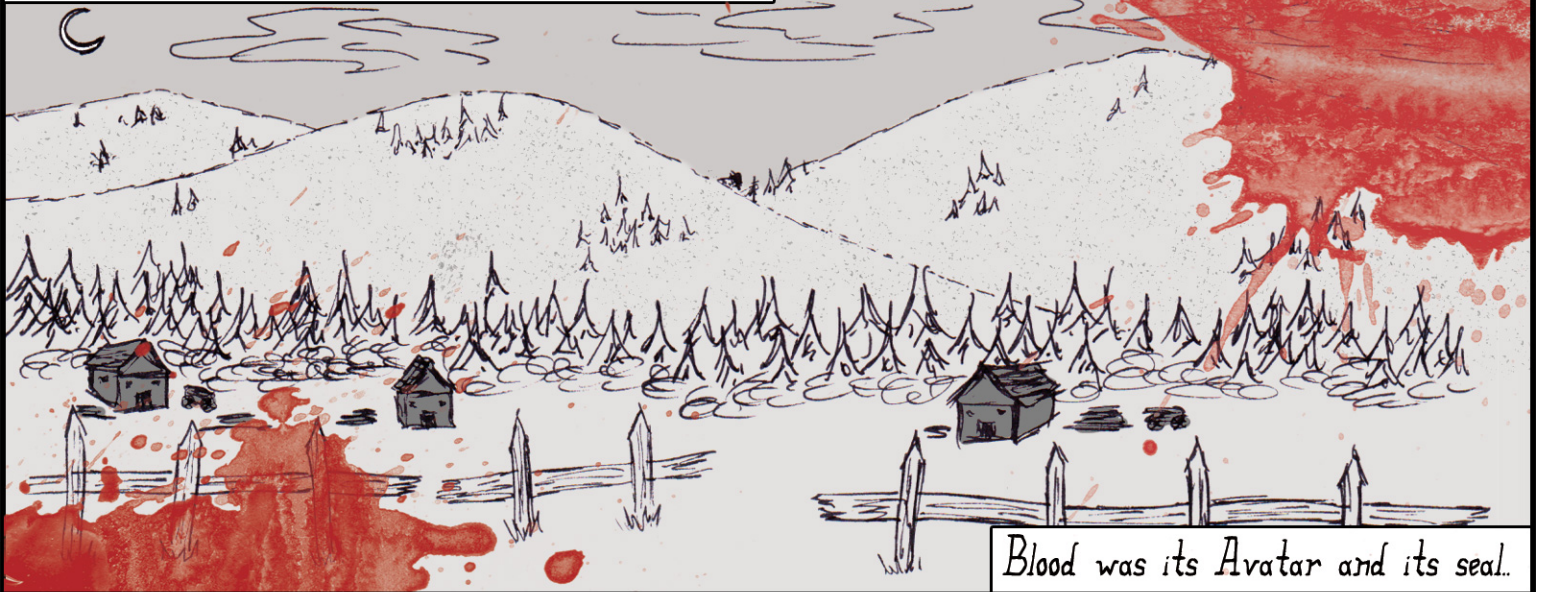


THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

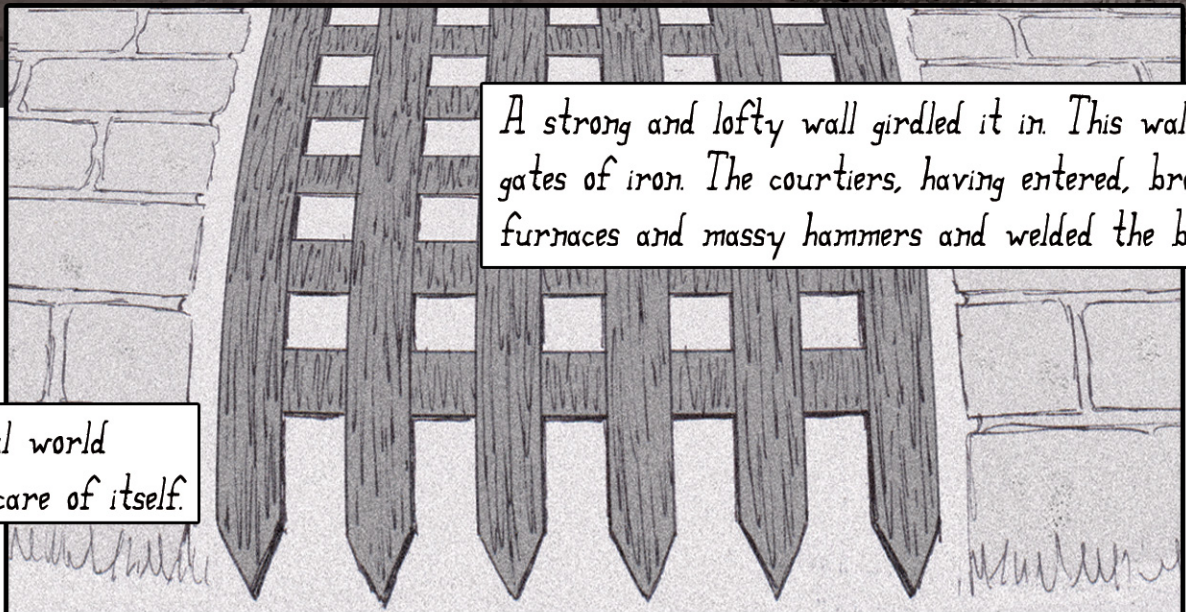
By Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted by Nicolas Karpluk,
Jessica Lowe & Erin Milne

The "Red Death" had long devastated the country...



But the Prince Prospero was happy and dauntless and sagacious. When his dominions were half depopulated, he summoned to his presence a thousand hale and light-hearted friends from among the knights and dames of his court, and with these retired to the deep seclusion of one of his castellated abbeys.

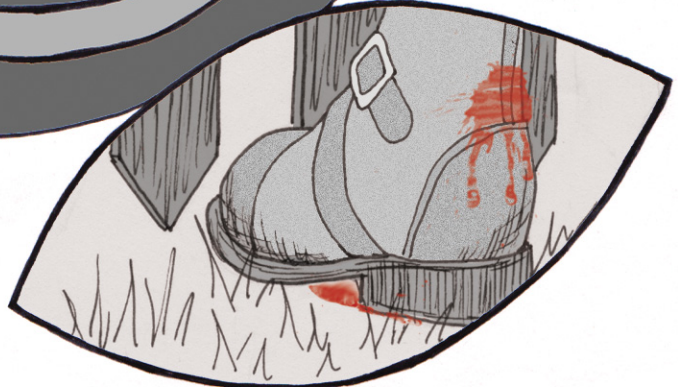


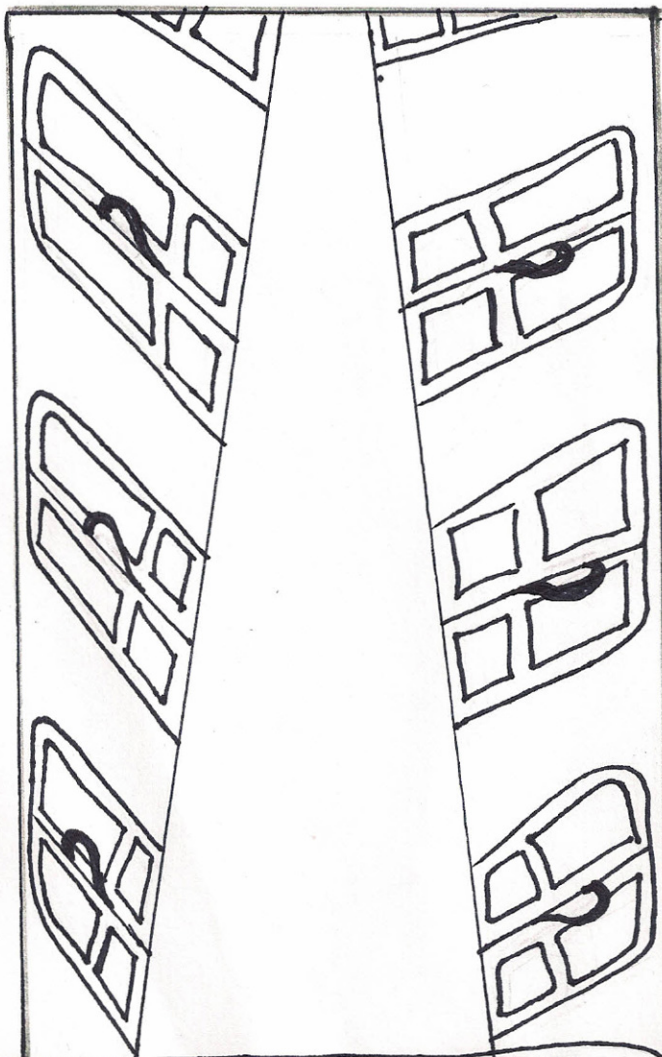
A strong and lofty wall girdled it in. This wall had gates of iron. The courtiers, having entered, brought furnaces and massy hammers and welded the bolts.

The external world could take care of itself.



*Warmest salutations to
this festive gathering...*



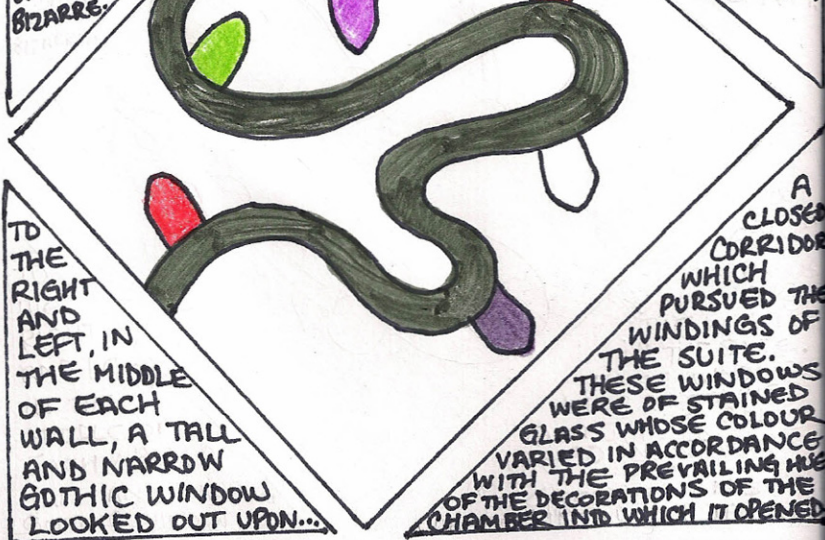


IT WAS A VOLUPTUOUS SCENE, THAT MASQUERADE. BUT FIRST LET ME TELL OF THE ROOMS IN WHICH IT WAS HELD. THESE WERE SEVEN - AN IMPERIAL SUITE. IN MANY PALACES, SUCH SUITES FORM A LONG, STRAIGHT VISTA.

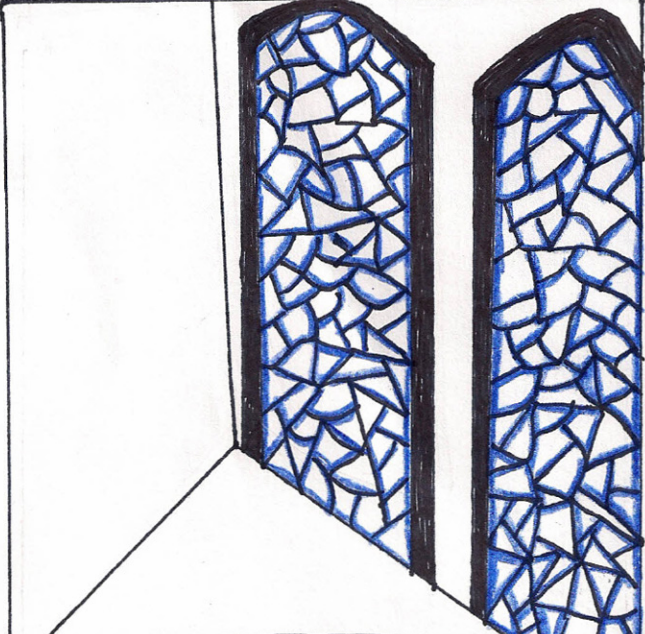
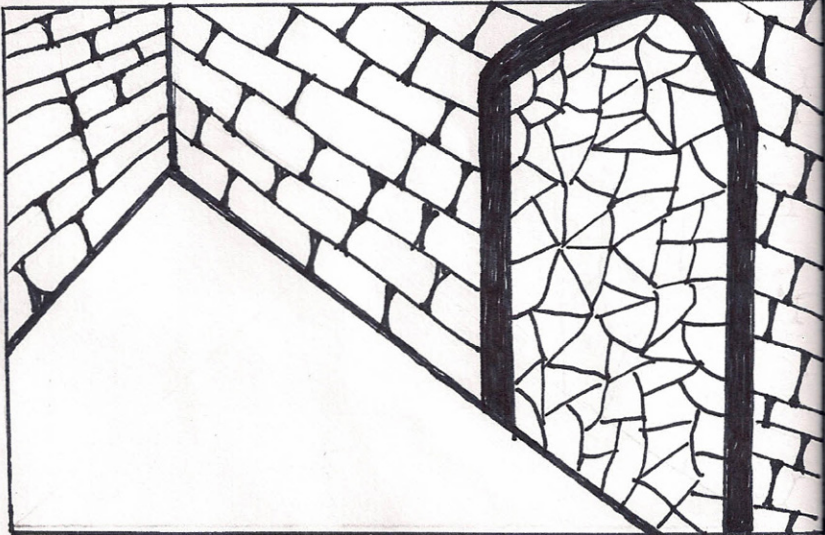
HERE THE CASE WAS VERY DIFFERENT, AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM THE DUKE'S LOVE OF THE BIZARRE.

TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT, IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH WALL, A TALL AND NARROW GOTHIC WINDOW LOOKED OUT UPON...

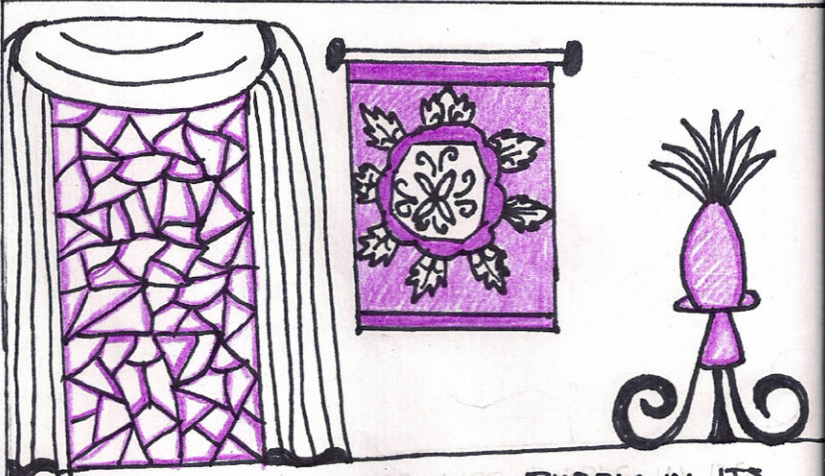
THERE WAS A SHARP TURN AT EVERY TWENTY OR THIRTY YARDS, AND AT EACH TURN FOR A NOVEL EFFECT.



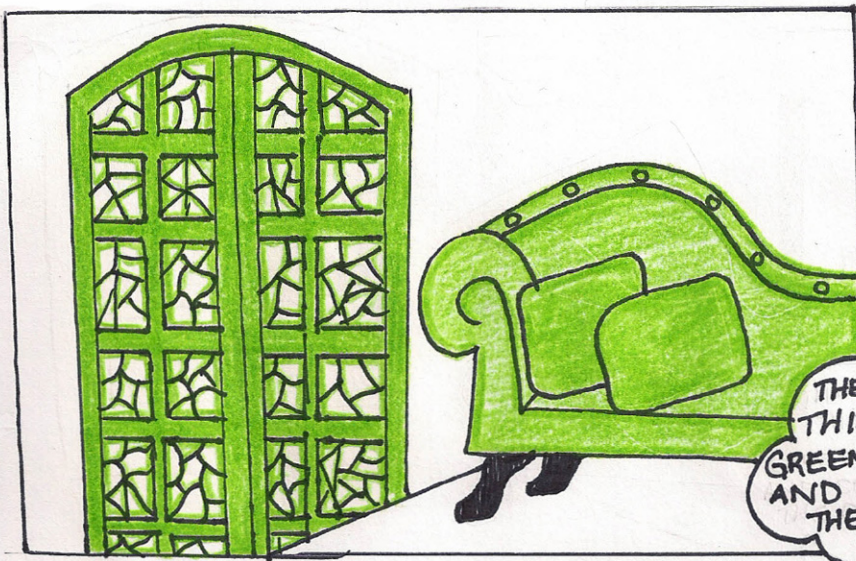
A CLOSED CORRIDOR WHICH PURSUED THE WINDINGS OF THE SUITE. THESE WINDOWS WERE OF STAINED GLASS WHOSE COLOUR VARIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVAILING Hue OF THE DECORATIONS OF THE CHAMBER INTO WHICH IT OPENED



THAT AT THE EASTERN EXTREMITY WAS HUNG, FOR EXAMPLE, IN BLUE - AND VIVIDLY BLUE WERE ITS WINDOWS.

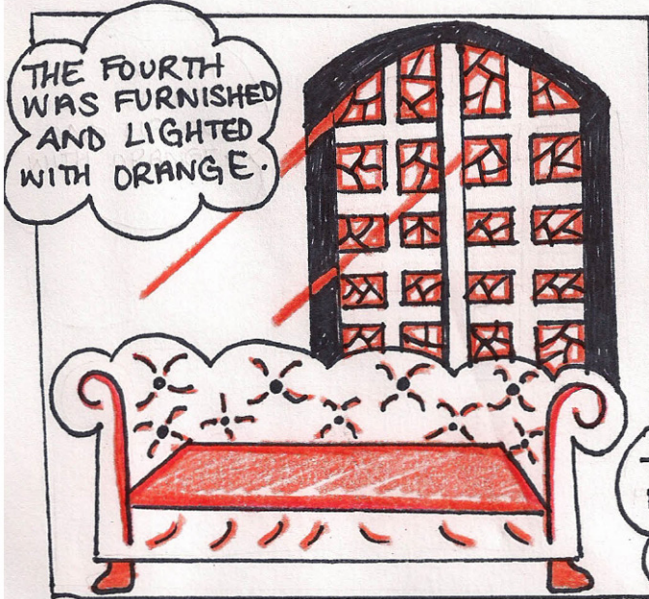
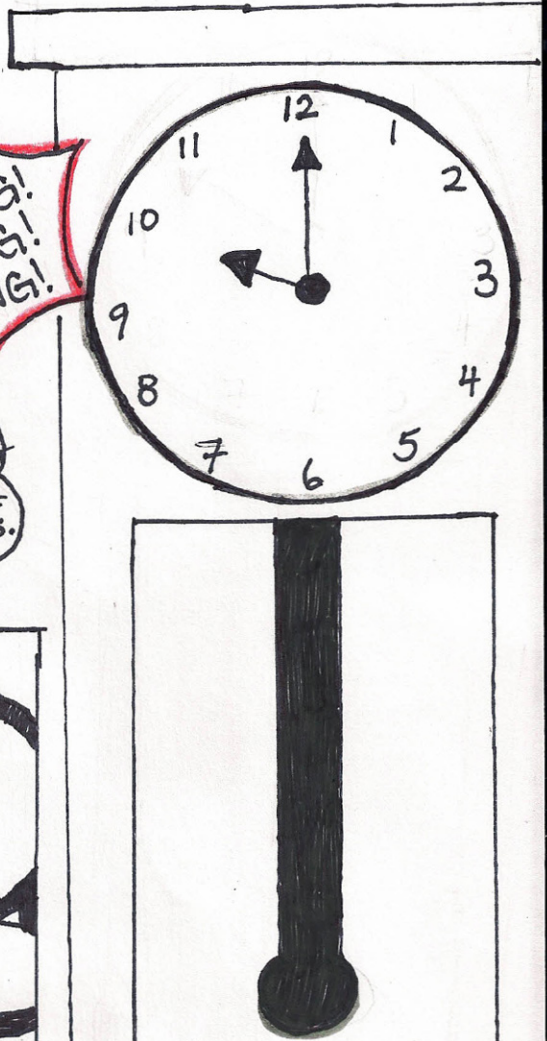


THE SECOND CHAMBER WAS PURPLE IN ITS ORNAMENTS AND TAPESTRIES, AND HERE THE PANES WERE PURPLE.

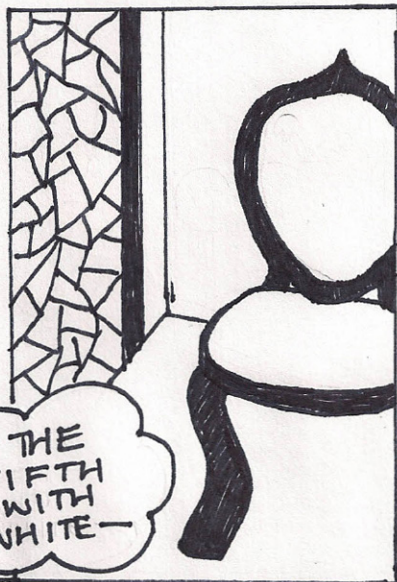


BONG!
BONG!
BONG!

THE THIRD WAS GREEN THROUGHOUT AND SO WERE THE CASEMENTS.

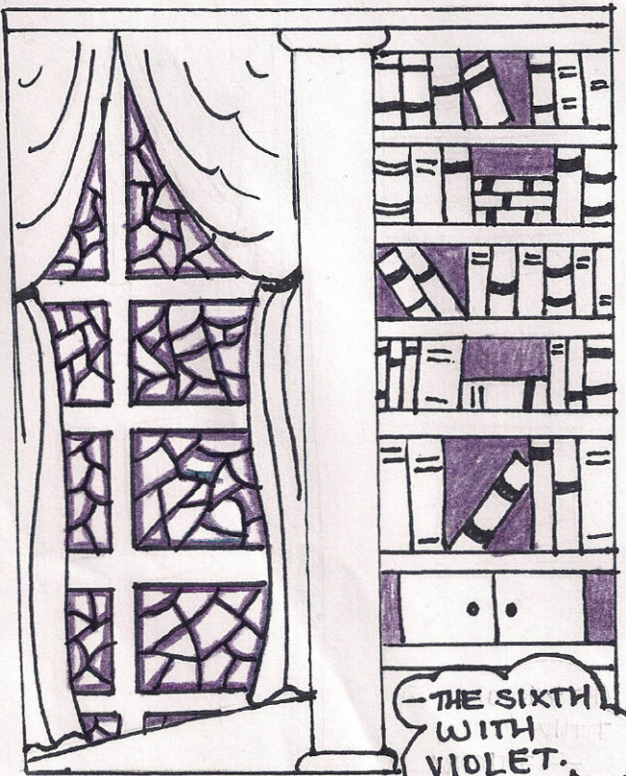


THE FOURTH WAS FURNISHED AND LIGHTED WITH ORANGE.

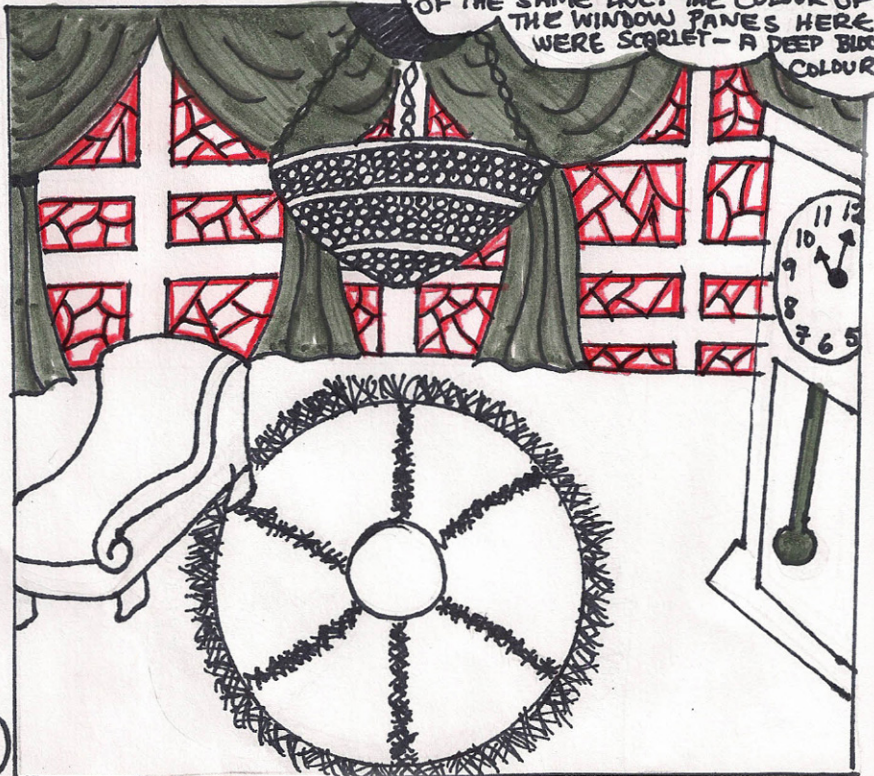


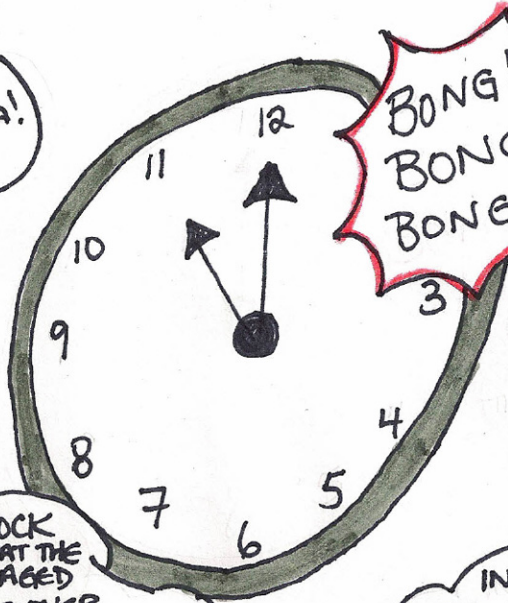
- THE FIFTH WITH WHITE -

THE SEVENTH WAS CLOSELY SHROUDED IN BLACK VELVET TAPESTRIES THAT HUNG ALLOVER THE CEILING AND DOWN THE WALLS, FALLING UPON A CARPET OF THE SAME HUE. THE COLOUR OF THE WINDOW PANES HERE WERE SCARLET - A DEEP BLOOD COLOUR.



- THE SIXTH WITH VIOLET.



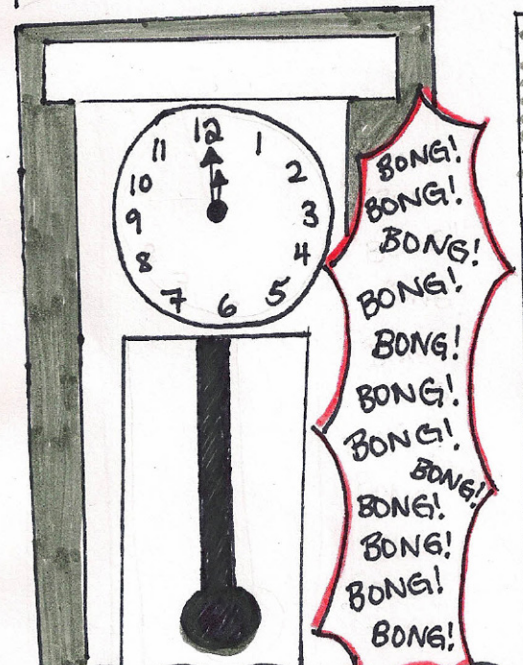


WHILE THE CHIMES OF THE CLOCK YET RANG, IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THE GIDDIEST GREW PALE, AND THE MORE AGED AND SEDATE PASSED THEIR HANDS OVER THEIR BROWS AS IF IN CONFUSED REVERY OR MEDITATION. BUT WHEN THE ECHOES HAD FULLY CEASED, A LIGHT LAUGHTER AT ONCE PERVADED THE ASSEMBLY.

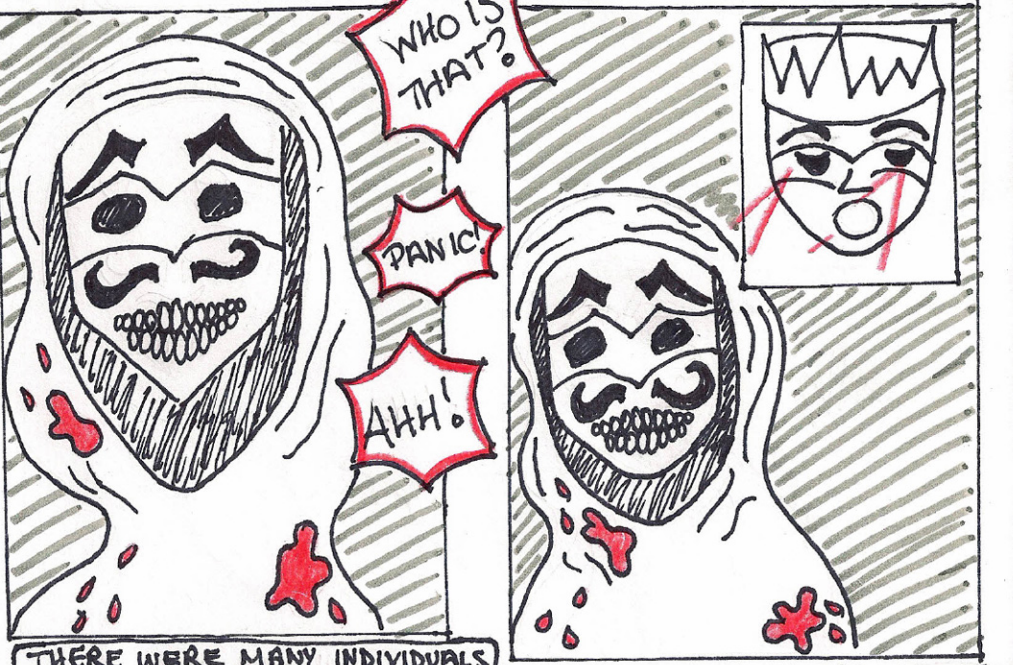
IN SPITE OF THESE THINGS, IT WAS A GAY AND MAGNIFICENT REVEL. THE TASTES OF THE DUKS WERE PECULIAR. THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HIM MAD!



BUT THESE APARTMENTS WERE DENSELY CROWDED, AND IN THEM BEAT FEVERISHLY THE HEART OF LIFE. TO AND FRO IN THE SEVEN CHAMBERS STAIKED, IN FACT, A MULTITUDE OF DREAMS.



BUT NOW THERE WERE TWELVE STROKES TO BE SOUNDED BY THE BELL OF THE CLOCK.



THERE WERE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO BECAME AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF A MASKED AGURE. THE NEW PRESENCE SPREAD TERROR, HORROR, AND DISGUST.

WHEN THE EYES OF THE PRINCE PROSPERO FELL UPON THIS SPECTRAL IMAGE HE WAS SEEN TO BE CONVULSED, WITH A STRONG SHUDDER OF TERROR OR DISTASTE; BUT HIS BROW REDDENED WITH RAGE...

