

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, HARVE. I DIDN'T EXPECT THESE KINDS OF NIGHTS FROM MY KIDS' SCHOOL PRINCIPAL. IT'S BEEN A VERY

EXTRAVAGANT WEEK.

WELL, I'M SINGLE AND HAVE ALL MY ASSETS INTACT. DESPITE THE DIVORCE, I'M NOT EXACTLY SCRAPING.

I'M JUST A COUNTRY GIRL. YOU'LL RUN THE RISK OF SPOILING ME.

ON THE CONTRARY. I FEEL LIKE I'M THE ONE BEING SPOILED.

YOU'RE LAYING IT ON THICK. I HAVEN'T BLUSHED IN YEARS.

YOUR HUSBAND WAS RIGHT. IT'S WHEN YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL.

YOU KNEW JIM?

MMM?

WE WERE IN THE SAME UNIT DURING THE WAR. I DIDN'T MENTION IT SOONER BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WANTED TO GO INTO IT.

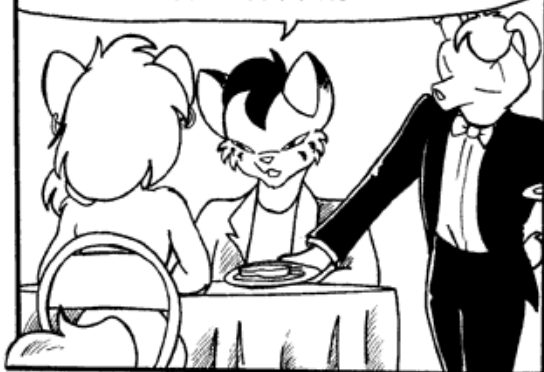


OH MY GOD...
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

FROM DAY TO DAY IT WAS JUST SURVIVAL. WE WERE ALL WRAPPED UP IN THINKING WE COULD DIE THE NEXT TIME OUT, SO WE LIVED EACH MINUTE LIKE IT COULD BE ONE OF THE LAST ONES...



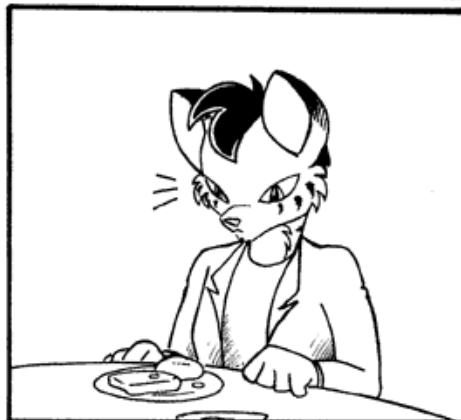
VIETNAM WENT IN CYCLES, BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DUTY, AND TRYING TO DISTRACT OURSELVES FROM IT BY LOSING OURSELVES IN DRINKING, WOMEN, AND PRANKS.




WELL, I GUESS JIM NEVER HAD TO LOSE HIMSELF IN WOMEN.



THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RE-ASSURING.







HARVE! YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS!
JIM WAS LIKE THAT?

SHEILA...

I DIDN'T WANT IT TO
GO IN THIS DIRECTION, BUT
I DON'T THINK IT'D BE
HEALTHY TO
LIE TO
YOU.



IT WAS ALMOST NINE YEARS AGO. I CAN'T SAY
JIM WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A GREAT FATHER IF
HE'D MADE IT HOME...



I THINK I NEED TO
GO HOME, FOR NOW.
I'VE GOT A LOT OF
THINKING TO DO...
THANK YOU.

THIRD ARMY FORCES COMMAND,
GENERAL BECK'S OFFICE.

UM... I WAS
LOOKING FOR
GENERAL
KELSO.

HE NO LONGER
WORKS AT THIS
OFFICE. WOULD
YOU LIKE HIS
NEW
NUMBER?

OKAY. ALL RIGHT...
THANK YOU.

SCRIBBLE
NOTESCRIBBLES

≧RING≦ ≧RING≦ ≧RING≦

≧CLICK≦ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
OPERATIONS DIVISION.

UH... I'M TRYING TO
TALK TO GEN- I MEAN,
ROBERT KELSO. HIS
OLD OFFICE
GAVE ME THIS
NUMBER...

MAY I ASK
WHO'S
CALLING?

SHEILA BLACK.
I'M AN OLD FRIEND.

ONE
MOMENT.

≧CLICK≦ SHEILA?

GENERAL!

HEH.
NOT ANYMORE...

I KIND OF HAVE A SILLY QUESTION. IT'S THE REASON I CALLED...

DON'T BE SILLY. ASK.

WAS JIM... FAITHFUL, DURING HIS TIME OVERSEAS?

OF COURSE HE WAS. I CAN VOUCH FOR THAT, PERSONALLY.

ROB, PLEASE DON'T HOLD BACK. I HAVE TO KNOW WHO I CAN TRUST.

YOU'RE LIKE FAMILY, SHEILA. I'D NEVER LIE TO YOU. WHO TOLD YOU THIS?

SOMEONE WHO WAS IN JIM'S UNIT, THAT I'VE BEEN SEEING. HARVEY LONGFELLOW. I THINK HE WAS A SERGEANT.

I NEVER HAD A "LONGFELLOW" UNDER MY COMMAND...

TABBY COLORS? BLACK HAIR? ARE YOU SURE?

I WAS ONLY A MAJOR, THEN. WE HAD VERY SMALL UNITS IN OUR TYPES OF... .. OPERATIONS. I CAN ASSURE YOU I REMEMBER EVERY MAN IN MY UNIT.

JESUS...

LOOK, I'VE GOT A MEETING AT THE CDC THIS WEEK-END, SO I'LL BE FLYING DOWN. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH, WE CAN DISCUSS THIS IN MORE DETAIL.



ROB! IT'S
GOOD TO SEE
YOU! HOW
WAS YOUR
FLIGHT?

UNEVENTFUL.

HOW ARE THE KIDS?

HARDER TO KEEP
UP WITH EVERY DAY.

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU DECIDED
TO HAVE THEM. YOU'VE EARNED
A LOT OF OUR
RESPECT...

THE MORE
I THOUGHT,
THE LESS
OF A REAL
CHOICE
THERE WAS.

MOST THINGS
IN LIFE ARE
LIKE THAT...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
BEEN SEEING LONGFELLOW?

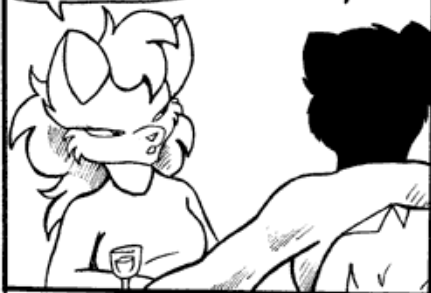
JUST A BIT OVER
A WEEK.

WHY DO YOU
ASK?

WE CAN
DISCUSS IT
OVER LUNCH.

I PULLED LONGFELLOW'S FILE FOR YOU...

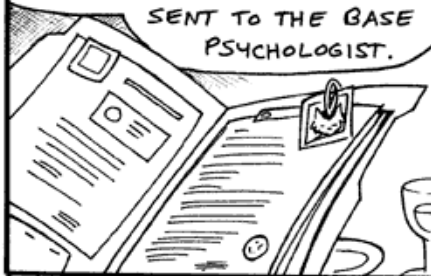
YOU HAVE IT?



IF THIS IS THE SAME PERSON, BASED ON YOUR DESCRIPTION, HE NEVER GOT CLOSE TO VIETNAM. HE SPENT A SHORT MILITARY LIFE AT A SUPPLY DEPOT IN OKINAWA.



HE WAS IN FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE BEING DISCHARGED ON RAW TERMS WITH THE ARMY. REPORTS FROM HIS C.O. COMPLAINED ABOUT FRATERNIZING AGGRESSIVELY. HE WAS ALMOST SENT TO THE BASE PSYCHOLOGIST.



DAMMIT...



THAT SON OF A BITCH... WHAT DOES HE GAIN BY LYING TO ME ABOUT JIM!?



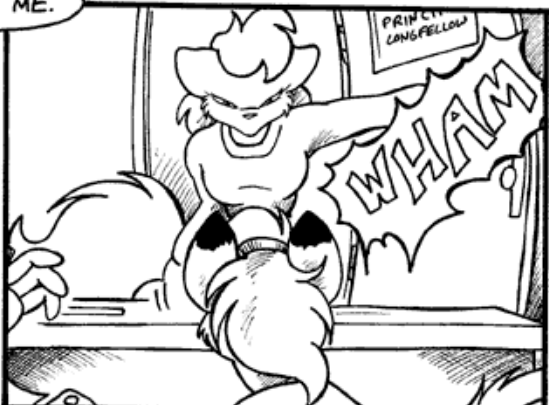
I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, IF HE DESTROYS THE MEMORIES OF YOUR HUSBAND, HE HAS AN EASIER TIME FILLING IN.

ONE FORM OF PREDATION IS TO WOUND AND WAIT...





ER... YOU CAN'T GO
IN THERE! HE'S
MEETING WITH
THE SUPER-
INTENDENT!



JESUS, SHEILA, THIS IS NOT HOW IT LOOKS—

I DON'T CARE. WE'RE THROUGH.

OKINAWA!? A GODDAMMED SUPPLY DEPOT!!? YOU

LIED TO ME!

WHAT?

WHAT? WHO SAID THAT?

DON'T EVEN!
DON'T FUCKING LIE AGAIN!

I KNOW MY DAMNED SOURCES!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE THINKING, BUT DON'T YOU DARE TALK THAT KIND OF SHIT ABOUT JIM, AGAIN! DON'T CALL ME! DON'T COME NEAR ME! AND STAY AWAY FROM MY KITTENS!



THE HELL...

SHEILA, I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO YOU. PLEASE LET ME IN...



TSKS
OH, LORD...



NMM...

RUB
RUB

WYANT! SHE'S ALWAYS
WYANT! !!!

WYANT! NEVER!
NEVER, NEVER
WYANT! !!!

CANING A TIME
NOT TRUE!
YOU TO KNOW THE
BEST--

BULLSHIT!
NOT AN EXPERT!
TAL I WYANT...
OR ANY WYANT...
WYANT...

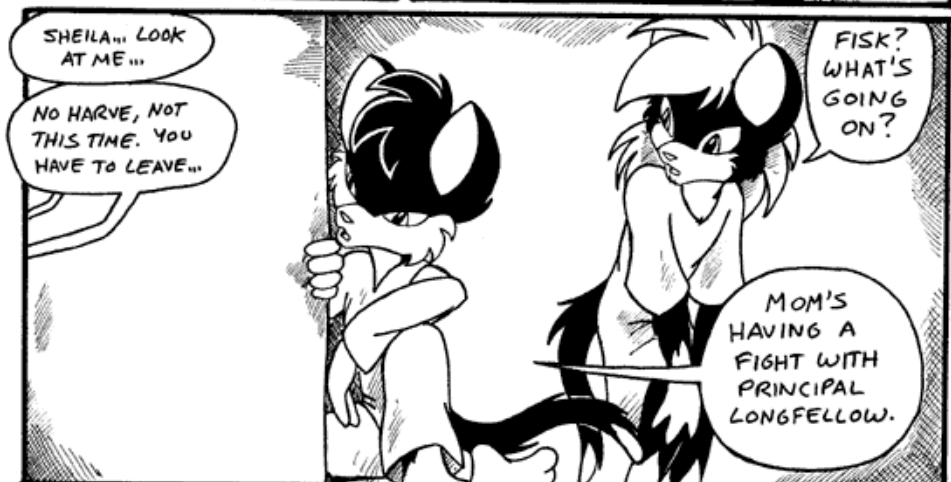


YOU CAN'T CLING TO
YOUR PAST IF YOU
WANT YOUR CHILDREN
TO HAVE A FUTU-

WITH WHAT? YOU!?
WHILE YOU'RE NOT
GETTING BLOWN AT
WARK!?!?

I TOLD YOU IF YOU'D
LET ME EXPL-

I'M NOT A GOD-
DAMMED IDIOT,
HARVE!



SHEILA... LOOK
AT ME...

NO HARVE, NOT
THIS TIME. YOU
HAVE TO LEAVE...

FISK?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

MOM'S
HAVING A
FIGHT WITH
PRINCIPAL
LONGFELLOW.

SHEILA, DON'T DO THIS TO ME.
YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
I'VE EVER MET...

ERK



LET GO!

BLINK

SHEILA!



I SAID -

GOD-DAMMIT! DON'T MAKE ME
GET ROUGH!

MAYBE
THAT'S HOW
YOU WA-

FISK! WE NEED
TO CALL THE
POLICE!



AIEE-!

NO!
NO!



POLICE!?! MY ASS!

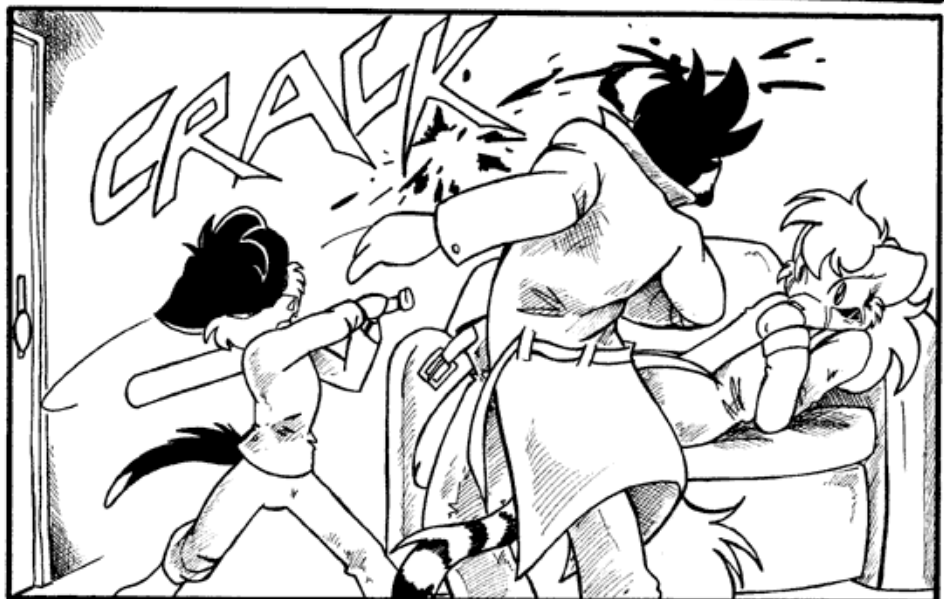
FISK!




IF YOU START TO SCREAM
YOU CAN SAY GOODBYE TO
THIS GORGEOUS FACE...

OHH... GOD
NO...


NING... YOU'RE AS DELIGHTFUL
AS HUFFE TAKEN AS MOST ARE,
WILLING...






BROKEN JAW AND NOSE,
MILD CONCUSSION. HE'LL LIVE

THANKS, BILL.




THE MOTHER'S GOING TO THE
HOSPITAL IN MY CAR. YOU GOT
ROOM IN YOURS FOR THE KIDS?

SURE
THING.




HEY, FISK. YOU DID A GOOD
JOB, BUDDY. WE'VE GOT TO
GET YOU KITTENS TO THE
HOSPITAL.

OKAY.



I WANT YOU TO GIVE THIS
TO YOUR MOTHER. IT'S THE
CARD OF SOMEONE YOU
SHOULD SEE.

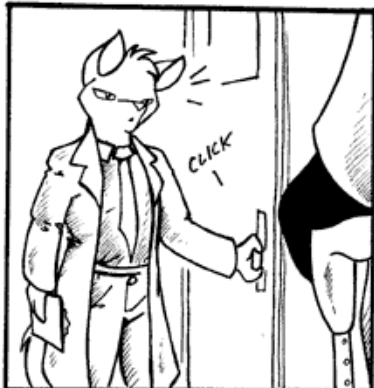


COME ON. WE'VE GOT
TO GET YOU TO THE
HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE HEALING WELL, MR. LONGFELLOW. YOU'LL BE READY FOR SURGERY IN A FEW DAYS.

MM.

GET SOME REST. THE NURSE WILL BE IN IN AN HOUR WITH YOUR FEED TUBE.



HOW'S OUR PATIENT, DOCTOR?

HE'S ALL YOURS. I'LL START THE PAPERWORK.

RISE AND SHINE, MR. LONGFELLOW...

MM?

YOUR SURGERY HAS BEEN PUSHED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE...

MS. BLACK, THE D.A. OF COBB COUNTY INTENDS TO GET A CONVICTION, AND ENSURE THAT MISTAH LONGFELLOW SERVES LONG, HARD TIME. I THINK OUR MEDICAL EVIDENCE WILL BE ENOUGH. I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOU OR FISK NEEDIN' TO TEST-

B.R.I.N.G.!

EXCUSE ME...



BAUMGARDNER'S OFFICE.
MM-HM... YES...

WHAT?

YOU'RE KIDDING...
ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.



WELL, WE'RE GOING TO BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO NOT NEED A TRIAL...

How?

LONGFELLOW DIED. MENINGITIS CONTRACTED DURING RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY...



FISK, YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE WHAT YOU SAW, AND WHAT YOU DID, CAN PLACE A VERY LARGE EMOTIONAL WEIGHT ON A GROWING CHILD'S MIND. WE CAN'T HELP YOU WORK PAST IT IF YOU STAY CLOSED UP...

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW HOW I FEEL?

I DIDN'T FREEZE, OR PAUSE, I JUST LET MY BRAIN AND BODY DO WHAT I WANTED. WHEN THE BAT CONNECTED WITH HIS HEAD, IT FELT GOOD. I TOOK CONTROL OF A WILD SITUATION, AND IT WAS RIGHT.

WELL, LIFE'S NOT SO SIMPLE. MY MOTHER TELLS ME IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE A MAN. SOMETIMES THAT MEANS STANDING UP AND DEFENDING WHAT'S RIGHT, AND THAT CAN BE VIOLENT. SO, I REALIZE, BEING A MAN ISN'T ABOUT JUST HAVING STRENGTH, IT'S ABOUT JUDGEMENT, AND HOW TO ACT TOWARD EACH SITUATION...

ADULTS ARE ALWAYS TELLING ME THAT VIOLENCE SOLVES NOTHING...

PRINCIPAL LONGFELLOW IS DEAD. I KNOW INSIDE I'M SUPPOSED TO FEEL BAD, BUT I DON'T. I FEEL NOTHING. I JUST HOPE MY FEELINGS DON'T MEAN I'M

GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE.

MMM...