

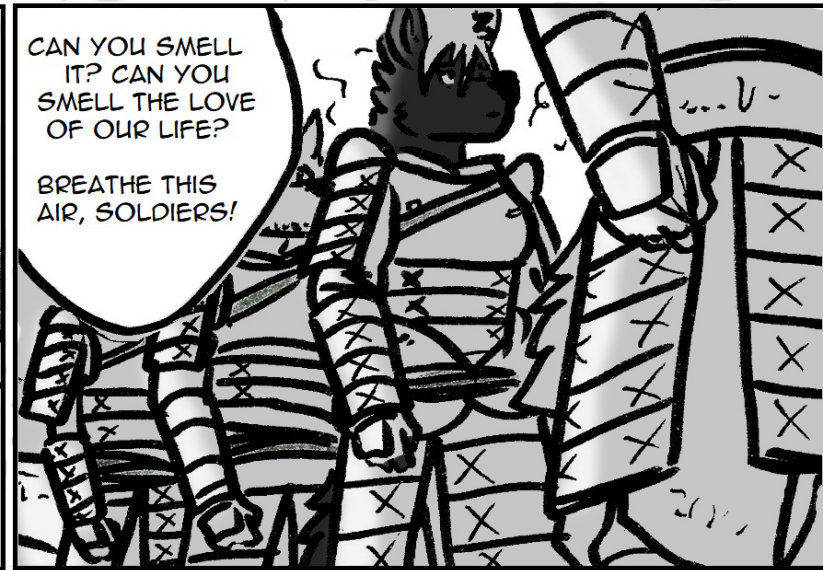
An illustration of a pale, slender hand holding a sword. The hand is wrapped in a chain that has blood on it. The sword has a red-wrapped hilt with gold studs and a gold guard. The background is dark and textured.

swords
and
fangs

chapter
15

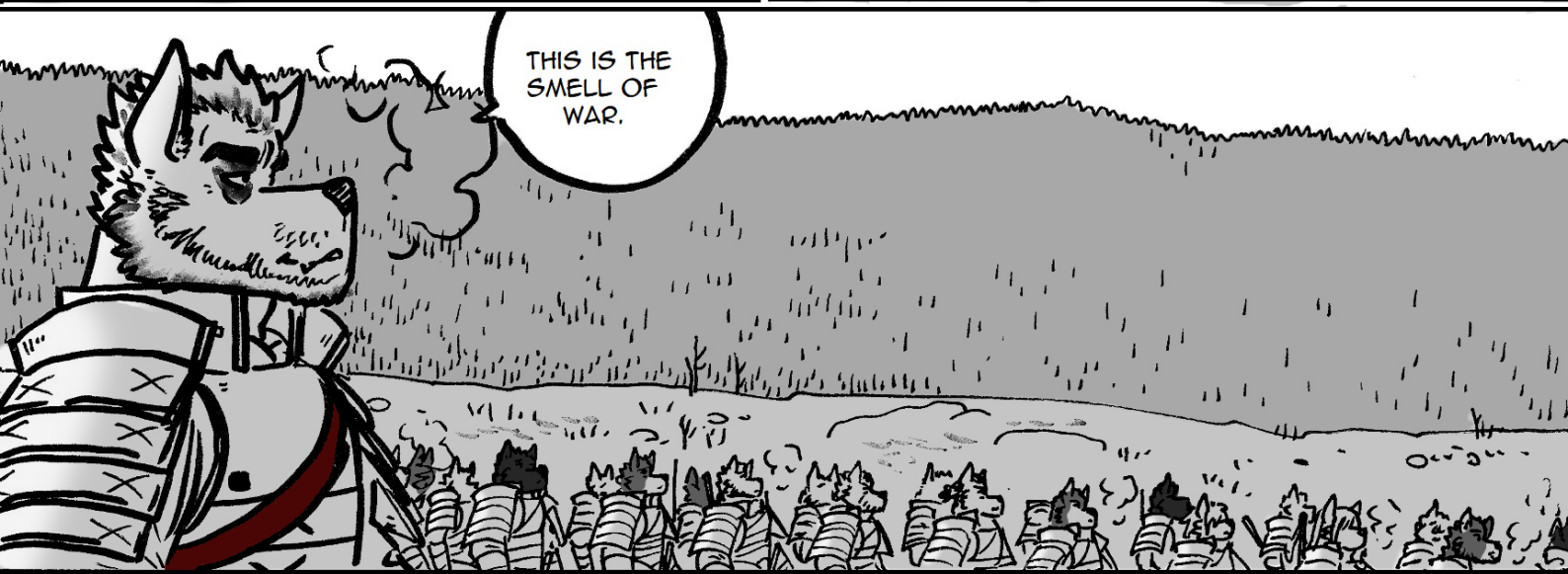


AAH



CAN YOU SMELL
IT? CAN YOU
SMELL THE LOVE
OF OUR LIFE?

BREATHE THIS
AIR, SOLDIERS!

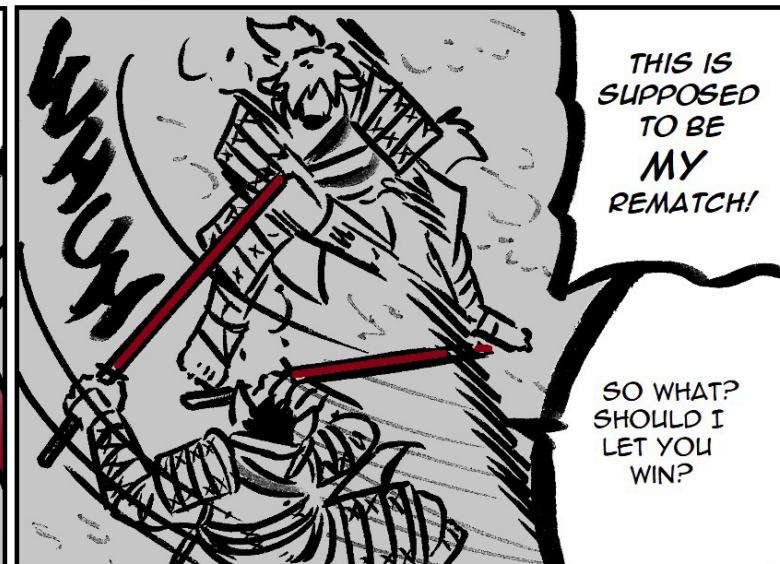
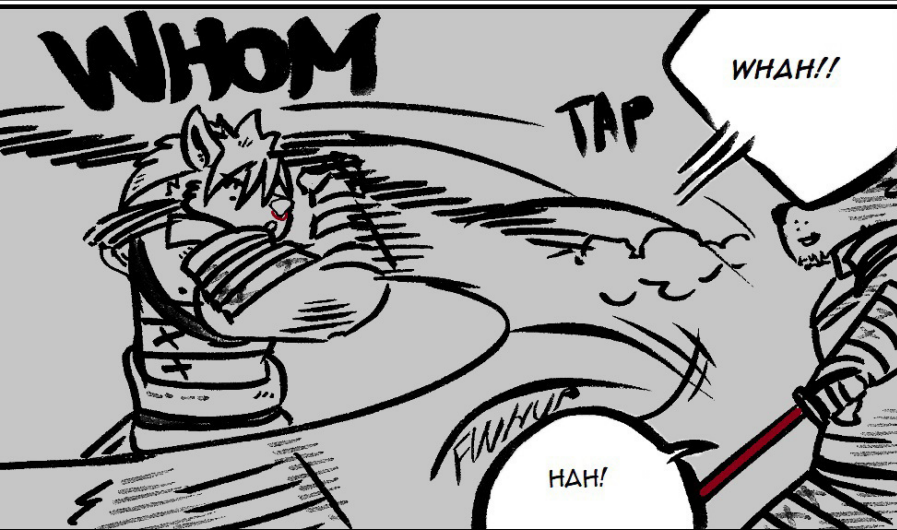


THIS IS THE
SMELL OF
WAR.



YES...
WAR.







?!



HYAH!!

UH!

CLING



VICTORY,
AT LAST...

ARE YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THAT?

EH?



GRRR

HEH, YOU
GOT TOO
CLOSE.

TIP
TIP



FUCK.

TOLD YA! NOW
GIVE ME MY
MONEY.

HM...



HEY

HI... I JUST FINISHED
TRAINING, AND...

CLATCH



HEH... WANT
TO TAKE A
WALK?



RUMBLE

TAKE IT!!



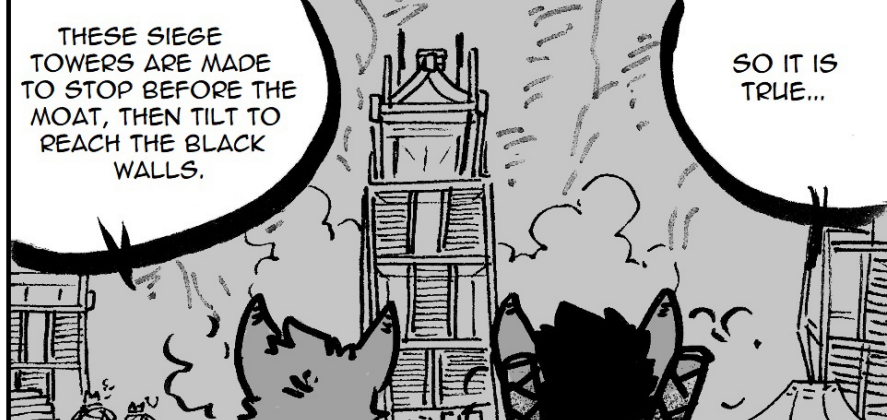
WHOOOH!

WROOM



WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

TESTING THE TILT OF THE TOWER.



THESE SIEGE TOWERS ARE MADE TO STOP BEFORE THE MOAT, THEN TILT TO REACH THE BLACK WALLS.

SO IT IS TRUE...



YES. SINCE WE CAME HERE, I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT A SECRET ANYMORE.

WE WILL NOT DEFEND OURSELVES LIKE WE ALWAYS DID... THIS TIME WE WILL ATTACK.



THIS BATTLE WILL BE OUR DEFINING VICTORY AGAINST MEGALOS... OR OUR NOBLE AND SO COVETED DEATH.



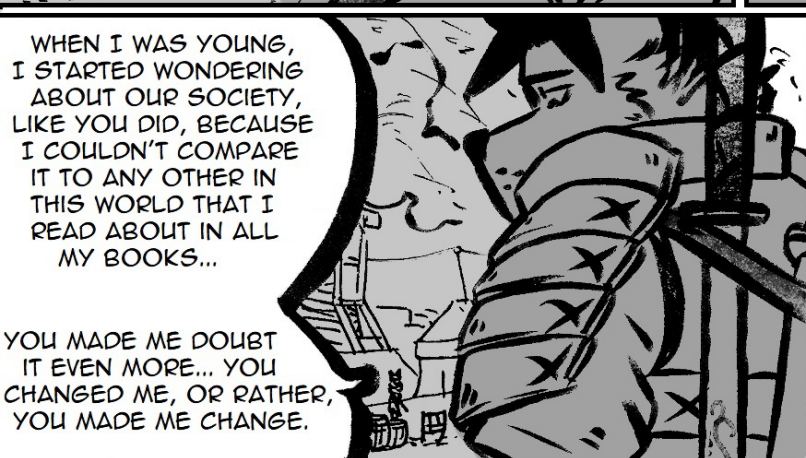
BEING REMEMBERED FOR A GLORIOUS DEATH IN BATTLE IS THE MOST HONORABLE THING IN THE 5 CLANS...



I'D RATHER LIVE A GLORIOUS AND HONORABLE LIFE...

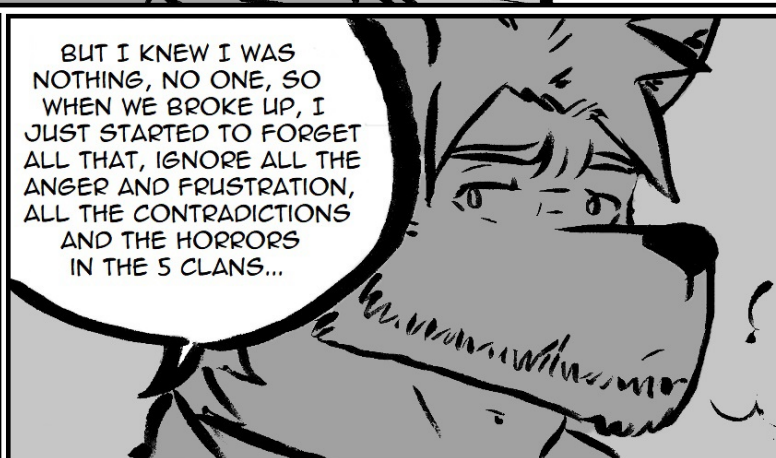
SO YOU DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT OUR TENETS.

NO.

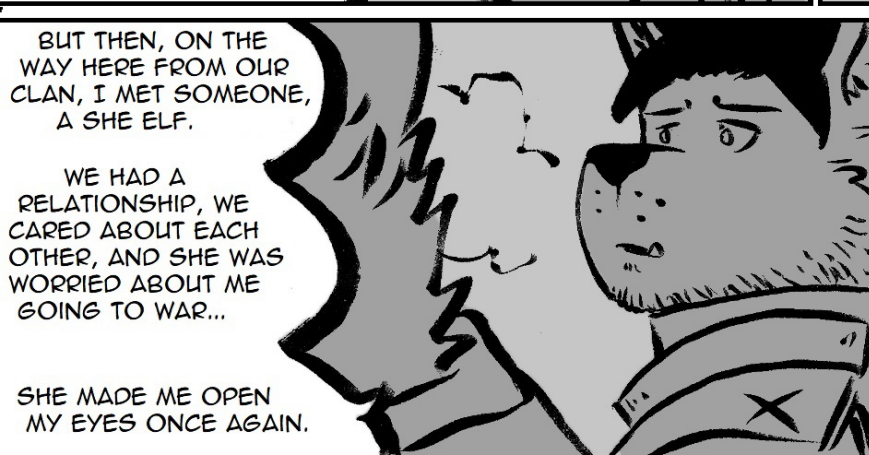


WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I STARTED WONDERING ABOUT OUR SOCIETY, LIKE YOU DID, BECAUSE I COULDN'T COMPARE IT TO ANY OTHER IN THIS WORLD THAT I READ ABOUT IN ALL MY BOOKS...

YOU MADE ME DOUBT IT EVEN MORE... YOU CHANGED ME, OR RATHER, YOU MADE ME CHANGE.



BUT I KNEW I WAS NOTHING, NO ONE, SO WHEN WE BROKE UP, I JUST STARTED TO FORGET ALL THAT, IGNORE ALL THE ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, ALL THE CONTRADICTIONS AND THE HORRORS IN THE 5 CLANS...



BUT THEN, ON THE WAY HERE FROM OUR CLAN, I MET SOMEONE, A SHE ELF.

WE HAD A RELATIONSHIP, WE CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER, AND SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME GOING TO WAR...

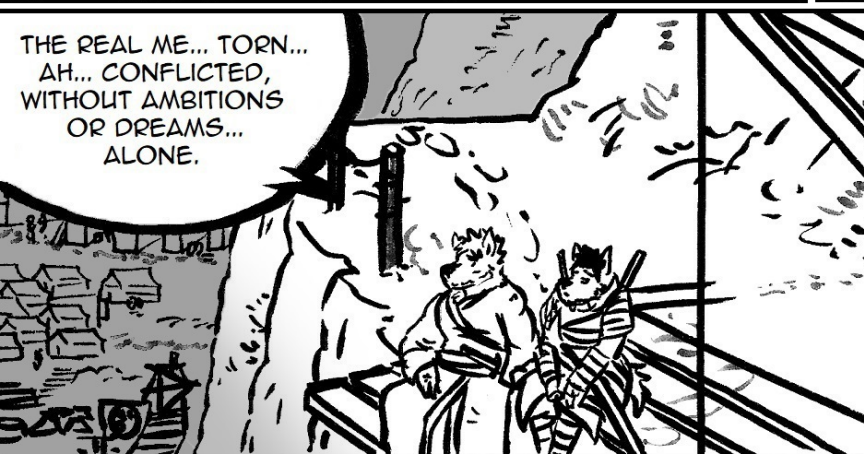
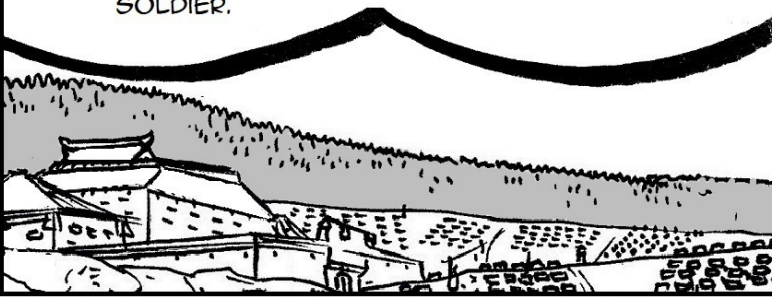
SHE MADE ME OPEN MY EYES ONCE AGAIN.





EVERY DAY I TRAIN, I DO MY BEST TO EXCEL, TO PLEASE MY SUPERIORS, TO BECOME THE PERFECT SOLDIER.

THEN EVERY NIGHT, I GO BACK TO MY TENT AND PUT THAT MASK AWAY... TO BE MYSELF AGAIN.



THE REAL ME... TORN... AH... CONFLICTED, WITHOUT AMBITIONS OR DREAMS... ALONE.

I WOULD RATHER SPEND THE NIGHT WITH SOMEONE I BARELY KNOW, THAN BE ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS...



BUT THEN I WAKE UP AGAIN AND I HAVE TO WEAR THAT MASK AGAIN...

I HAVE TO BE WHAT THEY WANT ME TO BE...

AH... AND I'M TIRED OF IT.

I CAN'T BE WHAT EVERYBODY EXPECTS ME TO BE... I DON'T FEEL IT, I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT AND DIE, I CAN'T FORCE MYSELF TO LOVE THIS WAR.



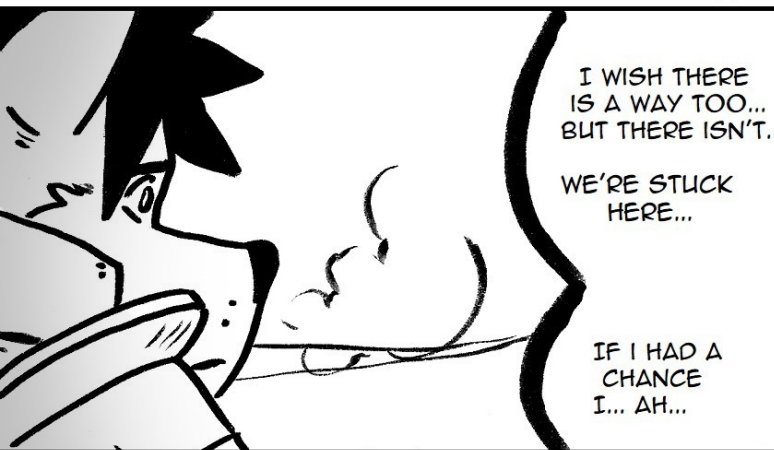
I KNOW VERY WELL HOW HEAVY THIS MASK CAN BE, AKIO.

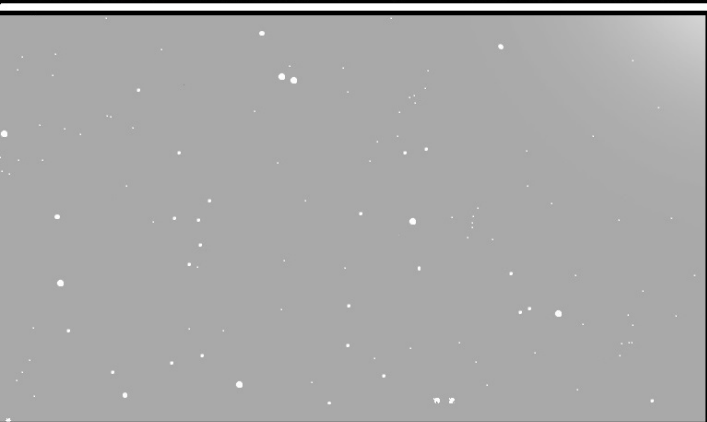


I UNDERSTAND YOU.

THANK YOU, HEIGAN.







CLANG

HNNG

NKRRIKOLLA

TKRNK

CRK

WHAM

HAH!

WHAM
WHOM
CLANG
CLANG

WHUM

CLANG

HYAH!!

NICE DODGE.

MM

WHU

TAP

HAH...
THANK
YOU,
XENI.

FWHUP



BREAK?

AH...
YES,
PLEASE.

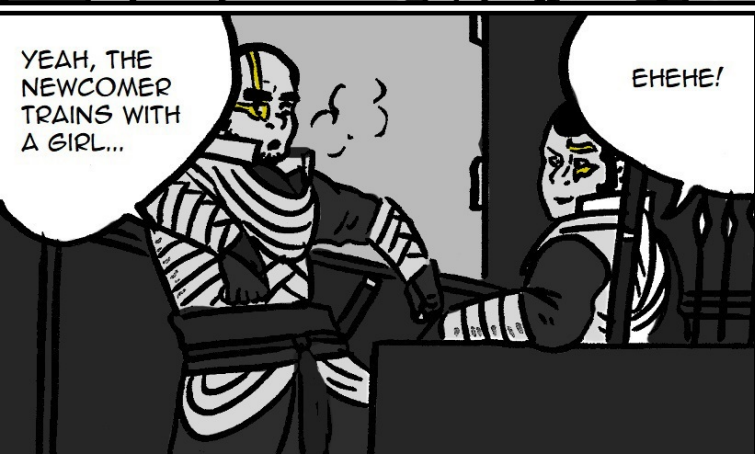
HEH,
ALRIGHT
BIG GUY.

WHUP



SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

HUFF...
YES,
THANKS.



YEAH, THE
NEWCOMER
TRAINS WITH A
GIRL...

EHEHE!



MAYBE HE'S TOO
AFRAID TO FIGHT
A MAN, LOOK AT
HIM! HE'S JUST
A KID...

HEY



THANKS,
XENI...

FNUP

HEY,
PRETTY
GIRL!



SHOULDN'T YOU BE
IN THE CASTLE WITH
THE CLEANERS?

YEAH, MY
CLOTHES ARE
ALL SWEATY,
THEY DEFINITELY
NEED TO BE
WASHED... THAT
WOULD BE AN
APPROPRIATE
JOB FOR A
FEMALE...

EHEHEH!



TAKING CARE
OF PIGS IS NOT
APPROPRIATE
FOR A GIRL.

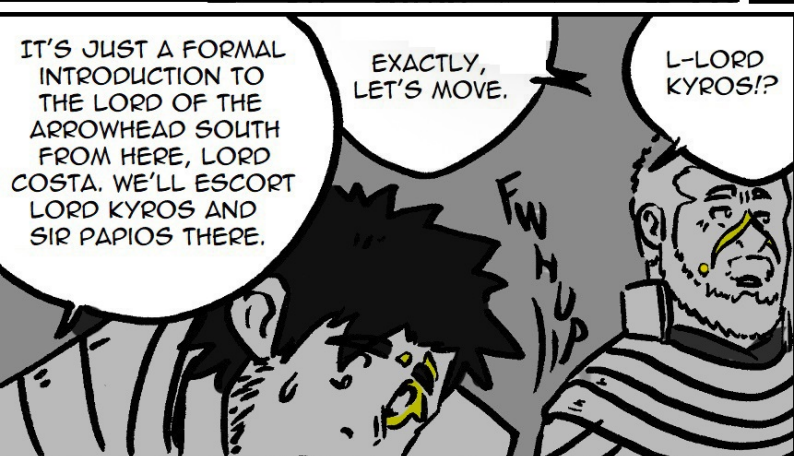
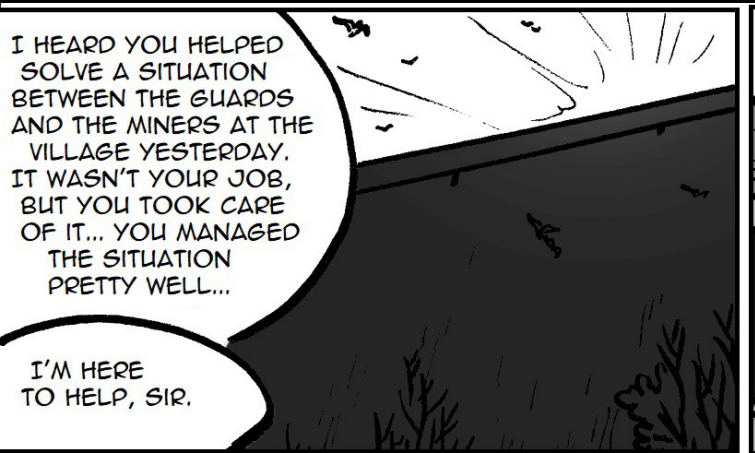
SORRY,
GUYS...
ASK
SOMEONE
ELSE.



WHAT DID
YOU CALL
ME?!

YOU
DUMB
BL...

SOLDIERS!!



I ONLY KNOW HIS SONS, THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HIM. EVERY STORY YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT LORD COSTA IS TRUE. HE'S A FAMOUS LORD GENERAL!

LET'S MAKE THIS A VERY FAST VISIT, THEN.



SO... YOU FOUGHT
HERE ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO, SIR.

HM?
YES.

I THOUGHT
YOU KNEW.

MY FATHER
LOST EVERYTHING
HE HAD BECAUSE
HE MARRIED A
PEASANT. I HAD
NOTHING WHEN
THEY DIED... THE
ONLY THING I
KNEW WAS HOW
TO FIGHT. I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN BIG
AND STRONG, SO
I BECAME A
MERCENARY.

WITH THE WHOLE
ARMY HERE AT THE
BLACK WALLS, THE
SOUTHERN CONTINENT
WAS FULL OF BRIGANDS,
BUT IN THE END I LOST
ALL I HAD AND I
THOUGHT "HEY, I
STILL HAVE SOME
NOBLE RELATIVES
SOMEWHERE", SO
I FOUND MY
UNCLE.

UNFORTUNATELY...
HE WAS AN OLD
GRUMPY WHORESON
WHO DIDN'T WANT ME IN
HIS SERVICE. HE SENT
ME AND HIS SON KYROS
HERE, TO HIS BASTARD
SON CIRIL, THE
FATHER OF PAPIOS.

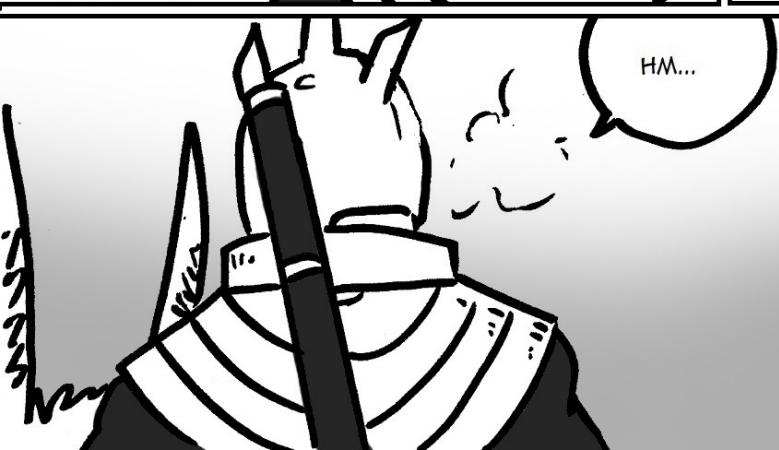
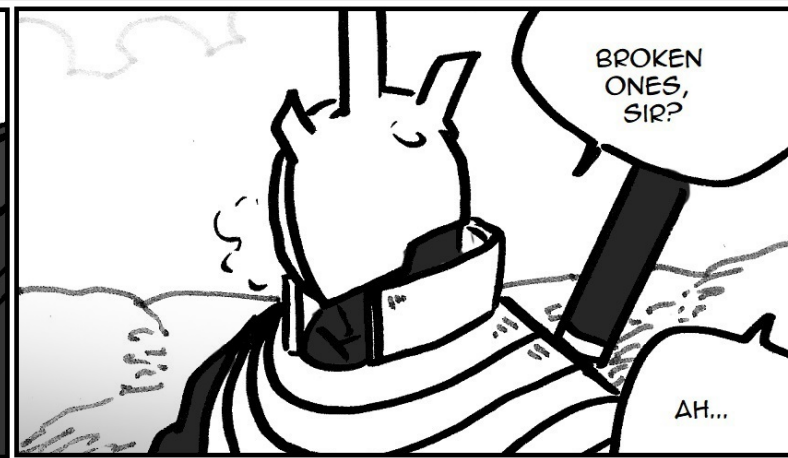
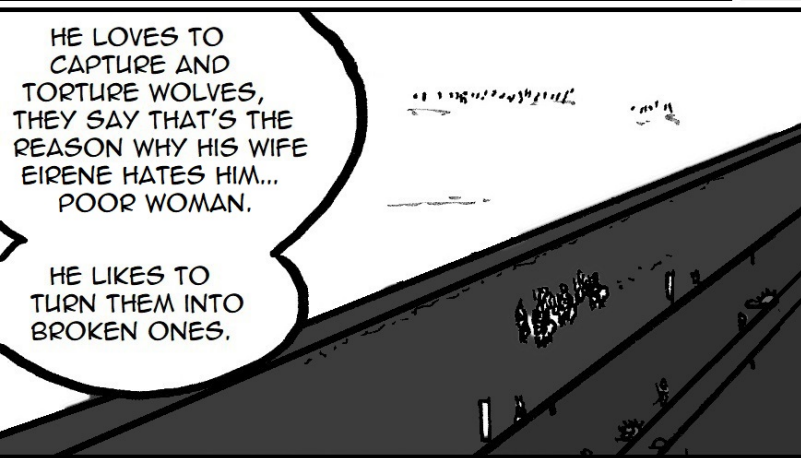
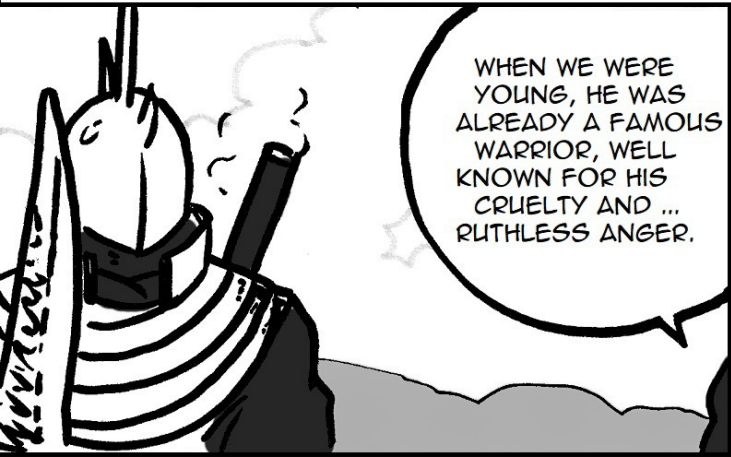
MY UNCLE HAD AN
AFFAIR WITH A WOMAN
WHEN HE FOUGHT HERE,
AND SINCE PEOPLE WHO
ARE BORN IN THIS LAND,
THE CHILDREN OF THE
SUN, CAN'T LEAVE THE
ARMY, THEIR SON CIRIL
REMAINED HERE WITH
HIS SON PAPIOS.

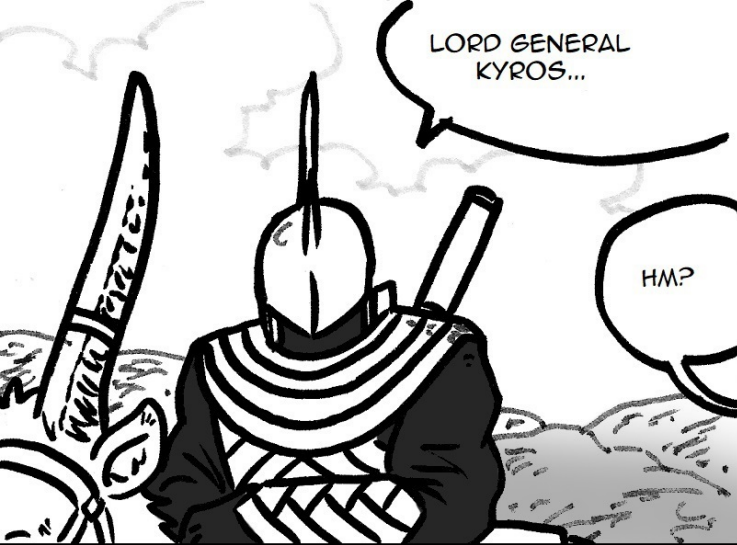
WE FOUGHT TOGETHER
FOR SOME YEARS,
THEN MY UNCLE DIED
AND KYROS INHERITED
HIS CASTLE... SO I
FOLLOWED HIM.

WE WERE BEST
FRIENDS, I SAVED
HIS LIFE IN BATTLE,
SO HE MADE ME HIS
BODYGUARD, AND
MADE ME A KNIGHT.
I OWE HIM
EVERYTHING.

THEN SOME MONTHS
AGO, HIS HALF
BROTHER CIRIL DIED,
AND SINCE KYROS
HAD AN ADULT SON,
HE GAVE HIM THE
CASTLE AND WE
CAME HERE.

HM...





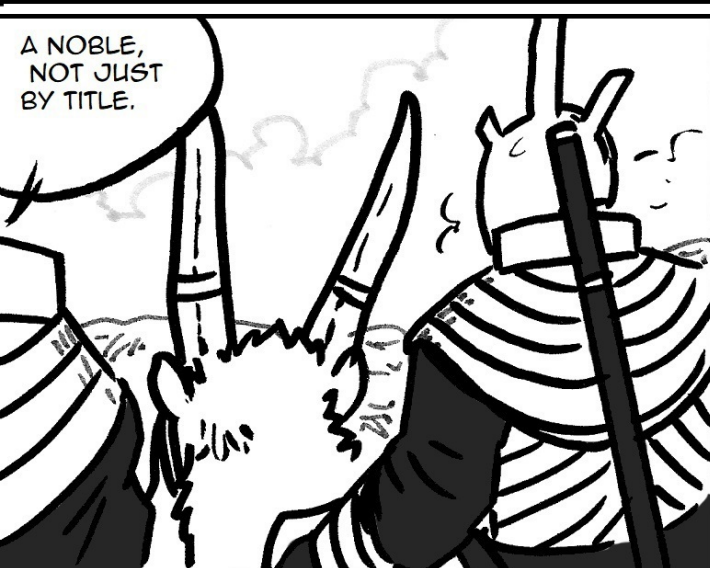
LORD GENERAL KYROS...

HM?

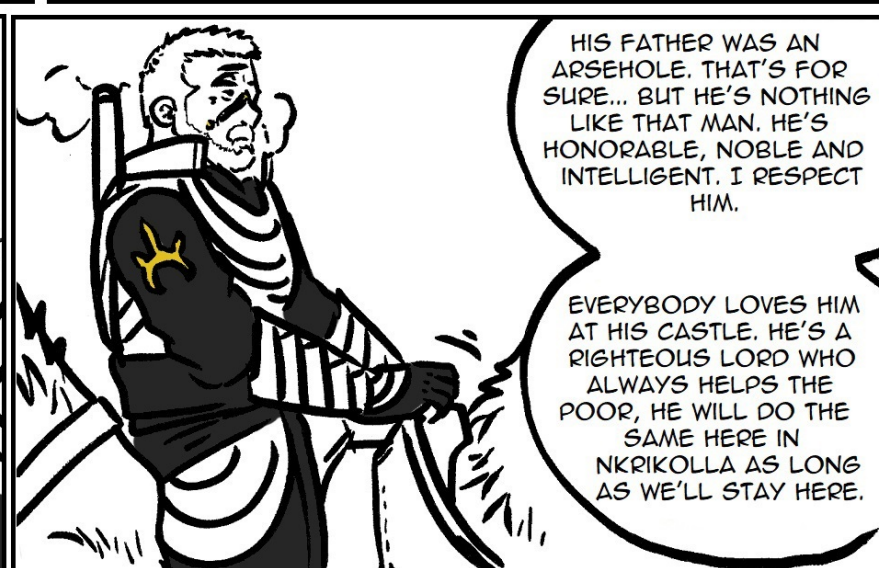


WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE, SIR?

A GOOD ONE.



A NOBLE, NOT JUST BY TITLE.

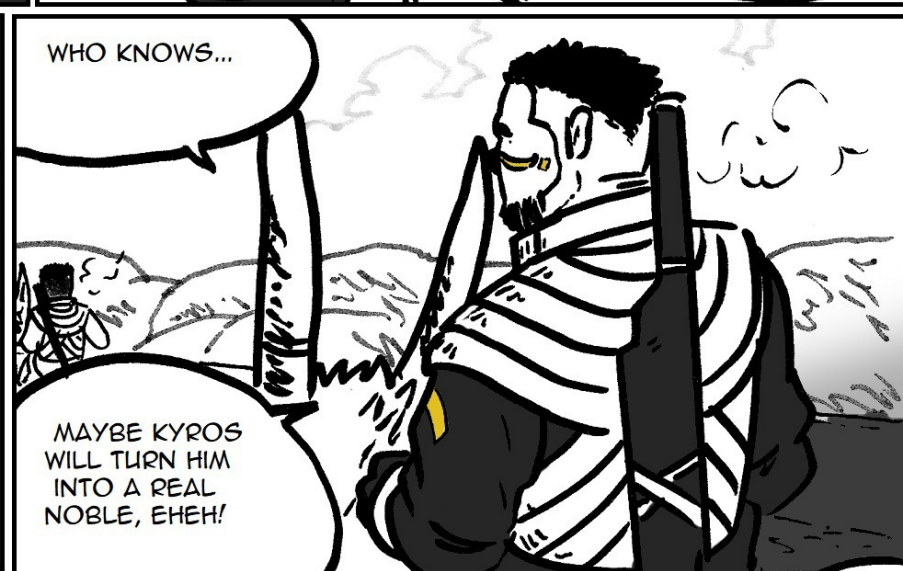


HIS FATHER WAS AN ARSEHOLE. THAT'S FOR SURE... BUT HE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT MAN. HE'S HONORABLE, NOBLE AND INTELLIGENT. I RESPECT HIM.

EVERYBODY LOVES HIM AT HIS CASTLE. HE'S A RIGHTEOUS LORD WHO ALWAYS HELPS THE POOR, HE WILL DO THE SAME HERE IN NKRIKOLLA AS LONG AS WE'LL STAY HERE.



THAT MEANS UNTIL HIS NEPHEW PAPIOS BECOMES MATURE ENOUGH TO INHERIT THE ARROWHEAD AND BECOME A LORD GENERAL LIKE HIS FATHER CIRIL. BUT IF YOU ASK ME... THAT WILL TAKE A WHILE. PAPIOS IS AN ARROGANT, ANGRY BOY, SPOILED AND NAÏVE...



WHO KNOWS...

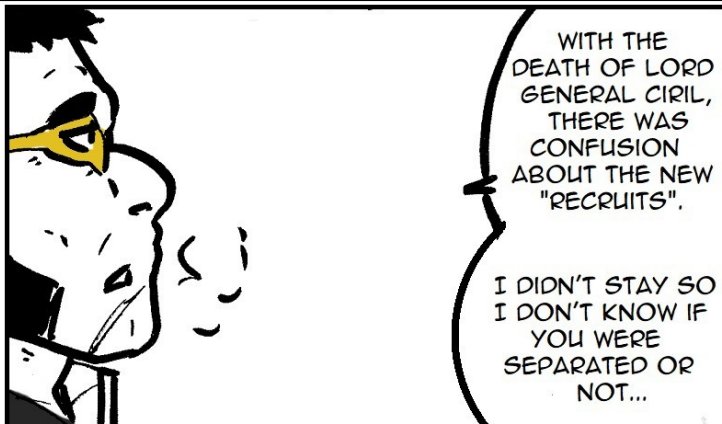
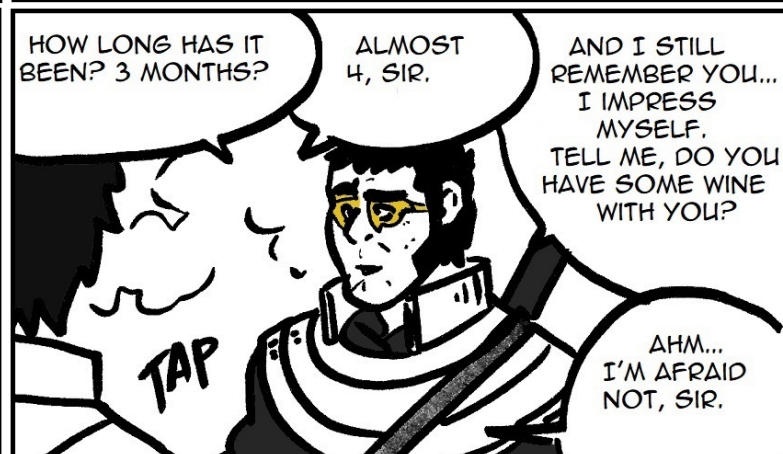
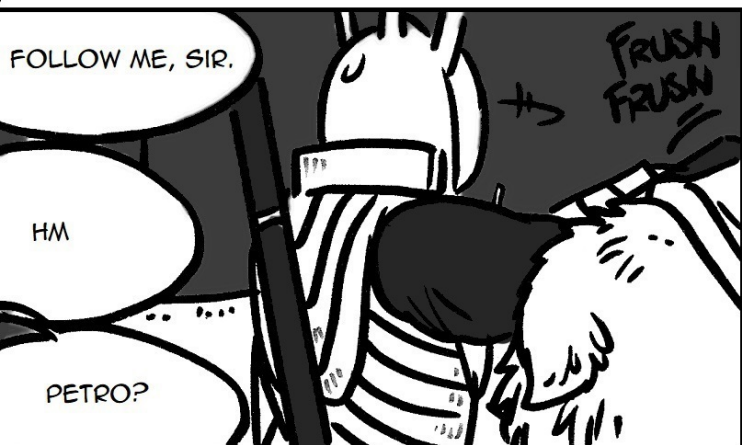
MAYBE KYROS WILL TURN HIM INTO A REAL NOBLE, EHEH!

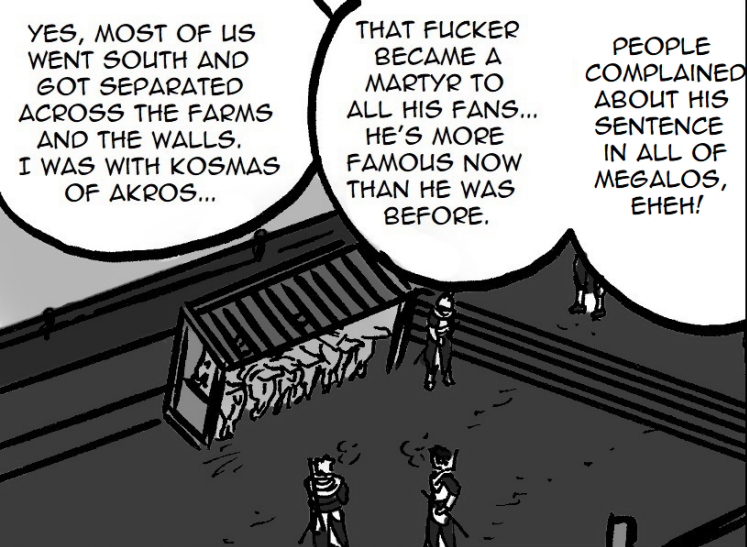


WE'LL SEE...



HM...





YES, MOST OF US WENT SOUTH AND GOT SEPARATED ACROSS THE FARMS AND THE WALLS. I WAS WITH KOSMAS OF AKROS...

THAT FUCKER BECAME A MARTYR TO ALL HIS FANS... HE'S MORE FAMOUS NOW THAN HE WAS BEFORE.

PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT HIS SENTENCE IN ALL OF MEGALOS, EHEH!



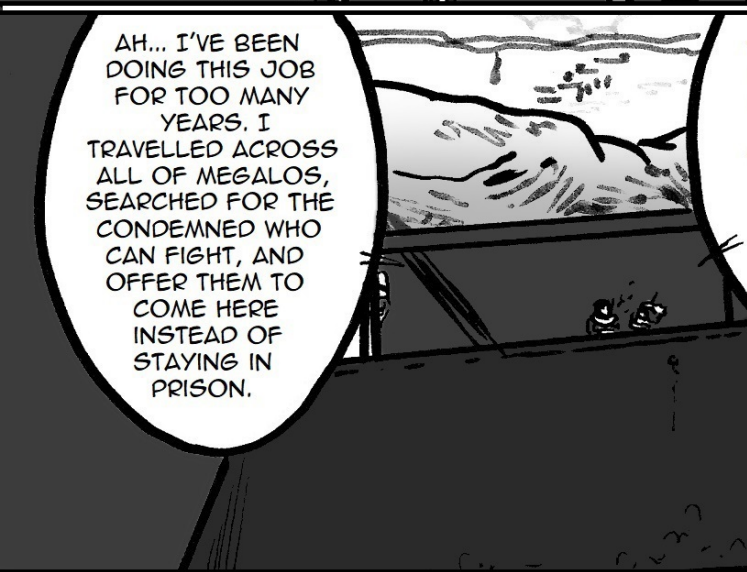
WELL, WE GOT SEPARATED AGAIN LATER, I BECAME A GUARD ON THE BLACK WALLS, AND THERE I MET XENI.

XENI... XENI...?



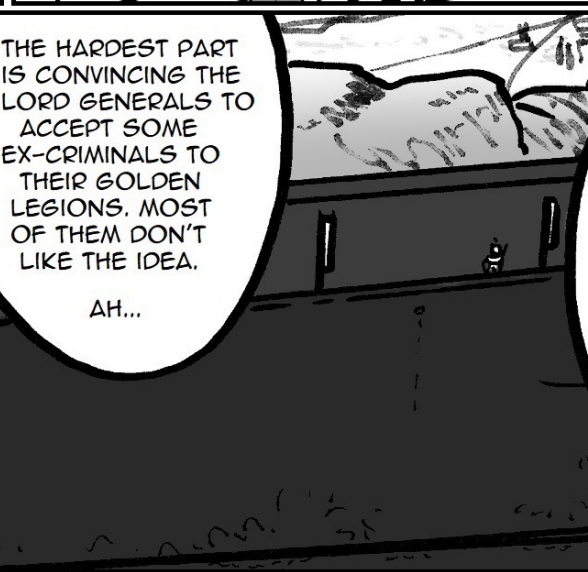
THAT... GIRL WITH THE SCAR ON HER FACE.

OH, YES! I THINK I REMEMBER HER, NOW.



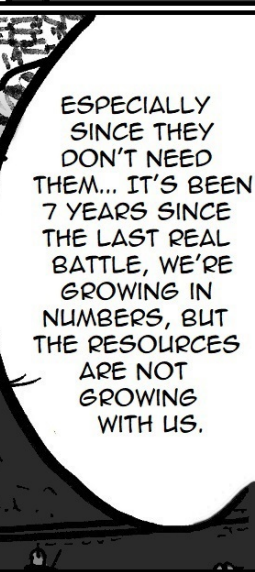
AH... I'VE BEEN DOING THIS JOB FOR TOO MANY YEARS. I TRAVELLED ACROSS ALL OF MEGALOS, SEARCHED FOR THE CONDEMNED WHO CAN FIGHT, AND OFFER THEM TO COME HERE INSTEAD OF STAYING IN PRISON.

THE HARDEST PART IS CONVINCING THE LORD GENERALS TO ACCEPT SOME EX-CRIMINALS TO THEIR GOLDEN LEGIONS. MOST OF THEM DON'T LIKE THE IDEA.



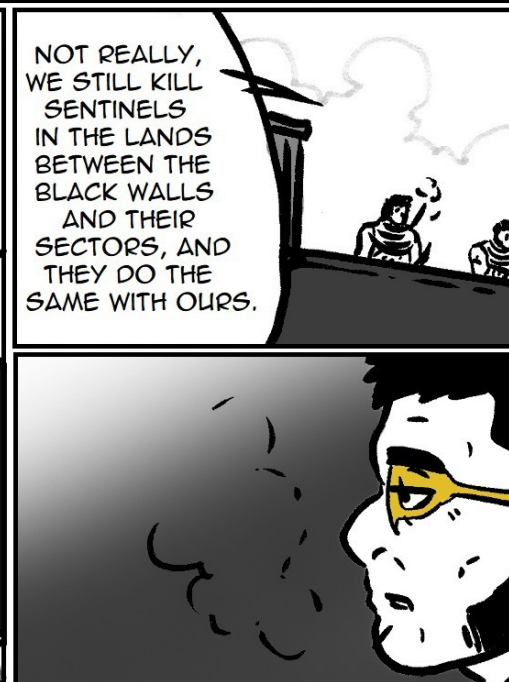
AH...

ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY DON'T NEED THEM... IT'S BEEN 7 YEARS SINCE THE LAST REAL BATTLE, WE'RE GROWING IN NUMBERS, BUT THE RESOURCES ARE NOT GROWING WITH US.



MEANWHILE, THOSE FURRY BASTARDS IN THE EAST ARE GROWING IN NUMBERS AT TWICE THE SPEED...

SO... THERE IS PEACE, FOR NOW.



NOT REALLY, WE STILL KILL SENTINELS IN THE LANDS BETWEEN THE BLACK WALLS AND THEIR SECTORS, AND THEY DO THE SAME WITH OURS.



THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE... NOT UNTIL WE TAKE THEIR DAMN LAND.

THE LAST OF THE 4 CONTINENTS OF THE DRAGON, THE ONLY ONE THAT IS NOT MEGALOS... YET.

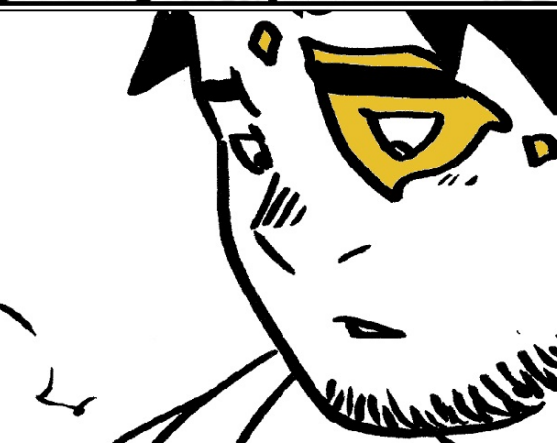


HM... FUCK, I NEED TO DRINK.

I... GOTTA BE HONEST, SIR...



I... HEH...





I STILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM...

THEM? THE WOLVES OF THE CLANS? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?

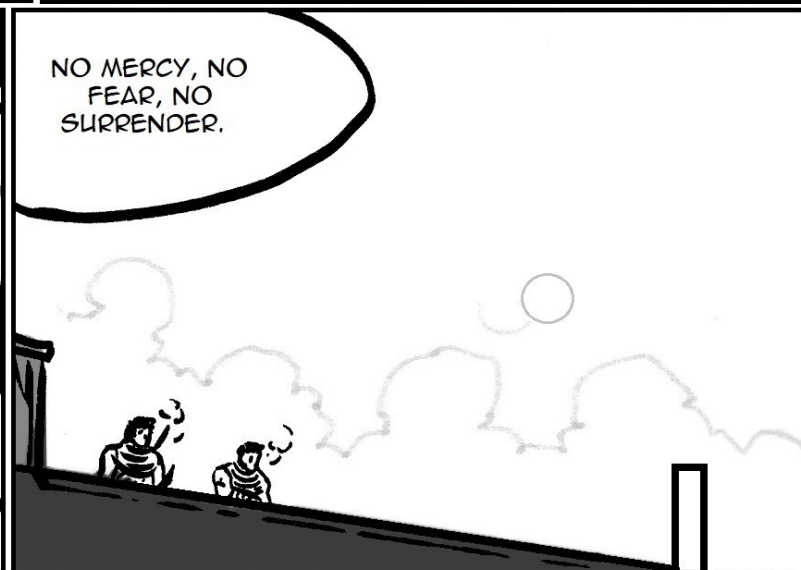


WELL... THAT THEY'RE STRONG. BIG, FEARLESS... THE BEST WARRIORS IN THE WORLD.

HM...



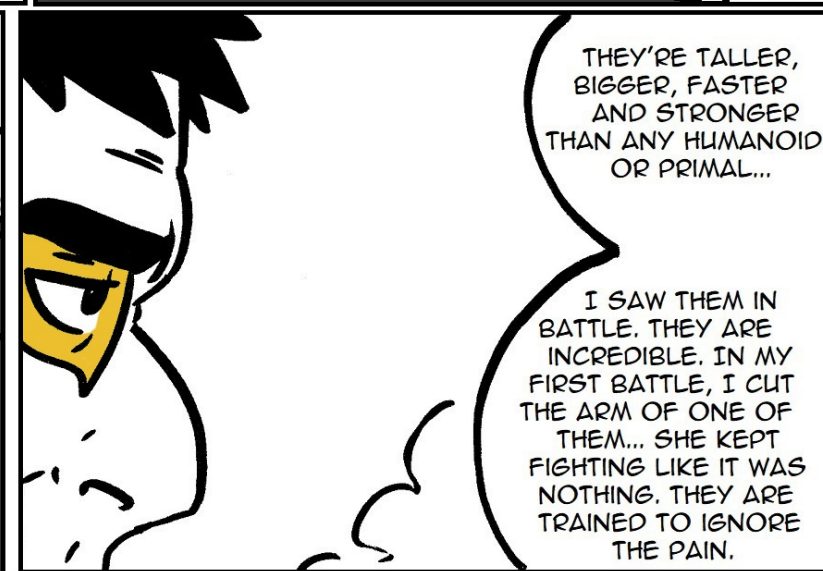
THEY'RE NIGHTMARES.



NO MERCY, NO FEAR, NO SURRENDER.



CRAZY MONSTERS. THEY PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO THIS WAR, THEY LIVE FOR IT, AND THEY DIE FOR IT. ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS TO FIGHT AND DIE IN BATTLE WITH HONOR, TO BE REMEMBERED FOR HOW THEY FOUGHT. THEIR ONLY REASON TO LIVE IS THIS WAR.



THEY'RE TALLER, BIGGER, FASTER AND STRONGER THAN ANY HUMANOID OR PRIMAL...

I SAW THEM IN BATTLE. THEY ARE INCREDIBLE. IN MY FIRST BATTLE, I CUT THE ARM OF ONE OF THEM... SHE KEPT FIGHTING LIKE IT WAS NOTHING. THEY ARE TRAINED TO IGNORE THE PAIN.

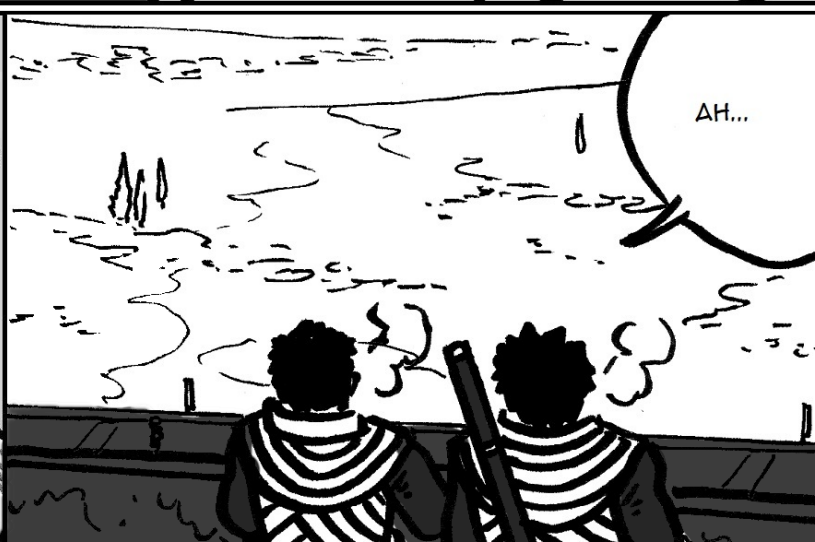


AND THAT'S THE SCARIEST PART, THEY LOOK IMMORTAL, INVINCIBLE. I REMEMBER MY PREVIOUS GENERAL SLICING THE THROAT OF ONE OF THEM, AND THAT WOLF KEPT FIGHTING. HE KILLED MY GENERAL AND 10 OTHER MEN BEFORE THEY FINALLY KILLED IT. THERE'S NO WAY TO WIN AGAINST THEM IF YOU'RE ALONE.



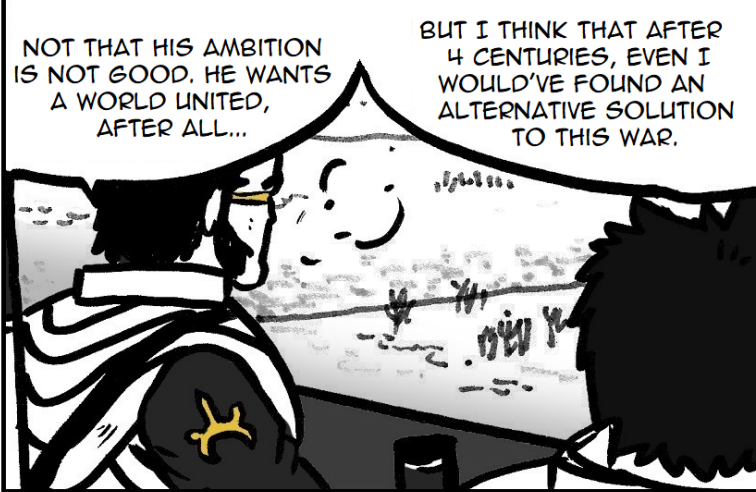
FOR EVERY WOLF THERE ARE 6 GOLDEN SOLDIERS... BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WITHOUT THESE BLACK WALLS, THEY WOULD'VE KILLED US CENTURIES AGO.



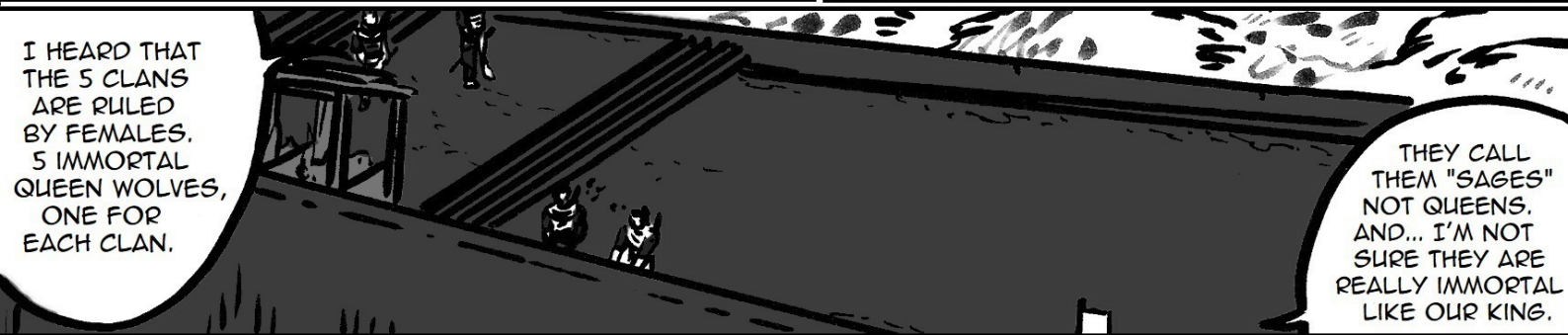


WELL...



NOT THAT HIS AMBITION IS NOT GOOD. HE WANTS A WORLD UNITED, AFTER ALL...

BUT I THINK THAT AFTER 4 CENTURIES, EVEN I WOULD'VE FOUND AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THIS WAR.



I HEARD THAT THE 5 CLANS ARE RULED BY FEMALES. 5 IMMORTAL QUEEN WOLVES, ONE FOR EACH CLAN.

THEY CALL THEM "SAGES" NOT QUEENS. AND... I'M NOT SURE THEY ARE REALLY IMMORTAL LIKE OUR KING.

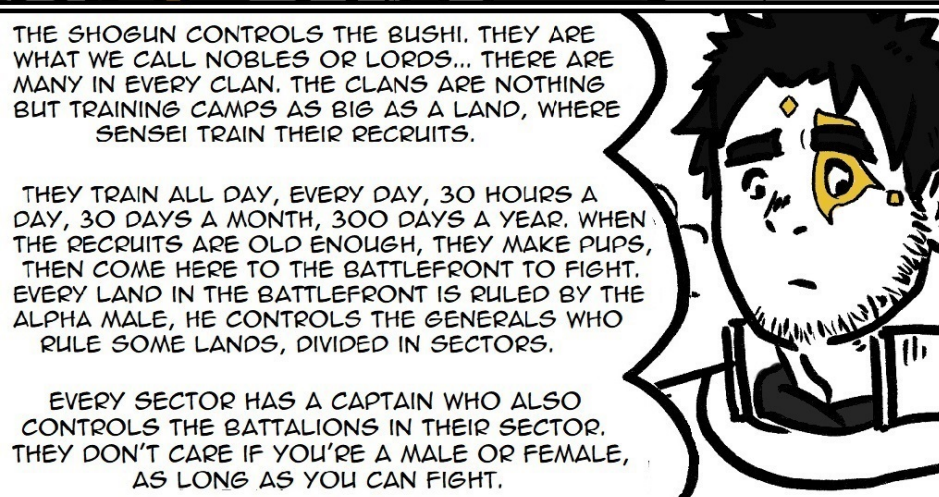


THEY CONTROL EVERYTHING IN THE EASTERN CONTINENT, NOT JUST THE 5 CLANS. THEY GET PAID AND SUPPLIED BY ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE CONTINENT. THEY SAY THEY HAVE AMBASSADORS AND SPIES IN EVERY CITY TO PREVENT WARS INSIDE THE CONTINENT. UNDER THEM, THERE ARE THE SHOGUN WHO RULE THE CLANS, AND THE ALPHA MALE WHO RULES THE BATTLEFRONT.



THEIR SECTORS ARE JUST LIKE VILLAGES, WITH BLACKSMITHS, INNKEEPERS, MERCHANTS... BUT ALL OF THEM ARE ALSO TRAINED SOLDIERS...

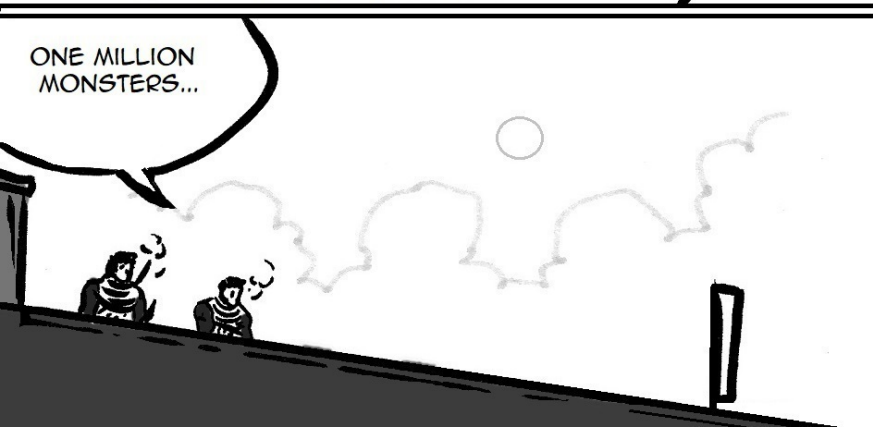
ONE MILLION SOLDIERS WHO JUST WAIT FOR US TO ATTACK THEIR DEFENSES...



THE SHOGUN CONTROLS THE BUSHI. THEY ARE WHAT WE CALL NOBLES OR LORDS... THERE ARE MANY IN EVERY CLAN. THE CLANS ARE NOTHING BUT TRAINING CAMPS AS BIG AS A LAND, WHERE SENSEI TRAIN THEIR RECRUITS.

THEY TRAIN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, 30 HOURS A DAY, 30 DAYS A MONTH, 300 DAYS A YEAR. WHEN THE RECRUITS ARE OLD ENOUGH, THEY MAKE PUPS, THEN COME HERE TO THE BATTLEFRONT TO FIGHT. EVERY LAND IN THE BATTLEFRONT IS RULED BY THE ALPHA MALE, HE CONTROLS THE GENERALS WHO RULE SOME LANDS, DIVIDED IN SECTORS.

EVERY SECTOR HAS A CAPTAIN WHO ALSO CONTROLS THE BATTALIONS IN THEIR SECTOR. THEY DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A MALE OR FEMALE, AS LONG AS YOU CAN FIGHT.



ONE MILLION MONSTERS...





WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE DO. ISN'T IT, SIR? WE KILL MONSTERS.

AAH, POOR BOY... YOU STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THIS WORLD.



AH, BLISSFUL IGNORANCE. THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A COMMONER.

IF PEOPLE OF MEGALOS KNEW THE REAL HORROR OF THIS WAR AND THE REASONS WHY IT STARTED... HEH...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?

A WORLD IN PEACE, WITHOUT WARS AND CONFLICTS... WHERE EVERYONE IS EQUAL AND GUIDED BY A WISE IMMORTAL EMPEROR THAT RULES ALL 4 CONTINENTS OF THE DRAGON.



THE EASTERN CONTINENT IS A LAND OF SAVAGES AND ILLITERATE RETROGRADES WHO ALWAYS HATED OUR MODERN SOCIETY. THEY FORCED US TO BUILD GIANT WALLS TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THE EVIL MONSTERS WHO LIVE IN THE 5 CLANS...



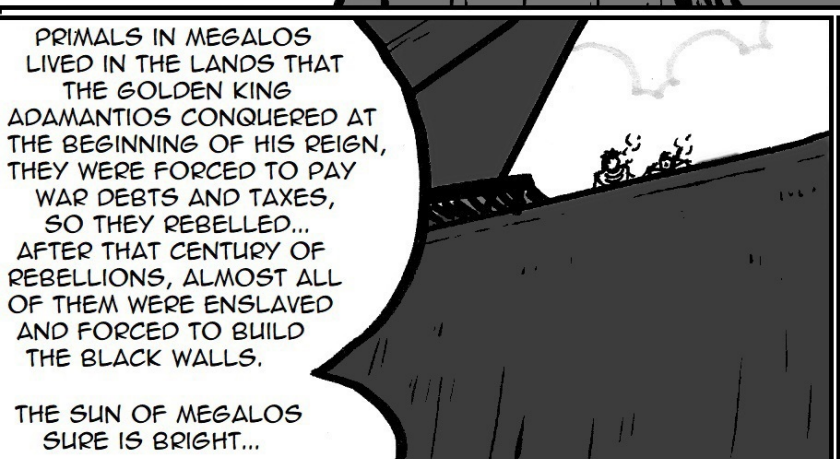
THEY STARTED THIS WAR BY KILLING OUR PEOPLE WHO CAME HERE IN PEACE, BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO CLOSE TO THE MORI FOREST WHERE THE WOLVES LIVED.

THIS IS IN OUR HISTORY BOOKS AND THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW. WE ARE GOOD, AND THEY ARE EVIL.



SOME SAY THAT THE WOLVES WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR LANDS, AND THAT THE GOLDEN KING ALWAYS HATED PRIMAL PEOPLE. SO WHEN THEY SAW THAT WOLVES FOUGHT AND WON AGAINST THE GOLDEN KING... WELL...

IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A CENTURY OF REBELLIONS AND RACIAL WARS IN ALL OF MEGALOS...



PRIMALS IN MEGALOS LIVED IN THE LANDS THAT THE GOLDEN KING ADAMANTIOS CONQUERED AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS REIGN, THEY WERE FORCED TO PAY WAR DEBTS AND TAXES, SO THEY REBELLED... AFTER THAT CENTURY OF REBELLIONS, ALMOST ALL OF THEM WERE ENSLAVED AND FORCED TO BUILD THE BLACK WALLS.

THE SUN OF MEGALOS SURE IS BRIGHT...



BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BLIND THE PEOPLE, AND BURN WHOEVER THE GOLDEN KING DOESN'T LIKE.

CAPTAIN NESIOS...



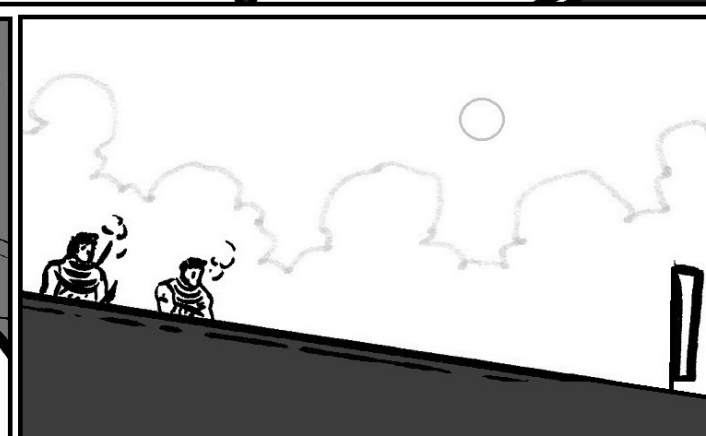
AH! DON'T MIND ME, PETRO...

I'M JUST AN OLD, GRUMPY DRUNKARD WHO LIKES TO GRUMBLE, EHEH!

LONG LIVE THE GOLDEN KING, ADAMANTIOS.

FUSH

L-LONG LIVE THE GOLDEN KING...





DAMN, I REALLY
NEED TO DRINK
NOW...



WAR IS
HORRIBLE,
INDEED.

BUT THINK
ABOUT WHAT
OUR VICTORY
WILL BRING
TO THIS
WORLD...



THE 4 CONTINENTS
OF THE DRAGON
UNITED UNDER A
SINGLE RULER.

NOT LIKE DRAGONS
DID, KEEPING MAGIC
TO THEMSELVES AND
USING IT TO DOMINATE
PEOPLE. A RIGHTFUL
RULER, AN EMPIRE
WITHOUT WARS
WHERE EVERYONE
IS EQUAL AND
FREE.



IT IS SOMETHING
WORTH FIGHTING
FOR, HM?



IT WAS ABOUT TIME
WE WERE FORMALLY
INTRODUCED TO
EACH OTHER, LORD
KYROS.

INDEED,
LORD
COSTA.



AND PAPIOS,
COME FIND MY
SONS, THEY
ASKED FOR
YOU.

YES, LORD
COSTA.

HMM



YOUR FATHER AND
I LIKED TO WATCH
YOU AND MY SONS
TRAIN TOGETHER.
DON'T WORRY,
YOUNG MAN...

TAP



ONE DAY ALL THAT
TRAINING WILL BE
WORTH THE TIME
YOU SPENT HERE.
AND, WHO KNOWS?

MAYBE YOU'LL
MAKE YOUR OWN
CLOAK WITH YOUR
FIRST ENEMY...



WHEN YOU
KILL YOUR
FIRST ENEMY,
THAT'S THE
MOMENT
WHEN YOU
FEEL IT...
ALL YOUR
POWER.



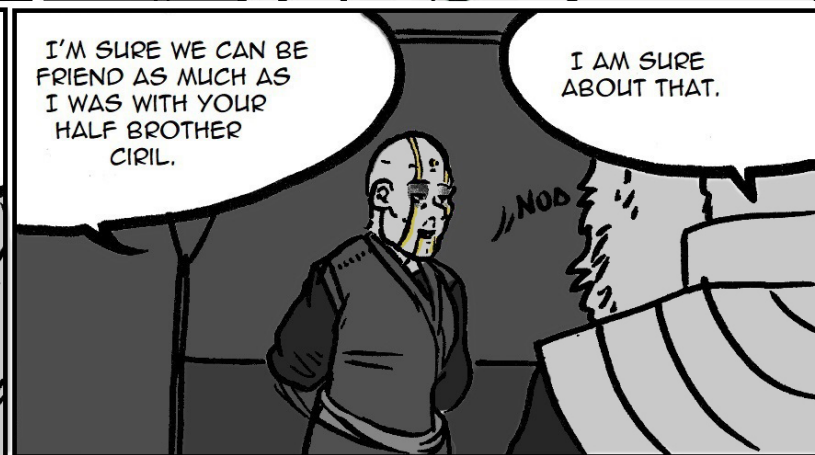
MAYBE I
COULD TEACH
YOU HOW TO
SKIN ONE
OF THESE
BEASTS...

VERY WELL...



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HOSPITALITY,
LORD GENERAL
COSTA.

IT'S BEEN A
PLEASURE, SIR.



I'M SURE WE CAN BE
FRIEND AS MUCH AS
I WAS WITH YOUR
HALF BROTHER
CIRIL.

I AM SURE
ABOUT THAT.



MY LORD.

GOODBYE.



SEE YOU SOON...



UH!

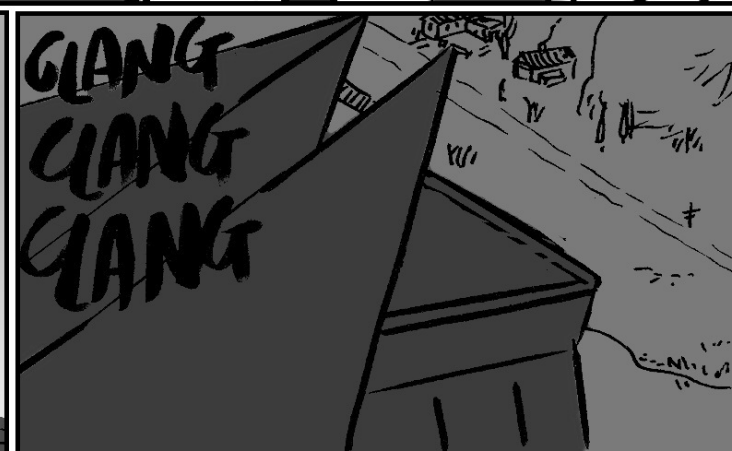
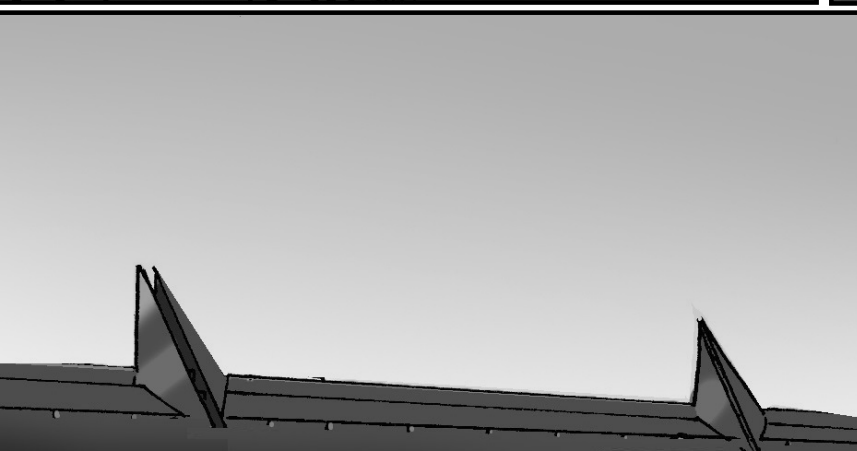
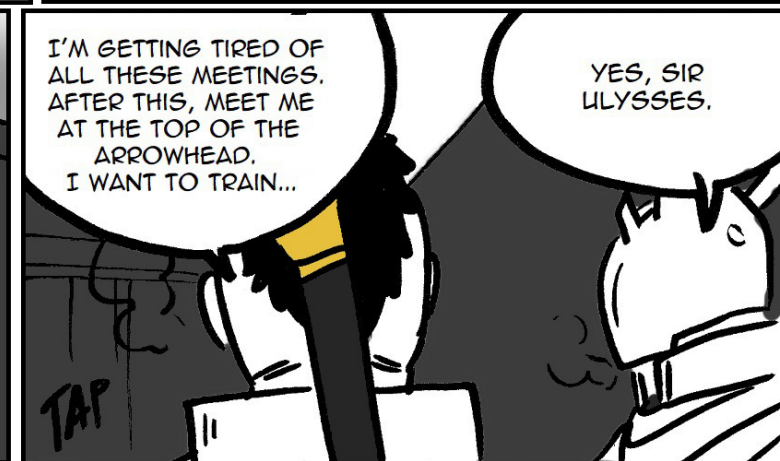
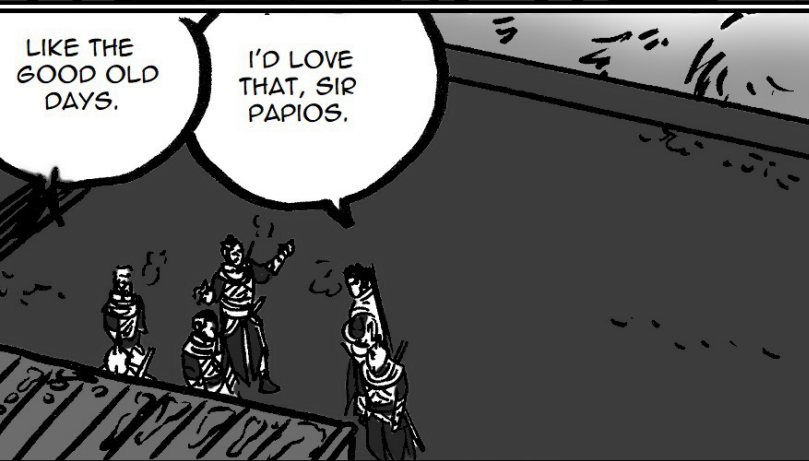
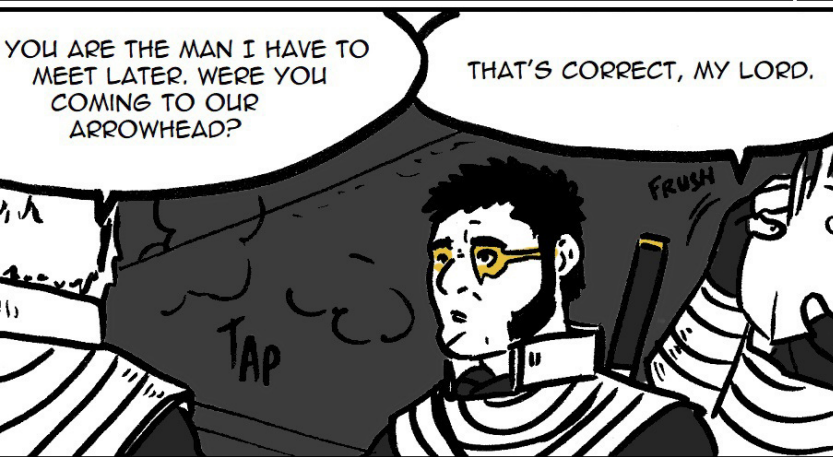


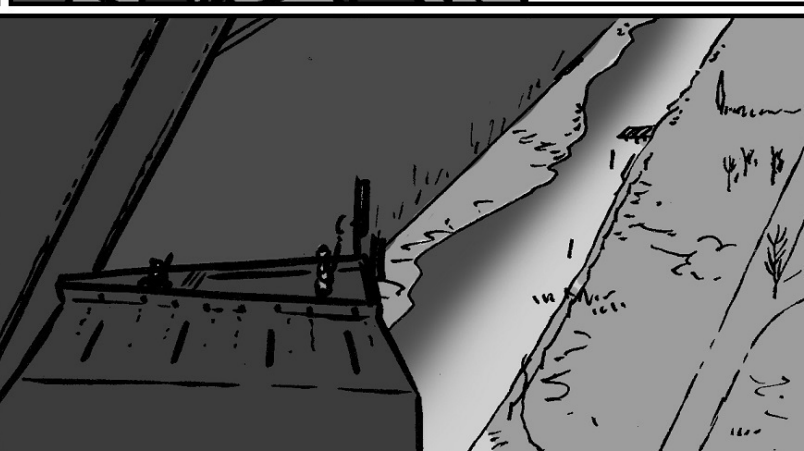
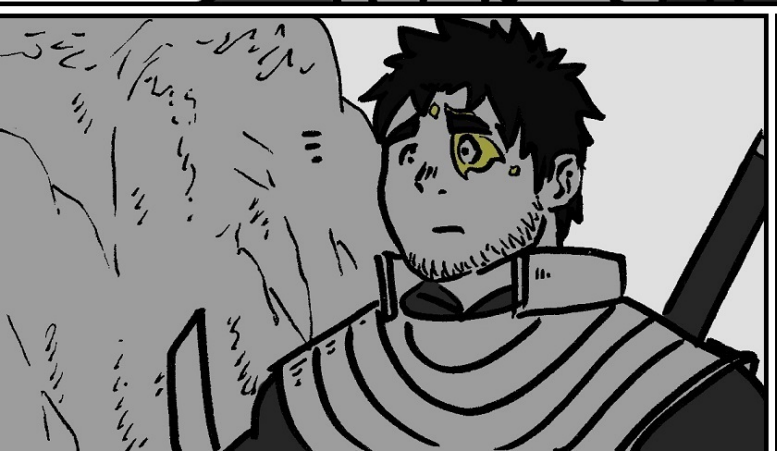
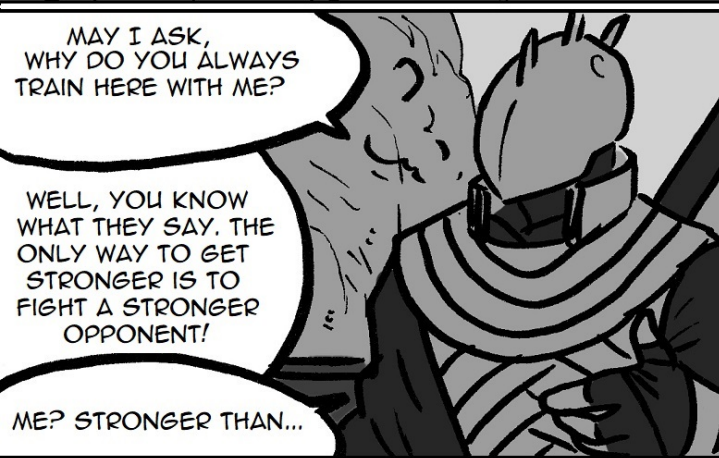
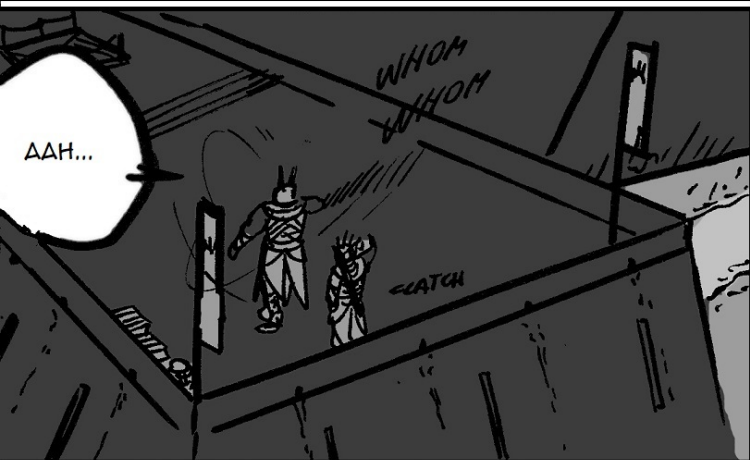
SIR...

HMM



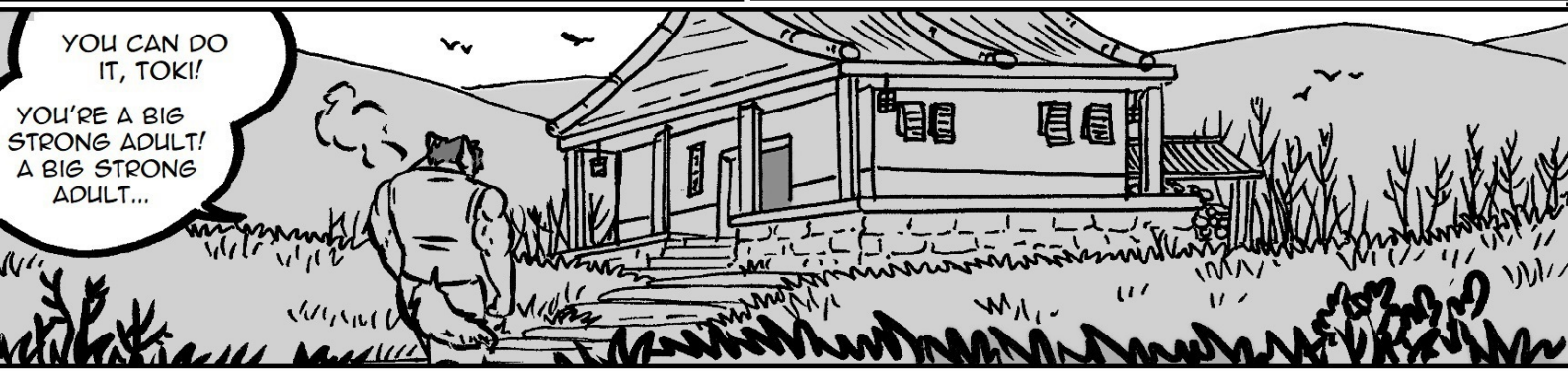
COME ON,
LET'S GET
OUT OF
HERE.

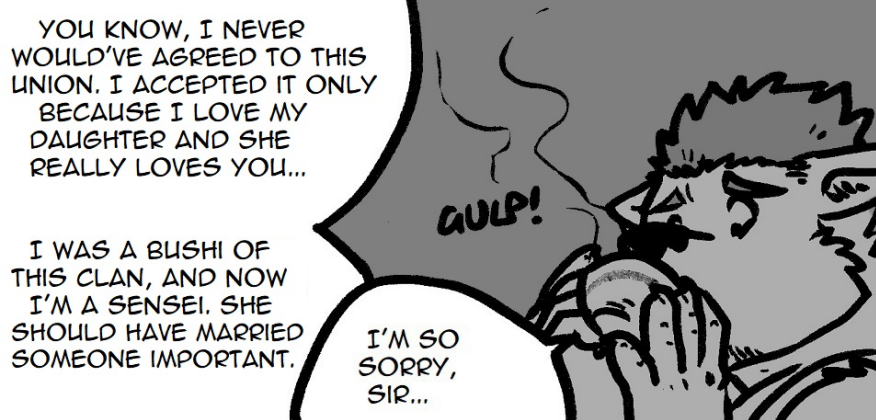






3 years Later





YOU KNOW, I NEVER WOULD'VE AGREED TO THIS UNION. I ACCEPTED IT ONLY BECAUSE I LOVE MY DAUGHTER AND SHE REALLY LOVES YOU...

GULP!

I'M SO SORRY, SIR...

I WAS A BUSHI OF THIS CLAN, AND NOW I'M A SENSEI. SHE SHOULD HAVE MARRIED SOMEONE IMPORTANT.



FUSH FRUSH

YOU'RE JUST A WOODCUTTER, SON OF A BLACKSMITH AND A FARMER... THEY'LL BE REMEMBERED.

THEY'LL BE REMEMBERED...



YOU HAVE NO MONEY, YOUR HOUSE IS TOO SMALL AND TOO FAR FROM ALL OTHER HOUSES ON THE HILL... YOU NEVER SHINED AS A WARRIOR EITHER, TOKI, ALL WHILE IKU IS A DAUGHTER OF A NOBLE.

SO LET ME ASK YOU...



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER TO HER?



HM?

TAP



ALL OF MYSELF.



MY LOVE...
MY LIFE!

THIS IS ALL I CAN GIVE HER...



I KNOW THIS IS NOT ENOUGH... I KNOW THAT SHE DESERVES BETTER, BUT SHE CHOSE ME, AND THIS IS ALL I HAVE...

WE LOVE EACH OTHER.



I WILL SPEND EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE MAKING SURE SHE LIVES A HAPPY ONE. I WILL GIVE HER ALL OF MYSELF!



I LOVE HER, AND SHE LOVES ME SINCE WE WERE PUPS, AND NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE THAT...

WE WILL MARRY, WITH OR WITHOUT THE BUSHI'S PERMISSION, OR YOURS FOR THAT MATTER!



WE DON'T NEED ANYONE'S PERMISSION BECAUSE WE ARE IN LOVE AND NOBODY WILL EVER SEPARATE US! I WILL DO ANYTHING TO STAY WITH HER!



I WILL MARRY IKU, AND NOTHING IN THIS WORLD COULD EVER...

TAP



UH... I... I MEAN...



SORRY, I...

OH, C'MON!



YOU WERE DOING SO WELL...



AH... I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.



HUH?

I KNOW YOU ASKED
THE BLACKSMITH HOW
MUCH A COUPLE OF
GOLDEN BRACELETS
WOULD COST...

I'M NOT THE BUSHI
OF THIS PLACE
ANYMORE, BUT PEOPLE
STILL TALK TO ME
AS IF I WAS ONE...

THEY TELL ME
EVERYTHING!

FRUSH

SAME REASON WHY
I WAS SO SURPRISED
WHEN YOU TOLD ME
THAT YOU WERE IN A
RELATIONSHIP, NO ONE
KNEW, HEH... WELL,
ANYWAY...

FWUP

HERE'S MY
WEDDING
GIFT.

FUSH



S-SIR?

THESE WERE MINE
AND IKU'S
MOTHER'S
BRACELETS...

SHE ASKED ME
TO GIVE THEM
TO IKU AND
HER GROOM.



BUT I...

AHAHA!

GIVE ME A
HUG, YOU
BIG DORK!

HUFF!

FWUM

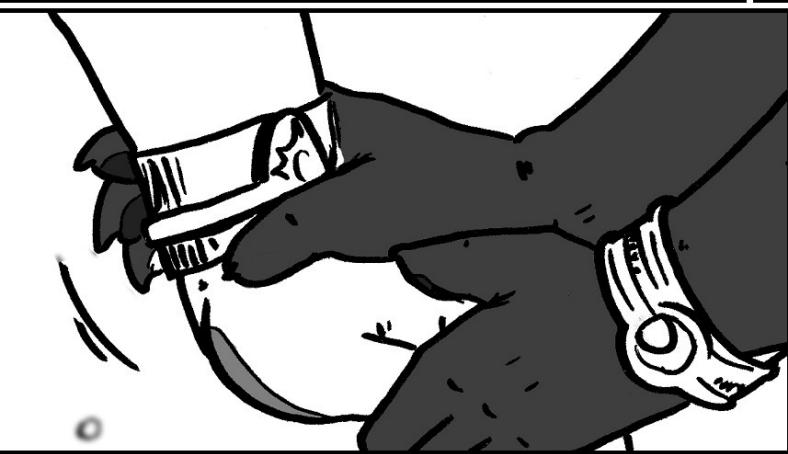
C'MON! GO
TELL HER!

FUSH

GO GIVE
HER THESE!

HEH...

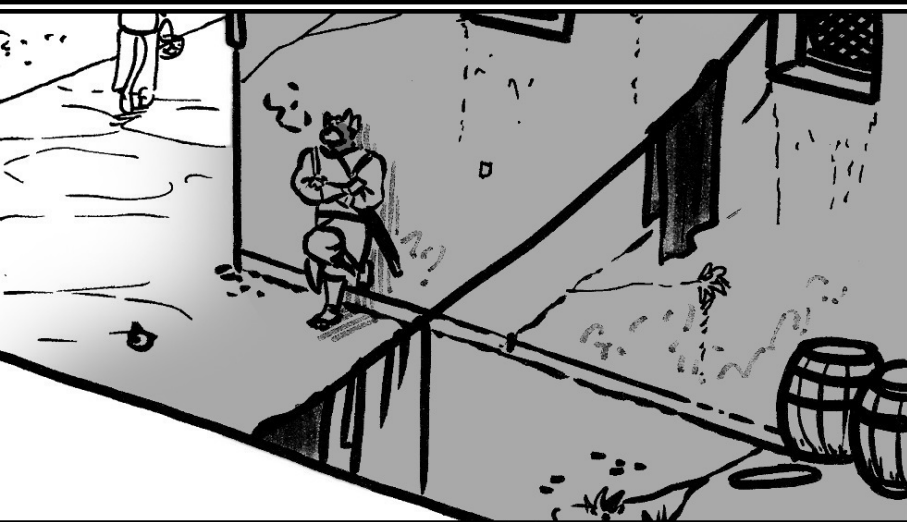
AHAHAH!!!







BLACK LAKE



WOFF...



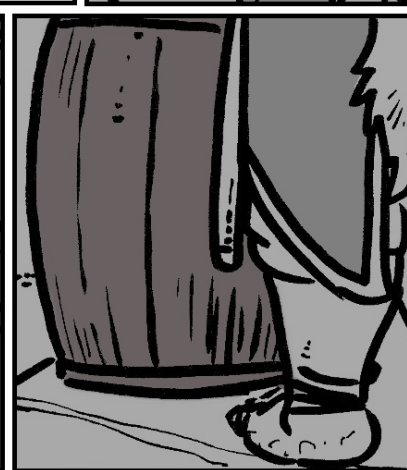
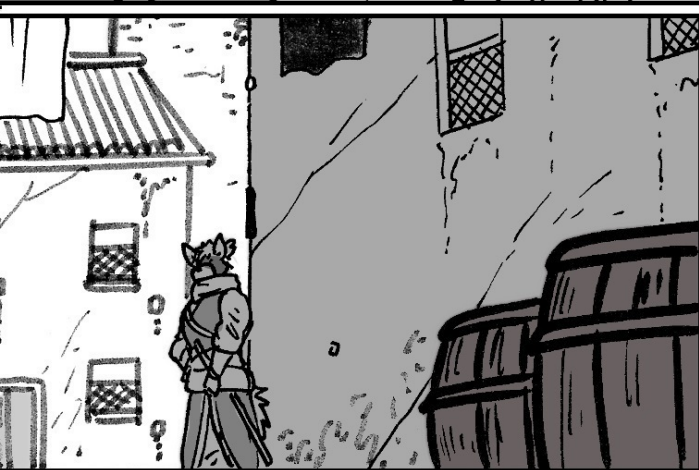
THERE SHE IS.

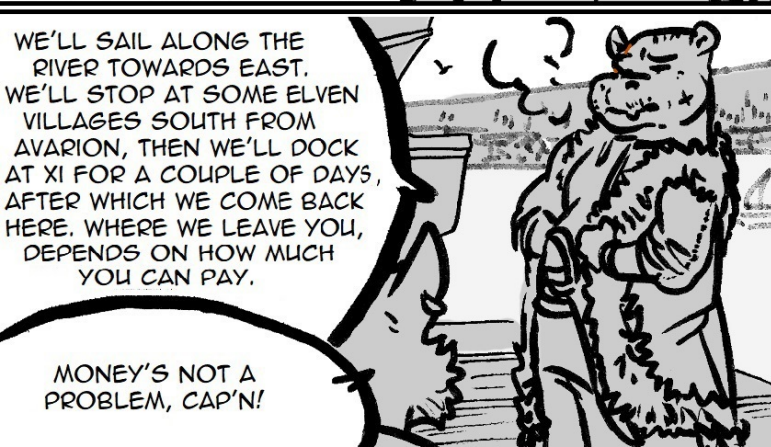
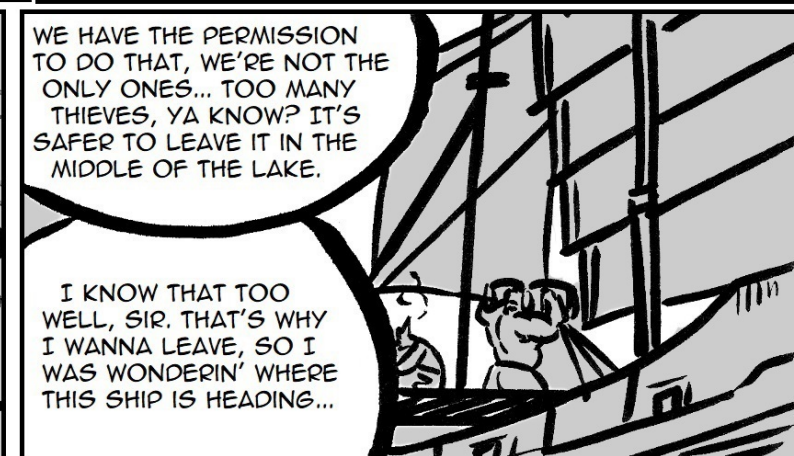
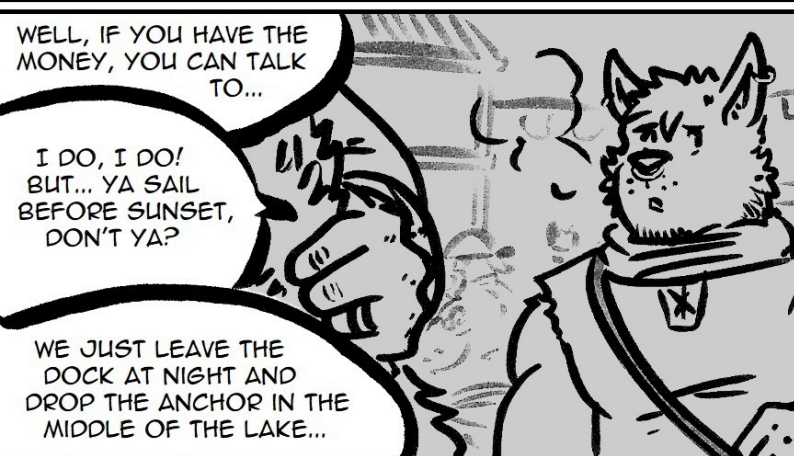
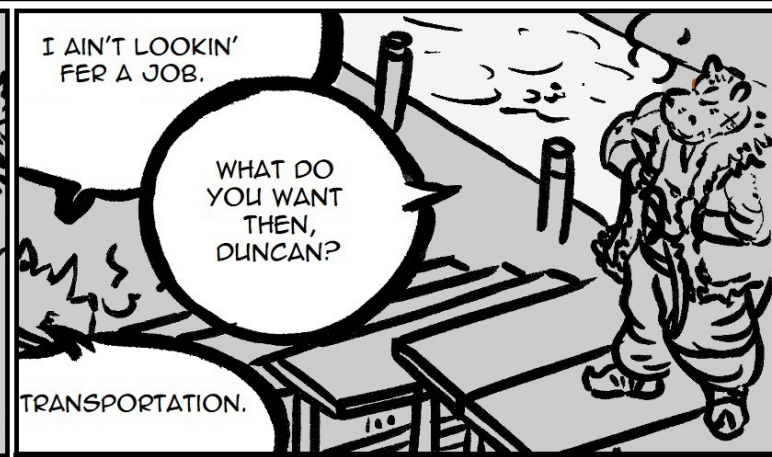
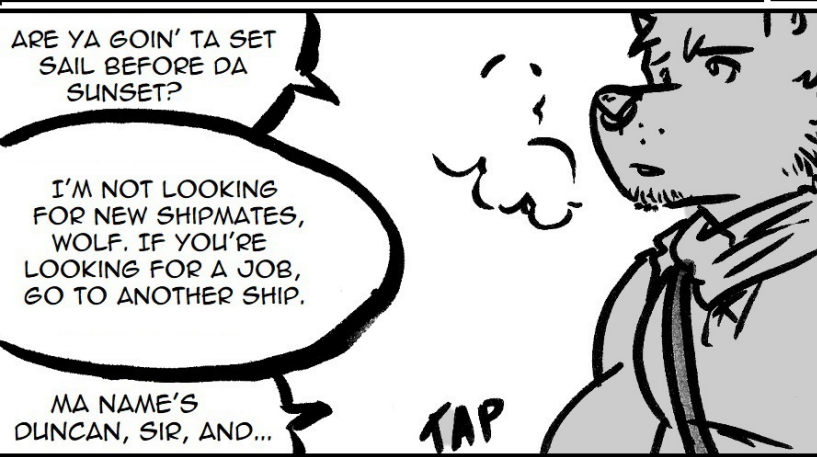
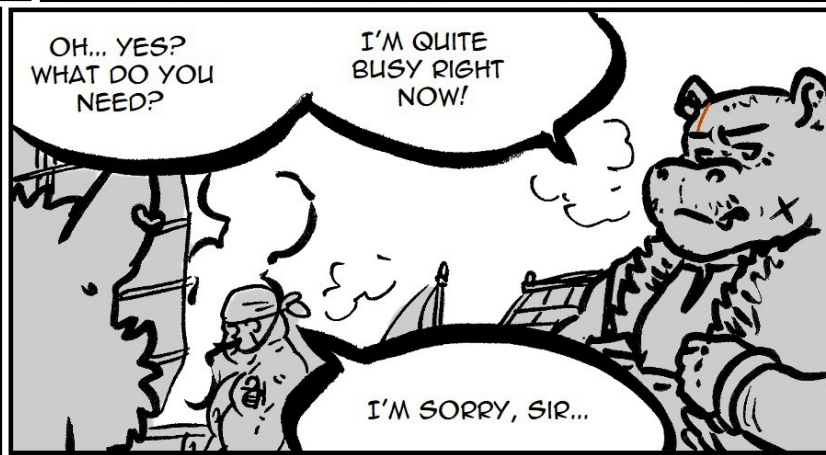


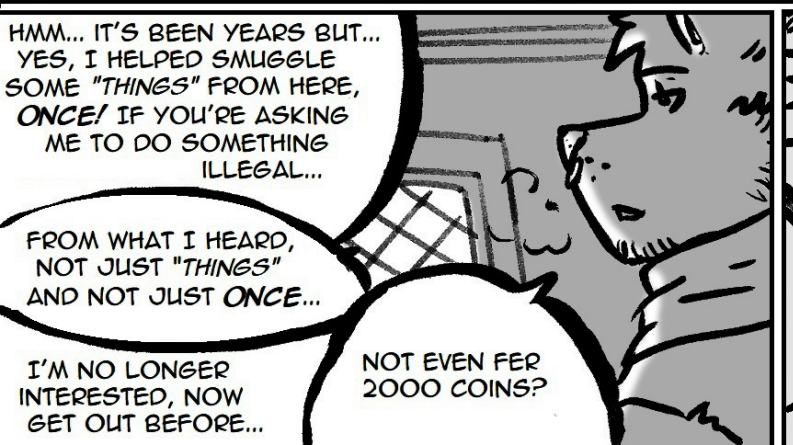
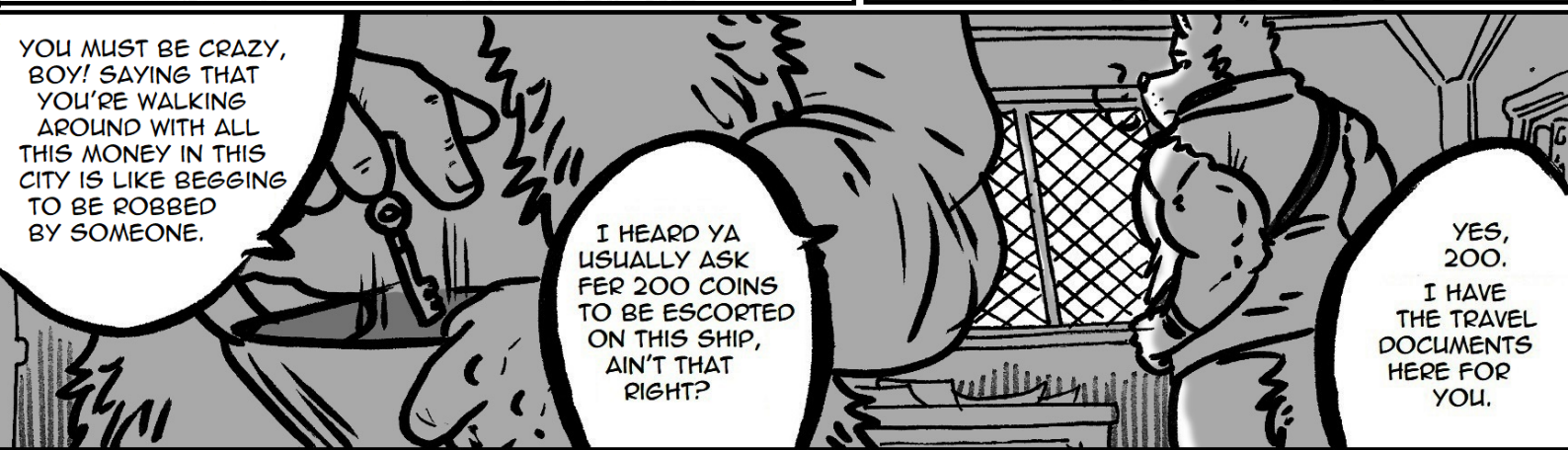
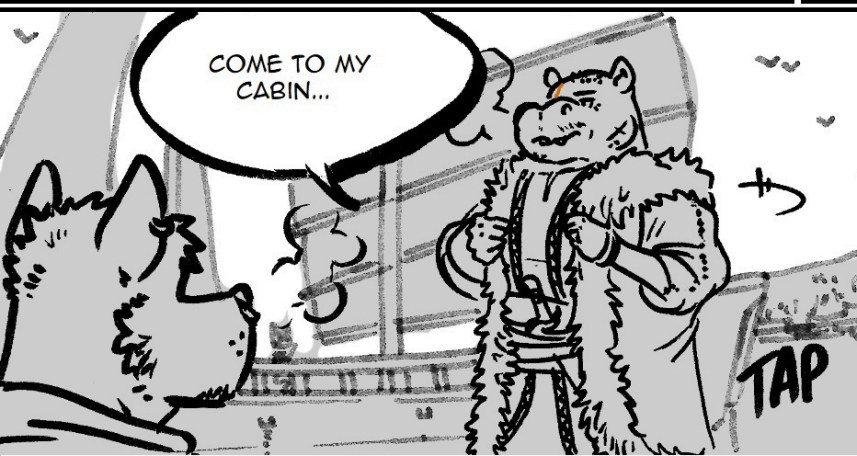
SORRY, DO YOU
KNOW WHERE THE
MARKET IS?

YES.

AT THE END OF
THIS ALLEY, IN
THAT BLACK
BARREL.









MY CONTACT
WAS RIGHT!
CAPTAIN
HASSAN
IS REALLY
INVOLVED WITH
DESERTERS,
FOR WHO
KNOWS
HOW
LONG...

HE HELPS
WOLVES TO RUN
AWAY FROM HERE
ON HIS SHIP, THE
TRIDENT. HE ASKS
THEM FOR HALF THE
MONEY IN ADVANCE
AND THEN HE MAKES
THEM WAIT HERE
WHILE HE GOES
ON HIS USUAL
TRIP...

WHILE HE'S AWAY,
HE LEAVES SOMEONE
HERE TO WATCH THE
WOLF WHO WANTS TO
DESERT TO MAKE SURE
THAT HE'S NOT A SPY
OR THAT NOTHING
HAPPENS TO HIM OR
HER... ACCORDING
TO MY CONTACT'S
INVESTIGATIONS... WHEN
THE TRIDENT COMES
BACK HERE FROM XI,
THE CAPTAIN ASKS
FOR THE SECOND
HALF OF THE MONEY.

AT THAT POINT, THEY
SMUGGLE THE DESERTERS
ABOARD BUT HE DIDN'T TELL
ME HOW, AND MY CONTACT
HAS NO IDEA.

HASSAN IS CONVINCED
THAT HIS METHOD
WORKS AND HE ASSURED
ME ABOUT THAT, SO HE
ALREADY DID THAT...
ONCE ON THE SHIP, THE
DESERTERS CAN GET OFF
IT AT ANY POINT ALONG
THE RIVER.

WAIT, SO WE
HAVE TO WAIT
FOR HASSAN TO
COMPLETE HIS
USUAL TRIP WHILE
WE STAY HERE WITH
ONE OF HIS CREW
SPYING ON US
ALL THE TIME?

NOT GOOD... WE
MUST BE SURE
THAT WE ARE ON
THE SAME SHIP
AS AKIO

EXACTLY, WE
CANNOT WAIT!

IF AKIO LEAVES
BEFORE US, WE
WILL NOT KNOW AT
WHICH POINT HE'D
LEAVE THE SHIP...
IT COULD TAKE
MONTHS OR EVEN
MORE TO FIND HIS
TRACKS AGAIN...

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT!

YES, HE
DOESN'T TRUST
US...

WE AGREED ON A
REALLY GOOD DEAL,
WITH A PRICE SO GOOD
THAT HE'LL BREAK HIS
OWN RULES AND LET
YOU COME ALONG
THE NEXT TIME THE
TRIDENT SETS SAIL.
MY CONTACT WAS
RIGHT AGAIN WHEN
SHE SAID HE CAN'T
THINK STRAIGHT IN
FRONT OF A LOT
OF MONEY!

WE SET SAIL IN 4 DAYS.

4 DAYS...

WOFF...

HASSAN DIDN'T MENTION IT,
OF COURSE, BUT MY
CONTACT IS SURE THAT
HASSAN LEAVES SOMEONE
BEHIND TO WATCH THE
DESERTERS.

I'M NOT SURE HE
BELIEVED OUR STORY
OF ME BEING A
RONIN WHO WANTS TO
HELP YOU ESCAPE.

I SUPPOSE HE WANTS
TO SEE ME IN PERSON,
TO KNOW IF HE CAN
TRUST ME...

YES, AND
HE'S TRULY
CONVINCED HE
HAS A VERY
SECURE
METHOD OF
VERIFYING
YOU!

HE LIKES
ME... DUNCAN,
HE TRUSTS ME,
OR BETTER...
HE TRUSTS MY
MONEY! BUT HE'S
STILL NOT SURE
ABOUT YOU.

WOFF...
SHIT...



WHERE AND WHEN?

TONIGHT!



AT THE TAVERN
CALLED "THE RED
CROW" NEAR THE
DOCK.



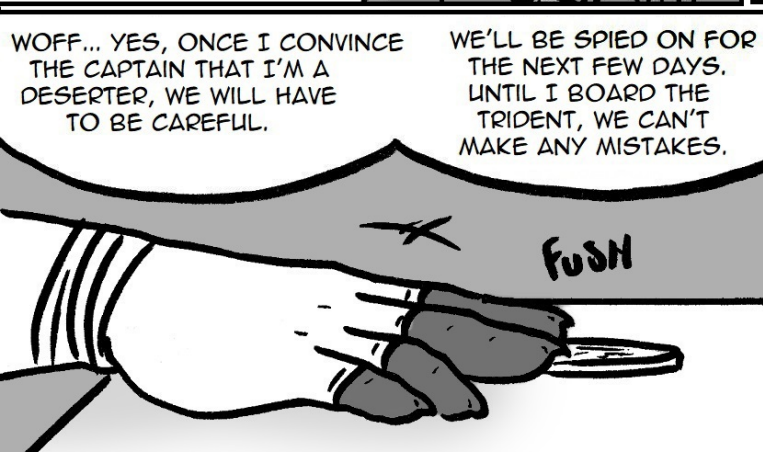
WHEN YOU GET THERE,
TALK TO THE INNKEEPER AND
ASK FOR THE PENTHOUSE,
THEN SHOW HIM A COIN
AND SAY THAT THE
CELLAR WILL BE FINE TOO.

THE INNKEEPER IS A
FRIEND OF THE CAPTAIN,
HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
IF HASSAN REALLY HAS
A METHOD OF FINDING
OUT IF SOMEONE IS
LYING...



I KNOW HOW TO LIE, I'M A SPY,
I'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR THIS...

RIGHT, STILL...
BE CAREFUL,
AKARU.



WOFF... YES, ONCE I CONVINCE
THE CAPTAIN THAT I'M A
DESERTER, WE WILL HAVE
TO BE CAREFUL.

WE'LL BE SPIED ON FOR
THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
UNTIL I BOARD THE
TRIDENT, WE CAN'T
MAKE ANY MISTAKES.

FUSH



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT...

NOD



...OUR FRIENDS
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

COME!



**KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK**

PASSWORD?



EGG AND
BLUE.

COME
IN.

CLUNK



YOU MUST
BE
AKARU...

TAP



COME, TAKE
A SEAT.

CAPTAIN
HASSAN...



YOUR FRIEND
DUNCAN TOLD
ME YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
A SAFE
PASSAGE ON
MY SHIP, THE
TRIDENT.

HM...



DON'T WORRY, MY
FRIEND. THIS IS NOT
A TRAP, WE'RE NOT
SPIES, EHEH!

DUNCAN
TOLD ME.

FUNNY...
I AM A
SPY.

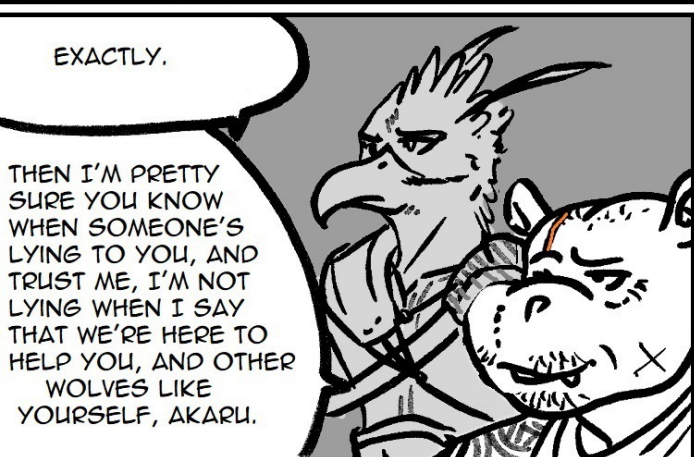


I'M A TRACKER... HERE
FOR A MISSION...

FUSH

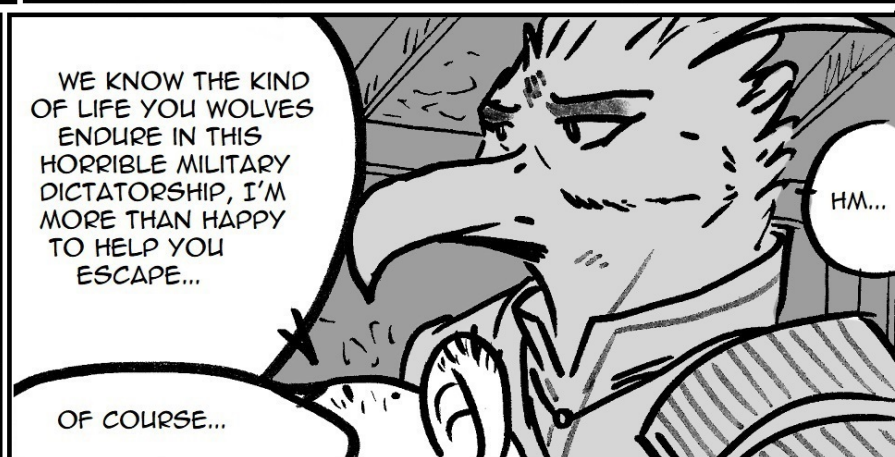
TRACKERS,
YES, THE ONES WHO
KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT A PERSON
AFTER A SINGLE WHIFF.

HM...



EXACTLY.

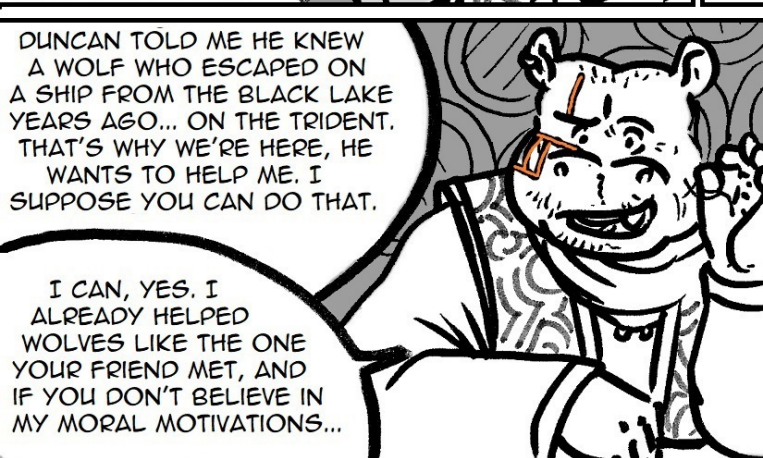
THEN I'M PRETTY
SURE YOU KNOW
WHEN SOMEONE'S
LYING TO YOU, AND
TRUST ME, I'M NOT
LYING WHEN I SAY
THAT WE'RE HERE TO
HELP YOU, AND OTHER
WOLVES LIKE
YOURSELF, AKARU.



WE KNOW THE KIND
OF LIFE YOU WOLVES
ENDURE IN THIS
HORRIBLE MILITARY
DICTATORSHIP, I'M
MORE THAN HAPPY
TO HELP YOU
ESCAPE...

OF COURSE...

HM...



DUNCAN TOLD ME HE KNEW
A WOLF WHO ESCAPED ON
A SHIP FROM THE BLACK LAKE
YEARS AGO... ON THE TRIDENT.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, HE
WANTS TO HELP ME. I
SUPPOSE YOU CAN DO THAT.

I CAN, YES. I
ALREADY HELPED
WOLVES LIKE THE ONE
YOUR FRIEND MET, AND
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
MY MORAL MOTIVATIONS...



...BELIEVE IN MONEY!
DUNCAN TOLD ME YOU
CAN PAY A LOT.

IT IS ALL I HAVE...
IT WASN'T EASY TO
FIND 2000 COINS

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE.
FOR THAT AMOUNT WE
CAN TAKE YOU
WHEREVER YOU
WANT.

WOFF...
ALRIGHT...



SHADYA,
WINE.

YES, SIR.

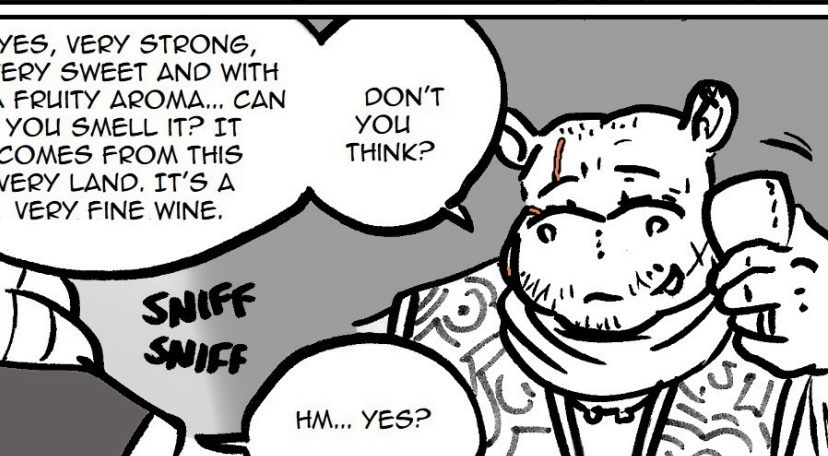
SNAP

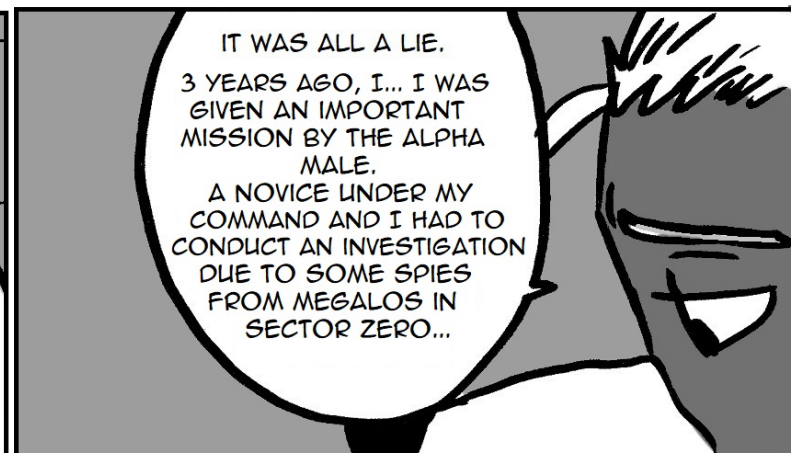
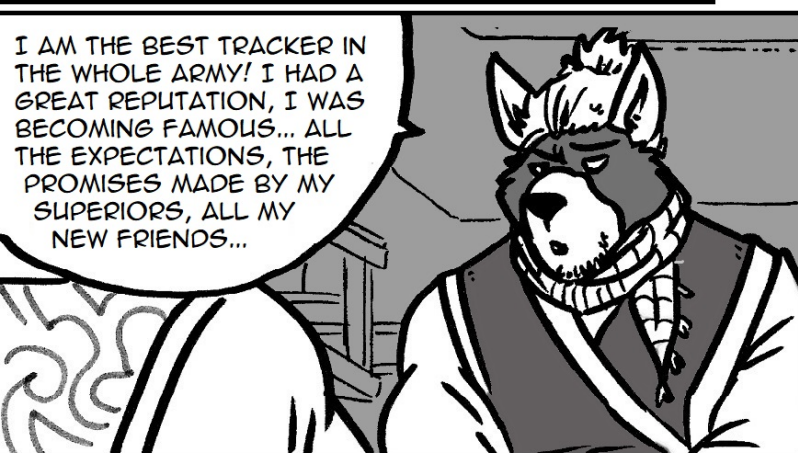
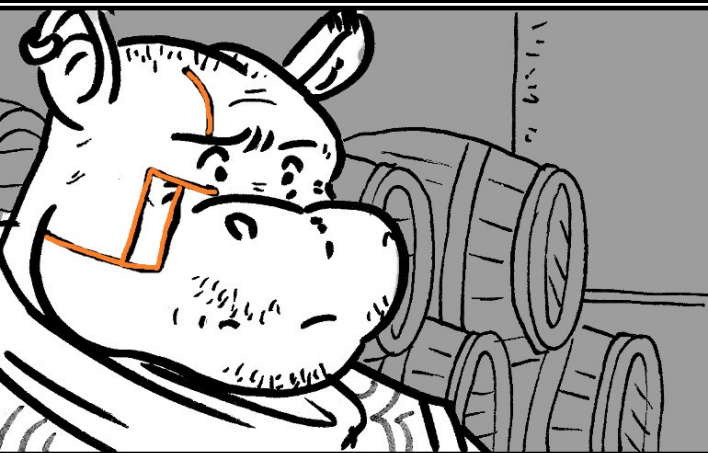
HM...



HEH... HM... IS
EVERYTHING
ALRIGHT?

FUSH







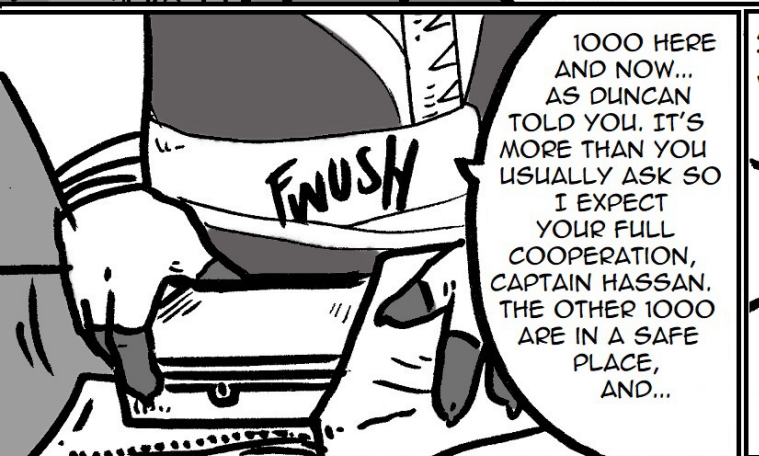


THE SMELL OF THE WINE WILL COVER YOUR SCENT. WE ALREADY DID IT LIKE THIS AND IT WORKED ALL THE TIME. ONCE ABOARD, WE WILL OPEN THEM AND YOU CAN COME OUT. WITH ALL THE MONEY YOU'LL PAY, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO STOP AT ANY MOMENT, EHEH.

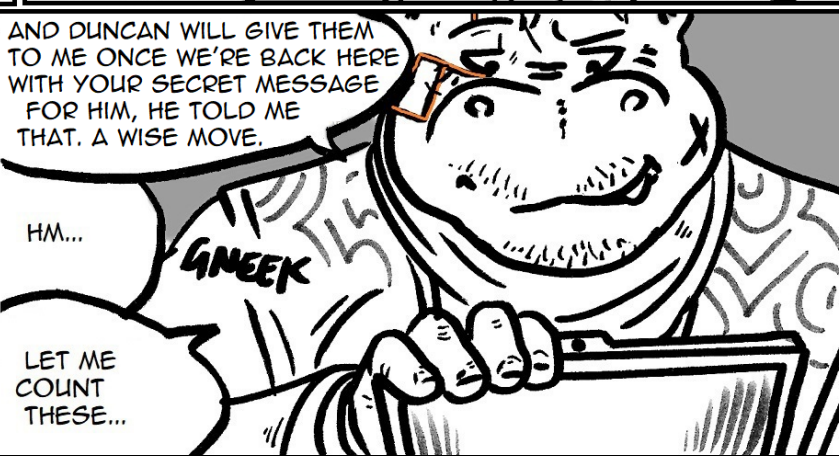


WE'LL SHOW THE SECOND MANIFEST AT EVERY HARBOUR ALONG THE RIVER, SO THE NUMBER OF BARRELS FULL OF WINE WILL BE CORRECT. NOW... ABOUT THE MONEY...

YES.



1000 HERE AND NOW... AS DUNCAN TOLD YOU. IT'S MORE THAN YOU USUALLY ASK SO I EXPECT YOUR FULL COOPERATION, CAPTAIN HASSAN. THE OTHER 1000 ARE IN A SAFE PLACE, AND...



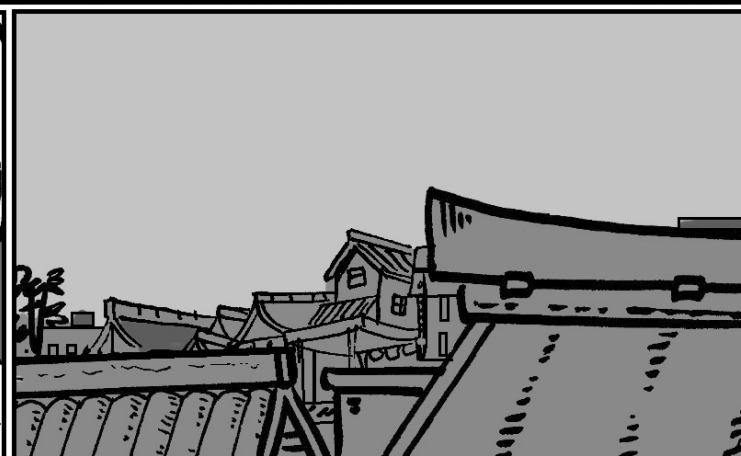
AND DUNCAN WILL GIVE THEM TO ME ONCE WE'RE BACK HERE WITH YOUR SECRET MESSAGE FOR HIM, HE TOLD ME THAT. A WISE MOVE.

HM...

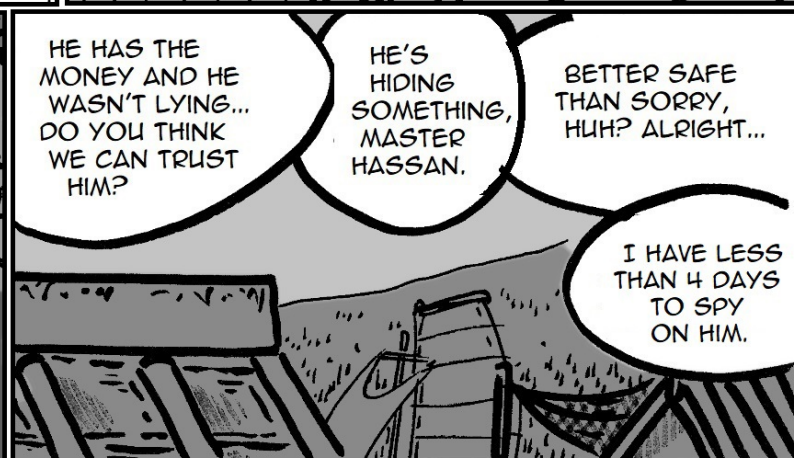
LET ME COUNT THESE...



...JUST THE STANDARD PROCEDURE, EHEHE!



2000 COINS... HE MUST BE DESPERATE!

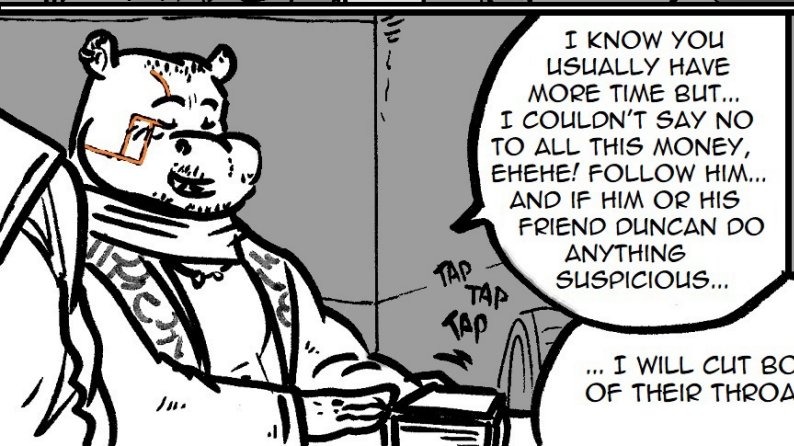


HE HAS THE MONEY AND HE WASN'T LYING... DO YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM?

HE'S HIDING SOMETHING, MASTER HASSAN.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, HUH? ALRIGHT...

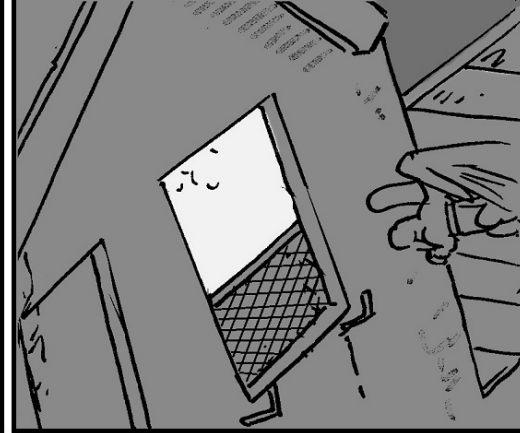
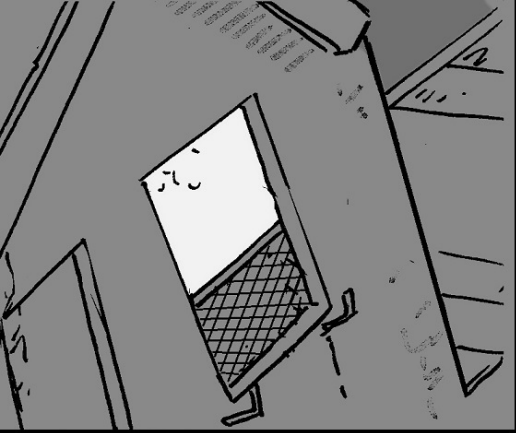
I HAVE LESS THAN 4 DAYS TO SPY ON HIM.



I KNOW YOU USUALLY HAVE MORE TIME BUT... I COULDN'T SAY NO TO ALL THIS MONEY, EHEHE! FOLLOW HIM... AND IF HIM OR HIS FRIEND DUNCAN DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS...

... I WILL CUT BOTH OF THEIR THROATS.





THE CALM AND PEACEFUL LIFE WE HAVE HERE WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR BOTH YOU AND RYOTA. YOU NEEDED TO GO OUT THERE AND BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG. INSTEAD, A CALM AND PEACEFUL LIFE IS ALL I WANT RIGHT NOW, AND I HOPE THAT IT'LL BE THE SAME FOR YOU ONE DAY, IF YOU'LL EVER RETURN...



EVEN IF FATHER NEVER ADMITS IT, HE'S PROUD OF YOUR DECISION TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM. HE MISSES YOU, WE ALL DO...

HEH...

SORRY FOR THE LATE REPLY, BUT ALL OUR FRIENDS WANTED TO CELEBRATE OUR UNION AND I'VE BEEN BUSY IN THE LAST FEW DAYS...



FW
WH P

...SO I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING INSTEAD...

THE NEXT TIME YOU COME HERE, YOU'LL BE AN UNCLE!

WHAT?!



STAY SAFE, AND BE HAPPY.

WITH LOVE,
IKU.

KNOCK
KNOCK

SUJI?



HEY!

IT'S DUNCAN,
NOW.

RIGHT...

HOW DID
IT GO?



WE DID IT!

YES!

TAP

HASSAN BELIEVED ME!
NOW ALL WE CAN DO
IS HOPE THAT AKIO WILL
BE ON THE TRIDENT TOO.

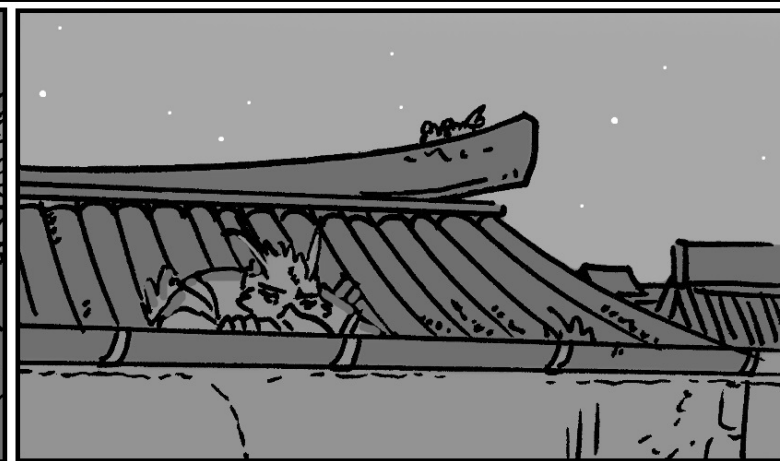
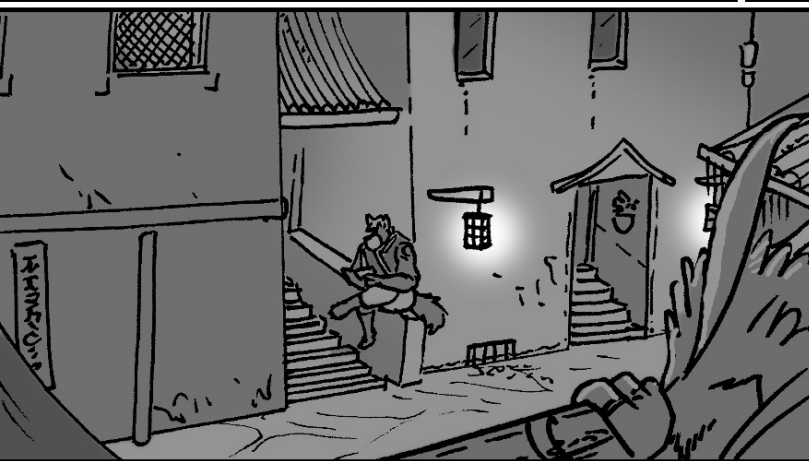
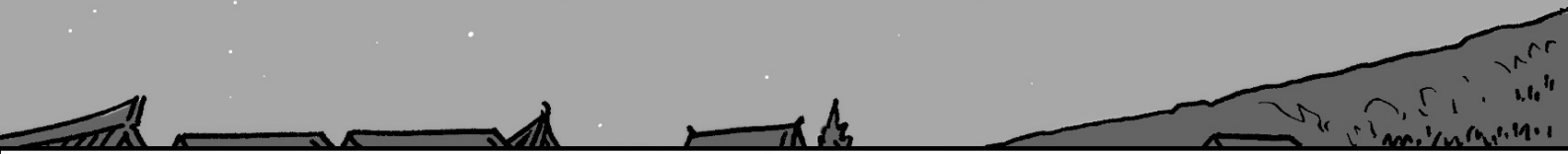
HE IS!

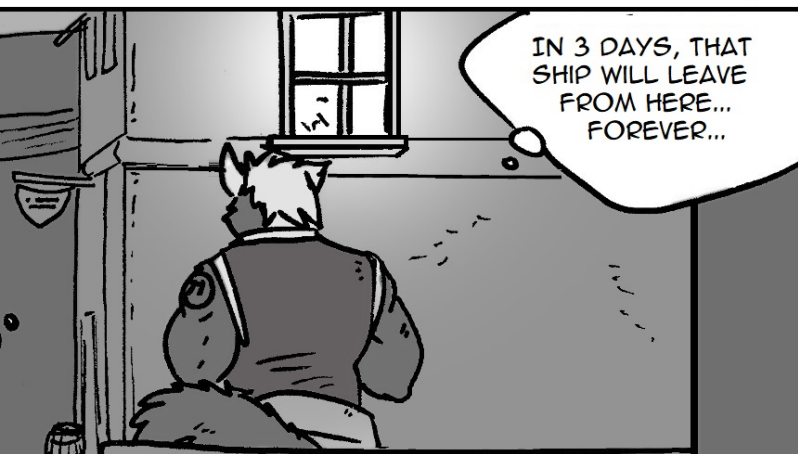
WE'RE CLOSE,
I'M SURE
OF IT!

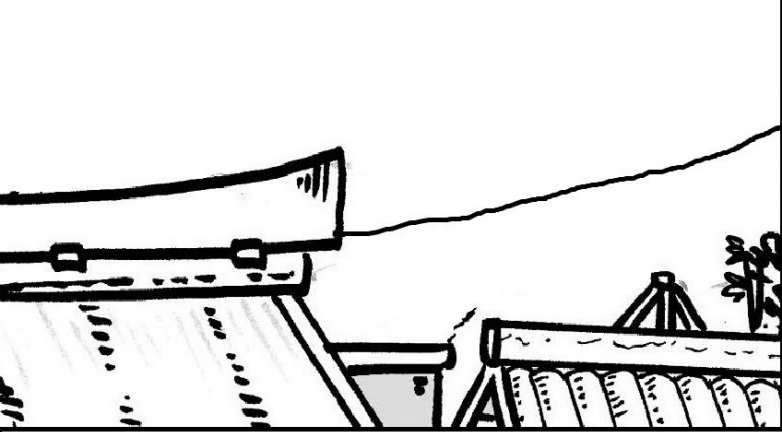


HM...





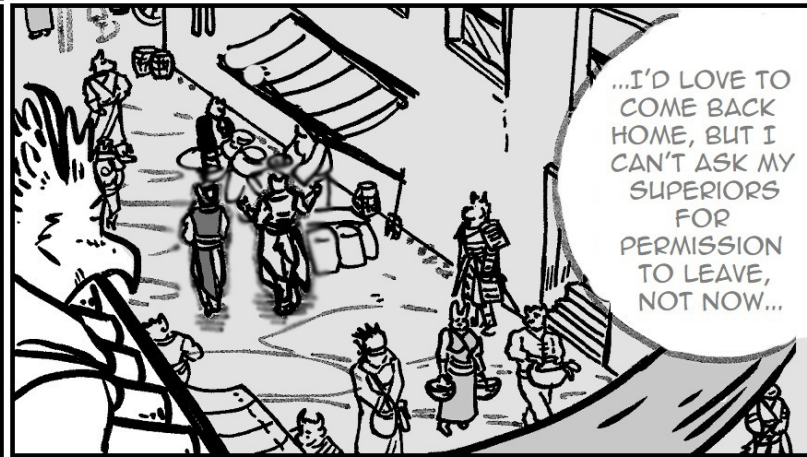




IKU, MY
DEAR
SISTER...



I'M SO HAPPY TO
HEAR ABOUT YOU AND
TOKI, I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR THIS
MOMENT SINCE WE
WERE YOUNG...



...I'D LOVE TO
COME BACK
HOME, BUT I
CAN'T ASK MY
SUPERIORS
FOR
PERMISSION
TO LEAVE,
NOT NOW...



NOT WHEN I'M THIS
CLOSE TO FINISHING
MY MISSION.



YOU GAVE ME GOOD
NEWS, SO I WILL DO
THE SAME.



I THINK I FOUND
OUR BROTHER'S
MURDERER, I'M VERY
CLOSE. SOON THE
MEMORY OF RYOTA
WON'T BE TAINTED
BY HIS MURDER,
AND WE WILL
REMEMBER HIM
IN PEACE...

AH!



FRP
WRP

AFTER I BRING THIS
ASSASSIN TO
JUSTICE, I'M SURE
MY SUPERIORS WILL
GIVE ME THE
PERMISSION TO COME
BACK HOME TO THE
SECRET CLAN FOR
SOME TIME.
WAIT FOR ME...



I'M COMING.

WITH LOVE,
YOUR BROTHER,
EIKICHI.

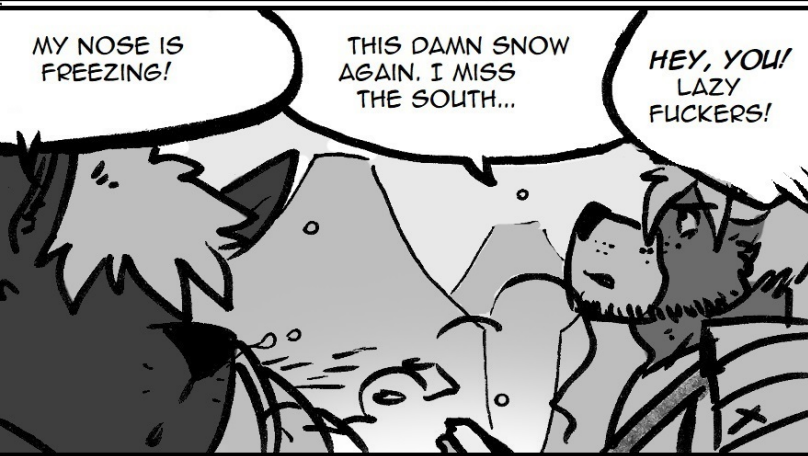
FRUSH

FRUP



3 years earlier

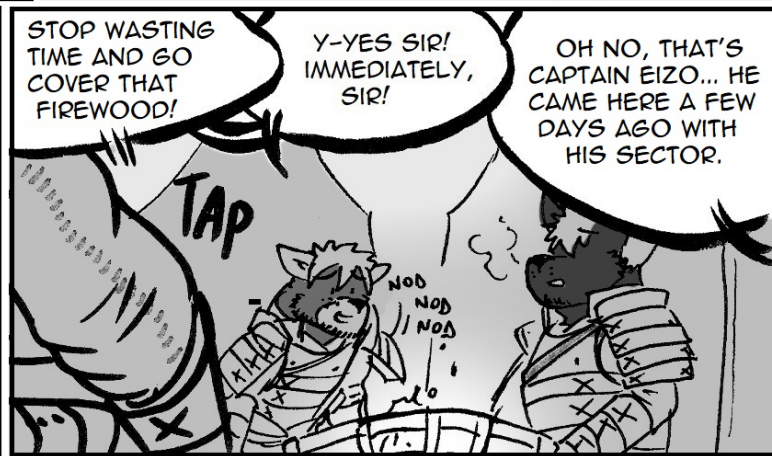
SECTOR 0



MY NOSE IS FREEZING!

THIS DAMN SNOW AGAIN. I MISS THE SOUTH...

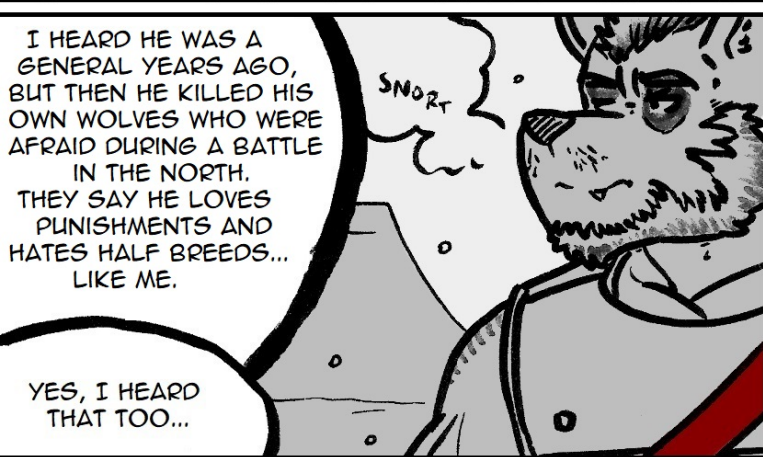
HEY, YOU! LAZY FUCKERS!



STOP WASTING TIME AND GO COVER THAT FIREWOOD!

Y-YES SIR! IMMEDIATELY, SIR!

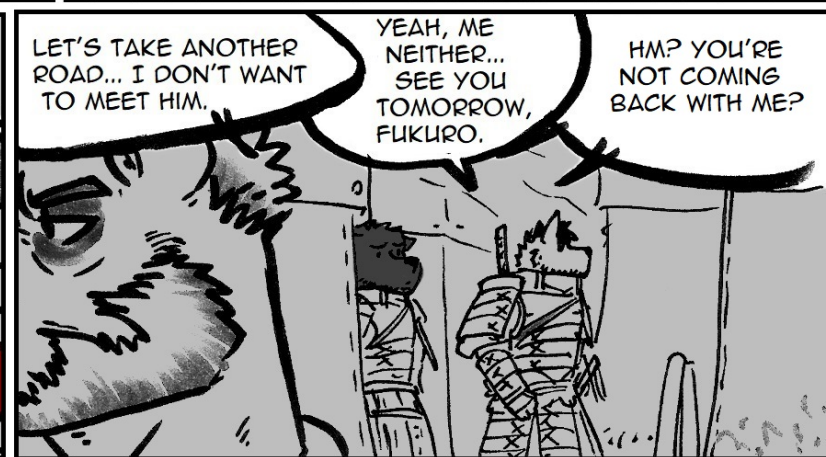
OH NO, THAT'S CAPTAIN EIZO... HE CAME HERE A FEW DAYS AGO WITH HIS SECTOR.



I HEARD HE WAS A GENERAL YEARS AGO, BUT THEN HE KILLED HIS OWN WOLVES WHO WERE AFRAID DURING A BATTLE IN THE NORTH. THEY SAY HE LOVES PUNISHMENTS AND HATES HALF BREEDS... LIKE ME.

SNORT

YES, I HEARD THAT TOO...



LET'S TAKE ANOTHER ROAD... I DON'T WANT TO MEET HIM.

YEAH, ME NEITHER... SEE YOU TOMORROW, FUKURO.

HMP? YOU'RE NOT COMING BACK WITH ME?



I'M NOT GOING TO OUR SECTOR.

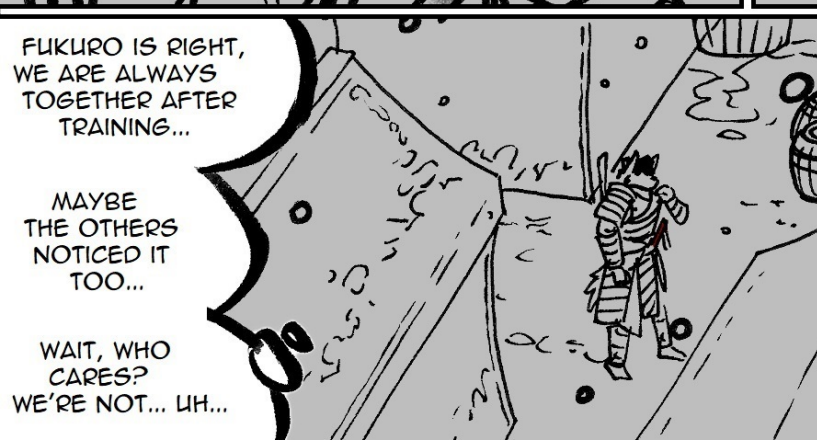
OH, RIGHT... YOUR FRIEND, HEIGAN.

WHA...? UH... HOW DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?



I ASKED... SINCE YOU ALWAYS GO AWAY WITH HIM AFTER TRAINING, I WAS CURIOUS. SEE YA TOMORROW, AKIO.

YES... BYE.



FUKURO IS RIGHT, WE ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER AFTER TRAINING...

MAYBE THE OTHERS NOTICED IT TOO...

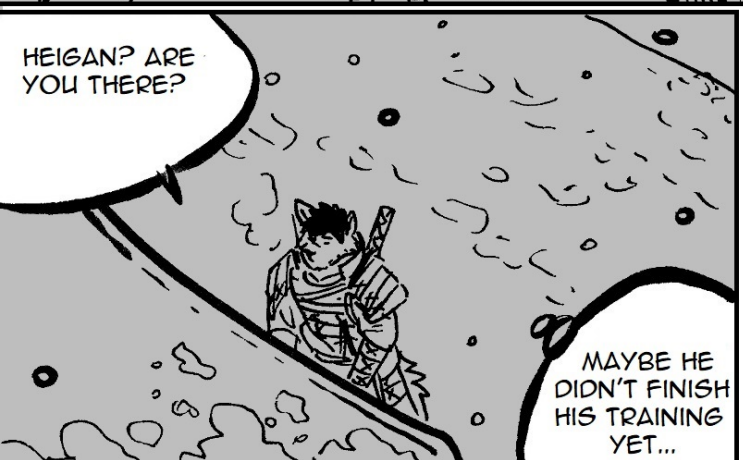
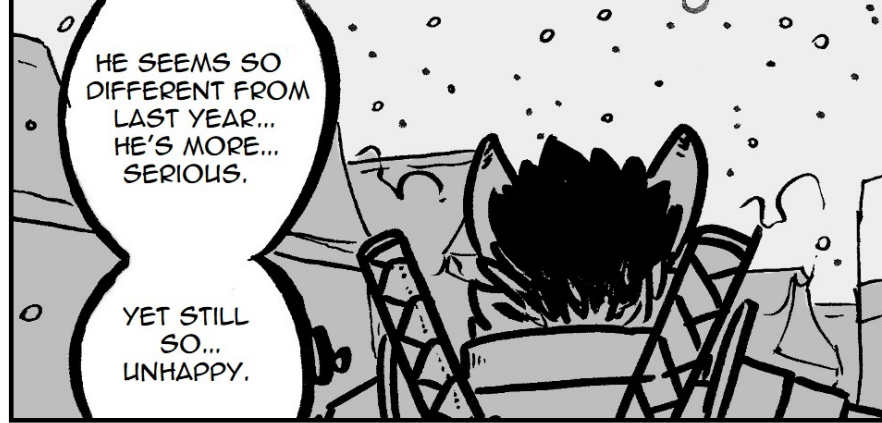
WAIT, WHO CARES? WE'RE NOT... UH...

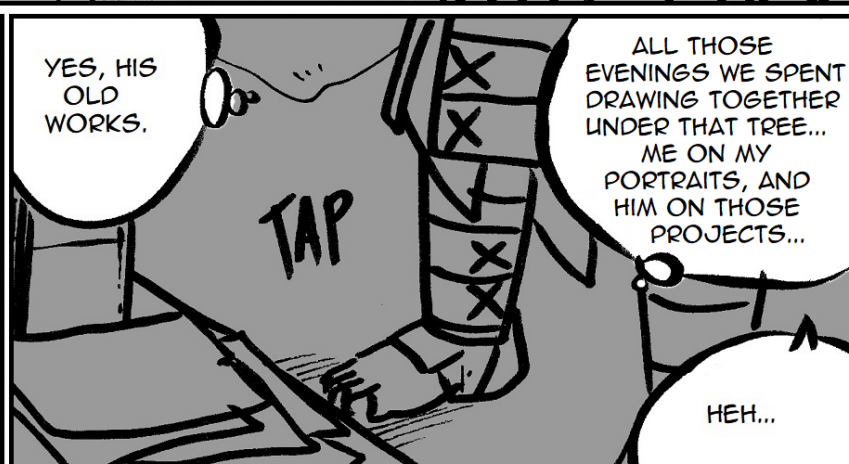
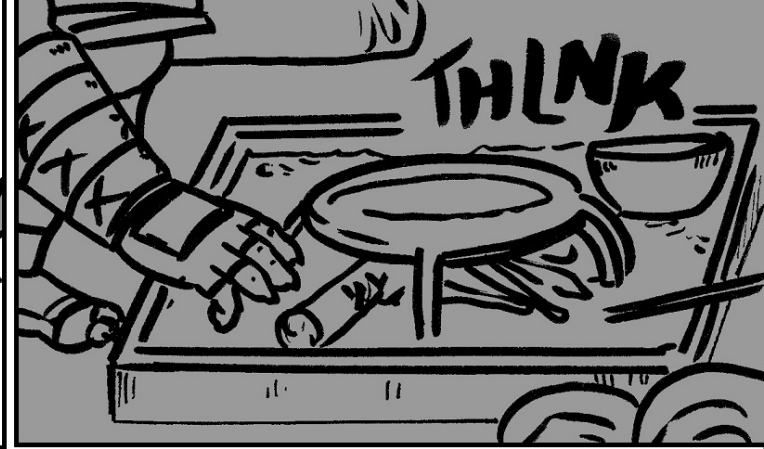
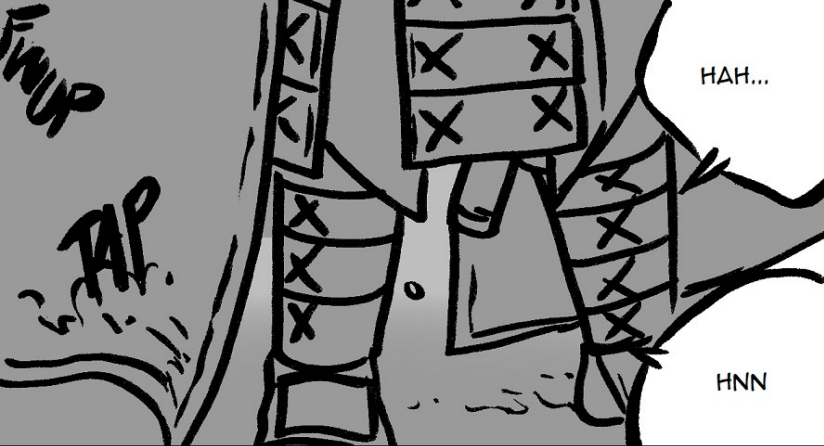


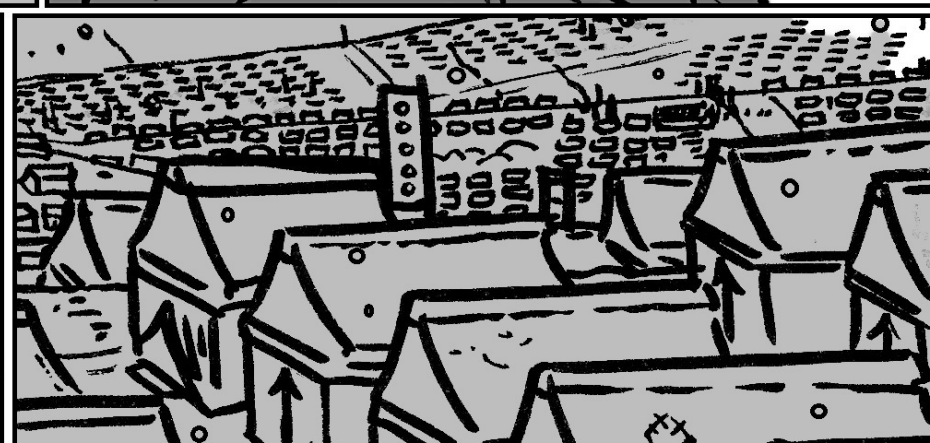
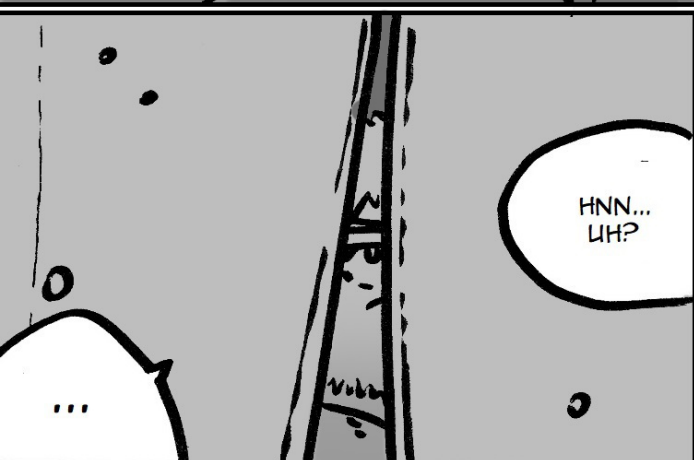
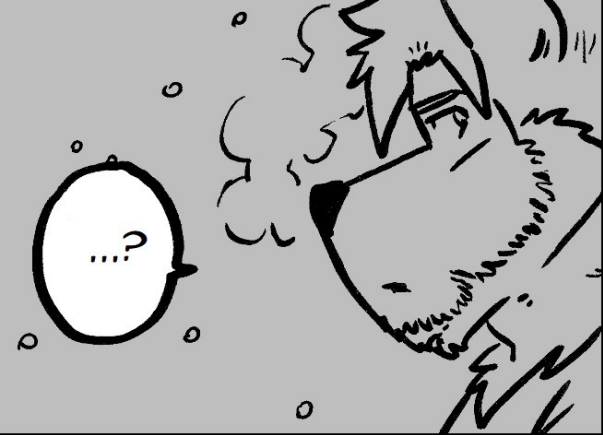
CALM DOWN, AKIO. RELAX!

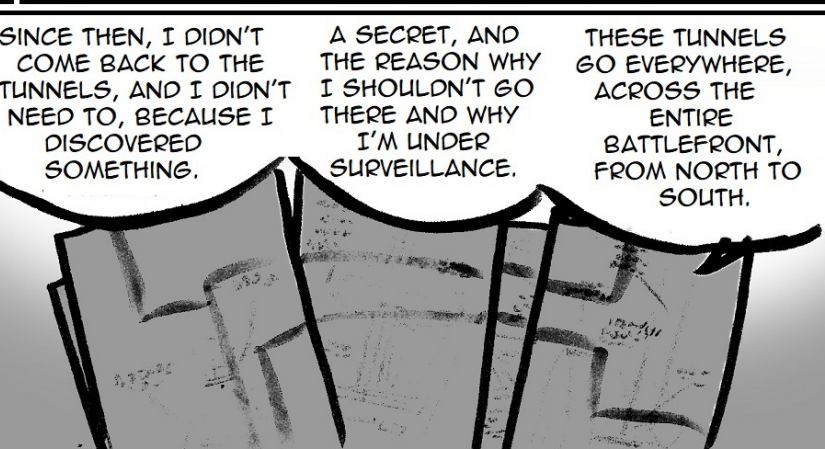
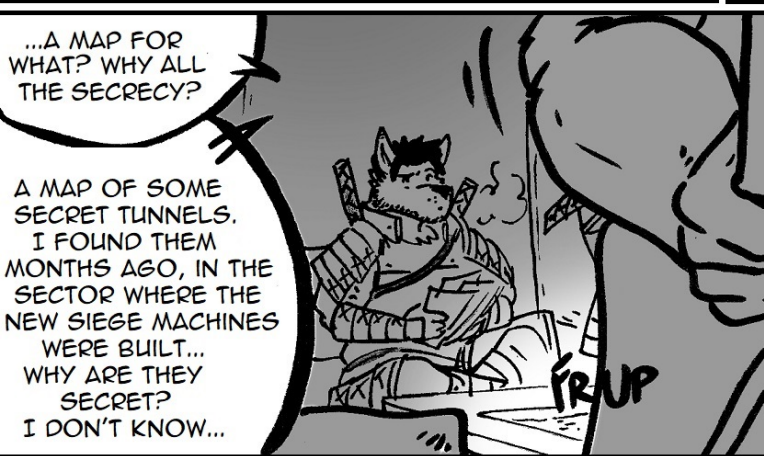
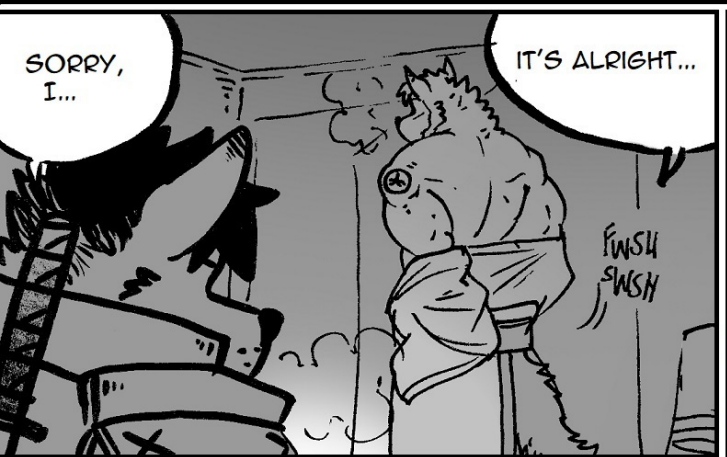
HUFF

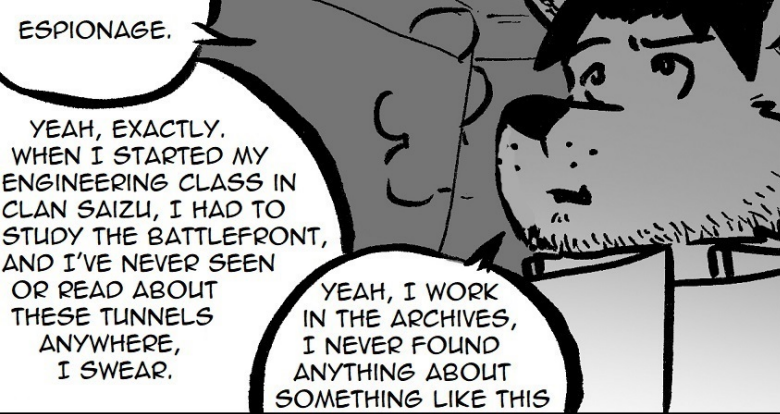
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS...







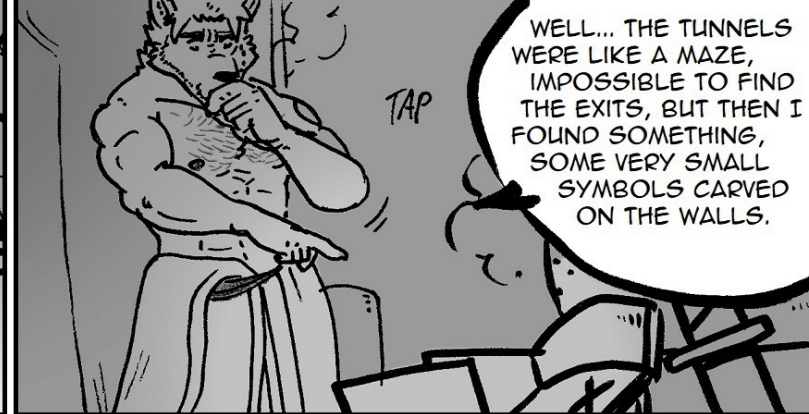




ESPIONAGE.

YEAH, EXACTLY.
WHEN I STARTED MY
ENGINEERING CLASS IN
CLAN SAIZU, I HAD TO
STUDY THE BATTLEFRONT,
AND I'VE NEVER SEEN
OR READ ABOUT
THESE TUNNELS
ANYWHERE,
I SWEAR.

YEAH, I WORK
IN THE ARCHIVES,
I NEVER FOUND
ANYTHING ABOUT
SOMETHING LIKE THIS

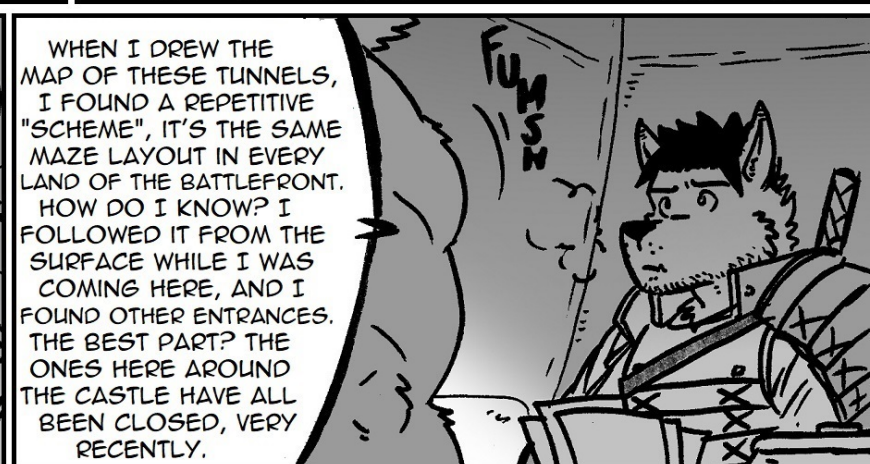


WELL... THE TUNNELS
WERE LIKE A MAZE,
IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND
THE EXITS, BUT THEN I
FOUND SOMETHING,
SOME VERY SMALL
SYMBOLS CARVED
ON THE WALLS.

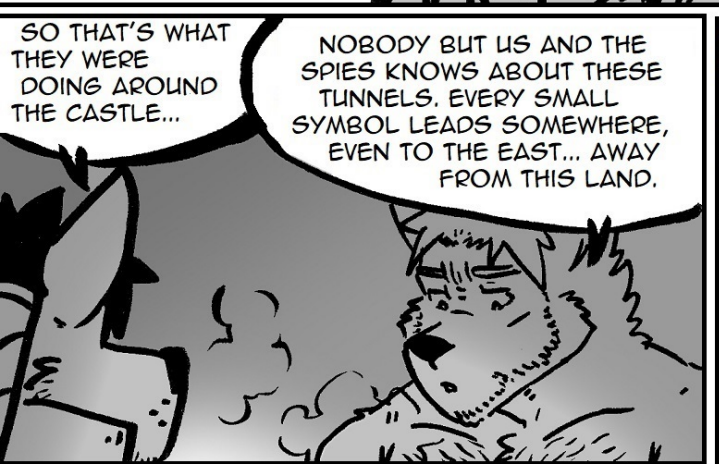


IF YOU FOLLOW MOST
OF THE SYMBOLS,
YOU'LL GET LOST, BUT
SOME OF THEM ACTUALL
LEAD YOU SOMEWHERE.
THEY ARE INDICATIONS,
AND ONCE YOU KNOW
THEM, YOU CAN GO
ANYWHERE YOU WANT
AROUND THE
BATTLEFRONT.

SO, YES, THAT'S WHY
THEY WOULD SEND A SPY
AFTER YOU. ONLY THEY
WOULD USE THESE TUNNELS.



WHEN I DREW THE
MAP OF THESE TUNNELS,
I FOUND A REPETITIVE
"SCHEME", IT'S THE SAME
MAZE LAYOUT IN EVERY
LAND OF THE BATTLEFRONT.
HOW DO I KNOW? I
FOLLOWED IT FROM THE
SURFACE WHILE I WAS
COMING HERE, AND I
FOUND OTHER ENTRANCES.
THE BEST PART? THE
ONES HERE AROUND
THE CASTLE HAVE ALL
BEEN CLOSED, VERY
RECENTLY.



SO THAT'S WHAT
THEY WERE
DOING AROUND
THE CASTLE...

NOBODY BUT US AND THE
SPIES KNOWS ABOUT THESE
TUNNELS. EVERY SMALL
SYMBOL LEADS SOMEWHERE,
EVEN TO THE EAST... AWAY
FROM THIS LAND.



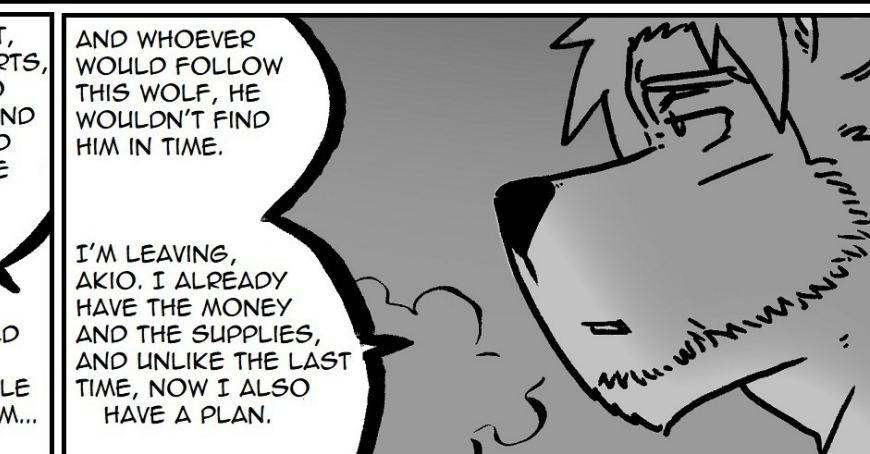
IF SOMEONE COVERS HIS
SMELL, HE CAN GO INSIDE
THESE TUNNELS, FROM
ANY ENTRANCE, AND EVEN
IF FOLLOWED, THEY
WOULDN'T FIND HIM,
UNLESS THEY KNEW
WHERE HE WAS
HEADING.



IT'S...
POSSIBLE,
YES...

IF SOMEONE WOULD DO THAT,
MAYBE BEFORE THE BATTLE STARTS,
WHEN IT WOULD BE HARDER TO
TRACK THEM IN ALL THE MESS AND
WITH ALL THOSE SMELLS AND
PEOPLE AROUND, AND IF THE
ENTRANCE WOULD BE
BLOCKED FROM THE
INSIDE...

IT WOULD
BE
IMPOSSIBLE
TO FIND HIM...



AND WHOEVER
WOULD FOLLOW
THIS WOLF, HE
WOULDN'T FIND
HIM IN TIME.

I'M LEAVING,
AKIO. I ALREADY
HAVE THE MONEY
AND THE SUPPLIES,
AND UNLIKE THE LAST
TIME, NOW I ALSO
HAVE A PLAN.



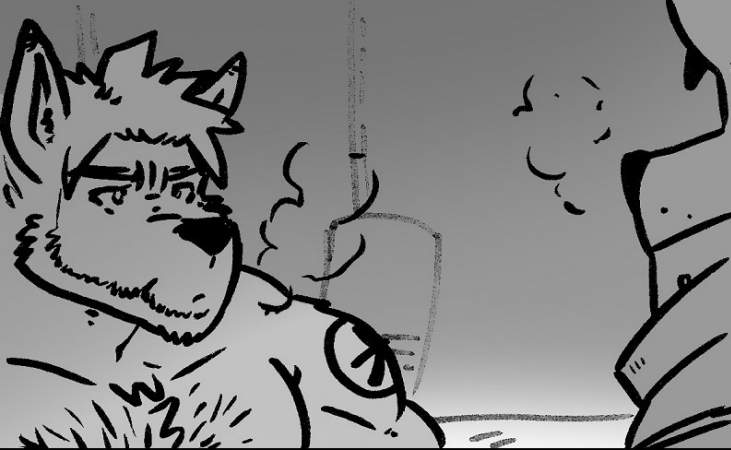
IT... THIS... HEIGAN,
THIS IS...

IT WORKS.

CRFTH
FRSH
SFSSH

HAH...





ARE YOU FOR
REAL? THIS...
AH...

YOU CAN PREPARE THE
SUPPLIES NEAR THE
ENTRANCE I WANT TO USE
SO THE SPY WON'T SEE ME
CARRYING THEM THERE,
THEN I ELUDE HIM AND
REACH YOU BEFORE
THE BATTLE.
THEN WE BLOCK
THE ENTRANCE FROM
THE INSIDE. HE'LL HAVE
TO GO TO THE NEXT ONE,
WHICH IS FAR AWAY FROM
THERE. THE SMELL WILL BE
COVERED, HE WON'T FIND
US ANYWAY.



ALSO... ONCE THE BATTLE
IS GOING TO START HE'LL
HAVE TO GO ANYWAY, TO
GATHER WITH HIS SECTOR.

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO
MUCH ABOUT ANY SPY
BECAUSE OF THAT, STILL...

WE COULD GO TO
BLACK LAKE.
IT'S A CITY IN THE
SOUTHERMOST LAND OF
THE BATTLEFRONT, WHERE
IT'S EASY FOR WOLVES TO
ESCAPE AND GO TO THE EAST...



I HEARD A LOT OF
STORIES ABOUT THAT
PLACE, AND I ALSO
HEARD THAT SOME
PEOPLE FROM THE
CONTINENT ACTUALLY
HELP WOLVES ESCAPE
FOR MONEY. THEN
THEY'RE FREE...

THERE ARE WOLF
AGENTS IN EVERY BIG
CITY, BUT NOT IN
KHALED. A WOLF CAN
START A NEW LIFE
THERE.



YOU PLANNED
IT VERY WELL...

MMHM.

...IT WON'T BE EASY, AND ANYTHING
COULD GO WRONG ALONG THE WAY...
BUT IT COULD WORK, YOU KNOW IT
COULD!



YES, BUT...
HEIGAN...

WHY ARE YOU
TELLING ME
THIS?

BECAUSE I MIGHT
NEED HELP. AND I
KNOW YOU WON'T
TELL ANYONE.



BECAUSE YOU
TOLD ME YOU
WOULD RUN
AWAY TOO...

...SO I KNOW
I CAN TRUST
YOU.





WERE YOU
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS?

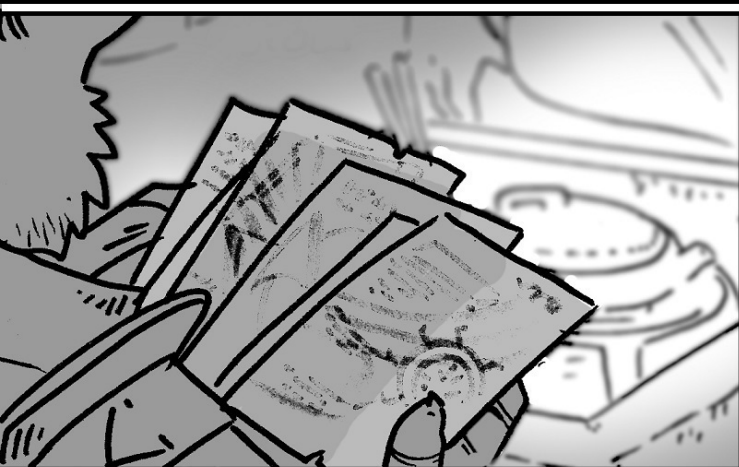


YES...

YES,
I WAS.

SO...

WILL YOU
HELP ME?



I'LL DO
MUCH MORE
THAN THAT...



I'M COMING
WITH YOU!



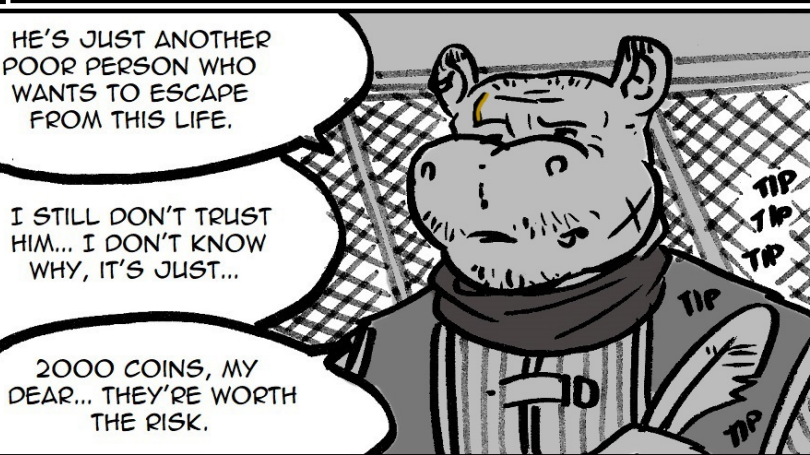
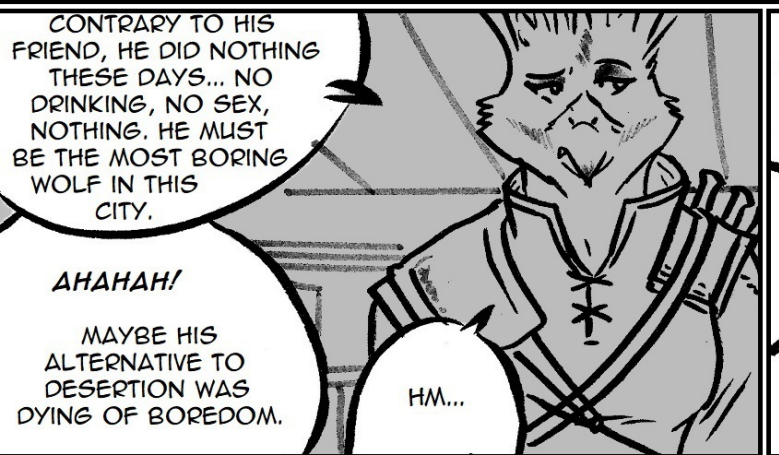
COME ON,
LET ME
SEE THESE
MAPS...

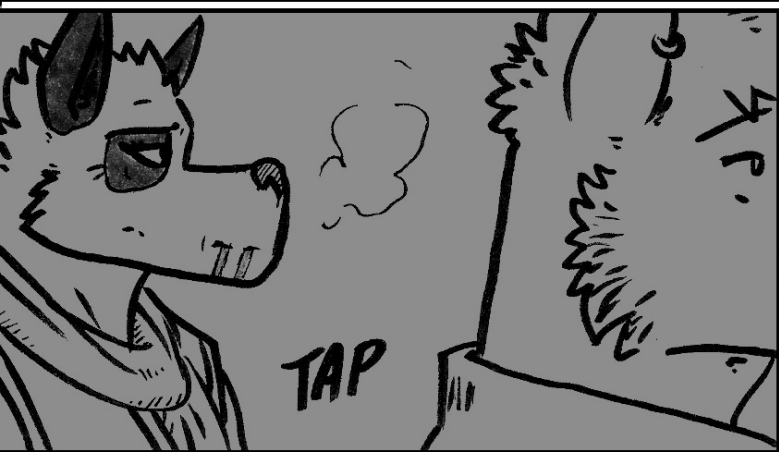


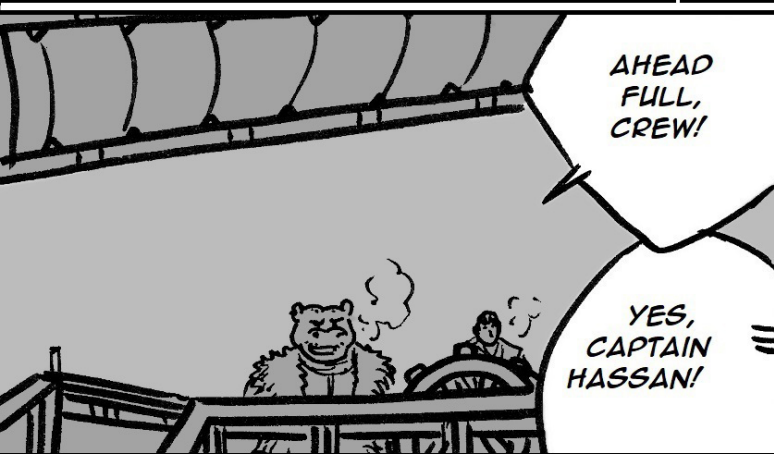
3 years Later

Black Lake











HEY, WHAT IS HAPPENING?



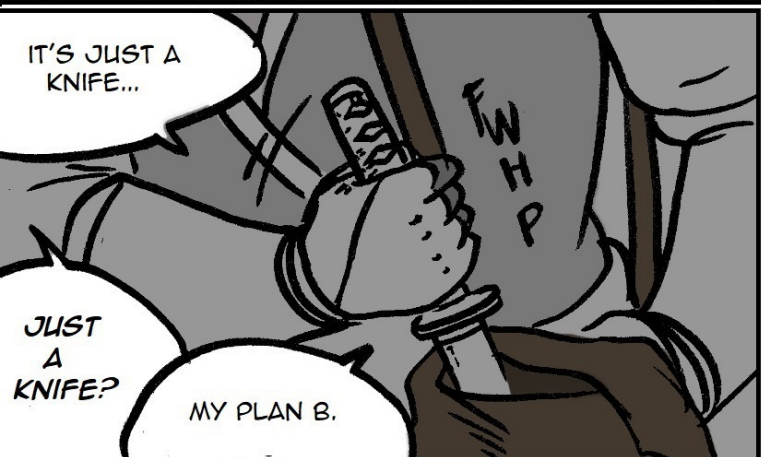
HAH!

TAP

I KNEW WE COULDN'T TRUST YOU!

CREW!

EASY, GIRL! EASY...



IT'S JUST A KNIFE...

FWHP

JUST A KNIFE?

MY PLAN B.



JUST IN CASE THIS WAS ALL A TRAP.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH TRUST ISSUES, BIRD.

Tip

HM...



GIVE THEM SOME NEW CLOTHES AND LET'S GO, WHILE THE WIND IS ON OUR BACK!

YES, CAPTAIN!



WE... REALLY MADE IT!

NOT YET. SOMETIMES THERE ARE PATROLS ON THE RIVERBANK. IF THEY ARE THERE, WE CAN DISGUISE YOU AS MEMBERS OF OUR CREW.

COME, HERE, TAKE SOME CLOTHES AND THE REST OF YOUR STUFF.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

HAH!



HE'S NOT HERE!



NO...

NO

NO!



NO...



HE MUST BE
HERE... MAYBE
HE... MAYBE...

NO NO, HE
MUST BE
ON THIS SHIP!



I CANNOT FAIL
THIS MISSION, I
CAN'T...

THIS WAS
MY LAST
CHANCE TO
PROVE THAT
EVEN IF I CAN'T
FIGHT, I WAS
STILL WORTH
SOMETHING...



GH...
DAMN
IT!

HEY

SHIBAM!



...ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



YOU SMELL
NERVOUS...
HEH... HEY, WE
MADE IT! WE
DID IT.

WOFF...
YES,
YES, I... I'M
JUST...



TERRIFIED! HEH...
THAT'S ALL...

EHEH!
OK.



AH...

WANT TO
DRINK?

THANKS



ARE YOU SURE
IT'S ONE OF
THEM?

NOT REALLY,
BUT HE...

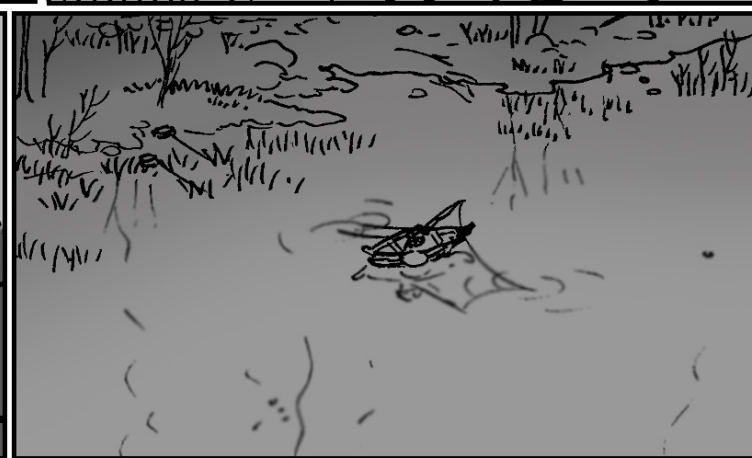
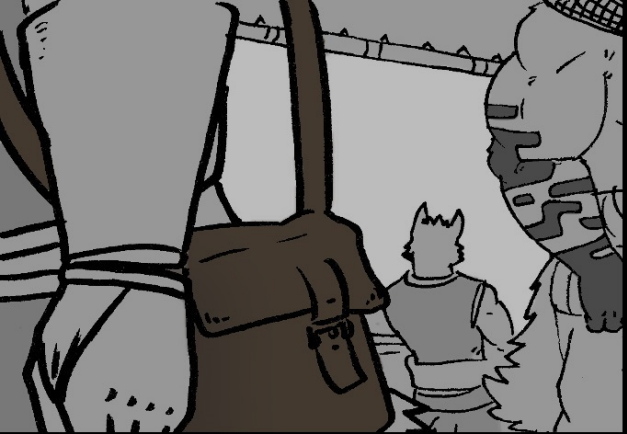
WHICH ONE?



CHIKARA CLAN,
WHITE HAIR, THE
ONE WITH THE
BAG NEAR THE
PARAPET.

MAYBE IT'S
THE SAME
ONE YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR.

OK.



TO BE CONTINUED...