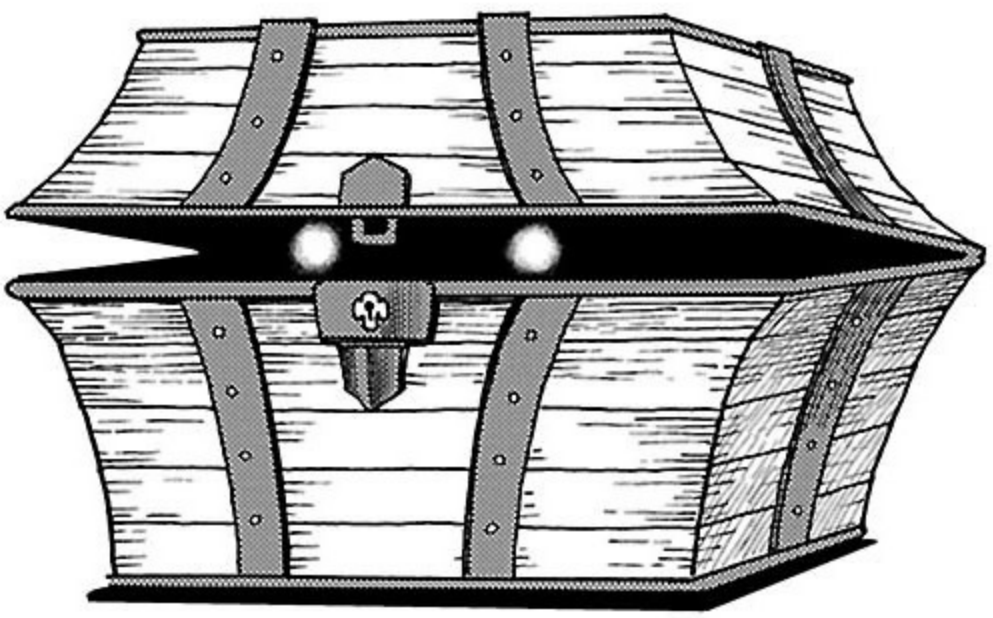
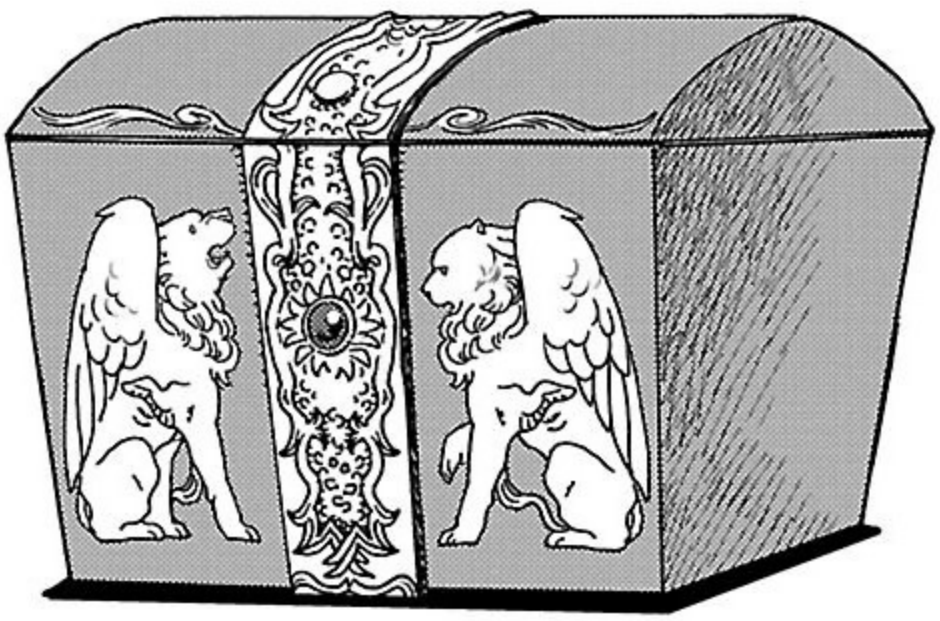
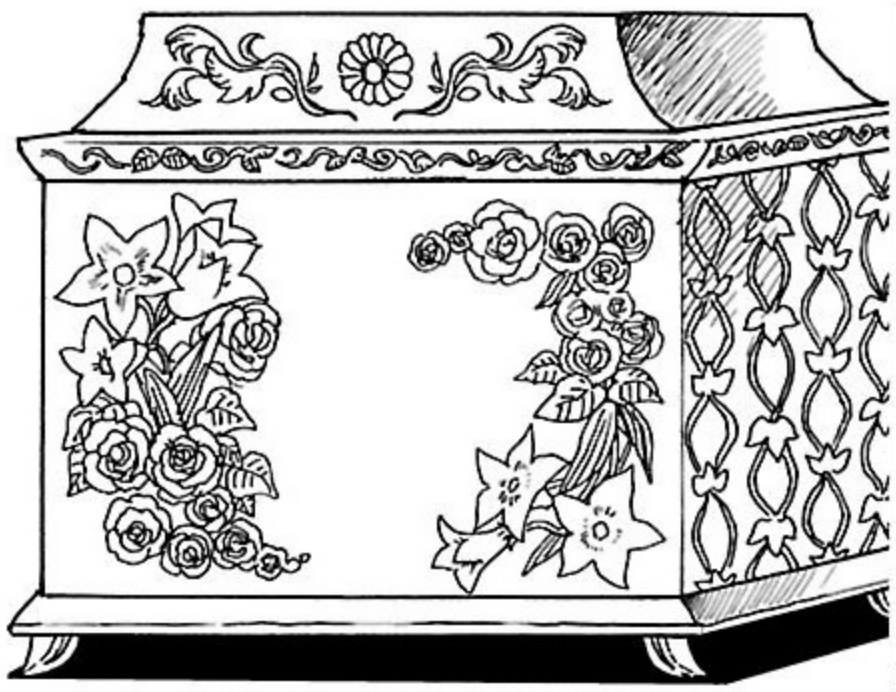
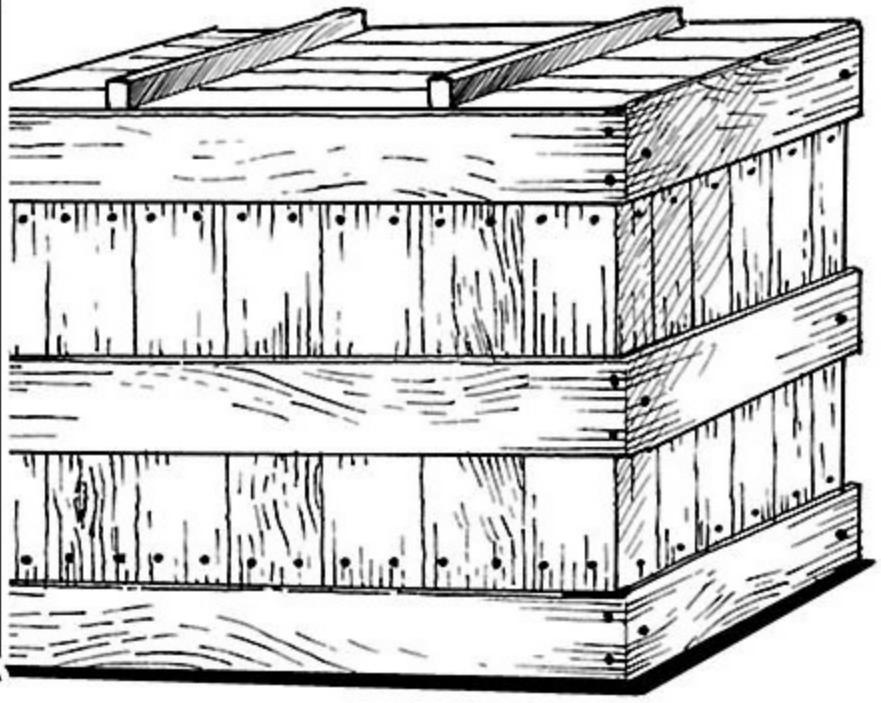


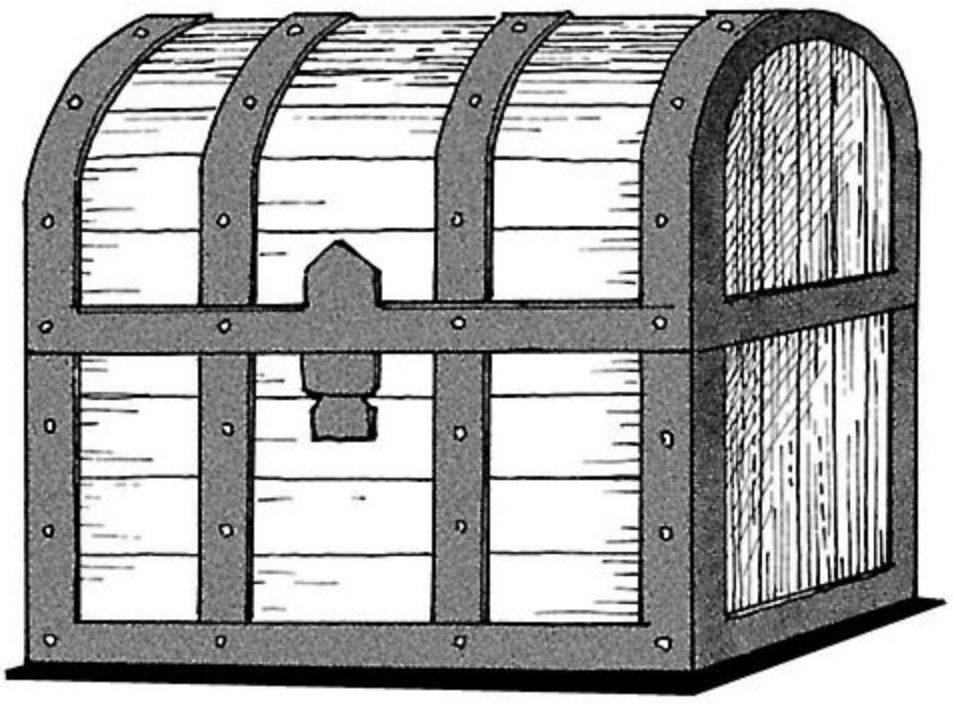


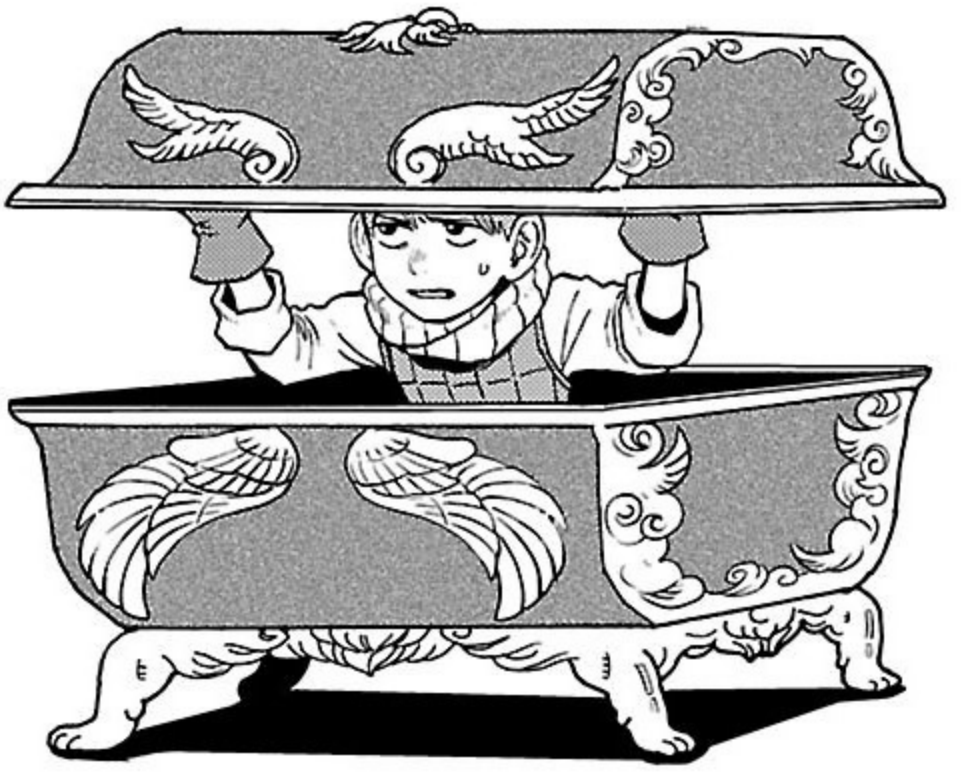


Chapter 13

Boiling







WE CAN GET WATER FROM THE ROOM NEXT DOOR, TOO.

IT SEEMS LIKE A PERFECT PLACE TO REST.

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE KITCHEN.

.....

HM...?

IF YE HADN'T WASTED TIME IN THOSE PAINTINGS WE WOULD HAVE REACHED LEVEL FOUR BY NOW.

Sorry.

OVER THERE.

ISN'T THAT A *MIMIC*?

It's just the kind of spot those bastards love.

The perfect place to subtly draw someone's attention.

Not too obvious.

Not too hidden.

I don't remember seeing a chest there before.

Okay~

HUH?

OH, SURE...

IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU, CHIL-CHACK?

LET'S GET SOME SLEEP HERE, THEN.

MIMICS!

I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES THOSE STUPID THINGS HAVE MADE ME SUFFER...

WHY'D YOU TELL THEM!?

ALL RIGHT!!

LAIUS AND SENSHI WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO EAT IT.

AND IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE THE ONE WHO HAS TO OPEN THE CHEST.

I'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.

Novice Adventurer Childhood

OPEN

AWESOME!

THERE'S NO LOCK OR TRAPS ON THIS ONE!

STAB

BUMP

BUMP

AHH!!

AHHHH!

AAAH!!

CRUNCH

grab

OKAY, THIS ONE WAS LOCKED, SO IT CAN'T *POSSIBLY* BE A MIMIC.

OPEN

THOSE DAMN MIMICS...

That time it wasn't my fault!

CRAP!

I FORGOT ABOUT THE TRAP!!

hiss

IF I OPEN IT FROM BEHIND, THEN IT CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

ARE YOU OKAY?

HUH?

.....

HE'S STILL A CHILD.

I'M SURE HE'S TIRED.

WE'LL LET HIM SLEEP, AND ONE OF US CAN TAKE HIS TURN AT WATCH.

I TOLD YOU ALREADY!

I'M NOT A CHILD!

YOU SEEM DISTRACTED.

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

YOU'LL REGRET THAT ATTITUDE ONE DAY~~

Yeah, yeah.

YOU WON'T EVEN TELL US YOUR BIRTHDAY OR WHERE YOU WERE BORN.

This again~

YOU NEVER CHANGE, CHILCHACK!

I JUST WANT TO KEEP MY PERSONAL LIFE OUT OF MY WORK.

ALL RIGHT, THEN HOW OLD ***ARE*** YOU?

I'M NOT TELLING.

Water...

MY STOMACH HAS GOTTEN WEAKER.

I USED TO BE ABLE TO GO TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD.

Growl

Growl

GUESS I'LL GO NEXT DOOR AND FILL UP MY WATERSKIN.

HEY.

WAKE UP, CLUMSY.

SLIDE

EMPTY

It's danger -ous...

WOBBLE WOBBLE

IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

Mwhh... I'll go... too...

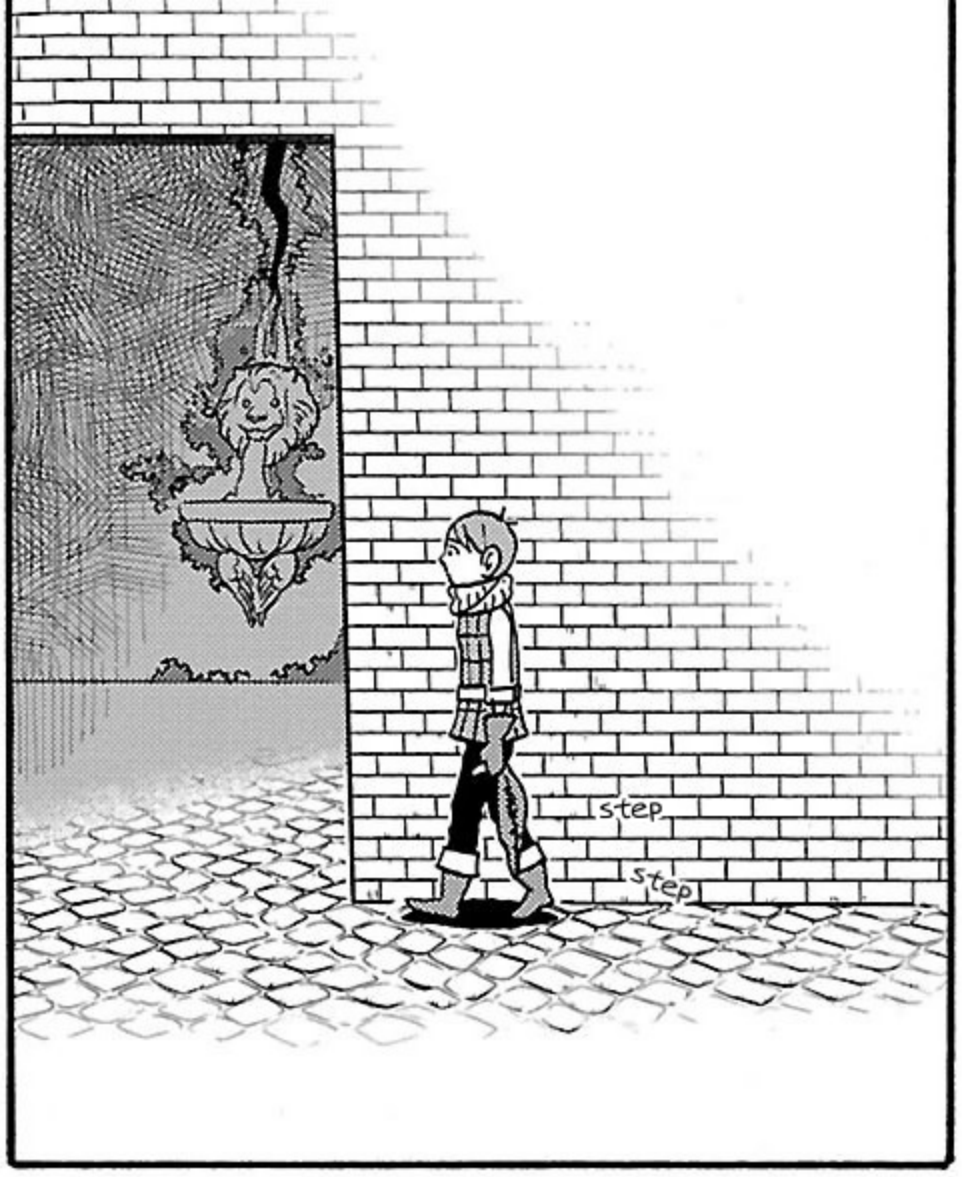
NO NEED.

I'LL BE BACK SOON.

Gwuh?

I'M GOING TO GET WATER.

BLUB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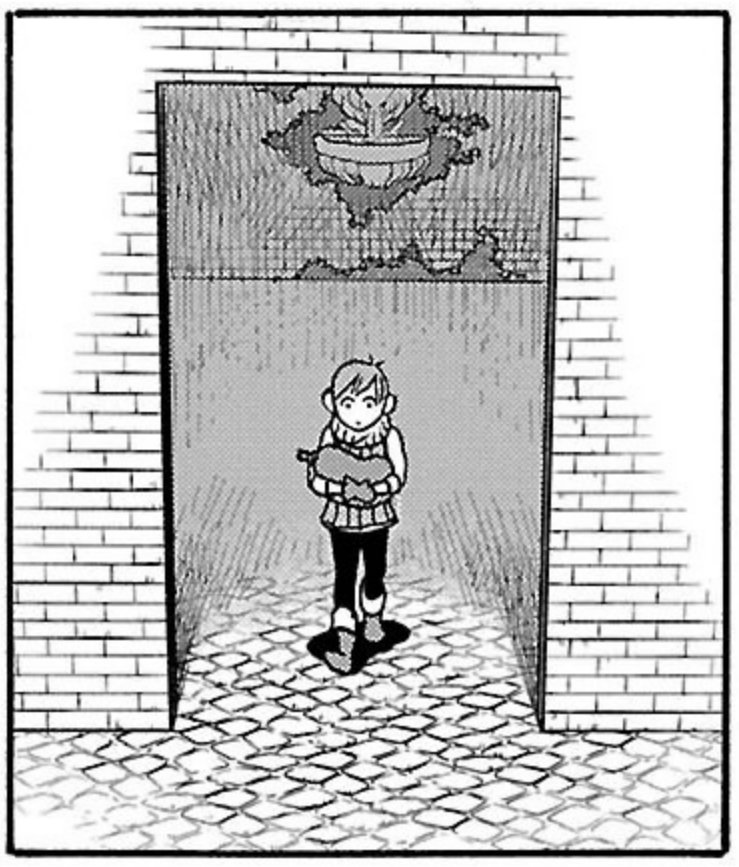
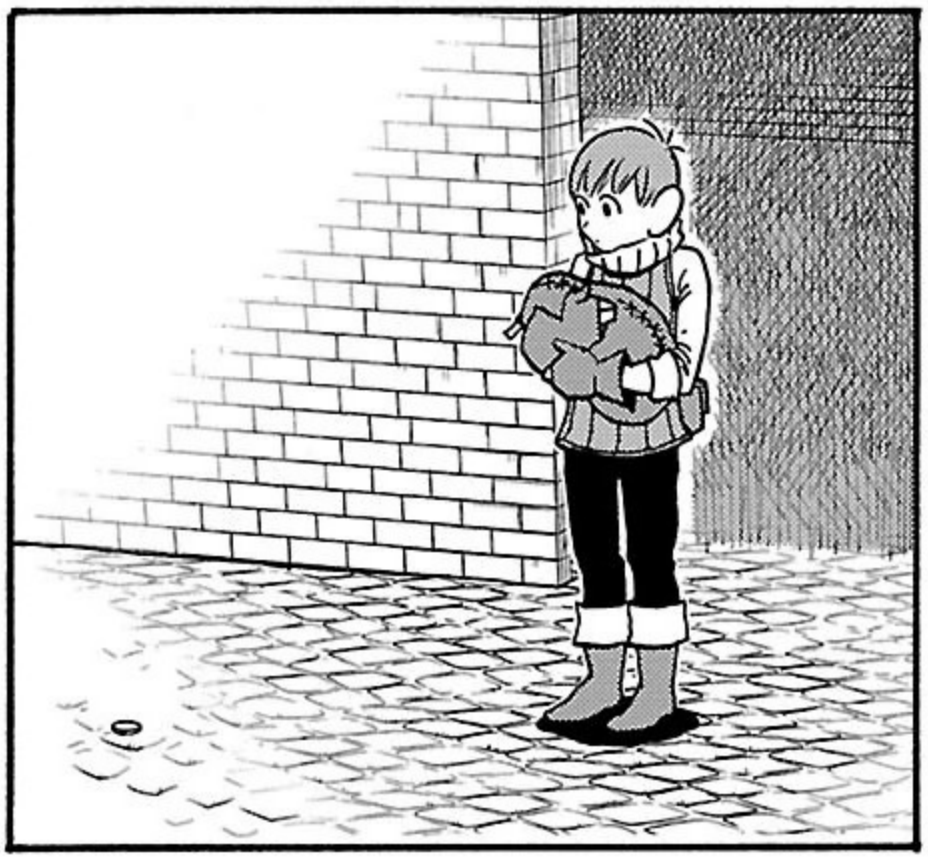
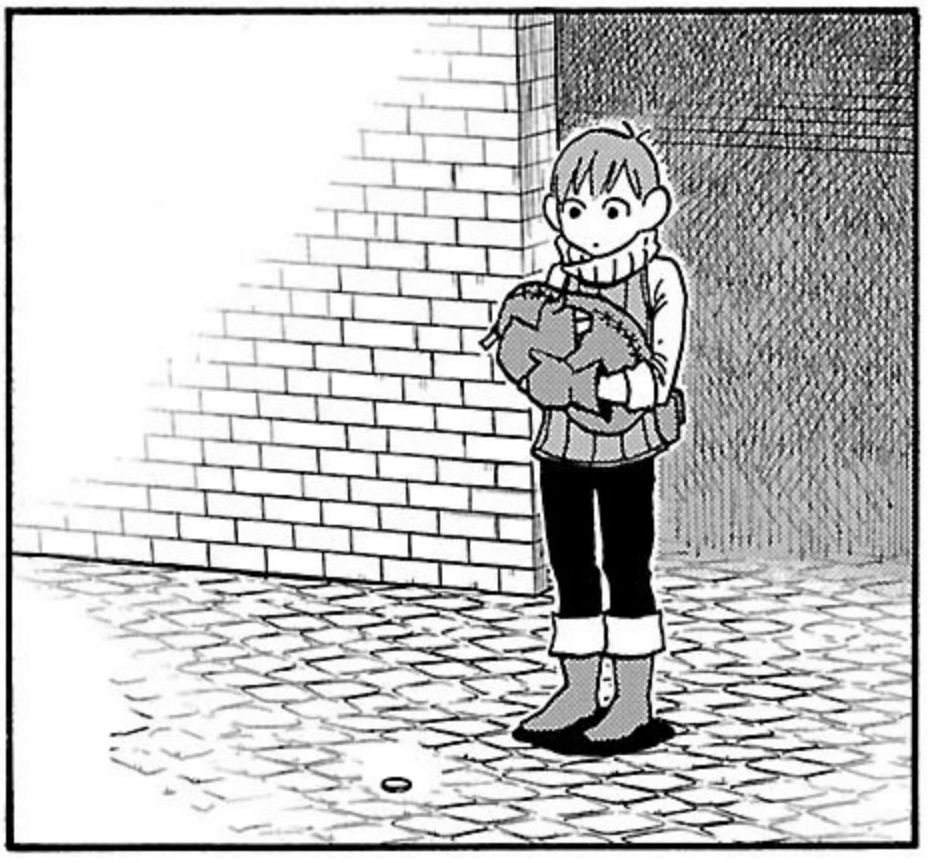






IS THERE A NEST NEARBY?

HEY, A COIN BUG.

IF I CAN FIND A BUNCH, THEY MIGHT MAKE A DECENT MEAL.

Plus, it's neat how they look like real money.

JINGLE

Oww!

smack

And they're not as aggressive as other treasure bugs.

They might be copycats like Mimics, but they're a whole lot cuter.

I'm no Laius, but I do like Coin Bugs.

CLICK

WAIT!

THIS IS WHERE THE MIMIC W—

SKITTER

WHOA!

CLATTER

CLATTER

CLATTER

CLATTER

SON OF A...!

THERE SHOULD BE A SWITCH AROUND HERE...

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN REACH IT.

I FORGOT THAT CARRYING THE WATERSKIN MADE ME HEAVIER!

...HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID?

Shore

MAYBE!?

NO, I PROBABLY CAN'T DEPEND ON HER!

IF I DON'T COME BACK, MARCILLE WILL TELL THE OTHERS.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

SHOULD I CALL FOR HELP?

...NO, IF OTHER MONSTERS HEAR IT AND COME, EVERYONE WILL BE IN DANGER.

OPENING CLOSED DOORS

IS MY JOB!

CALM DOWN!

!

whew.

I also don't hear any mechanisms moving, so there's probably no need to hurry...

If I don't touch the Mimic, it'll leave me alone.

I just need to figure out the trick to open this door.

...AND TRAPS IN THE FLOOR READY TO SHOOT SPEARS.

slide

IF I MESS UP THE ORDER OF THE SWITCHES, THEY'LL PROBABLY ACTIVATE.

There are switches on the walls...

THE WORDS ON THIS PLATE ARE PROBABLY THE KEY TO GETTING OUT...

Glance

AND...

Plate

Switch

Mimic

Forget it.

Let's think over what I know.

Three switches, each located in a corner of the room.

I probably need to push them in a special order...

BUT WHY THREE?

HMM, I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THESE SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

...?

...BUT I CAN'T READ ANY OF THESE ANCIENT LETTERS!

DAMN IT!

IF ONLY MARCILLE WERE HERE...

Arrgh!

There's a switch behind the Mimic, too!

Damn it!

Stop messing everything up, stupid Mimics!

WAIT A MINUTE.

IF I JUST PUSH BUTTONS AT RANDOM, I'LL GET MYSELF SKEWERED.

MAYBE I'M SMALL ENOUGH TO AVOID THEM...

NO, IT'S TOO DANG-EROUS.

MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER HINTS INSIDE THIS ROOM...

WHO AM I KIDDING?

IT WOULDN'T BE THAT EASY.

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO JUST WAIT HERE UNTIL MORNING...

DAMN IT!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO!!

THUMP

Hmmmmmmmm...

CREEP

TH-

BANG

CLICK

OH, SH—

SNAP

THIS WAS THE MIMIC!?

ROAR

TH-

THAT SAVED ME...

OWW...

Slllllide

THUMP

flop

GUH!

CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK

JUST HOW TOUGH ARE THESE THINGS!?

I DON'T WANT TO DIE WITH LAIUS' USELESS TRIVIA RUNNING THROUGH MY HEAD!

Heh heh heh!

YOU CAN TELL THE MALES FROM FEMALES IF YOU FLIP THEM OVER!

IF YOU FLIP A MIMIC OVER, THEY WRIGGLE THEIR LEGS.

IT'S ADORABLE!

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

FLIP IT OVER!?

CLACK

CLACK

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD PULL THAT OFF!

SMACK

CLICK

TIME FOR A BIG GAMBLE!

FINE, THEN!

slam

OW!

SLICE

SLAM

huff

puff

HMM?

BA-DUMP

WOBBLE

THAT HURT...

DAMN IT!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME!

KICK

WHAT, IT WAS EMPTY THE WHOLE TIME!?

MAYBE SOMEONE HEARD ALL THAT AND IS COMING TO HELP.

EH...?

THEY'RE THE SAME AS THE ONES ON THE SIGN PLATE!

IN THAT CASE, I KNOW WHAT THIS SAYS!!

THESE LETTERS...

GRAB

click
click
rock
reach
'...OR THE MOON SETS...'
CLICK
CLICK
'NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE SUN RISES...'
EAST!
WEST!
I'VE GOT TO HURRY!
DASH
NORTH!
CLICK
'...LIKE THE STAR ABOVE THAT GUIDES US...'

THUMP

"...MAY THE WINDS OF FORTUNE EVER BLOW YOUR WAY."

CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK

SOUTH!

WAAAHH!

SOUTH!

CLICK

SOUTH!!

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
JUMP
CLACK
CLACK
AAAAHH
RUMBLE
IT OPENED!
CLICK
CLACK

I'M TELLING YOU GUYS, CHILCHACK STILL HASN'T COME BACK!

Ah!

CH—

CHILCHACK!!

DID YOU KILL IT, CHILCHACK?!

FINE WORK!

OH MY...

I'M...

I'M SO SORRY!

I'M STILL ALIVE, YOU KNOW...

Owww...

THANKS.

I'VE NEVER COOKED ONE BEFORE.

A MIMIC, HUH...

WHAT A SPLENDID MIMIC.

-Pwuh!-

stroke

stroke

MIMICS THEM-SELVES AREN'T POISON-OUS.

THOUGH DEPENDING ON THEIR DIET, THEY MAY HAVE POISON IN THEIR SYSTEMS.

DON'T WORRY, MARCILLE.

ACCORDING TO THIS "DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE-BOOK",

YOU HAVE NO IDEA IF IT'S POISONOUS OR NOT!

I knew it...

YOU'RE ALREADY THINKING ABOUT EATING IT!?

BUT THIS TIME, I ***ABSOLUTELY REFUSE*** TO EAT A SINGLE BITE.

FORGET IT, MARCILLE.

sew sew

NOTHING YOU SAY CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

SO IF WE JUST TAKE OUT THE DIGESTIVE TRACT, WE'LL BE FINE, RIGHT?

NO PART OF THAT SOUNDED FINE TO ME!

Throw in some salt.

TOSS

TOSS

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

Bring a full pot of water to a rolling boil!

Once it's thoroughly boiled...

OPEN

steam...

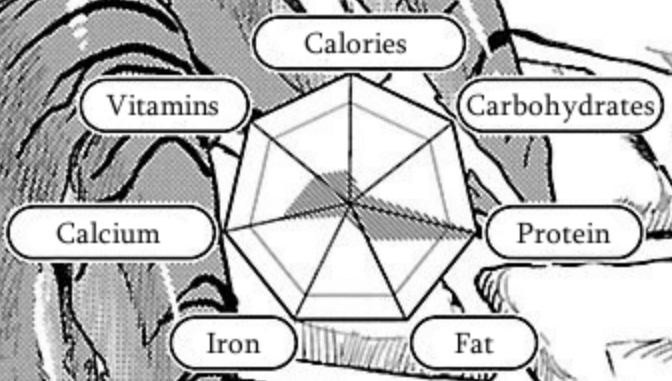
Add the mimic.

BOILED MIMIC

(Serves 4)

'TIS FINISHED!

Mimic body	1
Claws	1 set
Legs	4
Salt	a liberal sprinkling



HOW ABOUT USING THE SPOON HANDLE INSTEAD?

NO, THAT JUST PUSHES IT DEEPER INSIDE.

UGH.

I CAN'T REACH THE MEAT.

HNNG...

YER LOCKPICKS!

shock

WHAT TOOLS?

THE ONES YER ALWAYS CARRYING ON YE...

OH, I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

CHILCHACK.

LET ME BORROW YER TOOLS.

S—

STOP!!

WE'LL DISINFECT THEM.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!!

A—

ARE YOU CRAZY!?

NO WAY!!

I REFUSE!!

CHOMP

HERE.

TRY SOME, CHILCHACK.

dig dig

It's so easy!

WOW, THIS REALLY *IS* TASTY.

IT'S SO CHEWY.

THE MORE YOU CHEW, THE RICHER THE FLAVOR GETS.

IT TASTES AMAZING...

SLIP

.....

WHY DID YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE MIMIC?

WELL, I'VE HEARD THAT THE MIDGUT GLAND IN HERMIT CRABS TASTES TERRIBLE.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT ISN'T?

I BET IT WOULD BE TASTY TO EAT THE BODY AND LEG MEAT TOGETHER.

MIMICS DON'T EAT TREASURE BUGS.

WHAT?

ANYWAY, I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.

I WAS WORRIED IT WAS GOING TO EAT THE TREASURE BUG, AND I SCREWED UP.

MIMICS HAVE GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT GRIEF.

I WANTED TO STAY AWAY FROM IT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

ONCE THEY'RE ADULT TREASURE BUGS, HUMANS FIND THE CHEST AND MISTAKE THE BUGS FOR REAL TREASURE.

THAT'S HOW THEY CAN MOVE TO NEW PLACES.

THE EGGS HATCH INSIDE THE CHEST.

THE LARVAE THEN EAT THE MIMIC AND MATURE INTO ADULTS...

WHEN A BUG FINDS A CHEST WITH A MIMIC, THEY CRAWL IN THROUGH THE OPENING AND LAY THEIR EGGS.

IT'S THE OPPOSITE.

TREASURE BUGS EAT MIMICS.

DIDN'T YOU LEARN TODAY THAT KEEPING THINGS FROM US ONLY LEADS TO BAD THINGS?

GO ON.

TELL US HOW OLD YOU ARE.

STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID!

SMACK

BUT YOU WON'T TELL US YOUR AGE...

There, there.

ARE YOU SERIOUS...

YOU JUST HAD A BAD TIME.

YOU POOR THING.

I TURN 29 THIS YEAR...

I...

YES!?

M...

MISTER CHIL-CHACK.

STOP THAT!!

JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU TWO, THEN!?

STUPID STUCK-UP LONG-LIVED RACES!

I NEVER THOUGHT YE WERE *THAT* YOUNG.

What a letdown!

HMPH!

SO YOU *ARE* A CHILD AFTER ALL!

Chapter 13: ~fin~