

CHIRUP

CHIRUP

ATLAS!

MARCOS...



HAHA, WOW,
WHAT RARE
LUCK!

I KNEW THAT
WAS YOU!!



VASILIS REALLY
KEEPS YOU BUSY,
HUH?

I FEEL AS
THOUGH I'VE
HARDLY SEEN
YOU...



STRANGE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

SEEING AS
WE'LL BE WORKING
TOGETHER-

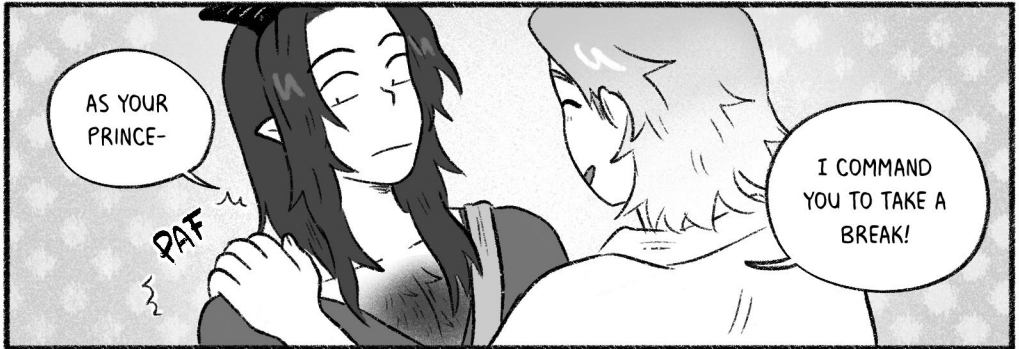
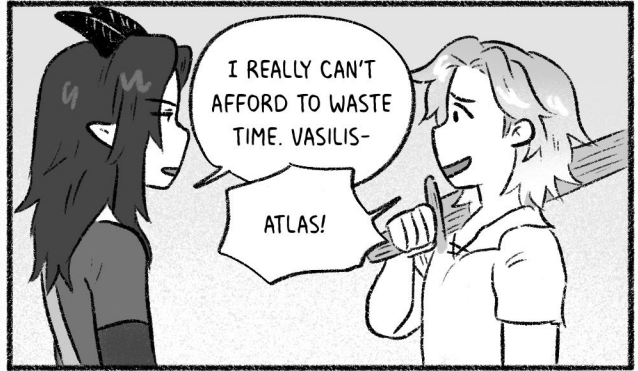


I CERTAINLY
THOUGHT WE'D
HAVE MORE TIME
TO... TO UH...



HAHA!!
WELL-
ANYWAY-
UM-

WHAT ARE YOU
UP TO?!







WE'LL JUST GO THROUGH SOME BASIC MOVEMENTS-

WE CAN SAVE SPARRING FOR ANOTHER DAY, HAHA.

HERE, TAKE THIS TRAINING SWORD!



OH!
UM...

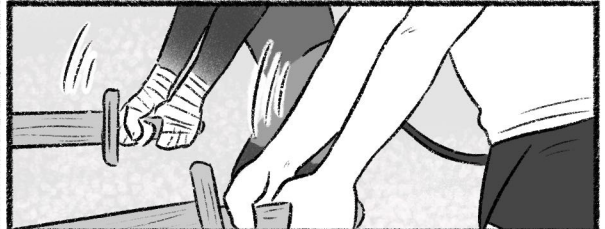
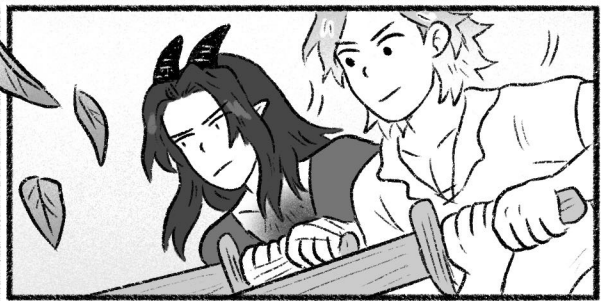
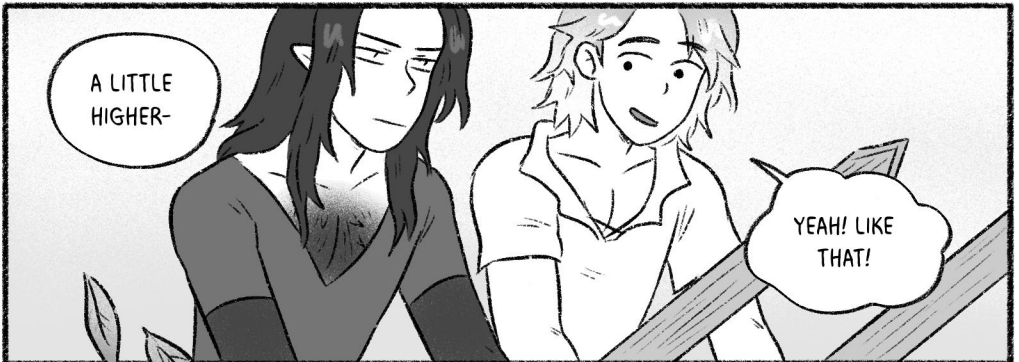


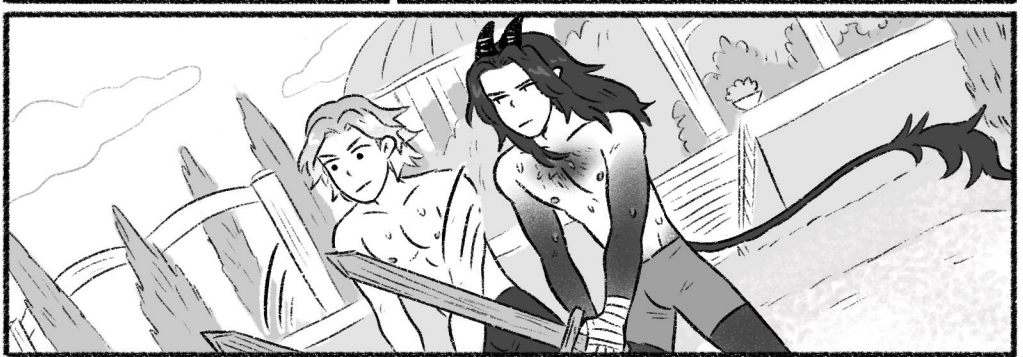
...IS YOUR HAND OKAY?



IT'S FINE.

SNATCH!



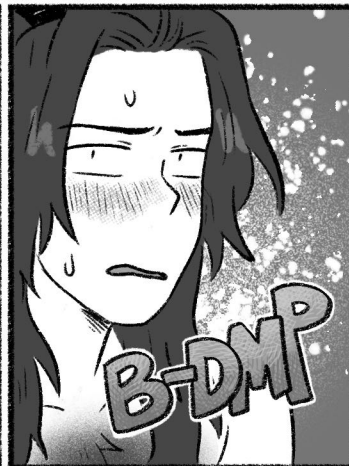
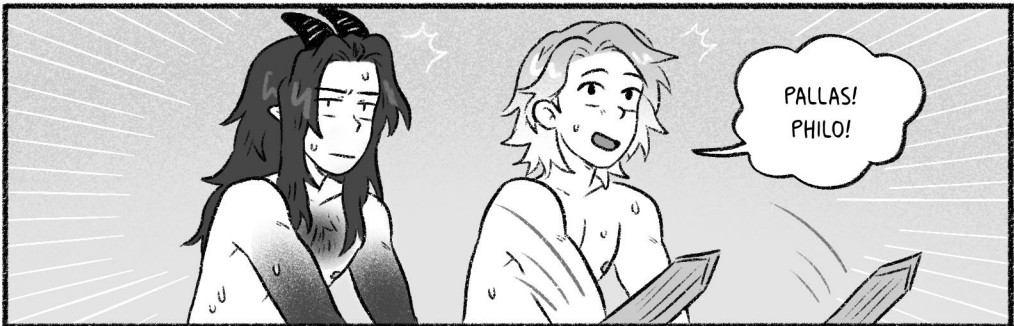


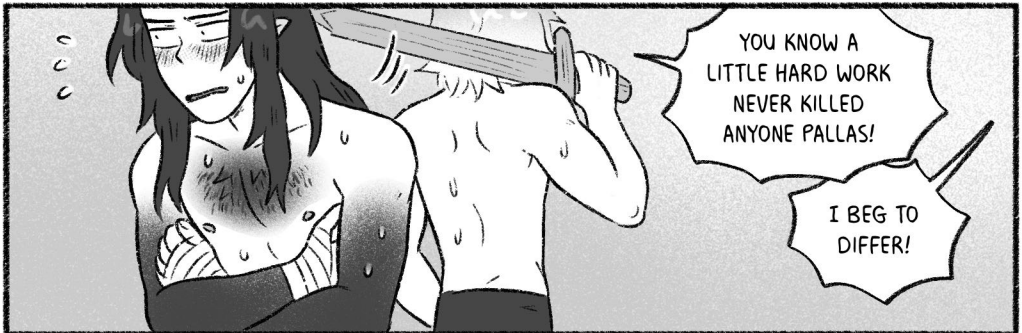
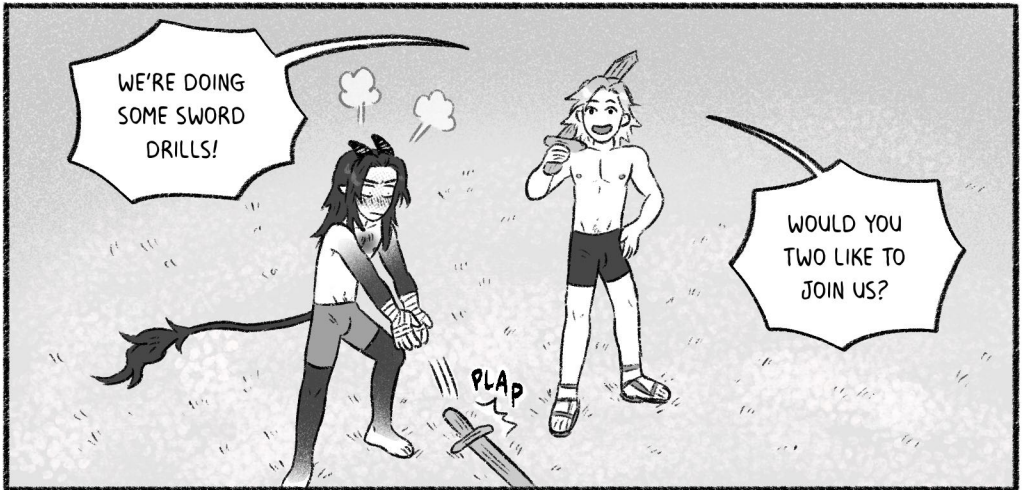
I'M GONNA DIE BEFORE WE GET TO THE SHORE...



QUIT COMPLAINING, IT'S NOT THAT HOT OUT!

ARE YOU KIDDING?!











DO YOU NEED TO GO NOW?

OH-



WHY IS HE HERE?



WHO?

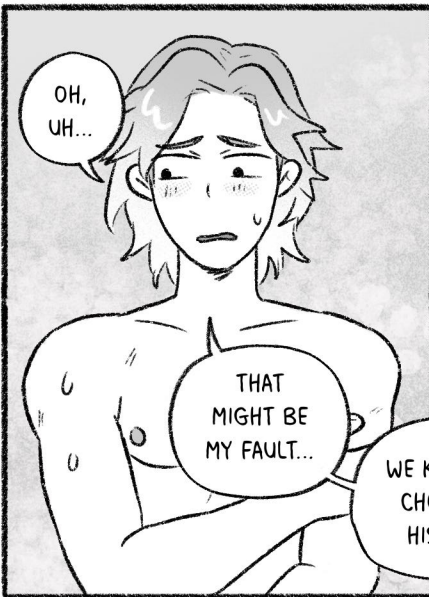
OH, PHILO?



THE DAY WE CAME HERE-

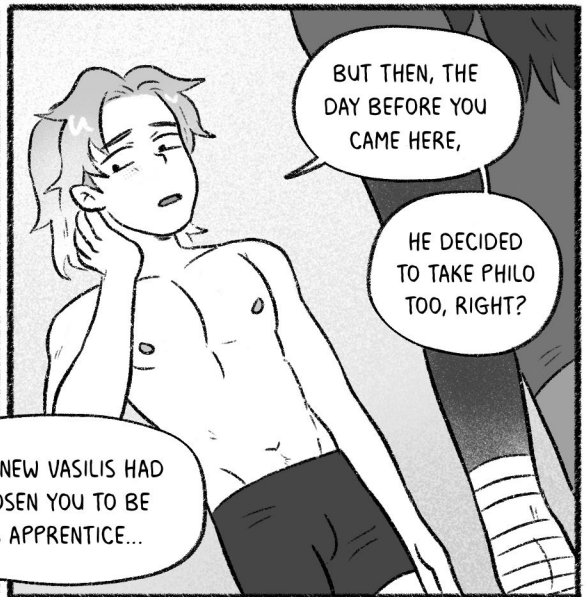
PRINCE SOREN CALLED HIM THE 'SPARE'.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



OH, UH...

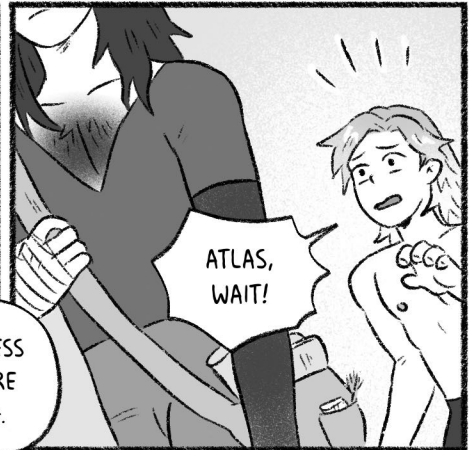
THAT MIGHT BE MY FAULT...

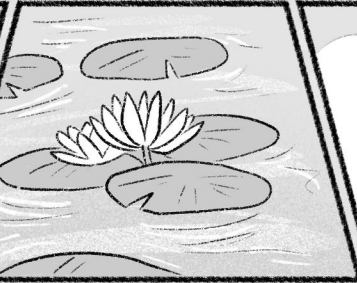
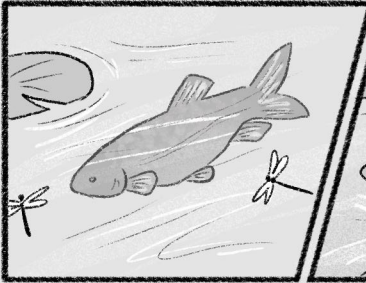
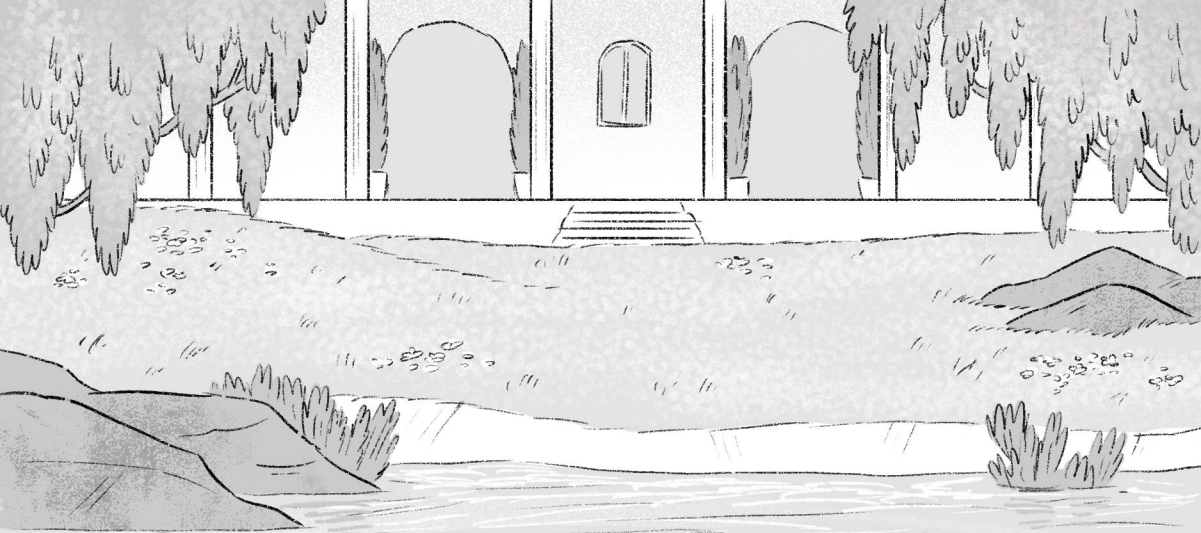


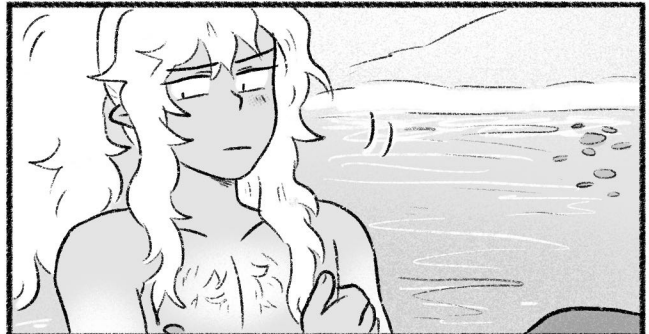
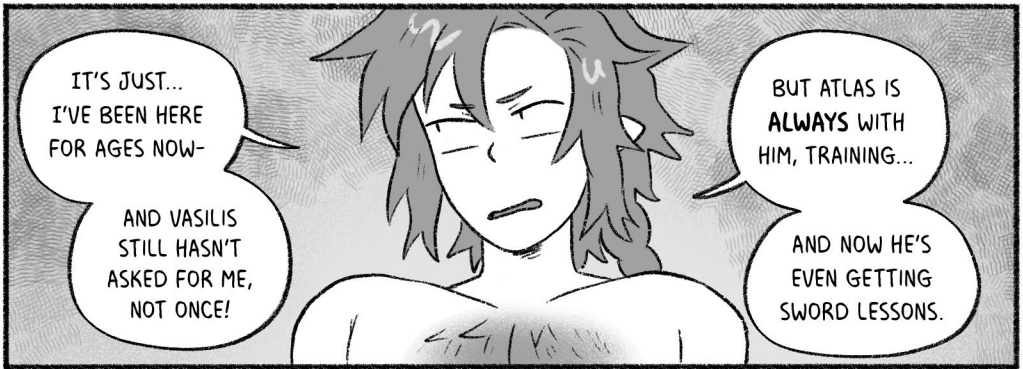
BUT THEN, THE DAY BEFORE YOU CAME HERE,

HE DECIDED TO TAKE PHILO TOO, RIGHT?

WE KNEW VASILIS HAD CHOSEN YOU TO BE HIS APPRENTICE...









WHEN I FOUND
OUT I WAS COMING
HERE...

IT'S DUMB, BUT-

I THOUGHT...
THAT MAYBE THINGS
WERE GOING TO
CHANGE FOR ME,
FOR ONCE...



SO...

YOU
ACTUALLY
WANT TO
GET BETTER
AT MAGIC?

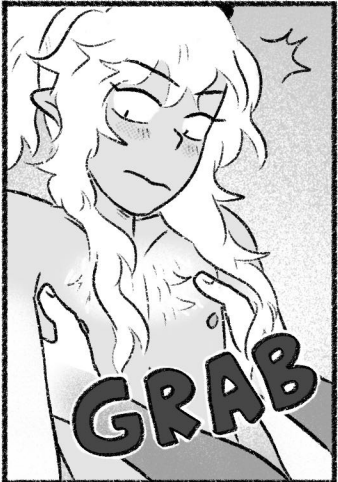
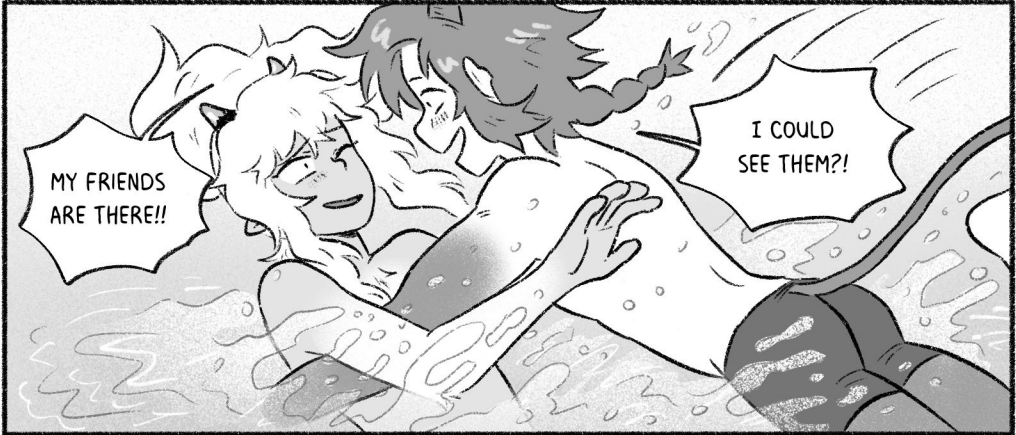


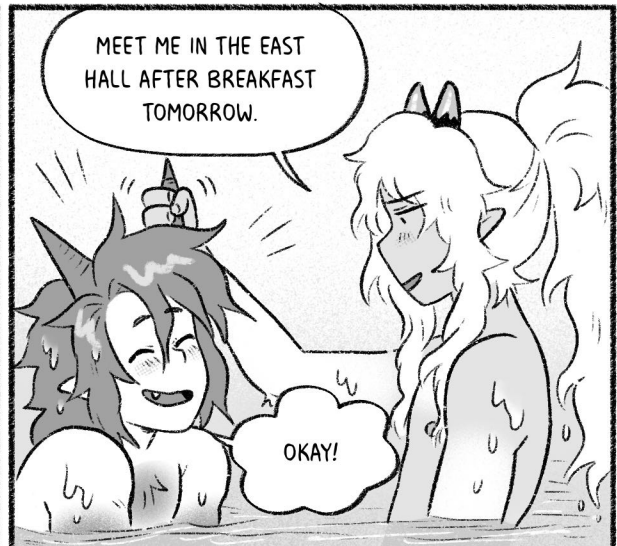
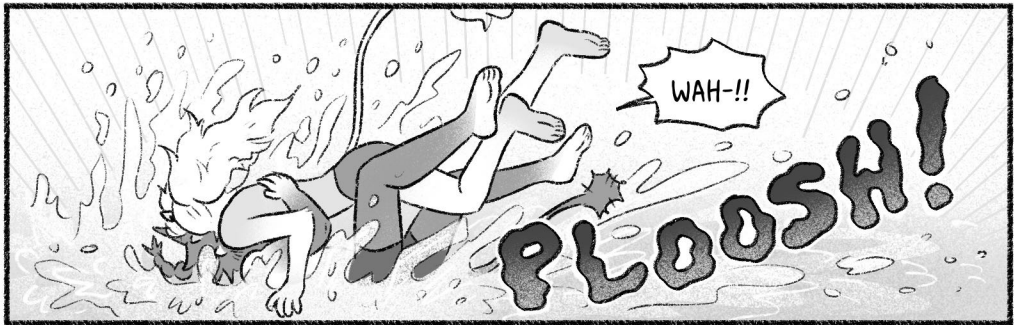
I DUNNO...
I GUESS I'M
JUST TIRED
OF FEELING
USELESS.

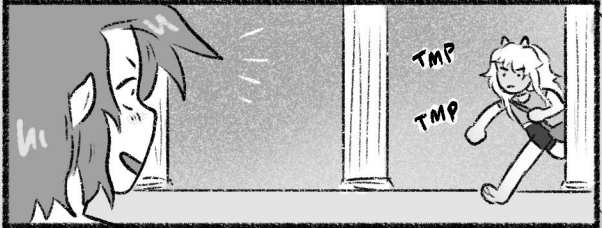
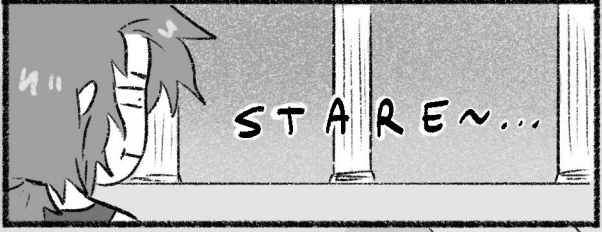


HMMM...

I BET THERE'S
SOMEONE AT THE
SPIRE WHO COULD
HELP YOU.









IS THIS PART OF THE CATACOMBS AGAIN?

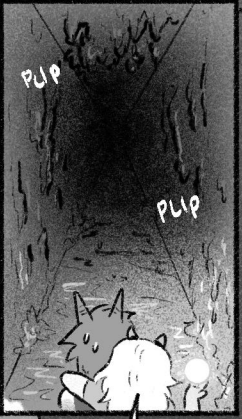
YEAH, WE'RE GOING DEEPER THIS TIME-

THERE'S THIS ONE TUNNEL I FOUND THAT GOES ALL THE WAY UNDER THE LAKE.

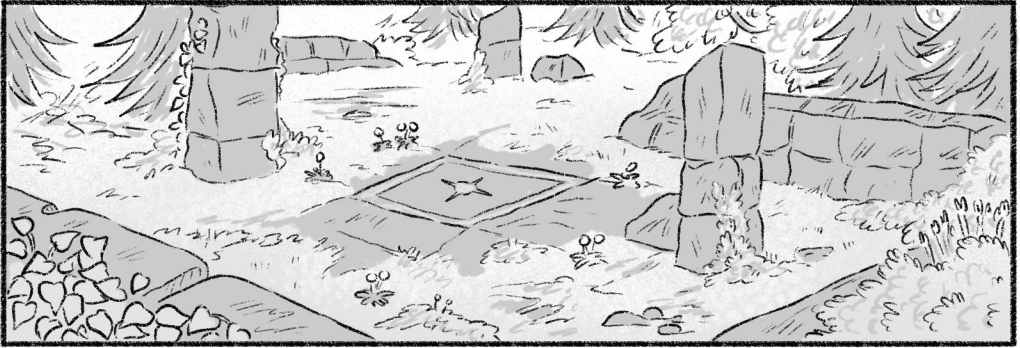
IT GETS KIND OF GROSS AND WET THOUGH, SO...



PERFECT! NOW JUST KEEP GOING!



TRY NOT TO SLIP ON THE ALGAE...





LUCKY?
WHY?



WELL, IF WE HAD
TO GO ON FOOT, IT
WOULD TAKE WAY
TOO LONG.



WE NEED TO
BORROW A
HORSE.



AND I JUST SO
HAPPEN TO KNOW THE
GUY WHO'S WORKING
TODAY.



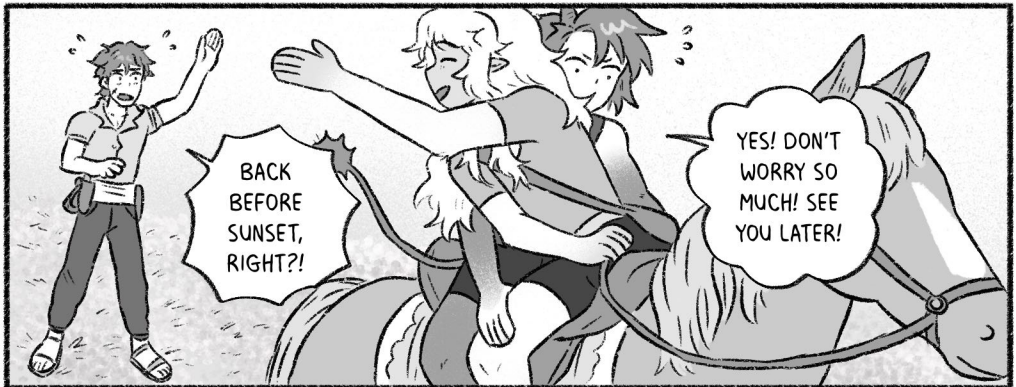
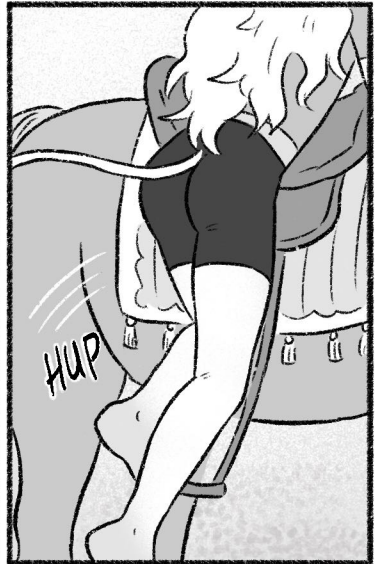
JUST LET
ME DO THE
TALKING.



GOOD
MORNING
ALEC~!!









YEAH, YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MANY OF THEM ARE INTO US.



UGH, STOP!!

AREN'T THERE LIKE- LAWS AGAINST THAT?!



WELL, YEAH... BUT HUMANS LOVE TO SAY ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER.



ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED MARCOS' HUGE BONER FOR ATLAS?!

IT'S HONESTLY EMBARRASSING TO WATCH...



N...NO WAY...



IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL HAVE SOME COMPETITION!



...



BUT...
ATLAS WOULD NEVER...

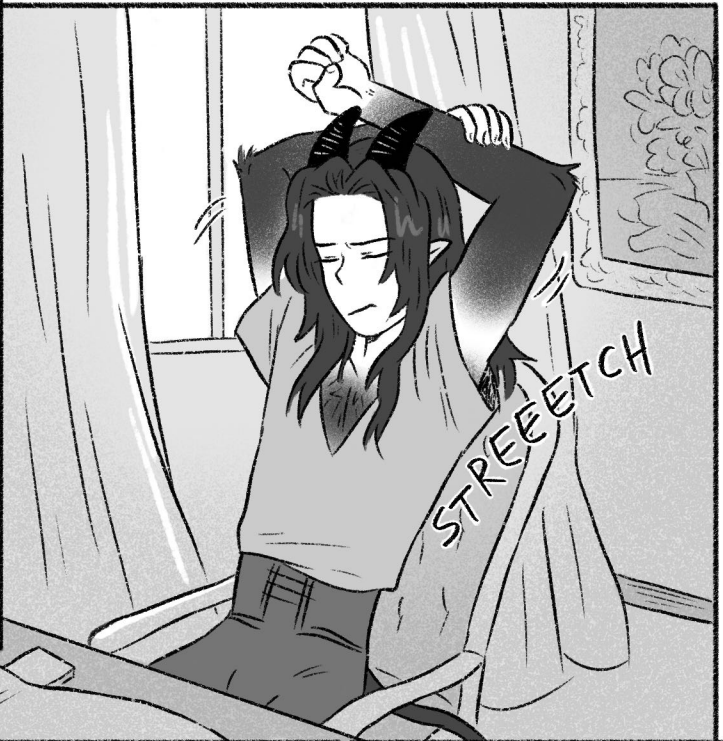
I MEAN, NO SELF RESPECTING SATYR WOULD- WITH A HUMAN-RIGHT?!

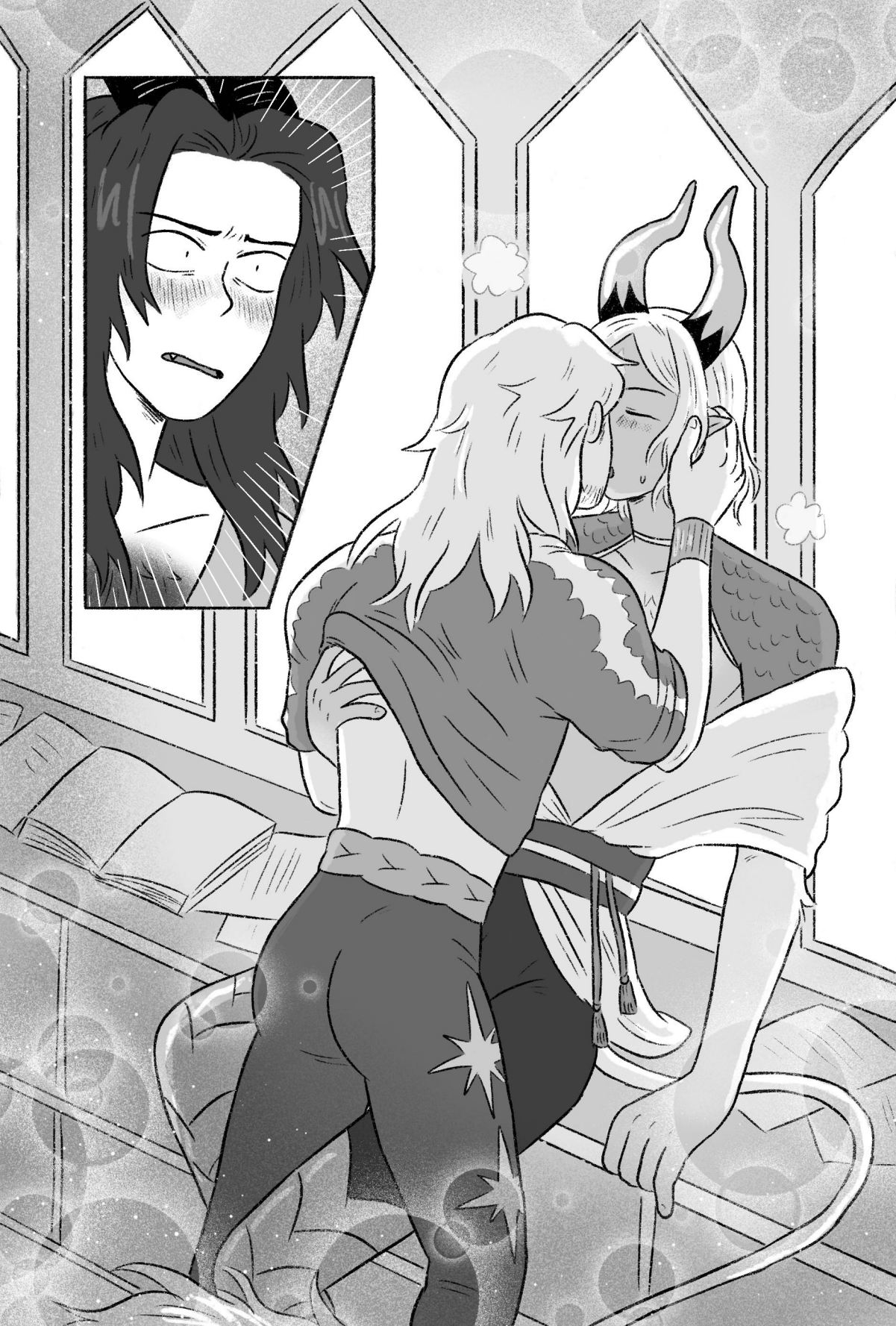


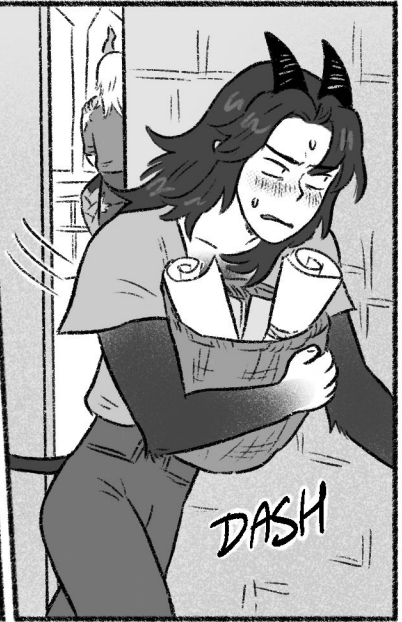
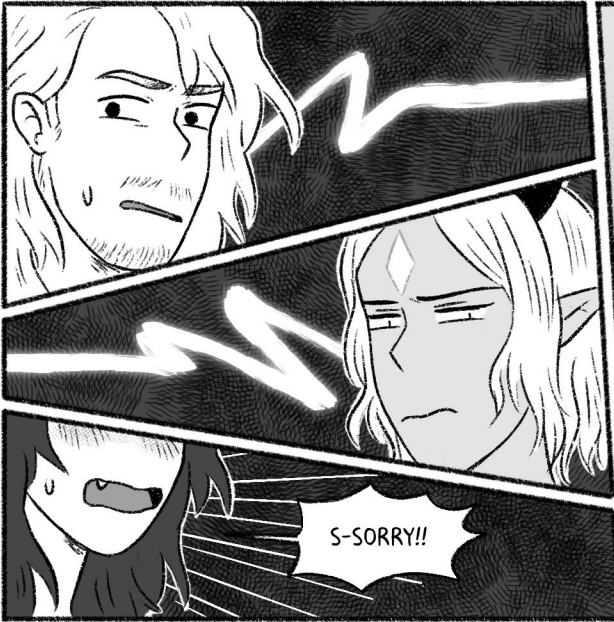
...RIGHT.
OF COURSE NOT.

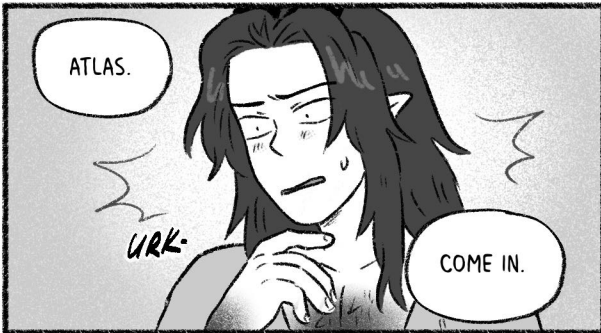
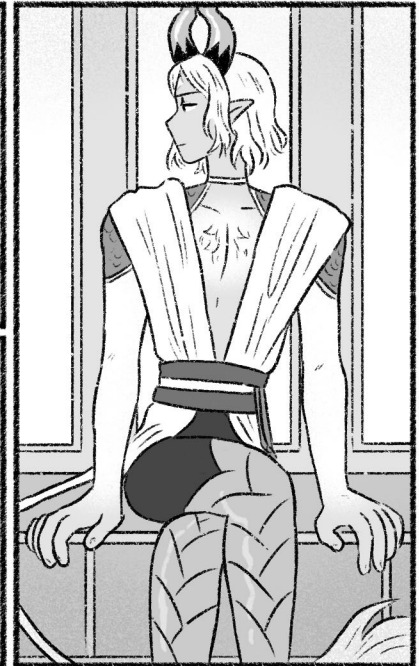
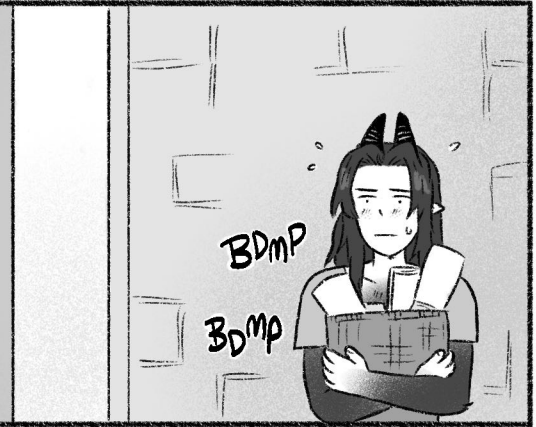
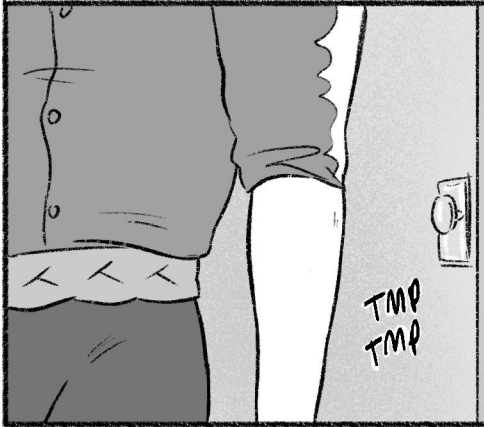
WE SHOULD GET THERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR.











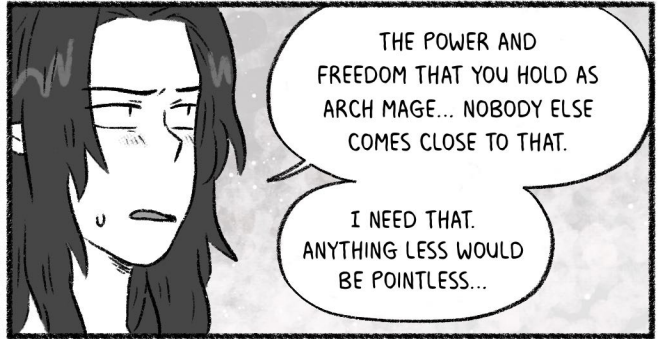


YOUR PROGRESS IS IMPRESSIVE, ATLAS.

BUT YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.



YOU TOLD ME THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION FOR YOU.
WHY IS THAT, EXACTLY?




THE POWER AND FREEDOM THAT YOU HOLD AS ARCH MAGE... NOBODY ELSE COMES CLOSE TO THAT.
I NEED THAT. ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE POINTLESS...



POWER...

...AND FREEDOM, HM?



AND WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE, TO GET IT?



WHAT LENGTHS WOULD YOU GO TO, TO KEEP IT?



YOU WANT WHAT I HAVE, ATLAS?

YOU'LL NEED TO DO WORSE THAN LET YOURSELF GET FUCKED BY A HUMAN.

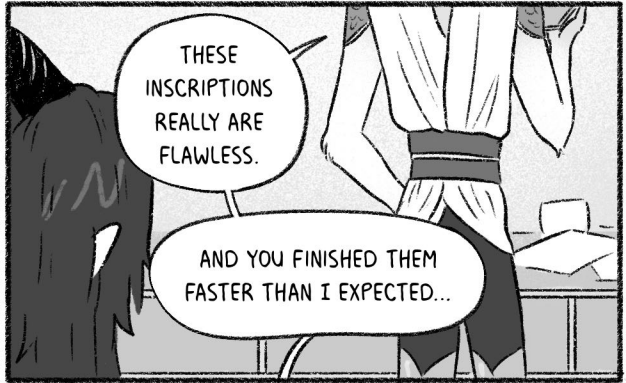


I WONDER...

...WHAT ARE YOU CAPABLE OF?



AH, WELL.
I SUPPOSE WE'LL FIND OUT.



THESE INSCRIPTIONS REALLY ARE FLAWLESS.
AND YOU FINISHED THEM FASTER THAN I EXPECTED...



VASILIS.

Hm?

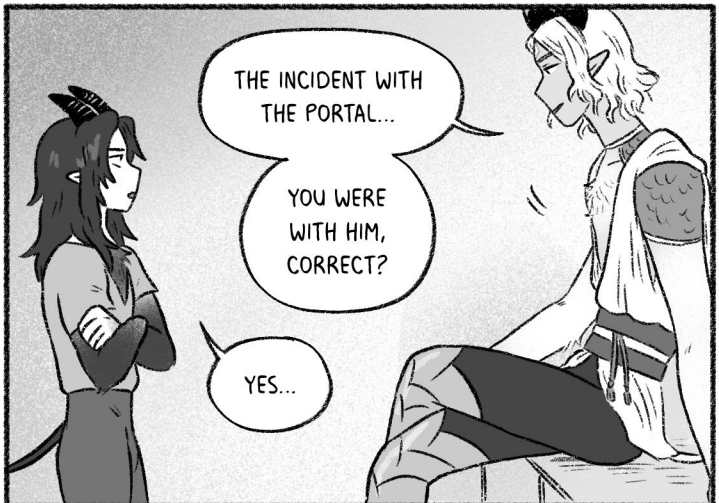


PLEASE... TELL ME.

WHY DID YOU BRING PHILO HERE?



HA...



THE INCIDENT WITH THE PORTAL...

YOU WERE WITH HIM, CORRECT?

YES...



WAS IT INSTANT?



OR... DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?



WE WERE... FLOATING.

I COULDN'T BREATHE.

IN SOME SORT OF VOID...

MY MAGIC FELT... SUPPRESSED.



YES. UNTIL THAT MOMENT,

I WAS THE ONLY SATYR TO EVER SEE THAT PLACE.



WHAT IS IT?



I WONDER.

I'M SEARCHING FOR THAT ANSWER MYSELF.



AND WHEN I FIND IT...

I'M SURE IT WILL
BE THE KEY TO
ALL THE ANSWERS
THAT I SEEK.

WHERE WE
COME FROM...

WHY WE
ARE HERE.

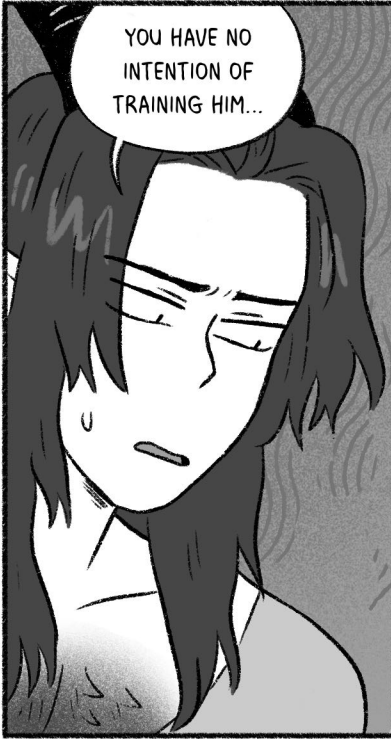
YOU'RE SEARCHING
FOR THE SAME
ANSWERS, AREN'T
YOU?

SO THEN...
PHILO...

IT SEEMS IT
WAS A FLUKE.
I DOUBT HE
COULD DO IT
AGAIN- HE
DOESN'T HAVE
THE TALENT.
BUT, STILL...

THAT RAW
MAGIC...

I'D RATHER
KEEP HIM WHERE
I CAN SEE HIM.



YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF TRAINING HIM...



THAT'S WHAT HAD YOU WORRIED?
HA, NO.



I SAW HIS ACADEMY RESULTS.

THERE'D HARDLY BE ANY POINT...



YOU'LL SEE...
THERE AREN'T MANY SATYR LIKE YOU AND I.

THEY DON'T HAVE... THE AMBITION.



NOW, SHALL WE GET BACK TO WORK?

AH- OF COURSE, VASILIS.



I... I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT- UH, THE KING...



HA
HA
HA

OH, ATLAS.

I KNOW YOU WON'T.



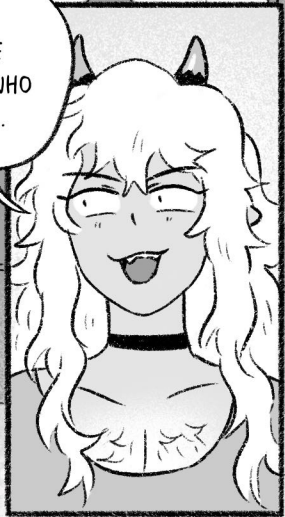
OH, GODS...

THIS IS THE SPIRE?



WAIT UNTIL WE GET INSIDE THE WALLS!

THERE'LL DEFINITELY BE SOMEONE HERE WHO CAN HELP YOU.







SO, WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU TODAY?

SHALL I SET YOU UP WITH A TOUR?



NO NEED! JUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY HORSE.

WE WON'T BE TOO LONG.



OF COURSE! ENJOY YOUR VISIT SIR.

THANK YOU!



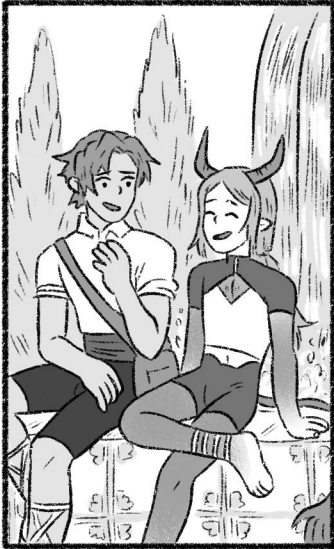
HA! DID YOU SEE THAT? THEY DIDN'T EVEN CHECK YOUR RUNE!

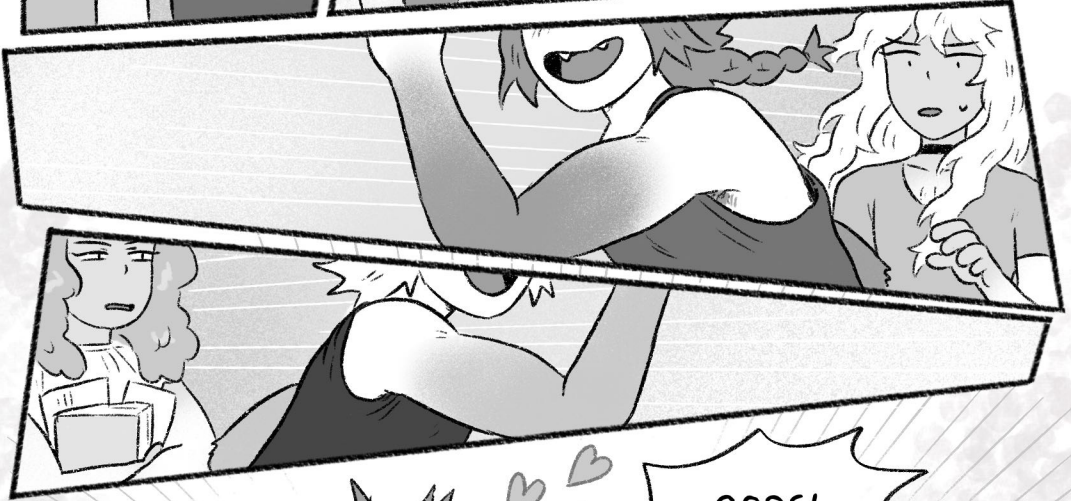
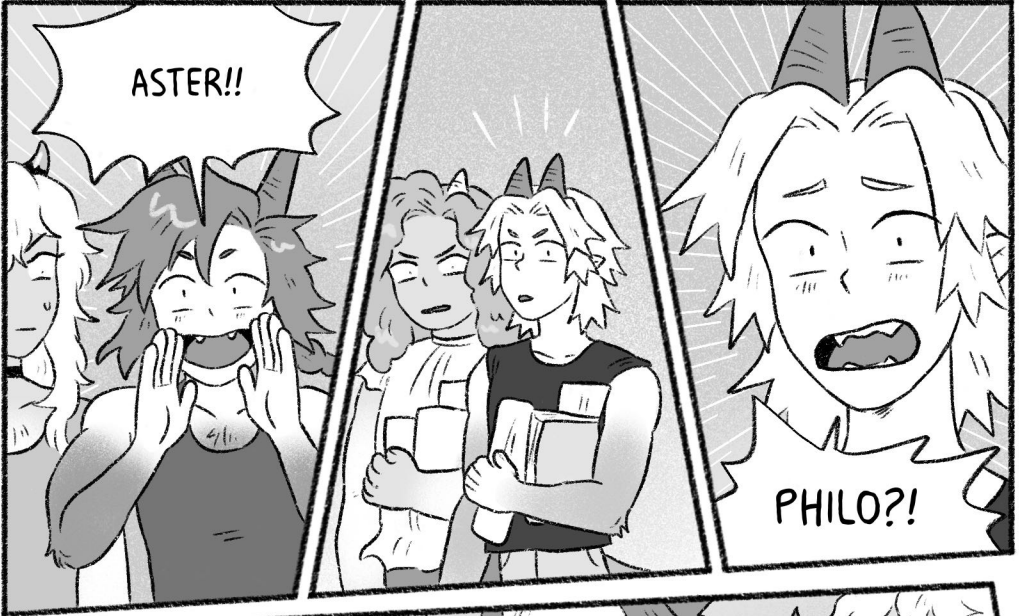
T-THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE HERE...



HOW AM I MEANT TO FIND MY FRIENDS?!

HEY, REMEMBER WHY WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE!





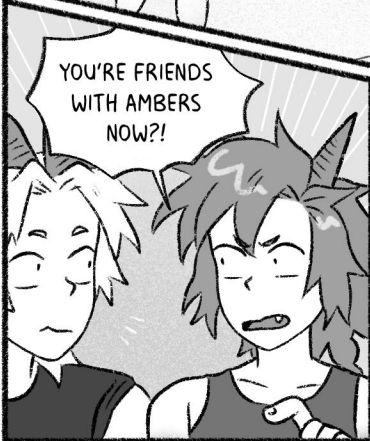






WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR THE LECTURE!!

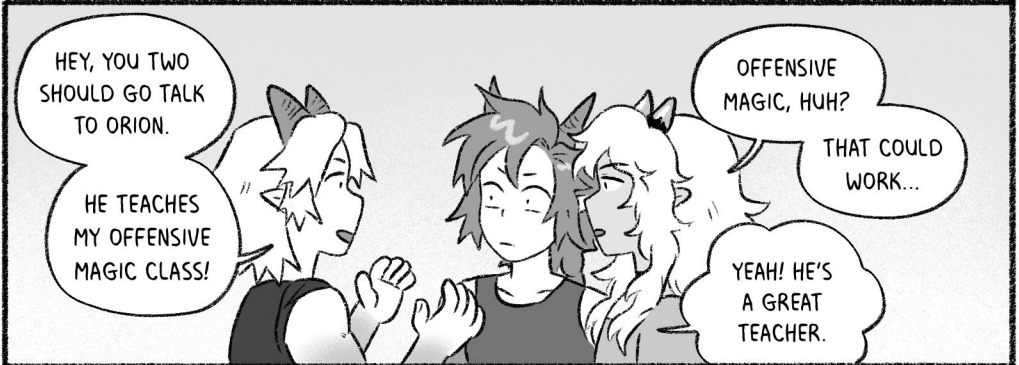
GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME, I'LL CATCH UP!



YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH AMBERS NOW?!



LONG STORY?



HEY, YOU TWO SHOULD GO TALK TO ORION.

HE TEACHES MY OFFENSIVE MAGIC CLASS!

OFFENSIVE MAGIC, HUH?

THAT COULD WORK...

YEAH! HE'S A GREAT TEACHER.



UH... BUT FIRST, COULD I TALK TO PHILO ALONE FOR A BIT?
NO OFFENSE...







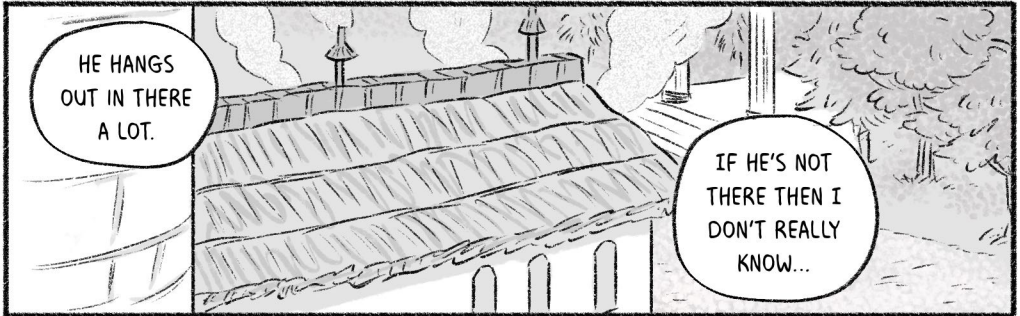




OH, CRAP!
I GOTTA GET
TO MY CLASS!

WAIT, WHERE'S
MORDECAI? I
WANTED TO SEE
HIM TOO.

UH- PROBABLY IN
THE SMITH BUILDING,
THE SMALL ONE OVER
THERE.



HE HANGS
OUT IN THERE
A LOT.

IF HE'S NOT
THERE THEN I
DON'T REALLY
KNOW...



DO YOU...
NOT HANG OUT
ANYMORE?

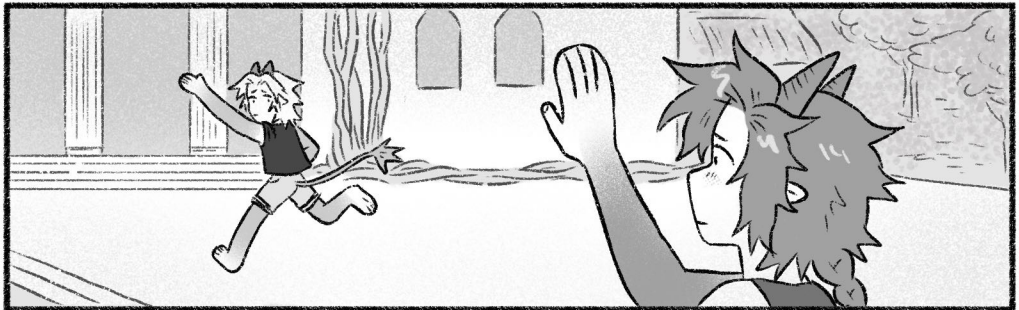


WE'RE STUDYING
DIFFERENT PATHS,
SO...



IT'S JUST...
DIFFERENT HERE.









WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

TRAINING- I'M NOT HERE FOR LONG- DID YOU GET TALLER?!



HEH, YEAH, A LITTLE I GUESS.



HAVE YOU SEEN ASTER YET?

YEAH! HIS HAIR HAS GOTTEN LONG HUH.



HAHA, HE KEPT COMPLAINING THAT YOU'RE NOT HERE TO CUT IT FOR HIM ANYMORE!



IT LOOKS CUTE THOUGH, RIGHT?

I TOLD HIM SO- I GUESS HE'S LETTING IT GROW OUT FOR NOW.

HUH...







WHAT?!
NO!!

YOU MEAN- INTO
THE HAUNTED
LANDS?!

ACTUAL
FIGHTING?!



YEAH...
SOME OLD
RUIN CITY THE
KING WANTS
TO RECLAIM.

THEY NEED
SATYR TO KEEP
THE GHOSTS OFF
OF THE WORKERS
I GUESS.



HE'S BEEN
BRUSHING
IT OFF, BUT
I THINK HE'S
PRETTY
NERVOUS...



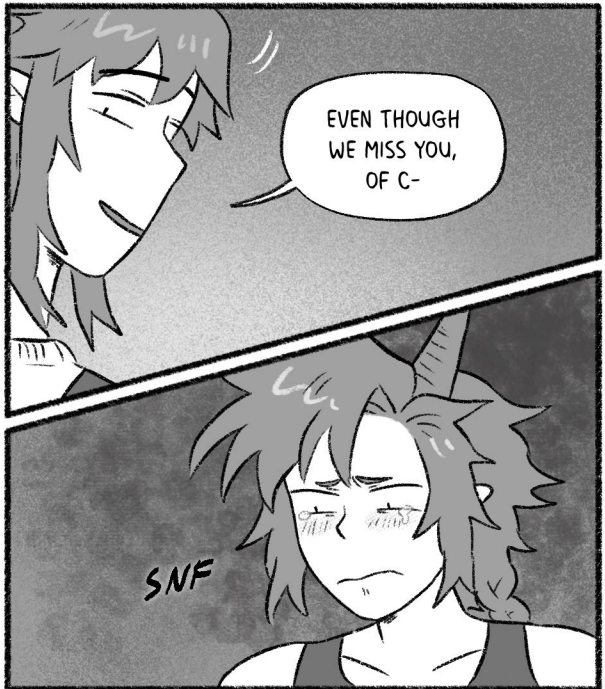
WHY
DIDN'T HE
TELL ME...



PHILO, DID YOU
EVER NOTICE...

ASTER WOULD
SPEND SO MUCH
TIME LOOKING
AFTER YOU...

IT WAS LIKE HE
FORGOT ABOUT
HIMSELF SOMETIMES?





YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH...

HE'S ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER ME... SINCE WE WERE KIDS.



I DON'T WANT IT TO BE THAT WAY ANYMORE...



I'LL BECOME STRONGER.



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!

I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU, AND ASTER!

I'LL BE THE GUY YOU CAN RELY ON!!



HAHA, OKAY.

I GUESS WE'RE ALL GROWING UP.





PALLAS!!



THERE YOU ARE!

DIDN'T I SAY TO BE QUICK?!



THIS IS ORION.



SORRY, I-

FORGET IT-

HE'S AGREED TO SEE IF HE CAN HELP YOU!