



WHAT IS
THE **MORAL** OF
YOUR STORY, I
WONDER?

STORIES ARE
MEANT TO HAVE THOSE,
YOU KNOW. THEY DID IN
MY DAY. THEY TAUGHT
YOU ALL KINDS OF
THINGS.

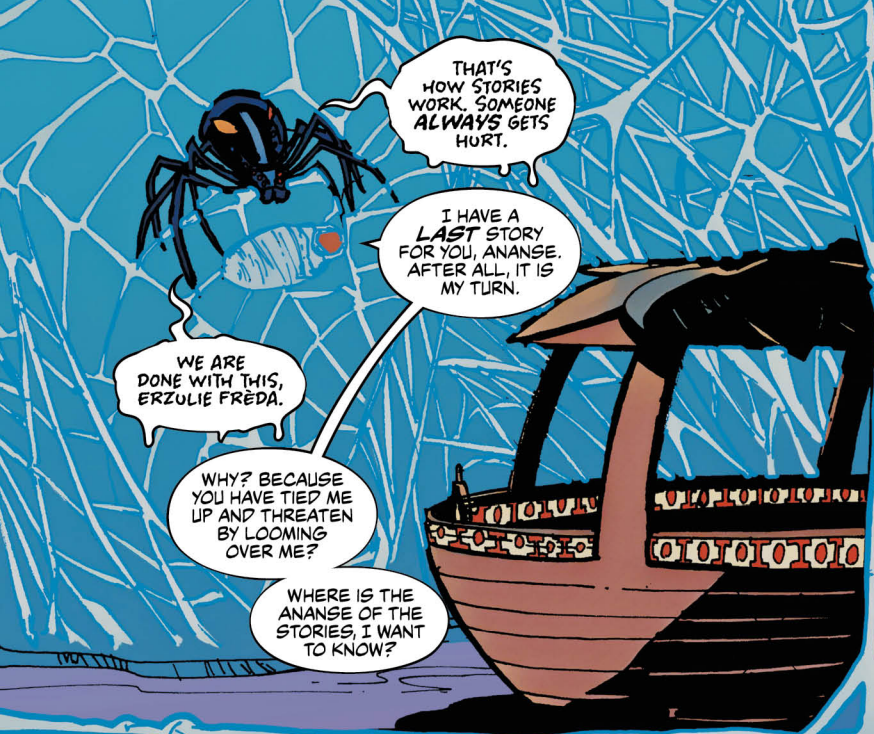
OF COURSE, YOU
DON'T NORMALLY
KNOW THAT UNTIL
THE **END**. BUT LET
US FACE FACTS.

YOUR
STORY IS VERY
NEAR ITS END,
ISN'T IT, LADY
ERZULIE?

THIS
WON'T STAND,
ANANSE. WE WERE IN
THE MIDDLE OF OUR
CONTEST. YOU HAVE
YET TO WIN.

YOU
HAVE FORFEITED.
YOU COULD NOT HELP
BUT INTERFERE IN
MY STORIES. YOU
CHEATED.

OH? AND DID
YOU NOT CHEAT, KWAKU
ANANSE? BY BRINGING
MY CHARGES INTO YOUR
STORIES AS A WAY TO
HARM THEM?



THAT'S HOW STORIES WORK. SOMEONE ALWAYS GETS HURT.

I HAVE A **LAST** STORY FOR YOU, ANANSE. AFTER ALL, IT IS MY TURN.

WE ARE DONE WITH THIS, ERZULIE FRÉDA.

WHY? BECAUSE YOU HAVE TIED ME UP AND THREATEN BY LOOMING OVER ME?

WHERE IS THE ANANSE OF THE STORIES, I WANT TO KNOW?



I AM HE.

HE IS A TRICKSTER. HE DELIGHTS IN OUTWITTING HIS OPPONENT.

IN BEING THE SMARTEST SPIDER IN THE ROOM.

I DELIGHT IN ALL OF THESE THINGS, LADY ERZULIE...



...BUT I ALSO HAVE A FAMILY TO FEED.

MY LAST STORY. LET ME TELL IT.

IT IS ONE I THINK YOU WILL LIKE, AND NOT ONE THAT YOU WILL EXPECT.



HMM.

A SINGLE STORY, THEN. AFTER WHICH I SHALL DECLARE MYSELF VICTOR.



AS YOU'D HAVE IT.

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT ANANSE THE SPIDER, AND THE TROUBLE HE GOT HIMSELF INTO.

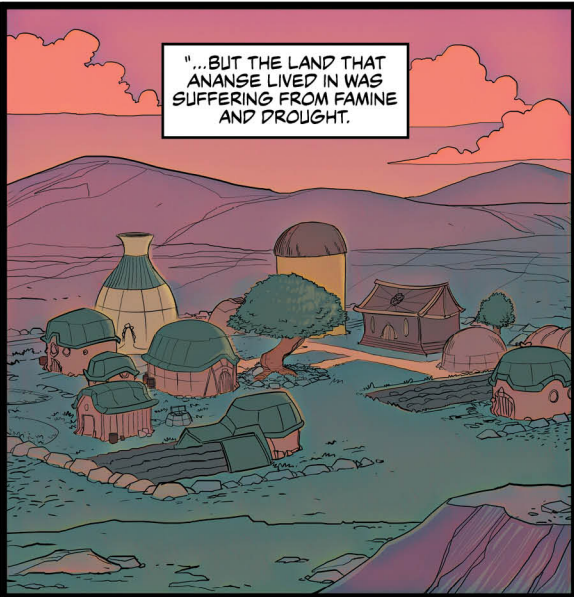


YOU THINK YOU CAN TURN MY OWN STORIES AGAINST ME?

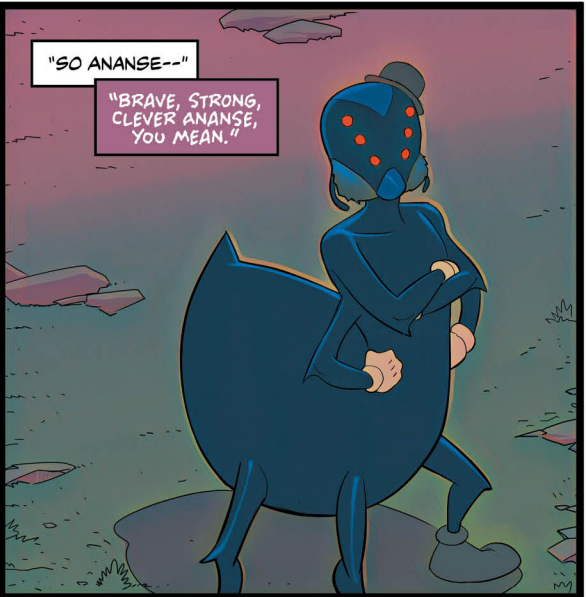
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU LOA WERE FOOLS, OTHER THAN LEGBA.



ONE DAY, KWAKU ANANSE THE SPIDER WAS HUNGRY, HE WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY, IT SEEMS...

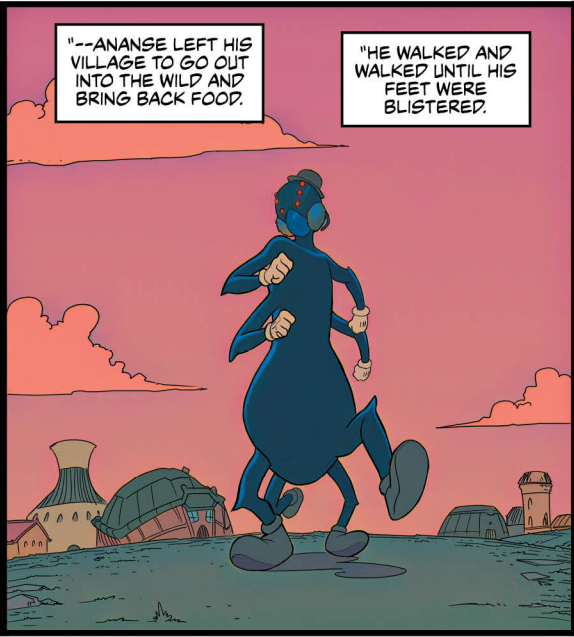


"...BUT THE LAND THAT ANANSE LIVED IN WAS SUFFERING FROM FAMINE AND DROUGHT.



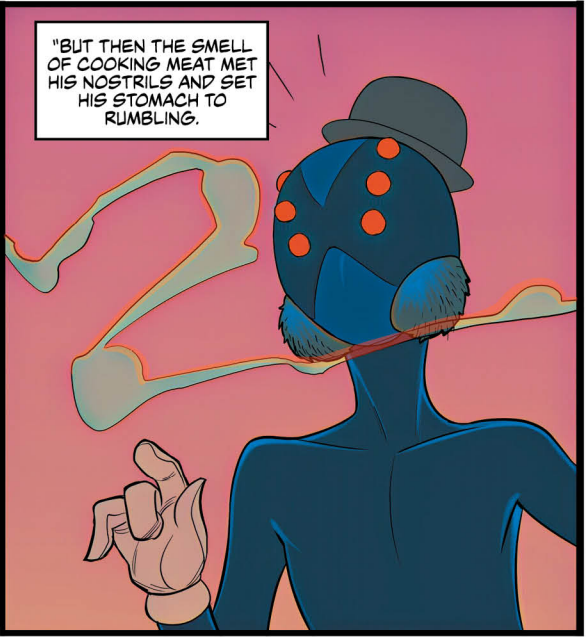
"SO ANANSE--"

"BRAVE, STRONG, CLEVER ANANSE, YOU MEAN."

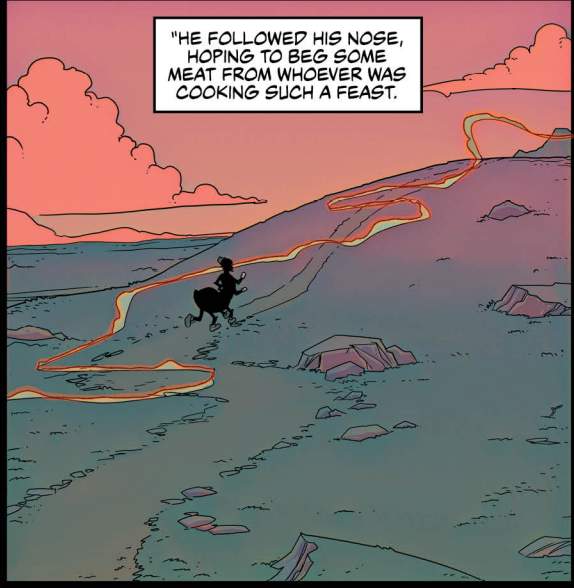


"--ANANSE LEFT HIS VILLAGE TO GO OUT INTO THE WILD AND BRING BACK FOOD.

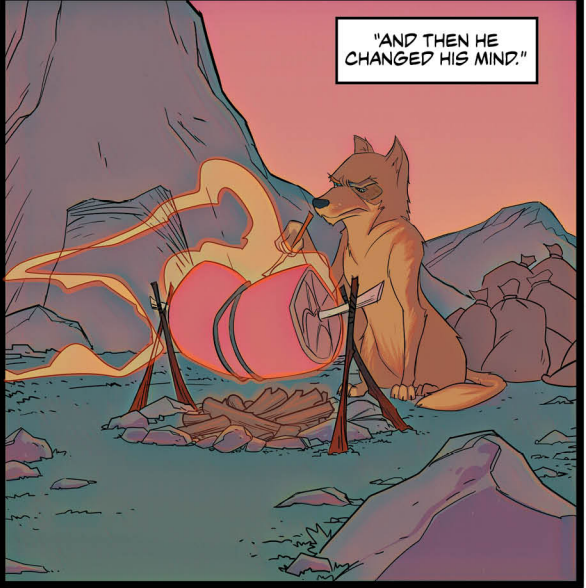
"HE WALKED AND WALKED UNTIL HIS FEET WERE BLISTERED.



"BUT THEN THE SMELL OF COOKING MEAT MET HIS NOSTRILS AND SET HIS STOMACH TO RUMBLING.



"HE FOLLOWED HIS NOSE, HOPING TO BEG SOME MEAT FROM WHOEVER WAS COOKING SUCH A FEAST.



"AND THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND."



"EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF WOLF."

"ANANSE WAS NOT AFRAID OF WOLF..."

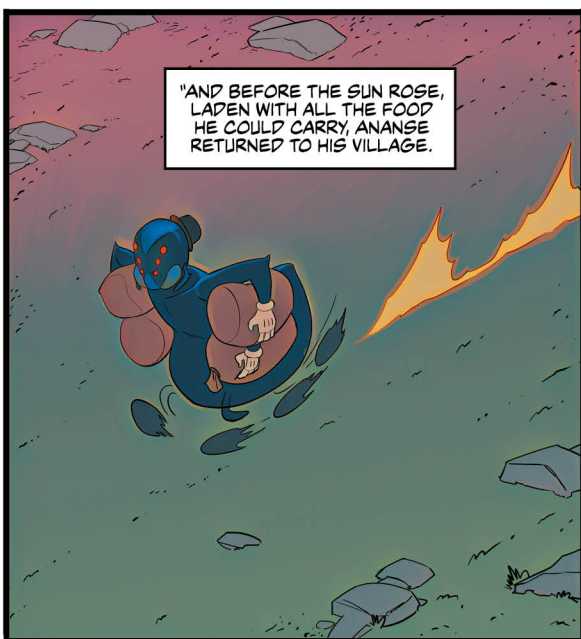


"ANANSE KNEW HE WAS SMARTER THAN WOLF."

"BUT WOLF HAD BIG TEETH ALL THE SAME. SO ANANSE WAITED..."



"...AND WHEN WOLF DOZED, ANANSE CROPT INTO HIS HOUSE AND ATE HIS FILL."



"AND BEFORE THE SUN ROSE, LADEN WITH ALL THE FOOD HE COULD CARRY, ANANSE RETURNED TO HIS VILLAGE."



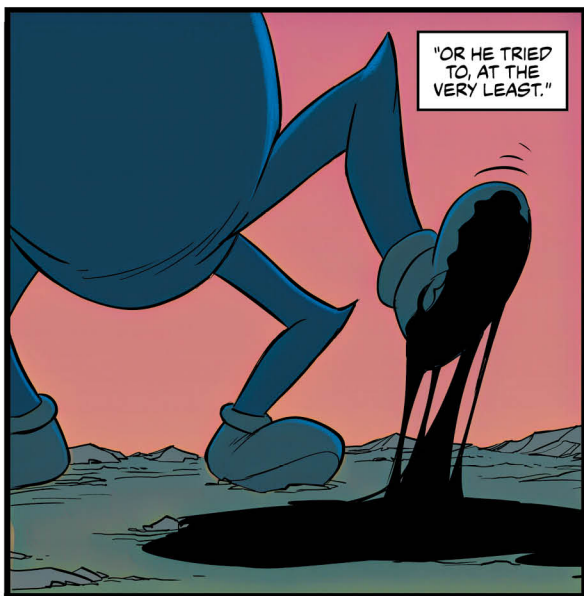
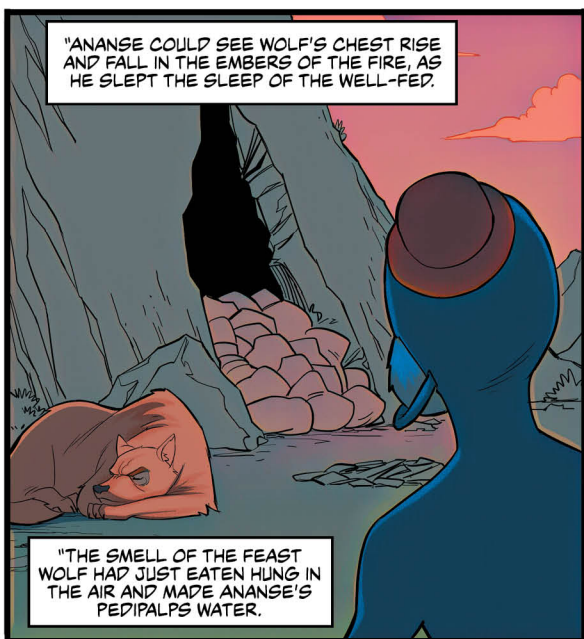
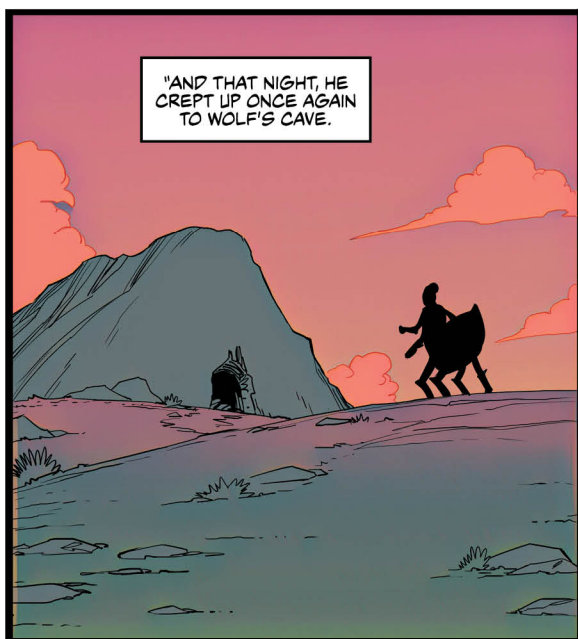
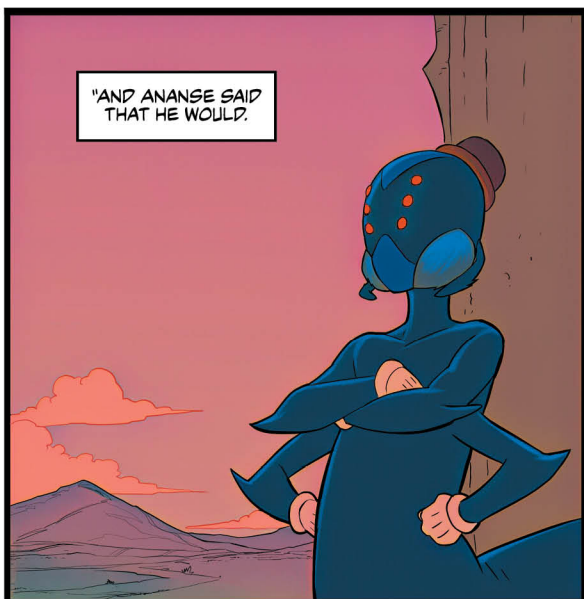
"WHERE DID ALL THIS FOOD COME FROM, ANANSE?" THE VILLAGERS ASKED.

"YOU ALL NOW KNOW THAT I AM THE GREATEST HUNTER OF YOU ALL," ANANSE TOLD THEM."

"HEHEHEHE KIKIKIKI"



"AND THEY TOLD HIM HE WAS, AND HE FED THEM ALL, AND WITH FULL BELLIES ALL SANG SONGS ABOUT ANANSE THE GREAT HUNTER."



"THAT
BASTARD."



"THAT BASTARD
COATED THE GROUND
WITH TAR."



"'OH LITTLE THIEF,'
WOLF SAID. 'DID YOU
THINK I WOULD NOT
NOTICE THAT I HAD
BEEN ROBBED?'"

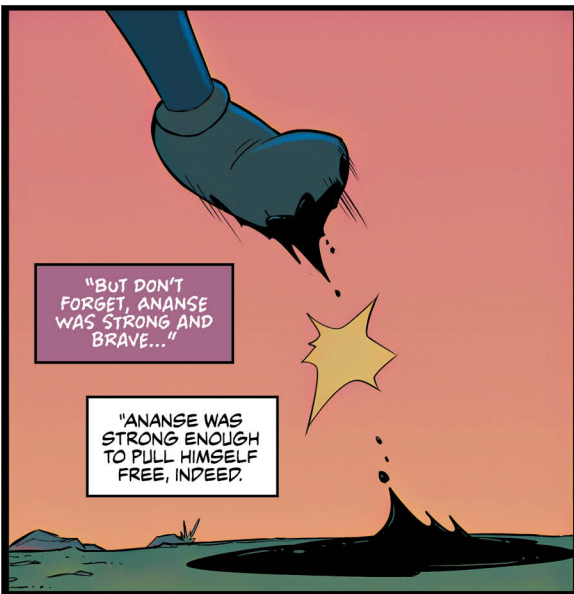


"'AND NOW I WILL
HAVE EVEN MORE
MEAT FOR MY
LARDER.'"



"BUT DON'T
FORGET, ANANSE
WAS STRONG AND
BRAVE..."

"ANANSE WAS
STRONG ENOUGH
TO PULL HIMSELF
FREE, INDEED."



"AND HE
FLED--"

"RETRACTED."

"--BACK TO THE
SAFETY OF HIS
VILLAGE."

