

In a tavern somewhere...

Barkeep,
another!

Right away
sir...



'Alrauni Creo'...

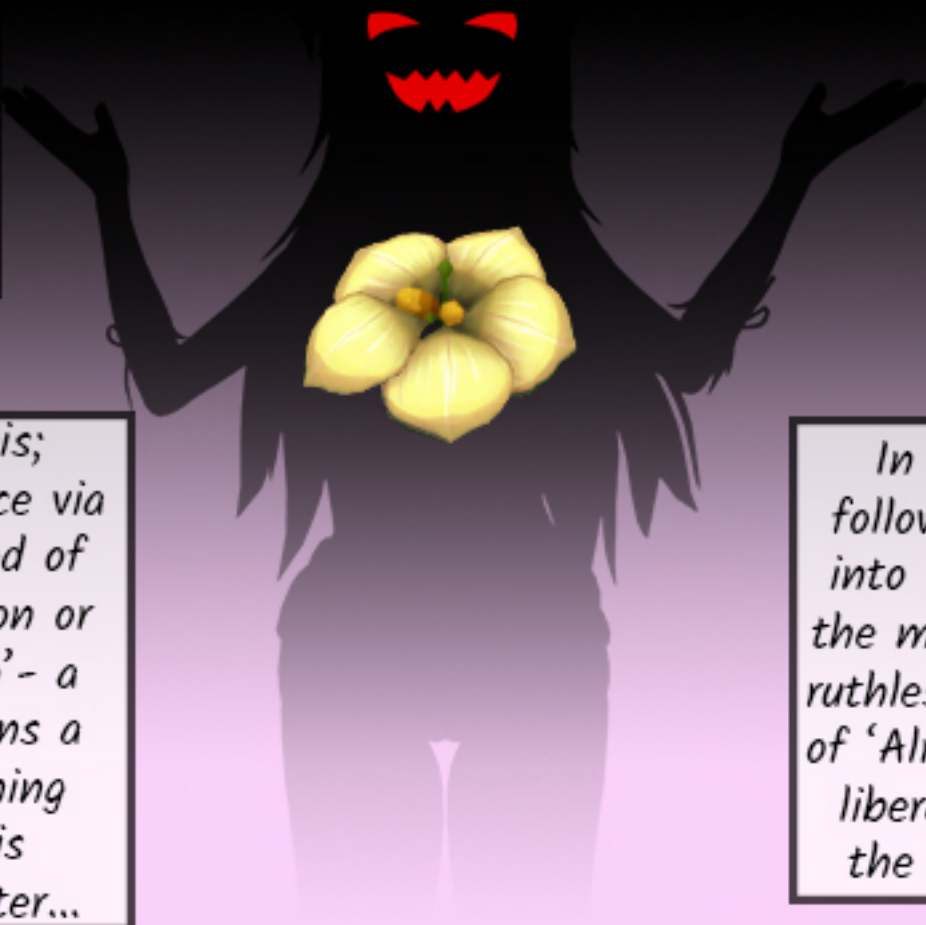
Wanted



His Royal Highness has placed
a bounty for a specialist to
destroy a dangerous specimen of
flora. Genus: 'Alrauni Creo'. Do
not attempt to destroy unless
knowledgeable in magical
horticulture...



Alraunes have the ability to ensnare men and women with their sweet perfumed scents, ridding those affected of their will to fight.



Ever since the convergence of the monster world and our own, human and elven life has gotten considerably more difficult.

Worse than this; they can reproduce via the usual method of human procreation or by 'Alrauni Creo' - a plant that poisons a body, transforming them into this humanoid monster...

In the wars that followed the invasion into our world one of the most effective and ruthless races was that of 'Alraunes', who were liberally deployed by the 'Monster Lord'.

In the past it was much easier to deal with alraune as they were slow, being half flower. But... they've changed, moving easily now on two legs and planting their evil flowers where they go... My friend Brian went after this bounty three days ago... I can't help but worry.



Hey kid, you okay? You've been burnin' a hole through that parchment a while.

Kid? My name's Jack and I'm 18!



Oh, excuse me!
So watchya got there?
A bounty?

Look old timer,
I get that you must
be lonely but I'm not
interested in a-



snatch

Your friend?
Now ya got me
plumb interested. What
are you going for?
A slime?

What?
Hey!

I noticed that
sword o' yours.
So you must have
to be a bounty
hunter.

I'm not
a bounty hunter
old man, I only
bought this to save
my friend.



Bwahahaha!

What?
Why are you
laughing?

Hrm?





Hey! No Fighting! If you wanna do that take it outside!

Dumb kid, couldn't fight or take a hit! How are you gonna take on an Alraune if one's out there huh?!

Uhhhhhhhhhhh....

The old man was right; I couldn't fight to save my life. If there is a chance to save Brian from whatever danger he's gotten into, no matter how slim, I have to take it.



Alraune often use magic to grow fields of flowers...



'Alraune are dangerous at close range due to their scent'...

I should be closing in on where the bounty target is...



After licking his wounds...

This encyclopedia's helpful...

I searched around for a couple of hours hoping to find any signs of Brian all the while thinking about the irony of bounties luring people into danger after specifically warning them of how dangerous a target can be. Hidden in the flowers I finally found something...

I... think I may be here...
Let's be careful now...



Brian!

Brian it's gonna get dark soon, are you out there?

The Alrauni Creo... I don't want to get closer. The bounty asked for the flower to get the reward. It looks dead but I value my life more than coin, unlike Brian.



I continued on, not caring for the dwindling light. I had a sinking feeling that the longer Brian was out here the less of a chance I would find him alive... or in a worse condition. My search found me at a long abandoned home when, at long last, I found something.



Brian...

Please Gods,
don't be an Alraune
nearby...



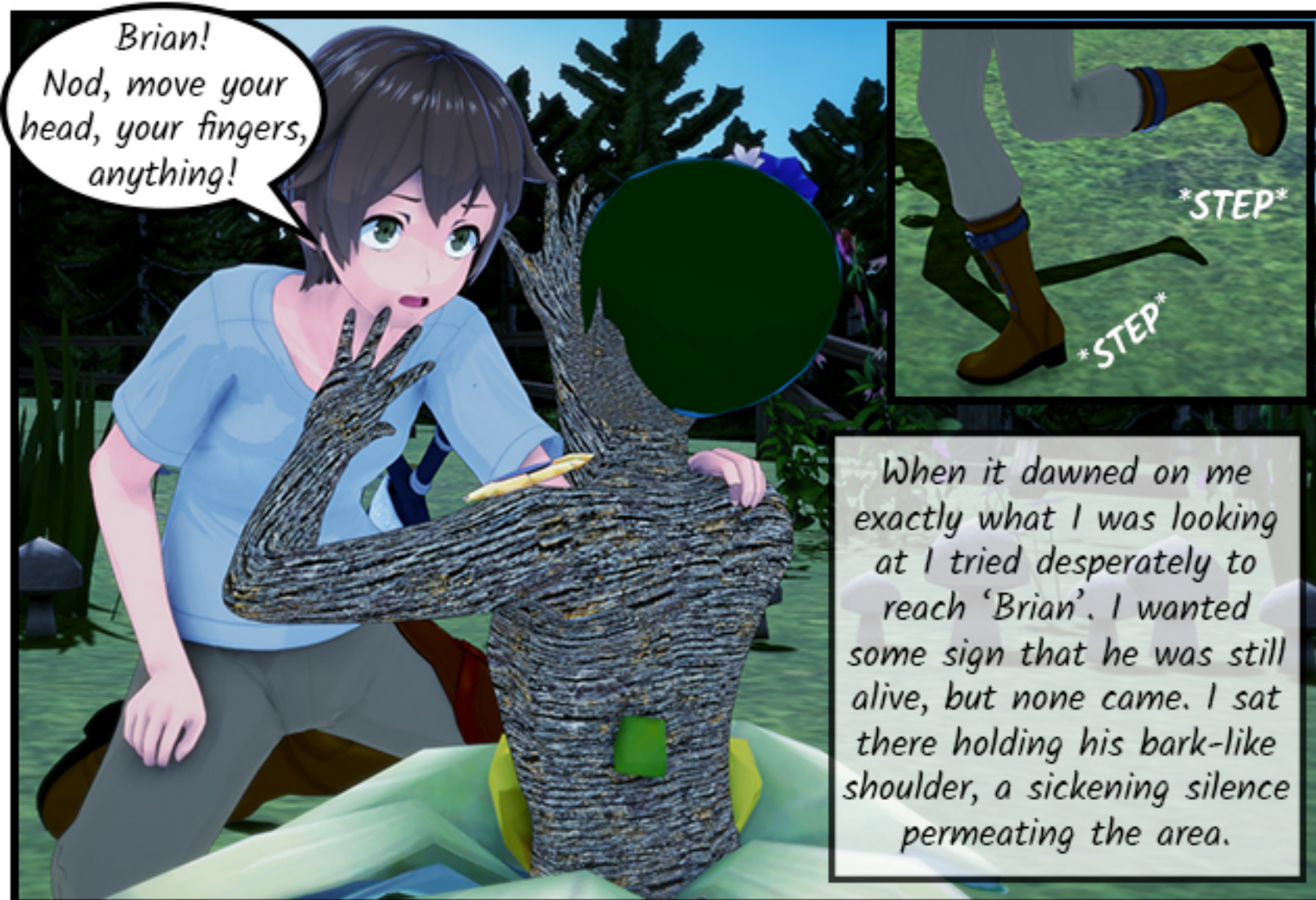
Wha-



There's something over
there... is it a statue?



No...



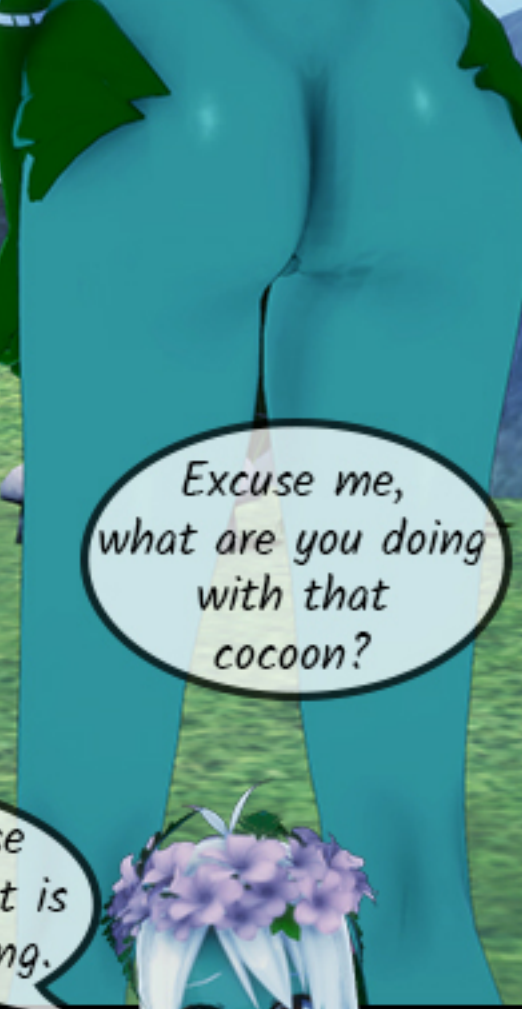
When it dawned on me exactly what I was looking at I tried desperately to reach 'Brian'. I wanted some sign that he was still alive, but none came. I sat there holding his bark-like shoulder, a sickening silence permeating the area.



I-
I'll tell your parents
buddy, rest
easy.



Brian's death didn't look peaceful, his arms were out seemingly in defence and his wooden face had some semblance of fear to it.



Excuse me, what are you doing with that cocoon?



Could you please not stare at it? It is quite embarrassing.

I don't know how to fight, but I don't have to; a lucky swing is all I need.


I knew I wouldn't have the luck to avoid an Alraune. I bet this is the same bitch that killed my friend!



GRIP


Alright...





Hyaaaahhhhhh!

One hit,
one hit shall
do it!



STOP!
PLEASE!



What are
you doing with
that?

Just one
hit! Come
on!

HRRGHHHNN!!!

That sweet smell-!

sniff

huff

Haa... I can't
stop sniffing
this scent...

I... came...

DROP

I lost my
friend and now
I'm going to lose
my life to an
Al-

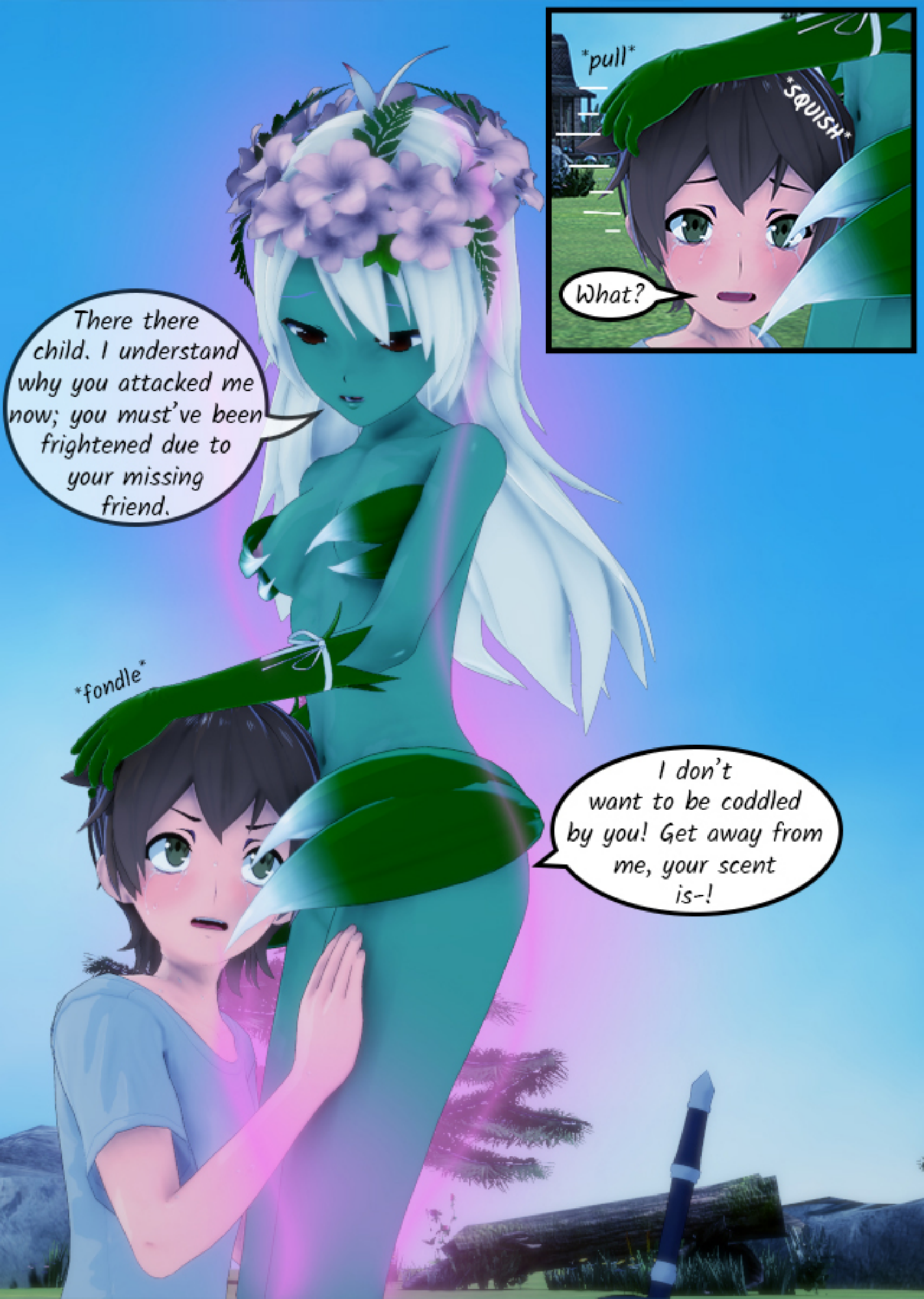
I've lost...

There there child. I understand why you attacked me now; you must've been frightened due to your missing friend.

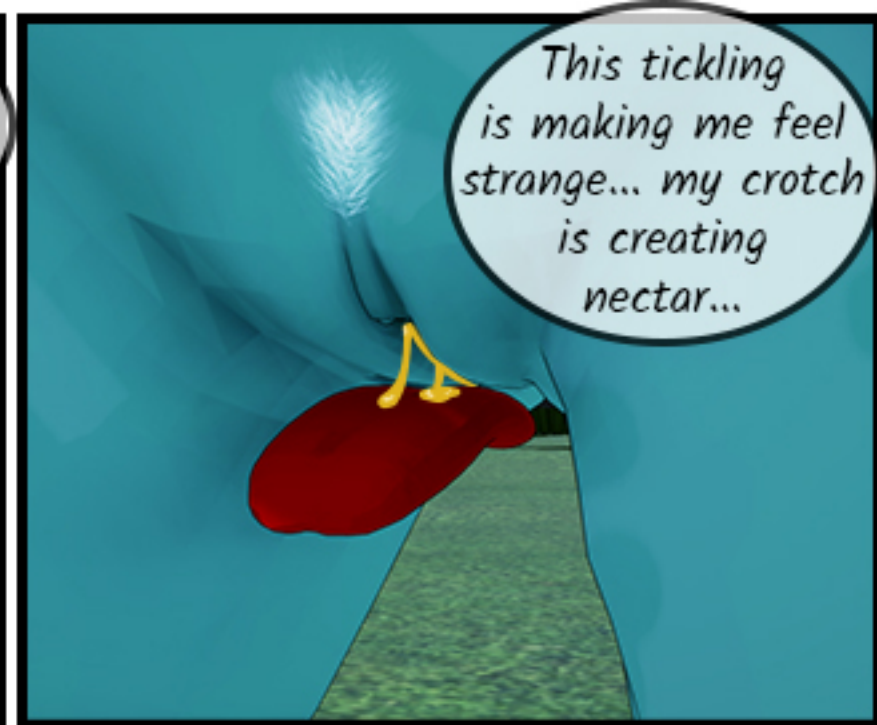


fondle

I don't want to be coddled by you! Get away from me, your scent is-!







Several minutes of thorough licking later.

