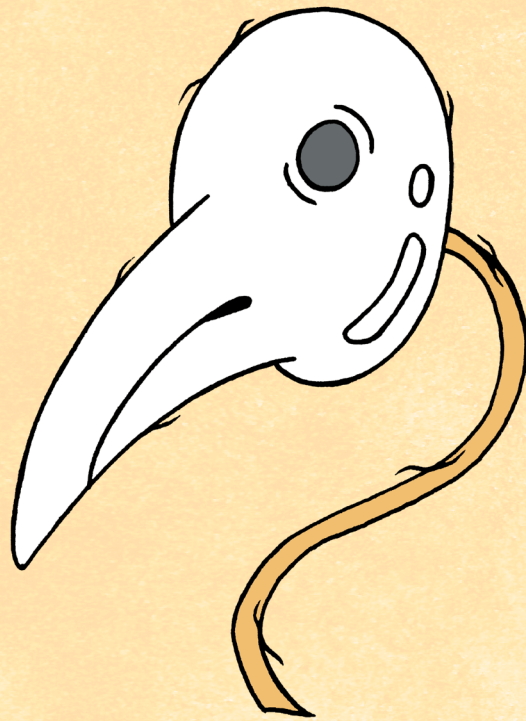
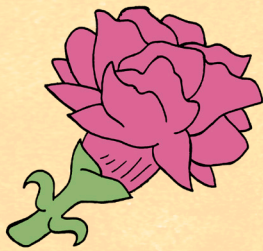


# The Plague and Doctor Caim



Annotated Script by  
G. E. Gallas

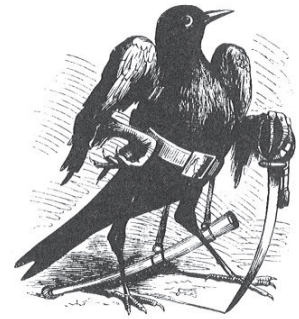




Cain killing Abel  
from the 15th century.

“Caim” is the  
Gaelic spelling  
of the biblical  
character Cain.

This definition  
of Caim comes  
from the *Lesser  
Key of Solomon*,  
an anonymous  
grimoire (or  
“book of spells”)  
on demonology  
compiled in the  
mid-17th century.



Caim in  
Collin de Plancy’s  
*Dictionnaire Infernal*  
(1863).

Page 1

- 1: Caption: “Caim is the inventor of murder.”
- 2: Caption: “He is the president of Hell and commands thirty demon legions.”
- 3: Caption: “Caim takes the form of a blackbird, or thrush.”
- 4: Caim: “I too have a beak.”

Page 2:

- 1: Letter: “Dear Dr. Caim: Our town needs you.” [Unfolded letter.]
- 2: Letter: “The Black Death arrived last month and refuses to leave.”
- 3: Letter: “We will pay you to treat both the rich and the poor.”
- 4: Caim: “I would do so anyway.”

Page 3:

- 1: Caim puts on his gloves.
- 2: He collects dried roses and carnations, lemon balm and mint.
- 3: He puts on his wide-brimmed hat.
- 4: Caim: “I am ready, I think.”

Plague doctors were  
hired by cities rather  
than paid by their  
patients. Therefore,  
these doctors were  
able to treat “both the  
rich and the poor.”

Plague doctors believed the bubonic  
plague was spread by miasma (“bad  
smells” or “bad air”) With that  
theory, they decided to protect  
themselves with a peculiar yet  
practical costume. Their beak masks  
were not for aesthetic reasons, but  
for functional ones. To protect  
themselves from miasma, the plague  
doctors kept a medley of dried flowers  
and herbs in their beaks.

The oldest document  
in which the plague  
doctor costume was  
mentioned came from  
a physician to Louis  
XIII in 1619.

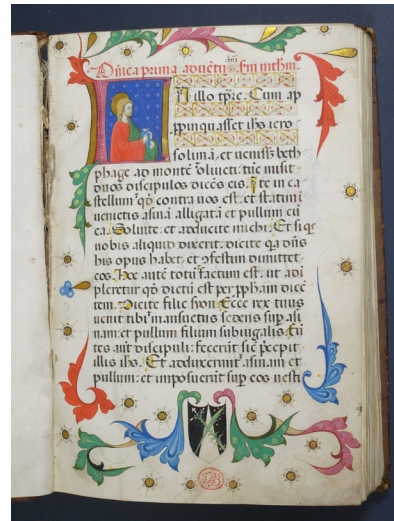


Doctor Schnabel  
(i.e. Dr. Beak)  
circa 1656.



# The Aesthetic of *The Plague and Doctor Caim*

**Illuminated manuscripts** date as far back as the year 400 up through the 1600s (and perhaps beyond depending on one's definition). The quintessential illuminated manuscript is a book from Europe during the Middle Ages handwritten in blackletter and painted with vibrant pigments by monks. These books were mostly Christian texts such as the bible or a book of hours.



From the  
Evangelium  
Dominicanum  
(1401-1500).

From the  
Carmina Burana  
(11th or 12th  
century).

Mariage de Girart et Berthe.  
Miniature du Roman de  
Girart de Roussillon  
(circa 1450).



First page of  
The Golden Bull  
(1400)  
by Meister  
der Wenzel-Werkstatt.



Blackletter, also known as Gothic script, was used in Europe from 1150 until the 1600s. Blackletter was popularly used in illuminated manuscripts of the later Middle Ages.

maximum it p noia lun  
glor a uigā ānis t sup oēs  
qui ad bella poterēt: qd agi  
tagin milia sercā quiqua  
ginta. De filiis uida p geneā  
nonēs t familias ac domos  
cognationū suar p nomā  
singulor a vicēsimō āno et

An example of blackletter from 1407.





Theodore Zwinger III  
(1658-1724)  
Coat of Arms.



Astaroth in  
Collin de Plancy's  
*Dictionnaire Infernal*  
(1818).

Page 4:

- 1: Mayor: "Dr. Caim! You came highly recommended by Dr. Astaroth."
- 2: Caim: "How is my dear teacher?"
- 3: Mayor: "The Black Death took him."
- 4: Caim: "Ah."

The Black Death refers to the  
bubonic plague of 1346 to  
1353 as well as the bubonic  
plague in general.

Page 5

- 1: Mayor: "You must first sign the contract."
- 2: Caim: "But of course. May I see it?"
- 3: The Mayor unfurls a very long contract.
- 4: Caim: "Extraordinary."

Page 6

- 1: Mayor: "The town offers you food, housing, and a generous salary."
- 2: Caim signs the contract.
- 3: Mayor: "You are prepared to risk your life?"
- 4: Caim: "Always."

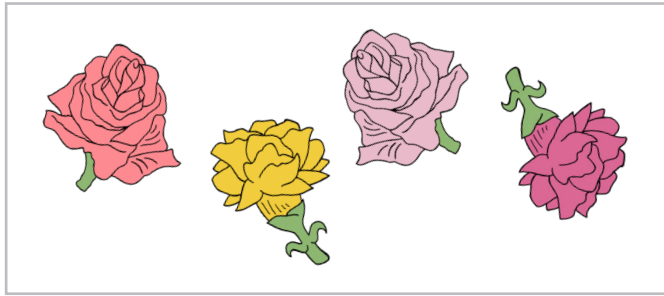
Henri II de Lorraine  
(1634) by  
Anthony van Dyck.



Louis XIV of France  
circa 1661-1662.

I made a deliberate decision that Doctor Caim should never be seen without a mask. This way, the character is truly an Everyman: an average human being that could belong to any race, ethnicity, gender and so on. But, at the same time, Doctor Caim is not anonymous. The doctor has a distinct personality, ethos, and set of habits, making Doctor Caim a multidimensional character that I hope readers will care about.





Page 7

- 1: Caim: "What do I keep in my beak, you ask?"
- 2: Caption: "Roses and carnations."
- 3: Caption: "Lemon balm and mint."
- 4: Caim: "To filter evil smells and protect from infection."



17th century  
plague doctor  
costume.

Page 8

- 1: Caim: "One: Be not greedy."
- 2: Caim: "Two: Do not sell false cures."
- 3: Caim: "Three: Be of few words."
- 4: Caim: "..."

Page 9

- 1: Caim: "This book, you ask?"
- 2: Inside the book, "OCT" with many tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "NOV" with even more tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "We must record the dead."

Plague doctors were known  
to record death tolls.

Bubonic plague outbreaks were not uncommon to Europe in the 17th-century. For instance, about 100,000 people died during the Great Plague of London from 1665 to 1666.

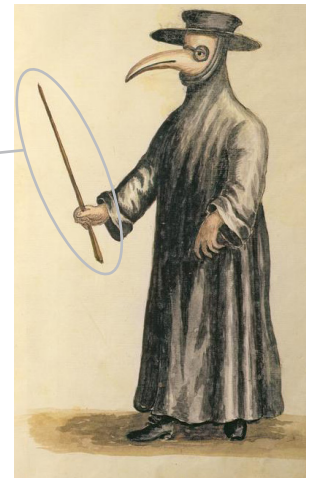
My research quickly led me to what kind of medicines and treatments plague doctors would have used to treat their patients. The favorites were bloodletting and leeches, which would give any modern reader the heebie-jeebies. Additional treatments included swallowing ground-up emerald (see page 49), lucky talismans, and applying the anus of a live chicken to the bubo (see page 11). Nowadays, we have strong antibiotics to cure us of the bubonic plague. (Though, you'd be surprised that a number of people have died of bubonic plague over the past few years because they visited Mongolia and ate marmot there.)



I was inspired to make this graphic novel because people are fascinated by the plague doctor, his costume and beak mask (just as I am), but many are unfamiliar with the history behind them. The plague doctor appears in many supernatural-themed comics, is a favorite among numerous cosplayers, and adorns many bodies as tattoos. But none of these delve into the reality of the plague doctor's life.

Plague doctors would use wooden canes to avoid touching their patients.

A plague doctor by Jan van Grevenbroeck (1731-1807).



Page 10

- 1: With Patient 1. Caim points his **cane** at the patient.
  - 2: He tries to use the cane to remove the patient's clothes.
  - 3: Caim (waving his cane): "Confound it!"
  - 4: Caim: "Could you please remove your tunic?"
- Patient 1: "Oh!"

Page 11

- 1: Caim examines Patient 1.
- 2: Patient 1 has **buboes** on his neck.
- 3: Patient 1 has buboes under his armpit.
- 4: Caim: "That is indeed the Black Death."

A bubo is a swollen inflamed lymph node, a common symptom of the bubonic plague.

Page 12

- 1: With Patient 1. Caim: "Would you like to try bloodletting?"
- 2: Caim: "Or would you prefer **leeches**?"
- 3: The patient grimaces and wags his head.
- 4: Caim (pointing his finger): "We must rebalance the **humors**!"



Humourism is an ancient theory that a human's health involves the balance between four bodily liquids called "humors": blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

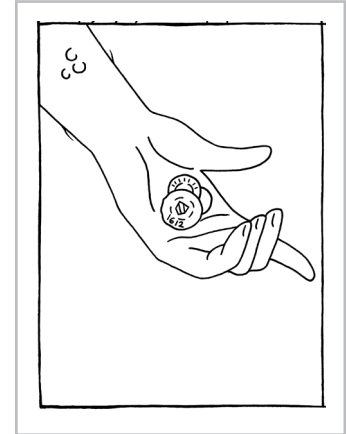
Woodcut (1574) from *Quinta Essentia* by Leonhart Thurneisser zum Thurn.



From *Historia Medica* (1639) by Guillaume van den Bossche.



Plague doctors did not last long in their career, since they regularly treated terminally ill patients without a cure. In fact, many of these doctors had little experience and were sometimes just volunteers.



Page 13

- 1: Caim: "I will leave you this potion."
- 2: Patient 1: "Thank you, Doctor."
- 3: The patient tries to give him money.
- 4: Caim: "No need, poor fellow."

In many ways, the plague doctor's costume was an early hazmat suit. The costume covered their whole body with a long robe, gloves, leggings, and a hat all made of leather.

Page 14

- 1: Villager 1: "Doctor?"
- 2: Caim (with his cane): "Stay back, for your own health."
- 3: Villager 1: "Please accept my gift: fresh garlic!"
- 4: Caim: "Very kind."

Page 15

- 1: Villager 2: "What is that smell?"
- 2: Villager 3: "Garlic?"
- 3: Caim: "Pardon me."
- 4: Caim walks into the distance as the villagers look on.

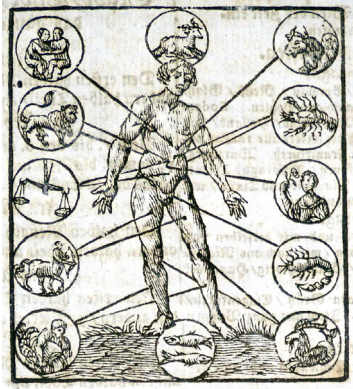
Historically, garlic has been used as a remedy for a variety of illnesses including the bubonic plague, typhus, dysentery, cholera, influenza, etc.

Doctor Caim embodies the reality of an average plague doctor during the 17th century. Each medical treatment Doctor Caim tries and every situation Doctor Caim finds himself in is based on historical facts.

In terms of character, there is little mystery to Doctor Caim. He is frank and straightforward to a fault. He has no supernatural powers, only scientific curiosity to experiment on his patients for their own benefit.

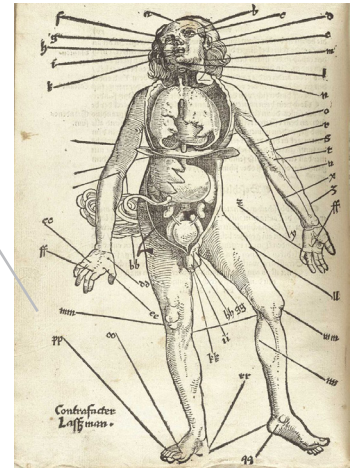






A diagram indicating points on the body for bloodletting. From *Field book of wound medicine* (1517) by Hans von Gersdorff.

Astrological references and dates for bloodletting. From the *Calendar of the Imperial Court*, (Vienna, 1724).



Page 16

- 1: With Patient 2. Caim: "Your liver produces too much blood."
- 2: Caim: "I suggest bloodletting."
- 3: Caim examines a **bloodletting diagram**.
- 4: Caim: "Now, where to cut?"

Page 17

- 1: With Patient 2. Caim: "Would you prefer neck, arm, or toe?"
- 2: Patient 2: "Which is less painful?"
- 3: Caim contemplates.
- 4: Caim: "Let us find out."

Page 18

- 1: Caim performs bloodletting on Patient 2.
- 2: Caim bandages Patient 2.
- 3: Caim: "Not so bad, was it?"
- 4: Patient 2: "Is there no other treatment?"

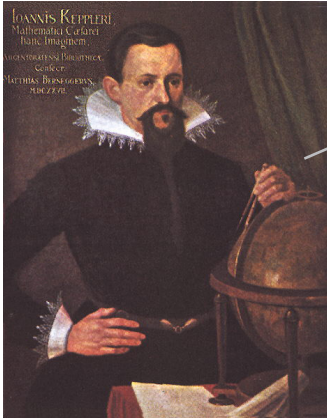


Bloodletting was a medical treatment that originated in the ancient world and remained common until the late 19th century. In medieval Europe, it was believed that points on the body for bloodletting corresponded with the planets, the phases of the moon, and the zodiac. Bloodletting was used to treat many illnesses, including the bubonic plague, leprosy, pneumonia, stroke, inflammation, herpes, acne, etc.



In humorism, blood is associated with spring, infancy, air, the liver, and a sanguine temperament.

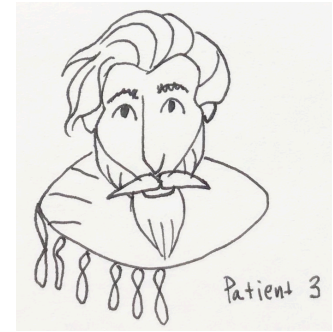




Portrait of  
Johannes Kepler  
(1571-1630).



Portrait of  
Johannes Kepler  
(1610) by  
unknown artist.



Rough Character Design

#### Page 19

- 1: Caim with a slug in hand. Caim: "Hello, small friend."
- 2: Caim: "I'm very sorry."
- 3: Caim: "But my leeches are hungry."
- 4: Caim drops the slug into a jar of leeches.

#### Page 20

- 1: With Patient 3. Caim: "Tell me where it hurts."
- 2: Patient 3: "My stomach. My back."
- 3: Caim: "Too much yellow bile, I think."
- 4: Patient 3: "You think?"

Yellow bile is  
associated with  
summer, youth, fire,  
the gallbladder, and a  
choleric temperment.

#### Page 21

- 1: With Patient 3. Caim: "Let us try the leeches."
- 2: Caim starts putting leeches on Patient 3.
- 3: Caim: "Nothing to fear."
- 4: Patient 3 with leeches all over his body.



A scientific diagram of a leech (1901).





# My Creative Process

1. The Seed of an Idea
2. Notes & Brainstorming
3. Research
4. Initial Sketches
5. Plot Outline
6. Script

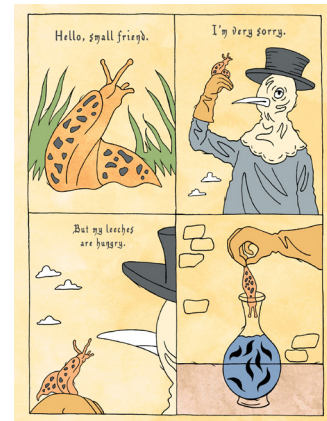
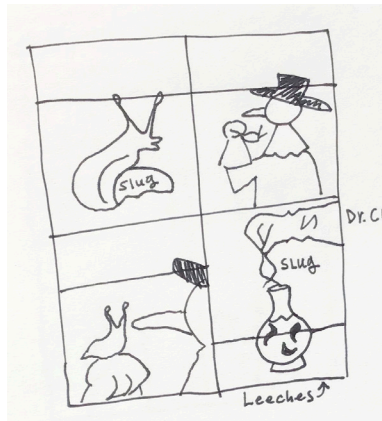
7. Thumbnails
8. Pencil
9. Pen (Line Art)
10. Scan
11. Color in Photoshop
12. Format in InDesign

Thumbnail

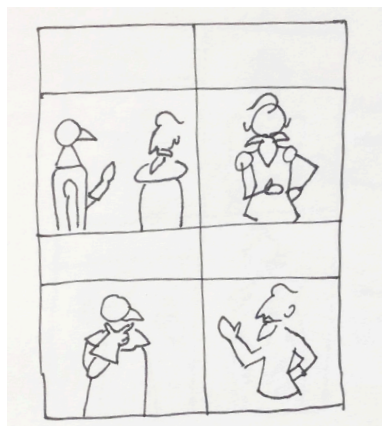
Pen

Final

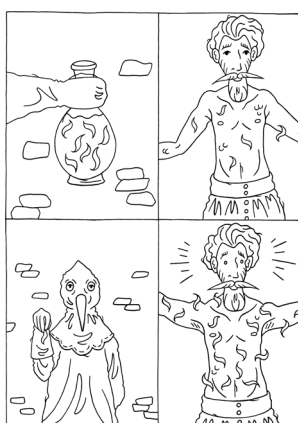
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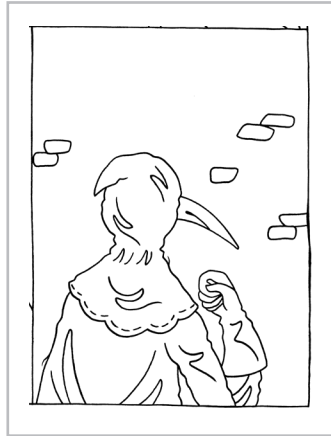
Page  
20



Page  
21







Page 22

- 1: Patient 3 (covered in leeches): "Is it working?"
- 2: Caim: "Hmmm..."
- 3: Patient 3: "Dr. Caim?"
- 4: Caim: "Perhaps it was the black bile."

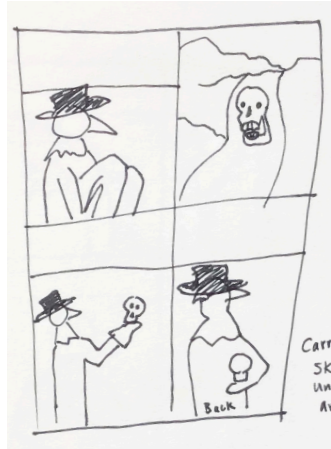
Page 23

- 1: Caim: "Hello, poor friend."
- 2: A human skull.
- 3: Caim: "You will help me teach the sick."
- 4: Caim: "And perhaps spruce up my lodgings."

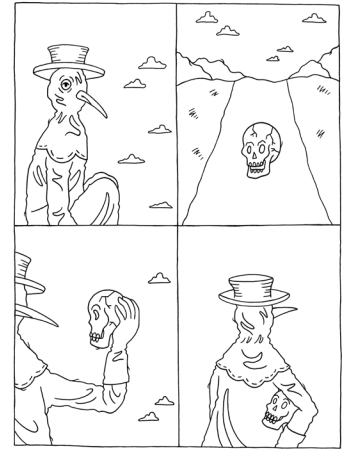
Black bile is associated with autumn, adulthood, earth, the spleen, and a melancholic temperament.

Page 24

- 1: A villager runs up to Dr. Caim. Villager 4: "Doctor!"
- 2: Caim (with cane): "Stay back!"
- 3: Villager 4: "I am here to repent my sins."
- 4: Caim: "What on Earth?"



Page 23



Portrait of René Descartes  
(1649-1700)  
after Frans Hals.

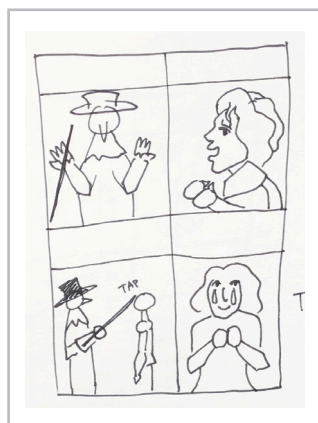


Rough Character Design



Pen





### Page 25

- 1: With Villager 4. Caim: "I am no priest."
- 2: Villager 4: "Punish me with your cane!"
- 3: Caim: "Um, take that?" Sound Effect: "Tap."
- 4: Villager 4: "Oh, thank you, thank you!"



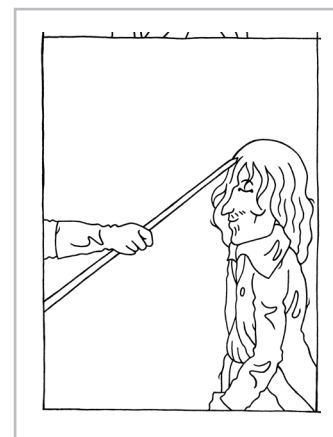
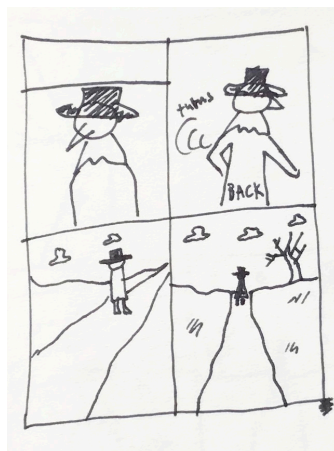
### Page 26

- 1: Caim: "My potion recipe, you ask?"
- 2: Caption: "Rose hip."
- 3: Caption: "Quicksilver."
- 4: Caim: "It is a tricky business."

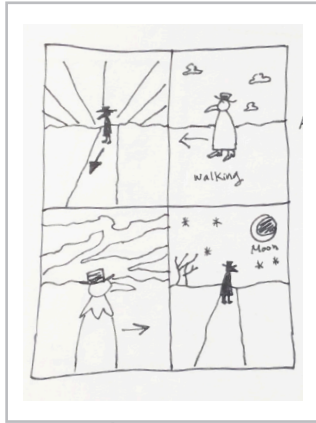
Quicksilver, also known as mercury, has been used as a medicine for centuries. It was used to treat constipation, depression, toothaches, syphilis, etc.

### Page 27

- 1: Caim: "I need time to think."
- 2: Caim turns to walk away.
- 3: He continues to walk.
- 4: He walks into the distance.







#### Page 28

- 1: Caim walks with the rising sun.
- 2: Caim walks in the afternoon.
- 3: Caim walks during twilight.
- 4: Caim walks with the moon.

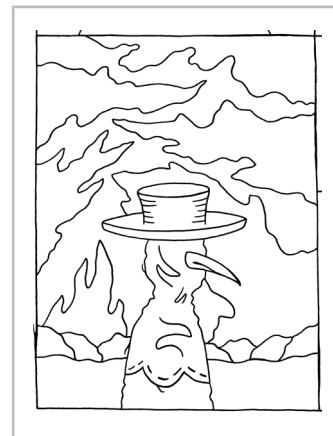
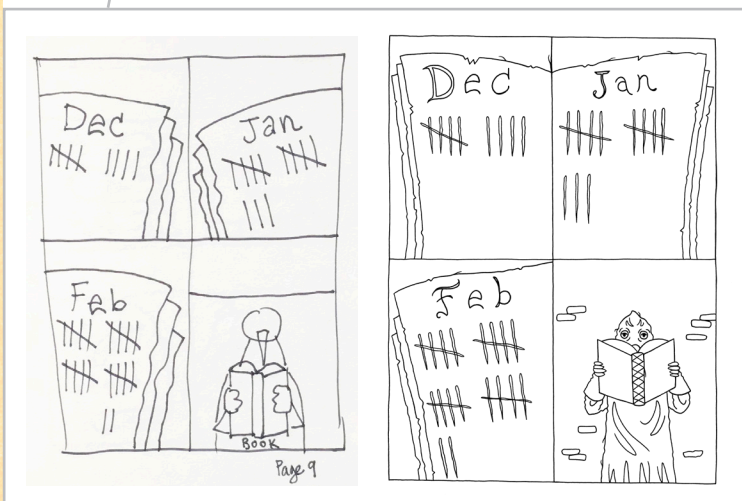
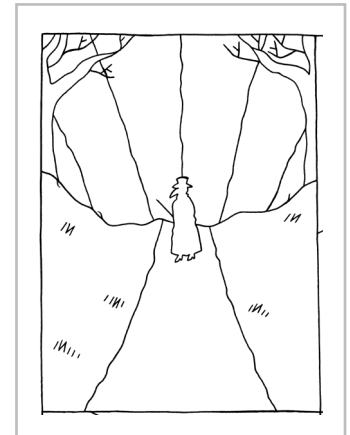


#### Page 29

- 1: Caim: "Now for my daily health check."
- 2: Caption: "Fever? No."
- 3: Caption: "Lumps? No."
- 4: Caim: "Good enough."

#### Page 30

- 1: Inside Caim's book, "DEC" with many tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "JAN" with even more tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "FEB" with many more tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "The Black Death is a cruel master."







### Page 31

- 1: Caim looks up at the night sky, under the moon. Caim: "A full moon?"
- 2: He notices a star. Caim: "Mars?"
- 3: A comet flies by. Caim: "A comet?"
- 4: Caim: "What omens! The worst is yet to come."

### Page 32

- 1: Caim: "I am sorry for your loss."
- 2: **Woman**: "Thank you, Doctor."
- 3: Caim: "Do you have any milk?"
- 4: Woman: "Umm..."

### Page 33

- 1: Woman: "Your milk, Doctor."
- 2: Caim: "And a saucer?"
- 3: Woman (handing over the saucer): "Umm..."
- 4: Caim (pouring the milk into the saucer): "To purify the air!"



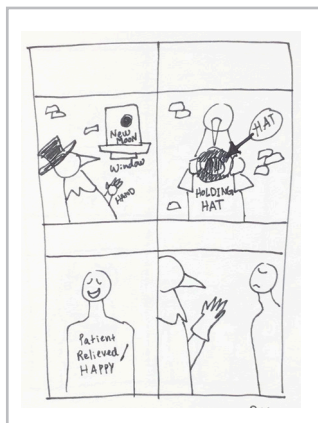
Tankard  
Design



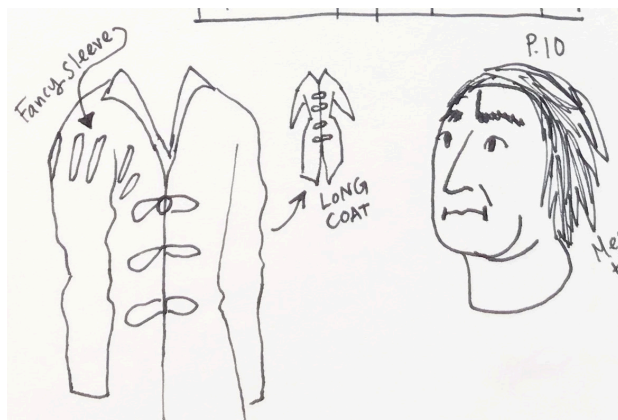
Rough  
Character  
and  
Costume  
Design







Rough  
Character  
and  
Costume  
Design

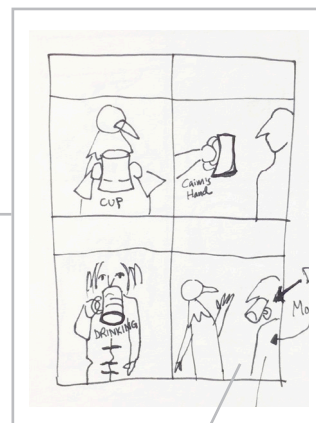


#### Page 34

- 1: With Patient 4. Caim: "Tonight is a new moon."
- 2: Caim: "A bad time for bloodletting."
- 3: Patient 4 (relieved): "I see."
- 4: Caim: "How about a urine bath?"

#### Page 35

- 1: With Patient 4. Caim: "What about a hot drink?"
- 2: Caim (handing over a mug): "To help sweat out the sickness."
- 3: Patient 4 (sipping): "What's in this?"
- 4: Caim: "When I said urine bath..."



#### Page 36

- 1: With Patient 4. Caim: "You will drink."
- 2: Patient 4: "Is there no other way?"
- 3: Caim: "You must drink!"
- 4: Patient 4: "What of the leeches?"

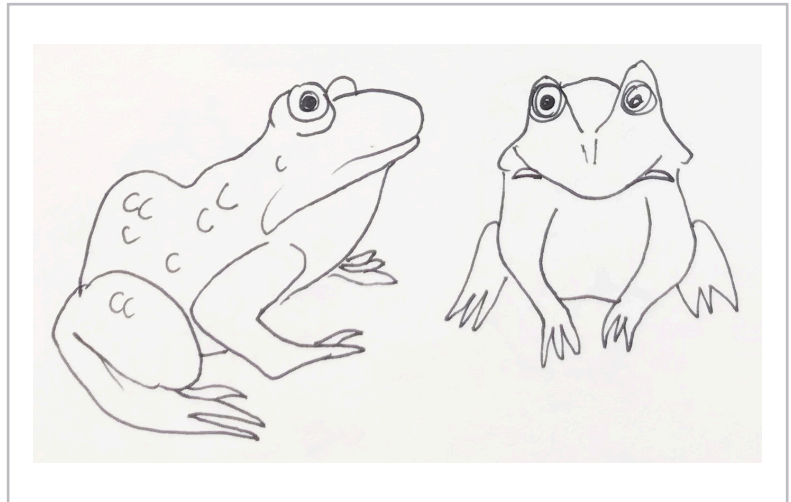






Page 37

- 1: Caim stands near a pond.
- 2: Caim: "Aha!"
- 3: A frog.
- 4: Caim (holding the frog): "A new treatment."



Page 38

- 1: With Patient 5. Caim: "An experiment."
- 2: Caim (holding a frog): "This should do wonders."
- 3: Patient 5 (covered in frogs): "Ha ha ha, it tickles!"
- 4: Caim: "An unexpected effect."

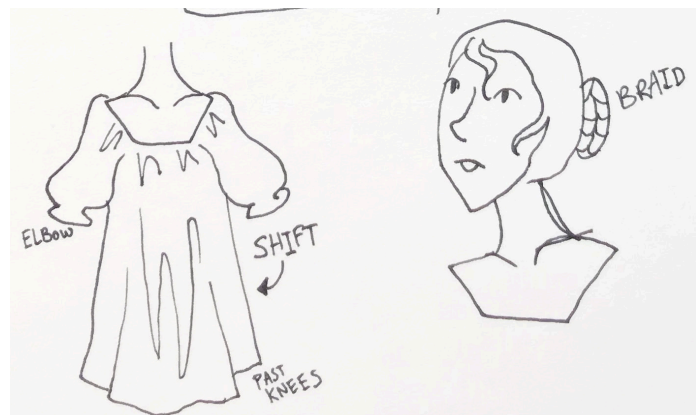


Page 39

- 1: With Patient 5. Caim: "Note to self..."
- 2: Caim: "Frogs less painful than leeches..."
- 3: Patient 5 (covered in frogs): "Please! Mercy! Uncle!"
- 4: Caim: "But may overwhelm patient..."



Rough  
Character  
and  
Costume  
Design



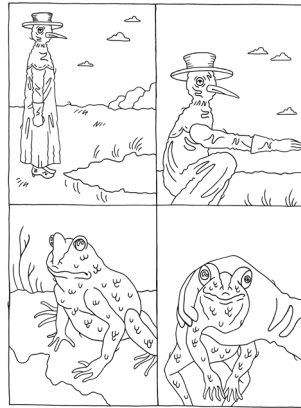


Thumbnail

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Final

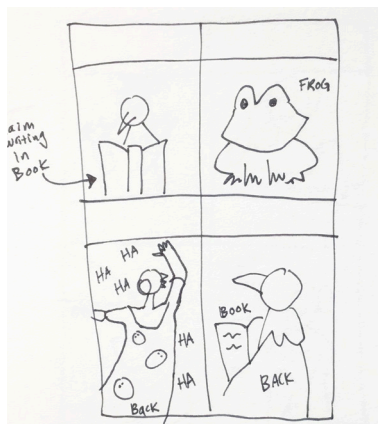
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Page  
38



Page  
39







### Page 40

- 1: With Patient 5. Caim: "Perhaps next time the leeches."
- 2: Patient 5: "No, no, the frogs will do."
- 3: Caim: "But..."
- 4: Patient 5: "The frogs, I insist!"

### Page 41

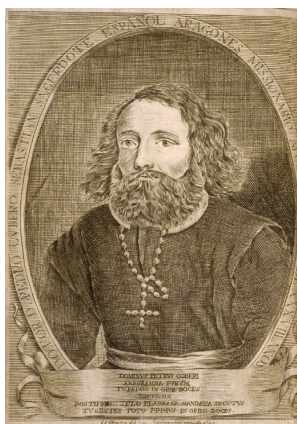
- 1: Inside Caim's book, "MARCH" with many tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "APRIL" with even more tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "MAY" with many more tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "I cannot keep up!"

### Page 42

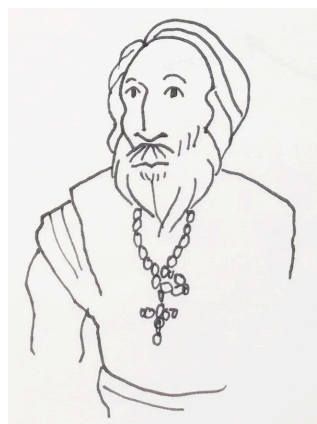
- 1: Letter: "Dear Dr. Caim: The village **priest** has died."
- 2: Letter: "The Black Death took him."
- 3: Letter: "We request your presence at his autopsy."
- 4: Caim: "My first autopsy!!"



Detail from  
*The Anatomy Lesson of  
Dr. Nicolaes Tulp (1632)*  
by Rembrandt.



Spanish priest  
Pedro Cubero Sebastián  
(1645–1700).

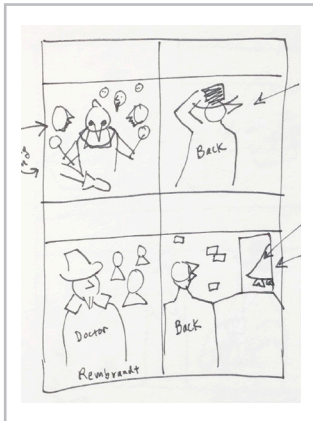


Rough Character Design



Pen





*The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp (1632) by Rembrandt.*



#### Page 43

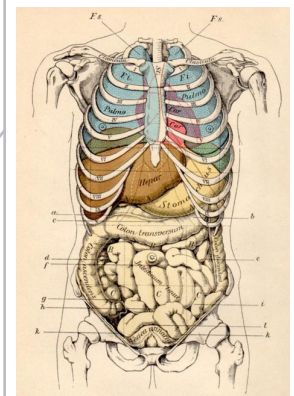
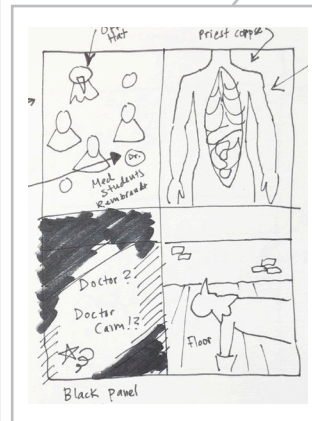
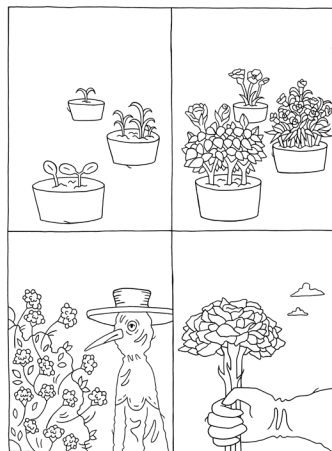
- 1: Caim attends the **autopsy**.
- 2: The surgeons opens the corpse's chest, revealing its innards.
- 3: Caim faints. "Doctor? Doctor Caim!?" [Black panel with white letters.]
- 4: Caim lies on the floor. "The smelling salts, quickly!"

#### Page 44

- 1: Caim with the surgeons. Caim: "I am quite alright, thank you."
- 2: Caim: "I must be on my way."
- 3: Surgeon: "You will attend the funeral?"
- 4: Caim runs out the door. Surgeon: "Doctor?"

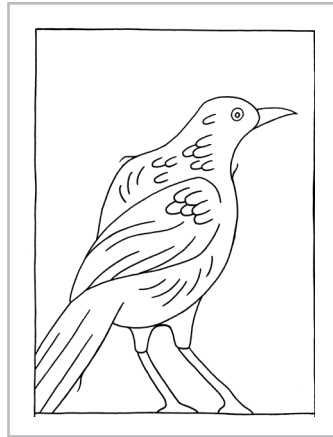
#### Page 45

- 1: A number of potted plants: roses and carnations, lemon balm and mint.
- 2: Caption: A few months later... / The plants grow tremendously.
- 3: Caim: "It seems I have a penchant for gardening..."
- 4: Caim: "Who knew?"



Issued in 1901  
by Breitkopf &  
Härtel in  
Leipzig,  
Germany.





Page 46

- 1: A glossy black thrush sits in a tree.
- 2: Caim: "Ah, there! A black thrush!"
- 3: Caim: "I believe I will name him..."
- 4: Caim: "...Caim Junior."

Page 47

- 1: With rich Patient 6. Caim: "M'Lord...?"
- 2: Patient 6: "I will have the best treatment, Doctor."
- 3: Patient 6: "The best money can buy!"
- 4: Caim: "Rich or poor, I treat my patients equally."

Page 48

- 1: With rich Patient 6. Caim: "May I borrow your housecoat, m'lord?"
- 2: Patient 6: "What is that foul odor!?"
- 3: Caim: "I have soaked your robe in garlic."
- 4: Caim: "Now you must wear it."



Rough Costume Design



Detail from a painting circa 1696 by Nicolas de Largilliere.



Rough Character Design



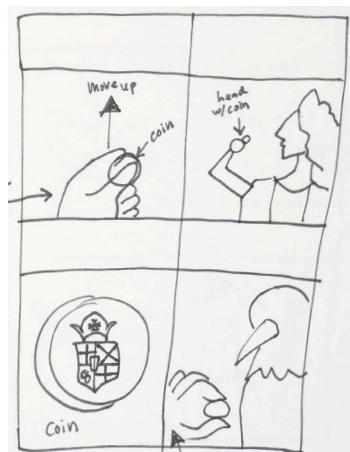
Pen





#### Page 49

- 1: With rich Patient 6. Patient 6: "Damn this stench!"
- 2: Patient 6: "I shall never eat garlic again!"
- 3: Caim: "How about ingesting emeralds?"
- 4: Patient 6: "You have gone mad!"

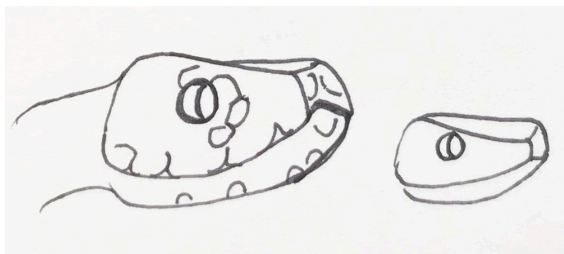
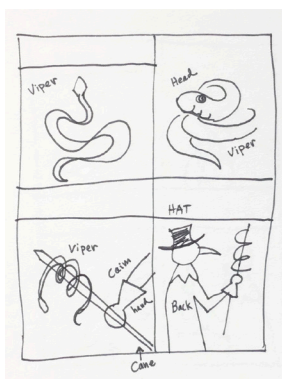
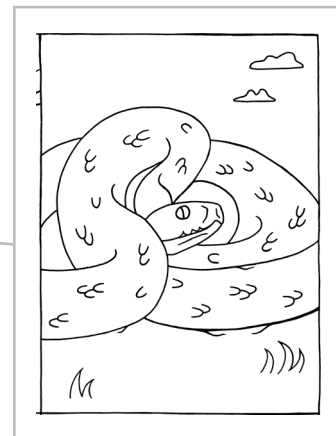


#### Page 50

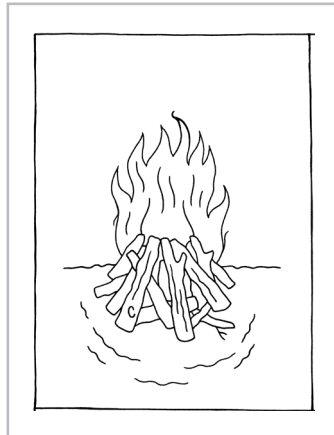
- 1: With rich Patient 6. Caim: "Please take this coin."
- 2: Patient 6: "I should be paying you!"
- 3: Caim: "It is a lucky charm, m'lord."
- 4: Caim: "A potent remedy against the Black Death."

#### Page 51

- 1: Caim: "Ah, a viper!"
- 2: The viper.
- 3: Caim, the viper on his cane: "I've got you!"
- 4: Caim: "The perfect ingredient for treacle!"







Page 52

- 1: Caim: "Treacle is a powerful elixir."
- 2: The viper roasting on a fire.
- 3: Caim: "Viper is the first ingredient."
- 4: Caim: "Only 63 ingredients to go..."

Page 53

- 1: Various ingredients laid out on a table. Caim: "Finally!"
- 2: Caim: "All the ingredients for my treacle."
- 3: Caim, stirring a **cauldron**: "Toiling over a hot stove all day."
- 4: Caim: "Only 39 days to go..."

Page 54

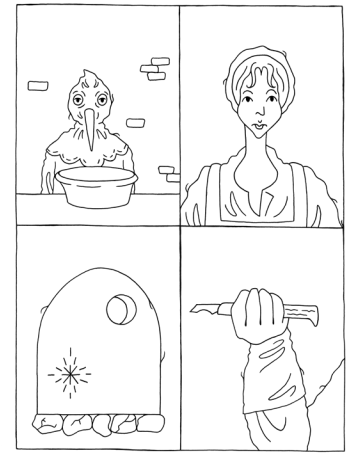
- 1: Caim: "Finally!"
- 2: Caim, stirring the cauldron: "The treacle is done cooking."
- 3: Caim, bottling the treacle: "Now, fermentation."
- 4: Caim: "Only 10 years to go..."



From  
*Europe a Prophecy*  
(1794)  
by William Blake.







### Page 55

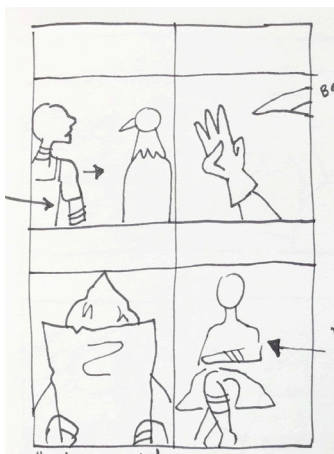
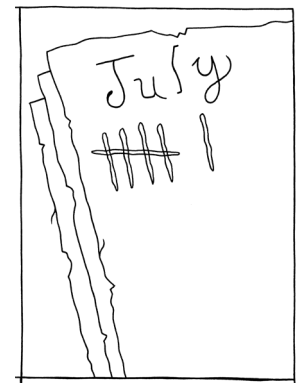
- 1: Inside Caim's book, "JUNE" with few tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "JULY" with even less tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "AUG" with almost no tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "A respite of sorts?"

### Page 56

- 1: With Patient 7. Caim: "A good day for bloodletting."
- 2: Patient 7: "How can you tell?"
- 3: Caim: "Venus twinkles and the moon is waning."
- 4: Caim: "Now, where to cut?"

### Page 57

- 1: Patient 7: "On the body, how many points can be bled?"
- 2: Caim: "One, two, three..."
- 3: Caim: "...thirty-nine in total."
- 4: Patient 7: "Are you certain?"





# Costume Research: Working Class Clothing



Detail from  
*Ländliche Szene* (1608)  
by Pieter Brueghel the  
Younger.



Detail from  
*Verleugnung Petri*  
(1636)  
by Jan Miense Molenaer



Dutch fish seller and  
housewife (1661).



Dutch schoolmaster and  
children (1662).

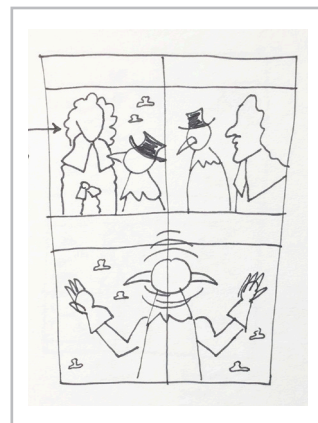
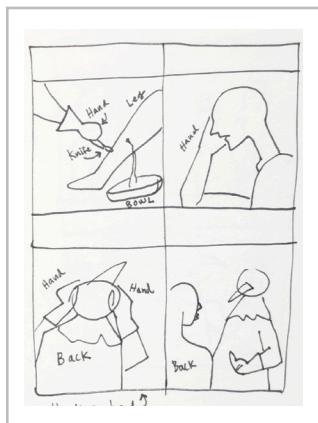


Checking for lice (1662).



Dutch villagers (1673).





### Page 58

- 1: Caim performs bloodletting on Patient 7. Caim: "How do you feel?"
- 2: Patient 7: "My head hurts."
- 3: Caim: "The brain?"
- 4: Caim: "Not enough **phlegm!**"

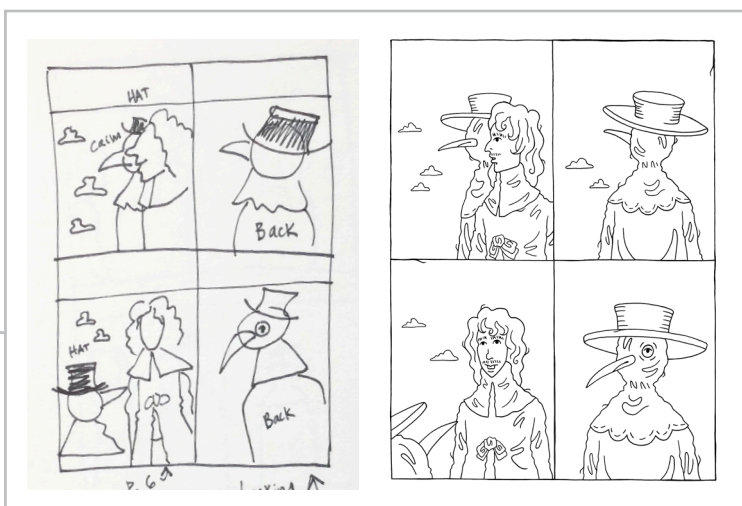
Phlegm is associated with winter, old age, water, the brain and lungs, and a phlegmatic temperament.

### Page 59

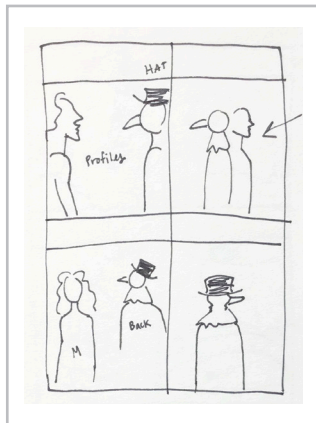
- 1: Mayor: "Dr. Caim!"
- 2: Mayor: "How are you getting on?"
- 3: Caim: "Clever enough to doubt my progress."
- 4: Caim: "Foolish enough to continue my work."

### Page 60

- 1: Mayor: "How are the rich?"
- 2: Caim: "As to be expected."
- 3: Mayor: "How so?"
- 4: Caim: "Each love and hate me in equal measures."

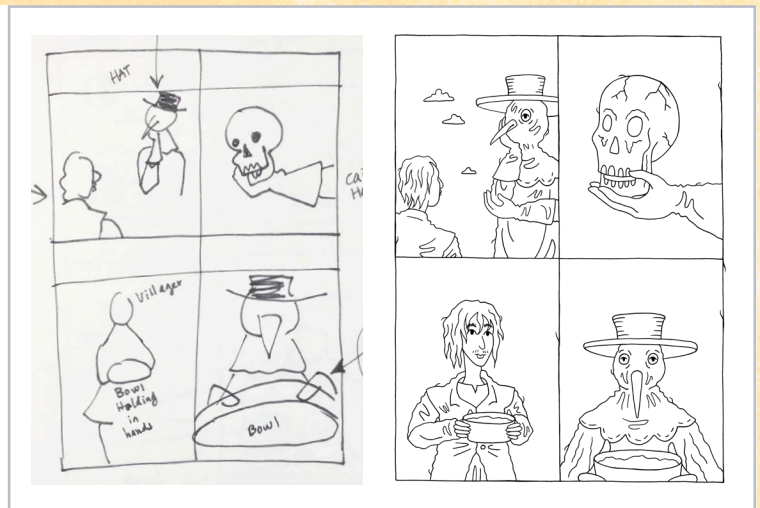






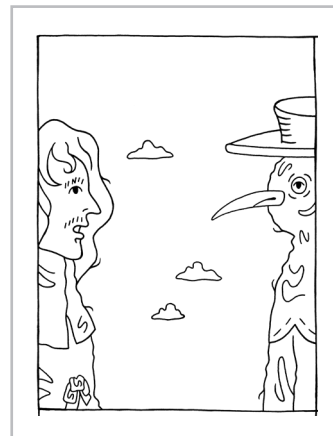
### Page 61

- 1: Mayor: "How are the poor?"
- 2: Caim: "As to be expected."
- 3: Mayor: "How so?"
- 4: Caim: "The same as the rich."



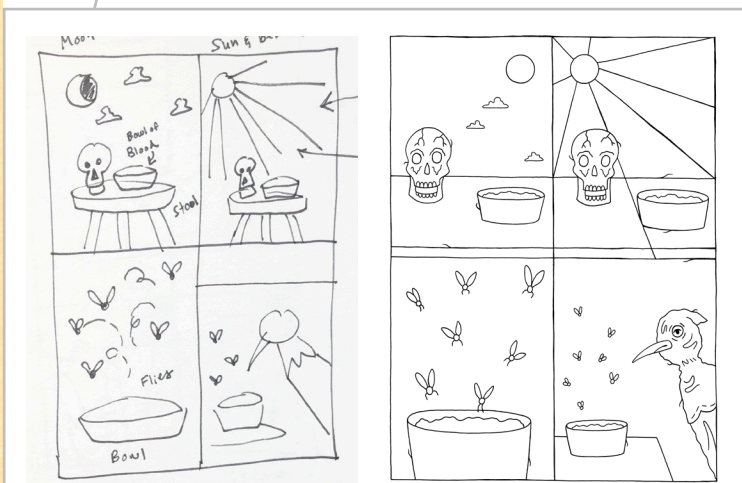
### Page 62

- 1: With a villager. Caim: "How to attract patients?"
- 2: Caim, holding the human skull: "The Skull?"
- 3: Villager 5: "A bowl of blood is the way."
- 4: Caim: "Really?"

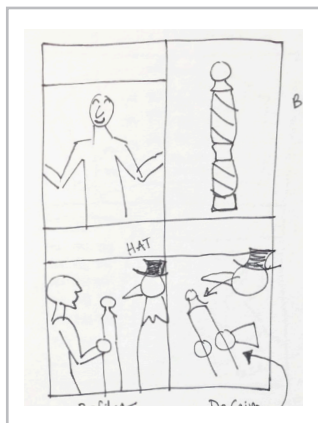


### Page 63

- 1: The skull and the bowl of blood, under the moon.
- 2: The skull and the bowl of blood, under the sun.
- 3: The bowl of blood attracts flies.
- 4: Caim: "Ugh!"

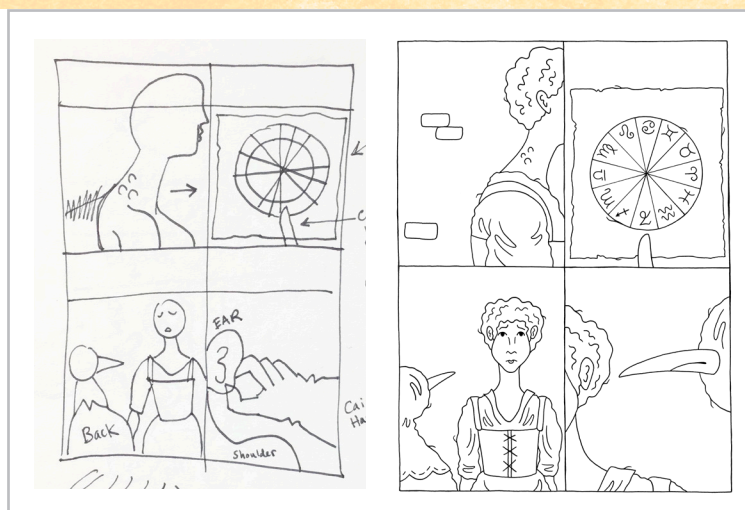






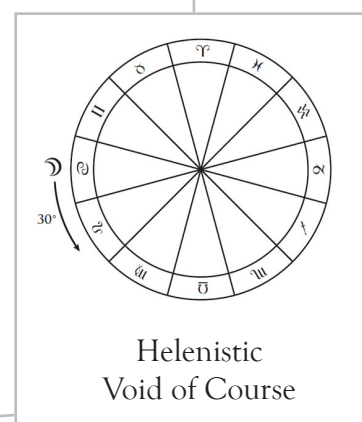
#### Page 64

- 1: Villager 5: "Doctor! A gift!"
- 2: A striped barber pole.
- 3: Villager 5: "To replace the bowl of blood."
- 4: Caim: "Very generous, indeed!"



#### Page 65

- 1: Inside Caim's book, "SEPT" filled with tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "OCT" filled with tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "NOV" filled with tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "One step forward, a hundred steps back."



#### Page 66

- 1: With Patient 8. Caim: "Lumps on the back of the neck."
- 2: An astrology chart. Caim: "Saturn is the problem."
- 3: Patient 8: "Why Saturn?"
- 4: Caim: "Saturn rules the ears."



Reference Painting



Rough Costume Design



Pen





### Page 67

- 1: Patient 8, eating cherries.
- 2: Caim: "Cherries!?"
- 3: Caim: "No beer, no mutton loin, no cucumbers, no eels..."
- 4: Caim: "And, above all, no cherries!!"

### Page 68

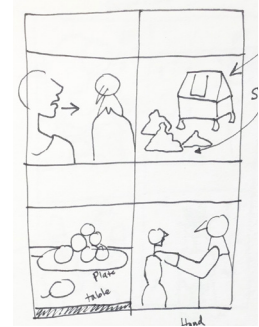
- 1: Patient 8: "What shall I eat, then?"
- 2: Caim: "Spices to provoke sweat."
- 3: Caim: "Plums to purge the bowels."
- 4: Caim: "Everything in moderation!"

### Page 69

- 1: A Gravedigger plays a guitar [musical notes in the air].
- 2: Caim: "Gravedigger: why dost thou play so merrily?"
- 3: Gravedigger: "To forget the Death around me."
- 4: Caim: "Pray thee, continue!"



Still life of plums on a plate, with cherries on the ledge beside by Jacob van Hulsdonck (1582–1647)



Mensural notation, in use from the 13th through 17th century.



A Working Class Man (1689)



Rough Character/ Costume Design

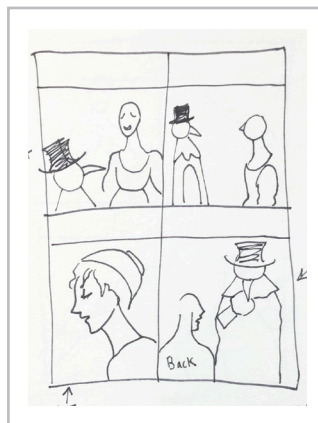


Pen



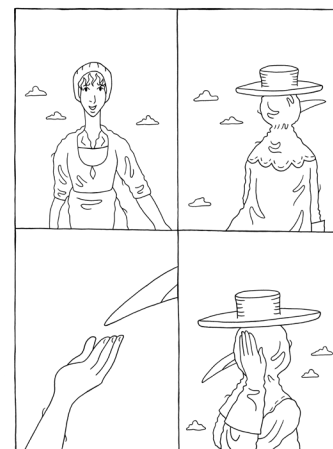
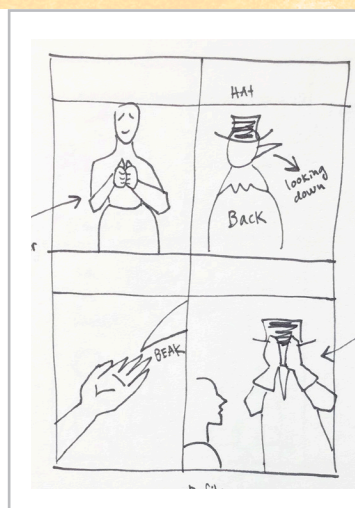
Baroque Guitar circa 1630 -50.





### Page 70

- 1: Caim, approaching Villager 3: "Hello there!"
- 2: Caim: "Where is your friend?"
- 3: Villager 3: "The Black Death took him."
- 4: Caim: "I had almost forgotten."

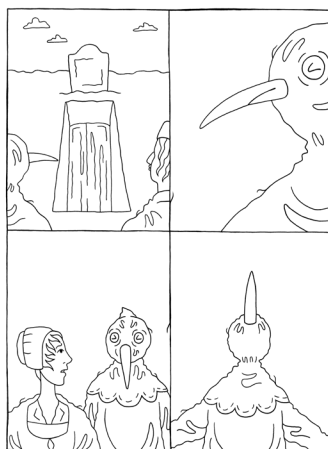
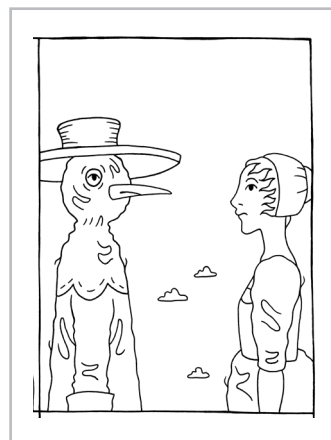


### Page 71

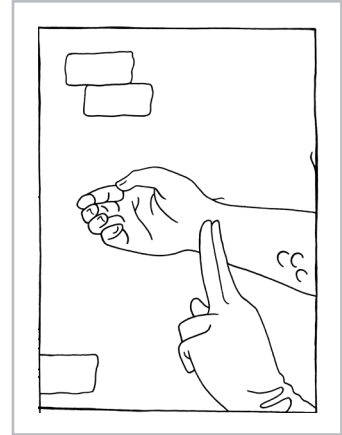
- 1: Villager 3: "Please, attend his funeral?"
- 2: Caim: "I am no good at funerals."
- 3: Villager 3, gesturing to Caim's beak: "Tears? No one will know."
- 4: Caim: "I suppose so."

### Page 72

- 1: At the funeral. Caim: "Hic!"
- 2: Caim: "Hic, hic, hic!"
- 3: Villager 3: "Are you drunk!?"
- 4: Caim: "No, I weep! Hic, hic!"





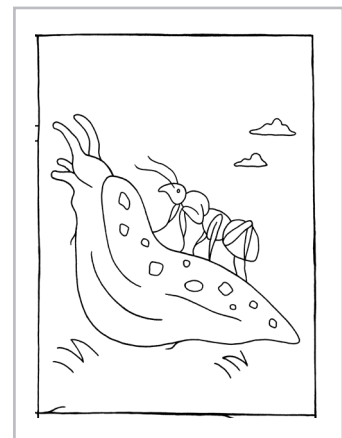


Page 73

- 1: Letter: "Dear Dr. Caim: The village barber has died."
- 2: Letter: "We request your presence at his autopsy."
- 3: Caim: "Autopsy!?"
- 4: Caim faints. [Black panel.]

Page 74

- 1: With Patient 9. Caim: "I shall check your pulse."
- 2: Caim places four fingers on the patient's wrist.
- 3: Patient 9: "How is it?"
- 4: Caim: "Ant-like."



Page 75

- 1: Patient 9: "Is mine a bad pulse?"
- 2: Caim: "Perhaps... Better than sluggish."
- 3: Patient 9: "Is there a treatment?"
- 4: Caim: "Possibly... Ointment."



Head Study of an Old Woman



Rough Character and Costume Design



Pen

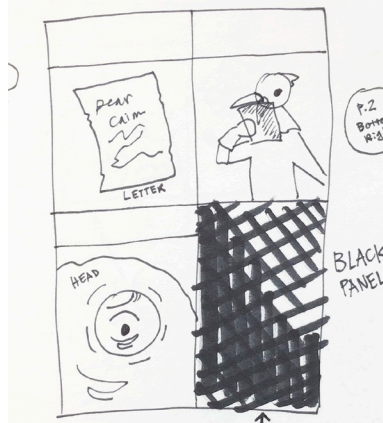


# Thumbnail

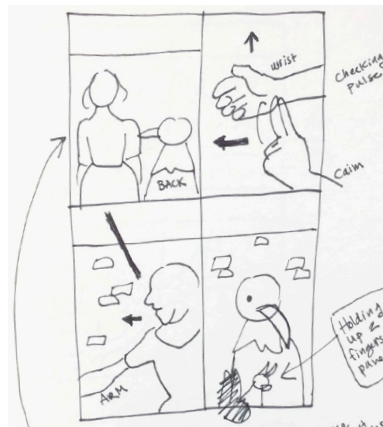
# Pen

# Final

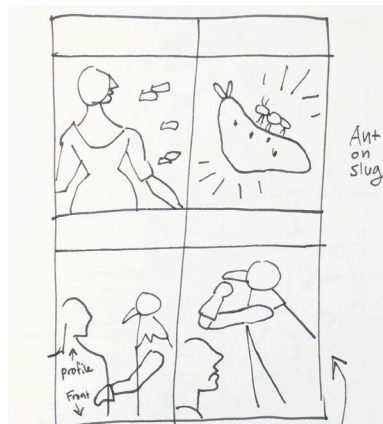
Page  
73



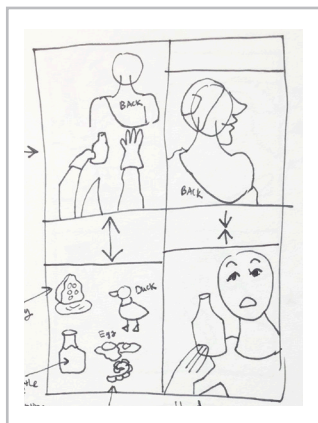
Page  
74



Page  
75







### Page 76

- 1: Caim, holding a bottle, rubs ointment on Patient 9's buboes.
- 2: Patient 9: "What is this ointment?"
- 3: Caim: "Honey, duck grease, turpentine, egg yolks, and scorpion oil."
- 4: Patient 9: "Miraculous!"

### Page 77

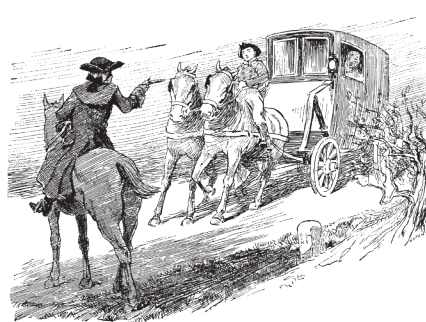
- 1: Caim walks along the road.
- 2: A highwayman appears. Highwayman: "Stand and deliver!"
- 3: Caim: "Deliver what?"
- 4: Highwayman: "Your very person!"

### Page 78

- 1: With the Highwayman. Caim: "My very person?"
- 2: Highwayman: "Yes, to hold for ransom."
- 3: Caim: "Am I valuable?"
- 4: Highwayman: "You'd be surprised!"



A Highwayman.



Highwayman holds up a coach (1922), by E. A. Holloway.







#### Page 79

- 1: With the Highwayman. Highwayman: "Are you not afeared?"
- 2: Caim: "You are a highwayman?"
- 3: Highwayman: "A gentleman of the road."
- 4: Caim: "Then I must be God."

#### Page 80

- 1: With the Highwayman. Caim: "Are you not afeared?"
- 2: Highwayman: "Me, afeared!? Ha, ha, ha!!"
- 3: Caim: "The Black Death follows me always. He might take an interest in you."
- 4: Highwayman: "Oh....."

#### Page 81

- 1: With the Highwayman. Caim: "You are a rich man, sir."
- 2: Caim: "What is more valuable than one's health?"
- 3: Highway: "Go now! Be on your way!"
- 4: Caim: "The Black Death and I take our leave"



17th-Century English  
Highwayman James Hind.



Rough Character/Costume  
Design



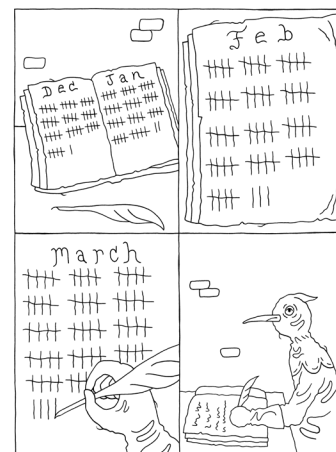
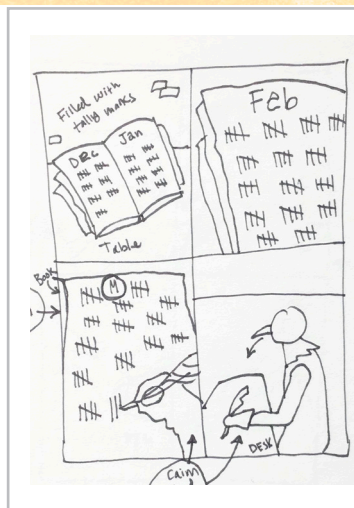
Pen





### Page 82

- 1: Caim: "Now for my daily health check."
- 2: Caption: "No fever."
- 3: Caption: "No lumps."
- 4: Caim: "I live to fight another day."



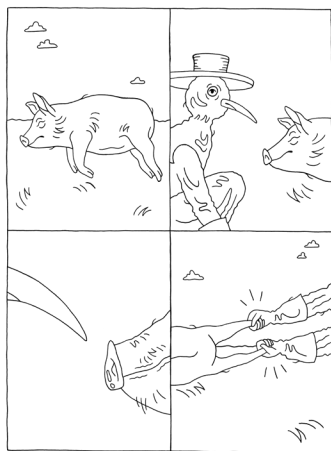
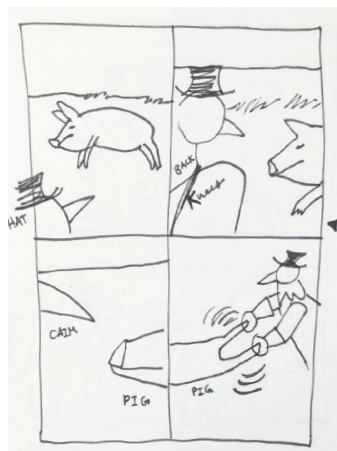
### Page 83

- 1: Inside Caim's book, "DEC" with many tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "JAN" with many tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "FEB" with many tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "This be madness, and there is no method in't."



### Page 84

- 1: A dead pig.
- 2: Caim: "A pig, dead from infection?"
- 3: Caim: "I must act before it becomes supper."
- 4: Caim drags the pig away.







#### Page 85

- 1: With Patient 10. Caim: "This stench! It is detrimental!"
- 2: Patient 10: "What shall I do?"
- 3: Caim: "Do you have any niter? Tar? Resin perhaps?"
- 4: Patient 10: "Who owns such things?"

#### Page 86

- 1: With Patient 10. Caim: "How about old shoes? We might burn them."
- 2: Patient 10: "I give them to my niece..."
- 3: Patient 10: "Burning shoes? Would that not feed the stench?"
- 4: Caim: "Are your feet very foul?"

#### Page 87

- 1: With Patient 10. Caim: "Eureka!"
- 2: Caim carries a musket. Patient 10: "A musket!?"
- 3: Caim, aiming the musket: "Stay back!"
- 4: Caim fires. "Bang!!!"



Reference Illustration



Rough Character and Costume Design



Pen





Page 88

- 1: Villager 6, smoking a pipe: "How do I escape the Black Death?"
- 2: Caim: "Tobacco is a good start."
- 3: Caim: "Two bowls after breakfast. Three after lunch."
- 4: Caim: "And always in the presence of corpses."

Page 89

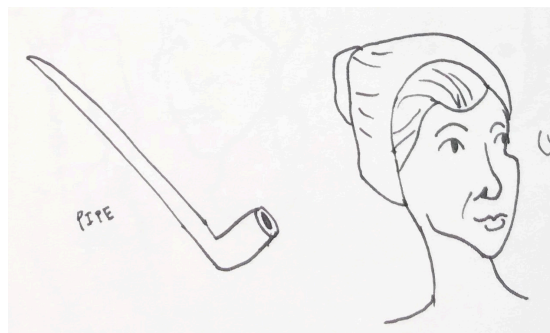
- 1: A sick little girl, resting. Caim: "A sick child?"
- 2: Caim: "Where are your parents? Your family?"
- 3: Child: "Gone. To save their health."
- 4: Caim: "Hmm. You better come with me then."

Page 90

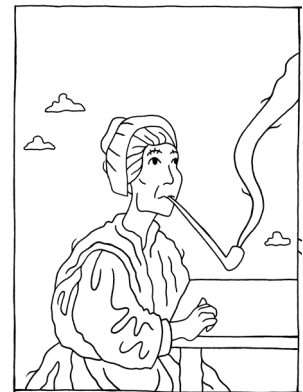
- 1: With the sick little girl. Caim: "A gift for you."
- 2: Caim, with a coin: "Elizabeth's coin, the best."
- 3: Caim: "Keep it always in your mouth."
- 4: Caim: "No, do not swallow it!"



*A Woman Seated Smoking a Pipe, after Gabriel Metsu (1629–1667).*

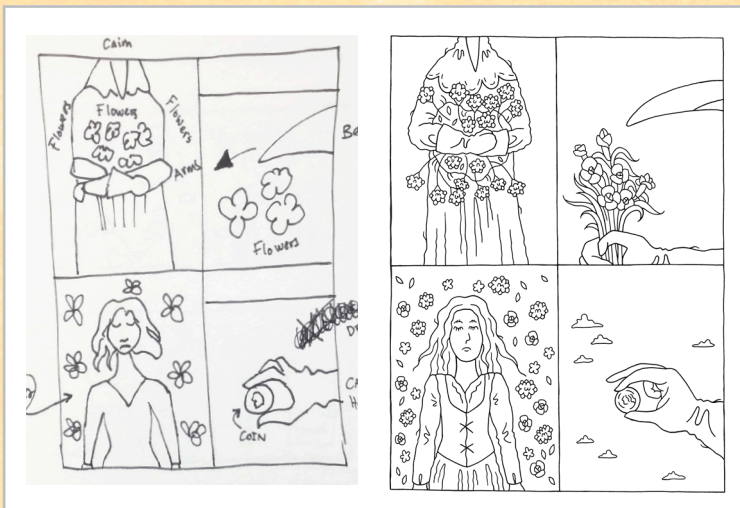


Rough Character/Costume Design



Pen





#### Page 91

- 1: Caim, arms full of flowers.
- 2: Caim: "You were my best patient."
- 3: The **little girl**, dead, surrounded by flowers.
- 4: Elizabeth's coin. Caim: "Elizabeth will accompany you."



#### Page 92

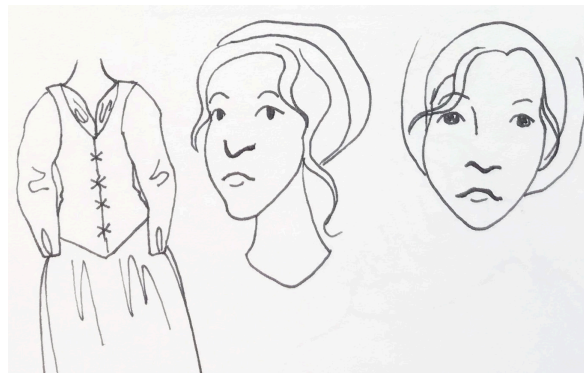
- 1: With Patient 11. Caim: "The moon, awake at this time of day?"
- 2: Patient 11: "Is that good or bad?"
- 3: Caim: "Good for bloodletting!"
- 4: Caim: "Now, where to cut?"

#### Page 93

- 1: Inside Caim's book, "MARCH" overflowing with tally marks.
- 2: Inside the book, "APRIL" overflowing with tally marks.
- 3: Inside the book, "MAY" overflowing with tally marks.
- 4: Caim: "Too many deaths for this little book."



*Girl in a Blue Dress*  
(1641) by Jan Cornelisz  
Verspronck



Rough Character and Costume Design



Pen



The *Ars Moriendi*, “The Art [or Craft] of Dying,” is composed of two Latin texts, one from 1415 and another from 1450. These texts explain from a Christian viewpoint what is it to “die well.” It is thought that these texts were influenced by the Black Death of 1346-1353. Almost 100 editions of the *Ars Moriendi* were printed by 1500 and the book was widely circulated. One edition includes a series of woodcuts that depict the devil enacting the five temptations as well as the proper way for a Christian to overcome each temptation. Pages 95 through 99 of *The Plague and Doctor Caim* poke fun at real quotations from the *Ars Moriendi*.

#### Page 94

- 1: Caim: “Now for my daily health check.”
- 2: Caim: “Forehead, a bit hot.”
- 3: Caim: “Are those lumps?”
- 4: Caim: “.....”

#### Page 95

- 1: Caim holds a book entitled “The Craft of Dying.”  
[Show just Caim’s hands on the book.]
- 2: Caption: “To die well is to die gladly and wilfully.”
- 3: Caption: “This sufficeth the craft and science of dying.”
- 4: Caim: “It seems I am not skilled in death.”  
[Show Caim holding up book in front of him.]

#### Page 96

- 1: Caim with “The Craft of Dying.”
- 2: Caption: “The Devil is busy to avert man from faith at his end.”
- 3: Caption: “Whoso taketh sickness or death with sorrow, it is a sign he loveth not God sufficiently.”
- 4: Caim: “It is not sorrow I have... I have no word sufficient for it.”



Adoration of the Devil,  
17th-Century Woodcut

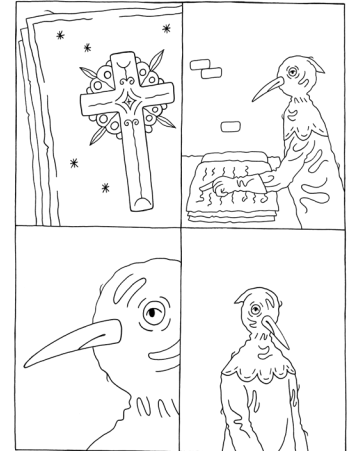
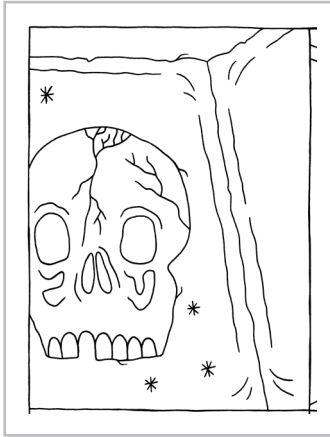


Rough Sketch



Pen





### Page 97

- 1: Caim with "The Craft of Dying."
- 2: Caption: "Dieth surely, and not die everlastingly."
- 3: Caption: "To this death commit thee fully."
- 4: Caim: "I am fully committed: for there is no cure!"

### Page 98

- 1: Caim with "The Craft of Dying."
- 2: Caption: "Also He cried on the cross."
- 3: Caption: "Also He wept on the cross."
- 4: Caim: "Wait, there is a difference?"

### Page 99

- 1: Caim with "The Craft of Dying."
- 2: Caption: "Bodily sickness cometh of the sickness of the soul."
- 3: Caption: "Therefore the Pope induced him to seek his spiritual leech."
- 4: Caim with his jar of leeches: "I beseech thee, friends!"



Man wearing a tourniquet, letting blood into a bowl. Two other bowls already filled with blood sit nearby (1675).



### Three Important Themes

## Danse Macabre

An allegory about the universality of death.

One's station in life has no meaning in the afterlife because all are equal in death.

## Memento mori

"Remember that you die."

Death is inevitable.

Skulls, hourglasses, and wilting flowers signify the impermanence of life.

## Tempus fugit

"Time flies."

"Irretrievable time."

A maxim adorning clocks and gravestones.



*Danse Macabre in Tallinn (1475/1499) by Bernt Notke*

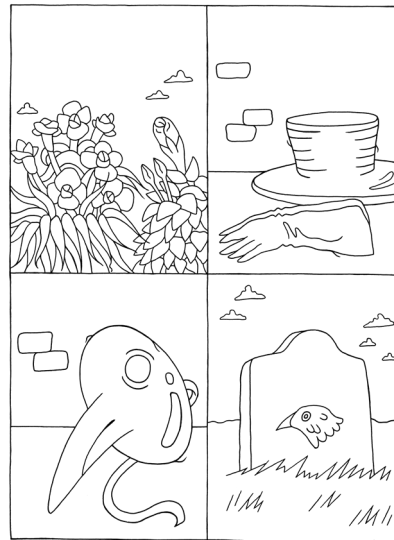


The Abbess from *Simolachri, Historie, e Figure de la Morte* (1549) by Hans Holbein the Younger.



*Vanitas* (1671) by Philippe de Champaigne.  
The flower represents life, the skull is death, and the hourglass is time.





100

Page 100

- 1: Flowers. Caption: "Who was the fool, who the wiseman?"
- 2: Caim's hat and gloves. Caption: "Who the beggar? Who the emperor?"
- 3: Caim's beak. Caption: "Rich or poor, all are equal in death."
- 4: Tombstone: Doctor Caim

The End

Thank you for joining us on Doctor Caim's journey!