

# GROWING UP GERUDO



written by Stacie "Roy" Ventura  
art by Anna "Junior" Vigorito

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# INTRODUCTION

"Growing Up Gerudo" is a concept that started up around November 2015. Two nerds were playing co-op mode in Hyrule Warriors, one as Ganondorf, the other as Young Link. After a few scenarios, the one playing Ganondorf jokingly role-played and called Young Link "son."

The other nerd jokingly played along, but a few minutes into role-playing this, it was no longer a joke.

The two Zelda nerds started to come up with this whole scenario where a young Ganon stumbles upon an abandoned baby in the desert, eventually adopting him and raising him as his own among the Gerudo people.

During a trip to Disney World in February 2016, the concept exploded. They came up with little stories and sketches of Ganon raising Link in the Gerudo culture, then created a blog to post all of these.

That is when they came up with their pseudonyms, Roy the Zora and Junior the Goron.

Nine months later, out comes the "Growing Up Gerudo" webcomic!

It starts when Link is about six years old, a shy little boy being taught the ways of the Gerudo. It is a coming-of-age story for Link, as it shows how he becomes the thief with a heart of gold he grows up to be. But it isn't all fluff and giggles.

Tensions are growing between the Gerudo and the Hylians and soon it could break out into an all-out war between Link's adopted people and his birth people.

Many of the Gerudo theories developed in "Growing Up Gerudo" were made before the release of "Breath of the Wild," a Zelda game that explored the Gerudo culture further than the previous titles.

While "Growing Up Gerudo" stands as its own alternative universe, it's primarily set in the "Ocarina of Time" verse with its portrayal of the Gerudo. The lore behind the Zelda races is paper-thin compared to other fantasy races seen in other series, such as Tolkien's Middle Earth and "The Elder Scrolls" series. It's like working with a coloring book page, working with a base outline and coloring it into a different creation. With a desert race made up of warrior women, there are so many possibilities for world-building in such an interesting concept!

Also, keep in mind many of the characters in the Zelda series are portrayed differently in "Growing Up Gerudo."

We've added a list of character bios for the reoccurring "Growing Up Gerudo" characters, as well as writing from Roy and art from Junior to give the readers a proper glimpse into Link and his family's lifestyle.

Remember—there is never one way to tell a legend.

-Roy and Junior

# LINK: THE SPRITELY SON

Link was abandoned in the Gerudo Desert as a quiet and painless execution according to Hylian tradition. Ganondorf found him in the nick of time and brought the little miracle back to the tribe. After persuading Nabooru (Mom-in-denial), Link was adopted by Ganondorf and raised by the Gerudo way.

Link is a cocky, adventurous, and like his dad, has a tendency to act before he thinks. But unlike Ganondorf, he is better at planning ahead. He's a playboy with a heart of gold.

Age: 17

Sign: Sagittarius

Height: 5'2"

Likes: girls, sweets, animals, puzzles & riddles, milk

Dislikes: fish, spicy food, taking orders, racism, shoes & hats

Phobias: cuccos, loss of freedom

Lineage: biological- ???

adopted by Ganondorf and Nabooru

Creators' Notes:

We based his design off of Ocarina of Time and Breath of the Wild Link. Though we wanted GUG Link to have more on a say about all those legends, especially since he can talk in this AU, so he doesn't wasn't anything to do with being a "hero."

Caped Keaton

The Caped Keaton was created by Link at the age of 12. He needed another identity when going into Hyrule, so he made a masked persona, just like his father. Through the years, Keaton became a Robin Hood-like figure to the little Gerudo children. Keaton is a suave, clever trickster-a thief with a heart of gold.

Creators' Notes:

The Keaton, the critter that the Caped Keaton is based off of, is a popular little creature that has a lot of merchandise based off it. A true Keaton, which we base off of a kitsune and the Keaton from Majora's Mask, is a tricky, fox-like creature that lives in the desert underground.



# GANONDORF: DAD AVOIDING DESTINY

Ganondorf's mother died during childbirth, as is the curse of having a boy in the Gerudo. He was then raised by his older sister, Oska, and trained by Koume and Kotake as they do with every male Gerudo. As is the king's duty, he is in charge of the politics and procreation of the Gerudo tribe. And despite having many children, he has no chance to raise them as it is against the rules. But then he saw his chance to do just that with Link.

Ganondorf is very impulsive and charismatic. He is also motherly to his tribe and children. He thinks about the future a lot, always worried about the direction the tribe is going.

Age: 39

Sign: Leo

Height: 7'6"

Likes: gardening, tea, curry, storytelling, singing

Dislikes: getting wet, sweets, strategy

Phobias: losing control, drowning

Lineage: biological mother- Anooru

surrogate mothers- Koume and Kotake

biological father is an unknown Hylian

Creators' Notes:

Male Gerudo are very rare because of the fact that almost all of them are miscarried. If they survive the womb, the mother dies instead. We based this Ganon off our own fathers to make him more lovable.

Fanged Phantom

Fanged Phantom is a persona created by Ganondorf for raids and missions in Hyrule. He made it to help him get rid of his empathetic nature. Phantom mostly uses his magic with swordplay thrown in with his double scimitars.

Think Batman, but with more killing. The mask makes him seem so much more detached to his emotions and that makes him much more intimidating.

Creators' Notes:

So, those bunny ears (yes they are indeed bunny ears though Ganondorf will vehemently deny that). He based them off a stupid rabbit he tried to catch as a kid but outsmarted him and escaped. He hoped giving himself these ears would give him the same cunning as that dastardly rabbit.



# NABOORU: THE MOM IN DENIAL

Nabooru is the Second in the Gerudo Tribe. She usually is in charge of the military aspects of the tribe, but in actuality, she is the behind-the-scenes king. Ganondorf may look like the king, but it's really Nabooru that is running the show. Nabooru also goes to meetings set up by Impa as an ambassador for the Gerudo Tribe. The group calls themselves the Sages. She also is an Iron Knuckle-the elite Gerudo soldiers in charge of protecting the Spirit Temple from vermin and keeping it safe for funerals, ceremonies, and weddings.

Nabooru is the mom-in-denial. Usually, she keeps a serious demeanor, but there are times when it slips, especially around her best friend Aveil. She is also romantically involved with Ganondorf and later marries him, which is made obvious by the gold ceremonial tattoos seen on both of them. She is also highly competitive with him. One in particular involves their long locks of hair due to a contest they started as kids to see who could grow the longest and most luscious hair. They haven't cut their hair since then.

Age: 35

Sign: Capricorn

Height: 6'2

Likes: jewelry, sparring, wine, coffee, cat's cradle

Dislikes: Laziness, puns (unless she's making them), losing, animals

Phobias: Getting emotionally attached, confined spaces

Lineage: Mother- A high priestess named Amonera

Creators' Notes:

Being the daughter of High Priestess, Nabooru is pretty religious and traditional (but she will bend the rules to fit her needs). Also, Nabooru HATES Koume and Kotakes. They are like cats and dogs when they are in the same room. She later gives birth to a pair of twins with Ganondorf named Imani and Omari.



# VRIDI: THE BASHFUL BROTHER

Vridi is the half adopted son of Vassu and Oska, Ganondorf's older sister. Ganondorf is the biological father, as Vassu asked him to be the donor. Because of his asthma, Vridi could not participate in the Gerudo warrior initiation, but he was able to find his place as a jeweler! His job mostly consists of making counterfeit Rupees now. And because he is a trans-male Gerudo, he is next in line as the Dragmire. Vridi is a bit of a pushover, wanting to please everyone around him. He's bashful but is willing to speak up in times of need.

Age: 16

Sign: Pisces

Height: 5'6"

Likes: snakes, sweets, geology, reading

Dislikes: onions, the dark

Phobias: being useless, being alone

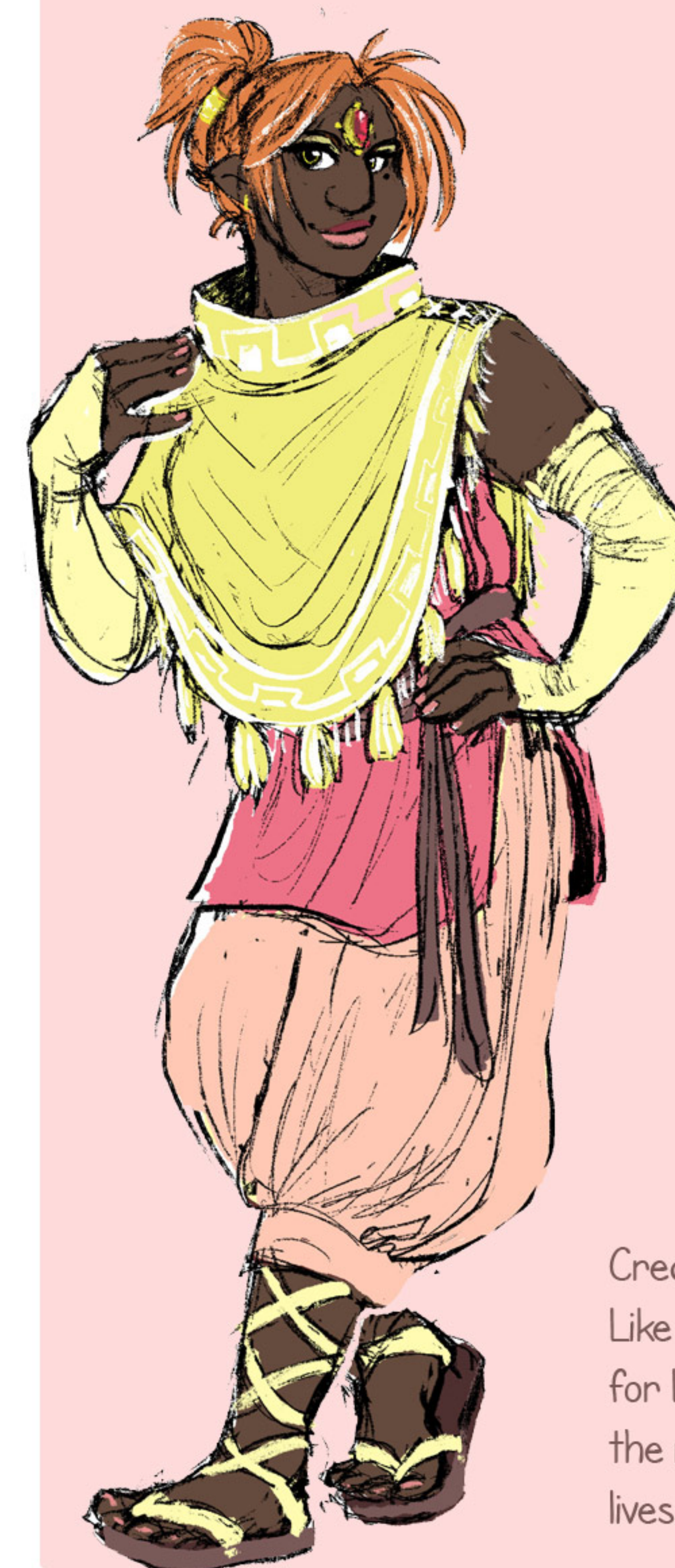
Lineage: biological parents- Ganondorf and Vassu  
raised by Vassu and Oska

Creators' Notes

Originally, Vridi was not going to be a big part of Growing Up Gerudo. We mostly made him to be a male friend that Link could grow up with and also mellow out all of these cocky characters. Now he's one of the most important characters, as he becomes Zelda/Sheik's boyfriend and eventually king.



# SIKA: THE SPUNKY SISTER



Sika was born from Aveil after asking Ganondorf. But that was only after Aveil experienced many miscarriages. Hence, Sika is a miracle baby in Aveil's eyes and thus spoiled. At first, Sika did not work well with others, but after getting put into her place by the then-soft-spoken Link, she saw the importance of teamwork and finally got initiated along with Link. Her job right now mostly consists of being night watch at the gate.

Sika can be a brat at times, being the catty girl she is. She knows gossip and tells you all she knows-for a price. Eventually she will be known throughout the tribe as "Sika the Sheikah Stone."

Age: 19

Sign: Aries

Height: 5'8"

Likes: gossip, fashion, spiders, money, flirting

Dislikes: having her time wasted, routine, seam ripping, dates (the fruit)

Phobias: failure, doing the same thing every day

Lineage: raised by her biological mother, Aveil  
biological father- Ganondorf

Creators' Notes:

Like Vridi, Sika wasn't supposed to be important, just an archetypal Gerudo friend for Link. But then she became more important when the comic started. Despite being the most stereotypical Gerudo, when she marries Beedle, she moves out with him and lives as a traditional Hylian with her five children.

# ZELDA: THE DETERMINED PRINCESS

Zelda is the Princess of Hyrule, Heir to the Throne, Wielder of the Triforce of Wisdom. All of these titles were forced onto her by her father, unwillingly. She was mostly raised and trained by Impa, the last and leader of the Sheikah Tribe. Zelda is a very fussy perfectionist. Being raised by royalty, she is almost your run-of-the-mill princess, except for her need for knowledge and adventure. At a young age, she even snatches the iconic Hero's Clothes from its safe and dons them herself instead just to have her father lecture her not to wear them. She is fiercely opinionated, often engaging into heated arguments with Ganondorf from the fragile ties between the Gerudo and Hylians, to how to properly pronounce "tomato." She is also tall for a Hylian, thus unfortunately not being a popular dance partner for many formal gatherings.

Age: 20

Sign: Virgo

Height: 5'9"

Likes: order, reading, heavy discussion, astronomy

Dislikes: small talk, being babied, finger Food, messes

Phobias: heights, snakes, failure

Lineage: biological father- Daphnes Nohansen Hyrule  
surrogate mother- Impa  
biological mother passed away

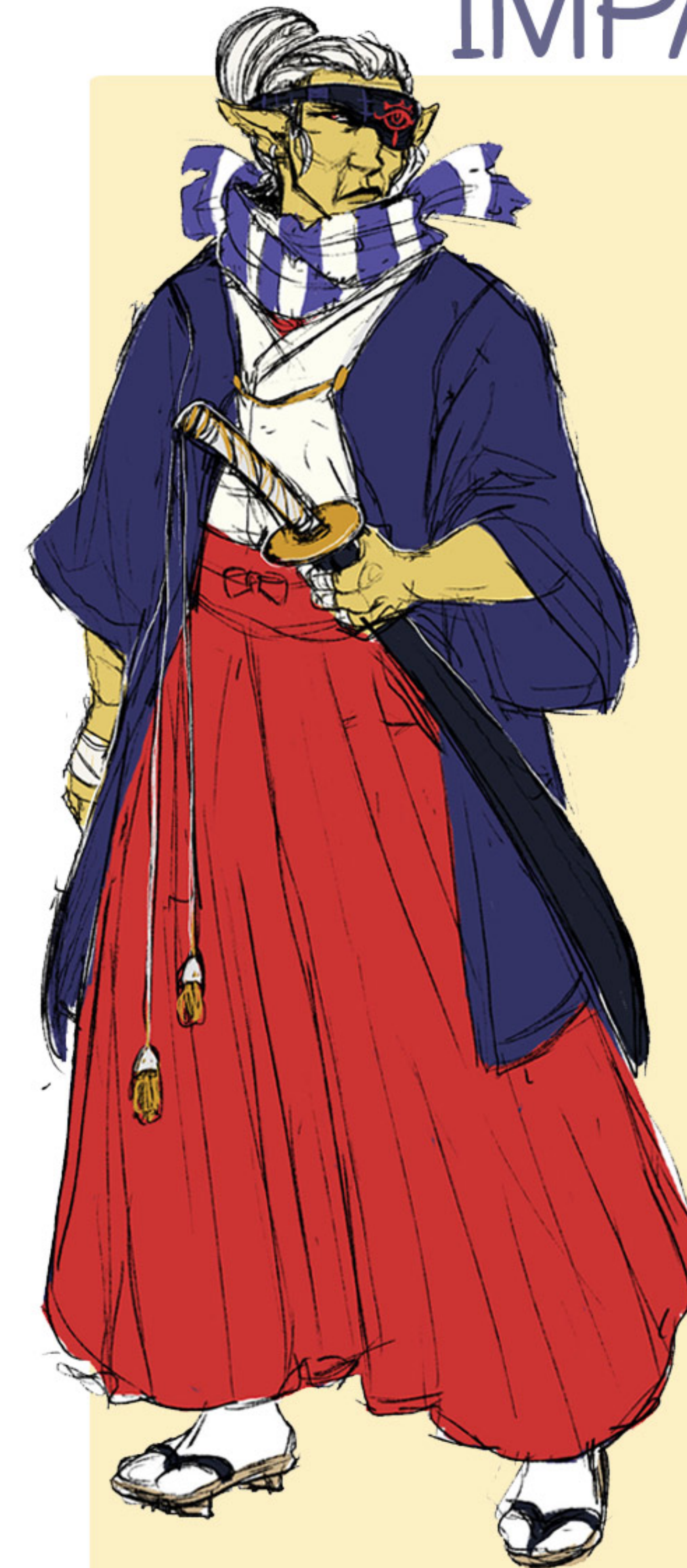
Creators' Notes:

Zelda is Link's cousin! We wanted to make Zelda more interesting in GUG because she is usually a boring cut-out princess (unlike her alter egos).

The Sheikah is a person Zelda made for herself when she realized her kingdom isn't as peaceful as she originally thought. He gallivants across the rooftops of Hyrule in pursuit of justice! Although he denies friendship with the Caped Keaton and Fanged Phantom, you will not find him too far behind on their escapades. Sheik is a no-nonsense vigilante that get dragged into Keaton's and Phantom's foolishness. He would never admit it, but he secretly likes being around those two rapsallions.



# IMPA: LEADER OF THE SHEIKAH



Impa is the last of the Sheikah and because Sheikah became slaves to the Hylians centuries ago, Impa became the nurse maid for Zelda. Later, Impa trains Zelda in the ways of the Sheikah warrior. She also sets up meetings with the other races of Hyrule away from the king's radar so that they could be prepared for the moment they become endangered by King Daphnes.

Impa doesn't really talk much, but one could definitely tell that she cares deeply, especially for Zelda. She is wise and motherly, but pray you don't get on her bad side.

Age: 63

Sign: Aquarius

Height: 5'7"

Likes: cooking, swordplay, folklore, knitting

Dislikes: close-mindedness, injustice, plaid, fancy clothing

Phobias: harm coming to Zelda, extinction of cultures

Lineage: ??

Creators' Notes:

We just really wanted a tough grandma and we also really liked her motherly feelings towards Zelda.

# ZANT: THE USURPER

Zant was a Twili commoner that rose to the rank of Adviser to the Twili King. Once he gained enough of the king's trust, he killed the king, making it look like an accident. He then usurped the throne, throwing the princess in the back room, hoping the people would forget about her.

Zant is a cunning critical thinker, until you get him enraged.

But he's not much of a fighter-he's pretty cowardly, in fact.

Age: 37

Sign: Gemini

Height: 7'9"

Likes: chess, collecting antiques

Dislikes: laziness, sunlight

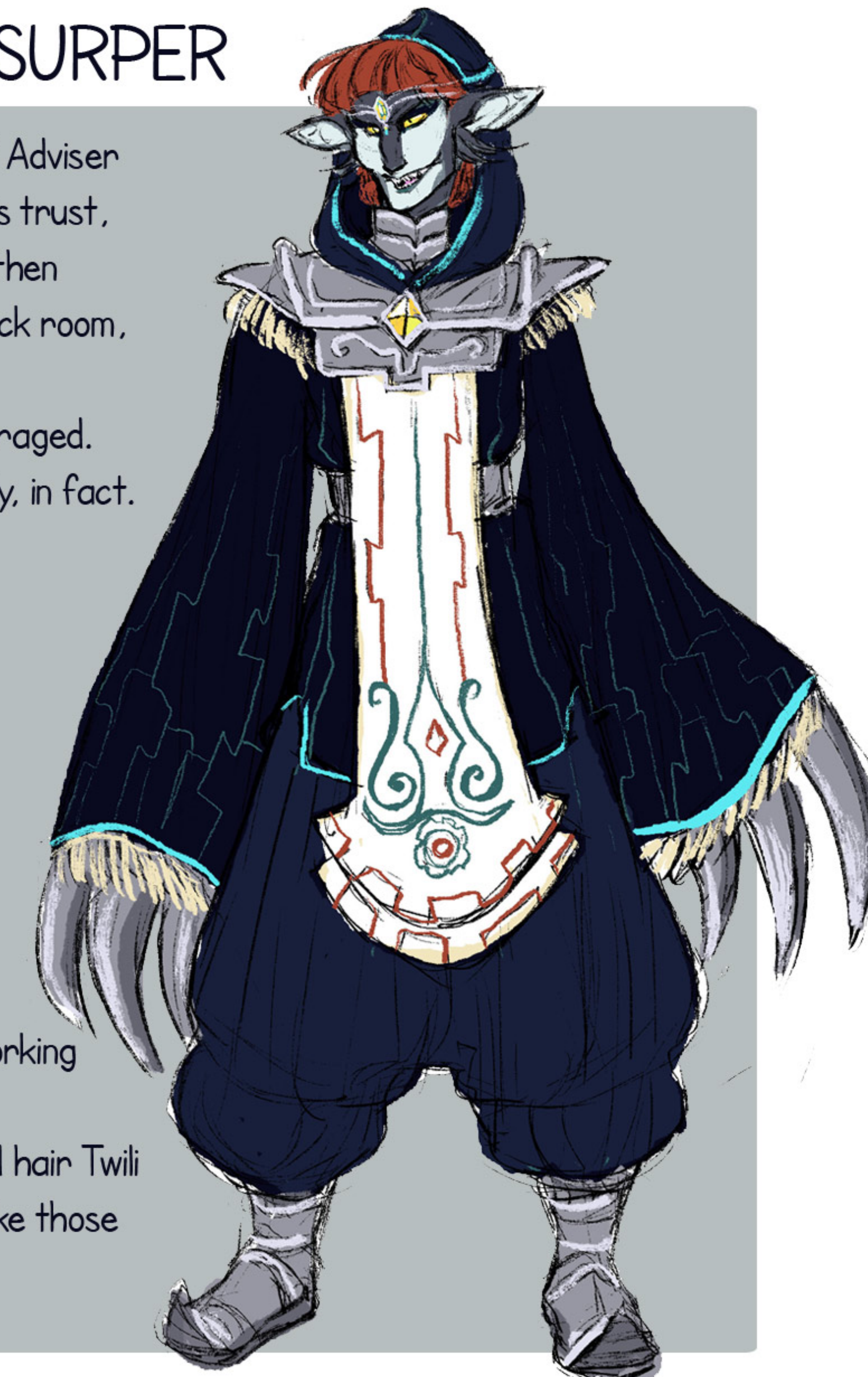
Phobias: being unsuccessful, tight spaces

Lineage: working class family

Creators' Notes:

Zant lost all movement and feeling in his arms in a working accident.

Now, after a lot of practice, he uses the enchanted hair Twili have to move his arms, which is how he's able to make those intimidating claws.



# GHIRAHIM: THE NOSY SWORD SPIRIT

Ghirahim is Demise's demon sword. Before Demise was sealed, it seemed that Ghirahim was shattered completely, but the truth is that he only lost an ear, which is also half of his hilt. It was thousands of years later that his shard found a new home in his master's chosen vessel's arm. Now he hangs around said vessel, hoping to convert him so that he could get his shard back-and also his freedom.

Ghirahim is a fabulous demon that probably cares too much about his looks. He's very obsessive over things that he's not really supposed to be obsessed over- and he's very nosy, much to the dismay of Ganondorf.

Age: ??? Who knows how many millennia he's lived.

Sign: Scorpio

Height: 6'0"

Likes: discourse, beauty, people-watching, fencing, being held

Dislikes: people touching his hair; bad fashion, being ignored, animals, boredom

Phobias: being useless, being alone

Lineage: A blacksmith? He's a sword.



## Creators' Notes:

At first, Ghirahim didn't really have an important part of GUG, but as Roy's interest grew (not because of Hyrule Warriors, nope), so did his role. It's amazing how an interest in a character can change a whole story.

# MIDNA: THE SLY TWILI PRINCESS

Midna is the Twili princess, but when Zant took the throne, she was thrown away and forgotten. She later escaped and made her way to the Gerudo Tribe by following Zant's scent with one goal in mind-to kill Zant and take back the throne. But she ended up meeting Link and Ganondorf, who took her back to the Twili palace. That didn't stop her from coming back every so often, though. Midna is an ultimate "tsundere," often having trouble with expressing her emotions towards Link and others while coming off aggressive sometimes. Unlike Zelda, Midna is a rough-and-tumble princess who doesn't mind getting her hands dirty. She eventually marries Link and has a Twili-Hylian son named Zeeran.

Age: 17

Sign: Taurus

Height: 6'5"

Likes: bread, dolls, folklore/mythology, magic

Dislikes: clothes, sunlight, being ignored

Phobias: enclosed spaces

Lineage: parents were the king and queen of the Twili world



## Creators' Notes:

We are Midlink trash. That's one of the main reasons we put her in. But another important reason is that we wanted to develop the Twili culture along with the Gerudo. We surmised that the Twili, Gerudo, and Sheikah used to be all one tribe until the Hylians came and split up the tribe in three ways.



## BEDTIME STORIES

He spread the blanket on the floor, trying to fluff it up as much as he could (he sure as heck was not going to let his son be uncomfortable). "Here you go, Link. A bed just for you, right next to your daddy." He looked to the boy.

"That's how you wanted it, right?"

Link responded by running straight into the bundle. Ganon's heart leapt to his throat when he heard a thump from his head hitting the floor, but when he saw this small, blue eyes peek through the blanket, he smiled. That made the little toddler giggle and bury himself under the mess once again.

Ganon chuckled at the boy's antics as he turned to his own bed. The kid had energy, that was for sure, but he knew that Link would be tuckered out soon. The Gerudo King tucked himself in, ready to go to sleep, when he suddenly felt some extra weight on his bed. He turned his head to see his son had belly-flopped on the side of his mattress holding up a book.

"What is it, Link?" Ganon asked.

Link just held the book up even higher.

"You want me to read this book to you?"

Link nodded his head vigorously, smiling.

Ganon couldn't hide his own smile. "Well, come on up here." He patted the spot next to him and Link scrambled up, laying in that exact spot. The older man took the book out of his son's hands. "Now let's see what you picked." Link bounced as his dad opened the book. "Ooooh, this was my favorite when I was your age." He poked the boy's nose and smirked. "Good choice, kid."

Link giggled, covering his face.

So, the king of the Gerudo read his son a bedtime story and the deeper he went into the book, the droopier his son's eyes got. Eventually, Link yawned and snuggled up to Ganon, falling fast asleep. When Ganon saw this, he was going to wake up the boy and tell him go to his own bed. But watching that little chest rise and fall so comfortably, he just didn't have the heart. Instead, he set the book on his nightstand, then brought the blanket over him and his son.

The next morning, the Gerudo found the pair with Link asleep on top of Ganon's chest. A perfect big pillow for the little blond boy.





## FROM GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WE RUN

He didn't know what woke him up first. Was it the crashing sound of the scaffolding falling? Or maybe the panicked screams of the woman. He also heard Nabooru shouting commands, not at the Gerudo, but at the ones causing the chaos.

It wasn't until a messenger came into the hut that Ganon fully woke, his hand over his eyes.

"They're here, aren't they?" he grumbled.

"Yes, sir. A-And they seem to be looking for you."

Ganon sighed. Of course they would be looking for him, why else would they come to the valley and stir things up like this? He was about to get up, but a weight on his chest stopped him. Looking down, he saw a tuft of blond hair, and beyond it, a little baby boy curled up into a ball. Link had gotten into a habit of sleeping on his chest lately, one he wished he didn't have to break, but today he had to get up. He had to stop those old hags from tearing his kingdom apart. Gently moving the boy from his chest to his bed, Ganon quickly strode out of his hut, nearly knocking the Gerudo out of the way.

Outside the hut was chaos. Some girls were frozen, encased in ice, some stalls were set aflame. And no one could do a thing about it as the ones causing the destruction were...

"Mom! Mother!" Ganon shouted. Suddenly the screaming stopped, those trapped were set free and all became calm, as if nothing happened. Two small, old women on brooms flew up to the Gerudo King, their long, pointed noses almost touching him. Their white hair defied gravity, sticking upward and straight into the air. They were identical except for one thing: one had a blue gem on her forehead, the other, a red gem.

"Hello, my dear boy," the blue one spoke up first, "how is our little son doing?"

"I was resting till you two showed up. And who knows how many times I told you, I am NOT 'little.'" He crossed his arms and puffed out his chest. "I am your king and I expect you to treat me as such."

The red one cackled, her hand going up to her mouth. "Oh look at him, Kotake. He's trying to be so grown up."

She flew around beside him and nudged her son on the shoulder. "Oh loosen up, will 'ya? We were just saying hello!"

Ganon was about to respond but then his blue mother held up her hand, her face serious.

"Koume. Do you smell that?"

"Eh?" Koume sniffed the air. "Yeah." Her eyes narrowed as she flew in circles around Ganon and then once again ended up beside her sister, squinting at her son. "I smell... Hylians. Coming from you, my dear. Why?"

The Gerudo King sighed. Well, they would have found out sooner or later so why not sooner? He motioned them to follow him inside his hut. "Come on, I'll show you."

When they walked inside, they were met with a little, blond baby boy, all swaddled up in blankets.

"What," Koume started, a shaky finger pointing to the mess, "what is that?"

Again, Ganon sighed and walked over to his bed. He picked up the bundle, showing the two ladies the sleeping boy. "Mothers -- this is my son."

Both squealed. The first to recover was Kotake as she squawked out some laughter.

"So you got a taste of the Hylian fruits, eh?"

"YOU IDIOT!" Koume smacked her sister on the head. "THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER! THIS IS A DISGRACE! IF ANYONE FOUND OUT THAT WE HAVE ANOTHER BOY IN THE TRIBE, ESPECIALLY A HYLIAN BOY."

"WHAT ARE YOU YELLING AT ME FOR? IT ISN'T MY FAULT THAT HE FATHERED A HYLIAN CHILD!"

"OF COURSE IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING HIM!"

"WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE!"

"NO YOU IRRESPONSIBLE HAG! YOU WERE!"

"SINCE WHEN DID HE NEED WATCHING ANYWAY?"

"SINCE HE DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS THE SECOND WE LOOK AWAY!"

## FIVE YEARS LATER

"MOTHERS!" that final shout from Ganon woke the baby Link in his arms. "Gack? Now look what you've done." He frantically bounced the boy, badly humming a tune to calm him down. He tried shushing him, patting his blond head, but nothing worked. Sweat beaded on his brow, his heart beating fast, and his son just kept screaming.

"Here, give me that!" Koume flew up to Ganon and took the baby from him. She flew around slowly, rocking the boy gently and softly sung a lullaby. Slowly, Link began to quiet down, cries becoming a few sniffles here and there.

"How-" Ganon stared in amazement. "How did you do that?"

"Oh please," Kotake smirked and rolled her eyes. "We have raised so many Gerudo boys in our lifetime. One little Hylian boy is nothing."

The fire witch flew up to them with Link in tow. "But you know we can't keep him. Only one boy per century, you know the rules."

"But Mom-"

"No 'buts!"

At that word, the child squeaked, making the three adults look down at him. They were met with a tiny grin, laughter bubbling from his chest. He reached up, grabbing onto Koume's nose, and garbled some nonsense noises. But there was one noise they all could make out.

"Gab-ma! Gab-ma Gab-ma!" he looked to Kotake and smiled. "Gab-ma!"

Their hearts leapt in their chests. In the thousands of years they had lived, they had raised many sons. They had been called mother, mom, mommie... but never "grandma."

"Hey, Koume," the ice witch slowly reached over, "your arms must be getting tired. Let me take him off your hands."

The other witch swirled around. "No. you gotta wait your turn."

"WHAT? You had him this whole time! It's definitely my turn!"

"NO! Go away! He's mine!"

As they flew around, Kotake chasing Koume and screaming at each other, Ganon shook his head, rubbing at his temples. Link laughed throughout the squabble.

An explosion rattled the place; ink spilled all over his paperwork. He sat there, his arms in the air as realization slowly seeped in. "Oh no."

"What's wrong, Dad?" Link curiously padded up to Ganon.

His elbows propped on the desk, the man's head sunk heavily into the palms of his hands.

"They're here."

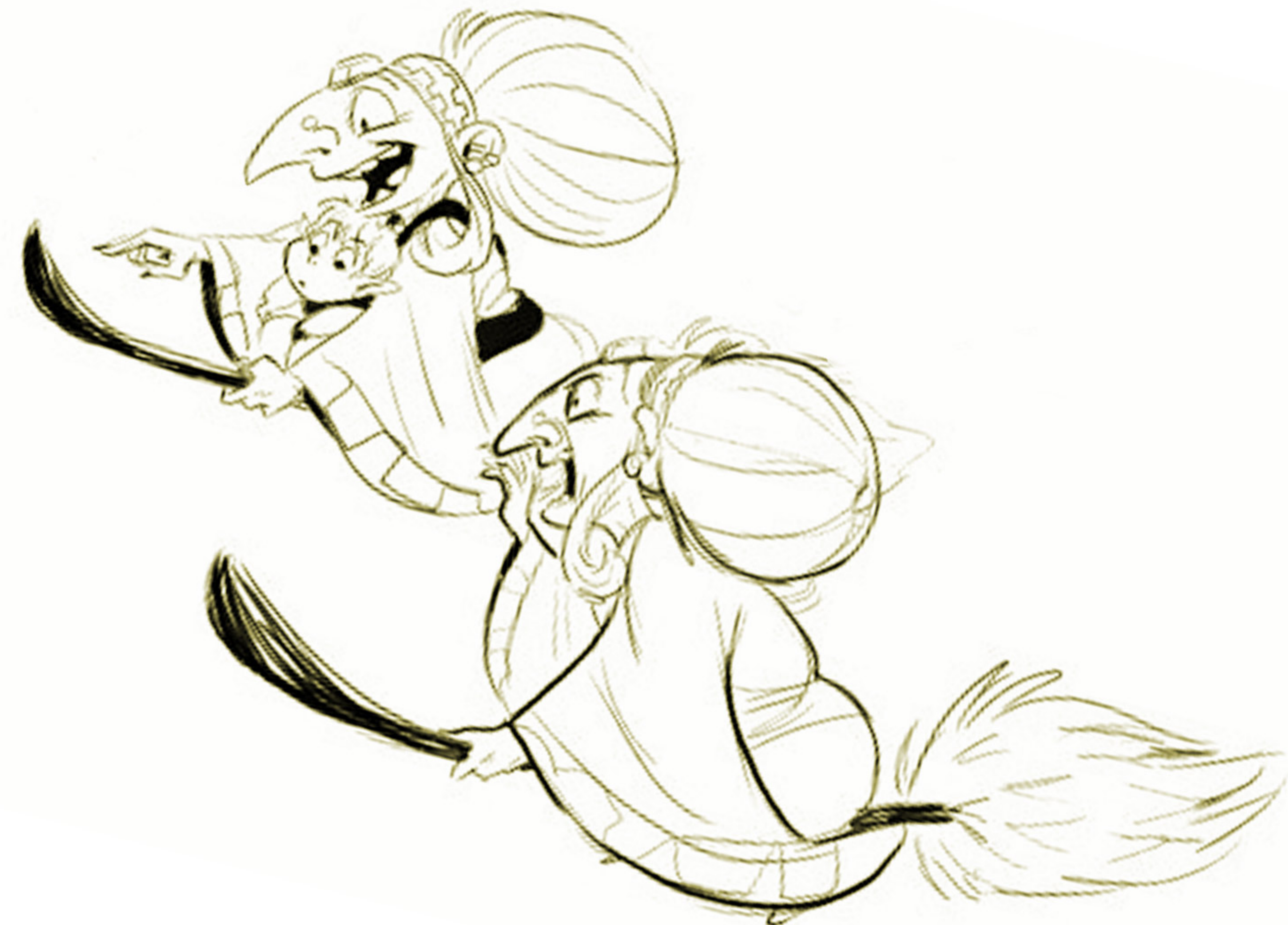
"Who?" Soon Link's face brightened up when he realized it himself. "The Grandmas?"

Ganon just sighed in reply. He stood up and trudged over to the doorway. There he saw chaos once again, like every other time his mothers came for a visit.

He crossed his arms. "Now, Link, I want you to look at this. Remember it and I want you to nev-"

The man looked down at where his son was, but found the spot empty. The next thing he heard was the boy whooping, so he turned his head to find the blond boy riding on Kotake's broom, directing the witch's ice shots.

Ganon rubbed his eyes. "Great. Another headache."





## THE CAPED KEATON

The Caped Keaton sat on the back of his Helmaroc, the wind pulling at his robes as they soared above the trees. It was their fun time, their way of freedom, but it was sadly interrupted by a scream coming from the ground. Link motioned Bow-Wow to follow the noise and he obliged, equally as worried as his rider.

As they got closer, they saw that the scream came from a little blond girl being attacked by monsters. Bow-Wow stretched his claws out, targeting the creatures attacking the poor girl, and landed on top of them, killing them instantly under his weight.

The girl shivered under the shade of the giant Helmaroc as it stretched its wings in victory, proud of its achievements.

"Hey, you dumb bird, you're scaring her," Link stated as he poked his mask-covered face over the Helmaroc's shoulder.

Bow-Wow puffed in Link's face.

"Yeah, real mature, buddy." He jumped down from the bird, landing in front of the little girl. He crouched down, getting to her eye level.

"Hey, you okay? Can you stand?"

At first she didn't say anything, too scared to move, but soon she said in a shaking voice, "Who... who are you?"

Link stood at his full height, taking a bow.

"I am called the Caped Keaton," he said, holding the girl's hand gently, "at your service, my lady. And may I ask what your name is?"

The girl's face went a little red. "A-Aryll."

Bow-Wow squeaked, his head coming down next to Link, scaring the poor girl again.

The Caped Keaton laughed, petting the bird under his chin.

"Don't worry, he's harmless. This little guy is Bow-Wow." He offered a hand to Aryll. "Why don't you come say hi?"

"He doesn't seem very 'little'," she said warily as she grabbed Caped Keaton's hand and slowly walked to the King Helmaroc. The masked vigilante put the girl's hand on Bow-Wow's cheek, allowing her to scratch the bird's face. He purred, leaning into Aryll's hand and when she pulled away, he softly head-butted her hand and cooed, begging for more. The girl chuckled, getting more comfortable with the creature as he rubbed his face in her chest. Link laughed along and hated to break up such a friendship, but it was getting late. He grabbed a hold of her hand, kneeling down to her height. "My lady, I think it's time to go home."

"Aw, really? Will I be able to see Bow-Wow again?"

He put his hand on his chest and bowed his head. "Of course, my lady. Now, let's get you up there."

He whistled and motioned for Bow-Wow to bend down. When the Helmaroc King obliged, he lifted Aryll up to its back and climbed up after her.

After taking off, the girl turned back to Link and smiled. "Thank you, Mr. Keaton."



## BINDING

"GET. OUT!" Link couldn't help but cackle as he was all but thrown out of the dressing room with a shoe thrown at him. He looked back at the closed door, rubbing the sore spot on his head.

"So, Vridi can see you naked, but to anyone else it's forbidden fruits?" the blond boy quipped under his breath.

"Hey, Link!"

The call made Link utter out a courageous yelp – nothing meek or fearful about it. Nope. He turned to the person who called out to him to see Vridi jogging down the corridor towards him.

Vridi smiled as if the noise hadn't come from his half-brother: "I saw a Hylian carriage outside! Does that mean Zelda is here?" That ray of hope coming from the often-bashful jeweler was just too much.

"Weeeeell," Link began, "Not really..."

The other boy deflated a bit. "But- the carriage..." Realization hit Vridi like a rolling boulder: "If it's not Zelda, then- Sheik?!" It made sense. He was the only other person that was from Hyrule who frequently visited by carriage.

Link noted the slight blush on Vridi's ears, making a smirk. "Oh, Vridi," he tusked. "Don't tell me you are two-timing Zelda."

"No! I just..." Vridi squirmed, "I can look but not touch- right?"

In reply, Link just laughed. "Well, you know the drill: if Sheik is here, that means Zelda isn't." He then hummed and put a finger to his chin. "I wonder why that is?"

At Vridi's confused expression, Link proceeded to pat the other Gerudo's shoulder: "Well, why don't you find out?" He began walking away and called behind him. "But I don't think that they would like it too much if a stranger walked in on them naked!"

And with that teasing remark, Link was gone, leaving a conflicted Vridi in front of the changing room. He looked at the curtain in the doorway debating whether he should check or not. If it really was Zelda, it wouldn't matter; it's not like he hadn't seen her naked before. But if it was Sheik- he didn't know if he could deal with the consequences. Vridi took a deep breath and closed his eyes.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained," he mumbled. He gently pulled the curtain just enough for a single eye to peek through, and what he saw made him let out a tiny squeak. Unfortunately, the noise he made was just loud enough to catch the attention of the person inside.

They stared at each other for a moment, the other person's blue eyes going wide. Vridi almost couldn't believe it. It was Zelda- no, it was Sheik- no, not even that. The person's hair was done in the style Sheik usually had but the face and body were obviously Zelda's. And not to mention Vridi totally recognized those undergarments as Zelda's, but right next to them was Sheik's clothing. It was then Vridi realized what he was witnessing. It was a transition from one person to another: Sheik was Zelda, and Zelda was Sheik!

Before Vridi could react, his eyes landed on the other's chest.

Their bosom was underneath a strip of cloth, binding it down uncomfortably tight.

"Nonononono!" Vridi bolted inside, forgetting his initial shyness. He pulled the other's hands away from what they were doing, making them drop the cloth. That got an indignant squawk out of the other, but before they could say anything, Vridi exclaimed, "You can't! You shouldn't!" He looked up to his significant other, eyes full of worry. "It's not safe."

"What's not safe, Vridi?" A single brown eyebrow raised.

The Gerudo abruptly let go of the other's wrists when he realized what he was doing. "Your- your binding. It's not safe. The way you were doing it is very harmful for your body."

"Then how should I bind?" the other asked with a gentle smile, running a hand behind his ear. "Uh," he pulled his gaze from those mesmerizing eyes to think. "H-Here." He slipped off his own binder after a little work. Hey, if he was going to help, he needed to give them the closest binder, and that was the one he was wearing. And it's not like this person hasn't already seen him exposed many times before so he was already over his shyness with that. "This is made from Lizal-foes leather, specially cured so that it will stretch. See?" He pulled, showing that it was stiff, but still had enough give to make it safe to wear. "You should wear this instead." He offered the binder to them.

"But don't you need this?"

Vridi smiled. "I have others and Sika is in the process of making another. So don't worry." When they took the binder from Vridi, they planted a soft kiss on his forehead. "Thanks." Vridi immediately felt his face heat up at the affectionate gesture.

The process of putting the binder on was pretty easy with Vridi's help. He also helped with dressing Sheik and painted the red facial markings. When it was all done, Vridi watched his boyfriend wrap his cowl around his head.

He turned to the Gerudo. "So, how do I look?"

Vridi, who was sitting on the ground, gripped his ankles tightly with a dazed look. "Hot," he blurted out before he could stop himself. His hand flew to his mouth as his face heated up once again.

Sheik chuckled then walked up to the other boy and leaned over, turning the other's head up so that they were looking at each other. He pulled his face mask down and then placed his lips on the shy Gerudo's. Vridi's eyes going wide for a split second before closing them and leaning into the kiss. When Sheik broke it off, it was too soon.

Vridi blearily opened his eyes only to be met with a soft, smiling Sheik. "I love you, Vridi."

The jeweler smiled back as his hand covered his boyfriend's hand at the side of his head. "I love you too, Sheik."





# I WAS KIDNAPPED BY A GERUDO! A TALE BY BEEDLE THE MERCHANT

"Ow!" My head feels like I just got bludgeoned by a Bokoblin club- aaannnd I'm in a dark room again. I have a feeling that girl will show up again- BRIGHT LIGHTS- okay, there she is. Except she looks nicer this time around, her red hair drawn up in a neater bun, her face touched up with make-up. Goddess she looks beautiful- NO! I mentally shake those thoughts out of my head. This isn't right!

"So," Sika (that is her name, right?) squats down to my level. "Mom was right. I really should have taken you out for dinner before moving to the kidnapping. So I brought you here! We're gonna have dinner together!"

It takes some time for me to process what she said. "So," I announce, "You kidnap me in order to have dinner with me- so that you can kidnap me?"

"Well, when you put it that way..."

I groan, my hand going to my eyes. Wait, I can move freely. I'm not bound like last time? "Oh! Looks like dinner's about to start! Come on!" She grabs my hand and drags me out of the dark room. I yelp at the sudden movement. I am definitely gonna feel that whiplash in the morning.

Looking around the area I find out that, well, it's not as bad as I thought it was. A palace is carved into the rock face, something that must have taken centuries to build. My mouth opens in awe. This place is huge!

Sika must have seen my expression, because she suddenly states, "Pretty, ain't it? We use to travel around a lot, never staying in one place at a time. But then we took back our palace from the Hylians and now we live here, where we belong." She has this wistful look to her face. It makes me think that maybe, just maybe, she isn't as bad as I thought.

"So, you live in a palace, huh?" I feel a small, serene smile on my lips as she turns around in happy surprise. Suddenly, a huge grin brightens up her face. Goddesses, she's... beautiful when she smiles.

"Yup!" She tugs at me to go faster: "And there will be no dinner left if we don't hurry. Link and Dad are such gluttons."

Wait- As she drags me across the sands, I finally put two and two together: I dig my heel into the ground to stop our progression, not that it does anything, really. It does get the Gerudo's attention, though.

"What's 'a matta? You not hungry?"

I don't say anything, just shake as she forces my wobbly legs to move. If what I heard her say is right, then she has a dad. The Gerudo race is all women with only one male, and that male becomes king. Which means that I-I'm going to be eating w-with the King of the Gerudo! I've heard so many brutal stories about him. He could kill me with just a glare! AND THIS GIRL IS HIS DAUGHTER! Oh Goddesses have mercy on me- I am going to meet a monster- he will tear me from limb to limb if I say or do anything wrong! Before I know it, we are inside the palace, just outside a curtain.

Sika suddenly rounded on me, making me tense up. "Now, there are a few rules." Of course there are. "One: only one serving of each food per person. We are still low on food, despite having this super awesome palace. Two: don't listen to anything Link says. He's an idiot that doesn't know when to shut up. And three: by the Goddess, do NOT joke with my dad. Once you laugh at one of his embarrassing jokes- he will not stop!"

I just nod my head stiffly. She grins at me then grabs my hand again and drags me through the door.

The hall is huge! High ceilings, grand spaces, but what surprises me the most is that there are no tables. There is an elevated slab at one end of the room with a set up to look like a buffet table, but in the middle was just a long blanket with pillows surrounding it. Gerudo are dotted throughout the room, getting food or sitting on one of the pillows eating their dinner.

Sika places me on one of the pillows. "Stay. I will be back with the food, ok? Then we can enjoy ourselves." She winks at me before scurrying off, leaving me in this awkward environment.

That's when I spot something I recognize out of the corner of my eye. It is just a flash of yellow and pink? But even so, I can recognize that face from anywhere. The Gerudo boy. I lean over to get a better look at him only to flop face-first onto the floor. Good going, Beedle, now everyone is staring at you, including the Gerudo boy- aaannnd he's coming over here. Well, at least he's another Hylian that I can talk to. Maybe he's a prisoner here like I am.

"Hey!" Or maybe not because there is no way a prisoner would give such a cheery greeting. "You're that Cockroach guy, right?" He occupies the pillow next to me.

"Why does everyone think my name is 'Cockroach'?" I groan. "It's Beedle!"

"Ah, sorry about that. I couldn't really remember your name when I told Sika about you." His apologetic smile turns to a cocky one as his eyebrows go up in a suggestive nature.

"So, I take it Sika actually took my advice, huh?"

I squawk at him. "This was your doing?!"

"Well, someone had to initiate it! Despite how she looks, Sika actually gets a little shy around guys she doesn't know and-

"What's this about me?"

The boy next to me yelps as he stands up.

Sika just rolls her eyes and sits down next to me. Then she sticks her finger in my face.

"You haven't been listening to Link, have you? You know the rules..."

My head could not turn any faster just then just now. "YOU'RE Link?!"

The boy (now dubbed Link) puffs out his chest, jabbing a thumb to his chest. "Of course! I am none other than Link Ganondorf-Nabooru!"

W-what...? "Ganondorf...? You mean..."

"Yes, yes," Sika drawls. "This is Link, son of the great Ganondorf Anoora-Dragnire."

I freeze. So not only did I somehow get the attention of the Gerudo King's daughter, I also pretty much tackled his son when we first met. I hope I never meet him. He would DEFINITELY kill me. But it isn't so. I suddenly see a huge shadow loom over me and know it just HAS to be him, knowing my luck.

"What are we talking about? I heard my name." And there is that deep voice, proving just what exactly is behind me. I shakily turn around, only to meet with the big hulking figure of King Ganondorf, his glowing, golden eyes searing into me. He snorts.

OH GODDESSES, HE'S ANGRY! I'M GONNA DIE! HE'S GONNA KILL ME! I AM DEAD-

"Okay, someone needs to get this kid a sandwich."

I blink a few times then lift my head up from my hunched and quivering form. What did the king just say?

"I mean, look at him!" He exasperatedly gestures to me. "He's all skin and bone! We need to get some meat on this twig!" Seemingly bored with the other, he turns to me with hands on his hips.

"Haven't they been feeding you in Hyrule? Hmph, leave it to King Daphnes to not feed his own citizens."

I want to say something but all I can get out is an unintelligent, "Uh..." before he slaps me in the back, laughing heartily.

"Well, no matter! You're always welcome here! We'll feed you!"

I cough a bit, trying to get my air back from that slap (it was more of a slam though) as he steps over the blanket to sit on a pillow on the other side.

"GANONDORF!"

That shout nearly makes me jump out of my seat. Another Gerudo with a high ponytail (different from the last Ponytail I met) comes storming up to the King.

"How many times do I have to tell you to NEVER step over the DINNER BLANKET!"

"Now, Nabsy-"

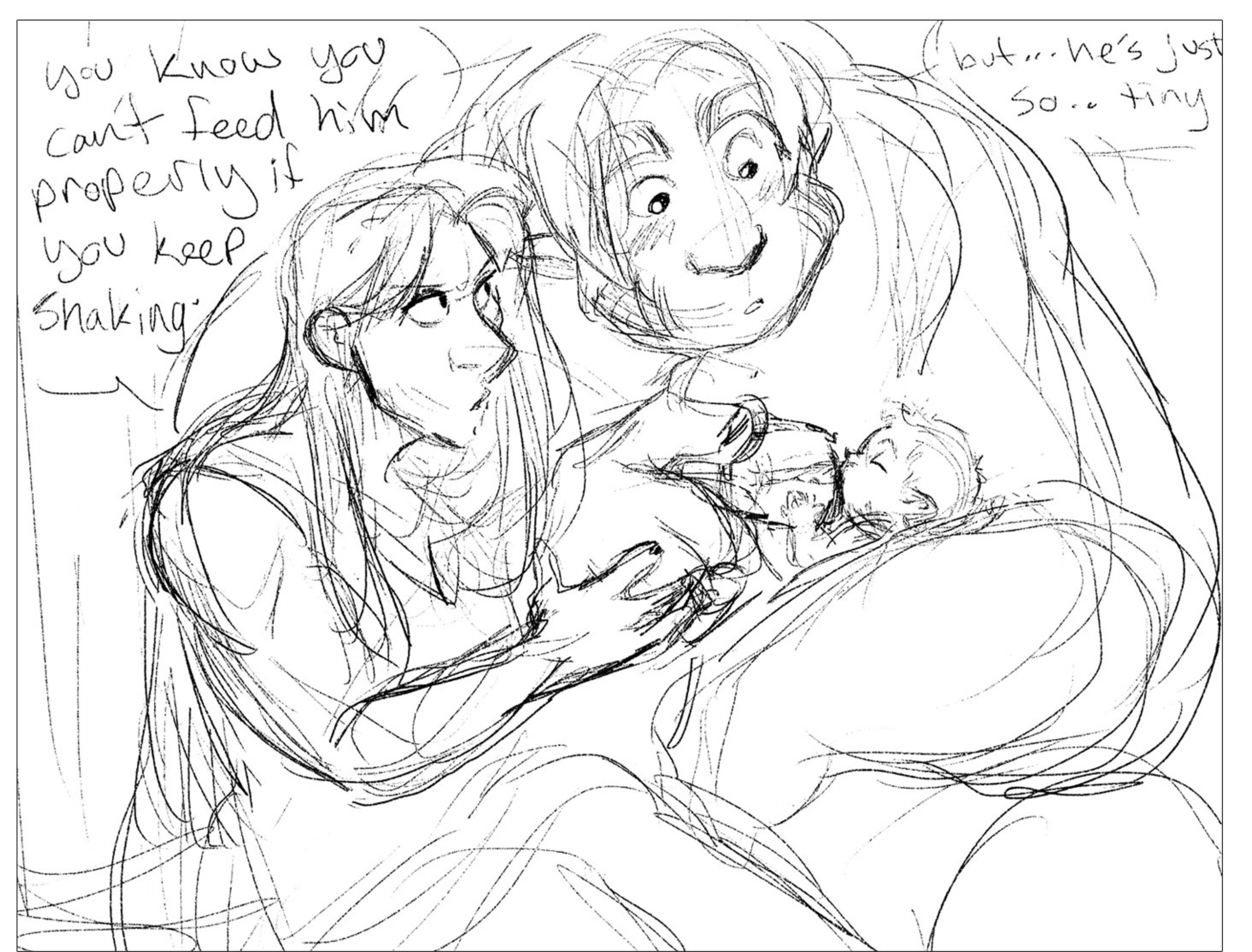
"Don't 'Nabsy' me!" She pinches the king's ear and tugs. Ow, that actually looks very painful, judging the king's scrunched expression. "Do you realize what grime and dirt you have on your shoes could soil the blanket?!" She continues sternly into the king's ear. "It's gross, especially where you like to traverse on your spare time."

So, that was unexpected. Maybe I need to think twice about what I heard about the all-powerful, feared Gerudo King. I turn my head to Link, who is now sitting next to me, only to see him readying a pea to flick. Across the blanket, I see another Gerudo with glasses and a small smile, their hands in front of them, pointer fingers up and thumbs out so that the thumb tips are touching. Link flicks the pea and it goes sailing through the air, into the open square the other Gerudo has made with their fingers. The blonde Gerudo throws his hands up in the air in celebration as I hear Sika next to me scream, "Goooooaaaal!" It makes me jump a little again, but this time it isn't as bad. I smile at the Gerudo girl next to me then back at the other two, seeing Link dance and Glasses chuckle under their breath. I glance back at the Gerudo King to see that he is still being berated by the woman as he is trying to placate her.

My eyes once again go to Sika, though, as she starts to laugh- a beautiful sound that I thought I would never hear. And it is infectious. A few huffs turn into a full-on laugh as I hold my stomach with one arm, the other going up to my lips. Out of the corner of my eye, I see Sika's eyes light up like the desert sun. On my other side, I think I see Link smile and give us a thumbs up, and for the first time since I have been kidnapped, I feel like I belong.



"Baby Link's first raid!"



Nabooru teaching Ganondorf how to bottle-feed baby Link.

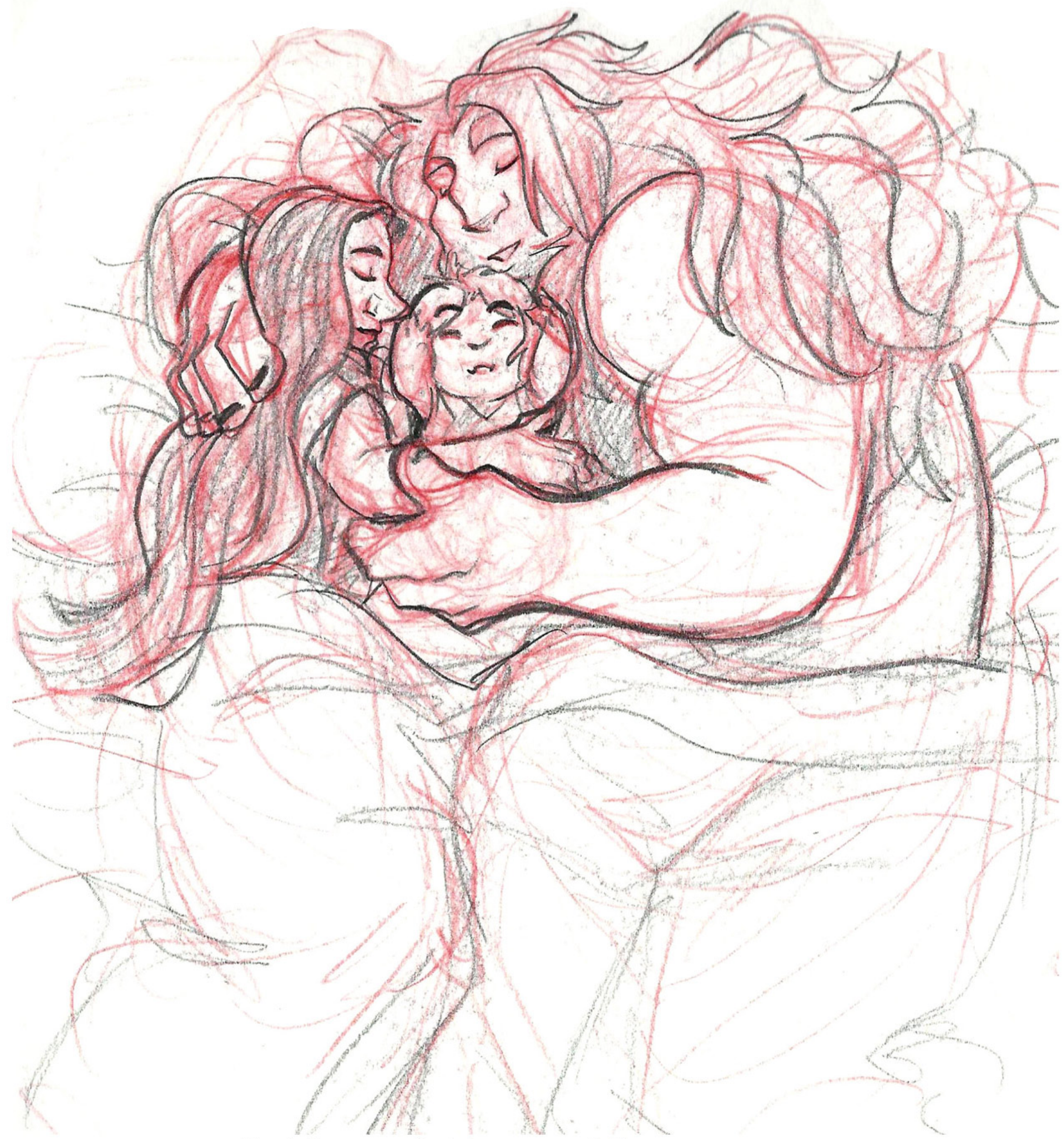


Ganondorf and Child Link

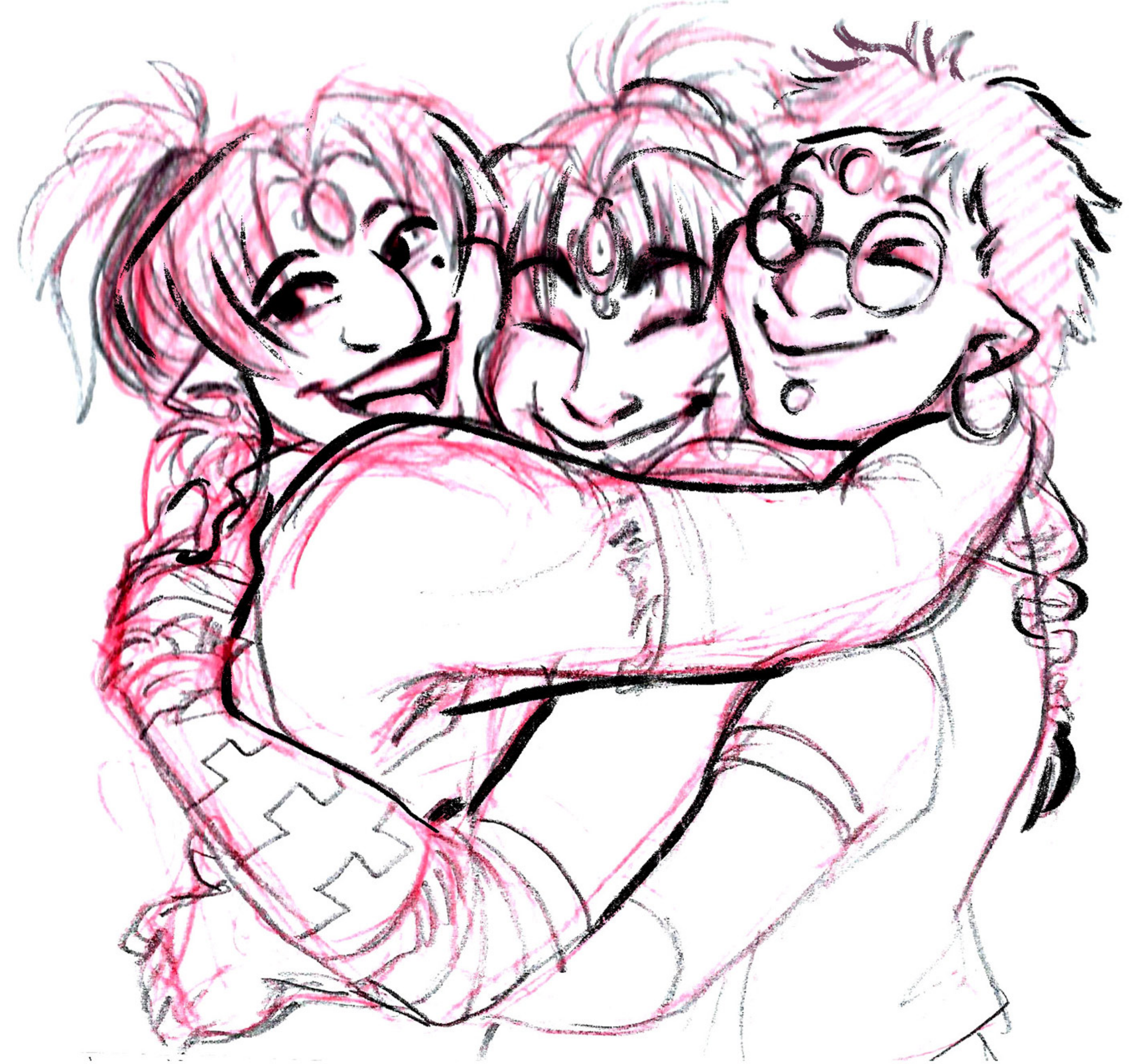


Beast Ganon, little Wolf Link and Nabooru

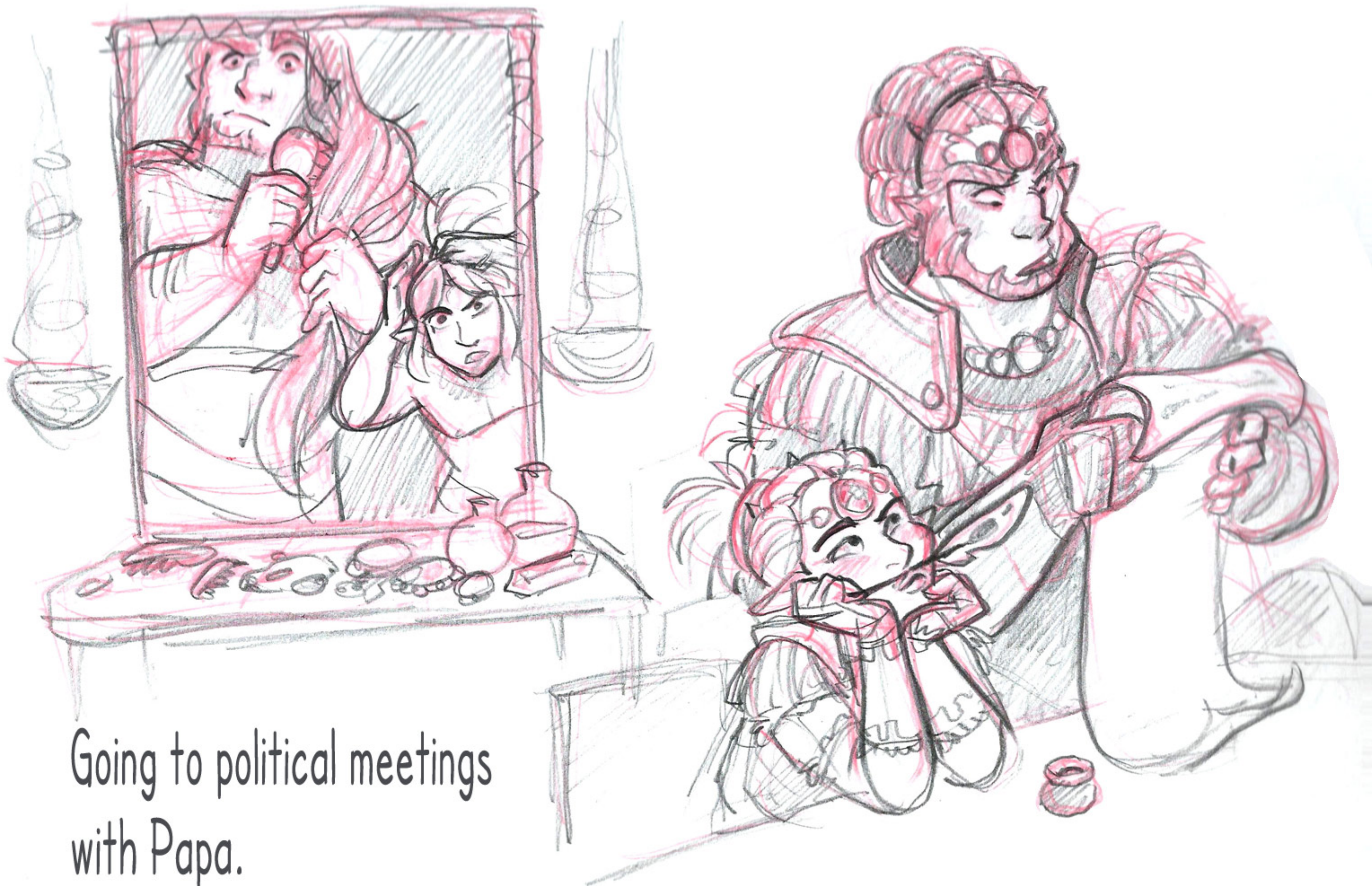




Cuddling with Mama and Papa.



Teenage Sika, Link and Vridi

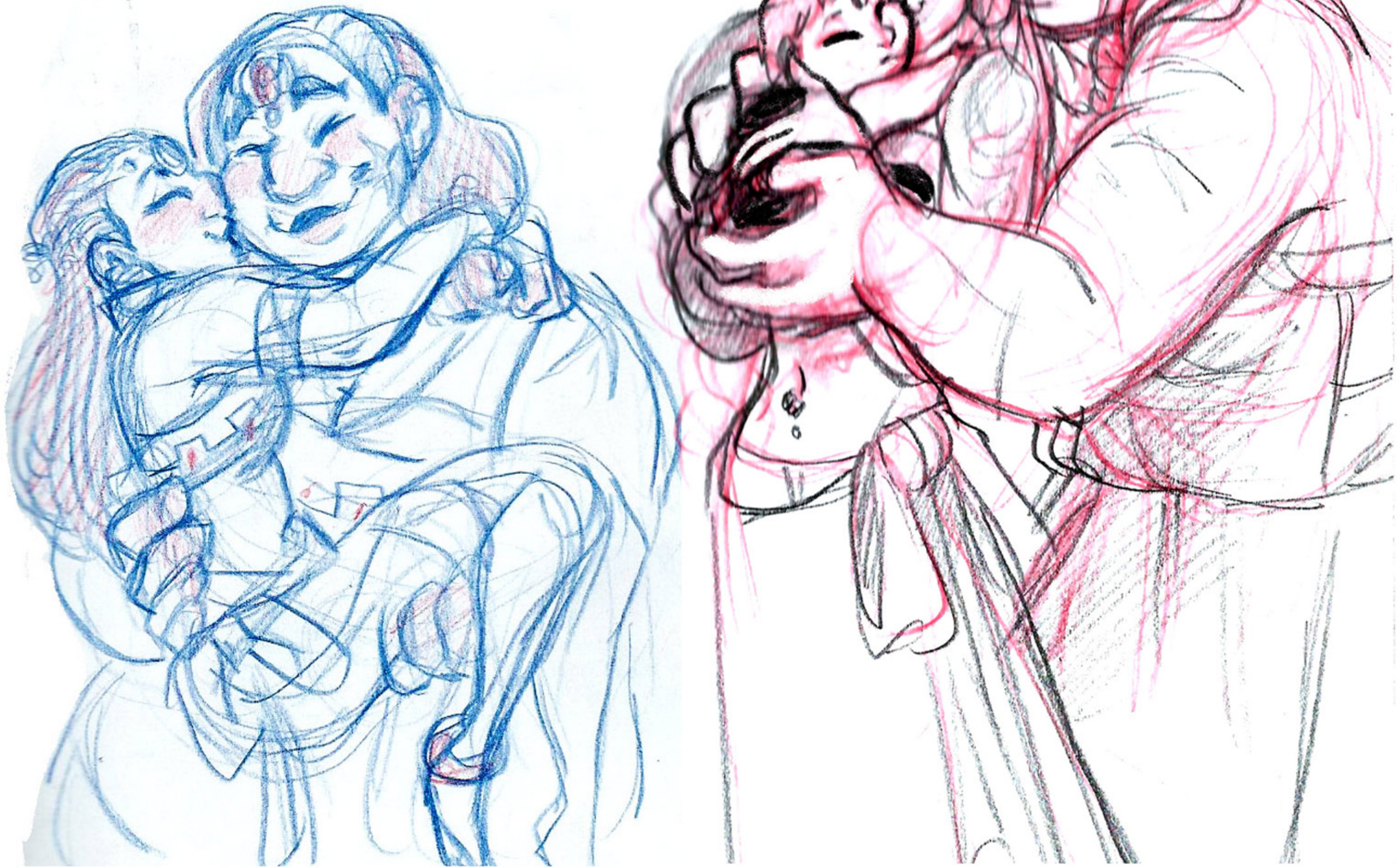


Going to political meetings with Papa.



Ganondorf, Link, Nabooru, Twinrova, Aveil and Sika

Vridi and his mothers, Oska and Vassu



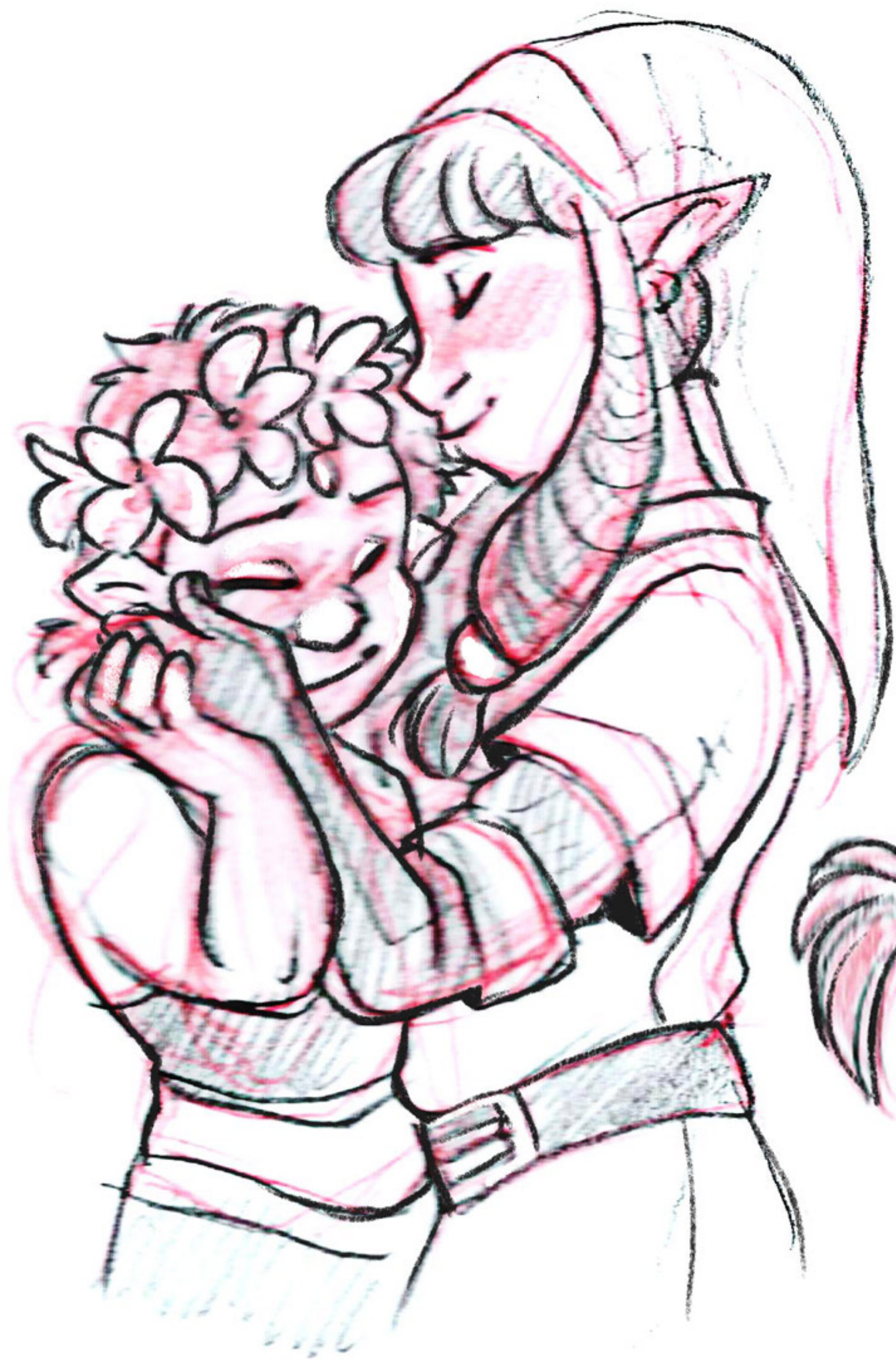
Link and Zelda enjoying a picnic



Aveil and little Sika

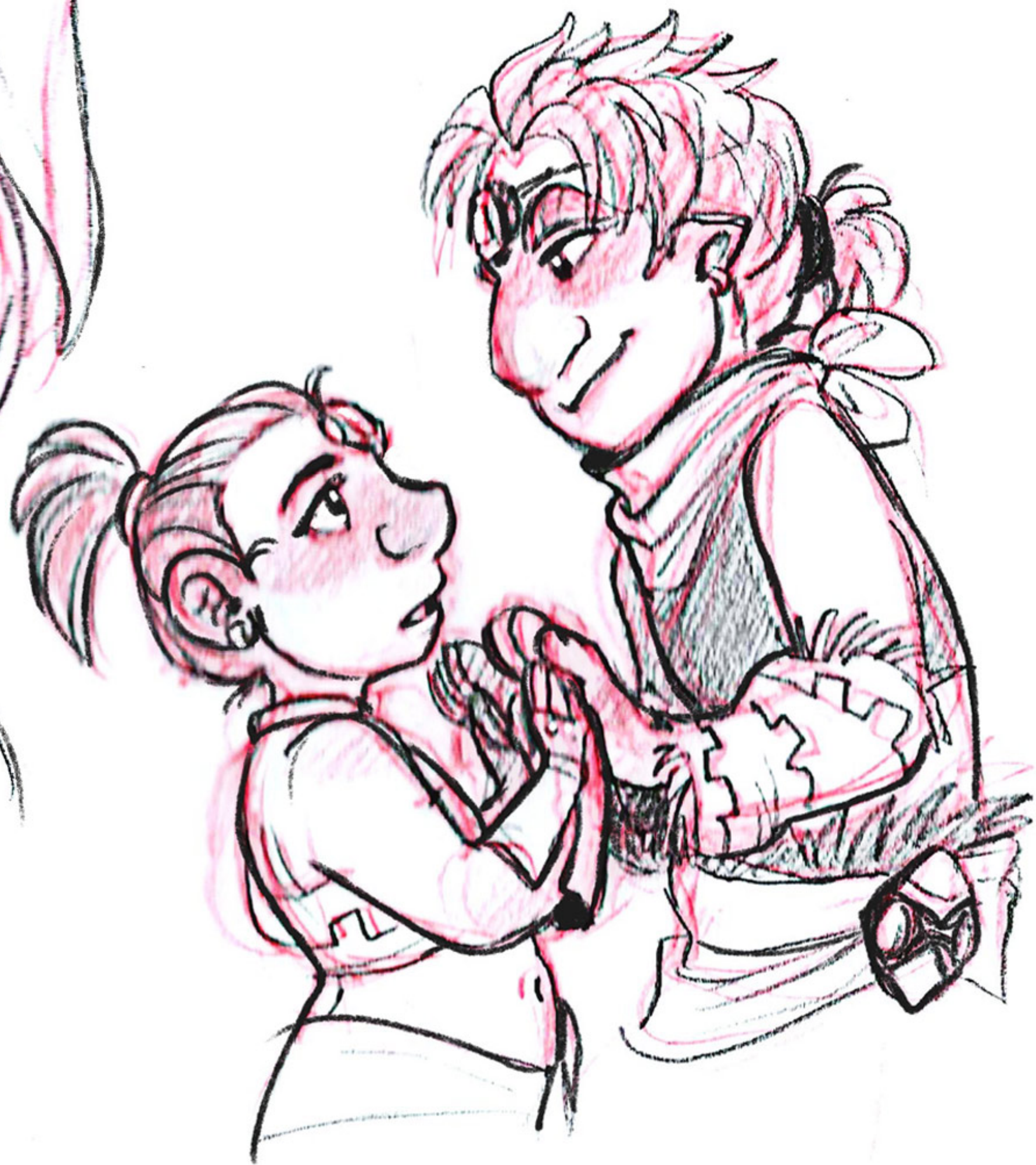


Adult Link and Zelda

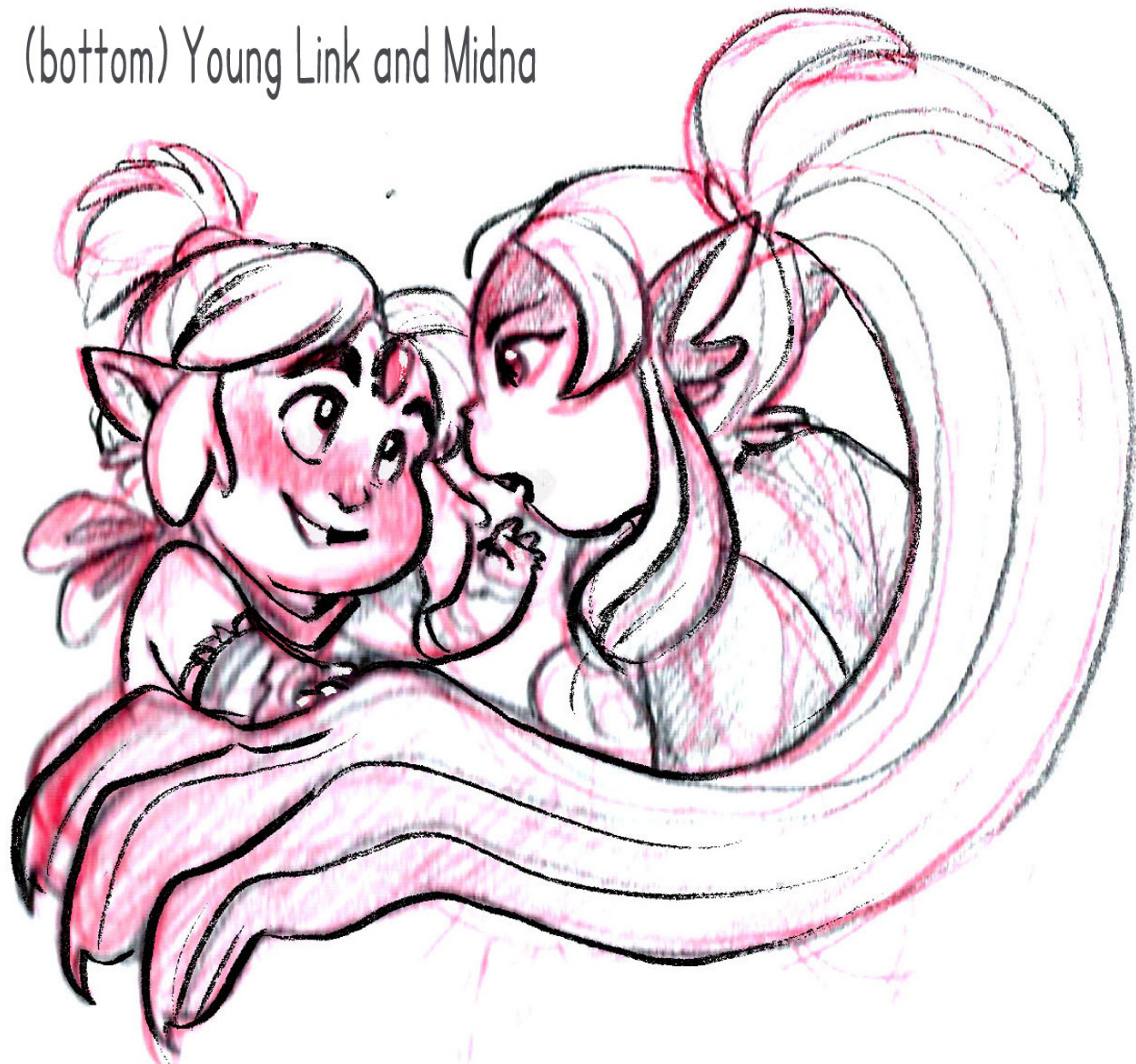


(top) Young Vridi and Zelda

(bottom) Young Ganondorf and Nabooru

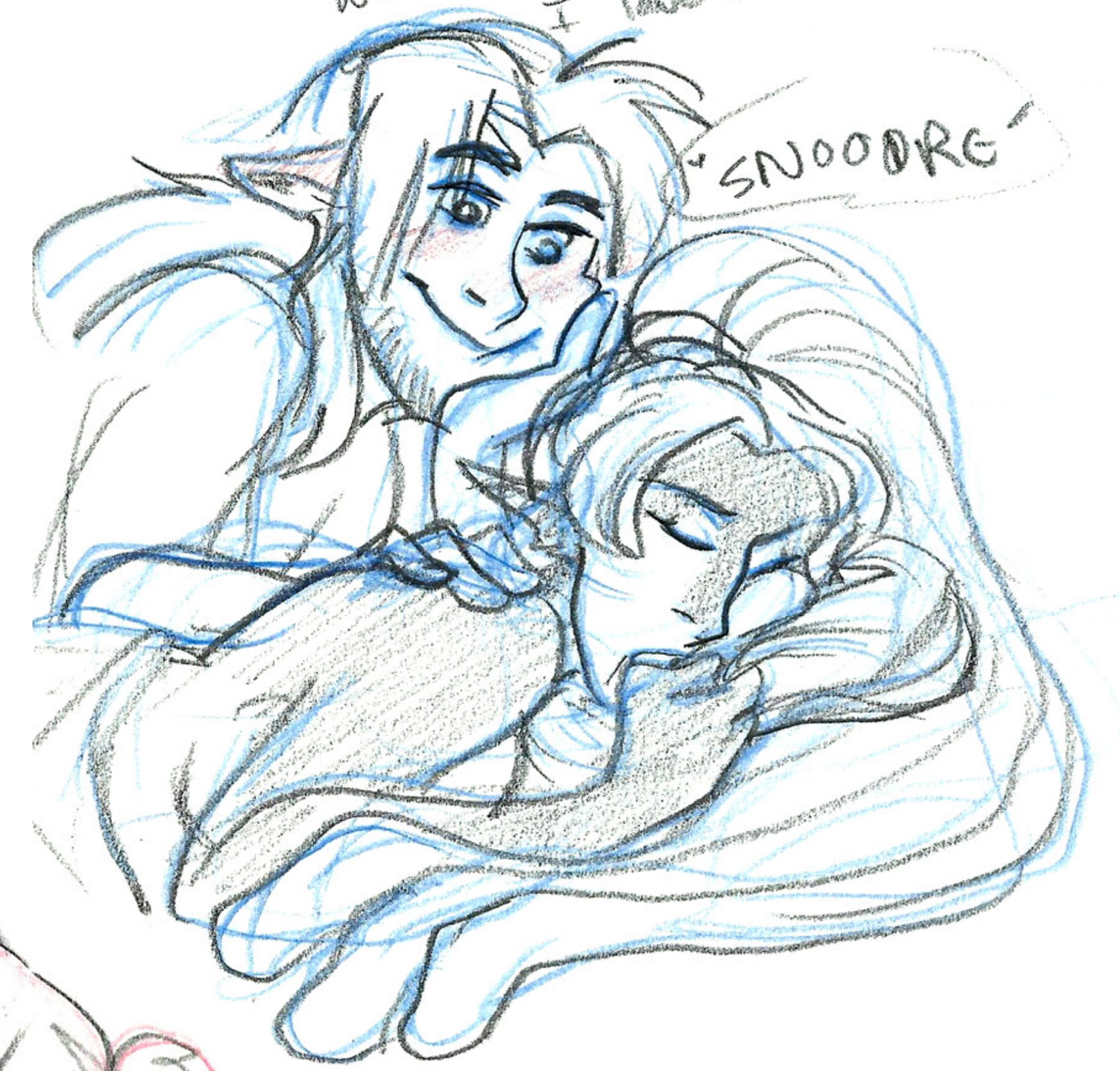


(bottom) Young Link and Midna



now did I ever scare  
such a perfect person  
I'm such a lucky man  
woah that's my girlfriend  
I love her so much

(right) Older Link and Midna  
(bottom) Young Link and Midna

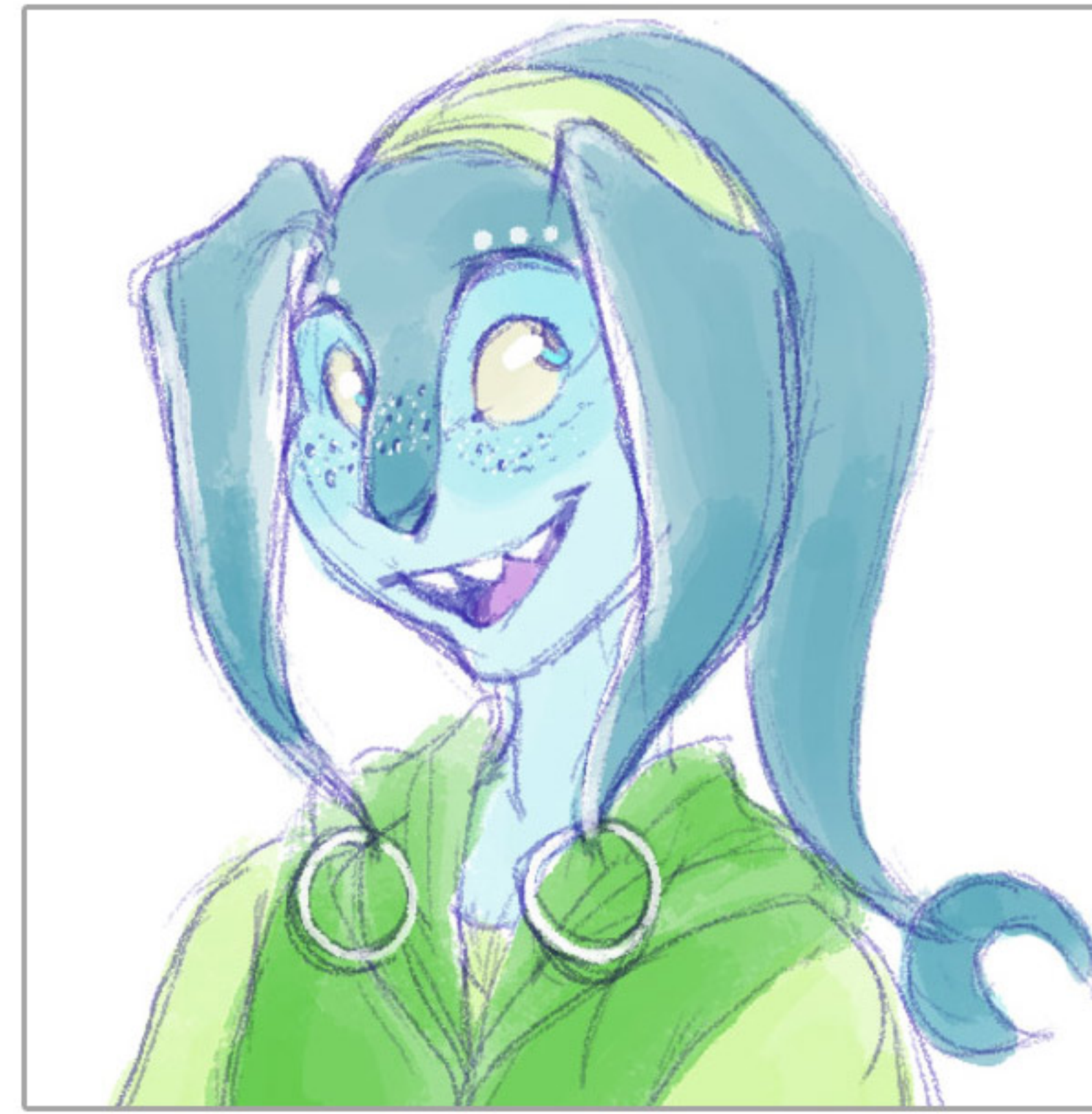


Ganondorf and Nabooru

# THANK YOU TO OUR BACKERS!

- + Korie Thompson
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- + Miss V.
- + Chris Williams
- + Gub Hernandez
- + Tiaras N' Teakettles
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- + PremierArchange
- + Anna-Lisa Lund
- + Dovah
- + Rebecca Magahan
- + Keira Lozeau
- + AND YOU!

# ABOUT THE WRITER AND ARTIST



Roy is a college student at Columbus State Community College working on getting their Associate's Degree for Veterinary Technician. They also do some art on the side, like writing and sewing. Zelda has been their favorite gaming series for as long as they can remember, so this AU is really fun for them to work on!

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Junior is the artist and Roy's best friend! They're a graduate from Columbus College of Art and Design, majoring in illustration. Their favorite Zelda character is Ganondorf and they have a knack for drawing monsters as cute and endearing... So, basically this entire AU.

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