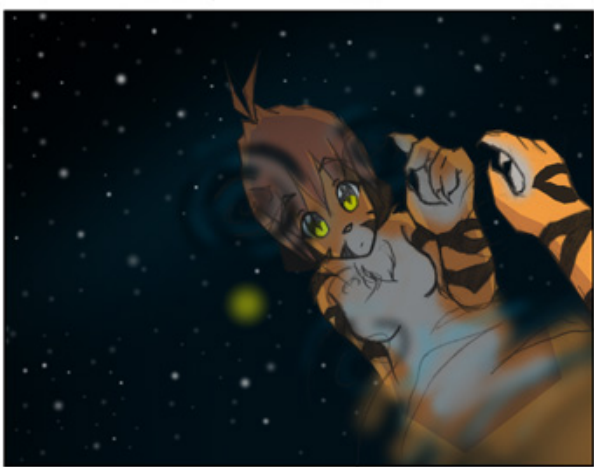
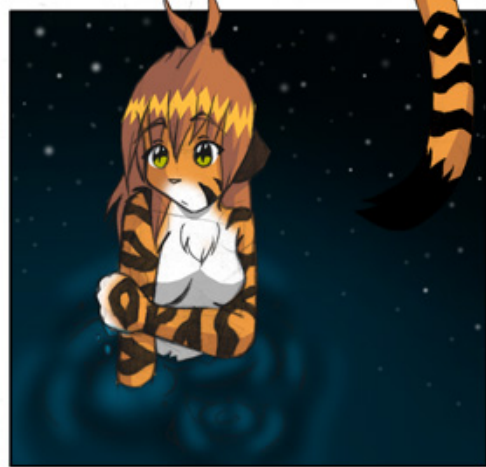
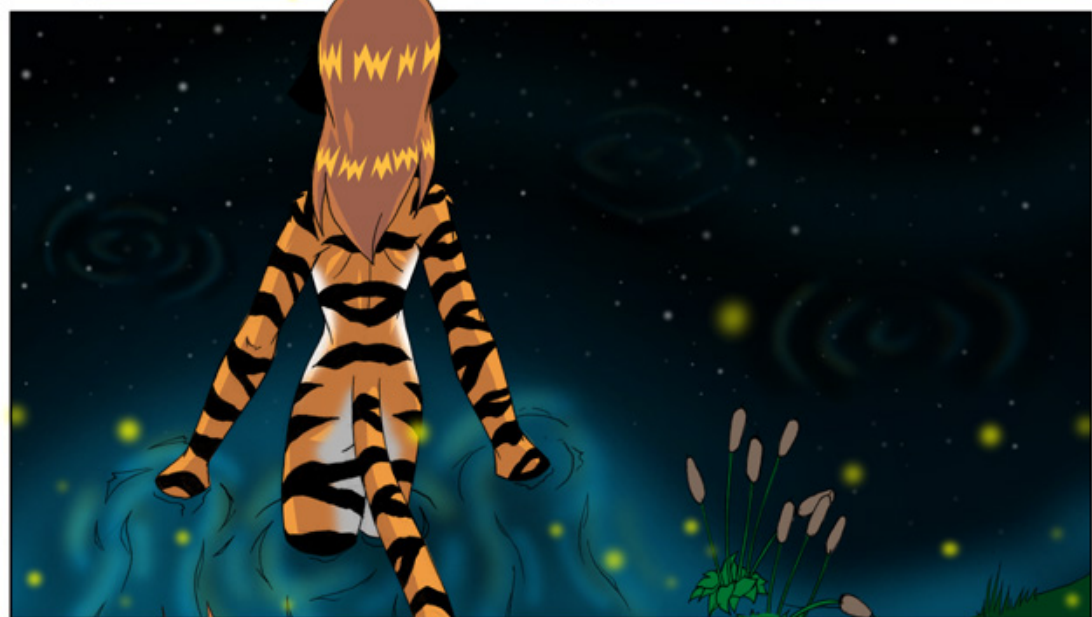
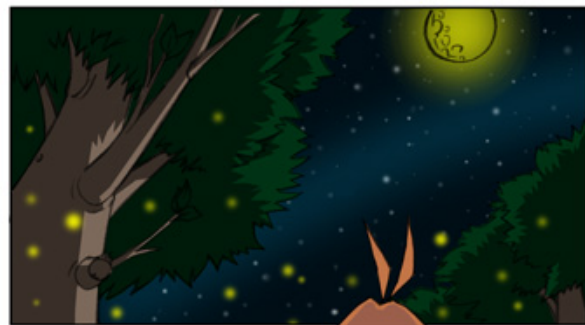


The Weight of Armor





Splash!

Gasp!

C-c-cold! How can it be so cold?

Darn Euchre.

He could have at least offered to help me.

It'll take forever to get all this dirt out of my fur.

I wish Trace was here, I bet he wouldn't mind.. maybe.

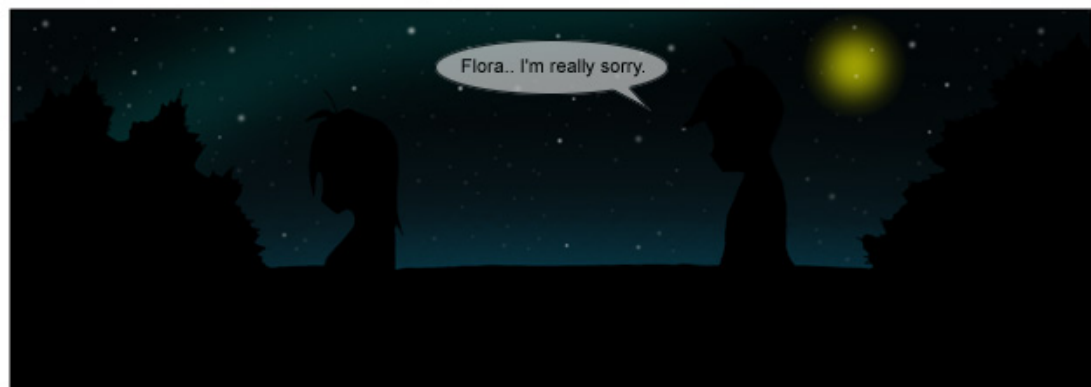
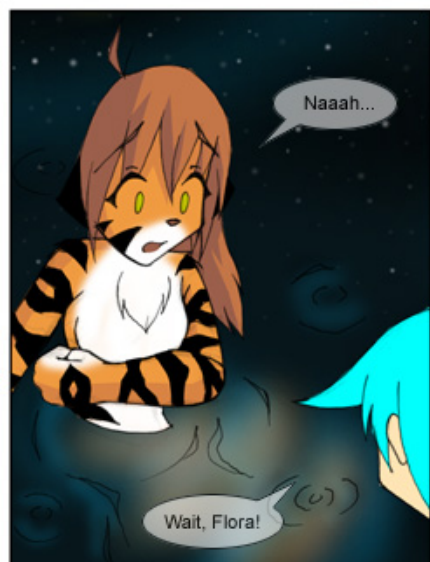
Huh?
Euchre? Is that you?

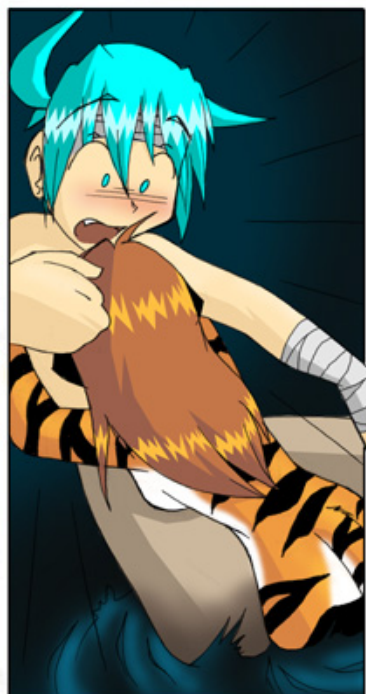
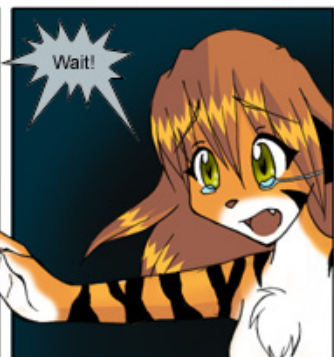
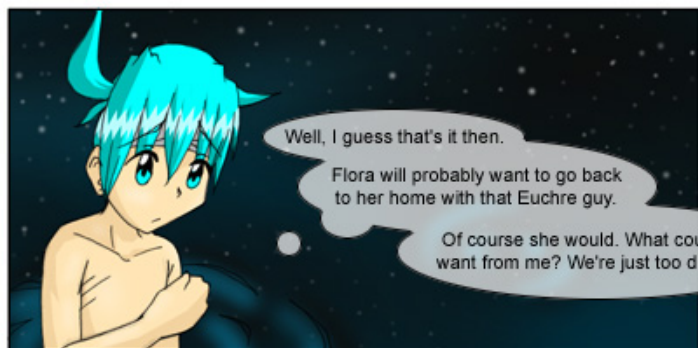
Uh, Flora?

Ah, Trace!

I.. uh... ehm... Don't come in here! I'm naked!

Oh, wait....





Oh, no! I'm sorry!
I didn't mean to
jump on you again.
Are you okay?

Yeah, I'm kinda
used to it now.

So, does this mean
you forgive me?

Hmm... I suppose.
But only on one condition.

Name it! I'll
do anything!

Good, then hold still.

Meanwhile...

Ah, why do I always
remember that?

Where was that lake
again? Maybe I can wash
the memories away.

Oh, there it is.

Eh? Is that Flora and.. Trace?

What are they doing?!

Keith-o-Vision

How's this, Flora?

Oh, that feels great.
Harder! Harder!

Reality...

How's that?

That was good.
But you know you
can brush harder. My fur
isn't that fragile.

Um... Trace.. I've been wondering.. Do
you think of me as just another Keidran?

What? Of course not. I don't
think of you as a Keidran at all.

Really?

Yeah.

But then again, you're really
the only woman I know... I have
nothing to compare with.

Oh... right.

So... want me to
keep brushing?

Sigh, no, no.
I think I'd better-

Wait..

Huh?

Trace, w-what.. are you doing?

I'm... not really sure.

Can it be true? Is
he going to..?

4 years ago...

Kei'll be the daddy..
You'll be the baby..

And I'll be the mommy.

Bu, why kin't I
be 'he mommy?

Duh! You're
a Keidran!
Keidran can't
many humans!

Flora..?

Trace, stop...

1 year ago...

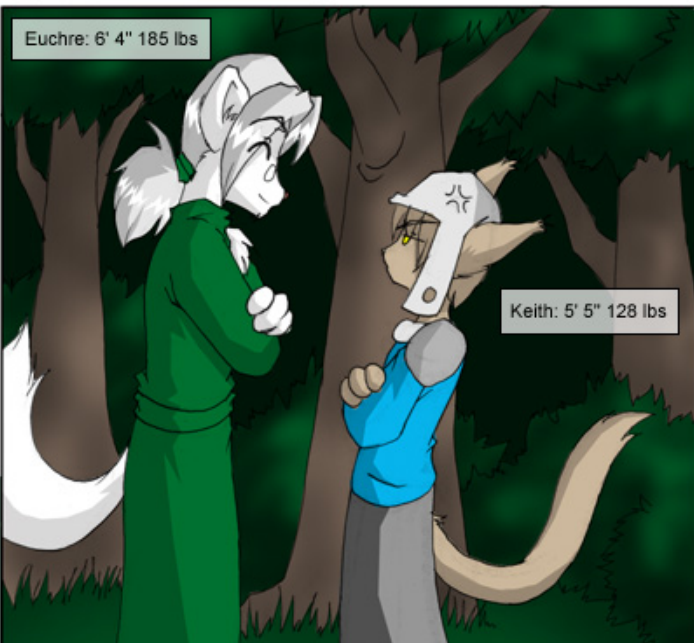
Flora, we can't be friends any-
more. It's just isn't normal, you know?

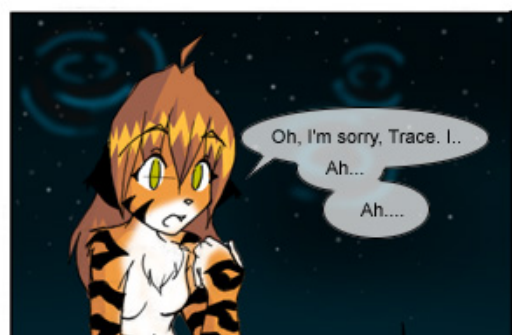
Why did it have to
be a human again?
I don't want to
re-live that pain..
But trace makes me happy..
How can I know he
won't betray me too?
.....!I'll never find out if
I keep pushing him away.


.....

Flora- mrrph...!?

Oh, what the heck.






A young boy with bright blue hair and a black t-shirt with a blue globe logo. He is standing in a forest with a yellow sun in the background.


Wow, I feel great today!

Too bad Flora isn't up yet.

Keith is looking at a girl with white hair and a white hoodie with a blue symbol. She has yellow eyes and is looking at him with a slightly concerned expression.

Oh, hey Keith!
You... don't look so good.


Yeah, I.. didn't sleep very well.

Keith and the girl from the previous panel are standing in a forest. A brown tent is visible in the background. The girl is holding a large fish.

I got up early this morning and caught some fish for breakfast.

I've already had some, so you can take it.

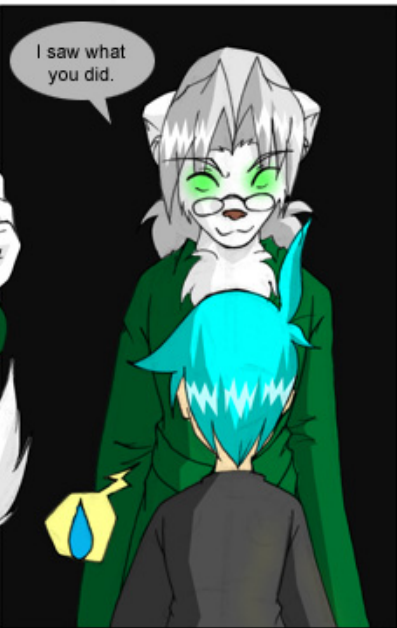
Great! I'm sure Flora will really like that!

Keith is talking to a girl with white hair and glasses, wearing a green dress. She has a white tail and is looking at him with a friendly expression.

Trace! Can I.. speak you?

Oh, uh, sure!
What is it.. uh..?

I am called Euchre. And...

Euchre is looking at Keith from behind. She has a yellow lightning bolt and a blue drop symbol on her chest.

I saw what you did.



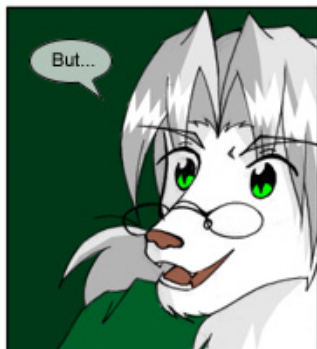
Trace, relax.
I'm not fight you.

Just warn..

Flora is.. sister-like for me.
It is easy to.. hurt Flora.

Flora has hurt before.

With you.. it is hard. I will'n
stop her. She is happy.



But...



I'll be watching you
very closely, Mr. Templar.

Erg...!

I know a lot more then I let on.

Flora is counting on you,
Trace, and if you ever hurt her...



Hmm... that's odd, I feel
really.. different today.

Not bad.. just strange.

Oh well. I wonder if Trace is awake yet..

Teehee! I kinda wish he
would have slept in my tent.

That way I could.... oh!
Er.. check on his bandages!
Yeah, that's right.

Shiffff...



Oh, good morning Trace!



Trace...?


G-good morning, Flora!
Got ya some fish...

B-but be careful,
it's hot! Don't want you
ta- to burn yourself!

Yeah, don't want
you getting hurt...






A character with a large hand is pointing to a map on a rock. The map shows a yellow bird-like creature flying over a blue river and a red bat-like creature. A green arrow points from the top left towards the river. A speech bubble is above the map.


So, we'll be leaving human territory soon and reach the sea from here.

Okay, sounds good.

A character with bright blue hair and a black turtleneck looks surprised. A speech bubble is above their head.

Trace, can I talk to you about something?

Uh, sure, what is it?

A character wearing a white hood with a blue symbol and a blue tunic is talking to another character. The background shows a forest with trees and a stream. Several speech bubbles are present.

Let me be blunt.
Your relationship with Flora won't work.


Wha-?! I haven't-

I saw what you did yesterday, and I don't care, it's your business, but...

I think it's important I tell you something about Keidran.

They aren't like human females. They run on instinct, and one of these makes it impossible to commit in someone.


Her instincts will eventually force her to find some other male.

A character with blue hair is talking to a group of three other characters. One is a brown fox-like creature, another is a green fox-like creature, and a third is partially visible. A speech bubble is above the blue-haired character.

Flora may not even realize she has this instinct, but it doesn't matter. I've never heard of a Keidran staying with the same person for more than a few weeks.

At least, not at her age.

So you see, even if you did overcome your differences, a lasting relationship simply is not possible.

A character with blue hair is talking to a character in a white hood. The background is a forest. A speech bubble is above the blue-haired character.

She just won't be able to help herself.

You don't know what you're talking about!

I do! I know what it's like!

But fine, don't believe me. You can see for yourself.

<Flora, remember what I've always told you...>

<I'm sure you'll do fine.>

<But you must be careful.>

<He's not his true self. You have yet to see the real Trace, and you will not like it if you do. I pray that you do not.>

<I trust this Trace...>

<This version of Trace.>

<Flora... I must go now.>

<Go!? Where?>

<You're coming with me, aren't you?>

No...

<Now that I am free, I have some... business that I must take care of.>

<I'm sorry, Flora.>

<Nooo! Please! Please! Don't leave me again!>

Flora? Are you over he-

Ack..!

Trace-o-Vision

Wow, Euchre, you're one sexy beast!

I am, aren't I?



2 weeks later...

We're lost, aren't we?

No! I just need to...
find.. a landmark.

Landmark? The only thing on the map
is the word "forest." You aren't looking for
a giant letter "T" or something are you?

Uhh...

Munch Munch!

30 minutes later...

Ah, this isn't working.
Here, give me the map.

Maybe I can figure
something out.

Keith? Where are you?

Flora? Flora!

Where'd they go?

Meanwhile...

Trace! Trace!!

Oh, how could we lose him?

What if he's in trouble?

Flora! I'm sure he's fine. We just need some way to find him.

Do you know his scent well enough to track it?

Oh, of course!

But I've never tried this before. Let's see..

sniff
sniff

I think... he went that way!

Come on, Keith!

A-alright.. lead the way, Flora.

.....

Trace!

Hey, Trace!

Trace?

Um... Keith?

Hm? Find him?

Er.. no...

I just realized.. this is the first time we've actually been alone.

I just wanted to.. uh.. ask you.. why do you.. um.. hate my kind?

....

Sigh.. it's nothing personal, Flora.

It's just that we're different races. I'm not supposed to even be talking with you.

Ah, so I guess "Keith the Basitin" hates me?

So... what about Keith the person?

.....

Oh, no!

Huh, what is it, Flora?

I smell it.. a... a Feral Keidran!

Hurry, we have to find Trace quickly!

meanwhile...



Flora!

Man, am I ever glad to see you! I thought I'd-



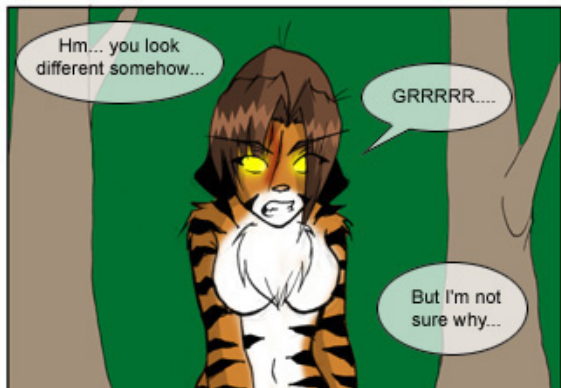
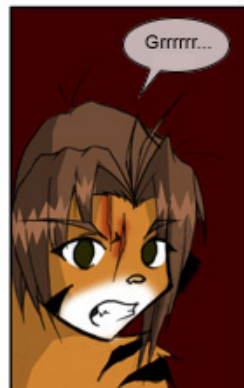
Grrrrr...

Huh? What's wrong?

Hm... you look different somehow...

GRRRRR...

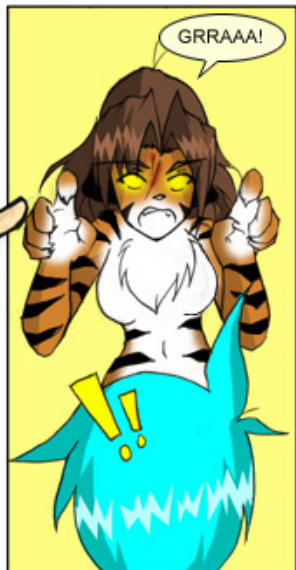
But I'm not sure why...

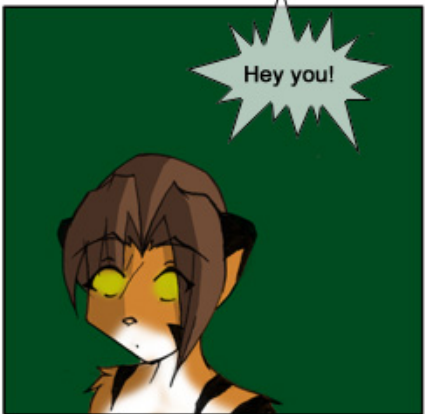


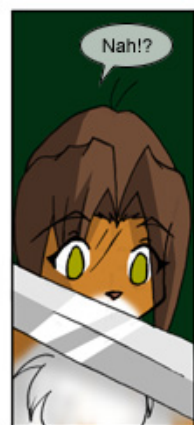
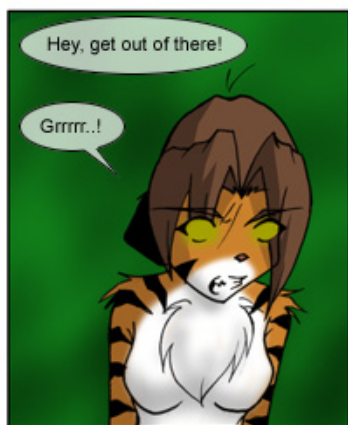
You're not Flora!

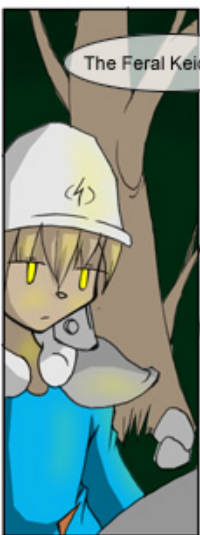


GRRAAA!









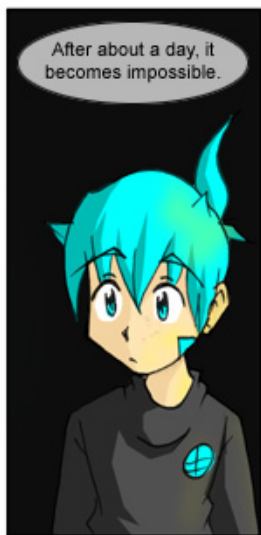
The Feral Keidran....



When a normal Keidran experiences a lot of mental trauma, sometimes...

Their minds will shut down, and they revert back to their primitive selves.

Occasionally, they will snap out of it, but...



After about a day, it becomes impossible.

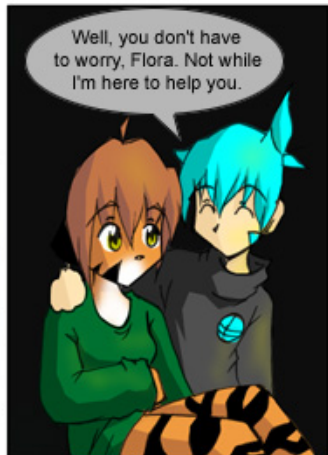


They become just like any other animal, relying only on their instincts.

It's something I've always feared.. become a Feral.



...



Well, you don't have to worry, Flora. Not while I'm here to help you.



By the way... I was kinda wondering, why did that.. Feral.. you know...



Oh, the humping thing?

That wasn't cause she was a Feral.

It's something that happens to all us female Keidran now and then.

Meanwhile...

Euchre, what a surprise.

You're back a lot sooner than I expected.

So it seems.

I had thought you'd wanted to go with them. Why change it now?

Hm...

Flora's so happy...

And Trace is... surprising. I believe his intentions are good.

They'll be fine.

Besides, we have work to be done, don't we?

The final tower is almost complete.

Come on, Flora!

No! I'll tell you later, Trace.
I'm tired, I need some sleep.

But what were you ta-

Later! I'll tell you Later!

Flora!

Goodnight Trace!

Phew!

The last thing I want to
do is explain to Trace about
how Keidran sex works.

At least I don't have to worry
about "that time of the year" any-
time soon. I mean it's been...

Let's see... last time was...

Uhm...

Oh, crap.

Welp, I'm tired! See
you in the morning!

Hey! Come back here!
What's going on?

I dunno, really!

You know very well,
now spit it out!

Keith, I think something's
wrong with Flora.

Really...?

She said something about what
Keidran go through every so often,
but wouldn't say anything else.

Wait... you mean
Flora is... i-in...

The next morning...

Well, it hasn't started yet. I think I have a few more days to go.

I just need to be honest with Trace.

Oh, good morning Keith.

Gah!

Sorry Flora, I-I'm kinda in a hurry!

I'll see you later.

ZIP!

That.. was odd. What a weird guy.

'Morning, Trace!

'Morning, Flora!

I just wanted to appolog- Hey!

Ack! She's going after Trace now!

Where'd everyone go?

Phew!

Why did you pull me away?

I was saving your life!

I should have explained it to you before...

Okay, female Keidran have this thing called 'heat'

Which occurs about five times a year.

And during this time...

Aww... Kitty!

They pretty much have sex with anything that moves.

OMG
CENSOR

Wait.. so do Basitin go through this too?


..No, why?

Well, then how do you know all of this stuff about female Keidran?

Keith?


That's none of your business.

Fan-colored by Sage




I really don't want to avoid Flora. she might take it the wrong way.


But we can't just... I don't think we're...



Ah, this is confusing. Chances are it's not even physically possible.




Noooo! Don't! I'm.. ah.. saving myself for marriage!




Aww, silly Trace! What's wrong?

I pounce you all the time.

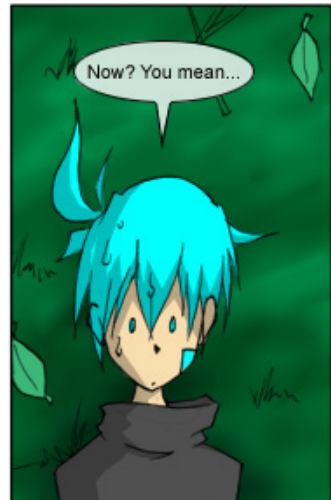


Yeah, but.. Keith told me about your.. uh..



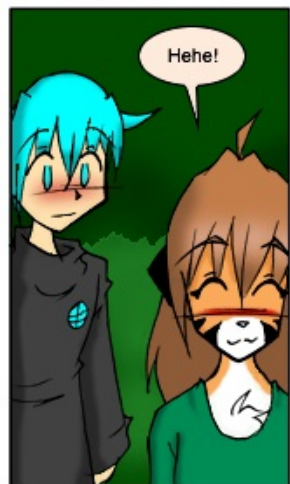
Oh, he told you about that?

Then you know this means we'll have to make the most of our time right now.



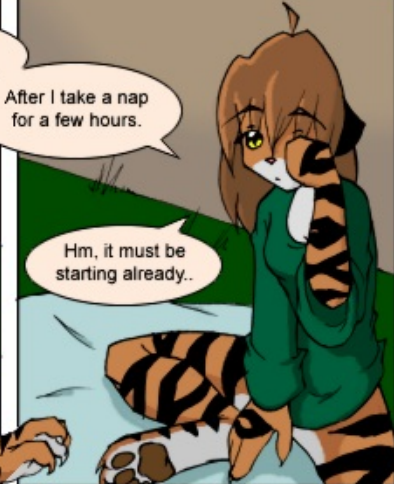
Now? You mean...







I really need to ask Keith about that letter... Aaaah...



After I take a nap for a few hours.

Hm, it must be starting already..



Oh, well. Trace knows about it now.

Hehe, maybe when he wakes me up... I'll...



Keith, I-

Trace, we need to get going. Where's Flora?

Uh... sleeping in her tent.



Well then go and wake her, we need to go.



Well, why don't you wake her yourself?

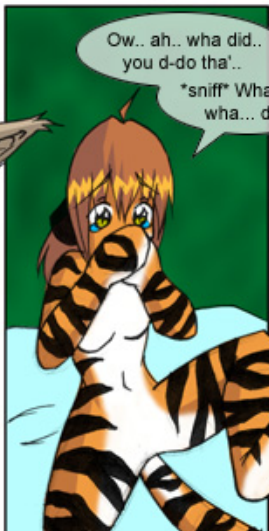
What?!

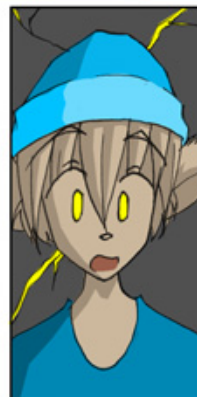
Don't worry, it's safe. She's not how you thought she was.. for now.

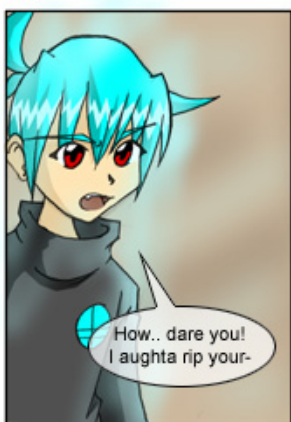


...

Fine, I'll go get her.







How.. dare you!
I aughta rip your-



No, don't!

Huh? Flora? I can't
get revenge if you cling
to my legs like that!



Hey, where'd he go?



Wait! Listen *sniff* to me.

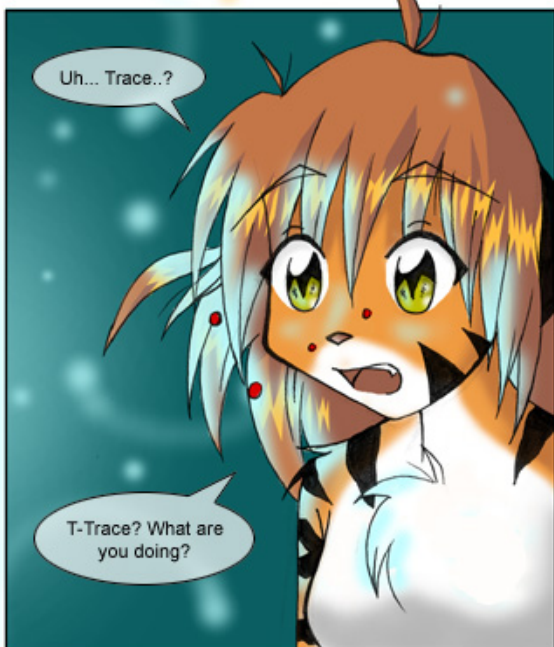
He didn't do it on purpose!
Really, he was helping me.

But your nose!

It isn't bad, really!



Here, let me see.



Uh... Trace..?

T-Trace? What are
you doing?



Meanwhile...

huff Why do I even bother
running, I have nowhere to go.

Why didn't I just tell her the truth?





Trace, cut it out!

Alright! sorry.



Keith, please don't be mad at me for reading that note. It's just that.. You.. were you..?



Sigh, if you really must know, then...



After arriving on mainland nearly starving to death, a group of fox Keidran happened to find me.



They helped me, for some reason. Gave me clothes, and let me live with them as if I were their son. I was young and took all the help I could get. After a few months with them, I fell in love with their daughter.



I asked the parents if I could court her, and they agreed. It wasn't all that unusual.

They had warned me about the ways of Keidran females.



But I ignored them, and 3 months later asked her to marry me. She agreed whole-heartedly.

Then... two days before the wedding, she went out and never came back.



I left immediately after hearing that she was sleeping with another Keidran.

And that was that. Happy now?

