

THE SERPENT'S DAUGHTER CH. 2

Written by

Bria Strothers

Bria Strothers
bria.strothers@gmail.com

PANEL 1 - EXT. - DAY

Ejo approaches the square which is now full of about 10-12 people all circling around the centaur girl.

PANEL 2 - CLOSE UP

Between the bodies of some people in the crowd, Ejo peers to get a better view of what's going on. She squints a bit to get the visual.

PANEL 3

The young centaur girl, a high schooler a few years younger than Ejo, is shaking while an older man in an apron is shouting at her. She wears a similar uniform to the kids who previously passed by. Surprised at first, Ejo cannot make out his angry chatter above the murmurs from the folks who've gathered in the crowd. Thus, everything is initially denoted by vague squiggles.

EJO (THOUGHT)

Wait. That man... looks familiar
for some reason.

PANEL 4 - CLOSE UP

The focus moves to the angry shop owner's face, still shouting at the poor centaur girl. While he's shouting, Ejo realizes she recognizes who the man is. With better focus, Ejo is unfortunately able to make out his insults which can be seen by his speech being shown clearly.

EJO (THOUGHT)

The toy store! That's the owner
from the toy store on Lennox!

STORE OWNER

I'm getting tired of you mythos
trash thinking you can do whatever
you want! You're gonna pay for what
you stole!

PERSON 1 (OFF-PANEL)

Yeah!

PERSON 2 (OFF-PANEL)

That's right!

A few members from the crowd offer insults and murmur in agreement.

PANEL 5

Ejo pushes through the crowd to get to the young girl's side, angered by everyone surrounding them.

EJO (THOUGHT)
Uh-oh, this can't end well...

EJO
Hold up!

PANEL 6

Ejo stands in front of the centaur girl, positioning herself between the girl and the angry man's wrath.

EJO (THOUGHT)
It's my first time ever seeing this old man so angry. I never even knew he could make this kinda face.

Ejo looks on at him questionably, with a hint of disgust.

PANEL 7

Her eyes remain focused on the man before her, also noting the crowd now encircling the three of them.

EJO (THOUGHT)
Quick Ejo! Just play it cool for an opening so the two of you can run.

EJO
Now, what seems to be the problem here?

She speaks calmly, attempting to mask her own anger so as not to escalate things further.

PANEL 8

The faces in the crowd meet Ejo with disdain and more anger. A human man and woman appear before her in direct opposition to her interference.

MAN 1
What's it to you?

WOMAN 1
Yea, this doesn't concern you *myth*.

MAN 2 (OFF-PANEL)
Coming in here all high and mighty.

MAN 3 (OFF-PANEL)
Butt out!

PANEL 9

Ejo tries not to show it in front of the fearful girl but she's seriously nervous, a silly look on her face as sweat now rolls down her sides. She pushes the girl further behind her, making sure to maintain a distance between them and the humans.

EJO (THOUGHT)
Crap! You really didn't think this through. This is probably one of those times where that big mouth of yours gets you into trouble like Mira always says.

PANEL 10

Past the crowd, there are a few Reverie citizens passing by. Groups, much like the teenagers from before, mixed with humans and various myths.

PANEL 11

Then, from a corner furthest back in the crowd, Ejo sees a boy around her age. He's got earbuds tucked under his skully cap with a look of apathy on his face.

PANEL 12

Her eyes catch his attention as well as he looks up and makes eye contact. The world around her silenced for a moment with herself in a bit of a trance.

PANEL 13 - SIDE PANEL

Abruptly, the boy walks off without any recognition to Ejo.

PANEL 14 - SIDE PANEL

Ejo's expressing a look of shock that the boy would suddenly leave while pretending she doesn't exist.

(SFX)

Ack!

EJO (THOUGHT)
No wayyyy...

PANEL 15

The focus is back on Ejo in the crowd trying to protect the young girl. She still looks astonished with nervous sweat coming down her forehead.

EJO (THOUGHT)
You're going to seriously walk away
while we're in the middle of this
mystery dude???

Ejo huffs in annoyance.

PANEL 16

Ejo refuses to give up and focuses on quelling the argument herself.

EJO (THOUGHT)
Guess I'll just have to do this on
my own.

EJO
Look, we're the adults here right?
No reason why we can't figure out
some solution.

Ejo shrugs her shoulders. Although, she is met with a crowd of grumbles in disagreement.

PANEL 17

Ejo lets out a sigh before she speaks.

EJO
And I think the real issue here is
that you're all clearly
antagonizing a little kid. Forming
an angry mob for what? A child's
toy that you don't even have proof
she stole?

She admonishes the crowd for their behavior, looking at them while scrunching up her face. Ejo lifts and accusatory finger towards the adults facing them who are no longer hurling their insults.

PANEL 18

The members of the crowd, including the man and woman from before, exchange a few quiet glances. The store owner and other rowdy crowd members have on nervous looks.

PANEL 19

Ejo steps forward so that she is directly in front of the store owner.

EJO

And you of all people mister! As a former customer of your store, I know for a fact that your poor eyesight makes it difficult for you to read the labels and keep track of stock.

She faces him with her hands on her hips.

PANEL 20

Ejo is so close now that she's directly in his face.

EJO (THOUGHT)

Well, so much for playing it cool and looking for that exit.

EJO

Maybe, before you point a finger at innocent people, you should be taking a look at yourself.

PANEL 21

This shot is a more aerial view of the crowd which is now buzzing with a few quiet murmurs.

(SFX)

Dooooooooom

PANEL 22 - CLOSE UP

The store owner looks embarrassed from being called out in front of the crowd. His cheeks are flush and his eyebrows are furrowed.

PANEL 23

Ejo glances around her, listening to the humans and their different responses.

MAN 1 (OFF-PANEL)
How dare you come here judging us
like that?

WOMAN 1 (OFF-PANEL)
R-right! We were just looking out
for the small businesses in the
square. Everyone's trying to get
over on the little guy's right now.

PANEL 24

Ejo crosses her arms and fires back full of energy.

EJO
And if you were really focused on
that, you wouldn't be wasting your
time harassing and discriminating
against a kid.

PANEL 25

The focus is back on Ejo and the young girl who are facing
the store owner again.

EJO
Now, let's say we let bygones be
bygones for today and keep things
civil for her sake.

Ejo's head nods towards the young girl still behind her.
With one hand, she offers out a few bills to the store
owner, paying for the item he supposedly lost.

PANEL 26

The man snatches the money, showing off his still
embarrassed face, before finally turning to leave.

(CAPTION)
This look and this feeling is one
that I can never forget.

PANEL 27

Ejo hastily steers the girl away from the crowd as well,
forcing a path to open up for them among the no-longer
engaged audience. With their anger mostly fizzled out and
the store owner on his way, there was no real reason to
object to their departure.

EJO
And so that's it then. Come on, we
best be going too.

(CAPTION)
No matter how hard I work for
Reverie to be my sanctuary,

PANEL 28

As Ejo and the young girl leave the square, the crowd disperses too with a few of the folks still showing bitterness on their faces over the situation's outcome. However, the final murmurs of the crowd can still be heard right before they get out of earshot.

PERSON 1 (OFF-PANEL)
I guess she didn't really do it
after all.

PERSON 2 (OFF-PANEL)
But what gives her the right to
boss us around like that?

PERSON 3 (OFF-PANEL)
Myths think they own this zone, I
swear.

PERSON 4 (OFF-PANEL)
Downtown's just not what it used to
be.

(CAPTION)
I'm still reminded of what living
with being among others who are so
unlike myself is like...

Their words fade as Ejo and the girl are walking away.

PANEL 29

Ejo releases a sigh, showing off a now tired face.

(CAPTION)
and how truly tiring that can be...

PANEL 30

She then fixes her tired face into a smile which is now directed at the girl.

(CAPTION)
...when all I want is to live!

PANEL 31 - MOMENTS LATER

Through the windows of the cafe, Ejo and the girl can be seen with smiling faces now speaking with the cafe's shopkeepers. Ejo is smiling sheepishly and rubs the back of her neck in embarrassment.

PANEL 32 - LATER

With food in hand, Ejo leads the young girl to the subway station.

EJO

Oh yea, what's your name again?

CENTAUR GIRL

U-uh, it's Natalie!

The girl says with a nervous smile.

EJO

Nice to meet you Natalie! If you're ever in trouble again, just give me a shout and big sis'll come right over!

PANEL 33

Natalie smiles, with tears forming in the corner of her eyes.

NATALIE

Thank you so much again Ejo. Not many people would do that, for someone like me...

PANEL 34 - CLOSE UP

Ejo smiles really wide.

EJO

It's no problem! We myths have to stick together right?

PANEL 35

Fiddling around in her back pocket, Ejo searches for something.

EJO
Actually, I have something that
might be useful for situations like
this.

PANEL 36

Ejo pulls out a small vial from her pants pocket and holds it out to Natalie in her palm.

NATALIE (O.S.)
What is it?

PANEL 37

Ejo holds the vial up between her thumb and pointer finger, showing off the glistening contents inside. Natalie looks on in wonder.

EJO
It's a mixture of herbs that's good
for releasing bad energy! I usually
make batches of this stuff for
whenever I'm feeling down to get me
back to my old self. I call it
"Doctor's Orders!"

NATALIE
Oooo!

PANEL 38

Ejo holds the vial out to her with a smile.

EJO
So why don't you hold onto it for
me?

Natalie's face brightens up instantly

NATALIE
Really? Thanks!

PANEL 39

Ejo waves to Natalie as she enters the train station. Ejo shouts after her.

EJO
Let your parents know that you're
on the way home!
(MORE)

EJO (CONT'D)

And if you need me, I work at
Carmen's Elixirs on Hyacinth and
Banks!

PANEL 40

Ejo heads back to work, still clutching the food from the
cafe.

PANEL 41

This panel shows Ejo thinking about Natalie's frightened
face from before in a flash back. Her hands are balled into
fists at her sides.

EJO (THOUGHT)

I can't help but feel like meeting
Natalie reminds me of myself from
that time...

PANEL 42

Suddenly, Ejo slaps her hands on either side of her face,
hoping to feel revitalized. The wrapped up to-go bag has
plopped to the ground.

EJO (THOUGHT)

No! I can't let myself feel all
down now. Not when I've made it
this far.

PANEL 43 - EVENING

Ejo heads out of the shop's front door, bidding goodbye to
Samira. She waves to her off-panel.

EJO

Bye Mira, see you next time!

SAMIRA (OFF-PANEL)

See you then. And go straight home
alright?

(CAPTION)

At times like these, I may feel
down. And then, I have to ask
myself...

PANEL 44

Just as she's walking off to head home, her phone chimes from her short's pocket signifying she has a phone call. She's surprised by the sudden noise.

EJO

Hm?

PANEL 45

Ejo answers the phone while walking home.

EJO

Hey, what's up? No, I'm just wrapping up for the day.

PANEL 46

Ejo stops walking.

EJO

Tomorrow? I meannnnn, you're right I don't have anything planned but -

PANEL 47

Ejo's eyes are jolted wide and she shouts into the phone.

EJO

I told you, I didn't mean to bail on you that time! I really overslept!

PANEL 48

She chuckles as a smile returns to her face.

EJO

Oh my God. Okay, okay. Let's spend the day together.

(CAPTION)

What all this is for anyway.