



Twokinds

Chapter 6, part 2





once she accepted
my help, it was easy...

Wait... what's going on?

You're not-! Who.. what
are you doing to me?

I needed her to willingly
want my help, even if it was
only for a second.

I have you to thank for that.

Why would Flora ever
want your help? Why was
she so unhappy?

You really have no idea.

Wha-?

Flora had fallen in love with you.
A stupid little girl following dreams.

And your words mean everything to her.

"Just a Keidran."
Remember that?

That's what she heard?

No.. but she should have
realized I didn't mean it...

That I couldn't say
that I... that...

That you what?









Agh!

Why won't you just give up already? This would be so much simpler.

There's no use struggling! Just forget about Flora!



Why won't you fight me? Realize your true powers! Give in to your memories!



I... I can't...

Why not? Why?!

It's... it's because I really do care.. about Flora.

I wasn't sure before, but..



But she's just a Keidran! You could have any human female you wanted!

Or if you're into Keidran, who's going to stop you? You could have anyone!

But... I don't want a human. Or a Keidran.

Don't.. you get it? It's not the.. race that's i-important to me. It's just.. just Flora.



Because...



...I love her.

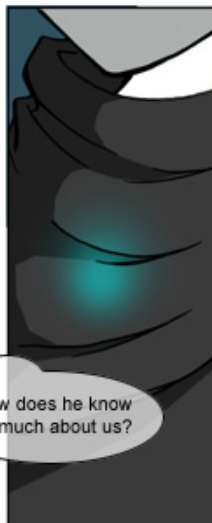


Y-you're not supposed to be able to say that!

I saw the future! This isn't what happens!

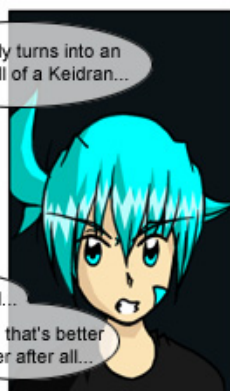







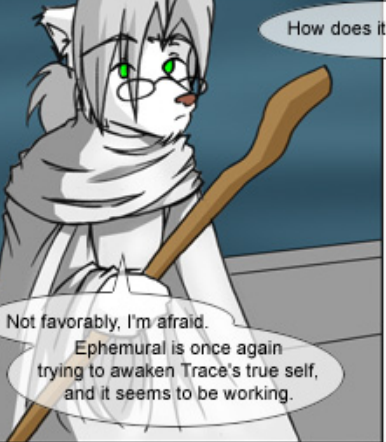









How are things progressing?




How does it feel, Trace?

Not favorably, I'm afraid.

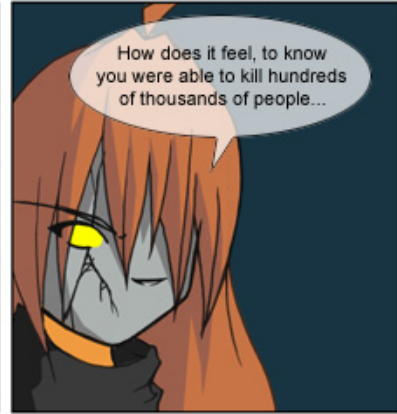
Ephemeral is once again trying to awaken Trace's true self, and it seems to be working.




To be helpless? Weak? Unable to do anything?



The ground...
It's... moving...




How does it feel, to know you were able to kill hundreds of thousands of people...

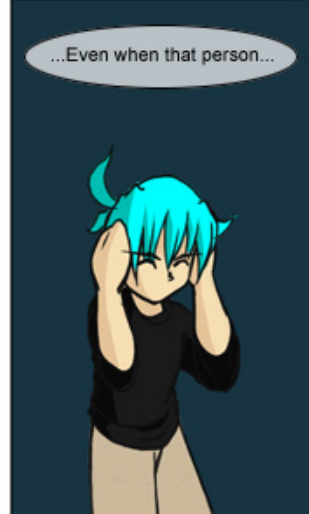


This doesn't look good...

And yet....




Trace, please, don't listen!



...Even when that person...




...is just...



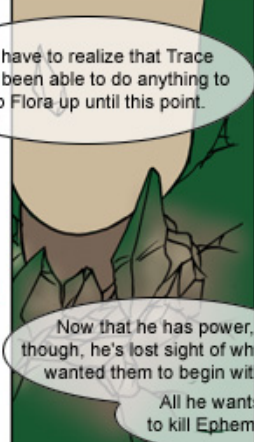
...a Keidran bitch.





I don't understand it.


If Trace doesn't remember, then why doesn't he care about the safety of Flora anymore?




You have to realize that Trace hasn't been able to do anything to help Flora up until this point.

Now that he has power, though, he's lost sight of why he wanted them to begin with.

All he wants is to kill Ephemeral.




This is insane. You have to do something.



You know I can't do anything. I am not to interfere-

You and your rules!

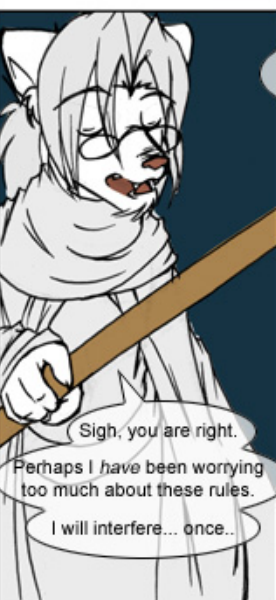


Don't you get it, Euchre?


That's Flora out there, your sister - practically.

Maybe Trace isn't the only one who's let power get to his head...

I did not make the rules...




Trace is the one that must get Flora back...



But I can point him in the right direction.

Sigh, you are right. Perhaps I have been worrying too much about these rules.

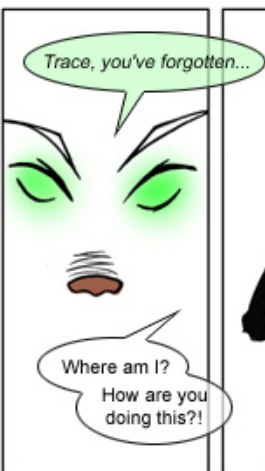
I will interfere... once..



Hey! What the heck is this?



What the-?



Trace, you've forgotten...

Where am I?

How are you doing this?!



forgotten...



Wha... what the-!

Flora! And the mask, it's...

It's gone!

And we're... in the forest?

Hey, what're you doing?

Grrrrrrr.....



What's wrong with you? Why are you growling like that?

Come on, Flora!



Gasp!

How did you know my name?

Hey... wait!



Forgotten...

What was that, a vision? And I didn't forget! I remember when that happened!

It's when I first met her, so what?

What's wrong with my powers? How can he be stronger?

Trace...



Die, Keidran!

What the-!?



Keith, stop it! She's not the enemy...



Eh... hey, where did they go... not another one...

What are you, Euchre? Why are you showing me these things!

There's nothing wrong with my memories! I haven't forgotten-



...about...
...Flora...?

Trace...?

I... I can't believe
I thought about letting
Flora die...

The power... it
overwhelmed me...

What happened?
How could I forget...

The whole point of
me being here is for her...

Flora...

Trace... I.. um...

I remember
this too.. I think...

It's.. our first...

Ahah! I see you've
chosen to break the rules.

But you know full well
the consequences...

What a noble sacrifice...
..for such a petty cause..

I hate having to strike
you down while you are
defenceless, however..

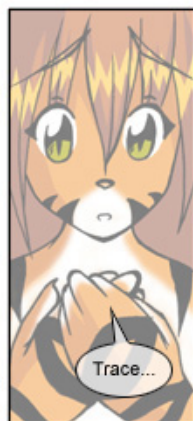
I have risked too much
already. Once you are out
of the way...

I shall depart... with
this little Keidran...

Mrraaaahhhh!

Flora! What's wrong?
Wha- what's going on?

...sister...



Trace...



Trace, snap out of it! Trace?

She's on the roof!
That's it, I'm going after her.

No, you can't!

The roof? Yes...

It's like.. I can sense her now.. her thoughts..

She's calling me to her.



That was completely unnecessary, Ephemeral.

That Keidran was an innocent-

No one is innocent.
He knew the rules.

We all break rules..

Not as long as I'm around.



Would you care to join him?

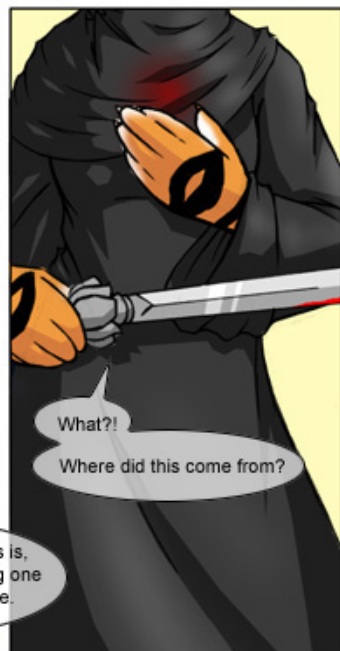


Oh no, of course not.

I wouldn't dream of interfering with your work now.

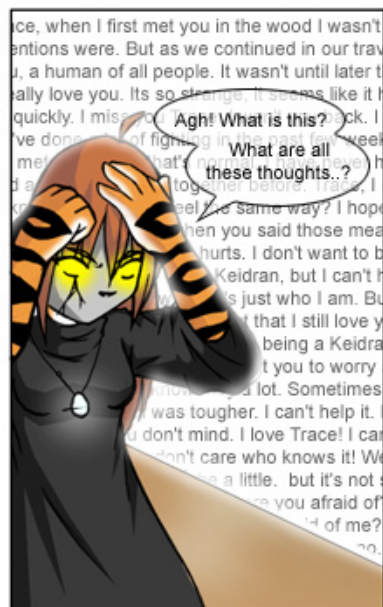
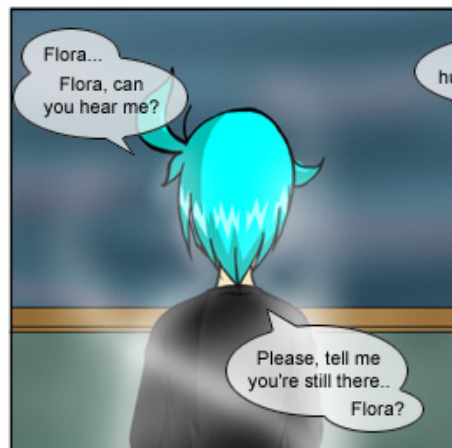
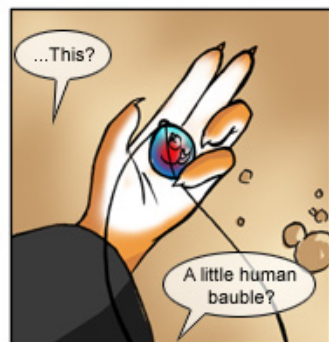
Especially considering I already have.

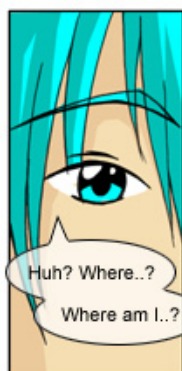
You know what this is, right? You're wearing one just like it, you see.



What?!

Where did this come from?





Huh? Where...?

Where am I..?



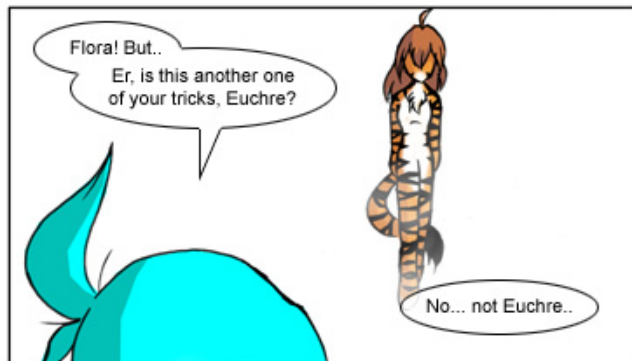
Ack! Why am I naked!?

What is this place?



Am I dead?

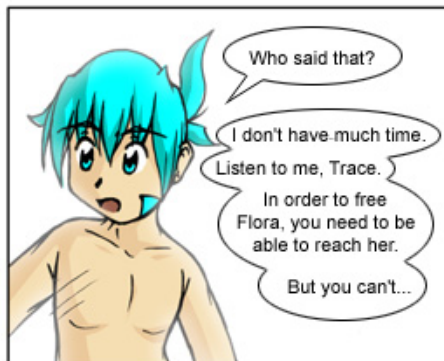
...huh?



Flora! But..

Er, is this another one of your tricks, Euchre?

No... not Euchre..

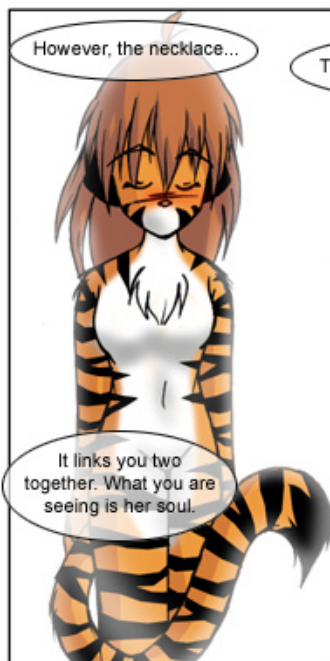


Who said that?

I don't have much time.
Listen to me, Trace.

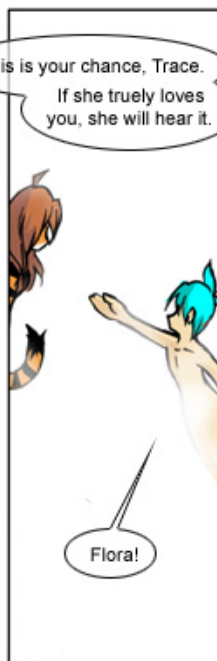
In order to free
Flora, you need to be
able to reach her.

But you can't...



However, the necklace...

It links you two
together. What you are
seeing is her soul.




This is your chance, Trace.
If she truly loves
you, she will hear it.

Flora!




Flora...

It's... time
to wake up.



Flora, I know it's a little late now...

But...



I love you too.




Aaaarg!




Gah!

You infuriating little pest! You've gotten in my way for the last time!


I tried to be nice about this, Trace, but you leave me with no alternative.



I will make sure you never... eh...
You.. nev.. wait...



What the-?



Having a... bit of trouble, Neutral?

I don't fine that -cough- very surprising.

What? You again!

What would you know?





Flora...

Thank goodness, he managed to get her.

I was afraid I'd have to be crushed trying to catch her.

Darn that stupid Keidran.

She's going to give me a heart attack some day.

Isn't it wonderful?

He saved that poor little Keidran!

Quiet, Raine!

Don't you forget, the Keidran -cough- are still our enemies.

Enemies? How can you say that? After you-

Enough! This... is not the time.

I still feel unsure about all this...

This all seems too easy...

Meanwhile...

Ugh, Flora's a lot heavier than I remember.

I must be more tired than I thought.

Trace, here, let me help you.

But.. what if she really.. really is gone?

Trace, I-

Hey! wouldn't you like me to help carry her? You look exhausted.

Trust me, Keith... It would take a lot more than exhaustion...

...to make me want to let go of Flora right now.



Mmm, goodmorning, Trace.

Flora! You're awake!
Thank goodness... gah!

What am I doing
in your bed?!

Hehe, I couldn't let
you sleep in that chair
all day, could I?

We can't do
this! Let me go!

Stupid Trace.
What am I,
a butler now?

Can't wait 'till
Flora wakes up.

Then we can
get out of here.

Trace!

I got the stuff you-

...wanted..

Oh.. um, thanks Keith.

yeah... um..
no problem..
Sorry about..
interrupting..

Heya, Keith!

Keith wait, it's
not what you- ah..


Hehe, or is it?

Wha- ack! Hey, get off me!

Noo! Keith, don't leave
me in here with her!

Mrrawr!



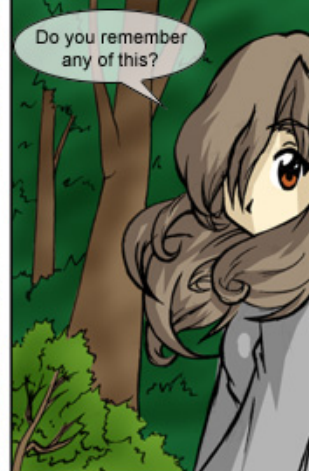


I always loved
this old place.


We used to... come here
all the time... to your cabin
out here in the woods.

That was of course... before
you became... power hungry.


We even came here when
the border got close... when it became
dangerous, because of the Keidran.



Do you remember
any of this?




Um... no, I can't
say I do.




...good. I think it's
for that best that you
do not remember.

What? Why? I want to
know about my past!




No... please, this isn't
someplace you'd want to...
to remember at all.

But there is
something I must...
I must tell you.



Trace.. I'm not..
I'm not your wife.

Buh?

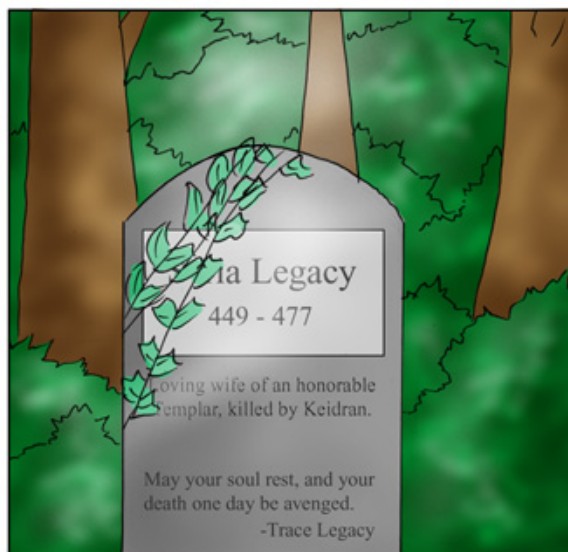
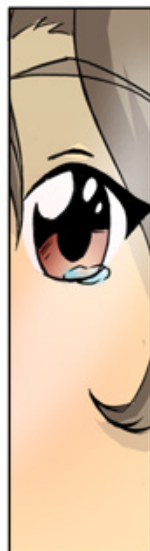


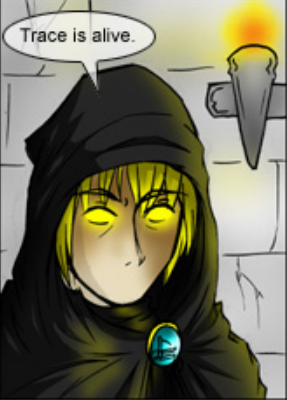
I'm sorry Trace.. for all
the lies I had to tell you.

We did know each
other.. a long time ago..

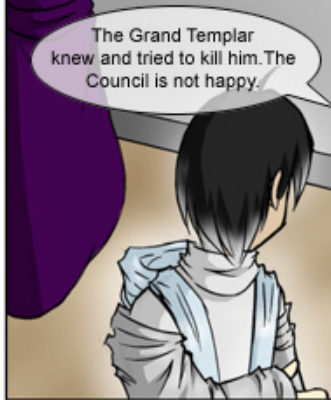
I came back because of
Neutral. She brought me here.

I had.. to see you...
one last time. I'm sorry.






Trace is alive.




The Grand Templar knew and tried to kill him. The Council is not happy.



Yes, I heard the news.

He was located only a few miles from the Keidran border. What does The Council plan to do?



As you know, Trace is needed in order to finish the final tower.

The Council knows that they must find Trace as quickly as possible.

Should Trace die, or find his way into the claws of the Keidran... it would be disastrous. This is why we've chosen to employ.. the Dragons.




Dragons?

They can't be serious!

Sending a Dragon near Keidran territory..


It could be considered an act of war!



Not to mention the fact that the king would never approve it.

He wouldn't allow us Templar that kind of gold.

You know what the Dragons ask for.



That won't be a problem for long, Sirvitine.

Once we have Trace in our hands and the final Tower completed...

The king will bow down to us.

Saria told me we were right here, near the border..

And only about 15 miles away from the port.

Trace, listen to reason.

Do you even know what you're doing?

Trace, come back with us to the Templar. We can help!

I'm not going back!

At least not yet. I have other things I have to do.

And what's that, Trace? Helping these.. animals?

They aren't animals!

Listen to me, Trace. You don't have any place to go!

We're dangerously close to the Keidran! You can't keep wandering out here.

I can't go back to the Templar either!

Trace... If you're going to go, you'd better go now.

The Templar will think to look here.

After all, you used to live here.. before Sari..

What...?

Nevermind. Maren, get Karen. We have to go too.

The Council is calling all Templar back to the stronghold.

Hey, Who's side are you on here?

And why would the Council do something like that?

They've never called all of us back before..

