


TWO KINDS


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!



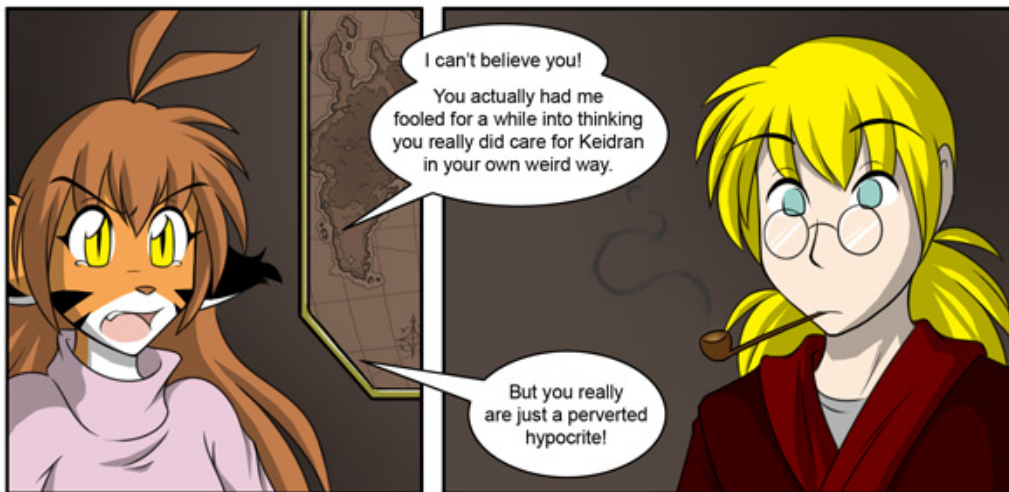
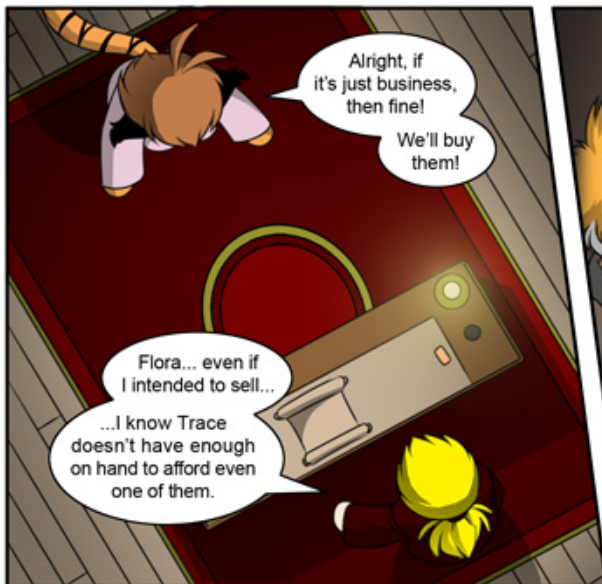
They could have easily taken this ship for themselves and ran when the Basitins said so.

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.





Grrrrrrraaaaah!



Hey! Calm down, Evals! You're going to hurt yourself!



Calm down?! Why should I?

For the first time in four years I can finally think for myself again!

There's no magic constantly controlling my every action!

But any day now Eric's going to figure it out and put it back, and we'll lose our chance for freedom forever!

So how can you be so calm?!



Evals, it's different for me!

I was born into slavery. Unlike you, I don't have any place to go back to!



What? So are you saying you enjoy being a slave?

No! You know I don't. It's just... it's more complicated.

It's not complicated at all! You'd just come back with me!



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...

It's not fair!

Snnrrrk!

WUMPH!

Flora, relax. We'll think of something.

Nngh...

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

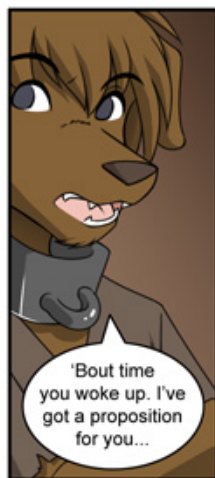
?

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?>

WORLD'S
greatest
ASSHOLE





So let me get this straight... you want me to help you mutiny?

Hey! Not so loud! I never said that!



Aaaall I said was... if someone **happened** to cause some sort of dispute...

And it was either us or the humans...

Theoretically speaking... who would you side with?



Now before you answer, consider...

I'm a dog, you're a wolf, they're practically the same thing!

And your short friend... he's a non-human too.

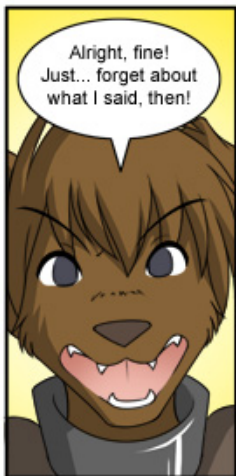
If you could convince him, we could easily hypothetically overtake the ship.

So what do you say?



Not interested.

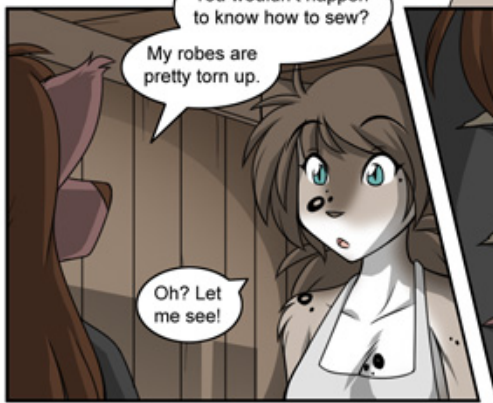
What?!
B-but... we're your own kind!



Alright, fine!
Just... forget about what I said, then!



I've got enough to worry about...
But if the slaves really are planning to revolt...











I just want to make sure you're okay.



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!

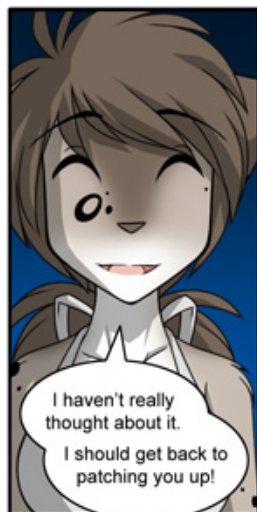
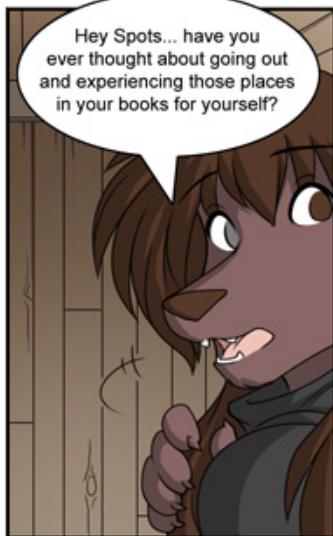
Would you like me to help teach you? There's so much to be gained from them.



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.



Meanwhile...

Flora, please
don't be upset.

I'm going to
go talk to Eric.

I promise I'll
work something
out with him.

Thank you,
Trace.

Ah! Well...

I... I hope
you can talk some
sense into him.

Flora, is there
something wrong?

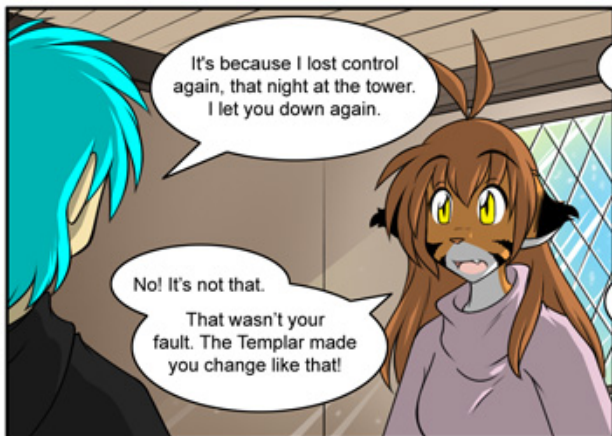
Ever since we
left, you've been
distant.

You know
you can tell me
anything.

It... it's
nothing...
I'm just
concerned.

...it's me,
isn't it?

Huh?

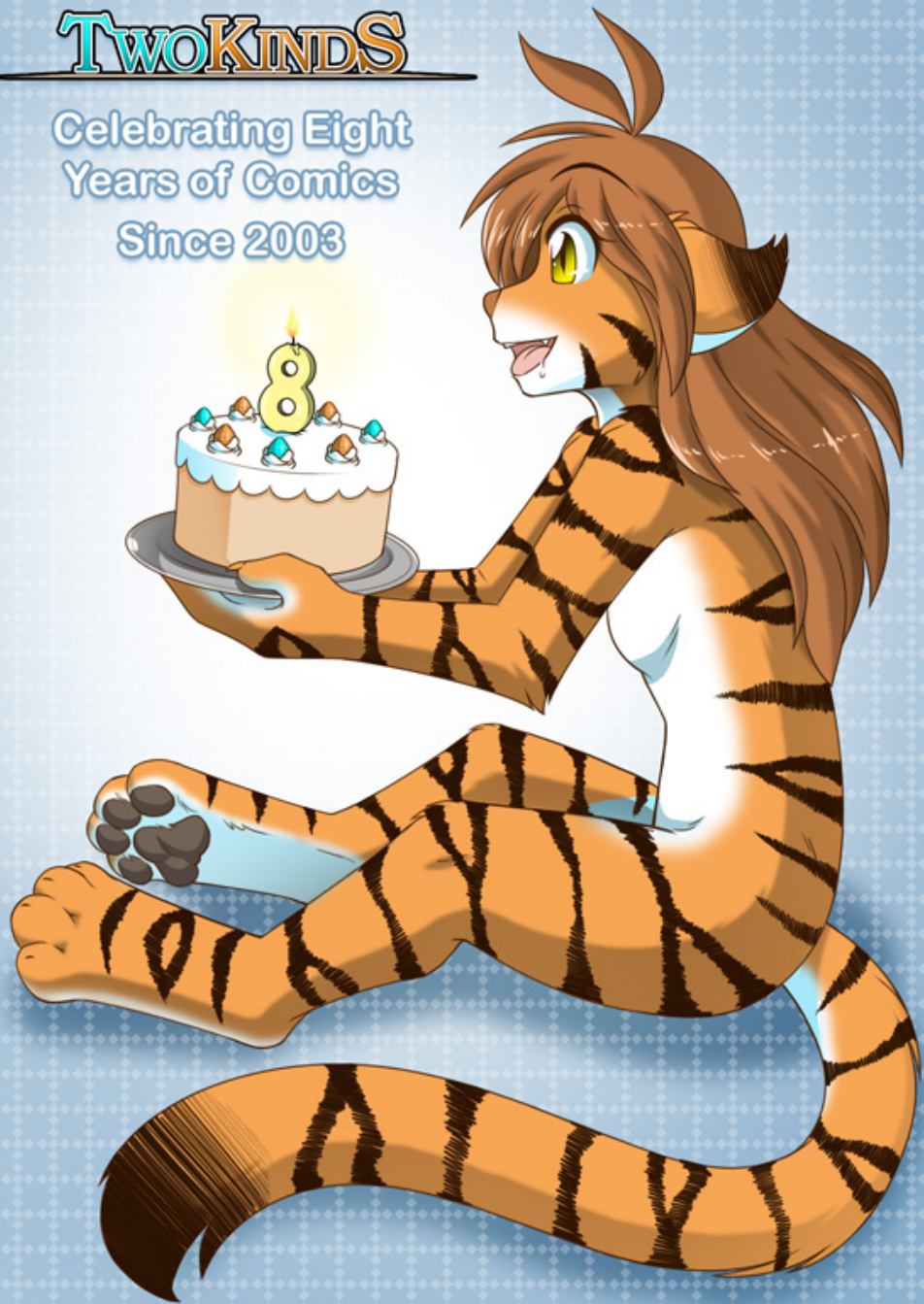






TWOKINDS

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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—



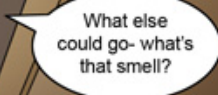
Aaaaah!!

I don't want to be involved!



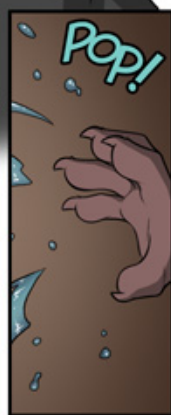
Hey, wait!

I need you to feel my belly!







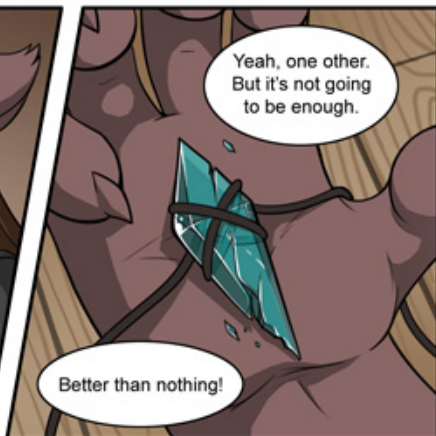




Dammit! I knew this would happen!

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!

BWPOOSH!

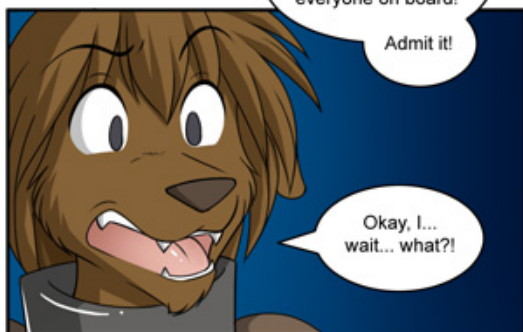
FWUSH!

It worked!

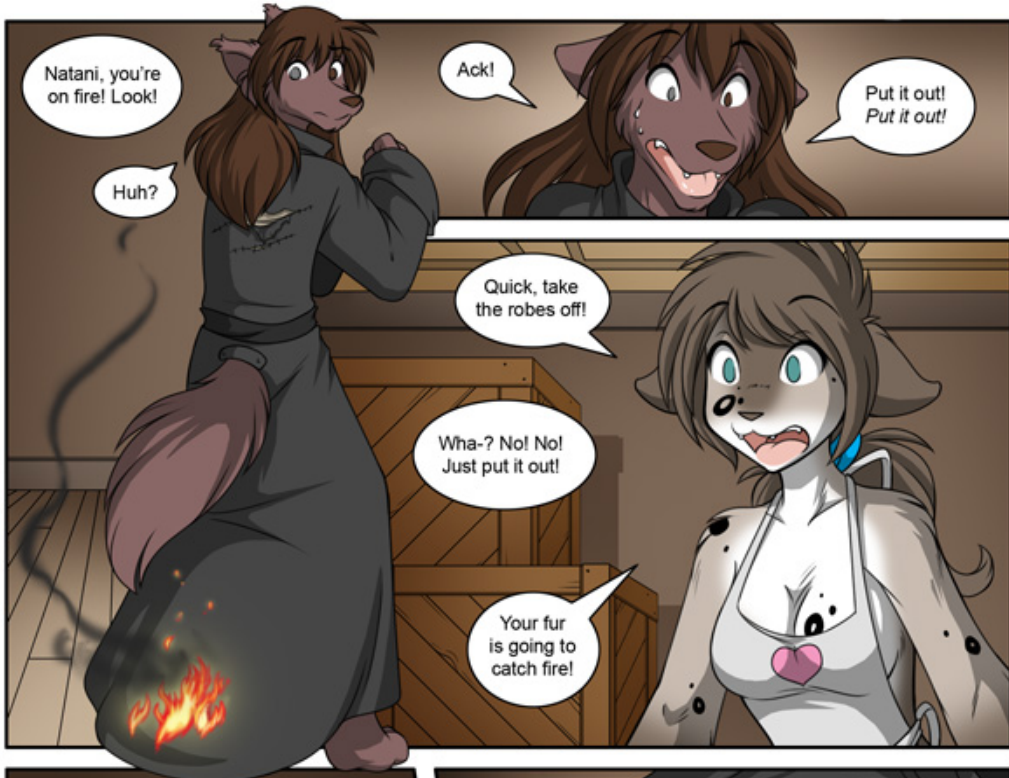
Don't let
up yet!

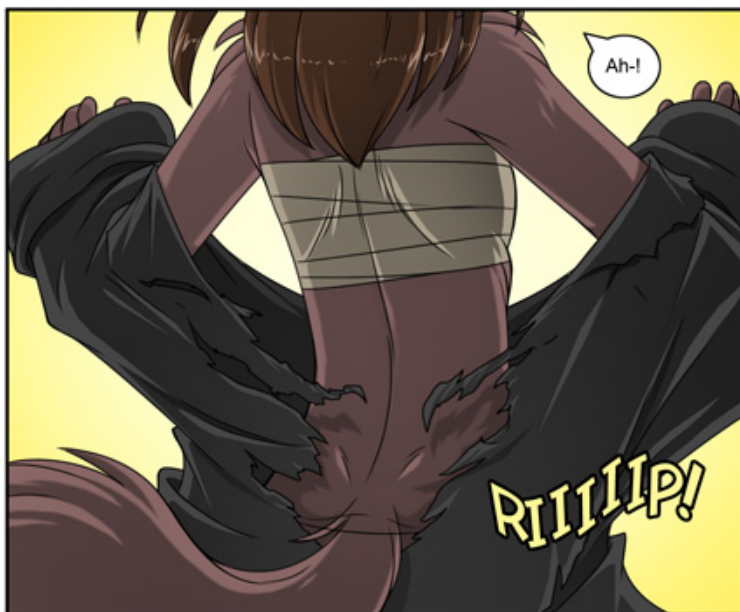
Quick, we
should douse
the embers.





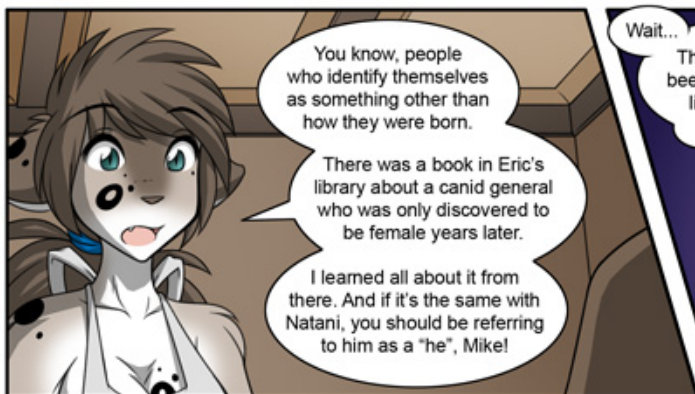








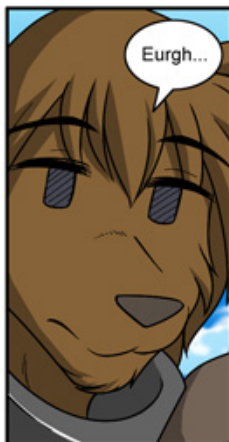


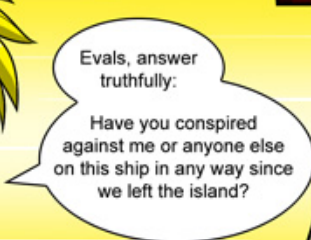


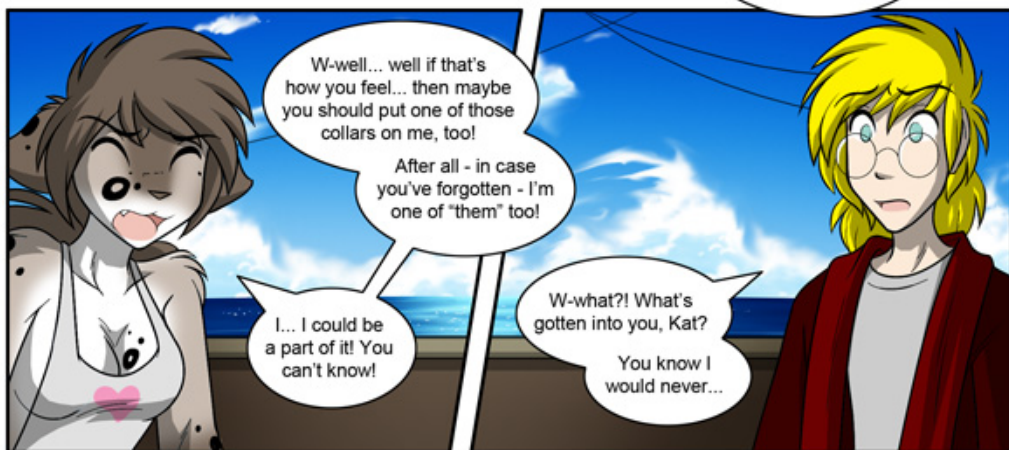


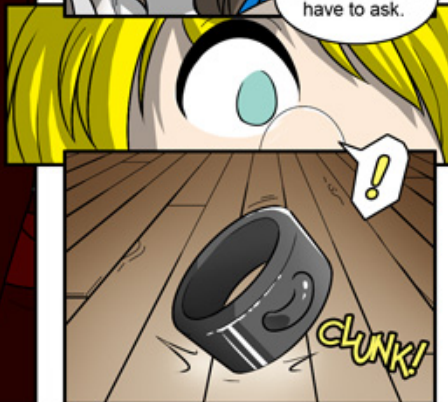














I never realized...

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!





