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降世神通

AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™



IMBALANCE · PART ONE

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Created by

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Michael Dante DiMartino



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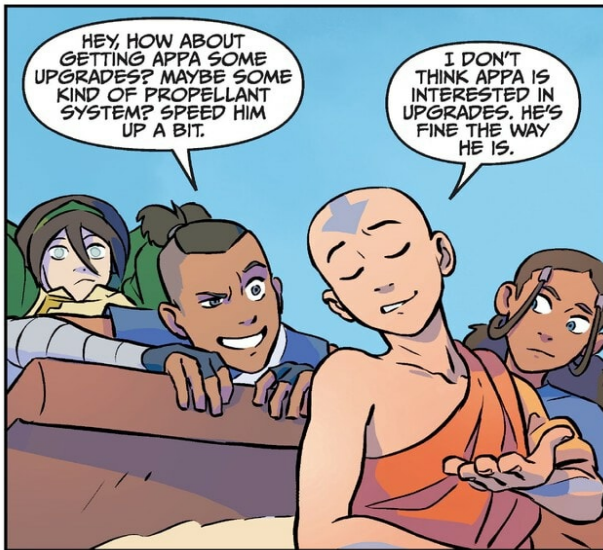
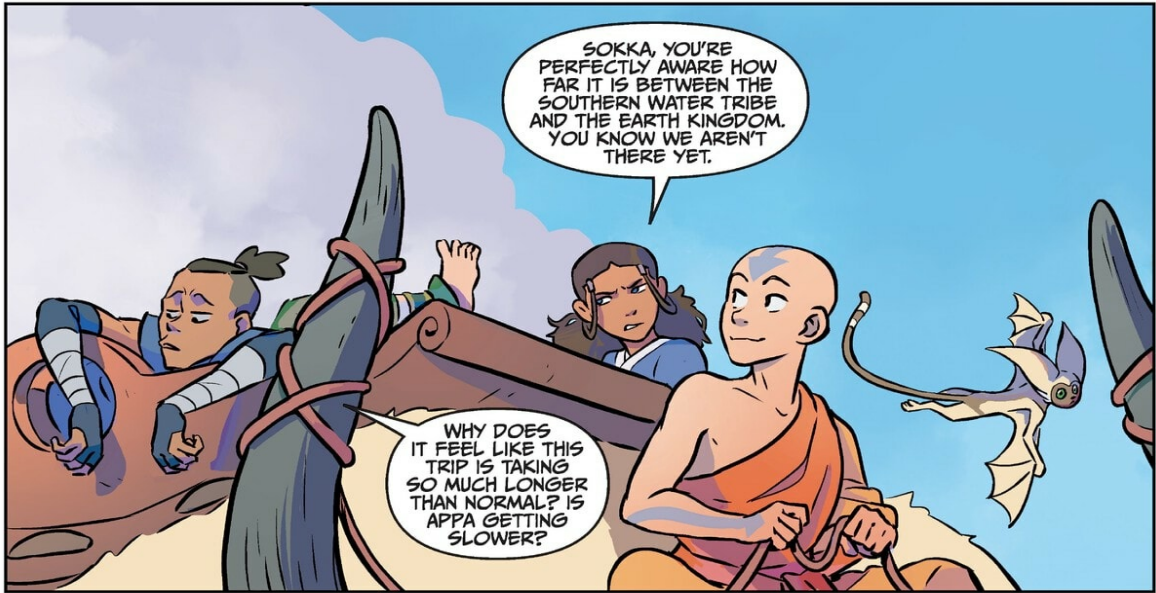
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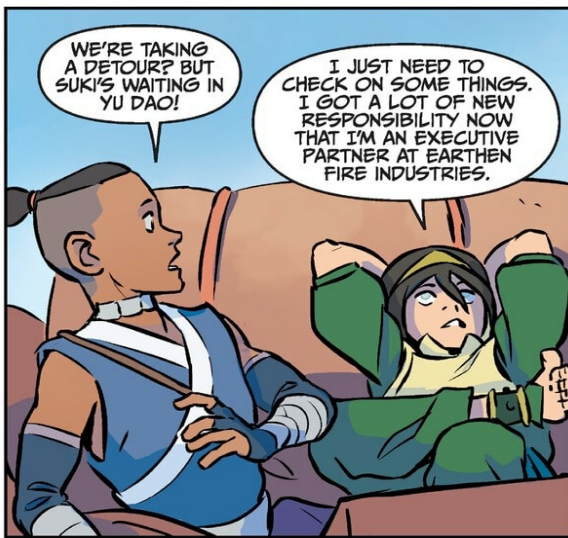
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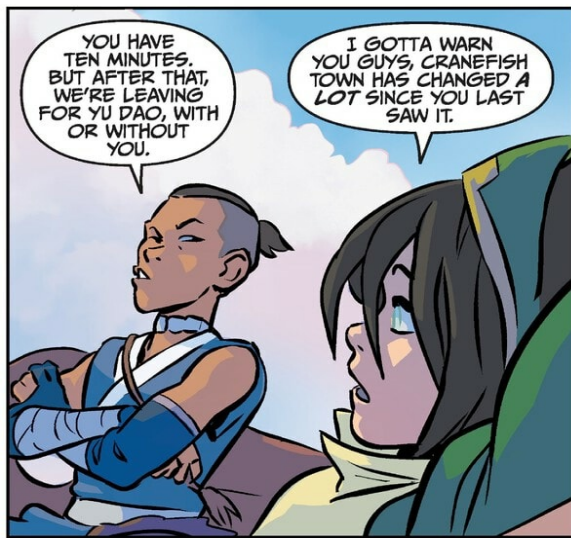
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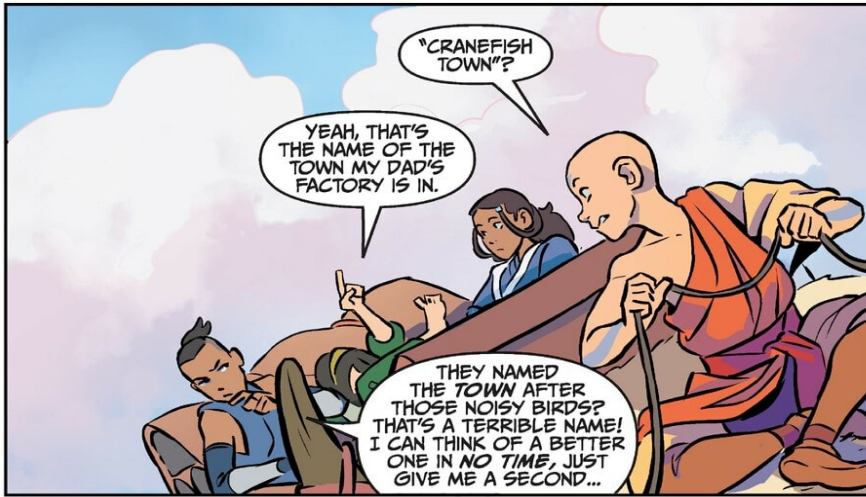
WE'RE TAKING A DETOUR? BUT SUKI'S WAITING IN YU DAO!

I JUST NEED TO CHECK ON SOME THINGS. I GOT A LOT OF NEW RESPONSIBILITY NOW THAT I'M AN EXECUTIVE PARTNER AT EARTHEN FIRE INDUSTRIES.



YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES. BUT AFTER THAT, WE'RE LEAVING FOR YU DAO, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.

I GOTTA WARN YOU GUYS, CRANEFISH TOWN HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE YOU LAST SAW IT.



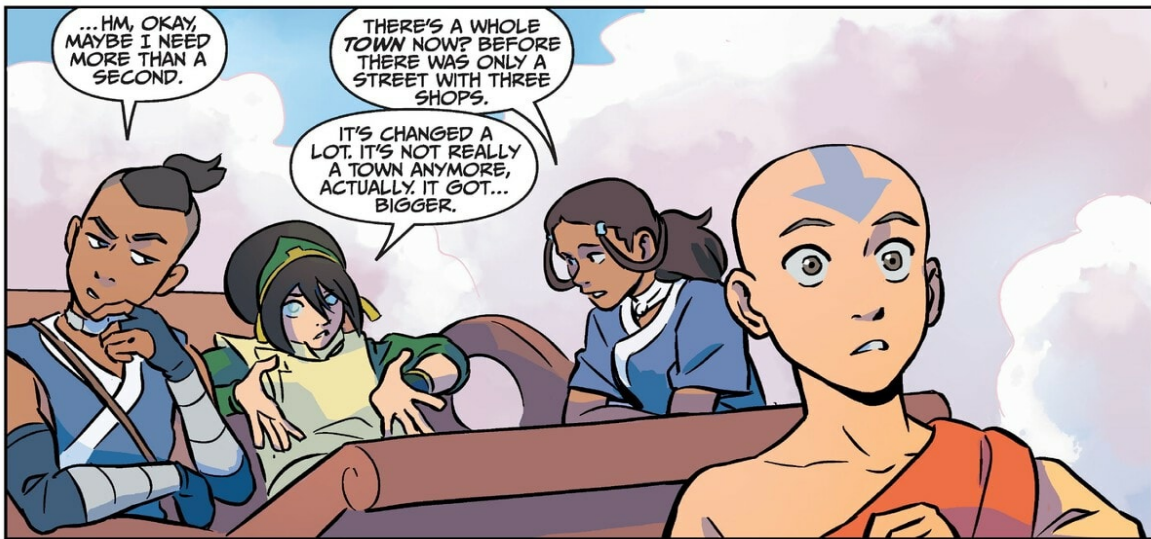
"CRANEFISH TOWN"?

YEAH, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE TOWN MY DAD'S FACTORY IS IN.

THEY NAMED THE TOWN AFTER THOSE NOISY BIRDS? THAT'S A TERRIBLE NAME! I CAN THINK OF A BETTER ONE IN NO TIME, JUST GIVE ME A SECOND...



...WHAT ABOUT... FORKLIFT TOWN!



...HM, OKAY, MAYBE I NEED MORE THAN A SECOND.

THERE'S A WHOLE TOWN NOW? BEFORE THERE WAS ONLY A STREET WITH THREE SHOPS.

IT'S CHANGED A LOT. IT'S NOT REALLY A TOWN ANYMORE, ACTUALLY. IT GOT... BIGGER.

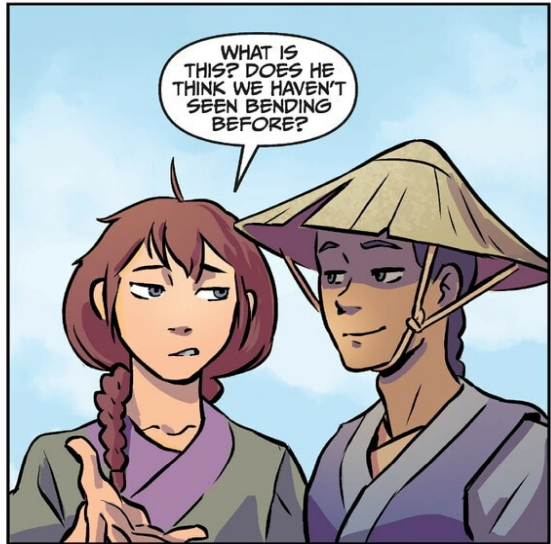
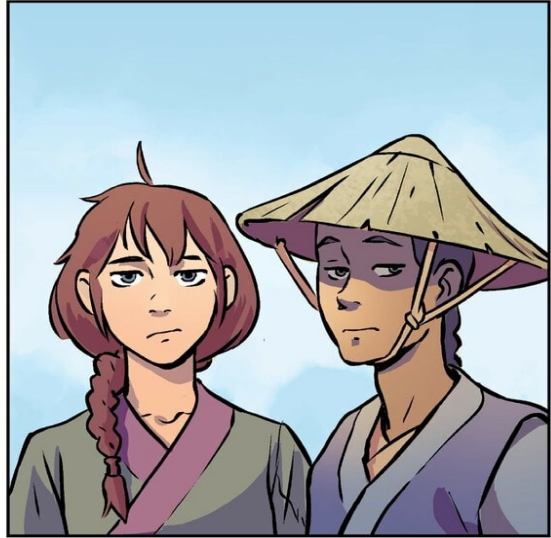


YEAH,
BIGGER IS
RIGHT.

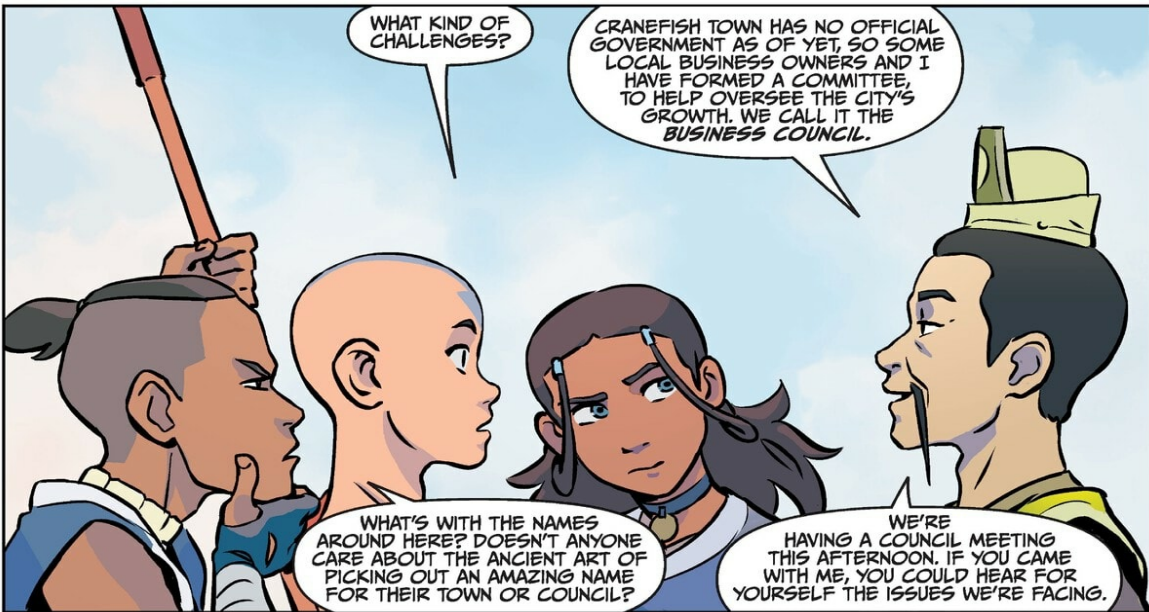


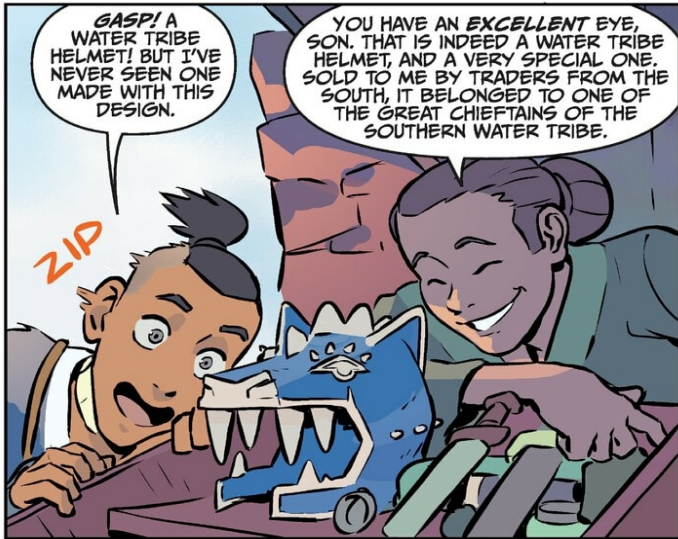








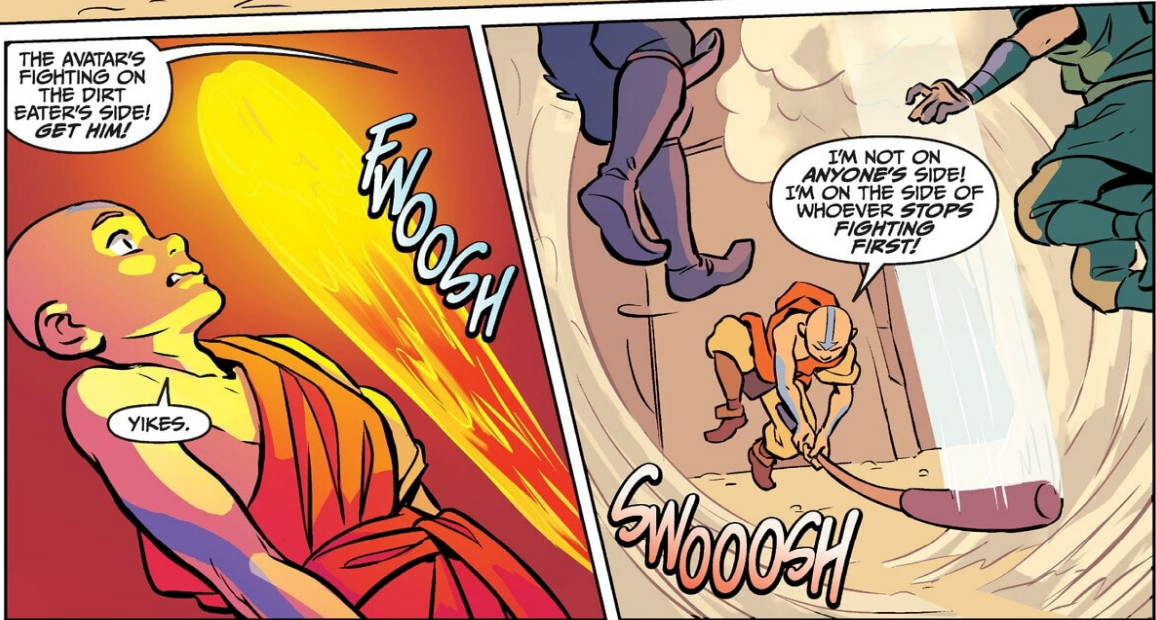
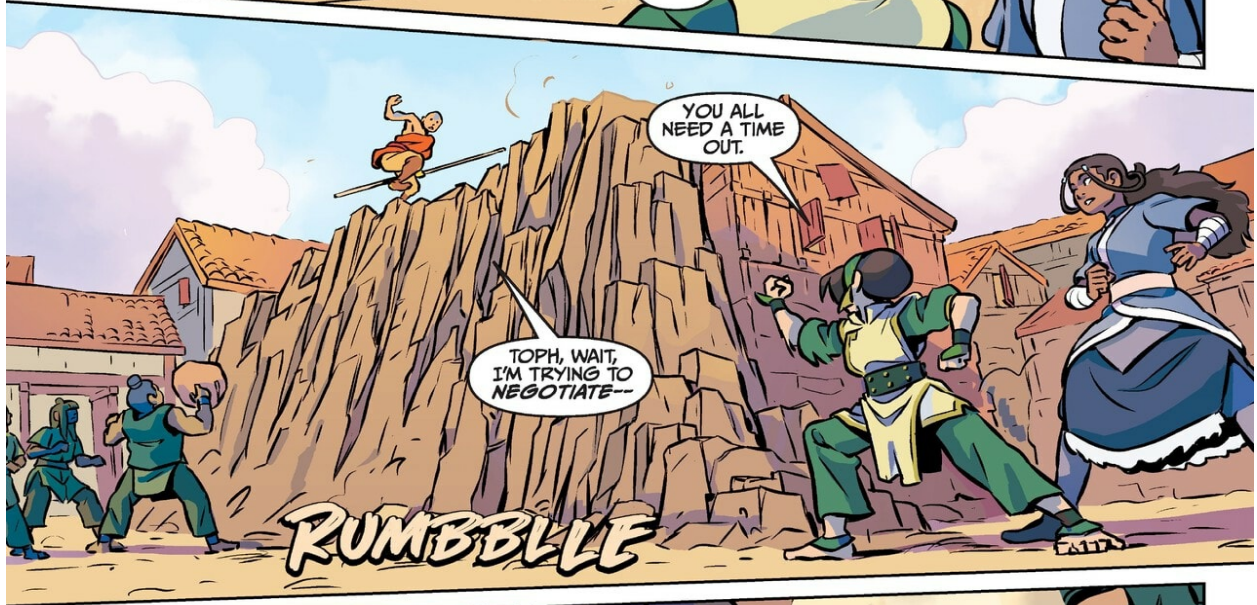


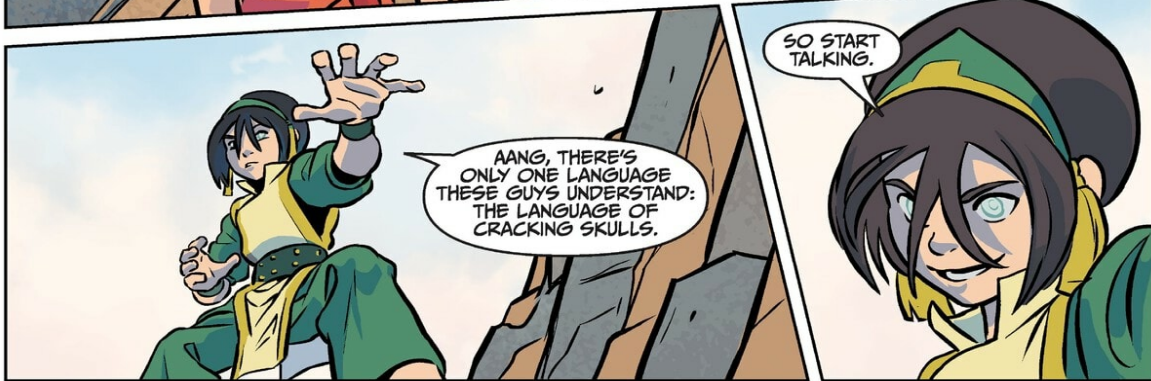




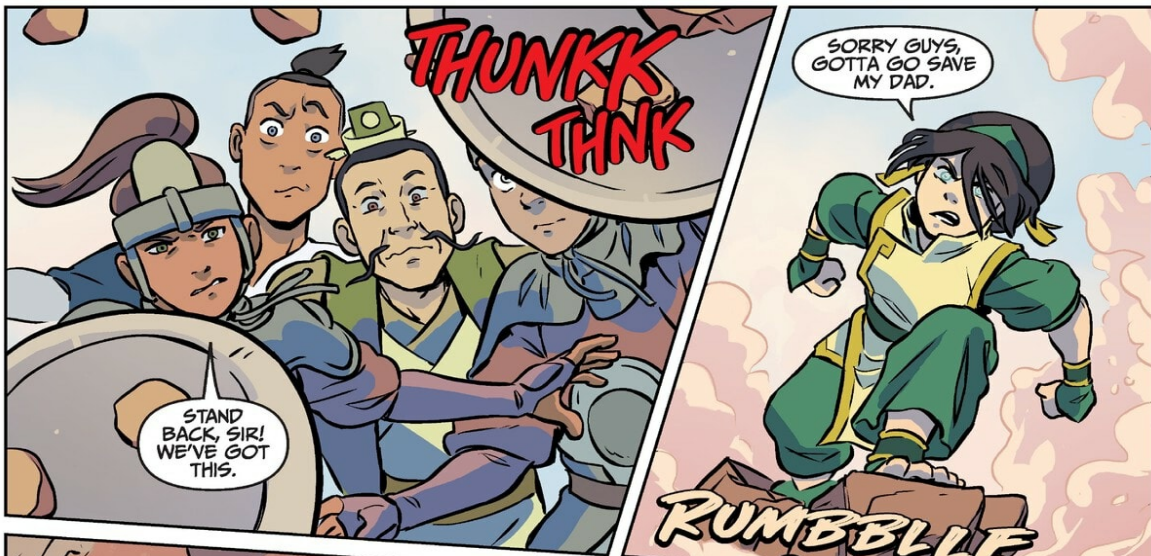






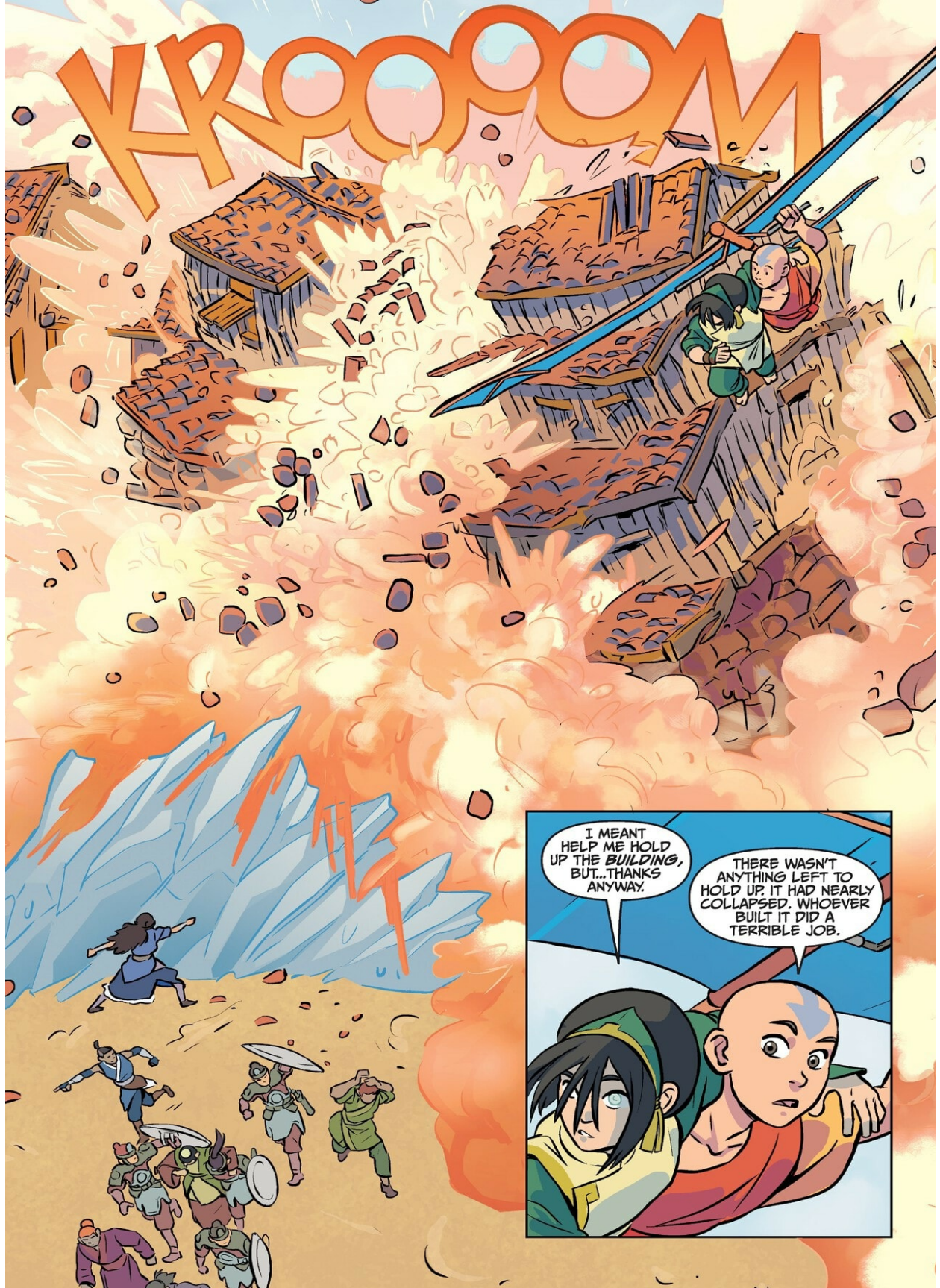












I MEANT HELP ME HOLD UP THE **BUILDING**, BUT...THANKS ANYWAY.

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LEFT TO HOLD UP. IT HAD NEARLY COLLAPSED. WHOEVER BUILT IT DID A TERRIBLE JOB.



KATARAI WAS ANYONE HURT?

THE BUILDING WAS EMPTY. EVERYONE'S OKAY.



ARE YOU OKAY? I'M SORRY, I JUST LEFT YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT FIGHT--

I'M FINE. BUT IT'S NICE OF YOU TO WORRY.

I'M FINE TOO, IF ANYONE CARES.

I CARE.



WHAT?

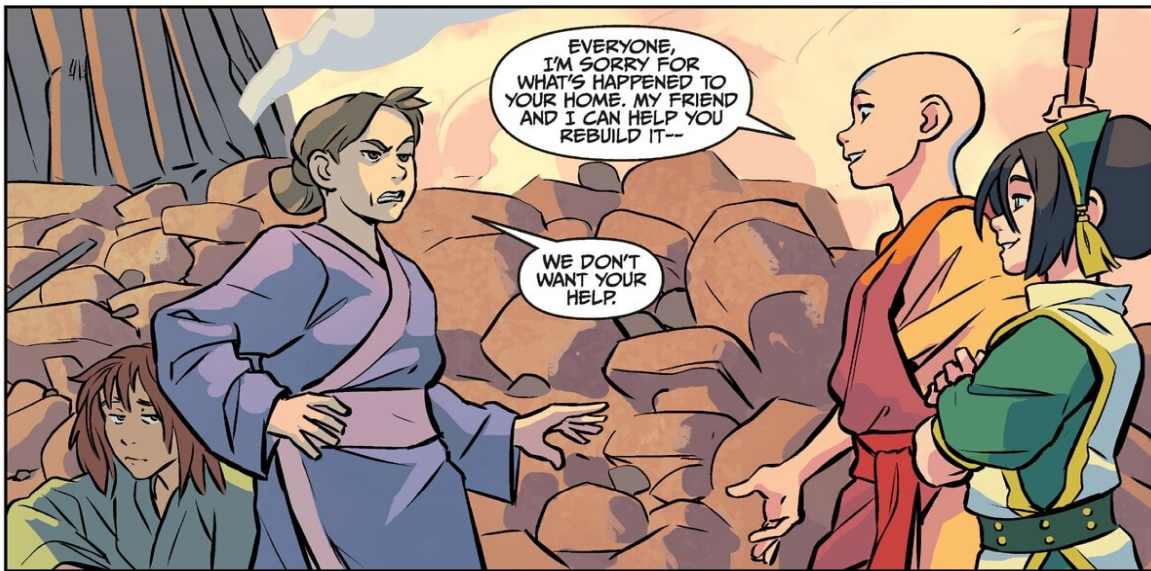
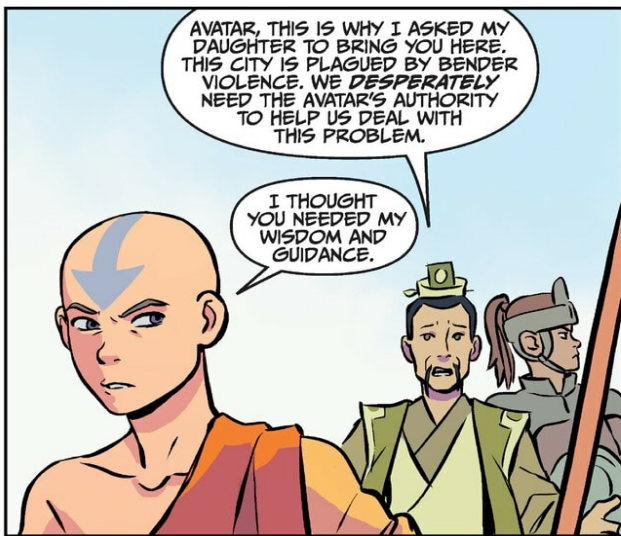
...NOTHING.



WHERE DID THE BENDERS WHO STARTED THE FIGHT GO?

THEY RAN OFF INTO THE CITY. I COULDN'T STOP THEM ESCAPING AND HELP PEOPLE GET OUT OF THAT COLLAPSING BUILDING.







YOU DON'T?

SERIOUSLY? I CAN MAKE THAT PILE OF ROCKS LOOK BRAND NEW, I'M THAT GOOD.



BENDERS DESTROYED OUR HOME. WE DON'T WANT THE HELP OF BENDERS TO REPAIR IT.



I'M NOT--I'M NOT LIKE THE BENDERS WHO DESTROYED THIS BUILDING. I'M THE AVATAR. MY JOB IS TO HELP PEOPLE.

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO DO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFER, AVATAR, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIX OUR HOME OURSELVES.



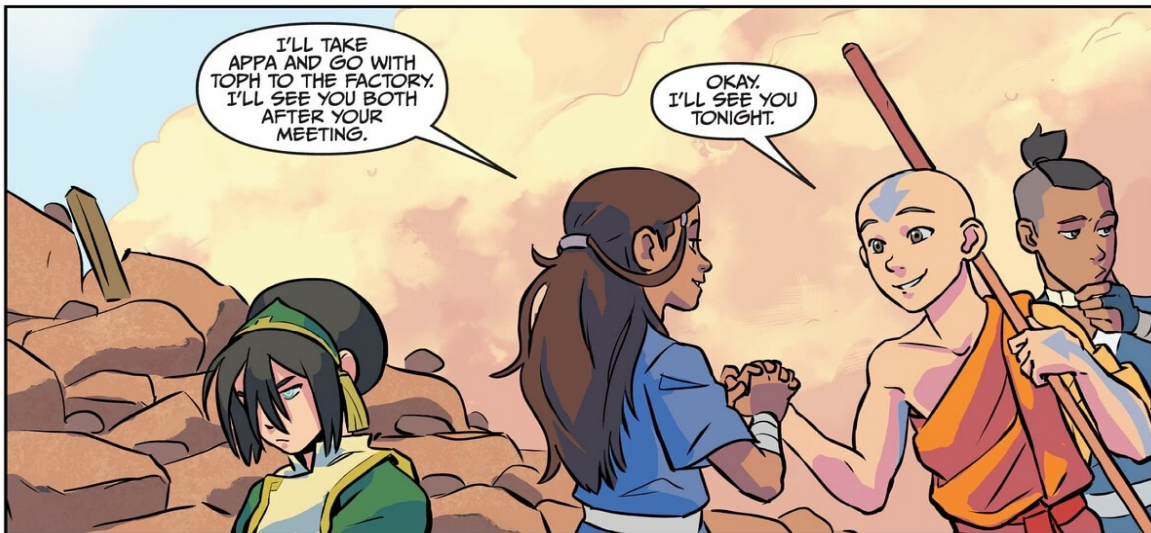
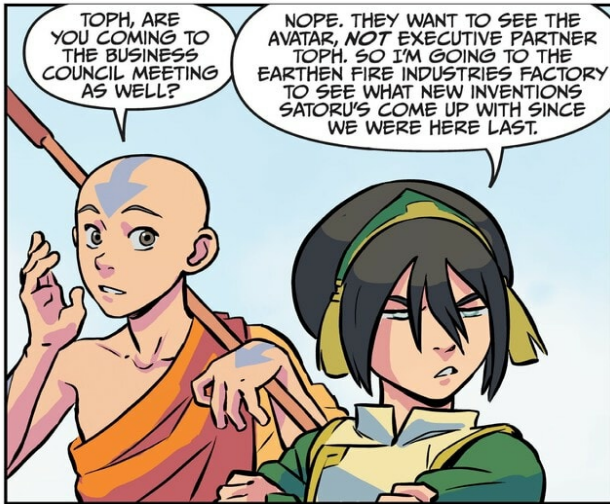
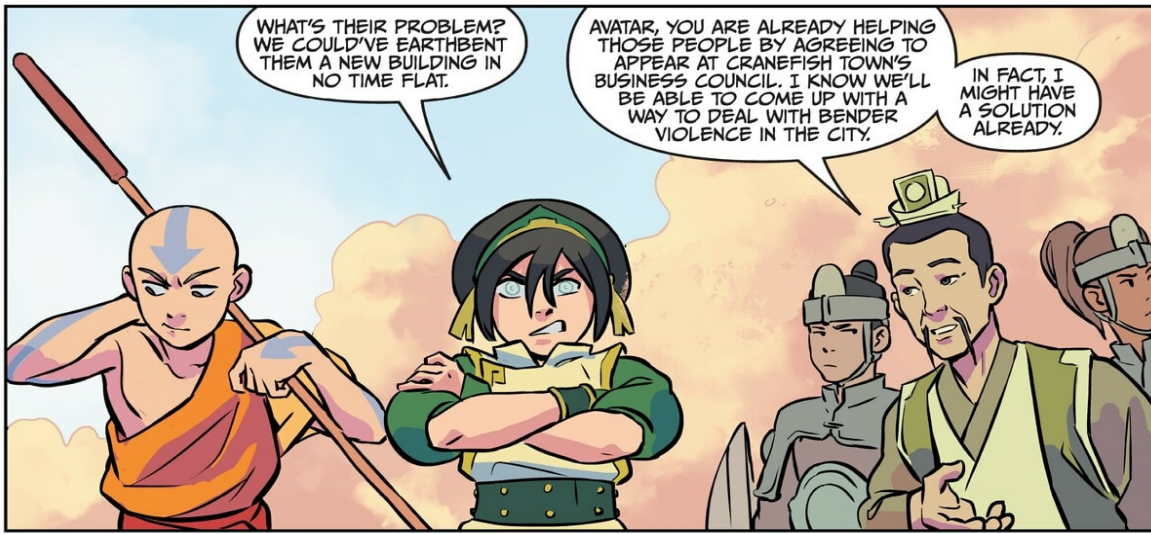
WAIT--

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? FORCE US TO ACCEPT YOUR HELP?



NO, OF COURSE NOT.

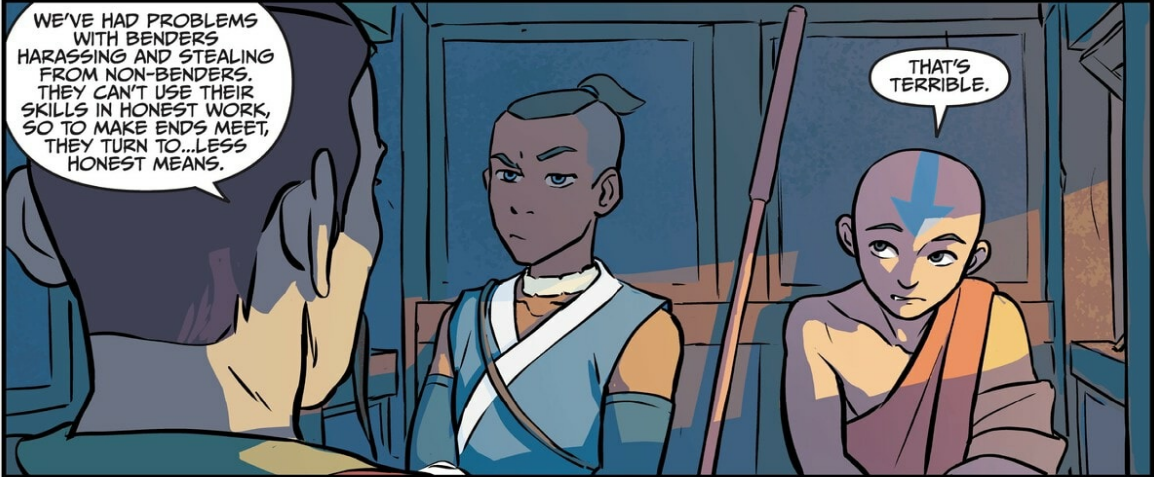
THEN LEAVE US ALONE.







MANY PEOPLE HAVE COME HERE LOOKING FOR WORK. UNFORTUNATELY THE FACTORIES CAN'T EMPLOY EVERYONE, NOT EVEN SKILLED BENDERS.

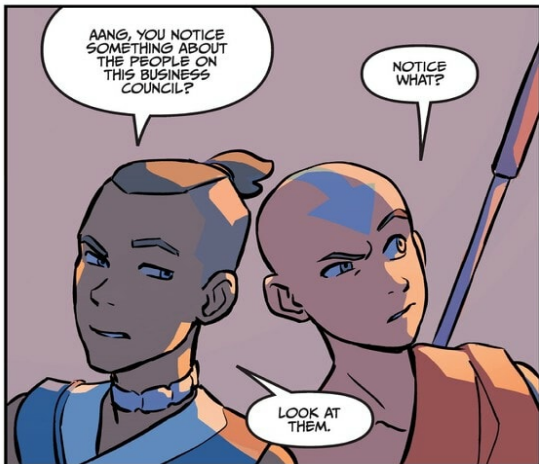


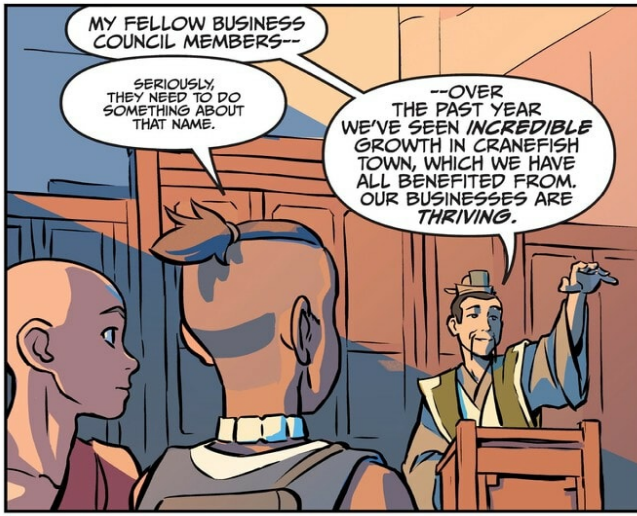
WE'VE HAD PROBLEMS WITH BENDERS HARASSING AND STEALING FROM NON-BENDERS. THEY CAN'T USE THEIR SKILLS IN HONEST WORK, SO TO MAKE ENDS MEET, THEY TURN TO...LESS HONEST MEANS.

THAT'S TERRIBLE.



BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO PUT A STOP TO THIS CONFLICT, YOU'LL SEE SOON.





MY FELLOW BUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERS---

SERIOUSLY, THEY NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME.

--OVER THE PAST YEAR WE'VE SEEN **INCREDIBLE** GROWTH IN CRANEFISH TOWN, WHICH WE HAVE ALL BENEFITED FROM. OUR BUSINESSES ARE **THRIVING**.



HOWEVER, OUR CITY'S GROWTH HAS ALSO BROUGHT... **CHALLENGES**.



OUR HOME IS PLAGUED BY VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY **BENDER** VIOLENCE. OUR FACTORY EMPLOYEES ARE AFRAID TO WALK TO WORK FOR FEAR OF BEING ATTACKED.



I WANT TO PROPOSE SOMETHING. **WE** ARE CRANEFISH TOWN'S COMMUNITY LEADERS. IT'S UP TO **US** TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OUR CITY IS FACING.

I PROPOSE THAT BENDING BE **BANNED** ON PUBLIC STREETS. THIS WILL HELP PREVENT THE BENDER VIOLENCE THAT IS CAUSING SO MANY PROBLEMS.



BAN BENDING...?





THIS IS EARTHEN FIRE INDUSTRIES? I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IT'S CHANGED SO MUCH, EVERYTHING ELSE AROUND HERE HAS.

IT'S NEARLY TRIPLED IN SIZE SINCE WE WERE LAST HERE.



TOPH! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

HI, SATORU, WE'RE ONLY IN TOWN FOR THE DAY, I WANTED TO COME BY AND SEE WHAT'S NEW.



ANYTHING FOR A FELLOW EXECUTIVE PARTNER. I THINK YOU'LL LIKE THE UPGRADES.

WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE? WE SAW A FEW OF THEM WITH TOPH'S DAD, EARLIER TODAY.

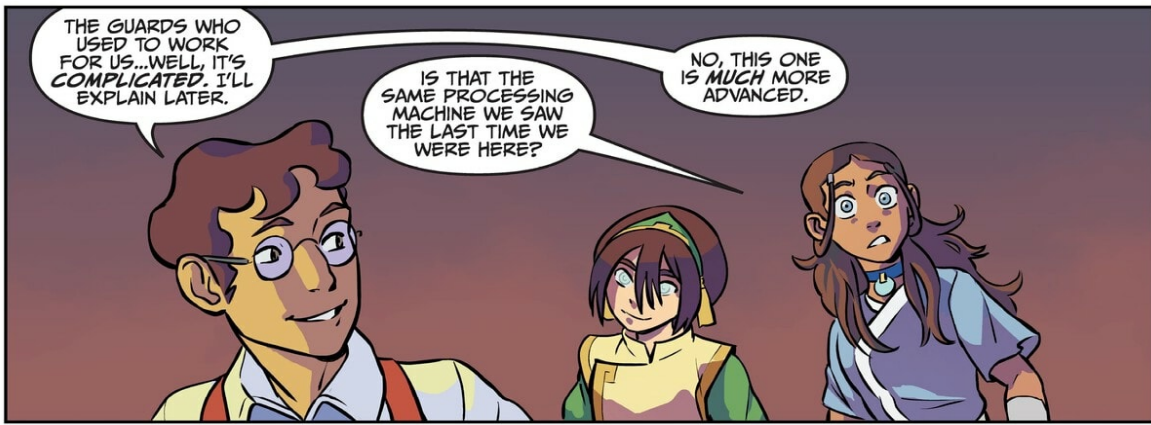


UNFORTUNATELY WE'VE HAD PROBLEMS WITH BREAK-INS AT THE FACTORY, SO WE'VE HIRED SOME NEW GUARDS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD GUARDS?

REMEMBER HOW THEY TRIED TO ATTACK AANG THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE?

THAT WAS PRETTY FUNNY.





I DON'T SEE ANYONE BENDING. BEFORE, THE MACHINE WAS RUN BY BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS, BUT NOW I DON'T SEE ANY BENDERS AT ALL.

HEY, SATORU, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? WHERE'D ALL THE BENDERS GO?

WELL, THAT'S COMPLICATED.



A LOT OF THINGS SEEM "COMPLICATED" RIGHT NOW. ONE EXECUTIVE PARTNER TO ANOTHER, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHEN I UPGRADED THE ORE PROCESSING MACHINE, IT WAS SO EFFECTIVE THAT WE DIDN'T NEED AS MANY BENDERS TO WORK THE FACTORY LINE. EVERYTHING COULD BE DONE BY THE MACHINE AND NON-BENDERS. SO WE LET A FEW OF OUR BENDER EMPLOYEES GO, AS SKILLED BENDERS TEND TO COMMAND HIGHER WAGES.



UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MADE OTHERS IN THE BENDER COMMUNITY ANGRY...THEY FELT LIKE THEY WERE BEING REPLACED BY MACHINES.

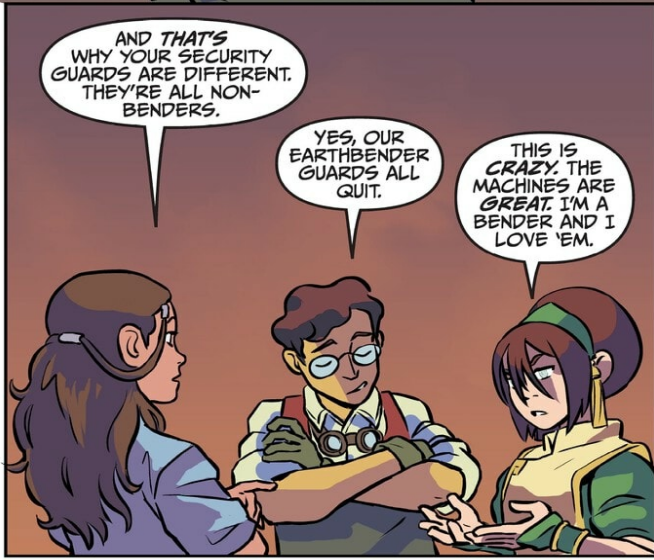


"OUR REMAINING BENDER EMPLOYEES QUIT IN PROTEST. I'M SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR FEELINGS, BUT I WASN'T TRYING TO PUT ANYONE OUT OF WORK. I JUST WANTED TO IMPROVE MY MACHINES AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE FACTORY!"



AND NOW THE SITUATION'S GROWN EVEN MORE COMPLICATED. OTHER NON-BENDER OWNED FACTORIES HAVE INSTALLED MACHINES SIMILAR TO THE ONES I BUILT FOR EARTHEN FIRE INDUSTRIES. AS A RESULT EVEN MORE BENDERS LOST THEIR JOBS.

THE TENSIONS BETWEEN BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS OVER THE MACHINES HAS GOTTEN SO BAD SOME BENDERS NOW REFUSE TO WORK FOR NON-BENDER OWNED FACTORIES.



AND THAT'S WHY YOUR SECURITY GUARDS ARE DIFFERENT. THEY'RE ALL NON-BENDERS.

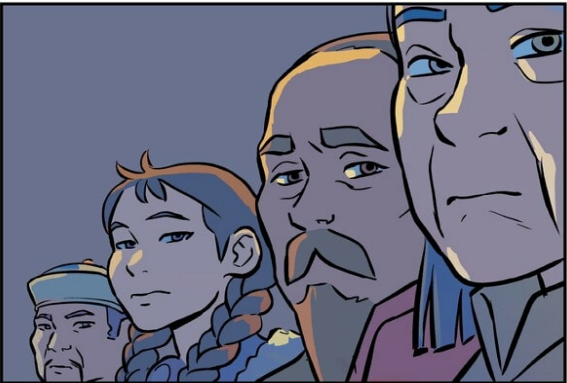
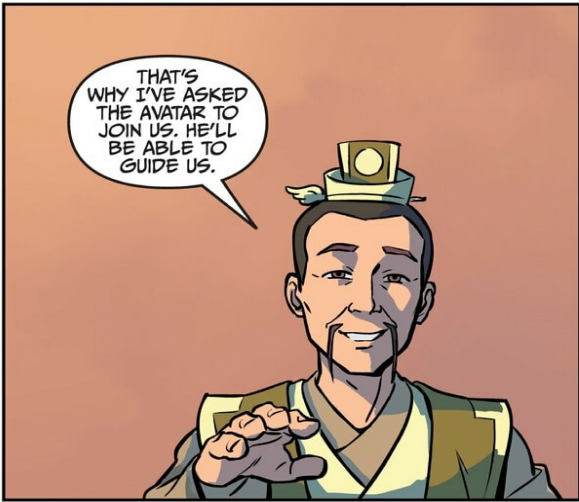
YES, OUR EARTHBENDER GUARDS ALL QUIT.

THIS IS CRAZY. THE MACHINES ARE GREAT. I'M A BENDER AND I LOVE 'EM.



THANK YOU, TOPH.

JUST AS LONG AS YOU DON'T INVENT ANY MACHINES THAT DO METALBENDING. THAT'S MY THING.





I'VE ONLY BEEN IN CRANEFISH TOWN FOR A DAY, BUT I'VE SEEN FOR MYSELF THE PROBLEMS YOU'VE BEEN DEALING WITH.

EARLIER TODAY I SAW BENDERS ATTACK EACH OTHER FOR NO REASON. INNOCENT PEOPLE LOST THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF THAT FIGHT.



I WON'T SUPPORT A BENDING BAN. IT WOULD PUNISH HONEST BENDERS AS WELL AS CRIMINALS.



WHAT I THINK THIS CITY NEEDS IS A REAL POLICE FORCE. SOMETHING TO SERVE ITS CITIZENS AND ESTABLISH *TRUE* LAW AND ORDER.

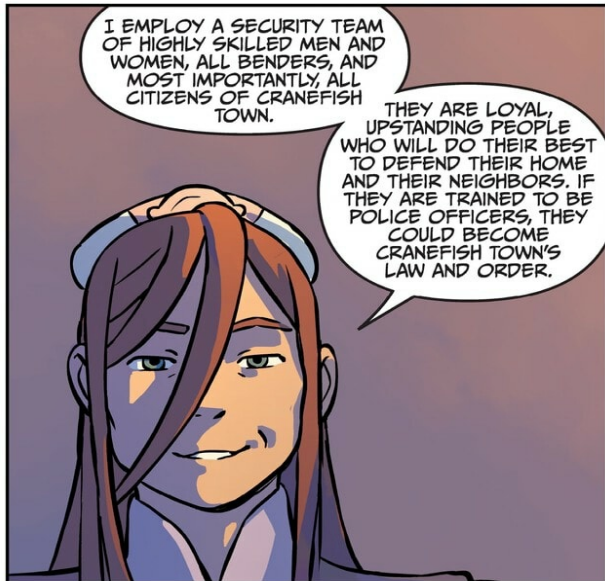


I AGREE WITH THE AVATAR.



AVATAR AANG, MY NAME IS LILING. I GREW UP IN THE AREA CRANEFISH TOWN IS BUILT ON, AND RETURNED HERE TO ESTABLISH MY BUSINESS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR.

LIKE EVERYONE HERE, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE VIOLENCE IN OUR CITY. ESTABLISHING A POLICE FORCE IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO HELP COMBAT THIS PROBLEM, AND IT'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH.



I EMPLOY A SECURITY TEAM OF HIGHLY SKILLED MEN AND WOMEN, ALL BENDERS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, ALL CITIZENS OF CRANEFISH TOWN.

THEY ARE LOYAL, UPSTANDING PEOPLE WHO WILL DO THEIR BEST TO DEFEND THEIR HOME AND THEIR NEIGHBORS. IF THEY ARE TRAINED TO BE POLICE OFFICERS, THEY COULD BECOME CRANEFISH TOWN'S LAW AND ORDER.



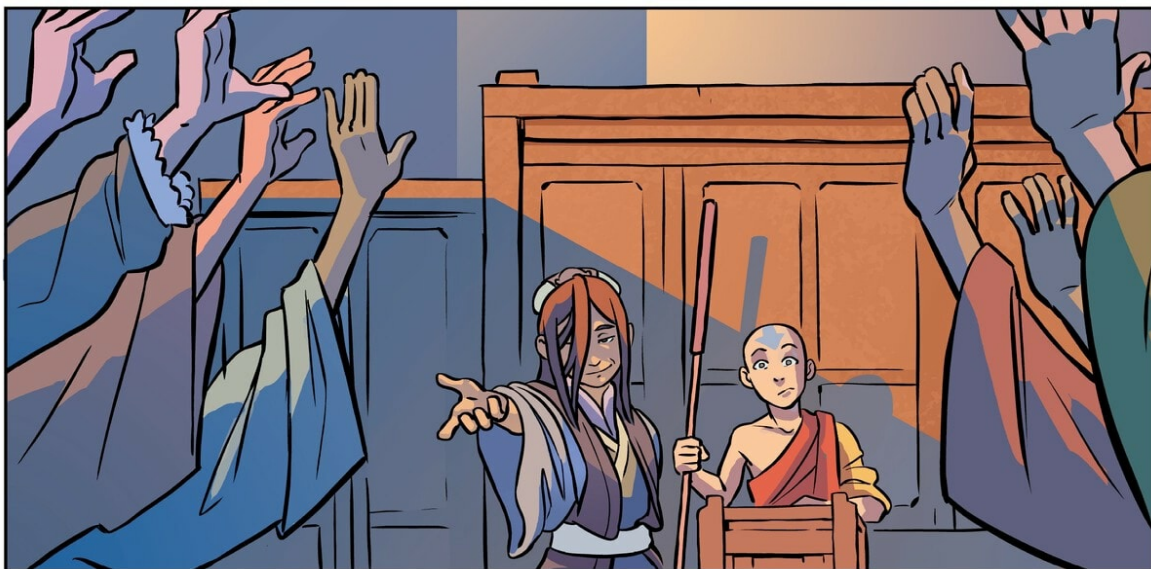
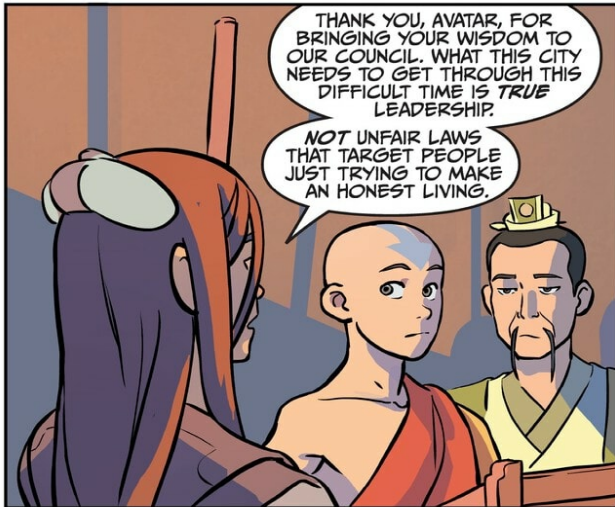
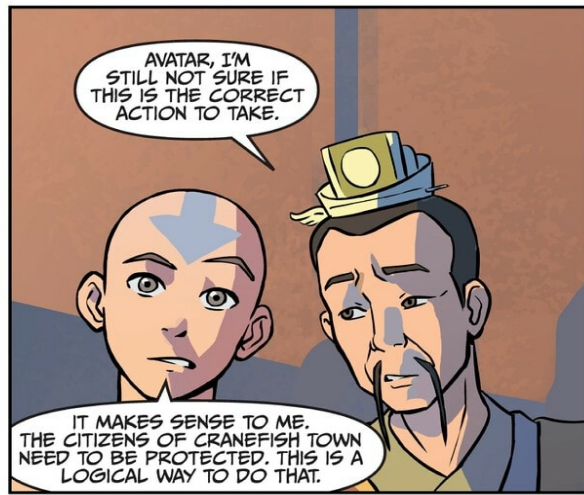
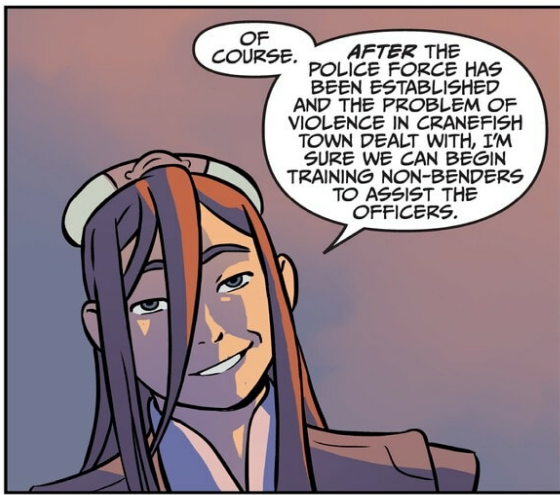
HOW LARGE IS YOUR SECURITY TEAM?

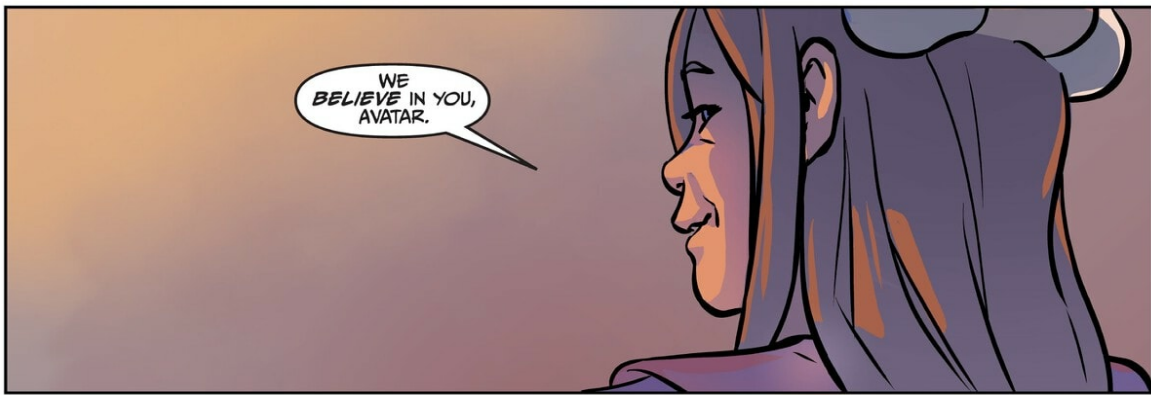
I HAVE THIRTY PEOPLE WHO PROTECT MY FACTORIES. THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH FOR A PROPER POLICE FORCE, BUT IF THEY ARE TRAINED, THEY CAN PASS THEIR TRAINING ON TO OTHERS LATER ON.

IT WOULD BE A BEGINNING, AT LEAST.

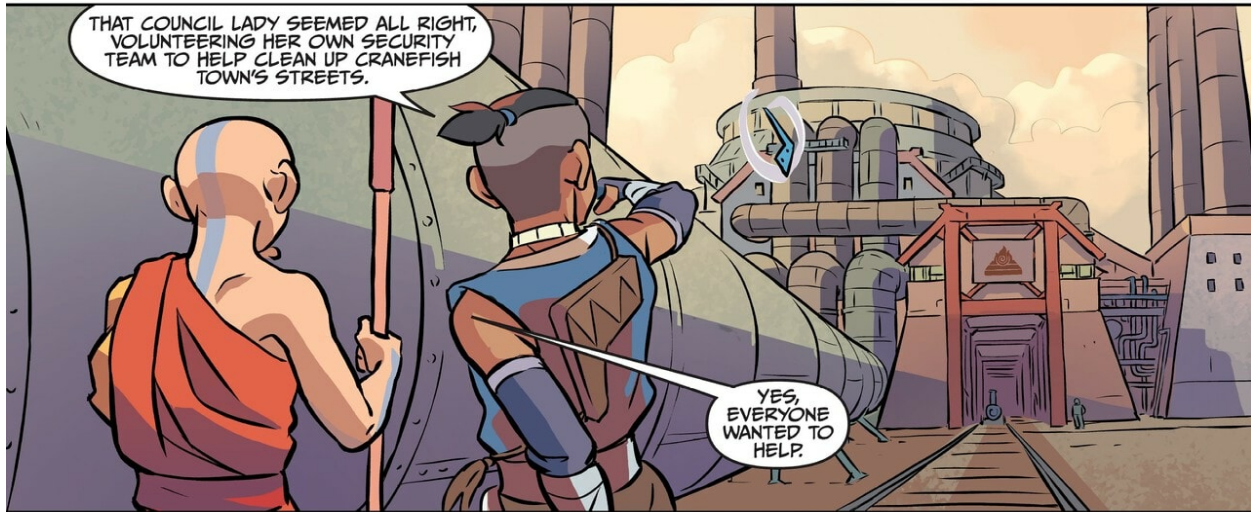


I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO ALSO HAVE NON-BENDERS ON THIS POLICE FORCE, TO REPRESENT THAT PART OF THE POPULATION. AFTER ALL, THERE ARE MORE OF US.





WE BELIEVE IN YOU, AVATAR.



THAT COUNCIL LADY SEEMED ALL RIGHT, VOLUNTEERING HER OWN SECURITY TEAM TO HELP CLEAN UP CRANEFISH TOWN'S STREETS.

YES, EVERYONE WANTED TO HELP.



WE'RE DEFINITELY SPENDING LONGER THAN JUST A DAY HERE, HUH?

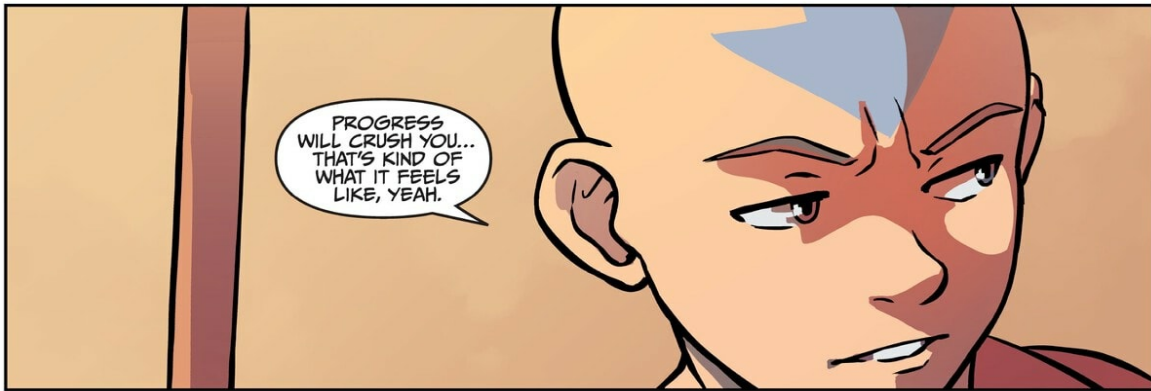
LOOKS LIKE. I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE GETTING TO YU DAO ANYTIME SOON.

IN THAT CASE, I'M GONNA SEND A MESSENGER HAWK TO SUKI AND TELL HER TO JOIN US HERE.



I'D HOPED THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE WOULD BE RESPECTFUL OF THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN THE CITY STARTED TO EXPAND. I GUESS THAT WAS A LITTLE NAIVE OF ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY: TRYING TO STOP PROGRESS IS LIKE TRYING TO STOP A LION-TURTLE. YOU LITERALLY *CAN'T* STOP IT, BECAUSE IT'S HUGE AND WILL CRUSH YOU.



PROGRESS WILL CRUSH YOU... THAT'S KIND OF WHAT IT FEELS LIKE, YEAH.



TOPH'S FATHER ARRANGED FOR US TO STAY AT A HOUSE BY THE FACTORY. TOPH IS THERE NOW.

NICE! LAO ALWAYS KNOWS HOW TO TREAT HIS GUESTS RIGHT.

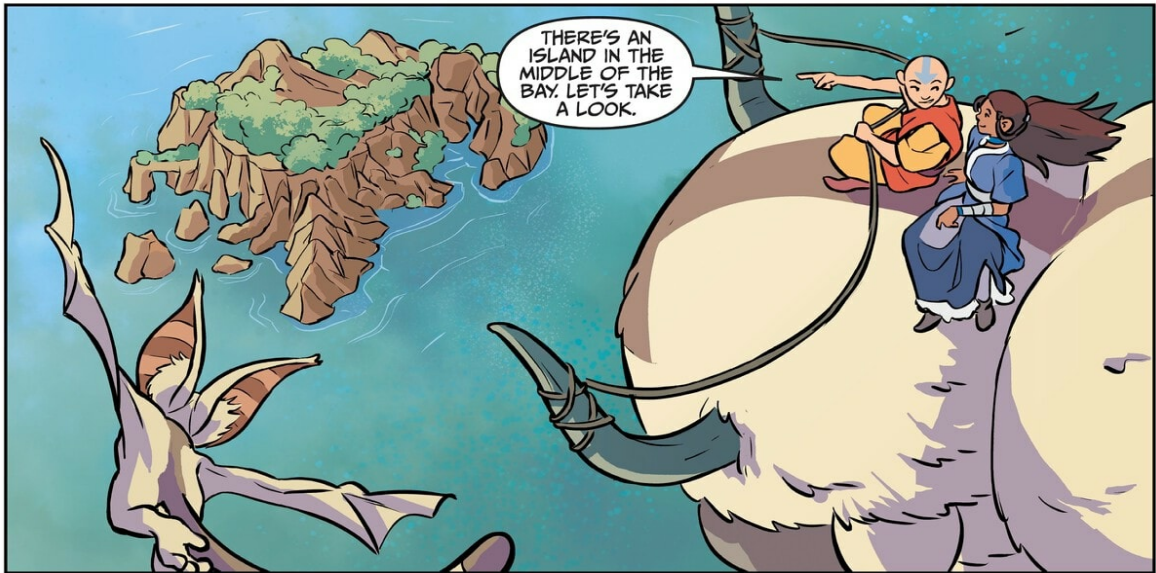
UNNECESSARILY LUXURIOUS PILLOWS, HERE I COME!



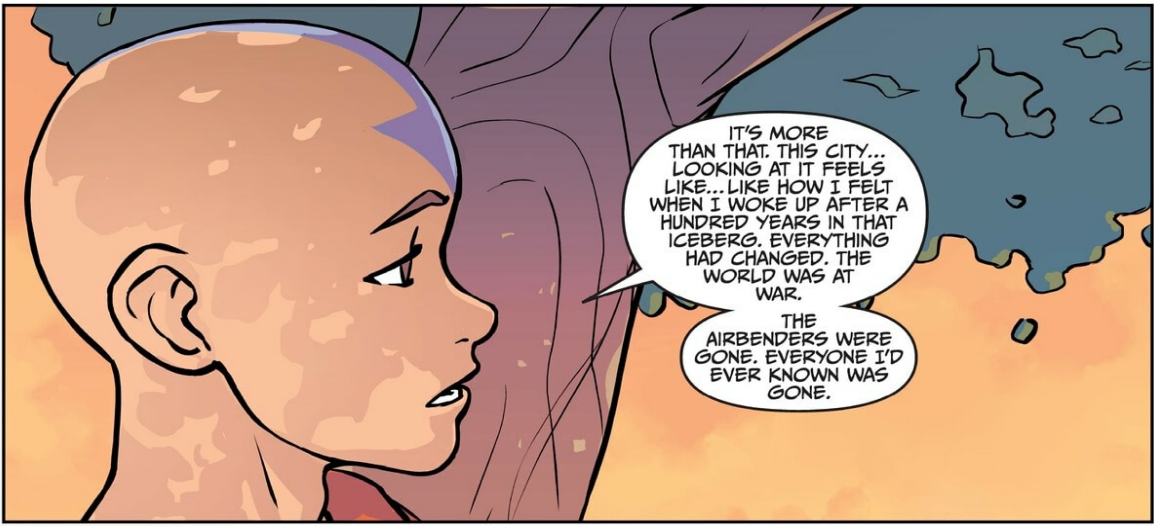
AANG, ARE YOU COMING?

I'M NOT READY TO TURN IN YET. WILL YOU GO FOR A RIDE ON APPA WITH ME?

OF COURSE.

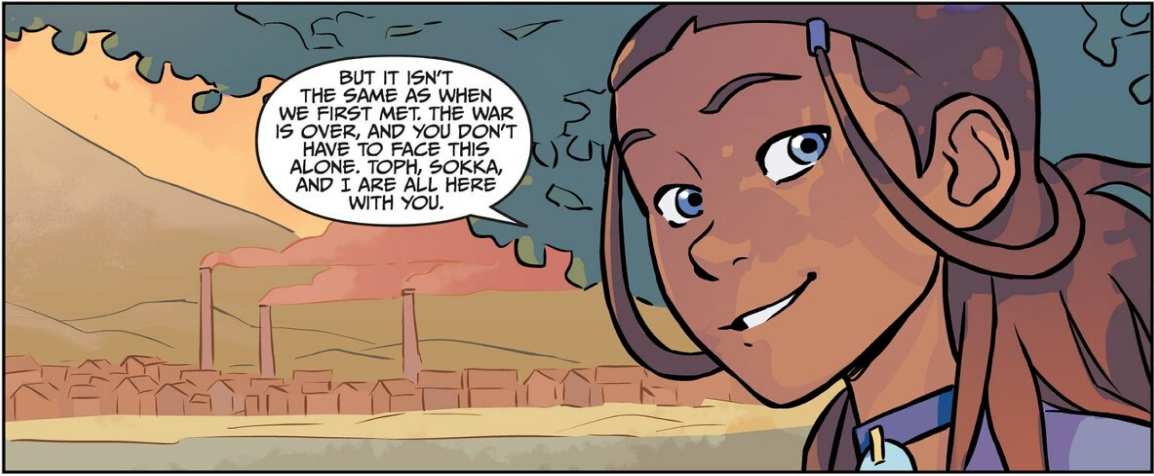




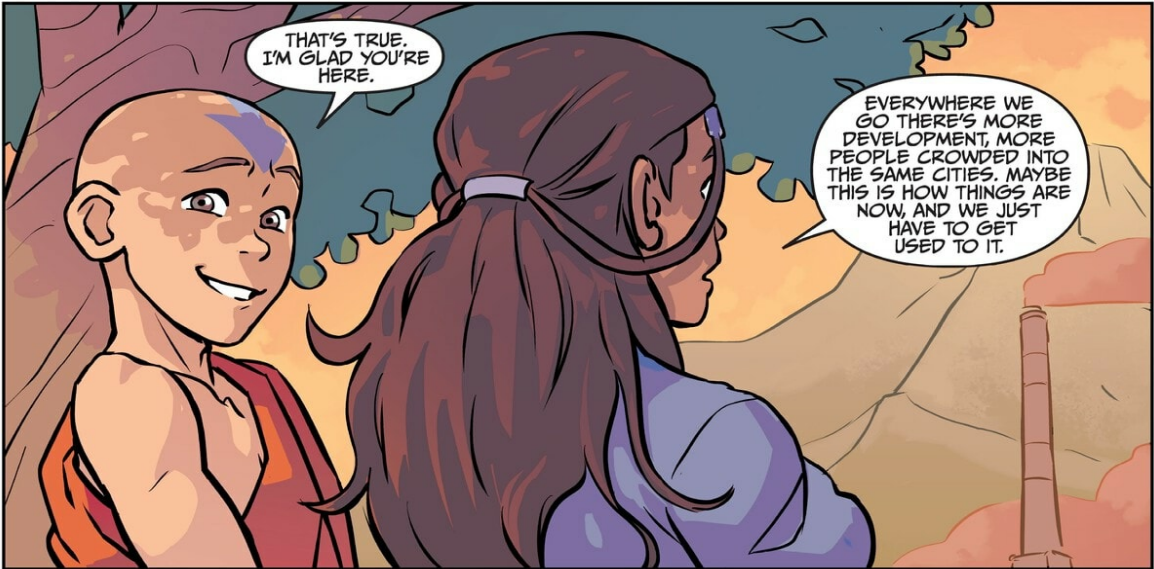


IT'S MORE THAN THAT. THIS CITY... LOOKING AT IT FEELS LIKE... LIKE HOW I FELT WHEN I WOKE UP AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS IN THAT ICEBERG. EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED. THE WORLD WAS AT WAR.

THE AIRBENDERS WERE GONE. EVERYONE I'D EVER KNOWN WAS GONE.

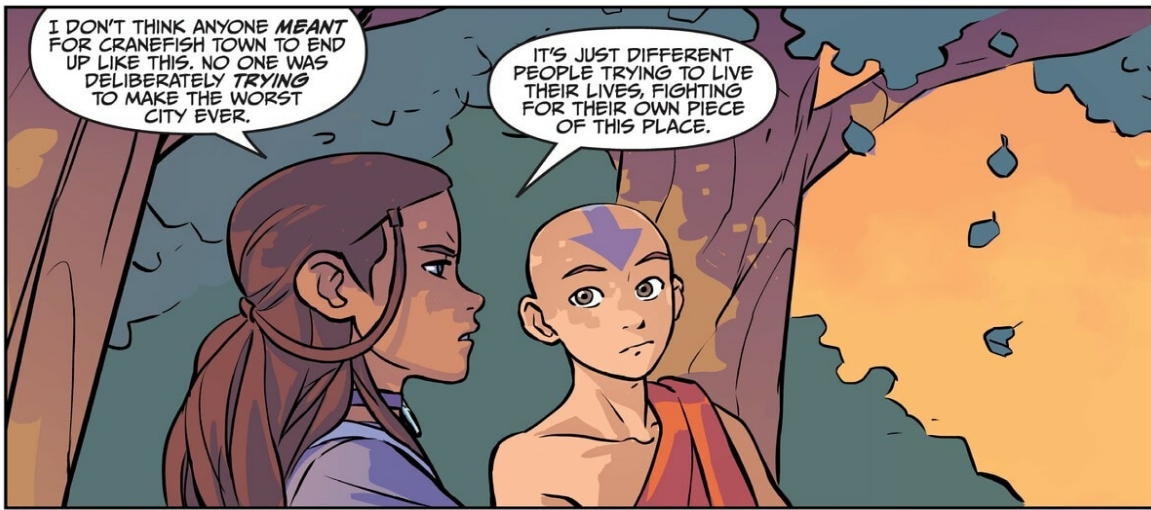


BUT IT ISN'T THE SAME AS WHEN WE FIRST MET. THE WAR IS OVER, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THIS ALONE. TOPH, SOKKA, AND I ARE ALL HERE WITH YOU.



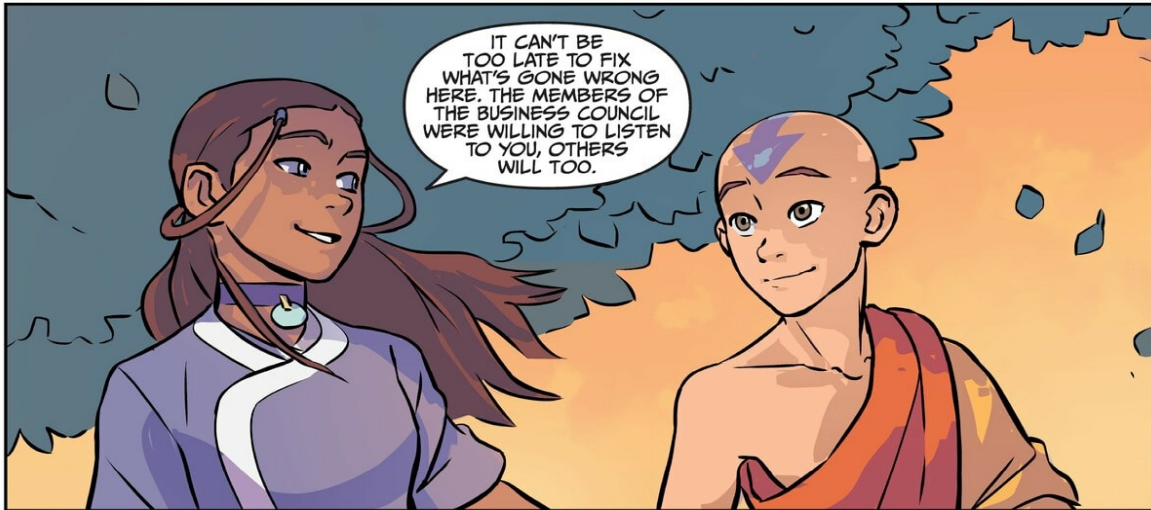
THAT'S TRUE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

EVERYWHERE WE GO THERE'S MORE DEVELOPMENT, MORE PEOPLE CROWDED INTO THE SAME CITIES. MAYBE THIS IS HOW THINGS ARE NOW, AND WE JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO IT.



I DON'T THINK ANYONE *MEANT* FOR CRANEFISH TOWN TO END UP LIKE THIS. NO ONE WAS DELIBERATELY *TRYING* TO MAKE THE WORST CITY EVER.

IT'S JUST DIFFERENT PEOPLE TRYING TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN PIECE OF THIS PLACE.

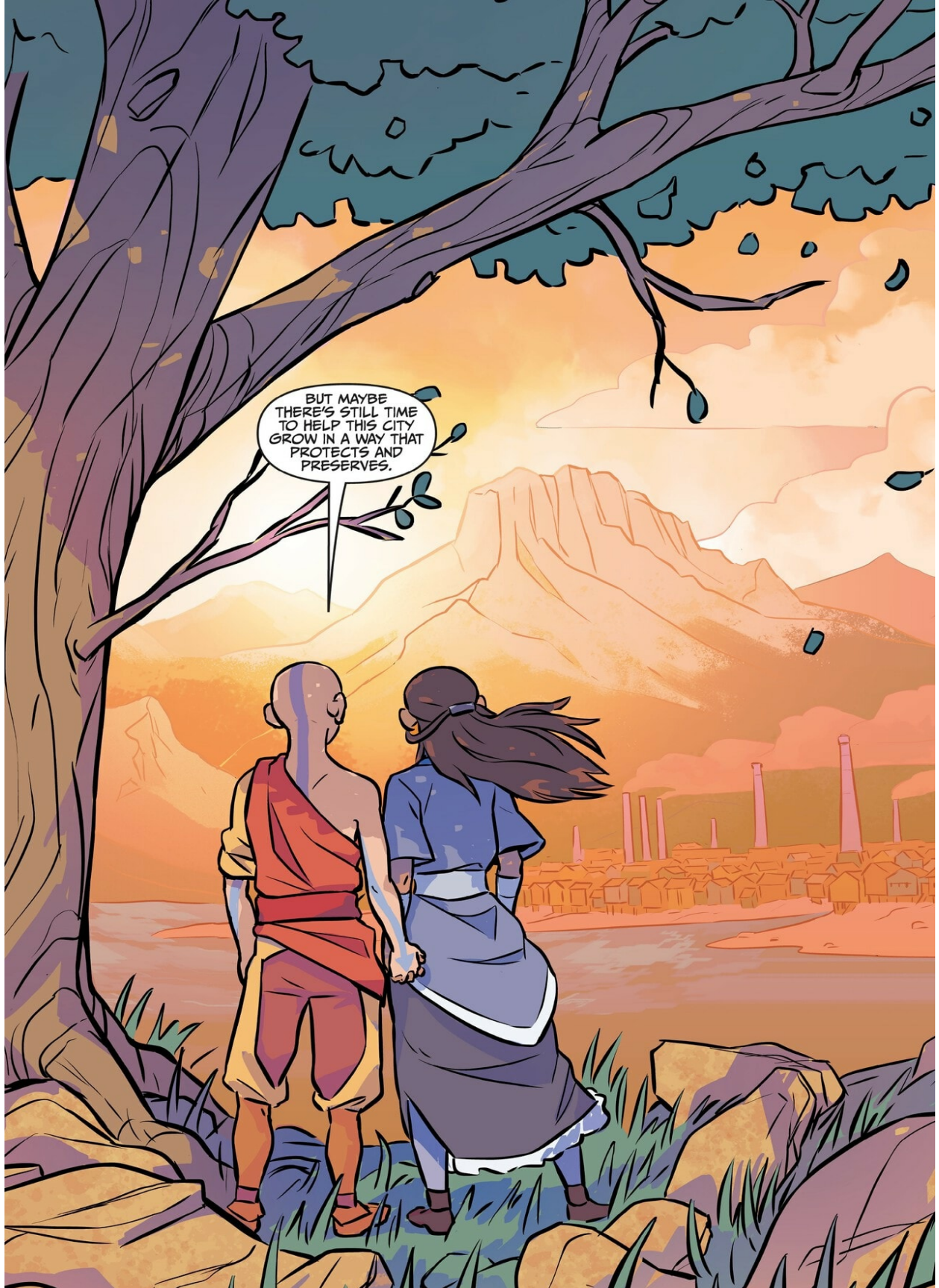


IT CAN'T BE TOO LATE TO FIX WHAT'S GONE WRONG HERE. THE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL WERE WILLING TO LISTEN TO YOU, OTHERS WILL TOO.



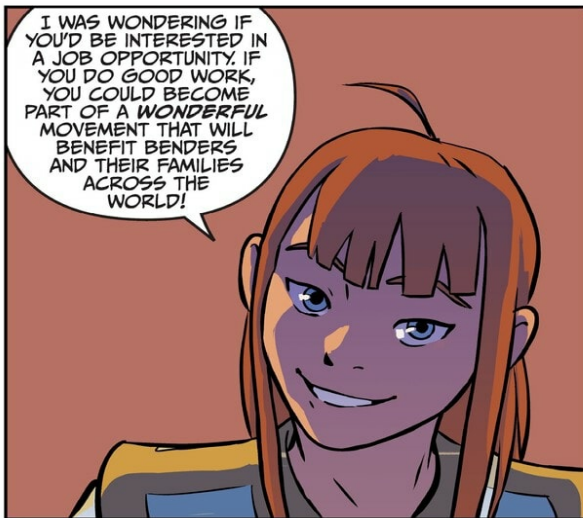
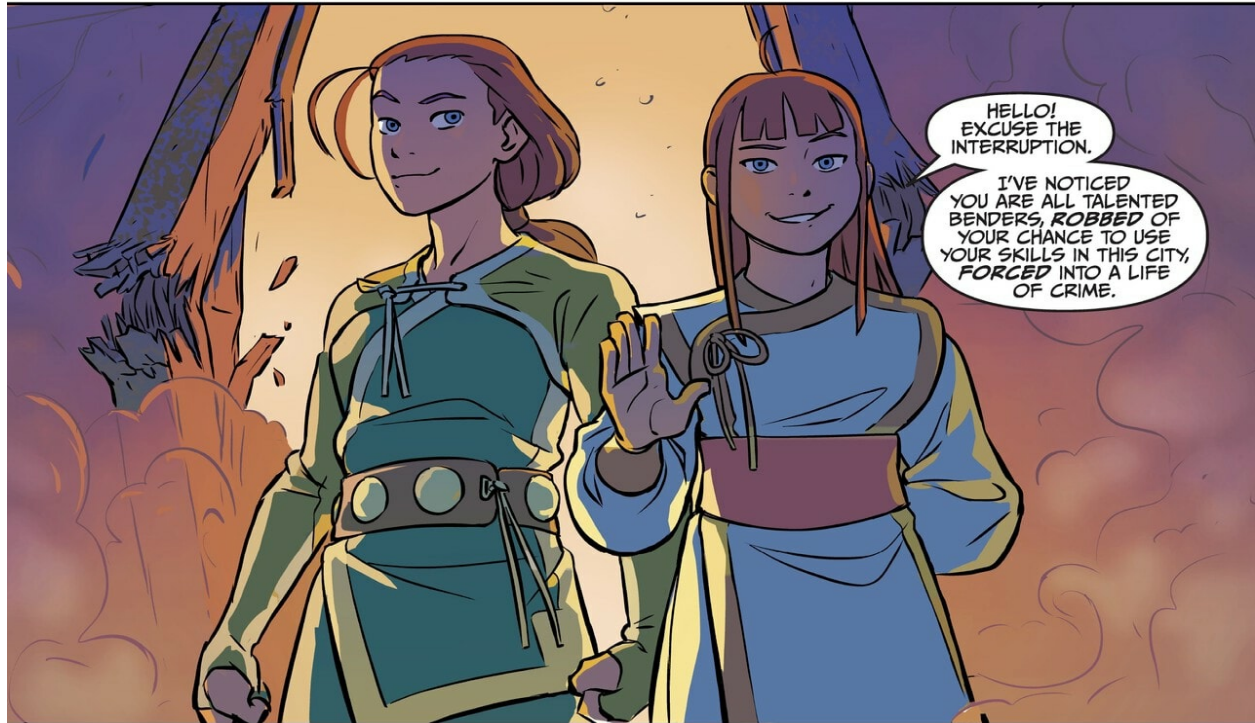
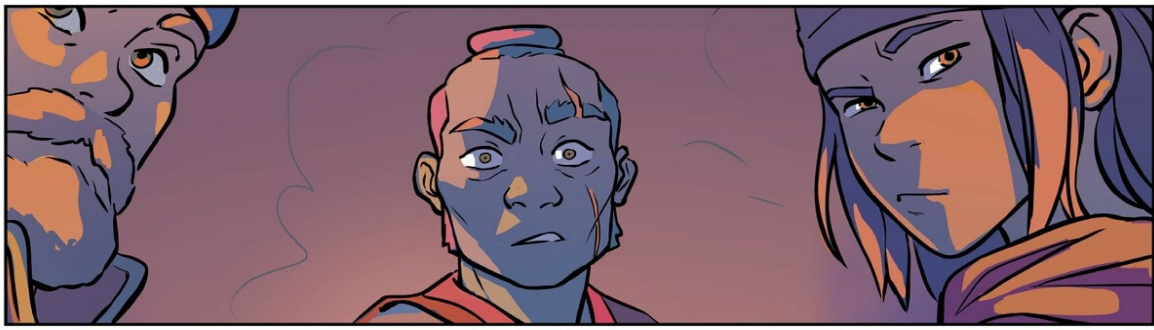
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT FEELS ON EDGE.

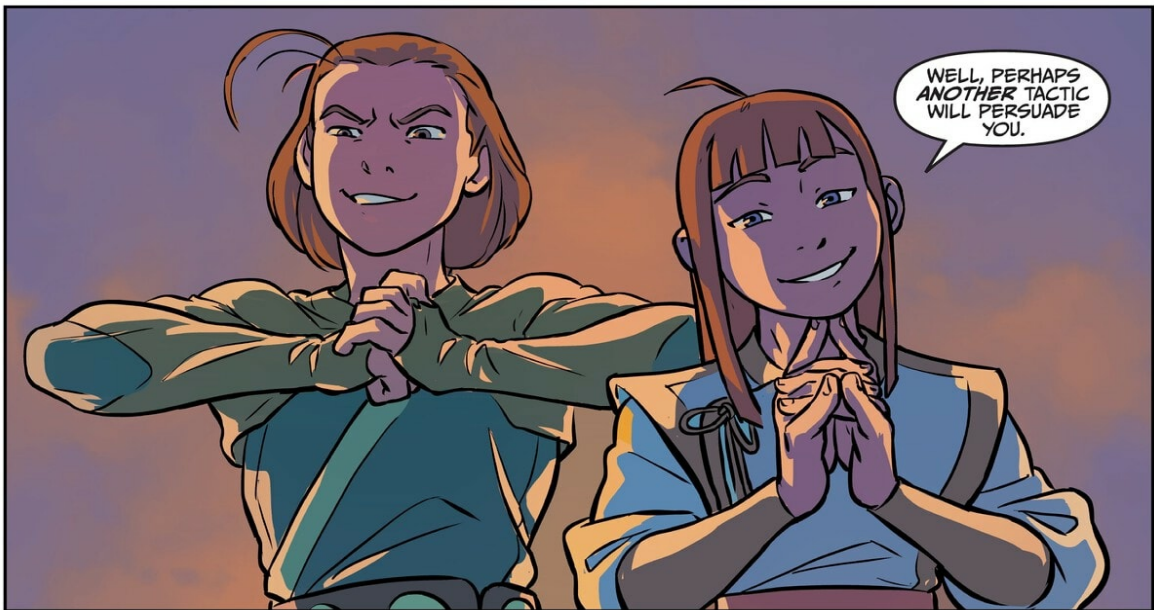
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE PROGRESS, IT FEELS LIKE CHAOS.



BUT MAYBE
THERE'S STILL TIME
TO HELP THIS CITY
GROW IN A WAY THAT
PROTECTS AND
PRESERVES.









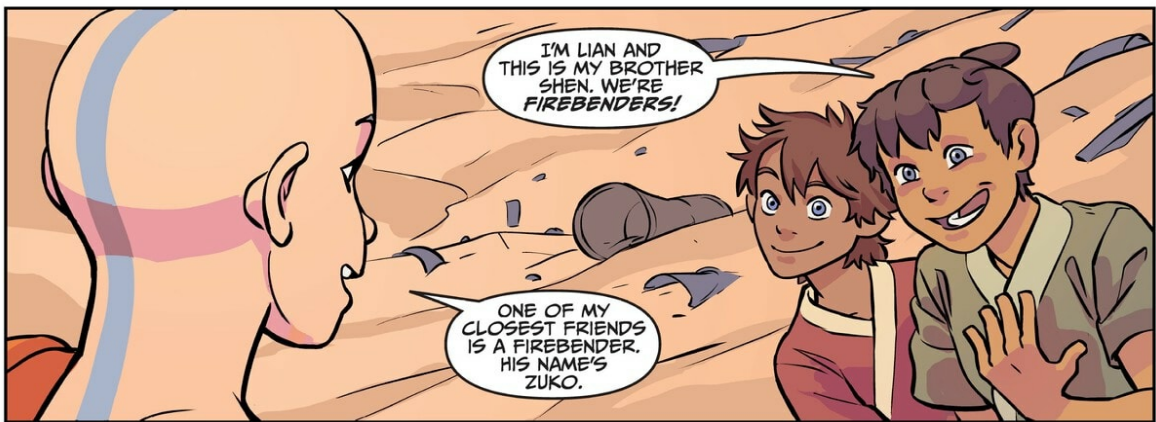
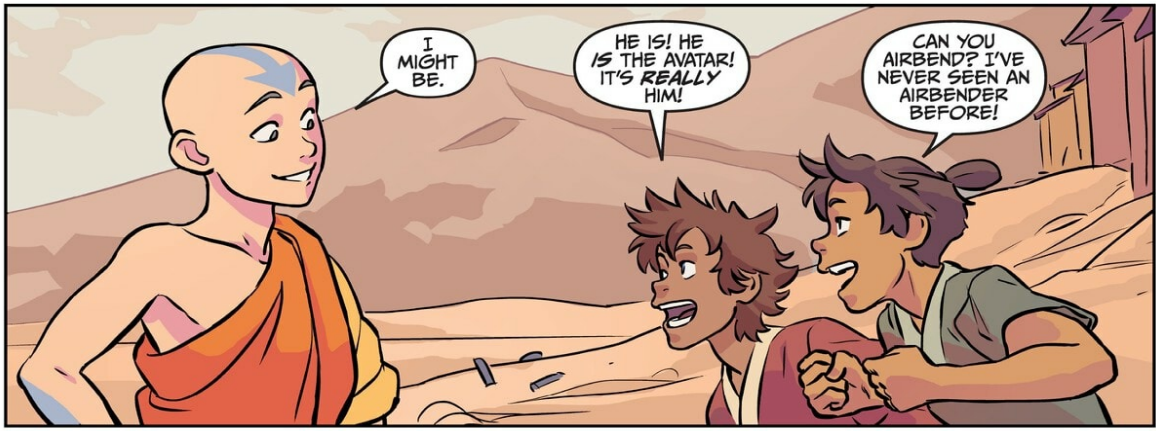


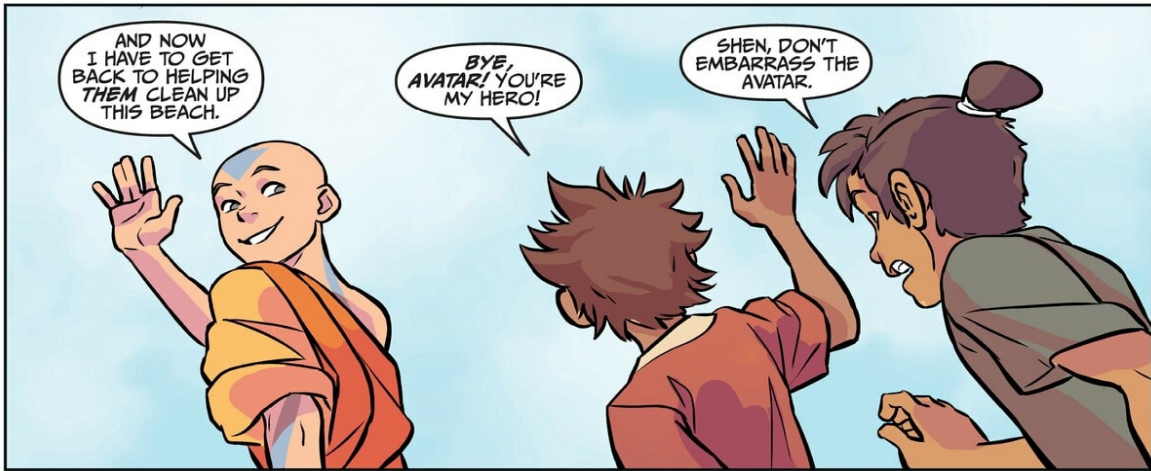






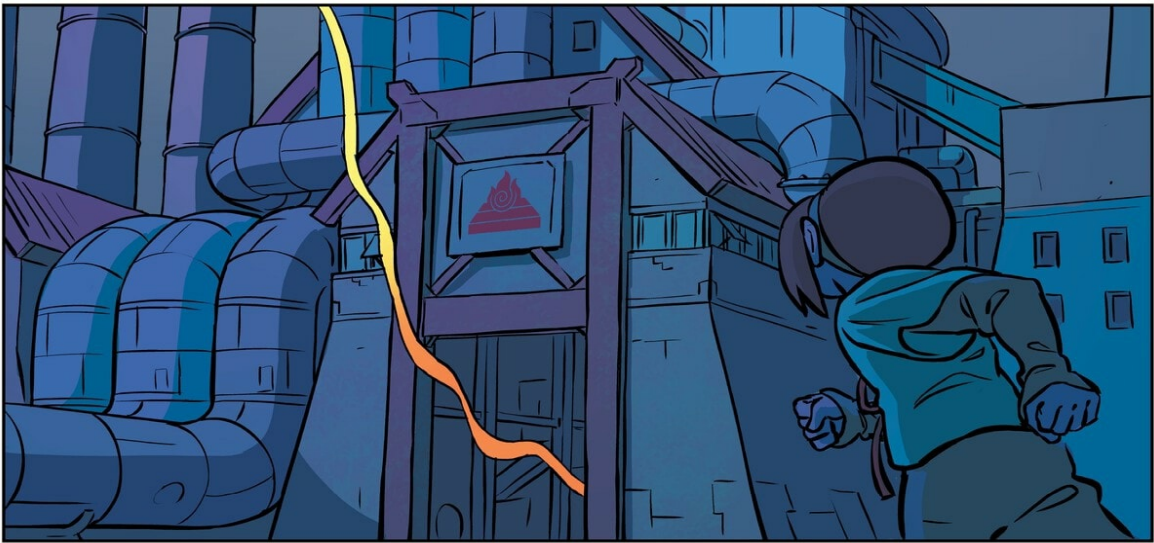






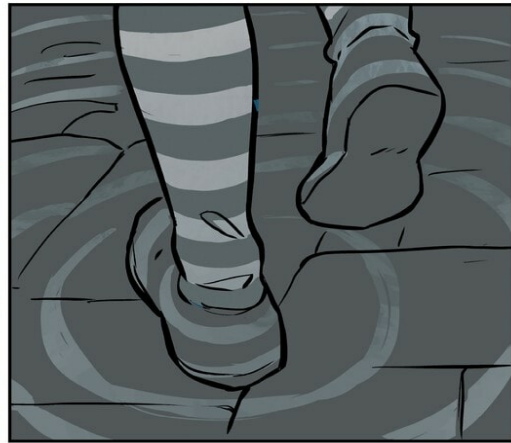




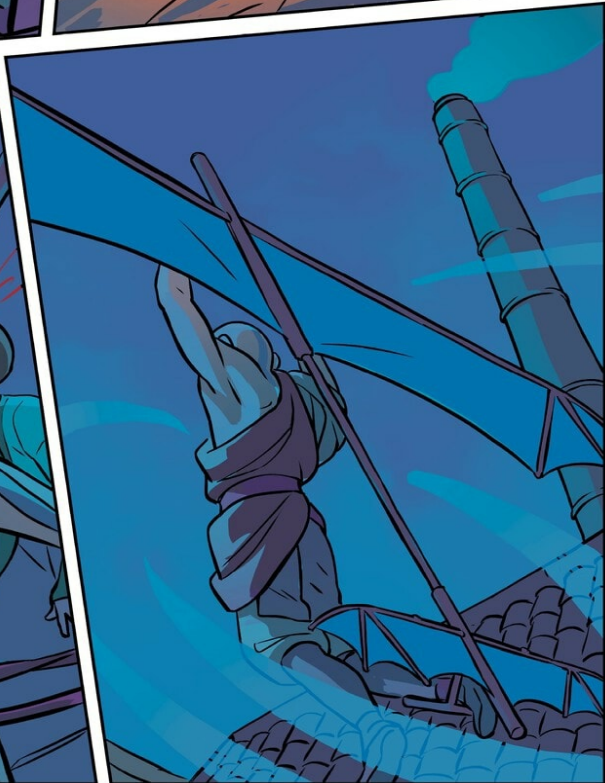
















AHH!
THE AVATAR!

THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO RUN.



YEAH,
WELL, I'LL
FIGHT
YOU.

I'D
PREFER
IF YOU
DIDN'T.

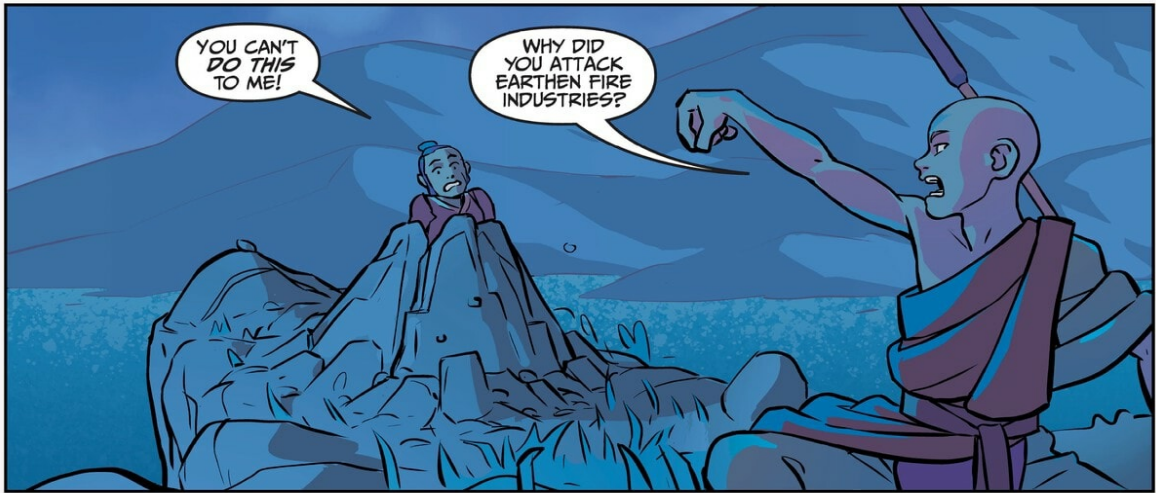


IF YOU FIGHT ME, IT'S NOT
GOING TO GO WELL FOR
YOU. I MEAN, I AM THE
AVATAR.

AND I'M THE
GUY WHO'S GONNA
TAKE YOU
DOWN!



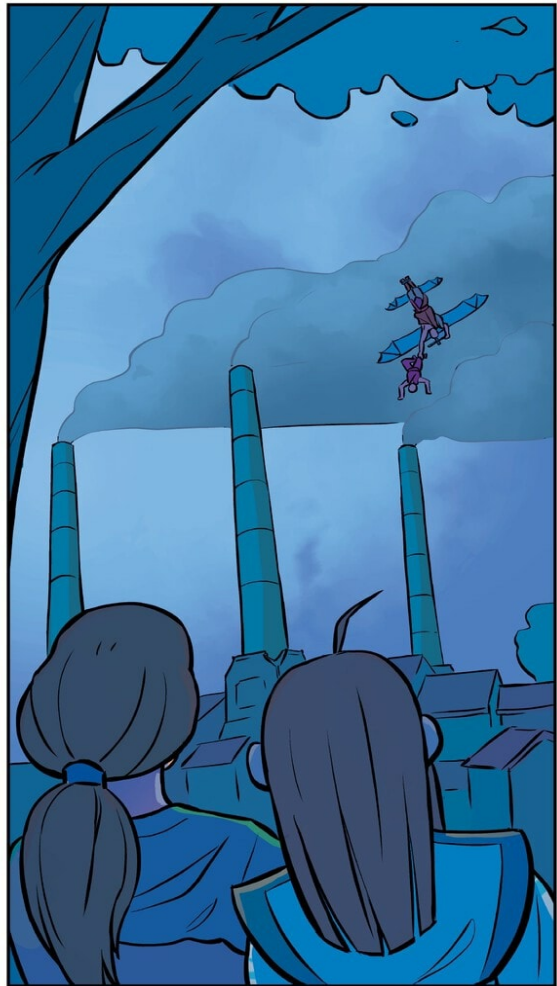
NO, I
DON'T THINK
YOU ARE.

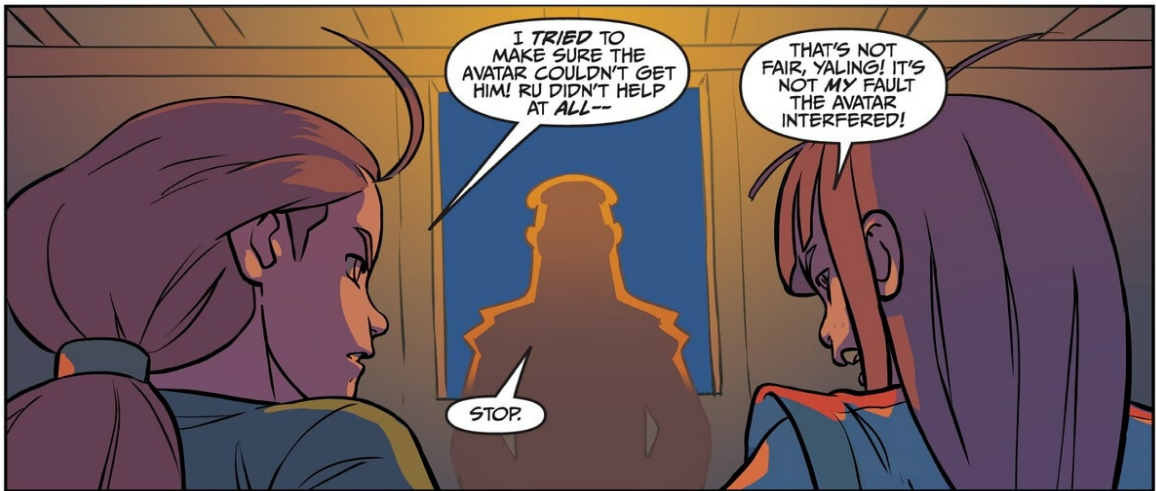


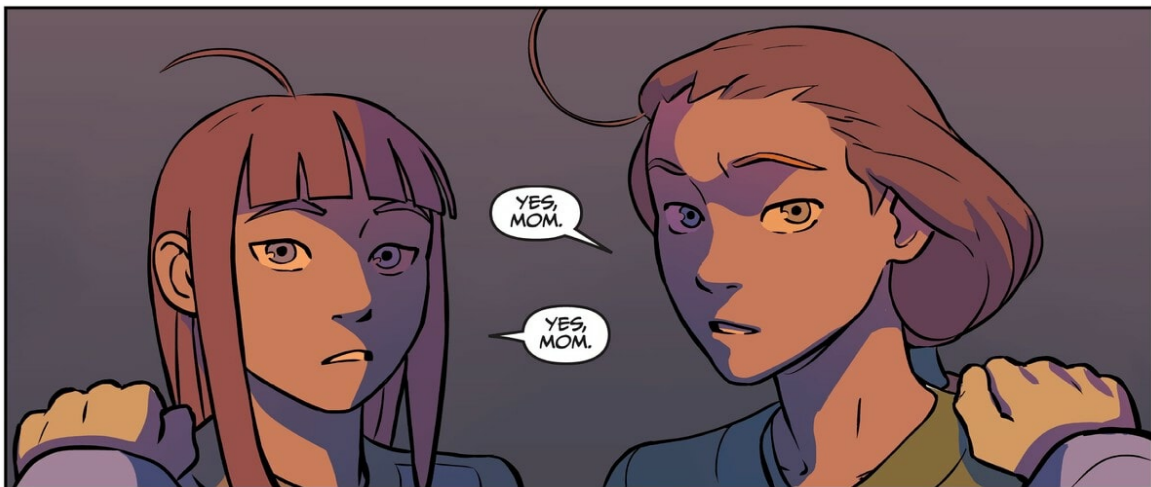


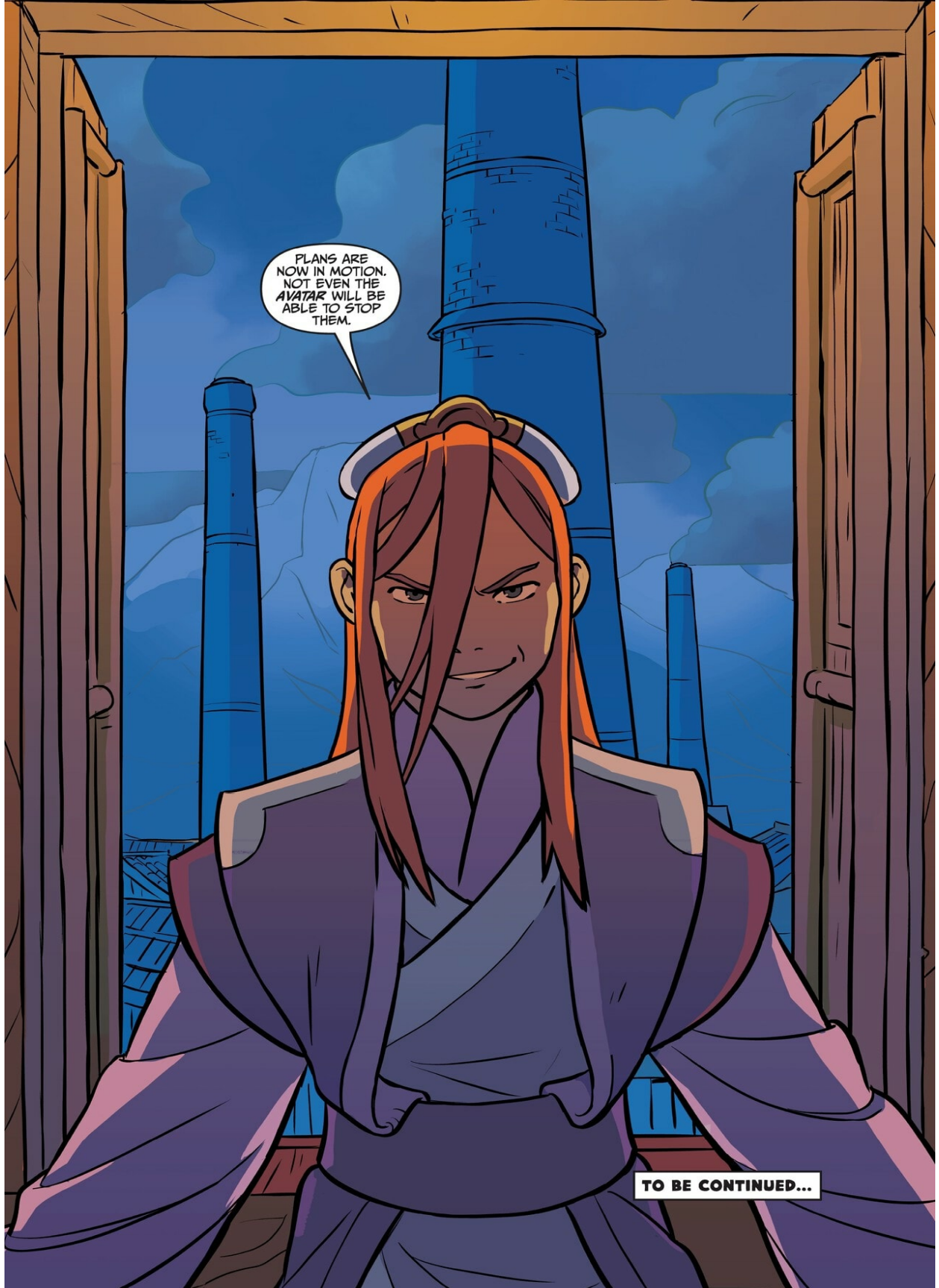
HELLLP
SAVE MEEE
AVATAAAR!











PLANS ARE
NOW IN MOTION.
NOT EVEN THE
AVATAR WILL BE
ABLE TO STOP
THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED...



COMING IN MARCH 2019!

Simmering tensions boil over in...

IMBALANCE • PART TWO



Conflict in Cranefish Town!

When Aang, Katara, Sokka, and Toph return to Earthen Fire Industries—the factory owned by Toph’s father—Team Avatar finds that the once small town is now booming. Expecting a warm welcome, Aang is surprised when their arrival is met with unimpressed, cold-shouldered spectators. As soon as the team is asked for help at a business council meeting, the reason for the slight becomes clear—a massive bender versus non-bender conflict has gripped the town and is threatening to turn violent.

Written by Faith Erin Hicks (*The Nameless City*) and drawn by Peter Wartman (*Over The Wall*), in collaboration with *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *Legend of Korra* creators Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, this is the ultimate continuation of *Avatar* and the perfect companion to *Legend of Korra*!



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