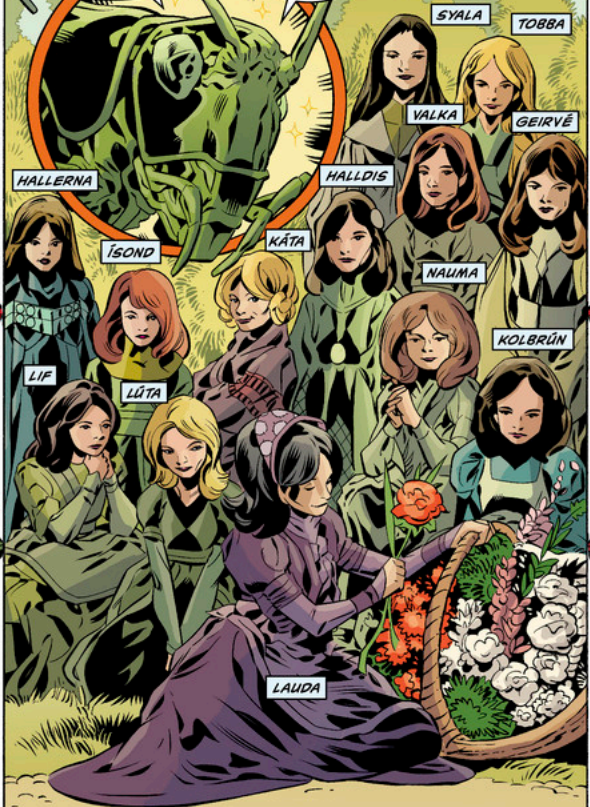


TO KNOW YOUR OWN STORY, ROSE RED, YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE STORY OF YOUR MOTHER LAUDA, AND HER TWELVE OLDER SISTERS.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER HAD A LOT OF DAUGHTERS, BY CHOICE.

THEY HAD THE USUAL SQUABBLES COMMON TO ANY GROUP OF SIBLINGS, BUT FOR THE MOST PART THEY DELIGHTED IN EACH OTHER.



- SYLA
- TOBBA
- VALKA
- GEIRVÉ
- HALLERNA
- HALLDIS
- KÁTA
- NAUMA
- KOLBRÛN
- LIF
- LÛTA
- LAUDA

# CONTINUE Chapter Eight of HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Bill Willingham writer/creator    Mark Buckingham pencils    Steve Leialoha & Andrew Pepoy inkers    Lee Loughridge colors    Todd Klein letters    Nimit Malavia cover

Rowena Yow associate editor    Shelly Bond editor









"IN THIS CASE, POSSIBLY DUE TO THE SHEER NUMBERS INVOLVED, IT STARTED MUCH SLOWER."

"THIS IS AN UNUSUALLY QUIET DINNER."



"TOO MANY RIVALRY TO GUARD AGAINST."

SURE. ALL THE CHATTER DRIES UP WHEN IMPENDING DOOM IS CONSTANTLY IN THE AIR.



"NO ONE KNOWS WHICH DAUGHTER POISONED THE BROTH."

YUCK!



"LAUDA WAS ALWAYS A FINICKY EATER AND SAVED HERSELF THEREBY TAKING ONLY A SMALL TRIAL TASTE."

DID COOK FALL ASLEEP ON THE JOB?  
THIS TASTES AWFUL!



"EVEN FROM THE ONE SMALL SIP, LAUDA WAS SICK IN BED FOR DAYS."

"SHE RECOVERED ALONE, UNTENDED BEHIND HER STOUT BEDROOM DOOR, LOCKED WITH COLD IRON AND HOT SPELLS."

"THREE OF HER SISTERS WEREN'T AS LUCKY. THEY DIED AFTER LONG TRIALS, VOMITING AND THEMSELVES INTO IRREVERSIBLE STATES OF DEHYDRATION."

WE SAY GOODBYE TO VALKA, LIF AND KATA.

MY DEAR CHILDREN, KNOWING I'D LOSE YOU DOESN'T MAKE IT EASIER.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, A QUARTER OF OUR RIVALS CUT DOWN IN A SINGLE LUNCH.

ANY SUSPECTS?

OR ANY-ONE READY TO CONFESS?

I'D HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS VALKA'S DOING, HAD SHE NOT BEEN AMONG THE DEAD.