

BLACK FEATHERS

STORY & ART BY
A. E. ARNOLD





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**Art & Story by
A. EVE ARNOLD**

**Cover Art & Colors by
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Dear Reader,

The Ese'Eja people of the Peruvian Amazon are an indigenous community that live in three villages. They have chosen to embark upon a cultural mapping project, a joint effort with the University of Delaware, which will extend to community planning, documentation of history and culture, as well as benefitting Ese'Eja schools.

This comic, Black Feathers, is a retelling of an Ese'Eja myth about Dokwei, a lazy and evil deer spirit. After forcing the other animals to build him a large chacra (house), goes on a long journey, during which he cheats and maims other animals to return to his chacra. However, when he approaches his ill-begotten home, he is captured by the vultures.

It is important to note that in many indigenous Amazonian folklore, what we might understand as an animal "spirit" is anthropomorphized; Dokwei is

both a man and a deer. Unlike Western traditions of beasts like werewolves, which switch between human form and animal, creatures like Dokwei and even the vultures are at all times both.

We at the University of Delaware hope that you enjoy our retellings and appreciate the fantastic tradition of Ese'Eja myth, but want to remind our readers that we are not Ese'Eja. In the future we hope to see not just our retellings, but stories written by the Ese'Eja themselves. Through them, we can take the first steps to understanding another human experience, and make the world a better place.

**Sincerely,
The Ese'Eja Comic Project Team**

ONCE, THERE WAS A LAZY DEER NAMED DOKWEI. HE HAD FORCED THE OTHER ANIMALS TO BUILD HIS CHACRA FOR HIM, AND WAS NEVER GRATEFUL FOR THEIR WORK, NOR REPAID THEM. FINALLY, THEY CHASED HIM OUT OF HIS HOME, AND HE WANDERED CAUSING HAVOC, TRYING IN VAIN TO GET BACK TO HIS CHACRA...



UNTIL NOW.



THERE HE IS!
IT'S DOKWEI!

HE'S COMING!



... AND SHE FLEW AWAY.
SHE HAD NEVER PLANNED TO STAY.

"YOU ARE NO MAN, DOKWEI— JUST A COWARD. AND A COWARD IS NO MAN FOR ME.
YOUR CRUELTY MAKES YOU PATHETIC.
MY FAMILY IS SAFE, AND YOU CANNOT KEEP ME HERE."



"SO LIVE IN YOUR MISERY, DOKWEI— ALONE."



IT WORKED!
THE TRAP WORKED!



BUT THE VULTURE WOMAN HAD FOOLED DOKWEI. FOR
A FEW DAYS, JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR HER FAMILY
TO ESCAPE FAR AWAY, SHE STAYED WITH HIM.

ON THE THIRD DAY, SHE UNFURLED HER WINGS...



AND SO, DOKWEI HAD WON...



... OR SO HE THOUGHT.



I THINK HE'S DEAD.
LOOK, HE HIT HIS HEAD.



WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?
IT'S DOKWEI. HE COULDN'T HAVE
DIED THAT EASILY.



DON'T ARGUE, SISTERS.
MOTHER WILL KNOW
WHAT TO DO.



INDEED.



THERE IS ONE WAY TO BE
CERTAIN, AND THAT IS—



VERY WELL. I ACCEPT!





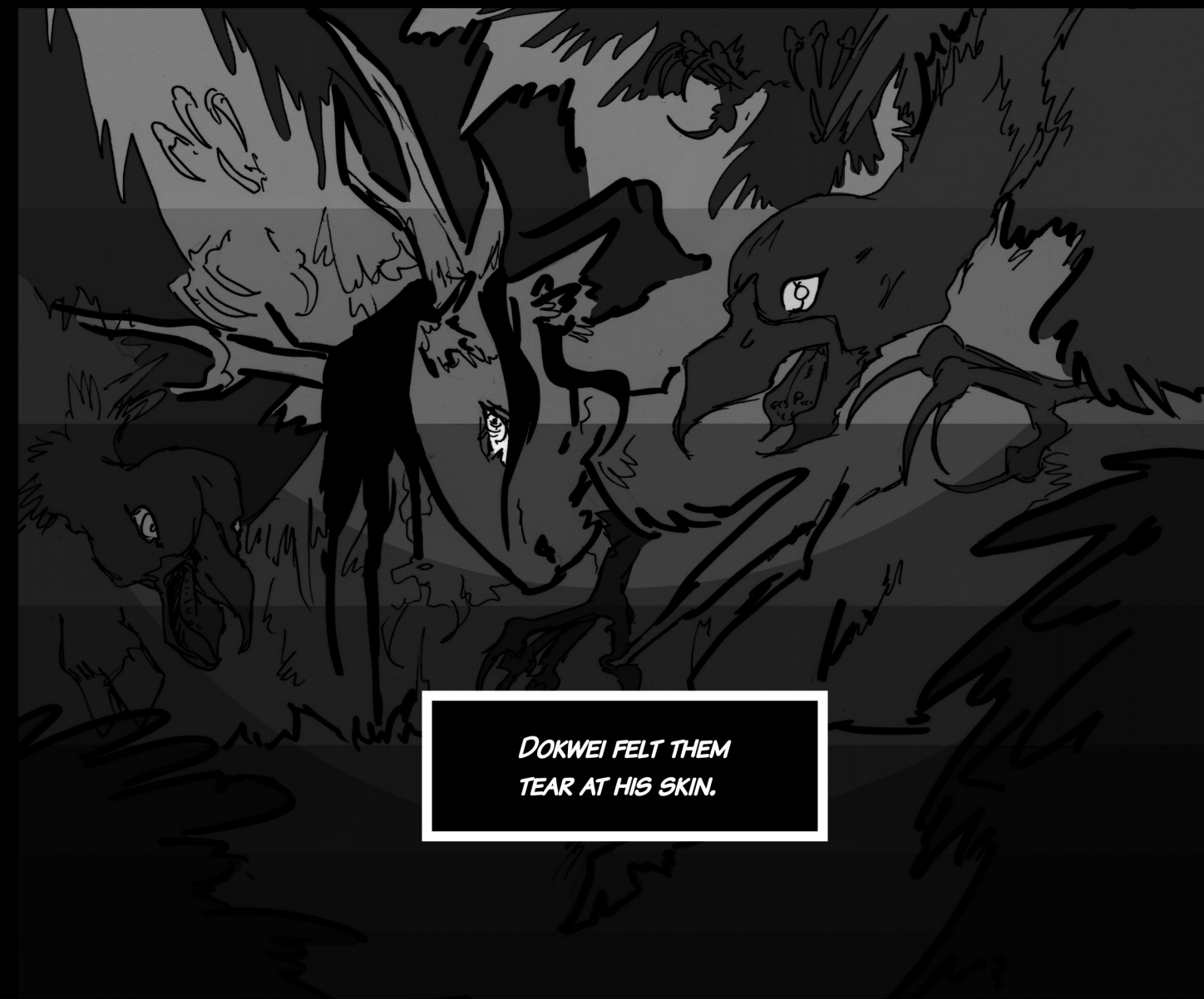
WAIT, MOTHER.



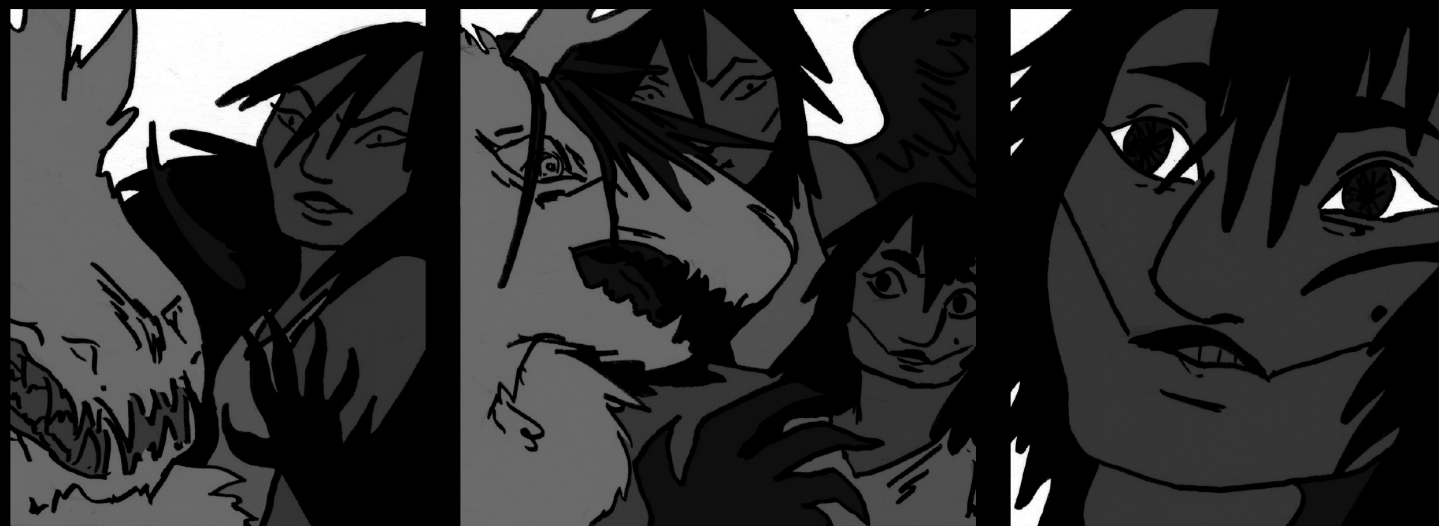
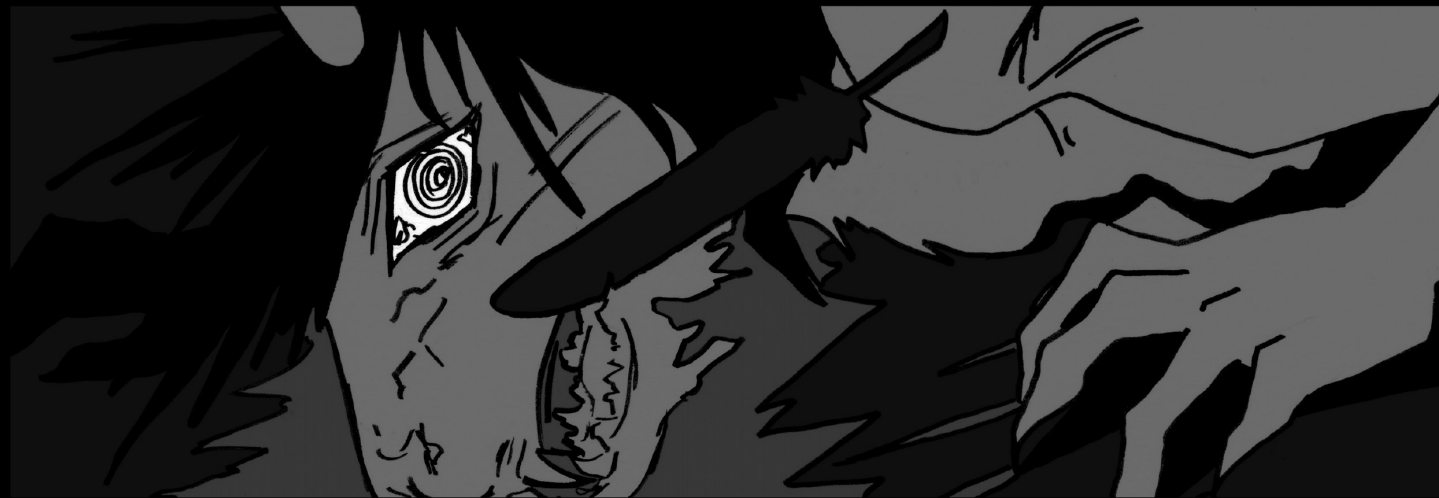
—TO DEVOUR HIM!



IF IT WOULD SATISFY YOU, IF YOU LET MY FAMILY GO I WILL STAY AND BE YOUR WIFE, O MIGHTY DOKWEI.



DOKWEI FELT THEM
TEAR AT HIS SKIN.



HOW DARE YOU?

YOU, LOWLY VULTURES, EAT
ME? THE MIGHTY DOKWEI?

