



20 YEARS AGO...



SANNA
HYSHURR, DAUGHTER
OF KING TYNAN AND
QUEEN ETIA.

YOU
ARE CALLED FOR
PUNISHMENT ON YOUR
REFUSAL TO DO YOUR ROYAL
DUTY TO CALL FOR JUSTICE
FOR THE LATE
QUEEN ETIA.

YOUR REFUSAL
TO RETRIBUTE WITH WAR
HAS YOU STANDING AT
JUDGEMENT TODAY.

HOW DO
YOU PLEAD.



SHE WAS FOUND
WITH A GARDLIAN
SWORD EMBEDDED
IN HER CHEST.

THAT
TERRIBLE GARDLIAN'S
HAND WAS ON
THE HILT.

SHE WAS
KILLED BY HIM SANNA,
IN COLD BLOOD.

AND YET
YOU REFUSED TO GO
TO WAR!

I REFUSED
BECAUSE I UNDERSTOOD
THE IMPLICATIONS OF GOING
TO WAR WITH SUCH
WEAK CREATURES!

WAR
WITH THEM WOULD
BRING NO HONOUR,
ONLY SUFFERING!

FOR
BOTH OF OUR
KINGDOMS!

MY
MOTHER WOULD'VE
NOT WANTED THIS
ZARIAH-

KING.

IT'S KING
ZARIAH
NOW...

WAR
IS THE WAY
OF OUR PEOPLE
SANNA...

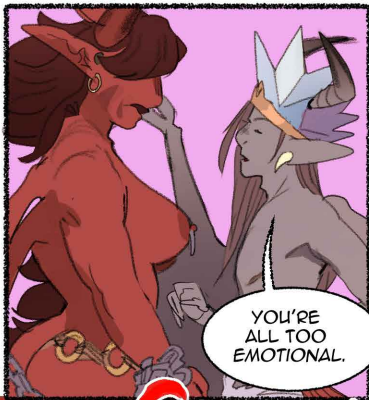
I
WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT A QUEEN
UNDERSTOOD
THAT.

ESPECIALLY
THE *GREAT* WARRIOR
QUEEN, SANNA.

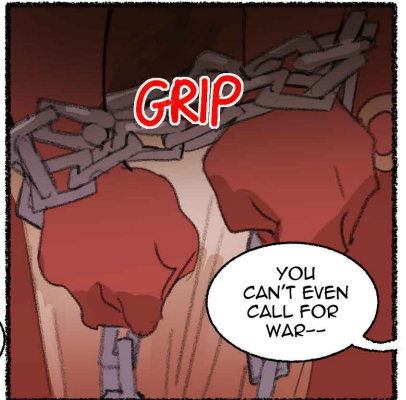
HA.



THIS IS
EXACTLY WHY
WOMEN SHOULDN'T
RULE SANNA...



YOU'RE
ALL TOO
EMOTIONAL.

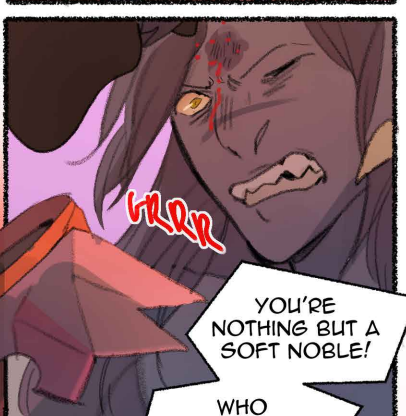


YOU
CAN'T EVEN
CALL FOR
WAR--

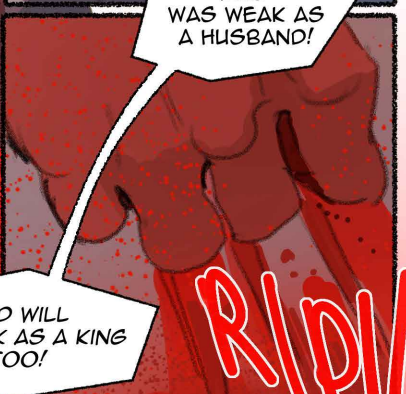


YOU
KNOW
NOTHING
OF WAR!

SLAM!!



YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT A
SOFT NOBLE!



WHO
WAS WEAK AS
A HUSBAND!

RIP!!



GRRR
MY
MOTHER
FOUGHT FOR
PEACE IN THE
DESERT!



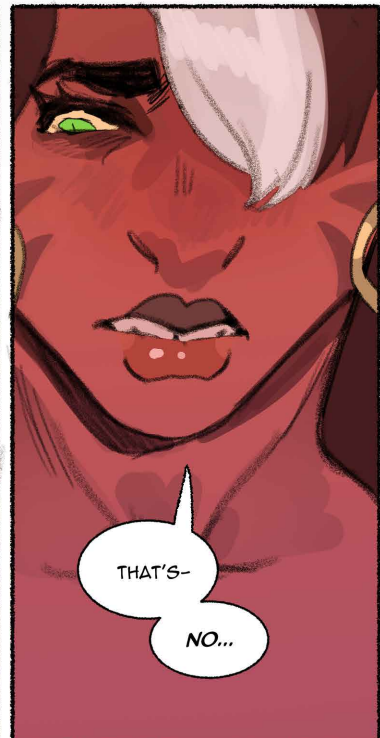
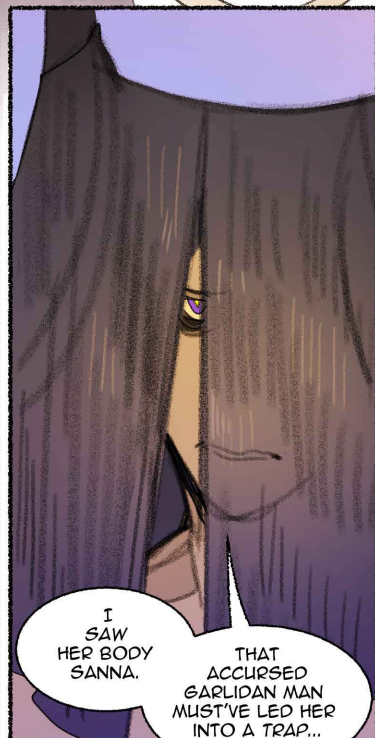
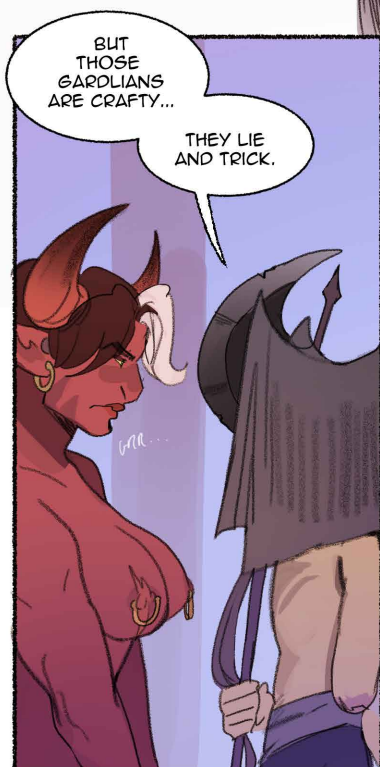
JUSTICARS
PUNISH HER!



GRRR
I
WILL NOT
LET YOU BURN
HER WORK!



SANNA.





SANNA, AS
HEAD JUSTICIER,
I CALL UPON OUR
LAWS EMBEDDED
INTO OUR FAITH.

OUR
GODDESS
CALLS FOR JUSTICE
THROUGH WAR AND
YET YOU HAVE
FAILED IN
YOUR DUTY.

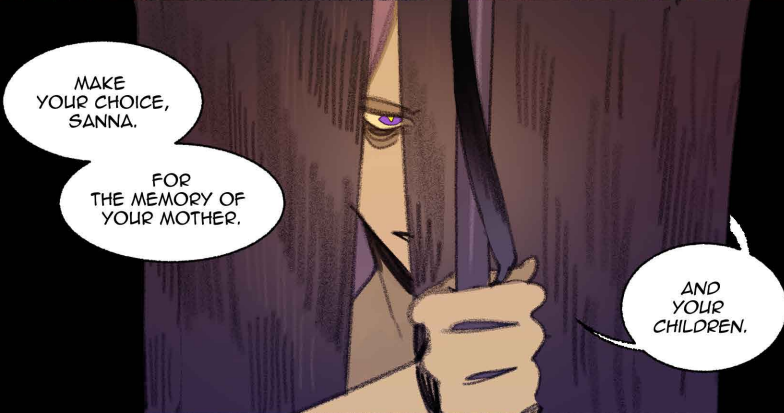
I
DECLARE
YOU GUILTY.



N-NO.
SHE-



S-SHE
DIDN'T...



MAKE
YOUR CHOICE,
SANNA.

FOR
THE MEMORY OF
YOUR MOTHER.

AND
YOUR
CHILDREN.



DEATH.

OR
EXILE.





KNEEL

**YOU
HAVE CHOSEN-**

PUSH

FALSE

AND NEVER
SHINE YOUR FACE
UPON OUR SANDS
ONCE MORE.

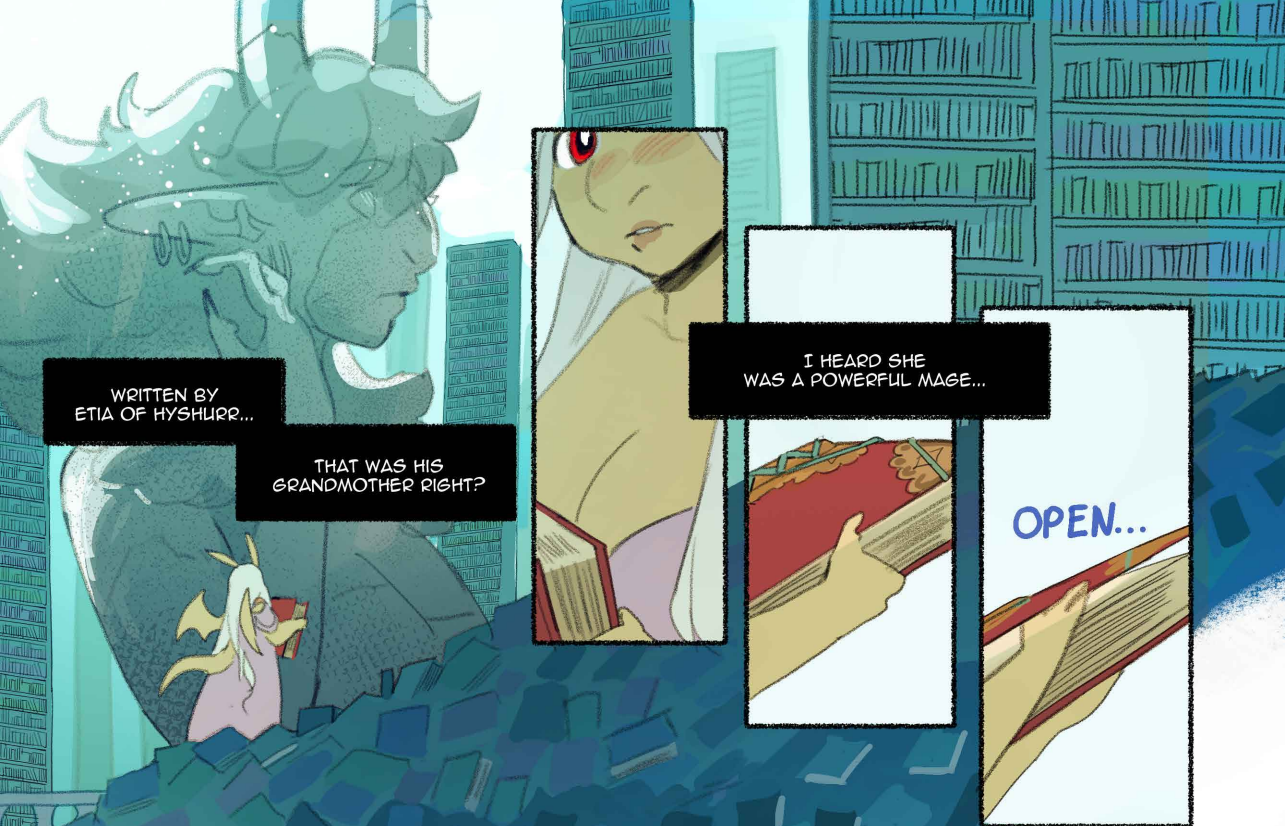


CLINK

SANNA-

CLENCH





WRITTEN BY
ETIA OF HYSHURR...

THAT WAS HIS
GRANDMOTHER RIGHT?

I HEARD SHE
WAS A POWERFUL MAGE...

OPEN...

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE DOING
THAT!

SNAP!

... THERE
WAS A WRITTEN
ORDER...

BUT MY
SUPERIORS
SAID YOU WEREN'T
ALLOWED--
SURELY
YOU MISSED
IT.

WE DON'T
WANT TO DELAY
THE DIPLOMATIC
PROCESS FOR OUR
SUPERIORS NOW
DO WE?

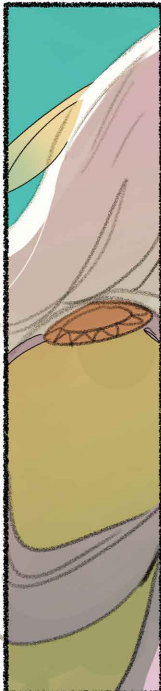
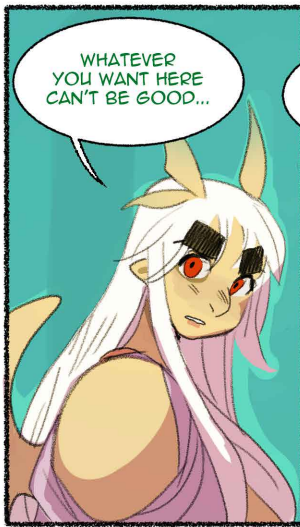
I-I...
MAYBE?

OF
COURSE, WE'LL
BE QUICK.

WE JUST
NEED SOMETHING
FOR OUR
RECORDS.

STEP

STEP





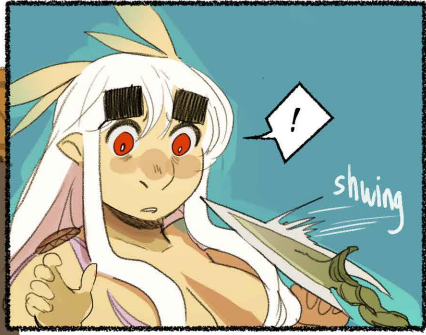
YOU
EVEN TOLD THEM
I HAD WATER CREATION
MAGIC!

MY VILLAGE
PAYS TITHES TO
YOUR CITY!

YOU
HAD TO HAVE
KNOWN THAT MAGIC
IS HIDDEN BEHIND
OUR RELIGION!



...
YOU'RE
INTENTIONALLY
DELAYING THEM.



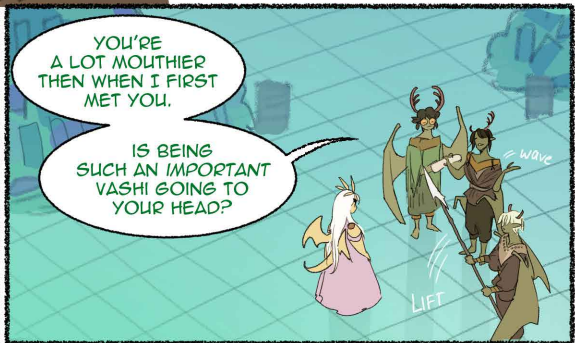
!

shwing



YOU
WILL NOT TALK
TO LORD MICAH LIKE
THAT PEASANT!

NOW,
NOW...

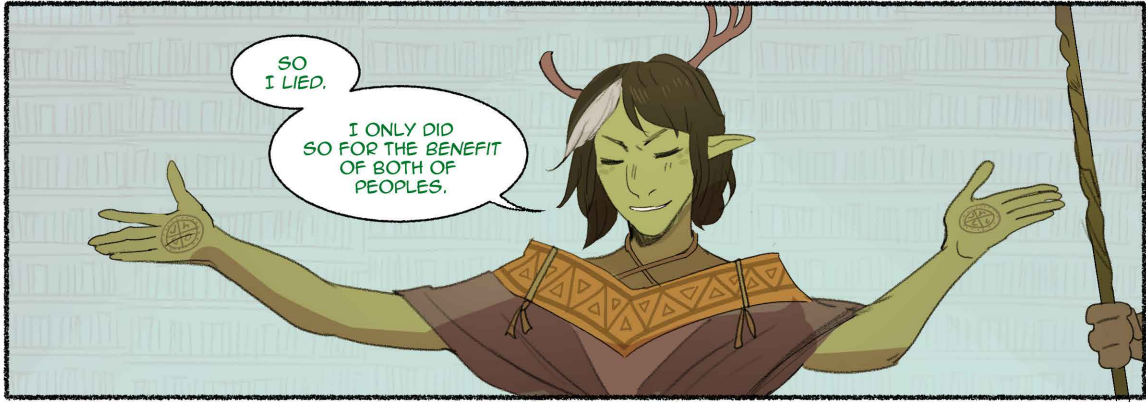


YOU'RE
A LOT MOUTHIER
THEN WHEN I FIRST
MET YOU.

IS BEING
SUCH AN IMPORTANT
VASHI GOING TO
YOUR HEAD?

wave

LIFT



SO
I LIED.

I ONLY DID
SO FOR THE BENEFIT
OF BOTH OF
PEOPLES.



THIS IS
DIPLOMACY

CAREFUL
NEGOTIATION.

WHITE
LIES ARE
NECESSARY.



SURELY,
YOU UNDERSTAND
THE IMPORTANCE OF
OUR WORK.

I
DON'T
CARE.



I
DON'T CARE ABOUT
THE PETTY SQUABBLES
BETWEEN THE GARDLIANS
AND NARAKYIAN-

DON'T

YOU.

DARE.

YOU IRENIANS
STAY CLOISTERED IN YOUR
HIGH MOUNTAINS, RED EYES
BLINDED BY YOUR STUPID
RELIGIOUS PURITY.

YOU
HAVE NO IDEA WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO BE INVADED
BY THEM, TO FEEL POWERLESS
AGAINST THEIR CLAWS.

THEY
KILLED ONE OF OUR OWN,
ACCUSED US OF KILLING THEIR
QUEEN AND THEN HAD THE GALL
TO RAZE OUR LANDS TO THE DIRT
OVER SUCH AN OBVIOUS LIE.

I
WILL NOT LOSE
MORE OF THOSE
I LOVE TO THESE
MONSTERS.

THIS IS
THE WAY WE
FIGHT.





P-PRINCE KOR!
WE WERE JUST UHHH-



LEAVE.
NOW.



OF COURSE.
ACCEPT MY SINCEST APLOGIES.



ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS HARASSING YOU.



NO I'M FINE!
WE WERE JUST HAVING A CONVERSATION!



STILL THOSE ENVOYS ARE SO INSISTENT ABOUT GETTING INTO THIS LIBRARY.

??



I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT HERE...

...



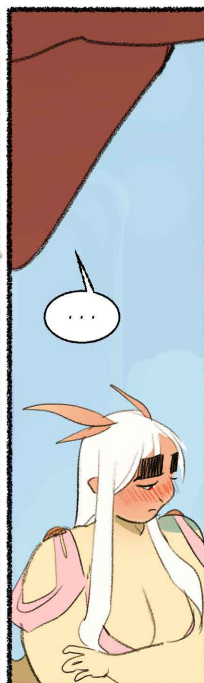
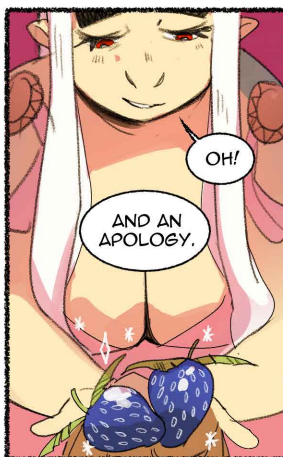
YOU'RE LATE!

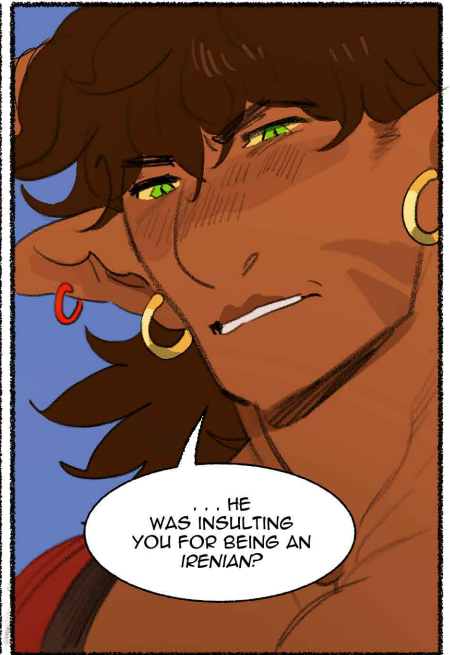
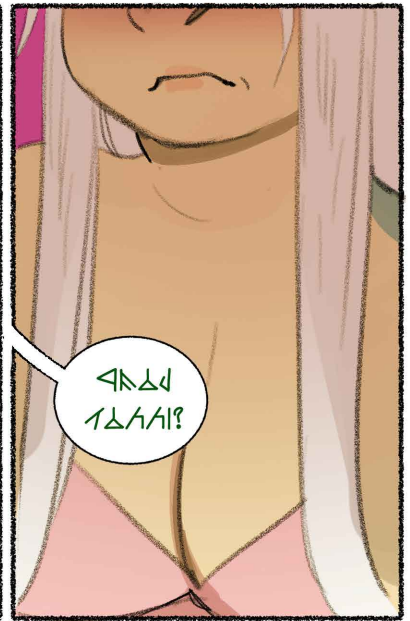
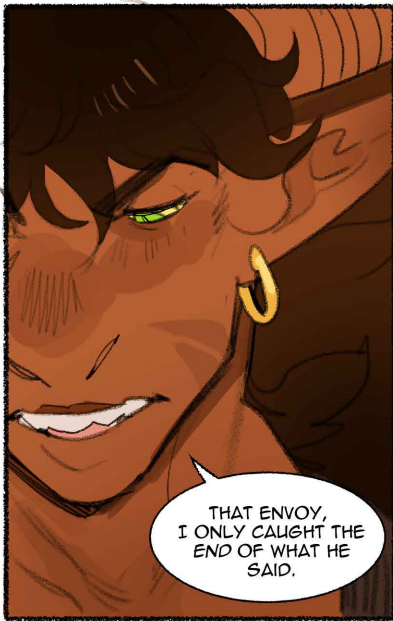


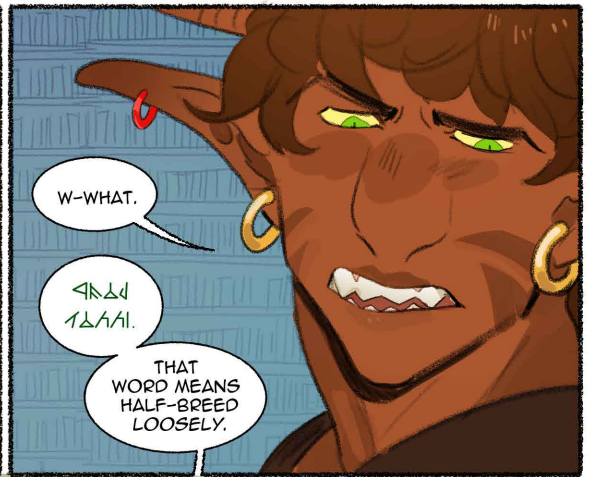
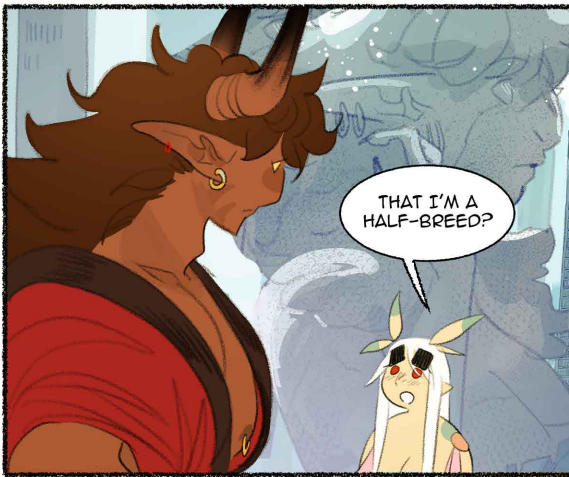
SORRY SORRY.
BERA WAS-
UM.

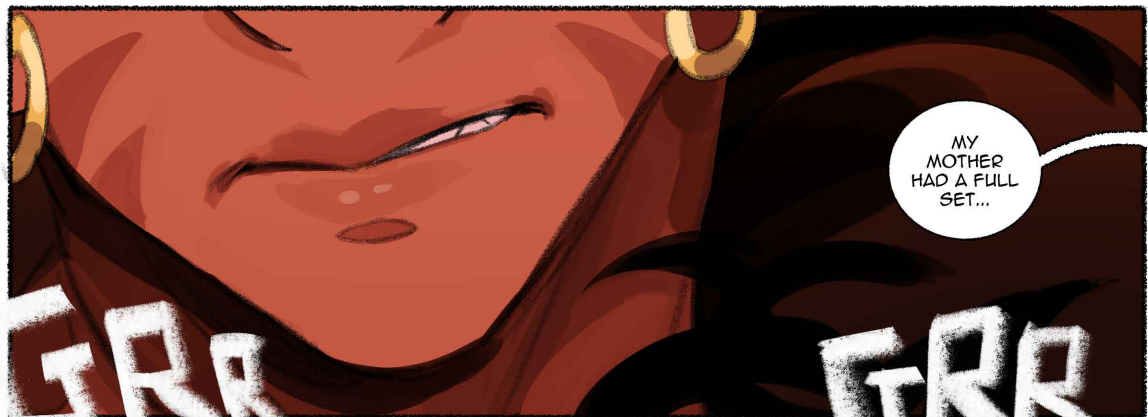


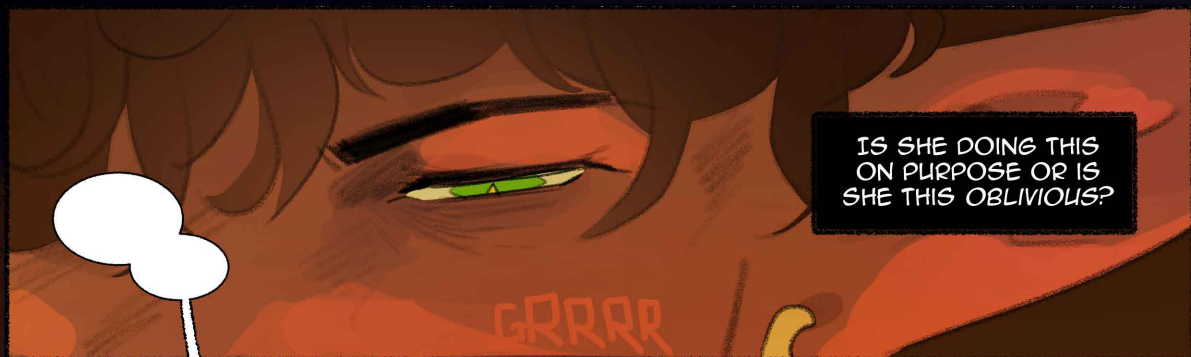
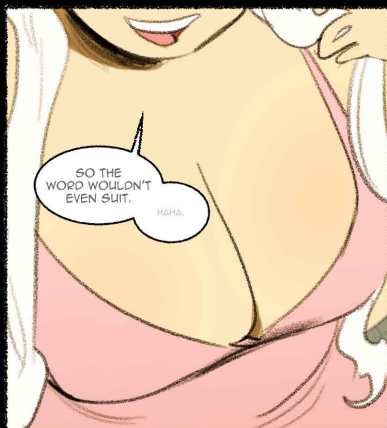
WELL I'M HERE NOW!













I COULDN'T
DO MUCH WITH HER.

SHE'S SO SMALL-

BUT.

I WONDER HOW SHE
SOUNDS...

I WONDER
HOW SHE TASTES.





KOR,
ARE YOU
LISTENING?

STROKE...



I
WAS JUST
SAYING YOU
CAN'T SEE THE
BUMPS...



JOLT

ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

YOU'RE
GROWLING A
LITTLE.

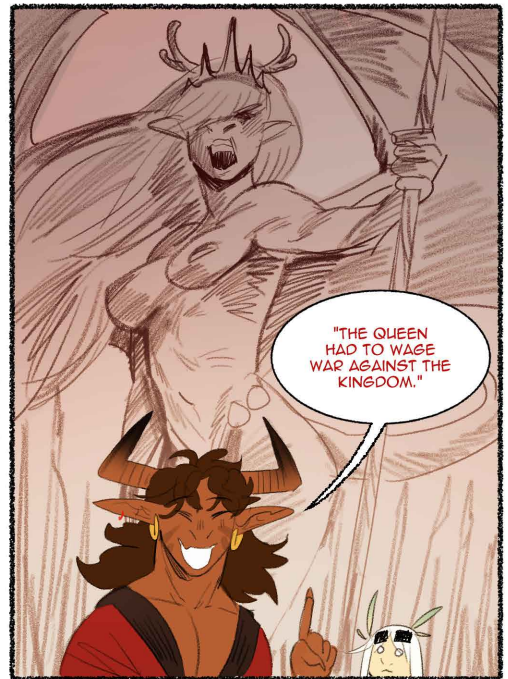
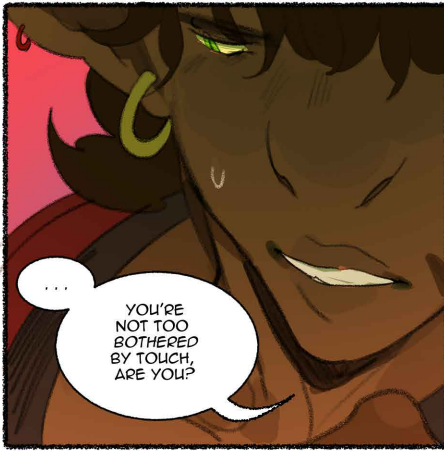


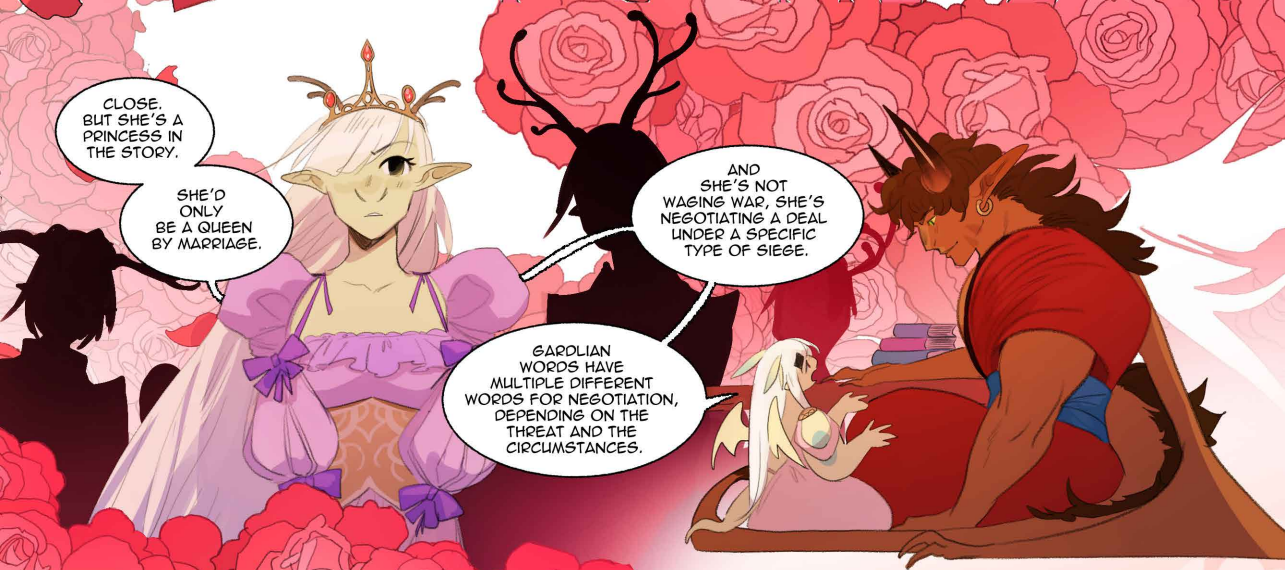
GRRR
RRRR

...



I'M
FINE...





CLOSE,
BUT SHE'S A
PRINCESS IN
THE STORY.

SHE'D
ONLY
BE A QUEEN
BY MARRIAGE.

AND
SHE'S NOT
WAGING WAR, SHE'S
NEGOTIATING A DEAL
UNDER A SPECIFIC
TYPE OF SIEGE.

GARDIAN
WORDS HAVE
MULTIPLE DIFFERENT
WORDS FOR NEGOTIATION,
DEPENDING ON THE
THREAT AND THE
CIRCUMSTANCES.



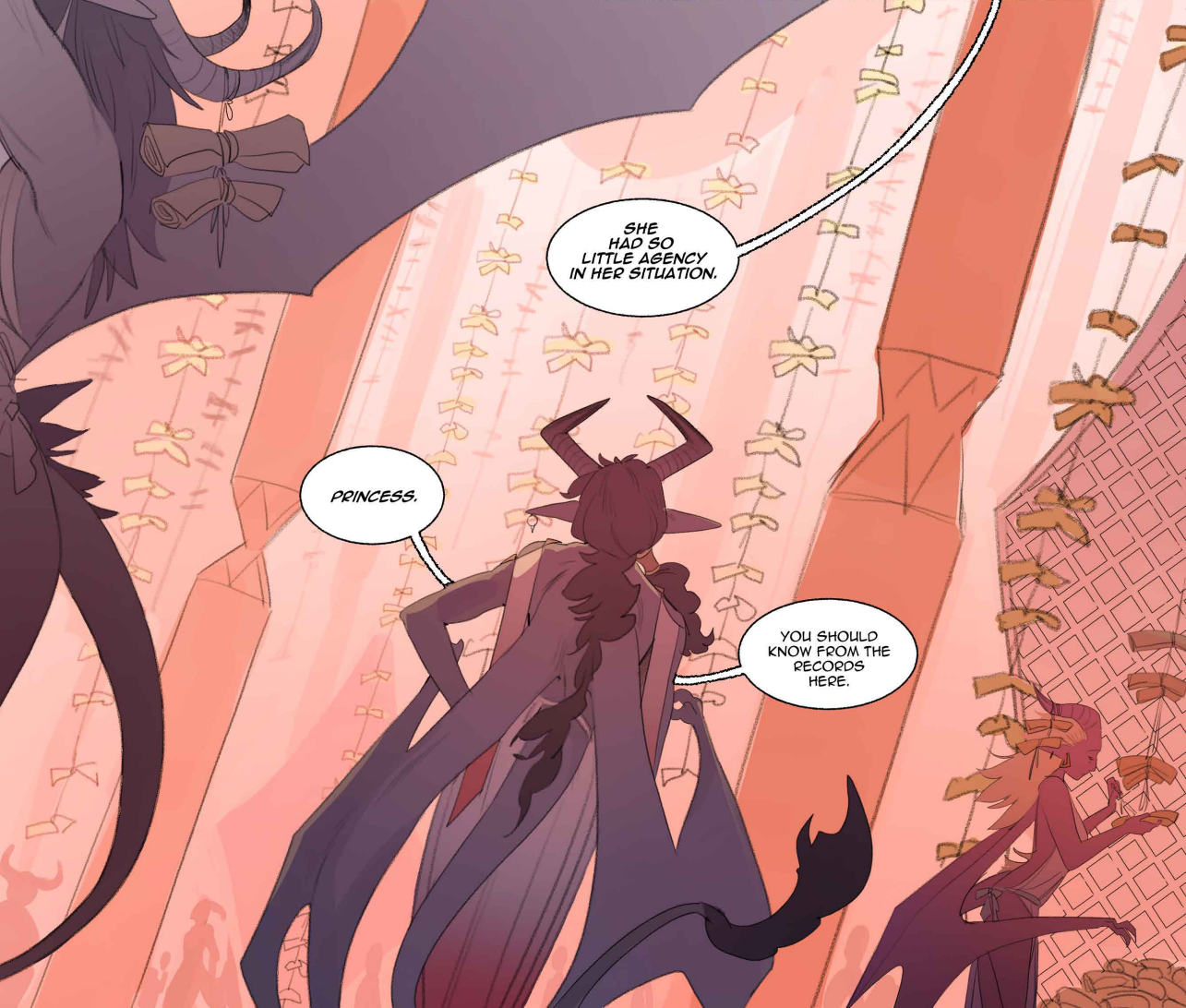
THIS
POOR
PRINCESS...

SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
THE OPTION OF RAZING
HER ENEMIES
DOWN...

HAHA...



I
ALWAYS
EMPATHIZED
WITH HER...



SHE
HAD SO
LITTLE AGENCY
IN HER SITUATION.

PRINCESS.

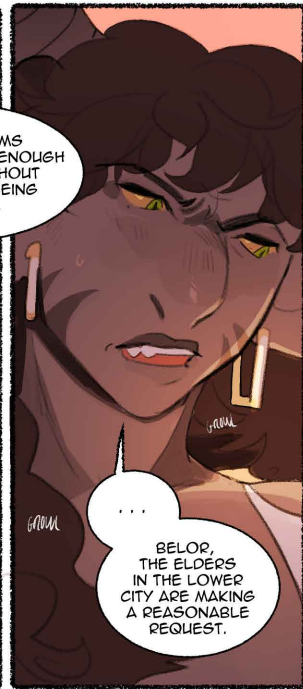
YOU SHOULD
KNOW FROM THE
RECORDS
HERE.



5000 QUARTS OF WATER PER WEEK IS A RIDICULOUS ASK.



THE SYSTEMS ARE STRESSED ENOUGH ALREADY WITHOUT NARAKYAN BEING GREEDY.



...
BELOR, THE ELDERS IN THE LOWER CITY ARE MAKING A REASONABLE REQUEST.



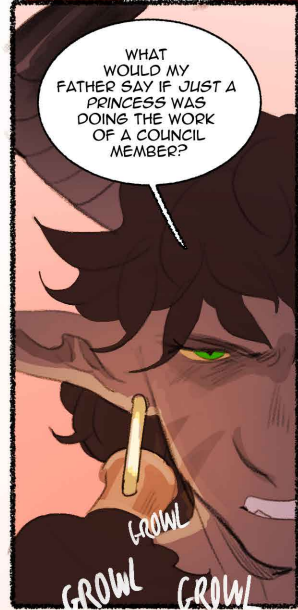
IF THE NOBLE JUST

THE NOBLES HAVE THEIR OWN WATER RATIONS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT.

I'M IN CHARGE AND I SAY NO.



WHY DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT JUST BEING A PRINCESS?



WHAT WOULD MY FATHER SAY IF JUST A PRINCESS WAS DOING THE WORK OF A COUNCIL MEMBER?

GROWL
GROWL GROWL



HA.



HE'D ASK WHY YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET.



SURELY
YOU'D WANT
A STRONG MALE
TO SIRE YOUR
CHILDREN.

BRUSH

RIGHT?

SNARL!

REMOVE
THE HAND BELOW,
OR I'LL TAKE IT OFF
AT THE ELBOW.

EASY,
I WAS JUST
FLIRTING!

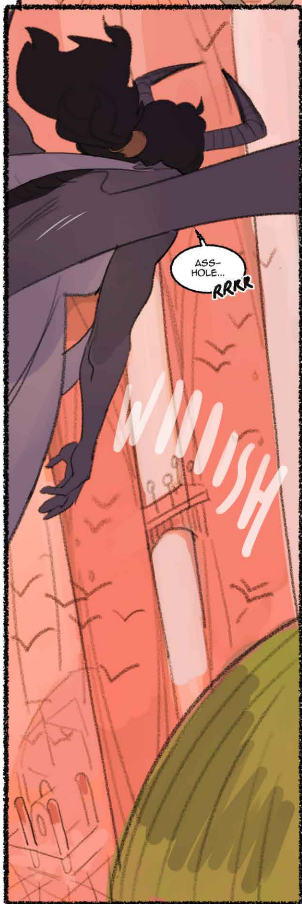
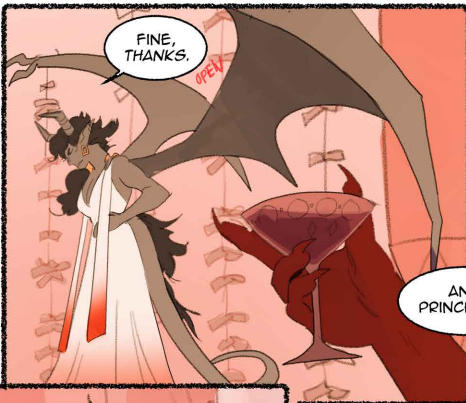
THERE'S
NO NEED TO BE
SO SENSITIVE.

CUT THE
FLIRTING CRAP
AND GET TO THE
POINT BELOW.

I HAVE
THINGS TO
DO...

UGH.

IF I
ONLY WAS A
TREEHUGO





DID YOU GO TO THAT COUNCIL MEETING?



FATHER CANCELLED IT...

AGAIN.



SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

ARE YOU SURE WE'RE MEETING HER HERE?

IT LOOKS ABANDONED.



SHE SAID SHE WAS WORKING OUT OF THIS PART OF THE LOWER CITY...

WAS IT ALWAYS THIS QUIET...?

I FEEL OVERDRESSED.



BUT AT LEAST IT MADE BARUS CHATTY.

WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT THE WATER SUPPLY?



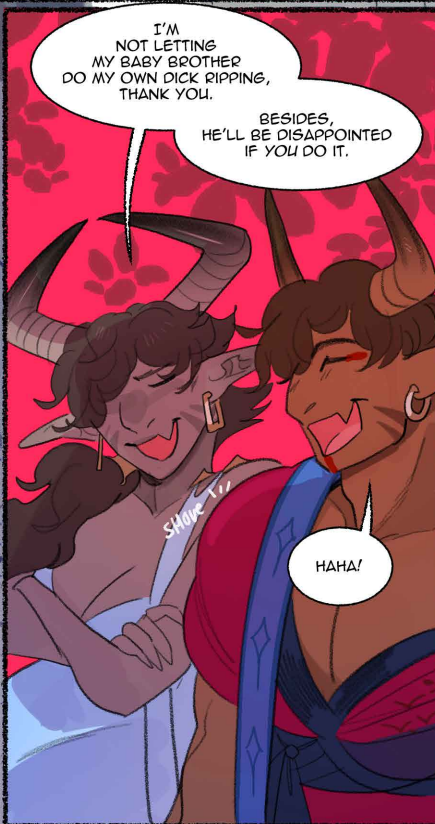
THAT HE'D TRY. AFTER HE'S WON HIS WINE AT THE MYTH'KARA OF COURSE.

OF COURSE, THE HARD WORK OF A NARAKYIAN COUNCIL MEMBER TRULY NEVER ENDS.

HE WAS BEING MORE OF A FLIRTATIOUS PRICK THEN USUAL TOO.

HE SOMEHOW THINKS HE'S STILL MARRYING ME.

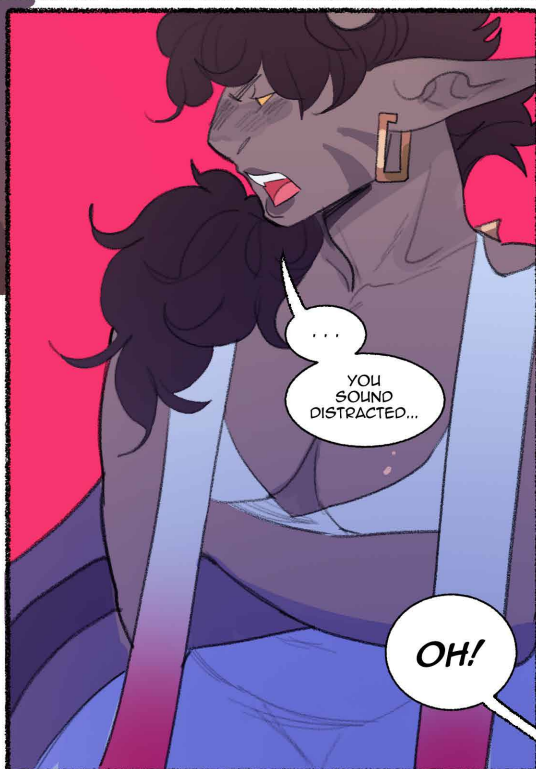
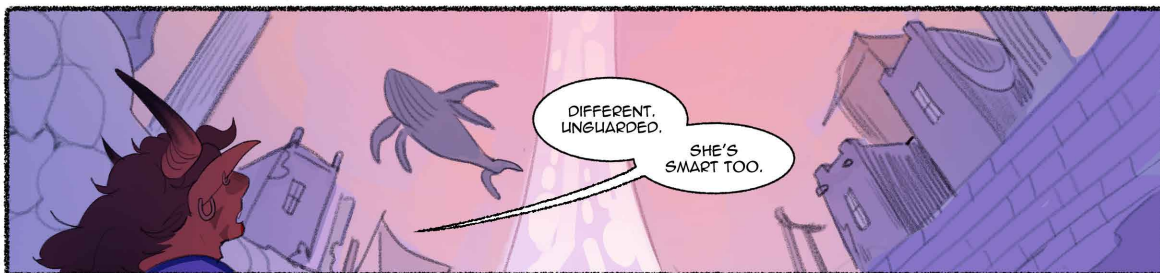
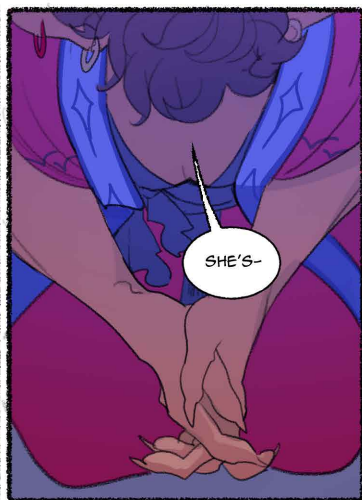
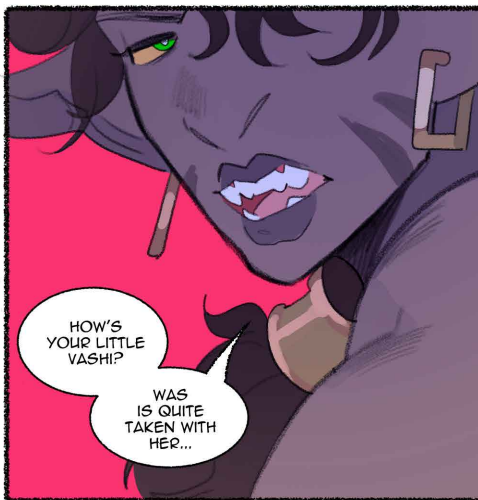
WANT ME TO RIP HIS DICK OFF?

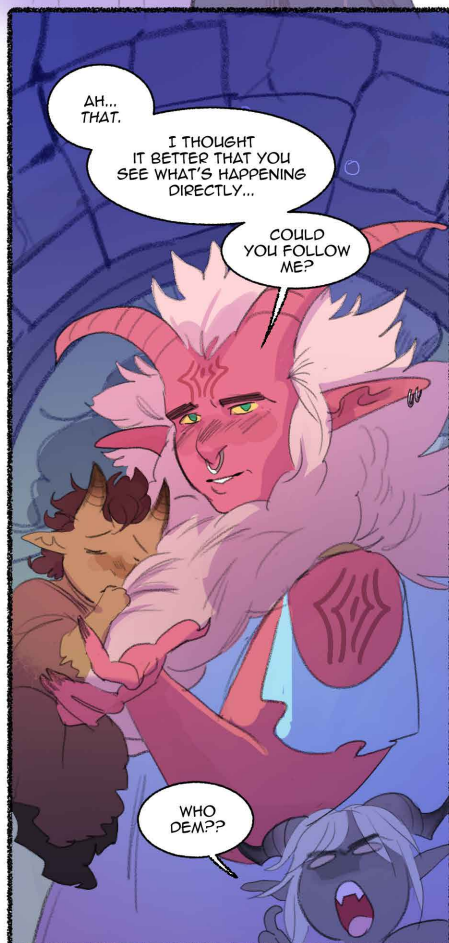
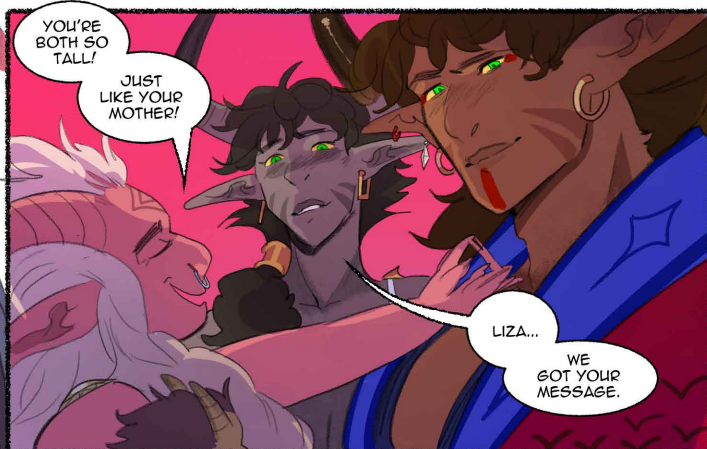


I'M NOT LETTING MY BABY BROTHER DO MY OWN DICK RIPPING, THANK YOU.

BESIDES, HE'LL BE DISAPPOINTED IF YOU DO IT.

HAHA!







I DIDN'T
REALISE YOU WERE IN
THE LOWER CITY
NURSERIES...

DID THE
NURSEMAIDS
MOVE YOU
HERE?

HAHA...

I
CAME HERE
OF MY OWN
ACCORD.

THESE
CHILDREN

THEY
NEEDED
MY HELP.



snore...



SO
MANY OF
THEIR PARENTS
FELL IN THE
DROUGHTS.



IT'S BEEN
GETTING WORSE
EVERY YEAR.

THERE'S
BEEN UNREST,
VIOLENCE IN THE
LOWER CITY.

MANY
ARE SIMPLY
ABANDONING
THE SLUMS.



IT'S
EVEN SPREADING
TO THE SURROUNDING
VILLAGES...

W-WHAT?



WE'RE
SPREAD THIN
HERE BUT WE
ARE STILL
MAKING DO.

HERE
YOU GO
LITTLE ONE.





I WOULDN'T NORMALLY ASK THIS OF YOU TWO.

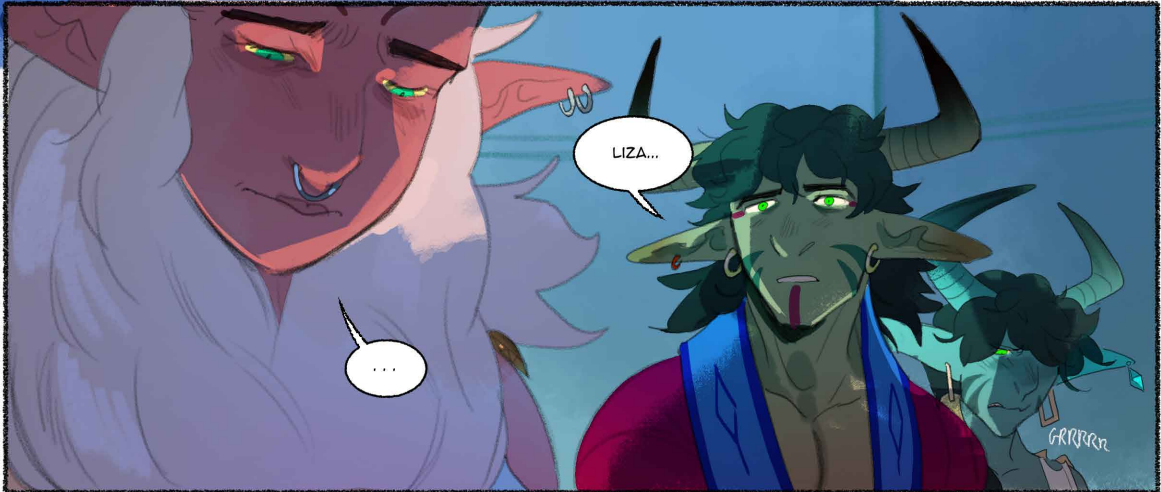
BUT I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN.



WE NEED MORE WATER.

IN WHATEVER FORM YOU CAN GET IT.

OR THEY'LL...



LIZA...

...



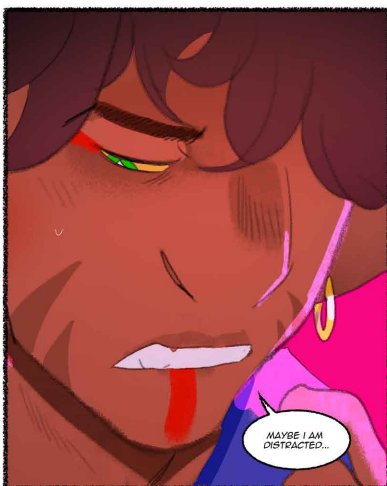
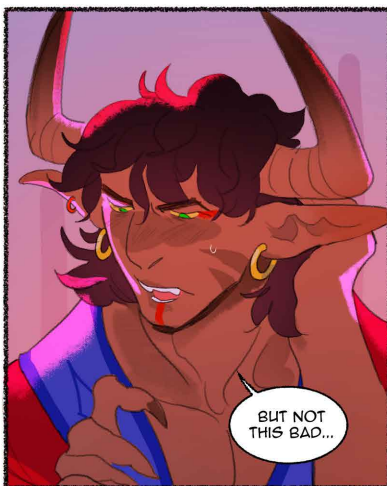
NARA!
SLOW DOWN!

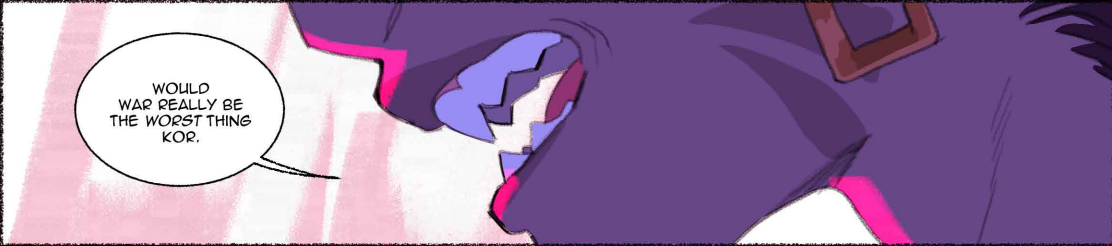


WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT!
RUSHING OUT OF THERE WON'T HELP ANYONE!



HOW COULD YOU NOT HAVE KNOWN?!





WOULD
WAR REALLY BE
THE WORST THING
KOR.

THEY'RE
NEVER GOING
TO GIVE YOU THAT
WATER MAGIC.

THAT'S
WHAT YOUR LITTLE
VASHI SAID.

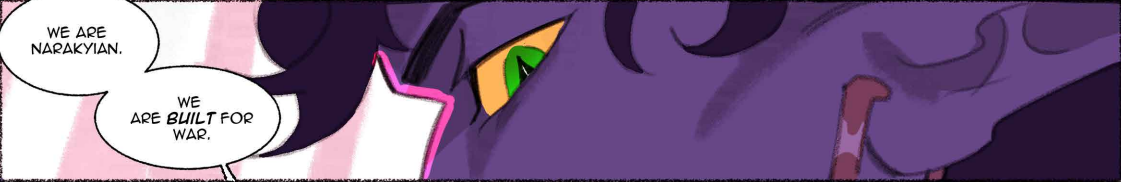
RIGHT?



WE CAN
JUST GO
UP THERE.



AND
JUST TAKE
IT FROM
THEM.



WE ARE
NARAKYIAN.

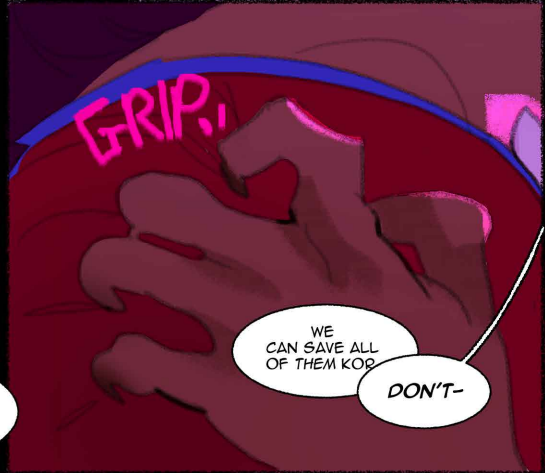
WE
ARE *BUILT* FOR
WAR.



DON'T-

THE SMALLER
RACES ARE
WEAK.

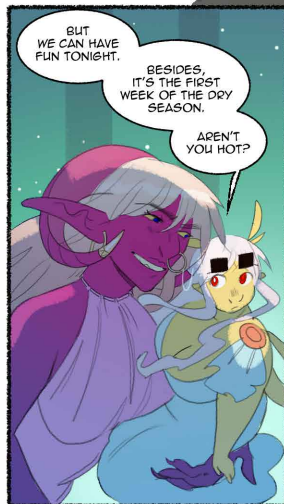
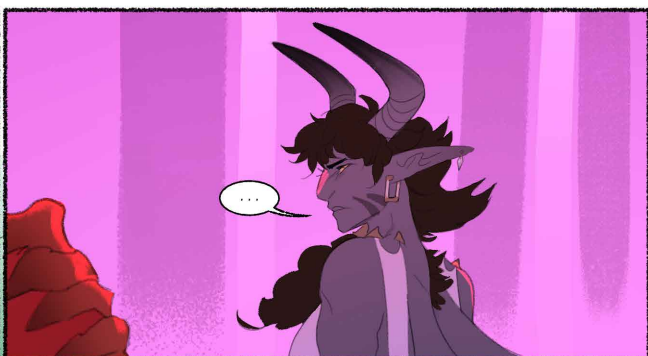
THEY CAN
DO NOTHING TO
OPPOSE US.

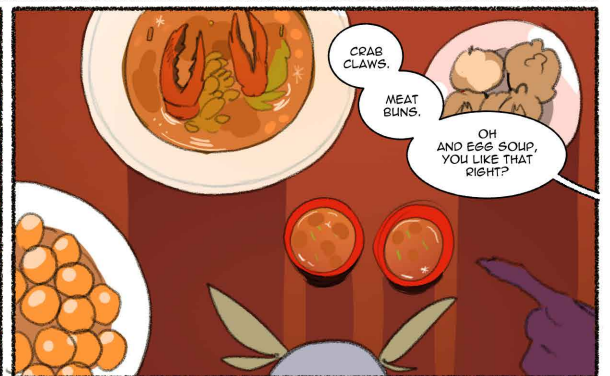


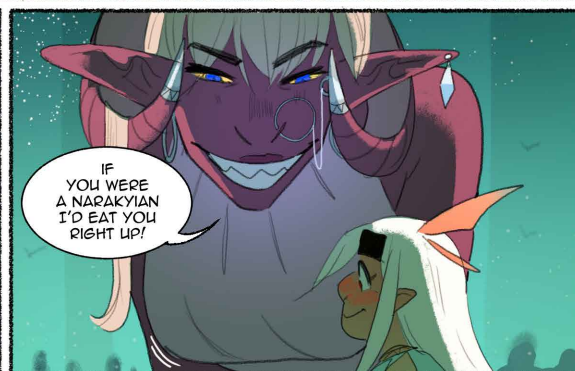
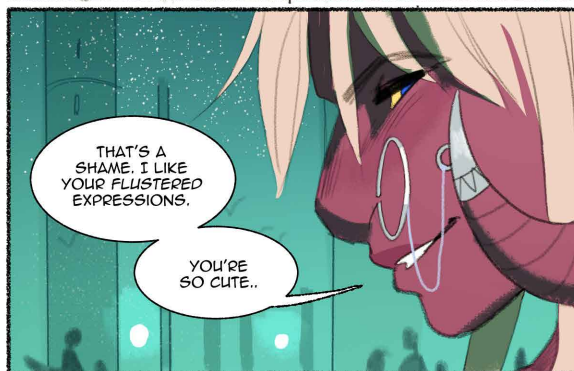
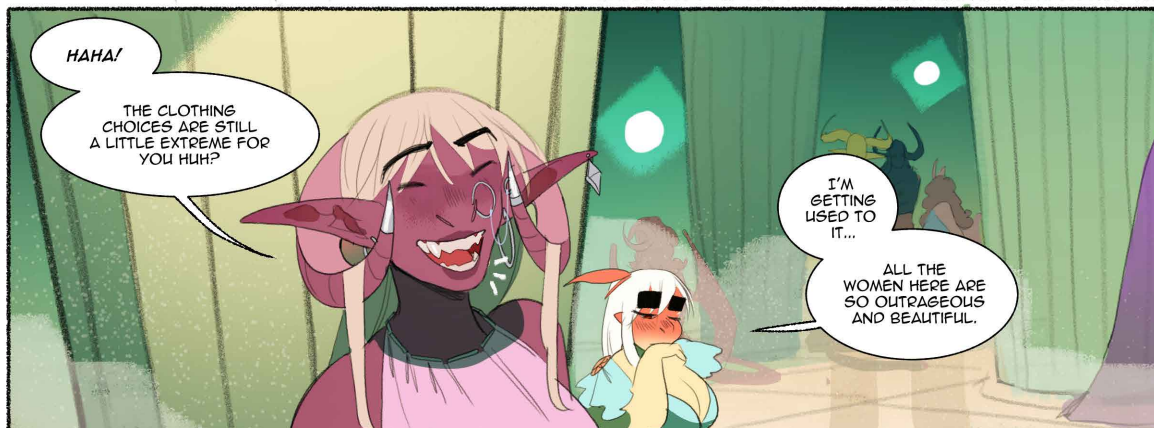
GRIP!

WE
CAN SAVE ALL
OF THEM KOR.

DON'T-









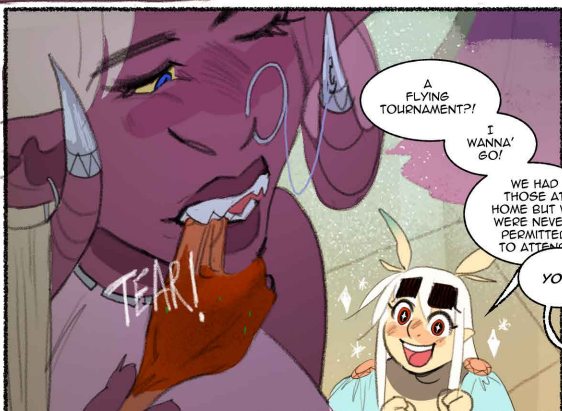
THE VIEW
OF THE BEACON
FROM HERE IS
SPECTACULAR.

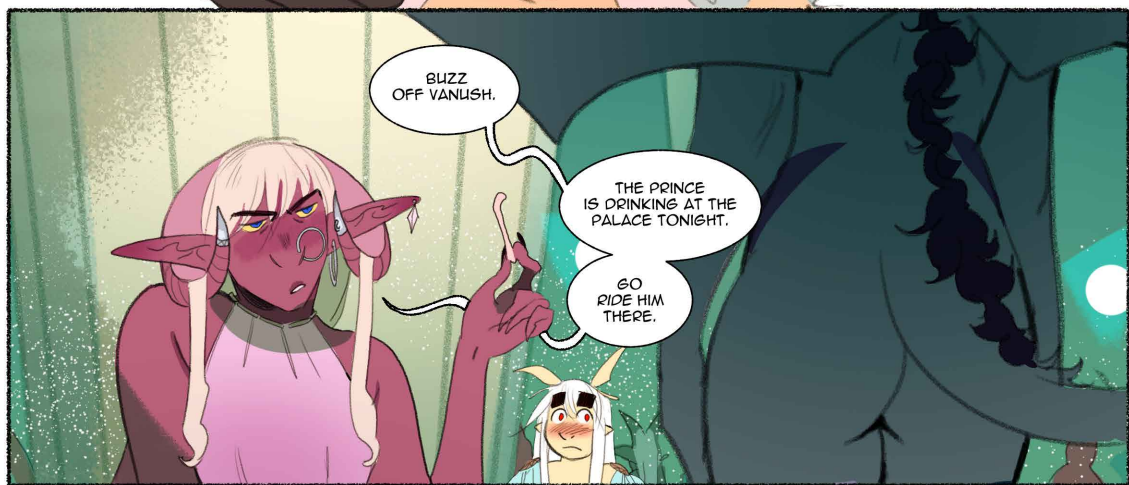
THOSE
TALL THIN
STRUCTURES
THOUGH....

ARE THEY
BUILDING
SOMETHING?

OH
THAT?

THEY'RE
SETTING UP FOR THE
MYTH'KARA, A FLYING
TOURNAMENT FOR NOBLE
MEN TO SHOW
OFF.







BESIDES.

DOESN'T SHE SOUND INTERESTED?

THAT DOESN'T MEAN—!



U-UM
I THINK I'LL
JUST STAY HERE
T-THANK YOU.



SNAP!
FINE.

BEEP!

SNAP!



UGH.

IRRITATING
WOMAN...

SHE'S
VERY UM—

—MOTIVATED
HUH?



THE
WORD IS
PUSHY.

VANUSH
IS ALWAYS
ANGELING TO GET
AT KOR'S
DICK.

HIS—?!

I-I
SEE...



SHE'S SO
BEAUTIFUL...



IS—
IS
SHE ONE
OF KOR'S
P-PARTNERS?



HAHA.

BEAUTIFUL
WITH A TERRIBLE
PERSONALITY
YOU MEAN.



PARTNER
IS A STRONG
WORD FOR
HER.



THEY
JUST FUCK
OCCASIONALLY.

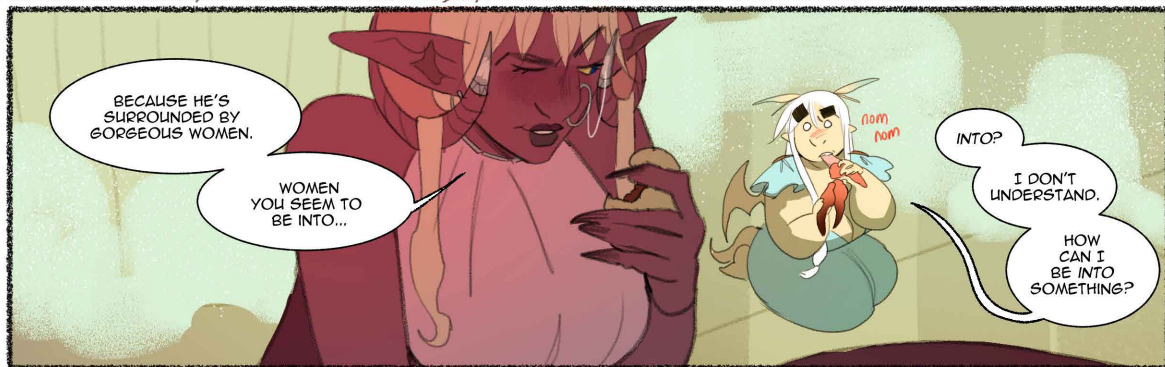
VANUSH
HAS HER CLAWS
IN A LOT OF THE
UPPER NOBLES.

HER
HIPS ARE
PERSUASIVE,
I'LL GIVE HER
THAT.

O-OH...

DO A LOT
OF WOMEN WANT
TO BE WITH
HIM...?

squeeze it.





I-I DON'T THINK ABOUT WOMEN LIKE THAT AT ALL!

WOMEN ARE JUST-

I JUST SAID SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, IT DOESN'T MEAN I'M ATTRACTED TO HER!

OUR RELIGION FORBIDS IT!

OUR LAWS EVEN FORBID IT!



I'M SORRY, I JUST ASSUMED BECAUSE-

I GUESS I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR CULTURE.

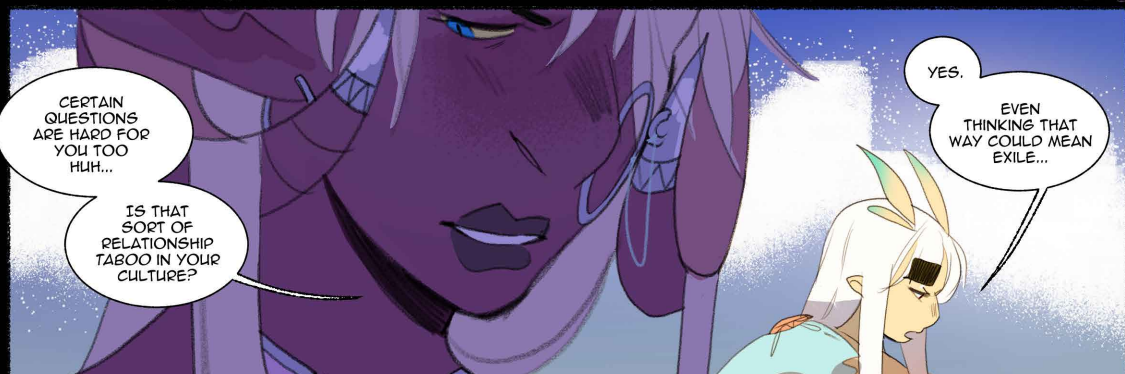
I-I-I-



I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE YELLED.

S'OKAY.

I ACTUALLY GET IT.



CERTAIN QUESTIONS ARE HARD FOR YOU TOO HUH...

IS THAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP TABOO IN YOUR CULTURE?

YES.

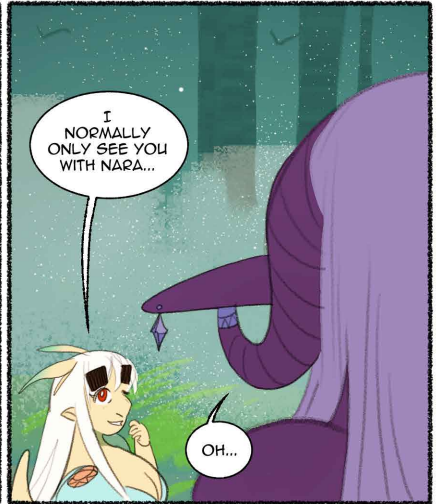
EVEN THINKING THAT WAY COULD MEAN EXILE...



NARAKYIAN
WOMEN ARE SO
FREE IN COMP-
-ARISON...



I
MEAN
YOU
MUST HAVE
A LOT OF
PARTNERS.
RIGHT?



I
NORMALLY
ONLY SEE YOU
WITH NARA...

OH...



I-
HAHA!

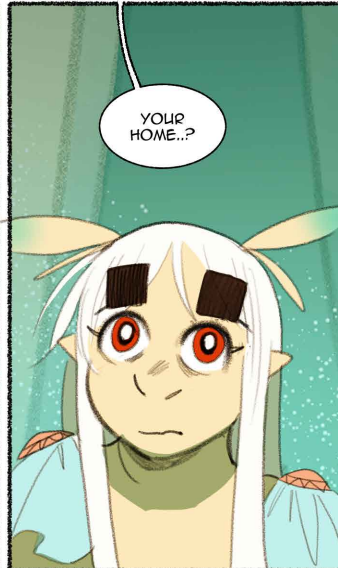


YEAH
HE'S SO BRAZEN
ABOUT HIS DICK!

NEXT
TIME WE CAN
JUST DO HIM
TOGETHER.



DO
YOU
EVER MISS
IT?



YOUR
HOME...?



SOME-
TIMES.

I
MISS MY AUNT
AND UNCLE
MOSTLY.





THE MYTH'KRA IS A COMPETITION AMONGST HIGH RANKING NOBILITY.

NARAKYAN RACE TO CATCH A BIRD, A BLUE TIPPED SPARROW.

THEY'RE FAST, LITHE BIRDS THAT ARE HARD TO CATCH.

INCREDIBLE...

SO MANY NARAKYIAN ARE HERE...

THE FIRST ONE TO BRING IT BACK UNSCATHED TO THE BIRD-MASTER WINS THE ROUND.

HOW MANY ROUNDS ARE THERE?



HAHA!

CHEER! HAH!

IT DEPENDS ON HOW MANY NARAKYIAN CATCH THE BIRD.

BUT USUALLY IT'S THREE OR FOUR.

IT'S A TEST OF ENDURANCE, FLYING AND STRENGTH

SO THE ROUNDS CAN LAST A WHILE...

CHEER! HAH!
mutter
CHEER! CHEER!!
HAHA!



ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO WATCH?

IT CAN GET...

VIOLENT.



NO I WANT TO SEE!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A FLYING TOURNAMENT BEFORE!

HAHA...



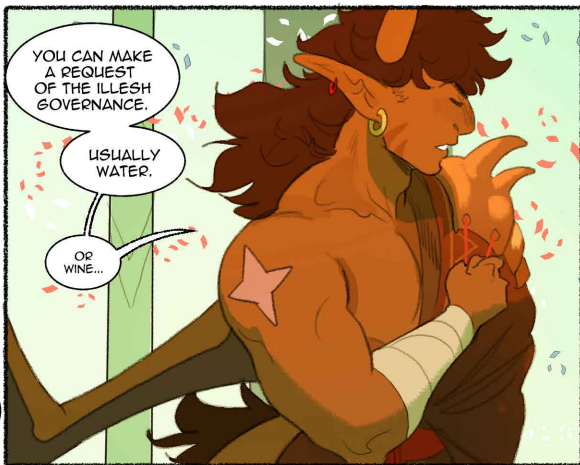
SORRY, I'M JUST VERY EXCITED!

I STARTED READING ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT FROM ONE OF THE LIBRARY BOOKS.

BUT...

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE COMPETING

IS THERE A PRIZE FOR WINNING?



YOU CAN MAKE A REQUEST OF THE ILLESH GOVERNANCE.

USUALLY WATER.

OR WINE...



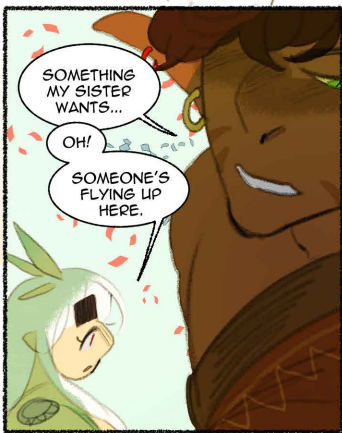
THE MYTH'KARA IS AN EVENT TO SHOW DOMINANCE.

IF YOU CAN SHOW DOMINANCE OVER OTHERS YOUR REQUEST IS FULFILLED.

ONLY THE STRONGEST ARE LISTENED TO...



WHAT WILL YOU ASK FOR?



SOMETHING MY SISTER WANTS...

OH!

SOMEONE'S FLYING UP HERE.



LOOK IT'S THE PRINCE!

PRINCE KORANDR!

FLAP

PRINCE!

YOU'RE HERE!

W-WOW

FLAP



WHO ARE YOU LITTLE ONE?

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?

I-I'M FINE THANK YOU!



PRINCE, YOU SHOULD BE DOWN WITH THE REST OF THE COMPETITORS!



I WAS JUST ABOUT TO FLY DOWN.

GOOD.

THE HAREM IS SETTING UP THE AFTER-PARTY FOR THE CITY HERE.

WE DON'T WANT ANY DISTRACTIONS.

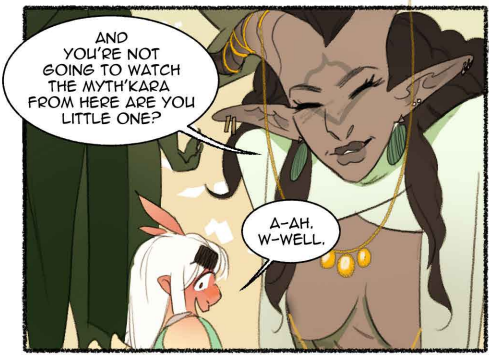
PRINCE!
YOU HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE RIGHT??

HAHA.
NOT TODAY UNFORTUNATELY.

AW, WE NEVER SEE YOU AT THE CENTRAL ANYMORE.

PROMISE YOU'LL VISIT?

WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.



AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WATCH THE MYTH'KARA FROM HERE ARE YOU LITTLE ONE?

A-AH. W-WELL.



I-I WAS MEANT TO WATCH WITH WASAI BUT SHE'S LATE...

I WAS JUST GOING TO WATCH IT FROM HERE.



NONSENSE, WE'LL TAKE YOU UP TO WATCH WITH US.

THAT'S FINE RIGHT PRINCE?

ASK HER.

U-UH YEAH.

THAT'S FINE.



KOR, WAIT!

HM?

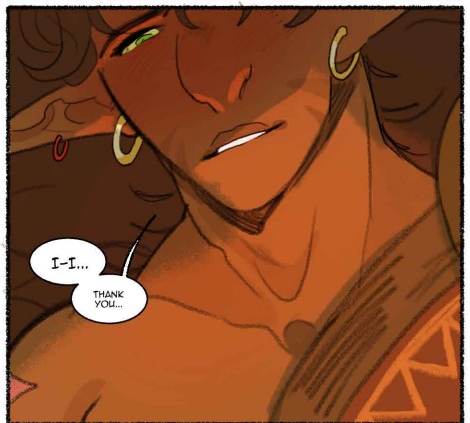


GOOD LUCK, OKAY?



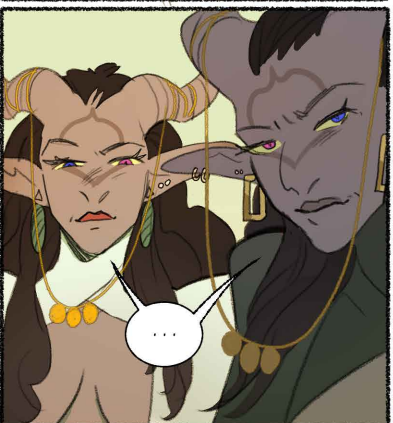
AND DON'T GET HURT!

OR YOUR TEACHER WILL GET MAD!



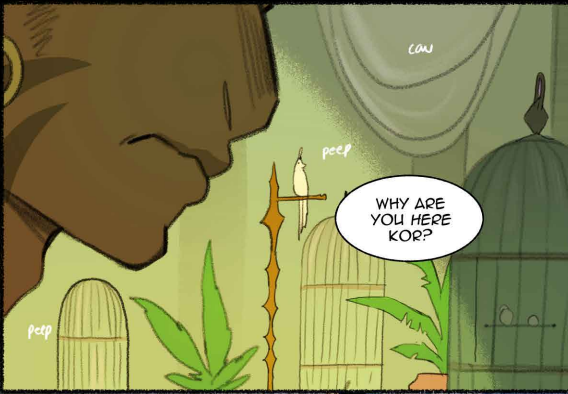
I-I...

THANK YOU...



...





WHY ARE YOU HERE KOR?



WHY CAN'T I FLY IN THE MYTH'KARA!?



He has some nerve coming here...



THEY NEED MORE WATER. ALL OF THE LOWER CITY DOES!

IF YOU WON'T LISTEN I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE THE REQUEST THROUGH THE MYTH'KARA AT LEAST!



THE MYTH'KARA IS FOR MEN ONLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS NARA.

SIGH.



WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE QUIET AND MARRY LIKE YOUR BROTHER?

grrr...



DO NONE OF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN?!

THERE'S GOING TO BE A DROUGHT, ALL THOSE CHILDREN—!

THEY WON'T LISTEN. JUST LET IT GO...

It's the right?

yawn

