




WAY
BACK
HOME

PART 3:
THE LOW ROAD




HERE WE ARE, FELTON.



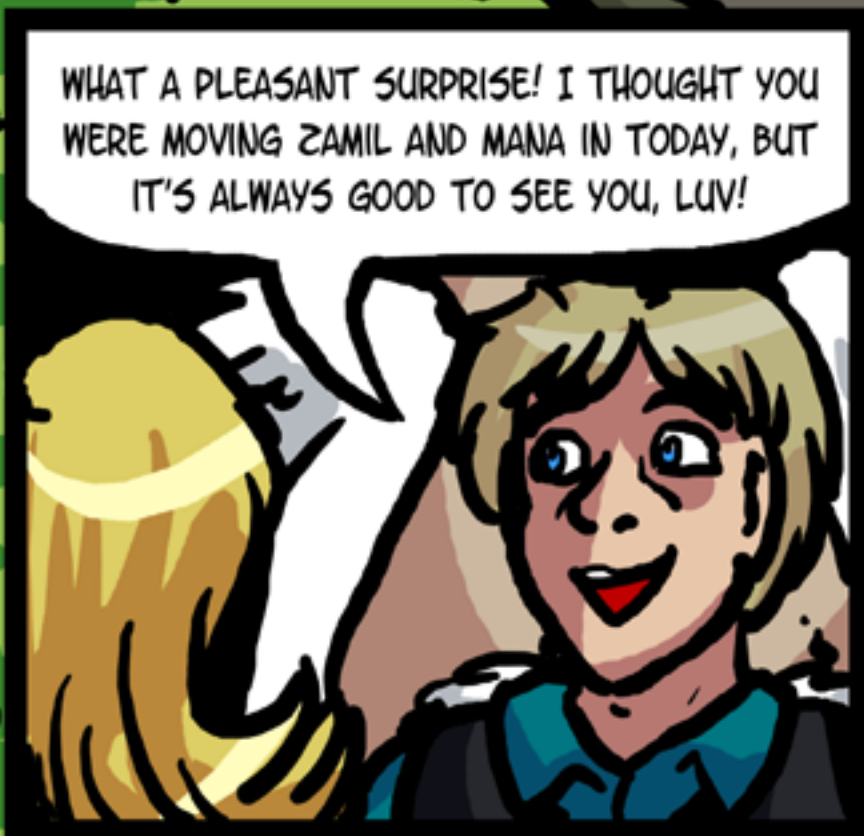
I'M GOING TO GO TO THE HERO GUILD
AND SEE IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY
MONSTERS ON THE ROAD.



I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOME PEOPLE IN FELTON
THAT YOU NEED TO TALK TO. HOW ABOUT WE
MEET BACK UP OVER AT THAT PUB AT SUNSET?



I... YES. ALRIGHT.





HE- HE'S
D-DEAD!

WHO'S DEAD?! NOT
MANA, OH ELLE...



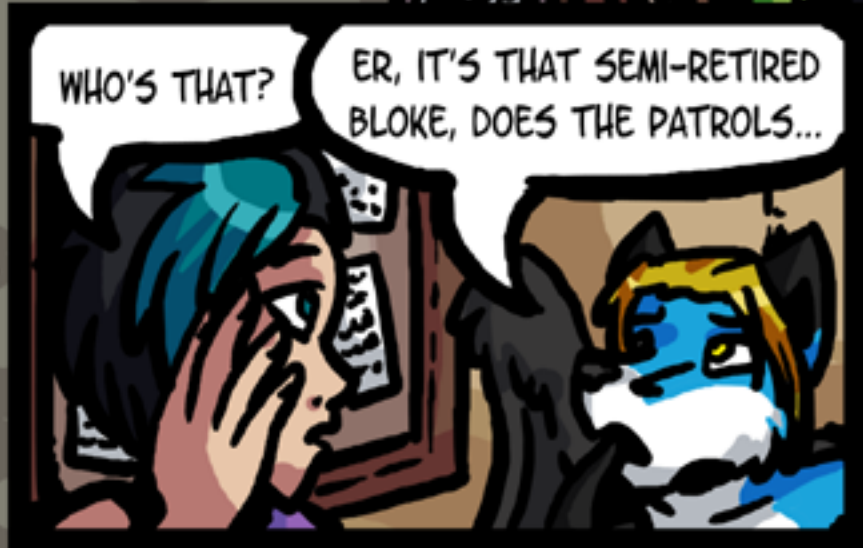
Z-ZAMIL'S DEAD...
:SOB:

ELLE, HONEY... MYRA!! PUT
THE KETTLE ON!



AFTERNOON, BOYS.

HEY, OLD MAN.



WHO'S THAT?

ER, IT'S THAT SEMI-RETIRED
BLOKE, DOES THE PATROLS...



IT'S ARC.

OOH, SORRY.



SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

YOU JUST MISSED THE COFFEE RUN, IF THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.



CAN FOXES EVEN DRINK CAFFEINE...?



NEVERMIND.



I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF THERE'S ANY MONSTER SUMMONERS AROUND THESE PARTS BONDED TO LARGE MONSTERS, PREFERABLY ONES THAT CAN FLY.



LOOKING TO HIRE AN ASSISTANT OR SOMETHING?

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT...



THERE'S NO-ONE AROUND HERE LIKE THAT IN THE GUILD... BUT THERE IS AN ADVENTURER WHO COMES AROUND EVERY NOW AND THEN.



WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?

UM... I THINK IT WAS ARC?



THAT'S MY NAME.

OH YEAH, THAT'S WHY IT WAS FAMILIAR. THEN... HUM...

DAMN, I KNOW WE GOT A PAPER ON HIM SOMEWHERE... HE'S NEVER CAUSED TROUBLE, BUT Y'KNOW, WANNA KEEP AN EYE ON NON-GUILD GUYS, GENERALLY.

AH, HERE WE ARE!

HMM.

MATTHIAS COLSON, HUMAN. HE DOESN'T LIVE IN TOWN, BUT LIKE I SAID, HE COMES AROUND OFTEN ENOUGH.

HE BEEN AROUND RECENTLY?

NAH, NOT LONG ENOUGH TO STAY IN TOWN. NOT THAT I'VE HEARD OF, ANYWAY.

THANKS, BOYS. YOU'VE BEEN A LOT OF HELP. I'M IN TOWN FOR A BIT, CAN YOU LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE HIM?

YEAH, SURE. SEE YOU 'ROUND, OLD MAN.

MAN, HIRING AN ADVENTURER TO DO ALL HIS HERO WORK? THAT OLD MAN'S A GENIUS.

OH ELLE, I'M SO SORRY
ABOUT ZAMIL.

SNIFF

IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP
YOU FIND MANA, WE'LL DO IT.



TH-THANK YOU. I'VE GOT A HERO
HELPING ME SO FAR, A SCALER.



I'D BETTER GO GET US
SOME MORE TEA.



I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.



A SCALER... HONESTLY.

DON'T BE SO SURPRISED.



SHE DID MARRY A HUMAN,
SHE MIGHT BE MY SISTER, BUT
DANG SHE HAS NEVER BEEN ONE
FOR GOOD DECISIONS.



IT'S A PITY ABOUT MANA...
POOR KID, IT'S NOT HIS FAULT HE'S
NOT FULL-BLOODED.



BUT ELLE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT NOTHING GOOD
COMES OF SHACKING UP WITH A HUMAN. LORD KNOWS
I'VE TOLD HER THAT OFTEN ENOUGH.



ZAMIL'S NO GREAT
LOSS, BUT-

AHEM



YOU FORGOT THE TEAPOT.



O-OH, MYRA, ELLE, WE- UH-



ELLE, HON, PLEASE DON'T GO-



I SHOULD ZAP YOU RIGHT NOW, LET THE WRATH OF CERAPH ON YOU! MY OWN FAMILY CAN'T EVEN SET ASIDE THEIR DAMNED FEATHRY ELITISM NOW, WHEN MY LOVE IS DEAD AND MY SON MISSING!



ELLE, PLEASE, WE'LL HELP YOU FIND MANA ANY WAY WE CAN.



SLAM



SHE'S RIGHT.



I DIDN'T ASK YOU, MYRA. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE.



SUCH HOSPITALITY YOU'VE SHOWN ME, BROTHER. MAYBE I SHOULD SLAP YOU AGAIN.



ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT OUR
GRANDSON IS MISSING?!



HOW DO YOU THINK ELLE FEELS? ...WHAT WOULD YOU CARE,
YOU BARELY THOUGHT OF ZAMIL AS A PERSON. DON'T BOTHER
THROWING ME OUT BROTHER, I'M LEAVING.



ELLE! WAIT UP!



A-AUNTY MYRA, I APPRECIATE WHAT
YOU DID BUT I-



WE'RE ALMOST TO THAT SCHOOL NOW.

GEEZ, IT'S NOT FAR AT ALL, IS IT?

THERE WAS AN OLD HERO SCHOOL NEAR WHERE I LIVED. WISH IT WAS OPEN, WOULD'VE SENT MY GRANDDAUGHTER TO IT.

JUST ONE THING BEFORE WE GET THERE...

YOU TWO REALLY NEED TO... LOOK LESS... WELL, DEAD. IT IS EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS.

YEAH, NOT SUBTL' AT ALL, IS IT?

YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO GO TO A SCHOOL OF HEROES-IN-TRAINING LOOKING LIKE AN UNDEAD INVASION. THEY'D POSSIBLY REACT POORLY...

IT'S FINE.

...Y'ARE AWARE LOOKIN' LIKE A ZOMBIE IS A BAD THING, YES?

SO WHAT? I'M NOT
OUT FOR TROUBLE, I
JUST NEED TO FIND
MY SON.

NO OFFENCE MATE, BUT Y'DO LOOK
KIND'A DANG'ROUS. I'D PROLLY FIGHT Y'
IF I DIDN' KNOW ANY BETT'R.

DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN KILL
ME... RIGHT?



YOU CAN'T,
BUT...

WELL, IF MY FAMILY TAUGHT ME
ANYTHING LATELY, IT'S THAT YOU CAN
REALLY HURT A DEAD GUY.

WE'RE NOT STRONG, ZAMIL. WE
DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE POWER
WE HAD IN LIFE. IF THEY WANTED
TO, THOSE HEROES COULD STOP
US FROM GETTING IN.



BESIDES, I REALLY DON'T
WANT TO GET BEATEN BY A LARGE
GROUP OF PEOPLE. AGAIN.

...FINE. YOU SAID I JUST NEED
TO FOCUS, RIGHT?

LET'S GO.





SORRY. YOU'RE A MITE SUSPICIOUS, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN LET YOU-



THIS ONE'S PHOENIX CLAN. HE'S FOLLOWING GOD'S ORDERS TO HEAD TO LUONOR. WE'RE HIS POSSE. RIGHT, TAL?

UH, YEAH. LET US THROUGH, WON'TCHA?



...



SECURITY!



WH-WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



NO PROBLEM, AS SUCH... ESCORT THESE GUYS TO THE PATHS. MAKE SURE THEY DON'T ASSAULT ANY TRICKSTERS.



WHAT?

YOU DON' KNOW? BEIN' A TRICKST'RS LEGAL AROUND HERE. ODD PLACE, THIS.



THANKS FOR COMING WITH US,
TALON. IT'LL BE CONVENIENT
TO HAVE AN IMMORTAL NEAR.



WELL 'S CONVENIEN' ENOUGH F'R ME T' GO T' ANOTH'R
CONTIN'NT. ME FAMILY'S ALL ON SOLNOR, AN' I'D RATH'R
STEER RIGH' CLEAR OF 'EM.

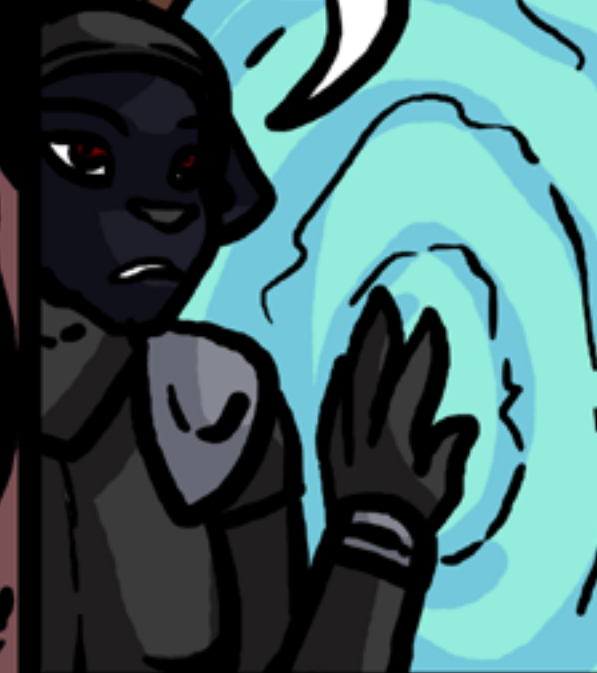


OH? I CAN'T SAY
I APPROVE.

KID, YOU AIN'T MET MY BROTH'R.



HERE WE ARE.



THE RIGHT PATH IS CLOSED, BUT THE LEFT
PATH'LL TAKE YOU TO LUONOR.

BEST BE OFF, THEN.





I HAVE FOUND YOU.



OH HELL... THE...
THE REAPER.



WHA'?! WHERE?!

I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU SOULS
MANAGED TO
ESCAPE...



...BUT I WILL
HAVE NONE OF IT.
YOU'RE COMING
BACK WITH ME.



OH DAMN.



AH GOOD, THE REAPER IS GONE. SHE CERTAINLY IS A PIECE OF WORK... BUT I SUPPOSE AT THE MOMENT SHE IS ONLY DOING HER JOB. A PITY SHE GOT ZAMIL AND TELLA.

MANA?

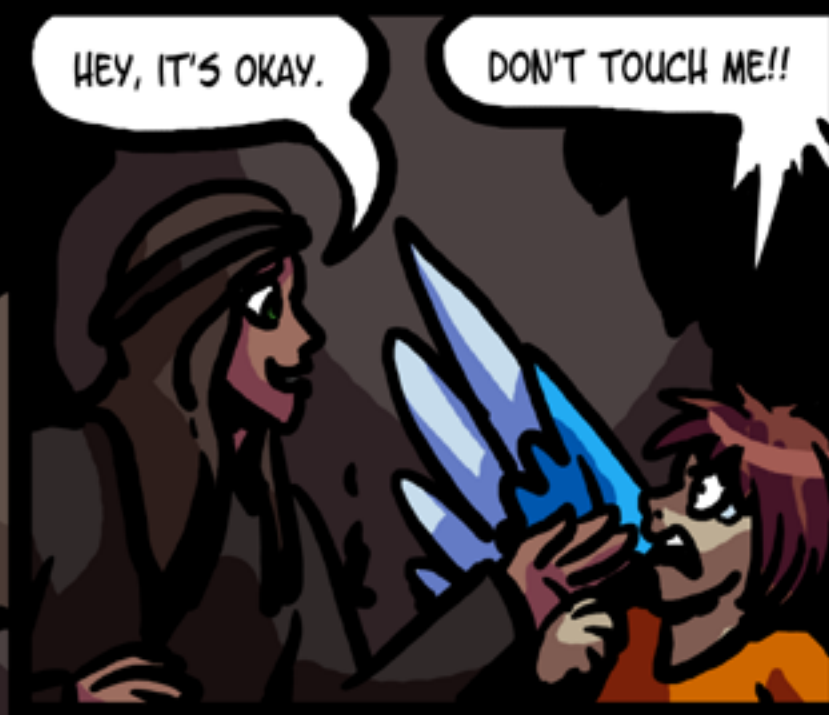
HEH, GOOD THING SHE MISS'D Y'. ...WAIT. HOW DID SHE MISS Y'?

WELL. EITHER I'M GOOD AT HIDING, OR SHE IS NOT VERY GOOD AT HER JOB.

COME, WE CAN CONTINUE TO HELP MR AHMAD WITHOUT THOSE TWO... FOR NOW.







HEY, IT'S OKAY.

DON'T TOUCH ME!!



SORRY...



I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOCK YOU IN HERE, REALLY, IT'S JUST...



YOU FELL ASLEEP, AND IT'S REALLY NOT SAFE OUT THERE. THAT MONSTER'S STILL AFTER US.



IT'S FINE TO COME OUT NOW THOUGH, I'VE GOT THE HOUSE PROPERLY SHORED UP, I THINK WE'LL BE OKAY FOR NOW... IT'S JUST... THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.



WHAT?



SORRY...



THAT MONSTER, IT... IT GOT YOUR MOTHER, TOO.