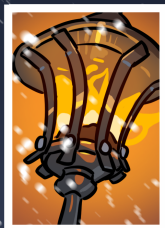
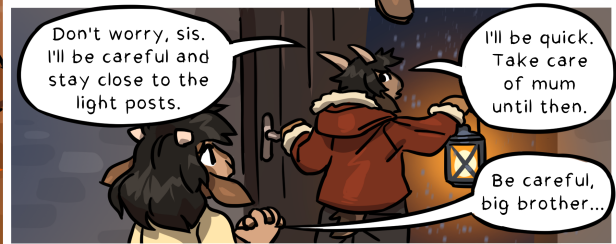


Children of Winter

by Zummeng





Only fire can protect us from them, because they hate its light and warmth.

What's more, the Queen and her monsters prowl around the village every night, hunting for lonely villagers.



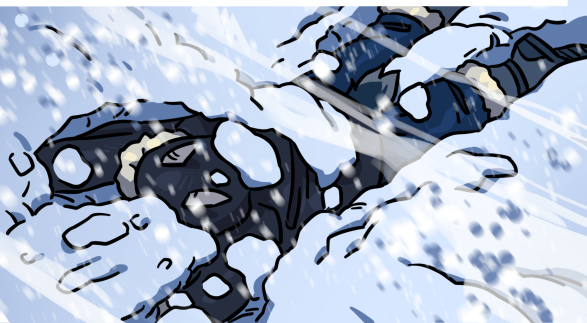
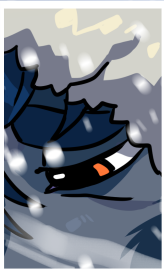
Because those who get lost in the dark...



That's why you should never stray too far from the village at night.



...will never be found again.





Where am I?
What happened?

Weird...
I'm not cold at all.

I can't see my breath...

And somehow the snow isn't so cold either.

Perhaps... the weather is getting warmer?



I wonder how long I've been out here.

It must be time for me to go home now.



Oh, my eyes!

I can't look at the fire!
It really hurts...

And its warmth burns my skin...



I can't get closer to the village...

What happened to me?



You can no longer return to your village, little boy.

Winter is your home now.

W-w-who are you and what do you want from me?

I'm the Queen of Winter, and I've come to free you from the cruel embrace of death.

D-death...?



I feel sorry for the people living here because their lives are short and full of nothing but pain and suffering.

I want to gift them eternal life and happiness so that death won't be their final reward after such a hard life.

I gave you the same gift, little boy, so you'll never be cold or hungry again.

But you have to come with me now. We have to go before the sun comes up.

But... I'll have to say goodbye to my family... I don't want them to be worried about me...



Don't worry; you'll see them again soon enough. And you can live together happily until the end of time.



And don't be sad, little boy, for in my kingdom you'll be reunited with your long-lost relatives and friends.



Really? Even with grandpa?

But of course! And I'm sure he's already waiting for you too.

End