

"CURSED" by Nicolas Izambard.

### **CHARACTERS:**

**Present:**

**-SARA PEZZINI**

**Past:**

**-AMARA:**

Hailing from Africa, this 63 years old sorceress has spent her life in service to the Empire of Ethiopia. She wields the WITCHBLADE in the shape of a staff and also uses it as a walking stick. After losing her last battle, she has been travelling north to find a place to end her days in peace. She wears a lion's skin for a coat.

**-ELISA FJERSTAD :**

Our protagonist and the most courageous and stubborn 12 year old little girl you'll ever meet. She has jet-black hair and steel blue eyes. She has been caring for her sickly mother and her younger brother ever since her father died 2 years ago.

**-HILDE FJERSTAD:**

Elisa's mother. She gave up on life ever since her husband's death. She is depressed and has lost the will to live.

**-ADRIAN FJERSTAD:**

Elisa's 8 year old brother. He is curious and playful. Later on, he becomes the wielder of the GLACIER STONE but we don't know that until the end. To make up for his small size, the GLACIER STONE transforms him into a gigantic ICE GOLEM.

### **NOTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT:**

The environment of Norway is the enemy. It should be depicted in a spooky and grandiose version of reality. It is the land of the giants. Mountains are not big, they are gigantic. Waterfalls are the size of buildings and lakes are the size of small countries. Trees and bushes are sparse. This is a very dangerous place to live in, a barren land.

It is the dead of winter. To show how cold it is, characters should exhale visible steam anytime they are outside.

I used a few Hyperlinks especially for the opening sequence since it is a real event. They are used as reference only though. You're the artist, the story is yours now 😊

N-

**PAGE 1 (5 panels):**

1.1. SARA is walking inside Ping Tom Memorial Park where the Chicago Dragon Boat Race for Literacy is taking place. Here is a link for reference: <http://chicagochinatown.org/dragon-boat/>.

It's a beautiful summer day. There is a banner or a sign that says: “**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Dragon Boat Race for Literacy**”. A large crowd is gathered around the pavilion ([http://chicagochinatown.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/AHP\\_9855-683x683.jpg](http://chicagochinatown.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/AHP_9855-683x683.jpg)).

LOCATION CAP:

Ping Tom Memorial Park, Chicago IL.

SARA CAP:

My name is Sara Pezzini and I am the wielder of the Witchblade.

1.2. SARA is watching a Kumi-Daiko performance (a Japanese-style drumming troupe like this: <http://boredommd.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/dragon-boat-races-in-chicago-in-2014.jpg>). She is surrounded by the crowd.

SARA CAP:

There were many other wielders before me and the Witchblade recorded every single moment of their lives.

SARA CAP:

Everything they heard...

1.3. From SARA's POV, we see a single female dancer doing a Geisha fan dance. She wears a very colorful kimono and bold make up, much like this:

[http://24.media.tumblr.com/tumblr\\_l0kyuwiDmR1qbt20qo1\\_500.jpg](http://24.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_l0kyuwiDmR1qbt20qo1_500.jpg)

SARA CAP:

...and everything they saw.

SARA CAP:

Recently, the same memory keeps coming back.

**MORE**

**PAGE 1 (continued):**

1.4. SARA is sitting on the grass by the water. She is used as a framing device for the Dragon Boat Race. The two boats are going full speed, each with a young girl lying down on the bow of the boat so that they can catch the flag at the finish line (like this: [http://chicagochinatown.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/IMG\\_2221-683x683.jpg](http://chicagochinatown.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/IMG_2221-683x683.jpg)).

SARA CAP:

A past wielder named AMARA is trying to show me something.

SARA CAP:

It could be a warning, a cautionary tale of sorts...I'm not sure what to make of it.

1.5. Closer on the young girl on the bow of the boat closest to us. Filled with excitement, she is about to grab the flag (like this: [http://gomighty.com/wp-content/themes/gomighty/lib/goal\\_images/files/dragonboat.jpg](http://gomighty.com/wp-content/themes/gomighty/lib/goal_images/files/dragonboat.jpg)).

SARA CAP:

It's the story of a young girl...

SARA CAP:

...who believed she was CURSED.

**PAGE 2 (4 panels):**

2.1. Establishing shot of Hafrsfjord in the dead of winter (the same location used in Broken Trinity issue 1). This is a long shot of the Norwegian coast, a barren land with very few trees and lots of snow. It's very foggy right now. We want to establish a spooky type of mood. It might look like this:

<http://static.panoramio.com/photos/large/31816153.jpg> or this:  
<http://i1.trekearth.com/photos/114625/hafrsfjord.jpg> but with FOG!

SARA CAP:

It took place somewhere cold, a long time ago.

LOCATION CAP:

Hafrsfjord, 1001 AD.

2.2. Largest panel on the page. As if standing on the coast, we see a Reed boat approaching in the fog. It kind of looks like this: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Schilfboot\\_Ra\\_II.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Schilfboot_Ra_II.jpg) but more tribal. There should be skulls and bones decorating the bow of the boat. We want a feeling of Voodoo magic here. The boat is in bad shape. It has recently been under attack by Vikings. There are arrows stuck on its side and part of it has been burnt.

SARA CAP:

I cannot tell exactly where Amara came from but I know she escaped war and chaos.

2.3. Closer by the boat, we focus on AMARA's feet right after she stepped into the shallow cold waters of the Norwegian coast. There is blood trickling down her leg and into the water.

SARA CAP:

She was simply looking for a quiet place...

2.4. Close up on a bloody arrow that AMARA just removed from her side. It floats on the water near the shore. In the background, AMARA is walking onto the shore with her back to us. We cannot see her face. We only see the lion's skin she is wearing and the WITCHBLADE she uses as a staff and a walking stick. We will reveal her face later. Blood is trickling down her leg and into the water towards us.

SARA CAP:

...so she could end her life in peace.

**PAGE 3 (6 panels):**

3.1. Cut to a long shot of ELISA and ADRIAN. They are gathering fire wood nearby. ELISA is excited by the idea of the Dragon Tooth.

ADRIAN:

Do you really think it's the tooth of a dragon?

ELISA:

Yes, Adrian! Dad told me all about it.

ELISA:

And with it, we'll be able to stay warm until spring. It's magic!

ELISA:

It could even heal mom.

3.2. On ADRIAN. He seems very doubtful.

ADRIAN:

I don't know, Elisa. What if it's just a myth? No one ever talks about a dragon in the caves up there.

ADRIAN:

Maybe dad was wrong.

3.3. Switch angle to show ELISA. She is both hurt and enraged. Her little brother just insulted the memory of her father. She holds back tears of anger.

ELISA:

Dad was NEVER wrong!

3.4. They both turn around as they hear the sound of something falling on the ground.

SFX (OP):

THUD!

ADRIAN:

What was that?

**MORE**

**PAGE 3 (continued):**

3.5. ELISA and ADRIAN are used as a framing device for AMARA's inert body. They are looking at her from a distance. Since she has fallen face first into the snow and with the lion's skin on top of her, it's hard to tell whether she is an animal or a person.

ADRIAN:

Is that...

ADRIAN:

...a wolf?

3.6. ELISA slowly and carefully approaches the "lion" and gestures to ADRIAN to stay back.

ELISA:

Stay there.

**PAGE 4 (6 panels):**

4.1. Close on AMARA. ELISA is lifting the lion's skin to reveal her face.

ELISA:

It's a lady. Come and help me.

4.2. Medium shot. ELISA and ADRIAN carry AMARA on their shoulders. We show AMARA for the old woman that she is. ADRIAN is complaining which leads to an argument between he and his sister.

ADRIAN:

She's SO heavy.

ELISA:

Adrian, please. Not now.

ADRIAN:

We can't take her home. Mom would NOT like her!

ELISA:

I know...please stop!

ADRIAN:

She smells funny!

ELISA:

Adrian, shut up!

4.3. Closer on the two kids as a menacing shadow covers their faces. They are both flabbergasted.

NO DIALOGUE

4.4. Large SPLASH panel. REVEAL a Brown Bear who is aggressively standing in front of them.

BEAR FX:

ROOOOOAAAARR!

4.5. Extreme close up on AMARA. She looks up towards the bear.

NO DIALOGUE

**MORE**

**PAGE 4 (continued):**

4.6. Close on the WITCHBLADE as AMARA tightens her grip on the staff.

NO DIALOGUE



**PAGE 5 (6 panels):**

5.1. Awesome SPLASH panel of AMARA hitting the ground with her staff (WITCHBLADE) in a Gandalf-like fashion. The hit creates a shockwave all around her. It scares the animal. ELISA and ADRIAN fall to the ground as a result of the impact. It looks like the whole ground is shaking.

SFX:

THUNK!

5.2. The bear is running away in the background. ELISA and ADRIAN are recovering from the shock. They are sitting up on the ground.

ADRIAN:

Was that an earthquake?

5.3. The kids are carrying AMARA once more. She points in the direction of a nearby cave.

AMARA (moaning):

Uggh...

ELISA:

Alright, I guess we're going this way.

5.4. In the cave, AMARA is sitting up against the wall. Her eyes barely opened. ELISA opens the lion's skin coat to reveal a wound on AMARA's side.

ELISA:

Go get some birch tree bark and lots of snow.

ADRIAN:

But-

ELISA:

Just go.

**MORE**

**PAGE 5 (continued):**

5.5. ELISA is dressing AMARA’s wound. She used a piece of birch tree bark and snow to cover the wound. She is now using a piece of fabric from her own clothing to hold it in place. AMARA acquiesces.

ELISA:

Just make sure you keep it on, alright?

ELISA:

The birch bark will help.

5.6. ADRIAN and ELISA are used as a framing device for AMARA who is still sitting up against the wall of the cave. She smiles to show she is fine.

ADRIAN:

What now? We can’t just leave her here.

ELISA:

I think she WANTS TO stay here.

**PAGE 6 (6 panels):**

6.1. Establishing shot of the small house where ELISA and her family resides. It's a small isolated house made of wood. Night is falling.

Technically speaking, it should look this:

<http://www.sanandres.esc.edu.ar/olivosp/extranet2004/6th/vikings/6c/Group2/longhouse.htm>

In terms of location, since we are near the fjord, I prefer something like this:

<http://www.deviantart.com/art/Jotunheimen-National-Park-II-245675731>

ADRIAN is running towards the door with firewood in his arm. He is excited to share the incredible events he just witnessed with his mother.

ADRIAN:

MOM!

6.2. HILDE is lying down on a mat inside the house, she does not react. We can see a few farm animals behind her in a small enclosure and maybe one or two animal pelts hanging on the wall. There is very little food and commodities. ADRIAN burst through the door. ELISA is right behind him, she is also carrying wood.

ADRIAN:

MOM!

ADRIAN:

You won't believe what happened!

6.3. ELISA is sitting next to her mother. She is putting her hand on HILDE's forehead to gauge her temperature. ADRIAN is trying to get his mother's attention.

ADRIAN:

Mom?

ELISA:

Go play, Adrian. Mommy's not feeling well.

6.4. ELISA is starting a fire. We can see HILDE on the bed behind her. She is sitting up. Her eyes are empty. ADRIAN is in the back. He is playing with animal bones.

ELISA:

It's alright mommy. Everything is going to be fine. I'm taking care of things.

**MORE**

**PAGE 6 (continued):**

6.5. ELISA, HILDE and ADRIAN are sitting on the ground near the fire. They are having dinner, eating porridge and flat bread. ELISA is feeding HILDE. ADRIAN is surprised, his mouth wide opened (and full of bread) as he hears the news from his sister.

ELISA:

I'm gonna go tomorrow.

ADRIAN:

Really?

6.6. Switch angle to show ELISA from ADRIAN's POV. The fire lights up half her face. She looks determined.

ELISA:

We can't wait anymore.

**PAGE 7 (5 panels):**

7.1. Medium shot. The next morning, in front of the farm house, ELISA is saying goodbye to ADRIAN. It is not snowing. She is looking directly at him, holding him by the shoulders. She is wearing a long scarf and many layers.

ELISA:

I put some food and wood to the side. Don't use it all at once. I won't be long.

ADRIAN:

Alright. I love you!

ELISA:

I love you too. You take care of mom, alright?

ADRIAN:

I will.

7.2. Pull back. ELISA is walking away from the house and towards the mountain. As ADRIAN watches her walk away, they wave at each other. ADRIAN makes her smile.

ADRIAN:

Watch out for frost giants!

ELISA:

I will!

7.3. ELISA is on her journey. She is walking along a river, following it up stream. Perhaps we see animals in the background. It's a nice opportunity to display the Norwegian landscape. [Like this](#) but covered in snow. Again, it's gigantic.

NO DIALOGUE

**MORE**

**PAGE 7 (continued):**

7.4. Largest panel on the page. ELISA is standing at the foot of the mountain and looking up towards the cave in the far distance. It is the cave where the EMBER STONE resides (as established in Broken Trinity issue 1) and there is a faint orange glow coming from it. It is starting to snow. It's a “David vs Goliath” type of shot. She looks very, very small compared to the mountain.

ELISA (to herself):

Alright.

ELISA (to herself):

I can do this.

7.5. Overhead shot of ELISA moments later. We really want to show how high she has gotten. She is still climbing. We can see the ground far, far below her. It is snowing harder and the wind is blowing. She is using her long scarf to cover her face. She is fighting the elements.

NO DIALOGUE

**PAGE 8 (5 panels):**

8.1. Medium shot. ELISA stops. She is hugging the mountain wall as a strong gust of wind blows her scarf off of her. She endures. Her long black hair blows in the wind.

NO DIALOGUE

8.2. From ELISA's POV. She looks down at the scarf falling off the mountain. We can see the ground far below. It's a scary sight.

NO DIALOGUE

8.3. Close on ELISA's face. She is hugging the mountain wall. She wants to give up. She is scared and crying. Tears are rolling down her cheeks. She is trying to cheer herself up.

ELISA (to herself):

It's alright...

ELISA (to herself):

..I'm alright.

8.4. Extreme close up on ELISA's face. The tears on her face are frozen. Her expression has switched. She now looks determined.

ELISA (to herself):

I can do this.

8.5. Large panel. Pull back. ELISA is now going along a ledge and towards the cave. She's almost there!

NO DIALOGUE

**PAGE 9 (5 panels):**

9.1. From inside the cave. We see ELISA as she crawls in. She is so cold that she shakes uncontrollably.

ELISA (frozen word balloon with icicles):

Brrr-brrr-brrr...

9.2. Close on ELISA as she gasps. The ember stone's glow lights up her face. She is reacting to the skeletal corpse with the EMBER STONE around its neck (off panel) that we do not see until the next panel.

ELISA:

Uuh-

9.3. Largest panel on the page. We reveal the remains of the former wielder of the EMBER STONE who died in this very cave (Artifact issue 1). The stone is glowing.

NO DIALOGUE

9.4. ELISA curls up next to the skeleton as the EMBER STONE glows stronger.

ELISA (frozen word balloon with icicles):

Brrr-brrr...

9.5. Same shot. Hours later. It's nighttime. The glow of the EMBER STONE is the only source of light in the cave. ELISA is asleep and dreaming next to the skeleton. She is warm and comfortably curled up next to it.

ELISA:

It's gonna be alright, mommy...It's gonna be fine.



**PAGE 10 (5 panels):**

10.1. The next morning, ELISA is kneeling next to the skeleton. She is putting the ember stone around her neck.

ELISA:

I need this more than you do.

10.2. Pull back to show the cave from outside. ELISA is coming out. There is a very strong blizzard going on.

NO DIALOGUE

10.3. ELISA is making her way along the ledge. The wind is blowing hard. She can barely keep her eyes opened.

ELISA:

Uggh...

10.4. ELISA loses her footing and slips.

ELISA:

No-

10.5. From above, we watch ELISA as she is falling off the mountain towards the abyss. She is so high up and the storm is so violent that we cannot see the ground. The EMBER STONE is glowing very brightly.

ELISA:

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh...

**PAGE 11 (5 panels):**

11.1. Long shot. From afar, what we see resembles a meteor falling off the mountain. The EMBER STONE produced fire wings that are wrapped around ELISA.

ELISA:

Noooooooooooooooooooooo...

11.2. Largest panel on the page. Medium shot of ELISA as the fire wings unfold and stop her fall. She is very surprised. She is NOT a dragon yet, she is not yet transformed. That's for later.

NO DIALOGUE

11.3. ELISA is flying away from the mountain. She is enjoying the unique sensation of flying, extending her arms and taking it all in. She smiles. She is elated.

ELISA (to herself):

It's true. It's magic.

ELISA (to herself):

Dad was right.

11.4. From ELISA's POV. She is approaching the house which appears to be in ruins but she is too far away to notice it.

ELISA:

ADRIAN! Dad was right!

11.5. As ELISA lands near the ruins, the fire wings disappear. She is visibly worried.

ELISA:

Adrian...?

**PAGE 12 (6 panels):**

12.1. ELISA runs towards the ruins, calling for her brother and mother.

ELISA:

Adrian...ADRIAN!

ELISA:

**MOM!**

12.2. Medium shot of ELISA from across the ruins. She stopped and is kneeling in front of what is left of the house. It has been destroyed by ADRIAN in his ICE GOLEM form but the reader does NOT know that. We hint at it with the presence of a thin veil of frost all over. It glistens.

ELISA:

**ADRIAN!**

12.3. From a dark corner away from the house, AMARA is watching. She is hiding behind a rock.

ELISA (OP):

ADRIAN!

ELISA (OP):

MOM!

12.4. Pull back for an aerial shot of ELISA. She is kneeling inside a giant footstep from the ICE GOLEM. The ICE GOLEM is gigantic so his footstep is about 10 feet long.

ELISA:

Adrian...where are you?

12.5. ELISA is used as a framing device for the trail of giant footsteps in front of her. The trail leads towards another mountain.

NO DIALOGUE

12.6. Back on ELISA. She has a determined look on her face and is holding onto the EMBER STONE. She understands she has to follow the footsteps.

NO DIALOGUE

**PAGE 13 (5 panels):**

13.1. ELISA is following the giant footsteps through the snow. She is going uphill along another river and calling out for her mother and brother. Each of her steps melts the snow behind her because the EMBER STONE is starting to take possession of her.

ELISA:  
ADRIAN!

ELISA:  
MOM!

SFX:  
Pshhht.

13.2. Close on ELISA. She arrived at the end of the trail. She is facing a waterfall that we are about to reveal in the next panel. She sees her mother frozen inside of it (off panel) so she has an expression of shock on her face.

ELISA:  
Nooo...

13.3. Large panel. Reveal HILDE frozen inside the waterfall. She is captured flinching with an expression of horror on her face.

ELISA (OP):  
NOOOOO!!

13.4. Back on ELISA. Close up as she releases her anger. Her eyes are glowing red, her hair is on fire.

ELISA:  
MOOOOOM!

13.5. Large panel. Long shot. ELISA releases all her pain and anger, creating an explosion that pushes back the trees, the snow, and everything around her. Her eyes are glowing red and her skin is starting to show scales. The wings are back as well.

ELISA:  
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

**PAGE 14 (6 panels):**

14.1. The aftermath of the explosion. ELISA is kneeling on the ground and back to normal. She is spent. Around her, the waterfall and the snow have melted, revealing the barren ground underneath. The trees have been bent backwards and some are still burning. There may still be flames on the ground around her as well.

NO DIALOGUE

14.2. ELISA is holding back tears as she painfully drags her mother’s body out of the waters.

ELISA:

Come on, mom...come on.

14.3. Having laid her mother’s body down, she uses her powers to create a flame. She cups her hands in front of the EMBER STONE and a flame is created in the palm of her hands.

ELISA:

Don’t worry mom, I’ll find Adrian. I’ll take care of him.

14.4. Pull back. ELISA brings the flame towards her mother’s body which catches on fire.

NO DIALOGUE

14.5. Night has fallen. ELISA is sitting with her back to a rock. We see her through the flames from her mother’s burning body in the foreground. She is holding the EMBER STONE in her small hand as it hangs from her neck. Perhaps we see the reflection of the flames in her eyes.

NO DIALOGUE

14.6. Closer on ELISA. Later that night, she is in the dark. The only sources of light are her eyes that are glowing red along with the EMBER STONE. It’s a creepy-looking shot as if she is possessed.

NO DIALOGUE

**PAGE 15 (4 panels):**

15.1. Overhead shot. ELISA is climbing up the waterfall. Her eyes are glowing red. She looks possessed by the stone. The water vaporizes around her.

ELISA:  
ADRIAN!

SFX:  
Pssst.

15.2. Pull back. Large panel. ELISA has reached her final destination: a large frozen lake in an enclave. She is walking across it. She appears very small among the vastness.

(<http://www.blogcdn.com/www.gadling.com/media/2012/10/frozen-lake-by-james-wheeler.jpg>,  
[http://image.yaymicro.com/rz\\_1210x1210/0/725/frozen-lake-and-snowy-mountains-in-norway-7253b4.jpg](http://image.yaymicro.com/rz_1210x1210/0/725/frozen-lake-and-snowy-mountains-in-norway-7253b4.jpg)).

ELISA:  
ADRIAN!

15.3. Aerial shot. ELISA is standing on an ice formation which is, in reality, the face of the ICE GOLEM BUT his eyes and mouth are closed so we don't know that until reveal in the next panel.

ELISA:  
Adrian!

15.4. Same shot, the ICE GOLEM opens his eyes.

ELISA:  
Huh?

**PAGES 16-17 (4 panels):**

**The BIG reveal of the ice golem. He is gigantic!**

16/17.1. Splash panel spread across both pages. Reveal the giant ICE GOLEM as he rises from inside the lake. He is so gigantic that we can barely see ELISA as she falls off of him. Ice breaks around him as he stands up.

GOLEM:

RAAAAAAAAAAAGH!

16/17.2. A “David vs Goliath” shot. The ICE GOLEM is walking towards ELISA.

NO DIALOGUE

16/17.3. After grabbing ELISA in his big hand, the ICE GOLEM brings her close to his face, inspecting her. ELISA is trying to get free. The ICE GOLEM smiles.

ELISA:

Let go!

16/17.4. Something off panel cuts the ICE GOLEM’s arm off (hint: it’s the WITCHBLADE!).

SFX:

SNIP!

GOLEM:

AARGH!

**PAGES 18 (5 panels):**

18.1. REVEAL AMARA right after she cut the ICE GOLEM’s arm off. There is a magical blade prominently displayed on top of her staff (WITCHBLADE). We understand she used it to cut his arm off. Despite her old age, she has a very determined warrior-like attitude.

NO DIALOGUE

18.2. The ICE GOLEM steps on AMARA and smothers her under his foot.

SFX:

THUUUUMP!

18.3. On ELISA. She is stuck inside the severed hand now on the ground. She is still trying to break free. We see the shadow of the ICE GOLEM approaching her. The EMBER STONE is glowing.

ELISA:

Uggh!

18.4. On ELISA as she starts her transformation into a dragon. Her powers activate and she is surrounded by fire that melts the ICE GOLEM’s hand. She produces scales and fire wings.

ELISA:

Enough!

18.5. Large SPLASH panel. ELISA has transformed into a dragon. She is facing off with the ICE GOLEM. As a reference, this is a dragon on a stone in Hafrsfjord:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/52/Hafrsfjord\\_stein.jpg/260px-Hafrsfjord\\_stein.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/52/Hafrsfjord_stein.jpg/260px-Hafrsfjord_stein.jpg)

Forget the fact that it is biting its own tail. I chose it because of the length of its body which will prove useful on the following page. Bottom line, her dragon form should have a long body and tail much like a flying snake. It should also be rather small compared to the ICE GOLEM.

GOLEM:

RAAAAAAGH!

ELISA:

Give me my brother!



**PAGE 19: SPLASH PAGE!**

19.1. Large splash page. ELISA, as a fire dragon, flies through the ICE GOLEM. She breaks through him like a spear through a sheet of ice.

SFX:

KRAAAASSSH!

GOLEM:

AAAARGH!

**PAGE 20 (5 panels):**

**This is the big reveal we've been working towards. ADRIAN was, in fact, the ICE GOLEM.**

20.1. This is the reveal. Large panel. In an overhead shot, ADRIAN is lying on the ground, dying from a hole through his chest. He is wearing the GLACIER STONE. He is surrounded by melted ice and chunks of ice from his ICE GOLEM form.

ADRIAN:

Uuuuughh...

20.2. ELISA goes back to her regular self as she walks towards her wounded brother.

ELISA:

Adrian!...NO!

**20.3. The next 3 panels are a 3-steps zoom towards the stones. They should be displayed at the center of the shot from the get go.**

Medium shot. ADRIAN is breathing his last breath. ELISA holds him in her arms. She starts to cry. We see the EMBER STONE hanging from her neck and the GLACIER STONE around ADRIAN's.

ADRIAN:

Sorry...I could not...

ADRIAN:

...stop-

20.4. Closer on ADRIAN and ELISA. ADRIAN is dead. ELISA is crying profusely. Tears are running down her cheeks and down along the necklace towards the EMBER STONE.

ELISA:

Nooo...nooo...

20.5. Extreme close up on the GLACIER STONE around ADRIAN's neck and the EMBER STONE hanging from ELISA's neck. Tears are running down onto the EMBER STONE from ELISA. The tears evaporate on the glowing EMBER STONE.

ELISA (OP):

Why...WHY...?

SFX:

Pshhhht...

**PAGE 21 (7 panels):**

**On this page we go back to SARA narrating the story.**

21.1. Later that night, by the house in ruins. ELISA and AMARA are watching a burning pyre. ADRIAN's body is inside.

SARA CAP:

For Elisa, the EMBER STONE was to be a BLESSING, a saving grace...

SARA CAP:

...but it turned out to be a CURSE...

SARA CAP:

...for her and her entire family.

21.2. Close on the GLACIER STONE around ADRIAN's neck in the fire.

SARA CAP:

In their eternal struggle, the forces of creation within the GLACIER STONE...

21.3. Close on the EMBER STONE around ELISA's neck. ELISA is watching the pyre and holding onto the stone.

SARA CAP:

..and the forces of destruction within the EMBER STONE had made more victims.

21.4. Cut to ELISA. She is putting the EMBER STONE back where she found it, around the dead woman's neck inside the cave.

SARA CAP:

Elisa put the stone back exactly where she found it.

SARA CAP:

She was almost hoping it could put things back the way they were.

**MORE**

**PAGE 21 (continued):**

21.5. 5 years later during a summer night, ELISA and AMARA are sitting by a fire outside. ELISA looks like a warrior. She has been through a lot in the past few years and she has visible battle scars. She wears a bow and arrow on her back and is sharpening a sword with a whetstone. Perhaps there is also a shield by her side. Behind them in the distance, we see the cave with the glow of the EMBER STONE coming from inside of it.

SARA CAP:

For the rest of her life, Elisa stayed by the mountain. She swore to protect people from the curse of the Ember Stone.

21.6. A few years later, AMARA is dead. From the coast, ELISA watches as AMARA's body burns on the boat she came in (the same boat from page 2). It's a ship burial!

SARA CAP:

AMARA died peacefully...

SARA CAP:

...just like she wanted.

21.7. Close on the WITCHBLADE on AMARA inside the fire. Inside the stone of the WITCHBLADE, we see SARA as she will stand in panel 22.1. This is our transition back to present day SARA.

SARA CAP:

And along with her went the Witchblade.

**PAGE 22 (6 panels):**

22.1. Back to present. Long shot. Hours after the race, SARA is walking on a pier and towards one of the dragon boats. The park has emptied out. The sun is setting and we see its reflection on the lake.

SARA CAP:

Is this a cautionary tale?

SARA CAP:

Am I to fear the “curse of the Witchblade”?

22.2. SARA is a framing device for the dragon head on the boat, she is touching it.

SARA CAP:

I don't believe in curses. If anything, Elisa was TRICKED by Fate.

SARA CAP:

I know what that feels like.

22.3. SARA turns around to see a young Chinese girl standing behind her. She is no more than 12 years of age.

SARA CAP:

I might have been chosen to wield the Witchblade...

GIRL:

Hi!

SARA:

Sorry, I did not mean-

GIRL:

That's fine. You can look at it. My dad built it.

SARA CAP:

...or perhaps the Witchblade chose me.

**MORE**

**PAGE 22 (continued):**

22.5. Medium shot of the young GIRL. She is smiling.

SARA CAP:

If I learned anything from this story...

GIRL:

Perhaps you can be part of our team next time. You look strong.

SARA (OP):

I don't know...

GIRL:

It's for a good cause.

SARA CAP:

...is that whatever I choose to do with the Witchblade...

22.6. SARA shakes the young girl's hand. The WITCHBLADE is prominently displayed.

SARA CAP:

...is up to ME.

SARA:

Alright. I think I will.

SARA:

I'm Sara by the way.

GIRL:

My name is Hui Ying. Nice to meet you Sara.

**THE END**