



Ghost Orchids

Chapter 1
Just my Luck
33 Panels

SCENE 1

Panel 1

OPEN on TERRENCE, crossbody bag and belt with vials of flowers/leaves and small tools, making his way through the woods. It is around noon, tree leaves making dappled shadows on the ground.

1/CAPTION

(Terrence): I didn't believe what my mother said when I was a kid...

Panel 2

Terrence kneels by a berry bush, reaching for a pair of tweezers on his belt.

2/CAPTION

(Terrence): about **curses** or **bad luck**. All I did...

Panel 3

CLOSE on twig being plucked off with tweezers.

3/CAPTION

(Terrence): was pick a flower.

SFX (Twig):

Snap!

Panel 4

OVER HIS SHOULDER, we see the distant opening of a cave. Terrence puts the twig in one of the empty vials around his belt.

4/CAPTION

(Terrence): It started with **minor** inconveniences. Stubbing my toe on my desk, tripping over an untied shoelace...

5/CAPTION

(Terrence): Nothing you'd blink twice at.

Panel 5

Looking toward the cave now, Terrence looks thoughtful.

6/CAPTION

(Terrence): But it escalated gradually, my **luck** becoming worse and Worse.

7/CAPTION

(Terrence): My friendships fell apart, I couldn't make progress on my research and I had to completely abandon it.

Panel 6

Terrence peeks through the mouth of the cave.

8/CAPTION

(Terrence): Bad luck was no longer a superstition of mine. It was the **reality** of my life.

9/TERRENCE: I wonder what kind of plants could be in there.

Panel 7

Wide angle on Terrence inside the cave, feeling his way along the wall. Not much sunlight reaches this point.

10/TERRENCE: Dark, damp...

Panel 8

Close on Terrence examining his hands, which are coated in dust.

11/TERRENCE: Good soil levels, too. I'm sure I'll find something growing **further in**.

Panel 9

A faint speck of light can be seen deeper in the cave.

12/TERRENCE: What's this?

Panel 10

Inset inside previous panel: upon closer inspection, we see the light emanating from a patch of bioluminescent plants at the end of the cave.

NO DIALOGUE.

Panel 11

Terrence kneels in front of the plants, vial in one hand and tweezers in the other.

13/TERRENCE: I'll have to take a look at this back at home.

Panel 12

Close on the ground beneath Terrence. The rocks look unstable, getting ready to collapse.

SFX (Rocks): Krrk!

Panel 13

The ground beneath Terrence gives out. He falls through.

14/TERRENCE

(Scream): Aaaaah!

SCENE 2

Panel 14

Terrence has landed on his back. He strains to get himself up. The tweezers and glass vial fall around him. The air looks brown and hazy.

1/TERRENCE: Ugh...

SFX (Vial): Crash!

SFX (Tweezers): Clink!

Panel 15

Sitting up, Terrence looks around. The walls are covered with nasty looking mushrooms. They are a rotten green-brown color with knobs all over the cap. They almost look like they are melting.

NO DIALOGUE.

Panel 16

Terrence cautiously pokes one of the mushrooms.

2/TERRENCE: I've never seen a fungi species like this...

3/TERRENCE: How far did I fall?

Panel 17

Brown spores spray out of the knobs on the mushroom; these spores are what make the air in the cave so hazy. Terrence swats them away from his face, looking unwell.

4/TERRENCE: Kaff! Ugh, that– Kaff! That's **disgusting!**

Panel 18

Covering his nose and mouth, Terrence looks back up through the hole he fell into.

5/TERRENCE: I've gotta get out of here... How can I get back up?

Panel 19

Close on Terrence looking miserable.

6/TERRENCE: ... I think I'm gonna have to climb.

Panel 20

Terrence reaches his hand through the thick mushrooms to grab the rock wall underneath. He looks mortified.

7/TERRENCE: Hrrk–

Panel 21

As Terrence climbs up the wall, the mushrooms relentlessly unleash clouds of spores.

8/TERRENCE: Kaff kaff!

Panel 22

Close on Terrence's hand reaching out from the hole.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel 23

Now out of the hole, Terrence slumps down on the ground. His hands leave slimy marks on the rock.

9/TERRENCE: Huff!

10/TERRENCE: God, I feel **gross**.

Panel 24

On his feet again, Terrence brushes his hands off on his clothes, making a face like he just ate sour candy.

11/TERRENCE: I don't think I'll ever feel clean again.

Panel 25

Terrence makes his way out through the cave entrance, hair and clothes a mess.

12/TERRENCE: Well, nothing else for me here.

13/TERRENCE: I'll just head home and try to wash up...

SCENE 3

Panel 26

CUT to outside Terrence's house. It is very cottage-core, gardens and potted plants all around. The house itself is like a glorified treehouse, built into the trunk of a large tree. Terrence struggles to unlock the door, coughing into his elbow.

1/TERRENCE: **Urgh...** Come on...!

Panel 27

Close on Terrence's bag, which he drapes over the bag of a chair.

SFX: Kaff!

Panel 28

CUT to Terrence in the shower. He pulls a lever down and water comes pouring over his head.

SFX (Shower): Fsshhh...

Panel 29

Close on Terrence. He looks like he hasn't slept in days.

SFX: Pant... Pant...

Panel 30

Outside the shower, we see Terrence's silhouette as he falls.

SFX: Thud!

Panel 31

From Terrence's POV, we see the bottom of the tub, his hands sprawled before him.

2/TERRENCE: Ooh... Did I make the water too hot...?

Panel 32

Terrence clambers out of the shower. His face is buried in his hands so we cannot see it.

3/TERRENCE: Mmph... Today is **not** my day, huh?

Panel 33

Standing in front of a mirror shaped out of branches, Terrence stares at his reflection in horror. His right eye is the same disgusting color of the mushrooms from the cave, and is 'crying' goop.

4/TERRENCE: O-Oh dear god.