

STICKS AND STONES

written by

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The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PAGE 1 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR, NIGHT. We are on a castle wall. It's an older castle, more of a ruin, really. On the wall, in the middle of the panel, a spooky skeleton stands guard, let's call him GREG. Greg has a medieval helmet on his head(/skull), an old wooden shield in one hand and a rusty sword in the other. It's the same type of a skeleton warrior that you might have seen in *Jason and the Argonauts* or *Army of Darkness*. In the sky on the left side of the panel is the Moon in its Waning Crescent phase. The position and the phase of the Moon will be our indicator of the passage of time throughout this story.

PANEL 2

SIMILAR PANEL, only now the Moon is closer to the center of the panel and is in its Third Quarter phase.

NARRATION Sometimes, life can be **ruthless**.

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). From the right side of the panel now comes an ADVENTURER: a knight with a big sword or a mace. I'll leave the specific look, weapons, or even gender up to you. Either way, GREG is a bit startled by their presence.

ADVENTURER Die, foul creature!

GREG What the--!

PANEL 4

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). Both characters are now in the middle of the panel and GREG's bones crumble under a single blow from the ADVENTURER's weapon.

GREG Ah, come on!

PANEL 5

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). The ADVENTURER now exits the panel on its left side, while GREG lays in the middle as just a pile of bones.

NARRATION And with a snap of a finger, it can all just **fall apart**.

PAGE TURN

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

SIMILAR PANEL. The Moon is now in the middle of the panel and in its Waning Gibbous phase. GREG is standing on his regular spot, piecing himself together. Maybe he's standing just on one leg, holding the other one in his hand, while his other hand(/arm) is lying on the ground, as well as some ribs and other bones, his helmet, shield, and sword.

NARRATION And the only thing you can do then is to just **pick up the pieces** and build yourself back up.

PANEL 2

SIMILAR PANEL. The Moon is now in its Full Moon phase and slightly to the right of the panel. A nice little side effect of the full moon might be that GREG's eyes are glowing. Greg is now standing on both legs, he even has his helmet back on his skull, but he's still trying to put his ribs back in with his one attached hand.

NARRATION It is a **slow and painful process**.

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). GREG is now looking to the left side of the panel, calling Jerry (off panel).

GREG Hey, Jerry!

NARRATION But with some **resolve** and some **support** from those around you...

PANEL 4

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). JERRY has now popped in from the left side of the panel. Jerry is another warrior skeleton (maybe with a crossbow or an ax instead of a sword? your call). And because of the full moon, his eyes are also glowing.

JERRY Yeah?

GREG Have you been here? Is this your rib?

PANEL 5

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same).

JERRY I dunno... probably?

But I guess you can keep it. I honestly didn't even notice I was missing it.

GREG Hey, thanks.

I owe you one.

NARRATION ...you can become even **better than you ever were**.

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

SIMILAR PANEL. The Moon is now even more to the right side of the panel and in its Waxing Gibbous phase. GREG is like new again. All the bones are where they're supposed to be and he's again holding his shield and his sword the same way he did in the very first panel. And since it's not full moon anymore, his eyes are no longer glowing.

NARRATION Of course even this may not last forever.

PANEL 2

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). From the right side of the panel now approaches a WARRIOR: another adventuring knight who, for one reason or another, has decided to reclaim or plunder this haunted castle.

NARRATION But if your life should start to **crumble around you** again...

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). The WARRIOR is now getting closer to GREG, who is hiding behind his shield and getting ready to fight.

WARRIOR Out of my way, beast!

NARRATION ...at least now you have all the means and all the experience...

PANEL 4

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). The WARRIOR is now standing next to GREG and attacking him with their weapon.

GREG Oh, give me a break!

NARRATION ...to **build yourself back up yet again.**

PANEL 5

SIMILAR PANEL (the Moon stays the same). The WARRIOR is now exiting to the left side of the panel while GREG is again just a pile of bones.

GREG Great.

NARRATION **Better and stronger.**

THE END