


TWOKINDS


Chapter Fourteen



MUTINY




What do you mean 'no'?!




I'm sorry, Flora. I told you, I'm not willing to release them.

Why not?!




They stuck their neck out for you!



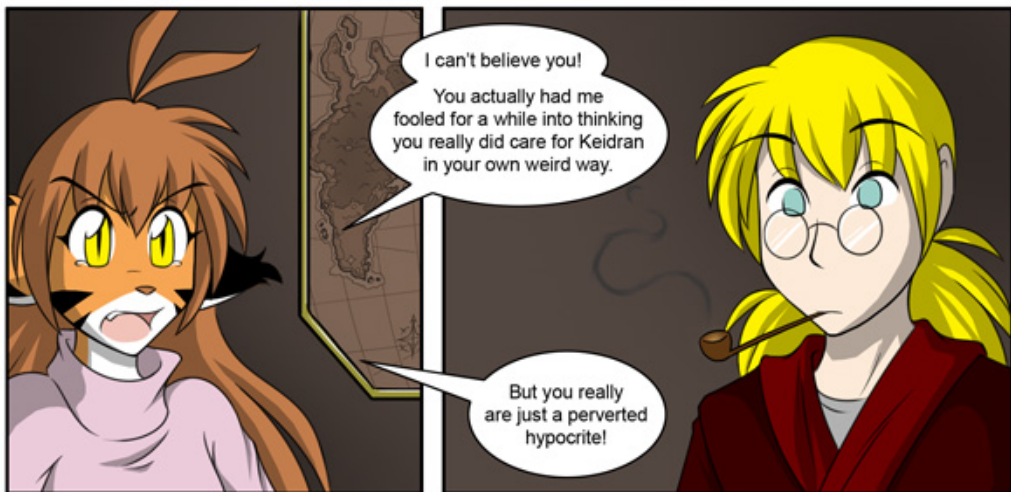
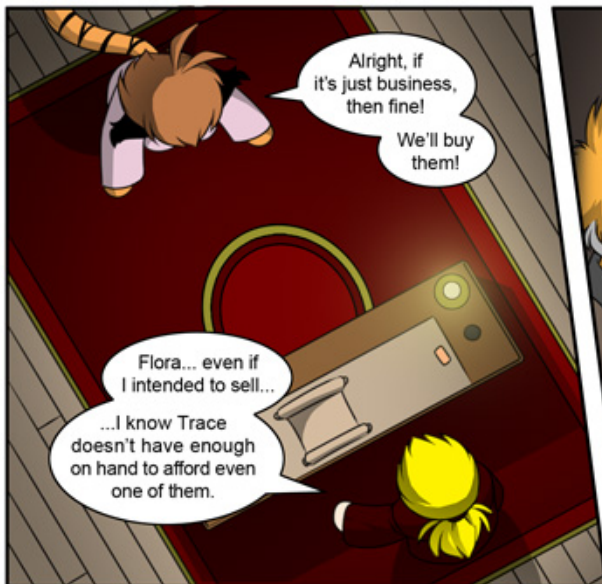
They could have easily taken this ship for themselves and ran when the Basitins said so.

But they didn't. They risked their freedom for you and the others!



Flora, I can't just release a slave every time he does what he's supposed to do.

Again, I apologize, but you knew what business I was in when you agreed to come aboard.







You don't understand!

It's not that simple for me!



I've lived my whole life among humans.

Human cities... human music... human foods... it's all I've ever known.

The life of a Keidran... living on the land in a tribe... it's entirely foreign to me!



I can't just run out into the wilderness to live among wild Keidran. I have no survival skills. I don't know Keidran customs or traditions. I can't even speak the Keidran language very well!

I would not survive!



I am a Keidran, but my culture is human.

I want to be free, but... I also want to continue working and living in the human cities I've always called home.



Well, I'm sorry to burst your bubble, Mike, but your dream's a fantasy.

Humans and keidran living together will never happen. They'll never accept us as equals.

So you'd better make up your mind who's side you're on, and soon...



Because I'm not going to wait around for Eric to remove my will again!

Meanwhile...



Snnrrrk!

It's not fair!



WUMPH!

Flora, relax. We'll think of something.



Nngh...



How can that bastard be so ungrateful?
Can't you do anything, Trace?

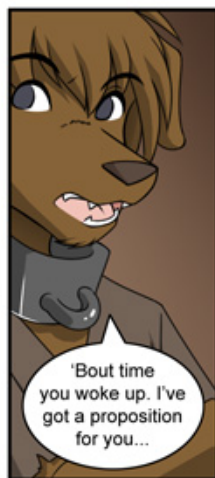
I can try talking with him, but I don't know what else we can do.



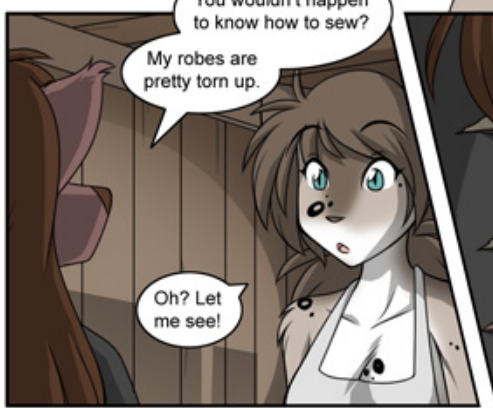
<Can you understand what they're arguing about?>

<I dunno. Something about slaves.

'Morning, by the way. Coffee?>












Hm... these bandages...




H-hey! What do you think you're doing?! Don't mess with that!





So... you're both a cook and a seamstress.

Do you really know medicine, too?



Well... sort of.

I've read up on it, anyway. That's how I've learned a lot of what I can do.

Reading?




Oh yeah!

Ever since Eric taught me how to read, I've loved learning about all sorts of interesting things.


Cook books, apothecary journals, magic scrolls... it's all fascinating!

Really... huh.




I... never learned how. To read, that is. Not much, anyway.

It wasn't exactly a priority growing up.



Oh, you should!

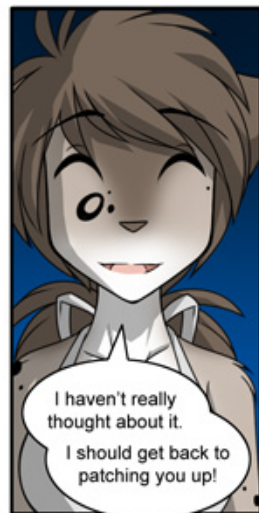
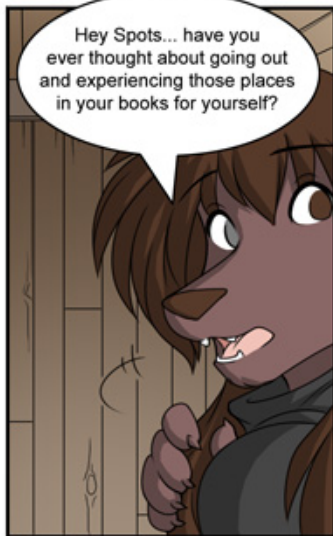
Would you like me to help teach you? There's so much to be gained from them.



And they aren't all educational, you know!

There's also so many books on people and places from all over the world!

It's great to be able to experience it all, if only through stories.













Oh...! You weren't supposed to hear that!

Please don't tell anyone!



Oh, heh...
Don't worry about it. It's already forgotten.

Thank you!



Actually, it's kind of a relief to let it out.

You see, I don't even know if I'm really pregnant or not.

I've only been with Trace! And... Keidran can't have children with Humans, right?

I... I wouldn't know.

Humans and Keidran have lived together for hundreds of years!

If it could have happened, it would've at some point, right?

I really just want to get back to

But I've been having all these symptoms lately!

Getting sick, eating more...

And look! Do I seem pregnant to you?

I - I don't know!

Look, I really have to

I thought I was just gaining weight at first.

But then I felt something... Maybe it was my imagination.

It's hard to tell. What if you feel it and—



Aaaaah!!

I don't want to be involved!



Hey, wait!

I need you to feel my belly!



Phew, I think I lost her.

Sigh... that's just what I need.

First a Basitin with black magic, then a furious co-worker, and now a crazy, hormonal tiger!

I have to avoid half the people on this ship!



SNIF
SNIF

What else could go- what's that smell?



POP!

CRACKLE!



Ahah...



Trace... as I told Ms. Flora, there's nothing I can do.

Even if I could sell them to you, you wouldn't have the funds for it.

But that's just it. I think I might have a solution.



This book is a journal of mine.

It details, among other things, my old finances.



It turns out, there's a small human village very near the tiger's forest.

I apparently own an estate there. It would only take a small detour for us to get in an out with the gold.

Then I can pay you, and everyone can be happy.

Please, be reasonable. The slaves seem insistant on becoming free...



Wait... what do you mean by "insistant"?

I thought this was all Flora's idea. The slaves shouldn't be able to...

Not unless the control spells were-

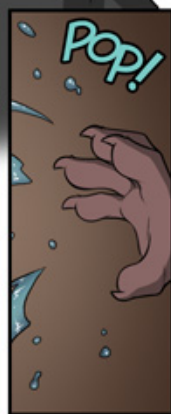


FIRE!!!



Meanwhile...



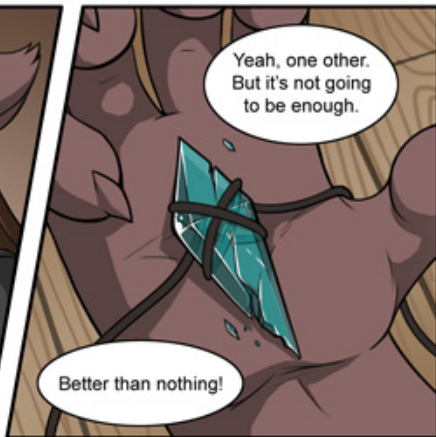




Dammit! I knew this would happen!

I spent all night trying to charge these, but it's no good!

Don't you have more?



Yeah, one other. But it's not going to be enough.

Better than nothing!



What's wrong with them? Why did they stop?

He's trying to reuse his old crystals.

But it's not enough to keep up the spell.



Natani! I have an idea!

What you need to do is—



...eh? What's he saying?

Huh? Oh! Um...

Something about... "air."



Yeah! He says...

"conjuring water is hard."

"It would be easier just to remove all the air."

But what does that mean? What good would that do?



Okay, everyone stand back!

Hope you're right about this, Human!

One more time!

Aerismentis!

BWOOSH!

FWUSH!

It worked!

Don't let up yet!

Quick, we should douse the embers.









Where did everyone go?

There's a lot of embers here that could still catch fire.



Mike, are you okay? I've never seen Eric act like that before!

Yeah, I-I'm fine.



You... don't think Evals might have...?

No, he wouldn't!

He was desperate, but he'd never sacrifice us all to get away!



Hang on... I think I still smell burning. I think something is still on fire!



Everything in this whole room smells like something burned. What is it?

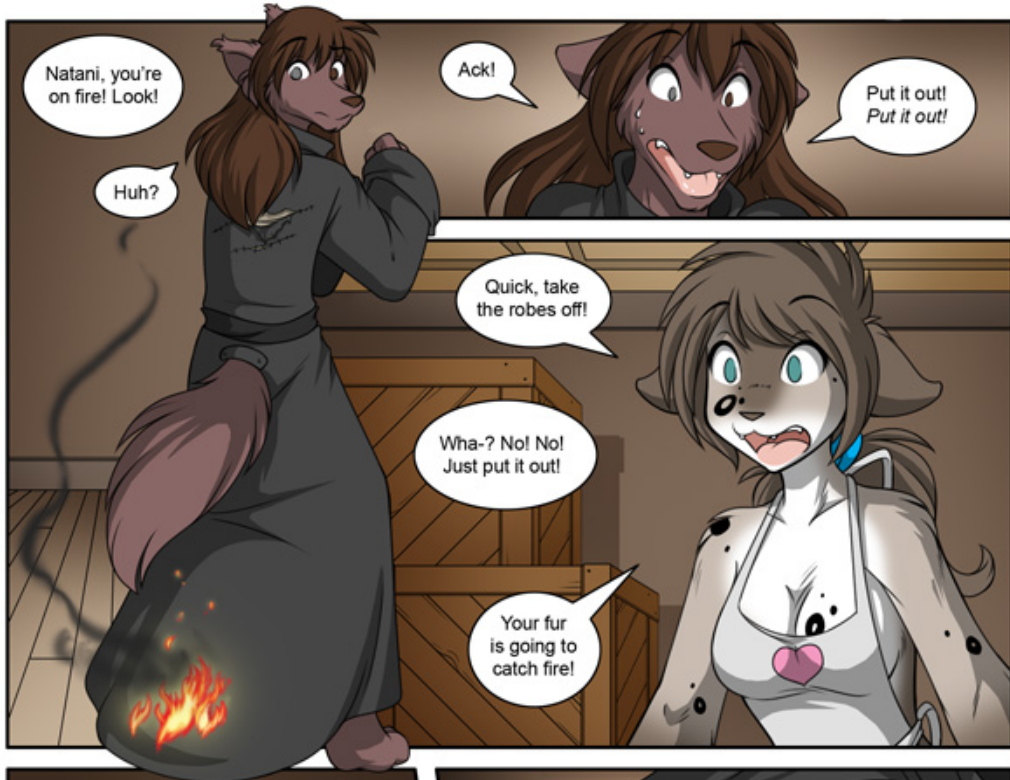


He wouldn't just leave me to die...

Would he?

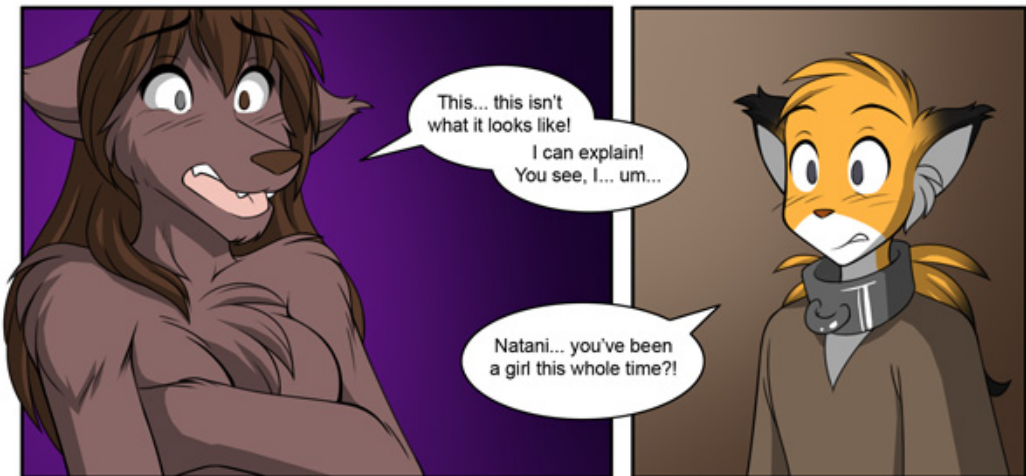


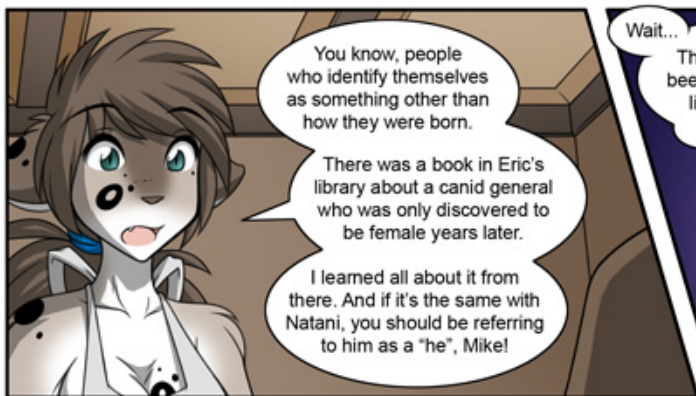
Natani, it's you!









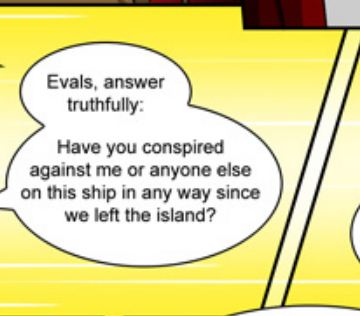


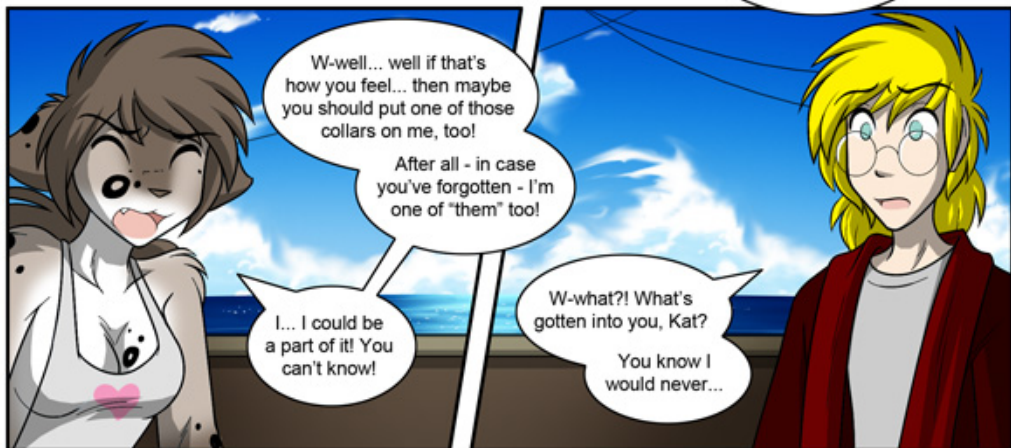
















I never realized...

I mean, I never even considered that you might want...

Oh, Kat...

This is something I need to... think about.

But of course... if freedom is what you want... I guess I can work something out.



R-really?!


And the others? What about them?



I... I don't know.


This is too much! I need... time to think!

And I can't think while the ship might still be in danger!



Eric! Haven't you ever considered that maybe the fire was just an accident all along?


That it was no one's fault?



She's right!
It was an accident!

W-what? Who the...

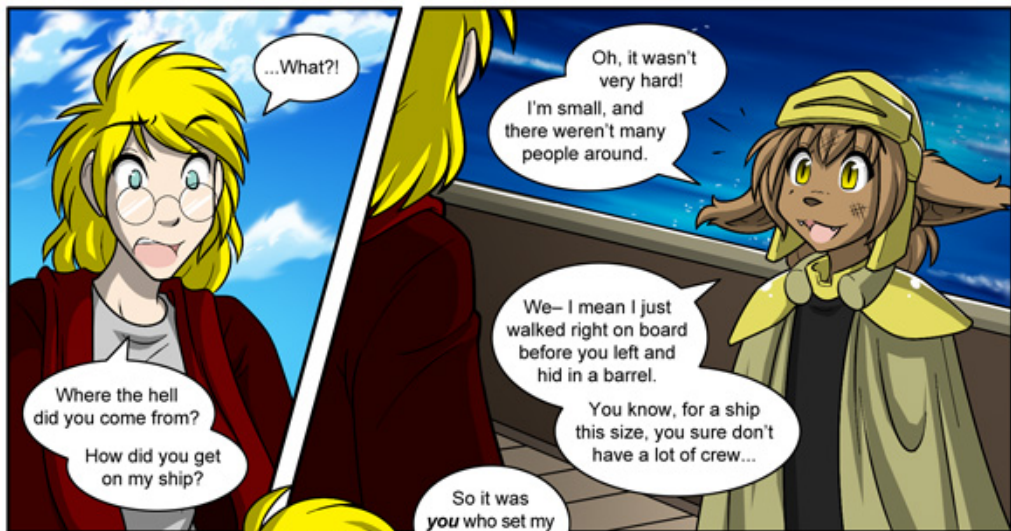
Though, it *may* have been my fault...

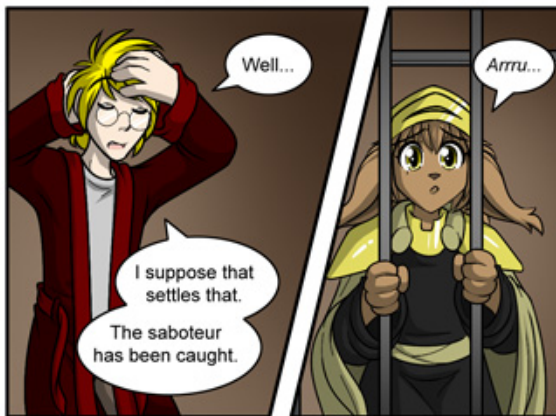


Oh, but first, allow me to introduce myself!

The name's Madelyn Adelaide, but my friends call me **Maddie Addie!**

Nice to meet 'cha!







Trace, I'm not sure if you're aware of this, but...



Templar laws have, in recent years, made it a crime for slave traders such as myself to free our slaves voluntarily.

What? Why? What kind of evil person would make a law like th... it was me, wasn't it?

...Yes.

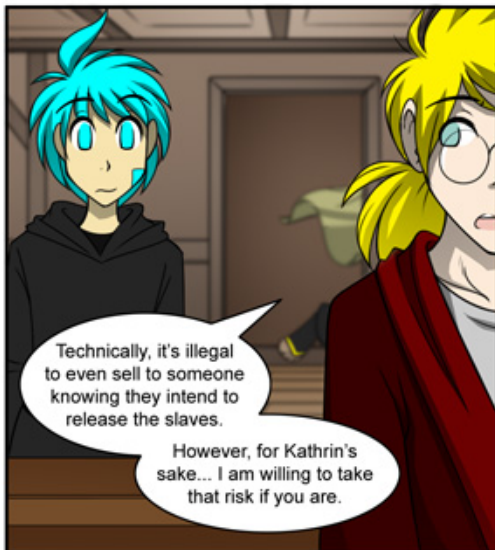
If Mike or Eval's were ever caught by the Templar in the future, and it was discovered that I released them...



Well...

Let's just say it could potentially put me or my family at great risk.

I have no desire to see the inside of a Templar dungeon.



Technically, it's illegal to even sell to someone knowing they intend to release the slaves.

However, for Kathrin's sake... I am willing to take that risk if you are.



On one condition: It has to be a legitimate trade.

We will go to the village of Edinmire, near the Tiger border, and I'll document that I sold the slaves.

After that, we can all go our separate ways from there.

Eastern Plains

Paragard Region

Refolk swim
ese waters

