



I... I never thought he would leave me...
I thought he liked being with me...



Trace... he married that human.. chose her over me...

My poor little Flora.
It's not all bad.

But he left me...

Well, you know how humans are. And can you really blame him? He has his needs, too. Things you could never provide.

I... thought he liked me for who I am.. not what..

Flora, Flora. Maybe this is for the best?



M-maybe your right...

Come on, sit down and tell me everything that happened.

I'll make it all go away.

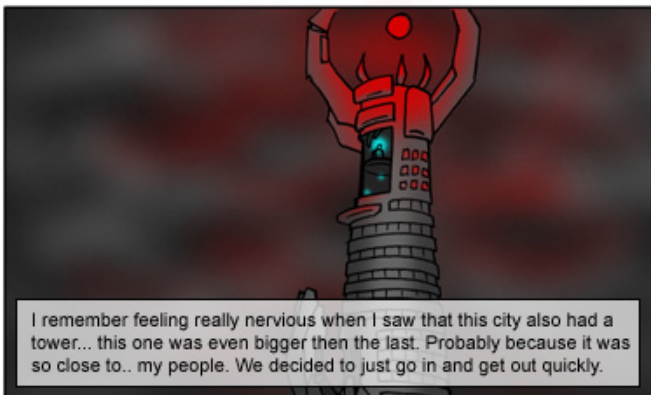


Well... *sniff* everything was going fine... until.....

2 days earlier...



We had finally made it out of the forest and found the port city we were looking for.



I remember feeling really nervous when I saw that this city also had a tower... this one was even bigger than the last. Probably because it was so close to.. my people. We decided to just go in and get out quickly.



Keith was still a little unhappy, but I think he was coming around.



Back in the forest, I had apologized to him. He gave me a hug, which was unusual, but I didn't mind at all. I was just happy he wasn't mad at me anymore.



Trace was also pretty much back to his usual self again.



You holding up alright, Flora?

Unfortunately....



I'm fine!

Oookay, Flora. If you say so.

I was four days into my heat, and with no relief in sight, I was a little on edge.





That was the first time I had come out and told Trace that I loved him. I think it really took him by surprise.



Back in the present...

So, you're sure Trace is in this city?

Yes, I am. I saw him come in two days ago.

But he's a little busy right now, maybe you'd like to wait at the tavern, Mr... uh...

My name's not important, and no, we need to see Trace now.

Y-yes, sir. Right this way.

Mother....

Meanwhile...

Continue, dear.

Well, w-when she said 'wife'...

2 days ago...

Wait, where are you going, sir?

...and why is he letting that Keidran drag him like that?



Come on, Trace!

Where are we-
erg, You claws!

I'm a Keidran, remember?
I can't talk to you out there.

Grr... why didn't you tell
me you were married?

You knew, didn't you?



I had no idea!

I don't know anything about
my past, you know that! I don't even
know if it's true or not, really!



Oh, I know.

But if it's true.. I...
what about me?

Flora. Flora! Relax.

I'm sure it's just some
misunderstanding.



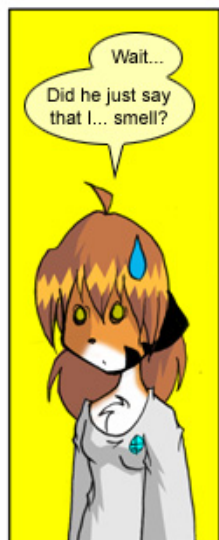
Why don't you let me handle this? They have
running water here, you can go take a bath.

You.. heh, kinda need it.

Oh, okay...



.....



Wait...

Did he just say
that I... smell?

PUBLIC BATHS

Damn that Trace.

I should have clawed his eyes out like I wanted to.

The jerk.

Creak!

Huh. Trace?

Oh, hey, I didn't expect a Keidran in the public baths.

Ah! A human...

Can you talk?
What's your name?

F-Flora...

Oh, mind if I join you, Flora?

I'm not here to hurt you.

You're Trace's Keidran, aren't you?

I've actually been wanting to talk with you.

With... me?

Yeah. You think I'm a templar, don't you?

Truth is, I am. But I'm also a member of the Resistance.

I can help you if you want.
I can get you out of here.

Go... home...?

I can take you home!

T-Trace.... is it really you?

This is my... wife?

I ca-can't believe it...
It's been so long...

You never wrote to me like you said...
And none of my letters...

I... I'm really sorry... Saria.

Oh, you don't.. don't have to apologize, dear.

It... wasn't your fault... I must have done something.

That's not what I meant.

Hm...?

nyaa!!!

What I meant was... I'm sorry, but I don't.. know you.

I can't remember anything... at all. It happened about a month ago.

You don't... remember me?

Are you okay?

Y-yes.. I'm fine.

Please, continue.

Cough!
Cough!

Well, like I said, I do remember some things.
But only bits and pieces.

Something happens, and I remember an event from my past.
It's how I knew your na-

TRACE!!!

Help me! I'm being chased by a Templar person!

Flora!

What the hell do you think you're doing? Didn't I tell you to wait for me?

You were supposed to... supposed to wa.. wait...

Oh no...

Stop it!

It's not going to work this time..

Cut it out!

Don't even try!

Flora, wait!

Waaaaaa!

Looks like Trace still has the same impression on Keidran.



Flora, come on!
Arg....



...oh well..
It's not like she
can go anywhere.
I'll deal with her later.



Aren't you going
to go after her?

Huh?



I thi-
think
you should.

I don't know who
this Keidran is... but..
I saw that look on
your face as she left.

I can tell you're going
to regret it if you don't.

You... really think so...?



Ah....
Yeah, you're right.

What's wrong with me?
How could I do that to her?




I need to go talk to her.
I'll be back in a few minutes.



I've... waited so long..
to see you again, my love.

This body of mine... can hold
on... just a little longer.




Get out of there!

You crazy Keidran!

Ya can't just run in and take a room like it was yours!

You flee-bitten animal!
I'm telling you, get out!



Um... excuse me, have you seen an orange Keidran with stripes around here?




AH!

Grand Templar! I-I didn't know she was your Keidran, me Lord. Keep the room, it's fine!



uh...

Okay, whatever. Flora, it's me, Trace. Let me in.



Woah, it's dark in here!

Flora? Where are you?

I think we need to talk... Flora?



RAAAAR!

GAH!



I agree.



Ever since we've been here it seems like you've been acting... different.

Giving me orders and ignoring what I say. I hate it. It's almost as if you really think of me as your slave.

Flora, that's not true...

I know... or.. I think I know. But it really does hurt. I don't want to feel like a slave again.



Flora, I'm really, really sorry.



I don't know why I've been acting like this recently.

It's just that.. you're a Keidran, we have to pretend at least.

Yeah, I know.

But I'll be easier on you from now on, I promise.

Mhmm...

Flora?



Heehee...

Flora, what...?!



Oh, crap! You-you're still...

That's right...

Flora, no! You don't know what your doing, stop!



And for no reason...

Sigh...

I think everyone forgot about me...



Flora, cut it out!

Come on, don't let your instincts control you like this.

aww.. why not?

You know why. I'm not ready for this. Neither of us are. This just isn't the time for it!



That's better.

Flora, I care about you.

I don't want to take advantage of what you're going through.

Yes, I know... er.. sorry...



Heh, that's okay. I have to get back to Saria now. No hard feelings, right?



..no...



Trace said he didn't want to do it because he cared about me...



Later...

Flora? Hey, Flora! Wake up, will ya?

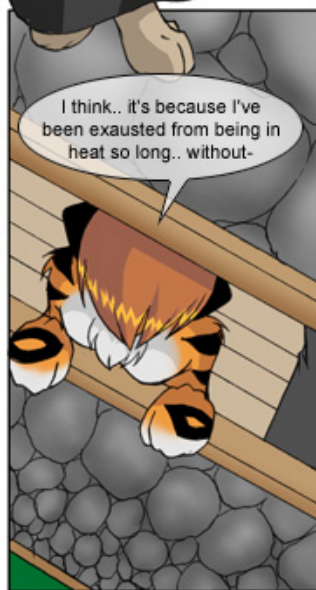


Mrrrr.....



Huh? Wha-? Wake up?

I must have fallen asleep.. how long have I been out?



Oops...

Sigh...

Flora... you don't have...
that problem anymore...

What? Oh... you're right...
I was afraid I might jump you...
how'd you know that?

Because I'm not... eh...
affected by it anymore.

OH! Hehe, I'm sorry!

I need to go wash
up.... you can get more
food downstairs.

Hmmm... did Keith say
the food was this way...?

I can't remember...

?

Mew?

Yes, that's a painting of
the old Grand Templar, before
her sudden disappearance.

Oh... I see... I think
I remember her...

Merrr...



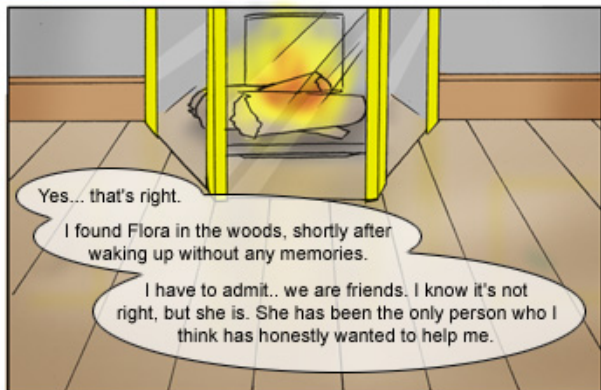
So... what about that Keidran of yours?

Hm...? Oh, you mean Flora? Why do you ask?

Oh, no reason. I'm just curious as to how you managed to come by her.



It seems to me like you two aren't exactly slave and owner, am I right?



Yes... that's right.

I found Flora in the woods, shortly after waking up without any memories.

I have to admit.. we are friends. I know it's not right, but she is. She has been the only person who I think has honestly wanted to help me.



But... there isn't anything more between you two?

More? Uh... what do you mean?

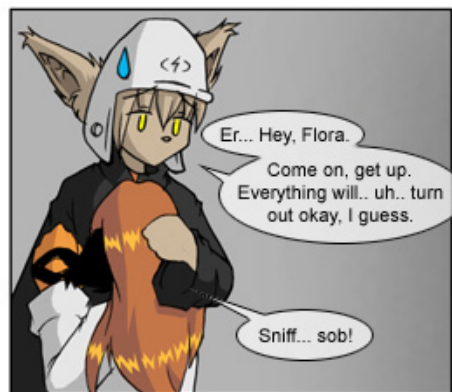
Flora and I are good friends... but she's still a Keidran. How could there be anything between us?

Hm, I guess you're right.



She is, after all, just a Keidran.





Er... Hey, Flora.

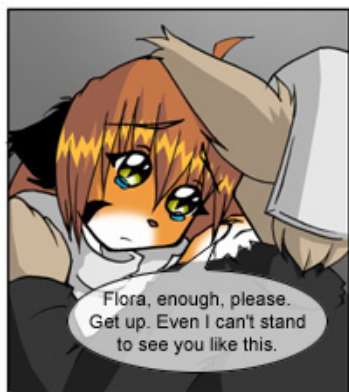
Come on, get up.
Everything will.. uh.. turn
out okay, I guess.

Sniff... sob!

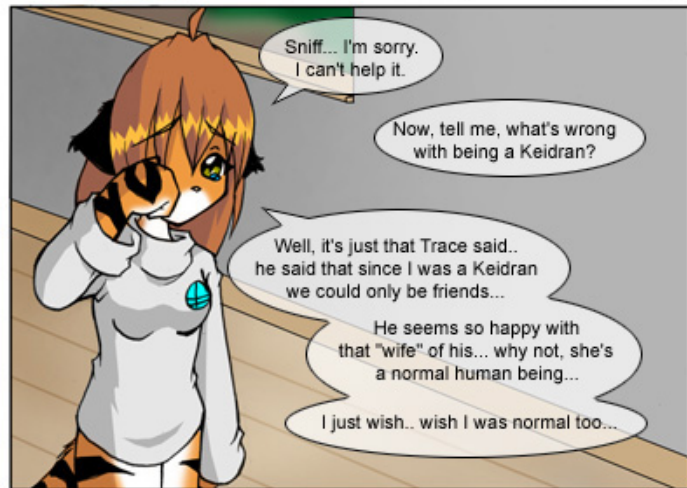


Aw, crap.

I was never good
at being sensitive..



Flora, enough, please.
Get up. Even I can't stand
to see you like this.



Sniff... I'm sorry.
I can't help it.

Now, tell me, what's wrong
with being a Keidran?

Well, it's just that Trace said..
he said that since I was a Keidran
we could only be friends...

He seems so happy with
that "wife" of his... why not, she's
a normal human being...

I just wish.. wish I was normal too...



Flora, listen
to me carefully.

You are who you are.
You can't change that.

We're both covered in fur.
We look different than humans.
But inside, we're still people.



And if Trace can't see
that, maybe... maybe he doesn't
deserve someone like you.



.....

Maybe you're right, Keith.

Later...

Oh, hey Keith.

What's up?

I can't take it anymore.

Trace! If you haven't noticed, Flora's been sulking since yesterday!

How could you say those things to her? Even if she is a Keidran. You could at least go up and ask if she's okay.

Keith, what are you talking about?

I didn't say anything to Flora. The only time I said anything about Flora was to Saria, yesterday.

I couldn't tell Saria how I felt about Flora! I don't even know...

Oh, I see..

Well, you've still kinda abandoned Flora.

I think you'd better go and talk with her.

Flora, are you in here?

It's me again.

I know I haven't made a very good impression, but I can't stand to see you sad.

I really, really want to help you out of here.

I haven't even introduced myself.

..they call me Ephemeral.

End.