

THAT WAS
CRAZY!



YOU'RE TELLING
ME THIS HAPPENS
ALL THE TIME?

NOT SO MUCH ANYMORE,
BUT IN THE PAST...
MORE THAN I CARE
TO ADMIT.

YEP.

THIS IS WHY
I LOVE STORIES!

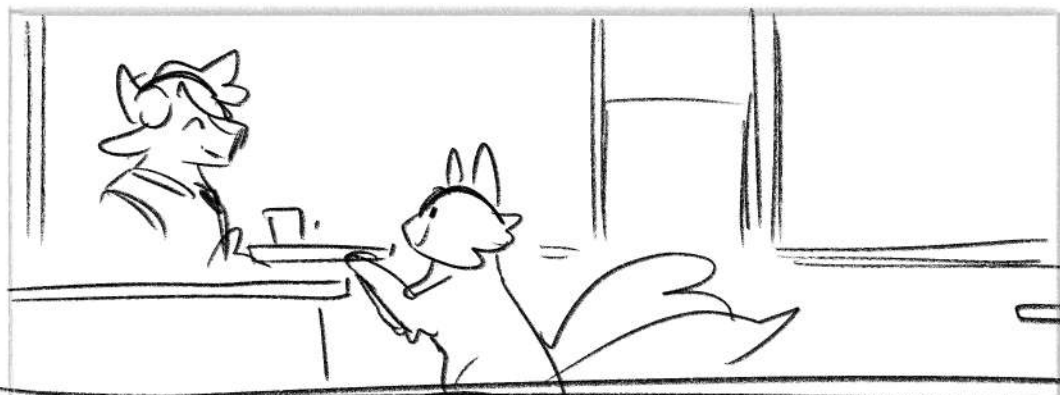
SO, WHAT HAPPENED
THE LAST TIME
YOU GUYS DID THIS?



I'LL, UH...

GO GRAB
SOME DRINKS?



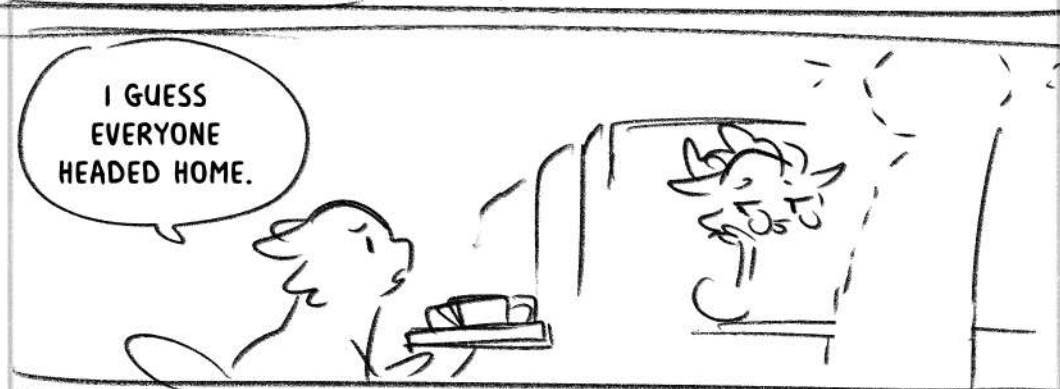


BYE,
POPPY.

SEE YOU
LATER!



I GUESS
EVERYONE
HEADED HOME.



YEAH, TITUS GETS
UP EARLY FOR THEIR
ROCK HUNTS,
MYTHRI IS
CHECKING OUT
A BAND OR
SOMETHING,




AND HATCH...

HONESTLY, IT'S BEEN
A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE
HAD FUN LIKE THIS.



WHY IS
THAT?

WELL, WE
ALL GREW UP
TOGETHER, AND
AS WE GOT OLDER,
WE CHANGED...




YOU ALL SEEMED
PRETTY CLOSE.

WE WERE...



WE JUST...
FELL APART.



SURE WOULD BE
NICE IF YOU ALL
CAME AROUND MORE!



THE CAFE'S SEEN
BETTER DAYS.



YOUR GROUP WAS
ALWAYS INFECTIOUS!
AND GOOD FOR
BUSINESS!

WOAH, WAIT.

I BROUGHT IN
THIS BOOK,

AND YOU
WERE ALL
HERE,

AND THEN
WE HAD A
GREAT TIME!



ZEPHYR...

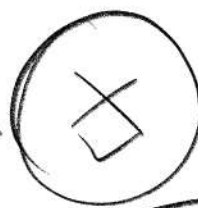


NO, REALLY,
LOOK!

ON THE FRONT
OF THE BOOK!

NO--WAIT--
IT CAN'T BE!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!


DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT THIS IS??



THIS IS THE SYMBOL
OF THE GREAT
TCHWE!



THE WHAT?



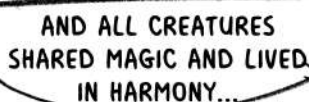
TEACH WAY,
DEAR.
T-C-W-H-E.



LEGEND HAS IT
THAT IT WAS A
POWERFUL CREATURE
THAT FOUNDED THIS
LAND AND TAUGHT
CREATURES MAGIC
AND PEACE.



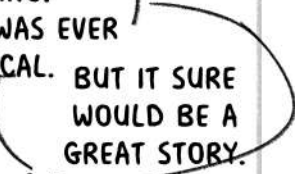
NOT ONLY THAT,
THEY WERE THE GREATEST
COLLECTOR OF ALL TIME!




AND ALL CREATURES
SHARED MAGIC AND LIVED
IN HARMONY...



MAGIC ISN'T
A THING.
NOBODY WAS EVER
MAGICAL.



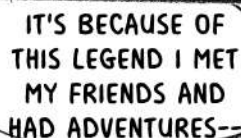
BUT IT SURE
WOULD BE A
GREAT STORY.




UNTIL ONE
DAY... IT STOPPED...



YES WE
WEEEEERRRRREE!
IT'S THE GREATEST
LEGEND!



IT'S BECAUSE OF
THIS LEGEND I MET
MY FRIENDS AND
HAD ADVENTURES--



WE DISCOVERED
OUR PASSIONS...
IT WAS THE BEST
TIME OF MY LIFE.

OK, SO YOU GUYS
BONDED OVER THIS
TCHWE THING?

YEAH!

AND YOU BONDED
HERE, BRINGING
LIFE AND PROFIT
TO MY CAFE

YEAH, THIS PLACE
HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS.
IMAGINE IF WE COULD
GO BACK.

TCHWE WAS
THE ONE THING
WE NEVER
FIGURED OUT.
OUR LAST BIG
ADVENTURE.

WE ALWAYS
THOUGHT WE
COULD SOLVE
THE CLUES. BUT
AS WE GOT
OLDER, WE JUST
PLAYED T&T...
AND...

PREPARE THE CAFE,
ALISTER!

I'M GETTING THE
GANG BACK TOGETHER!



ALRIGHT, SO,
WE NEED HELP.

WHERE
DO WE
START?



I...
DON'T
KNOW.

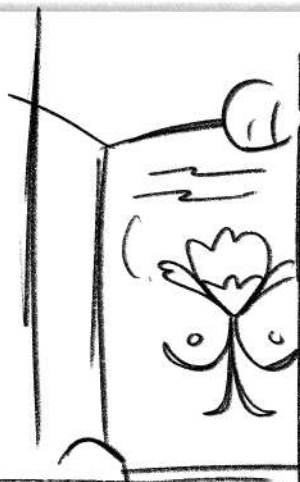
ARCH

I FINALLY HAVE A
CLUE, AND I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING WITH IT!

I SWEAR I WAS
ON TO...SOMETHING.



ZEPHYR,
LOOK AT
THIS!



WHAT? IT'S A DRAWING
OF A FLOWER.



LOOKS LIKE THE
COVER, A LITTLE.

THE COVER IS MORE STYLIZED,
WHICH IS WHY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE
IT BEFORE. IT'S A PRINCESS BLOOM!



OK, BUT WHAT
DOES THAT HAVE
TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

WELL, I MENTIONED
THAT I COLLECT
STORIES, WHICH
IS TRUE.



BUT...I'M
A KITSUNE.

...

ANNND?



FLORA IS KIND
OF OUR THING.

AND WHILE THEY
AREN'T MY MAIN
COLLECTION, I
LOVE THEM BECAUSE
YOU CAN LEARN
A LOT ABOUT
A CULTURE JUST
BY STUDYING THEIR
STORIES OF
LOCAL FLORA.



THE PRINCESS BLOOM
IS A FLOWER WE RARELY
SEE TODAY. IT PREFERS
TO GROW WILD.
IT WAS USED AS A
SYMBOL FOR
THE ROYAL LINE-



GRANTED, WE
HAVEN'T HAD A
MONARCHY IN
A LONG TIME,

BUT IT SYMBOLIZED
A RULER'S
CONNECTION TO
NATURE...



...AND MAGIC.

I KNEW IT! WE'RE MAGIC!
I CAN LEARN TO FLY,
AND-

AND-

THAT'S MORE
INFORMATION I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING WITH.



WELL, IF YOU'D
LET ME FINISH...

Y'KNOW, FOR
SOMEONE WHO LOVES
BOOKS, YOU HAVE A
HARD TIME LISTENING
TO STORIES.

I LIKE TO
SKIP TO THE
END.

I DON'T BELIEVE MAGIC
EVER EXISTED, BUT THERE
MIGHT BE SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS FLOWER.

WHY DON'T
YOU COME TO
MY HOUSE?
THERE'S
SOMETHING I'D
LIKE TO SHOW
YOU.

HAVE YOU...EVER BEEN
TO A KITSUNE'S ARBOR?

ARBOR?

I'LL TAKE THAT
AS A NO.



Wuan

AND PEOPLE SAY
WE AREN'T MAGIC?

LOOK AT
THIS.

IT DOESN'T LOOK
VERY HEALTHY.

I FOUND IT
IN A REDEVELOPMENT
ZONE. I'M CARING FOR
IT UNTIL IT CAN BE
REPLANTED.

BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT
THE POT. IT'S SURVIVED
LONGER IN IT BECAUSE
IT'S SPECIAL-THE STONE
IS ANCIENT.

KITSUNE HAVE
USE POTS LIKE
THIS TO HELP THE
PRINCESS BLOOM
FOR AGES.

YOU
WONDERFUL
KITSUNE!

STOP!
WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

I THOUGHT
THIS IS WHY YOU
BROUGHT ME HERE?

I DID--I MEAN--
NO-

YES-
UGH!

hey!

YOU ARE SO
SINGLE-MINDED!

LISTEN! THIS PLANT IS RARE
AND FRAGILE! I BROUGHT YOU
HERE TO SEE IF THERE WAS
A CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE BOOK AND EVERYTHING ELSE.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP!

BUT YOU CAN'T GO
RUNNING AROUND AND
WRECKING MY COLLECTION--



THAT I'VE WORKED
VERY HARD TO KEEP
SAFE AND ALIVE!!



...I'M
SORRY.



I DO GET
TUNNEL-VISION,
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT
COMES TO THIS. AND
YOU INVITE ME INTO
YOUR BEAUTIFUL
HOME-



AND I INSULT
YOU.

I'M SORRY.



OK, FOCUS.
WHERE WERE YOU
PLANNING TO
TAKE IT?

OH, WELL, YOU SAID THAT
"THE POT. IT'S SURVIVED
LONGER IN IT BECAUSE
IT'S SPECIAL-THE STONE
IS ANCIENT."

YOU...
DID
LISTEN

OF COURSE!

ANYWAY, REMEMBER
TITUS?

I JUST GET A
LITTLE EXCITED
SOMETIMES.

THEY'RE A REAL
WHIZ WHEN IT COMES
TO STONE AND ROCK!

BUT YOUR PLANT CAN'T
LEAVE...AND I DON'T
KNOW IF I COULD
CONVINCE THEM TO COME
HERE...

~~WE, UH...~~

~~FELL
APART?~~

WE ALL HAD FUN,
BUT I COULD TELL THERE
WAS TENSION.

WELL, I SUPPOSED
IF IT'S ONLY OUT
FOR A SHORT BIT,
IT SHOULD BE OKAY.
BUT WHERE COULD
YOU MEET THEM?

HE STILL COMES TO
THE CAFE...

OKAY, BUT ONLY FOR
A LITTLE WHILE. I
DON'T WANT
ANYTHING TO HAPPEN
TO IT.

IF I COULD FIGURE
OUT WHEN, WOULD
YOU BE WILLING TO
BRING IT?

YES! THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!!

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!
THIS IS THE START OF A BEAUTIFUL-

ADVENTURE!