THERE'S A VAMPIRE?



chapter three







WITH THIS,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE
IF THERE IS A VAMPIRE IN
THE CASTLE WITHOUT
DETECTION.











gasp

OH, GRAPES!
OH, GRAPES!



CHEESE
'N' CHIVES! HE
LOOKED RIGHT
AT US!



DO YOU
THINK HE SAW
US?!



EVERYONE,
STAY CALM.

THERE'S
NO NEED TO
PANIC, I—



WE HAVE TO
DO SOMETHING
TO PROTECT THE
FOLKS IN TOWN!



I AGREE.

SO LET'S CALMLY COME UP WITH A SOLUTION IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.



SOMEONE SHOULD GO UP THERE AND CONFRONT THIS VAMPIRE.



DOESN'T GARLIC WARD OFF VAMPIRES...?



WHAT? ME?!

THAT'S TRUE!

GARLIC SHOULD GO AND GET RID OF THE VAMPIRE!

YEAH!



CARROT?



GARLIC,
I...



EVERYONE
STOP! LET US
JUST—



BUT PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN USING
GARLIC AGAINST
VAMPIRES FOR
CENTURIES.

SHE CAN
USE THAT TO HER
ADVANTAGE TO
DRIVE HIM AWAY OR
DESTROY HIM.



DESTROY?!



THAT'S TRUE!

GARLIC, YOU HAVE TO GO.



Shrug

YEAH, GARLIC, YOU HAVE TO!

COME ON, GARLIC.



FACE THE VAMPIRE!

ONLY YOU CAN DO THIS.

JUST SAY YOU'LL DO IT!




!











BUT HOW DO WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT VAMPIRES DON'T LIKE GARLIC?

WHAT IF THAT'S ONLY A RUMOR STARTED BY VAMPIRES?



WHAT IF THEY ACTUALLY LOVE GARLIC!

WHAT IF THEY ACTUALLY FIND IT DELICIOUS!



I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT'S THE CASE, THOUGH YOU ARE QUITE LOVABLE.



CARROT, I'M SERIOUS. I'M JUST—



IT'S SO MUCH PRESSURE.

EVERYONE WANTS ME TO DEFEAT THIS VAMPIRE.



ME!





THINK
OF THE PEOPLE
IN TOWN.



WE VEGGIES
MAY BE SAFE, BUT
THEY AREN'T.




AND WHO
KNOWS WHAT
THIS VAMPIRE
HAS PLANNED.

HE MIGHT HAVE
MINIONS READY TO
CARRY OUT HIS EVIL
ORDERS...

SIMPLY
WAITING FOR
HIM TO GIVE THE
WORD.



HE MAY WANT TO
DESTROY THE LAND
AND ALL LIFE ON IT BY
SHROUDING THE WORLD
IN **DARKNESS** SO THAT
VAMPIRES CAN **REIGN**
SUPREME.




OR NOT!

HE COULD
BE COMPLETELY
HARMLESS, BUT WE
WON'T KNOW UNTIL
SOMEONE GOES UP
TO THE CASTLE.



I UNDERSTAND
IT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE,
BUT I REALLY THINK YOU
HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO
SUCCEED.



YOU ARE
MUCH BRAVER THAN
YOU THINK.

YOU CAN
DO THIS.







SHE'LL DO IT.

YAY!

OH, GOOD!

YAY!

WOOT!



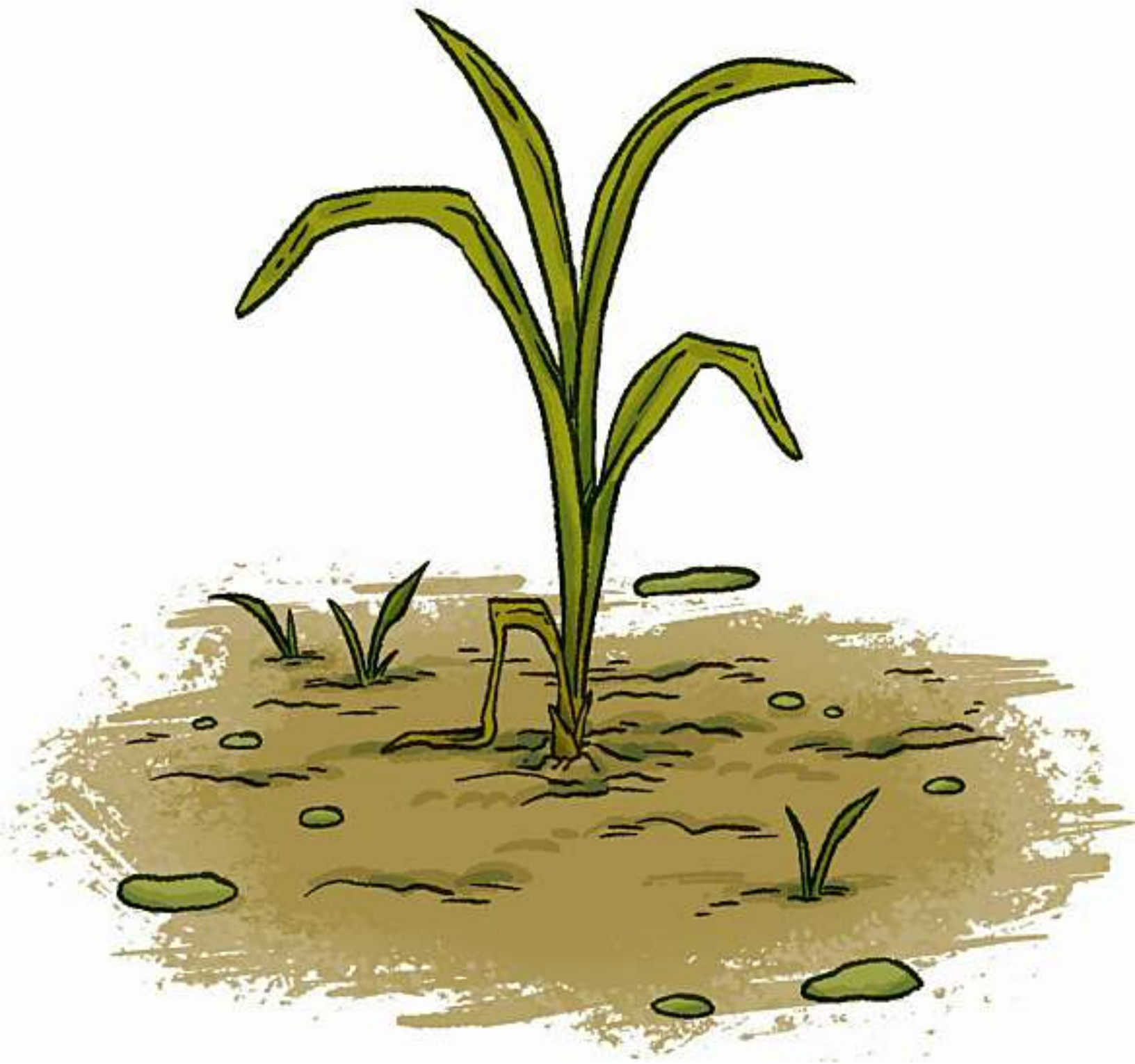
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||||

||||

||||

chapter four











YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

pat pat



YOU HEARD WHAT EVERYONE SAID. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THIS!



THIS VAMPIRE MIGHT HAVE SOME EVIL PLOT.

THERE COULD BE LEGIONS OF MINIONS JUST WAITING TO STRIKE AND DESTROY EVERYTHING.


HE JUST HAS TO SAY THE WORD AND WE'RE DOOMED.




OR NOT. HE MAY BE HARMLESS.

BUT WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL SOMEONE FACES HIM.

UNTIL I FACE HIM.




I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO GET HURT BECAUSE I WAS TOO SCARED TO DO ANYTHING.

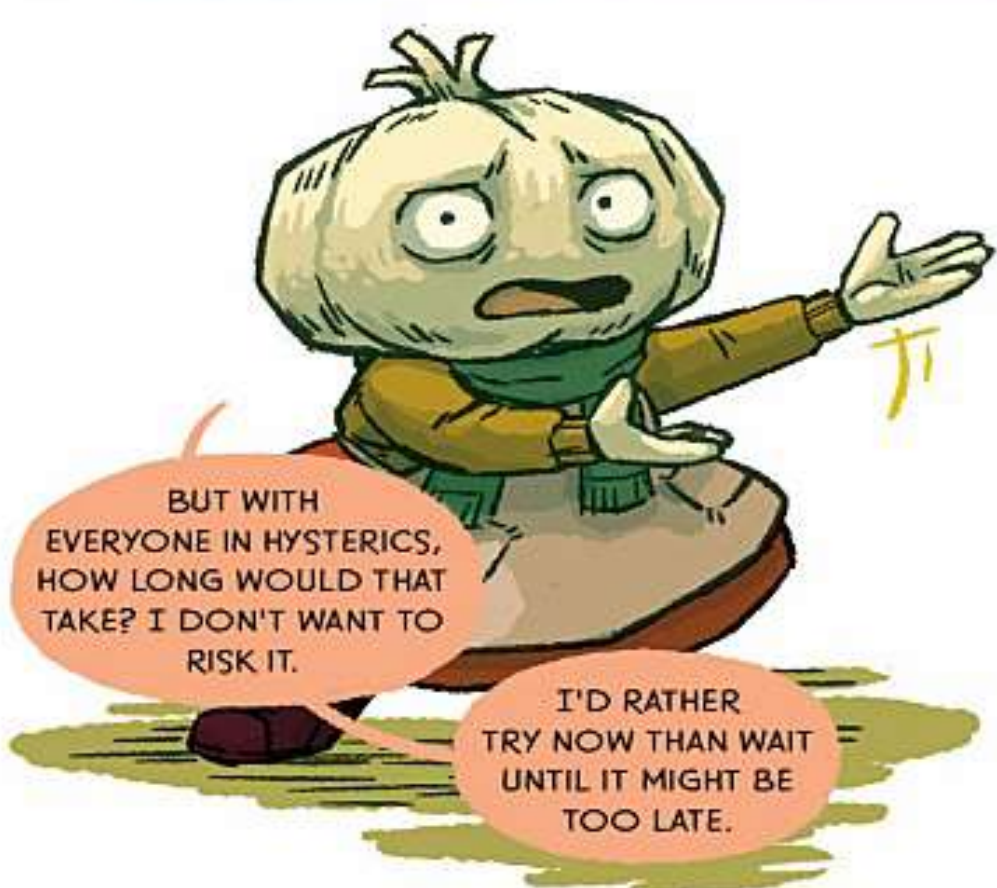


I DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE A DISAPPOINTMENT.

IF I DECIDE TO DO NOTHING AND SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS, IT'LL BE MY FAULT!



OH, WE WOULD COME UP WITH ANOTHER SOLUTION.



BUT WITH EVERYONE IN HYSTERICIS, HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE? I DON'T WANT TO RISK IT.

I'D RATHER TRY NOW THAN WAIT UNTIL IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.



PLUS...

CARROT BELIEVES I CAN DO THIS.

I NEED TO PROVE TO CARROT THAT THEY'RE RIGHT, THAT I AM BRAVE ENOUGH.



AND THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA CONFRONT THAT VAMPIRE AND GET HIM TO LEAVE OR ELSE!



WELL, YOUR DECISION TO GO ALREADY PROVES YOU HAVE A LOT OF COURAGE.

BUT I KNOW OF SOME ITEMS THAT MAY AID YOU AND BOOST YOUR BRAVERY.

WOULD YOU LIKE THEM?



OH MY GRAPES! YES!

ANYTHING! PLEASE!

HA HA HA















FOR SOME
ADDITIONAL
PROTECTION—



THERE.



NOW,
JUST ONE MORE
THING!



IN CASE
YOU NEED A
DISTRACTION
SO YOU CAN
FLEE.





I KNOW, BUT ONE CAN'T MAKE THIS UP.

MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT OTHER SMALL THINGS CAN STOP A VAMPIRE.





GOT EVERYTHING IN THERE?



YEP!

EXCELLENT!



THE WEATHER HAS GIVEN YOU A NICE SUNNY DAY.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO KEEP ANY CLOUDS AWAY.



RIGHT.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP, WITCH AGNES.

OH, OF COURSE.



AH, THERE YOU ARE.

flap flap



SOLAS WILL HELP YOU GET TO THE CASTLE AND WILL WAIT TO BRING YOU BACK WHEN ALL IS DONE.

flap



HELLO, SOLAS.



BUT SOLAS WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE.

HUH?



OH, CELERY!



WHAT?!

SINCE THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD GIVE GARLIC SOME ASSISTANCE...

IN CASE THINGS GET HAIRY.









WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



READY?

I GUESS.



HERE WE GO.





OKAY,
I CAN DO
THIS.

I'M BRAVE.

IT'S JUST A
VAMPIRE...



...AND I'M
GARLIC.

SO
I'LL BE SAFE,
NO MATTER
WHAT.

I CAN
TOTALLY DO
THIS.



**WE'RE
GONNA
DIE!**

WHA—

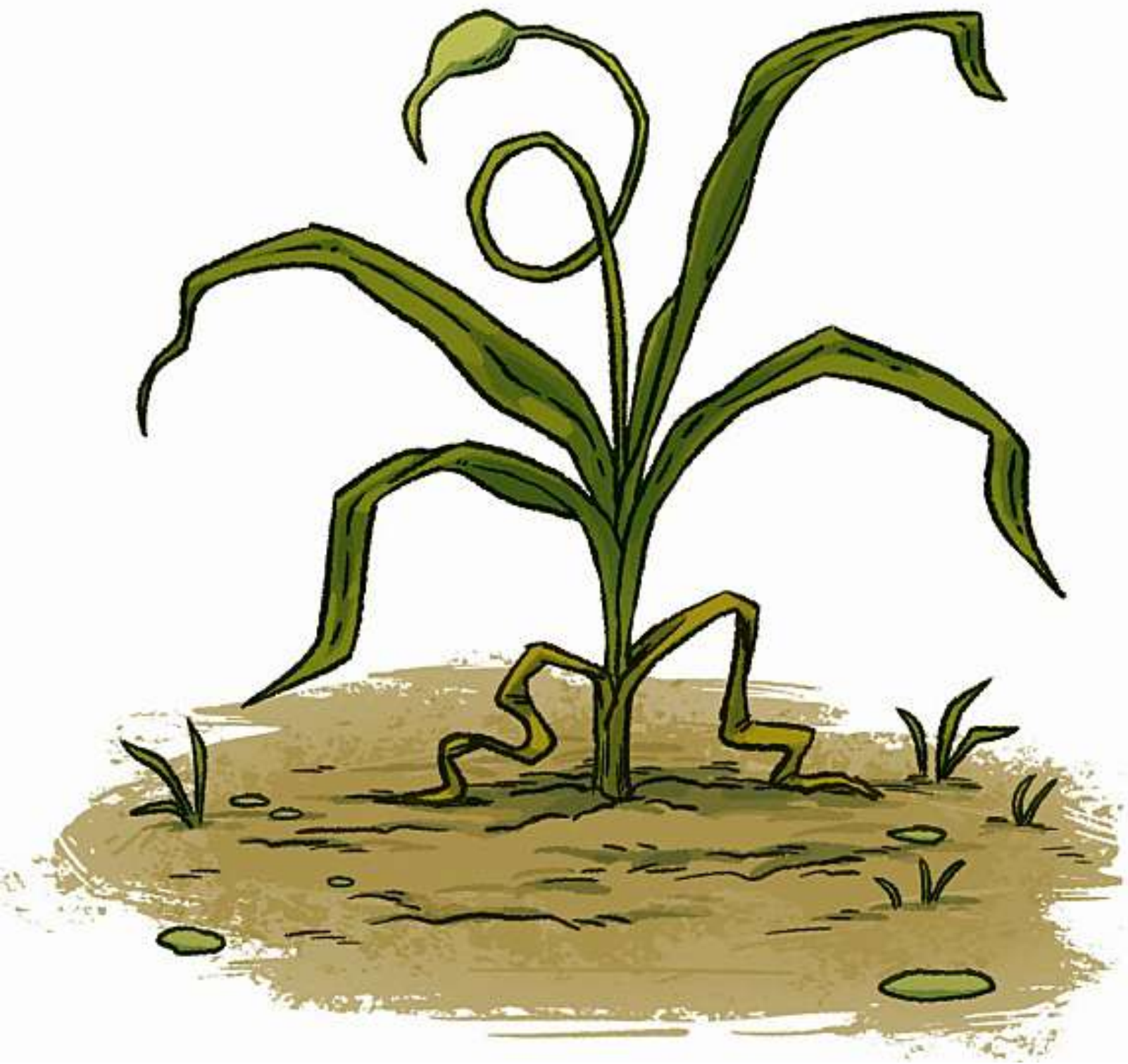


DON'T
SAY THAT!
WE'RE GOING
TO BE FINE.

NO!
WE HAVE TO
GO BACK! WE
GOTTA—



chapter five










BECAUSE YOU'RE **GARLIC!** EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT VAMPIRES AND GARLIC!

I'M SURE SOMEONE ELSE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT IT UP IF I HADN'T.




NOW, I'M GOING TO TAKE SOLAS BACK, AND I WILL TELL EVERYONE YOU WERE SO BRAVE THAT YOU MARCHED STRAIGHT INTO THE CASTLE...

...TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T NEED HELP, SO YOU SENT ME HOME.




WHAT?!



OH, COME ON. YOU'LL BE FINE ON YOUR OWN.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT, WELL...



...AT LEAST VAMPIRES AREN'T REALLY KEEN ON CELERY.

















WHAT GAME ARE THEY PLAYING?



VAMPIRE!
TAKE HEED!

FOR I AM THE
WORLD-FAMOUS
VAMPIRE HUNTER,
GARLIC!

AND I
AM HERE TO
VANQUISH
YOU!



OH, ARE
YOU?

















OH!

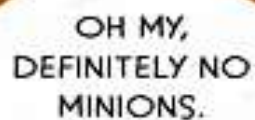


IT'S SOMETHING I DREW UP TO REASSURE FOLKS I MEAN NO HARM.



DOES THIS MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE LEGIONS OF MINIONS WAITING TO EXECUTE YOUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD WITH DARKNESS?





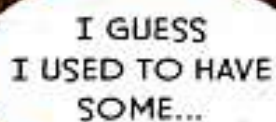
OH MY,
DEFINITELY NO
MINIONS.



HA HA




MINIONS...



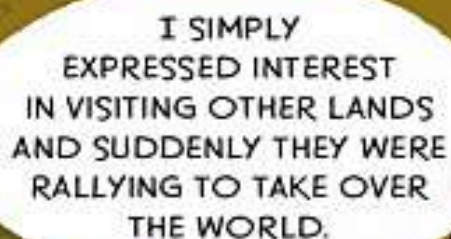
I GUESS
I USED TO HAVE
SOME...

A CENTURY
AGO, BUT NOT
ANYMORE.



chuckle

WASN'T
MEETING THEIR
EXPECTATIONS
EITHER.



I SIMPLY
EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN VISITING OTHER LANDS
AND SUDDENLY THEY WERE
RALLYING TO TAKE OVER
THE WORLD.

WORLD
DOMINATION?

WHY
WOULD ANYONE
EVER THINK
THAT'D BE A GOOD
IDEA?



ON RARE OCCASIONS, I'LL SAMPLE FROM LOCAL WILDLIFE.

I'VE ADOPTED A MORE... VEGETARIAN DIET.

DON'T WORRY, THERE AREN'T ANY VAMPIRE DEER RUNNING AROUND. I JUST NEED A SIP FROM TIME TO TIME.

BUT I MOSTLY STICK TO THIS.



IT'S MY OWN CONCOCTION I'VE DEVELOPED OVER TIME.

A BEETROOT AND TOMATO JUICE BLEND WITH A HINT OF LIME AND A PINCH OF CAYENNE.

TASTES GREAT AND IT'S GOOD FOR THE BLOOD.

I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.

WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A PROPER BLOOD ALTERNATIVE. ALMOST HAD SOMETHING YEARS AGO...

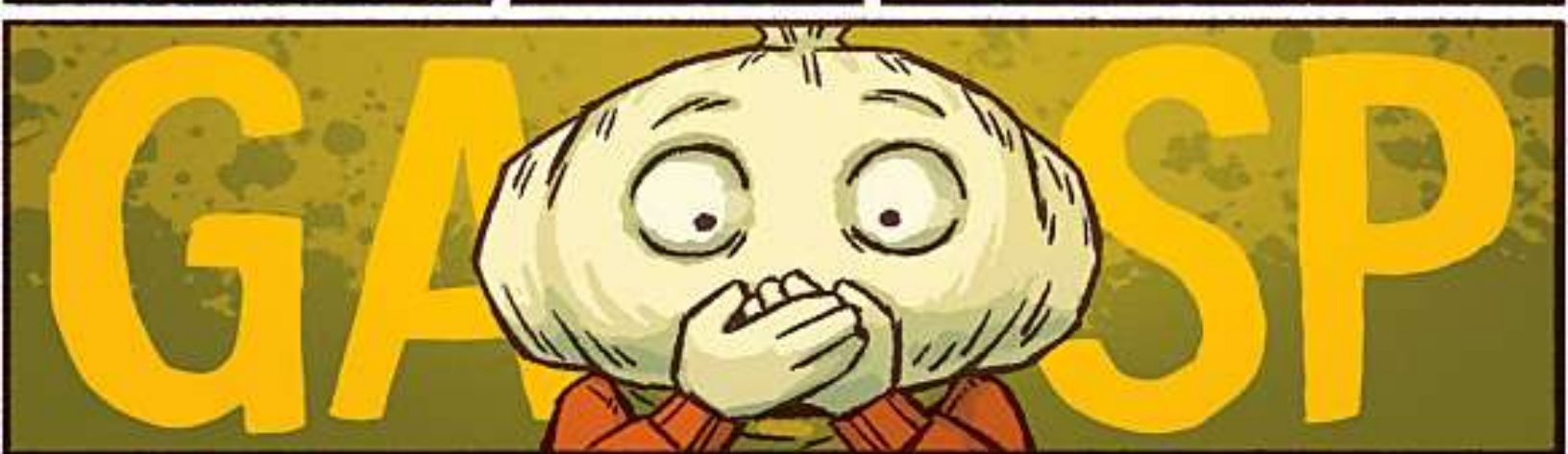
A PROJECT I PLAN TO PICK UP AGAIN.

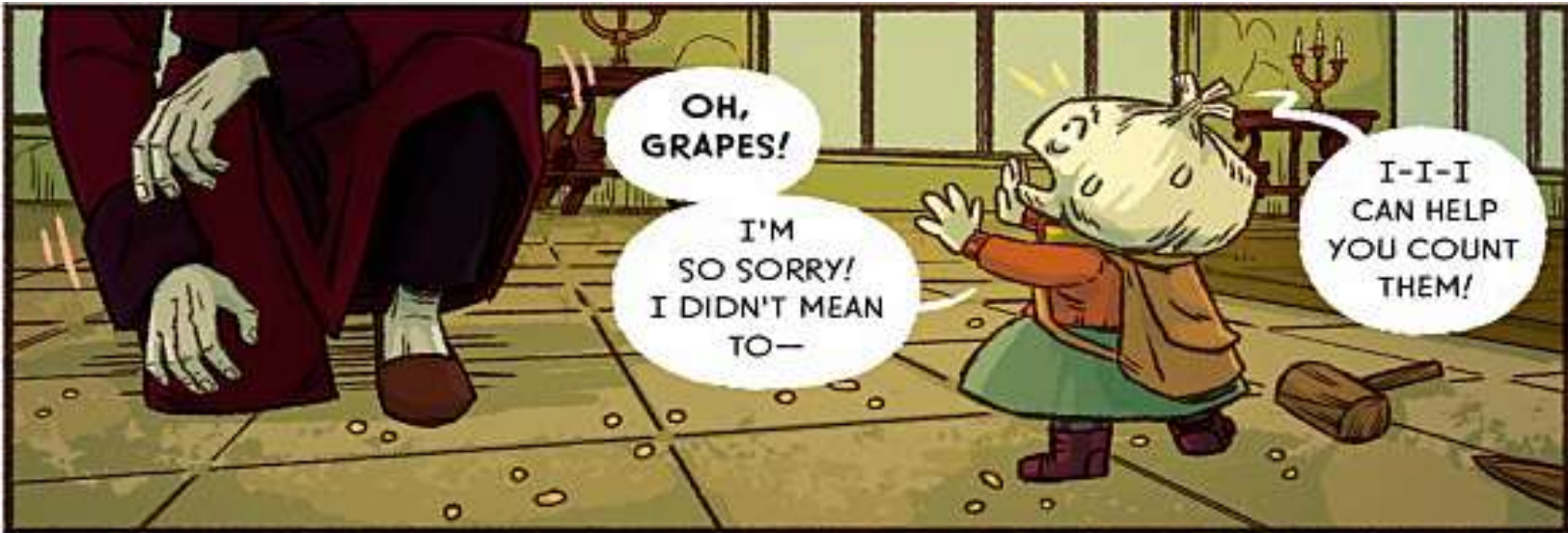




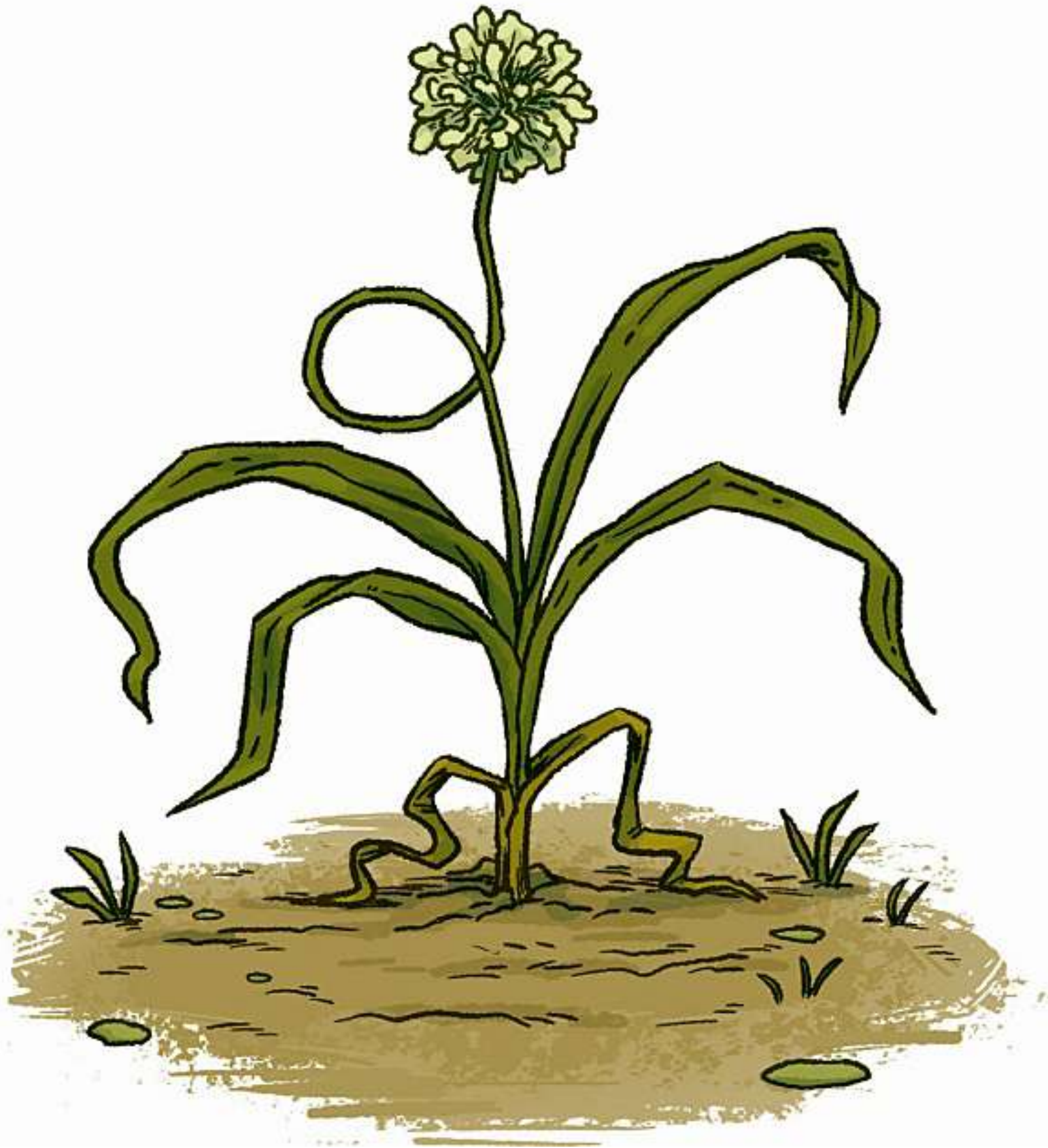









chapter six


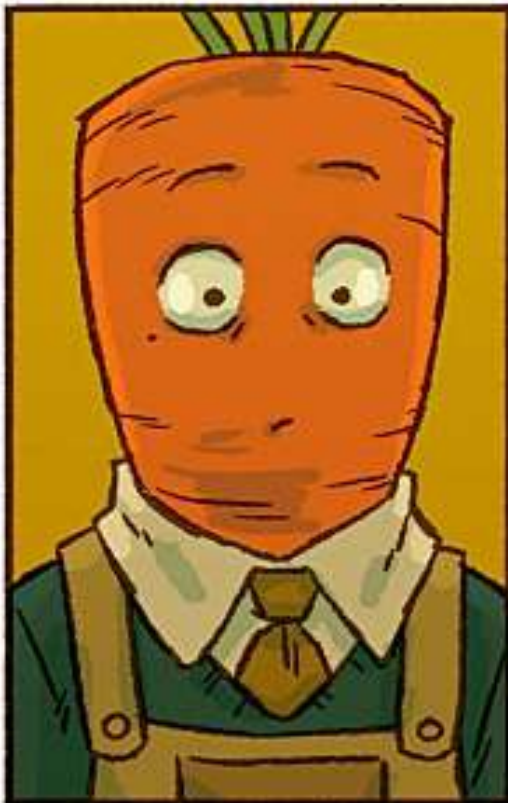






THEY'RE
GOING TO
BE FINE.


JUUGH!




WAIT!
I SEE...



...CELERY?




HOLD ON,
WHERE ARE GARLIC
AND SOLAS?



HI,
CELERY!

WELCOME
BACK!



CELERY!
WHERE'S
GARLIC?

DON'T
KNOW, DON'T
CARE.

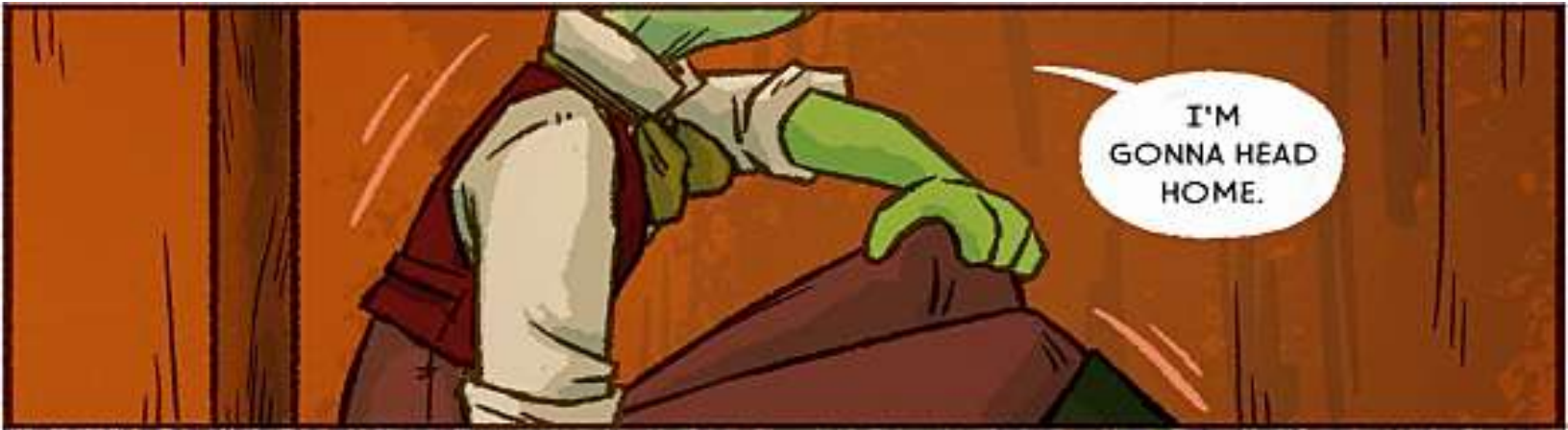


WHAT?



















CARROT,
MEET
COUNT.

COUNT,
THIS IS
CARROT.

AH, I'VE
HEARD SO MUCH
ABOUT YOU.



IT'S
NICE TO MEET
YOU.

H-HELLO...



IS THAT THE
VAMPIRE?

WHY IS HE
HERE?

OH MY!

DID
GARLIC BRING
HIM?!



AND YOU MUST BE WITCH AGNES.



WHY YES, I AM.

LOVELY TO MEET YOU, THOUGH...

HAVE WE MET BEFORE?



MY MOTHER, PERHAPS.

SHE WAS THE HEAD WITCH OF THE VALLEY BEFORE I TOOK THE ROLE.



AH, YES! SHE WAS A GREAT HELP TO ME LONG, LONG AGO.







HMM,
I DON'T
KNOW.

HE
SEEMS
NICE.

BUT HOW
DO WE KNOW
SOMETHING
BAD WON'T
HAPPEN?



YOU KNOW
WHAT?



I WOULD
LOVE SOME HELP
FROM A NEW
FRIEND.



IT'D BE MY
PLEASURE.







AH!



I GUESS I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR GARLIC'S LITTLE VISIT TO MY CASTLE.



IT'S A SHAME YOU FLED, THOUGH. I'M SURE YOU FEEL TERRIBLE FOR DOING THAT.



YEP, SURE DO!

HA HA















the end





COURTESY OF BREE PAULSEN

BREE PAULSEN is a native of Southern California in love with all things autumnal. After graduating from the Laguna College of Art and Design with a BFA in animation, she freelanced on a few independent animation and illustration projects before turning her focus toward comics. She started her webcomic for adults, *Patrik the Vampire*, in 2013 and self-publishes its printed volumes. *Garlic and the Vampire* is her first traditionally published book.



GARLIC FEELS AS THOUGH SHE'S ALWAYS DOING THE WRONG THING. No matter how much her friend Carrot and kindly Witch Agnes encourage her, Garlic just wants to tend her own garden, where it's nice and safe.

But when the village of vegetable people learns that a blood-thirsty vampire may have moved into the nearby castle, they all agree that, despite her fear and self-doubt, Garlic is the obvious choice to confront him. And with everyone counting on her, Garlic reluctantly agrees to face the mysterious vampire.

With humor, heart, and an unusual heroine with more courage than she realizes, Bree Paulsen's debut graphic novel is a farm-fresh tale that reminds readers to believe in themselves—and that strangers are not always as scary as they might seem.

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