

Elevate, Ephemera

PAGE 1

PANEL 1:

Full shot of Leo Luna, slight, only twenty years old and always smiling, dons a black blindfold and a wide-brimmed black hat. His all-black outfit comes equipped with several well-placed golden eyes including two over each of his real eyes underneath. He stands before a curtain, light pouring from beneath.

PANEL 2:

Close-up of Leo. A sliver of light illuminates his face as he stands before it, his eyes barely visible beneath the blindfold. His smile widens.

Leo: Perfect...

PANEL 3:

Wide shot of a stage. An elaborate gothic arch stands before the curtains Leo was standing behind, and before that is an equally elaborate throne, gold in color and spikes protruding to look like rays of light. An altar sits at the center, a cloth with a moon pattern and the words “ORDER OF THE SELENITES” ensconced on it in gold.

SFX: (From the darkness surrounding the stage.) Chatter chatter...

PANEL 4:

Close-up of two hands joined again behind the curtain, one of which is Leo Luna's.

PANEL 5:

Full-body shot of Koraki, a tall ethereal being that looks to be about the same age as Leo. White feathers sprout from his body and from his back and he is shimmering with gold paint. He smiles at Leo.

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PANEL 1:

Leo smiles at Koraki.

Leo: Are you ready, friend?

PANEL 2:

The light shines in on Koraki's eyes, revealing them to be a shimmering gold. He gives Leo a doofy smile.

Koraki: I'm ready!

PANEL 3:

Leo pushes against Koraki's shoulder a bit.

Leo: C'mon, be serious. For **once**.

PANEL 4:

Wide shot of the two from behind as Leo pulls the curtain aside and the two begin to walk onto the stage, their hands joined, the stage lights enveloping their figures.

SFX: (Coming from the crowd beyond the light.) Clap! Clap! Clap!

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PANEL 1:

Koraki moves to throw himself into the throne theatrically.

SFX: (Coming from the chair/Koraki.) Whump!

PANEL 2:

Koraki lounges lazily in the throne, his legs dangling over the arms.

PANEL 3:

Leo throws up his arms, calling for attention from the crowd gathered around the stage and taking place at the altar.

Leo: Alright, **settle down**, everyone! As you are surely aware, we are once again in the presence of an **Angel**!

SFX: (Coming from the crowd.) Hush...

PANEL 4:

Over the shoulder shot from behind Leo, the crowd is gathered around the stage. They are all wearing grey hoods that cover their faces, all of the figures hunched over, the lights from above obscuring their faces.

PANEL 5:

Leo's eyes catch on someone in the crowd, his hands coming to join together in front of him as he speaks.

Leo: Koraki is tired from all the blessings he has bestowed upon some of us already.

PANEL 6:

The crowd parts slightly, revealing a tall woman wearing an elaborately patterned and hooded jacket and lace dress. The hood is down revealing her angelic face and short, pink hair.

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PANEL 1: Splash page. This would have the chaotic order of a renaissance painting. Leo has his hands up, presenting Koraki, his black robes billowing about him and his hat casting his face in perpetual shadow. The crowd has gathered tightly around the low-to-the-ground stage. Koraki shines against his golden throne, his face bored, his wings spread about him. One of the members of the cult is reaching for his hand and about to kneel down.

Leo: I implore each and every one of you to sacrifice what you can in the name of our Gods, in the name of Koraki, who is willing and able to give each and every one of you a **Blessing** of your very own, and just as willing to cast a sinister **curse**.

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PANEL 1:

Koraki Leans down inelegantly to pick things up off the stage.

Caption: The City of Ephemera. 5AM. 20XX.

PANEL 2:

Leo straightens up the altar, righting knocked-over candlesticks and closing the book laid out.

Leo: What've we got to work with this time around?

PANEL 3:

Close-up of Koraki's hands picking up coins amongst the litter.

PANEL 4:

Koraki scrutinizes what's in his hands.

Koraki: Not much this time, Leo.

PANEL 5:

Leo comes to stand beside Koraki, looking down at the floor.

PANEL 6:

Leo kicks over what appears to be a cut of meat with his shiny leather shoes.

Leo: Ugh...

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PANEL 1:

Koraki shivers at the sight, clutching at his arms.

Koraki: I get it, I really do, but it's **disgusting**! I certainly don't have a use for it...

PANEL 2:

Leo smiles at Koraki.

Leo: Maybe next time I'll really emphasize **money** keeping this whole operation going, and keeping you here. In the meantime...

PANEL 3:

Leo takes the money from Koraki's hand.

PANEL 4:

Leo shoves the money into a bag.

SFX: (Coming from Leo.) Sigh...

PANEL 5:

Leo fastens the bag closely around his chest and under his coat.

Leo: Alright, let's mosey.

PANEL 6:

Koraki and Leo leave out the double doors at the back of the building, leaving behind the hall that is now littered with trash and disordered aside from the throne and altar on the stage.

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PANEL 1:

Big panel showing Koraki and Leo walking toward us through an alleyway in Ephemera at night. The streets are dark and the pavement shines neon, the signs reflecting against the freshly-fallen rainwater. Koraki dons a huge fluffy coat, Leo is unchanged save his blindfold.

PANEL 2:

Leo scrolls through Twitter, the light of the screen illuminating his face.

Leo (thought): Every day I see so many people who still need help. People who are still hurting.

PANEL 3:

Several names and tweets illuminate the screen—the word “money” has been searched.

Leo (thought): I was there. There’s nothing that matches the fear of being poor, being helpless like that.

PANEL 4:

This panel will entirely be just a tweet from someone named “Jen!” with a picture of her and her dog as her icon.

Caption (from the Tweet): my student loans haven’t been paid in months. i’m terrified. what happens next? still can’t find a job lol... someone cashapp me a million dollars plz lol...

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PANEL 1:

Leo locks his phone.

Leo (thought): Found one. Now to just find her cashapp when we get home...

PANEL 2:

Koraki is frowning at Leo.

Koraki: Leeooo...

PANEL 3:

Leo closes his eyes, carefree, a smile on his face.

Leo: What is it, Koraki?

PANEL 4:

Koraki crosses his arms.

Koraki: You didn't seem to hear me earlier! I asked if you wanted to play Mario Kart. And all you replied was –

PANEL 5:

Koraki scrolls on his own phone, imitating a bored expression. Leo laughs.

Leo: Ha ha ha!

PANEL 6:

Something clatters from behind a dumpster further down the alleyway. Leo grabs Koraki's arm, terrified.

SFX: CLANG!

Leo: What was **that**?!