

# TWO KINDS

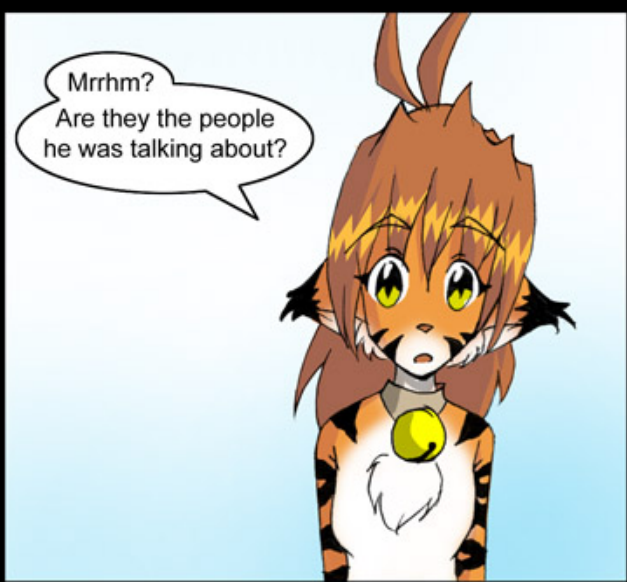
## Chapter Four





Come on, Flora!  
The new Grand Templar  
is supposed to be going through  
the village about now!

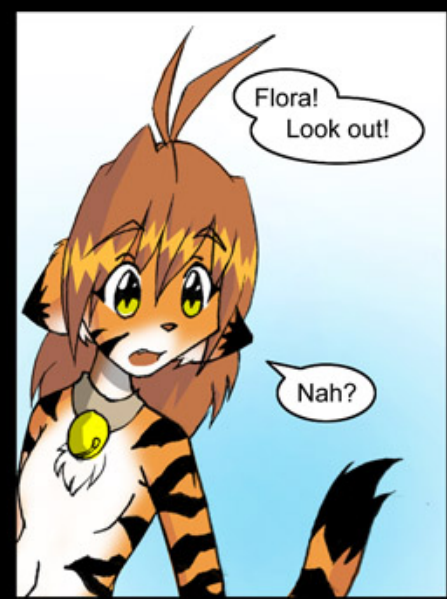
Wait...  
...for me!



Mrrhm?  
Are they the people  
he was talking about?



I wonder which one  
is the Grand Templar?



Flora!  
Look out!

Nah?



Move out of  
the way!

Ah!



Arg, gotcha!

Mra?!



Euchre, you saved me!

Of course, Miss Flora.  
I could never allow anything  
to bring you to harm.

Thank you!





Well, now that the humans are distracted, tell me, Flora...

How have you been doing lately? Have your masters been treating you alright?

Um, yes, I think they have...

They're all very nice to me. And Kei always lets me play with him.

Is that so? You are truly blessed to have such kind human masters.

You think so?

I do... say, what's that around your neck?

Oh, this? It was a present from Kei's father...

A collar, huh?

Well, I'd better be going before my masters notice I'm missing.

Take care, Miss Flora. And remember.

I'll always be here for you if you ever need my help.

I promise you.





Ah, it's morning!  
It feels good to not  
wake up to a nightmare  
for once!



I wonder why I  
didn't have- urk!



Flora... lying  
on top of me...  
So soft...  
So warm...



Aaaack! What is  
she doing in my bed!?  
What have we done?



Meeerr?



Trace, what's wrong?  
Are we under attack?  
Did something happen?



In bed... you...  
I... we didn't... we  
couldn't have...



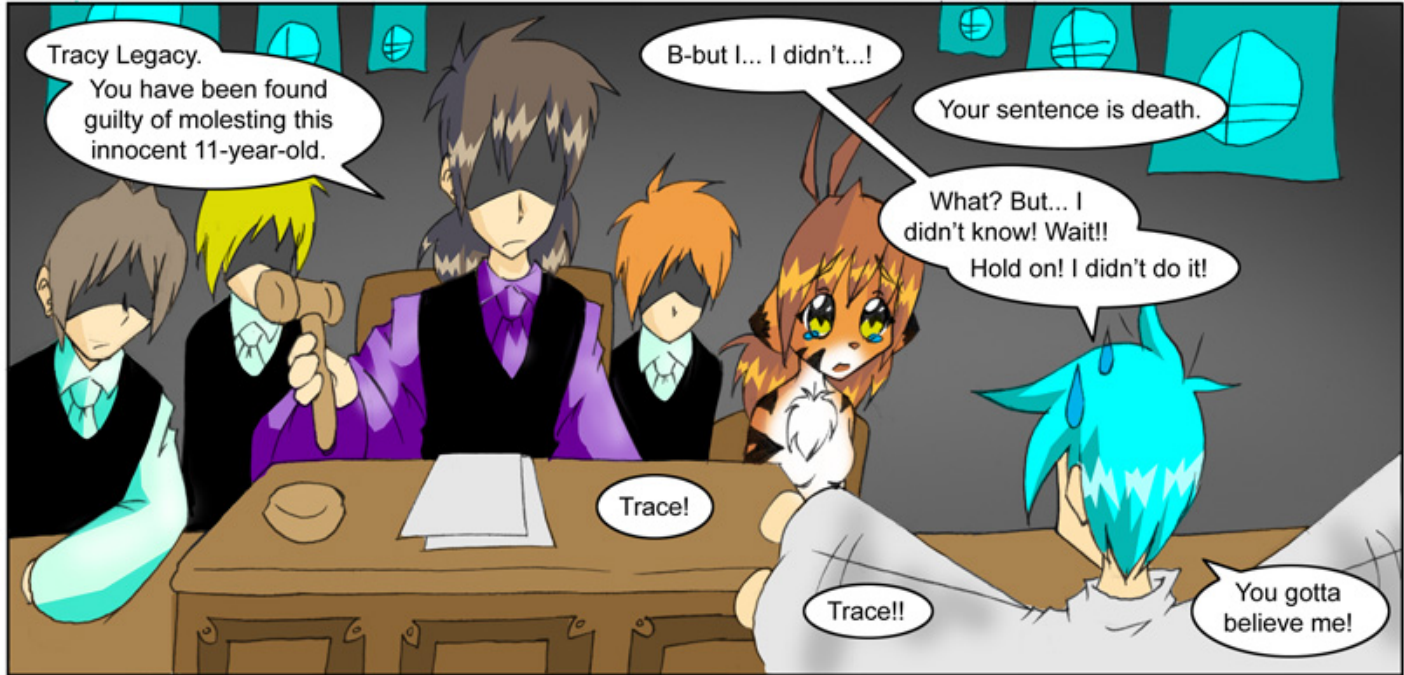
Yeah, we did!  
It was really nice!

What!? You  
mean we...?!

Yup!







Tracy Legacy.

You have been found guilty of molesting this innocent 11-year-old.

B-but I... I didn't...!

Your sentence is death.

What? But... I didn't know! Wait!!

Hold on! I didn't do it!

Trace!

Trace!!

You gotta believe me!



Trace! Snap out of it!

Gah!



A few stitches later...

So Keidran don't live as long as humans?

Right, in Keidran years, I'm an adult. Honest!

So how long do Keidran live?



Oh, no! Trace! I'm so sorry!

I forgot about my claws!



Well...



Er... no time for that right now! We need to get packed and out of this human city!

Heh. You're going to be the death of me, Flora.







I'm back!

Oh, hey, Trace!  
What do you think? I finally got a chance to brush my fur after being in those woods.

Wow, you look great, Flora!

Aww, thank you!



Hey, Flora.

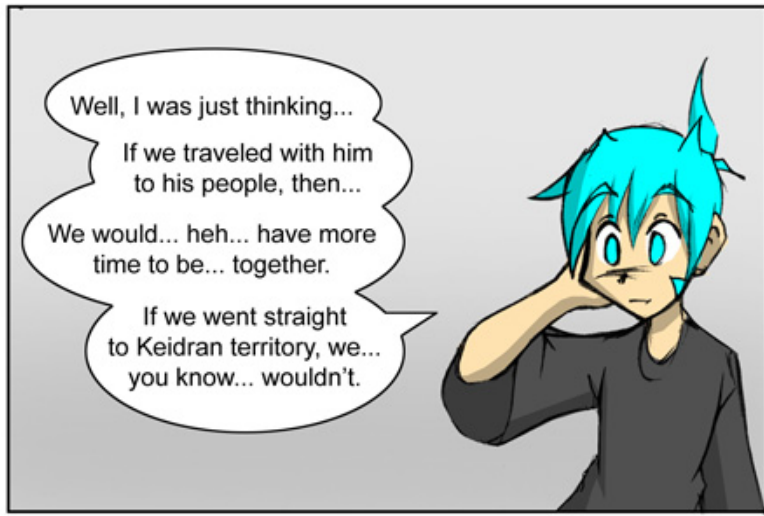
I just talked with Keith. He says he wants to travel with us again.

Should we let him?



Keith? The Basitin? B-but I was hoping we'd be traveling.. um.. just the two of us.

Plus, he's mean!



Well, I was just thinking...  
If we traveled with him to his people, then...  
We would... heh... have more time to be... together.  
If we went straight to Keidran territory, we... you know... wouldn't.



Nya!



Well then, let's get packing! Don't want to keep Keith waiting too long!

Eheh...



I think it was then that I realized...

I didn't really intend on ever leaving her.









So, you're a carnivore?

Well, I guess so. We only eat meat. When I was a slave, I got really sick once when they fed me some bread.

I guess that's out, then...



Oh, but I know what I'd really like...



Human flesh!

Aaah!



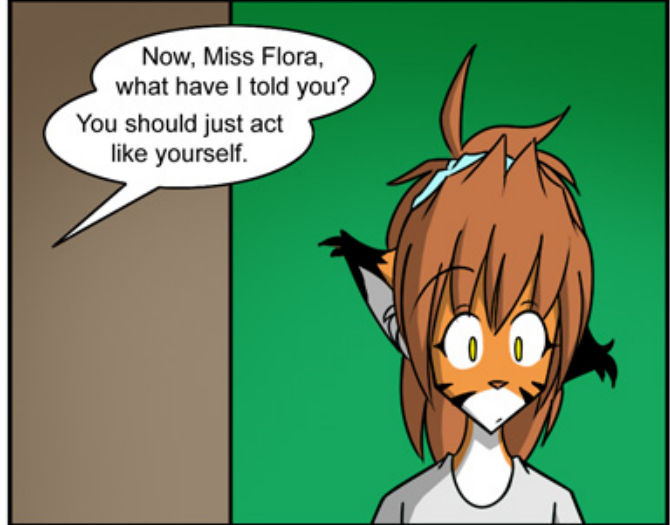
W-well... I-I'm going to go... see what I can find.



Eh?

I was just... kidding... Oh, shoot. I did it again. I let my Keidran get the best of me.

Now Trace is scared of me again. Why can't I just act normal?



Now, Miss Flora, what have I told you? You should just act like yourself.



Euchre?!

Greetings, Flora.

It's been quite a while, hasn't it? Amazing, of all the places, we meet up here.

So, how have you been since the escape?

Flora? What's wrong?

It's... been so long... E-Euchre... I've missed you so much!

But why are you in that cage?

Oh, this? Funny story, actually...

I was out for a morning walk the other day.

And these generous humans offered me a lift.

I politely refused...

But they were very insistent.









So you need my help to gain support from the rest of the humans?

Yes, basically.



But there's more. You need to know th-

Trace!

Eh, Flora?

Stupid Keidran.



Flora? What's wrong? Did something happen to you?

Huff... no, no! Huff. I just saw a friend of mine- another Keidran! I need your help! You're the only one who can get him out!



Trace, this is a really bad idea! One Keidran is bad enough, but two?

There is no way I'm going to travel around with two Keidran!



Wait, Trace!

Can I talk to you in private?



Besides, if it's a male, then you know you'll never get any sleep at night with the noise they'll be making.







Guys?

**KNOCK!**  
**KNOCK!**

Hey, still asleep?

I thought you'd want to be up by now to catch that Templar.

Huh?

Oh, no!  
What time is it?

Everyone wake up!  
We overslept!

Hurry up!  
Hurry up!

Hey, aren't you forgetting something there?

Nope! Got my sword right here!

Mindless dolt.

Karen? What are you doing hanging off the balcony?

Just having fun!

Oh, whatever. Did you see where Trace went?

Yeah, he walked out and went left down the road.

Thanks. Guys!  
Head out to your left!

Oh, wait, which way is left again?

So who is this "friend" of your's, exactly?

Well, his name is Euchre, and I've known him since I was a kitten.

He always seemed very cheerful, even as a slave.

He helped me out, even-e-even when m-my masters locked me up and sold me.

He was always there, even when my human friends betrayed me.

He helped me escape, and I learned never to trust another human again!

....

Trace!

Aguah?!





<Euchre! I'm back!  
<I brought some friends!>

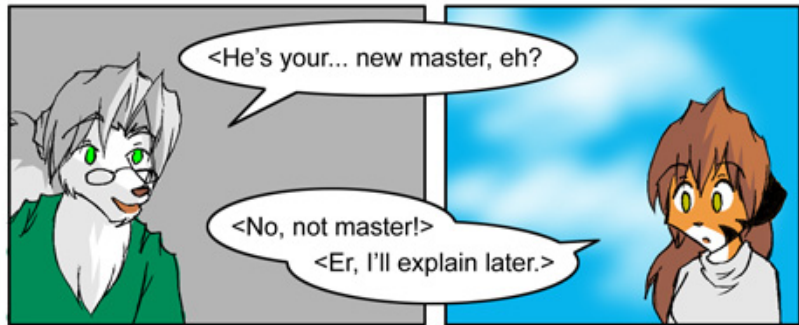


<Oh, good!>  
<I knew I could  
count on you, Flora!>



<So, this is the  
Templar, huh?>

Jeez, that's  
one big Keidran.



<He's your... new master, eh?>

<No, not master!>  
<Er, I'll explain later.>



Trace, could you...?

Yeah, sure. I'll go talk  
to that guy up there and  
see what I can do.

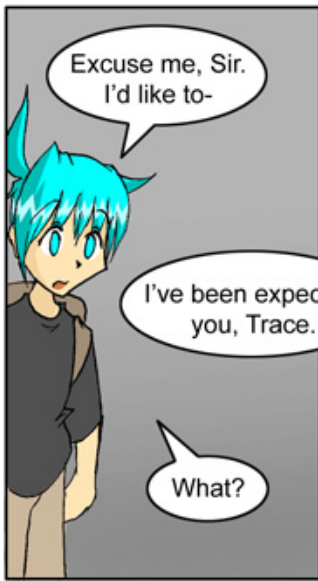
Thanks, Trace.

Of course!



<Hm, a Basitin, too? You're  
hanging around with an interesting  
crowd nowadays, Flora.>

What are you  
looking at, Keidran?



Excuse me, Sir.  
I'd like to-

I've been expecting  
you, Trace.

What?



The Templar Masters  
have a bounty on you that  
I intend to collect.





Thank you again, Flora.  
I am forever in your debt for this.

Aww, I didn't really do anything...



Huh? What was that feeling?

Interesting...



Aaaaagh!

Hah! They told me your powers were crippled, but this is too easy!

You're even weaker than a Templar's apprentice!

Now I know why they wanted to get rid of you!



Hey! Leave him alone!



Aw, isn't that cute?  
A loyal slave.




Stay out of this, Keidran!



Flora!





No, Flora! I have to do something!

Ah! What.. what is this?

What are these images?

Dreams? No, not dreams....

Memories...?

They can... they can't do this to me. No! They...

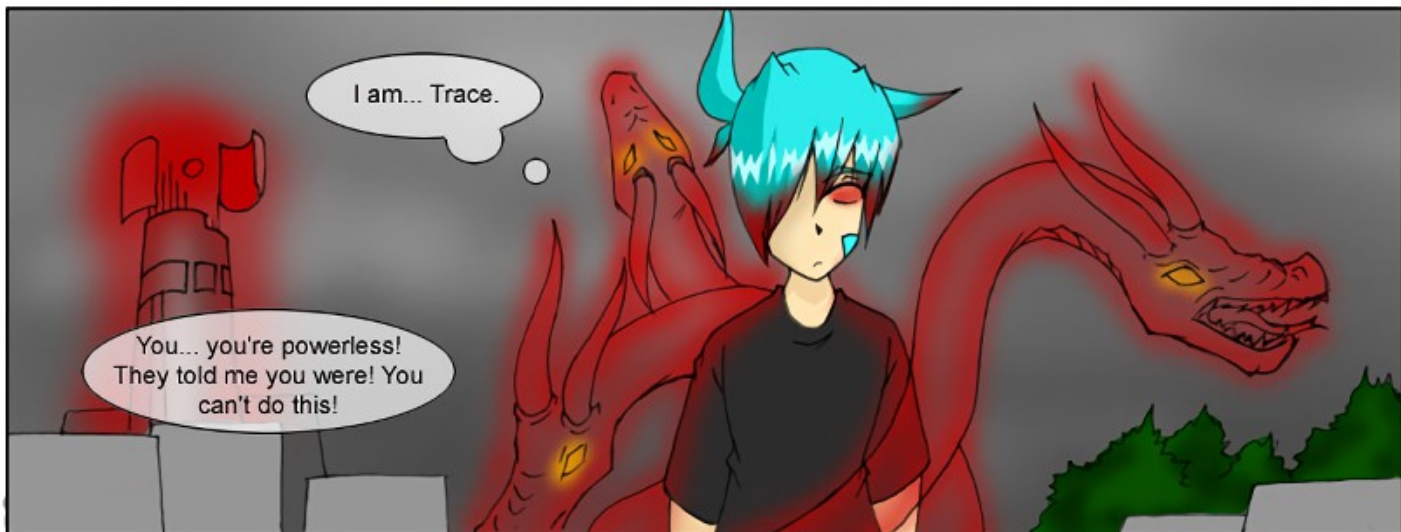
No one controls me!

I won't be controlled!

Master Templar..?

I'm sensing an energy fluctuation. Someone is trying to access the tower's energies.











You sent my family to their graves!  
It's time I did the same...



...to you!



I... I did it!



W-what?!



It was... an illusion...?

No...



Nooooooooo!



No, it can't be... has he really returned to his former self?





T-Trace?  
Are... a-are  
you okay?

Trace?



Flora? I'm so glad  
you're not hurt...



You're... okay now?



I'm just fine.  
What's wrong?

You're not scared  
of me, are you?

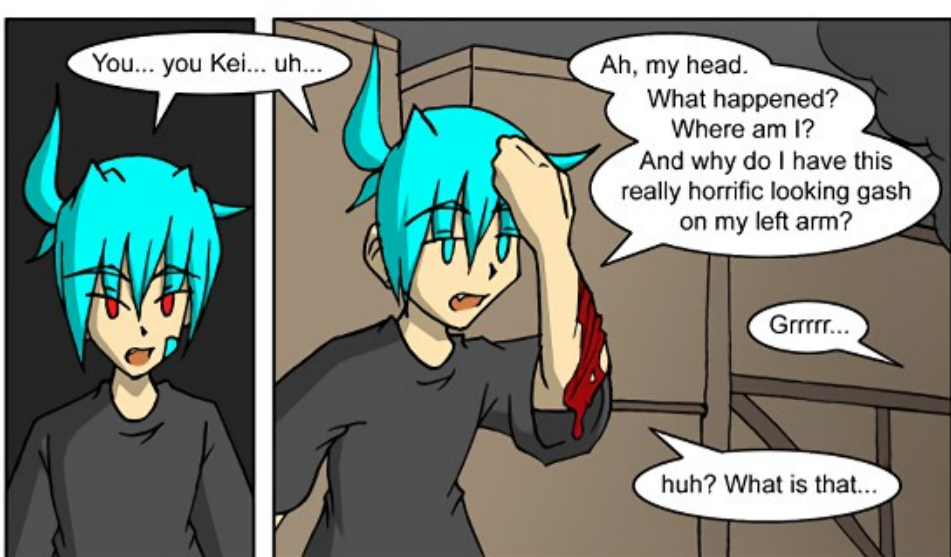


Nyaaa!

Keidran!







You... you Kei... uh...

Ah, my head.  
What happened?  
Where am I?  
And why do I have this  
really horrific looking gash  
on my left arm?

Grrrrr...

huh? What is that...



Ah! Flora? What happened?  
What's going on?



I think I can  
answer that.



Euchre! You're alive!  
But I thought... I saw you  
get hit by the fireball!



But we don't  
have time!

CRACK!

Gah!



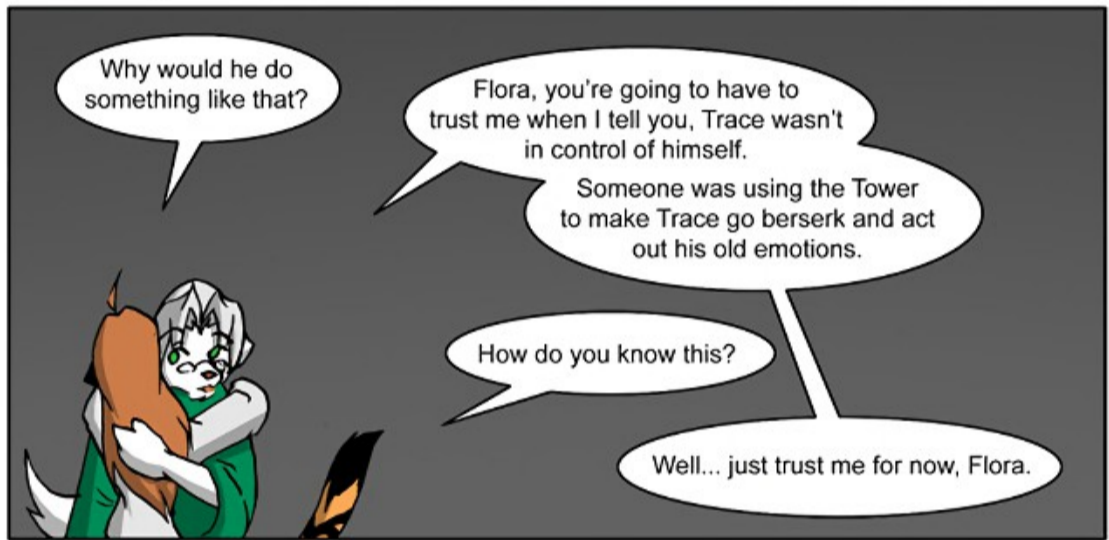
Oh, I'm tougher  
than I look.

But I'm not important  
right now. Are you okay?

I guess so... but...



Trace... he...  
he attacked me...



Why would he do  
something like that?

Flora, you're going to have to  
trust me when I tell you, Trace wasn't  
in control of himself.

Someone was using the Tower  
to make Trace go berserk and act  
out his old emotions.

How do you know this?

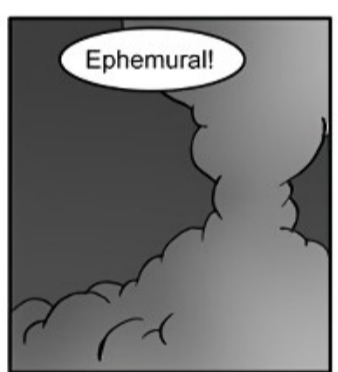
Well... just trust me for now, Flora.



Why would  
they want him to  
remember?



Trace was very important  
to the Templars, even if some of them  
might want him out of the way...  
But there's someone I know who  
I suspect is behind this...  
Someone who cares  
nothing for the fate of neither  
Human nor Keidran.



Ephemural!



Look what you've done!  
You've destroyed everything!



Oh? You don't  
like my plan?



Plan? You've destroyed  
my Tower and nearly killed  
everyone *but* Trace!  
You're plan is a failure.



Wrong!  
I do not involve myself with the petty  
quarrels of you Templar mortals.  
I care not for Trace's fate!

There's only one thing I seek:  
balance! I am Neutrality.



I'm after... her.

Her? But she's just  
an ordinary Keidran...

I have foreseen that she  
will one day bring balance to  
the races of this world.

And betrayal is the  
key to spark the hatred to  
make it happen.





He still has a fever.  
I don't know what to do.

...I don't know.

You know I've always felt that humans weren't all that bad.

Flora, relax. I'm sure he'll be fine... Tell me, why do you feel you need to help this human?

Mmhm.  
...You sure have fallen for this guy, haven't you?



What?! No!  
I... haven't even thought... well... we're just friends!

I seem to remember you being "just friends" with a human once before. And you know how that turned out, don't you?

Hmm...

Yeah, yeah...



But I was young and stupid back then. I won't make the same mistake again...


Flora, listen to me. You know you're like a sister to me.

Heh, so you're saying you aren't young anymore?

Oh, hush...

But I'm getting old. I'm twenty-one. If I'm lucky, I may live to see another few years, but I can't protect you forever.






Ah, look at you, your fur is in knots!

Euchre, I'm fine-

I know, I know.


Look, why don't you go and take a bath in that river we found and then get off to bed.

Oh, okay.



I'll be in my tent if you need me.

Keidran...




My plans were almost ruined yesterday.


Just about lost my ticket home.

And Flora risked her life to try and snap Trace out of it.

Eh, I shouldn't even care if she died or not.



So why do I feel so guilty about not helping her!?




This is insane.

I am a basitin warrior!

And she's getting in the way of my plans.

What I really need is to get rid of her.



But I gave Trace my word I wouldn't even touch her.

... Then again, all's fair, as the saying goes.



Eh.. Uhm..?

Wha- What?  
Where am I?

No... it can't be!

This.. isn't possible.  
This is my island!

Keith!

Huh?  
Vehra?

I'm... back home?

It's just like I remember!

Of course, kiddo!  
What are you  
doing out here?

Sleeping on the  
beach again?

Well, gotta go.

Wait! Vehra!

Keith!

Uh..?

See ya around,  
Keith Keiser.

Don't leave!  
Y...you...

You're alive....

Dad..?

What are you doing out here?  
You lazy, pathetic excuse for a Keiser!



Keith Keiser. For your actions against the basitin people; for the murder of your own two parents;

No, please...

Not again.. don't make me see this again..



...unless honor is restored..

For bringing shame not only on yourself but on your family name:

...I hearby banish you from these islands...

I didn't do it!

...Forever.

End.