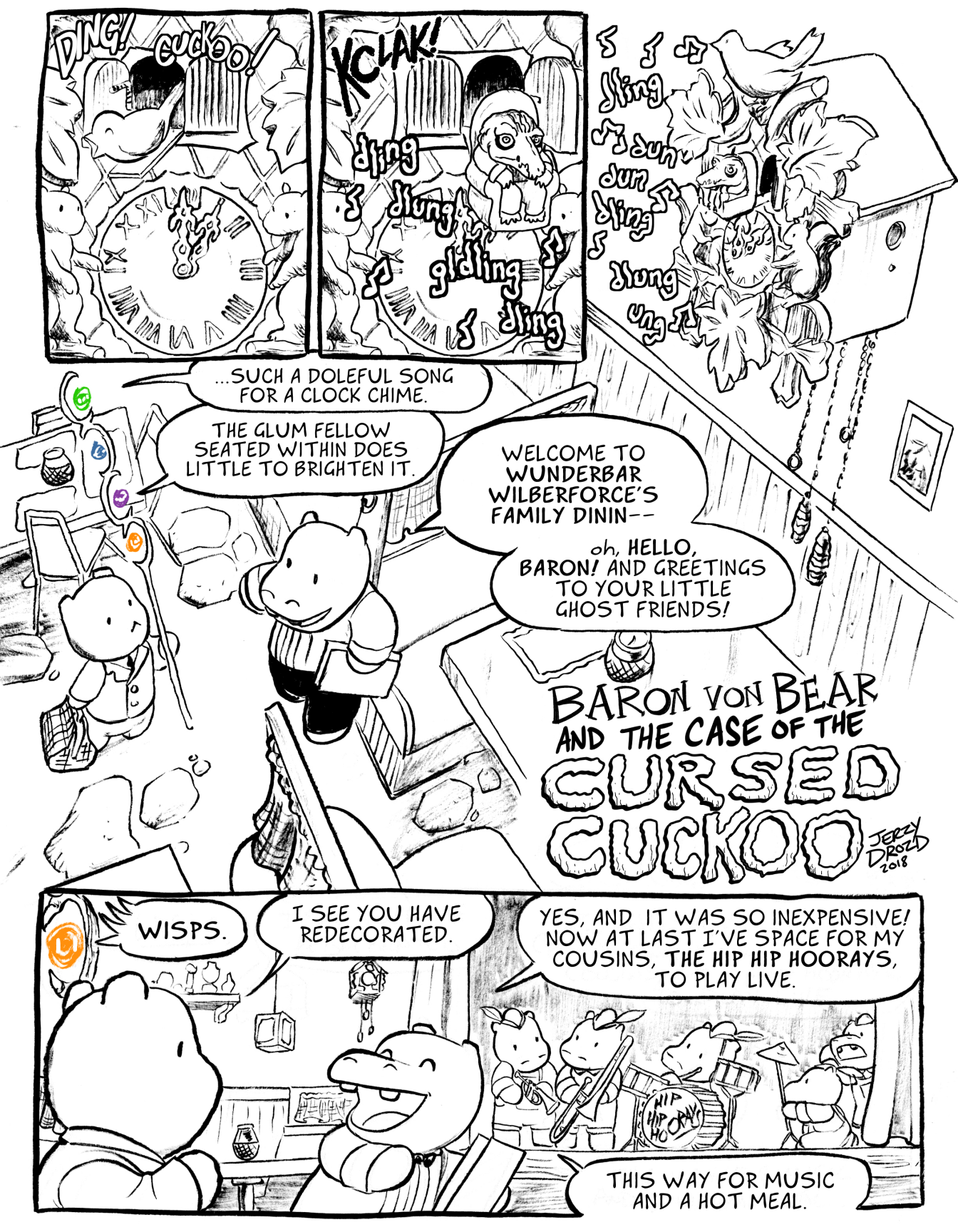
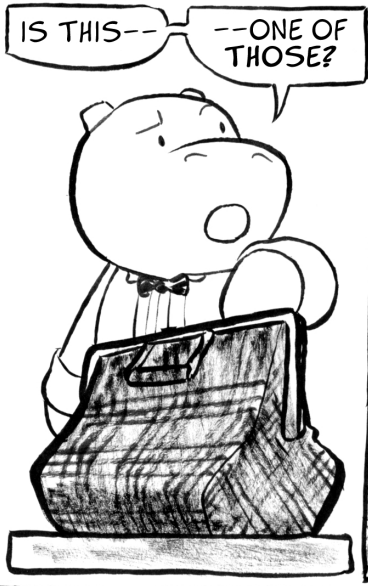
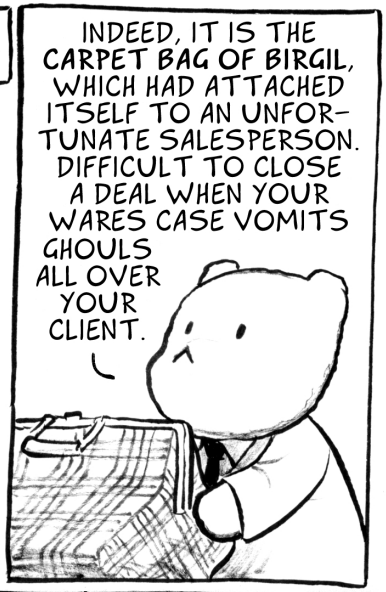

DING!
CUCKOO!
KCLAK!
dling
dlung
gldling
ding
dling
dun
dun
dling
dlung
ung
...SUCH A DOLEFUL SONG FOR A CLOCK CHIME.
THE GLUM FELLOW SEATED WITHIN DOES LITTLE TO BRIGHTEN IT.
WELCOME TO WUNDERBAR WILBERFORCE'S FAMILY DININ--
oh, HELLO, BARON! AND GREETINGS TO YOUR LITTLE GHOST FRIENDS!
BARON VON BEAR AND THE CASE OF THE CURSED CUCKOO
JERZY DROZD 2018
WISPS.
I SEE YOU HAVE REDECORATED.
YES, AND IT WAS SO INEXPENSIVE! NOW AT LAST I'VE SPACE FOR MY COUSINS, THE HIP HIP HOORAYS, TO PLAY LIVE.
HIP HIP HOORAY!
THIS WAY FOR MUSIC AND A HOT MEAL.

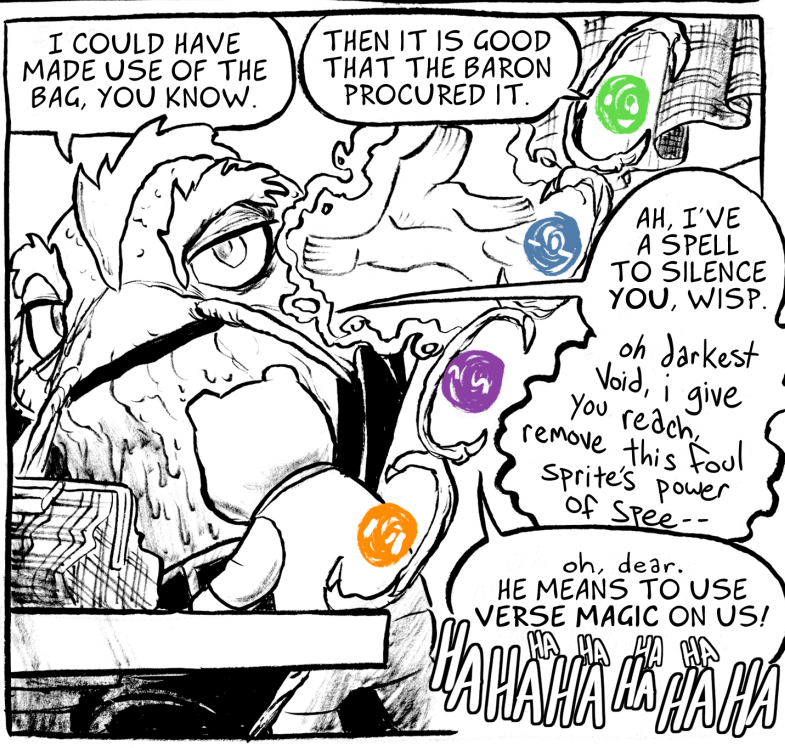
I TRUST A BOOTH WILL BE SATISFACTORY FOR YOU AND YOUR GHOST FRIENDS?
WISPS.
PNK
YES, THANK YOU.

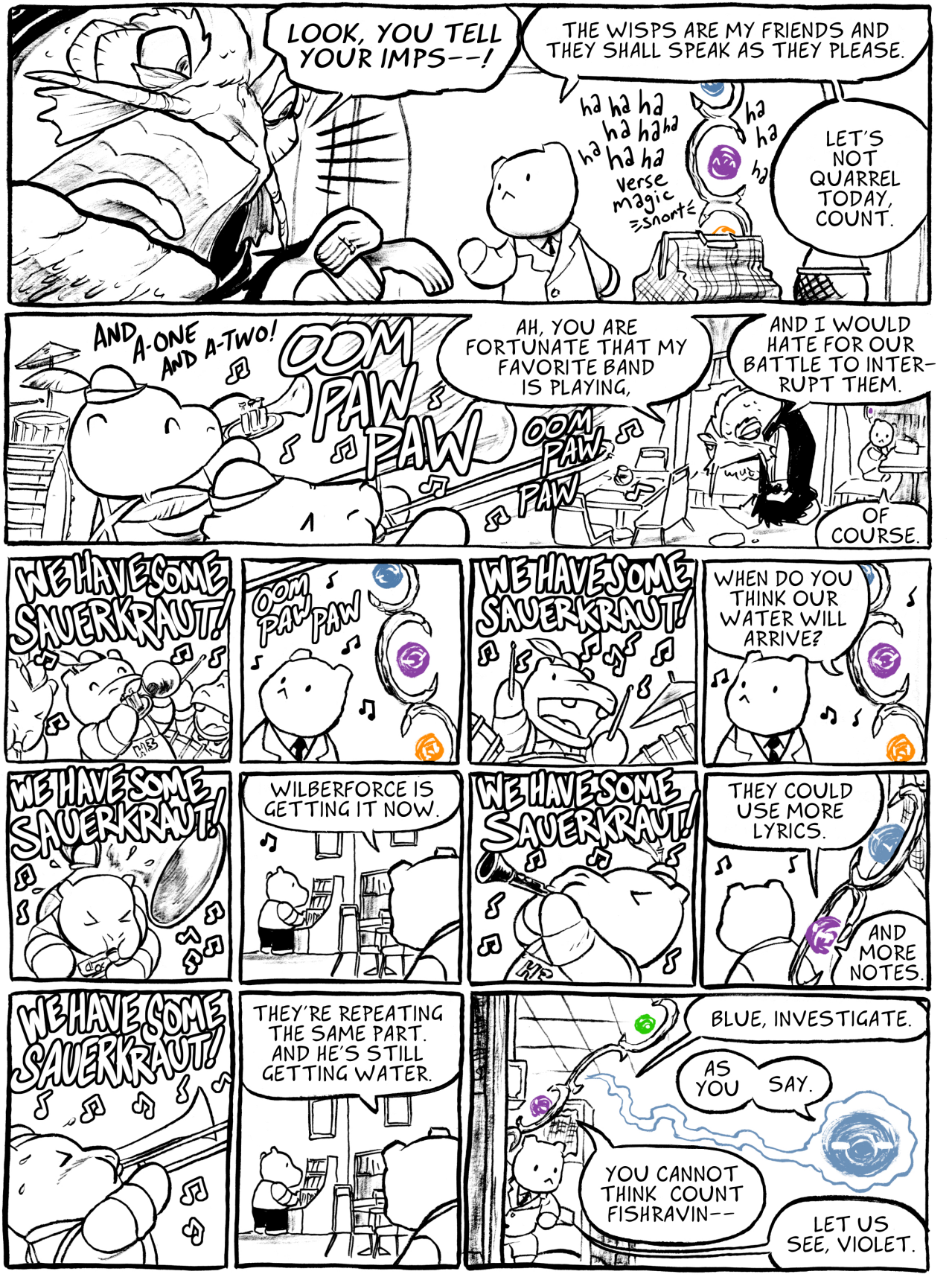

IS THIS--
--ONE OF THOSE?

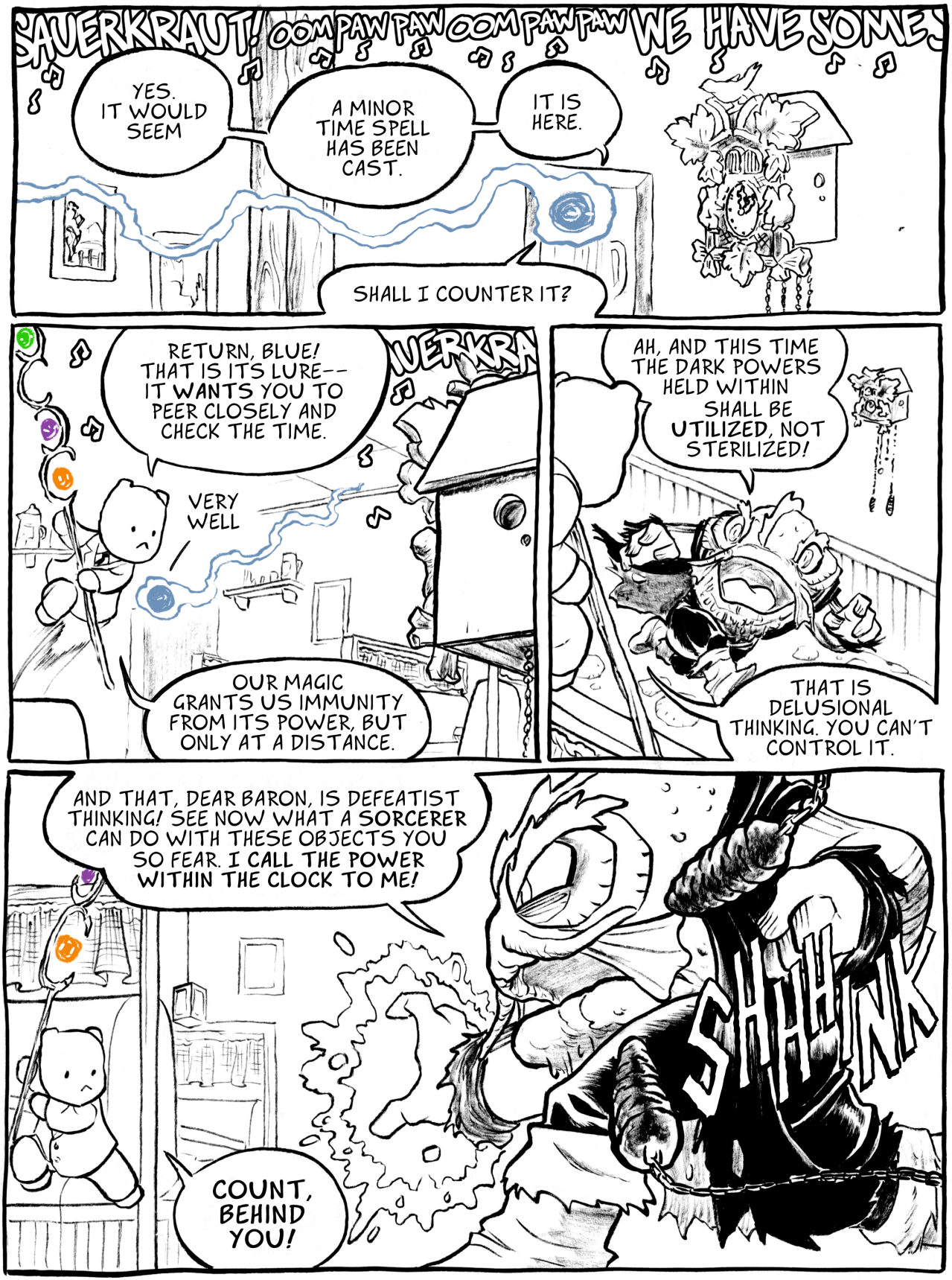

INDEED, IT IS THE CARPET BAG OF BIRGIL, WHICH HAD ATTACHED ITSELF TO AN UNFORTUNATE SALESPERSON. DIFFICULT TO CLOSE A DEAL WHEN YOUR WARES CASE VOMITS GHOULS ALL OVER YOUR CLIENT.

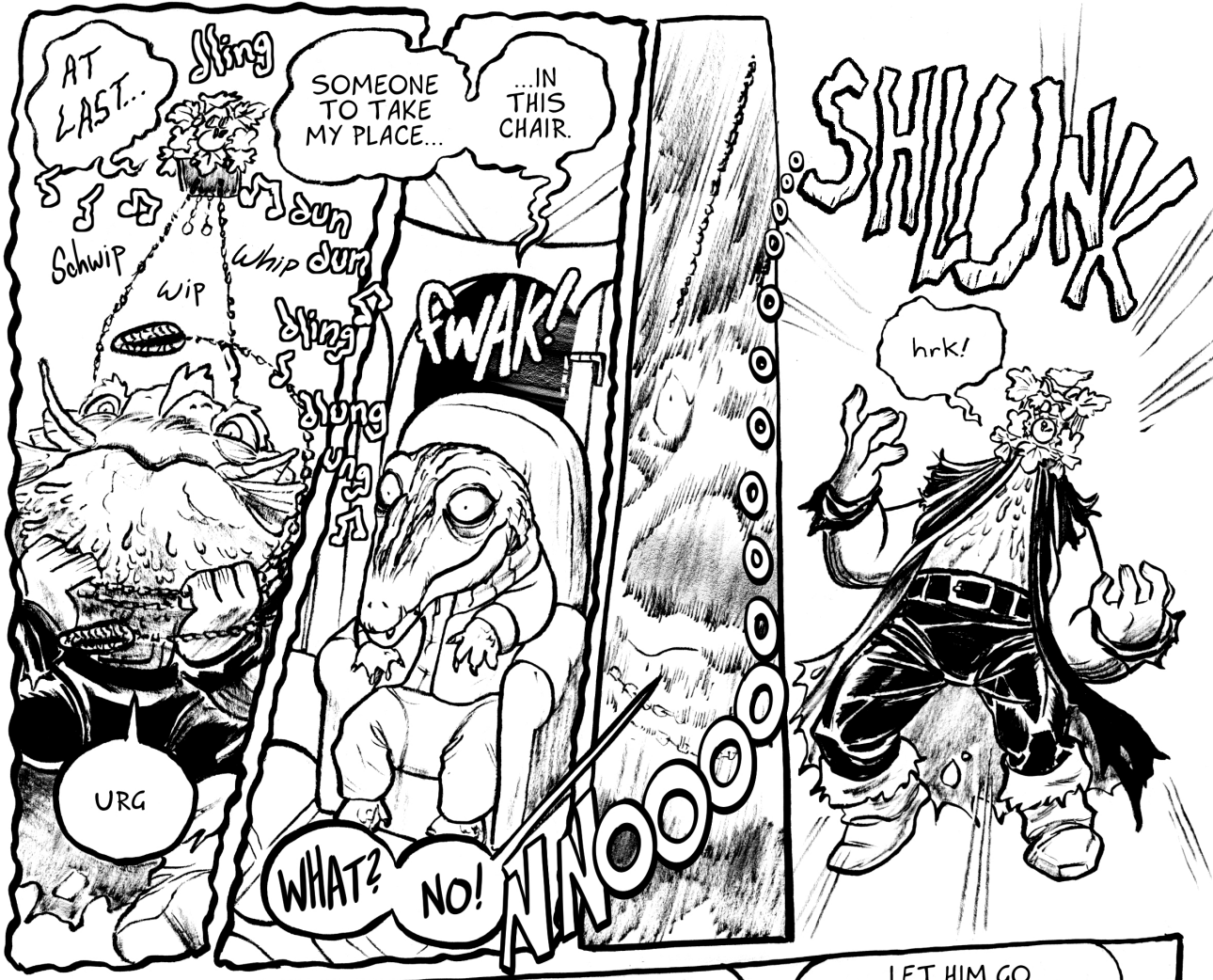
...BUT DON'T WORRY, I HAVE NEUTRALIZED THE CURSE UPON IT. FOR NOW IT IS A NORMAL BAG.
I HOPE YOU FIND NO SUCH TERRORS IN MY RESTAURANT! YOU ARE NEVER FAR WHEN THESE CURSED THINGS REVEAL THEMSELVES.

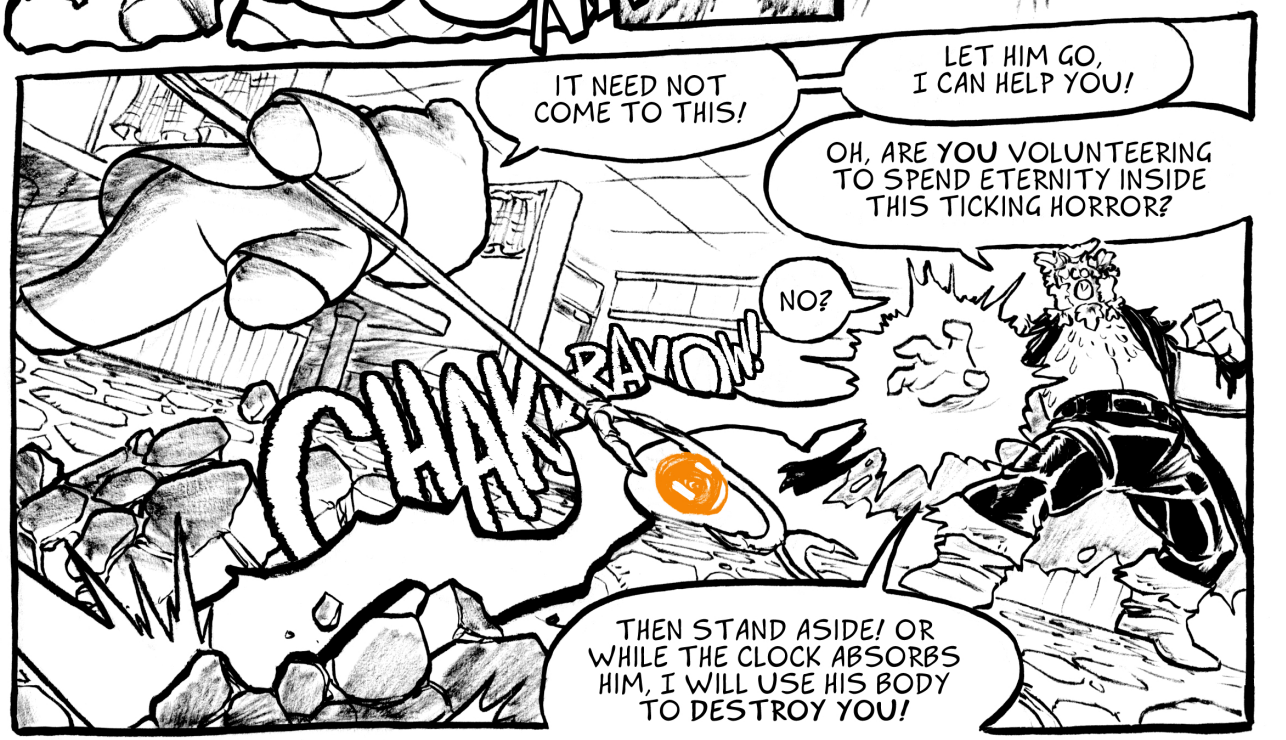
I WILL GET WATER WHILE YOU LOOK OVER THE MENU.
IT IS UNCANNY. AND NOT EVEN A SORCERER, YOURSELF.
COUNT FISHRAVIN.

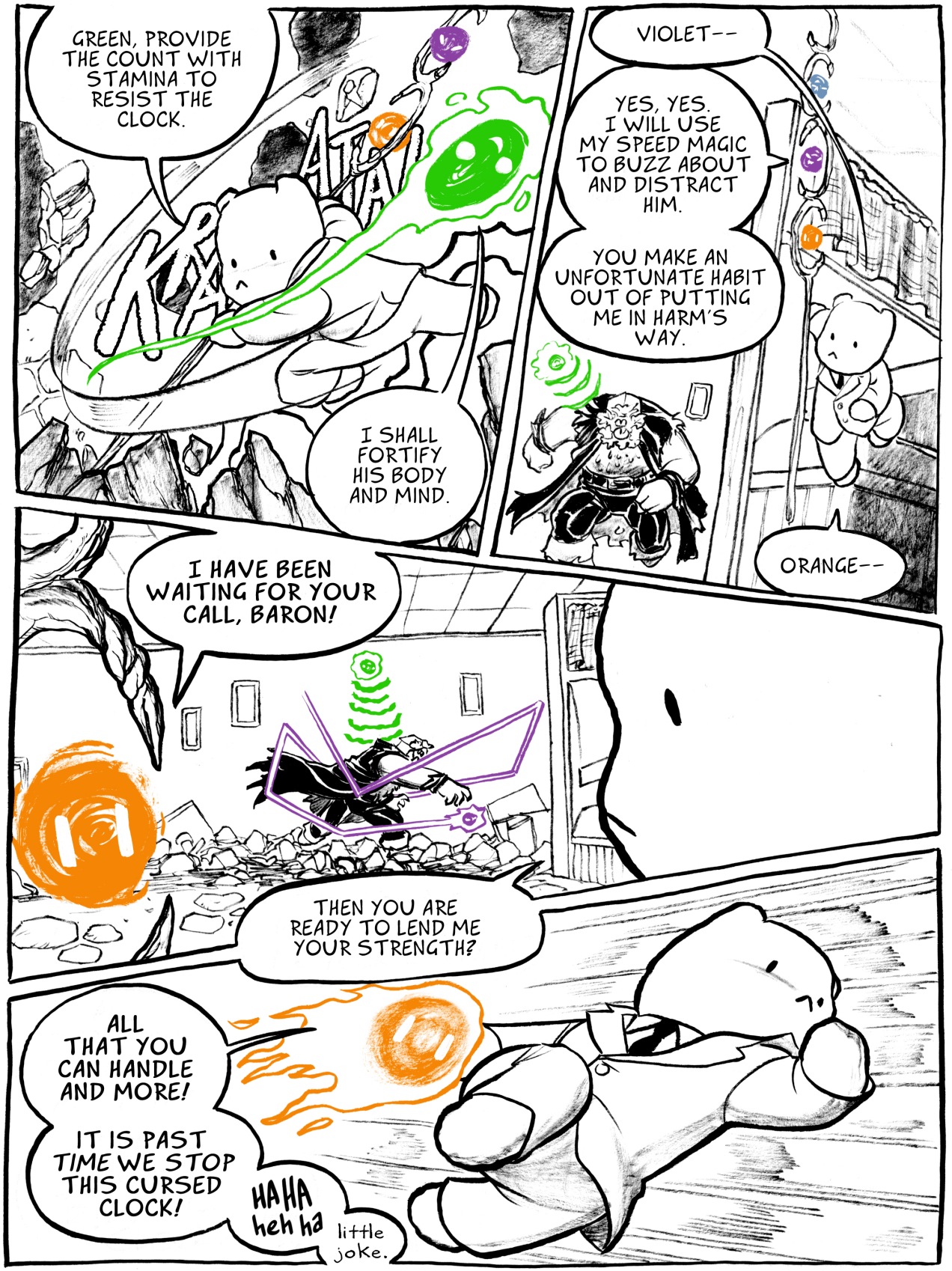

I COULD HAVE MADE USE OF THE BAG, YOU KNOW.
THEN IT IS GOOD THAT THE BARON PROCURED IT.
AH, I'VE A SPELL TO SILENCE YOU, WISP.
oh darkest Void, i give you reach, remove this foul sprite's power of Spee--
oh, dear. HE MEANS TO USE VERSE MAGIC ON US!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

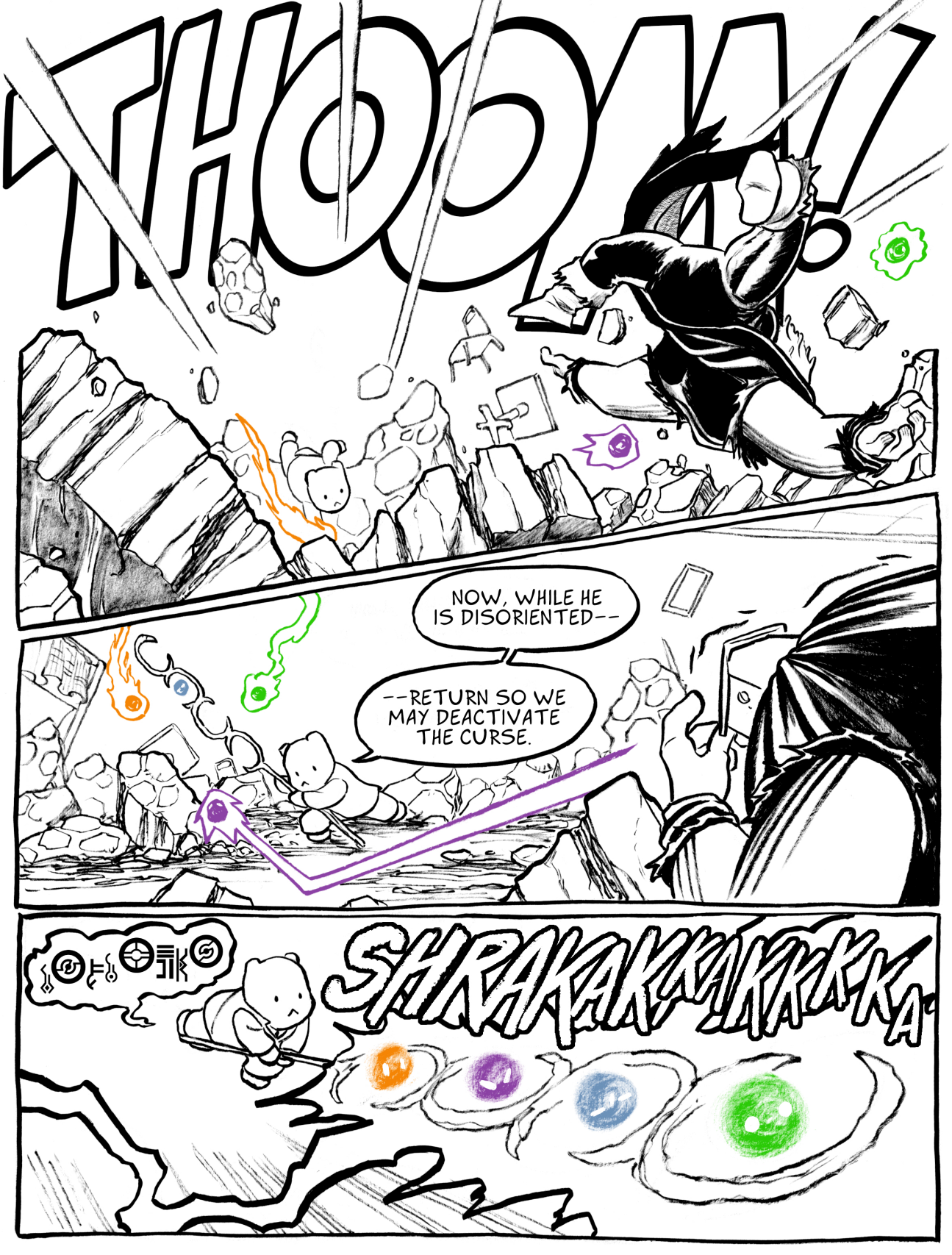

LOOK, YOU TELL YOUR IMPS--!
THE WISPS ARE MY FRIENDS AND THEY SHALL SPEAK AS THEY PLEASE.
ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha verse magic =snort=
LET'S NOT QUARREL TODAY, COUNT.
AND A-ONE AND A-TWO!
OOM PAW PAW
AH, YOU ARE FORTUNATE THAT MY FAVORITE BAND IS PLAYING,
OOM PAW PAW
AND I WOULD HATE FOR OUR BATTLE TO INTERRUPT THEM.
OF COURSE.
WE HAVE SOME SAUERKRAUT!
OOM PAW PAW
WE HAVE SOME SAUERKRAUT!
WHEN DO YOU THINK OUR WATER WILL ARRIVE?
WE HAVE SOME SAUERKRAUT!
WILBERFORCE IS GETTING IT NOW.
WE HAVE SOME SAUERKRAUT!
THEY COULD USE MORE LYRICS.
AND MORE NOTES.
WE HAVE SOME SAUERKRAUT!
THEY'RE REPEATING THE SAME PART. AND HE'S STILL GETTING WATER.
BLUE, INVESTIGATE.
AS YOU SAY.
YOU CANNOT THINK COUNT FISHRAVIN--
LET US SEE, VIOLET.

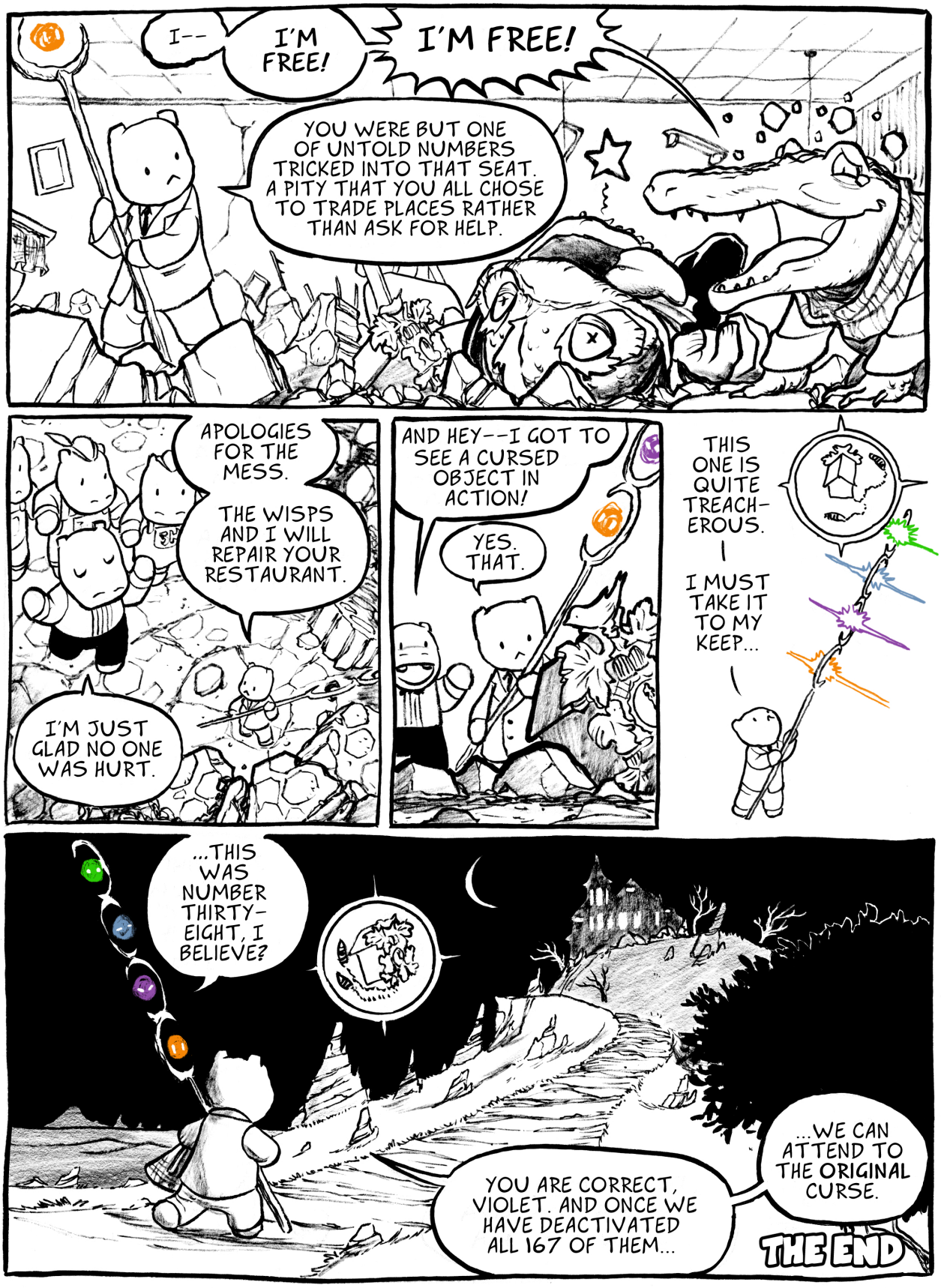

SAUERKRAUT! OOM PAW PAW OOM PAW PAW WE HAVE SOME
YES. IT WOULD SEEM
A MINOR TIME SPELL HAS BEEN CAST.
IT IS HERE.
SHALL I COUNTER IT?
RETURN, BLUE! THAT IS ITS LURE-- IT WANTS YOU TO PEER CLOSELY AND CHECK THE TIME.
VERY WELL
OUR MAGIC GRANTS US IMMUNITY FROM ITS POWER, BUT ONLY AT A DISTANCE.
AH, AND THIS TIME THE DARK POWERS HELD WITHIN SHALL BE UTILIZED, NOT STERILIZED!
THAT IS DELUSIONAL THINKING. YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT.
AND THAT, DEAR BARON, IS DEFEATIST THINKING! SEE NOW WHAT A SORCERER CAN DO WITH THESE OBJECTS YOU SO FEAR. I CALL THE POWER WITHIN THE CLOCK TO ME!
COUNT, BEHIND YOU!
SHHHINK


AT LAST...
Ding
SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE...
...IN THIS CHAIR.
Schwip
Wip
Whip
Dun
Dun
Ding
Dung
Ung
URG
FWAK!
WHAT?
NO!
NNOOOOO
SHLUNK
hrk!


IT NEED NOT COME TO THIS!
LET HIM GO, I CAN HELP YOU!
OH, ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING TO SPEND ETERNITY INSIDE THIS TICKING HORROR?
NO?
CHAK
RAWOW!
THEN STAND ASIDE! OR WHILE THE CLOCK ABSORBS HIM, I WILL USE HIS BODY TO DESTROY YOU!


GREEN, PROVIDE THE COUNT WITH STAMINA TO RESIST THE CLOCK.
I SHALL FORTIFY HIS BODY AND MIND.
VIOLET--
YES, YES. I WILL USE MY SPEED MAGIC TO BUZZ ABOUT AND DISTRACT HIM.
YOU MAKE AN UNFORTUNATE HABIT OUT OF PUTTING ME IN HARM'S WAY.
ORANGE--
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR CALL, BARON!
THEN YOU ARE READY TO LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH?
ALL THAT YOU CAN HANDLE AND MORE!
IT IS PAST TIME WE STOP THIS CURSED CLOCK!
HAHA heh ha
little joke.


THOOM!
NOW, WHILE HE IS DISORIENTED--
--RETURN SO WE MAY DEACTIVATE THE CURSE.
SHRAKAKKAKKKKA


I--
I'M FREE!
I'M FREE!
YOU WERE BUT ONE OF UNTOLD NUMBERS TRICKED INTO THAT SEAT. A PITY THAT YOU ALL CHOSE TO TRADE PLACES RATHER THAN ASK FOR HELP.
APOLOGIES FOR THE MESS.
THE WISPS AND I WILL REPAIR YOUR RESTAURANT.
I'M JUST GLAD NO ONE WAS HURT.
AND HEY--I GOT TO SEE A CURSED OBJECT IN ACTION!
YES. THAT.
THIS ONE IS QUITE TREACHEROUS.
I MUST TAKE IT TO MY KEEP...
...THIS WAS NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT, I BELIEVE?
YOU ARE CORRECT, VIOLET. AND ONCE WE HAVE DEACTIVATED ALL 167 OF THEM...
...WE CAN ATTEND TO THE ORIGINAL CURSE.
THE END