BEYOND //
The Queer Post-Apocalyptic & Urban Fantasy
comic ANTHOLOGY
EDITED BY
Sé R. Monster & Taneka Stotts

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This is
-Taneka

BEYOND //

THE QUEER POST-APOCALYPTIC & URBAN FANTASY COMIC ANTHOLOGY

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From the very bottom of my heart,
thank you to my mum, my sister,
and a very small ghost.
—Sfé

Thank you Chizzi, Rhi, and Genué
for being more than my rocks,
but my true friends.
—Taneka

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These stories are for you.

You're not alone.
We're so glad you're with us.
We're so glad you're here.

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FOREWORD

Coming off the debut of the first volume of the *Beyond Anthology*, a friend asked me: "So what's the theme for Volume Two?"

It was a little tongue-in-cheek, but to be honest: I had already been thinking a lot about it. I couldn't stop dreaming about rust-ragged edges skirting the end of the world, and magic-laced liminal spaces wedged between skyscrapers. I didn't want new realities or worlds apart, I wanted new growth and secret signs, and reclaiming and surviving and *thriving* within familiar places we already knew, that had grown to accommodate *us*.

"We're gonna do post-apocalyptic and urban fantasy," I said.

Life flourishing after the fall and energy humming beneath the surface are both strong elements that run through the core of the stories we have collected for the second volume of *Beyond*. The idea of reclaiming, of bursting forward with fresh, healthy, *happy* growth, of pulling ourselves back from the brink and being validated within the spaces we have made for ourselves... I didn't want these stories to show the struggle of living under oppressive limitations or pushing back in vain against the weight of society's expectations. Instead, I wanted to show new rules and fresh takes liberated from old constraints; creating our own languages and communities that exist comfortably within these wounded-but-healing worlds and amongst the constant chaotic magic of everyday life.

Most of all, though, I wanted these stories to have *fun*.

There is no one way to be queer, and no universal queer experience. There is still difficulty, and hardship, and so much struggle that we face on nearly every side, but I wanted these stories to be about reclaiming, and reimagining, and reinventing, and *revelling* in absolute enjoyment of the fruits of our efforts.

Since its very beginning, *Beyond* has been met with such passion and support, and such implicit understanding of the values that I hold most dear. I think a lot about how when I dreamt up the initial idea for *Beyond*, all I wanted was to make the book that I so desperately wanted to read when I was 13 years old, and I think about all that *Beyond* has done and achieved since that first idle thought... It is a book that could not exist without the trust and strength of dozens of incredible contributors, and *thousands* of supporters. I am so humbled and grateful for what we have been able to make, and so thrilled that we have been able to create this book and go on this journey together.

I am so excited for this opportunity to share these stories with you.

I hope you enjoy them. I hope they make you proud.

Sfé R. Monster
Editor

Growing up as a queer kid of color, I eventually realized that the worlds that I read did not reflect me; they did not engage who I was becoming; and eventually, I felt left behind in a kingdom built upon imagination. I look back fondly on some books and others ... well, they're special to someone else, but that someone else was not me. I could have let that stop me right there, ended my journey to where I am now, but I didn't. Because I learned something important while growing up: for a lot of us, we only get better with age.

The world I knew has changed. The one it has become is shelves filled to the brim of voices just like my own creating that representation we were deprived of.

Decades have passed, and my little eyes are wide open. These past two years have been about that change. Not just for me, but for those looking for more than just a glimmer—a full-fledged reflection and more. To know that they are heard, seen, and that their stories have a voice, and not just in the form and narrative this industry would see them constructed in. Coming off the heels of *Beyond* and *Elements*, I drew my power and passion and used it to help form *Beyond II*, because I could feel the need, hear the wants, and read your passion in every last submission that had been given to us. You made this job harder, but we made our choices, and this is the book you have presented before you.

Thank you.

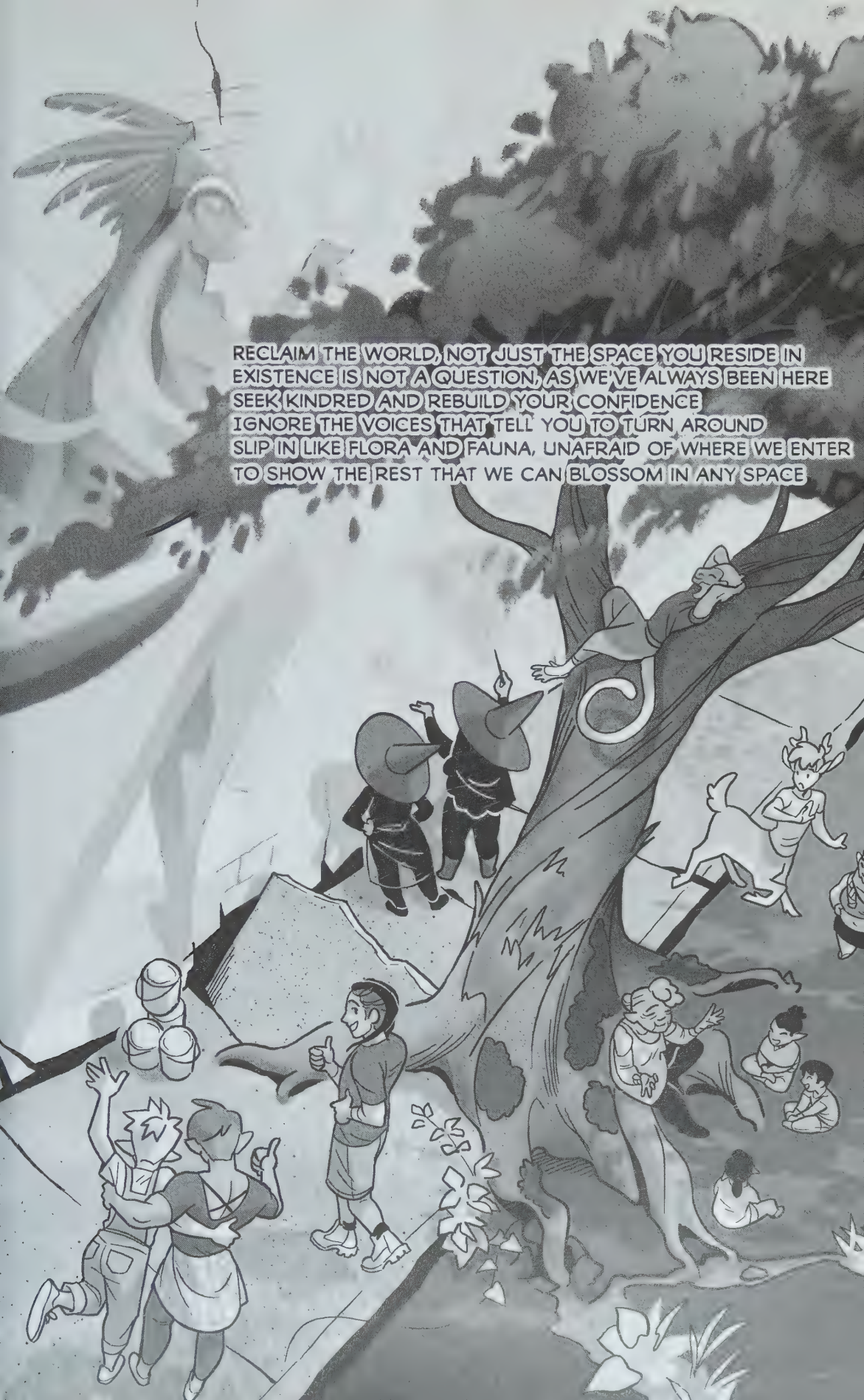
Your stories mean a lot to us, and they should mean the world to you.

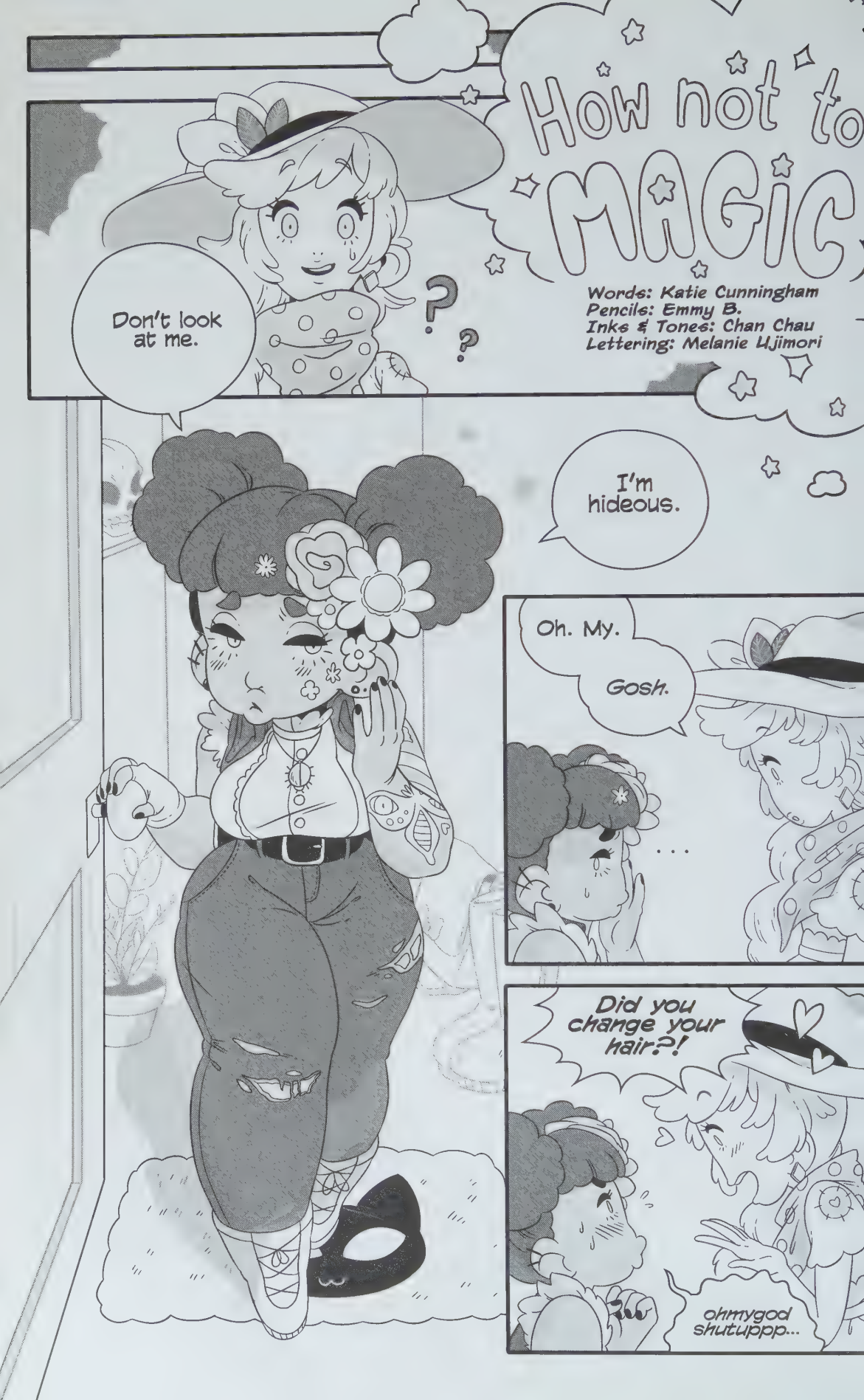
In this life, you have never been alone; it just took us a bit of time to find one another. Whether you picked this up from a shelf, off of a park bench, or are reading it from the shine of a monitor, know that we do more than exist: we're sharing our stories and becoming part of the change we always wanted. Pens up and WRITE ON!

Taneka Stotts
Editor

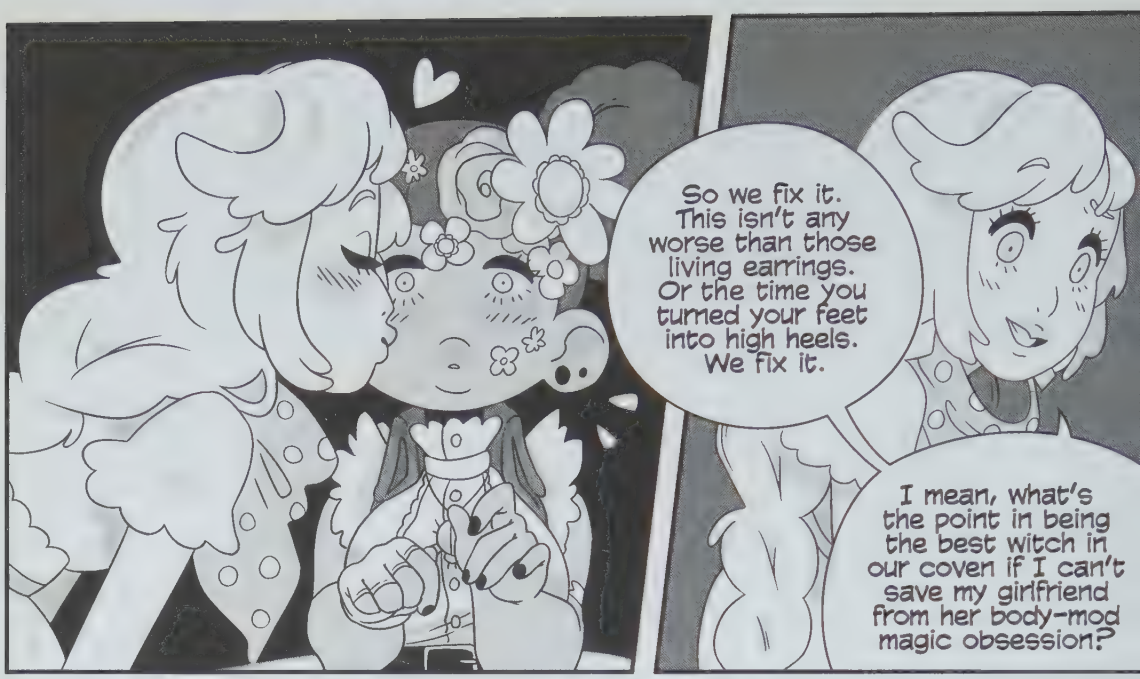
Reclamation

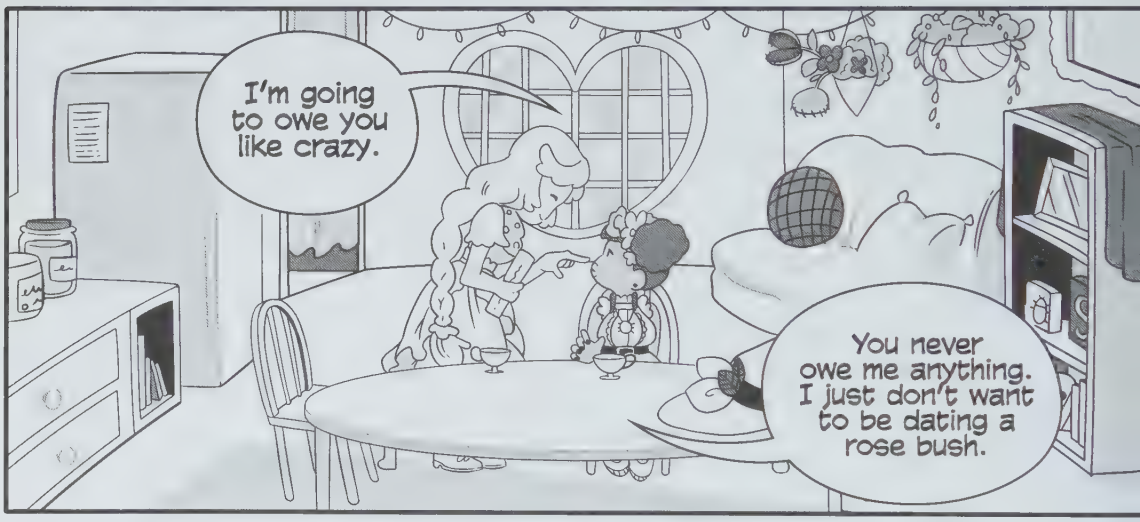
Illustrated by Genue Revuelta
Poem by Taneka Stotts

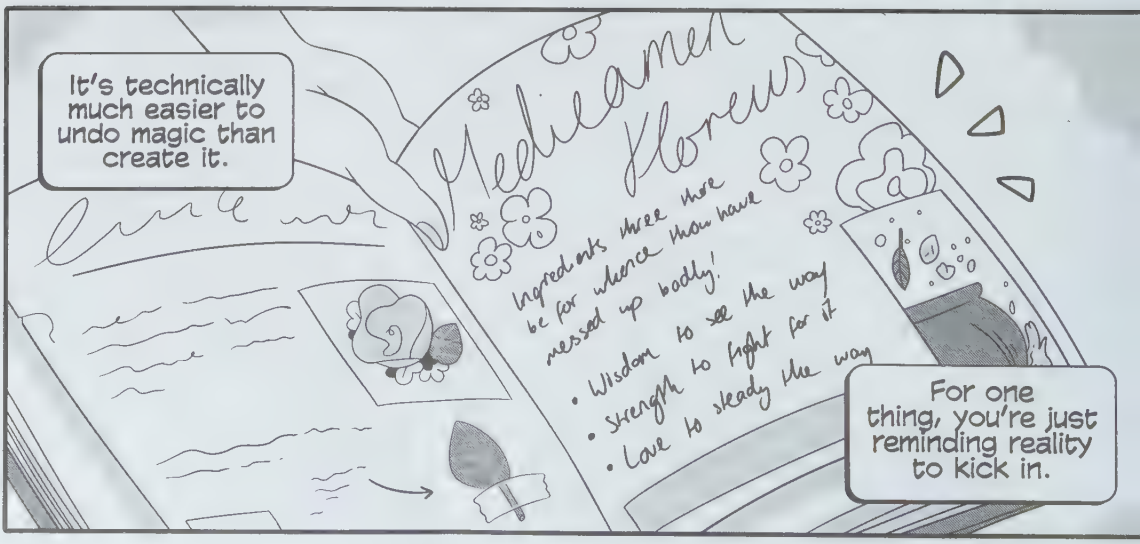

RECLAIM THE WORLD, NOT JUST THE SPACE YOU RESIDE IN
EXISTENCE IS NOT A QUESTION, AS WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERE
SEEK KINDRED AND REBUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE
IGNORE THE VOICES THAT TELL YOU TO TURN AROUND
SLIP IN LIKE FLORA AND FAUNA, UNAFRAID OF WHERE WE ENTER
TO SHOW THE REST THAT WE CAN BLOSSOM IN ANY SPACE


How not to
MAGIC
Words: Katie Cunningham
Pencils: Emmy B.
Inks & Tones: Chan Chau
Lettering: Melanie Ujimori
Don't look at me.
?
?
I'm hideous.
Oh. My.
Gosh.
. . .
Did you change your hair?!
ohmygod shutuppp...

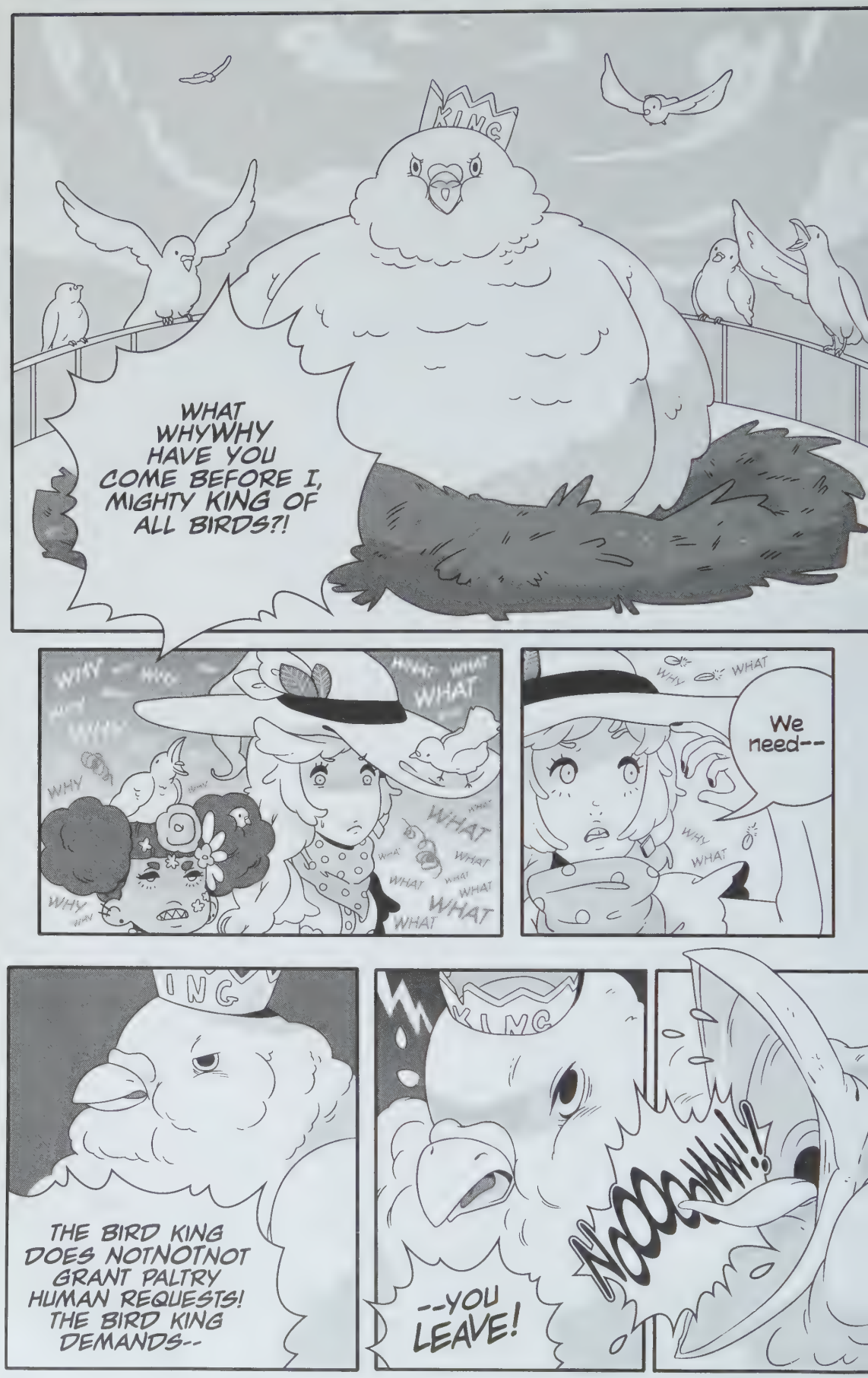
I was just trying to grow one! Like--
--in my hair. So I could braid it in and look--
Like a fairy princess?
maybe kindasorta. shut up.
Something went wrong and the counterspell isn't working and they won't stop--
POP
--growing.

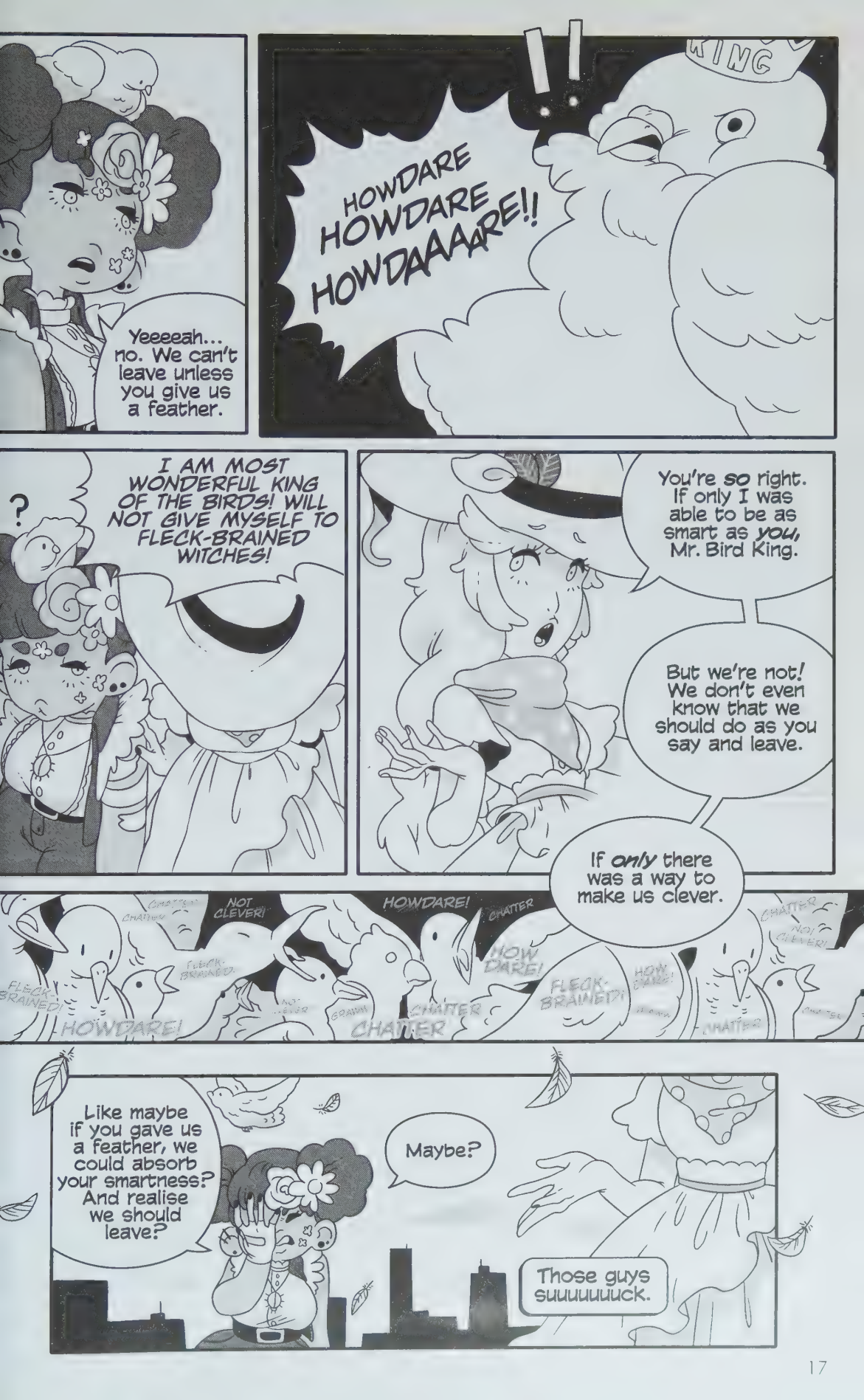

So we fix it. This isn't any worse than those living earrings. Or the time you turned your feet into high heels. We fix it.
I mean, what's the point in being the best witch in our coven if I can't save my girlfriend from her body-mod magic obsession?


I'm going to owe you like crazy.
You never owe me anything. I just don't want to be dating a rose bush.

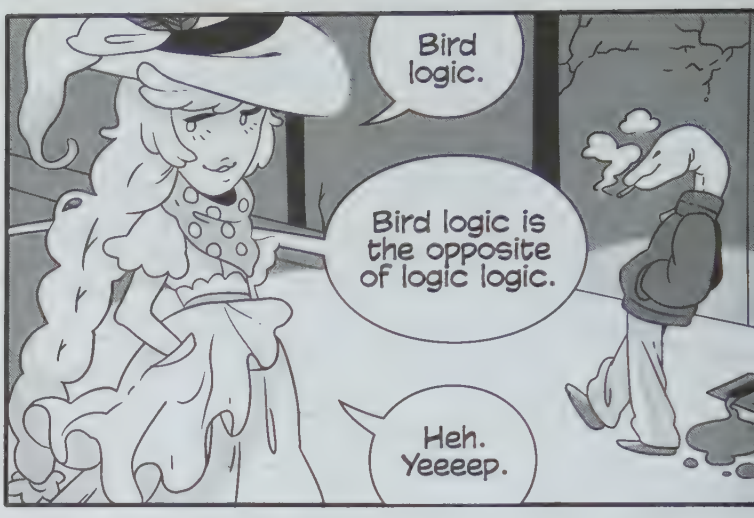

It's technically much easier to undo magic than create it.
Medicinal Flowers
Ingredients these have be for where than have messed up body!
• Wisdom to see the way
• Strength to fight for it
• Love to steady the way
For one thing, you're just reminding reality to kick in.

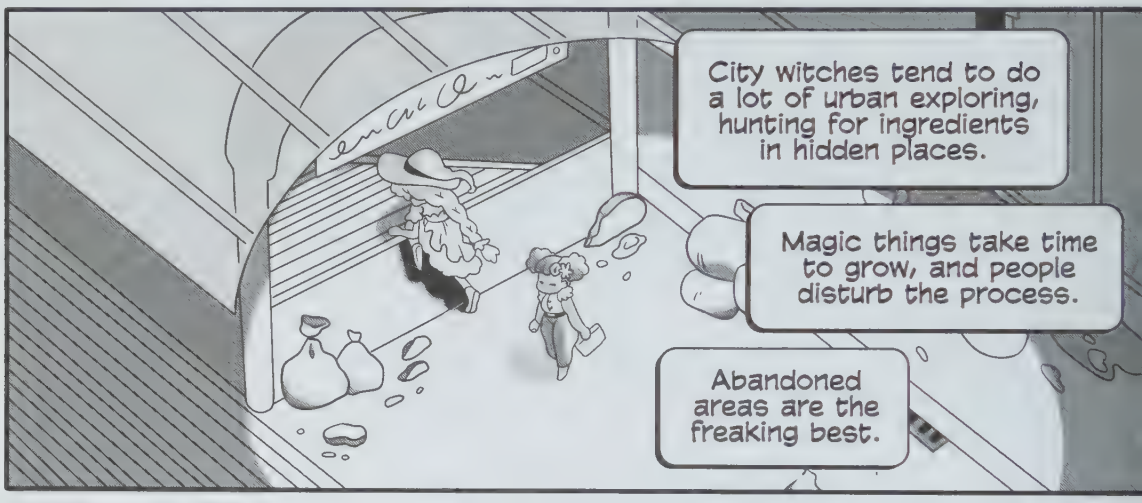
Something smart...Does the Council of Birds count as smart? Since the Corvids left they're sorta completely the opposite.
Yeah, but it's the symbol that matters. They're still symbolically smart.
They've been around since the world began. They're renowned as a source of ancient ken. One of the King's feathers should do.
Are you saying you don't think they're a loud, annoying--
HALT HALT HAAAAALT!
Yeah, no. They're the worst.
INTRUDERS INTRUDERS INTRUDERS!!
THE KING WILL JUDGE THE KING WILL JUUUUUDGE!!!
We know, we know, we know!

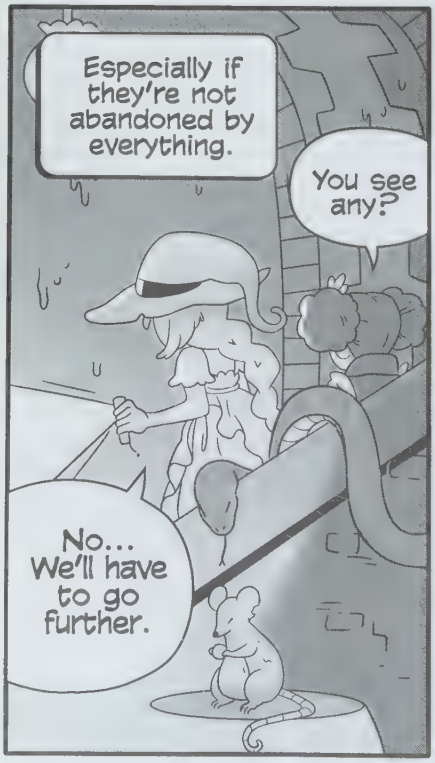

KING
WHAT WHYWHY HAVE YOU COME BEFORE I, MIGHTY KING OF ALL BIRDS?!
WHY
WHAT
We need--
THE BIRD KING DOES NOTNOTNOT GRANT PALTRY HUMAN REQUESTS! THE BIRD KING DEMANDS--
--YOU LEAVE!
NOOOWW!?

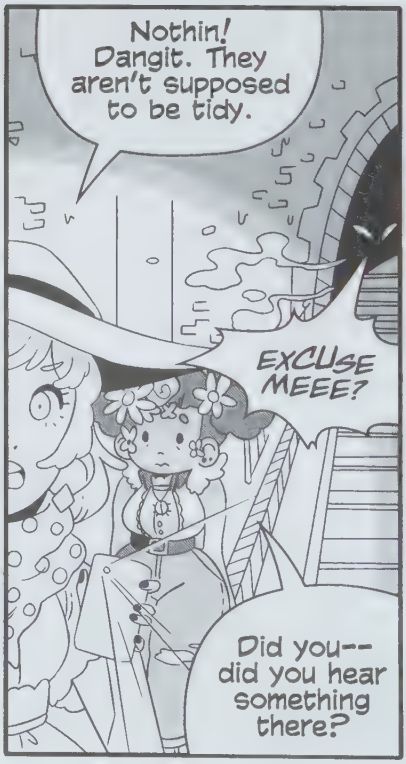

Yeeeeah... no. We can't leave unless you give us a feather.
HOWDARE HOWDARE HOWDAAAARE!!
KING
I AM MOST WONDERFUL KING OF THE BIRDS! WILL NOT GIVE MYSELF TO FLECK-BRAINED WITCHES!
?
You're so right. If only I was able to be as smart as you, Mr. Bird King.
But we're not! We don't even know that we should do as you say and leave.
If only there was a way to make us clever.
NOT CLEVER!
HOWDARE!
CHATTER
FLECK-BRAINED!
HOW DARE!
FLECK-BRAINED!
HOWDARE!
CHATTER
CHATTER
Like maybe if you gave us a feather, we could absorb your smartness? And realise we should leave?
Maybe?
Those guys suuuuuuuck.

Why did they even bring us in, just to make us leave?


Bird logic.
Bird logic is the opposite of logic logic.
Heh. Yeeeep.

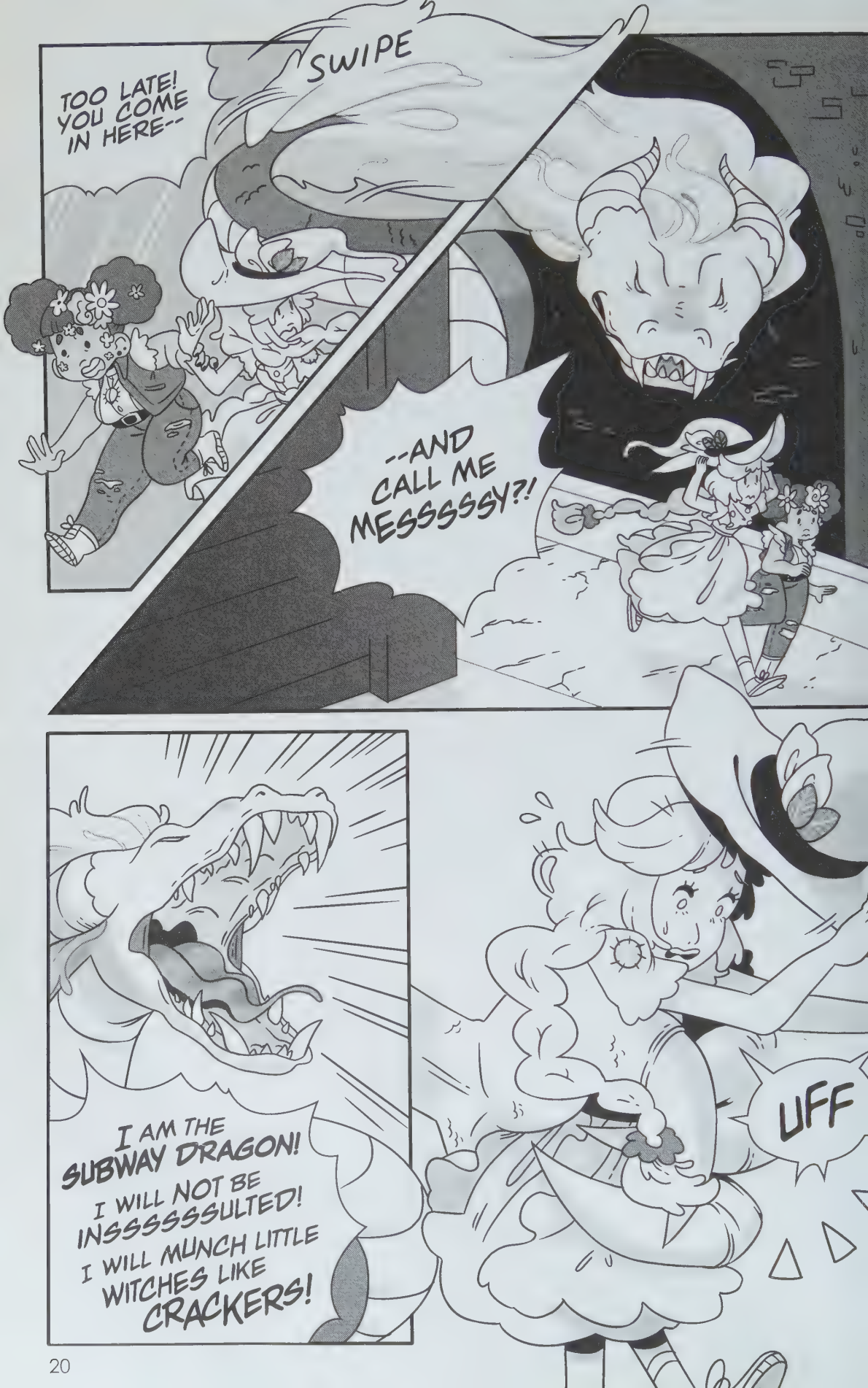

City witches tend to do a lot of urban exploring, hunting for ingredients in hidden places.
Magic things take time to grow, and people disturb the process.
Abandoned areas are the freaking best.


Especially if they're not abandoned by everything.
You see any?
No... We'll have to go further.


Nothin! Dangit. They aren't supposed to be tidy.
EXCUSE MEEE?
Did you-- did you hear something there?

I don't--
I SAID--

WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT MEEEE?!
OHMYGOD, DRAGON!
OH? BEING POLITE NOW, ARE WE?


TOO LATE! YOU COME IN HERE--
SWIPE
--AND CALL ME MESSSSSY?!
I AM THE SUBWAY DRAGON! I WILL NOT BE INSSSSSSULTED! I WILL MUNCH LITTLE WITCHES LIKE CRACKERS!
UFF

YOU SMELL CRUNCHY.

No!

Please, subway dragon... she only came to help me get one of your scales to break the stupid spell I cast.

Bea, no!

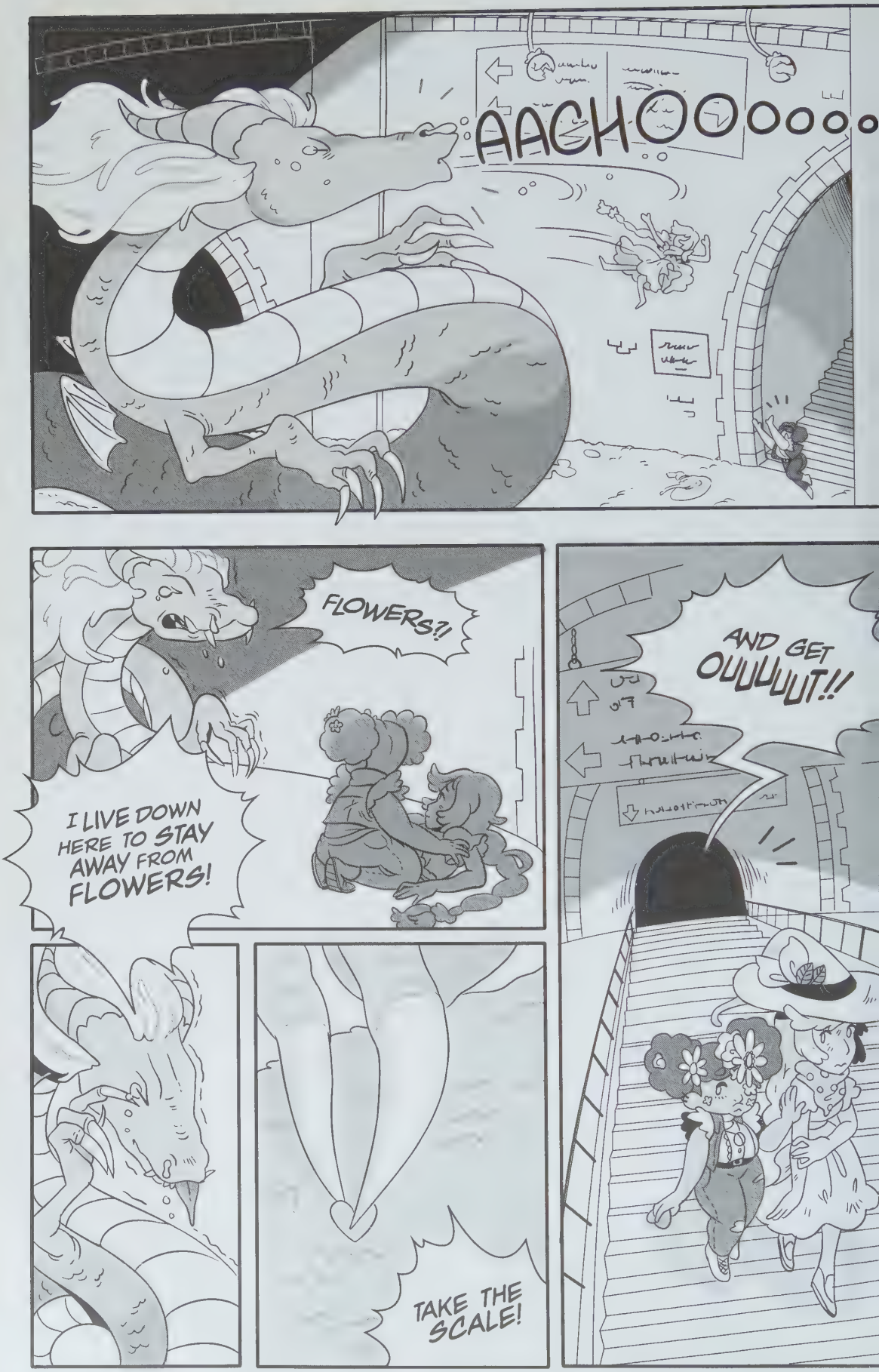
Please--

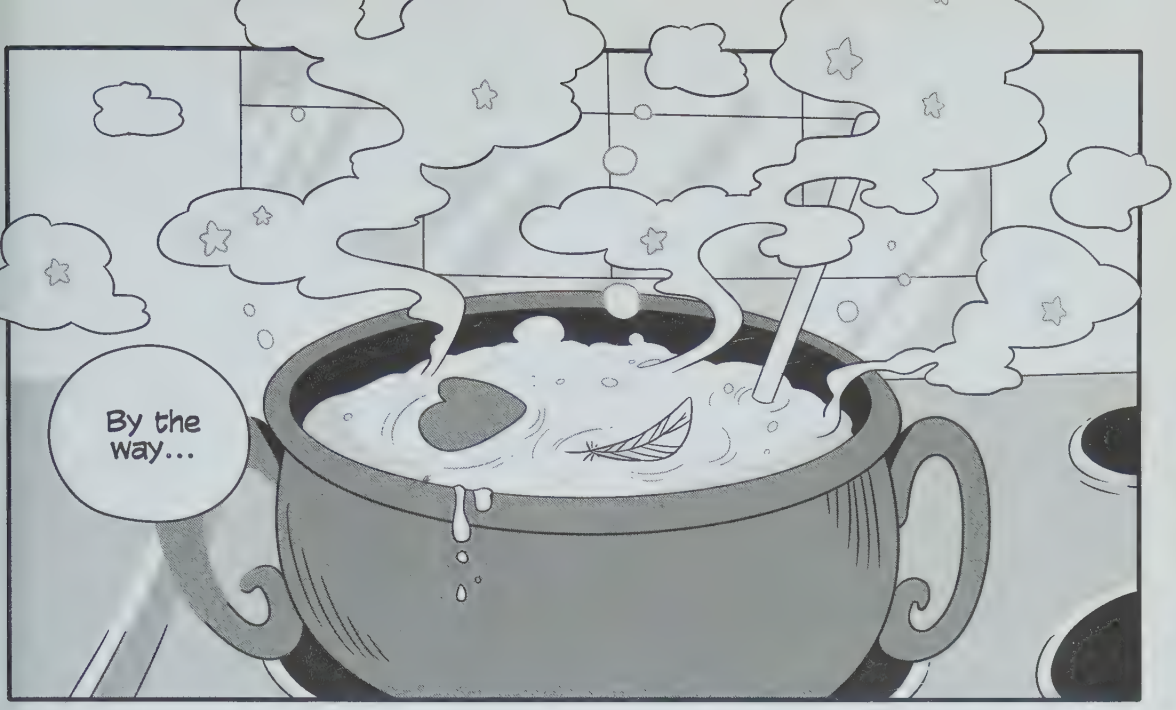
--Let her go. You can crunch me instead.

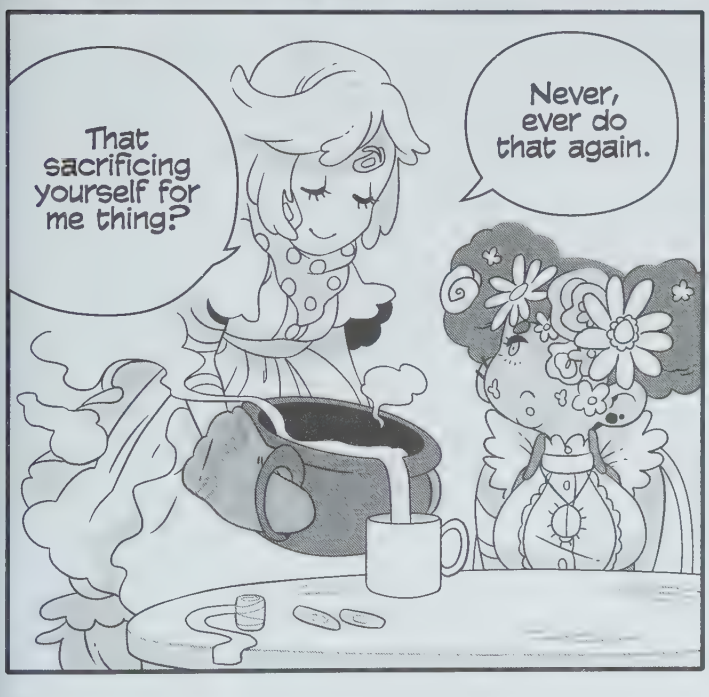
HMMMMM, HOW INTEREST--

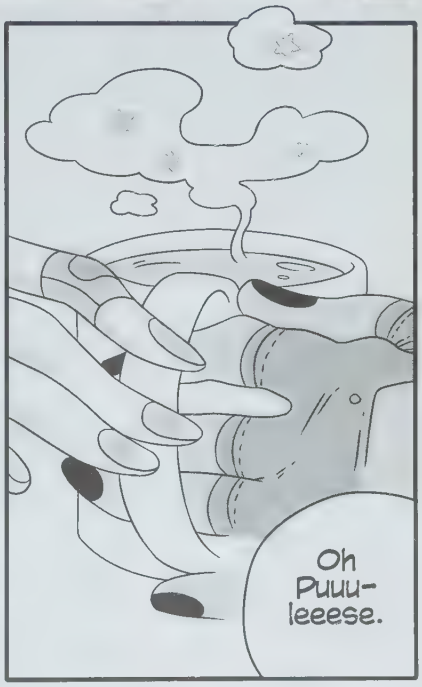
SNFFF

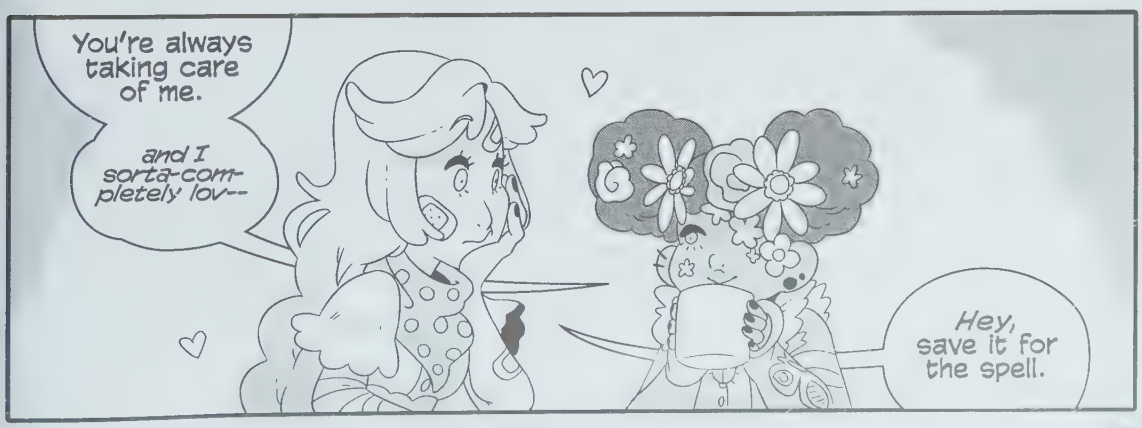
OH NO.


AACHOOOOOO
FLOWERS?!
I LIVE DOWN HERE TO STAY AWAY FROM FLOWERS!
AND GET OUUUUUT!!
TAKE THE SCALE!

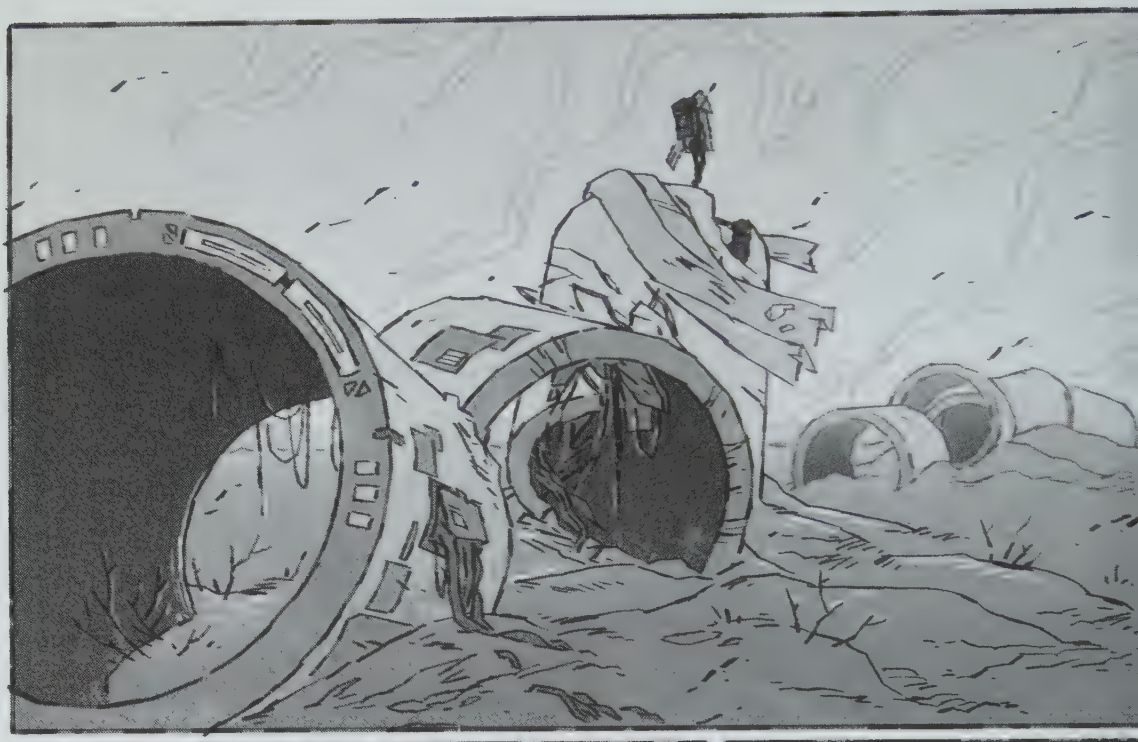

By the way...

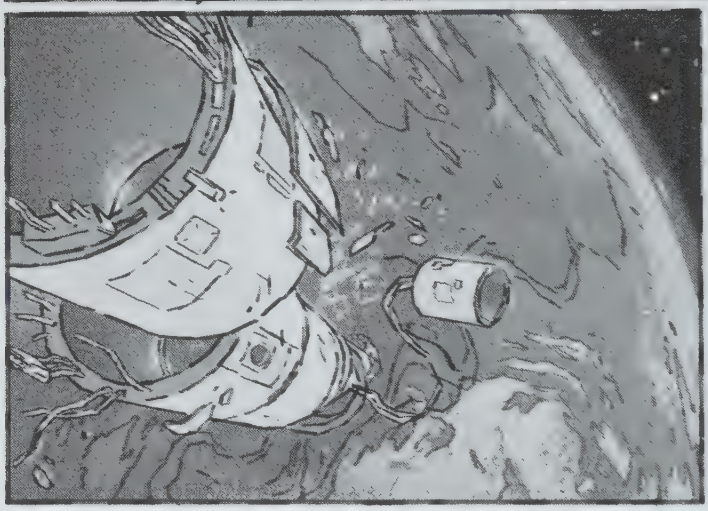

That sacrificing yourself for me thing?
Never, ever do that again.

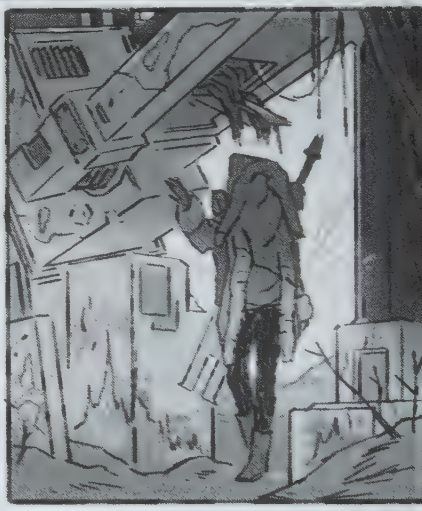

Oh Puuu-leeese.


You're always taking care of me.
and I sorta-com-pletely lov--
Hey, save it for the spell.

You think I could magic my hands so they look like dragon claws? That guy was a jerk, but he had great nails.
You're the worst.







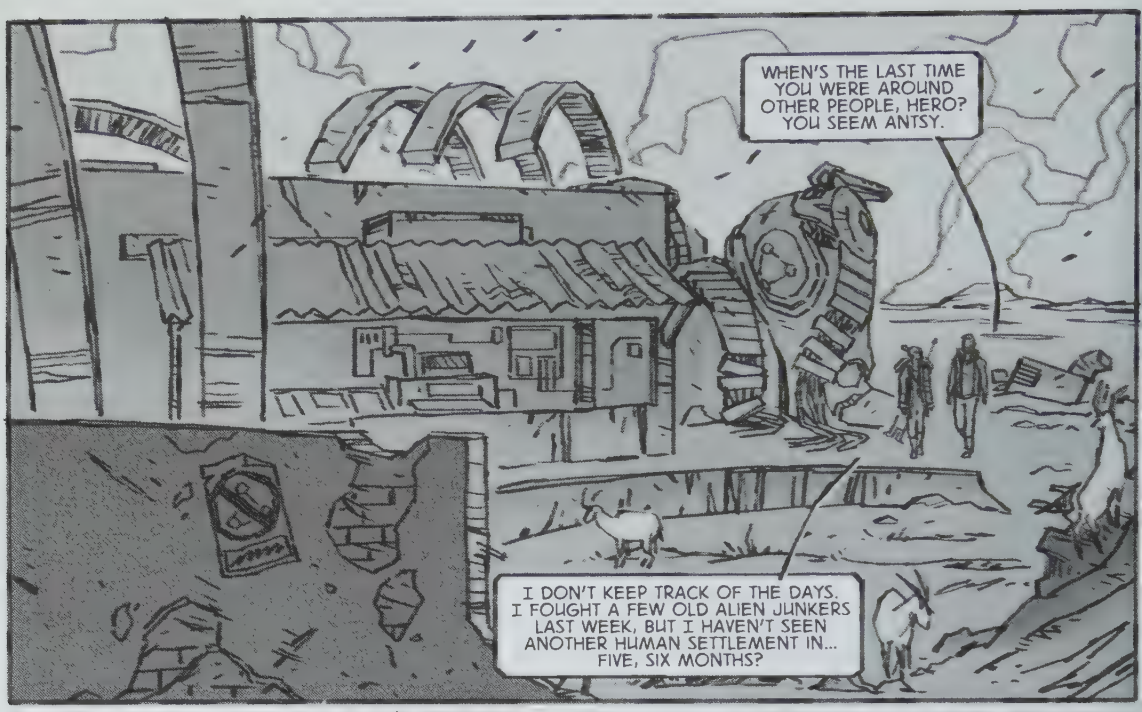
PILOT LIGHT

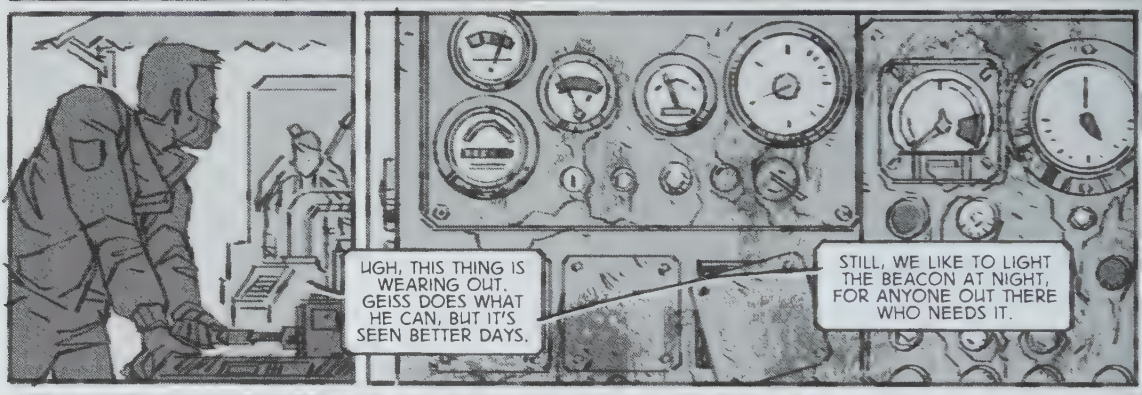
WRITTEN BY
STEVE FOXE
ART & LETTERING BY
PAUL REINWAND

WHOA, NO NEED TO ATTACK, MY HUSBAND DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE OUTPOST. JUST PASSING THROUGH OR LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PUT DOWN ROOTS?
PASSING THROUGH. MY NAME IS HERO. I'M ON A QUEST.
HI, HERO. I'M ED, AND THIS IS HAKIM. COME ON IN AND MEET EVERYONE.
QUESTING HEROES PASS THROUGH HERE A FEW TIMES A YEAR. THE SPACE ELEVATOR ISN'T OPERATIONAL, OF COURSE, BUT THE COMPANY IS NICE.
I CAN ONLY STAY ONE NIGHT AT MOST.
WELL, WE'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME. I HOPE YOU'LL GET SOME REST WHILE YOU ARE WITH US.

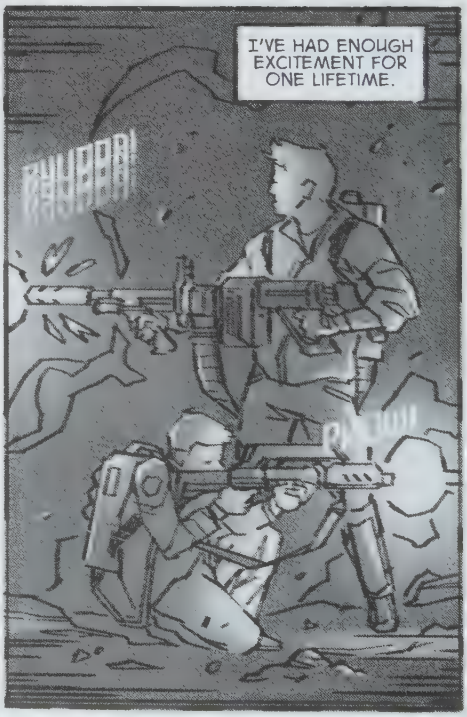
EVERYONE, MEET HERO.
HERO, MEET OUR "LONG-TERM GUESTS." THEY WERE JUST PASSING THROUGH, TOO, UNTIL THEY DECIDED TO STICK AROUND.
GEISS DOESN'T TALK MUCH, BUT HE'S AN ENGINEERING WUNDERKIND—AND HE KICKS BUTT AT MONOPOLY.
...
HEIN USED TO DESIGN VIDEO GAMES BEFORE THE WAR, BUT IT TURNS OUT HE'S GOT A REAL GREEN THUMB, TOO.
HOPE YOU LIKE KALE!
AND LOU WAS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN. SHE KEEPS THE CAT PURRING, DOG LOAFING, AND THE GOATS... DOING WHATEVER GOATS DO.
WELCOME!
HOW ABOUT YOU, HERO? WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT QUESTING?
WELL, I... I'M SEARCHING FOR A WORTHY CAUSE FOR MY BLADE.

HMM. HOPEFULLY SWINGING THAT SWORD ISN'T THE ONLY GOAL OF YOUR QUEST.
glug glug
IT'S A PRETTY EMPTY PLANET THESE DAYS. HELPS TO STICK TOGETHER.
YOU WANT IN, HONEY? YOU CAN BE THE DOG!
NO, I...
HERO, WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME CHECK ON THE GENERATOR AND TURN ON THE OUTSIDE LIGHTS? GEISS ALWAYS WHUPS BUTT AT BOARD GAMES ANYWAY.


WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU WERE AROUND OTHER PEOPLE, HERO? YOU SEEM ANTSY.
I DON'T KEEP TRACK OF THE DAYS. I FOUGHT A FEW OLD ALIEN JUNKERS LAST WEEK, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANOTHER HUMAN SETTLEMENT IN... FIVE, SIX MONTHS?


UGH, THIS THING IS WEARING OUT. GEISS DOES WHAT HE CAN, BUT IT'S SEEN BETTER DAYS.
STILL, WE LIKE TO LIGHT THE BEACON AT NIGHT, FOR ANYONE OUT THERE WHO NEEDS IT.

DO YOU NOT GET RESTLESS OUT HERE, GARDENING AND PLAYING BOARD GAMES? THE WORLD IS OVER.
TAP TAP


I'VE HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE LIFETIME.
RAYAAA!

AND THE WORLD DIDN'T END FOR ALL OF US.

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY WAITING FOR YOU BACK HOME WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR QUEST?
MY MOM AND HER PARTNER RAISED ME...
...BUT IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE...
.AND I'VE BEEN ON MY OWN FOR A LONG TIME. THIS LECTRO-BLADE BELONGED TO AY MOTHER DURING THE WAR.
PAT PAT
I'M SO SORRY, HERO.
YOU MAY NOT KNOW US YET, BUT THERE'S LOTS OF GOOD, FULFILLING WORK TO BE DONE TO KEEP UP THE PLACE AROUND HERE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH OFF.
THAT'S KIND OF YOU, BUT MY MOTHER NAMED ME HERO FOR A REASON. I NEED TO LIVE UP TO THAT, NO MATTER HOW LONG I HAVE TO—

WHAT WAS THAT?

CONDUCTOR BAND. MELTED. NEED NEW ONE. STRONGER.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL HEAD OUT FIRST THING TOMORROW TO SCAVENGE IN THE CITY.

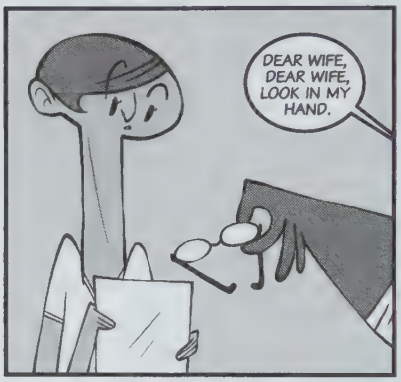
ED, NO, IT'S DANGEROUS. A LOT OF THE URBAN JUNKERS WERE NEVER DECOMMISSIONED.
WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? WE NEED POWER, AND I'M NOT LETTING *YOU* GO.

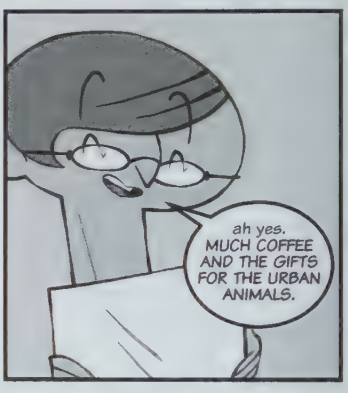
STAND BACK.
HERO, WHAT ARE YOU—

ZZZ

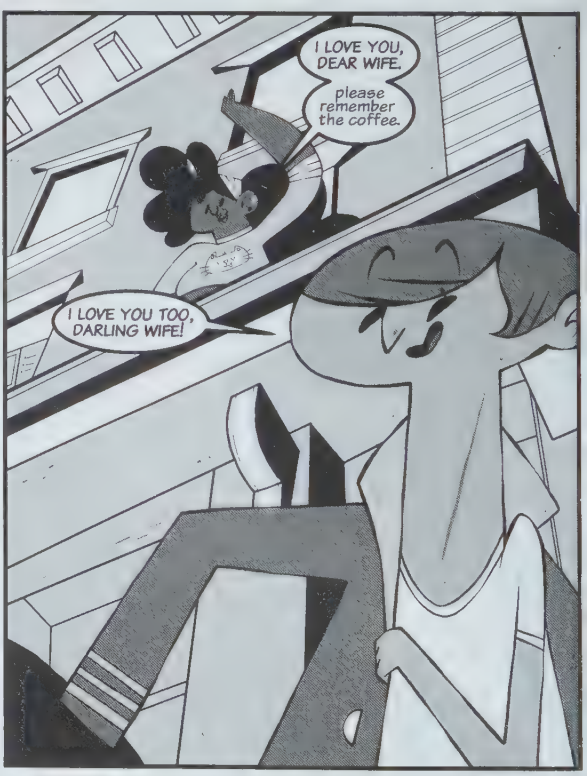
DEAR WIFE
by Reed Black
WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE.
TO THE QUESTING LIST!

DANG IT! I CAN'T READ THIS TINY WRITING.

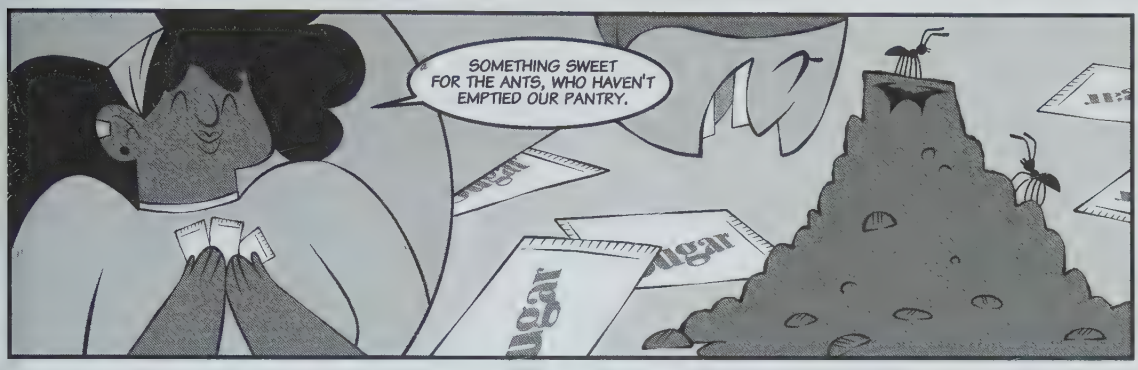

DEAR WIFE, DEAR WIFE, LOOK IN MY HAND.

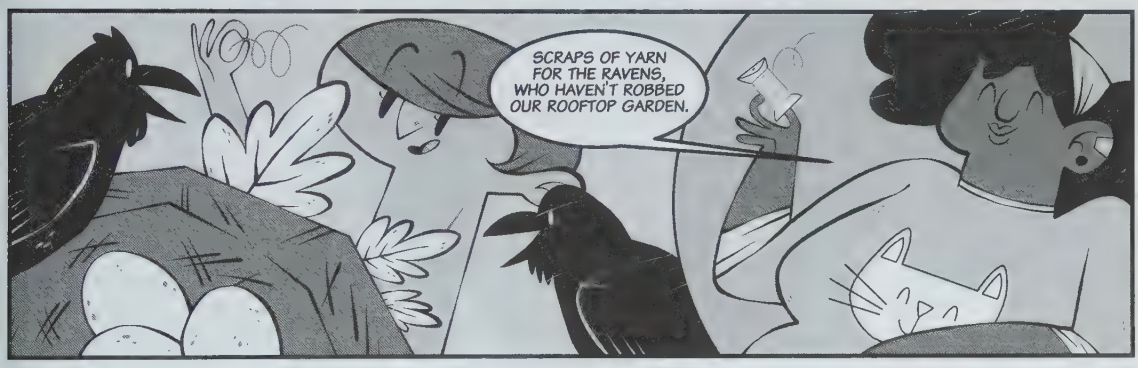

ah yes. MUCH COFFEE AND THE GIFTS FOR THE URBAN ANIMALS.

I'M STILL FIXING YOUR COAT, SO TAKE MINE.


I LOVE YOU, DEAR WIFE.
please remember the coffee.
I LOVE YOU TOO, DARLING WIFE!

TOYS FOR THE RACCOONS, WHO HAVEN'T SPILLED OUR GARBAGE CANS.

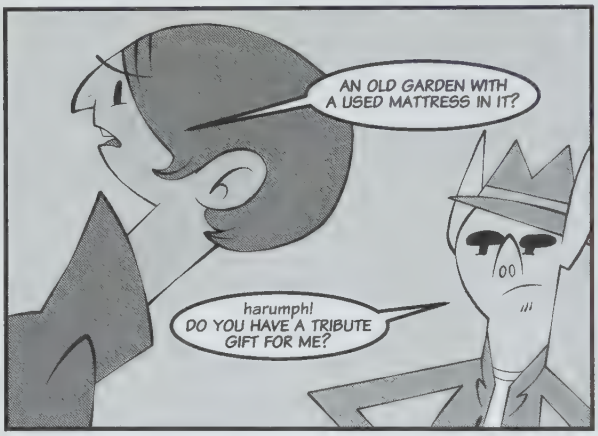

SOMETHING SWEET FOR THE ANTS, WHO HAVEN'T EMPTIED OUR PANTRY.


SCRAPS OF YARN FOR THE RAVENS, WHO HAVEN'T ROBBED OUR ROOFTOP GARDEN.

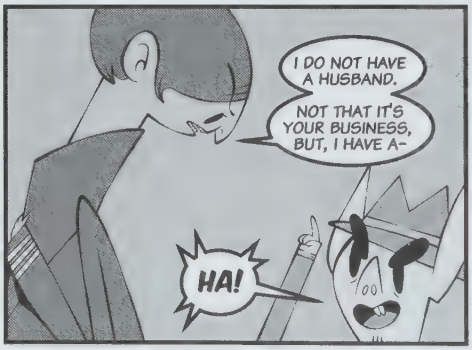
I'LL CUT THROUGH THIS OLD LOT, AND GET THE COFFEE IN NO TIME.
@ THE BEYOND
CRYSTAL KNIGHTS

TRESPASSER!

HELLO, I'M DEAR WIFE. um- WHO ARE YOU?
'WIFE,' YOU SAY-
EVERYONE KNOWS I, DINRUFFY, LORD OF THIS PRISTINE LAND.

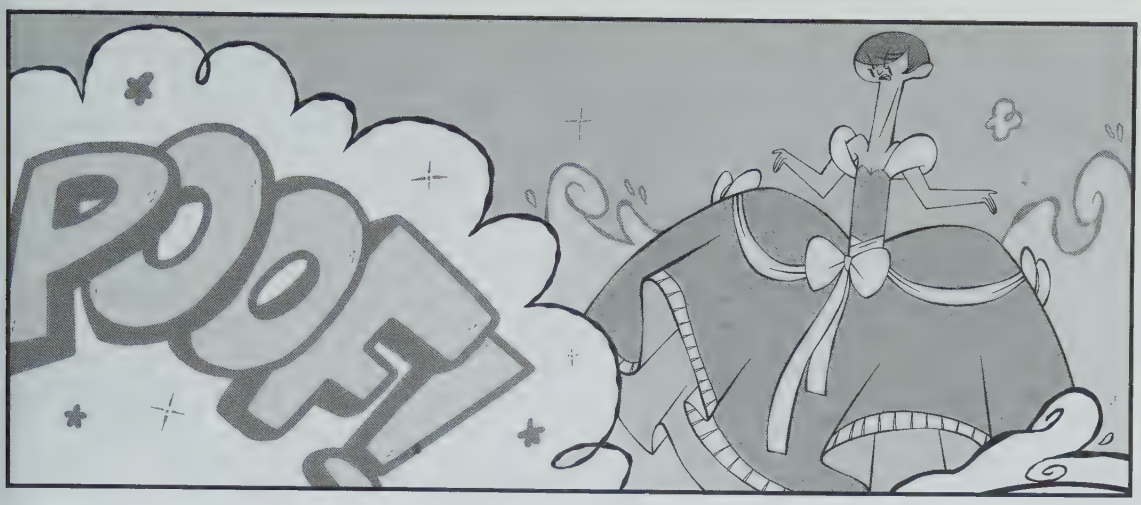

AN OLD GARDEN WITH A USED MATTRESS IN IT?
harumph! DO YOU HAVE A TRIBUTE GIFT FOR ME?

NO, YOU AREN'T ON MY QUESTING LIST.
THEN I SHALL TAKE YOUR HUSBAND'S VERY FINE GREATCOAT.

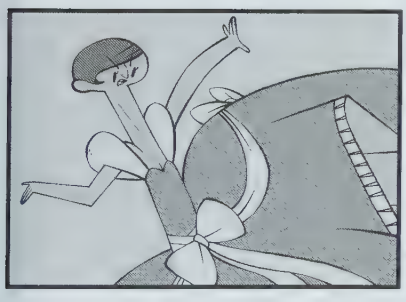

I DO NOT HAVE A HUSBAND.
NOT THAT IT'S YOUR BUSINESS, BUT, I HAVE A-
HA!

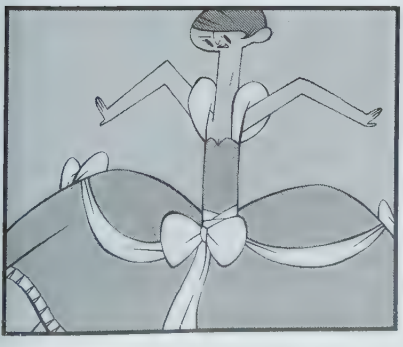
YOU LIE! YOU SAID YOU ARE 'WIFE'. SO, VIS À VI, YOU HAVE A HUSBAND!
I'M NEVER WRONG AND THAT IS THAT! IF I'M WRONG I'LL EAT MY HAT!

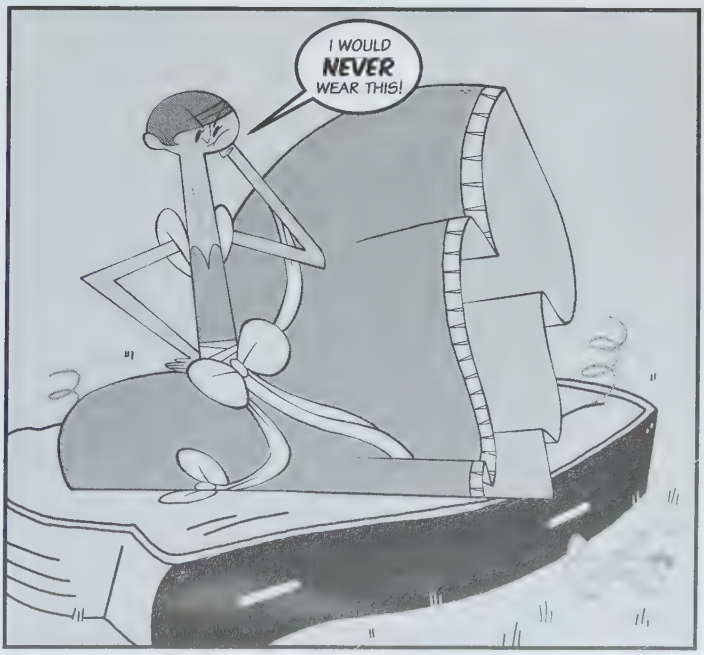
TRIALS THREE I'LL PUT YOU THROUGH, FEATS THAT YOU COULD NEVER DO! AND AT THE CLOSING OF THE DAY, I'LL MAKE YOUR FOOLISH HUSBAND PAY!
DANG IT! I TOLD YOU-
POOF!


POOF!

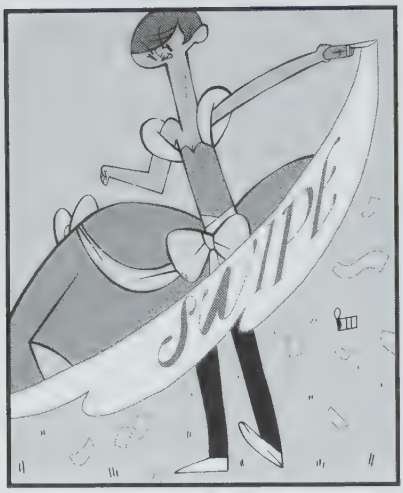
TRIAL THE FIRST:
FIND THE RUBY IN THE TREE,
DRESSED AS LADIES ALWAYS BE.

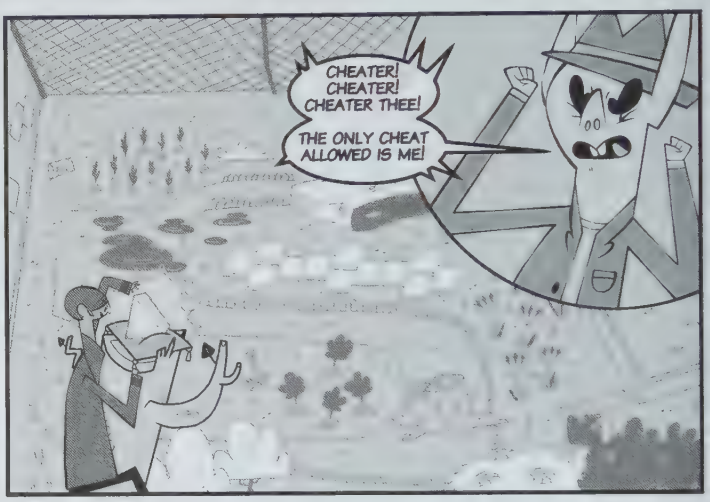




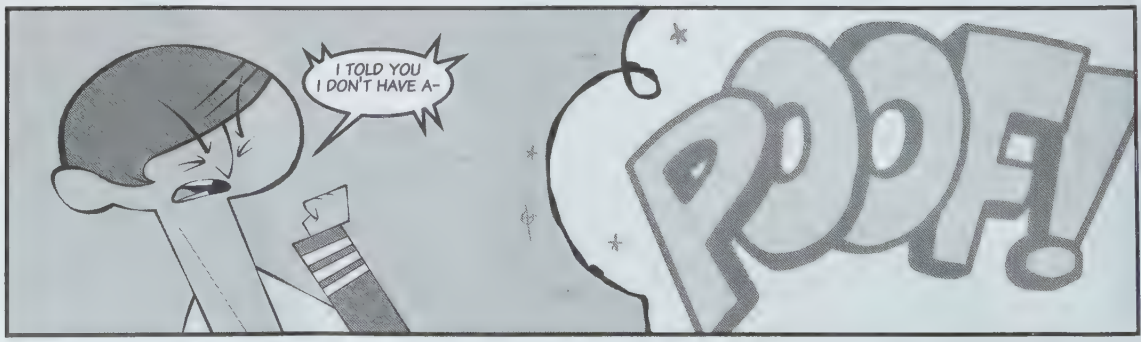

I WOULD
NEVER
WEAR THIS!

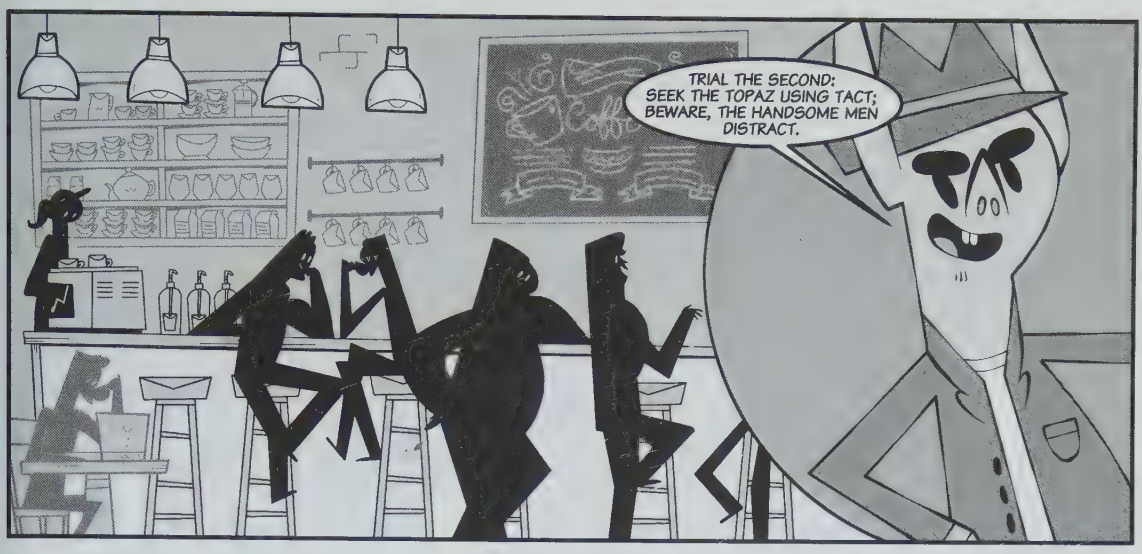
DEAR WIFE, DEAR WIFE, LOOK IN YOUR COAT.

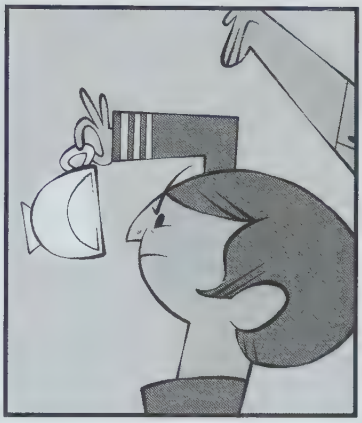

SWIPE


CHEATER! CHEATER! CHEATER THEE!
THE ONLY CHEAT ALLOWED IS ME!

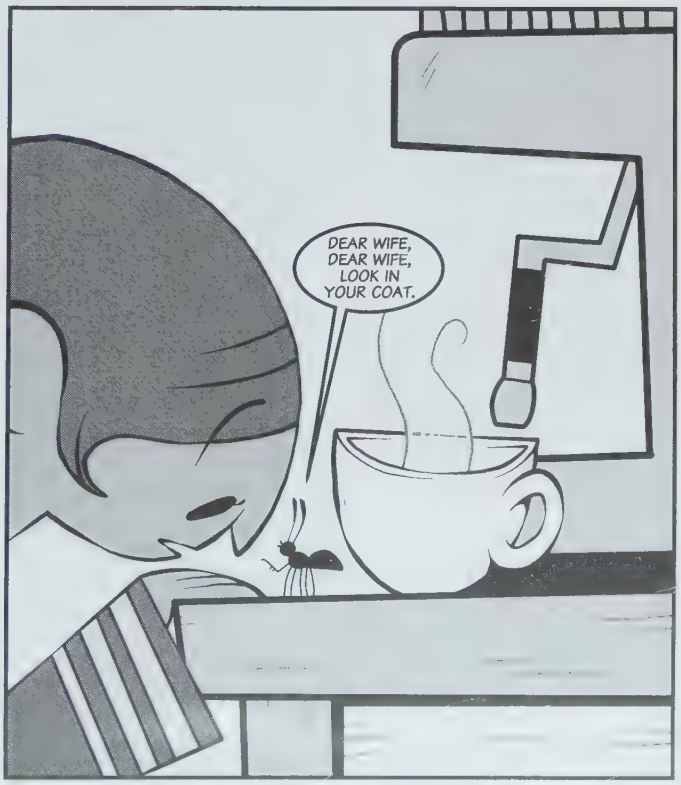
YOU KEEP MAKING ASSUMPTIONS.
YOU SAID, 'DRESSED AS I SHOULD ALWAYS BE.'
AND THIS IS HOW I ALWAYS DRESS.
YOUR HUSBAND ERRS TO LET YOU ROAM, AND FOR THIS LAPSE I'LL TAKE HIS HOME!


I TOLD YOU I DON'T HAVE A-
POOF!


TRIAL THE SECOND: SEEK THE TOPAZ USING TACT; BEWARE, THE HANDSOME MEN DISTRACT.



DANG IT!

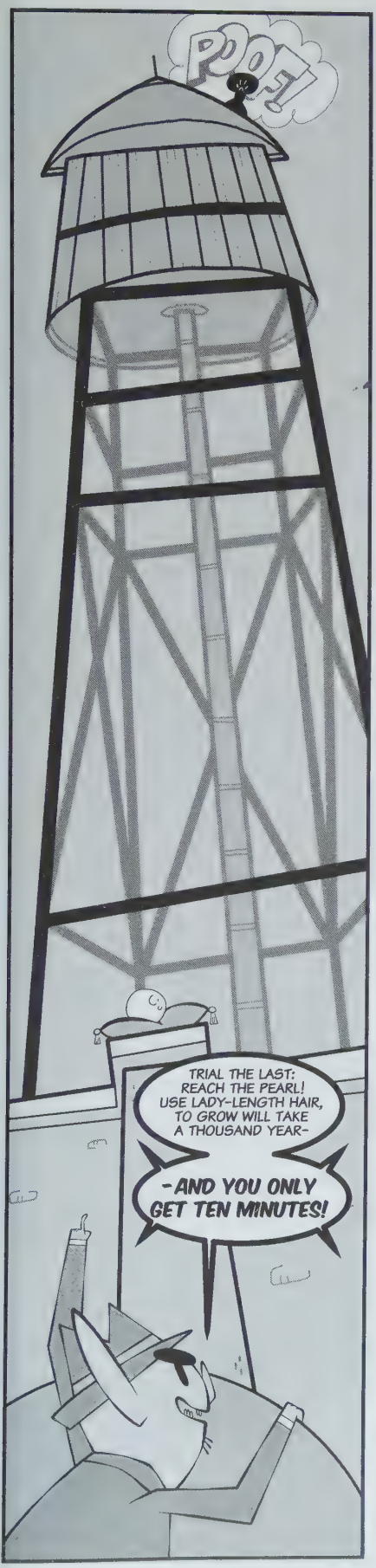

DEAR WIFE, DEAR WIFE, LOOK IN YOUR COAT.

OH!

HAS DINRUFFY TRAPPED YOU HERE TOO?!
HE CLAIMS HE'S NEVER WRONG, BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE NEVER LISTENS.
OH YES, DEAR WIFE. I ONCE TOLD HIM I WAS A DOE. HE SAID THAT DOES DO NOT HAVE ANTLERS.
ANTLERS DO NOT MATTER TO WHO I KNOW I AM, BUT HE SAID I LIED AND HE PUT ME HERE.

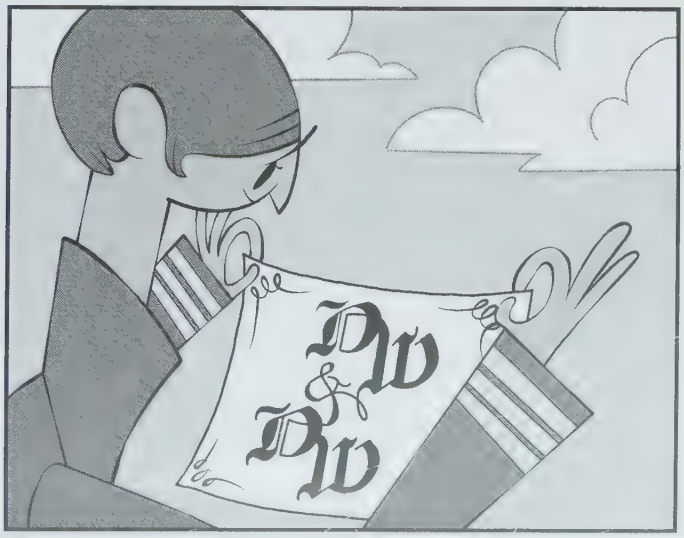
CHEATER! CHEATER! ONCE AGAIN! I NEVER SAID TO MAKE A FRIEND!

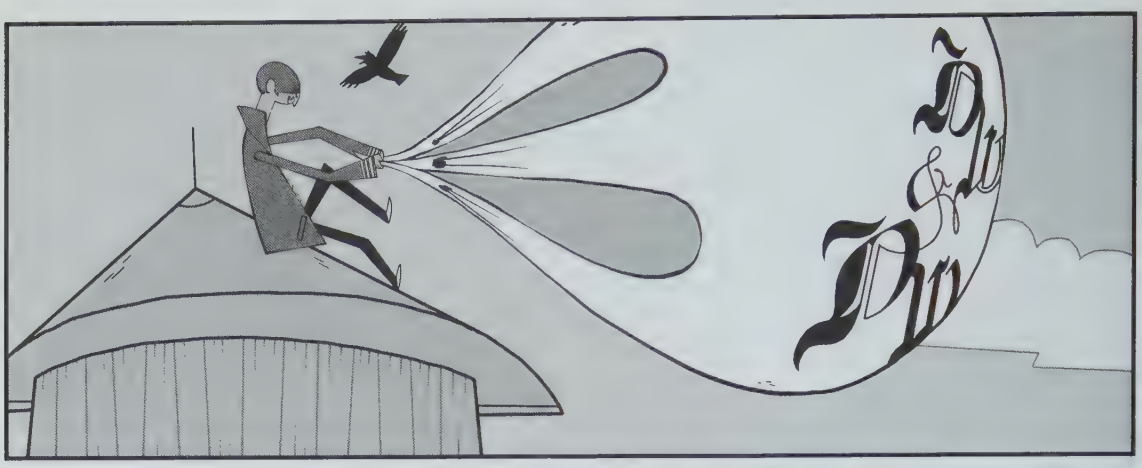
YOUR HUSBAND SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE!
FOR THIS I'LL LEAVE HIS CUPBOARDS BARE!
I DON'T HAVE A-
POOF!

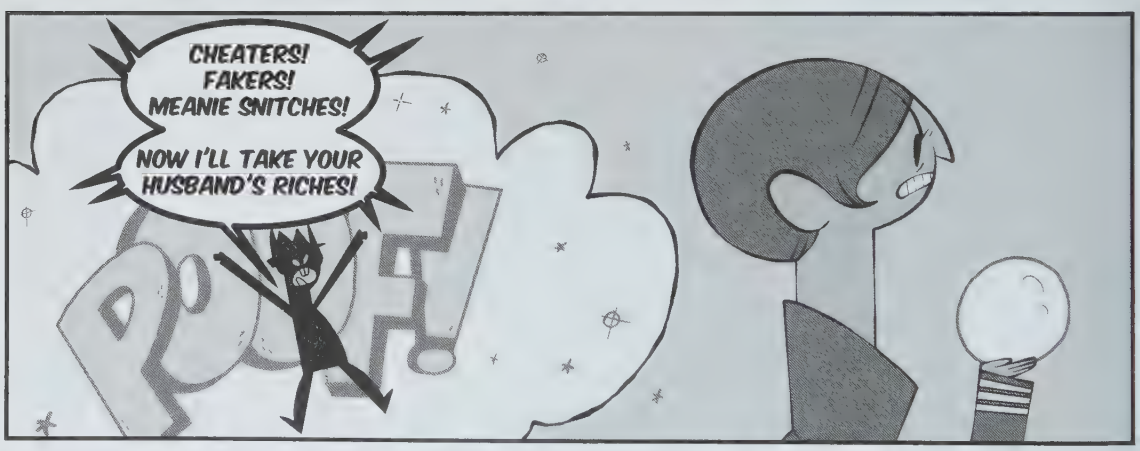

POOF!
TRIAL THE LAST: REACH THE PEARL! USE LADY-LENGTH HAIR, TO GROW WILL TAKE A THOUSAND YEAR-
-AND YOU ONLY GET TEN MINUTES!

THAT DIDN'T EVEN RHYME!

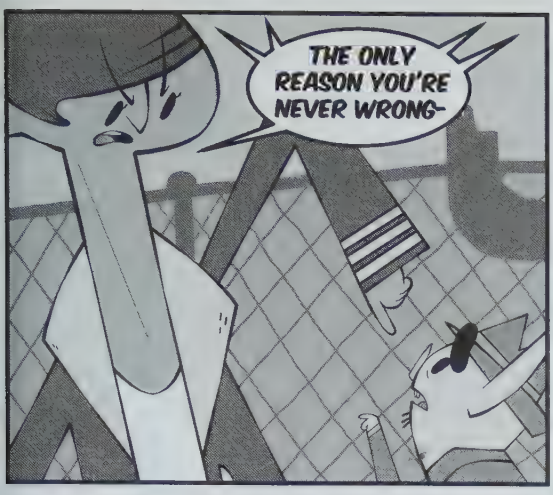
DEAR WIFE, DEAR WIFE, LOOK IN YOUR COAT.

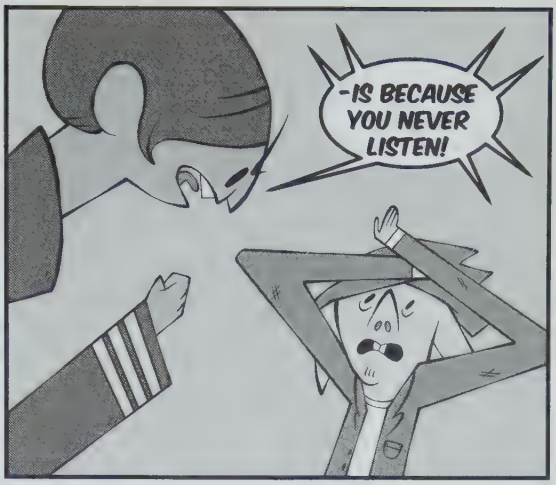





CHEATERS! FAKERS! MEANIE SNITCHES!
NOW I'LL TAKE YOUR HUSBAND'S RICHES!
POOF!

DANG IT! I'M TIRED OF PLAYING YOUR GAMES!

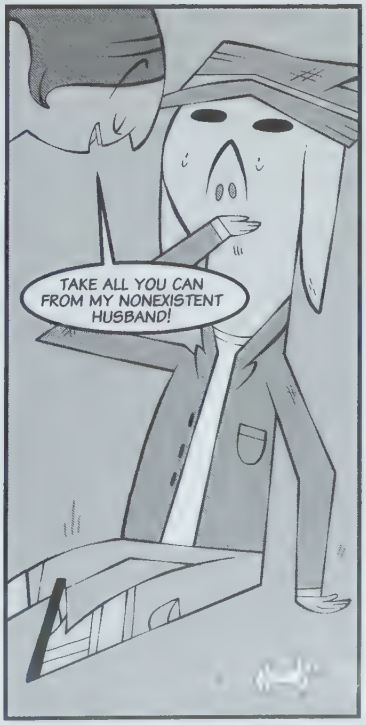

THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE NEVER WRONG-

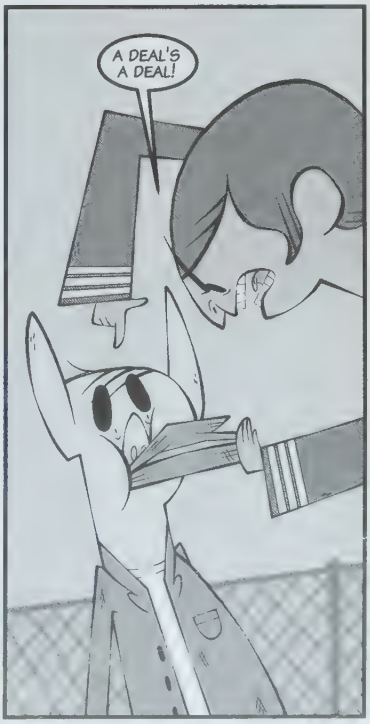

-IS BECAUSE YOU NEVER LISTEN!

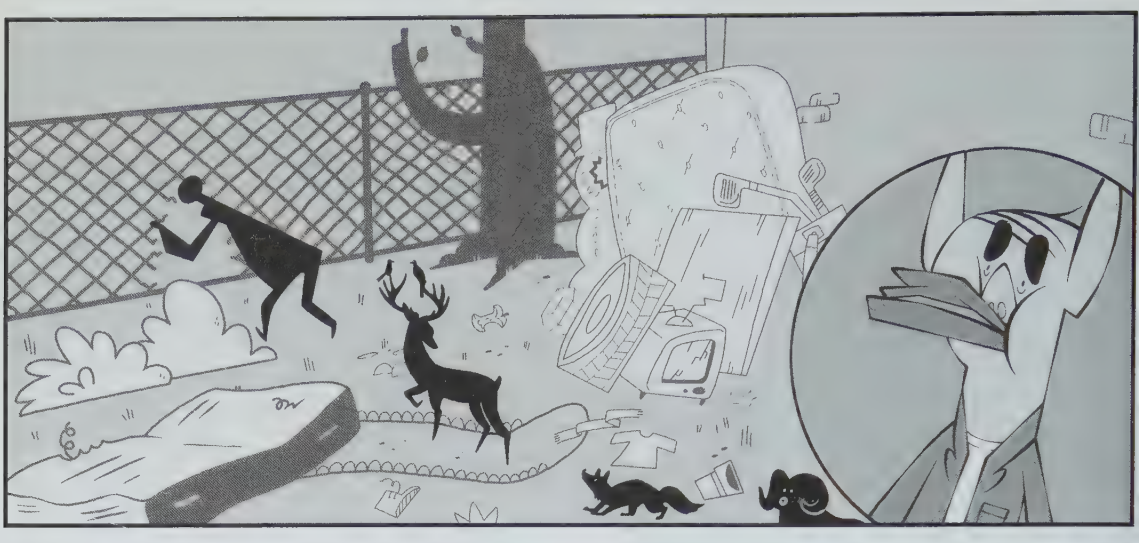
AND FOR THE LAST TIME-
-I DON'T HAVE A HUSBAND!

I HAVE A
WIFE!

YOU MEAN?


TAKE ALL YOU CAN FROM MY NONEXISTENT HUSBAND!

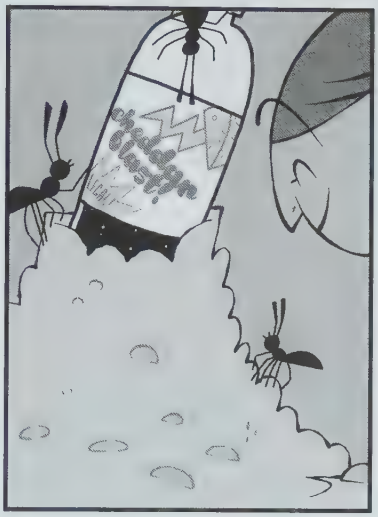

A DEAL'S A DEAL!

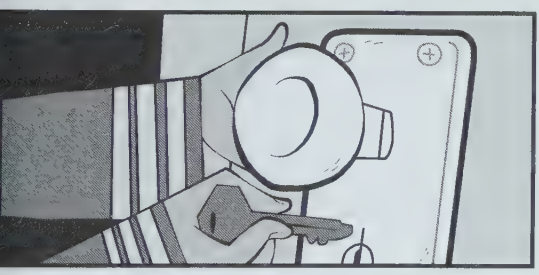


YOUR GARBAGE ISN'T OFF-LIMITS TO US, DINRUFFY.
MY HOME!

YOUR PANTRY IS FAIR GAME TO US, DINRUFFY.
cheddar blast!
"food!"
CARB POCKETS
MY FOOD!

YOUR GARDEN WILL MAKE OUR NESTS SPARKLE, DINRUFFY.
MY RICHES!

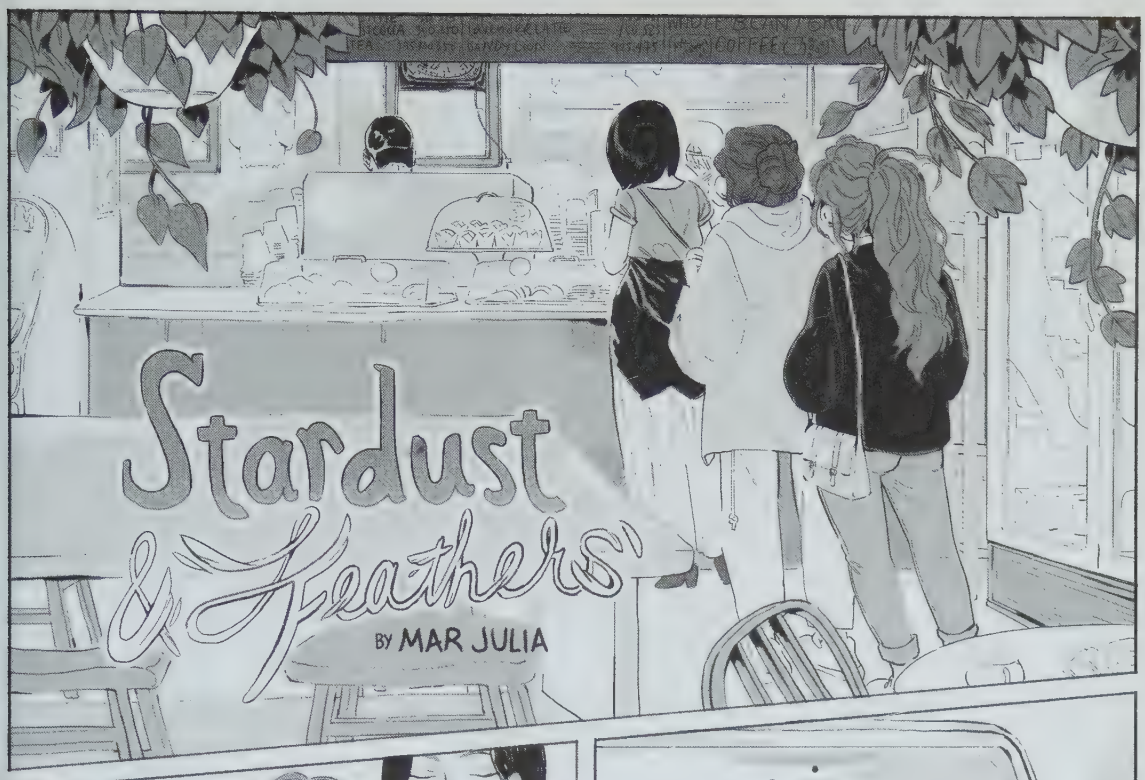

chaddaga
Blast!

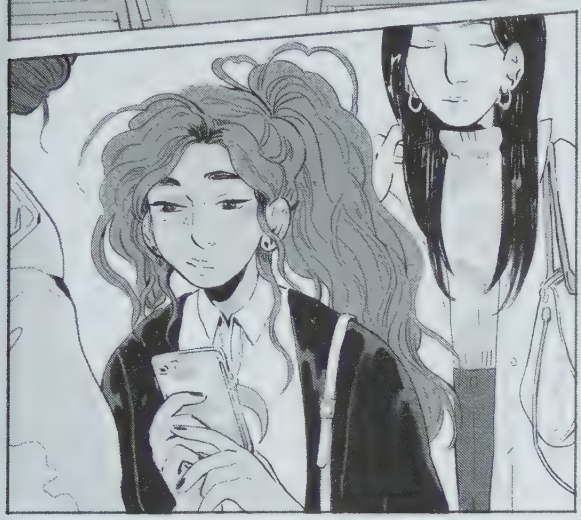


DARLING WIFE,
I'M HOME!

OH, DID YOU REMEMBER THE COFFEE?

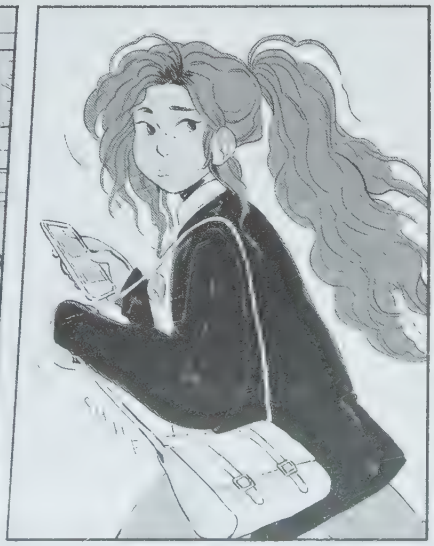
DANG IT!


Stardust & Feathers
BY MAR JULIA



INES KING/24/they/them
IG: @kingines
fashion & magical side-quests
SEASIDE
WEDNESDAY, 3/12/201X

ANYTHING ELSE?
THAT'S IT, THANKS.

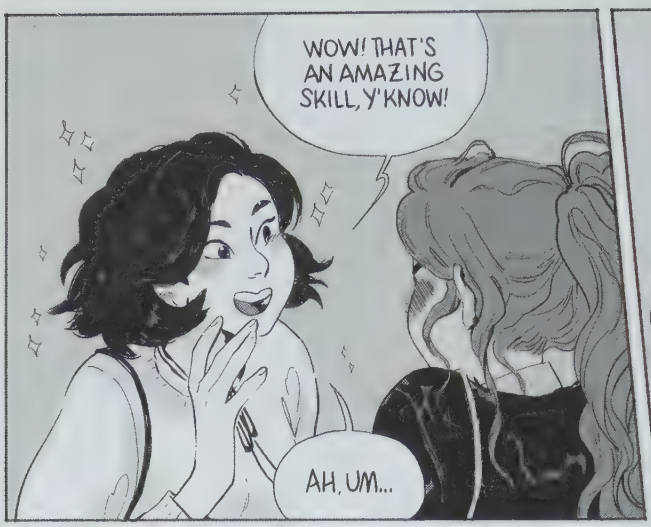


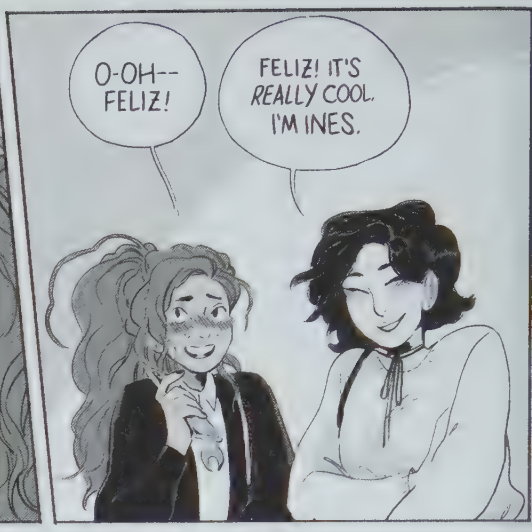
ALMOND MILK LATTE WITH COCONUT SYRUP!
OH, T-THANK YOU!
106 LIKES
TAP TAP

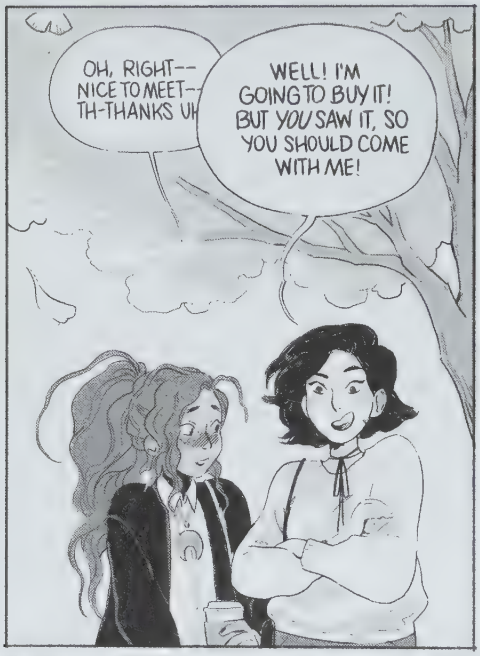
WHO
D'H
SHF
Stardust Consignment
OPEN

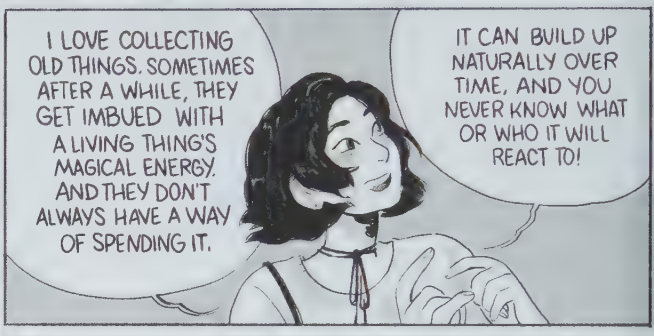
SO DO YOU FEEL IT, TOO?
WHAT? FEEL IT? I MEAN, YES, BUT--

WH-!
Y'KNOW...
I PASS THIS STORE SOMETIMES AND I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO LIKE,
PINPOINT WHAT THAT PRICKLY *FEELING* IS FROM THIS WINDOW.
BUT YOU WERE STARING, AND IT JUST HIT ME!
IT'S THAT, ISN'T IT? HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OH, UM, I CAN, I CAN SEE IT. I MEAN--
I CAN SEE ITS MAGICAL AURA.
GASP
AURAS?


WOW! THAT'S AN AMAZING SKILL, Y'KNOW!
AH, UM...

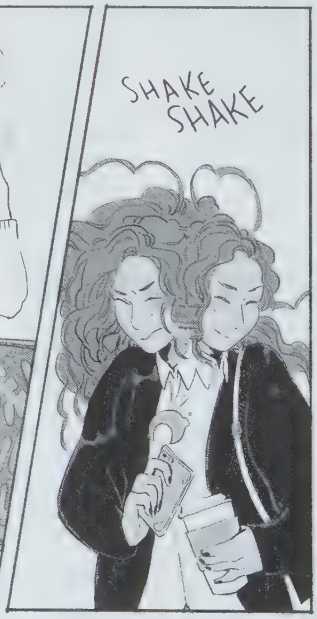

O-OH-- FELIZ!
FELIZ! IT'S *REALLY* COOL. I'M INES.


OH, RIGHT-- NICE TO MEET-- TH-THANKS UH
WELL! I'M GOING TO BUY IT! BUT *YOU* SAW IT, SO YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME!


I LOVE COLLECTING OLD THINGS. SOMETIMES AFTER A WHILE, THEY GET IMBUED WITH A LIVING THING'S MAGICAL ENERGY. AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE A WAY OF SPENDING IT.
IT CAN BUILD UP NATURALLY OVER TIME, AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT OR WHO IT WILL REACT TO!

OR SOMETIMES PEOPLE USE THEM TO STORE SECRETS OR HEIRLOOMS AND THINGS--
IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN FIND--

SORRY! SORRY. I GET CARRIED AWAY SOMETIMES. YOU-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME IN.
I DON'T WANNA FORCE YOU--


SHAKE SHAKE

DINGDING

HELLO! HELLOOO! WELCOME!
HI, HOW ARE YOU! YES, IN THE WINDOW...
CLACK
SO, DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM?
RATTLE
I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY, BUT SOMEONE BROUGHT IT IN, SAID IT USED TO BELONG TO THEIR MOTHER. A, UH, GIFT FOR HER WIFE THAT SHE NEVER GOT TO GIVE HER.
BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO OPEN IT.
WELL, DO YOU KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING INSIDE OF IT?

NOT A CLUE.
CLICK
WHA--!
SNAP
AH!
DING DING
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
DING DING
OOOH NO...!
WH-WHAT THE--
WELL THANKS, BYE!

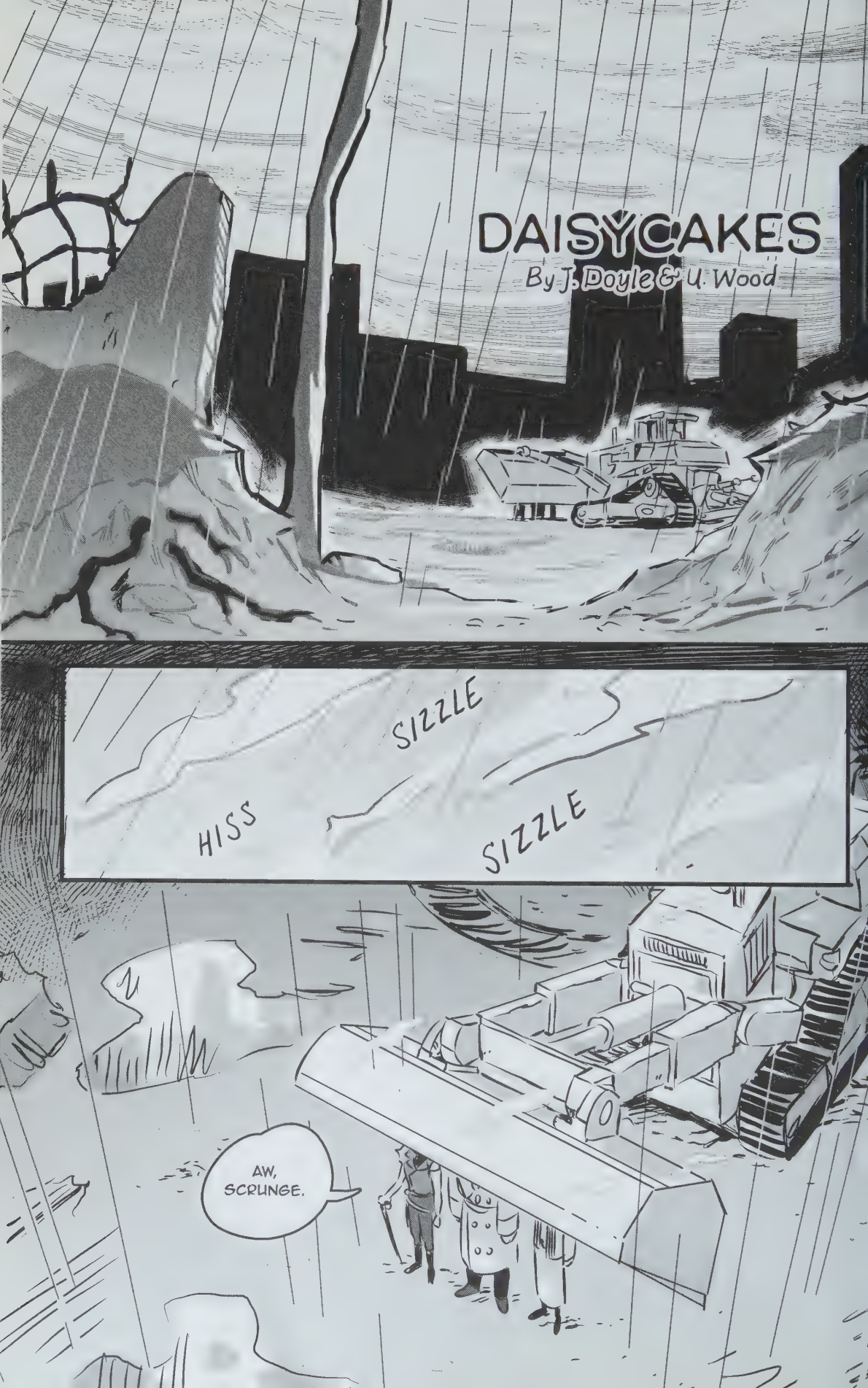
FELIZ!
DING
DING
DING
DING
HAH...
BOUNCE
FWISH
NO, NO, NO--
FWISH
OOF!
FWISH
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
I-I'M SO SORRY, I--
AFTER IT!

TIMPTIM
BUMP
OOF!
GASP
W-WHA-- OH MAN!
VRRRRRM
VRRRRM
GRAB
HOW DID YOU GET IT OPEN BEFORE?!
I-I DON'T KNOW, I JUST--I TOUCHED IT--AND--
VRRRRRAA
TOUCH

BURST
CLANK
CLINK
CLUNK
CLINK
IT'S PRETTY...
YES, THIS WILL BE GREAT FOR MY BLOG!

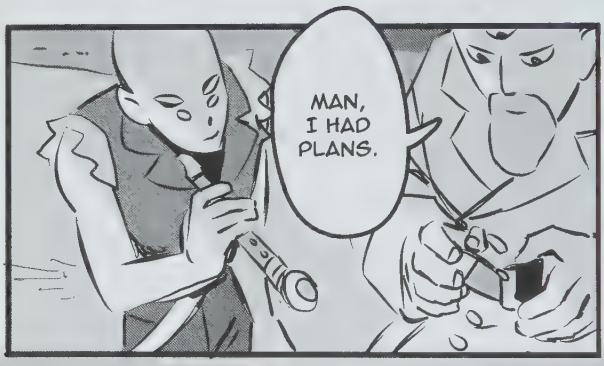
OH! OH, I SHOULD MENTION, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I PUT THIS ON MY BLOG?
I RUN A BLOG ABOUT--
A-ACTUALLY I KNOW, I'M, UM, I'M A BIG FAN.
I RECOGNIZED YOU PRETTY MUCH RIGHT AWAY...
SORRY... THAT I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
WELL, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME TAKE SOME PHOTOS FOR MY BLOG POST...?
O-OKAY!
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
HERE, KEEP IT!
WH--BUT-- YOU PAID FOR IT!
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIFT. IT SPENT ALL THAT TIME NOT BEING ABLE TO BE GIVEN OR SEEN--
AND YOU DID SEE IT, FINALLY. IT SEEMS TO MATCH YOU, OR LIKE YOU OR SOMETHING. SO YOU SHOULD TAKE IT.
AND, UH, ONE MORE THING.

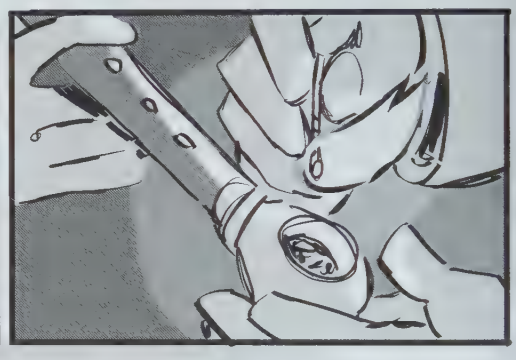
THIS IS FOR YOU, TOO.
HMM?
WHAT IS IT--
OH. OH.
I HAVE TO GO NOW, BUT I'LL SEE YOU LATER, RIGHT?
TEXT IS OKAY, TOO!
KINGINES
22ND STREET STATION
203 LIKES
KINGINES had a great day treasure
treasures in one place
END

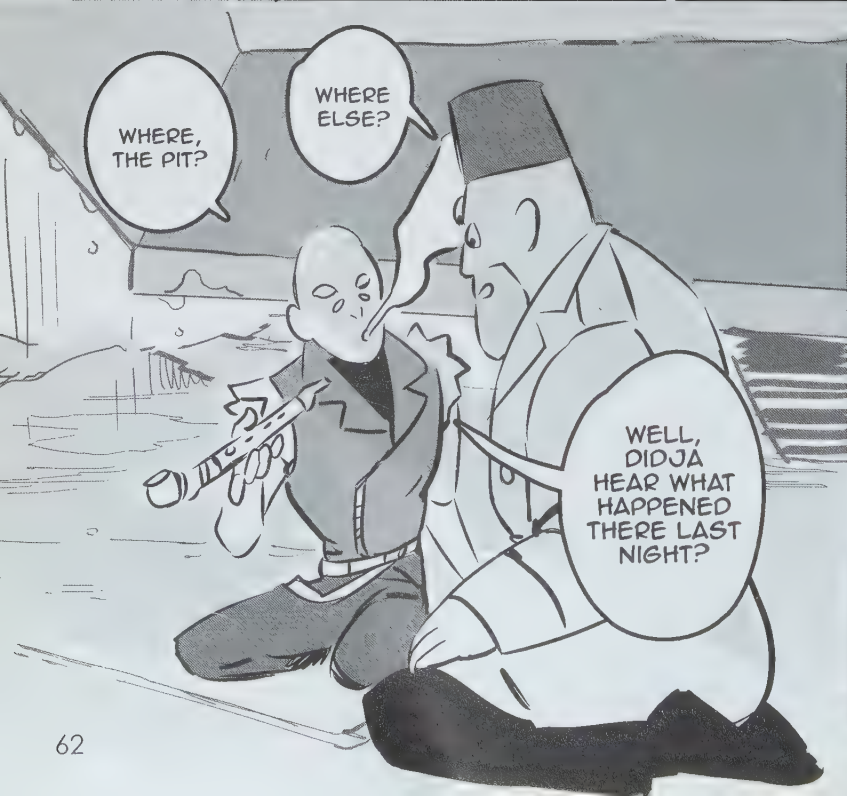

DAISYCAKES
By J. Doyle & U. Wood
SIZZLE
HISS
SIZZLE
AW, SCRUNGE.

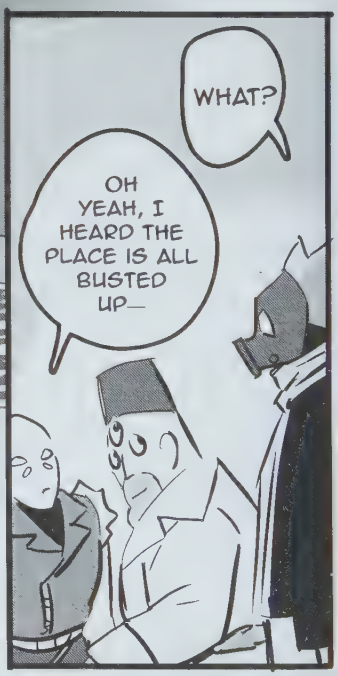
ACIDWASH SCRUNGE.
WHO KNOWS WHEN THIS'LL LET UP?
Ow!
FOO-FOO-

SIIIGH
Y'ALL GOT CARDS?
SNACKS?
PLEASE TELL ME SOMEONE HAS A LIGHT.


MAN, I HAD PLANS.

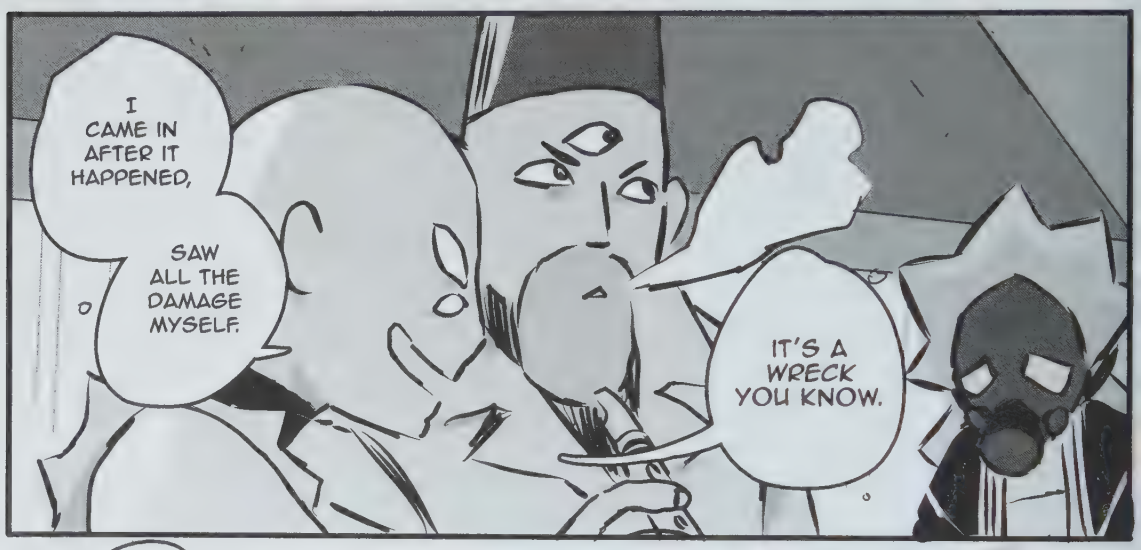



WHERE, THE PIT?
WHERE ELSE?
WELL, DIDJA HEAR WHAT HAPPENED THERE LAST NIGHT?


WHAT?
OH YEAH, I HEARD THE PLACE IS ALL BUSTED UP—

—SOME BIG MEAN GUY CHARGED INTO THE PLACE, HAD IT OUT FOR THIS LITTLE GUY WHO OWED HIM MONEY.
HE SICCED SOME KIND OF MONSTER ON 'IM.
CRASH!
I'LL SHOOT! I'LL SHOOT!
WRONG!!

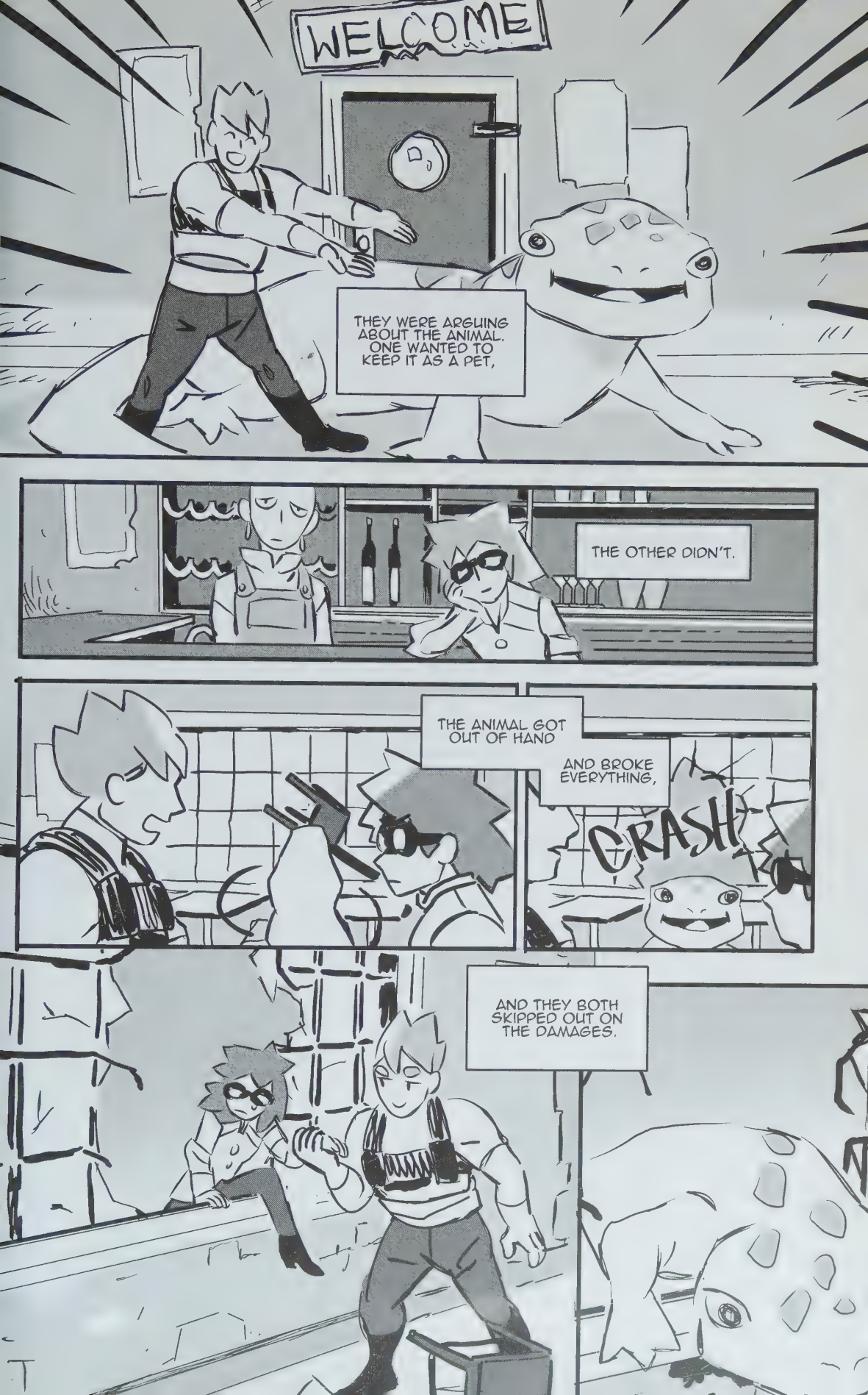
-EH?


I CAME IN AFTER IT HAPPENED,
SAW ALL THE DAMAGE MYSELF.
IT'S A WRECK YOU KNOW.

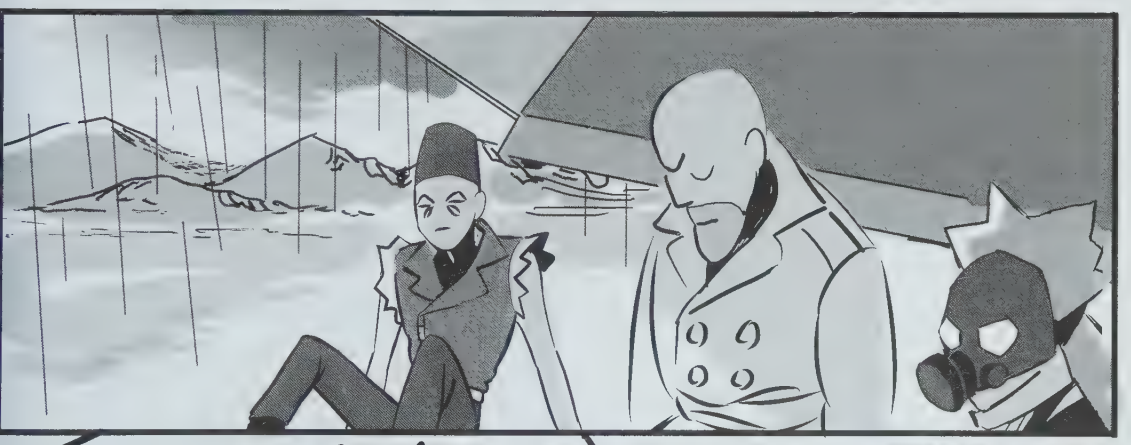
YEAH, ASKED AROUND PERSONAL.
WHAT I HEARD WAS, THE LITTLE GUY STARTED IT.
REALLY?

YEAH! APPARENTLY HE KILLED SOMEONE IN THE BIG GUY'S FAMILY.
HE WAS COMING FOR REVENGE.
YOU BRUTE, YOU BRUTE! IT'S TIME TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!
AWOOOOOOOOOOOO
CRAK
CRASH

YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.
I WAS THERE.
WELL?
IT WAS A LOVERS' QUARREL.
WHAAAAAT
TT


WELCOME
THEY WERE ARGUING ABOUT THE ANIMAL. ONE WANTED TO KEEP IT AS A PET,
THE OTHER DIDN'T.
THE ANIMAL GOT OUT OF HAND
AND BROKE EVERYTHING,
CRASH
AND THEY BOTH SKIPPED OUT ON THE DAMAGES.

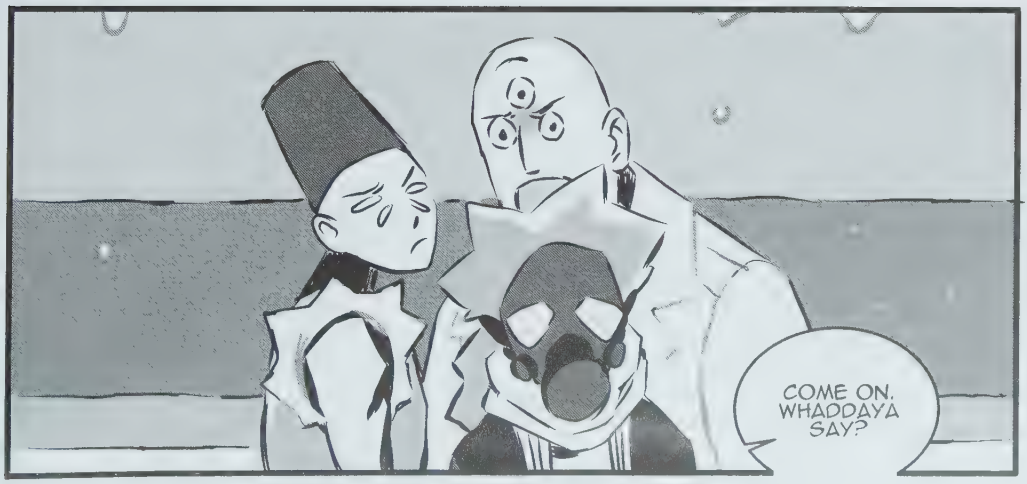
THAT'S STUPID.
I PROMISE YOU THAT IS NOT WHAT HAPPENED.
SHRUG



SHELLYYY!!
!

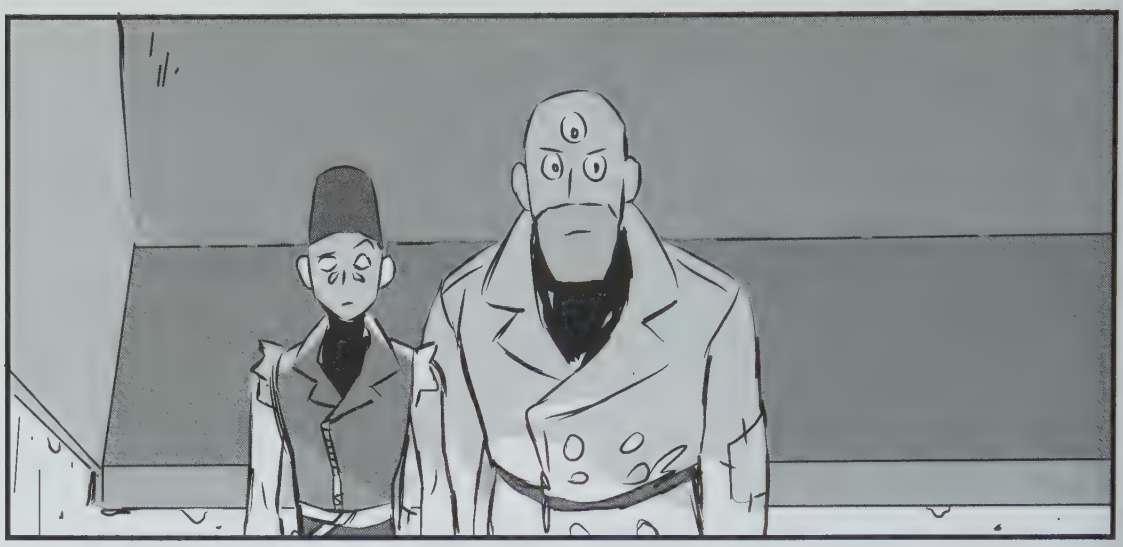
GABBY!
THERE YOU ARE.

CHECK IT OUT, HE'S A HERO.
HE LIKES TO PLAY IN THE ACID PUDDLES, SO I HAD HIM HELP ME LOOK FOR YOU!
MLEM
SO? I WAS RIGHT, WASN'T I?
HE'S! CUTE!
määäää

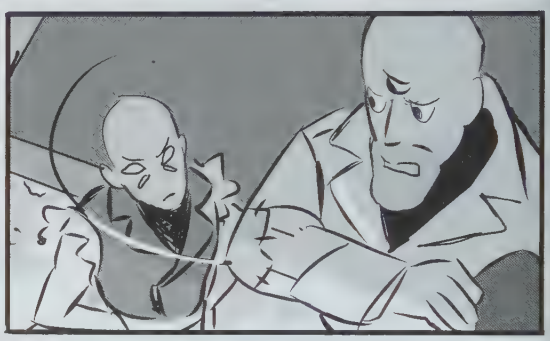

COME ON. WHADDAYA SAY?

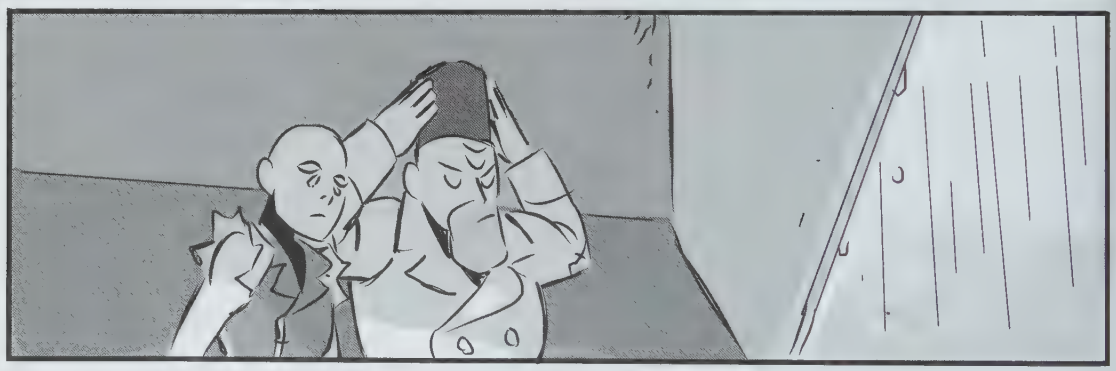
FINE. WE CAN KEEP IT.
--BUT I'M NOT CLEANING UP WHATEVER HAPPENS IN ITS LITTERBOX.
I NAMED HIM DAISYCAKES
NICE MEETING Y'ALL.

WELL, I DON'T THINK--
I'M ALLOWED AT THE PIT ANYMORE,
BUT MAYBE I'LL SEE Y'ALL AROUND.
MUSH!
PII PII
PII PII



SPIT





-FIN

Fishing for the Truth

BY JEN HENKES

...IS IT WORKING?

CLICK!

WHOOPS, WRONG BUTTON!

COME ON, PHONE, DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING. I JUST WANT TO--

AH! IT'S WORKING!

HI, MY NAME IS NILE! I AM A PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE SUPERNATURAL, AND WELCOME TO MY SHOW!

YOU MAY KNOW ME FROM THAT ONE VIDEO ABOUT THE TAZELWURM IN THE LAUNDROMAT.

IT, UH, KINDA GOT POPULAR AND STUFF.

IT HAS ALMOST 30 LIKES!

ANYWAY, IN THIS EPISODE, I'M DETERMINED TO INVESTIGATE ONE OF THE OLDEST URBAN LEGENDS EVER:

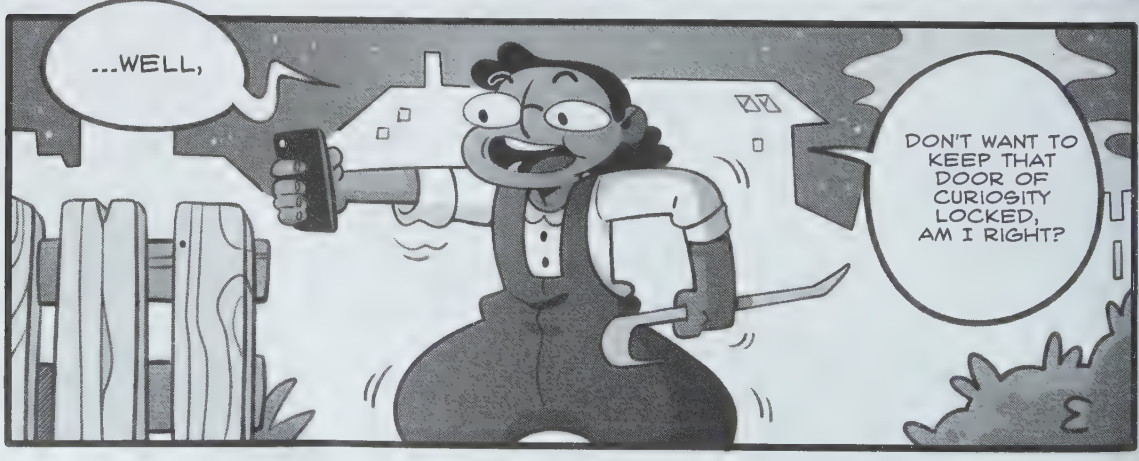
THE STORY ABOUT *THE SEWER ALLIGATOR!*

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE STRANGE SOUNDS COMING OUT OF TOILETS AND DRAINS?
THEY SOUND LIKE--
CLONK CLONK!

I STARTED TO HEAR THEM A FEW MONTHS AGO.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT MUST BE A SIGN FOR AN ALLIGATOR IN OUR SEWER SYSTEM.
PROBABLY A RARE WHITE ONE WITH PINK LASER EYES OR SOMETHING--
AT LEAST THAT'S MY THEORY.
AND, LIKE I SAID, I'M A PROFESSIONAL.

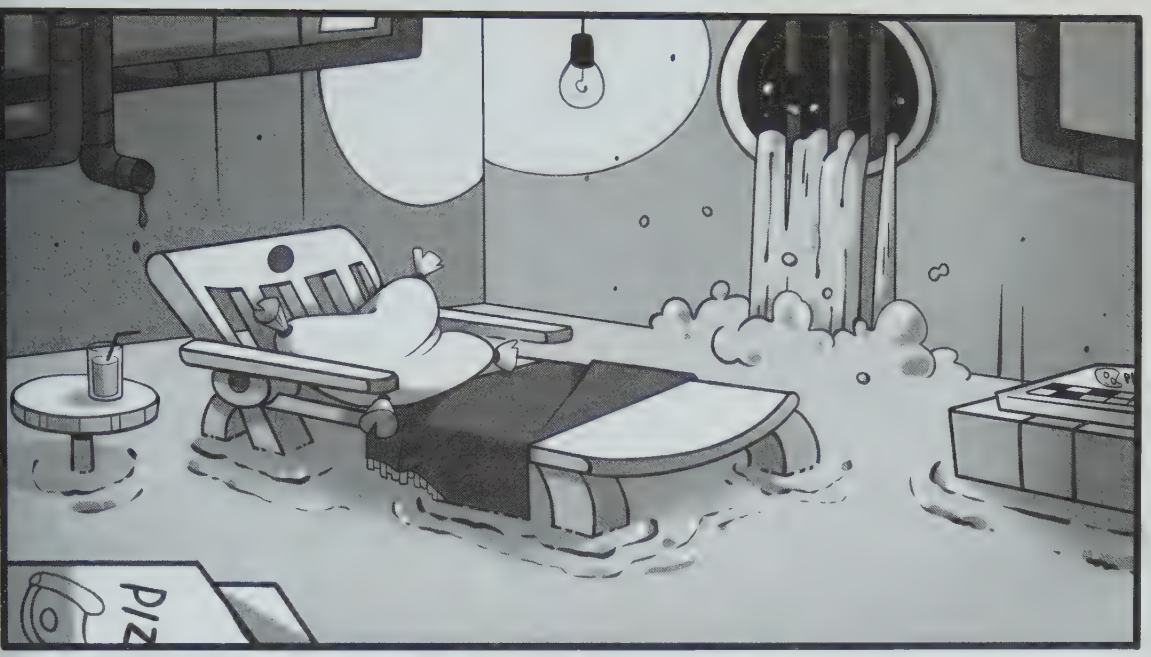
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ALL THINKING: "NILE, CLIMBING DOWN A MANHOLE, ISN'T THAT KINDA ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS?" BUT I'M TELLING YOU--
OH, UHM, WELL, MAYBE IT IS. IT DEFINITELY IS.

JEEZ,
I HOPE MY NANNY WON'T WATCH THIS LATER...
WHERE WAS I GOING WITH THIS AGAIN?


...WELL,
DON'T WANT TO KEEP THAT DOOR OF CURIOSITY LOCKED, AM I RIGHT?

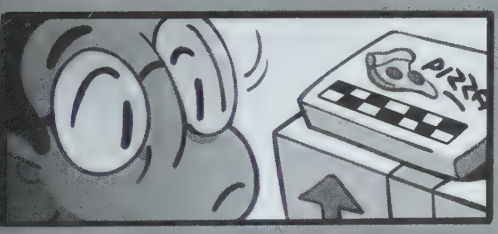
STOP!
uhm do they really believe that junk? how old are they, 8??
Don't do that, you could get in serious trouble :/
LOL have fun with tetanus and rabies
nah, they won't do anything. Nile's just a lonely, flippin' rich kid with nothing else to do. it's just about attention
you the kid with the big pool? wanna be friends?
I-I'M NOT! I'M NOT RICH OR LONELY OR--

OKAY, I'M HERE. AND RECORDING AGAIN. IT'S PRETTY DARK, AND...
..... EUGH! SMELLY! JUST AS I EXPECTED.
WAIT, WHAT THE--
ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY COOL DOWN HERE. IT TAKES SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THE GROSSNESS, THOUGH. IT'S REALLY GROSS. GROSS AND COOL.

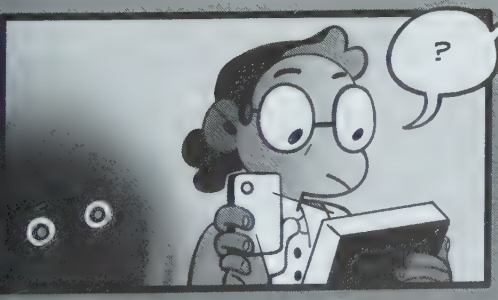


THAT... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE HOME OF AN ALBINO ALLIGATOR.

THAT'S UNUSUAL...
NO
OUTRIGHT CREEPY...



BLEH, ANCHOVIES! I HATE ANCHOVIES!


?

SPLASH!!

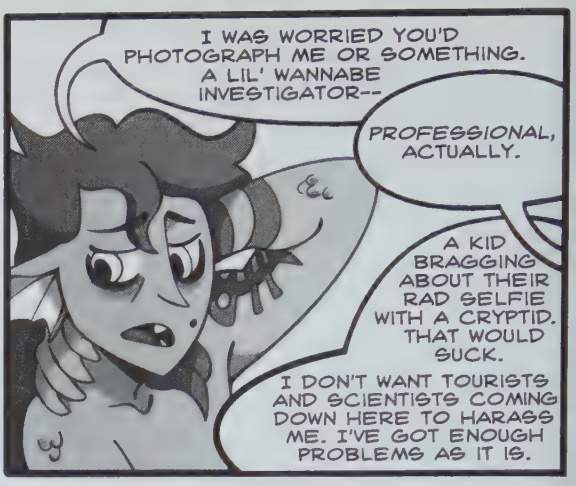
SPLOSH!!!
WOOSH-
...
...OKAY, I HAD A BLAST DOWN THERE, BUT OH GOSH LOOK AT THE TIME!!!!
I SHOULD HEAD HOME NOW
YAWN YAWN
I'M SOOO TIRED-- GIDNIGHT FOLKS!!!
SPLSH SPLSH SPLSH

NO
NO
NO
SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING ME!
NO
SOMETHING IS HUNTING ME!
SCREAAACH!!!
DANG IT, WHERE IS MY CROWBAR?!
OKAY, PLAN B!
!?
WOOOSH

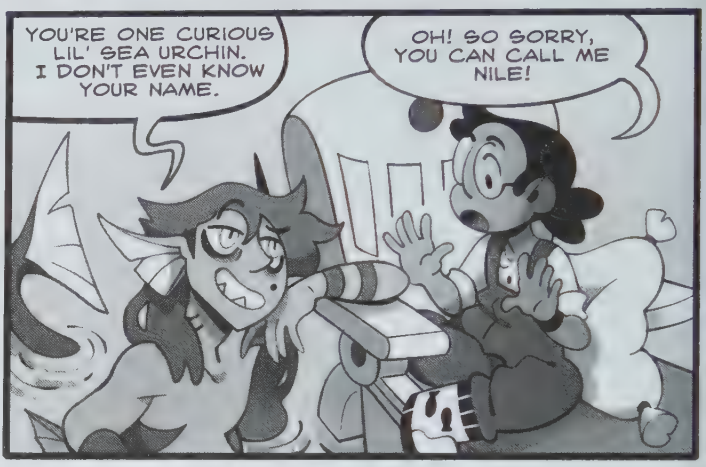
HA! SAUCY LUGOSI, I DID IT!
SCREAAAAACH --
COUGH
ARGH!
?
GNN MY EYES!!
COULD YOU, LIKE, STOP THAT?! RUDE!!
SO-- WHA--
I'M RUDE?! SAYS THE BLACK LAGOON'S "GILL-MAN" WHO TRIED TO ATTACK ME!
BLACK LAGOO-WHO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I WASN'T ATTACKING ANYBODY, I WAS SCARED!
WELL YEAH, TRY WALKING IN MY GUMBOOTS!
I ALMOST PEED MY PANTS!
WHATEVER! PLEASE HELP ME, THEN I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

YOU'RE... A MERMAID.
A REAL MERMAID.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR KIN LIKES TO CALL US, ANYWAY.
OR SIREN, NYMPH--
"GILL-MAN"???
JUST DON'T CALL ME A HAGFISH OR SOMETHING AND I'M GOOD.
.....
ARE YOU SUUURE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN AN ALBINO ALLIGATOR AROUND HERE?
I HAVEN'T, NO. SORRY I'M SUCH A DISAPPOINTMENT TO YOU.
OH, NO NO, I'M SORRY, YOU'RE NOT AT ALL! A MERPERSON IS COOL! WAY COOLER THAN AN ALLIGATOR, ACTUALLY!
...
DO MER-PEOPLE EAT HUMANS?
WHA- NO?
WE WOULD NEVER--
OKAY, WAIT, MY EX WAS A SHARK, MAYBE SHE WOULD--
THEN WHY DID YOU ATTACK ME?

LIKE I SAID--I WAS SCARED. I SAW YOU WALKING AROUND WITH THAT, EEEEEH, TALKY...THING--
OH, THAT'S A COMMUNICATION DEVICE! US HUMANS USE IT FOR COMMUNICATION!
I KNOW WHAT A PHONE IS, DUH! THE WORD JUST SLIPPED MY MIND.


I WAS WORRIED YOU'D PHOTOGRAPH ME OR SOMETHING. A LIL' WANNABE INVESTIGATOR--
PROFESSIONAL, ACTUALLY.
A KID BRAGGING ABOUT THEIR RAD SELFIE WITH A CRYPTID. THAT WOULD SUCK.
I DON'T WANT TOURISTS AND SCIENTISTS COMING DOWN HERE TO HARASS ME. I'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS AS IT IS.

...WHAT ARE THOSE PROBLEMS, IF I'M ALLOWED TO ASK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


YOU'RE ONE CURIOUS LIL' SEA URCHIN. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.
OH! SO SORRY, YOU CAN CALL ME NILE!

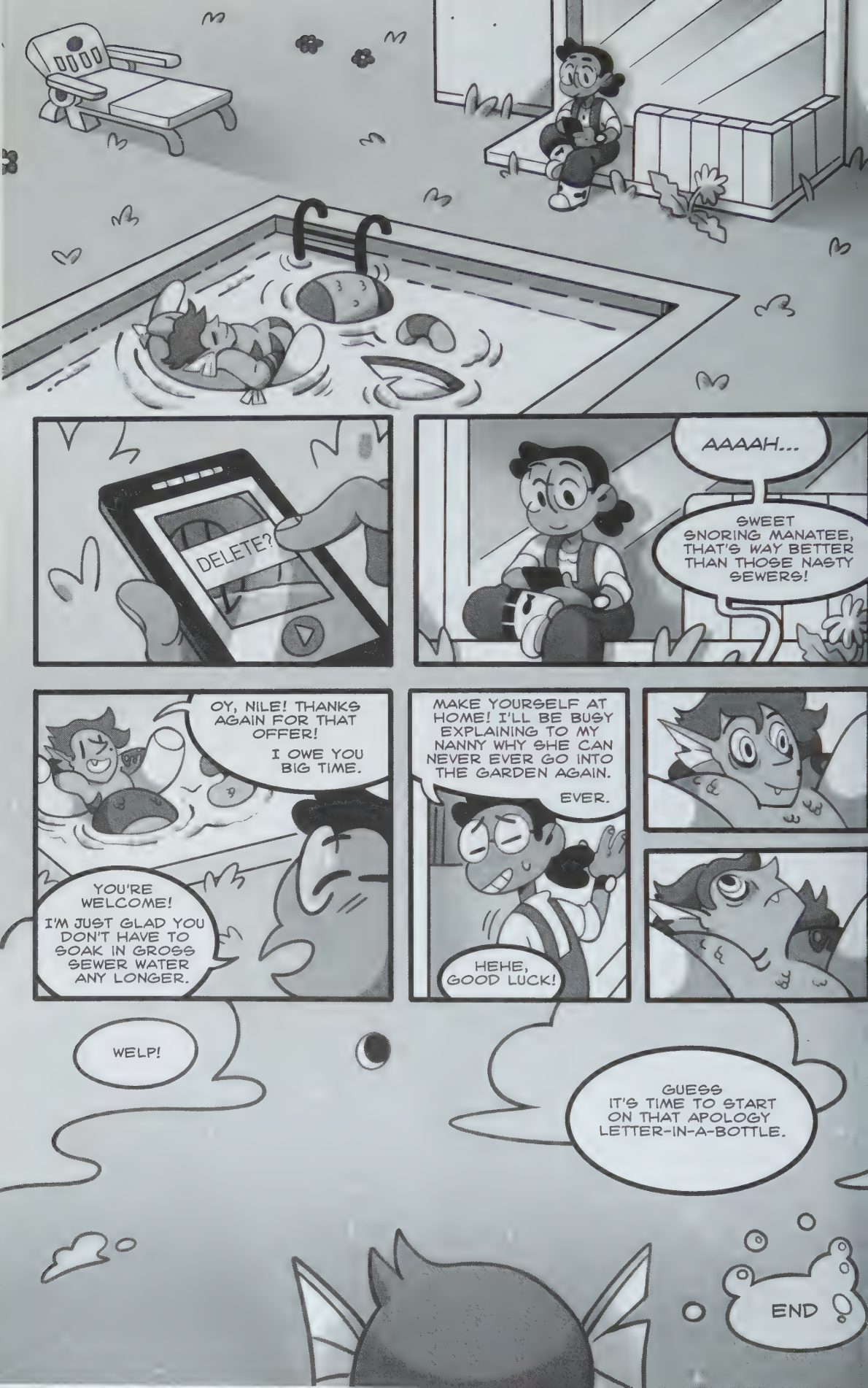
WELL, NILE, I CAN TELL YOU MY STORY IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO HEAR IT.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
NAH, IT'S FINE. HAVEN'T TALKED TO ANYONE IN AGES, MAYBE GETTING IT OFF MY CHEST WILL HELP.

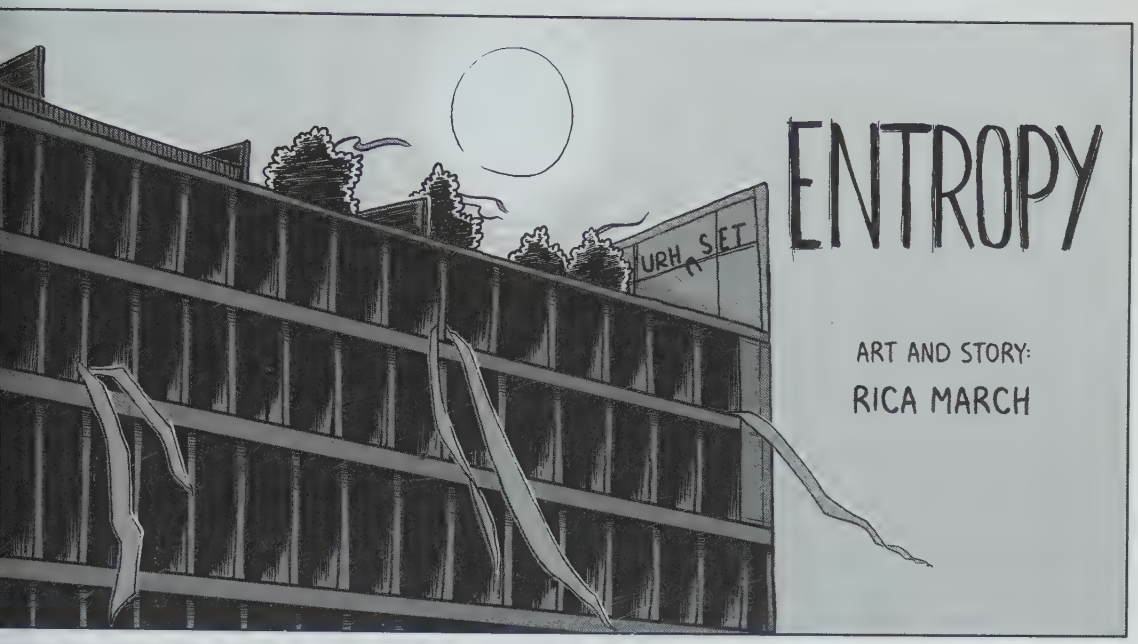
THE NAME'S BLAQUA.
AND I KINDAAA GOT KICKED OUT OF THE OCEAN.
ALL SEVEN OF THEM.
THAT'S A THING THAT CAN HAPPEN?
WHEN YOU'RE THE SEA QUEEN'S GIRLFRIEND, YEAH, IT CAN.

SO, SHE'S THE QUEEN OF THE SEA, AND I GET IT. IT'S A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. BUT...
WE HAD THIS DISCUSSION. JUST EVERYDAY STUFF--THE TIDES CHANGING IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, THE SEA KELP MIGRATION--THEN WE TALKED ABOUT A POTENTIAL WAR WITH THE SELKIES...
WE HAD DIFFERENT OPINIONS REGARDING THAT, AND THAT'S FINE! IT'S JUST...I THOUGHT SHE WAS BEING REALLY RUDE ABOUT IT, AND SHE SAID SHE WAS ONLY BEING SENSIBLE, AND MAYBE I GOT A LITTLE HOTHEADED.
MY EMOTIONS GOT THE BEST OF ME, AND WE STARTED SHOUTING.
EVENTUALLY, SHE GOT FED UP, AND...
SHE BANISHED ME.
I NEEDED A PLACE TO CRASH.
AND BOO-YA, NOW I'M HERE!
BUT...
ISN'T SHE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR WHERE-ABOUTS?
OH, SHE MOST LIKELY IS!
IF SHE KNEW THAT I LIVE IN THE SEWERS, SHE'D FLIP OUT.
I...REALLY MESSED UP BACK THEN. I WAS UNFAIR, CALLING HER A DRAMA QUEEN, NOT EVEN TRYING TO HEAR HER OUT.
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE, BUT...I'M...EMBARRASSED. FIGURES I WAS THE RUDE ONE AFTER ALL.
Y'KNOW THAT FEELING WHEN YOU THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, AND WANT TO PROVE IT NO MATTER WHAT?
BUT LOOKING BACK, YOU JUST WANT TO SAY SORRY BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?
I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS LIKE.
...MAYBE. YES.
...THAT WOULD'VE BEEN A COOL STORY FOR MY SHOW.
NILE!!

I SWEAR TO NEPTUNE, YOU--
HAHA, I WAS JUST KIDDING!
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH! DON'T TELL A SINGLE SOUL ABOUT ME! I'M BEGGING YOU!
WHOAH! CALM DOWN! I-I-I... I WON'T!
YOU PROMISE?
...YES. I PROMISE.
AWWW THANKS A LOT, LIL' URCHIN!
WHA--
THAT MEANS I WON'T HAVE TO SEND MY EX AFTER YOU!
Y-YOU'RE WELCO- WAIT WHAT??
AND NEXT TIME YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR DANGEROUS ANIMALS, I'LL BE YOUR BODYGUARD! AS A LITTLE THANK YOU.
R-REALLY? THAT'D BE NICE...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
A KID, WALKING AROUND IN THE SEWERS, UNSUPERVISED? NAH.

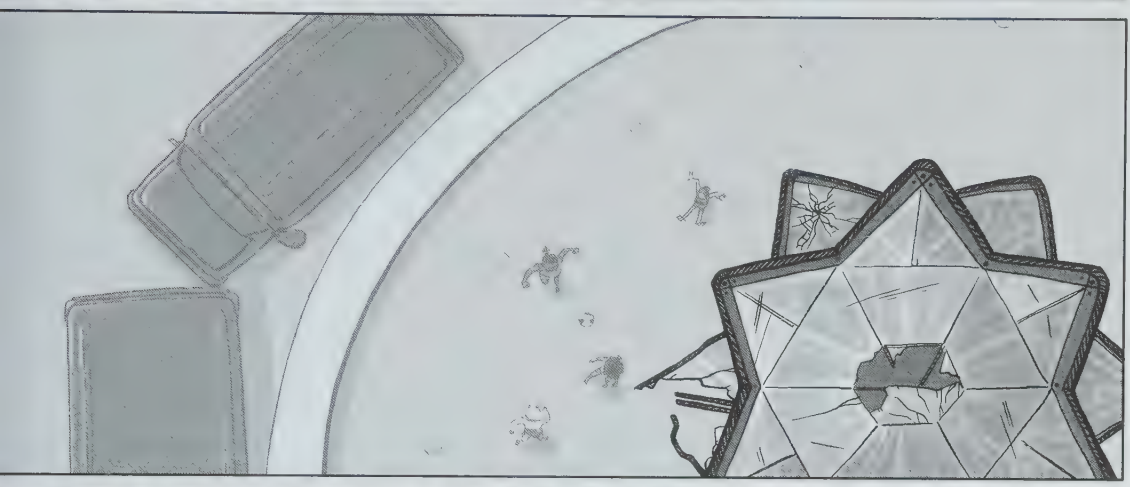
LATER...
AW JEEZ, I FORGOT THE TIME. IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT!
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU STILL STANDING HERE? SHOOSH, USE THOSE STUPID LEGS OF YOURS AND CARRY YOUR BUTT HOME BEFORE YOUR PARENTS GET MAD!
LAST TIME I SAW THEM WAS AT MY BIRTHDAY, SIX MONTHS AGO. MY NANNY, HOWEVER, MIGHT GET IN TROUBLE IF I DON'T SHOW UP SOON.
EVEN WORSE! GO SAVE YOUR NANNY, THEN!
HAHA, ALL RIGHT!
GOODBYE, BLAQUA!
ADIOS, LIL' SEA URCHIN! AND, UH...
YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO DROP BY MY LUXURIOUS HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME!
BLAQUA?
UHM, DO YOU, LIKE, MAYBE, PERHAPS... WANT TO HANG OUT AT MY PLACE?
MY FAMILY IS KINDA RICH. REALLY RICH.
AND, WE HAVE A POOL...
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BUT MAYBE JUST...WHILE YOU'RE FIGURING THINGS OUT, MAYBE...WORKING ON YOUR APOLOGY.
IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE AND... HYGIENIC THAN THIS PLACE.

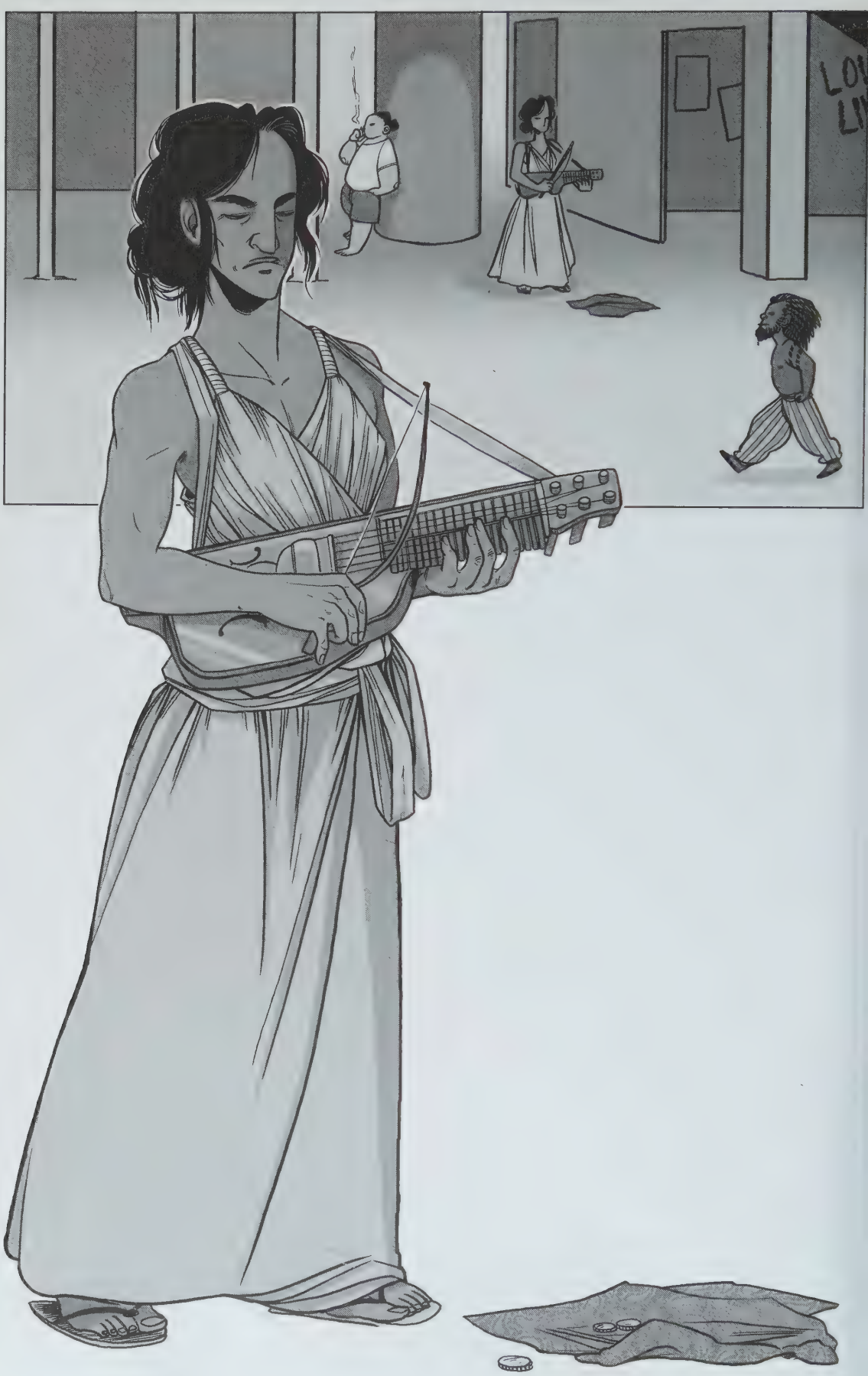

DELETE?
AAAAH...
SWEET SNORING MANATEE, THAT'S WAY BETTER THAN THOSE NASTY SEWERS!
OY, NILE! THANKS AGAIN FOR THAT OFFER!
I OWE YOU BIG TIME.
YOU'RE WELCOME!
I'M JUST GLAD YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOAK IN GROSS SEWER WATER ANY LONGER.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME! I'LL BE BUSY EXPLAINING TO MY NANNY WHY SHE CAN NEVER EVER GO INTO THE GARDEN AGAIN.
EVER.
HEHE, GOOD LUCK!
WELP!
GUESS IT'S TIME TO START ON THAT APOLOGY LETTER-IN-A-BOTTLE.
END



ENTROPY

ART AND STORY:
RICA MARCH

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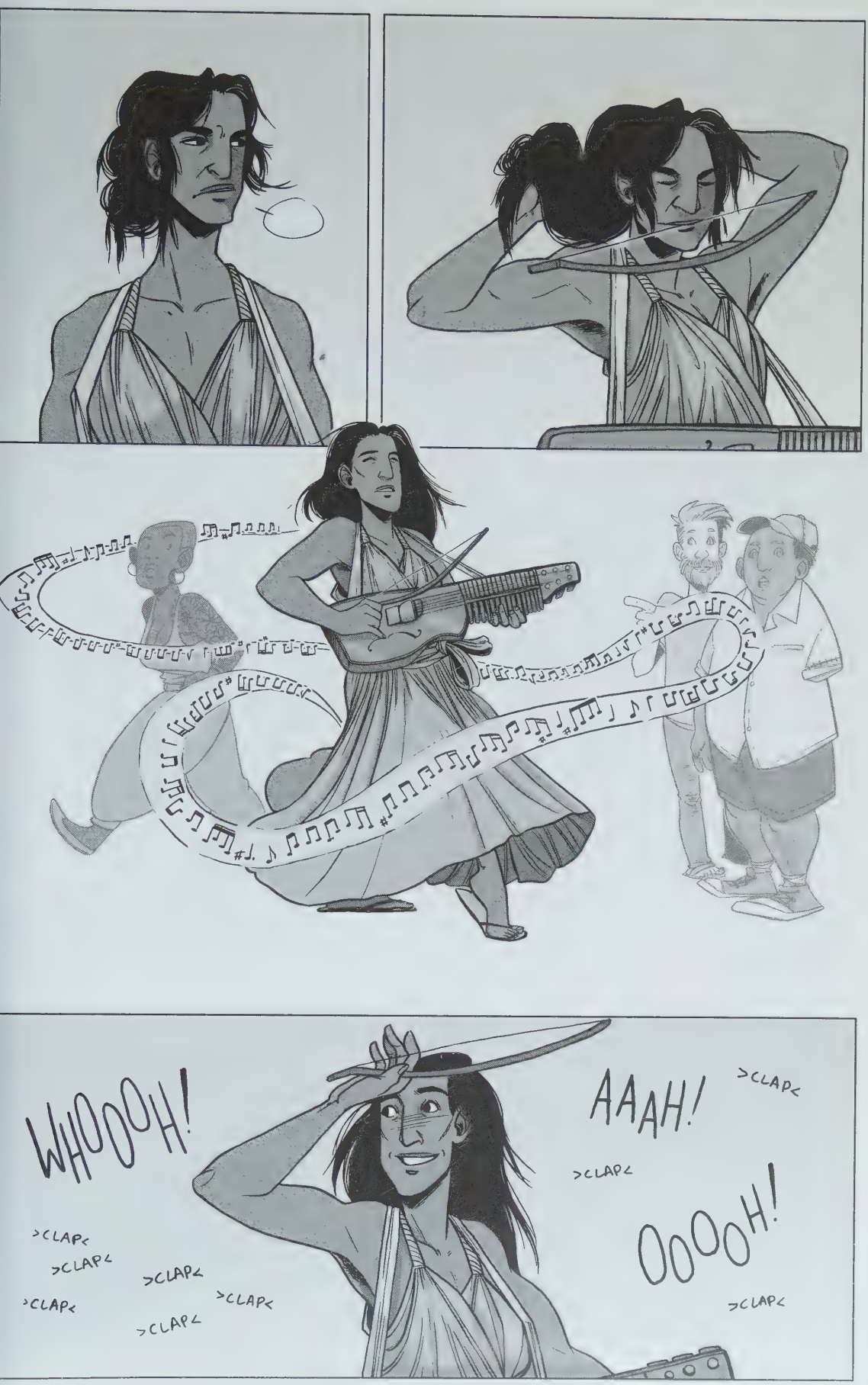
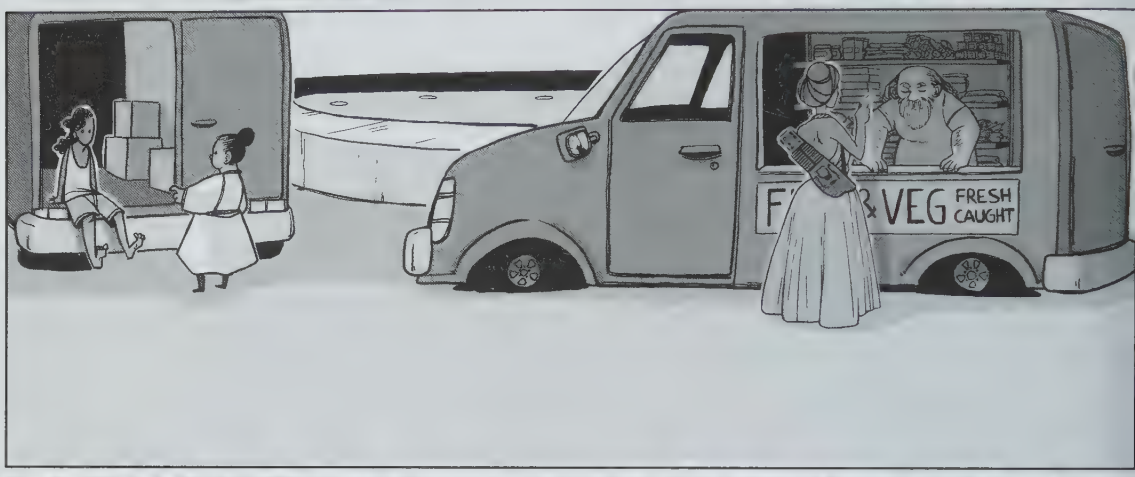

WHOOOH!
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
AAAH!
>CLAP<
>CLAP<
OOOOH!
>CLAP<


& VEG
FRESH
CAUGHT

MAMA,
'S THAT YOU?

NO, SWEETIE. IT'S JUST ME.
MAMA ISN'T HERE ANYMORE, REMEMBER?

OH... SORRY.
I FORGOT.

SHE FORGETS A LOT THESE DAYS.
MY NAME, HER NAME, WHO SHE IS, WHY I'VE GONE OUT, THAT I'VE GONE OUT.
WHY WE'RE HERE.
THOUGH PERHAPS THAT PART IS BEST LEFT FORGOTTEN.

OH, SO MUCH FOOD!
YOU DIDN'T **TRICK THEM,** DID YOU?
ONLY A LITTLE BIT.
THEY HAD UNUSUALLY TIGHT PURSE STRINGS TODAY.
SOMETIMES SHE REMEMBERS A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
NEKKI... TELL ME ABOUT BEFORE.

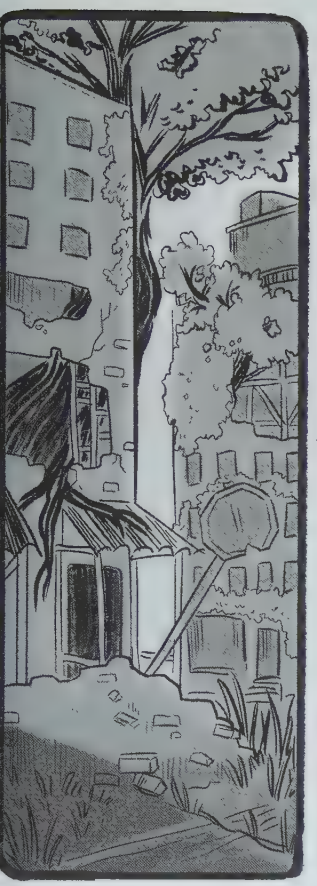
NOT TONIGHT...
I'M REALLY TIRED.
AT LEAST TELL ME ABOUT WHEN WE MET.
I FORGET SO MUCH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO FORGET THAT. PLEASE?
SIGH

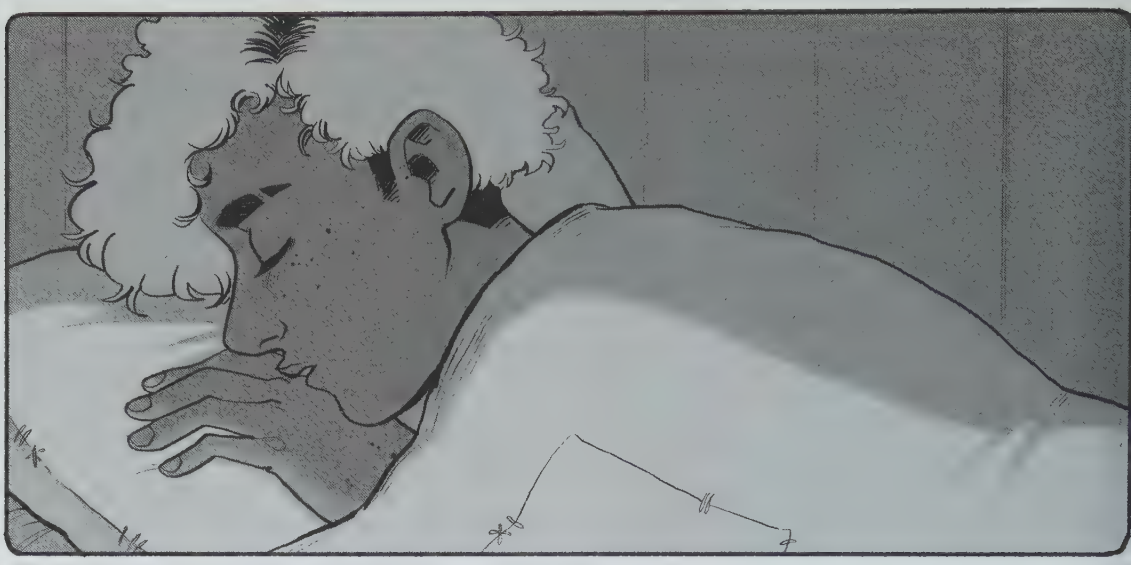
IT WAS A MILLION MOONS AGO, WHEN THE NIGHT SKY WAS RICH WITH SOUND AND THE SCENT OF PINE TREES--
--IT FILLED THE AIR!

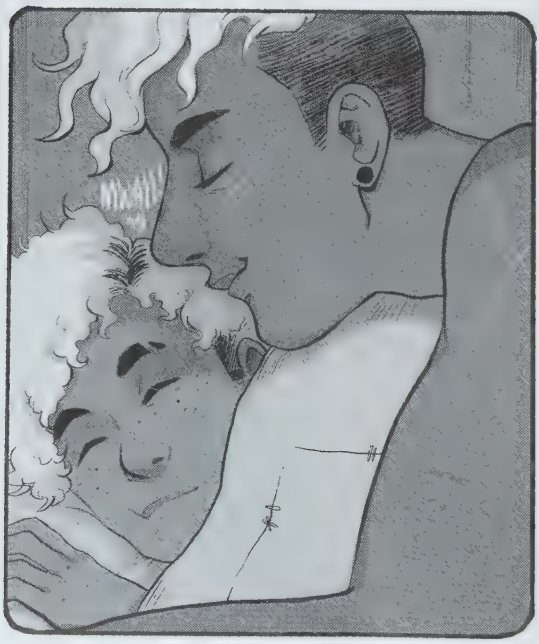
SOMETIMES, SHE REMEMBERS JUST ENOUGH TO GIVE ME HOPE.

Time Will Tell

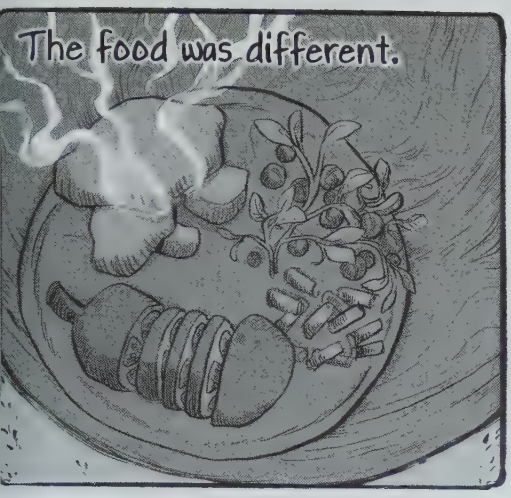
Written by Samantha Cox
Illustrated by Ria Martinez





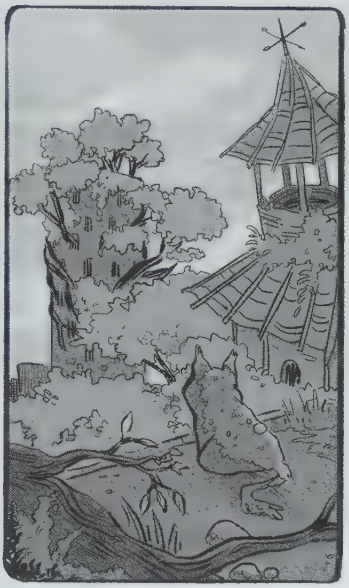

MMM

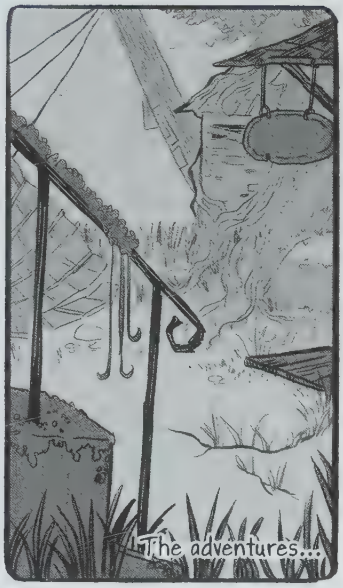
YAWN!


The food was different.

Fog's thicker than normal. Better dress light, okay?

The weather was different.

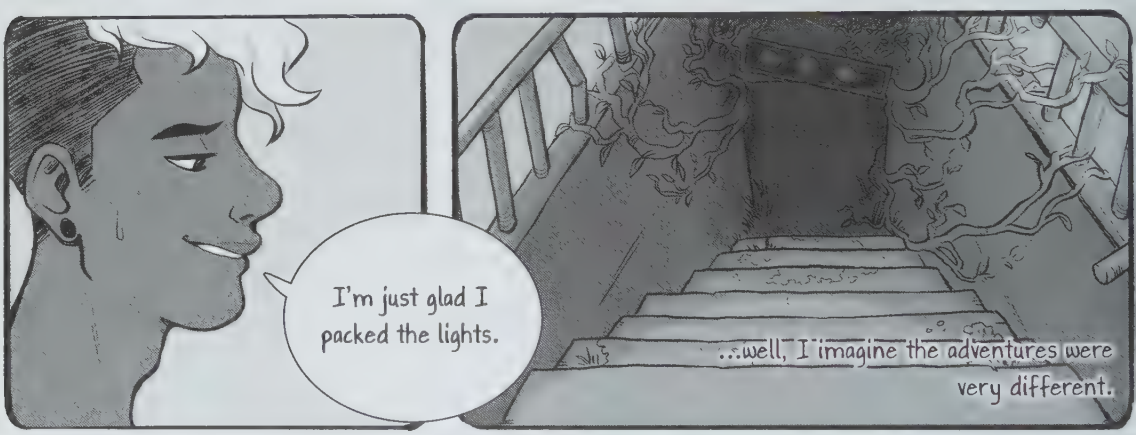



The adventures...

Hey, Kicks!

I really think we should check out that cave today! The potential for undiscovered fungi is--

Say no more, Mushroom Nerd.
heh!
pfft!


I'm just glad I packed the lights.
...well, I imagine the adventures were very different.

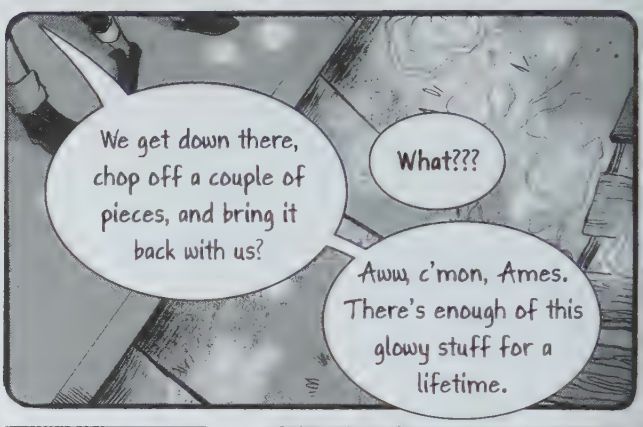
Amery, wait up! Your light!

AMERY!

Ames, what did I tell you about running off without your gear?
:click:
Turn it off a minute.
What?
Trust me!
Okay, then...
:Click:
All right! Over here!
Fantastic, isn't it?
!!!

Woah...

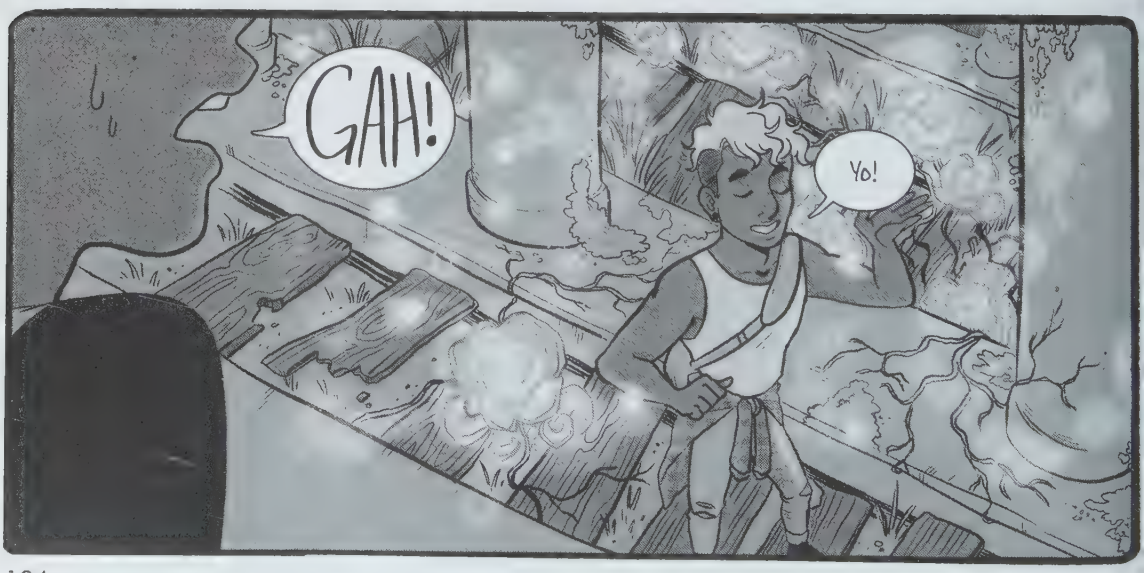
So, whaddaya say..


We get down there, chop off a couple of pieces, and bring it back with us?
What???
Aww, c'mon, Ames. There's enough of this glowy stuff for a lifetime.

It's not gonna damage your Precious Ecosystem.

It will ABSOLUTELY damage it!! Besides, we have no idea what the str city of

K-Kicks?


GAH!
Yo!

Kicks...

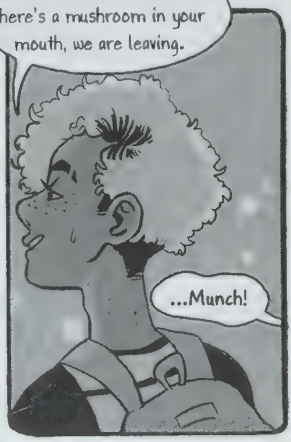
C'mon, babe!
I'll help you down!

Gotcha!

I...I suppose it wouldn't hurt to take a small sample.
That's more like it! So let's get to "sampling."

SHWACK!

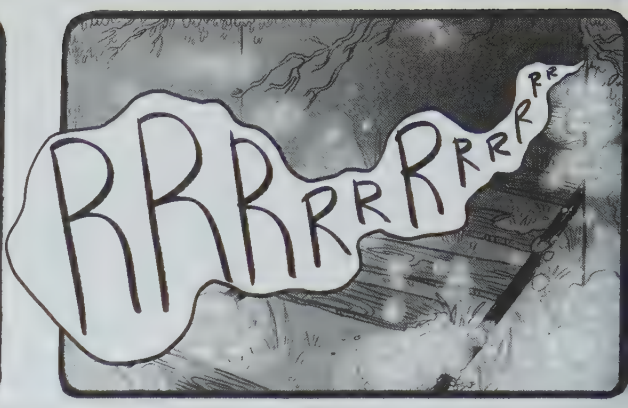
Just remember that "sampling" doesn't mean putting in your mou--!
Crrruncchhh!


...Kicks, if I turn around and there's a mushroom in your mouth, we are leaving.
...Munch!

Really?

Mmm! Ish purdy yummy!
munch! munch!
Sigh...

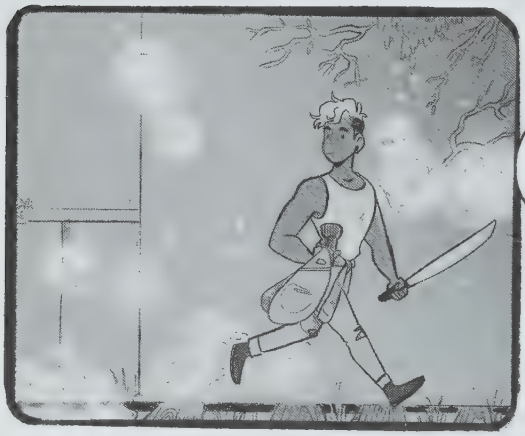
RRRR


RRRRRRRRRR

Mmm!
PAT
PAT

Hey, Ames, you know what these would go great with?
A good--!

...Amery?



SSKREEEEEEEEE
AAAAAAHHH

AAAAAAAHHH
Oh no...

Hang in there, Ames, I'm coming!
G-gah!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
STEP OFF!
Kicks...
RRRRRR...
Ames, are you--?

I'm fine. The wounds are not... not so bad.

SHWING!

Hope you had fun, 'cause that was your last meal, pal!
WAIT!

WHAT?!

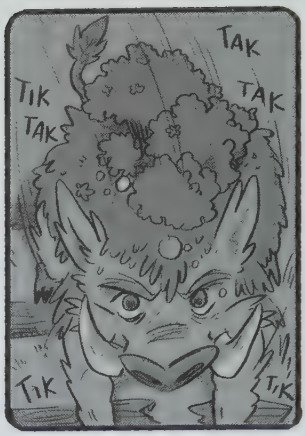
Oh come on, man, now is not the time for a lecture on conserving the--!!

WHAM
HRK!
!!!

Y-You...You little--!! You're gonna be lunch for the next week!

Kicks, stop reacting and think! Look at him! He's...he's terrified!
I tripped over him in the dark. I, um...May have forgotten to pack batteries for my light.
SKREE!
FWOOSH!
So you're telling me I can't even skin this little twerp?
We're encroaching on his territory. He feels threatened. Just...give me a minute to find my field guide!
No time for that!

SKRREEEEEE


TIK TAK
TAK TAK
TIK
TIK

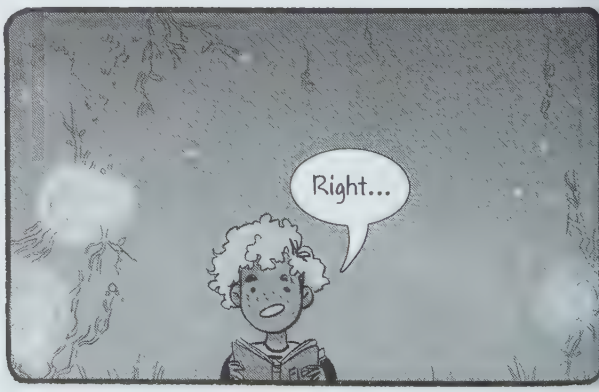
CRASH!

FIELD GUIDE
Aha!

Um...okay...mossy coat...big tusks... ah!

Kicks! The field guide says he's a mossboar!
Yeah, COOL. How about the part where it says how to stop it?!
Oh! Right! Hold on!

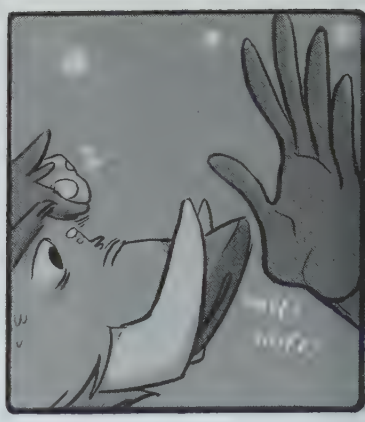
Okay, it says if you encounter an agressive mossboar in its natural habitat...
Climb the nearest tree!
FIELD GUIDE


Right...

Wait a second...of course! Mossboars don't live underground. They're forest creatures...
So how did this one...?
Oh!
Sorry, Ames, storytime's over. I'm taking care of this my way.
Rrr?
KICKS, HE'S A BABY!
I don't know how, but he must have been separated from his mother and siblings at some point...
W-what?
Though, why they were down here, I can't be certain... b-but you can't hurt him!
Hmmm...
leans
Well...how was I supposed to know it was just a baby?
That piglet can sure pack a punch.

Shh shh...It's all right!

You're all alone down here, aren't you?



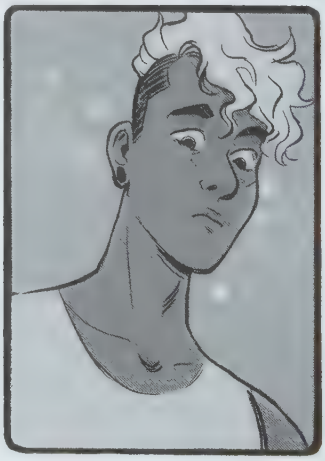
Aww!

Well...I think that's all the exploration I can stomach for one day.

Tch. Same.

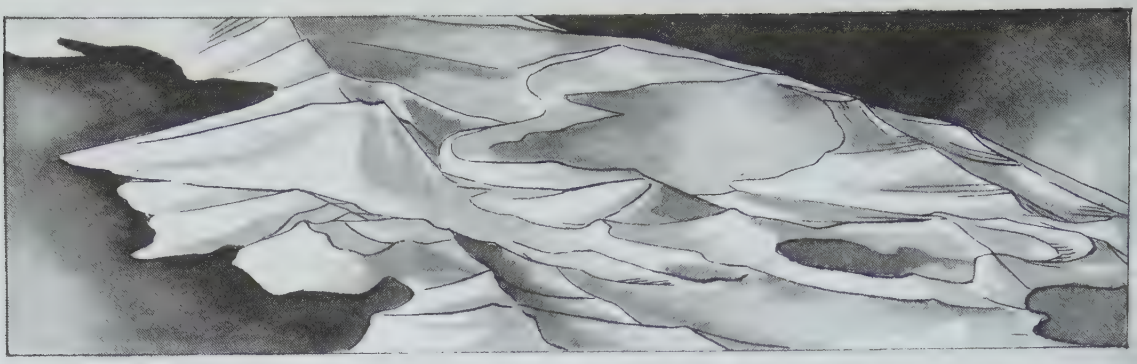
Let's get outta here, yeah? Now I gotta figure out what to do about your wounds AND this thing.

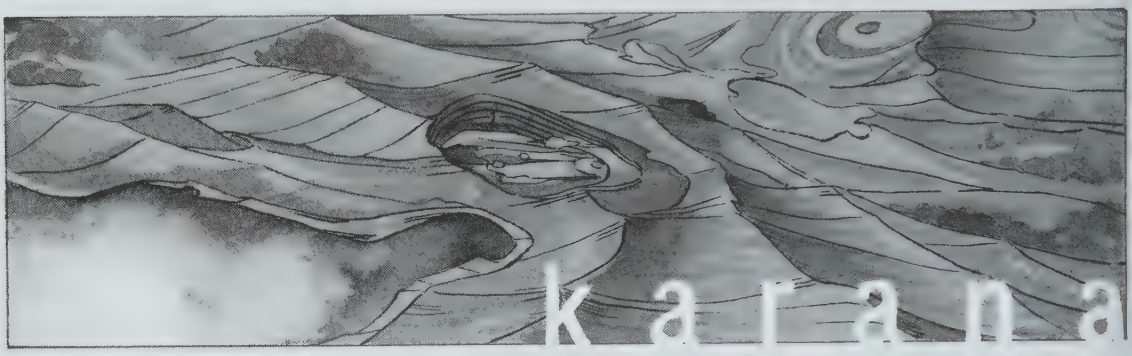
You know what we're doing with this thing.

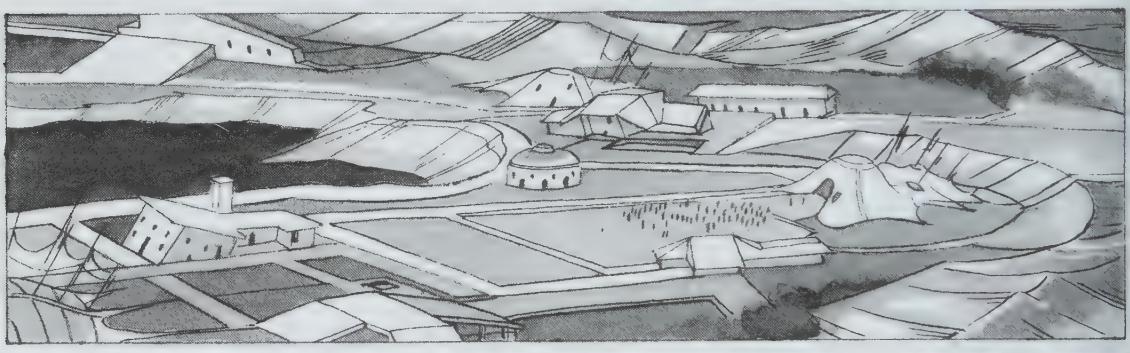


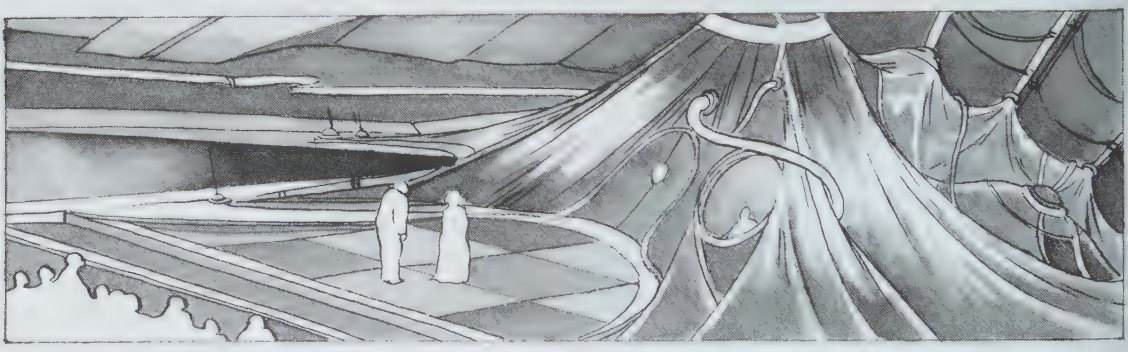
No.

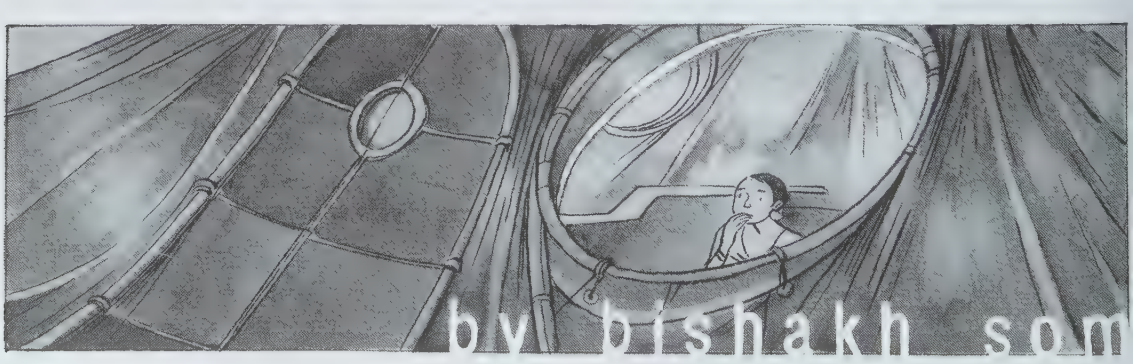
People always say things used to be different.
But honestly? I'm not sure that's true.
Granted, there's no way I can prove it but...
C'mon in!
I think back then, boys like Kicks must've smiled at boys like me.
Must've patched each other up, held hands tight when they were scared.
I can't imagine a time when that kind of love didn't exist.
How about we name him Leo?
Sounds good to me.
Hehe! Just know I'll be calling him Hot Ham Stew if he tries to eat my stuff.
Can you?
The End




karana



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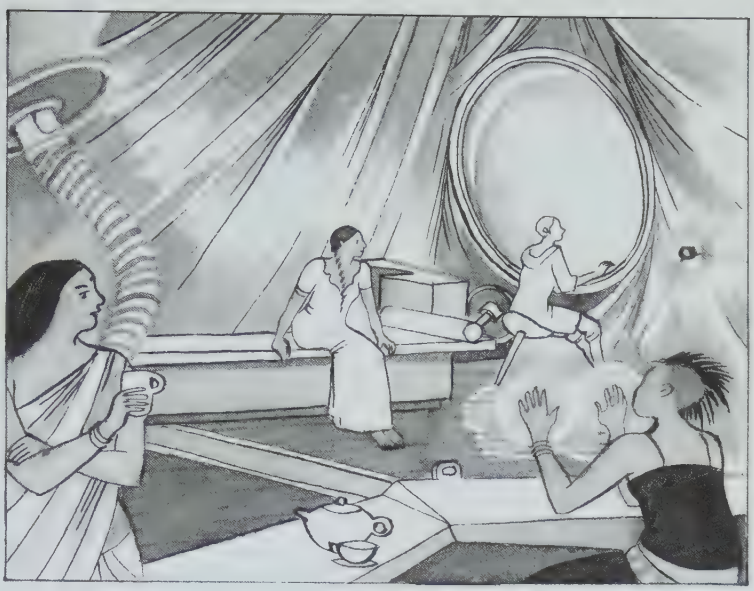
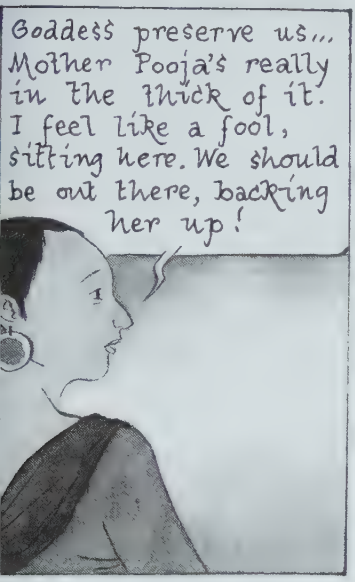
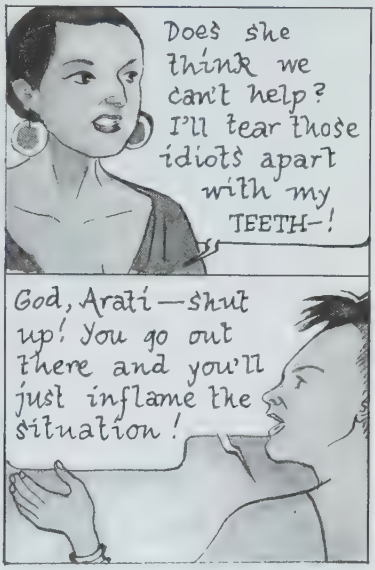



Goddess preserve us... Mother Pooja's really in the thick of it. I feel like a fool, sitting here. We should be out there, backing her up!

Rein it in, Arati. Mother would be livid if we went against her wishes.


Does she think we can't help? I'll tear those idiots apart with my TEETH–!
God, Arati—shut up! You go out there and you'll just inflame the situation!

Listen to Priya. We've only just arrived here—do you really want us to be exiled again so quickly?

Sanam, my sister... our entire condition IS exile. It doesn't matter when we get the boot. We'll be decamping again inevitably.

But we shouldn't go without a fight.

It's not our intention to control your lives, sir. But we alone have the knowledge and capability to—

Why should we have to rely on your kind? Give us your 'knowledge'— you don't have a monopoly on it!

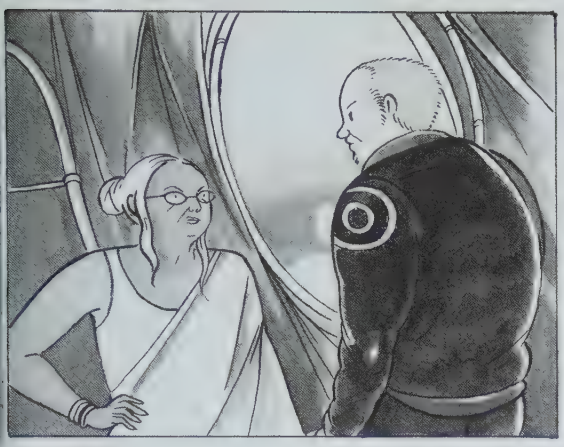
Sir, we cannot simply pass on our skills—you must know this. We alone are endowed with these abilities from birth, and only we are capable of practicing this science. It is our divine right.

So you think you can hold us hostage?

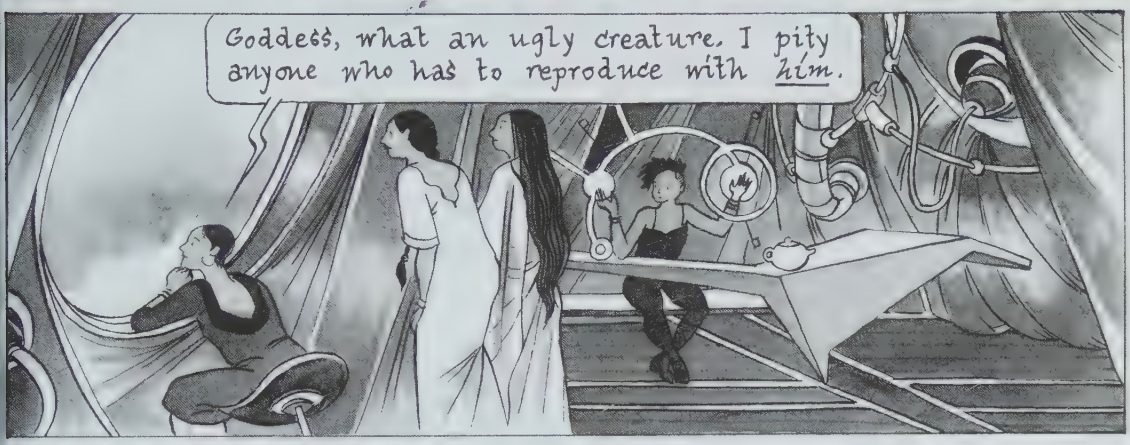
Certainly not. We rely on you for shelter and protection as much as you rely on us to ensure your people's fertility.

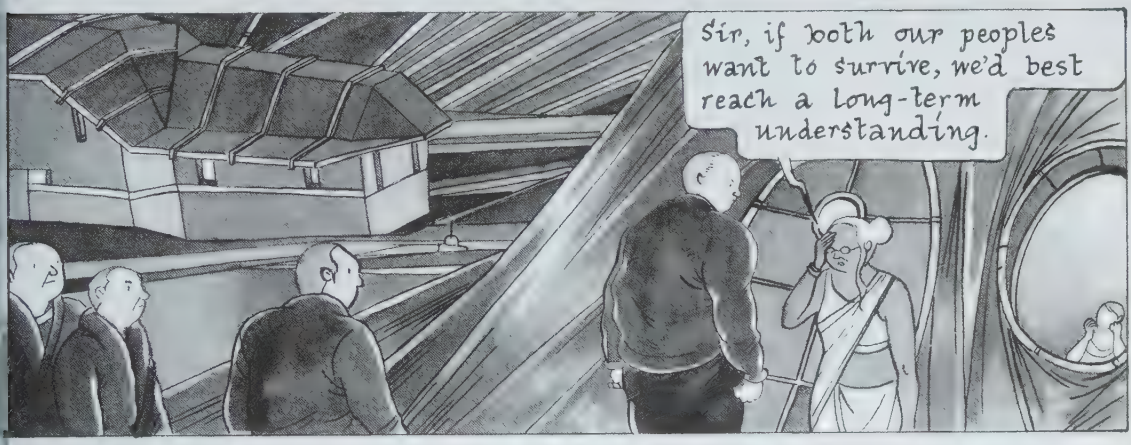
You people come and go. It's been more than a year since the last band of hijras came through—our women haven't been able to have any children since! At this rate, we'll die out!

Sir, you probably drove them away with exactly this kind of intimidation.



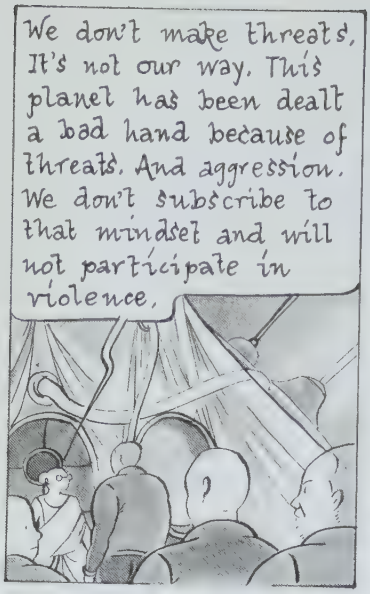
You people are a menace.

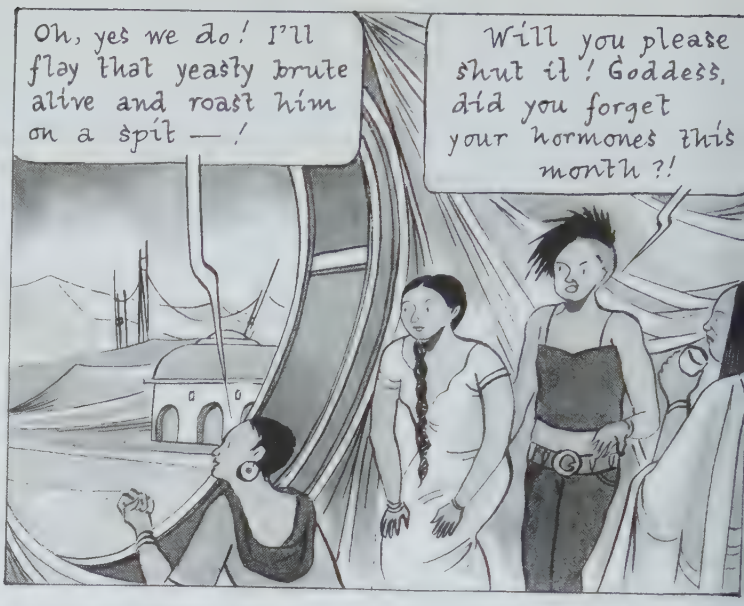

Goddess, what an ugly creature. I pity anyone who has to reproduce with him.


Sir, if both our peoples want to survive, we'd best reach a long-term understanding.

That sounds like a threat to me.

Everything sounds like a threat to your kind.

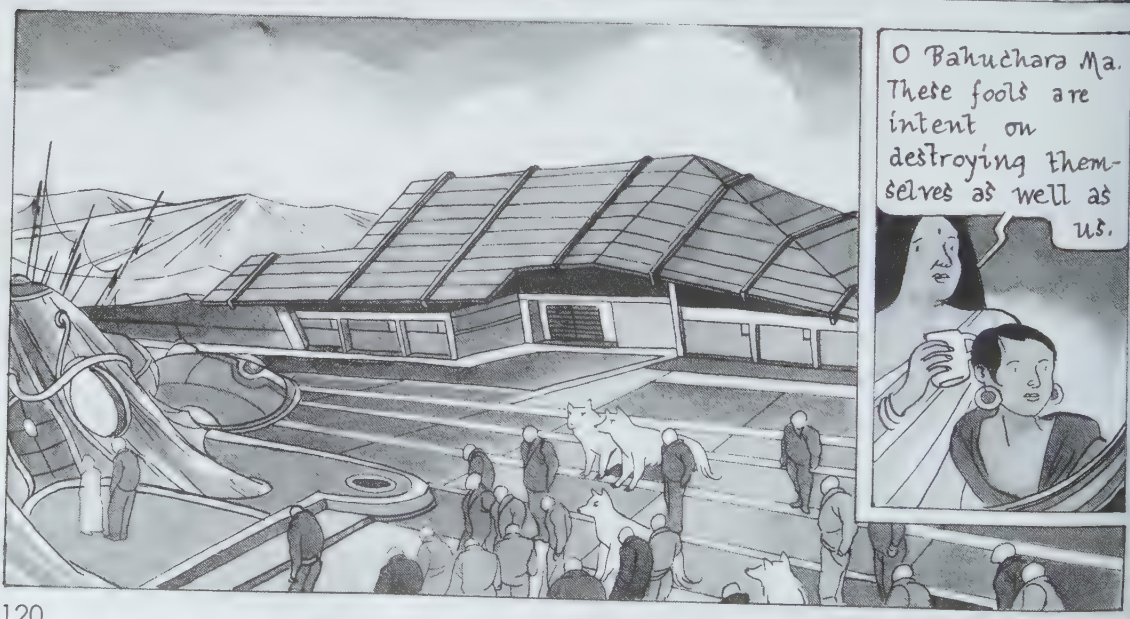

We don't make threats. It's not our way. This planet has been dealt a bad hand because of threats. And aggression. We don't subscribe to that mindset and will not participate in violence.


Oh, yes we do! I'll flay that yeasty brute alive and roast him on a spit —!
Will you please shut it! Goddess, did you forget your hormones this month?!

Your people can wallow in weakness all you like — our folk have survived because of our strength.

You won't survive long without us, you idiot.
WHAT'S THAT?!

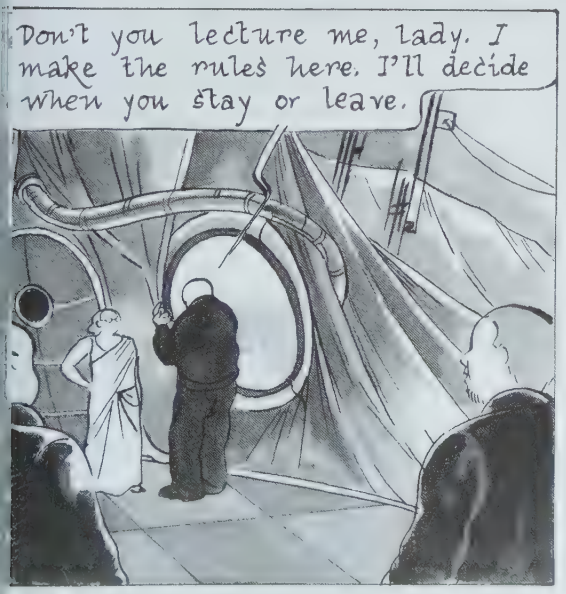
Nothing...
nothing at all.


O Bahuchara Ma. These fools are intent on destroying themselves as well as us.

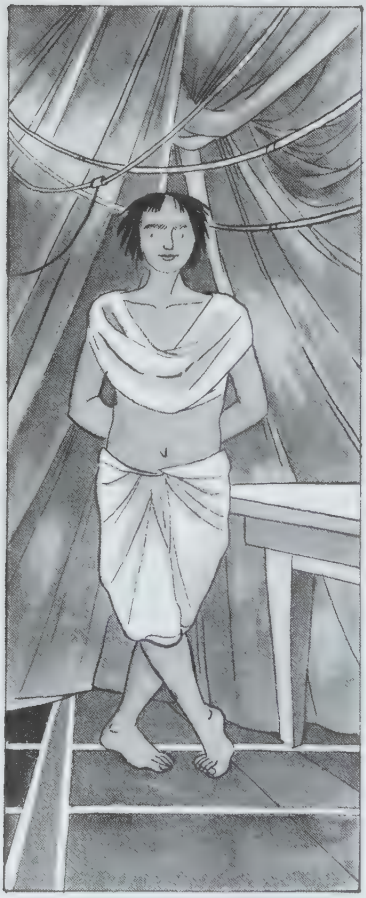
Now, look... we don't want any hostilities. We'll just pack up our things and leave.
Not until you give us what we need.

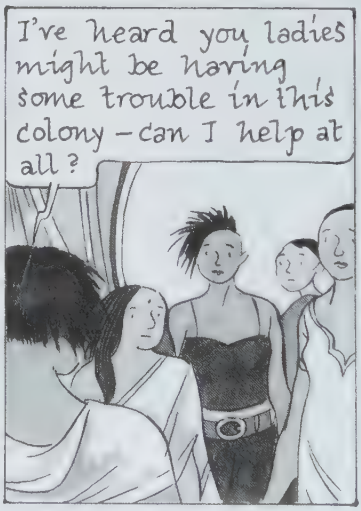
Come, let's start gathering our things-
Are you kidding me?! We have to do something-!

One of your children may turn out to be one of us. Give that a thought before you froth at the mouth.


Don't you lecture me, lady. I make the rules here. I'll decide when you stay or leave.

Ok, that does it—! I'ma break out the broomstick!
Hello?




I've heard you ladies might be having some trouble in this colony—can I help at all?

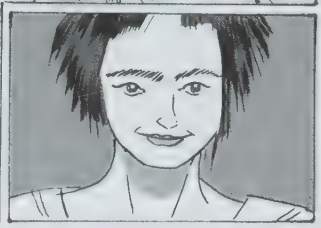
Who are you? How did you get in here?

My name's Deepa.
I, ah, came in through the back door.

There is no back door! — What, what are you —

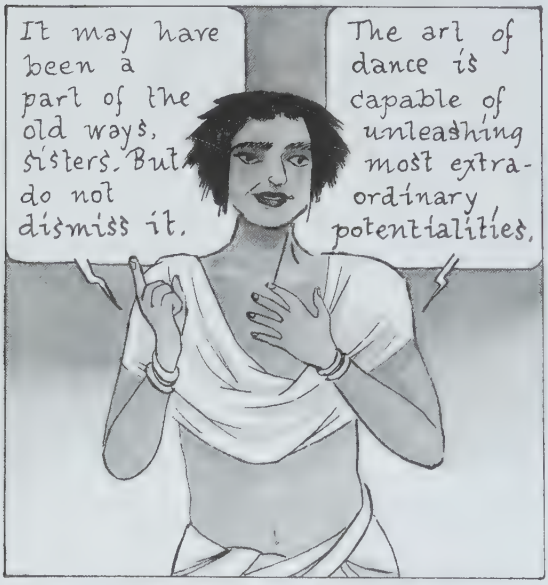
I only came to help, my sisters.

What do you think you can do against that mob?

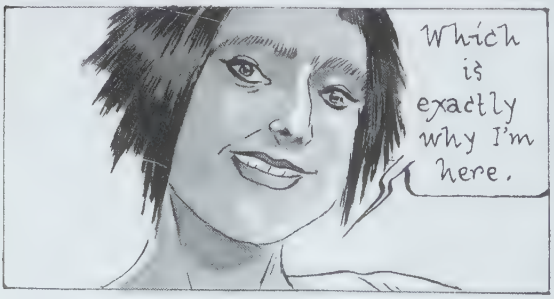


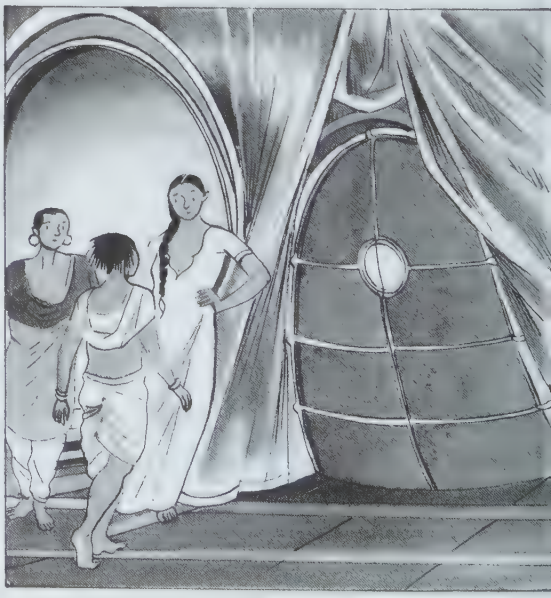
Like you, sisters, I possess the gift of enabling fertility — but also,,, I dance.

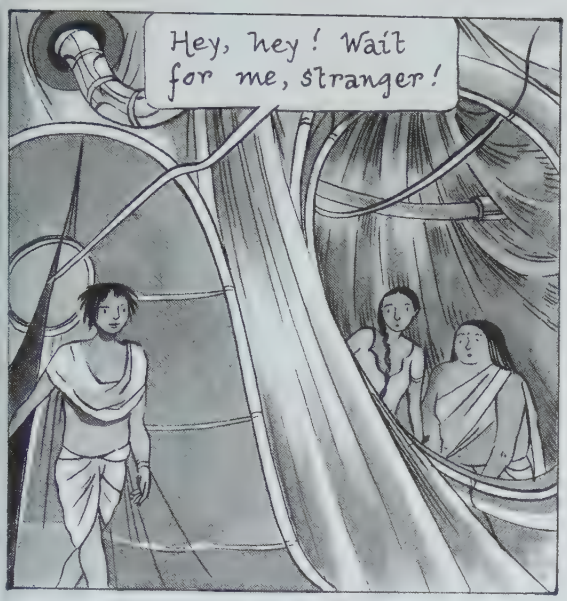
Dance ?! What are you going to do? Gyrate them into submission ?
Do you think we live in the dark ages? These people aren't hiring us to entertain them at a wedding!


It may have been a part of the old ways, sisters. But do not dismiss it.
The art of dance is capable of unleashing most extra-ordinary potentialities.

Utter rubbish! We don't have time for your sideshow— our guru ji is about to be set upon by wild beasts out there!

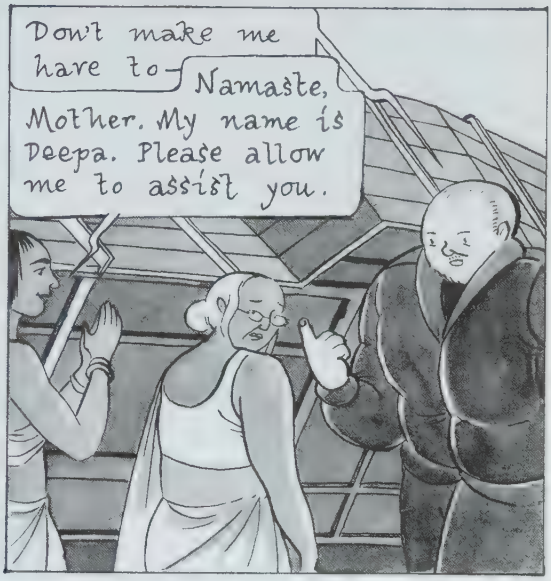

Which is exactly why I'm here.

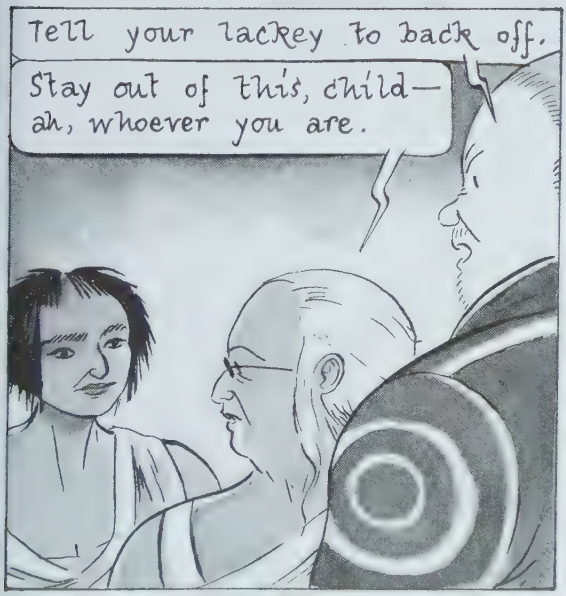


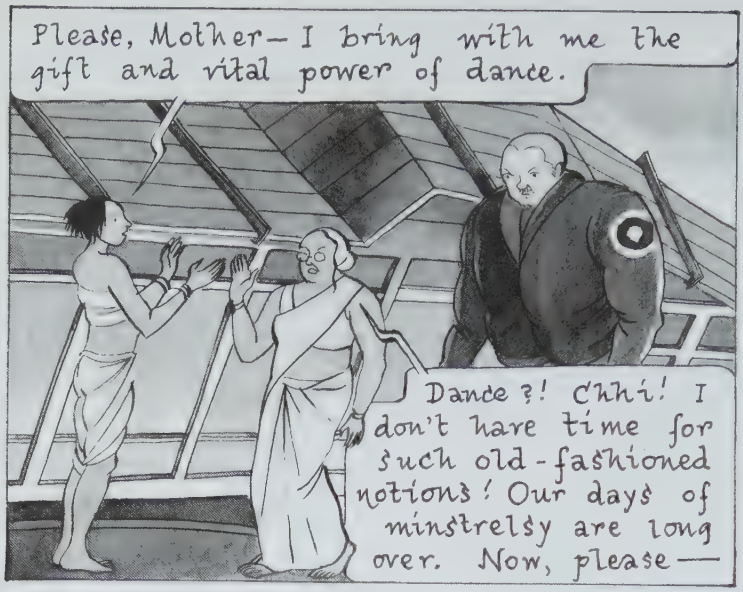

Hey, hey! Wait for me, stranger!

I can make things really REALLY hard for you people—!

Oh, Goddess... what is she doing?
Yasssss Queen! SLAY!
Will you please GROW UP ?!


Don't make me have to—
Namaste, Mother. My name is Deepa. Please allow me to assist you.

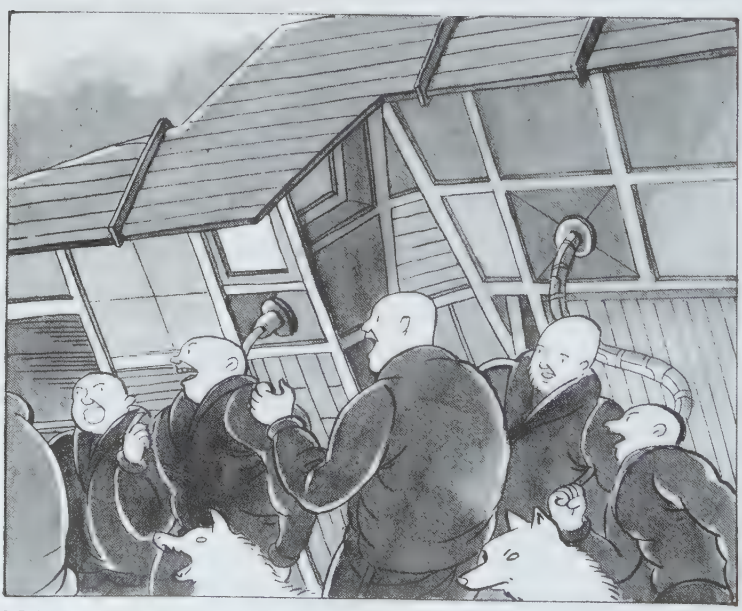

Tell your lackey to back off.
Stay out of this, child—ah, whoever you are.


Please, Mother— I bring with me the gift and vital power of dance.
Dance?! Chhi! I don't have time for such old-fashioned notions! Our days of minstrelsy are long over. Now, please—

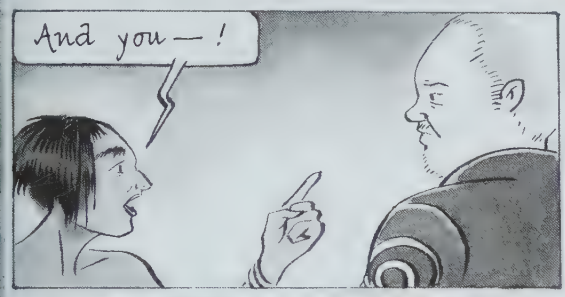
You stay right there.

Unhand her, cretin! Do not touch our guru ji!

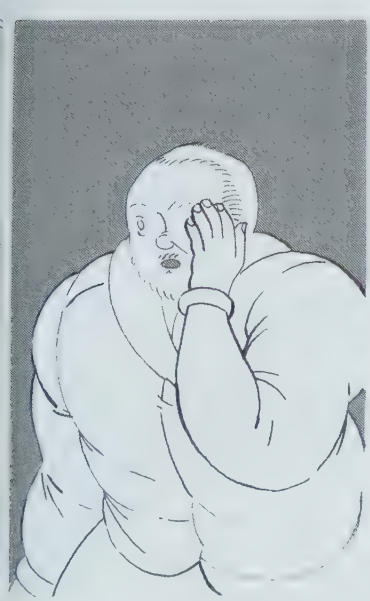
Please, beti—go now...I can h-handle this.

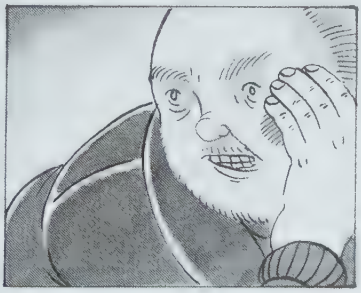


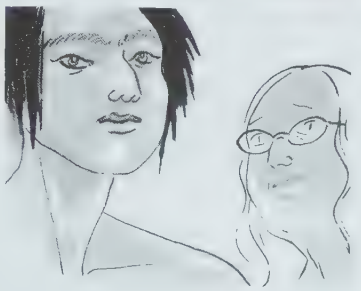
Vile and toxic creatures! See if you are able to perpetuate your own bloated kind without my sisters!

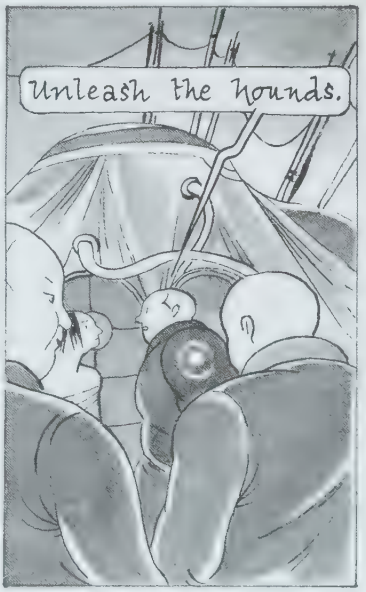

And you—!

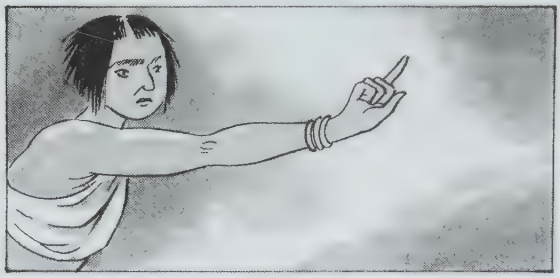
Withdraw, you WORM!

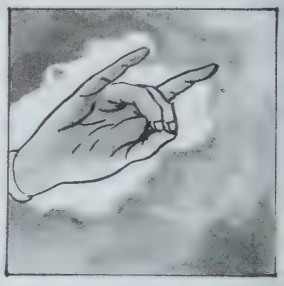


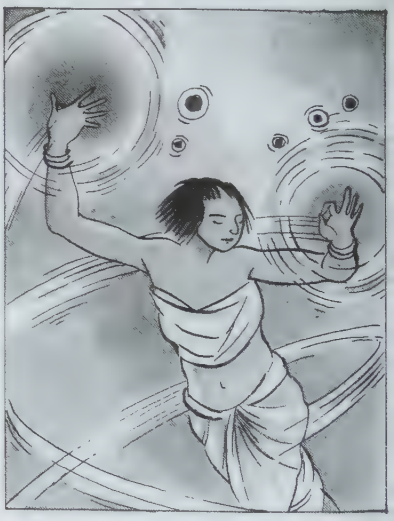


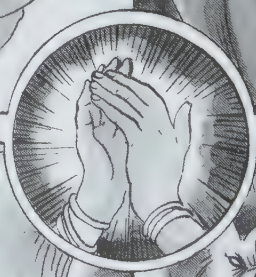


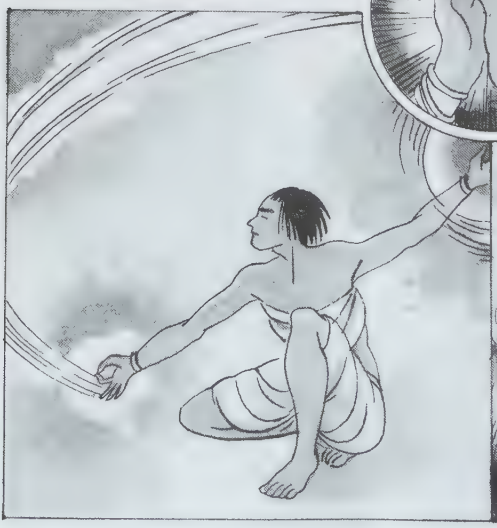

Unleash the hounds.

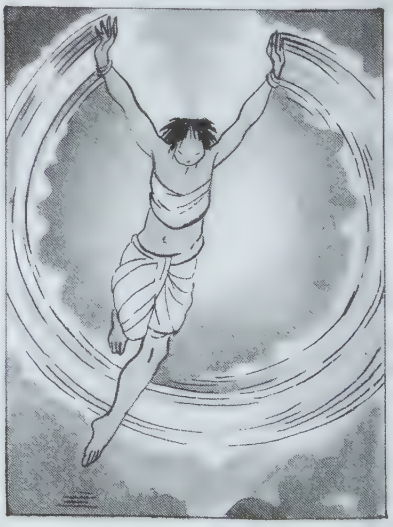


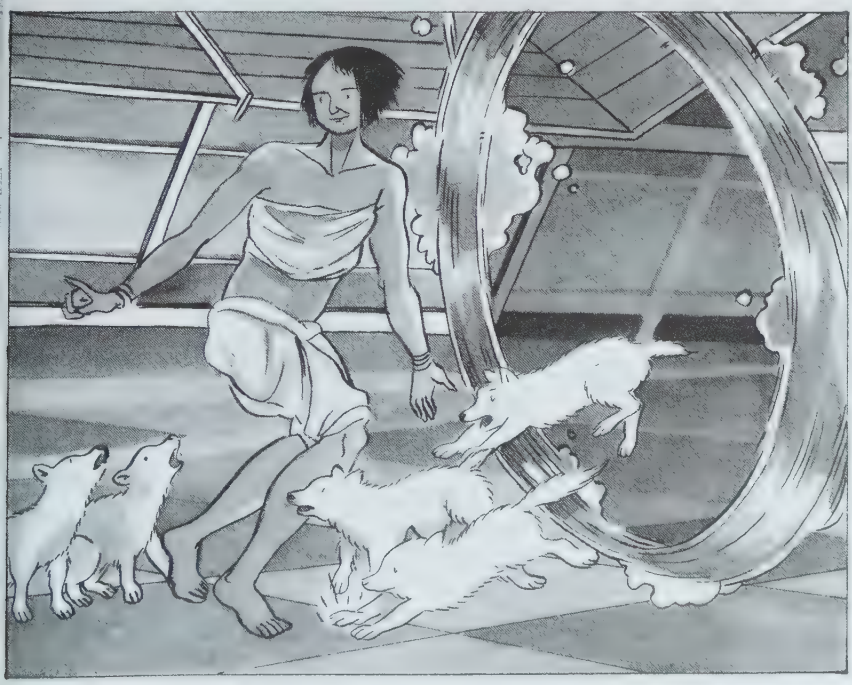


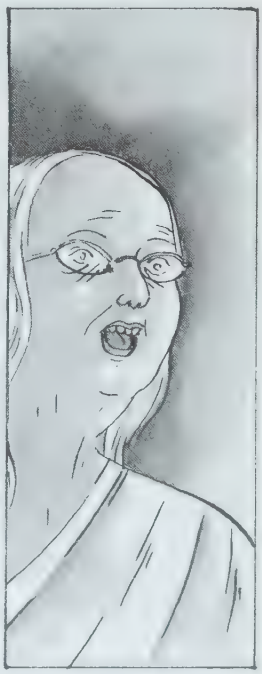


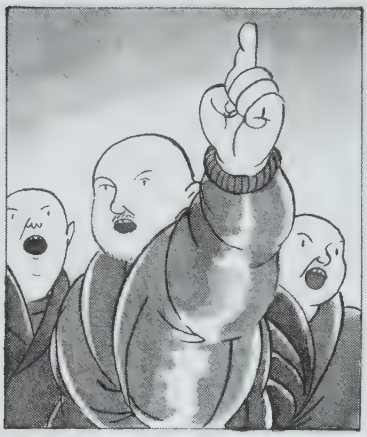


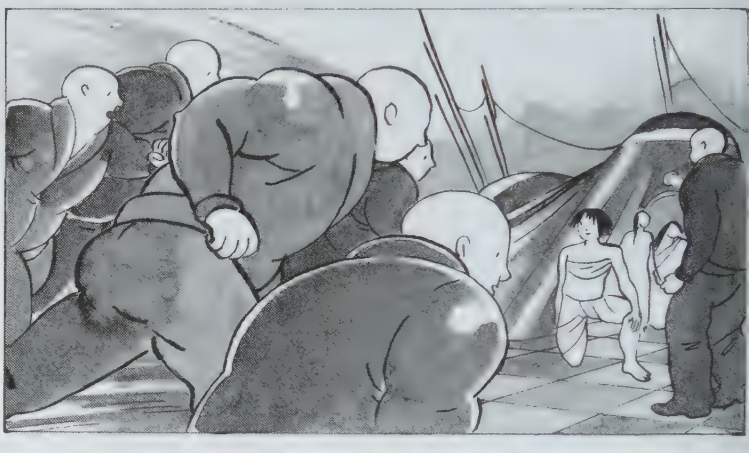




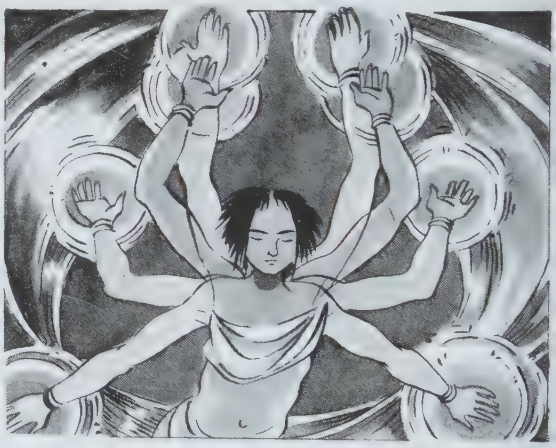


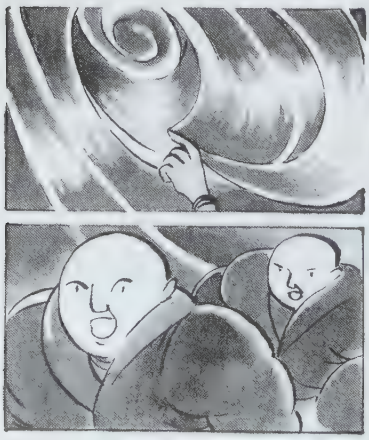


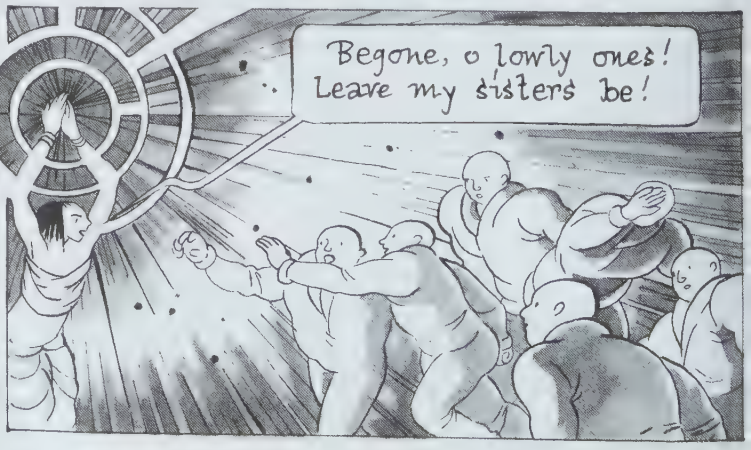




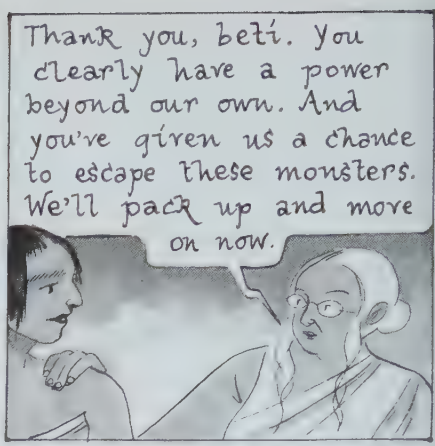
Oh, Goddess!
Come on, gals! Battle stations!



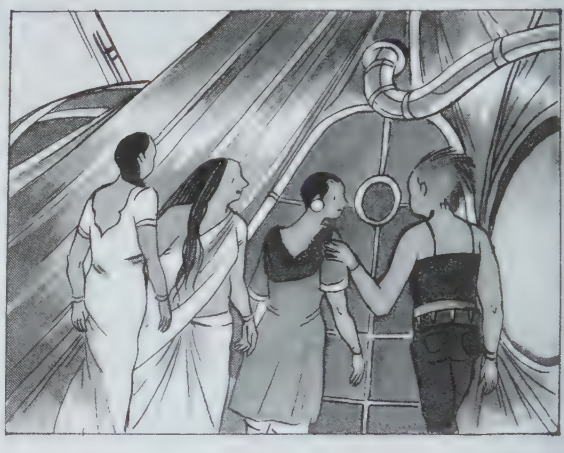



Begone, o lowly ones! Leave my sisters be!

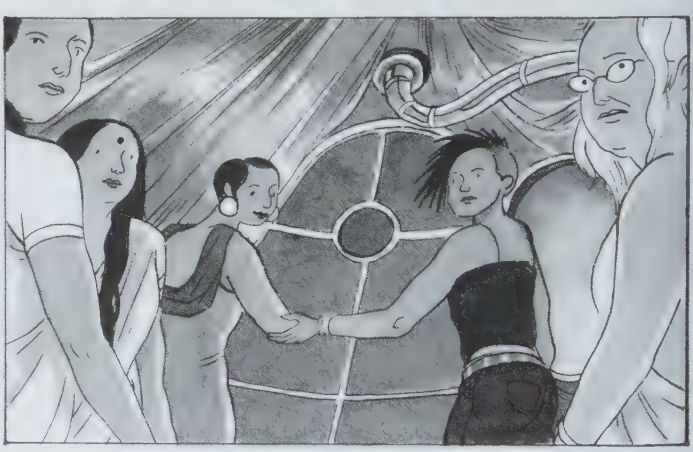
They'll be fine in a couple of hours.
Still angry and ignorant, though.
What have you done to them?

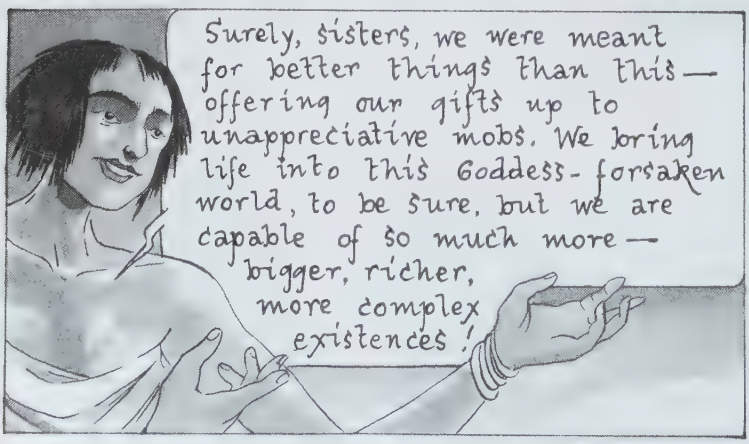

Thank you, beti. You clearly have a power beyond our own. And you've given us a chance to escape these monsters. We'll pack up and move on now.

BUT—!
C'mon, Arati— let's go.



My sisters—




Surely, sisters, we were meant for better things than this— offering our gifts up to unappreciative mobs. We bring life into this Goddess-forsaken world, to be sure, but we are capable of so much more— bigger, richer, more complex existences!

Sweet words, o stranger— but this is the only existence we know, traveling from one colony to another, bartering our skills, until the community turns on us, when we move on. What can we do? These people control these lands. How else can we live?

This small world is one of so many others waiting to be realized, o sisters.
Who's coming with me?

SUITE VICTORY
BY LEVI HASTINGS
OLYMPIC VILLAS, HUH?
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S GOT A NICE VIEW.
VISIT NEW ARGOS
THAT'S THE ONLY NICE THING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT IT.
CREAK
C'MON, GUYS. WE'RE JUST LUCKY TO BE HERE!
WE'VE GOT GAMES AND GLORY TO WIN. WHO CARES ABOUT THE ROOMS?
I GUESS THEY COULD STAND TO BE A LITTLE BIGGER.
SHOUT!
THUMP
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
BOOM!
THUD
LUCKY YOU, DARIUS! THIN WALLS AND LOUD NEIGHBORS.

CRASH!
WHOAH!
THUD
I TOLD YOU TO BACK OFF!
UGGGHHHHH...
DARIUS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
GROANNNNNN
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, MINOS.
YOU SCARED THE HADES OUT OF THESE MULES.

WHAT I DID?!
MULES!?
YOU COULD'VE KILLED HIM, YOU BIG OX!
GET OFF ME!

GODS, I'M SO SORRY.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

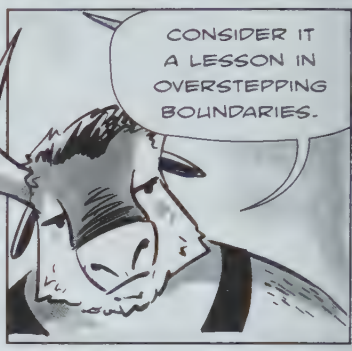
ACCIDENT!? DISASTER IS MORE LIKE IT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
THINGS GOT A LITTLE OUT OF HAND. IT HAPPENS.
MAYBE WHERE YOU BEASTS COME FROM!

ARE YOU HURT? CAN YOU STAND?
I'M FINE. JUST GET OUT OF HERE.

THAT MAY NOT BE AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS.

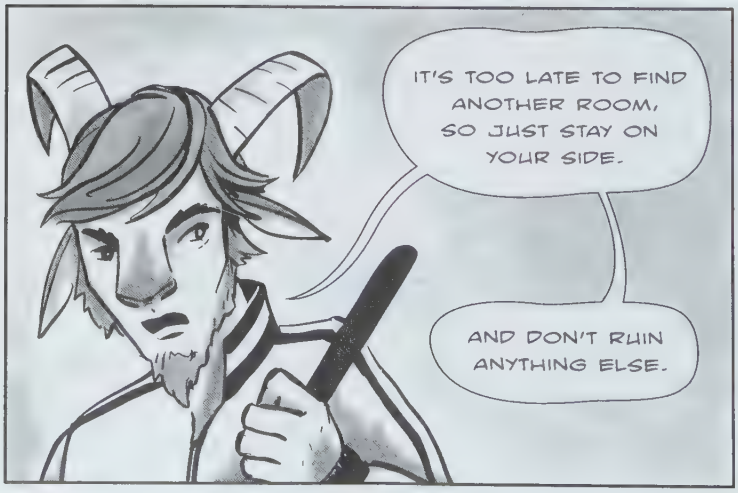
LATER
OK, MINOS. COACH SAYS WE JUST GOTTA DEAL WITH IT AND HOPE WE WIN ENOUGH SPONSORSHIPS TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.
OH, AND YOU GOTTA HELP CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
BLOOP!

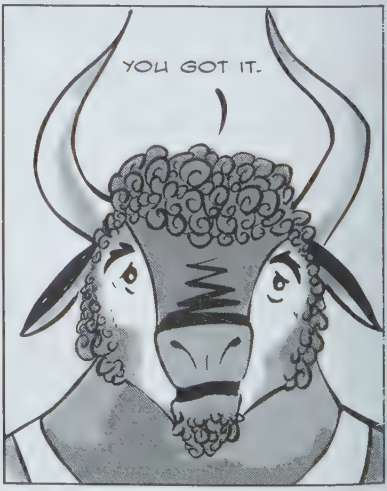
YOU STARTED THE FIGHT!
HOW IS THIS MY FAULT?


CONSIDER IT A LESSON IN OVERSTEPPING BOUNDARIES.

DARIUS, IS IT?
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE SORRY.
I JUST WANT A PLACE TO SLEEP SO I CAN COMPETE TOMORROW.
I'VE WORKED TOO HARD TO GET HERE JUST TO BE DISQUALIFIED BY A FLYING MINOTAUR BEFORE THE GAMES START.


IT'S TOO LATE TO FIND ANOTHER ROOM, SO JUST STAY ON YOUR SIDE.
AND DON'T RUIN ANYTHING ELSE.


YOU GOT IT.

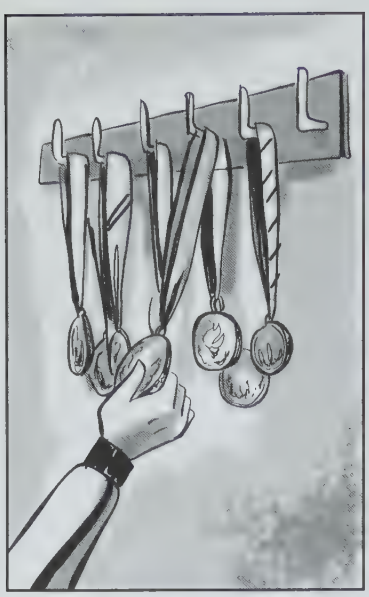
CHATTER
CHATTER
HAHAHA!
SIGH...
HEY! HOW'S YOUR HEAD, GOAT BOY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
GROAN...
I'M GONNA GET SOME SLEEP. TRY TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN.
C'MON, DARIUS, IT'S OUR FIRST NIGHT IN THE CITY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME OUT WITH US?
TOMORROW IS A BIG DAY, AND I'M GONNA SHOW THOSE MINOTAURS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.
HOPE YOUR NEW ROOMATE DOESN'T SMASH YOU IN YOUR SLEEP.

NOT MUCH OF A PARTY ANIMAL, HUH?
PLUMP
FLUFF
FLUFF
NOT MY KIND OF PARTY.
ME NEITHER. I'M JUST HERE TO COMPETE.
I THINK SOME OF THE TEAM JUST WANTS TO SEE THE CITY, HAVE SOME FUN, GO HOME WITH A GOOD STORY.
NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
BUT I'M LIKE YOU. I'M HERE TO WIN.
THAT SO?
WATCH ME AND FIND OUT.

SO, WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT?
HUH?
THE FIGHT.
WHY DID YOU GET THROWN THROUGH THE WALL?
OH...
JUST A STUPID MISUNDERSTANDING.
HMM, I ASSUMED THERE WAS A TOTALLY GOOD REASON WE'RE FORCED TO SHARE A ROOM.
NAXOS...HE THOUGHT I WAS GETTING TOO FAMILIAR WITH SOME FRIEND OF HIS.
THIS CHARIOTEER FROM PARNASSUS.
CHARIOTEERS... NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
THE WORST!
AND PARNASSUS? GIMME A BREAK.
PLUS, HE'S THE ONE WHO CAME ON TO ME.
BUT I GUESS THEY HAVE A COMPLICATED HISTORY, SO...
HERE WE ARE.
WELL, GOOD LUCK OUT THERE TOMORROW.
TRY TO AVOID CHARIOTEERS.
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.

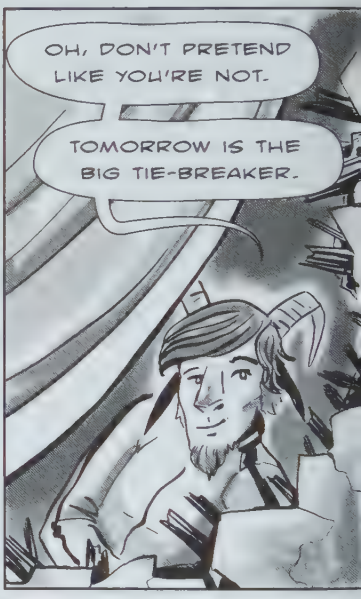
WELCOME TO THE 485TH OLYMPIC GAMES!
MAY YOU COMPETE WITH THE PRIDE OF YOUR NATIONS AND THE HONOR OF YOUR ANCESTORS!
THWACK!
CHEER!
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!
GREEEE!
GROWWWW
ERRRR!
SLAM!
OOOF!
NICE JOB OUT THERE TODAY. YOUR FIRST WIN IS A BIG DEAL.
THANKS. I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK TOMORROW.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GO UP AGAINST ANY MORE CENTAURS.

THIS IS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL PREDICTED WINS FOR TEAM MINOTAUR.
5 6 7 8
WE'RE HERE WITH WINNER OF THE LONG JUMP, DARIUS OF TEAM SATYR.



LOOK WHO CAUGHT UP.

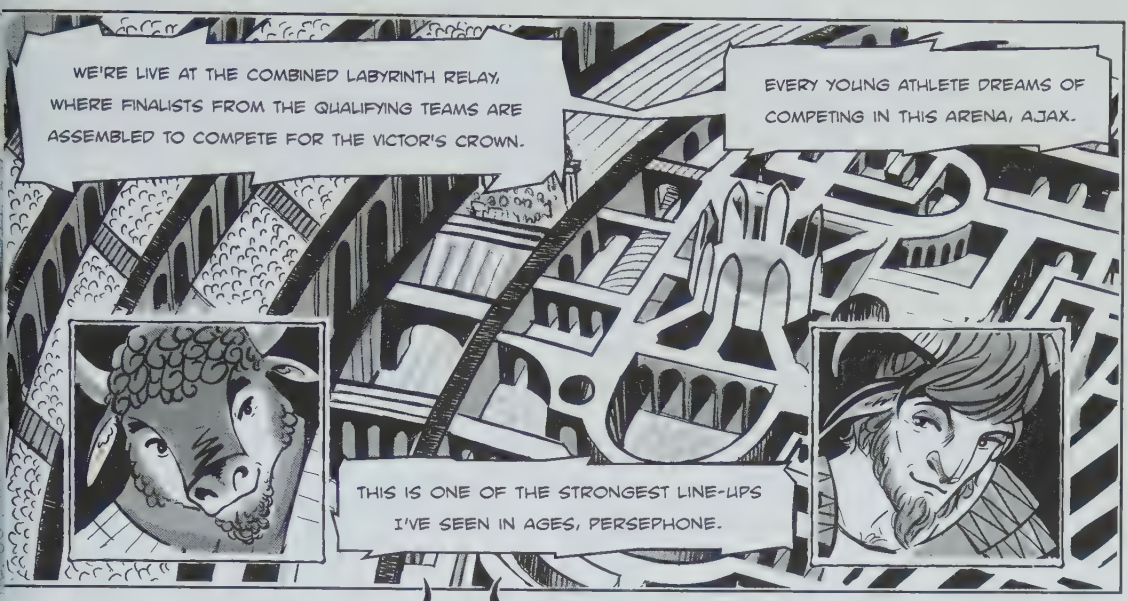
LOOK WHO'S KEEPING SCORE.


OH, DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE NOT.
TOMORROW IS THE BIG TIE-BREAKER.

SO IT IS.
THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THIS COMBINED RELAY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I WAS MADE FOR THIS.
YOU GUYS MAY BE STRONGER, BUT WE'RE MORE AGILE.

GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?


WE'RE LIVE AT THE COMBINED LABYRINTH RELAY, WHERE FINALISTS FROM THE QUALIFYING TEAMS ARE ASSEMBLED TO COMPETE FOR THE VICTOR'S CROWN.
EVERY YOUNG ATHLETE DREAMS OF COMPETING IN THIS ARENA, AJAX.
THIS IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST LINE-UPS I'VE SEEN IN AGES, PERSEPHONE.

BONNGGG
AND THEY'RE OFF!

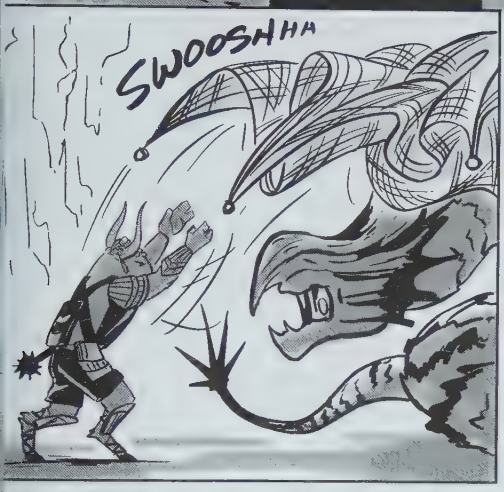
NICE FOOTWORK BY DARIUS GETTING AROUND THOSE FLAME VENTS.
FLOOM!

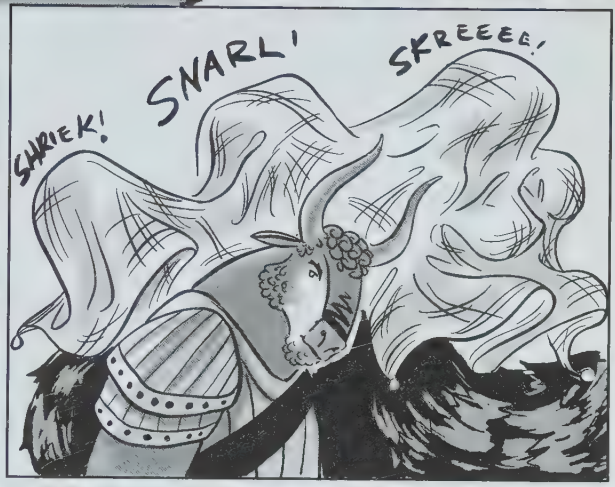
MINOS IS NOT LETTING THAT CHIMERA SLOW HIM DOWN!
THUNK!

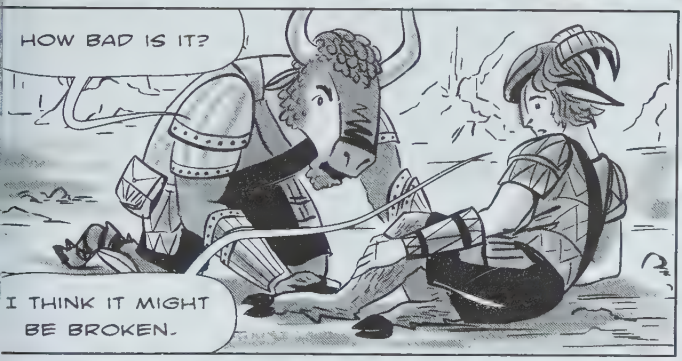
THWACK!
ODOF!
ARGGGGH
SNAP!
ARRGGGHHH!
SNARRRRLLLL
SCREECH!
SCRAW!
BOOOOOM!

HISSSSSSS

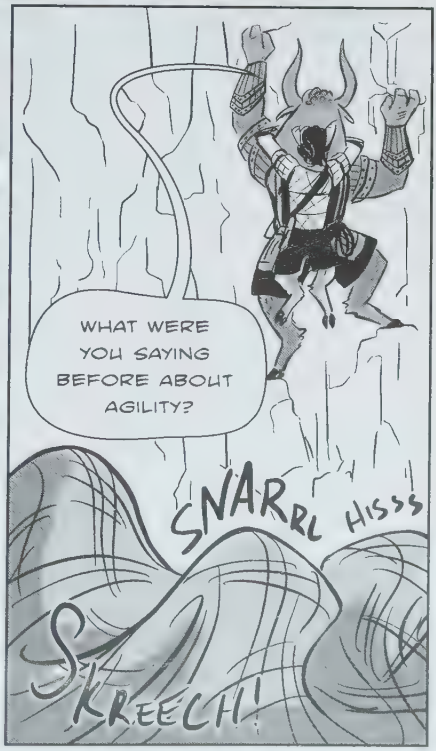
ROARRRR!


SWOOSHHA


SHRIEK!
SNARL!
SKREEEE!


HOW BAD IS IT?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE BROKEN.

HOLD ON TIGHT WHILE I GET US OUT OF HERE.
YEOWWW!


WHAT WERE YOU SAYING BEFORE ABOUT AGILITY?
SNARRL HISSS
SKREECH!

WELL, THAT WAS HUMILIATING.
WHICH PART? FALLING IN A PIT OR GETTING RESCUED?

THE RESCUE PART WASN'T SO BAD.

BUT WE LOST THE RELAY. AND IT'S MY FAULT.

AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO WOULD'VE BROKEN THE TIE.

WHAT IF I BREAK THE TIE RIGHT NOW?
HOW SO?

SMOOCH!

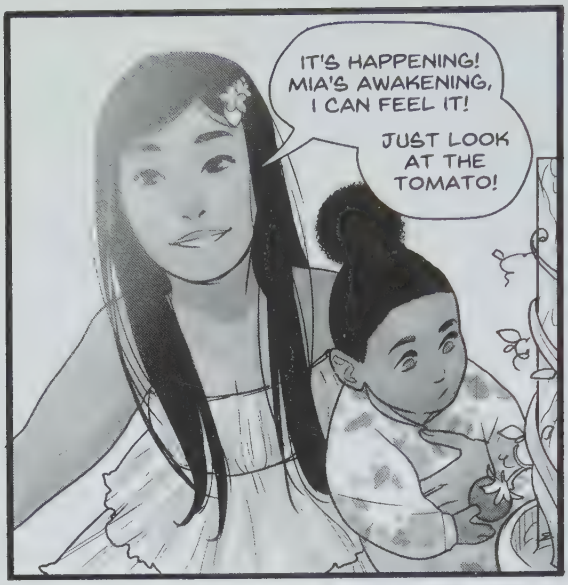
FLOOMF!

MAYBE IT'S TIME WE GET RID OF THIS STUPID THING.

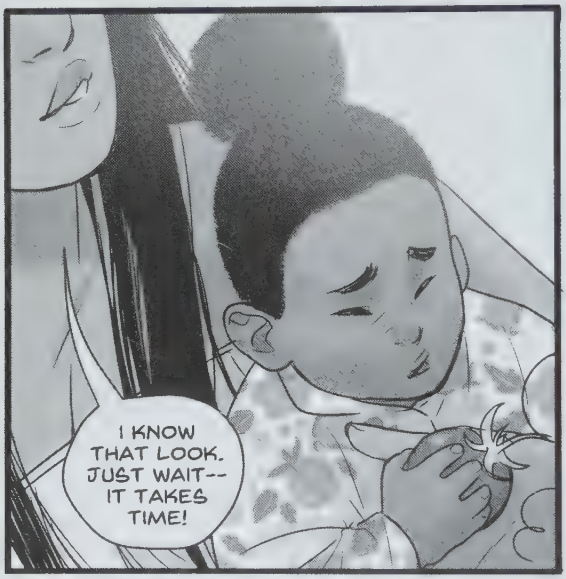
GROWTH

ILLUSTRATED BY
NICHOLE AND KELLY MATTHEWS
WRITTEN BY
JAYLEE WARREN

CLICK CLACK
CLICK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLICK
DO-DEE-
DO-DEE-
DO


IT'S HAPPENING! MIA'S AWAKENING, I CAN FEEL IT!
JUST LOOK AT THE TOMATO!

NOW IT'S A TOMATO? LAST WEEK IT WAS A PEA POD, DEAR.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, SHE'S A SUMMONER I FELT IT WHEN I FIRST HELD HER.

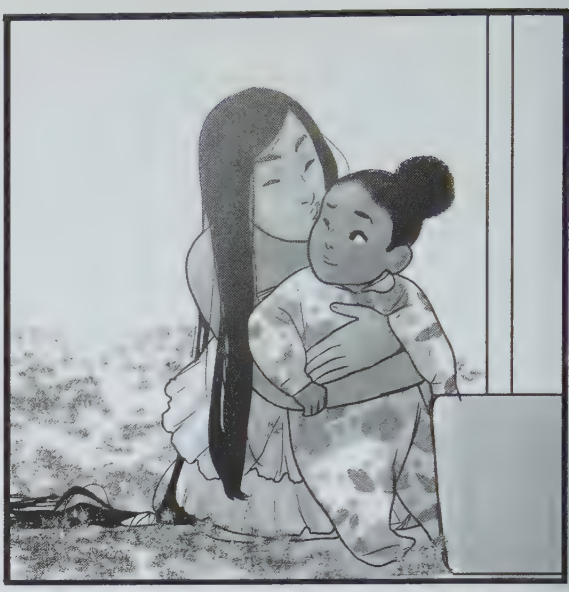
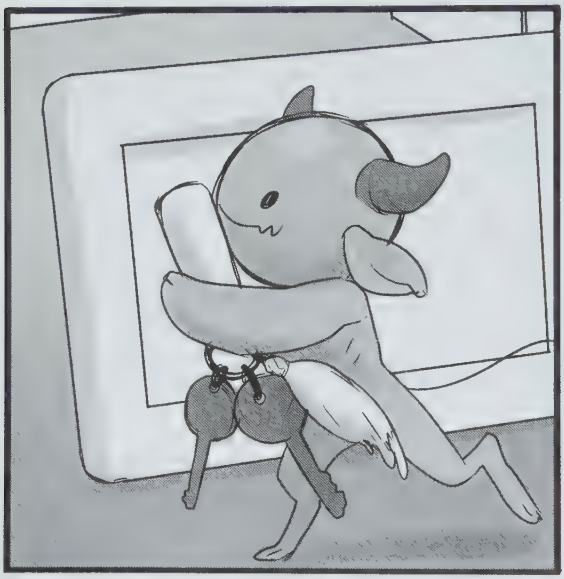

I KNOW THAT LOOK. JUST WAIT-- IT TAKES TIME!

I KNOW THAT LOOK, TOO.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE HER DIAPER.

SHE SHOULD START CASTING ANY DAY NOW, GINA. MAYBE I GOT AHEAD OF MYSELF, BUT...

KERI! LOOK!

GASP!
SIGH

CÚCHULAINN

BY SARAH STERN

HSSSS
BODACH! BODACH OUTSIDE!
OPEN THE GATE, IT'S AFTER RHONA!
*#@%#!!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THERE'S A BODACH AFTER RHONA!
GET CÚCHULAINN!
IT'S JUST ONE.

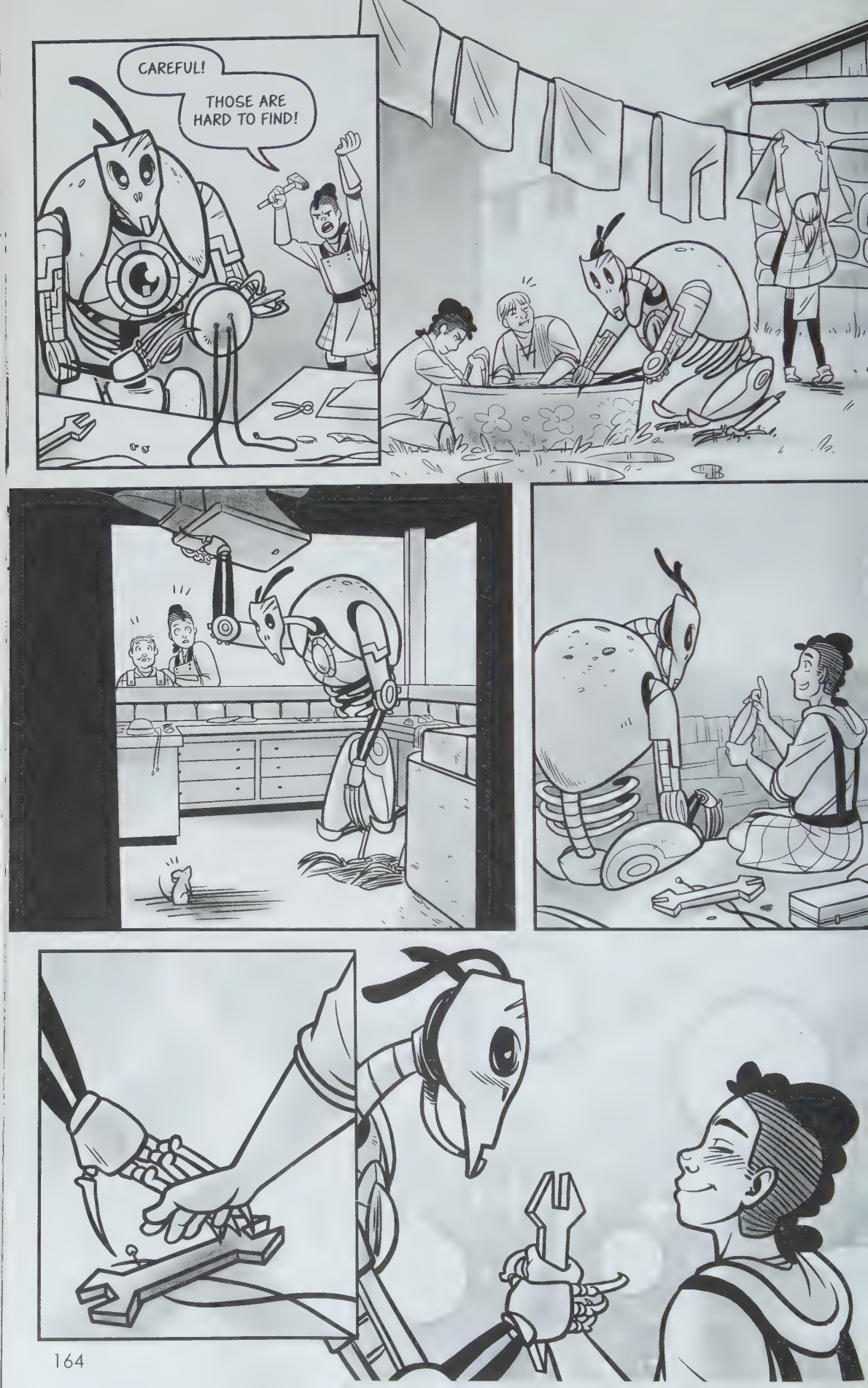
THERE'S FIVE MORE OUT ON THE MOOR.
SCOUTS MISSED EM.
POP!
SKREEEEEEEE
WAIT!
SKREEEEEEE

DID IT WORK, LAD?
I DON'T KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD TEST--
DID WHAT WORK?
YE FOOL OF A BOY--!
WHAT'S WRONG?
EVERYONE SEEMS UPSET.
WHAAAT

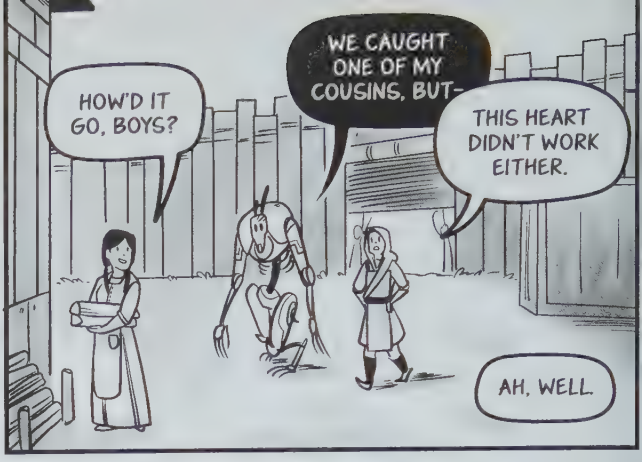
IT'S TALKING! WHY IS IT TALKING!
I DON'T KNOW!
HELLO, BEASTIE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I DON'T KNOW.
I FORBADE YOU TO PLAY WITH BODACH PARTS
IT WORKED, DIDN'T IT?
QUESTION YOUR HAG, DO YE?!
I HAD A SWEET WEE DOG NAMED BORWICK, ONCE.
THAT'S... VERY NICE?
HAG!
WHAT?
HIS NAME'S BORWICK.
WHAT?
SHE'S ALREADY NAMED IT.
YOUR FOOL APPRENTICE DID THIS, AND YE'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
KEEP IT IN YOUR FORGE, WATCH IT. I'LL BE PUTTIN' CÚCHULAINN OUTSIDE.
WHAT?

SEE HIM?
THAT'S CÚCHULAINN. STEP OUT OF LINE AND HE'LL TEAR YOU APART.
WHY IS HE CALLED CÚCHULAINN?
BECAUSE HE'S A GREAT IRISH DOBBER WHO'S SET TO KILL US ALL ONE DAY.
WHY?
DO NOT DO THAT.
WHY IS HE SET TO KILL YOU?
YOU ALL ARE. THE HEART GOES BAD, YOU DIE AND COME BACK AS A GREAT RED SCREAMING BODACH.
HARDLY ANY TAME ONES LEFT. NONE THAT TALK.
AUXILIARY SOLAR POWER.
WHAT'S A SILLARY SOLAR POWER?
...I DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE A GREAT HELP, AREN'T YOU!

WHY DO YOU LIVE SO CLOSE TO CÚCHULAINN?
HE PROTECTS US FROM THE BODACHS, AND FROM RAIDERS
CONLAOCH IS SAFER THAN MOST, WITH HIM HERE.
AND WHEN HIS HEART GIVES OUT?
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT.
JESTIN, STOP FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE DEMON AND HELP ME WITH SUPPER!
I'M NOT!


CAREFUL!
THOSE ARE HARD TO FIND!

NOT QUITE RIGHT, IS IT.
EXPECT I'LL BE HAVING A HARD CONVERSATION ABOUT GEARS AND OIL SOON.
WHAT DOES IT REMEMBER FROM BEFORE?
NOTHING. IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH, THOUGH.
THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE MAD BEASTS.
YE WANT TO SAVE THEM NOW, RHONA?
HE DOES.
...REMEMBER WHAT YE SAID TO ME WHEN YE STOPPED MAKING WEAPONS?
"SOD OFF, YE HOWLIN' BAWKETTLE?"
"IT'S NOT THE STEEL I HATE, IT'S THE FOOL MALICE BEHIND IT."
THE BODACH ARE FINE STEEL, BETTER AT ENDING LIFE THAN ANY BLADE YOU'VE FORGED.
OH, AYE, THEY GOT THE MINDS OF MEN. WE BRING THEM BACK. HOW MANY ARE GOOD MEN?
YOU WANT TO BRING MORE WEAPONS INTO THE WORLD, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.


HOW'D IT GO, BOYS?
WE CAUGHT ONE OF MY COUSINS, BUT-
THIS HEART DIDN'T WORK EITHER.
AH, WELL.

AWOOOOOOOOO

WHAT'S CÚCHULAINN UP TO?
THOSE ROASTERS OUT FROM PORT AUGUSTUS ARE ATTACKIN' AGAIN.
OUR BOY'S SHOWING THEM A GOOD TIME.

WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

OF COURSE, HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

NO.
AHH AHH!
CRACK
AHH
AAAAHHHHHH
PLEASE
NOOOO
AAAHHHH
AHHHHHH
WHY IS HE BREAKING THE WALL?!
HIS HEART FAILED, DIDN'T IT.
AYE.

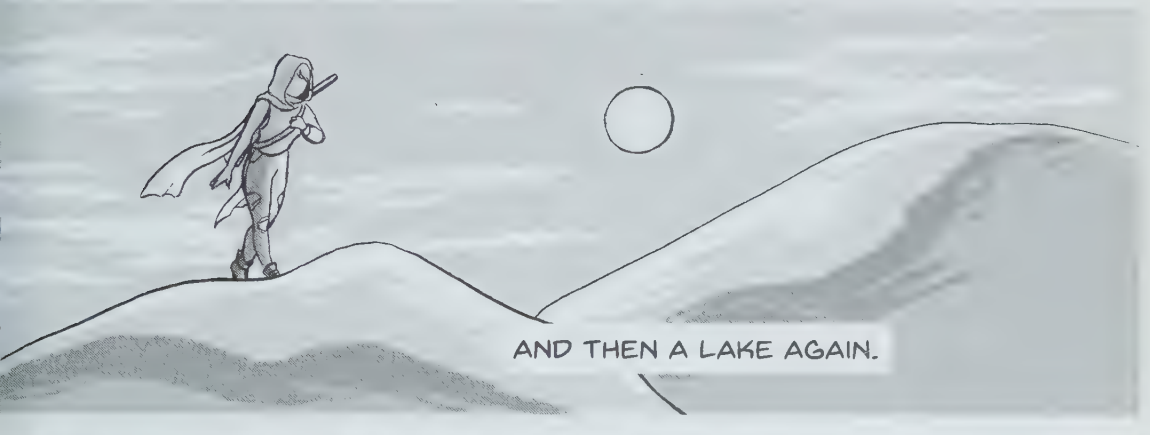
THE HAG WILL DESTROY HIM, WON'T SHE?
SHE'LL TRY, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF SHE CAN.
I'M SORRY, LADS.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT I CAN'T GET THE HEARTS TO WORK-
I'VE BEEN BREAKING THEM REPLACING WIRE CRACKING CRYSTA
HOW-WHY!?
THIS IS ALL I HAVE! THERE'S NO TIME TO MAKE A NEW HEART!
NO, WE HAVE A ANOTHER.
RIGHT HERE.
NO!
YOU TOOK OUT MY SOLAR PANELS, I'LL JUST POWER DOWN.
I CAN'T-!
YOU CAN.
IT'S NOT MINE. IT'S YOURS.
AWW.

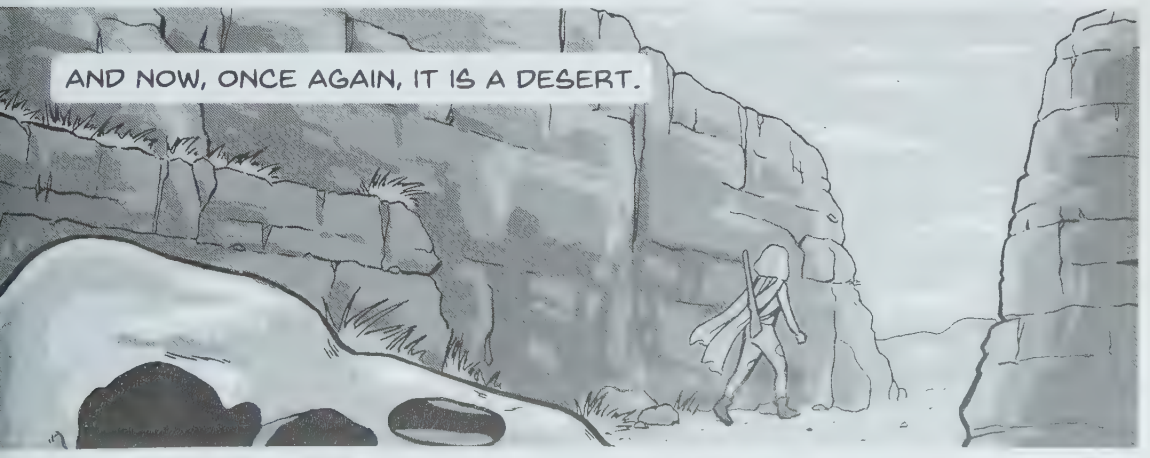
I'M SORRY, JESTIN. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
I THINK I MIGHT, NOW.
BE CAREFUL WITH IT.
WAIT!
THERE'S NO TIME. HE'LL TURN ON US NEXT!
DON'T YOU DARE!
YOU LOVE THIS HOUND!
YOU HAVE SINCE WE FOUND HIM!
WE CAN SAVE THESE DEMONS, WE CAN KEEP THEM.
WE'VE JUST GOT TO GIVE THEM GOOD HEARTS.
WE NEED TO USE THE POWER OF LOVE!
OK.
LET'S REACH OUT WITH THE WARM HAND O' FRIENDSHIP-
ALL RIGHT.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
A WHILE YET. IT'S A GOOD HEART.
YE'LL RETURN SOON?
AS SOON AS I FIND MORE PARTS.
I NEED SOMETHING BIG ENOUGH TO GET CÚCHULAINN BACK ON HIS FEET, AND A FEW MORE TESTS BESIDES.
AND WE PROMISE NOT TO SABOTAGE ANY MORE OF YOUR VITAL AND LIFE-SAVIN' WORK.
YEAH THANKS.
TAKE CARE OF HIM WHILE I'M GONE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO.

FOUND

Cat Parra





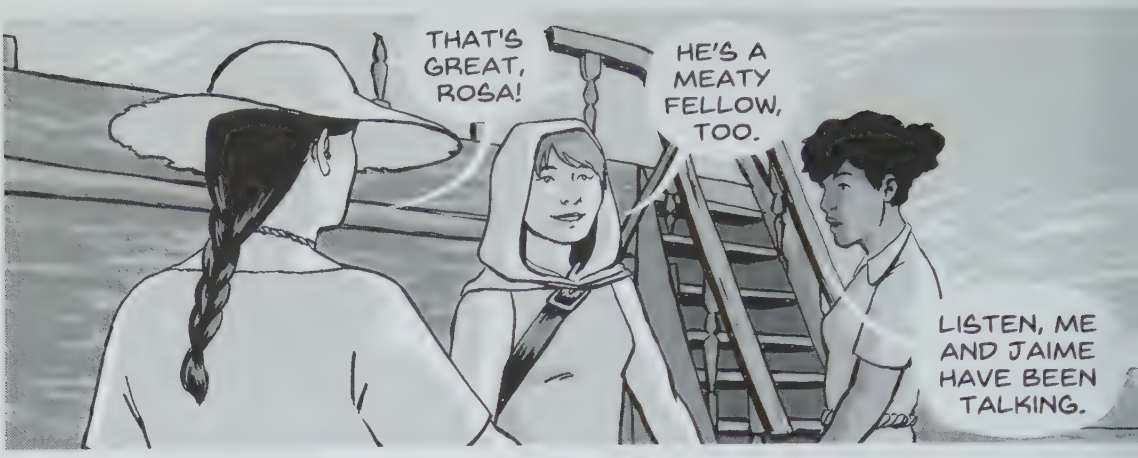
THAT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW.

PLACES THAT USED TO BE NICE AREN'T SO NICE ANYMORE.

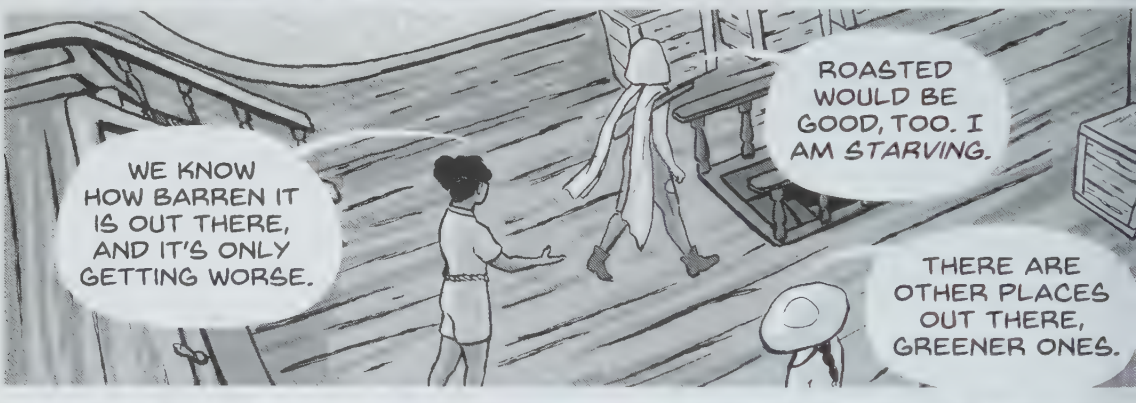
BUT I LIKE THIS PLACE ANYWAY.

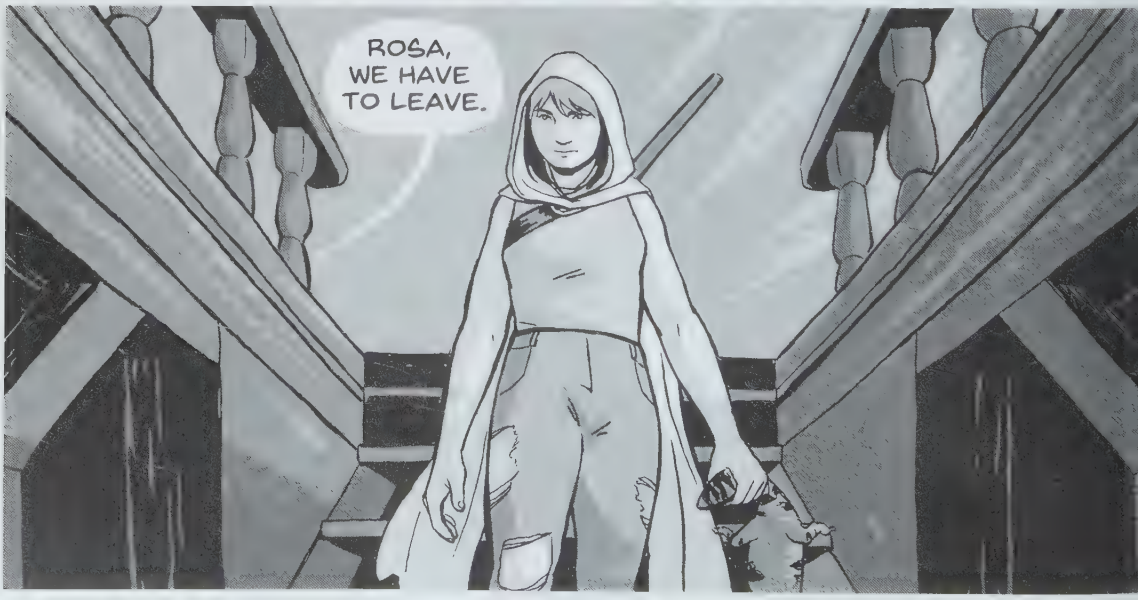
I CAN STAY ALIVE HERE.

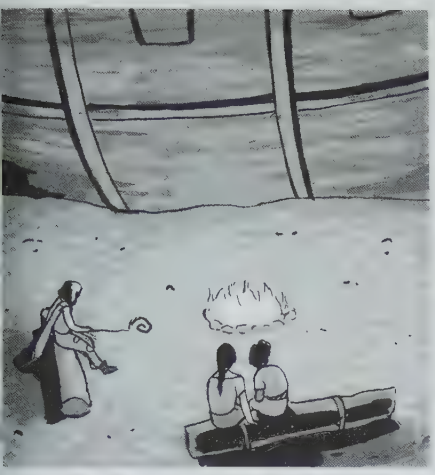
WHEN I FOUND THIS PLACE, I WAS ALONE,
BUT THEN THEY FOUND ME.
CAUGHT US SOME DINNER!


THAT'S GREAT, ROSA!
HE'S A MEATY FELLOW, TOO.
LISTEN, ME AND JAIME HAVE BEEN TALKING.

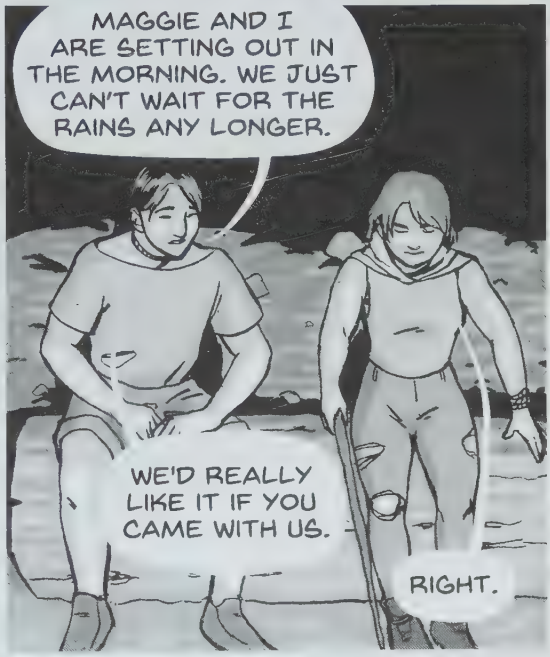
SMOKE IT OR ROAST IT, DO YOU THINK?
YOU WERE OUT THERE A LONG TIME.
I'M THINKING SMOKE.


ROASTED WOULD BE GOOD, TOO. I AM *STARVING*.
WE KNOW HOW BARREN IT IS OUT THERE, AND IT'S ONLY GETTING WORSE.
THERE ARE OTHER PLACES OUT THERE, GREENER ONES.

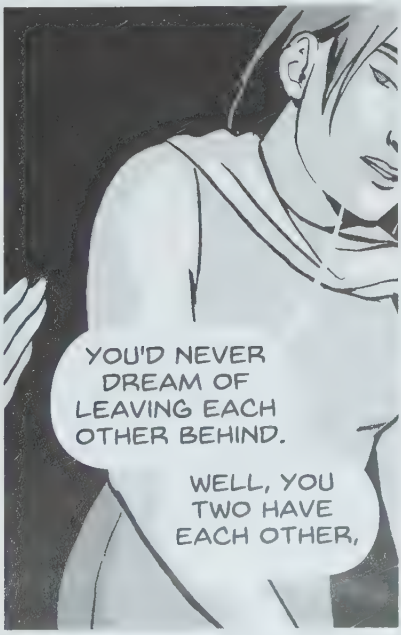

ROSA, WE HAVE TO LEAVE.



HEY, SO.


MAGGIE AND I ARE SETTING OUT IN THE MORNING. WE JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR THE RAINS ANY LONGER.
WE'D REALLY LIKE IT IF YOU CAME WITH US.
RIGHT.

I MEAN IT. YOU'RE OUR FRIEND.

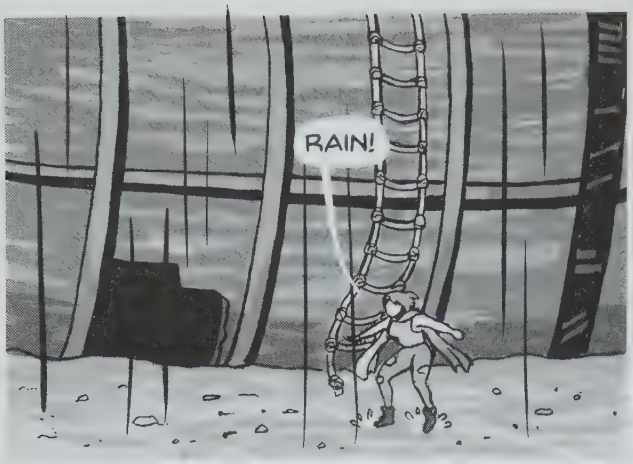

YOU'D NEVER DREAM OF LEAVING EACH OTHER BEHIND.
WELL, YOU TWO HAVE EACH OTHER,

AND I HAVE THIS PLACE.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE, BE MY GUEST.

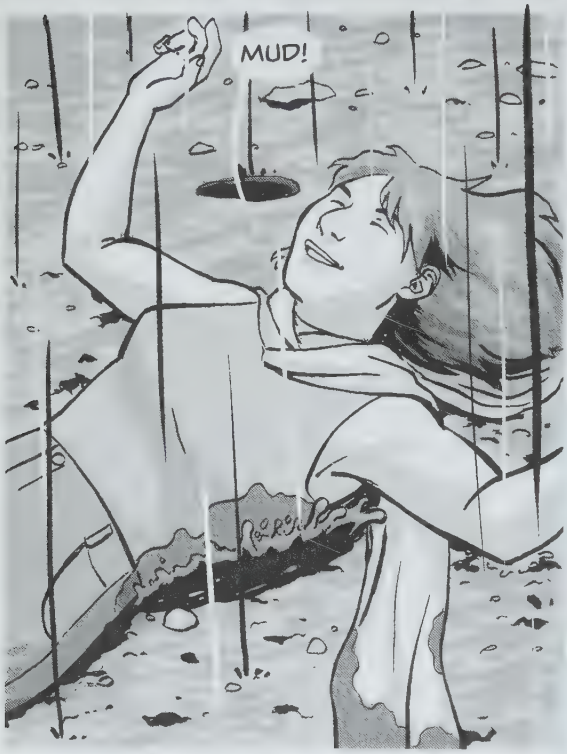
THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE THESE DAYS.

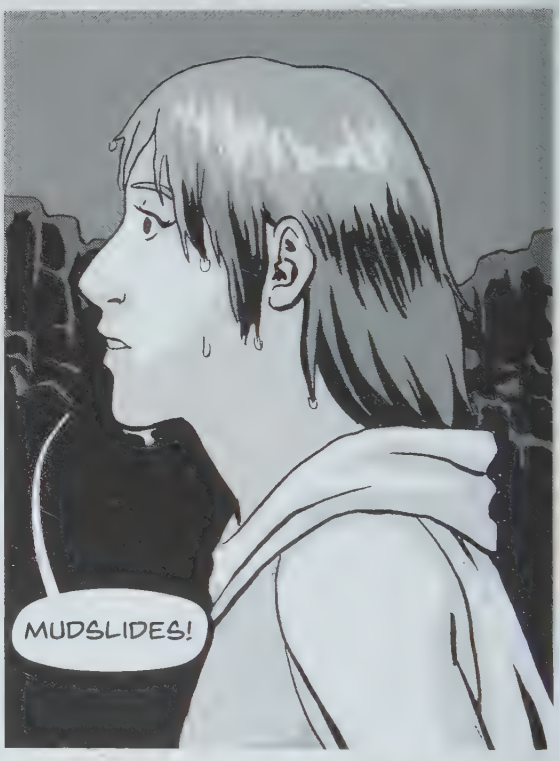
I GUESS THE WORLD WE
HAD WASN'T BUILT TO LAST

BOOM
BOOM
PLINK!
PLINK!
PLINK!
RAIN?
RAIN.
RAIN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S RAINING!

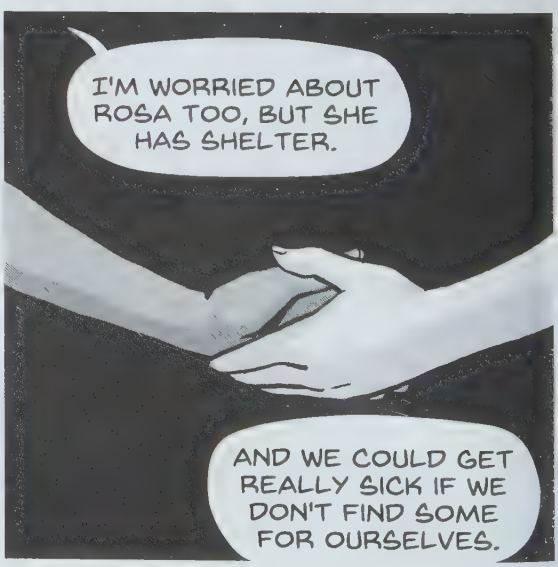

RAIN!

RAIN AND PUDDLES AND LIFE AND--

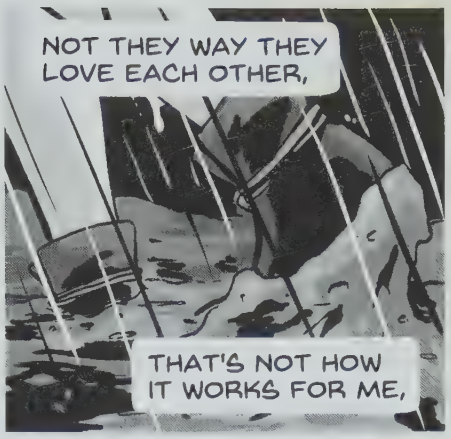

MUD!


MUDSLIDES!

WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER.
NO.
WE SHOULD GO BACK.

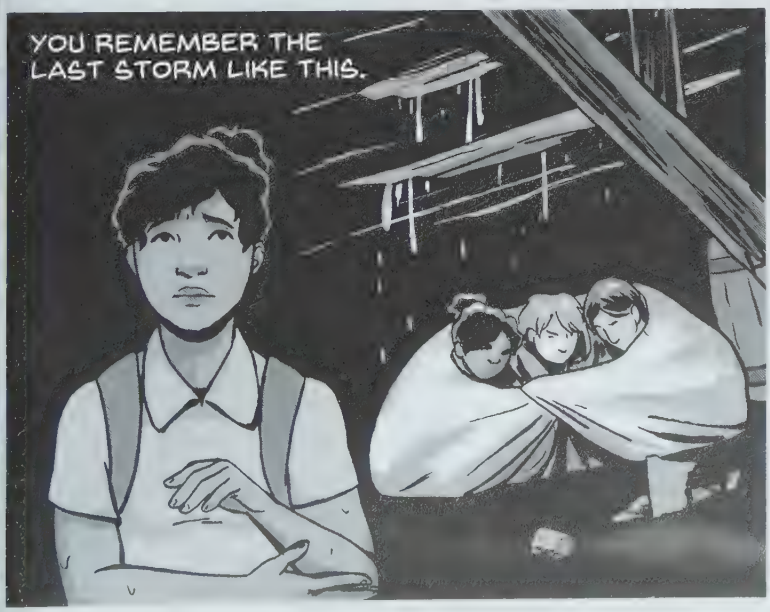

I'M WORRIED ABOUT ROSA TOO, BUT SHE HAS SHELTER.
AND WE COULD GET REALLY SICK IF WE DON'T FIND SOME FOR OURSELVES.

THE THING IS, I LOVE THEM.


NOT THEY WAY THEY LOVE EACH OTHER,
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS FOR ME,

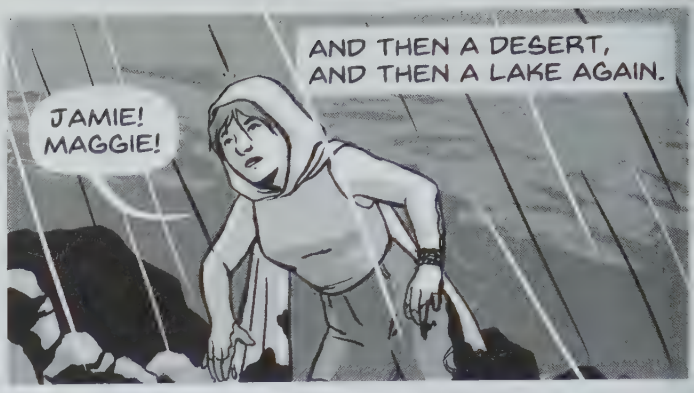
BUT IN EVERY WAY THAT I CAN.
THIS DESERT CAN SWALLOW ME WHOLE IF I LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO THEM.

SHE HAS BAD SHELTER!
RICKETY, SEVERAL-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD SHELTER!

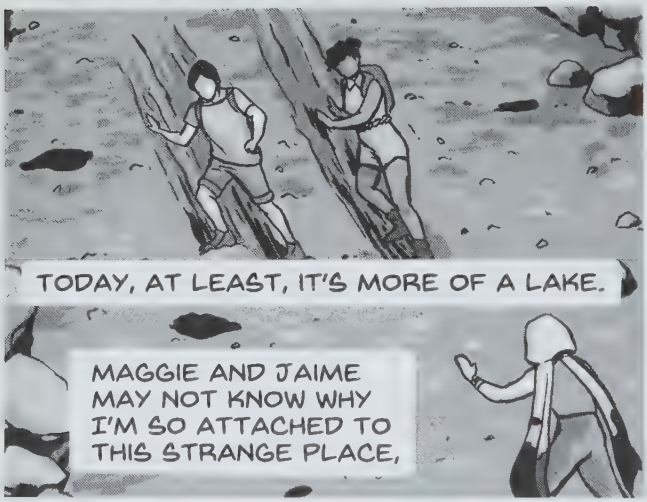

YOU REMEMBER THE LAST STORM LIKE THIS.

OKAY, LET'S GO.

THEY SAY THIS PLACE USED TO BE A LAKE.


AND THEN A DESERT, AND THEN A LAKE AGAIN.
JAMIE! MAGGIE!

ROSA!
AND THEN A DESERT AGAIN.


TODAY, AT LEAST, IT'S MORE OF A LAKE.
MAGGIE AND JAIME MAY NOT KNOW WHY I'M SO ATTACHED TO THIS STRANGE PLACE,

I'M SORRY I WAS SO STUBBORN, I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH YOU!
BUT NOW I THINK I DO.

NO, WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU BEHIND!
WE LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU TOO.
IT'S WHERE THEY FOUND ME.

we used to come here
every summer
living room ok?
sure
it's been awhile
it's just me now
Miss?
Coming!
sigh
thud
You ok?
Are you ok?
VOID
ALEXXANDER DOVELIN

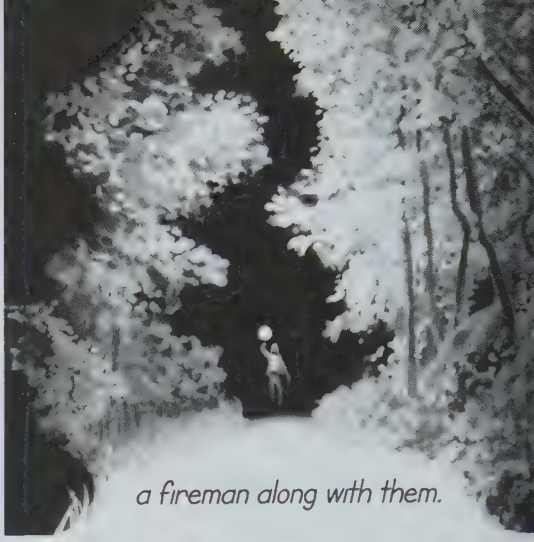
no one seems to see this
Are you interested in the mountain?

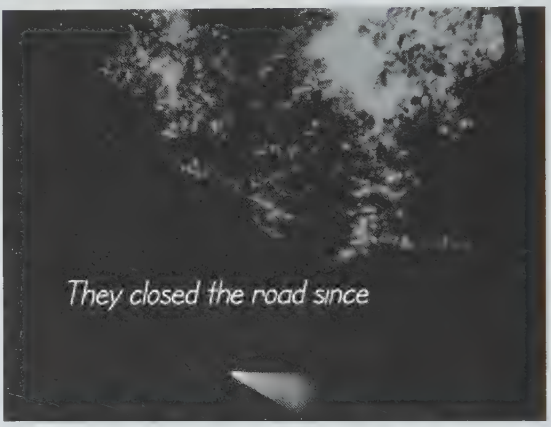
No one goes up there
Not since the Barnar's

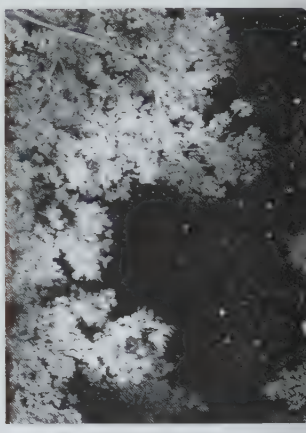
What happened?

Caught in a landslide.
ld see flames
in the west hills.
e truck had overturned.
Dangerous
writer.
click
Bad timing, I guess.

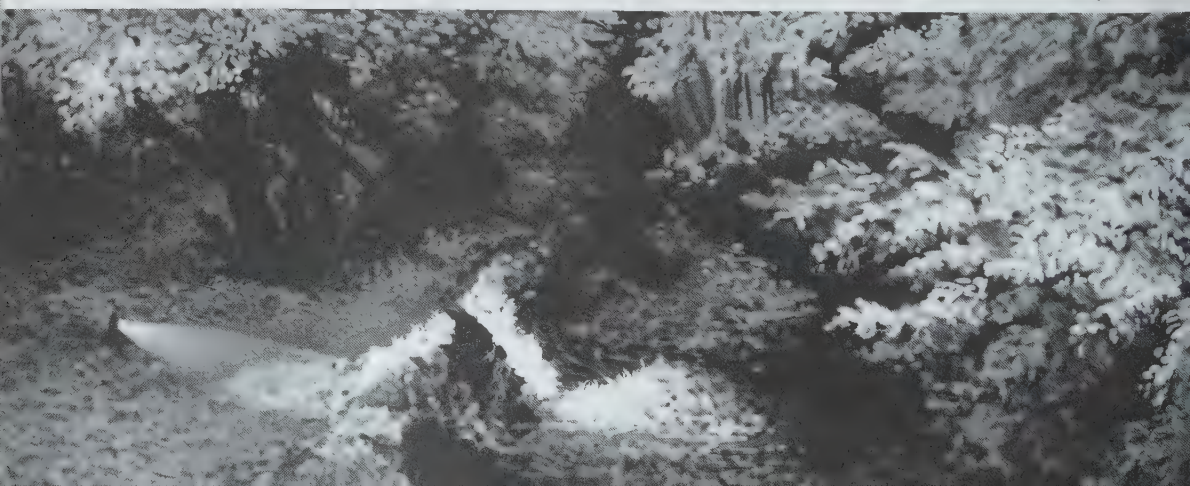
It took the father
the son


a fireman along with them.

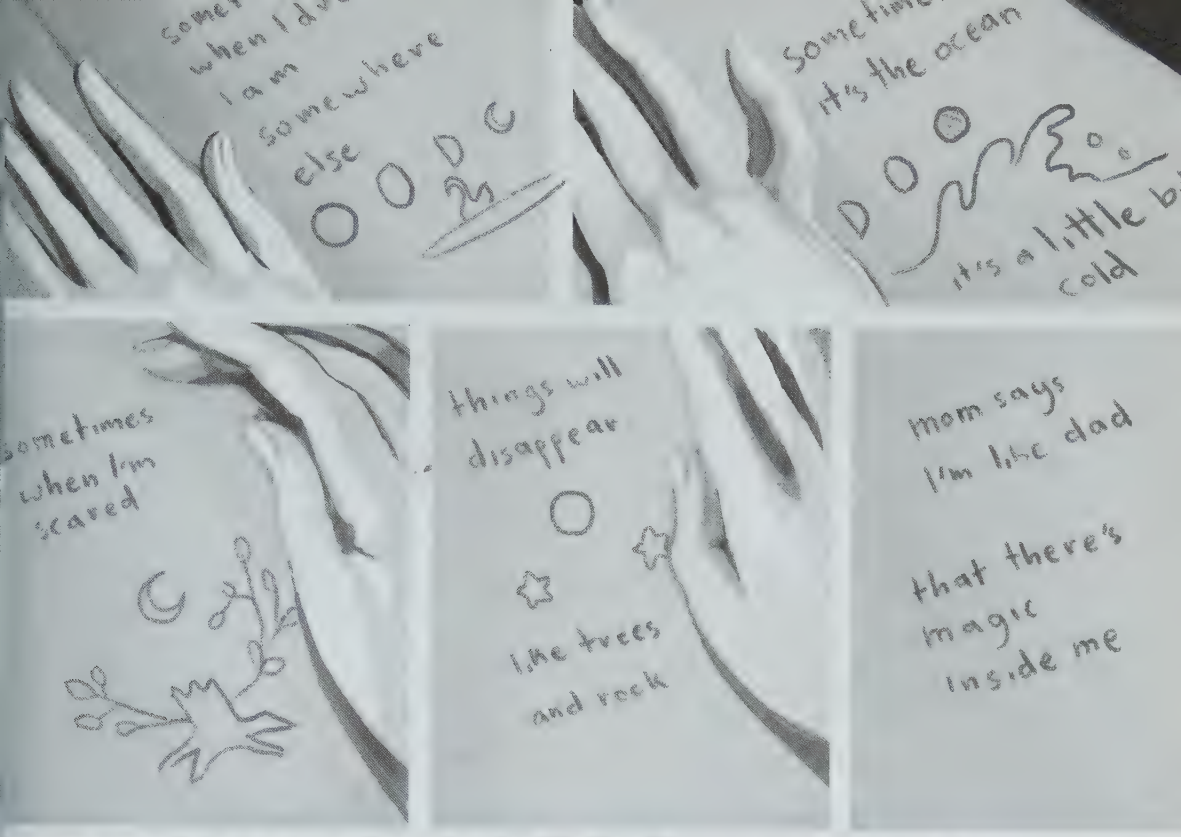

They closed the road since

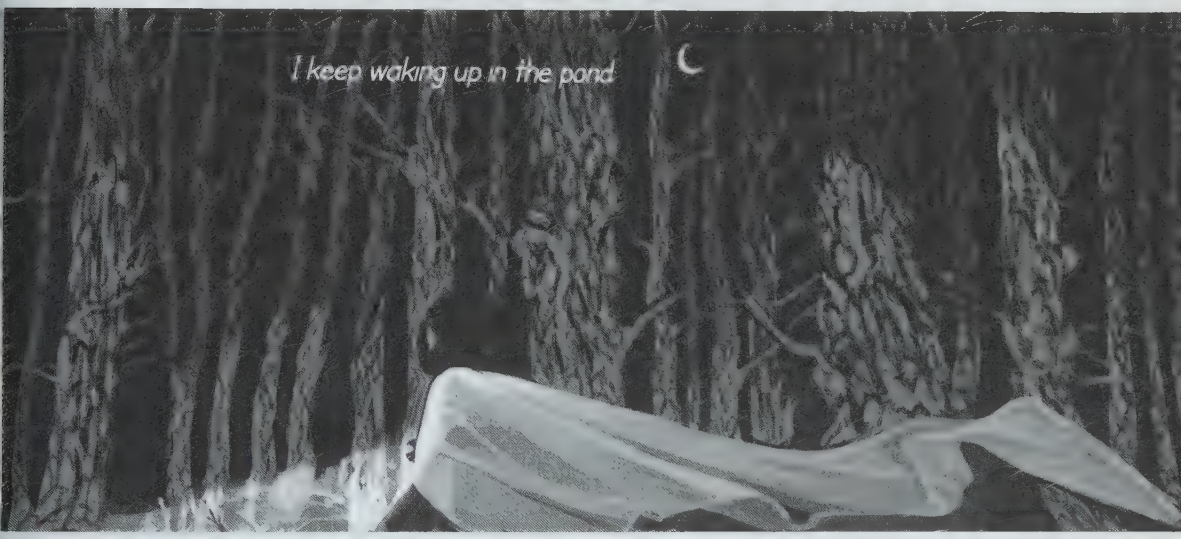


but no one else lives out there anyway.



Aria
wouldn't say
mom's going to
work in the city
so maybe
I can visit


when I dr
I am
somewhere
else
sometime
it's the ocean
it's a little b
cold
sometimes
when I'm
scared
things will
disappear
like trees
and rock
mom says
I'm like dad
that there's
magic
inside me


I keep waking up in the pond

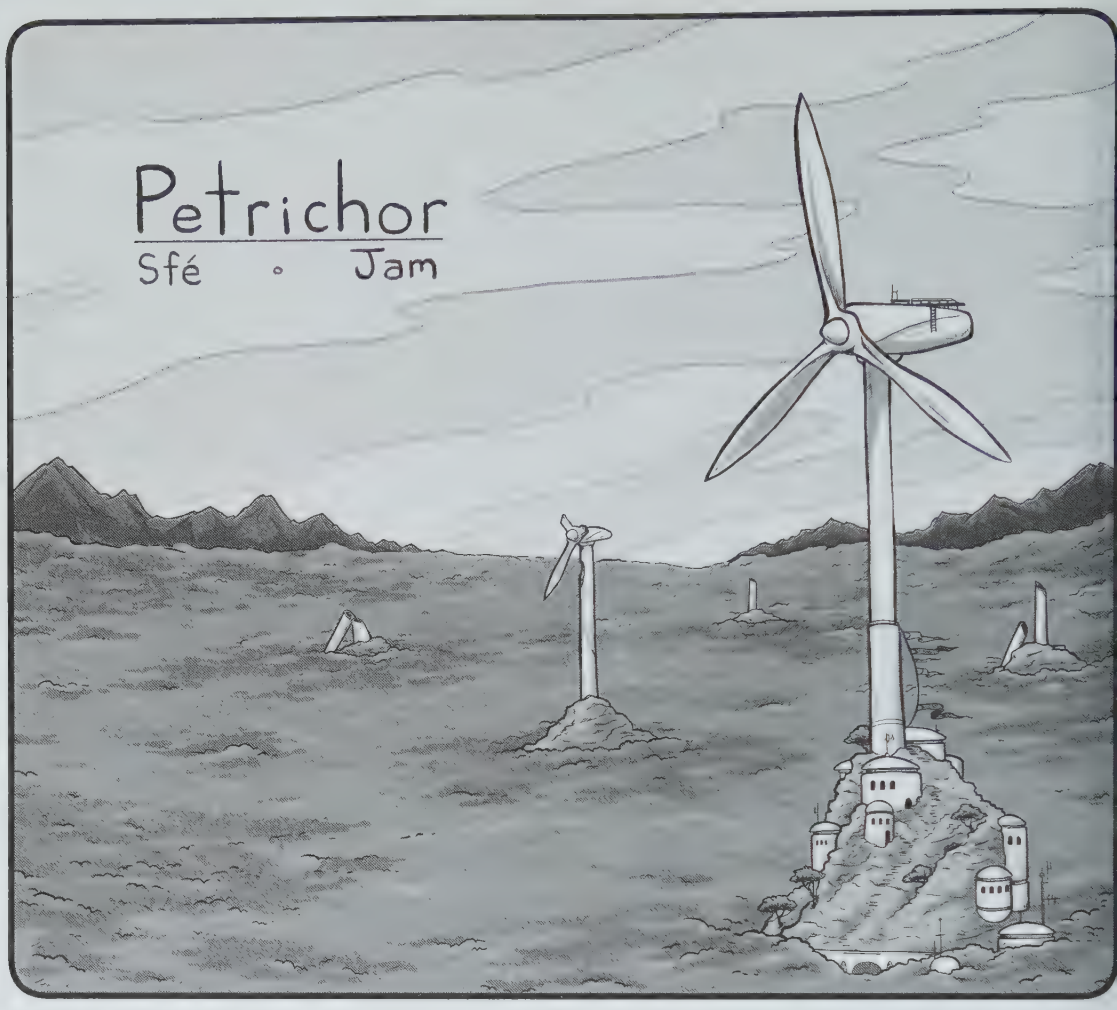
but I don't mind

I feel like a goddess on the water
something is coming
but I am not afraid
I know who I am
Aria?

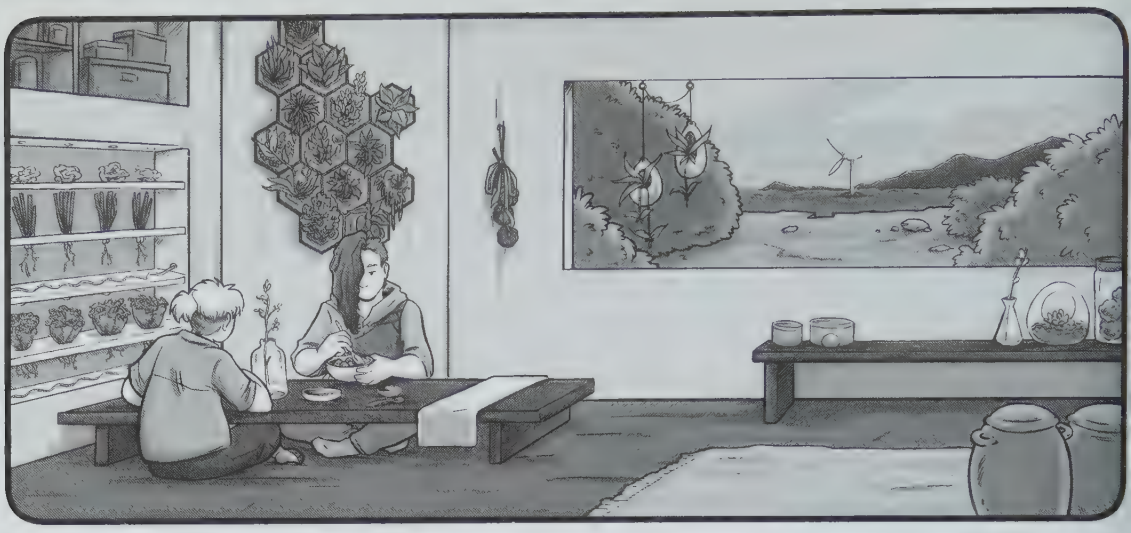
This
is my favorite
Isn't it cold?
A little.
Are you ok?
Yes.

Petrichor

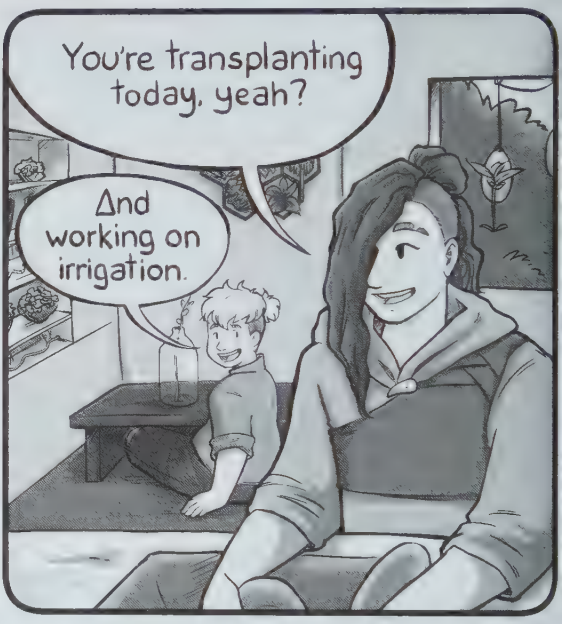
Sfé • Jam

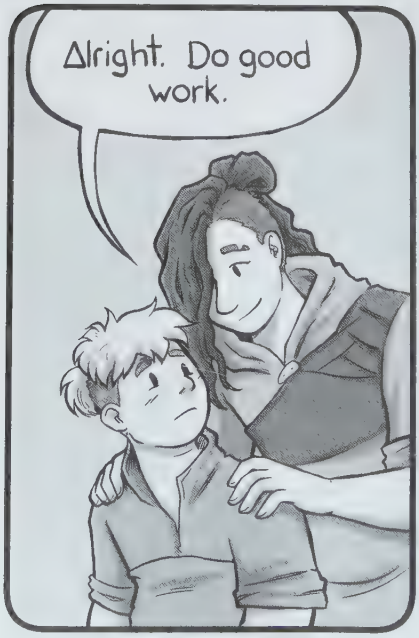


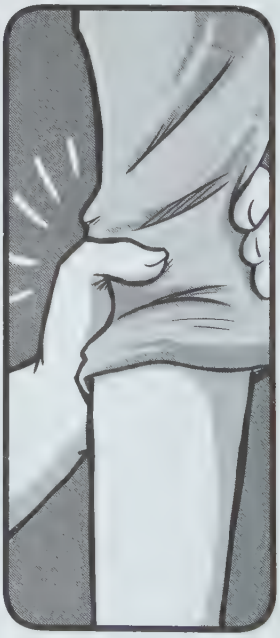
It stopped raining.
It's going to be a nice day.
Mm.
Do you think you'd like to go outside today?
Not today.
Okay.
I love you.
I love you, too.



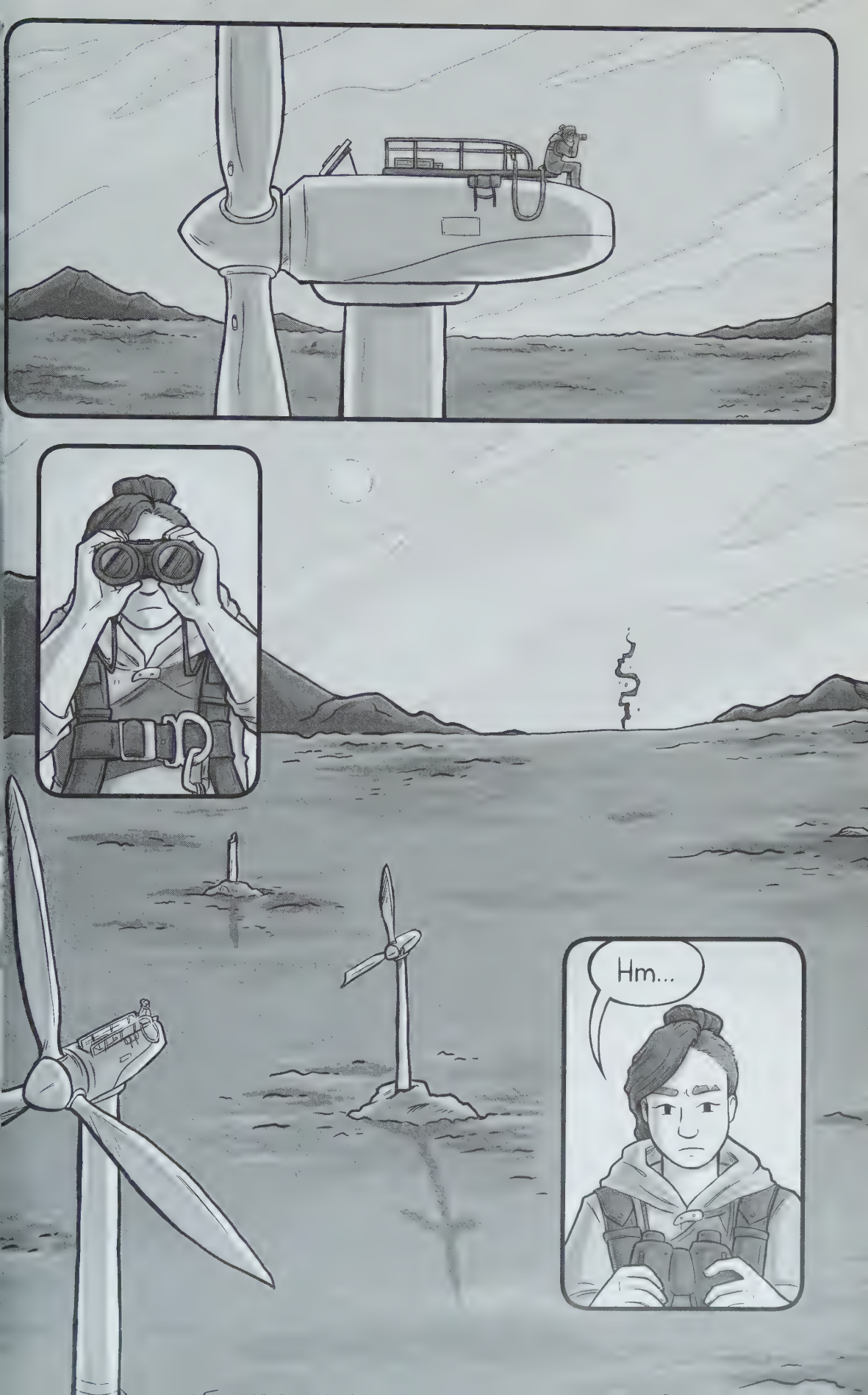
I'm going to head up, okay?
Okay.


You're transplanting today, yeah?
And working on irrigation.


Alright. Do good work.

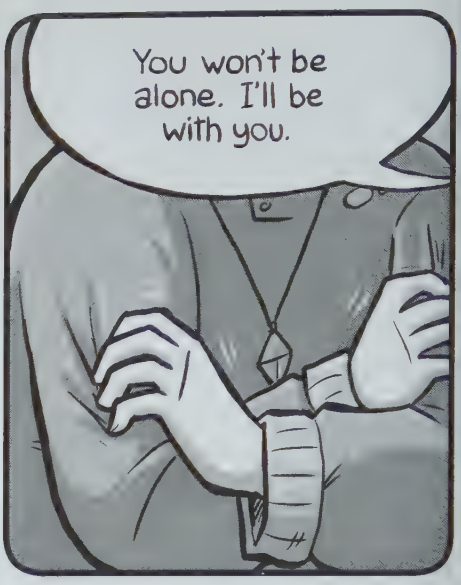


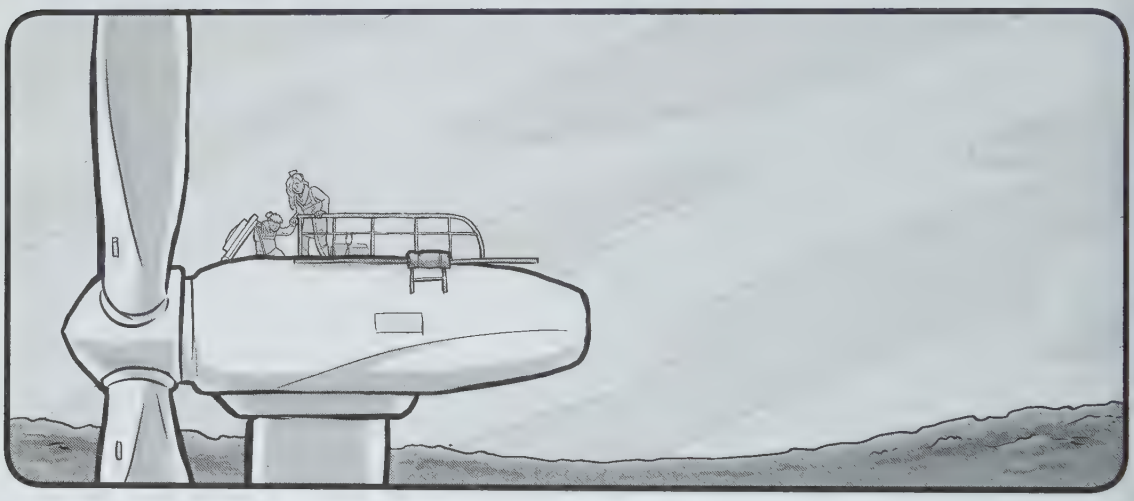
Be safe. And don't go out without telling me. Please.
I won't. I promise.

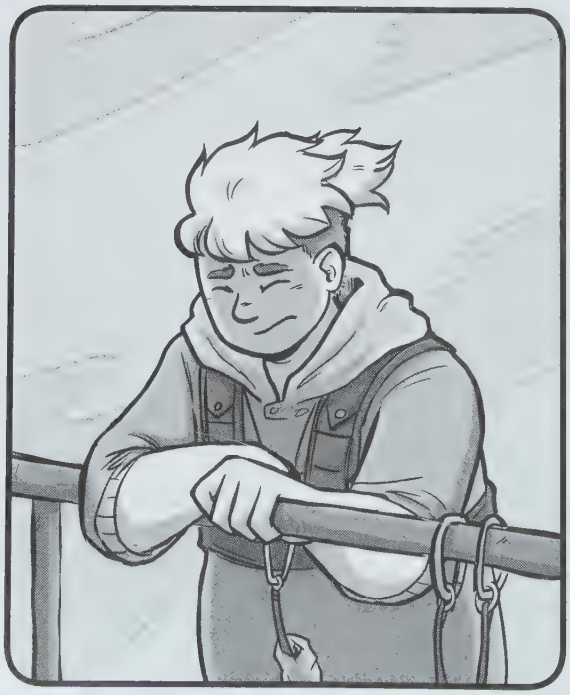

Hm...

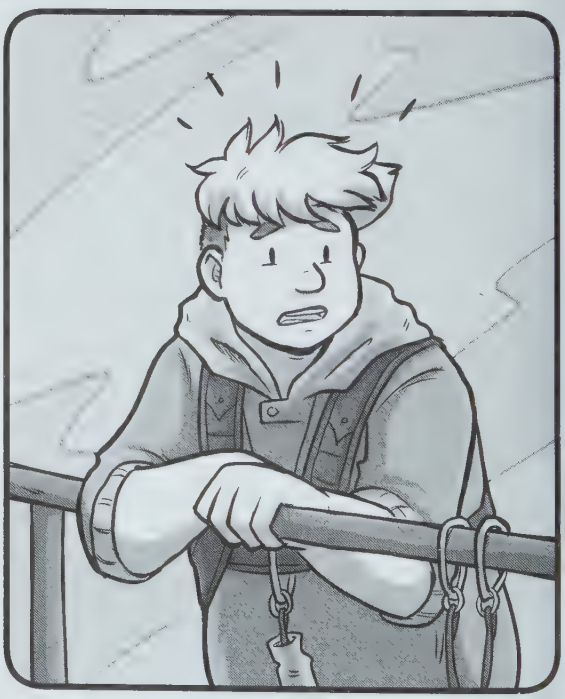
How did your day go?
Good! I got all the seedlings transplanted.
That's great!
We want a big harvest. Get fattened up for winter.
Haha.
There was something...
I saw it on the horizon today...
It was probably a rain cloud...
...but I'll keep track of it.
I wanted you to know. If... just in case.
Alright...

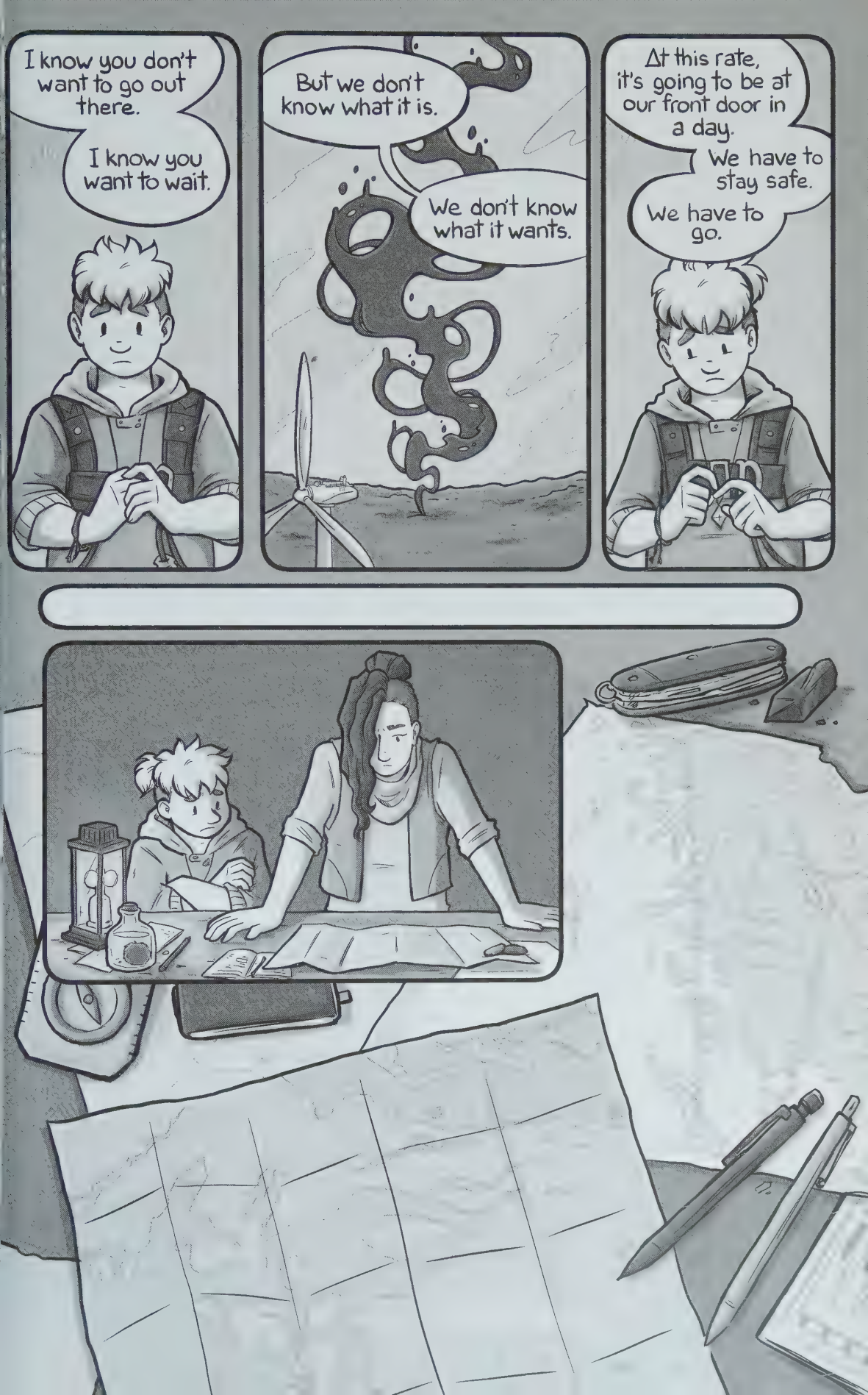
I know you don't like going up there, but I want you to come and see it.


You won't be alone. I'll be with you.

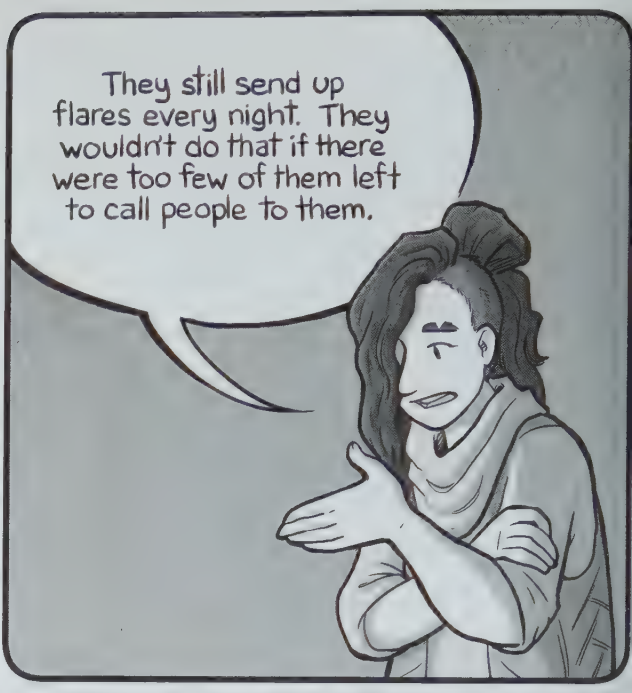






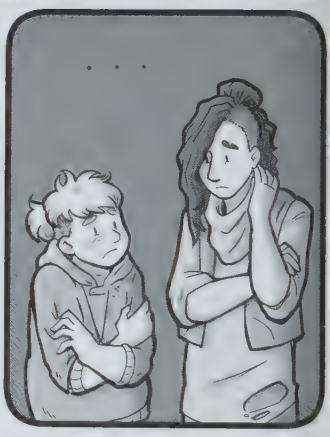

I know you don't want to go out there.
I know you want to wait.
But we don't know what it is.
We don't know what it wants.
At this rate, it's going to be at our front door in a day.
We have to stay safe.
We have to go.

We can head toward the coast. There are still people there, from before the cities sank.
We don't know how many are there, still. They might have moved on.


They still send up flares every night. They wouldn't do that if there were too few of them left to call people to them.

The forest is so unpredictable. We don't *know*. We don't have any time to plan...
Olin, we *can't* stay.

If we go out there something could happen! I don't want to lose you, too!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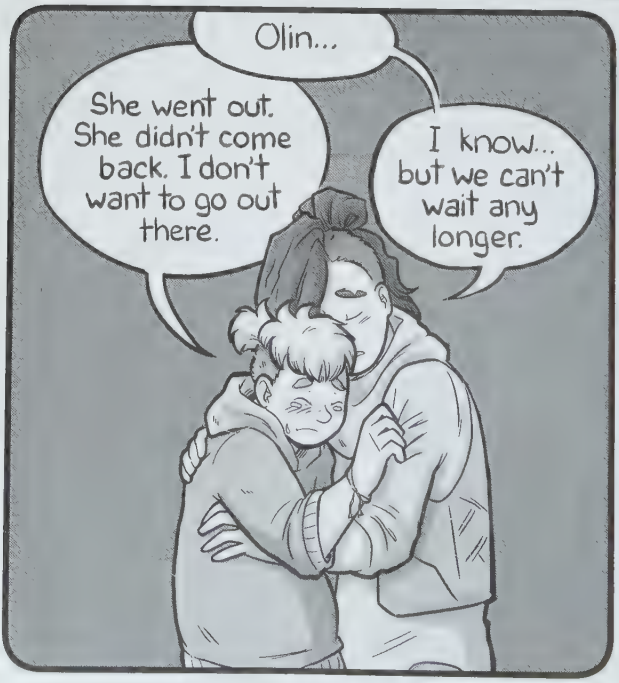
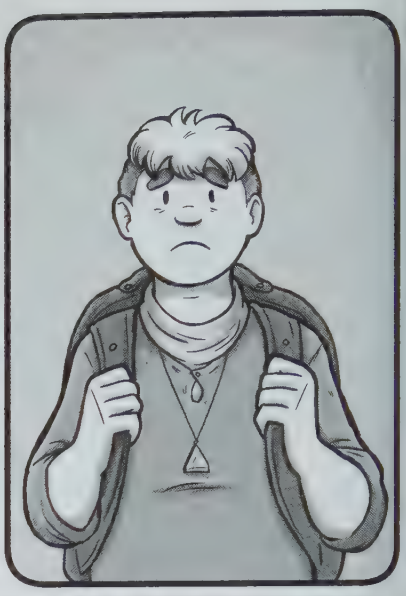
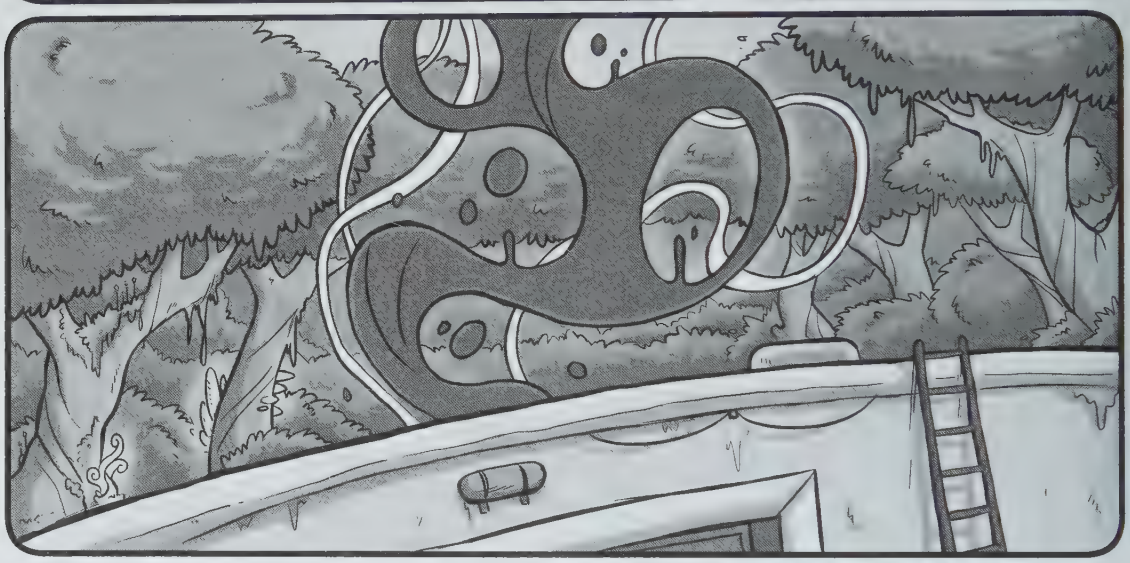
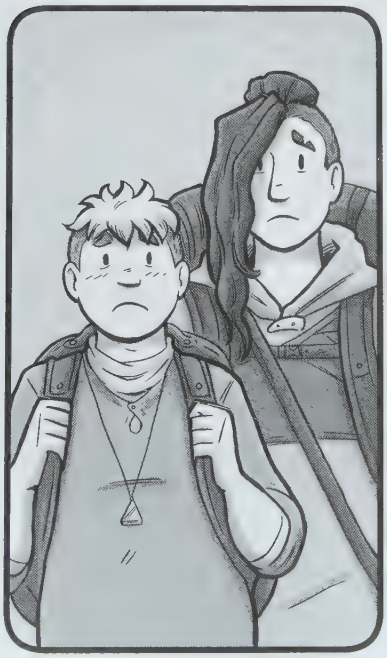

Olin...
She went out. She didn't come back. I don't want to go out there.
I know... but we can't wait any longer.

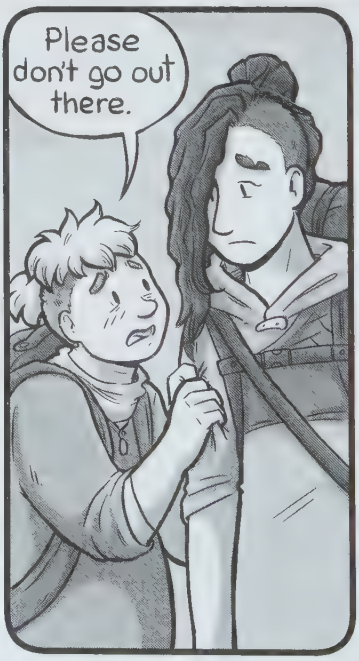
I'll be with you. You won't be alone. We'll keep each other safe.

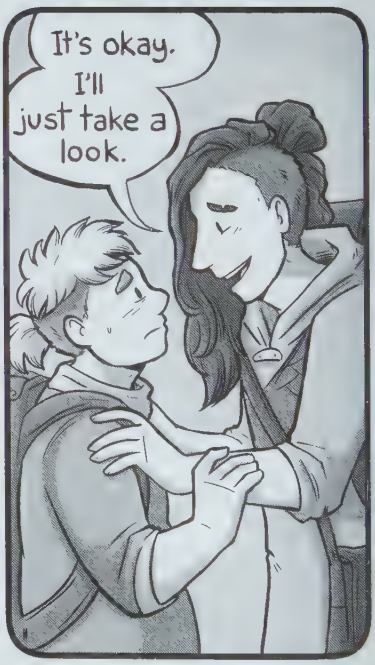
Kyn—
We've gone west. Follow the flares.
Love and miss you. O&F
Ready?
Yeah...

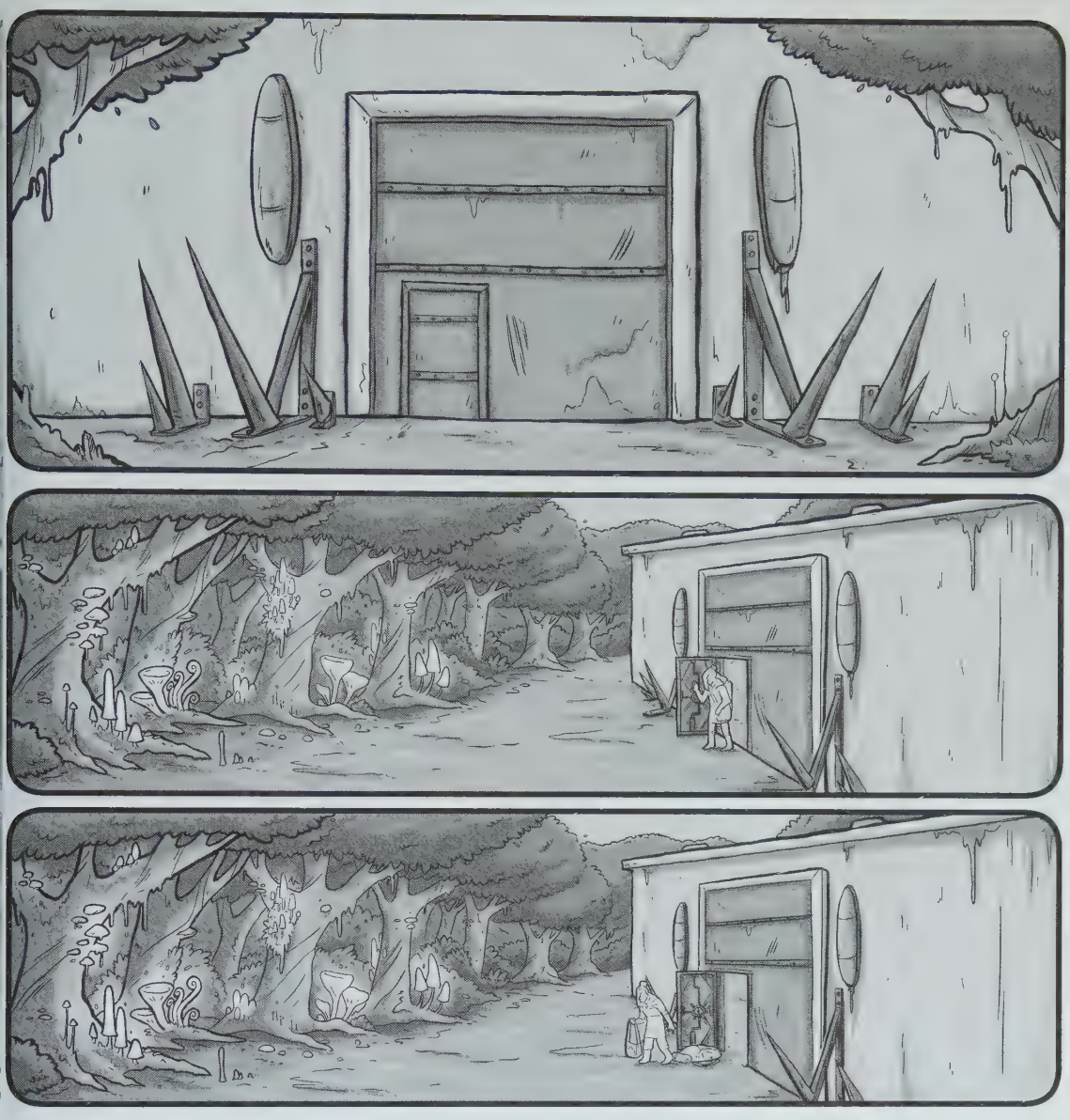







Please don't go out there.


It's okay. I'll just take a look.



Oh...

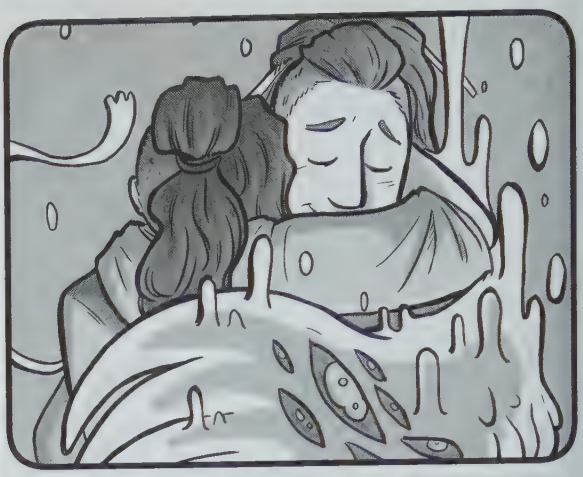
Kyn...

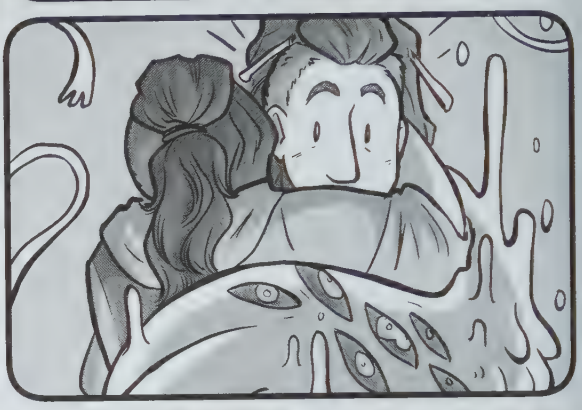
Hi.

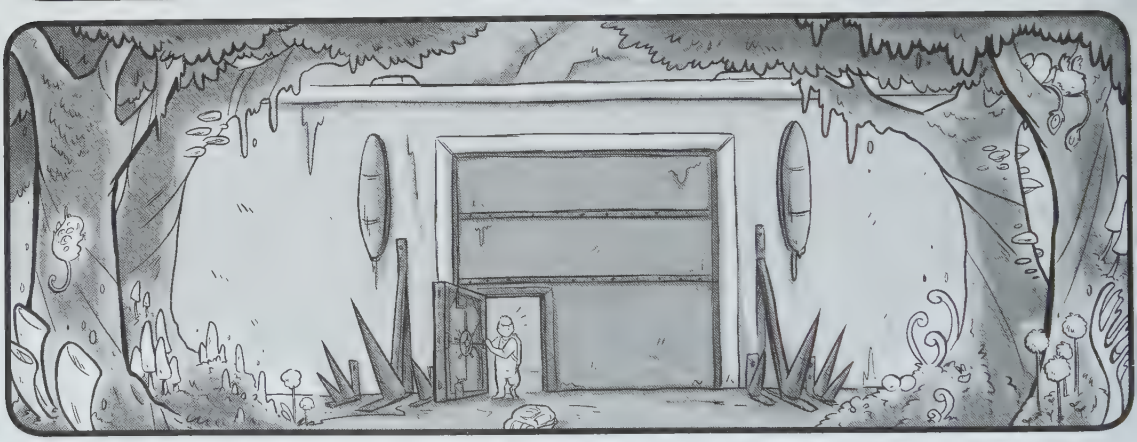
I'm sorry I was gone for so long.
It's okay.
I kept going east. Everything is in ruins, nobody lives there anymore. I didn't mean to make you wait like this.
It's okay.

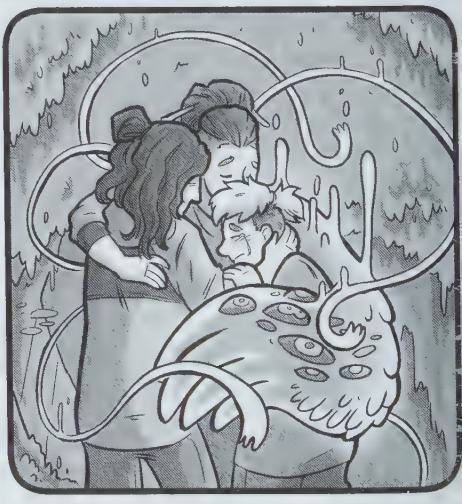
And I'm—I've changed...
It's okay! I did too! I'm Fal, now. "They."

Fal.
Of course
that's you. Of
course.



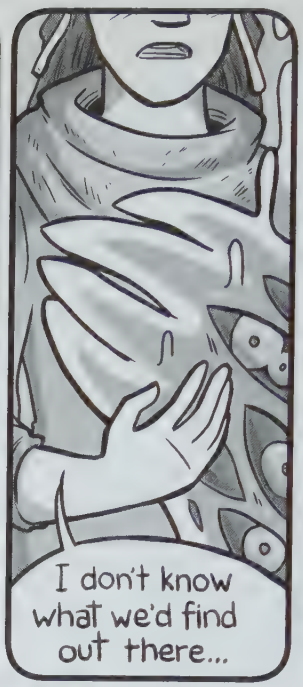






Is this all it took to get you to go outside?
Shh...
I wanted to find a way to... to get better. Before I came back...
There's nothing to make better. You are better.
You're still the same you.
I missed you so much.
You were going to leave?...
We didn't know what was coming...
We were going to go west, towards the ocean...

The world is so different, now. Everything keeps growing and...and changing.


I don't know what we'd find out there...

It's okay, though. You're back, you're *here*.

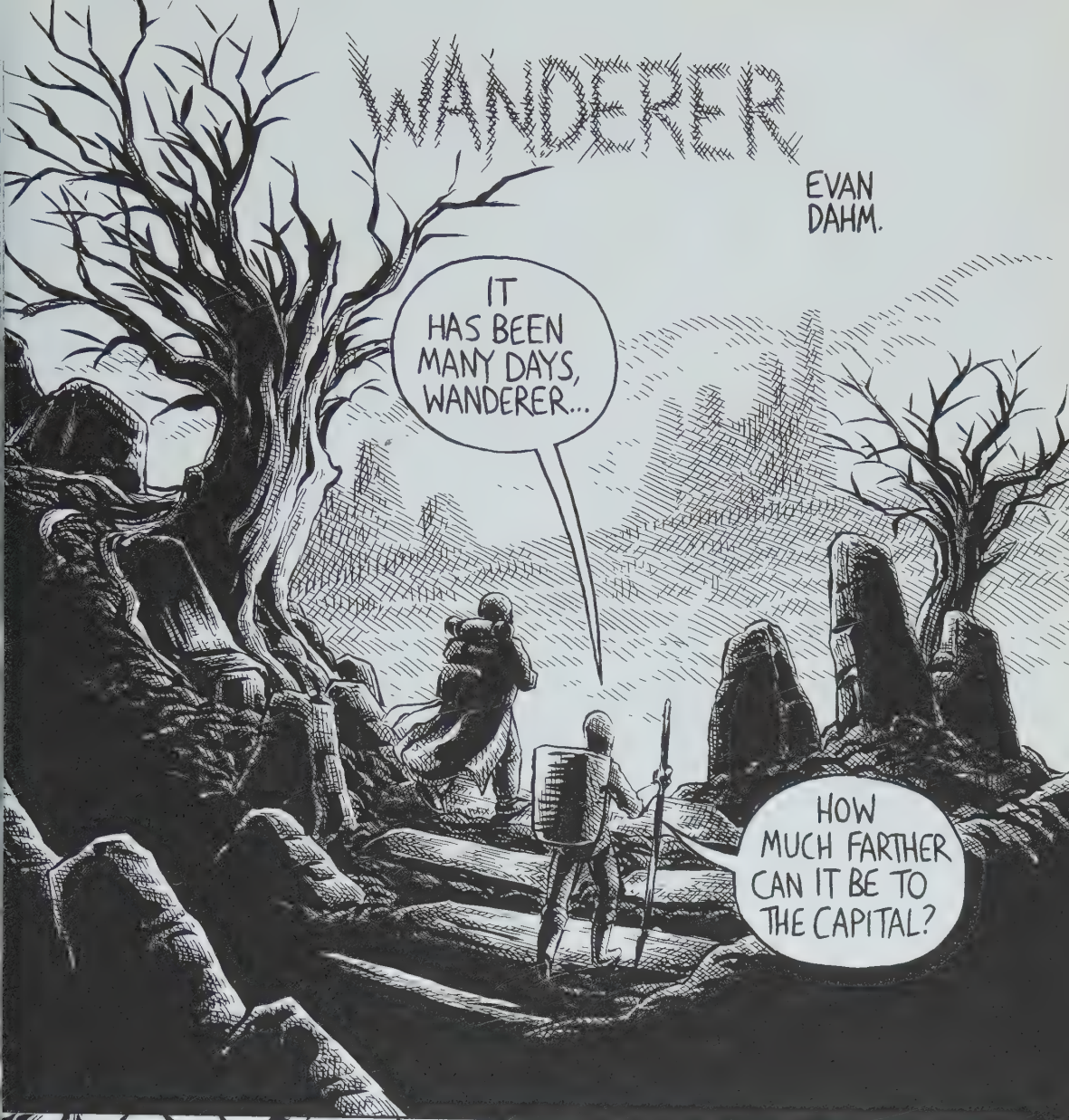
If the world is changing, whether we go or stay, we can change with it, now.

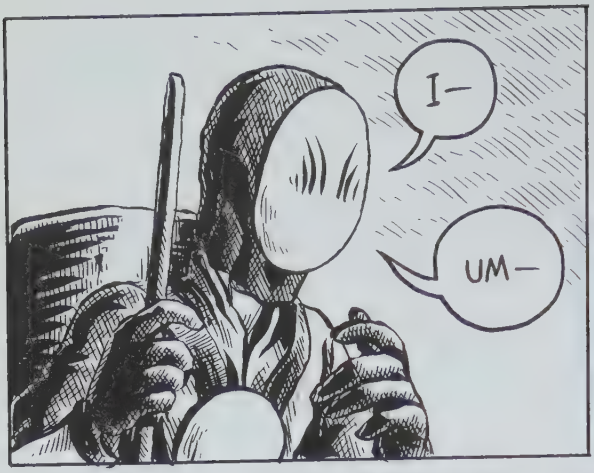
Together.

Together.
end.

WANDERER

EVAN DAHM.



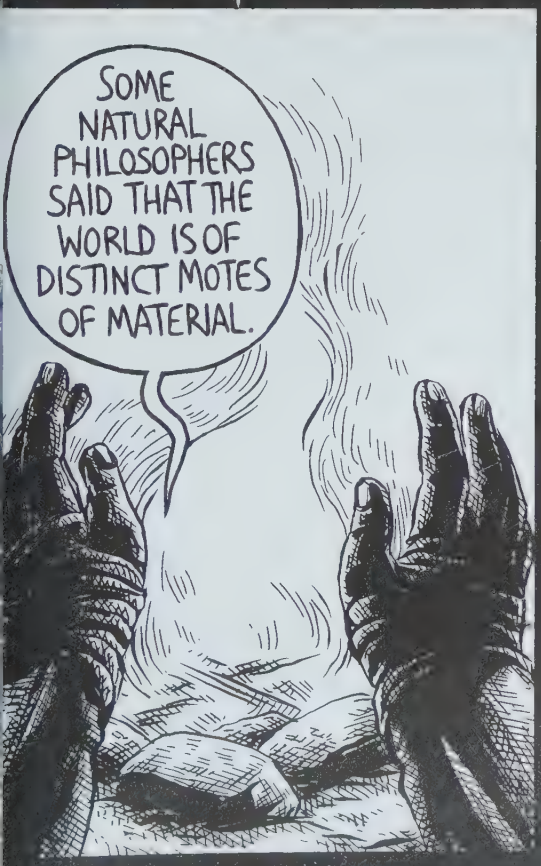


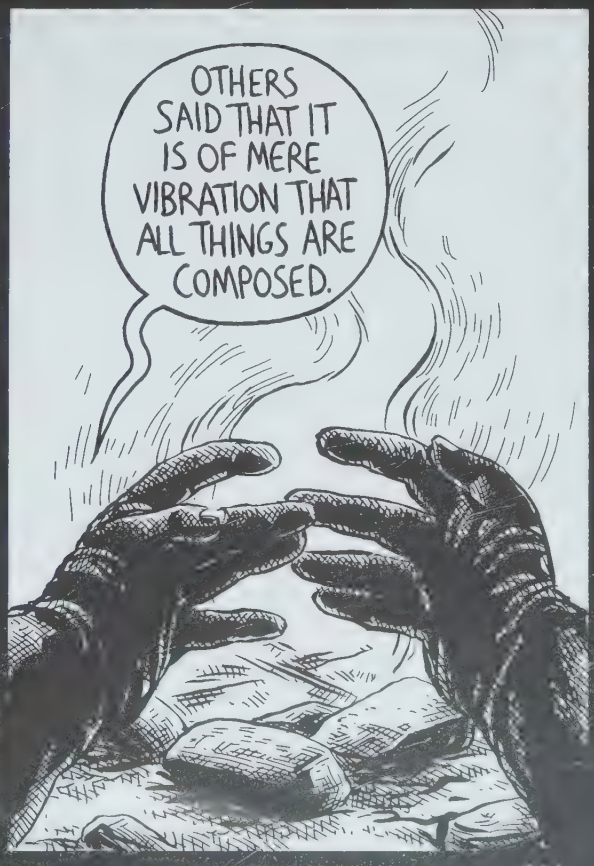
I MAKE THE JOURNEY RARELY.

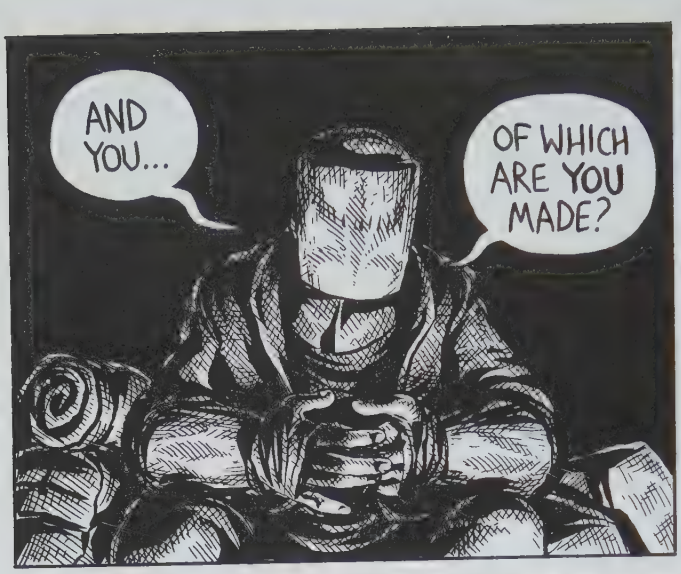
WE APPROACH THE CAPITAL WITH EACH NEW DAY.

THAT IS ALL I KNOW.

IN THE TIME BEFORE...


SOME NATURAL PHILOSOPHERS SAID THAT THE WORLD IS OF DISTINCT MOTES OF MATERIAL.


OTHERS SAID THAT IT IS OF MERE VIBRATION THAT ALL THINGS ARE COMPOSED.


AND YOU...
OF WHICH ARE YOU MADE?

AND THIS FALLEN DOMAIN?

WAS IT ALL OF SOLID STONE AND UNIVERSAL LAW...
WITH ROADS TO KNIT IT TOGETHER?

OR WAS IT A STORY—
AN INFINITY OF TINY, VIBRATING TALES OF HISTORY AND POWER?

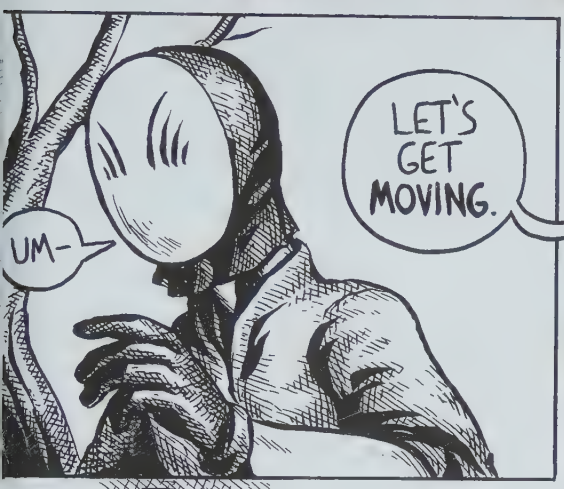
WAS THE PASSAGE OF MILLIONS OF SOULS THROUGH THE DOMAIN'S GRASP...
ENOUGH TO KEEP IT SOLID?

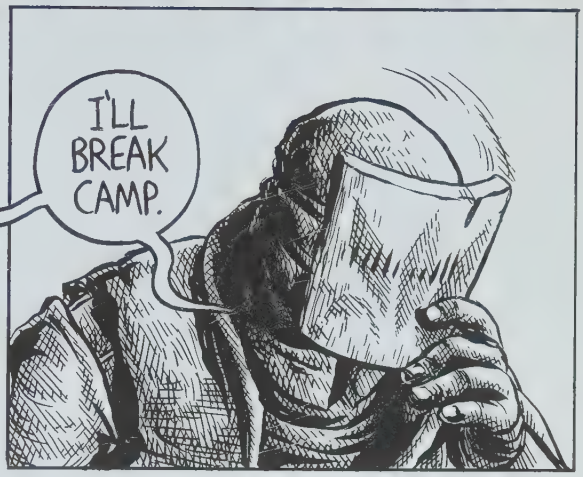
OR WAS IT THE NUMBER OF THOSE VERY SOULS THAT RENDERED IT EPHEMERAL?

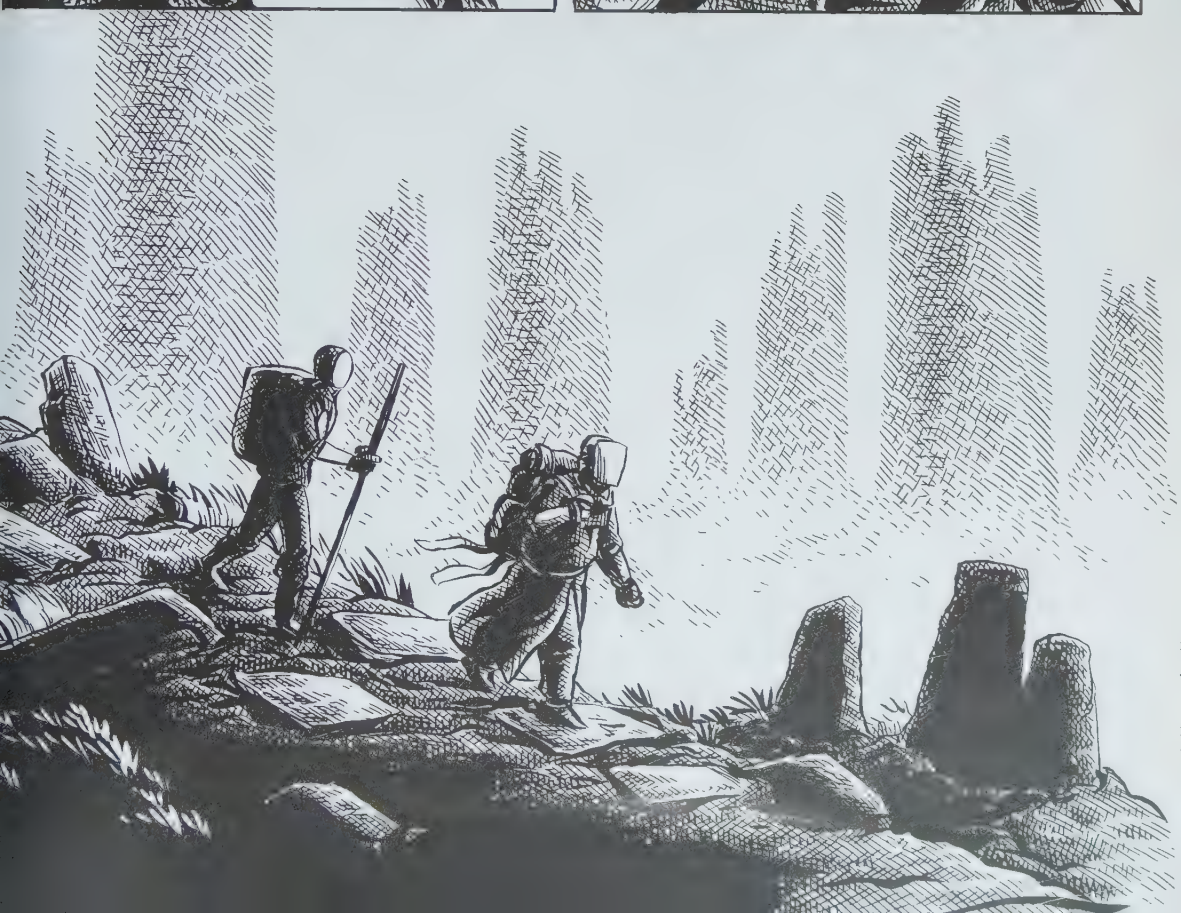
OR IS THE LIE IN THE ASKING OF THE QUESTION?

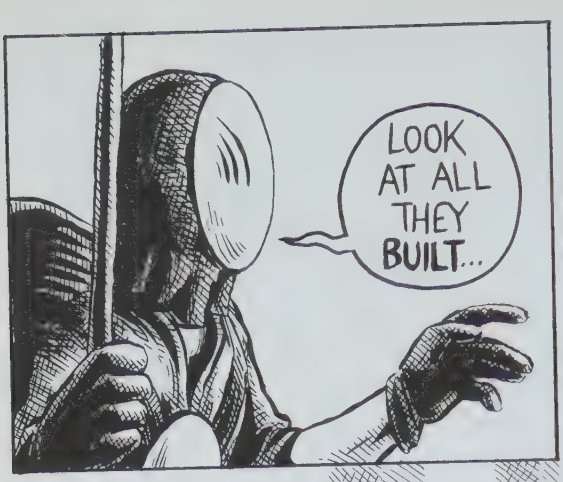
THIS STONE SEEMS SOLID ENOUGH.
OH~

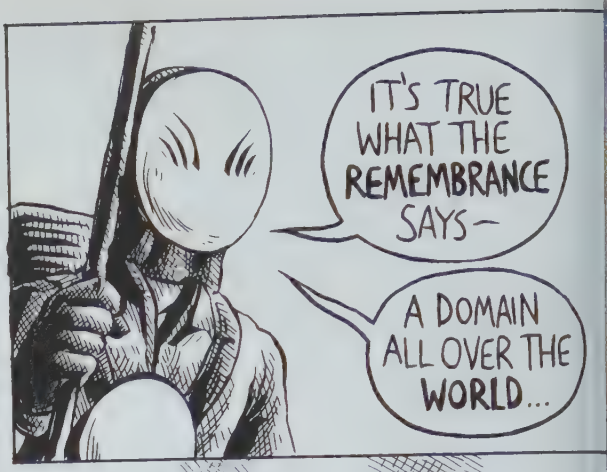
I–
I'M SORRY–
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE–


UM–
LET'S GET MOVING.

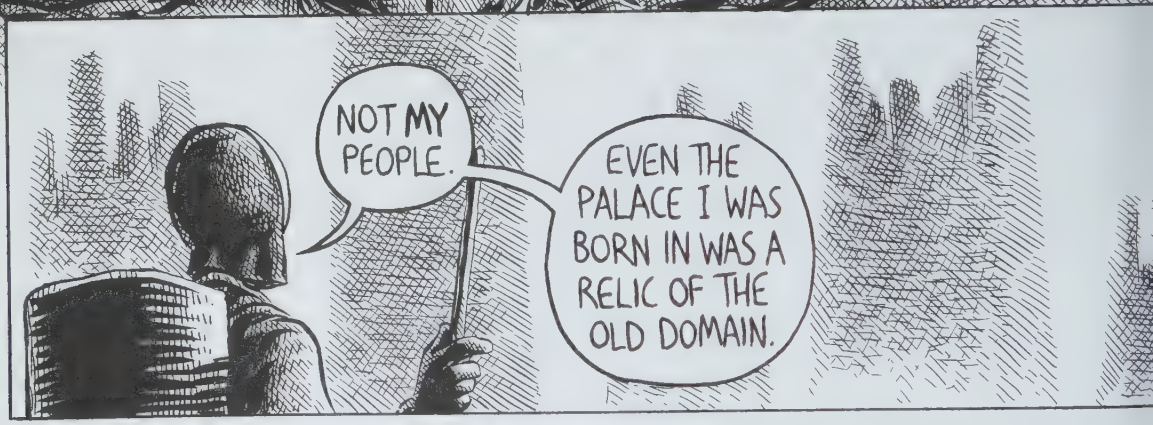

I'LL BREAK CAMP.




LOOK AT ALL THEY BUILT...

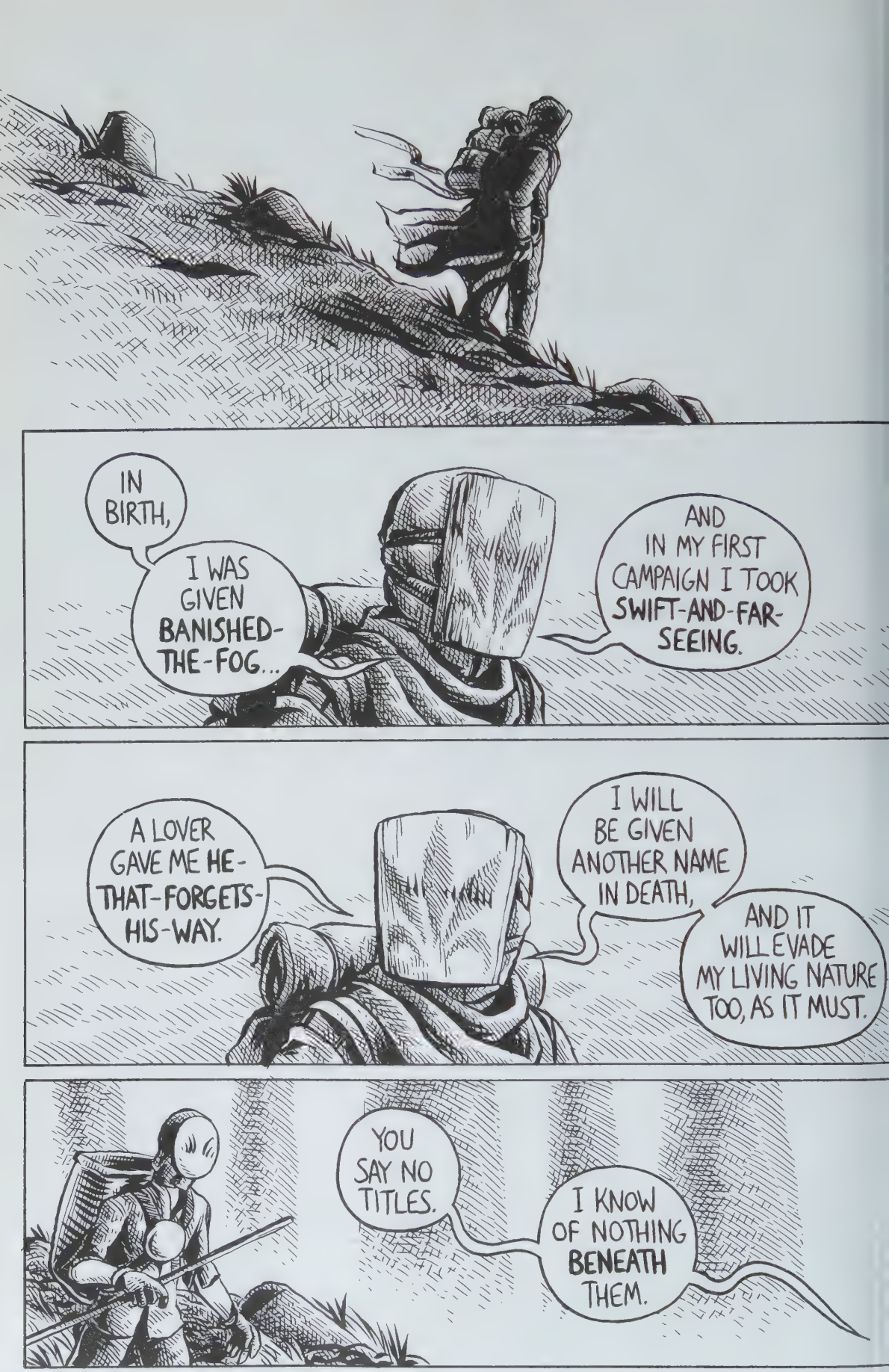

IT'S TRUE WHAT THE REMEMBRANCE SAYS—
A DOMAIN ALL OVER THE WORLD...

MANY PEOPLE BUILD.

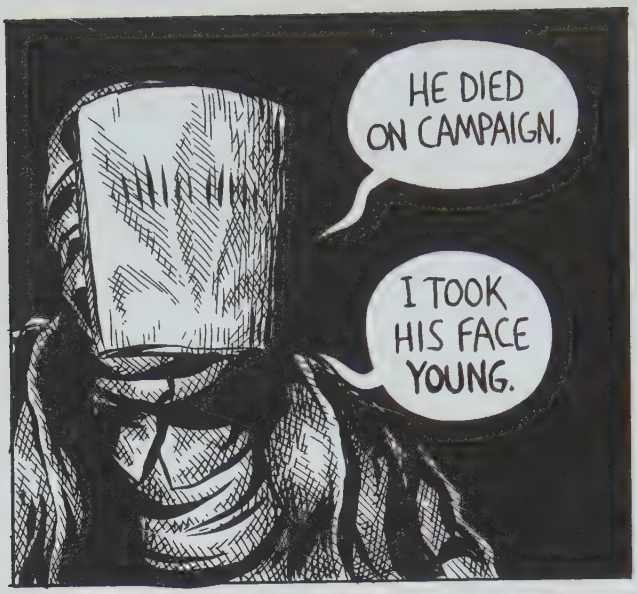

NOT MY PEOPLE.
EVEN THE PALACE I WAS BORN IN WAS A RELIC OF THE OLD DOMAIN.

THE DAYS OF BUILDING ARE PAST.
THIS IS WHAT THE REMEMBRANCE SAYS.

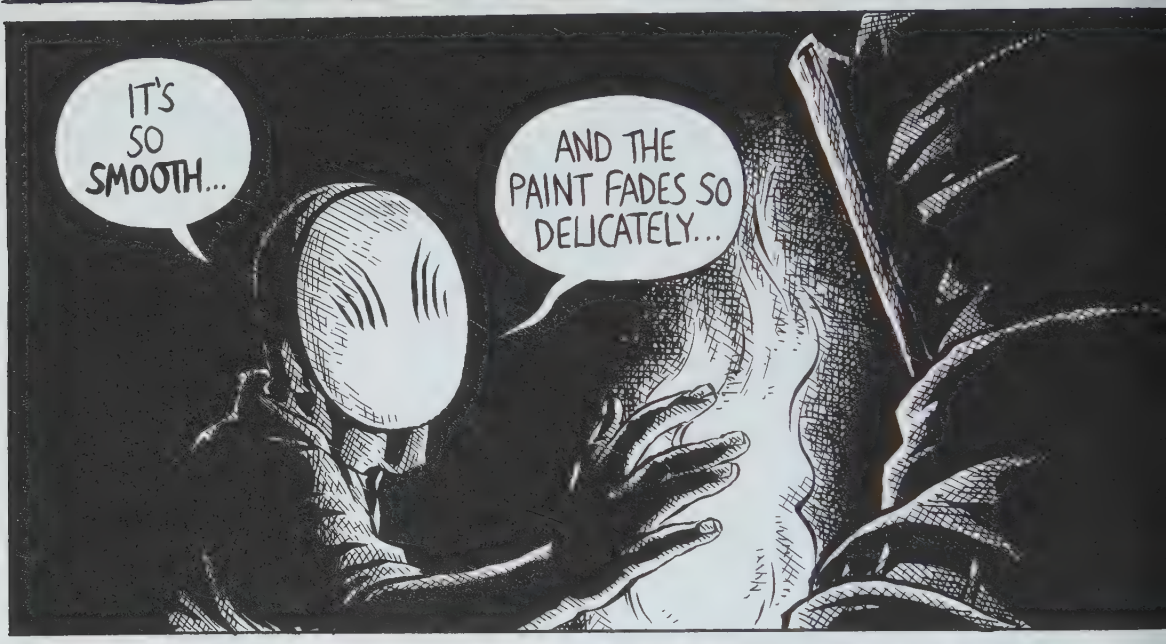
IF YOU INSIST, HIGHNESS.
PLEASE—
NO MORE TITLES.
I MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO TURN MY BACK ON ALL THAT.
I—
I DON'T YET KNOW YOUR NAME, WANDERER.


IN BIRTH,
I WAS GIVEN BANISHED-THE-FOG...
AND IN MY FIRST CAMPAIGN I TOOK SWIFT-AND-FAR-SEEING.
A LOVER GAVE ME HE-THAT-FORGETS-HIS-WAY.
I WILL BE GIVEN ANOTHER NAME IN DEATH,
AND IT WILL EVADE MY LIVING NATURE TOO, AS IT MUST.
YOU SAY NO TITLES.
I KNOW OF NOTHING BENEATH THEM.

YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE.
IT IS AN OLD FACE.
IT BELONGED TO A LOVER, AND BEFORE THAT HIS FATHER AND HIS GRANDFATHER.


HE DIED ON CAMPAIGN.
I TOOK HIS FACE YOUNG.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANT, BACK THEN.

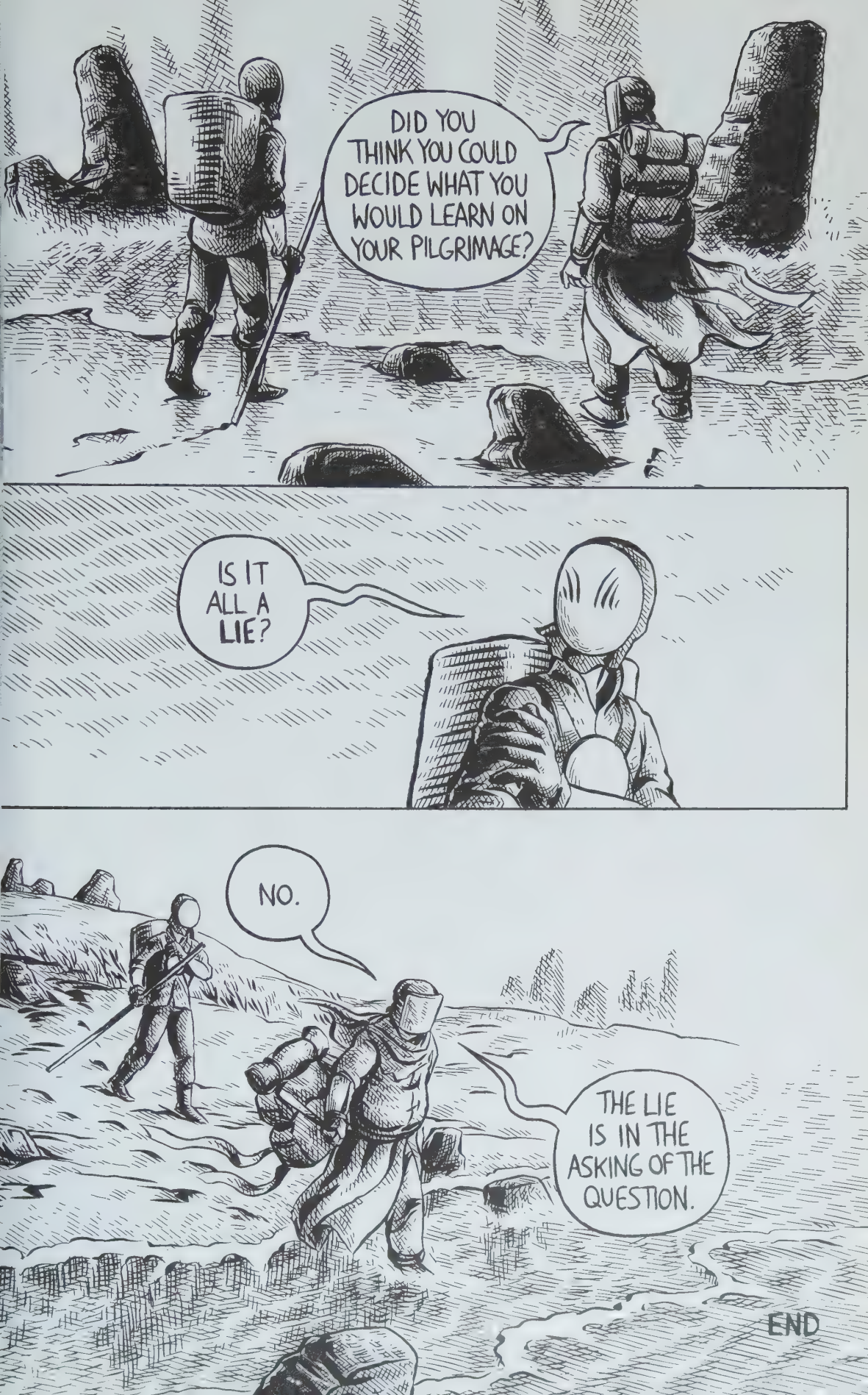

IT'S SO SMOOTH...
AND THE PAINT FADES SO DELICATELY...

I'M GLAD I CAN SEE IT, BEFORE IT FADES AWAY...

IT IS JUST A FACE, HIGHNESS.

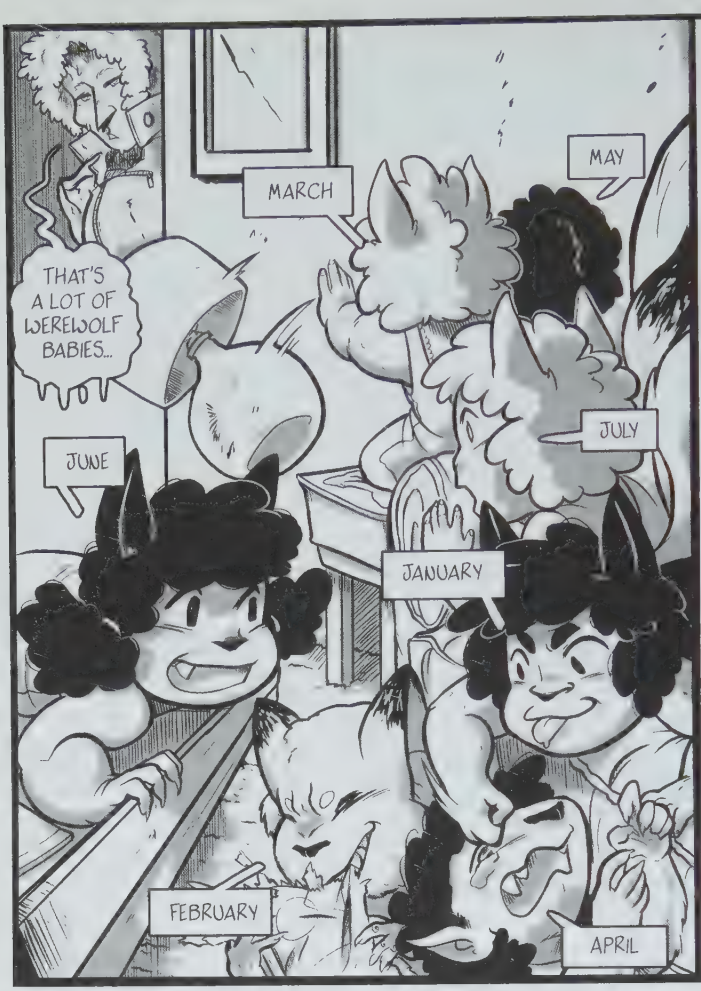
IT IS YOU—
THE OLD WOOD. THE MEMORY OF AN IMAGE...
HE-THAT-FORGETS-HIS-WAY.
I—
I'M SORRY.
I PRESUME TOO MUCH.
DO NOT THINK THE FACE IS ME...
AND I WILL DO YOU THE SAME HONOR.
WHO ARE WE, THEN?

WH–
WHERE–
CAN WE GO NO FARTHER?
WHERE IS THE CAPITAL?
THE TIDE COMES IN AND GOES OUT.
THE DREAMS OF WHAT THE DOMAIN WAS ARE LONG GONE.
TELL ME, WANDERER:


DID YOU THINK YOU COULD DECIDE WHAT YOU WOULD LEARN ON YOUR PILGRIMAGE?
IS IT ALL A LIE?
NO.
THE LIE IS IN THE ASKING OF THE QUESTION.
END

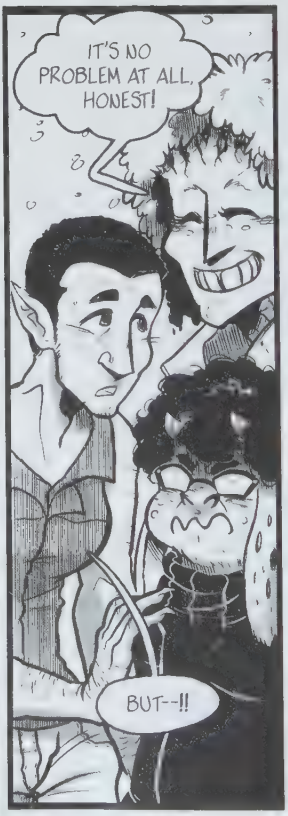
THE MOST STRESSFUL MONTHS OF THE YEAR
ART BY ALAN CAPES
SIGH
OKAY, ME. LET'S DO THE MATH.
+
=
WRITTEN BY SHAUNTAE BALL
GURGLEEE

GUESS THIS MEANS I CAN'T BORROW A CUP O' NOODLES.
PLEASE STOP BREAKING INTO MY HOME.
YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT.
TAP TAP
YOU'RE A MENACE TO MY SENSE OF SECURITY.
JEEZ, IF IT BUGS YOU THAT MUCH, ASK MARLOWE FOR A BETTER LOCK.
BUUUUUT BEFORE YOU DO THAT, ORDER ME A PIZZA. I'M STARVING!
BZZZZZZZZT
NO FOOD FOR YOU, MOOCH. I'M BROKE, TOO.
HEY!!!
BZZZZZZZZ
PHIA
IT'S PHIA.
SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU CAN WATCH THE ANKLE BITERS. SOMETHING, SOMETHING, THE REGULAR SITTER HAS FLEAS AND CAN'T MAKE IT.
THAT PACK OF BRATTY NIGHTMARES? UGH, NO. (ANKLE BITERS, ARE YOU 80?)
....
FEED ME AND I'M YOURS.
WHAT THE HECK, DAPHNE!
COME ON, IT'S A JOB. WE NEED FOOD. AND REALLY, HOW HARD CAN IT BE LOOKING AFTER A KID OR TWO?


THAT'S A LOT OF WEREWOLF BABIES...
MARCH
MAY
JUNE
JULY
JANUARY
FEBRUARY
APRIL

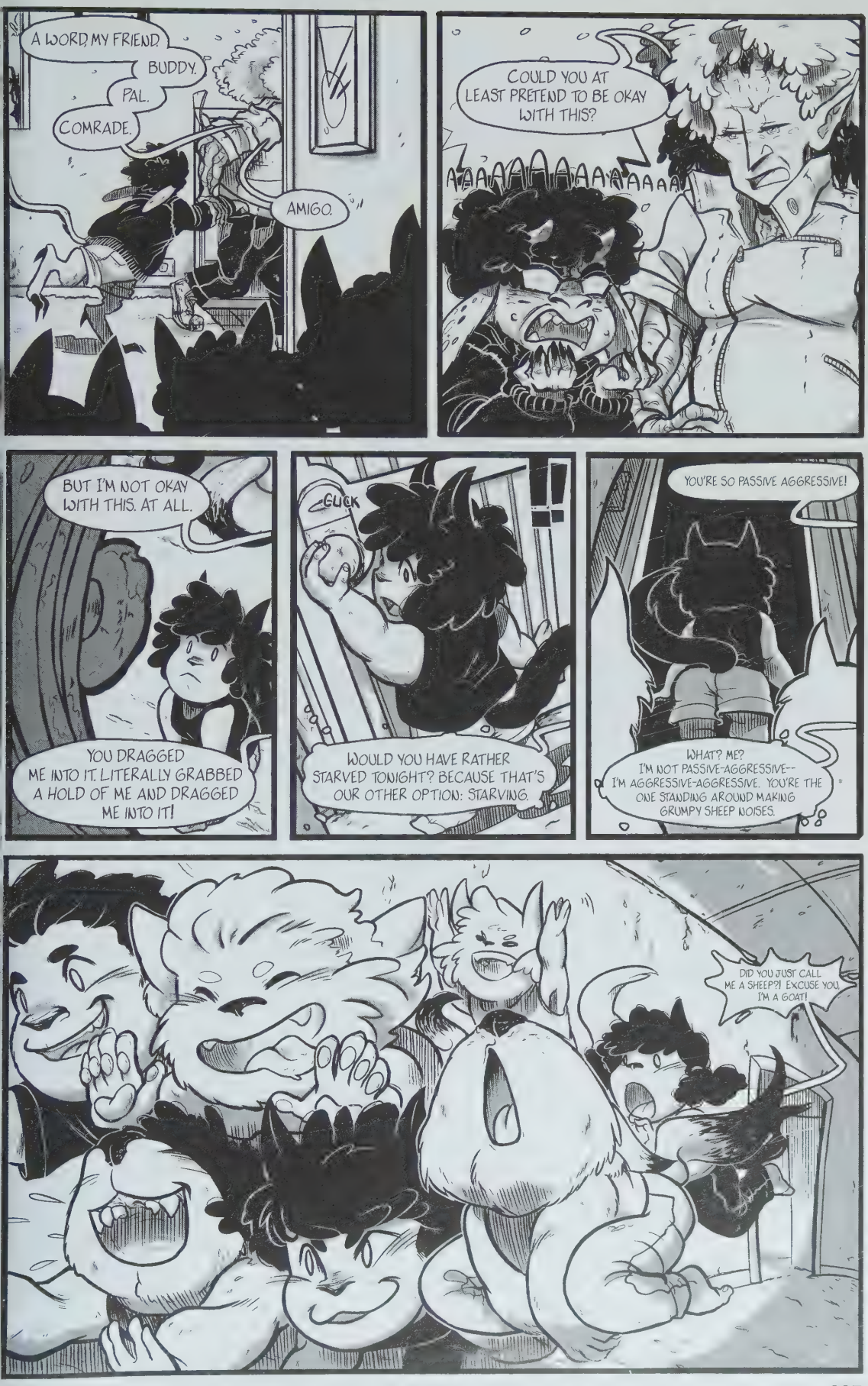
THANKS AGAIN FOR DOING THIS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
YEAH, IT'S A MAJOR HELP. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ON A MOVIE DATE FOR WEEKS! BEGINNING TO GET A LITTLE STIR CRAZY.
GRUMFPH.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND BABYSITTING? WE COULD, I DON'T KNOW--
MAYBE CHECK WITH MRS. SIDNEY AGAIN. MAYBE SHE COULD--


IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL, HONEST!
BUT--!!

YOU GO ENJOY YOUR NIGHT OFF. OKAY? OKAY. BYE!

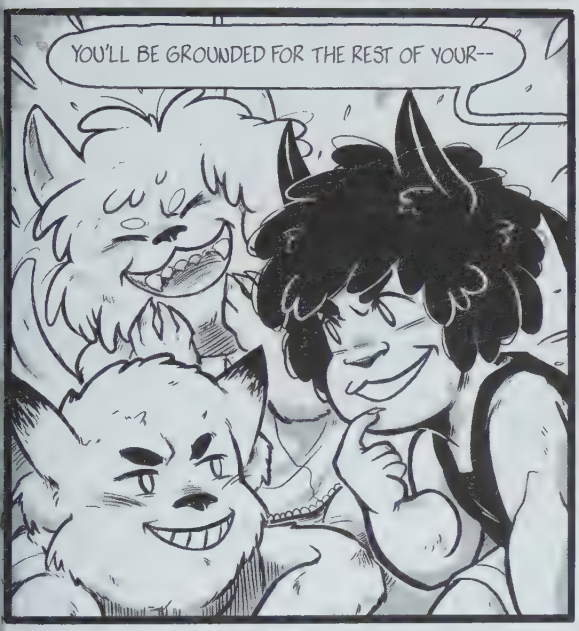
SLAM!


A WORD, MY FRIEND.
BUDDY.
PAL.
COMRADE.
AMIGO.
COULD YOU AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE OKAY WITH THIS?
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
BUT I'M NOT OKAY WITH THIS. AT ALL.
YOU DRAGGED ME INTO IT. LITERALLY GRABBED A HOLD OF ME AND DRAGGED ME INTO IT!
CLICK
WOULD YOU HAVE RATHER STARVED TONIGHT? BECAUSE THAT'S OUR OTHER OPTION: STARVING.
YOU'RE SO PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE!
WHAT? ME? I'M NOT PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE-- I'M AGGRESSIVE-AGGRESSIVE. YOU'RE THE ONE STANDING AROUND MAKING GRUMPY SHEEP NOISES.
DID YOU JUST CALL ME A SHEEP?! EXCUSE YOU, I'M A GOAT!

BOOF
BOOF
SSSSSSS
DO NOT ENTER!
AHEM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT OUT, AND FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. YOU HAVE TO THE COUNT OF FIVE TO HEAD BACK HOME BEFORE I CALL YOUR MOMS.

AND BELIEVE ME, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY WITH YOU ONCE THEY HEAR FROM ME!


YOU'LL BE GROUNDED FOR THE REST OF YOUR--

LIVES.

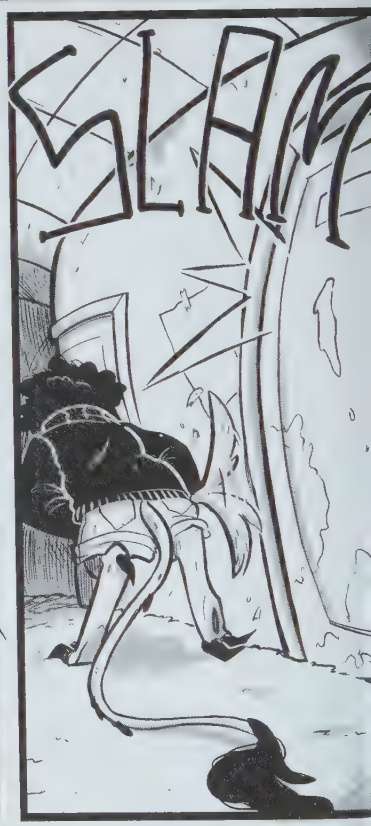
OH NO!!!

THEY'RE GONE!!
GUESS I FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR.

WE'RE GOING TO BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE. WHAT IF THEY GET OUTSIDE? THEY MIGHT GET LOST AND DIE! THEN I'LL DIE! WOLVES EAT GOATS!
HUH, THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPY TO SEE THEM GONE.
IF WE DON'T FIND THEM BEFORE THEIR MOMS COME HOME, WE DON'T GET FED.
HUFF HUFF
!
MARLOWE!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
THOSE BRATS HAPPENED-- BEA AND PHIA'S. THEY TORE ME APART AND RAN OFF WITH THE PIECES, MANGY, LITTLE...
WHERE THE HECK ARE THEIR MOMS, ANYWAY? I'M RAISING THEIR RENT FOR THIS... THIS INDIGNITY.
DON'T THINK THAT'S LEGAL, OH LORD OF LANDS.
IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT ANYWAY, IT'S DAPHNE'S.
YOU NARC!
WHATEVER. YOU FLESHBAGS HAVE YOUR PHONES ON YOU?
YEAH, WHY?
THE KIDS HAVE TRACKERS. WE CAN USE THE APP TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY DO TO MY BEAUTIFUL BUILDING WHAT THEY DID TO ME.

LOADING
OH, HELLO!
AH, UM. HI, SISSY. YEAH. I, UM.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M LOOKING FOR, AH. FOR A, AH, FOR A PUPPY.
PUPPY?
YEAH, PUPPY. WAIT, NO, KID. IT'S A KID. BEA AND PHIA'S, UM, Y'KNOW. SMALL WEREWOLF PEOPLE, THEY'RE--
CREEEEE
POOP!
DAPHNE, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU KNOCK.
GAHH-!!

WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?
OPEN THE DOOR OR YOU'RE EVICTED.
SIGH



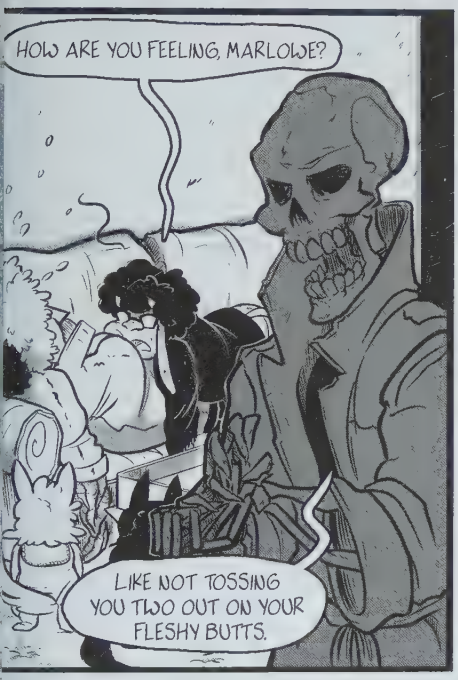
HOW DO YOU LET HIM LIVE LIKE THIS? IT'S A FIRE HAZARD.
HE PAYS HIS RENT.
EW.
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY, GO IN.
EW.
EW.
EW.
EW.
EW.
SUP, PAN. BONEMAN.
I CAUGHT ONE.
SLACKER.
I HAVE THREE. THAT MAKES FOUR.

TWO MORE TO GO.

DO YOU THINK ANYONE'S GONNA FIND 'EM HERE?

NOPE! THIS IS THE MOST SECRETEST PLACE EVER. NO ONE ELSE IS EVER GONNA FIND IT EVER, EVER.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, KIDDO?


HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MARLOWE?
LIKE NOT TOSSING YOU TWO OUT ON YOUR FLESHY BUTTS.

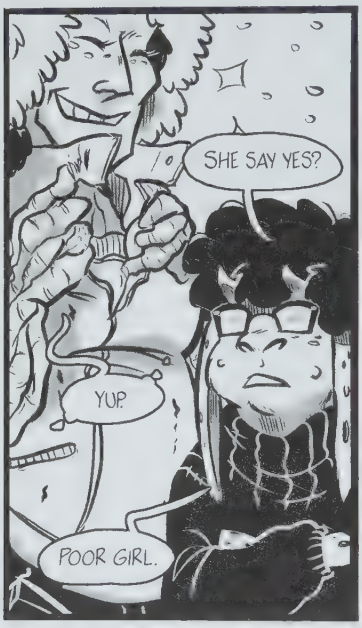
LOOK . . . MARLOWE, SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS. IT'S MY--MY, UH...MY...
FAULT.
--YEAH, THAT THING. IT'S MY THAT. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, PROMISE.

YOUR RENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST. IF YOU'RE LATE, YOU'RE OUT.

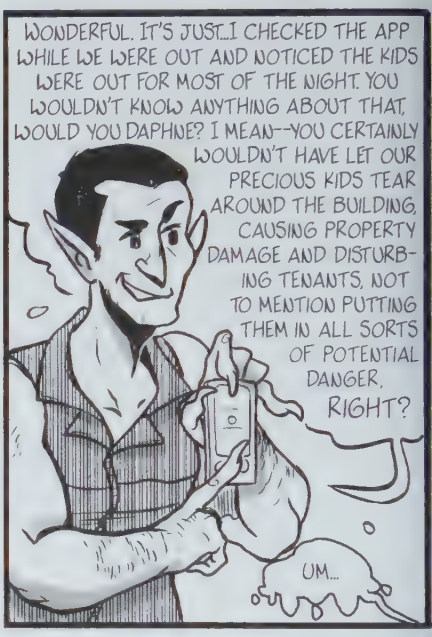
LADIES.

MUM!
SWEETIES.
MA!
MOMMY!
MOM!

THIS TURNED OUT OKAY. WE'RE GETTING FED, OUR LITTLE SECRET IS SAFE, AND I FINALLY ASKED SISSY OUT. SCORE FOR THE PLANT.


SHE SAY YES?
YUP.
POOR GIRL.

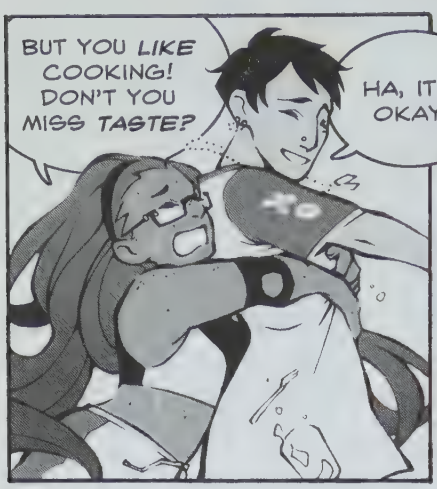
BEFORE WE GO, I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION.
SURE. SHOOT. HOW'D YOUR NIGHT GO, BY THE WAY?


WONDERFUL. IT'S JUST...I CHECKED THE APP WHILE WE WERE OUT AND NOTICED THE KIDS WERE OUT FOR MOST OF THE NIGHT. YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU DAPHNE? I MEAN--YOU CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE LET OUR PRECIOUS KIDS TEAR AROUND THE BUILDING, CAUSING PROPERTY DAMAGE AND DISTURBING TENANTS, NOT TO MENTION PUTTING THEM IN ALL SORTS OF POTENTIAL DANGER, RIGHT?
UM...

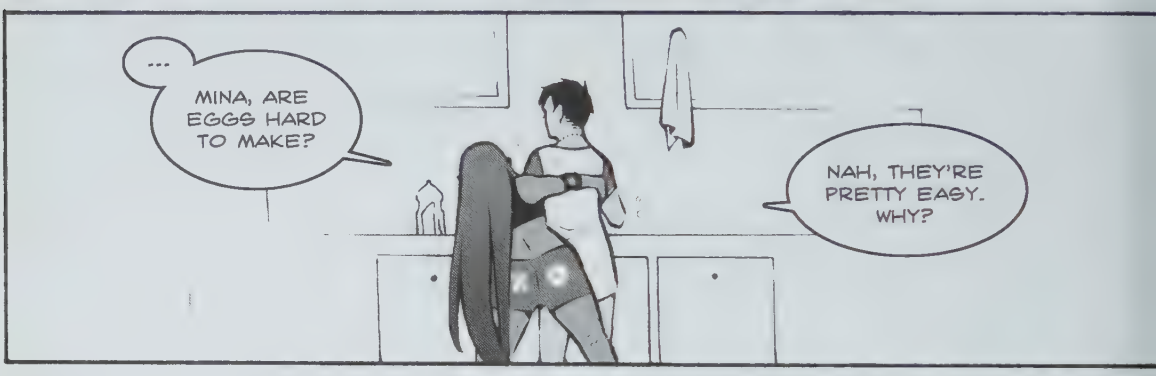
BYE.
WELL?

UM. HA.
WELL.
HAHA.

FAIRY FOOD!!
WAIT, SO YOU CAN'T TASTE FOOD ANYMORE?
WELL, NOT HUMAN FOOD. IT ALL TASTES LIKE DUST AND ASHES TO ME NOW.
by sam garvey
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?!
SINCE WE MET, SO...SIX MONTHS, I GUESS?
THAT LONG?!
WE MET AT THAT PIXIE CAFÉ DOWN-TOWN, YEAH?
I ATE A FAIRY BUN BY ACCIDENT.
I GUESS HUMAN FOOD JUST MAGICALLY TASTES BAD BY COMPARISON.


BUT YOU *LIKE* COOKING! DON'T YOU MISS *TASTE?*
HA, IT'S OKAY!

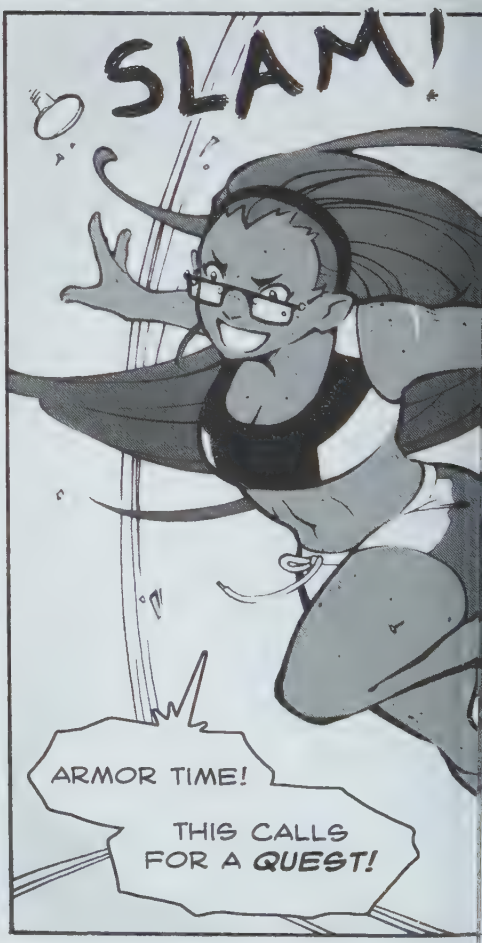
IT WAS WORTH IT TO MEET YOU, AZALEA.


...
MINA, ARE EGGS HARD TO MAKE?
NAH, THEY'RE PRETTY EASY. WHY?

SEE YOU TONIGHT!

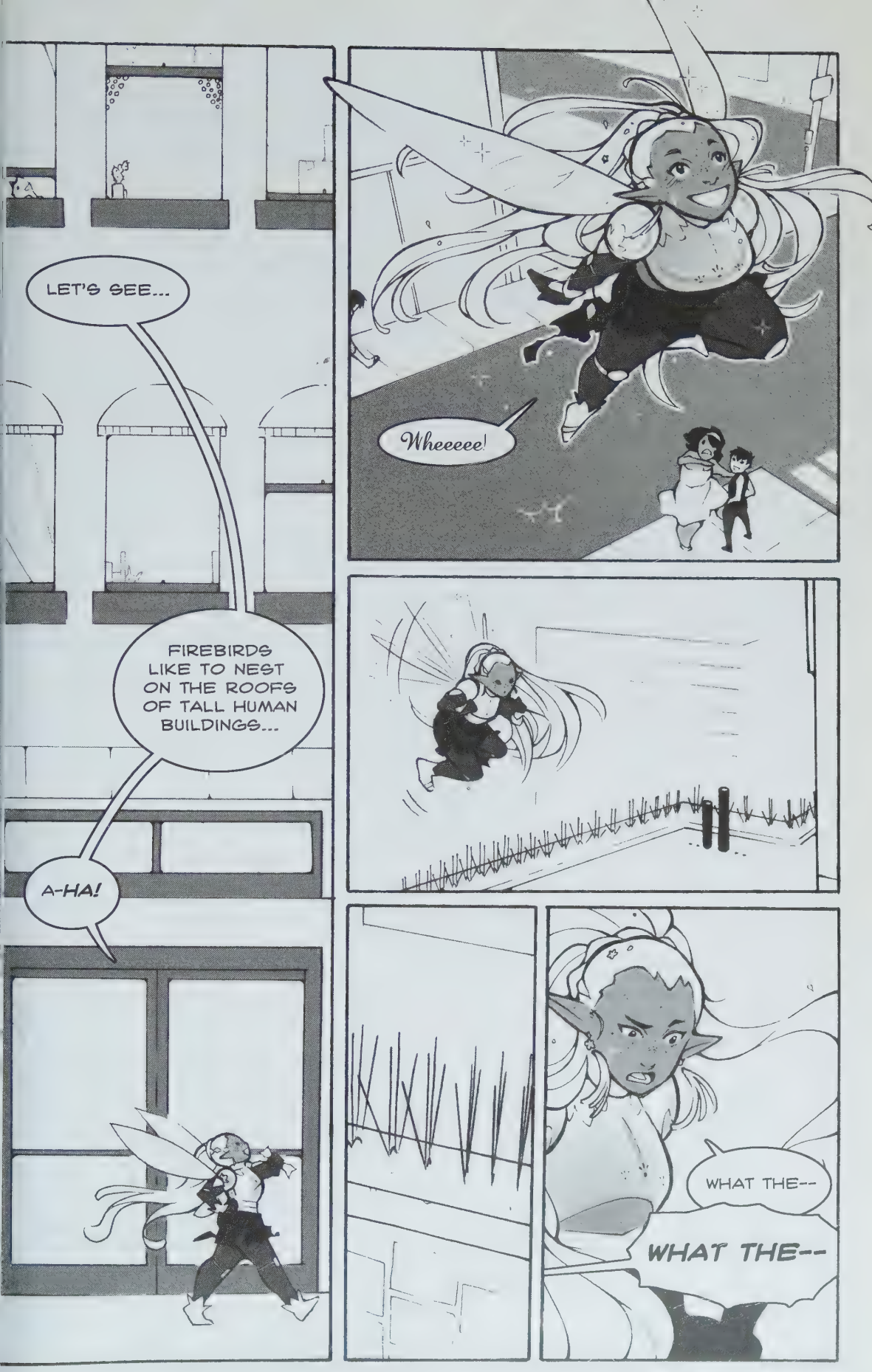
REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR GLAMOUR ON!
YOUR WINGS'LL SCARE PEOPLE OTHERWISE!

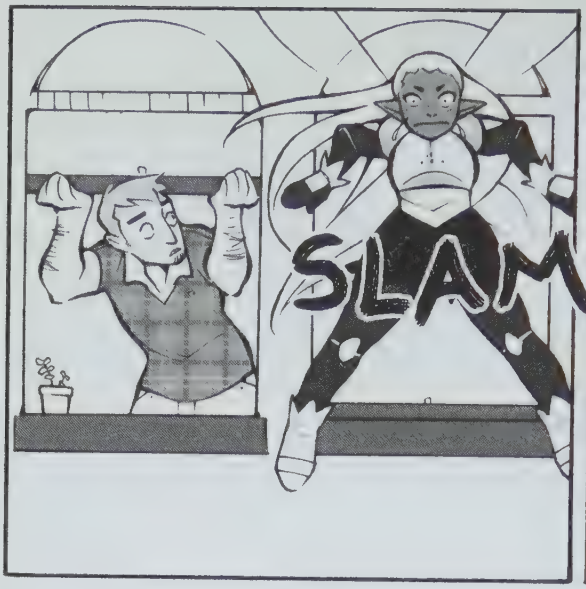
...IS SHE GONE...?


SLAM!
ARMOR TIME!
THIS CALLS FOR A *QUEST!*

GAUNTLETS!
BREASTPLATE!
SHOPPING LIST!
•eggs
•salt
•milk
FAIRY FOOD GET!!
•eggs •salt •milk
JUST YOU WAIT, MINA! I'M GONNA COOK YOU THE MOST MAGICAL EGGS EVER!
OH, RIGHT!
GOTTA TAKE THE GLAMOUR OFF, AAAND...

STRETCH MY WINGS!
FIRST UP: FIREBIRD EGGS!


LET'S SEE...
FIREBIRDS LIKE TO NEST ON THE ROOFS OF TALL HUMAN BUILDINGS...
A-HA!
Wheeeee!
WHAT THE--
WHAT THE--


SLAM

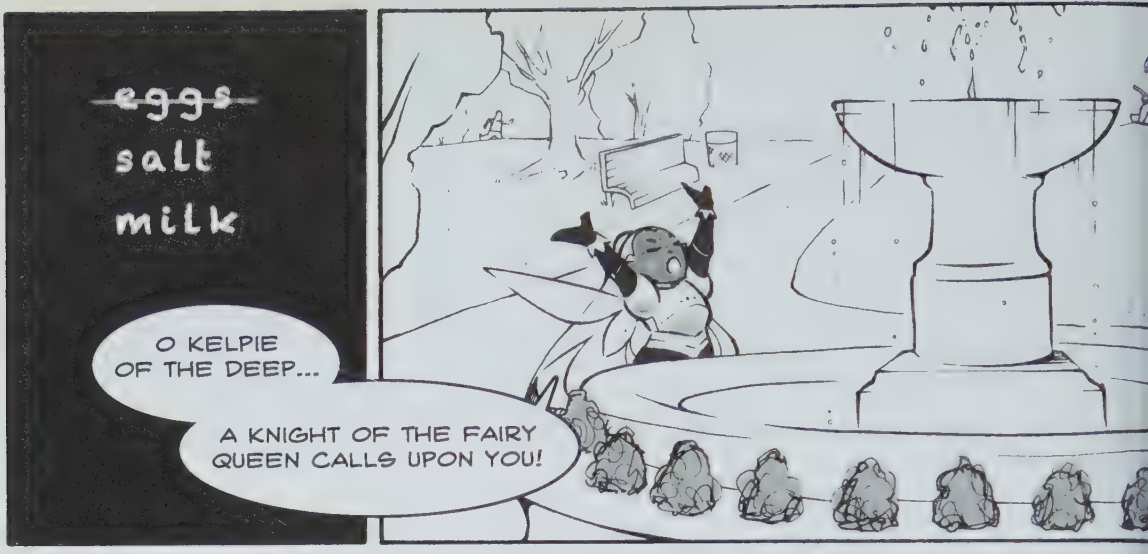
HOW DID YOU GET
OH, HI THERE, FELLOW HUMAN!
SAY, CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS SHARP STUFF?

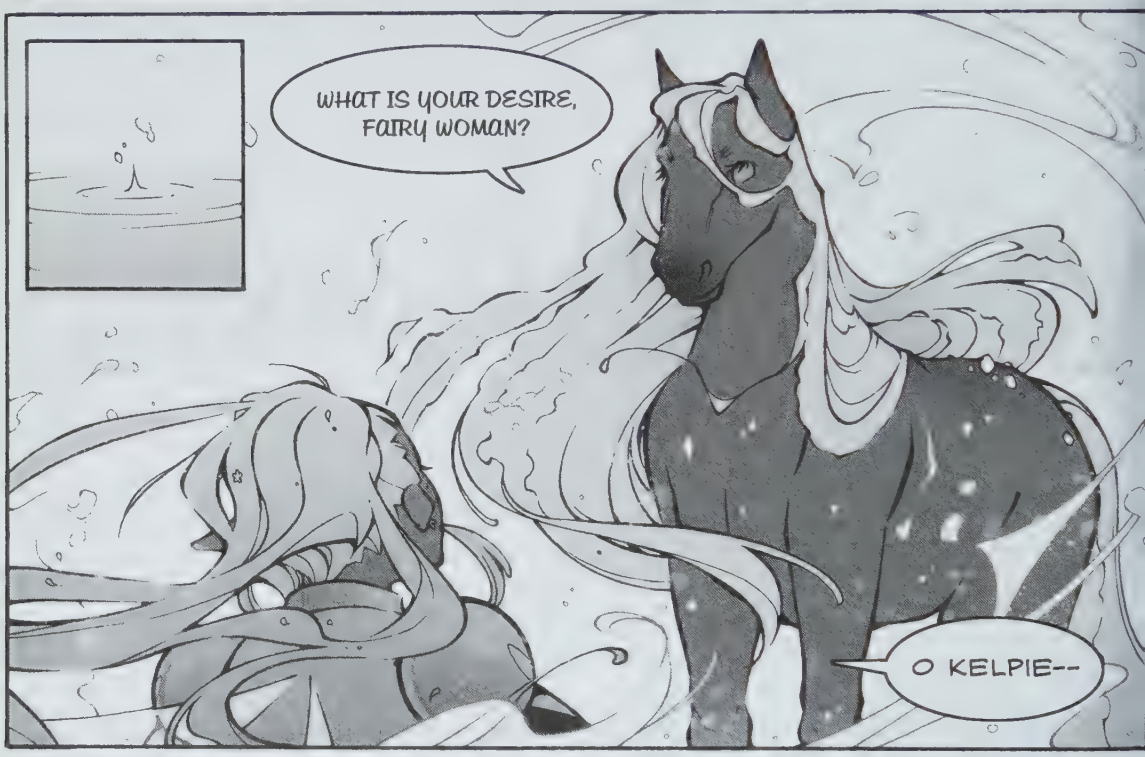
THE...PIGEON WIRE?
YEAH, THAT.
WELL, UH--THE CITY PUT IT UP. 'CAUSE PIGEONS WERE ROOSTING AND POOPING ALL OVER.
AH. UM.

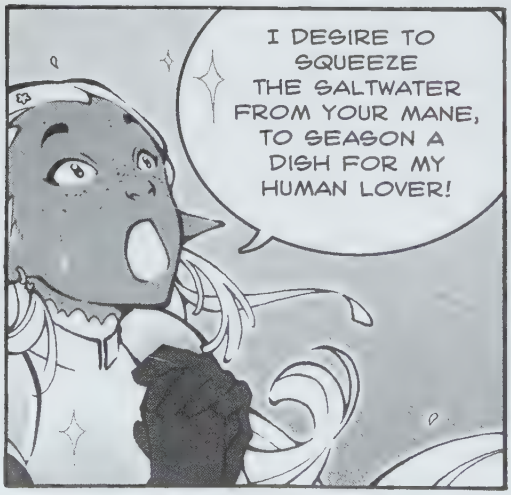
WERE THERE ANY REALLY REEEALLY BIG ONES?
WHO MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN, UH, ON FIRE?

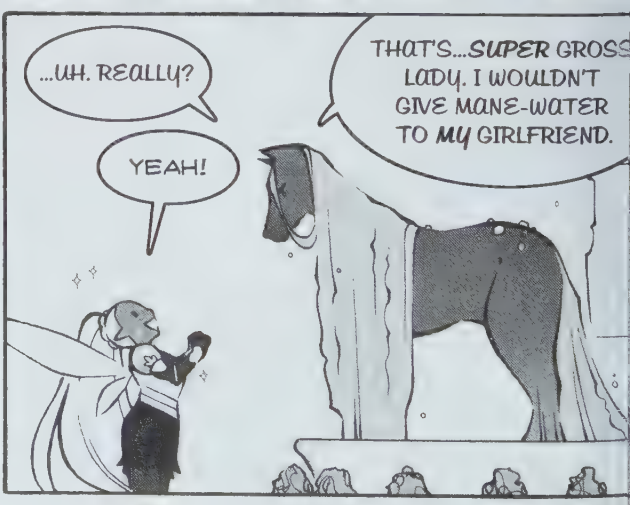
MAYBE? THEY'RE ALL GONE NOW, THOUGH.
DANGIT.
...SERIOUSLY, HOW DID YOU GET UP HERE?

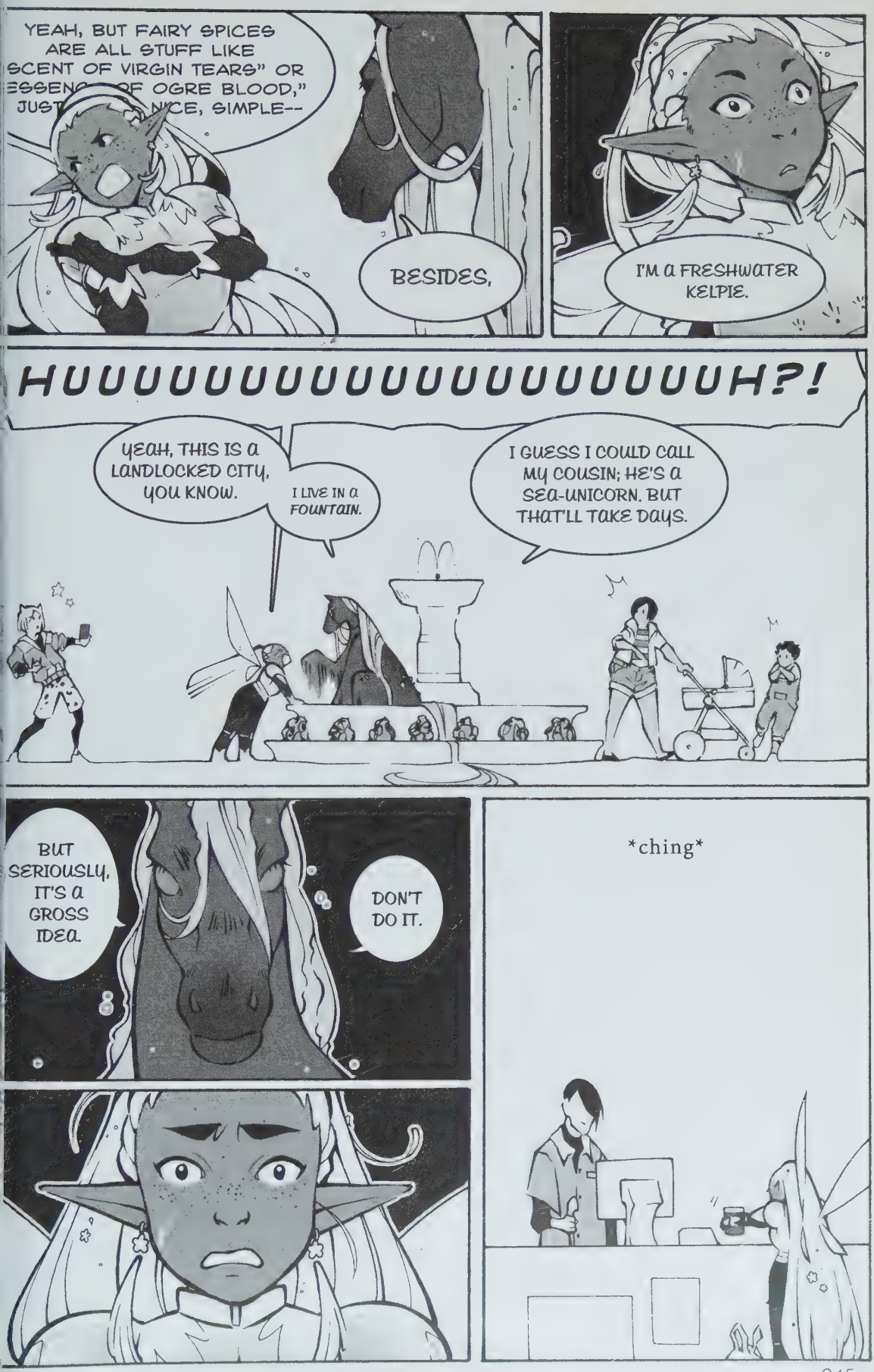
SIGH.
EEEEEEEK!
SHOP n' GO
THUMP
...
JUST ONE NON-FAIRY INGREDIENT SHOULD BE OKAY...
RIGHT...?
LARGE WHITE
6 EGGS GRAD
...
ONWARD!!


~~eggs~~
salt
milk
O KELPIE OF THE DEEP...
A KNIGHT OF THE FAIRY QUEEN CALLS UPON YOU!


WHAT IS YOUR DESIRE, FAIRY WOMAN?
O KELPIE--


I DESIRE TO SQUEEZE THE SALTWATER FROM YOUR MANE, TO SEASON A DISH FOR MY HUMAN LOVER!


...UH. REALLY?
YEAH!
THAT'S...SUPER GROSS LADY. I WOULDN'T GIVE MANE-WATER TO MY GIRLFRIEND.


YEAH, BUT FAIRY SPICES ARE ALL STUFF LIKE "SCENT OF VIRGIN TEARS" OR "ESSENCE OF OGRE BLOOD," JUST NICE, SIMPLE--
BESIDES,
I'M A FRESHWATER KELPIE.
HUUU

~~eggs~~
~~salt~~
milk
OKAY, THIS ONE'S EASY.
FOXGLOVE~!
SER AZALEA! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF THOSE MUSCLES?
OF COURSE!
I HEARD YOU'D OPENED A FOOD CART OVER HERE!
YEP!
JEWELFRUIT CRISP ENOUGH TO BREAK YOUR TEETH, AND...
MILK FROM A GOLD-STRIPED GOAT!
Yaaaaaaaaay...?

TO GET THE REALLY GOOD STUFF, YOU CAN ONLY MILK A DEW-FED GOLD-STRIPED GOAT BY THE LIGHT OF A WANING MOON, IT'S A TOTAL PAIN I
FOXGLOVE.
YES?
THIS MILK COSTS $26.50.
YES.
HAT'S INSANE!
IT'S ORGANIC!
PLUS, DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND GOOD FAIRY INGREDIENTS IN A HUMAN CITY??
THE MARKET FOR THIS STUFF IS HOT!
MILK
MINA...

I MADE YOU...
...EGGS.
AZALEA, THAT'S SO SWEET OF YOU!
I GUESS...
B-BUT THEY WON'T TASTE GOOD! I HAD TO USE REGULAR HUMAN SALT--
AWW, DON'T WORRY--
AND HUMAN EGGS--
UH.
AND HUMAN MILK!
OKAY, NO YOU DIDN'T, BUT OKAY.
AZALEA, THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU MADE IT WITH LOVE, SO IT'LL BE AMAZING.
THANK YOU.
AA AA AAH

nom
...
M...MINA?
IF IT TASTES GROSS, YOU CAN SPIT IT OUT.
...IT'S DELICIOUS.
HUH?
I CAN ACTUALLY TASTE IT...
IT'S DELICIOUS...!
FAIRY FOOD
food made with fairy ingredients
FAIRY FOOD
~~food made with fairy ingredients~~
food made by a fairy

And so, we lived happily ever after.

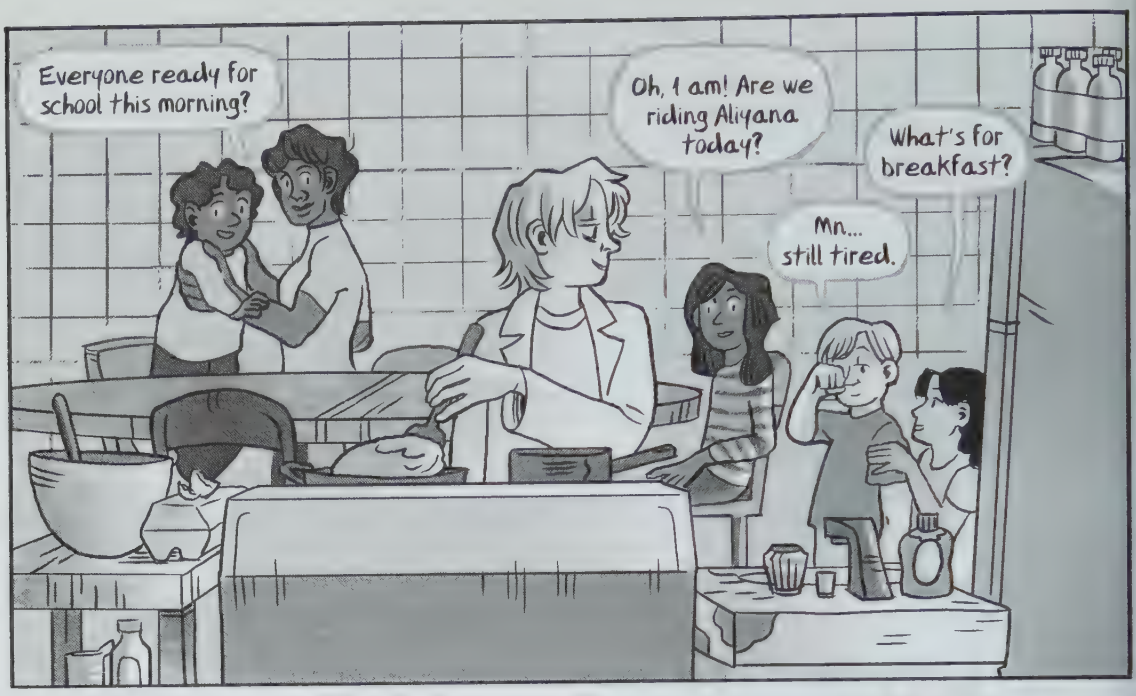
Peyton.

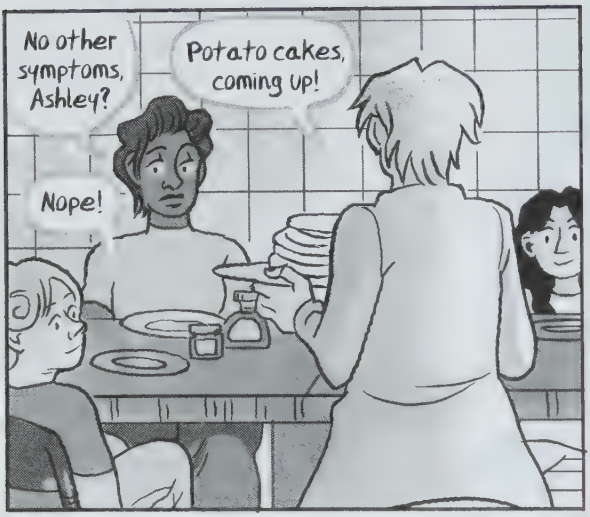
Peyton, are you down here?
SLEEPING Giant
Stephanie Hovden

Peyton ...

...do I need to get the children out of bed?

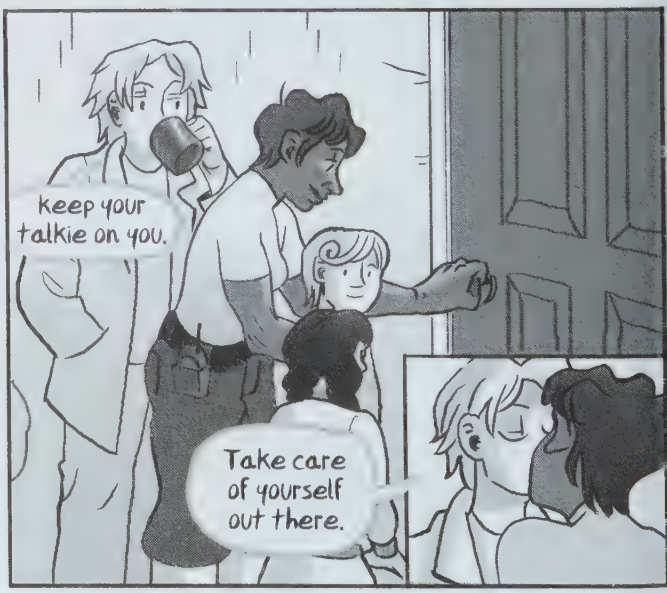
These figures are unusually high, but we're not in danger.


Everyone ready for school this morning?
Oh, I am! Are we riding Aliyana today?
What's for breakfast?
Mn... still tired.

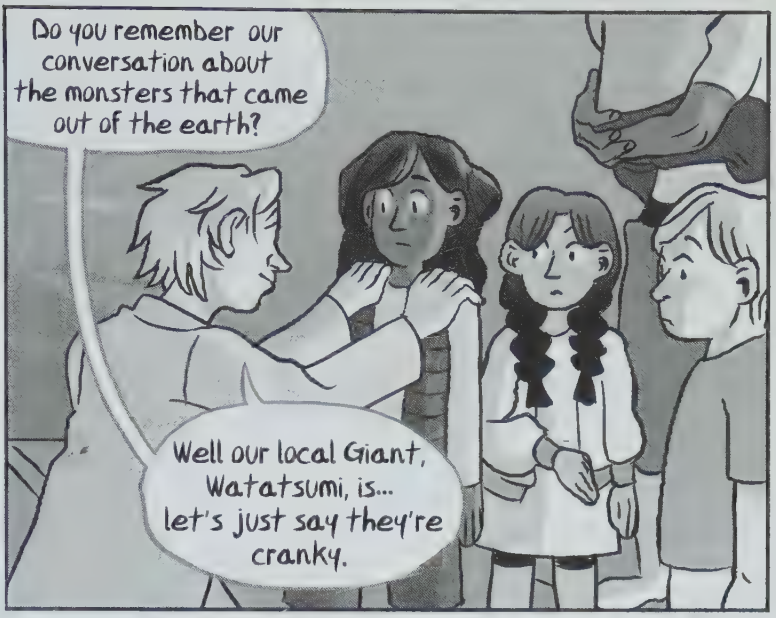

No other symptoms, Ashley?
Potato cakes, coming up!
Nope!

Mia, we can't make it to higher ground without our girl, Aliyana.

Everyone get enough?
We've got a schedule to stick to.

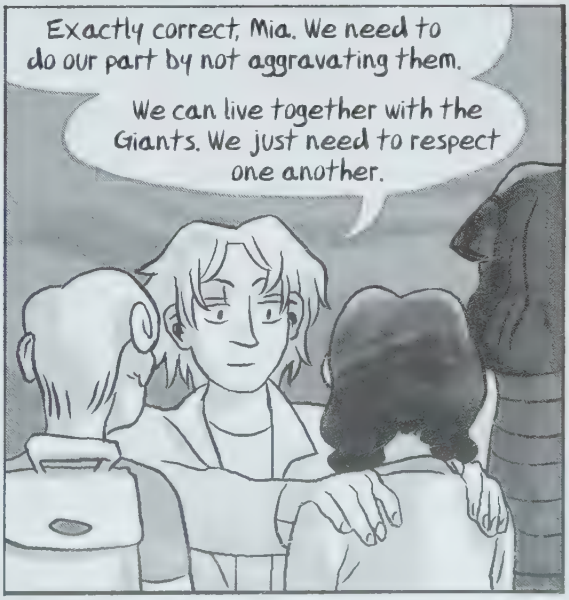

Keep your talkie on you.
Take care of yourself out there.

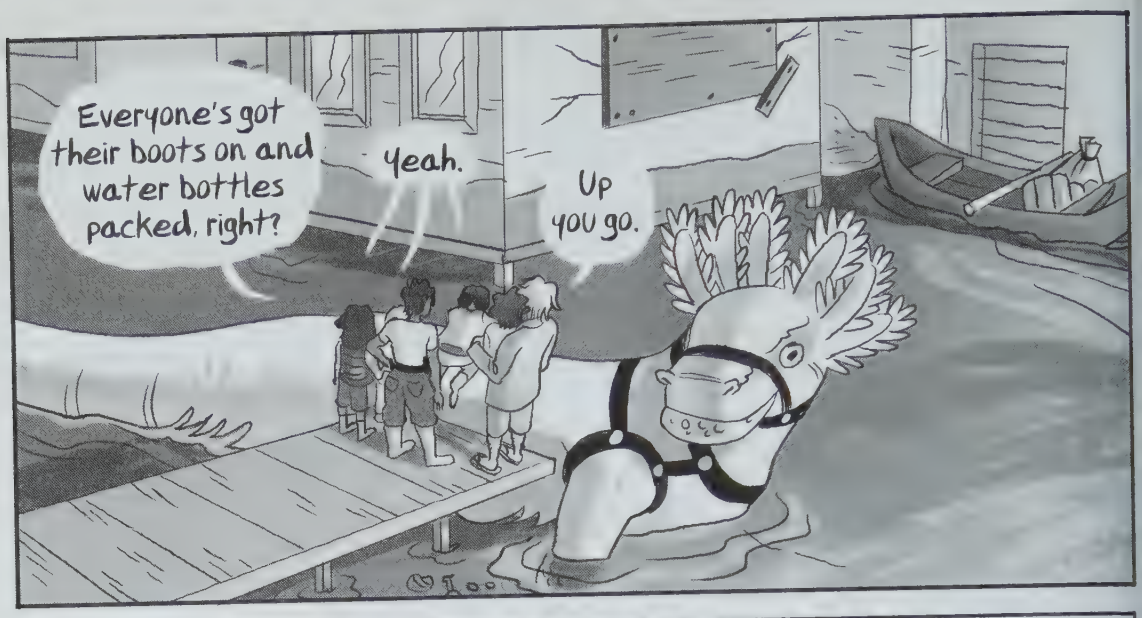
Peyton's not coming?
Not today.
Aww, why?

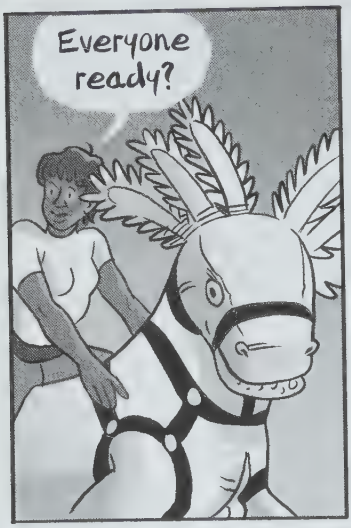

Do you remember our conversation about the monsters that came out of the earth?
Well our local Giant, Watatsumi, is... let's just say they're cranky.

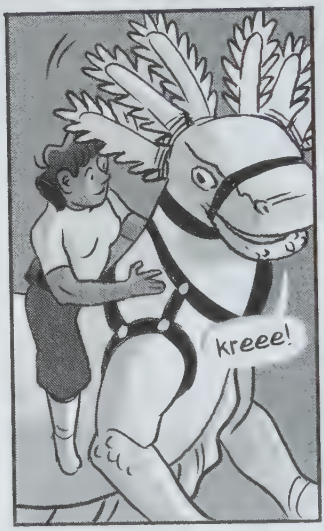
Yeah, and you know what it's like when you're cranky. You throw a tantrum trying to get the whole world to listen.

Is that what happened last time? Watatsumi needs to control their temper!
What's going to happen when--when--the world...


Exactly correct, Mia. We need to do our part by not aggravating them.
We can live together with the Giants. We just need to respect one another.


Everyone's got their boots on and water bottles packed, right?
Yeah.
Up you go.


Everyone ready?


kreee!

SWISH

Ahhhhhhhh!
CRACK

Everyone okay?!
Was that Watatsumi?

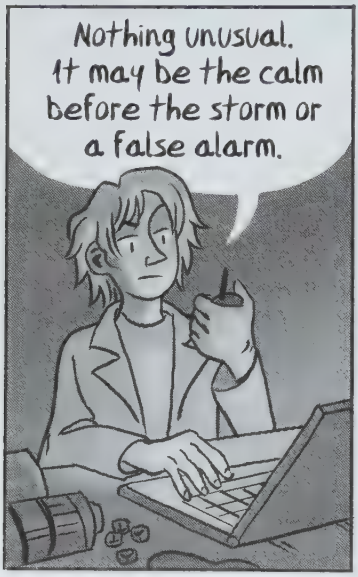
You kids stay there. I'll be right back!

Are there any injuries!? We all need--
There was a bit of shaking, but it was just a tremor, right?
Is there going to be more?

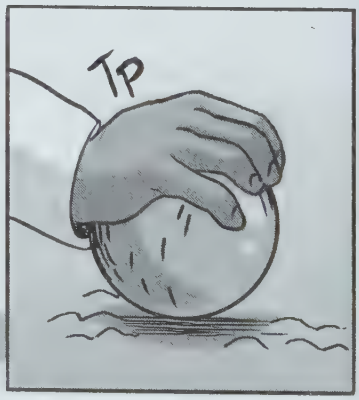
...

No, no, you're right. I'll get the kids.

We experienced a large tremor on our route.
Everyone's okay, but how does it look on your end?


Nothing unusual. It may be the calm before the storm or a false alarm.

Don't worry, go have fun.
I'll be downstairs if you need anything.


TP

No Peyton today?

Unfortunately not, they had to stay home.

...and that's why the world is the way it is today. Every day has the potential for high to catastrophic danger.

Be on alert. The giants could wake up at anytime and wreak havoc once again.

Here is what we know — 1firit, located in northern Brazil, can create volcanoes and fireballs.

What are you sillies up to.

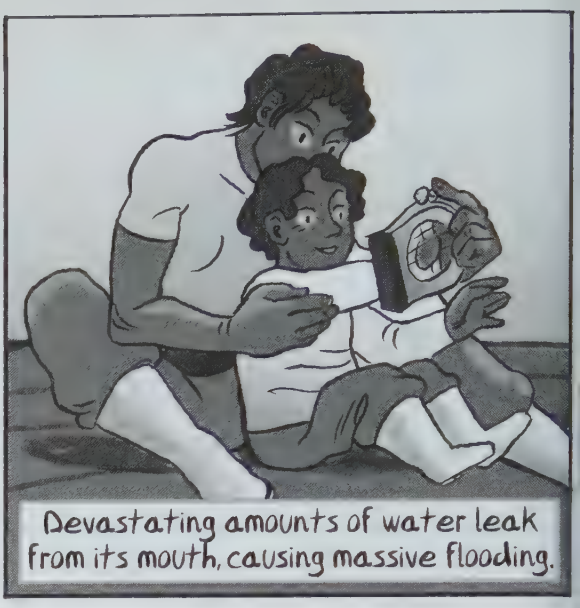
Do you like playing with the portals? Fun, huh?

Its body is covered with pores that ooze magma.

Whoa!

Dangerous: do not approach.

There we go.
Watatsumi, located in California, forms Tsunamis in its gigantic mouth.


Devastating amounts of water leak from its mouth, causing massive flooding.

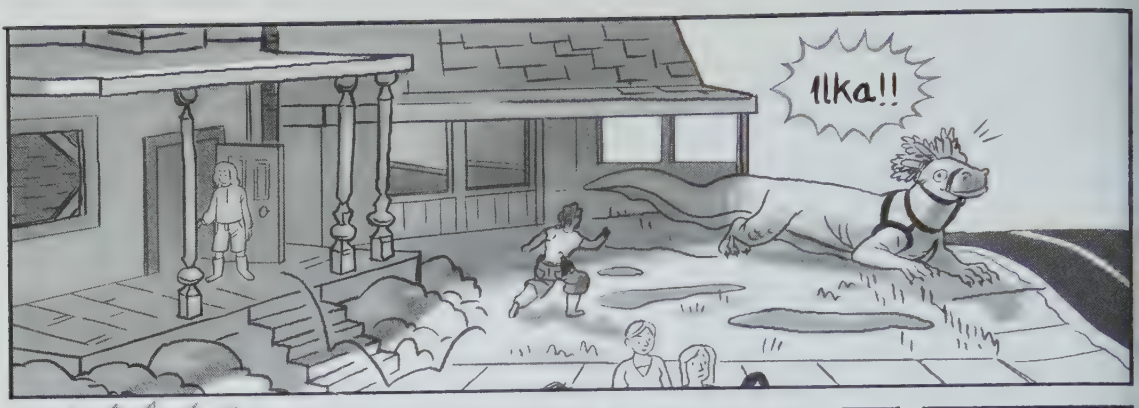
Yeah, it's like magic. Isn't it.

Fenrir, located in Southern Africa, creates violent tornadoes and catastrophic windstorms...

Nononono, sweetie, you don't want to do that.
...capable of sending wind in any direction. Communities near Fenrir are advised to live underground.

No wonder it was actin' funny.
Genbu, currently located in China near Nepal, creates widespread thunderstorms.

AARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
Bolts of lightning emitted from the clouds around Genbu are over 50 feet in diameter--
Oh no, no, nonono.
Everyone needs to evacuate, now. Take the children and get to the nearest fallout shelter.
PSSHHH Ilka--Ilka, are you there? PSSHHH ILKA?!
Beeeeeeeeeeeep!
This is the emergency broadcast system. Watatsumi is showing signs of activity. Get to the nearest shelter immediately.


Ilka!!

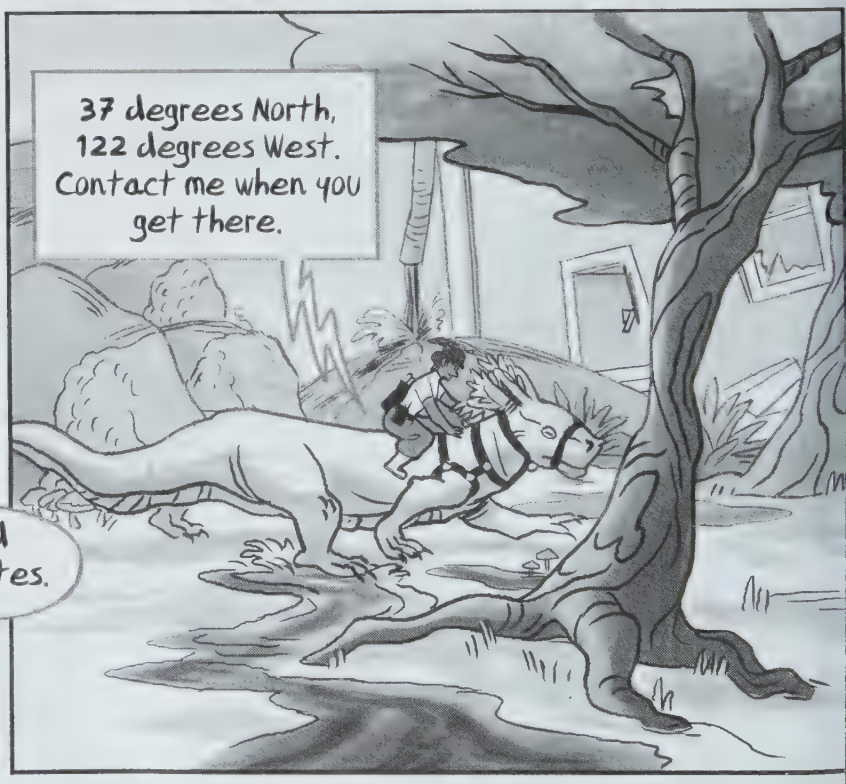
Where are you going!?

We're going to the shelter, right?
That's right, because...

...Watatsumi's waking up, and I gotta keep'em in check.

As soon as I get back I'll head right over.

Kids are heading to the shelter.
I need coordinates.


37 degrees North, 122 degrees West. Contact me when you get there.

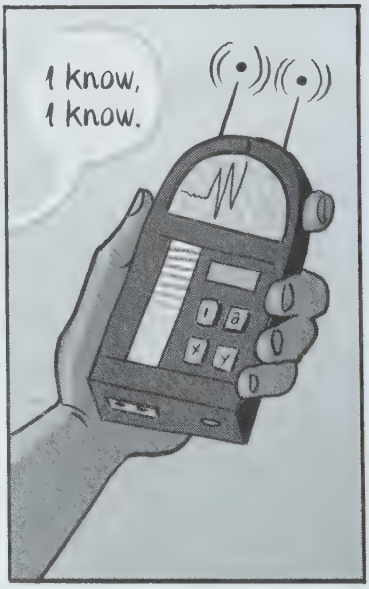
At the vista point. How far is it to water-breath?
Heh, about 12.8 kilometers at current positions.

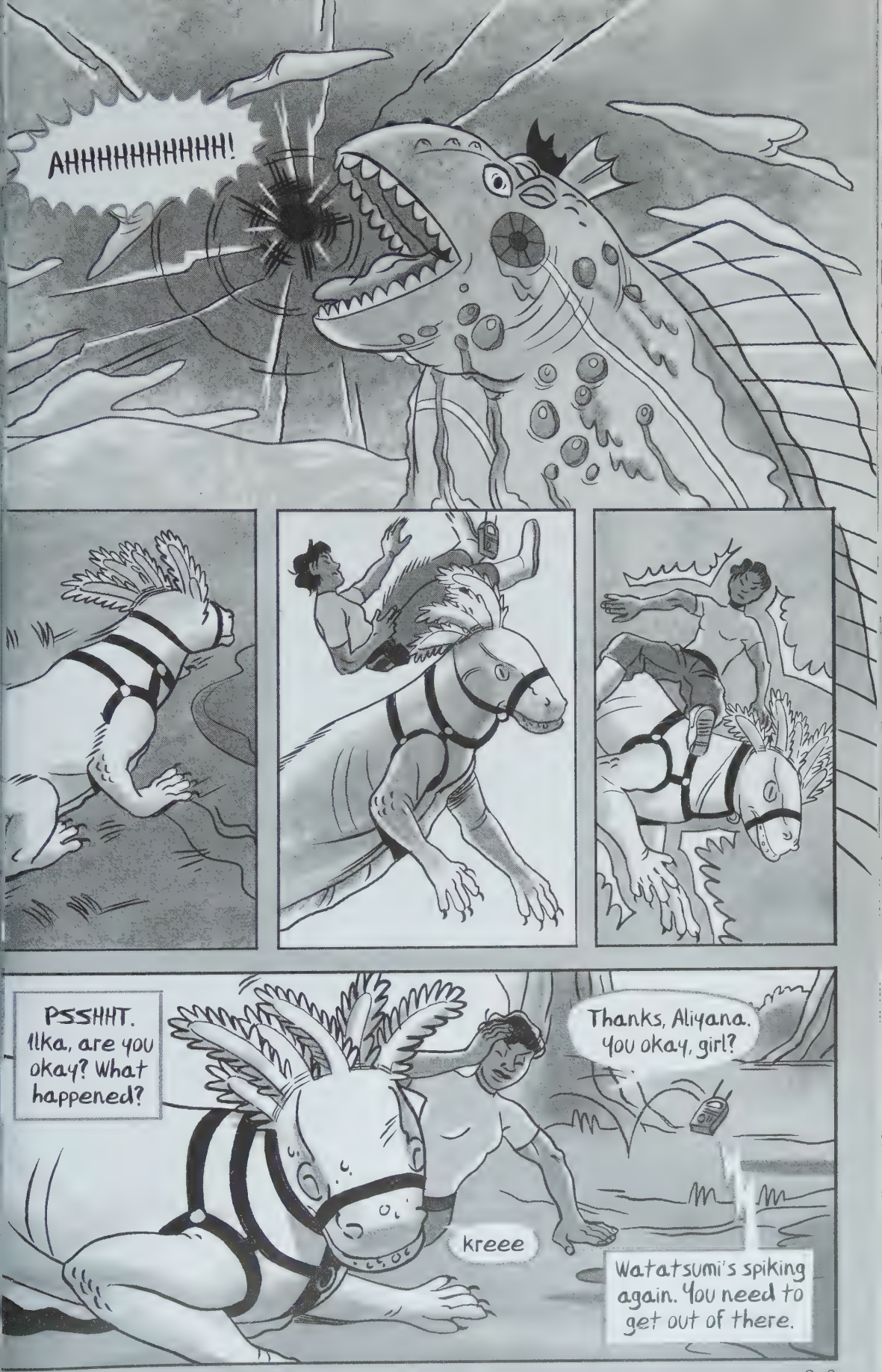
whip

I'm here. Going to do some scanning.

Alright, take every precaution.

On 'em.
Okay, check for hollows.


I know, I know.

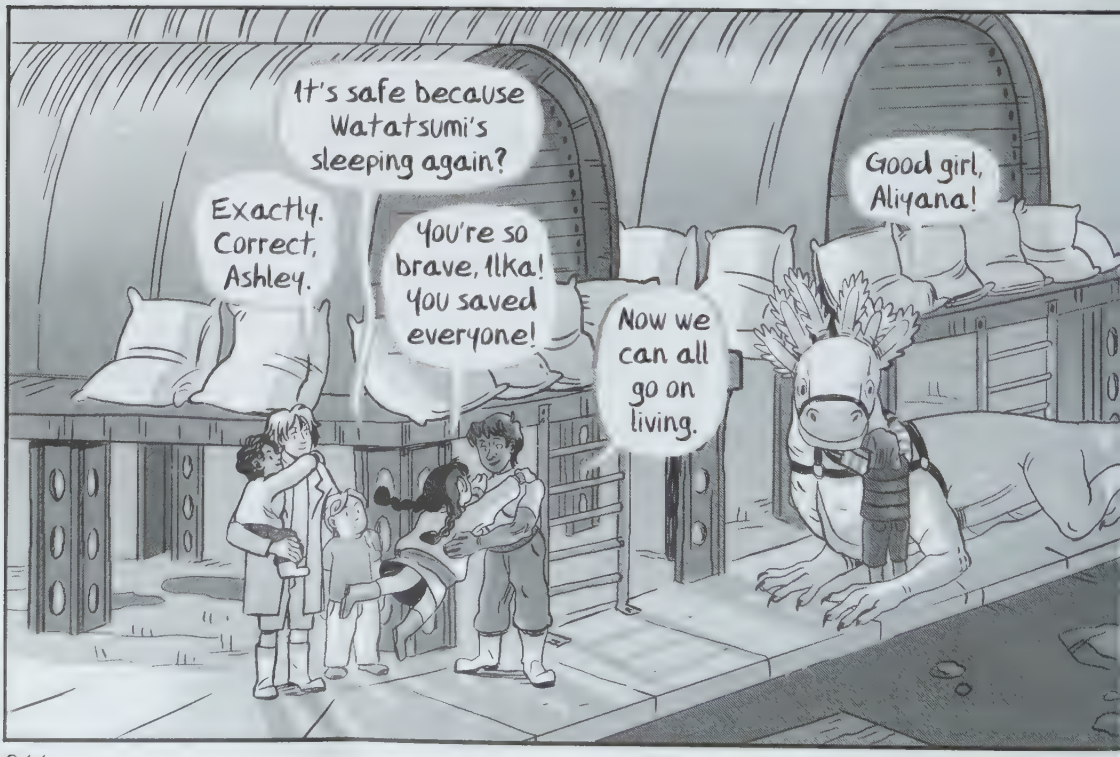

AHHHHHHHHHH!
PSSHHT. Ilka, are you okay? What happened?
Thanks, Aliyana. You okay, girl?
kreee
Watatsumi's spiking again. You need to get out of there.

LIKE NOW!
No no no, it's too late. We have to...
USE THE GROUND PORTAL!!!!

kreee
We did it.
IT WORKED MARVELOUSLY!

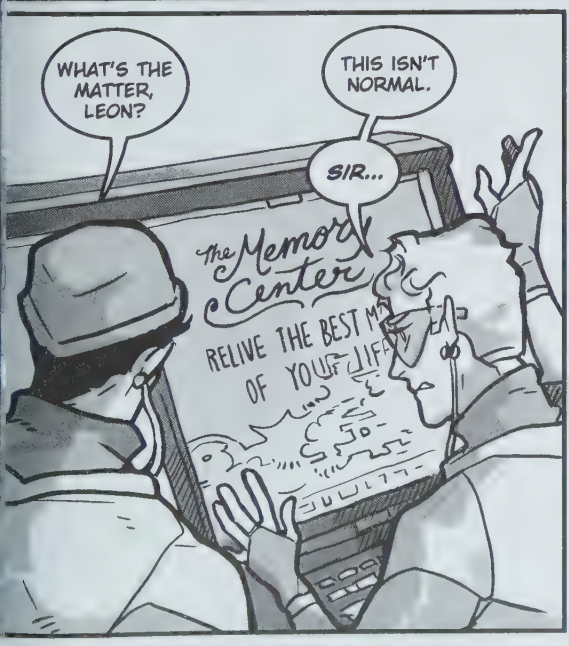
That was seriously close, though.
HUP

Heading back now.
See you at the shelter.


It's safe because Watatsumi's sleeping again?
Exactly. Correct, Ashley.
You're so brave, Ilka! You saved everyone!
Now we can all go on living.
Good girl, Aliyana!

QUARANTINE

BY SONIA LIAO



NON-CORE UNITS OUT OF THE ROOM!
CONTROL
VIRAL ATTACK AT THE CONTROL CENTER! REQUEST SECURITY BLOCKS IMMEDIATELY!
SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE IT REACHES THE OUTBOUND PORT--WE CAN'T LET IT SPREAD TO THE REST OF THE NETWORK.
WE'RE TRYING, BUT WE NEED TO KEEP THE PORT OPEN FOR EVACUATION...
GRAAAAHH!!
HOLY CRAP!
OUTBOUND
INBOUND
LEON!
WE HAVE TO GO!
WE NEED TO SHUT DOWN THE OUTBOUND PORT.
WHAT?
IT'S GOING TO GET OUT!
QUARANTINE
WAIT--
I'M SORRY, HAL.

BANG!
YEARS LATER...
TERMINAL
LEON, COME ON!
THERE'S STILL FIVE MINUTES 'TIL TAKE OFF, HAL!
CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE LOSERS IN CONSTRUCTION OVERPROGRAMMED AGAIN.
WHEN WE RUN OUT OF BLOCKS, I SAY WE LET THEM STARVE FIRST.
THAT'S COLD, MAN.
ONLY FOR LOSERS, BABE. Y'KNOW WE'VE GOT A SHORTAGE.
TCH!
BLOCK RETRIEVAL ALPHA-SQUAD IS A GO.
REMEMBER, GUYS...

...WE'VE GOT A BIGGER QUOTA TO MEET TODAY.
TWELVE O'CLOCK, GOTTA COUPLE OF SKY SHARKS COMING AT US.
GRAYSON, HOWI, FALL INTO POSITION.
ON IT, BOSS.
PEW PEW
PEW
WHAT...?
EIGHT...
NINE...

LASER CANNONS?
EYE ON THE PRIZE, LEON.
SWEET!
TIME TO FLAUNT THE GOOD STUFF!
DOUBLE KILL!
PEW! PEW!
AH CRUD.
SZTT!!

SLAM!
!
AHHHHHHHHH!!!
I'm going to KILL you, HOW!!
OOMPH!
JESUS, MY HEAD.
WHAT HAPPENED, LEON? HAVEN'T SEEN A GAFFE LIKE THAT SINCE YOU FIRST PROGRAMMED A SHUTTLE.
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING.
HAL, REPORT.
CAUGHT MY DAMSEL, SIR. NO HEARTS BROKEN, NO TEARS SHED.
COPY THAT. MEET YOU BOTH AT THE COLLECTION CENTER.
ROGER THAT.

I TOLD YOU, THERE WAS A GIRL!
...FALLING THROUGH THE AIR LIKE A FRESHIE.
YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE GIRLS.
FIRST--FIRST OF ALL, THAT'S NOT TRUE. SECONDLY, THAT'S NOT THE POINT--
I'M TELLING YOU--
SHOOM
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE, DUDE.
WE KNOW YOU'RE STILL MESSING WITH THAT COMMUNICATOR.
SNATCH!
HEY!
STILL TRYING TO SEND AN SOS TO THE REAL WORLD?
GRAYSON! LEON! KNOCK IT OFF.
WE MET QUOTA, WE LIVE ONE MORE DAY. GO HOME AND BE GRATEFUL WE'RE OUT OF THE RED.
LIKE IT'S SUCH A BAD THING I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP HOPE.
YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE. C'MON, LET'S JUST GO HOME.
VROOOOM

OUT
OUT
SCREECH!
YOU BELIEVE ME, RIGHT?
GET SOME SLEEP BABE, COME ON.
TAP TAP
TAP

LEON!
WE ARE ALIVE
TERU
NGHI

CHO
MP!
WE ARE ALIVE
WE ARE ALIVE
30:00
YOU AGAIN.
YOU'RE NOT AN NPC, ARE YOU?
HOW THE HECK ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO LOG OUT OF HERE?
DON'T DO THAT!
30:00
PA
AWR!
ACK!
THE ANTI-MALWARE BOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO ATTACK UNAUTHORIZED HACKING.
YOU CAN'T CODE YOUR WAY OUT.
I CAN CODE MY WAY OUT OF ANYTHING.
SO COULD I, BEFORE THE QUARANTINE.

OH, THANK GOD.
HEY!
!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!
03:34
BO
OM!!

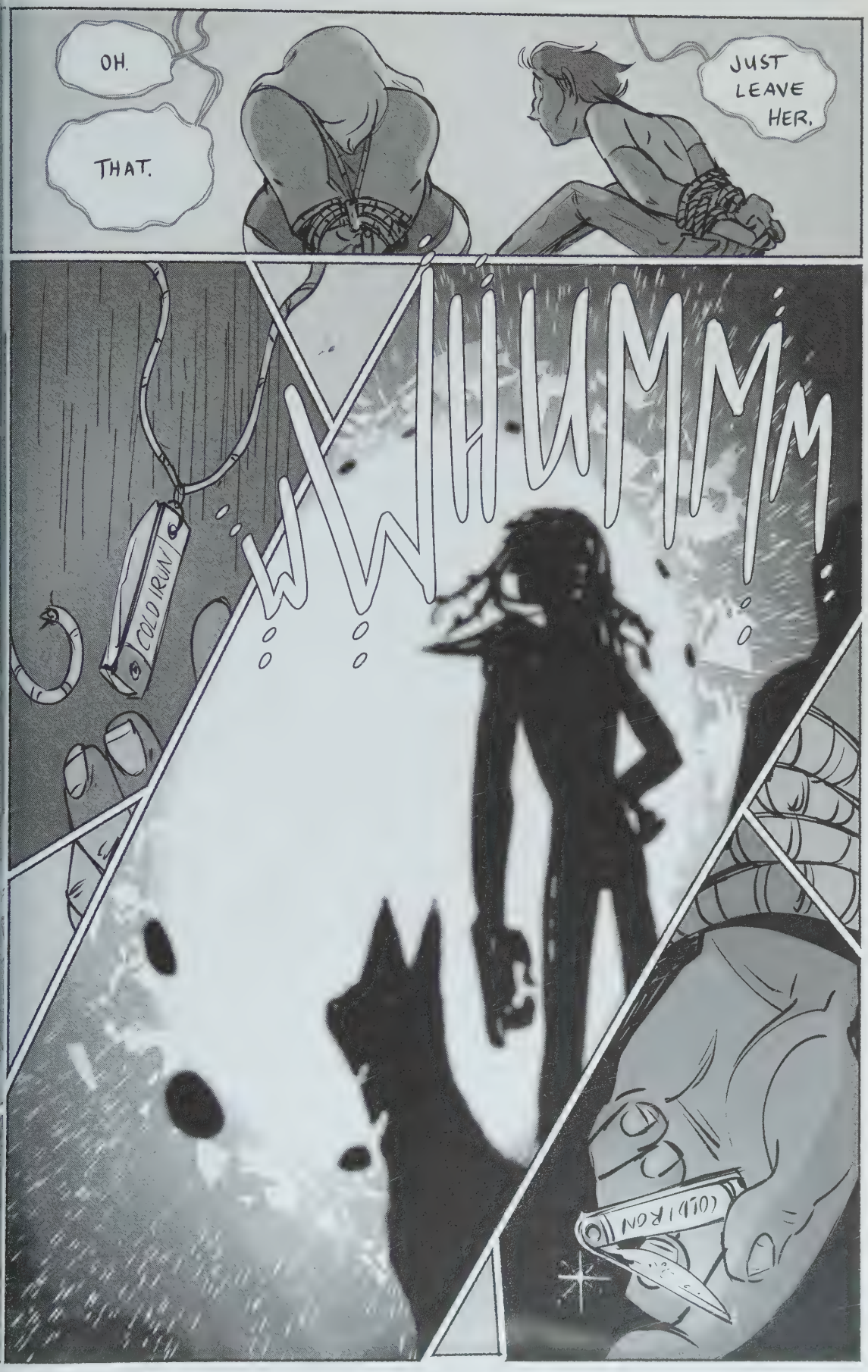
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
THAT WE HAD A CHANCE!
IF I COULD GET A MESSAGE OUT-- IF I COULD SEND IT THROUGH THE DATA STREAM BEHIND THE FIREWALL--
...IT DOESN'T MATTER. LET'S JUST GO HOME.
LOOK, I KNOW I LOGGED IN THROUGH A BACK-DOOR, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
WHY WON'T ANYONE TELL ME HOW TO GET OUT?
YOU CAN'T.
WHAT?
WELCOME TO MONDALE.
THAT'S--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THOSE USERS ALL DIED YEARS AGO.
WE DIED PHYSICALLY. OUR MINDS ARE STILL IN THE NET, KID.
SOMETHING I WAS TRYING TO TELL THE MODS BEFORE...
OH MY GOD.
MAYBE IT'S TOO MUCH TO TAKE IN.
JULIE... IT'S JULIE, RIGHT?
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

DATA DETERIORATION WOULD HAVE WIPED US ALL OUT IF WE COULDN'T RECONSTRUCT IT WITH THESE.
WE BUILT AN ENTIRE CITY OUT OF MONDALE'S RUINS.
BLOCK BY BLOCK.
PIECE BY PIECE.
OUT
NO MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE, THERE'S LIFE HERE.
IF YOU JUST TOOK DOWN THE QUARANTINE...
THEN THE VIRUS WILL ESCAPE INTO THE WORLD NETWORK.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO! IF SOMEONE-- IF SOMEONE MANUFACTURED A CURE FROM THE OUTSIDE...
THEY'D HAVE TO KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WORTH SAVING THOUGH, DON'T THEY?
IS THAT WHAT THAT COMMUNICATION BOMB WAS?
A MESSAGE?
SIGH
IF IT MADE IT OUT IN THE END.

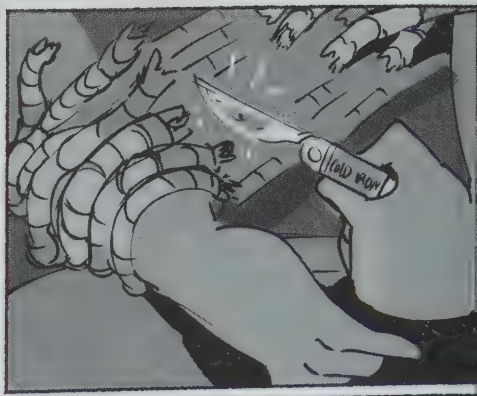
JULIE, YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT OUR COLLECTION CENTER?
WE'VE GOT BLOCKS HERE-- I'M SURE YOU CAN PROGRAM SOMETHING USEFUL.
AREN'T THOSE THINGS... IMPORTANT OR SOMETHING?
YEAH, BUT ONE BLOCK'S NOT GONNA HURT ANYBODY.
TRY IT.
Y'KNOW, IF WE'D GONE THROUGH WITH OUR PLANS TO ADOPT...
PROBABLY...
SHE'D BE AROUND THE RIGHT AGE RIGHT NOW.
STILL, THE MESSAGE...
THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT AND SEE, BABE.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE HELP'S ON THEIR WAY RIGHT NOW.
BUT UNTIL THEN, I'M GLAD WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER.
end

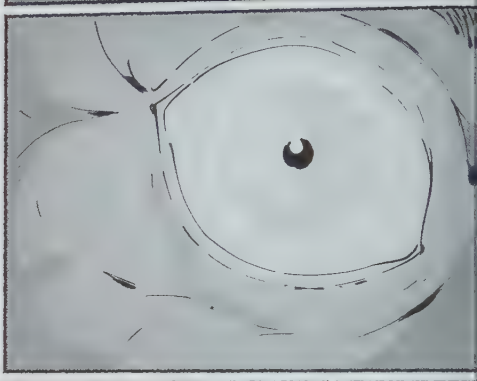
GOING HOME
EUGH. HUMAN AGE IS SO UNSETTLING.
I CAN HARDLY TELL WHICH ONE'S OURS.
I KNOW WHICH ONE..
LET US OPEN THE GATE..
WE HAVE OUR CHANGELING...
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER...

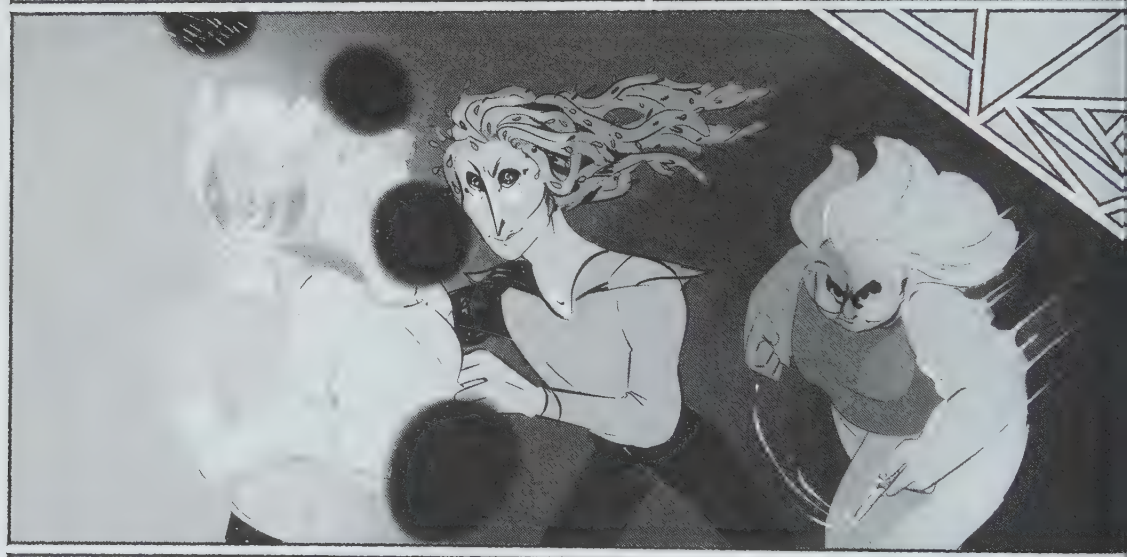
THE QUEEN MISSES YOU AT COURT, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE MAKING US CHASE YOU. I SUPPOSE IT'S BEEN FUN...
BUT A FEW MORE DECADES OF THIS AND I MIGHT GET DRY SKIN.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE HUMAN?
THE
WHAT ?


OH.
THAT.
JUST LEAVE HER.
WHUMM
COLD IRON
COLD IRON

DON'T-
PLEASE-WAIT-
I DON'T BELONG IN FAERIE
I-


HOLD WON'T

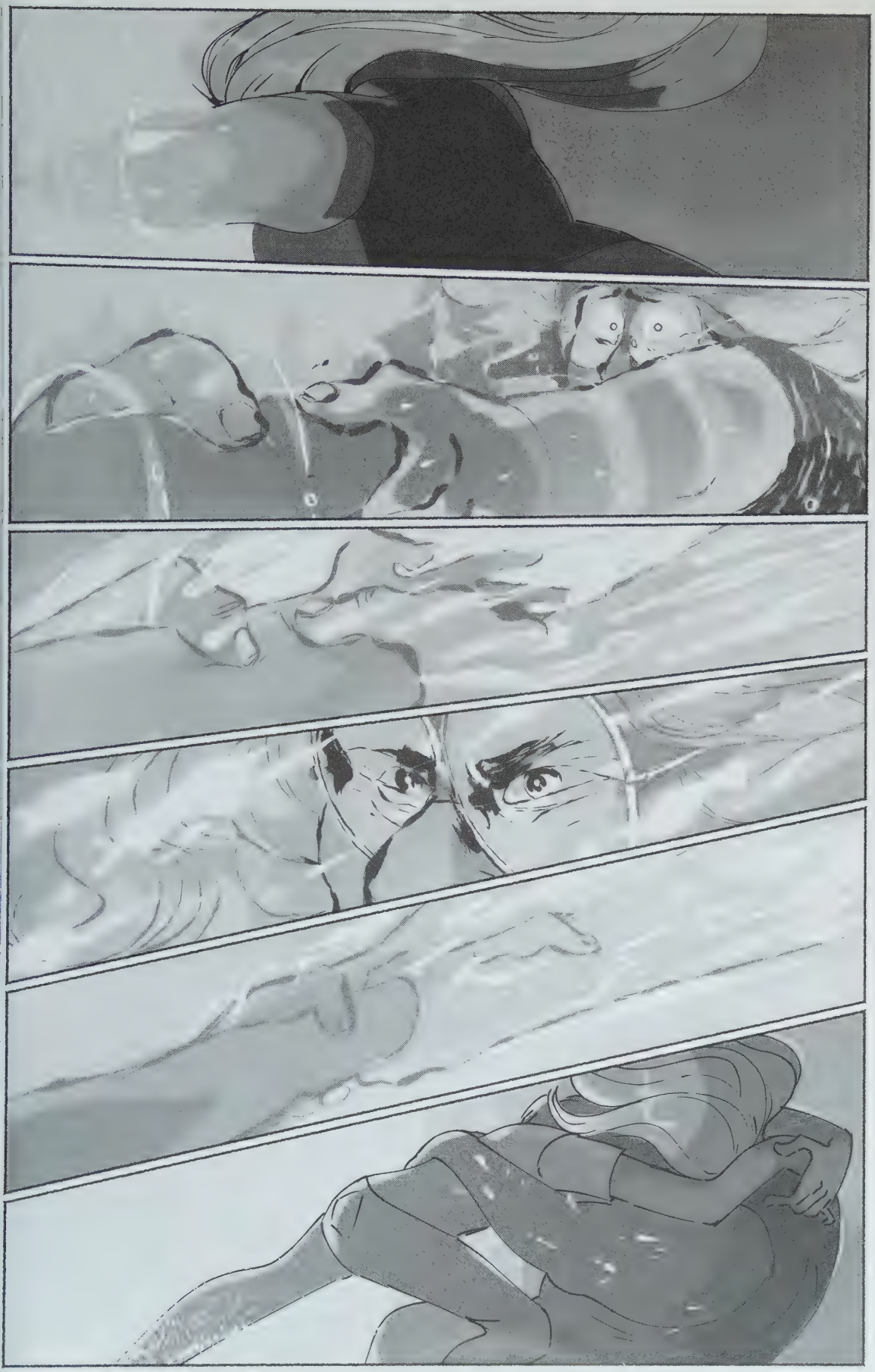




BOOM

SLAM
YANK
THUD
THOK
ARE YOU HURT?
I'M JUST FINE.
AH-
CAREFUL WITH THAT IRON, M'LOVE.

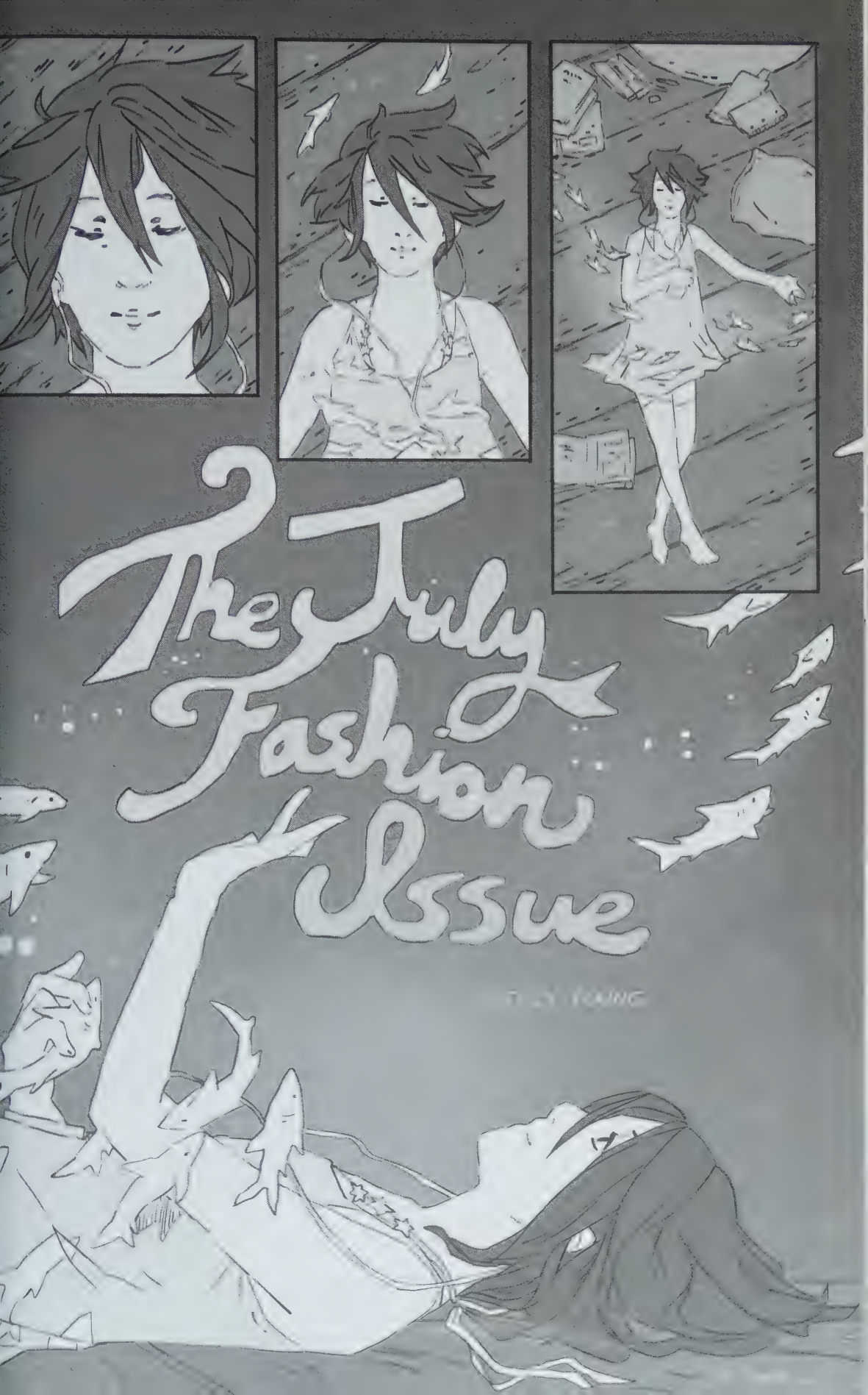
PUSH
PUSH
THWIP



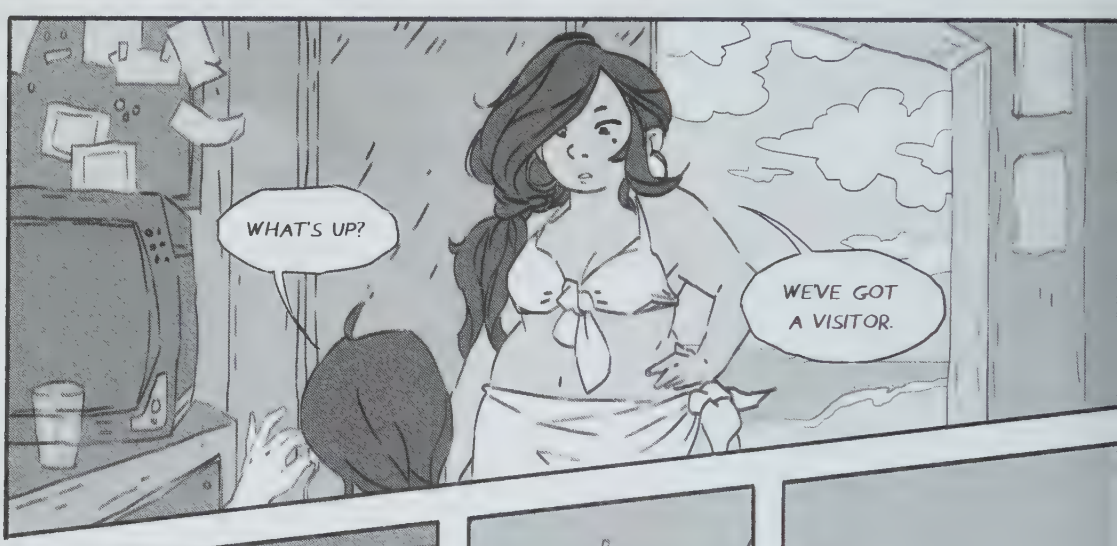
WE DID IT...
WE REALLY DID IT!
IT'LL TAKE THEM YEARS TO FIND US AGAIN- IF THEY EVER DO!
WE- WE COULD STOP RUNNING-
WE COULD HAVE A HOUSE..! WE COULD HAVE A GARDEN!
WE CAN HAVE ANYTHING WE WANT.

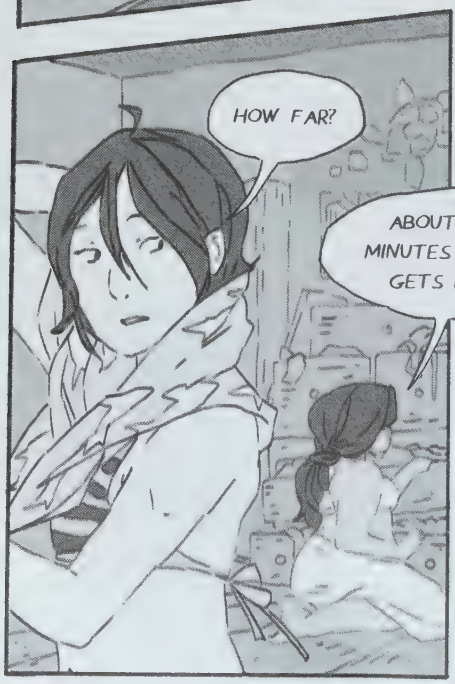
YEA, LOVE?
FAY?
IF YOU WANTED THEM TO CATCH YOU... I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU.
I... MM-
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU WANTED TO LIVE FOREVER.

I'D RATHER STAY WITH YOU, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.
BESIDES, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG WE'VE GOT? WE BOTH TOUCHED THE ETERNAL LANDS TODAY, DIDN'T WE?
WHAT D'YOU THINK OF 100 MORE YEARS HERE ON EARTH?
I THINK...
IT'S A DATE.


The July Fashion Issue
T. J. YOUNG

JULY, HEY.
GET DRESSED.


WHAT'S UP?
WE'VE GOT A VISITOR.


HOW FAR?
ABOUT TEN MINUTES TILL IT GETS HERE.

IS IT A BIG ONE?

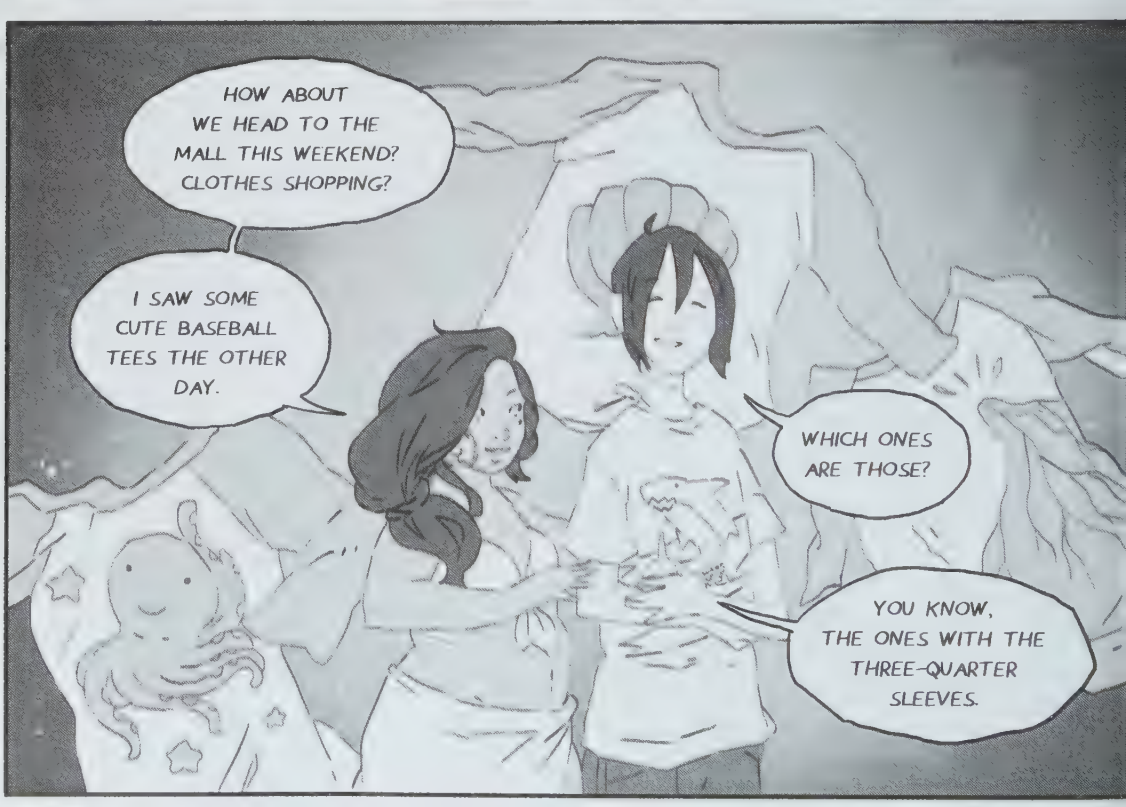
IT LOOKS PRETTY TOUGH, YEAH.

YOU OKAY?
BEWARE
I'M FINE. IT'S JUST...
I HATE WEARING MY OLD CLOTHES.
Grrrrr
SORRY, SWEETIE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE.

I SHOULD HAVE JUST THROWN IT AWAY WHEN I CAME OUT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I KEPT IT.

HA! AS IF YOU HAVE EVER IN YOUR LIFE THROWN ANYTHING AWAY.

THERE ARE SEVEN PLASTIC BAGS FULL OF PLASTIC BAGS UNDER OUR SINK!
SEVEN!
THEY'RE USEFUL!


HOW ABOUT WE HEAD TO THE MALL THIS WEEKEND? CLOTHES SHOPPING?
I SAW SOME CUTE BASEBALL TEES THE OTHER DAY.
WHICH ONES ARE THOSE?
YOU KNOW, THE ONES WITH THE THREE-QUARTER SLEEVES.

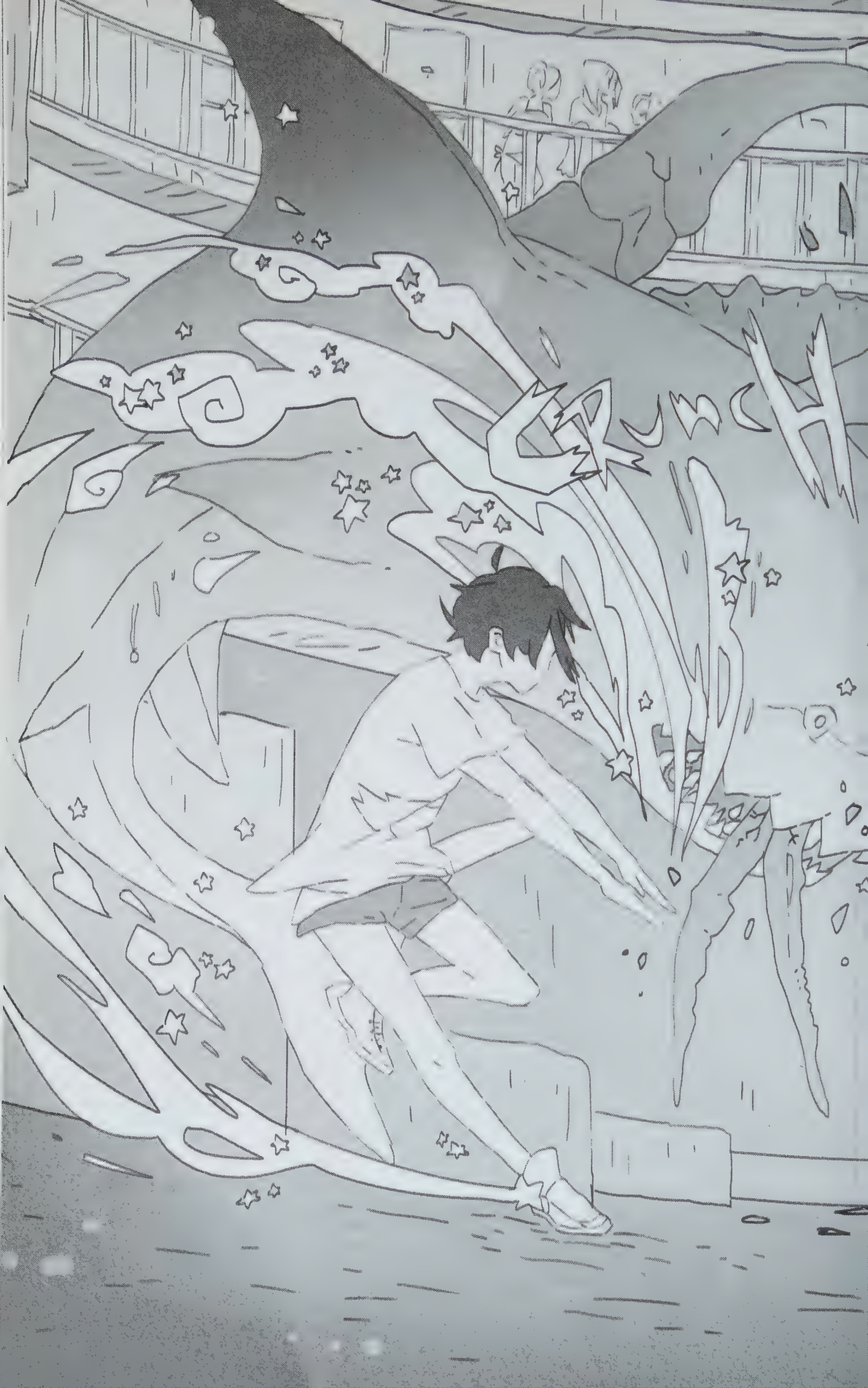
I STILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITH IT, THOUGH.
click
MAYBE SOMETHING WITH A SUPERHEROINE ON IT, THEN.
SHE CAN'T BE TOO CUTE OR YOU'LL GET JEALOUS WHENEVER I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
LIES, SLANDER.
I'M A VERY REASONABLE WIFE.
SEVEN-BAGS LADY.
tap tap
tap tap

YOU SAID THIS ONE WAS PRETTY BIG, RIGHT?
MASSIVE.
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD PASS OFF DUTIES TO THE OTHER CUSTODIANS FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER.
YOU WORK TOO HARD.
MARINA, THAT WOULD BE SO UNPROFESSIONAL.
WHATEVER.
ARTHUR TOOK ALL MONTH OFF FOR HIS HONEYMOON.
YOU DESERVE A BREAK.
IT'S ALMOST RAINY SEASON.
THE MONSTERS WILL MIGRATE DOWN THE COAST SOON AND WE CAN RELAX ALL WE WANT, OKAY?
MAYBE WE CAN GO TO THAT NEW SPA ARTHUR TOLD US ABOUT!
I... *SUPPOSE* THAT WOULD BE OKAY.

JULY, WAIT!
HM?
STAY SAFE, OKAY?
I WILL, I PROMISE.
I LOVE YOU, MARINA.
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING SAPPY.
YEP!

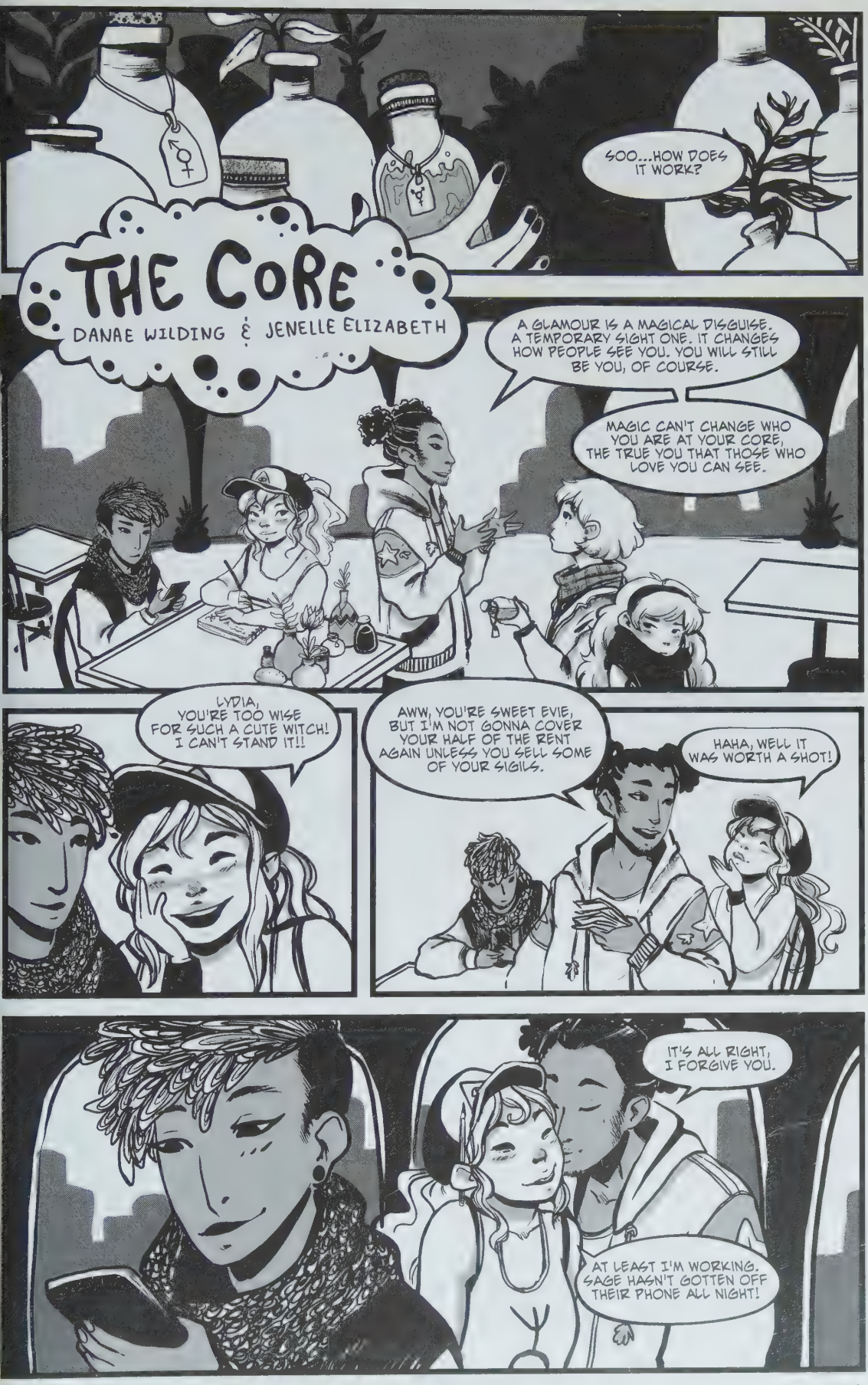
MAMA!
SHE GOT ITS LEG!
LOOK!
I SEE IT, KIDDO.
ARE YOU EXCITED TO BE A CUSTODIAN JUST LIKE HER SOMEDAY?
MM HM!
I WANT MY SHIRT TO HAVE JEWELS.
YOU CAN WEAR WHATEVER YOU WANT, HON.
AS LONG AS IT KEEPS US SAFE.
I THINK I HAVE A BEJEWELER AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...

WATCH OUT FOR ITS PINCER!
DID SHE GET HIT?!
NO, SHE'S FINE.
IT'S JULY, AFTER ALL.
MAMA, WHEN DO I GET TO BE A CUSTODIAN?
NOT TILL YOU'RE MUCH OLDER, KIDDO.
BUT WHEN?
WOOOOOW!


CRUNCH

ICE

BUBBLE TEA FOR YOU.
YOU DID IT, PRETTY LADY.
READY FOR THAT VACATION, NOW?
I REALLY AM.


THE CORE
DANAE WILDING & JENELLE ELIZABETH
SOO...HOW DOES IT WORK?
A GLAMOUR IS A MAGICAL DISGUISE. A TEMPORARY SIGHT ONE. IT CHANGES HOW PEOPLE SEE YOU. YOU WILL STILL BE YOU, OF COURSE.
MAGIC CAN'T CHANGE WHO YOU ARE AT YOUR CORE, THE TRUE YOU THAT THOSE WHO LOVE YOU CAN SEE.
LYDIA, YOU'RE TOO WISE FOR SUCH A CUTE WITCH! I CAN'T STAND IT!!
AWW, YOU'RE SWEET EVIE, BUT I'M NOT GONNA COVER YOUR HALF OF THE RENT AGAIN UNLESS YOU SELL SOME OF YOUR SIGILS.
HAHA, WELL IT WAS WORTH A SHOT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I FORGIVE YOU.
AT LEAST I'M WORKING. SAGE HASN'T GOTTEN OFF THEIR PHONE ALL NIGHT!

are you sure??

Yes. I really want to meet you.

Same but only if that's okay with you. I'm still new to summoning....

ould love to see you. trust me. <3

SAAAGE...WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

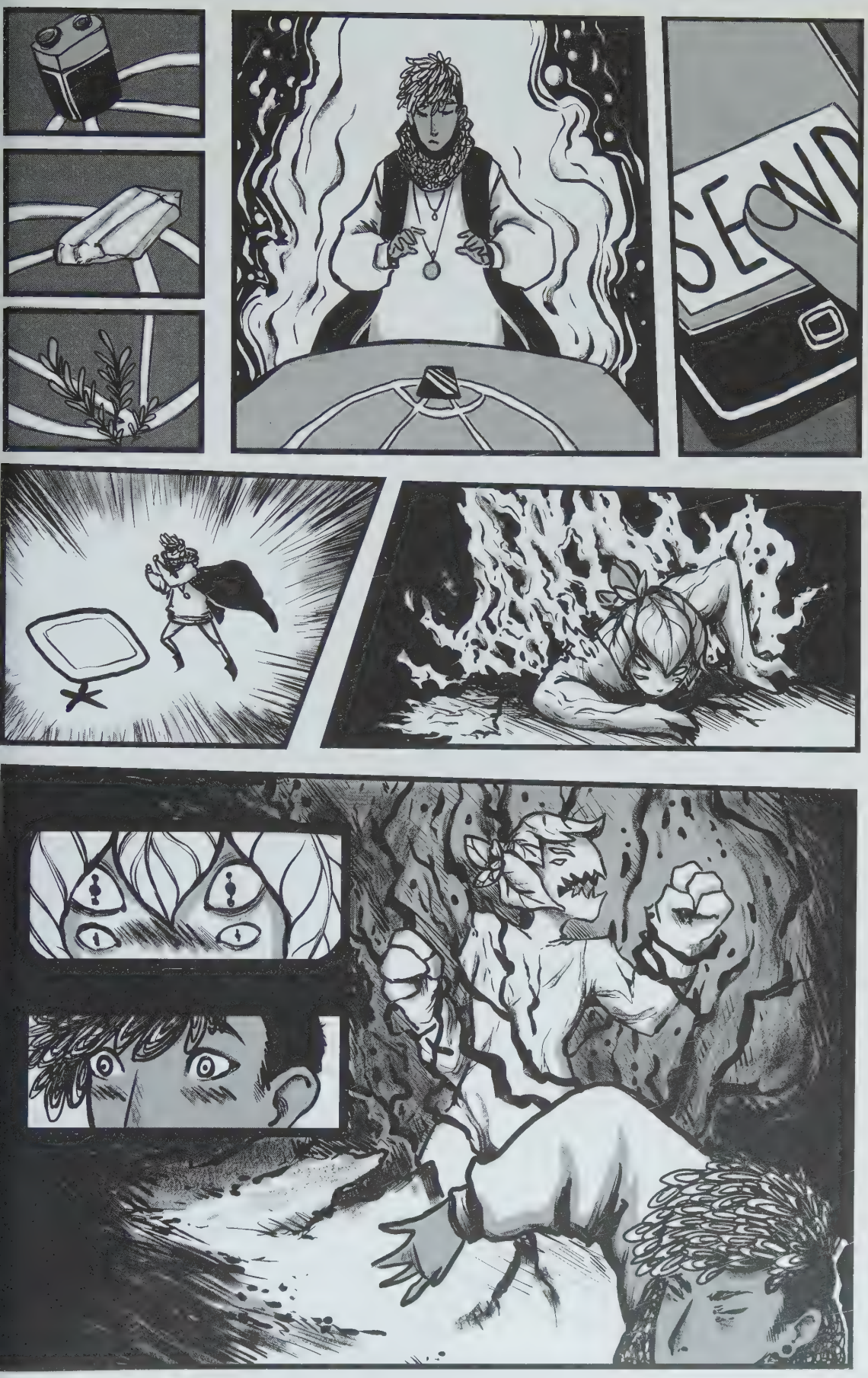
OOOOOH! IT'S THEM, ISN'T IT? THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN TEXTING FOR WEEKS???

OUR LITTLE SAGE IS ALL GROWN UP AND ONLINE DATING! SO CUTE.

WE ARE THE SAME AGE!! YOU TWO AREN'T MY MOTHERS, GEEZ...

THEY HAVE IT SO BAD. IT'S ADORABLE.

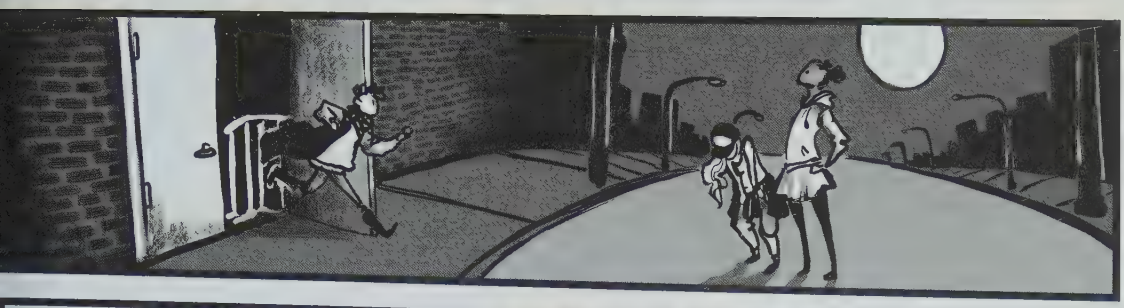
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THIS MYSTERIOUS PERSON!


SEND

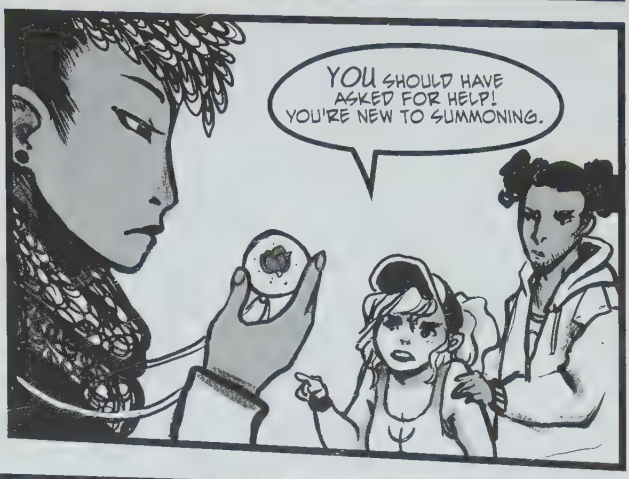
SAGE??? WHAT DID YOU--
W-WHAT?
NO NO NO! IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS!
COME ON, EVIE, WE GOTTA GET RID OF THIS CREATURE!
RIGHT!

I CALL ON THE STRENGTH OF THE STEEL BEAMS AROUND US. BIND AND STRIKE THIS UNWELCOME SPIRIT, NOW!!
LYDIA...?
I'VE GOT THIS, BABE.
SPIRIT! I BANISH YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME!
WAIT! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS!!

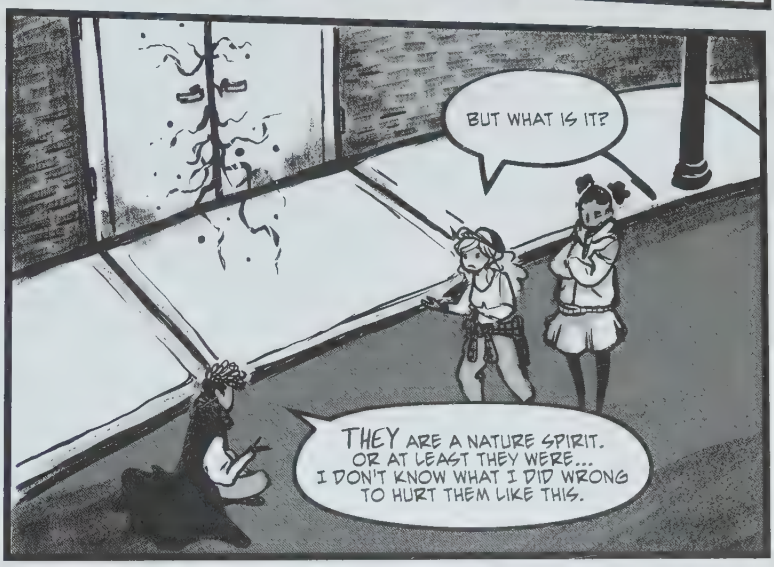
NO.
THIS ISN'T YOU!
SAGE, LET'S GO.
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T BE OUT WORKING ON A FULL MOON! WEIRD MAGIC ALWAYS FINDS US!
WHERE DID IT EVEN COME FROM??



I'M SO SORRY, I THOUGHT I HAD IT UNDER CONTROL...


YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR HELP! YOU'RE NEW TO SUMMONING.

I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN YOUR HELP. BUT, I DON'T KNOW...I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU.
I WAS TALKING TO THEM FOR WEEKS. THROUGH MY PHONE. I WAS GOING TO BIND THEM TO MY PEACE AMULET.

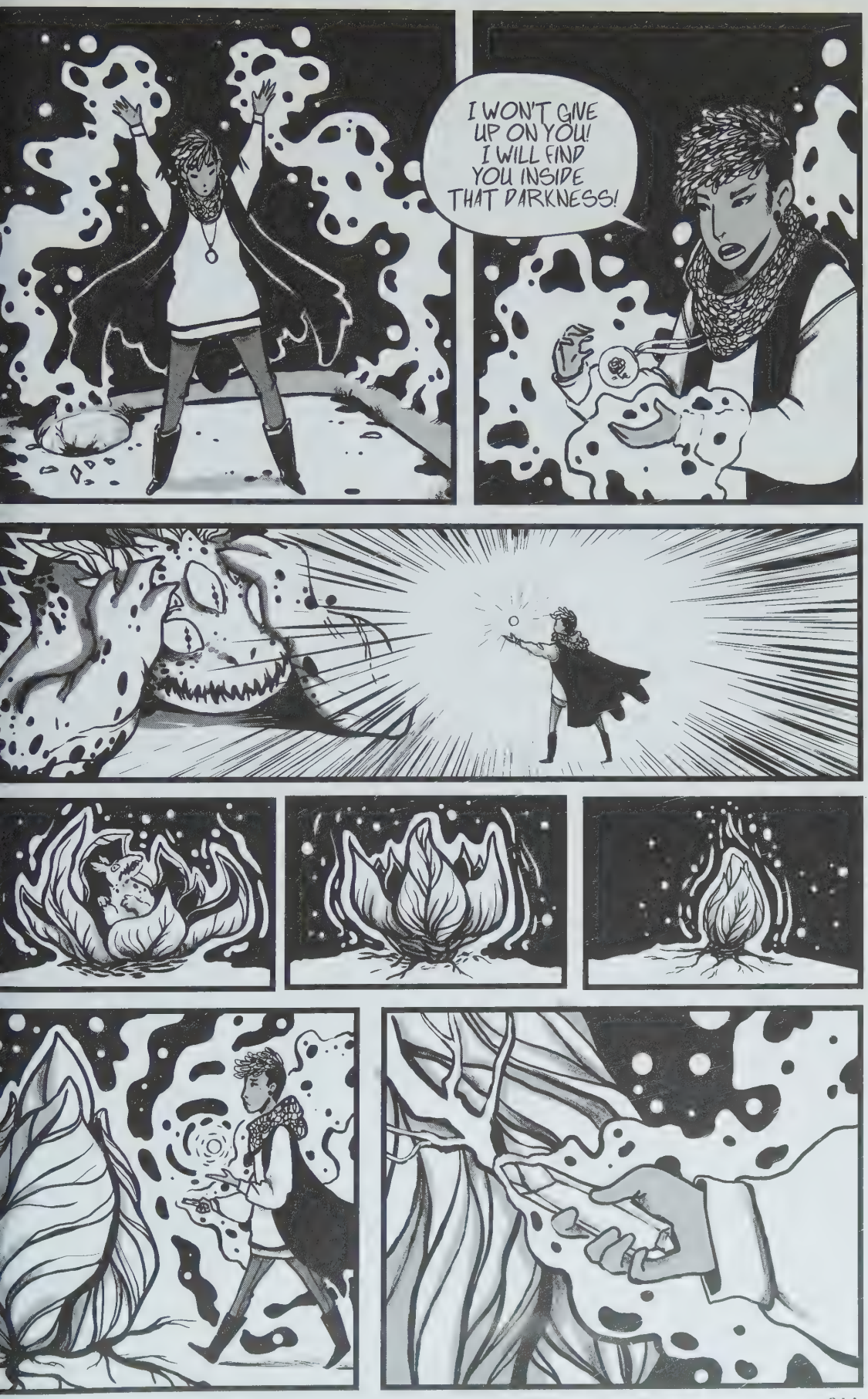

BUT WHAT IS IT?
THEY ARE A NATURE SPIRIT. OR AT LEAST THEY WERE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID WRONG TO HURT THEM LIKE THIS.

IS IT LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
IT'S GETTING WORSE!
THAT'S IT! WE NEED TO REACH THEIR CORE!

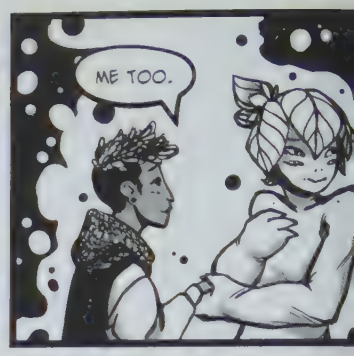
IT'S LIKE YOU SAID! WHAT MATTERS IS AT YOUR CORE!! THIS ISN'T THEM!
WE ARE JUST SEEING WHAT THE CITY IS DOING TO THEM!

I KNOW THEM. I CAN FIND THEM IN THERE.

HEY!!!

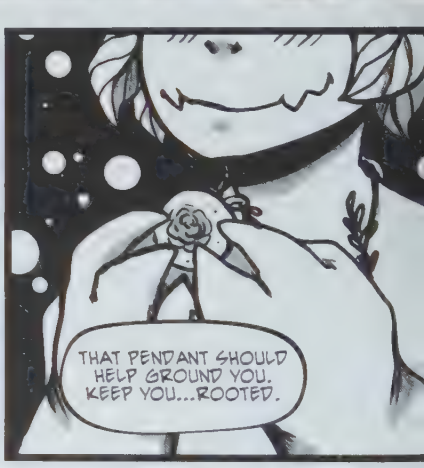

I WON'T GIVE UP ON YOU! I WILL FIND YOU INSIDE THAT DARKNESS!

I'M SORRY.


ME TOO.

THIS WASN'T THE BEST PLACE TO SUMMON YOU.
I CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE...
IT'S OKAY, IT WASN'T YOU... WELL...NOT THE REAL YOU.

IT'S NICE TO FINALLY SEE YOU...
OH, RIGHT... I-I MEAN, IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU TOO.


THAT PENDANT SHOULD HELP GROUND YOU. KEEP YOU...ROOTED.

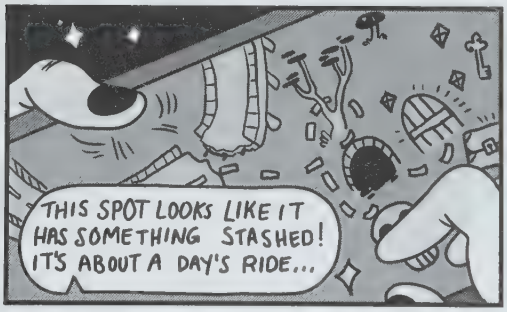
UMM... MAY I?
HEH... YES.

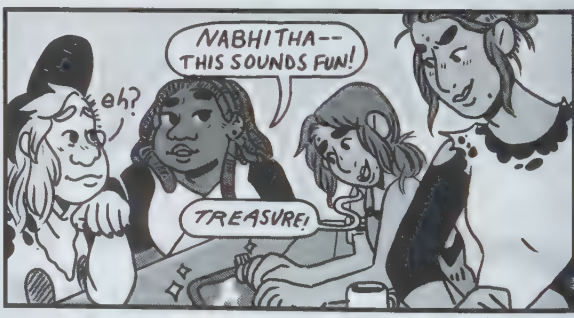
ABNORMAL CARTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS! — MARY VERHOEVEN

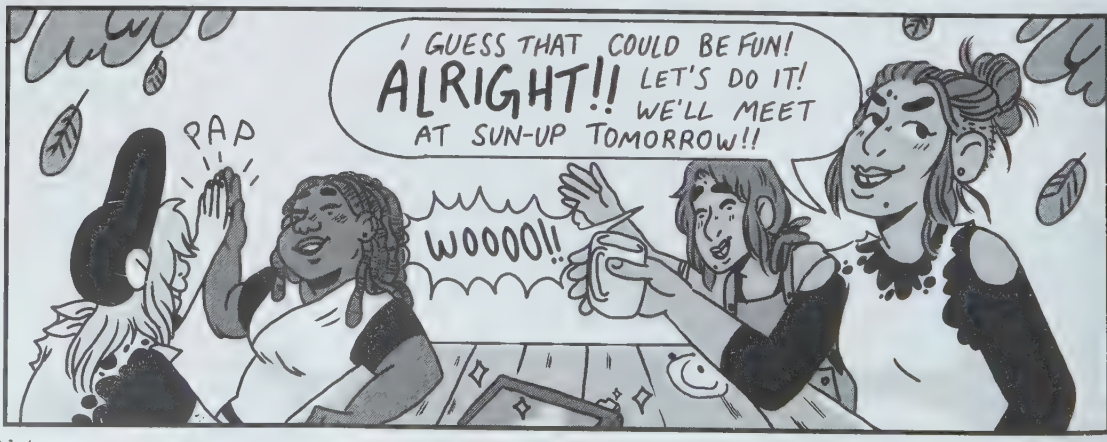
HAHAHA! YEAH, SO WE ARE NOT ALLOWED BACK IN THAT SETTLEMENT! HEH...
HAH! YIKES.
AWW, SO MANY ADVENTURES!

ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT, BUDS; I'M ONLY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS THIS TIME, SO I THOUGHT WE'D GO ON AN ADVENTURE!
WHAAAT!

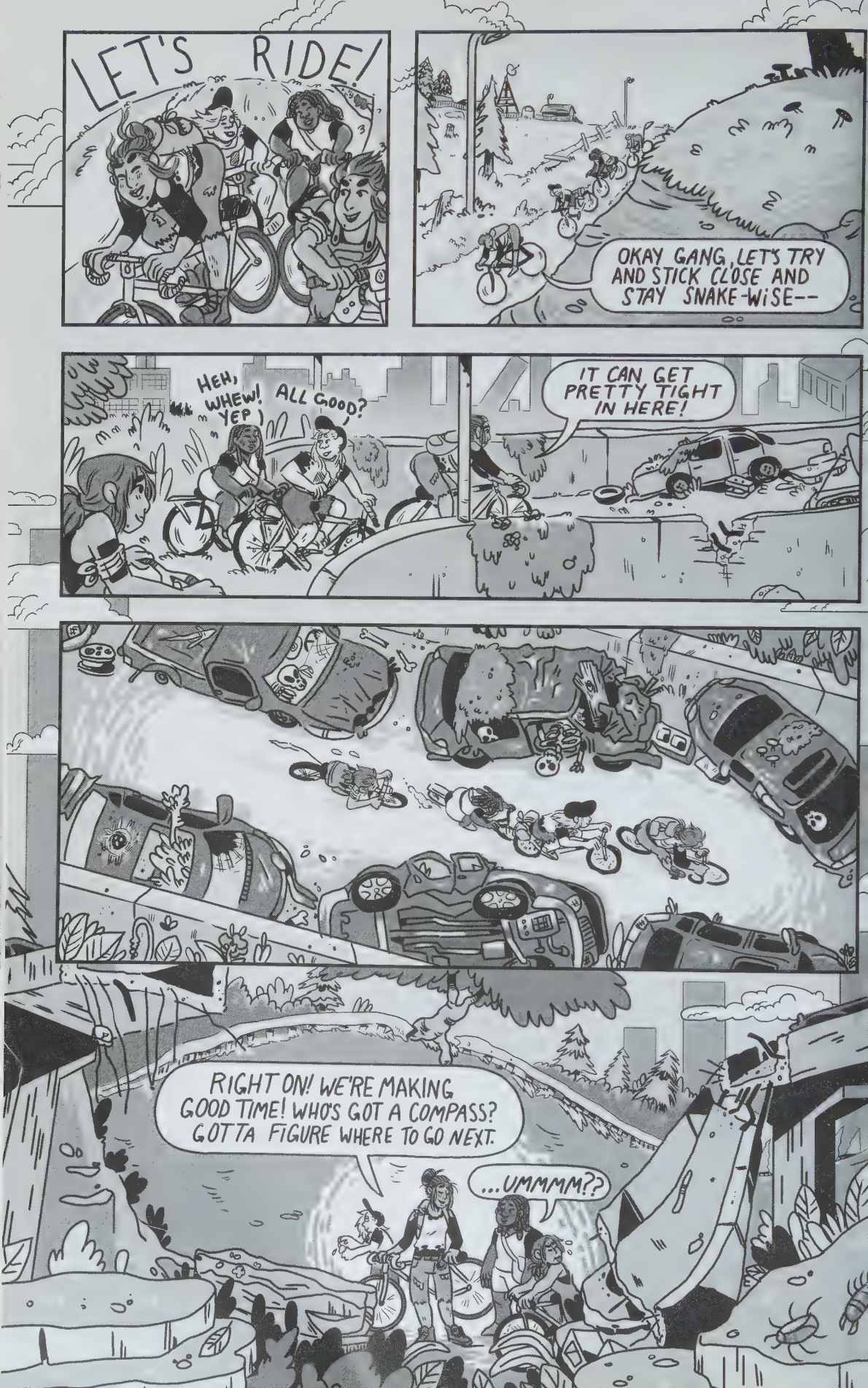
A FEW TOWNS BACK, I TRADED FOR THIS MAP-CHIP, CHECK WHAT'S ON IT!
BWIP!


THIS SPOT LOOKS LIKE IT HAS SOMETHING STASHED! IT'S ABOUT A DAY'S RIDE...

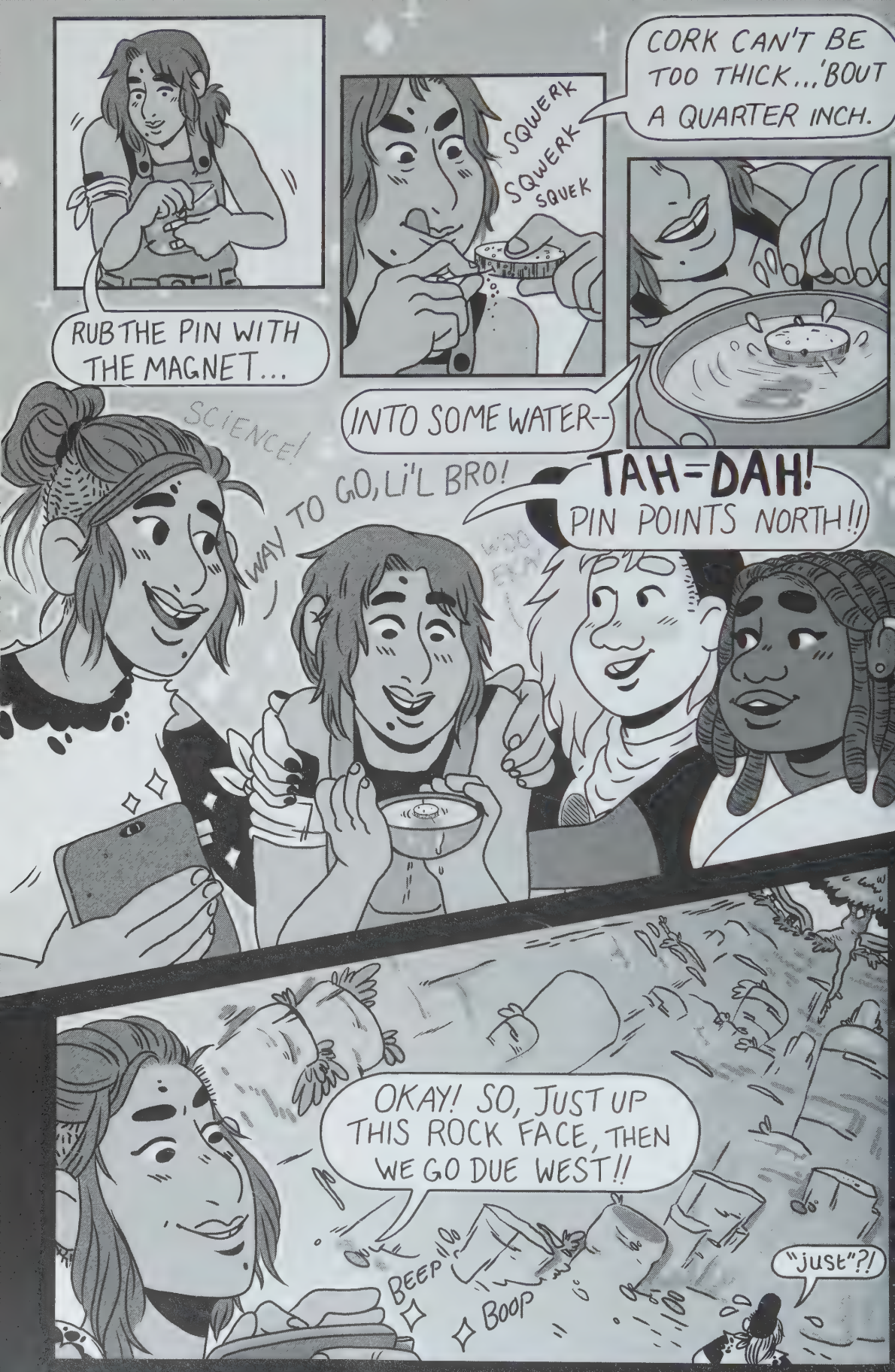

NABHITHA-- THIS SOUNDS FUN!
eh?
TREASURE!


I GUESS THAT COULD BE FUN! ALRIGHT!! LET'S DO IT! WE'LL MEET AT SUN-UP TOMORROW!!
PAP
WOOOO!!

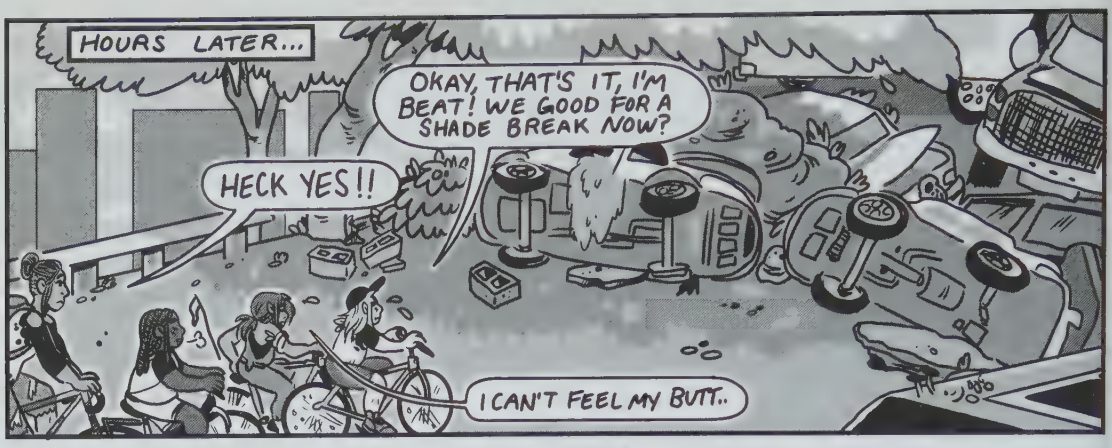
THE NEXT DAY:
UGHHH! WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO MEET SO EARLY!?
YOURS, YA DINGUS.
HA HA HA HA HA HEH HA
TAKATAKATAKATA
OH, TOWNIES! I GOT UP JUST FINE EARLY THIS MORNING-- YOU'RE ALL SO DANG SOFT.
TAYLR! YOU LIAR, YOU COMPLAINED A SOLID 40 MINS WHEN WE GOT UP!
SSSHH!! HA HA
OKAY! MISTAKES WERE MADE VIS-À-VIS MORNINGS! NOW WE ALL KNOW WE'RE NOCTURNAL, GREAT. MOVING RIGHT ALONG, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADING SOUTH TO BROKEN BRIDGE, SOUND OK? GOOD!
HA HA HA!
So grouchy.


LET'S RIDE!
OKAY GANG, LET'S TRY AND STICK CLOSE AND STAY SNAKE-WISE--
HEH, WHEW! ALL GOOD?
YEP!
IT CAN GET PRETTY TIGHT IN HERE!
RIGHT ON! WE'RE MAKING GOOD TIME! WHO'S GOT A COMPASS? GOTTA FIGURE WHERE TO GO NEXT.
...UMMMM??

OH, PLEASE TELL ME WE BROUGHT A COMPASS! KYM?!
ME?! BUT TAY--
I DON'T GET MY OWN 'TIL I'M 16!
MY DAD
HEY!
CHILL!! I MAY HAVE AN IDEA! DUMP YOUR BAGS!
TORONTO
NABS PLAN
TAYLR
GORP
NABHITHA
EKA
PUZZLES 100
KYM
HEH! YES!! YOU'RE SURE LUCKY I'M HERE! I NEED THAT BOWL, CORK, MAGNET & NEEDLE!

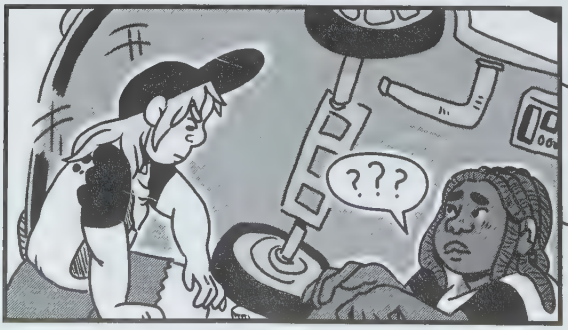

RUB THE PIN WITH THE MAGNET...
SQUERK SQUERK SQUEK
CORK CAN'T BE TOO THICK...'BOUT A QUARTER INCH.
INTO SOME WATER--
SCIENCE!
WAY TO GO, LI'L BRO!
WOO HOO!
TAH-DAH! PIN POINTS NORTH!!
OKAY! SO, JUST UP THIS ROCK FACE, THEN WE GO DUE WEST!!
BEEP
BOOP
"just"?!

I'LL GO UP FIRST, THEN TOSS A ROPE FOR Y'ALL TO CLIMB.
SOUNDS GOOD!
...CAREFUL, NABS.
HFFF
HFFF
HFFFF
WHUF.
THAT RULED, NABS!
SO STRONG!
HAHA, AWW SHUCKS, FELLERS! ALRIGHT, LET'S GET GOING.


HOURS LATER...
OKAY, THAT'S IT, I'M BEAT! WE GOOD FOR A SHADE BREAK NOW?
HECK YES!!
I CAN'T FEEL MY BUTT..

KYM, UH... ARE YOU OK? YOU'VE BEEN QUIET AND I JUST WANTED TO CHECK.
YEAH, JUST--

IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT... I'M JUST FEELING KINDA USELESS, I GUESS? YOU BROUGHT ADVENTURE, EKA CAN MAKE SOMETHING FROM NOTHING, NABHITHA IS THE STRONGEST GIRL I'VE MET! BUT ME? WHAT DO I CONTRIBUTE? I'M JUST ME!...I DON'T KNOW.


???

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME, THOUGH. US, ALL TOGETHER? KINDA THE WHOLE POINT. IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME FOR ME... WITHOUT YOU, I MEAN!
YOU'RE GOOD, YOU KNOW? THANKS TAYLR ♥
OH, HEH
HEY NERDS! COME GET SOME LUNCH ALREADY!
HUP
OKAY GANG, ONCE WE'RE FULL UP, WE'LL TIE UP THE BIKES AND HEAD INTO THE TUNNEL!

LOOK! I CAN SEE... SOMETHING?
SH'YEAH, RIGHT.
CAN'T TURN BACK NOW...
PUSH

AWESOME!!
LOOK! OVER THERE!
TREASURE!
CRAK!!

WELL WELL WELL! IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE SOMEONE'S PAID A VISIT!

THE DOOR--
IT'S GONE!
POOF!
SO, YOU CAME FOR TREASURE
IT'S YOURS, OF COURSE! IF YOU CAN ANSWER MY LITTLE RIDDLE! JUST ONE!
AND IF WE DON'T?
GUESS.
FINE-- FINE! SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!

"I AM THE START OF THE END, AND THE END OF EVERY PLACE. I AM THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY; THE FINALE OF TIME AND SPACE, WHAT AM I?"

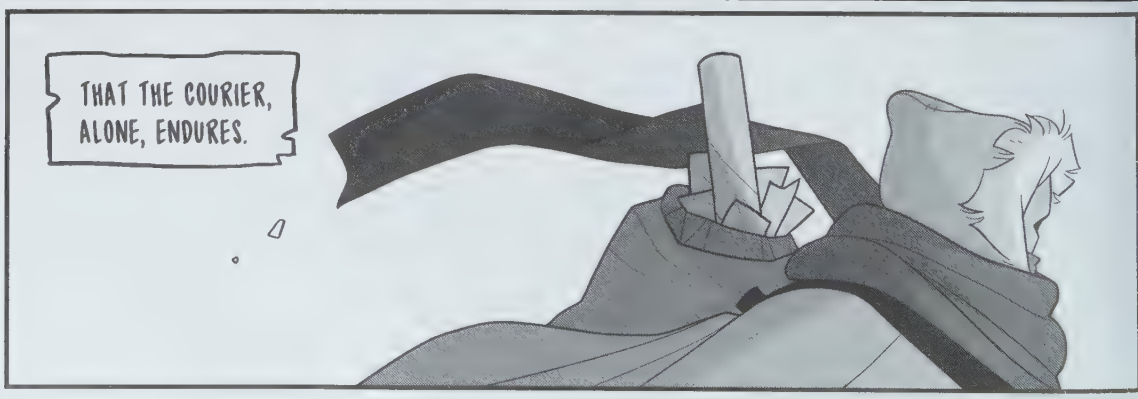
YES. WELL DONE.
KYM! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER! HAHA!
AHHHH KYYYM! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OMIGODILOVEYOUSOM
SEE? WE NEED YOU, TOO!
READY?
DO IT!
OH, WOW!
THE END

THE
COURIER
KIKU HUGHES & SARA DUVALL

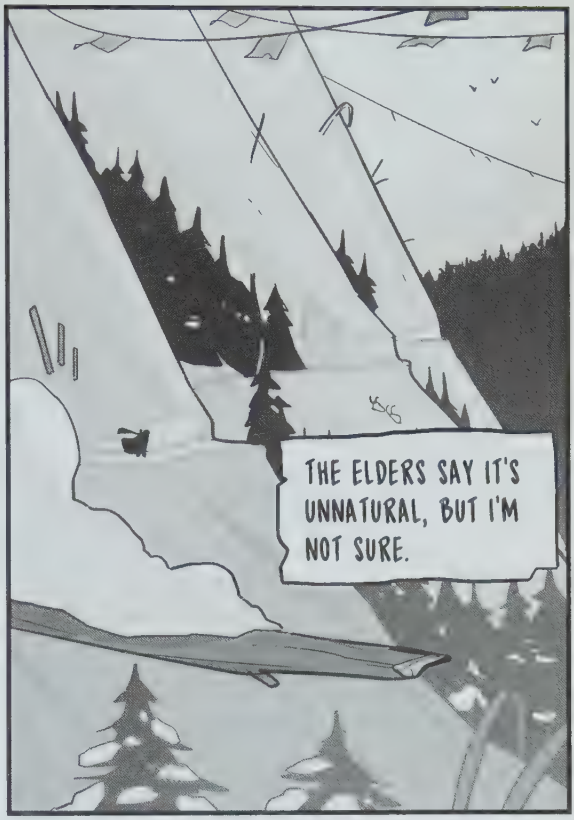
DEAR ELK,
THE COURIER ARRIVED JUST THIS MORNING, AND ALREADY I'VE READ YOUR LETTER THREE TIMES.

I TRY TO IMAGINE THE HARSH WILDERNESS THEY CONTINUALLY CROSS BETWEEN US.

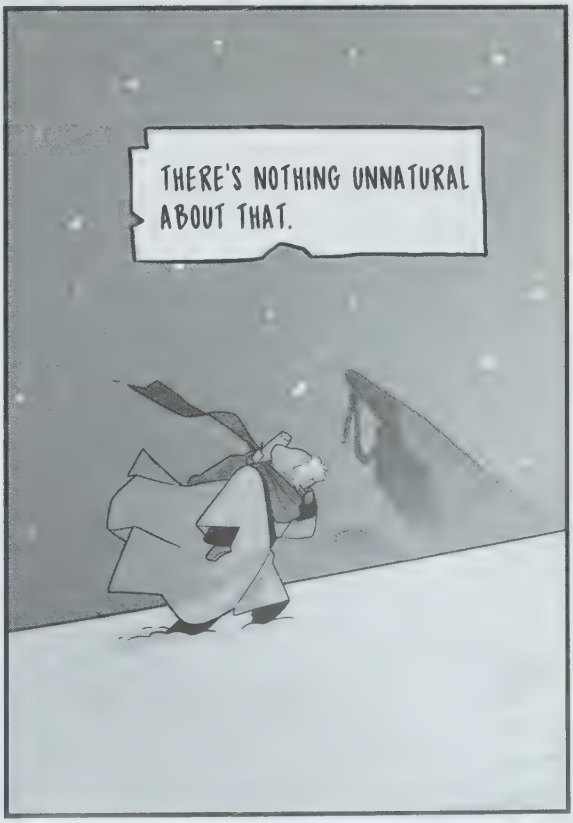
THE TOXIC AIR AND NUCLEAR SNOWFALL THAT OUR ELDERS WARN US OF.


THAT THE COURIER, ALONE, ENDURES.

HOW DO THEY DO IT?
HOW DO THEY TRAVERSE SUCH DEADLY WASTES?


THE ELDERS SAY IT'S UNNATURAL, BUT I'M NOT SURE.

I HOPE IT'S THE LOVE WE SEND IN EACH BAG OF MAIL THAT PROTECTS THEM.


THERE'S NOTHING UNNATURAL ABOUT THAT.

THEY KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE LETTERS.

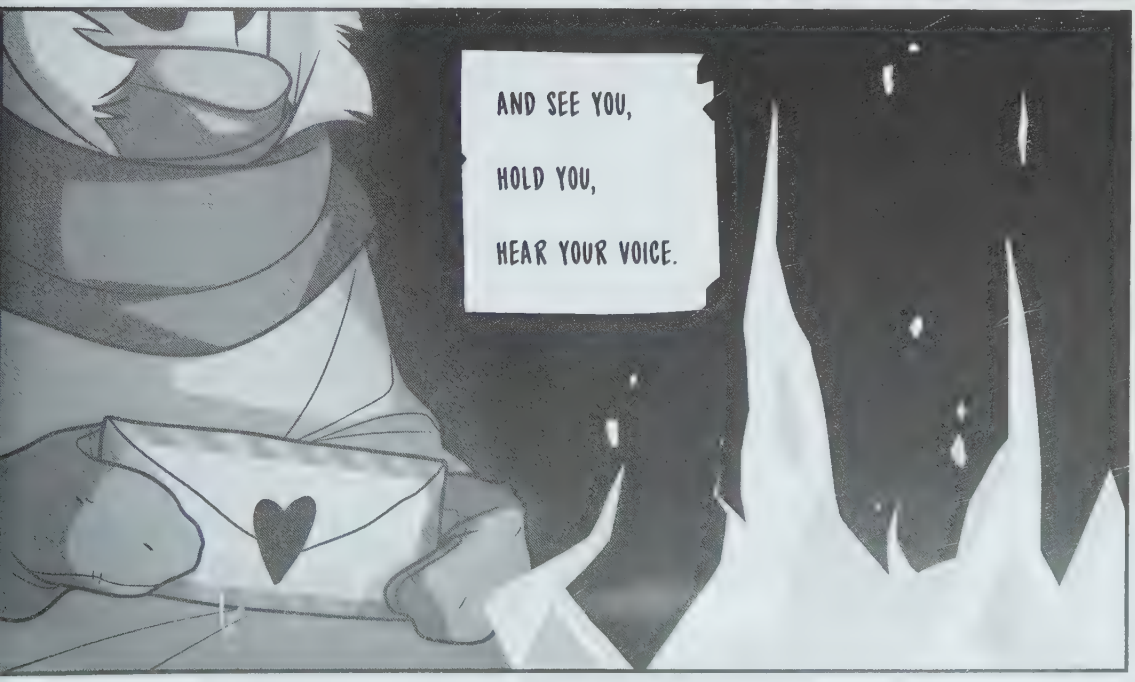
EVEN NOW, THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME TO FINISH WRITING BEFORE THEY LEAVE.

THEY KNOW THIS IS ALL WE HAVE OF EACH OTHER.

THAT, SINCE WE CAN'T HOLD HANDS, WE MUST HOLD DEAR EACH OTHER'S HANDWRITING INSTEAD.
....AND I THANK THE COURIER EVERY TIME FOR THAT GIFT.

BUT STILL, I WISH -

I WISH I COULD SURVIVE BEYOND THIS SHELTER, LIKE THEY DO.

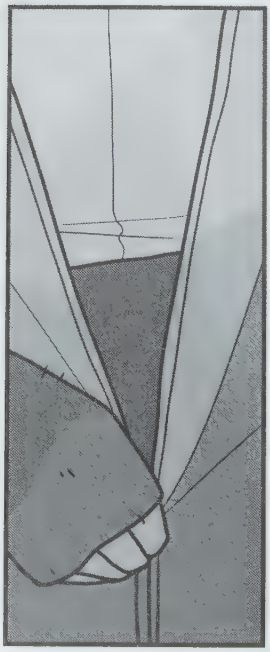

AND SEE YOU,
HOLD YOU,
HEAR YOUR VOICE.

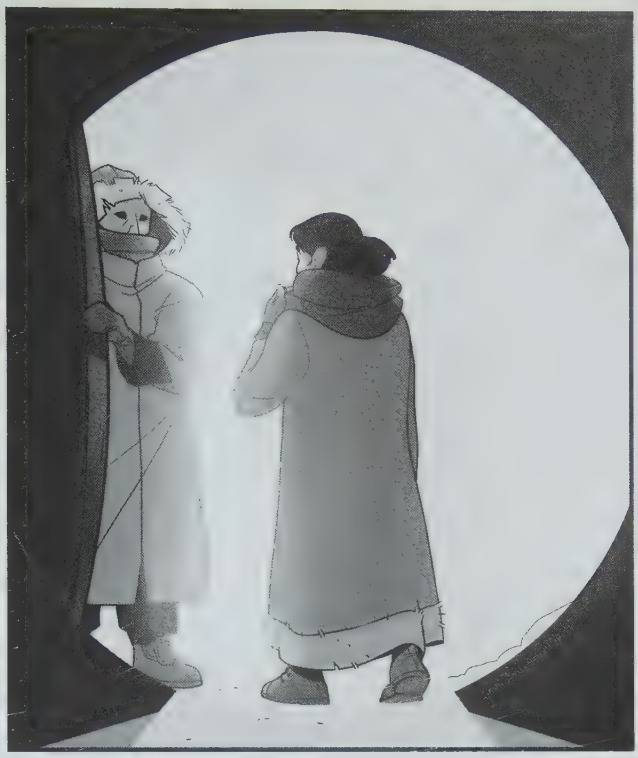
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH.

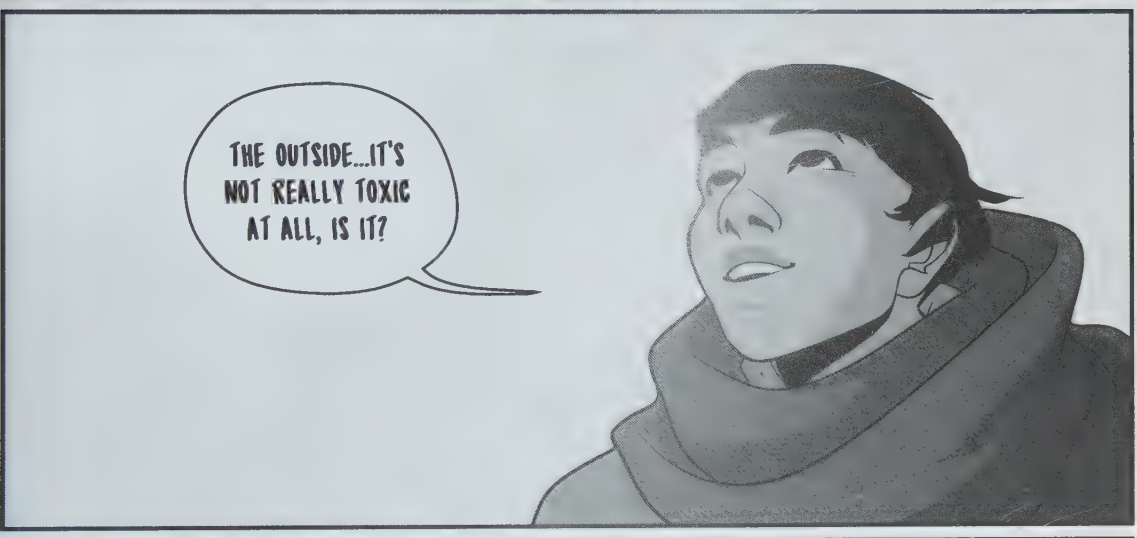
IT'S ONLY A WISH.

BUT IF LOVE ALONE COULD KEEP ME SAFE, I WOULD LEAVE THIS SHELTER AT LAST AND GO TO YOU.
SO YOU COULD HEAR ME SAY WHAT I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO WRITE.
I LOVE YOU, AND AM YOURS FOREVER AND ALWAYS,
♡TERN

Tern






THE OUTSIDE...IT'S NOT REALLY TOXIC AT ALL, IS IT?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL. TERN WILL LOVE IT.

I'M SO GLAD WE'LL GET TO SHOW HER.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sfé R. Monster
Editor, Creator of *Petrichor*
sfemonster.com

Sfé R. Monster is an award-winning trans and queer comic artist, author, and illustrator; creator and editor of the *Beyond Anthology*; and co-founder of Beyond Press. Sfé was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, and now spends their time split between the east and west coasts of Canada, drawing comics, editing anthologies, and tending a heart that can never be moved too far from the sea.

Taneka Stotts
Editor, Writer of *Reclamation*
tanekastotts.com

Taneka Stotts is a queer little tumbleweed that stopped rolling somewhere in Portland, OR. After spending quite a few years as a spoken word artist, Taneka's focus shifted to comics, a medium full of collaboration and imagination. Taneka writes the webcomics *Full Circle* with Christianne Goudreau and *Love Circuits* with Genué Revuelta, as well as the Eisner-nominated webcomic *Déjà Brew* with Sara DuVall. Taneka has edited a few comics anthologies, including most recently the Ignatz award-winning Outstanding Anthology, *ELEMENTS: Fire—an Anthology by Creators of Color*. Taneka is currently working on *KINGMAKER!* with Mildred Louis and *Last Bell* with Ria Martinez.

Genué Revuelta
Artist of *Reclamation*
genuerevuelta.tumblr.com

Genué Revuelta is a 25-year-old xicana comic artist and illustrator based out of Portland, Oregon. She is the former colorist for *Full Circle* and the artist on the webcomic *Love Circuits,* written by Taneka Stotts. Gen has a short comic featured in *ELEMENTS: Fire—an Anthology by Creators of Color*. She has a love of robots and demons, and most of her comics feature one or the other.

GHOULKISS
Artist of *How Not To Magic*
ghoulkiss.net

GHOULKISS is a UK-based artist who enjoys bringing a pantheon of pastels complemented by monster-like characters of all sorts with a strong punch of female power!

Chan Chau
Inker of *How Not To Magic*
chanchauart.com

Chan Chau is a Twin Cities-based cartoonist and illustrator with a knack for finding terribly enjoyable Netflix movies.

Katie Cunningham
Writer of *How Not To Magic*
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Katie Cunningham writes a lot, often about sad robots and weird magic stuff.

Melanie Ujimori
Letterer of *How Not To Magic*
merumori.com

Melanie Ujimori is a Japanese vector artist from Hawai'i currently transplanted to Oregon. Bunnies will be the death of her one day, if the cats don't get her first.

Steve Foxe
Writer of *Pilot Light*
amazon.com/author/stevefoxe

Steve Foxe writes comics, comics journalism, and licensed children's books for properties including *Pokémon*, *Transformers*, *DC Super Friends*, and *The Legend of Zelda*. He was a winner of the second-annual Top Cow Talent Hunt, and his work has appeared in the Eisner Award-winning *Love is Love* Orlando benefit book, *Oath: An Anthology of New (Queer) Heroes*, *TABULA IDEM: A Queer Tarot Comic Anthology*, and some exciting comics he should be able to discuss by the time you read this. He is the assistant editor for *Paste Magazine*'s comic section and lives in Queens, where he tweets about comics, horror movies, gay stuff, and cats at @steve_foxe.

Paul Reinwand
Artist of *Pilot Light*
konradwerks.com

Paul Reinwand drinks lots of coffee and eats lots of sweets. He is a dog dad in the Pacific Northwest with his bear of a husband. His comics and illustration are available through Image Comics, IDW Publishing, Oni Press, and Boom! Studios.

Reed Black
Creator of *Dear Wife*
reedblackcomics.com

Reed Black is a comic illustrator who lives in Atlanta with his husband in a little house that makes weird noises when you run the water.

Mar Julia
Creator of *Stardust & Feathers*
marjulia.com

Mar Julia is a cartoonist and illustrator currently living in Providence, RI. They have a deep love for magical realism, urban fantasy, and girls and genderqueer people going on adventures, and refuse to even live somewhere that isn't by an ocean.

Jennifer Doyle
Artist of *Daisycakes*
twitter.com/theyoungdoyler

Jennifer Doyle lives in Brooklyn, unfortunately pet-mutant-lizard-free. You can read their revenge thriller, *Knights-Errant*, at Sparkler Monthly.

U.J. Wood
Writer of *Daisycakes*
starlingstory.tumblr.com

U.J. Wood lives in Brooklyn, where the landlord would certainly not allow a domesticated mutant any bigger than a cat. You can read their queer sci-fi serial at starlingstory.tumblr.com!

Jen Henkes
Creator of Fishing For the Truth
jeneco.tumblr.com

Jen Henkes is a comic artist and writer from Germany. She just finished her artistic education at ABK Hannover, where she studied animation, literature, and comic work in depth. *Fishing For The Truth* is her first "real" comic project, her firstborn, but certainly not her last. As a not-quite-girl-but-lesbian, Jen is interested in creating stories about and for: ladies, ladies who love ladies, and people who are neither lady nor guy—or both at the same time. She's also into making comics about and for: guilt-ridden sewer mermaids, successful business women (who also happen to be talking magical foxes), snails who have to look harder for suitable public toilets than necessary, and children with psychic powers who are about to realize that their monster-filled mystery adventure isn't as child-friendly as they hoped to be.

Rica March
Creator of *Entropy*
poppyapples.net

Rica March is an illustrator and comic artist from Stockholm, Sweden. They've been making comics since 2005, most of which are now buried in the backyard and with good reason.

Samantha Cox
Writer of *Time Will Tell*

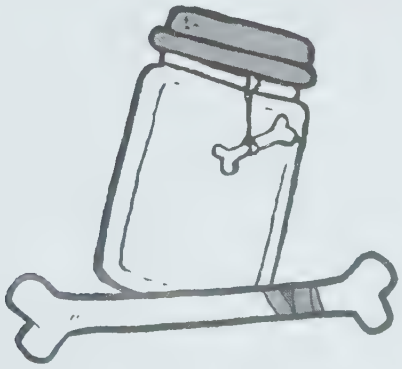
Samantha Cox is a queer writer based in the Seattle area. When she's not writing, you can find her watching reality cooking competitions with her dog, or trying to make the weirdest face in the bathroom mirror.

Ria Martinez
Artist of *Time Will Tell*
riadoodles.tumblr.com

Ria Martinez is an East Coast-based arist and is working on her upcoming webcomic about gays in love from space!

Bishakh Som
Creator of Karana
bishakh.com

Bishakh Som's work investigates the intersection between image and text, figure and architecture, and architecture and landscape. They are inspired by the grammar of comics and graphic novels in aid of exploring themes of gender and sexuality, memory and urbanism, and love and loss. Bishakh's comics have appeared in *The Other Side: An Anthology of Queer Paranormal Romance*, *The Boston Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Buzzfeed*, *Ink Brick*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Graphic Canon*, and *Little Nemo: Dream Another Dream*. They received the prestigious Xeric grant in 2003 for their comics collection *Angel*. Their comics will also appear in *We're Still Here: An All-Trans Comics Anthology*. Bishakh's artwork was featured in solo shows at ArtLexis Gallery and at Jaya Yoga Center, and in group shows at the Bannister Gallery at Rhode Island College, Issyra Gallery, the Grady Alexis Gallery, and most recently at the Society of Illustrators in New York.



Levi Hastings
Cover Artist, Creator of *Suite Victory*
levihastings.com

Levi Hastings is an illustrator and cartoonist in Seattle, crafting editorial and nonfiction comics for a variety of publications. He co-created the American Revolution queer romance comic, *DECLARATION*, in collaboration with writer Josh Trujillo. Find more of his work at www.levihastings.com, and follow along via Instagram and Twitter @LeviHastingsArt.

Jaylee Warren
Writer of *Growth*
twitter.com/gkjaylee

Jaylee Warren is a Seattle-based writer and critic. Before pursuing her dream of queering up comics, Jaylee co-hosted the YouTube series *Push to Smart* and Japanese music podcast *Gaijin Kanpai*.

Kelly & Nicole Matthews
Artists of *Growth*
kickingshoes.wixsite.com/kickingshoes

Kelly and **Nichole Matthews** are a team of twin comic artists and illustrators specializing in fantasy and monsters.

Sarah Stern
Creator of *Cúchulainn*
sarahstern.com

Sarah Stern is an artist and colorist from New York. She is the creator of the webcomic *Cindersong* and will clean her room e v e n t u a l l y.

Cat Parra
Creator of *Found*
catparrts.com

Cat Parra loves history, adventure, fashion, and drawing all of the above. She has a degree in funnybooks from SCAD and lives in Wisconsin with her spoiled cat. Currently, she makes and edits comics for Margins Publishing, through which she and co-founder Zora Gilbert publish *Dates! An Anthology of Queer Historical Fiction*. They've just wrapped up Volume Two of *Dates*, and Cat has more comics in the works despite her overgrown kitten's best efforts.

Alexxander Dovelin
Creator of *VOID*
xxdovelin.com

Alexxander Dovelin is an illustrator and cartoonist in Portland, Oregon, happily living with their partner and cat. They are currently working on *VALLONO*, a fantasy comic about time-space magic users.

Jam
Inker of *Petrichor*
jammyness.com

Jam is a mechanical engineer best known for their autobiographical comedy, *Wasted Talent*. They have been producing indie comics for over a decade and love making comics about exploring and thriving in a big, weird world.

Evan Dahm
Creator of *Wanderer*
rice-boy.com

Evan Dahm has been creating and self-publishing fantasy graphic novels since 2006, including *Rice Boy* and *Vattu*. He lives in New York and is from North Carolina.

Alan Capes
Artist of *The Most Stressful Months of the Year*
alancapes.com

Alan Capes is a sequential artist and character designer with a penchant for cosmic horror and romance, and mixing the two together.

Shauntae Ball
Writer of *The Most Stressful Months of the Year*
beckfromthedead.wordpress.com/

Shauntae Ball is an entity made of cat memes. She lurks in the forests of southern Maine and subsists on a diet of survival horror games, true crime shows, and YA novels.

Sam Garvey
Creator of *FAIRY FOOD!!*
yutaan.tumblr.com

Sam Garvey is a freelance illustrator and craft artist living in Charleston, South Carolina. She spends her time drawing, writing, and gluing together millions of tiny pieces of cut paper. She is always on the lookout for patterned paper and cute queer love stories.

Stephanie Hovden
Creator of *Sleeping Giant*
stephaniehovden.com

Stephanie Hovden is a queer cartoonist, designer, and printmaker currently living in California. They are passionate about media geared toward children and young adults that feature girls, women, and the LGBTQIA community. Stephanie also has a great love for animals,tt so they are often featured in their work.

Sonia Liao
Creator of *Quarantine*
sonialiao.com

Sonia Liao is a comic artist and writer from the Greater Boston Area. She earned her BFA in Illustration from MICA in 2014 and has since gone on to draw *Kulipari: Heritage* for Red 5 Comics, *Helena Rose* for EMET Comics, and the *Style Engineers Worldwide* book series published by Global Tinker. Her days are spent drawing and chasing after her naughty dog, Luca.

Aliza Layne
Creator of *Going Home*
alizalayne.com

Aliza Layne is the author of *Demon Street*, a webcomic about names and monsters.

Keezy Young
Creator of *The July Fashion Issue*
keezyyoung.com

Keezy Young is a comic artist based in Seattle, Washington. She draws and writes the stories she wanted to see more of growing up—stories starring queer characters, brightness, a little creepiness, and a lot of heart. She never felt like she belonged in her favorite comics, and she wants to change that for young people who feel alone now by bringing some color to their lives. Her work uses that color to create worlds that are familiar while embracing the supernatural.

Jenelle Elizabeth
Artist of *The Core*
jellimakes.com

Jenelle Elizabeth is a Pacific Northwest comic artist who likes to draw dragons, witches, and ghosts. She also really hates writing bios about herself.

Danae Wilding
Writer of *The Core*
twitter.com/danaewriting

Danae Wilding is a writer of multiple mediums from Vancouver, British Columbia. When they aren't on adventures with their partner, they keep busy writing visual media exploring magic, secrets, and identity.

Mary Verhoeven
Creator of *Abnormal Cartography for Beginners*
illustratingmary.com

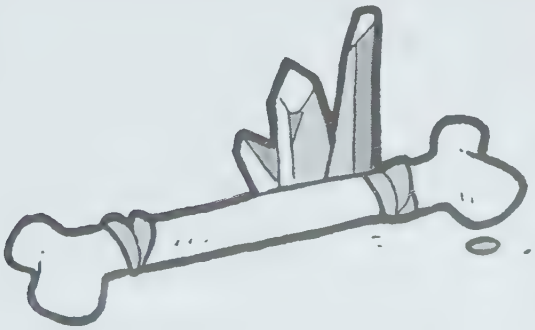
Mary Verhoeven is a comics creator and illustrator from Canada who focuses on horror, adventure, and YA stories. Mary is a contributor to *The Other Side Anthology*, *Sweaty Palms*, *Frosh Week Volume 2*, and more, and a member of the Friendship Editions Collective of Toronto.

Sara DuVall
Creator of *The Courier*
littlecorvusart.com

Sara DuVall is an Eisner-nominated queer latinx comic artist born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. They love witches, space kids, and diverse stories with happy endings.

Kiku Hughes
Creator of *The Courier*
geniusbee.tumblr.com

Kiku Hughes is a queer hapa comics artist living and working in the Seattle area.



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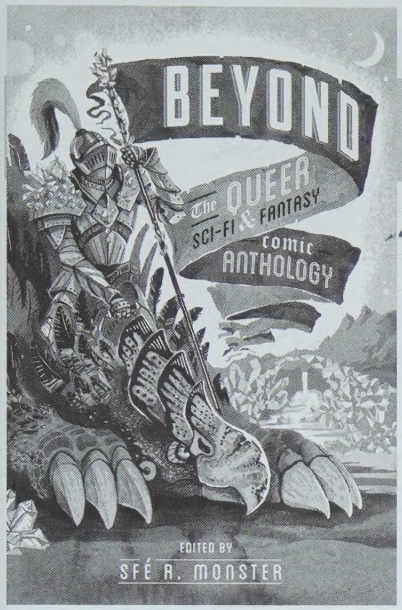

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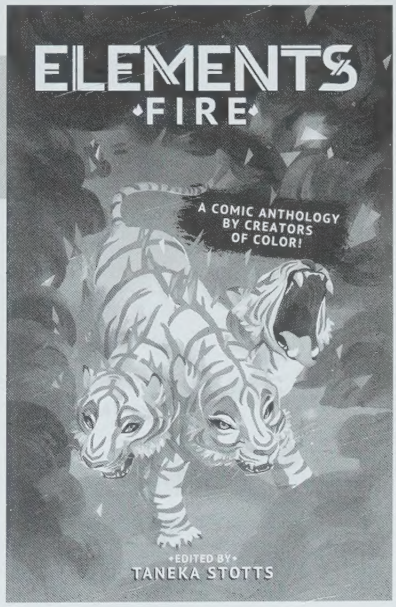

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