

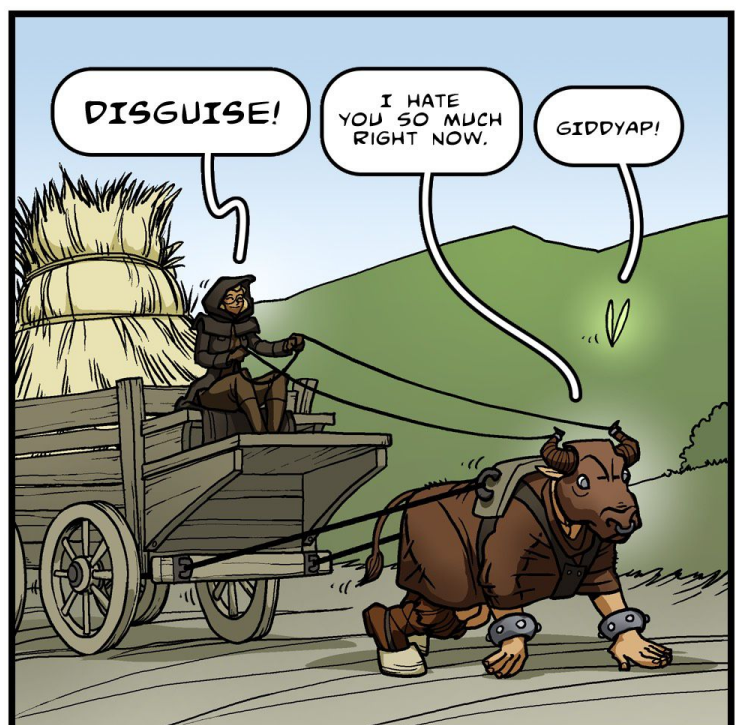
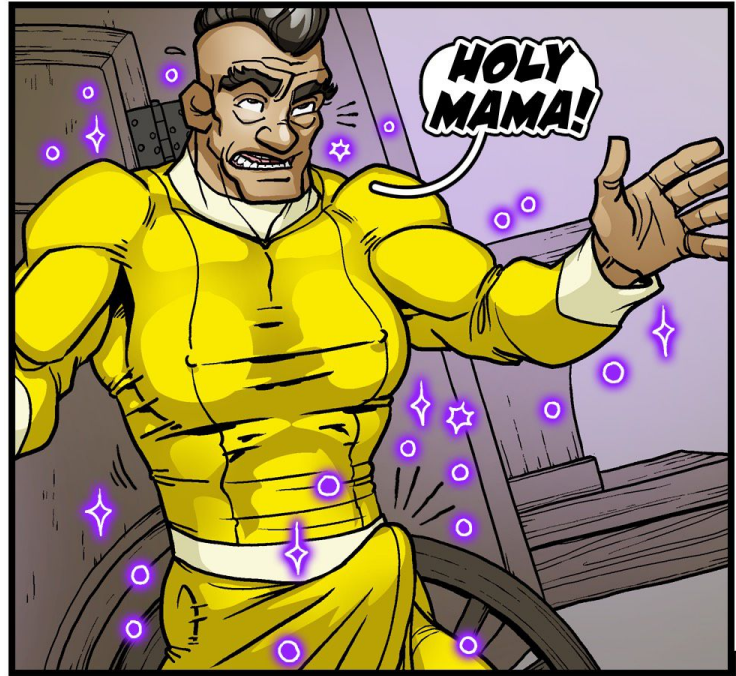
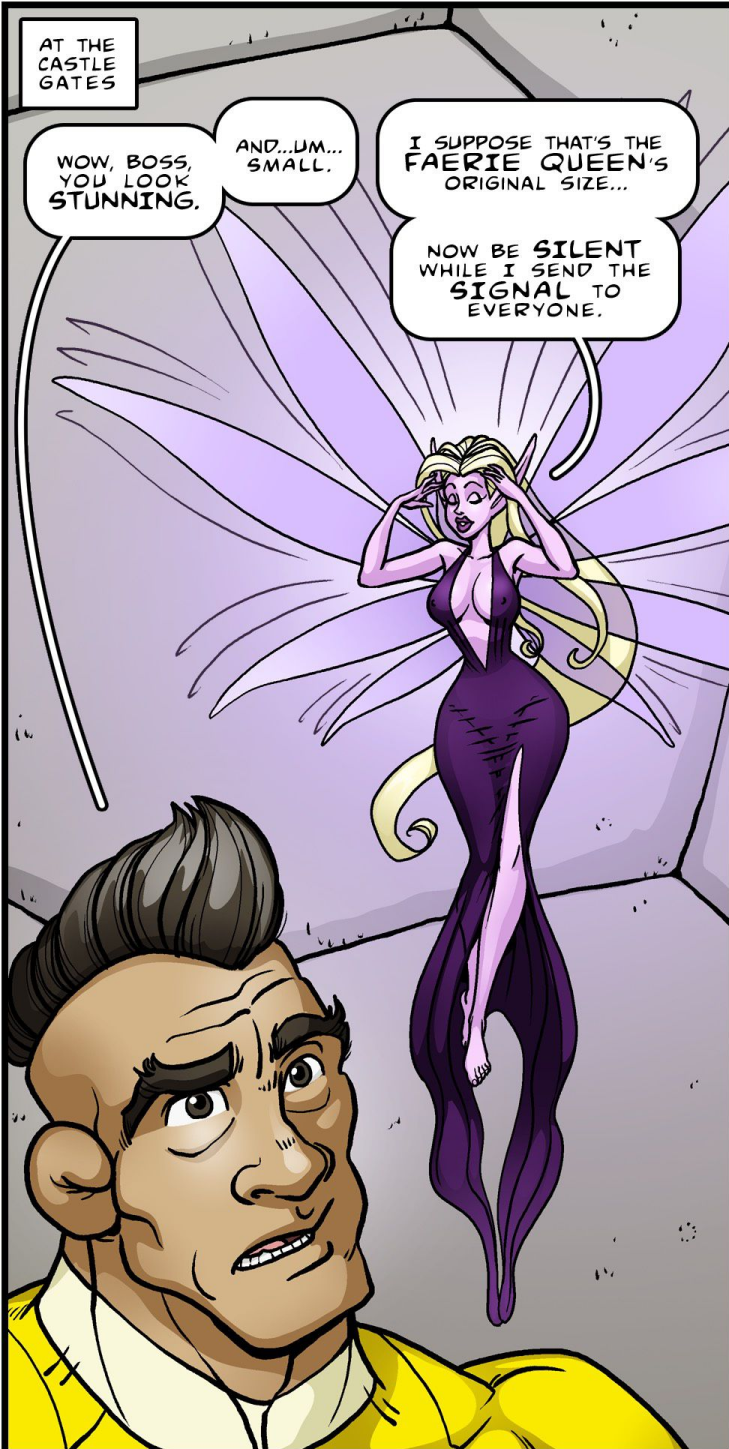
Jaycee Knight

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Chapter 17

Art: Wondollar
Cover: Ryan Downing

BLOOMIN' FAERIES!





GUYS, GET EVERYONE, SCATTER THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND LOOK FOR THE PRINCESS. BE SURE TO CHECK THE ROAD TO THE CASTLE.

GRIZ, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO FITS THROUGH THAT TUNNEL. FOLLOW THEM AND SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP THEIR TRAIL FROM THAT END.

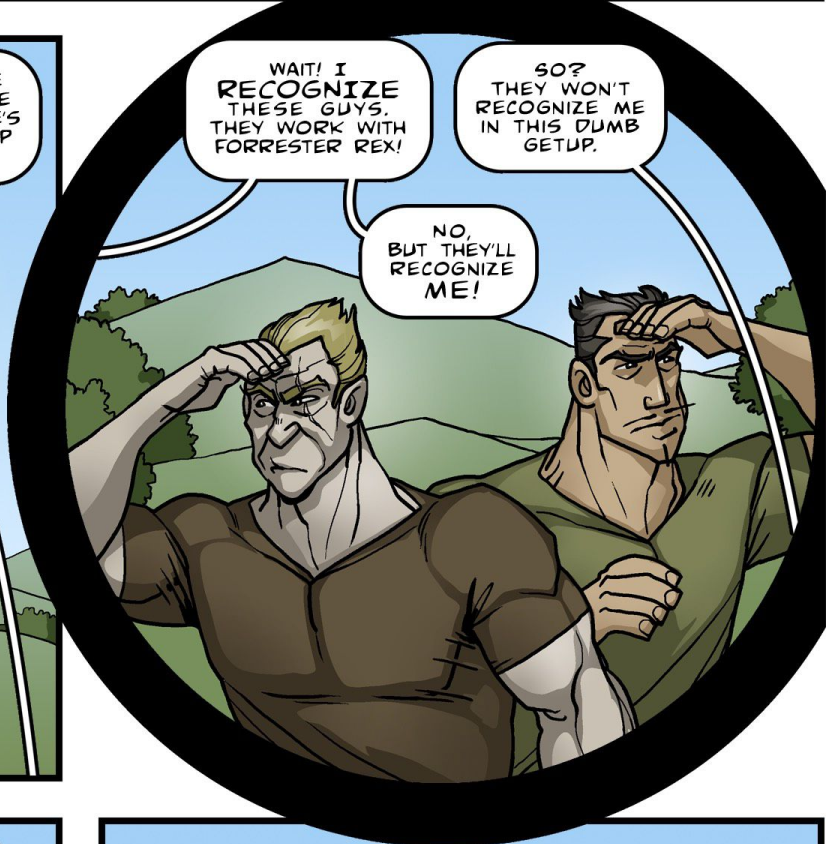
OKAY.



SO FAR SO GOOD. NO ONE HAS GIVEN YOU A **SECOND** GLANCE SO FAR.

THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T PASSED ANYONE!

WELL, WE'RE ABOUT TO BE TESTED. THERE'S TWO GUYS UP AHEAD.



WAIT! I **RECOGNIZE** THESE GUYS. THEY WORK WITH FORRESTER REX!

SO? THEY WON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS DUMB GETUP.

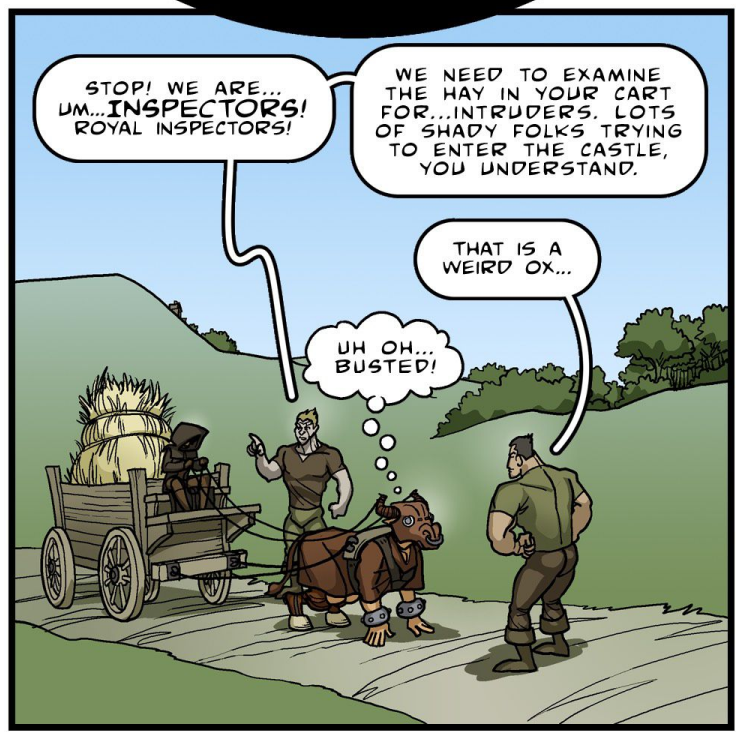
NO, BUT THEY'LL RECOGNIZE ME!



DO WE TURN AROUND, THEN?

THAT'LL LOOK SUSPICIOUS.

I'LL JUST PULL MY HOOD AND PRAY FOR GOOD LUCK.

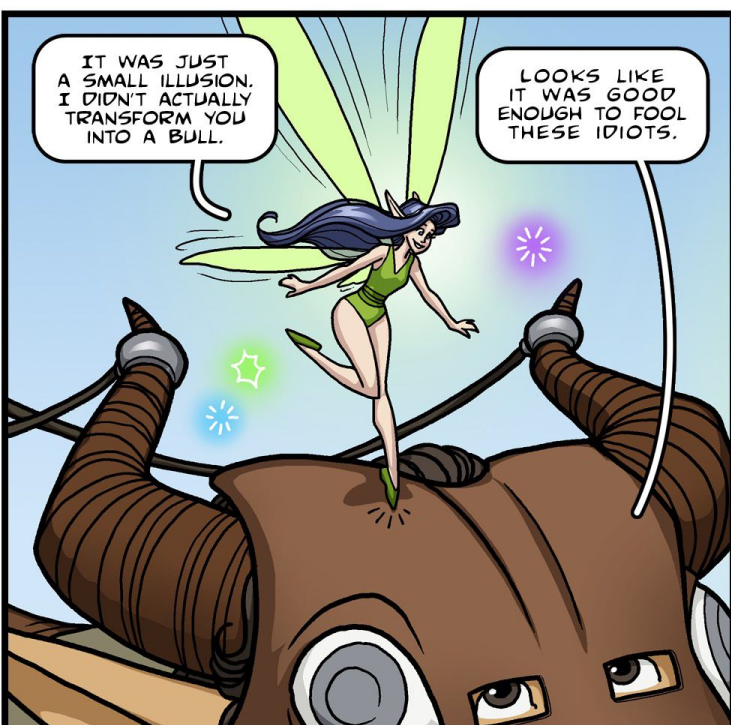
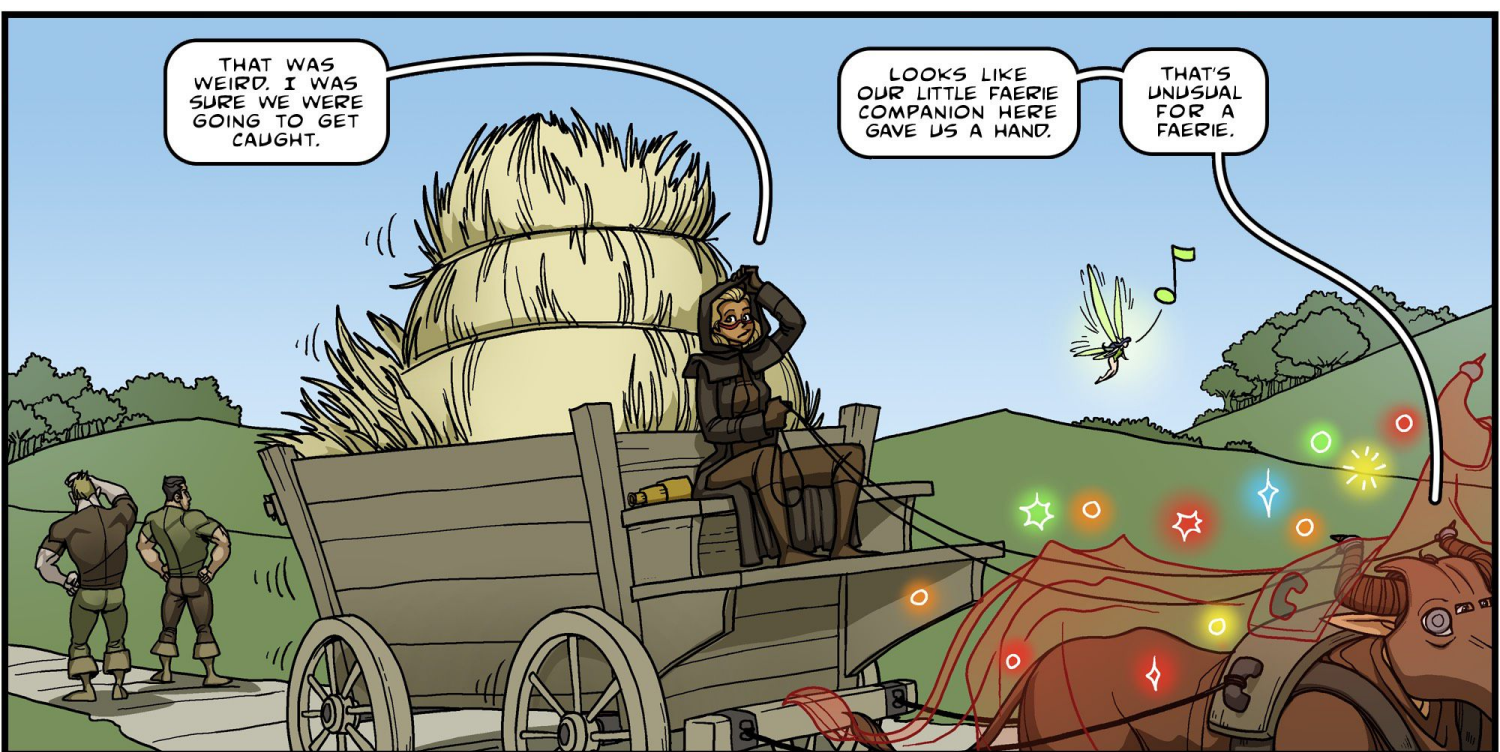


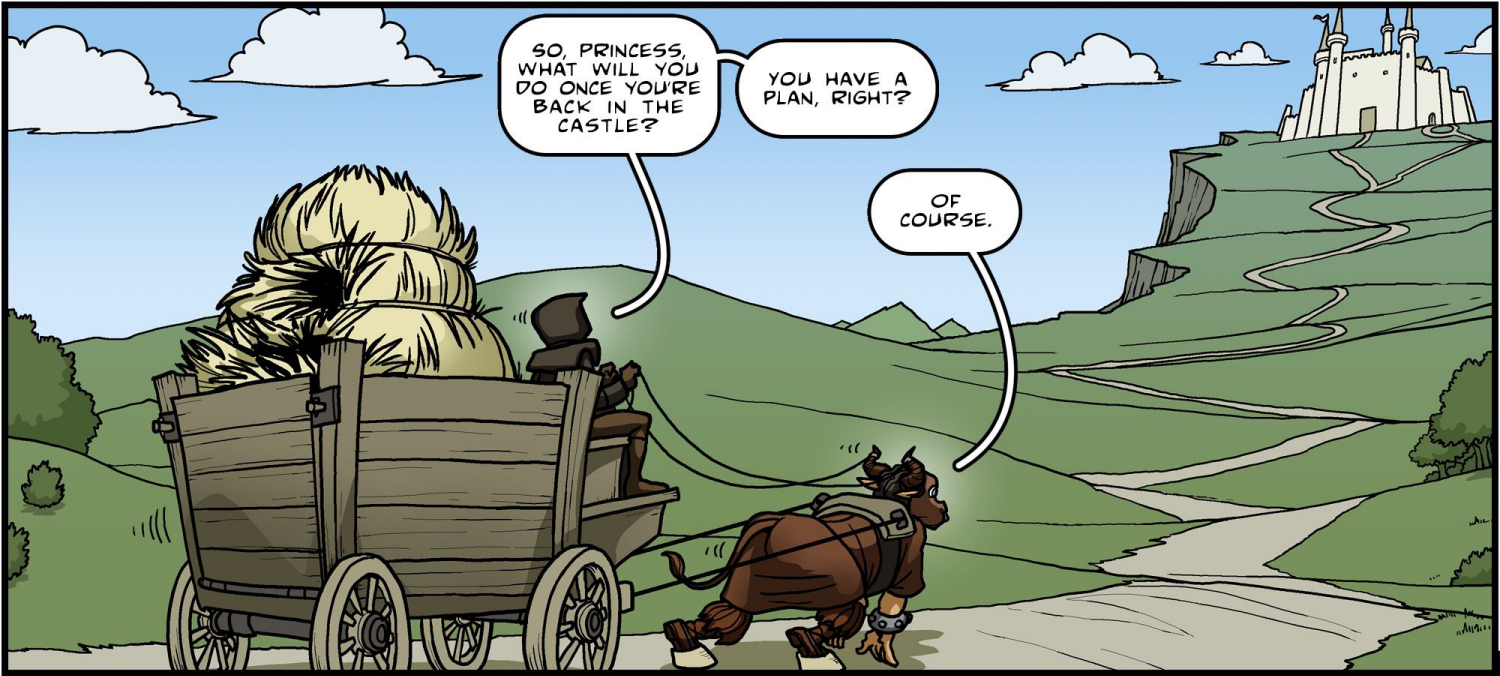
STOP! WE ARE... UM...**INSPECTORS!** ROYAL INSPECTORS!

WE NEED TO EXAMINE THE HAY IN YOUR CART FOR...**INTRUDERS.** LOTS OF SHADY FOLKS TRYING TO ENTER THE CASTLE, YOU UNDERSTAND.

THAT IS A WEIRD OX...

UH OH... **BUSTED!**





SO, PRINCESS, WHAT WILL YOU DO ONCE YOU'RE BACK IN THE CASTLE?

YOU HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT?

OF COURSE.

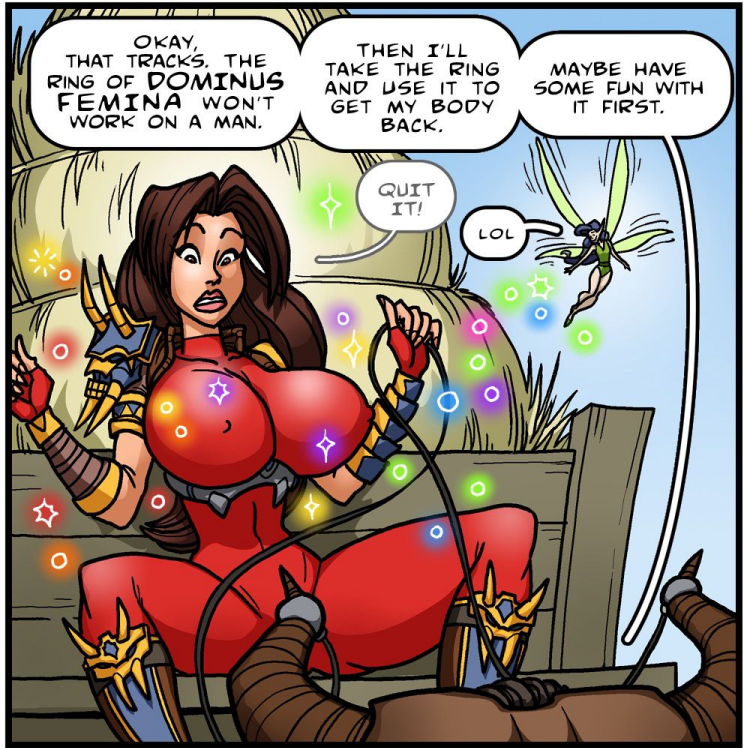


FIRST, I'LL FIND PRINCE AIDAN.

HE'S MY SISTER'S FIANCE', BUT HE HAS THE HOTS FOR ME. HE'LL HELP ME FOR SURE.

HELP YOU DO WHAT?

CAPTURE FORRESTER AND TAKE THE RING FROM HIM.



OKAY, THAT TRACKS. THE RING OF DOMINUS FEMINA WON'T WORK ON A MAN.

THEN I'LL TAKE THE RING AND USE IT TO GET MY BODY BACK.

MAYBE HAVE SOME FUN WITH IT FIRST.

QUIT IT!

LOL



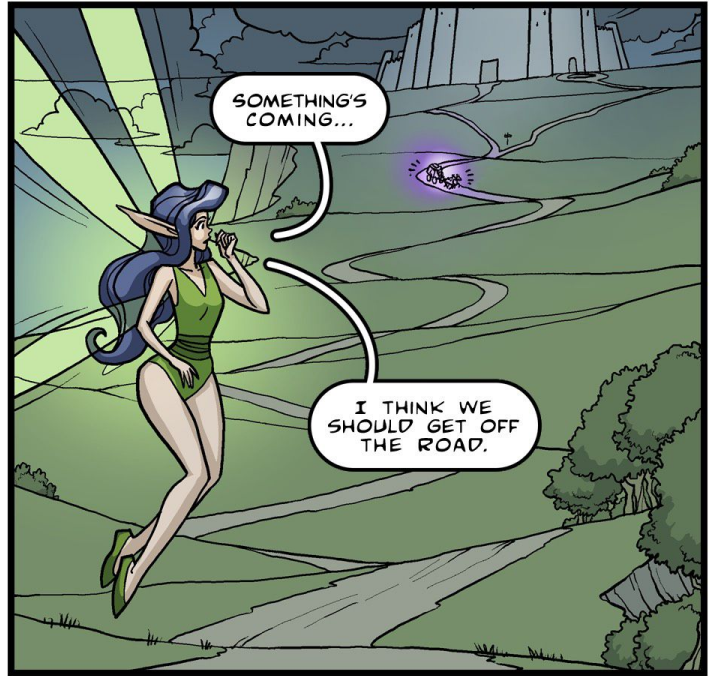
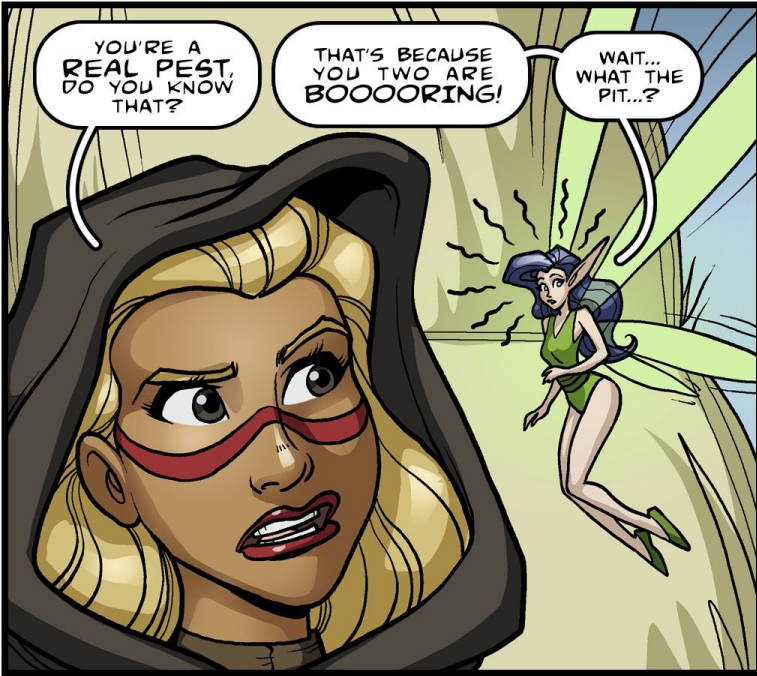
NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE FUN ALONG WITH SOME RIGHTEOUS REVENGE, RIGHT?

OH, PRINCESS, YOU'RE THE BEST!



THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG WITH YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?

I DO.





SEVERAL MINUTES LATER.

WHY WOULD YOU FEAR YOUR OWN QUEEN? QUEENS ARE GOOD, BENEVOLENT PEOPLE.

LIKE I'LL BE SOME DAY, IF I MANAGE TO GET MY BODY BACK.

SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF QUEEN.

NOT ANYMORE.



SHE LOVED A HUMAN LIKE NO FAERIE HAS EVER LOVED SOMEONE.

WHEN HE BETRAYED HER, SHE WENT A LITTLE CRAZY.

OKAY, A LOT CRAZY.

IT TOOK US EVERYTHING TO STOP HER AND...UM...BREAK HER UP.



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DID YOU KILL HER?

WHAT?

NO, OF COURSE NOT. WE'RE NOT KILLERS.

WE SPLIT HER UP INTO TWO ARTIFACTS. THE REST OF HER BECAME HUMAN.

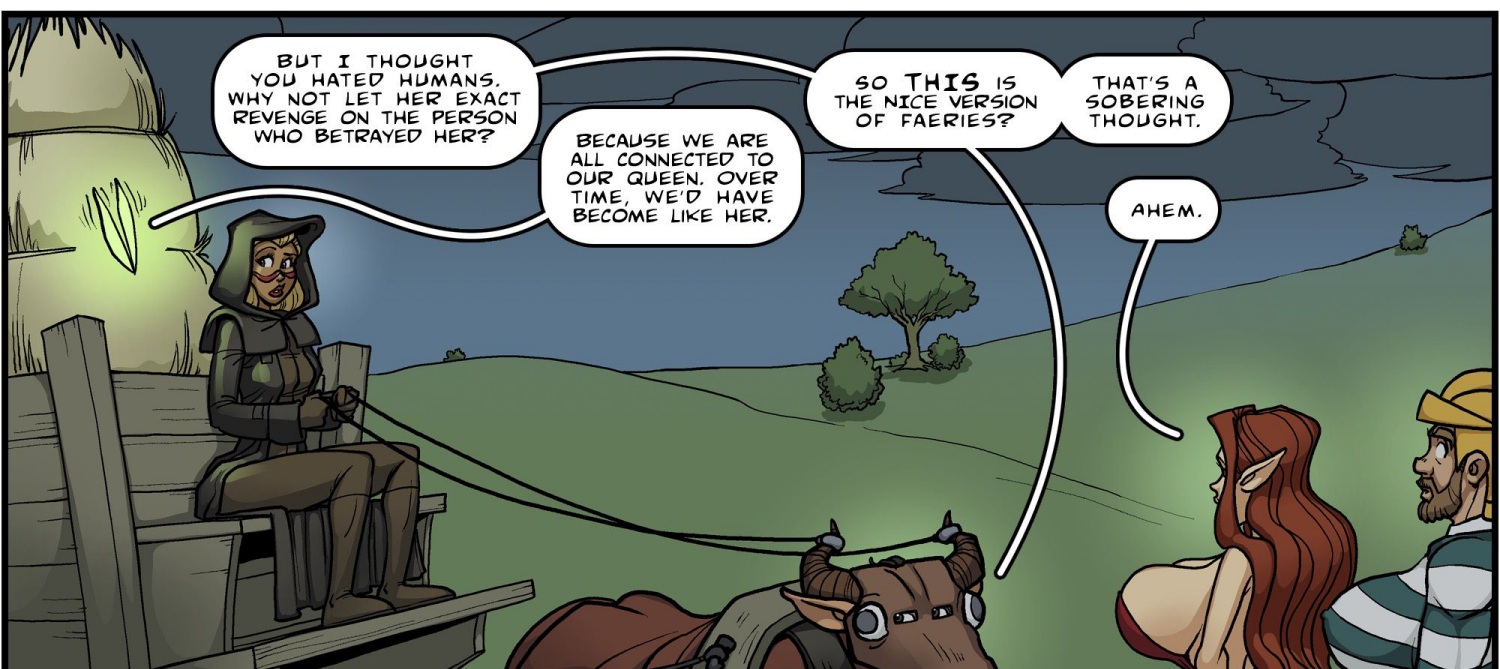


AND WHEN WAS THIS?

OH, A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO? I WAS A TINY FAE AT THE TIME, BUT I REMEMBER HER AURA OF...I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE RIGHT WORD IS.

RETRIBUTION?

YES, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.



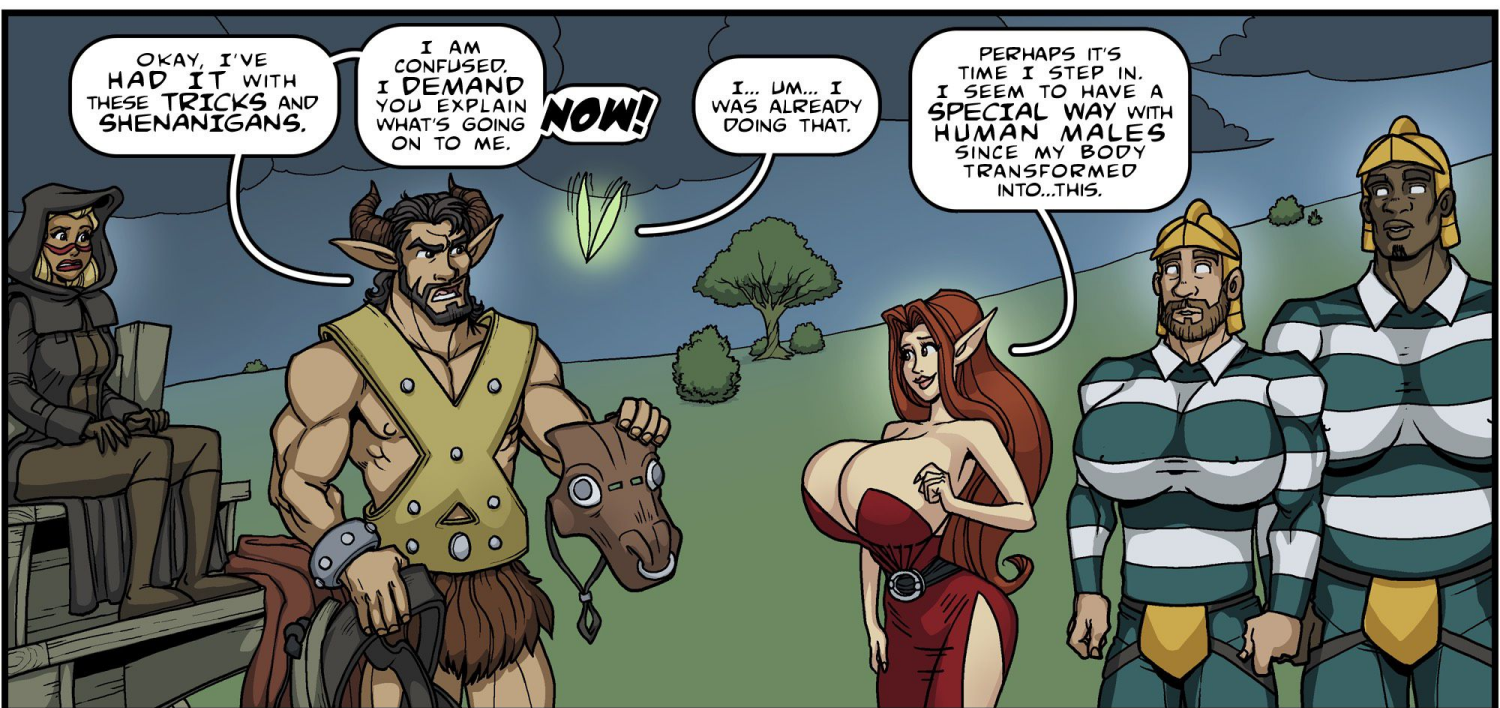
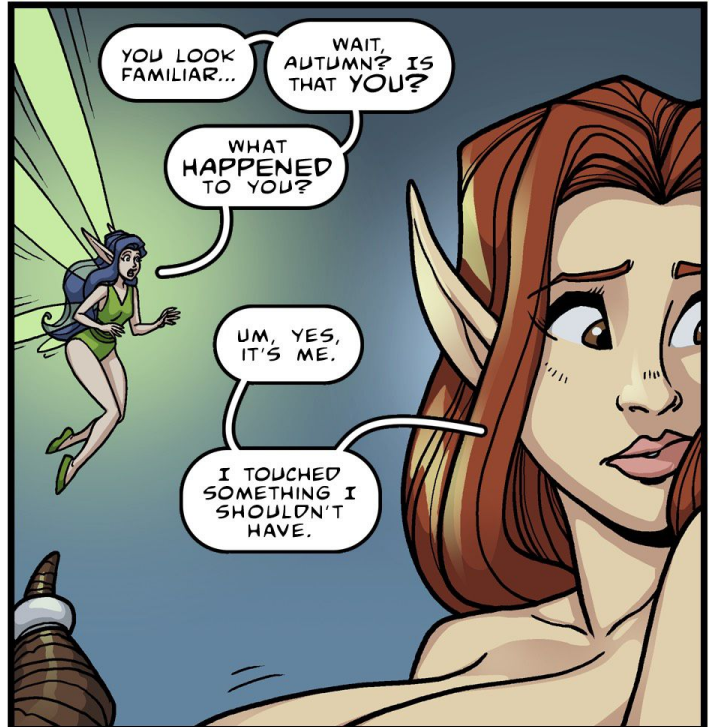
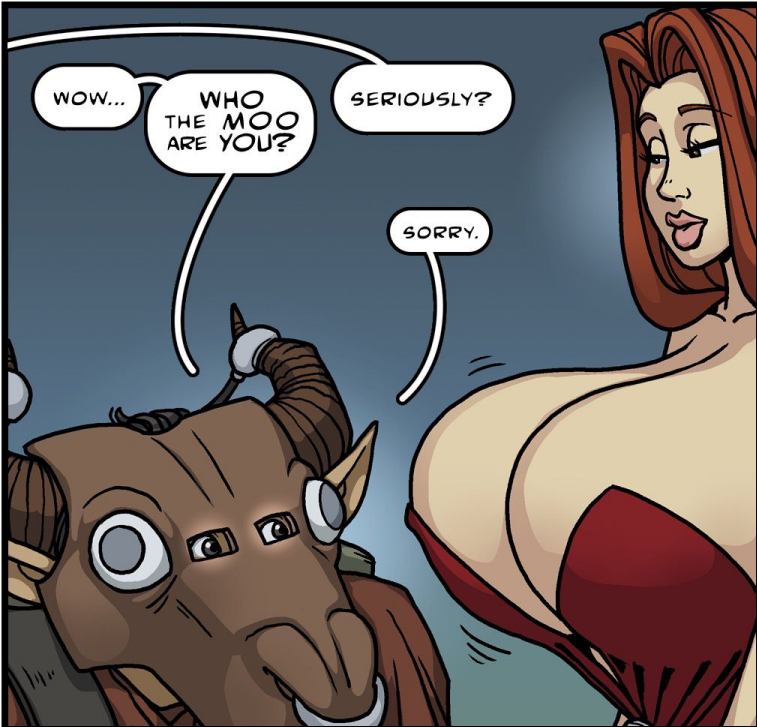
BUT I THOUGHT YOU HATED HUMANS. WHY NOT LET HER EXACT REVENGE ON THE PERSON WHO BETRAYED HER?

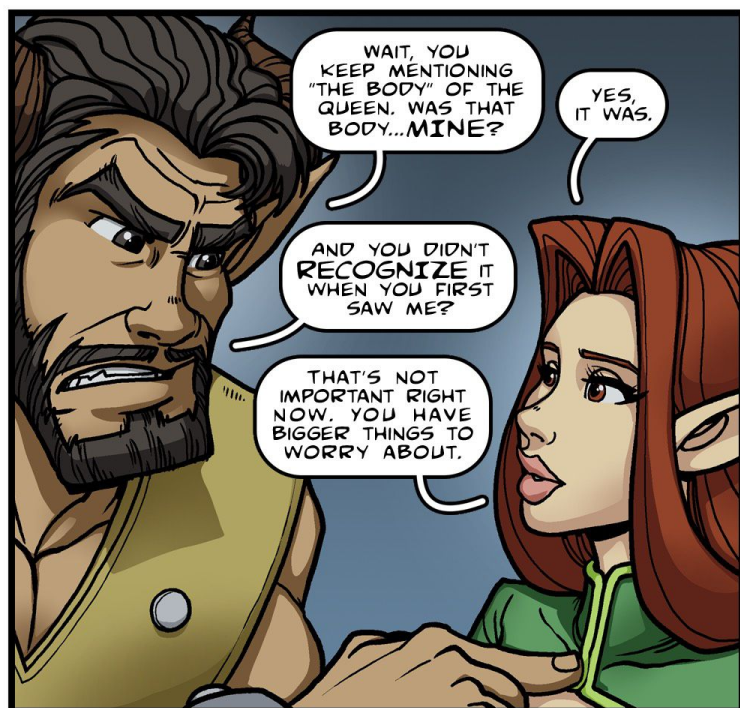
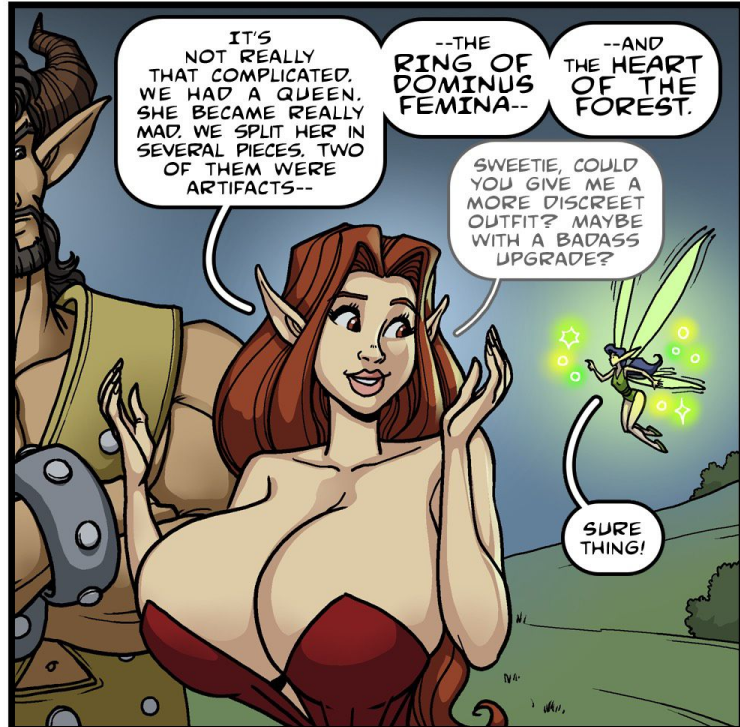
BECAUSE WE ARE ALL CONNECTED TO OUR QUEEN. OVER TIME, WE'D HAVE BECOME LIKE HER.

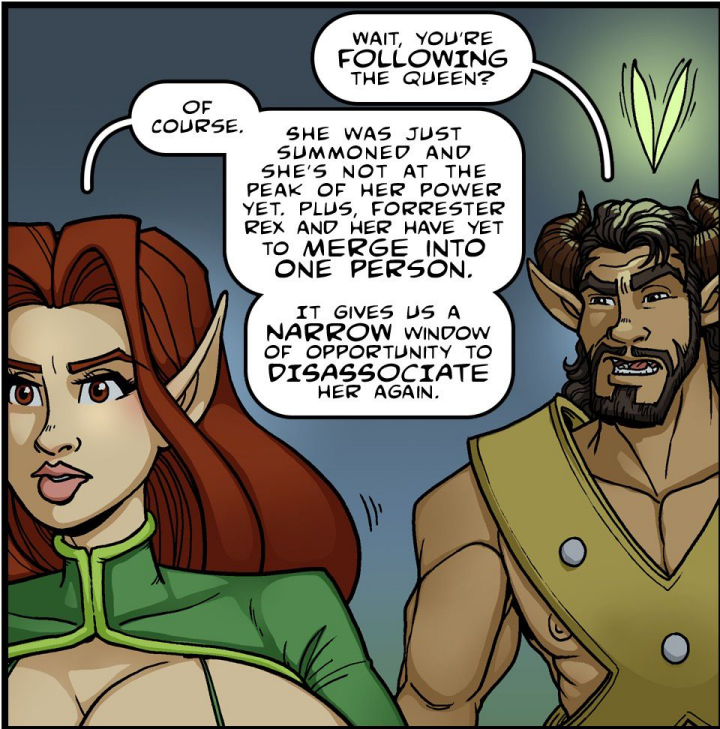
SO **THIS** IS THE NICE VERSION OF FAERIES?

THAT'S A SOBERING THOUGHT.

AHEM.







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