







THIS TIME,
I'LL BE...



...BETTER!!



KR-KRW
SHAA







SO YOU NEVER PASSED BASIC CONTROL?

NOT TECHNICALLY...



HOW DID THEY EVEN LET YOU LEAVE THE ACADEMY?



WELL... EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS GONNA GET FLUNKED OUT TO VILLAGE DUTY...



MY BROTHER PERSONALLY REQUESTED HIM.

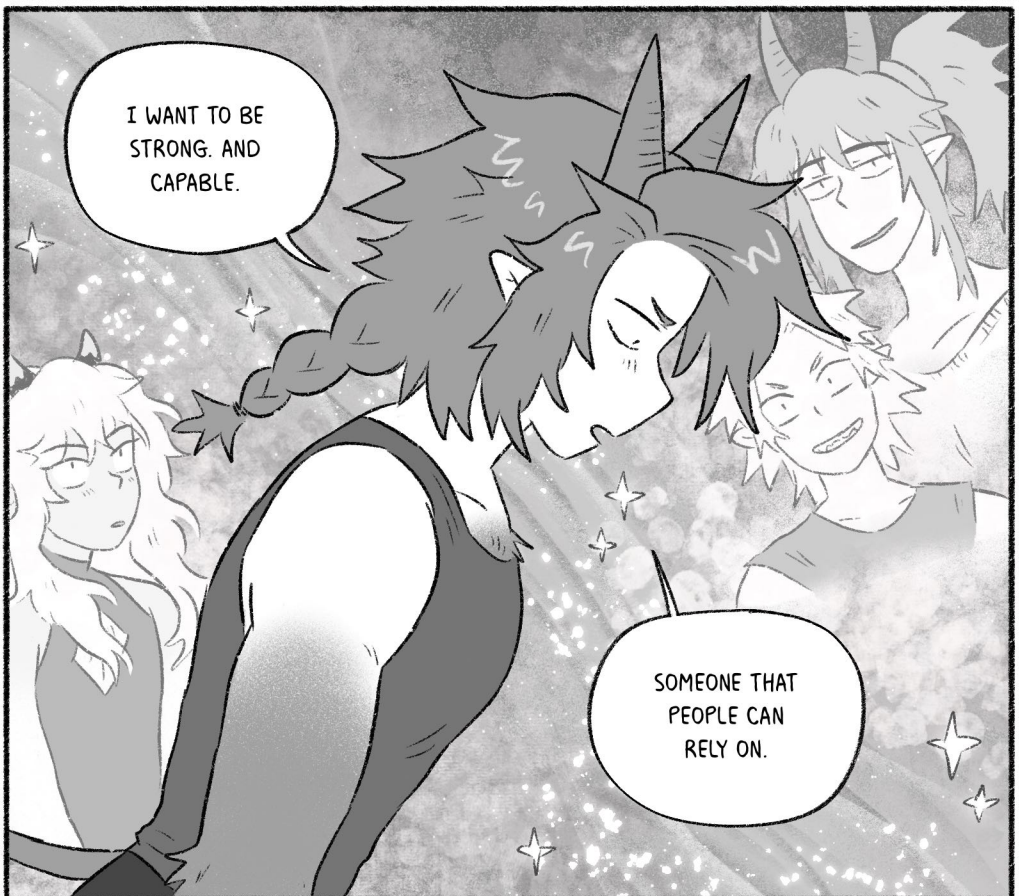


WHY ARE YOU HERE THEN?

A CUSHY LIFE WITHIN THE ROYAL FAMILY...

YOU'RE AWARE YOU'VE WON THE JACKPOT, RIGHT?

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?





AND...



I WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT... THE PEOPLE THAT I CARE ABOUT.



HA. THAT'S A NICE LITTLE SPEECH YOU GOT THERE.

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.



T-THANKS...



THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DAMAGE OUT HERE.

SO LET'S RUN THROUGH SOME OTHER BASICS...





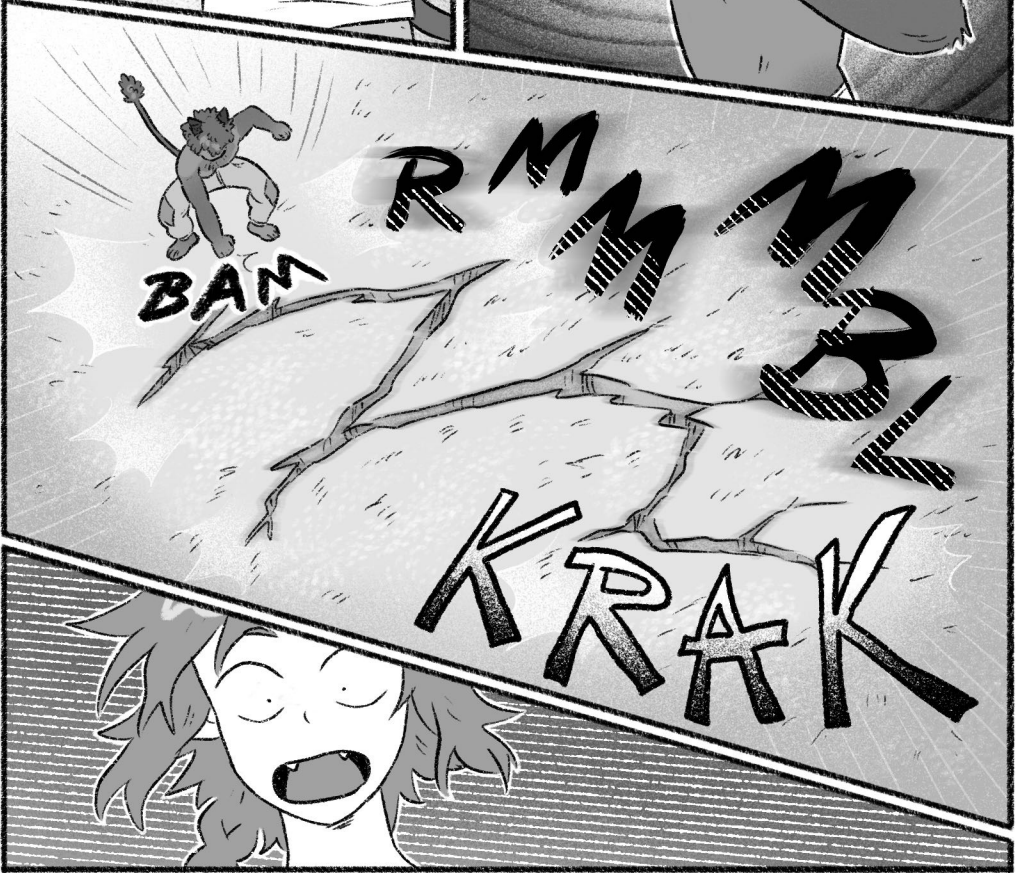


I CAN'T FIX YOUR MAGIC CONTROL ISSUES.



BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN DO.

I'VE BEEN DEVELOPING A NEW TECHNIQUE-



BAM

RMM

KRAK



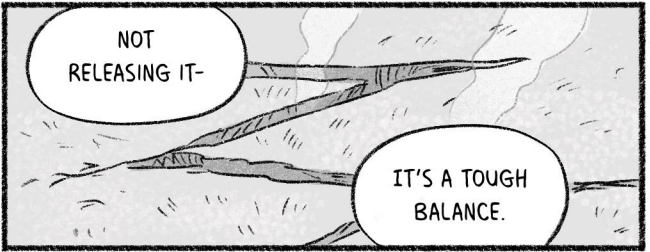
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOUR MAGIC!!



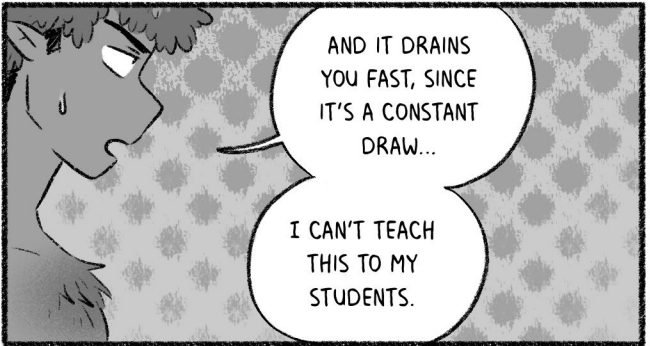
YEAH.

IT'S ALL ABOUT HOLDING YOUR MAGIC READY IN YOUR BODY.



NOT RELEASING IT-

IT'S A TOUGH BALANCE.



AND IT DRAINS YOU FAST, SINCE IT'S A CONSTANT DRAW...

I CAN'T TEACH THIS TO MY STUDENTS.



BUT YOU HAVE MORE MAGIC THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!

I THINK YOU'LL BE OKAY.

SHOW ME HOW, PLEASE!!



DRAW OUT YOUR
MAGIC AS THOUGH
YOU'RE ABOUT TO
USE IT-

BUT HOLD IT IN.
KEEP IT RUNNING
THROUGH YOU.

OKAY...



YOU'RE
SPARKING.
DON'T LET IT
LEAK OUT.

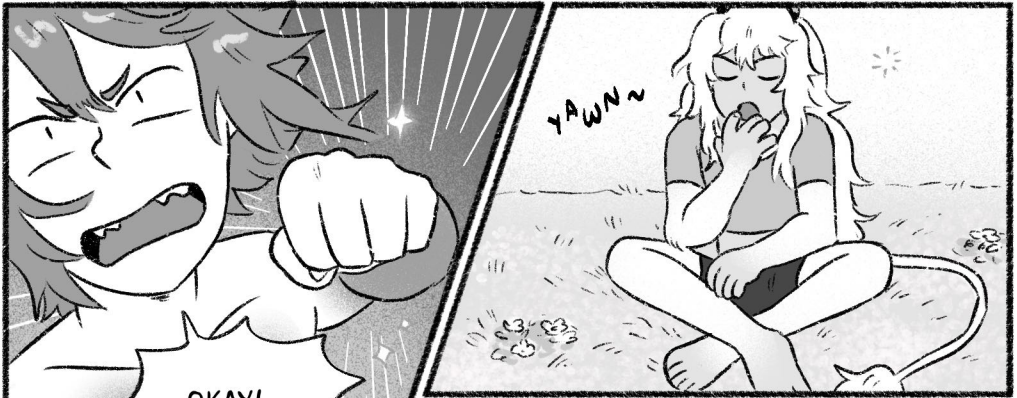
I'M TRYING!!



COME AT ME.
WE'LL SPAR.

IF YOU DO IT
RIGHT, YOUR MAGIC
WILL STRENGTHEN
YOU.

ATTACK YOU?
BUT- WHAT IF I-







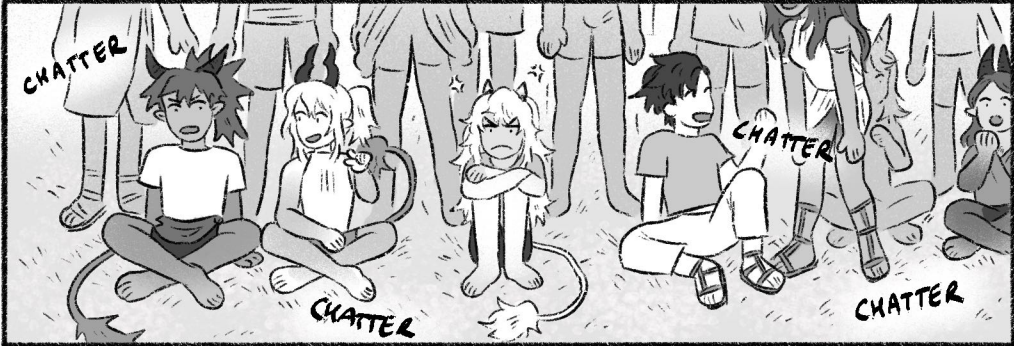
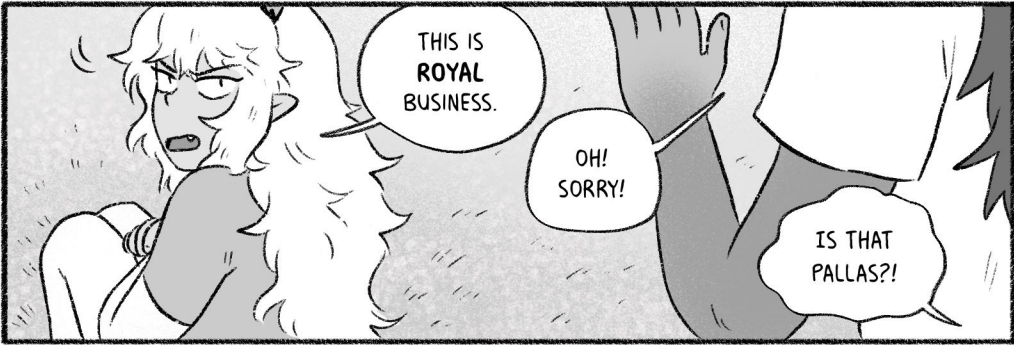
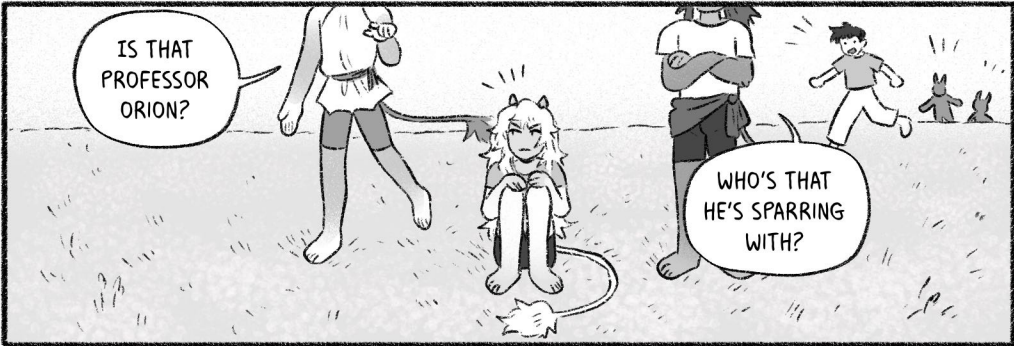
HACK
KOFF



TRY AGAIN.

KEEP IT IN,
AND I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
KNOCK YOU ON
YOUR ASS SO
EASILY.







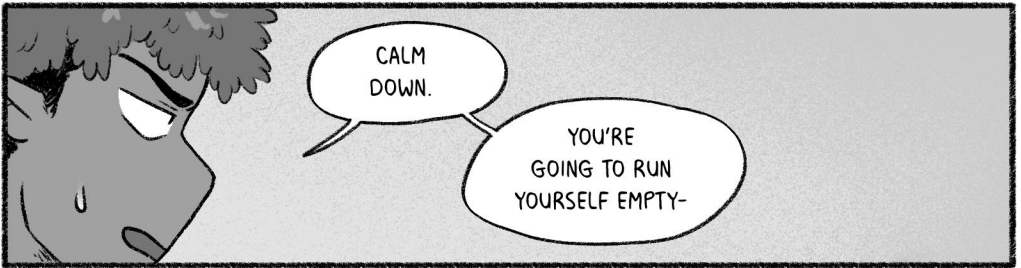


YOU KEEP SAYING
"FIND THE BALANCE"

"KEEP IT IN"-

BUT IT
DOESN'T
WORK!

MY MAGIC
DOESN'T WORK!
IT **NEVER**
DOES!



CALM
DOWN.

YOU'RE
GOING TO RUN
YOURSELF EMPTY-



**I DON'T
CARE!!**



BOOM

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

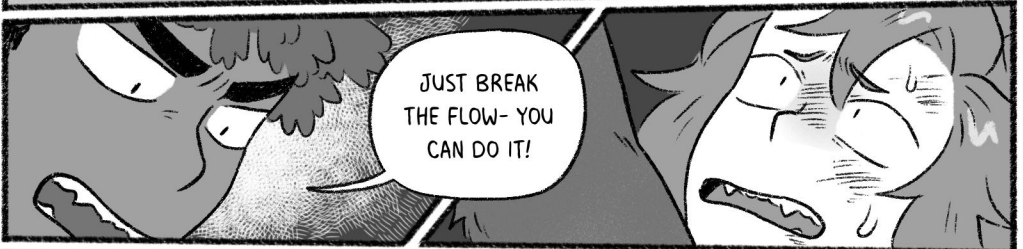
KRAK

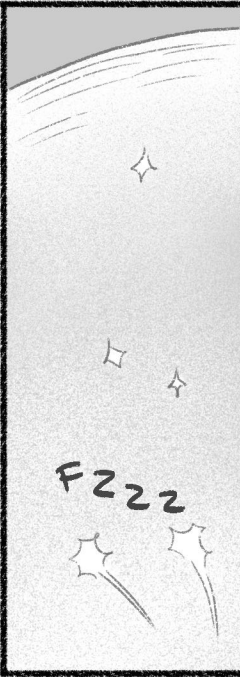
FZZT

FZZT











I'M SORRY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED-

I PROMISE, I'LL TRY HARDER TO KEEP IT IN NOW!



YOU...
STILL HAVE MAGIC LEFT?
AFTER ALL THAT?



I WON'T MESS UP AGAIN!



WELL, THAT'S NICE-

BUT I'M COMPLETELY SPENT.
LET'S CALL IT.



PHILO!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!





THEN WE WON'T BE COMING BACK.



ORION- PROFESSOR- WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IF I KEEP TRYING- DO YOU THINK I CAN FIGURE OUT YOUR TECHNIQUE?



HONESTLY?
I DON'T KNOW.

YOU CAN KEEP PRACTISING, BUT...

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE WHAT JUST HAPPENED.



I HATE TO SAY IT...

BUT THE ARCH MAGE MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH THIS.



THEN I MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP.





WHY?
BECAUSE MY
MAGIC IS
BROKEN-

AND I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
WITH IT?



JEEZ, KID.

I MEAN
BECAUSE YOU'RE
AN ANOMALY.

THE AMOUNT OF
MAGIC YOU JUST
PUT OUT... YOU
SHOULD BE DEAD.



YEAH, WELL, IT
DOESN'T MEAN
ANYTHING IF
VASILIS WON'T
ACKNOWLEDGE ME.

I HAVE TO
PROVE IT TO
HIM SOMEHOW...

THAT I'M
WORTH
TEACHING.



MAYBE YOU
SHOULD GIVE
IT UP.

WHAT?!



WELL, THINK
ABOUT IT...



YOU SAID YOU WANT TO BE STRONGER SO YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?

I'M A WAR HERO.

WIDELY REGARDED AS THE TOP OF THE FIELD WHEN IT COMES TO COMBAT MAGIC.



WHEN I WAS JUST ANOTHER SOLDIER, I COULD PROTECT MY COMRADES.



BUT, NOW...



WHEN MY STUDENTS GET SENT INTO DANGER...

I DON'T GET TO GO WITH THEM.

I CAN'T HELP THEM.



IF YOU CAN
GET A HANDLE ON
YOUR MAGIC,

NEW DOORS
WILL OPEN FOR
YOU, SURE.

BUT IF YOU'RE
NOT CAREFUL-

YOU MIGHT JUST
BUILD YOURSELF
A DIFFERENT
KIND OF CAGE.



WELL, JUST
CONSIDER
YOUR OPTIONS,
THAT'S ALL.

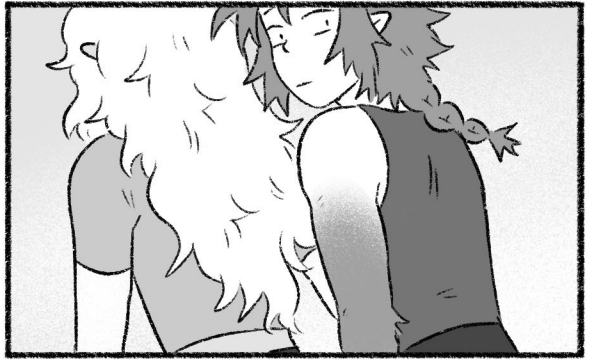
IT'S NOT OFTEN
THAT WE GET TO
MAKE A CHOICE
FOR OURSELVES.



RIGHT...



C'MON, WE
SHOULD GO.







WHY NOT?!

YOU HATE IT THERE-



I SAID STOP IT!



I DON'T HATE IT...

THE PALACE IS MY HOME, PHILO.

SURE, IT'S ANNOYING SOMETIMES...



BUT I HAVE IT GOOD!

VASILIS LOOKS AFTER ME!

I'M NOT LEAVING MY BROTHER.

RIGHT... SORRY...



BESIDES,
YOU'RE BRANDED
WITH THE ROYAL
RUNE TOO,
RIGHT?

YEAH...

SO YOU
CAN'T JUST **LEAVE**-
THEY CAN TRACK YOU
ANYWHERE.



I KNOW...

I DIDN'T
REALLY MEAN IT,
I GUESS...



GOOD!

ORION
SHOULDN'T HAVE
SAID THAT
STUFF...

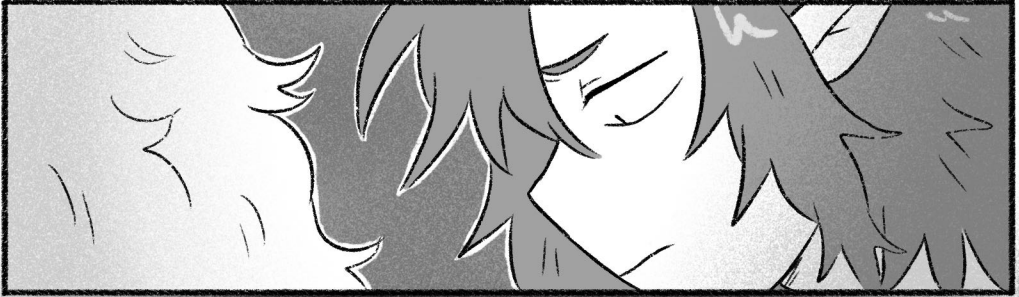
HE SHOULD BE
MORE GRATEFUL.
NOT EVERYONE GETS
TO WORK AT THE
SPIRE.



DON'T
OVERTHINK IT,
OKAY?

WE'RE
LUCKY.

YEAH...



I'M GOING TO BE...

...THE NEXT ARCH MAGE.



I THINK I GET WHY ATLAS STUDIES SO HARD NOW...



FWIP

BECAUSE HE'S BORING AND HAS NO FRIENDS?



PFFFFT STOP!!



I MEAN, THERE IS THAT.

BUT, MAYBE...



UNLESS YOU'RE GONNA REACH THE TOP, THEN...



...YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE.







I KNEW IT...
VASILIS IS USING HIM
FOR SOMETHING, ISN'T
HE? WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO?



NO
QUESTIONS.

JUST THE
DETAILS.



OF COURSE.

WHY ELSE
WOULD THEY
SEND YOU...