

**Steam Bar**  
**“Gentlemanly Duty”**

**By: Amanda Zimmermann**

**Page 1:**

Colt wanders down the darkening streets of Steam on his way to Steam Bar. He pushes in the bar doors when he enters and sees Sallie overseeing the crowd, all dolled up with nowhere to go while Tom tends the bar. Colt makes a beeline for Sallie but she excuses herself before he can chat her up. Dejected, he joins a game of cards with Vernon. Lily is sitting nearby, roaring drunk and hitting on anything with two legs, including the broken stool in the corner.

**Page 2:**

She tries to butt in on the card game, flirting mercilessly with the men and trying to throw herself at Colt. Sallie finally asks Colt if he'll take Lily home before she makes more of a scene. She promises to repay him for the trouble and, wanting to impress her, he agrees. Colt is all smiles as he leaves the bar with Lily in tow. They pass a traveling preacher entering the bar as they leave. The Preacher watches them as they make their way down the street, utterly disgusted by the sight of Lily stumbling along on Colt's arm.

**Page 3:**

He assumes the worst and discreetly follows them through town, muttering to himself about saving her immortal soul from man's lecherous clutches. Hoping to grab Lily from Colt the Preacher sends out a horde of clockwork church mice. Colt fends them off while expertly protecting a mostly unconscious Lily, twirling her, dipping her, and performing some impressive acrobatics while fighting. He smashes the mice as he goes.

**Page 4:**

Colt finally manages to get Lily home, only to find her house is a fine example of womanly disarray. Stuff is everywhere and there might be something living in the kitchen. He tucks Lily into bed and decides it's his gentlemanly duty, and for the good of humanity, to clean up for her. That is until the door slams into the room revealing two bible-thumping Sermonbots.

**Page 5:**

The Preacher watches with a mounting rage from outside the house as Colt defends himself against the heavy-handed bible swings. He manages to disassemble them while further destroying the house in the process. Now he has to clean up - lest Lily find out what happened.

**Page 6:**

As the sun rises, an exhausted Colt finishes sweeping Lily's front porch. Everything inside the house is neat and orderly now. He hears Lily's alarm go off and goes to rouse her. She's sprawled

across her bed, still dressed, dead to the world, and snoring like a lumberjack. No matter what he does she won't wake up.

**Page 7:**

Colt decides that, as sheriff, it's his duty to nurture the youth of Steam in Lily's stead. The Preacher, still miffed about his broken Sermonbots, picks through the pile of bot pieces that Colt dumped out by Lily's back shed. He sees Colt leave the house carrying an unconscious Lily and assumes that her soul has been sentenced to eternal damnation. Colt ties Lily to his saddle, in case she wakes up, and sets off.

**Page 8:**

-Flashback-

The preacher, a bit younger, is praying in a small, simple bedroom. He asks god to save his sister's soul for she knows no what she does. Behind him through an open door, his sister can be seen dressed provocatively and glowering at him. A carpet bag is packed and at her feet. She tells him that she's becoming a call girl because the money is good and she likes the work. He bemoans her loss even louder as she rolls her eyes and he vows to never let another precious soul be led astray while there is breath in his lungs.

-End Flashback-

The Preacher follows Colt and Lily, sees them enter a building, and then sneaks off to prepare to "rain down righteous retribution on the souls of the wicked".

**Page 9:**

Colt arrives in the classroom to find everything in chaos. It's show and tell day and the children have arrested a dizzying array of unconventional show and tell items. Colt props Lily up in her chair and several of the kids present their items with few mishaps before the wall of the classroom crashes in.

**Page 10: Splash Page**

The Preacher is outfitted in a steambot contraption he has dubbed the Angel of Judgement. It's huge and dwarfs Colt and the children, looming over the half destroyed classroom through the hole he's smashed in the wall.

**Page 11:**

Colt protects Lily, the children, and himself from the Preacher using the kids show and tell items while being accused of lecherous, adulterous acts. The children cheer from the sidelines, excited by all the action. Colt tries to explain that it was his duty to ensure that Lily get home safely but the Preacher is so lost in his righteous fury that he won't listen.

**Page 12:**

The fight continues until Vernon bursts in demanding to know what the commotion is. Everyone freezes and Lily jolts awake, startled out of her hungover sleep by Vernon's bellows. He scolds Colt as an irresponsible sheriff and tells Lily to keep control of her class. The Preacher realizes

his mistake but without waiting for explanations Vernon sentences all three of them to detention for destruction of school property.