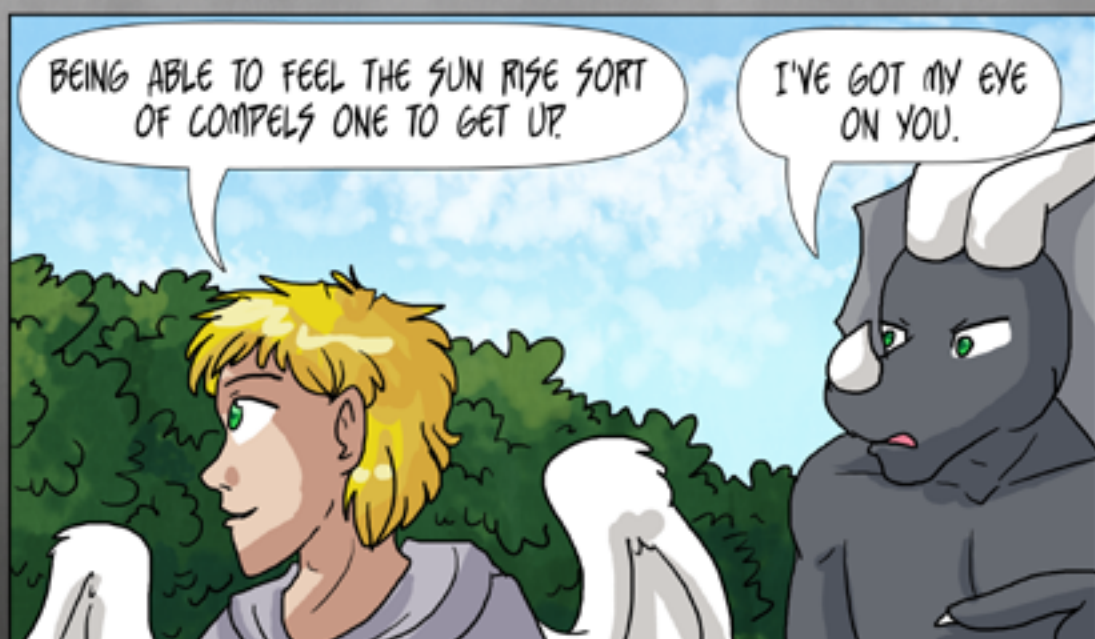
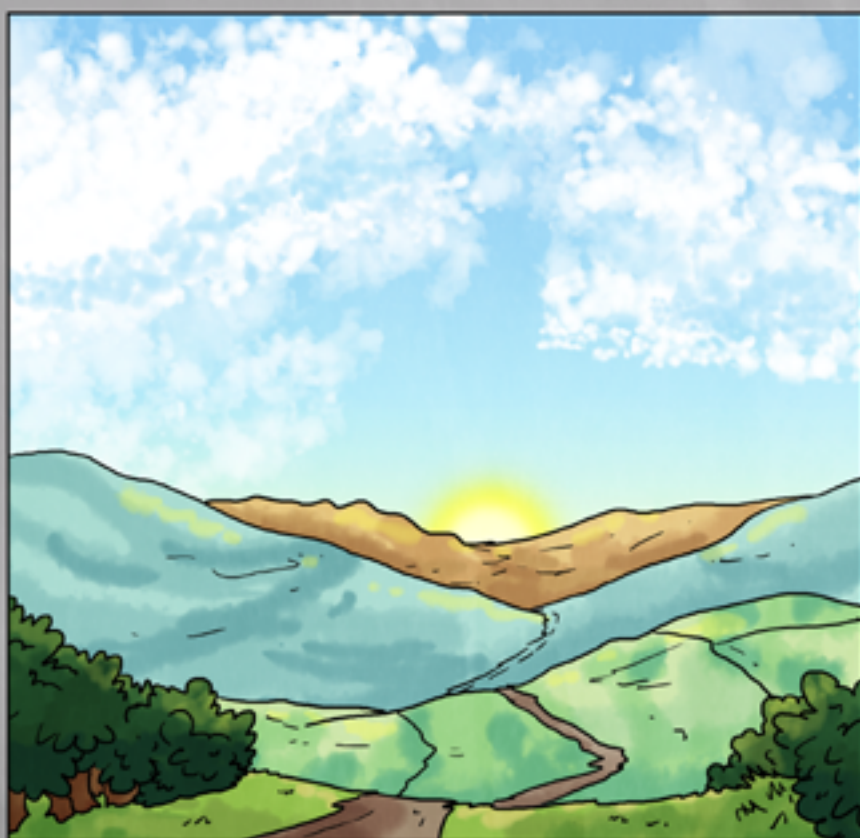


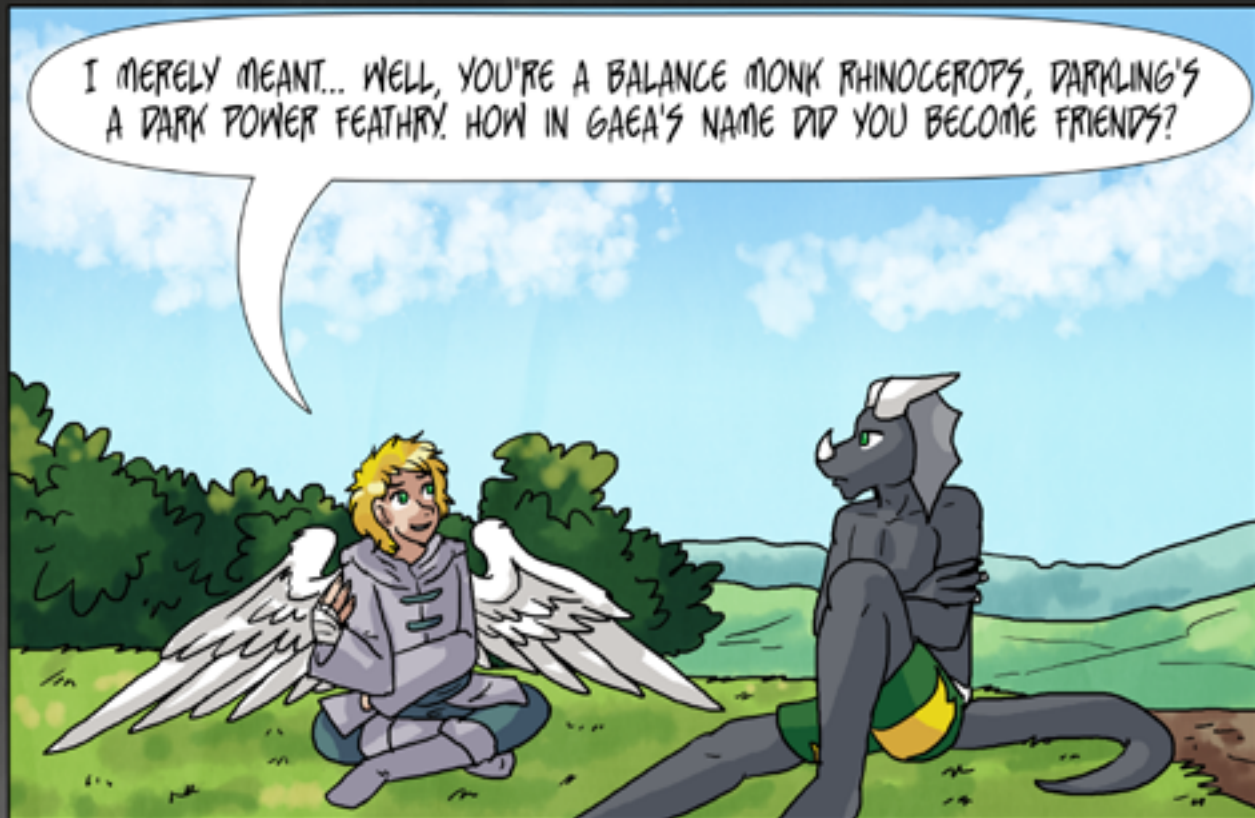
New Game Plus

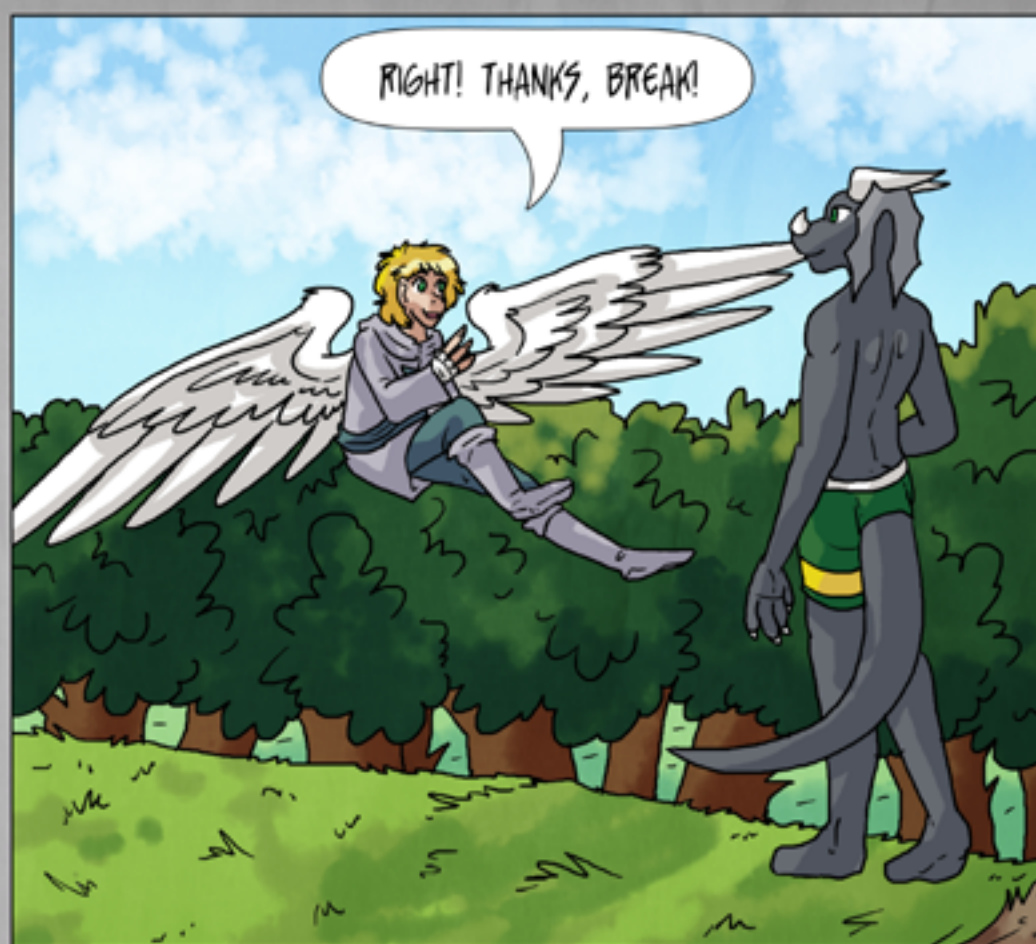
dyscomix.com

volume 13
Develop









...HMMM-?



OH... MORNING ALREADY? ..SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.



MORNING! BREAKFAST'S ALMOST READY, COME ON UP!



SEE, TRAVEL MAGIC IS ABOUT ALL THAT I KNOW APART FROM LIGHT MAGIC.



BLASTING PEOPLE WITH LIGHT MAGIC CAN BE PRETTY HELPFUL, SOMETIMES...



BUT TRAVEL MAGIC IS ACTUALLY HELPFUL. LETS YOU STORE STUFF MAGICALLY SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY A BAG AROUND. LOVE IT!



TEA?

THANK YOU.





THE DAY'S STARTING WELL! I CAN'T SENSE ANY LIGHT POWERS NEARBY.

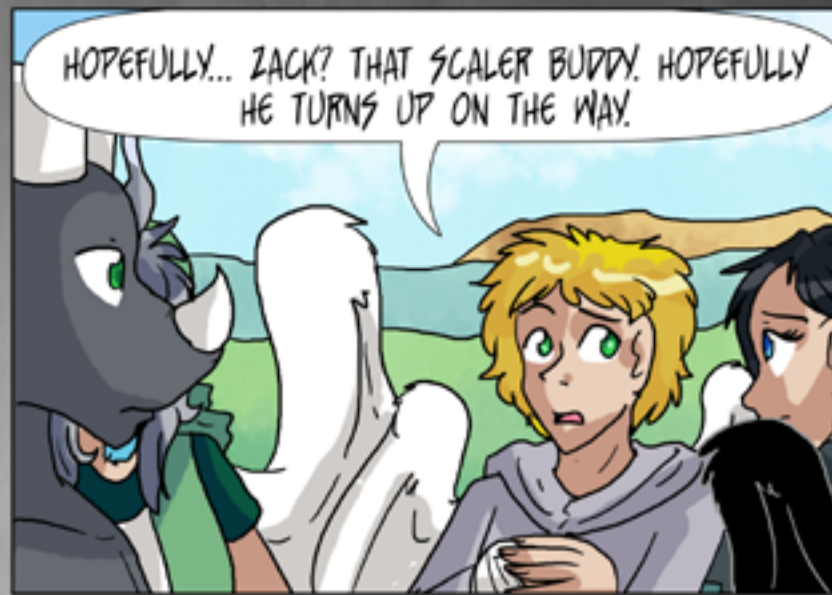


OH, HMM... I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DARK POWERS NEAR, EITHER.

EXCELLENT!



WE CAN HIT THE ROAD WHENEVER YOU'RE ALL READY.



HOPEFULLY... ZACK? THAT SCALER BUDDY. HOPEFULLY HE TURNS UP ON THE WAY.



AND HOPEFULLY YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.




OF COURSE NOT! I SAID I WOULDN'...



LET'S GO, THEN..



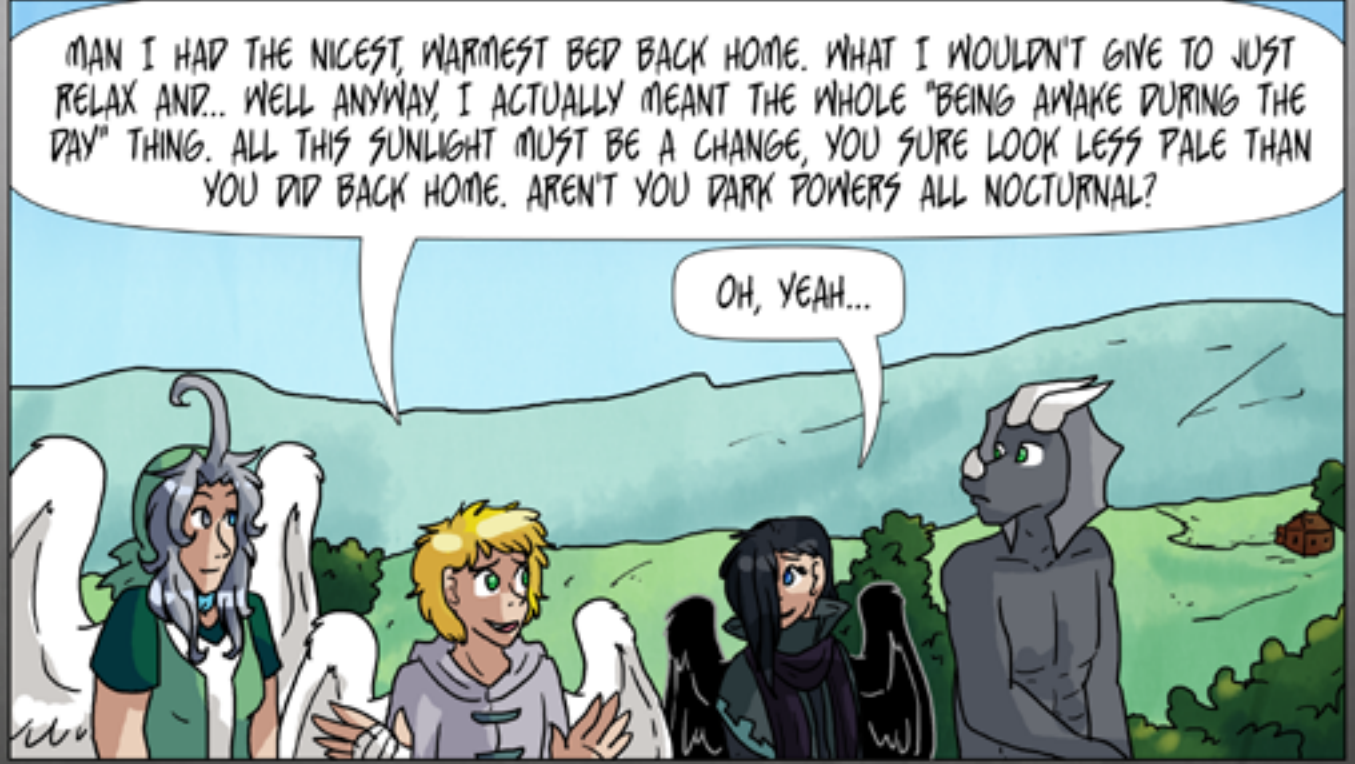
SO HOW LONG DID IT TAKE
YOU TO GET USED TO THIS, HUH?



OH, ER, TRAVELLING? STILL NOT QUITE USED TO IT,
I MUST ADMIT. IT'S VERY TIRING...



OH, YEAH. WALKING!
SHEESH. IT'S ENOUGH
TO MAKE YOU MISS
THE SPIRE.



MAN I HAD THE NICEST, WARMEST BED BACK HOME. WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO JUST
RELAX AND... WELL ANYWAY, I ACTUALLY MEANT THE WHOLE "BEING AWAKE DURING THE
DAY" THING. ALL THIS SUNLIGHT MUST BE A CHANGE, YOU SURE LOOK LESS PALE THAN
YOU DID BACK HOME. AREN'T YOU DARK POWERS ALL NOCTURNAL?

OH, YEAH...



TO BE HONEST, I NEVER REALLY
GOT THE HANG OF BEING UP AT
NIGHT TO BEGIN WITH.



JUST ONE MORE WAY IN WHICH YOU'RE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING
AS A DARK POWER, LITTLE BRO.

HEH...

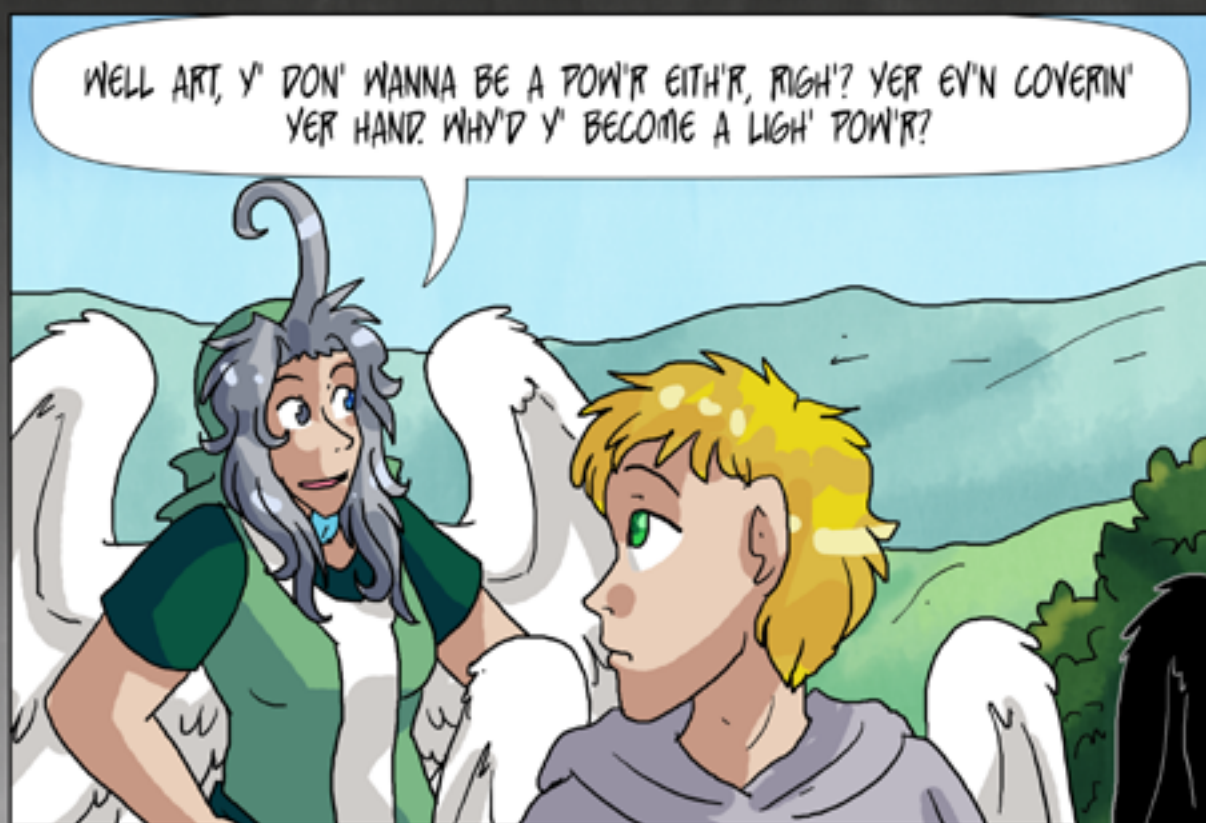


SO... IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE A DARK POWER, WHY ~~DID~~ YOU BECOME ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE?



UM.... I WOULD RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT THAT...

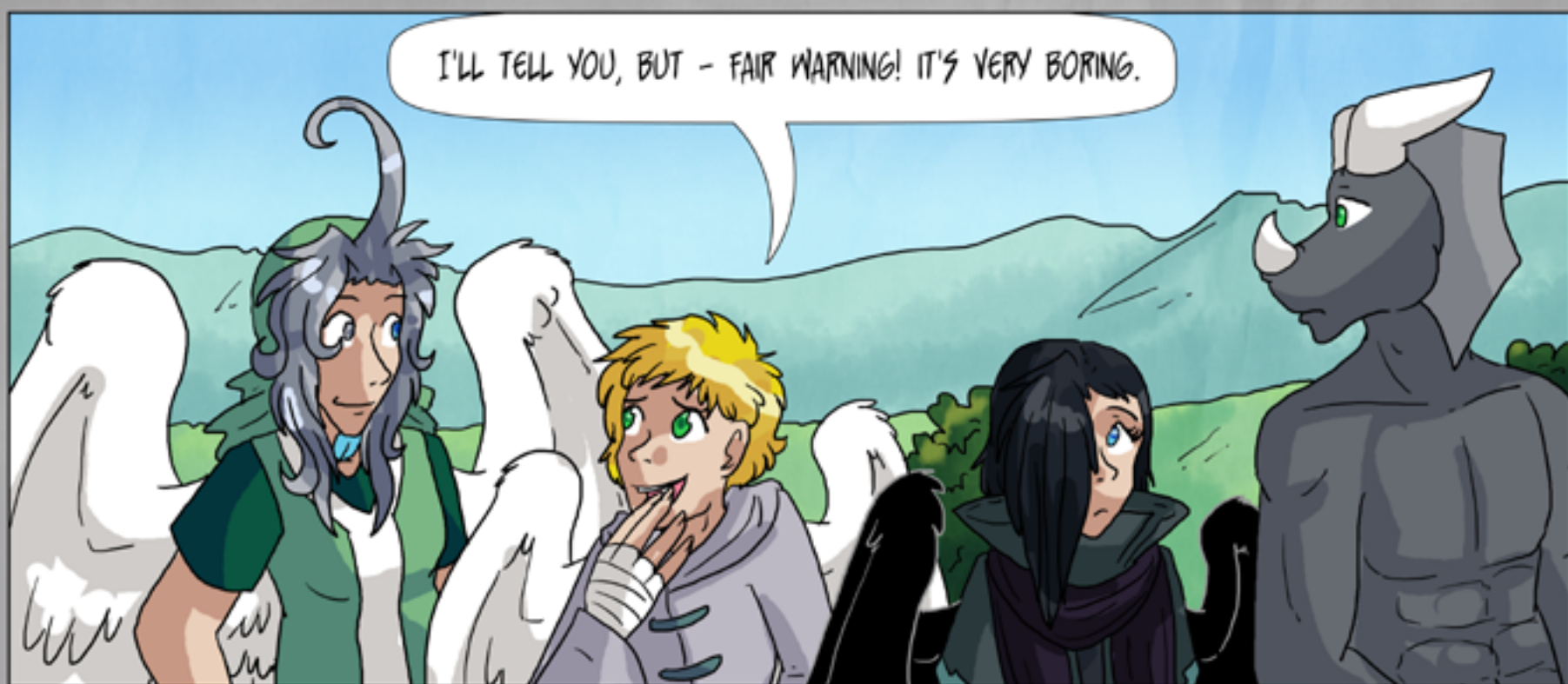
OH, SORRY TO PRY.



WELL ART, Y' DON' WANNA BE A POW'R EITH'R, RIGH'? YER EV'N COVERIN' YER HAND. WHY'D Y' BECOME A LIGH' POW'R?



OH, ER, FAIR ENOUGH.



I'LL TELL YOU, BUT - FAIR WARNING! IT'S VERY BORING.

SO HMM... YOU'VE MET ALASTAIR.

REGRETT'BLY.

UM... YEAH. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID THAT
TO MARCUS'S ARM, POOR GUY...

AND KILLED ME!

...EH.

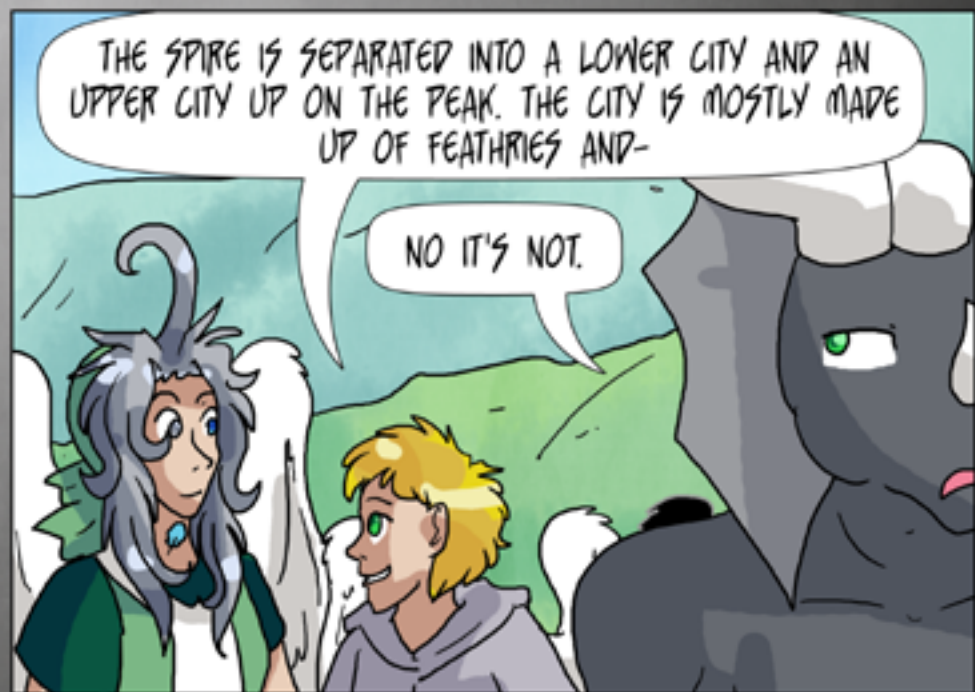
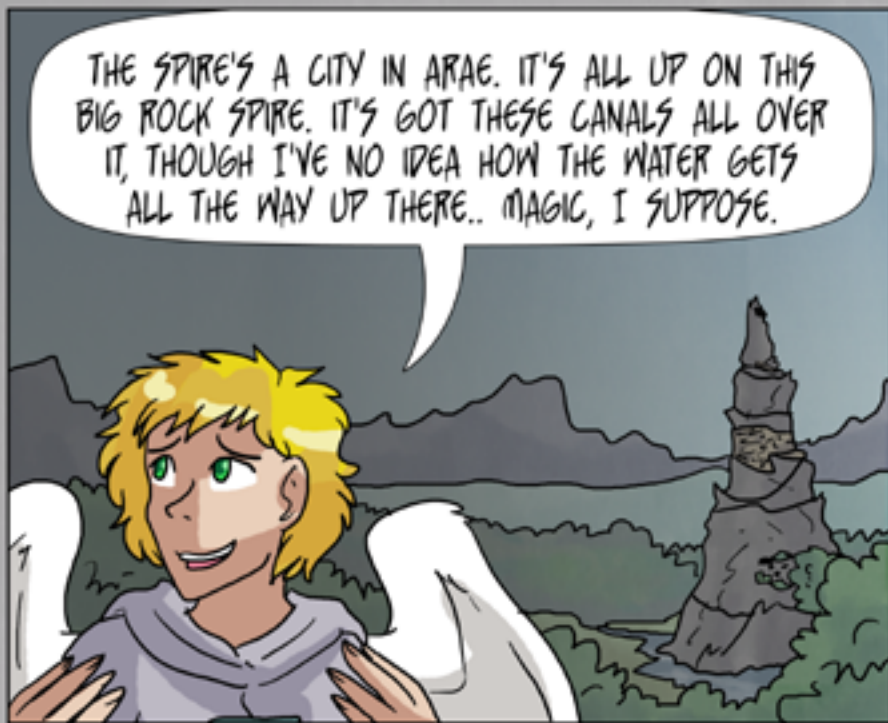
ANYWAY, ALASTAIR IS A RELATIVE OF
MINE. SORT OF. HIS GRANDMOTHER
WAS MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S
SISTER. NOT REAL CLOSE, BUT...
THERE YOU HAVE IT.

SO I- OH, WAIT, I SHOULD START
WITH THIS OTHER THING.

CERAPH CLAW, YOU EVER
VISITED THE SPIRE?

OH, Y'SAID SOMETHIN' ABOU' THA' EARLIER, HUH?
NEV'R HAVE DONE. WHA'S TH' SPIRE?

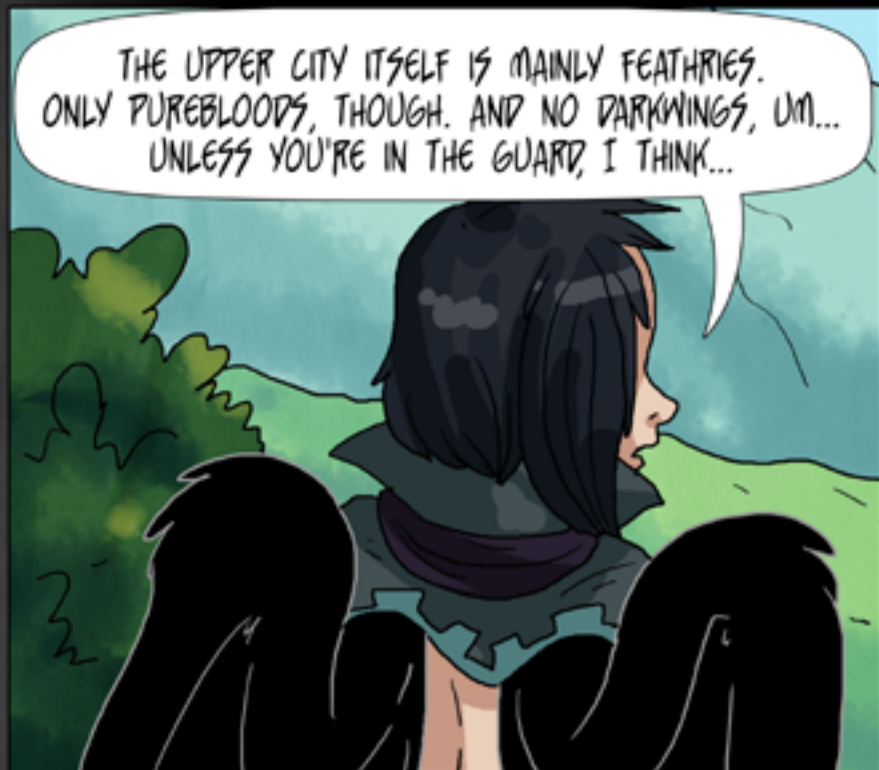
AH WELL, LET'S START WITH THAT THEN.



SO... YES, THE SPIRE HAS A MAGNIFICENT UPPER CITY
AND UH, THE LOWER CITY.



THE UPPER CITY ITSELF IS MAINLY FEATHRIES.
ONLY PUREBLOODS, THOUGH. AND NO DARKWINGS, UM...
UNLESS YOU'RE IN THE GUARD, I THINK...



MY.... AH...
UM....



...I'LL JUST STICK TO THE BASICS.



THE UPPER CITY, YES. LOTS OF RICH AND
POWERFUL PEOPLE LIVE UP THERE.



VERY LOW CRIME OF COURSE, VERY HIGHLY
PATROLLED. THEY DON'T ALLOW JUST ANYBODY IN,
EVEN TO VISIT. AND MOVING UP THERE? YOU HAVE TO
ALREADY BE RICH AND POWERFUL, AND, WELL...
THEY ALREADY ALL LIVE UP THERE.

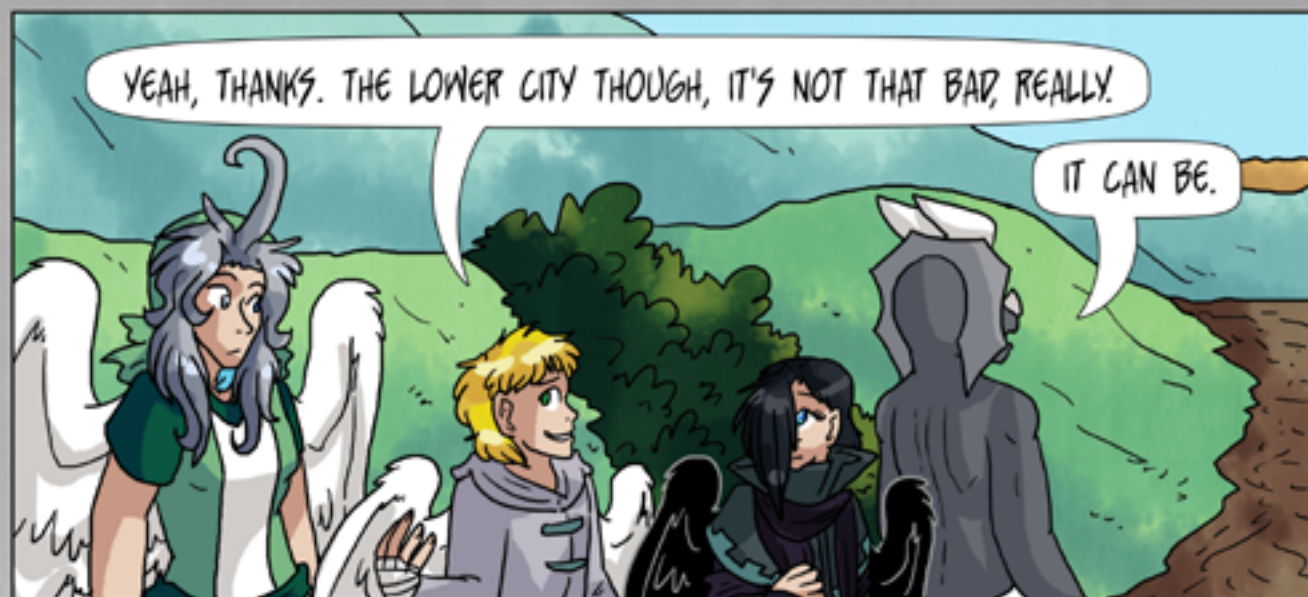


THE LOWER CITY... WELL... IT'S DIFFERENT. POORER. LESS
GUARDS AROUND. IT CAN BE A LITTLE ROUGH SOMETIMES.





I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH, RIGHT?



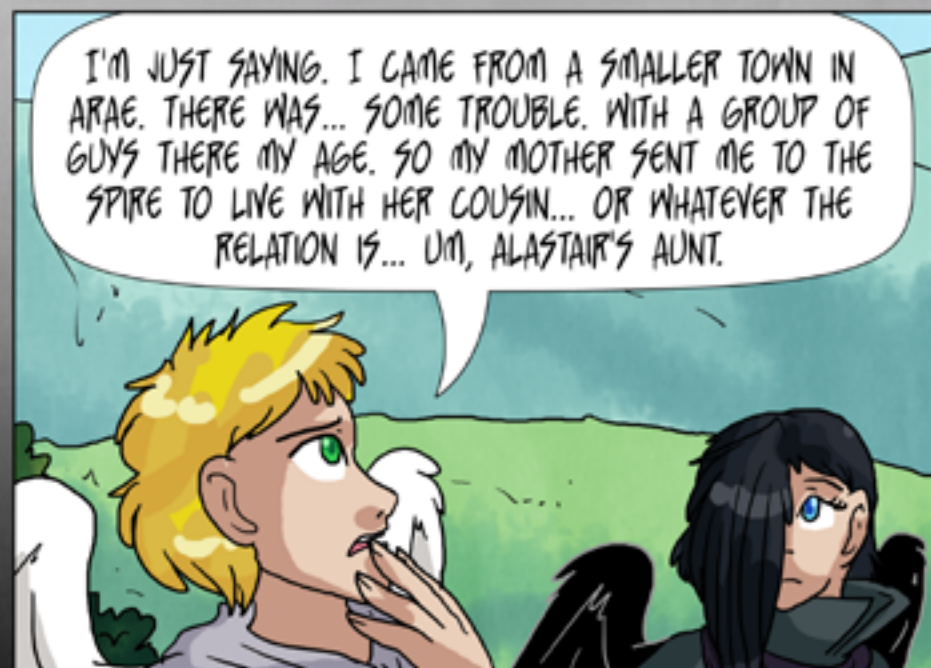
YEAH, THANKS. THE LOWER CITY THOUGH, IT'S NOT THAT BAD, REALLY.

IT CAN BE.

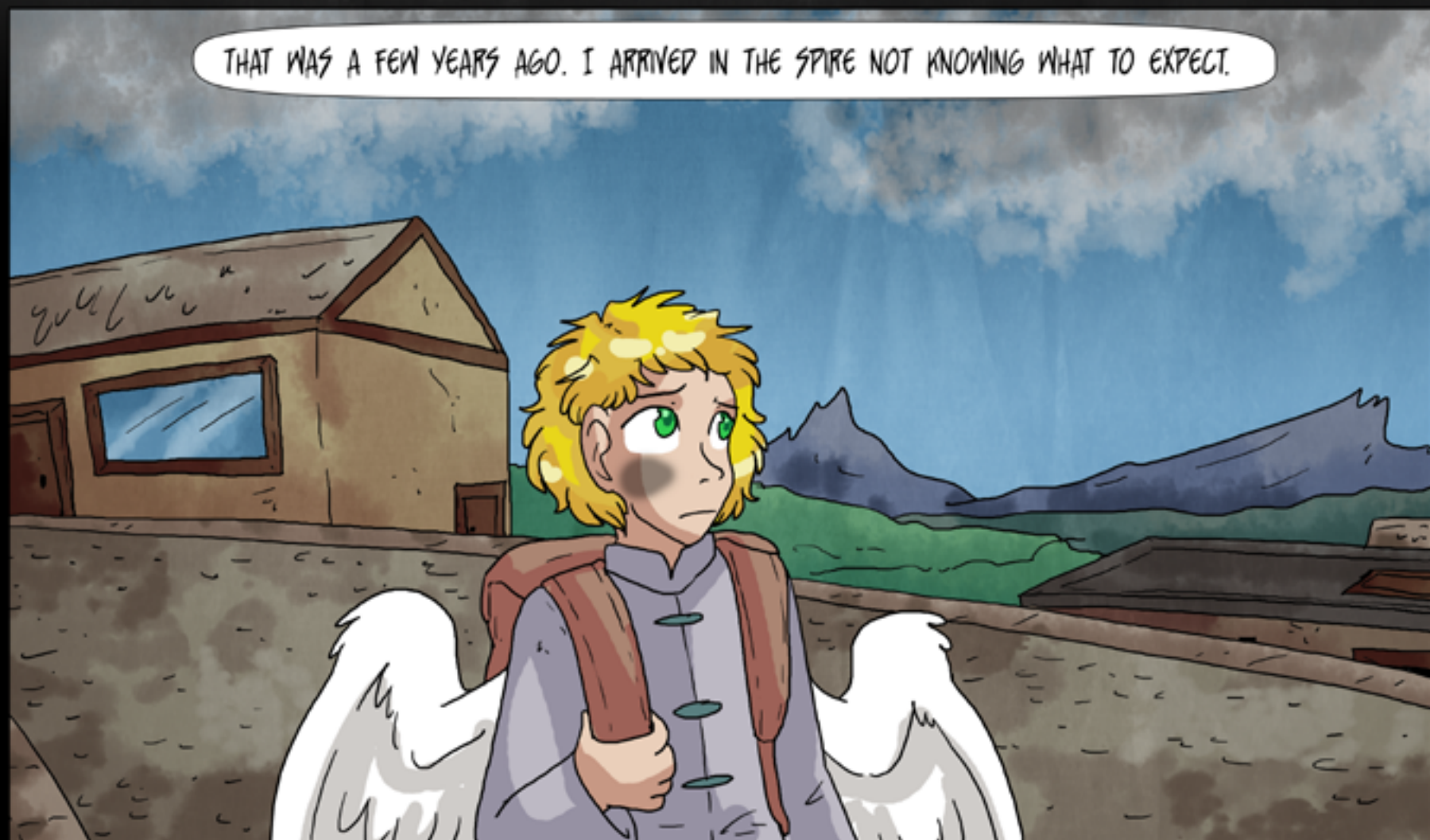


WELL.. OKAY. UMMM. I'M NOT ORIGINALLY FROM THE SPIRE MYSELF Y'KNOW.

SO-?



I'M JUST SAYING. I CAME FROM A SMALLER TOWN IN ARAE. THERE WAS... SOME TROUBLE. WITH A GROUP OF GUYS THERE MY AGE. SO MY MOTHER SENT ME TO THE SPIRE TO LIVE WITH HER COUSIN... OR WHATEVER THE RELATION IS... UM, ALASTAIR'S AUNT.



THAT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO. I ARRIVED IN THE SPIRE NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT.



UM, HI... IS THE UPPER CITY THROUGH HERE?



UMM...



AIN'T IT OBVIOUS?



ER, RIGHT... THEN.... CAN YOU LET ME IN?

WHY? WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE UP THERE?



MY AUNT INVITED ME TO LIVE WITH HER.. I'VE GOT HER ADDRESS...



CAN I SEE THAT?

OH, Y-YEAH-?



FLAMES!

WH- HEY!!

I THINK I HAVE SOME REGRETS ABOUT TRAVELLING OUT WITH THESE DARK POWERS.

I MEAN SURE, HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KILL MY FRIENDS... THAT'S ONE THING.

BUT HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO SLEEP DURING THE DAY? OH MY GOD I'M SO BORED!







SO... YOU WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALASTAIR BUT HE WOULDN'T GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY SO YOU BECAME A LIGHT POWER? AND I GETTING THAT RIGHT?

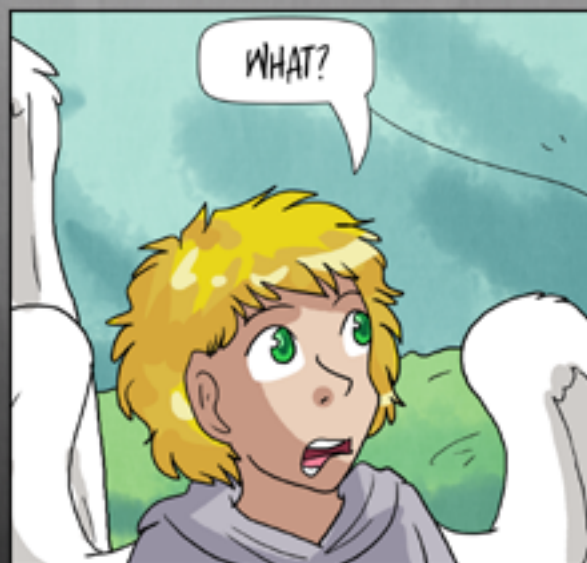
ER... Y-YEAH, PRETTY MUCH...



HE WAS COOL, STRONG, GENERALLY IN-CHARGE! NOBODY MESSSED WITH HIM. OF COURSE I WANTED TO HANG OUT WITH HIM AND BE MORE LIKE HIM.



WHAT?



ALASTAIR, THOUGH...



WELL, ALSO AUNT LORRAINE IS OLD AND WEIRD, BECOMING A LIGHT POWER WAS A WAY TO GET OUT OF THERE WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE THE UPPER CITY.

SERIOUSLY SHE MUST HAVE HAD LIKE 50 CATS...



I GOT A LOT OF RESPECT IN THE UPPER CITY AS A LIGHT POWER, BUT... I MEAN, FIGHTING YOU AND ALL... UM. THE PRICE WAS TOO HIGH.

HANG ON-







THE MOON'S OUT. LET'S GO.

MME. WE CAN'T SLEEP IN?

NO.



RECKON WE'LL CATCH THOSE
LIGHT POWERS TONIGHT?



WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO, BUT ALASTAIR...
WE MUST BE CAREFUL.

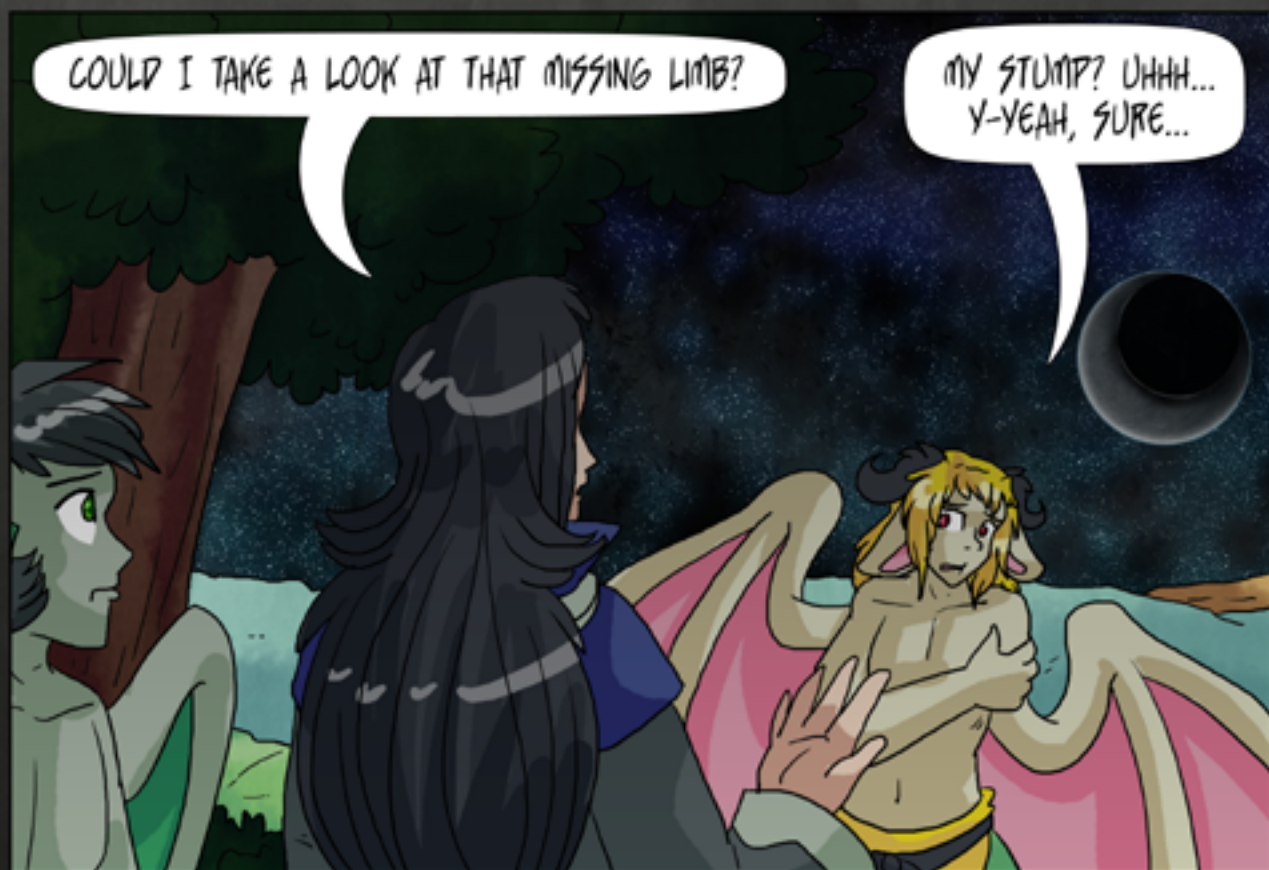


I'D RATHER MAKE SURE WE'RE FULLY PREPARED IF
WE'RE GOING TO BE FACING ALL THREE OF THEM. WE MAY
NEED TO GIVE IT ONE MORE NIGHT.

LET'S SEE HOW WE GO.



LACHLAN, BEFORE WE GO-



COULD I TAKE A LOOK AT THAT MISSING LIMB?

MY STUMP? UHHH...
Y-YEAH, SURE...

UMM, HEH, YOU GONNA BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING UNDER STARLIGHT? IT'S PRETTY DARK OUT!



DARK POWERS CAN BE A LITTLE SHORT-SIGHTED DURING THE DAY. BUT WE HAVE QUITE GOOD NIGHT VISION.

HUH, REALLY?



...THIS IS A VERY CLEAN WOUND, ESPECIALLY FOR BEING RECENT.



I KNOW. I SUPPOSE LIGHT MAGIC CUTS CLEAN, HUH? SURE HURT LIKE HELL.



IT DOES. ...BUT NOT THIS CLEAN.



UM... I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER COME CLEAN WITH YOU, THEN. WHEN I SAID I CAN'T PROVE I'M NOT A TRICKSTER. THAT'S UH. BECAUSE I AM. I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY IT EARLIER AFTER YOU SAID THOSE LIGHT POWER JERKS HAD A TRICKSTER, BUT....



Y-YEAH. I BOUND MY WOUND AND CAST AN ILLUSION OVER IT TO MAKE IT LOOK A BIT LESS DISGUSTING. IT... WAS UPSETTING ME. THAT BLOODY LIGHT POWER-!

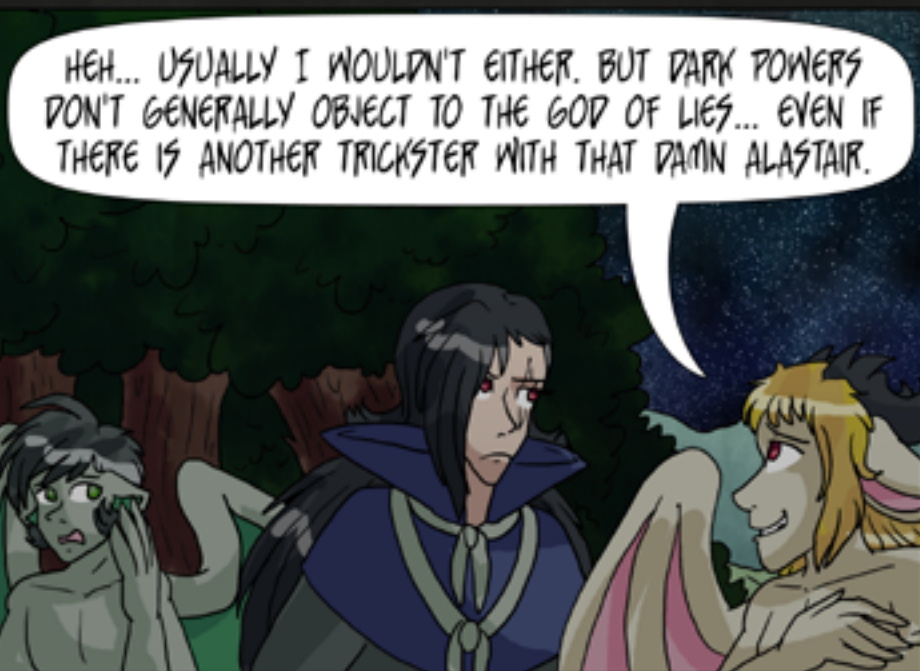




A TRICKSTER...



NOT SOMETHING I WOULD OPENLY ADMIT...



HEH... USUALLY I WOULDN'T EITHER. BUT DARK POWERS DON'T GENERALLY OBJECT TO THE GOD OF LIES... EVEN IF THERE IS ANOTHER TRICKSTER WITH THAT DAMN ALASTAIR.



N-NOW LISTEN, I KNOW I MISLED YOU EARLIER. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT... **ALASTAIR**. THAT MONSTER... I HAVE TO STOP HIM. I SWEAR, MAY THE GODDESS OF TRUTH STRIKE ME DOWN IF THAT'S NOT SO...



IF THEY'VE GOT A TRICKSTER, SEEMS ONLY FAIR FOR YOU TO HAVE ONE TOO, EVEN ODDS, YEAH?



IF YOU DISAGREE, WANT ME TO GO, NO PROBLEM. I'LL WALK BACK TO TOWN AND YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN.



IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ME YOU CAN TRUST THAT IT'S NIGHT, AND NO TRICKSTER WOULD BE A MATCH AGAINST FOUR DARK POWERS.



HMM...

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID IN TOWN TO MAKE US
LET YOU COME WITH US IN THE FIRST PLACE.

ALMOST EXACTLY.

H-HUH?

WELL IT'S TRUE... YOU DARK POWERS...
THOSE LIGHT POWERS TOO...

DAMMIT WHY ARE
YOU SO STRONG?!

WHEN ALASTAIR ATTACKED ME I COULD DO NOTHING, NOTHING! ALL I COULD DO
WAS BE HAPPY HE REALISED HIS MISTAKE AND LET ME LIVE!

D-DAMMIT...

HEY...

COME ON.

LET'S GET MOVING.

SO YOU JUST MET ALASTAIR THE ONCE, YEAH?

YEAH. ONCE WAS ENOUGH.

WHAT A PIECE OF WORK HE IS...

BUDDY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.

SO THE GROUP WE'RE AFTER IS HIM, ANOTHER LIGHT POWER, AND A BLACKWINGED FEATHRY, YEAH?

YEAH, BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. THE BLACKWING IS MOSTLY HARMLESS, EVEN IF HE IS A DARK POWER.

...ISN'T HE A MURDERER?

OH HELL NO.

BUT WHEN I SAW ALASTAIR HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE BLACKWINGED FEATHRY. HE SAID THAT THE KID KILLED HIS OWN MOTHER.

HE. SAID. *WHAT?*

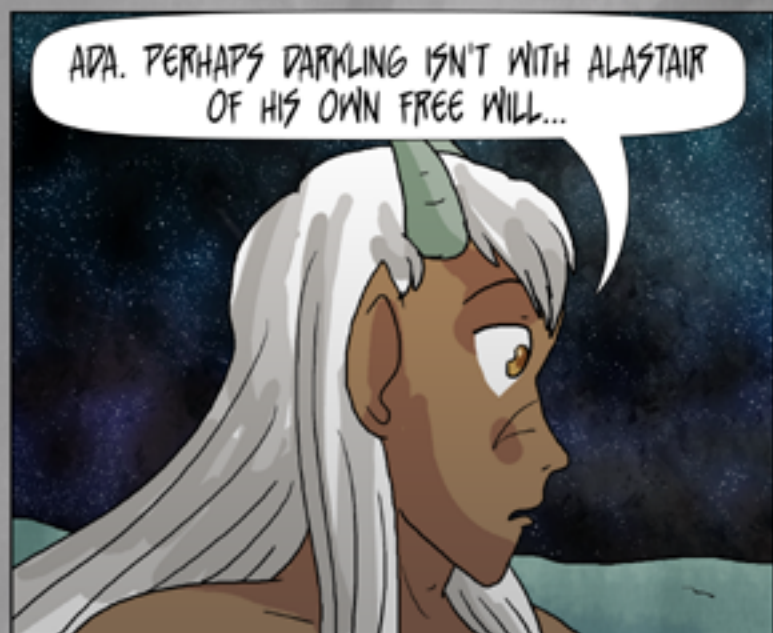


HE- AH...



THAT VILE PIECE OF -!! HOW?! HOW COULD HE SAY THAT?!

AND HOW COULD DARKLING...



ADA. PERHAPS DARKLING ISN'T WITH ALASTAIR
OF HIS OWN FREE WILL...



YOU THINK ALASTAIR HAS FORCIBLY TAKEN HIM?

IT MAKES MORE SENSE THAN NOT.



IN MY OPINION, A DARK
POWER BEING WITH A LIGHT
POWER AT ALL DOESN'T
MAKE ANY SENSE.



NAH, DARKLING WAS DEFINITELY FRIENDLY WITH ARTHUR, THE WEIRDO.

DEFINITELY-?

I KNOW WHAT I SAW.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT, NILS. CONSIDERING IT IS ALASTAIR'S FAULT THAT DARKLING'S MOTHER IS DEAD, I SUSPECT HE WOULD NOT BE WITH ALASTAIR BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE.



ALASTAIR KILLED HIS MOTHER? BUT...
ER... AIN'T HIS WINGS WHITE?

INDEED.



YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT LENGTHS FEATHRIES'LL GO TO IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR WINGS WHI-...



ADA! MAYBE THAT'S IT!



MAYBE ALASTAIR WAS AFTER ART AND DARK JUST LIKE WE ARE, TRAITOROUS LITTLE SNOTS. HE COULD BE TAKING 'EM ELSEWHERE TO GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO HIS DIRTY BUSINESS, KEEPING HIS WINGS WHITE.



IT'S A POSSIBILITY.



BUT I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO POINT TO HYPOTHESISING. WHATEVER IS GOING ON... WHEN WE CATCH UP, WE WILL FINISH ALL THREE OF THEM.

