

Prophecy

+18

By Zummeng



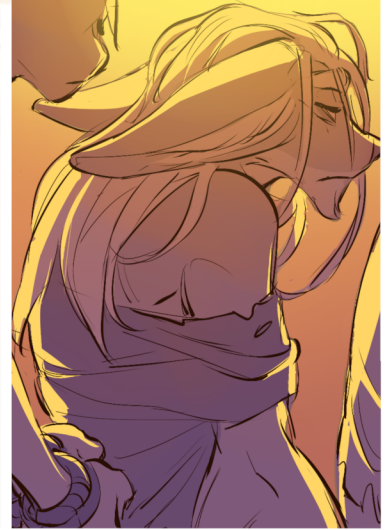
Slaves in the
Infinite Desert.

Men and women
from all around
the world. Once
honorable warriors,
artists...

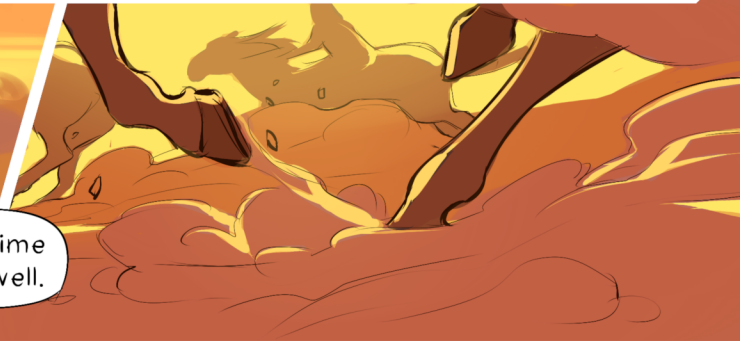
And parents!

That's right,
and parents.

Now nothing
more than
common
merchandise.



Hmm, looks like it's that time
of the week again. Very well.

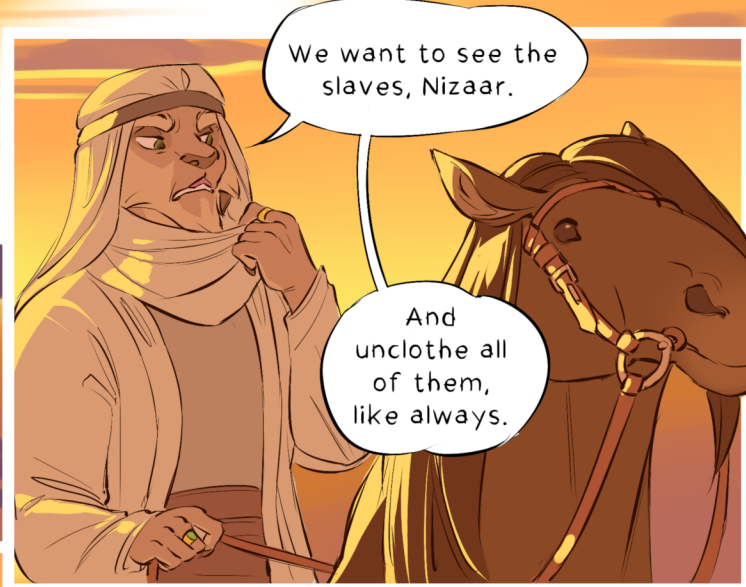


Oh, honorable
Commander Bakar!

1



How can I be of your
service this time?



We want to see the slaves, Nizaar.

And unclothe all of them, like always.



As you wish my lord.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Merchandise, which did not count as living, sentient creatures any more.



None of them are the one. Show me the rest!



Because for one of them...

The Key...

BAFF

...the gods ordained another kind of destiny.

WE FOUND THE KEY!

But it's true.

That is such a cliché...

Please, let me continue.

Oh, right. Sorry.

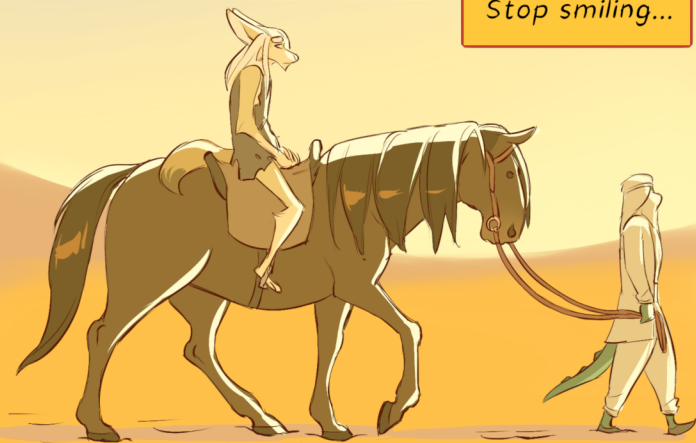
Still...

And for this one slave,
named Shen...

Hihi!

Stop smiling...

NO!

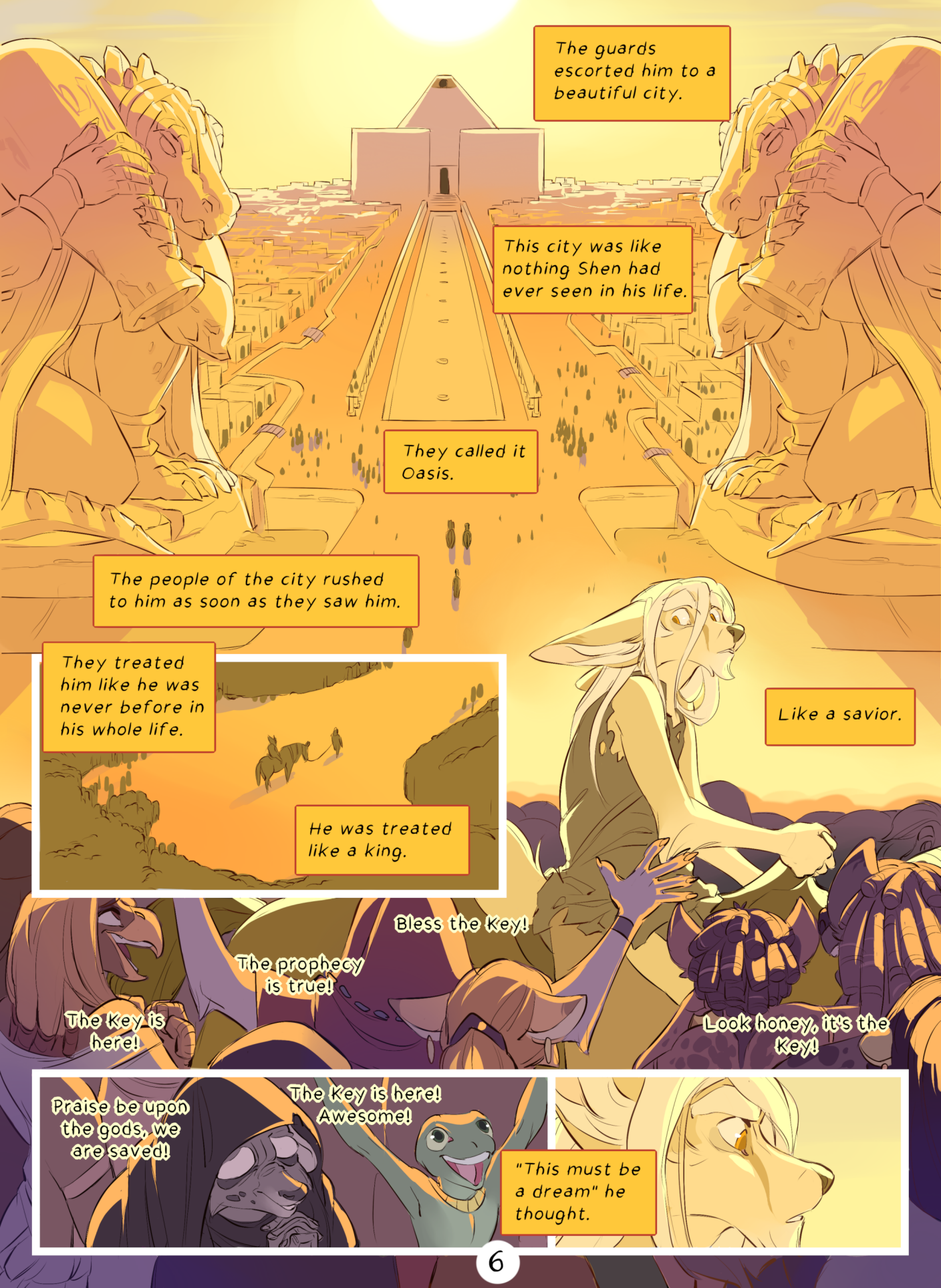


Anyway...



For this one slave, the path assigned by
the gods completely changed his life.



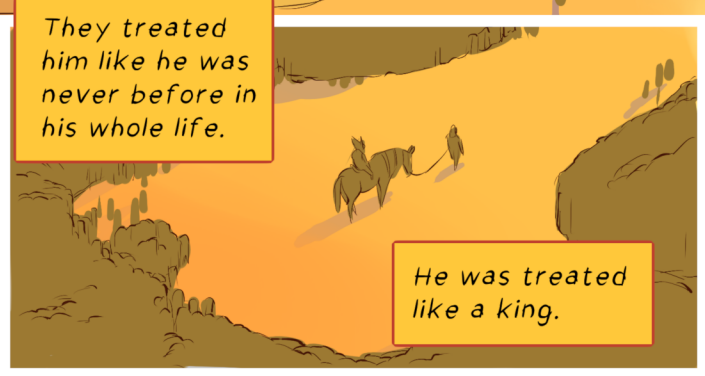


The guards escorted him to a beautiful city.

This city was like nothing Shen had ever seen in his life.

They called it Oasis.

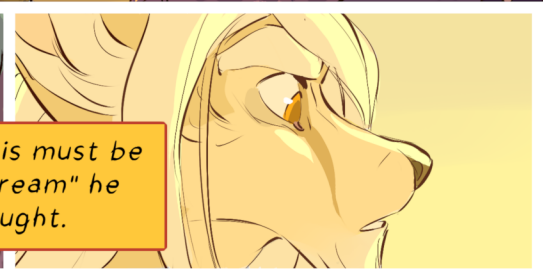
The people of the city rushed to him as soon as they saw him.



They treated him like he was never before in his whole life.

He was treated like a king.

Like a savior.



"This must be a dream" he thought.

Shen just couldn't believe the things happening around him.



First, beautiful servants bathed him in fragrant water, washing and scrubbing every small bit of his body clean.

I do not like this part...

But that was the servant's job.

Still.

Shen was dirty.

Still...

Shen was dirty and smelled like horse sh...

All right, all right!
I get it... Go on.

After that, he received a heavenly, abundant lunch.

And first time since who knows when, he could eat and drink as much as he just wanted.



Everyone treated him like a king. Like he was someone who truly matters. Everyone looked with faith at him.

But why?

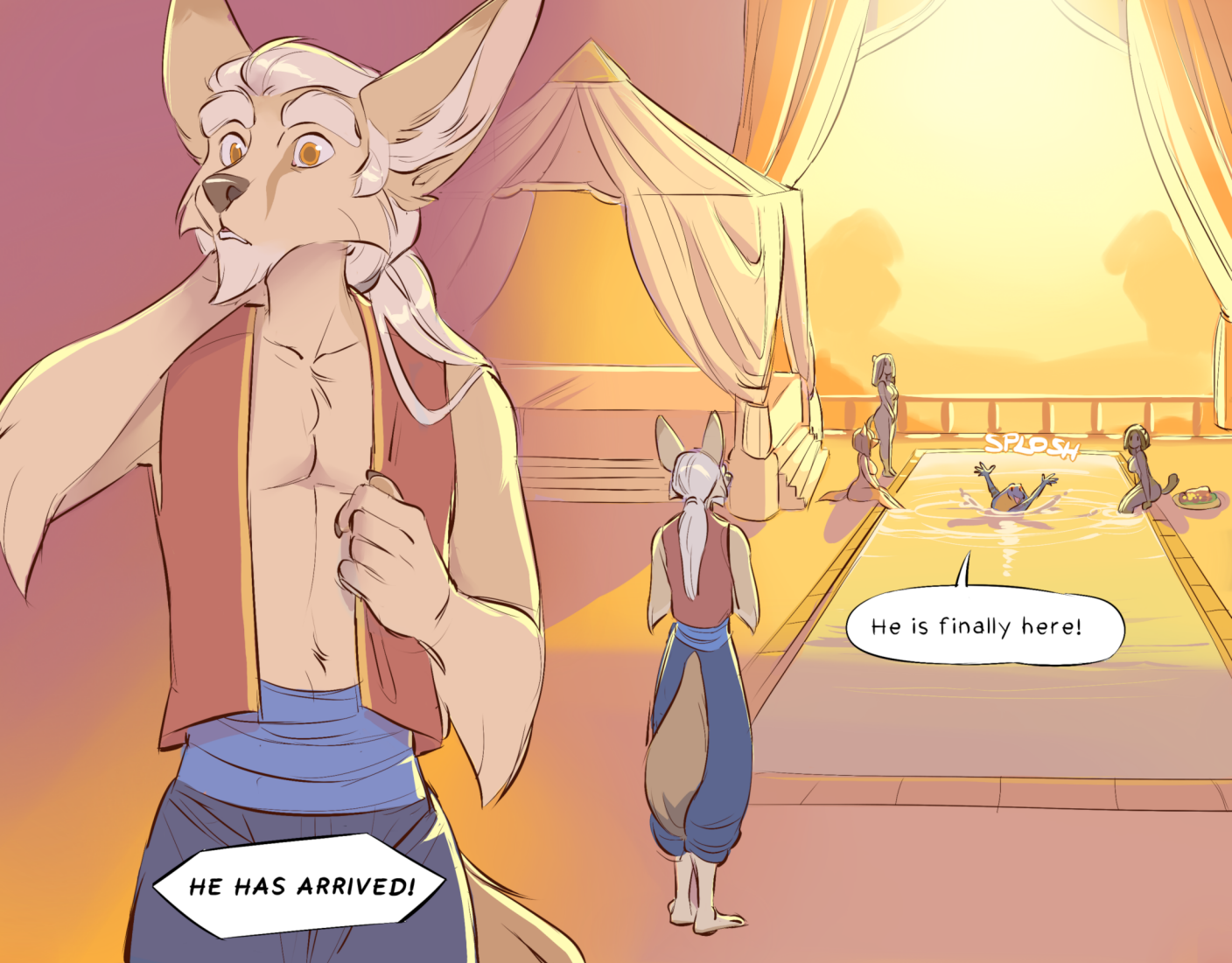
I know why!



Look, I know you're excited and everything, but if you'll always interrupt I can't...

I know, sorry...
I will be quiet.





HE HAS ARRIVED!

He is finally here!



Thank you girls,
please, leave us
alone now!



I am so happy you are
here!

Well...
Me too...
I mean...



Greetings! I am Zaphira, ruler of the Infinite Desert, and Queen of Oasis. What is your name?

I'm Shen... It's a pleasure to meet you, your highness...

My pleasure Shen! But you can call me Zaphira.

The first time Shen laid his eyes on the queen, he became petrified.



Those eyes were the kindest, most honest, and most gorgeous ones Shen had ever seen in his life.

Is... that true?

Yes, that was exactly what he saw in them. Honesty, and kindness.

That sounds beautiful...



Would you be so kind to take off your clothes?



I... If you wish... But... I mean...



Oh, do not be afraid dear Shen. There is absolutely nothing to be worried about.

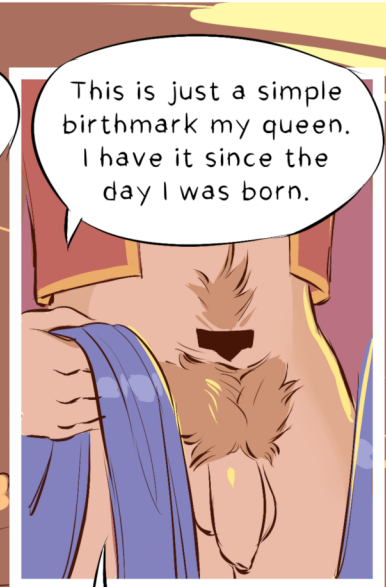


Well... If you insist, your highness...



IT IS YOU INDEED!

The one my people were waiting for such a long time!



This is just a simple birthmark my queen. I have it since the day I was born.

And I'm no one... Just a simple slave...



Do not be silly Shen, you are the Key! You are a slave no more.

I had a feeling like that, yeah...

You know, there is an ancient prophecy, written in a long forgotten language.



Although we are unable to translate the whole text, what we could understand states that in the time of great need, the Key will come to our aid in the guise of a common slave, and by opening the sacred Lock, it will bring redemption to the people of Oasis and the Infinite Desert.

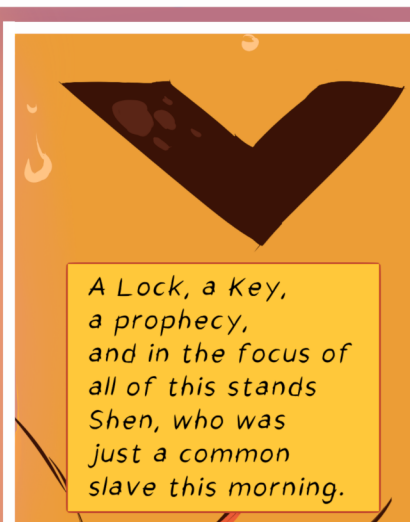


But what's the key... And what's the lock, your highness?

Please, just call me Zaphira.

And not what, but who. **YOU** are the Key Shen. You are the key to the future of my people.

And I am the sacred Lock, chosen by the gods themselves. That is why I was born. That is the whole purpose of my existence.



A Lock, a Key, a prophecy, and in the focus of all of this stands Shen, who was just a common slave this morning.

And at that moment, he got petrified again!

Oh, he did indeed!



Come Shen!
Let us not waste more time!

What...?

PUSH

Even if Shen
was petrified...

But he was not
petrified **ENOUGH!**

Right?

Well...

Riiiiight? Hihi!

You know what?
Right. Can't hurt a
bit of irony.

But for Shen's luck,
Queen Zaphira saw the
need for her help.

Oh, I see there will
be need for my
help.

And she was prepared for
this possibility as well.

Yes, I am prepared for this
possibility as well.

And she knew
EXACTLY
what to do.

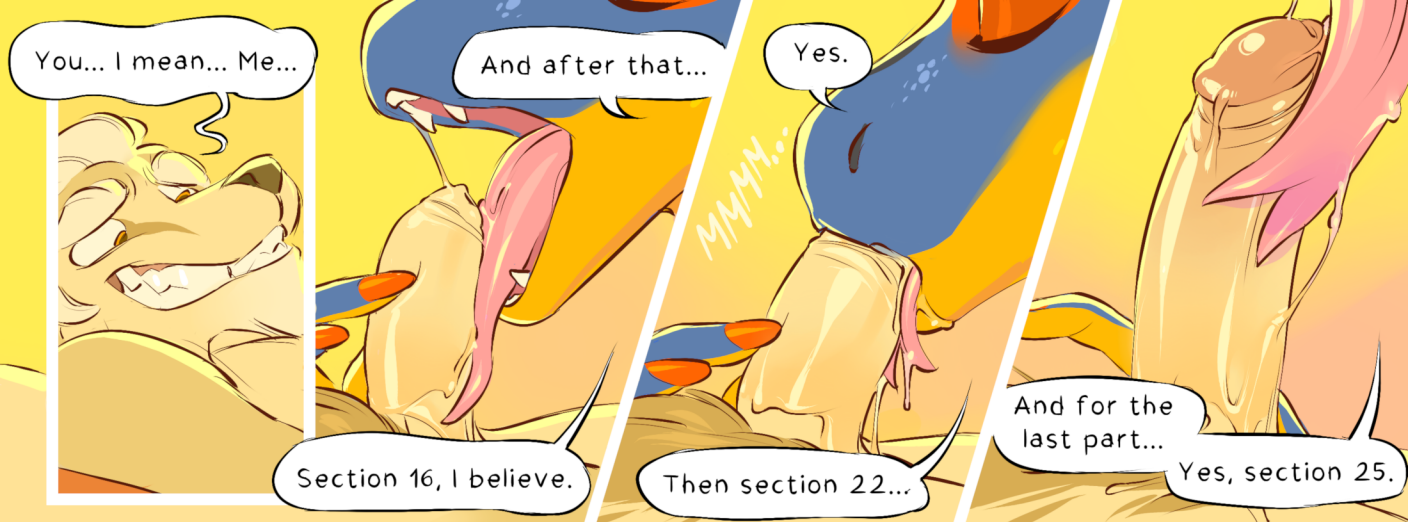
I know
EXACTLY
what to do.

I think you'll still
need a bit more
practice in this.

I know, I know...

Hm, how
was it?
Let see...

Yes.
Chapter 2,
section 12.



You... I mean... Me...

And after that...

Yes.

Section 16, I believe.

Then section 22...

And for the last part...

Yes, section 25.



I am almost finished. This is so exciting, is it not?

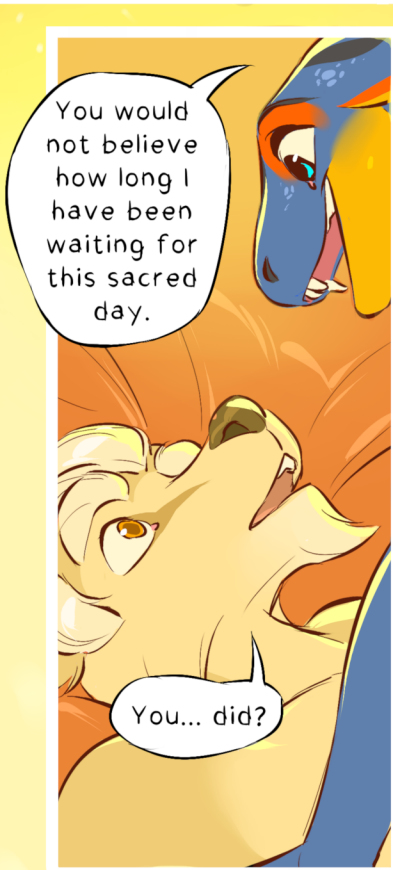
SUCK
SUCK
SUCK



Oh look!

LOOK!

It worked!
We can finally begin!

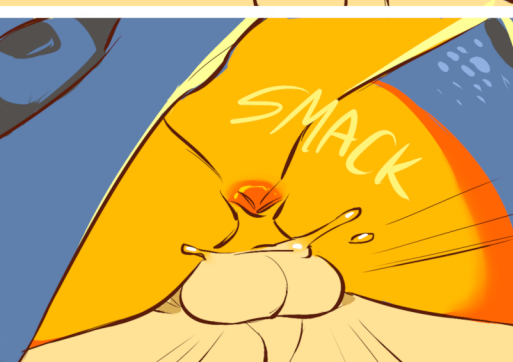
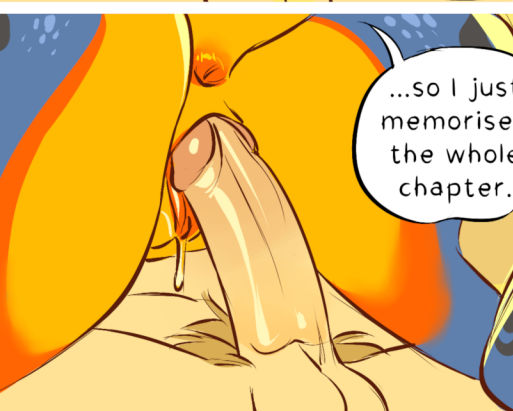
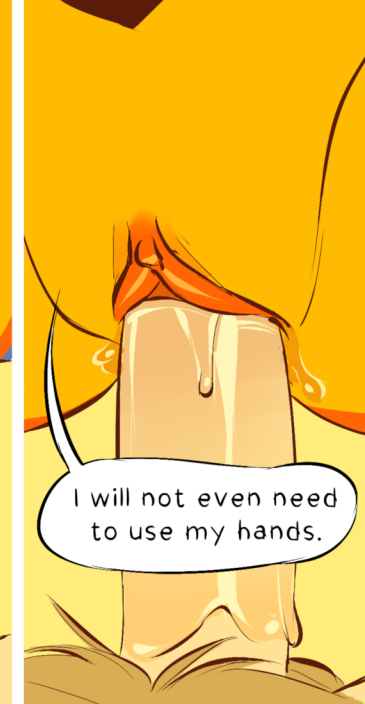
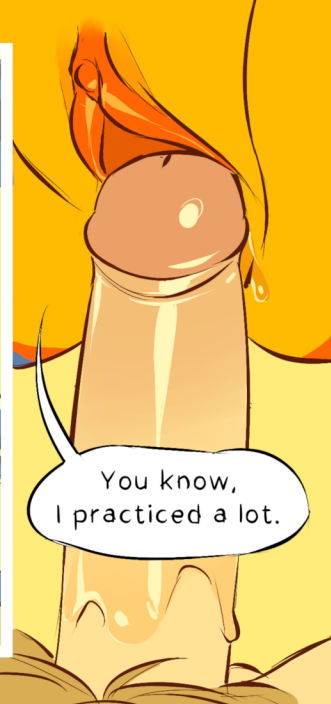


You would not believe how long I have been waiting for this sacred day.

You... did?



Yes! I am so happy that we found you at last. I have been dreaming about this moment for my whole life.

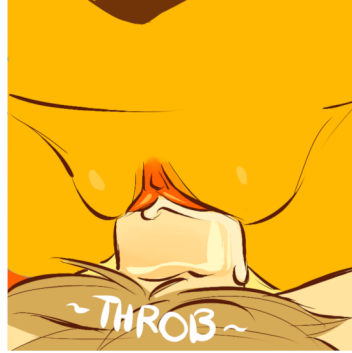




How long can you still hold?

Not for long... I'm afraid...

Oh, that is fantastic!



Oh my, look!

LOOK!

You are finished! This means the prophecy is already completed! This is so wonderful! You have fulfilled your purpose and **MY** purpose so quickly!

What the hell is happening...



Your Highness...?



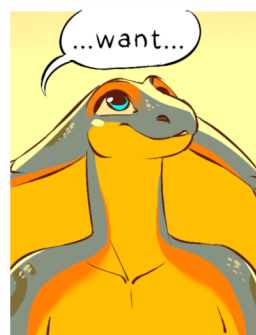
Where are you going...?

Come with me Shen, and let us witness this **GLORIOUS** moment together!



COME SHENI
QUICKLY!

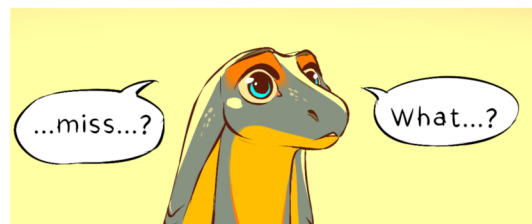
Belive me, this
holy moment
you do not...



...want...



...to...



...miss...?

What...?



Why is nothing
happening?

What could I
possibly do
wrong?

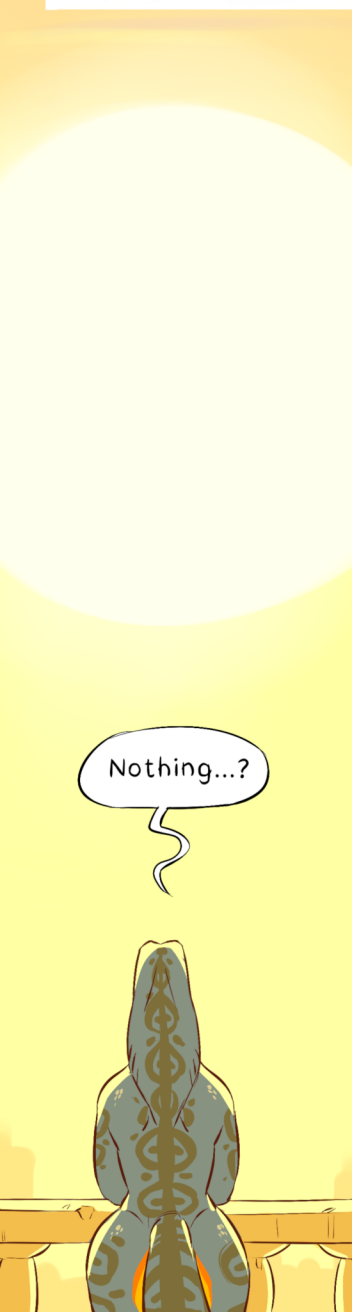


Is there something
wrong?

I did everything
as I was taught
by the
priestesses.

What do
you mean
by
"taught"?

And I
learned **ALL**
the lessons,
there is no
way I missed
anything!



Nothing...?



Your highness? Why did
you run away?

I do not understand...



Wait, I got it!

**I BELIEVE
I KNOW
WHAT
WAS THE
PROBLEM!**

It is **SO** obvious!
Such tiny detail,
no wonder even
the priestesses
overlooked it.

What...
tiny detail...?

It is not the lock that goes into the key, but the **OTHER WAY AROUND!** The key is the one going into the lock!

Come now Shen, place your key into my lock, and open the gate to a brighter future!

But your highness, I don't...

Just call me Zaphira, I told you.

And as I said, I am not your ruler, and you are not one of my subjects.

You are my destiny.

Do not worry. All will be well. Fate ordained you for this task, just like it did me. This is our fate.

Our purpose.

You... saved me, and made me a free man once again. I'd do what ever you just wish. But I don't know if I'm worthy enough to...

And Shen, in the queen's calm smile saw that she was certain. And at that moment, he truly knew, he truly felt that at the end, all will be well.

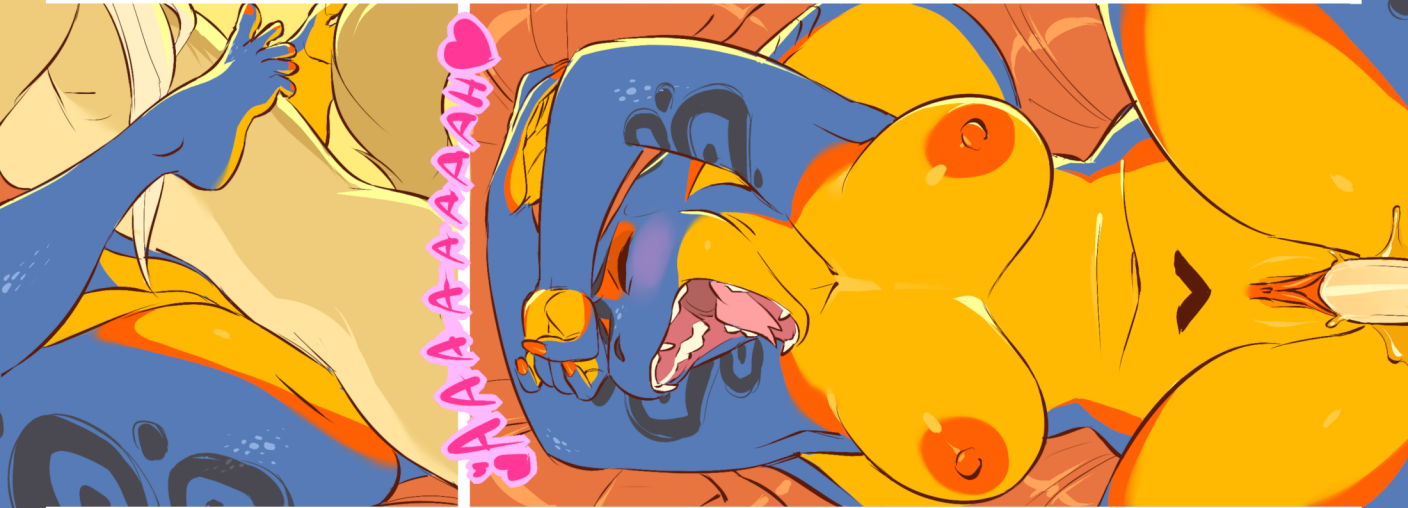
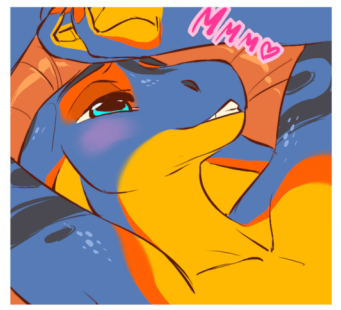
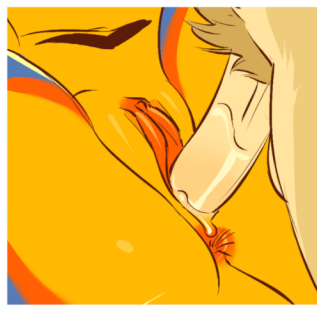
Did he? Truly?

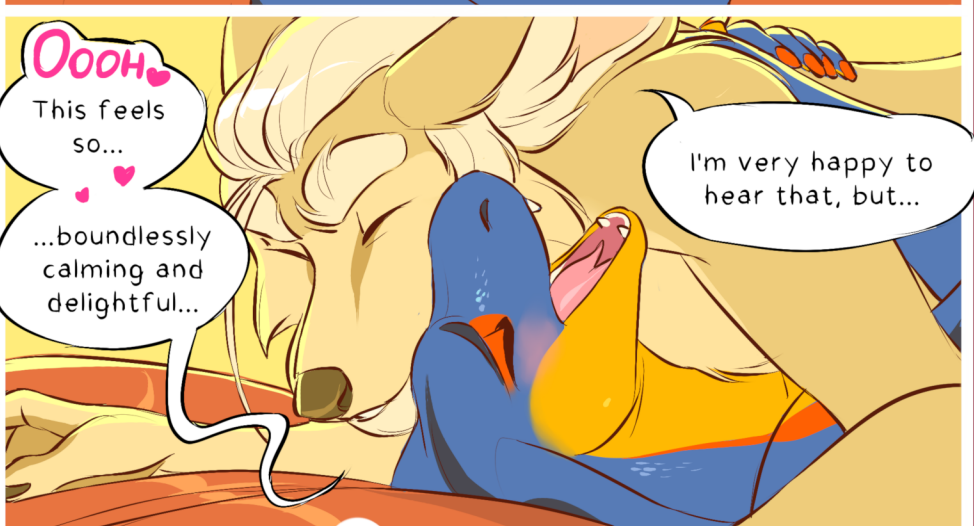
Yes, he did.

Alright then, I do as you wish.

And so, without him even knowing...

...he took the next step to fulfill his destiny.







I'm sorry, but I just can't hold it back any longer!

Do not hold it back Shen!

Let it all out, and make our prophecy come true!



Ahhh...

I have **NEVER** felt anything like this in my entire life.



I can safely say the same...



Good job there Shen.

Good job.

Hm?

I felt such an unfamiliar, yet overwhelming pleasure, it **MUST** have been a sign from the gods! The prophecy **MUST** have come true!



Your Highness, I believe...

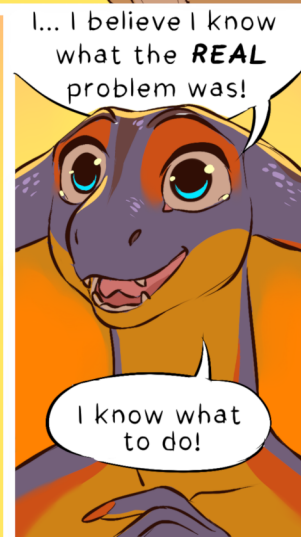
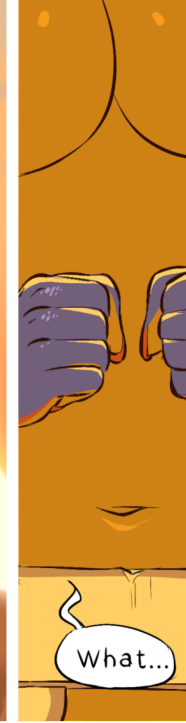


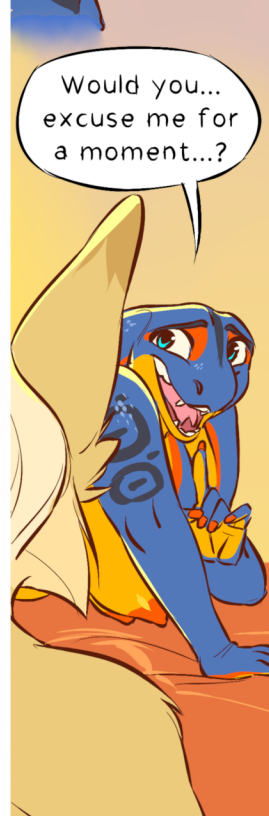
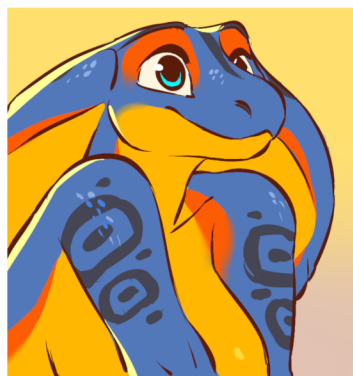
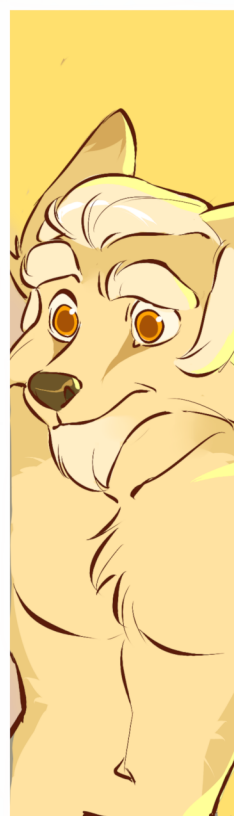
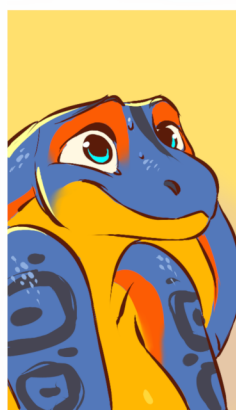
Come Shen!

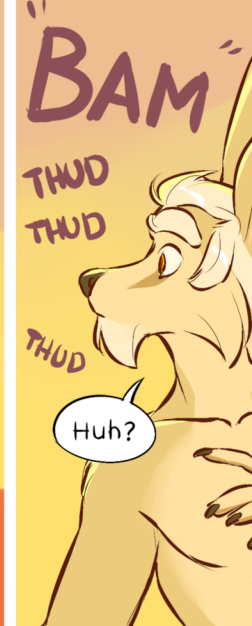
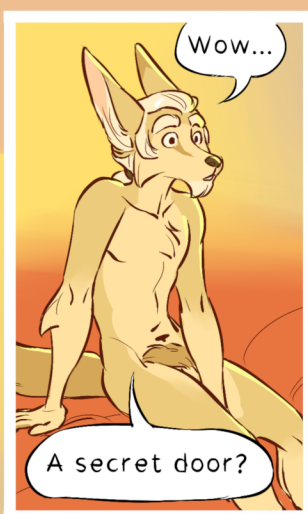
Let us **FINALLY** witness the coming of the prophecy together!

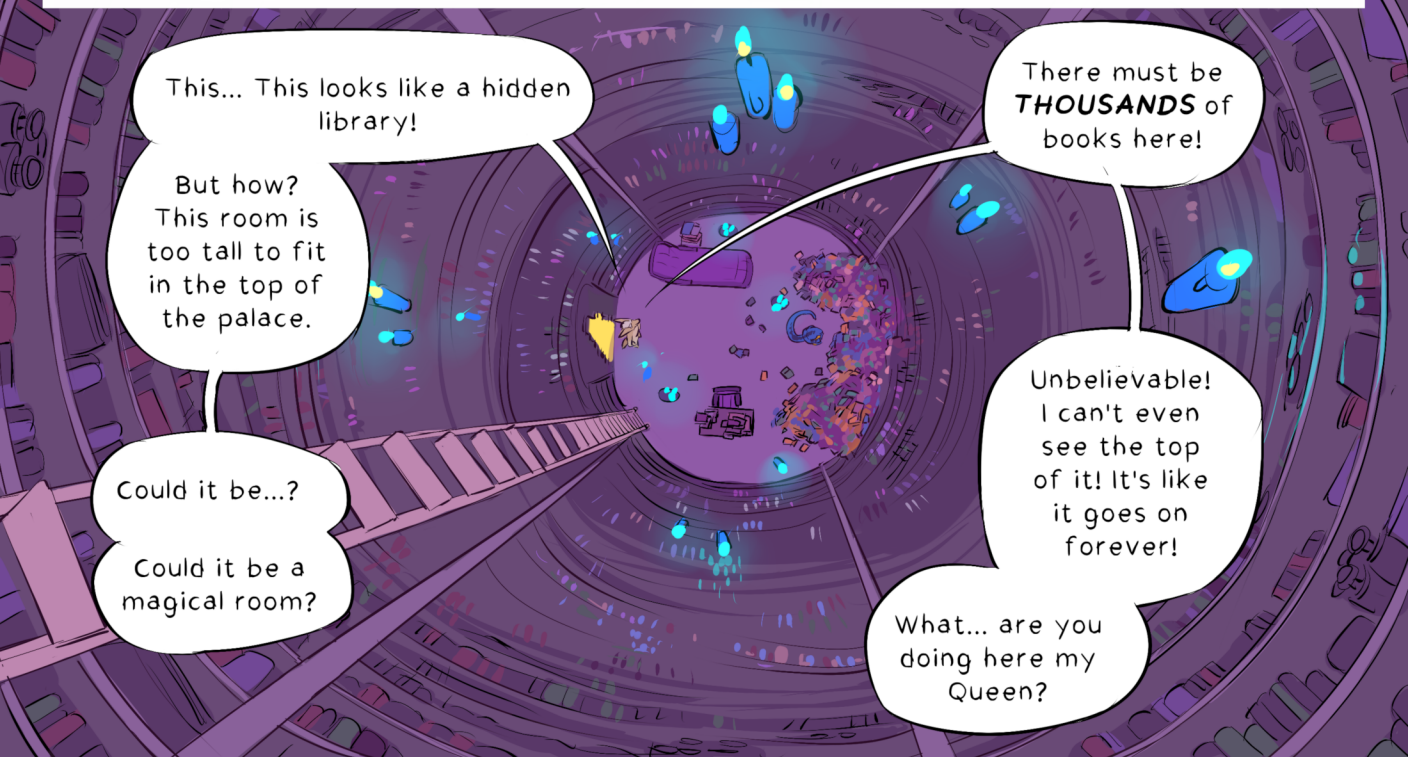
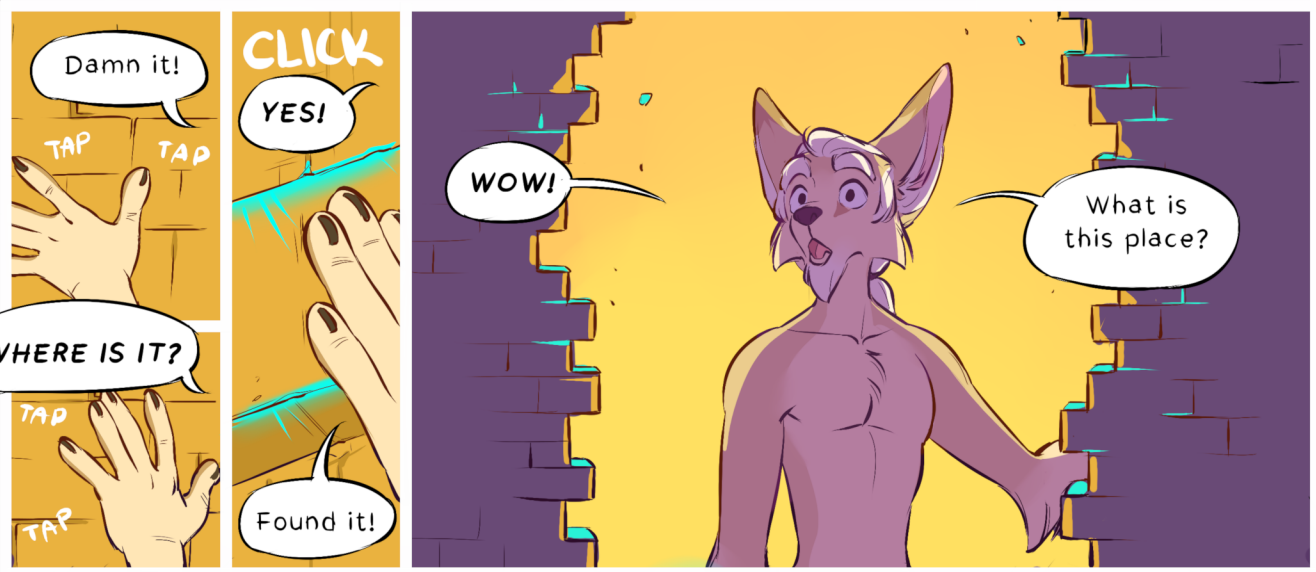


-sigh-













But what are you doing here? I thought something bad happened to you.

I was only trying to... gather a few ideas. Because...

I do not know how to be romantic...

I have read almost **ALL** of these novels, and I just do not know how to do it! I do not know how to get acquainted...

As Shen looked at the gigantic book shelves, laden with love, adventures, and heroes, he suddenly realised something.

Oh? And what did he realise?

I have never done that before... How will I connect our souls? How am I going to fulfill my destiny? Our destiny...

That there is a huge hole in the queen's heart.

Oh...

A hole, that he thought was caused by the prophecy itself, and the fate ordained for her.

And even if he didn't know how to help on the queen...

You really love books, don't you?

I like them too.

Yes, greatly... Reading these is my dearest leisure activity.

Truly? And do you have a favorite author as well?

No. Not yet, anyway.

...he tried the first idea that came to his mind.

Do you want to... talk a bit?

Yes... That would be lovely...

But what Shen did not realise...

...that how fantastic that idea of his truly was.



I would never imagine that you adore reading as well!

I think that's a bit of an overstatement, but I like novels in general. Aaand my parents beat me quite a few times for spending my time reading instead of working...



This is fantastic!

It wasn't too pleasant, believe me.

No, I mean we are talking right now.

I am most certain this is exactly what we have to do to connect our souls.



I see this prophecy is really important to you.

This is the only reason of my existence.



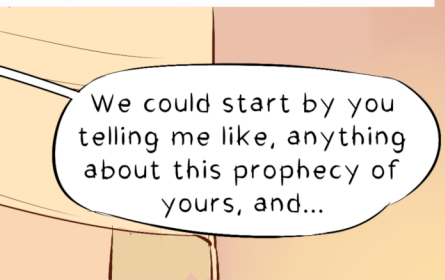
I'm sorry, but that sounds awfully sad...



Not at all, the prophecy is a fantastic thing!



But what would you like to chat about?



We could start by you telling me like, anything about this prophecy of yours, and...



Absolutely not! We should work on getting to know each other, and stop wasting time on obvious things.

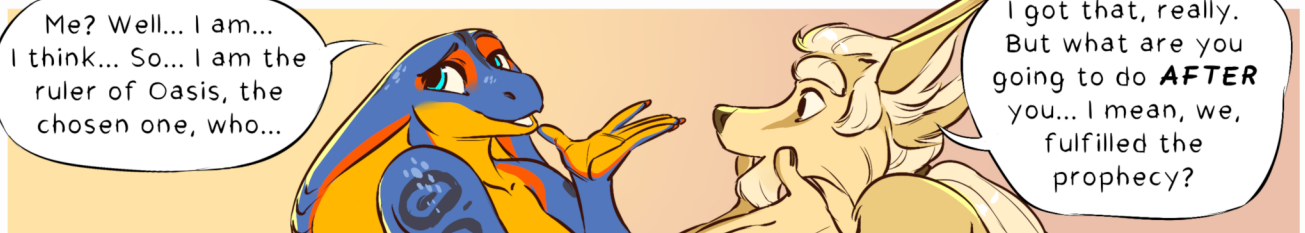
So, what topic would you like to discuss?

Alright... Then tell me a bit more about yourself.



About myself? That will be an easy one. I am the ruler of Oasis, the chosen one born with the mark of the prophecy, who are going to fulfill the ancient and holy prophecy.

Yes, you talked about that a few times already. But who are you beside all that?



Me? Well... I am... I think... So... I am the ruler of Oasis, the chosen one, who...

I got that, really. But what are you going to do **AFTER** you... I mean, we, fulfilled the prophecy?

After... that... I will...

You know what, it doesn't matter. Just forget it. Let me ask you something else. Who is Zaphira, as a person? Not the Queen of Oasis, but Zaphira, who sits in front of me. Who is she?

Umm... I... She is...

She is the ruler of Oasis, the chosen one born with the mark of the prophecy, who...

You know what, let's just try it from a different angle. What do you do, when you are **NOT** busy managing your empire?

That is easy! I love reading all kinds of novels!


Great! And what else do you like to do? Do you have any other hobby?

Well... Well...

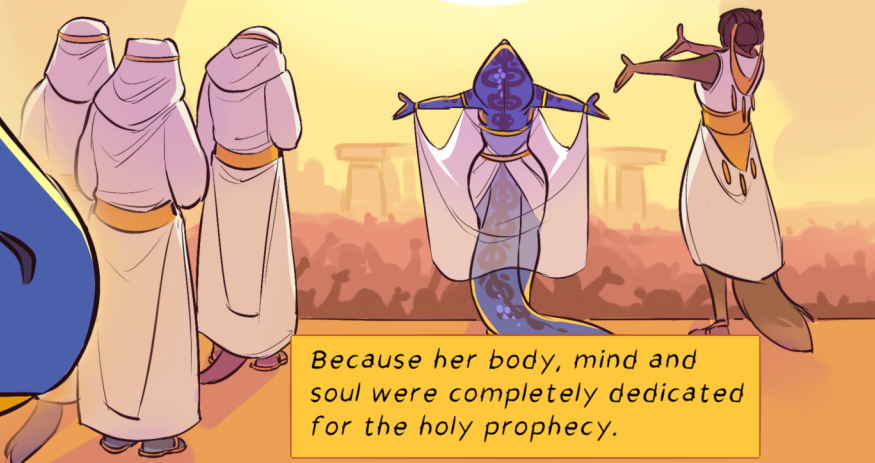
I am sorry, but I just can not do this...

I do not know how to... How to do this...


At that moment, looking at the annihilating desperation on the queen's face, Shen had a feeling that this prophecy demanded more from the queen than just some love making studies.




Now Shen was certain that the ruler of Oasis was not allowed to have any kind of life beside the prophecy.



Because her body, mind and soul were completely dedicated for the holy prophecy.



And that small hidden library...




...was indeed the queen's most precious and most well kept secret. That small, hidden room was the only place that... that...

...that could give her a little serenity, that was denied from her.

Yes...


Beyond The Horiz



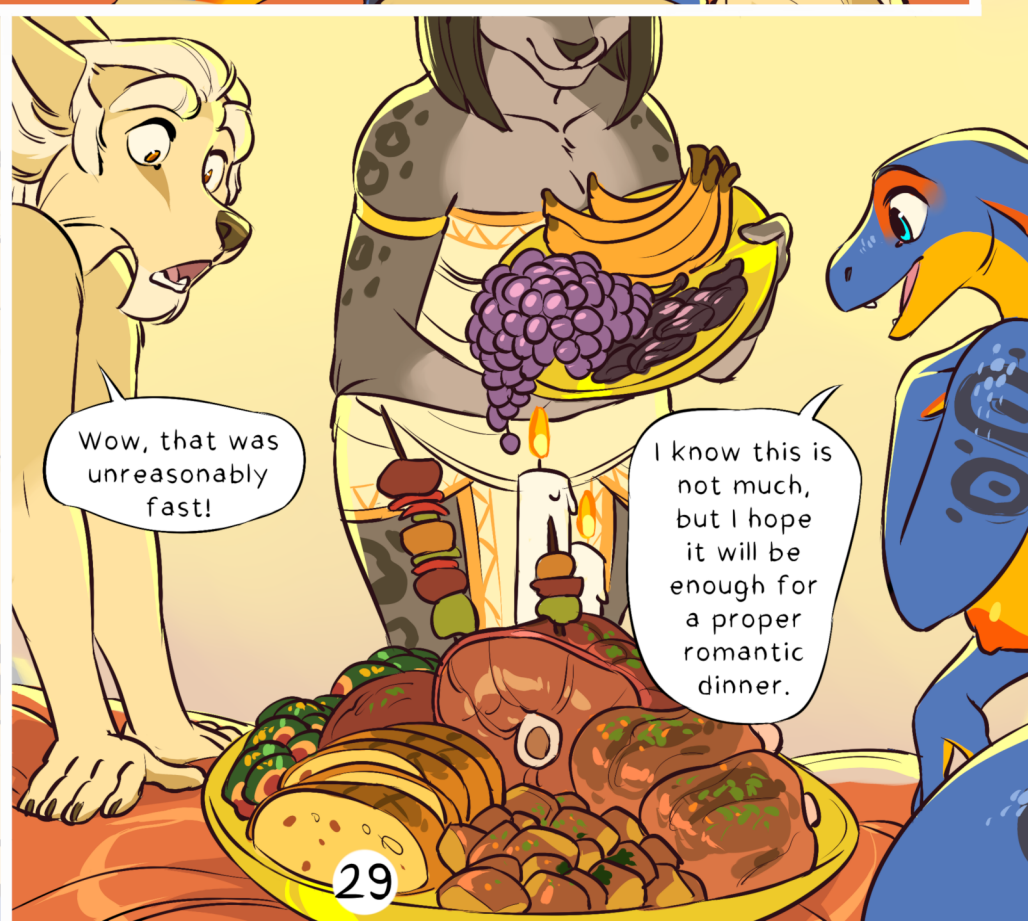
And this is exactly why Shen decided that no matter what, he'll help the Queen to find herself. Because he saw that the Queen was a prisoner, just like him.

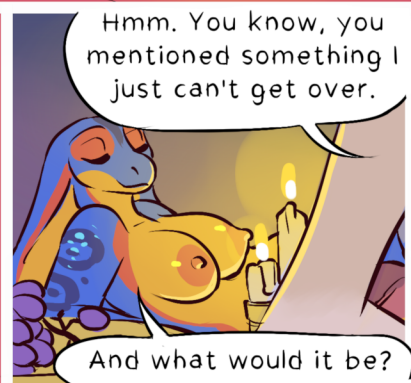
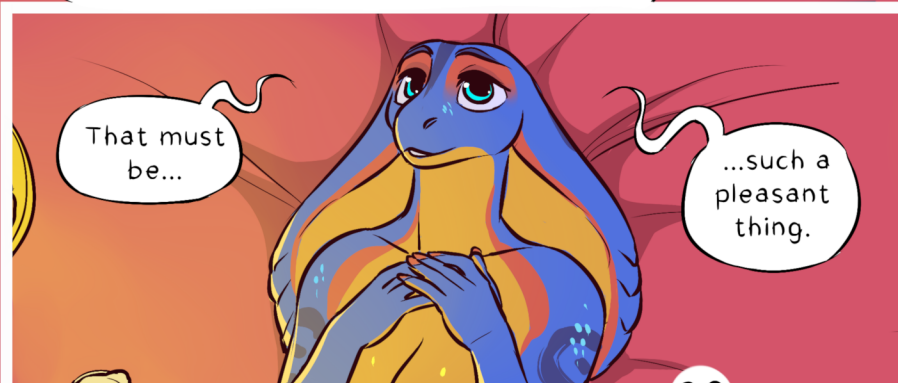
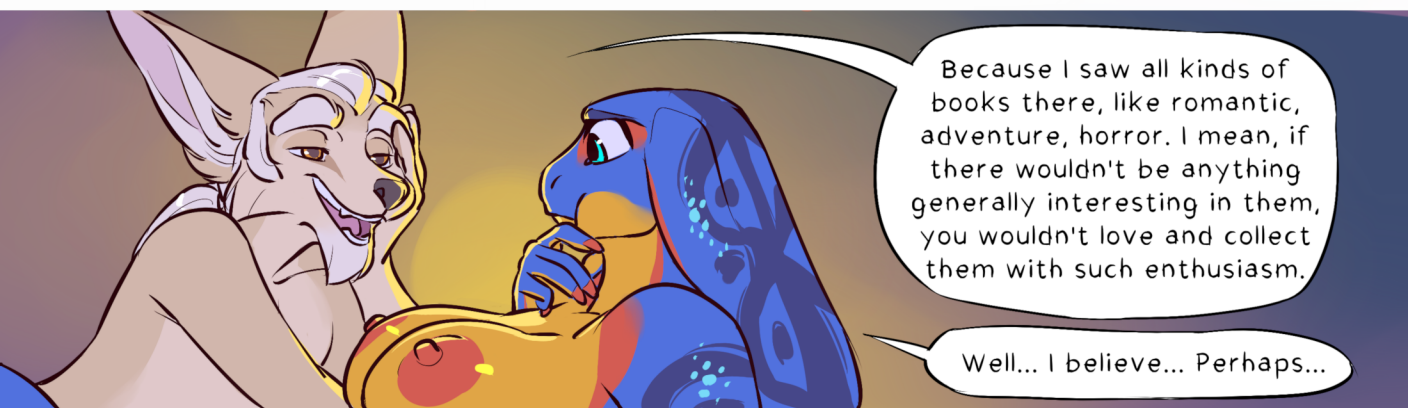
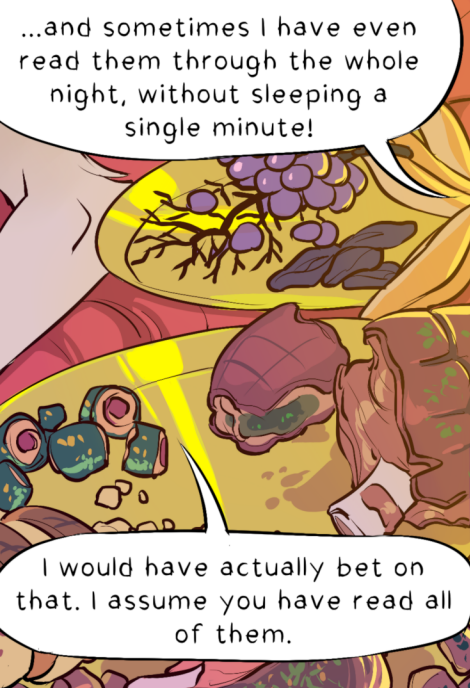
The prisoner of the Prophecy.

But her jail was invisible, and was stronger than any other one. Zaphira was a beautiful bird, sitting in the shiniest golden bird cage. Everyone took good care of her, and she got everything she needed, even a goal to remain in her golden cage.



But with time, the cage became smaller and smaller.







You said you've never been on bottom, and... That you were trained for the whole act?



Yes, that is correct.

I have been born with the mark of the prophecy. That is the main reason I have become the queen and religious leader of Oasis. And as a leader I had to be prepared to meet the Key.



I had to practice a lot to satisfy their high expectations.

I was trained my whole life by the priestesses to be able to fulfill my task as fast and efficient as possible.



So you've never done it because you... wanted to?

Why... why would I ever do that? My purpose is to fulfill the prophecy, by...

I know... I know...



Erm... you know, in my favorite romantic stories, the lovebirds always feed each other in a very passionate way. Maybe we could try that out too.

That sounds **WONDERFUL!**

Please, close your eyes, I would like to be the one to start!



As you wish.



AHHGR!!!

31



Oh no, this is not the way to do it, am I right?

No - **GHKKK** - I don't think so...



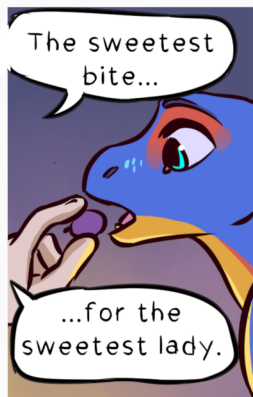
Forgive me, I am just... so nervous right now...

Don't worry, it's okay...

Then please allow me to show it.



The sweetest bite...



...for the sweetest lady.



Awww!

This is truly the most romantic thing I have ever experienced.



Me next!

Just gently.

Like this?

Exactly like this.

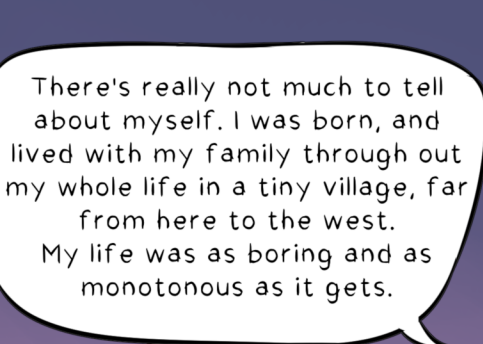


Shen... I'm so ashamed, you had no chance to talk about yourself so far, or... I just simply did not give you any chance to speak... Please, would you be so kind to tell me more about yourself? Naturally, only if it does not make you feel uncomfortable.

I'm sorry my queen...

Zaphira.

...but I'm afraid I have to disappoint you.




There's really not much to tell about myself. I was born, and lived with my family through out my whole life in a tiny village, far from here to the west. My life was as boring and as monotonous as it gets.



But two years ago a barbarian tribe raided our village. Anyone that wasn't killed was sold as a slave. I became a slave, my family... didn't.

Since then they passed me from hand to hand as a disposable tool, and...




Now I'm here, only thanks to you.

I see... I mean...

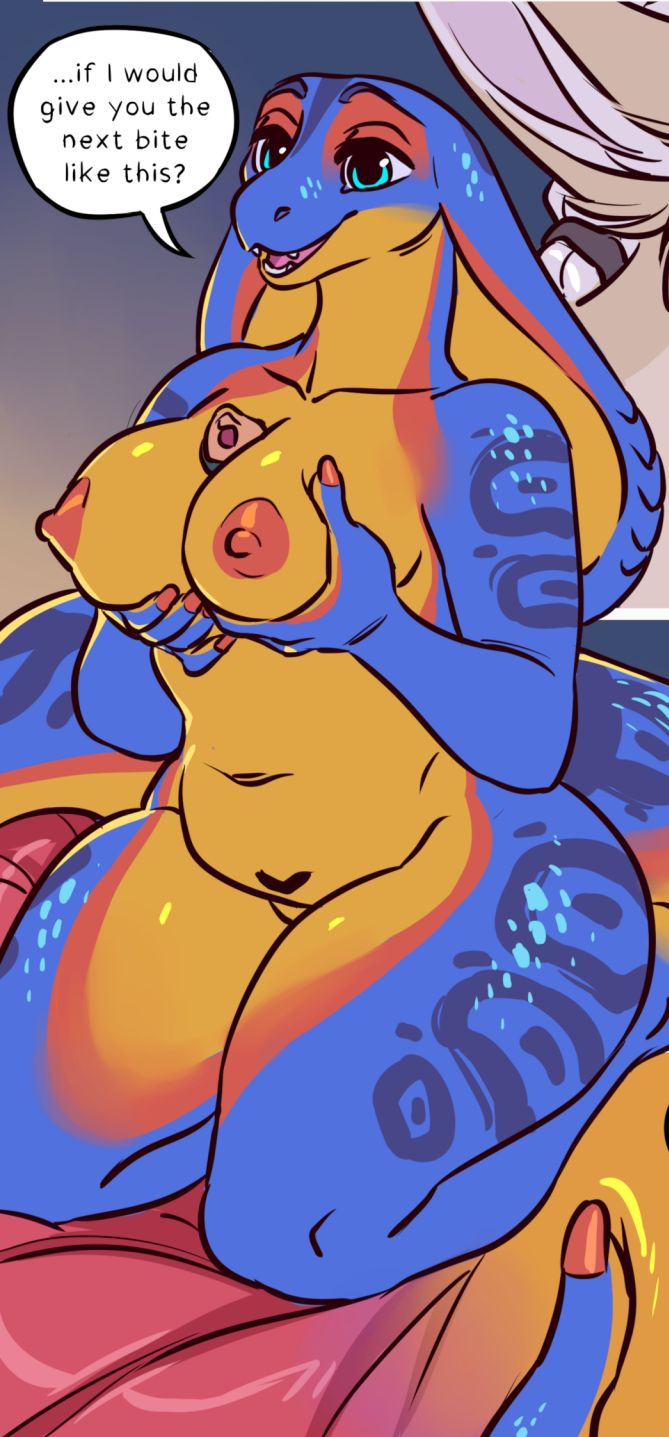
I'm sorry...

Don't worry, it's okay.


And this time it was Zaphira's turn to guide the discourse into a better direction.



What would you say...




...if I would give you the next bite like this?



You... like it?

You have no idea.



Was it... really that enjoyable...?

Truly the most enjoyable bite I ever had.

Then please...

...have another.



Oh my! This one looks even tastier!

Tehehe!
That tickles!

But do not
stop please!

But only if...

I mean...



Are you
embarrassed? Even
though we recently
made love like...
twice already?

Yes but... that was only
my duty. This here is...
different... I have never felt
anything like this before.
This could be similar to
what... those characters in
those novels could feel. I
am...

I am truly enjoying
spending this whole
day with you, Shen.



Then I might know something else that
should **NEVER** be missing from any good
romantic novel.

And what
would it be?





Dancing without music?

People said I'm
tone-deaf anyway.
And a fumbler.

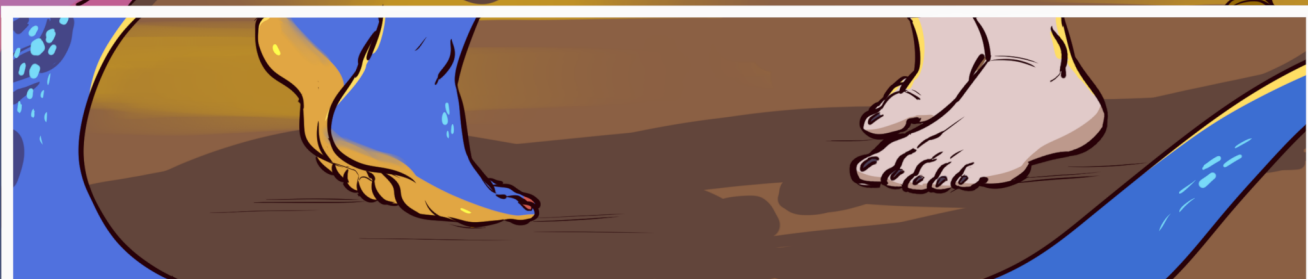
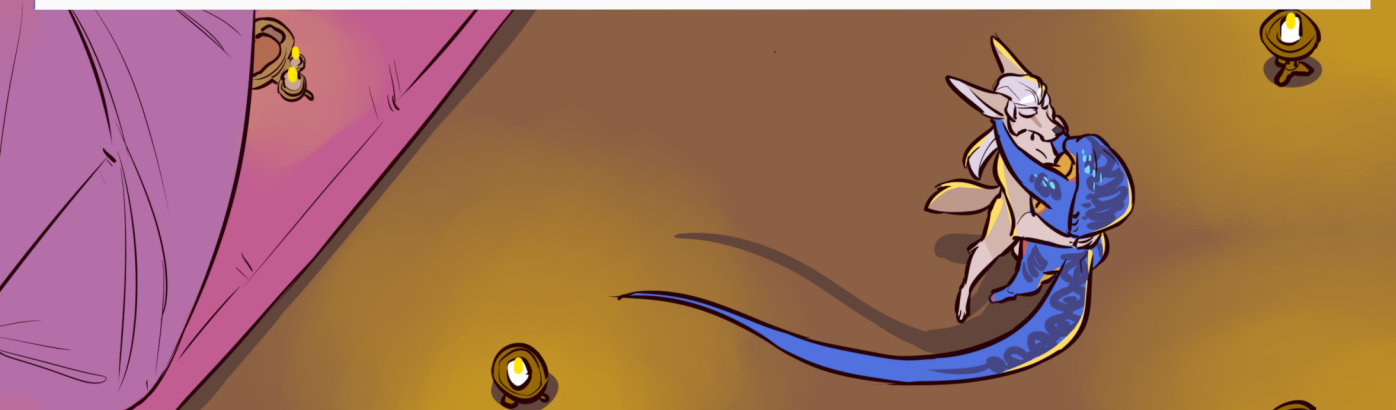


Let's just do
it like this.



Just the two of us.

That sounds
truly wonderful.



I have never in
my life danced
like this.

Without music?

No.
Like this.



This is so endlessly
pleasant...



You have such gorgeous eyes my queen.

They are stunning.

Oh... really? Thank you. That is so nice of you.

Nobody ever told you how beautiful they are?

No... Never...

But they truly are! I've never seen such beautiful and kind eyes before.

Really?



They are so blue. I've only witnessed such shimmering beauty at the sea.

You... you have seen the sea?



Yes.

And I'd love to dive deep into your sea, and get to know all of it's beauty, mystery, and...

...pain.



There is one thing I... Well... You know... I wanted to ask from you.

I'm all ears.



When you asked me how I would describe myself... I could not give you an answer.

But you... So... How do you see... me?



Never in my life have I seen a more beautiful thing like you.

But that doesn't really matter.

It does not?



No. Because never in my life have I seen a kinder, sweeter, angel than you.

Oh, well... Oh! That was... That was very sweet of you. You left me completely speechless...



And... This might be a rather strange question, but I can not get it out of my mind. Do you not see... anything weird on me?

Weird? What do you mean by that?

Like... I do not know... I am tied to my duty so tight that I feel my behavior and look just...



Shhh.
Stop right there. You are perfect as you are. Believe me.
But I think there was something that surprised me at first.



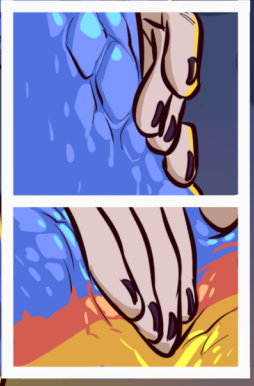
And what was that?

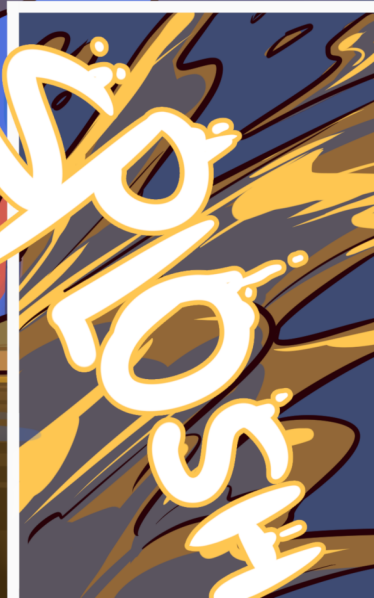
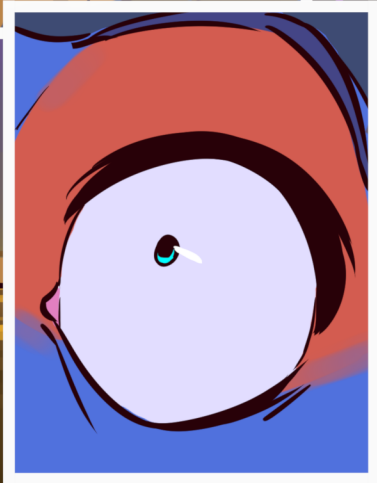
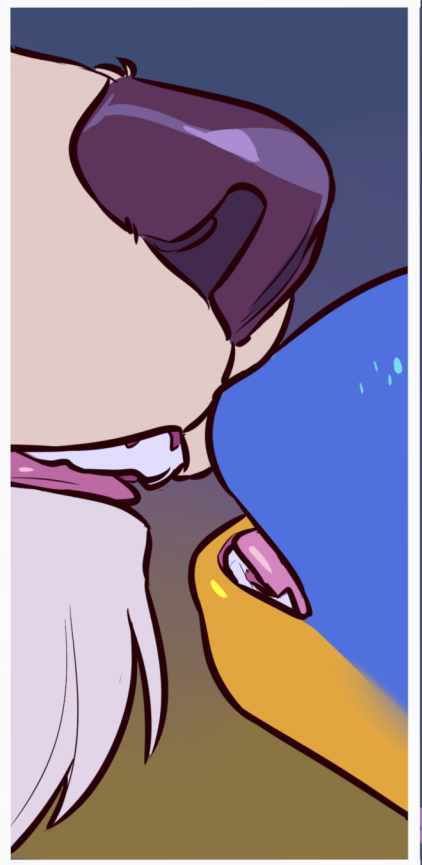
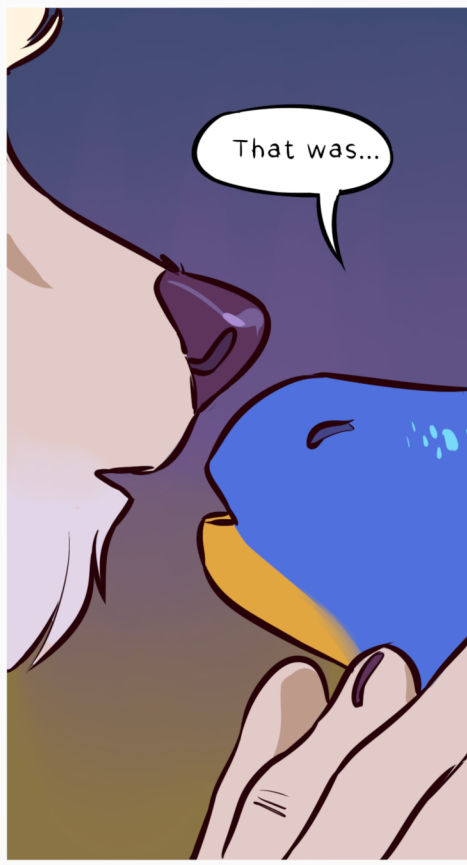
You promise you won't take it amiss?

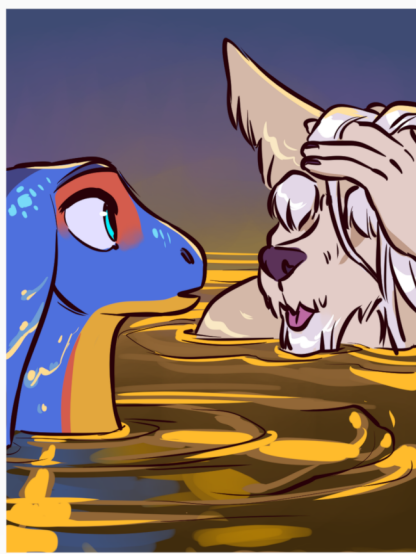
I will not! I swear!

I've never met your kind before. I've only seen scaled folks from afar. Their skin always looked so cold and damp to me. Then you came, you touched me, you nestled to me and...

And your skin was so incredibly soft and warm. It felt so fantastic to touch you. Your skin is like silk. And your scales are so shiny and beautiful, like thousands of small, magnificent jewels.







Come to think of it, plenty of my favorite novels have a romantic bath scene.

Hehe, I've read quite a few like that too.




Shen...



Don't worry about it. It doesn't matter anymore.

I am so sorry for the life you had to live. You deserved so much better.

You had to live through so many terrible things, you have lost so much, how do you mean it does not matter? How can you say that?



Because I can be
here with you, your
highness.

It's true how
they say. You
never know
what you'll find
at the end of
your road.

I tried to imagine
everything that could
happen to me. But to
find the kindest and
most beautiful rose in
the middle of the
desert, as a common
slave...


That I would never
imagine. Not even in my
wildest dreams.

You... You alone made up for **EVERYTHING**
that has **EVER** happened to me.

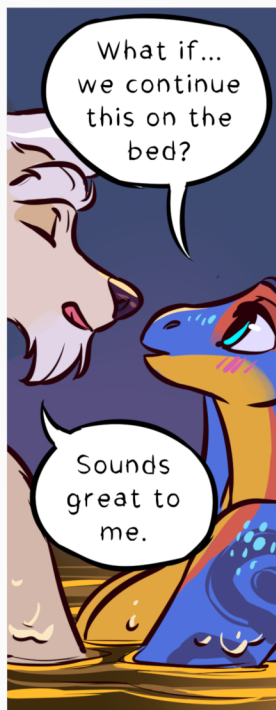
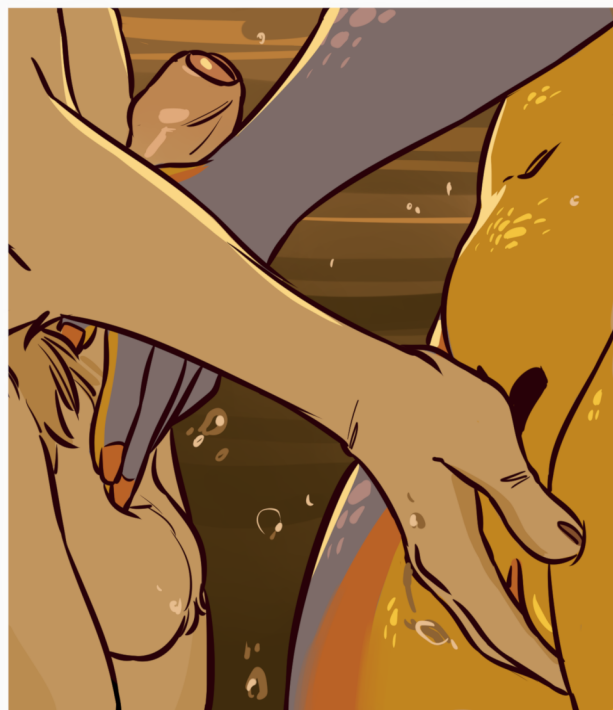
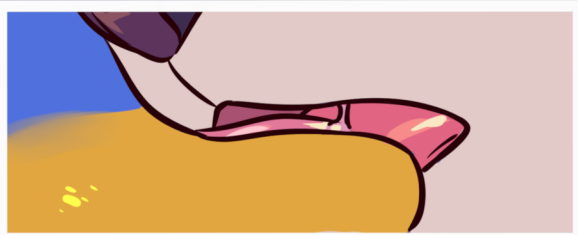
If I had to live through
hell again knowing you'll
be at the end of my
road... I'd do it without
hesitation.



But...

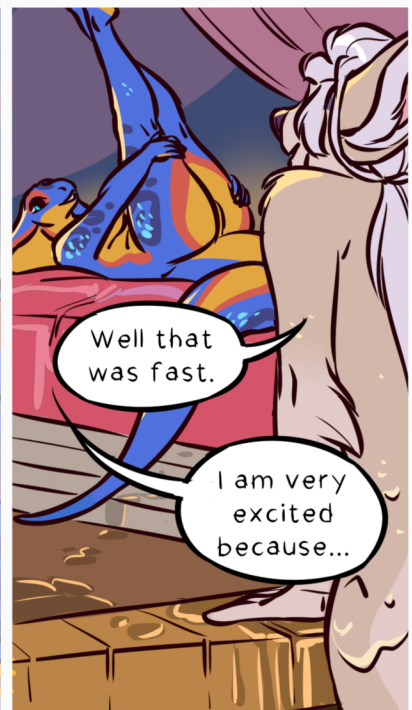


Zaphira.



What if... we continue this on the bed?

Sounds great to me.



Well that was fast.

I am very excited because...

Because I feel like... this will be my very first time.

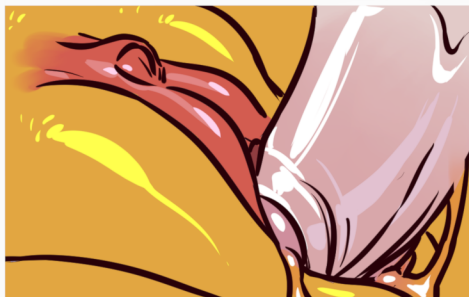
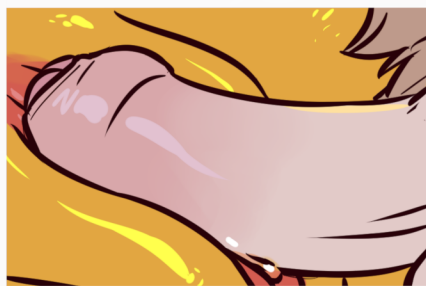
The very first?

Yes.

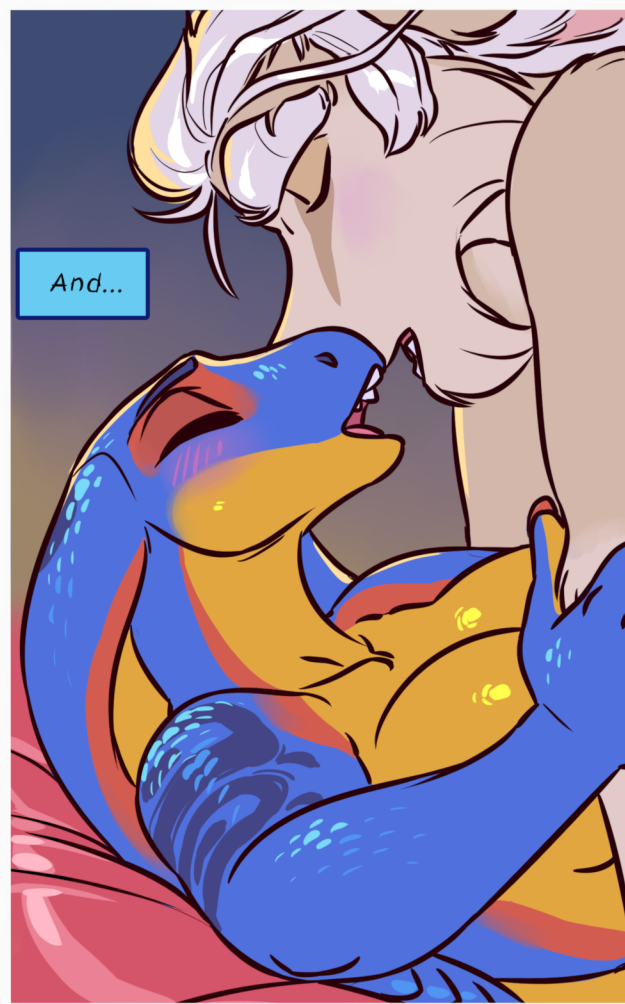
I feel like this will be my very first time to... make love with someone, and not just fulfilling my duty. And... I am so happy you are that someone.

For the first time,
they were truly
connected.

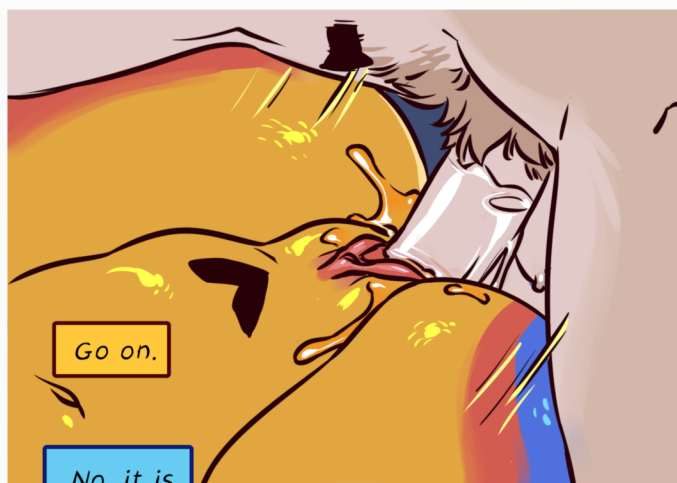
Not just their bodies,
but their souls as well.



And they couldn't get
enough of each other.



And...



Go on.



No, it is
silly...

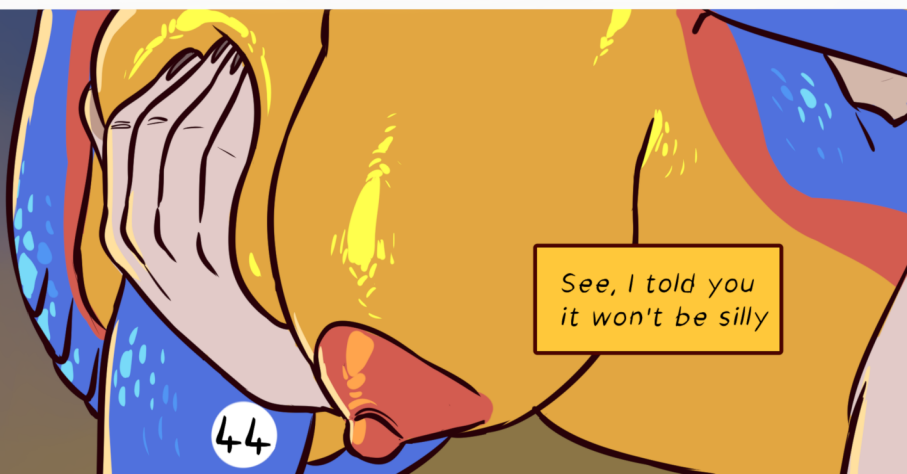


Don't worry.
I'm sure it
won't be silly.

So...

And finally, for
the first time,
they embraced
each other as
true lovers.

Because for the
first time in
their life, they
experienced
true love...



See, I told you
it won't be silly

*That night was
about endless love,
and deep passion.*

*That night was
beautiful.*

*That night
was eternal.*

*But that night
was even more
than that.*

*That night
was...*



*Please,
don't be
afraid to
say what
you feel.*

*That night
was...*

*Life
changing...*





That's right.

*After that day,
both of their lives
changed...*



...forever.



I love you,
Shen.

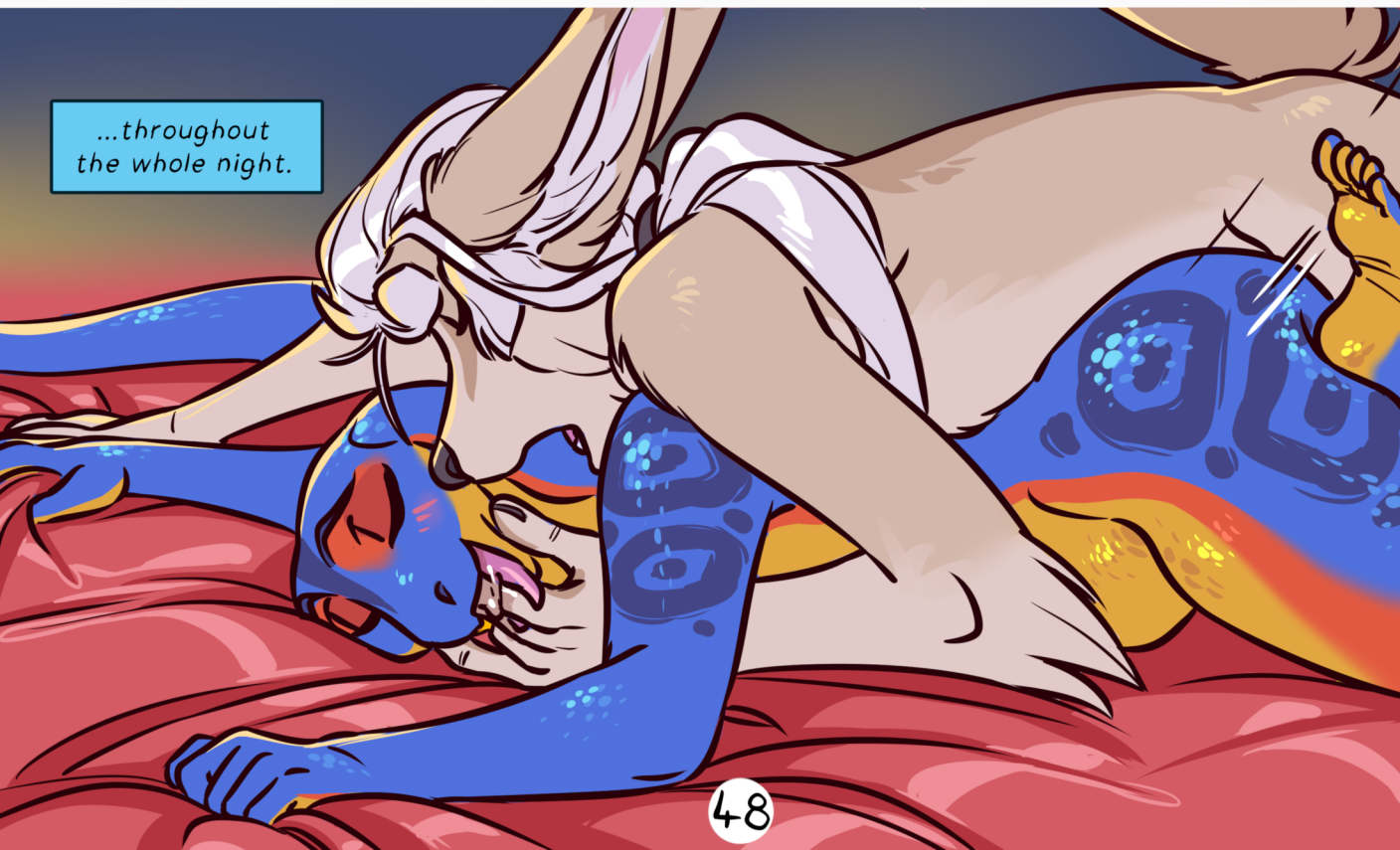


I love you too,
Zaphira.

And they kept
loving each other...



...throughout
the whole night.





Oh Shen...



I am exhausted...

But I do not want to stop!



I wish this night could last forever too...



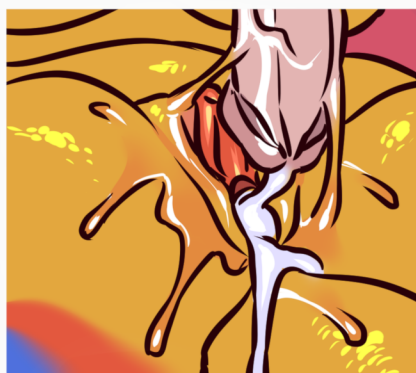


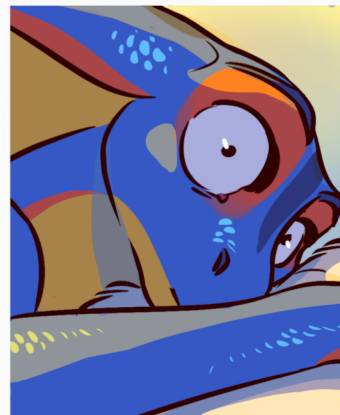
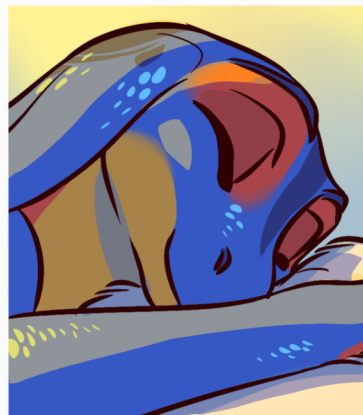
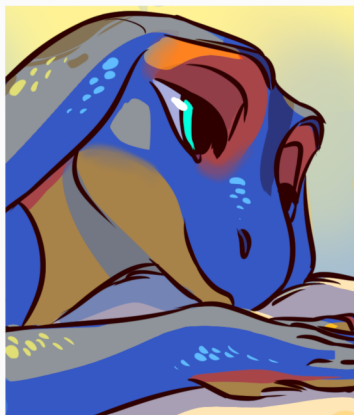
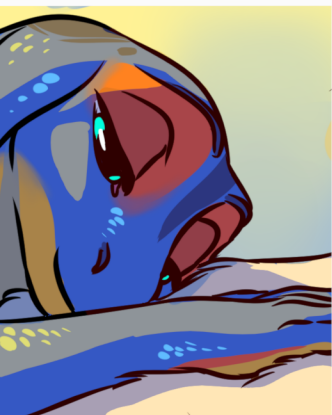
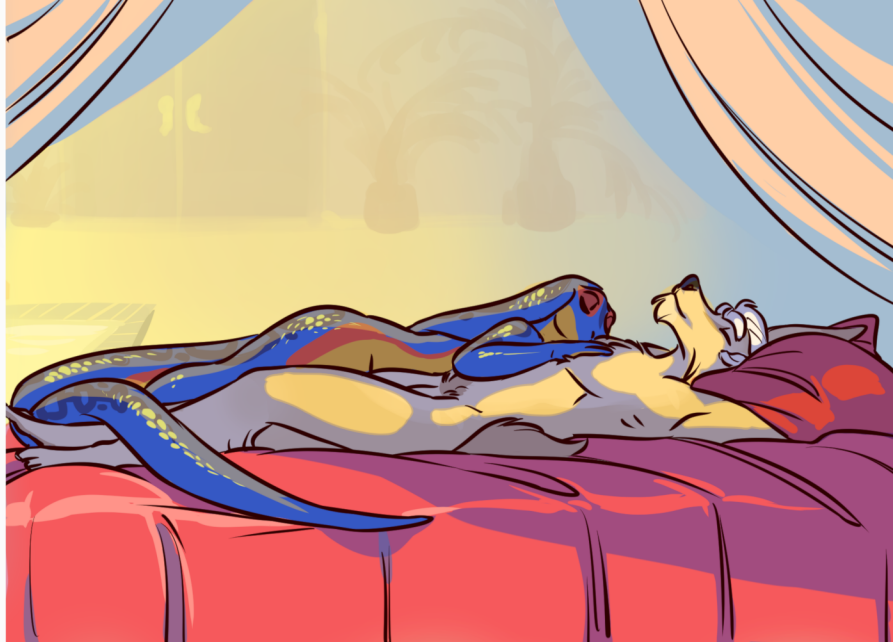
But I can't hold it longer!

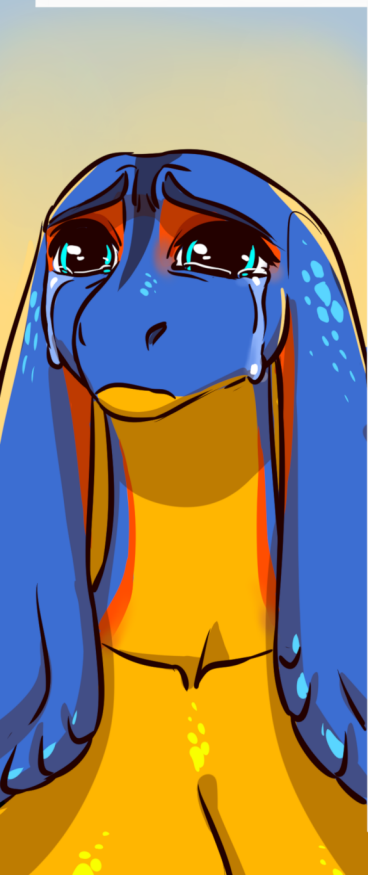
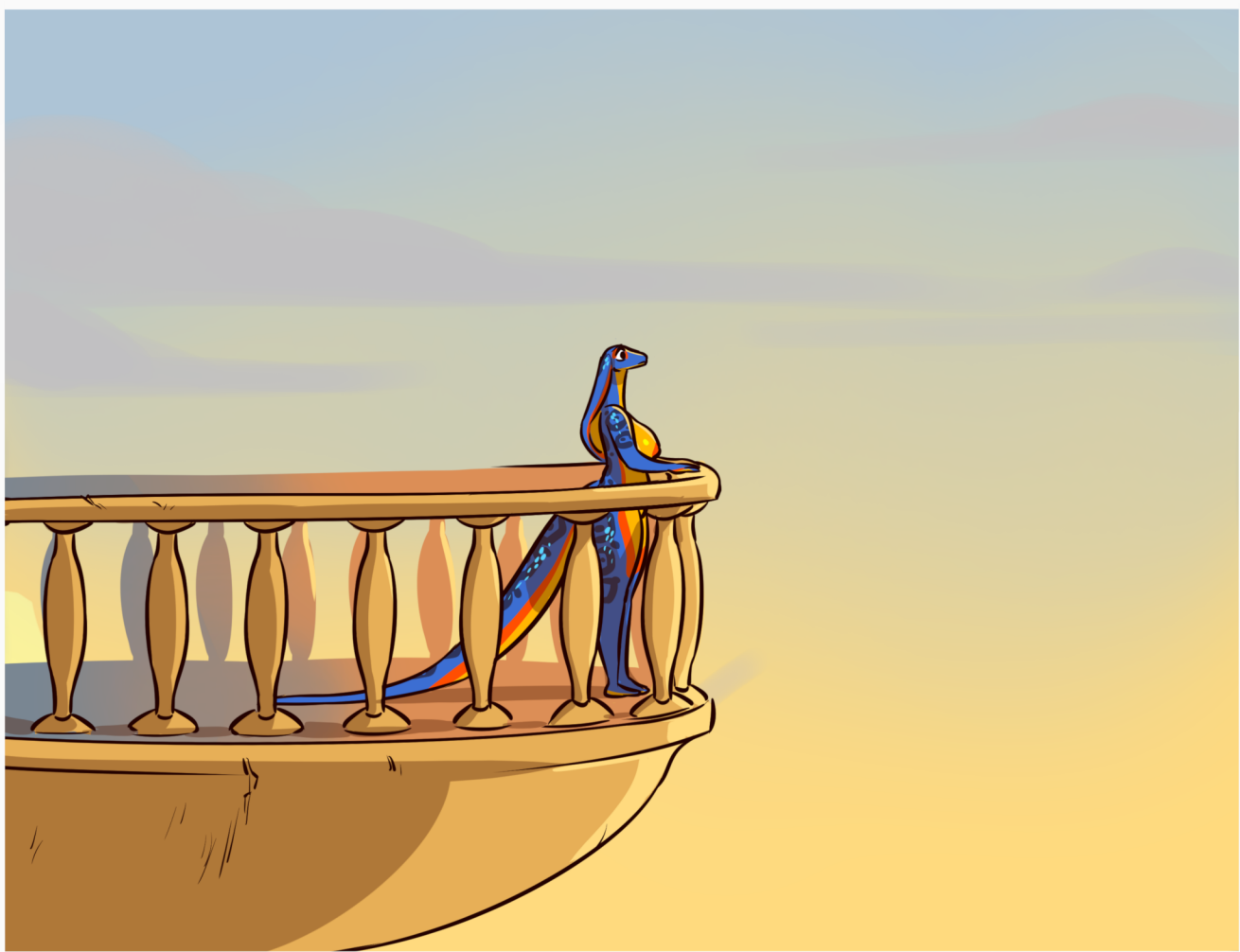
Me neither...
I am...
I am...



...I AM COMING!









It must be all because of me...

I am not worthy for the
grace of the gods...
I failed everyone...

Don't say
that.



My people had faith in
me, and I betrayed
them... They had faith
in me...

You are a
great and
caring queen...



No! Do not call me that! I am a queen no more! The
prophecy would never lie. We did find you, as it was
foretold. And the prophecy was still not fulfilled...



Maybe I am not the
Lock? I dedicated
my whole life to
help my people in
the greatest of
need...

I had no friends, no family, I gave
everything to the prophecy...
And I still failed...?



But what is this prophecy?

But I already spoke of
it in details...

Did I not...?

No, you didn't. I know I'm supposed to be the
Key, and you're supposed to be the Lock, but
what exactly is it about? I still don't know
anything about it besides its existence.

I see... All of this does not matter
anymore. Nothing does... But you
still deserve the explanation you
should have already received
from me if I would not be a
failure from the very beginning...

Don't talk like
that, please...

Anyway...



It was a long time ago it last rained around here. All of our water reservoirs are almost completely empty now. We could not produce crops like this, so merchants slowly started to avoid our city.

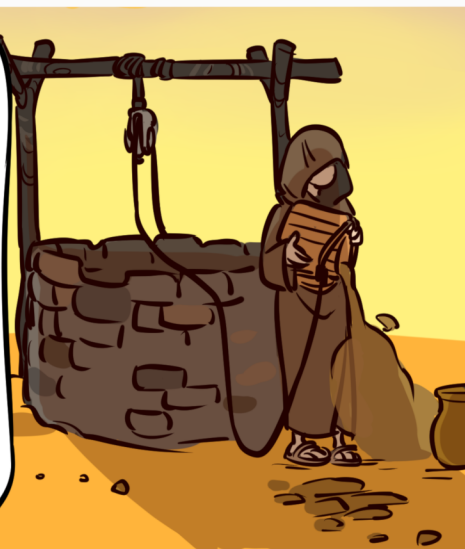


Oasis, once the most prosperous city ever in the Infinite Desert, now just a shadow of it's former self.



A few more weeks and all of our storehouses will be empty... A few more months, and...

The prophecy foretold that in the time of great need, with the help of the Key and the sacred Lock, the water will return to Oasis, and the city will step into a new golden age. But there is no rain, and I can not see water either...



Is that all? That's **FANTASTIC!**

H-how... can you say such a thing?

How can the death of an empire be fantastic?

No, not that!



I was a well-digger before I was sold as a slave!



I could find water!

I could help!



W-why are you laughing? I'm serious...

HA HA
HA HA

Forgive me dear Shen. But your kind naivety brings me great joy.

Please do not take it personal, but you could not even comprehend the number of people we hired from all over the globe to find water.

Hundreds and hundreds searched for any small amount of water.

Not a single one succeeded...

But what if *I* can find some?

What if *I* can help?

Shen, it is pointless...

And what if that was the prophecy all along?

What if I was destined to find water for you?

Shen...

Do not give me false hopes!

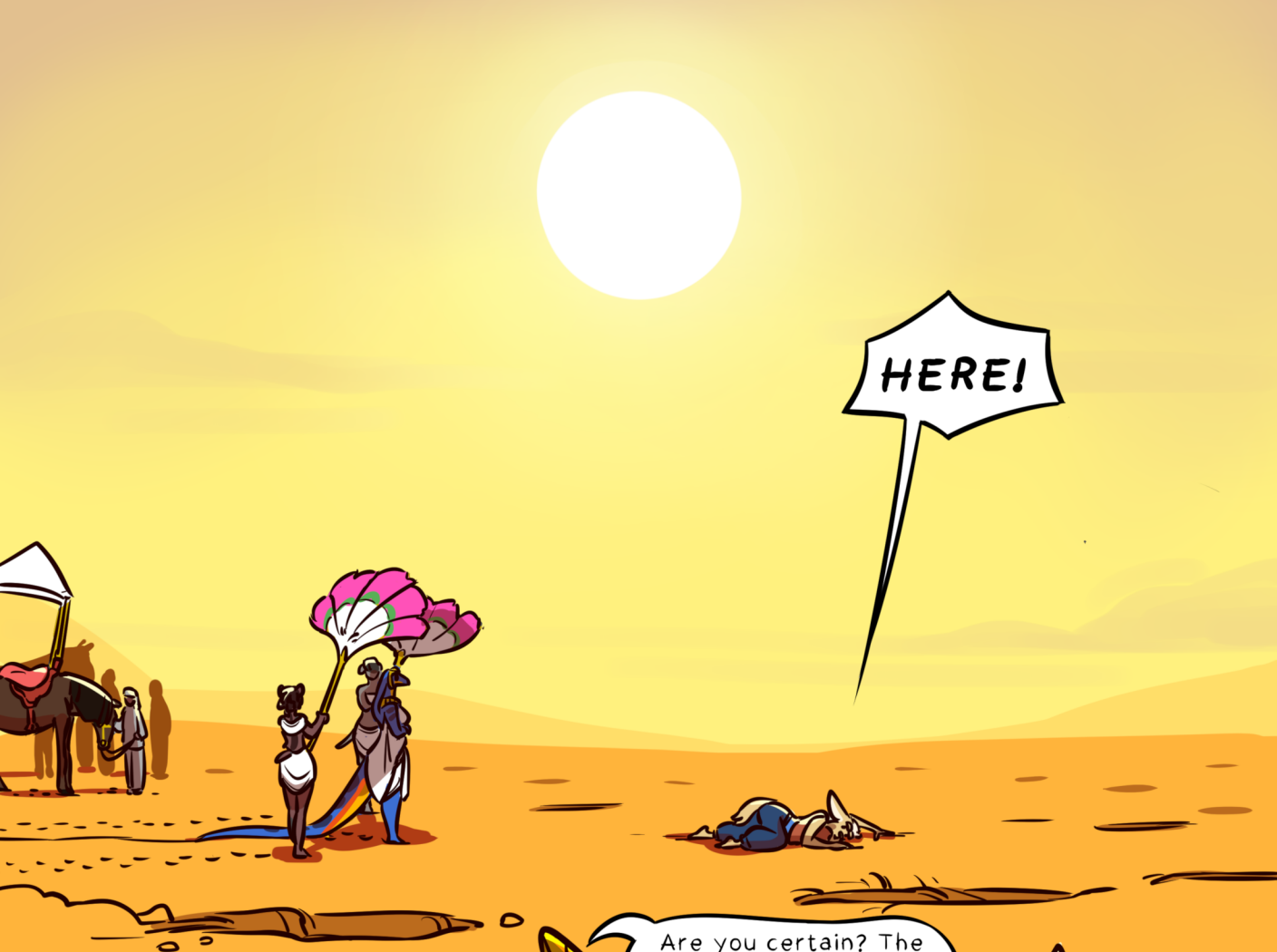
Please!

Please...

...no more false hopes...

Zaphira, **I BEG OF YOU!**

Just give me a chance to help!



We have to dig here!

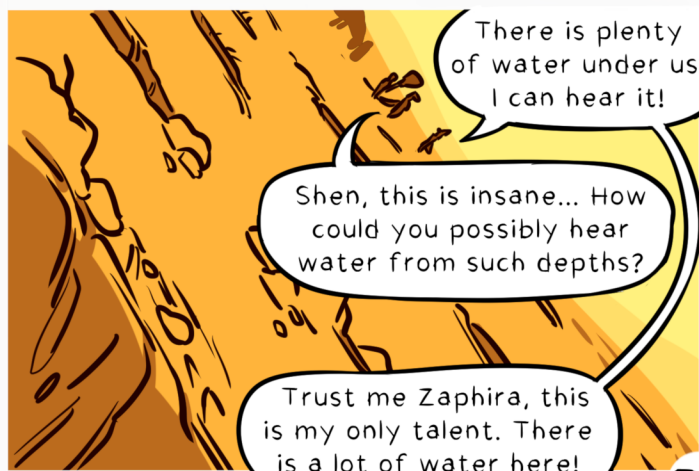


Are you certain? The others tried around here many times.

And they were **VERY** close. But not close enough.

What makes you think that?

These.



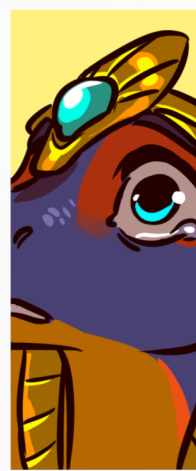
There is plenty of water under us. I can hear it!

Shen, this is insane... How could you possibly hear water from such depths?

Trust me Zaphira, this is my only talent. There is a lot of water here!



I can feel it!





Zaphira, just give me a few tools and some time. I will **NOT** disappoint you!

You heard him people! Give him **EVERYTHING** he needs!

YES YOUR HIGHNESS!



And Shen dug.



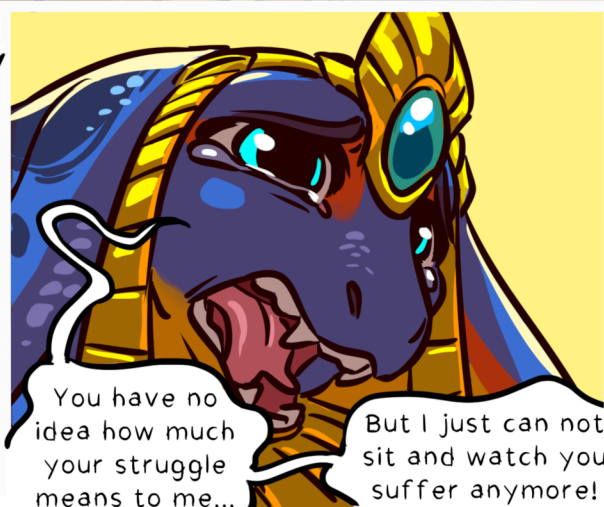
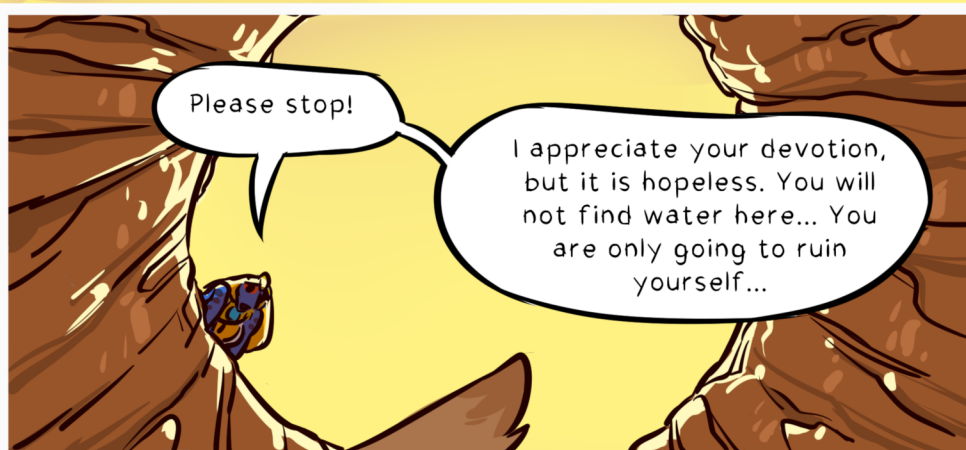
He dug for five days...



...and for five nights.



Without eating or drinking, he did not stop for a single moment. He dug for water like he was possessed.





Just...

ENOUGH!

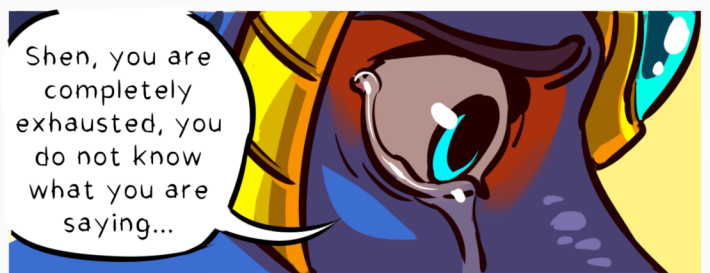
Please...



Can you
imagine
how
FURIOUS
I am right
now?



Because if the people who
murdered my whole family and
sold me wouldn't have stopped
me from taking my own life,
I would never ever meet you?



Shen, you are
completely
exhausted, you
do not know
what you are
saying...



I know **EXACTLY** what I'm saying! I'm
saying that I gave up, but I was forced by
others to go further. And I should be
thankful for those monsters.



I beg of you Shen, do not talk like that...

You want to give up hope! And I'd **DIE** before I'd let that happen! You...



You changed my life! You treated me like a king. Like... your king... It's my turn to do the same! I will not rest until I prove my worth for your endless trust! I won't let your whole life dedicated for that stupid prophecy to be spent in vain!

SHEN, STOP THIS MADNESS!



As your ruler, I order you to stop digging this instant! Your life is much more important for me than the Prophecy!



I WILL MAKE YOUR PROPHECY COME TRUE!



THUNK



I made it... I made your prophecy... come true...

OHMYGODSHEN!

Do not leave me!
Not now! Not after
all of this...

Yes! Got you!

Oh Shen, I was so blind!
You were my prophecy all
along! You saved us all!

I can not believe this!
Shen, you...

I was almost the first
person to drown in
this desert, hehe...

After a few
days, life
returned to
Oasis.

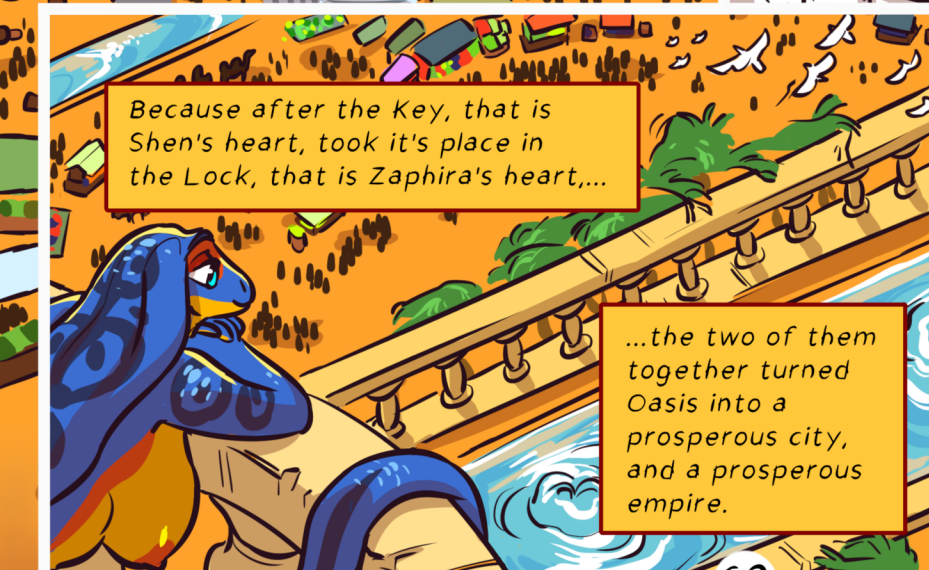


After a few weeks, commerce started again, and with that, the city started to bloom too.

And a few months were enough for the city to regain its former glory, to be full of cheerful noises and happiness, like it was decades ago.

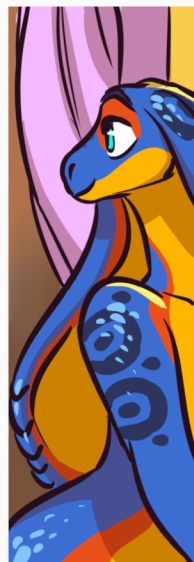


So the prophecy did turn out to be true.



Because after the Key, that is Shen's heart, took its place in the Lock, that is Zaphira's heart,...

...the two of them together turned Oasis into a prosperous city, and a prosperous empire.





Becoming truly one both in body and soul, the Key and the Lock never left each other.

And the queen of the Infinite Desert, and the slave who became a king, lived and ruled together happily ever after.



This is my favorite part!

Then you have an outstanding taste, my beautiful lady.

I just can not believe we wrote our own romantic novel!

Unbelievable isn't it?

Yes! And this is the best one ever made!

I don't know about that, but it did turn out pretty good.



Do not be so modest, my love.



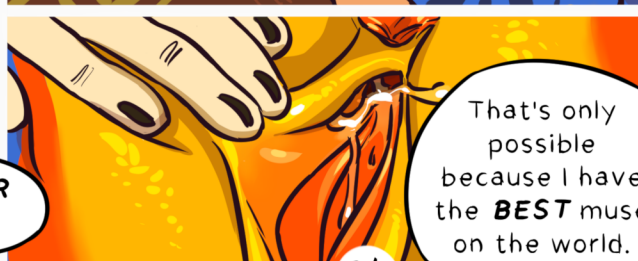
And you are so good filling in the... **HOLES** in the story.

Oh, you really think so?

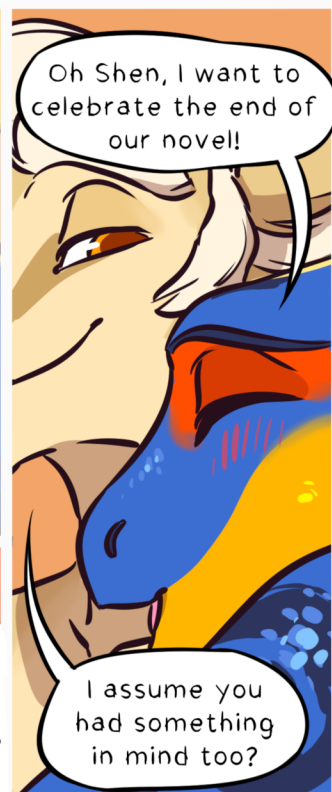
Yes!
Yes I do!



You are a much... **BIGGER** writer than you think.



That's only possible because I have the **BEST** muse on the world.



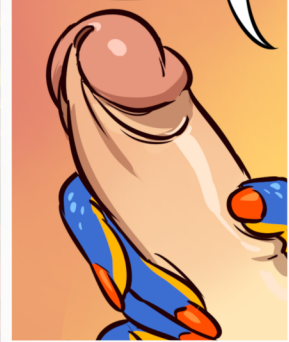
Oh Shen, I want to celebrate the end of our novel!

I assume you had something in mind too?

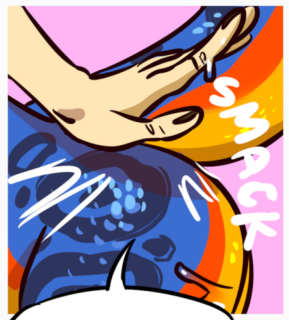


Ohh,
yesss...

...and you would
NEVER guess what
I came up with!



Sooo...



...I would like to
continue the
celebration
elsewhere.



And where
exactly?

Oh, just follow
me...



...and I
show you.



Now there's my
graceful queen!



You see, you taught me that
in bed I should cast all my
grace aside, and be as dirty
as I just can!

Really? And
how dirty
can you be?

Oh, I can be
the **DIRTIEST**
queen of
them all!



And that's one reason I love you.



SLAM



I bring **FANTASTIC** news, my queen!



Who's this guy? And what's he doing in our bedroom...?

He was the priest who found the ancient prophecy a long time ago. But we have not seen him for years now. And I do not know what he is doing here...



YOU! You must be the Key who brought back water and life to the kingdom!

The Key, the Lock, everything was true! The ancient prophecy came true at last!



Well it technically did, ...

...even though it had nothing to do with sex.



Doesn't matter! Look at this!

I've spent **YEARS** in the solitude of the city's forgotten libraries, and look what I've found!



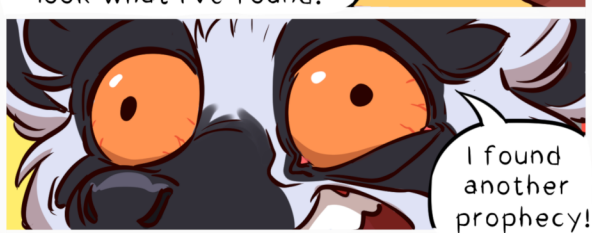
YOU DID WHAT?

I found another prophecy!

Another long lost divination about the Lock and the Key!

No way! Just no way!

What a glorious day indeed!



I found another prophecy!

No! That's it!
I'm out!

What a
surprise!

W-what? But this
prophecy tells us
how you two
should live your
lives together!

We have to
follow its
instructions
to the letter,
or else...

And what does that
prophecy say? No, wait,
let me guess. It was
written in an ancient,
long forgotten
language, so you
couldn't translate the
whole text, right?

Well... yes,
that is the
case indeed...
But how did
you know?

Oh, I just
took a wild
guess.

**MUFFLED
SCREAMING**

I-I'm sure the
queen should
have a few
words in the
matter as well...

Oh, believe me, the queen had
enough prophecy for a lifetime.

And now if you excuse
me, let me show you out.

**AND TRY TO
KNOCK NEXT
TIME!**

B-but what about your
future? How could you live
your lives without the
guidance of a prophecy?

BAM

We'll
take our
chances,
thank
you!

Now go and
take that
stupid
prophecy
back where
you found
it!

I don't
understand...
I was sure
they'd be
happy...

Zaphira,
pack your
kingdom!
We are
moving!

~Sigh~
This should
have been
such a glorious
day...

Creating this comic was a tough job, and an even bigger undertake than we would ever imagine. But it's finally finished, and that could only happen because of you guys. Without your endless support and dedication in every way for our projects, we could never make it.

So a huge thank you for all of you guys!

And just like with the previous comics, both me as the artist, and my husband as the writer learned a lot. We can't wait to move all of these experiences into the next project. And we truly believe what comes in the future will be even better than all of our works so far! And we hope you'll enjoy our future projects just as much (or even more) than our past projects! And thank you again for your trust and dedication you show for our projects!



I would like to say a few words regarding the art style of Prophecy. It's apparent that around halfway of the story the whole style of the comic changed drastically. That didn't only happened because I changed the drawing program I used, but it was around that time I found a style I truly felt mine, and felt comfortable with. It happened pretty unexpectedly, and I was thinking a lot if I should force myself to keep up the style I started the whole comic, or change it to the one I feel a lot better. I decided to make the change, and I'm really happy I did. But I hope you liked my new style too, and the change didn't ruin the reading experience. I've been really looking for a long time for my line art style, and it made me really happy when I finally found it.

So I hope you enjoyed this comic, and see you with the next one! Stay tuned!

And again, thank you very much for everything!