OK, so what happened after that?

ER... UH... LEMME SEE....

KING TUEW STRUCK FIRST, ATTACKING THE SOUTH OF KITS IN 1322 AB.

WOW, REALLY? I DUNNO. I DIDN'T MAKE IT ALL UP...

AH! Loki!!

WHAT?

C'MON... THE SOONER WE GET THIS DONE, THE SOONER WE'RE DONE WITH IT.

Yeah, I'm against the idea of group essays. And of history class.

You know... everyone else has finished already.

Oh, good point.

They'd be much more entertaining to talk to, wouldn't they?

Ah, best t' let 'er go, sat... daresay we'll do bett'r without 'er...

Least we're luckier'n Del, she got stuck with them illiterate cats.

But she's so good at this, it evens out.

It's going to be a long night getting this done for tomorrow.
JOEL

WHOAH...

HEY DANNI, WHERE'D YOU GET
AH, DOWN IN MYLENOR.

MONSTER RACING IS SO COOL!
JOEL IS AMAZING!

HAVE YOU
SEEN HIM?

JUST ONCE, IN VARIATRE. HE
WAS SO FAST HE MADE THE
OTHER RACERS LOOK LIKE
THEY WERE STANDING STILL.

JUST A PITY
WE MISSED
HIM RACE IN
MYLENOR.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

JOEL IS A
HACK!

HUH?

HUH?

HE'S SO HOPELESS, EVEN A
STABLEHAND EVEN I COULD
BEAT HIM!

DON'T BE
ABSORBD.

ABSURD?

I HAVE BEAT
HIM BEFORE!

DON'T BE
ABSORBD.
I'm not lying. I've beat Joel a bunch'a times since I was a kid.

No way! When were you a monster racer?

Philistines! I was occasionally big on the circuit for a while. Lemme start at the start.

It's all very straightforward. My grandfather owned a monster ranch, y'see.

He died when I was younger, leaving me to look after the monsters.

Ah, they're racing monsters. Of course. The Kiborn Ranch was well-known on the circuit.

Pft, no way.

Hmph. Alright!

So why don't I tell you jerks how I first beat Joel?

And how he really sucks.

And it is all true, so don't call me a liar. Ya got it?

So, as I said, my grandpa died when I was young, so I'll start there.

So, what about your parents?

Don't interrupt!!!
My parents died a while before that, so it was just me and the monsters.

But hey, it's not like my Gramps just awkwardly stumbled through life.

WEH!

He leased out racing monsters so he had heaps of friends on the racing circuit.

Hello?

Ah! Ah! Hello! Welcome to the Kiborn...

Miss Teara?

Loki?

Look atcha! You grew up so fast since I saw you last!

So is yer Grandaddy around?

I--...

No, he-- The curse got him.

No... Oh... Loki...

How long ago?

A m-month, maybe...

And you've been here alone all this time?

Shh.

I came to hire monsters for the new racing season... But I can't leave you here all by yourself!

Ah! I know!

I'll take all the ranch's monsters this year. Those that can't race can work. But I think I'll need some extra help with 'em...

Loki, how'd you like to work in the racing business?
So it sounded exciting, but...

...it was exactly what I'd been doing at home-stablehand work.

I mean, we travelled around for the races, which was great.

...And I got to stay with Teara...

...But the big change that took some getting used to was dealing with racers.

Nobody's as arrogant as a monster racer.

And you say you're a racer?

Ah yes, I guess it could be true.

Obviously, I am the exception.

Hahaha, of course I'm the best!

The only racer talented enough to ride a wild beast like my dragon!

Oh Joel! You're sooo amazing!

I know, I know! I'm super amazingly great!

That's not a dragon.

That's an oyan; a dumb monster from North Solnor. Dragons don't look like that, and they're much more intelligent.

Hey! I thought idiot stablehands were just a stereotype, but here you are!
I’m not an idiot, idiot!
Then why’re you working as a stable-chump, stable-chump?
What?!

What?!
Fierce?!
I got a snailion fiercer than that dumb oyan!

What?!
Fierce?!
I got a snailion fiercer than that dumb oyan!

I hope you die in a fire!
You hack!

Jerk! You don’t know anything!

You need t’ relax, kiddo.
But he’s such an ass!

Ah, I’m Lok! I work with Teara.

Yer the Kiborn who owns Teara’s stable, ain’t ya? ’S what I heard...

Yeah...

Ha! Don’t let Joel get ta ya, right? He’s nothing but stupid.

An’ every stablehand knows he’s an ass.

I’m Bana, Niko’s head groom.
DON'T LET HIM GET TO YOU? NONSENSE!

SOMEONE HAS GOT TO TELL THAT FELLOW HE'S A HACK!

HE RIDES THE MOST TAME, UNSCALED BEAST AND CALLS IT A DRAGON! HE IS BRAINLESS!

E'S GOT MORE LUCK 'N TALENT, AN MORE STUPID'N EITH'R!

TOO TRUE THA-

ZIPPY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!! THIS IS THE RACERS' STABLES, YOU SHOULD BE IN THE WORKERS' TENTS!

ER, ISSAT YER SNALION, LOKI?

YEAH... HE'S AS DUMB AS THEY COME, BUT SO TAME AND LOYAL...

I'D BETTER PUT HIM BACK. I'LL SEE YOU ALL LATER, OK?

BYE, LOKI! SEE YOU, KID!

IF YA SEE JOEL, TELL 'IM THE BIRD F'R US!

BYE-

AH... IT'S SO NOISY OUT. MUST BE A GOOD PRE-RACE SHOW.

I BET THAT HACK JOEL IS SHOWING OFF...

HMMMM...

I MAY HAVE AN EXTREMELY GOOD IDEA.

C'MON, ZIPPY. LET'S MOSEY.

I'LL SHOW THAT HACK. 'STABLECHUMP', FEH!
Joel!!

Hi there, sports fans!

I am the ever-amazing Joel, and this here's my incredible dragon, Teo!

Yes, I am great! The only wingless flying racer, my bravery is boundless, and my dragon fierce!

It's not a dragon, moron.

Yes, I am great! The only wingless flying racer, my bravery is boundless, and my dragon fierce!

Huf-

It's not a dragon, moron.

Stablechump?! What are you doing here?!

I am Loki Kiborn, a stablehand.

This man is a moron.

Gwah!

Loki! Gah! What is she doing?!
SO YEAH, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.

UHH...

JOEL WAS SUPER CRANKY, BUT THERE WERE HIGH-FIVES ALL 'ROUND FROM THEM OTHER STABLEHANDS.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU BEAT HIM AT THE RACES...

Well I did, later. That was just the first time I one-upped him. I wasn't a racer at that point.

Incidentally, after that... Loki! What on Gaia were you thinking?

You could have been hurt.

Or worse, injured Joel's monster!

I'm sorry.

As you ought be!

Ha! Later, stabledump!

Heh

That was fantastic, Loki! Great stuff!

Joel is a big dope! It's good to see him get some comeuppance! Ha!

So uh, how old are you again?

Listen! Once you're legal racing age, we'll get you in the game, girl! It will be awesome!

And it was!
Well that was fun! I'd best get going, though.

It's probably stupid late now. Bye!

But actually I don't know a lot about Loki!

Does she really not have any family?

Yeah...

Harsh.

It's hard to tell when she's not lying. All she says is kind of, you know...?

The other day she tried to tell me she lives in a giant mansion outside of Mylenor.

No, that actually is true.

-Huh.

... but I don't believe this story.

Why'd she want to trash Joel, anyway?

No idea...

Maybe she just likes running her mouth.
Heya! How's it going?

Who in Solak's light are you supposed to be?

I? I am Peonys Talis.

Don't care.

What?

Don't care. Go away.

If you don't care, then why did you ask?

DDDDDDD

Don't care.

Go away.

But it's the end of the volume!

Don't care.

But...

Booony Coooomics

Freakin' Elementalist.

Fels! I hope - I hope Jake kills you or something!