

THAT CAMPING
TRIP.

OF COURSE
I REMEMBER.



IT WAS THE
FIRST CAMPING
TRIP ALL THREE
OF US PLANNED.

NO ONE CAN
STAY CALM
TO HAVE IT
CANCELLED AT
THE LAST
MINUTE.

DAD HAD A HARD TIME
DEALING WITH YOU AND
DERRICK INSISTING TO
TAKE US CAMPING NO
MATTER WHAT.

I SEE WHAT
YOU ARE
GETTING TO.



I COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU PREPARED A CAMPING SITE AT THE CORNER OF THE VINEYARD.



YOU DID IT ALL BY YOURSELF WHILE AUNT SOPHIA TOOK CARE OF DERRICK AND I.

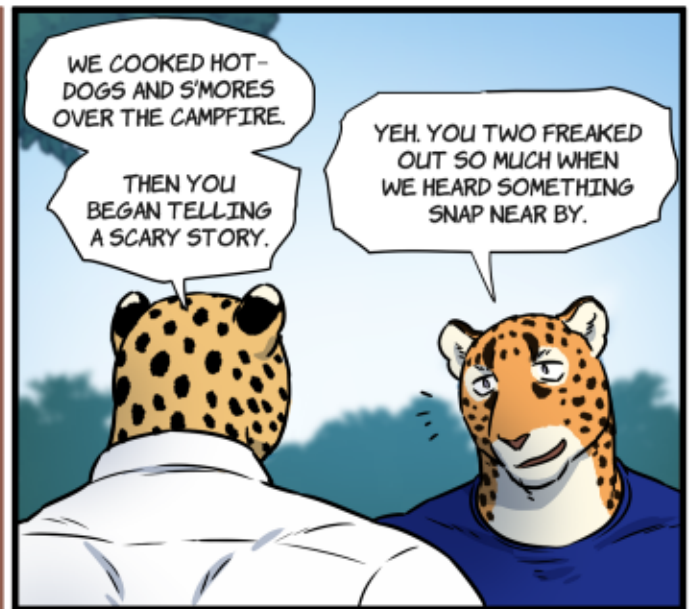


I WANTED TO MAKE IT A SURPRISE FOR YOU TWO.



BUT YOU BOTH GOT SO STIRRED UP AND DIVED RIGHT ON TO ME.

I THOUGHT YOU TWO WILL STRANGLE ME FROM HUGGING ME SO HARD.



WE COOKED HOT-DOGS AND S'MORES OVER THE CAMPFIRE.

THEN YOU BEGAN TELLING A SCARY STORY.

YEH, YOU TWO FREAKED OUT SO MUCH WHEN WE HEARD SOMETHING SNAP NEAR BY.



HANG ON. I REMEMBER YOU SHREAMING FROM THE SOUND. I SAW THAT FOR SURE.

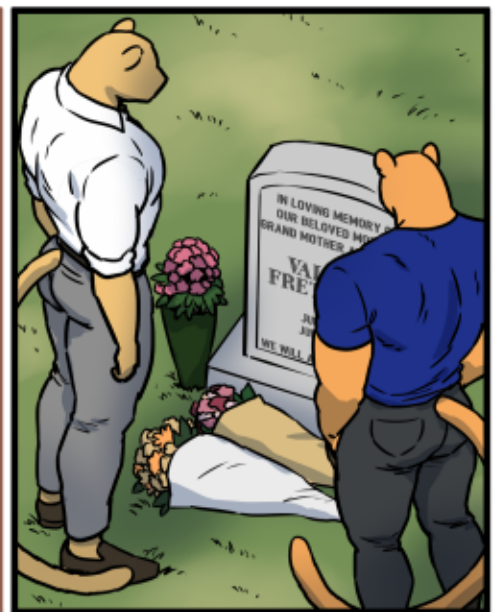
FORGET ABOUT IT.

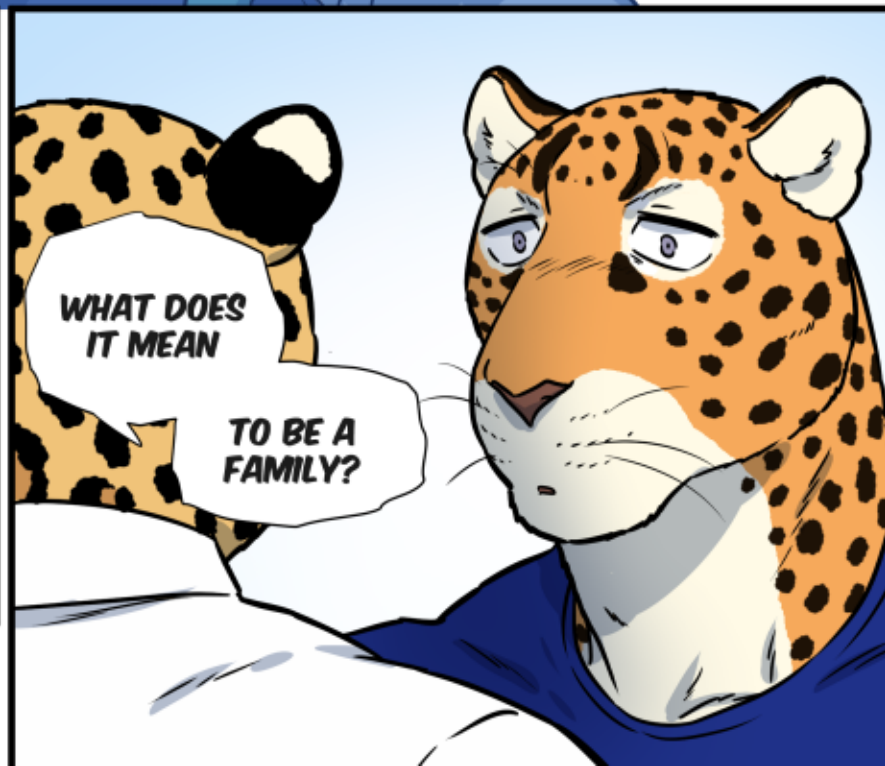
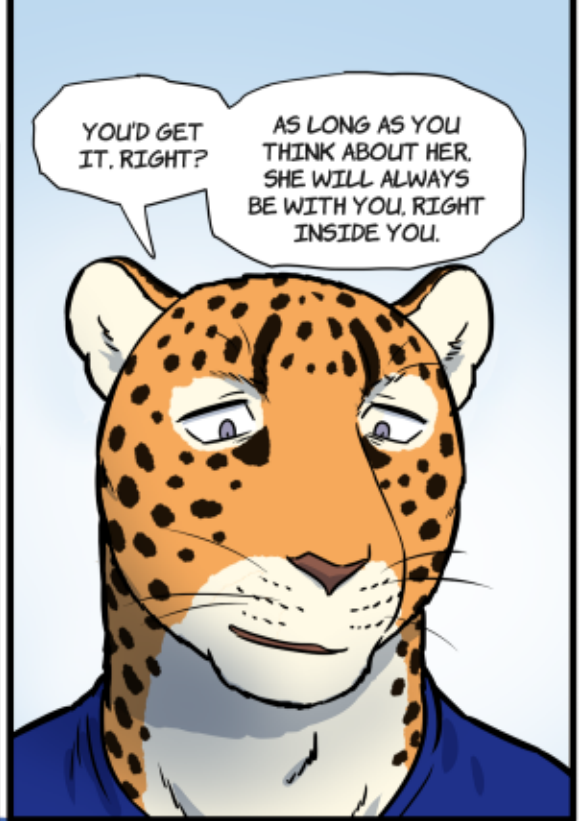


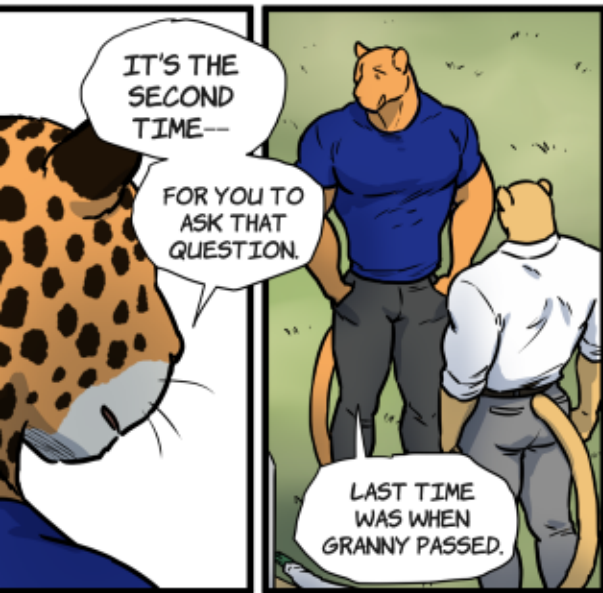
IT WAS JUST MOM BRINGING HOT COCOA AND EXTRA BLANKETS FOR US.

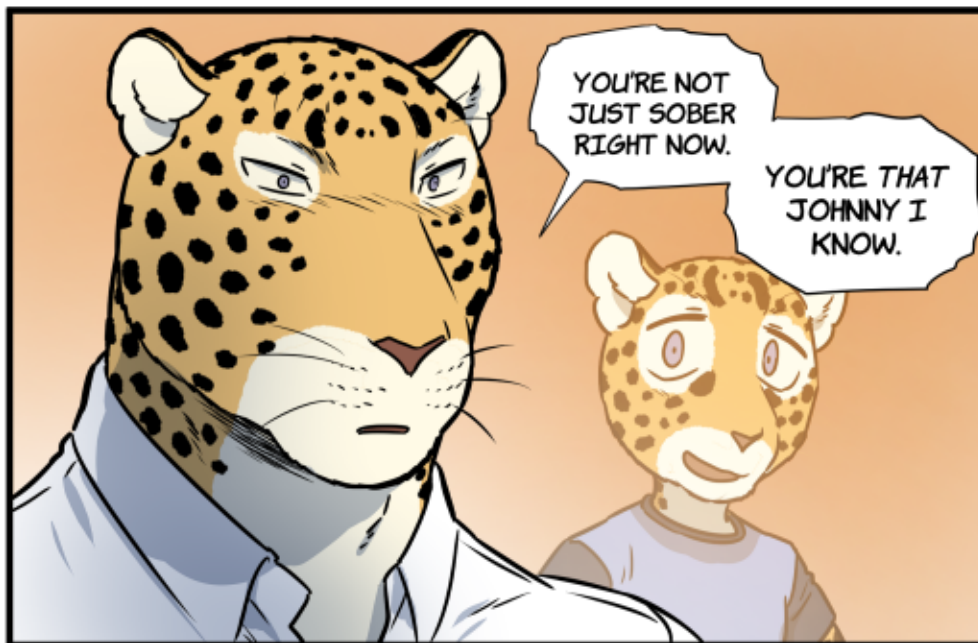
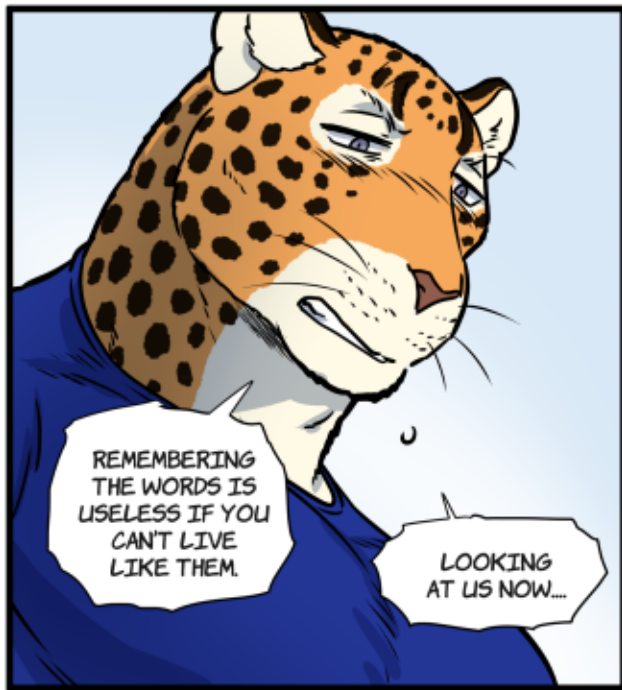


SHE KEPT LAUGHING LOOKING AT OUR FACE.











AND AT THE SAME TIME, HE TOLD ME ABOUT MOM'S CONDITION.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO BE A WAKE-UP CALL FOR ANY IDIOT.



WITH MY SOBER MIND, I HAD TO FACE WHAT A HUGE MORON I WAS.

SO I THOUGHT BACK WHAT I DID IN THE PAST.



I ADMITTED MYSELF TO A HOSPITAL DAD INTRODUCED ME.

I WENT THROUGH A PROGRAM TO SOBER UP AND TREAT MY DEPENDENCE.



WHEN I MET MOM, I TOLD HER WHAT WAS IN MY MIND, AND SHE CRIED WITH ME.

I PROMISED HER I WILL APOLOGIZE TO YOU SOME DAY...

BUT I COULDN'T MAN UP UNTIL TODAY.



I WAS GOING TO ASK MOM TO HELP ME GET THE GUTS.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER AND MOTHER AND SISTER
VALORIE FRETCHMAN
JULY 1, 1964
JUNE 6, 2014
WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

MAYBE IT WAS MOM WHO BROUGHT US HERE.



MOM TOLD ME WHAT YOU SAID TO HER IN THE HOSPITAL.



BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.

TELL ME, WILL YOU?



WHEN YOU CAME OUT THE FIRST TIME.

I DIDN'T MIND IT AT ALL.

YOU WERE STILL MY LITTLE BROTHER.



LIKE I SAID BEFORE, ONCE EVERYONE IN SCHOOL FOUND OUT, MY FRIENDS STARTED TO TEASE ME ABOUT YOU.



FEW OF THEM GAVE ME A CHOICE. TO HAVE NO FRIENDS...

OR TO KEEP THEM AS FRIENDS BY BULLYING YOU WITH THEM.



AS A MORON, I CHOSE TO HAVE "FRIENDS" INSTEAD OF BEING YOUR BIG BRO.

I DIDN'T EVEN THINK HOW MUCH THAT WOULD HURT YOU.



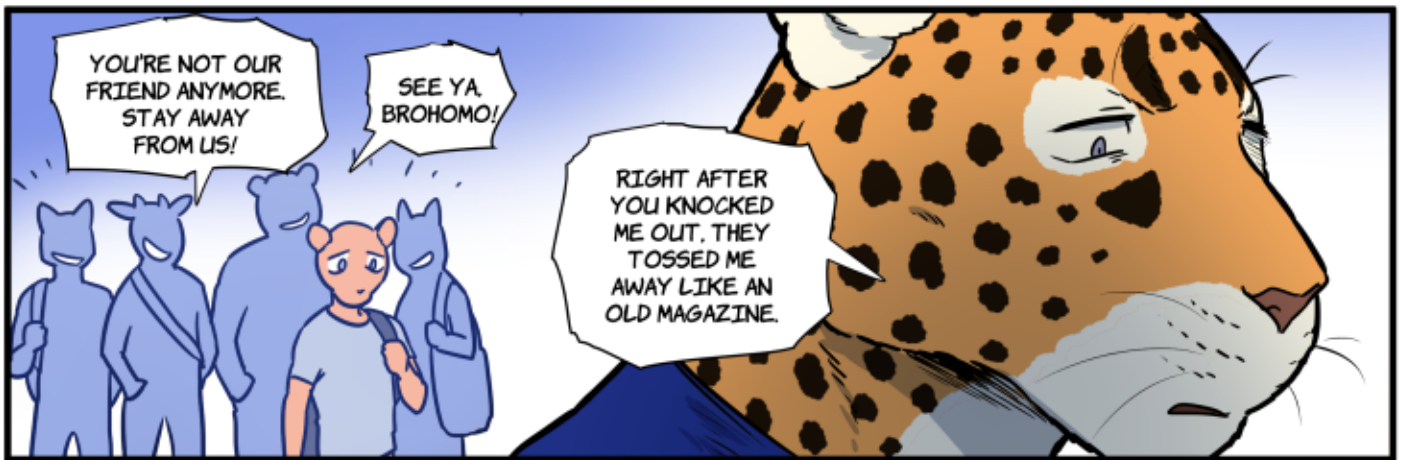
I THOUGHT THE SMALL COMMUNITY WAS EVERYTHING I HAD BACK THEN.

BUT NOW I GET IT. THEY WERE JUST USING ME TO KILL TIME.

I WASN'T THEIR FRIEND RIGHT FROM THE START.



THEY HAD A FEW LAUGHS FROM TAKING CONTROL OF ME, BULLYING YOU.

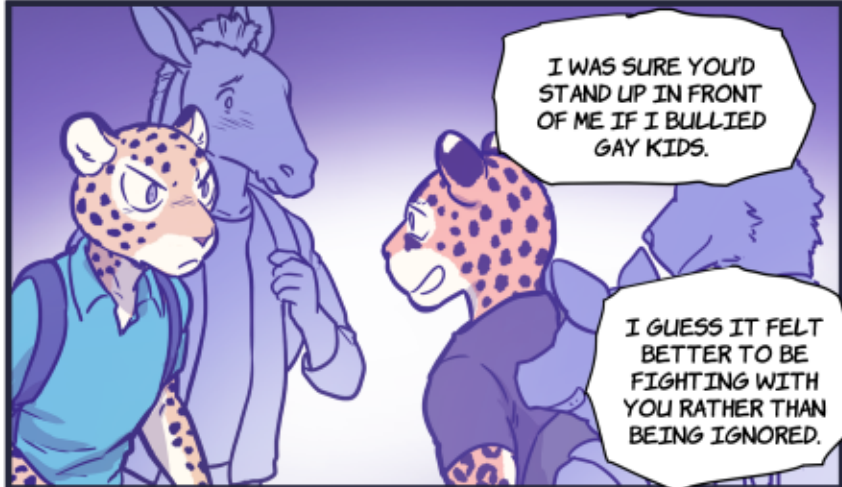




SO I DECIDED TO LOCK UP MY FEELINGS, IGNORING THE SENSE OF GUILT AND ALL.



SOON, I FOUND NEW MORONS TO TAG UP WITH, TEASING OTHER GAY KIDS.



I WAS SURE YOU'D STAND UP IN FRONT OF ME IF I BULLIED GAY KIDS.

I GUESS IT FELT BETTER TO BE FIGHTING WITH YOU RATHER THAN BEING IGNORED.



I WAS MAD WHEN YOU FIRST HIT ME...

BUT I THINK I WAS GLAD AT THE SAME TIME, GETTING THE PUNISHMENT I DESERVED.



IT WASN'T JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.

I WAS TRYING TO HIDE THE GUILT I HAD, EVEN FROM MYSELF. I USED YOU AND THE GAY PEOPLE TO BLAME, SO I COULD HOLD A SENSE OF FALSE-SECURITY.



BY PRETENDING TO BE A "HOMOPHOBE" -WHICH I WASN'T- I COULD STAY AWAY FROM THE THINGS THAT WAS DAUNTING ME FROM THE INSIDE.

I CONTINUED TO DECEIVE MYSELF AND EVERYONE FOR YEARS.

EVEN AFTER YOU AND TYSON BEGAN DATING, I KEPT SAYING TERRIBLE THINGS TO BOTH OF YOU.



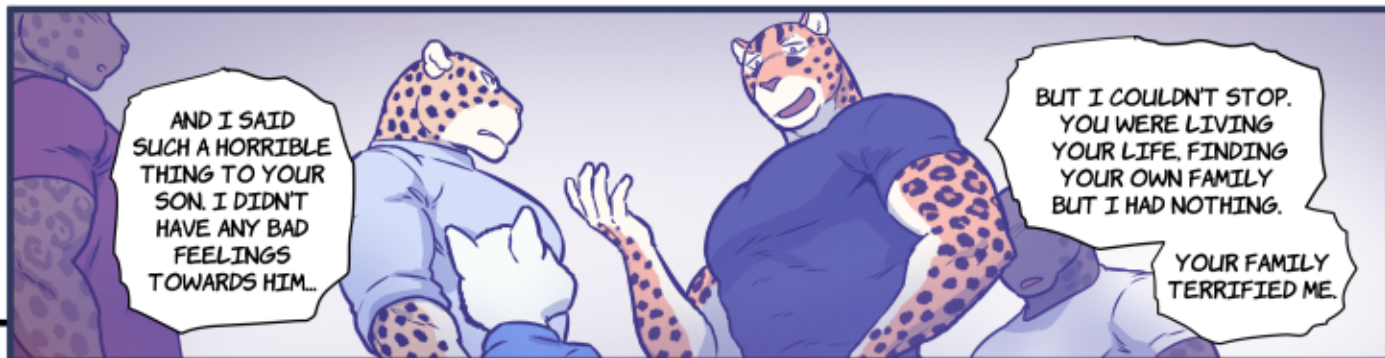
HONESTLY, IT WAS PARTLY FROM BEING JEALOUS.



AND ALSO FROM MY CONCERN THAT TYSON MIGHT LEAVE YOU, SCARRING YOU BAD ONE DAY.



I KNEW YOU WEREN'T GOOD AT SAYING FAREWELLS.



AND I SAID SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO YOUR SON. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY BAD FEELINGS TOWARDS HIM.

BUT I COULDN'T STOP. YOU WERE LIVING YOUR LIFE, FINDING YOUR OWN FAMILY BUT I HAD NOTHING.

YOUR FAMILY TERRIFIED ME.

ME BEING LIKE THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT. OR EVEN DAD'S OR MOM'S FAULT...

IT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T LOOK AT WHAT IT WAS ALWAYS INSIDE ME.



I CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. I HURT YOU AND EVERYONE.



IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE...



**TOBIAS...
I'M SO SORRY.**

**I'M SORRY FOR
EVERY STUPID
THING I DID...**



**I WON'T ASK FOR
AN IMMEDIATE
FORGIVENESS.**



**BUT I'LL
TRY TO BE
THE BROTHER
YOU ONCE...**





I FORGIVE YOU.



THERE'S NO NEED TO PUNISH YOURSELF.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE.



TOBIAS...



WE WERE BOTH VERY STUPID. WEREN'T WE?

YEH...WHAT A GREAT PAIR OF BROTHERS.