



PREFACE:

Story-telling has often favoured characters that innately represent (class-)privileges. The prominent, untarnished, white cis-male figure remains the perpetual focus and hero of most narratives. However, these narratives devote little or no attention to the sacrifices and deaths of (queer) women, who often only bolster the hero's exposure and victory. What happens to them after the credits? Do we simply forget about them? This walkthrough aims to tell the story of history's losers, to remind us of their legacy and commemorate their loss.



Chapter One
An Endless View

Enter Jenny, a (not so) digital femme that is fed up with representation of her peers. Whenever she feels the urge to engage in artistic labour, she performs her dissatisfaction with oppressive systems through the power of DJing and high fashion. She is a fierce debatress and uses her knowledge and charme to advance the queer agenda. When attending to political frameworks, she loves to rock a formal, yet sassy style.

Likes:

- * *prancing down the runway*
- * *flowers*
- * *equal opportunities*

Dislikes:

- * *gated communities*
- * *hand-washing delicate textiles*
- * *tuition fees*



Jenny finds herself immersed in a romantic setting. Surrounded by strangely coloured flora, she gazes into the rising sun as the sea softly waves. For a brief moment, she senses she is needed. However, she realizes that her beautiful isolation would only foreshadow her demise and that she would be forgotten. Reluctant to accept her fate, she leaves the scene to raise awareness through a performative lecture on the tragic deaths of women and the symbolism of flowerfields suspended in seemingly endless horizons.

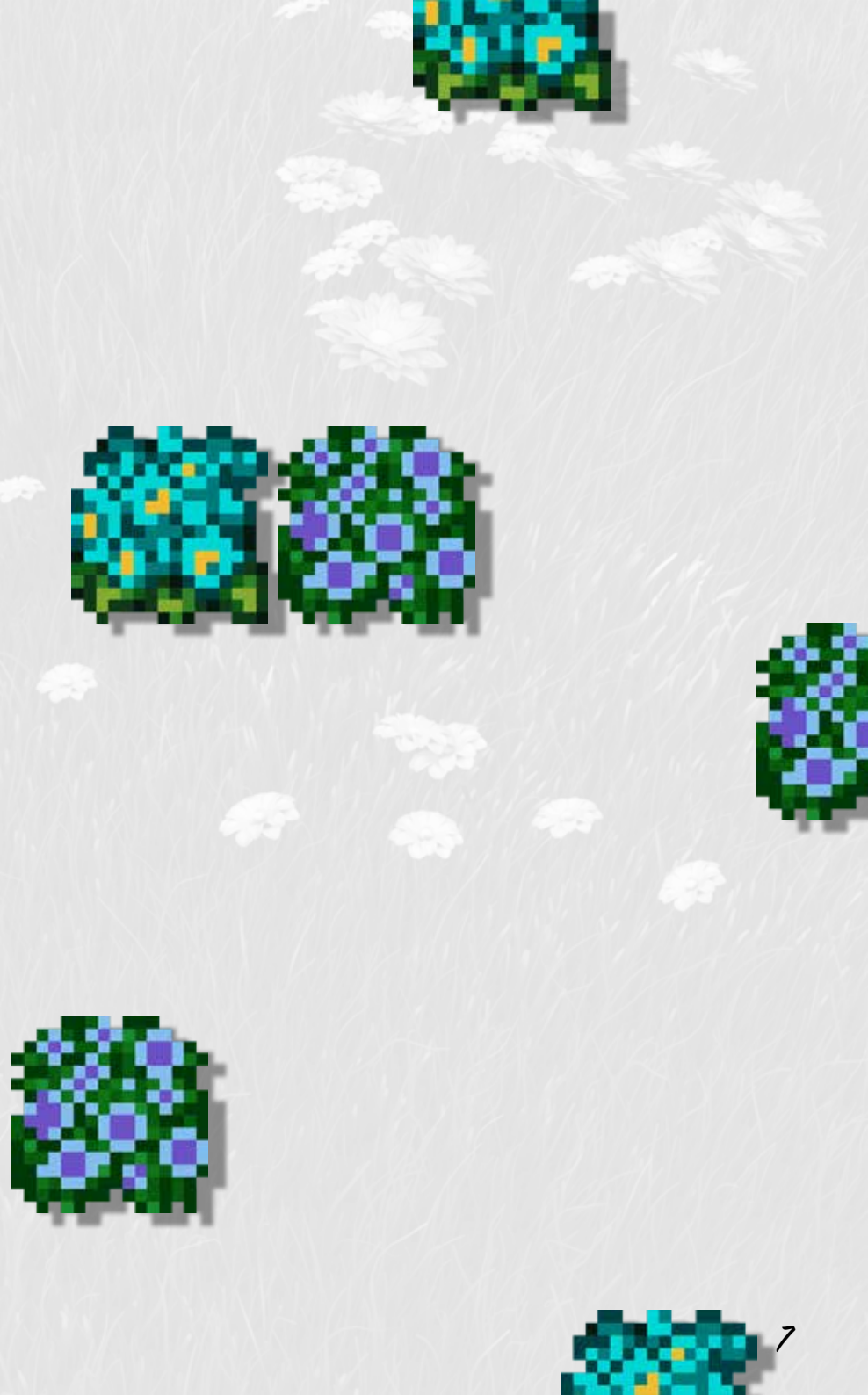




When I'm here I feel like the world revolves around me for a minute. Lushly coloured flower petals gently rain down on me as I graciously fall to the ground. My eyes shine with a pale glare while I brush a strand of hair out of my face.

What is just a backdrop for me is a foreshadowing of imminent tragedy for women who are forced into these settings by oppressive narrations. Female passivity gets amplified and aestheticized to deathly extents as the immensely vast scenery exposes the insignificance of female existence. For some of them, it's their only chance of transforming their sadness and powerlessness into a high-gloss sexy cutscene before inevitably becoming a fleeting memory...

For me, the scene fades out and I'm feeling the fantasy.





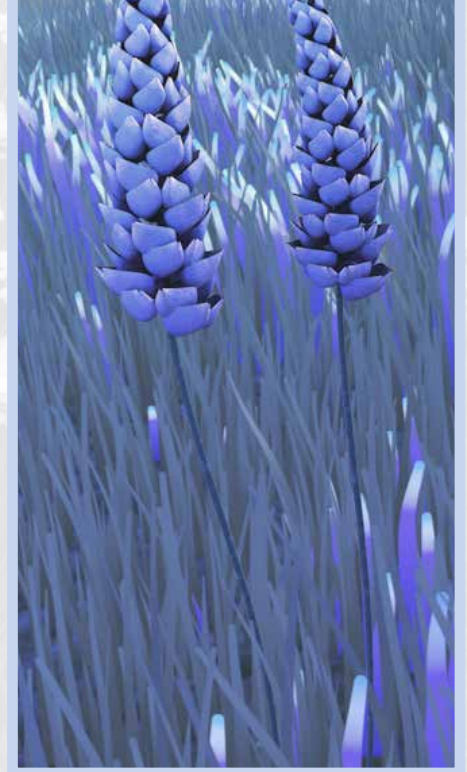
Jenny's favourite flower. Its sharp, blue petals emanate an otherworldly glaze when dew-drops softly run over them during dawn.



These snow-white coloured flowers radiate an aura of innocence. They gently sway in the wind waiting for something to happen.



This peculiarly shaped flower only blooms in moonlit nights or on other special occasions.



A soothing smell caresses your senses when near... It almost feels like you're going on a journey to a far away place.

Interlude

Falling Bodies

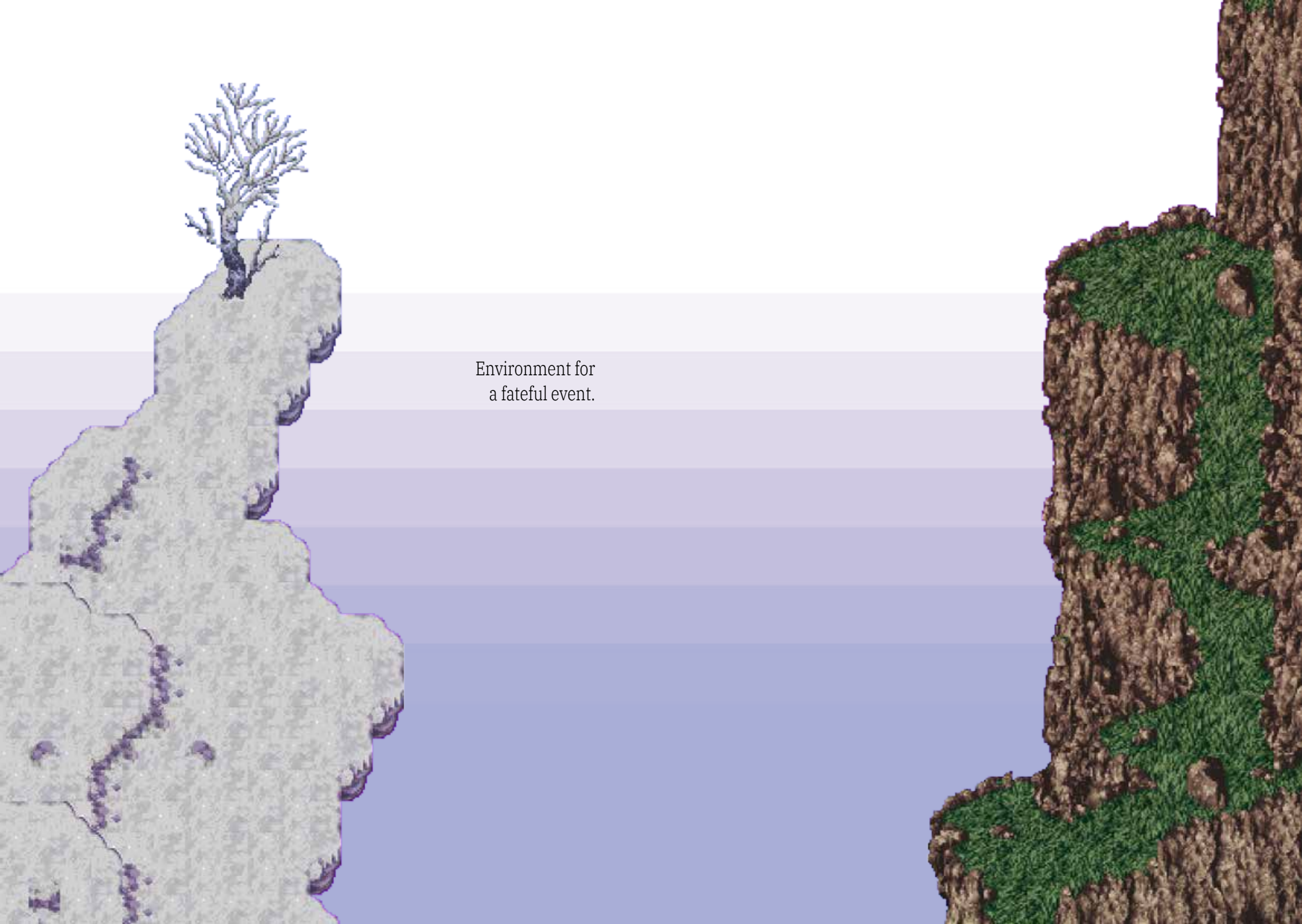
The act of falling has often been a subtle method of emphasising female powerlessness and lack of agency. For some femmes the act of falling is violent and may or may not result in their death, while for others it's a soft suspense into unfathomable depths. Non-lethal falling includes the short distance drop onto soft grounds like flower beds in nature or mattresses in domestic settings.

The category of aesthetical falling, however, allows femmes to subvert tranquilised passive falling into an autonomous falling-lifestyle. By actively choosing to fall coercive systems become visible and impactful environments of oppression transform into mere backdrops for performance.



Left to right:
(1) Iconic heroine (†) descending.
(2) Lana del Rey falling onto mattress.
(3) Lana del Rey about to fall.





Environment for
a fateful event.





Chapter Two
A Place of Remembrance

(1) *Forgotten Graves*

Jenny can interact with the graves to start the presentation on specific categories that cause death for female characters. The presentation visuals are accompanied by slides that enable a better didactic lecturing style.

(2) *A Message*

After Jenny discusses the different categories and contributes to the visibility of oppressive structures, she may choose to leave a commemorative note in the book on the lower left side of the map. When she is ready, she may choose to leave the scene...



(3) *Royal Bloodlines*

Not every royal successor has to surrender to her fate. One particular princess shows us how to stay alive...

(1)

*Category
is...*





Butch Therapy

In heteronormative story-lines “masculine” femmes have no place. Their sexual preference causes them to not be interested in the leading male character, which in turn makes it too difficult for narratives to address their complex female personalities that don’t exclusively revolve around romance. Solution: They die or they surrender to male flirt attacks and turn straight. ← (1)



Being a Royal Heiress

Your princess is once more in another castle. There, she suffers from royal inhibitions, aristocratic power structures and potentially curses her children with the same fate of royal succession. ← (2)

Hetero Futurity

Marriage, motherhood, houseworks. Powerful magic or sword-wielding femmes turn domestic and are deprived of any agency in their post-ending story-arc fantasy. Divorce is usually not considered. ↓ (3)



Neo-Christian Martyrdom

An imminent apocalypse is avoided through a dramatic sacrifice of everyone’s favourite female character. Did our girls really just die so that men could revel in their “happy ending”? ↓ (4)



- (1) Meryl Silverburgh (†),
Metal Gear Solid
 (2) Grace Kelly (†)
 (3) Celes Chère,
Final Fantasy VI
 (4) Aerith Gainsborough (†),
Final Fantasy VII

Military Gay Conversion (1)

Meryl is a butchqueen soldier who is tasked to sabotage the mission of macho protagonist Solid Snake at first. She was made gay by the military through psychotherapy, which seemingly enhanced her fighting capabilities. An anchor tattoo adorns her muscular arms. Later in the game, when she is put under hypnosis by a psychokinetically gifted enemy she turns hostile and starts shooting at Snake. The only way to prevent her from harming him is to manhandle her and knock her unconscious. At a specific point in the game, Snake is stripped topless and tortured by the antagonist Revolver Ocelot. If he is manly enough to endure this treatment, Meryl survives a particular event later in the game. In the end

she subsequently falls in love with Snake and turns straight. Together they ride a snow mobile towards the rising sun.

If Snake fails to live up to his macho persona during the torture scene, Meryl ends up being lethally wounded. As she gets struck she releases a final, lustful moan. Snake is screaming out her name in desperation.

*Top to bottom:
(a) Meryl gets rekd.*

*(b) Meryl is not impressed by Snake's
heteropatriarchal flirt attempts.*



Aristocratic Car Safety (2)

An ascension to stardom followed by royal restrictions, rumored affairs and an untimely demise: Grace Kelly's marriage into European royalty altered the course of her life tragically. Hailing from a wealthy house, Grace found her way to acting and modeling which garnered her fame and a promising career. It all changed when after her marriage she put a halt on pursuing her acting career and instead raised three children, Caroline, Albert (future heir to the Monegasque throne) and Stéphanie. Because heteropatriarchy reigns supreme in the royal house, Grace's imminent doom was predestined. As Grace and Stéphanie drove back to Monaco from their vacation residence, it is later revealed that Grace suffered a stroke that led to a fatal car crash. While Grace died in the hospital, Stéphanie lived.



It was this decisive day, that Stéphanie decided not to follow her mother's fate, but instead to step out of coercive royal systems of oppression that demand women to assimilate or to perish.



*Left to right.
(c) a deathly invitation
(d) Grace acting intimacy in
'To Catch a Thief'.*



Yes / Do (3)

Celes used to be a powerful, genetically modified general of the Gestahlian empire. Despite sporting patriarchal power she did not behave as ruthless as other (male) generals and was therefore sentenced to death. In a very intricate bondage scene she is tied to a wall and manhandled by soldiers, who proceed to bitchslap her until freed by male protagonist and treasure hunter Locke. Although Celes reluctantly joins the party, she is portrayed to be insecure about herself and pessimistic about her purpose in life. She slowly grows attached to Locke and finds herself on a rollercoaster ride of disappointment, indifference, longing for unconditional love and tragic self theorization. Additionally Locke still bothers with his feelings for Rachel, a woman that died before the

events of the game took place. Locke's guilt complex and Celes' longing for heteropatriarchy may foreshadow that their relationship is built upon unstable terrain.

When she is separated from Locke and believes him to be deceased, she tries to commit suicide, throwing herself down a cliff in despair as she cries glittering tears of hopelessness. She survives and in the end they probably marry and do all the things that are dogmatically believed to lead to a happy live.

Top to bottom.

*(e) a promise to heterofuturity
(f) a few last words before Celes' attempted suicide*



**CELES: Everyone's gone...
Even LOCKE, who promised to
watch over me...**



A Pure Soul (4)

Flower seller Aerith Gainsborough lives together with her single mother in the slums of sector 5 of the environmentally questionable city of Midgar. She often visits a run-down church in order to water a small flowerfield planted within its collapsed walls. On a certain day, Cloud, the protagonist of *Final Fantasy VII* falls through the roof of said church and safely lands on the flowerbed Aerith grew. Having to flee a military elite corps of the city's energy provider Aerith finds the future

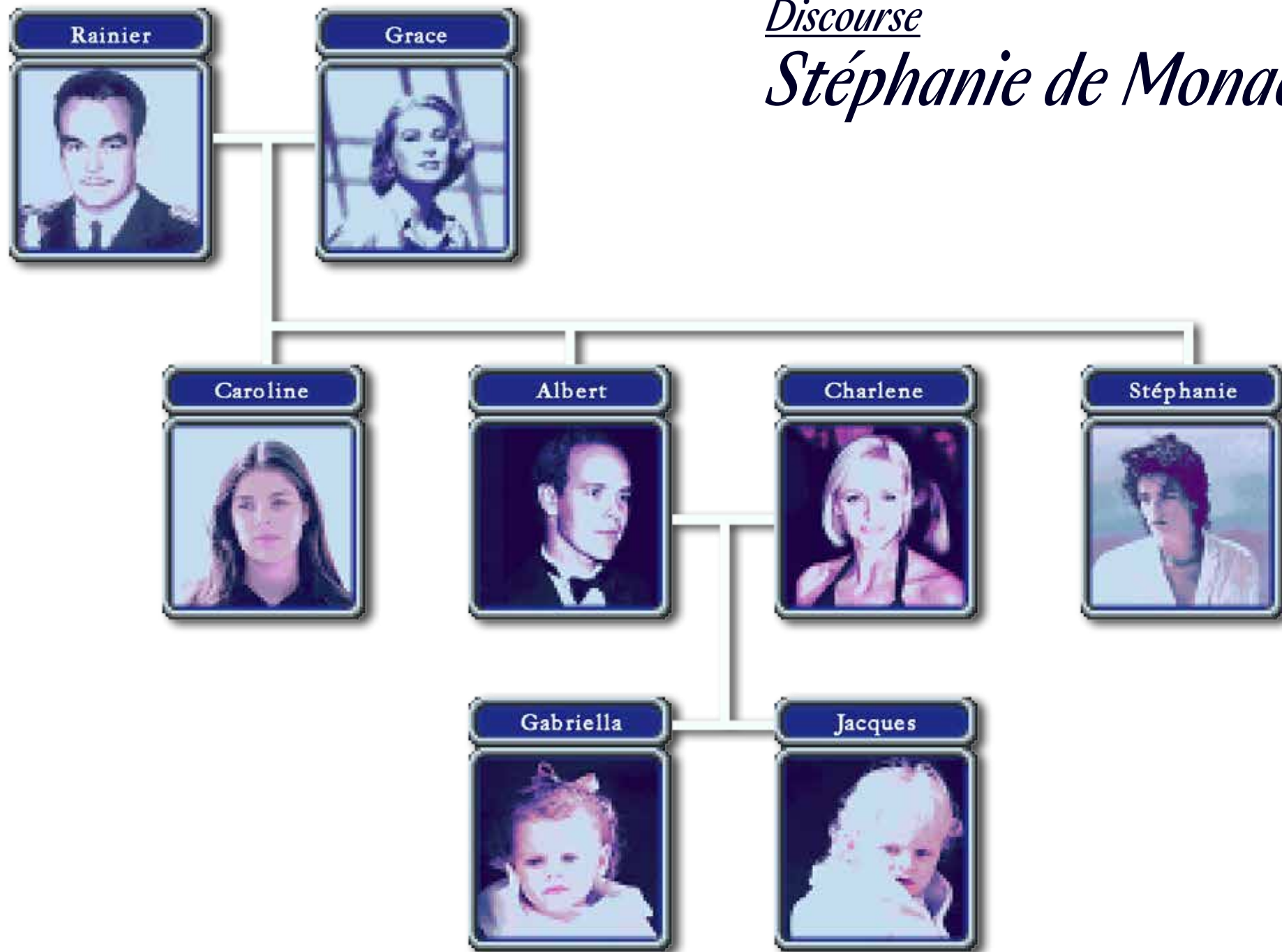
of the whole planet lying in her hands. As the plot unfolds, she is confirmed to be the last survivor of an ancient, spiritual race that is closely tied to the bio-energy of the planet itself. After the exposition of platonic romance between her and Cloud, followed by her sudden disappearance, she is found praying in a sanctum like scenery when main antagonist and fan-favourite Sephiroth impales her with a 20 meter long katana from behind. In the end the party is not capable of defending

mankind from facing disaster. Aerith is then revealed as the saviour who redeems humanity and saves the world from total annihilation at the cost of removing the human race from the face of the earth. It is unknown where exactly they disappeared to.

*Left to right:
(g) Romantic setup with religious touch.
(h) Aerith folding hands.
(i) Dramatic scene that caused millions of gaming bros to shed tears.*



Discourse
Stéphanie de Monaco



Queer Succession

Androgynous singer, swim-suit-designer and fashion model: Stéphanie de Monaco is the enfant terrible of the royal House of Grimaldi. As the daughter of Rainier III and Grace Kelly she is currently 11th in the line of succession to the Monegasque throne.

In a destined night when Grace and Stéphanie got involved in a car accident she defied her fate and lived on. As princess queer, she opposes royal determination in various ways. She invented the notion of queer aesthetic suffering, which is constantly seen in her fierce performances of her hits live and in her music videos. Her anaesthetic performances testify her struggle against royal oppression but also her hope to defy coercive birthrights.

By giving birth to an illegitimate child she removed her daughter, Camille Gottlieb, from the burden of royal succession. Since Stéphanie's schedule tends to run on the busy side, she might or might not join the gameplay.



The Royal Tomb de Monaco

This is where the royal family of house Grimaldi find eternal rest. Stephanie will not end up here, but she often visits.





Butch
Therapy

Being a
Royal Heiress

A Place of
Remembrance

Hole in
the Wall



Chapter Three
Coffee and Cake



<i>Menu</i>		
.....	<i>Tea</i>	2.50
.....	<i>Espresso</i>	2.20
.....	<i>Coffee</i>	2.20
.....	<i>Cappuccino</i>	2.70
.....	<i>Latte Macchiato</i>	2.80
.....	<i>Hot Chocolate</i>	2.80

(1) *Self Service*

This is the entrance to the Cafe. Visitors are kindly asked to place their order inside.

(2) *Take your Time*

On sunny days the terrace is inviting visitors to take a seat outside and enjoy their drinks surrounded by nature. The quietness puts you in a calm mood. You really enjoyed the moment...



Ulterior Motives

When Jenny arrives at the cemetery Cafe she sees old people enjoying their hot coffee and delicious cake. She is looking forward to having a coffee herself, but only after having finished her mission. She climbs the stage and gets ready to perform a conceptual music piece to wrap up her lecture for today.

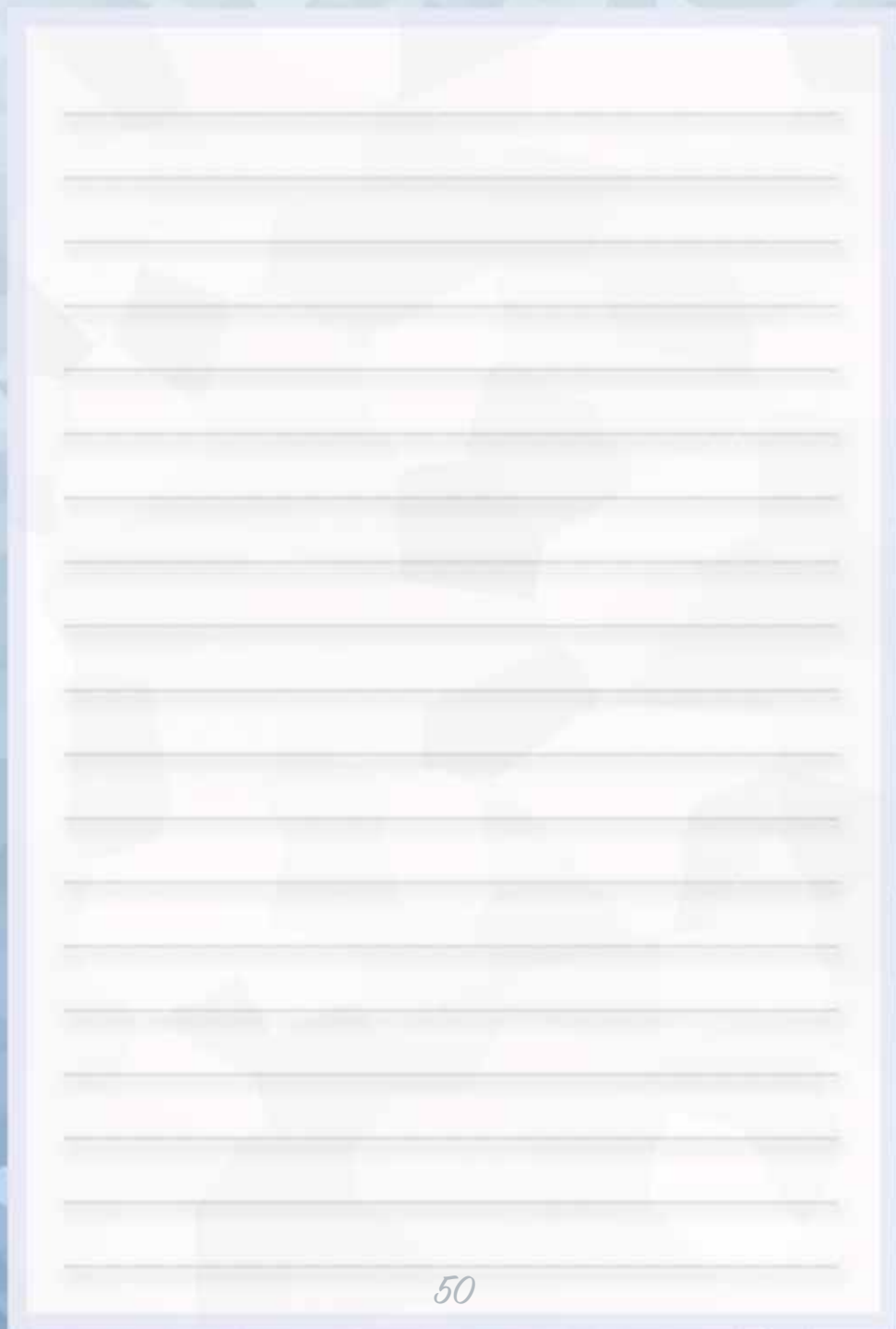


↓ Outside



*Jenny feels the weight of dying females across time and space and succumbs to her emotions.
She's comforted by her girlfriends.*

Notes:



Never Forgetti (2018)
Jan Berger
Illustration: Maria Kozlitina

