

PEONY



SO, DID YOU DECIDE ON A NEW NAME YET, OR DO I KEEP CALLING YOU "HEY YOU"?

I GOT NOTHING.

WAIT, HANG ON....

DAHLIA! NO WAIT, POPPY!

NO... NOT FEELING ANY OF THOSE.

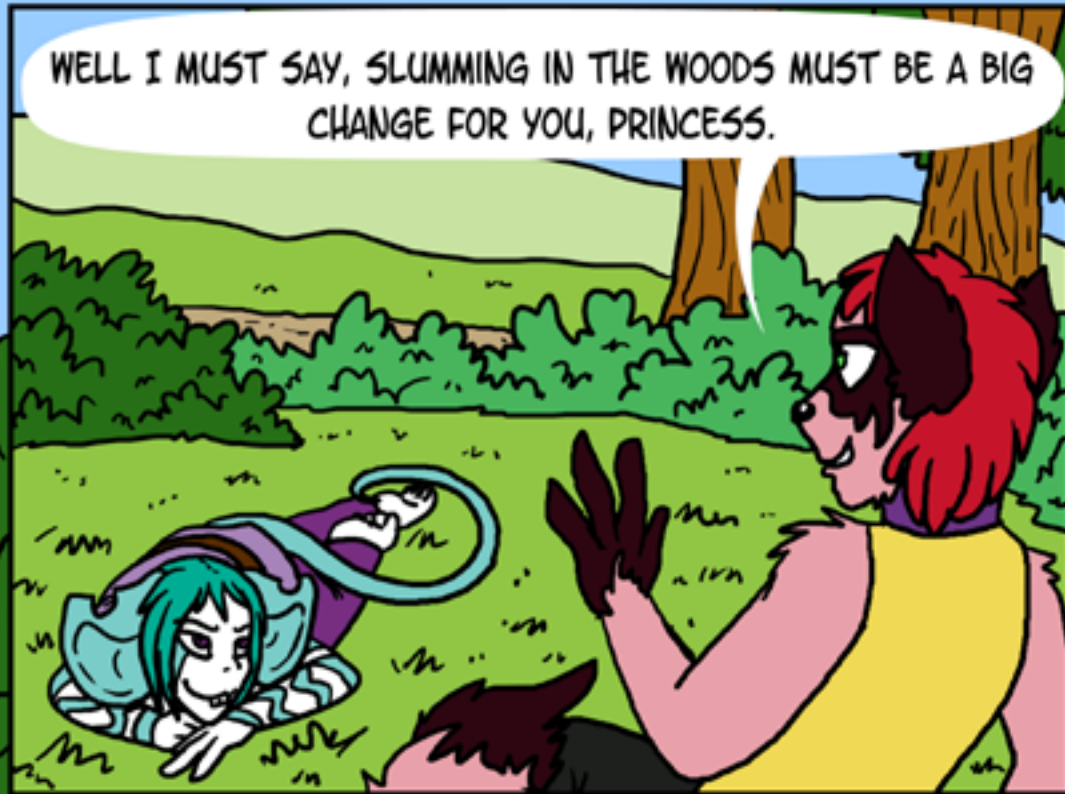
YOU'RE REALLY STUCK ON THAT FLOWER THEME THERE, AREN'T YOU?

I DIG IT.

YOU KNOW, YOU COULD ALWAYS GO FOR SOMETHING A TOUCH MORE SUBTLE.

SUBTLE? ME??

WELL I MUST SAY, SLUMMING IN THE WOODS MUST BE A BIG CHANGE FOR YOU, PRINCESS.



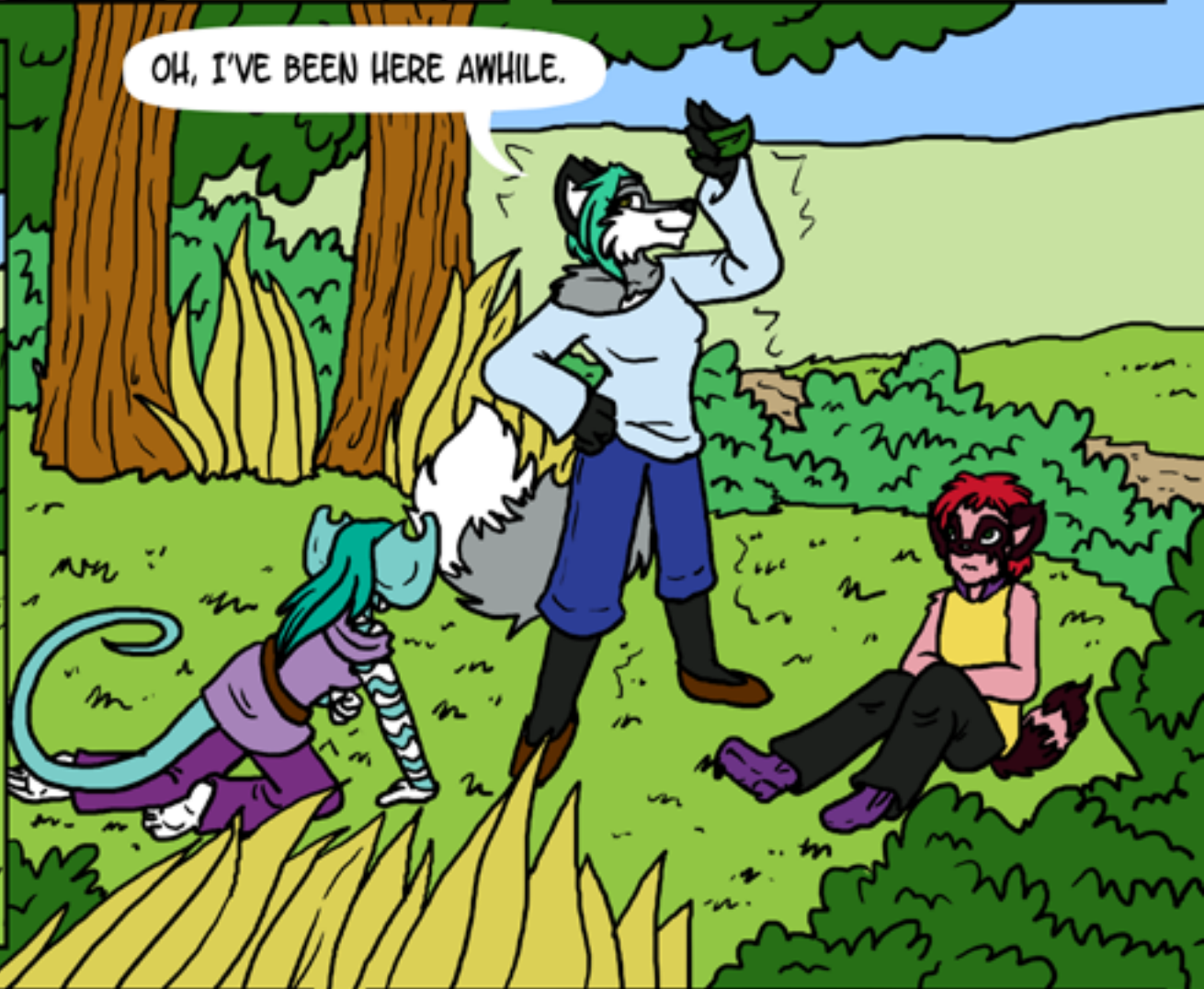
CALL ME THAT AGAIN AND I'LL PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE.



...WHEN'S THAT COUSIN OF YOURS SHOWING UP?



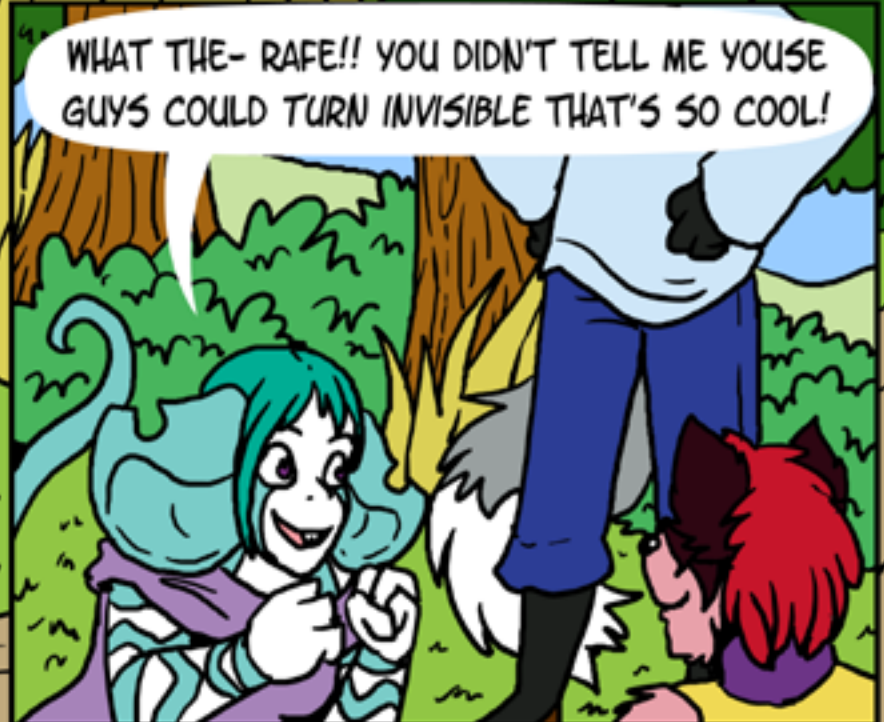
OH, I'VE BEEN HERE AWHILE.

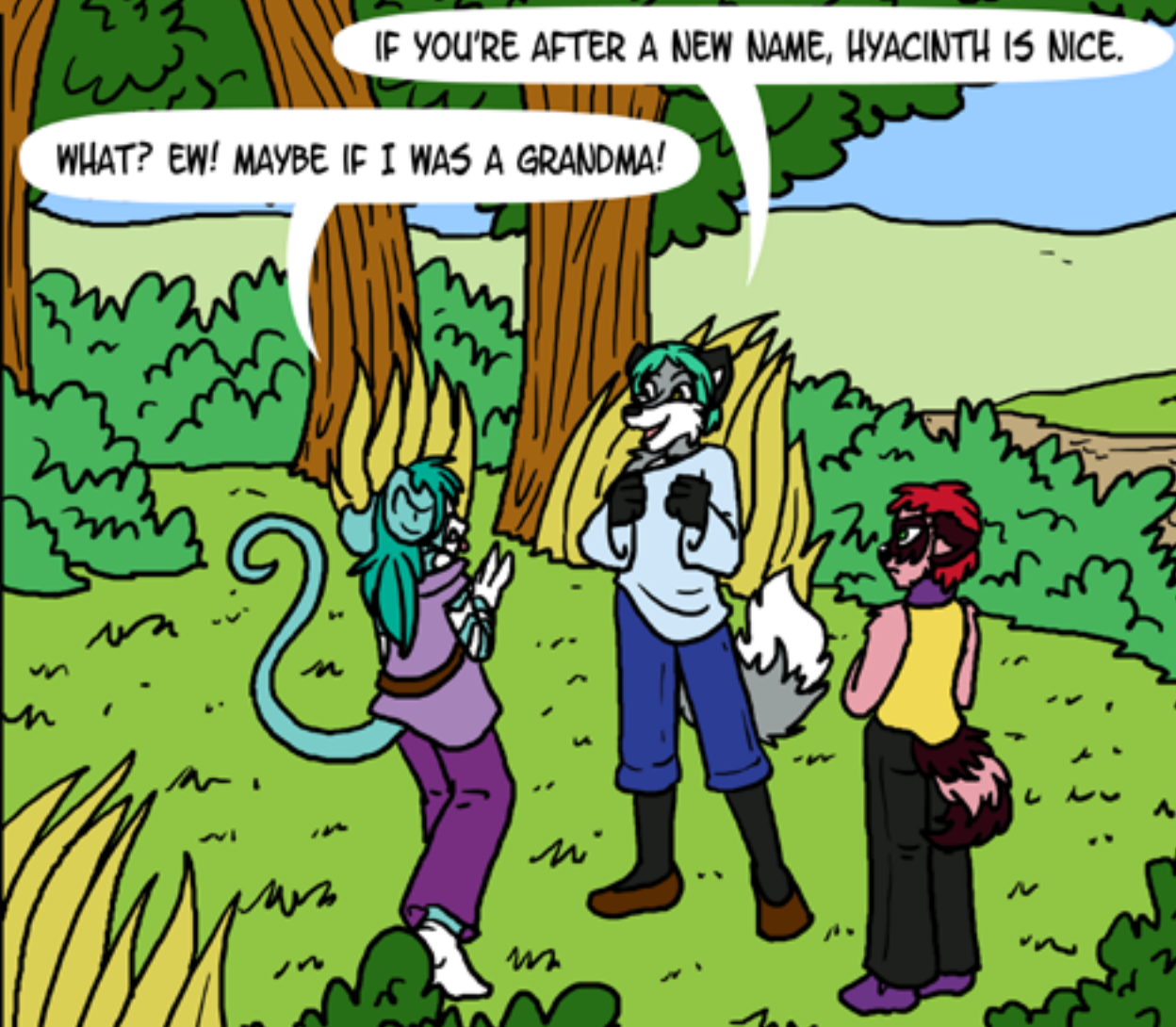


I HONESTLY THOUGHT YOU'D NOTICE ME BEFORE NOW!



WHAT THE- RAFE!! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOUSE GUYS COULD TURN INVISIBLE THAT'S SO COOL!

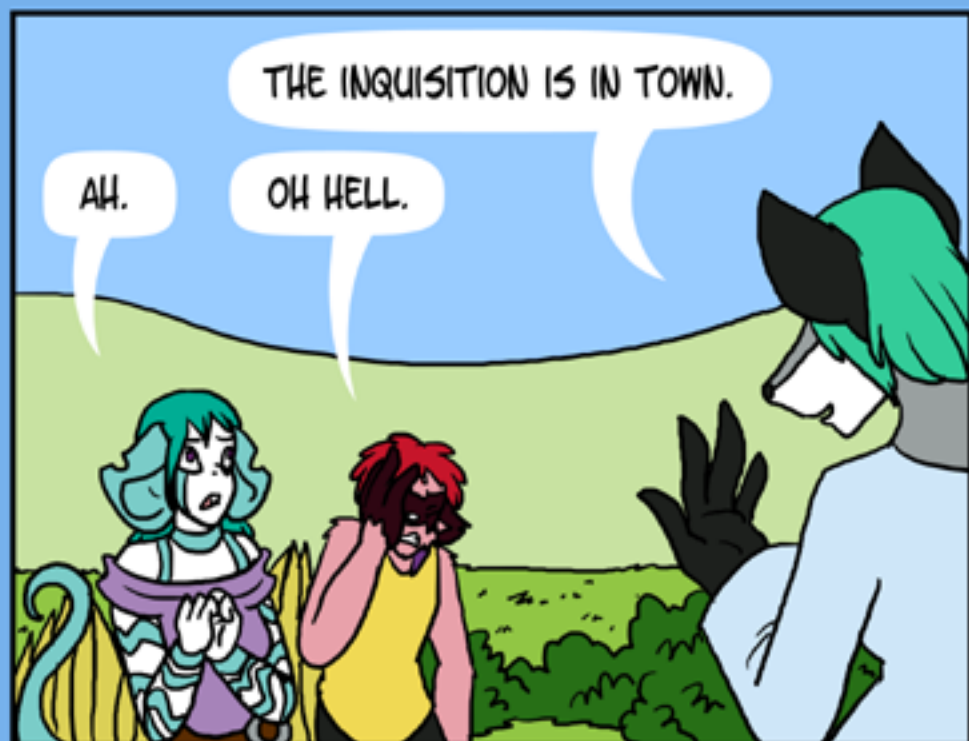






SO... NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF PRINCESS DAISY OVER IN EV, THEN?





I'VE NEVER BEEN ON THIS SIDE OF AN INQUISITION!
WHAT'S IT LIKE, ANYHOW?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...BAAAAAAD?

SHARP ONE, ISN'T SHE?

SO WHAT DID YOU USED TO BE? ELEMENTALIST, YEAH?

YEAH, FOLLOWED CERAPH.

OOH.

WHY YOU GOTTA BRING ME ONE OF THOSE
CRAZIES, RAFE? THEY ARE JUST THE WORST. A
PHOENIX FOLLOWER WOULD BE WAY BETTER.

HEY NOW! I'M A PROPER HERETIC NOW!
I'M NOT A CERAPH FOLLOWER, I'M A
TRICKSTER, COUSIN!

GOOD! NOW YOU'VE SEEN THE ERROR
OF YOUR WAYS, I'M THE ONE WHO'LL
INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR WAYS!

YEAH, YOU CAN RAPE ARE GONNA SHOW ME THE ROPES, HUH?

NO. JUST ME.

I'M HEADING OFF. I DOUBT WE'LL SEE
EACH OTHER AGAIN.

HEY, WHAT?!

C'MON. THE INQUISITION'S AROUND. THE PRINCESS
OF EV IS REPORTED "KIDNAPPED BY TRICKSTERS"
AND I COULD EASILY BE CONNECTED TO THAT.

I NEED TO GO TO GROUND.

IT'S SAFER FOR BOTH OF US
IF THAT'S NOT NEAR YOU.

THAT MAKES SENSE BUT I'LL
MISS YOU IF YOU LEAVE ME WITH
THIS WEIRDO!

DON'T BE TOO DOWN. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU'LL SEE HIM AGAIN, EVEN IF HE RECKONS OTHERWISE.

⚡SIGH⚡
BYE RAFF...

LET'S GET MOVING. YOUR TRICKSTER TRAINING BEGINS NOW!

OOH, YOU'RE GONNA TEACH ME SOME MAGIC?
I WANNA TURN INVISIBLE!

HAHA, NAH.


VANISH MAGIC IS REALLY JUST A STRONGER FORM OF ILLUSION MAGIC.

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN MASTER IT, BUT IT'S NOT THAT USEFUL ANYWAY.

IT DOESN'T LAST VERY LONG, AND YOU CAN'T MOVE WHILE YOU'RE INVISIBLE OR IT WEARS OFF.

HEY, WAIT...






THE GREATEST POWER A TRICKSTER HAS
ISN'T THEIR MAGIC.



IT'S THEIR CONNECTIONS!




WHAT?




WHAT'S BETTER? HAVING TO FIGHT YOUR WAY PAST
THE INQUISITION, OR ALREADY KNOWING THEY'RE THERE
AND HOW TO AVOID THEM?




BOTH.



OKAY, BUT FRIENDS CAN
ALSO HELP YOU ESCAPE IF YOU GET
IN TOO MUCH TROUBLE.



OR YOU COULD BUST OUT
YOURSELF.



NOT IF YOU'RE CUFFED. BESIDES,
WE DON'T HAVE THE SORT OF
ATTACK MAGIC ELEMENTAL
FOLLOWERS HAVE.



OH YEAH...

SO YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE SECRET SOCIETY
THING GOING, HUH? I LIKE IT.

YEP, JUST A MATTER OF KNOWING
HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR FELLOW
TRICKSTERS, AND HELPING OUT
WHEN YOU CAN.

AAAND OF COURSE KEEPING
YOUR HEAD DOWN AND KEEPING
SECRETS!

SEEING AS IT'S MY
TAIL ON THE LINE TOO, I
CAN DO THAT.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

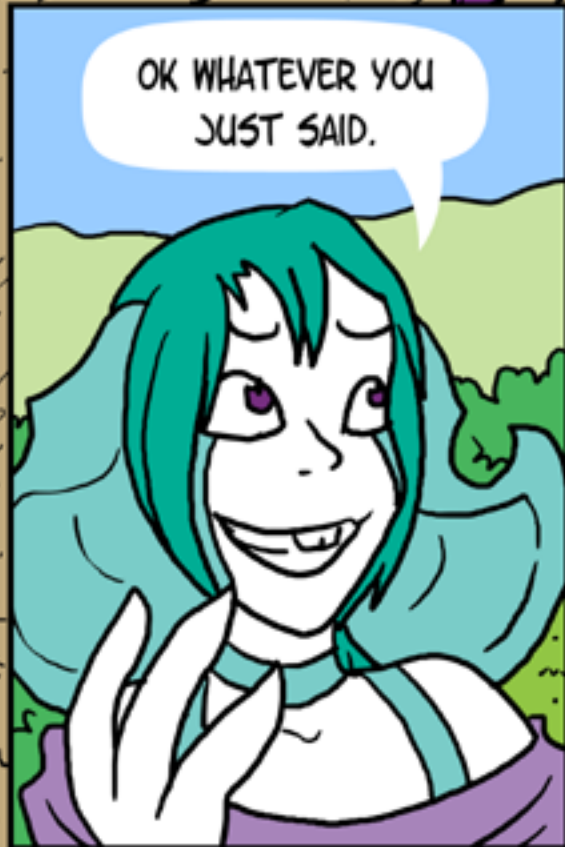
'COURSE THERE'S TRICKSTERS WHO AREN'T
PART OF OUR GROUP. BUNCH OF IDIOTS WHO
CHOSE TO WORSHIP WITHOUT HAVING A
TRICKSTER FRIEND TO INDUCT 'EM IN, BARELY
KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING...

HEY C'MON, I'M SURE WE'RE ALL IDIOTS.

WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO TOWN, THERE'S GOING TO BE A FEW PEOPLE ON THE ROAD.
SO IX-NAY ON THE ICKSTER-TRAY.



OK WHATEVER YOU
JUST SAID.



OH FELS! ONE OTHER THING! THAT DISGUISE YOU GOT IS CUTE,
BUT IT IS NOT SUBTLE. I MEAN C'MON, THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR A
WHITE MOUSE WITH NOTCHED EARS. YOU'RE GONNA NEED A REAL
DISGUISE, HOW ABOUT AN ILLUSION?



THIS IS AN ILLUSION.



WAIT... WHAT? YOU'RE NEW, RIGHT?
BUT YOU'VE BEEN WEARING THAT
ILLUSION THIS WHOLE TIME? THAT...
IS ACTUALLY IMPRESSIVE, HUH.



MAYBE YOU
COULD LEARN
VANISH MAGIC.





OOH, TEACH ME! I WANNA
TURN INVISI-



SSH!



JUST TURN IT DOWN A NOTCH, PLEASE...
CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL AT THE MOMENT.

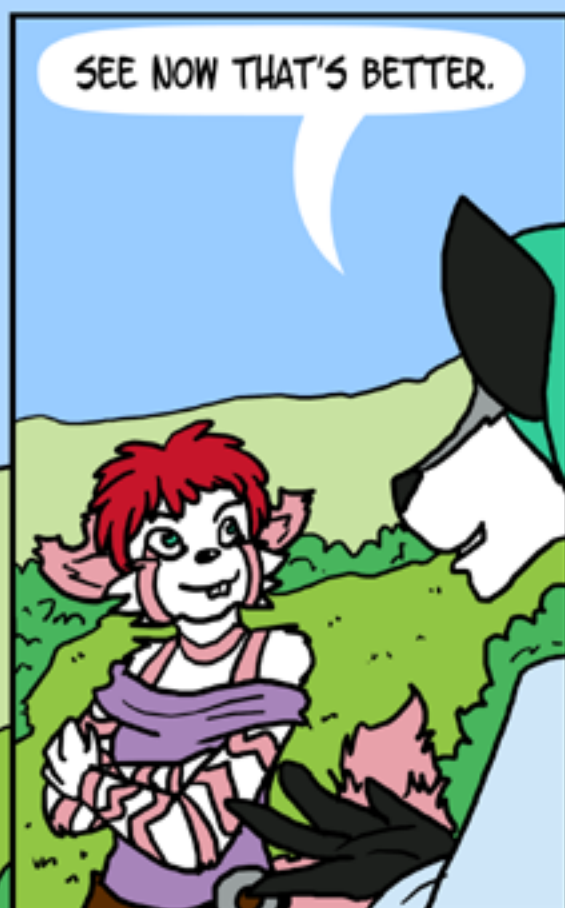


ALRIGHT FINE. GEEZ. ANYONE
ON THE ROAD?

ALL CLEAR.



ILLUSION!



SEE NOW THAT'S BETTER.



IT'S UNUSUAL FOR A NEWBIE TO BE SO EASY WITH ILLU-...
WITH THAT MAGIC.

AS FAR AS I KNOW I'M GREAT
AT EVERYTHING.

YEAH I DON'T BELIEVE THAT
FOR A MOMENT.



OH MAN! THIS PLACE IS SO LITTLE AND CUTE!

WHAT? OH C'MON. IT MAY NOT BE THE CAPITAL BUT IT'S NOT THAT SMALL...



NO, IT'S TINY AND ADORABLE.

OH FELS.



JUST PLAY IT COOL...

YOU TWO, HALT!



OH MY GOD IT'S THE INQUISITION! CLICK! LOOK!! THEY'RE CERAPH FOLLOWERS TOO!



OOH, YOU GUYS ARE GREAT! CAN I GET AN AUTOGRAPH?



UH... NO?



OH, THAT JUNK'S JUST A TYPICAL INQUISITION TACTIC 'ROUND HERE. THEY ASK FOR SOME PAPER THAT DOESN'T EXIST. IF YOU CAN PRODUCE IT, BAM YOU'RE A TRICKSTER.

YOU CAN EASILY USE ILLUSION MAGIC TO MAKE A BIT OF PAPER THAT LOOKS LIKE WHAT THE PERSON WHO'S LOOKING AT IT EXPECTS TO SEE. WITH SOMETHING THAT SMALL, IT CAN BE A TACTILE ILLUSION TOO. OOH, THAT REMINDS ME, I SHOULD SHOW YOU HOW TO DO THAT WITH COINS...



WAIT WE CAN TURN LEAVES INTO CASH?

WELL NOT PERMANENTLY. AND IT'S NOT REALLY A CHANGE, IT JUST MAKES THEM LOOK AND FEEL LIKE MONEY.

SO DO NOT USE A STRONG-SMELLING LEAF IF YOU CAN AVOID IT, HAHA. I HAVE MADE THAT MISTAKE BEFORE.



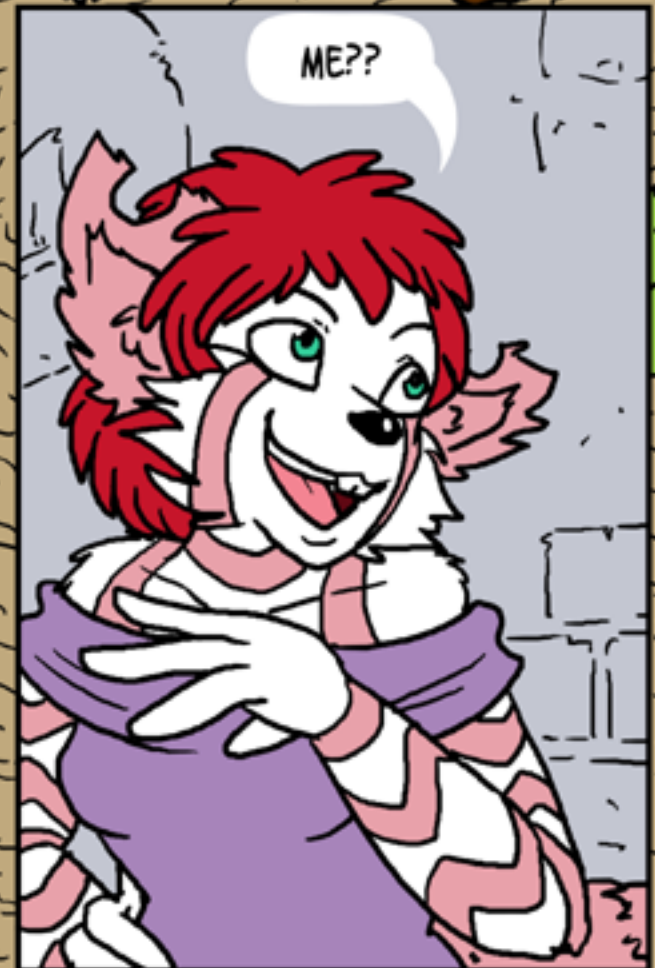
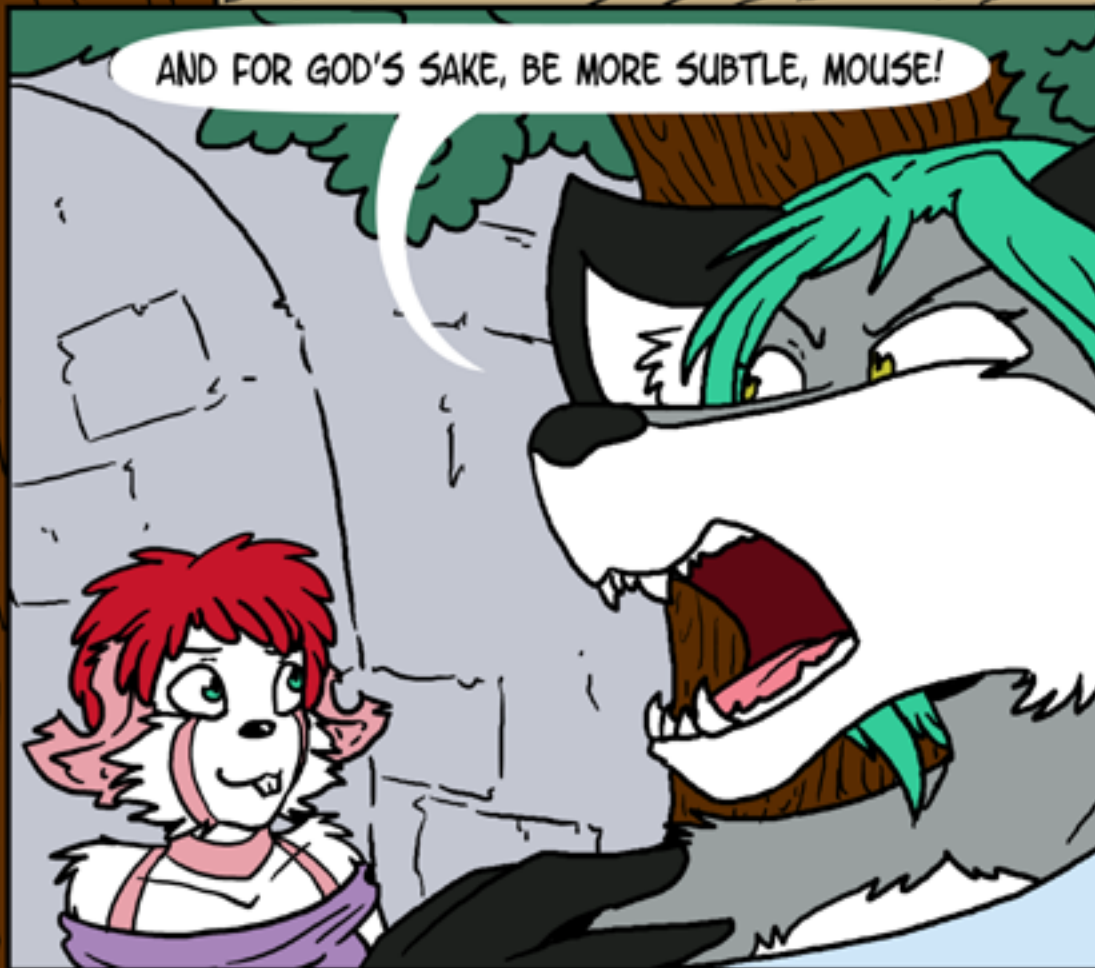
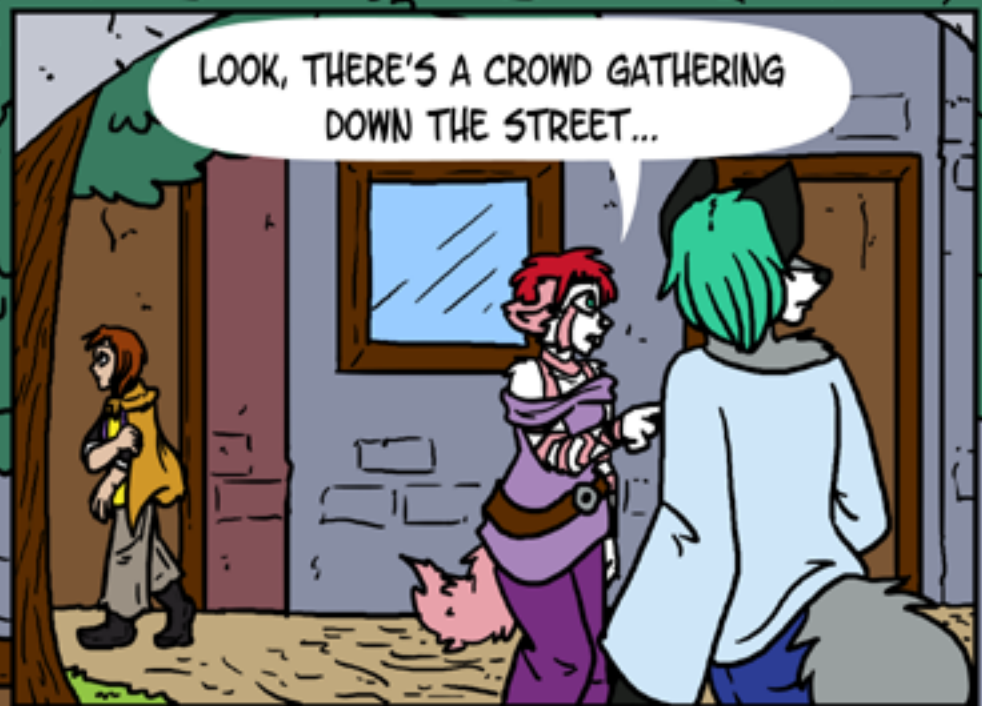
SO THE INQUISITION TRIES TO TRICK TRICKSTERS...

DO THEY REALLY CATCH PEOPLE OFTEN WITH THAT ONE?

SOME MORE THAN OTHERS, BUT-

AHA! GOT YOU!

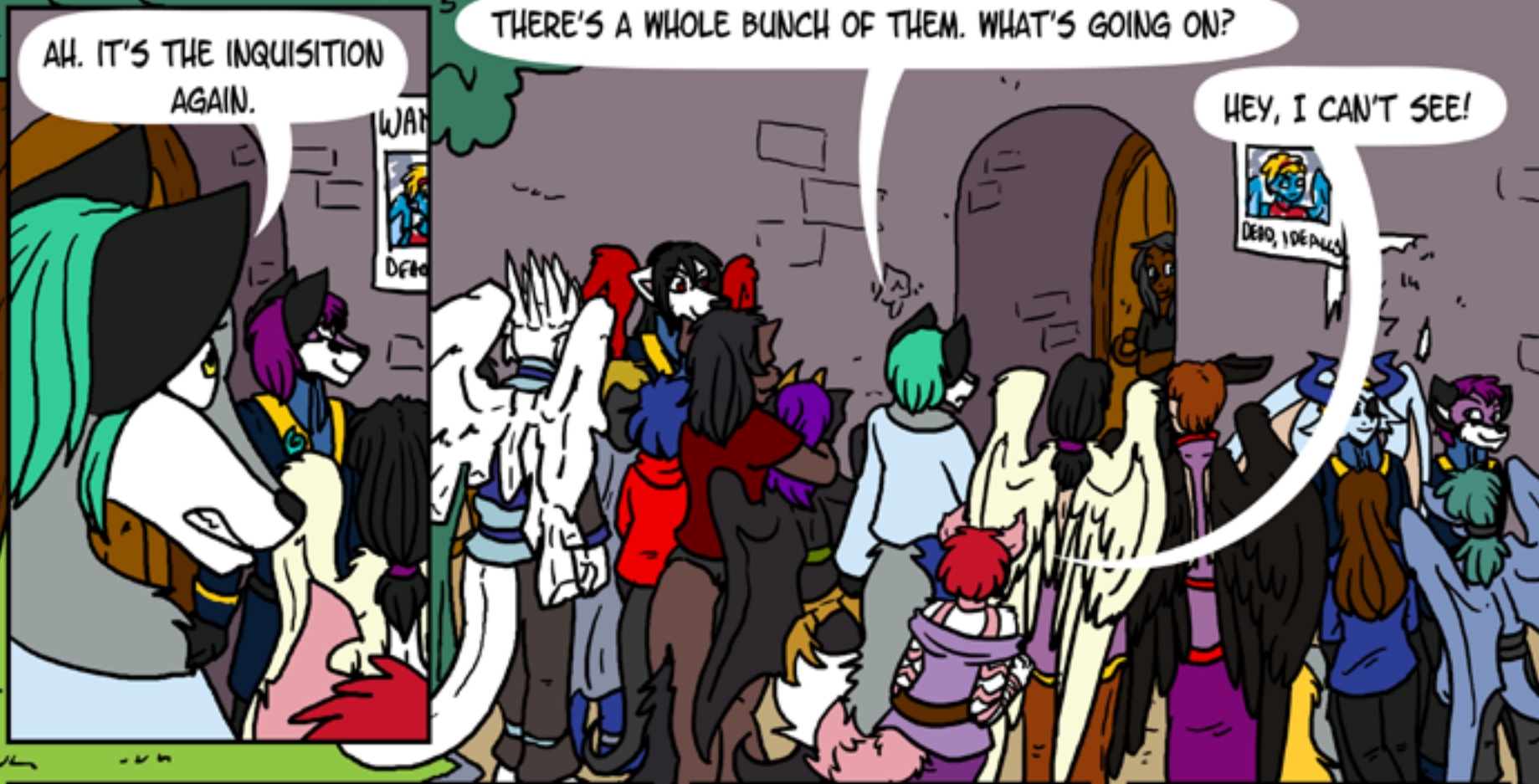




AH. IT'S THE INQUISITION
AGAIN.

THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM. WHAT'S GOING ON?

HEY, I CAN'T SEE!



THEY'VE CAUGHT A HERETIC.

NICE.



THE INQUISITION HOLD
TRIALS FAST, HUH?



THEY WILL DO. AND
THEN THE EXECUTION.



FUN. WHERE'S THE HERETIC
THAT GOT NABBED, THEN?

HYACINTH, WE
BETTER GO, NAN'S
EXPECTING US.



WAIT, THAT'S-

COME ON-!



DON'T LOOK SURPRISED. DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU KNOW HIM. THERE'S TOO MANY EYES 'ROUND HERE.



BUT THAT'S RAFEY! HE'S WITH THE HERO GUILD! THEY CAN'T DO THIS-!



YES THEY CAN.



BUT HE'S OUR FRIEND! WE CAN'T LET THEM-



SSH!! WHAT DID I JUST SAY?



HAVE SOME SELF-PRESERVATION INSTINCTS! ...WE NEED TO GET TO THE SAFEHOUSE BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING REAL DUMB AND GET US BOTH IN TROUBLE TOO.





ARE YOU REALLY THE ONLY ONE HERE?

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?



THE 'SAFE' IN 'SAFEHOUSE' IS HARDLY A GUARANTEE. WITH THE INQUISITION IN TOWN, JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY SPLIT.



I ASSUME THAT'S WHY YOUR NEWBIE FRIEND IS FREAKING OUT.

NO... THAT'S-



CLICK YOU IDIOT! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! RAFE GOT GOT!



THE INQUISITORS CAUGHT HER FRIEND.

AH.



SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. THE INQUISITION DOESN'T USUALLY PICK UP GENUINE TRICKSTERS.

YEAH USUALLY THEY GO ALL "HRMMM WHO AROUND HERE IS DISLIKED BY EVERYONE?" AND WE DO TRY NOT TO BE THOSE PEOPLE. BUT Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES... YYYEAH.

MAYBE YOUR FRIEND'LL PASS THE TRIAL. IT'S RARE, BUT IT HAPPENS...

WHAT IS WITH YOU GUYS?! THE INQUISITION ARE THE WORD OF THE GODS, THEY'RE INFALLIBLE!

....??

PFFHAHAHAHA! CLICK! YOUR NEWBIE IS HILARIOUS!

PHEW, HEHEHE, I NEEDED THAT.

SHE'S NOT HILARIOUS, SHE'S JUST SUPER, SUPER NEW. EX-CERAPH

OH... HMM. THEN SIT DOWN, EARS, LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING.

A BIG PART OF BEING A TRICKSTER IS HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, AND HELPING OUT OTHER TRICKSTERS. BUT YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE IT EASY, BECAUSE SOMETIMES... THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

BUT THAT SUCKS!

OF COURSE IT SUCKS.



WE WANT TO HELP OUR FRIENDS. WE WANT TO HELP OTHER TRICKSTERS. BUT IF IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN ONE AND MANY... WE CAN'T BE LOST JUST FOR ONE.



SO SMILE.



SMILE?!



SO MANY OF US HAVE BEEN KILLED. LORD TRICKY LOST MOST OF HIS POWER AND WAS EXILED, HE WAS NEARLY KILLED HIMSELF. IF HE CAN STILL SMILE, ANYTHING WE FACE IS LESS THAN THAT, SO WE'D BETTER GET ON WITH IT AS CHEERFULLY AS WE'RE ABLE.



"LORD TRICKY" CAN STUFF IT. HE EARNED HIS EXILE.



AND TRICKSTERS "EARN" THEIR DEATHS. SO LET'S MOVE ON.



CLICK WILL TEACH YOU MAGIC, BUT I'LL TEACH YOU OUR LORE. WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE ALL TRICKSTERS... BUT WE CAN SAVE TRICKSTERISM.





IS SHE- DID SHE JUST LEAVE?!

MAYBE SHE JUST NEEDS A WALK, TO CLEAR HER HEAD AND CALM DOWN. IT'S A LOT TO HANDLE. I REMEMBER BEING NEW...



IF ANYBODY ASKS, I DON'T KNOW HER.

OH YEAH. NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE IN MY LIFE.



WELL I DIDN'T SAY THEY WOULD FIGHT, I'M JUST SAYING THAT IF THEY FOUGHT, HE WOULD KICK HIS ARSE.

OH MY GOD I AM NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU AGAIN.

HEY YOU! IS THIS THE HERO GUILD?

YEAH, WHY?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

EXCUSE ME?

THE INQUISITION'S GOT A HERO! YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

...REALLY? IS THAT SO...





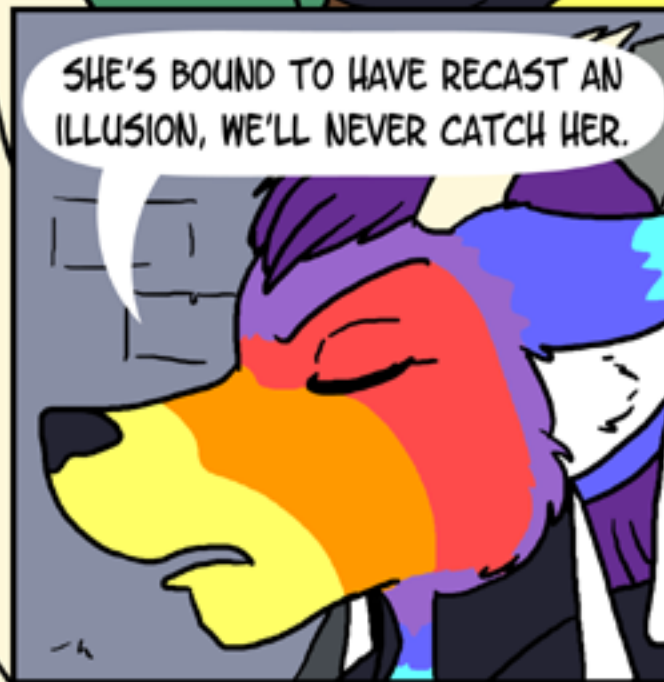
HEY, FRIGGIN' STOP!

GODS DAMMIT!



LOST SIGHT OF HER?

YEAH.



SHE'S BOUND TO HAVE RECAST AN ILLUSION, WE'LL NEVER CATCH HER.



PFEH, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN A TRICKSTER.



JUST AS LONG AS SHE'S NOT GOING AROUND TELLING OTHER PEOPLE THAT STORY ABOUT THE INQUISITION'S NEW CATCH... BLOODY TRICKSTER RABBLE-ROUSERS, TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE GUILD.



AND IF IT WAS THE TRUTH?

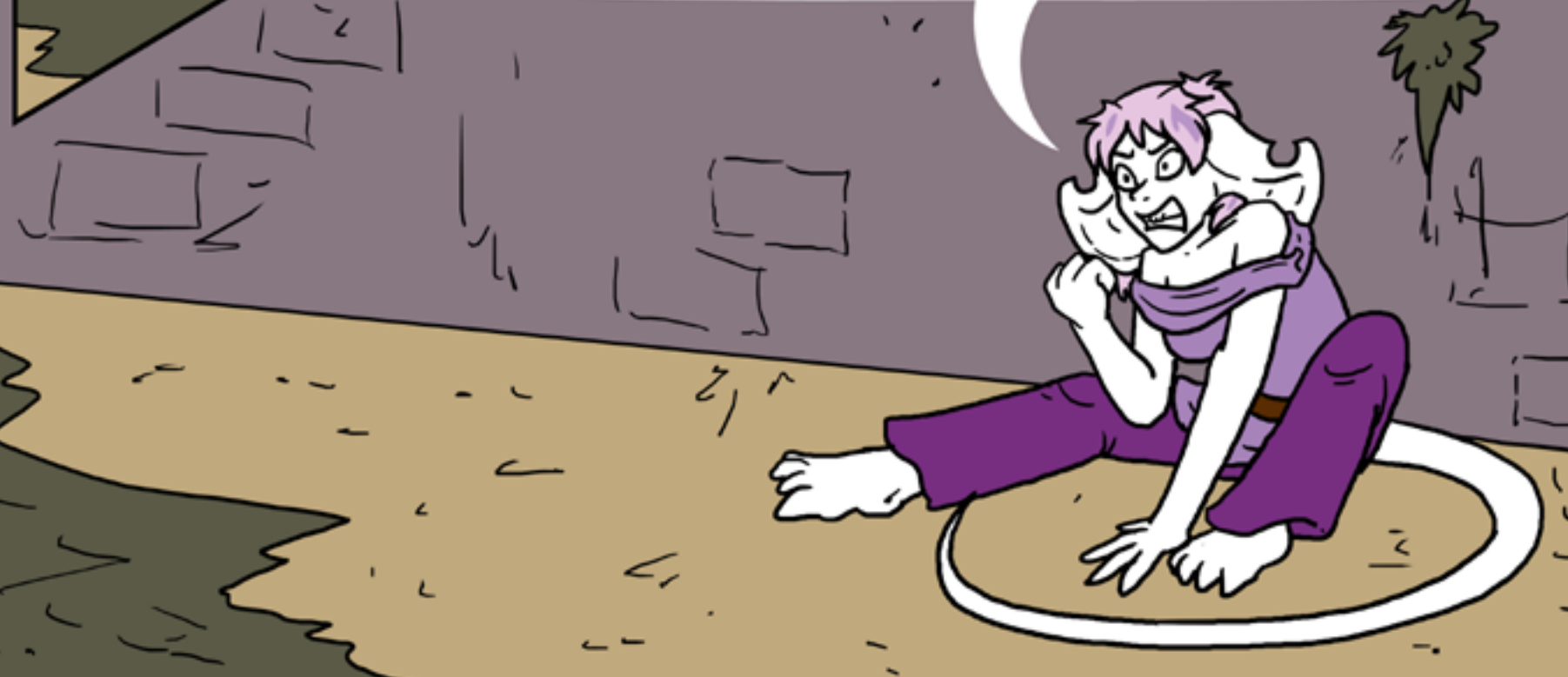
MAN, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT EITHER WAY.




FELS...!




RAFEY.... WHAT THE HELL
AM I SUPPOSED TO DO.



I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE MORE FUN THEN RUNNING A COUNTRY! AND
YOU SAID.... NGH... WHY WOULD ANYBODY EVEN WANT TO BE A TRICKSTER...



CLICK AND THAT OTHER ONE SAID TO RELAX,
JUST SMILE AND HAVE FUN.



BUT HOW CAN I DO THAT WHEN RAFE'S IN
TROUBLE?! MY HEART SAYS I GOTTA DO
EVERYTHING I CAN TO SAVE A FRIEND.



....



HAH. I'LL DO BOTH!



I'LL RESCUE RAFE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

IF THIS PLACE IS ANYTHING LIKE HOME, THERE SHOULD BE CELLS IN THE CERAPH TEMPLE WHERE THEY KEEP TRICKSTERS BEFORE TRIAL AND EXECUTION...



HEH...



ILLUSION!



HEHEHEHEH!







A TRICKSTER IN THE INQUISITION?!
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING...

NICE.



WHAT? NO IT'S JUST ME.

...WHO?



I DON'T RECOGNISE
YOUR VOICE, COUSIN.



I KNOW, RIGHT? HAHA I'M WAY BETTER
AT IMPERSONATIONS THAN YOU. SERIOUSLY
THAT IS A DIRE RAFF VOICE.



...CLICK?



YOU GOT IT! SHEESH, I THOUGHT SOMEBODY
WOULD NOTICE THIS IS AN ILLUSION, THESE
WINGS AREN'T EVEN REAL, I KEEP ACCIDEN-
TALLY PHASING THEM THROUGH WALLS.



WHOOOPS, THERE THEY GO AGAIN...
HAHAHA, SO GLAD THE INQUISITION WAS NOT
PAYING THAT MUCH ATTENTION...



TO BE HONEST, WE BOTH GOT LUCKY WE DIDN'T GET SPRUNG.



OH MAN, I THOUGHT BLUEY WAS GONNA TOUCH YOUR REAL EARS OR HAIR, THEN WE'D BE RIGHT STUFFED. THANK FELS.



WHAT...



WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?!

UH, TO SAVE YOU GUYS?



YOU AND YOUR LEOPARD FRIEND SAID TO FORGET ABOUT SAVING RAFE!

YEAH... BUT I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT AND... YEAH. YOU WERE RIGHT TO RUN OFF. WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING FRIENDS IF THEY'RE NOT THERE FOR YOU IN HARD TIMES, TOO? TRICKSTERS GOTTA PUT THEIR NECKS OUT FOR EACH OTHER, THEY GOT NO-ONE ELSE WHO WOULD.



YER DAMN RIGHT!



THAT'S LOVELY. BUT CAN WE GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE?

RIGHT, ALL WE GOTTA DO IS ESCAPE.
FROM THE INQUISITION'S GAOL. UNDER
THE TEMPLE OF CERAPH.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND
SO EASY.

DAZE? CLICK?

THAAAAT'S NOT MY NAME.

SURE. CAN EITHER OF YOU
UNCUFF ME AND-... UH-

LUCKY.

IF I STILL HAD CERAPH
MAGIC I COULD ZAP
'EM OFF.. BUT SINCE I
DON'T, I DUNNO HOW
TO REMOVE 'EM.

ME EITHER. SCOUT BACK AT THE
SAFEHOUSE IS OUR GUY FOR THAT.
SO IF WE MAKE IT BACK THERE...
WE'RE GOLDEN.

FINE. OKAY. THEN YOU TWO
ILLUSION US UP SOME GOOD
DISGUISES SO WE CAN WALK
OUT OF HERE.

IT'S FLATTERING YOU THINK I CAN HOLD
THAT MANY COMPLEX ILLUSIONS AT ONCE,
BUT I'M TAPPED OUT ON THIS ONE.

OOH! OOH! ME! I CAN DO IT!



WHAT? BUT... YOU'RE NEW.

BUT I BELIEVE IN MYSELF!



THAT MANY ILLUSIONS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT EVEN FOR EXPERIENCED TRICKSTERS.

I WILL BELIEVE IN MYSELF EVEN HARDER, THEN.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN-



ILLUSION.....S!



OH. NICE!



...WE SHOULD GO.

YEAH, REALLY.

DAXXON, ILLIATH. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE TWO FROM THE HERO GUILD?



THEY SAW SOME TRICKSTERS BACK AT THE GUILD HALL. WE'RE HEADED OVER TO SCOPE IT OUT.



DAZE- YOU OKAY?

CERAPH BE WITH YOU. DID YOU END UP GETTING THE PRISONER BACK IN?



OF COURSE. BUT... WE'RE STILL NOT SURE HOW HE-



BUHHH


-ESCAPED. UH....




WHAT THE-

OH MY GOD!
TRICKSTERS!!






C'MON, QUICK--!




HEY! CHECK THE CELLS FOR ILLIATH! CALL FOR BACK UP!
I'LL RUN DOWN THESE THREE!


YES, SIR!



HA, GULLIBLE.



OI! WAIT UP, YOU DARN TRICKSTERS!



AHAHAHA I CANNOT BELIEVE
THAT WORKED!



HOO BOY, I OWE THE GOD AND GODDESS
OF LUCK BIG TIME FOR THIS!



HAHAHA, I KNOW, RIGHT? I CAN'T BELIEVE WE PULLED IT OFF EITHER!

