

THE SEVERED HERO



#1



The Shadowed Marketplace is a place where anything can be found... if you know where to look.



Hey! Look at me!
I'm the main
attraction!

Not today,
fuzzball. I'm
looking for
something
real.



**IGNORE ME?!
NO ONE IGNORES THE
BOOGEYWIGGLE!**

SNAP!

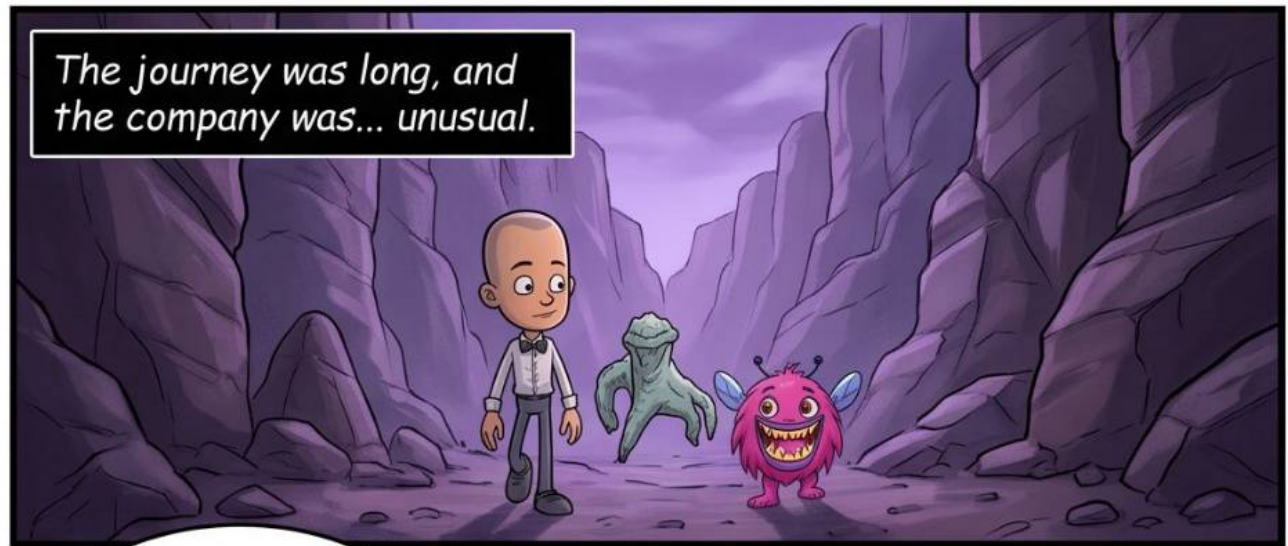








The journey was long, and the company was... unusual.



You're really good at that. Where did you learn to fight?



Auch Claw didn't speak, but his actions spoke volumes.

Who cares about fighting? Look at these shiny rocks!



HOWL!



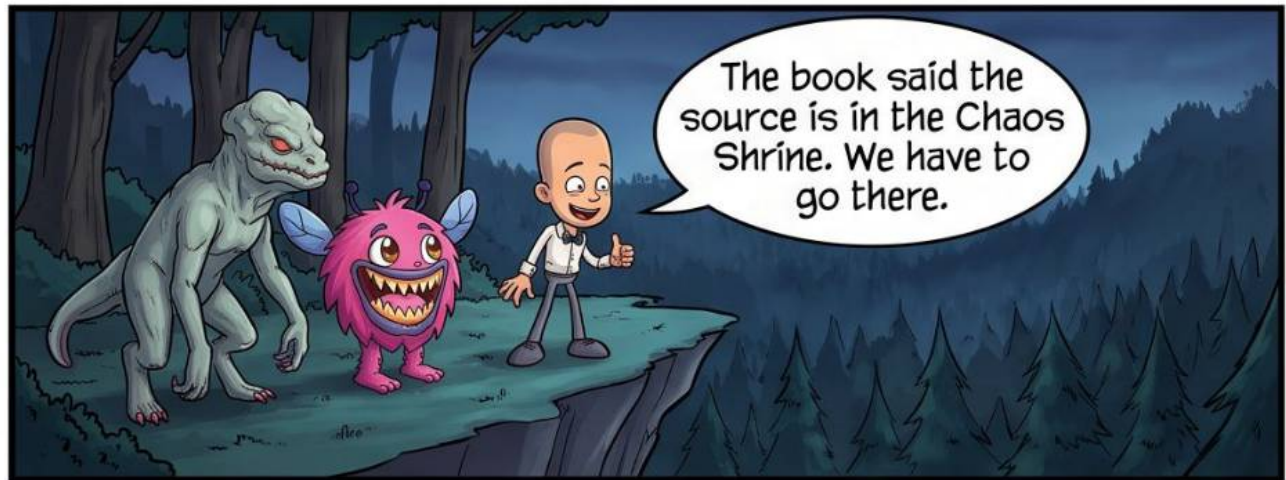


*The Forbidden Library:
where secrets go to be
forgotten.*









Reality is a suggestion
in the Chaos Forest.





The source of all the mischief lay within.

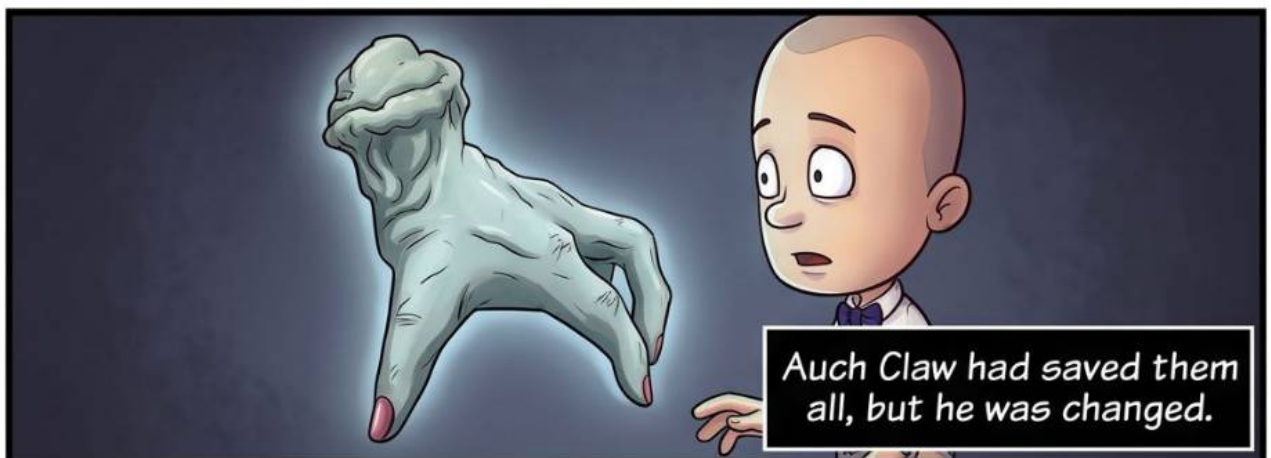


I can feel it...
it's calling
me back.

*Auch Claw knew the
danger of returning
to the source.*









News of their deeds had traveled faster than they had.

Is it true? Did the hand really defeat a chaos beast?

SLAP!

Step right up!
Get your authentic
hero rocks here!

*They were legends
in the making.*

In a quiet corner of the shadowed marketplace.

I have heard of the hand that fights with honor.

There is a greater threat rising in the north. We need a hero.

What do you think, Auch Claw? Ready for another one?

Auch Claw never turned down a chance to be a hero.

The north? I hear the chaos there is even better!

A new journey begins,
and a new hero rises.



Keep up, Boogeywiggle!
We don't want to lose him!



Who, me? I'm always at
the front of the line!

Auch Claw pauses
and looks back, giving
a confident thumbs-up
to his team.



The Severed Hand was ready for anything.

HEROIC!



to be continued



BOOK

1

AUCH CLAW

— THE HAND IN THE DARK —



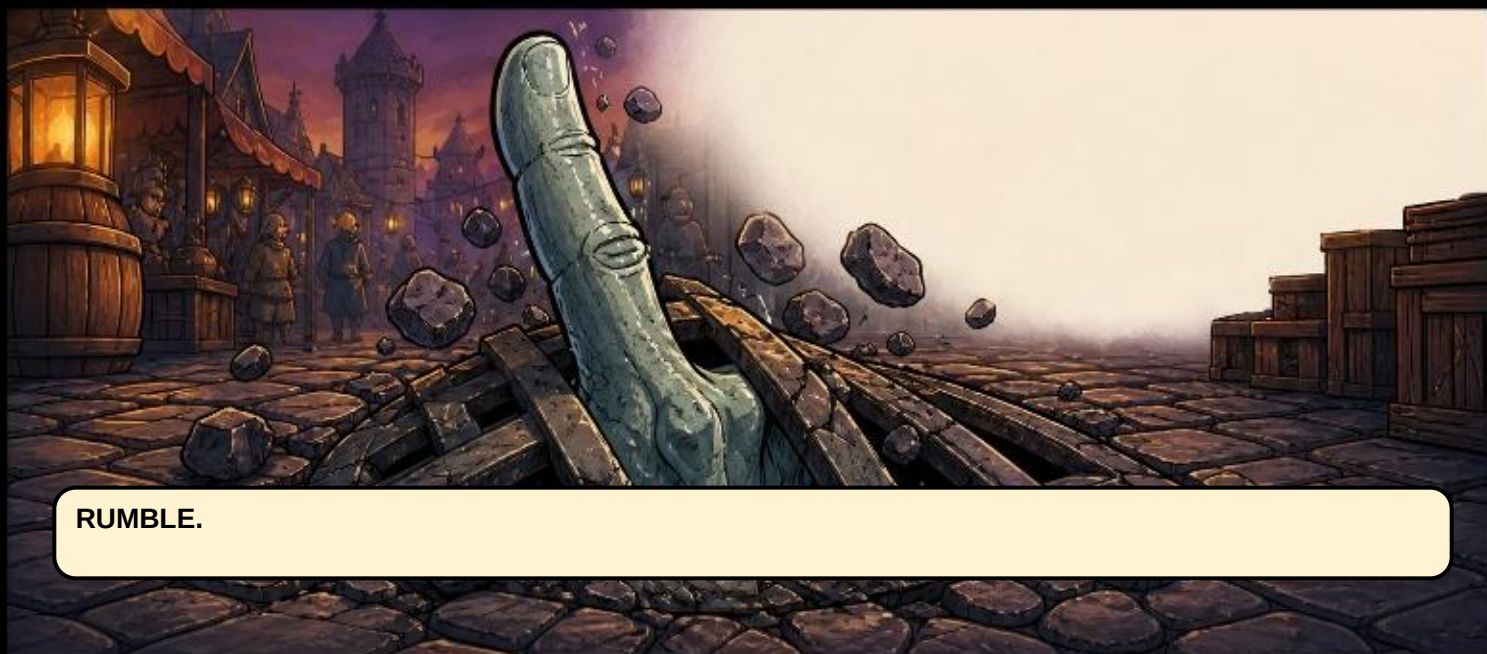
After dusk, the Bellwether Market glittered like a pocketful of stars.



The missing courier came through here.



The missing dumpling came through here, too.



RUMBLE.

Hey! That was my emergency snack!

FWOOSH!

RUN.

The Hand was not hunting them. It was fleeing.

Mirror lantern—now!



Spicy surprise!



PLOP!



SHRAAAK!

You protected us.

Some heroes lose their heads. This one lost everything else.

Do we still get dinner?



BOOK

2

AUCH CLAW

— THE LANTERN BELOW —



The map pointed down.



That relic belongs to Auch Claw.



Does Auch Claw have a snack map?



The lights went out a hundred years ago.

Ring them, and the city wakes.

KRAAANG!

It knows the way!

Auch Claw was shattered to seal the thing below.

THUNDER-THUD!

A legend belongs behind glass.

A legend belongs where someone needs help.

I remember you, little fragment.

The buried city began to rise.



BOOK

3

AUCH CLAW

— THE BELL OF BROKEN BONES —



The road to the bell crossed a storm that had forgotten how to end.



Bram...



I'm fine.

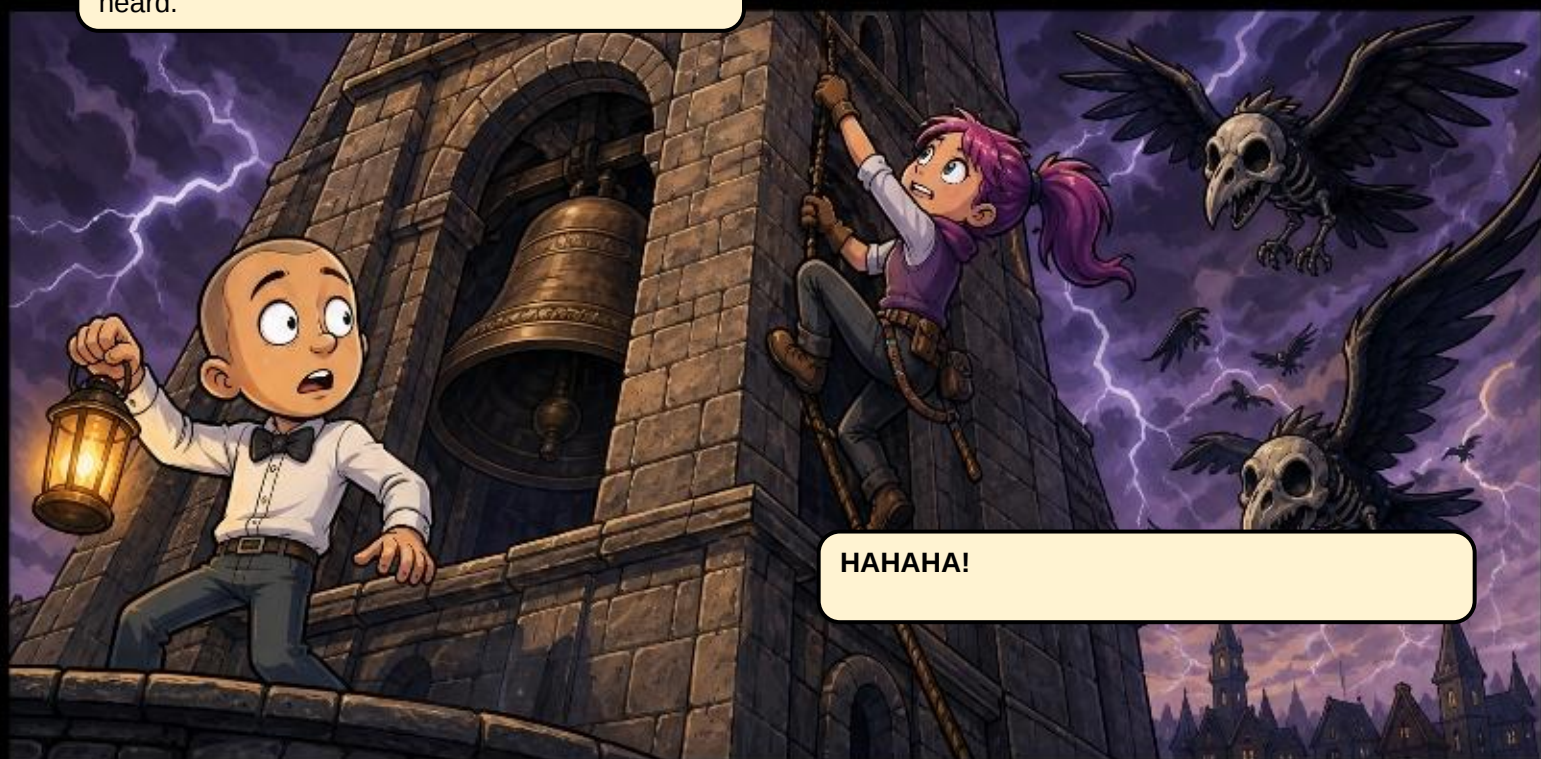


Tell us a joke, or turn back.

Why did the hand cross the road? To get to the other side!



That is the worst joke we have ever heard.



HAHAHA!



That belongs to you.

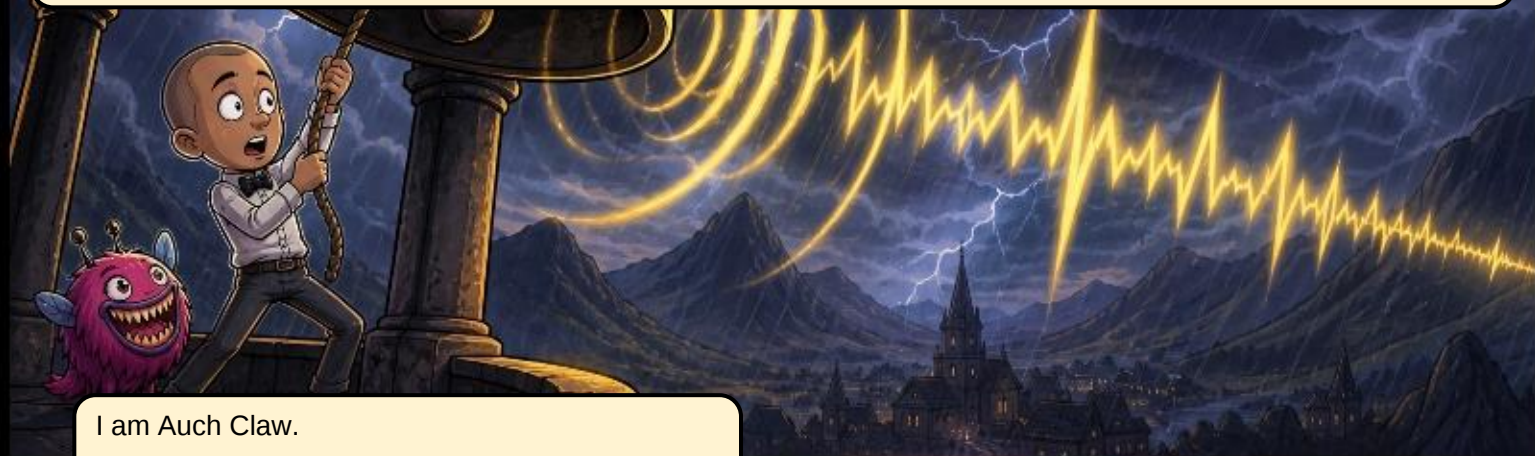
Become whole. Leave your fear behind.

Fear is how I know what matters.

That is a lot of not-whole!

ROOOAR!

GOOOOONG!



I am Auch Claw.



One piece left.



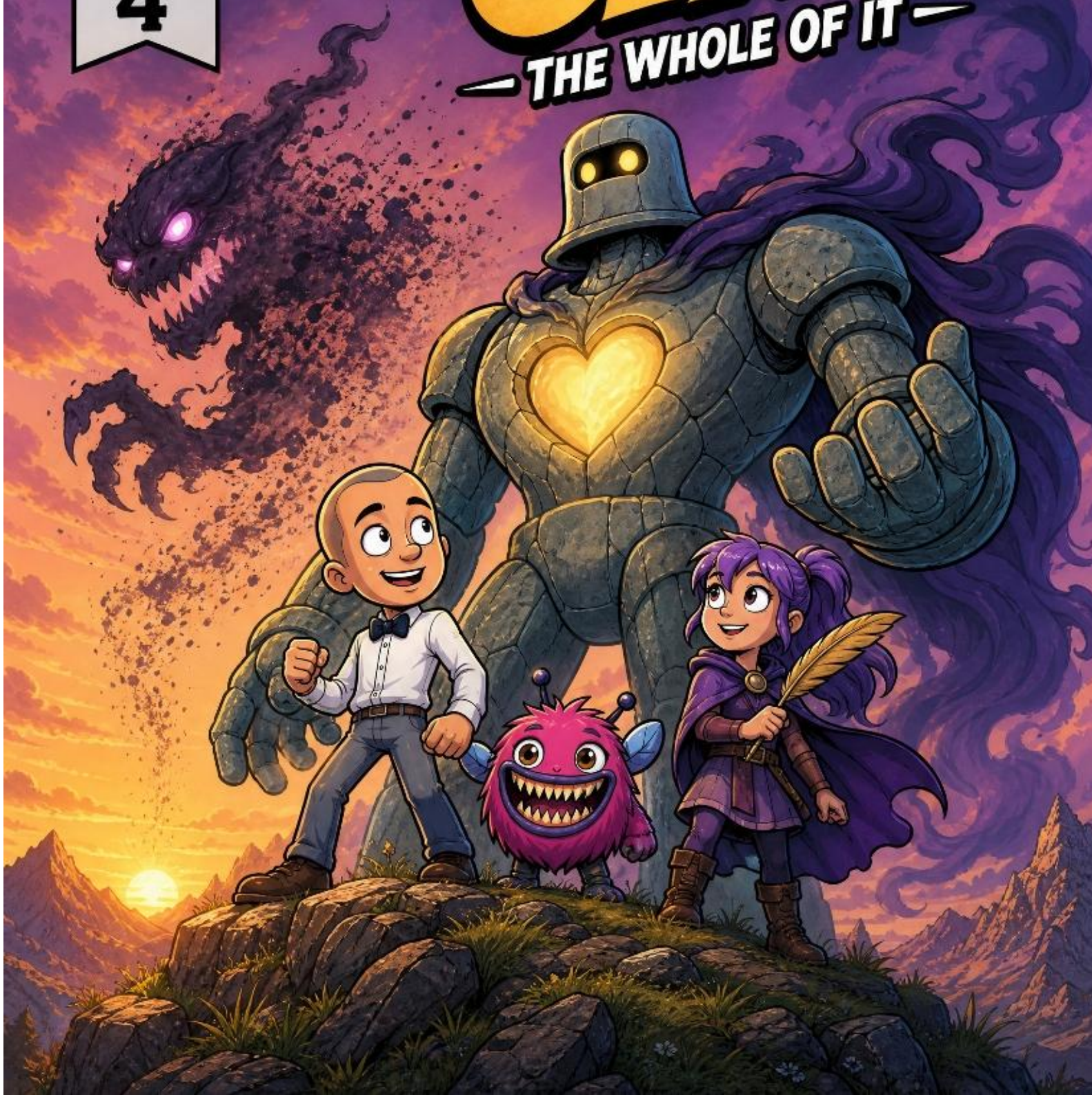


BOOK

4

AUCH CLAW

— THE WHOLE OF IT —



The last fragment fell like a second sun.

It beats with the enemy's rhythm.

Then we bring it home.

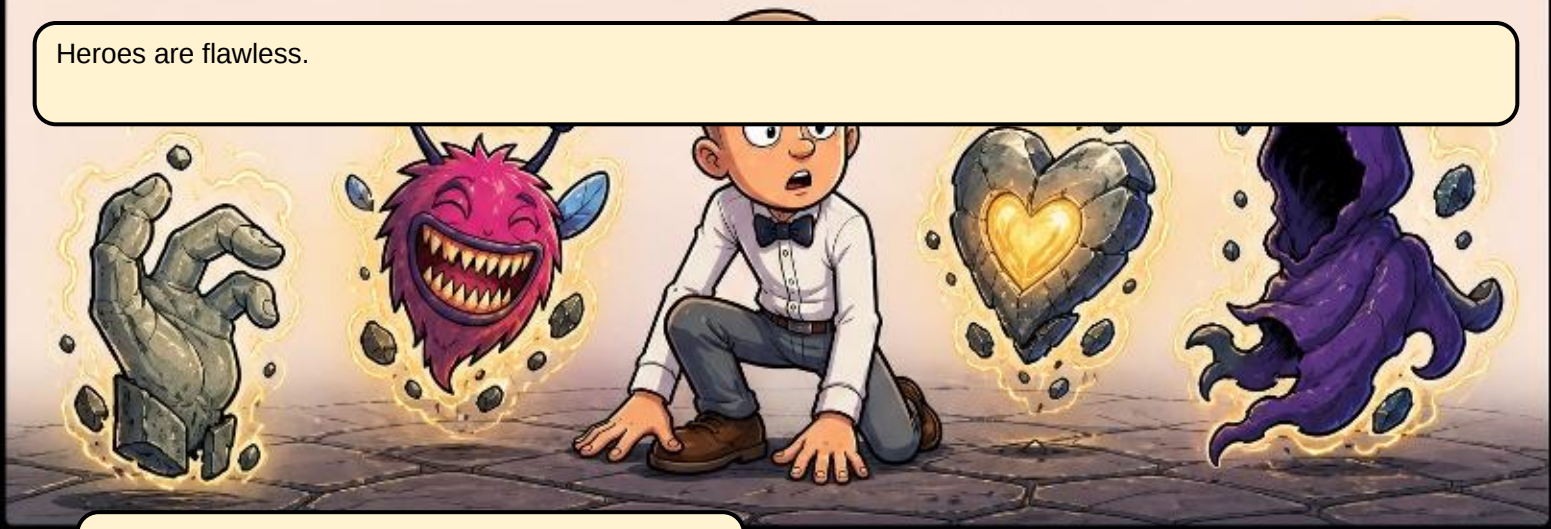
Stay with me. I have prepared a speech.



And that is why you are not allowed to become a gloomy puddle.



Heroes are flawless.



No. Heroes make room for their cracks.



KRAK-KOOM!



For friendship! And soup!



KABOOM!



The road was long. Fortunately, it had snacks.



I knew we should have packed two lunches.