





Okay,
I give up.
Why are
we all
in the hallway
in our underwear?

I was just looking
for the bathroom...

Oh, I see, my dear.
You'll probably
want to use the
one upstairs. It has
a lot more privacy.
You'll find towels
and things in the
little closet.

Anything else you
need, simply ask,
and I'll see what
I can do. Mid's making
breakfast, so please
come down to the
kitchen when you're
done.

Thank you,
Cal ...

As for you, Roe, I'm guessing
you spent a fun-filled evening.

I suppose you've forgotten
about me already, hmm?

Feh, silly, you can't pass for
jealous even when you try.

SHOULD I
be jealous?

Mm... Maybe just a little,
for spice. But don't get sad.
I forbid it.

I think I'm enjoying this
entire "freedom of choice"
thing. You're ALL
my bitches now.

Oh...I feel so...so USED....However,
what about Fern and Smoke?

.....They don't count..

How convenient...

Isn't it,
though?

Inquiring minds want to know, Fern.
What do YOU think of Cal and Rae's 'ship?

Well, technically,
they're not biologically
related, I mean, how
could they be, their
parents are abstract
concepts embodied
by celestial events...

And they really are cute together,
and terribly devoted. So, why not?

Uh.. Lem, as the youngest
sibling, what do you
think?

Why do you think
I disowned them?

They're disgusting
and should be ashamed
of themselves.

Ooohkay...
What about
you, Smoke?

"sigh"

FREE
TALK

Where other people put their
ing is none of my
ing business, so
the off.

THANK YOU,
FERN



Dellyyye, don't play with your food.

Meef.



We don't have enough food to feed everyone, Cal.

I can make everyone toast, I guess...

Don't worry. We're going go to the store later.

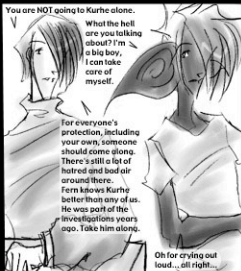
Moose omelette. Mhm.

woooo



Gooooood morning.

I thought I'd start out today helping hallflings, Cal, so I'm heading off to Kurhe right after breakfast.



You are NOT going to Kurhe alone.

What the hell are you talking about? I'm a big boy, I can take care of myself.

For everyone's protection, including your own, someone should come along. There's still a lot of hatred and bad air around there. Fern knows Kurhe better than any of us. He was part of the investigations years ago. Take him along.

Oh for crying out loud... all right...

And at least make some sort of plan before going....

Oh Cal, you can be so damn stodgy...



Ulp.

I know you have a sick sense of humor, Cal, but this is bordering on the ridiculous. Rae and I are not exactly a match made in heaven.



I REALLY don't appreciate the whining right now, Fern. I'm juggling several issues at once at the moment and the last thing I need is your quiff.



You're going with Rae to Kurhe and that's FINAL. Just do what you're told for once and SHUT. UP.



Yes sir.
Sorry sir.

hmph.
Ah, ever the obedient lapdog, that Fern.



What are you doing here.

Don't get your pants in a twist. I'm just dropping off some paperwork.



This is all the information I have at the offices on the Kurhe cases. I thought Rae might need them.

I may have done some horrible things in the past, but an atrocity like Kurhe was NEVER on the agenda.



Well...I'm sure we can find some use for these.

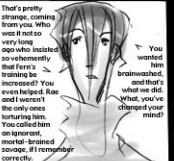
You know...



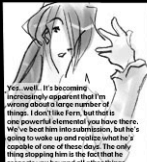
You might try being a little nicer to Fern. You know he adores you. I've seen him argue for hours in your support, and then have to return home to.... this.

There's something wrong there.

That's pretty strange, coming from you. Who was it not so very long ago who insisted so vehemently that Fern's training be increased? You even helped. Rae and I weren't the only ones torturing him. You called him an ignorant, mortal-brained savage, if I remember correctly.



You wanted him brainwashed, and that's what we did. What, you've changed your mind?

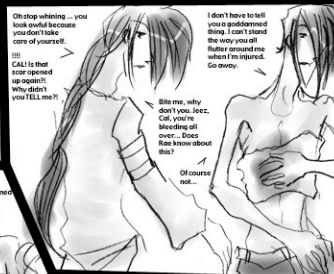


Yes...well...It's becoming increasingly apparent that I'm wrong about a large number of things. I don't like Fern, but that is one powerful elemental you have there. We've beat him into submission, but he's going to wake up and realize what he's capable of one of these days. The only thing stopping him is the fact that he respects you beyond all other things.



Though I'm sure some part of me deep down appreciates your attempt to communicate. Lem, right now it seems to me you're doing what you've always done and telling me how to control my own secondary, which is something I don't appreciate. At all.

Now get out of my house.





Hrm...



What color would you say would look good on a man with pink hair and black fur, Basil.

...uh... No.. Neon green might be a bit loud. Let's stick with classic black...



Good grief, Fern, are you still talking to that toy snake of yours?

You're welcome to try and shut him up. Slick around, I'll find a shirt for you.

Pleh, thank you, I'd rather not...

You can't wander around shirtless all the time...



Why? What's the matter with it?

I s'pose you're just jealous, hrm? You wouldn't look so bad yourself, you know, with a few adjustments.

Just get rid of the palm tree hair.. maybe go for the "Pippy Longstocking" look, People just LOVE that.



What are you gonna do next, break my glasses, twist my arm until I say uncle? Grow up already, Rae. If we're going to take this mission together we might as well make an attempt to be civil to each other, all right?

OOoooh.

So you DO like me, Fern. Why didn't you say so sooner?



Loosen up, Fern,

Wh..What the hell are you DOING?!

Jeez, the COUGH is more satisfying to hump than you are..

Get OFF me!



Is everything all right up there?

thup thup thup

Smoke?! Yes! Yes, everything's FINE! ...

NO! Get OFF! OFF OFF

OOOOOOFFF!

THUD

Whee! Damn, you're feisty...



Smoke, you should have SEEN Fern fondling me! The man has no SHAME!

S...S...S.... WHAT?! NO!! I didn't FONDLE ANYbody, YOU -- YOU --



What was all that noise? Were you teasing him again?

Guess I went a little far...
For crying out loud, Roe...



I'm an idiot. It's my fault, there's no worries.

I shouldn't take it so seriously. It was only a joke. It doesn't mean anything. I'm the one who's fucked up. It's my fault.



I don't let go of anything. If I did, like them...

There'd be no problem at all.



I really fucking hate being touched that way.

I know.



You and I

We're not allowed to let go of anything.

Well... this house is anything but boring, I guess. Look at all these weird books...

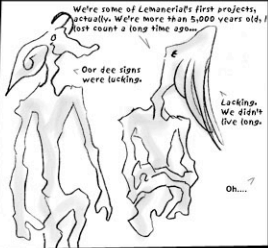


My hand goes right through. What were you when you were alive? Did you look like this?



Of course.

We're some of Lemaneria's first projects, actually. We're more than 5,000 years old, I lost count a long time ago...



Oor dee signs were lacking.

Lacking. We didn't live long.

Oh....

Savior was supposed to be a study in symmetry. Well, you can see for yourself it didn't turn out right. His back leg was worthless because the bones never developed, and his head was so heavy his neck collapsed and he suffocated.



That's horrible....

It's not so bad. He didn't have much of a nervous system, so he didn't feel it.



We make better ghosts than living things, believe me.

Nuff talk! Time for basement! Wanna see where imps live?



Uh....I don't think....

Fun down here! Many sings to show.

What's in the basement?

Secrets! Mor ghossies. Like ghossies, ight?



Not decided on that yet..

Ees dark and loud, but tu soll engov veeay much.



< Mmm. Surprised you could tell them apart. They rotate the names.

> Why do they call themselves that?

< Read books, thought taking those names would make them important. They have no idea what they mean.

> That's sad...

< Pfft. They're as happy as they'll ever be. We may be in the same place, but for them, it's heaven. Come with me if you want pudding.



Heh. Silly me.
I should have known
you'd be
up at this hour.



You were
always a
night owl.

Like me.



So.

What time
are you
leaving
tomorrow?



Whenever Rae wakes up.
We're only going for a
brief visit... The trial
is the day after tomorrow.
We have preparations
to make. Has the boy
responded at all?

Mid worked on it... nothing. The
elemental is blocking his mind.



Well...

We'll figure it
out. He can't
stay silent
forever. He
must want
something,
otherwise, he
wouldn't be
inside the boy.
It'll clear up
somehow.



Cal...

The girl...as
pleasant as
having her
around is ...
If she gets to
know more
about us...
It won't be so
pleasant
anymore.



As I'm well aware.

When this is
done with...
I'll erase her
memories...
Send her back home.
It'll be like it never
happened.



How many
times have
we said
that before,
and been
completely
wrong.

Far too many.
But for mortals,
it works.



Aren't you going to wake him up?

Not me. You do it.

Why me? I'm not going.



Even I know a sleeping Fern is a considerable force to contend with.

Well, all right. Smoke will wake him up.



How's he do it?

AAAAH!

Squeeze his patella. That always drives him crazy.

Oooh.



Grah... I wish you wouldn't do that...

Then get up in the morning.

Ghrmmph...



Oh yeah, we're going to Kurhe today! All right then, I'm in the mood to burn down some stuff.. fight mutants.. And other Kurhe-ish activities.

Glad to see you're enthusiastic.



We must find our kicks somehow. Get Morse and Rhodes some branch robes while we're gone.

Will do.



Sorry Rae.. the only coat I could find that fits you has a fur collar..

Should have known you'd think that...

That's all right... If I have to wear so much clothes, it might as well be the skins of a bunch of innocent small animals.



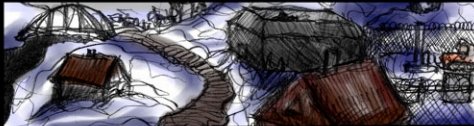
You worried about me?

Pff. Don't flatter yourself.

We'll only have a look around, then come back. I want to see that the place is dead with my own eyes.

Just be careful ... And GET ALONG with Fern.

Oh yes, whatever pleases you, master.



FUCK it's cold.

Understand why we wanted you to wear a coat now? Him. I razed most of the warehouses but then Lem took over... said he'd take care of everything. Instead of actually cleaning up he just shut everything down and locked it up... swept it under the carpet.

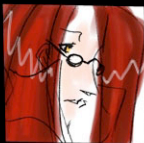
This is one of the only labs left...

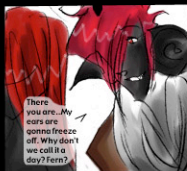
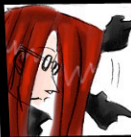
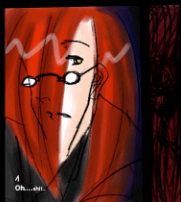
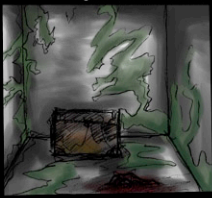
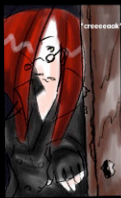
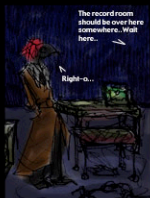
Everything's falling apart now.... People must have come and scrapped most of the equipment. Illegally, of course..

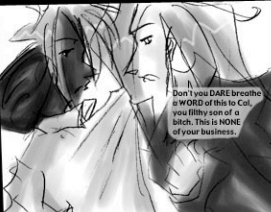
They did medical experiments in this shithole?

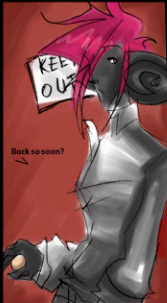
Sure.. They were just halfings, after all.

All of the cages are gone.. but they used to be stocked up to the ceiling.









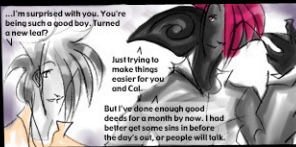
Back so soon?

Since Fern told me not to tell Cal, I'll tell you, so YOU can tell Cal. He went bonkers in the Kurhe lab and fainted.



Uh oh... Well... I'll tell Cal, and give him a checkup. Thanks for letting me know...

...I'm surprised with you. You're being such a good boy. Turned a new leaf?



Just trying to make things easier for you and Cal.

But I've done enough good deeds for a month by now. I had better get some sins in before the day's out, or people will talk.



What's going on here, a barbershop?

Smoke had us try on our trial robes.

A little loose, but they should do.

Who? Since when do we need robes for anything?



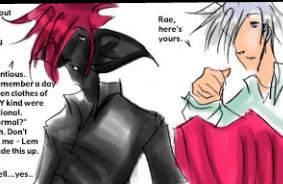
I'm sorry, Rae...

I forgot to tell you about this... it's a tradition now... to wear your branch's color during formal gatherings.

Jeez, how pretentious.

I remember a day when clothes of ANY kind were optional. "Formal?" Heh. Don't tell me - Lem made this up.

Well... yes...



Rae, here's yours.

All right, before any of you goes off gallivanting again, everyone come here and sit for a meeting. We have important things to discuss about tomorrow.

Aw, poop.

I don't see how there's anything to discuss. This whole thing seems pretty straightforward to me.

Rae...
Shush...

Hrrumph.

Mid, could you give us a report of your findings so far as to Rhodes' condition? What are our options?



I'm pretty sure the chaos elemental is fused with him completely. If Rae absorbs the power of the chaos elemental, Rhodes will die. Technically, he's already dead, but there's a possibility we could replace his life energy so he could resume his life as though nothing had happened...

However...the shock might be too much for him, so he wouldn't make it no matter what we did. And I have a feeling that the elemental is keeping him hostage, to a degree—he'll hurt the boy if we try anything.

Big deal.

If the boy is the only thing we lose to this guy, we're LUCKY. He's as good as dead already.

Let me take the energy. There's no other alternative. The boy will be free of the pain, and the elemental'll be history. Problem solved.

...I'm afraid it isn't as simple as that.

Rhodes is Faldia's wiwen.

Whaddaya mean? What's stopping me?

Did you just say what I think you said?

...Oh. Well then. That DOES put a damper on things, doesn't it.

sighs

Excuse me... but what's a wiwen?

If this is a joke, Cal, it's not very funny! You haven't even **PROVEN** that theory yet!



The chaos elemental knows Rhodes is the wiwen. I would never joke about this, and you know it.



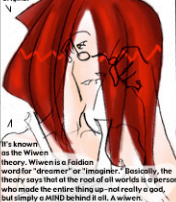
Once again, I have no idea what's going on, and nobody will explain...



Look at this.

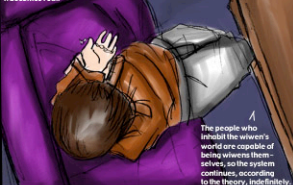
A chain?

What Cal and Mid are talking about has to do with a theory Cal concocted years ago to explain Faidia's origins.



It's known as the Wiwen theory. Wiwen is a Faidian word for "dreamer" or "imagine". Basically, the theory says that at the root of all worlds is a person who made the entire thing up—not really a god, but simply a **MIND** behind it all. A wiwen.

Wiwens can be anybody, but only a few people actually become proper wiwens. Anyone can make up some world...creative people do it all the time. But the difference between them and a wiwen is that the wiwen's world becomes **ACTUAL**. The people inhabiting it become real, and develop their own minds -- the world becomes independent of the wiwen. It doesn't exist only in the wiwen's head -- it becomes real.

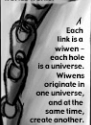


The people who inhabit the wiwen's world are capable of being wiwens themselves, so the system continues, according to the theory, indefinitely.

The wiwens are unaware that their world has become real, and the worlds exist **ENTIRELY** apart -- except if the wiwen creates creatures within it who are **CAPABLE** of travelling between worlds. Like us. There are practically no rules to what a wiwen can do with their world. What they imagine, becomes truth. Everything in our world originates as a thought in our wiwen's head.



The chain is a visual for how this system of worlds works.



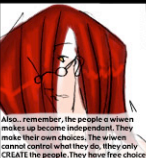
Each link is a wiwen -- each hole is a universe. Wiwens originate in one universe, and at the same time, create another.

But how can someone just...

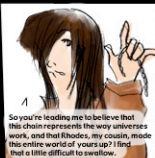


Make up an entire world...the people...everything.

There are plenty of worlds that fail, that don't make it. Only the successful wiwens create worlds rich enough to produce new wiwens.



Also... remember, the people a wiwen makes up become independent. They make their own choices. The wiwen cannot control what they do, if they only **CREATE** the people. They have free choice.



So you're leading me to believe that this chain represents the way universes work, and that Rhodes, my cousin, made this entire world of yours up? I find that a little difficult to swallow.



I'm not leading you to believe anything. It's only a theory. I'm not sure I believe it myself. Maybe it's only the case for Faidia -- I dunno.

But I wouldn't dismiss it, if I were you... the world runs on whacky theories you're meant **NOT** to understand.

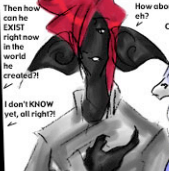
But how can you be SURE Rhodes is the wiwen?
If you're asking me, you're just making this up
just so your THEORY can
be proven.



There's no
need for insults,
Midnight. No, I
am not making
this up. He's the
wiwen. Of all people, I should know.

Then how
can he
EXIST
right now
in the
world
he
created?!

I don't KNOW
yet, all right?!



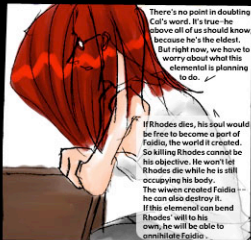
How about a little coherency,
eh?

Coherency's no fun.



There's no point in doubting
Cal's word. It's true—he
above all of us should know
because he's the eldest.
But right now, we have to
worry about what this
elemental is planning
to do.

If Rhodes dies, his soul would
be free to become a part of
Faidia, the world it created.
So killing Rhodes cannot be
his objective. He won't let
Rhodes die while he is still
occupying his body.
The wiwen created Faidia—
he can also destroy it.
If this elemental can bend
Rhodes' will to his
own, he will be able to
annihilate Faidia.

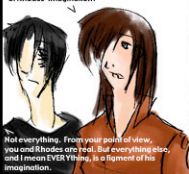


This is a fine
kettle of fish...

Strange...after
all that's happened...
our wiwen is
just a little boy...



Are you saying that everything here is a product
of Rhodes' imagination?



Not everything. From your point of view,
you and Rhodes are real. But everything else,
and I mean EVER Ything, is a figment of his
imagination.

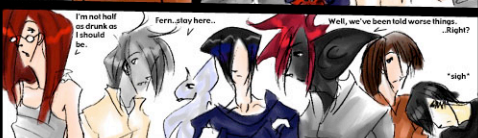


I'm not half
as drunk as
I should
be.

Fern...stay here..

Well, we've been told worse things.
..Right?

sigh





Heh, I can't wait to see Lem's face when he finds out about the wiwen. He'll blow an aorta.

Mm. Why are you in my room?



Well...yes. I just thought you'd want to... be with Mid instead.

Huh? Why not? Can't I spend time with you?

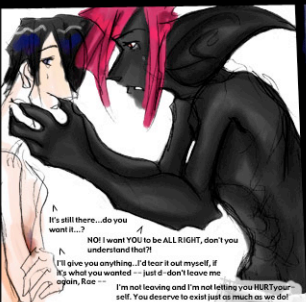
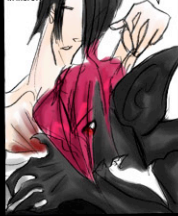
It's your turn for kitty love.

...what's that around your chest?



Oh my god...

The scar--it's coming back -- I did it, didn't I? I hurt you again!? I didn't even notice -- Is your new heart all right!? Is it still in there?!



It's still there...do you want it...?

NO! I want YOU to be ALL RIGHT, don't you understand that?!

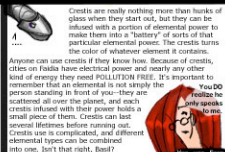
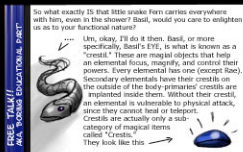
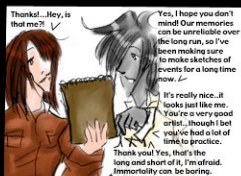
I'll give you anything...I'd tear it out myself, if it's what you wanted -- just d--don't leave me again, Rae --

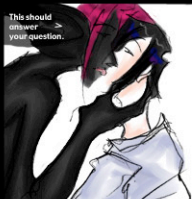
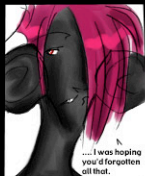
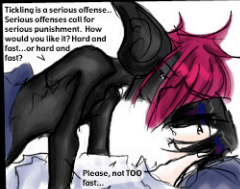
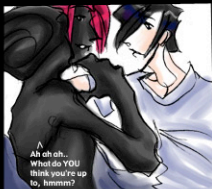
I'm not leaving and I'm not letting you HURT yourself. You deserve to exist just as much as we do!



You're cold... put on a night shirt...calm down... it's okay...

Don't cry... I'm not going anywhere...





Are we all ready?

Ready! Don't know why we have to do this so fucking early in the morning...

Ready...

Let's get this over with..

Hang on, I'm about to teleport everyone to the dome at Tower.

...Smoke, I think you missed. By about thirty miles.

We've been redirected. Tower has a shield around it.

What?!

What sort of bullshit is this?!

A shield around Tower.. There hasn't been one since the wars...

Good morning.

I apologize for the redirection. But you are not allowed in Tower as long as you have those chaos elementals with you.

This is OUTRAGEOUS! I'm an elemental, access to the dome is my RIGHT.

You already destroyed Tower once. I'm not going to just let you walk in and do it again.

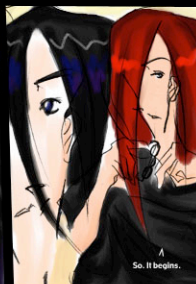
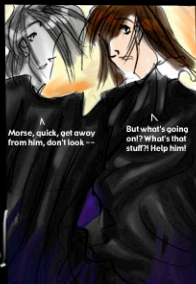
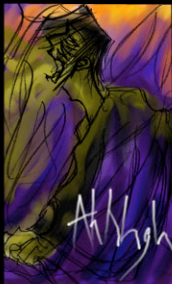
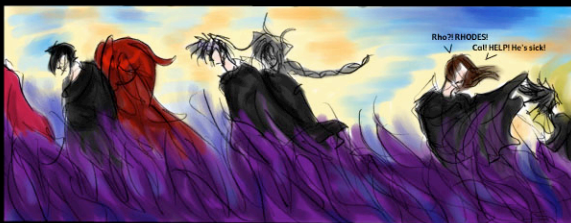
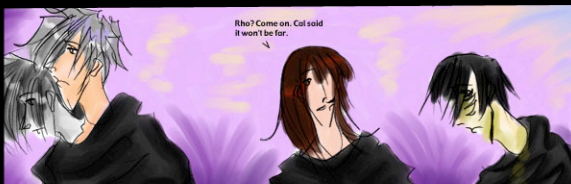
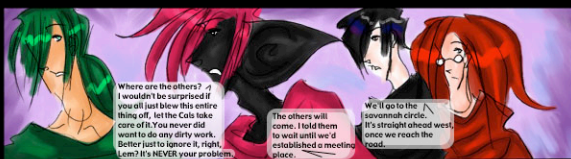
Why the HELL would I want to destroy Tower again. You realize that blocking me violates the agreement. You're giving me justification to declare WAR.

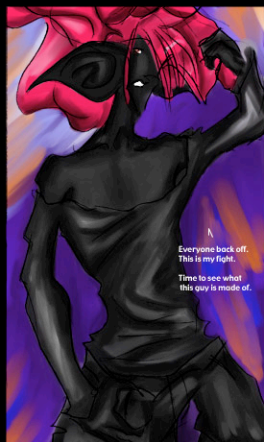
So be it. You're not setting foot in Tower.

Rae...Don't argue with him.

Cal...

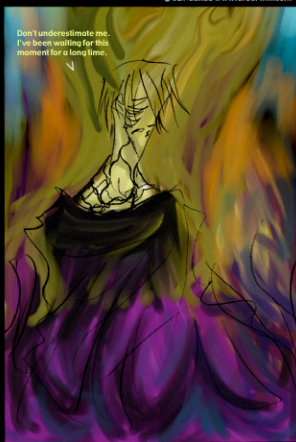
It doesn't matter. We can have the meeting elsewhere.





Everyone back off.
This is my fight.

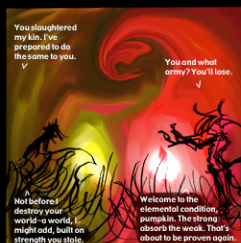
Time to see what
this guy is made of.



Don't underestimate me.
I've been waiting for this
moment for a long time.



SHIT! You mean
business!



You slaughtered
my kin. I've
prepared to do
the same to you.

You and what
army? You'll lose.

Not before I
destroy your
world—a world, I
might add, built on
strength you stole.

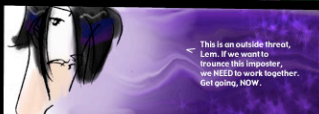
Welcome to the
elemental condition,
pumpkin. The strong
absorb the weak. That's
about to be proven again.



Smoke..

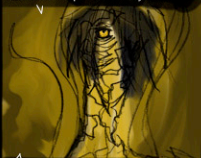
Go help
Lem defend
Tower.

Cal, I don't
need --



This is an outside threat,
Lem. If we want to
trounce this imposter,
we NEED to work together.
Get going, NOW.

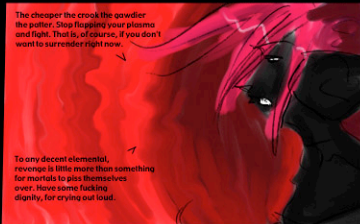
This mortal's body is so flimsy... It's decaying quickly. It's no matter. The pain is weakening his will.



What shall I do with your world? Fold the entire thing into bizarre shapes before crushing it? No no-- too easy. I want something more along the lines of slow and painful.

The cheaper the croak the gawdier the paffer. Stop flapping your plasma and fight. That is, of course, if you don't want to surrender right now.

To any decent elemental, revenge is little more than something for mortals to piss themselves over. Have some fucking dignity, for crying out loud.

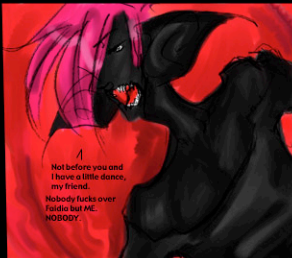


That's easy for YOU to say, YOU, YOU who've sucked dozens of other worlds DRY, slaughtered your OWN KIND so you can have THAT much more control over your PIDDLING little world! You speak of DIGNITY?! What do parasites like YOU know of dignity!

I'm wiping the slate CLEAN. Say goodbye to your precious planet.



Not before you and I have a little dance, my friend. Nobody fucks over Faidra but ME. NOBODY.



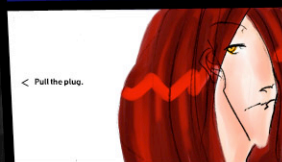
Rae can hold him back but matching elements won't cancel each other..

This fight could go on interminably. We can't afford Rae making a mistake.

If the source of Sullyenner's power - Arduc - is cut off... It will be decided once and for all.



< Pull the plug.

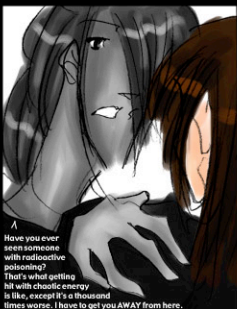




Mid! What about Rhodes?!!
We need to help him! I c-can't
run away --



Keep running!
You **MUST** get
away from this place!



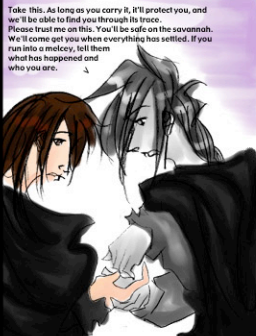
Have you ever
seen someone
with radioactive
poisoning?
That's what getting
hit with chaotic energy
is like, except it's a thousand
times worse. I have to get you **AWAY** from here.



I'm the one who has to go back.
You have to stay behind, and
KEEP RUNNING. The further
you are from them, the better.

But --

But I'll get lost!



Take this. As long as you carry it, it'll protect you, and
we'll be able to find you through its trace.
Please trust me on this. You'll be safe on the savannah.
We'll come get you when everything has settled. If you
run into a melcey, tell them
what has happened and
who you are.

And for heaven's sake, don't lose
it!




Cal's calling me--
I have to go!
Keep running, Morse,
I promise we'll
be back!

Mid...
Please...



Don't... leave me...

I wonder where I am now... I can still see the Tower...but it shimmers in and out of sight. That's real helpful...

I'm so tired... this grass isn't easy to walk through...

Thank goodness... a road. I wonder where it goes to.

Too hot... I thought it was winter here... it was cold earlier. Now I feel like I'm going to faint...

Gotta take this silly robe off...

I feel so stupid... Maybe I should have listened to Curtis. But it was so easy just to ... go along. Now I guess I'll just... wait here.

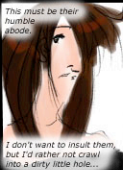
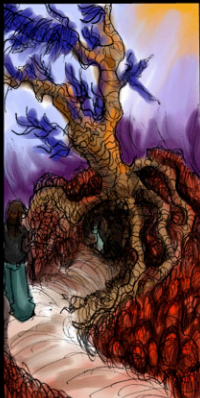
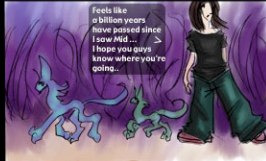
Oh...how cute! Hello there... Are you a baby melcey? Are you lost?

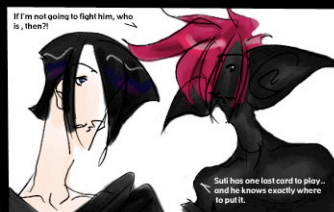
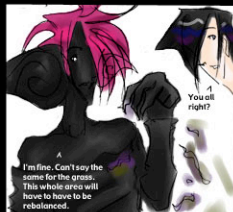
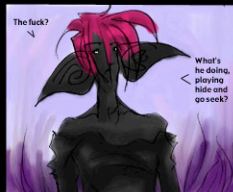
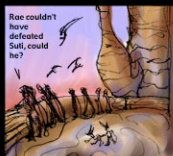
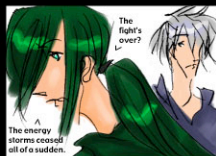
You and I are in the same boat together, then.

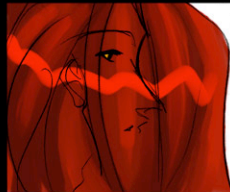
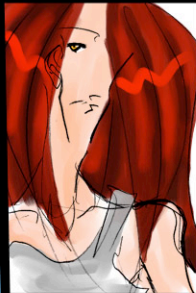
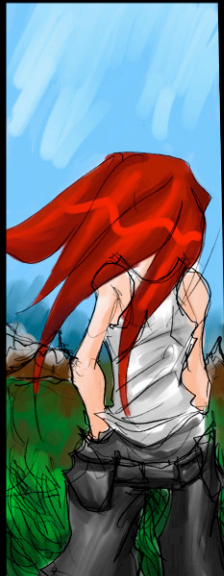
Oh... Maybe we're not.

How do you talk to melceys?

U-uh... Greetings?







Quite a nice world you have,
Sutliyenner.

It's such a pity
that I'm going
to snuff it.



Don't be silly.

Why do that, when
we could drive a
bargain?

You and I have something in common,
Moranerial.

1
We BOTH
hate
Faldia.
Together,
you and I,
we could
destroy it.

Oh? What a
novel idea.

Join me.

Heh. You act
as though you're
in a position
to bargain.

Who says I'm
not? We have
similar interests.
Let's strive
for them together.

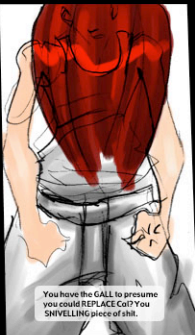
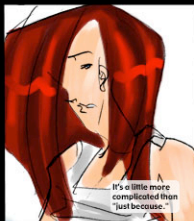
You are
mistaken.

The interests of
my master ARE
my interests.

1
I have no
interests of
my own.


And you
are NOT
my master.

Don't play the innocent with me.
I know what they've done to
you. Even I haven't put up with
as much grief from the Faldians
as you have. You're not part
of them -- you never will be.
I may be weak now, but if you
and I join together, I could
restore myself. What a PAIR
we would make! They'd be
begging for mercy
at our feet, ALL of
them. Isn't that what you
want? Don't deny it.






You ARE just a tool! A PUPPET!
You're a soulless BASTARD just like the rest of your accursed race!



Heh, that's funny, considering you were trying to get your hand up my ass moments ago. Yeah, I'm a puppet. I chose to be.



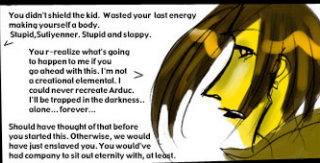
Well, that's too bad. Because I still have the wiwen. If you won't join with me, I'll just have him conveniently forget you ever existed. How pleasant does that sound?



snap



You really were relying on me falling for your bullshit, weren't you?



You didn't shield the kid. Wasted your last energy making yourself a body. Stupid, Sullyenner. Stupid and sloppy.

You r--realize what's going to happen to me if you go ahead with this. I'm not a creational elemental. I could never recreate Arduc. I'll be trapped in the darkness... alone... forever...

Should have thought of that before you started this. Otherwise, we would have just enslaved you. You would've had company to sit out eternity with, at least.



As it stands, however...

I've sent the wiwen to his proper place.

Now it's your turn.



FOOM

*CRACKLE
CRACKLE*

Wait... wait,
please..
I'm sorry..
What I did
was wrong..

Please just..
listen to me a minute.

He broke his promise
to you, didn't he?
He promised you he
wouldn't make you
kill like this anymore...

He broke that
promise... Doesn't
that mean any-
thing to you?

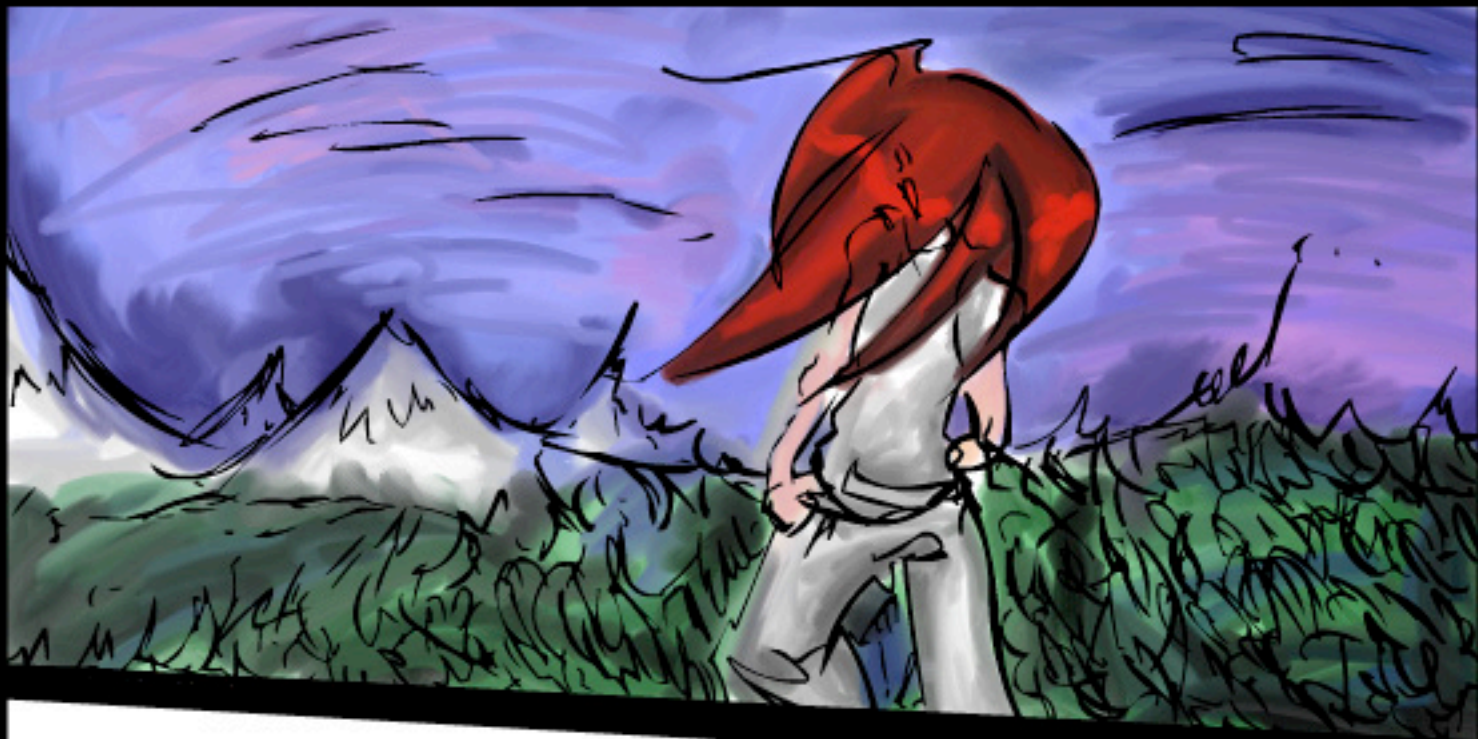
Spare me.. I know you don't want to kill ...
I'll be your slave, I'll do anything you want..
Just please, don't do this to me .. at least
talk to them.. please, for pity's sake...
Don't leave me in the dark! I just want to
save my world, just like you want to save yours..
There's nothing wrong
with that!

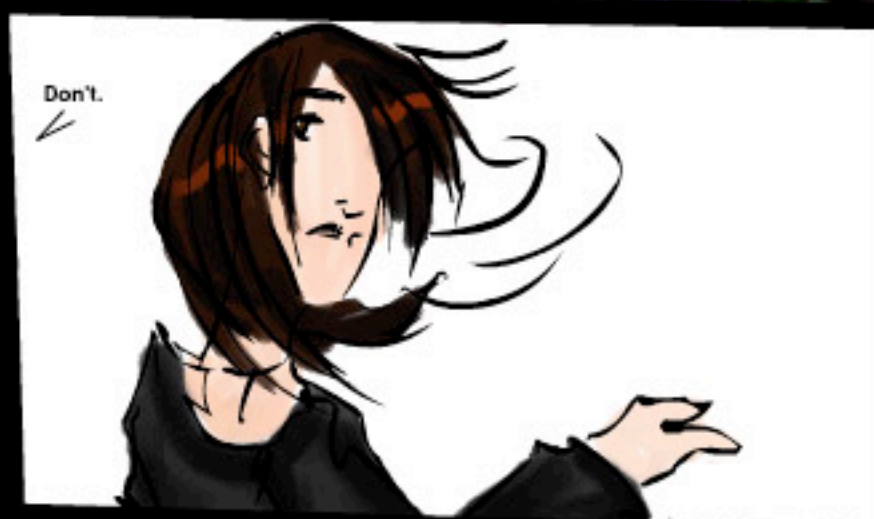
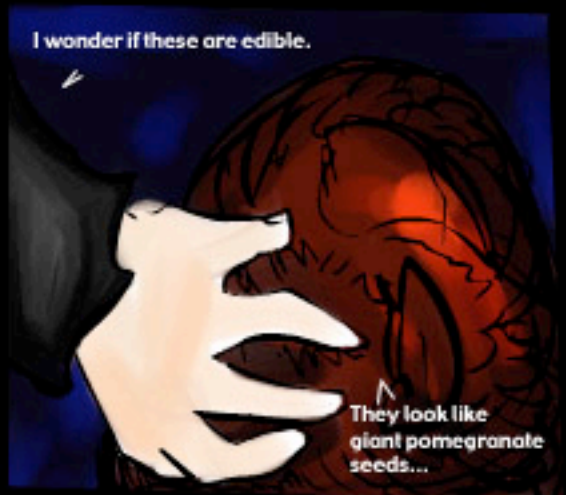
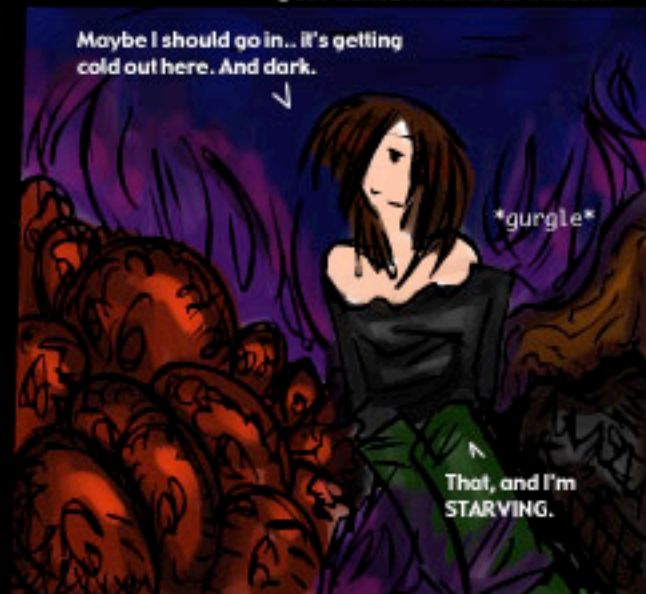
Don't touch me.

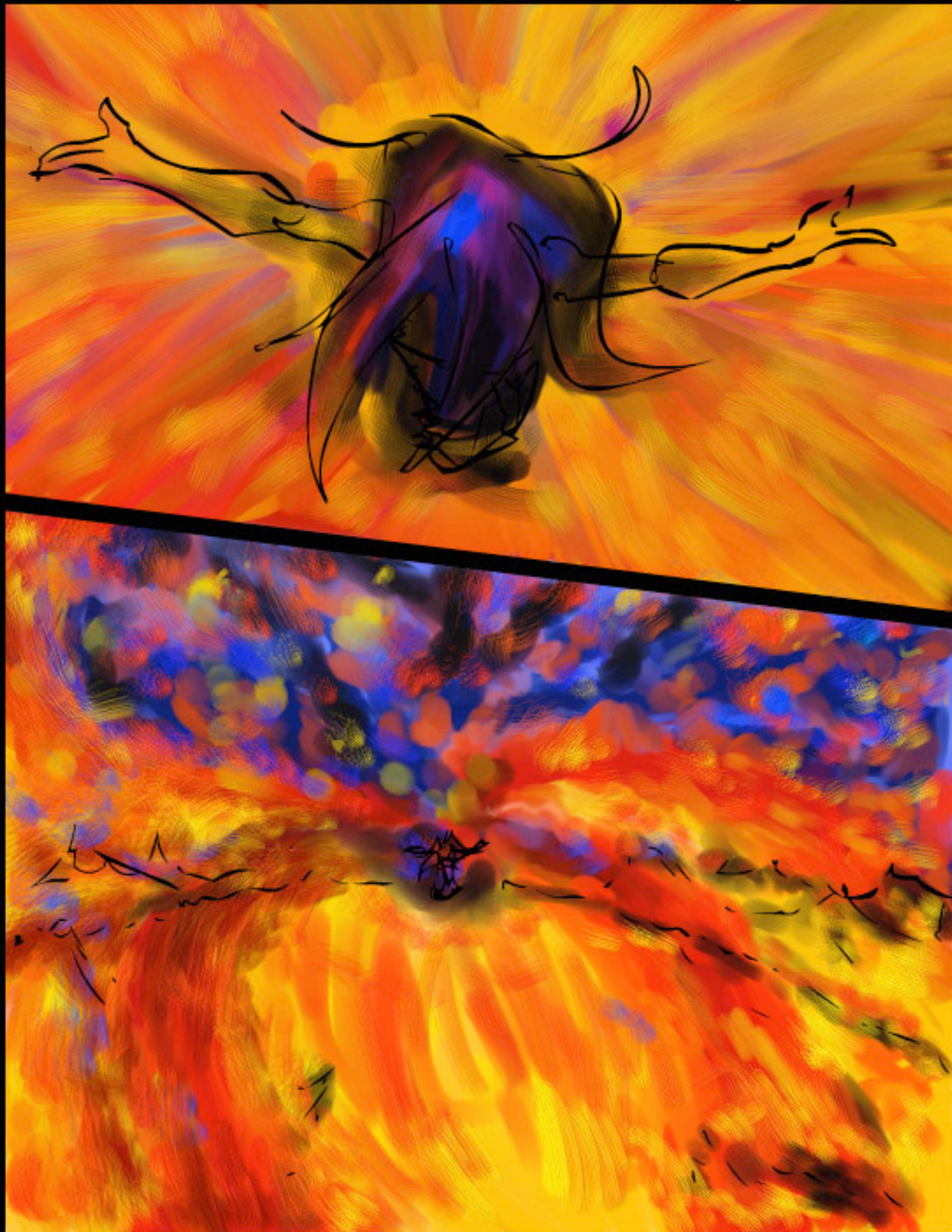
He made that
promise knowing he would
break it.. It doesn't matter
now. Nothing does.

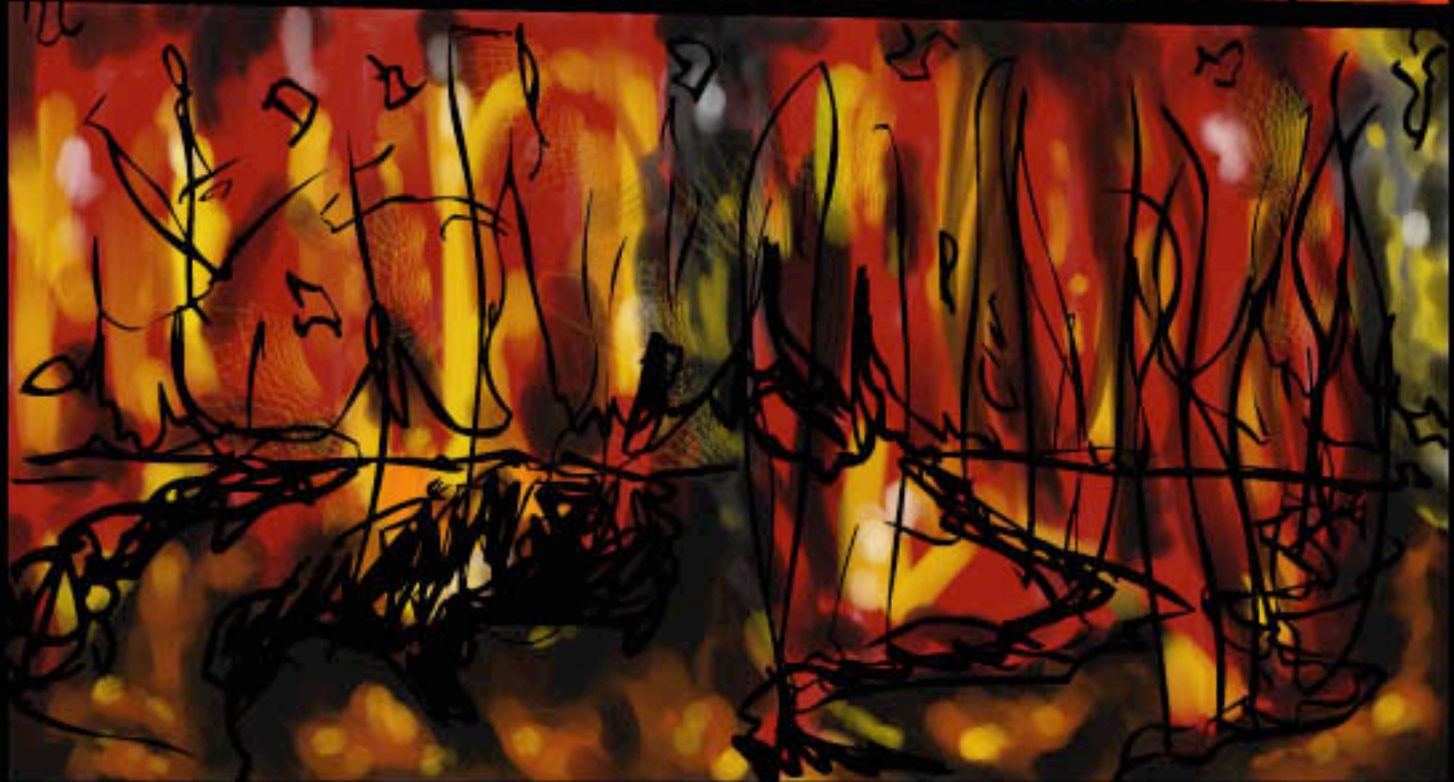
It's over.

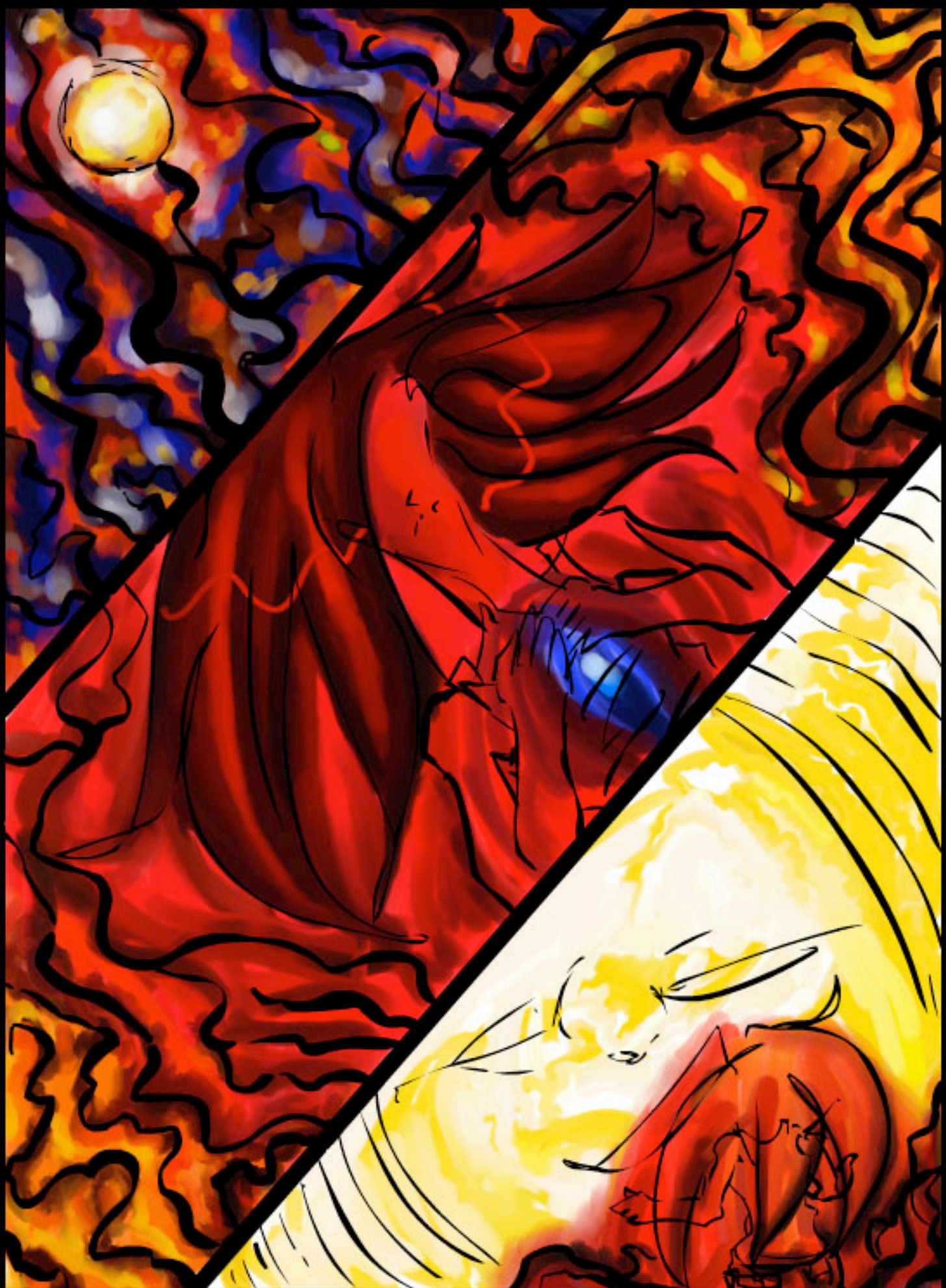
It's all over.



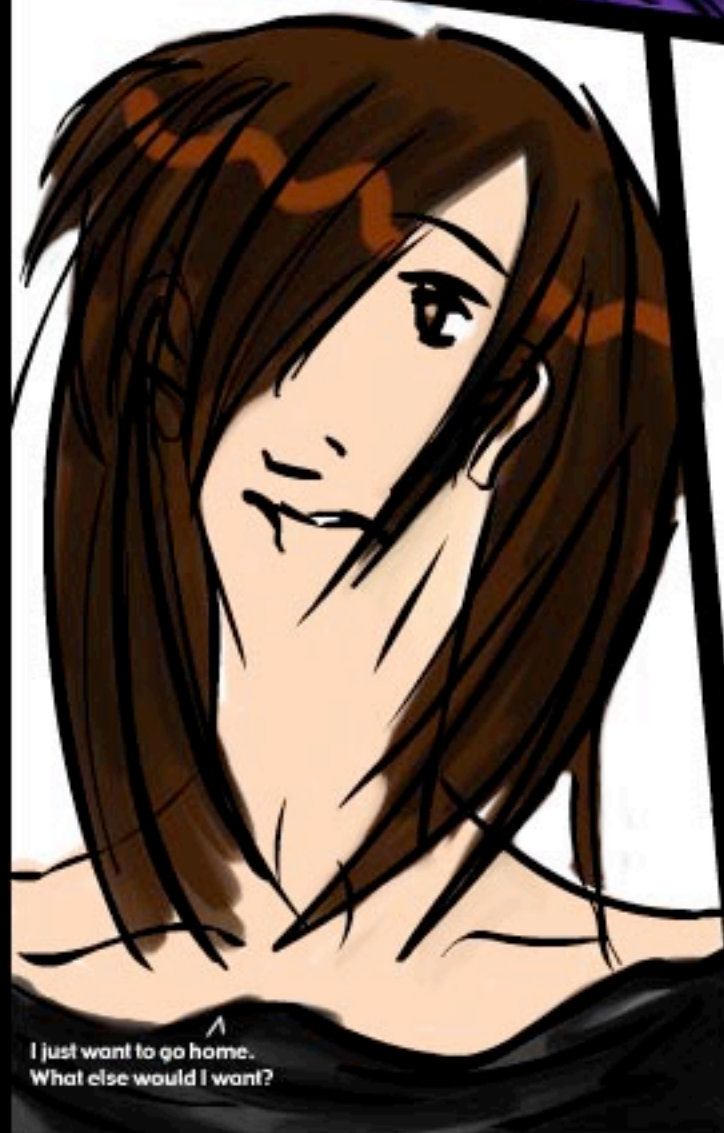












This is it

It's funny

How you think at times like this

You ask the usual questions ...
feel your heart writhe around like
a small animal

But most of all ... you feel nothing

Hear nothing

See nothing

Because you don't want to

I could hear him explaining
everything in a blur
How Arduc had been
destroyed. .. the sun and
stars ... all killed at the
same time

I had no idea there was such
power ... anyplace

It's hard to feel angry towards something
so horrible and so beautiful.

I cried..

But really.. it didn't mean anything. I cried
because I was supposed to cry.
This requires a kind of despair I am
incapable of, and was never meant to express

The rest is silence.