

THE

ROOTSHADE

NEST

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W
HEN THE
ROOTSHADE
NEST SPAT
ME BACK
HOME

I WALKED BACK TO MY PARENTS HOUSE IN **YOUR** ARMOR
WITH **YOUR** SWORD IN MY HAND
AND MY PARENTS SAID

"WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL AFTERNOON?"
THEY SAID

"DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK? YOU'RE NOT TAKING
OFF SCHOOL AGAIN JUST BECAUSE YOU WASTED TIME
PLAYING AROUND, YOU KNOW."





WHEN MY
ADVENTURE WAS
DONE
AND I HAD DEFEATED
THE WINTER
KING—


I WENT TO SCHOOL AND MY CLASSMATES
ASKED ABOUT THE SCAR
AND I SAID



I'VE ALWAYS
HAD THIS. I'M
SURPRISED YOU
NEVER BROUGHT
IT UP.

I WASN'T
LYING,

BECAUSE



WHEN THE WINTER KING KILLED ME
AND **YOU** BROUGHT ME BACK

I DON'T THINK I STAYED
THE SAME PERSON

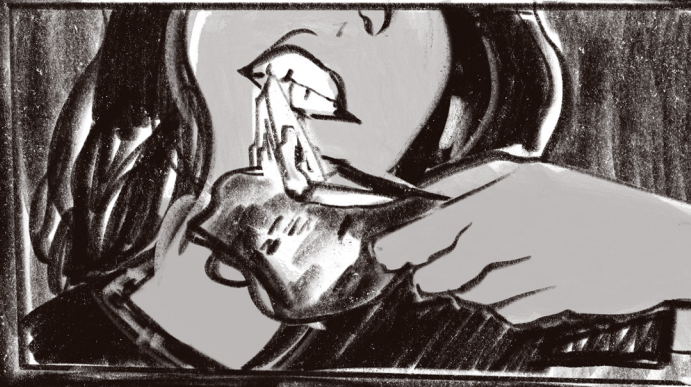
NOT
REALLY.

THERE IS NO FOOD IN THIS
WORLD THAT CAN COMPARE
TO EATING TREE MEAT

FEELING IT GIVE,
TENDER.



UNDER MY TEETH.



AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING -

I CAN'T STOP
THINKING -

I CAN'T STOP
THINKING -



ARE YOU STILL **YOU** ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE KNOTWOOD DOOR? I CAN'T
WAIT ANY MORE. WHAT IF I CHANGE
BACK?

MY TEETH LOOK
BLUNT.

I KNOW I SAID
I WANTED TO
GO HOME AT
FIRST.
I KNOW.



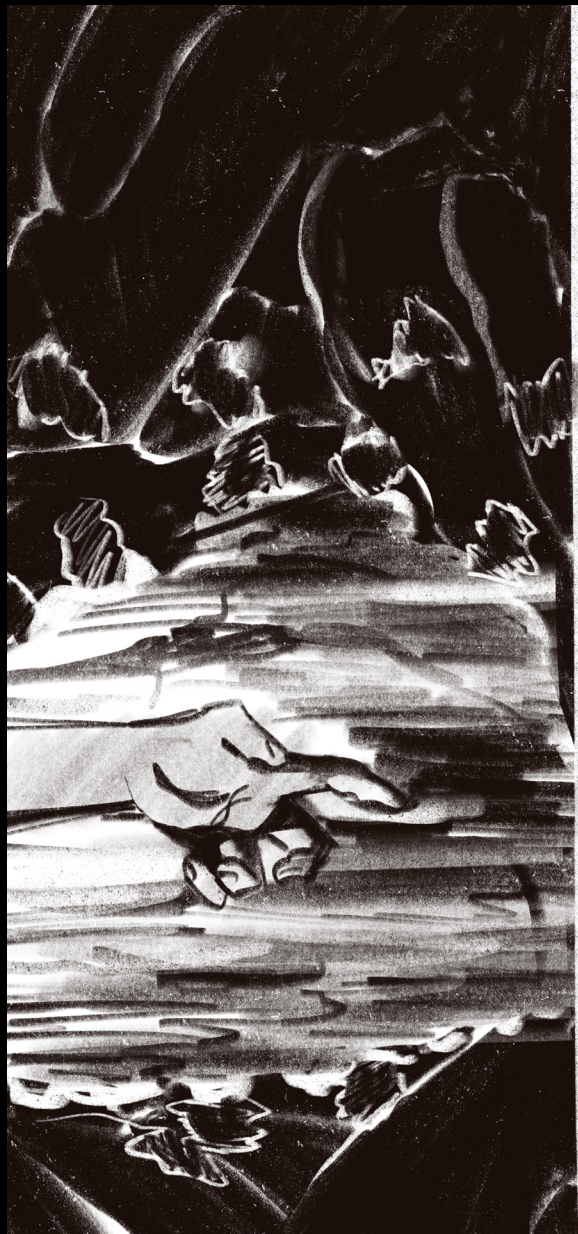


BUT
WHEN THE
ROOTSHADE
NEST HAD
ITS FILL OF
ME, WHEN IT
USED ME UP,
WHEN I WASNT
FUN TO PLAY
WITH ANYMORE,
IT FLICKED,
ME HOME LIKE AN
INSECT

AT LEAST
I AM STILL A
HUNGRY
INSECT

AND WHEN I FIND
THE DOOR BACK TO YOU





THEN
TOGETHER
WE
CAN



GET EVEN.

