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DRAGENS ØYE

— F O R R Å D T —

EGMONT

THE KING HAD ALMOST GIVEN UP ON FINDING SOMEONE WHO COULD RETURN THE MAGIC CROWN AND SAVE THE KINGDOM. BUT THEN THE MAGE FROM THE EAST SUGGESTED THAT ALL THE BRAVE HEROES COULD TRY TO DEFEAT THE EVIL WITCH TOGETHER!

THE OTHER HEROES LIKED THE PLAN AND AGREED TO SPLIT THE REWARD. AND SO THEY RODE OUT TO BATTLE ONCE MORE, BUT THIS TIME TOGETHER!



TOGETHER THE HEROES WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE WITCH!

THE MAGIC CROWN WAS RETURNED TO THE KING AND THE KINGDOM WAS SAVED FROM THE HORRIBLE WINTERS.

WHILE THE HEROES EACH GOT A CORNER OF THE KINGDOM TO RULE.



I WANNA BE A BRAVE HERO TOO WHEN I GROW UP!!

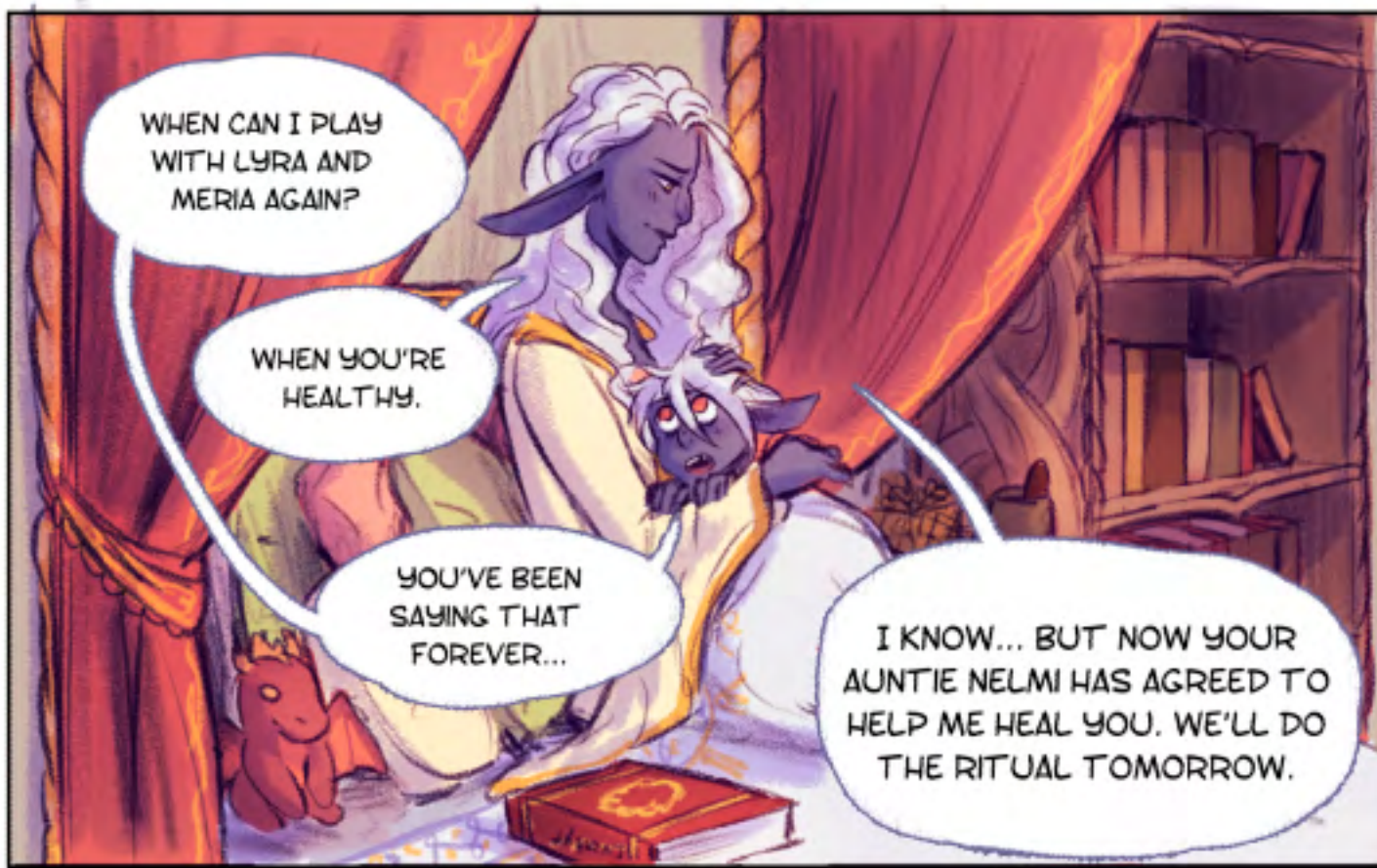
OF COURSE, MY DEAR. YOU CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WISH WHEN YOU GROW UP.

THEN I WANT TO BE A POWERFUL MAGE, JUST LIKE YOU, MOM!

I'M SURE YOUR GRAN WILL BE THRILLED TO HEAR THAT.



WOAH!!



WHEN CAN I PLAY WITH LYRA AND MERIA AGAIN?

WHEN YOU'RE HEALTHY.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOREVER...

I KNOW... BUT NOW YOUR AUNTIE NELMI HAS AGREED TO HELP ME HEAL YOU. WE'LL DO THE RITUAL TOMORROW.



FOR REAL? WILL THAT MAKE ME HEALTHY AGAIN?



WELL ENOUGH TO PLAY WITH YOUR COUSINS EVERY DAY!

THANKS MOM!

BUT NOW YOU HAVE TO SLEEP, OK? YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED.



GOOD NIGHT, MY DEAR KHA.

GOOD NIGHT MOM!

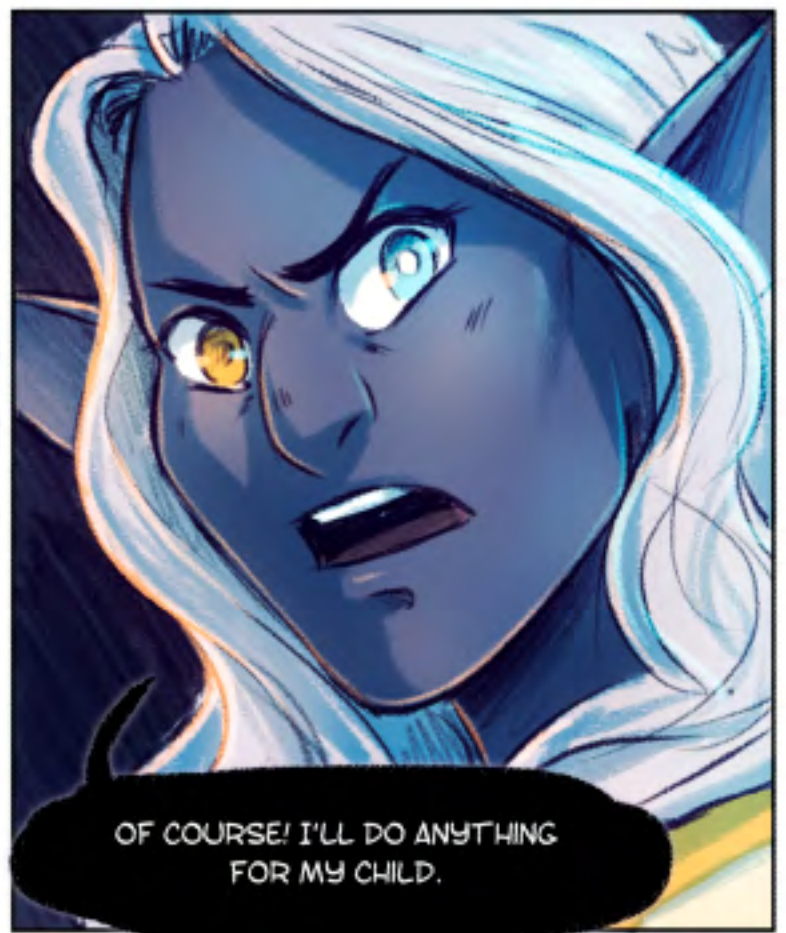




STILL NO IMPROVEMENTS?

NO...

SO YOU STILL WANT TO DO IT?



OF COURSE! I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MY CHILD.



NOELI... YOU KNOW IT IS DOOMED TO FAIL, EVEN WITH MY HELP!

THE MOMENT YOU START HEALING THEM THEY WILL SUCK ALL YOUR MAGIC OUT OF YOU!

IT'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO HEAL SOMEONE NOT TRAINED IN MAGIC, BUT A CHILD?

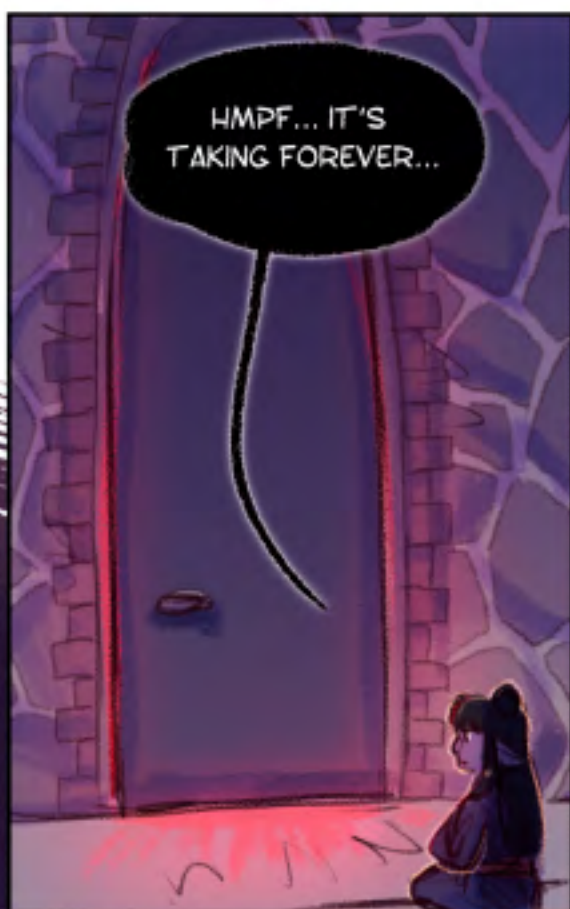
MY CHILD. WOULD YOU NOT RISK YOUR OWN LIFE FOR LYRA AND MERIA?




...

YES...

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR MY CHILDREN.





NOELI'VA'S DEATH IS TRULY A TRAGEDY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, NELMI'KHA. WE ALL HAVE A DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE FAMILY'S POWERFUL POSITION, AND YOUR JOB WILL BE TO TAKE CARE OF KHA.


AND THAT IS NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION.




BUT I ALREADY HAVE TWO CHILDREN OF MY OWN TO CARE FOR!

SNIFF

AND? ONE MORE WILL NOT MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE. BESIDES, KHA'NEL AND LYRA'NEL ARE THE SAME AGE AND WILL START THE ACADEMY TOGETHER.




MERIA'LETH IS OLD ENOUGH TO BABYSIT AND SHE CAN HELP THEM WITH HOMEWORK WHEN THE TIME COMES.




UHM...ACTUALLY, GRAN... I DON'T WANT TO LEARN MAGIC AT THE ACADEMY ANYMORE...

I KNOW MAGIC IS IMPORTANT TO OUR FAMILY, BUT I'M SCARED AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO AUNTIE...



VERY WELL, MERIA'LETH. BOTH KHA'NEL AND LYRA'NEL WILL WALK THE PATH OF MAGIC, SO I SUPPOSE WE COULD FIND SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU..

BUT IN RETURN YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO HELP YOUR MOTHER WITH YOUR SISTER AND COUSIN.



DON'T WORRY, KHA. WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.

SNIFF





WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BABYSIT YOU THE SAME DAY AS YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND ANNOYING?

THIS IS TEN TIMES WORSE THAN WHEN YOU LEARNED TO WALK UP THE WALLS...

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU HAD TO DROP OUT OF THE ACADEMY!

HIHI!

I CHOSE TO QUIT, ACTUALLY.

AND I KNOW ENOUGH TO FLY.

IMPRESSIVE.

GRAN!

YOUR FLYING IS VERY CONTROLLED, KHA. DID YOU LEARN THIS TODAY?

I'M FLYING TOO!

LYRA, STOP FOOLING AROUND AND GET SOME CONTROL!

BUT IT'S HARD!

YOUR MOTHER WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD!

IF KHA CAN DO IT I EXPECT YOU TO AS WELL!

YOU SHOW GREAT PROMISE, KHA'NEL.

REALLY?





KHA'NEL, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT.



WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE.

THANKS!



WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT, GRAN?


I WAS TOLD YOU ARE TO FACE THE TRIAL OF THE MOON WELL SOON?



YES, THREE MOONS FROM NOW!




THREE MOONS? THE UPPER CRYSTALS WILL BE RED THEN, THAT IS A GOOD SIGN FOR YOU.



LYRA AND I ARE GOING TO DO IT TOGETHER!


MM. I HAVE MY DOUBTS THE MOON WELL WILL FIND HER MAGIC WORTHY. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SHE ENDS UP WEARING AN EYEPATCH FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.



BUT YOU, DEAR KHA'NEL, YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE FOR A DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT.

BUT I-


OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN THE LEADING ONE IN MAGIC FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS.



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE HEAD OF OUR FAMILY IS THE STRONGEST MAGE IN THE CITY.

WE CANNOT BE LED BY A MEDIOCRE MAGE LIKE YOUR AUNT OR COUSIN.

IT WOULD DISHONOR THE DRAHKNEL NAME.



BUT YOU HOLD THE SAME POTENTIAL AS YOUR MOTHER DID.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WORTHY OF TAKING OVER MY ROLE AS HEAD OF THIS FAMILY.

YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.



THANKS FOR WAITING!

LET ME GUESS; GRAN WANTED TO PRAISE YOU FOR BEING READY FOR THE MOON WELL?



UGH..SHE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN HOW MUCH SHE WANTS ME TO SUCCEED HER AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY...

YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S THE WORST THING IN THE WORLD...



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT A GREAT HONOR IT IS?

OUR FAMILY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FAMILIES IN THE ENTIRE SYSTEM!

GRAN HOLDS ALMOST AS MUCH POWER AS THE QUEEN HERSELF!



I KNOW THAT, BUT I DON'T WANT -

YOU SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THAT BEFORE YOU GOT SO FUCKING GOOD AT MAGIC...

PAY HER NO MIND, KHA. SHE'S JUST JEALOUS OF YOU.



STOP SPEAKING THAT DAMN SURFACE-LANGUAGE!

SPEAK VERAHLIAN WHEN WE ARE IN VERAHLIA.



ANYWAY... I CAN GET US SOME REALLY GOOD TICKETS FOR TONIGHT'S FIGHT IN THE CROWN SWORD TOURNAMENT.

IT'S BEEN REALLY GOOD SO FAR THIS YEAR.

OOH!! YES!

I CAN'T.

MOTHER HAS ARRANGED A PRIVATE LESSON IN HEALING FOR ME WITH THE BEST HEALER IN THE CITY.



WOW, THAT'S SO COOL!

MM.



REALLY COOL...



HAVE FUN WATCHING THE TOURNAMENT...



SIGH



YOU ARE ALMOST LATE, LYRA.

IS IT BAD TO BE "ALMOST LATE" TOO NOW ...



DON'T BE GRUMPY; IT WOULD BE RUDE TOWARDS JUN'ILKHA WHO HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SPEND HIS PRECIOUS TIME HELPING YOU.

YOU ARE SPENDING MY PRECIOUS TIME ON THIS. I WANTED TO SEE THE TOURNAMENT WITH MERIA AND KHA



IF YOU WERE AS GOOD WITH MAGIC AS KHA THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO SCHEDULE PRIVATE LESSONS FOR YOU.

YOU ARE USELESS AND UNGRATEFUL. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I'M DOING THIS TO SECURE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR YOU?

YES, BUT ...



I DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU, AND ALL YOU DO IS WHINE.

IMAGINE THE SHAME YOU BRING UPON ME AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY SHOULD YOU FAIL THE TRIAL OF THE MOON WELL!



WELCOME TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THIS, DEAR JUN'ILKHA. I WILL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.



IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, LYRA'NEL.

THANKS, JUN'ILKHA. IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU TOO.



I WAS THINKING WE COULD START BY GOING OVER THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF HEALING MAGIC.

I ALREADY KNOW THE BASICS. WE HEAL BY FILLING OUR MAGIC WITH HEALING INTENT, THEN WE GIVE THAT MAGIC TO THE PERSON WE'RE HEALING.

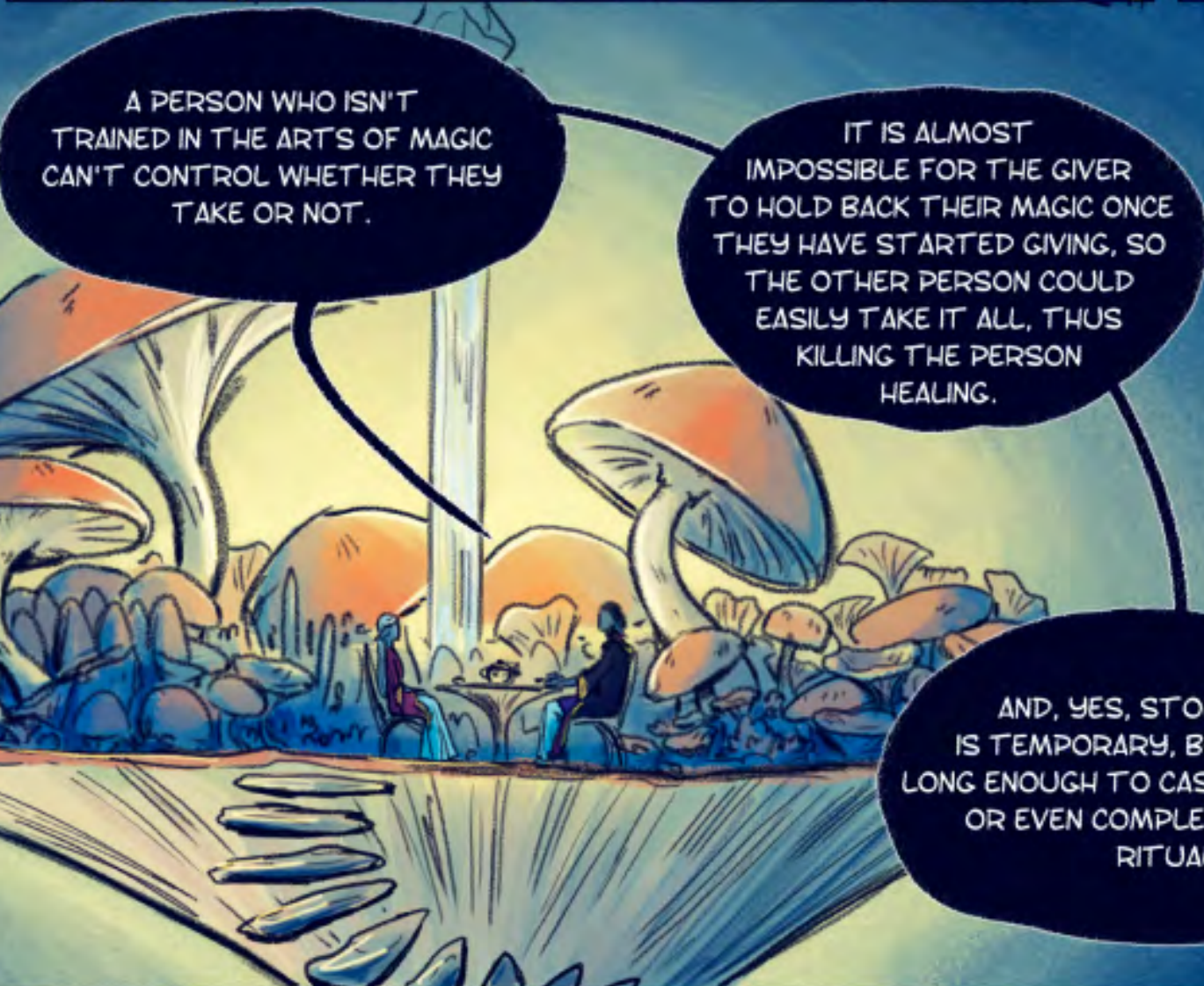
GOOD! AND WHY IS HEALING CONSIDERED DANGEROUS?



THE PERSON YOU'RE HEALING COULD DRAIN YOU OF MAGIC.

TAKING SOMEONE'S MAGIC LIKE THAT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE EVEN DO THAT? MOST PEOPLE CAN ONLY HOLD SOMEONE ELSE'S MAGIC FOR A FEW SECONDS ANYWAY.



A PERSON WHO ISN'T TRAINED IN THE ARTS OF MAGIC CAN'T CONTROL WHETHER THEY TAKE OR NOT.

IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GIVER TO HOLD BACK THEIR MAGIC ONCE THEY HAVE STARTED GIVING, SO THE OTHER PERSON COULD EASILY TAKE IT ALL, THUS KILLING THE PERSON HEALING.



AND, YES, STOLEN MAGIC IS TEMPORARY, BUT IT LASTS LONG ENOUGH TO CAST A FEW SPELLS OR EVEN COMPLETE A SIMPLE RITUAL.

THAT'S WHY TAKING SOMEONE ELSE'S MAGIC IS PROHIBITED.



IS IT ALWAYS DEADLY FOR THE ONE WHO'S BEING DRAINED?

ONLY IF THE MAGIC OF BOTH EYES ARE DRAINED. BUT AS YOU KNOW, IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO MAGIC ONCE YOU'VE LOST THE MAGIC IN ONE EYE, SUCH AS IF YOU FAIL THE TRIAL OF THE MOON WELL.

BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE TO HEAL PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAINED IN MAGIC.



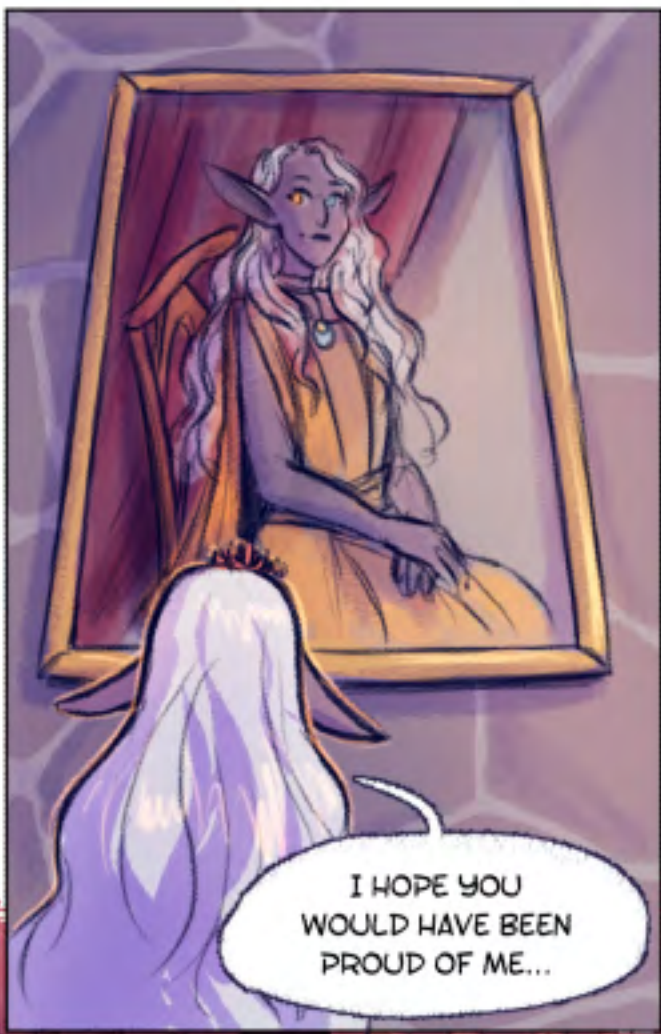


KHA! ARE YOU READY SOON?

JUST A MOMENT!



I REALLY WISH YOU WERE HERE TODAY, MOM.



I HOPE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF ME...



YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN FROM HERE. MAY THE MOON WELL BLESS YOU BOTH.



YOU GOT THIS, KHA.



DON'T DISAPPOINT ME, LYRA.



COME ON, LYRA!

SAVE YOUR ENERGY. WE HAVE A LONG WALK AHEAD.



YOU THINK WE'LL SEE SNOW?

HOW WOULD I KNOW? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S OBSESSED WITH THE SURFACE.



WHOA... IT REALLY IS FAR...

THE AIR FEELS DIFFERENT, SO I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.



GASP!

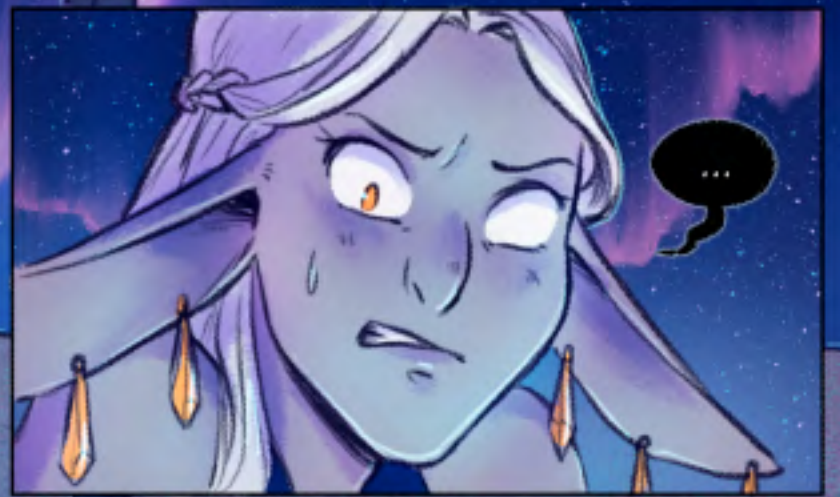
THE EXIT!



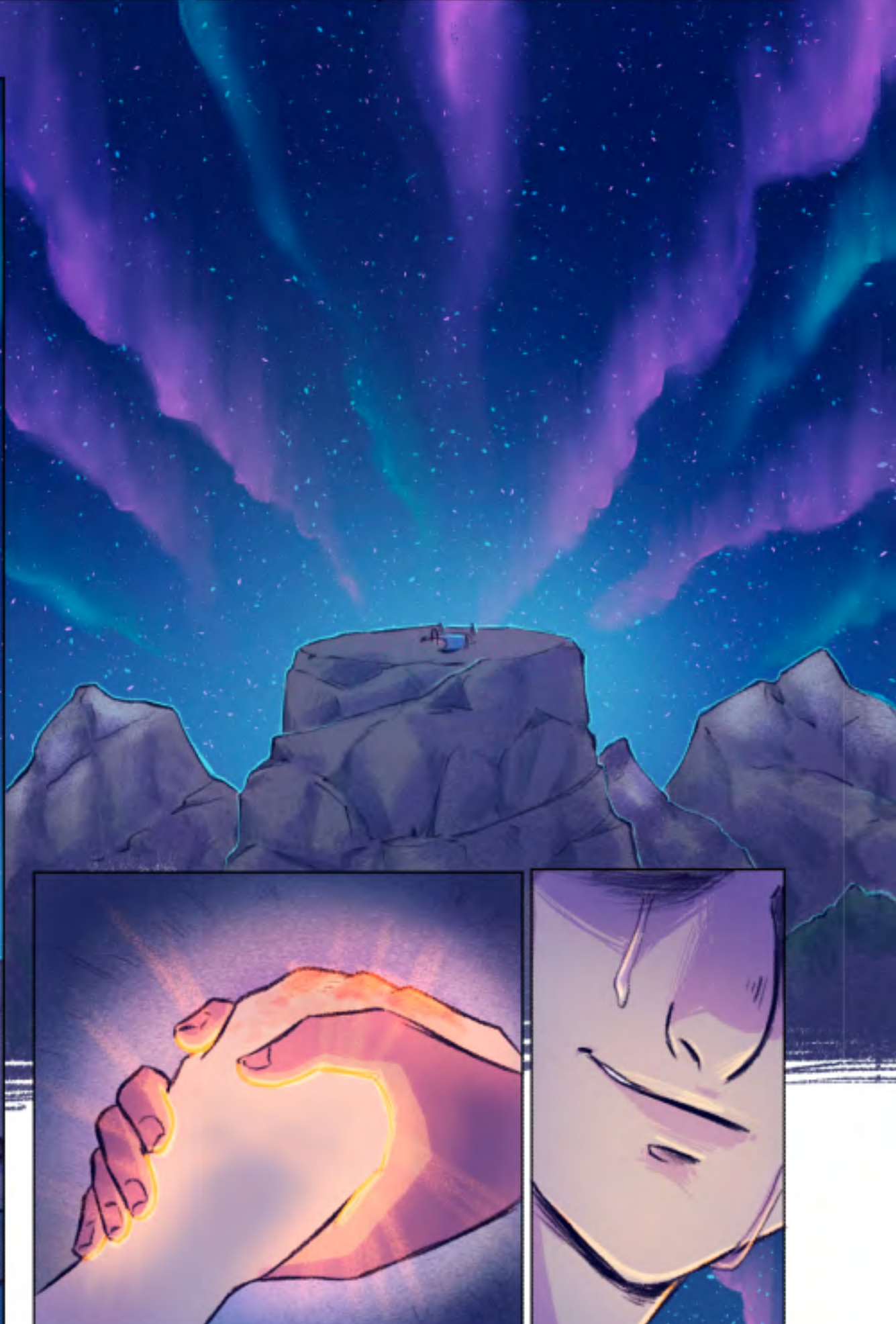
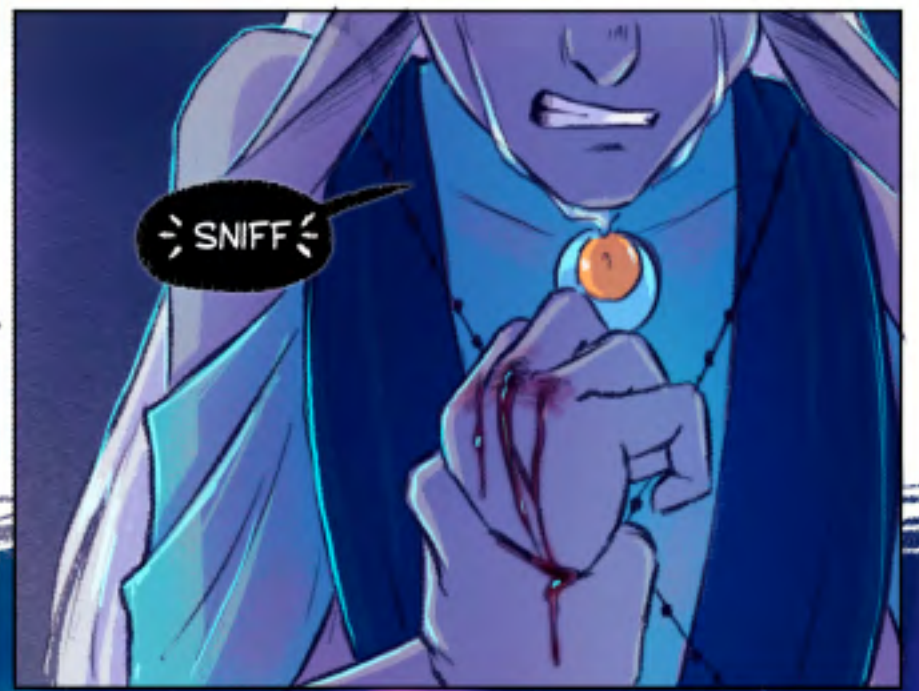
WHOAH!!













WHAT -

S-STOP, YOU'RE TAKING TOO MUCH!

W-WAIT...!

LET GO, LYRA!!



HEH...

LYRA!!



CALM DOWN, KHA. I HAVE DONE YOU A GREAT FAVOR.

PLEASE... DON'T...

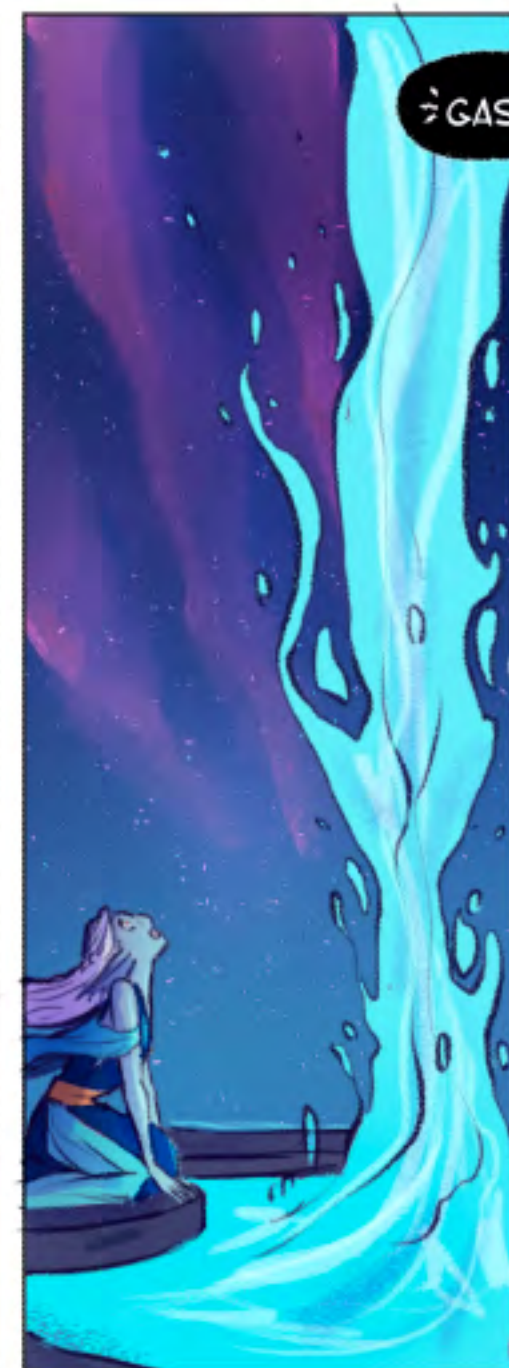
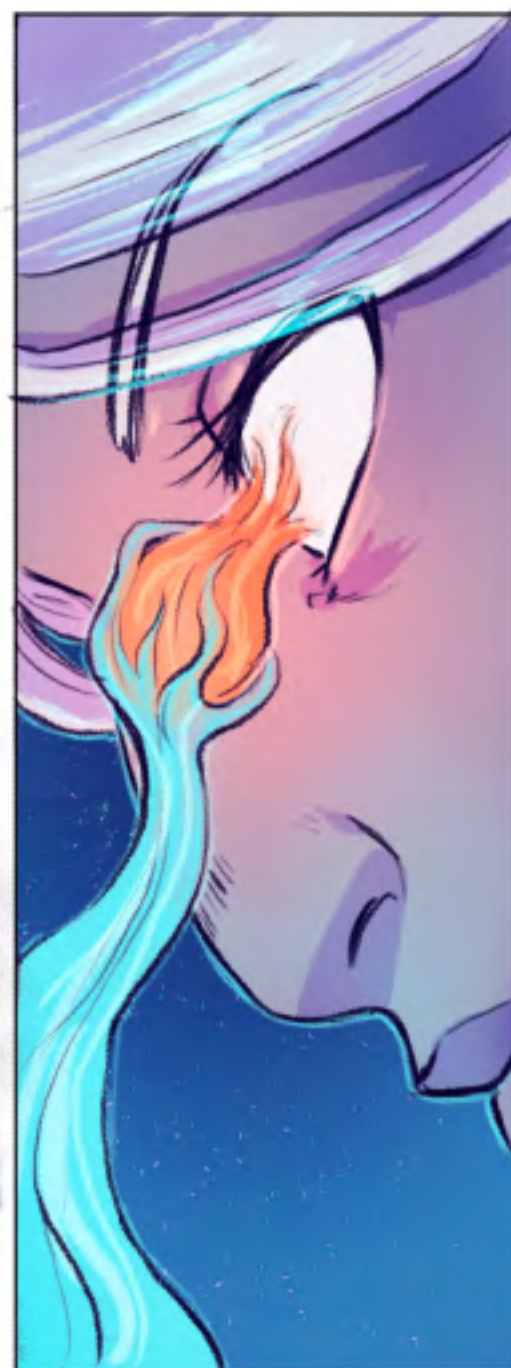
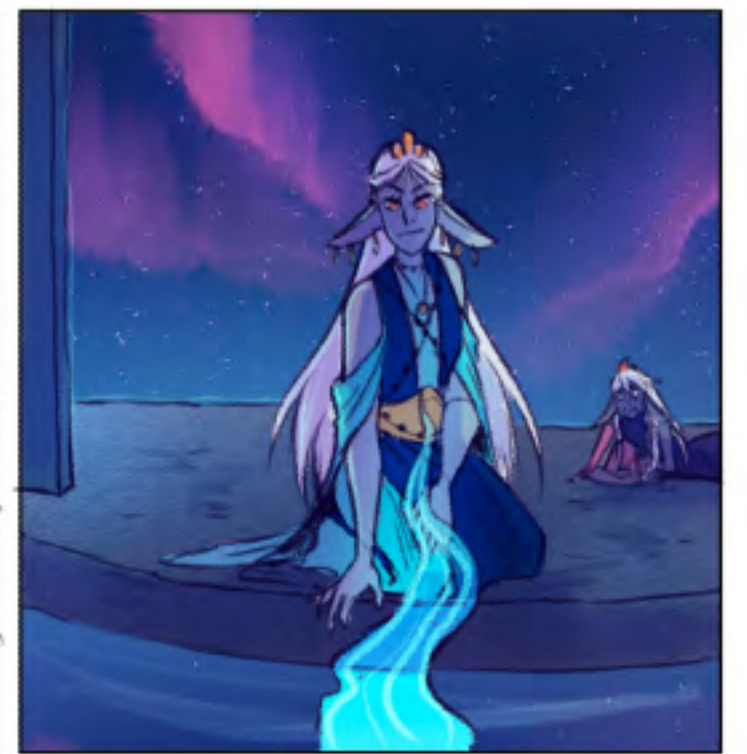
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY...

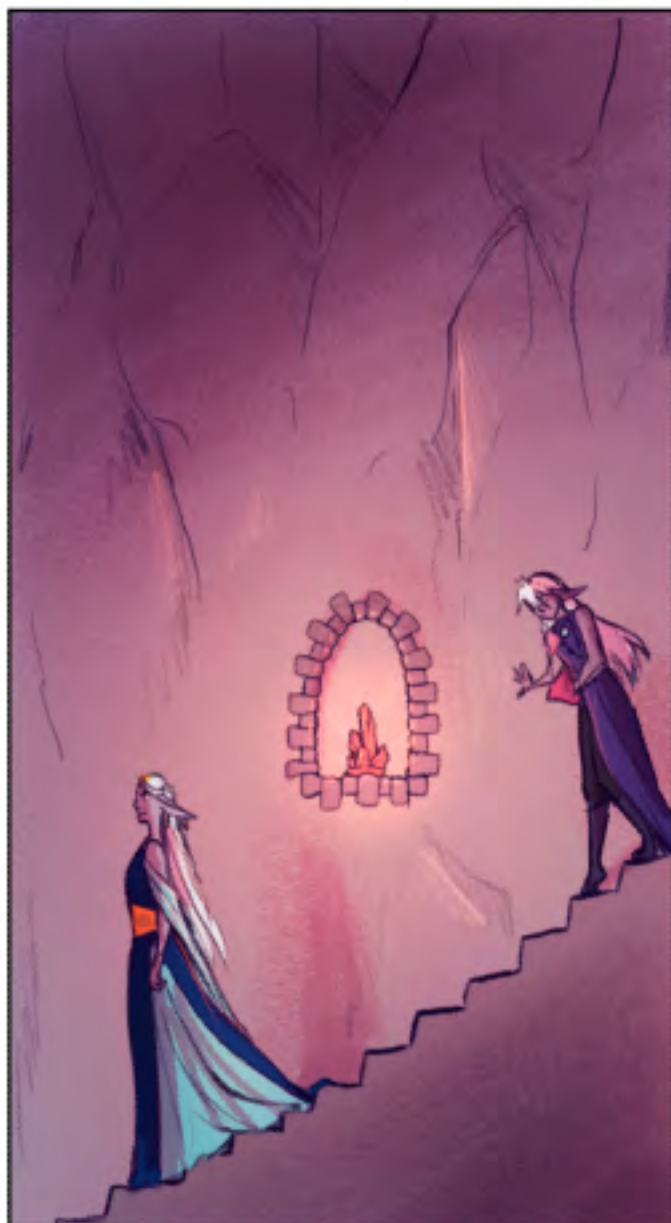


...NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

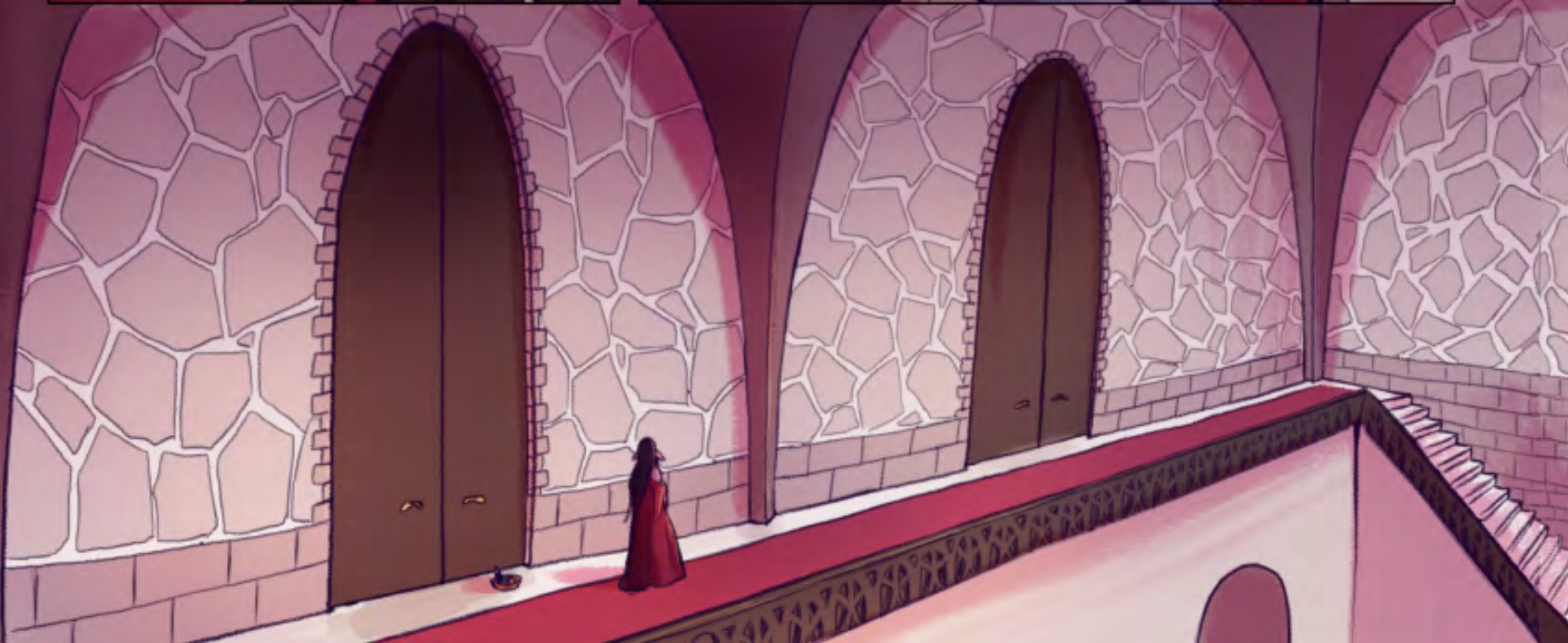


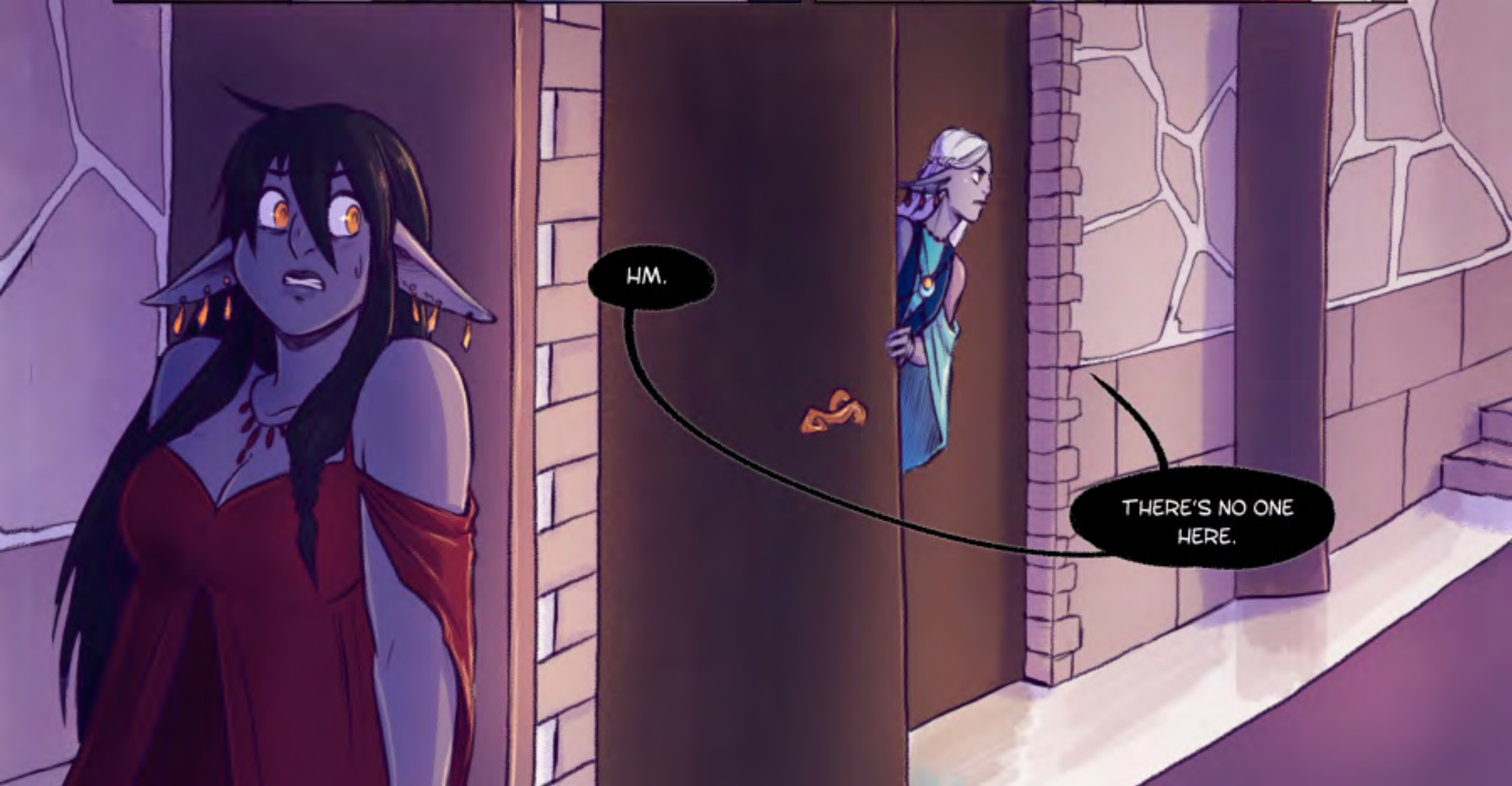
HNG...















GO TO THE SURFACE, KHA!

EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING THAT'S UP THERE! SEE THE OCEANS, FOREST'S AND DESERT'S!

EVERYTHING WE READ ABOUT, EVERYTHING YOUR MOTHER TOLD YOU ABOUT!

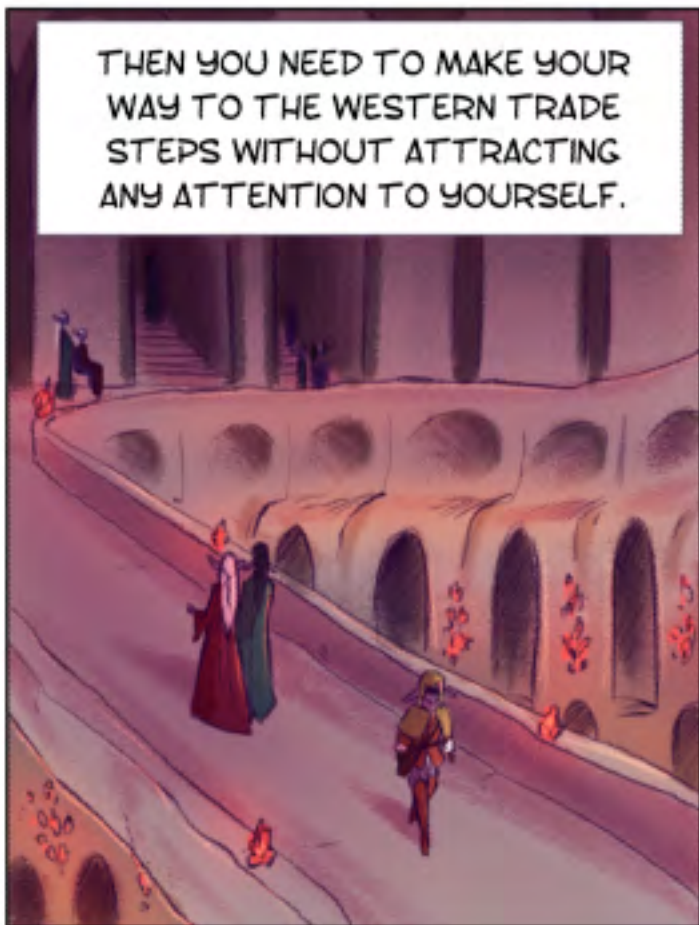
I'LL MISS YOU, BUT THIS IS THE BEST SOLUTION. NO ONE NEEDS TO DIE AND YOU GET A MUCH BETTER LIFE.







YOU HAVE TO TRY TO NOT BE SEEN LEAVING THE FORT.



THEN YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE WESTERN TRADE STEPS WITHOUT ATTRACTING ANY ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.



HERE'S A TRADE CERTIFICATE THAT YOU SHOW THE GUARD.

IF THEY ASK TO SEE YOUR GOODS, SHOW THE WINE.



THEN YOU FOLLOW THE STAIRS ALL THE WAY UP.



IT'S PRETTY FAR, SO IT MIGHT TAKE A COUPLE OF HOURS.



BUT THEN...



...YOU'RE FREE.