

CROSSED
HEARTS
PRESENTS



The Devil in Me

THE DEVIL IN ME I

Presented by Crosswise

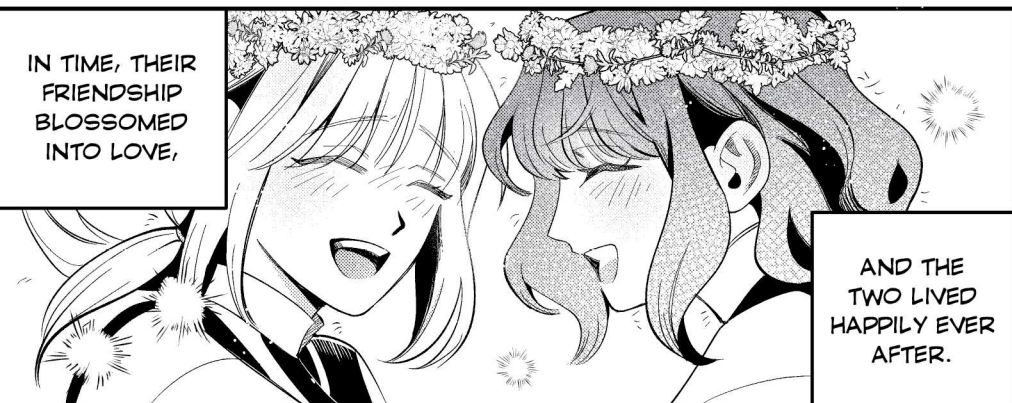
ONCE
UPON A
TIME,

THERE LIVED A
PRINCESS WHO
BEFRIENDED
A DEVIL.



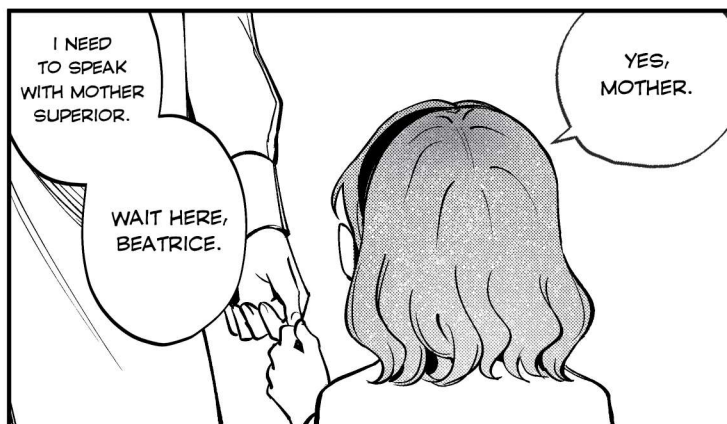
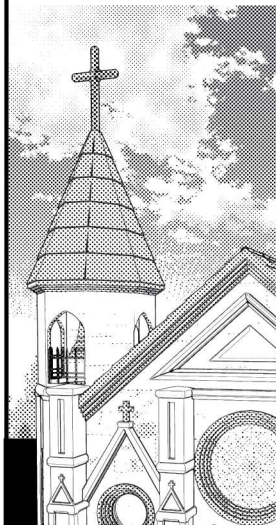
IN TIME, THEIR
FRIENDSHIP
BLOSSOMED
INTO LOVE,

AND THE
TWO LIVED
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER.



THIS
FAMILIAR OLD
TALE BEGAN IN A
MONASTERY FAR,
FAR AWAY...





I NEED
TO SPEAK
WITH MOTHER
SUPERIOR.

WAIT HERE,
BEATRICE.

YES,
MOTHER.



OH,

AND DO
KEEP AWAY FROM
THE CONVENT
CHILDREN,
DEAR.

AWW

BUT
EVERYONE'S
HAVING SO
MUCH FUN!

I WANT TO
PLAY WITH
THEM TOO.

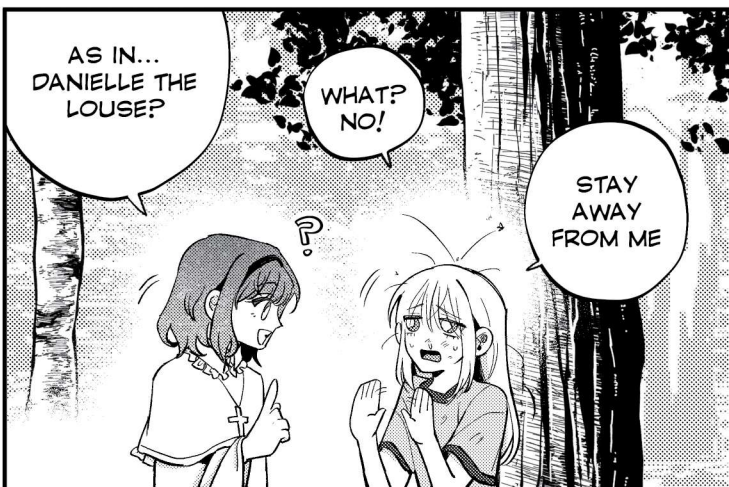
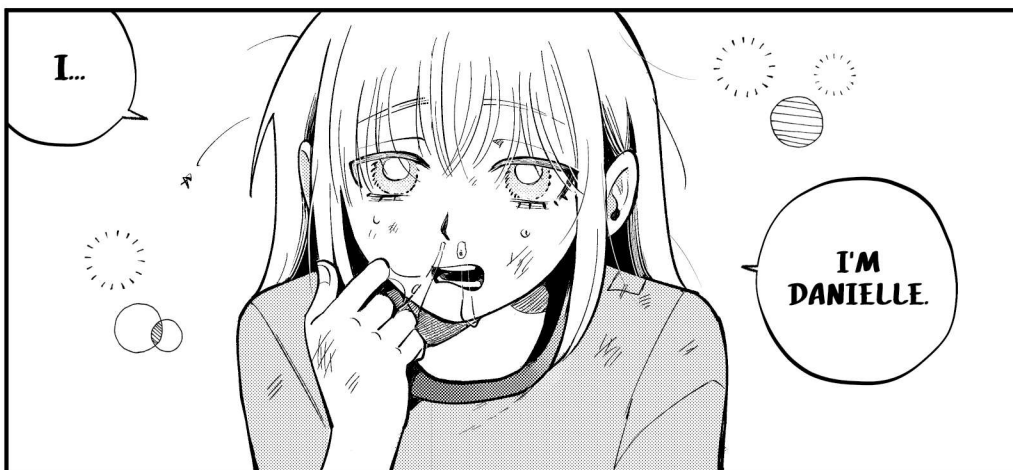
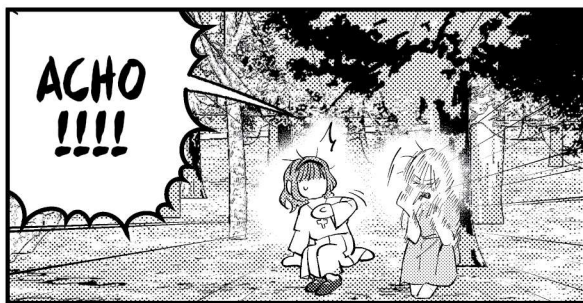


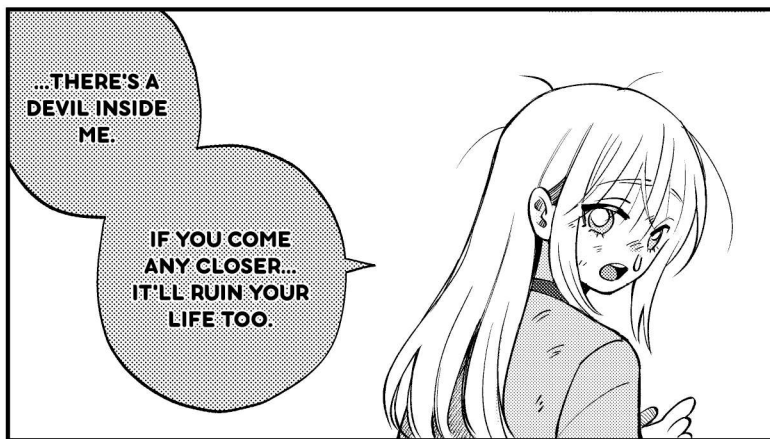
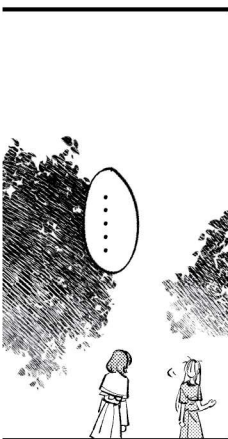
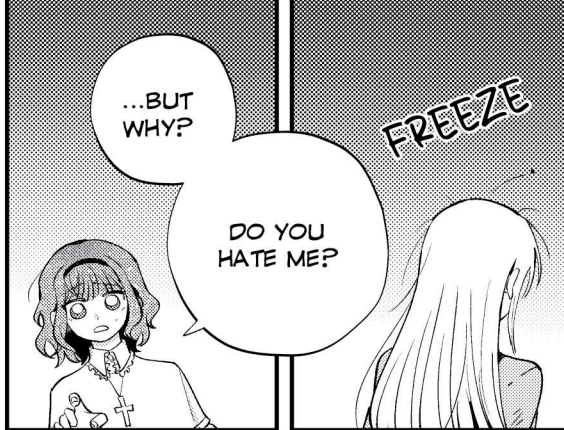
NO
MEANS
NO.

UNLIKE YOU,
SOME OF THEM
HAVE YET TO
BE BAPTISED.

THEY'RE
CRAWLING
WITH LICE.



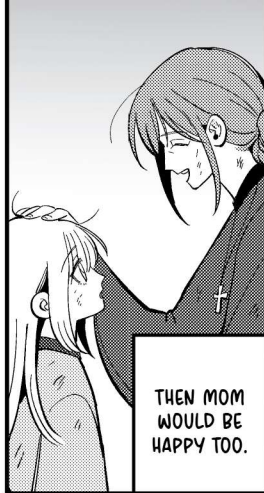




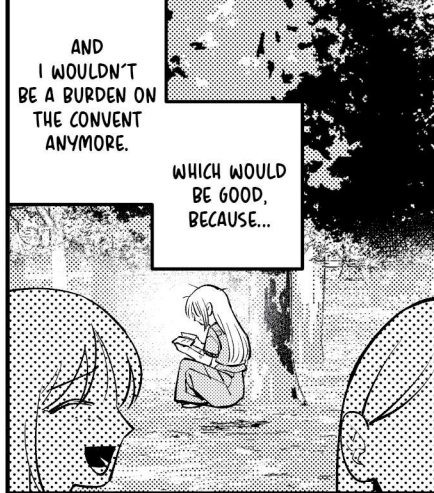


MAYBE
IF I STUDY THE
SCRIPTURES
PROPERLY...

THE DEVIL
INSIDE ME
MIGHT
DISAPPEAR.



THEN MOM
WOULD BE
HAPPY TOO.



AND
I WOULDN'T
BE A BURDEN ON
THE CONVENT
ANYMORE.

WHICH WOULD
BE GOOD,
BECAUSE...

**BECAUSE... I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE A LOUSE, CLINGING TO OTHERS
AND FEEDING OFF THEIR FLESH AND BLOOD.**



STUDYING
THE SCRIP-
TURES, ARE
YOU?

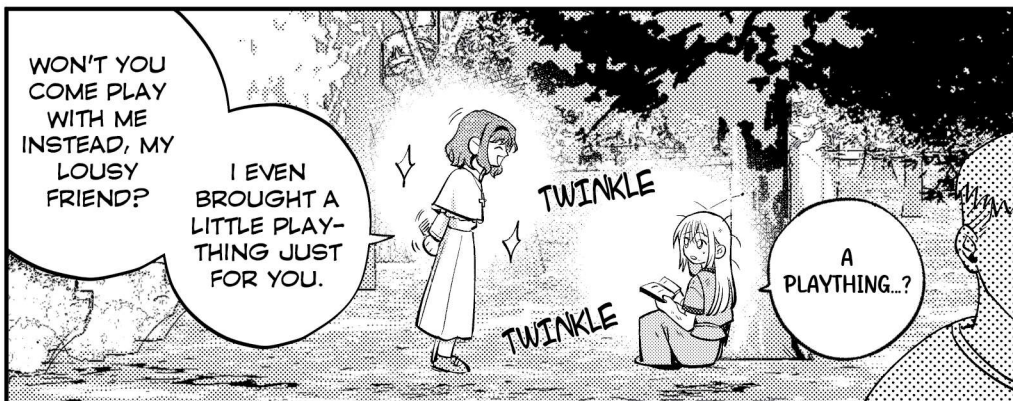


YOU...

I'VE ALREADY
READ THE
WHOLE THING,
YOU KNOW.

RATHER
BORING, IF YOU
ASK ME.

SO...



WON'T YOU
COME PLAY
WITH ME
INSTEAD, MY
LOUSY
FRIEND?

I EVEN
BROUGHT A
LITTLE PLAY-
THING JUST
FOR YOU.

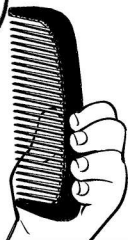
TWINKLE

TWINKLE

A
PLAYTHING...?

**THE
DEVIL-
BEGONE!**

TA-DA!



A
COMB?

YEAH!



THAT'S
NOT A
PLAY-
THING...

JUST
TURN
AROUND
ALREADY.



FIRST,
EVERY PRINCESS
MUST HAVE HER
HAIR COMBED TO
PERFECTION...

...WHAT A
TERRIBLE
SHAME THAT THIS
ONE HAS BEEN
POSSESSED BY A
DEVIL.



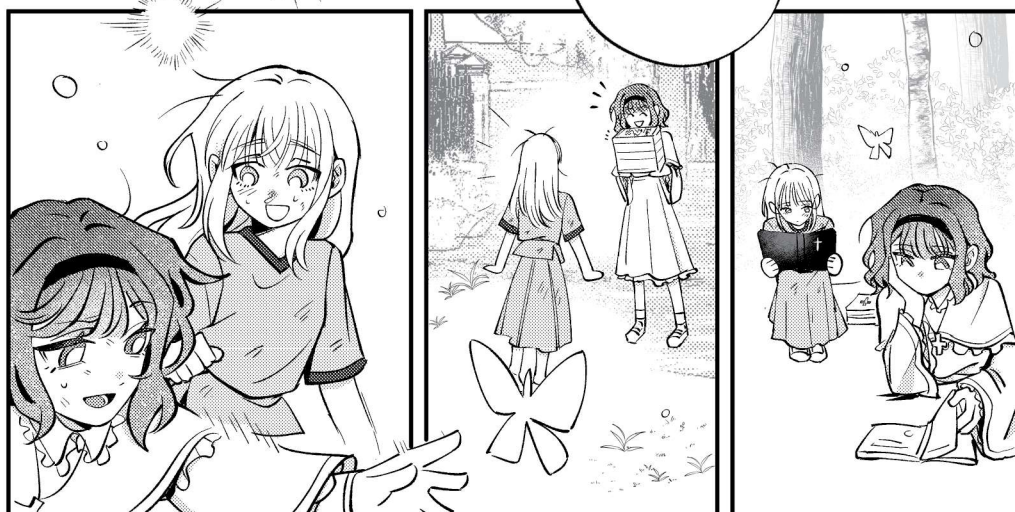
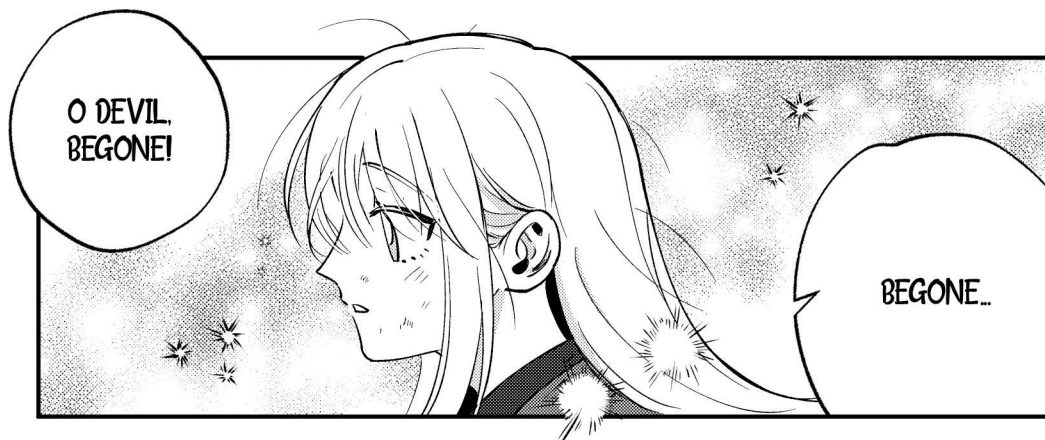
...THIS
ISN'T ANY
FUN.

**LET ME
FINISH!**

...THIS
MAGIC COMB
CAN CHASE
ANY DEVIL
AWAY,



BUT ITS
MAGIC ONLY
WORKS IF WE
CHANT THE SPELL
TOGETHER.





DANIELLE.

HM?
WHAT IS
IT?



DO
YOU...

BELIEVE
GOD IS
REAL?



OF
COURSE
I DO.

WHY WOULD
YOU ASK
SOMETHING
SO OBVIOUS?

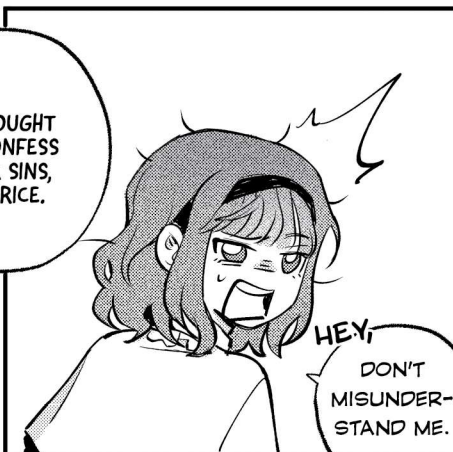
I SUPPOSE IT
WOULD SEEM
PERFECTLY OBVIOUS
TO YOU. YOU DO
LIVE IN A CONVENT,
AFTER ALL.



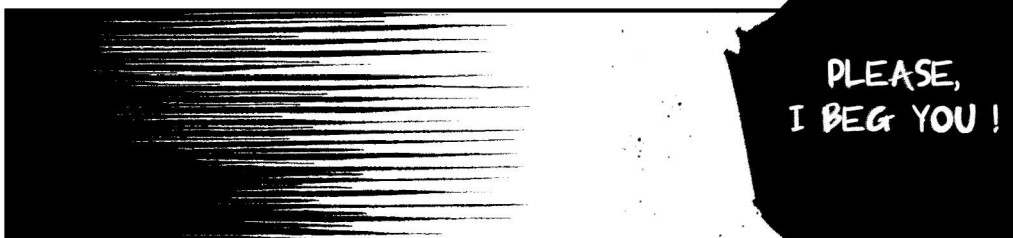
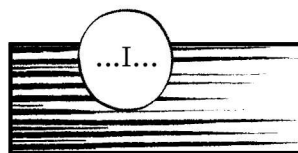
DOUBTING
GOD'S EXISTENCE
IS A SIN.

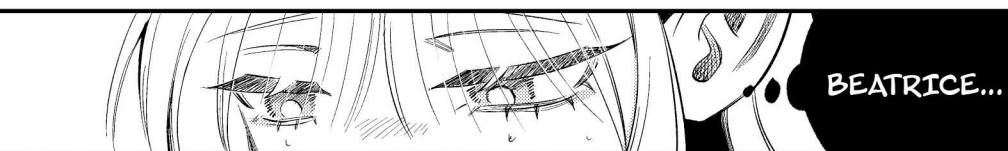
THAT'S WHAT
MOTHER'S BOOK
SAYS.

YOU OUGHT
TO CONFESS
YOUR SINS,
BEATRICE.

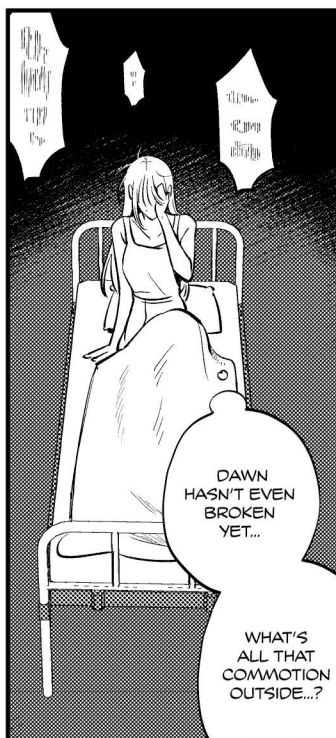


HEY,
DON'T
MISUNDER-
STAND ME.





EVERY DREAM I HAVE OF YOU... ALWAYS ENDS THE SAME WAY.



PLEASE,
SISTERS...

I TRULY
HEARD
THE VOICE
OF GOD!

THEIR
VOICE LED
ME HERE...

SO PLEASE,
I BEG YOU,
TAKE ME
IN!

PLEASE!

LET ME
STAY!

WHATEVER
ARE WE
TO DO...?

PERHAPS
WE SHOULD
WAIT FOR
MOTHER
SUPERIOR.

I
SUPPOSE
SO.

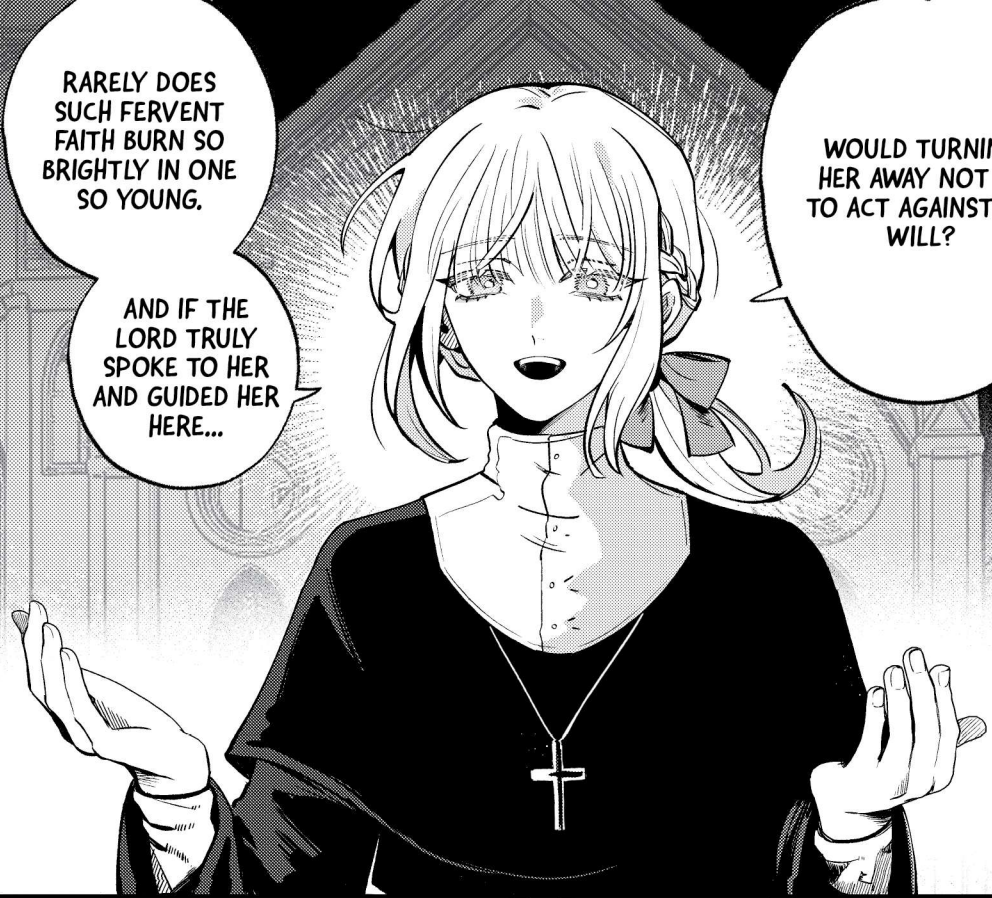
EVERY BED
IN THE
ORPHANAGE
IS ALREADY
OCCUPIED.

WE SISTERS
BARELY HAVE
ROOM ENOUGH IN
THE MONASTERY
AS IT IS.

I FEAR
WE SIMPLY
CANNOT AFFORD
TO TAKE THE
GIRL IN.

FREEZE





RARELY DOES
SUCH FERVENT
FAITH BURN SO
BRIGHTLY IN ONE
SO YOUNG.

AND IF THE
LORD TRULY
SPOKE TO HER
AND GUIDED HER
HERE...

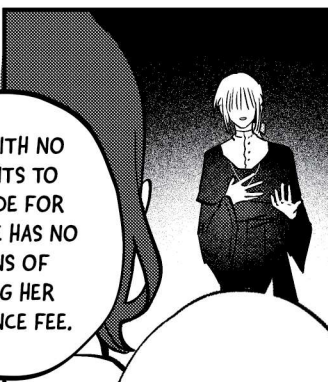
WOULD TURNING
HER AWAY NOT BE
TO ACT AGAINST HIS
WILL?



...OUR
CONCERN

IS WHETHER
THERE IS ANY
PLACE FOR HER
WITHIN THE
MONASTERY.

AND WITH NO
PARENTS TO
PROVIDE FOR
HER, SHE HAS NO
MEANS OF
PAYING HER
RESIDENCE FEE.



FRET NOT,
MY DEAR
SISTERS.

SHE MAY HAVE MY
PLACE HERE.

FOR THE TIME
BEING, I SHALL
RETURN TO MY
FAMILY'S COTTAGE
AT THE EDGE OF
THE FOREST.

SISTER...

ISN'T
THAT FAR
TOO RASH?!

WHAT IN
HEAVEN'S
NAME ARE
YOU THINK-
ING!?

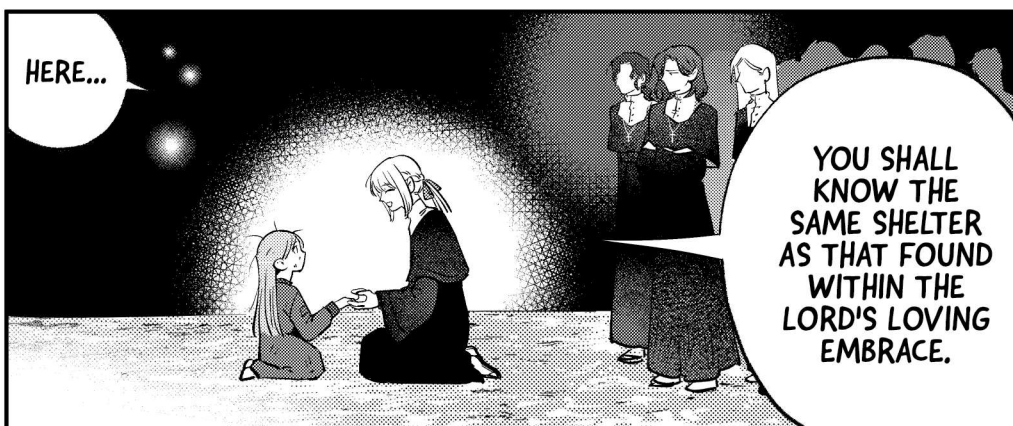
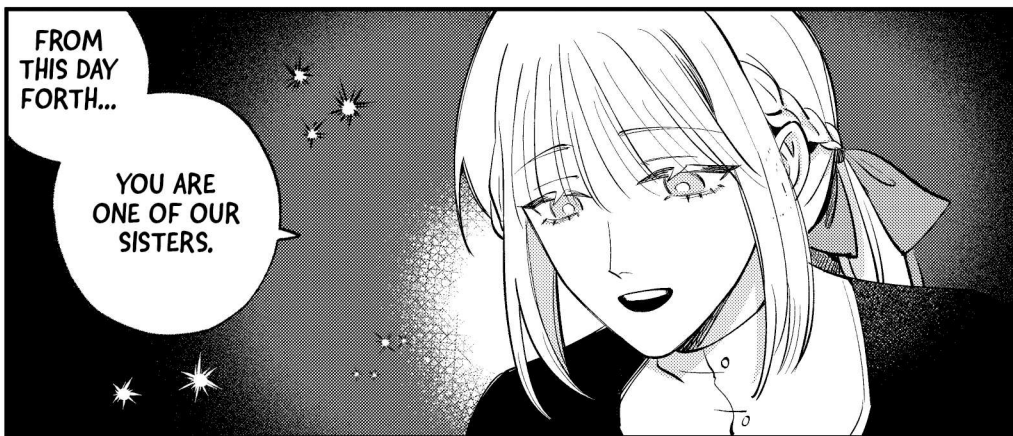
MOTHER
SUPERIOR
HASN'T EVEN
GIVEN HER
PERMISSION!

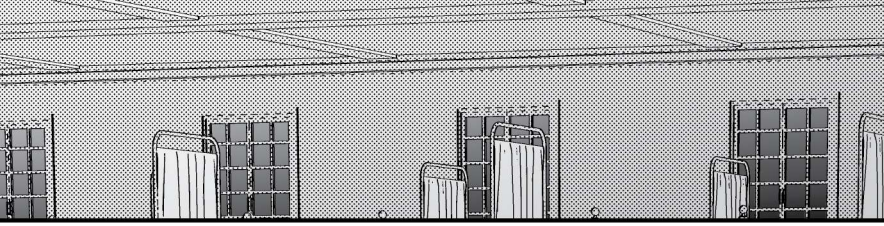
YOU KNOW
PERFECTLY
WELL THAT
WE NO
LONGER
TAKE IN
PEASANTS.

AND YOU WOULD
SOONER LEAVE
THIS POOR YOUNG
SOUL

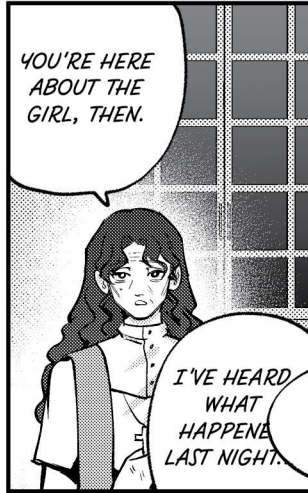
ALONE IN THE
DARK...

WITH ALL THESE
REPORTS OF
VAMPIRES ROAMING
ABOUT?





DANIELLE.



YOU'RE HERE
ABOUT THE
GIRL, THEN.

I'VE HEARD
WHAT
HAPPENED
LAST NIGHT.



I CAME
BECAUSE OF
YOU.

FREEZE

NO.



VAMPIRES ARE
RUNNING
RAMPANT,
PREYING UPON
PEOPLE...

AND FOR A
WOMAN TO
LIVE ALONE AT
THE EDGE OF
THE WOODS...



SURELY YOU
KNOW HOW
DANGEROUS THAT
WOULD BE?

IN ONLY
TWO MORE
WINTERS...

YOU'LL BE
TAKING YOUR
PERPETUAL
VOWS.

WHY WOULD
YOU RISK
YOUR LIFE
NOW?

...THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
CONCERN, MOTHER
SUPERIOR.

BUT PLEASE,
TROUBLE YOURSELF
NO FURTHER.

CHAPTER
THIRTEEN,
VERSE EIGHT.

...ONLY
THROUGH
SACRIFICE MAY
LIFE ENDURE.

GREATER LOVE
HATH NONE THAN
TO PLACE
ANOTHER'S GOOD
ABOVE THINE
OWN.

IS THAT NOT
WHAT YOU
TAUGHT US?

O GRACIOUS
GOD,



WHO DWELLED
IN THE HIGHEST
HEAVENS...

I AM DEEPLY
ASHAMED.



FOR
MY FAITH



PALES BESIDE
THAT OF THE
CHILD WHO
SOUGHT REFUGE
HERE TODAY.

...O GRACIOUS GOD...



DOST THOU
TRULY EXIST?

IF THOU
ART TRULY
THERE...

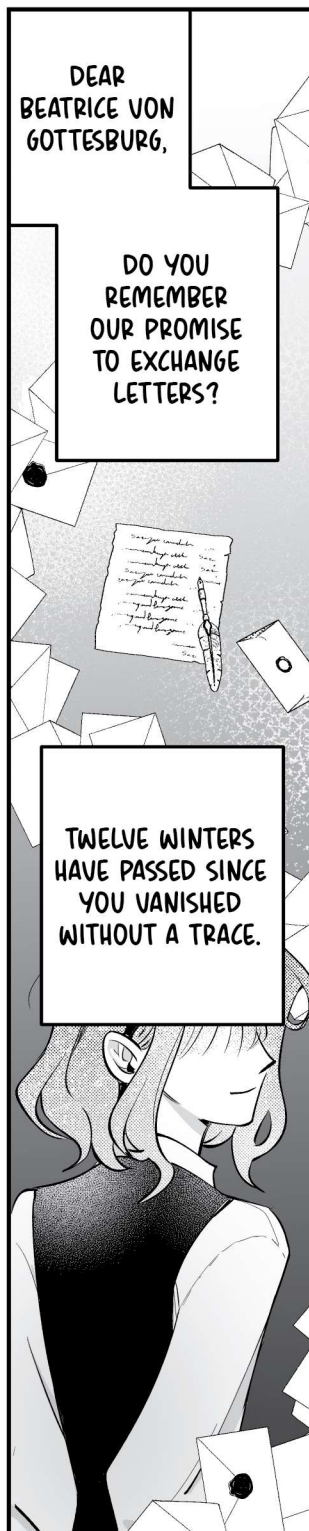
THEN PLEASE,
GRANT ME
ONE MIRACLE
MORE.



PLEASE...
TAKE MY LIFE
FROM ME.

LET ME BE
REUNITED WITH
MY FAMILY... AND
WITH BEATRICE.





"MEET ME BY
THE RIVER,
WHERE WE ONCE
BUILT OUR
LITTLE CASTLE
OF STONES."

WHAT A
TERRIBLY FORMAL
ARRANGEMENT
THIS HAS BECOME,
LETTERS AND
ALL.



I WAS ONLY
A NOVICE
THEN.

HALF-DEAD
WITH NERVES AT
THE THOUGHT
OF SEEING YOU
AGAIN...



AND EQUALLY
TERRIFIED OF BEING
CAUGHT SNEAKING
OUT OF THE
CONVENT.



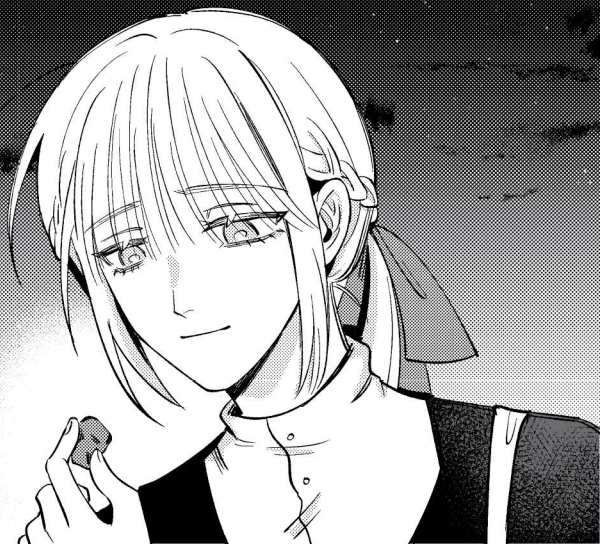
YET, IN THE END...

YOU NEVER CAME.



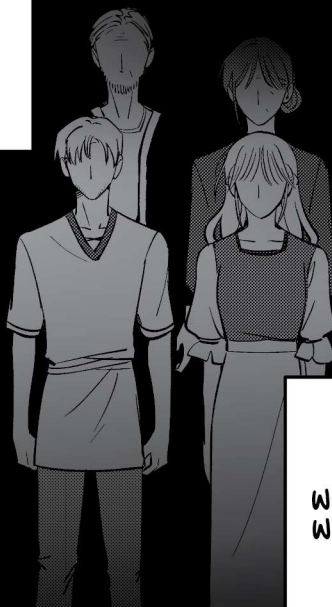
BEATRICE VON
GOTTESBURG,

YOU ARE THE MOST
ILL-MANNERED
LADY I HAVE EVER
HAD THE PRIVILEGE
OF KNOWING.



I TOLD YOU IN
ONE OF MY
LETTERS, DID I
NOT?

MY
ENTIRE
FAMILY...



LEFT THIS
WORLD SEVEN
WINTERS AGO.

I'M SORRY.

I HOPE THIS IS
HEAVY ENOUGH...

IT WOULD BE
RATHER DREADFUL
IF I FAILED TO
DROWN PROPERLY.

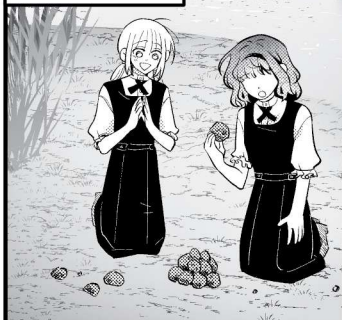
I COULDN'T
WAIT FOR YOU
ANY LONGER.

AT FIRST, I
THOUGHT THAT,
WITH TIME, I
MIGHT LEARN TO
LIVE WITH IT.



BUT LIVING
HAS GROWN
UNBEARABLY
HEAVY.

BEATRICE VON
GOTTESBURG...



WHEREVER
COULD YOU
BE?



IF I SHOULD
FIND MYSELF
IN HELL...

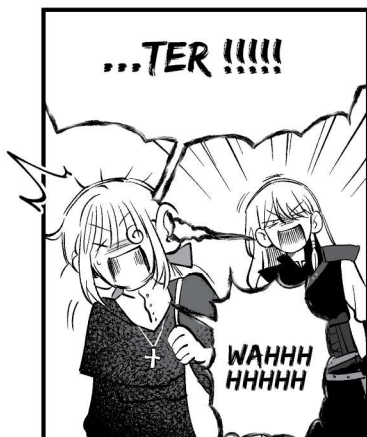
WOULD YOU COME LOOKING FOR ME?



HEY

SISTER,

SISTER!

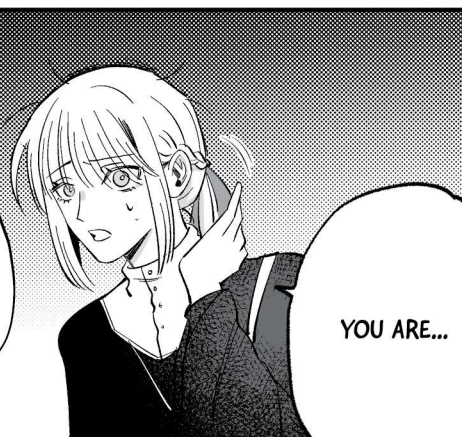


...TER !!!!!

WAHHH
HHHH

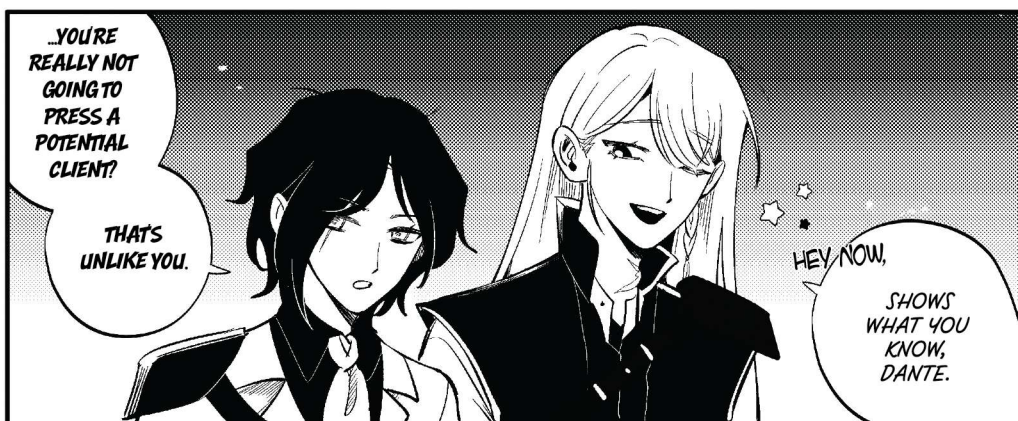
UGH
I'M GOING
TO SPLIT MY
THROAT'S
SHOUTING AT THIS
RATE

DO THOSE EARS OF
YOURS ONLY WORK
WHEN GOD'S DOING
THE TALKING?



YOU ARE...





LEAVE HER
FOR THE
VAMPIRES.

THE FACE OF
SOME HIDEOUS
CREATURE THAT
FEEDS UPON THE
LIVING...

VAMPIRES...?

MY DAYS ARE
SPENT IN PRAYER
AND SERVICE TO
THE LORD.

IS HARDLY
SOMETHING I
HAVE CAUSE TO
IMAGINE.

BUT...

WHAT IF I
WERE TO
ENCOUNTER A
VAMPIRE?

A LIFE AS
WORTHLESS AS
MINE...

WOULD
FINALLY BE
BROUGHT TO
AN END.

AND IF MY
DEATH CAME
NOT BY MY
OWN HAND...

WITH THAT
THOUGHT IN MY
HEART...

THEN PERHAPS I
COULD STILL MEET
YOU IN HEAVEN,
COULDN'T I?

I BEGAN
TO PRAY.

BE IT GOD
ABOVE OR THE
DEVIL BELOW...



GRANT ME
BUT ONE MERCY.
LET ME SEE YOU
ONCE MORE.

HUMANS...

GASP

MUST YOU
BE EVERY-
WHERE?

THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME I MET
"MISS VAMPIRE."

AND SHE WAS
TERRIBLY FAR
FROM HIDEOUS.

WELL?

WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR?

RUN ALONG TO
THE GOVERNOR
AND REPORT
ME...

OR TAKE MY
HEAD YOURSELF.
JUST MAKE IT
QUICK.

OH

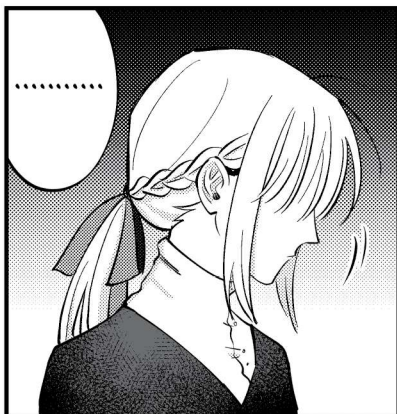
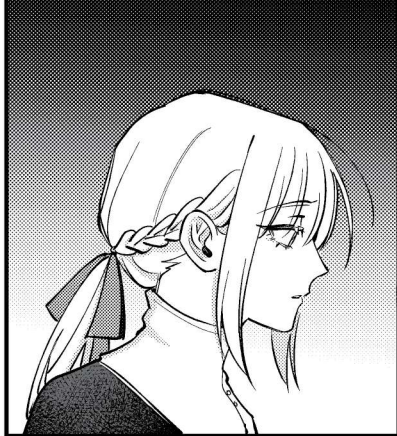
BUT
YOU'RE A
PRIESTESS,
AREN'T
YOU?

THEN WHY NOT
SPARE A PRAYER
FOR THE DEVIL
STANDING BEFORE
YOU?

OR DAMN ME
TO ROT IN
WHICHEVER
HELL PLEASES
YOU.

EITHER WAY,
JUST GET ON
WITH IT.

HELL'S BOUND
TO BE MORE
COMFORTABLE
THAN THIS
PLACE ANYWAY.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I SHOULD
PRAY FOR
YOU.

EVEN FOR A
VAMPIRE WHO
LIVES BY
FEEDING UPON
OTHERS.



O GRACIOUS
GOD,

BELOVED
ABOVE ALL...

THE MOMENT
MY GAZE MET
THE DEVIL'S,

I KNEW AT
ONCE...

I OFFER THIS
WORTHLESS LIFE OF
MINE TO THE ONE
WHO HUNGERS.

MAY
THE LORD HIMSELF
BEAR WITNESS.

SHE WAS
THE PATH THAT
WOULD LEAD ME
TO HEAVEN.



I PRAY YOU,
FEAST UPON
MY BLOOD...

AND TAKE
THIS LIFE OF
MINE AS THINE.



SO...
THIS IS WHERE
IT FINALLY
ENDS.

...AND FOR
THE VERY
LAST TIME, I
PRAYED.

O GRACIOUS
GOD...

PLEASE LET ME
REST IN PEACE.

The Devil In Me