

# Черные Гранаты



BY DAHLIA THERIAULT

# Black Pomegranates

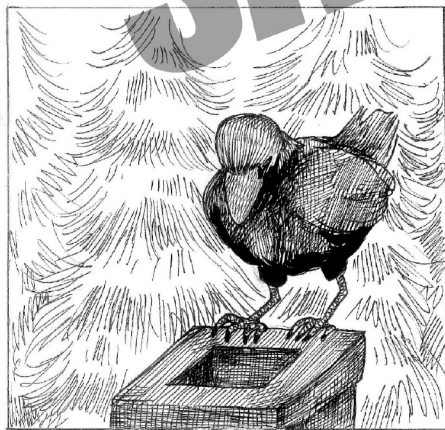
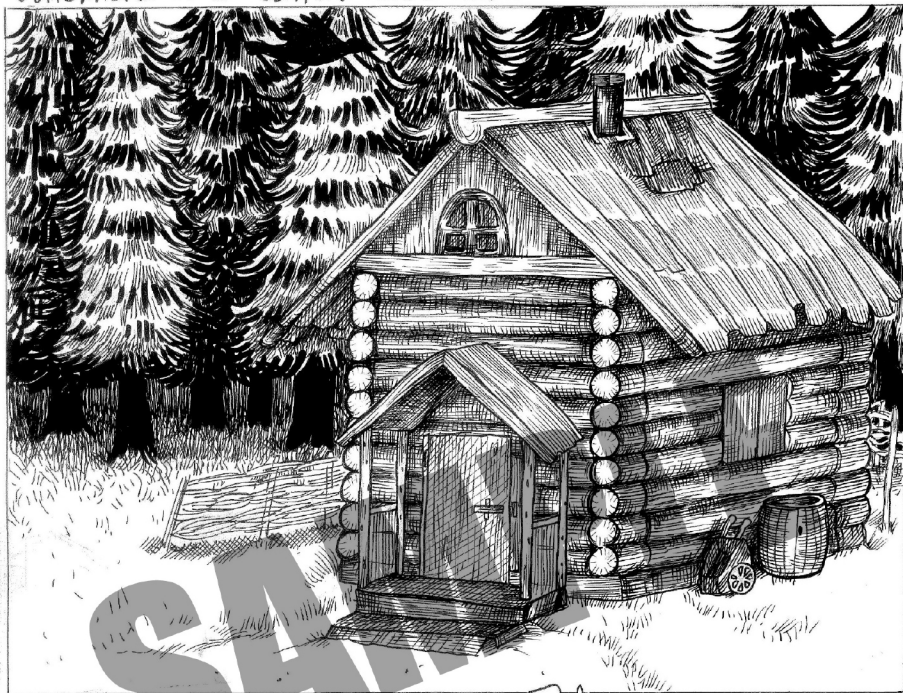
SAMPLE

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME COMPLETE THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL. THANK YOU TO THE FACULTY OF THE OCCIDENTAL ART DEPARTMENT WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS HELPED ME DEVELOP AND EXECUTE THIS PROJECT TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS WHO CHEERED ME ON AND HAVE VALIDATED MY CREATIVE INTERESTS. MOST OF ALL, THANK YOU TO MY FAMILY, WITHOUT WHOM THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE FOUND ITS FOOTING, ESPECIALLY MY PARENTS AND GRANDMOTHER WHO HAVE ENCOURAGED ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AND SUPPORTED MY ARTISTIC INTERESTS TO HELP ME GROW.

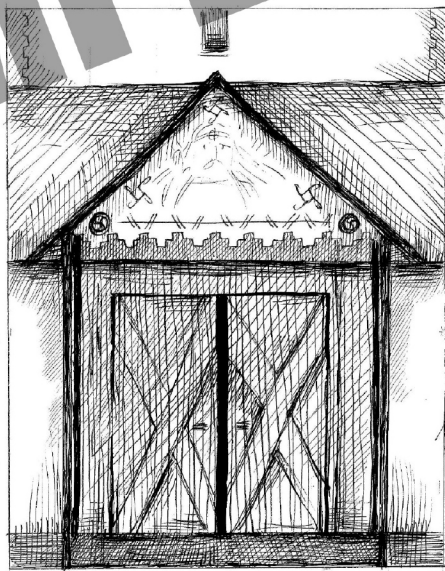
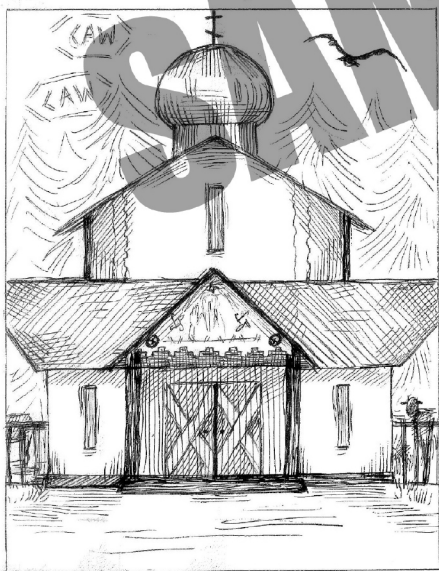
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IN 988 UNDER ROYAL DECREE OF GRAND PRINCE VLADIMIR, KIEVAN RUS WAS OFFICIALLY CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY AFTER A LONG HISTORY OF PAGAN TRIBES RESIDING IN RUSSIAN TERRITORY. THIS CONVERSION WAS THE START OF WIDESPREAD PERSECUTION TOWARDS THOSE WHO CONTINUED TO OPENLY PRACTICE SLAVIC PAGANISM, LEADING TO A RELIGIOUS CIVIL WAR. DUE TO RUSSIA'S LARGE SIZE AND DISPERSED POPULATION, THE RULING GOVERNMENT FOUND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO CONVERT ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS TO A NEW FAITH. AS A RESULT, RUSSIA'S UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIANITY BECAME GREATLY BLENDED WITH THE PRE-EXISTING PAGAN BELIEFS, CREATING A DOUBLE-FAITH THAT CAUSED MANY CONTRADICTIONARY BELIEFS AMONG VILLAGE COMMUNITIES, EMBEDDING HYPOCRISY AND OBSCURITY INTO RELIGIOUS PRACTICE.

SOMEWHERE IN 13<sup>th</sup> CENTURY RURAL RUSSIA:

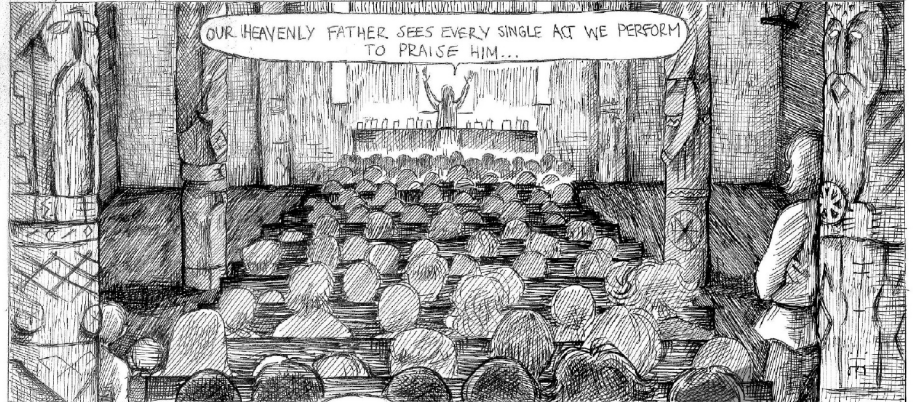









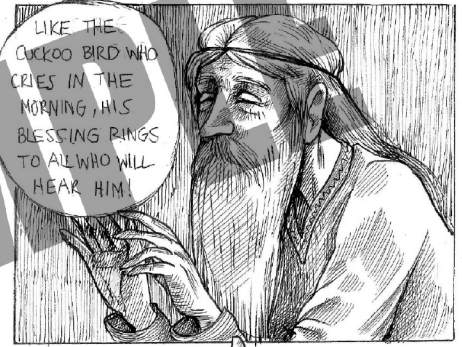





OUR HEAVENLY FATHER SEES EVERY SINGLE ACT WE PERFORM  
TO PRAISE HIM...



NO PRAYER  
OR PLEA IS  
LEFT UNHEARD  
AS GOD ABOVE  
HEARS WITH  
MULTIPLE  
EARS!



LIKE THE  
CUCKOO BIRD WHO  
CRIES IN THE  
MORNING, HIS  
BLESSING RINGS  
TO ALL WHO WILL  
HEAR HIM!



O GREAT  
CREATOR!  
RULER OF GODS  
'ABOVE AND'  
'BELOW!

HEAR US AS  
WE SING YOUR  
PRAISE AND ASK  
FOR YOUR BLESSING  
IN THE COMING  
WINTER!

