

WAYRIFT WEBCOMIC



BOOK 1 INTRODUCTION

©2002-2022 Wayrift
<http://www.wayrift.com>

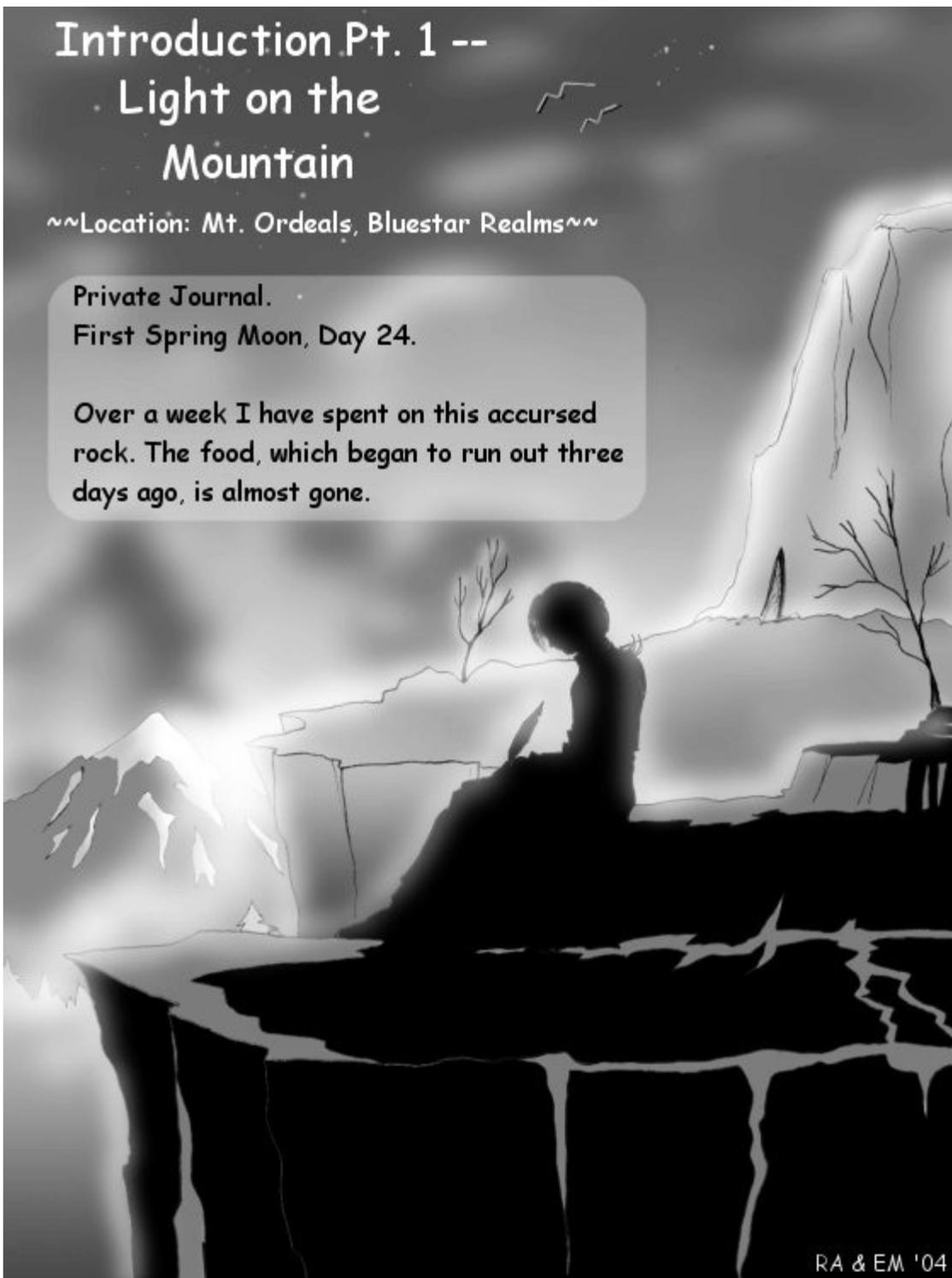
Introduction Pt. 1 -- Light on the Mountain

~~Location: Mt. Ordeals, Bluestar Realms~~

Private Journal.

First Spring Moon, Day 24.

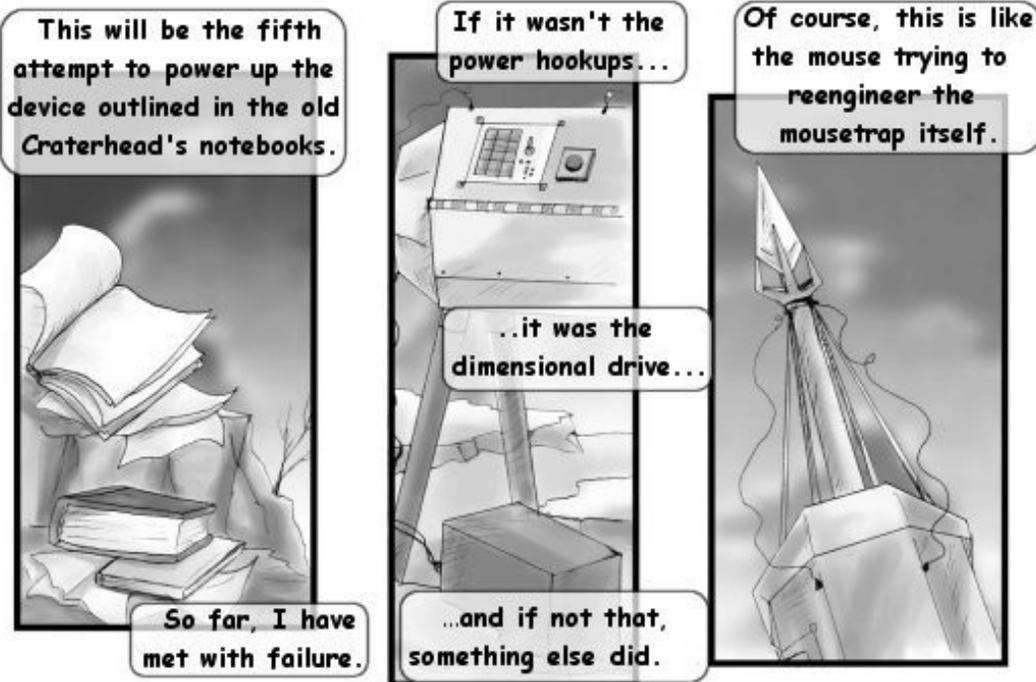
Over a week I have spent on this accursed rock. The food, which began to run out three days ago, is almost gone.



Kory: *sits along a flat rock, writing in his journal*

"Private Journal. First Spring Moon, Day 24.

Over a week I have spent on this accursed rock. The food, which began to run out three days ago, is almost gone."



"This will be the fifth attempt to power up the device outlined in the old Craterhead's notebooks. So far, I have met with failure. If it wasn't the power hookups, it was the dimensional drive, and if not that, something else in this .

Of course, this is like the mouse trying to reengineer the mousetrap itself. A simple creature, trying to figure out the secrets of the Lunarian masters... well... A certain Lunarian Master...

Who also happened to be my best friend..."



RA & EM '04

spread out around Kory are several books... and in the corner of his journal, is a clipping of Belinda Bubbles... he continues to write...

"I had never planned on coming back up here. This place only brings memories of darkness... memories of death... memories of a past that cannot be reclaimed, and a family that was wiped away to save me.

A place without hope..."

A shadow appears behind him, observing

"...or so I thought..."



Kory: Huh?

shadow disappears

Kory: *shrugs and moves on, walking up towards the setup of a device -- looking complicated... like a transmitter tower.*

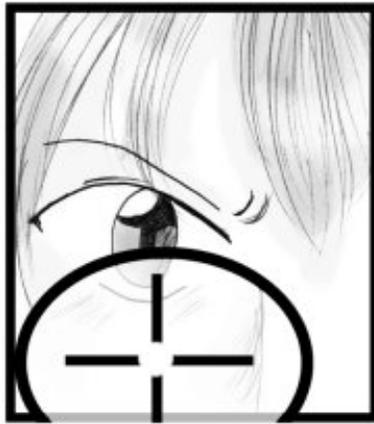
Kory: Twilight... Mt. Ordeals, Third Station... My faaavorite place to be on a beautiful spring evening. *sarcasm* And so... we try again.



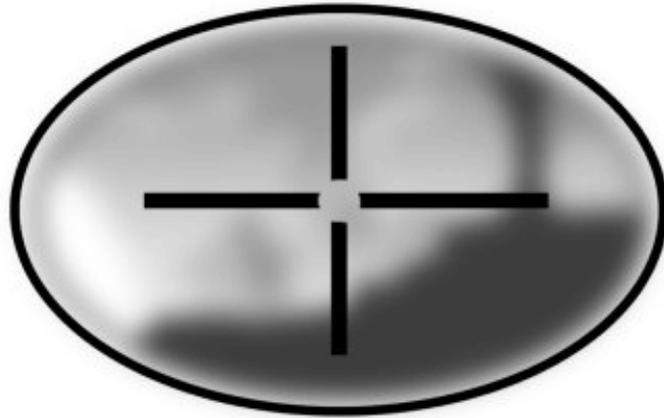
"I had heard the stories of course... of the voice on the mountain... of ghosts on this mountain.

There had always been stories, even from the days that I first visited over two decades ago. Afterall, this place is a graveyard.

It was only when I heard the stories of the young Captain who climbed the mountain and returned a Paladin that I began to suspect. And when that confounded Paladin -- now king of Baron, may I add -- refused to grant me audience, I grew even more curious..."



~squint~



Focus



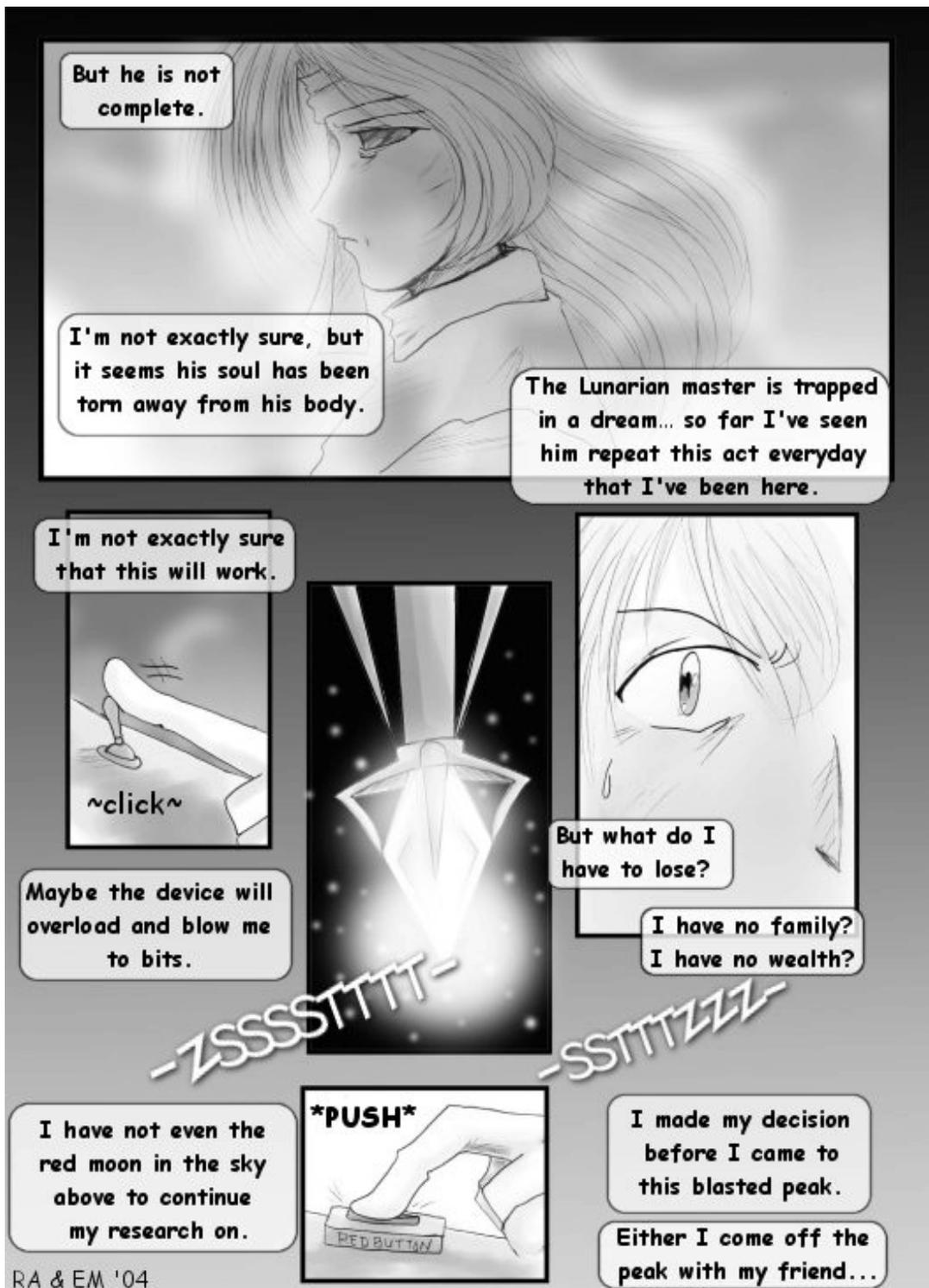
Focus



Kory: *focuses the machine and watches as the ghost* begins to materialize in his aim*

"At first, I didn't believe my eyes... but it was -him.- "

**= This is the spirit of KluYa, who was once Kory's best friend. Kory has considered KluYa and his whole family to be dead for over 20 years.*



"But -he- is not complete. I'm not exactly sure, but it seems his soul has been torn away from his body. The Lunarian master is trapped in a dream... so far, I've seen him repeat this act everyday that I've been here.*"

machine begins to glow and light up

"I'm not exactly sure that this will work. Maybe the device will overload and blow me to bits. But what do I have to lose? I have no family? I have no wealth? I have not even the red moon in the sky above to continue my research on. I made my decision before I came to this blasted peak."

aims at the ghost.. KY with hollow empty eyes, sitting on the ledge of the mountain

"Either I come off the peak with my friend..."

pushes the red button

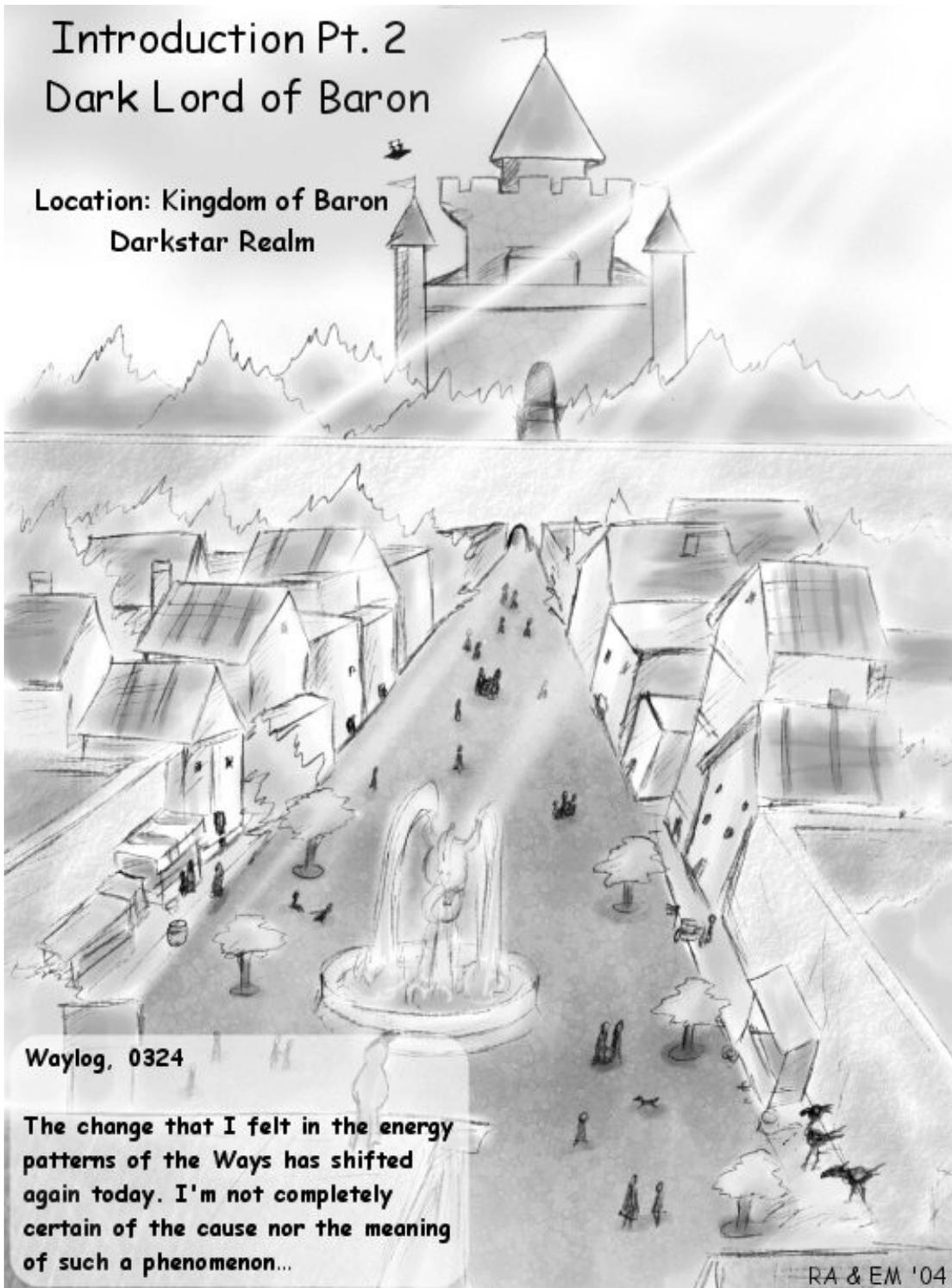


"..or I don't leave at all."

peak of the mountain lights up, a vortex of swirling light overhead... and then there is nothing where Kory and KY were once standing

Introduction Pt. 2 Dark Lord of Baron

Location: Kingdom of Baron
Darkstar Realm

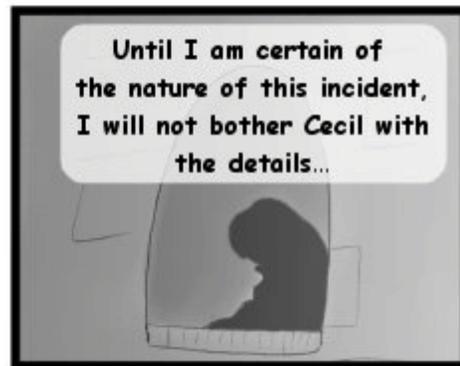


Waylog, 0324

The change that I felt in the energy patterns of the Ways has shifted again today. I'm not completely certain of the cause nor the meaning of such a phenomenon...

"Waylog, 0324

The change that I felt in the energy patterns of the Ways has shifted again today. I'm not completely certain of the cause nor the meaning of such a phenomenon..."

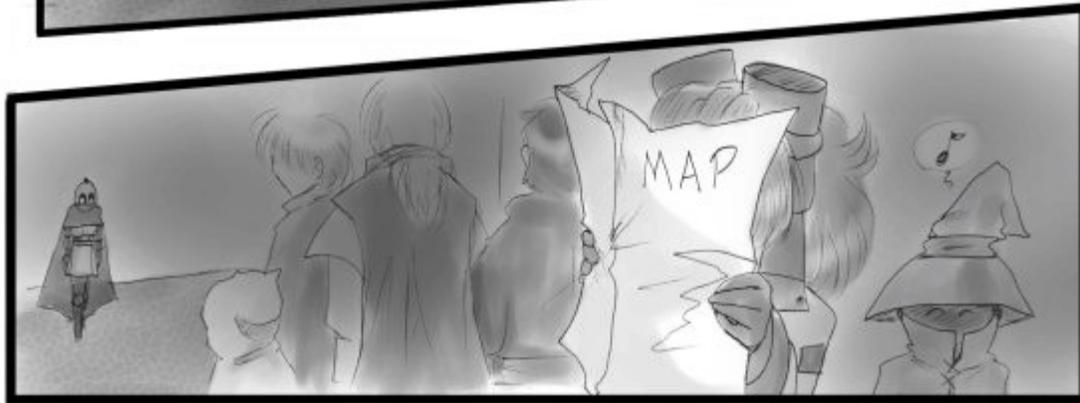


RA & EM '04

"...much less the effects that it may have on the humans living in this dimension. Still, I've gathered all necessary provisions and plan on making a detailed exploration into the matter myself.

"Until I am certain of the nature of this incident, I will not bother Cecil with the details... If all goes according to my plans, I will return with an update of my studies at 0325.
-GBY"

****Note**** This is, of course, an excerpt from Ben's personal study log...



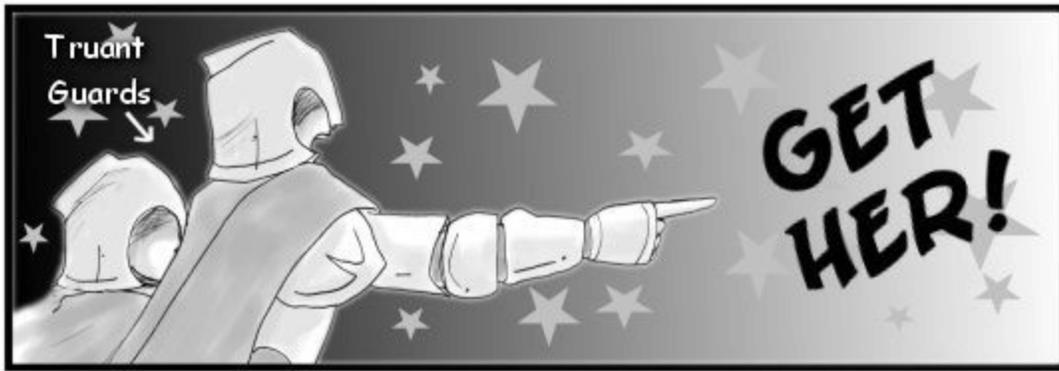
RA & EM '04

--In the streets of Baron...--

people standing at the corner... Leona being one of them, hiding behind a map of Baron

shout There she is!

Leona: *peers from behind the map with narrowed eyes*



Guard: *points right at Leona* Get her!

Leona: *gives a teasing evil smile, tongue stuck out, and dashes, leaving the map flying*

Guards: *chase her* HALT! STOP RIGHT THERE!



Leona: *hops over a wooden fence in an alley* A little late today, aren't we?

TGuard: You're not getting away this time! *trying to follow her* This is the third time this week, Pollendina!

Leona: *dashing along the edges of the brick fences, almost dancing* ~The Baronian Truant Patrol... You'd think that they'd give it up already!~

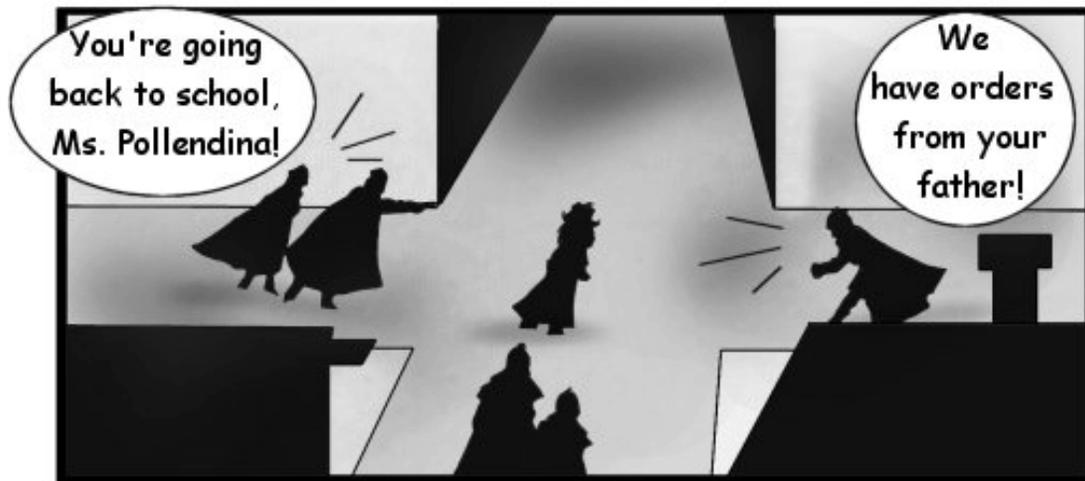


TGuard: *tries to grab for her foot* Headmistress Grizelda will hear about this--!

Leona: *gives him the boot... to the head literally*

TGuard: Ahhh!

Leona: *slides down the roof* ~Shiva... they're getting smarter.... Cecil's training them well.... But there's no way I'm going back to that Ladies School of Ettiquite crud!~



RA & EM '04

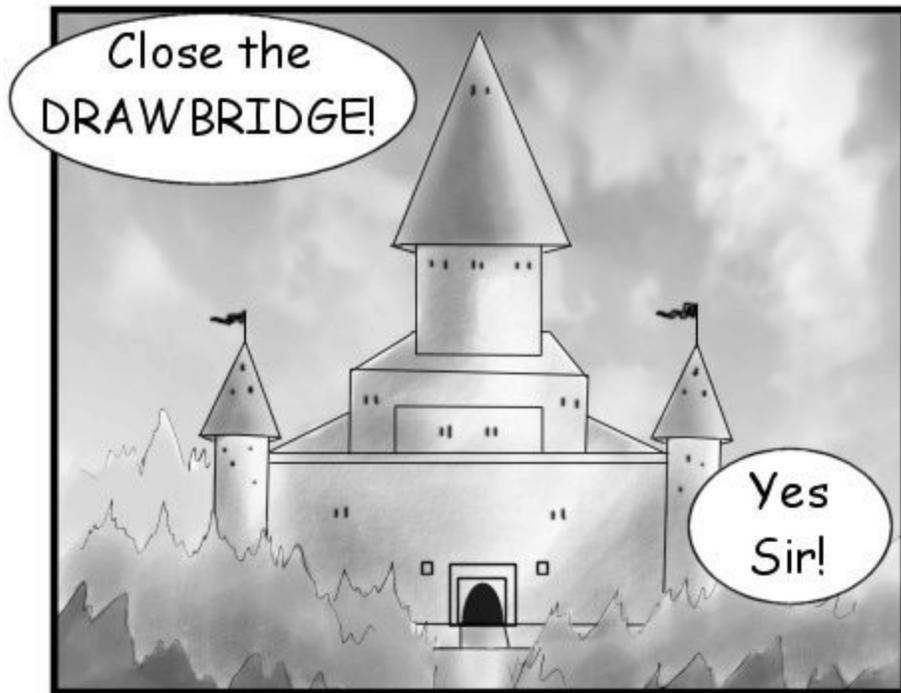
Leona: *finds herself at a crossroads, surrounded from all sides by guards... except for one way... the castle*

Head Guard: You're going back to school, Ms. Pollendina.

Guard2: We have orders from your father!

Head Guard: There's no way out!

Leona: *pulls out the Royal Pass of Baron* You forget who I am? *dashes for the castle*



HGuard: Close the DRAWBRIDGE!

Guard2: Yes sir!

Leona: *hops up the bridge at the very last moment, giving a look back* Yeah right!



RA & EM '04

Leona: *runs through the castle* ~Guards... even the best of them don't have brains the size of a kantal seed.~
bumps into something UMPH!

Cid: *looks down at Leona* Giiirlllll! You're supposed to be in SCHOOL!

Leona: Hehhehehe... *sheepish grin as the guards start calling out to her*

TGuard: She's over here!



RA & EM '04

Leona: I love you Daddy! *gives him a kiss on the nose before dashing up the stairs for Ben's tower*

Cid: *watches her run off and grumbles as the guards trample by* She definitely has too much of her mother in her....

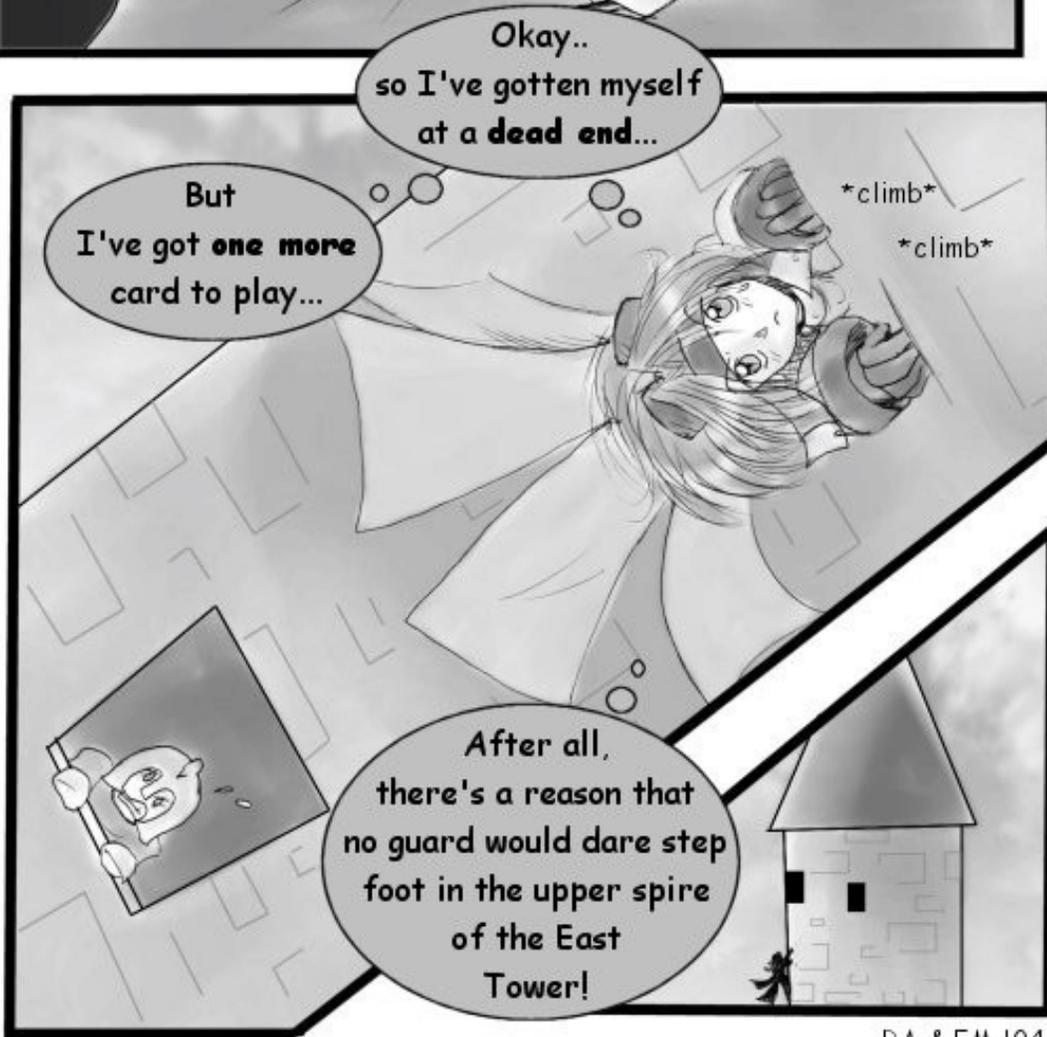


RA & EM '04

Leona: EXCUSE ME! *flying up the stairs, running over various people...*

TGuard: Miss Pollendina!

Leona: *swings out the window, fearless of the fact that she's high off the ground*



Guard1: *begin to panic as she's climbing up the trellis outside of Ben's window... and she could get hurt and it would be their responsibility* Miss Pollendina!

Guard2: ~Why me?~

Leona: *climbing* ~Okay... so I've gotten myself in a dead end... But I've got one more card to play.... After all, there's a reason that no guard would dare step foot in the upper spire of the East Tower! ~



Meanwhile, at the top of the East Tower...

Ben: *beginning to set up his room for the initial rifting study, moving things around... books.. vials... stuffed Mar-
nie.. having cleared a spot on his floor* ~I'm not sure what's going on with the Ways... but I'm going to find out.
Things like this... often foretell great trouble.~



Ben: ~Okay... I'm ready for this.~ *takes a deep breath and holds his hands out, a shimmer of energy flickering under his fingers*



Ben: *totally oblivious... absolutely immersed in the vortex of energy that is swelling under his hands*

Leona: *peers in the window* What is he.. up to?

Guard: *start climbing after her*

Leona: *looks down with sweatdrops* Uh oh... we've got some daring ones today....



Leona: *swings in, right behind Ben and runs for him* SPINERAT! HELP!

Ben: Leona!?! *jerks out of his concentration, eyes widening as he turns, staring at Leona... only a second before the energy vortex leaps out of hand* Neeeeeeh!

Leona: Oh Shiva! What are you doooing! *watches as the vortex swirls out of control* BEEEEEN!



What was that?



RA & EM '04

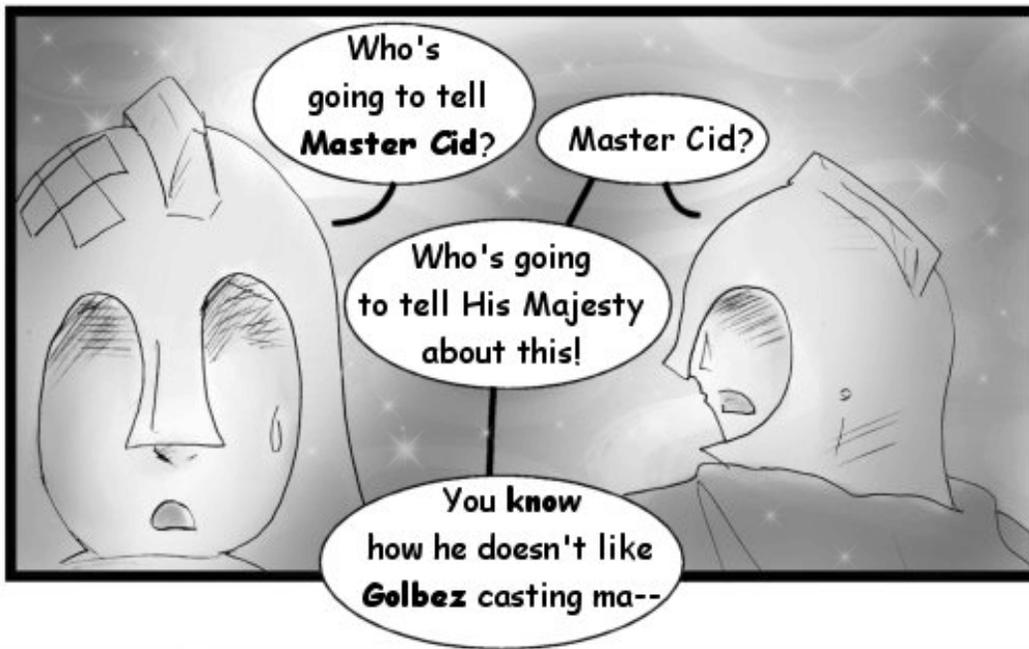
explosion of light comes from the window in Ben's tower

Guard: *climbs in the window*

Guard2: What was that? *Two guards come through the door*

nothing there...

Guards: O_o



RA & EM '04

Guard: Who's going to tell Master Cid?

Guard2: Master Cid? Who's going to tell His Majesty about this! You know how he doesn't like Golbez casting ma--

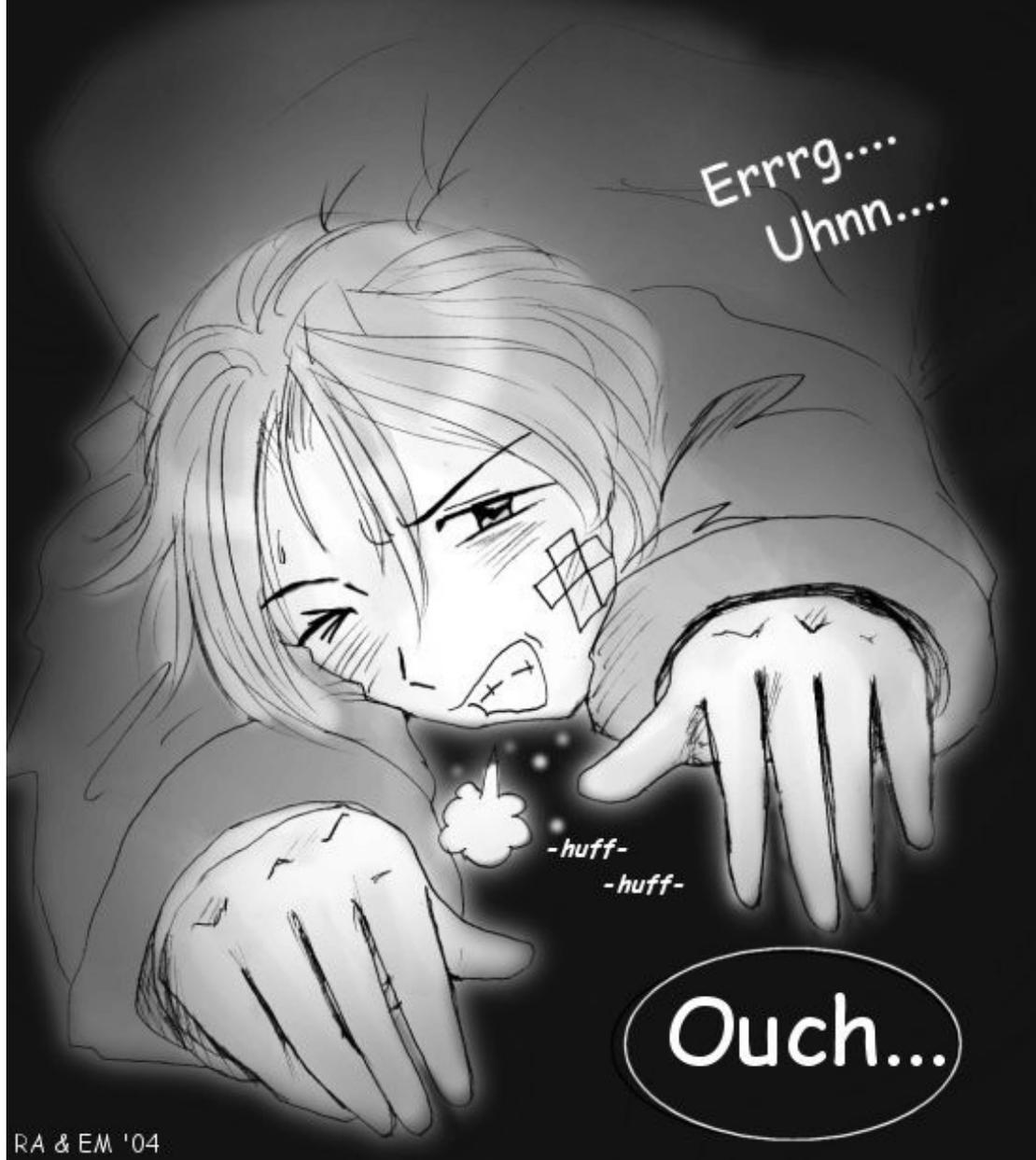
Guard3: Yeah, but if you tell on him... he's liable to turn you into a frog. I was told stories of Golbez doing that to one of the servants who mismatched his socks...

Guard: How about.... we never saw this... happening....

Guard2 and Guard3: Okay.

Introduction Pt. 3 -- Out of the Blue

~~Location: Unknown Rift Void



Kory: Errg... Uhn... *face flat on the black floor of the dimensional nastiness* Ouch.



Kory: ~What the?~ *lifts himself up and looks around, a bit confused, wiping his nose* ~Where in Ifrit's flame am I?~
yells Heeeelloooooo?
growls Great. Not only does his stupid confounded piece of junk device not work, but he dooms me to die alone in some black dimensional back alley. *crosses his arms, nose in the sky*



Kory: **face falters into fear** Hello?

great cloudy fuzzy winged form spreads up behind him

Kory: **suddenly looks up, seeing the curvature of the shadow above him** Uh... oh...

a hand reaches for Kory's shoulder

Kory: AHHHHHHHHH! **grabs the hand and flips the owner over his back**



KY: *splayed out, with a @_@ look* Koriro?

Kory: *still crouched up, shaking* Please don't eat me! I'll do anyth...



Kory *pauses* Aiden... Aiden KluYa? Is that you?

KY: *gives a hazy, sleepy smile as he gets up* What's this about a stupid confounded piece of junk?

Kory: ... AIDEN! *glomp* You big craterhead!

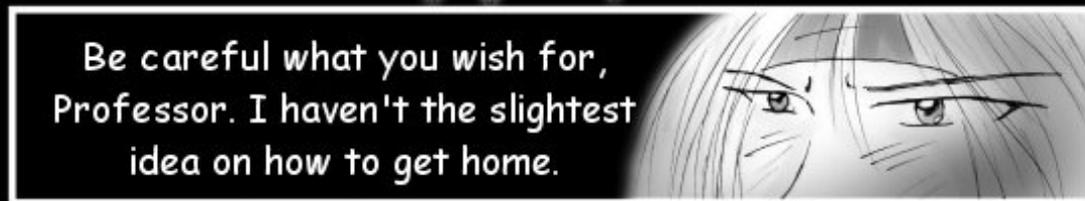
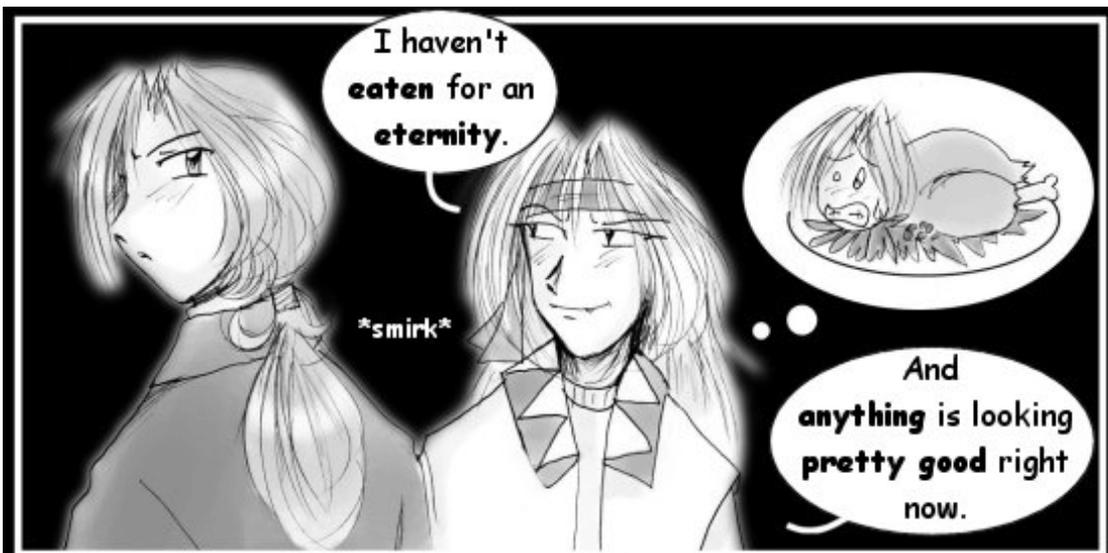
KY: Gwaah...I knew you could do it! *hugged*



A little while later, both of them walking about...

KY: I'm hungry.

Kory: Well Aiden... I'll just order up something fast. *grumbles* I'm sure they deliver out here between the Endless Darkness and Clouds of Nothingness.



RA & EM '04

KY: I haven't eaten for an eternity. *smirks at Kory (imagining turkey-Kory)* And anything is looking pretty good now.

Kory: So much for the so-called advanced civilization of the Lunarians. *shoves KY away in the nose by the flat of the palm* Reduced to cannibalism in less than a few hours.

KY: Be careful what you wish for, Professor. I haven't the slightest idea on how to get home.

Kory: So Spacecase... what you're meaning to tell me is that we are utterly and hopelessly lost?



KY: No. I have some idea of where we are. But I have no idea to get from where we are... to where we should be.

Kory: I forgot how useless asking a Lunarian was for directions.

KY: Hey. You were the one operating the device... not me. *evil grin* Never trust a human... to do a Lunarian's job.

Kory: Hey! I didn't design that confounded red button!

KY: Did you read the instructions? *looks smug*

Kory: The writing wasn't exactly user-friendly in that blasted backwards language of yours!

KY: They were completely understandable... But of course, humans do have a way of erring.



Kory: It's only been three hours and I already want to strangle you! *starts shaking around KY*

KY: *zaps Kory in the nose* Heh.

Kory: Wha! That's it! *rolls up his sleeves, with bandaid on the nose* En'gaurde, Craterhead!

dogfight ensues



KY: *suddenly pauses* Koriro! Wait!

Kory: Huuh?

KY: Something this way comes... *looks at the sudden flash of light in the distance...*

Introduction Pt. 4 -- Lost to the Void

~~Location: Unknown Rift Void



Ben: Leona? *waves his hand in front of her face* Leona... can you hear me?



Leona: *struggles to wake up, blinking awake to the darkness...* Uhnnnn.... nnn....

Ben: Are you okay..? *leaning over Leona... perhaps a little too close, face concerned*

Leona: Erp! *eyes seize immediately on Ben, pupils growing small in fright*



Leona: AHHHHHHHHH! *still not exactly oriented with the fact that she isn't in Baron anymore, struggles with Ben and really kicks him hard* Let me go!

Ben: Neh... *winces and takes the blow*

Leona: *runs while she still has the chance to escape* Daddy! Cecil! Help! Help!

Ben: *lets out a long breath* I guess that's a "yes"?

Leona: Golbez has gone evil again!



Leona: *feels like she's running, but realizes that she's not going anywhere* What in Ifrit's flame! *shouts at Ben* You let me go, you creep!

Ben: I'm not doing it... *unhappy face*

Leona: *yelling* Cecil! Daddy! Please! Please help me! He's trapped me a spell of darkness!



Ben: *surprised and slightly hurt look, puts his hands down on her shoulders to keep her still* Leona... calm down. This is not what you think! Now is not the time to panic.

Leona: *looks at Ben with absolutely fearful eyes* I will not be your dark servant! I will not be your dark servant! I will not! Will not! Will not! *pauses, returning to some sense of sanity as his words sink in* What do you mean this is not what I think?



Ben: *watches her with a quiet face* Listen... something's gone wrong here. And I need you to calm down so I can try and figure out what to do about it.

Leona: You're darn right something went wrong.. *shrugs Ben's hands off of her* Okay, great Lord of Darkness... where are we? And I'm not going to believe under your bed... because it doesn't smell quite bad enough.

Ben: That's a good question... and one that I'm... not quite... sure about yet.

Leona: Great.... Someone took a wrong turn when trying to call his army of goons from the dimensional netherworld!

Ben: Not exactly. This was something a little more... serious.



Leona: *noting that Ben's being serious* You really don't know where in the Seven Universes we are, do you?

Ben: No... But if you stick with me... I promise.. I'll get you home.

Leona: *thoughtful face* Let's see now... The dark, nasty, tyrant who I don't necessarily believe... or a plane of infinite darkness... You drive a hard bargain, Bennyboy...

Ben: ~Bennyboy?~



Leona: If you pull any tricks on me, Cecil will KNOW! *looks up meanly* And he'll gut you from head to toe, and burn your innards while you're still alive!

Ben: *gives Leona a long look* Eh.. heh...

Leona: *follows after Ben, in the darkness... journeying towards-who-knows-what* And knowing Cecil... he'll just have Rosa cure you again, and then he'll rip you apart into hamburger.. and Rosa will cure you again... and -- *goes on and on*

Ben: ~Shiva... Do I really have to put up with this?~