



Searles 2019

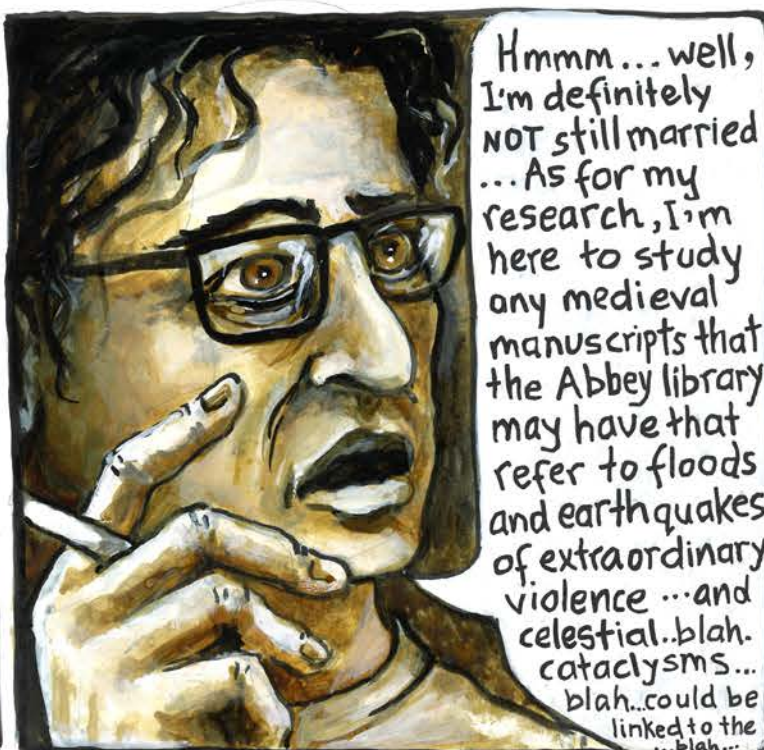








So, Victor...tell me, what's been happening with you? Still married? And still researching all things arcane and mysterious?



Hmmm... well, I'm definitely NOT still married... As for my research, I'm here to study any medieval manuscripts that the Abbey library may have that refer to floods and earthquakes of extraordinary violence...and celestial...blah...cataclysms... blah...could be linked to the...blah...

VICTOR REALISES, PERHAPS FAR TOO LATE, THAT FRANCESCA'S EYES HAVE GLAZED OVER...



... So what about you?

... Oh... I guess I've a few irons in the fire... but all the galleries are closing down...and I've nowhere to exhibit...

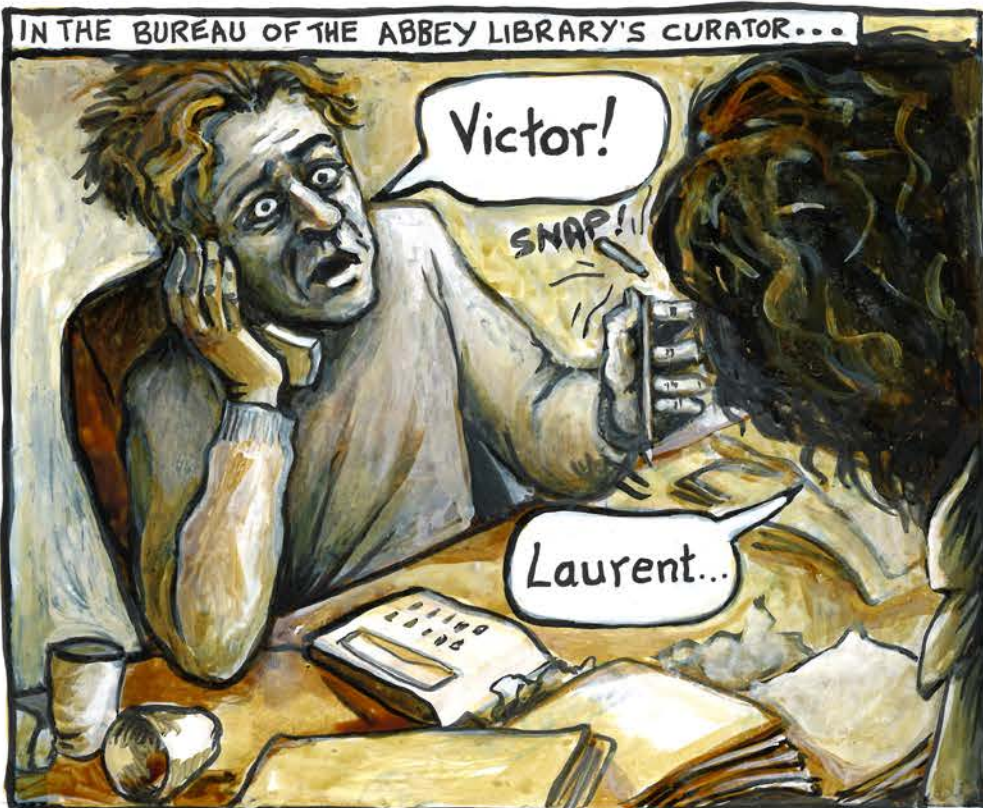
...oh...

LATER THAT NIGHT, VICTOR SUFFERS FROM A RECURRING NIGHTMARE...





IN THE BUREAU OF THE ABBEY LIBRARY'S CURATOR...



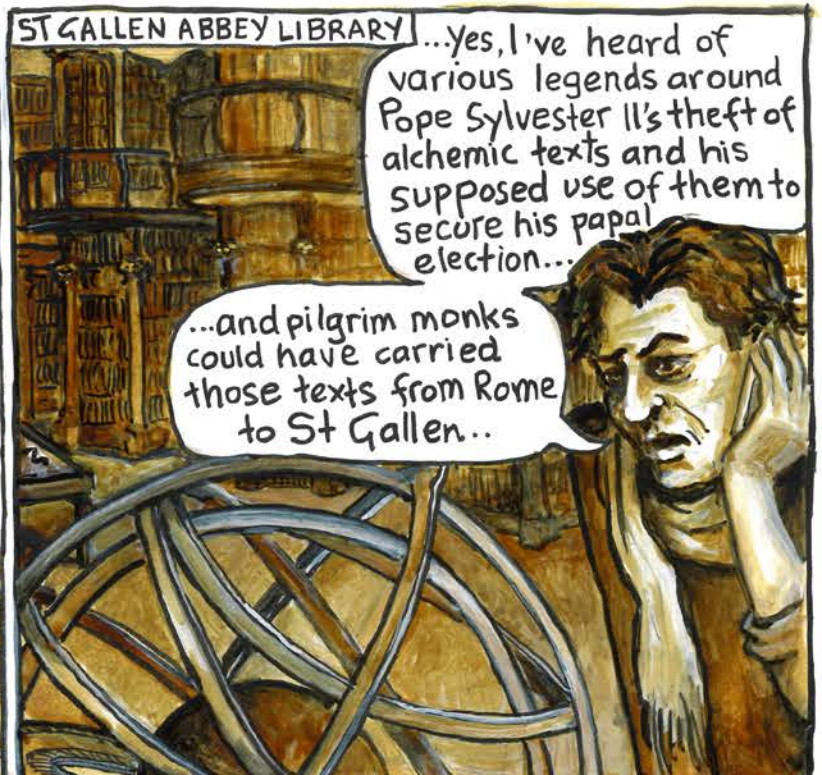




I've also found references in one of my grandmother's paintings, to some sort of sacred alchemic text...



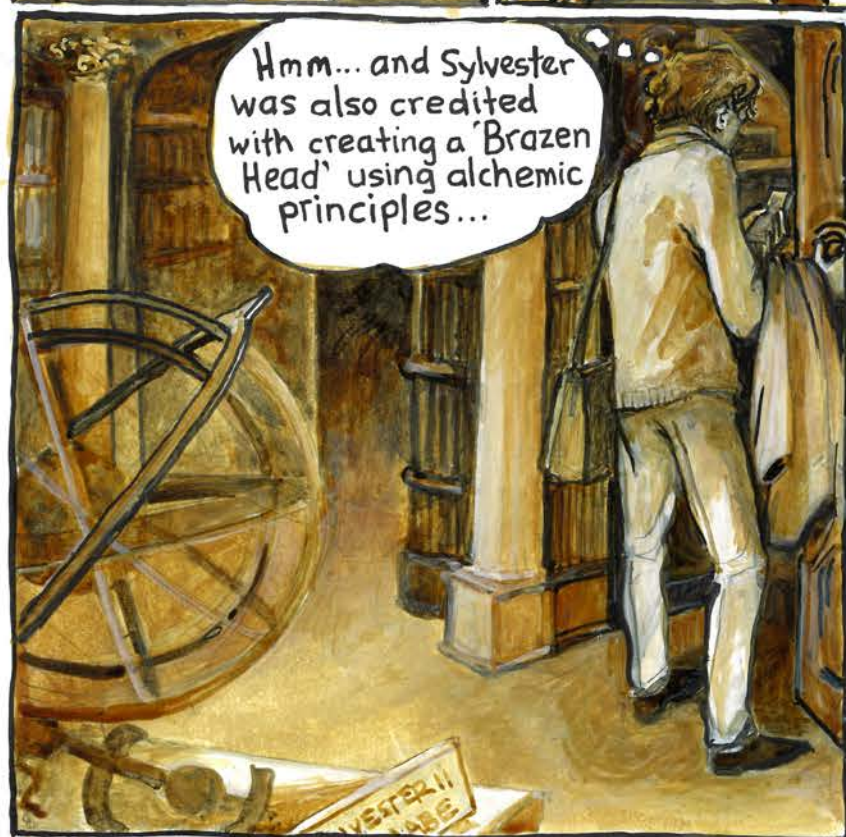
...which may be connected to the ancient texts mentioned by my ancestor... in particular, the translation of the Tabla Smagdarina which he claims was stolen from the Arabs by Sylvester II in the 10th century...



ST GALLEN ABBEY LIBRARY

...yes, I've heard of various legends around Pope Sylvester II's theft of alchemic texts and his supposed use of them to secure his papal election...

...and pilgrim monks could have carried those texts from Rome to St Gallen..



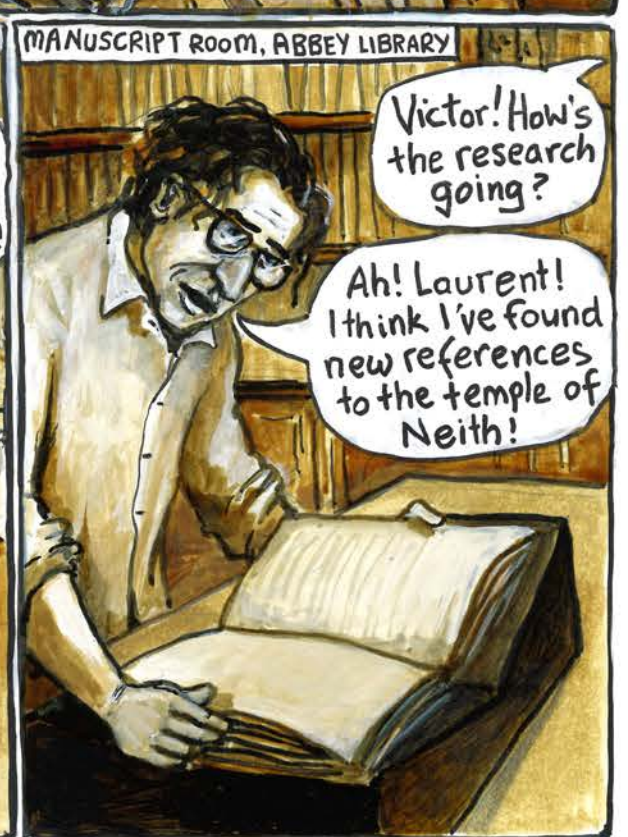
Hmm... and Sylvester was also credited with creating a 'Brazen Head' using alchemic principles...



BARCELONA SANTS TRAIN STATION  
Leave it with me Paola...

I don't think so!

Un boleto de regreso a St Gallen por favor!



MANUSCRIPT ROOM, ABBEY LIBRARY

Victor! How's the research going?

Ah! Laurent! I think I've found new references to the temple of Neith!



These manuscripts were, I believe, carried by monks from Rome to St Gallen, perhaps in the 10th century...

I look forward to your conclusions



Yes, I can meet you at Bar Caluzzi in 5 minutes...





Evening Francesca...

Evening Laurent...



So, how's the investigation going?

How do you think it's going?! The provenance of the painting is in question...



Tell me, is it one of Remedios Varo's forgeries?

Did you get it from Paola?



Hmm... and how's your art career going? Thriving??

At least my paintings are my work and can be authenticated!!



...Enough of that! We need to talk about our mutual concern!



mumble...

mumble...



I can pay you in 6 months...

Sorry! That's not soon enough - I need it NOW!!



MEANWHILE, VICTOR FINISHES UP FOR THE NIGHT...



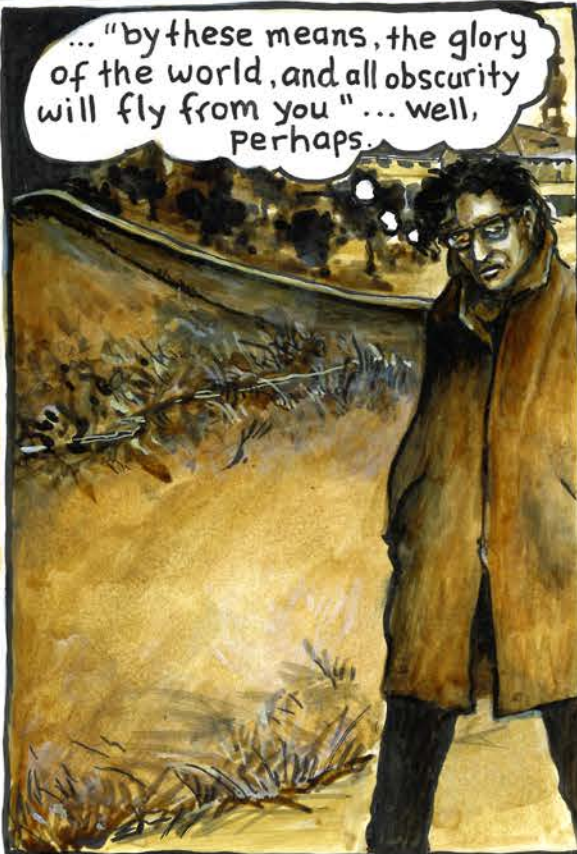
...AND DEEP IN THOUGHT, WALKS TO THE CLOISTER.



Hmm... as above,  
So below, on  
earth as it is  
in heaven...



... "by these means, the glory  
of the world, and all obscurity  
will fly from you" ... well,  
Perhaps.



THE NEXT DAY, IN THE CATALOGUE  
ROOM OF THE ABBEY LIBRARY...



Laurent!  
Meet me in  
the Manuscript  
Room!!



It's Sylvester II's stolen  
translation of the Tabla  
Smagdarina







You'll need to upgrade security immediately!



I desperately need some sleep Laurent...let's meet in the morning

Leave it with me Victor - yes, tomorrow morning...

VICTOR HEADS BACK ACROSS THE PLAZA TO FRANCESCO'S



LATER THAT NIGHT, VICTOR ONCE AGAIN SUFFERS NIGHTMARES...



NEXT MORNING, IN LAURENT'S OFFICE ...



VICTOR RUNS TO THE MANUSCRIPT ROOM...



It's gone!!

AND THEN BACK TO LAURENT'S OFFICE ...



...and so has Laurent ...

To Be Continued!... End of Part 1