



I DELAYED IT AS MUCH AS I COULD...

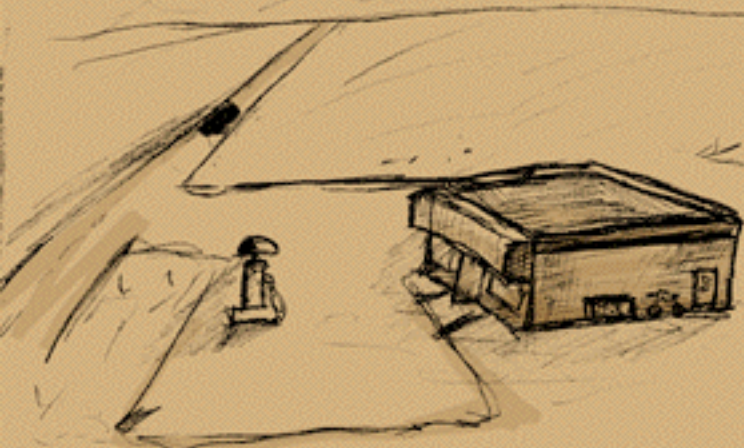
I KNEW HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED

BUT I SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER.

IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH. WE'RE NOT CHILDREN.

AND THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH
HIDE AND SEEK.

LEAVE THAT TO THE NECCOS....





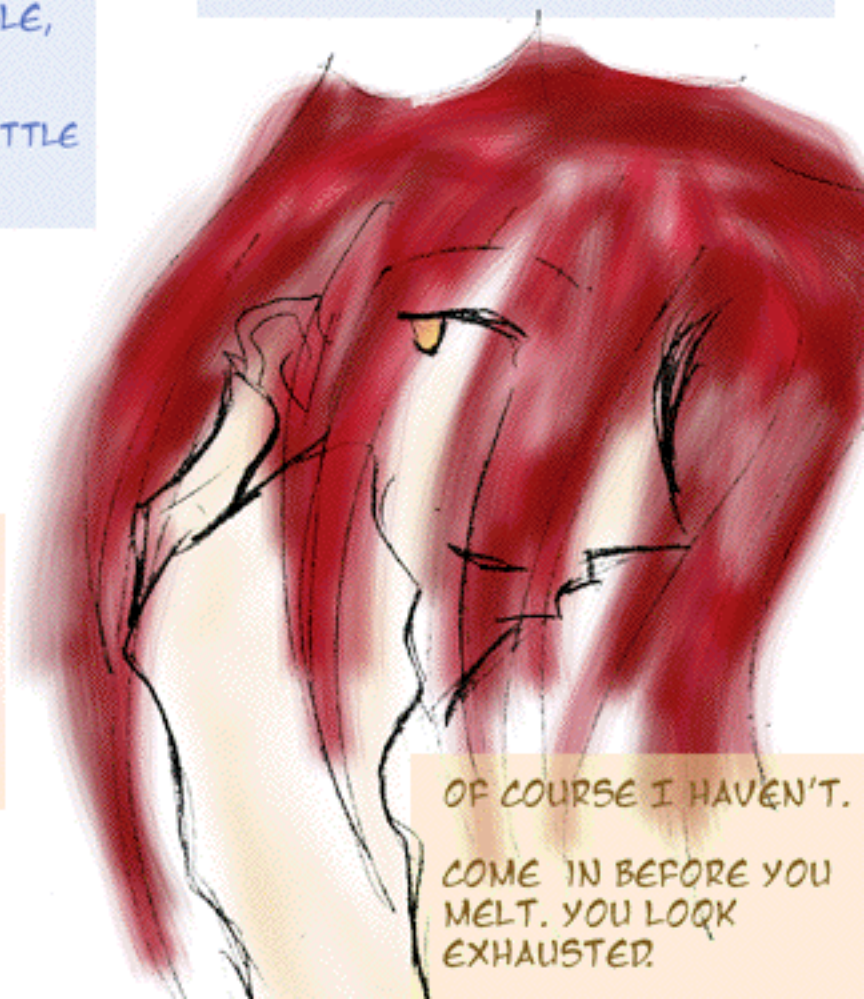
QUITE A LOVELY SET UP YOU HAVE
HERE, FERN.
VERY APPROPRIATE. INACCESSIBLE,
BUT APPROPRIATE.

ISN'T LIVING IN A GAS STATION A LITTLE
TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO RESIST?



JUST BECAUSE IT'S
A GAS STATION
DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S
GAS. AND I DON'T
RECALL INVITING YOU.
EVER.

... AT LEAST I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED AT ALL.



OF COURSE I HAVEN'T.

COME IN BEFORE YOU
MELT. YOU LOOK
EXHAUSTED.

I'M POSITIVE YOU DIDN'T
COME OUT HERE JUST TO
DRINK MY BEER. WHAT'S
IN THE WORKS?

WELL...

YOU KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING. MID'S BEEN GONE ALMOST TWENTY YEARS.
BEEN GONE WHAT, FIVE, SIX? IT'S BEEN QUIET. TOO QUIET.
IN A WEEK, MID IS SCHEDULED TO COME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL.

LET ME GUESS:
WE'RE ON THE VERGE
OF ANOTHER
CATASTROPHE?

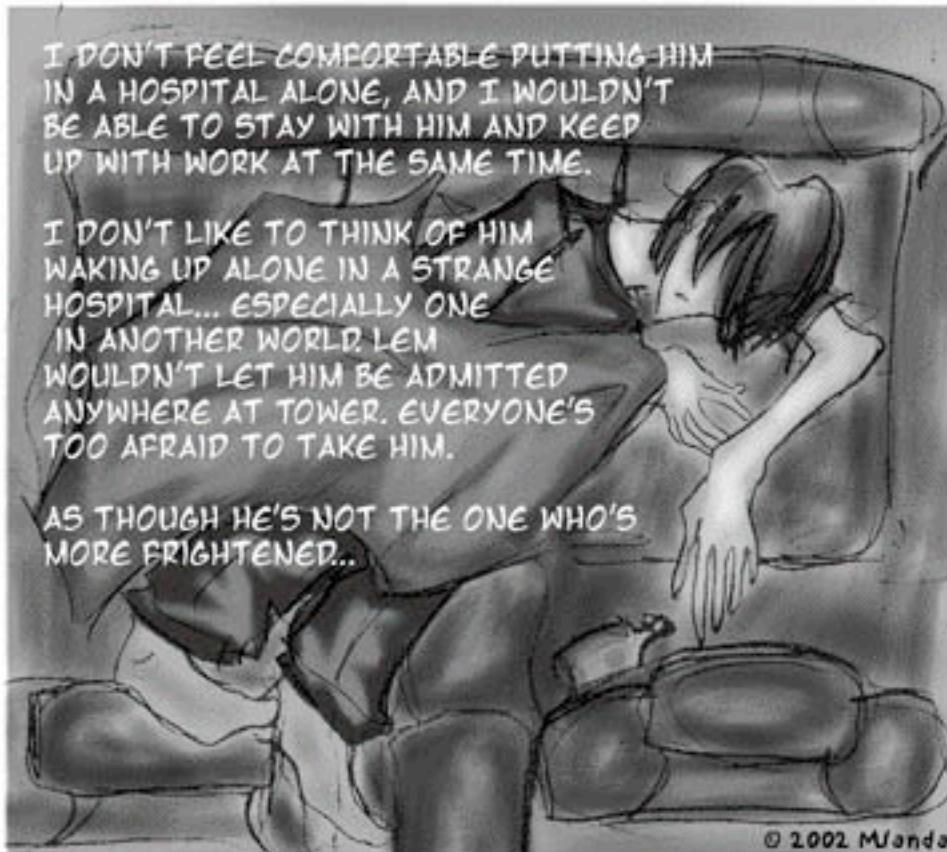
.... SOMETHING LIKE
THAT.

CAL'S... BEEN ASLEEP
HE'S IN THE CAR RIGHT
NOW... HE'S BEEN OUT TWO
WEEKS OR SO.

THIS... DOESN'T SEEM LIKE
NORMAL. I KNOW HE SLEEPS
A GREAT DEAL, BUT THIS IS
NEXT DOOR TO A COMA.
HE DOESN'T STIRR. BARELY
BREATHES. I THINK HE'S
SERIOUSLY ILL.

COME ON... I'M SURE
IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
THEN AGAIN...

THEN AGAIN, IT COULD
BE SOMETHING OF
OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE.




I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE PUTTING HIM
IN A HOSPITAL ALONE, AND I WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO STAY WITH HIM AND KEEP
UP WITH WORK AT THE SAME TIME.


I DON'T LIKE TO THINK OF HIM
WAKING UP ALONE IN A STRANGE
HOSPITAL... ESPECIALLY ONE
IN ANOTHER WORLD. LEM
WOULDN'T LET HIM BE ADMITTED
ANYWHERE AT TOWER. EVERYONE'S
TOO AFRAID TO TAKE HIM.

AS THOUGH HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO'S
MORE FRIGHTENED...

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BUT DOES
HE REALLY NEED IT?
WHAT COULD A HOSPITAL
DO, BESIDES POKE AND PROD
HIM? MAYBE WE CAN
JUST WAIT FOR IT
TO RUN ITS COURSE.



NO...I HAVE THE BAD
FEELING THIS WON'T JUST
GO AWAY. AND IN THE HOSPITAL
THEY CAN AT LEAST WATCH
HIS VITAL SIGNS, WHILE WE
TAKE CARE OF MID AND
EVERYTHING ELSE.

GEE, HE'S OUT
COLD

Poke
poke

DO YOU EVER
LISTEN?!
WHAT HAVE I
BEEN SAYING?!

WELL YOU KNOW HOW
YOU ALWAYS
EXAGGERATE!

AND SO THE INTREPID EXPLORERS SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR A FRIENDLY CITY. (IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEWHERE WHERE NOBODY KNOWS THEM) FACING SUCH CHALLENGES AS...

TRAFFIC JAMS...



happy because he likes car rides n_n

THAT ASSHOLE JUST CUT US OFF!

FERN...
HE HAD THE RIGHT OF WAY...

DO YOU THINK I GIVE
A DAMN?! I'LL MURDER
THE BASTARD!

....*SIGH*

FERN'S POTENT
(NOT TO MENTION ILLOGICAL)
ROAD RAGE...



it's a car, really! ;.;

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE
THE IDEA, BUT THERE'S
A HOSPITAL RIGHT
NEAR HERE THAT
SEEMS GOOD
ENOUGH.

....ALL RIGHT....

OR PARKING... WHERE
THE FUCK ARE
PARKING SPACES
IN THIS BURG?!

NOW
WHAT TO DO...
HE'S NOT VERY
HEAVY BUT I CAN'T
DO THIS
ALL NIGHT.

LOCATION IS
ALSO PRETTY
CONVENIENT

NOT LIKE WE HAVE
A CHOICE AT THIS
POINT...



EVENTUALLY, THEY REACHED
A SUITABLE DESTINATION IN
A FOREIGN WORLD SMOKE
RAN ACROSS THROUGH THE
COMPUTER. ALTHOUGH ADVANCED,
NO ONE IN THIS WORLD HAD
ANY KNOWLEDGE OF FAIDIA.

In the subway...

WHAT A LOVELY GARBAGE PUMP THIS IS.
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE WITH HIM.
I SAW ONE OF THOSE PHONE THINGS
AWHILE BACK. MAYBE I CAN CALL UP
A HOSPITAL OR WHATEVER.
NOT LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND
IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FUCKING
NIGHT...

YOUR SOUNDLESS
ENTHUSIASM GIVES
ME GREAT HOPE.
ENIGMA

EXIT
→

SIGH

I DON'T REMEMBER...
FEELING THIS TIRED IN A
LONG WHILE....

I WISH I COULD JUST..
SHUT OFF THE WORLD...

JUST...
A FEW MINUTES...




WHILST SITTING THERE IN A GREASY, STINKY PHONE BOOTH, I GOT TO THINKING...GEEZ, I MUST BE REALLY EXACERBATING THIS SITUATION WITH MY IRRITATING BEHAVIOR. SMOKE REALLY DOESN'T DESERVE THIS, ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN HE HAS SO MUCH TO DEAL WITH...

I KNOW IT TAXES YOUR PATIENCE TO DEAL WITH ME CONSTANTLY... I DON'T MAKE SINCERE ATTEMPTS TO CURB MY OWN BEHAVIOR, WHICH I KNOW MUST BE FRUSTRATING..

BUT IF I HAD ANY IDEA THAT YOU WERE GOING TO **LOSE** CAL, I WOULDN'T HAVE **BOTHERED!**

STOP BEING A BITCH AND HELP ME LOOK FOR HIM.

AND SO, AFTER GETTING OFF THE BANANA-SHAPED THING I USED TO TALK WITH THE HOSPITAL, I MADE A PERSONAL VOW TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU AND TRY MY VERY HARDEST TO BE HELPFUL AND KIND FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP



I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU JUST FELL
ASLEEP AND LET THIS HAPPEN!
THIS CITY HAS MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE! HOW THE HELL ARE WE
GOING TO FIND HIM
AGAIN?!

HE'S OLD
ENOUGH TO TAKE
CARE OF HIMSELF.

IF HE ISN'T,
THEN NOBODY IS..

WOULD YOU CALM DOWN?
I WAS TIRED, HE
WANDERED AWAY, IT'S THAT
SIMPLE. WE'LL FIND HIM
AGAIN.

Meanwhile....



...I'VE ONLY
BEEN HERE A
COUPLE OF
MINUTES AND IT
FEELS LIKE
SOMEONE IS
STARING AT
ME....

OH MY GOD!
I'VE LOST
MY BAG! WHERE
IS IT?! I JUST
HAD IT A SECOND
AGO!

I MUST REMAIN CALM.
I HAVE EVERYTHING IN
THAT BAG. IT MUST
BE SOMEWHERE. I'LL FIND
IT. I WILL FIND IT. I WILL.

PARDON ME, YOUNG
LADY.. ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I lost my bag...

Oh, that's easy! Here it is.

My BAG!! Thank you
Thank you
THANK you!

Wait a second... does this
mean you stole it?

I had to check
it for shiny
things.

Er..well, I'll make it up to you...
I think I have something
in my pockets...

Will this do? ^_^

I can't believe you put
all our travel money in
Cal's pockets.

uh...normally
people
don't just
take other
peoples'
things, you
know

I thought it would
be best if we
kept all our
important things
in one place...

I can't wait to get home and away out of this mortal-infested cess pool. These people can't even stifle their own natural putrid reek and here they make

machines to produce even more..



Being around all these people gives me the heebie-jeebies. They live in these little cardboard houses and drive tincan cars and think they'll live forever through their fat, stupid, lazy progeny...

(he can go on like this for quite some time n_n)



I'm tired. Let's stop for the night.

....No. I hate hotels.

I'm not going any further, and I'm not sleeping on the street. You'll sleep here and like it.



Do you allow pets?



Settle down Fern.. I'm sure
he's in a safe place...

Unless he fainted again..
What if he's in the gutter somewhere..
Or someone hurt him or kidnapped him or
any MANNER of things...

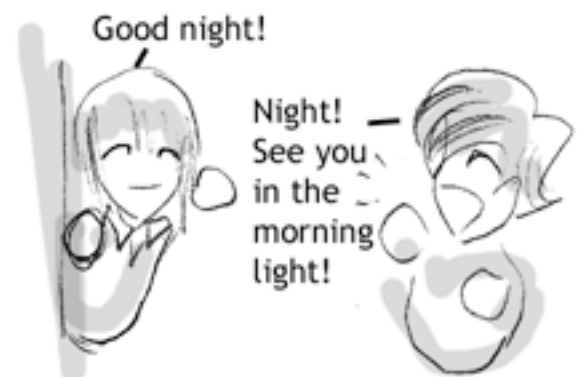
Sleep's not
going to be too good tonight...

Mom, this is Cal, a random guy I met
in the bookstore who is willing to give
me lots of money for no particular
reason.

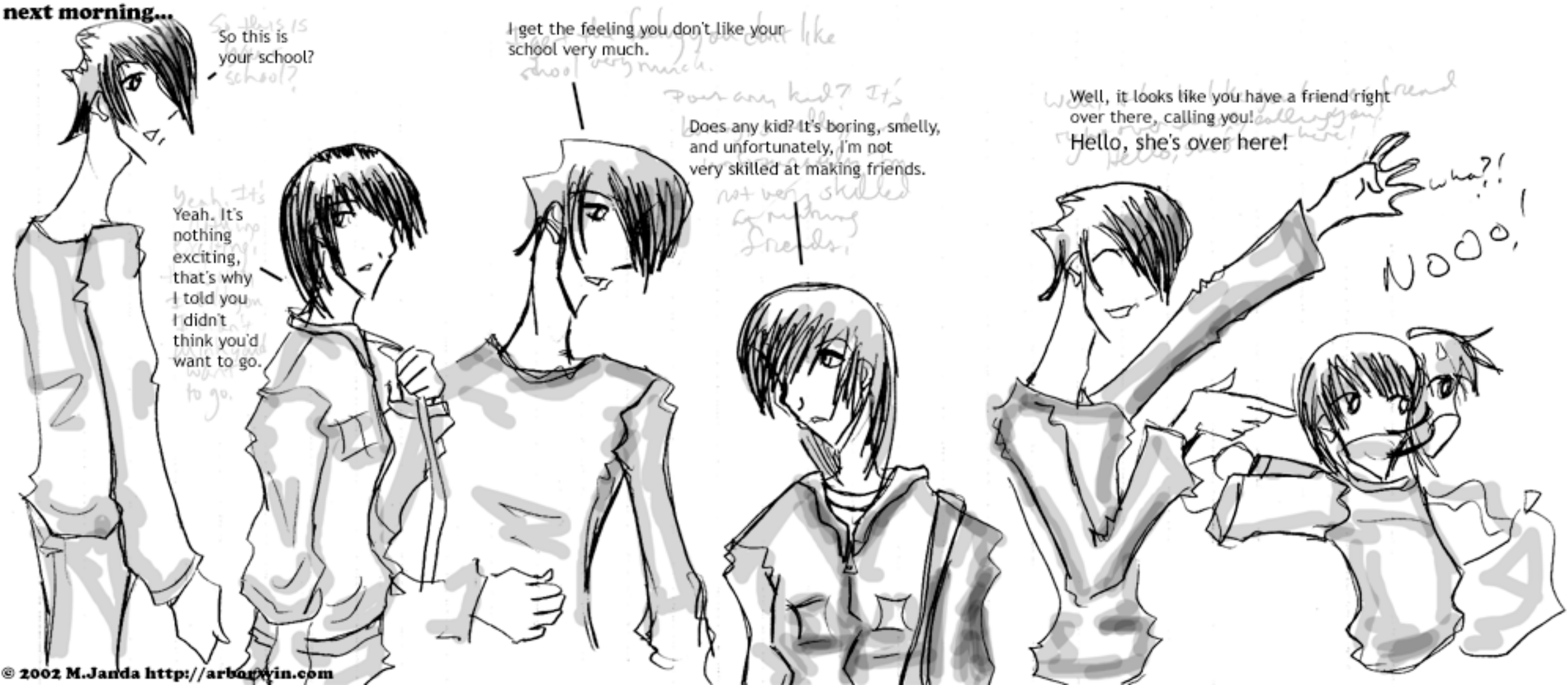
Oh, and
he's nice
too.

Very pleased
to meet you,
Morse's
mom!

It's been
so long
since Morse
made a new
friend!



next morning...



So this is
your school?

I get the feeling you don't like
your school very much.

Does any kid? It's boring, smelly,
and unfortunately, I'm not
very skilled at making friends.

Well, it looks like you have a friend right
over there, calling you!
Hello, she's over here!

Yeah. It's
nothing
exciting,
that's why
I told you
I didn't
think you'd
want to go.

Who?!
Nooo!

Heavens, what's so bad about him?



Fletcher is a pathetic geek who thinks that because I don't completely ignore him like other girls, I'm his emotional toilet. He always comes to me with his stupid problems.



He is ALWAYS around, he never leaves me alone! And if I try to avoid him, he goes into a misogynistic rant about how all girls hate him. Like it's my fault he has such an annoying personality. He seriously needs to grow up. I don't know why he's so desperate for my company, anyway. He doesn't let me get a word in edge-wise.



Well, I can certainly see how that might be irritating. But surely he's not all that bad.. he must let you talk sometimes, surely...



Oh my.



Yeah, but his usual response is "Why are you talking?" or an entire lecture about how everything I had just said was wrong and stupid. As far as he's concerned, he's the only person on the planet.



Hi Morse!
Who's the anorexic guy?

This is great! Now we have enough players for my new RPG! Of course, you're both amateurs, but I suppose we could make a near-decent game of it with me in charge.

I told you once and I'll tell you again, I'm not playing your stupid games anymore, and Cal isn't either.

Well I understand that you might be bitter about it because you're so bad at it but ...

Well ...



What's up, Cal? That's the trophy case.



They're shiny!



Uh..Maybe he won't play after all.
He seems to have rather low intelligence.



I don't know about that,
but SOMEone is low on
SOMETHing around here.

What do we do now?

Nothing. This is just homeroom. You're supposed to sit still and be quiet. Like I can't do this at home.

...Amazing ...I can actually *feel* my will to live being slowly leeched away...



two hours later...

Your health teacher did not seem to appreciate my lecture on genetically altered cockroach zygotes.



two more hours later...

Your biology teacher certainly got angry, didn't she? And just over a few frogs that came back to life! Where did she say we were going now? The principal's office?

My life is over.



Well, Cal's almost completely muddled his trace, but we've narrowed it down to an area of the city that's roughly six blocks square, give or take a few blocks.

It's fairly obvious he doesn't want to be found. We can't just go door to door and ask if he's there. There's thousands of people living in this one area.

But WHY doesn't he want us to find him is the question.. What the hell could he be doing in an urban residential area? There's nothing particularly interesting about it.

Well...you know Cal. It's normal for him to make absolutely no sense.

Mm hm....
Look, no hands!

.....
I think you've had enough to drink...

dragging Fern home..
a formidable task
in itself

whheeeehehee... Shmoooke...

Mm.

D'you shee what I shee?

Mm?

Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm afraid Fern is
beyond provocation at the moment, Curtis.

hiiiiiiiiiiii
cuuuuurtiishhh.

Well, well. Callanerialians. I thought I
smelled something funny a moment ago.

What brings you two losers to this
neck of the mortal woods?

In other words, a typical "Callanerialians are evil and you should avoid them at all costs or you'll meet a nasty, horrible death" mission.

At least you're honest about it.

Well...kidding aside...

Sheesh. I wouldn't mind being hammered myself at the moment. But duty calls and all. Is he gonna be all right?

He'll be fine in the morning. Technically, we're not supposed to drink while on a mission either. But he got so riled up over losing Cal, I thought I'd let him unwind a little.

Mm..Well, to answer your question from before, I'm out here on a routine call to go meet some girl and protect her from dangerous branch member activity. Lemanerial sent me personally and told me her exact whereabouts...

He didn't specifically tell me you guys would be around and all. Losing a primary is a serious thing, and in alien territory it's best for branch members to stick together. So you guys can come with me tomorrow & see if Cal's with this girl if you want.

**next
morning...!**

Hey. Question, professor. Why the hell is this asshole still around?

It was decided while you were incapacitated that we would go with him today with the possibility of finding Cal with his assistance.

I can't imagine why you think so negatively of me, Moranerial! Oh, perhaps it's how I always make sure to mention what a **LAME EXCUSE** for a secondary you are!

or how **ASHAMED** I would be if I had to even be in the same **BRANCH** as a smelly, drunk, irresponsible clod who slaughters innocent ch--

**SHUT.
UP.**

Aww, short people are so cute when they're angry.

I don't care what so-called "information" he has, he annoys me and I want him to **GO AWAY**.

Smoke in his animal form, a melcey. He floats too! isn't he cute?
n_n

Be quiet.

When Fern is finished scattering your body parts, I'll be waiting over here.

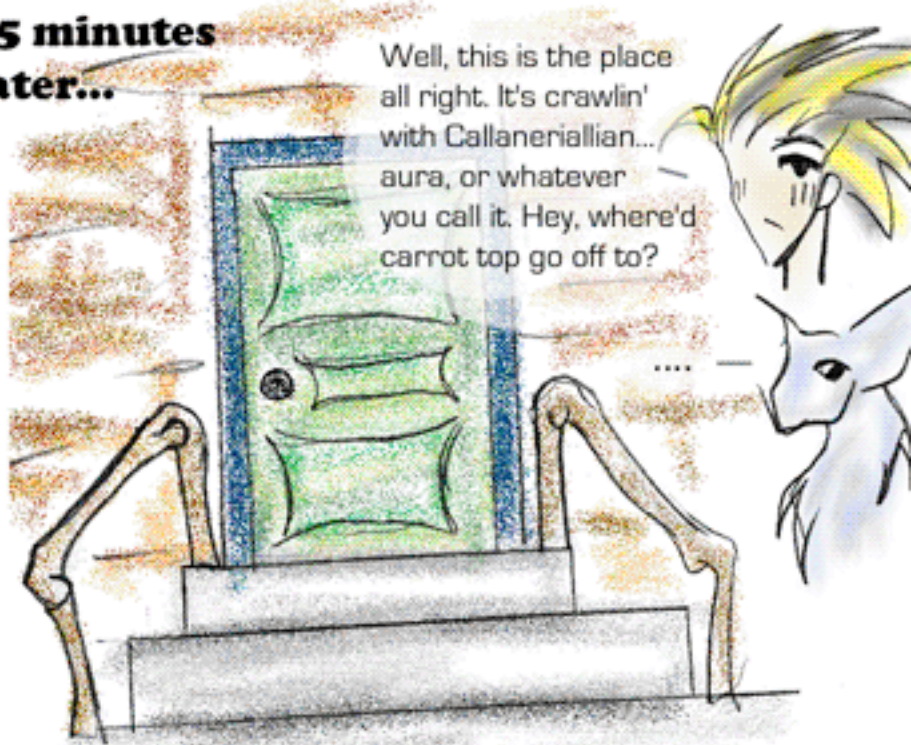
This is the place, more or less. She should be living around here somewhere.

Let's split up. Give a call if you find anything.



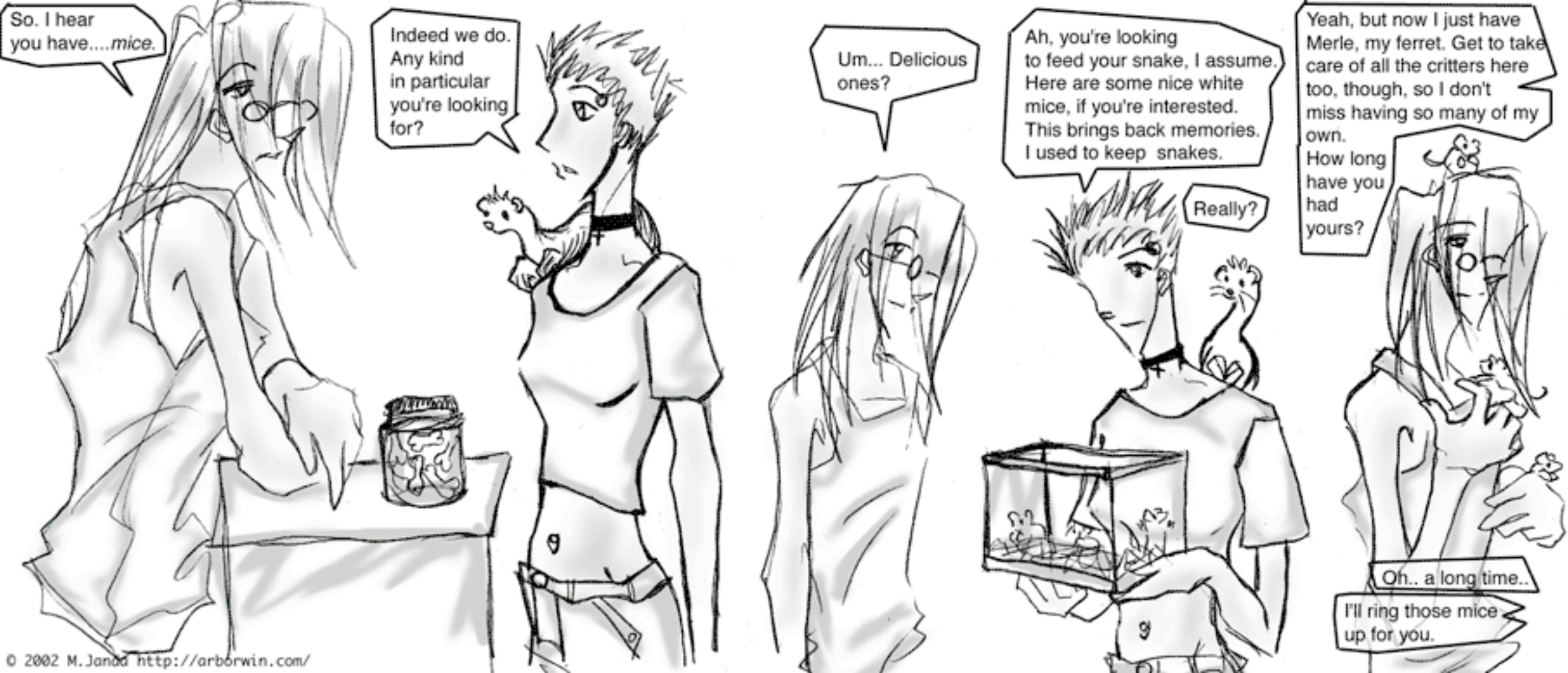
15 minutes later...

Well, this is the place all right. It's crawlin' with Callaneriallian... aura, or whatever you call it. Hey, where'd carrot top go off to?



Ah ha.
Just in time for lunch.





So. I hear you have....mice.

Indeed we do. Any kind in particular you're looking for?

Um... Delicious ones?

Ah, you're looking to feed your snake, I assume. Here are some nice white mice, if you're interested. This brings back memories. I used to keep snakes.

Really?

Yeah, but now I just have Merle, my ferret. Get to take care of all the critters here too, though, so I don't miss having so many of my own. How long have you had yours?

Oh.. a long time..

I'll ring those mice up for you.

Well, that went better than I expected, for my first visit to the school office. The principal seemed mad at first but all of a sudden he went pretty quiet....

I thought he'd at least give me a lecture or whatever... He just said, "Go home."

Maybe he didn't understand the problem.

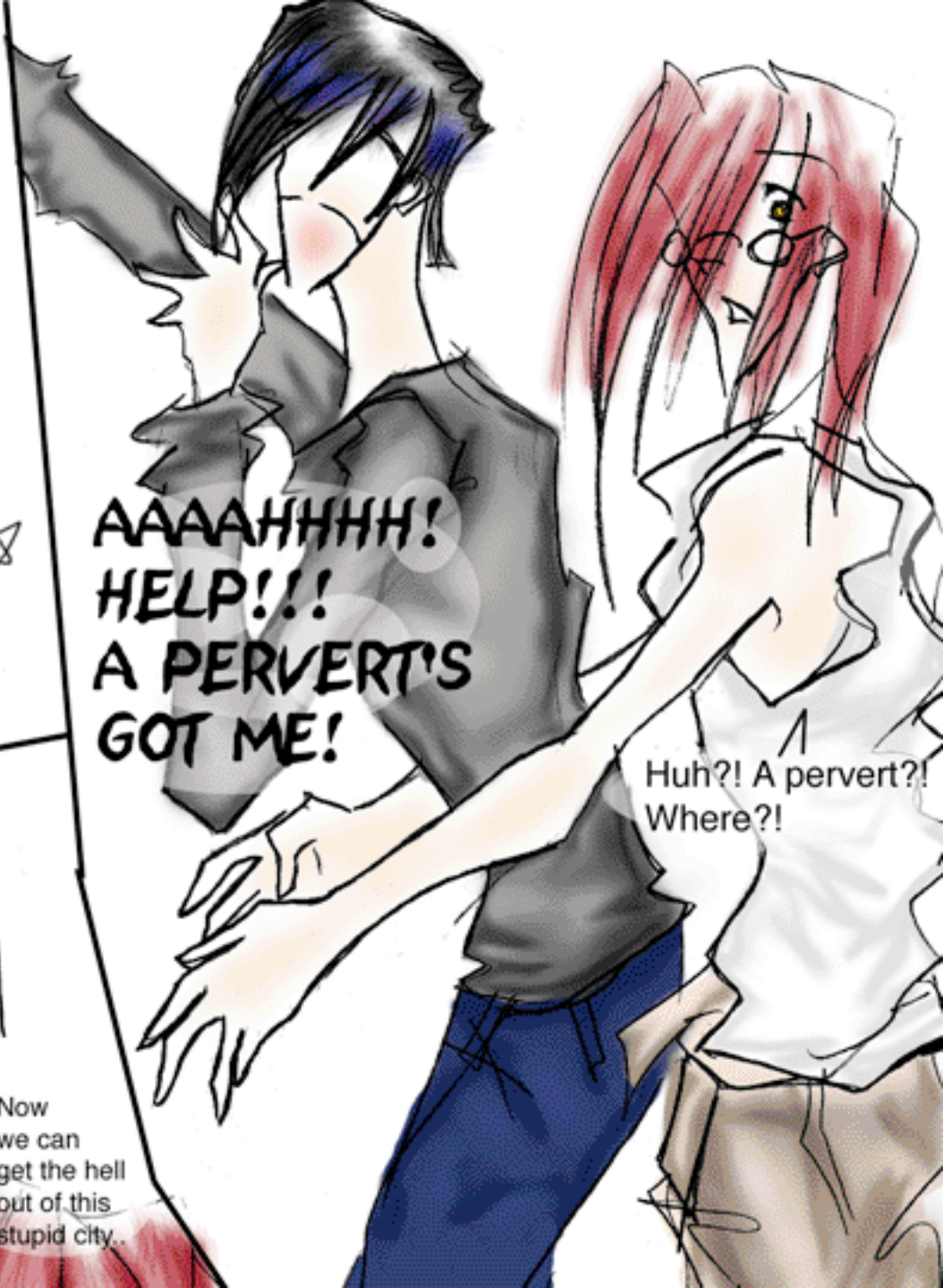
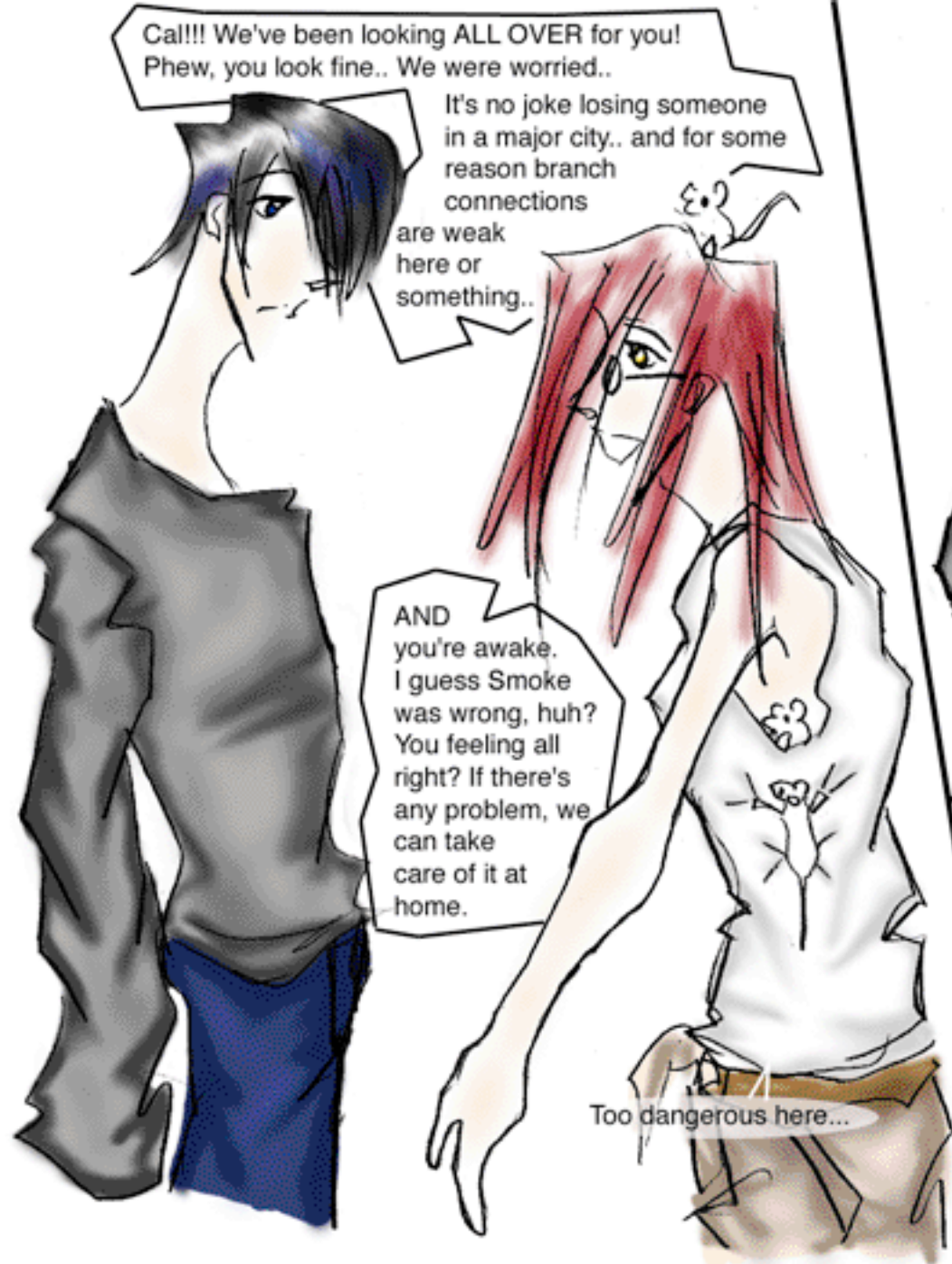
What are we going to do now???

Well.. most of the time after school I go to the bookstore.. or the pet store.. it's right over there...

.....
Well I'll be damned. There he is, and he's headed straight towards me.

The game's afoot, Curtis.

Mm, I'm awake, I'm awake..



"whimper"

What are you DOING?! Get your hands off him!

I didn't DO anything!
And who the hell are you?!

Look, you have 2 seconds to get out of here before I call the police.

It's disgusting people like you who make me hate living in the city.

Kid, it's people like **you** who make me dread getting out of bed every day.

I... I feel so violated!

As far as everybody else is concerned,
Fern, we're just a nooormal group of
people, right? Take a deep breath.
What's going on here?

This *jerk* was picking
on Cal.

Watch who you call a
jerk, *sweetie*, you might
lose something important.

Well. Is this true, Cal?

SMOKE! I've been
wondering where
you were all this time.
I want you to meet
my new friend! I'm
having a very
good time with her, I
think you'd get along
famously.

Cal's pulling a cute
little game and pretending
not to know us. This
girl just popped out
of nowhere.
If you think I'm making it
up, just try talking to him,
Smoke. He won't even
recognize you.

"THUNK"

Man, that was cold. Did you do something to piss him off?

I don't know.



Elementals don't ignore their secondaries for no reason. There has **got** to be a reason. Some kind of plot of his. He just loves playing with my head when it comes to this sort of thing. Except I don't know what I did this time. Not at all. Why is he mad at me? IS he mad at me. Who the fuck knows. I don't know what's going on in that head of his. Look at him, smiling and laughing and talking like there's nothing at all the matter.

That's when you know it's bad...

whatever it is ...



Hey, Fern, are you listening to me?

I just need some time to figure this out....



Well, for the moment, it seems we can go no further with him. Why don't I stay here.. To keep an eye on things.

You can go home, relax a bit, change your clothes.. Then go pick up Mid at the hospital.

Make sure you keep an eye on that scuzbag, Curtis. Lems never have a shred of sense when it comes to sensitive situations. Pah, I bet Cal is getting quite a kick out of this... It'll be nice to see Mid, though. I wrote him last week we were coming...

Meanwhile, several worlds away, at Annelcey's Mental Hospital for Faidian Minions...

Delye... you made Fern's letter into paper maché?

All that swearing is so much more appealing as a kitty!

later, at Annelcey's Mental Hospital ^_^;

✓
bzzt Would Dr. Meerstrum please come to the front desk. Dr. Meerstrum, please come to the front desk.
bzzt



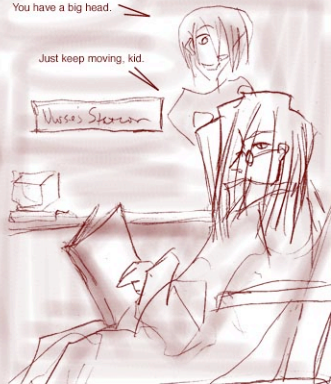
It is
written
somewhere
that all hospitals
suck -_-

✓
bzzt Would all cafeteria staff report to the canteen. There has been a kool aid spill. I repeat, would all cafeteria staff report to the canteen. There has been a kool aid spill. *bzzt*



You have a big head. ➤

Just keep moving, kid. ➤



Hey.. uh. Morse. If you don't mind,
I really need to speak to you in private.

sigh

For one thing, I don't even KNOW
you. Secondly, as tolerant as
my mom is, I think it would be pushing
it if I brought another random guy
home, especially one as weird as
you are.


Me? Weird? The man Cal
introduced to you *seconds*
ago just turned into a small
furry animal and I'm weird?

Thirdly,
you're wearing
bright yellow
pants.

.... okay. Okay.
Point taken.


**Ladies & Gentlemen, the Absent
Minded Psychiatrist:
Dr Malley**

Ah, here's Mid's file! I knew it was..
someplace.. Ahem. It's good to see
you, Fern! How long has it been,
four, five years?




Hm...something like that.

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So um, do I need to fill out any
paperwork? Sign something?
Isn't there a paper with Mid's name
and "SANE" stamped on it in
big red letters involved?



Well, yes, but I'll have
to think of what we did
with the stamp... We
haven't used it in years,
you know. I wonder where
it got off to...



Well, you're in luck. Mom says you can stay for dinner.

Don't you have any mythology or fairy tale books?

Er.. yeah.
There on
the bottom
shelf.



Ah, perfect. Come on, let's get this over with.

Uh. I'm a little old to have fairy tales read to me.

Not these kinds of fairy tales, kid. Shit, I'm tired. They need to make these damn things standard issue or something. I've never been able to jump right into it out of the blue. Doesn't work.

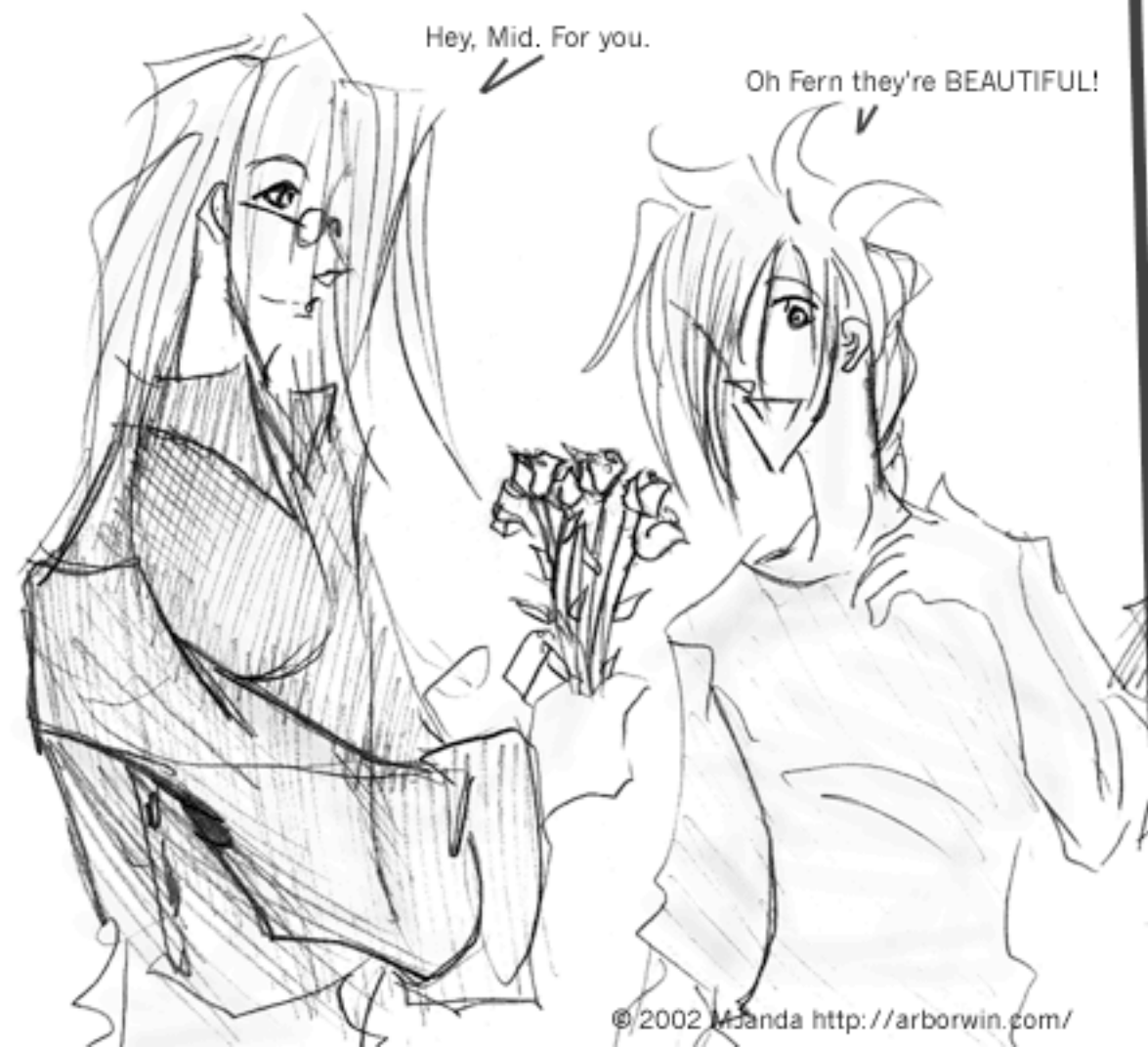


Since I have no idea what you're talking about, wouldn't it be better for us both if I just went and played video games with Cal and you read your stories in comfortable silence?

Ah, would that we could switch places, kid. The only fate you're threatened with is being read childrens' stories. Woe is you.

Mmph. You talk about this like it's a matter of life and death.

Gee, you're smart. You'd be a genius if you shut up and listened for a few seconds.



I thought you were over that flower thing. Are you still on that meat-only diet, or have you abandoned eating altogether?



Oh, Fern, you know my life has no meaning when you're gone!

How could I eat ANYthing when my love doesn't even stop by to visit me?!

Heh, you crazy kid. You'll never stop.



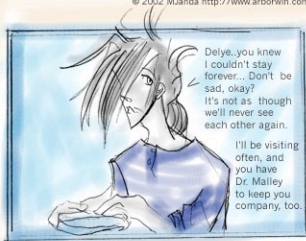
Mew!

Mid made Delye put on a "decent" shirt ^-^;

As glad as I am to see you two "bonding," could you put your ruse aside for now and help me pack?

He's too smart for us, De.





Anyway....aren't YOU due for release in a couple of months?



I want to go NOOOOWWW!!!!



~::~; I thought you'd say that...

Don't worry, Delye...



I'll always be here for you, okay?



All right! Here we go.
You might recognize this from
one of your history classes
or whatever.

Oh.. Yeah. These are famous.
Nobody knows where they
came from or something.

Heh.. It's funny. A bunch
of old men in one world
spend their lifetimes
trying to understand what
little kids in another know
by heart.

...what do you mean?

These legends aren't
from your world, kid.
They're from *mine*.

About..er.. maybe six
hundred or seven hundred
years ago, your world
experienced what you
might call an exchange of
owners.. The erm...
"Beings" that control my
world offed yours in a
gratuitously violent fray
and proceeded to lay
claim to this world in
order to increase
their power/prestige/
what have you.

You with me so far?

Um...Yeah.
I think so.

You just
don't believe
a word I've said.

Pretty much.



Okay, how about this? It's a Faidian monster known as a 'halfling.' Half animal, half human, an abomination by our standards. Scary, eh? Not everyday you see something like this, right?

There are freaky things in every culture.



How about the fact that my hair is striped bright yellow and black?

Bad taste & an expensive dying job.

.... All right, fine.

poik!



This is my last option. If this doesn't convince you, at least squish me so I won't have to deal with this stupid job anymore.

....Okay, changing into a bug is fairly convincing.



It's odd... It feels like I should be more excited than I am that you just turned into an insect.

That's because he's got you hypnotized, kid. I don't know if he even does this intentionally or not, but he messes with peoples' minds in a major way. Why do you think your mom let him stay without even a question?

So you're telling me the man in my living room weeping over Super Metroid is a million year old god of death and that I should kick him out as soon as possible because he's reading my mind and plans to do horrible, horrible things to me.



Not GOD. Elemental! Only weird sects call em gods...

But yeah, that's the ticket.

If he can read our minds, why isn't he stopping you?

That's an excellent question, but the biggest likelihood is that he doesn't care, or he's preoccupied at the moment. Elementals don't miss much, believe you me..

If he's a death elemental or whatever,, isn't he supposed to be stoic and wear a big black cloak with a scythe or something?



You watch too much anime.

I can't just tell him to go away. He's my friend. He's done nothing to deserve rejection from me.

I'm not disagreeing with you. But you should know who he really is.

I'm not feeling well again....

< "blahblahblahblah?"
< "Blah blah blah .."
< "BLAH!"
< "Blah blah blah blah bleh. Bleh! Haha >:D"
< "Blah .."

They're getting on so well... I can't bother them..

I wonder where.. Fern is...

I want Fern...

it hurts..

it hurts..

it hurts...

tired.. want to go home...

I'm so tired...

it hurts...





...Fuck. I hate this
dream.

It's always the same...

Wait...

Like some sort of child's drawing...

It smells...

I have no idea who or what those things are...

is that thing
Cal?

So much blood...

I can't move.. can't make a sound

I can just barely hear the screaming
pleading

I want to stop looking but I can't tear my eyes away

what are they
doing?

more importantly..
why... why
that's what he
keeps screaming

what have they done?

they tore his heart
out



they're like dolls

A new one... her color
is white

she took one of the monsters

and is
going to
lock it away
inside
the broken
doll

and now
that one is broken

his chest
is flying apart

the other
monster
ran away

taking his
heart with it

.... but if that doll
was Cal....

I can't look anymore

who are the monsters?

This part's always the same -- I don't want to look
I dont want i dontwanttolookdontwanttolookdontwant
dontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdontwantdont

don't eat it
don't eat it
don't eat it
don't eat it
donteatitdont

It's just me, Fern. Don't bother
telling me ... Mid and I had
the same dream.

What..what the
fuck was that?!

I .. recognize the
story. Life's triumph
over darkness and
death.. but..
The red monster.

I believe all of our
questions will be
cleared up sooner
than we should like.

We have to go back to
Ardur. I need your
help.

How romantic.
Invading my
bedroom by
moonlight,
and demanding my help.
What the hell can I do?

Plenty.

O beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on.

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I... recognize the story. Life's triumph over darkness and death.. but..
The **red** monster..



plenty



I'm in the wrong place...

I'm tired... I need to lie down.

just a little while...

I'm so tired...

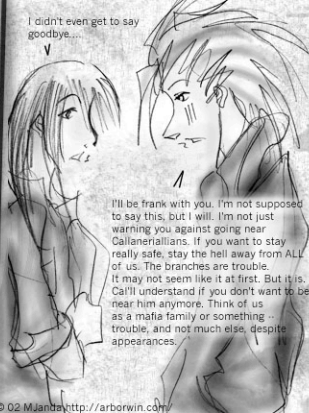


fern...



He's GONE! Do you think he heard us?!

sigh
Well... I didn't
wanna do
it this way..
but it's for
the best,
kid, really.



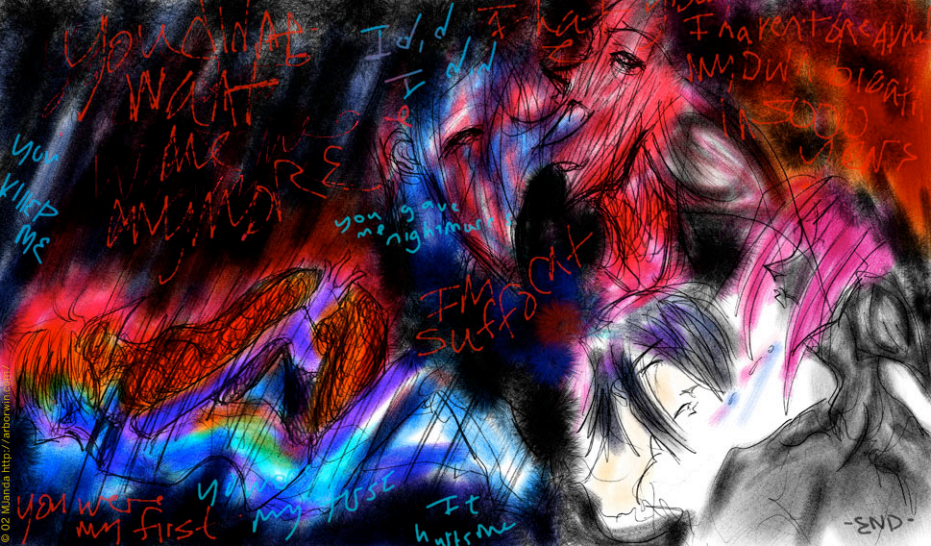
I didn't even get to say
goodbye....

I'll be frank with you. I'm not supposed
to say this, but I will. I'm not just
warning you against going near
Callanerialians. If you want to stay
really safe, stay the hell away from ALL
of us. The branches are trouble.
It may not seem like it at first. But it is.
Cal'll understand if you don't want to be
near him anymore. Think of us
as a mafia family or something ..
trouble, and not much else, despite
appearances.



Well.. I don't know if I'll take your
advice or not, Curtis. But thank
you anyway.

Just doing my job,
kid. Karien.



you didn't
want
me
any more
you
killed
me
I did
I did
I haven't
dreamt
my DW in
3000
years
you gave
me
nightmares
I'm
suffocating
you were
my
first
love
I
hate
me
-END-