ACTION COMICS

THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX

COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!

THE MONSTER'S BALL

PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THREE
PART FOUR
PART FIVE

THE MONSTER'S BALL

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

Action Comics:

The Minecraft Adventures of Steve and Alex

The Monster's Ball - Complete Boxset Edition

© Copyright 2019 Anneline Kinnear. All Rights Reserved.

Published by: Origin Books

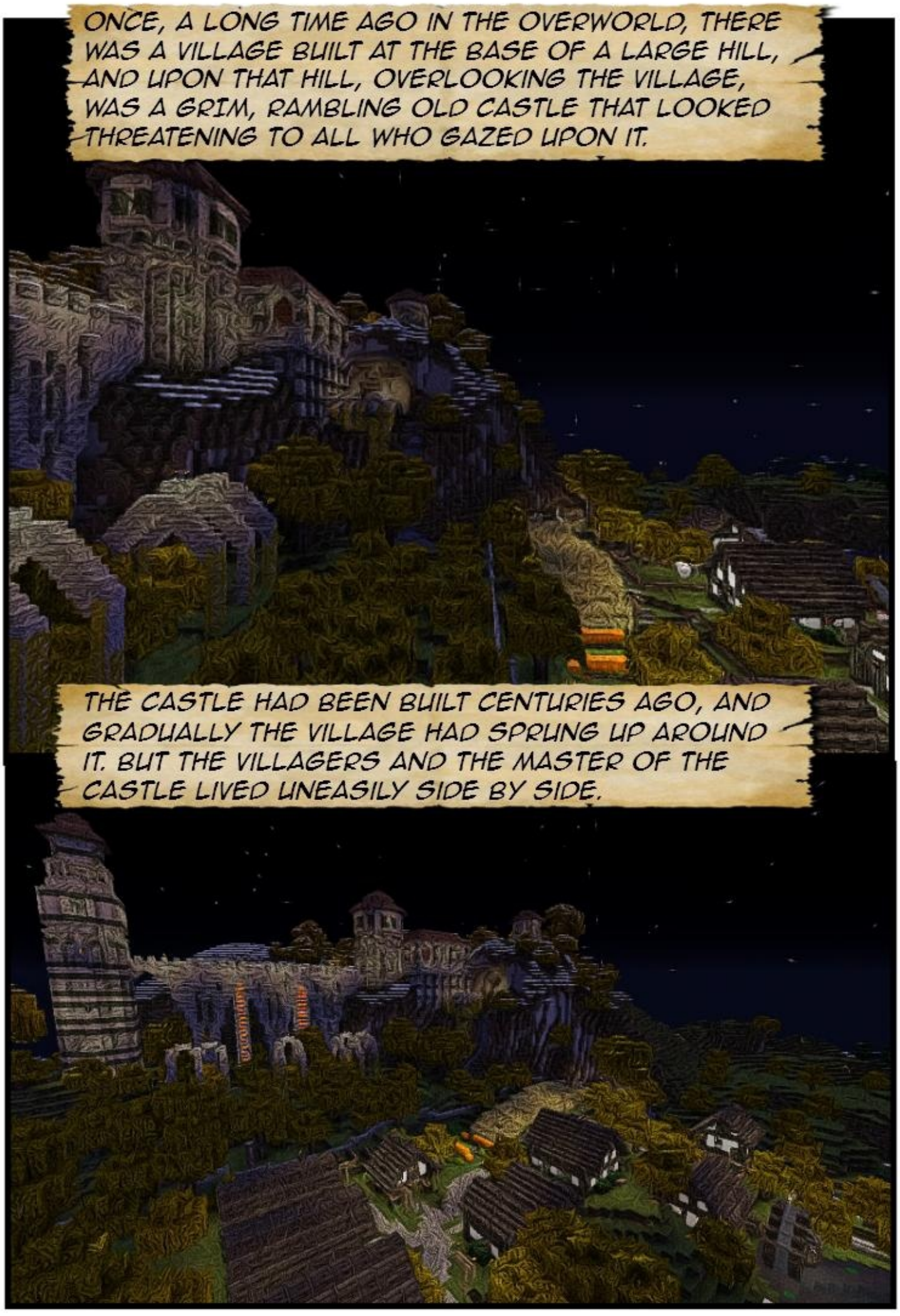
THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

This book is not authorized or sponsored by the Microsoft Corporation, Mojang AB, Notch Development AB, or any other person or entity owning or controlling rights in the Minecraft name, trademark, or copyrights.

In accordance with the U. S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher constitute unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property.
If you would like to use material from this book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the author.
Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Don't miss the other Minecraft Action Comic Adventures.

LEGEND OF A VAMPIRE


ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO IN THE OVERWORLD, THERE WAS A VILLAGE BUILT AT THE BASE OF A LARGE HILL, AND UPON THAT HILL, OVERLOOKING THE VILLAGE, WAS A GRIM, RAMBLING OLD CASTLE THAT LOOKED THREATENING TO ALL WHO GAZED UPON IT.
THE CASTLE HAD BEEN BUILT CENTURIES AGO, AND GRADUALLY THE VILLAGE HAD SPRUNG UP AROUND IT. BUT THE VILLAGERS AND THE MASTER OF THE CASTLE LIVED UNEASILY SIDE BY SIDE.

EVERYONE WAS WARNED NOT TO GO NEAR THE OLD CRUMBLING CASTLE, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT, FOR TALES WERE TOLD OF AN EVIL CREATURE WHO LIVED WITHIN.
A CREATURE WHO WAS NEVER SEEN BY DAY AND ONLY CAME OUT BY NIGHT...

TO PREY ON THE NEARBY VILLAGERS, HIS HELPLESS VICTIMS.
GASP!
SOME SAID, THE CREATURE TURNED INTO A WOLF WHEN THE MOON WAS FULL, HOWLING INTO THE NIGHT SKY UNTIL DAWN.
A-WWOOOOOOOOOOOO!

AND WHEN THE SKY BEGAN TO LIGHTEN IN THE EAST, THE CREATURE WOULD RETURN TO THE CASTLE AND SLEEP UNTIL NIGHTFALL, WHEN IT WOULD HUNT AGAIN.
SOME SAID, THE CREATURE SLEPT IN A COFFIN LIKE THE LIVING DEAD.

OTHERS TOLD TALES OF VILLAGERS BEING TAKEN PRISONER IN THE DUNGEONS OF THE CASTLE BY THE FOUL BEING, TO DO WITH WHATEVER HE PLEASED.
DISTURBED BY THE NIGHTLY GOINGS ON, THE VILLAGE LIBRARIAN DECIDED TO DO SOME RESEARCH, AND WHAT HE DISCOVERED WAS TRULY SHOCKING.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

THE LIBRARIAN SHARED HIS FINDINGS WITH HIS FELLOW VILLAGERS.
I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH AND I KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE.
YOU DO?
INDEED. THE NIGHTLY BLOOD-SUCKING CREATURE LIVING IN THAT CASTLE UP THERE IS A- A VAMPIRE!

A VAMPIRE? THAT'S TERRIBLE! ER... WHAT'S A VAMPIRE?
GASP!
A BLOOD-SUCKING HUMANLIKE CREATURE WHO GOES IN SEARCH OF ITS PREY BY NIGHT AND SLEEPS BY DAY BECAUSE THE SUN WEAKENS THEIR POWERS. APPARENTLY THEY CAN'T BEAR DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

SOME EVEN HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO THE SHAPE OF A BAT OR A WOLF.
WOLF? I SAW A WOLF IN THE WOODS LAST WEEK. IT WAS LOOKING AT ME KINDA FUNNY. DO YOU THINK THAT WAS... HIM?

WHO KNOWS? ANYWAY, VAMPIRES HAVE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND THEY CAN'T SEE THEIR IMAGE IN A MIRROR AND THEY CAST NO SHADOWS. AND GET THIS - THEY'RE IMMORTAL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'IMMORTAL'? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
GASP!

IT MEANS THEY NEVER DIE!
NEVER?
NEVER. APPARENTLY, THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KILL A VAMPIRE IS BY DRIVING A STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART!

EEEUW!
GROSS!

SO WHO'S GONNA DO IT THEN?
WHO'S GONNA DO WHAT?

DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART. GET RID OF IT FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL.
NOT ME, THAT'S FOR SURE.

NOR ME.
ME NEITHER.
NO WAY.
NAH-UH.

COWARDS!

IF YOU'RE SO BRAVE, YOU DO IT THEN!
ME?
YEAH, YOU!

I WOULD DO IT, ONLY I'M BUSY.
BUSY WITH WHAT?
BUSY THINGS.
HMPH!
HMPH!
SO WE'RE GONNA DO NOTHING THEN?
YUP, NOTHING, AS ALWAYS.

AND SO, NOTHING WAS DONE, AND AS THE YEARS WENT BY, THE NIGHTLY ATTACKS CONTINUED, AND THE VAMPIRE'S CASTLE FELL INTO DECAY, AS THOUGH THE EVIL THAT LIVED WITHIN LINGERED IN ITS VERY WALLS.
BUT AS TIME WENT ON, THE VILLAGE POPULATION GREW LESS AND LESS, AND FINALLY A TIME CAME WHEN THE VILLAGERS DECIDED THAT THEY HAD HAD ENOUGH OF BEING PRAYED UPON BY THE EVIL ENTITY THAT LIVED WITHIN THOSE GRIM WALLS.
I SAY IT'S TIME WE PUT A STOP TO THIS!

I SAY IT'S TIME WE DRIVE THAT BLOOD-SUCKING VAMPIRE OUT BEFORE HE KILLS US ALL!
AYE! I SAY WE BURN THAT CASTLE TO THE GROUND WITH HIM IN IT AND GET RID OF HIM FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AYE!
AYE!
AYE!
HECK, YEAH!
AND SO, EMBOLDENED BY THEIR ANGER, THE VILLAGERS STORMED THE CASTLE ONE DARK AND MOONLESS NIGHT.
AAIIIEEEEE!
AAARG!

AND SET THE CASTLE WALLS ABLAZE.
WHOOOSH!
AND THEY REJOICED AS THE FLAMES GREW EVER STRONGER AND HIGHER...

YAY!
THAT'S RIGHT! BURN TO THE GROUND, YOU EVIL MONSTROSITY!
BUT THEN A STRANGE THING HAPPENED. THE CASTLE SEEMED TO TAKE ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN. BLOOD BEGAN TO OOZE FROM ITS STONE WALLS, QUICKLY DROWNING THE FLAMES.

HUH?
GASP!
I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING!
AND EVEN AFTER THE FIRE HAD BEEN EXTINGUISHED, A RIVER OF BLOOD CONTINUED TO FLOW, SOAKING INTO THE LANDSCAPE AROUND THE CASTLE...

THE VILLAGERS FLED IN HORROR.
WAAAAAAAA!
RUNNN!

YEARS WENT BY AND THEN, ONE DAY, THE ATTACKS ON THE VILLAGERS STOPPED JUST AS SUDDENLY AS THEY HAD BEGUN HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE. SOME SWORE THAT THEY SAW THE EVIL VAMPIRE TURN INTO A BAT AND FLY OFF TOWARDS THE FULL MOON, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE VAMPIRE HAD LEFT, NO ONE DARED GO NEAR THE CASTLE, SENSING THE EVIL THAT STILL LURKED WITHIN.

I'M NOT GOING **NEAR** THAT PLACE!

NAH-UH. NOT ME.

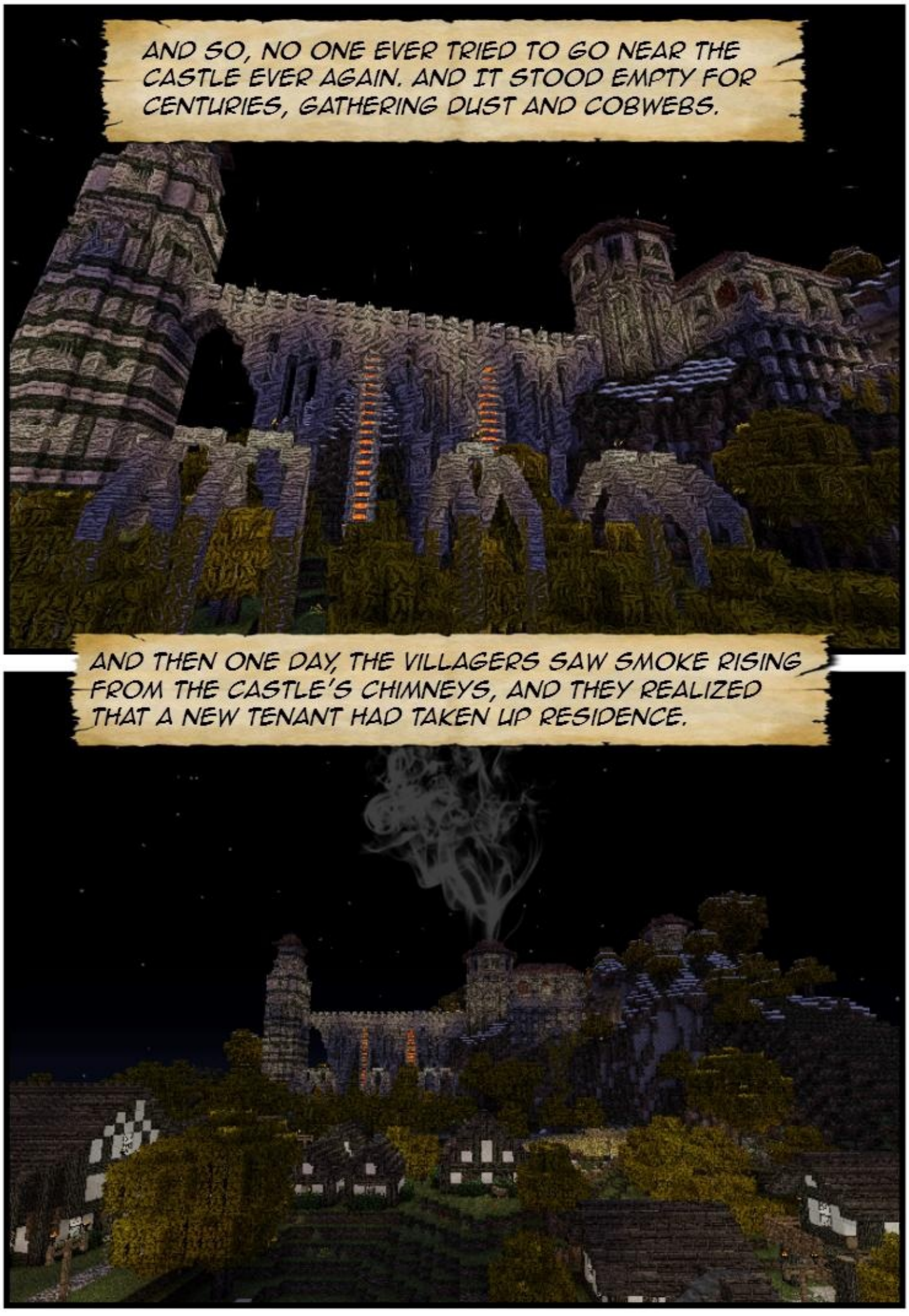
BUT SOME OF THE VILLAGERS WERE GREEDY, KNOWING THAT THERE WERE VALUABLES WITHIN THE OLD CASTLE'S WALLS THAT WERE JUST SITTING THERE, WAITING TO BE PLUNDERED. BUT ANY WHO WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ENTER THOSE WALLS WERE RARELY EVER SEEN AGAIN.

AND THOSE WHO DID SURVIVE, RETURNED, SHIVERING WITH FEAR AND BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK.

I TELL YOU, THE WALLS HAD **EYES!** EVIL EYES THAT **STARE** AT YOU! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

GULP!
GASP!
NO WAY!!
GET OUTTA HERE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

IT'S TRUE!
EVEN THE SHADOWS HISSED AND SNARLED AS IF THEY'RE ALIVE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE! YOU'RE DOING MY HEAD IN! I'M NOT GOING TO SLEEP TONIGHT!


AND SO, NO ONE EVER TRIED TO GO NEAR THE CASTLE EVER AGAIN. AND IT STOOD EMPTY FOR CENTURIES, GATHERING DUST AND COBWEBS.
AND THEN ONE DAY, THE VILLAGERS SAW SMOKE RISING FROM THE CASTLE'S CHIMNEYS, AND THEY REALIZED THAT A NEW TENANT HAD TAKEN UP RESIDENCE.

OH NO!
SOMEBODY'S MOVED INTO THE CASTLE!
DO YOU THINK IT'S HIM?
HIM WHO?

HIM! THE EVIL BLOOD-SUCKING CREATURE! THE VAMPIRE! DO YOU THINK HE'S BACK?
DUNNO. I HOPE NOT!
BUT THE VILLAGERS NEED NOT HAVE FEARED. THE OLD VAMPIRE OF CENTURIES AGO HAD GONE FOR GOOD. THERE WAS A NEW VAMPIRE IN TOWN. AND HIS NAME WAS COUNT GRISWOLD.

Warlock's Keep

THE DRAGON CALLED FIRETONGUE, AND HIS DRAGON FRIENDS FROM THE FAR LANDS, HAD AT LAST BURNT RAVEN'S WOOD TO THE GROUND.
AND OUT OF THE SMOKE AND ASHES, ALEX'S FATHER, THE WARLOCK OF WARLOCK'S KEEP, HAD AT LAST APPEARED.

THE WARLOCK WAS NOT THE SAME MAN WHO HAD ENTERED RAVEN'S WOOD ON THAT FATEFUL NIGHT. HIS HAIR HAD GONE GREY AND HIS FACE WAS LINED AS THOUGH HE HAD ENDURED GREAT SUFFERING.

ALEX IMMEDIATELY SAW THAT HER BELOVED FATHER WAS MUCH CHANGED. BUT EVEN SO, HER HEART OVERFLOWED WITH JOY. EVERY HARDSHIP THAT SHE AND STEVE HAD ENDURED ON THEIR JOURNEY TO THE FAR LANDS HAD BEEN WORTH IT. HER FATHER WAS SAFELY RETURNED TO HER AT LAST.

FATHER!

ALEXANDRA!

BUT HER JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED AS THE WARLOCK LOOKED BACK AT HER WITH BLANK EYES. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE HER.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY DAUGHTER ALEXANDRA?
SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL AND SHE'S LOST IN THE WOODS. THE WITCHES STOLE HER AWAY FROM ME, YOU SEE.
IT'S ME, FATHER! I'M YOUR DAUGHTER ALEXANDER.

BUT THE WARLOCK CONTINUED TO LOOK AT HER BLANKLY.
NO, NO, ALEXANDRA IS JUST A LITTLE GIRL. I TRIED TO REACH HER, BUT I COULDN'T.

SHE WAS LOST IN THE WOODS FOR SO MANY YEARS AND I COULDN'T FIND HER.
ALEX LOOKED AT STEVE WITH TEARS IN HER EYES.
HE DOESN'T **RECOGNIZE** ME, STEVE! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO I AM!

GIVE HIM SOME TIME, ALEX. HE'S JUST COME OUT OF THE WOODS. HE'S PROBABLY DAZED AND DISORIENTATED.
DIDN'T YOU SAY PEOPLE LOSE THEIR MEMORY WHEN THEY'RE TRAPPED IN AN ENCHANTED FOREST?
YES, BUT -
THE OLD DRAGON FIRETONGUE SUDDENLY STEPPED FORWARD.
PERHAPS I CAN HELP.

YOU CAN? HOW?
A LITTLE DRAGON'S BREATH CAN DO WONDERS.
DRAGON'S BREATH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DRAGON'S BREATH HAVE MAGICAL POWERS, CHILD, BECAUSE WE ARE MAGICAL CREATURES, AFTER ALL.

I – I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

FOR A YOUNG WITCH YOU DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT MAGIC, DO YOU?

I... NO, I DON'T SUPPOSE I DO.

STAND BACK, CHILD, I'VE GOT THIS.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO... HURT HIM, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT. I'M ONLY GOING TO BREATHE ON HIM. THERE'S NO FIRE INVOLVED.

THE OLD DRAGON WENT UP TO THE WARLOCK AND GENTLY BLEW HIS DRAGON'S BREATH OVER HIM.
THE WARLOCK STAGGERED BACK, AS IF HE HAD BEEN STRUCK...
AAAHH!

AND THEN, GRADUALLY, HIS EYES BEGAN TO CLEAR.
FIRETONGUE? IS THAT YOU?
HELLO, OLD FRIEND. I SEE WE'VE BOTH GROWN OLD AND GREY SINCE WE LAST MET.
BUT HOW? HOW DID I ESCAPE FROM RAVEN'S WOOD?

THE DRAGONS AND I BURNT THE FOREST TO THE GROUND.
ALL THAT'S LEFT OF IT IS THE SMOKE AND ASHES YOU SEE ABOUT YOU.
THE DRAGONS OF DOOM?
NO, OLD FRIEND. THEY'RE ALL GONE. SADLY, I'M THE LAST ONE LEFT.

I HAD TO ENLIST THE HELP OF SOME OF MY DRAGON FRIENDS FROM THE FAR LANDS.

THE FAR LANDS? BUT HOW...?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR DAUGHTER.
MY DAUGHTER?

SHE AND HER FRIEND STEVE JOURNEYED ALL THE WAY TO THE FAR LANDS TO FIND ME.
MY DAUGHTER! WHERE IS SHE?
AND THEN THE WARLOCK SAW ALEX STANDING THERE.
ALEXANDRA! YOU'RE HERE! YOU'RE SAFE!

ALEX RAN TO HER FATHER'S ARMS AND THEY EMBRACED AT LAST.
NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL EVER PART US AGAIN, FATHER!
OH MY DEAR CHILD, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
NOR I YOU, FATHER.

WELL, THERE WE ARE. THAT'S ENDED WELL. MY WORK HERE IS DONE. IT'S TIME FOR US TO BE OFF. TIME TO GO HOME.
YOU'RE FLYING BACK TO THE FAR LANDS NOW? SHOULDN'T YOU REST FIRST, FIRETONGUE?
FIRETONGUE, YOU AND YOUR DRAGON FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO STAY AT WARLOCK'S KEEP FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

THANK YOU, FRIEND, BUT THE SOONER I GET BACK TO THE FAR LANDS, THE BETTER. THIS IS GOING TO BE MY LAST FLIGHT, I FEEL IT IN MY OLD BONES.
DON'T BE SAD, CHILD. I'VE HAD A LONG LIFE. A GOOD LIFE. TIME TO PUT THESE OLD BONES TO REST.
DON'T SAY THAT!
GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND.
HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?

IT IS ME WHO NEEDED TO REPAY YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO. IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME, I WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE NOW.
AND SO THEY SAID THEIR GOODBYES AND THE DRAGONS TOOK TO THE EARLY MORNING SKY AND BEGAN THE LONG JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR HOME IN THE FAR LANDS.

ALEX AND STEVE WATCHED THEM GO.
I HOPE FIRETONGUE MAKES IT BACK HOME OKAY.
SURE HE WILL. I THINK THAT OLD DUDE IS TOUGHER THAN WE THINK.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. THE SAD THING IS WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHETHER HE MADE IT OR NOT.
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE HEADED BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP. IT'S QUITE A LONG WALK.

AND SO, THE WARLOCK AND ALEX AND STEVE AND DONKEY LEFT THE SMOKE AND THE DYING EMBERS OF THE FIRE BEHIND AND WENT BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP.
ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK ALL THIS WAY, FATHER?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, ALEXANDRA. BELIEVE ME, I'M FEELING STRONGER EVERY MINUTE.

YOU'VE GONE SO... GREY SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
GREY? REALLY? DO I LOOK SO DIFFERENT?
YES. OLDER. AND... WISER.
OH WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT THEN. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR AND STEVE'S JOURNEY TO THE FAR LANDS. THAT WAS A VERY FOOLISH – AND BRAVE – THING TO DO.

AND SO, AS THEY WALKED, ALEX FILLED HER FATHER IN ON THE MANY ADVENTURES SHE AND STEVE HAD EXPERIENCED ON THEIR LONG JOURNEY TO THE FAR LANDS.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU AND STEVE WERE REALLY UP AGAINST IT AT TIMES.

WE WERE!

AND FINALLY, WARLOCK'S KEEP CAME INTO VIEW.

WHAT A WONDERFUL SIGHT. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE WARLOCK'S KEEP AGAIN. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME.
BUT WHEN THEY ENTERED THE KEEP, THEY WERE IN FOR A BIT OF A SURPRISE. AMATOR, THE WARLOCK'S MANSERVANT WHO HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED TO LOOK AFTER THE KEEP IN THE WARLOCK AND ALEX'S ABSENCE, HAD TAKEN FULL ADVANTAGE OF HIS NEW POSITION.
WHAT'S THIS? PUMPKIN PIE?!!

I TOLD YOU I WANT STUFFED GOOSE WITH APPLE SAUCE FOR DINNER!
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR PUMPKIN PIE? I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO WITH IT!
AHEM.
I HATE PUMPKIN PIE!!! HATE IT! HATE IT! HATE IT!
STOMP
STOMP
SQUISH!

I'M THE LORD OF WARLOCK'S KEEP AND I WANT GOOSE FOR DINNER!
I DEMAND A GOOSE! DO YOU HEAR ME?!!

AHEM... THERE ARE NO GEESE IN THE OVERWORLD AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, MY LORD.
TWADDLE! THERE MUST BE SOME GEESE SOMEWHERE! GO AND FIND ME A GOOSE FOR DINNER! NOW!
TSK, TSK...AS YOU WISH, MY LORD.

AND THEN AMATOR ROUNDED IN A FURY ON A VIOLINIST WHO HAD BEEN PLAYING SOFT MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND.
AND YOU! CAN'T YOU PLAY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE CHEERFUL?!!
HMPH!
WHAT AM I PAYING YOU FOR? TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'M AT MY OWN FUNERAL?!
SNIFF!

PLAY SOMETHING SNAPPY OR I'LL BREAK THAT VIOLIN OVER YOUR HEAD! GOT IT?!!
AT THAT MOMENT, AMATOR LOOKED UP AND SAW THE WARLOCK STANDING THERE. THE BLOOD INSTANTLY DRAINED FROM HIS FACE.
MY LORD! IS THAT YOU? YOU LOOK - YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT! AM I SEEING A GHOST!

NO, AMATOR, IT'S REALLY ME. BACK FROM THE DEAD, SO TO SPEAK. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A GOOSE?
IT'S N-NOTHING, MY LORD. IT'S JUST THE HIRED HELP – THEY'RE GIVING ME NO END OF PROBLEMS!
HIRED HELP?
ER...IN YOUR ABSENCE I THOUGHT IT BEST TO HIRE SOME STAFF TO HELP AROUND THE PLACE, MY LORD. TO KEEP IT NICE AND TIDY.

WHAT STAFF?
ER... A PERSONAL ASSISTANT, A CHEF, A BUTLER, SOME MAIDS, A GARDENER, A STABLE HAND, A GENERAL HOUSEKEEPER AND... ER... A MUSICIAN.
MUSICIAN?
I HAD TO LIVEN THE PLACE UP A BIT, MY LORD!

IT'S BEEN AWFUL QUIET AROUND HERE SINCE YOU AND MISS ALEX LEFT.
IT HAS, HAS IT? WELL DO YOU MIND TELLING YOUR... MUSICIAN... TO LEAVE US! I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK, AMATOR.
YOU HEARD, MY LORD! GET LOST! AND DON'T EXPECT TO BE PAID FOR HALF A DAY'S WORK!
HMPH!

SO... I TAKE IT MISS ALEX DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK FROM THE FAR LANDS? I WARNED HER NOT TO GO, MY LORD. I TRIED TO STOP THEM, I REALLY DID.
ALEX STEPPED OUT OF THE SHADOWS SO THAT AMATOR SAW HER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I MADE IT BACK JUST FINE. WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT, AMATOR?

YEAH, WHAT'S WITH THE TOP HAT-AND-TIE GETUP? YOU LOOK LIKE A CIRCUS RINGMASTER!
MASTER STEVE! I DIDN'T SEE YOU STANDING THERE EITHER! I'M... GLAD EVERYONE'S BACK, ALL SAFE AND SOUND. VERY UNEXPECTED, THAT IS. VERY UNEXPECTED TO SAY THE LEAST!

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, AMATOR!
WELL, MY LORD, SINCE MISS ALEX LEFT ME IN CHARGE – AND BY THE WAY, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER SEE ANY OF YOU EVER AGAIN – I THOUGHT IT FITTING THAT I SHOULD DRESS FOR THE PART.
WHAT PART?

THE PART OF BEING THE LORD OF WARLOCK'S KEEP.
THE WARLOCK BRISTLED.
LORD OF WARLOCK'S KEEP?!!
I SAID YOU COULD STAY HERE FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKED, AMATOR. I DIDN'T APPOINT YOU AS THE LORD OF THE KEEP!

SORRY, MISS ALEX. I MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD.
YOU CERTAINLY DID!
DID YOU DISTRIBUTE MY FATHER'S WEALTH AMONG THE POOR AS I INSTRUCTED?
ER, NO, MISS ALEX. HIRING ALL THAT STAFF DOESN'T COME CHEAP, YOU KNOW. I THOUGHT IT BEST TO HANG ONTO THE FAMILY JEWELS FOR A WHILE LONGER, JUST TO BE SAFE.

I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, AMATOR. VERY DISAPPOINTED INDEED.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GET RID OF THE TOP HAT AND TIE AND GO AND RUSTLE UP SOME DINNER, AMATOR. WE'RE ALL TIRED AND HUNGRY.
VERY WELL, MY LORD. AS ALWAYS, YOUR EVERY WISH IS MY COMMAND.

I TAKE IT THAT WAS THE ONLY PUMPKIN PIE YOU TRAMPLED ON JUST NOW? I TRUST THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TO EAT?
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, MY LORD.
AND WITH THAT, AMATOR HASTILY SCUTTLED FROM THE ROOM.
UNBELIEVABLE!
DON'T BE TOO HARSH ON HIM, ALEXANDRA. AMATOR HAS BEEN POOR ALL HIS LIFE.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMING FOR HIM TO HAVE WARLOCK'S KEEP AND MY WEALTH SUDDENLY THRUST UPON HIM.
YOU'RE TOO KIND, FATHER. YOU SEE THE GOOD IN EVERYONE.
KINDNESS TO OTHERS COSTS NOTHING, ALEXANDRA. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT.
YES, FATHER.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, STEVE? SHALL WE ALL GO AND WASH UP BEFORE DINNER? I'M SURE YOU MUST BE AS HUNGRY AS I AM.
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, SIR. I'M STARVING!
STEVE LEFT THE ROOM TO GO AND CLEAN UP FOR DINNER AND THE WARLOCK TURNED TO HIS DAUGHTER.
I LIKE HIM, ALEXANDRA. YOU HAVE CHOSEN WELL.
CHOSEN, FATHER?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. HE'S PART OF THE FAMILY NOW, ISN'T HE?
I – YES, I SUPPOSE HE IS.
GOOD. I'LL SEE YOU LATER FOR DINNER THEN.
LATER THAT EVENING, THEY DINED ON BREAD AND SOUP.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE PUMPKIN PIE, MY LORD. IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE COMING –

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, AMATOR. ALL IS FORGOTTEN.
PRESENTLY, STEVE AND ALEX JOINED THE WARLOCK AT THE DINNER TABLE.
SOUP? I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED PUMPKIN PIE – BEFORE AMATOR JUMPED ALL OVER IT, OF COURSE.

NOW, NOW, ALEXANDRA, THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST. AMATOR REGRETS HIS BEHAVIOR FROM EARLIER SO LET'S ALL FORGET ABOUT THE INCIDENT, SHALL WE.
LET'S RATHER BE GRATEFUL THAT WE'RE ALL BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, SAFE AND WELL AFTER OUR VARIOUS... ER... MISFORTUNES.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT A PRIVILEGE THIS IS, ALEXANDRA.
A PRIVILEGE, FATHER?
SITTING DOWN FOR MY FIRST EVER DINNER WITH MY LONG-LOST DAUGHTER.

YES, IT IS A PRIVILEGE, FATHER. AND IT'S WONDERFUL!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, MY LORD, I ALMOST FORGOT. YOUR INVITATION HAS ARRIVED. IT ARRIVED THIS MORNING BY OWL.

WHAT INVITATION?
YOUR INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MONSTER'S BALL. I WAS GOING TO GO, BUT SINCE YOU'RE BACK -
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, AMATOR? WE'LL ALL GO.

THE MONSTER'S BALL? WHAT MONSTER'S BALL?
COUNT GRISWOLD HOLDS A MONSTER'S BALL EVERY YEAR.
COUNT GRISWOLD? THE COUNT GRISWOLD? THE VAMPIRE?

VAMPIRE?!!
=GULP!=
NO NEED TO BE ALARMED, STEVE. COUNT GRISWOLD IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS.
HARMLESS? DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY HE'S A VAMPIRE? AS IN A **BLOOD-SUCKING** VAMPIRE FEEDING OFF **HUMANS?**

WELL YES, MOST VAMPIRES FEED OFF HUMAN BLOOD, BUT IN GRISWOLD'S CASE, HE HAS CONFINED HIMSELF TO PREYING ON ZOMBIES.
ZOMBIES?
HE'S ACTUALLY DOING THE LOCAL VILLAGE A FAVOR BY KEEPING THE ZOMBIE POPULATION DOWN.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE VILLAGERS DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO BEFRIEND THEM FOR YEARS BUT THEY'LL HAVE NONE OF IT. ACTUALLY, THAT'S HOW THE ANNUAL MONSTER'S BALL CAME ABOUT.
YOU SEE, THE OLD CASTLE WHERE HE LIVES, USED TO BE INHABITED BY AN EVIL AND CRUEL VAMPIRE WHO PREYED UPON THE LOCAL VILLAGERS.
THE COUNT TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN THE CASTLE AFTER IT HAD BEEN STANDING EMPTY FOR CENTURIES. I THINK HE INHERITED IT FROM A GREAT-UNCLE.

ANYWAY, GRISWOLD HUNTS ZOMBIES AT NIGHT, BUT EVEN SO, THE VILLAGERS DON'T TRUST HIM – AND THEY CERTAINLY FEAR HIM.
I DON'T BLAME THEM. ONCE A VAMPIRE ALWAYS A VAMPIRE AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!
ANYWAY, AS I SAID, THE CASTLE STOOD EMPTY FOR CENTURIES, THEN ONE DAY, COUNT GRISWOLD MOVED IN.

BUT, UNDERSTANDABLY, THE VILLAGERS WERE TERRIFIED OF HIM. THE COUNT TRIED TO BEFRIEND THEM, BUT TO NO AVAIL. THEY WOULDN'T GO NEAR HIM.
SO, IN A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, THE COUNT DECIDED TO HOST A BALL. HE INVITED EVERYONE, IN THE HOPES THAT THE VILLAGERS WOULD ATTEND AND THAT THEY WOULD GET TO KNOW HIM AND LEARN TO TRUST HIM.
GRISWOLD'S BALL TOMORROW ALL WELCOME PLEASE COME
MEH.
I SEE WE'VE HAD OUR NIGHTLY VISITOR AGAIN. HE ALWAYS COMES AND SNOOPS AROUND HERE AT NIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? HE'S A VAMPIRE! ARE YOU GOING?
TO A VAMPIRE'S BALL? ARE YOU NUTS?!
I WOULDN'T BE SEEN DEAD IN THAT VAMPIRE'S CASTLE!

SO YOU'RE NOT GOING THEN?
?!!
NO, I'M NOT GOING!
GRISWOLD'S BALL TOMORROW ALL WELCOME PLEASE COME
BAM!

SO NOBODY FROM THE VILLAGE CAME, THEY WERE TOO AFRAID. THE ONLY GUESTS WHO ARRIVED WERE MONSTERS AND GRISWOLD'S FRIENDS - BEINGS FROM THE WORLD OF MAGIC - WITCHES AND WIZARDS AND THE LIKE. SO IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE MONSTER'S BALL.

EACH YEAR THE COUNT HOSTS A BALL AT THE CASTLE, HOPING THAT THE VILLAGERS WILL COME, BUT EACH YEAR ONLY MONSTERS AND MAGICAL CREATURES ATTEND. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ANNUAL MONSTER'S BALL HAS ONLY DRIVEN THE WEDGE DEEPER BETWEEN THE COUNT AND THE VILLAGERS.
AND YOU ATTEND THIS – THIS... MONSTER'S BALL EACH YEAR, FATHER?
OF COURSE. WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD. IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS AND MEET NEW ONES FROM THE MAGICAL COMMUNITY.

YOU AND STEVE WILL COME WITH ME THIS YEAR.

WE - WE WILL?

OF COURSE YOU WILL!

THE COUNT KNOWS HOW TO THROW A PARTY. THERE'S ALWAYS GOOD FOOD, AN ORCHESTRA, DANCING... YOU TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WILL ENJOY YOURSELVES, I GUARANTEE IT.
BESIDES, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO AT LAST INTRODUCING YOU TO MY FRIENDS, ALEXANDRIA. YOU WILL COME, WON'T YOU?
WELL, I –
GOOD. THAT'S SETTLED THEN.

THE MONSTER'S BALL IS IN TWO DAYS. THAT GIVES US ENOUGH TIME TO SORT OUT SOMETHING FOR STEVE TO WEAR.
WHAT NOW?
COUNT GRISWOLD'S BALLS ARE VERY FORMAL AFFAIRS, STEVE. EVEN THE MONSTERS DRESS UP FOR THE OCCASION.

YOU CAN'T GO TO THE BALL DRESSED IN A T-SHIRT. DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET AMATOR TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

AND TWO DAYS LATER...
COME ON, STEVE! HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO BE?
ALMOST READY!

AMATOR HAS ALREADY GOT THE CARRIAGE OUT AND MY FATHER'S READY TO GO!
WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR THE BALL!
OKAY, OKAY – I'M COMING!

THE DOOR FINALLY OPENED AND STEVE APPEARED.
SO? HOW DO I LOOK? I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT!
ALEX'S JAW ALMOST DROPPED AT THE SIGHT OF HIM.
I... DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO LOOK SO, SO... HANDSOME IN THAT TUXEDO!

WELL I DON'T FEEL HANDSOME AT ALL! I FEEL LIKE A DRESSED-UP CLOWN! PUT A TOP HAT ON ME AND CALL ME AMATOR!

YOU DON'T LOOK A CLOWN AT ALL, STEVE, YOU LOOK... VERY... ER... NICE.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO BAD YOURSELF, ALTHOUGH YOU WOULD HAVE LOOKED NICER IN A DRESS.

I KNOW. I WANTED TO WEAR A DRESS BUT MY FATHER INSISTED I WORE MY WITCH'S ROBES.
WHY?
HE SAID IT WAS SOME KIND OF TRADITION IN THE MAGICAL COMMUNITY. WITCHES AND WARLOCKS ARE SUPPOSED TO WEAR THEIR ROBES FOR PUBLIC OCCASIONS.
HMPH! IF YOU WANNA CALL A MONSTER'S BALL A PUBLIC OCCASION! WE'RE PROBABLY GONNA GET DONE IN TONIGHT!

DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T COME TO ANY HARM AS LONG AS MY FATHER IS THERE TO PROTECT US.
ANYWAY, APPARENTLY THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE FROM THE MAGICAL COMMUNITY THERE.
SOME OF THE TEACHERS FROM THE HOGCRAFTS SCHOOL OF MAGIC WILL ALSO BE ATTENDING. MY FATHER WANTS ME TO MEET THEM.

THE WHAT SCHOOL OF MAGIC?

IT'S A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED CHILDREN WITH MAGICAL ABILITIES.
HOW COME YOU NEVER WENT THERE?

MY FATHER SAID HE ENROLLED ME AT THE HOGCRAFTS SCHOOL OF MAGIC WHEN I WAS BORN, BUT AS YOU KNOW, I WAS ABDUCTED BY ARABELLA AND HER WITCHES, SO I NEVER GOT TO GO.

JEEZ, ALEX, ALL THIS MAGICAL STUFF IS REALLY BEGINNING TO DO MY HEAD IN! CAN'T WE JUST GET BACK TO THE **REAL** WORLD?

I'M SORRY, STEVE, I KNOW ALL THIS MUST SEEM VERY WEIRD TO YOU. IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN.

WITCHES, WARLOCKS, MAGIC... YEAH, IT **BOGGLES** MY BRAIN!

WELL, COME ON THEN, WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP MY FATHER WAITING ANY LONGER, DO WE.

DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE YOUR ARM?
WHAT FOR?

ON THESE FORMAL OCCASIONS, A GENTLEMAN ALWAYS OFFERS THE LADY HIS ARM.

HE DOES?
YES.
SURE. WHY NOT? GRAB MY ARM IF YOU WANT. BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD RATHER... KINDA... YOU KNOW... HOLD HANDS. ONLY IF YOU WANT TO, THAT IS. OR NOT
ALEX TOOK STEVE'S HAND...
YES, I WANT TO. LET'S GO AND FIND MY FATHER.

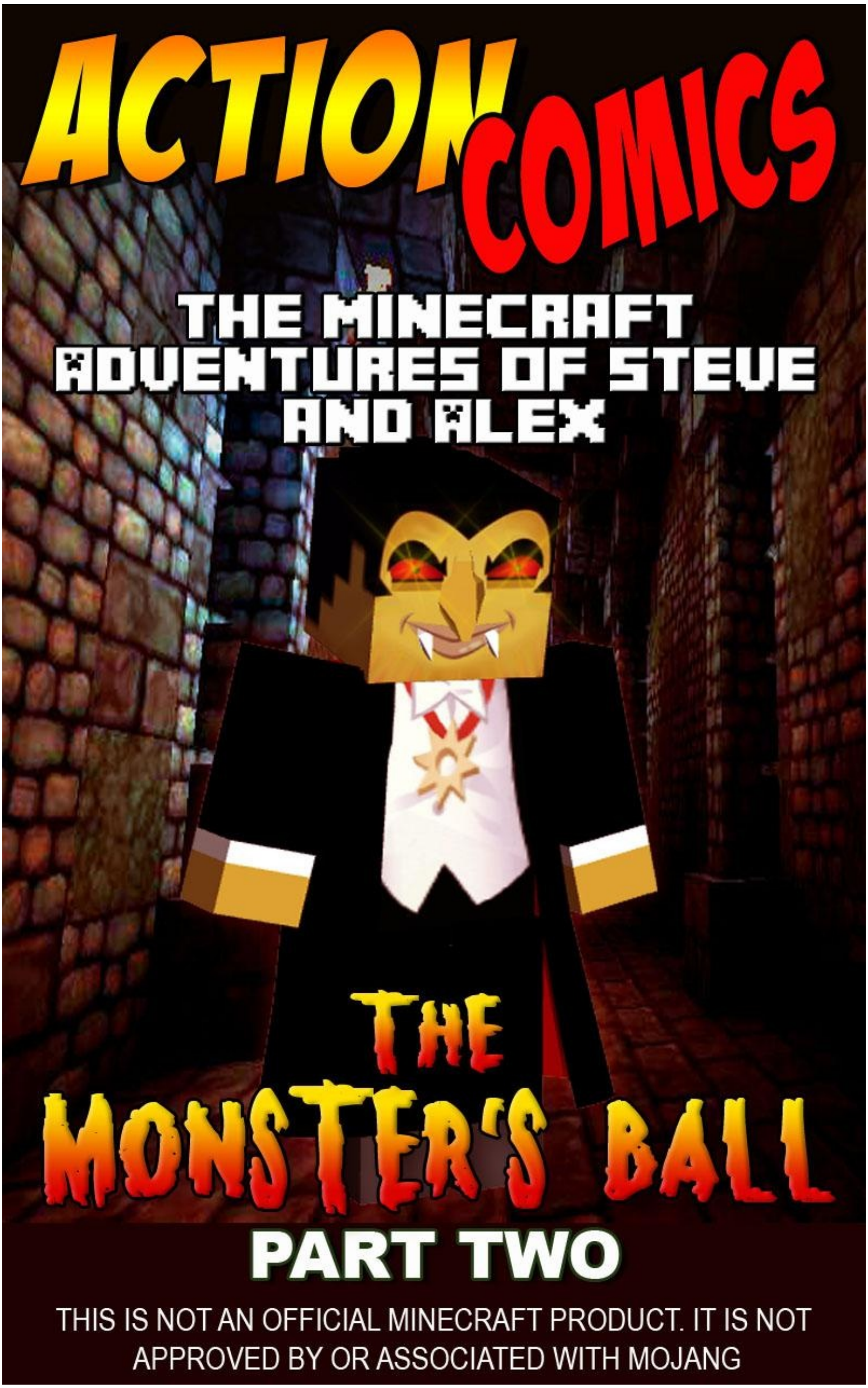
AS STEVE AND ALEX WALKED INTO THE ROOM, THE WARLOCK SMILED AT THEM.
WELL, WELL, DON'T THE TWO OF YOU MAKE A FINE COUPLE.
READY TO GO?
YES, FATHER.

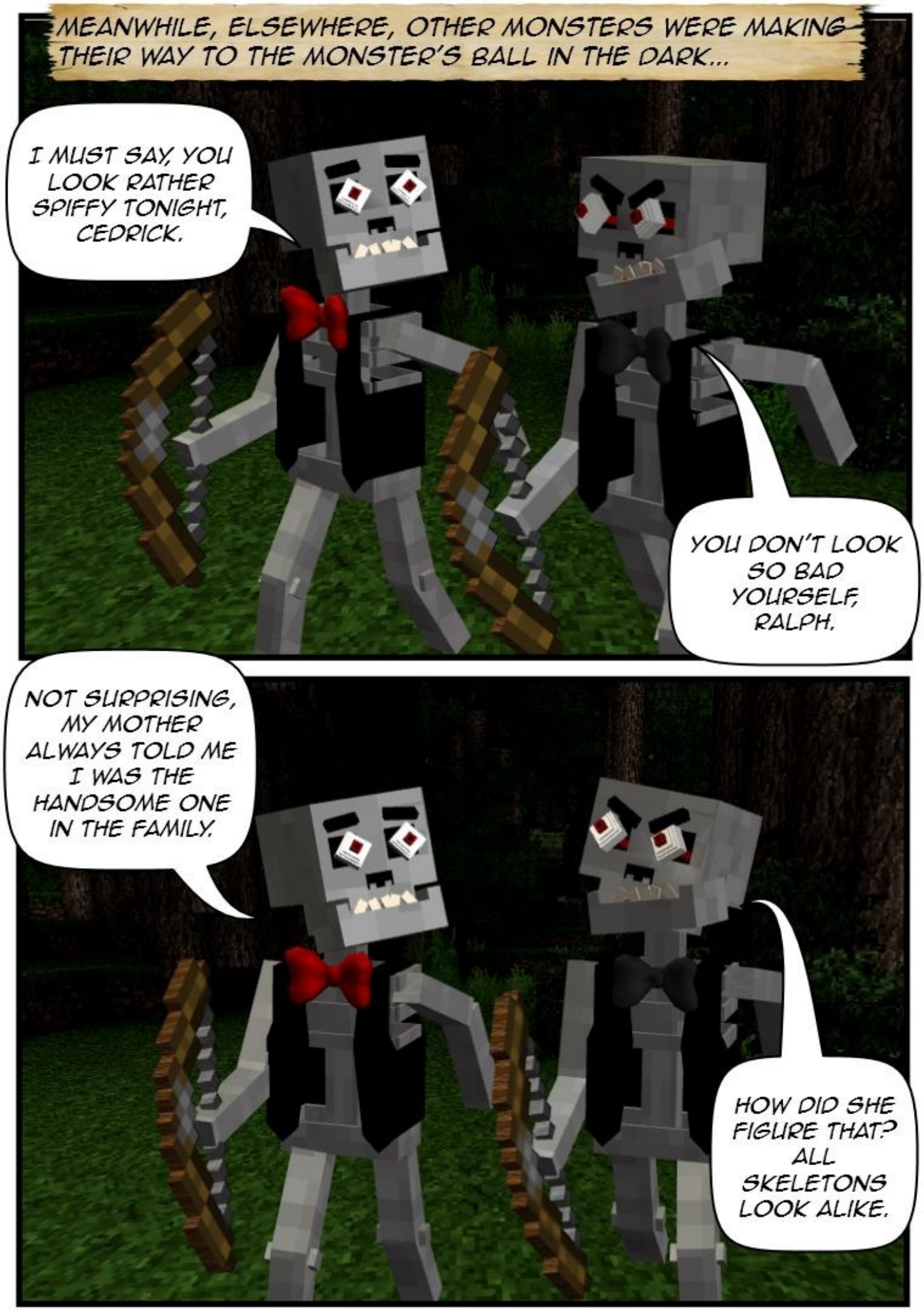
THE WARLOCK'S CARRIAGE WAS WAITING FOR THEM OUTSIDE THE STABLES, WITH TWO BLACK STALLIONS THAT SNORTED RESTLESSLY.
SNORT!
ALEXANDRA, YOU'LL RIDE INSIDE WITH ME.

STEVE, YOU'LL HAVE TO RIDE UP FRONT WITH AMATOR.
SURE. NO PROBLEM.
THEY CLIMBED ONBOARD THE CARRIAGE.
EVERYONE READY?
YES, AMATOR. LET'S GO.

AS THE CARRIAGE LEFT THE COURTYARD OF THE KEEP, DONKEY WATCHED IT GO.
YEAH, DON'T ANYBODY BOTHER SAYING GOODBYE TO ME!
I'M JUST THE OLD DONKEY AROUND HERE!! I DON'T COUNT FOR ANYTHING.

THE CARRIAGE SPED OFF INTO THE NIGHT...
BOUND FOR COUNT GRISWOLD'S VAMPIRE CASTLE – AND THE MONSTER'S BALL.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!
TO BE CONTINUED!


ACTION COMICS
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
THE MONSTER'S BALL
PART TWO
THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG


MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE, OTHER MONSTERS WERE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE MONSTER'S BALL IN THE DARK...
I MUST SAY, YOU LOOK RATHER SPIFFY TONIGHT, CEDRICK.
YOU DON'T LOOK SO BAD YOURSELF, RALPH.
NOT SURPRISING, MY MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME I WAS THE HANDSOME ONE IN THE FAMILY.
HOW DID SHE FIGURE THAT? ALL SKELETONS LOOK ALIKE.

MAYBE, BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE. DON'T YOU THINK I'M HANDSOME?
SURE. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE YOU EVEN MORE HANDSOME BY REARRANGING YOUR FACE, BONEHEAD?
THERE YOU GO, BEING NASTY AGAIN. YOU JUST CAN'T HELP YOURSELF, CAN YOU?
NOPE.

MEANWHILE, AT THE VAMPIRE'S CASTLE, THE GUESTS HAD STARTED ARRIVING...
EVENING... ER... LADIES, WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING YOUR BROOMS AND YOUR WANDS AT THE DOOR? COUNT GRISWOLD'S ORDERS.
WHY?
YES, WHY?

WE DON'T WANT A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT LAST YEAR'S MONSTER'S BALL, DO WE?

WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR?
NOTHING MUCH, AS I RECALL.
ACTUALLY, YOU OLD GALS GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT AND STARTED SLAPPING EACH OTHER SILLY WITH YOUR BROOMS, REMEMBER?

HUSSY!
MINX!
SMACK!
OWW!
POKE!
POKE!
STOP PRODDING ME IN THE FACE WITH YOUR BROOM, YOU - YOU FLOOZIE!

FLOOZIE, HEY? I'LL GIVE YOU A FLOOZIE!
OWW!
WHOP!
GRRRR... NOW YOU'VE HAD IT YOU – YOU JEZEBEL!

TAKE THAT!
WHOP!
NOT SO FAST, HONEY! HERE'S SOME OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
SMACK!

STAY DOWN, YOU OLD HAG!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
OWW!
OWW!

OH, THAT. THAT WAS JUST A BIT OF HARMLESS FUN!
FUN, HEY?

LIKE LATER THAT EVENING, WHEN YOU WHIPPED OUT YOUR WANDS AND STARTED CASTING SPELLS ALL OVER THE PLACE...

...AND TURNED QUITE A FEW PEOPLE INTO TOADS!

NOW THAT WAS FUNNY!
HILARIOUS! HEHEHE!

THIS PARTY IS BORING, IDA, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
YES, LET'S!! HERE COMES OUR FIRST UNSUSPECTING VICTIM!
DRINKS, MESDAMES?
NO THANKS, WE'LL RATHER HAVE A TOAD!

=SNIFF=
SORRY MADAM, I DON'T SERVE TOAD.

NO, BUT **WE DO!** HAHAHA!

"YOU STARTED TURNING PEOPLE INTO TOADS ALL OVER THE PLACE, REMEMBER?"

HEHEHE!

POOF!

RIBBIT?

HEHEHE! YES, THAT WAS FUN! THE LOOK ON EVERYBODY'S FACES!
PRICELESS! HEHEHE!
FUN? THE WIZARDS HAD QUITE A JOB REVERSING YOUR SPELLS - ONE OF THE CREEPERS STILL HAS THE HEAD OF A TOAD ON HIS SHOULDERS TO THIS DAY.
COUNT GRISWOLD DOESN'T WANT THAT KIND OF "FUN" AT THIS YEAR'S BALL!

SO HAND OVER YOUR BROOMS AND WANDS OR GO HOME.
SHOULD WE TURN HIM INTO A TOAD?
TEMPTING!
HAND IT OVER!
OH, VERY WELL!
SPOIL SPORT!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE BALLROOM, WHILE THE ORCHESTRA PLAYED...
AHEM.

MORE GUESTS WERE ARRIVING...
GRRRRRR!
GRUNT!

I SEE IT'S THE SAME OLD CROWD THIS YEAR. NO NEW FACES.

I HEARD THE WARLOCK'S BRINGING HIS DAUGHTER THIS YEAR.
ANOTHER WITCH! JUST WHAT WE DON'T NEED!

OH HELLO, FRANK. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE. HOW ARE YOU?
GRRRR MY HEAD HURTS.

THAT'S TOO BAD. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S BRAIN IN YOUR NOGGIN.

THE ZOMBIE PIGMAN WALKED UP TO THEM.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU TWO HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR.

AND WHY SHOULDN'T WE BE HERE? WE ZOMBIES HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO ENJOY OURSELVES AS ANYONE ELSE.

UH-HUH. WELL MAYBE IT'LL BE THE VAMPIRE WHO ENJOYS HIMSELF THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? GRISWOLD LIKES ZOMBIE BLOOD!

I WOULDA THOUGHT THIS WAS THE LAST PLACE YOU'D WANT TO BE, CONSIDERING.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WANNA END UP IN HIS DUNGEON. HAHA!

I HEAR AFTER GRISWOLD SUCKS THE ZOMBIES DRY, THEY'RE PALER THAN A WHITE SHEET.

THEY ARE?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH, DEAR, YOU'LL CATCH A FLY.

GULP!

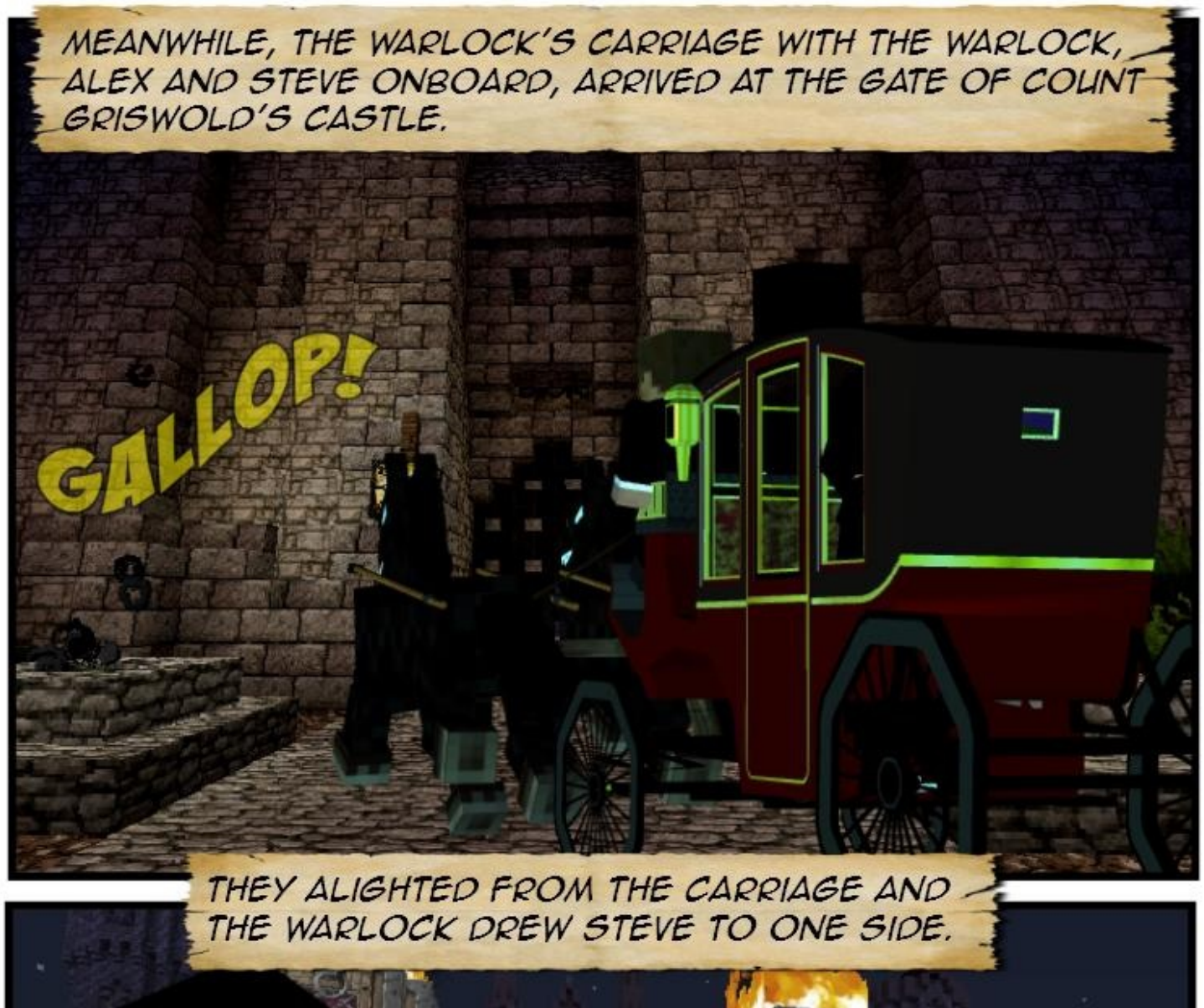
IF GRISWOLD DARES COME NEAR MY THROAT THAT VAMPIRE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU DON'T OFTEN COME TO THESE THINGS.
I'M WORKING. I'M THE BOUNCER FOR THE EVENING.
BOUNCER?

GRISWOLD HIRED ME TO CHECK PEOPLE IN AT THE DOOR AND MAKE SURE THERE'S NO TROUBLE TONIGHT.
WHY WOULD THERE BE TROUBLE IN A ROOM FULL OF MONSTERS! HAHA!
YEAH, RIGHT.
OH, WAIT A MO, TWO SKELETONS HAVE JUST ARRIVED. I KNOW THE ONE - HE'S A REAL TROUBLE-MAKER. EXCUSE ME.

THE ZOMBIE PIGMAN STRODE OFF TO DEAL WITH THE SKELETONS.
I NEVER THOUGHT HOG WOULD BECOME A VAMPIRE'S LACKEY.
HOG? IS THAT HIS REAL NAME?
SORRY, GENTS, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS AT THE DOOR.
WHY?

HOUSE RULES. THE COUNT DOESN'T WANT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS LATER ONE.
WHAT FUNNY BUSINESS?
HE MEANS MONSTERS TEARING EACH OTHER LIMB FROM LIMB.
OH.

WHICH YOU DON'T NEED A WEAPON FOR. I COULD RIP PEOPLE APART JUST WITH MY BARE HANDS IF I WANTED TO!
HAVE YOU EVER RIPPED ANYONE APART WITH YOUR BARE HANDS?
NO, BUT I COULD IF I WANTED TO.
ENOUGH WITH THE TOUGH TALK. HAND OVER THE BOWS.


MEANWHILE, THE WARLOCK'S CARRIAGE WITH THE WARLOCK, ALEX AND STEVE ONBOARD, ARRIVED AT THE GATE OF COUNT GRISWOLD'S CASTLE.
GALLOP!
THEY ALIGHTED FROM THE CARRIAGE AND THE WARLOCK DREW STEVE TO ONE SIDE.
JUST A WORD OF ADVICE, STEVE...

AS YOU'VE PROBABLY REALIZED, YOU'RE THE ONLY... ER... COMPLETELY **HUMAN** GUEST HERE TONIGHT, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU MIGHT BE... AT RISK.
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW QUICK-TEMPERED THESE MONSTERS CAN BE, SO IT'S BEST THAT YOU STAY CLOSE TO ME. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
=GULP= ER... YES, SIR, I UNDERSTAND.

AND THEN THE WARLOCK TURNED TO ALEX.
I ALMOST FORGET. I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU.

A GIFT? WHAT IS IT, FATHER?
A PEARL BRACELET. IT USED TO BELONG TO YOUR MOTHER.

THE WARLOCK GAVE ALEX THE BRACELET AND SHE PUT IT ON IMMEDIATELY.
OH FATHER, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

ISN'T IT LOVELY STEVE?
ER... YEAH. SURE. I GUESS.
MY MOTHER'S BRACELET! I WILL TREASURE IT ALWAYS.
WELL, LET'S GO INSIDE. FROM THE SOUND OF THE MUSIC, I WOULD SAY THE BALL IS WELL AND TRULY UNDER WAY.

GOOD EVENING, HOG. I TAKE IT YOU WANT ME TO HAND IN MY WAND?
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MY LORD WARLOCK. YOU MIGHT NEED IT LATER TO ENFORCE THE PEACE - IF YOU GET MY MEANING.

AH YES, I SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT. WE DON'T WANT A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR, DO WE?

WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR?

SOME OF THE ZOMBIES GOT A LITTLE TOO FRISKY AND STARTED PICKING ON THE SKELETONS.

A FIGHT BROKE OUT AND LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT DID NOT END WELL FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED.

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU PUT A BUNCH OF MONSTERS IN ONE ROOM!

GRRR! WHO ARE YOU CALLING A MONSTER, SONNY?

LET IT GO, HOG. STEVE'S WITH ME. HE'S UNDER MY PERSONAL PROTECTION TONIGHT.

SO IS MY DAUGHTER. PASS THE WORD AROUND.

SURE THING, MY LORD, AS YOU SAY.

BY THE WAY, HAS COUNT GRISWOLD COME DOWN YET?
NOT YET, ANY TIME NOW.
GOOD. I'D LIKE HIM TO MEET MY DAUGHTER.
WHOOPEE-DO! YOU'RE GONNA BE INTRODUCED TO A VAMPIRE! CAN'T WAIT!

HUSH, STEVE! PEOPLE WILL HEAR YOU!

PEOPLE? I DON'T SEE ANY "PEOPLE" AROUND HERE, DO YOU?

I KNOW THIS IS ALL A BIT... WEIRD... BUT LET'S TRY AND MAKE THE BEST OF... AN UNUSUAL SITUATION AND GET THROUGH THE NIGHT WITHOUT ANY... INCIDENTS, OKAY?

SURE. I'M DRESSED UP LIKE A DWEEB, I MAY AS WELL ACT LIKE ONE AND PRETEND THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT A BALLROOM FULL OF MONSTERS!

SO YOU'LL BEHAVE YOURSELF?
I'LL TRY. I'M NOT PROMISING ANYTHING.

ONE WORD OF ADVICE, THOUGH – WHEN YOU GET TO MEET THIS COUNT WHATEVER-HIS-NAME-IS, JUST KEEP YOUR NECK OUT OF HIS BLOOD-SUCKING REACH! ONE BITE AND YOU'LL BE TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE!

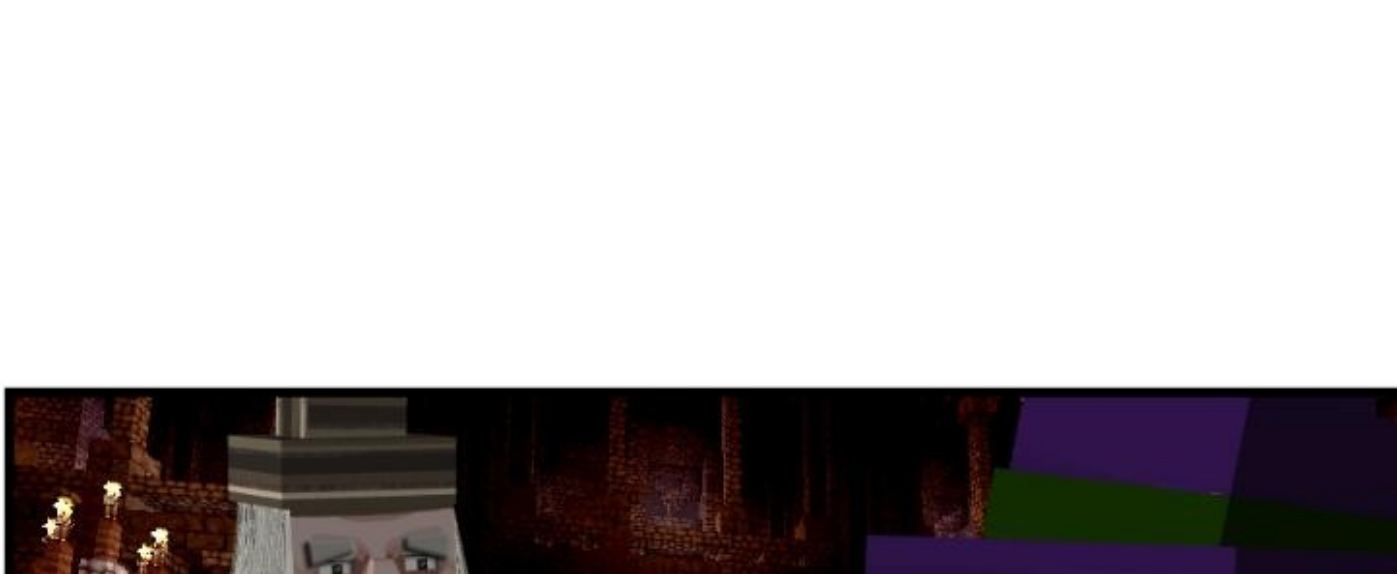
YOU'RE OVERREACTING STEVE. THE COUNT IS HARDLY GOING TO START ATTACKING HIS GUESTS AT HIS OWN BALL!

THIS IS A "MONSTER'S" BALL, REMEMBER? ANYTHING GOES!

ALEXANDRA, COME, I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A VERY OLD AND DEAR FRIEND OF MINE – PROFESSOR DUMBLE FROM THE HOGCRAFTS SCHOOL OF MAGIC.

AS THEY ENTERED THE BALLROOM, PROFESSOR DUMBLE CAME TOWARDS THEM..
AH, MY OLD FRIEND THE WARLOCK! HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE AND WELL AFTER YOUR TERRIBLE ORDEAL!
AND YOU MUST BE ALEXANDRA! I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU AT LAST!

IT MUST BE WONDERFUL TO BE REUNITED WITH YOUR FATHER AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.


COME, MY DEAR, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE SCHOOL.

WHILE ALEX WAS BEING INTRODUCED TO SOME OF THE TEACHERS FROM HOGCRAFTS, STEVE DECIDED TO WONDER OFF ON HIS OWN.
JEEZ, I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE AMONG THESE CREATURES.

HE PAUSED AT THE BUFFET TABLE, LADEN WITH FOOD.
THE EATS LOOK PRETTY GOOD. MAYBE I'LL HAVE SOMETHING LATER.
PUMPKIN WINE
PUMPKIN WINE

STEVE WENT AND WATCHED THE ORCHESTRA PLAY FOR A WHILE...
=SNIFF=

AND SAW TWO ZOMBIES DANCING.
JEEZ, NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!
THAT KID'S WATCHING US.
WHAT KID?

THE KID WHO CAME IN WITH THE WARLOCK.
WORD IS WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH HIM.
THAT'S TOO BAD. I COULD HAVE DONE WITH A NICE FRESH HUMAN SNACK. HAHA!
ME TOO! YUMMY!

STEVE THOUGHT IT BEST TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE DANCING ZOMBIES, BUT THEN HE BUMPED INTO SOME WITCHES WHO WERE STANDING IN AN ALCOVE, LAUGHING AND JOKING.
AND THEN I TURNED HIM INTO A CHICKEN!
HEHEHE!
HEHEHE!
THEY STOPPED LAUGHING ABRUPTLY WHEN THEY SAW STEVE AND GLARED AT HIM.
ISN'T THAT HIM?
BY JINGO! YES, IT IS!

HE HELPED THE WARLOCK AND THAT HALF-BREED GIRL GET RID OF THE WITCH OF RAVEN'S POND!

AND THEY TURNED THREE OF OUR FRIENDS INTO RAVENS!
AND THEY BURNT DOWN RAVEN'S WOOD WITH THOSE DRAGONS THE OTHER NIGHT!

THE WITCHES GLARED AT STEVE.
SHALL WE TURN HIM INTO A TOAD?
YES, LET'S!

OH SHOOT! WE CAN'T! THAT IDIOT PIGMAN CONFISCATED OUR WANDS, REMEMBER?

PITY.
GREAT PITY! IF THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO SEE HOPPING AROUND IT'S HIM!

STEVE BEAT A HASTY RETREAT BEFORE THE WITCHES COULD COME UP WITH OTHER WAYS TO GET EVEN WITH HIM. AS HE TURNED AROUND, HE BUMPED INTO ONE OF THE WAITERS.

WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK, SIR?

STEVE EYED THE GOBLETS ON THE TRAY WITH SUSPICION.

THEY LOOK RED. IS THAT... BLOOD?

IS THAT WHAT VAMPIRES AND MONSTERS DRINK AT A PARTY?

PERHAPS SO, BUT THESE DRINKS ARE PERFECTLY HARMLESS, I ASSURE YOU.

IT'S MERELY A NON-ALCOHOLIC APPLE PUNCH, INFUSED WITH SOME DELICATE SPICES TO TICKLE THE TASTE BUDS.

NO, THANKS, I'LL PASS.

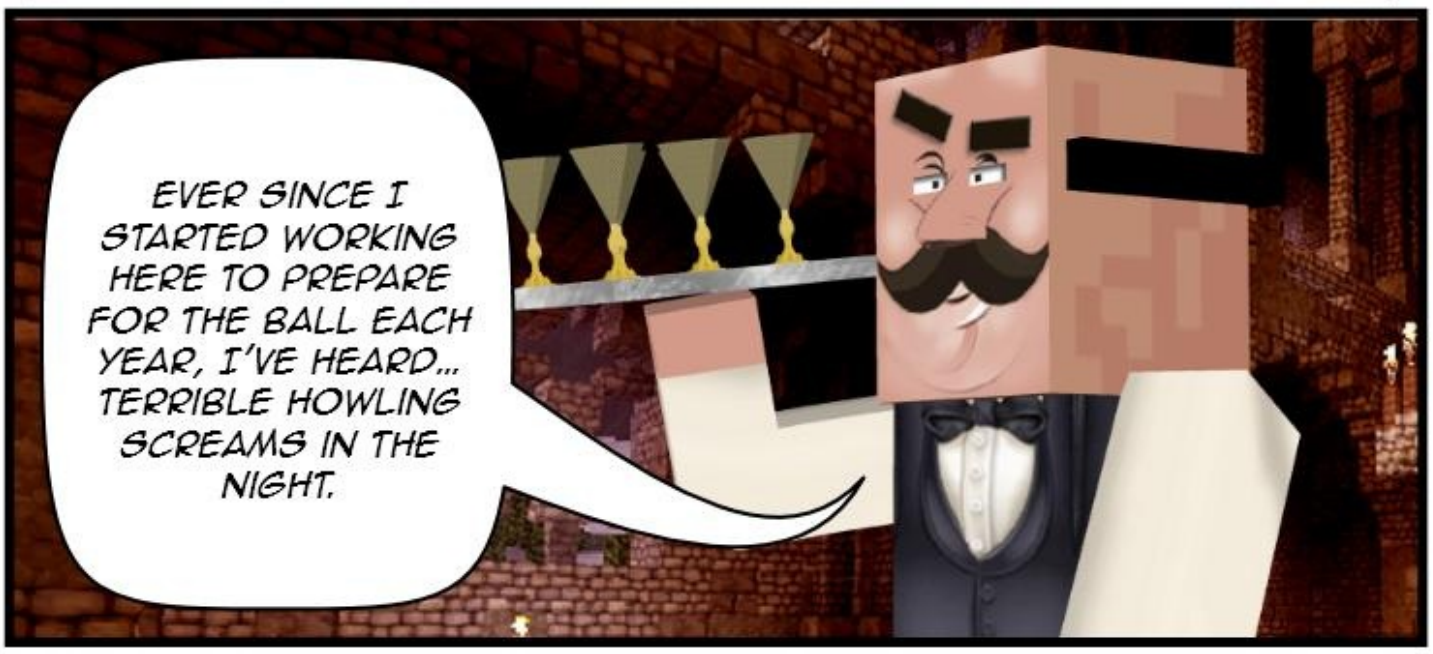
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, SIR, WHAT IS A DECENT YOUNG MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF DOING IN A... ER... PLACE LIKE THIS?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN ASKING MYSELF SINCE I GOT HERE!

A WORD OF ADVICE, SIR, DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR.
OH? WHY NOT?
THE CASTLE IS NOT EXACTLY... WHAT IT SEEMS. IT'S NOT... SAFE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LET'S JUST SAY THAT THIS CASTLE HAS A VERY... BRUTAL HISTORY – AND A LOT OF GHOSTS FROM THE PAST.

GHOSTS?
SPIRITS THAT WALK THESE CORRIDORS BY NIGHT.


EVER SINCE I STARTED WORKING HERE TO PREPARE FOR THE BALL EACH YEAR, I'VE HEARD... TERRIBLE HOWLING SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT.

SCREAMS?

I CAN'T SAY MUCH MORE, SIR. I THINK I MAY ALREADY HAVE SAID TOO MUCH.

JUST DON'T WONDER OFF ON YOUR OWN. IT'S REALLY NOT SAFE, ESPECIALLY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW, SIR. YOU REALLY DON'T.

THE WAITER QUICKLY WALKED AWAY BEFORE STEVE COULD ASK HIM ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

STEVE PEERED AT AN ARCHWAY THAT SEEMED TO LEAD TO THE REST OF THE CASTLE BEYOND.
I WONDER WHAT'S THROUGH THERE?

HE DECIDED TO GO AND INVESTIGATE AND FOUND HIMSELF IN A DIMLY LIT PASSAGE.
THIS IS KINDA CREEPY IF YOU ASK ME.
AND THEN HE SUDDENLY FELT AN ICE-COLD BREEZE ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK THAT SENT SHIVERS DOWN HIS SPINE. A THIN, MENACING VOICE SPOKE BEHIND HIM:
I WOULDN'T GO ANY FURTHER IF I WERE YOU, MY DEAR. IT MAY NOT BE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

STEVE TURNED AND SAW A FIGURE IN A CAPE STANDING THERE. HE KNEW INSTINCTIVELY THAT IT WAS THE VAMPIRE - COUNT GRISWOLD!
YOU MUST BE STEVE. HAVE YOU HEARD THE EXPRESSION: "CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT"?
HOW- HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW THE NAMES OF EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS MY BALL, MY DEAR.

I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOUR AND ALEXANDRA'S... ADVENTURES.

THE TWO OF YOU HAVE EARNED YOURSELF QUITE A REPUTATION IN THESE PARTS.

YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO BADLY YOURSELF.
OH?
A VAMPIRE, HOLDING BALLS FOR MONSTERS AND LIVING IN A CREEPY OLD CASTLE WITH A HORRIBLE HISTORY...
THE LOCAL VILLAGERS ARE TERRIFIED OF YOU, THEY DON'T TRUST YOU - AND QUITE RIGHTLY SO!

AH, I SEE YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN WHO SPEAKS HIS MIND. CAREFUL, LAD, IT MIGHT GET YOU IN TROUBLE ONE DAY.
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
NOT AT ALL. JUST GIVING YOU SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE.
WELL I DON'T NEED ANY ADVICE FROM A BLOOD-SUCKING VAMPIRE!

FOR A MOMENT, THE VAMPIRE STARED AT STEVE COLDLY...

AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED AS QUICKLY AND SILENTLY AS HE HAD APPEARED.
HUH? WHERE DID HE GO?
STEVE WENT BACK TO THE BALLROOM AND ALEX CAME RUSHING UP TO HIM.
STEVE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

OH, I DON'T KNOW, I'VE BEEN HAVING GREAT FUN BEING THREATENED BY A BUNCH OF WITCHES AND WARNED OFF BY A VAMPIRE!
WARNED OFF? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT GRISWOLD VAMPIRE WARNED ME NOT TO WANDER ABOUT THE CASTLE. HE SAID IT COULD BE BAD FOR MY HEALTH!

AND THE WAITER TOLD ME THAT THERE ARE WEIRD GOINGS ON IN THE CASTLE AT NIGHT.

GOINGS ON? WHAT GOINGS ON?

AFTER MIDNIGHT. HE SAID HE'S HEARD TERRIBLE HOWLING SCREAMS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

HOWLING... SCREAMS?
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE, ALEX. SOMETHING WEIRD AND... NASTY!
I DON'T THINK THIS GRISWOLD VAMPIRE IS AS INNOCENT AS HE TRIES TO PRETEND.

I THINK HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
LIKE WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.
FIND OUT? HOW?

I'M GOING TO EXPLORE THE CASTLE. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THAT VAMPIRE IS HIDING.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S WISE, STEVE? OR EVEN... SAFE?

THE VILLAGERS ARE TERRIFIED OF THIS VAMPIRE, ALEX. AND GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THIS CASTLE, I DON'T BLAME THEM.

WE OWE IT TO THEM TO FIND OUT IF HE'S A THREAT TO THEM, AND IF HE IS, WE NEED TO GET RID OF HIM!

GET RID OF HIM?

SEND HIM PACKING BACK TO TRANSYLVANIA - OR WHEREVER HE CAME FROM!

ALEX THOUGHT OVER WHAT STEVE HAD SAID.
YES, OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT. IF COUNT GRISWOLD IS HIDING SOMETHING AND INTENDS TO HARM THE LOCAL VILLAGERS, THEN WE SHOULD DEFINITELY STOP HIM.

SO YOU'RE WITH ME? YOU'LL COME WITH ME TO CHECK OUT THE CASTLE?

OF COURSE I'M COMING WITH YOU! WE ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER, DON'T WE?

SURE WE DO. LET'S GO.

WAIT! SOMEONE'S COMING! QUICK! LET'S HIDE SO THEY DON'T SUSPECT WHAT WE'RE UP TO.
AN ENDERMAN STAGGERED INTO VIEW.
=HIC= NOW WHERE'S THE GENTS? MUST BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE =HIC= WHY DON'T THEY PUT UP A SIGN? =HIC=

THE ENDERMAN STOPPED AND SWAYED UNSTEADILY.
OH DEAR, I'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO THINK! NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT! =HIC= I'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK! HAR! HAR! =HIC=
AND THEN THE ENDERMAN SAW STEVE AND ALEX.
HEY! THE LITTLE PEEPS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HIDING OVER THERE? =HIC=

=HIC= SCARED OF US MONSTERS, HEY?
CAN'T SAY I BLAME YA! =HIC= I WOULD BE SCARED OF ME TOO IF I WERE YOU! HAR! HAR! HAR!

BUT DON'T FEAR, LITTLE ONES! =HIC= THE TWO OF YOU ARE OFF LIMITS... FOR TONIGHT.
SO COME AND GIVE YOUR OLD ENDERMAN A HUG HEY! =HIC= WHADDAYA SAY?

THE ENDERMAN THREW HIS ARMS AROUND STEVE AND ALEX.
=HIC= NOW ISN'T THIS =HIC= COZY? SEE? NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
OH DEAR, I'M FEELING A LITTLE UNSTEADY ON MY FEET. YOU'LL HAVE TO HOLD ME UP.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE WAITER SUDDENLY APPEARED.
WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK, SIR?
A DRINK? CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE HAVING A MOMENT HERE? I'M BONDING WITH THE HUMANS!

I HAVE YOUR FAVORITE PUNCH SIR – VAMPIRE'S DELIGHT.
VAMPIRE'S DELIGHT? DOES IT HAVE A MARSHMALLOW IN IT?
INDEED, SIR. A VERY PLUMP MARSHMALLOW.

AND LOTS OF SUGAR? =HIC=
PILES OF SUGAR, SIR.
WELL THEN, DON'T MIND IF I DO!
THE ENDERMAN LET GO OF STEVE AND ALEX AND TOOK A GOBLET OF PUNCH.
HMMM, TASTY.

THE WAITER DARTED A QUICK LOOK AT STEVE.
IT'S BEST YOU GO NOW, SIR, WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED.
THANKS FOR STEPPING IN LIKE THAT.
MY PLEASURE, SIR.
COME ON, ALEX, LET'S GO!

THEY SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE BALLROOM AND SOON FOUND THEMSELVES IN A LABYRINTH OF DARK, SPOOKY PASSAGES.

THIS PLACE IS REALLY EERIE, IT'S GIVING ME GOOSEBUMPS!

YEAH, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING CREEPY GOING ON HERE. I FEEL IT IN MY BONES.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK IT MUST BE CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT.
YEAH, APPARENTLY, THE FUN AND GAMES BEGIN AFTER MIDNIGHT – OR SO THE WAITER SAID.
ALEX SUDDENLY STOPPED.
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

STEVE DIDN'T HEAR IT AT FIRST, BUT THEN HE HEARD A SOFT, SIGHING SOUND COMING FROM UP AHEAD.
WHAT IS IT?
AHHHHH
DUNNO. SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE... SIGHING?

AND SUDDENLY, A SHADOWY GHOST OF AN OLD WITCH APPEARED BEFORE THEM, SUSPENDED IN THE AIR.
HUH?!!
AHHHHH
=GASP=

STEVE AND ALEX RAN AWAY FROM THE GHOSTLY PHANTOM AS FAST AS THEY COULD!
WAAAAAAA!
AND SUDDENLY STEVE TRIPPED OVER SOMETHING AND SPRAWLED HEADLONG ACROSS THE PASSAGE.
UGH!
TRIP!

I TRIPPED OVER A DEAD SKELETON!
IT MUST HAVE DIED ALL CHAINED UP LIKE THAT. HOW HORRIBLE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, STEVE. THIS IS A TERRIBLE PLACE!
I AGREE. ONLY PROBLEM IS...

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH WAY WE CAME!

ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE LOST?

WELL... NOT LOST EXACTLY... JUST A LITTLE... ER... DISORIENTATED.

SO WE'RE LOST!
YEAH. WE'RE LOST.

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, STEVE. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE BALLROOM AND FIND MY FATHER.

I WANT TO GO HOME!
I'M WITH YOU.

DON'T WORRY, ALEX, WE'LL FIND OUR WAY BACK.
BUT ALL THESE PASSAGES LOOK THE SAME!
WE'LL JUST KEEP WALKING UNTIL WE FIND A PLACE WE RECOGNIZE.
COME ON LET'S GO. NO POINT STANDING AROUND HERE AND MOPING.

STEVE AND ALEX WANDERED FROM ONE PASSAGE TO THE NEXT, GETTING MORE AND MORE LOST. AND THEN THEY SAW A STRANGE PICTURE ON A WALL.
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT? SOME KIND OF...
MONSTER?

IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE IT.
CREEPY!

STEVE SUDDENLY STIFFENED.
SEE WHAT?
DID YOU SEE THAT?

IT'S EYE JUST MOVED! IT'S LOOKING AT US!

DON'T BE SILLY, STEVE! IT'S JUST A PICTURE! YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU!

AND AT THAT MOMENT, THE CLOCKS IN THE CASTLE STRUCK MIDNIGHT.
BOING!
AND AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, THE MONSTER IN THE PICTURE CAME ALIVE AND LEAPT OUT OF THE PICTURE FRAME!
GRRRRR!
HUH?

THE HUNCHBACKED MONSTER STARED AT THEM AND GROWLED.
GRRRRR!
FRESH FOOD FOR MASTER!

AND THEN IT ATTACKED!
GRRRRR!

GRRRRR!
RUN, ALEX! RUN!
STEVE AND ALEX RAN AS FAST AS THEY COULD, BUT THE MONSTER WAS GAINING ON THEM. THEY HAD NO WEAPONS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. THIS TIME, THERE WOULD BE NO ESCAPE.
GRRRRR!
TO BE CONTINUED!

ACTION COMICS
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
THE MONSTER'S BALL
PART THREE
THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

GROWL!
WAAAAAAAA!
GASP!

AS THEY RAN, ALEX'S BRACELET SNAPPED AND FLEW OFF HER WRIST...
OH NO! MY BRACELET BROKE!
SNAP!

THE PEARLS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE ON THE FLOOR AS THEY RAN.
PING!
PING!
THE CREATURE WAS ABOUT TO GRAB STEVE WHEN HE NOTICED THE PEARLS ON THE FLOOR.
AAARG!

THE HUNCHBACKED MONSTER SKIDDED TO A STOP, AND STOOPED DOWN, STARING AT THE PEARLS.
HMMMM?
1... 2... 5... 8... NOOO! WRONG!

2...
3... 4... 7...
NO! NO!
NOOO!

WHAT'S HE
DOING?

I THINK HE'S
TRYING TO...
COUNT THE
PEARLS!

1 2
HMMMMM?
5 9 ?

SLAP!
SLAP!
NO!
NOO!
NOOOO!

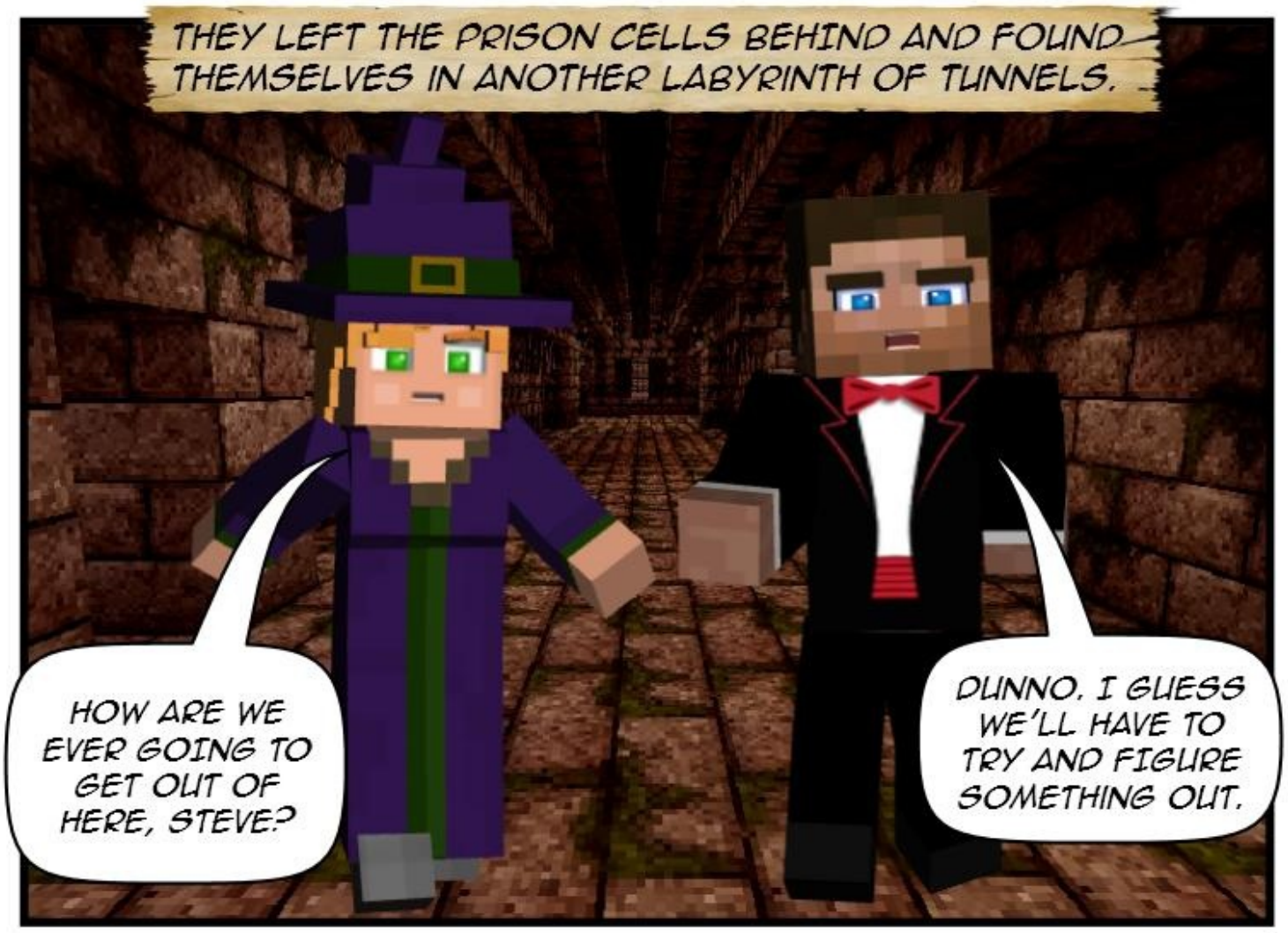
I KNOW THAT VAMPIRES ARE OBSESSIVE ABOUT COUNTING THINGS - BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A VAMPIRE.
WHO CARES? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED!
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY MOTHER'S BRACELET?
WE CAN'T GO BACK FOR IT, ALEX! THAT... THING... WHATEVER IT IS, WILL TEAR US LIMB FROM LIMB!

AND SO THEY KEPT ON RUNNING, MANAGING TO ESCAPE FROM THE CREATURE AT LAST.

THEN THEY CAME TO SOME STAIRS THAT LED TO THE CASTLE LEVELS BELOW.
I WONDER WHERE THIS GOES TO?
WHO KNOWS?

I DON'T REALLY CARE! AS LONG AS WE GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE FROM THAT CREATURE!
THEY SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A CHAMBER LINED WITH BARS.
THESE LOOK LIKE PRISON CELLS.
I THINK WE'RE IN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS!

COME ON, STEVE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THIS PLACE IS MAKING THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK STAND UP!
LOOK, ALEX. THE OLD VAMPIRE OF THIS CASTLE MUST HAVE THROWN HIS PRISONERS DOWN THERE INTO THIS PIT.
HORRIBLE! LET'S GO, STEVE!


THEY LEFT THE PRISON CELLS BEHIND AND FOUND THEMSELVES IN ANOTHER LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS.
HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE, STEVE?
DUNNO. I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

AT THE END OF THE PASSAGE, THEY CAME TO A DOOR.
SHOULD WE GO IN THERE?
WE HAVE TO. EITHER THAT OR GO BACK.

STEVE, I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME?
NO. WE MIGHT BUMP INTO THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE AGAIN.
VERY LIKELY.

SO WE PRESS ON?
YES, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
LET'S LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. MAYBE THIS DOOR LEADS OUT OF THE CASTLE.
I HOPE SO.
I REALLY WANT TO GET BACK TO MY FATHER SO WE CAN LEAVE THIS TERRIBLE PLACE. IT WAS A MISTAKE COMING TO THE BALL!

THEY WENT THROUGH THE DOOR AND FOUND THEMSELVES IN A GLOOMY, WINDOWLESS CELL.
I CAN'T SEE A THING!

STEVE! IS THAT... WHAT I THINK IT IS?
YEAH. IT LOOKS LIKE A BUCKET OF... BLOOD!!

AND THEN SOMETHING STIRRED IN THE FAR CORNER...
WHAT WAS THAT?
I THINK THERE'S... SOMETHING IN THE SHADOWS!
AND THEN, IN THE GLOOM, THEY SAW A MONSTER CHAINED TO THE WALL.
HUH?!!
=;GASP;=

WHEN STEVE AND ALEX SAW THE CREATURE'S FANGS, THEY KNEW THEY WERE LOOKING AT A VAMPIRE!

THE VAMPIRE SNIFFED THE AIR.
AHHH, HUMAN BLOOD! MY FAVORITE!
SNIFF!
SNIFF!

STEVE AND ALEX HEARD A SOFT DRAGGING NOISE BEHIND THEM. WHEN THEY TURNED, THEY SAW THE CREATURE FROM EARLIER STANDING THERE.
HEHEHE!
STEVE AND ALEX SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES TRAPPED BETWEEN THE VAMPIRE AND THE HUNCHBACKED CREATURE.
FRESH FOOD, MASTER!
YES! FRESH FOOD!

REAL FOOD!
HUMAN BLOOD!
HA! HA!

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL FLOORS ABOVE THEM IN THE BALLROOM.
AMATOR, HAVE YOU SEEN ALEX AND STEVE? I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THEM ANYWHERE.
NO, MY LORD

THE LAST I SAW, THERE WAS A TIPSY ENDERMAN TALKING TO THEM.

AN ENDERMAN?
AYE, MY LORD. HE LOOKED A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR.

HE DIDN'T... **HURT** THEM, DID HE?

NO, YOUR WORSHIP, HE WAS ONLY BEING A NUISANCE. HARMLESS, REALLY.

THEN WHERE THE DEVIL HAVE THEY GOTTEN TO?

DON'T WORRY, MY LORD, I'M SURE THEY'RE OKAY. THEY KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, AMATOR. IF ANYONE HAS DARED HARM A HAIR ON THEIR HEADS, THEY'LL HAVE ME TO CONTEND WITH!
PROFESSOR DUMBLE OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION AND APPROACHED THEM.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MY DAUGHTER AND HER FRIEND SEEM TO BE MISSING. I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE.

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH, OLD FRIEND. YOU KNOW WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIKE.

YES. IMPULSIVE AND CURIOUS. THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

THEY'VE PROBABLY JUST WANDERED OFF TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME ALONE.

DON'T WORRY, OLD FRIEND, THEY'LL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DUMBLE.

OF COURSE I AM. COME NOW, LET'S SAMPLE ONE OF GRISWOLD'S FAMOUS BEVERAGES.

I BELIEVE HIS LICORICE TEA WITH A DASH OF HONEY TO BE QUITE DELICIOUS.

UNBEKNOWN TO THE WARLOCK, SOMEONE ELSE HAD BEEN EAVESDROPPING ON HIS CONVERSATION.
SO THE BOY AND THE GIRL ARE MISSING, ARE THEY?

I THINK I HAVE A VERY GOOD IDEA OF WHERE THEY ARE. MEDDLING IN MATTERS THAT DON'T CONCERN THEM.

I WARNED THAT BOY NOT TO SNOOP AROUND! NOW HE'LL HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!
MEANWHILE, STEVE AND ALEX FOUND THEMSELVES IN MORTAL PERIL IN THE DUNGEONS FAR BELOW.
HEHEHE!
GRRRRR!

AS THE CREATURE INCHED CLOSER TO ALEX...
HEHEHE!
GASP!

STEVE LOOKED AROUND FRANTICALLY FOR SOME SORT OF WEAPON.

AND THEN HIS EYES LIT ON THE BUCKET OF BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.
STEVE GRABBED THE BUCKET...

AND HURLED ITS CONTENTS INTO THE FACE OF THE MONSTER, TEMPORARILY BLINDING HIM.
SPLOSH!
GRRRRR!
RUN, ALEX! RUN!

THEY RAN LIKE THE WIND
FROM THE VAMPIRE'S CELL...

BUT THEY COULD HEAR THE MONSTER'S FEET PADDING
ON THE STONE FLOOR AS IT RAN AFTER THEM.
GRRRRR!

HE'S GAINING ON US!
THEY TURNED A CORNER AND RAN DOWN ANOTHER PASSAGE.
THIS WAY!

THE PASSAGE CAME TO AN ABRUPT DEAD END AND THERE WAS A CUPBOARD AT THE END OF IT WITH ONE DOOR OPEN.
WHEN THEY GOT CLOSER, THEY SAW THE WOOD CARVING OF A VAMPIRE ON THE CUPBOARD DOOR.
OH, HOW HORRIBLE!

QUICK, ALEX, LET'S GET INTO THE CUPBOARD!
YOU WANT US TO GO IN THERE?
IT'S ONLY A CUPBOARD! THIS IS THE END OF THE PASSAGE! THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE TO HIDE FROM THAT CREATURE!
OH, OKAY!

THEY QUICKLY JUMPED INTO THE CUPBOARD...

AND SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL FIND US IN HERE, STEVE?
HOPE NOT! HE SEEMS TO BE A BIT DIM-WITTED.

UNBEKNOWN TO STEVE AND ALEX, AS SOON AS THE CUPBOARD DOORS HAD SHUT BEHIND THEM, THE EYES OF THE VAMPIRE CARVINGS GLOWED BRIEFLY.
WITHIN SECONDS, THE HUNCHBACK CAME PADDING DOWN THE PASSAGE AND LOOKED AROUND HIM.
WHERE THEY GONE?

=HE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE THE CUPBOARD, STEVE!=
=SHHHH!=

THE CREATURE SNIFFED THE AIR.
SNIFF!
HMMMM?
SNIFF!

WHERE?
THERE?
HMMMM?
Nooo.

IT LOOKED AT THE CUPBOARD.
NAH-UH, HUMANS NO GO IN THERE. DANGEROUS.
FINALLY, THE CREATURE RAN OFF BACK UP THE PASSAGE.
MASTER HUNGRY. MASTER WANT FOOD!

THEY WAITED A FEW MINUTES UNTIL THEY WERE SURE THE HUNCHBACKED CREATURE WAS GONE...

AND THEN STEVE REALIZED SOMETHING...
HEY! THE DOORS DON'T HAVE HANDLES ON THE INSIDE!
JUST PUSH AGAINST THEM. IT'S ONLY AN OLD CUPBOARD.
STEVE PUSHED AGAINST THE DOORS AS HARD AS HE COULD BUT THEY WOULDN'T BUDGE.
HMMMPH! THEY'RE NOT OPENING, ALEX!

LET ME HELP YOU. I'M SURE IF WE BOTH PUSH TOGETHER IT WILL OPEN.
ON THE COUNT OF THREE. 1... 2... THREE! PUSH!
HMMMMMFFF!
BUT EVEN THOUGH STEVE AND ALEX PUSHED TOGETHER, IT WAS NO USE – THE DOORS WOULDN'T OPEN.
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF MAGICAL CUPBOARD!

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'T YOU - WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!

AND NO ONE WILL EVER FIND US!

SHOULD WE TRY AND SHOUT FOR HELP?

ARE YOU NUTS? THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL HEAR US IS THAT HUNCHBACKED CREATURE!

HE'LL COME RUNNING BACK HERE AND TEAR US APART - ONE PIECE AT A TIME!

IF ONLY WE HAD BROUGHT OUR SWORDS! THEN AT LEAST WE COULD HAVE DEFENDED OURSELVES!

WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO RUN AROUND LIKE SCARED LITTLE RABBITS ALL EVENING!

WELL ONE DOESN'T EXPECT TO HAVE TO TAKE A SWORD TO A PARTY!

WHEN THAT PARTY INVOLVES A BUNCH OF MONSTERS YOU DO!

WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN COME TO A MONSTER'S BALL!

ANYWAY, IT'S ALL YOUR FATHER'S FAULT! HE MADE US COME! AND HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT US!

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT US IF WE HADN'T WANDERED OFF ON OUR OWN LIKE A PAIR OF IDIOTS!

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. WE ONLY HAVE OURSELVES TO BLAME FOR BEING IN THIS FIX!
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT CREATURE WAS CHAINED UP IN THAT DUNGEON? IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A VAMPIRE.
YEAH. I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE ORIGINAL VAMPIRE WHO LIVED IN THIS CASTLE CENTURIES AGO.

BUT ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, HE LEFT THE CASTLE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.
YEAH, BUT MAYBE HE NEVER LEFT. MAYBE HE'S BEEN KEPT PRISONER DOWN HERE FOR ALL THAT TIME.
THEY SAY VAMPIRES ARE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FOREVER.

YES, BUT WHY KEEP HIM PRISONER? AND WHAT'S THAT HUNCHBACKED CREATURE DOING HERE?
DUNNO. MAYBE IT'S HIS JOB TO FEED THE VAMPIRE EVERY NIGHT.
HE KEPT CALLING THE VAMPIRE HIS MASTER. AND THERE WAS THAT BUCKET OF BLOOD IN HIS CELL.

THAT WAS GROSS! DISGUSTING!
ALEX WAS SUDDENLY STARTLED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STEVE?
I'M TAKING OFF THIS STUPID JACKET AND UNTYING THIS RIDICULOUS BOWTIE THAT'S BEEN CHOKING ME ALL EVENING!

STEVE PULLED OFF HIS JACKET, UNDID HIS BOWTIE AND ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES.
THAT'S BETTER! I CAN BREATHE AT LAST!
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MAY AS WELL GET COMFORTABLE.
I'M ALSO GOING TO TAKE OFF MY WITCH'S ROBES. THEY'RE SO HOT AND THIS HAT REALLY IRRITATES ME.

HUH?!!
DON'T PANIC! I HAVE MY REGULAR CLOTHES ON UNDERNEATH.
YOU DO?
MY FATHER WANTED ME TO WEAR MY ROBES TO THE BALL, SO I JUST PULLED THEM OVER MY CLOTHES TO PLEASE HIM.

ALEX TOOK HER HAT AND ROBES OFF.
THAT'S BETTER. I FEEL BACK TO MY OLD SELF.
THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER.
OKAY, SO NOW WE'RE ALL COMFY – NOW WHAT?
NOW WE WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO RESCUE US.

YEAH. RIGHT. LIKE THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN.

MY FATHER WILL COME LOOKING FOR US, STEVE. I KNOW HE WILL.
SURE, BUT HOW'S HE GONNA FIND US STUCK IN THIS STUPID CUPBOARD?

MY FATHER WILL TURN THIS WHOLE CASTLE UPSIDE DOWN IF HE HAS TO. HE'LL FIND US. I'M SURE OF IT.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. OTHERWISE THEY'LL FIND OUR SKELETONS IN HERE A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.
DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC! I TOLD YOU, MY FATHER WILL RESCUE US.

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL FLOORS ABOVE IN THE CASTLE BALLROOM...
HAVE YOU SEEN MY DAUGHTER, GRISWOLD? SHE AND HER FRIEND STEVE HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR AGES. I'M REALLY GETTING WORRIED.
I'M THINKING OF GETTING A SEARCH PARTY TOGETHER AND SEARCHING THE WHOLE CASTLE. THE TEACHERS FROM HOGCRAFTS HAVE SAID THEY'RE WILLING TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH.

A SEARCH PARTY? TUT TUT, MY DEAR WARLOCK, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! NOT NECESSARY AT ALL!
OH? AND WHY IS THAT?

I SAW YOUR DAUGHTER AND HER FRIEND LEAVE THE CASTLE NOT TEN MINUTES AGO.
LEAVE THE CASTLE?

INDEED. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO. THEY DROVE OFF IN YOUR CARRIAGE. THAT MANSERVANT OF YOURS WAS DRIVING. I PRESUMED THEY WERE GOING BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP.

MY DAUGHTER WOULD NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING ME!
WELL, I SAW THEM WITH MY OWN EYES. AT THE TIME I THOUGHT IT RATHER STRANGE THAT THEY WERE LEAVING WITHOUT YOU, BUT THERE YOU ARE.
THE WARLOCK LOOKED AT THE VAMPIRE CLOSELY.
YOU'RE NOT SPINNING ME A YARN, ARE YOU, GRISWOLD?

A YARN? MY DEAR FELLOW, HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK SUCH A THING OF ME! I'M RATHER OFFENDED!

AT ANY RATE, DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. YOU'LL FIND YOUR CARRIAGE AND YOUR MANSERVANT HAS LEFT AS WELL. I'M NOT MAKING IT UP, I ASSURE YOU.

THE WARLOCK WENT OUTSIDE AND SAW THAT HIS CARRIAGE WAS INDEED GONE.
WHY WOULD THEY HAVE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME?

WHEN THE WARLOCK WENT BACK INSIDE, PROFESSOR DUMBLE JOINED HIM.
WHAT DID GRISWOLD HAVE TO SAY?
HE SAYS HE SAW STEVE AND ALEX LEAVE THE CASTLE IN MY CARRIAGE EARLIER. HE SAID AMATOR WAS DRIVING THEM.

WELL **THAT'S** A RELIEF! AT LEAST THEY'RE SAFE AND SOUND. SO YOU'VE BEEN WORRYING FOR NOTHING.
I DON'T KNOW, DUMBLE. I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. HE SEEMED RATHER... SHIFTY.
MY DEAR WARLOCK, VAMPIRES **ALWAYS** SEEM SHIFTY IN THE WAY THEY BEHAVE. THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT.

HAVE YOU CHECKED TO SEE IF YOUR CARRIAGE HAS GONE?
YES. HE SEEMS TO BE TELLING THE TRUTH ON THAT SCORE.

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN AMATOR AROUND FOR A WHILE.
THERE YOU ARE THEN, GRISWOLD MUST BE TELLING THE TRUTH!

PERHAPS. BUT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ALEXANDRA WOULD HAVE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME FIRST.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIKE. THEY DON'T ALWAYS THINK THINGS THROUGH. AND THEY MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE... OVERWHELMED BY THE BALL.
COULD BE.
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE, OLD FRIEND. NO DOUBT, WHEN YOU GET HOME LATER, YOU'LL FIND THEM BOTH SAFE AND SOUND, ASLEEP IN THEIR BEDS.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

LITTLE DID THE WARLOCK AND PROFESSOR DUMBLE KNOW THAT COUNT GRISWOLD HAD BEEN EAVESDROPPING ON THEIR CONVERSATION THE WHOLE TIME.
HEHEHE! THOSE WIZARDS THINK THEY'RE SO SUPERIOR WITH THEIR MAGIC! BUT THEY'LL NEVER OUTSMART A VAMPIRE!
MEANWHILE, IN A DUNGEON FAR BELOW...
LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

HEHEHE!
DON'T WORRY. ME TAKE YOU TO MASTER LATER.

MASTER LIKE BITE HUMANS. AFTER MASTER BITE YOU, YOU BE VAMPIRE LIKE HIM.
HEHEHE!

HEHEHE! YOU GROW NICE LONG TEETH LIKE MASTER WHEN YOU VAMPIRE.
HMMMM?
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU – YOU DISGUSTING CREATURE!
HEHEHE!
BOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

AND BACK IN THE CUPBOARD...
IT'S GETTING SO STUFFY IN HERE.
YEAH. I WONDER HOW MUCH AIR THERE IS IN HERE.
LIKE... HOW LONG BEFORE WE START SUFFOCATING?
AT LEAST TRY AND BE POSITIVE, STEVE.
POSITIVE?

WHAT'S THERE TO BE POSITIVE ABOUT? WE'RE LOCKED IN A CUPBOARD IN A VAMPIRE'S CASTLE SURROUNDED BY MONSTERS AROUND EVERY CORNER!
STEVE LEANED AGAINST THE BACK OF THE CUPBOARD IN DESPAIR.
÷SIGH÷ LET'S FACE IT, ALEX, WE'VE USED UP ALL OUR LUCK THIS TIME.
AND SUDDENLY THE BACK PANEL OF THE CUPBOARD MOVED...
CREAK!
ALEX! THE BACK OF THE CUPBOARD IS... OPENING!

THE CUPBOARD OPENED AND THEY WERE SUDDENLY BATHED IN BRIGHT ORANGE LIGHT.
HUH?!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT!
TO BE CONTINUED!

ACTION COMICS

THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX

THE MONSTER'S BALL

PART FOUR

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

ALEX AND STEVE FOUND THEMSELVES IN SOME SORT OF UNDERGROUND TUNNEL THAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN DUG BENEATH THE VAMPIRE CASTLE.
I WONDER WHERE THIS LEADS TO.
I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

THEY FOLLOWED THE TUNNEL AND CAME TO A WOODEN BRIDGE THAT CROSSED A RIVER OF LAVA.
JEEZ, IT'S HOT IN HERE!

LET'S KEEP GOING.
YEAH. I GUESS THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.

THEY CROSSED THE RIVER OF LAVA AND FOUND THEMSELVES IN ANOTHER TUNNEL.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THESE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS RUN THE LENGTH OF THE CASTLE.

YES, BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO DIG A WHOLE BUNCH OF TUNNELS UNDER A CASTLE?
BEATS ME.
STEVE SUDDENLY STIFFENED.
HANG ON! I THINK I JUST SAW SOMETHING MOVE IN THE SHADOWS OVER THERE!
WHERE?

OVER THERE. JUST BEYOND THAT DOORWAY.

DO YOU THINK IT'S ANOTHER... MONSTER?

PROBABLY. I'D KILL FOR A SWORD RIGHT NOW!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, STEVE? GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME?

WHAT'S THE POINT? WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT STUPID CUPBOARD. WE'D JUST BE TRAPPED IN THERE AGAIN!

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WHOEVER IT IS, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HIDING IN THE SHADOWS.
SO MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST FLUSH THEM OUT AND SEE WHO – OR **WHAT** – IT IS.
FLUSH THEM OUT? BUT WHAT IF IT'S ANOTHER HORRIBLE MONSTER LIKE THAT HUNCHBACK CREATURE? OR EVEN WORSE – ANOTHER **VAMPIRE!** WE DON'T HAVE ANY **WEAPONS**, STEVE!

WELL THEN – I GUESS WE BETTER GET READY TO RUN!
BUT BEFORE THEY COULD MOVE, THE SHADOW THAT STEVE HAD GLIMPSED, SUDDENLY MATERIALIZED INTO THE FIGURE OF A SINISTER ARCHER WITH A SCAR ON HIS FACE – POINTING A BOW AT THEM.
NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE!

HUH?
WHERE DID HE JUST COME FROM?
NOBODY MOVE A MUSCLE IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?

I'M THE ONE HOLDING THE BOW WHICH MEANS I GET TO ASK THE QUESTIONS AROUND HERE - NOT YOU!

OH BOY, IF ONLY I HAD A SWORD RIGHT NOW!

NOW WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY OR THE HARD WAY! YOU DECIDE!

THE EASY OR HARD WAY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I CAN EITHER PUT THE PAIR OF YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY THE QUICK AND PAINLESS WAY OR... DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT?

PUT US OUT OF OUR MISERY?
LOSE THE DUMB ACT, DUDE! YOU VAMPIRES ARE ALL THE SAME! SLY AND CUNNING TO THE VERY END!
VAMPIRES?!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE... VAMPIRES?

OH, I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE BECAUSE THE PAIR OF YOU JUST **HAPPEN** TO BE WONDERING AROUND IN A **VAMPIRE NEST** DOWN HERE IN A MAZE OF TUNNELS DUG BENEATH A **VAMPIRE'S CASTLE!**

A VAMPIRE'S... NEST?!
YEAH, NEST! THESE TUNNELS ARE CRAWLING WITH DEATH EATERS! AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!
DEATH EATERS? WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?!
SEARCH ME.

LOOK YOU! YOU BETTER START EXPLAINING YOURSELF! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GET THAT BOW OUT OF MY FACE!

AND JUST FOR THE RECORD - STEVE AND I ARE **NOT** VAMPIRES!
MEH!

IS THAT SO? THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?

WE WERE HIDING FROM SOME CRAZY HUNCHBACKED CREATURE, THEN WE GOT STUCK IN A STUPID CUPBOARD, THEN THE BACK OF IT OPENED AND WE FOUND OURSELVES DOWN HERE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH – HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I CAME THROUGH ONE OF THE GRAVEYARDS, OF COURSE.

GRAVEYARDS?

THIS MAZE OF TUNNELS LEADS TO VARIOUS VILLAGE GRAVEYARDS ALL OVER THE OVERWORLD – AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

ACTUALLY, WE DIDN'T KNOW! NOW WHY DON'T YOU DROP THE TOUGH GUY ACT AND PUT AWAY YOUR BOW SO WE CAN ALL FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

THE ARCHER HESITATED SUSPICIOUSLY, THEN:
OKAY. SHOW ME YOUR TEETH FIRST.

WHA-AT?! I'M NOT SHOWING YOU MY TEETH!

I WANNA SEE IF YOU'VE GOT FANGS OR NOT. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN CHECK IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT NOT BEING VAMPIRES.

GET LOST! I'M NOT SHOWING YOU MY TEETH!
WELL THERE'S AN ADMISSION OF GUILT IF EVER I HEARD ONE!
NO! YOU SHOW HIM YOUR TEETH!
OH FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE SHOW HIM YOUR TEETH, STEVE! WHAT HARM CAN IT DO?
OH, VERY WELL!

ALEX OPENED HER MOUTH AND THE MYSTERIOUS ARCHER CAREFULLY INSPECTED HER TEETH.
HMMM, NO FANGS. YOU PASS.
THE ARCHER LOOKED AT STEVE.
NOW YOU.
NO!
DON'T BE CHILDISH, STEVE! JUST SHOW HIM YOUR TEETH SO WE CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

OH, OKAY!
STEVE RELUCTANTLY OPENED HIS MOUTH AND THE ARCHER PEERED AT HIS TEETH.
SATISFIED?
OKAY. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BOTH TELLING THE TRUTH. YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE VAMPIRES EITHER OF YOU.
THE ARCHER LOWERED HIS BOW FINALLY AND SLUNG IT OVER HIS SHOULDER.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN FOR SOME ANSWERS. WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WAS OBVIOUS. I'M A VAMPIRE SLAYER.
VAMPIRE SLAYER?

YEAH. I HUNT AND KILL VAMPIRES. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
TO KILL COUNT GRISWOLD?

GRISWOLD IS THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES RIGHT NOW. I'LL GET TO HIM LATER. IT'S THE **DEATH EATERS** I'M AFTER RIGHT NOW.

WHO – OR WHAT – ARE THESE DEATH EATERS YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT?
THEY'RE GRISWOLD'S ARMY OF VAMPIRE MINIONS. VICIOUS VAMPIRES OF THE WORST KIND!
LET'S GO INTO THE NEXT CHAMBER, THERE'S A LITTLE MORE LIGHT IN THERE. I'LL LEAD THE WAY.

STEVE AND ALEX FOLLOWED THE VAMPIRE SLAYER ACROSS A NARROW STONE BRIDGE.
I DON'T TRUST THIS GUY AS FAR AS I CAN THROW HIM! WHERE'S HE TAKING US?
THIS IS BETTER. AT LEAST THERE ARE SOME TORCHES AND WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER.
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER LED THEM INTO AN UNDERGROUND CAVE.

NOW, WHERE WAS I?
YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT GRISWOLD AND HIS ARMY OF DEATH EATER VAMPIRES.
OH YEAH. OKAY, SO GRISWOLD'S MASTER PLAN IS TO TURN EVERYONE IN THE OVERWORLD INTO VAMPIRES!

EVERYONE? THAT SOUNDS CRAZY!

NOT AS CRAZY AS YOU THINK! THERE'S A WHOLE MAZE OF TUNNELS BENEATH THIS CASTLE AND THEY STRETCH FAR BEYOND THIS CASTLE'S BOUNDARIES.

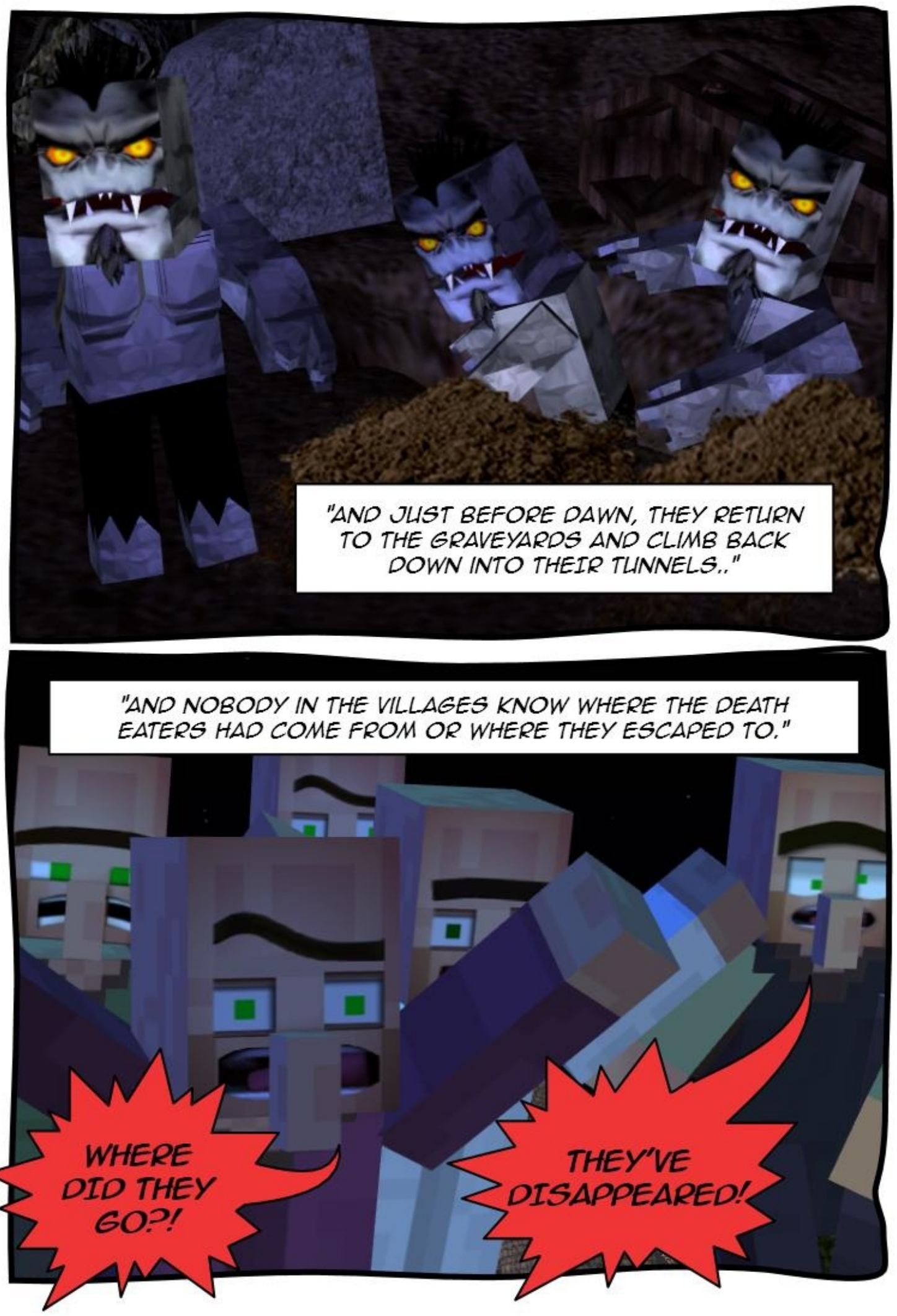
BUT WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

FROM HERE, GRISWOLD'S DEATH EATER VAMPIRES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TUNNEL UP INTO VILLAGE GRAVEYARDS ALL OVER THE OVERWORLD.

"WHEN NIGHT FALLS, THEY ACCESS THE VILLAGES BY CLIMBING OUT OF THE GRAVES IN GRAVEYARDS."
GRRRRR!

GRRRRR!
GRRRRR!
"THEN THEY STUMBLE INTO THE VILLAGES..."
GRRRRR!

"AND ATTACK THE VILLAGERS."
HELP!
GRRRRR!
BITE!
HE-ELP!
GGRRRR!
"WHEN THEY CATCH THEM THEY BITE THEM, TURNING THEM INTO DEATH EATERS LIKE THEMSELVES."


"AND JUST BEFORE DAWN, THEY RETURN TO THE GRAVEYARDS AND CLIMB BACK DOWN INTO THEIR TUNNELS.."
"AND NOBODY IN THE VILLAGES KNOW WHERE THE DEATH EATERS HAD COME FROM OR WHERE THEY ESCAPED TO."
WHERE DID THEY GO?!
THEY'VE DISAPPEARED!

AND GRISWOLD IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS HORROR?

YUP. IT'S BEEN HIS PLAN ALL ALONG.

BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE MONSTER'S BALL? AND WHY DOESN'T HE HARM THE LOCAL VILLAGE AT THE FOOT OF THIS CASTLE?

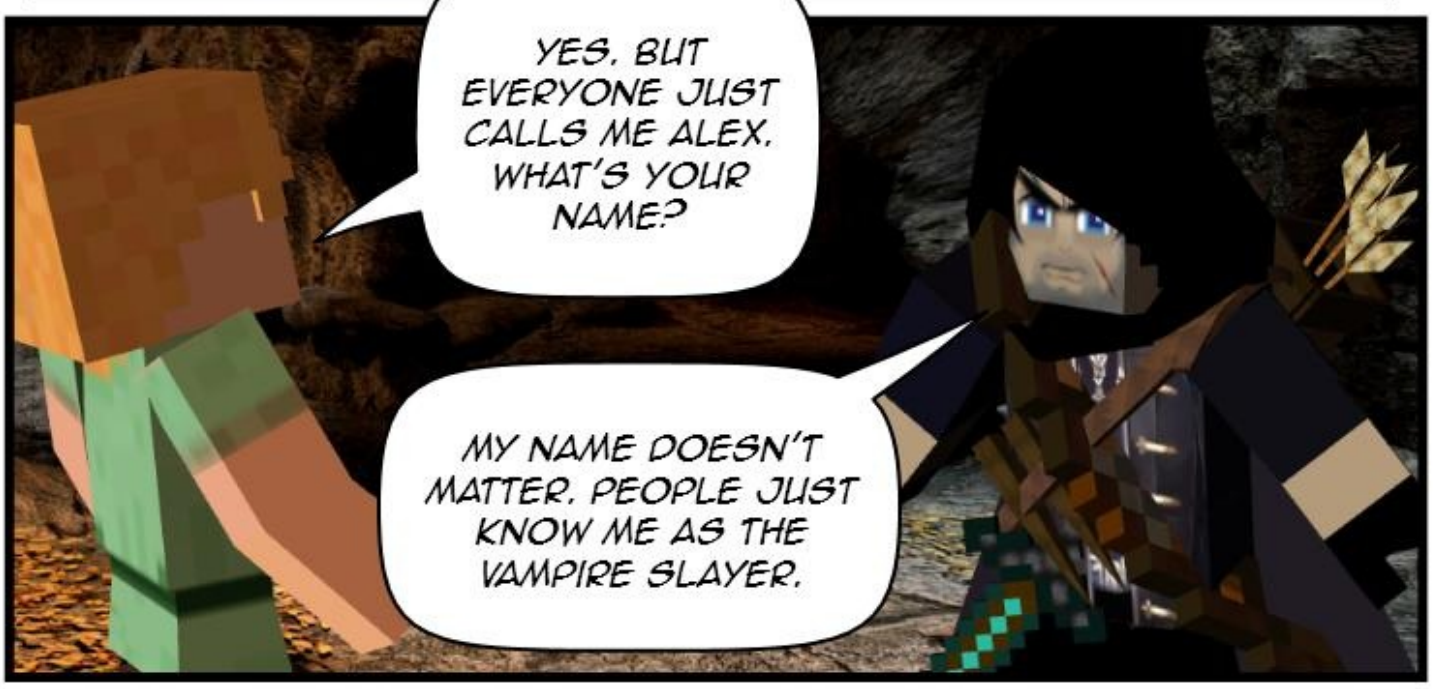
THE MONSTER'S BALL IS A COVER. IT MAKES GRISWOLD LOOK LIKE A GOOD GUY. AND HE DOESN'T TOUCH THE LOCAL VILLAGERS BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO CLOSE TO HOME. HE DOESN'T WANT TO AROUSE ANY SUSPICION.

THESE NIGHTLY ATTACKS TAKE PLACE IN VILLAGES FAR FROM HERE, SO NOBODY SUSPECTS HIM OF ANYTHING. THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH IT FOR SO LONG.

HE'S EVEN GOT THE WHOLE MAGIC COMMUNITY FOOLED – THE WITCHES, THE WIZARDS, EVERYONE. EVEN THE WARLOCK OF WARLOCK'S KEEP THINKS GRISWOLD'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

THE WARLOCK OF WARLOCK'S KEEP IS MY FATHER. STEVE AND I CAME TO THE MONSTER'S BALL WITH HIM.

HE'S YOUR FATHER? COOL. I HEARD THE STORY IN THE LOCAL VILLAGE OF HOW THE WARLOCK WAS REUNITED WITH HIS DAUGHTER AFTER MANY YEARS. YOU MUST BE ALEXANDRA.


YES. BUT EVERYONE JUST CALLS ME ALEX. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME DOESN'T MATTER. PEOPLE JUST KNOW ME AS THE VAMPIRE SLAYER.

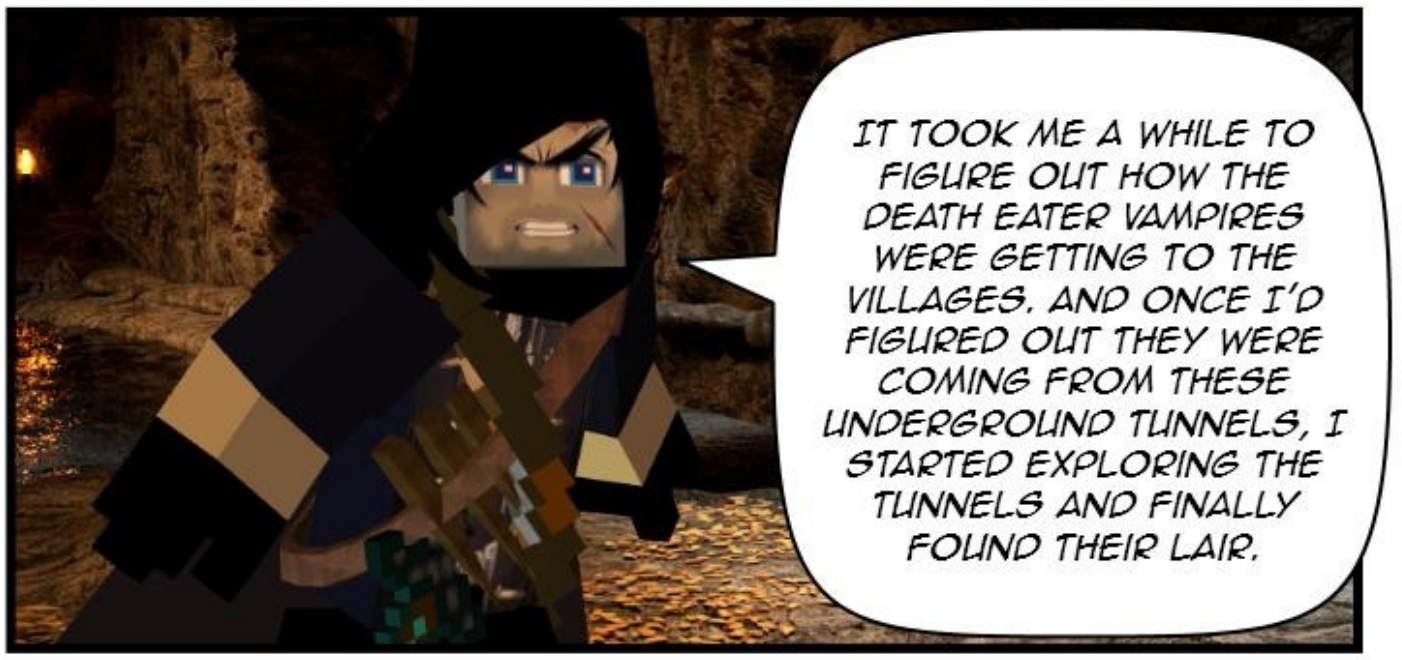
SO HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS VAMPIRE SLAYING BUSINESS?
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER'S EYES CLOUDED OVER BRIEFLY, THEN HE SAID:
PERSONAL REASONS.
WHAT PERSONAL REASONS?

THE DEATH EATERS ATTACKED MY VILLAGE WHILE I WAS AWAY HUNTING.

THAT NIGHT THEY TURNED EVERYONE, INCLUDING MY FAMILY, INTO DEATH EATERS LIKE THEMSELVES. IN THE MORNING, WHEN I GOT BACK, MY VILLAGE WAS DESERTED. I NEVER SAW MY FAMILY AGAIN.

THAT'S TERRIBLE!

I SWORE THEN AND THERE THAT I WOULD TAKE MY REVENGE! THAT I WOULDN'T REST UNTIL I WIPED EVERY SINGLE DEATH EATER OFF THE FACE OF THE OVERWORLD!


IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE DEATH EATER VAMPIRES WERE GETTING TO THE VILLAGES. AND ONCE I'D FIGURED OUT THEY WERE COMING FROM THESE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS, I STARTED EXPLORING THE TUNNELS AND FINALLY FOUND THEIR LAIR.

THEIR LAIR?

YEAH. IT'S AN UNDERGROUND CAVE NOT FAR FROM HERE WHERE THEY SLEEP IN COFFINS BY DAY.

EEEUW GROSS!

YEAH, MAYBE, BUT PERFECT ALL THE SAME.

PERFECT?
HOW SO?

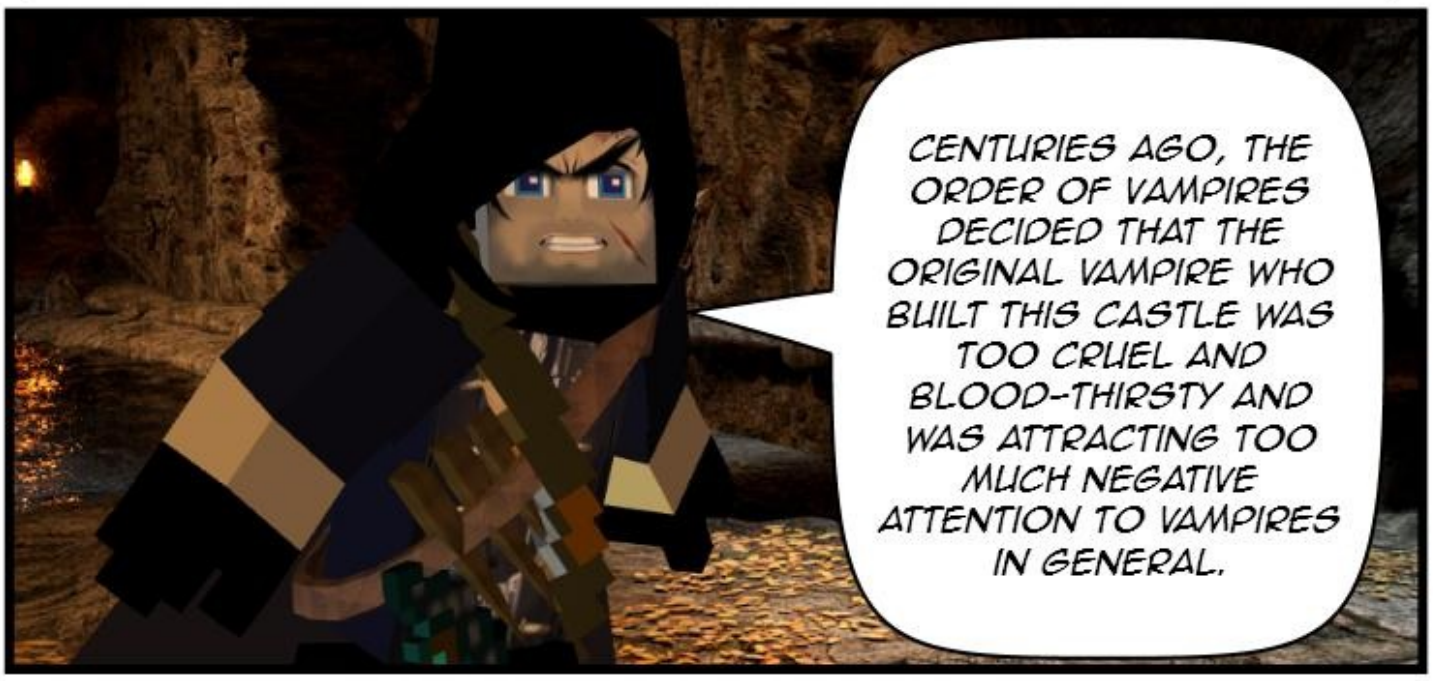
IT MEANS THAT ALL GRISWOLD'S DEATH EATERS SLEEP IN ONE PLACE BY DAY. SO I FIGURED THAT IF I BLEW UP THAT CAVE, I COULD BURY THEM ALL IN ONE GO.

I'VE BEEN STOCKPILING TNT AND SOME WEAPONS IN AN OLD VAULT NEAR HEAR, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO STRIKE.

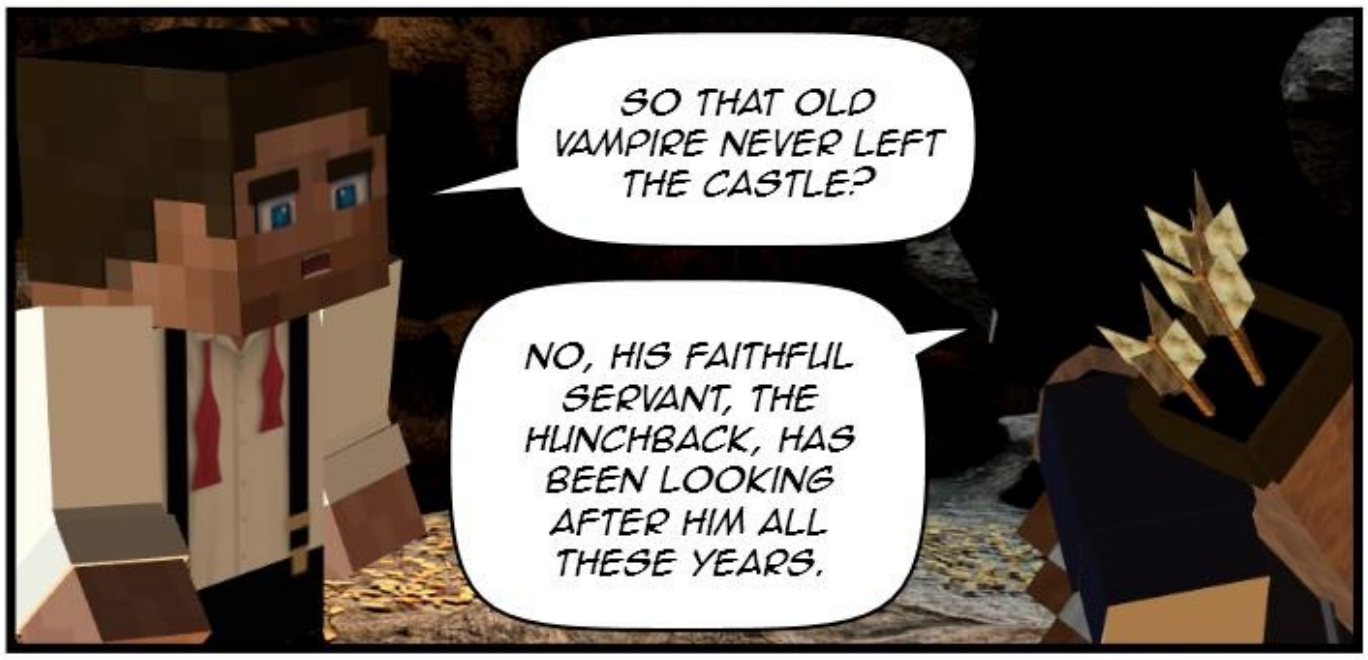
THE RIGHT MOMENT?
YEAH. I NEEDED GRISWOLD TO BE OUT OF THE PICTURE SO HE WOULDN'T COME DOWN HERE AND INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS.
THAT'S WHY I PICKED TONIGHT. THE NIGHT OF THE MONSTER'S BALL. I KNEW THAT GRISWOLD WOULD BE BUSY PUTTING ON HIS PHONY ACT FOR HIS GUESTS – WHICH LEAVES ME FREE TO DO WHAT I NEED TO DO.
OKAY. I GET ALL THAT, BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT PUZZLES ME.

OH YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?

WHY IS THAT VAMPIRE CREATURE CHAINED UP IN THE CASTLE DUNGEON? AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE CRAZY HUNCHBACK MONSTER?


CENTURIES AGO, THE ORDER OF VAMPIRES DECIDED THAT THE ORIGINAL VAMPIRE WHO BUILT THIS CASTLE WAS TOO CRUEL AND BLOOD-THIRSTY AND WAS ATTRACTING TOO MUCH NEGATIVE ATTENTION TO VAMPIRES IN GENERAL.

SO THEY DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND KEEP HIM CHAINED IN HIS OWN CASTLE SO HE COULDN'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE.


SO THAT OLD VAMPIRE NEVER LEFT THE CASTLE?
NO, HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT, THE HUNCHBACK, HAS BEEN LOOKING AFTER HIM ALL THESE YEARS.

EACH NIGHT AT PRECISELY MIDNIGHT, THE HUNCHBACK JUMPS OUT OF THE PAINTING AND FEEDS HIS MASTER ON BLOOD SUPPLIED BY THE DEATH EATERS. THEN HE CLIMBS BACK INTO THE PAINTING AND WAITS TILL MIDNIGHT THE NEXT DAY.

BUT HOW DOES THAT HUNCHBACK CREATURE TURN INTO A PAINTING? HOW'S THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

THE VAMPIRES APPROACHED A WIZARD TO CAST A POWERFUL SPELL. WHILE THE HUNCHBACK'S IN THE PAINTING, HE'S IN A DREAMLIKE STATE, AND ONLY WAKES UP AT MIDNIGHT EACH NIGHT TO FEED HIS MASTER – BEFORE GOING BACK INTO THE PAINTING.

ANYWAY, A FEW YEARS BACK GRISWOLD HEARD THIS OLD CASTLE WAS "UNOCCUPIED" AND DECIDED IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE TO LAUNCH HIS PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE VILLAGES OF THE OVERWOLD WITH HIS ARMY OF DEATH EATERS.

SO YOU PLAN ON BLOWING UP THE CAVE WHERE THE DEATH EATERS SLEEP?

YEAH. THERE'S ONLY ONE ENTRANCE TO THAT CAVE. MY PLAN IS TO BLOW UP THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE AND SEAL THOSE VAMPIRES INSIDE FOREVER!

BUT COULDN'T THEY JUST DIG THEIR WAY OUT?
NOT IF I SEAL THE ENTRANCE PROPERLY WITH ROCKS.

ANYWAY, I'VE GOT ENOUGH TNT STASHED TO BLOW UP THIS WHOLE PLACE, INCLUDING THE CASTLE, IF I HAVE TO!
AND I'VE EVEN STASHED SURPLUS WEAPONS IF I NEED TO DEFEND MYSELF.
STEVE'S EARS PRICKED UP.
WEAPONS, YOU SAY? WHAT KINDA WEAPONS?

SWORDS, BOWS, THAT KIND OF THING.

NOW THAT SOUNDS USEFUL! WHERE IS THIS ROOM?

WELL IT'S NOT EXACTLY A ROOM, IT'S A DUSTY OLD VAULT. ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE.

HEY ALEX, THIS IS SOUNDING BETTER AND BETTER!

HERE'S THE THING. ALEX AND I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE OURSELVES IN A FIGHT, SO -

OH YOU DO, DO YOU? HOW COME THE PAIR OF YOU WERE HIDING IN A CUPBOARD FROM THE HUNCHBACK? HOW COME YOU DIDN'T FIGHT HIM IF YOU SUPPOSEDLY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOURSELVES?

BECAUSE ALEX AND I MADE THE MISTAKE OF COMING TO THIS STUPID MONSTER'S BALL WITHOUT WEAPONS!

WELL THAT WAS DUMB!

TELL ME ABOUT IT! WITHOUT WEAPONS, WE'VE HAD TO RUN FOR OUR LIVES ALL NIGHT!

THE POINT IS, IF ALEX AND I HAD WEAPONS, WE COULD HELP YOU BLOW UP THE CAVE WITH THE DEATH EATERS.

NAH! THAT WON'T WORK.

NO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO?
I WORK ALONE. ALWAYS HAVE DONE.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY CRATES OF TNT TO THE CAVE ENTRANCE BY YOURSELF?
SURE. WHY NOT? IT MAY TAKE ME A WHILE BUT I'LL GET IT DONE.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D GET IT DONE QUICKER IF STEVE AND I HELPED YOU?

MAYBE. BUT LIKE I SAID, I WORK ALONE. I DON'T WANNA WASTE MY TIME BABYSITTING A PAIR OF AMATEURS.
AMATEURS? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH A PAIR OF ROOKIES HERE!
ALEX AND I HAVE BEEN IN MORE TIGHT SPOTS THAN YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD BREAKFAST!

WE'VE FOUGHT COUNTLESS ZOMBIES, ENDERMEN, SPIDERS, SKELETONS, DRAGONS – YOU NAME IT!

YEAH, I HEARD ABOUT THE DRAGON STORY.

WHAT DRAGON STORY?

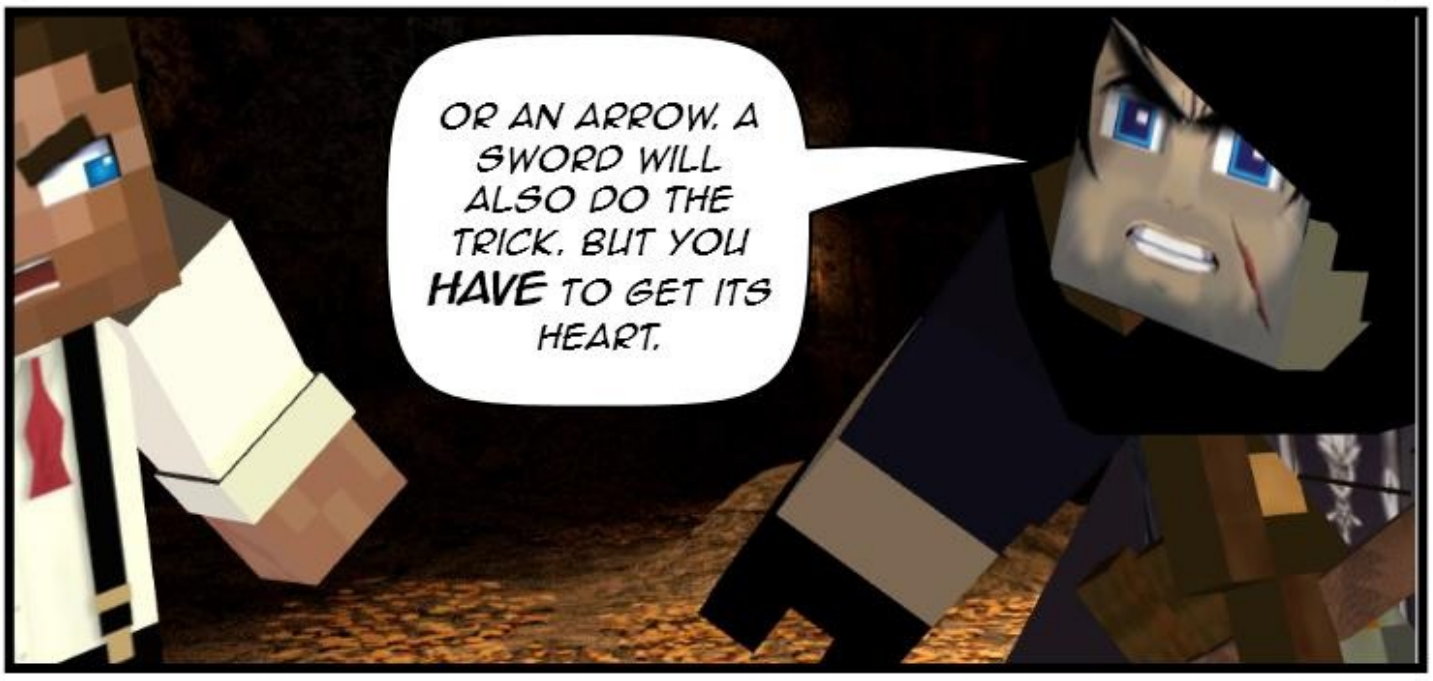
HOW YOU AND STEVE JOURNEYED TO THE FAR LANDS TO FIND A DRAGON TO FREE YOUR FATHER FROM RAVEN'S WOOD. I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT WAS PRETTY COOL.

WELL THEN. YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE NOT A PAIR OF GREENHORNS, AND WE'VE **NEVER** SHIED AWAY FROM A FIGHT! SO LET US HELP YOU.

THE VAMPIRE SLAYER THOUGHT IT OVER.
HAVE EITHER OF YOU EVER KILLED A DEATH EATER?

NO. BUT HOW HARD CAN IT BE?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW **HOW** TO KILL A VAMPIRE?
SURE. JUST DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART!


OR AN ARROW. A SWORD WILL ALSO DO THE TRICK. BUT YOU **HAVE** TO GET ITS HEART.

IF YOU DON'T, IT WILL GET YOU!

IT WILL BITE YOU AND YOU'LL WAKE UP ONE OF THEM. AND NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU AFTER THAT! YOU SURE YOU WANNA TAKE THAT CHANCE?

WE'RE SURE. WE'VE FACED WORSE THAN THAT BEFORE.

WORSE?

SURE. AS IN FIGHTING A PAIR OF FLESH-EATING ORCS. AND FACING AN ANGRY SHE-DRAGON GETTING READY TO INCINERATE US WITH ONE PUFF OF HER FIERY BREATH! NOT TO MENTION A COUPLE OF CRAZY MONSTER COWBOYS TRYING TO PLUG US FULL OF LEAD!

WE **KNOW** WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FACE DANGER. LIKE ALEX SAID, WE NEVER BACK OFF FROM A FIGHT.

OKAY, YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. I GUESS I COULD USE SOME HELP WITH THE TNT. FIRST THING IS TO DECK YOU OUT WITH SOME WEAPONS.

NOW **THAT'S** WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!
THERE'S JUST ONE SMALL PROBLEM.
OH? AND WHAT'S THAT?

WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH A LOT OF LAVA BEFORE WE GET TO THE VAULT. THE HEAT IS PRETTY INTENSE.

I DON'T CARE **WHAT** WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH. HAVING A SWORD IN MY HAND ONCE MORE WILL BE WORTH IT!

OKAY THEN, LET'S GO!

THE VAMPIRE SLAYER LED THEM THROUGH A MAZE OF TUNNELS.
LET'S HOPE HE KNOWS WHERE HE'S GOING.
AND THEN THEY REACHED THE LAVA.
BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T SLIP AND FALL INTO THE LAVA! THAT'LL BE THE END OF YOU!

JEEZ, IT'S HOT IN HERE! THE SOLES OF MY BOOTS ARE STARTING TO SMOLDER!

AND THEN THEY CAME TO A STONE BRIDGE.
HOW MUCH FURTHER?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

WHEN THE BRIDGE CAME TO AN END, A BUNCH OF LAVA ROCKS SUDDENLY FLEW PAST THEIR HEADS.
ZOOOM!
ZOOOM!
ZOOOM!
WHAT THE DEVIL?
WHERE ARE THE ROCKS COMING FROM?
ZOOOM!
ZOOOM!
DUNNO! DUCK, ALEX!

AND THEN THEY SAW THE CREATURE IN THE LAVA.
AAAAARRGGGHHH!

IT'S A LAVA GOLEM!

AAAAARRGGGHHH!
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER WHIPPED OUT HIS BOW AND TOOK AIM.

BUT HIS ARROWS JUST BURST INTO FLAMES AS THEY HIT THE CREATURE AND IT ONLY SEEMED TO ANGER IT MORE.
AAAAARRGGGHHH!
SHICK! SHICK!
THE CREATURE HURLED A FRESH BARRAGE OF LAVA ROCKS AT THEM.
AAAAARRGGGHHH!

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
ZOOOM!
ZOOOM!
THEY RAN FROM THE LAVA GOLEM JUMPING FROM STONES TO STONES.
ZOOOM!
ZOOOM!

THE LAVA GOLEM WADED THROUGH THE LAVA AFTER THEM.
AAAAARRGGGHHH!
BUT THE CREATURE WAS SLOW AND AWKWARD AND EVENTUALLY THEY MANAGED TO OUTRUN IT AND LEAVE IT BEHIND.
PANT!
PANT!

THEY STOPPED TO CATCH THEIR BREATH.
WELL THAT WAS UNPLEASANT!
LUCKILY, NO ONE GOT HURT.

I DUNNO WHICH IS WORSE - BEING **INCINERATED** BY A DRAGON OR BEING **BURNT TO DEATH** BY HOT LAVA!

ARE THERE ANY MORE OF THOSE LAVA GOLEM CREATURES AROUND?
NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW. THAT WAS THE FIRST ONE I CAME ACROSS DOWN HERE.
LET'S GET TO THOSE WEAPONS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT. I'LL FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER WHEN I'M ARMED TO THE TEETH

THE VAMPIRE SLAYER LED STEVE AND ALEX ALONG AN OLD BRIDGE.
THIS USED TO BE PART OF THE CASTLE BEFORE IT WAS FLOODED YEARS AGO. I FOUND AN OLD VAULT DOWN HERE.

THEY ENTERED AN OLD DUSTY STONE VAULT.
THIS IS WHERE I'VE BEEN HIDING MY STASH OF TNT.
TNT
THAT'S QUITE A STASH. AND THE WEAPONS?

THERE THEY ARE.
OH WOW!

ISN'T THAT A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, ALEX!
DEFINITELY!

STEVE WASTED NO TIME IN GRABBING A SWORD, WHILE ALEX PUT HERS ON HER BELT!
TNT
TNT
TNT
MAN, THIS FEELS GOOD!
I'LL SAY!
IF YOU TWO ARE FINISHED PLAYING WITH YOUR NEW TOYS, MAYBE YOU CAN START HELPING ME MOVE THIS TNT!
WE'LL BE HAPPY TO.

BUT JUST THEN, A DARK FIGURE LEAPT THROUGH THE AIR BEHIND THE VAMPIRE SLAYER.
WATCH OUT!
TNT
QUICK AS LIGHTNING, IT LATCHED ONTO THE VAMPIRE SLAYER'S BACK!
GRRRRRRR!
WHAT THE – ?!

THE VAMPIRE BIT DOWN HARD INTO THE SLAYER'S NECK, DRAWING BLOOD.
BITE!
OWW!
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER DROPPED TO HIS KNEES, BLEEDING AND GASPING WITH PAIN.
GASP!

THE VAMPIRE LAUGHED.
TNT
NOW YOU'RE ONE OF US VAMPIRE SLAYER! HA! HA! HA!

THE VAMPIRE RAISED HIS HEAD AND LOOKED AT ALEX.
YOU'RE NEXT!

STEVE PUSHED PAST ALEX.
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

STEVE LUNGED THROUGH THE AIR.
HUH?
YAAAAAH!

AND WITH DEADLY PRECISION, PLUNGED HIS SWORD THROUGH THE VAMPIRE'S HEART.
HAH!
AAARG!

TO STEVE'S AMAZEMENT, THE VAMPIRE INSTANTLY CRUMBLED TO DUST BEFORE HIS VERY EYES!
TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT

AND ENDED UP IN A PILE OF DIRT ON THE FLOOR.
WEIRD! BUT AT LEAST THAT'S THE END OF HIS REIGN OF TERROR!
TNT

AT THAT MOMENT, THE HUNCHBACK CREATURE CAME SCUTTLING DOWN THE STAIRS.
MASTER?! COME BACK TO CELL!

AND THEN THE HUNCHBACK SAW THE PILE OF DIRT AND LOOKED DOWN FORLORNLY AT IT.
MASTER?!
THE HUNCHBACK'S EYES BRIMMED WITH TEARS
SNIFF
SNIFF
MASTER? NOOOO!

STEVE PREPARED TO LUNGE AT THE CREATURE WITH HIS SWORD, BUT ALEX SUDDENLY CRIED OUT BEHIND HIM...
NO!? DON'T!
TNT
TNT
TNT
STEVE LOOKED BACK, SURPRISED.
WHAT?
DON'T HURT HIM!
TNT

ARE YOU NUTS! HE ALMOST KILLED US!

I THINK HE'S ACTUALLY HARMLESS.
HARMLESS?

DON'T HURT HIM, STEVE. HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO SERVE HIS MASTER. BESIDES, I DON'T THINK HE'S VERY BRIGHT.

YOU MEAN HE'S NOT OPERATING WITH A FULL BOX OF CHOCOLATES? YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT!

LEAVE HIM ALONE, STEVE. LET HIM GO.

GRRRRR! OKAY, OKAY!
TNT
TNT

TNT
GO ON! GET OUTTA HERE! SCOOT BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!
HMMMM?
THE HUNCHBACK HESITATED, THEN LOOKED DOWN SADLY AT THE PILE OF DIRT ONCE MORE.
TNT
MMMMM. MASTER?

YOUR MASTER'S DEAD! FINISHED!
KAPUT! SAVVY? NOW GET GOING
BEFORE I DISPATCH YOU THE SAME WAY!
MASTER DEAD
DEAD DEAD?
YEAH, DEAD!
DEAD! DEAD!

THE HUNCHBACK TURNED AND
SHUFFLED BACK UP THE STAIRS.
SNIFF
MASTER DEAD
DEAD DEAD
÷SNIFF÷

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
I DON'T!
I HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR ANYONE WHO TRIES TO KILL ME!
A GRUNT BEHIND THEM BROUGHT STEVE AND ALEX SHARPLY BACK TO REALITY. BUT WHEN THEY TURNED AROUND, THEY WERE IN FOR A HORRIBLE SHOCK!
HUH?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU TWO LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST! OR A VAMPIRE! HA! HA!

YOU - YOU'VE CHANGED!

I'M STILL ME. EXCEPT STRONGER... AND MY APPETITES ARE, SHALL WE SAY, MORE INTERESTING! HA! HA!
STEVE! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!
HE'S ONE OF THEM NOW, ALEX! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO! KILL HIM!
TO BE CONTINUED!

ACTION COMICS

THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX

PART FIVE

THE MONSTER'S BALL

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. IT IS NOT APPROVED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

MEANWHILE, IN THE BALLROOM MANY FLOORS ABOVE THEM, AMATOR, THE WARLOCK'S MANSERVANT, CAME RUNNING BREATHLESSLY TOWARDS THE WARLOCK...
MY LORD! MY LORD! OH, AM I HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
AT THE SUDDEN SIGHT OF AMATOR, A SURPRISED COUNT GRISWOLD INCHED CLOSER.
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

THE WARLOCK WAS JUST AS SURPRISED TO SEE AMATOR.
AMATOR! WHERE THE DEVIL HAVE YOU JUST COME FROM? I THOUGHT YOU WERE BACK AT WARLOCK'S KEEP WITH ALEXANDRA AND STEVE. DIDN'T YOU TAKE THEM HOME?

NO, MY LORD WARLOCK! I WAS KIDNAPPED BY A HUNCHBACKED CREATURE AND CHAINED IN A CELL IN THE DUNGEONS BELOW, BUT I MANAGED TO FREE MYSELF AND ESCAPE!

KIDNAPPED AND CHAINED IN A CELL? WHAT A RIDICULOUS AND FANCIFUL TALE!
IT'S TRUE, MY LORD! I ONLY GOT FREE MOMENTS AGO! THE CHAIN WAS A BIT LOOSE AROUND MY LEG SO I MANAGED TO WRIGGLE OUT OF IT!

WRIGGLE OUT OF A CHAIN? THAT MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL! YOUR MAN HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN DRINKING A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF MY DELICIOUS PUNCH, WARLOCK!
EITHER THAT OR HE HAS A VERY CREATIVE IMAGINATION! OR... HE'S JUST A PLAIN LIAR!

I'M NOT LYING, MY LORD! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
CALM DOWN, AMATOR, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LYING.

AMATOR HAS NEVER LIED TO ME IN ALL THE YEARS HE'S BEEN IN MY SERVICE. I BELIEVE HIM.

THE WARLOCK STARED AT THE VAMPIRE FOR A LONG MOMENT.
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN LYING AROUND HERE IS YOU, GRISWOLD!

YOU TOLD ME YOU'D SEEN MY DAUGHTER AND HER FRIEND STEVE DEPART IN MY CARRIAGE - DRIVEN BY AMATOR. THAT WAS CLEARLY A LIE!

THE WARLOCK NARROWED HIS EYES ANGRILY.
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, GRISWOLD? WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA, MY DEAR! I ONLY TOLD YOU THAT THEY'D LEFT TO STOP YOU FROM WORRYING ABOUT THEM UNNECESSARILY.

I WAS DOING IT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, YOU SEE.

HE'S LYING, MY LORD WARLOCK!

THERE'S A HUNCHBACKED CREATURE IN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS BELOW AND HE'S WORKING ON THE ORDERS OF THIS VAMPIRE!

HE WANTED ME OUT OF THE WAY SO YOU WOULD THINK I'D TAKEN MISS ALEX HOME!

I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ONCE MORE, AND ONCE MORE ONLY – WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?
ONLY ONCE? AND THEN WHAT, WARLOCK? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO ABOUT IT, GRISWOLD!
YEAH! YOU SHOW HIM, MY LORD!

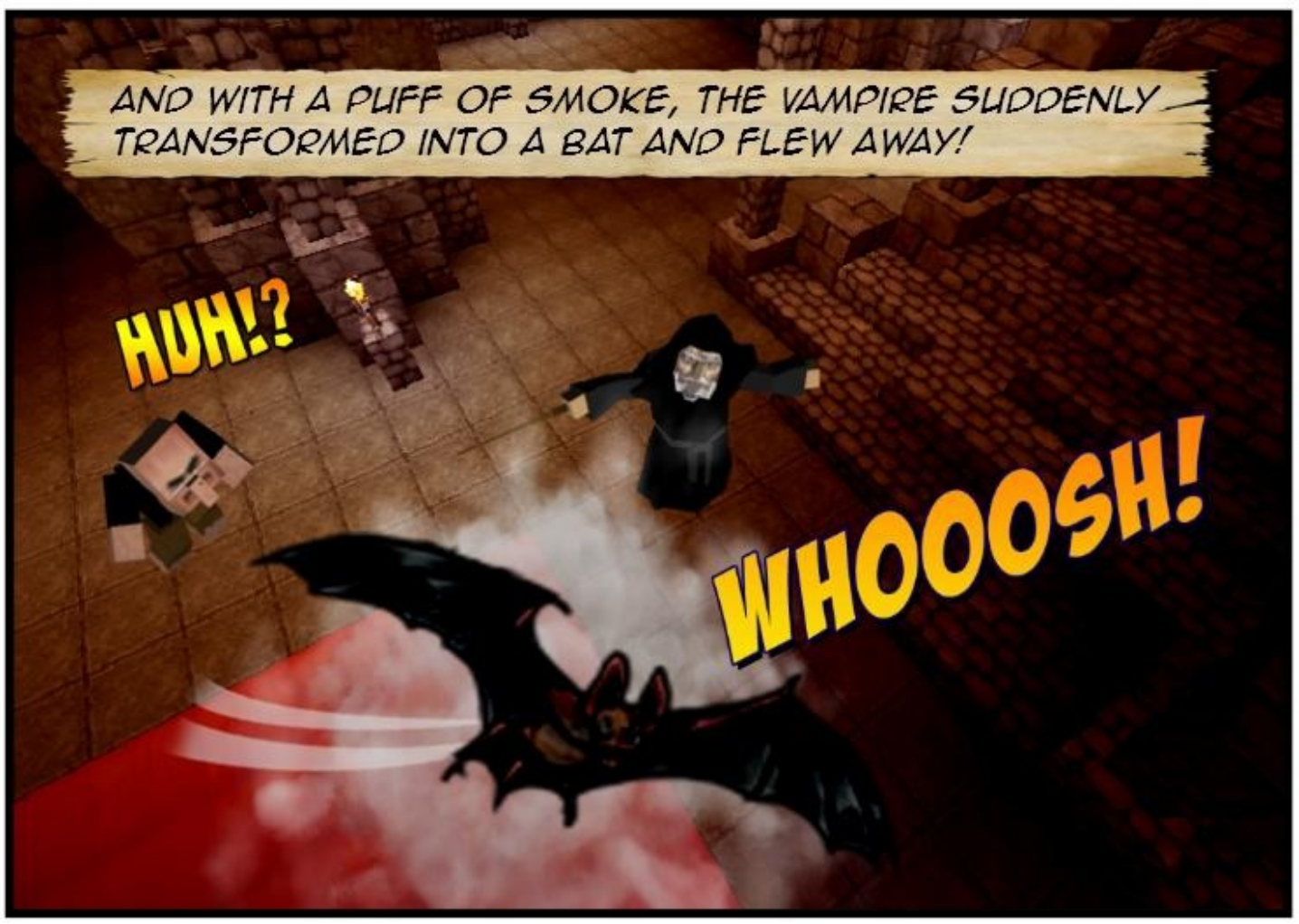
THE WARLOCK DREW HIS WAND IN A FLASH!
WHIPPP!

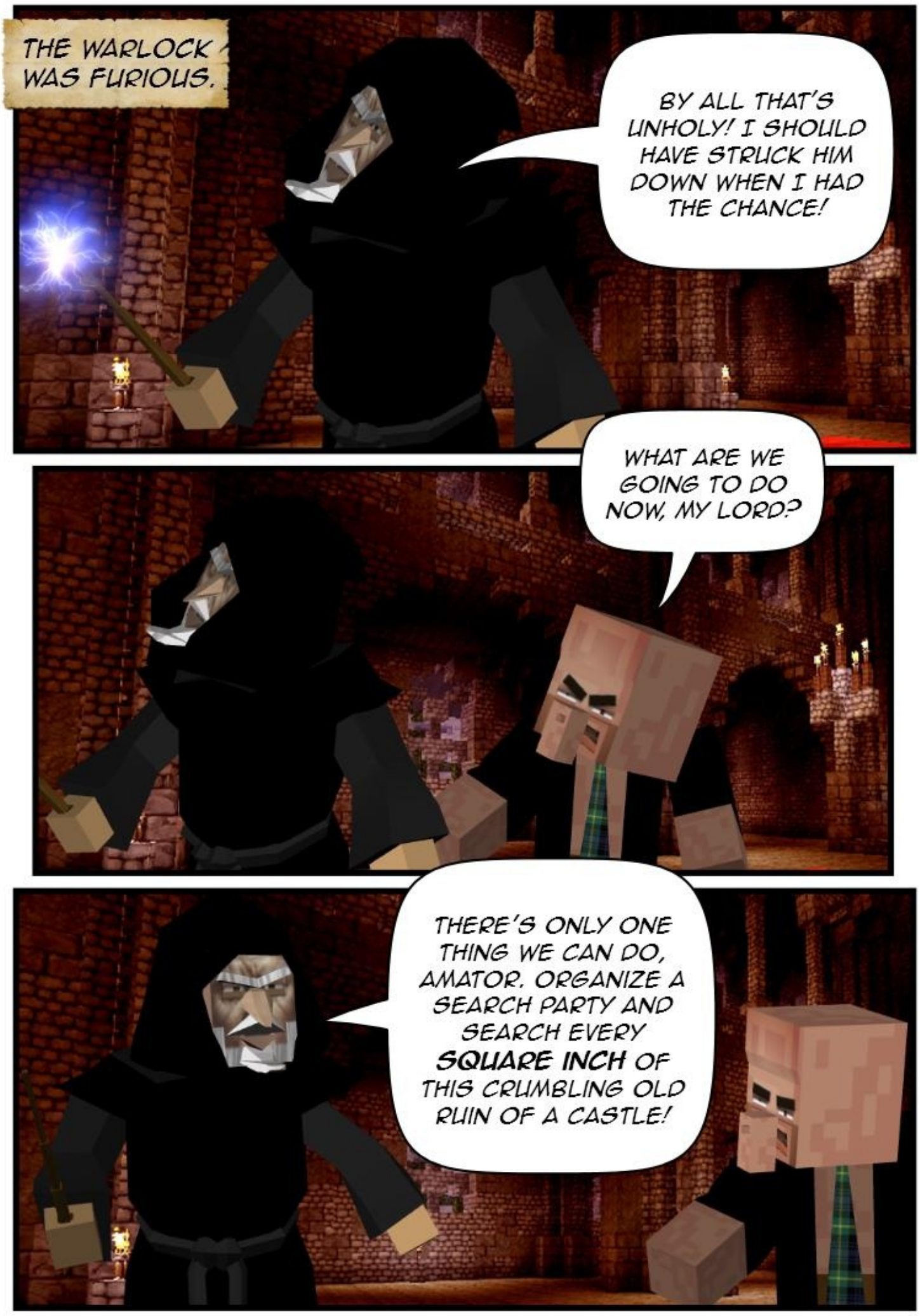
THE VAMPIRE WAS TAKEN ABACK.
I TOLD THAT IDIOT PIGMAN TO CONFISCATE ALL THE WANDS FROM YOU MAGIC LOT!
WELL AS YOU CAN SEE, HE DIDN'T. NOW, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL THE FULL FORCE OF MY ANGER, YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE ALEXANDRA IS!

TUT, TUT, MY DEAR. IF YOU WERE HOPING TO SEE ME SHIVER IN MY BOOTS AT THE SIGHT OF YOUR WAND YOU WERE SADLY MISTAKEN!

THE WARLOCK RAISED HIS WAND.
FOR THE LAST TIME – WHERE IS ALEXANDRA?!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGURE THAT ONE OUT FOR YOURSELF! HA! HA!


AND WITH A PUFF OF SMOKE, THE VAMPIRE SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO A BAT AND FLEW AWAY!
HUH!?
WHOOOSH!


THE WARLOCK WAS FURIOUS.
BY ALL THAT'S UNHOLY! I SHOULD HAVE STRUCK HIM DOWN WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW, MY LORD?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO, AMATOR. ORGANIZE A SEARCH PARTY AND SEARCH EVERY **SQUARE INCH** OF THIS CRUMBLING OLD RUIN OF A CASTLE!

NEWS OF THE WARLOCK'S ARGUMENT WITH COUNT GRISWOLD, AND THE FACT THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS MISSING, SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGH THE BALLROOM.

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE GIRL'S MISSING!

UH-HUH. GRISWOLD'S PROBABLY DONE HER IN. WHY ELSE WOULD HE HAVE FLOWN OFF LIKE THAT?

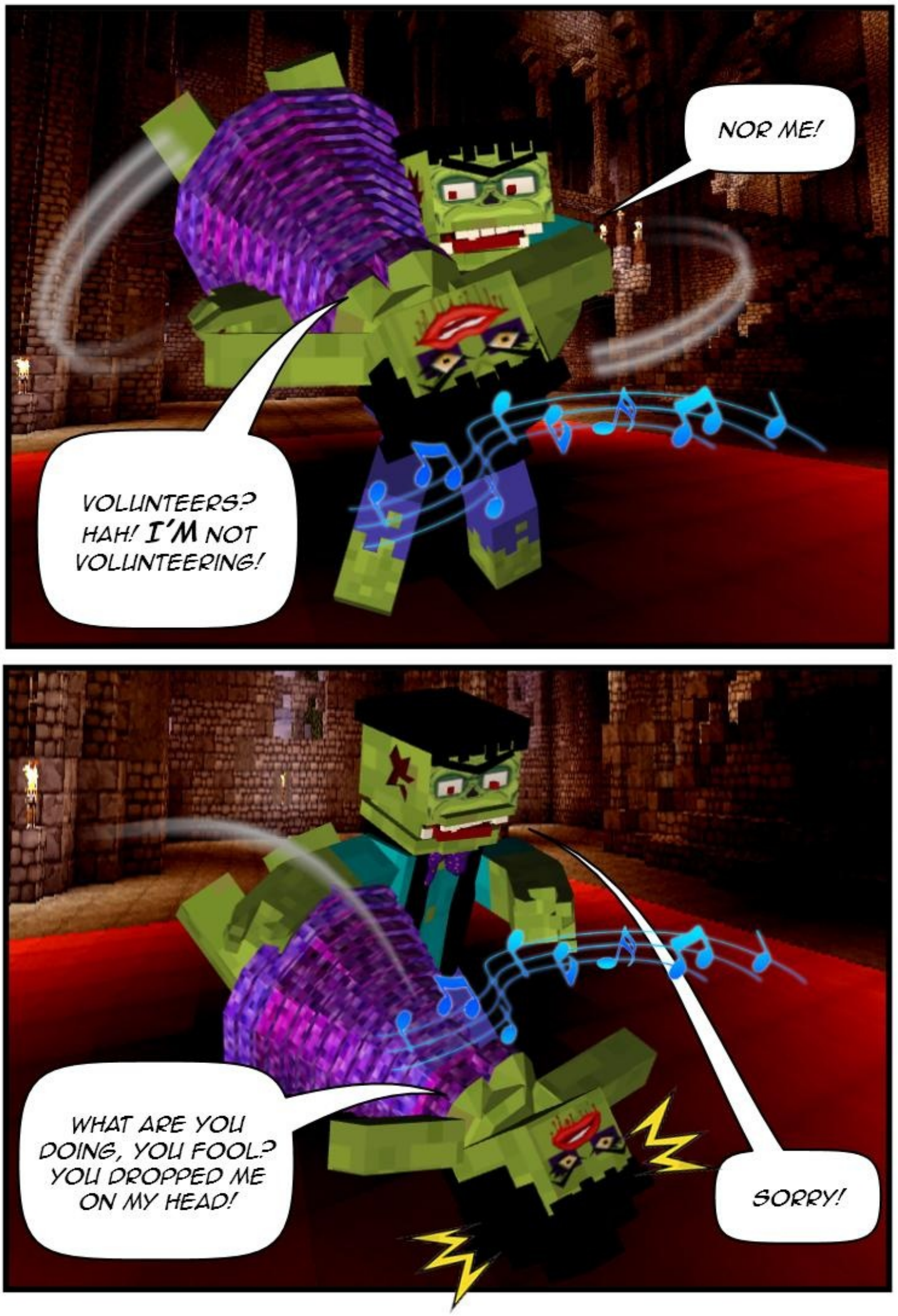
AND ON THE DANCE FLOOR...

WHY ARE THEY MAKING SUCH A STUPID FUSS OVER TWO MISSING KIDS?

MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S THE WARLOCK'S DAUGHTER.

THOSE KIDS WERE PROBABLY SNOOPING AROUND THE CASTLE AND STICKING THEIR NOSES WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG!

PROBABLY. I HEAR THEY'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LOOK FOR THEM.


NOR ME!
VOLUNTEERS? HAH! I'M NOT VOLUNTEERING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU FOOL? YOU DROPPED ME ON MY HEAD!
SORRY!

AND ELSEWHERE IN THE BALLROOM, SOME WITCHES WERE TELLING EACH OTHER JOKES...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WITCH WITH THE UPSIDE-DOWN NOSE?
EVERY TIME SHE SNEEZED, SHE BLEW HER HAT OFF!
HEHEHE!
HA! HA! HA! YOU TELL THE FUNNIEST JOKES, ESMERELDA!
HA HA HA
I DO, DON'T I?

AMATOR INTERRUPTED THEM...
ER... EXCUSE ME, LADIES...

YEAH? WHADDAYA WANT?

MY LORD THE WARLOCK WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO JOIN THE SEARCH PARTY FOR HIS MISSING DAUGHTER?

MMMM, DOES HE NOW? DO PIGS HAVE WINGS?
ER... NOPE.

WELL THEN! THERE YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER!

GRRRR! HAG!
THE ANSWER IS NO! NOW GET LOST BEFORE I TURN YOU INTO A TWO-HEADED TOAD!

AMATOR THEN APPROACHED THE PIGMAN FOR HELP...
HELP SEARCH FOR THOSE KIDS? NAH, I'M BUSY.
BUSY DOING WHAT? YOU DON'T LOOK BUSY TO ME.
I'M BUSY THINKING ABOUT JUST HOW MUCH I DON'T WANNA GET INVOLVED IN THIS MESS!
MESS?

YEAH, MESS! IF SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO THE WARLOCK'S DAUGHTER, THE WARLOCK'LL GO BANANAS.

AND I DON'T WANNA BE ANYWHERE NEAR THAT WAND OF HIS WHEN THAT HAPPENS, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

HE'S A POWERFUL MAGIC DUDE. WORD IS, HE CAN STRIKE YOU DEAD WITH A SINGLE CURSE! SO IT'S A NO, DEFINITELY NOT!

AND ELSEWHERE...
WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT MISSING KIDS AND A SEARCH PARTY? =HIC=
OH I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, SIR. WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER REFRESHMENT?
NAH! =HIC= I'VE TASTED 'EM ALL!

I'VE HAD =HIC= YOUR DRACULA'S BLOOD– TASTED LIKE PLAIN OL' KETCHUP TO ME! – AND I'VE HAD YOUR MONSTER'S MINERAL AND YOUR WONDROUS WIZARD WATER!
I'VE ALSO HAD THAT DISGUSTING TASTING DRINK YOU CALL SPIDER SQUASH! WHAT'S IT MADE OF?
ER... SQUASHED SPIDERS, I BELIEVE. WITH A DASH OF SUGAR, OF COURSE.

EEEUW! NO WONDER IT TASTED SO BAD! =HIC= GOT ANYTHING FOR HICCUPS?
NO, SIR, I DON'T BELIEVE I DO.

OKAY, I THINK I'LL HAVE A LITTLE NAP NOW. WAKE ME UP BEFORE DAWN, WILL YA? I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE END BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP.

AHEM... I'LL DO THAT, SIR.

AS NO ONE WANTED HELP TO SEARCH FOR ALEX AND STEVE AND, AS THE TEACHERS FROM HOGCRAFTS HAD ALREADY GONE HOME, THE WARLOCK AND AMATOR BEGAN THE SEARCH THEMSELVES IN THE MAZE OF PASSAGES IN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS BELOW.

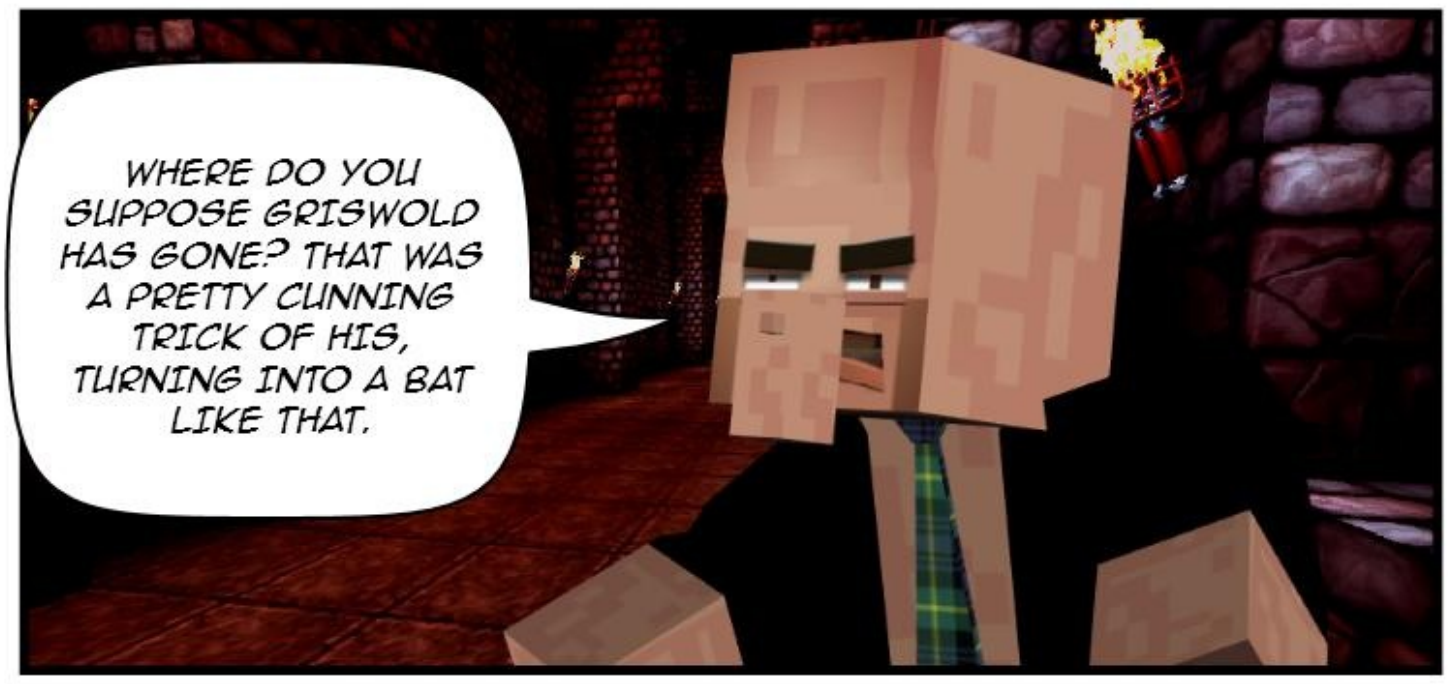
ALEXANDRA!

MASTER STEVE!

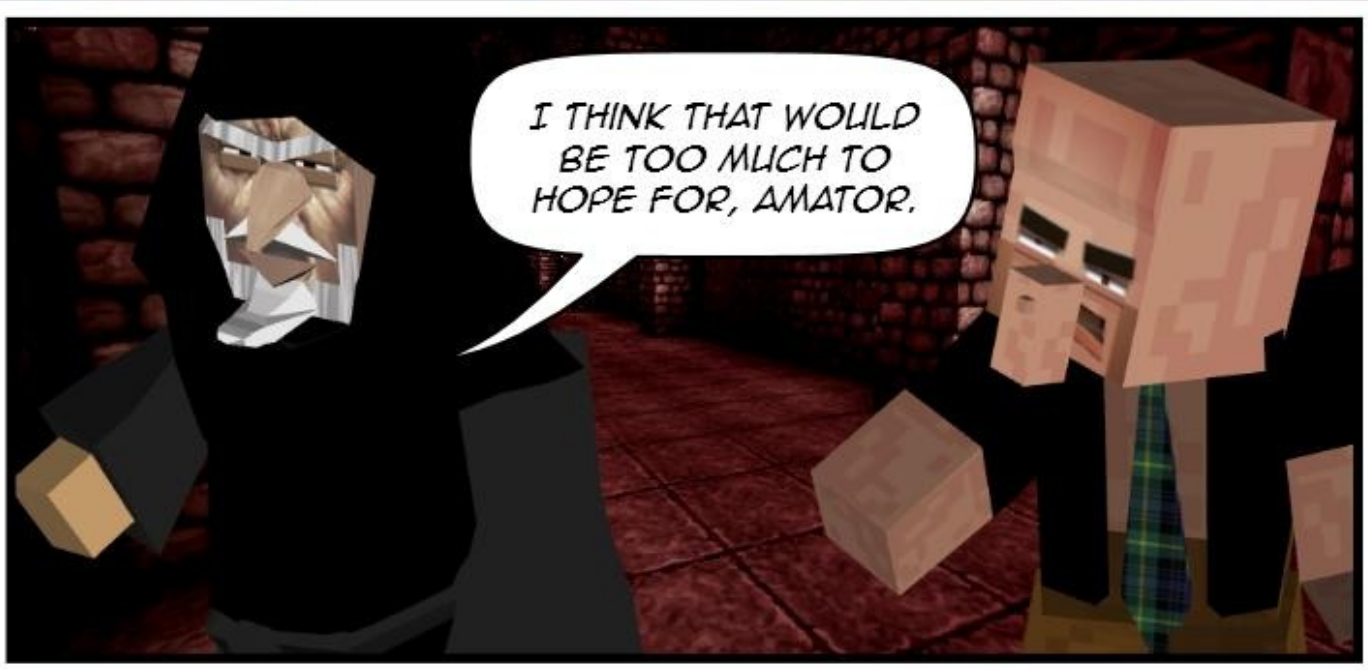
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM, MY LORD. THERE'S SO MANY PASSAGES DOWN HERE, HOW ARE WE EVER GONNA FIND THEM?

WE'LL FIND THEM, AMATOR. BELIEVE ME, WE'LL FIND THEM!

EVEN IF I HAVE TO TURN THIS WHOLE CASTLE UPSIDE DOWN!


WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE GRISWOLD HAS GONE? THAT WAS A PRETTY CUNNING TRICK OF HIS, TURNING INTO A BAT LIKE THAT.

DO YOU THINK HE'S LEFT THE CASTLE?
I SUPPOSE IT WAS. HE CERTAINLY OUTFOXED ME.


I THINK THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR, AMATOR.

NO, I THINK HE'S STILL AROUND. SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF COUNT GRISWOLD!

WHAT D'YOU SUPPOSE HE'S UP TO, MY LORD? I MEAN, WHY SEND HIS HUNCHBACK CREATURE TO KIDNAP ME SO YOU'D THINK MISS ALEX AND MASTER STEVE HAD GONE BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP?
I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT AS YET, AMATOR, BUT BELIEVE ME, I INTEND TO FIND OUT!
SPEAKING OF THAT HUNCHBACK. I WONDER WHY WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGN OF HIM?

I THINK HE KNOWS EVERY INCH OF THESE PASSAGES LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND, MY LORD.
HE PROBABLY HEARD US CALLING OUT AND NO DOUBT HE'S HIDING.
PROBABLY. THAT'S A PITY. HE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHAT'S GOING ON.

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO, MY LORD. I GOT THE FEELING HE WASN'T VERY... ER... BRIGHT.
OH?

THE LIGHTS ARE ON BUT NOBODY'S HOME, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I THINK HE JUST OBEYS ORDERS AND DOESN'T REALLY KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT WHATEVER'S THAT'S GOING ON DOWN HERE.
HE JUST KEPT MUTTERING STUFF ABOUT HIS "MASTER" AND HOW HE WAS GONNA TAKE ME TO HIS MASTER LATER.

HE SAID HIS MASTER WAS GONNA "BITE" ME AND TURN ME INTO A VAMPIRE. IT REALLY GAVE ME THE CREEPS.

SO HE WAS GOING TO TAKE YOU TO GRISWOLD?
BY THE SOUND OF IT, YEAH.

WELL, GRISWOLD CERTAINLY HAD US ALL WELL AND TRULY FOOLED!

I GENUINELY THOUGHT HE WAS DIFFERENT THAN ALL THE OTHER VAMPIRES I'VE COME ACROSS.

THE LOCAL VILLAGERS NEVER HAD ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT HIM, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S A VAMPIRE.

AND EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS VERY GENEROUS OF HIM TO HOST THE MONSTER'S BALL EACH YEAR.

NOW IT TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST A COVER TO HIDE WHAT HE'S REALLY UP TO.

AND WHAT'S THAT, MY LORD?

I DON'T KNOW, AMATOR, BUT I'M SURELY GOING TO FIND OUT. YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT!

THEY SUDDENLY CAME TO A FRAMED PAINTING ON THE WALL. THE WARLOCK AND AMATOR LOOKED AT IT.
HOW WEIRD IS THAT? A PAINTING OF A BLANK WALL!
THE WARLOCK STARED AT THE PAINTING.
THIS NO ORDINARY PAINTING, AMATOR. IT'S A MAGICAL PAINTING.

MAGICAL, MY LORD? IN WHAT WAY?

I'M NOT SURE, EXCEPT THAT IT HAS BEEN BEWITCHED WITH SOME KIND OF DARK MAGIC. A SPELL OF SOME SORT.

I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ALEXANDRA AND STEVE BEGAN HERE.

THE WARLOCK REACHED OUT, TOUCHED THE PAINTING, AND CLOSED HIS EYES IN DEEP CONCENTRATION.

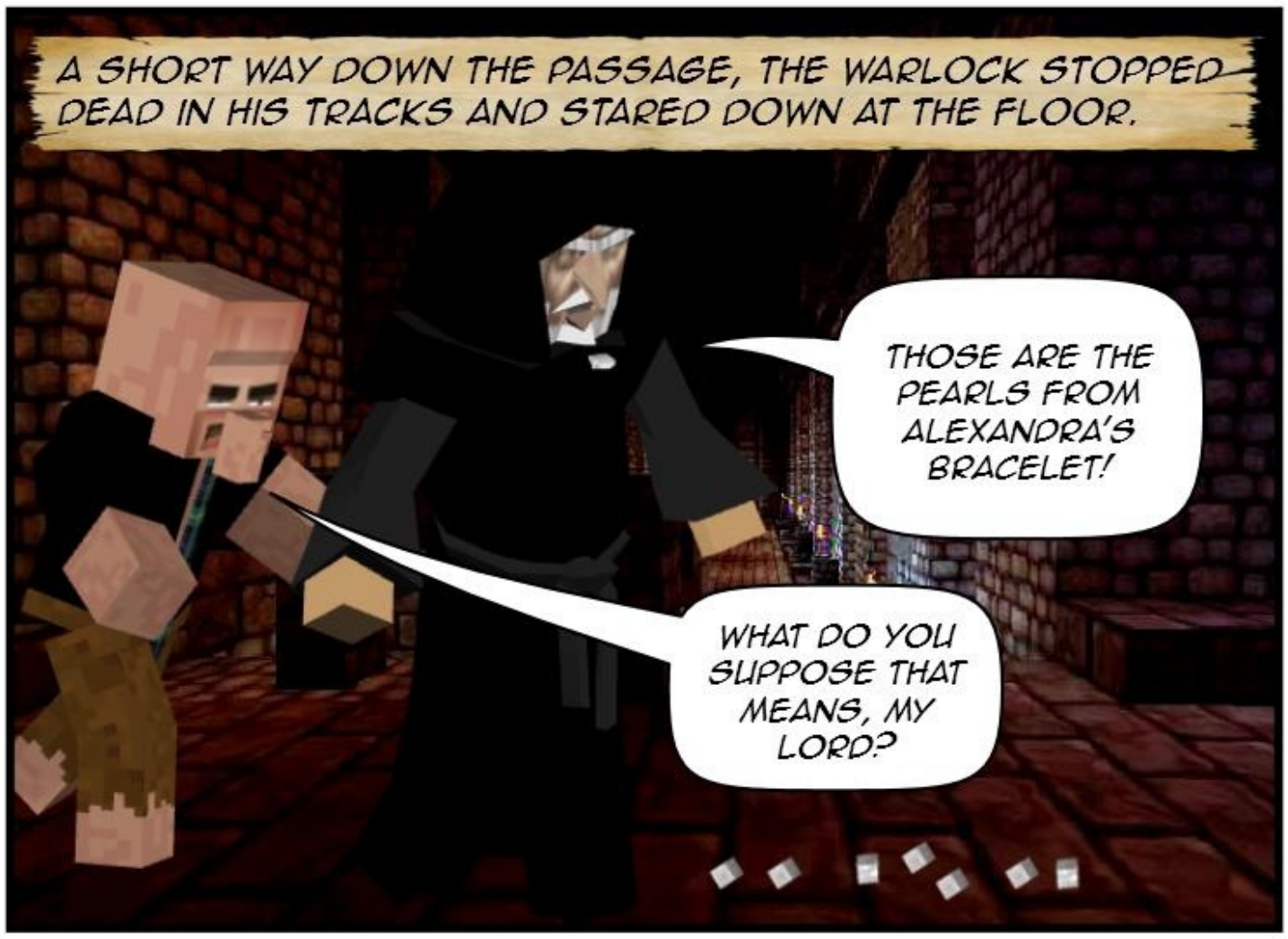
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MY LORD?

QUIET, AMATOR, I'M CONCENTRATING.

AND SUDDENLY THE WARLOCK HAD VISIONS OF FRAGMENTS OF THE RECENT PAST...
HE SAW THE HUNCHBACKED CREATURE LEAP FROM THE PAINTING...

AND SAW IT ATTACK ALEX AND STEVE...
HE ALSO SAW HOW THEY HAD TO RUN
FOR THEIR LIVES FROM THE CREATURE...

ALEXANDRA AND STEVE WERE HERE, AMATOR. THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A HUNCHBACKED CREATURE.
THAT'S THE ONE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, MY LORD.
COME, THEY WENT THIS WAY.


A SHORT WAY DOWN THE PASSAGE, THE WARLOCK STOPPED DEAD IN HIS TRACKS AND STARED DOWN AT THE FLOOR.
THOSE ARE THE PEARLS FROM ALEXANDRA'S BRACELET!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT MEANS, MY LORD?

I DON'T KNOW, AMATOR, PERHAPS HER BRACELET BROKE IN SOME SORT OF SCUFFLE. ONE THING'S FOR SURE, WE'VE DEFINITELY PICKED UP THEIR TRAIL, NOW LET'S FOLLOW IT!

MEANWHILE, THE DEATH EATER VAMPIRES WERE BEGINNING TO RETURN FROM THEIR VILLAGE RAIDS AS THE SKY BEGAN TO LIGHTEN IN THE EAST.
GRRRRRRR!

THE DEATH EATERS BEGAN TO RETURN TO THE TUNNELS BENEATH THE CASTLE, ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR LAIR.
GRRRRR!
GGRRRR!

THEY CLIMBED INTO THEIR COFFINS TO SLEEP DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS.
GRRRRRRR!
WHILE NEARBY, IN A LONG FORGOTTEN DUSTY OLD VAULT, STEVE AND ALEX WERE FACED WITH A HUGE PROBLEM. THE VAMPIRE SLAYER HAD SUDDENLY AND SHOCKINGLY BEEN TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE HIMSELF!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, STEVE? HE'S TURNED INTO A HORRIBLE VAMPIRE!

KILLING HIM IS OUR ONLY OPTION, ALEX.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

WHAT OTHER CHOICE TO WE HAVE? HE'S ONE OF THEM NOW? WE HAVE TO KILL HIM BEFORE HE TURNS THE TWO OF US INTO VAMPIRES!
TNT

THE VAMPIRE HISSED WITH RAGE.
I CAN HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW!
STEVE READIED HIS SWORD.
WE HAVE TO DO THIS! WE HAVE NO CHOICE! YOU'RE ONE OF THEM NOW! YOU GET THAT, DON'T YOU?
TNT
YOU MAY NOT HAVE A CHOICE, BUT I DO!

THE VAMPIRE LUNGED AT STEVE.
AAAHH!
TNT
TNT
TNT
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, ALEX GRABBED A CRATE OF TNT AND...
TNT
OOOOPH!

SLAMMED IT AGAINST THE VAMPIRE'S HEAD...
WHAM!
UGH!
TNT

THE VAMPIRE FELL TO THE FLOOR, KNOCKED OUT COLD.
ZZZ
TNT

NICE WORK, ALEX!
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO... KILL HIM. WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM NOW?
I GUESS WE LOOK FOR SOMETHING TO TIE HIM UP WITH.

BUT LET'S DISARM HIM FIRST. I'LL BE HAPPIER WHEN I KNOW HE HASN'T GOT ANY WEAPONS ON HIM.
TNT
TNT

AFTER DISARMING THE VAMPIRE, STEVE LOOKED AROUND FOR SOMETHING TO TIE HIM UP WITH.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING AROUND HERE WE COULD USE.
TNT
TNT
TNT

I'LL LOOK IN THE OTHER ROOM.

I FOUND SOME ROPE, STEVE!
GREAT, NOW WE CAN TIE HIS ARMS AND LEGS.
TNT
STEVE TIED UP THE VAMPIRE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.

HE'S STILL OUT COLD.
ZZZ
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. HE DIDN'T ASK TO BE TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE.
YEAH, I KNOW. I GUESS WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL.
TNT
TNT
MAYBE, BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED THAT HORRIBLE VAMPIRE TO GET FREE, DID WE?

HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT HAPPENED?
TNT
TNT
TNT
DUNNO. MAYBE HE MANAGED TO FREE HIMSELF, OR MAYBE THAT CREATURE OF HIS FREED HIM. WHO KNOWS?
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. MAIN THING IS HE'LL NEVER HURT ANYONE EVER AGAIN. THAT'S A GOOD THING, RIGHT?
TNT

TNT
TNT
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOW WE FINISH WHAT THE VAMPIRE SLAYER STARTED. WE BLOW UP THAT DEATH EATER CAVE OF COFFINS HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS!
WELL, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO LOOK FOR IT. BUT FIRST, WE NEED TO ARM OURSELVES.

STEVE AND ALEX SLUNG BOWS OVER THEIR SHOULDERS.
NOW WE'RE IN BUSINESS! READY?
READY.
TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT
ZZZ
DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO LEAVE HIM HERE ALONE?

TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT
SURE, HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE. BESIDES, YOU HIT HIM WITH SUCH FORCE I THINK HE'S GONNA BE NAPPING FOR QUITE A WHILE! LET'S GO!
AS STEVE AND ALEX LEFT THE VAULT, THE VAMPIRE OPENED HIS EYES.
NOT GOING ANYWHERE, HUH? IDIOTS! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

STEVE AND ALEX MADE THEIR WAY BACK INTO THE DIRT TUNNELS ONCE MORE.
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHERE WE ARE, OR WHICH WAY WE SHOULD BE GOING.
THEY CAME TO A BRIDGE ONCE MORE, AND THEN...
HANG ON! THE BRIDGE IS VIBRATING! SOMEONE'S COMING! QUICK, WE NEED TO HIDE, ALEX!

THEY JUMPED OFF THE BRIDGE...
JUST IN TIME TO HIDE UNDER IT.
IT'S THE DEATH EATERS!

SUDDENLY, THE DEATH EATERS ABOVE THEM STOPPED AND SNIFFED THE AIR.
SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF
GRRR??
=OH JEEZ, I THINK THEY'RE ONTO US!=
THE DEATH EATERS LOOKED AROUND BUT COULD NOT SEE STEVE AND ALEX, BUT THEY SMELT THEM!
GRRR??
SNIFF
GGRRRR!

BUT SUDDENLY, DISTURBED BY STEVE AND ALEX, A BUNCH OF BATS FLEW OUT FROM UNDER THE BRIDGE.
AAAHH!
MMMMM!
SATISFIED, THE DEATH EATERS MOVED ON THEIR WAY.
GGRRRR!
GGRRRR!

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! MY HEART NEARLY JUMPED OUT OF MY THROAT!

WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY'RE GOING?
THEY MUST BE GOING BACK TO THEIR LAIR TO SLEEP. IT'S PROBABLY GETTING LIGHT OUTSIDE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I GUESS THEY'VE JUST MADE OUR JOB A LITTLE EASIER.
HOW SO?
I GUESS WE JUST FOLLOW THEM AND SEE WHERE THEY'RE GOING. THEY SHOULD LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THEIR LAIR.
ONCE WE KNOW WHERE THAT IS, WE CAN GO BACK AND FETCH THE TNT. LET'S GO!

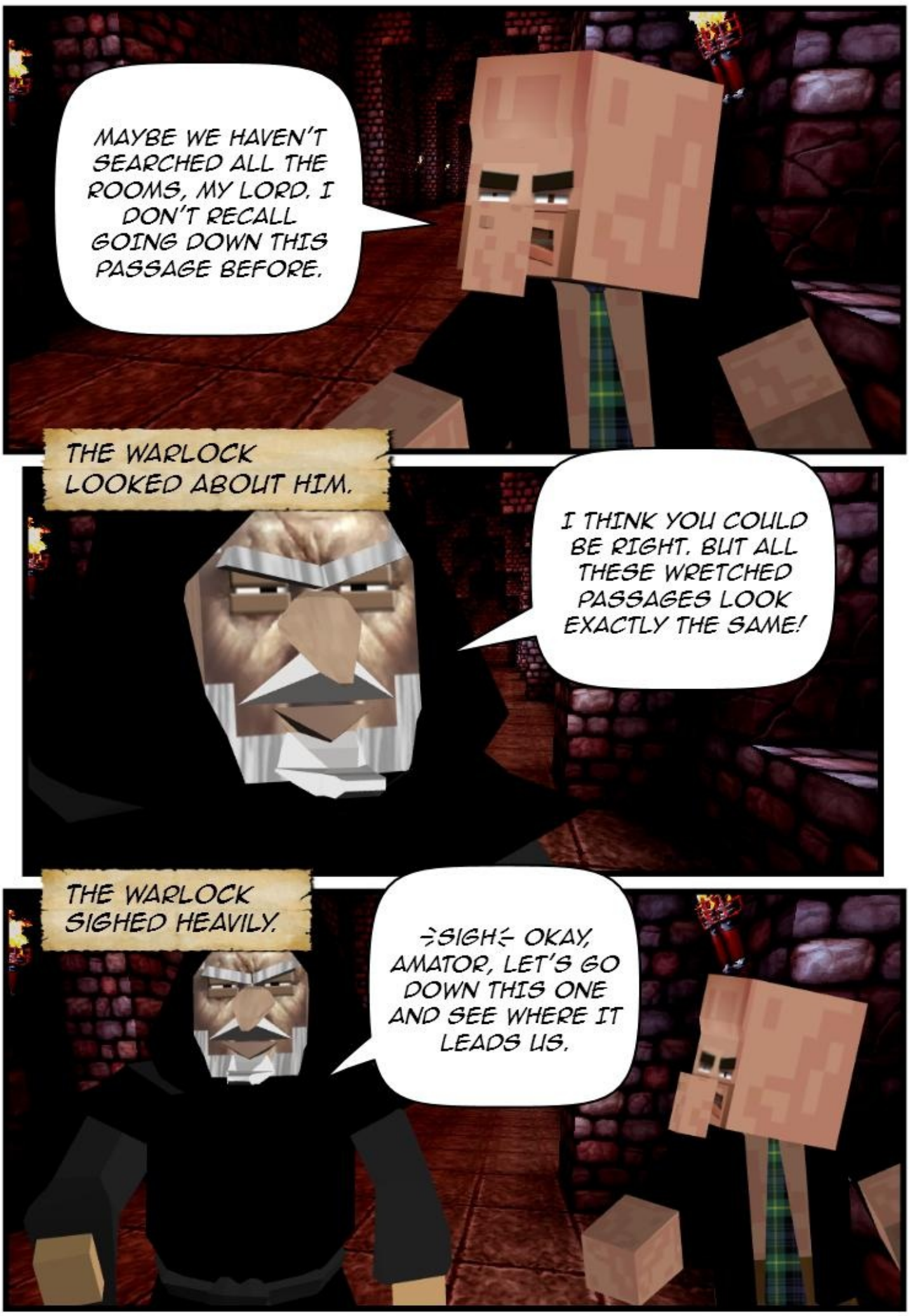
ALEX AND STEVE CAUTIOUSLY FOLLOWED THE DEATH EATERS AT A DISTANCE.
GGRRRR!
AND SURE ENOUGH, THE VAMPIRES LED THEM STRAIGHT TO THEIR LAIR.
GGRRRR!

...AND THEIR COFFINS IN THE CAVE BEYOND.
GGRRRR!

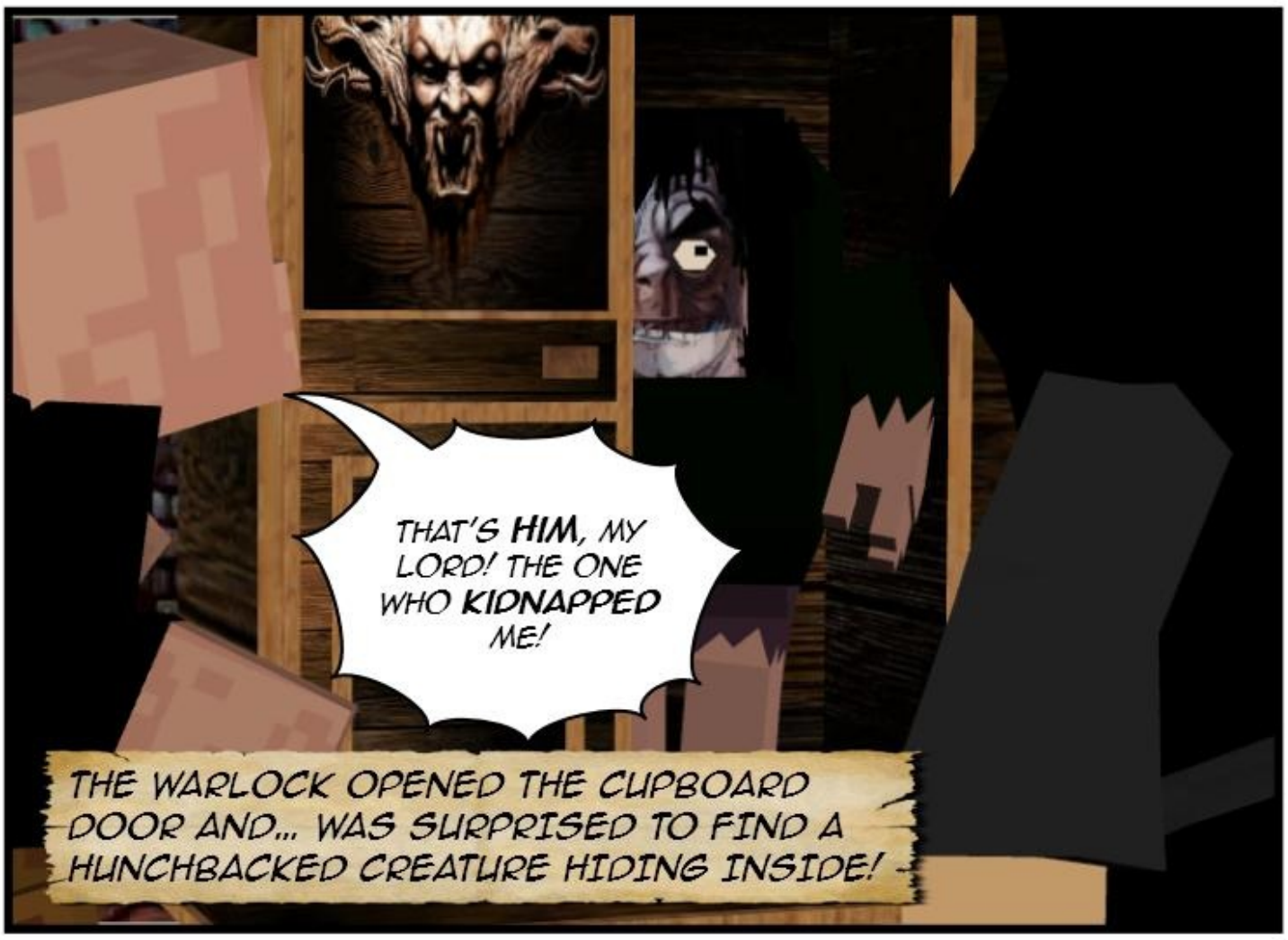
OKAY, NOW WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, LET'S GO BACK TO THE VAULT AND FETCH THE TNT.
HOW MANY CRATES DO YOU THINK WE'LL NEED?
I THINK 4 OR 5 SHOULD DO THE JOB.

BUT WHEN STEVE AND ALEX GOT BACK TO THE VAULT, THEY WERE IN FOR A SHOCK. THE VAMPIRE WAS GONE!
HE'S ESCAPED!
HOW ON EARTH DID HE MANAGE TO FREE HIMSELF?
MORE TO THE POINT, WHERE IS HE?

MEANWHILE, IN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS ABOVE THEM, THE WARLOCK AND AMATOR HAD SEARCHED EVERY PASSAGE AND EVERY ROOM...
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM, AMATOR.
NO SIGN AT ALL, MY LORD.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF ALEXANDRA AND STEVE HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!


MAYBE WE HAVEN'T SEARCHED ALL THE ROOMS, MY LORD. I DON'T RECALL GOING DOWN THIS PASSAGE BEFORE.
THE WARLOCK LOOKED ABOUT HIM.
I THINK YOU COULD BE RIGHT. BUT ALL THESE WRETCHED PASSAGES LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME!
THE WARLOCK SIGHED HEAVILY.
=>SIGH<= OKAY, AMATOR, LET'S GO DOWN THIS ONE AND SEE WHERE IT LEADS US.

THEY FOLLOWED THE PASSAGE AND THEN AMATOR SUDDENLY STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS.
LOOK, MY LORD! IT'S A **DEAD END**, AND THERE'S AN OLD CUPBOARD OVER THERE. WE DEFININTELY HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE.
THEY APPROACHED THE CUPBOARD AND THE WARLOCK STARED AT IT LONG AND HARD.
THIS IS NO ORDINARY CUPBOARD, AMATOR. IT'S BEEN **BEWITCHED!** IT'S SOME KIND OF MAGICAL CUPBOARD.


THAT'S HIM, MY LORD! THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED ME!
THE WARLOCK OPENED THE CUPBOARD DOOR AND... WAS SURPRISED TO FIND A HUNCHBACKED CREATURE HIDING INSIDE!

THE CREATURE COWERED WITH FEAR.
DON'T HURT! DON'T HURT!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT OF THERE SO WE CAN TALK.

NO HURT? MMMMM.
THE HUNCHBACK RELUCTANTLY CAME OUT OF THE CUPBOARD.
NO HURT. NO HURT. ME NOT BAD.

THEN THE WARLOCK SAW ALEX'S WITCH'S HAT ON THE FLOOR OF THE CUPBOARD.
THAT'S ALEX'S HAT! SHE WAS IN THAT CUPBOARD!

A TERRIBLE RAGE BUILT UP INSIDE THE WARLOCK AS HE GLARED AT THE COWERING CREATURE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY DAUGHTER?!

DON'T HURT! MASTER DEAD, DEAD, DEAD!

WHAT'S HE ON ABOUT?

WHAT MASTER? WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? GRISWOLD? GRISWOLD'S NOT DEAD! HE'S VERY MUCH ALIVE!

NO, NO, NOOO! MASTER DEAD! MY MASTER!

WHO'S YOUR MASTER?
OLD MASTER! I LOOK AFTER MASTER.

THE FOOL IS NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, MY LORD. HE'S OBVIOUSLY LOST THE FEW MARBLES HE HAS LEFT!

HE SEEMS DISTRESSED. PERHAPS THERE'S SOME TRUTH IN WHAT HE'S SAYING.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
QUASIMODO.

QUASIMODO? THEY NAMED YOU AFTER THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME?

QUASIMODO.

YOU SAY YOUR MASTER IS DEAD, QUASIMODO?
MASTER DEAD DEAD DEAD!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
BOY AND GIRL KILL MASTER!
THE WARLOCK WAS SUDDENLY ALERT.
BOY AND GIRL? WHAT BOY AND GIRL?

BOY WITH SWORD. HE KILL MASTER DEAD.

WHERE HAVE THE BOY AND GIRL GONE, QUASIMODO?

DOWN THERE.
DOWN WHERE?

TO SECRET PLACE.
WHAT SECRET PLACE?

DOWN THERE.

HOW DO WE GET DOWN THERE, QUASIMODO?

CUPBOARD GO TO SECRET PLACE.
THE WARLOCK STARED HARD AT THE CUPBOARD.
I THINK WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THE CUPBOARD IS SOME SORT OF MAGIC GATEWAY TO A SECRET PART OF THIS CASTLE, AMATOR.
THE SUN IS COMING. QUASIMODO GO NOW.

AND WITH THAT, QUASIMODO SCUTTLED OFF.
WHAT NOW, MY LORD?
LET'S GET INTO THE CUPBOARD AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
THE WARLOCK AND AMATOR GOT INTO THE CUPBOARD AND CLOSED THE DOORS BEHIND THEM.
IT'S DARK IN HERE!
THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF SECRET SWITCH OR PANEL SOMEWHERE.

THE WARLOCK STARTED PRESSING ON THE PANELS AND SUDDENLY THE BACK OF THE CUPBOARD OPENED, REVEALING A TUNNEL BEYOND.
WELL SLAP ME SILLY WITH A WET FISH!
THE WARLOCK DREW HIS WAND.
LET'S GO, AMATOR. I FEAR THAT ALEXANDRA AND STEVE MAY BE IN GRAVE DANGER. IF WE DON'T FIND THEM SOON, IT MAY BE TOO LATE!

MEANWHILE, STEVE AND ALEX HAD SEARCHED THE OLD VAULT BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE YOUNG VAMPIRE.
TNT
LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME LOOKING FOR HIM. LET'S FINISH THE JOB AND BLOW UP THOSE DEATH EATERS!
STEVE AND ALEX CARRIED THE TNT TO THE DEATH EATERS' LAIR...
JEEZ, THESE CRATES ARE HEAVY.
TNT
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

FINALLY, THEY HAD FINISHED LAYING THE TNT AT THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
TNT

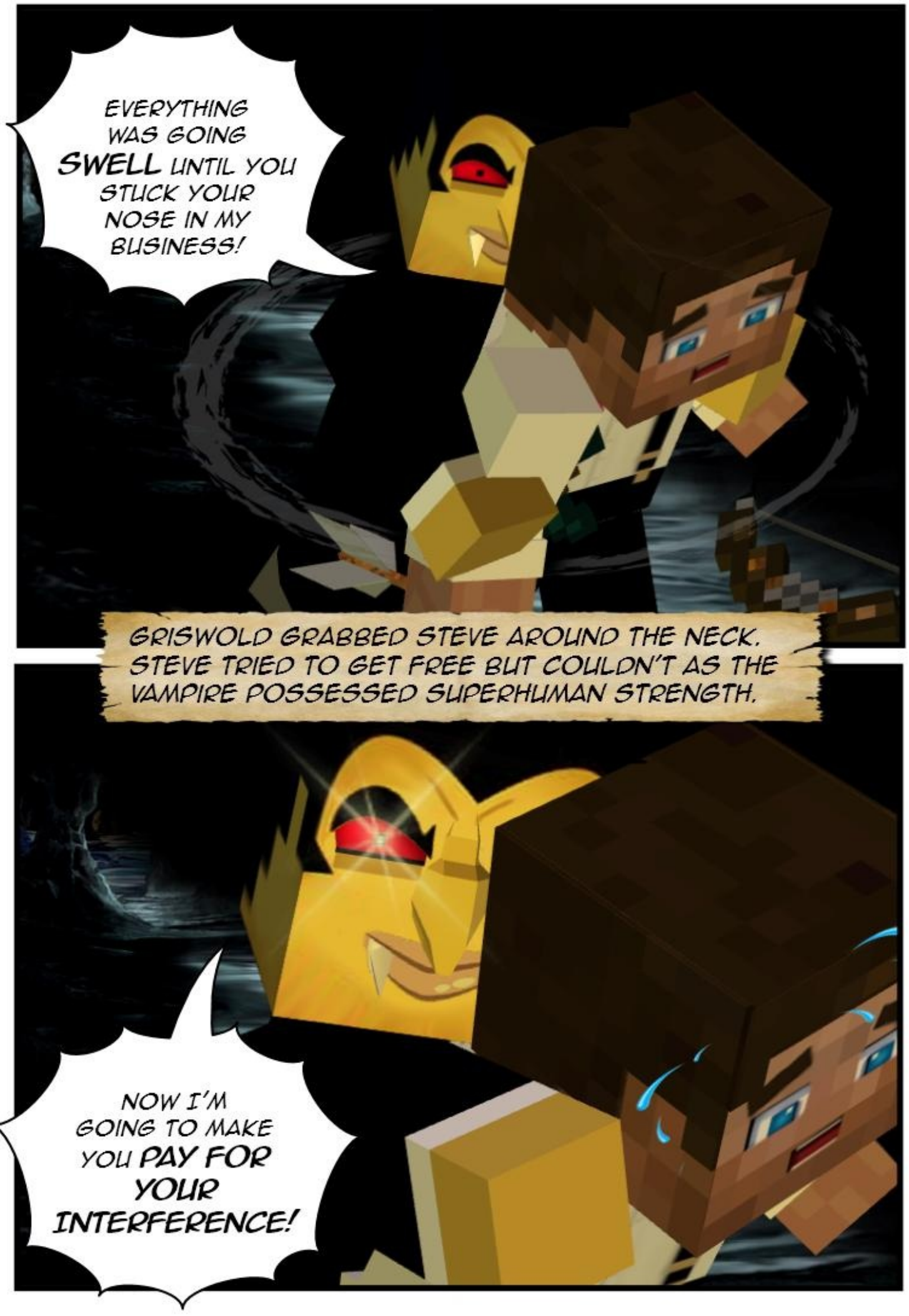
HOW ARE WE GOING TO SET THEM OFF? WE DON'T HAVE A FLINT?
TNT

YEAH, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT EARLIER. THERE'S SOME LAVA NEARBY. I FIGURED WE DIP OUR ARROWS IN LAVA TO SET THEM ALIGHT, THEN SHOOT THE ARROWS AT THE TNT.
WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA! YES, THAT WILL DEFINITELY WORK!
I'M A GENIUS, WHAT CAN I SAY?
OH, STEVE!

THEY WENT TO THE NEAREST LAVA POOL AND DIPPED THE POINTS OF THEIR ARROWS INTO IT.

THEN THEY RUSHED BACK TO THE CAVE.
TNT
WE'VE GOT TO BE QUICK, STEVE, BEFORE THE ARROWS BURN OUT!

ALEX FITTED THE BURNING ARROW TO HER BOW.
I'M READY!
BUT JUST THEN, A CAPED FIGURE FLEW THROUGH THE AIR OUT OF NOWHERE AND GRABBED STEVE...
HUH?
YOU LITTLE RAT!
WHAM!


EVERYTHING WAS GOING SWELL UNTIL YOU STUCK YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS!
GRISWOLD GRABBED STEVE AROUND THE NECK. STEVE TRIED TO GET FREE BUT COULDN'T AS THE VAMPIRE POSSESSED SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.
NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

SUDDENLY, ANOTHER VOICE RANG OUT.
LET HIM GO!
AH, THE FAMOUS VAMPIRE SLAYER HAS JOINED US AT LAST! I WONDERED WHEN YOU WOULD SHOW UP!
LET STEVE GO, GRISWOLD!

AND THEN WHAT? YOU'LL SHOOT AN ARROW THROUGH MY HEART? I DON'T THINK SO!
UGH!
GRISWOLD BACKED UP AGAINST THE TNT AND THEN BEGAN TO SHOUT.
I CALL MY LOYAL DEATH EATERS! RISE UP FROM YOUR COFFINS AND JOIN ME NOW!
TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT

IN THEIR LAIR, THE DEATH EATERS HEARD THEIR MASTER'S COMMAND AND ROSE UP IN THEIR COFFINS...
GRRRRR!
GGRRRR!
THEY STARTED WALKING TOWARD THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE...
GGRRRR!
GGRRRRR!

TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT
SHOOT THE TNT, ALEX! BEFORE THE DEATH EATERS COME!

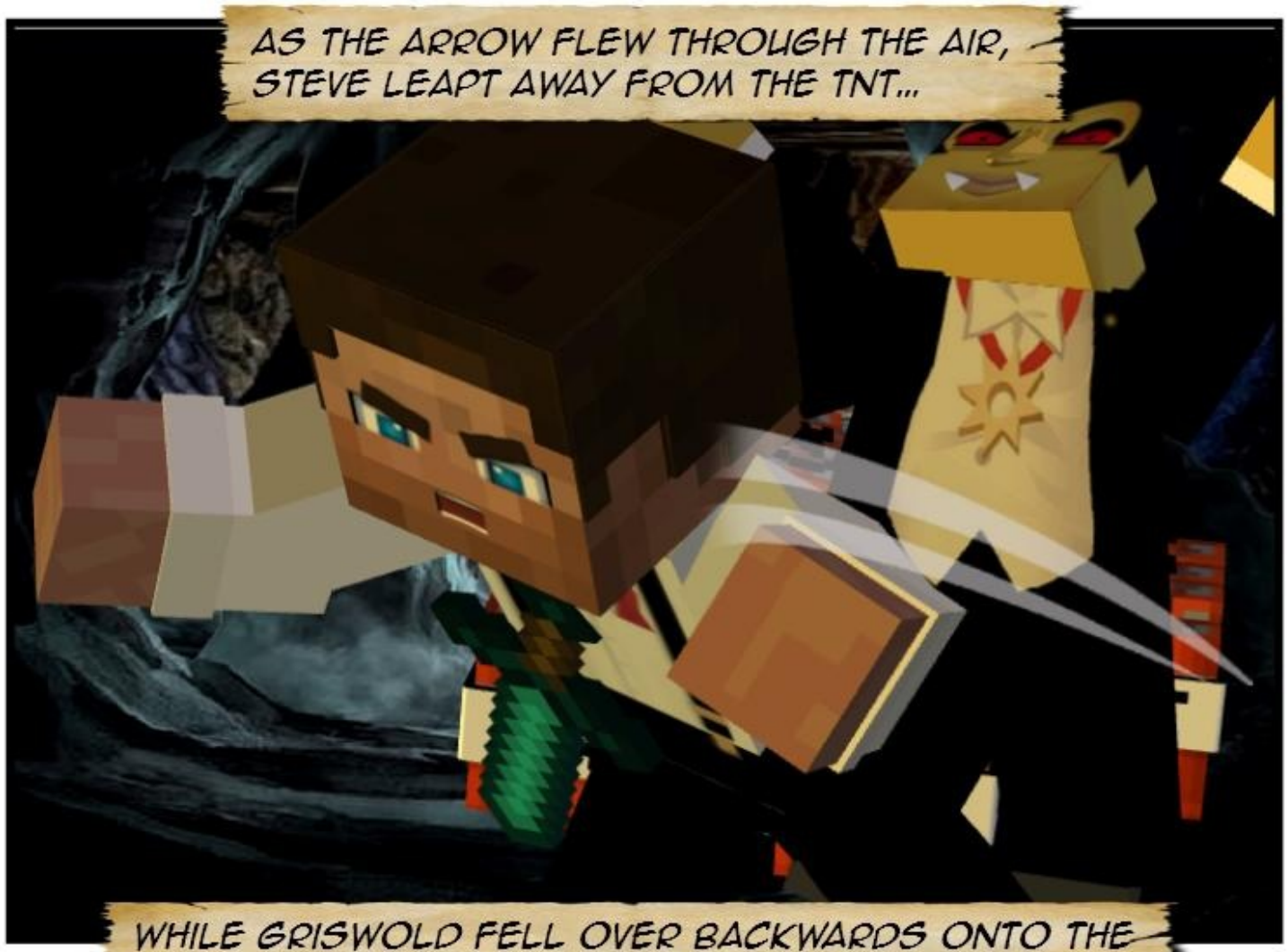
I CAN'T, STEVE! YOU'LL BE BLOWN UP AS WELL!

IF YOU DON'T BLOW UP THE MOUTH OF THIS CAVE NOW, THEY'LL KILL US ALL! SHOOT, ALEX!
TNT
TNT
TNT
TNT
ALEX HESITATED. SHE KNEW THAT STEVE WAS RIGHT, BUT SHE JUST COULDN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

THE DEATH EATERS ARE COMING, ALEX! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! SHOOT! SHOOT!

SHOOT NOW! JUST DO IT!
TNT
TNT

ALEX TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND RELEASED HER BURNING ARROW.
TWANG!
AT THE SAME MOMENT, STEVE BROKE GRISWOLD'S GRIP AND SHOVED HIM AWAY FROM HIM WITH EVERY OUNCE OF HIS STRENGTH.
AAARG!
HUH!?
TNT
TNT


AS THE ARROW FLEW THROUGH THE AIR, STEVE LEAPT AWAY FROM THE TNT...

WHILE GRISWOLD FELL OVER BACKWARDS ONTO THE CRATES OF EXPLOSIVES JUST AS THE ARROW HIT.
UGH!
TNT
THUD!

THE TNT EXPLODED INSTANTLY.
AAARG!
TNT
BOOM!
STEVE WAS HURLED THROUGH THE AIR BY THE EXPLOSION.
WHOOOOSH!

STEVE!
WAAAAAAAA!
STEVE LANDED ON THE GROUND WITH A BONE-JARRING JOLT JUST AS AN AVALANCHE OF ROCKS BEGAN TO CASCADE DOWN FROM THE CEILING OF THE TUNNEL...
OH NO!
OOOOPH!

STEVE MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE TO HIS FEET IN A DAZE AND THEN THEY HEARD A TERRIBLE RUMBLING SOUND AND THE EARTH ALL AROUND THEM BEGAN TO QUAKE...
RUMBLE!
THE WHOLE PLACE IS COLLAPSING! IT SOUNDS AS IF ALL THE TUNNELS ARE CAVING IN!
QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO BE BURIED ALIVE!
RUMBLE!

COME ON, THIS WAY! THIS TUNNEL LEADS TO THE LOCAL VILLAGE GRAVEYARD!
RUMBLE!
THEY RAN AS FAST AS THEY COULD, DODGING BOULDERS AS THE TUNNELS BEGAN TO COLLAPSE ALL AROUND THEM.
COUGH
COUGH
RUMBLE!
THERE'S SO MUCH DUST, I CAN HARDLY SEE WHERE I'M GOING!

IT'S NOT FAR NOW – HURRY! THE WHOLE PLACE IS FALLING DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!
RUMBLE!
FINALLY, THEY MADE IT TO THE GRAVEYARD AND CLIMBED OUT OF ONE OF THE OPEN GRAVES AS THE GROUND BENEATH THEIR FEET SHOOK AND RUMBLED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE MADE IT!
YEAH, THAT WAS CLOSE!

NOW THAT THE DANGER WAS OVER, STEVE THREW THE VAMPIRE SLAYER A SUSPICIOUS LOOK.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? HOW COME YOU'RE... OKAY?
YOU MEAN HOW COME I'M NOT A VAMPIRE?
YEAH, THAT.
I GUESS THAT HUNTING VAMPIRES, I KNEW THERE WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE RISK THAT I WOULD BE ATTACKED AND BITTEN BY ONE OF THEM ONE DAY.

SO I TOOK PRECAUTIONS.
PRECAUTIONS?

SURE. WEAPONS AND TNT WASN'T THE ONLY STUFF I STASHED DOWN IN THAT VAULT. I ALSO KEPT AN ANTIDOTE ON HAND.

WHAT KIND OF ANTIDOTE?
ANTI-VAMPIRE SERUM.

YOU SEE, WHEN A VAMPIRE BITES THEIR VICTIM, THEIR FANGS INJECT A VENOM INTO THE VICTIM'S BLOOD STREAM.

LIKE A SNAKE BITE, YOU MEAN?

YEAH, EXACTLY LIKE THAT. FEW PEOPLE KNOW THIS, IT'S ACTUALLY THEIR VENOM THAT TURNS YOU INTO A VAMPIRE.

THE ANTIDOTE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A WIZARD MANY YEARS AGO. HE SAID THAT IF I WAS EVER BITTEN, I HAD TO USE THE SERUM WITHIN SIXTY MINUTES AND I WOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL WITHIN A COUPLE OF HOURS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE ANTIDOTE BEFORE SIXTY MINUTES?

THEN THE PROCESS IS IRREVERSIBLE. YOU'RE A VAMPIRE FOR KEEPS.
CHARMING.

OKAY, BUT EARLIER YOU TOLD US THAT IF WE WERE BITTEN BY A VAMPIRE NOTHING AND NO ONE COULD SAVE US? YOU **LIED** TO US!

I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE ANTIDOTE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE YOU FALSE HOPE. I'D NEVER TRIED IT BEFORE MYSELF AND WASN'T SURE WHETHER IT WOULD ACTUALLY WORK.
THANKS FOR KNOCKING ME OVER THE HEAD BACK THERE IN THE VAULT, BY THE WAY, ALEX. IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, YOUR FRIEND STEVE HERE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE KILLED ME!

SO HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO ESCAPE? WE TIED YOU UP VERY WELL.
NOT WELL ENOUGH. BESIDES, I'M KINDA USED TO WRIGGLING OUT OF STICKY SITUATIONS.
I CAN SEE THAT!
BY THE WAY, I'M A LITTLE TIRED OF CALLING YOU THE VAMPIRE SLAYER. WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

THE VAMPIRE SLAYER HESITATED, THEN...
IT'S RODERICK.

WELL THAT WASN'T SO HARD, WAS IT? PLEASED TO MEET YOU, RODERICK.
ER... LIKEWISE.

ANYWAY, THE SUN'S COMING UP. TIME I MADE TRACKS. I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU GUYS AROUND SOMETIME. OR MAYBE NOT. WHO KNOWS?

AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, RODERICK WALKED OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LOCAL VILLAGE.
JEEZ, YOU'D THINK A LITTLE THANKS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN ORDER. WE DID DO HIS JOB FOR HIM, AFTER ALL.
HIS JOB?
SURE! WE WIPED OUT A WHOLE ARMY OF DEATH EATERS, PLUS TWO OTHER VAMPIRES. NOT TO MENTION SEALING UP THE WHOLE MAZE OF TUNNELS! THAT'S WORTH A THANK YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?
I GUESS SO.

BUT JUST THINK OF ALL THE LIVES WE SAVED. ISN'T THAT THANK YOU ENOUGH?
YEAH. I GUESS.
STEVE SUDDENLY STIFFENED.
SOMEONE'S COMING!
DEATH EATERS? MAYBE SOME OF THEM ESCAPED!
STEVE PUT HIS HAND ON THE HILT OF HIS SWORD.
GET READY TO DRAW YOUR SWORD, ALEX – THIS MIGHT GET MESSY!

BUT TO THEIR COMPLETE AMAZEMENT, THEY SAW THE WARLOCK CRAWLING OUT OF THE OPEN GRAVE, WITH AMATOR IN TOW.

R.I.P.
DON'T WORRY, FATHER, STEVE AND I ARE USED TO ESCAPING FROM TIGHT SITUATIONS!

I CAN SEE THAT! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THIS EVENING? I WAS WORRIED SICK!

ALEX TOLD THE WARLOCK ABOUT GRISWOLD AND HIS DEATH EATERS AND GRISWOLD'S EVIL PLAN TO TURN THE WHOLE OF THE OVERWORLD INTO A POPULATION OF VAMPIRES. THE WARLOCK LISTENED PATIENTLY, THEN SAID:

R.I.P.

HAVE YOU SEEN GRISWOLD? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? I HOPE HE DIDN'T ESCAPE!

NO FATHER, WE WON'T BE SEEING ANY MORE OF THE EVIL COUNT GRISWOLD. HE WAS BLOWN INTO TINY PIECES AND THEN BURIED UNDER TONS OF ROCK.

GOOD WORK, YOU TWO. I THINK I MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED THE PAIR OF YOU. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF YOURSELVES!

WE SURE ARE!

WELL, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO THE CASTLE AND FIND OUR CARRIAGE AND GO HOME.
GOOD IDEA! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO.
WHAT'S THAT, FATHER?

R.I.P.
I NEED TO FETCH A CERTAIN PAINTING THAT I SAW IN ONE OF THE PASSAGES IN THE CASTLE DUNGEON. I WANT TO TAKE IT BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP WITH ME.

THAT HORRIBLE PAINTING, FATHER? YOU'RE NOT **SERIOUSLY** THINKING OF TAKING IT BACK TO WARLOCK'S KEEP?

THAT I AM. QUASIMODO IS TRAPPED IN THERE AND I THINK I CAN FREE HIM.

QUASIMODO? THAT'S HIS NAME? AS IN THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME?
THE VERY SAME.

BUT WHY FREE HIM? HE ALMOST KILLED ALEX AND I!

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, STEVE. I DON'T THINK QUASIMODO MEANS ANY HARM. I HAVE THE FEELING THAT HE'S BEEN ILL USED BY HIS CRUEL VAMPIRE MASTERS. AND NOW THAT THEY'RE BOTH DEAD, HE'LL BE ALL ALONE IN THAT CASTLE.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE LOCAL VILLAGERS ARE LIKE. WHEN THEY FIND OUT HE'S LIVING UP THERE ON HIS OWN, THEY'LL PROBABLY GO THERE AND TORMENT THE POOR WRETCH.

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT TO TAKE PITY ON HIM, FATHER. I COULDN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR HIM MYSELF.

BUT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME ONE THING.

WHAT'S THAT, MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER?
PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL NEVER TAKE US TO A MONSTER'S BALL EVER AGAIN!
HA! HA!
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT!
HA! HA! I PROMISE!
THE END!

Epilogue:

AND SO, THE DEADLY SCOURGE OF THE EVIL VAMPIRES WAS AT LAST AT AN END IN THE OVERWORLD AND EVERYONE COULD SLEEP PEACEFULLY IN THEIR BEDS AT NIGHT ONCE MORE. EVERYONE WAS SAFE ONCE AGAIN.

OR WERE THEY?

FOR THE GROWLS OF ZOMBIES AND SKELETONS AND ALL MANNER OF OTHER DEADLY AND FRIGHTENING CREATURES COULD BE HEARD DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, WAITING TO POUNCE ON THE UNSUSPECTING AND THE INNOCENT.

WANT TO READ THE WHOLE STORY IN ONE GO WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS?
THEN READ THE COMPLETE BOXSET EDITIONS OF STEVE & ALEX'S MINECRAFT ADVENTURES!
THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCTS AND ARE NOT APPROVED BY, OR ASSOCIATED WITH, MOJANG

IN THIS ADVENTURE, STEVE AND ALEX MAKE AN EPIC JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF A DRAGON TO TRY AND SAVE HER FATHER.
ACTION COMICS
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THREE
PART FOUR
PART FIVE
JOURNEY TO THE FARLANDS
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
JOURNEY TO THE FAR LANDS
BEST SELLER

ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE WITCH AND THE WARLOCK
ALEX WAS ORPHANED AT BIRTH - OR WAS SHE? IN THIS ADVENTURE, SHE IS CONFRONTED WITH A TERRIBLE SECRET AND COMES FACE TO FACE WITH HER PAST.

ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THR
PART FO
TIME TRAVELER
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE TIME TRAVELER
STEVE AND ALEX TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO THE MEDIEVAL AGE OF CASTLES AND KNIGHTS WITH A MYSTERIOUS ARCHER WHO WILL ONE DAY BE FAMOUS IN HISTORY.

ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THREE
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE DRAGONS OF WAR
THE DRAGONS OF WAR
THE DRAGONS OF WAR
THE DRAGONS OF WAR
THEN ENDER DRAGONS ESCAPE THROUGH A PORTAL IN THE END AND WAGE WAR ON THE OVERWORLD. NOW IT'S UP TO STEVE AND ALEX TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM.

ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THR
SED SKULL
SED SKULL
RSED SKULL
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE CURSED SKULL
WHEN STEVE DISCOVERS THE BURIED SKULL OF HEROBRINE, HE FALLS UNDER ITS CURSE. ALEX HAS TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BREAK THE CURSE TO SAVE STEVE.

ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
BOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
THE HALLOWEEN CURSE
THIS IS YOUR TYPICAL HALLOWEEN WITH GHOSTS, GRAVEYARDS, SKELEONS AND WITCHES. BUT WHO'S PUT A CURSE ON HALLOWEEN THIS YEAR, AND WHY?

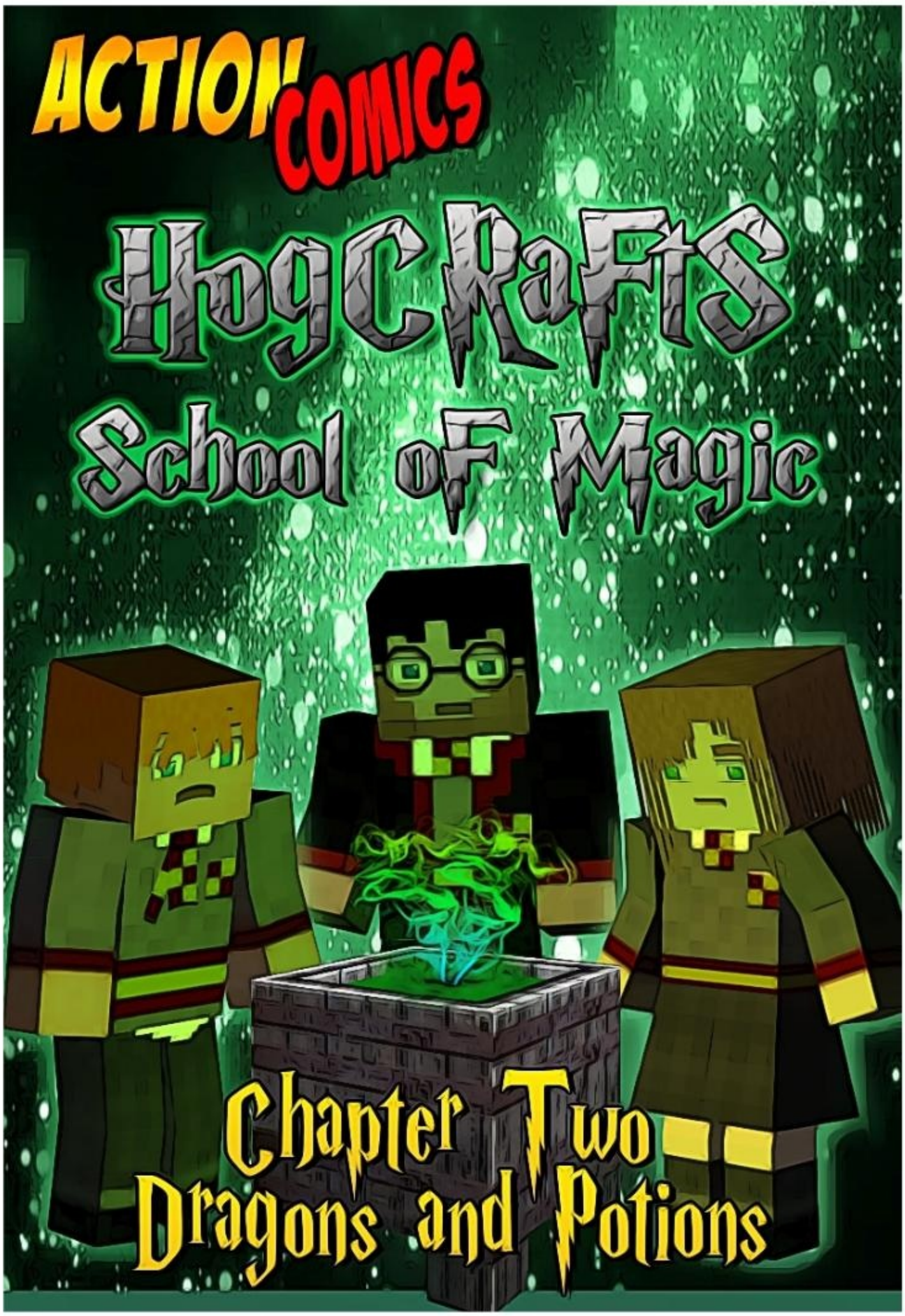
ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THR
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN IS A FIERCE CREATURE CAPABLE OF FREEZING PEOPLE WITH HIS BREATH. HOW WILL STEVE AND ALEX OUTWIT AND ESCAPE FROM THE TERRFYING SNOWMAN?

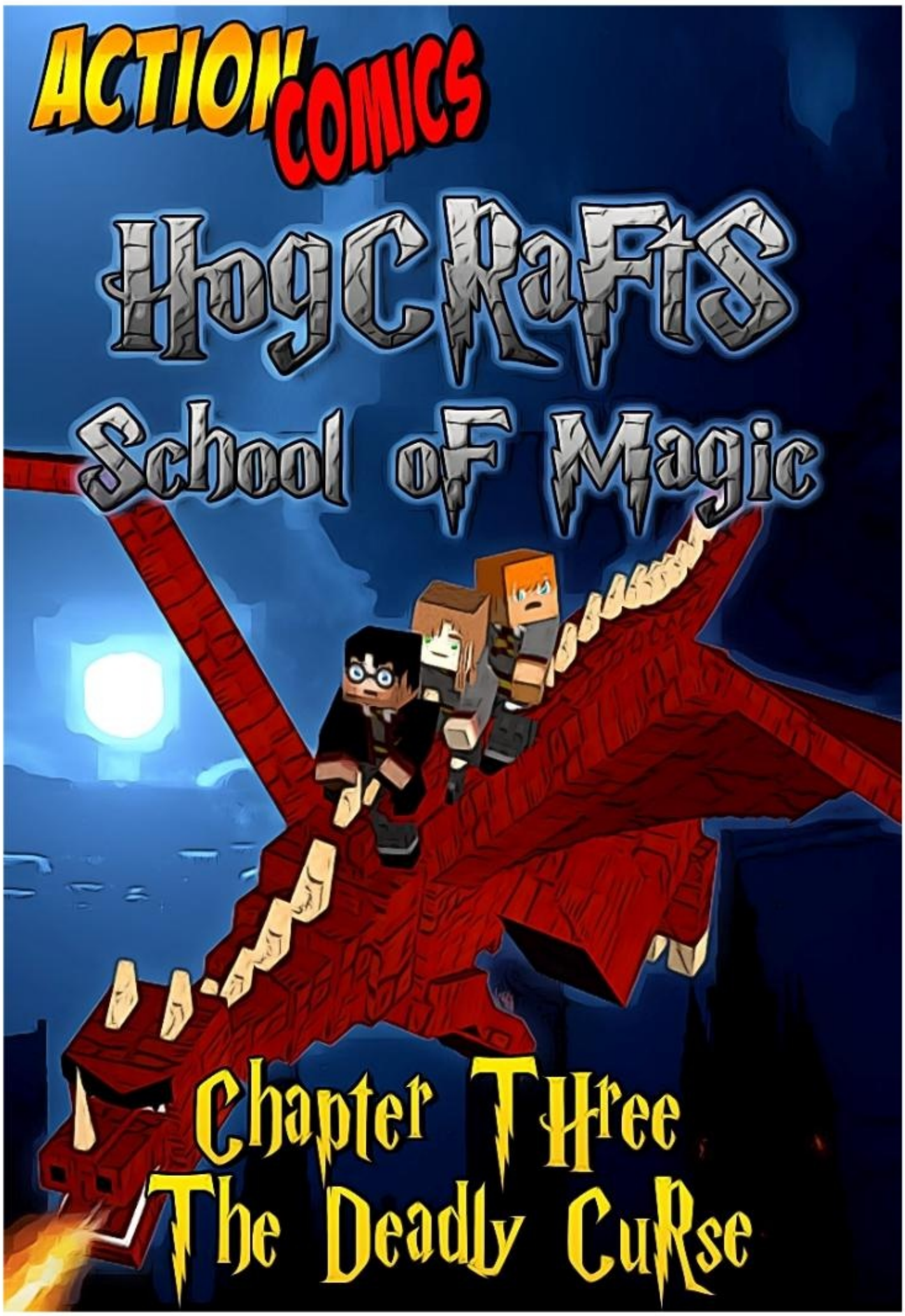
ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE NIGHT MONSTERS
SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY AMISS IN THIS MINECRAFT VILLAGE, AND IT'S PRETTY SCARY WHEN YOUR NEXTDOOR NEIGHBOR IS TURNED INTO A HIDEOUS NIGHT MONSRTER!

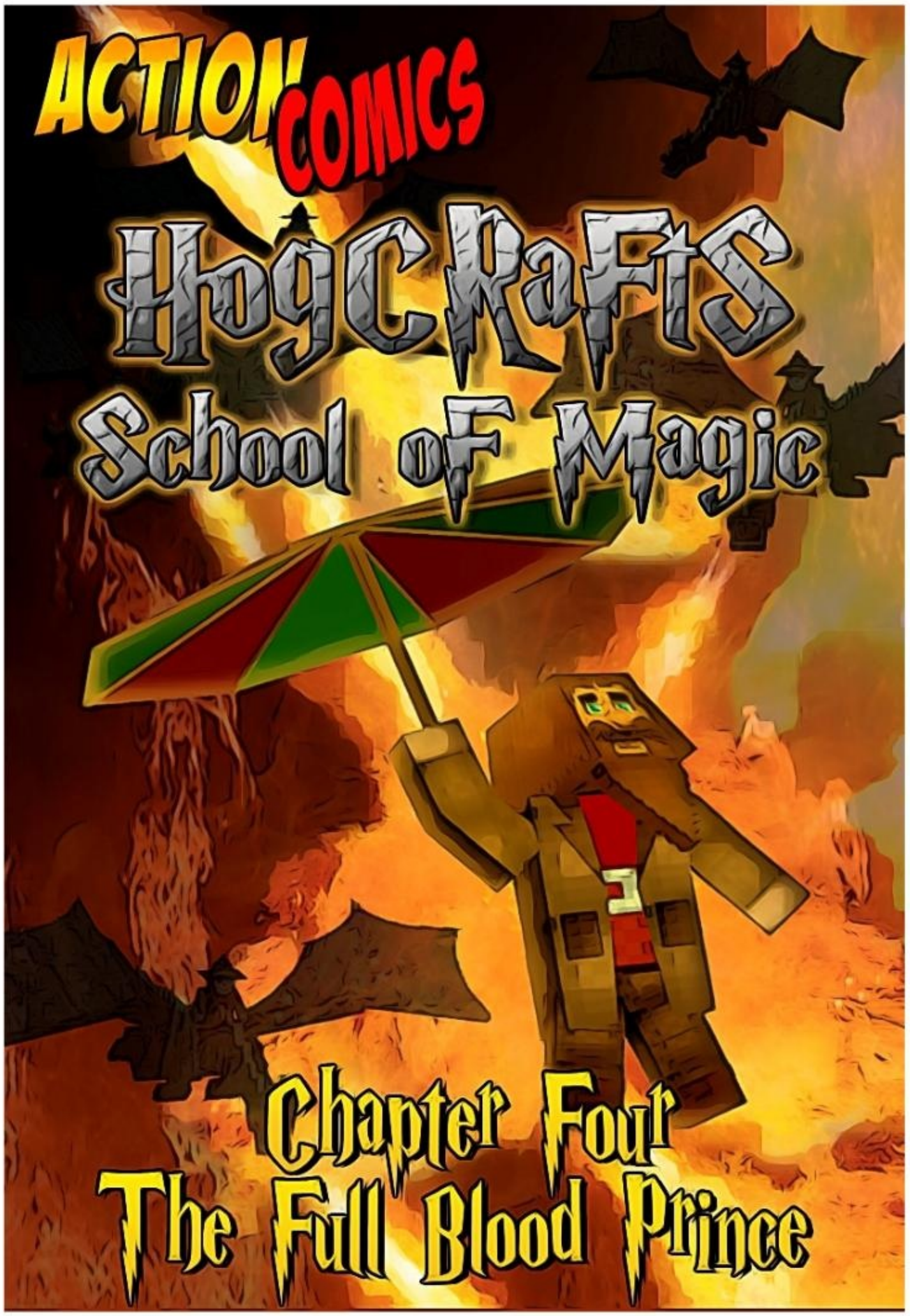
ACTION COMICS
BEST SELLER
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND ALEX
PART ONE
PART TWO
PART THREE
SNOW GOLEM ADVENTURE
SNOW GOLEM ADVENTURE
SNOW GOLEM ADVENTURE
COMPLETE BOXSET EDITION!
THE SNOW GOLEM ADVENTURE
IS THE GIANT SNOW GOLEM FRIEND OR FOE? STEVE AND ALEX WILL SOON FIND OUT AS THEY BATTLE A BUNCH OF ZOMBIES WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER THE SNOW VILLAGE.

MORE MINECRAFT
INSPIRED ADVENTURES
FROM
ACTION COMICS
THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCTS AND
ARE NOT APPROVED BY, OR ASSOCIATED WITH, MOJANG

ACTION COMICS
HogRaFTS
School of Magic
Chapter One
The New Boy


ACTION COMICS
HogCRaFtS
School of Magic
Chapter Two
Dragons and Potions


ACTION COMICS
HogCRaFTS
School oF Magic
Chapter Three
The Deadly CuRse


ACTION COMICS
HogCrafts
School of Magic
Chapter Four
The Full Blood Prince

ACTION COMICS
THE MINECRAFT ADVENTURES OF MARIAL THE MERMAID
THE PIRATES OF ATLANTIS