

New Game Plus

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volume 15
Disgraced

ZACHARY...



AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING...?



I KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LET OUTSIDERS EVEN KNOW THE PLACE EXISTS, BUT...



≡SIGH≡



...I'M GLAD TO FINALLY HAVE FRIENDS AGAIN.



IF ONLY CERAPH CLAW, WHO IS CLEARLY ONLY FEIGNING SLEEP, WOULD JUST CLEAR OFF.



GOOD MORNIN' T' YOU TOO.





THE SUN'S NOT UP YET. IT'S NOT MORNING.

OH, YER AWAKE TOO?



SSH, LET'S LET THE OTHERS SLEEP LONGER. IT IS ALMOST DAWN... BUT NOT QUITE.



IT IS A LITTLE HARD TO SLEEP ON THESE BUMPY ROADS IN THIS RICKETY CART.



YOU'RE WELCOME TO HAVE A TURN PULLING.



NAH, YOU'VE DONE GOOD. THANK YOU, AND-UH, HUH. YOU'RE BACK TO THAT ILLUS- ER...



WHA', LIKE I AIN' NOTICED HIS FORBIDD'N MAGIC ALREADY? INTERESTIN' Y' CHANGED T' LOOK LIKE Y' DID WHEN Y' HELPED ME FIGH' ALASTAIR, HMM?



PFFT, IT'S A COINCIDENCE. THIS IS HOW EVERYONE KNOWS ME BACK-

SSSSHH!



DARKLING'S STILL ASLEEP.



I DID PROMISE TO DEDICATE MYSELF TO THE SUN GODDESS, TO BE A LIGHT POWER, BUT...



BUT YER NOT REAL DEDICAT'D.



W-WELL, EVEN BESIDES THAT... HOW DO I KNOW HOW TO SHOW MY DEDICATION?



WITH NO GUIDANCE FROM THE GODDESS, I ONLY HAVE THE WORD OF OTHERS. LIKE ALASTAIR... BUT HOW DO I KNOW HE'S RIGHT?



I KNOW IT FEELS WRONG TO HURT DARKLING, SO...



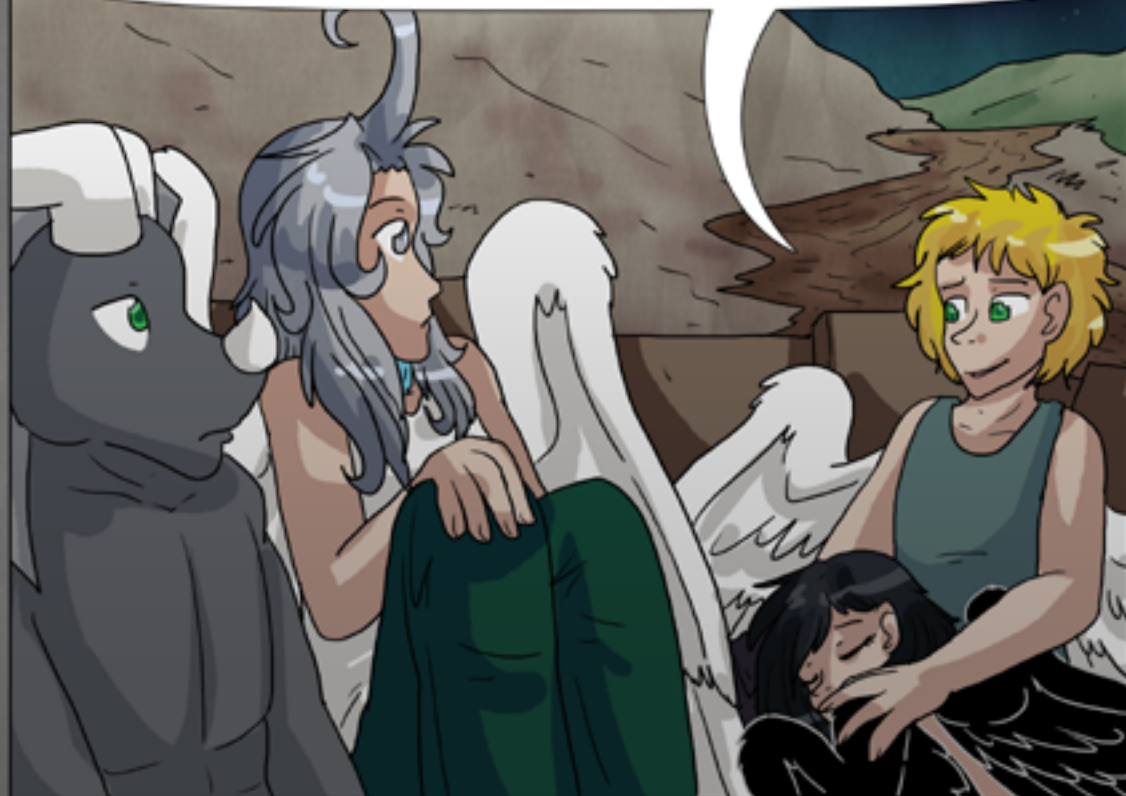
...



AN' IF YER WRONG...?



IF WE WERE THAT WRONG AND ALASTAIR AND ADA WERE THAT RIGHT... I'M SURE WE WOULD SEE A SIGN. BUT AS LONG AS WE'RE SURVIVING, WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.



HERE COMES THE SUN...



SAY, I'M GETTING HUNGRY. HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? SHOULD WE STOP FOR BREAKFAST?



I'M NOT HUNGRY. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR WE ARE AWAY FROM ADA'S MOB, SO I'M NOT STOPPING.



THE SUN'S UP, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO ATTACK US. THEY STILL THINK WE'RE TWO LIGHT POWERS, REMEMBER?



WE'RE GETTING REALLY CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE, OKAY? SHOULD START TO SEE IT OVER THE HILL SOON. WE CAN STOP THERE FOR FOOD, BRIEFLY... I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE WE'RE AS FAR AHEAD OF THOSE LUNATICS AS WE CAN BE.



WAIT... SO YOU'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING, EVER?



UGH, EVEN THE IDEA OF IT PUTS ME OFF. LIKE... EATING, URGH. GROSS. I KNOW YOU GUYS NEED TO EAT OR WHATEVER, BUT IT IS JUST WEIRD.

NO, YOU'RE WEIRD!



HEYYY WAIT, Y' MADE ME BUY Y' LUNCH A FEW DAYS AGO...



PFHAHAHAHA YEAH, I DID!

...HUH?



OH HEY, YOU'RE AWAKE. SORRY WE'RE A BIT LOUD.



W-WAS I JUST...



I AM SO SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO FALL ASLEEP ON YOU I-

H-HEY, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!





Um...

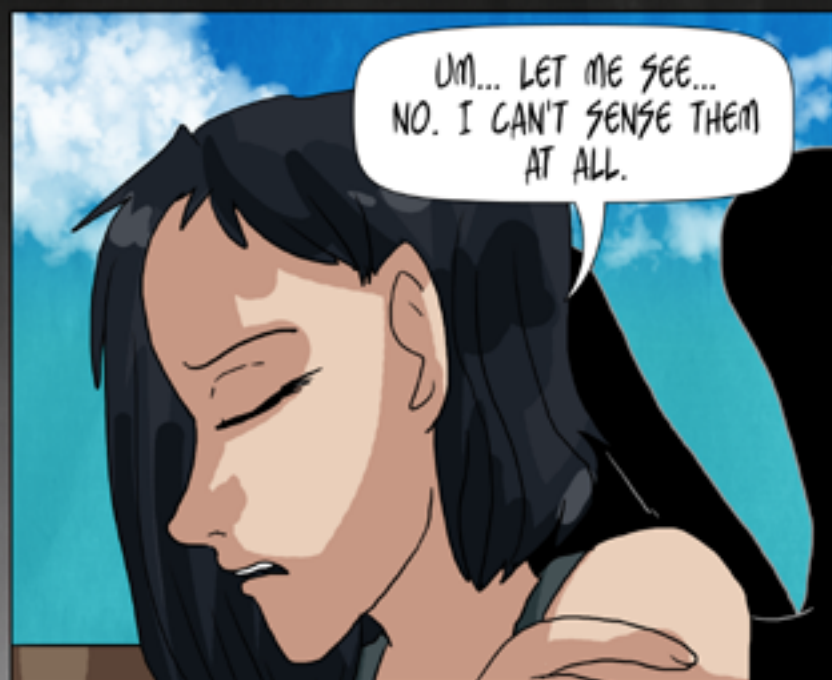


H-HUH. WE'RE ALL STILL... WE OUTRAN ADA AND THE OTHERS...?

I OUTRAN THEM.



OH, CAN YOU SENSE THEM? ARE THEY... NEARBY?



UM... LET ME SEE... NO. I CAN'T SENSE THEM AT ALL.



GOOD, GOOD. WE MAY LOSE THEM YET.



EXCELLENT, THAT MEANS WE CAN STOP FOR A QUICK BREAK. AND EVEN BETTER, LOOK DOWN THERE. THAT'S THE VILLAGE OF SORENDON. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL BE STOPPING.

RIGHT, EVERYBODY GET DRESSED AND OUT OF THE WAGON, WE'RE DITCHING IT.

WHAT?
WHY...?



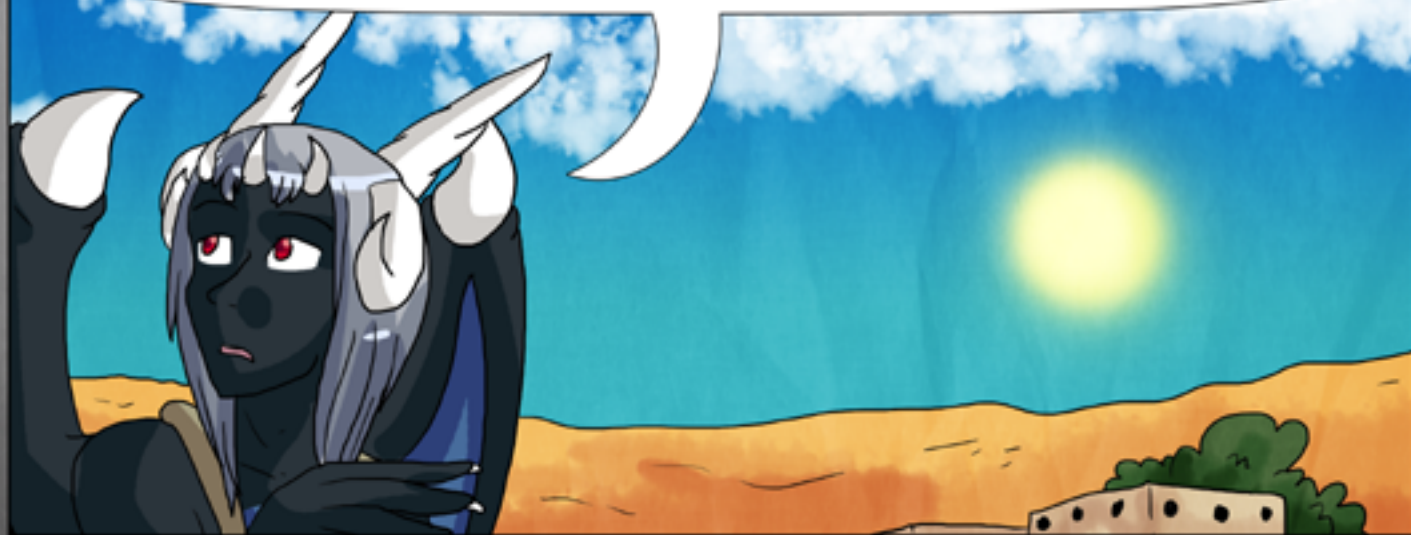
I'M NOT GOING TO WALK INTO TOWN LASHED TO A CART LIKE AN ANIMAL. PEOPLE WILL SEE.



F-FAIR ENOUGH,
BUT WHAT ABOUT-



SORENDON'S BUILT ON THE EDGE OF THE DESERT, SEE? WE'LL BE CROSSING THAT. THIS CART WOULD BE RUBBISH FOR CROSSING SANDS ANYWAY.



WE'RE CROSSIN' TH' DESERT?



WE ARE. YOU'RE NOT INVITED.
YOU CAN STAY IN SORENDON.



THEY LOVE CERAPH
CLANNERS...









ALLIE, IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT GLAD TO SEE, I AM, I LOVE YOU AND YOUR FOLKS. I MISSED YOU GUYS, AND I DEFINITELY OWE YOU FOR ALL THAT.

ZACK-

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE'VE GOTTA KEEP MOVING, WE REALLY CAN'T STAY LONG. WE'RE IN A HURRY. PLEASE SAY HI TO YOUR PARENTS FOR ME, BUT-

WHERE ARE YOU IN A HURRY TO GET TO-? YOU TOOK THE ONLY PATH INTO TOWN, THERE'S ONLY THE DESERT FROM HERE.

...I WAS GOING TO STOP BY ZACHARY'S HOUSE.

YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE A CERAPH CLANNER *THERE*?

YES I - NO... I MEAN...

ZACK. IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT TO MAKE YOUR TRIP THROUGH TOWN QUICK. NO GREETING ALL AND SUNDRY, OKAY?

WH-... YEAH? UM...

GREAT! LET'S GO TO MY PARENTS!

WHAT?



ZACHARY DUNE! I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

GODS- YOUR ARM! WHAT HAPPENED?



D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, IT'S FINE.
...IT'S REALLY GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS.



I'LL GET SOME FOOD READY FOR YOU ALL.
I PRESUME YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY, ZACK?

EHEH, YEAH...



ZACK, WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THAT CLANNER? YOU'RE PLAYING
WITH FIRE HANGING AROUND WITH HER WHILE ILLUSIONED...

Y-YEAH... IT'S A LONG STORY.

WELL, YOU WATCH YOURSELF.

THANKS, TRENT.



WELL, I AM HAPPY
YOU'RE HERE. BUT YOU
PICKED A HELLUVA
TIME TO SHOW UP.



HEY UH, ZACK. CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

HM? OH YEAH, WHAT'S UP?



WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE...?



OHH RIGHT, YOU WEREN'T THERE WHEN I TALKED ABOUT ZACHARY AND ALL THAT...

ISN'T ZACHARY YOUR ER, NAME?



WELL! GUYS THIS IS MY THIRD FAMILY! ALYSSA, TRENT, AND MARY'S IN THE KITCHEN. I LEFT MY FIRST FAMILY WHEN I WAS A KID, THEN MY SECOND FAMILY WAS ZACHARY, THIS DUDE WHO LIVED NEARER THE DESERT. WHEN HE WAS MURDERED THESE GUYS TOOK ME IN AND PROTECTED ME FROM THE MOB THAT KILLED ZACHARY.



OH, BUT YOU AND ALYSSA HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS AND YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET BOY, IT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO!



WOW, I HAD NO IDEA...

YEAH CLAW'S BROTHER KILLED ZACHARY, ACTUALLY.

....HMM.



ZACK, THAT'S HARDLY PRUDENT, YOU-

TRUST ME, IT'S FINE.



WELL, WE ALREADY BEEN OV'R ALL THA'.

FOOD'S READY!

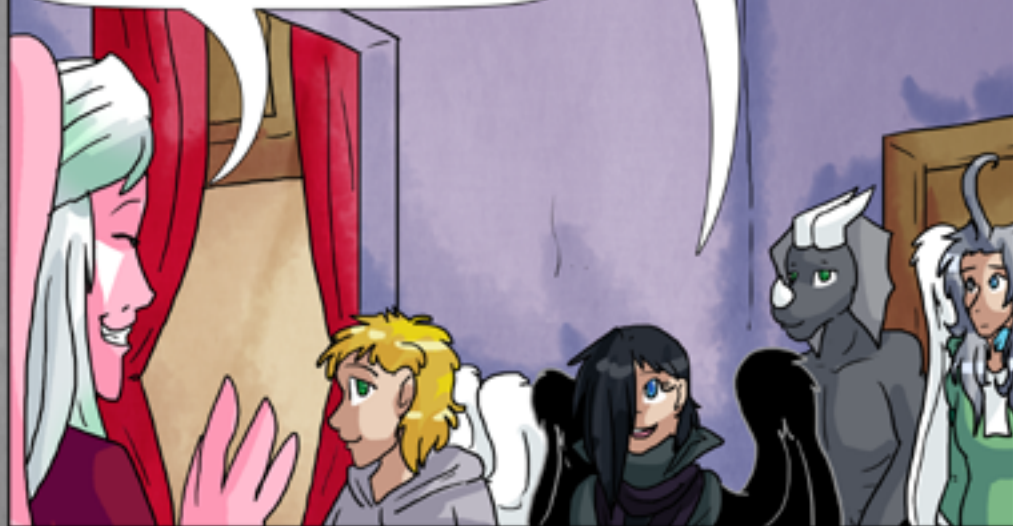
OH GOOD.

WE'VE ALREADY EATEN, SO PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES WHILE WE CATCH UP WITH ZACK.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.

ANYTHING FOR FRIENDS OF ZACK!



IT REALLY HAS BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT? HOW HAVE YOU ALL BEEN?



WELL AS NONE OF US HAVE LOST LIMBS, I SUPPOSE BETTER THAN YOU.

OUCH!



BUT WHAT IS GOING ON-? YOU, TRAVELLING WITH A CERAPH CLANNER...?



OH YEAH, I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT MUCH. SHE JUST KIND OF TAGGED ALONG. MAINLY I'M RUNNING FROM A LIGHT POWER AND A FEW DARK POWERS WHO ARE OUT FOR BLOOD.



ZACK I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU KEEP GETTING INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE.

ME NEITHER!



WELL, GODDESS BOTHERERS ARE A STEP UP FROM YOUR USUAL ANTAGONISTS.



DEAD'S DEAD THOUGH, WHETHER YOU GET IT FROM ELEMENTAL MAGIC OR GODDESS MAGIC.



YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL, ZACK...



YEAH, YEAH... IT'S JUST BEEN A RUN OF BAD LUCK SINCE ZACHARY.

DON'T BE THAT WAY. IT WAS GOOD WHEN YOU WERE WITH US.

YEAH, IT WAS. YOU WERE GOOD TO ME, ONLY EVERYBODY ELSE AROUND HERE... NOT SO MUCH.



SO WHY ARE YOU BACK HERE? AND YOUR FRIENDS....?

WE REALLY ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH. IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I HOPE IT'S NEARLY DONE...



SAY... ALYSSA, YOU SAID THIS WAS A BAD TIME TO VISIT. WHY IS THAT?



WELL-



==KNOCK==
==KNOCK==





I-I'D BETTER GET THAT.



HUH?



HELLO?



WHY, GOOD MORNIN', MISS.



TH-THAT'S...!



YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME HE'S HERE!

WE WERE TRYING TO-



TRYING- YOU SHOULD'VE JUST BLURTED IT OUT INSTEAD OF-

ZACK, WASN'T IT?



...CERAPH TALON.

WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK AROUND
HERE, CERAPH CLANNER?



I COULD ASK Y' TH' SAME,
TRICKST'R.



HE- HE'S NOT A TRICKSTER,
MR CERAPH CLANNER SIR-!



WELL, TH' REST OF TH' TOWN SEEMS T' DISAGREE.
THEY CALL'D ME OV'R IMMEDIATELY ON SEEIN' HIM.
LUCKY I WAS IN TOWN, THOUGHT IT'D BE A QUIET
VISIT THIS TIME, BUT HERE WE ARE.



ANYWAY, THERE'S QUITE TH' CROWD OUTSIDE, SO LET'S MAKE
THIS QUICK. I'M HERE T' CLEANSE THIS TOWN OF YOU.



HEY, NO PROBLEM.
I'M JUST PASSING
THROUGH, GIVE ME
AN HOUR AND I'LL
BE GONE, TOWN'LL
BE.. UH.. CLEAN.



AN HOUR, CERTAINLY, YOU'LL BE GONE BY THEN.
BY THAT TIME YOU WILL HAVE BEEN HANG'D BY
YOUR NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD



HAHAHAHAHA





WHERE Y'GOING, TRICKST'R?
THERE'S NOWHERE F'R YER T' RUN TO.

Z-ZACK...



HEY ZACK. WHAT'S-...
ARE YOU OKAY?

HEY GUYS, FUNNY STORY...



TAL'N?!



WH- CLAW?!



WELL. BEEN A WHILE. GLAD YER HERE. THIS SCAL'R IS A
TRICKST'R, HELP ME TAKE HIM T' JUSTICE.

HEY-!! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I WON'T LET YOU!



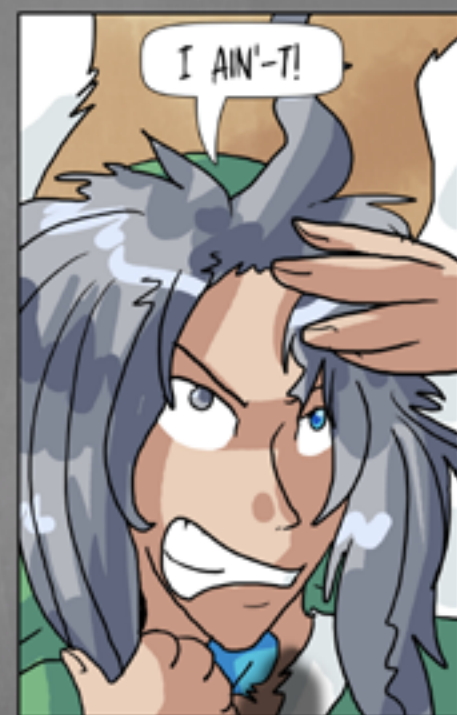
ER.... UMMMM...



I DUNNO... HAVE Y' TALKED T'
CERAPH ABOU' THAT'?



LIGHTNING STRIKE! ⚡



SO! YOU DONE EATING? WE CAN LEAVE CLAW WITH HER FAMILY REUNION AND GET MOVING.



UHH APPARENTLY THERE'S A BIG CROWD OUTSIDE LOOKING TO SEE ME DEAD TOO, SO ART? I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOU FLASHING YOUR HAND AROUND TO MAKE 'EM BACK OFF.



ZACK, WHAT DID YOU DO THAT THEY ALL WANT YOU DEAD?



...HE DIDN' HAVE T' DO ANYTHIN'.



HE'S A TRICKST'R, THAT'S ENOUGH. TH' TOWNSFOLK HAVE SAID AS MUCH, AN' SO HE SHOULD FACE JUSTICE.



JUSTICE? THAT'S TERRIBLE...



ZACK. IF THE WHOLE TOWN WANTS YOU DEAD, WHY DID YOU WEAR THAT ILLUSION SO THEY'D RECOGNISE YOU? YOU COULD HAVE LOOKED NOTHING LIKE THAT, WE COULD HAVE PASSED BY UNNOTI-



ZACK?! ARE YOU OKAY?





I THOUGHT... HAHA.
I TRICKED MYSELF,
DIDN'T I...?



I LIVED HERE FOR FIVE YEARS. I THOUGHT...
I NEARLY.... BELONGED.... HAHHAHA...

Z-ZACK...



CERAPH TALON.

HM?



I WAS WRONG. YOU DIDN'T KILL
MY ZACHARY. THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN
ALWAYS WANTED HIM DEAD. WITHOUT YOU,
THEY JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO
DO IT ON THEIR OWN.



NOW THEY'RE DOING THE SAME FOR ME.



YOU ARE A TRICKST'R.



I AM A TRICKSTER.



ZACK, WE NEED TO GO.



SIST'R, DO Y' HEAR THA'?





