

# SWORDS AND FANGS

## chapter 5



THEY CALL IT  
"THE WAR".

NO EPITHETS  
OR OTHER  
NAMES, JUST  
THE WAR.  
BECAUSE  
EVERYONE  
IS INVOLVED.

THE 4 CONTINENTS  
OF THE DRAGON —  
MAESTRALE IN THE  
NORTH, LEVANTE IN  
THE EAST, PONENTE  
IN THE WEST, AND  
OSTRO IN THE  
SOUTH — HAVE BEEN  
AT WAR FOR MORE  
THAN FOUR CENTURIES.

MEGALOS  
SUBDUED ALL THE  
OTHER CONTINENTS,  
ALL BUT LEVANTE.

THE IMMORTAL  
KING OF  
MEGALOS WILL  
NEVER STOP  
UNTIL EVERYTHING  
IN THIS WORLD  
IS UNDER  
HIS CONTROL.



HIS REIGN IS SO RICH  
AND POWERFUL THAT  
NOBODY EVEN TRIED  
TO FIGHT HIM. NONE  
BUT THE WOLVES OF  
THE 5 CLANS WHO  
LIVED IN THE MORI  
FOREST, AT THE  
WESTERN BORDER OF  
OUR CONTINENT.

NOTHING  
MORE THAN  
PRIMITIVE  
TRIBES AT  
THAT TIME...

THE GREAT  
OOKAMI, THE  
WHITE WOLF,  
UNITED ALL  
THE WOLVES  
WHO FOUGHT  
AGAINST THIS  
TYRANNY.

BECAUSE THE  
GOLDEN KING  
WANTED TO  
ENSLAVE ALL  
THE PRIMITIVE  
RACES AND  
TAKE THEIR  
LANDS.

THE RED WOLVES  
OF CLAN AKA

大

THE WHITE  
WOLVES  
OF CLAN  
SHIRO

白

黒

AND THE  
GREY WOLVES  
OF CLAN  
CHIKARA

力

THE GIANT  
WOLVES  
OF CLAN  
SAIZU

THE DARK  
WOLVES  
OF CLAN  
KURO

赤



ALL UNITED TO FIGHT THE GOLDEN LEGIONS OF MEGALOS. THE GREAT OOKAMI SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF HIS PEOPLE, WHO NEVER FORGOT HIM, AND NEVER STOPPED FIGHTING.

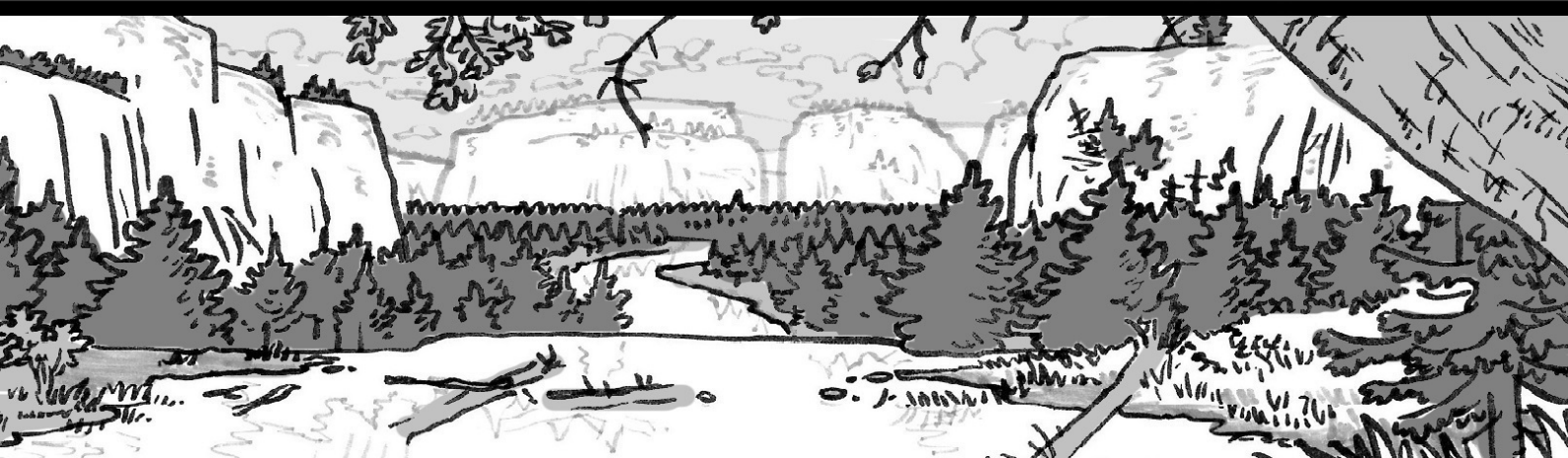
RED AND WHITE, VERSUS BLACK AND GOLD.

ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE FREE CONTINENT SUPPORT THE 5 CLANS SINCE THE DEATH OF OOKAMI.

AFTER MORE THAN 4 CENTURIES, THE GOLDEN KING ADAMANTIOS DID NOT GIVE UP HIS DREAM OF A WORLD UNDER HIS CONTROL...

AFTER MORE THAN 4 CENTURIES, HE STILL LIVES! ALL THE PEOPLE OF MEGALOS WORSHIP AND FEAR ADAMANTIOS! SINCE HE IS MORE THAN A COMMON MORTAL:

THE 5 CLANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RULED BY THE SAGES, ONE FOR EVERY CLAN. THIS SOCIETY OF WARRIORS PROTECTED THE FREE CONTINENT FROM TYRANNY FOR CENTURIES AND WILL NEVER STOP UNTIL THE GOLDEN KING'S DEATH, AND MEGALOS' RENOUNCING OF CONQUERING THE FREE LANDS.



A WOLF'S NATION IS THE 5 CLANS. HIS FAMILY, IS HIS TROOP AND HIS COMRADES. AT THE AGE OF 4, THE WOLF GETS CHOSEN BY A SENSEI WITH 20 OTHER PUPS...


EVERY PUP HAS TO TAKE A SPECIAL POTION THAT MAKES HIM STRONGER, BUT ALSO KILLS THE WEAKEST WOLVES. THE ONES WHO SURVIVE BECOME RECRUITS.



FROM THE AGE OF 4 TO THE AGE OF 20, EVERY WOLF IS TRAINED BY THE SENSEI OF HIS TROOP, 10 HOURS A DAY, 300 DAYS A YEAR! ... FASTER, STRONGER, AND MORE SKILLED AND POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER WARRIOR IN THIS WORLD! WOLVES OF THE 5 CLANS ARE THE PERFECT KILLING MACHINES.

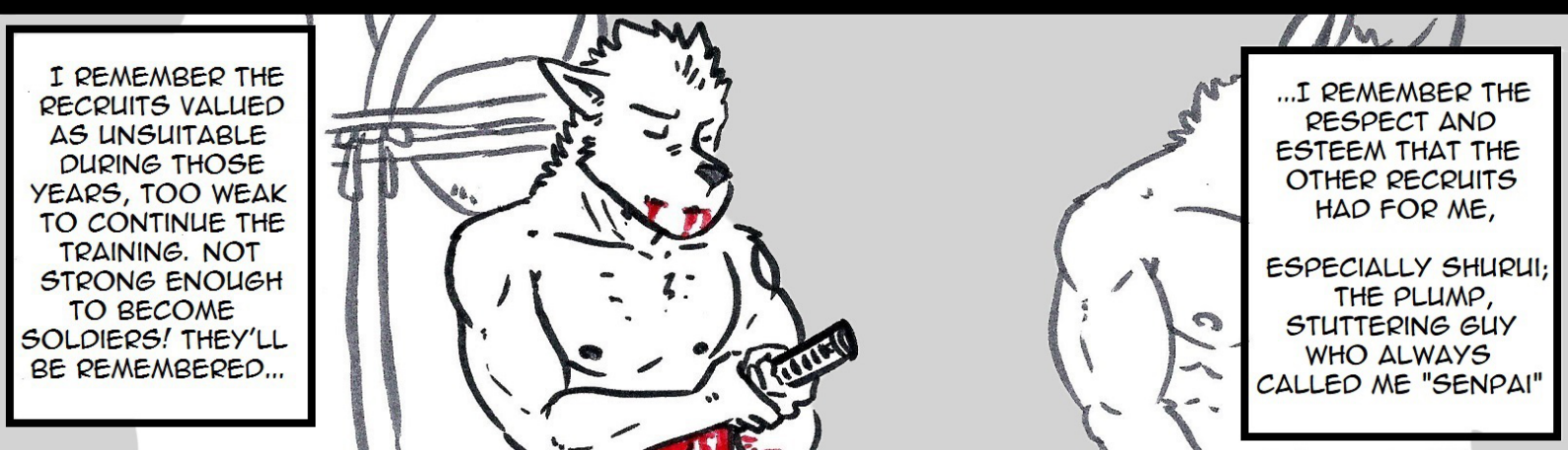







I CAN'T REMEMBER  
MY FIRST YEARS...  
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN  
IN TROOP III, LEAD  
BY SENSEI HIKARI.

BETWEEN ALL THE  
RECRUITS IN  
THAT TROOP, I'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN THE  
MOST PROMISING  
ONE, SO I  
BECAME SENSEI'S  
PUPIL.



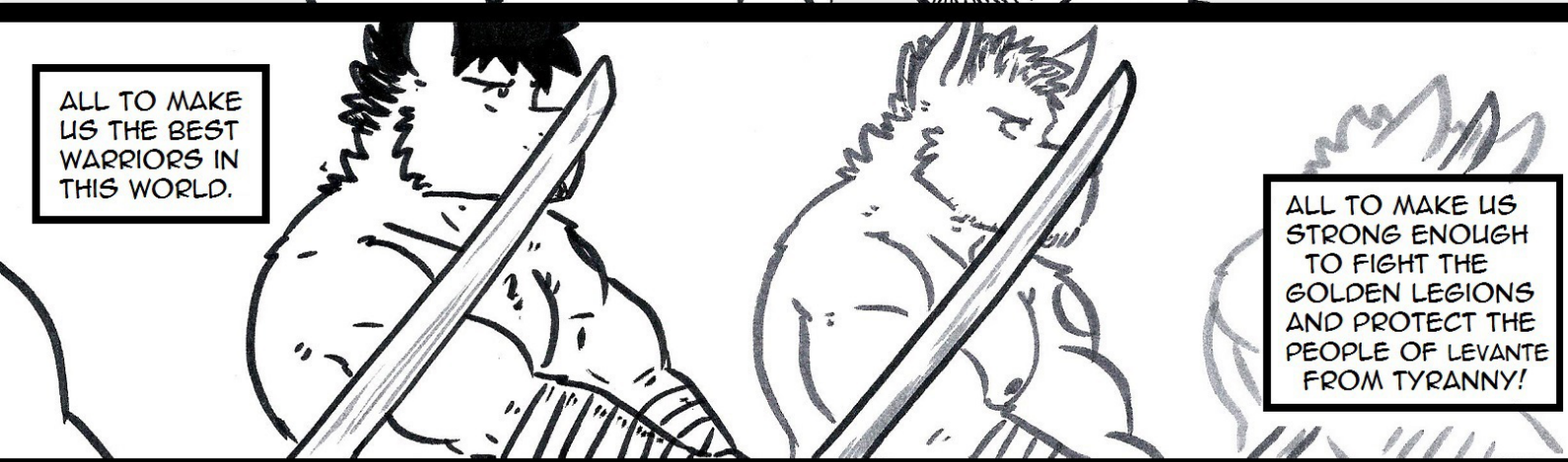
I REMEMBER THE  
RECRUITS VALUED  
AS UNSUITABLE  
DURING THOSE  
YEARS, TOO WEAK  
TO CONTINUE THE  
TRAINING. NOT  
STRONG ENOUGH  
TO BECOME  
SOLDIERS! THEY'LL  
BE REMEMBERED...

...I REMEMBER THE  
RESPECT AND  
ESTEEM THAT THE  
OTHER RECRUITS  
HAD FOR ME,  
  
ESPECIALLY SHURUI;  
THE PLUMP,  
STUTTERING GUY  
WHO ALWAYS  
CALLED ME "SENPAI"



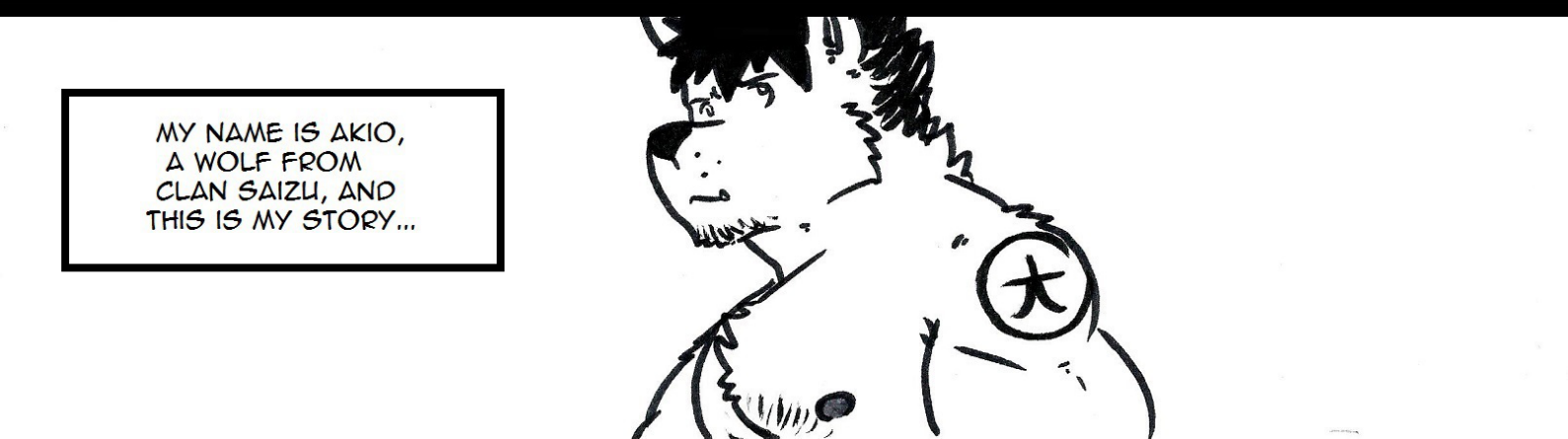
AND I REMEMBER  
THE GUY WHO  
ALWAYS BULLIED  
HIM AND WANTED  
TO BE MY RIVAL;  
KEN! THE BIGGEST  
AND STRONGEST  
IN THE TROOP.

I REMEMBER  
ALL THE TESTS  
WE PASSED,  
ALL THE PAIN AND  
EFFORT... ALL THE  
SACRIFICES, THE  
SWEAT, TEARS  
AND BLOOD...



ALL TO MAKE  
US THE BEST  
WARRIORS IN  
THIS WORLD.

ALL TO MAKE US  
STRONG ENOUGH  
TO FIGHT THE  
GOLDEN LEGIONS  
AND PROTECT THE  
PEOPLE OF LEVANTE  
FROM TYRANNY!



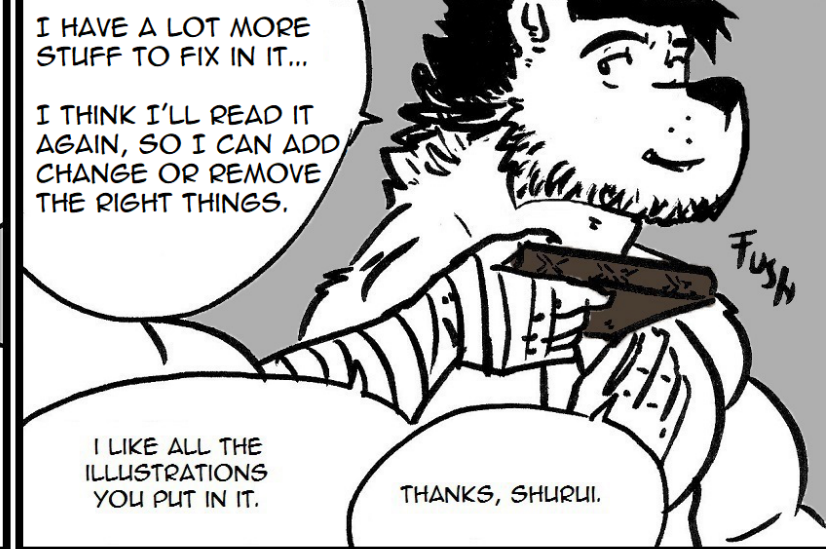
MY NAME IS AKIO,  
A WOLF FROM  
CLAN SAIZU, AND  
THIS IS MY STORY...





SEE, THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD'VE STARTED THIS BOOK.

AH, YES... I KNOW, I KNOW...



I HAVE A LOT MORE STUFF TO FIX IN IT... I THINK I'LL READ IT AGAIN, SO I CAN ADD CHANGE OR REMOVE THE RIGHT THINGS.

I LIKE ALL THE ILLUSTRATIONS YOU PUT IN IT.

THANKS, SHURUI.



S-SO... ABOUT THE PART WITH KEN AND I...

COULD YOU... CHANGE SOMETHING?

I MEAN...

I KNOW, SORRY, YOU LOOK LIKE A "VICTIM" HERE! AS I SAID, I'LL FIX IT!



THANKS FOR LETTING ME BE ONE OF THE CHARACTERS, AKIO!

IT'S... ME, YOU, KEN, SAWADA AND TSUYO, KIBA, HISASHI AND HEIGAN... RIGHT?

IN OUR TROOP? YEAH, I COULDN'T PUT ALL THE RECRUITS OF THE 111! TOO MANY CHARACTERS, YA KNOW?

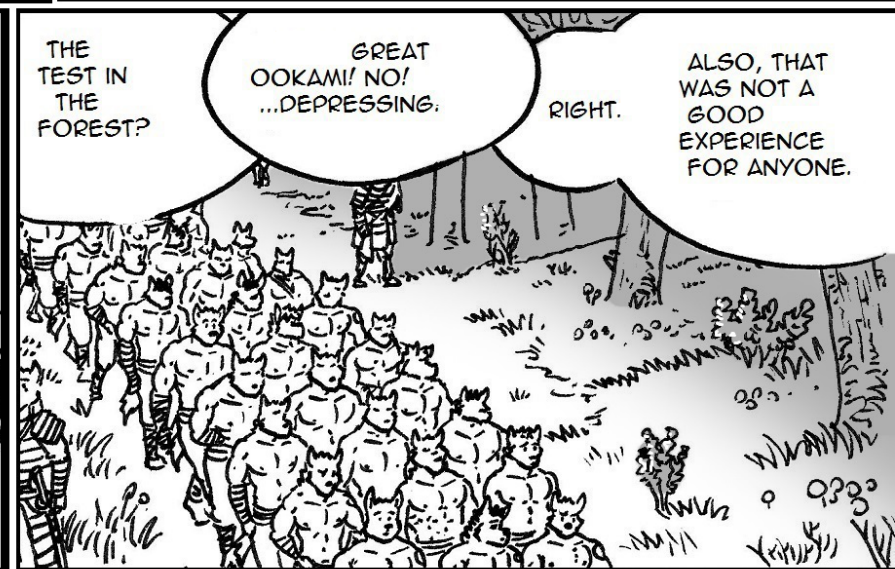


R-R... RIGHT, YOU MENTIONED THAT...

I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO PUT ALL THE CHARACTERS TOGETHER, AND SHOW HOW THEY INTERACT.

I DON'T LIKE THE LIST I MADE BEFORE... I HAVE TO SHOW WHO THEY ARE, NOT JUST DESCRIBE THEM.

MAYBE... A SITUATION WHERE WE WERE ALL TOGETHER! HM...

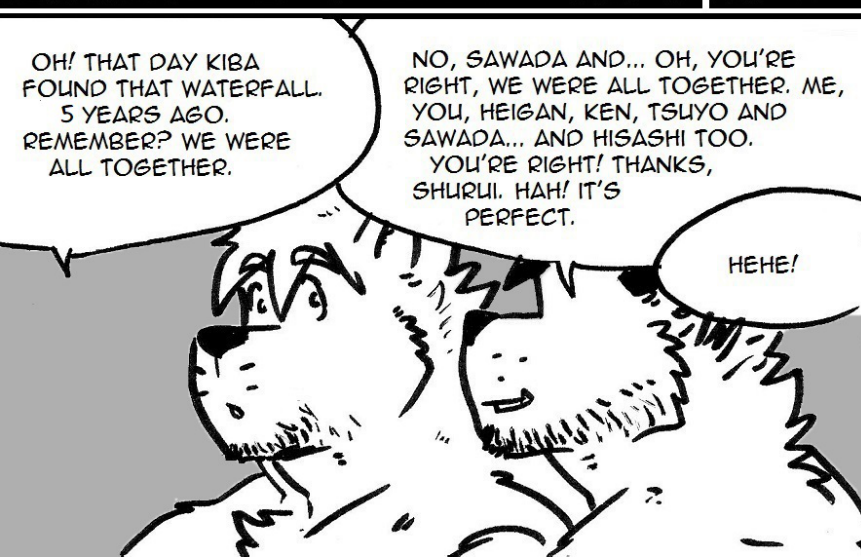


THE TEST IN THE FOREST?

GREAT OOKAMI! NO! ...DEPRESSING.

RIGHT.

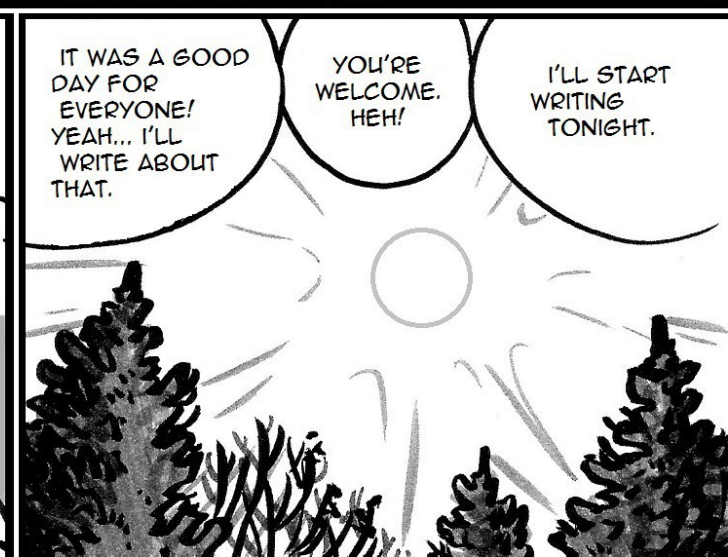
ALSO, THAT WAS NOT A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ANYONE.



OH! THAT DAY KIBA FOUND THAT WATERFALL. 5 YEARS AGO. REMEMBER? WE WERE ALL TOGETHER.

NO, SAWADA AND... OH, YOU'RE RIGHT, WE WERE ALL TOGETHER. ME, YOU, HEIGAN, KEN, TSUYO AND SAWADA... AND HISASHI TOO. YOU'RE RIGHT! THANKS, SHURUI. HAH! IT'S PERFECT.

HEHE!



IT WAS A GOOD DAY FOR EVERYONE! YEAH... I'LL WRITE ABOUT THAT.

YOU'RE WELCOME. HEH!

I'LL START WRITING TONIGHT.



SRAI

5 years earlier

CLAN SAIZU

THUNF

UHNFI

GOLDEN SOLDIERS  
ATTACK FROM EVERY  
DIRECTION, KEEP  
GOING, RECRUITS!

TORI,  
GET  
UP!

YES,  
SENSEI!

FRUP

HA!

WOLVES DON'T  
NEED TO REST, YOU  
CAN FIGHT FOR DAYS!  
KEEP GOING!

DON'T LET THEM  
SURROUND YOU,  
AKIO. KEEP  
MOVING!

LIKE THAT,  
GOOD!

SHINK

SDHNF

HAH!

WHA...?

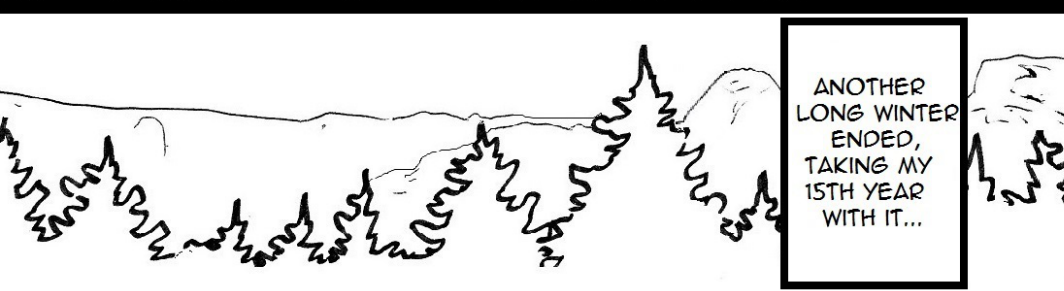
TAP

WHUP









ANOTHER  
LONG WINTER  
ENDED,  
TAKING MY  
15TH YEAR  
WITH IT...



GREAT  
OOKAMI!

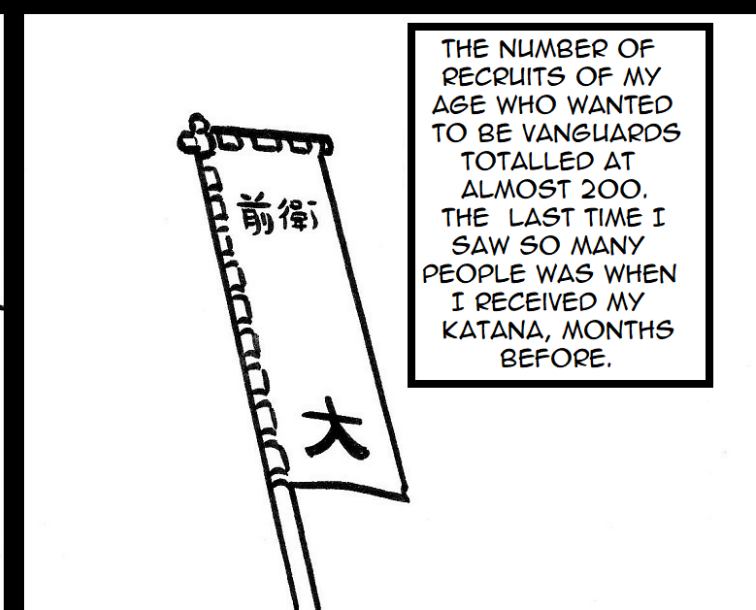
TAP



I DECIDED TO  
BE A VANGUARD.  
9 TIMES EVERY  
MONTH, ME AND  
MANY RECRUITS  
FROM OTHER  
TROOPS MET  
IN A NEW  
TRAINING CAMP.

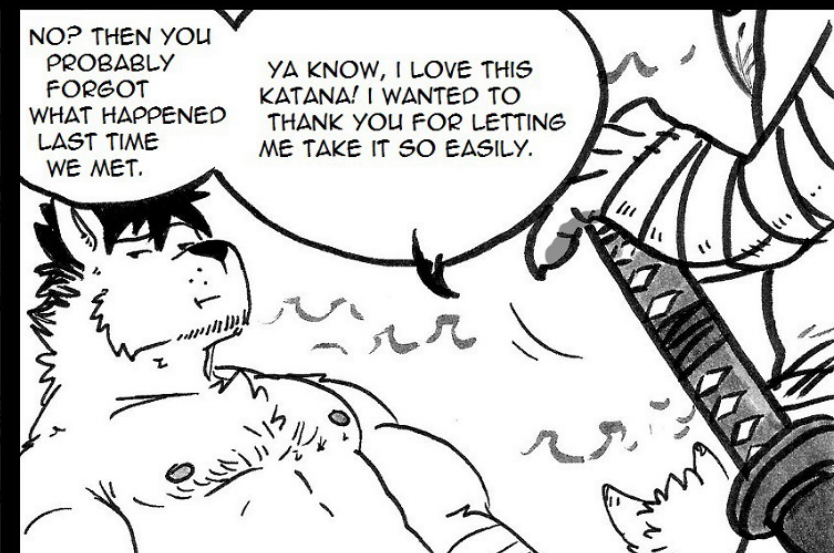


KEN WAS  
WITH ME...



THE NUMBER OF  
RECRUITS OF MY  
AGE WHO WANTED  
TO BE VANGUARDS  
TOTALLED AT  
ALMOST 200.  
THE LAST TIME I  
SAW SO MANY  
PEOPLE WAS WHEN  
I RECEIVED MY  
KATANA, MONTHS  
BEFORE.







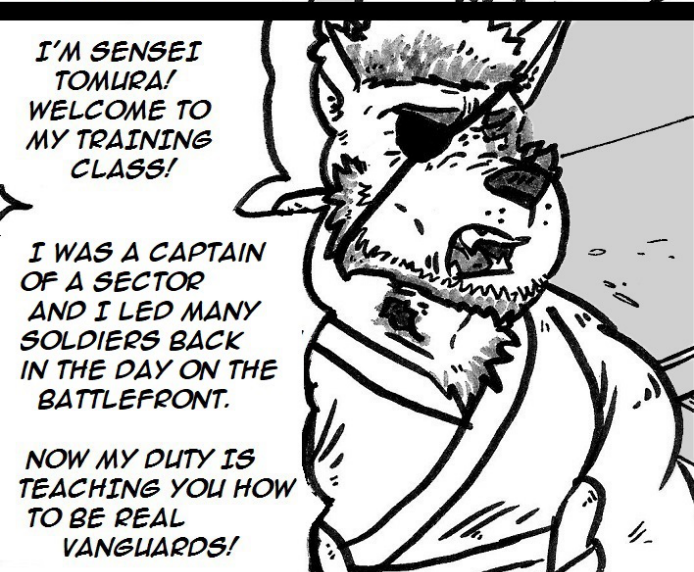


WHAT IS THIS?  
I SAID LINE UP!!!  
IN ORDER!

THERE YA GO,  
ABOUT FUCKING  
TIME!!!



NOW  
OPEN YER  
EARS,  
AND  
LISTEN  
CAREFULLY!



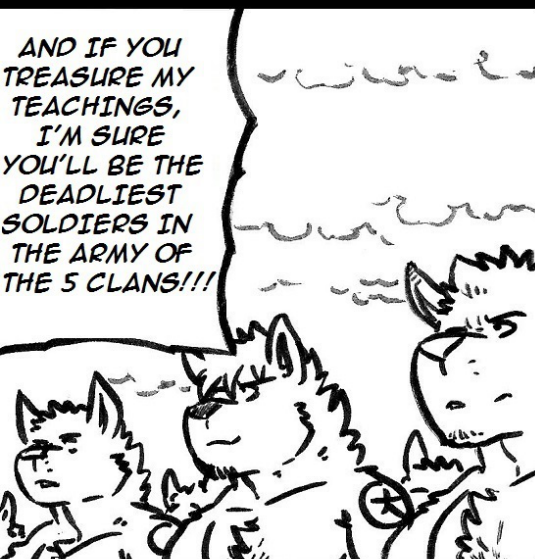
I'M SENSEI  
TOMURA!  
WELCOME TO  
MY TRAINING  
CLASS!

I WAS A CAPTAIN  
OF A SECTOR  
AND I LED MANY  
SOLDIERS BACK  
IN THE DAY ON THE  
BATTLEFRONT.

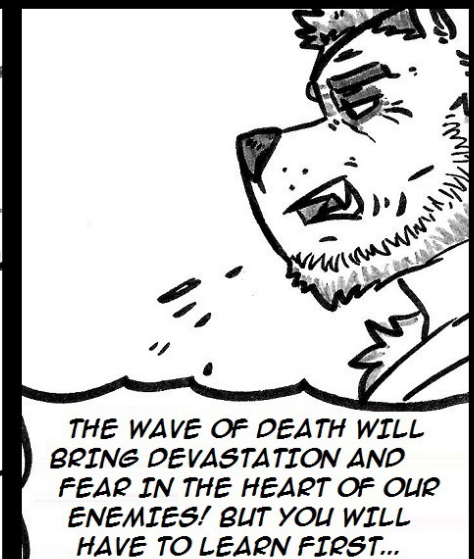
NOW MY DUTY IS  
TEACHING YOU HOW  
TO BE REAL  
VANGUARDS!

YOU'LL BE AT THE  
FOREFRONT OF EVERY  
BATTLE! THE ONES  
THAT THE GOLDEN  
SOLDIERS CALL  
"THE WAVE OF DEATH"

YOU WILL LEARN EVERYTHING  
HERE! HOW TO ASSEMBLE IN  
SOLID, STRONG FORMATIONS, HOW  
TO BREAK ENEMY DEFENSES, HOW  
TO MOVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD...



AND IF YOU  
TREASURE MY  
TEACHINGS,  
I'M SURE  
YOU'LL BE THE  
DEADLIEST  
SOLDIERS IN  
THE ARMY OF  
THE 5 CLANS!!!



THE WAVE OF DEATH WILL  
BRING DEVASTATION AND  
FEAR IN THE HEART OF OUR  
ENEMIES! BUT YOU WILL  
HAVE TO LEARN FIRST...



...AND YOU  
WILL HAVE  
TO TRAIN  
HARDER  
THAN YOU  
EVER DID  
IN YOUR LIFE!



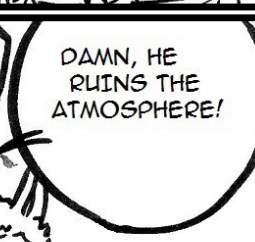
WELL... THAT WAS...  
INSPIRING.

YEP!



A PITY HE  
SPITS EVERY  
TIME HE  
TALKS.

KHPFF



DAMN, HE  
RUINS THE  
ATMOSPHERE!

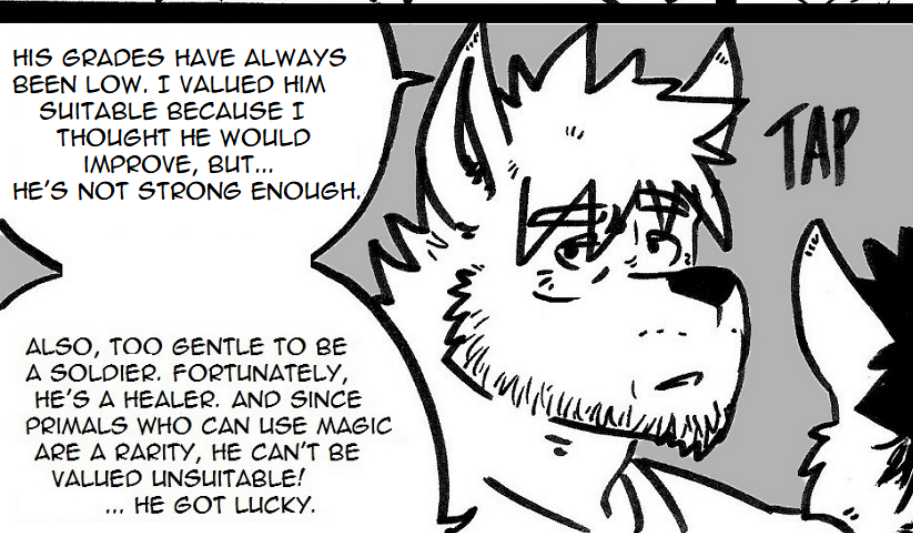


FROM NOW ON, YOU  
WILL COME HERE 3  
TIMES EVERY 10  
DAYS! 9 TIMES  
A MONTH!









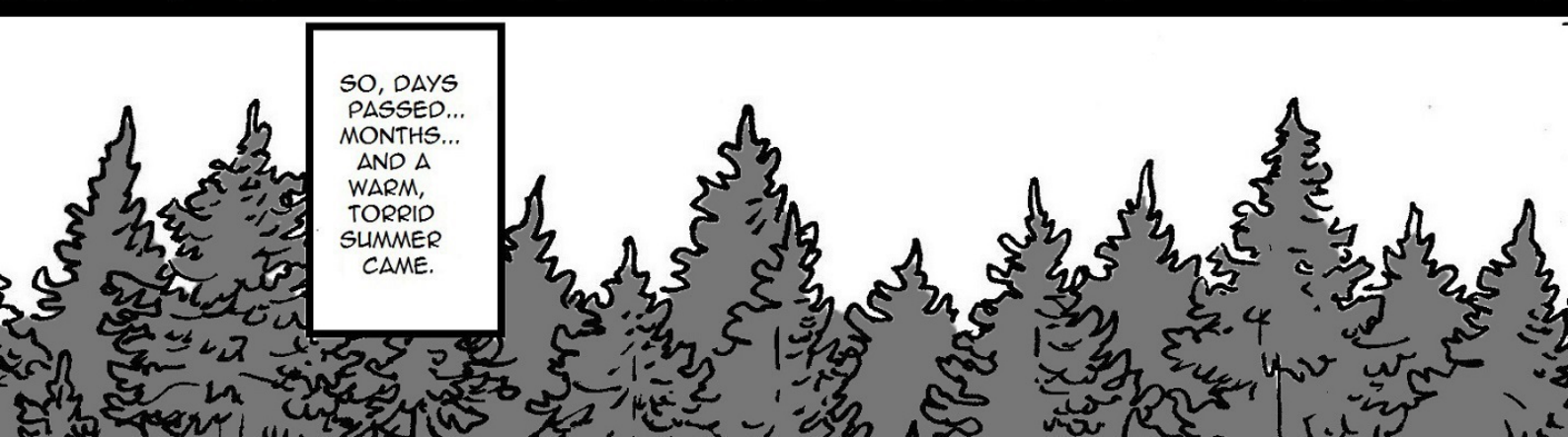
EVEN HERE IN  
OUR CLANS,  
AWAY FROM  
THE BATTLES,  
DEATH IS  
ALWAYS  
UPON US.

BECAUSE WHEN A  
RECRUIT IS NOT  
VALUED SUITABLE  
BY THE SENSEI,  
HE COMMITS  
SUICIDE BY  
SEPPUKU, TO  
RESTORE HIS  
HONOR.

"FEAR OF DEATH  
HURTS MORE THAN  
DEATH ITSELF",  
THE WORDS I  
THOUGHT THE DAY  
HISASHI ALMOST  
KILLED ME MONTHS  
BEFORE, CAME BACK  
TO MY MIND ONCE  
AGAIN.



SO, DAYS  
PASSED...  
MONTHS...  
AND A  
WARM,  
TORRID  
SUMMER  
CAME.







I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU WANT,  
KEN...



I'M A SAPPER, NOT A  
WIZARD! I'VE NO IDEA  
HOW I COULD  
POSSIBLY HEL...

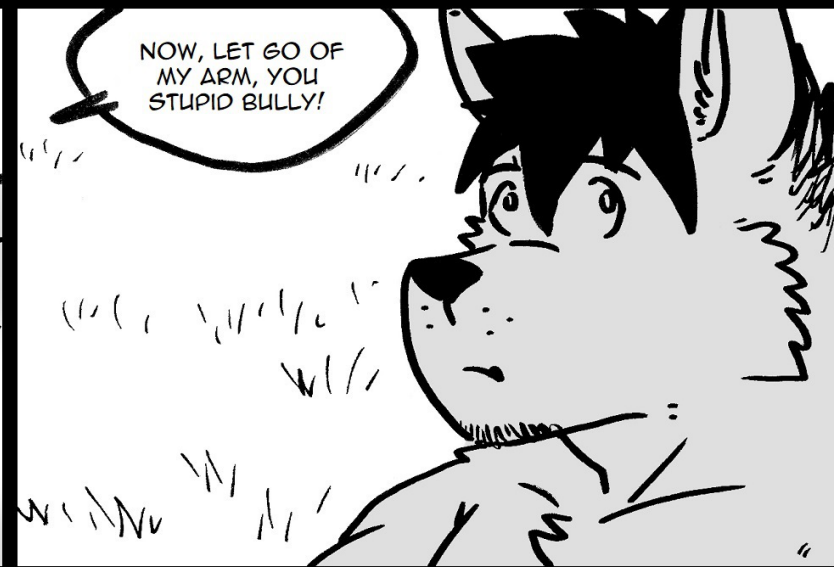
OUCH!  
HEY!

OK, OK!  
KEN!



AH... IF I FIND  
A WAY, WILL  
YOU LEAVE  
ME BE?

GOOD.



NOW, LET GO OF  
MY ARM, YOU  
STUPID BULLY!



HN...

FUSH  
FUSH



HEIGAN...

NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN  
SIMPLE BETWEEN HEIGAN AND I.







...WHAT?

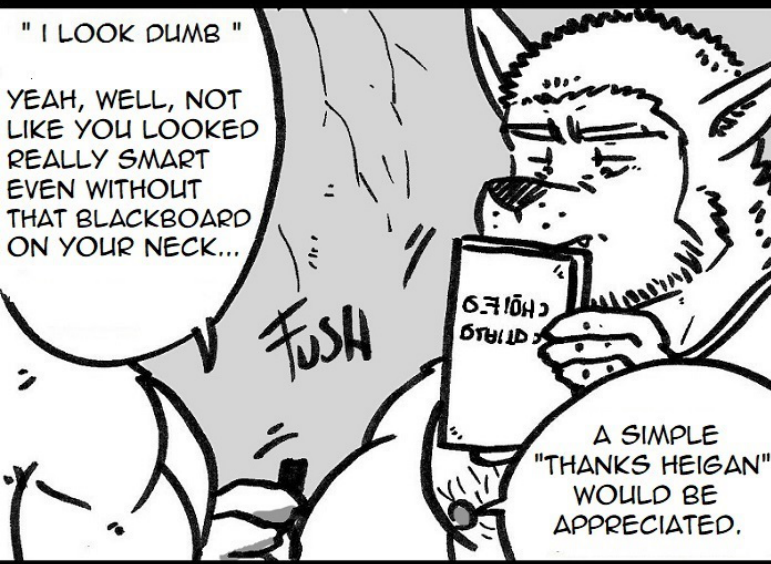
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK, KEN! I DID WHAT YOU ASKED OF ME TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.



IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA, I'M ALL EARS...

... 'TIL THEN, YOU KNOW I DON'T WANNA SEE OR TALK WITH ANYONE...

SRIB  
SRIB



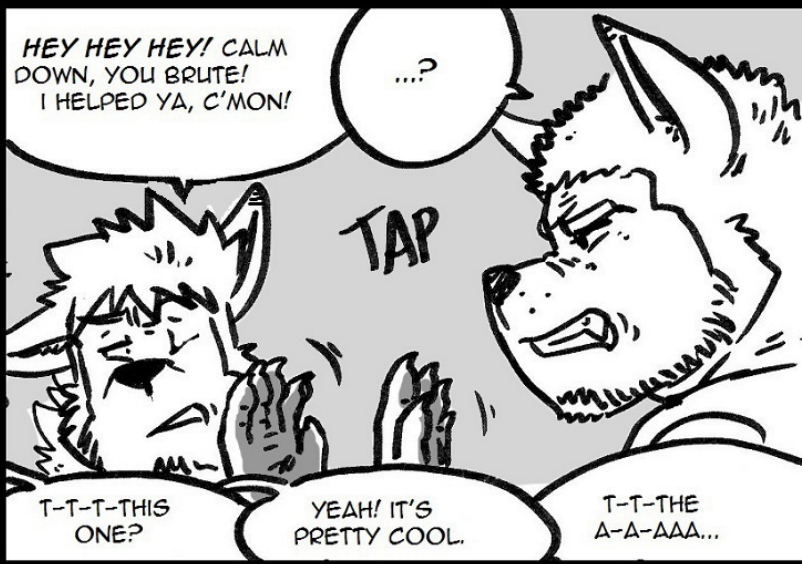
" I LOOK DUMB "

YEAH, WELL, NOT LIKE YOU LOOKED REALLY SMART EVEN WITHOUT THAT BLACKBOARD ON YOUR NECK...

FUSH

SEIHO  
STHIO

A SIMPLE "THANKS HEIGAN" WOULD BE APPRECIATED.



HEY HEY HEY! CALM DOWN, YOU BRUTE! I HELPED YA, C'MON!

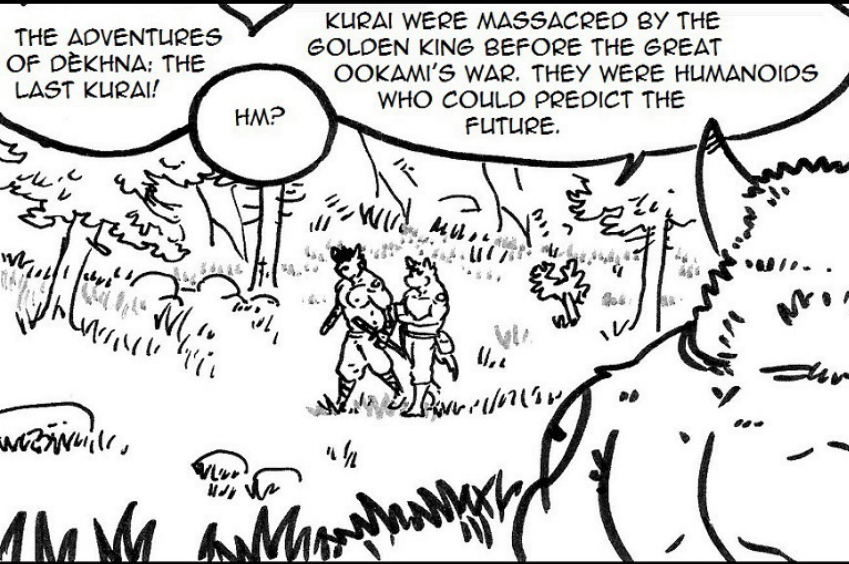
....?

TAP

T-T-T-THIS ONE?

YEAH! IT'S PRETTY COOL.

T-T-THE A-A-AAA...



THE ADVENTURES OF DEKHNA: THE LAST KURAI!

HM?

KURAI WERE MASSACRED BY THE GOLDEN KING BEFORE THE GREAT OOKAMI'S WAR. THEY WERE HUMANOID WHO COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE.



SOME THINK THAT DEKHNA HELPED OOKAMI TO UNITE THE 5 CLANS AND FIGHT AGAINST THE GOLDEN KING ...HEH, ITS JUST A LEGEND, OF COURSE.

I-I... INTERES- ...TING!

YEAH! IT COULD HELP YOU WITH YOUR STAMMER.



A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT T-T-T-THAT, SENPAI?

READING ALOUD HELPS WITH THAT PROBLEM!

... I READ IT IN A BOOK...

OH?

HEY HEIGAN! ...KEN.



HEY GUYS...

H-HEY!

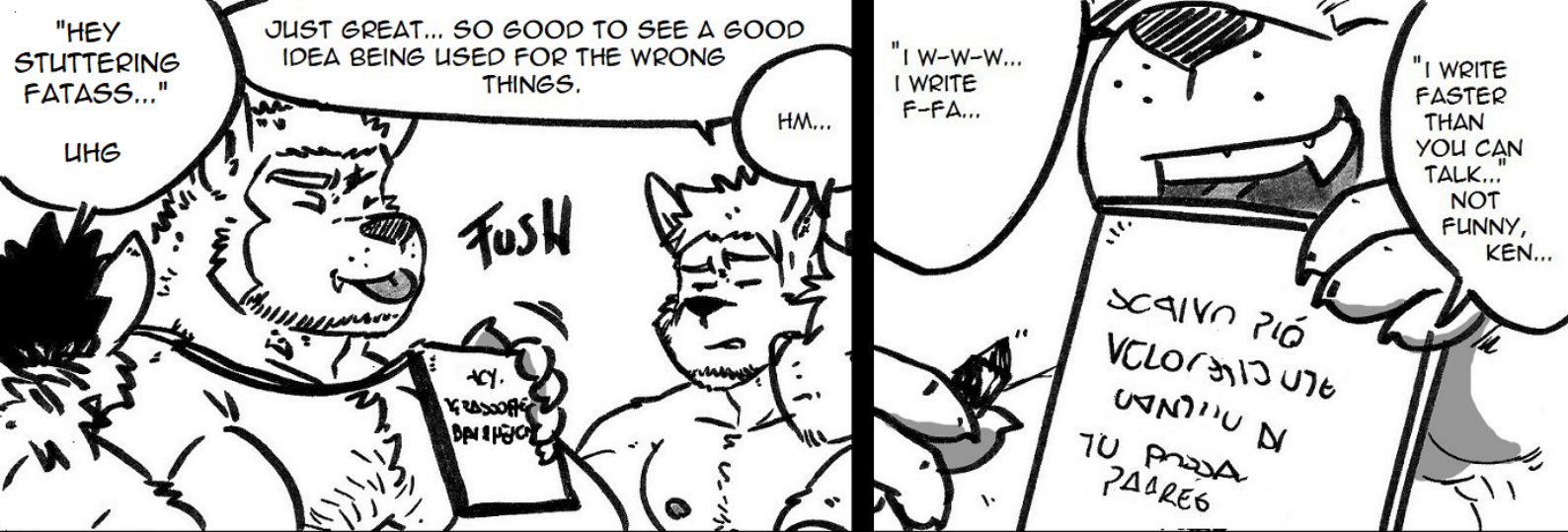
WHAT'S THIS THING ON YOUR NECK?

TAP

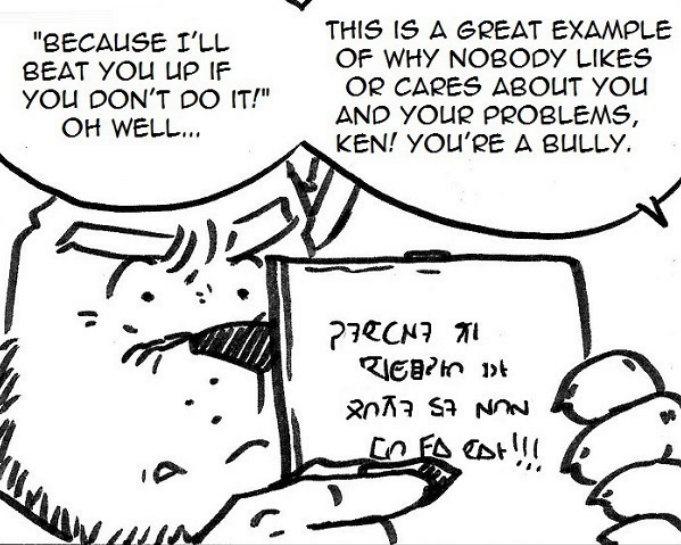
WRITE  
WRITE  
SRIB

THAT? WELL, HE ASKED ME TO HELP AND...









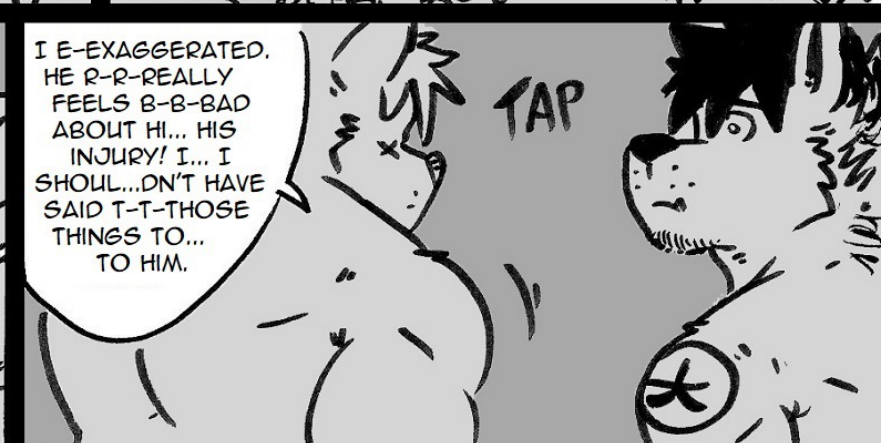




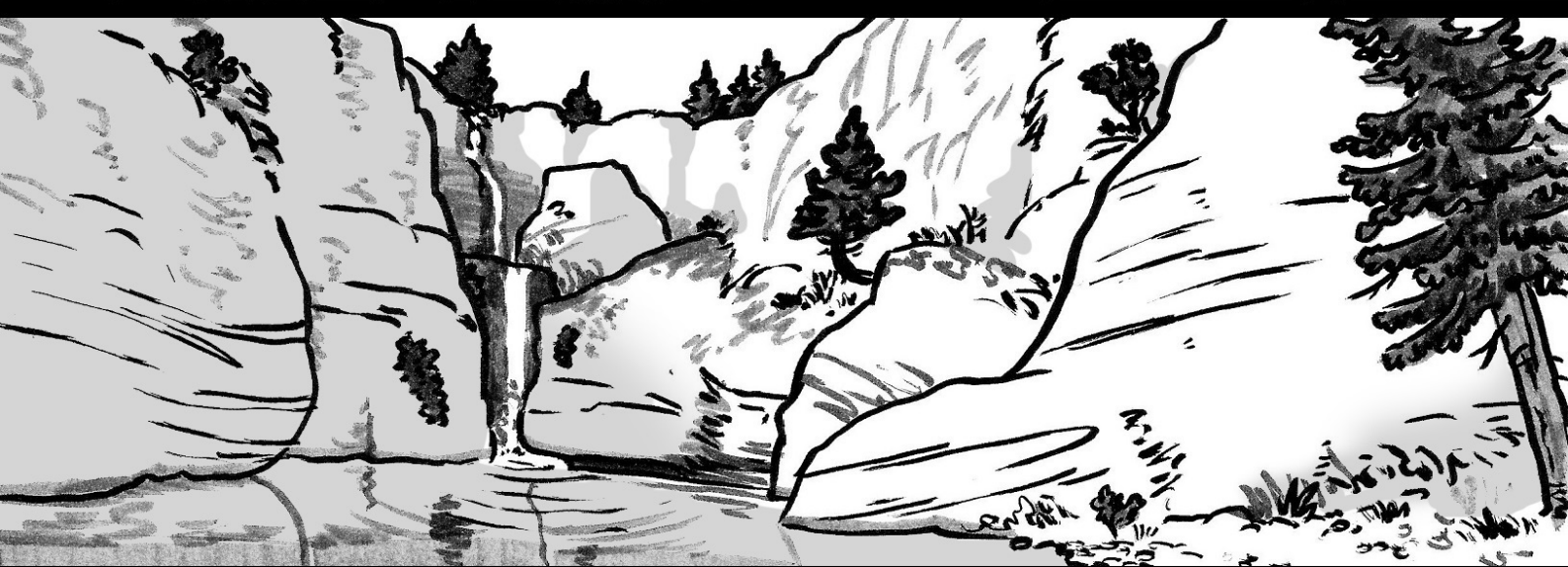














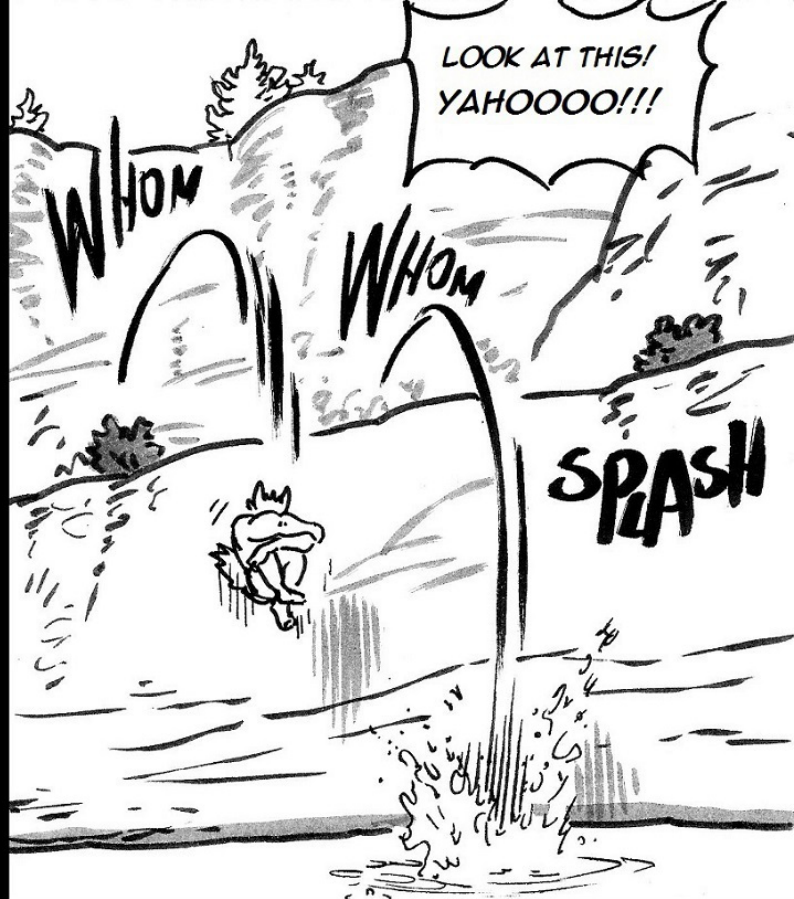


AIN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?

HEH!  
AND IT'S ALL  
FOR US.



HEY, GUYS!!  
HAHA!!!



LOOK AT THIS!  
YAHOOOOO!!!

WHOM

WHOM

SPLASH



AHAHA!

GHF!?  
KIBA!!!

FWUM

C'MON,  
LET'S  
TAKE A  
BATH!



AHAHA!

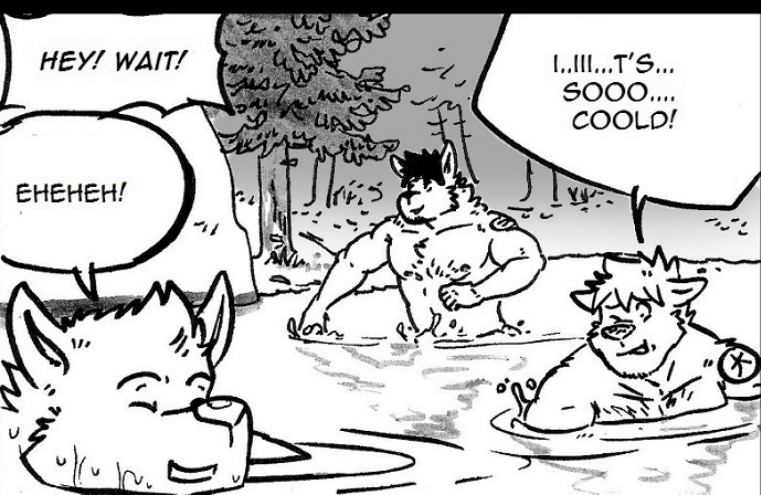
TAP

SO COOL!



HEY, TSUYO!  
LET'S  
CLIMB ON  
THESE  
ROCKS  
UP THERE!

HEH, I BET  
I CAN REACH  
THAT POINT  
BEFORE YA!



HEY! WAIT!

I.....T'S...  
SOOO....  
COOLD!



AHAH!!

AHAHAH!

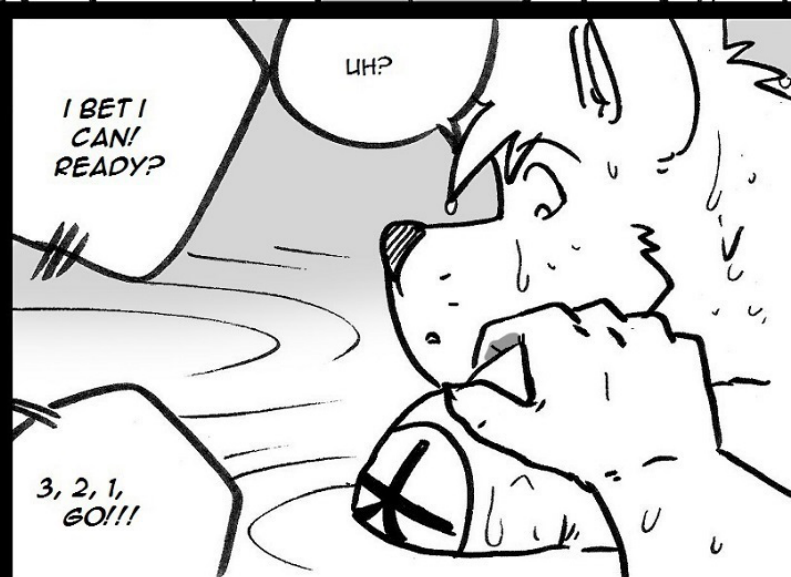




AAH!



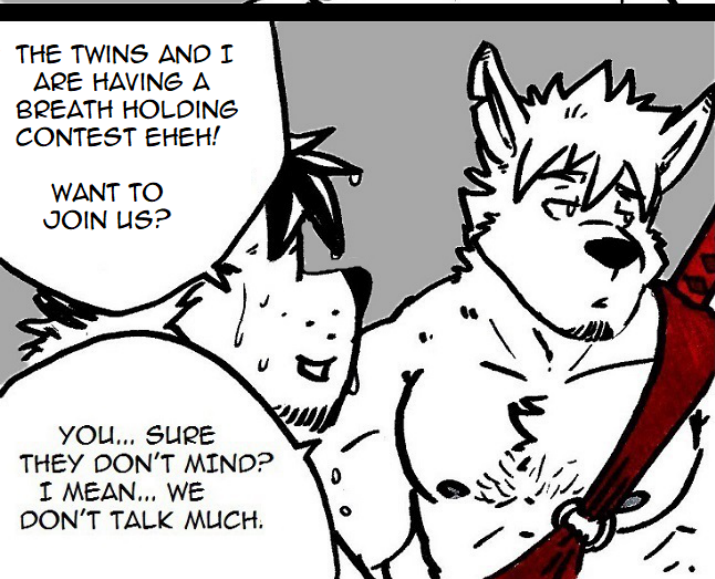








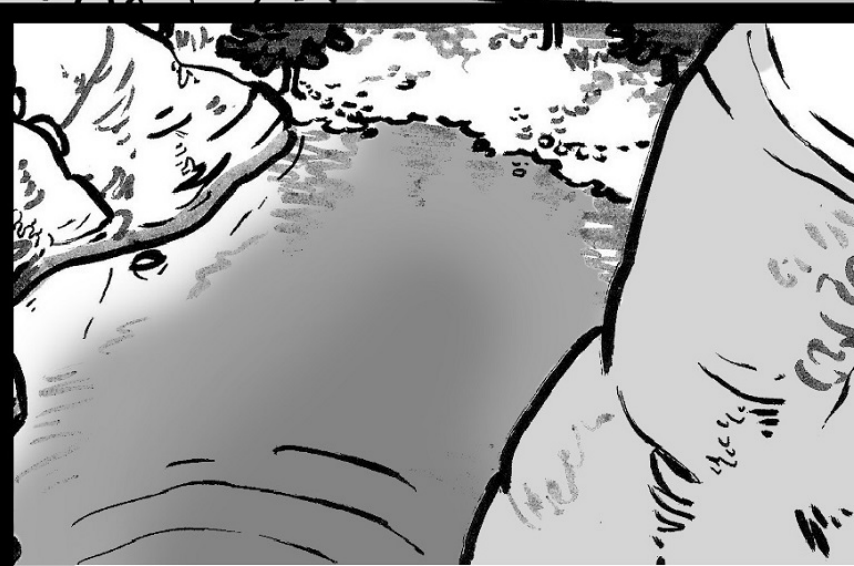
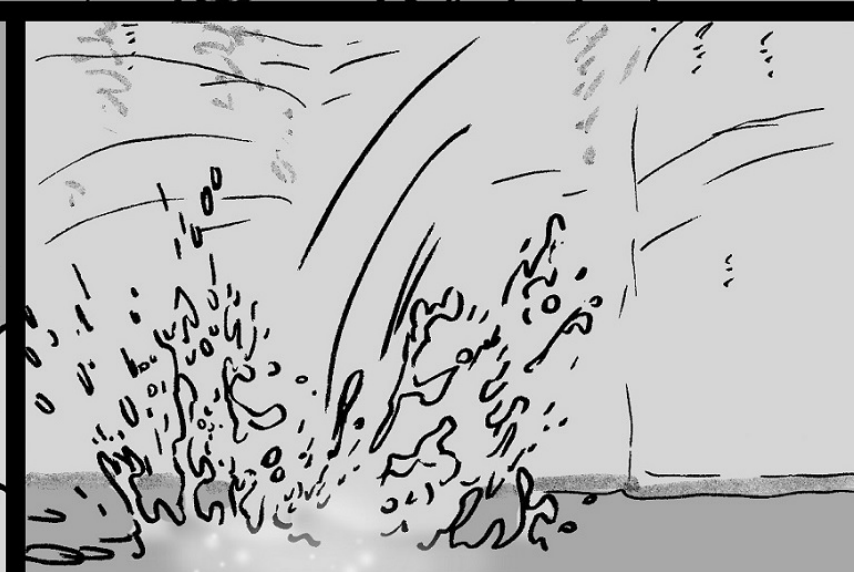
















AH... IT'S  
SO COOL  
HERE.

Y-YEAH!



I SAW YOU  
TALKING  
WITH KEN...

HE... HE WANTED  
T-TO APO...  
APOLOGISE.

AND I  
DI-D-DID  
THE  
S-S-SAME!

HM...



HE RE...REALLY  
C-C-C-C-CHANGED  
SINCE... W-WELL...

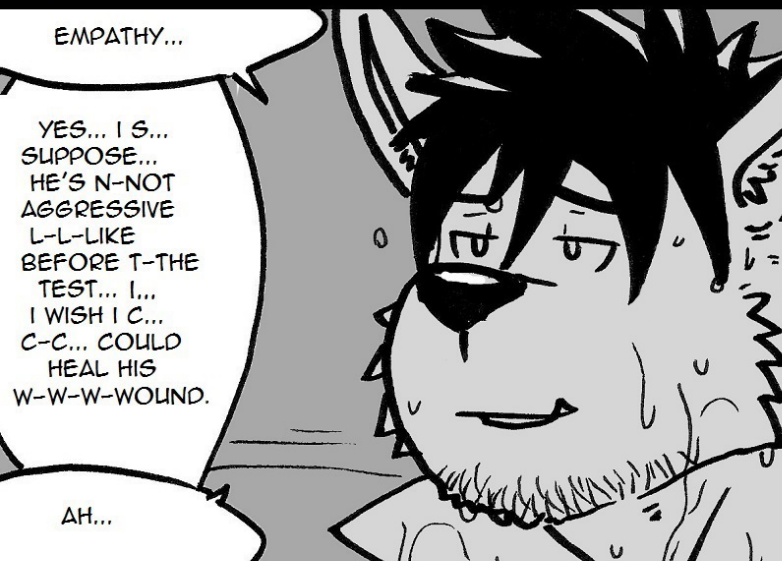
I TOLD YOU, YOU SHOULD'VE SAID  
SOMETHING A LONG TIME AGO!  
...YOU CAN'T BE HIS PUNCHING  
BAG FOREVER.



IT'S B...  
BECAUSE  
OF HIS  
W-W-WOUND!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

HE ALWAYS  
J-JOKED  
AB...ABOUT M-M...  
ME AND T-THE  
FACT THAT I  
C-C-C-CAN'T  
TALK... BUT  
N-NOW.



EMPATHY...

YES... I S...  
SUPPOSE...  
HE'S N-NOT  
AGGRESSIVE  
L-L-LIKE  
BEFORE T-THE  
TEST... I...  
I WISH I C...  
C-C... COULD  
HEAL HIS  
W-W-W-WOUND.

AH...



YOU'RE TOO  
KIND FOR THIS  
WORLD, PLUMP.

HEH! S-S-S...  
SHUT UP,  
SENPAI.

EHEHE!



UH?



YAHOOOOOOOOO!!!!





WHOLUH!!!



SPASH



WHAH!



HEH! I LOVE DIVING!!!



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN SAWADA AND TSUYO, THEN?



NAAAHH, THEY WOULD TURN IT INTO A COMPETITION.



R-RIGHT...



EHEH!



COMPETITION AND RIVALRY CAN PUSH YOU TO DO BETTER, AND--



NO! PLEASE, DON'T.



WHAT?



DON'T TALK LIKE SENSEI HIKARI!



I'M NOT! I WAS QUOTING A BOOK.



YEAH! YOU ALWAYS DO THAT, AND YOU LOOK LIKE SENSEI WHEN YOU DO IT.



THAT'S NOT TRUE... UH...



IS IT?



WELL...



AHAHAH! YES!





YOU GOTTA RELAX, AKIO!

WHY? DO I LOOK...TENSE?

YES! AHAH!



LIKE, YA WANT TO ACT LIKE THE PERFECT RECRUIT. ALL SERIOUS AND COMPOSED.

SENSEI IS NOT HERE. STOP PRETENDING TO BE PERFECT! WE DON'T CARE!

WHA--



DO I LOOK LIKE THAT?

UH... S-SOME... TIMES.

EHEHE SEE?



OH...



IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE YOU WANNA LOOK PERFECT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. LIKE WHEN WE PLAY AND YOU STAY THERE TO WATCH, PRETENDING TO BE TOO MATURE FOR THAT



RELAX...

DO SOMETHING STUPID!



BE IMMATURE!



AND---

GHWAH!!

OSPIT



KEH! AH... YOU SON OF A...

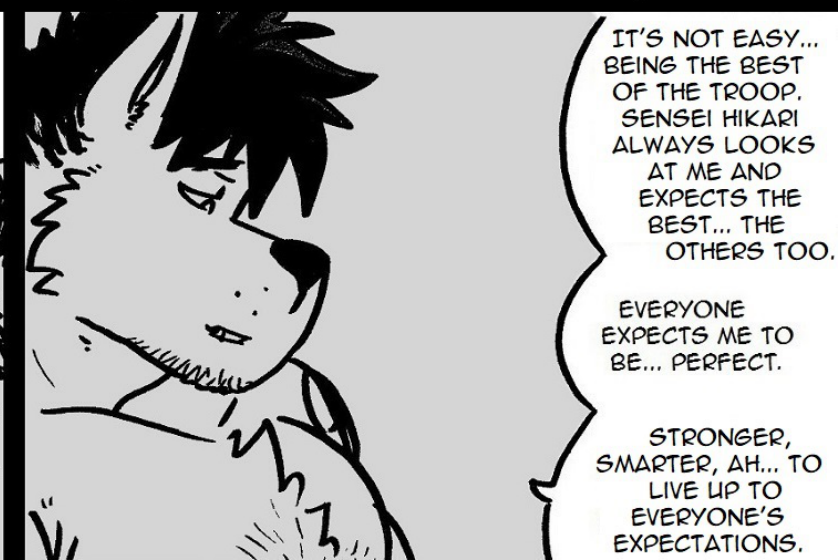
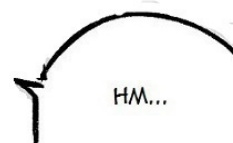
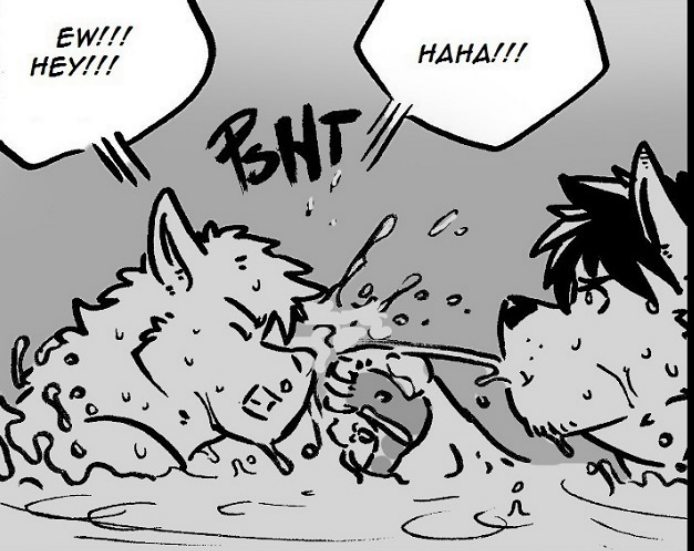
FWUSH FUSH

HMPF



EHEHE!









...I MUST BE AN  
EXAMPLE TO  
FOLLOW... LOOK  
AT SHURUI.

A-AKIO-SENPAI!  
AKIO-SENPAI,  
N-N-NOTICE ME!!!

HM...

HEHEHE!  
WELL, IF IT  
MAKES YOU  
FEEL ANY  
BETTER...

I NEVER  
EXPECTED  
ANYTHING  
FROM YOU!

OH, UH... GOOD? THANKS?



WHAT I'M TRYING  
TO SAY IS THAT  
YOU SHOULDN'T  
BE WHAT THE  
OTHERS WANT  
YOU TO BE!

...BE MYSELF.

YEAH! WHO  
CARES WHAT  
THE OTHERS  
THINK?



EVERYONE?  
WELL... YOU NEVER  
DID, KIBA!

YEP! NEVER! ...REPUTATION  
IS NOT EVERYTHING!

BE WHO YOU  
WANT TO  
BE!

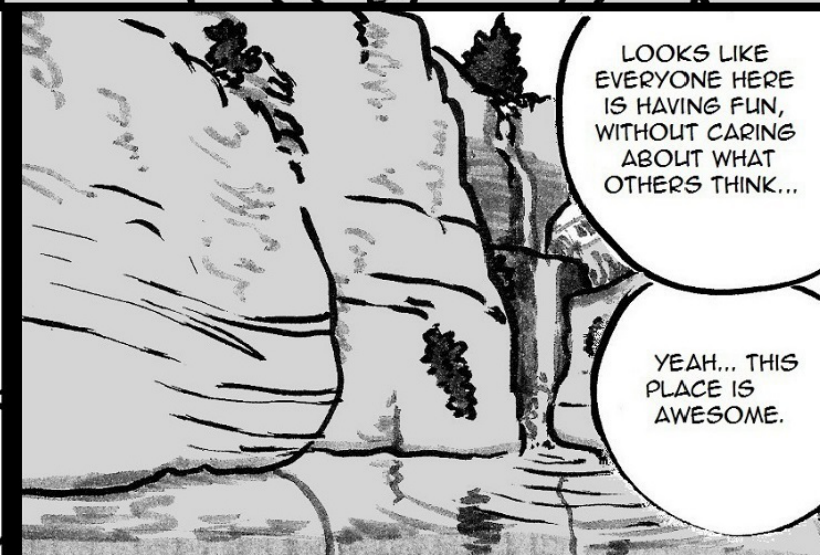
EHEH...



I DON'T KNOW...  
MAYBE YOU'RE  
RIGHT, KIBA...

REPUTATION IS  
IMPORTANT,  
NOT ALL THE  
TIME, BUT... IT'S  
COMPLICATED.

HM.. WELL...  
ANYWAY...



LOOKS LIKE  
EVERYONE HERE  
IS HAVING FUN,  
WITHOUT CARING  
ABOUT WHAT  
OTHERS THINK...

YEAH... THIS  
PLACE IS  
AWESOME.



I WANNA  
FIND THE OTHERS.  
TELL'EM ABOUT  
THIS PLACE AND  
BRING THEM ALL  
HERE!

YOU SURE  
YOU CAN  
FIND THEM?

YEAH! OUR  
AREA IS NOT  
SO WIDE...



WE'RE A FAMILY  
AFTER ALL! WE  
SHOULD STAY  
TOGETHER!





SEE YA LATER, AKIO!

LATER, KIBA!

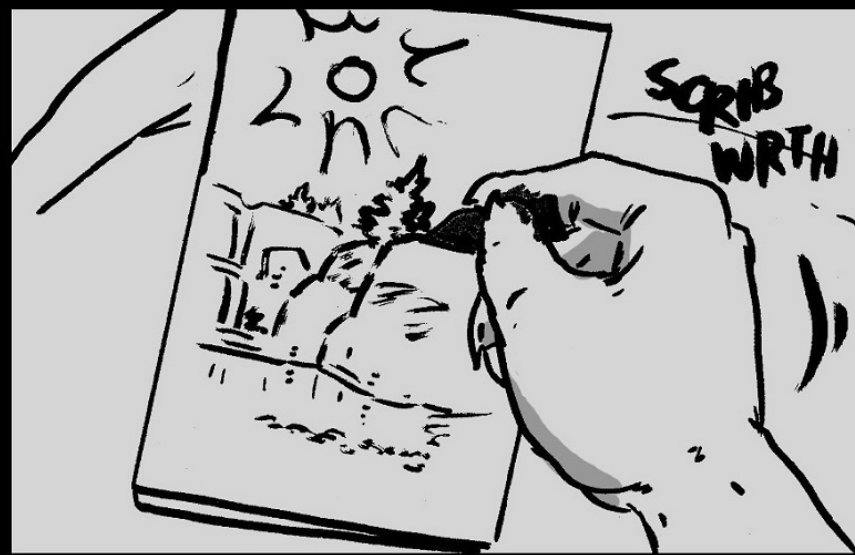


TAP



AAAAH...

CHMP  
MUNCH  
CRUNCH  
WOT!



SCRIB  
WRTH



SHAKE  
SHAKE  
SHAKE  
SHAKE  
SHAKE

HNNG



OH, WUPS!  
SORRY  
KEN, EHEH!



I...

...GOTTA GO!

TAP

FUSH



SEE YOU  
LATER!

TAP

HEY...  
HEY!

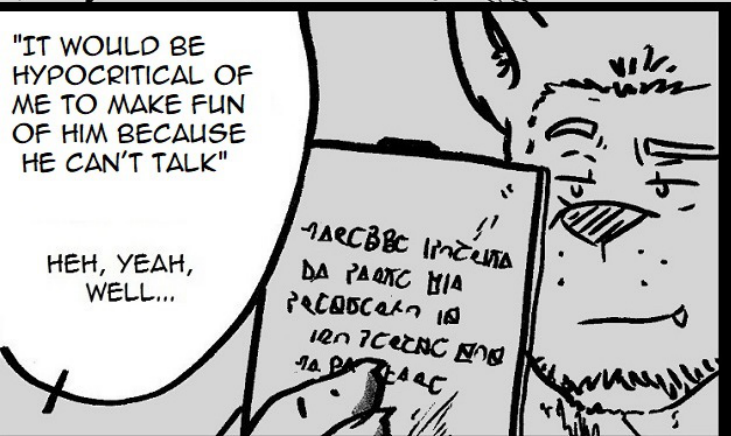








...JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONGER THAN HIM DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN.







IT'S OK, YOU NEVER LIKED TO TALK ABOUT YOU ANYWAY.



YOU NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT YOUR WOUND... HOW THAT HAPPENED... WHO GAVE IT TO YOU.

HOW DID YOU SURVIVE WITH AN INJURY LIKE THAT ALL ALONE?



"WE USED TO COMPETE ABOUT EVERYTHING JUST LIKE THEM"

HEH, YEAH! I REMEMBER THAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO CHALLENGE ME IN EVERYTHING.



AND I WON ALL THE TIME.

AHAH!

HEH... WE NEVER DID IT AFTER THE TEST.

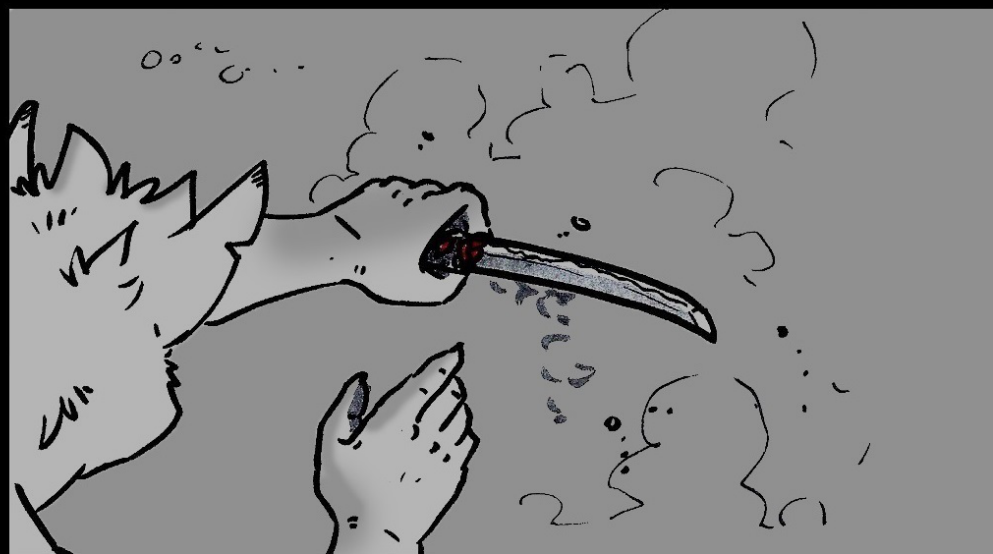


"NO NEED, YOU  
HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN THE  
STRONGEST"

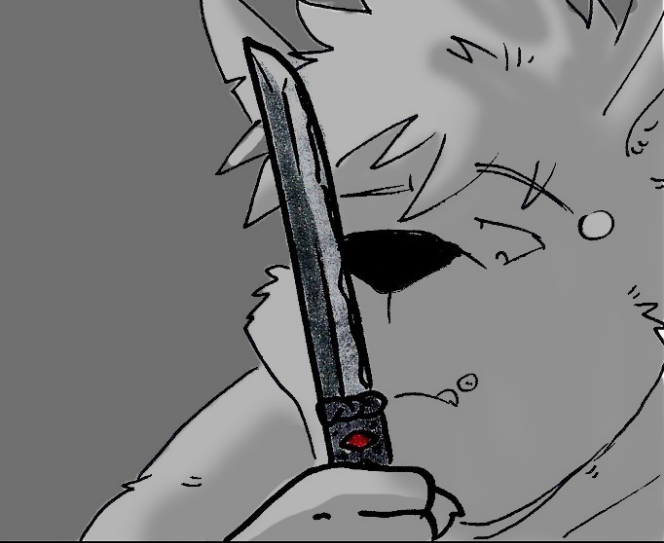
THUP

ΕΝΩΝ ΑΓΕΡΤΟ

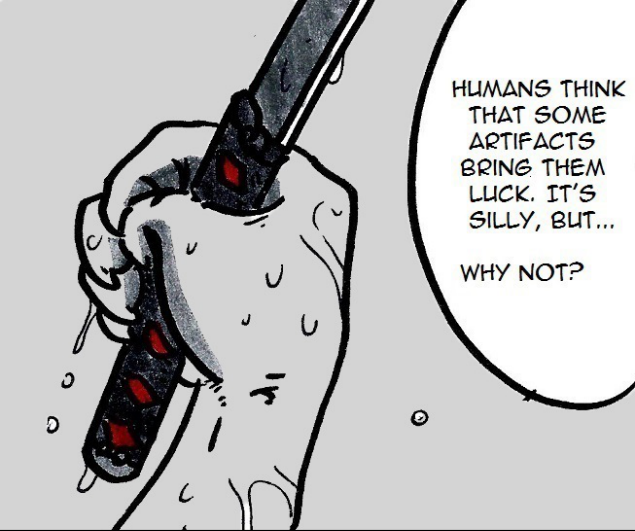
ΠΑΤΟΝ ΟΙ ΟΙ  
ΠΑΤΟΝ ΤΩ  
Η ΡΙΘ  
ΕΝΕΤΕ











HUMANS THINK  
THAT SOME  
ARTIFACTS  
BRING THEM  
LUCK. IT'S  
SILLY, BUT...  
WHY NOT?



HM...



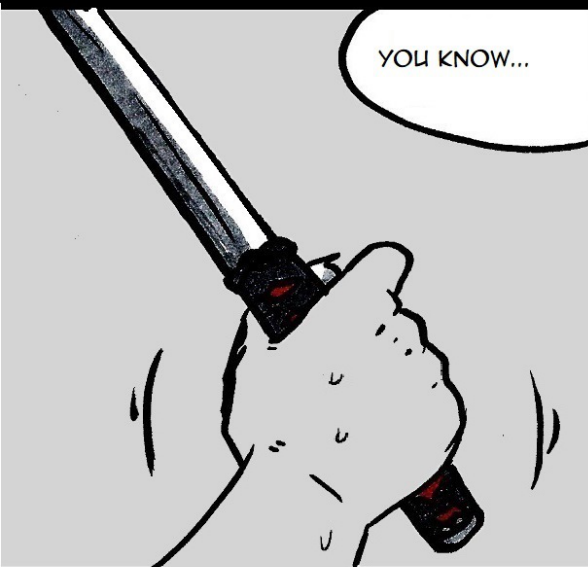
TAKE IT, IF YOU WANT.  
IT'S NOT SHARP, BUT  
IT'S COOL.  
HEH!

MH... YES,  
IT IS.

OK!



HM... THANKS.

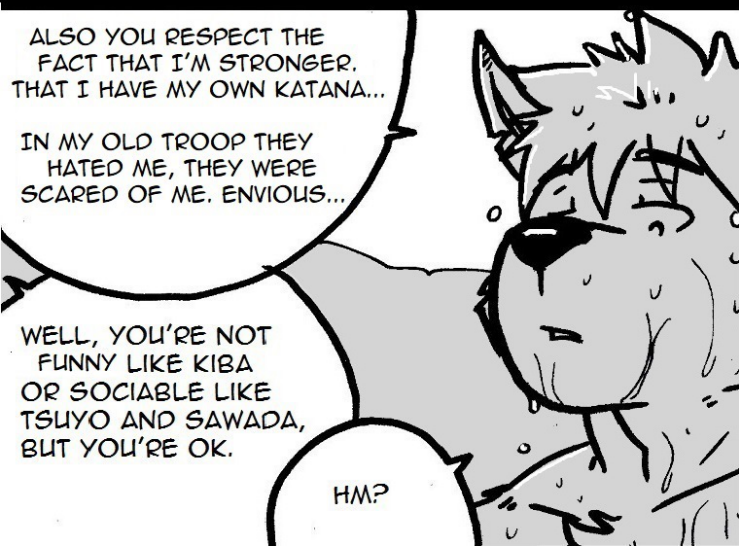


YOU KNOW...



...THE OTHER RECRUITS  
IN MY OLD TROOP  
WERE NOT GENTLE  
WITH ME.

YOU GUYS NEVER  
STOPPED TRYING TO  
MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A  
PART OF YOU! EVEN IF  
I'M NOT... WELL... HM...  
EXTROVERTED.



ALSO YOU RESPECT THE  
FACT THAT I'M STRONGER.  
THAT I HAVE MY OWN KATANA...

IN MY OLD TROOP THEY  
HATED ME, THEY WERE  
SCARED OF ME. ENVIOUS...

WELL, YOU'RE NOT  
FUNNY LIKE KIBA  
OR SOCIABLE LIKE  
TSUYO AND SAWADA,  
BUT YOU'RE OK.

HM?



WE LIKE YOU,  
HISASHI!

OH!

UH...



THANKS,  
AKIO.

YOU GET  
ALONG WITH  
HEIGAN.

MHP?

IS THAT  
BECAUSE HE  
LIKES TO STAY  
ALONE TOO?  
ANOTHER... HM...  
INTROVERT.

OH, HEIGAN,  
YES, I LIKE  
HIM.

BUT HE'S  
ALWAYS SO...

ANGRY?

AND NERVOUS,  
YEAH... ALSO,  
SAD! NO?

HE HAS NOT ALWAYS  
BEEN LIKE THAT... HE  
CHANGED IN THESE  
LAST YEARS... AND I  
DON'T KNOW WHY.

HE DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
SPEAK WITH  
ANYONE.

PEOPLE CHANGE  
WITH TIME.  
I CHANGED TOO...

TAP

HM?

I NEVER... HM... TALKED LIKE  
THIS TO SOMEONE ELSE IN  
MY OLD TROOP. YOU WERE  
THE FIRST ONE, AKIO. AND...

I CAN SAY THE SAME  
ABOUT THE OTHERS  
HERE.

HEH, SO YOU CONSIDER  
ME A FRIEND?

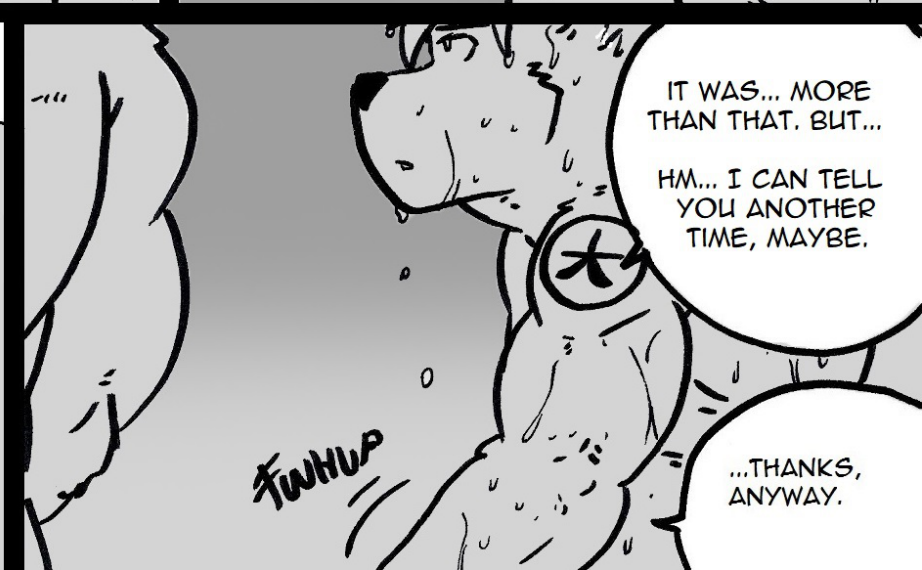
A FRIEND?

NO, I DON'T  
HAVE FRIENDS.

BUT YOU GUYS  
ARE... IMPORTANT.

HM... YOU IN  
PARTICULAR.

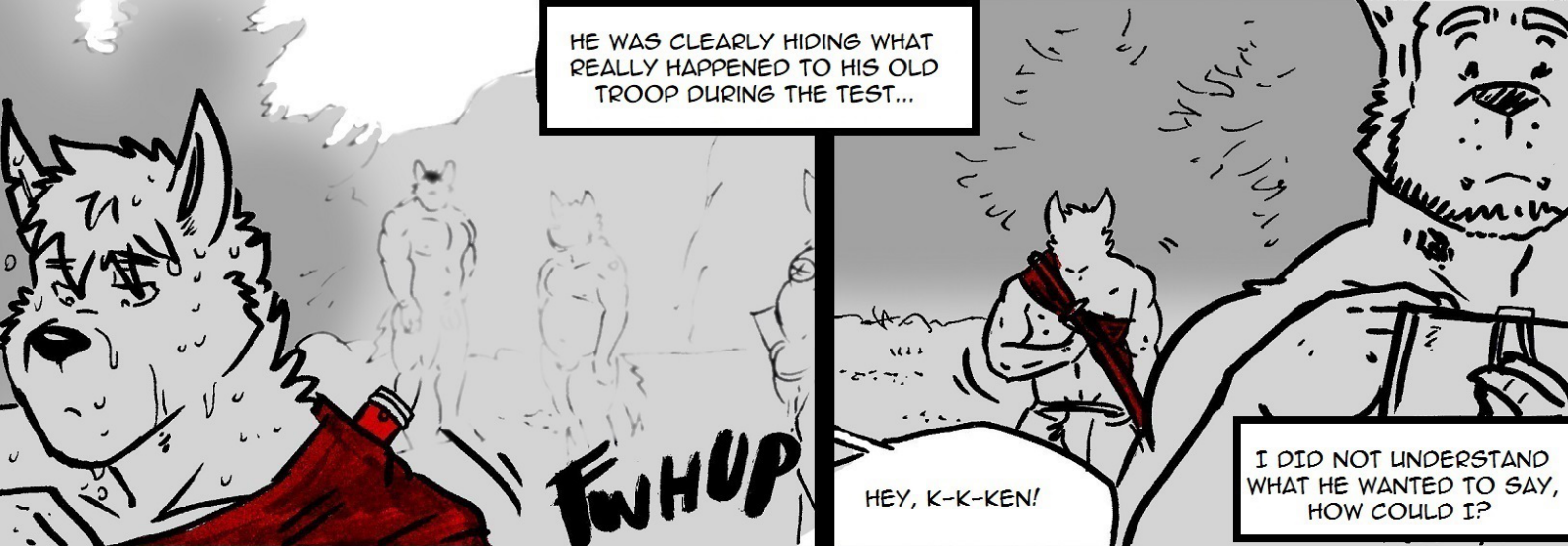












HE WAS CLEARLY HIDING WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HIS OLD TROOP DURING THE TEST...

**FWHUP**

HEY, K-K-KEN!

I DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY, HOW COULD I?



"C-C-COME ON"  
...W-WHAT?

HISASHI... HE'S STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.

...RIGHT, SURE. LET'S TAKE A BATH ALL TOGETHER.

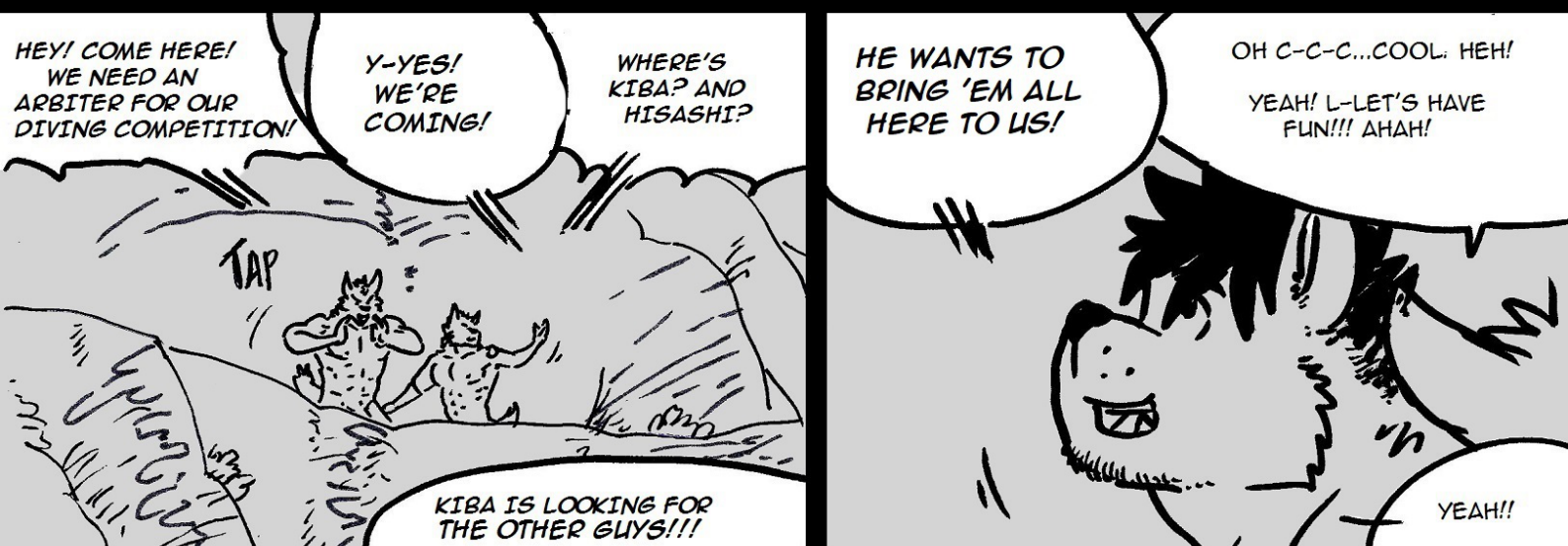
HEH O-OK. YEAH!

HM...

**FORZA!!!**

HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HI... OH...

**TAP**



HEY! COME HERE! WE NEED AN ARBITER FOR OUR DIVING COMPETITION!

Y-Y-YES! WE'RE COMING!

WHERE'S KIBA? AND HISASHI?

HE WANTS TO BRING 'EM ALL HERE TO US!

OH C-C-C...COOL. HEH!  
YEAH! L-LET'S HAVE FUN!!! AHHAH!

KIBA IS LOOKING FOR THE OTHER GUYS!!!

YEAH!!



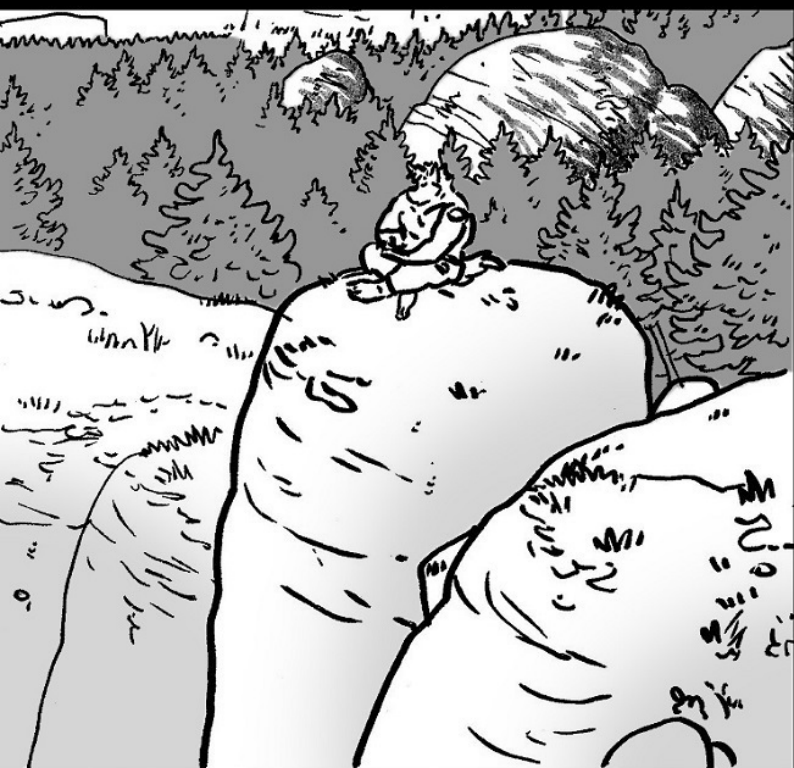
C'MON, CHUB-LUY! CLIMB UP HERE!

Y-Y-Y-YES! I'M C... CO-CO...COMING!

AHAHA!

YAHOO!









DO YOU  
LIKE THAT?  
THE  
BOOK.



"THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF DEKHNA,  
THE LAST  
KURAI!"

WELL... THIS  
CHARACTER  
KNEW THE  
GREAT OOKAMI  
IN PERSON ...



...LOOKS LIKE JUST  
ANOTHER STORY  
WRITTEN BY A WOLF  
OF THE 5 CLANS WHO  
JUST LOVES OOKAMI.

LIKE IF HE ACTUALLY  
NEEDS MORE  
STORIES ABOUT  
HOW COOL AND  
GREAT HE WAS.

WHY?  
WASN'T HE?

HEH... HE UNITED  
THE 5 CLANS INTO  
A NATION.



AND FORCED THEM TO  
BECOME SOLDIERS.

...THE GOLDEN KING  
FORCED THEM TO FIGHT!  
HE WANTED TO ENSLAVE  
THE WOLVES AND DESTROY  
THE MORI FOREST...  
WITHOUT THE GREAT  
OOKAMI AND THE 5  
SAGES WE WOULDN'T  
EVEN BE HERE NOW!

YEAH! ...I'M SO GLAD  
TO BE HERE... HOORAY  
FOR THE 5 CLANS...

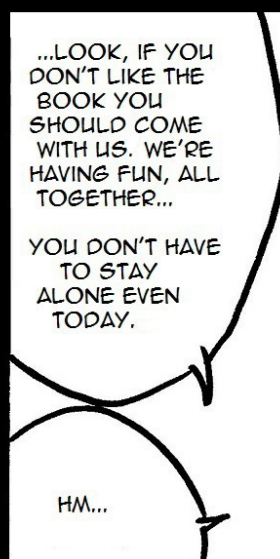


WHAT?

LOOKS LIKE THE GUYS  
ARE HAVING FUN DOWN THERE!  
...WHERE'S KIBA? LOOKING  
FOR THE OTHERS?

...YES.

TAP



...LOOK, IF YOU  
DON'T LIKE THE  
BOOK YOU  
SHOULD COME  
WITH US. WE'RE  
HAVING FUN, ALL  
TOGETHER...

YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO STAY  
ALONE EVEN  
TODAY.

HM...



I'M SERIOUS

WHAT?

COME  
WITH US!



WHY COME HERE  
IF YOU WANTED TO  
STAY BY YOURSELF?

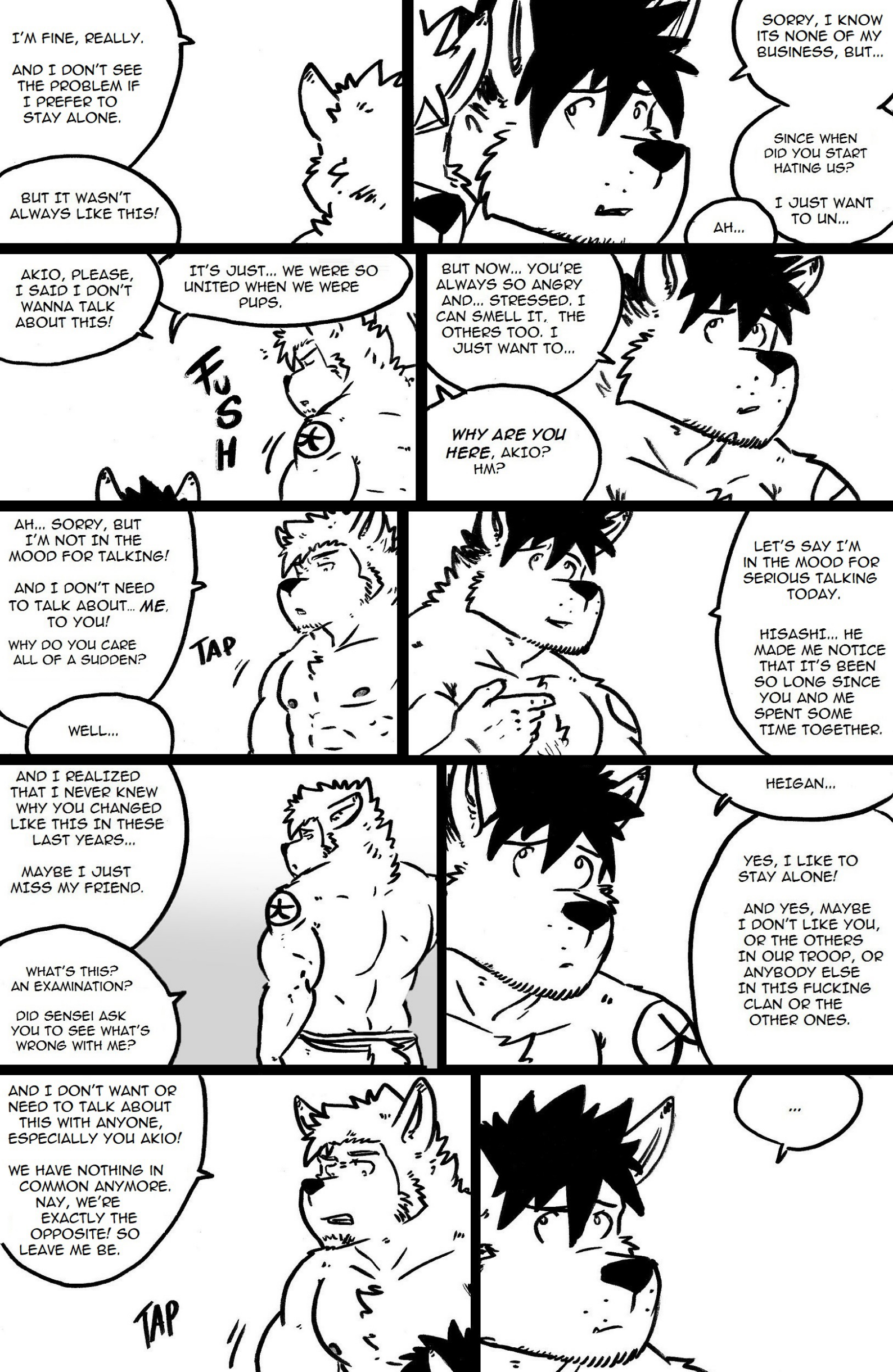
HUH? COME ON,  
HEIGAN!

HM...









I'M FINE, REALLY.

AND I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM IF I PREFER TO STAY ALONE.

BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS!

AKIO, PLEASE, I SAID I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT THIS!

IT'S JUST... WE WERE SO UNITED WHEN WE WERE PUPS.

FUSH

BUT NOW... YOU'RE ALWAYS SO ANGRY AND... STRESSED. I CAN SMELL IT, THE OTHERS TOO. I JUST WANT TO...

WHY ARE YOU HERE, AKIO? HM?

SORRY, I KNOW ITS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...

SINCE WHEN DID YOU START HATING US?

I JUST WANT TO UN...

AH...

AH... SORRY, BUT I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR TALKING!

AND I DON'T NEED TO TALK ABOUT... ME, TO YOU!

WHY DO YOU CARE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

TAP

WELL...

LET'S SAY I'M IN THE MOOD FOR SERIOUS TALKING TODAY.

HISASHI... HE MADE ME NOTICE THAT IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU AND ME SPENT SOME TIME TOGETHER.

AND I REALIZED THAT I NEVER KNEW WHY YOU CHANGED LIKE THIS IN THESE LAST YEARS...

MAYBE I JUST MISS MY FRIEND.

WHAT'S THIS? AN EXAMINATION?

DID SENSEI ASK YOU TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

HEIGAN...

YES, I LIKE TO STAY ALONE!

AND YES, MAYBE I DON'T LIKE YOU, OR THE OTHERS IN OUR TROOP, OR ANYBODY ELSE IN THIS FUCKING CLAN OR THE OTHER ONES.

AND I DON'T WANT OR NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS WITH ANYONE, ESPECIALLY YOU AKIO!

WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON ANYMORE. NAY, WE'RE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE! SO LEAVE ME BE.

TAP

...









IF YOU SAY IT WAS ME I'LL LET YA TRY MY CROSSBOW TOMORROW!

TAP

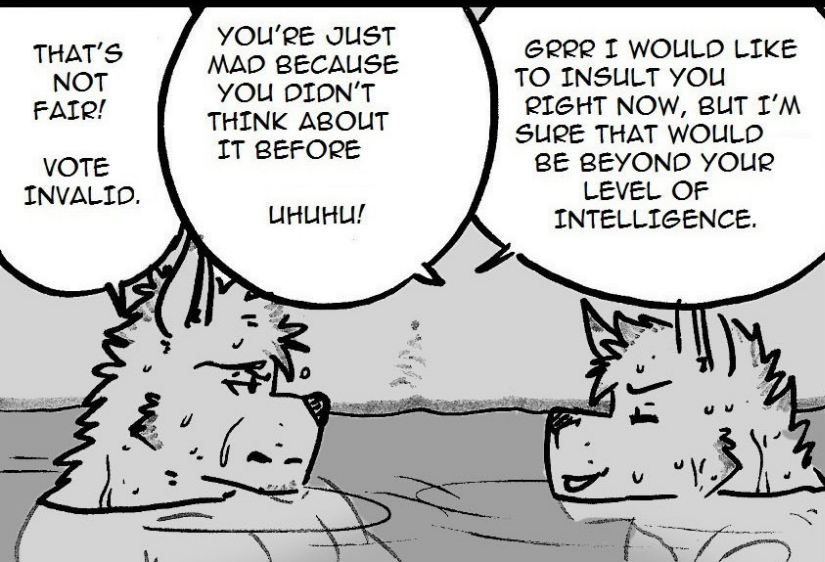
WHAT?!



AHAH! FUCK YEAH, KEN!!

IHIHI!

I WASN'T BORN WITH ENOUGH MIDDLE FINGERS TO LET YOU KNOW MY OPINION OF YOU, KEN! THIS IS CHEATING! NOT... AH...



THAT'S NOT FAIR!  
VOTE INVALID.

YOU'RE JUST MAD BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE  
UHUHU!

GRRR I WOULD LIKE TO INSULT YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M SURE THAT WOULD BE BEYOND YOUR LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE.

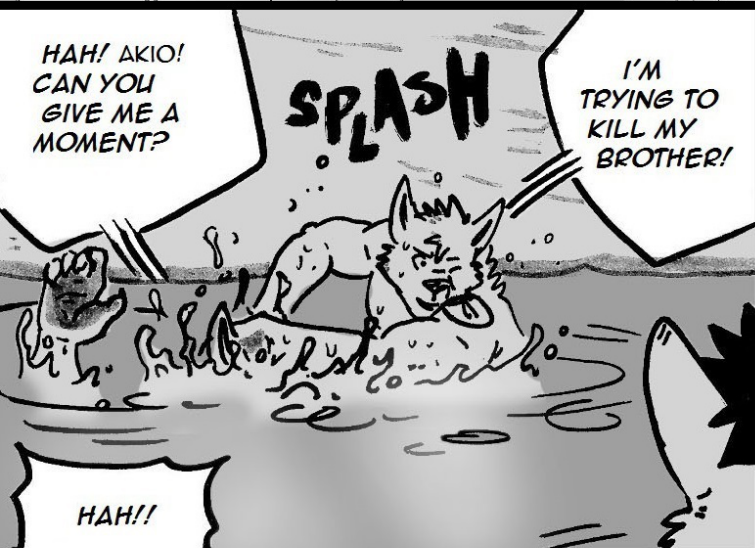


YOU... UGLY... BASTARD...  
DIE!!!

EHEH...

HEY, GUYS!

WHAH!!!



HAH! AKIO! CAN YOU GIVE ME A MOMENT?

SPLASH

I'M TRYING TO KILL MY BROTHER!

HAH!!



WHAH!

FUCK YOU, FUCKING FUCKER!

HEH...



HEY! WANNA BE OUR ARBITER? ME AND SAWADA ARE HAVING A DIVING COMPETITION.

YES, I SAW YOU...



AND SHURUI CAN'T CHOOSE A WINNER!

I JUST T-T-THINK YOU'RE B-BOTH G-G-GOOD!

YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER...

HAH!





OR YOU CAN JOIN US! KEN COULD BE THE ARBITER.

YEAH, IF YOU KNOW HOW TO CORRUPT HIM HE'LL LET YOU WIN!



OH REALLY? HEY, KEN! IF YOU MAKE ME WIN, I'LL LET YOU TRY MY KATANA!

EHEHE!

HEY!



NOD NOD NOD



I'LL BE THE ARBITER!

GREAT!



OK, LET'S GET STARTED.

HM?

POKE



I D-D-DO... I DON'T KNOW!

where is hisashi?

FHUP



AH!

COME ON, SLOW POKE!

EHEH!

I C... CAN'T SEE HIM!



BETTER, he NEVER TALKS TO US INFERIOR anyway

FHUP



MH...



HAH!

TAP

HUH...



DON'T LET HIM CORRUPT YOU,

OK, OK! TRUST ME!



FHUP

FUSH





AH!

HEY! HE-HE...HEIGAN!

YOUR BOOK, TAKE IT.

?!



T-THANKS.

THUSH



SORRY FOR... HM...



DOESN'T MATTER...

HEY GUYS!!?

HUH?



I'M BACK!!

HEY, KIBA!  
RAIGA!  
SANJI!

HAH!

YOU BROUGHT HERE  
THE ENTIRE TROOP! AHAH.



TAP







HEIGAN...

WE WERE SO CLOSE WHEN WE WERE PUPS, BUT THEN HE BECAME SO SAD... I WANTED TO KNOW WHY, I WANTED TO DISCOVER WHAT CHANGED HIM... I WANTED TO MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER.

HEIGAN...

HMP?

5 years Later

MORI FOREST

SNIFF  
SNIFF

THAT SMELL...

HAH!

FUSH

...HEY,  
WOLF.

HEH...

GOOD  
EVENING,  
AISLINN.

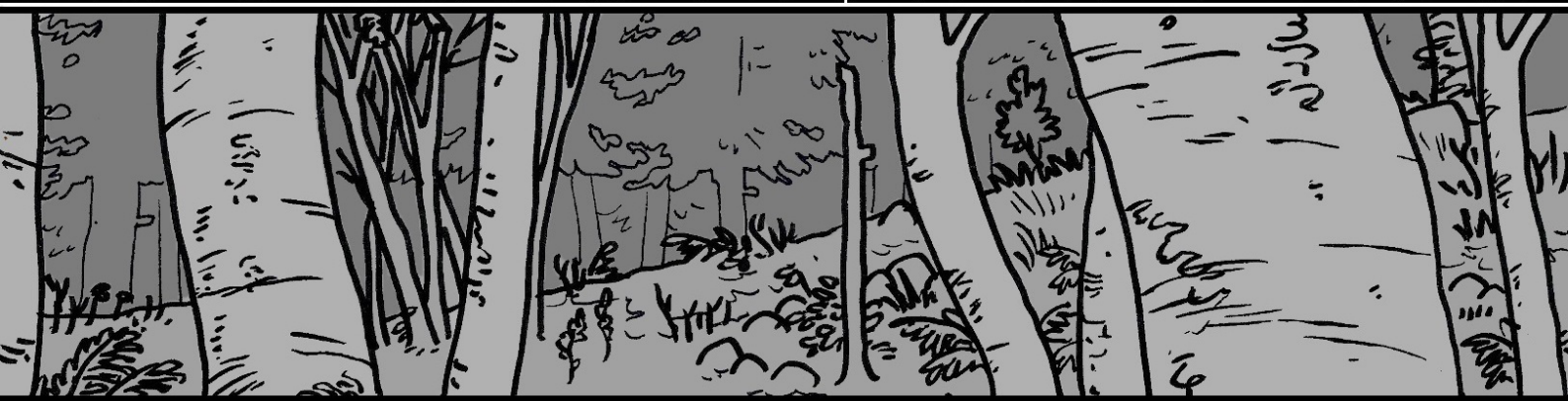
KEW

FUSH

FUSH

lay down





GOOD BOY,  
SLEEP...



HEY...



YOU ACTUALLY  
WAITED FOR ME  
TO COME.  
EHEH!



AKIO! HOW DID YOU  
CONVINCE THE GUARDS TO  
LET YOU LEAVE THE HUT?

WITH MY  
CHARM, OF  
COURSE.



NAH...

THE GUARD  
AT THE FRONT  
DOOR FELL  
ASLEEP AND  
I RAN HERE.



ALTHOUGH, I  
THINK THEY MAY  
BE AROUND  
HERE TOO!  
WE CAN'T STAY.

OH, RIGHT!

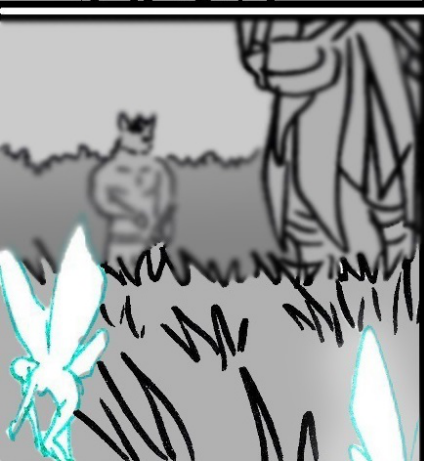
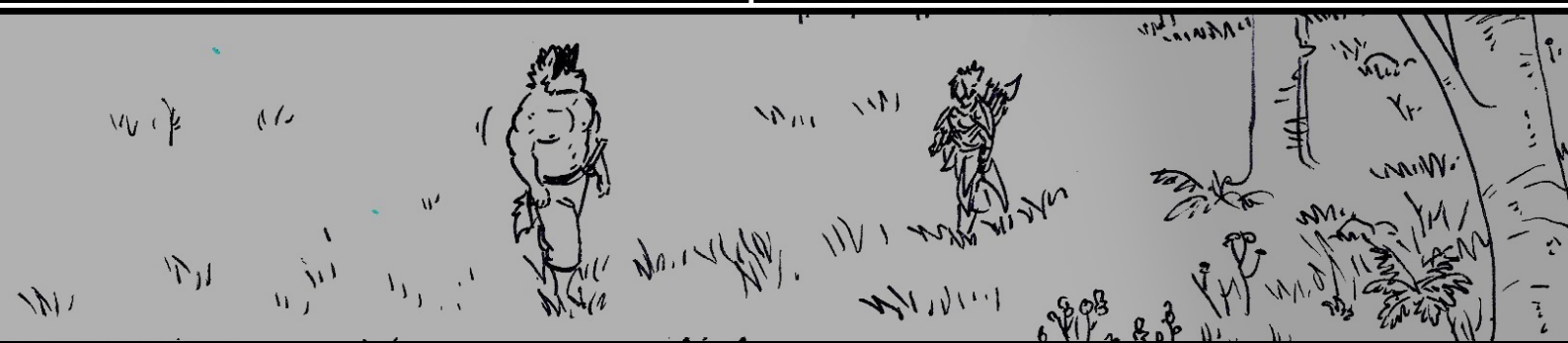
HM... MEET ME  
AT THE RIVER.

YES MA'AM!

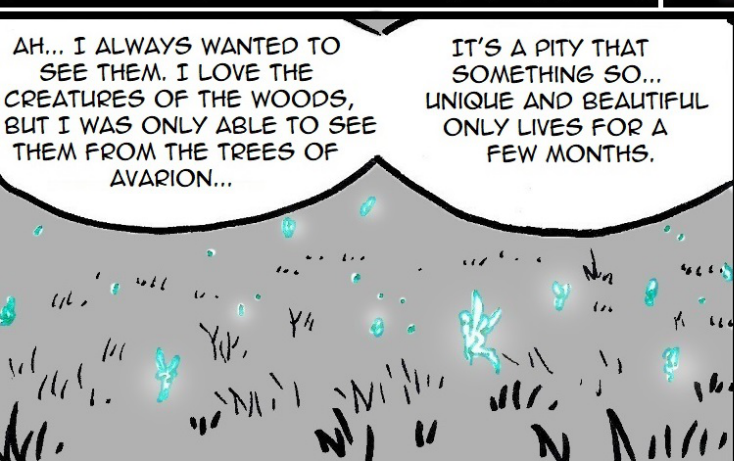




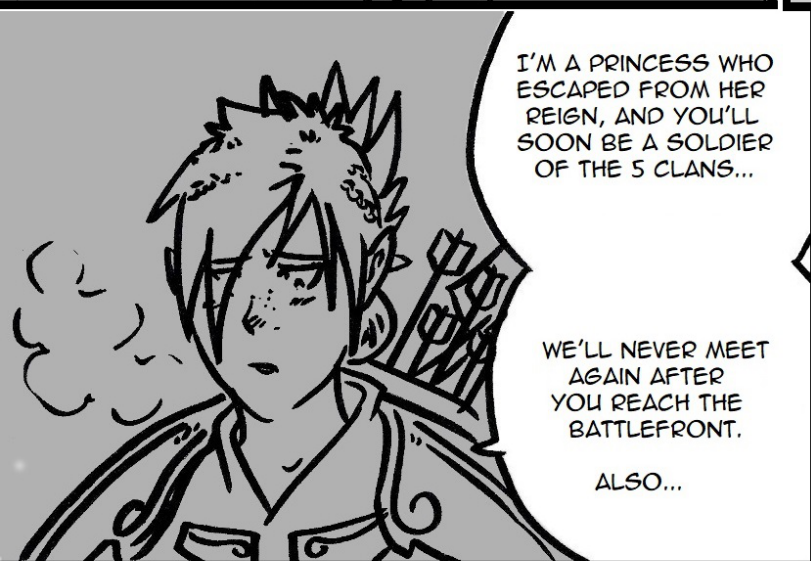




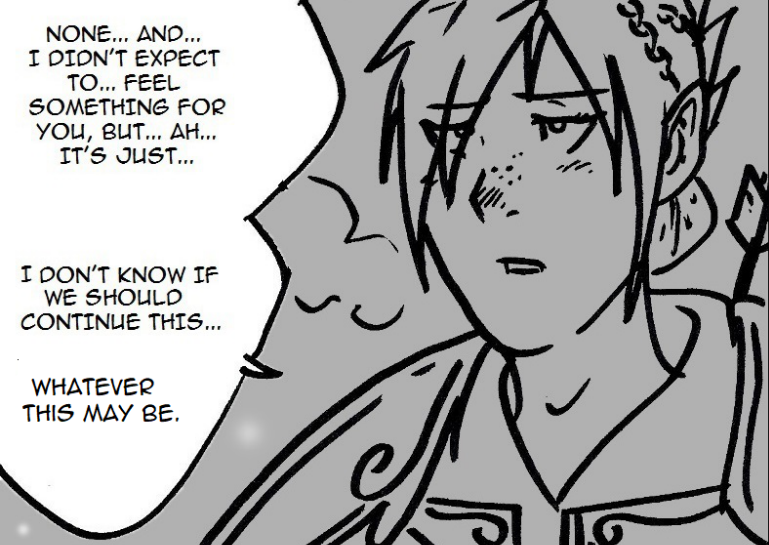




















TO BE CONTINUED...