



Ghost Orchids

Chapter 3
Business Proposition
41 Panels

SCENE 1

Panel 1

Morning sunlight drifts into a bedroom. Terrence is in bed, completely covered save for his hand hanging over the side.

1/TERRENCE: Urgh...

Panel 2

Terrence lifts his head, the blanket falling down to his shoulders. He lifts his sleep mask, only uncovering the left eye.

2/TERRENCE: My head is **killing** me.

Panel 3

CUT to the kitchen. A kettle is boiling. Meanwhile, Terrence is examining jars of tea leaves. He dons his pink eyepatch.

Panel 4

Close on steam rising from the kettle.

3/TERRENCE
(Off-panel): Hm!

Panel 5

Terrence has an 'Aha!' moment, face lighting up. Behind him, the steam shoots out of the kettle.

SFX (Kettle): Fweeeeet!

Panel 6

CUT to the study. Terrence is shuffling through the box of papers and journals.

SFX: Shff shff

Panel 7

Terrence slams a thick journal on the floor in front of him. His expression is intense.

Panel 8

Flipping through the pages, Terrence furrows his brows.

4/TERRENCE: I don't know what this infection is...
SFX: Fwip fwip fwip

Panel 9

Close on the book, we see the page filled with drawings and information on certain medicinal plants and their properties.

5/TERRENCE: but maybe I can make a remedy.

Panel 10

Angle on Terrence's satchel slung over a chair in the foreground. Terrence eyes it from the study.

SCENE 2

Panel 11

CUT to the market. Tents and wagons line the dirt path, merchants proudly showing off their wares. People walk around, perusing. Terrence examines dried herbs hanging from a stall, satchel over his shoulder and journal tucked under his arm.

1/CAPTION: Merchant's Alley, later.

SFX (Crowd): Chatter chatter

Panel 12

The MERCHANT manning the stall - a slender elf with sharp eyes - pats Terrence on the back. He holds a bundle of ginger root in his other hand.

2/MERCHANT: What are we lookin' for today?

3/TERRENCE: Not positive myself...

Panel 13

Terrence tugs at the eyepatch string wrapped behind his ear.

4/TERRENCE: but I hope to make some medicine.

Panel 14

JUMP CUT. The merchant waves from behind Terrence, who leaves the stall with a drawstring pouch. Some leaves and flower bulbs poke through the opening at the top.

5/MERCHANT: Come again!

6/TERRENCE:
(Thought Bubble): Were herbs always this expensive?

Panel 15

Terrence continues down the street, scanning the items on display at each tent.

SFX (Crowd): Chatter chatter

Panel 16

Looking toward a wagon in the foreground, Terrence stops and looks surprised.

Panel 17

We see what Terrence was looking at: AIDEN stands in front of the wagon. He is enthusiastically showing an elven woman an array of soap bars, displayed on a shelf that extends from the side of the wagon.

Panel 18

Close on Aiden, his gaze wanders and lands on Terrence.

Panel 19

With a smile, Aiden waves a hand at Terrence, who glances around him.

7/TERRENCE
(Thought Bubble:) Is he waving at **me**?

Panel 20

Aiden sends his customer off with a neatly wrapped soap bar and a smile.

Panel 21

OTS shot of Aiden beckoning Terrence over to the wagon again. Terrence watches the woman leave down the path.

8/AIDEN: Hey, I'd like to chat with you! Come here for a moment!

Panel 22

Terrence sheepishly trudges over. Aiden gives him a sly look, climbing up to take a seat on the wagon.

9/AIDEN: What, afraid you'll spend all your coin?

Panel 23

Aiden's expression turns more serious. He rests his head on his hand.

10/AIDEN: Ah, did you rest up well? Had **quite a night** at the bar, huh...Amaryllis, was it?

Panel 24

Terrence stares up at him, a contemplative look on his face. His body is tense.

11/TERRENCE: You remember my name?

Panel 25

Relaxing in his seat, Aiden nods.

12/AIDEN: Never forget a name once I know it. I **am** a businessman.

Panel 26

Terrence furrows his brows.

13/TERRENCE
(Thought Bubble:) You shouldn't bother with learning **my** name.

14/TERRENCE: Um, what did you want to talk about?

Panel 27

Aiden hops down from his seat. Terrence stumbles back a bit.

15/AIDEN: Let me show you something.

SCENE 3

Panel 28

Aiden leads Terrence around to the bag of the wagon. He pulls aside the fabric curtain on the door.

Panel 29

Inside the wagon are small, wooden planters growing different flowers. Most of them range from pink to red in color and have six petals. Terrence raises an eyebrow, examining them.

1/TERRENCE: Amaryllis flowers?

Panel 30

Embarrassed by Terrence's lack of enthusiasm, Aiden's cheeks go red.

2/AIDEN: I thought it was a funny coincidence. Kept thinking about it.

3/AIDEN: Ahem- Anyway, I thought maybe it would make your day a bit better.

Panel 31

Ignoring Aiden's rambling, Terrence leans further into the back of the wagon. He gently runs his fingers along the flower petals, focused.

4/TERRENCE: These aren't looking as healthy as they could be. Do you care for the plants **and** run the shop yourself?

Panel 32

Close on the two of them. Aiden's eyes are wide as he leans in close to Terrence, checking the flowers for himself. Terrence looks flustered.

5/AIDEN: Um, yeah.

Panel 33

Pull back to see Terrence stepping away from the wagon a bit. Aiden looks back at him, eyes still wide.

6/TERRENCE: W-Well, I'd recommend finding ways to better care for your plants.

7/TERRENCE: Or hire help, if you've got your hands full.

Panel 34

Aiden rubs at his neck, taken aback.

8/AIDEN: Hah, I certainly wasn't expecting to receive advice on gardening today.

9/AIDEN: But I guess having an extra pair of hands would help.

Panel 35

Pointing a finger at Terrence, Aiden looks determined. Terrence thinks with a hand on his chin.

10/AIDEN: You wouldn't happen to know of anyone **qualified**, would you?

11/TERRENCE: Hm... Maybe a few towns over?

12/TERRENCE
(Small): But I can't help you get in touch.

Panel 36

Aiden shakes his head, hand on his hip.

13/AIDEN: Ah, I fear my flowers will be dead by the time I get to the next town.

Panel 37

We observe the two of them through the back window of the wagon. Aiden gestures toward Terrence, who seems startled.

14/AIDEN: But you seem to understand proper flower care. Could I convince you to help me for the time being?

15/TERRENCE: I–

16/AIDEN: My shop will be here for the next two weeks. At least **consider** it?

Panel 38

Terrence gives Aiden a weak smile.

17/TERRENCE: I'll think about it.

18/AIDEN: Oh, wonderful! It really is lucky you're here, Amaryllis!

Panel 39

Close on Terrence. His expression is bittersweet.

19/TERRENCE:
(Thought Bubble): **Lucky?**

Panel 40

Pull back. Terrence extends his hand toward Aiden for a handshake.

20/TERRENCE: You can call me Terrence.

21/AIDEN: Well met, Terrence! And I'm Aiden!

Panel 41

Close on the amaryllis flowers. The petals droop ever so slightly.

22/TERRENCE
(Off-panel): Well, I should be off.

23/AIDEN
(Off-panel): I hope to see you tomorrow!

24/TERRENCE
(Off-panel): ...Yeah.