

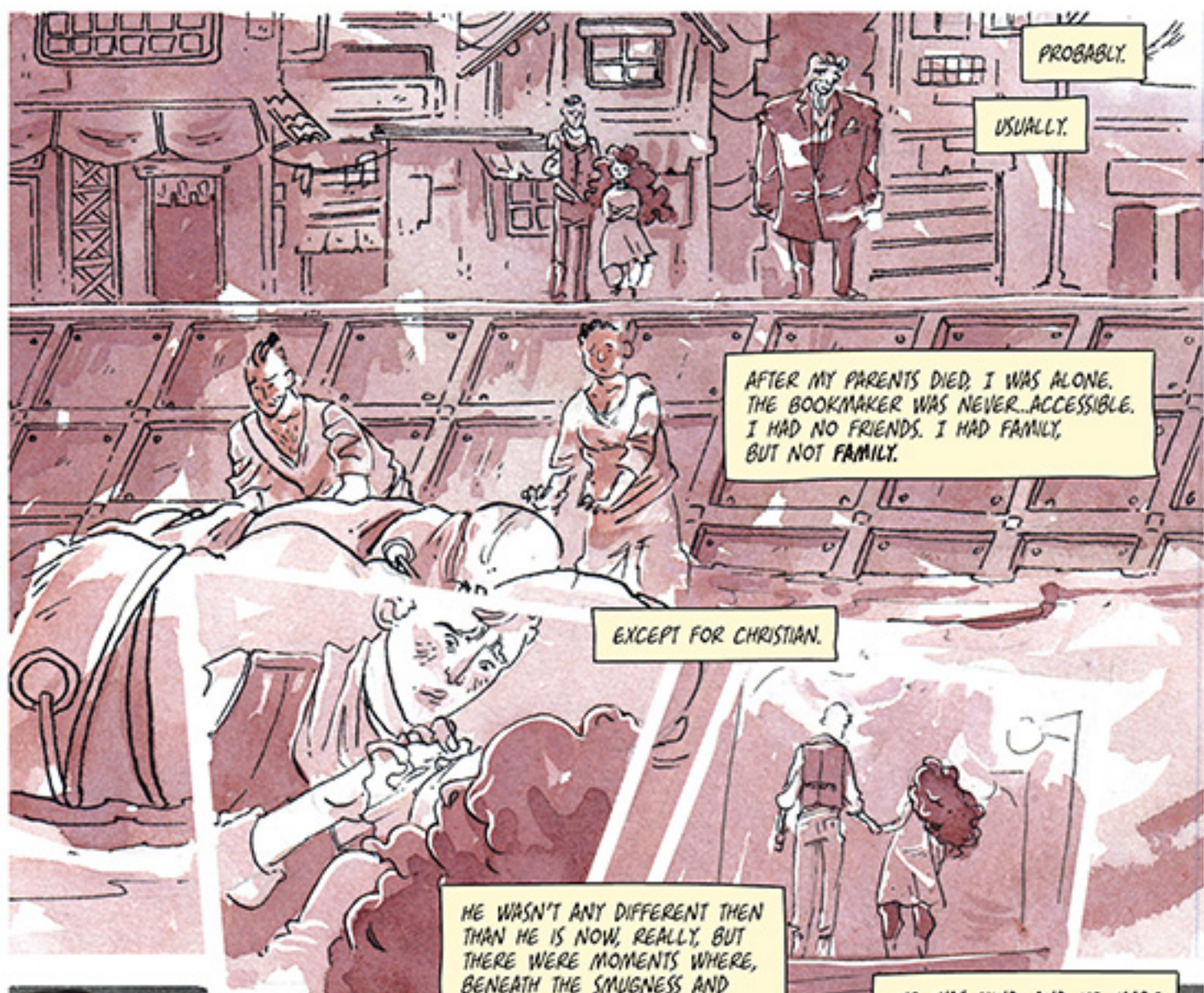




OH FOR GOD'S SAKE, YES, ME. DO TRY AND KEEP UP.

BUT... YOU'RE... YOU.

NOW, WHAT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND HERE IS THAT I AM NOT AN IDIOT.



PROBABLY.

USUALLY.

AFTER MY PARENTS DIED, I WAS ALONE. THE BOOKMAKER WAS NEVER ACCESSIBLE. I HAD NO FRIENDS. I HAD FAMILY, BUT NOT FAMILY.

EXCEPT FOR CHRISTIAN.

HE WASN'T ANY DIFFERENT THEN THAN HE IS NOW, REALLY, BUT THERE WERE MOMENTS WHERE, BENEATH THE SMUGNESS AND THE ARROGANCE...

HE WAS KIND. AND HE MADE ME FEEL SAFE WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD.



YOU.

