

Chapter 2:
The Harpy









IT'S A HARPY!!
THERE'S A REAL HARPY
IN MY ARMS
RIGHT NOW!!!

OF COURSE
WE
WON'T!!

SPIN

YOU'RE
SAVING
ME?!
I'M NOT
GONNA
GET
GOBBLED
UP?!

WOW!
YOU'RE SO
SMALL!
SO LIGHT!!
BUT THEN...
YOU'RE
BIGGER THAN
AN ANDEAN
CONDOR, AND
DON'T EVEN
SEEM TO BE
ALL THAT
STREAMLINED!
JUST UNDER
TWENTY KILOS,
I GUESS?!
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?!!

SPIN

ROUGHLY 360CM
WINGSPAN.



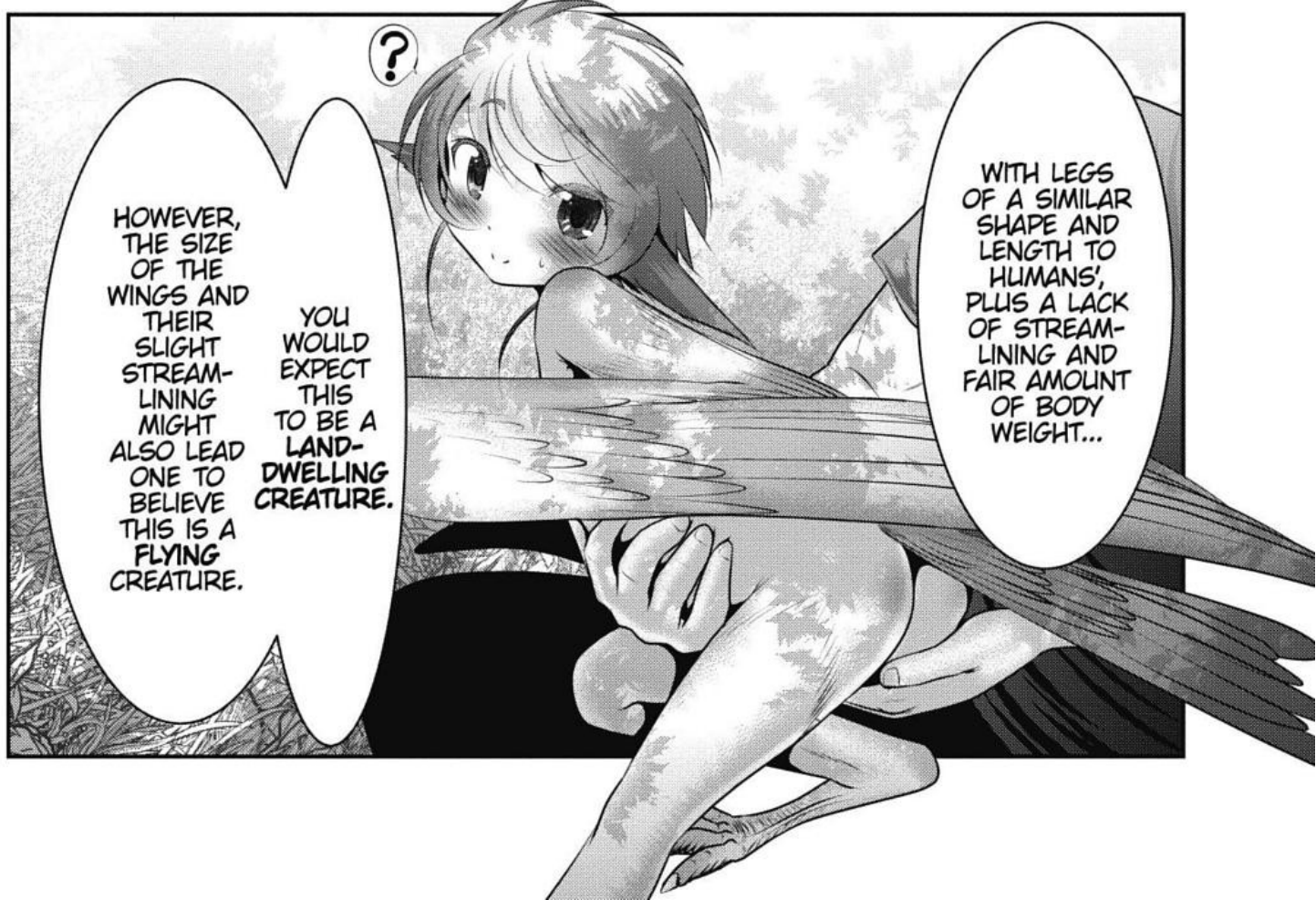
I SEE!!
MY NAME'S
DAISUKE
KURIMUSUBI!!
I'M GOING
TO BE THE
CREATURE
GIRL
HAREM
KING!!

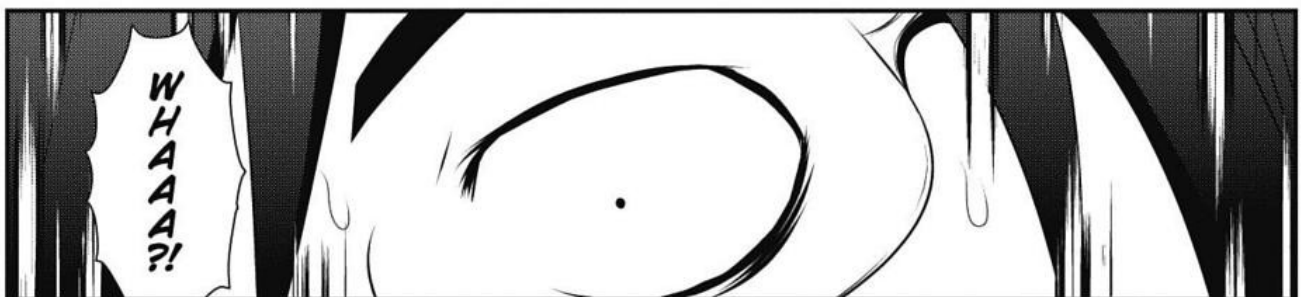
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID,
BUT MY
NAME'S
RUP!!

DARN
RIGHT
I
AM!!!

ARE
YOU
GOING
TO SAY
THAT
EVERY
TIME?







MMM...
I DUNNO,
LIKE...
I JUST
STRETCH OUT
MY MUSCLES,
CLENCH A
LITTLE AND
THEY GET
HARD!

IT'S
LIKE
YOU'RE
JUST
ONE
LARGE
SURFACE!
HOW ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS?!

OF
COURSE...
JUST
LIKE THE
SHORT-
TAILED
ALBA-
TROSS!!

WITH THEIR
LEGS ADAPTED
FOR LIFE ON
THE GROUND,
AND UNLIMITED
POWER TO
GLIDE AROUND
THEIR
ENVIRONMENT,
THEY'RE
INCREDIBLY
MOBILE
CREATURES!!!

IN OTHER
WORDS,
HARPIES
FLY IN THE
SAME WAY
FLYING
FISH DO.
THEY'RE
BIOLOGICAL
HANG
GLIDERS!!!

IMPORT-
ANT
TESTIMONY
FROM
AN
HONEST-
TO-
GOOD-
NESS
PREDATOR
!!!

THEY'RE
FAST ON
THEIR LEGS,
AND THEY
CAN FLY...
THAT'S WHAT
MAKES
THEM SO
TRICKY TO
CATCH.

WFOAAA!





※Lobate – Referring to a kind of lobed feet common in aquatic birds.





FNYAAH?!

AND ...

HMM ...

A DEMI-HUMAN SPECIES, THEN... I'D ENTERTAINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU WERE A BIRD SPECIES THAT LOOKED ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM A MAMMAL, BUT...

BUT UNLIKE THE BIRD'S CLOACA, THEY HAVE A HUMANLIKE REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS AND AN ANUS...

SHOOP

JUST LIKE A BIRD'S, THEN. THE TAIL'S EXTREMELY SHORT.

THE TAIL FEATHERS, OF COURSE, EXTEND FROM THE TAIL BONE...



HAAH! ♡

HAAH! ♡



YEAH, THEY'RE CLOSER TO PEOPLE.

BWUH?

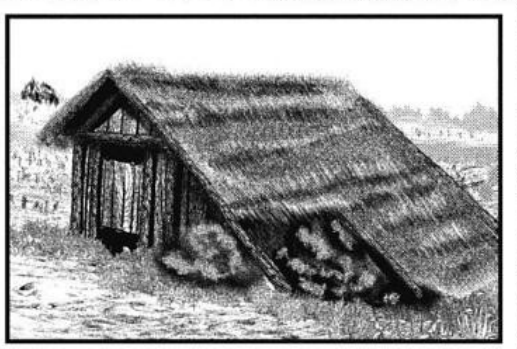
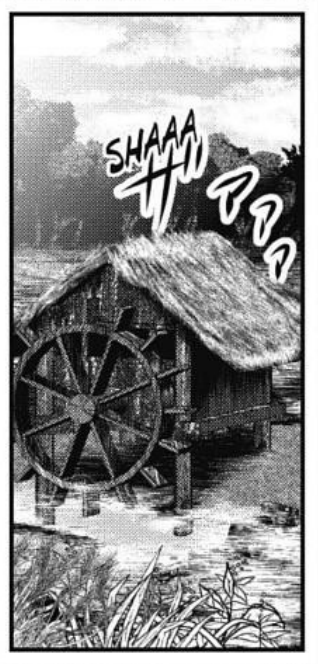
EH? HARPIES AREN'T BIRDS ?!

WE SHOULD STOP EATING THEM...









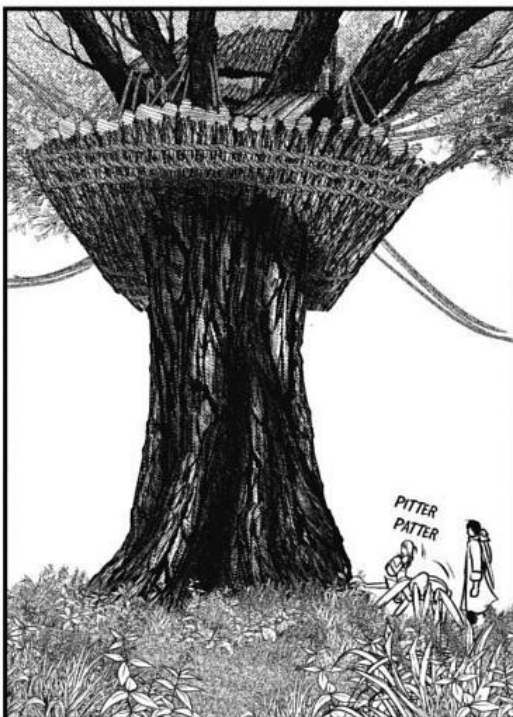




BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE HAVE ROPE LADDERS IN CASE WE GET VISITORS FROM OTHER RACES...

WELL, THIS IS TO STOP DANGEROUS BEASTS AND RODENTS FROM ATTACKING OUR HOMES.

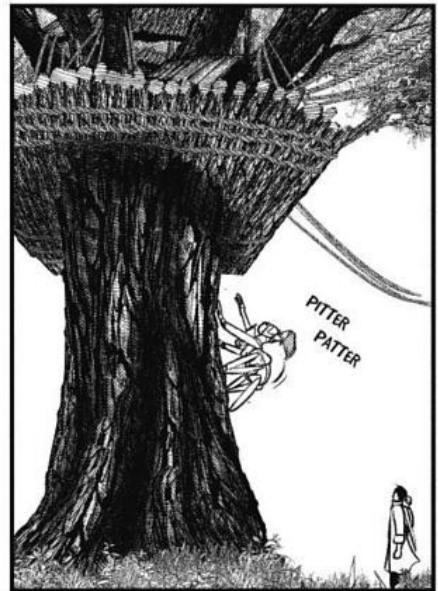
HOW DO I GET UP THERE? IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG RAT GUARD.



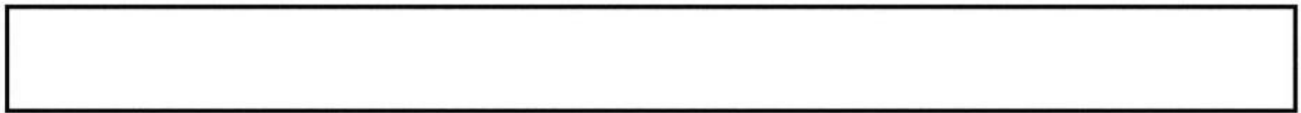
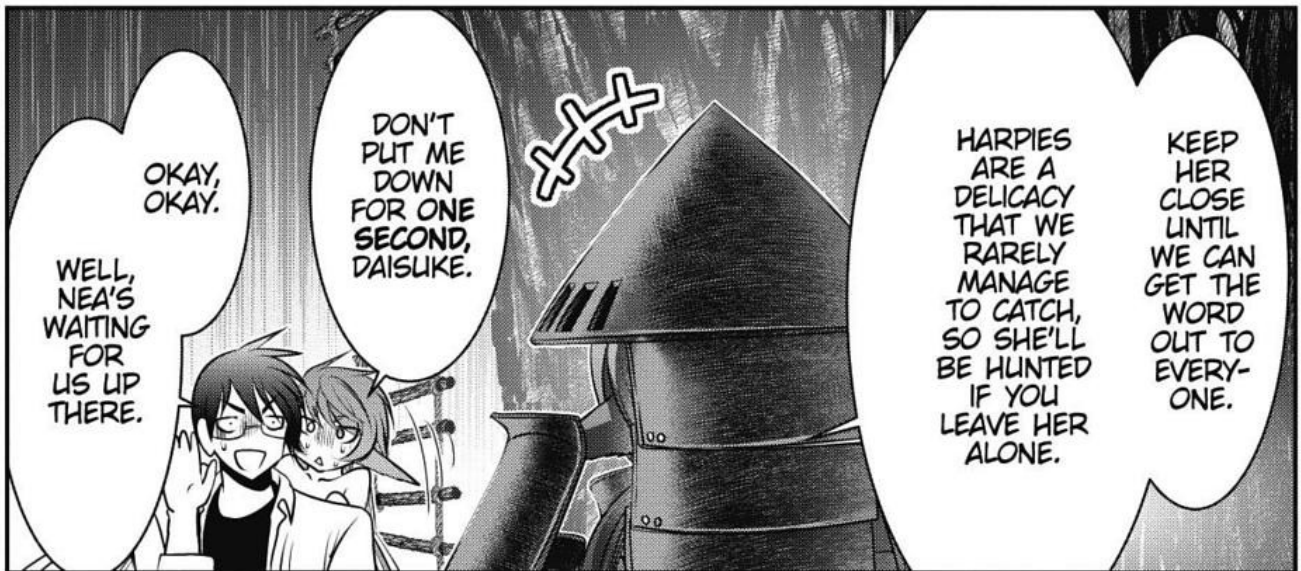
WE JUST CLIMB.

BWUH?

FOR VISITORS...? THEN... HOW DO THE ARACHNE GET UP THERE?











IF WE GET ENOUGH FOOD AND BRING DOWN THE FEVER, WE NORMALLY RECOVER IN 4 WEEKS, BUT...

YOU CALL IT A COLD? THAT'S FUNNY, WE CALL IT THE "CURSE OF FIRE."

COLD ...?

DO YOU HAVE COLD SYMPTOMS?

Ko-
Ka-



FATHER DIDN'T MAKE IT...

BUT... UNLESS MOM GETS ENOUGH TO EAT... SHE'S GOING TO DIE...

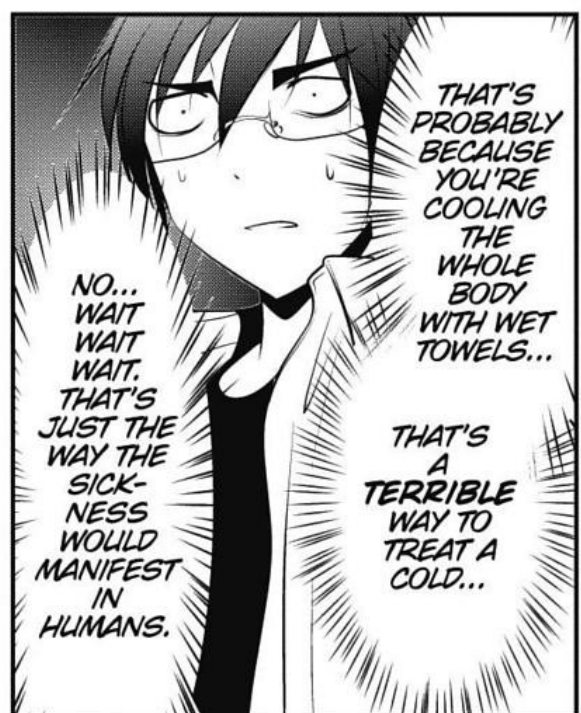
FOUR WEEKS ?!



SHIVER

I HAVE TO PROCEED CAREFULLY. THE SLIGHTEST MISSTEP AND I COULD WIND UP KILLING RANEA!

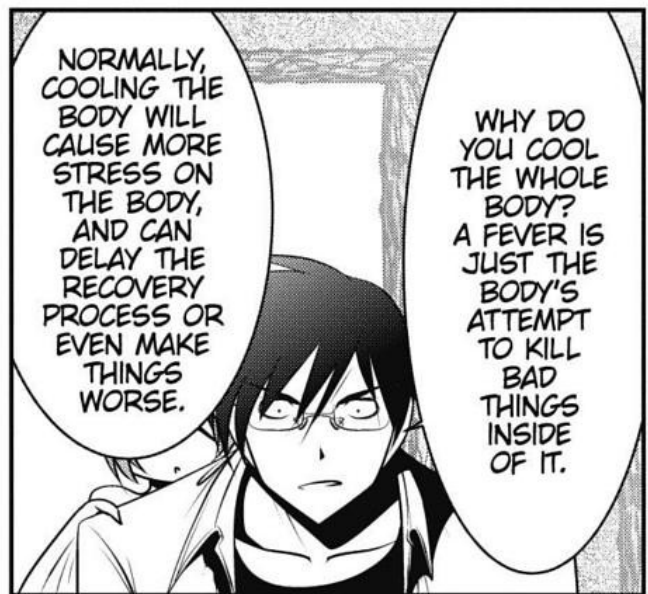
GIVEN THEIR DIFFERENT BODY STRUCTURES, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THIS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SICKNESS WITH COMMON COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS.



NO... WAIT WAIT WAIT. THAT'S JUST THE WAY THE SICKNESS WOULD MANIFEST IN HUMANS.

THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE COOLING THE WHOLE BODY WITH WET TOWELS...

THAT'S A TERRIBLE WAY TO TREAT A COLD...





ASIDE FROM THOSE AFFLICTED BY THIS "CURSE OF FIRE," HOW MANY OF YOUR CLAN HAVE DIED AFTER LOSING CONTROL OF THEIR LOWER BODIES, OR HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THEIR LEGS?

A FEVER LIKE THIS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO AFFECT THE BRAIN SO EASILY.

I SUSPECT THAT ONLY A PROLONGED AND VERY HIGH FEVER COULD CAUSE AN ARACHNE TO LOSE MOVEMENT IN THEIR LOWER BODY AND EVENTUALLY DIE.

AFTER WATCHING YOU SWEAT FROM RUNNING AT FULL SPEED EARLIER TODAY, NEA...



Y... YES...

THERE'S NOBODY HERE WHO CAN'T MOVE THEIR LOWER BODY, BUT THERE ARE QUITE A FEW WHO DIE AFTER EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF THE "CURSE OF FIRE," CORRECT?

THEY SAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS...

HUH... I'VE NEVER SEEN IT HAPPEN, BUT...



WE... WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TO KEEP HER COOL?

WE SHOULD STOP COOLING THE BODY, AND KEEP IT AT A NORMAL TEMPERATURE.

THEN IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT. THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO TREAT IT.

THAT'S IT.



OHO...
MY
D-CLIP
RULIN-
NETH
OVER.

MAINTAINING
THAT MODERATE
TEMPERATURE'S
GOING TO LET
HER CONSERVE
HER STRENGTH,
SO SHE CAN
FIGHT OFF THE
BAD THINGS
INSIDE HER
BODY.

WE
SHOULDN'T
COOL THE
BODY.

FOR NOW
WHAT SHE
NEEDS IS A
MODERATE
TEMPERATURE...
NOT TOO HOT,
NOT TOO
COLD.

BLOOMP

O...
OKAY...

FOR NOW,
WE JUST
WIPE OFF
HER
SWEAT.

JIGGLE



YOU
THERE.
IS ALL
THIS
TRUE?

LET'S
FETCH
HER A
BLANKET...
YOU'RE
RIGHT, LET'S
JUST COOL
THE UPPER
PART OF
THE LOWER
BODY A
LITTLE,
JUST IN
CASE.



Next Time: The Strongest Bow

How do harpies fly?

We can look at the biological features of birds that exist in the real world to determine how much muscle mass an imaginary creature would need to be able to lift its own weight. It's said that birds like the kori bustard, wandering albatross, and Andean condor—with weights of roughly 12 to 18 kg and wingspans of 260 to 360 cm—are the largest birds which are capable of physically flapping their wings. Moreover, due to the difficulty of moving their heavy wings, these birds essentially spend most of their time gliding. If a creature exceeded 40 kg, the ratio between its weight and the muscle strength which would be needed to keep that weight airborne would make continuous flight by flapping its wings impossible.

The act of gliding involves supporting the whole body's weight with extended arms or wings. The act of physical flight, however, involves continuously lifting one's whole body weight over and over to propel oneself forward. As a result, over 15 to 20% of a bird's weight is in its pectoral muscles (whereas for humans, this number is only 1%). In addition, birds' bones are hollow, their legs are typically short, and they're incredibly streamlined for flight. Effectively, a real harpy which could fly like a bird would be a human-faced Andean condor, of roughly the same size and shape. The harpy we see here cannot fly like a bird, and has much more in common with human biology, which, of course, necessitates a new method of flight.

With regards to the harpy's method of flight, if the reader chose to watch some videos on thermal soaring, ridge soaring, or hang gliders, they would clearly see that even without flapping their wings, riders with large surface area wings (or parachutes) at a combined weight of around 100 kg can traverse several hundreds of kilometres using only wind and thermals, and can remain in the air for days at a time. Large-scale dragons would also have been capable of flight by simply stretching and using their wings' surface area.

Flying fish can glide several hundred meters simply using the power of their tails to exit the water at high speeds. They can also re-accelerate by using their tails to bounce off the surface of the water. With tens of thousands more years of evolution, perhaps harpies could achieve this too.

Speaking of flying fish, I've gotta mention flying fish sticks. Flying fish sticks are the best.

CREATURE GIRL DISPATCH

I'll be using this column to explain a few different things I might've forgotten to mention in the main work, and other unrelated details. Feel free to read it if you have the time.

