Crocus Tavern- by David Shear

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**Page 1**

Panel 1- a shot of the outside of the tavern with Merle’s narration noticeably in word balloons instead of boxes

**Merle:** “Welcome to the Crocus Tavern: an important stopping place to every adventurer in the land. For what better place is there to meet colorful characters than an unsavory dive?

Panel 2- Full body shot of Hana serving a nearby table inside the Tavern as Merle sits in the background. It is revealed that the Narration is coming from Merle.

-**Merle:** “The first of these characters is the beautiful Hana, the stressed-out tavern keeper, how does she do it?”

Panel 3- Hana turns around quickly to face Merle

**Hana:** Merle, you’re narrating again. You always narrate when you’re drunk.

**Merle:** \*Hic\* Sorry, Hana.

Panel 4- Hana gets right in Merle’s face

**Hana:** And I resent that “unsavory dive” remark.

Panel 5- Hana throws her arms up.

**Hana:** I work my butt off to keep this place in working order night after night.  And it’s not easy doing all that by myself.

**Page 2**

Panel 1: Medium shot of Merle

**Merle:** Why not hire someone then?

Panel 2: Shot back to Hana

**Hana:** Yeah, like I’m gonna trust any old shmuck with my father’s beloved tavern!

Panel 3: Close up on Hana
**Hana:** Besides its not like I *need* the help!

Panel 4: The door is smashed open

Panel 5:Sillouette shot of Hana as the dust settles

**Hana:** \*slowly between coughs of dust\* what…  the heck... was that??

**Page 3:**

Panel 1: a menacing shot of four barbarians showing their massive size compared to Hana.

Panel 2: close up on Barbarian boss’s face. Showing his scary, overconfident expression

**Barbarian boss:** You must be the owner of this establishment!

Panel 3: Medium shot of Hana, clearly scared but trying to be strong.

**Hana:** I am!

Panel 4: The Barbarian boss laughs overconfidently

**Barbarian Boss:** Well not anymore! From now on this Tavern is ours!

Panel 5: Barbarian 2 reaches out to touch Hana’s hair

**Barbarian 2:** let’s keep her around, Boss… She’s pretty!

Panel 6: Hana Slaps him in the face

**Hana:**  DON’T TOUCH ME!

Panel 7: reaction shot from Barbarian 2 looking offended and angry at the slap, and reaching for his sword.

**Barbarian 2:** Why you…

**Page 4**

Panel 1:

Kei appears blocking the sword with their own twin katana blades. While Hana braces herself for the sword in the background.

Panel 2: Kei pushes the sword away while Hana looks up behind them,

**Kei:** You guys have got a lot of nerve coming in here demanding things

Panel 3: Barbarian Boss folds his arms

**Barbarian Boss:** “And who are you supposed to be?”

Panel 4: Kei stands their ground, speaking confidently, holding their sword at their side

**Kei:** Name’s Kei. My pronouns are they and them.

Panel 5: close up shot of Barbarian boss talking. An amused look on his face.

**Barbarian Boss:** Well, I’m feeling generous little LADY.

Panel 6: close up of Kei glaring angrily. Barbarian boss speaks from off-panel.

**Barbarian Boss:** If you give us all the gold you got, we will allow you to leave with your life… sound fair… little girl?

Panel 7: wide shot of Kei holding up their sword threateningly

**Kei:** I don’t let anyone purposely misgender me 3 times… and you’ve done it twice… Don’t push your luck at this point.

**Page 5**

Panel 1: Close up on the barbarian boss speaking

**Barbarian Boss:** Well now you’re starting to piss me off little G-

Panel 2: Same shot as before but with a sword through his throat.

Panel 3: the full scene with everyone in shock as Kei’s sword is through the barbarian boss’s throat

Panel 4: Barbarian2 points at Kei and Barbarians 3 and 4 prepare their swords to attack them.

**Barbarian 2:** \*yelling\* GET THEM!!!

Panel 5: Kei motions for Hana to hide

**Kei:** Get behind the bar.

**Page 6:**

Panel 1: barbarians 3 and 4 rush forward at Kei whose back is to us in this panel in a battle-ready stance.

Panel 2: Kei does a backward somersault as 3 and 4’s swords swing downward.

Panel 3: Kei jumps forward, swords crossed and the two barbarians stand motionless in the background.

Panel 4: same shot but Kei lands and the two barbarians’ heads detach from their bodies and fly upwards in the background.

Panel 5: Kei points one of their swords at Barbarian 2 on the other side of the room.

**Kei:** three down. one to go.

**Page 7**

Panel 1: Barbarian 2 looks scared and is backing away

Panel 2: Barbarian 2 makes a break for the door

**Barbarian 2:** “I’ll remember this!”

Panel 3: Hana and Merle peek over the bar, looking shocked.

Panel 4: Kei collapses to their knees

Panel 5:Hana rushes to their aide.

**Hana:** Oh my god. Are you okay? Hold on. Let me get you some water.

**Page 8:**

Panel 1: Kei is seated on a stool next to Hana back leaning against the bar sipping water.

**Kei:** Thank you, Hana, was it? I guess my body wasn’t used to all the action. It’s been a while since I’ve had to do that.

Panel 2: Hana avoids eye contact with Kei. hands in fists scrunching her skirt.

**Hana:** Thanks for what you did… butthose guys really did a number on this place.

Panel 3: Hana looks to the side sadly

**Hana:** I don’t know if I can stay in business…

Panel 4: Kei puts their hand on Hana’s

**Kei:** I could help you fix the place back up in no time. All it’ll take is a little extra lumber. What I’m concerned about is what will happen if you’re attacked again.

Panel 5: Hana smiles and puts her hand out

**Hana:** Why don’t you work for me full time, Kei? I could use a security guard.

Panel 6: Kei laughs and shakes her hand

**Kei:** Ahahaha! Are all your job interviews this grueling? I’d be happy to!

Panel 7: Exterior of the bar, similar to the first shot but with a hole where the door was.

**Merle:** and so, the beautiful Hana finds herself no longer alone in the act of Tavern Keeping and the mysterious Warrior Kei pledges themself to the Tavern, but can they be trusted?

**Hana:** Merle! Go home! You’re drunk!

**Merle:** \*Hic\* sorry.