

TWOKINDS

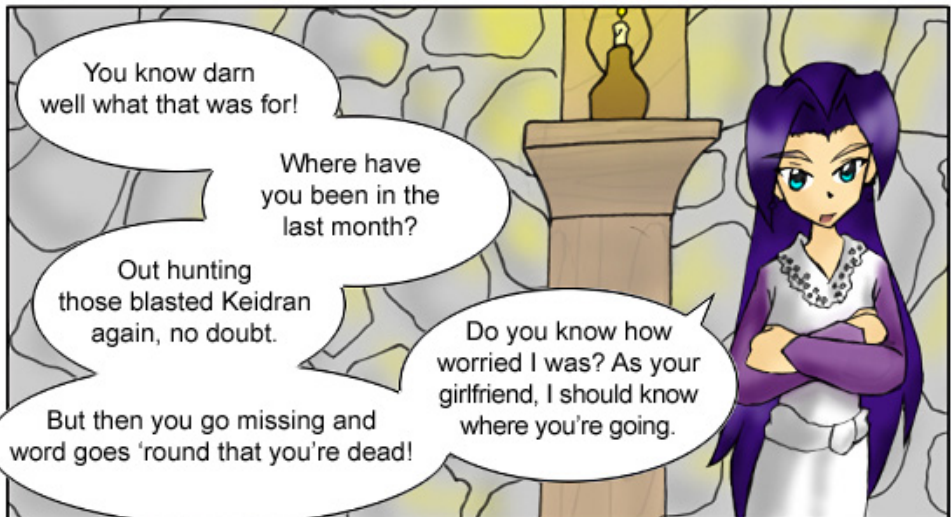
Chapter Two







Ow! What was that for?



You know darn well what that was for!

Where have you been in the last month?

Out hunting those blasted Keidran again, no doubt.

But then you go missing and word goes 'round that you're dead!

Do you know how worried I was? As your girlfriend, I should know where you're going.



But I don't remem- hey!

Come on! There's a bar fight going on! Let's break it up!

What? Bar fight?!



HEY! You two get back here! I'm not done yelling!



Stupid animal. Don't you know this is a human town?

I already told you! I'm *not* a Keidran!



It doesn't matter...

You're not human!



Okay, go ahead.
Break them up.

What?!
Why me?



That voice...
Could it be...?



Tracy! You're finally back!
We thought you'd died! But 'o
course, you can't die!

WAP!



Who are these
people? And why did they
all think I died?



I was just taking care
of this animal here.

Hey, he looks
kinda like Flora.



Wait!

You're Trace
Legacy?

That's what
everyone's been
telling me.



Shove!

You've got to help me!

Erk!

Twerp! I get you'll want to take care of him yourself, right, Trace?

ALL FIGHTS OUTSIDE


Oh yeah, I'll "help him out."

Whimper

So, what can I do for you?

That's not what I meant!


Huh?




What the heck is wrong with Trace? He chose to side with that animal instead of me!

It's like he has no memory of us! He's not at all the same.


I kinda like this nicer Trace.



What is that thing he's talking to, anyway? It doesn't look like a Keidran.




It's not. It's a Basitin, a different race that lives on an island, I think. It's rare to see one around here.




Grr, I bet one of them wiped his memory! Furry-eared freaks, I'll—



Ahem...



Oh, Karen, you know I... didn't mean... yours look good on you—



Ah! Get her off of me! Ow, not there! Stop! Ack! Help, she's biting me! Someone help! Aah!

Moron.

Cut it out you guys! We need to—



Hey! Where did they go?

So, what do you need my help with, Mr...?



Just call me Keith. My people need your help with a political problem.



Before you start, just to warn you, I think I have amnesia. I don't remember much.

That would explain why he's helping me so readily.

What? You don't know anything?

Nothing since yesterday.

This could be easier than I thought.



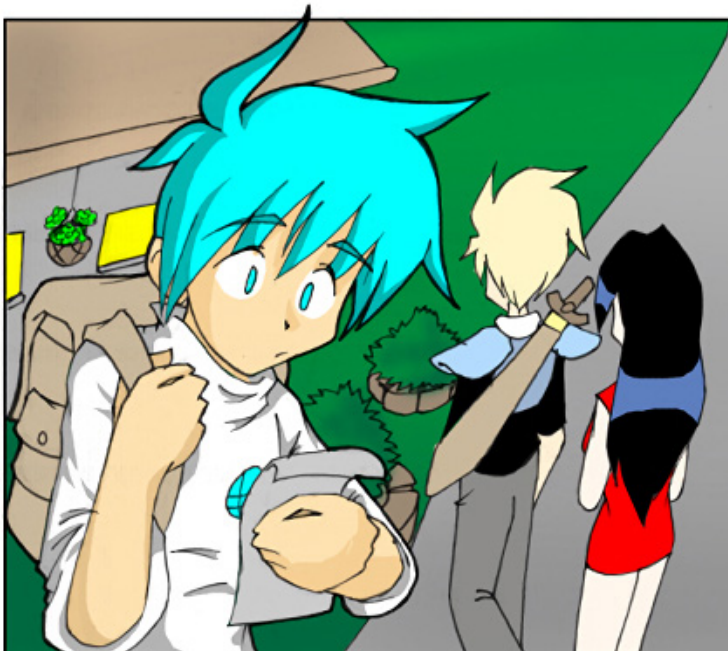
No matter, we can still use your help. Can you travel with me to my city?

I'm sort of on an adventure already.



Then I will join you. We can travel to my city later. Gather any supplies you need and meet me by the town gates in an hour.

Um... okay, I guess.

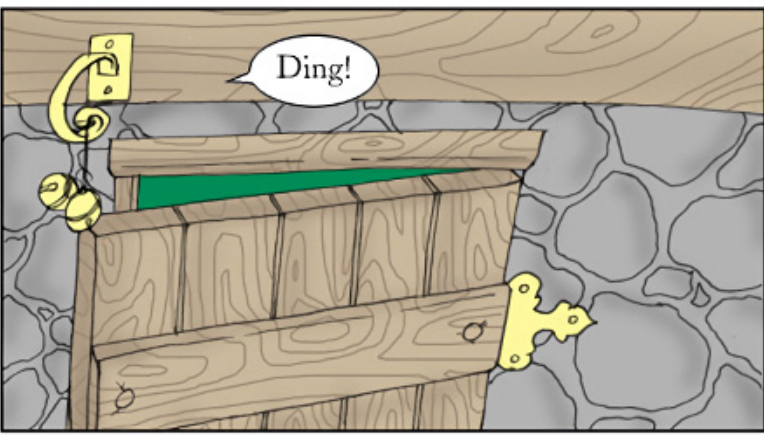


Well, I've gotten everything on the list. The only thing I haven't bought yet is something for Flora...

What would a half cat half tiger-something want, anyway? Ball of yarn? But I wouldn't want to insult her.



Hm... maybe...



Ding!



Ah, a customer! Oh, the Grand Templar himself, I see!

For what do I owe this honor?



I need to buy something for... a girl.

Oh?

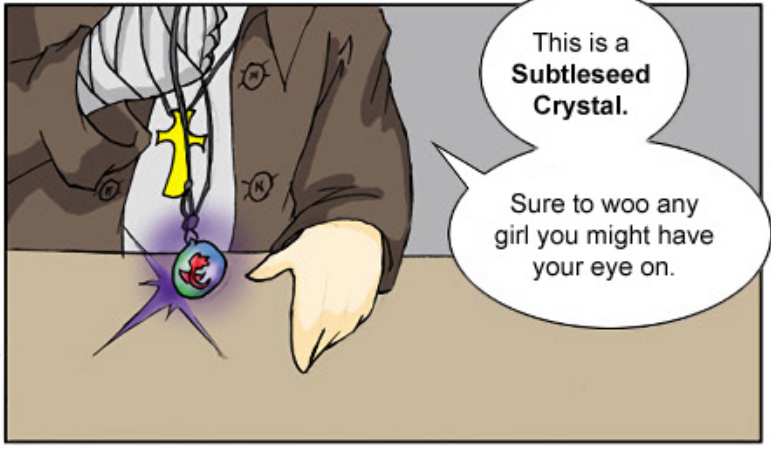


To win the favor of a Templar, she must be quite the fox!

No, more like tiger. But I guess I shouldn't say that.



I have just the thing.



This is a **Subtleseed Crystal**.
Sure to woo any girl you might have your eye on.

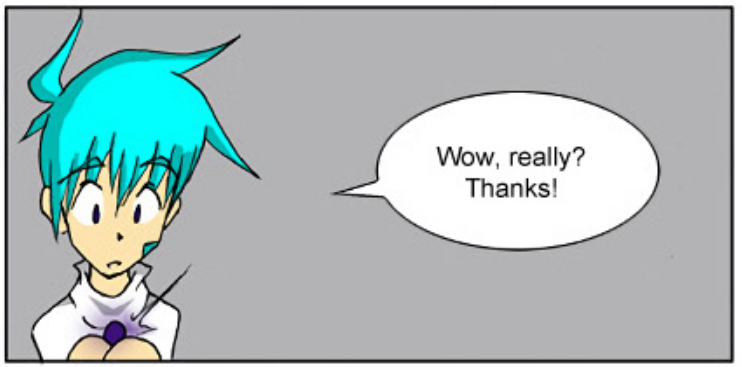


Wow!
It's... perfect!

How much is it?



Oh, please. Who do you think I am?
For you, Great Templar, no charge.



Wow, really?
Thanks!



Heh.

Yes, well, good day to you. Have a pleasant journey, now.

Ding!

Pleasant journey, indeed.



Heheheh...
hahah!

Mmph!
Mmmph!



Trace has been gone for a while. I hope he comes back.



Stupid, stupid, stupid!

I never should have let him go into the city, even if he has no memories!



Sigh! What am I doing?



I should be home, getting ready to be married!



But here I am, in a tree.

Hoping he doesn't tell anyone I'm here.



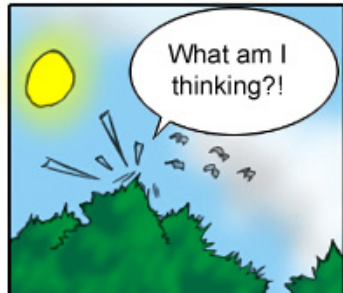
I can just hope he comes back. I need him... and... I kinda... miss him...



...



Eh?!



What am I thinking?!

I haven't imagined anything like that since... since I was a slave.

Flora?

Oh! It's Trace
He actually came back!
Thank goodness.

Flora?

I got all the supplies!
Flora?

And he's still clueless, thank the masks!

Uh, Trace? Who is this Flora?

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. Flora is a—

Hiya, Trace!

It's a Keidran!
Trace, let me handle this!

Keith, stop!

Nya!

TEMPLAR ACADEMY



Amazing. I have never seen such power in someone so young.

Who is he?



Trace Legacy.
He's from a small town called Eversummer.

He's strong. Almost as powerful as the Grand Templar herself.

What do you think, Grand Templar?



He is strong, there is no doubt. But he has no heart.

He does as we say, he follows our order.

But I don't think we've seen what he can really do.



If he were to have some real goal...



...something or someone to really care about...



Then we'll see real power.



What the hell?!



Stop— ah!

Oh, my!

Ow... my head.
What just happened?

Okay, next time you
plan on exploding, try giving
me a little warning.

What's the deal?
I was just trying to kill
that mangy feline.

But why? She's
Flora! Isn't she like
you? A Keidran?

What?! I'm
not a Keidran!

We're two different
races! I'm a Basitin,
she's a Keidran!

They are a race
of animals. We should
kill her now, while we
have the chance.

Mew?

You don't understand,
since you've lost your
memories.

But just look at
her! She's the pure
essence of evil!

Butterfly!

Um... yeah... see, what'd
I tell you? Pure... evil.

Meanwhile...

Have you found Trace's trail yet Karen?

Not yet!
I almost wish I had a Keidran nose rather than ears.

Oh, hold on. I think I hear someone coming this way.

Rustle!

Murr?

Ack! Look out!

!!

WUMPH!

P-please don't hurt me!

Hurt you? Why would I do that?

Ugh...

Anyone get the number of that airship?

Oh, my...

S-sorry!

Um, nevermind.

So, what's your name?

Raine. I'm kinda lost.

Hey, come with us!



Fine. I'll travel with her for now. But we go to my city first.

Afterwards, do what you like. I won't be with you, though.



But Trace...

Believe me, if you go with that Keidran, she will eventually kill you.



Um, Flora?

What he said isn't true, is it? Would you-?



No no no! Of course not! I'm different from other Keidran!

I wouldn't kill anyone!



Well, I guess I'll take your word. Oh, by the way, I got you something.



Something...

...for me?



Meeeaarr!!!

Is he really giving **THAT** to me?!



Ah, crap. I've done something stupid again, haven't I?



Here! It's a... um... what was it called?





Jeez! That's some strong static electricity.



What have I done?!

I knew that the subleased crystals were used in human marriages to bind two people together...

But I didn't know that there was any magic in the crystal that actually DID something!

Just how strongly are we bound together?



Sigh...

Well, I think it only works if I'm wearing it.

I'll just take it off later.

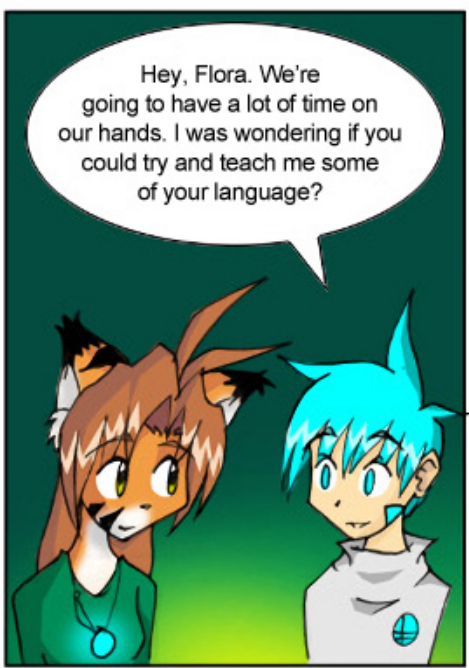


That night...



Thanks for the food, Keith.

No problem. I'm pretty good at hunting.



Hey, Flora. We're going to have a lot of time on our hands. I was wondering if you could try and teach me some of your language?



Well, sure. Let's see... grass is *ch'rall*.

Chall?

Heehee! Try again. It's *ch'rall*.



Ch'rall?

Yeah. And Trees are *marlch'ren*.

What?!

Hahaha!

Grrr...



Ah! T'anks for 'ta drinks, Tracy...
Isn't camphing out here fun? We shoul' do it more often, huh?

Uh, Flora, are you alright?



What did you put in that drink?

Just ale, I think...



Hah!

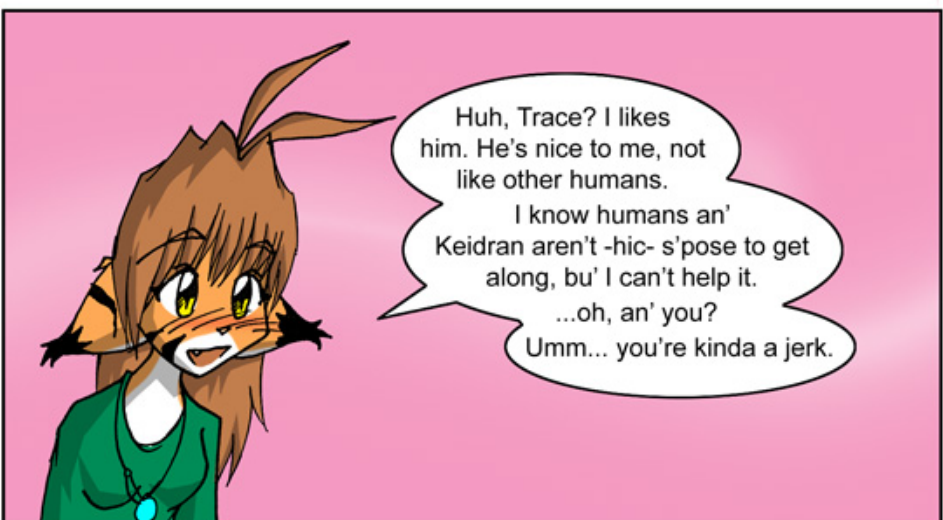
You mean human ale.
Keidran can't handle much of that stuff.



Hah, I just notif'd how funny you humans look without fur on!



She gets quite honest when she's had a few, doesn't she?
Let me try something.
Hey Flora, how do you really feel about Trace and I?



Huh, Trace? I likes him. He's nice to me, not like other humans.
I know humans an' Keidran aren't -hic- s'pose to get along, bu' I can't help it.
...oh, an' you?
Umm... you're kinda a jerk.



Er, thanks, Flora.

You're welcome!

Maybe I should help you to bed now.

Okay!



How's 'bout you come to bed wits me?

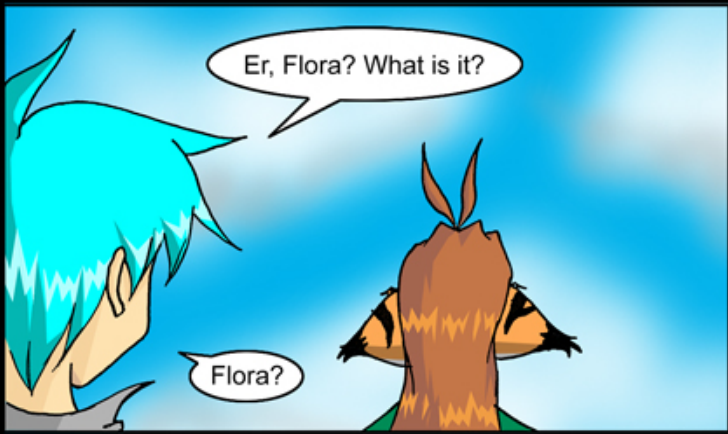
I don't think that's a good idea.



Hmph, that wasn't what I was expecting.
Either she's a good actress, or as impossible as it seems, this Keidran truly does have feelings for a human. Interesting...



Phew! We finally made it out of that forest! I thought it would never end!
It's good to be back out in the open air, right Flora?



Er, Flora? What is it?

Flora?



Trace... I can't...

What's wrong?



Trace, I can't take it anymore!



Please. Take me!



Take what? What's bothering you?

Trace...



Flora, what are you doing?
We can't...!



Why? You don't like me?

No, it's not that!
I do, but we-



Good!

Ack!



So tell me, Trace.
Does it bother you that
I'm a Keidran?

I've really grown attached
to you. You're the first person I met
since I lost my memories.
You're the only person
I've found I can trust.

Well, I guess it did at
first. I had no idea what you
were when we met, but...

I'm glad to hear
you say that, Trace.



Then...



Fi-Flora? Wh-?

I'm sorry.
I really am.



Never... trust...
a Keidran...



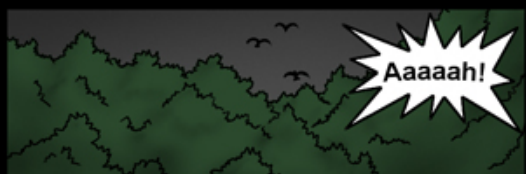
SLICE!

My mission
is complete!



But you forgot...

...the first rule
of the Templar.



Aaaaah!





Why? He's an evil human. Should there be any other reason?



He's not evil!
He has no memory.
Why can't we just capture him?

Why must we kill?



You sound like you're defending him!



No, I'm not! I know. We are Keidran and he is human. But why can't we try?



Flora, you traveling around with a human is a huge risk! Why are you going through this?
He's not just any Templar. He's the **Grand** Templar.

He's murdered hundreds of our kind...
And you of all people should want him dead.



Why's that?



Trace was the man who killed your family!



Because...



Flora, are you okay?

He killed them...?

I'm sorry I had to bring up bad memories.



But now you see why we need to kill him while he's vulnerable. Let me take care of him—



No! I... I have to do this. Give me the dagger.

Please, don't do anything foolish, Flora.

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing.



Phew... I'm glad that's over with. I'm sorry I had to lie, Flora.

How should I know if Trace was involved in your family's death?



But at least now that human will be out of the way.



Why am I crying? Probably this stupid cry- huh?

And where have you been, Keidran?



Er... well, not that it's any of your business, but I was just... relieving myself, that's all.



Better not let him see this...



I don't see why you'd bother going so far. You Keidran have no sense of modesty.



Which is a shame. A lack of modesty is wasted on such unattractive creatures. Just keep in mind that I'm watching you.



Patience, Flora. The Human first, then the jerk.



The coast is clear.
There's Trace's tent.
And it's even open.
This'll make it easy.

I just wish I didn't have
to do this. I've never had to...
kill a friend before...

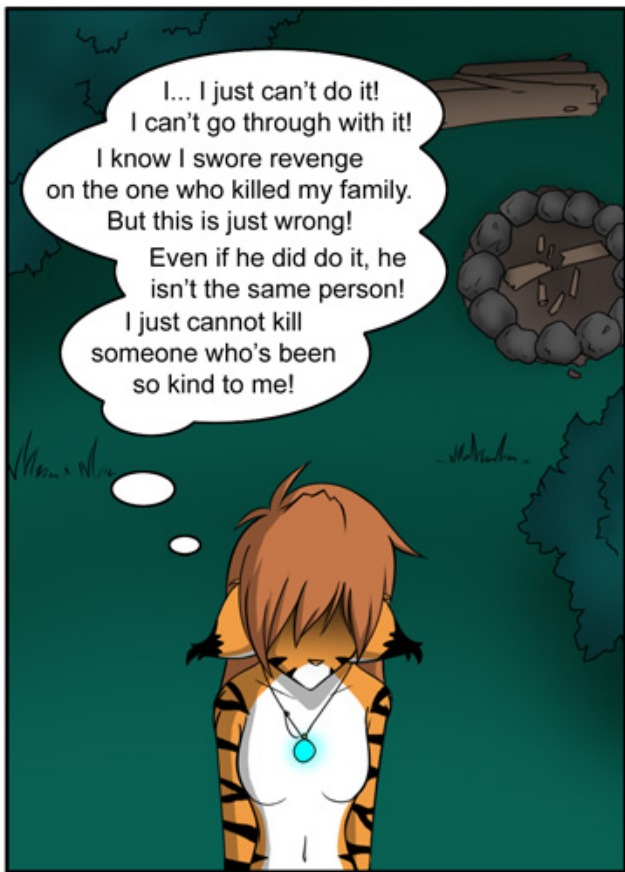


No no no! Not
a friend! I was just
pretending!
Why do I always
forget that?

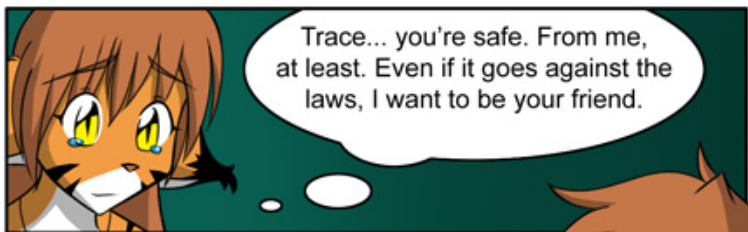


I just have to
take this dagger...

And... and then I...
I'll just go and...



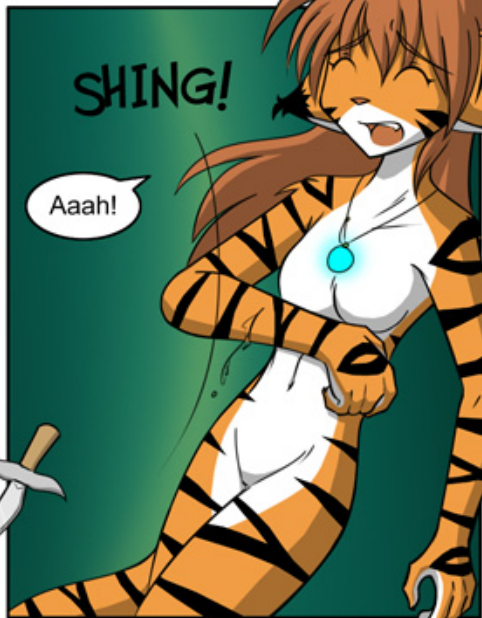
I... I just can't do it!
I can't go through with it!
I know I swore revenge
on the one who killed my family.
But this is just wrong!
Even if he did do it, he
isn't the same person!
I just cannot kill
someone who's been
so kind to me!



Trace... you're safe. From me,
at least. Even if it goes against the
laws, I want to be your friend.



I knew it!



Aaah!

SHING!



I always knew you'd try to betray us! You filthy Keidran, I'll make sure you pay.



No... Trace, h-help!



Hey! What's going on?

Trace!



Trace! I caught this Keidran getting ready to kill you!
I told you she can't be trusted!



I'm sorry!

Flora, wait!



That's can't be true!
He's lying, right, Flora?

Trace...
I - I didn't...



Hah! At least we're finally rid of that fleabag.

