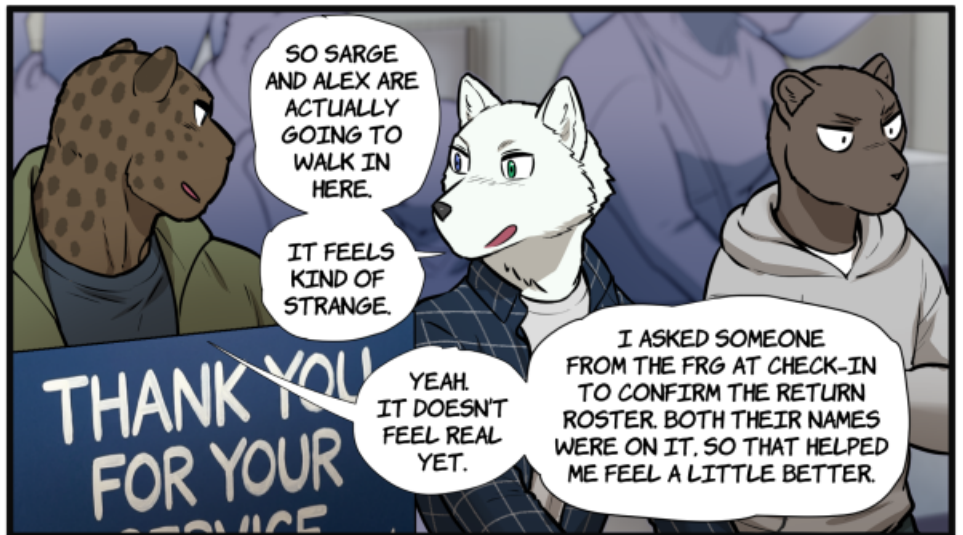


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER.



132ND INFANTRY DIVISION
1ST BATTALION
BRAVO COMPANY
1ST & 2ND PLATOONS
HOMECOMING CEREMONY
FORT BURROUGHS
GYMNASIUM.





WE'D BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR THIS DAY.



WE'D ONLY LEARNED THE DATE OF THEIR HOMECOMING ABOUT TWO WEEKS EARLIER.



WE GOT AN EMAIL FROM THE FRG SAYING CHARR'S PLATOON WAS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO FORT BURROUGHS.



WE'D BEEN LIVING IN FEAR THAT THE WORST NEWS COULD COME AT ANY MOMENT. WHEN THAT EMAIL CAME, WE COULD FINALLY BREATHE AGAIN.



BUT, TO BE HONEST, I STILL COULDN'T SHAKE THE BAD FEELING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND. I KNEW I WOULDN'T REALLY FEEL OKAY UNTIL I SAW THEIR FACES.



COAL SEEMED TO FEEL THE SAME WAY. EVEN AT THE CEREMONY, HE STILL LOOKED TENSE AND UNEASY.





COAL,
IT'S OKAY.

MAYBE
SOMETHING'S
JUST A LITTLE
DIFFERENT TODAY.

LET'S LOOK FOR
THEM AFTER THE
CEREMONY.



.....



I KEPT TELLING MYSELF,
"THERE HAD TO BE
SOME REASON FOR THIS,"
AND TRIED TO STAY CALM.

THE CEREMONY ONLY LASTED
ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES,
BUT TO ME, IT FELT LIKE
IT WOULD NEVER END.



I SEARCHED
THE FORMATION
DESPERATELY FOR
CHARR AND ALEX...
BUT I COULDN'T
FIND EITHER
OF THEM.

AND THEN-

RAVEN ONE,
RAVEN TWO. YOU
HAVE COMPLETED
YOUR DEPLOYMENT
AND RETURNED HOME.
WE ARE PROUD OF
YOUR DEDICATION
AND COURAGE.



THIS CONCLUDES
TODAY'S CEREMONY.

DISMISSED!







ARE YOU HERE FOR SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CHARR GADOT AND CORPORAL ALEXANDER PROWESS?



YES... WE ARE...



THERE'S SOMETHING
I NEED TO EXPLAIN
ABOUT BOTH
OF THEM...

TO BE CONTINUED...