

THE SILK SASH



BY DEMICOEUR



THEY
INSULT ME
BY SENDING
IT.

THEY
CANNOT CLAD
ME IN THEIR CLOTHING
AND THEIR COLOURS LIKE
A LOYAL SERVANT
BROUGHT TO
HEEL..



PA'KUR...

NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE LEONINE
KINGDOM WILL BE
CHALLENGING
ENOUGH.

AS YOUR ADVISOR,
I MUST ASK YOU
TO SET ASIDE YOUR
PRIDE AND MAKE
CONCESSIONS,
OR THEY WILL-



THE HERD
WON'T RESPECT ME
IF I BOW TO THOSE WHO
ENSLAVE US AS BEASTS
OF BURDEN, SERVANTS,
WHORES, EVEN...



THERE
ARE RUMORS
THEY EVEN EAT
US.



I WOULDN'T
GIVE CREDENCE
TO RUMORS,



BUT IF
THESE NEGOTIATIONS
GO WELL, WE COULD
CHANGE ALL
THAT.



I WILL NOT
LET THEM PARADE
ME IN THEIR COURT
LIKE A DOMESTIC
MULE AND THAT'S
THE END OF
IT.



I SOMETIMES
WONDER WHY I'M
YOUR ADVISOR AT
ALL,



FOR ALL
THAT YOU
LISTEN.



...



PLEASE,
ADVISE ME. I WILL
LISTEN.



WE ARE AT A
DISADVANTAGE.





THE KING
WANTS US TO
CEASE OUR ATTACK
ON FORT ZOL,
BUT WE WANT
MORE.



WE WANT TO
FREE THE PEOPLE
HE'S TAKEN AS
SERVANTS AND
SLAVES,

AND WE
WANT SAFE
PASSAGE THROUGH
HIS TERRITORY.



OUR ONLY
ADVANTAGE IS
THAT HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHY.



WHATEVER
HAPPENS...



YOU MUSTN'T
LET HIM KNOW
YOUR SISTER IS
MISSING.

THE COURT
WILL NOW WELCOME
AN AMBASSADOR
FROM THE EQUINE
TRIBESMEN!



HIS
VALOUR, DUROCHE
ILLEROI,

CHEVAL LANGUAGE

RAION LANGUAGE



GOLDENBORN TO
DETRIEU ILLEROI I,
MAY HE REST IN
PEACE,



UNITER OF
FREE AND KINDRED
BEAST,

THE FEARLESS,



YOU
MAY KNEEL,
PA'KUR.





I PREFER TO STAND.

ER...
G'JAHRO PA'KUR
SAYS HE WOULD
PREFER TO STAND,
YOUR VALOUR.



HE
DOES NOT
KNEEL.

HE DOES
NOT WEAR THE
GIFT I SENT.

IT LEADS
A KING TO WONDER
IF YOU CAME TO
NEGOTIATE, OR TO
SQUABBLE.



I DON'T SEE
THE DIFFERENCE.



THE
G'JAHRO MEANS
NO DISRESPECT,
YOUR VALOUR.

IN OUR
TRIBE, IT IS
CUSTOMARY TO
STAND IN THE
PRESENCE OF
A LEADER.



AND WE
ARE MORE
COMFORTABLE IN
OUR SIMPLE
GARB,



THOUGH G'JAHRO HAS
WORN THE PIN OF YOUR
VALOUR'S HOUSE TO SHOW HIS
GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT.



...



IT IS
FORGIVEN.

COME, FEAST
WITH ME IN THE
GREAT HALL.

I'M SURE
WE'LL HAVE YOU
WEARING THE KING'S
COLOURS BEFORE THE
NIGHT IS YOUNG.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ANY FOOD AT OUR TABLE.

THOUGH I HEAR YOU DON'T EAT MEAT.

I'M AFRAID OUR VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.

I ONLY UNDERSTOOD A LITTLE OF THAT.

HE HOPES YOU ENJOY THE FOOD.

IT'S DELICIOUS, YOUR VALOUR.

LISTEN, I'M SORRY IF I OVERSTEPPED MY BOUNDS AS YOUR SECOND AND TRANSLATOR.

FORMALITIES ARE USELESS. WHY DON'T WE JUST GET TO THE POINT?

BUT WE CAN'T START NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRADED INSULTS,

WE MUST AT LEAST *PRETEND* TO RESPECT THEM AND THEIR TRADITIONS.

BECAUSE, PA'KUR, YOU ARE WINNING THIS WAR.

THE KING NEEDS TO SAVE FACE TO THE MEMBERS OF HIS COURT BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT YOU ARE LESSER THAN HE IS.

AND IF HE CAN HUMILIATE YOU A LITTLE, ALL THE BETTER.

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE THAT LEVEL OF DISRESPECT FROM THESE SPOILED CUBS IN FRONT OF ALL MY PEOPLE WHOM HE'S ENSLAVED?



FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PEOPLE, I HOPE YOU CAN.

THE MORE YOU CAN ENDURE HERE,



THE BETTER TERMS YOU CAN NEGOTIATE FOR THEM.

I HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR MEAL, PA'KUR.

NOW THAT WE'VE EATEN,

I'VE GOT A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU.





IT IS
CUSTOMARY IN
MY KINGDOM TO SATE
ALL OUR GUESTS'
APPETITES.

THIS
IS TARYN,



ONE OF OUR
MOST TALENTED
COURTESANS.



HE
WILL TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF YOU.



PA'KUR!

IF HE
THINKS I WILL
RAPE THIS-



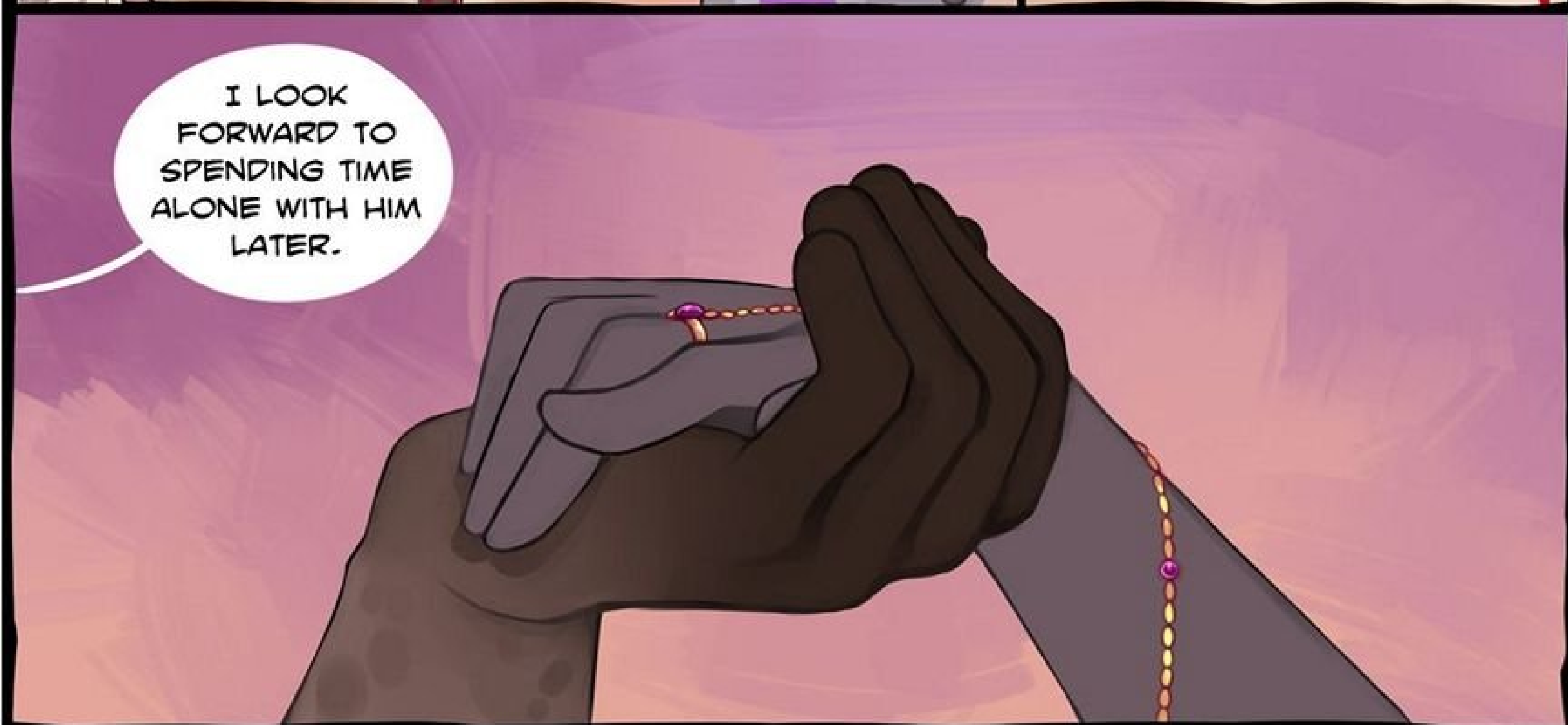
YOU
HAVE ALREADY
REJECTED THE
FIRST GIFT.



ACCEPTING
THIS ONE...

DOESN'T
MEAN YOU
MUST USE
HIM...







ALONE?

HOPE YOU
ENJOY THE
SHOW.

I'M
GOING TO
KILL YOU.



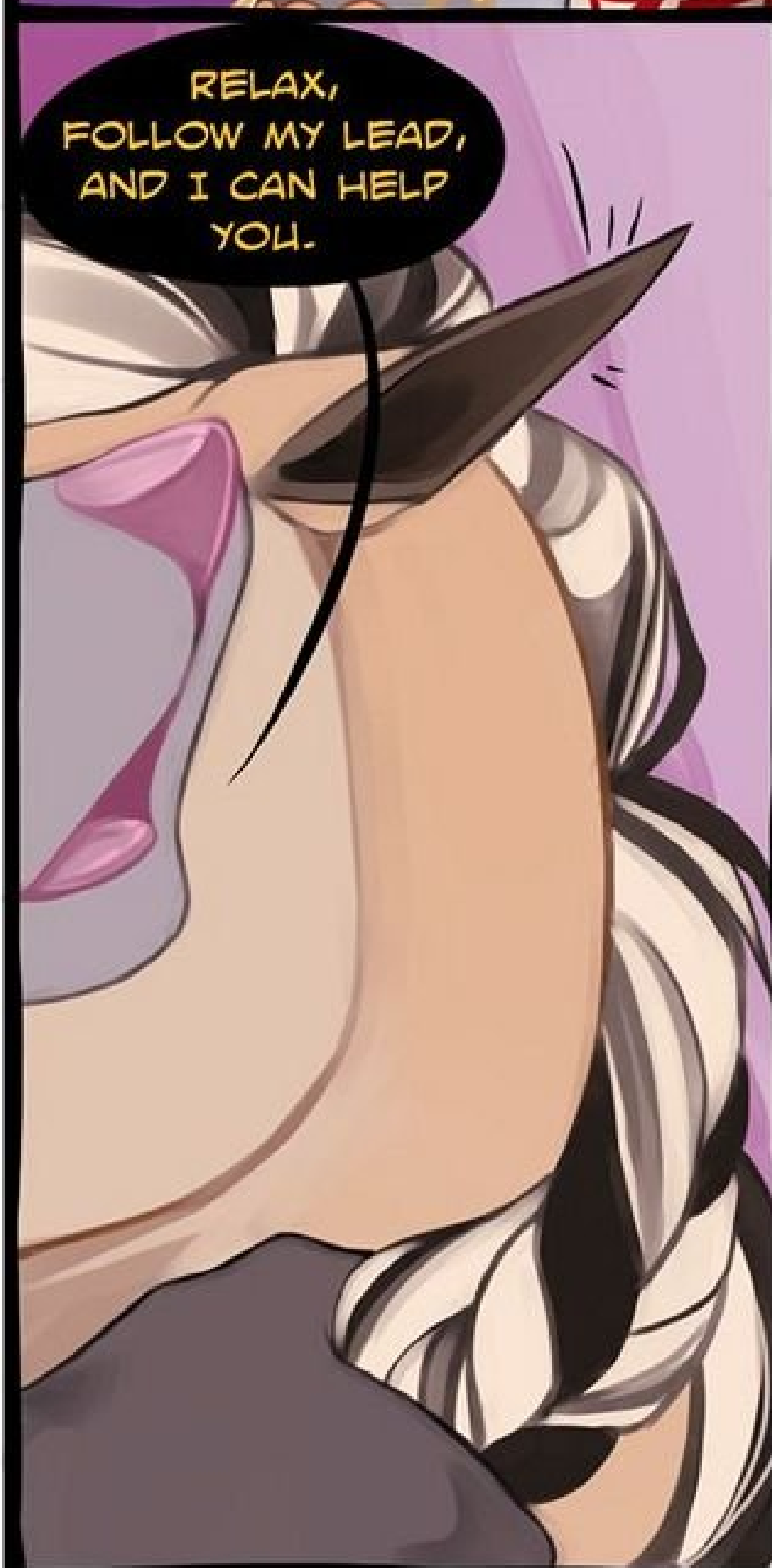
THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR MODESTY
HERE, PA'KUR.



TARYN
WILL HAPPILY
TAKE CARE
OF YOU
NOW,

SO EVERYONE
CAN SEE HOW
SATISFIED YOU
ARE

WITH
MY KINGDOM'S
HOSPITALITY.





I KNOW.

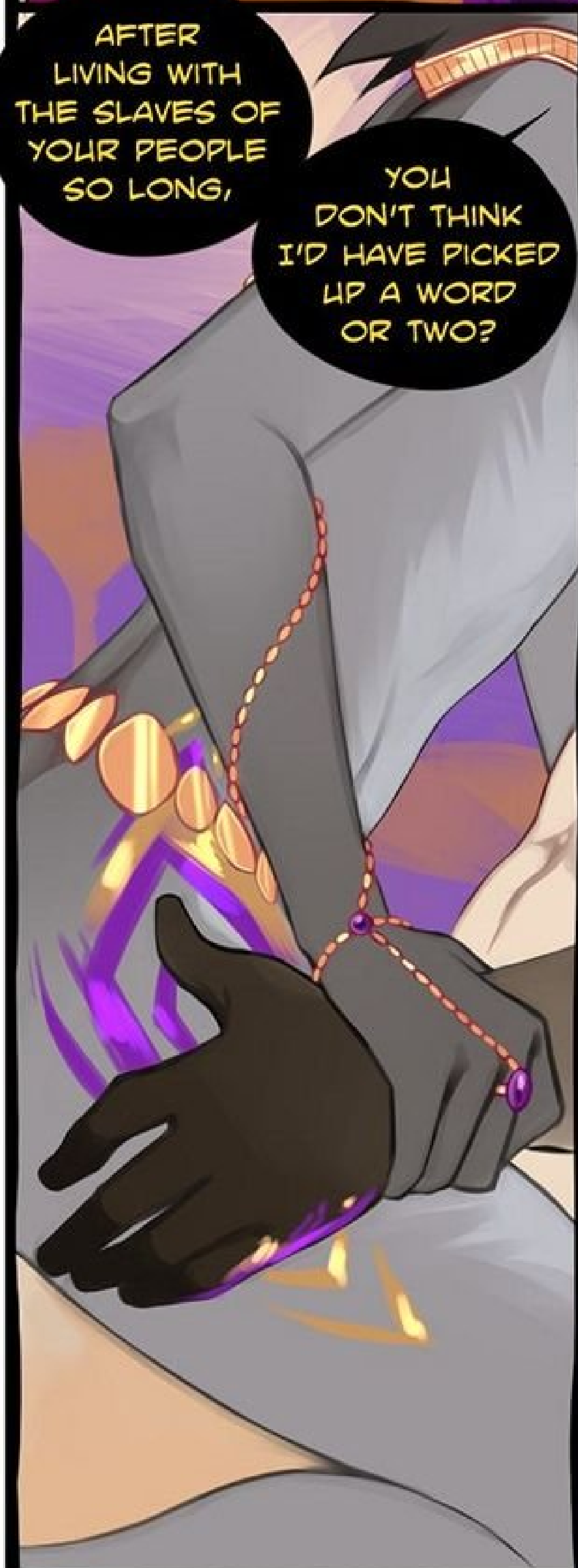
BUT HE
MUST LEARN
THAT IF WE ARE
NOT EQUALS,

THEN HE
IS BENEATH
ME.



EVEN
IF HE MUST LEARN
IT IN FRONT OF ALL
THE PEOPLE HE HOPES
TO SAVE.

PERHAPS
IN THE FUTURE,
HE WILL WEAR THE
SIMPLE GIFT WE SEND
INSTEAD OF INSULTING
HIS HOSTS.



AFTER
LIVING WITH
THE SLAVES OF
YOUR PEOPLE
SO LONG,

YOU
DON'T THINK
I'D HAVE PICKED
UP A WORD
OR TWO?



MFF,
FINE, BUT
I DON'T SEE
HOW A PLEASURE
SLAVE CAN HELP
ME NOW.

HOW DO
I KNOW YOU
AREN'T MEANT
TO LEAD ME INTO
A TRAP?



LISTEN,
AND I'LL
TELL YOU.



THE KING'S
SONS ARE AT
CONSTANT WAR
WITH ONE
ANOTHER.

A'KHYL,
HIS HEIR,
THINKS HE'S IN
LOVE WITH ME.

A POOR
PARTNER FOR
A PRINCE, I'M
SURE YOU'LL
AGREE.



HIS BROTHER,
EZ'YRA SUGGESTED
I BE GIVEN TO YOU
TO TARNISH YOUR
REPUTATION.

HE WANTS
TO DRIVE A'KHYL
INTO MAKING
A SCENE.

IT'S ONE
OF MANY GAMBITS
HE'S MADE FOR
A'KHYL'S STATUS
AS HEIR.



ALL YOU
NEED TO DO,
YOU'VE ALREADY
SET IN MOTION.



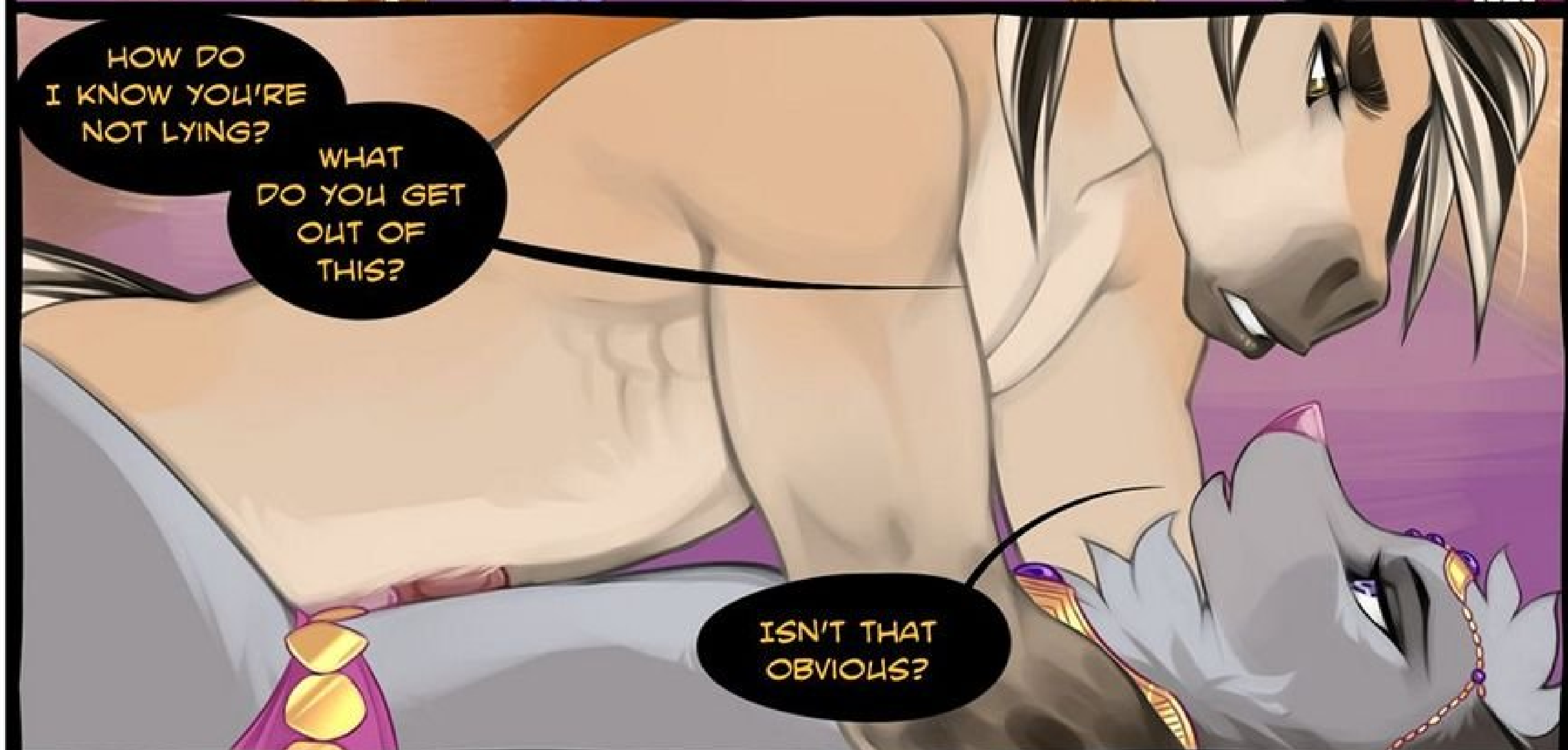
BY TAKING
MY HAND AND NOT
MY SASH, YOU SHOWED
ME THE RESPECT OF
AN EQUAL - A RESPECT
YOU HAVEN'T AFFORDED
OUR DEAR KING.

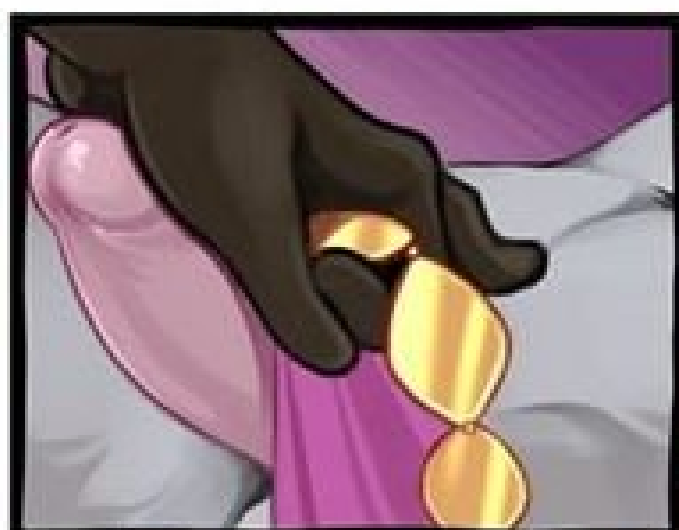
MAKE A PUBLICLY
AMOROUS SCENE
HERE WITH ME,

AND YOU COULD
BRING DOWN THEIR DYNASTY
WITHOUT WASTING A SINGLE
SOLDIER.

FWP



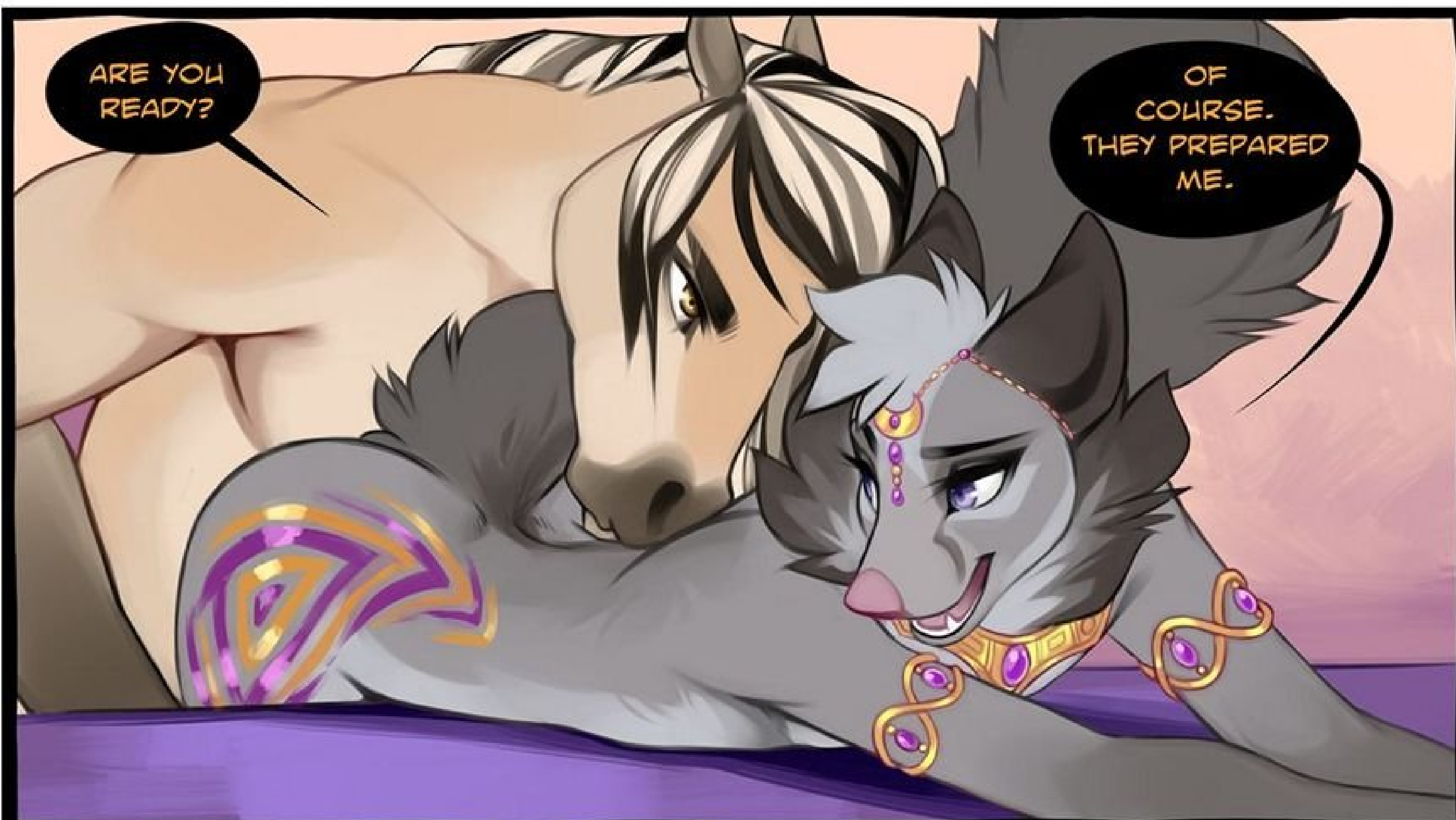












ARE YOU
READY?

OF
COURSE.
THEY PREPARED
ME.



GO
AS HARD
AS YOU
CAN.



I'LL
SCREAM FOR
YOU ANYWAY,
BUT I TRUST
YOU TO MAKE
IT SEEM
REALISTI-

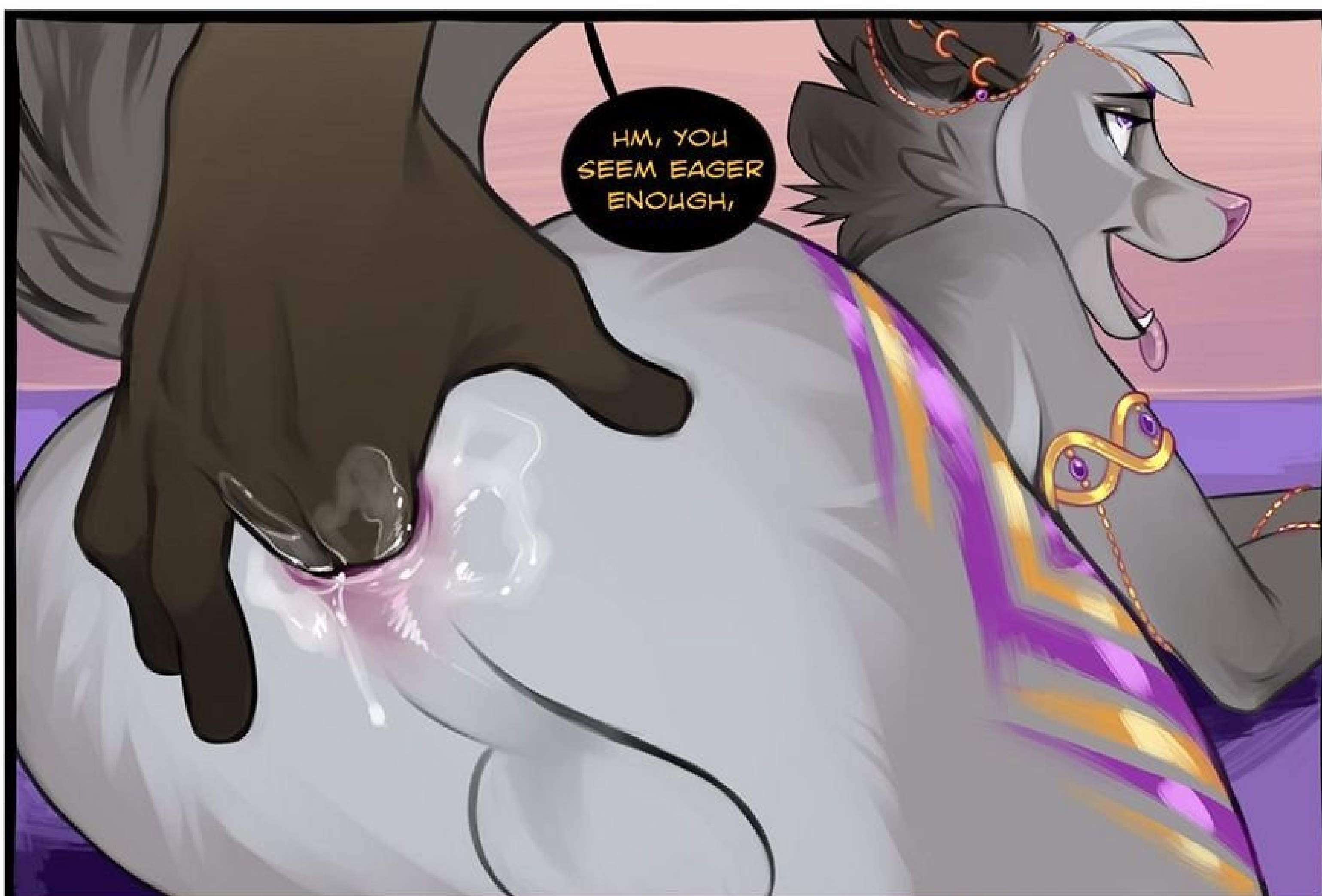
AAAAHHH!



JUST MAKING
SURE THEY DID A
GOOD JOB.

PANT

PANT











AH, FLUCK,
THAT'S GOOD.



SOMETHING
TO SAY, BIG
BROTHER?

OR DOES
THE FOX HAVE
YOUR TONGUE?



AND NOW
FOR THE COUP
DE GRACE.



YOU MUST PUT A STOP TO IT, I WON'T SIT IDELY BY AND WATCH MY-

FATHER, I WON'T STAND FOR THIS A MOMENT LONGER!



YOUR WHAT? YOUR WHORE IS DOING HIS DUTY.



THE BARBARIAN'S TASTES ARE STRANGE.



THERE ARE PLENTY OTHER UNSULLIED WHORES TO SATISFY YOU, I'M SURE.



BUT I-

SIT DOWN NOW, A'KHYL

I WON'T!!!

















WITHOUT YOUR HELP TODAY, THIS PLAN OF OURS MIGHT HAVE GONE VERY WRONG.

AND WITHOUT YOU, THE KING WOULD HAVE PROBABLY EXECUTED ME BY NOW.

STILL, I OWE YOU A THANK YOU.



IF YOU WANT TO THANK ME, I CAN THINK OF A FEW WAYS.

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D BE TIRED OF SEX AFTER YOUR TIME IN THE CASTLE?

NOT ALL WHORES HATE THEIR WORK, JUST SOME OF THEIR CLIENTS.



BUT I DID HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND...

OH?



LISTEN CLOSELY.





TO BE CONTINUED IN...

THE SWORD OF SOULS