




LITTLE FISKY BLACK! HOLY SHIT! YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP! AND YOU'RE A RANGER!

GOD HELP US!



HELLO, NIKKI.




JUMPING OUT OF AIRPLANES.


WHAT WOULD YOUR POOR MOTHER SAY?




I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE OKAY. YOU SEEM TO HAVE DONE WELL.




YOU DO YOUR BEST WITH THE HAND YOU'RE DEALT.




BUT, MY FOSTER MOTHER TOLD ME IT ISN'T THE CARDS WE'RE DEALT, BUT HOW WE PLAY THEM.




I GUESS YOU PLAYED THEM WELL?




WELL... HOLD STILL... I HAD A LOT OF HELP. I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE ADOPTED...



... WHAT LITTLE TIME I SPENT IN STATE CARE PREPARED ME FOR WHATEVER THE ARMY COULD THROW AT ME.



MY FOSTER PARENTS WERE GOOD PEOPLE.



THEY ADOPTED A LOT OF CHILDREN. I THINK IT WAS PART OF THEIR CHARITY MISSION. THEY WERE MOTIVATED TO USE THEIR WEALTH THIS WAY.

THEY HAD QUITE A LOT OF ADOPTED KIDS. I GREW UP AROUND OTHER DISPLACED KIDS, KIDS FROM POOR FAMILIES, KIDS FROM POOR COUNTRIES...



...AN AWFUL LOT OF GIRLS FROM CHINA.

THEY HIRED TUTORS TO HOME SCHOOL US. ALL THE OTHER KIDS WERE SO SMART.



I FELT QUITE OUT OF PLACE!

IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I THOUGHT WAS "NORMAL" IN A FAMILY. IT ALL CAME CRASHING DOWN ON ME IN AN EPIPHANY I WASN'T READY TO HANDLE.



SO I TRIED TO RELATE TO THEM THE WAY I HAD BEEN RAISED...

BLAH BLAH STOCKS BLAH
BLAH DIVIDENDS BLAH...



WHICH WAS A
BAD IDEA.



THEY'D NEVER BEEN
TOLD ABOUT MY ABUSE
WHEN THEY ADOPTED
ME. THEY LEARNED.



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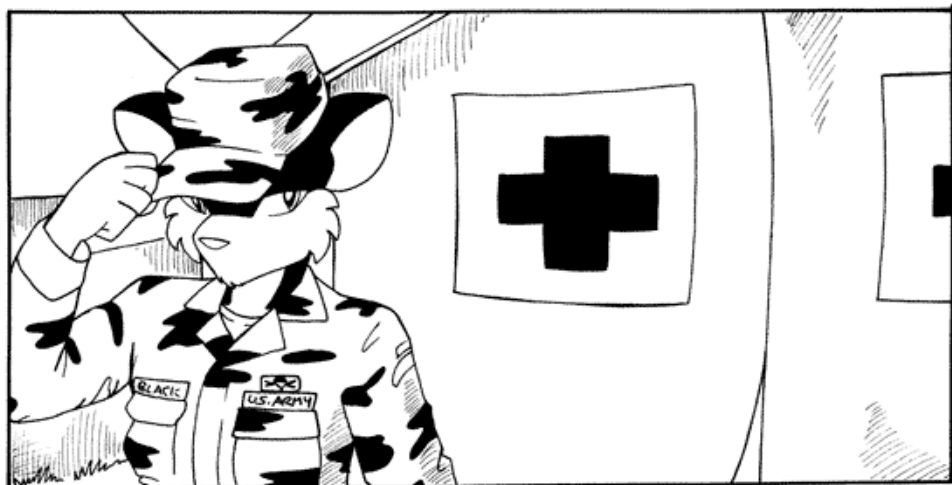


IT TOOK A LOT OF DEPROGRAMMING. WE
HAD TO DECONSTRUCT EVERYTHING MY
FATHER PUT IN PLACE AND BUILD EVERY-
THING BACK UP CORRECTLY, SO I COULD
FUNCTION IN THE WORLD. I HAD TO LEARN:

- 1.) AFFECTION DOESN'T NEED TO BE EXPRESSED WITH SEX.
- 2.) PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN BY TEACHING THEM ABOUT THE WORLD AND PREPARING THEM TO SUCCEED, NOT WITH SEX.
- 3.) YOUR SELF ESTEEM SHOULDN'T BE BASED ON YOUR SEXUAL DEPENDENCIES ON OTHERS.







HEY, DID YOU GET
THAT WOUND ALL
PATCHED UP?



FOR THE MOST
PART, YEAH.

