TwoKinds
10 Year
Anniversary
Reflections

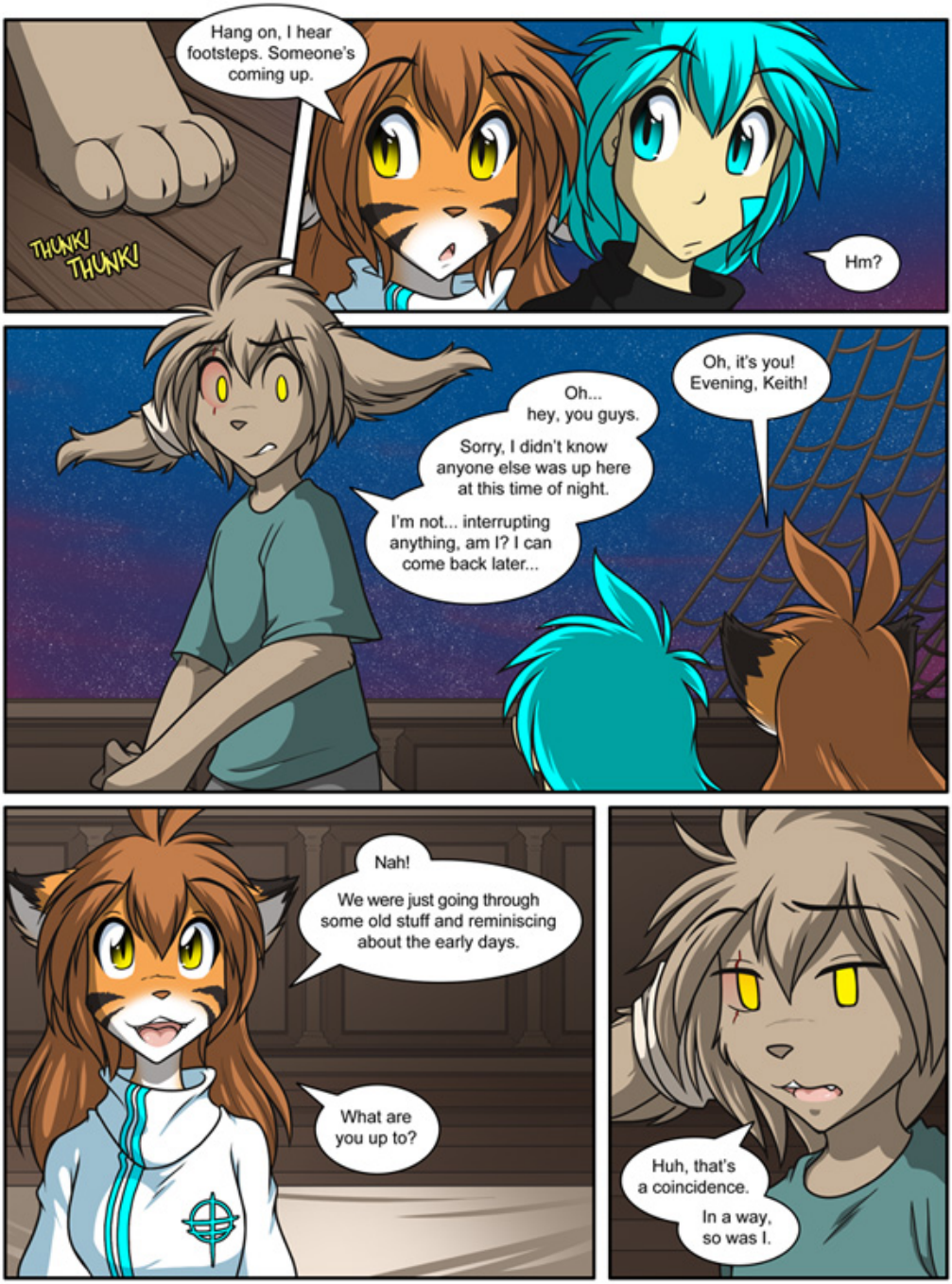
You were right, Flora.
Getting out of the cabin for a while was a good idea.
SIGH...
Yeah, this is nice.
After everything that's been going on lately, all I want to do right now is kick up my paws and relax.
Well, you've been under a lot of stress lately. You deserve it.
You know, looking up at the stars like this, it almost reminds me of the first night we met.
Do you remember that night in the forest?
How could I forget? It's the very first day I have any memory of.
From my perspective, that night was the first night I had ever experienced.

That night, long ago...
Alright, that should be enough to last for now.
Oh, hey!
You're still up. I didn't wake you, did I? I just left to gather more firewood.
No. I've been awake.
Oh... okay.
So, um... since we're both still up, there's something I wanted to ask you earlier, but... I wasn't sure if it'd be rude to do so.
That guy from before called you a "Keidran."
Is that the name of your... species?
...Do you really not know?
This isn't some elaborate trick or something? Playing dumb to bring me back?
What? No, no!
I'm not trying to "bring you back" anywhere. I was just curious.
All I know for sure about Keidran so far is that they have orange fur and stripes.
What? We don't all have... wow, you don't know much, do you?

Okay, let me get this straight... there are tiger Keidran, wolf Keidran, dog Keidran, and fox Keidran...
Right.
And then... rabbit Keidran, and lizard Keid... and fish Keid...
No, no, no! That's wrong. I mean, yes, there are supposedly merfolk in the sea and I had heard stories from people about a species of reptiles in the mountains... but none of those count as Keidran. Just canids and felids.
Well... what's the difference? If both canids and felids count as Keidran, why not the others?
The difference is canid and felid Keidran are closely related.
The other creatures are more primitive than our two species. They're usually classified as beasts.... but then again, so are Keidran sometimes.
Oh, and have I mentioned Basitins yet?
I'm so confused.
SIGH...
It's alright, Trace.
The only ones you'll need to know are us Keidran. All the rest are either far away or might not even exist.
And I can guarantee you'll never have to worry about meeting a Basitin. They live far off on some weird island or something.
Well, I'm sure glad I have you here to teach me about this stuff.
I'd be totally lost right now without you.
Oh... erm, you... you're welcome.

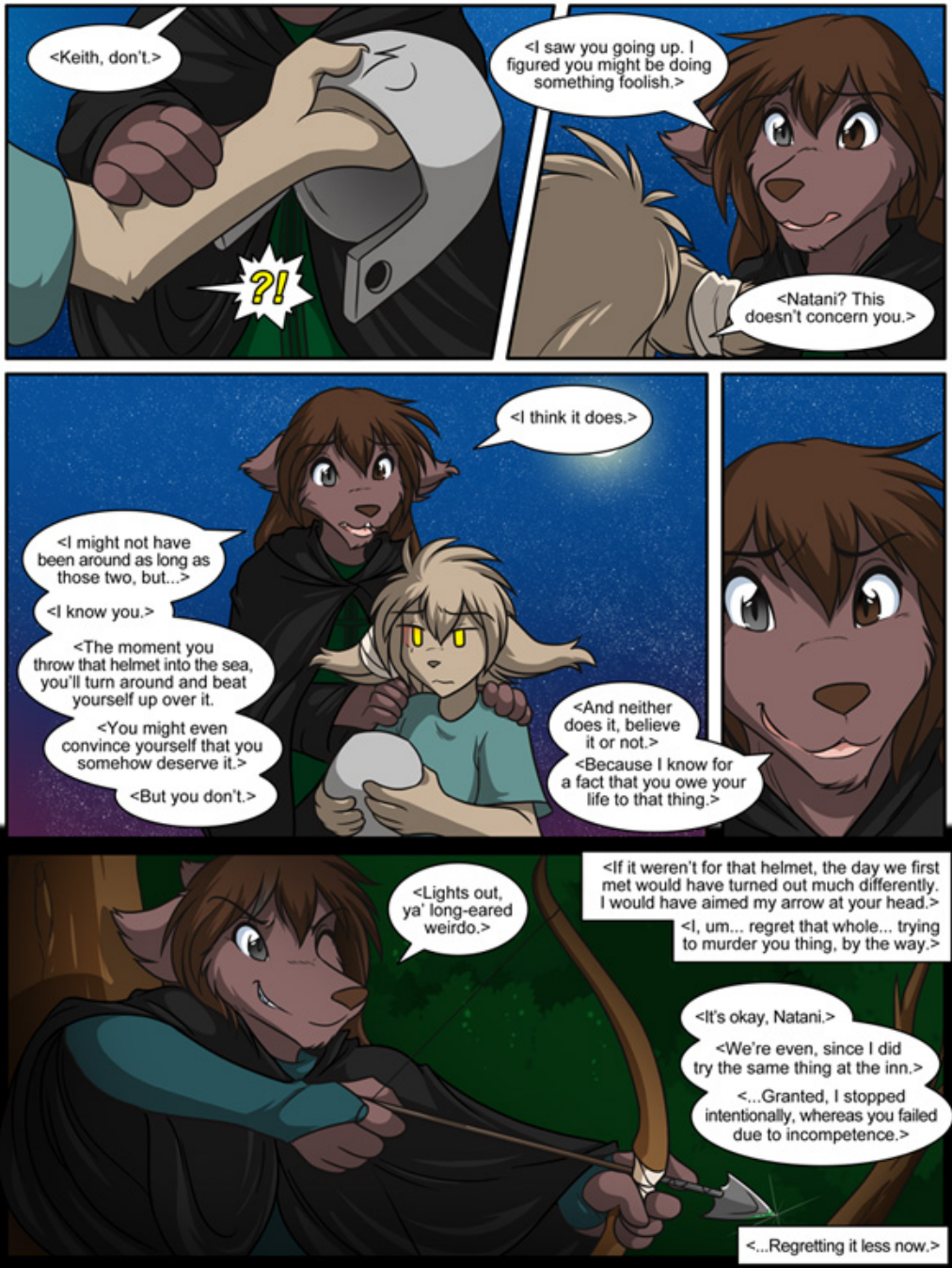
Heehee! You were so clueless!
Hey! Gimme a break! It was my first day. I was experiencing everything all over again!
Well, you're lucky I found your cluelessness so cute, then, *human!*
Because that whole night while you were asleep I was up debating whether or not it would be safer for me to just...
...eat'cha.
GRAB!
R-really?
...Nah!
Blarg!
Oh, but that reminds me!
There's something I wanted to show you!
Huh? What is it?

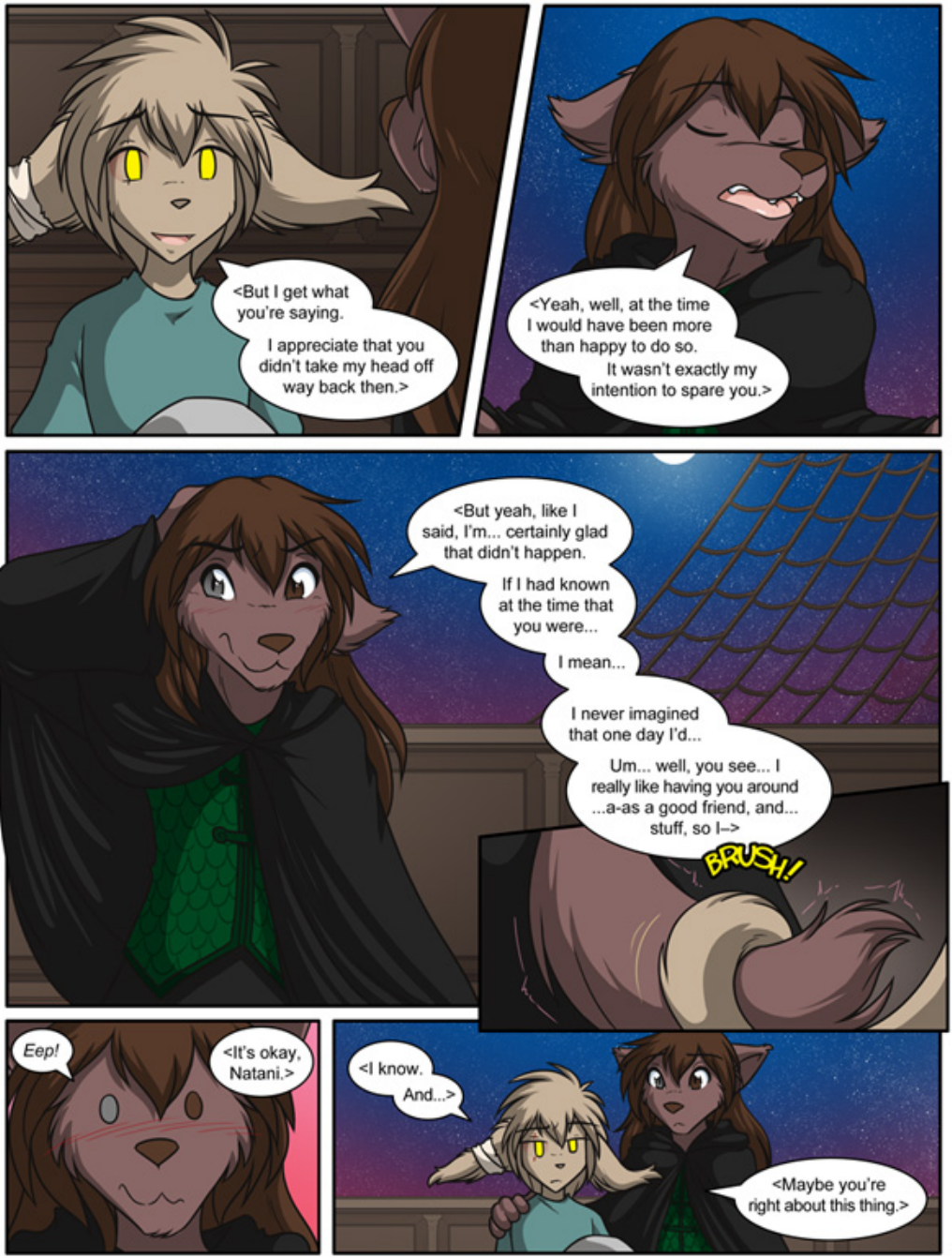
Taadaa!
Hey! It's the shirt I woke up in! I didn't even know we still had it.
Where did it come from?
I found it crumpled up at the bottom of your old backpack.
SNIFF SNIFF
Urg... certainly smells like it's been stuck down there all this time, too.
Say, how come you stopped wearing it?
What, you mean *other* than that big Templar emblem right on the front?
Well, have you seen the back yet?
...Oh.
The victim of one too many of your pounces, if I recall.
Right... sorry. I really need to be more careful with my claws.

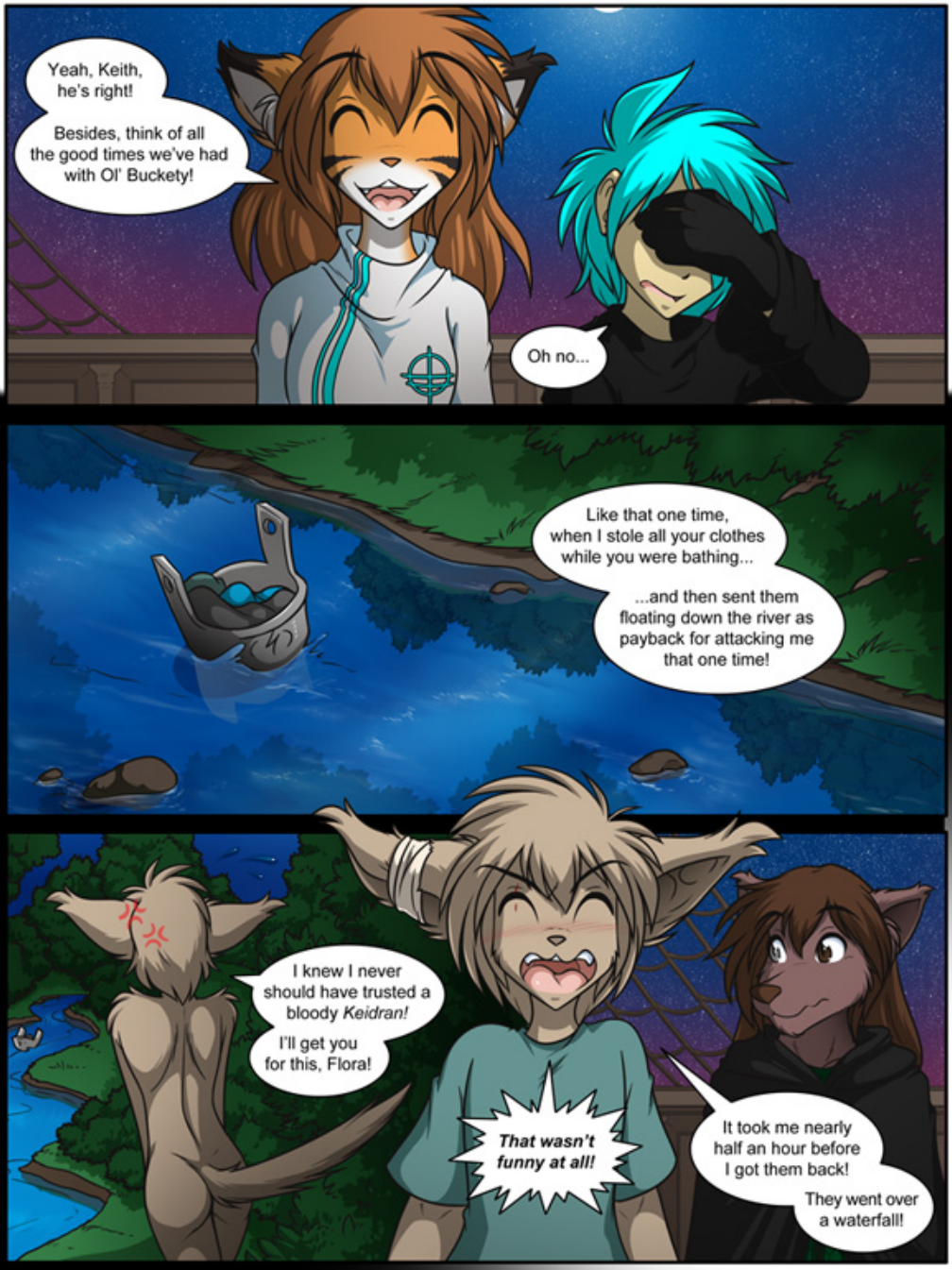

Hang on, I hear footsteps. Someone's coming up.
THUNK! THUNK!
Hm?
Oh, it's you! Evening, Keith!
Oh... hey, you guys.
Sorry, I didn't know anyone else was up here at this time of night.
I'm not... interrupting anything, am I? I can come back later...
Nah!
We were just going through some old stuff and reminiscing about the early days.
What are you up to?
Huh, that's a coincidence.
In a way, so was I.

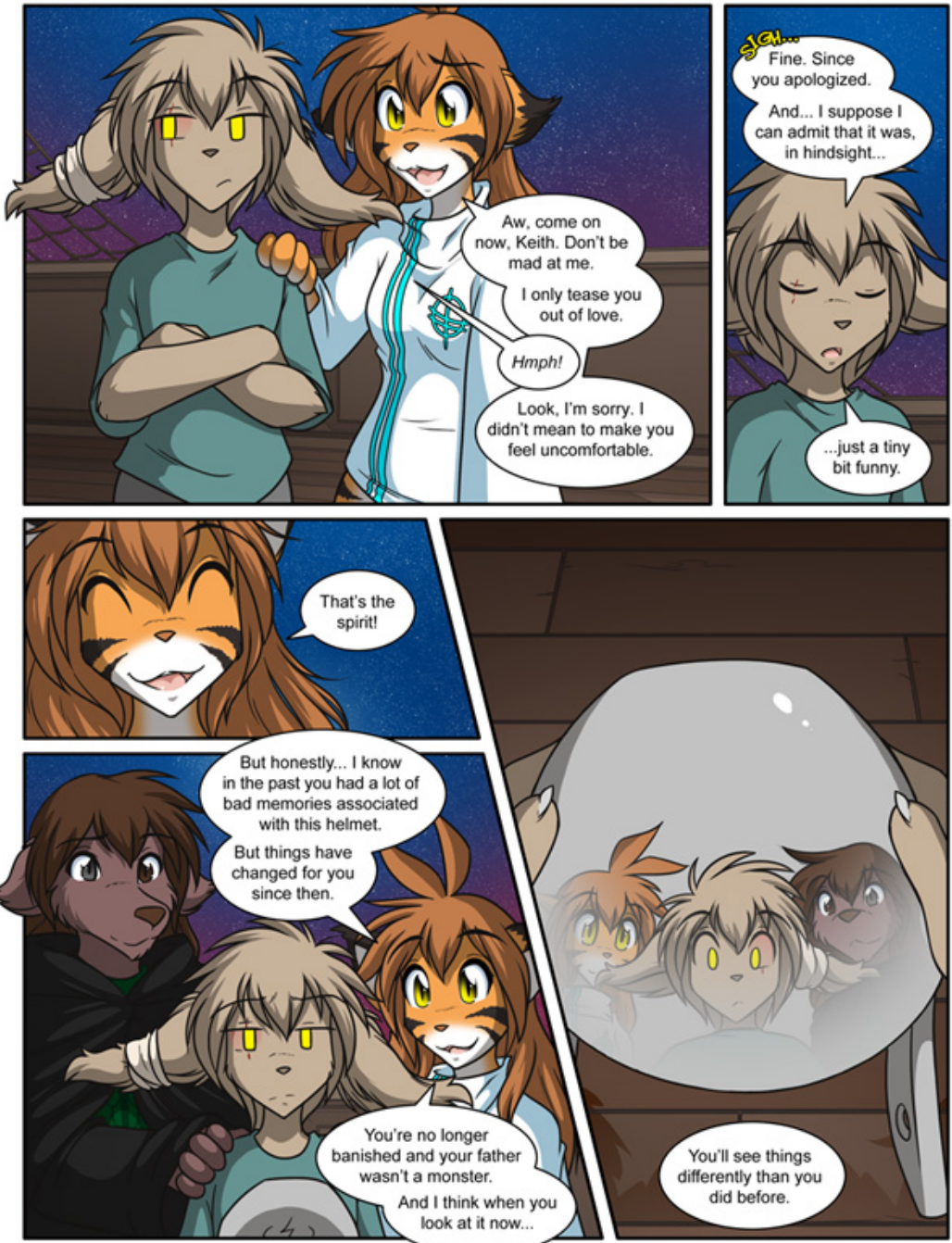
I've been thinking about what you guys have been telling me.
About letting... certain things go.
So I brought up this.
Ooo! It's the bucket helmet!
What were you going to do with that?
If you must know, I was planning on dropping it into the ocean.
You...
...what?!
Nrrraaaoh!!
SNATCH!
You can't just throw away Ol' Buckety!
Flora, do you even know why I wore that thing in the first place?

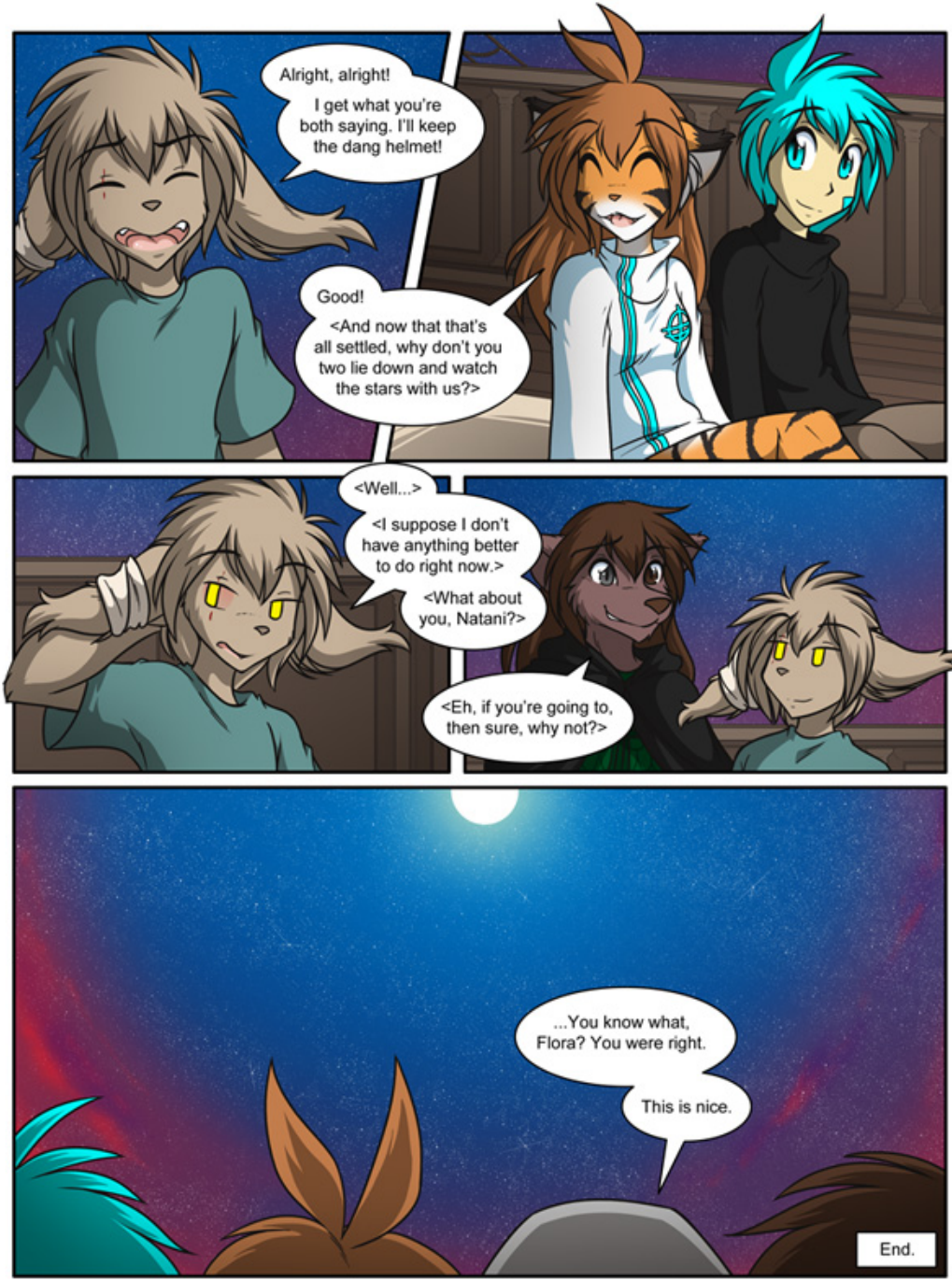
I wore it out of obligation, not choice.
The armor was my father's.
It was a condition of my banishment - to keep it with me, so that I would always remember what I'd done.
It worked. Every night, I would look into my helmet and see myself, alone. It was a constant reminder of what my father had done, and how I could never truly be rid of him.
I spent my life hating that man for what he'd done.
And now it turns out, my father was never the monster I thought he was.
He may not have shown *me* any love, but he loved my mother.
And I killed him.
Either way, I don't deserve to wear this helmet anymore!


<Keith, don't.>
?!
<I saw you going up. I figured you might be doing something foolish.>
<Natani? This doesn't concern you.>
<I think it does.>
<I might not have been around as long as those two, but...>
<I know you.>
<The moment you throw that helmet into the sea, you'll turn around and beat yourself up over it.>
<You might even convince yourself that you somehow deserve it.>
<But you don't.>
<And neither does it, believe it or not.>
<Because I know for a fact that you owe your life to that thing.>
<Lights out, ya' long-eared weirdo.>
<If it weren't for that helmet, the day we first met would have turned out much differently. I would have aimed my arrow at your head.>
<I, um... regret that whole... trying to murder you thing, by the way.>
<It's okay, Natani.>
<We're even, since I did try the same thing at the inn.>
<...Granted, I stopped intentionally, whereas you failed due to incompetence.>
<...Regretting it less now.>


<But I get what you're saying.
I appreciate that you didn't take my head off way back then.>
<Yeah, well, at the time I would have been more than happy to do so.
It wasn't exactly my intention to spare you.>
<But yeah, like I said, I'm... certainly glad that didn't happen.
If I had known at the time that you were...
I mean...
I never imagined that one day I'd...
Um... well, you see... I really like having you around ...a-as a good friend, and... stuff, so I–>
BRUSH!
Eep!
<It's okay, Natani.>
<I know.
And...>
<Maybe you're right about this thing.>


Yeah, Keith, he's right!
Besides, think of all the good times we've had with Ol' Buckety!
Oh no...
Like that one time, when I stole all your clothes while you were bathing...
...and then sent them floating down the river as payback for attacking me that one time!
I knew I never should have trusted a bloody *Keidran!*
I'll get you for this, Flora!
That wasn't funny at all!
It took me nearly half an hour before I got them back!
They went over a waterfall!


Aw, come on now, Keith. Don't be mad at me.
I only tease you out of love.
Hmph!
Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you feel uncomfortable.
SIGH...
Fine. Since you apologized.
And... I suppose I can admit that it was, in hindsight...
...just a tiny bit funny.
That's the spirit!
But honestly... I know in the past you had a lot of bad memories associated with this helmet.
But things have changed for you since then.
You're no longer banished and your father wasn't a monster.
And I think when you look at it now...
You'll see things differently than you did before.


Alright, alright!
I get what you're both saying. I'll keep the dang helmet!
Good!
<And now that that's all settled, why don't you two lie down and watch the stars with us?>
<Well...>
<I suppose I don't have anything better to do right now.>
<What about you, Natani?>
<Eh, if you're going to, then sure, why not?>
...You know what, Flora? You were right.
This is nice.
End.

Epilogue
Hey, wait. Since we're all sharing...
There's something I've always wanted to ask you, Trace.
Hm? Me? Sure, what?
What's the deal with that blue triangle you have on your face?
Is it some kind of Templar tattoo? Birthmark? A magic seal, maybe?
What blue triangle?