

CLIFFORD AND ANGORA'S FIRST ADVENTURE



Inside a lively tavern, Clifford looked like a mighty goliath warrior—but he thought of himself as a musician, not a fighter.



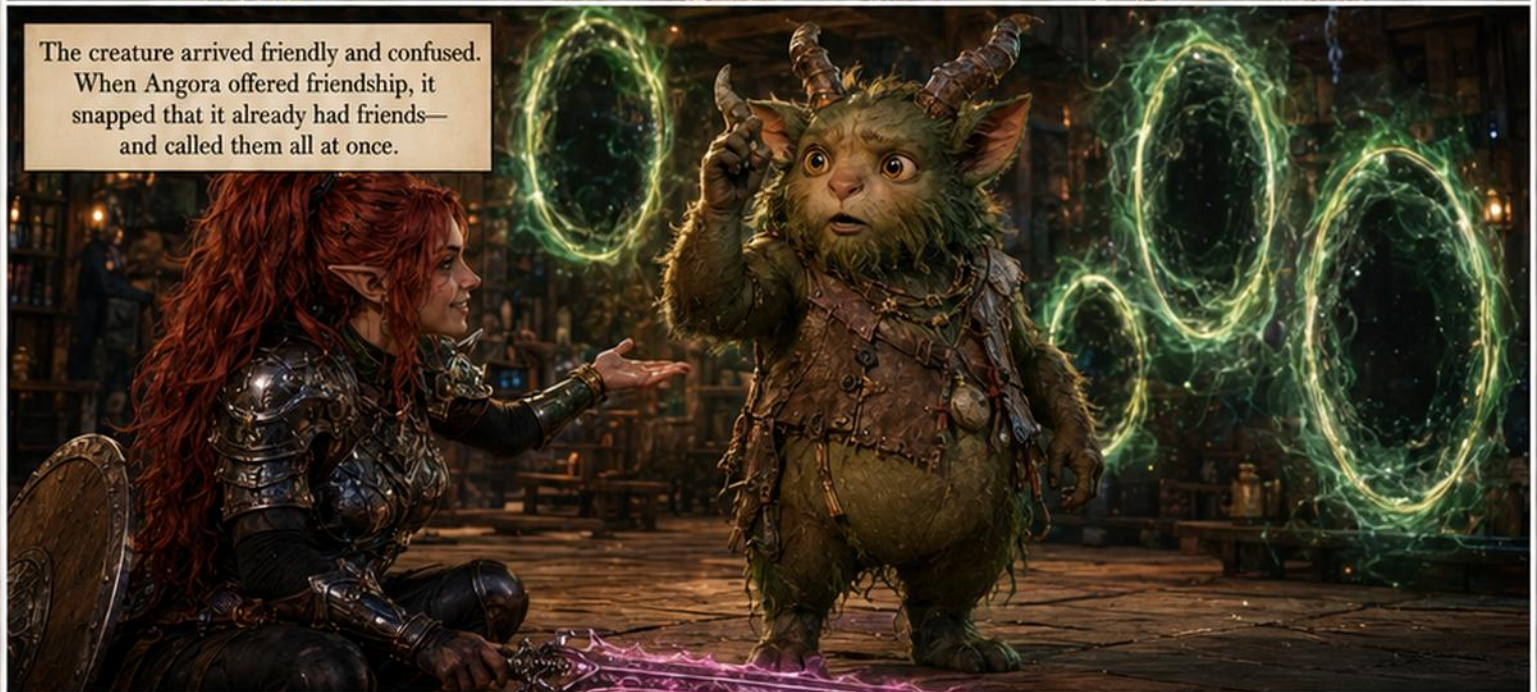
Angora entered seeking a worthy opponent who could test her skill with shield and psychic sword.



Clifford offered to summon a creature with his magical lute, hoping his music could give the elven fighter the challenge she wanted.



The creature arrived friendly and confused. When Angora offered friendship, it snapped that it already had friends—and called them all at once.



Twelve tiefling women burst into the tavern ready to brawl, and Clifford realized his attempt to help had made everything worse.



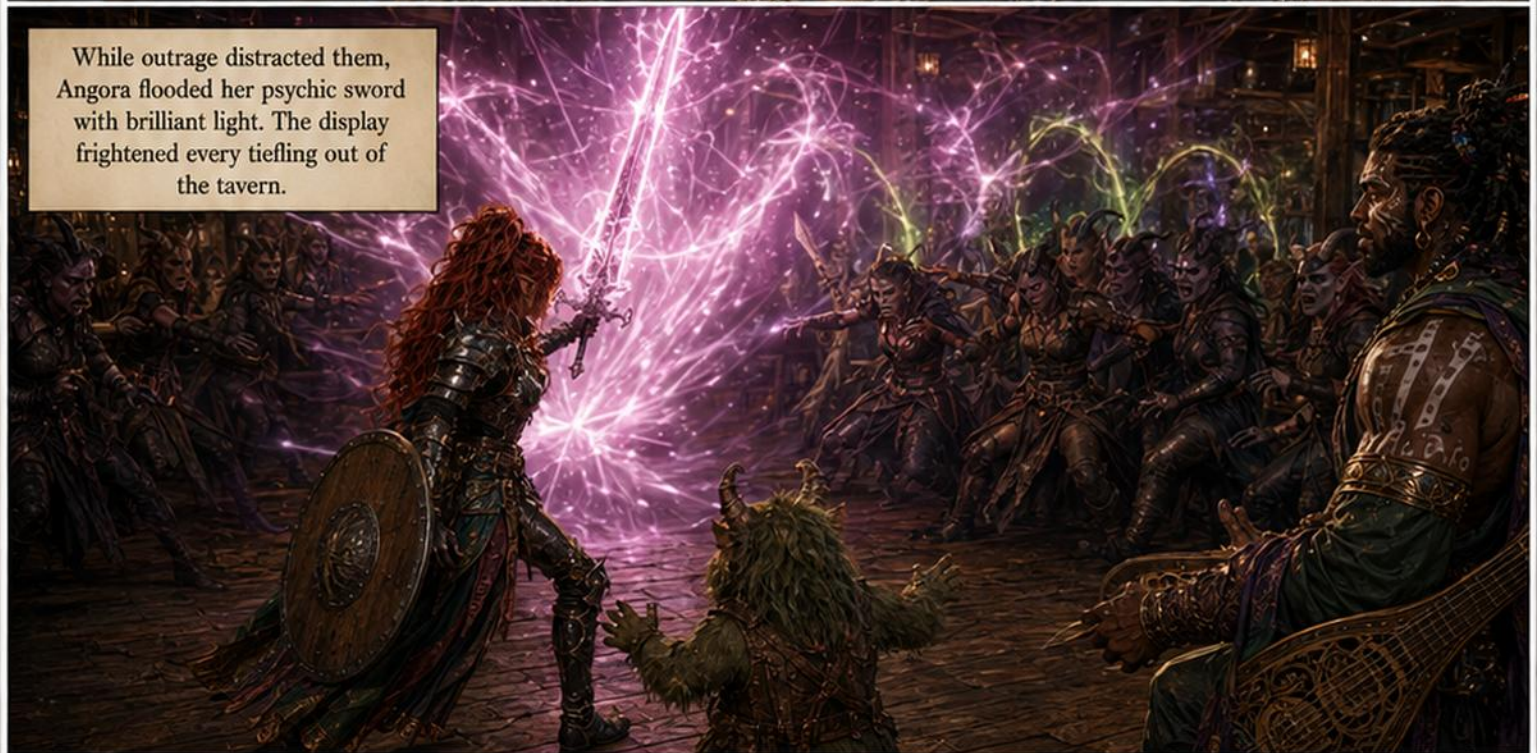
He played what he believed was a holy song, hoping divine power would drive them away.



The tune caused no pain. It was a reversed version of tiefling sacred music, and they heard Clifford's performance as a terrible insult to their culture.



While outrage distracted them, Angora flooded her psychic sword with brilliant light. The display frightened every tiefling out of the tavern.



Grateful for Angora's protection, Clifford admitted that he needed to understand the magical music he played.



They traveled together to a magical library, where Angora found a warrior's text teaching that the mind—not the body—was the deepest source of fighting power.



Clifford discovered the Tune of the Astral Blade, a song said to strengthen a magical sword.



Certain he had finally found the perfect way to help, Clifford invited Angora to test the tune after they rested beside the nearby river.



Before Clifford and Angora could rest beside the river, six humanoid shark bandits surrounded them.



The raiders wanted Angora's glowing psychic sword and rushed to overpower her before she could escape.



Clifford played the Tune of the Astral Blade, expecting its magic to make her weapon stronger.



Instead, the pink-violet blade flickered and weakened. With the bandits closing in, the two new companions rapidly lost ground.



Clifford cleared his throat and attempted the astral tune again. The sword still refused to strengthen.



His performance sounded so unpleasant that the furious shark bandits turned away from Angora and charged the bard instead.



That accidental distraction gave Angora one precious moment to remember the library's lesson.



She stopped relying only on physical strength, focused upon the power inside her mind, and launched a psychic blast from the sword.



Angora's psychic blast
missed every shark bandit.



It struck the river instead,
releasing a tremendous
explosion that scattered
water into the sky and
briefly opened a crater
in the rushing current.



Convinced they had challenged
opponents far more dangerous
than expected, the terrified
bandits abandoned the sword
and fled.



With the danger gone, Clifford apologized. "I think I need music lessons so I can become better at this."



Angora answered without blame: "That's okay. The music is in your heart."



Clifford smiled and returned the encouragement: "And you're the best fighter because your power is in your mind."



Their first adventure ended without a perfect spell or decisive strike, but with two unlikely companions recognizing the strength within one another.

