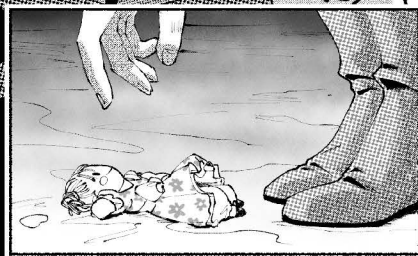
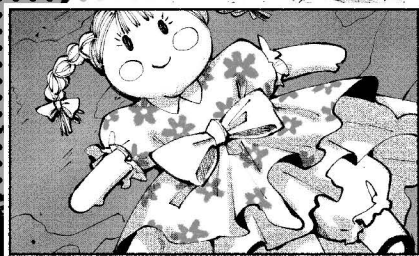


# The Calamity at Calypso Creek

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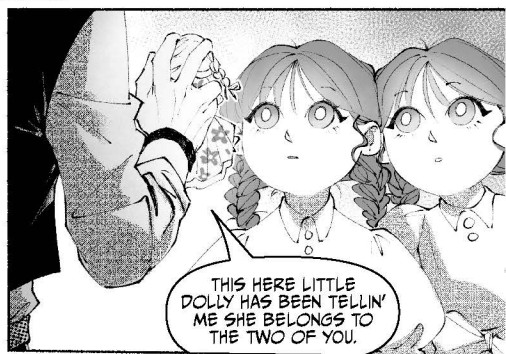
# THE CALAMITY at CALYPSO CREEK





WE'RE ON OUR WAY BACK TO MISSOURI FROM CALIFORNIA.

WE WERE SET UPON BY THIEVES, AND ALL I'VE LEFT IS THIS PIECE OF GOLD MY HUSBAND FOUND THERE. I WAS HOPING TO EXCHANGE IT FOR CASH TO GET US THE REST OF THE WAY HOME.



THIS HERE LITTLE DOLLY HAS BEEN TELLIN' ME SHE BELONGS TO THE TWO OF YOU.



SHE'S MINE!

SHE'S MINE, YOU LOST YOURS!

NO, YOU LOST YOURS!



WELL, SEE HERE, AS DEPUTY SHERIFF, I AM ONLY PERMITTED TO RELEASE HER INTO YOUR CUSTODY IF YOU PROMISE TO SHARE HER. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

YES, SIR.



I'M AFRAID I CAN'T AUTHORIZE A SALE THIS LARGE, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT--I CAN TAKE THIS PIECE AS COLLATERAL FOR A SMALL LOAN TO COVER YOUR OVERNIGHT EXPENSES.



WE'LL HOLD IT FOR YOU HERE IN OUR SAFE 'TIL TOMORROW WHEN THE MANAGER WILL BE IN AND HE CAN AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF YOUR GOLD. ALL WE NEED IS AN OFFICER OF THE PEACE TO WITNESS THE LOAN...

BUT FORTUNATELY THERE'S ONE JUST BEHIND YOU, MA'AM.



DEPUTY JIM YOUNG, MA'AM.



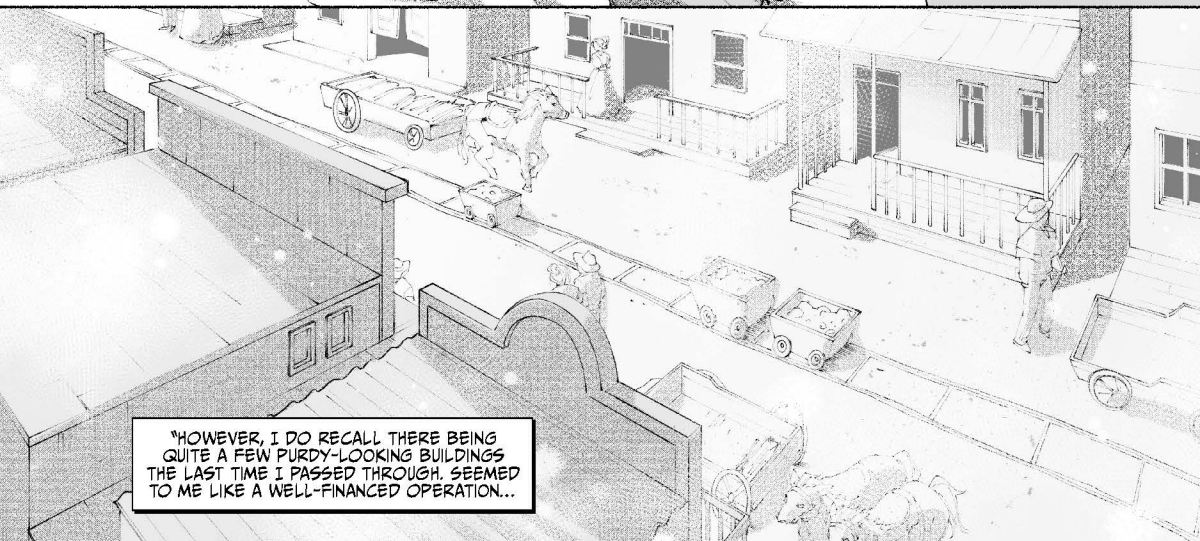
ADELAIDE, UH, MILLER.

DEPUTY!

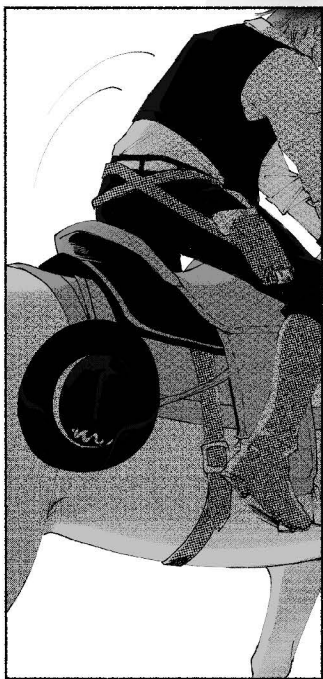


ALRIGHT,  
NOW CALM  
DOWN AND TELL  
ME WHAT YOU  
SAW.

WELL, I'VE  
PICKED UP A FEW  
GRAY HAIRS SINCE I  
LAST PASSED THROUGH  
CALYPSO CREEK, SO  
PLEASE PARDON MY  
RECOLLECTION OF THE  
TOWN AS IT WERE, AS  
IT MAY BE A MITE  
FUZZY.



"HOWEVER, I DO RECALL THERE BEING  
QUITE A FEW PURDY-LOOKING BUILDINGS  
THE LAST TIME I PASSED THROUGH. SEEMED  
TO ME LIKE A WELL-FINANCED OPERATION...





"NOW EARLIER THIS MORNIN' WHEN I PASSED  
THROUGH THERE WEREN'T NEARLY TWO WALLS  
STANDING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER IN THAT TOWN.  
NOT JUST BURNED TO THE GROUND-THEM  
BUILDINGS BEEN BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS.

"NOW, YOU MAY HAVE ASCERTAINED  
THAT I FIND MYSELF RARELY AT A  
LOSS FOR WORDS, YET I FIND MYSELF  
TRULY UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE  
WHAT I SAW THERE. IT MAY BE BEST IF  
YOU DO SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES,  
THOUGH I CAN'T SAY I WISH THE  
MEMORY OF THAT SCENE ON ANY MAN.



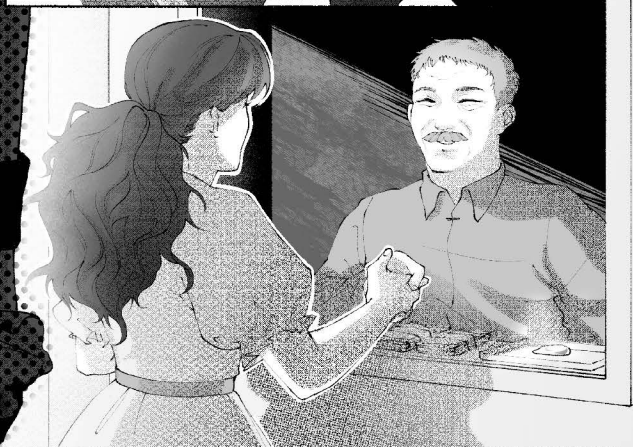
"I PRAY FOR THOSE  
UNFORTUNATE SOULS  
DELIVERED UNTO THEIR  
MAKER LONG BEFORE  
THEIR DUE TIME. I AIN'T  
NEVER SEEN NOTHIN LIKE  
IT, AND I HOPE TO THE  
ALMIGHTY NEVER TO SEE  
THE LIKES AGAIN."





"RESTING ON A POST AT THE EDGE OF TOWN WAS THIS  
HERE HAT. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I DO BELIEVE THAT  
THERE'S THE MARK OF THE DEVIL HORNED VIPER."







PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT HAPPENED AT CALYPSO CREEK, WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT EMORY GRAVES, AND HOW YOU ENDED UP WITH THEIR HORSE.

"CALYPSO CREEK WAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR MY HUSBAND HERBERT. THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO OF US TO OWN OUR OWN LAND, AND A SMALL, BUT MEANINGFUL SHARE IN WHAT PROMISED TO BE A PROFITABLE COAL MINING OPERATION.

"EVEN WHEN THE MINE TURNED OUT TO BE NOT AS HEAVILY LADEN WITH COAL AS WE'D BEEN LED TO BELIEVE-OR INDEED THE CALYPSO CREEK MINING COMPANY HAD HOPED-HE WAS NEVERTHELESS CONTENT TO LABOR HARD IN THE MINE EVERY DAY TO PROVIDE A MODEST LIVING FOR US AND OUR TWO DAUGHTERS.

"HERBERT CAME HOME LATE ONE NIGHT, SO EXCITEDLY THAT I SCOLDED HIM FOR NEARLY WAKING THE GIRLS, AND SHOWED ME A BRIGHT GOLD NUGGET-THE VERY SAME I SOLD TO MR. COOPER AT THE BANK THIS MORNING.

"HERBERT AND THE TWO OTHERS HE HAD BEEN WITH TOLD THE FOREMAN, MR. SAMUEL STERLING, ABOUT IT FIRST THING THE NEXT MORNING. HE TOLD THEM HE WOULD NOTIFY HIS SUPERVISORS, AND ASSURED THEM THEY WOULD ALL RECEIVE A SHARE IN THE PROFITS, BUT URGED THEM NOT TO TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT IT UNTIL HE HAD DONE SO.

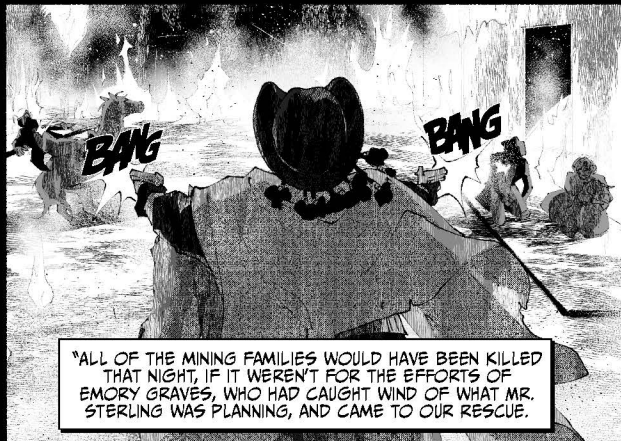
"THE VERY NEXT DAY, THERE WAS A COLLAPSE IN THE SHAFT WHERE MY HUSBAND AND THE TWO OTHER MEN HAD BEEN MINING, KILLING ALL THREE OF THEM. I SAY NOT AN ACCIDENT BECAUSE I DO NOT BELIEVE IT TO HAVE BEEN SUCH.

"MR. STERLING QUICKLY BROUGHT IN SOME SUPPOSED ENGINEERS TO SURVEY THE MINE, WHO DECLARED THE BEDROCK UNSTABLE AND UNFIT FOR FURTHER MINING. HE THEN MADE AN OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION THE MINE BE CONDEMNED AND THE LAND SOLD AT AUCTION AS RANCH LAND.

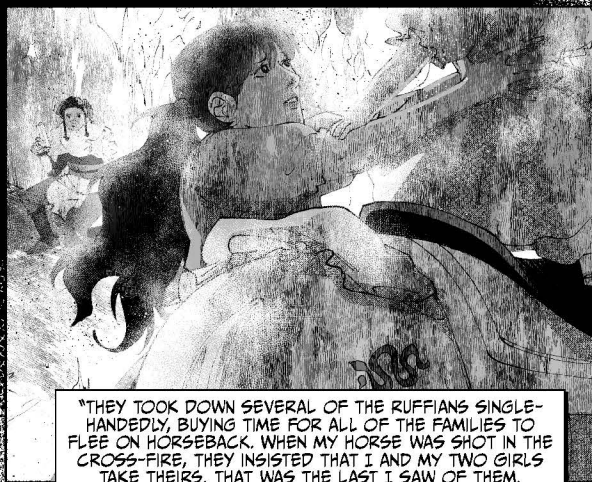
"I BELIEVE HE INTENDED TO BUY THE LAND HIMSELF, FOR PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR, AND THE NEXT DAY WHEN HE DARED TO SHOW HIS FACE AT MY HUSBAND'S FUNERAL, I TOLD HIM AND THE WHOLE TOWN SUCH. I GAVE HIM ONE DAY TO TURN HIMSELF IN OR I WOULD BE NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITIES."



"THAT NIGHT, A BAND OF RUFFIANS, HIRED BY MR. STERLING, SWEEPED THROUGH THE TOWN, SETTING FIRE AND EXPLOSIVES TO EVERY STORE, OFFICE, AND HOUSE, LEAVING NOT ONE STANDING.



"ALL OF THE MINING FAMILIES WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED THAT NIGHT, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE EFFORTS OF EMORY GRAVES, WHO HAD CAUGHT WIND OF WHAT MR. STERLING WAS PLANNING, AND CAME TO OUR RESCUE.



"THEY TOOK DOWN SEVERAL OF THE RUFFIANS SINGLE-HANDEDLY, BUYING TIME FOR ALL OF THE FAMILIES TO FLEE ON HORSEBACK. WHEN MY HORSE WAS SHOT IN THE CROSS-FIRE, THEY INSISTED THAT I AND MY TWO GIRLS TAKE THEIRS. THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF THEM.



MRS. MILLER--

IT'S MRS. FAIRFIELD, ACTUALLY.

MRS. FAIRFIELD, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE YOU, BUT THESE ARE SOME BOLD ACCUSATIONS AGAINST A WELL-RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN WITH NO HISTORY OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

GRAVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS BUILT UP QUITE THE REPUTATION. IF ONLY I HAD SOME HARD EVIDENCE TO CORROBORATE YOUR STORY...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK



DEPUTY? THERE'S SOMEONE HERE LOOKING FOR YA. HE SAID THEY HEARD SHOTS FIRED IN A STANDOFF IN THE GULCH OUTSIDE OF CALYPSO CREEK. SUPPOSEDLY EMORY GRAVES WAS THERE!

SHOW ME WHERE YOU SAW GRAVES!

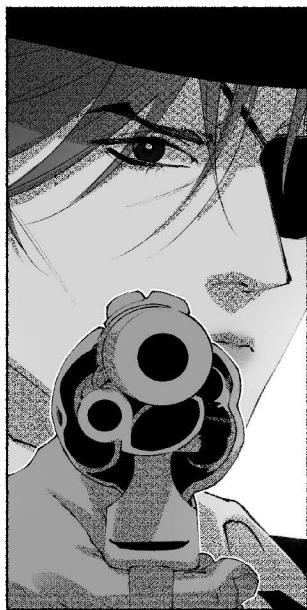
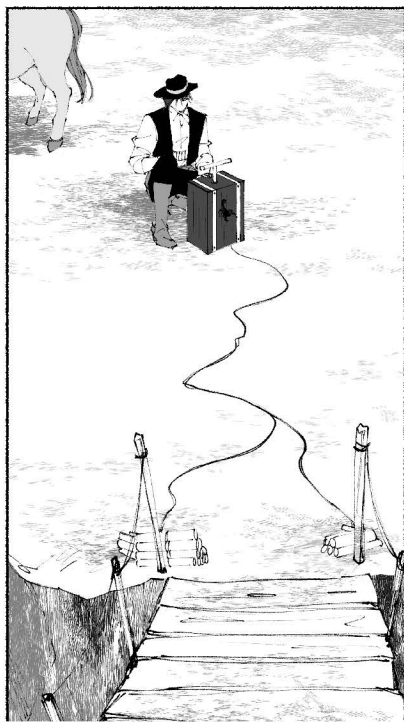
YESSIR.

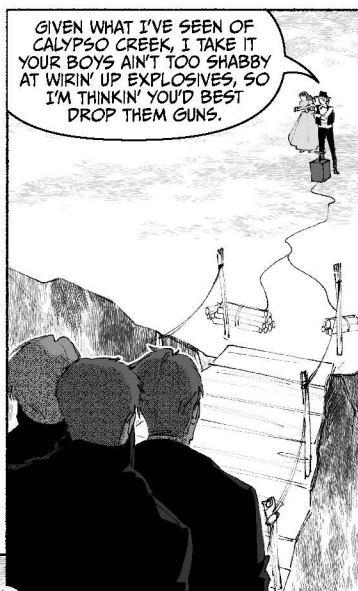
I'M COMING WITH YOU, MRS. WIMBERLY, COULD YOU PLEASE WATCH AFTER MY DAUGHTERS FOR ME?

OF COURSE I'LL WATCH THOSE TWO LIL' DARLINS, BUT YOU TWO BE CAREFUL, NOW!









***THE END***