

TWOKINDS

Chapter Thirteen



EMBARKING AGAIN



Phew... I think we finally lost them!

Erg... damn Keidran!



GRAAAH!



You've ruined everything!

I've been labeled a traitor! I have no way to get home now! All because of you guys!



Excuse me!

In case you've forgotten, **your** people just burned down our entire village!

Our home has been **destroyed**!



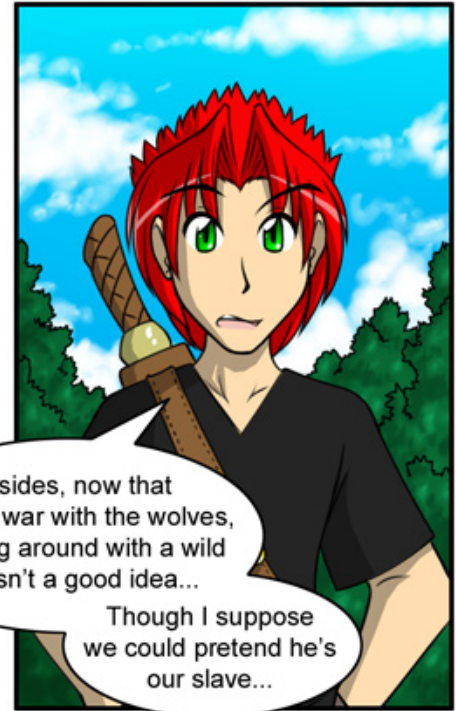
Yeah, that's right! In fact...

What's to stop us from gutting you right now, Wolf?



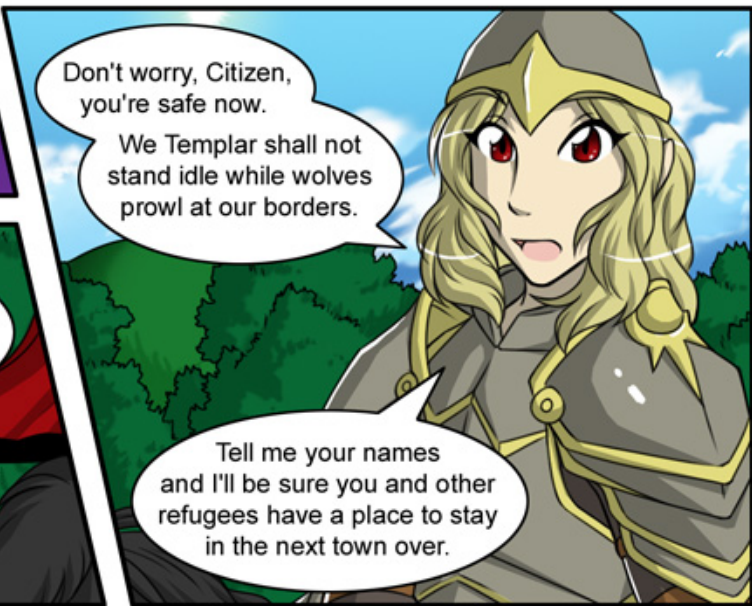
Guys! Stop fighting!

He tried to help us, remember? We should be working together!





T-Templar?



Don't worry, Citizen, you're safe now.
We Templar shall not stand idle while wolves prowl at our borders.

Tell me your names and I'll be sure you and other refugees have a place to stay in the next town over.



Hey! We need help!
Our village was attacked by Keidran, just down the road!



Oh, well, I am Maren Taverndatter and this is my sister, Karen.

That's our... um... slave, Sythe. And the red-haired one is

Hey!

Excuse me, Sir, but that wolf is not a slave!

He is a nephew of the Grand Duke, and a known member of the wolf army!



A... Keidran Templar?!

You... you blood traitor!



I see now... you aren't refugees at all...



...you're double-agents harboring a Keidran spy!

Woah woah woah!

Don't jump to conclusions!
There... there could be a perfectly reasonable explanation for why we're traveling with a Keidran soldier...

Well... is there?



Traitors! I knew it!

We must stop them!



No... let them go.
We must continue our mission.

Master Seer? But they may be spies...

They are of no consequence. Continue the march.

...Very well.

Alright men, let's keep—
Wait...

Have... you been there this whole time?

It's... rather awkward knowing I've been... riding you.



Alright, I think we got away...
Again.

Why aren't they chasing us?

They're probably sending our description to nearby towns.
They know we have no where else to go!



Grah!
Where are we going to go now?

Not only do we have no home... now the Templar are after us!

Oh, poor you...
How tragic that you're now in the same situation as me.



Hey, I stuck my neck out for your sake!
But killing you and claiming you coerced us is still an option, Furball!

I'd like to see you try!

Please, not again you guys!

Hey! I know a place where we can go!



Lyn'knoll?

I've heard the story before. That village is just a myth, though!



Oh, no!

I assure you, it's a real place!

I lived there with my mother for quite a while during the new Templar regime.



What's a "Lyn'knoll"?

Heck if I know.

I've just heard it's a secret village hidden somewhere that's home to both our kind and Keidran.

Oh yeah, I remember...

There's a huge bounty offered by the Templar for its location...



N-no!

You can't tell anyone about it! They were nice to my mother and me, and I can't betray them!



Alright, relax!

I was just sayin'... well, what do you guys think?

Bah!

I guess we don't have much of a choice. ...might as well.

And I suppose the furball can tag along if he wants...



Sigh...

It's going to be a long walk...

Adventure!



Meanwhile...

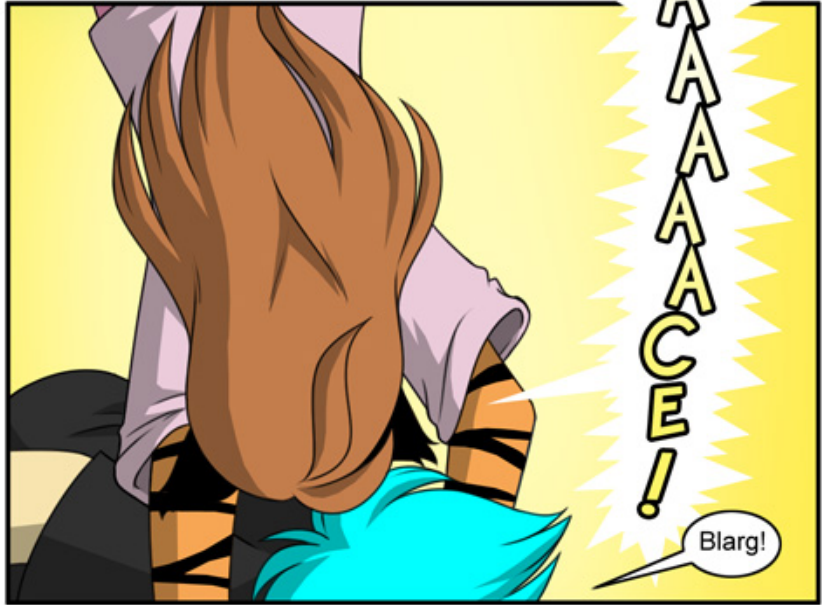
Sigh...

gasp!
Trace!



Huh?
Flora?

TRRAAAAACE!



Blarg!



CRASH!



You're alive!

You're alive!

I knew those guys
were hiding you somewhere!
I'm so happy you're okay!



Yeah, I... erg...
was okay.

I'm glad to see
you too, Flora.



Huh?



Flora, what's wrong?

Oh, nothing, nothing...
I don't know why I'm crying, I'm just... so relieved.

I knew you'd be alright, but... a part of me...



Ah, Trace! I was so afraid I'd never see you again!
I couldn't stand thinking our last time together would be during an argument!

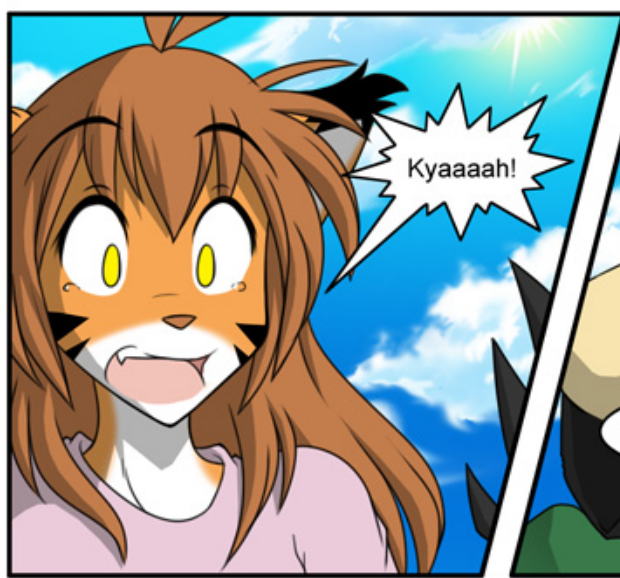
Eeerrgh!
Flora, Flora!
Claws... my back!



Oh, sorry!

I-it's okay, Flora.

Look, I'm fine, see?



Kyaaaah!



Oh, right...

My hand... I forgot.
Maybe we should get back to the ship and talk.



Meanwhile...

How interesting...

Thank you for sharing your story with me.

I can see now why you'd be uncomfortable with the way you are.

But have you ever considered that strength and femininity do not necessarily have to be mutually exclusive?



That's easy for you to say.

You're king of the Basitin! Here, it's just your ability that matters to your people.

It's not the same with Keidran... or at least us wolves.

It doesn't matter how strong you are; if you're born a woman, that's all my people ever see.



Ah, that is unfortunate.

But if I'm not mistaken...

SIP

You are no longer among your people.



Ah...

I have enjoyed this discussion, but I am afraid I must get back to my duties.

I'll make sure you're seen out.

CLINK!

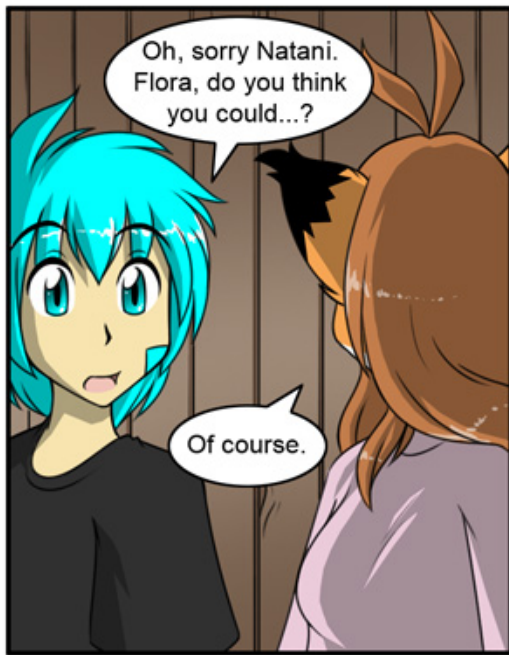


Guardsmen, we've finished. Please see Natani back to his ship.

Yes, Ma'am!







Later that evening...



Hmph. there you are Kei-
General Keiser. I should have
known you'd still be here.



...Alabaster.
You'll be pleased to know
that I've petitioned the King
for leave of the island.

I'm aware. I've
already advised Her
Majesty against it.



.....
I thought you of
all people would want
to see me gone.
Or are you just
objecting to any action
I take out of spite?



No, it's not spite. You don't deserve your title, but it's done, and I accept it.



And that title is "Ambassador" isn't it? It's my job to visit other nations—

At the behest of your king!



Not because you want to escape your problems!

You're an adult now, Keith. You can't just fold and run when life gets hard.



Your experience living among outsiders was what got you that title.

Experience our people are going to need if recent events with the Templar are a sign of things to come.



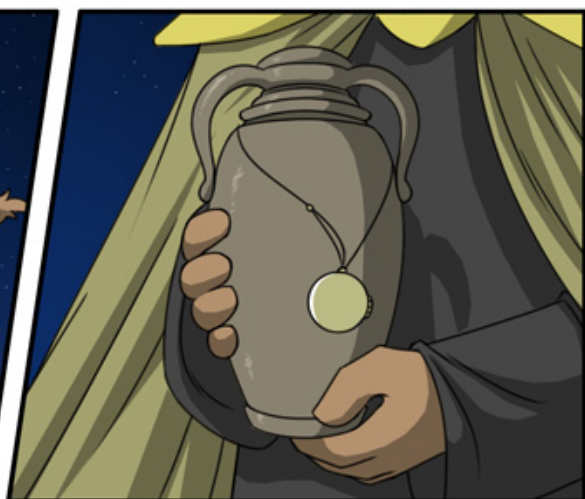
Sigh...

Regardless, it's not my decision. Here.



Her Majesty decided to approve your leave, against my counsel.

I hope one day you find where you really belong.





Ngh!

DING!
DING!

FLUMPH!

CREEK



There they go.



...He's not coming back, is he?

Hmph, we should be so lucky.
Good riddance.



Don't be so sure we've seen the last of our wayward kin.



A storm is brewing in the north.
There may soon come a time when we will be the ones to come to him.

Below deck...

Wow!

Look at all this stuff
the Basitins gave us!

Well... 'gave Keith' anyway.
I suppose they want to show
support for their General.

Ah, here's
the manifest.

Let's see... 100 kg of food
200 litres of water
3 crates of wine...

Weapons, armor,
clothing... formal
ankle coverings?

Various tools and
supplies, medicine,
lamp oil, and spices.

...Kat, get out
of the food.

Aw... I'm hungry...
I didn't get to eat anything
before we set sail!

We've got plenty of
our own supplies without
taking from Keith's!

Come on, let's
see if the others are
ready for dinner.

End.