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HALDEMAN  
LEHMAN

# Fortune Tellers

CHRISTOPHER!!!  
What are you up to?

Feeding the hogs, just like  
you asked me to, Tembor.

Now let's see.  
Klaatu, barada...

05



# Fortune Tellers

## Begin At The Beginning

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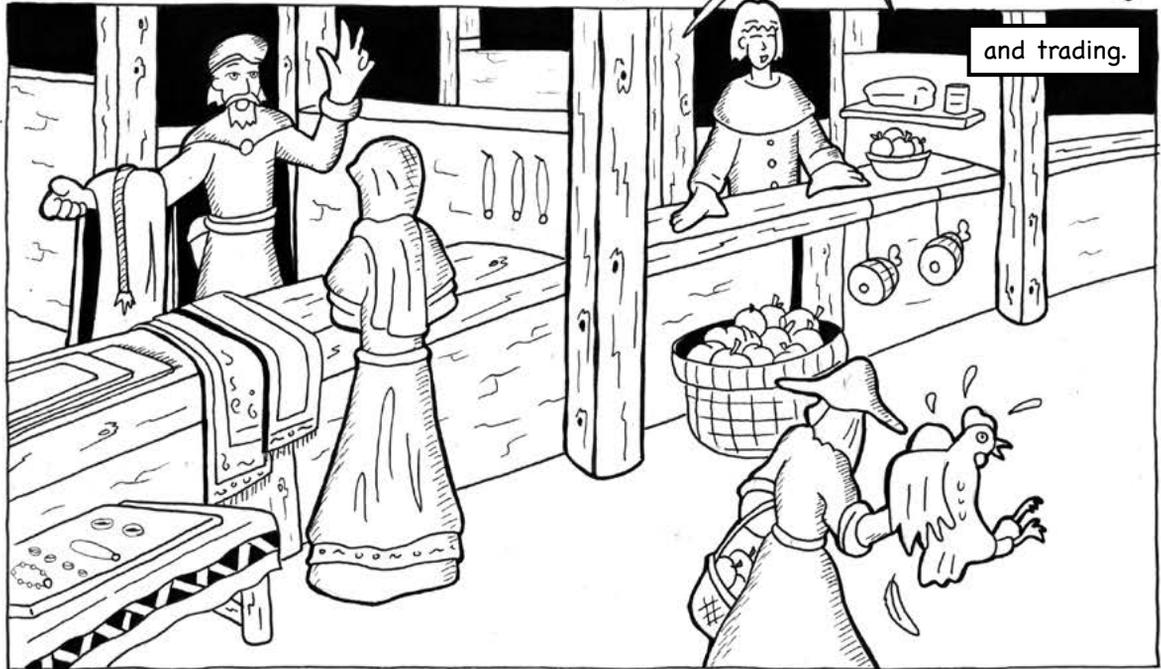
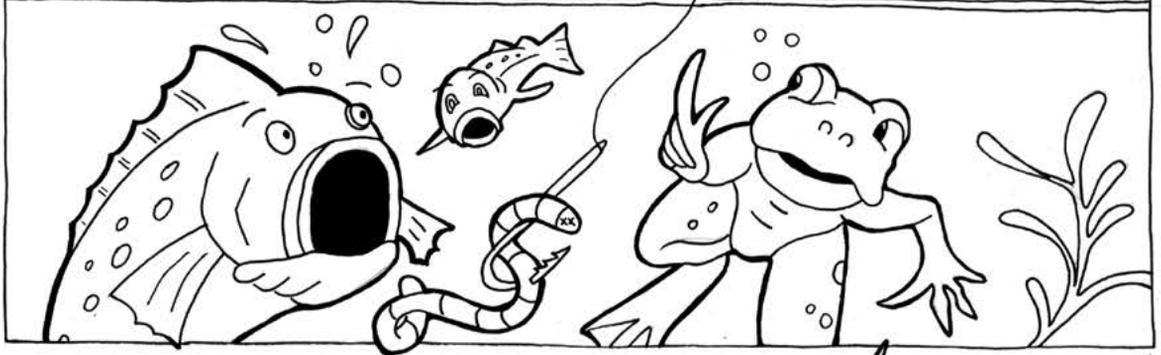
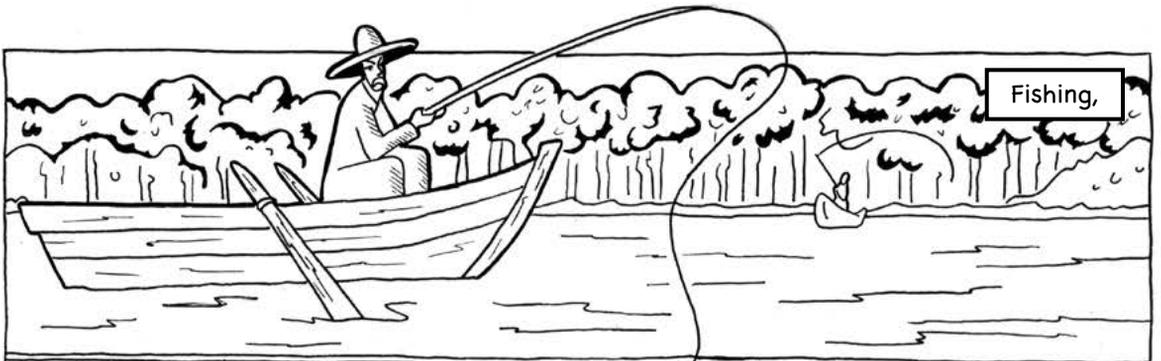


Oh! Hello there. I wasn't expecting you so soon.

My name is Christopher and it is a pleasure to meet you!

Welcome to **Waterglade!** I'll have to give you the quick tour of my hometown because I am a little busy at the moment.

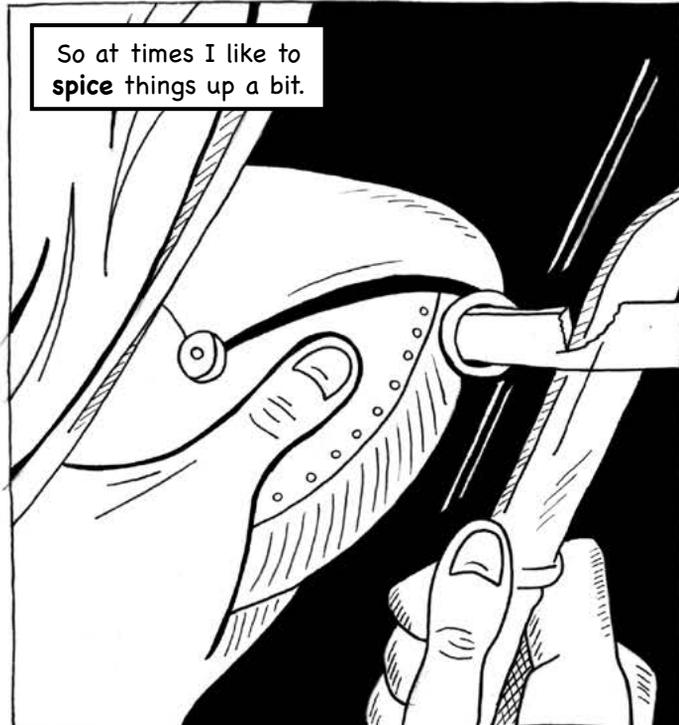
Waterglade is a small, friendly town where everyone looks after one another. It is mainly known for three things.



Waterglade is a nice place to live but life here can be **VERY** boring.



So at times I like to **spice** things up a bit.



I could just get away without him noticing but I don't need the whole bag. Just the difference that he 'stole' from my friend.

**STOP!!!**





Stop that boy!



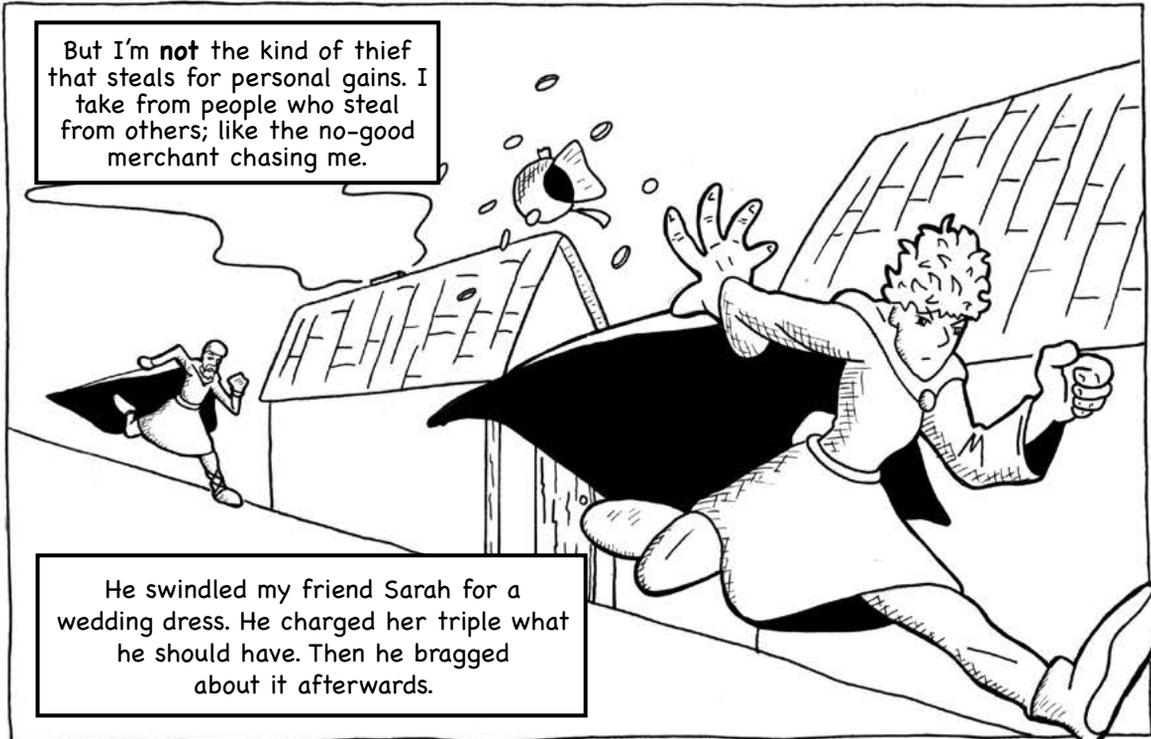
I'm not a thief.



THIEF!



Okay. I'm a thief.



But I'm **not** the kind of thief that steals for personal gains. I take from people who steal from others; like the no-good merchant chasing me.

He swindled my friend Sarah for a wedding dress. He charged her triple what he should have. Then he bragged about it afterwards.



This guy doesn't have a chance of finding me. This is my home turf.



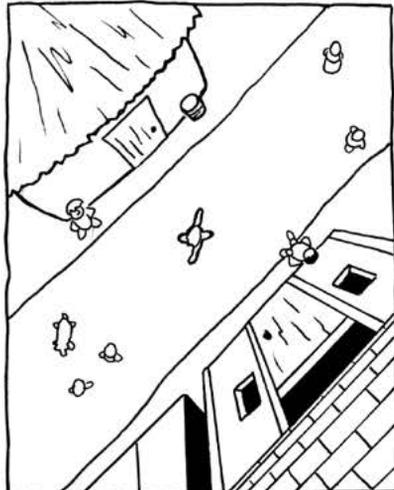
And I know **all** of its nooks and crannies.



Plus, nobody would give me away.



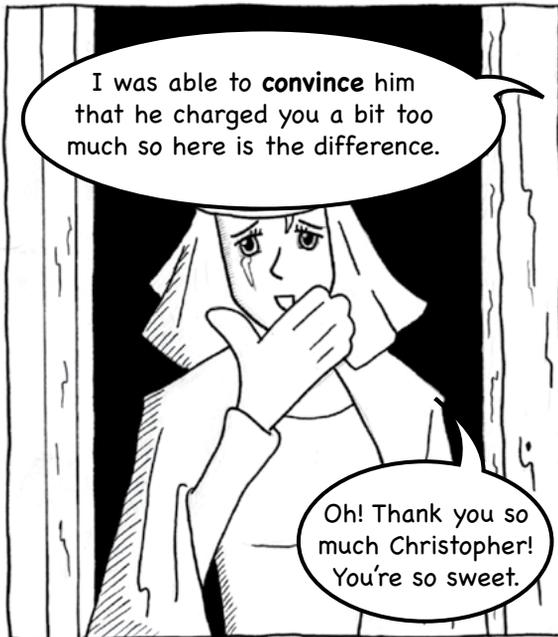
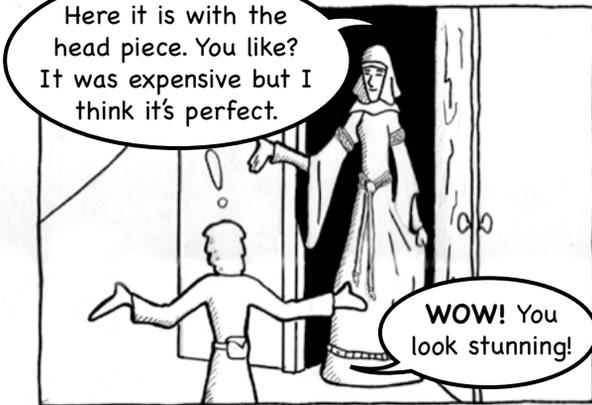
I'm friends with everyone here in town.



Now for my good deed of the day.



**KNOCK!!!  
KNOCK!!!**





YOU GUYS READY!?

READY!

1...

2...

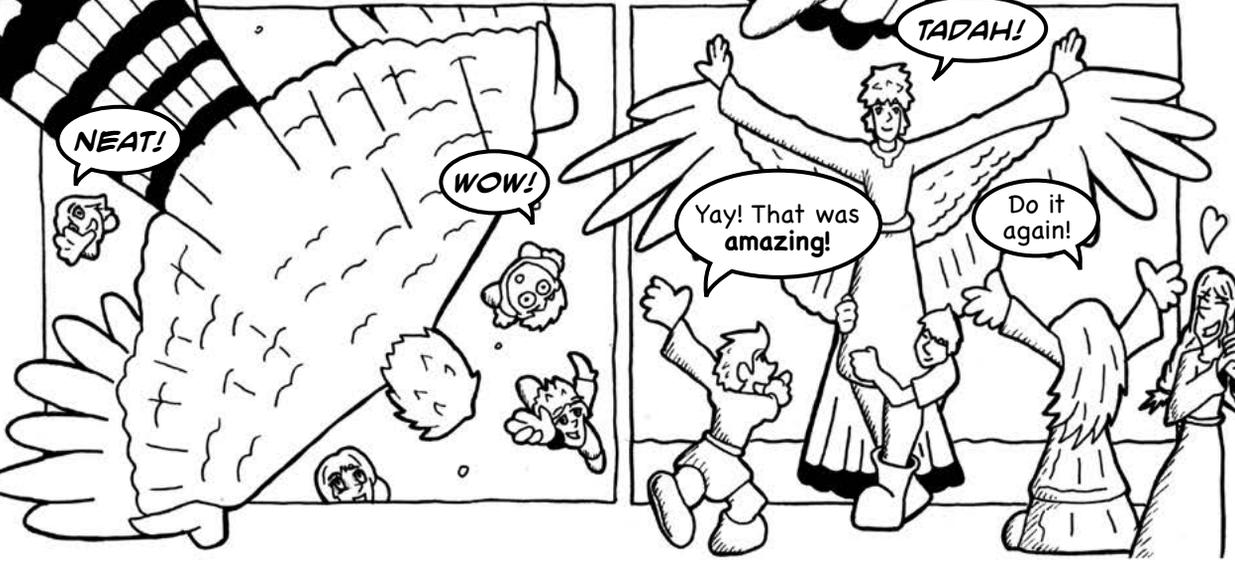
I wonder what trick he will do this time?

I like his butterflies!

3!



WHOOSH!



NEAT!

WOW!

TADAH!

Yay! That was amazing!

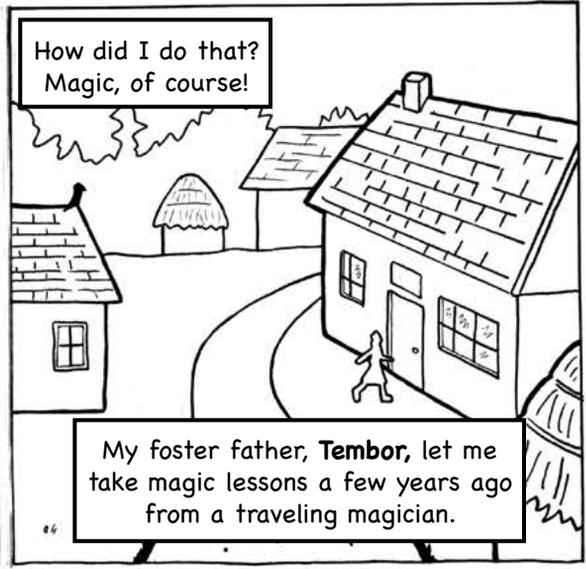
Do it again!



Gotta run, kiddos! See you tomorrow!

Bye

So pretty...



How did I do that?  
Magic, of course!

My foster father, **Tembor**, let me take magic lessons a few years ago from a traveling magician.



DING!

Hello, Christopher!  
Staying out of trouble, I hope.



Hi John! Oh you know me. Always being good.

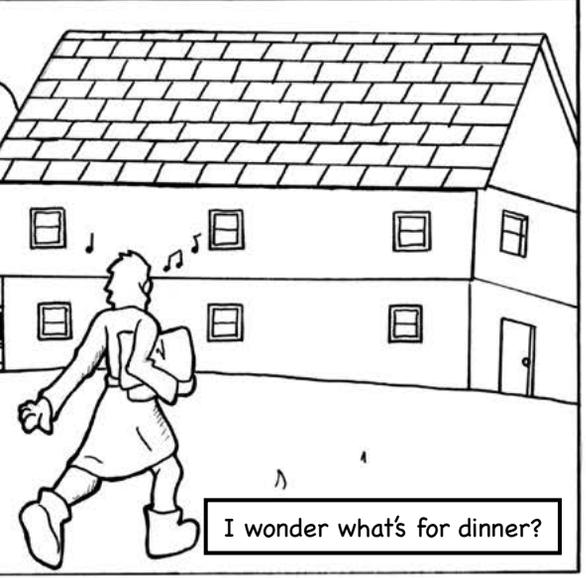
Ha. Flour is right over there son. Tell Tembor and Marianne I said hello.

Will do. See you again in a few days.



I'm running behind schedule. I was supposed to be back at **The Yellow Clover**, the tavern that Tembor owns, an hour ago but that business with the merchant put me behind.

No worries though. I'll make it just in time before the dinner crowd and will be able to help.



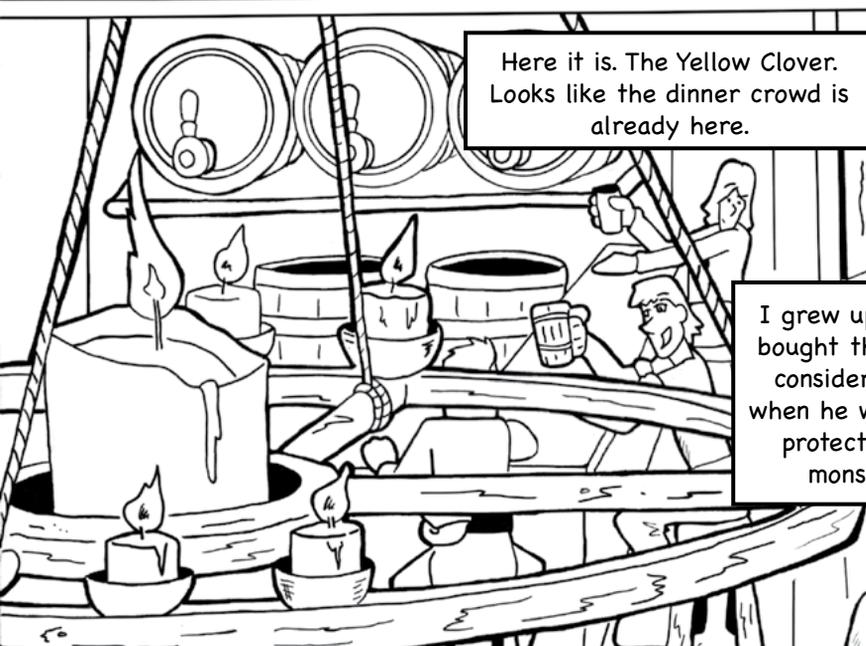
I wonder what's for dinner?

That's Tembor. I don't feel like a lecture. I'll distract him with a fire spell.



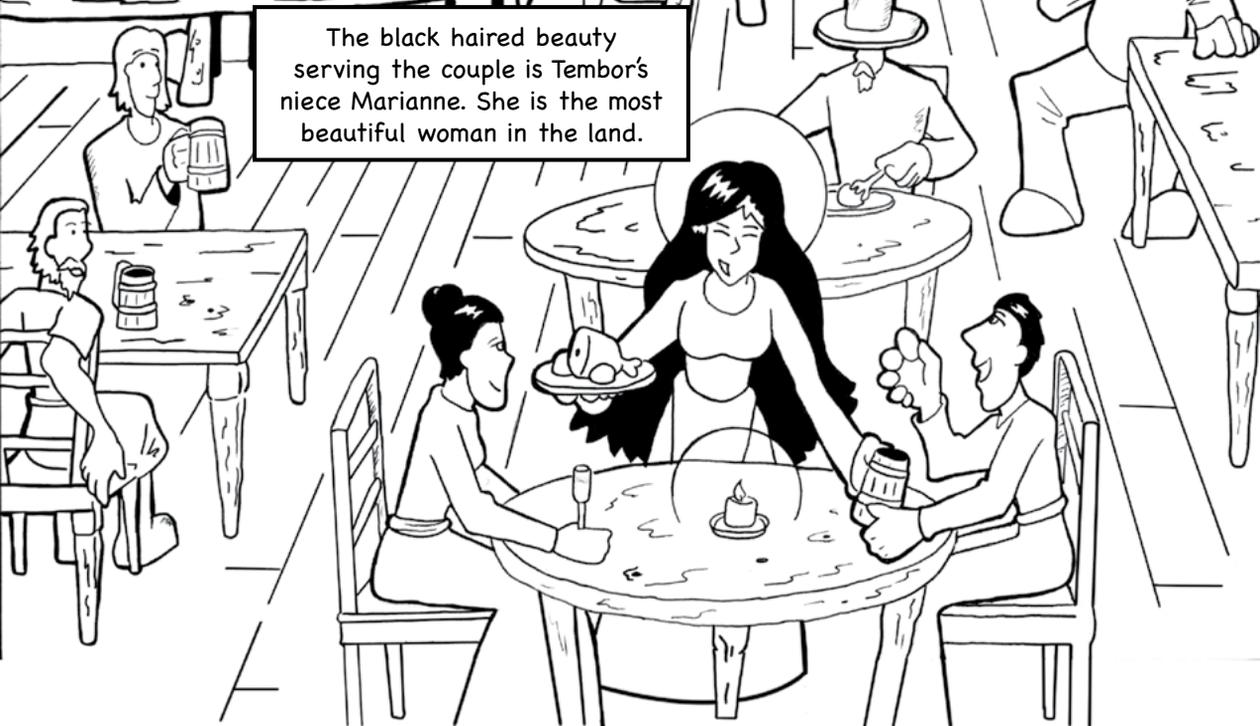
Done and done.  
Now time to work.

Here it is. The Yellow Clover.  
Looks like the dinner crowd is  
already here.



I grew up in this tavern. Tembor  
bought this place after making a  
considerable amount of money  
when he was a warrior. He helped  
protect local lords and drove  
monsters from the area.

The black haired beauty  
serving the couple is Tembor's  
niece Marianne. She is the most  
beautiful woman in the land.



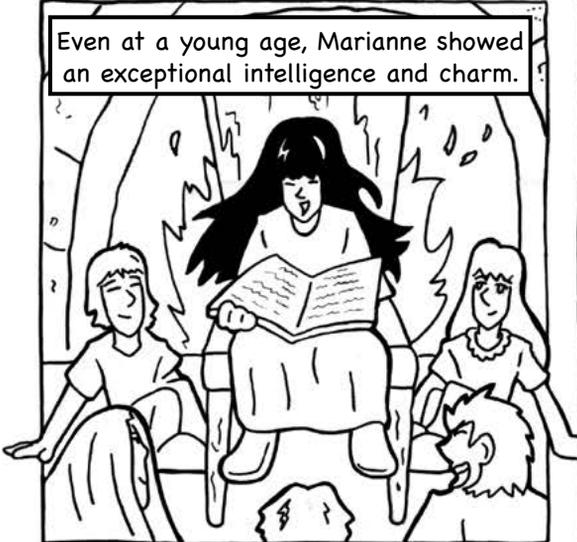
Her mother died when she was a baby, her father was a traveling warrior who left before she was born. He was never hear from again.



Tembor was her only living relative so he took her in as his own.



Even at a young age, Marianne showed an exceptional intelligence and charm.



As she grew, so did her beauty. All the local boys were smitten.



Tales of her soon spread beyond the sleepy confines of Waterglade and into the greater world. Now wealthy lords and great warriors from distant lands come to ask for her hand in marriage. So far though, she has refused all of them.

She once told me that she feels her destiny is greater than being a pretty arm piece of some man. I think she is right.

Hey Christopher!  
Daydreaming  
as usual?

That's my best friend David.  
We have been friends since we  
were knee-high.

He has recently applied to join the army of  
Jaldar but has agreed that if he isn't ac-  
cepted that he and I will leave Waterglade  
and travel the land for a year.

I hope he isn't accepted.

I just got word! I got  
accepted in the army!

I'll be leaving by the  
end of the month!

humm...

You can come and  
visit me in the city...  
What's wrong?





**THWACK!**

**WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT IN MY TAVERN!?**

Mister... You better have a good reason why you are manhandling my boy!

GULP!



Ugh... Well you see. I think this boy stole my money... Sir.

Is this true, Christopher?



I swear that I had nothing to do with such a thing Tembor.



Listen pal. You better turn around and leave this bar before I get angry.



Everybody, come outside quick. The circus has come to town. **THE CIRCUS!!!**



Wow! I had forgotten that it's that time of year again. I've always loved the circus.

I wonder what new acts they will have this year. My favorite is the high wire. Hey... I wonder if my bird wings spell would interest them enough for me to a little act for them.

Well, I know one thing for sure. Instead of cleaning up after the dinner crowd at the tavern I'll be spending my evenings for the next week at the big top!

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

