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Grimalkin's Pitch

Concept:

During an interview, the man believed to be the world's greatest magician describes the origins of his powers and reveals the deaths and betrayals that built his fame.

Genre:

Fantasy

Page count:

Between 48 and 64 pages

The main character:

At the end of the 21st century, David Wassler's fame is such that half the world believes he is a living god. But it is the young David from 2016 who interests us. He grew up sheltered from painful experiences, developed a fear of them and now his goal is to live an injury-free life. However, the suffering he will witness in this story will reveal his place in the world and transform this young man into someone capable of sacrificing everything to save others.

The obstacle:

Grimalkin, a demon who is here to torment and kill David.

Location:

The scenes from 2086 take place in Sweden and those from 2016 in Spain.

Target audience:

12+

Biography:

Pablo Iten is a comic book author. His talent for languages has allowed him to publish comics in various British anthologies (*Something Wicked*; *100% Biodegradable*; *Sliced Quarterly*) as well as in the Dutch magazine *Zone 5300*. He lives in the province of Alicante.

What makes *Grimalkin* different?

-The first difference is the ending. Curse stories have one of two outcomes: the protagonist is killed by the curse (which is disappointing) or he is selfish and gives the curse to someone else (which is not heroic). I decided to change the typical climax and use a protagonist that grows into a hero towards the end of the narrative.

-The other difference is my interpretation of magic. In fiction, witchcraft is often something you are destined to do (because you got a letter from Hogwarts or because you come from a family of witches) or it's something you are allowed to perform because you found a magic crystal or a wand. For this one-shot, I wanted magic to be accessible to everyone so I turned it into a religion. The link

between the individual and the magical/holy source opens only when the individual stops thinking rationally and truly believes he can do something.

Synopsis

This story is set in a world where magic is a religion. Everyone knows that wizards exist and that their faith grants them supernatural powers.

In 2086, David Wassler is recognized as the greatest wizard of all time. During an interview, he begins to describe the events that led to his first conjuration.

70 years earlier, David is not a magician yet. He's pursuing a comfortable, pain-free existence. And when he learns that his ex, Suzie, is losing her battle with cancer, he avoids visiting her until it's too late. Instead, he meets her mother, who gives him a gift from Suzie: her old harmonica.

That night, David has a nightmare. He meets a demon named Grimalkin, who tells him that he will torment the owner of the harmonica. Grimalkin then attacks our protagonist, causing him to wake up.

The next day doesn't start well for David. He is staying in the guest room of a friend, Thomas Fabiani. The weather is unusually cloudy, the fridge refuses to open and a black liquid squirts out of the shower head when David tries to shower.

When David goes upstairs to warn Thomas of the problem, his friend shows him that the same viscous liquid is gushing out of the upper floor's toilet. He then explains that his house has probably been cursed again (this is something that happens quite often in the world of this story: jealous witches curse other people's houses.) Thomas gives David a protective amulet and suggests that he should stay safe near his sister Ellie Fabiani, who is performing a smudging (a ritual where sacred herbs are burned to remove negative energy.) The wind picks up and the symptoms of the curse worsen. But Ellie persists and manages to finish the ritual. The problem seems solved until David's amulet becomes burning hot. This indicates that it is not Thomas' house that is cursed, it's David.

Thomas takes David to a man who specializes in curses directed against people: Rick Oustral. Rick conducts a seance in his garden with his feline guides. The deceased Suzie possesses one of the cats and speaks to David. He learns that she never forgave him for breaking up with her while she was ill. She cursed the harmonica and wants revenge. Then, the possessed cat attacks David until Rick ends the session. He then advises David to perform a blood offering to appease Grimalkin.

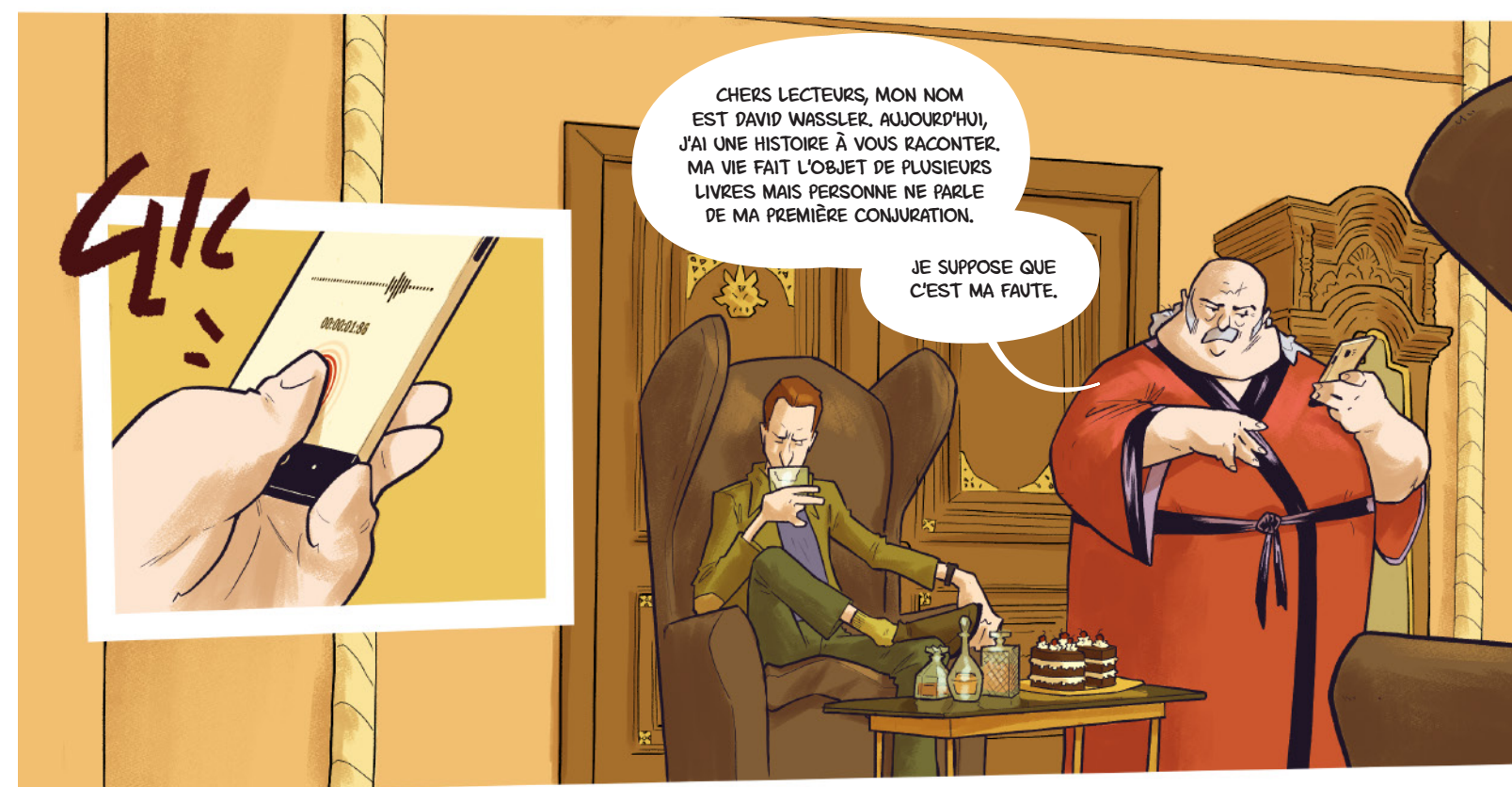
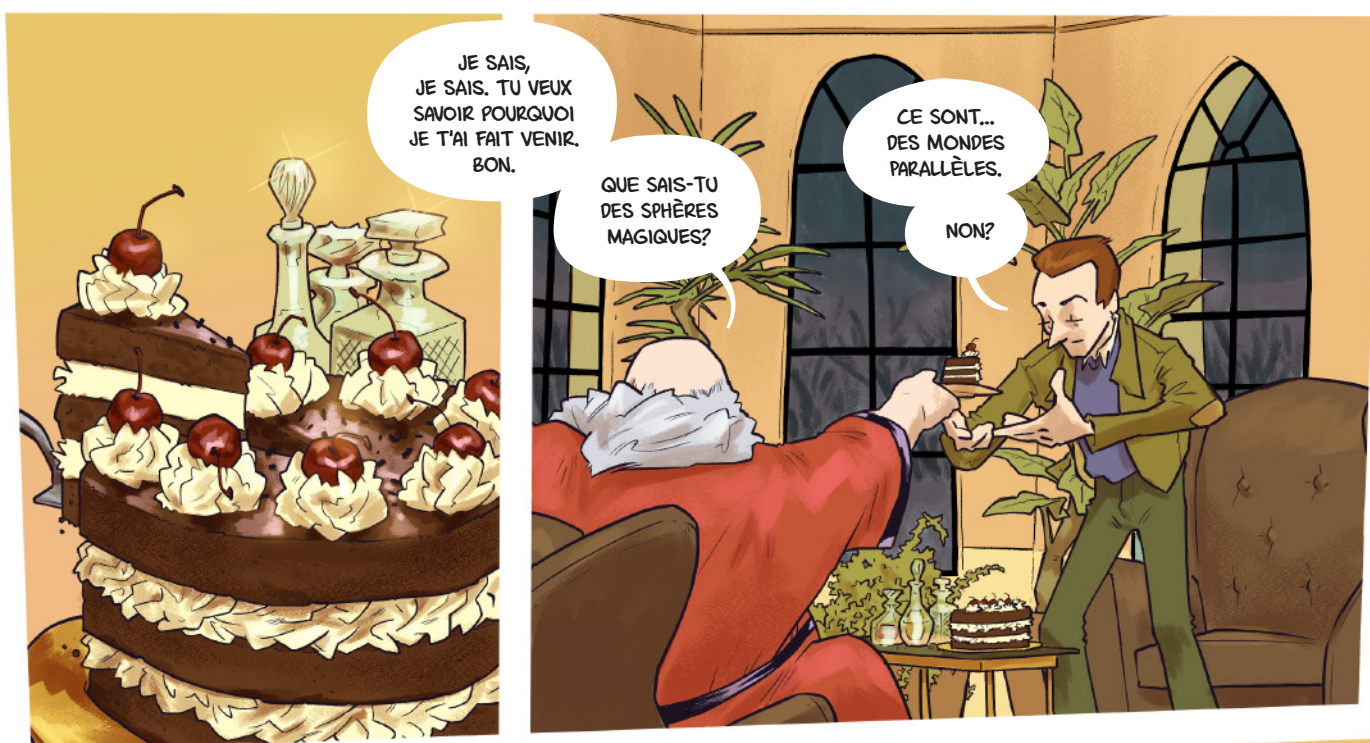
Back in Thomas' house, David performs the painful offering. Once it's done, Ellie joins him in the guest room to clean his wounds. While she takes care of him, he feels attracted to her and invites her to dinner. After an initial refusal, she finally gives in.

Unfortunately, the dinner does not go as planned. Grimalkin reveals himself to David to inform him that he rejects his blood offering. The monster wreaks havoc in the restaurant and swears that David has until the next day to live. At noon, Grimalkin will come for him. Then, the demon knocks out our protagonist before leaving the establishment.

When David wakes up the next day in Thomas' house, it's already ten o'clock. This is where Thomas reveals a last resort solution. David can give the harmonica to someone else but that person will die in his place.

In a crowded beach, David tries to give the harmonica to someone else but his conscience stops him. He then argues with Ellie, who wants a stranger to die in his place. But David has made his decision: he doesn't want anyone to die for him. To stop the argument, he throws the harmonica towards the sea with only a few moments left before noon. But before the instrument falls into the water, a seagull mistakes the shiny harmonica for food and grabs it. The bird then begins to fly over the crowded beach. David runs after the seagull but he isn't fast enough and the bird drops the instrument on an innocent man who picks it up. At noon, Grimalkin comes for this man. Feeling that he has been cheated out of his decision, David finds himself in the right mental state to perform magic and unleashes his powers for the first time to save this person. He fights with Grimalkin and kills him but his prodigious powers are too great to control. The demon is not the only victim of this unbridled magic.

When he finishes telling his story, David explains to the reporter that the uncontrollable magic that came out of him killed the people who were near him and Grimalkin. These deaths forced him to isolate himself for a few years to learn to control his powers. Since then, he has used his gifts to save thousands of people, but he still feels guilty and provides the reporter with the names of the people who died that day to turn him into the David Wassler everyone knows.



DAVID
WASZLER

Le grand David à droite est le plus important magicien de sa génération. Sa connaissance approfondie du monde spirituel le rend sans cesse curieux de notre monde physique. Il existe un milliard de saveurs et David les a presque toutes goûtées.

Le jeune David est le mouton noir de sa famille. Tous ceux avec qui il est lié ont connu un succès étonnant dans le domaine de la magie. Mais il ne peut même pas conjurer les sorts les plus simples. Il souffre d'un blocage mental et les événements de ce livre vont le libérer de cette prison et révéler l'énorme potentiel qui sommeille en lui.



Grimalkin est un démon qui a rampé hors de son petit trou en enfer pour tourmenter sa proie avant de la manger. Il éprouve un réel plaisir à tourmenter David.

GRIMALKIN



THOMAS
FABIANI

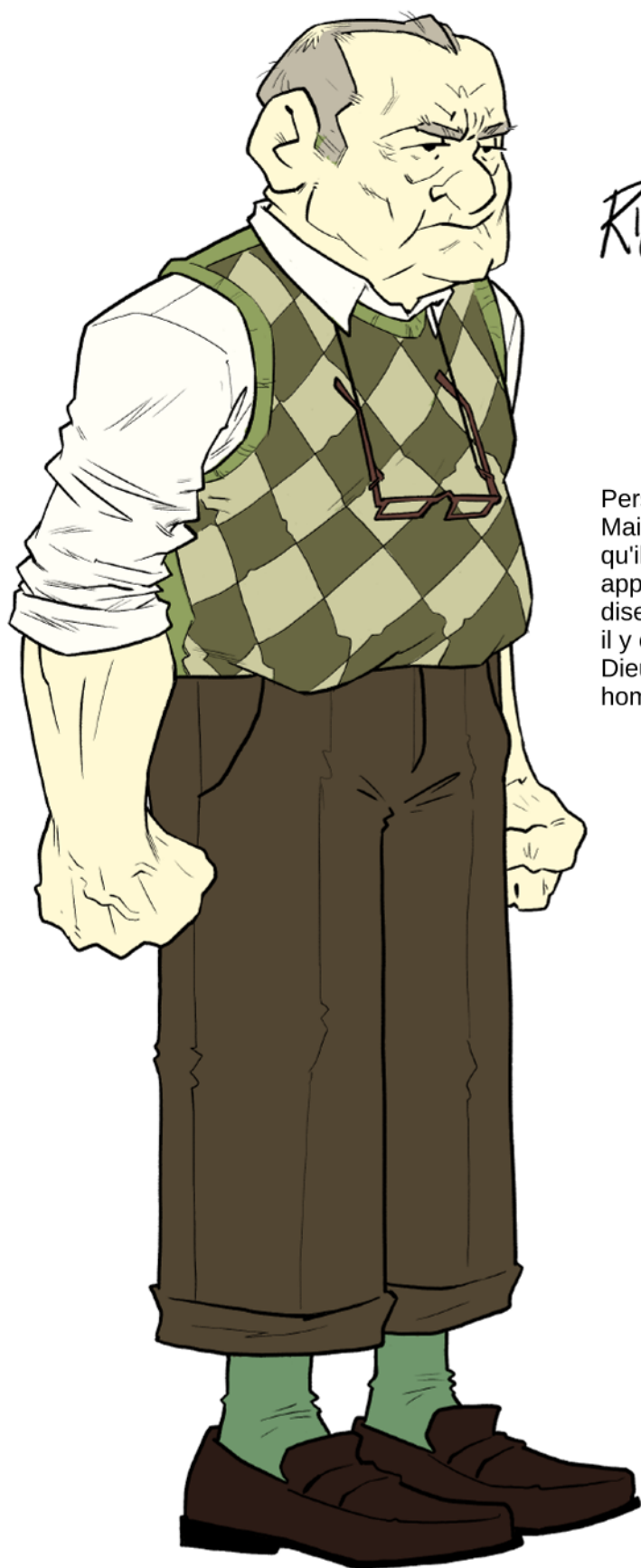


Thomas se réveille à 5 heures du matin et termine ses exercices avant que quiconque ne se lève. Mais la discipline ne suffit pas toujours et un manque total de talent l'empêche d'améliorer ses sortilèges. En tant qu'ami, il offre toujours de bons conseils. Mais malheureusement, il est aussi dur envers les autres qu'il l'est envers lui-même et cela lui donne parfois un air froid et impitoyable.

ELLIE
FABIANI



Ellie est extrêmement sensible. Cela la rend très fragile et vulnérable. Mais cela lui permet également d'être exceptionnellement empathique. Et cette qualité est ce qui la rend douée pour la conjuration.



RICK

Personne ne connaît l'âge de Rick. Mais tout le monde s'accorde à dire qu'il ne faut pas se fier à son apparence inoffensive. Certains disent qu'il peut prédire l'avenir. Et il y en a même qui prétendent que Dieu parle à travers ce petit homme. Faites attention à lui.