

THE TWO SPIRIT'S TALE

CHIVALRY HAD ITS DAY AND MAKES FOR A TIDY ENDING, BUT IT'S CAUSED AS MUCH HARM AS IT'S RESCUED DAMSELS IN DISTRESS

OH COME NOW SENORITA ER SENOR HUM I DON'T WISH TO OFFEND BUT I'M NOT SURE WHICH YOU ...

IF YOU PREFER THAT I DON'T, SENOR ...

NO NO, GO AHEAD PLEASE, IT'S LATE AND I'M A BIT CRANKY

AS YOU WISH

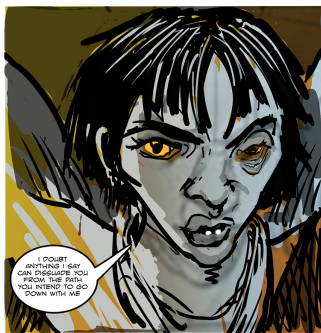
MY TALE IS ABOUT A YOUNG WOMAN LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE

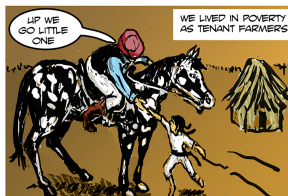
ONE IS A LIFE SHE'S BEEN FORCED INTO AND JUST MUDDLES ALONG IN.

THE OTHER IS A LIFE WHERE SHE EXCELLS

IT STARTS IN THE MEXICO CITY OF THE 1660S WHEN MEXICO WAS STILL PART OF THE DOMINION OF SPAIN

YOLOTTLI CALDERON, YOU MUST FOREWITH CONFESS TO YOUR WITCHERY AND COLLABORATION WITH SINISTER AND OTHERWORLDFORCES.

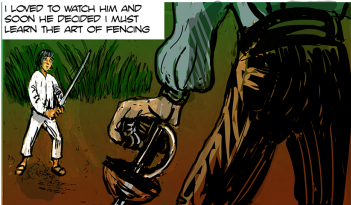




PAPA HAD BEEN A CAPTAIN DURING THE PEASANTS REBELLION AND STILL PRACTICED HIS FENCING



I LOVED TO WATCH HIM AND SOON HE DECIDED I MUST LEARN THE ART OF FENCING



I LEARNED QUICKLY AND GOT BETTER, BUT HE WAS A DEMANDING TASK MASTER



BY THE TIME I TURNED 13, I WAS BESTING HIM REGULARLY BUT THAT ONLY GAVE HIM PLEASURE



HE OFTEN TOOK ME WITH HIM ON COLLECTION RIDES TO HIS TENANTS. IT WAS HARD TO SEE HOW POOR THEY WERE, KNOWING THAT I HAD COME FROM THE SAME LIFE.



THE DROUGHT SENOR. I'LL HAVE IT ALL NEXT MONTH

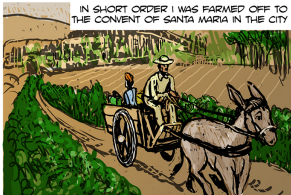




WHEN I WAS 15, MY FATHER DIED OF THE POX, PROBABLY CONTRACTED ON HIS RENT COLLECTION VISITS



I, OF COURSE, HAD NO SAY IN THE MATTER



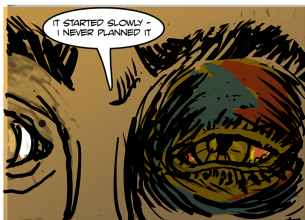
IN SHORT ORDER I WAS FARMED OFF TO THE CONVENT OF SANTA MARIA IN THE CITY



THE SISTERS SEEMED TO KNOW LITTLE OF WHAT TO MAKE OF ME, AS I DID OF THEM.



QUICKLY MY LIFE SETTLED INTO A SLOW, STEADY STREAM OF MASS AND PRAYER



THEY QUEUED UP AT A MUNICIPAL
BUILDINGS TO PAY THEIR TAXES















SOON AFTER I WAS SENT TO HELP WITH ORGANIZING PRODUCE FOR THE UPCOMING FEAST OF SANTA ANNA



I MET AN OLD FRIEND FROM THE ESTATE







AFTER RECORDING ALL THE PRODUCE FOR THE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION, TIMOR SANCHEZ DE SEVILLE FOLLOWED ME BACK TO THE CHURCH HALL



UNSURPRISINGLY, PADRE FILIPPO AGREED TO HIS REQUEST FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND EVEN BLESSED HIM



PAOLO TOLD ME THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE EX-MAYOR, SANCHEZ TAKES PEOPLE IN HIS TOWN FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HIS OWN GANG





I RETURNED TO MY ROOM LIVING,
RIPPING OFF MY HABIT

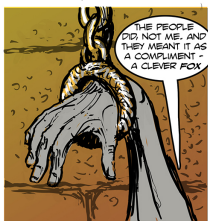


I NEVER WORE IT
EASILY, BUT NOW IT
HAD BECOME A
STRAIT ACCKET



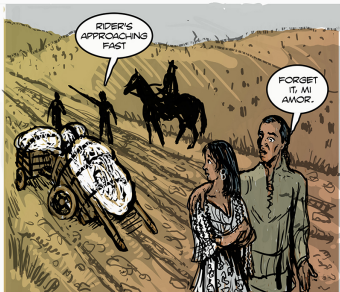
AND SO, WITH NO WITCHERY NOR EVIL SPELLS
NOR SATAN'S MANIPULATION, ZORRA IS BORN



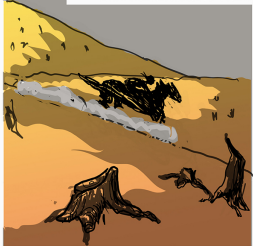


AFTER SEVERAL MISSES I CAUGHT SANCHEZ WITH HIS GANG IN THE ACT OF HUSTLING A GROUP OF FARMERS

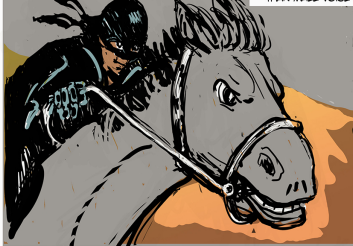




AS I APPROACHED SANCHEZ AND HIS GANG, I WONDERED HOW I'D MANAGE TO INTIMIDATE THREE OF THEM.



AND HOW THEY'D REACT TO MY LESS THAN MALE VOICE



WELL NOW, WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?



I SAW WHAT YOU DID TO THOSE PEASANTS. YOU NEED TO RETURN THEIR GOODS

















IT WAS RELAXING TO COMEBACK TO THE CONVENT AND DO MUNDANE TASKS AFTER MY SPREE



BUT THE MUNDANE WAS NOT TO LAST LONG





MATEO TOLD ME OF HORRIBLE THINGS - UNTHINKABLE LIBERTIES PADRE TOOK WITH HIM AND OTHER ALTAR BOYS. I WAS SHOCKED, BUT THEN BECAME INCREDIBLY ANGRY - THAT THIS HAS PROBABLY BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS





YOUR ABBESS WAS THE FIRST TO SUPPORT
SUSPICIONS ABOUT YOU THAT YOU WERE:
"...TOO WORLDLY FOR THE CONVENT LIFE."









SANCHEZ DE SEVILLE HAPPENED TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT HIS ENCOUNTER WITH YOU ON THE ROAD. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS INTENTIONS WITH THE FARMERS WERE ABOVE BOARD. HIS SUSPICIONS OF YOUR IDENTITY LED HIM TO ME.



COINCIDENTALLY, THE ABBESS BROUGHT UP YOUR DESIRE FOR DE VILLE IN HER WEEKLY CONFESSIO. SHE FELT YOU WERENT NUN MATERIAL. SHE ALSO RECOUNTED YOUR ACCUSATIONS OF PADRE BENVENUTO.



I DIRECTED THE ABBESS TO INTERROGATE THE ALTAR BOY, MATEO, AS TO WHETHER HE HAD FURTHER CONTACT WITH YOU ABOUT THE PADRE'S ALLEGED MISDEEDS



LATE FOR MATINS, MISSING MASS - DID YOU THINK NO ONE NOTICED?



WE DECIDED TO ARRANGE A DECEPTION THAT WOULD DRAW YOU OUT



BUT THE PULL OF THE CHASE WAS TOO HARD FOR YOU TO RESIST, AND SENOR DE VILLE ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SO-COME AS THE BAIT



