

**PAGE 1: Four Panels**

Panel one:

Full Width Panel: CARMEN, a 75-year-old female elf (looks about human 28) with light brown skin and wild, curly, brown hair, enters the training facility and looks around. A number of male elves use various pieces of exercise equipment and spar on mats. At the far end of the room, stands KAYLA, the only other female elf, age 73 (looks about human 26) with dark skin and straight, black hair, pointing a composite longbow with a notched arrow at an archery target about 100 meters in the distance.

Panel two:

Full Width Panel: Carmen reaches Kayla. Kayla has released the arrow and it's hit the bullseye. She looks at Carmen suspiciously.

1	SFX:	THUNK!	1
2	CARMEN:	Nice shot!	2
3	KAYLA:	Thanks.	3
4	CARMEN:	You're entering the Trials, right?	4
5	KAYLA: (SUSPICIOUS)	Yes.	5
6	CARMEN:	We should train together.	6

Panel three:

Small Panel: A poster for the Guardian Trials. The Guardian emblem is centered within a golden circle. The words "Coming in One Moon" are in script at the bottom of the poster. No dialogue.

Panel four:

Wide Panel: GALADAIN (76, looks about human 29), a muscular male elf with pale skin and long, braided, blond hair, stands behind Carmen listening to their conversation with amused disgust on his face.

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7	CARMEN:		7
		We're the only females competing. We should help each other and let the best one win.	
8	KAYLA:		8
		...	
9	GALADAIN:		9
		HAHAHA!	

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**PAGE 2: Five Panels**

Panel one:

Full Width Panel: Close up on Galadain's upper body and face. Other male elves stand and sit behind him smiling and nodding their heads as he proselytizes.

1 GALADAIN: 1  
 A female will never be the Guardian. Don't you know your history? My line has held the title for generations and *I* intended to be the one to keep that tradition.

Besides, it's a *male* post. A female isn't fit to hold it. The two of *you* certainly aren't worthy.

What are you going to protect us from? Kittens? Butterflies? HAHA!

Just give up now and let a *REAL* Guardian show you how it's done.

Panel two:

Wide Panel: Carmen smiles widely facing Kayla. Galadain stands in between their profiles, an angry look on his face. Kayla faces Carmen, also smiling as she speaks.

2 KAYLA: 2  
 (to Galadain)  
 You scream like a youngling at the sight of a pixie. *You're* the reason a female is needed.  
 (to Carmen)  
 Let's do this.

Panel three:

Small Panel: Kayla bench presses a barbell with 25lb weights on each side in the training facility as Carmen spots her. Kayla's face looks strained.

3 CAPTION: 3  
 Guardians must be strong enough to carry their people.

4 GALADAIN: (OP) 4  
 Look at how she struggles! That's no Guardian!





**Page 3: Seven Panels (CONT)**

6 CARMEN AND KAYLA: 6  
Strength of body and mind to face down challenges, patience to face obstacles with intellect and ingenuity, determination to stay the course, bravery to look your opponent in the eye and greet them with kindness, and integrity to inspire honesty and love in all citizens of the realm.

Panel five:

Small Panel: Outside the coffee shop. Carmen walks to the left, almost out of the frame. Kayla rounds a corner to the right to find Galadain.

Panel six:

Wide Panel: Kayla stands backed against the building, her arms crossed, a defiant look on her face as she stares at Galadain. Galadain leans over her, right hand on the building, looking down to Kayla as he speaks.

7 GALADAIN: 7  
I've been watching you. You're not half bad, for a female. You'll never be Guardian, but you might just be a fitting second. Certainly better than *Carmen*. We both know she's not fit for it.

8 KAYLA: 8  
Why would you...

9 GALADAIN: 9  
Think about it.

Panel seven:

Small Panel: Still against the wall, Kayla looks contemplative and bites her lip, her eyes cast down. No dialogue.











**Page 6: Six Panels (CONT)**

8 CARMEN: 8  
I'll beat you here just like I've done everywhere else!

Panel three:

Wide Panel: MALE ELF 2 looks surprised and is holding a purple puff of air after running about three steps from his pile. Galadain smiles and throws stones to his collection area. Where the stones should be landing are just puffs of purple smoke.

9 SFX: 9  
POOF!

10 MALE ELF 2: 10  
What?

11 SFX: 11  
POOF!

Panel four:

Small Panel: Carmen walks with her first stone in her hands but it vanishes into purple smoke.

12 CARMEN: (THOUGHT) 12  
Steady...steady....

13 SFX: 13  
POOF!

14 CARMEN: (THOUGHT) 14  
Damn! Too fast!

Panel five:

Wide Panel: Late afternoon. Contestants stand in front of piles of stone. Carmen and Kayla have the largest piles of stone and the smallest originating piles. Galadain and four others have respectable piles with medium-sized originating piles. The others are very small in both areas. The Trials Master stands on the platform speaking to the contenders and the crowd.

15 TRIALS MASTER: 15  
The Council has convened and chosen our final three contenders. Step forth...

**Page 6: Six Panels (CONT)**

Panel six:

Small Panel: Galadain's eyes are wide and his jaw dropped. Carmen and Kayla smile widely.

16

TRIALS MASTER:

...Galadain, Kayla, and Carmen!

16

**Page 7: Six Panels**

Panel one:

Wide Panel: Early evening at the Trials Grounds. Kayla leans against a fence with Galadain leans over her.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | GALADAIN:   | 1 |
|   | Just throw the final challenge. Don't get a big head because you moved a few rocks.   |   |
| 2 | KAYLA:  | 2 |
|   | More than you.  |   |
| 3 | GALADAIN:   | 3 |
|   | You know you and <i>Carmen</i> aren't fit to handle the pressure. You barely made it yesterday. You both should have been eliminated. |   |
| 4 | KAYLA:  | 4 |
|   | But we did make it.   |   |
| 5 | GALADAIN:   | 5 |
|   | Are you willing to risk thousands of lives like that? How can you be so selfish? The two of you can't beat me. Just do it.            |   |
| 6 | KAYLA:  | 6 |
|   | What about Carmen?  |   |
| 7 | GALADAIN:   | 7 |
|   | I'm sure you'll think of something. Do we have a deal?  |   |

Panel two:

Small Panel: Carmen leans against the fence, her eyes closed, her fists clenched.

- |   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| 8 | KAYLA: (OP) | 8 |
|   | ...yes.     |   |

Panel three:

Small Panel: Day at the Trial Grounds. Kayla smiles to Carmen. Carmen gives her a stony look.

**Page 7: Six Panels (CONT)**

9	KAYLA:	I can't believe we made it to the last day!	9
10	CARMEN:	I can't believe you'd throw it all away.	10
11	KAYLA:	What do you mean?	11
12	CARMEN:	I heard you and my cousin last night.	12
	Panel four:		
	Small Panel:	Kayla and Carmen stare at each other with hard eyes.	
13	KAYLA:	He's right, you know. You're not fit to lead.	13
14	CARMEN:	I've worked just as hard as he has to get here! Harder because I'm a female!	14
15	KAYLA:	You've been leaning on me! You can't handle being Guardian. The pressure will kill you. And us. It should be Galadain.	15
16	TRIALS MASTER: (OP)	Contenders! Come forth!	16
	Panel five:		
	Small Panel:	The Trials Master is on the platform, Galadain, Kayla, and Carmen behind him.	
17	TRIALS MASTER:	For the final challenge, you will each enter a room. You must decode the clues to escape. You will have 60 minutes. Begin!	17

**Page 7: Six Panels (CONT)**

Panel six:

Full Width Panel: Diagonal splits into thirds. Galadain stands in a room picking up objects with a confused look on his face. Kayla stands in an identical room, squinting at a picture on the wall. Carmen stands in an identical room, smiling as she writes on a pad of paper. No dialogue.

**Page 8: Seven Panels**

Panel one:

Small Panel: Carmen emerges from the room, smiling.

1 CARMEN: 1  
I'm out!

2 TRIALS MASTER: (OP) 2  
20 minutes!

Panel two:

Small Panel: Kayla emerges from the room with a smile. Carmen stands within her line of sight, smiling.

3 KAYLA: 3  
Finished!

4 TRIALS MASTER: (OP) 4  
27 minutes!

Panel three:

Small Panel: Galadain emerges from the room, frowning at Kayla and Carmen.

5 GALADAIN: 5  
I'm out.

6 TRIALS MASTER: (OP) 6  
58 minutes!

Panel four:

Wide Panel: The stands are packed. Many signs bear drawings of Carmen and Kayla. Galadain stands on the platform. Kayla and Carmen bend over children that came to them. The Trials Master and the COUNCIL OF SEVEN convene in front of the platform in a tight circle.

7 CROWD MEMBER 1: 7  
We love you, Carmen!

8 CHILD 1: 8  
Ms. Carmen, will you sign my poster?

9 CHILD 2: 9  
Ms. Kayla! Sign mine! Please!



**Page 8: Seven Panels (CONT)**

Panel five:

Small Panel: Carmen smiles, elated. Kayla hugs her from the right. Galadain stands behind them, mouth agape, eyes wide in disbelief.

10 TRIALS MASTER: (OP) 10  
The Council has decided! Our new Guardian is...CARMEN!

Panel six:

Wide Panel: Galadain storms off. The three mothers come to the platform and gather around Carmen and Kayla, hugging them. Carmen faces Kayla, holding her hands in her own.

11 GALADAIN: 11  
You'll regret this decision! That post should be mine!

12 CARMEN: 12  
We did it! Kayla, would you be my second?

13 KAYLA: 13  
After everything?

14 CARMEN: 14  
I couldn't have done this without you.

15 KAYLA: 15  
Yes! Of course!

Panel seven:

Small Panel: Carmen and Kayla stand together front and center. Carmen wears the ornate purple and silver tunic and simple steel headband of the Guardian and Kayla wears a less elaborate version as her Second.