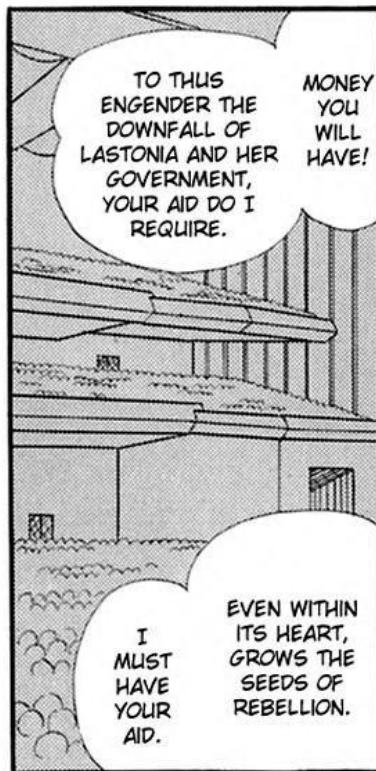


DYN, THE HEAD OF THE RED LILY.

BE AT PEACE. I WILL HELP YOU.

AND THE ROYAL FAMILY. THIEVES, PEASANTS AND NOBLES, DID FLOCK TO YOUR BANNER.

A VAST FORCE DID YOU GATHER, REBELS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LASTONIA...



TO THUS ENGENDER THE DOWNFALL OF LASTONIA AND HER GOVERNMENT, YOUR AID DO I REQUIRE.

MONEY YOU WILL HAVE!

I MUST HAVE YOUR AID.

EVEN WITHIN ITS HEART, GROWS THE SEEDS OF REBELLION.



TO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OUTCOME.

LEND ME YOUR AID.

WHAT POWER DO YOU WISH TO DRAW UPON?

... AND REVIVE THE RED LILY LEAGUE AS BEFORE.

IT IS MY DESIRE TO SEE YOUR COMRADES, SO DISPERSED, GATHERED...



...BRINGING CHAOS AND RUIN TO AN INNOCENT QUEEN...

MANY YEARS PAST WERE I EXILED FROM LASTONIA ...



...

NO MORE 'TIL YOU GIVE YOUR NAME!

YET WHO ARE YOU?!



ANSWER
ME,
DYN!
WILL YOU
PLEDGE TO
OUR
COMMON
PURPOSE?



YOU HAVE
MY WORD.

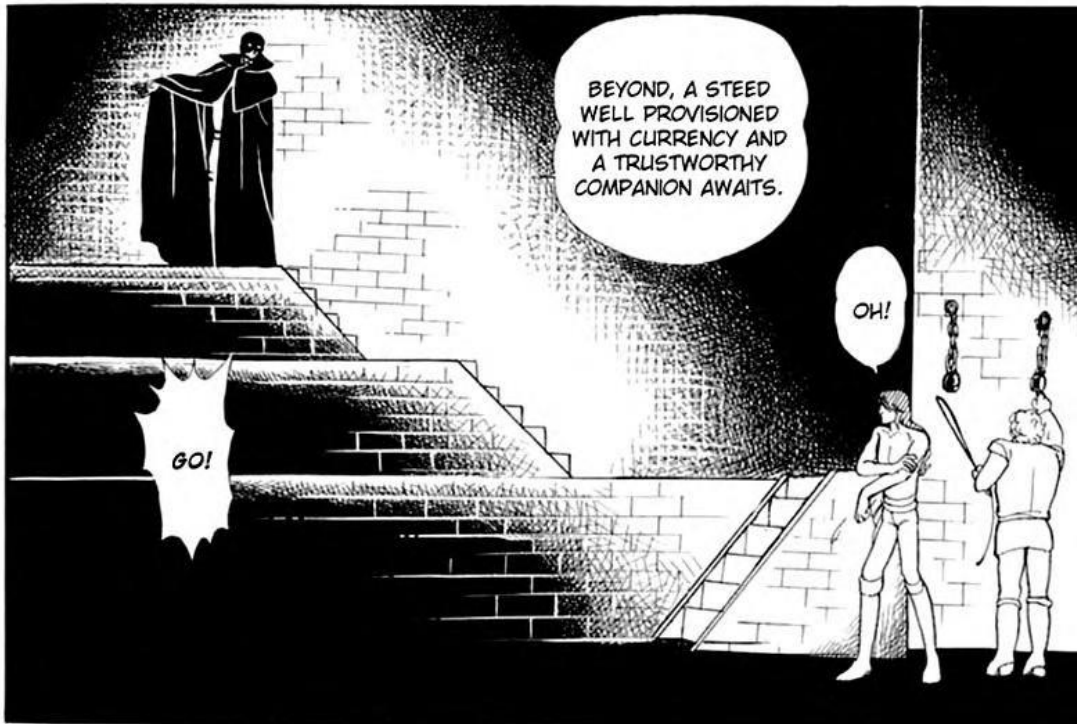
NOW, STRIKE
OFF MY
SHACKLES.



COUNT
AUGUST?!

I HAD HEARD
YOU HAD
VANISHED!
YOU'RE
ALIVE...?!

THE
ORIGINAL
RED LILY
LEADER?!



BEYOND, A STEED
WELL PROVISIONED
WITH CURRENCY AND
A TRUSTWORTHY
COMPANION AWAITS.

OH!

GO!







ALDIS...



YET I AM ASSURED.

IN THIS WORLD THERE IS NO ONE WORTHY...!



A MISPLACED TRUST IS A THREAT...



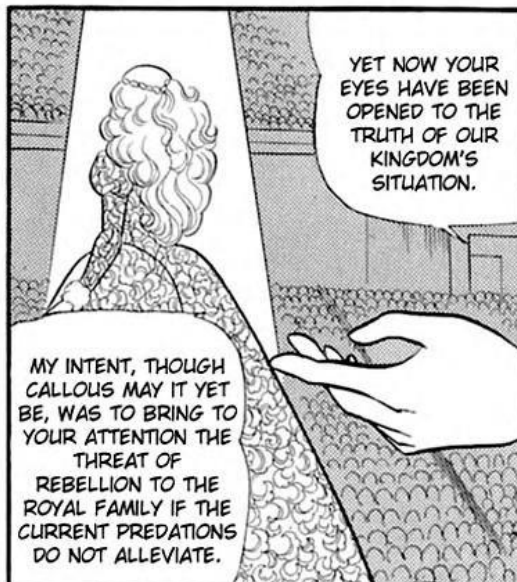
WHY DOES MY MIND, IN MAIDLIN THROES TURN TO HER..

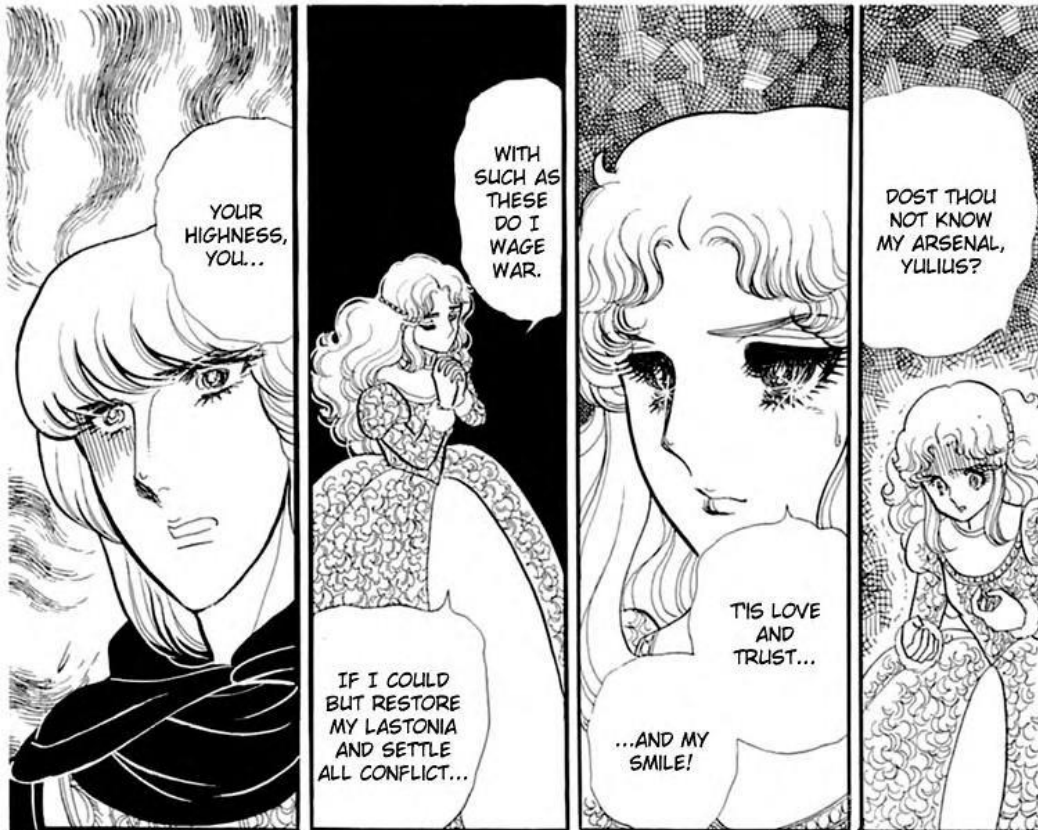
MY SISTER HAS PLEDGED HER TRUST TO ME...

ALDIS...



SILENCE







What is this feeling?

It feels like something warm is pressing my chest...

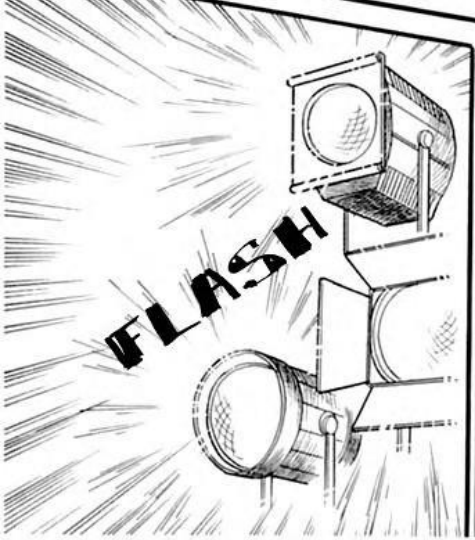


HEY, LOOK...

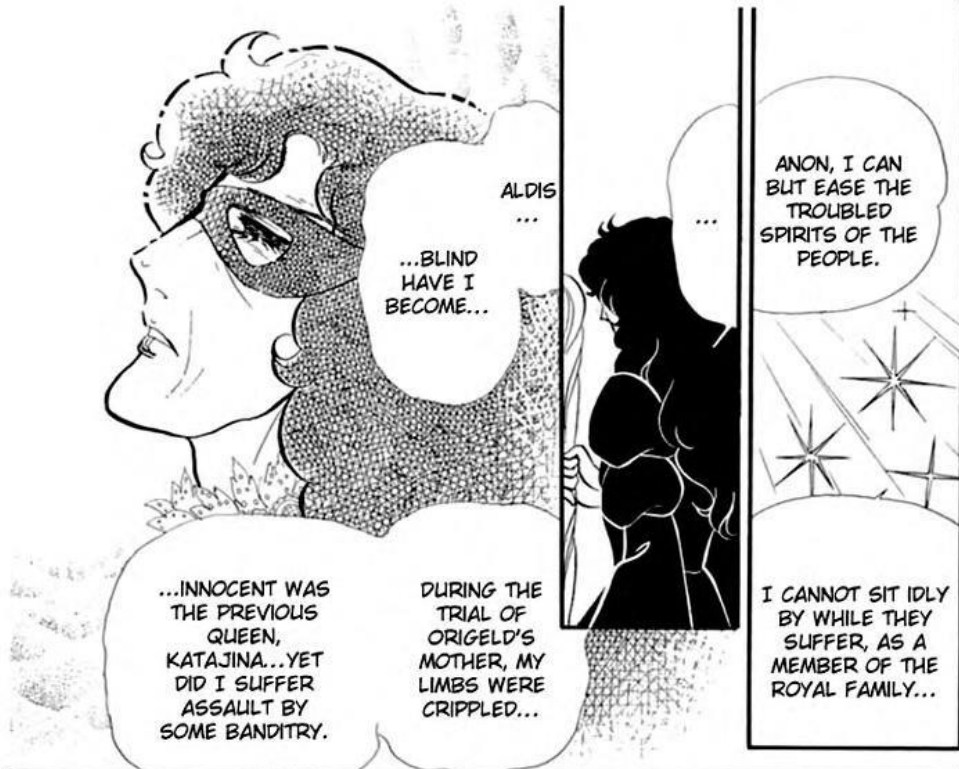


YOU'RE RIGHT...

MAYA'S EXPRESSION LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING...







ALDIS
...
...BLIND
HAVE I
BECOME...

ANON, I CAN
BLT EASE THE
TROUBLED
SPIRITS OF THE
PEOPLE.

...INNOCENT WAS
THE PREVIOUS
QUEEN,
KATAJINA...YET
DID I SUFFER
ASSAULT BY
SOME BANDITRY.

DURING THE
TRIAL OF
ORIGELD'S
MOTHER, MY
LIMBS WERE
CRIPPLED...

I CANNOT SIT IDLY
BY WHILE THEY
SUFFER, AS A
MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL FAMILY...

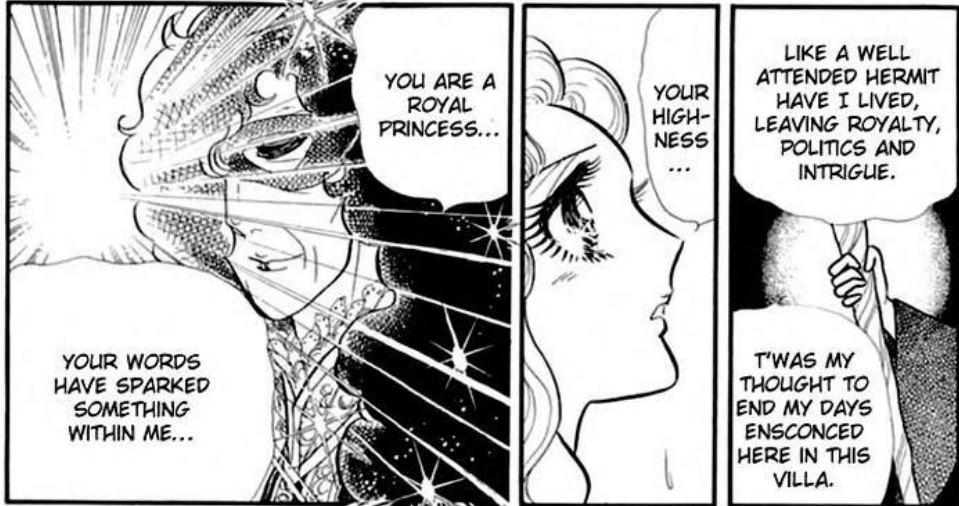


SINCE THAT DAY,
I HAVE RETIRED
TO THIS VILLA,
BEARING
NOTHING BUT
DISGUST FOR THE
ROYAL FAMILY...

IT WAS A
STRUGGLE
FOR
POWER
...

IT WAS THEIR
WISH TO
SILENCE MY
SUPPORT OF
THE QUEEN...

EMPLOYED,
METHINKS BY
THE ENEMIES
OF QUEEN
KATAJINA...



YOU ARE A
ROYAL
PRINCESS...

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS
...

LIKE A WELL
ATTENDED HERMIT
HAVE I LIVED,
LEAVING ROYALTY,
POLITICS AND
INTRIGUE.

YOUR WORDS
HAVE SPARKED
SOMETHING
WITHIN ME...

T'WAS MY
THOUGHT TO
END MY DAYS
ENSCONCED
HERE IN THIS
VILLA.



THE LIGHT OF PERSEPHONE THAT BRINGS HOPE...
...COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE TO LIVE...

THIS WAR CANNOT BE OVERTURNED WITH EASE.

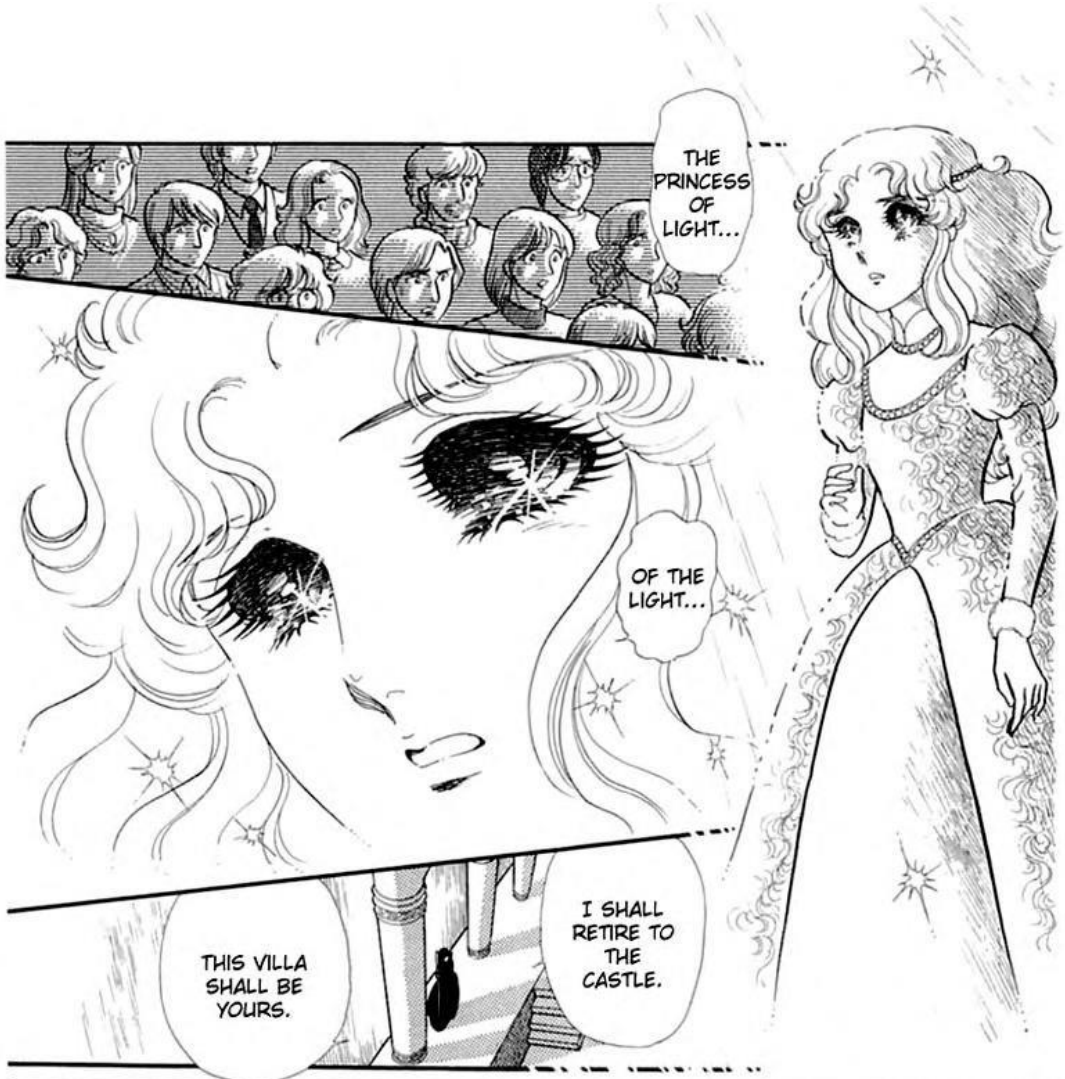
SO TOO MAY YOU BE THE PRINCESS OF LIGHT.

AND YET, ALDIS...

... AS THE LIGHT OF SPRING SNATCHES LIFE FROM THE JAWS OF WINTER...

THE PRINCESS OF LIGHT...

THE LIGHT ...

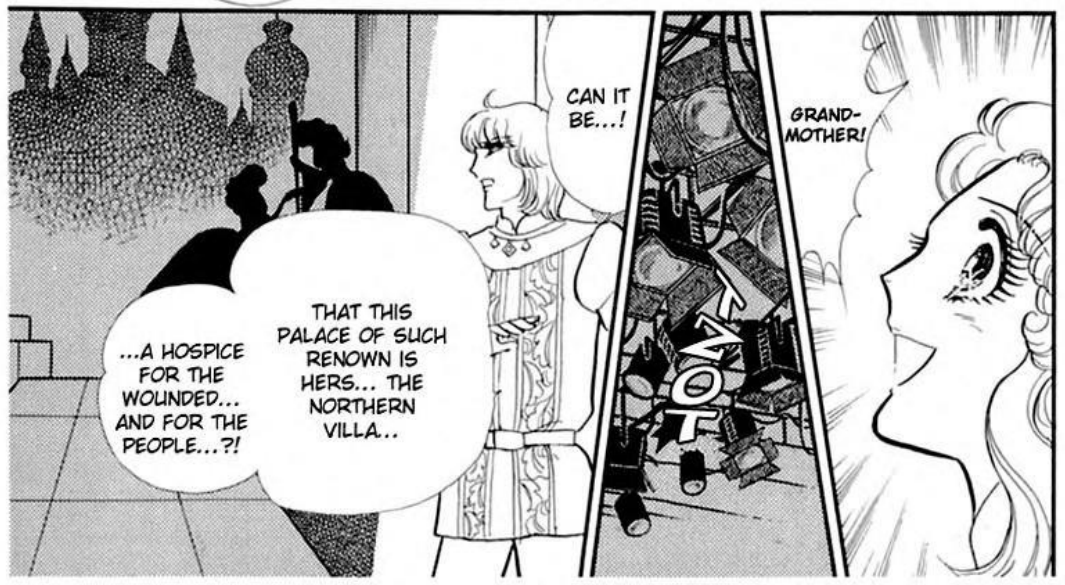


THE PRINCESS OF LIGHT...

OF THE LIGHT...

THIS VILLA SHALL BE YOURS.

I SHALL RETIRE TO THE CASTLE.



...A HOSPICE FOR THE WOUNDED... AND FOR THE PEOPLE...?!
THAT THIS PALACE OF SUCH RENOWN IS HERS... THE NORTHERN VILLA...

CAN IT BE...!

GRAND-MOTHER!



TOTOT

YET PRINCESS! MEDICINES DO REQUIRE RECOMPENSE!

THE COFFERS OF THE STATE TREASURY HAVE BEEN EMPTIED BY LASTONIA'S MILITARY AMBITIONS.



FLASH

YET, FATHER, BUT A FRACTION OF THE STATE INCOME IS SUFFICIENT.

TO TREAT OUR WOUNDED IN THE HOSPICE AT THE NORTHERN VILLA.

... HIS MAJESTY, THE KING, MAKES A LARGESSE FOR THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

... AND BOLSTERED AT THE BEHEST OF THE DOWAGER QUEEN HALDORA...

TO BRING PLEASURE TO HIS CHILD, ALDIS...



HURRIEDLY BOLSTERS THE DONATION...
...THOUGH WITH SOME RELUCTANCE.

THE NOBLES, UPON DISCOVERING THIS AND FEIGN TO AVOID FALLING INTO DISFAVOUR WITH THE KING...



FLASH



OH, THAT MUCH...!

Blah Blah

OUR FAMILY HAS DONATED 5000 RUNIAS...

LIKE HERMES ON THE WING THE NEWS SPREADS...



CAN IT BE TRUE?!

AS ARE THE TOWNSPEOPLE WITH POOR HEALTH!

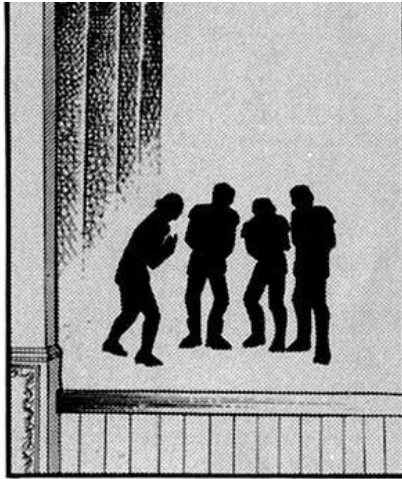
I HEARD THAT THE SOLDIERS DISCHARGED FOR WOUNDS ARE BEING TENDED IN THE NORTHERN VILLA...



EVEN THE NOBLES AND THE KING HAVE OPENED THEIR COFFERS TO THIS CAUSE.

...A HOSPICE FOR THE COMMONERS THE VILLA MAKE.

I HEARD PRINCESS ALDIS IMPOSED UPON THE KING AND THE DOWAGER QUEEN...



YET FOR ALDIS, WE CAN TRUST HER.

CAN IT BE TRUE THAT THE ROYAL FAMILY SHOULD DO SUCH A THING FOR LOWLY FOLK?

COULD THERE BE SOMETHING AMISS?

THEY WILL YET FEEL THE FURY OF THE PEOPLE'S WRATH!

DO THEY TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?

IF THE PURPOSE IS TO SOOTHE ME, DYN, LEADER OF THE RED LILY, GRAVELY MISTAKEN ARE THEY!

CLOMP

EVEN NOW, ON EVERY TONGUE IS THE VETERAN'S HOSPITAL OPENED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY AT THE NORTHERN VILLA.

THEY SAY THE ROYAL FAMILY TRULY CARES FOR EVEN THE MEANEST CHURL...!

THE KINGDOM TURNS THEIR HEARTS BACK TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF LASTONIA?!

WHAT?!



A VETERAN'S HOSPICE IN THE NORTHERN VILLA...

EVEN THE KING AND THE NOBLES HAVE PLEDGED TO HER CAUSE

In Erinwald...

IT WAS NOT WITHIN MY KEN...

TO COUNTE-NANCE THAT ALDIS MAY DO SUCH A THING...

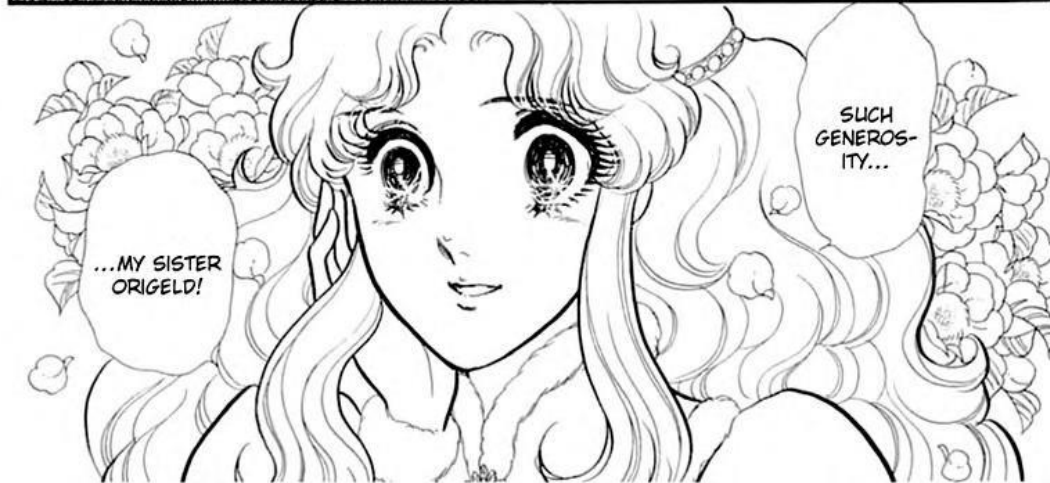
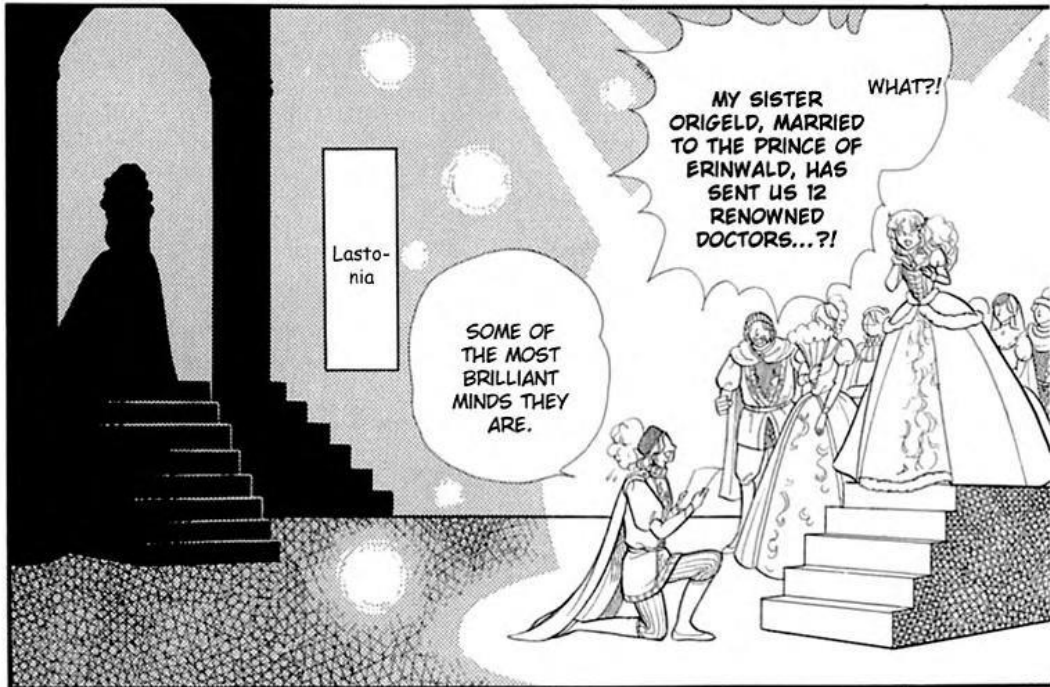
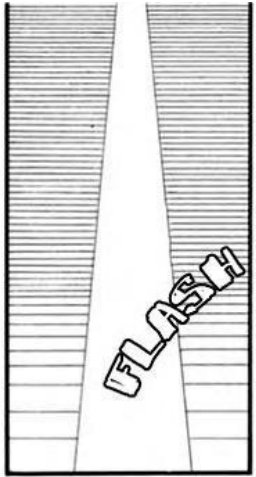


HO HO HO HO HO

AND YET!

THIS TOO CAN BE TO MY ADVANTAGE ...

SHIA





WHAT WIT AND INTELLIGENCE EMPLOYED TO WIN ERINWALD'S KING...

... YET DESPITE HER SITUATION, DOES SHE REMEMBER HER BIRTHPLACE...

HOW PRINCESS ORIGELD MUST SUFFER IN ERINWALD...



ORIGELD, MY DEAR SISTER...

OF ALL THE ROYALTY DOES SHE COMMAND THE MOST FERVENT SUPPORT.

HOW DO YOU FARE IN ERINWALD?



THE DAUGHTER OF THE PREVIOUS QUEEN, ORIGELD, HAS SENT DOCTORS!



AND IN HER SITUATION...



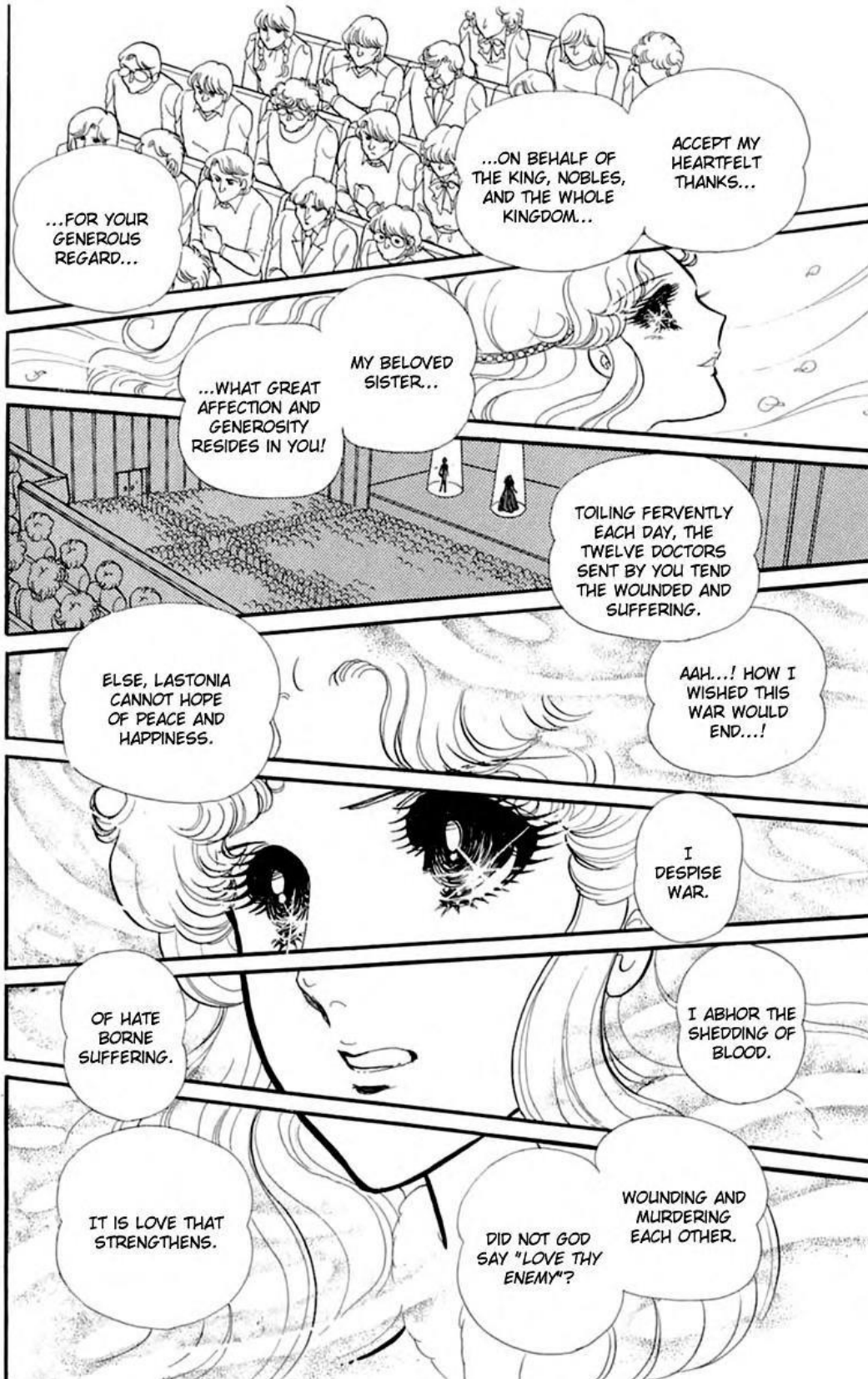
OF COURSE.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

WHAT DEEP AFFECTION MUST LADY ORIGELD HAVE FOR LASTONIA.

LADY ORIGELD IS A TRUE PRINCESS OF LASTONIA ...

...SUCH GENTILITY!



...FOR YOUR GENEROUS REGARD...

...ON BEHALF OF THE KING, NOBLES, AND THE WHOLE KINGDOM...

ACCEPT MY HEARTFELT THANKS...

...WHAT GREAT AFFECTION AND GENEROSITY RESIDES IN YOU!

MY BELOVED SISTER...

TOILING FERVENTLY EACH DAY, THE TWELVE DOCTORS SENT BY YOU TEND THE WOUNDED AND SUFFERING.

ELSE, LASTONIA CANNOT HOPE OF PEACE AND HAPPINESS.

AAH...! HOW I WISHED THIS WAR WOULD END...!

I DESPISE WAR.

OF HATE BORNE SUFFERING.

I ABHOR THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD.

IT IS LOVE THAT STRENGTHENS.

DID NOT GOD SAY "LOVE THY ENEMY"?

WOUNDING AND MURDERING EACH OTHER.



IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I CALL YOU SISTER...

...AND I WISH TO WIN SUCH PRIDE IN RETURN FROM YOU.

... FOR OUR KINGDOM IS OF GREAT COMFORT.

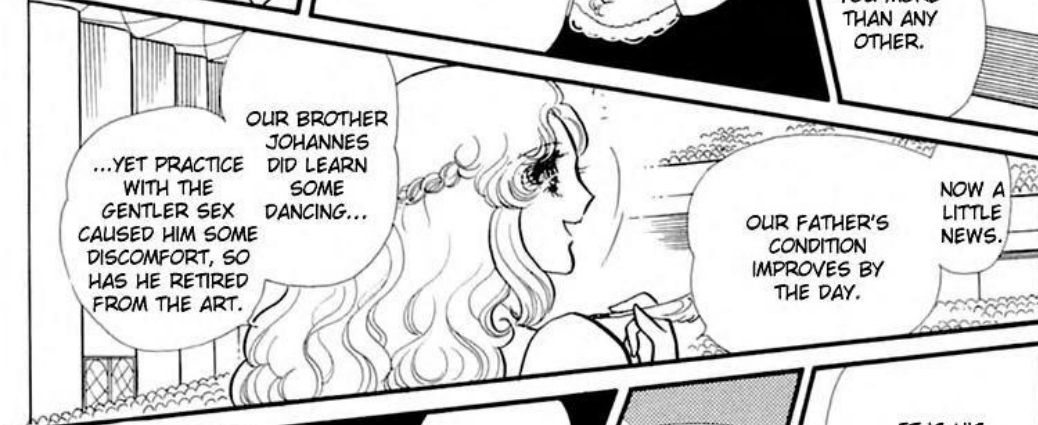
THE THOUGHT OF YOUR AFFECTION...

...REMEMBER THAT I ESTEEM YOU...

DEAR SISTER, WHENEVER YOU THINK OF DISTANT LASTONIA...

BY YOUR EXAMPLE I AM BECOMING A TRUE PRINCESS OF LASTONIA.

...AND LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANY OTHER.

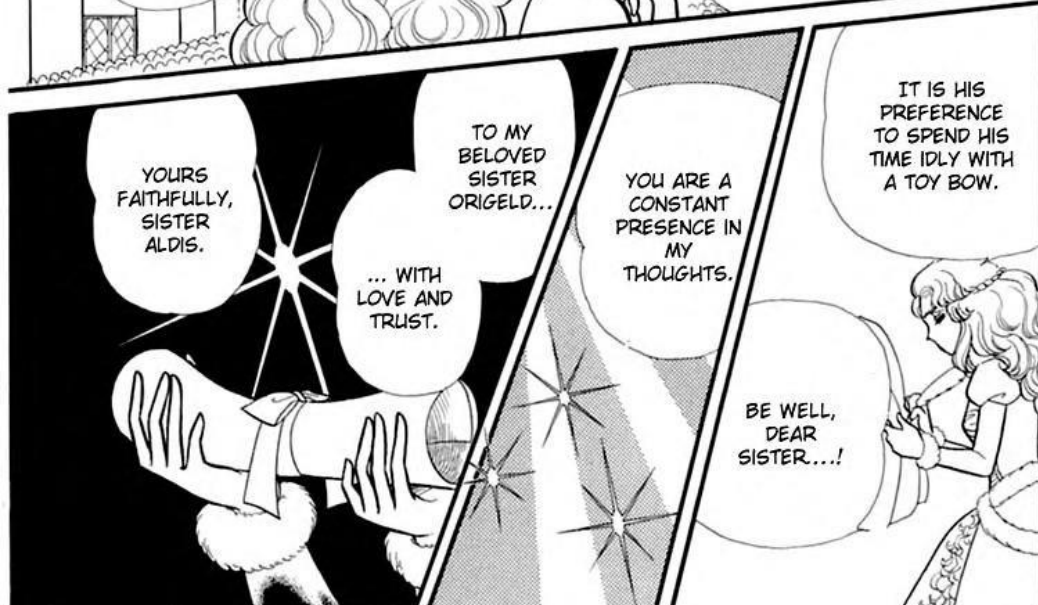


...YET PRACTICE WITH THE GENTLER SEX CAUSED HIM SOME DISCOMFORT, SO HAS HE RETIRED FROM THE ART.

OUR BROTHER JOHANNES DID LEARN SOME DANCING...

OUR FATHER'S CONDITION IMPROVES BY THE DAY.

NOW A LITTLE NEWS.



YOURS FAITHFULLY, SISTER ALDIS.

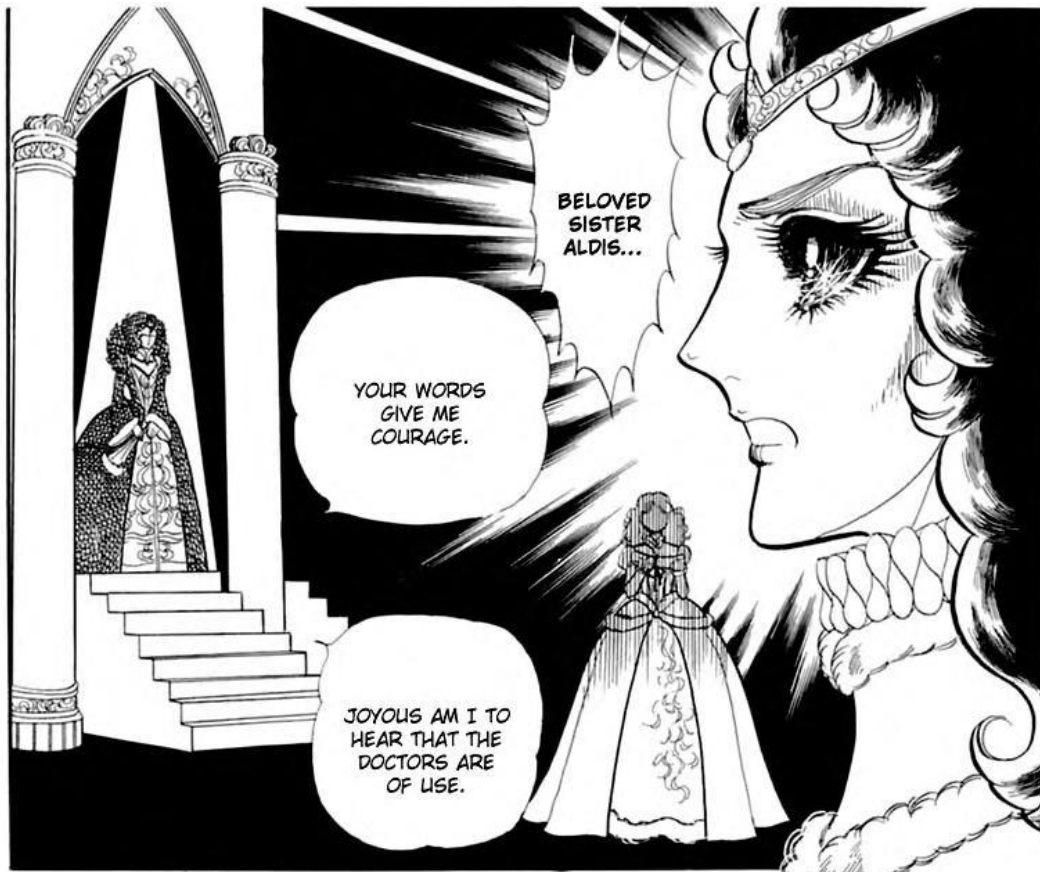
TO MY BELOVED SISTER ORIGELD...

... WITH LOVE AND TRUST.

YOU ARE A CONSTANT PRESENCE IN MY THOUGHTS.

IT IS HIS PREFERENCE TO SPEND HIS TIME IDLY WITH A TOY BOW.

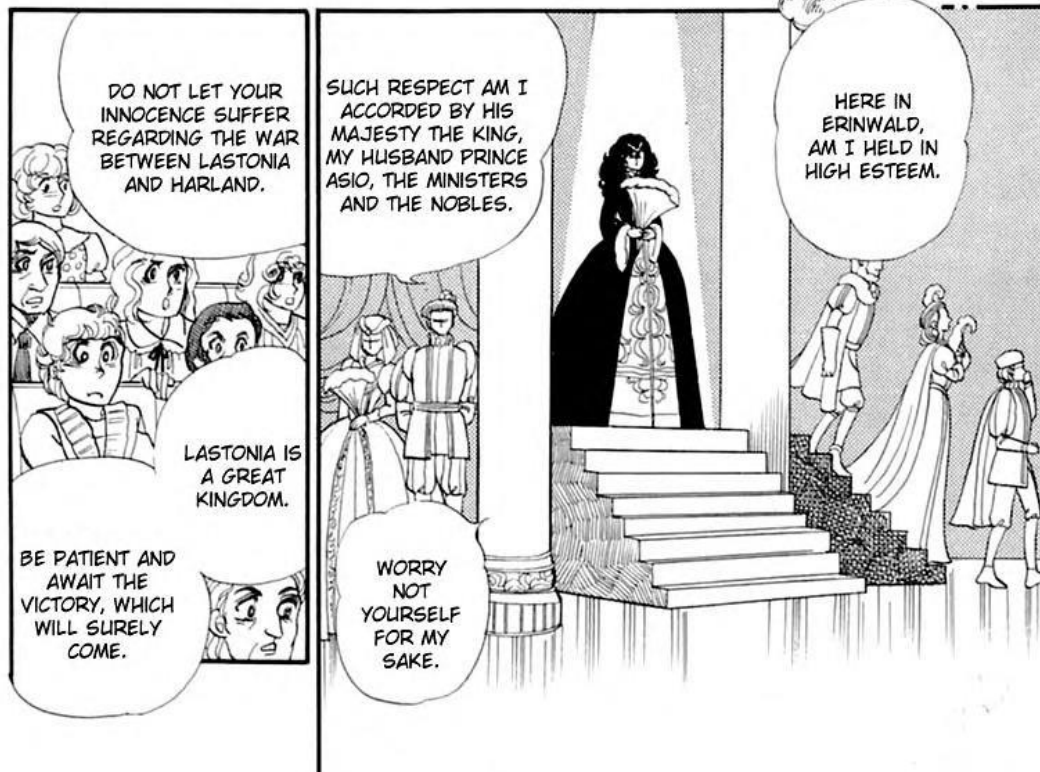
BE WELL, DEAR SISTER...!



BELOVED
SISTER
ALDIS...

YOUR WORDS
GIVE ME
COURAGE.

JOYOUS AM I TO
HEAR THAT THE
DOCTORS ARE
OF USE.



DO NOT LET YOUR
INNOCENCE SUFFER
REGARDING THE WAR
BETWEEN LASTONIA
AND HARLAND.

SUCH RESPECT AM I
ACCORDED BY HIS
MAJESTY THE KING,
MY HUSBAND PRINCE
ASIO, THE MINISTERS
AND THE NOBLES.

HERE IN
ERINWALD,
AM I HELD IN
HIGH ESTEEM.

LASTONIA IS
A GREAT
KINGDOM.

BE PATIENT AND
AWAIT THE
VICTORY, WHICH
WILL SURELY
COME.

WORRY
NOT
YOURSELF
FOR MY
SAKE.



DO NOT LET YOUR ANGELIC SMILE BE HIDDEN, MY DEAR SISTER ALDIS.

... YET THE HISTORIES ARE FILLED WITH SUCH SORROW; MAYHAP IT IS A TRIAL OF THE DIVINE.

WAR AND THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD ARE TERRIBLE THINGS INDEED...

... WILL BE OF A CERTAIN, A VICTORY FOR LASTONIA.

THE WAR...

FROM ORIGELD, AND THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.

BE WELL, MY BEAUTEOUS SISTER.

THOUGH WE HAVE ONLY HAD THE ONE ENCOUNTER, BLESSED SISTER, LOVER OF...

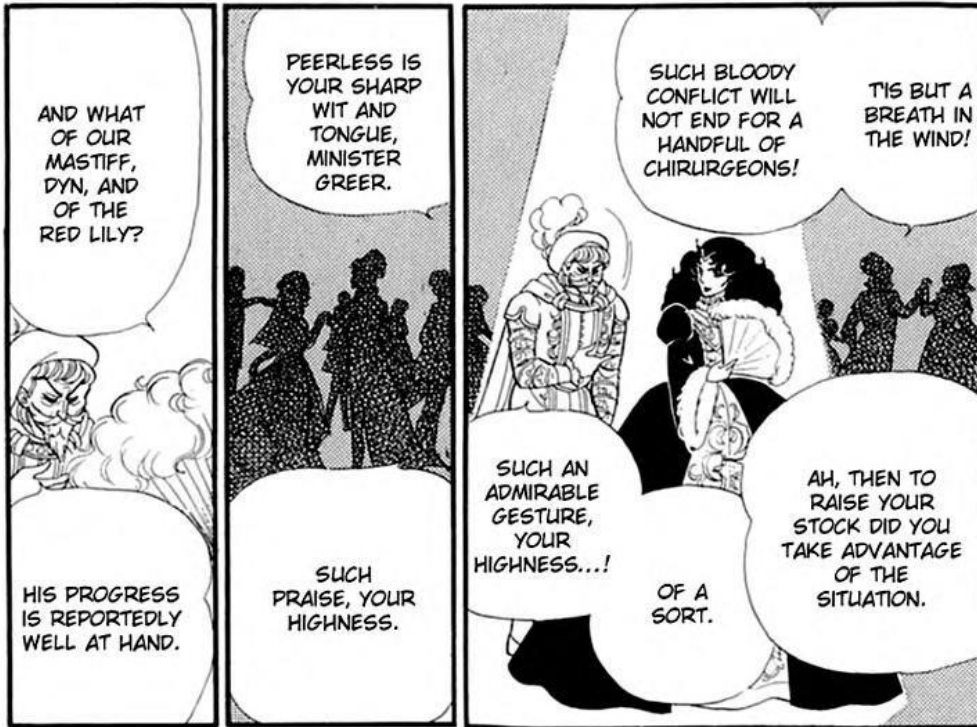
FLOWERS, SONG AND DANCE...

TO MY DELIGHTFUL SISTER ALDIS.

... A MERRY PRINCESS IN MY REMINISCES.

HE





AND WHAT OF OUR MASTIFF, DYN, AND OF THE RED LILY?

HIS PROGRESS IS REPORTEDLY WELL AT HAND.

PEERLESS IS YOUR SHARP WIT AND TONGUE, MINISTER GREER.

SUCH PRAISE, YOUR HIGHNESS.

SUCH BLOODY CONFLICT WILL NOT END FOR A HANDFUL OF CHIRURGEONS!

T'IS BUT A BREATH IN THE WIND!

SUCH AN ADMIRABLE GESTURE, YOUR HIGHNESS...!

OF A SORT.

AH, THEN TO RAISE YOUR STOCK DID YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.



THEY STRIP THE NOBILITY OF WEALTH AND DISTRIBUTE THEIR GAINS AMONGST THE SERFS.

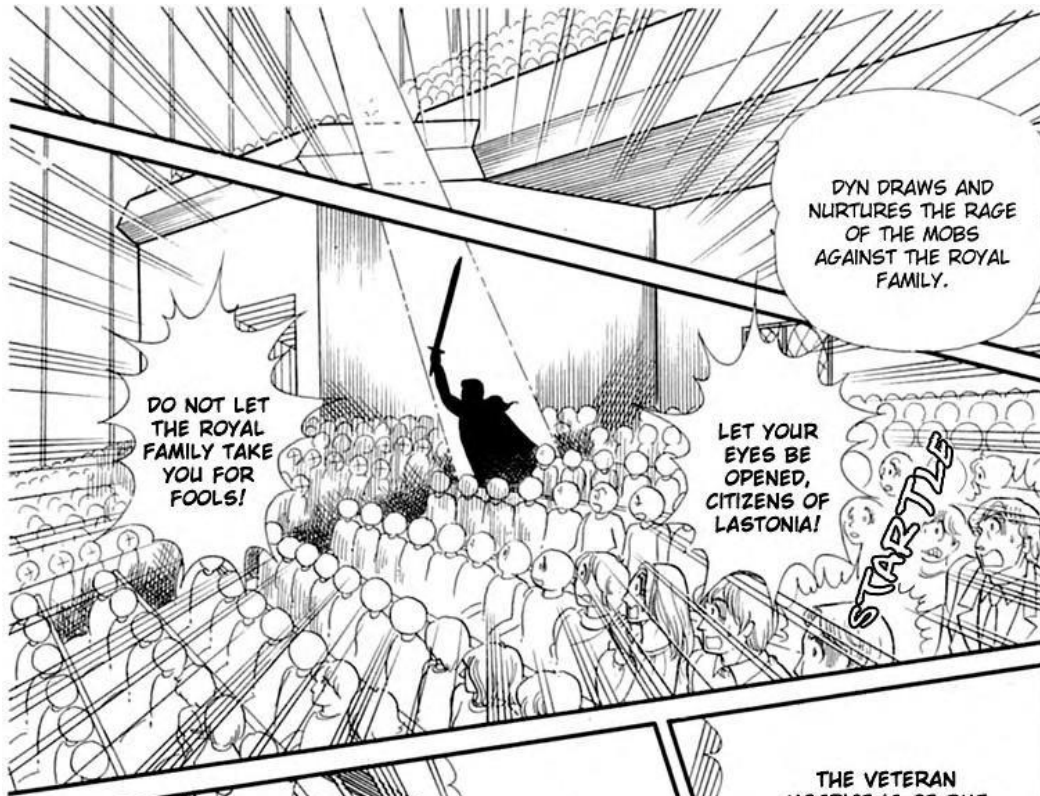
WITH AGGRESSION AND MALICE HAS HE GATHERED A FORCE, VISITING WITH SHARP STEEL ONE FIFE AFTER ANOTHER.



...MOST NOTABLY, DISSATISFIED NOBLES AND RICH MERCHANTS HAVE BEGUN TO ENJOIN THEIR CAUSE.

NOT A ONE HAS BEEN TAKEN...

ALTHOUGH THE MEN-AT-ARMS ARE CLOSE SET, STILL THE POPULACE GRANTS THEM SANCTUARY.



DYN DRAWS AND NURTURES THE RAGE OF THE MOBS AGAINST THE ROYAL FAMILY.

DO NOT LET THE ROYAL FAMILY TAKE YOU FOR FOOLS!

LET YOUR EYES BE OPENED, CITIZENS OF LASTONIA!

WARRIORS



ONLY SUFFERING...

...CAN'T YOU DENY IT?

ANSWER ME THIS! HAS THE KING TRULY BROUGHT US OUGHT?

THE VETERAN HOSPICE IS OF BUT A MOMENT, A TENDER BAIT TO LULL YOU INTO THEIR VISE!

FOR VANITY HE WENT TO WAR; FOR VANITY, HE SQUANDERED THE STATE'S TREASURY, BROUGHT US PAIN. FOR WHAT? VANITY!

WE SHALL ENDURE IT NO LONGER!

