

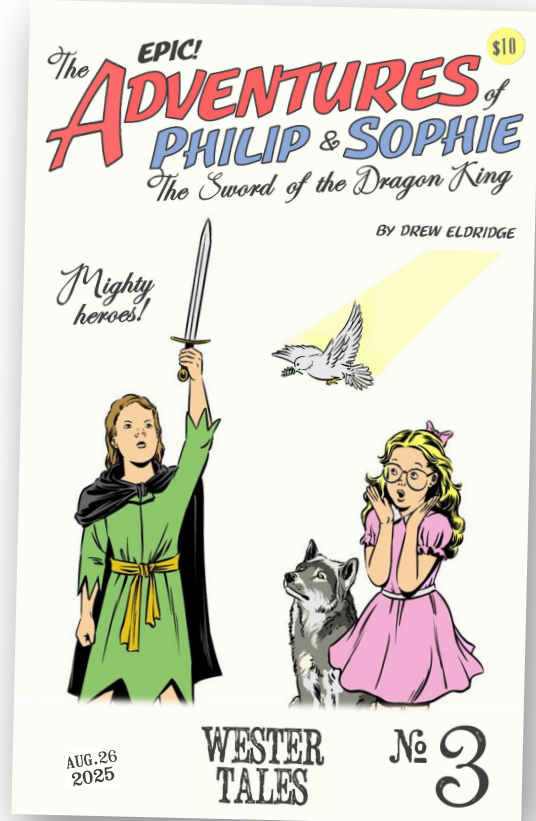
Issue #3

Chapter 26: Farewell to the Forest

The narrator returns to the hero. It's spring and he's now fully healed. Upon leaving the cave, he learns that Ava organized a surprise going-away party with all his animal friends. They're sad to see him go, but wish him luck on his journey. The boy and Ava embark. The first stop is the Wood of the Willows, where they reminisce about the times they had together during his initial training as a toddler. When they stop to drink from a stream, a doe approaches. The boy doesn't recognize her at first, but soon realizes that she is the first animal he rescued when he became the forest guardian. Ava remarks that she has never heard that story before. Over the next five chapters, he tells the story, allowing the reader to learn about how he got so strong and why he chose to devote his life to helping others.

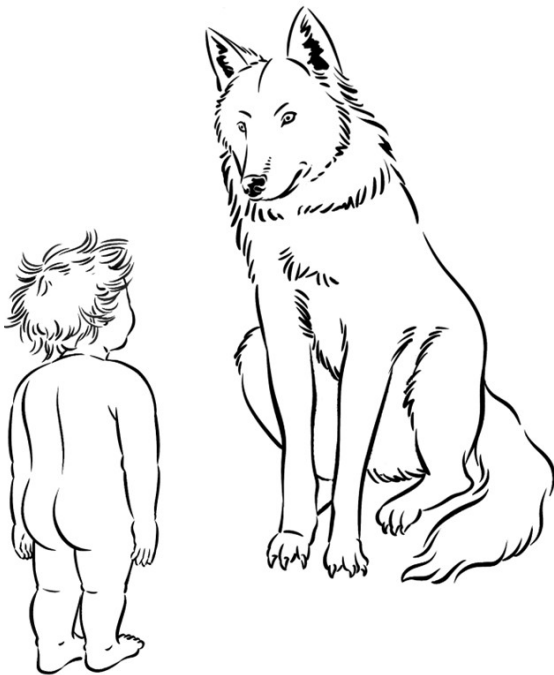
Chapter 27: The Legend of the First Labor

In this flashback, the reader learns about the boy's first days outside the cave and the brutal spartan-like education he received from Ava.



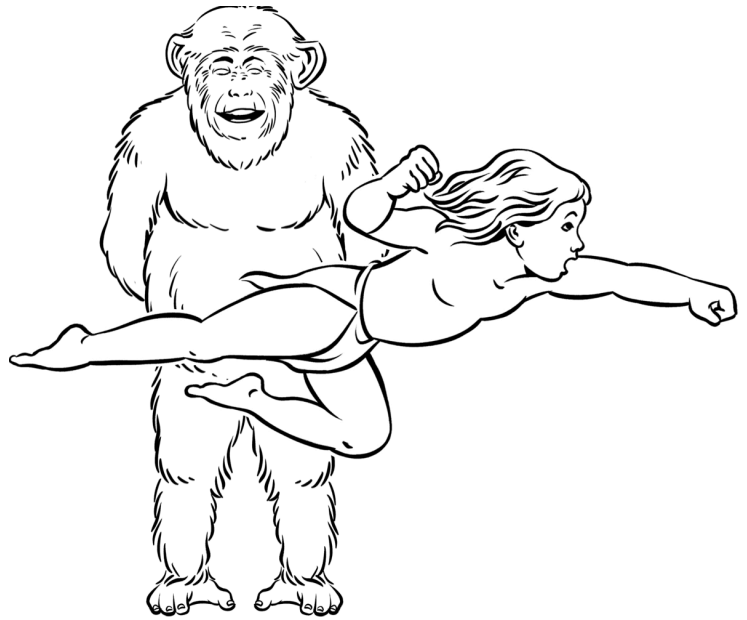
Chapter 28: Hoppy

The reader learns how, at one point, the boy left Ava and tried living on his own. He met a bunny named Hoppy who became his first best friend. They had a care-free, fun-filled summer together. But when Hoppy was brutally killed before his eyes by a powerful opponent, he realized that he had to become powerful too if he wanted to protect the ones he loved. With a new determination to become the mightiest in the forest, he returned to the hard life of training under Ava.



Chapter 29: Will to Power

The boy continues telling the story of how he became the forest guardian. After the death of his best friend, Hoppy, Ava dropped him off at a small mountain where Nankai, the legendary ape warrior, taught him the way of the fist.



Chapter 30: A Restless Heart

The boy tells Ava how, after becoming powerful, he had much more leisure and began wondering about the meaning of life. So he went to the wise Mr. Owl for advice. After discussing it, Mr. Owl sent him on a quest to the Dark Wood, where the answer would be revealed.



Chapter 31: Rise of the Forest Guardian

The boy tells Ava about how, after rescuing the doe from a beast in the Dark Wood, he realized the meaning of his life was slaying monsters. In many ways, this is the climax of the third issue. It's a flashback that contains a lot of horror, suspense and action.



Chapter 32: Bullies at the Border

In Nibelheim, Jean-Pierre calls a village meeting at the temple. The reader learns that the Dragon King's reign of terror has been intensifying and that his child soldiers have been bullying Nibelheim children at the border, as well as kidnapping their pets.



Chapter 33: Dark Discovery

After the narrator relates the intense journey the boy and Ava have gone on, it becomes clear to the reader that he's getting closer to the coast, where Nibelheim is. However, shortly before arriving, he discovers an abandoned fortress. Inside, he finds drawings that tell a story about two young brothers who grew up in the wild together, but ended up fighting for dominance.

Chapter 34: The Legend of the Bad Boy

A mouse named Chick finds them in the fortress and brings them to a guinea pig named Cornelius who, after telling them the full story, says the boy is the chosen one who will fulfill a prophesy by drawing the sword from the stone, journeying to the Dragon's mountain and slaying the grown up evil brother. The boy draws the sword, which is named "Enchiridion," and agrees to help.

Chapter 35: Lucky Tumbles

Ever since her vision, Sophie has been frequently praying and patiently waiting for signs from God about what to do next, but has not received any word. Feeling anxious, she decides to relax by sitting in her favourite place—a garden on the border of her village, between nature and civilization.



Chapter 36: The Place Where the Sun Goes

The boy and Ava continue journeying west and, after climbing over a mountain, suddenly behold the ocean. They also see the village, Nibelheim. Ava tells him that she should remain behind while he investigates it.

Chapter 37: The Girl in the Garden

A heartfelt and comical ending to the third issue, when the hero and heroine finally meet. In the fourth issue, they'll get to know each other as they prepare for their big adventure.

