



... Hello, darlings!
Diego here!

Did you miss me?
Of course you did!

Now, this story features magic
a little more prominently
than last time around...

I'll try to skip over
the boring parts
and just tell you
what you need to
know, okay?
Aren't I nice?

In general, magic in
this setting seems
like *something you're
simultaneously born
with and supposed to
study/practice.*

As in, most folks find it
easier to use one or two
types of magic, while
struggling to pick up
any others.

I'm sure that's never
caused disparity.

Oh, and also! *If you
use more magic than
your body can handle,
you risk serious injury,
or even death.*

Hilarious, isn't it?

As for the *types* of magic... erm...

Wow, most of these kind of *suck*, haha!

I'll just share the *relevant* ones.

SHADOWMANCY

With enough study, these folks can warp through shadows, snuff out light, and even make shadows that can interact with the third dimension!

Which is very *annoying*, so that's why I made sure Char couldn't use it. Hoo-hoo!

HEALING

Does what it says on the tin. I suppose I should mention that it can't heal most conditions people are born with. *Boring!*

ILLUMANCY

Hm, a world where light and healing aren't the same? ... Sounds unnecessarily complicated!

It seems this field mirrors Shadowmancy in many ways, while also outright negating it in others. You'll see!

AUDIOMANCY

Oh, I don't encounter this one terribly often!

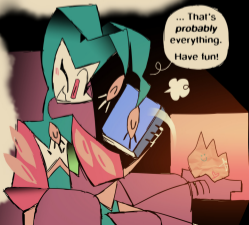
Masters of sound, at least theoretically. If you can think of an application for this, it's (probably) possible. Especially offensively. And musically.

GLAMOURS

Most people seem able to do little parlor tricks to alter their appearance. They're not permanent, and it looks like you'd need some serious help if you want to do anything significant.

I think I'd go *crazy* if I couldn't change up my look whenever I want, personally!

... That's *probably* everything. Have fun!





by TAPPALY

A LONG
TIME AGO...

Xavier, Devonshire.
So good to see you again.

Likewise, Father!
Your *estate* is simply
magnicilent in-person...

... don't call me that.
This your daughter?

Surely this isn't
your *first meeting*...?

It is!

... it is.

I-i-it
is...

Ahah... my
apologies.
My memory
clearly isn't
what it used
to be.
Silly me!

... hm. I'll
be right
back.

You three play
nice, now~

U-um, hi, I'm—

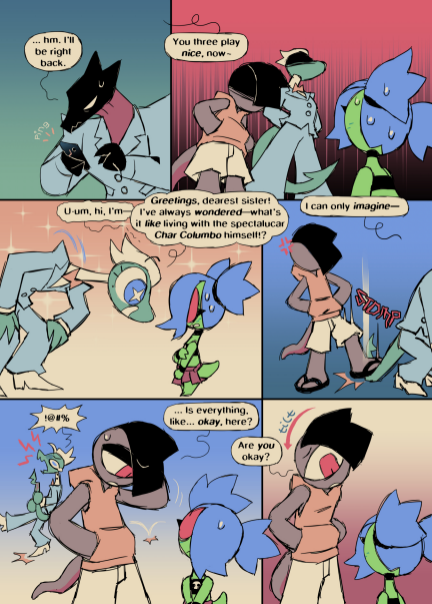
Greetings, dearest sister!
I've always wondered—what's
it like living with the spectacular
Char Columbo himself?!

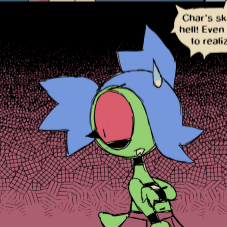
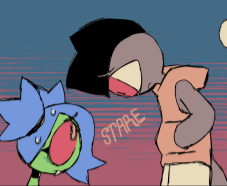
I can only *imagine*—

!@#%

... Is everything,
like... okay, here?

Are you
okay?





Char's sketchy as hell! Even you have to realize that!

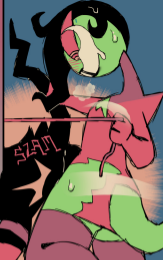
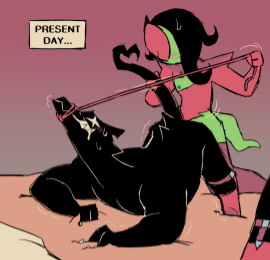
What's **THAT** supposed to mean?!

If you'd quit brown-nosing for **TWO SECONDS**—

I'm not taking orders from a pipsqueak.

Excuse me!?

PRESENT
DAY...



Ahh... when are
you gonna put
a baby in me,
Daddy?



Gahaha! Sweetheart,
you know that'd *never*
work out, as much as
we *both* want it...



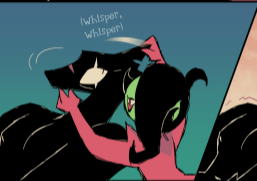


Actually, Daddy, I've been thinking.

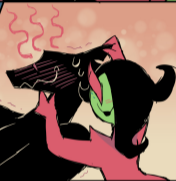


and I might have a plan...

Oh?



(whisper, whisper)



... you really are Daddy's little girl.

Look at you,
babygirl.
Breathtaking.



D-Daddy,
please...

Aww, sweetheart.
You want it *that* bad...?



n-hahn...
Ever since I
made you...

I've obsessed over
the legacy I'm about
to defile you with



**CHARCOAL ROLLS OUT
NEW MATERNITY LINE...?**



**KATARINA COLUMBO:
CEO, SINGLE MOTHER?**



**WHO'S
THE
DADDY?**



TWO WEEKS
EARLY...



Thank you,
Ernest.

Smooch
♥

Happy
to help,
sir.



...



... I would suggest
letting them *rest*, sir.
The hospital unit you
requested is en route.

U R-right. U

How are you
holding up?

Well... U



AND
SOON...

Today we have
a LIVE, exclusive
announcement

from *Katarina
Columbo* herself!

I can't believe you
actually *watch* this shit.

Shhh! This
might be
important!

I... realize there's
been a lot of *speculation*
about the *father* of
this child...

BONK

I was *raped*,

by my own
half-brother,
Xavier Turnstile.



W...

Wait, what the **FUCK?**

I-it was at the *Primadonna*, nine months ago... He...



No. This is **bullshit**.

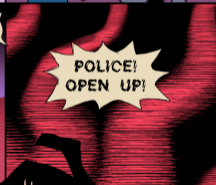
... You don't even go to that nightclub—

I... was there, that night, a-actually...



B-but I didn't do it, I sw—

Shut the fuck up, bro, of course I know that—



**POLICE!
OPEN UP!**





Mr. Turnstile,
how do you plea?



I didn't—
n-not guilty,
Your Honor.



—he's *physically*
incapable of
hurting a fly—



—fingerprints on
this bottle of—

What?



—absence of
heterozygosity—

—footage depicting,
unmistakably, the
defendant himself—

But I wasn't...



I didn't do it



And to think I
ever called you
my son.



This trial is
BULLSHIT!

It's... it's
all **LIES!!**



We find the
defendant

**G
U
I
L
T
Y**

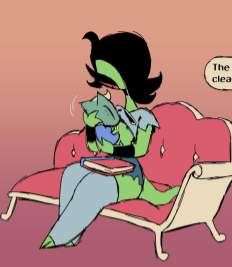


...

I swear we'll
make them
pay, bro.



Together.



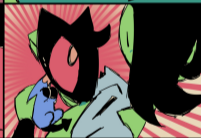
The coast
clear yet?



No one's watching,
babygirl.



CHAPTER IV:
DISPELLING
ADVANCED
GLAMOURS



Aww...

They look just
like you

-koff
-grgl





... and *Daddy's* supposed to be your *Grandpa*, okay? That's *very* important.



... I know you don't like using your voice, honey.

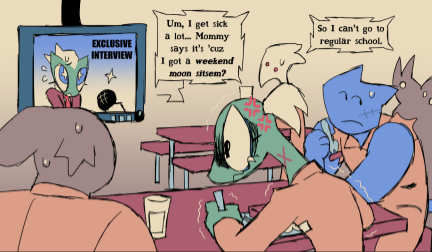


But what if I showed you how to *change* it?



Let's see, here...





—and it was just so
nauseatingly sacchareen—

I know. It sucks.
Just stick to
the *plan*,
remember?

Seven more
years.

... heh. I
know, bro.

Love
you,
bro.

... PLATONICALLY.

Yeah.
Obviously.

We're noth-
ing like...


Yeah.

awk-ward




TEN YEARS
PASS...





So, tell us about your... **bold new look?**




Well. Everyone knows the **sordid circumstances** of my birth by this point, yes?

Ahaha...



But, my **grandpa...** he helped my mom raise me without batting an eye.

I've always... been really **grateful** for that, y'know?



So I guess this is just, me living out my little daydream where I get to be... his son.



... besides, I'm starting a **new band!** I can use all the **publicity** I can get, right!?

That's very—

THOOM

shake

khh

cough

BANG

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS
PROFIT OFF THE BACKS OF
THE COMMON PEOPLE**


RELINQUISH YOUR VALUABLES



HEAD FOR THE
EXITS, FOLKS!!!







Besides, Charcoal's profits are starting to *flag* lately, yeah...?

Let me *help*. This could be some good *publicity*.



... I need to figure out where these *attacks* are coming from.




You work too hard, Daddy~
Mind your blood pressure!

I'm *serious!* It's been three years!



You looked into my *uncles*, right?

Bah! They're *harmless*.
Dead ends.



... you like it best when we *rail Mommy* together, don't you...?

ELSEWHERE...



Headcount?



We lost *Polaroid*
and *Sodiepop*.

Shit. They're gonna
be annoying to replace.

I know, but I think our
haul makes up for it.

Oh?



Delta? Isn't she one
of *Penumbra's*...?

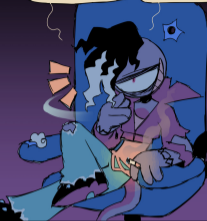
Exactly.

EXOTIC IMPORTS
DEADLY EXPORTS
555-666-7421
ASK FOR "DELTA"
CHURN AFTER REA



Now, what the hell
was someone with
those connections...

... doing at an *official*
Charcoal charity event?



We're getting
closer, bro.

I can
feel it...





Our father likes to pretend his judgment is *infallible* sometimes. It can be kind of annoying.



... why is Daddy so convinced they have nothing to do with it?



Can't you talk to him about it?



He always seems to *listen* to you...



I dunno... I've kinda liked watching him flail around pathetically and get nowhere.

It's moe!

But, y'know...

If you're so sure there's a *connection*, why not look into it *yourself*?

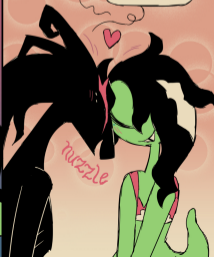
I'm sure he'd be happy if you brought him the *culprits* on a *silver platter*~



You always know just what to say, Mommy.

Just don't get yourself *killed*, baby boy.

I learned from the *best*!





...



LATER...

... You're not going to believe this.

What?



The fuck...!?



I thought we quit social media ages ago.

I have a dummy account.

I don't do anything on it, don't worry.



omg hi!!! i didnt actually expect u to accept



... did you need something? you'll have to forgive me for being... cautious.

i totally get it lmao. but uh

i do actually kinda?

thi sis prolly stupid but i dont actually have any friends that arent also like. crazy abt my side of the family

so um. i guess itd be nice to talk to someone w/ a diff perspective?



... I should have figured.

i'm not really interested in being a novelty, kid.



OMG no its not like that i swear!!!
i kno im like a turbospoiled rich
brat but like

my family has been kinda
scaring me lately

i dont know who else to talk to

nobody would believe me



Okay, that's way
too convenient.

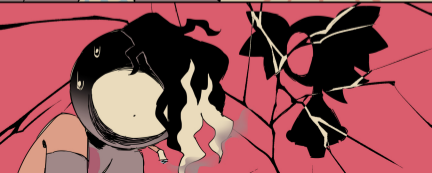


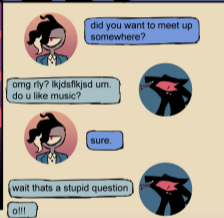
that sucks, but it sounds like
something i don't want to get
involved w|



Just now

char hit my mom last night





- we can meet up after my next gig
- my family isnt gonna be there theyre rly busy lately
- idk what my genre is yet but its not for everyone. u dont have to listen



EVENTUALLY...



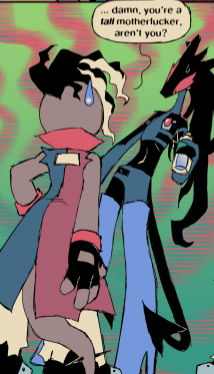
BACKSTAGE...



That wasn't bad.
Could use some
live synth, though.



... damn, you're a
tall motherfucker,
aren't you?



Heehee!
I get that a
lot. How did
you...?

Don't worry
about it.
You... wanted
to talk?



I do... *love and appreciate* my family! I really do.



But...



Not to seem, *ungrateful*, but. Um. The stuff they get up to at home...



You know my mom's a pretty accomplished *healer*, right...?

Like, not just for scrapes and bruises?



Wait. If that's true, then *that* means...



... *Shit*, I probably shouldn't have told you that.

You can keep a *secret*, right?

—Yeah. Cross my heart and all that.

Sorry, I just...

I met her, once, you know. Before...

She was so *different*.

Jumping at every little noise, tripping over all her words...

And those eyes were so *sad*.

I felt like something was *wrong*, even back then.




... but if she's a *healer*, that explains how Char kept it under *wraps* all this time, huh?


... yes.



How bad... uh...?



I think it kind of goes *both ways*? At least, as long as I can remember.



... they've lost *limbs* to each other before.

Jesus. That's no environment to raise a *kid* in.



So... what will you do now?



ahem.

I don't know how much I can trust you. I can only imagine the feeling is mutual. But...



...
I feel a little better, now.

I'd like to speak with you again, if that's okay...?



Sure thing, kid.





Is he really *that* scared of paintings?

That's hilarious. I wonder why...



... you smoke, kid? You're eyein' me like you do.


I-I always wanted to try it...








... *shit*.



Sometimes I wonder what I'm even living for, y'know?



I like fashion just *fine*, but I don't really have the *knack* for it my family does.



And, honestly, I don't know if this *music* thing is gonna work out, *either*.



My time here is so *short*.

I don't want to spend it in my family's *shadows*...



Th... that really sucks, man.

Fuck.
It'd make a **perfect recruit** to our **cause**.

But if it's **trusting** me with this...

... it's **fucked up** of me to treat this like an **opportunity**, right?

It's not stupid. It knows I know its parents are...

... but this could be a **trap**, too.

God **dammit**, I don't know **what** to think anymore.



—

Hello, **boys**.

Would somebody please
care to explain to me—

—why my asthmatic grandson
is smoking cigarettes—

—and chatting up the
brother of my daughter's
convicted *rapist*?





-That's right! It'd be less of a strain on me to have someone *else* doing live synth... Faking it with *magic* has been kind of *exhausting*.

-SEAMLESS

?
-TRANSITION-

And Dev tried to *stop* me from stealing a cig, but you always made it look so fun, and-

He's... counting?

-TURN-

I'm terribly sorry for leaping to conclusions.

You know how it is, aha...

I... don't have kids.

-UNTURN-

... well! That's just fine.

AWKWARD

Let's start over,
shall we.

don't fucking
CALL ME THAT

DE WONSHERE?

If I ever determine that
you're endangering my
grandson in any capacity...

... you WILL
regret it.

Right! I'll leave you boys to *negotiate*, then.



Try not to be out too late, honey. Ernest is making your favorite-



Christ, I've never seen him
actually *angry* before.
I thought I was gonna die.

Ahah..!

So, welcome
to *Antichrist*,
I guess??
You do play
synth, right?

Yeah, I played in college.
I still can't believe
you *named* it that.

Is Luci
really
short
for...?

It's on my *birth certificate*
and *everything*.

Your mom's always been
pretty *edgy*, I guess.

...

-Yeah. I think it's
cool, though!

Bro, you're doin' a lot of *fraterzining* with Luci. You figure it's *recruit* material...?

I'm fine with just playing what you give me, but I think this progression'd sound better like *this*—

Oh, hey, you're *right!*

... I'm workin' on it.





I never had that much fun at my solo gigs!



God, I need to do more stretches. I'm getting old.



You killed it out there, though!



... you too, kid.



...



Hey~

-GRAB~



I'm... not really into incest, my dude. U

You sure~?



Am I...?

no
I... stop. Please.
I can't do this
right now.



hhh.

F-fuck, kid, just—
let go of me. I don't
want to hurt you—



Gonna
make
me cry
uncle~?



Ehehe, you liked that, huh? Glad I'm not the only freak here.

So, we doing this, or...?



Oh! ♥

SAM

Hey! I liked
that outfit!

wheeze

CHOKE






Mnn... I needed that.

What the hell did I just do...?



Look, kid... we need to talk.






What the hell is going
on in your family?
Am I just making it worse...?




Most *other* times I get
fucked, someone ends
up actually *hurt*. I think you're
doing just *fine*.



... you shouldn't
have to *live* like that.




You gonna
save me?



...

You can't! *No one*
can. Don't bother.






Has anyone
tried...?



Oh my god,
you're *serious*.


I didn't realize my
ass was *that* fine.




Listen, I—

No, **YOU** listen,
old man.

Do you know what
it's like to have your
first words be *lies*
for the camera?



To grow up knowing
your very conception
doomed an innocent
person to destruction?



Do you know what
it's like to forget
where you end and
the lies begin!?

To constantly
wonder if they're
ONE and the SAME!?

~~Release~~



You're the closest
thing to honesty I've
ever experienced.

And you're lying
to me, too.



That's not— I know your
silhouette.



You were there
that day.





You can run.
I won't tell.

... not that you'd have
any reason to trust me.



I wouldn't be surprised
if he was *spying* on us
right now, actually.

He's a *top-tier*
shadowmancer.
I never really know
when he's watching...



... *Illumancy!*?
But that means...



... Yeah. I don't know the exact *range*, but most *shadowmancy* doesn't really *work* around me.

Explains why I never figured out what that motherlucker uses, though.



Listen, I...

I can't, like, let my *parents* find out I'm up to anything, so I have to *stay* with them, but...



If you can just *trust me*...

... I think I have a *plan*.



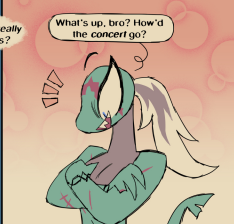
If this is a dream,

*I don't want
to wake up*




Hey, Xavi...? Let's...
uh... talk...


Fuck, am I really
doing this?



What's up, bro? How'd
the concert go?




F-line. Listen... I think
there's something I
need to... tell you...




Whoa, Devs, you don't look
so good. You catchin' those
platonic feelings again? I was
just thinkin' of you earlier—

Bro, please,
this is *serious*.



I, uh, I fucked up.
I fucked up *real bad*.



Whoa. I think we can
make the next town over if
we drive through the *night*—



I had *sex*
with *Luci*.



...



What?!



Did it... *force*
itself on you, or—

No. Well, kinda?
At first? But...



I wound up...
really liking it.





SOME TIME
LATER...

How's the *new*
song coming along?

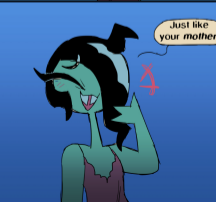
The lyrics are...
tricky, but we'll figure
them out *eventually*.



This isn't
spelled right.

Nah, bro,
you just
can't spell.





Did you sneak into the basement again...?

I noticed some stuff was moved around.

Shit, I thought I put everything back.

... I was reminiscing.

Getting an early start, huh?

You're playing a dangerous game, Lucifer Columbo.

YAAH

Nighty night, baby bat-

THE NEXT
DAY...



I think ou-your
sister *suspects*
something.



Well, we've
come *this*
far...

...
Shit.



You got any contingency plans, kid?



If anything happens...

... we stick to the plan.



Wh—!


Anything.




Everything ready to go?

Yeah, bro. Nothin' out of the ordinary.

Good...



Any thoughts on our baby's upcoming gig, Daddy?



... I can't say I care for the venue, and its music gives me a migraine.

And you?



I wonder why it wanted us there...?

I have a feeling something interesting is going to happen...

THAT FATED
DAY...

Up next is our *half-time*
show! Stick around, folks!



ANTI
THRIST

presents:

secrets.





Secrets are the
only family

that I've ever
known



So here's
a one-way
ticket

TO MY VERY OWN
HEADSTONE!

K-CHUNK

The exits...?

No, I'm not a
child of **RAPE**

What's
going
on!?

I'm born from
SOMETHING WORSE

my Daddy's
CHAR COLUMBO

What the
FUCK!?

Cut the
cameras!!
NOW!!!

**AND HE'S TOUCHED ME
SINCE MY BIRTH!!**



I'm just gettin' started, folks~!

(this callout's by committee~)

lean~

CHARCOAL'S JUST A FRONT FOR THE

REAL DESPOTS OF THIS CITY!!



PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

AIIIIIIII!!!

What the hell are you waiting for, old man? Get us out of here!

Something's blocking my concentration!!



... If I told you Char's PENUMBRA

No way..

It's still going?!

I'm sure you'd think I'm BATSHIT



but check out
these recordings



HERE'S SOME NAMES
WITHIN HIS RACKET!!



"DELTA"

*Suspect considered
armed and extremely
dangerous.*

WANTED FOR: Murder, kidnapping, child trafficking, drug trafficking, weapon trafficking, organ trafficking, money laundering, poaching, blackmail, identity theft, smuggling, public nuisance, jaywalking, property damage, harassment, pezzlement, torture, organized criminal activity, obscenity, sexual assault, necrophilia



Ch-Char's not the
only villain here...

Hell, I'm no
angel, either

Wheee

I've murdered, raped
and sabotaged

but s-so has...
Katarina.

FLUSH



I... hope our
family photos...



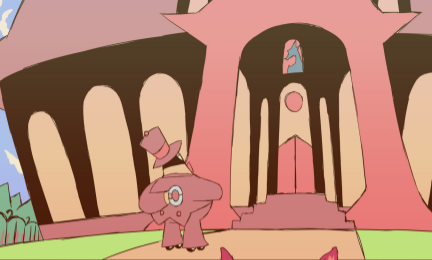
paint a picture
that... dist... uURBs...

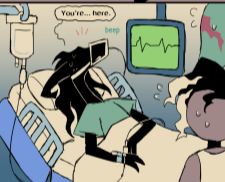
I hope... that every
o-one of us...

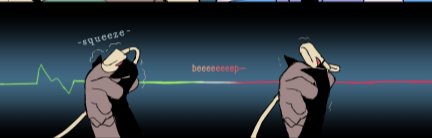
gets... exactly...
what we...

Stumble

de... serve







FAR, FAR
AWAY...

For the *last time*,
I didn't think it'd
go *that far*.

But you thought it'd
go in the *first place*?

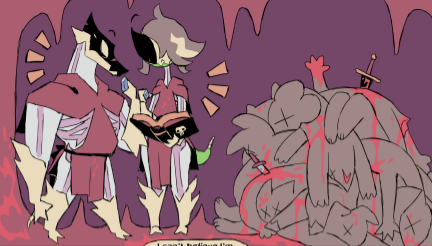
I was super *bored!*
It sounded *exciting!*

... Well, I hope
you're *happy*.

Can you just *shut up*
and *do this* with me?

Fine.





... Mine's bigger.

I can't believe I'm going to spend the rest of eternity with you.

You love it, babygirl.

... I guess I do.

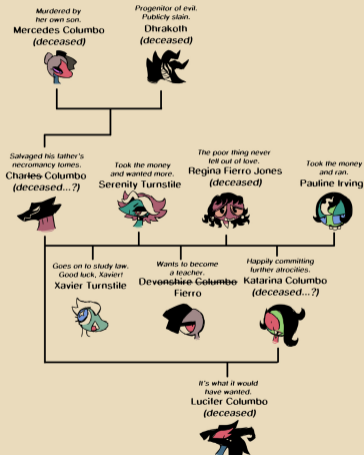


C'mere, Daddy-



END

Columbo Family Tree



Author's Note



Howdy, it's Teeb! Again! Thank you so much for reading *Devastation*. I hope you enjoyed the conclusion to the Columbo family's story. The title is pretty apt this time around, huh? Hehehe...

I don't really have a great estimate for how long this project took to make, since it's been kicking around in my head off and on for over half a year now. All I can tell you is that after I finished the (finalized) text outline, I spent 48 days doing the actual pages. I'm pretty happy with my pacing this time around! :)

I'd always wanted to expand on Dev and Xavi ever since I designed them, but I didn't end up figuring out how to slot them into the narrative for a while... then Luci came along, and after a bit of elbow grease, everything fell into place. Who's your favorite? I don't know if I can choose, at this point.



maybe it's
rocking out
in heaven,
now...

I cried writing this ending. That's never actually happened to me before. These characters mean a lot to me, and I'm so happy to share them with you! This may be the end of their timeline, but I may or may not return to expand on different points in the narrative at some point. We'll see.

By the way, I'm aiming to compile *Ruin* and *Devastation* into a single physical book at some point, but it'd have to be primarily funded by pre-orders due to the steep upfront cost. I hope people would be interested in that...!

As always, you can find me on Twitter and Baraag as @teebstl and @teebnstw. I cherish feedback on my projects, so I'd be happy to hear your thoughts.

Until next time!



Thanks for
reading! -teeb