

Chapter 10

Sanctuary

Men shrink less from
offending one who
inspires love than one
who inspires fear

Niccolo Machiavelli

Madame de Boufflers



I remember Madame de Pompadour once saying to me, 'How do you manage to stay so calm and unflustered? You really are an inspiration'. The occasion was a performance of Hyppolyte at Fontainebleau and the Swedish ambassador, who was seated beside me, several times made derogatory comments about how the standard of French opera was not as it had been. I displayed not a trace of discomfort at his remarks but merely smiled. Madame and I had known each other only a short time but very quickly I was able to make her feel at ease in my company. It is a source of some not inconsiderable pride that the king's chief mistress counts me among her circle of friends.

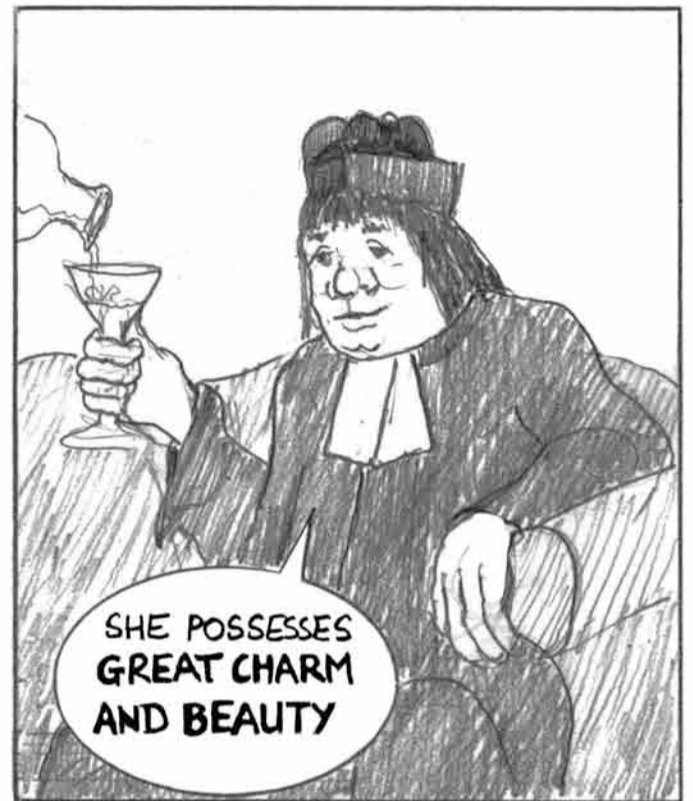
It takes a particular kind of person to obtain a position of trust with someone of such quality as Madame de Pompadour. To move in royal circles, one must possess breeding, education and good taste. One must not be a bore but, at the same time, one must be careful not to shine so brightly as to appear wantonly attracting attention that is more appropriately the reserve of those who are one's superiors, at least socially speaking. And that is as it should be. If the eye of a person of distinction should fall upon you then, of course, you have no option but to yield to their interest. Your own motivation, however, must be entirely above suspicion. Take Mademoiselle O'Morphy, for instance. Here was a young girl of low birth, whose sister was a common prostitute, but who had the great good fortune to find favour with the king; and I dare say that she offered his majesty some passable amusement. Unfortunately, her vanity encouraged her to try to rise above her place and as a consequence she was suspected of attempting to supplant the king's chief mistress in his majesty's affections. Immediately she was banished from the court.

THE PALACE OF MADAME DE POMPADOUR



AND YOU'RE CONFIDENT THAT THIS GIRL WILL BE TO HIS MAJESTY'S TASTE?

VERY CONFIDENT MADAME



SHE POSSESSES GREAT CHARM AND BEAUTY



SHE IS WELL-TUTORED?

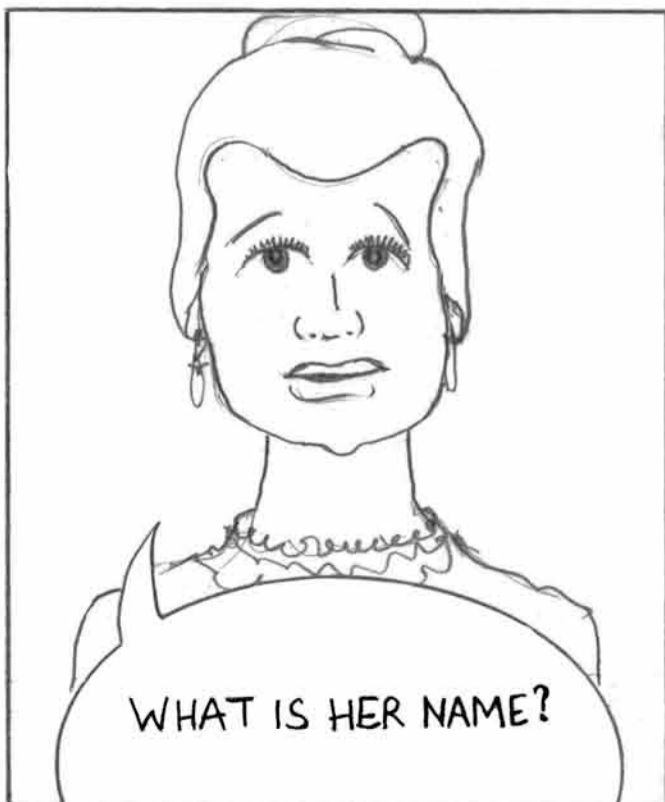


I'VE NO DOUBT THAT SHE WILL BE **EXCELLENT** ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE **KING**



MADAME DE BOUFFLERS...

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOU IF YOU COULD ARRANGE AN **AUDIENCE** SO THAT I CAN EXAMINE HER



WHAT IS HER NAME?

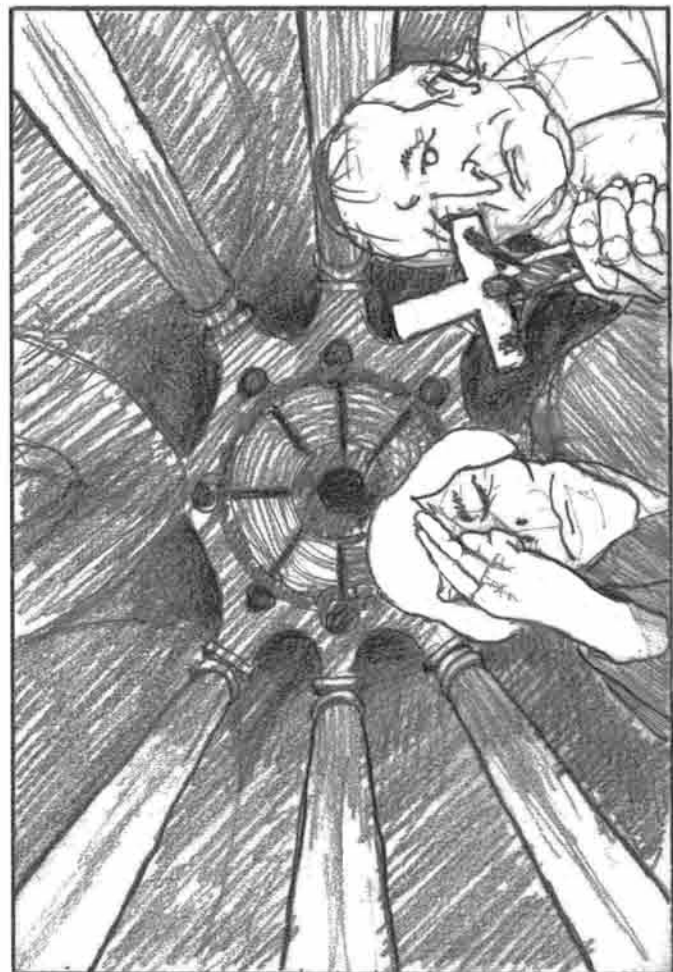
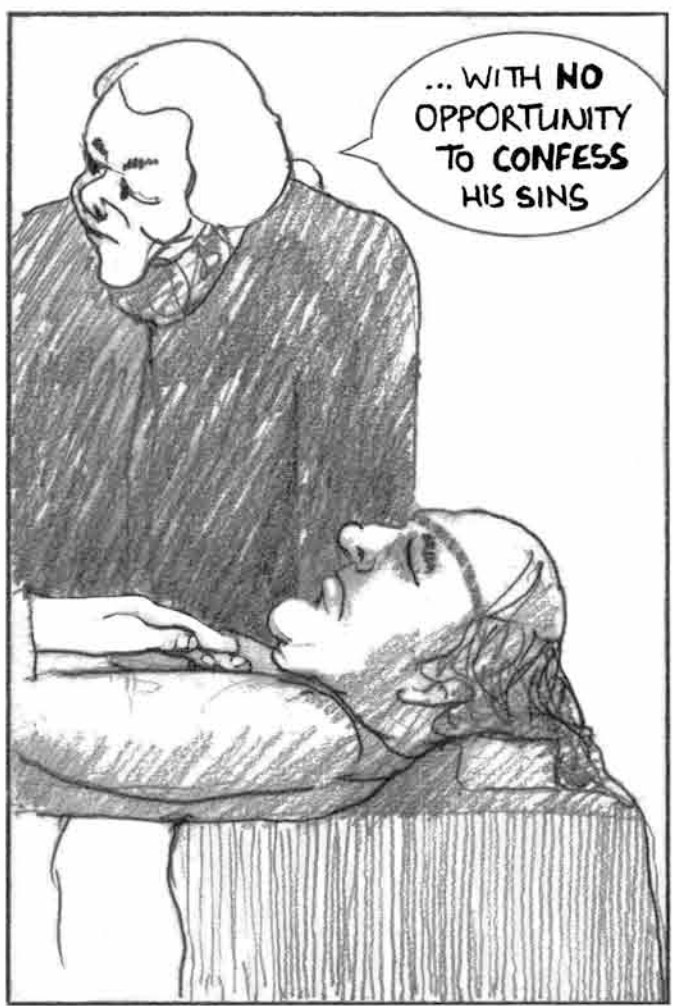
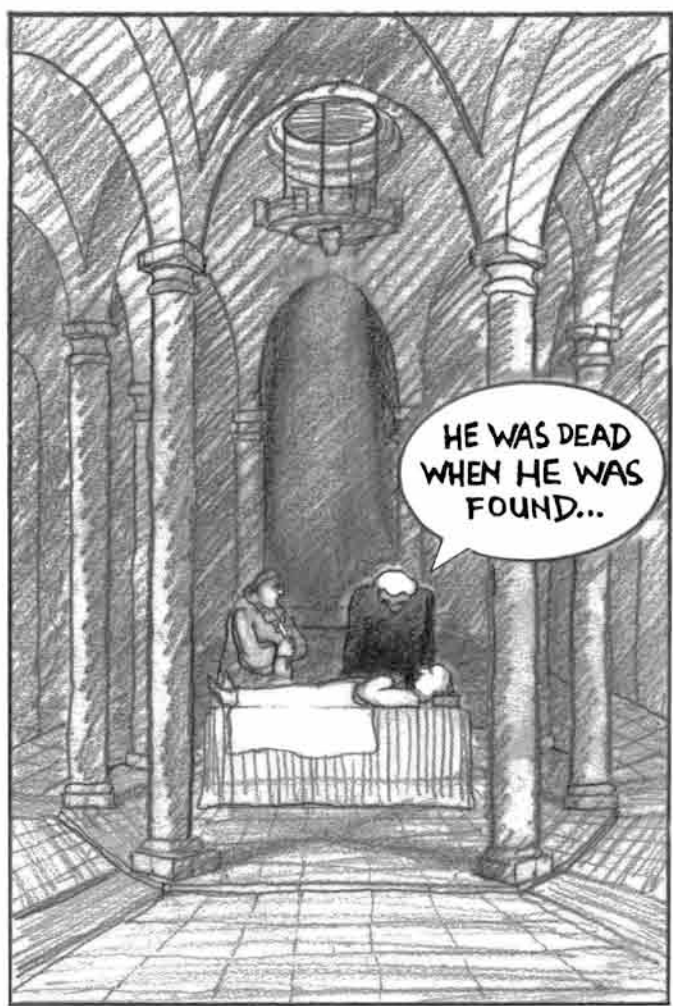
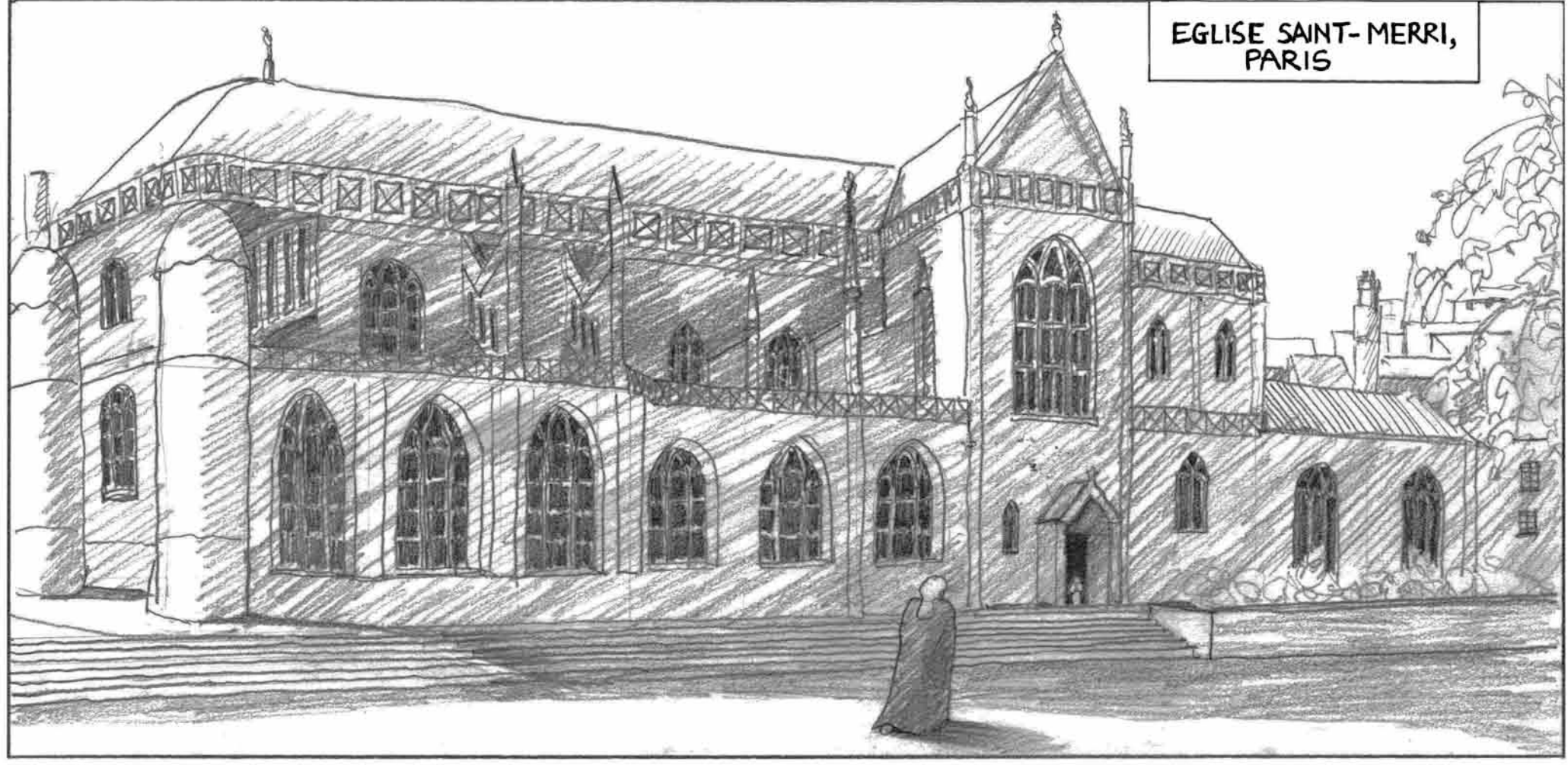


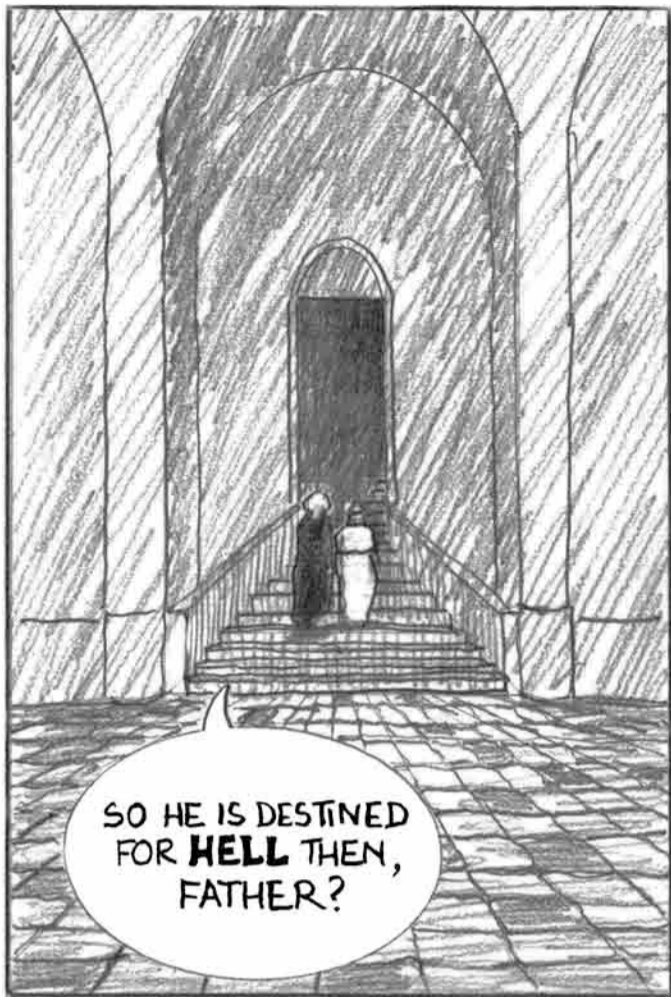
HER NAME IS **GABRIELLE**



SHE IS THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF **JOSEPH DE PARIS-DUVERNEY**

EGLISE SAINT-MERRI,
PARIS

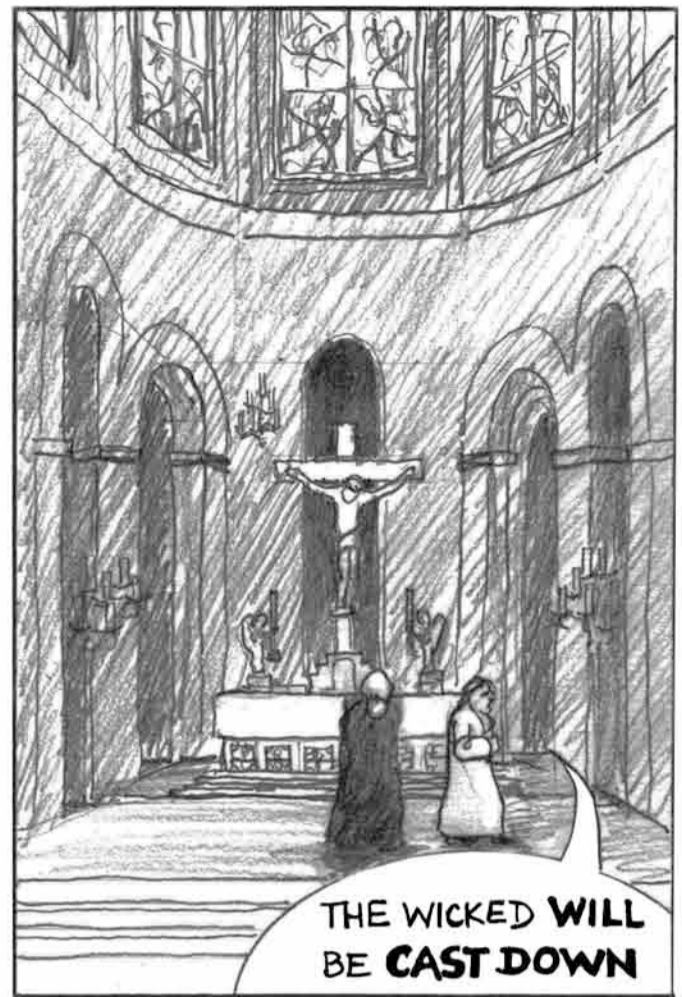




SO HE IS DESTINED FOR **HELL** THEN, FATHER?

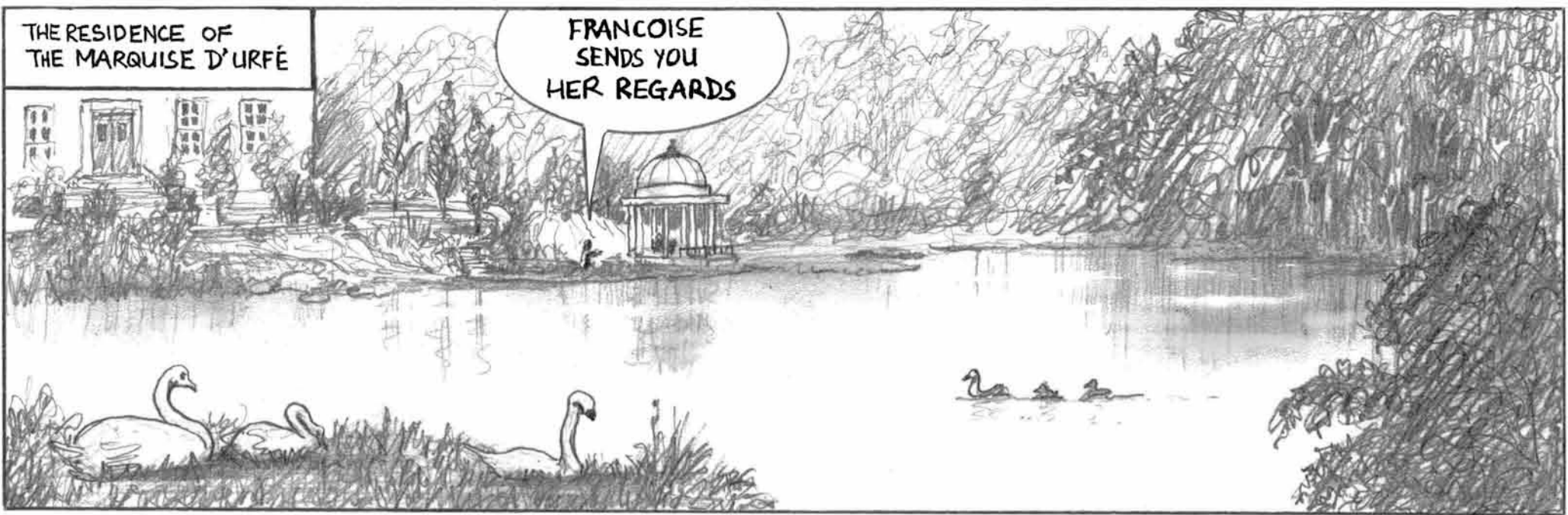


IF WHAT YOU TELL ME IS TRUE, THEN THAT MUST BE THE CASE



THE WICKED WILL BE **CAST DOWN**





THE RESIDENCE OF THE MARQUISE D'URFÉ

FRANCOISE SENDS YOU HER REGARDS



SHE LEFT VERY EARLY THIS MORNING

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU



YOU'RE STILL NOT FULLY RECOVERED

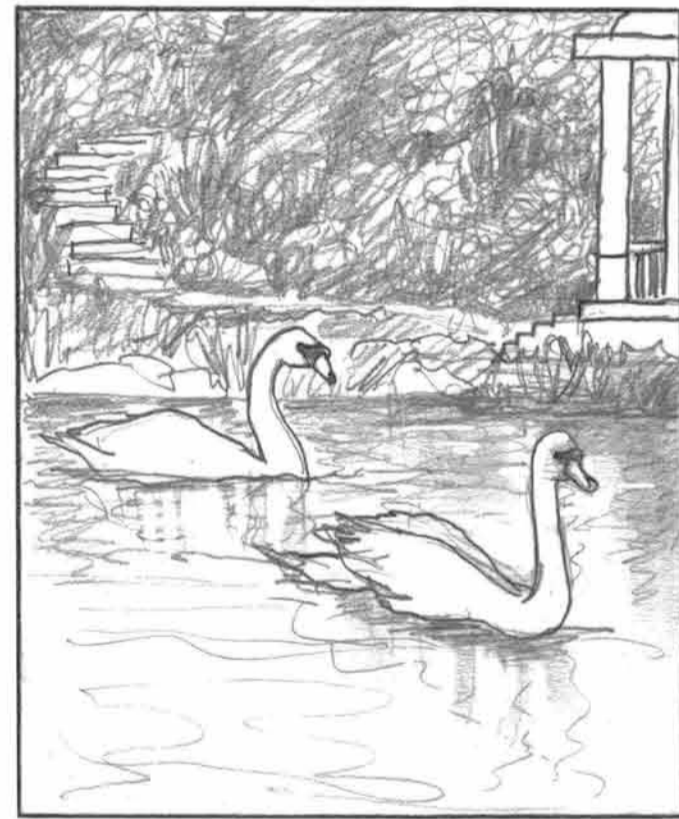
YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU WISH



I KNOW, BUT I HAVE BUSINESS I MUST ATTEND TO



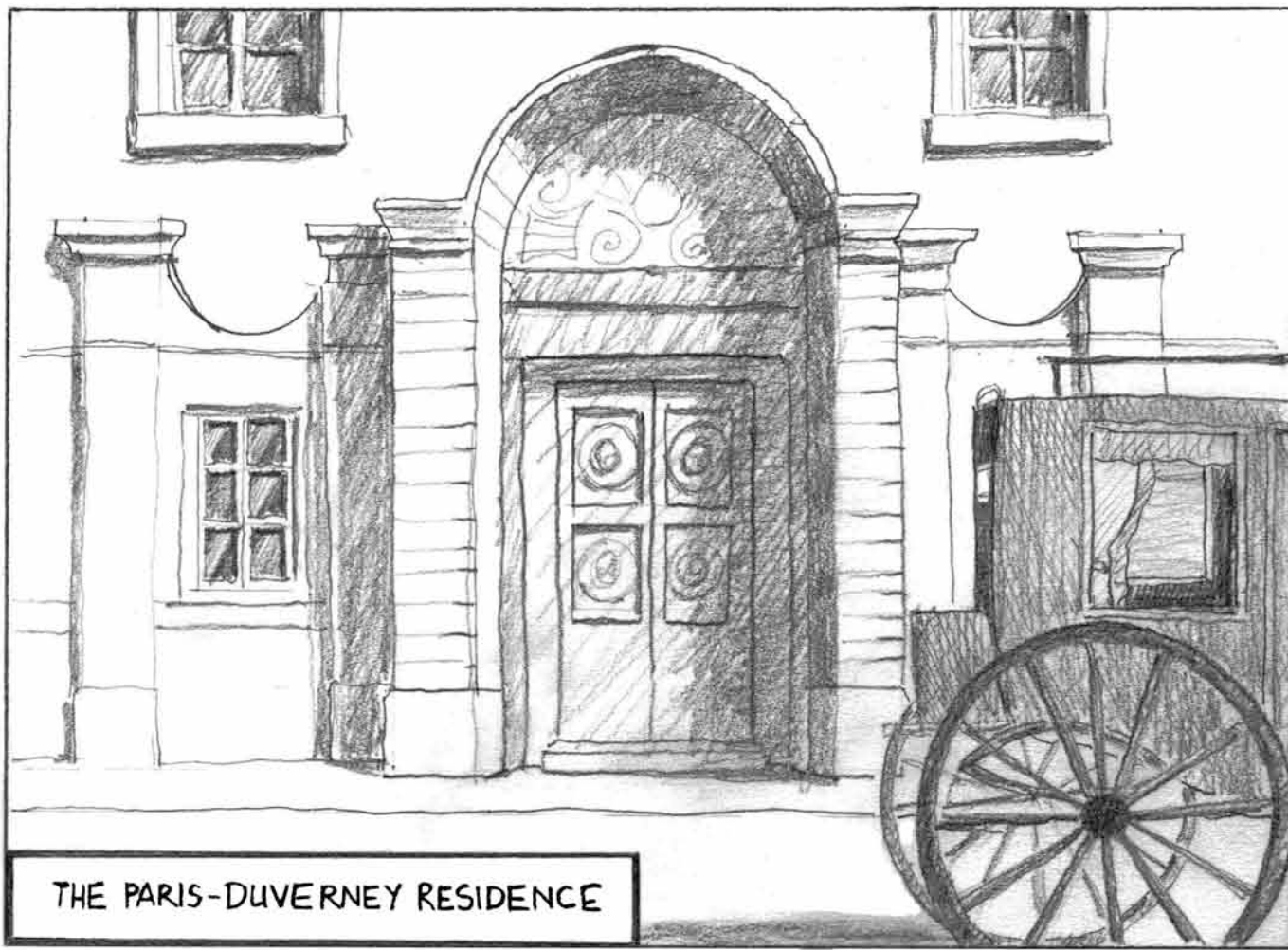
THE SAME BUSINESS THAT ALMOST **KILLED** YOU



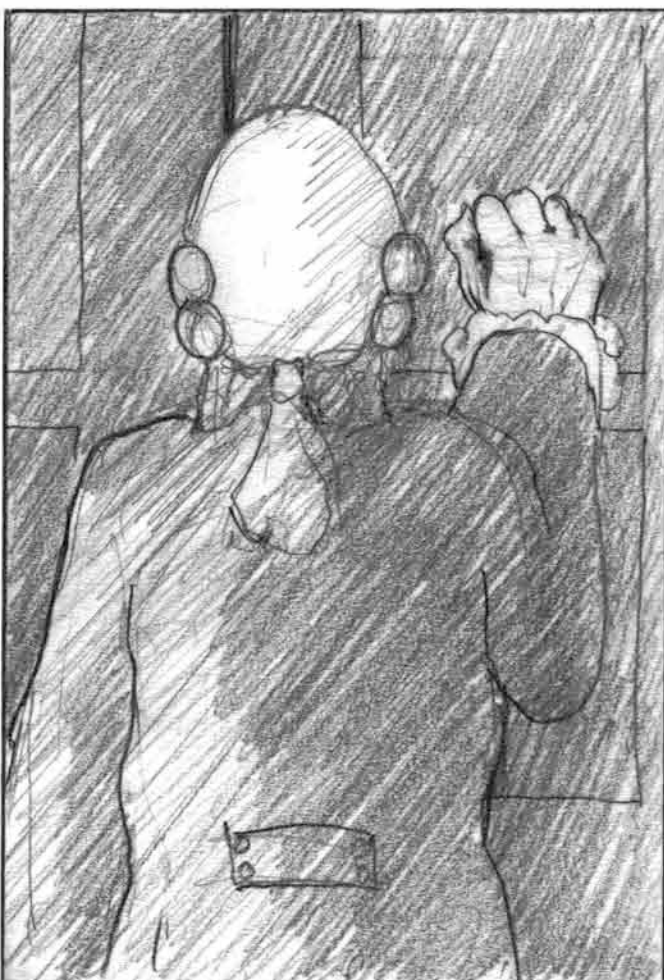
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT THESE ARE **NOT** MATTERS WHICH WILL SIMPLY **DISAPPEAR**



EVENTS HAVE GONE **TOO FAR**

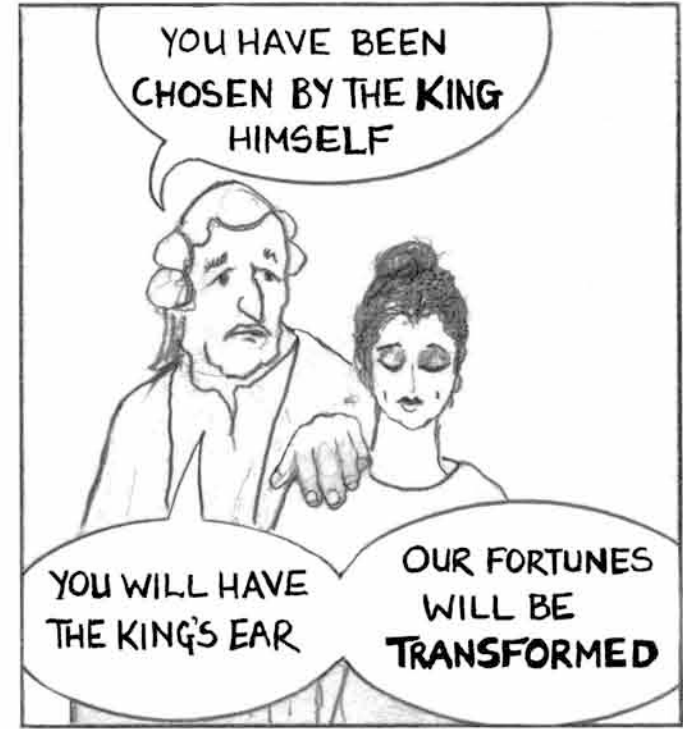
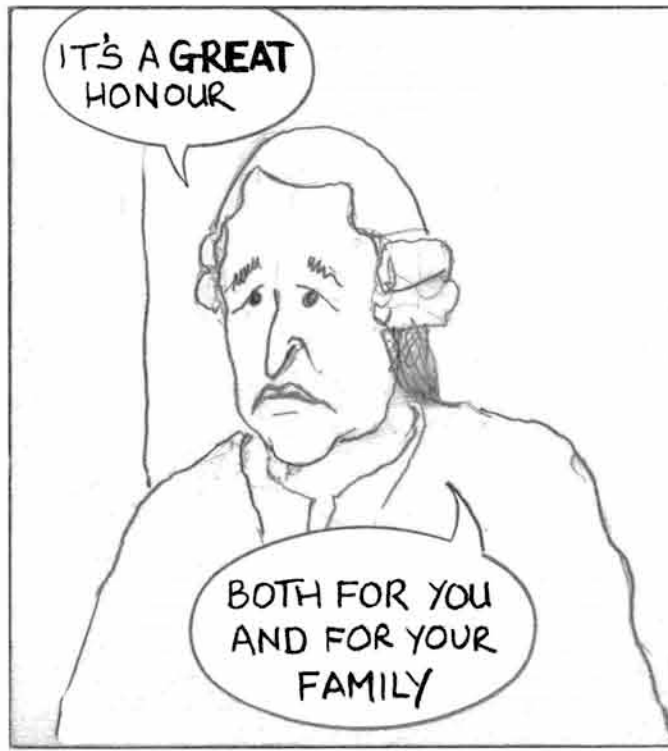


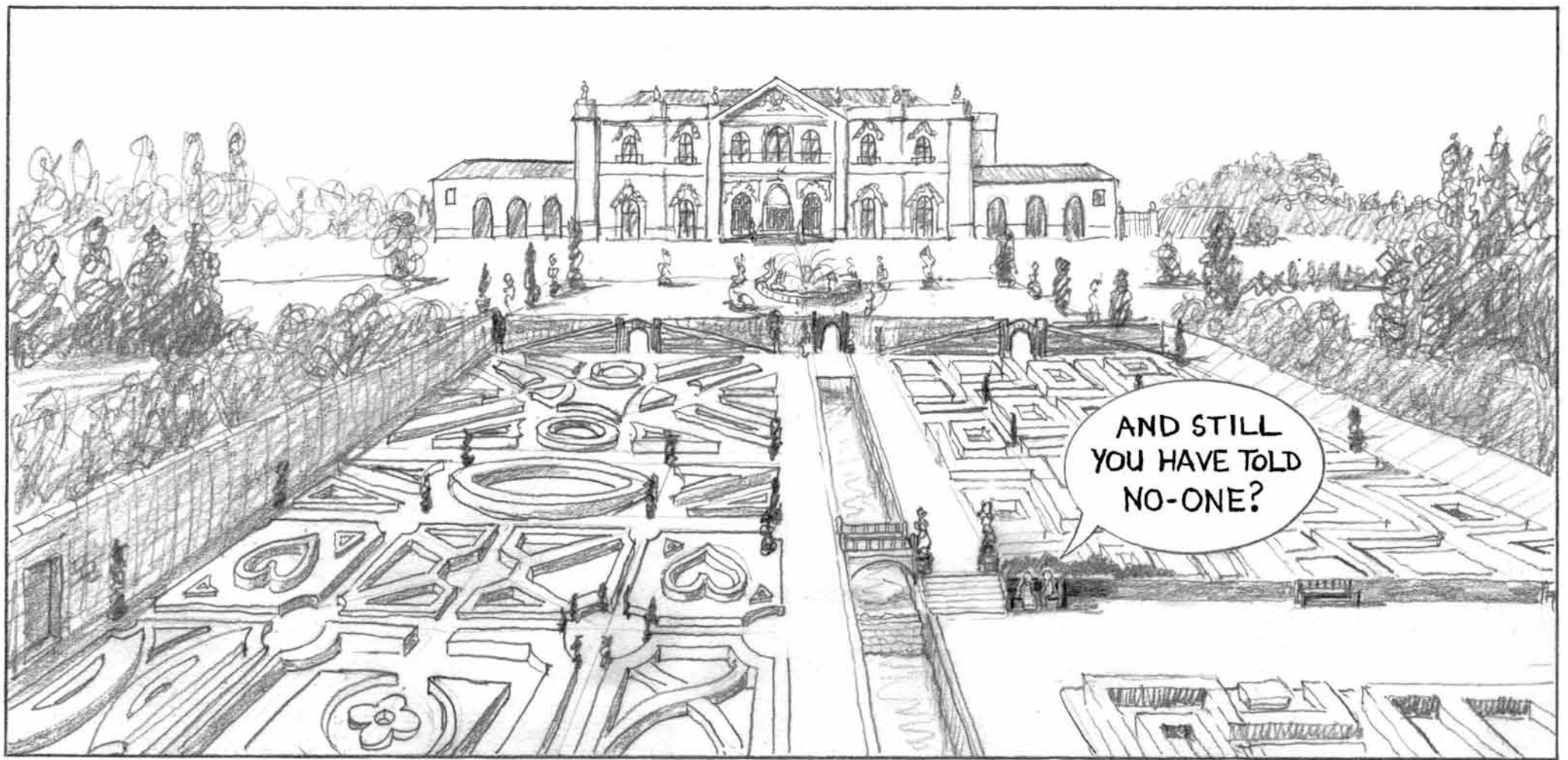
THE PARIS-DUVERNEY RESIDENCE



MADAME
DE BOUFFLERS
HAS BEEN SERVED
TEA MONSIEUR

THANK YOU





AND STILL YOU HAVE TOLD NO-ONE?



NO-ONE. ONLY YOURSELF

HAVE YOU DECIDED?



I DON'T KNOW



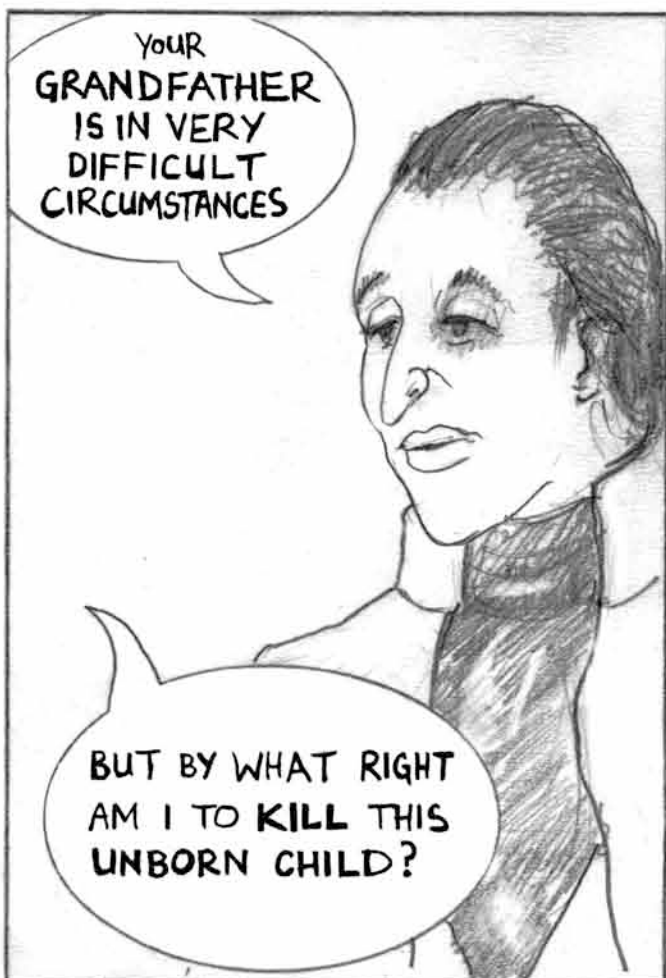
THERE IS MY DUTY TO MY GRANDFATHER AND MY FAMILY

TO HAVE THE CHILD WILL BRING DISGRACE ...



... ALTHOUGH TO BECOME ONE OF THE KING'S COURTESANS...

... THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE



YOUR GRANDFATHER IS IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

BUT BY WHAT RIGHT AM I TO KILL THIS UNBORN CHILD?



NONE, ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH...

... YET IT IS THE COMMON PRACTICE OF WOMEN OF ALL RANKS

THAT DOES NOT MAKE IT RIGHT



Oh Guillaume
I have not seen or heard from
you for so long. What has happened?
Have I upset you? Have you become
bored with me? Have you met another?
Your silence is unbearable. At night
I cannot sleep but have this dreadful
sensation that I am being pulled
down into a place of terrible blackness.

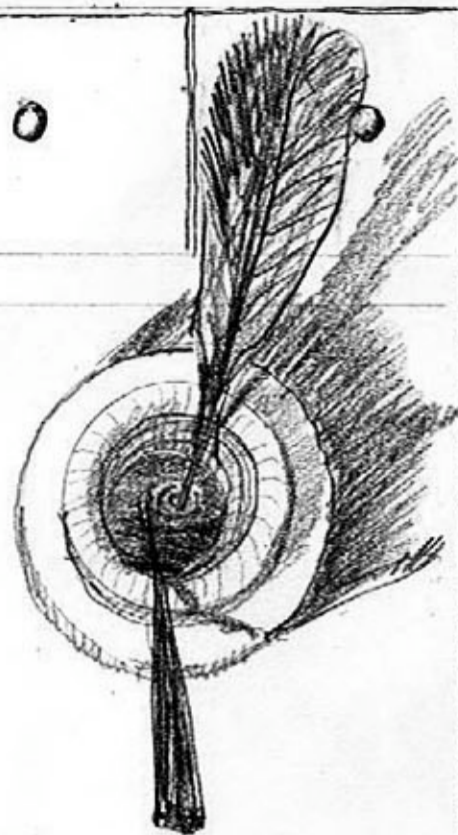
Please send me ~~some~~ ^{some} word and please God
do not tell me that you have abandoned
me. I cannot imagine my life without you.
Only when I am with you am I alive.
Without you I am nothing but emptiness
and desolation. There is so much ~~is~~

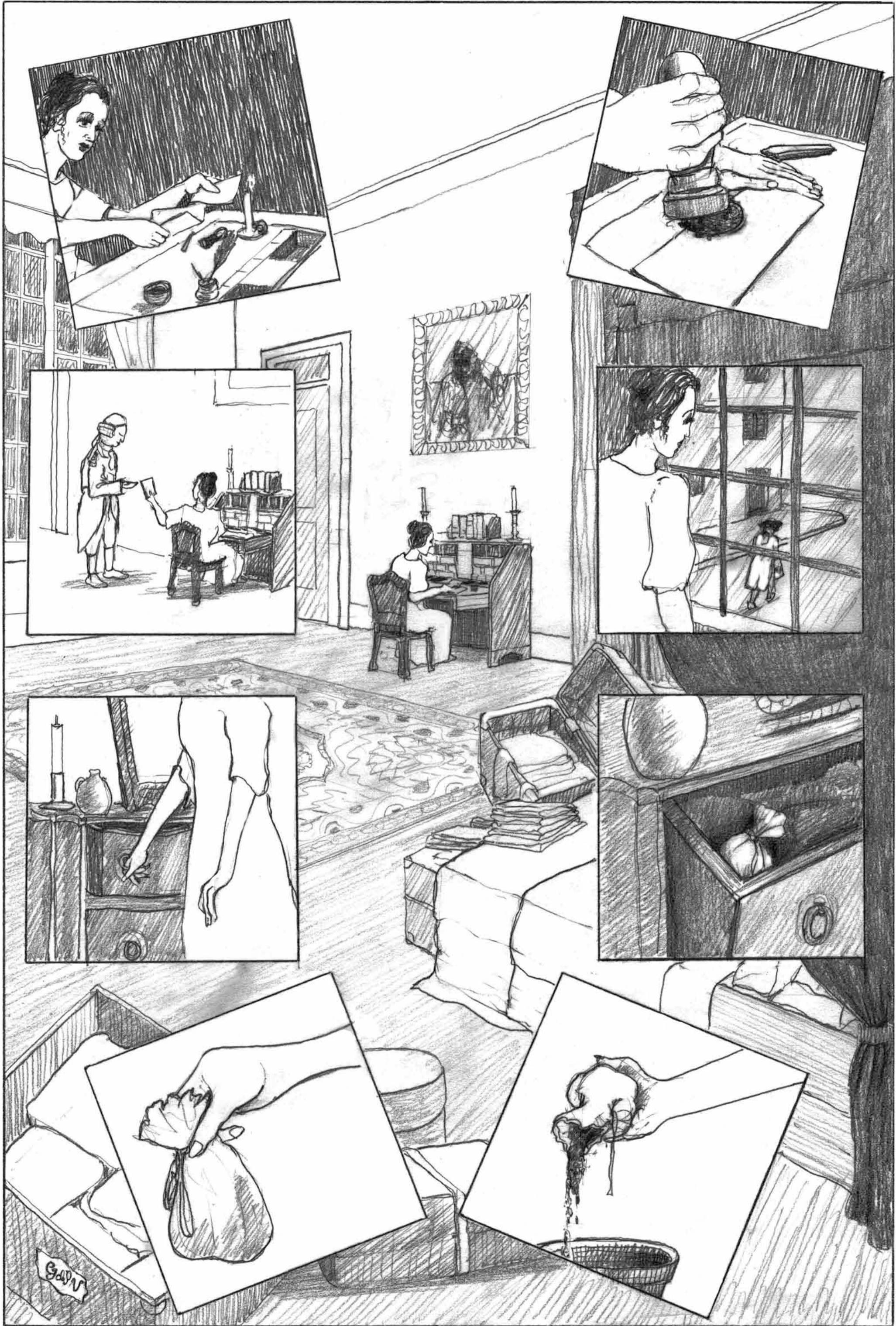
want to say to you. That I must say
to you. News of which I have not spoken
for fear that you would not welcome it.
But now I realise I was wrong not to tell
you.

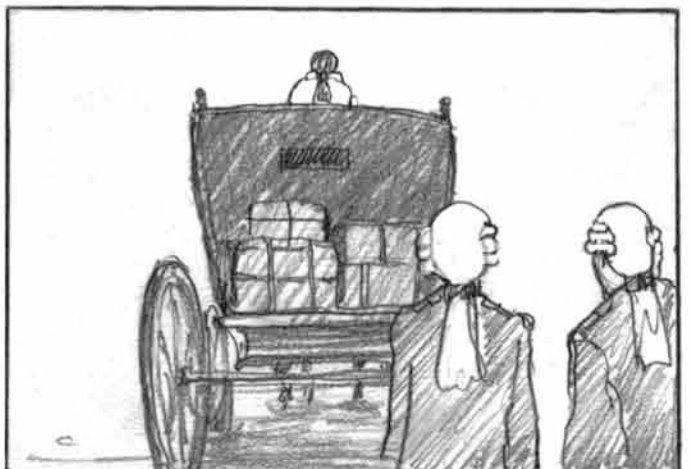
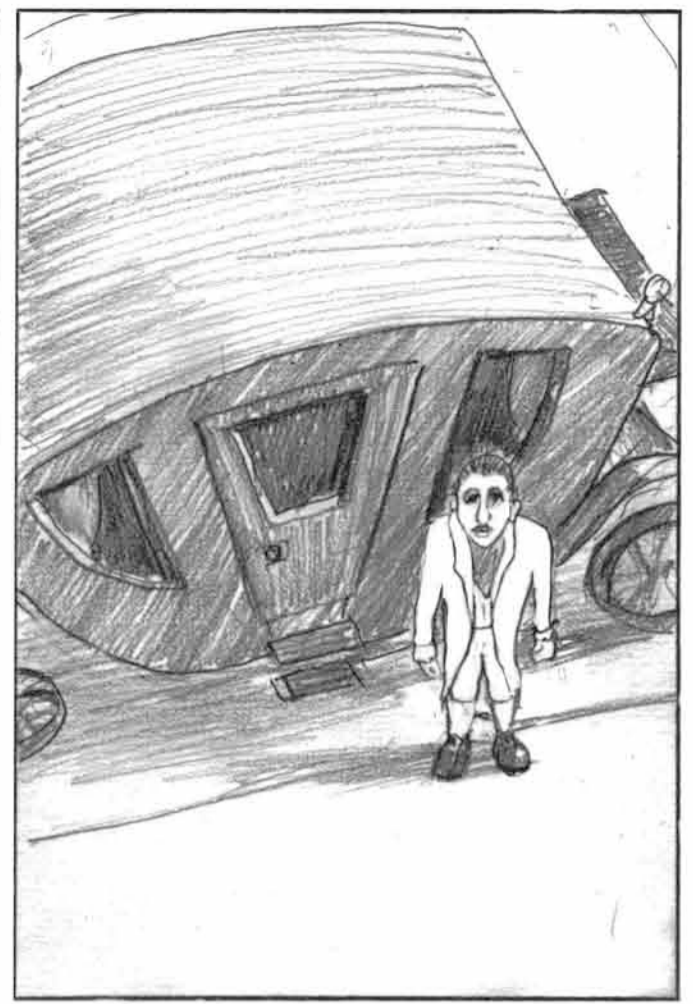
Please do not let my suffering continue.
I dare not think what my despair shall
drive me to if I do not hear from
you soon

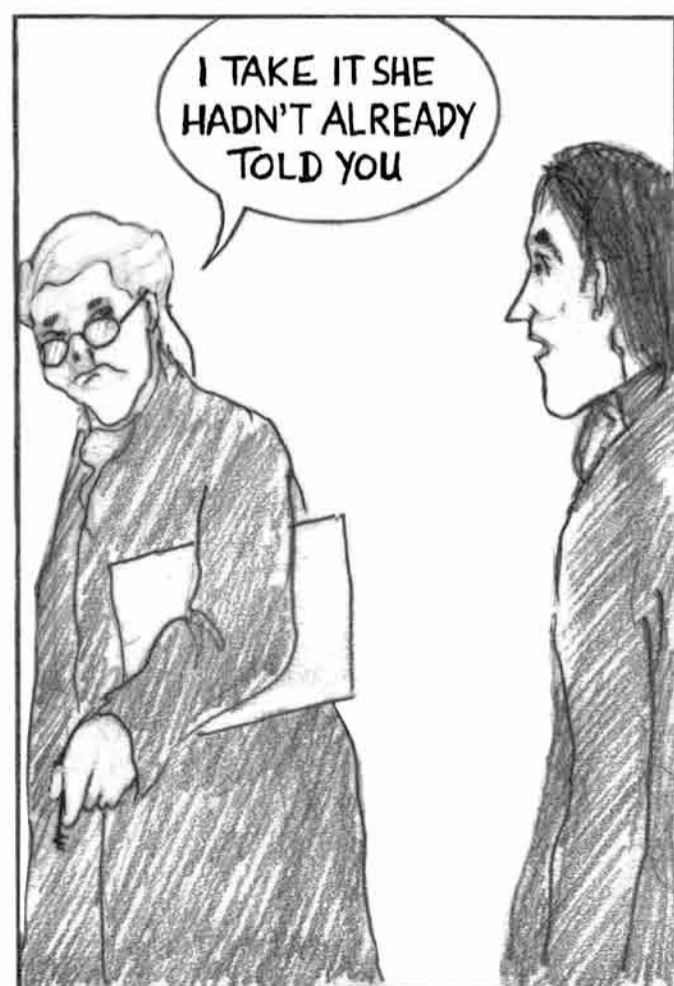
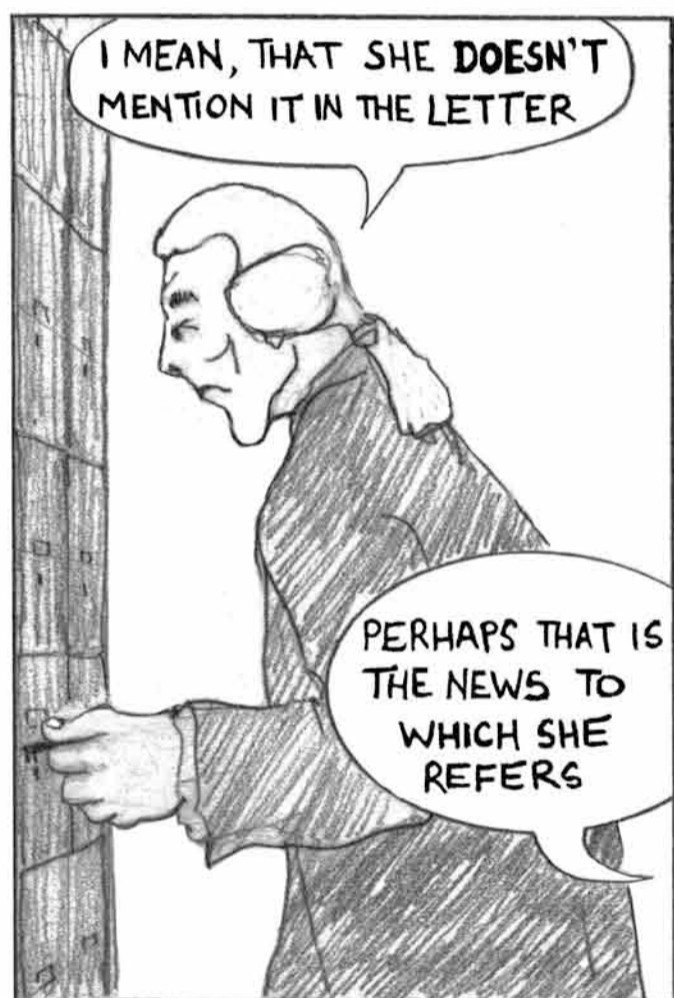
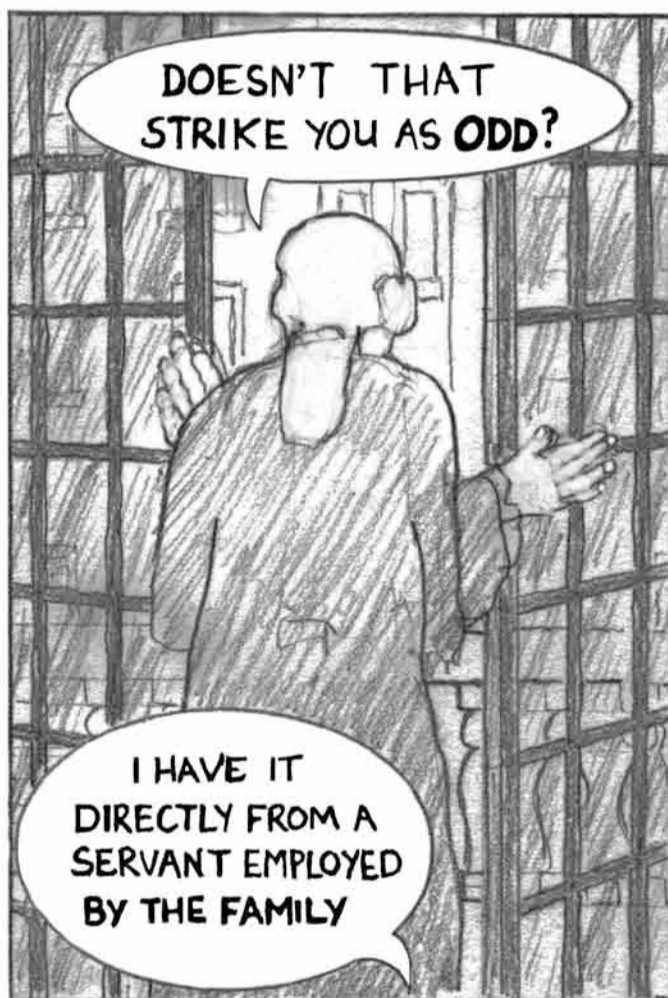
Yours

Gabrielle





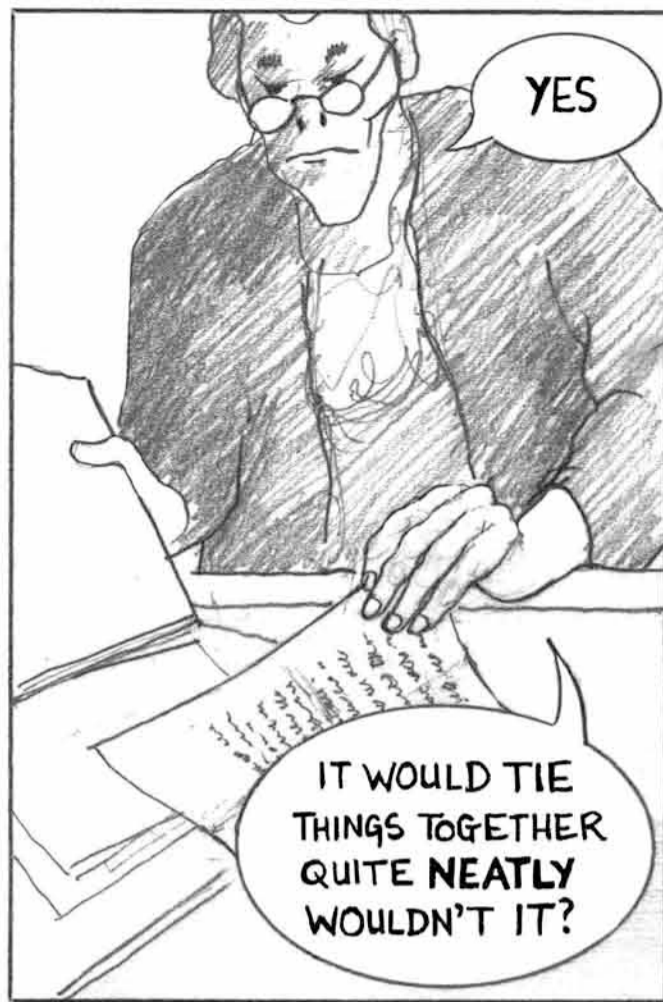






WHICH WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN **WHY** SHE HAS GONE ABROAD

TO FINISH HER EDUCATION AND MAKE HER MORE SUITABLE FOR THE COURT



YES

IT WOULD TIE THINGS TOGETHER QUITE **NEATLY** WOULDN'T IT?



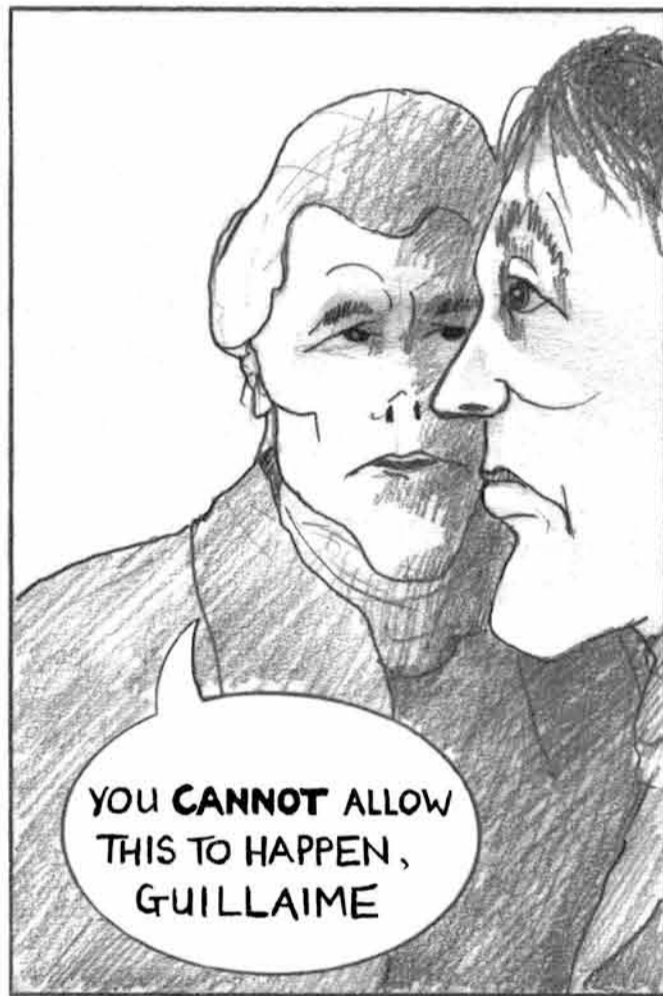
YOU UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS.

THE URGENCY IT GIVES TO OUR ENTERPRISE.



THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF PARIS-DUVERNEY HAVING THE EAR OF THE KING

THE **VERY** MAN WHO IS CONSPIRING **AGAINST** HIM



YOU **CANNOT** ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN, GUILLAUME



BUT HOW CAN I DO ANYTHING?

SHE IS ABROAD

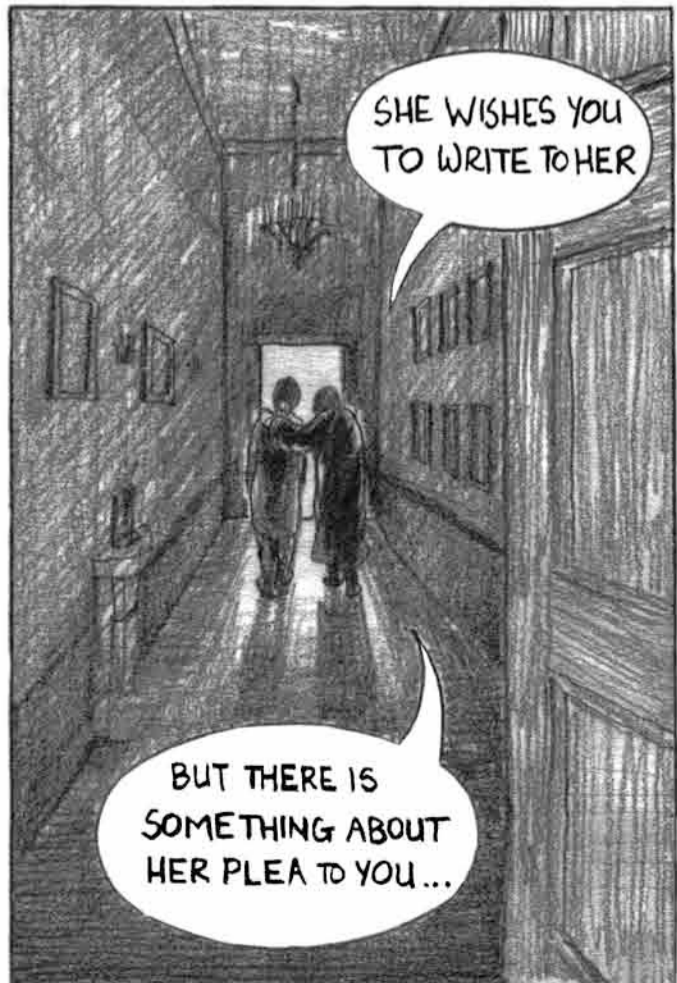


I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT



WALK WITH ME A LITTLE

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT THE LETTER THAT INTERESTS ME



SHE WISHES YOU TO WRITE TO HER

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HER PLEA TO YOU...

