

A YOUNG WOMAN, A GIRL STILL -- HER NAME IS IRRELEVANT -- MET A HANDSOME OFFICER ON A SUNNY AUGUST DAY. AS HE WAS NEW IN TOWN, HE ASKED HER TO SHOW HIM THE STREETS AND SIGHTS OF HIS NEW HOME.

AT FIRST THE YOUNG WOMAN MADE A FUSS, BUT SHE SOON RELINQUISHED TO THE QUIET URGINGS OF THE MAN.



I HEAR THAT THERE IS A SPLENDID PARK HERE.

THERE ARE TWO IN FACT.

THEN SHOW ME BOTH...





ADIELI --  
UNTIL NEXT  
TIME!

AS THE YOUNG WOMAN TOOK HER  
LEAVE OF THE MAN, A FEELING OF REMORSE  
FELL OVER HER.

SHE HAD RECENTLY COME TO KNOW A STUDENT  
NOT FAR FROM HER HOME. HE REGULARLY  
VISITED HER, SURPRISING HER EACH SUNDAY  
WITH A SMALL COURTESY.

OH, BERTRAM,  
BUT YOU HAVE  
SO LITTLE  
YOURSELF..

GIVING YOU  
A GIFT IS MY  
GREATEST  
FORTUNE!

THANK  
YOU.



*T*HE OFFICER CONTINUED TO COURT THE YOUNG WOMAN. THE MORE PRESSINGLY HE DID SO, THE MORE FLATTERED BY HIM SHE FELT.

SOON SHE WAS UNABLE TO TELL WHICH OF THE TWO MEN SHE LIKED MORE, AND TO WHICH SHE WOULD ONE DAY GIVE HER HEART FOR EVER. DAY AFTER DAY SHE DELAYED THE DECISION, SUSPECTING ALL THE SAME THAT HER GAME COULD ONE DAY HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

*F*NALLY, AFTER MUCH AGONISING, SHE DECIDED TO BID THE OFFICER FAREWELL ONCE AND FOR ALL. HOWEVER, AT THE MOMENT SHE WANTED TO SHARE HER DECISION, THE STUDENT HAPPENED PAST. BOTH MEN FELL INTO A FIERCE ARGUMENT, WHICH LED TO A PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION.

THE STUDENT PUSHED HIS RIVAL WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THE OTHER FELL TO THE GROUND HUMILIATED, THE OFFICER CHALLENGED THE STUDENT TO A DUEL...

BERTRAM...  
FRANZ...







AT DUSK THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE TWO MEN STOOD OPPOSITE EACH OTHER. FRANZ, THE OFFICER, RODE IN THE CAVALRY AND WAS, THEREFORE, HIGHLY FAMILIAR WITH HANDLING A WEAPON. IN CONTRAST, BERTRAM'S FATHER HAD SERVED THE LOCAL COUNT AS HEAD HUNTSMAN, AND HAD TAUGHT HIS SON THE ART OF SHOOTING FROM AN EARLY AGE.

AND SO HAPPENED THAT WHICH HAD TO HAPPEN...

**BLAM!**

*T*HE SHOTS HAD BARELY RUNG OUT BEFORE THE TWO OPPONENTS ALREADY LAY DYING IN THEIR OWN BLOOD.

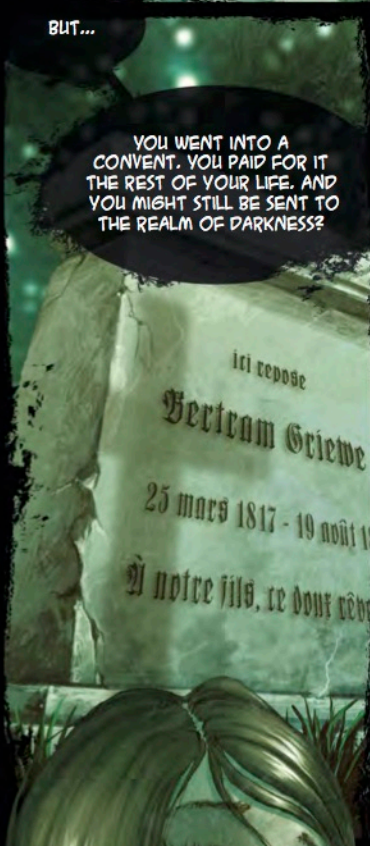
WHEN THE YOUNG WOMAN HEARD OF THEIR DEATHS, SHE CRIED FOR THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS WITHOUT PAUSE. FOR THE REMAINDER OF HER LIFE SHE WAS NEVER ABLE TO FORGIVE HER PART IN THIS MISFORTUNE. FILLED WITH SORROW AND GRIEF, SHE LEFT THE TOWN AND WITHDREW FROM SOCIETY. SHE SPENT THE REST OF HER LIFE IN A CONVENT, WHERE SHE DIED AGED ALMOST NINETY.





THE YOUNG WOMAN -- IT WAS YOU!

OH, OTTIE, I'M SO SORRY!



BUT...

YOU WENT INTO A CONVENT. YOU PAID FOR IT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. AND YOU MIGHT STILL BE SENT TO THE REALM OF DARKNESS?

ici repose  
Bertram Griewe  
25 mars 1817 - 19 août 1  
à notre fils, ce doit rede



I'M GUILTY OF THE DEATH OF TWO YOUNG MEN. TWO DEAD HUMAN LIVES COMPARED TO ONE OF LONELINESS.



I THINK, AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT IS SUFFICIENT FOR AN UNDECIDED.



??

AAAAHHH!!!





WHOOPSY-DAISY! FALL SLOWLY, YOUNG MAN! HA HA HA!!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH DEAR, I'M EVEN TRIPPING OVER MY OWN FEET NOW...



HEE HEE HEE...


HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES, FRINGS?

THAT WOULD IMPLY HE HAD ANY TO BEGIN WITH -- HA HA HA!



FRINGS JUST CAN'T HELP HIMSELF HE KNOWS THAT SICKLE MICHEL DOESN'T LOOK KINDLY ON SUCH THINGS...





MAYBE I  
REALLY SHOULD  
DRINK LESS...

DEAR GOD  
FRINGS, YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED TO KEEP  
A LOW PROFILE!


HA, WE'RE  
INVISIBLE!

MY PROFILE  
CAN'T GET MUCH  
LOWER THAN  
THAT!

JUST GREAT! DO  
YOU WANT PEOPLE  
'ROUND HERE SAYING  
THE CEMETERY IS  
HAUNTED?


WHY NOT?  
AT LEAST THERE'D BE  
SOMETHING GOING  
ON HERE!

FRINGS! WILL  
YOU PLEASE  
FINALLY UNDERSTAND  
THAT SUCH BEHAVIOUR WILL  
GUARANTEE YOU A PLACE  
IN THE REALM OF  
DARKNESS!



BUT IT WAS  
JUST A BIT OF  
FUN...

MR GRIM  
DOESN'T HAVE  
A SENSE OF  
HUMOUR!



WHAT IS  
THE -- THE  
REALM OF  
DARKNESS?