



BOOTH

Written by C.C. Colbert

Illustrated by Tanitoc

Color by Hilary Sycamore



:01

First Second



First Second

New York & London

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Chapter 1

Wherein:

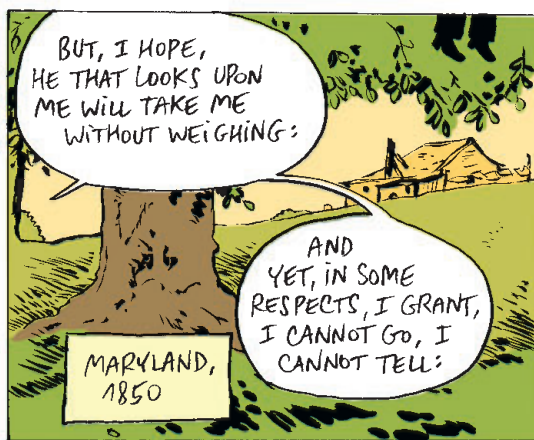
☞ We meet the subject of our tale, John Wilkes Booth, and become acquainted with his family, opinions, and temperament.

☞ A gathering of their theatrical family leads to a falling out between Booth and his brother, Edwin.

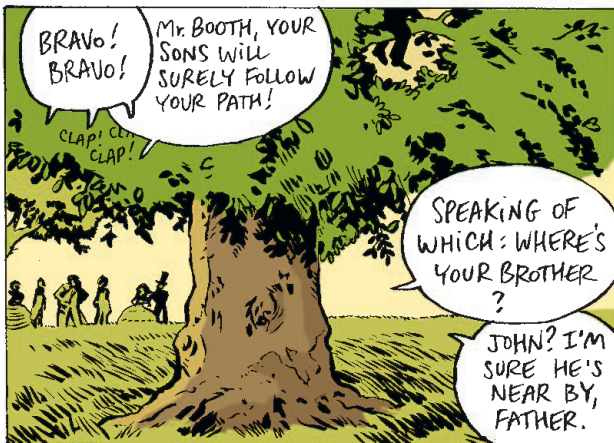
☞ Booth departs for unknown business. A loyal supporter of the confederacy, he has already embarked on a life of subterfuge....

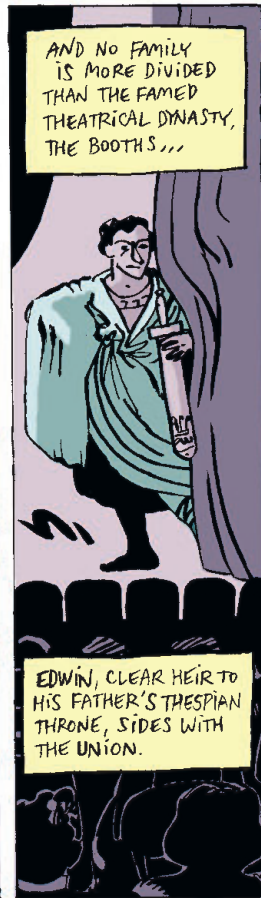
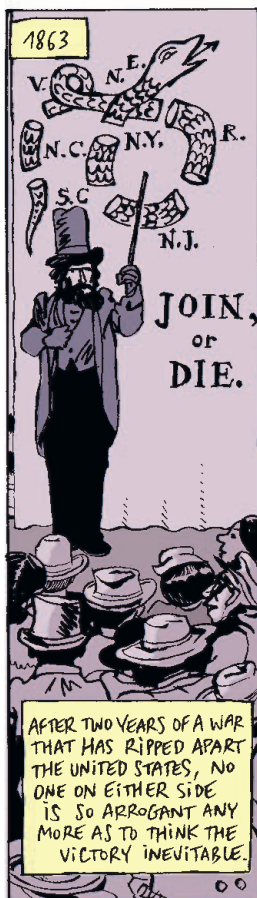






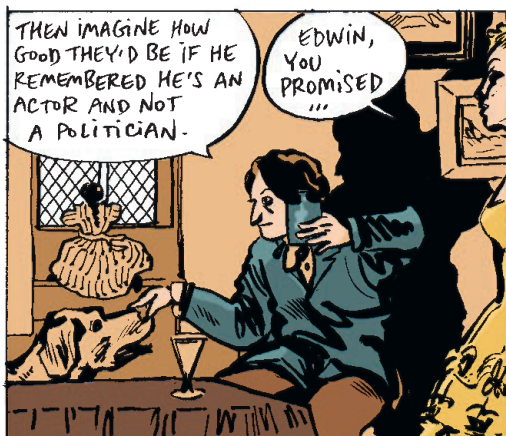
HENRY IV, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

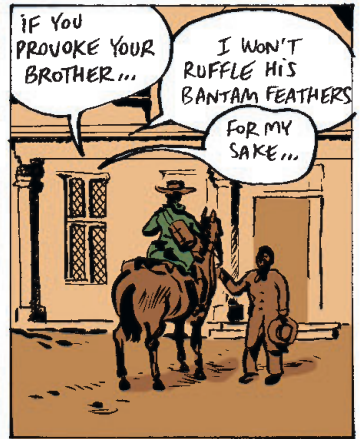
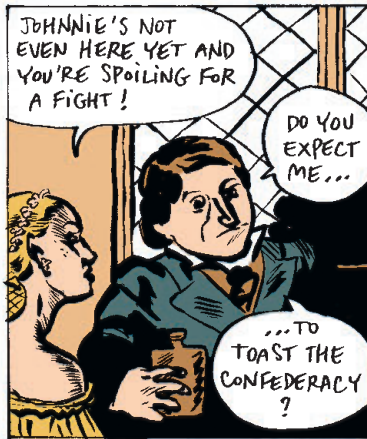




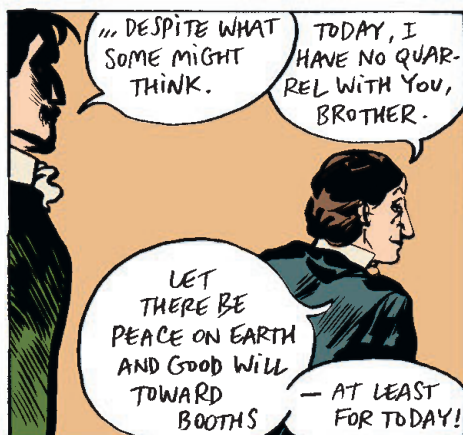


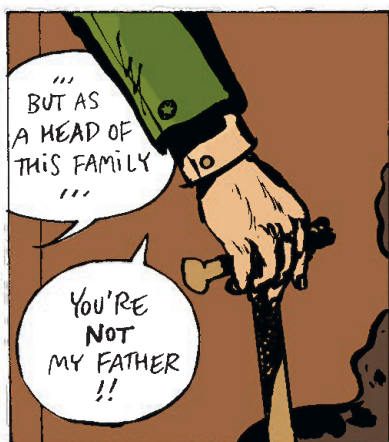


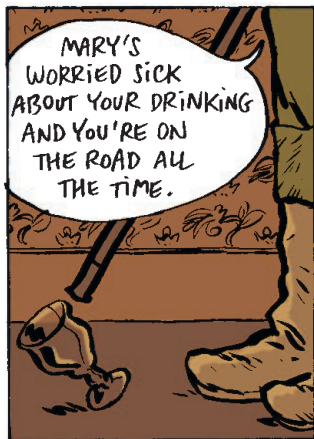


















Chapter 2

Wherein:

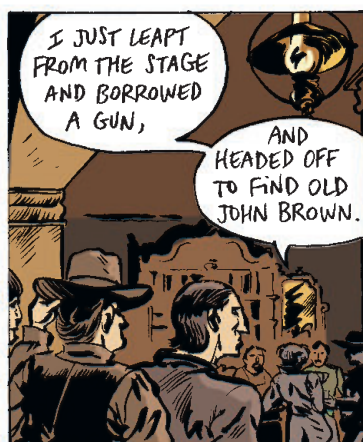
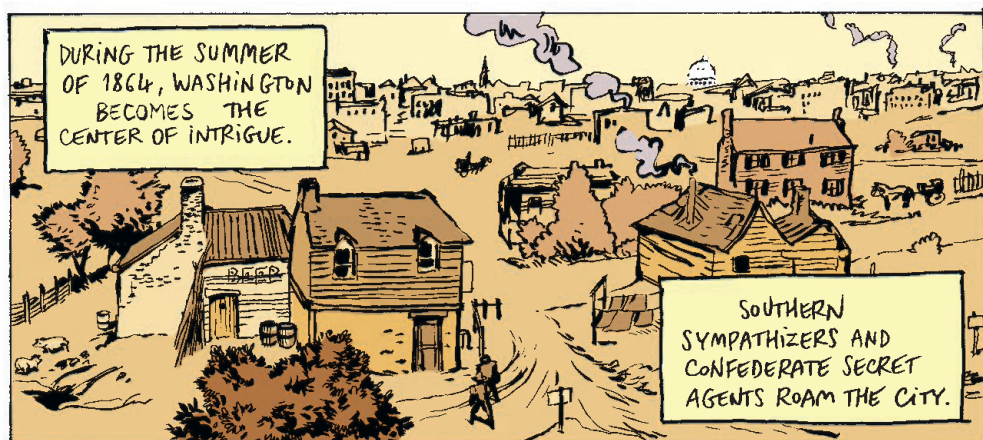
☞ We are introduced to John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators: a ragtag gang of confederate sympathizers who congregate in the Round House pub.

☞ Booth is recruited into a deeper game of espionage.

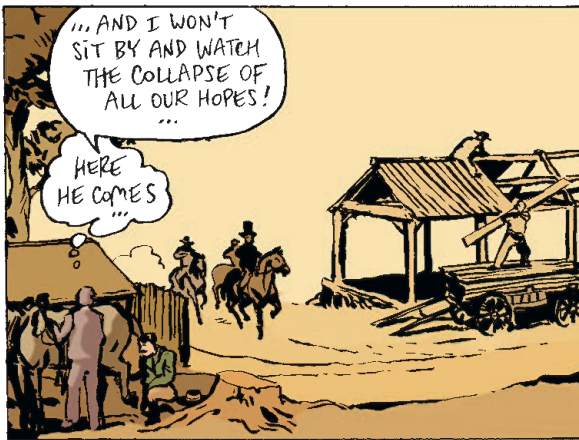
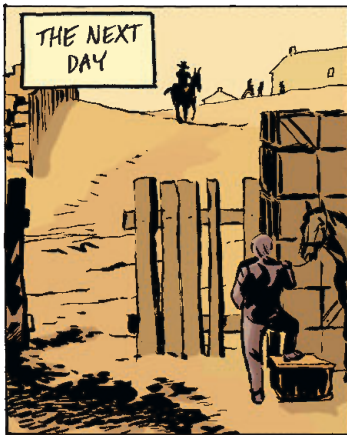
☞ At a benefit for the war wounded, Booth loses his heart to a woman whose political leanings mirror his brother Edwin's: pro-union.















BOOTH
DEPARTS...



...AND HIS
RECRUITERS
COMPARE NOTES.



HOW'D
IT GO
?

HE'S A
TRUE
BELIEVER.



AND
LINCOLN
?

BROUGHT
HIM UP EVEN
BEFORE HE CAME
RIDING BY... SAYS
HE HATES HIM...



HE COULD
BE JUST WHAT
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR...

BUT
AN ACTOR
...

WE
NEED NEW
BLOOD!



BUT
OUR ORDERS
FROM RICHMOND
...

RICHMOND!

RICHMOND
IS ALL TALK!
WE NEED
ACTION.



WE'LL WORK OUR
OPERATIONS OUT OF
CANADA FROM
NOW ON.

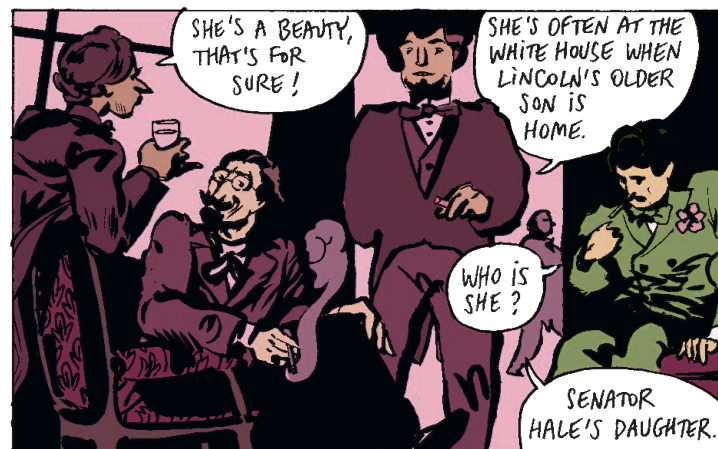
KEEP A
CLOSE WATCH
ON HIM.

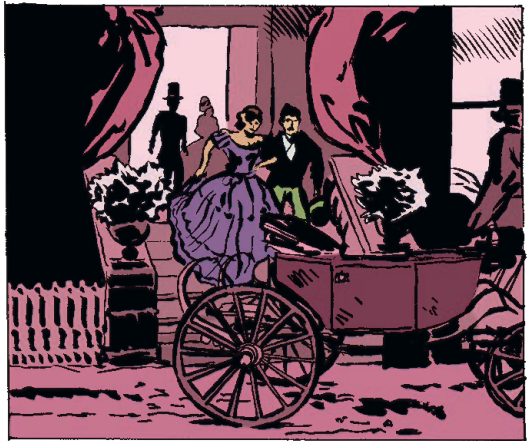
WHATEVER
YOU SAY, BOSS!



















Chapter 3

Wherein:

❧ A romance blooms! The attachment between Booth and Lucy Hale deepens, only to be complicated by the introduction of another suitor: Robert Todd Lincoln.

❧ At the Round House, Booth nurses his wounds and finds comfort with Ella, a woman of questionable virtue.

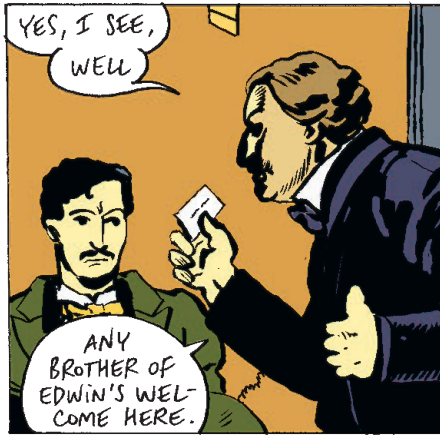
❧ Booth, now banned from the Hale mansion, continues his courtship of Lucy covertly, touching her heart with letters and gifts.

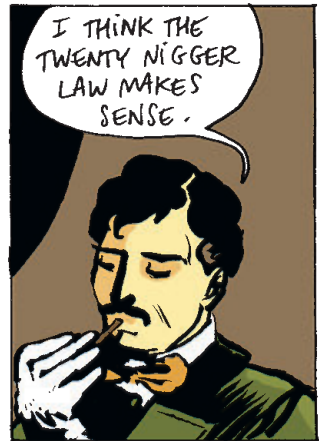


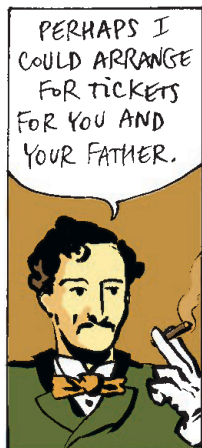
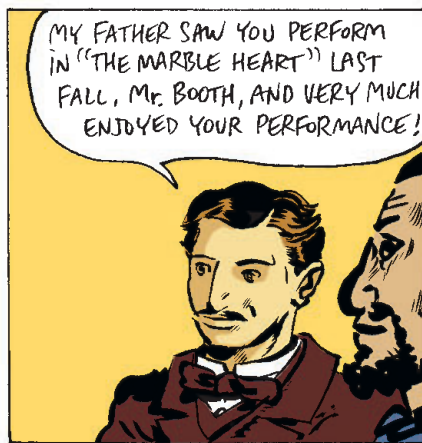
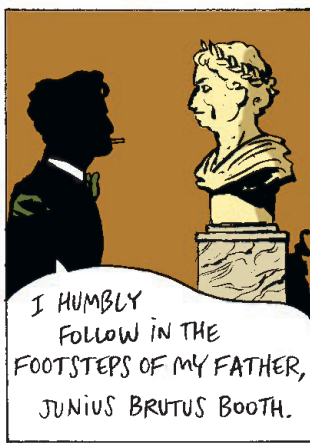
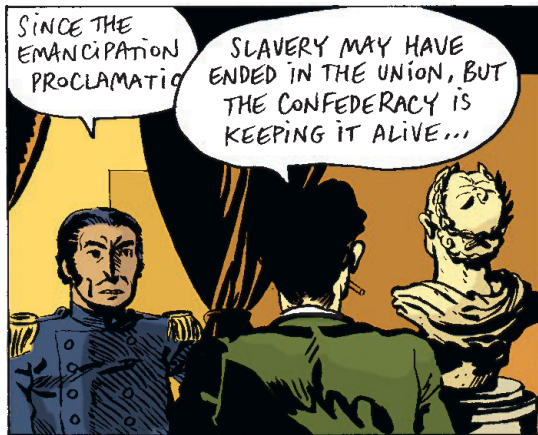


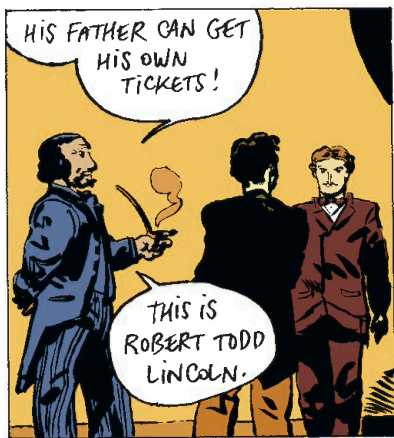




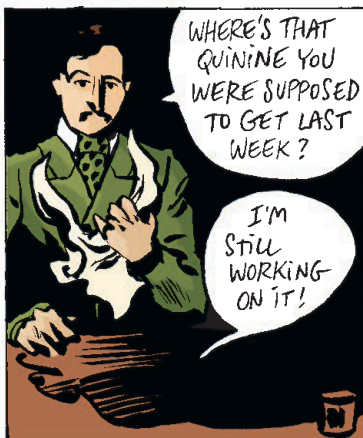


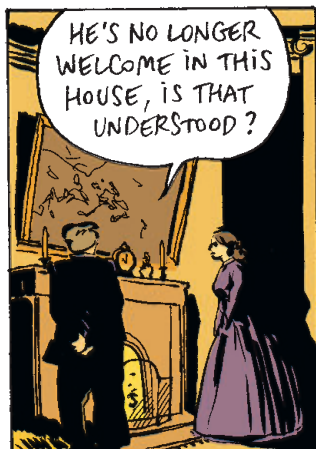








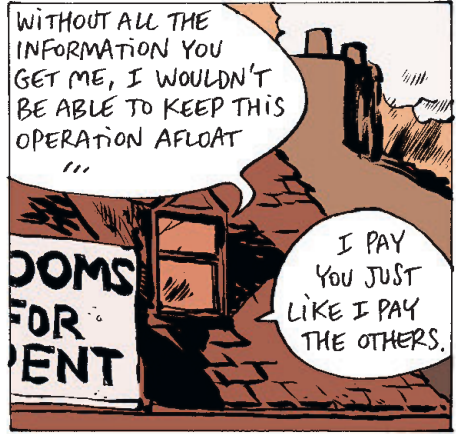






I ALREADY TOLD YOU, JOHNNIE: I WON'T TAKE MONEY FROM YOU!

I THOUGHT WE HAD AN AGREEMENT!



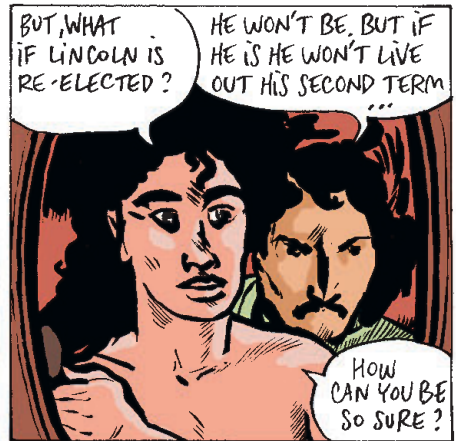
WITHOUT ALL THE INFORMATION YOU GET ME, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS OPERATION AFLOAT

I PAY YOU JUST LIKE I PAY THE OTHERS.



WHEN WILL YOU TAKE ME TO CUBA, LIKE YOU PROMISED?

SOON LINCOLN WON'T BE RE-ELECTED AND THE NEW PRESIDENT IS SURE TO SIGN A TRUCE.



BUT, WHAT IF LINCOLN IS RE-ELECTED?

HE WON'T BE, BUT IF HE IS HE WON'T LIVE OUT HIS SECOND TERM

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?



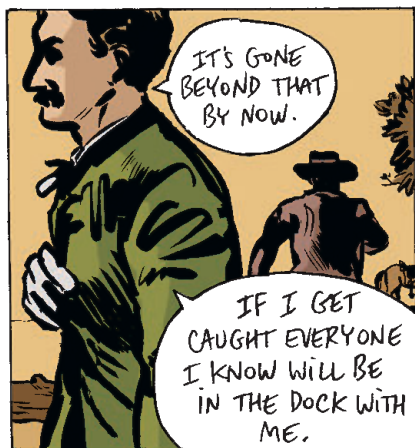
THE TRUE SONS OF THE SOUTH WILL MAKE SURE THE TYRANT IS DEPOSED. BUT FOR NOW, TAKE THE MONEY AND GET YOUR PICTURE MADE FOR ME.



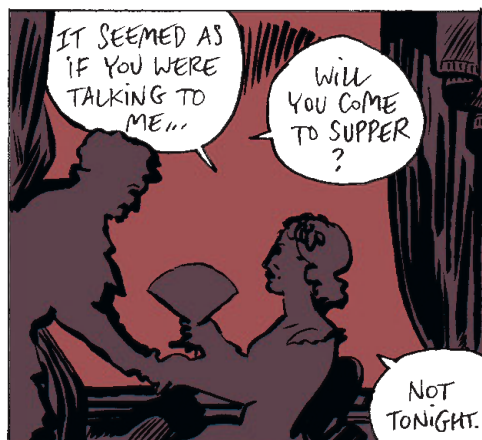
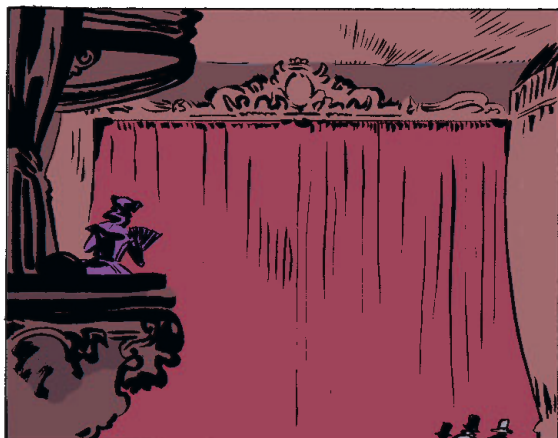
AND HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU.







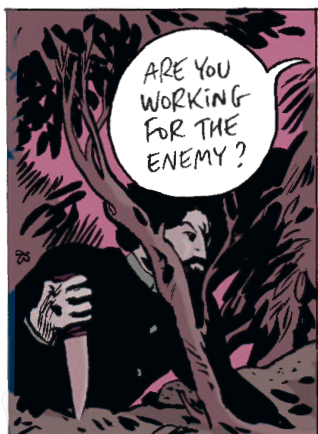
















Chapter 4

Wherein:

Edwin Booth, in the height of his success, receives appalling news and quits the stage.

Freed from the shadow of his brother's success, Booth rises in prominence in the theater—and in the world of conspiracy.

When Lucy Hale convinces Edwin to return to the stage for a Booth family performance, she finds herself the target of her lover's jealousy and anger.









LUCY!

BUT HER FATHER'S
A BLACK REPUBLICAN,
WITH RUTHLESS
AMBITION!!



WE'RE SEEING ONE
ANOTHER IN SECRET.
THE SENATOR DOESN'T
THINK I'M GOOD
ENOUGH TO WIPE
LUCY'S SHOES!

MAYBE
YOU THINK I'M
RISING ABOVE
MY STATION
AS WELL...



I'VE NEVER
IMPLIED ANY-
THING OF THE SORT,
IT'S JUST THAT—

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

TEN
MINUTES
TO CURTAIN!



WE'LL CONTINUE
THIS LATER.

I
KNEW YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND!

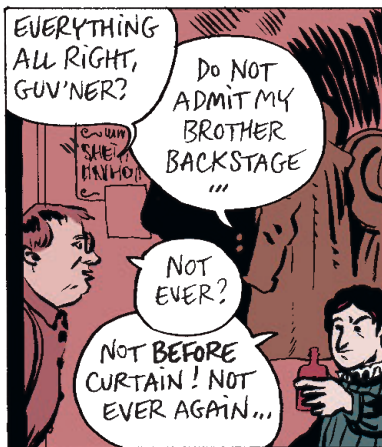


I HAVE
TO GET READY
TO GO ON!



YOU MUST
OUTGROW THESE
IMAGINED
SLIGHTS!

SLAM!



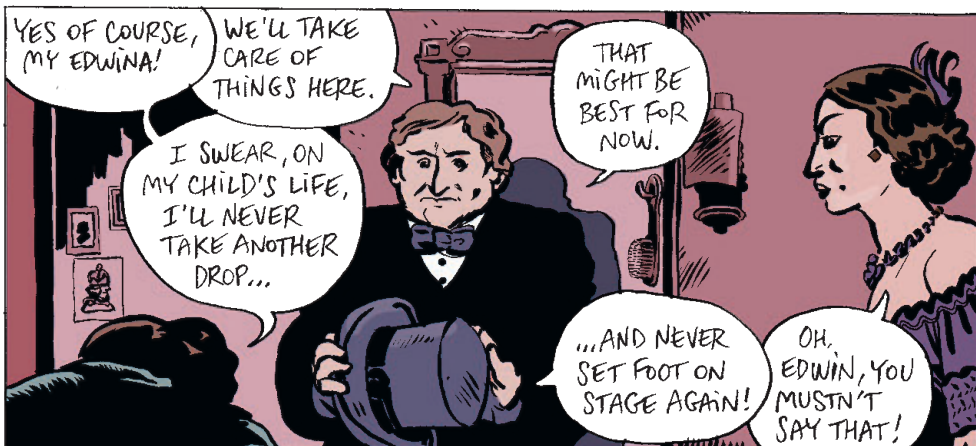
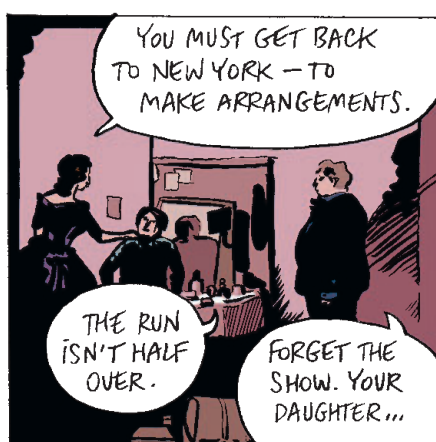
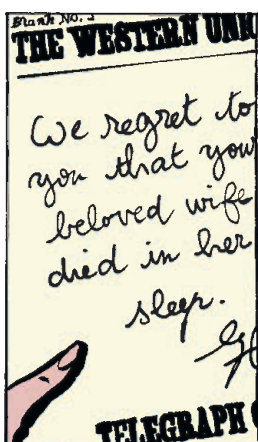
EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT,
GUV'NER?

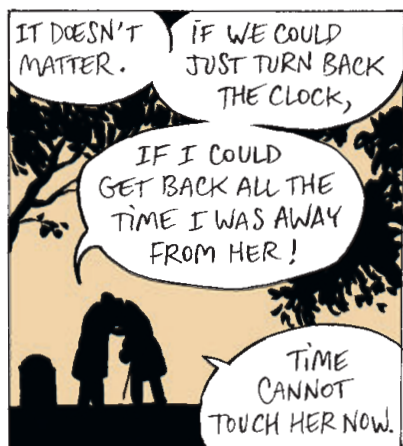
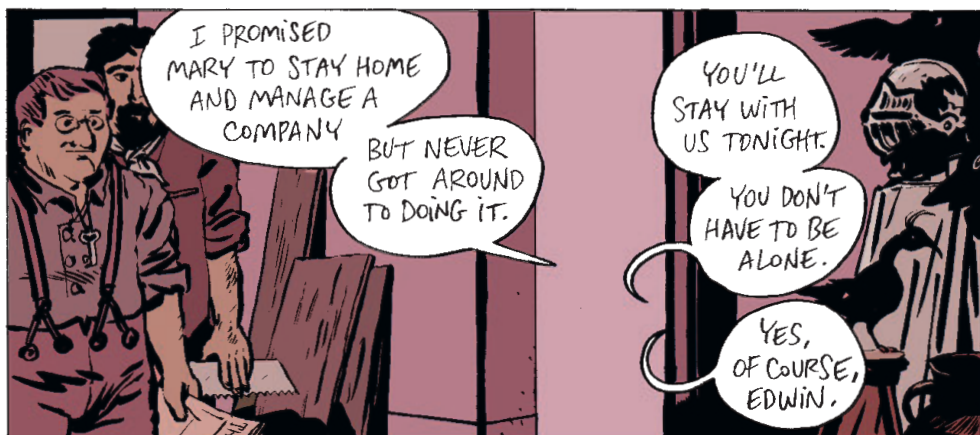
DO NOT
ADMIT MY
BROTHER
BACKSTAGE
...

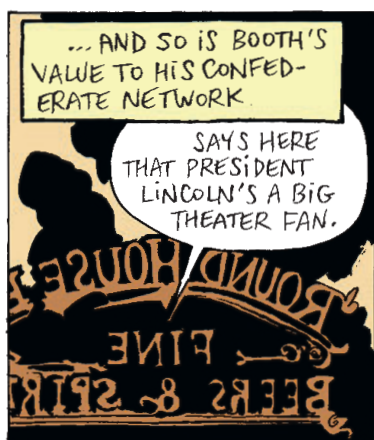
NOT
EVER?

NOT BEFORE
CURTAIN! NOT
EVER AGAIN...

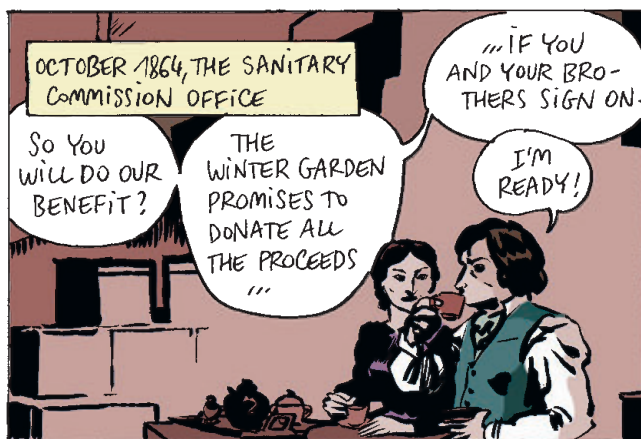


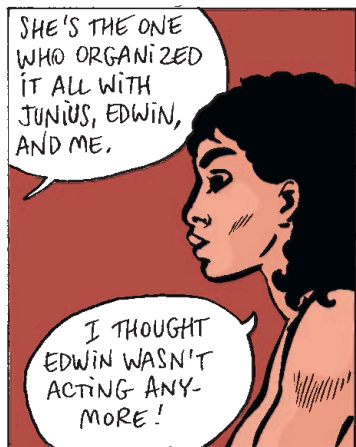


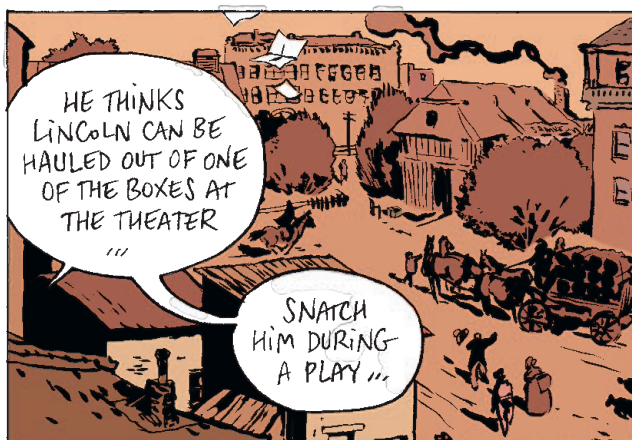
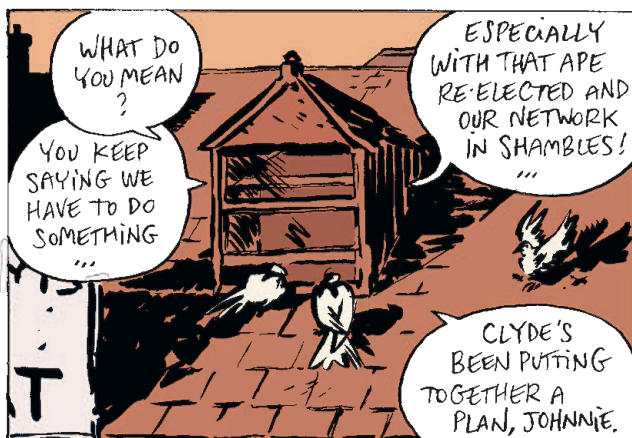


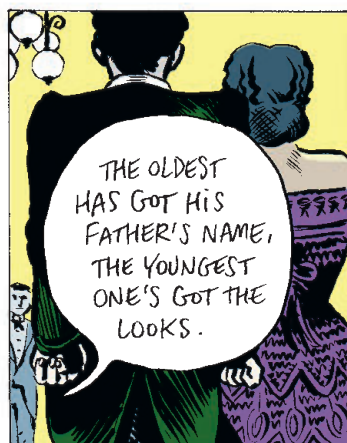
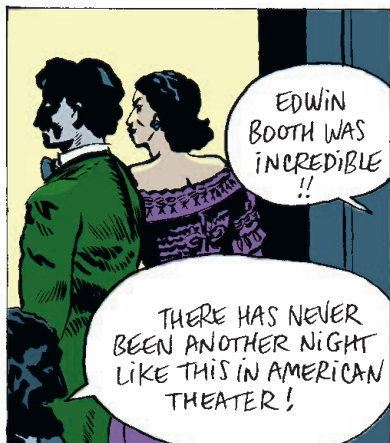


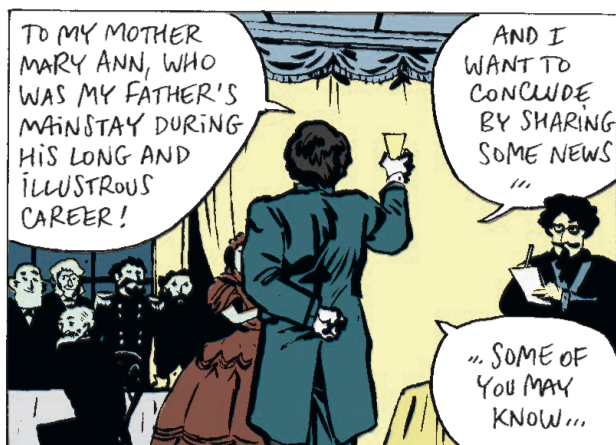


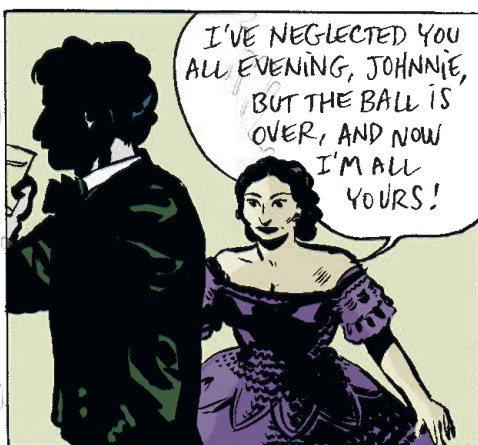
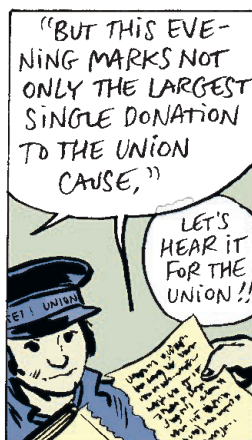






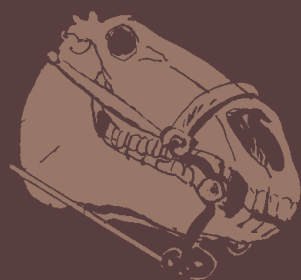



















Chapter 5

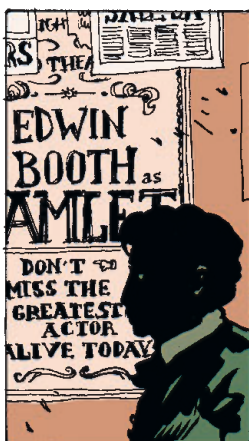
Wherein:

 Lucy Hale receives a notable invitation, and confusion ensues.

 With Lincoln on the verge of a second term and the tide of war turning against the confederates, Booth's shadow associates become increasingly desperate.

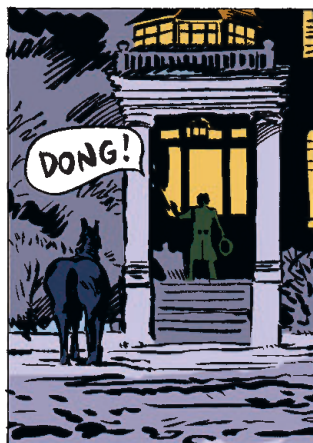
 Too busy with his conspiracies to attend Edwin's 100th performance of *Hamlet*, Booth sends Ella in his place. An awkward meeting ensues between Ella and Lucy Hale.







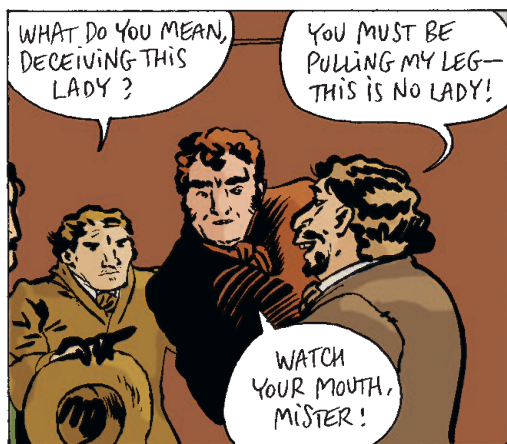








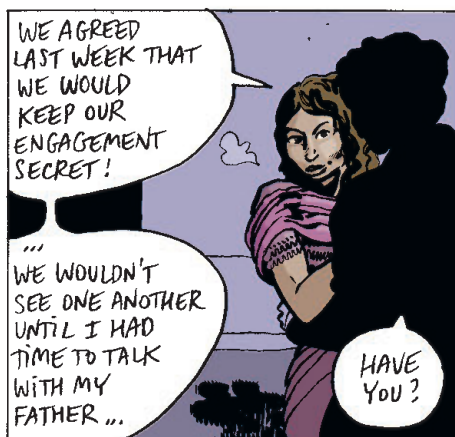


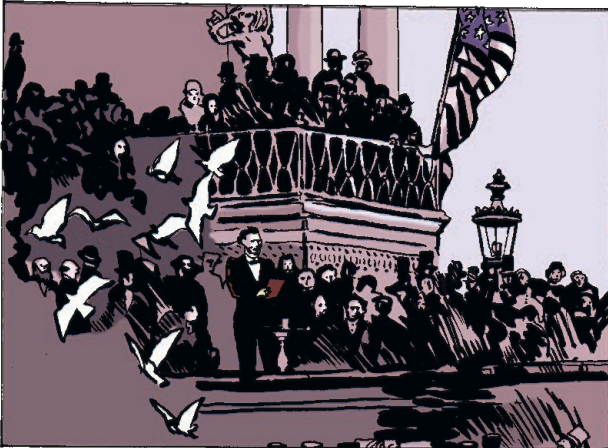




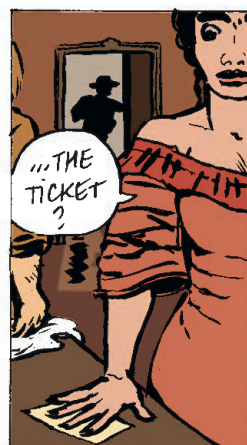


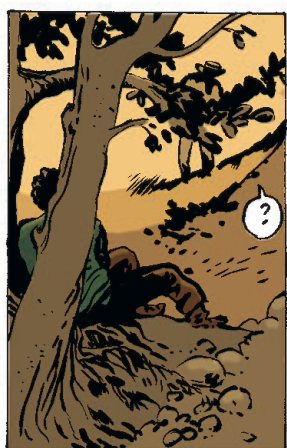
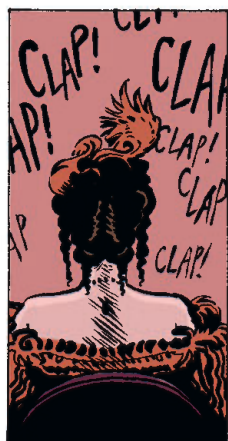






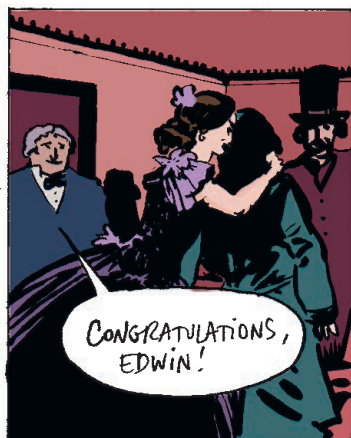


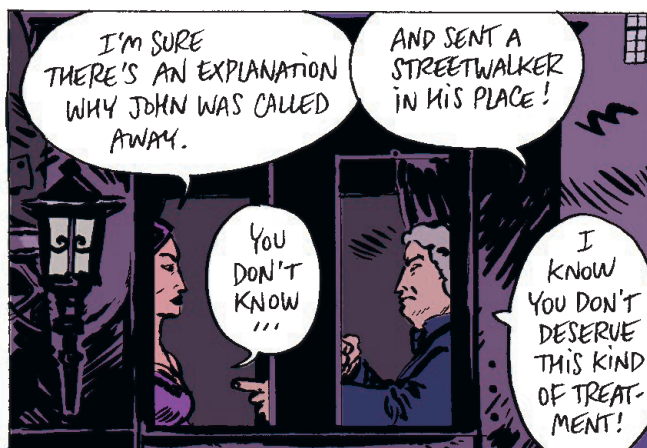
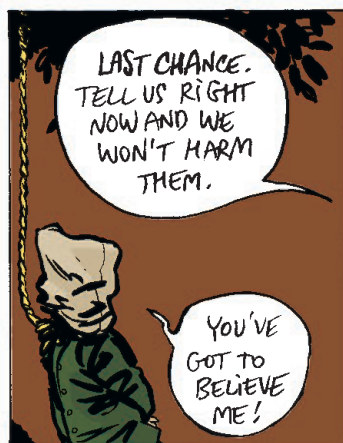


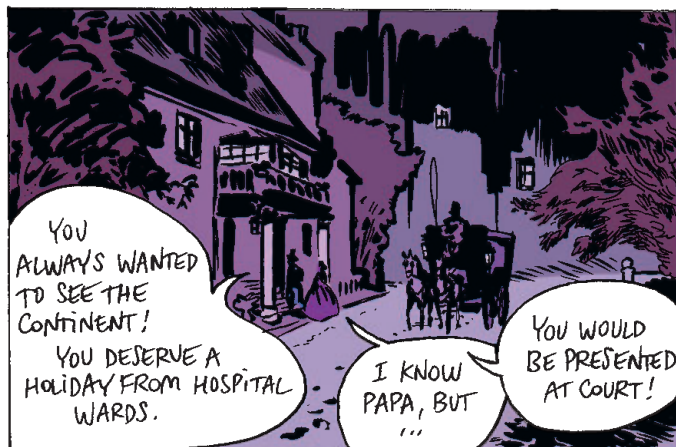
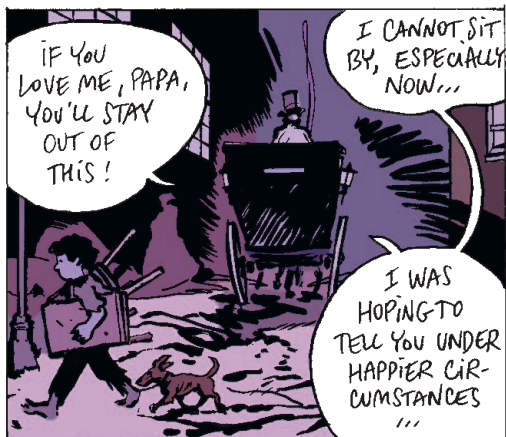




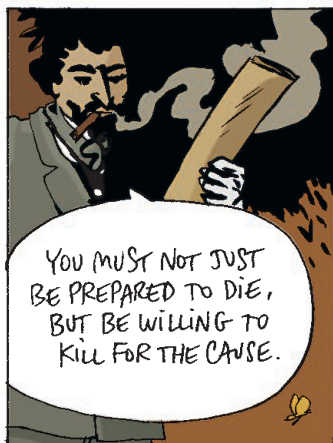
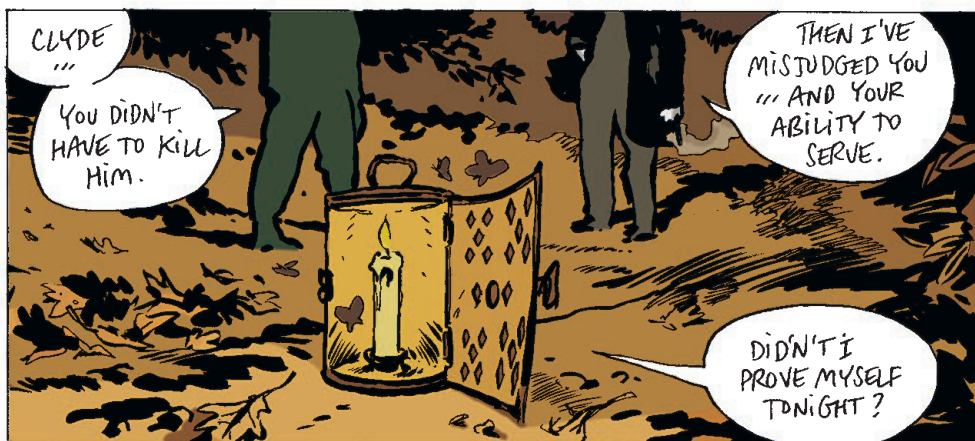



















Chapter 6

Wherein:

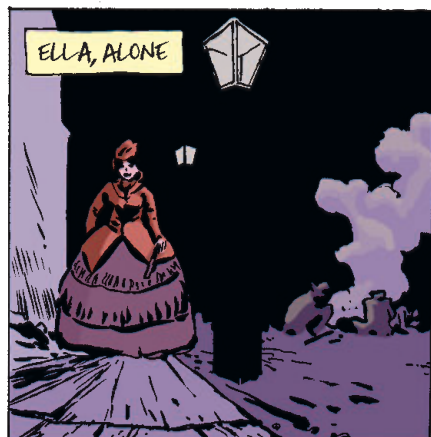
 The neglected Ella meets an honest soldier, and Booth severs his relations with Lucy.

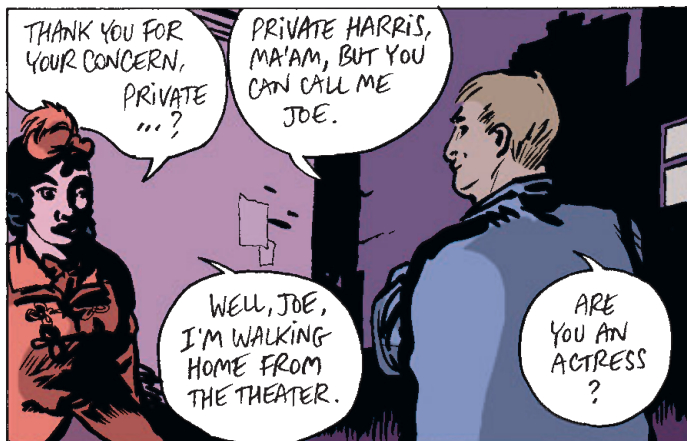
 The shadow conspirators meet a final time at Mrs. Surratt's boarding house, and Booth says his last goodbyes.

 The deed is done: With pistol in one hand and knife in the other, John Wilkes Booth becomes a murderer.

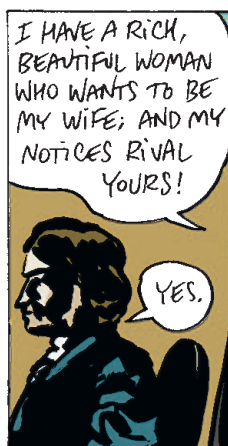




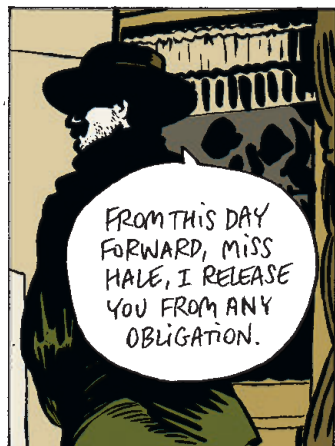


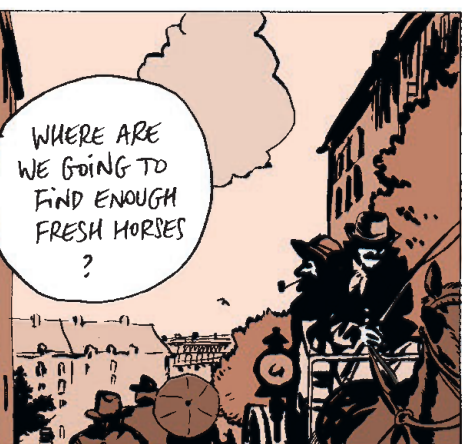
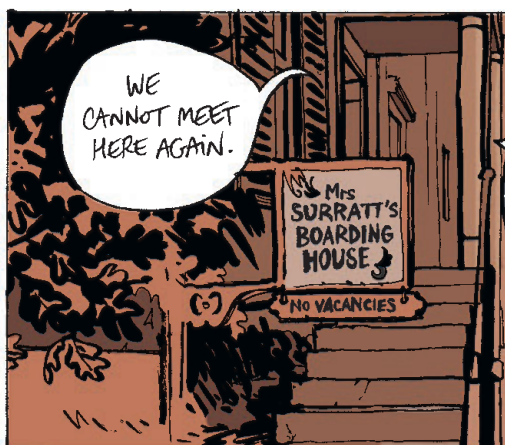


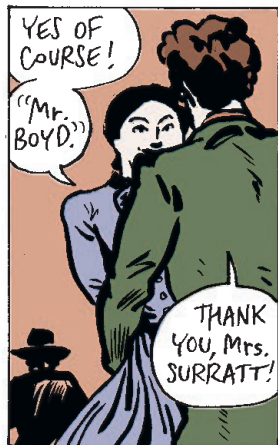






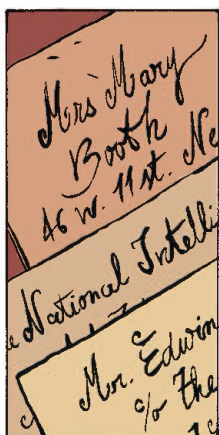


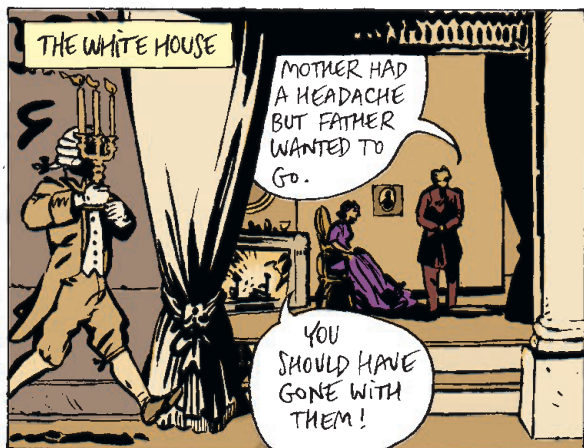




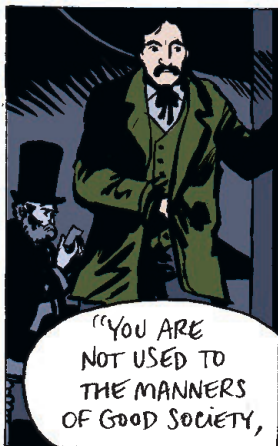
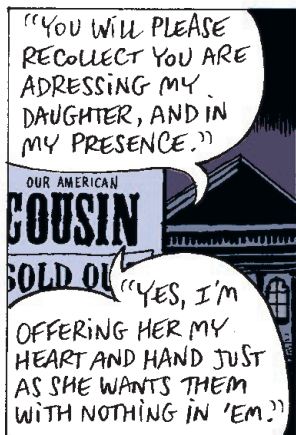




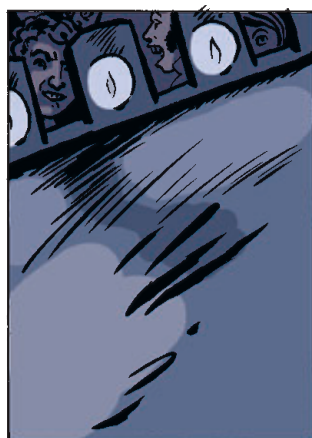
















I'M SORRY,
ROBERT.



NO

NOT AT ALL,
PLEASE FORGIVE
ME!

IT'S JUST
THAT I'M
HAVING SOME
TROUBLE SORTING
THINGS OUT.



THIS WAY,
DOC,
QUICK!!!

MAKE
WAY FOR,
MAKE
WAY!



DAVY.

JOHNNIE.














Chapter 7

Wherein:

 A nation mourns.

 Booth, aided by the loyal Davy, flees south, finding aid and allies—both knowing and ignorant of his crime—at every turn.

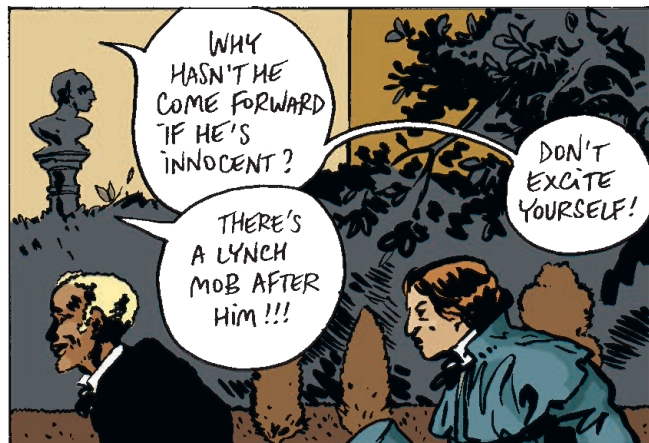
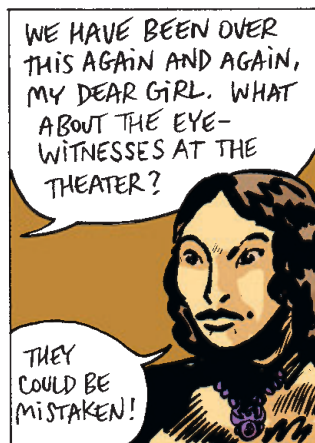
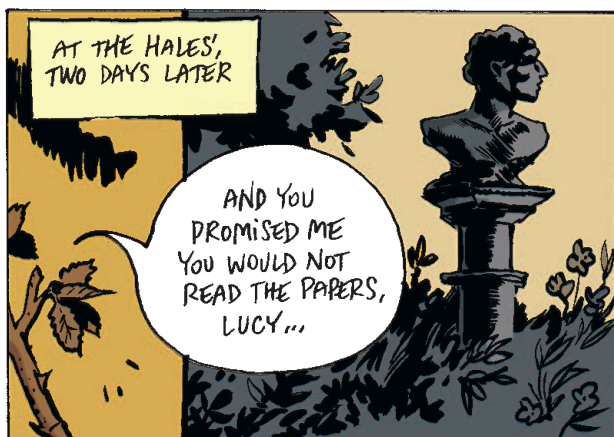
 Ella, the only member of the Round House gang to remain at large, witnesses her fellow conspirators apprehended—and attempts to do herself an injury.

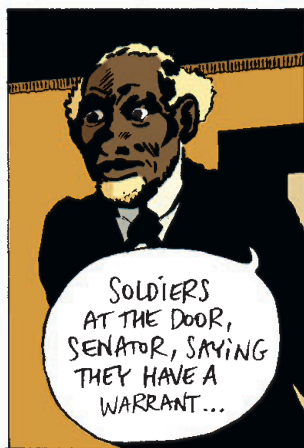
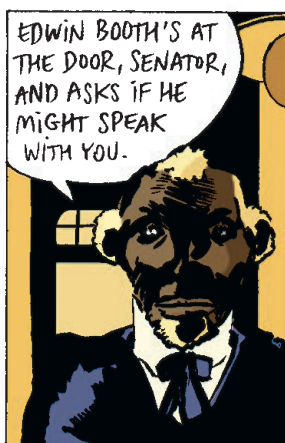


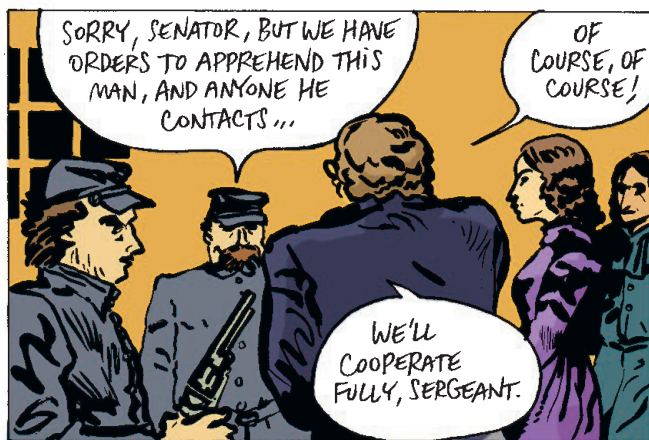




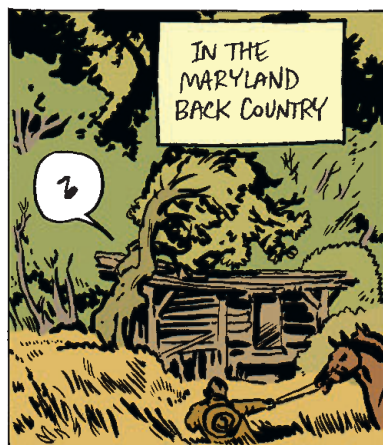
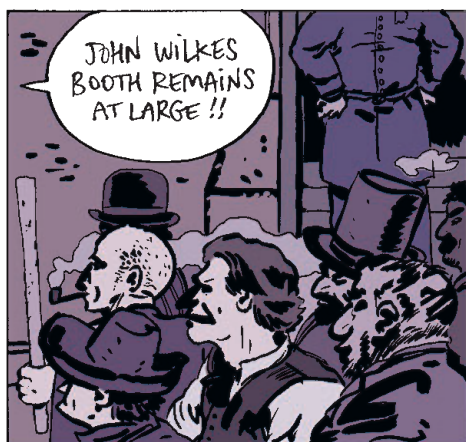














IT'S
ME!



GOT
YOU FRESH
HORSES.



YOU CAN COME
OUT NOW!
IT'S SAFE...

WELL
...



I WOULDN'T
GO SO FAR AS
ALL THAT.

Mr. ...
JONES,



OUR GRATITUDE
FOR ALL YOU'RE
DOING FOR YOUR
COUNTRY.



IT'S AN HONOR
TO MEET YOU,
SIR!



DID YOU BRING
ANY NEWS?

HAVE
THERE BEEN
UPRISINGS?
HAS IT
BEGUN?



I WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT THAT
BY NOW SOUTHERN
PATRIOTS WOULD
HAVE RISEN UP!



WE CAN'T
RIGHTLY WAIT
FOR THAT,
SIR.

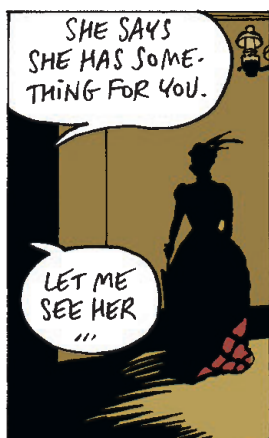


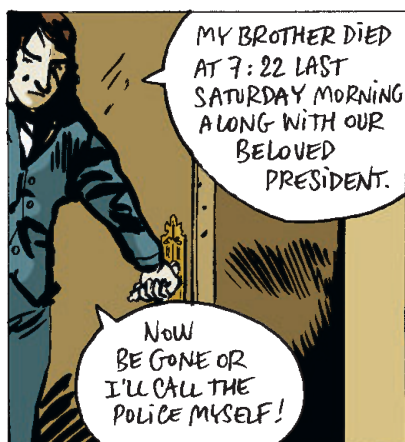
THE COUNTRYSIDE
IS CRAWLING WITH
FEDS!

WE NEED
TO REACH ZEKIAH
SWAMPS BEFORE
NIGHTFALL.







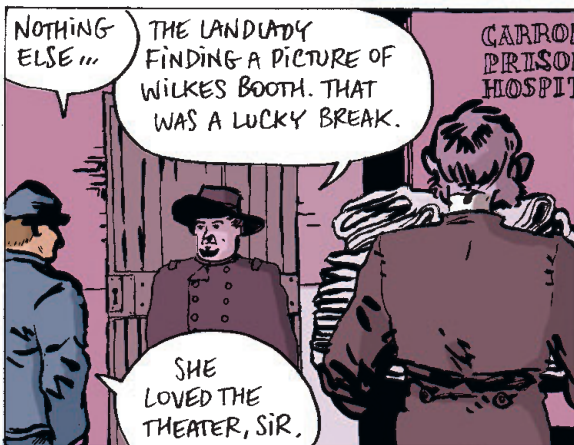


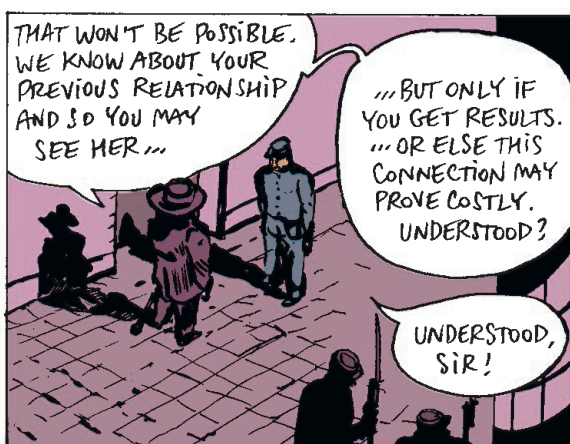




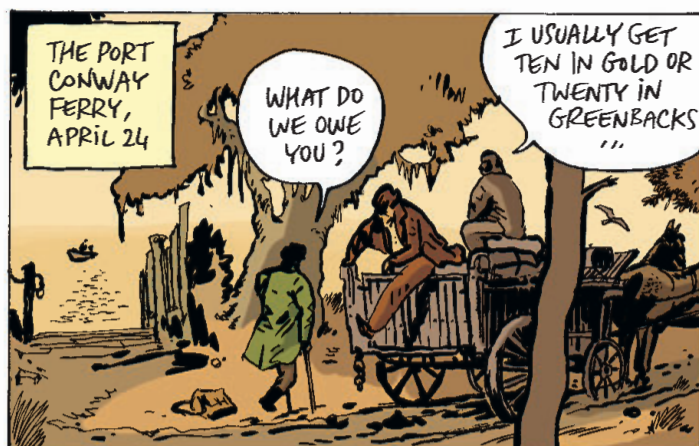
















Chapter 8

Wherein:

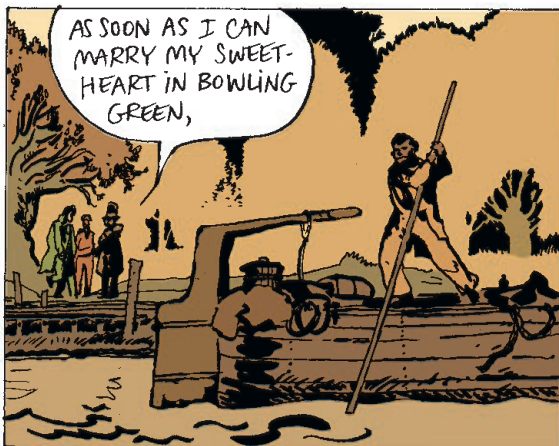
☞ A revived Ella sets the Army on Booth's trail, at the urging of her soldier beau.

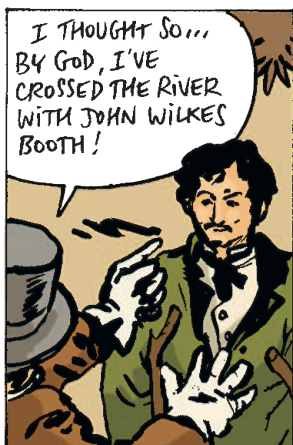
☞ Booth and Davy, resting briefly at a farm in Virginia, arouse the suspicions of their hosts.

☞ On April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth arrives at his inevitable, ignominious end.

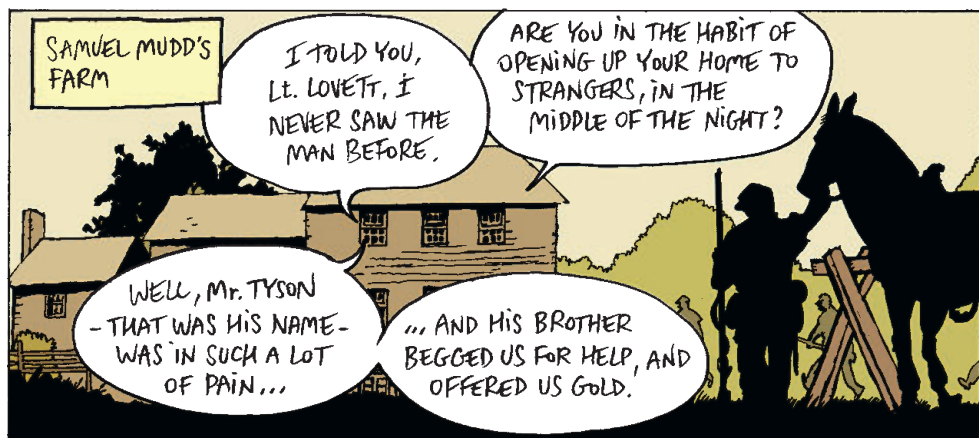


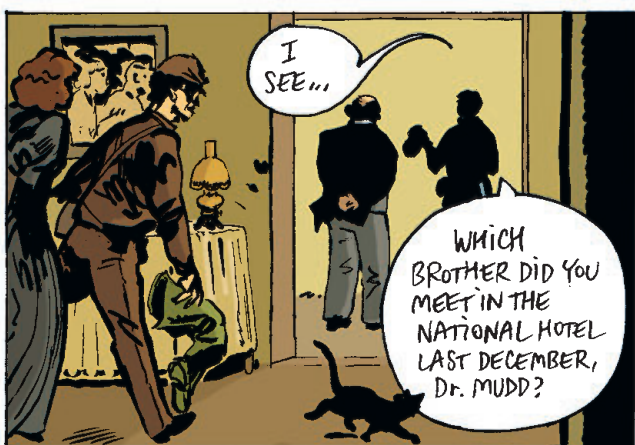
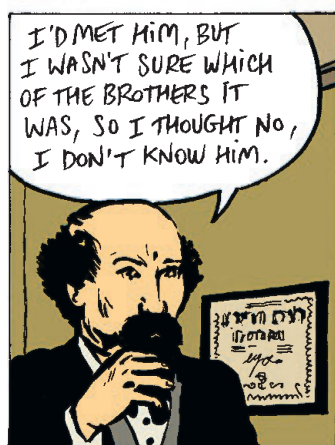
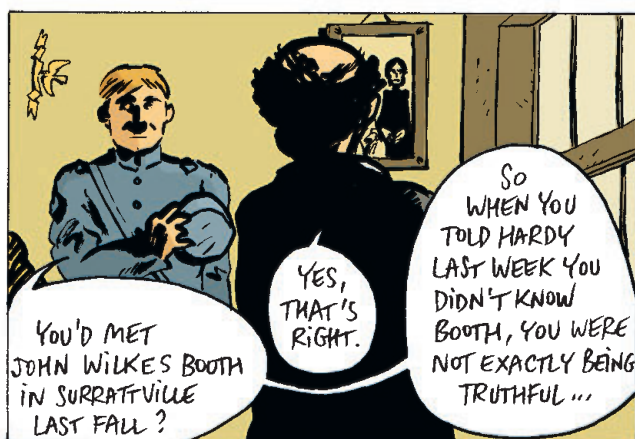


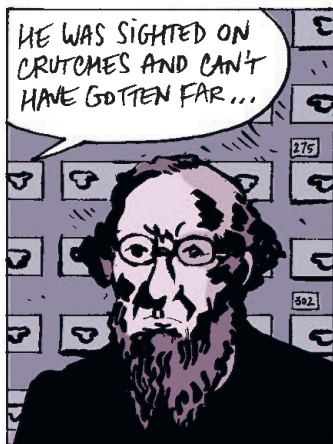
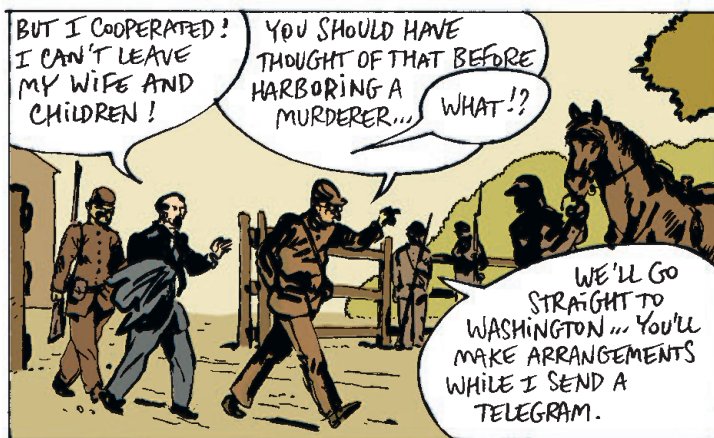


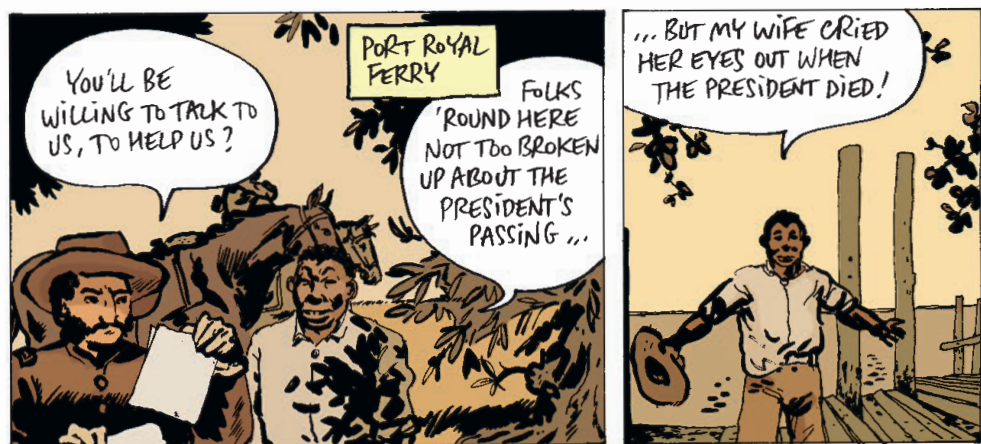






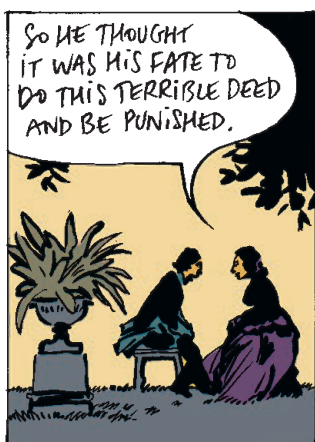


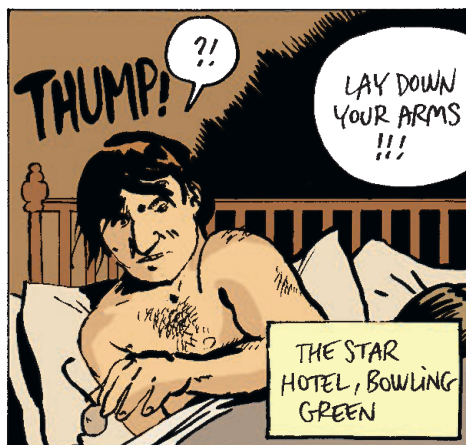


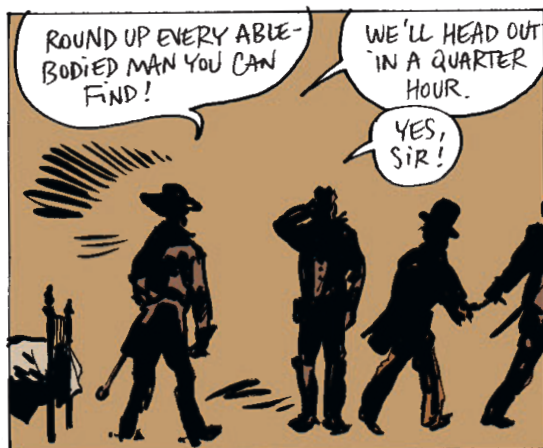
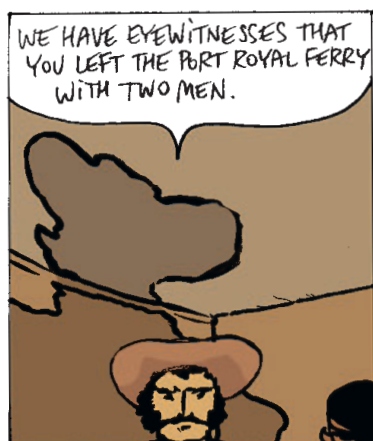


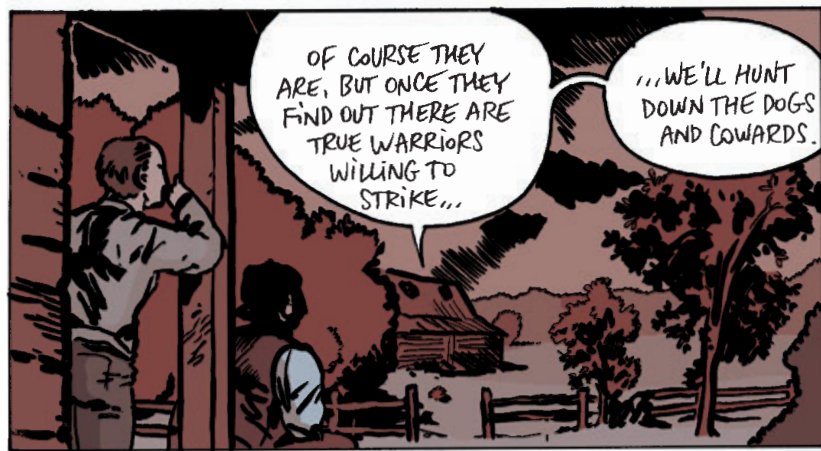


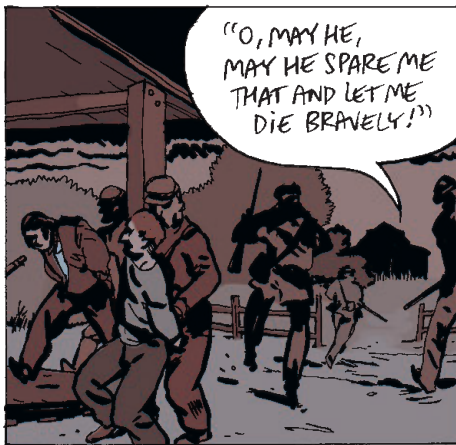
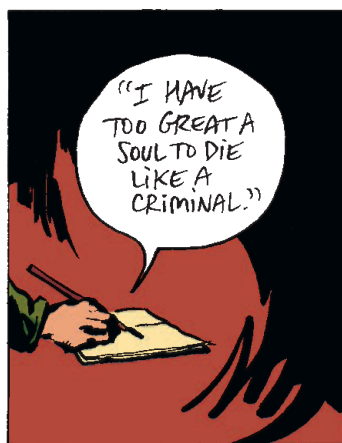
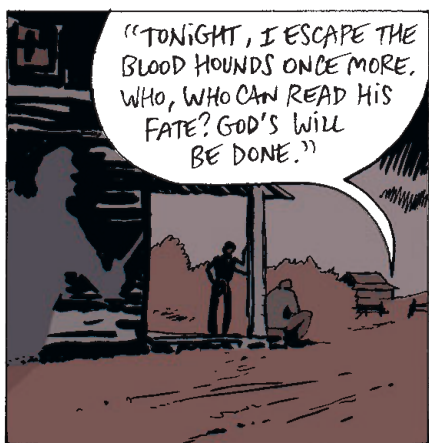
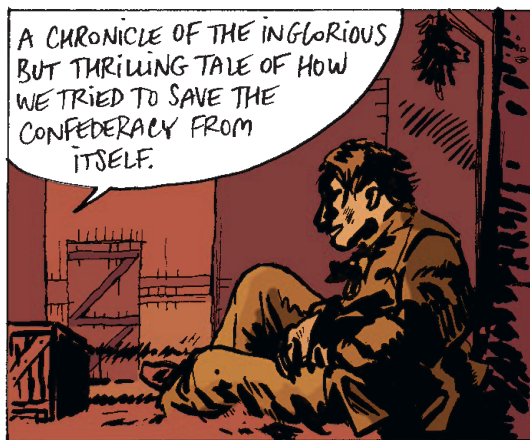


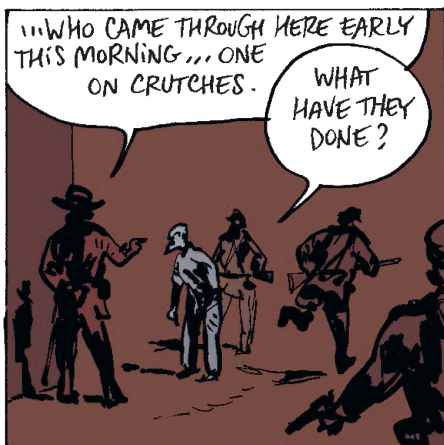
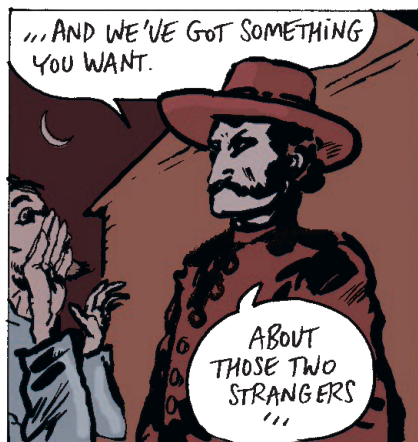






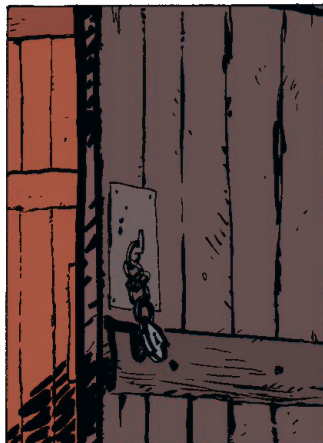




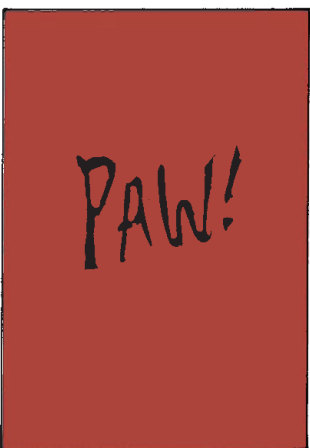




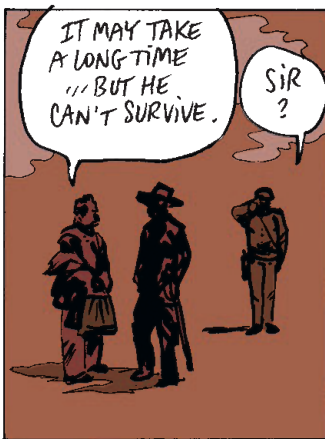
















Chapter 9

Wherein:

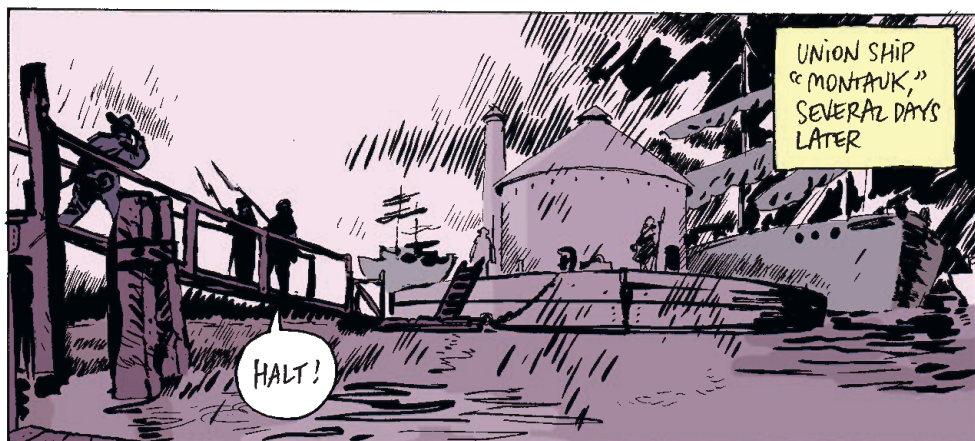
☞ Our story draws to a close.

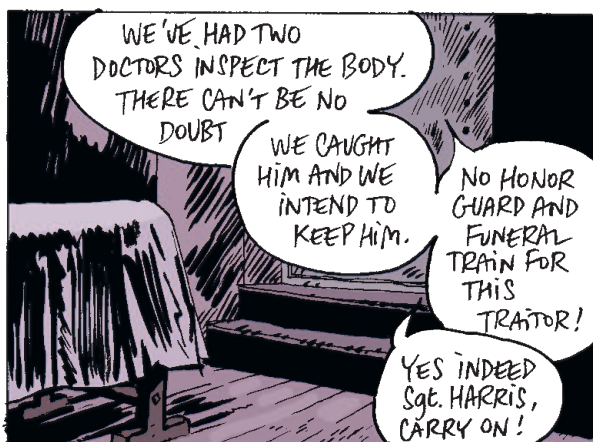
☞ Booth's fellow conspirators join him in an anonymous grave, unmarked but not entirely unmourned.

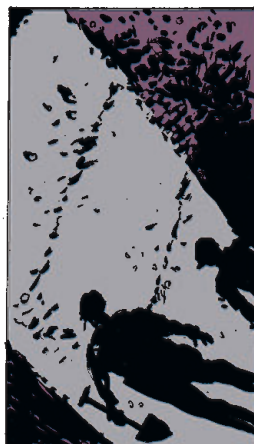
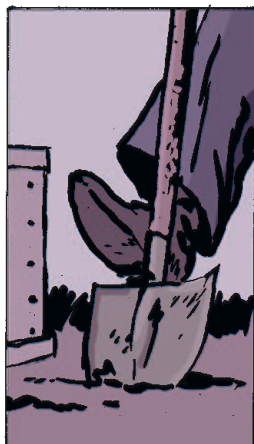
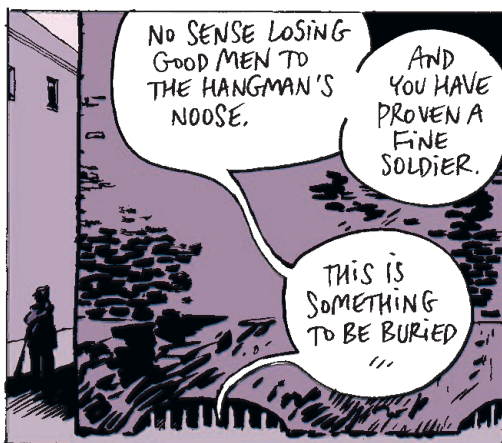
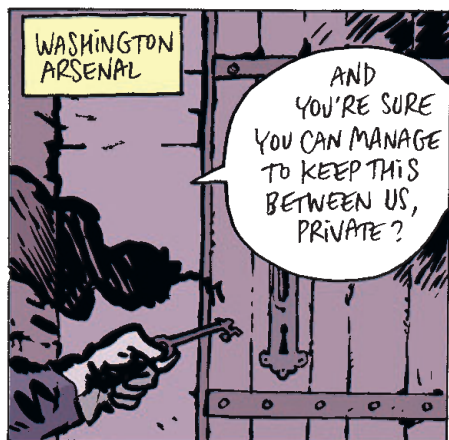
☞ Bit by bit, Lucy Hale begins to reclaim a life torn apart by war and men's passions.









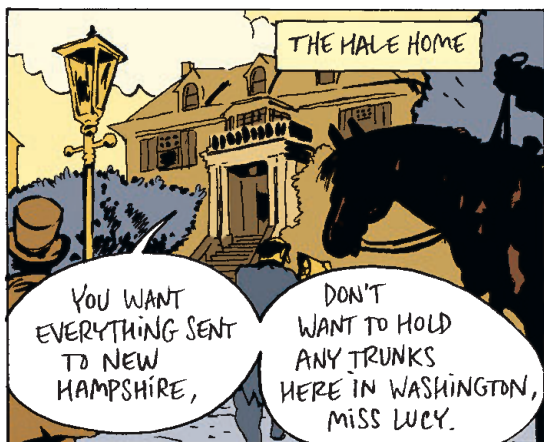




JUDGMENT DAY
JULY 7, 1865







YOU WANT EVERYTHING SENT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE,

DON'T WANT TO HOLD ANY TRUNKS HERE IN WASHINGTON, MISS LUCY.



I'LL MAKE SURE THE DRAY DRIVER CAN GET THESE TRUNKS TO THE STATION IN TIME.

THANK YOU, CATO ...

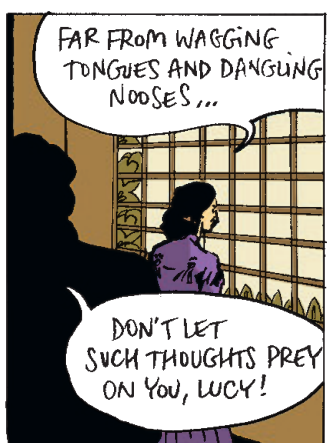


THE SECRETARY OF WAR ASSURED ME YOUR NAME WOULD NEVER COME UP.

YOU MEAN THAT YOUR NAME WOULD NEVER COME UP!



YOU'LL MAKE A FRESH START WHEN WE GET TO MADRID.



FAR FROM WAGGING TONGUES AND DANGLING NOOSES ...

DON'T LET SUCH THOUGHTS PREY ON YOU, LUCY!



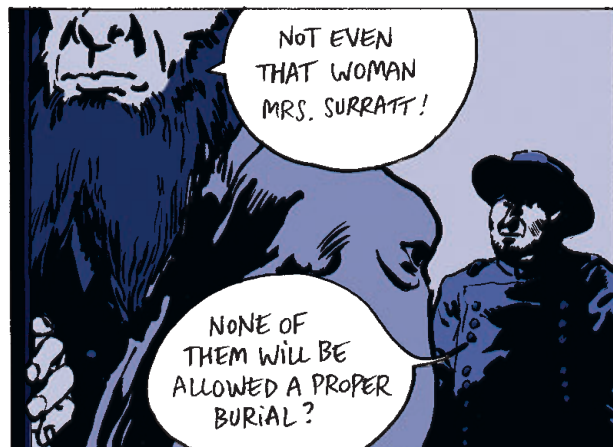
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

THAT I WORRY OVER MY CAREER?



OH, PAPA, I'M SO WRONG ABOUT EVERYTHING!!







Epilogue

Three years later the Booth clan reconvened in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore. Lacking a proper grave site, John Wilkes Booth was remembered by his relations at the site of their family vault.

Lucy Hale was one of their party. The gathering provided an opportunity for Lucy and Edwin to make their peace, and for Lucy to say her goodbyes to John Wilkes Booth.

