

Society of Rafa Presents #1  
Candies in their Wrappers

written by

Wren Davidson

[wren@societyofrafa.com](mailto:wren@societyofrafa.com)

## **PAGE 1 - PANELS: 6**

*Chef Galit needs Rafa to pick up bread from Communal Oven. Maya will help but is hesitant to go alone, so Galit directs her to check who is on-call.*

### **PANEL 1 - INTERIOR. HOUSE OF HEALING, KITCHEN**

Rafa Maya returns dirty plate and utensils to kitchen sink.

MAYA                                      Thanks for the meal, Chef Galit, it was refreshing~

### **PANEL 2**

Chef Galit busily chops vegetables for thick stew on the stove.

GALIT                                      You can just leave it in the sink.

MAYA                                      It's alright, I finished preparing all my Herbal Remedies for today.

### **PANEL 3**

Closeup on Galit's lined face, smiling kindly

GALIT                                      Afternoon washers will be in soon enough. Rinse it for them, tho.

### **PANEL 4**

Maya rinses the food chunks off her plate. Serene.

GALIT                                      (OFFSCREEN)  
If you want to go into town, I dropped off Zabbah Bread dough at the Communal Oven this morning and need someone to pick up the baked loaves.

### **PANEL 5**

Closeup, a distraught Maya fiddles with her thick glasses.

MAYA                                      I'm not sure... I don't like going by myself.

### **PANEL 6**

GALIT                                      Too much to carry for one person. See who's on-call in the entrance and take them along.

**PAGE 2 - PANELS: 5**

*Maya goes to recruit Frieda, who is studying. She's too anxious to ask for help directly, but Frieda knows her job today is to assist Rafa in need.*

**PANEL 1**

Maya prepares to leave the kitchen. One hand reaches for a hand pie at Galit's insistence.

GALIT (OFFSCREEN)  
Grab them a hand pie. In case they haven't eaten by now.

MAYA O-ok, then. Bye.

**PANEL 2 - INTERIOR. HOUSE OF HEALING, HALLWAY**

Closeup: Frieda sits at reception desk, studying anatomy book.

**PANEL 3**

Frieda is heads down, immersed.

Maya walks past the front desk, stealing a glance at who might be working it. (Possibly smear image of glance vs motion lines carrying her past the desk.)

**PANEL 4**

Frieda is in identical position.

Maya stands awkwardly half way to the entrance, back to Frieda. Perhaps use vibrating lines from figure to convey nervous energy.

**PANEL 5**

Frieda uses bookmark and closes book, bringing attention to Maya. Speech bubble fills space between Frieda on left and Maya halfway down hall on right.

FRIEDA (GLANCING UP)  
You need something, Maya?

Still facing away from Frieda, Maya's body stiffens. Hands by side like at attention, perhaps she squeezes the hand pie slightly too hard.



3 CONTINUED:

4.  
3

**PANEL 9**

Maya looks relieved not to have to ask.

MAYA                                      Yes, please!

**PAGE 4 - PANELS: 2**

*The Rafas arrive at the Communal Oven, joining a long line of people waiting for their bread. The town is abuzz with Council Election drama.*

**PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR. PATH APPROACHING TOWN FROM NORTH**

Frieda steers the tandem bike, with Maya in the back seat. We see the buzz surrounding a long line at the Communal Oven, perhaps small legible words like "Election" and "Zabbah dinner"

**PANEL 2 - EXTERIOR. COMMUNAL OVEN**

Larger panel: The Communal Oven predominates, with many doors/portals into the firey dome. Baker Ahava sweats away taking Zabbah bread in and out of the oven, while her assistant Leila distributes to the crowd.

Frieda and Maya stand at the back of the line, with townspeople chattering away:

CROWD

+ Councilor Boaz has stiff competition this year, but he'll keep his seat.  
 - Boaz's husband wasn't even at the debate. If your husband can't be bothered to support you, why should I?  
 + That's not fair, Ilan's been away or something.  
 - Ilan's at home. He's not even picking up the grandchildren from school anymore, just sulking in the house all day.  
 (SMALLER TEXT, AS OUR POV STOPS LISTENING)  
 + None of this is even about Boaz's opponent. Don't you think...  
 (UNINTELLIGIBLE)  
 - ...

FRIEDA

(ROLLING EYES)  
 This could be awhile.

MAYA

Maybe we should see if Baker Ahava and Leila need help?

FRIEDA

We're Rafas. Healers, not bakers.

MAYA

Standing idle too long hurts my back. Let's say hello.



**PANEL 6**

Ahava reaches for a flask.

AHAVA

Just water is fine.  
Let me know if you have any questions, Leila.





**PANEL 6**

Frieda's facial expression hides a faint smile, but Maya is beaming.

FRIEDA

But I should accompany Maya if she's delivering this week's Zabbah bread to Boaz and Ilan at home.









FRIEDA (TO BOAZ)  
City--meaning Terida?

BOAZ Yes, I had a business associate to discuss a trade proposal for Kahal artisans.  
+ We invited him to stay with us because he didn't feel as comfortable staying at the House of Rest.

**PANEL 6**

(For visual interest, we could cut away to a memory of the business associate visiting, maybe holding a kerchief or sneezing.)

MAYA Who was this friend?

BOAZ A Lumdai named Alejandro. He apologized about being a little under the weather at the time.  
+ We've been in contact since. He's fine.

ILAN (BEHIND DOOR)  
He didn't know what he had.  
+ It might have been the plague.

**PANEL 7**

BOAZ Honey, I keep telling you it wasn't the plague or I'd have brought Rafas much sooner.

ILAN You don't know.

**PANEL 8**

FRIEDA The plague is quite serious. But you said that you were very hot or felt very hot?

ILAN Both. Why?

FRIEDA Your symptoms should include chills. Has your jaw been sore with enlarged lymph nodes?

ILAN ... No.

**PANEL 9**

FRIEDA You must let us come in, to examine you.  
+ We can only do so much from out here.

**PAGE 4 - PANELS: 4**

*Frieda and Maya use Ilan's trust for an examination.*

**PANEL 1**

Frieda takes out her surgeon's mask(s), dangling from fingers

ILAN (OFFSCREEN)  
You don't think I have the plague?

FRIEDA We can't be sure without an exam.  
+ For now, we can wear some of my surgeon masks to prevent transmission.

**PANEL 2**

Frieda is already in her surgeon's mask; Maya can be in the act of tying hers on, not used to it.

Frieda starts opening the door, allowing us to **finally** stop using broken/muffled speech bubbles for Ilan through the closed door. Ilan doesn't need to be immediately visible, focus on clutteredness of the room.

ILAN (NORMAL SPEECH BUBBLE)  
Ok. Leave my husband in the hall.

MAYA (TO BOAZ)  
Are you okay with that?

BOAZ (LIKELY, OFF-SCREEN)  
Of course!

**PANEL 3 -- POSSIBLY TABLEAU THAT BLENDS INTO NEXT PANEL**

Ilan stands at the back of the room in house robes. There is a small fireplace next to him burning.

There are half-eaten meals across the room. The room is untidy, but the dishevel indicates Ilan has been actively making his way around the room. Perhaps there are books everywhere, not merely in the nest of their two-person bed. Perhaps there is a well-used vantage point by the window for spying out.

MAYA You look active enough. I expected you to be bed bound.

ILAN I get a little stir-crazy.  
+ I've been alone in here for over a week.

**PANEL 4**

(CONTINUED)



**PAGE 5 - PANELS: 5**

*Maya's examination of the patient.*

**PANEL 1**

Maya walks towards Ilan, gingerly reaching for his forehead.

MAYA                                    May I approach?  
+ Are you feeling weak or need an Energy Boost?

ILAN                                    Aye, any energy you could spare, Rafa Maya.

MAYA                                    Let's move to the bed, please.

**PANEL 2 -- OVERSIZED IMAGE**

Maya stands over Ilan, arms stretched from above to down where he sits on the bed. Light emanates from above Maya, moving in sine waves through her figure towards Ilan's core.

**PANEL 3**

Maya reaches for Ilan's forehead.

MAYA                                    I'd like to take your temperature.  
+ And check your neck and lymph nodes.

**PANEL 4**

Maya sits on the bed, looking down on the horizontal Ilan.

MAYA                                    My healing was successful, but it helped less for you than I thought it would.  
+ How do you feel?

ILAN                                    Slightly better. But I hope that you can tell what is wrong with me. I cannot risk Boaz's health.

MAYA                                    We will see what Frieda gets from the wax divination.

**PANEL 5**

Maya makes her way towards the windows to draw the curtain back.

MAYA                                    We could do with some more light and air.

**PAGE 6 - PANELS: 5**

*Frieda's wax divination.*

**PANEL 1**

Boaz returns with the vase of fresh water, handing it to Frieda at the doorway.

**PANEL 2**

Frieda returns, pouring the water into the bowl.

**PANEL 3 -- OVERSIZED VERTICAL IMAGE**

Frieda holds the lit candle over the bowl, as the wax melts. It dribbles into the bowl, where it hits the room temperature water and stiffens.

**PANEL 4 -- MINIATURE IMAGE**

Closeup: The candle flame is snuffed, as if by a gust of wind.

MAYA

(OFFSCREEN)

Oh, no, I've ruined your reading by letting the wind extinguish your candle!

**PANEL 5**

Closeup of Frieda taking off her mask. Eyes are closed, mouth betrays only the slightest smile, reminiscent of end of Act 1.

FRIEDA

(DISPASSIONATELY)

The Light cuts through any darkness.  
+ The ritual is complete.



FRIEDA (CONT'D)

That candle wanted to go out, and I didn't even feel a breeze from the window.

**PANEL 5**

MAYA

We can't just do nothing.  
+ You can't tell Ilan that nothing is wrong, and to just "get over it!"

FRIEDA

Hm, you're right. His spirit is in turmoil over something causing his body to feel the stresses. We need to soothe the spirit.

**PANEL 6**

Boaz in the kitchen, taking the kettle off the flame. It is no longer screaming, perhaps only hissing.

BOAZ

Will you have any Herbal Remedies for Ilan? Do I need to keep the kettle warm?

## **PAGE 1 - PANELS: 1**

*Frieda and Maya strategize, concluding that they need to set the mind at ease by acknowledging its struggles.*

### **PANEL 1**

A full page image of the Book of Spirits entry on the Evil Eye. The dialogue is mini talking heads, like a chat thread adding another layer of commentary on the Midrash-like entry.

Text of book, can be abridged for comic:

"Every human has two spirits who follow them like shadows. One feeds on your evil inclination; the other on your good inclination.

"Your evil inclination is not all evil. It contains our base drive to eat and survive, but it also yearns for more than we need.

"Your evil shadow absorbs your jealousy- your envy of others wealth and children or your private disdain of another. It whispers your worst instincts back into your ear.

"Your evil shadow may cause harm to your neighbors without your consent. Your unkind words and expressions of jealousy point the shadow's evil eye at another. They harm others without your consent and encourage other spirits to join them in their malicious deeds. That is why you must never gossip or speak ill of others.

"Bragging about your good fortune attracts evil eyes on yourself and brings you and your offspring sickness and bad luck.

"Those who wish to do evil to another, learn to curse others with their shadow's eye. This of course is a crime of the highest proportions.

"Your good shadow tries to thwart your evil shadow. It serves as a second conscious. The work of all humans is to feed your good inclination and limit our evil inclination.

"When someone has become afflicted by the evil eye, then you should feed them sugar & juniper.

"Commentary

"In my work I have yet to see any evidence of the two shadows and evil eye. -Rafa Shai

"It is a debate among young Rafa of every generation whether the two shadows and the evil eye truly exist as a cause of physical and mental ailments. I too used to have such thoughts. But it is best to take care.

(CONTINUED)





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BOAZ

My grandchildren really miss him picking them up from school, but I'm positive my old man misses them more!

**PANEL 6**

MAYA

Yes, that could be perfect! Please see about the juniper while you are out.  
+ We'll go talk to Ilan again.



**PANEL 6**

Ilan holds the tea close to his face.

ILAN

(APPREHENSIVE)  
Not that I don't appreciate it, but I hope you  
have more in store for me.



**PANEL 5**

Another closeup of the door. Use speech bubbles with small/illegible text to simulate noises and drawers behind the door.

A breeze or wind indicating motion at the bottom of the door, and a small wrapped candy.

**PANEL 6**

Noa reaches down, elated to unwrap the candy and toss it in her mouth.

NOA

(MUFFLED)  
Tanks, Grandpa! Get vell swoon!

**PAGE 5 - PANELS: 3**

*Noa remembers to give juniper to Rafas and then departs. Rafas support that Ilan's got to let people in on his own time.*

**PANEL 1 IN CONTRAST TO LAST PAGE, THIS PAGE IS FROM BEDROOM POV**

An envelope slips into the bedroom. Rafas reach to pick it up.

NOA (OFFSCREEN)  
S'his should help zoos! Bye...

BOAZ (OFFSCREEN)  
It's the juniper you asked for, Rafa Maya.  
+ I'll see Noa back to her house.

MAYA Thank you, sorry for the trouble!

**PANEL 2**

Maya holds the open envelope, reaching on her belt for cubes of sugar.

MAYA These look fresh, so I won't need to rehydrate them.  
+ I'll start mashing these with sugar.

**PANEL 3 OVERSIZED**

Ilan wrings his hands, dismayed. Frieda has a hand on his shoulder but her face betrays a mixed empathy.

Plant a picture of the empty Anxiety Tincture next to Ilan, indicating that he took the medicine.

ILAN Noa, she shouldn't be here. I could still be infectious.  
(GLANCING AT FRIEDA)  
+ I know \*you\* don't think so. But one word from you doesn't convince me to abandon all \*caution\*.

FRIEDA You told them to stay outside. They complied.

ILAN I suppose so.

FRIEDA He probably wanted to show you how much they care.  
+ She missed you. Did you want to see her?

ILAN Naturally, but Boaz \*knows\* he's pushing me. I wanted to recover fully first.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ILAN (CONT'D)

He's used to powering through whatever on the Kahal Council, but our home isn't like that.

FRIEDA I take it he enjoys sleeping on the couch. How long's that been, then?

ILAN ...a bit over a week.

FRIEDA I wouldn't hold this against him. Bad sleep can get to anyone. I'd know.

ILAN Perhaps he doesn't always get his way.

FRIEDA You have more power in this relationship than you realize.





**PAGE 8 - PANELS: 6**

*Rafas tell Ilan about the Good/Bad Inclinations.*

**PANEL 1**

Have some fun with this one. I'm thinking about visualizing the Good/Evil Inclinations on Ilan's shoulders. Perhaps a radiant biblically-accurate Angel and a dark tear of mouths and eyes (like Sandman's depiction of Azazel or Hellsing's shadows of Alucard).

FRIEDA                                    Have you heard of the Two Shadows?

ILAN                                        You mean the kids' tale? The angel and demon who sit on your shoulders, like a conscience?

**PANEL 2**

Closeup of the Evil Inclination.

FRIEDA                                    Right, but even the Evil Inclination isn't all bad. Overabundance can be gluttonous, but eating nothing starves us to death.

**PANEL 3**

Closeup of skeptical Ilan, sniffing himself.

ILAN                                        Sorry, but that doesn't sound right. I'm eating and taking care of myself in here.  
+ Maybe I could do with another wash.

**PANEL 4**

Frieda shots a look at Maya to step in.

MAYA                                        By the same token, tho, the Good Inclination is capable of harm.

**PANEL 5**

Closeup of the Good Inclination.

MAYA                                        Protecting others is noble, but the overzealous parent can smother the child.

**PANEL 6**

Maya holding the bowl with Ilan.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

14.  
8

MAYA

Balance is the key to health: spiritual and  
bodily.  
+ Could you trust us to find balance with you?

ILAN

I can.





A silhouette of Baker Ahava with a loaf of bread on her peel. The Rafas in the background: Frieda has an amused smirk, while Maya is dismayed.

FRIEDA

Baker Ahava, are the Zabbah bread for the Society of Rafa ready for us?

AHAVA

You kidding? Chef Galit already sent more to collect when you didn't return. Must have assumed you were caught up being Rafas.  
+ Hurry home to the House of Healing, to catch it while it's still warm!



**PAGE 12 - PANELS: 5**

*Reveal that Ilan was with grandchildren, here to support Boaz. Election results come in, but grandchildren start celebrating before hearing results.*

**PANEL 1**

Reveal that Ilan is in public, dressed nicely. He's holding hands with two more of his grandchildren: Ari (12) and Kira (9).

ILAN                                   ... right before the election results!

**PANEL 2**

BOAZ                                   You're here?!

ILAN                                   Surprise--I set up another appointment with Rafas Frieda and Maya to be sure I'm not infectious.  
+ I didn't want to tell you, in case I had to disappoint you.

BOAZ                                   + You've never disappointed me yet.

**PANEL 3**

Ilan and Boaz kiss.

**PANEL 4**

Everyone turns their heads towards the town square. The grandchildren have their hands in Ilan's pockets, with some indication that they are grabbing large handfuls of wrapped candy.

TOWN CRIER                           Without further ado, we're ready to share results from the village election!

**PANEL 5 OVERSIZED**

The grandchildren shower everyone with a confetti of Ilan's candies. Kira is canonically non-verbal, so give special flair to her joy in tossing the candy as expression.

ILAN                                   Hey, celebrate after! No results were announced yet.

NOA                                   Celebrate!

BOAZ                                   Yeah, the election itself was a success!

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

20.  
12

NOA

Hooray!