

Chapter Ten: "Tin's Dream"

Panel 683

May - The first buds of Spring around Easter

EXT – the shore of the park closest to Tin's cabin. ZOOM WAY OUT: a man walking toward us along the beach.

Panel 684

ZOOM IN: it's Elvis! He's smiling toward us, dressed in his signature concert white jump suit.

Panel 685

Elvis walks up to Tin's cabin and knocks on the door.

Panel 686

Tin answers, shocked! Thrilled! Drops to his knees, wearing his nightshirt. His eyes are tearing up as he looks up at the King.

TIN (reaching for Elvis' hand)

King! I knew you'd come back! Oh, the King is back!

ELVIS (a cool smile and friendly eyes)

Relax, son. It's all gonna be awright now.

Panel 687

INT the cabin just inside the door. Tin, still on his knees before the King.

ELVIS (looking down at Tin, expression of an angel blessing someone)

Simpler times are here again. You're gonna hear the birds singin' in the trees again, son. You're gonna taste that strawberry ice cream at the soda fountain ...

Panel 688

NEW ANGLE from the kitchen sink side of the cabin. Elvis has stepped a little farther into the room; he is now playing a guitar that has magically appeared, a folk guitar with a shoulder strap – add some subtle sparkle, like the residue of magic dust. His posture is upright, like a great being, but his head is oriented down toward Tin who is kneeling on the floor next to the picnic table. Elvis is playing down to him with a beneficent expression. Tin appears piously enraptured.

ELVIS

... gonna taste the butterscotch candy of life, you and your sweetheart, in your trusty convertible, sittin' in the moonlight...

Panel 689

ZOOM IN slightly on Elvis, from waist up with guitar. POV from over Tin's shoulder looking upward. Elvis' eyes are closed as he sings, head oriented up to the heavens now.

ELVIS

... gonna walk the beach in your bare feet ... see a smile on each neighbor you meet ... feel the sun in your hair ... all the good times you'll share ... you and your baby gonna dream so sweet ... yeah, simpler times are here again ... those simpler times ...

Panel 690

NEW ANGLE from the opposite side, POV from the center of the room. Elvis plays on after the words end, eyes open now, looking again down to Tin. The musical notes flow from the guitar. Tin is in a state of nirvana.

Panel 691

The SAME scene shrinks into a dream bubble above Tin, in the darkness of morning in his bed, tossing, the wool blanket twisted around him.

Panel 692

The dream bubble disappears in a tail of smoke, as Tin snaps awake, bolt upright in bed, sweat on his face, hysterical expression.

TIN

My God! Today! He's coming TODAY!

Panel 693

Tin flies out of bed, pulls on his over-alls.

TIN

Gotta get ready!

Panel 694

INT the shrine room. Tin has frantically gathered up the banner, candles, statues, rope, posters, and is turning to run out.

Panel 695

EXT Tin's cabin – daffodils have sprouted around the steps and around the foundation. Patchy grass is greening up, ferns are starting to come up in the shadows of the pines. Robins are pulling worms.

Panel 696

EXT Tin's cabin - Tin busts out through the door with his armload of stuff, headed toward the park in a big hurry.

Panel 697

EXT in the Park, POV the village, waterfront visible in the background, calm water, morning sun sparkle.

Tin, heaves a section of wooden dock onto upright logs to form a table. He's dropped his bundle on the ground.

Panel 698

NEW ANGLE, He sets up another just like the first and then arranges all the artifacts on it in an unplanned-looking, harried display.

Panel 699

NEW ANGLE, He sets another section on low logs to make a slightly raised stage.

Panel 700

NEW ANGLE He rolls some more logs in place to make seats facing the stage.

Panel 701

ZOOM OUT to see the tables and the stage from the POV of the village center, beach front in the background. Tin runs pell-mell through the park and across the village center toward Edna's.

Panel 702

Edna is sweeping the front porch, sees him whirl past her with terrified look in his eyes.

TIN (dialogue bubble behind him as he rushes through the door)
Gotta get a message to Karma!

Panel 703

INT Edna's store, at the counter POV over Tin's shoulder, elevated. Tin is writing a note on a pad on the counter.

Note in wild handwriting says:

“Karma – king's coming TODAY! Need the food at the park! -Tin”

Panel 704

EXT the store. Tin busts out through the door at a dead run. Edna is flinching back with her broom.

TIN

He's coming today, Edna! Tell everybody! In the Park!

EDNA (thought bubble)

Oh for pity's sake!

Panel 705

EXT the park. Tin is up on a stepladder stringing up the first end of the “welcome” banner between two pines.

Panel 706

EXT Karma (salt and pepper wool cardigan, jeans, clogs) walking past the end of her two-track driveway, holding a canvas shopping bag, looks down at a new daffodil blooming.

Panel 707

INT Edna's store. POV along the counter looking toward the door. Karma has walked in and is passing the counter, greeting Edna behind the counter. Edna is pointing to the pad of paper on the counter, deadpan expression.

KARMA

Good morning, Edna.

EDNA

Urgent message for you.

Panel 708

POV from behind the counter next to Edna. Karma has picked up the pad and is reading the note.

KARMA

Oh Dear. He's going to be in a real tizzy I'm afraid. Well, he's convinced Elvis is coming back today, and that Elvis will make the world right again. I guess I'd better get shopping. I promised him that I'd make picnic food for the celebration.

EDNA (slight frown)

Celebration? I don't know why you're encouraging him, Karma.

Panel 709

POV the middle of the store looking toward the counter. We see Karma in the aisle putting things in her bag, Edna in the background behind the counter looking on.

KARMA

I know. It's just such a nice idea though, as naïve as it seems to us. I thought we could just make it a picnic in the park, to celebrate Spring. I didn't want him to have to go through this obsession alone. Won't you come have a picnic? And tell everyone else too?

EDNA (dark expression)

Hmphff. 'Spose we ought to use the park one last time while we still have it.

Panel 710

QUICK TAKE, close up of Karma's face. She frowns quizzically, head cocked.

Panel 711

EXT the park. POV the edge of the park by the village. Tin is tying up the other side of the banner, stepladder moved over to the other pine tree. Banner says "Welcome Back Elvis!"

A few village folks (woman and two men) are walking by in the foreground. Tin is looking over at the people.

TIN

Hey, Lyle! Barb! Steve! The King is coming today! Come to the park soon, okay? We're having a picnic to welcome him!

Panel 712

INT Karma's kitchen. Karma is cooking macaroni, slicing vegetables, humming.

Panel 713

EXT the park. Tin sets his record player onto the table in the park. Has a few records there too.

Panel 714

POV from just behind the record player on the table toward Tin's cabin where Tin has an extension cord stretched to its length. Not long enough.

Panel 715

INT Lew's bar. Lew in his apron is behind the bar washing and organizing glasses. POV from the room looking toward the bar. Tin has walked up to the bar. Lew is eyeing him skeptically while wiping a glass.

TIN

Hey, Lew. Can I borrow your extension cord? The King's coming back today. I need it for my record player.

LEW (dry look, skeptical)

What'er you gonna do? Try to lure him here with his own music?

Panel 716

NEW ANGLE POV along the bar seeing both from the side. Tin has an earnest expression. Lew's is sarcastic.

TIN

We're having a picnic in the park to welcome him back. Karma's making food. We'll have music. The King'll speak to us. You gotta be there, Lew. Tell everybody.

LEW

Picnic huh? Whatever, Grumman. Cord's on the floor in the storeroom.

Panel 717

EXT the park just behind Tin's cabin. Tin plugs the extension cord in. A record on the player starts playing, musical notes start flowing from the speaker.

Panel 718

EXT the park, POV just behind the welcome banner and stage. Tin is arranging the Elvis items on the table. Karma is walking up with a pan covered with foil, steam rising, sets it on the table.

KARMA

I'll need help carrying the rest down, Tin. Say, nice set up you have here.

TIN

Thanks, Karma. Think the King will like it?

Panel 719

ZOOM IN on Karma's face. Concerned look, slight downward cant to face, eyes up toward Tin, like she's feeling a bit guilty about leading him on.

KARMA

Well, *we'll* all like it.

Panel 720

ZOOM OUT to see the two in full and the table and stage set up.

TIN

I'll head up to your place now.

KARMA

It's all on the kitchen table, Tin. I'll be up in a minute. I want to see if Edna will give us some lemonade.

Panel 721

NEW ANGLE POV from the village side. A few kids are gathered around at the park listening to the music, talking among themselves. Tin is back with a couple trays of food, setting them down on the table without the Elvis paraphernalia. Karma is in the background following with more food trays. Edna and a high school kid are following too with a lemonade canister and paper plates and cups, plastic forks, etc.

Panel 722

INT Ray's garage. Ray and his helper, Jerry, are working on a car. Ray is standing up wiping his hands on a shop rag. Jerry is leaning under the hood.

RAY

Whelp, let's break for lunch. We can g' down ta the park and humor ol'e Tin, have some picnic food'n see if the King *is* paying us a visit today.

Panel 723

EXT the park. Lew is there with his helper, hands in his pockets, apron on, looking around. Some more people have wandered in. TobyD and his buds are with the other kids in a group now swapping lies.

Panel 724

ZOOM IN on Lew and Edna at a table. Edna is putting out plastic utensils. Lew is leaning in smirking conspiratorially.

LEW

So, welcoming the King today, are we?

EDNA

Figure, let's have a good time in the park once more, and maybe we can talk some sense into him.

LEW

You don't talk any sense into a guy who stands to make millions. Only language they hear is dollars.

Panel 725

EXT the picnic scene, wider panel. Thurm and Maime show up. Maime's dressed like a gypsy fortune-teller, has a wild sort of 'let's party' look on her face. Thurm just looks embarrassed as usual. Wants a beer [use a small thought bubble]. Deputy Bob is at the food table filling a plate. The Burgoynes have come in, wheeling Pop in from the side of the panel. Pretty much the whole village is there, milling around, eating talking, like they have a picnic every weekend.

Panel 726

NEW ANGLE on the scene, FOCUS on Tin and Karma standing off to one side.

Tin is looking around with a worried look on his face.

TIN

I wonder when Elvis is going to show up.

KARMA

Don't worry about it, Tin. Even if he doesn't come, we're still having a nice picnic. Just about the whole village is here.

TIN

But Elvis has to come.

Panel 727

ZOOM OUT, picnic scene. Music playing. Kids running around under the big welcome Elvis banner. Teenagers in groups. Adults standing around eating and drinking. Tin is walking toward his cabin, saying something to Karma over his shoulder.

TIN

I'll go get some more records.

728

ZOOM IN somewhat, Lew is returning from his bar with a case of pop and another case of beer, is about to set them down next to the food table.

LEW (to no one in particular)

Here we go.

Panel 729

CLOSE UP of Tin, turning his head this way and that, looking seriously concerned.

TIN (thought bubble)
Where are you?

Panel 730 (wide)

POV from the village looking through the park, past the picnic to the beach where someone's started a campfire in a pit in the sand. It's a little darker now. People are sitting around the fire, many in half-silhouette, some faces in the glow of the fire, having moved on from the food table, roasting marshmallows, drinking beer, and telling stories.

RANDOM VILLAGER (can't quite tell from the distance who's telling the story)
...remember when grandpa came through the woods wearing that bearskin ...

RANDOM VILLAGER2
yeah! And then he ...

RANDOM VILLAGER3
... and she ran like the dickens when she saw that

MULTIPLE
...ha ha! Ha ha!

Panel 731

ZOOM IN on Deputy Bob and Tin standing together. Tin is gesturing to Deputy Bob. His expression suggests he's trying to explain something. Deputy Bob's expression is deadpan; he's forking food into his mouth from a plate he holds close under his chin. A couple people near them look askance.

TIN
I don't get it why he's not here yet.

732

NEW ANGLE looking at the tables and stage area. It's darker yet. A couple teenagers are arm wrestling at one of the tables. A few couples are dancing to the music at the edge of the fire light. The tables are bare of food, picked over. The rest of the people are sitting around the fire happily chatting. Tin is sitting by himself, dejected, on the stage under the sagging banner, head resting in his hands.

TIN (thought bubble)
Guess he's not coming after-all. Maybe it all *was* just a silly dream.

Panel 733

ZOOM BACK to see the whole scene including the picnic area and the beach fire. Only a few people still near the tables, most at the beach fire now. Tin gets up and slouches down toward the waterfront. Nobody sees him. From this distance, he looks like a bent, sorry figure.

Panel 734

ZOOM IN on Tin at the waterfront, dragging a canoe (aluminum, says Grumman on the side) out of the ferns where four or five identical canoes lie. It's twilight now, slight glow from the direction of the fire, reflection on the aluminum.

Panel 735

POV from the waters edge behind Tin as he shoves off into the darkening lake.

Panel 736

FACE ON CLOSE UP of Tin paddling out, looking very somber. The beach fire and picnickers are visible in the background.

Panel 737

AT THE FOOD TABLE Karma, Edna, Lew, Thurm, and a few others cleaning up the paper plates and tables etc. Karma is looking out toward the lake.

KARMA

Poor guy. He really thought Elvis was coming to save the world today. He's been so down in the dumps lately. I hope he's alright.

LEW (sarcastic)

Chyeah, poor guy. He'll feel better when he gets his millions and we're all paved over.

Panel 738

QUICK TAKE CLOSE UP of Karma's face frowning at Lew.

Panel 739

NEW ANGLE on the group cleaning up the food table. Karma is turning her head to Thurman with a quizzical look.

THURMAN

Yeah, pretty hard to feel sorry for a guy about to cash out like that.

EDNA

Least he was generous enough to let us have one more picnic in the park before the condos start going up.

Panel 740

QUICK TAKE CLOSE UP of Edna turned toward Karma. Her expression is poison.

EDNA

I don't bet you're too sorry about all this, are you Karma? You and Tin have been seeing a lot of each other lately.

Panel 741

ZOOM OUT to see the group at the food table. Karma is lit up with anger and is leaning in with her fists on her hips. The others are now standing in a group looking blown back and shocked, brought up short at Karma's fiery scolding.

KARMA (pissed off)

What?! You think he sold this land to the developer? He didn't tell you?!

EDNA, LEW, THURM (at once)

No. tell us what?

Panel 742

ZOOM IN on Karma's angry face.

KARMA

He donated every square inch of this land to the conservancy. He *GAVE* it to them so it'll never be developed. All he's keeping is a life estate to the cabin so he has a place to *live*. So *you* all can have all the picnics here you want!

Panel 743

ZOOM OUT to see the whole gathering including the beach fire people.

The couples have stopped dancing and are listening to Karma's raised voice. A couple of the people sitting around the fire have their heads turned toward Karma, listening. [Question mark thought bubbles.]

KARMA (hot, bigger letters)

You really thought he was going to put condominiums up here? He grew up in this park for goodness sake! He gave up all that money, because he cares more about the village than that, and you've been thinking all this time that he was just going to sell out and grab the money and run?!

Panel 744

POV from the group around the fire, waist level so looking up at Karma reading the riot act to the group standing by the food table. Karma's arm is extended fully and finger pointing out toward Tin in the lake, so pointing right past our POV. A couple expressions in the foreground are alarmed. The group by the table is shell-shocked.

KARMA

Look at him out there. He feels miserable, and none of you have said a kind thing to him in months. And he was so nervous the whole day today about getting this welcome Elvis thing right, that he didn't even eat a single thing at his own picnic. All he wants is for the village to be happy. That was the whole reason behind this 'second coming' of Elvis anyway.

Panel 745

ZOOM IN to Karma's head and shoulders, heat still rising in her diatribe.

KARMA

I wish he'd said something to you all; then *maybe* you wouldn't a been so mean to him, but he's just too humble!

Panel 746

ZOOM OUT to see the whole gathering, different angle from last time.

The folks look ashamed. Hanging their heads, their eyes cast down

a few scattered THOUGHT BUBBLES - “Tin, gave up all that for us?”, “Wow, he let all that money go?”, “the park’s not being paved over?” “Wow, what a sacrifice.” “We’ve been such meanies”

Panel 747

POV the park side of the group around the fire. We’re looking just above their heads way out to the lake where Tin sits in his canoe. The heads in the foreground are all turned toward Tin. It’s deep twilight now. Tin’s lonely figure is in silhouette. The fire’s down to a faint orange glow with smoke curling up.

Panel 748

POV the village side of the food table, the aftermath of Karma’s scolding. Edna is heading resolutely toward her store.

Ray is speaking to Jerry.

Lew is leaning down to Norman, asking him something. Norman is nodding his head yes.

EDNA

Well he needs food! I’m going to make him his favorite meatball sub.

RAY (to his helper)

Come on, Jerry, we’re working late tonight.

Panel 749

INT Edna’s store. Edna behind her counter working with determination on a meatball sub.

Panel 750

EXT the weeds and gravel behind Ray's garage where Ray and Jerry are hooking a chain from the tow truck up to Sally's front fender.

Panel 751

INT Norman's room. Lew and Norman in Norman's room at the computer. Lew is pointing to the screen.

LEW

Yeah, that one. I don't care what it costs, just win it.

NORMAN

Yes sir.

Panel 752

EXT the waterfront at the beach, the ferns where Tin pulled out his canoe. Edna and a gentleman villager she's conscripted are there wearing headlamps, Edna holding the sub-sandwich wrapped in paper and steaming, in one hand, while dragging another canoe out.

Panel 753

INT Ray's garage, Ray is working under Sally's hood; Jerry is running a disc sander on the body.

Panel 754

EXT on the lake. Edna's canoe is pulled up next to Tin's. Deep night now. Edna reaches the steaming wrapped sub out to Tin. He sees it in the cone of Edna's headlamp, and smells it. She looks humble and sympathetic. He looks resigned yet comforted by the presence of his favorite sandwich and the gesture of kindness from Edna.

THE END

EPILOGUE

Panel 755

It's a sunny and warm May day.

EXT behind Lew's.

A FedEx truck is pulled up behind Lew's. Lew is receiving a box that says eBay on the side.

NARRATION

A few days later.

Panel 756

INT Ray's garage, Sally up on the lift, Jerry putting on the last low profile mag wheel, Ray with a paint sprayer putting some finishing touches on. She's looking shiny and sharp.

Panel 757

BIG PANEL – the middle of the village center. Sally sits in the middle of the sand lot in all her shining glory. Ray and Jerry are there looking tired. Edna and Karma and a smattering of the villagers are looking on admiringly.

Lew is pulling a real Elvis jump suit out of the eBay box, holding it up for Tin, who is looking shocked, humbled, awed. The villagers are scattered around with appreciative smiles.

KARMA (looking very pleased)

Try it on, Tin.

Panel 758

POV straight on at SALLY, slight elevated angle. Tin is at the wheel with his Elvis glasses and jump suit on wearing a big grin. Ray is holding the passenger door for Karma.

Panel 759

POV behind SALLY driving out the main village dirt road. Karma's looking back over her shoulder waving. The villagers are waving back. Deputy Bob and Lew are standing together.

DEPUTY BOB

Good Ole Twilight dodged a bullet, Lew.

LEW

Yup. That we did.

DEPUTY BOB

Ya know I get to thinkin' how do you get along in a world where no one ever thinks enough is enough? everybody's angling to get more. But just when I'm thinkin' it's only gittin' worse, well, then there's Tin Grumman.

LEW

Yup. Ole Tin; I guess he's peeked behind the curtain somehow. *He* know's what enough is.

Panel 760

POV Sally coming at us along the county road, lined with pines. Blue sky and clouds, birds. The wind blowing Karma's hair back. Tin, hands on wheel, happy smile.

761

POV Tree-top altitude oblique over the county road. Sally and her two passengers are zooming along toward the horizon.

END CHAPTER TEN

FINIS