

Rowena the Barbarian Reboot Announcement:

From Kumi Pumi (artist):

Alright gang,

I know this is not quite what you were expecting, but I will explain myself after having a year of secrecy about this. I just didn't feel ready to talk publicly about rebooting chapter 1 until I had some concrete pages to show for it so you know the comic won't stay in hiatus hell.

After taking a long break from the Rowena comic, I sat down with my writer friend and co-creator of the Rowena verse, Razesli, and thought long and hard about the comic's story and what I wanted to do with it.

The truth is, **I didn't know exactly what I was doing with the story** and these characters when I started drawing the original pages of this comic. I just had a vague outline of the story and I wanted to start the comic so badly. I flew by the seat of my pants page by page which I'm sure it shows if you look hard enough.

I look back on it and I am proud of what I made but, after that experience, I learned a lot about making comics and figured out how I want this story to be told. Originally, I just wanted something fun, sexy, and light hearted. As I continued to develop new ideas and characters, I realized the story wasn't working as I presented it with chapter 1 in it's current state. It is misleading in tone and I didn't set up any future story moments right or some of the characters.

So with this chapter 1 reboot, I am hoping to establish the right expectations and tone for the comic so no one is shocked by the change when I get to chapter 2.

It'll still have some smut in it and be a mature story, however, **the smut in my main comic will be limited to consensual and romantic stuff** as I feel the dubcon/monster smut just doesn't fit with the more serious and darker story we're trying to tell. I'll save that stuff for alternate ending side comics/guilty pleasure illustrations where I can go all out. ;)

That being said, the reboot for chapter 1 is completely thumbnailed out and scripted (that's what I've been doing most of last year in my spare time). Just gotta ink and shade the rest of them. On that note, as you can see, **the comic will now be in black and white** which will allow me to churn out pages faster and keep the workload bearable for me in the long run.

Story for chapter 2 is currently being written by Razesli, who is now taking a more prominent role in the script writing since he has the time! So you'll notice a big writing improvement on the speech bubbles as well as story flow haha.

Future comic updates on Patreon will roll out in small page batches (scene by scene as I complete them) and once a chapter is completed, I will start uploading them one page at a time publicly on my website.

I hope you guys understand why I made this decision and will continue reading and enjoying Rowena the Barbarian. I had to make these changes to keep the comic engaging, manageable, and meaningful to me so I can finish it before I'm an old grandma lol.

Thank you for all the support that you've given me thus far. You lovely patrons and fans are the reason I could make this comic happen at all and a big motivator for me to keep it alive! <3

From Razesli (writer):

Hey everyone, it's a pleasure to actually say "Hi" in an official capacity instead of just being that mysterious writer that gets mentioned every now-and again.

I go by a few internet names, but I'm mostly known as "Koryander", or more recently (And hopefully permanently) "Razesli" I'm here today to talk about plot.

I actually held off on writing this, as I wanted to gauge the reaction of our big announcement before speaking up. Though I've already gotten a few messages on discord about where this is all going. Kumi basically told you all everything you need to know, but some of the why and how is still lingering in the air.

I think it's important to start this by saying how much we, the creators, have fallen in love with the characters we're now writing. We've gone from "We want characters to do naughty things" to "Why does this keep happening to them? What's the story's reason?" to "Should we keep going on the same path?" And each time we answered that question, we fleshed out the history, the story, and the setting more and more.

"Barbarians" have a name now, the Kal'dren. Minotaurs have a history that reaches far back alongside the Kal'dren, and a culture that they had forsaken due to all sorts of reasons that we'll eventually touch on. It kept going and going, and as the world building grew, so did the excitement of making something that wasn't just the same thing that Kumi always did.

With all of that said, we started to prototype a real story, a 7 to 9 issue comic series that would finally show who these characters actually were, something that wasn't just "Lady gets pinned down by a minotaur." By the time Kumi had finished the first comic, it felt good.. But it didn't scratch the itch like we thought.

Finally, we made the decision to just write without the expectation that each issue had to follow the formula of 'we need this much smut, and it needs to have this slightly non-con scene because that's what people expect, and it can't be too dark or else the smutter scenes will be too oppressive.' Instead we just focused on making the story we wanted to make.

And... Well, we liked it. So we decided that this was the way to go forward.

I want to make it clear that this isn't going to be so dark of a story that you'll drown in it. There will be sad moments, happy moments, funny moments, and everything in between. We're not trying to make a tragedy, this high fantasy at its core, and there's plenty of big hero moments planned. The sex isn't gone either, when it happens, its going to be believable and make sense in regards to the plot... if you've watched The Witcher or Game of Thrones, then you have a perfect example.

As Kumi already said in her post, there's still going to be all sorts of stuff outside of the comics that'll probably scratch the itch of some of the long-time fans. ;)

We hope you all end up liking what we're making now. The black and white shift can be a little jarring, but with the volume of pages this comic is going to have, it's probably going to help us finish all of this before the inevitable heat-death of the universe happens.

And, like Kumi said in her post, thank you all for sticking by us. It took us a while to figure out what exactly we wanted of this, and your support means the world to us!