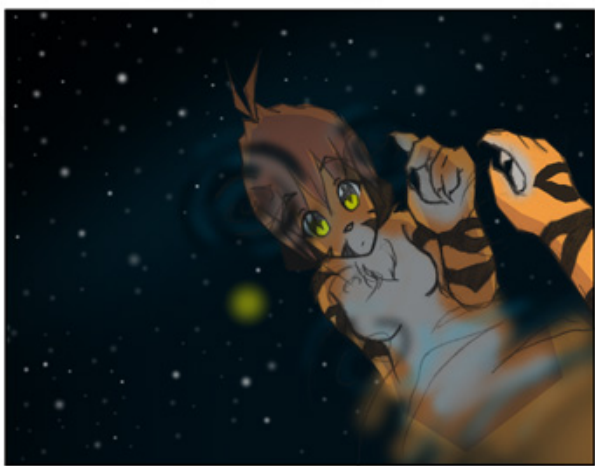
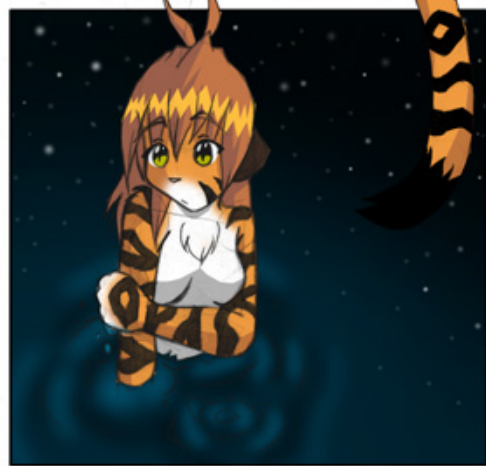
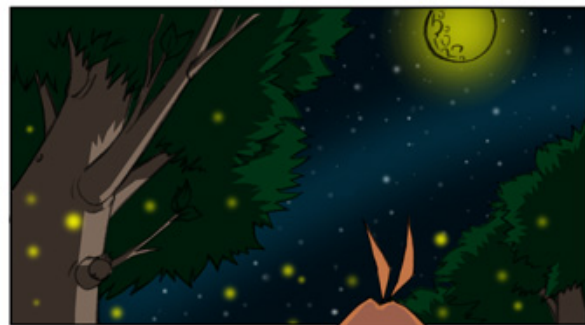


## The Weight of Armor





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.

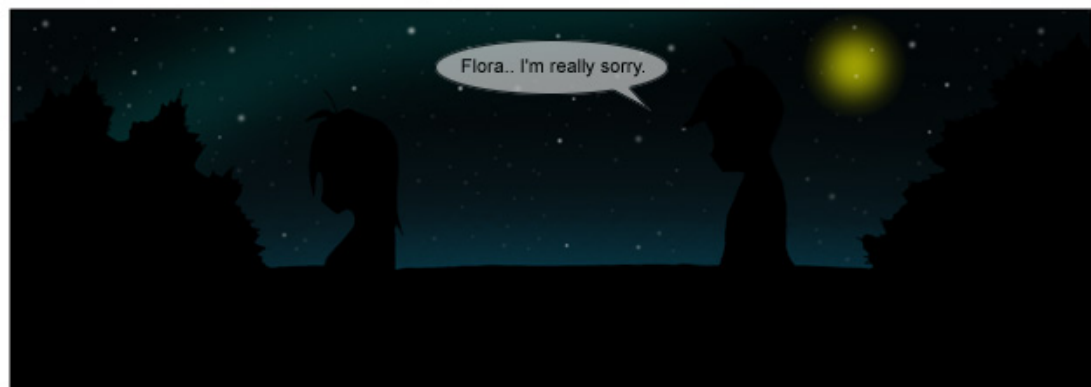
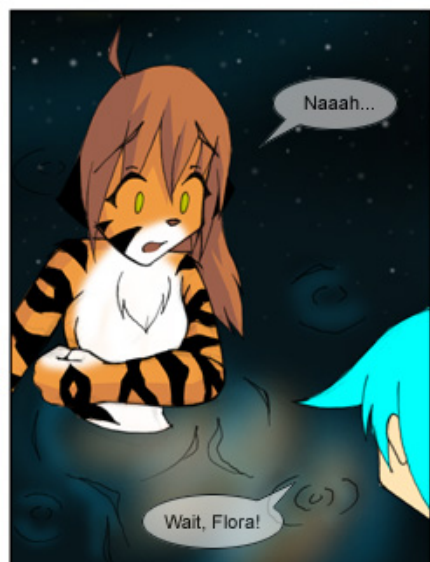
Huh?  
Euchre? Is that you?

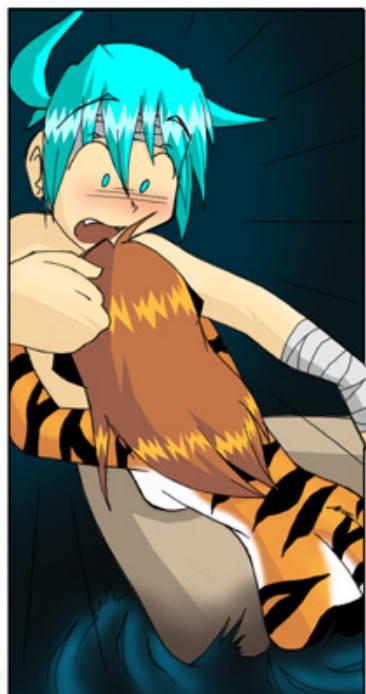
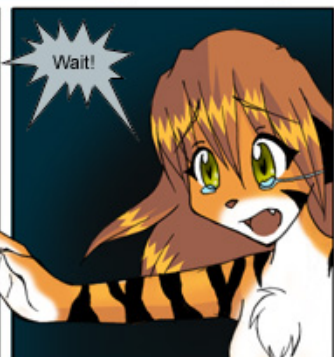
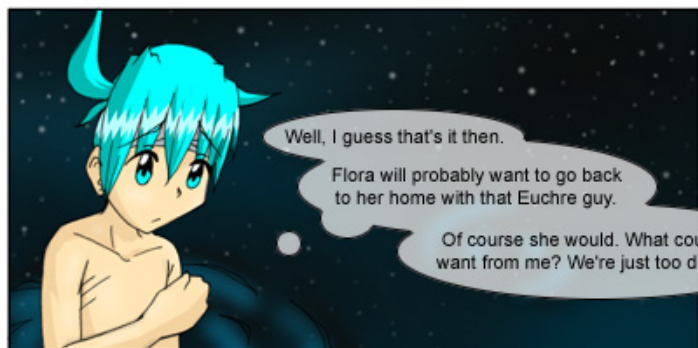
Uh, Flora?

Ah, Trace!

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

Oh, wait....







What the-? Oh...

Please excuse the interruption, we seem to be having technical difficulties.

Don't worry, though. We should be up and running.. eventually.

Flora + Cute, not out!!



This is a good opportunity for me..

In the meantime...

...to read some fanmail!



Let's see.. "Hey Tom!


Your comic is awesome, man. I love the art, and Flora's teh cutest thing ever. One question, though. You say you're a guy

but your comic's really sappy. Are you a girl in RL?

And if not, why don't you make Flora.. have..."

...


Comics will be back Friday.



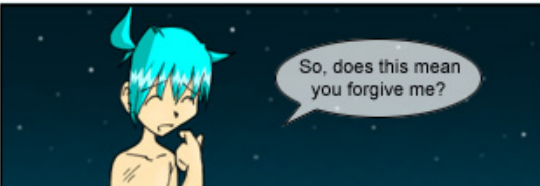
Oh, no! I'm sorry!

I didn't mean to jump on you again.


Are you okay?



Yeah, I'm kinda used to it now.

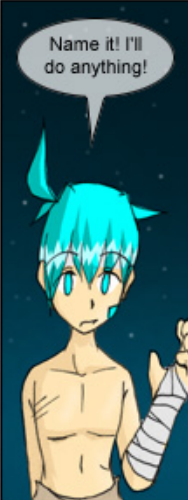


So, does this mean you forgive me?




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..?



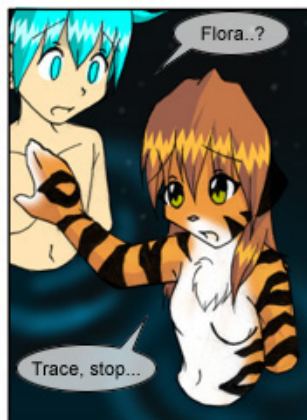
4 years ago...

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

And I'll be the mommy.

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

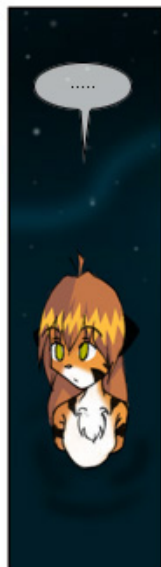
Duh! You're  
a Keidran!  
Keidran can't  
marry humans!



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.





You!?  
What do you mean "no"?  
Didn't you see what they did?

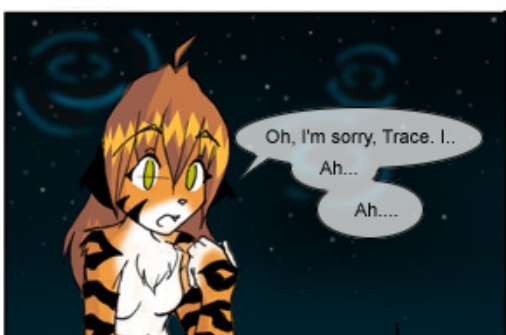



Oh, yeah? Do you really think you can stop me?



Euchre: 6' 4" 185 lbs


Keith: 5' 5" 128 lbs






Wow, I feel great today!

Too bad Flora isn't up yet.




Oh, hey Keith!




You... don't look so good.

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




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

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



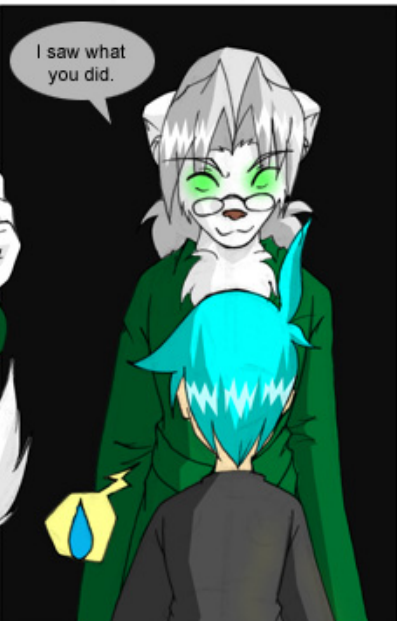
Great! I'm sure Flora will really like that!



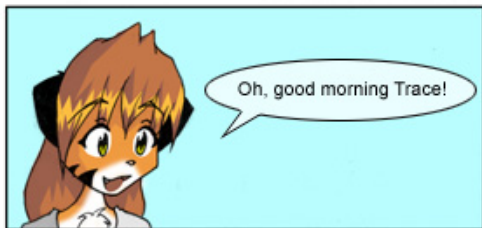
Trace! Can I.. speak you?

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

I am called Euchre. And...




I saw what you did.








A character with a large horn and blue markings on their face 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.


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

Okay, sounds good.

A character with bright blue hair and horns, wearing a black turtleneck with a blue globe emblem, looks surprised.

Trace, can I talk to you about something?

Uh, sure, what is it?

A character with a white hood and a '4' on it is talking to another character. The hooded character has yellow eyes and a fox-like tail. The other character has blue hair and horns.

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 and horns is talking to a group of three other characters. One is a brown fox-like character, another is a green fox-like character, and a third is partially visible.

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 and horns is talking to a character in a white hood. The hooded character has yellow eyes and a fox-like tail.

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.>

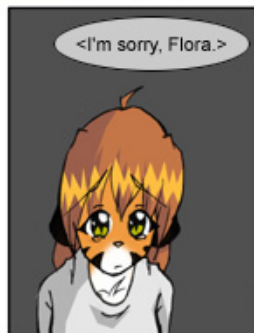
<But you must be careful.>

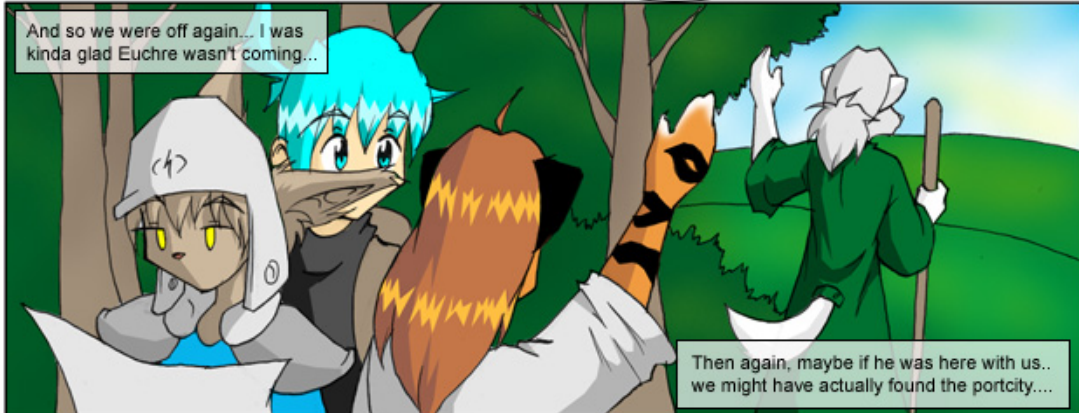
<He's not his true self. You have yet to see the real Trace, and you will not like it if you do. I pray that you do not.>

<I trust this Trace...>

<This version of Trace.>

<Flora... I must go now.>





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...

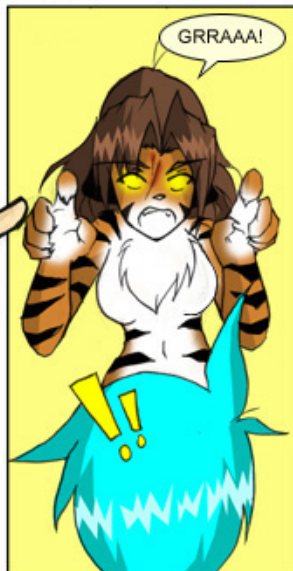
But I'm not sure why...

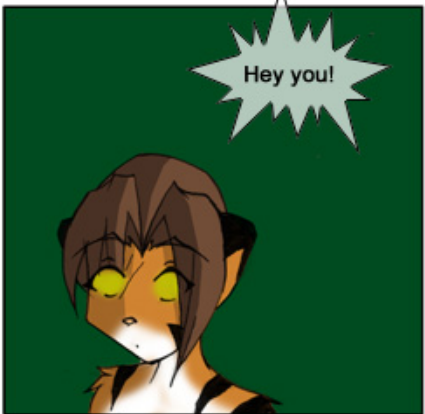


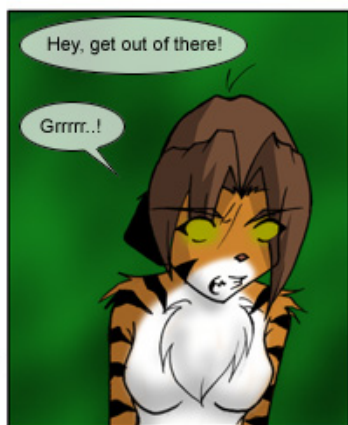
Wait!

You're not Flora!

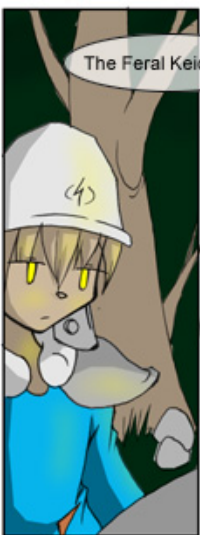
GRRAAA!











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.

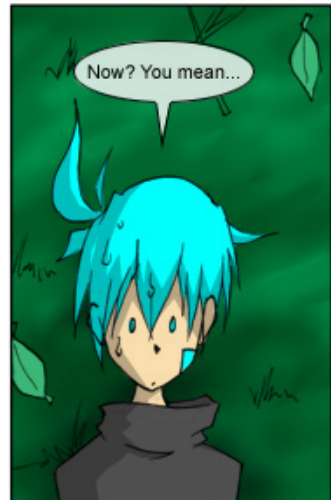


Yeah, but.. Keith told me about your.. uh..



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...



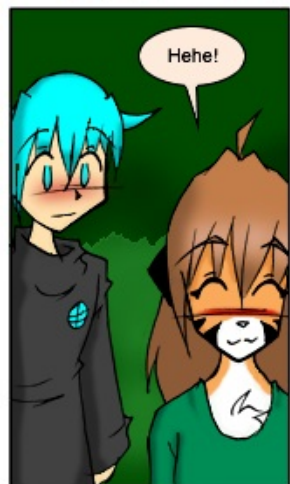


So.. you're not a sex-crazed kitty?

Naah! Well, not yet. Trust me, you'll know when it happens.



But thanks for caring!



Hehe!



Well, that went better than I had expected!

Didn't even have to explain... it.



Ah, I'm a little tired.

I think I'll take a nap 'til we have to move-



Hey, what's that?



It's in Keidran!

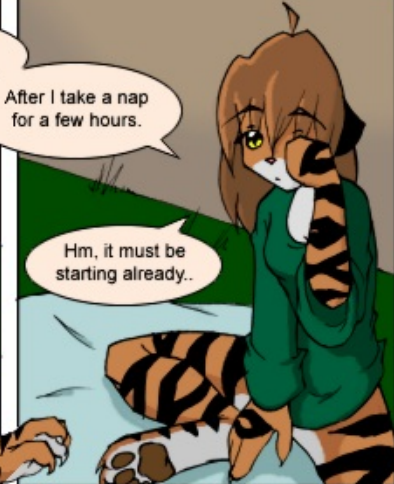
A letter to.. Keith...

From... his wife?!





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?

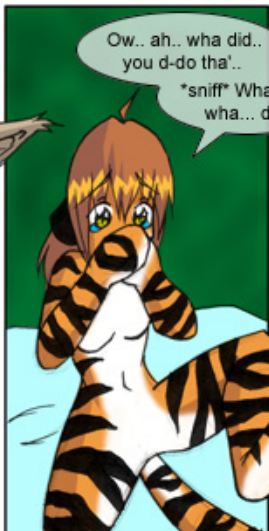
What?!


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



...


Fine, I'll go get her.






I'm... sorry, Flora.

I really didn't mean it.  
Here, this should help.




Oh, dat's okay.  
Id's ma faut.


No, it isn't. Is there something  
I can do to make it up to ya?




Well, actually, I was  
wandering if you could tell me..  
where this came from?



Where the hell  
did you get that!?



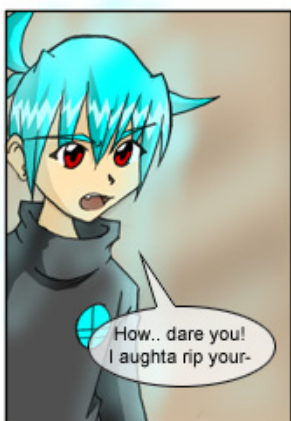
Hey, what's with all  
the shout-



No, don't hit me again!

...what.. do you think  
you're doing to Flora?

Uh.... n-nothing?



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.

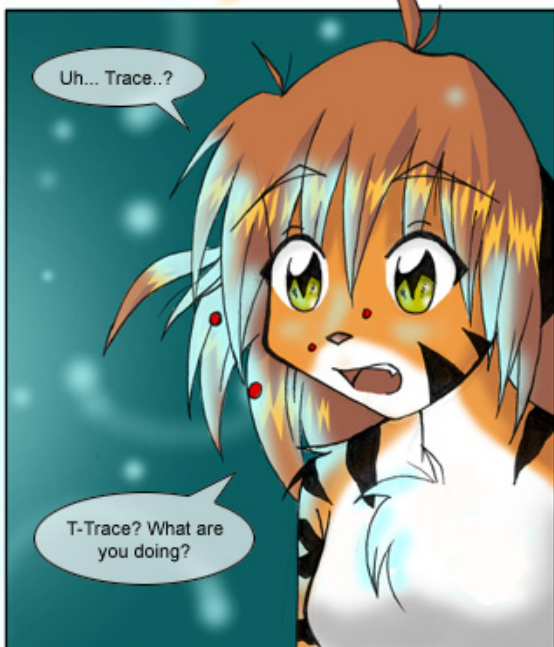
He didn't do it on purpose!  
Really, he was helping me.

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?



M-my nose!  
You fixed it!

But how...?



I'm... I'm not really sure.  
These powers are so amazing, though.  
I never dreamed I could do things like this.  
And yet, it feels so natural...  
...I need more...

T-trace..? What about Keith?



Huh..? Oh, Keith, right.



Hold on.

Trace, wait! What-?



Pooof!



There's my tent.

I'll just wait in there for a while. Hopefully Flora will explain things to Trace.

If not, I'll have my sword ready to explain it myself.



Hiya, Keith!

How the hell...?

Flora and I would like to have a word with you.



Trace, cut it out!

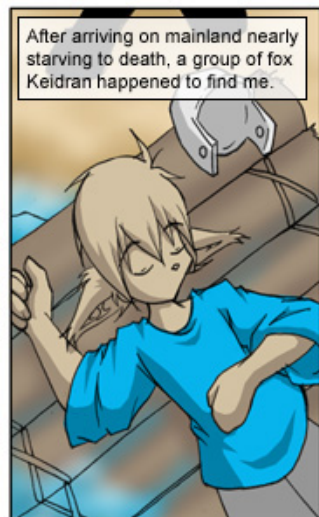
Alright! sorry.



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?



Trace, I feel so bad for Keith.

I didn't mean to bring back bad memories.

I know you didn't, Flora, and I'm sure he does too.

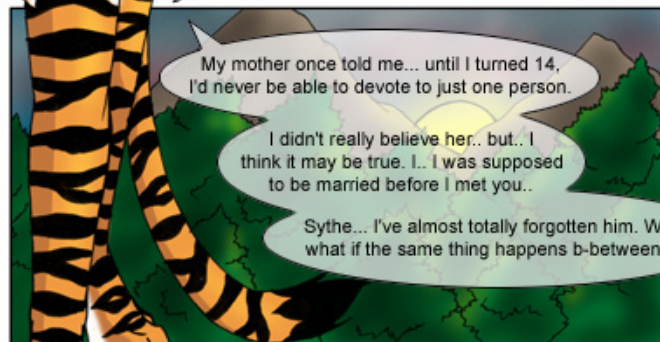
It's just that... if she loved him, why would she do that?



Well, Keith told me something a while ago.. that Keidran can't....



I know what he meant.



My mother once told me... until I turned 14, I'd never be able to devote to just one person.

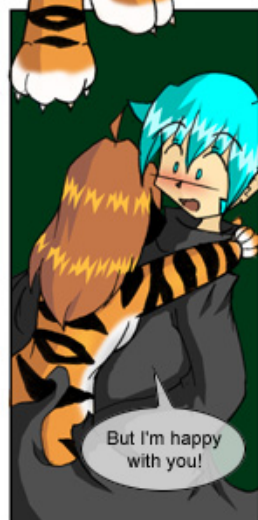
I didn't really believe her.. but.. I think it may be true. I.. I was supposed to be married before I met you..

Sythe... I've almost totally forgotten him. What.. what if the same thing happens b-between us?



I don't want you to be unhappy, Flora.

I know...



But I'm happy with you!



Trace, I promise, I'll never hurt you like that.. never!

I swear!

Okay, okay, Flora!

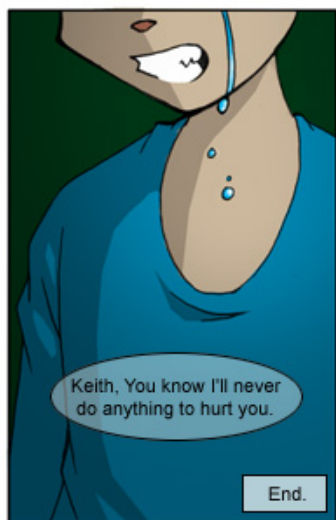
I believe you.

Keith, I love you.

I promise, Keith.

I'll never leave you.

Keith...



Keith, You know I'll never do anything to hurt you.

End.