



COSMOKNIGHTS

BOOK TWO





COISMOKNIGHTS

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HANNAH TEMPLER

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DIGITAL

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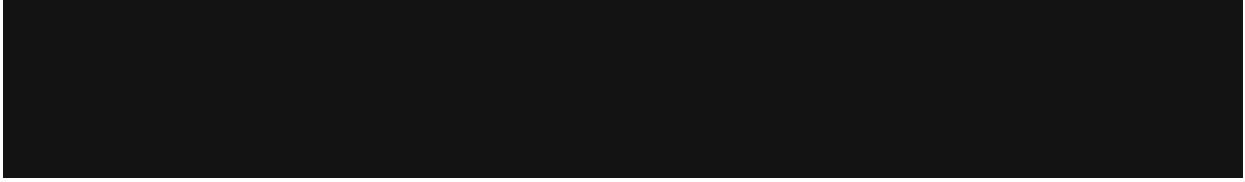
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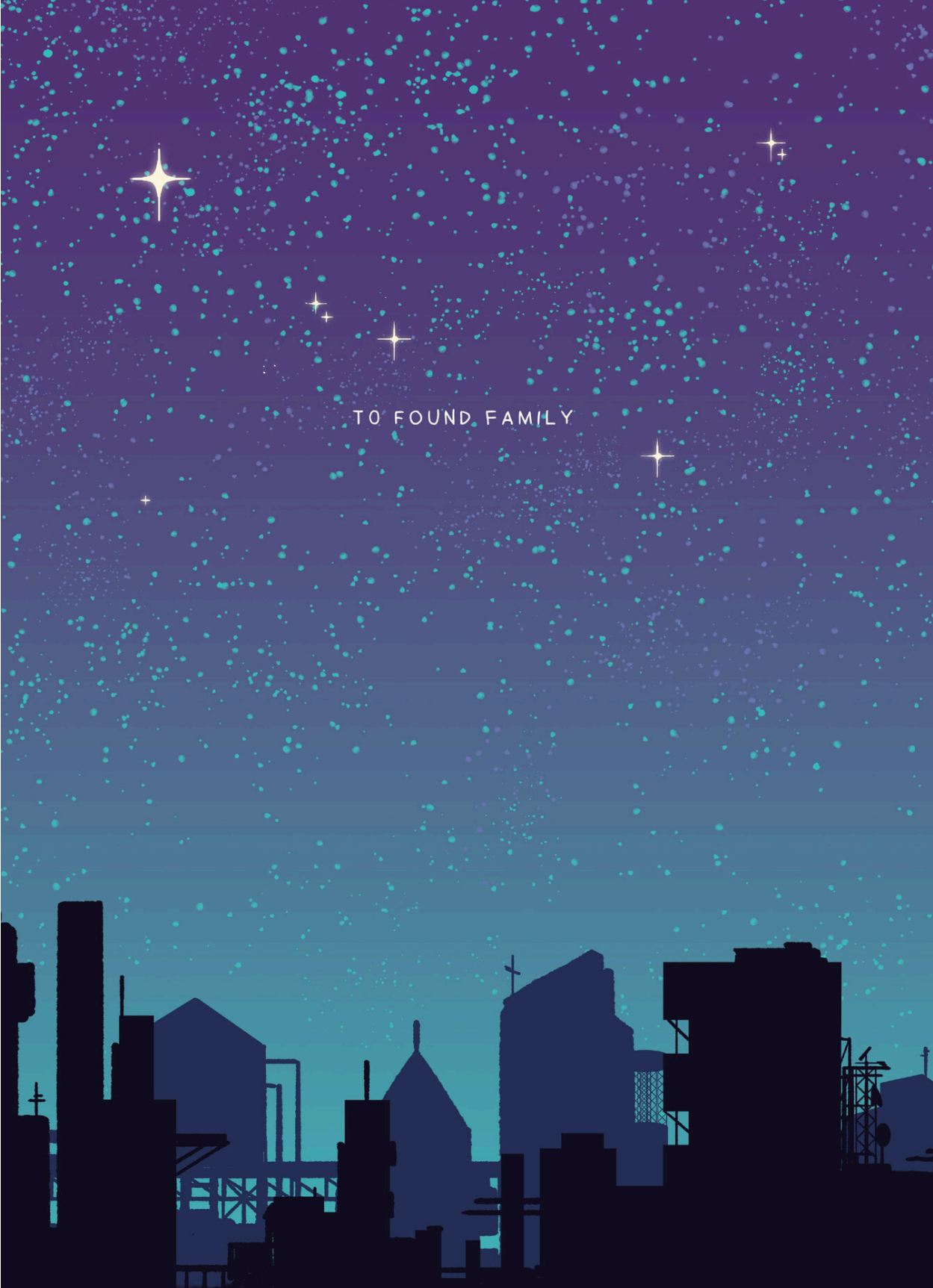
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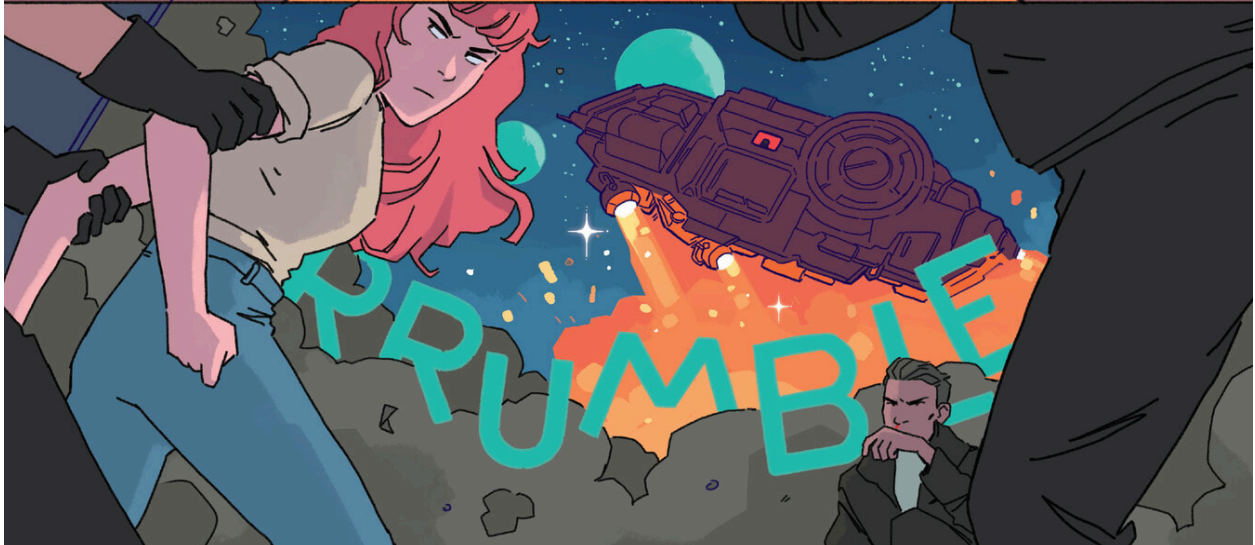
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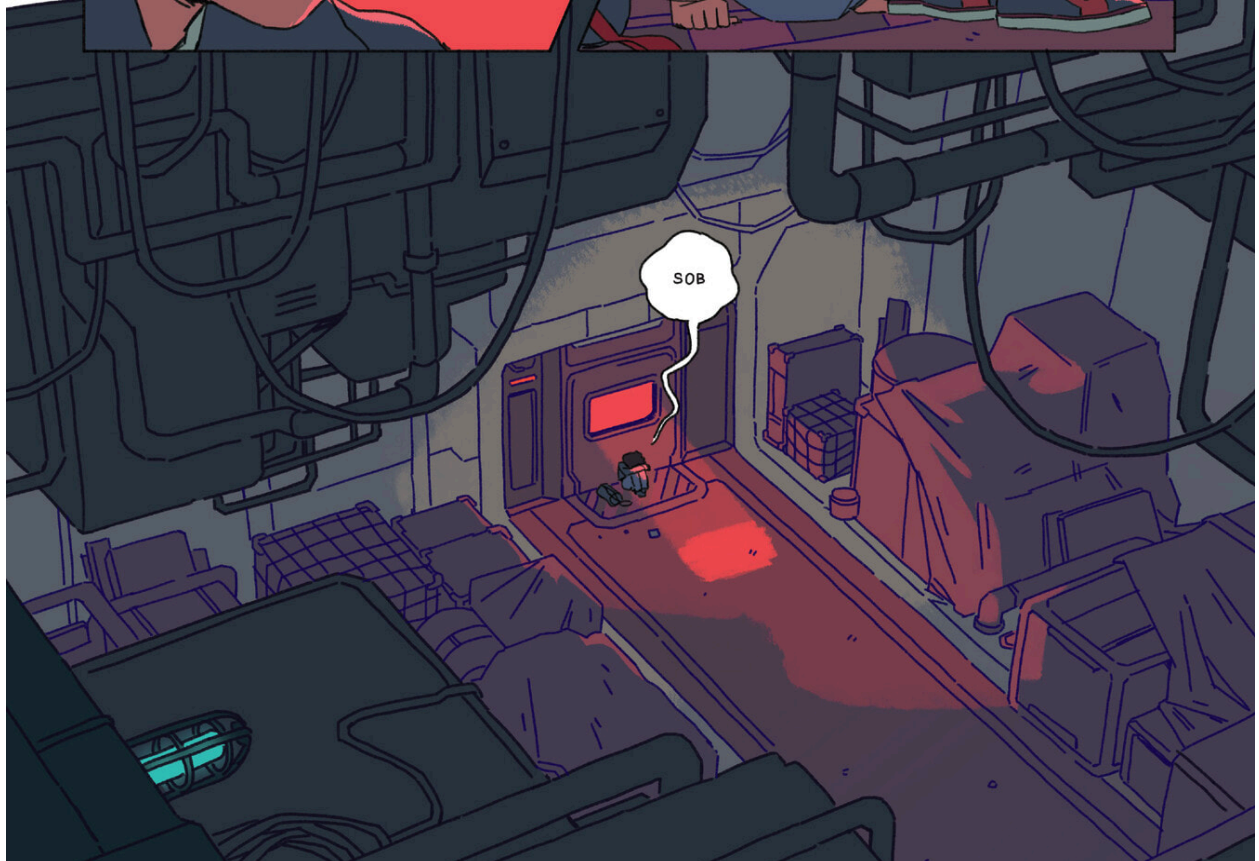


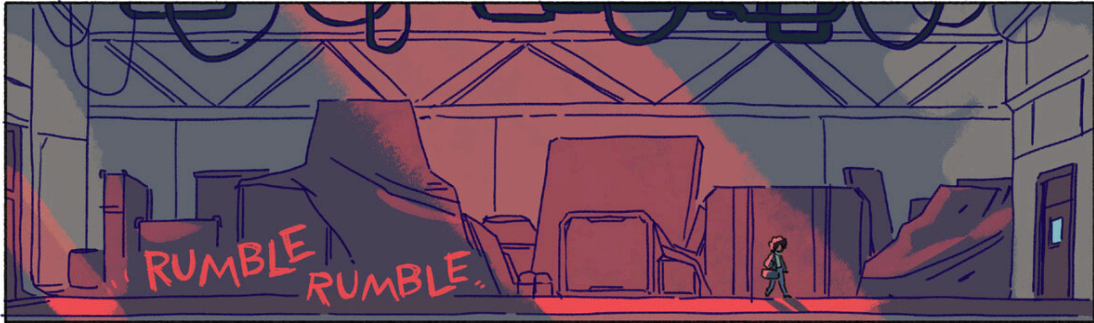


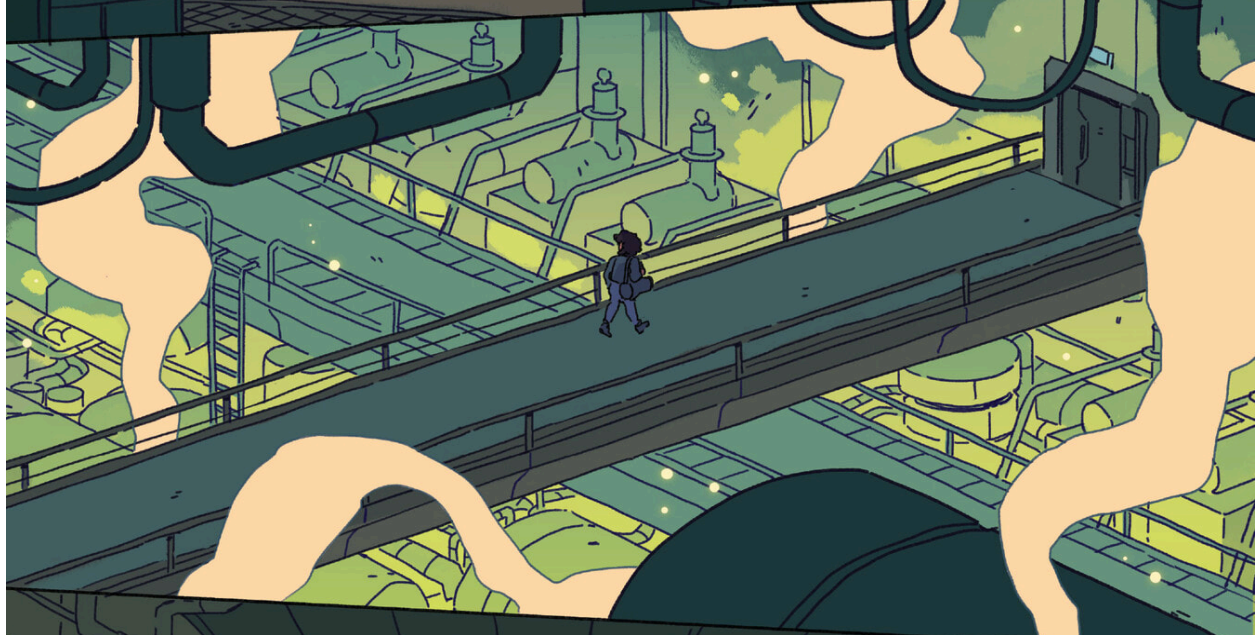
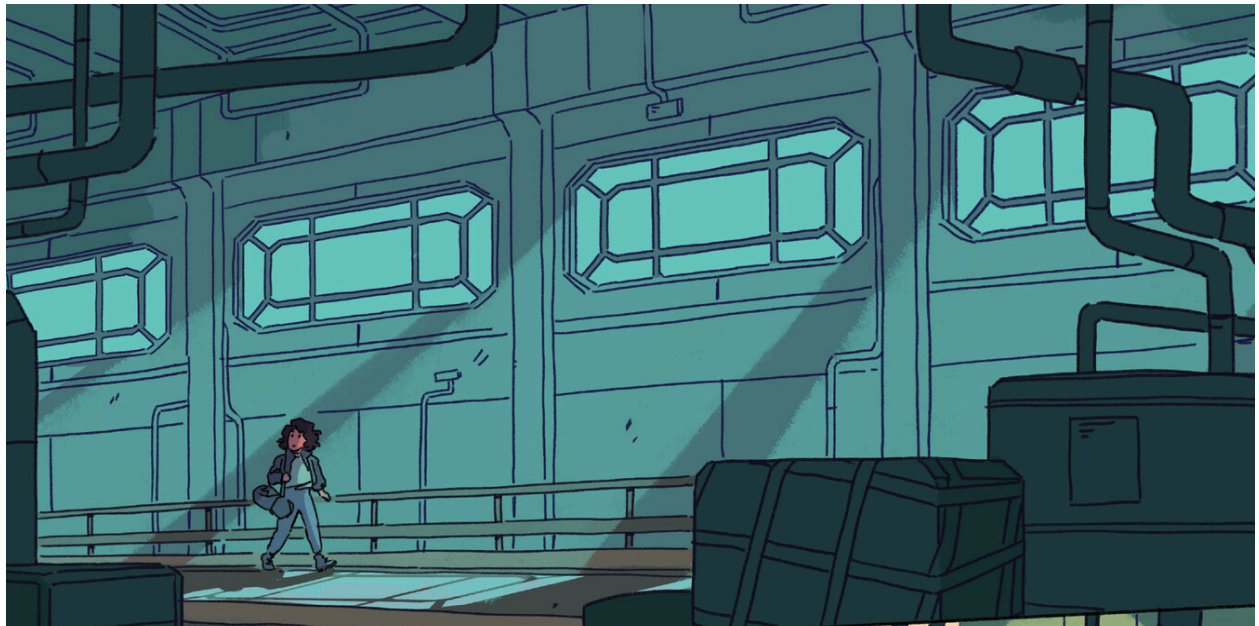


TO FOUND FAMILY















KSHHH



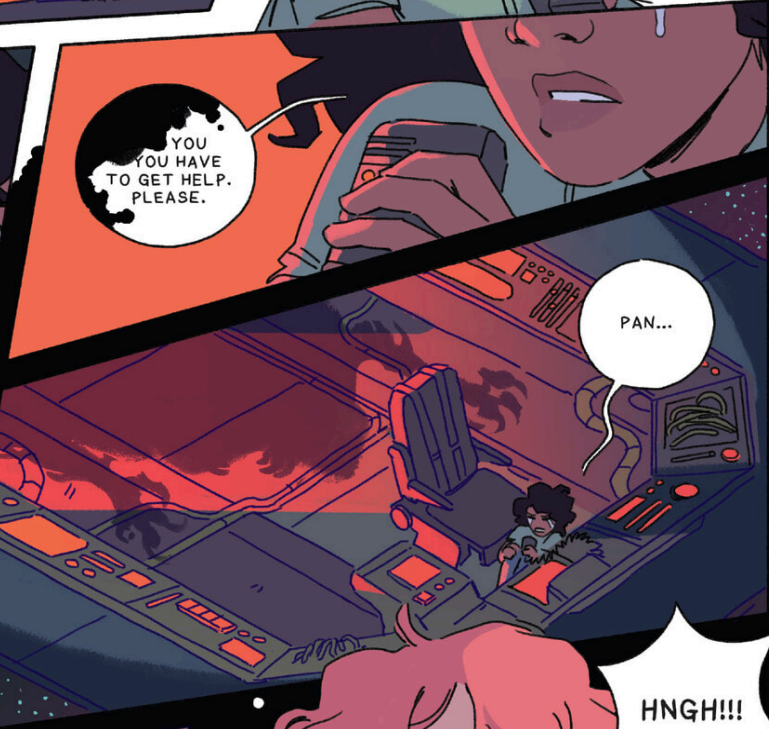
PAN?
PAN?!

PLEASE...
IF YOU CAN
HEAR THIS...
YOU GOTTA
HELP ME.



SOMETHING
WENT WRONG,
WE MADE A
MISTAKE...
THERE ARE
....

I'M HIDING
BUT I'M SO
SCARED.



YOU
YOU HAVE
TO GET HELP.
PLEASE.

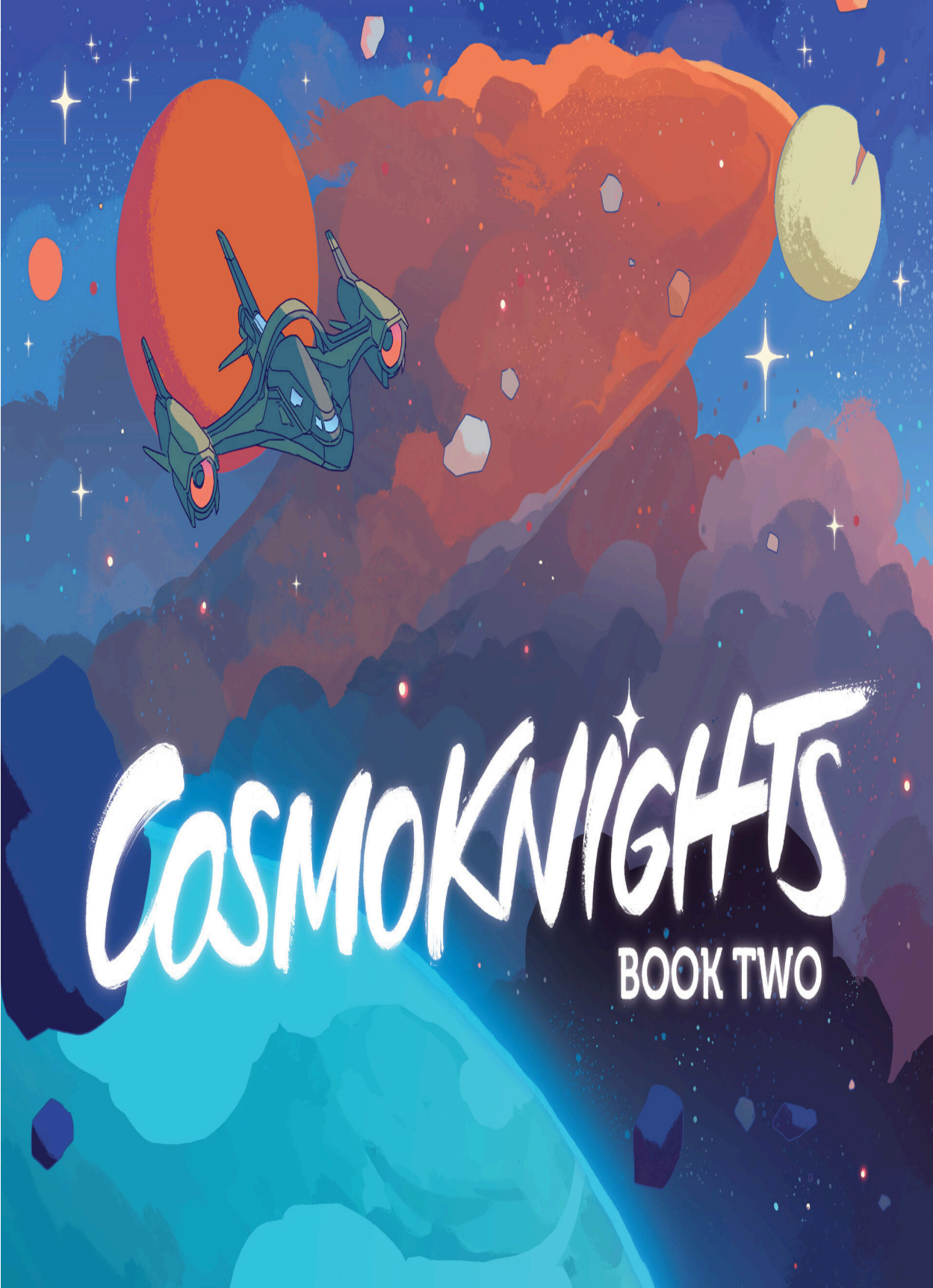
PAN...



DON'T
LEAVE ME
ALONE UP
HERE.

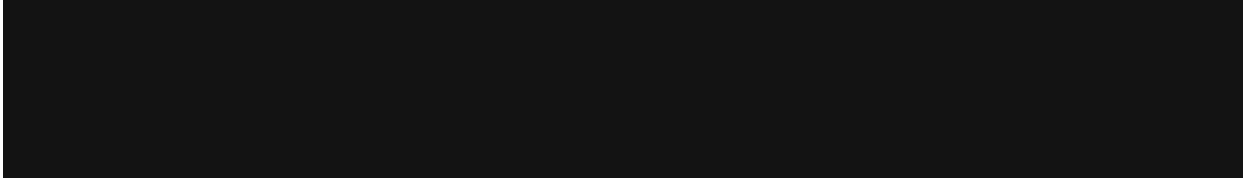


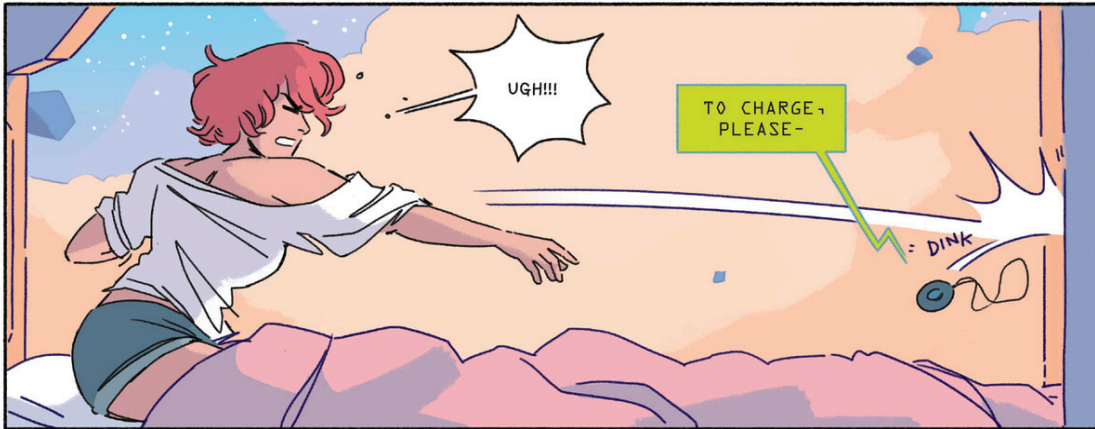
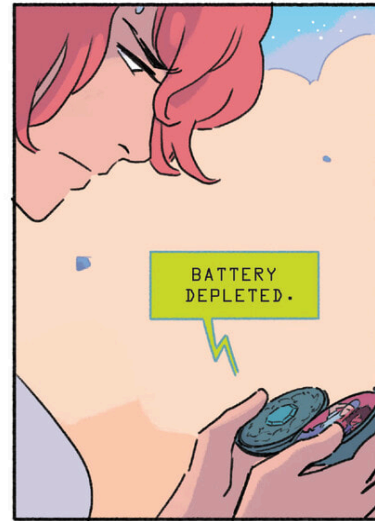
HNGH!!!



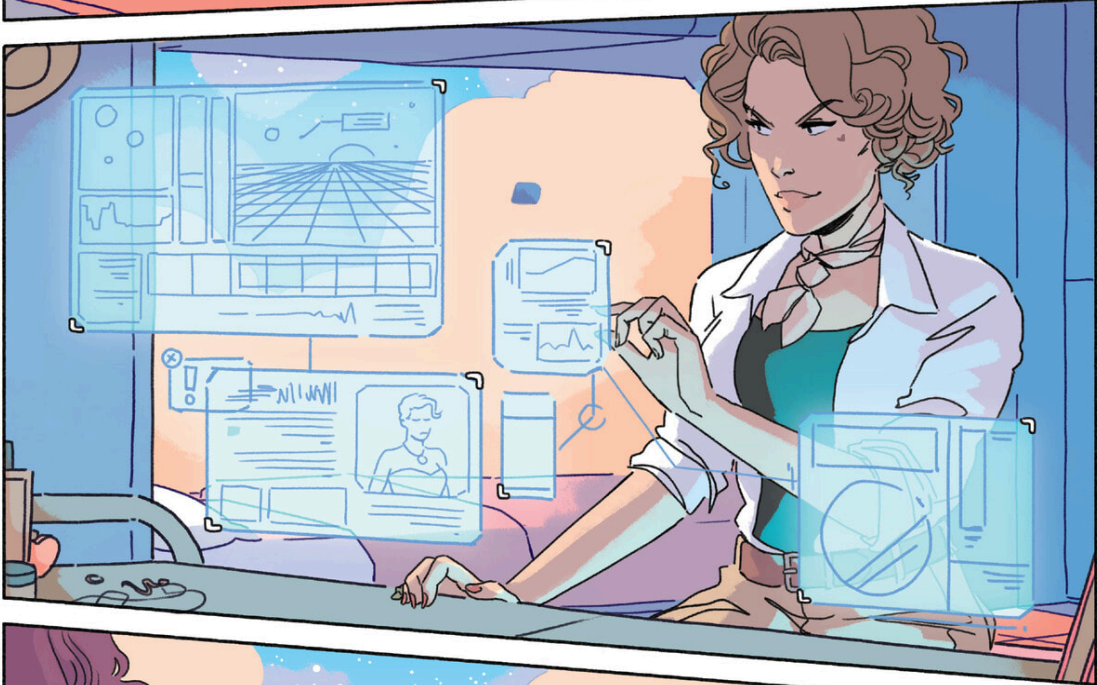
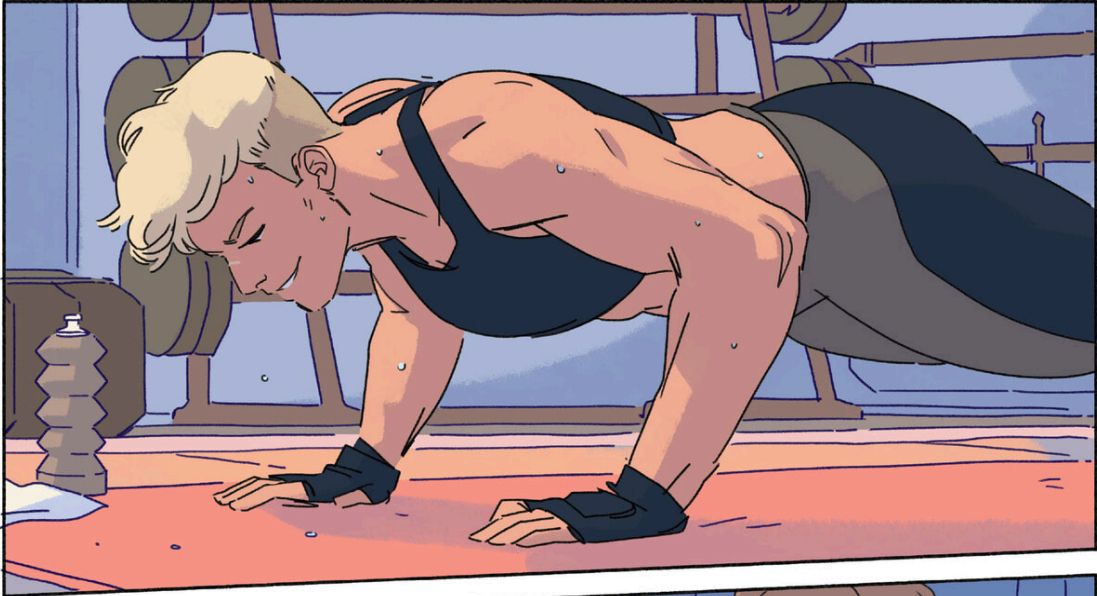
CosmoKnights

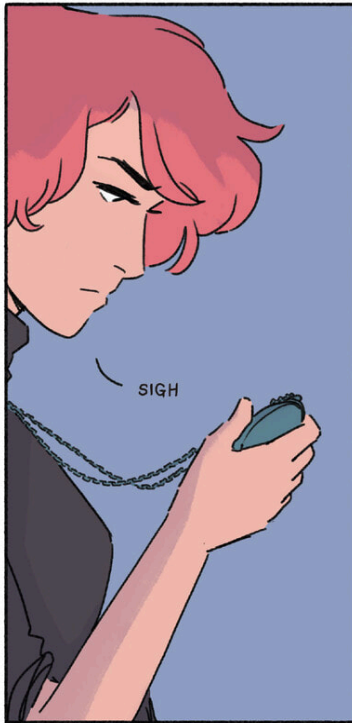
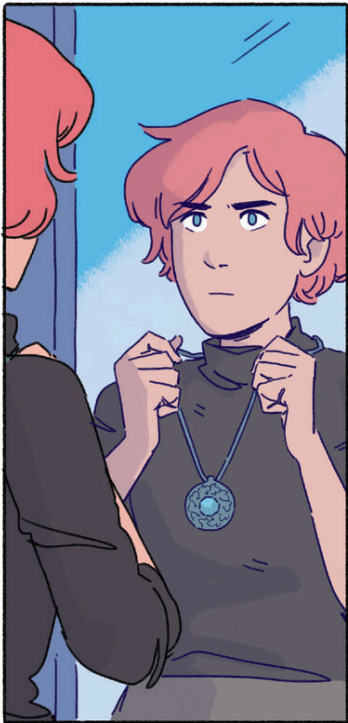
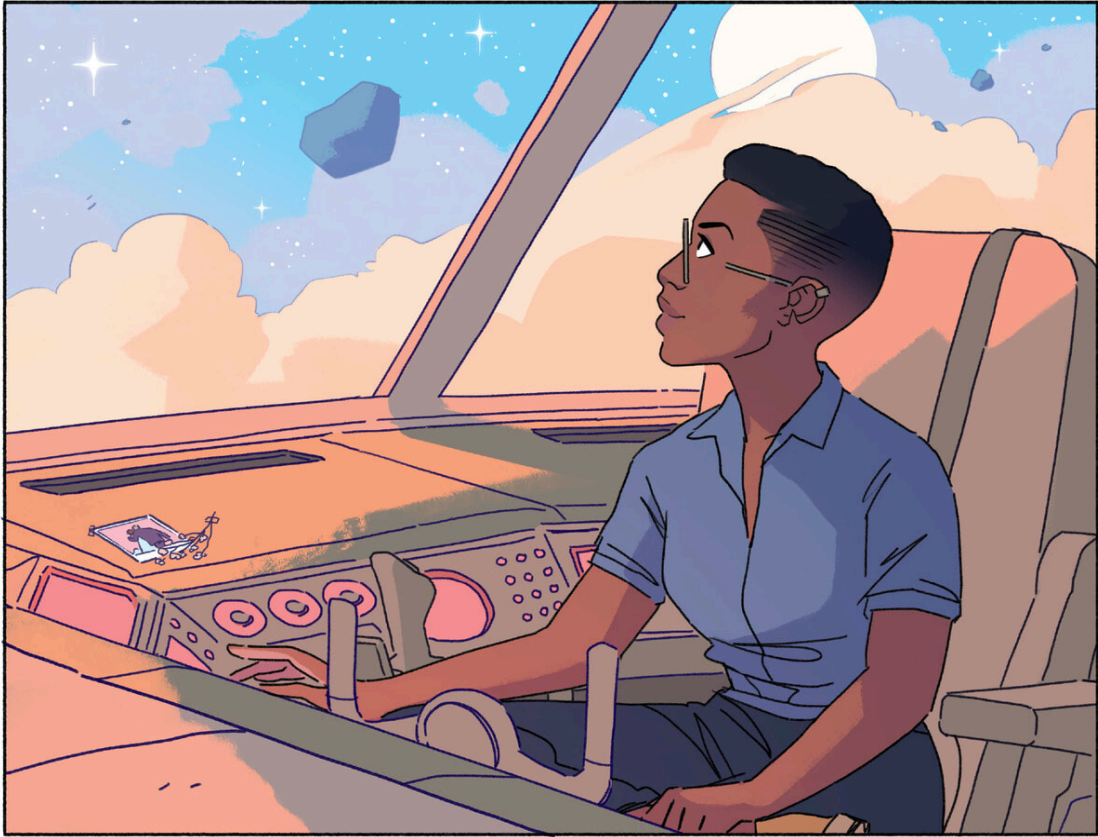
BOOK TWO

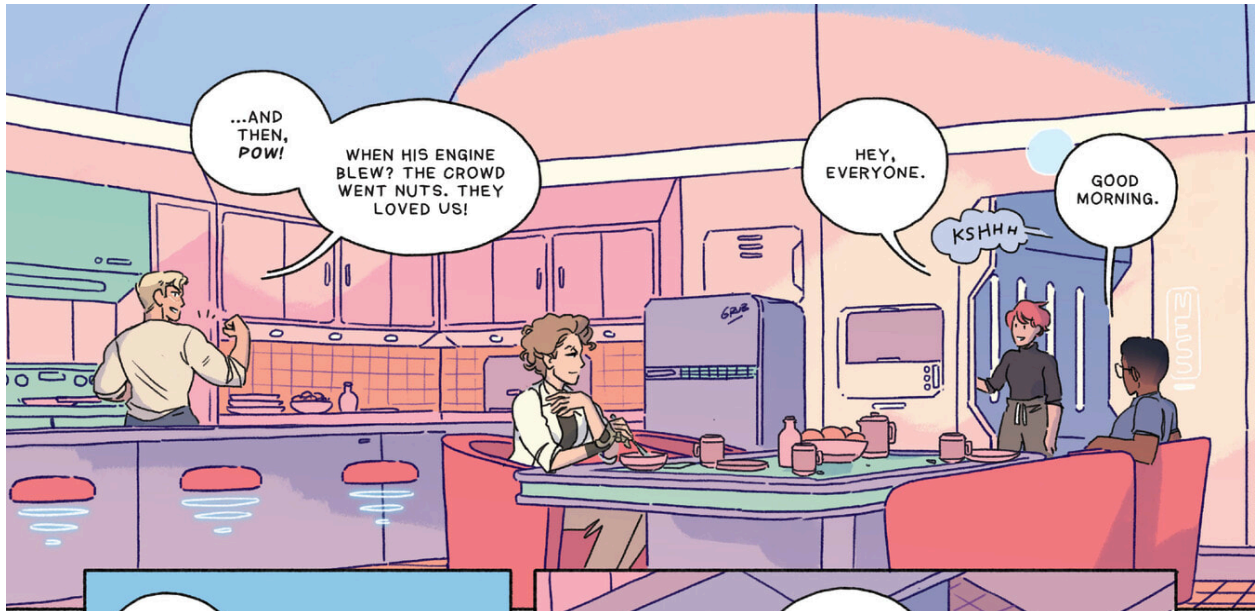












...AND THEN, POW!
WHEN HIS ENGINE BLEW? THE CROWD WENT NUTS. THEY LOVED US!

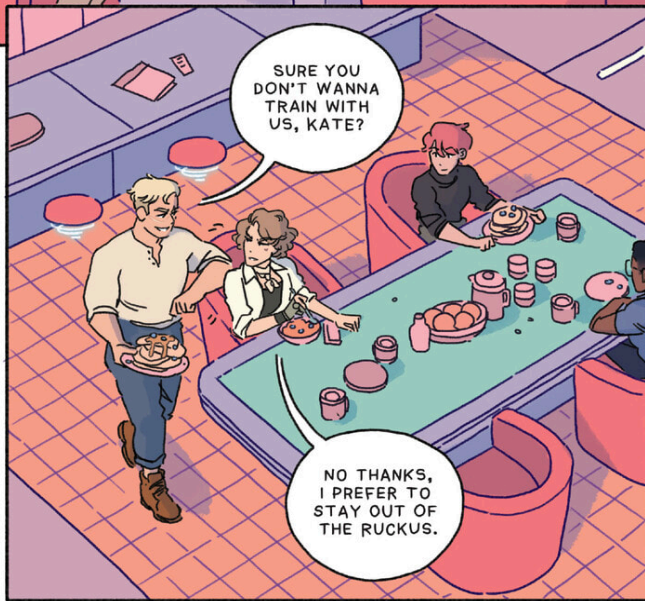
HEY, EVERYONE.

GOOD MORNING.

KSHHH



G'MORNING, KID.
EAT UP; GOTTA GET YOUR ENERGY FOR TRAINING.



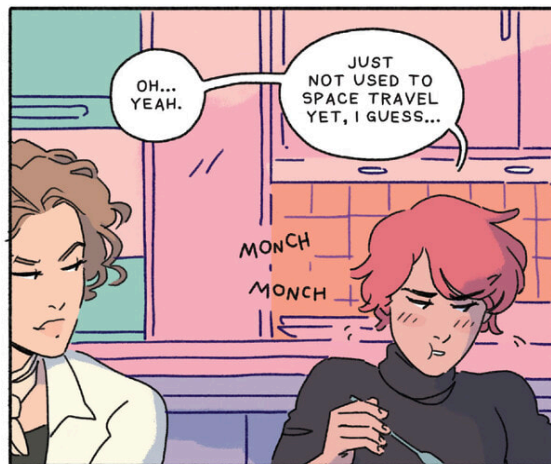
SURE YOU DON'T WANNA TRAIN WITH US, KATE?

NO THANKS, I PREFER TO STAY OUT OF THE RUCKUS.



STILL HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING, PAN?

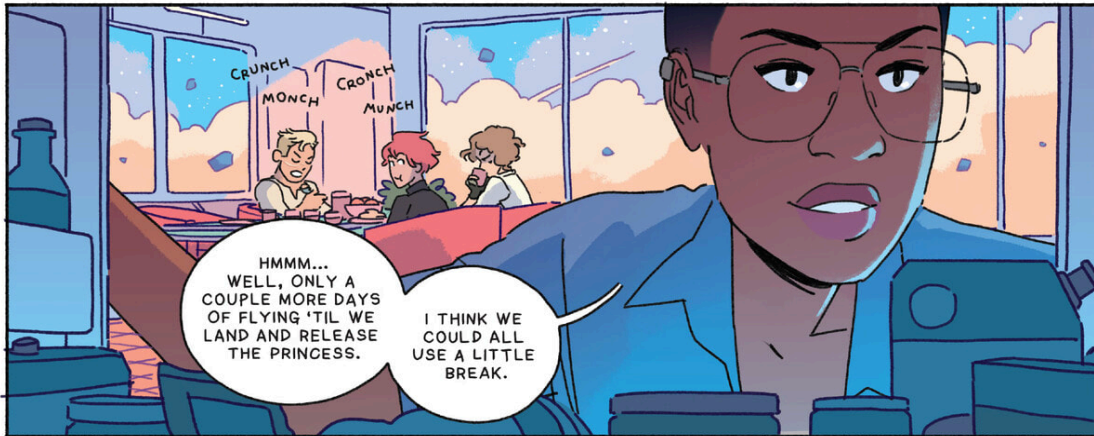
YAAAWN



OH... YEAH.

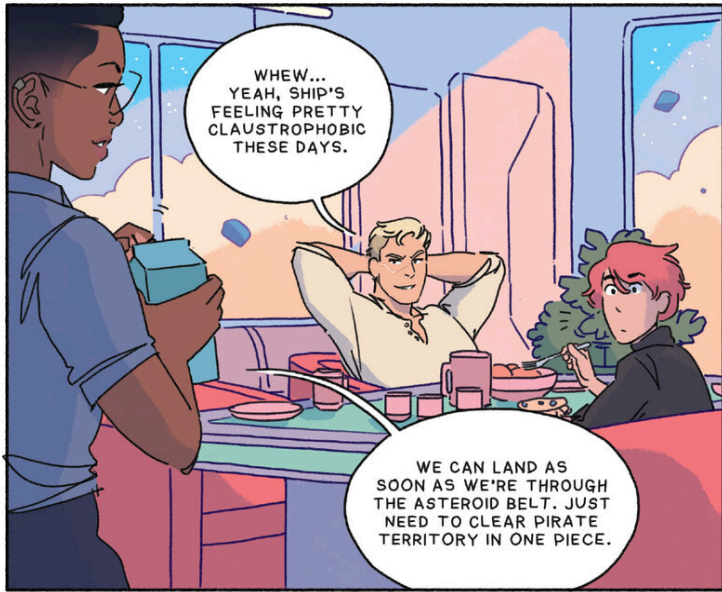
JUST NOT USED TO SPACE TRAVEL YET, I GUESS...

MONCH
MONCH



HMMM... WELL, ONLY A COUPLE MORE DAYS OF FLYING 'TIL WE LAND AND RELEASE THE PRINCESS.

I THINK WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE BREAK.



WHEW... YEAH, SHIP'S FEELING PRETTY CLAUSTROPHOBIC THESE DAYS.

WE CAN LAND AS SOON AS WE'RE THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT. JUST NEED TO CLEAR PIRATE TERRITORY IN ONE PIECE.

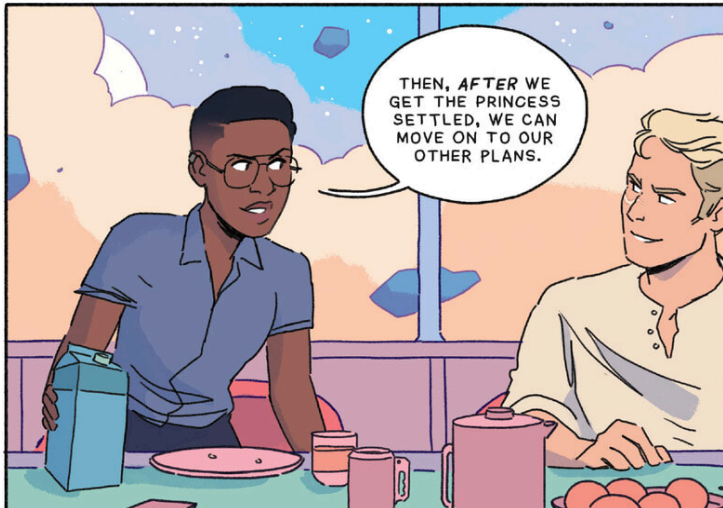


...PIRATES?

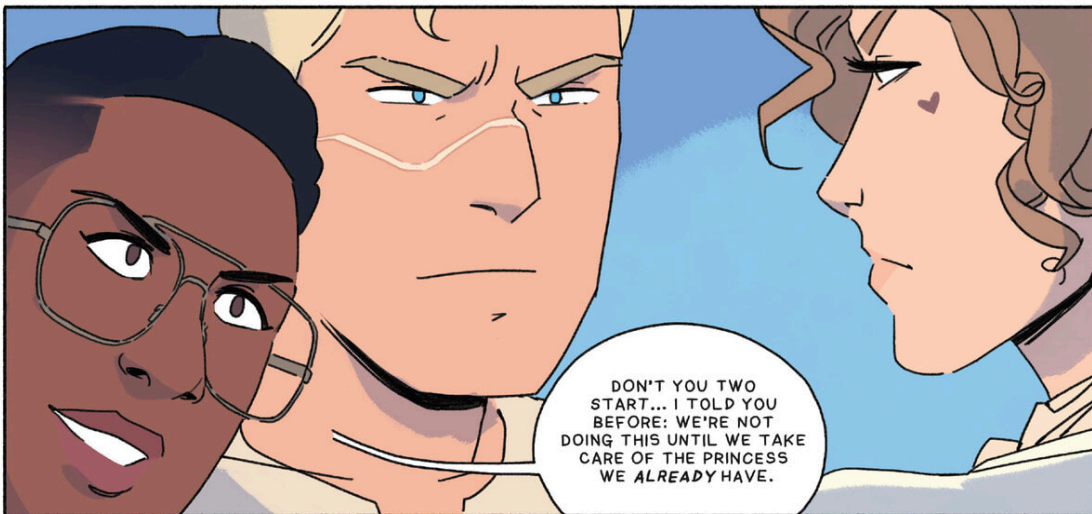
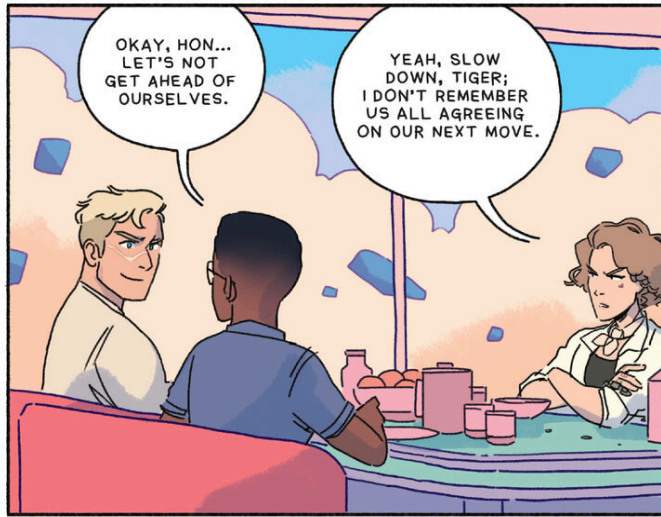
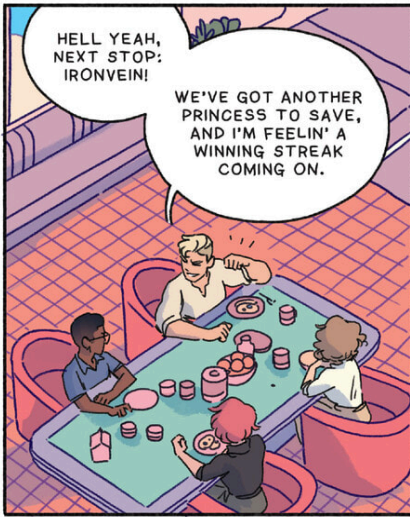
IT'LL BE FINE— THE VALK'S A SMALL SHIP, AND THEY HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

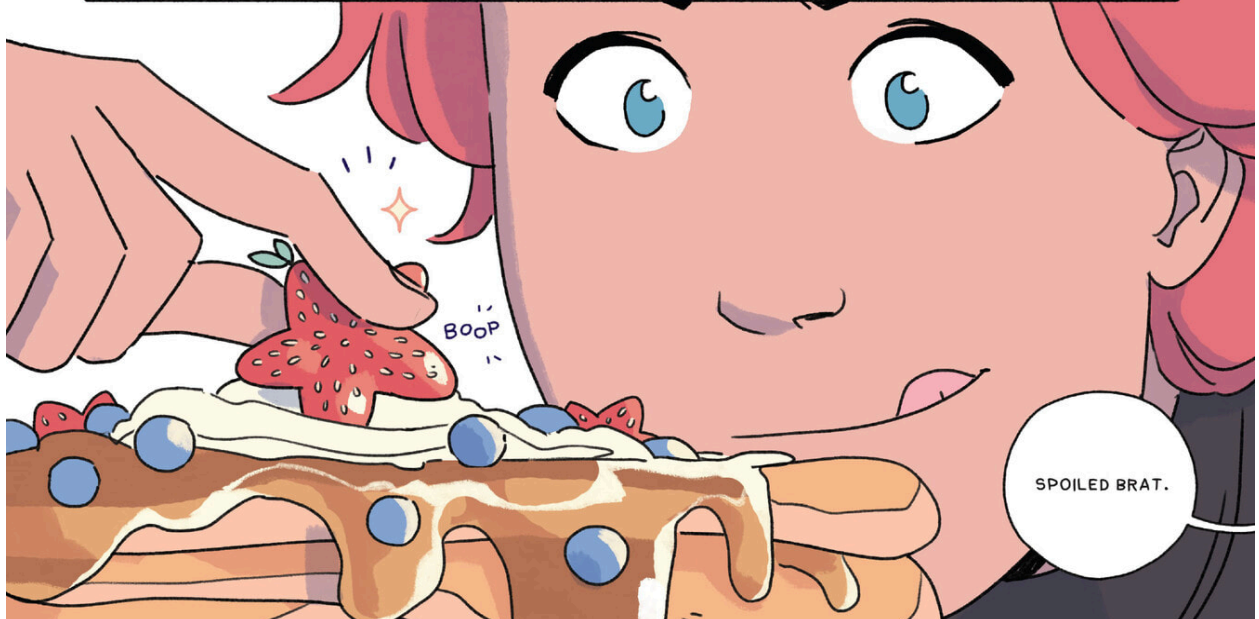
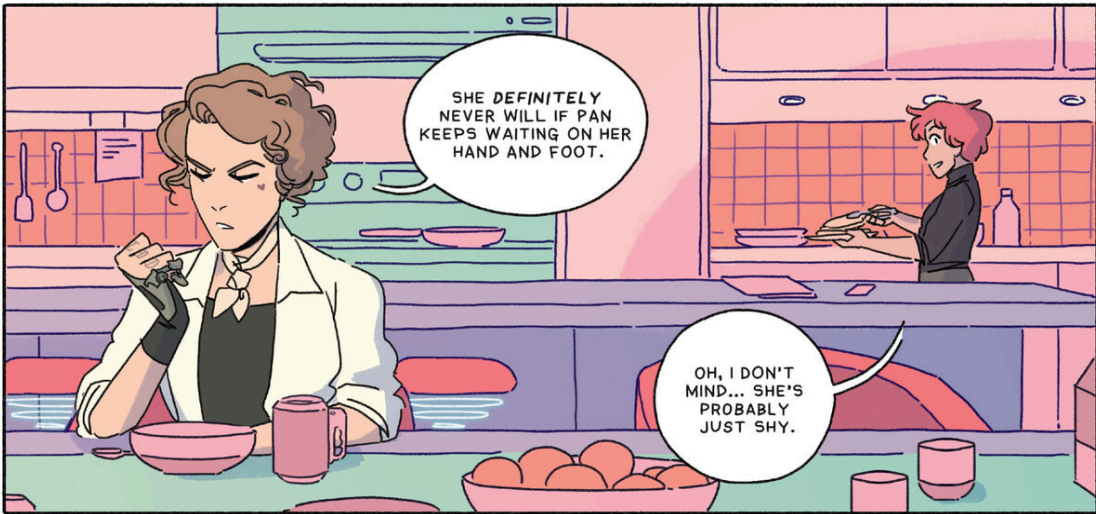
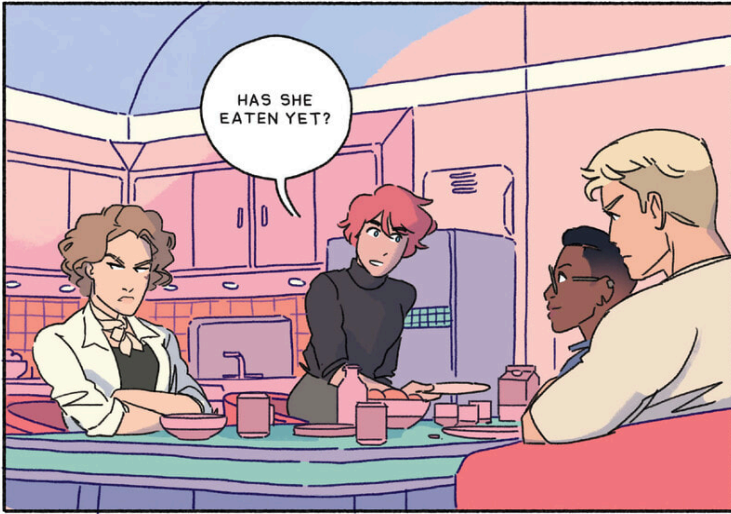


IF WE MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS, THEY WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BOTHER US.



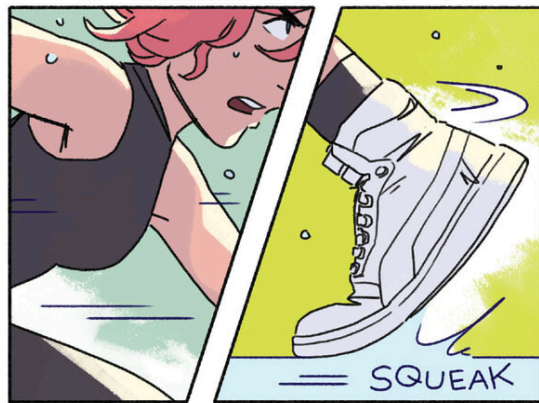
THEN, AFTER WE GET THE PRINCESS SETTLED, WE CAN MOVE ON TO OUR OTHER PLANS.

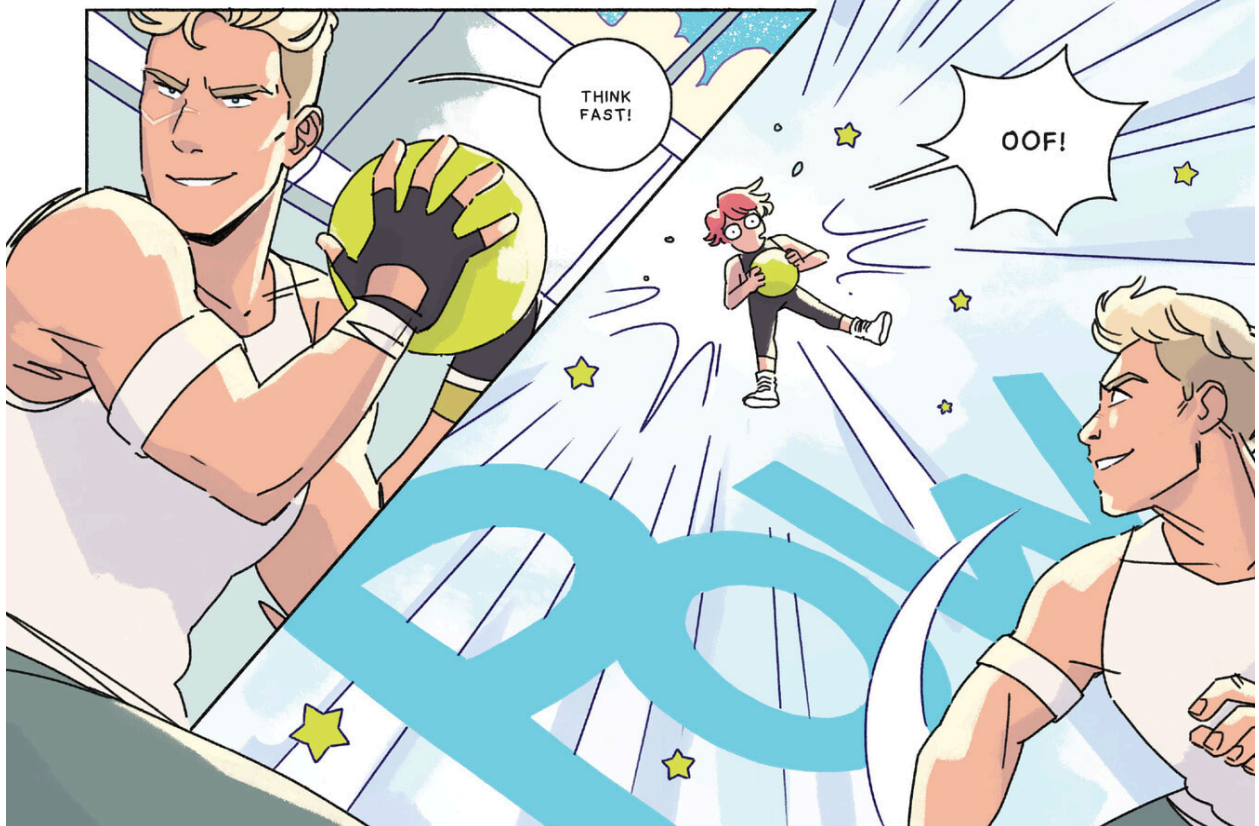
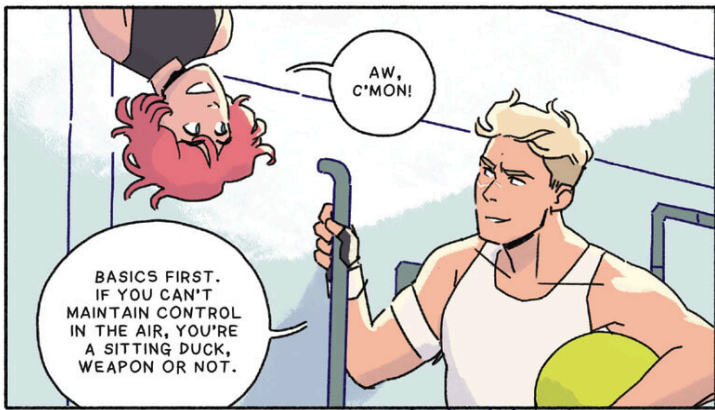


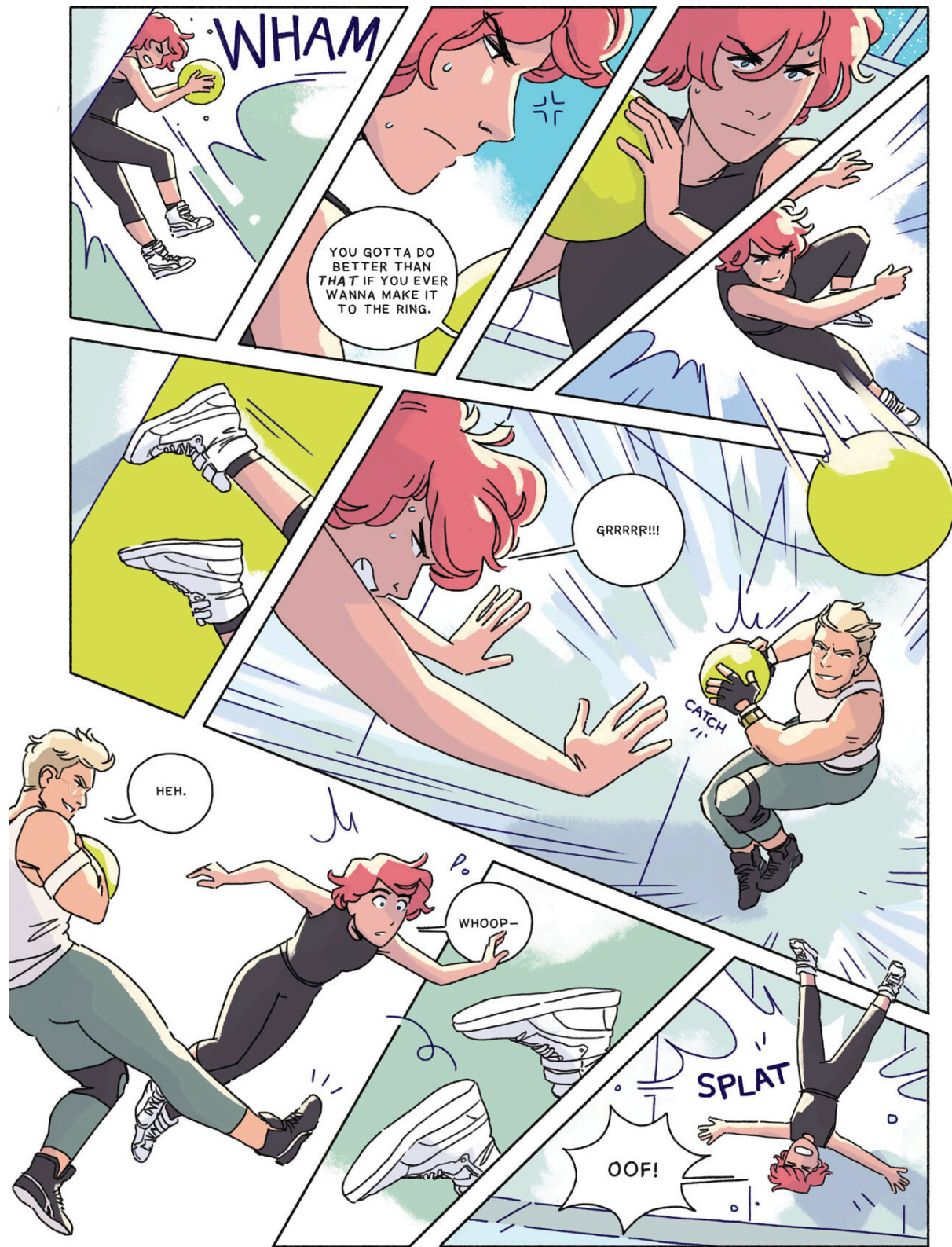


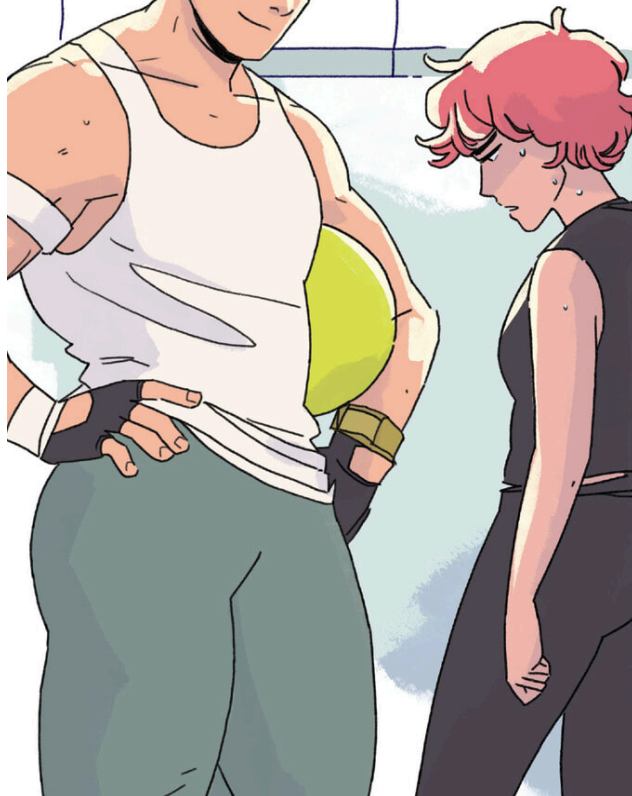
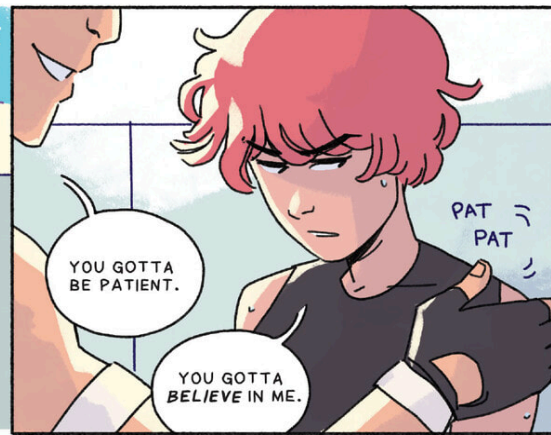
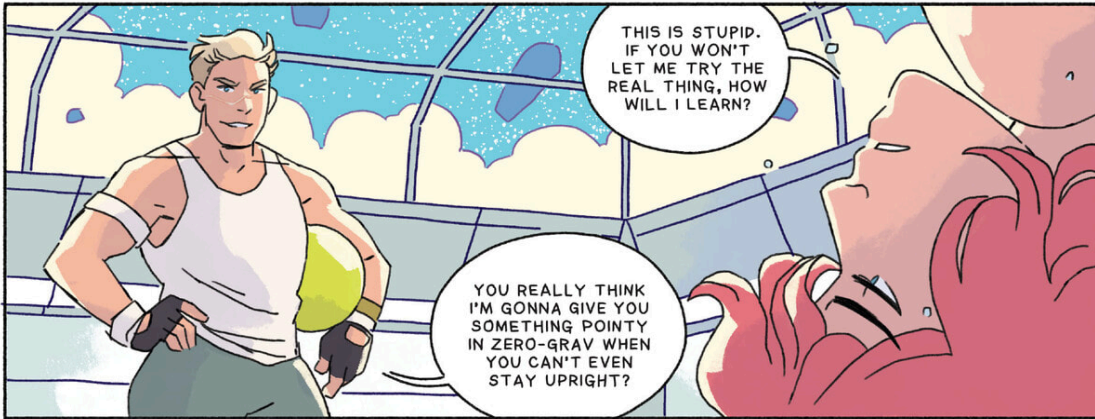


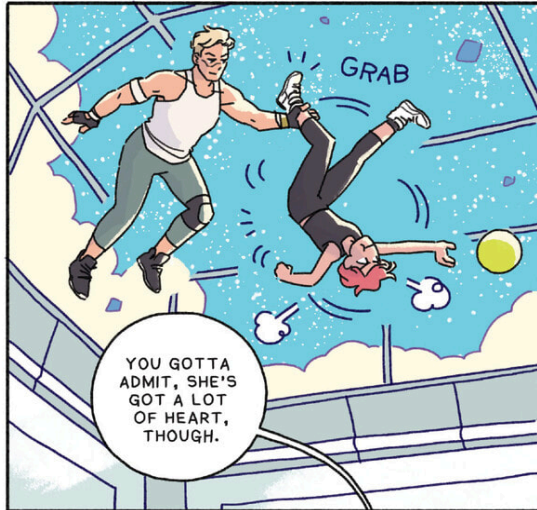
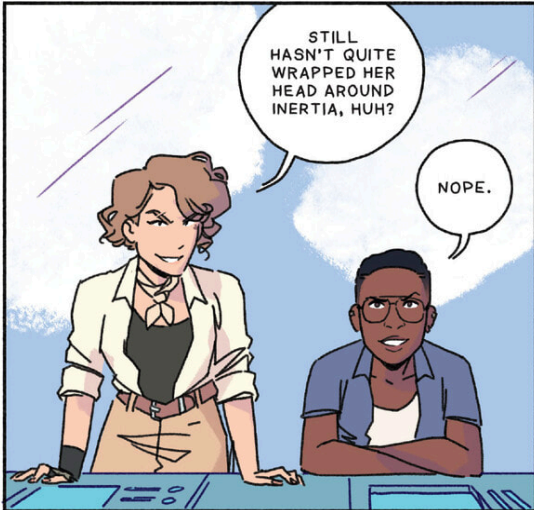
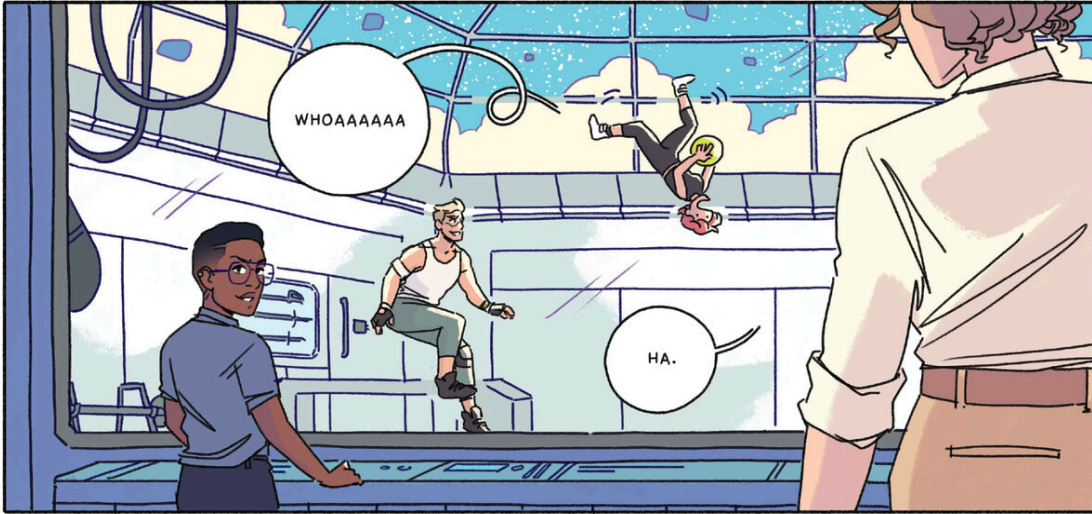


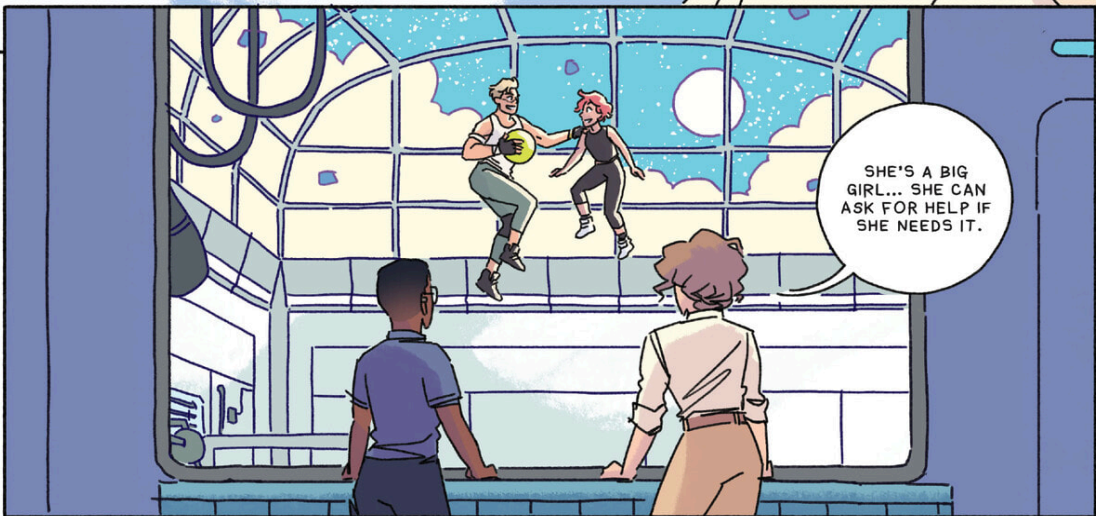
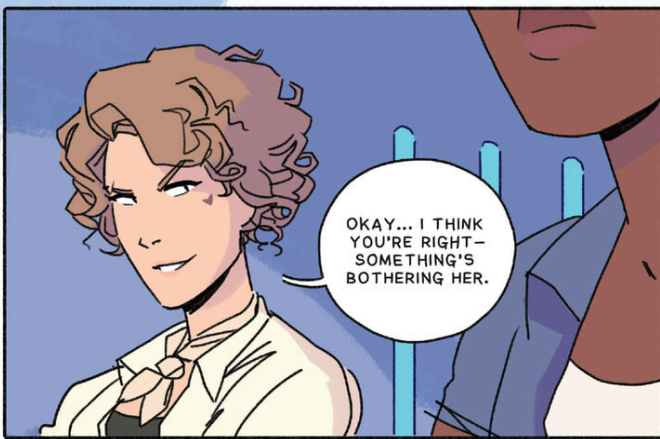
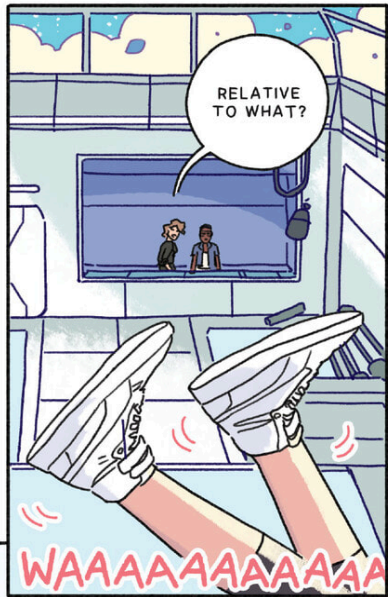


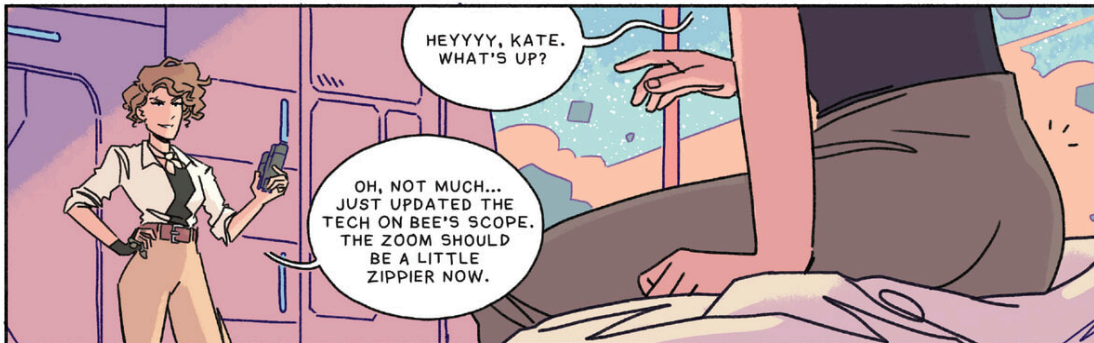
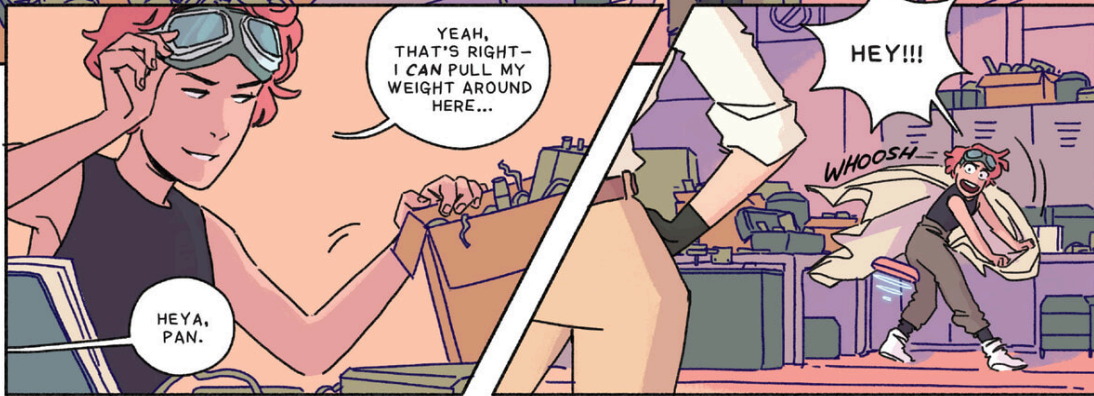
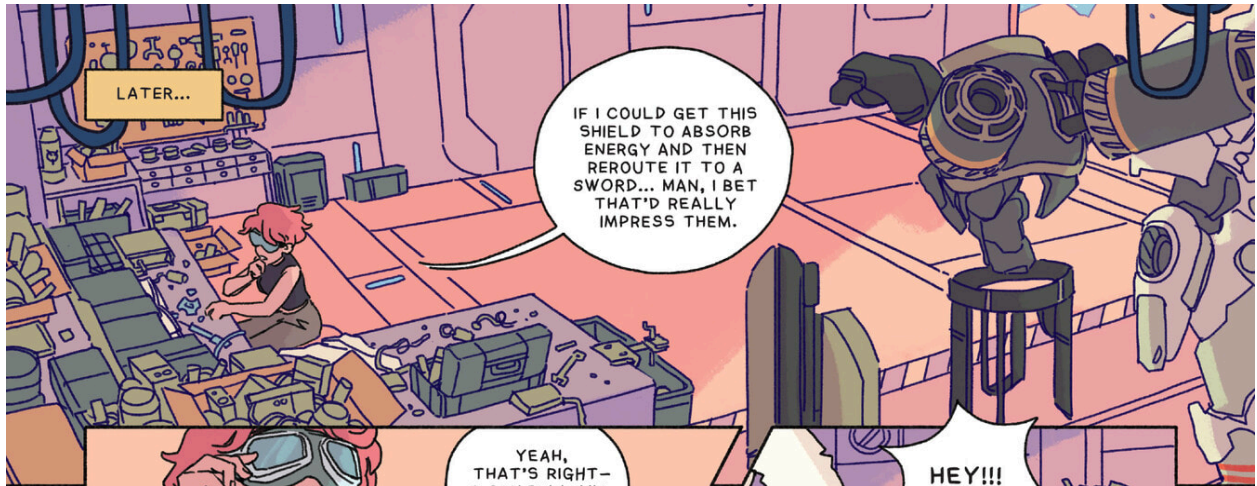


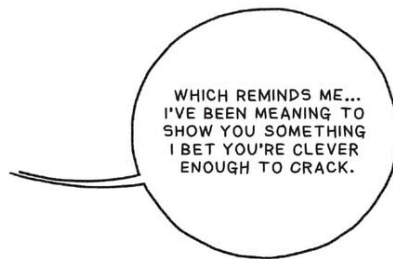


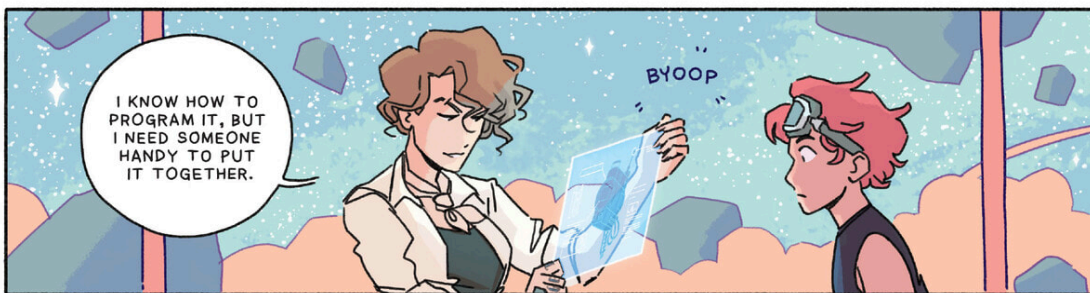


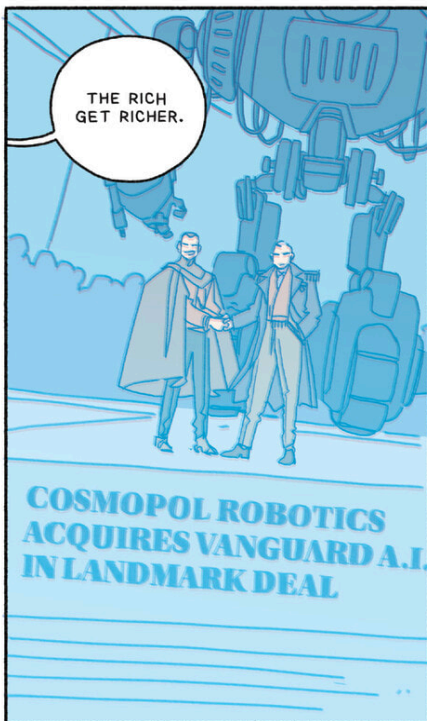
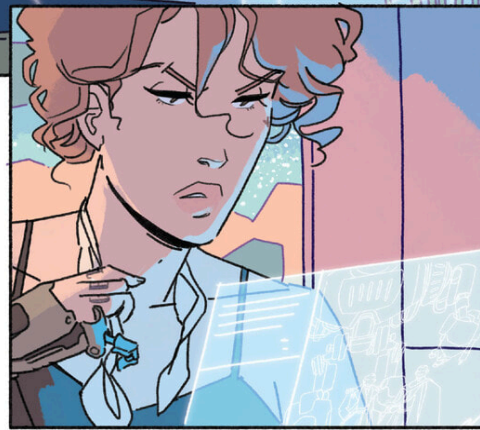






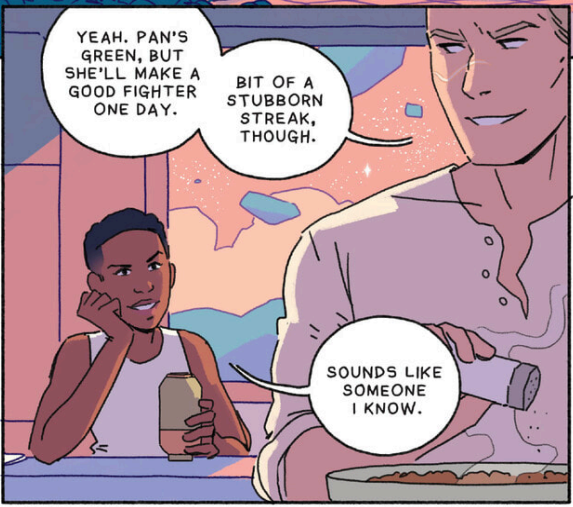








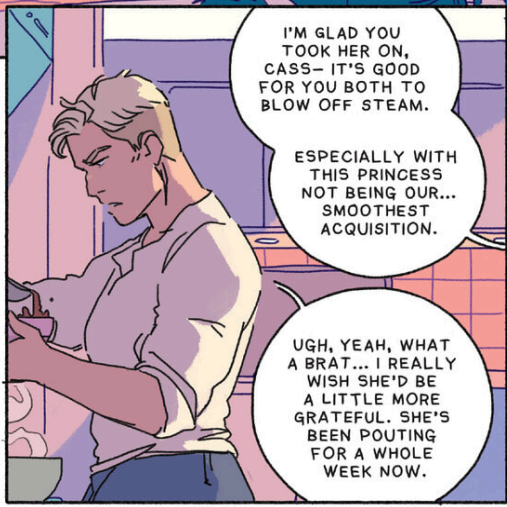
TRAINING GO WELL TODAY, HON?



YEAH. PAN'S GREEN, BUT SHE'LL MAKE A GOOD FIGHTER ONE DAY.

BIT OF A STUBBORN STREAK, THOUGH.

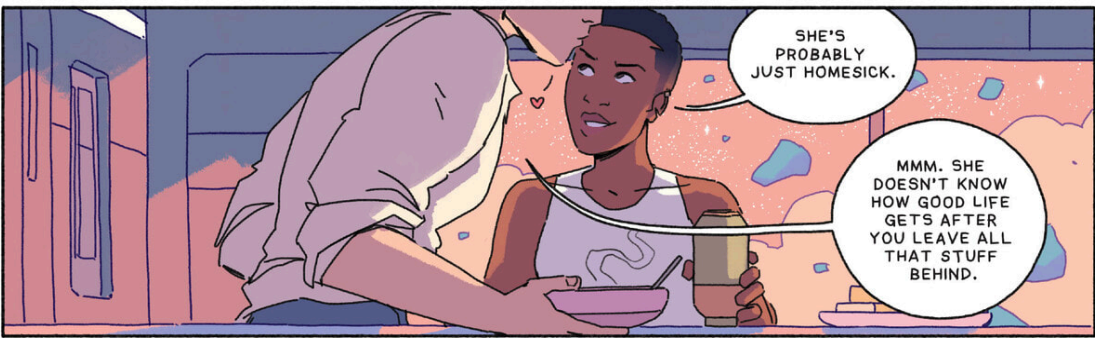
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.



I'M GLAD YOU TOOK HER ON, CASS- IT'S GOOD FOR YOU BOTH TO BLOW OFF STEAM.

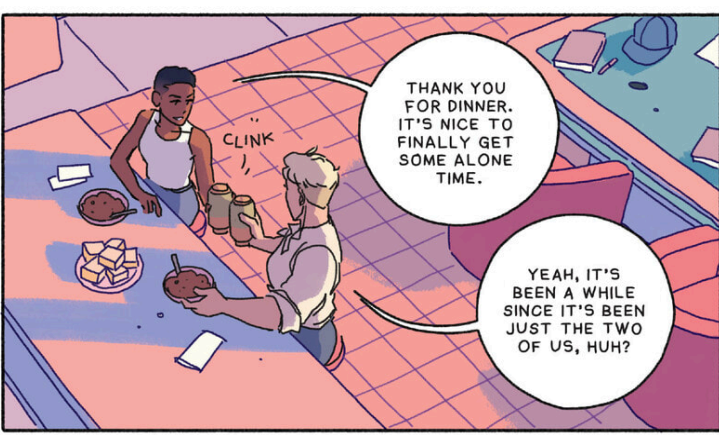
ESPECIALLY WITH THIS PRINCESS NOT BEING OUR... SMOOTHTEST ACQUISITION.

UGH, YEAH, WHAT A BRAT... I REALLY WISH SHE'D BE A LITTLE MORE GRATEFUL. SHE'S BEEN POUTING FOR A WHOLE WEEK NOW.



SHE'S PROBABLY JUST HOMESICK.

MMM. SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW GOOD LIFE GETS AFTER YOU LEAVE ALL THAT STUFF BEHIND.

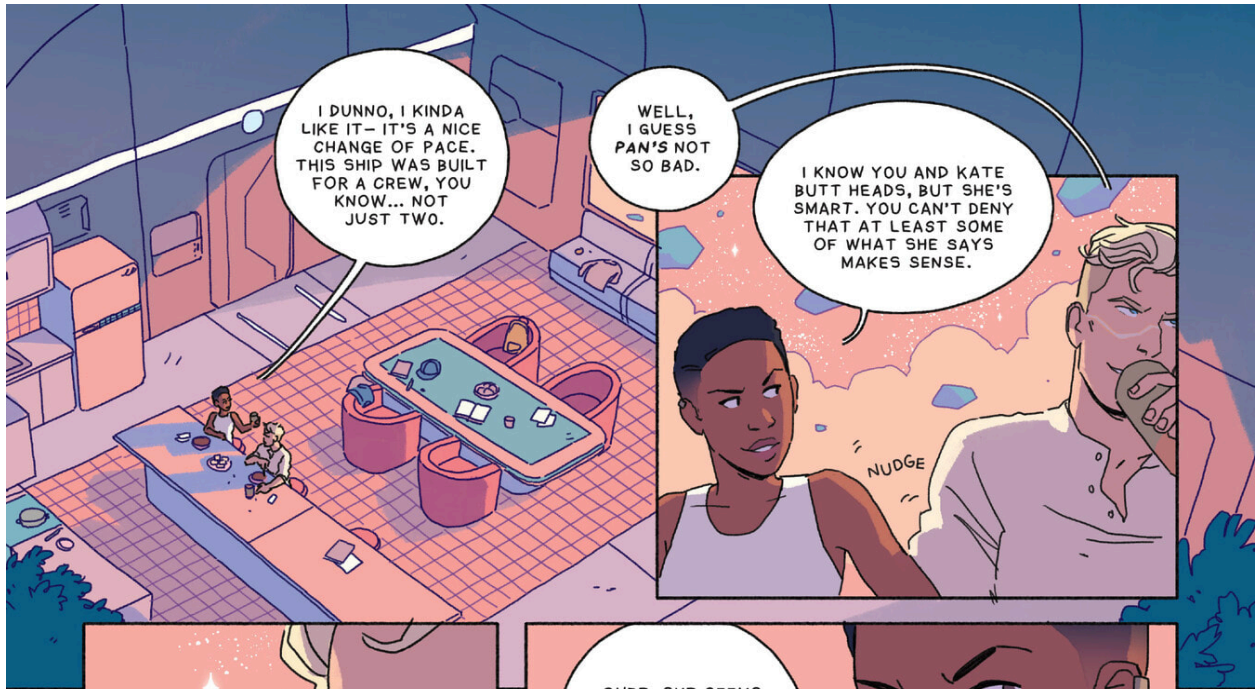


THANK YOU FOR DINNER. IT'S NICE TO FINALLY GET SOME ALONE TIME.

YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE IT'S BEEN JUST THE TWO OF US, HUH?



CAN'T SAY I CARE FOR ALL OUR EXTRA CARGO.



I DUNNO, I KINDA LIKE IT— IT'S A NICE CHANGE OF PACE. THIS SHIP WAS BUILT FOR A CREW, YOU KNOW... NOT JUST TWO.

WELL, I GUESS PAN'S NOT SO BAD.

I KNOW YOU AND KATE BUTT HEADS, BUT SHE'S SMART. YOU CAN'T DENY THAT AT LEAST SOME OF WHAT SHE SAYS MAKES SENSE.

NUDGE



IT'S DEFINITELY NOT HER INTELLIGENCE THAT WORRIES ME. I JUST DON'T TRUST HER.



SURE, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A TASTE FOR GOING ROGUE— BUT BETTER TO HAVE HER AS AN ALLY THAN AN ENEMY.



CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

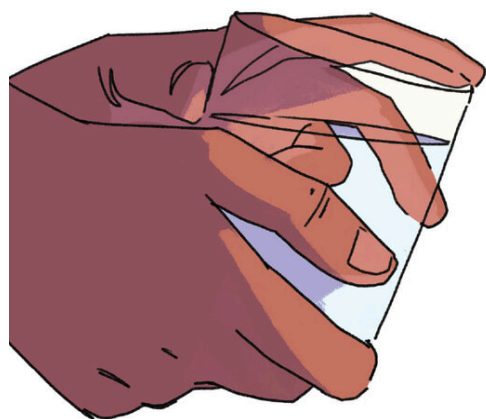
STRETCH



AND I GUESS IN THE END, EVEN IF EVERYTHING FALLS APART, YOU AND I STILL HAVE EACH OTHER.

CRACK

CRACK CRACK

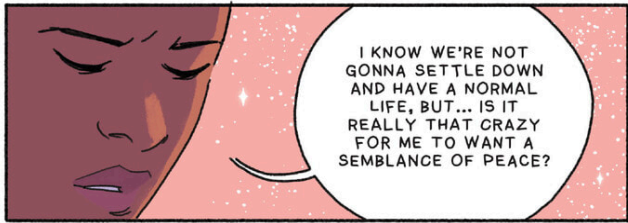




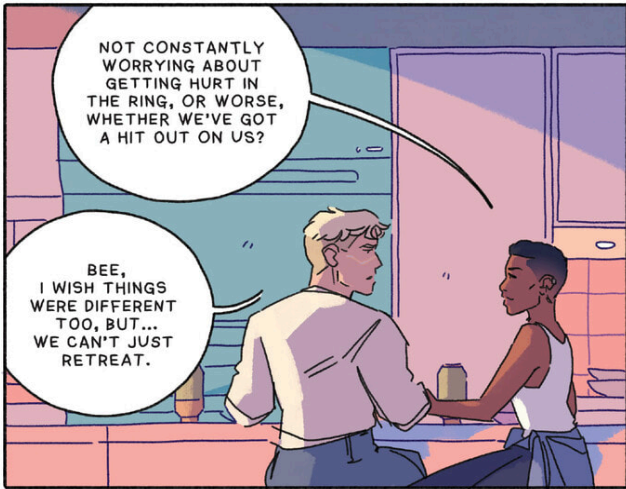
OHHHH NO YOU DON'T.



HEY. I LOVE YOU. DON'T MAKE THIS ABOUT YOU.



I KNOW WE'RE NOT GONNA SETTLE DOWN AND HAVE A NORMAL LIFE, BUT... IS IT REALLY THAT CRAZY FOR ME TO WANT A SEMBLANCE OF PEACE?



NOT CONSTANTLY WORRYING ABOUT GETTING HURT IN THE RING, OR WORSE, WHETHER WE'VE GOT A HIT OUT ON US?

BEE, I WISH THINGS WERE DIFFERENT TOO, BUT... WE CAN'T JUST RETREAT.



OF COURSE NOT. BUT WE COULD INVITE OTHER PEOPLE INTO OUR LIVES...

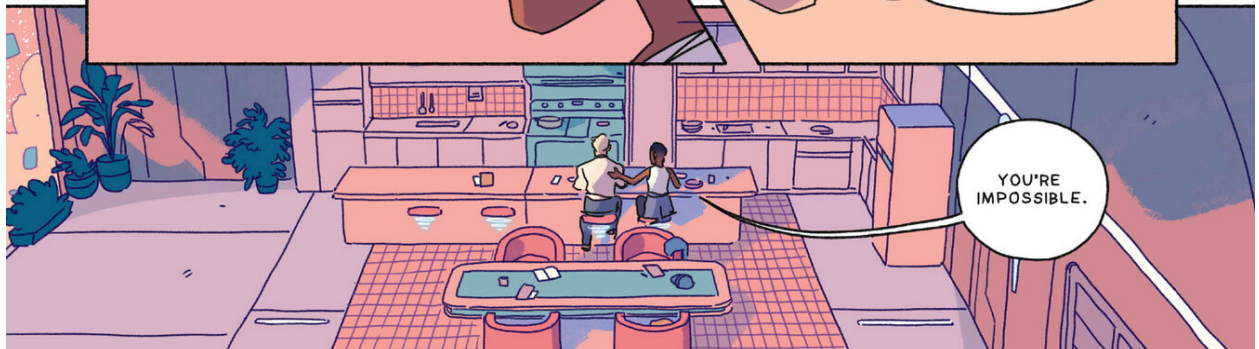
STOP TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN, MAYBE EVEN HAVE SOME FRIENDS...

THAT'S QUANT, BUT IT'S NOT REALITY. WE CAN ONLY COUNT ON EACH OTHER.

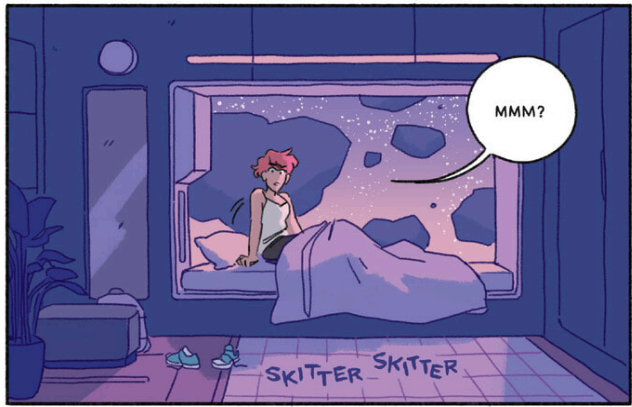


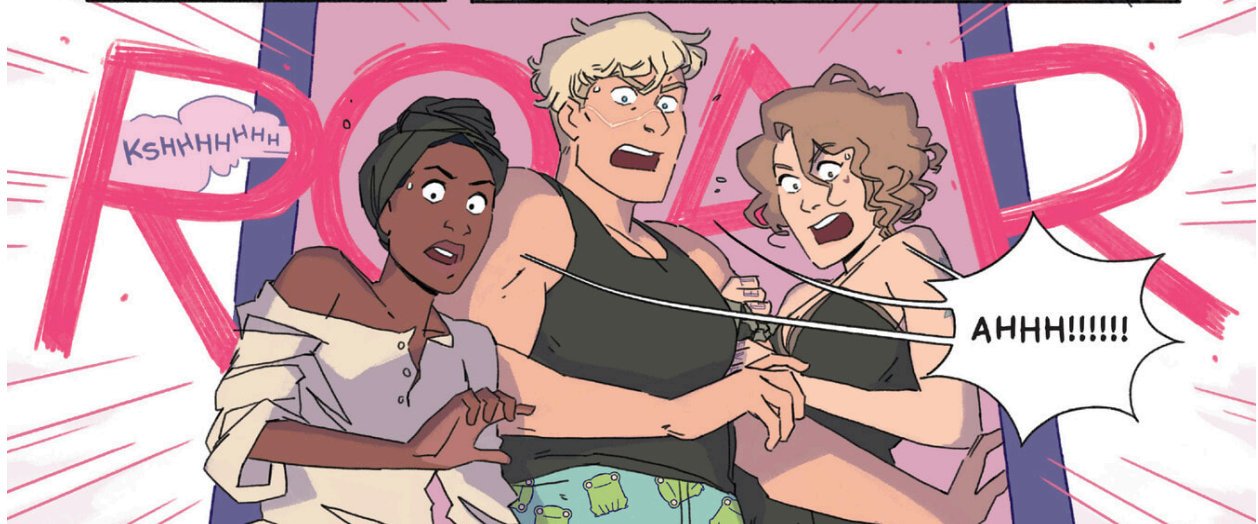
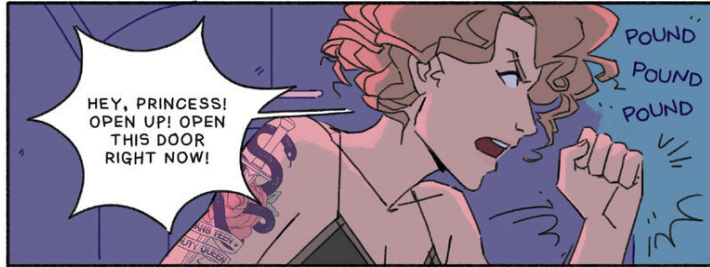
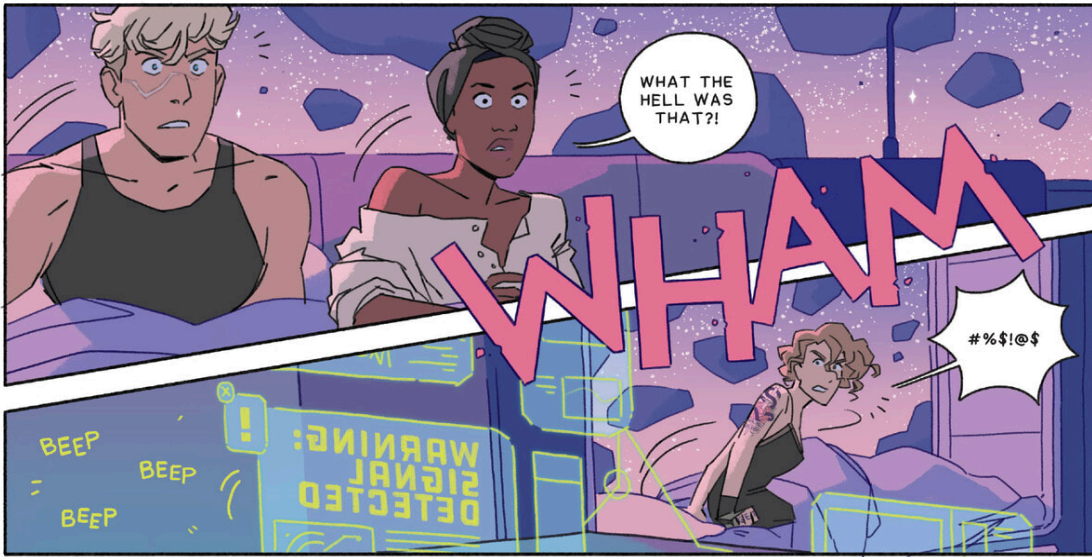
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THINGS CATCH UP AND WE CAN'T PUNCH OUR WAY OUT? WHO'S GONNA SAVE US?

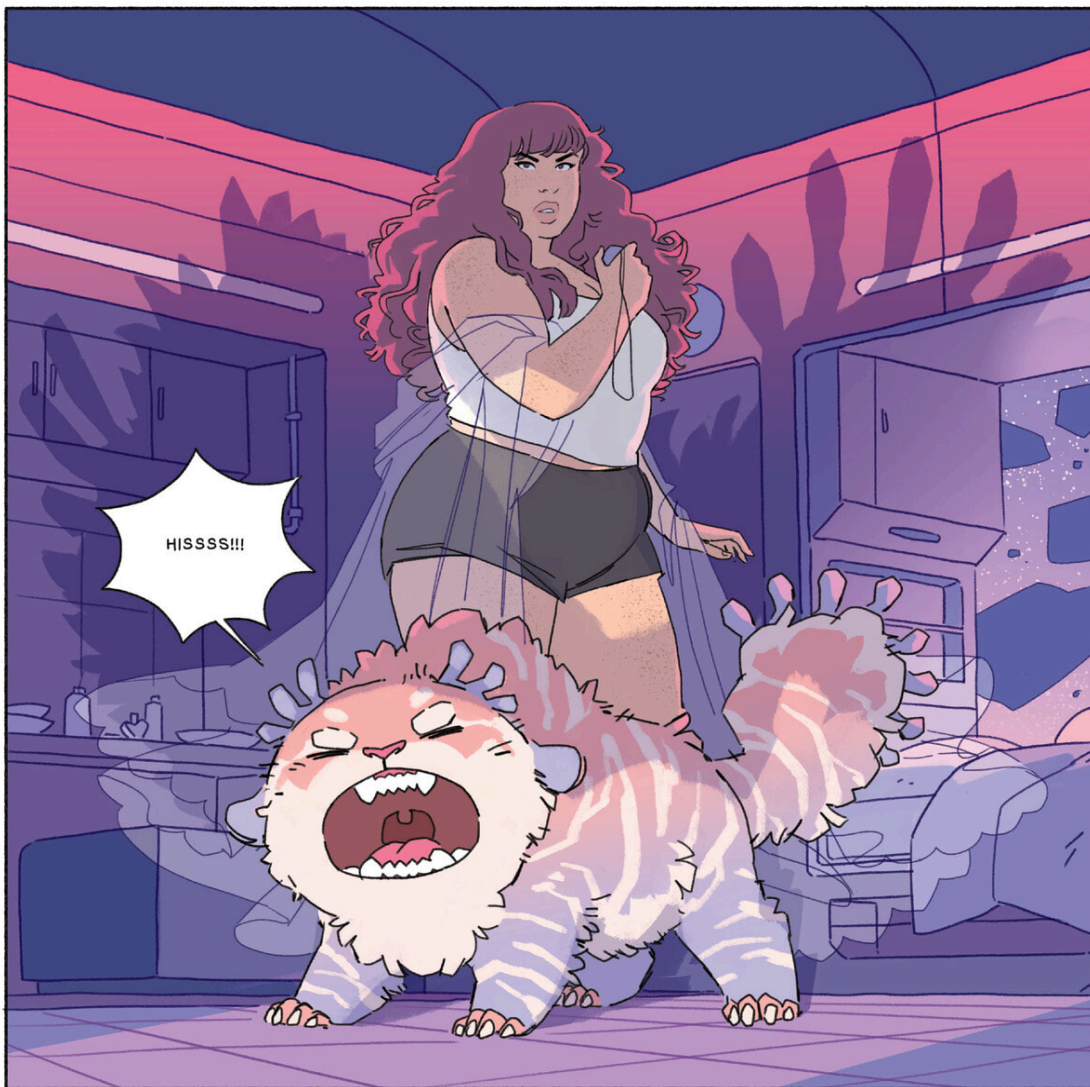
WE HIT HARDER. WE SAVE OURSELVES.



YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE.





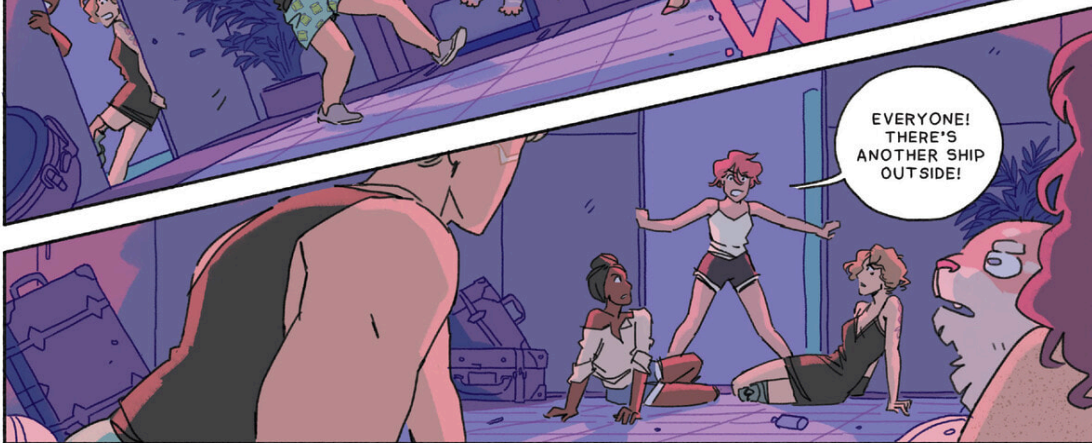


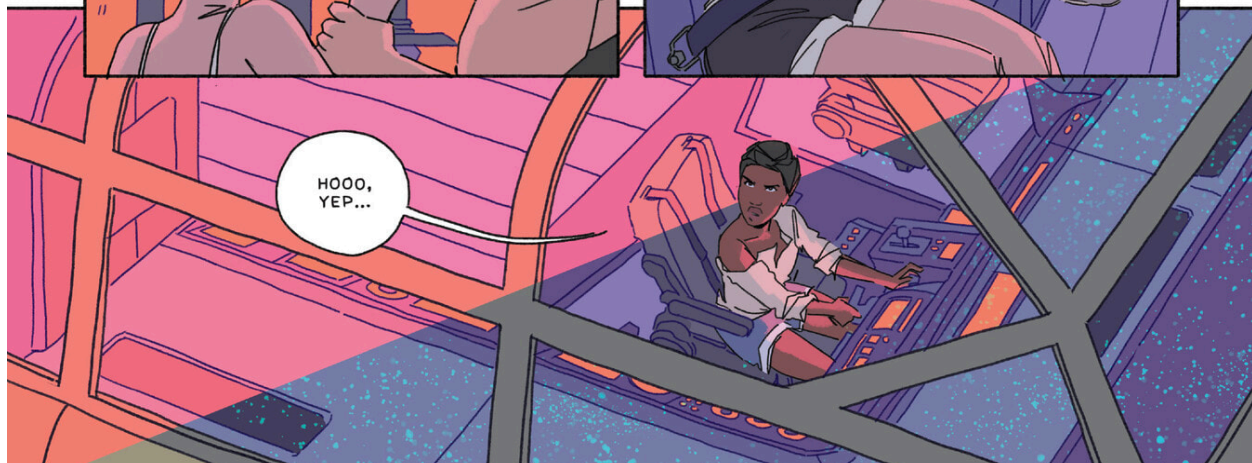
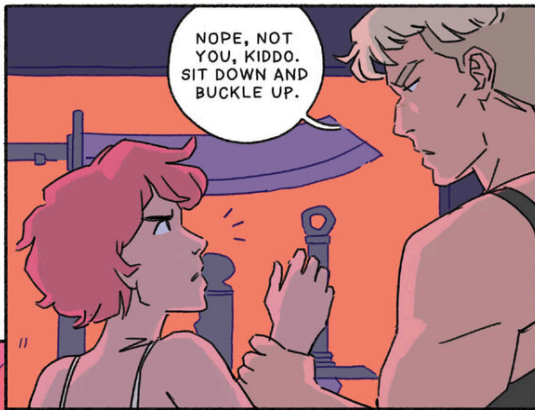
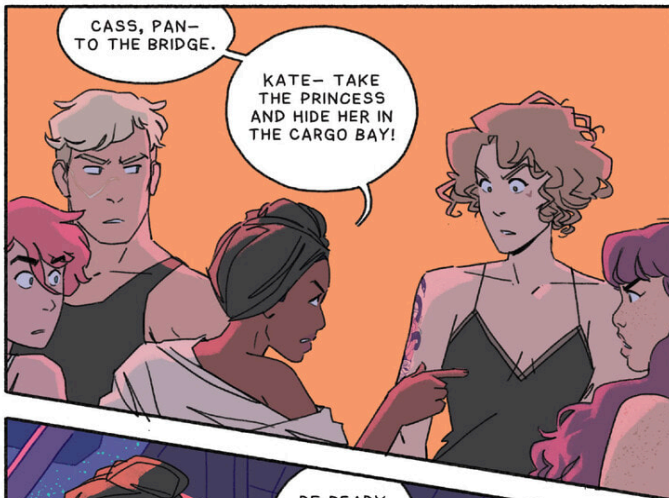
HISSSS!!!

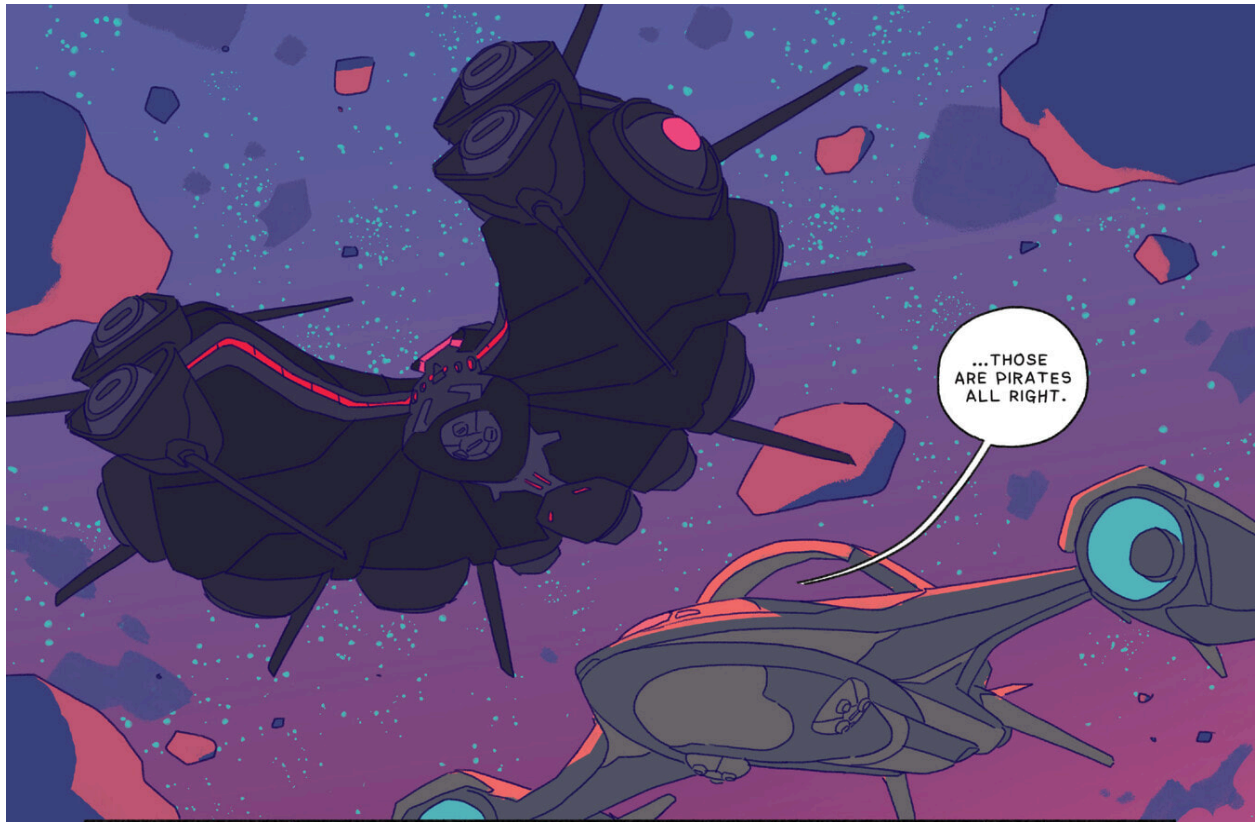


I KNEW IT, YOU LITTLE SNEAK! YOU STOLE BACK THAT FAVOR AND SENT OUT AN S.O.S., DIDN'T YOU?!

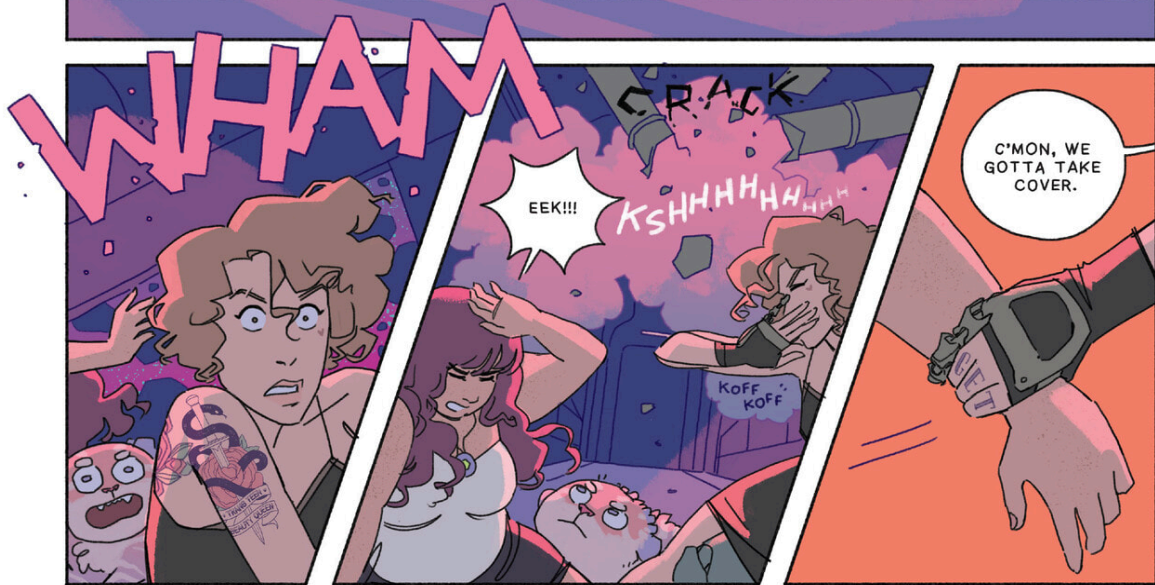
THE WARDENS ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY. I'M GOING HOME.







...THOSE ARE PIRATES ALL RIGHT.



WHAM

EEK!!!

CRACK

KSHHHHH

KOFF KOFF

C'MON, WE GOTTA TAKE COVER.



IN HERE!
YOU FIRST.

LAUNDRY

RUMBLE

CREEEAK

RUMBLE



YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
KIDDING ME.

HURRY
UP.



EW! GOD,
IT STINKS
DOWN HERE!!!

YEAH? WELL,
YOU GOT YOURSELF
INTO THIS MESS,
PRINCESS.

MAYBE NEXT
TIME THINK TWICE
BEFORE YOU--...



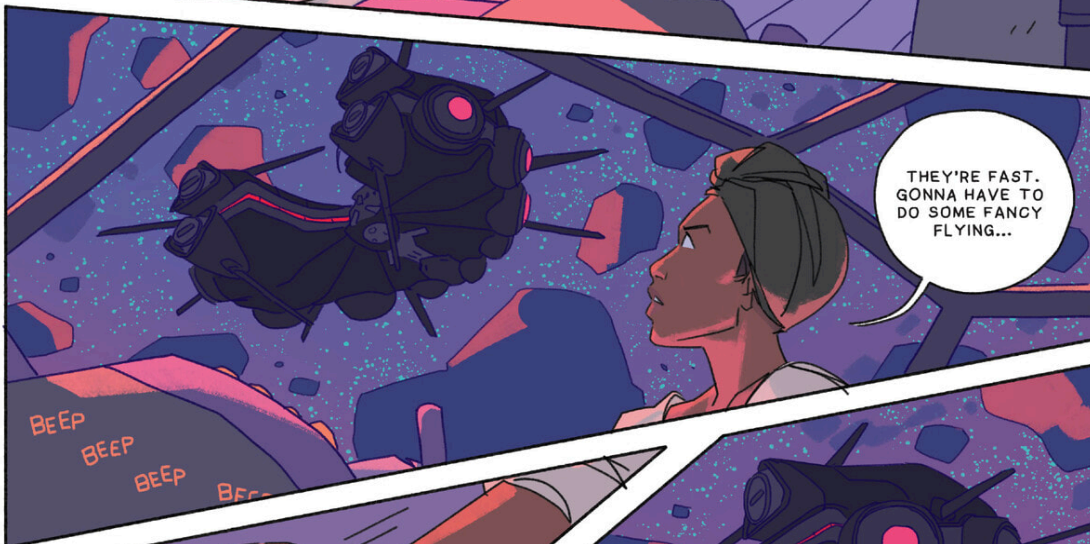
VROOM

EEK!



WHUMP

MROW!







WHOEVER'S FLYING THAT BUCKET KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

TARGET SIGNAL 100%

CLUNK

EEEK!

OOF!

FWUMP

ZOOM

RUMBLE

MROWWW...

GOD DAMMIT, BEE...

CLUNK

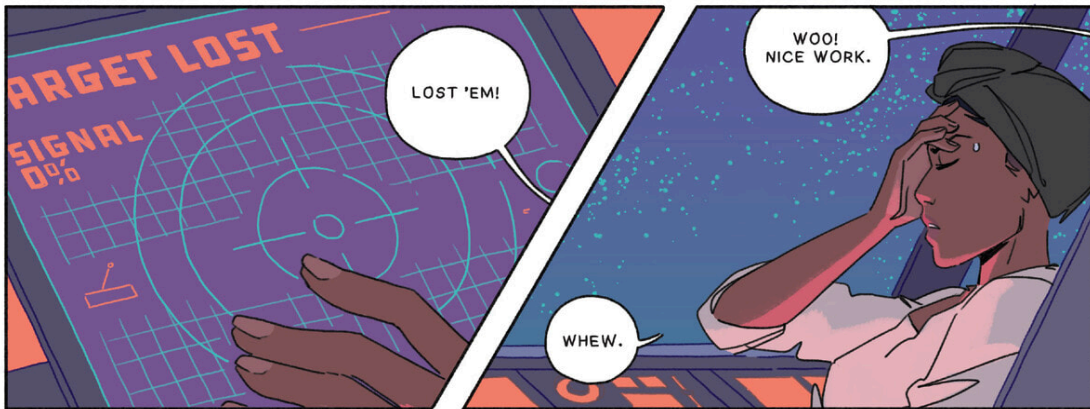
GEEZ!

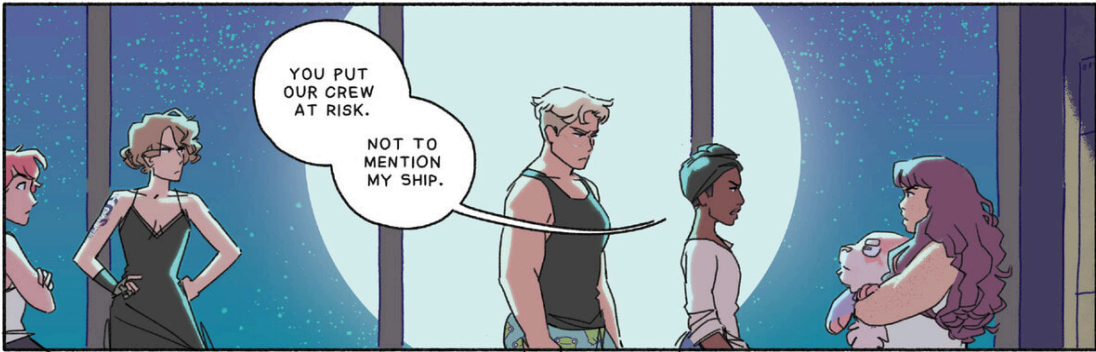
WHAM

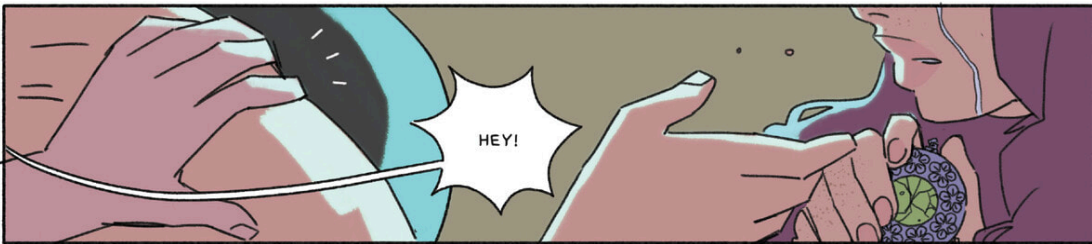
AH!

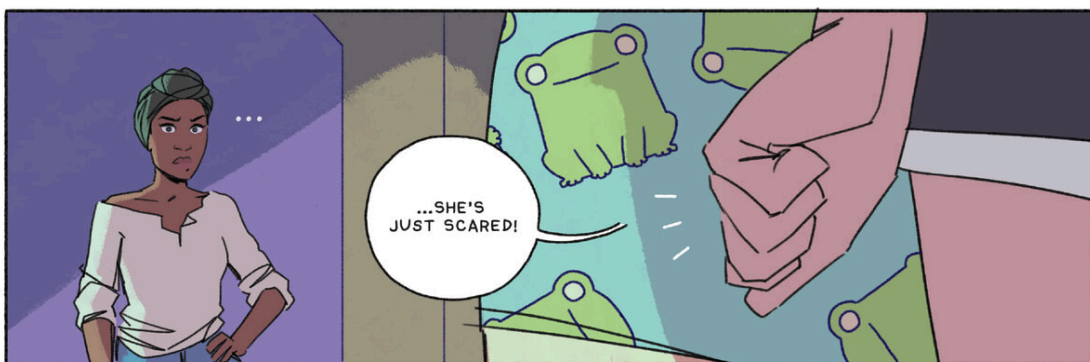
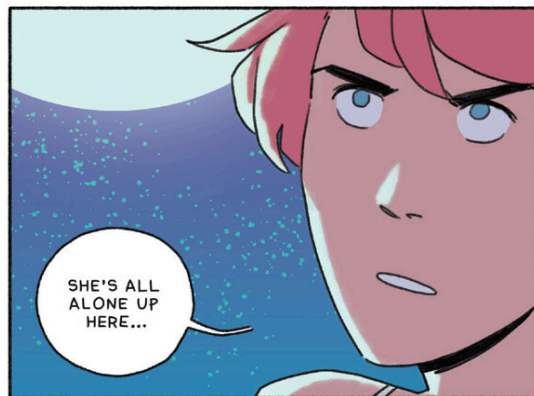
OOF... I'M GONNA HURL.

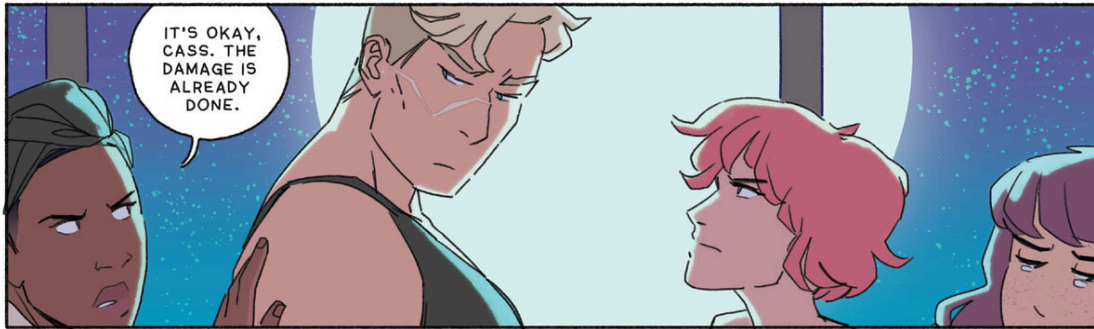


















LOOK WHAT I MADE!



OOOOH, A SPACESHIP!

YEAH!!!

WHUMPF



COOL, HUH?
I BUILT IT MYSELF.
WANNA PLAY?



WAIT... DOES IT FLY?

WELL, NO, BUT-



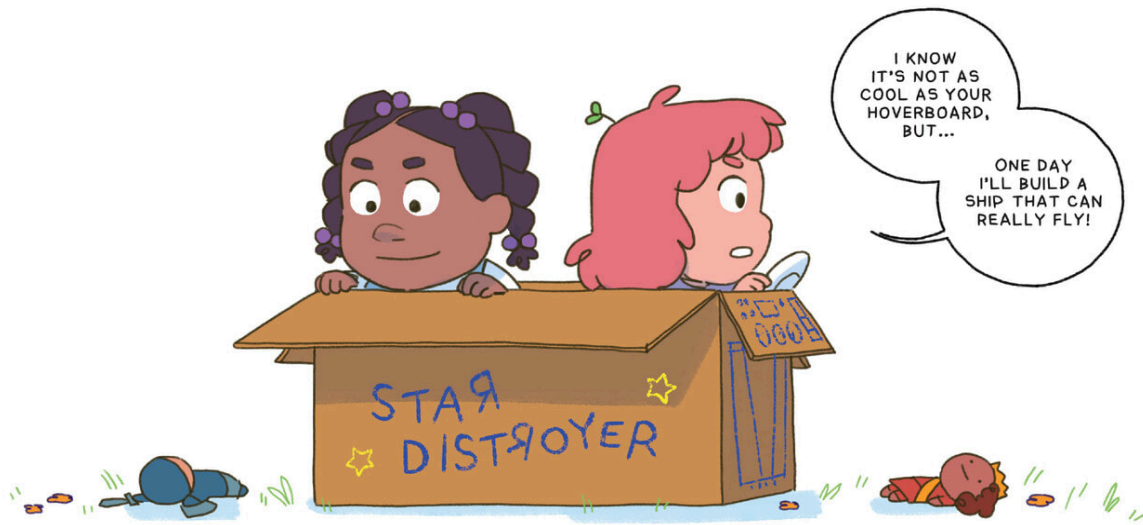
WHOA!
IS THAT A NEW HOVERBOARD???



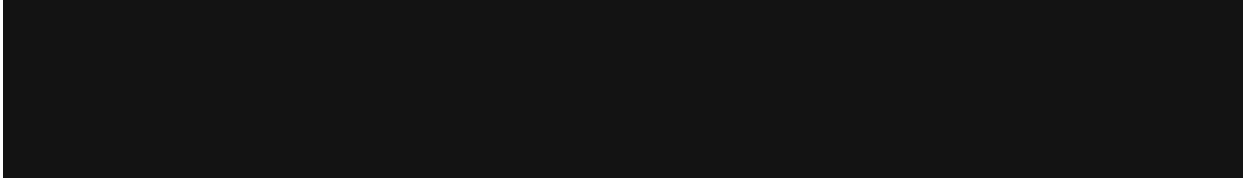
YEAH, AND I GOT THESE DOLLS, TOO!







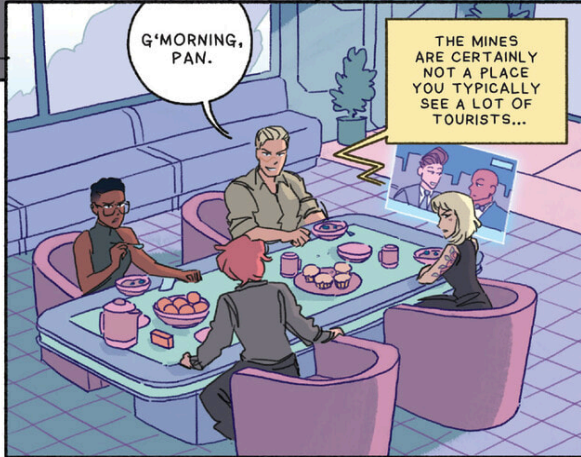






PRESENT DAY...

...IRONVEIN AUTHORITIES ARE GEARING UP FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED VOLUME OF VISITORS THIS SEASON.



G'MORNING, PAN.

THE MINES ARE CERTAINLY NOT A PLACE YOU TYPICALLY SEE A LOT OF TOURISTS...



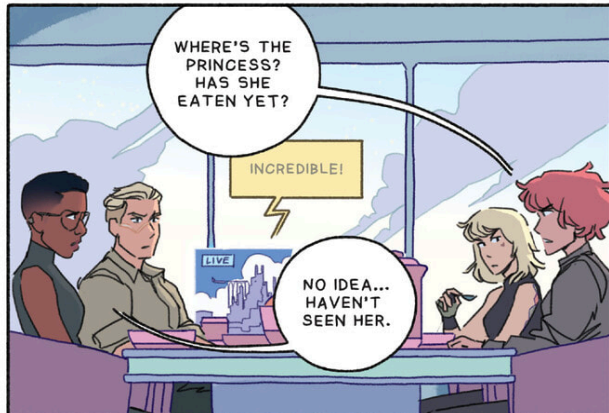
WANNA TRAIN OUTSIDE TODAY? WE CAN WORK ON YOUR SPACE LEGS.

...BUT IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING GAME, THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE GETTING A SIGNIFICANT OVERHAUL.



NO, THANKS.

YES, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRAND NEW ARENA!



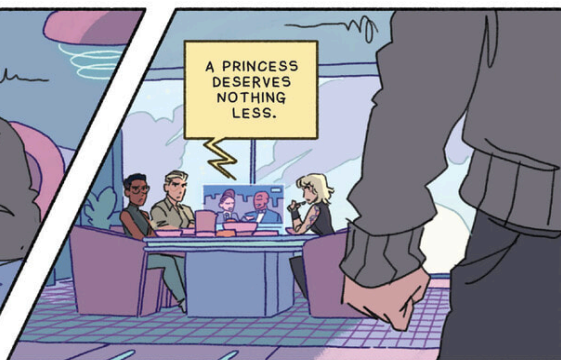
WHERE'S THE PRINCESS? HAS SHE EATEN YET?

INCREDIBLE!

NO IDEA... HAVEN'T SEEN HER.

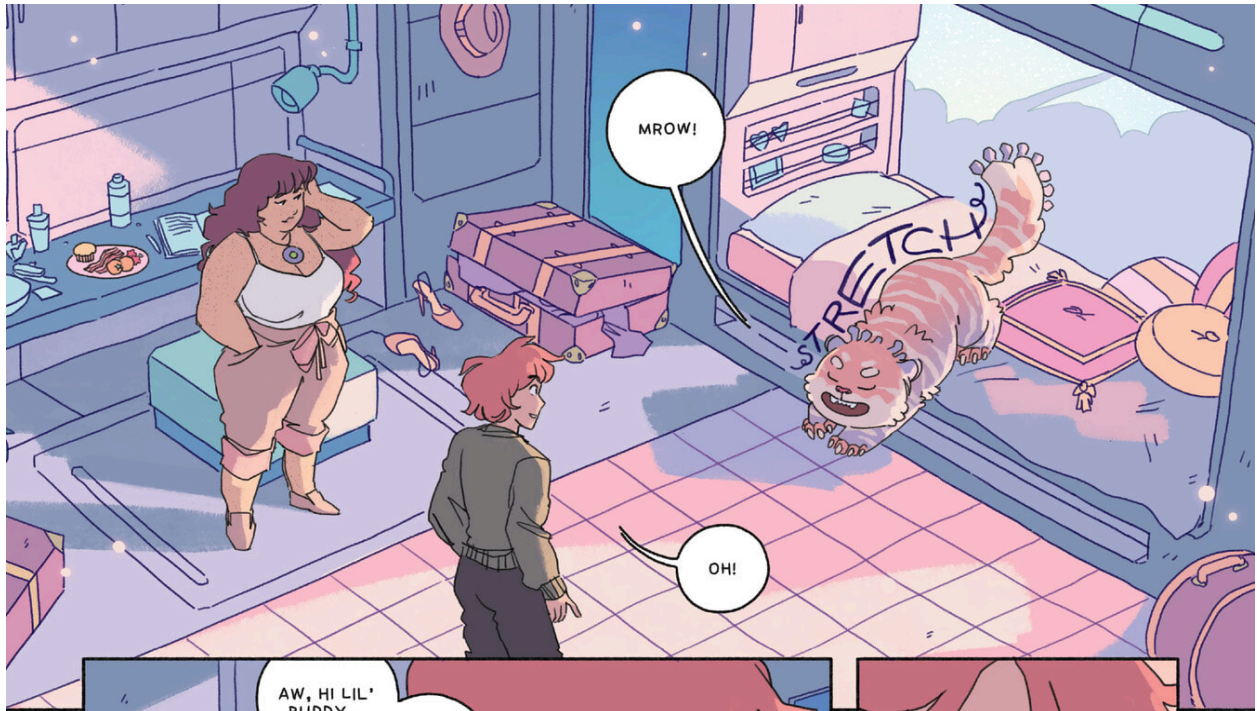


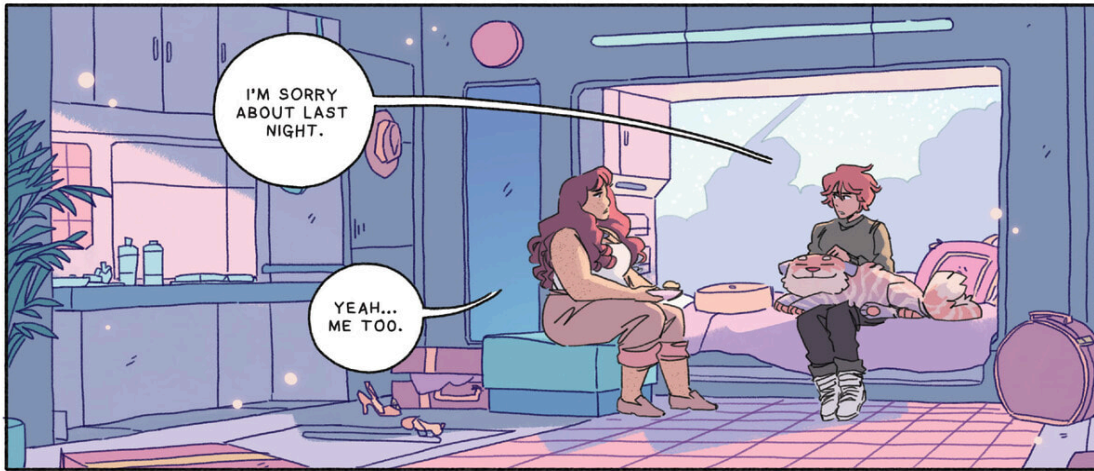
FOLKS, WE'RE LOOKING AT IT NOW, AND IT'S A BEAUT.



A PRINCESS DESERVES NOTHING LESS.







I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

YEAH... ME TOO.



I DIDN'T MEAN TO MESS THINGS UP, YOU KNOW.



I DON'T THINK YOU'RE BAD PEOPLE. I GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO...



BUT Y'ALL REALLY HAVEN'T THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.

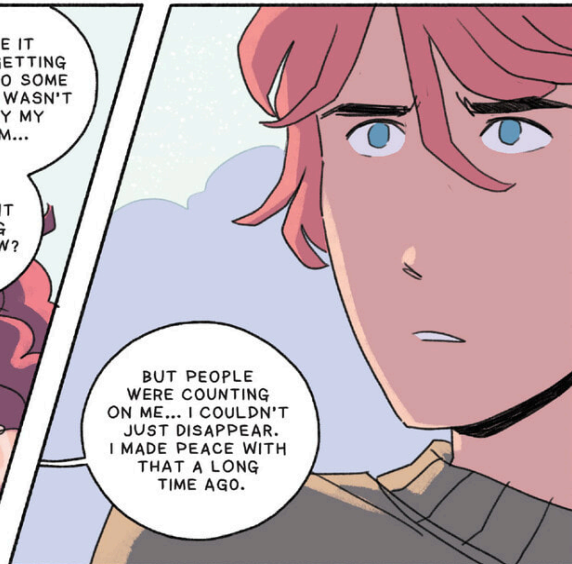


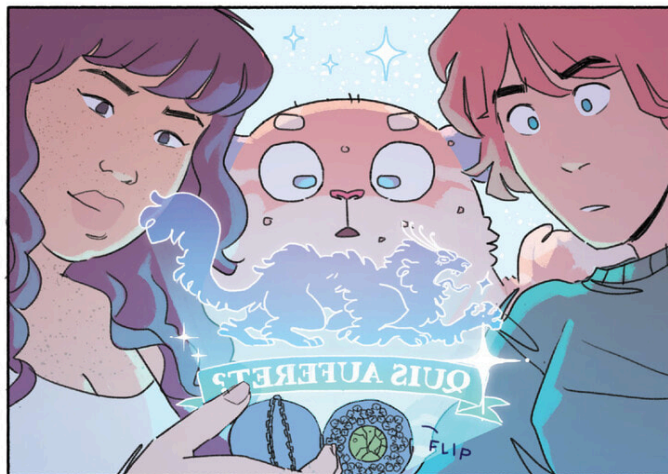
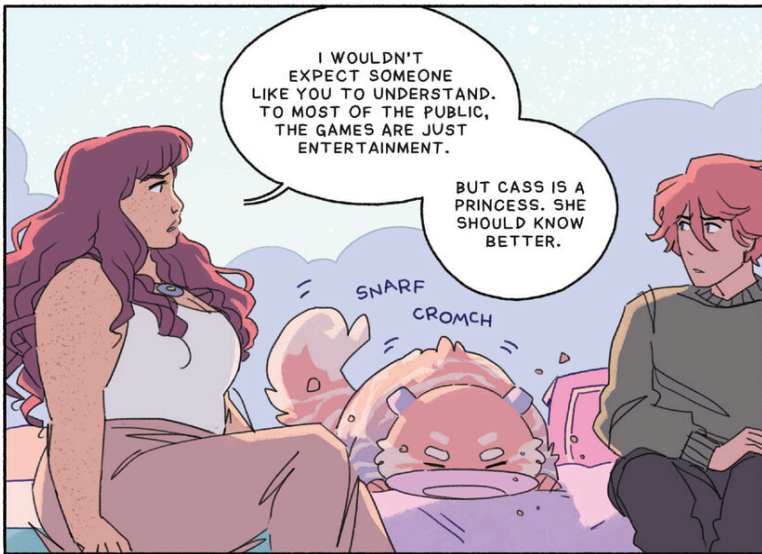
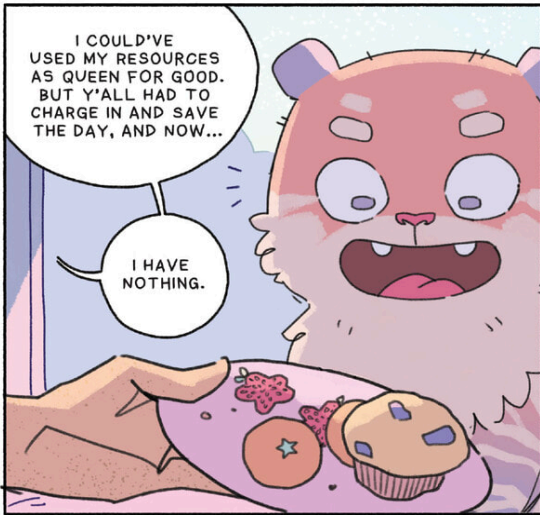
A LOT WAS RIDING ON ME GETTING MARRIED.

CRomCH
CRomCH



IT TOOK MY PARENTS YEARS TO PREPARE FOR THAT GAME.

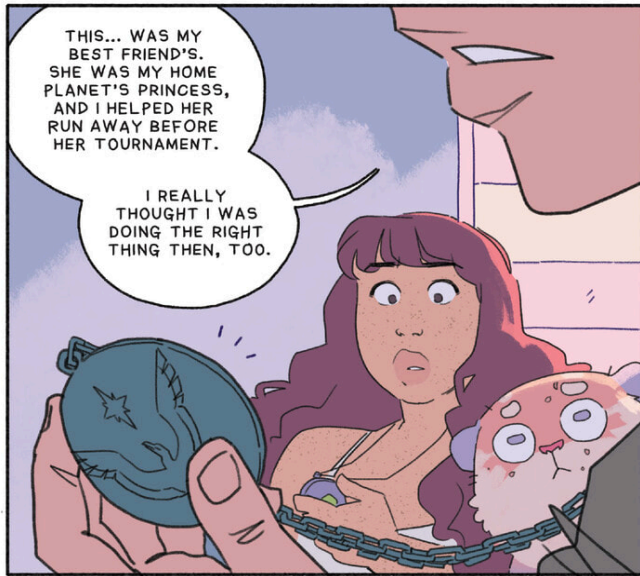






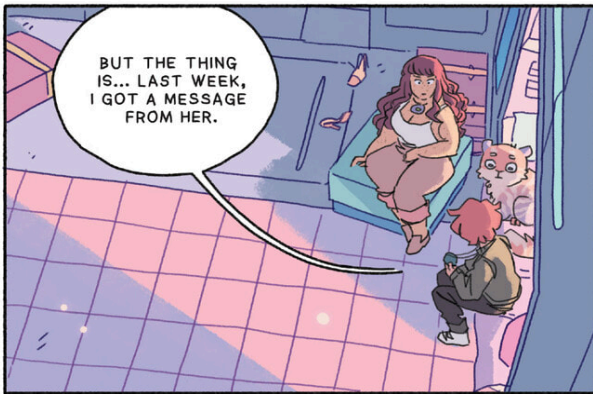
CAN I... TELL YOU SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE?

...SURE.

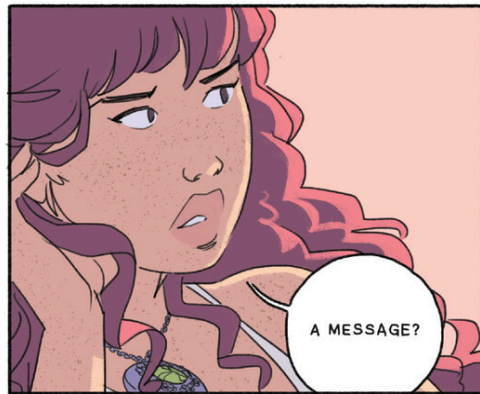


THIS... WAS MY BEST FRIEND'S. SHE WAS MY HOME PLANET'S PRINCESS, AND I HELPED HER RUN AWAY BEFORE HER TOURNAMENT.

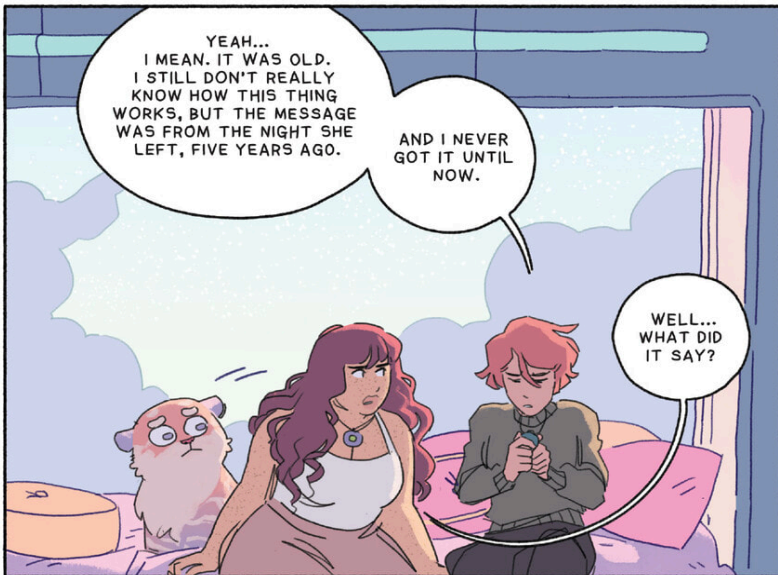
I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING THEN, TOO.



BUT THE THING IS... LAST WEEK, I GOT A MESSAGE FROM HER.



A MESSAGE?



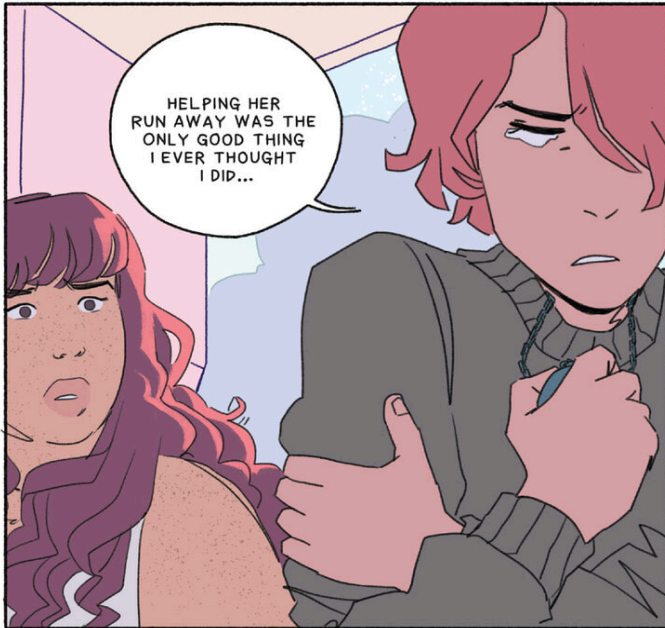
YEAH... I MEAN. IT WAS OLD. I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW THIS THING WORKS, BUT THE MESSAGE WAS FROM THE NIGHT SHE LEFT, FIVE YEARS AGO.

AND I NEVER GOT IT UNTIL NOW.

WELL... WHAT DID IT SAY?



IT WAS BAD.



HELPING HER
RUN AWAY WAS THE
ONLY GOOD THING
I EVER THOUGHT
I DID...



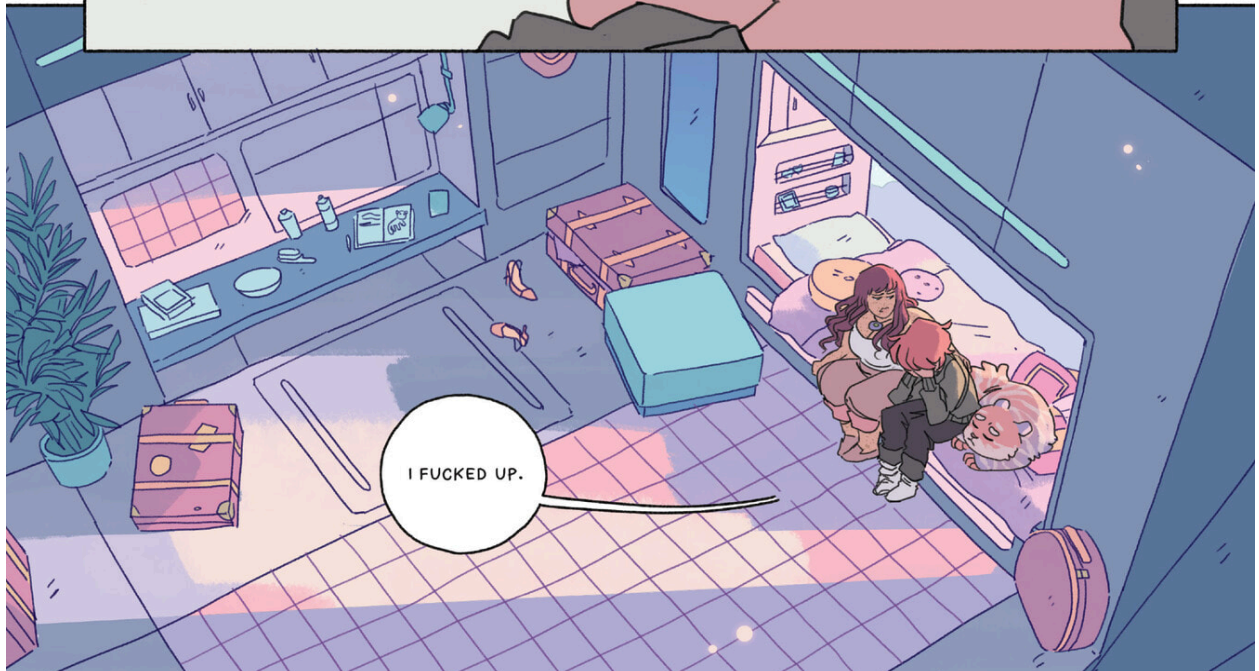
...BUT WHAT
IF I MESSED
UP AND MADE
THINGS WORSE?

I WASN'T THERE
FOR HER WHEN
SHE NEEDED
ME MOST.

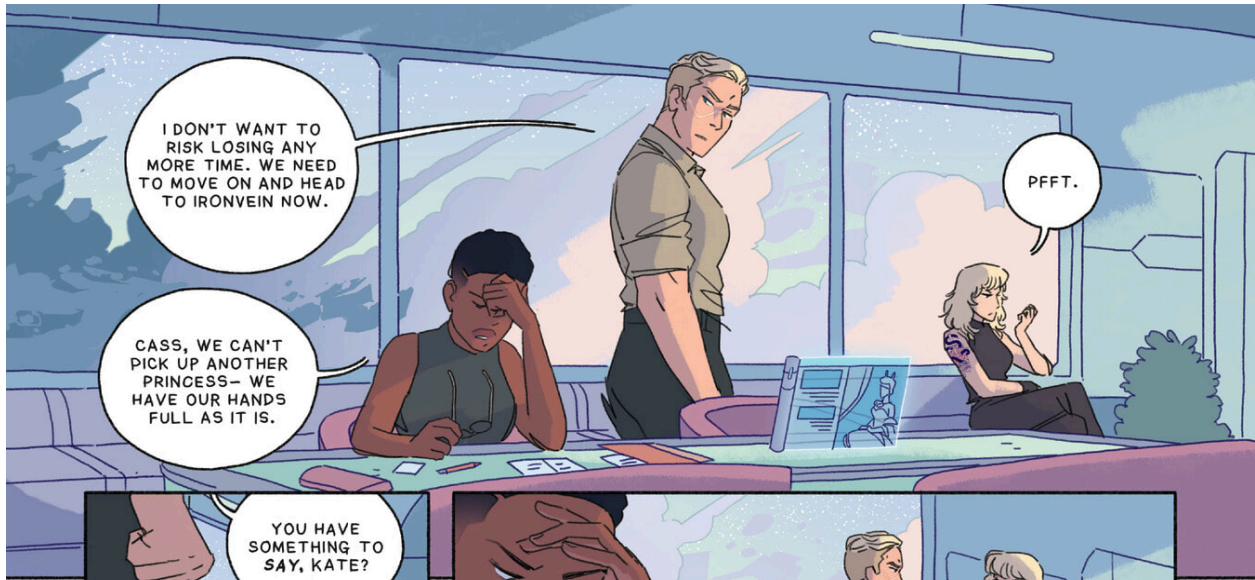


THE OTHERS
STILL THINK
I'M A HERO, AND
I DON'T WANT TO
DISAPPOINT THEM.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO...
I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO FIX IT.



I FUCKED UP.



I DON'T WANT TO RISK LOSING ANY MORE TIME. WE NEED TO MOVE ON AND HEAD TO IRONVEIN NOW.

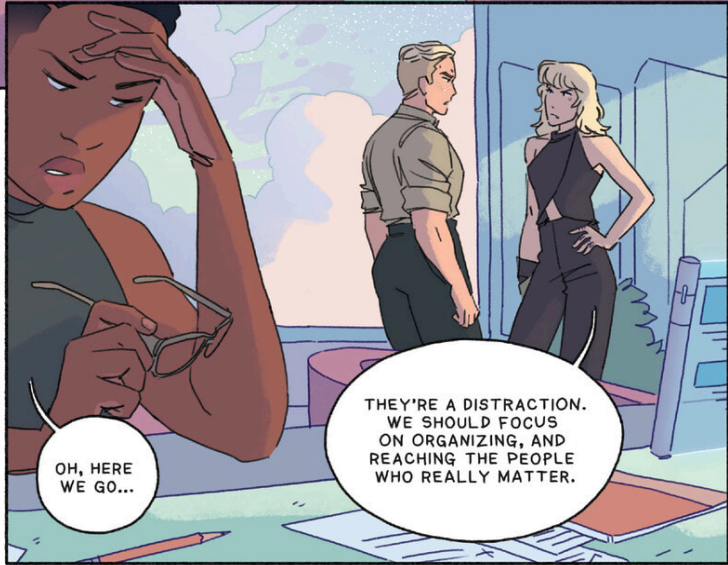
PFFT.

CASS, WE CAN'T PICK UP ANOTHER PRINCESS— WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL AS IT IS.



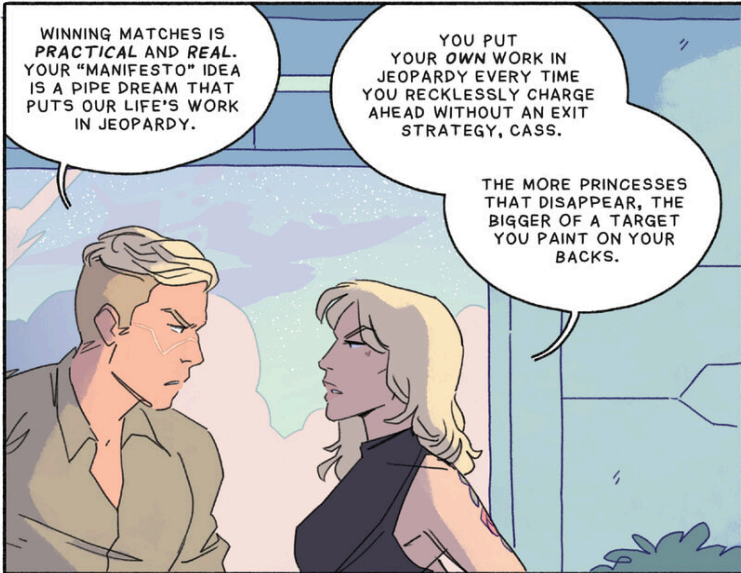
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, KATE?

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT I THINK. WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME WITH THE PRINCESSES ALTOGETHER.



OH, HERE WE GO...

THEY'RE A DISTRACTION. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON ORGANIZING, AND REACHING THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY MATTER.



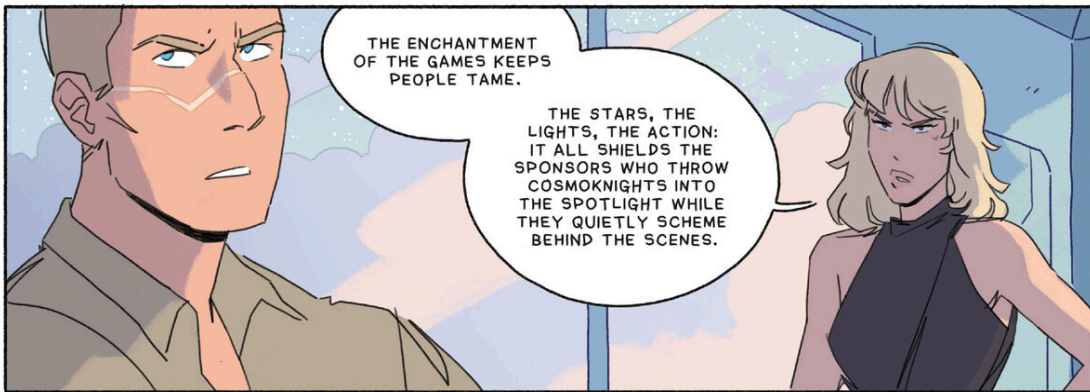
WINNING MATCHES IS PRACTICAL AND REAL. YOUR "MANIFESTO" IDEA IS A PIPE DREAM THAT PUTS OUR LIFE'S WORK IN JEOPARDY.

YOU PUT YOUR OWN WORK IN JEOPARDY EVERY TIME YOU RECKLESSLY CHARGE AHEAD WITHOUT AN EXIT STRATEGY, CASS.

THE MORE PRINCESSES THAT DISAPPEAR, THE BIGGER OF A TARGET YOU PAINT ON YOUR BACKS.

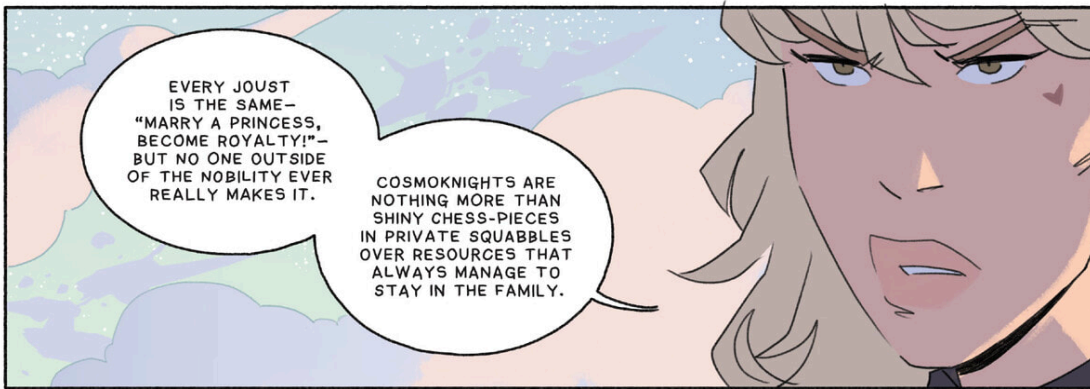


WHY NOT USE YOUR GROWING VISIBILITY TO RALLY PEOPLE INSTEAD?



THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE GAMES KEEPS PEOPLE TAME.

THE STARS, THE LIGHTS, THE ACTION: IT ALL SHIELDS THE SPONSORS WHO THROW COSMOKNIGHTS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT WHILE THEY QUIETLY SCHEME BEHIND THE SCENES.

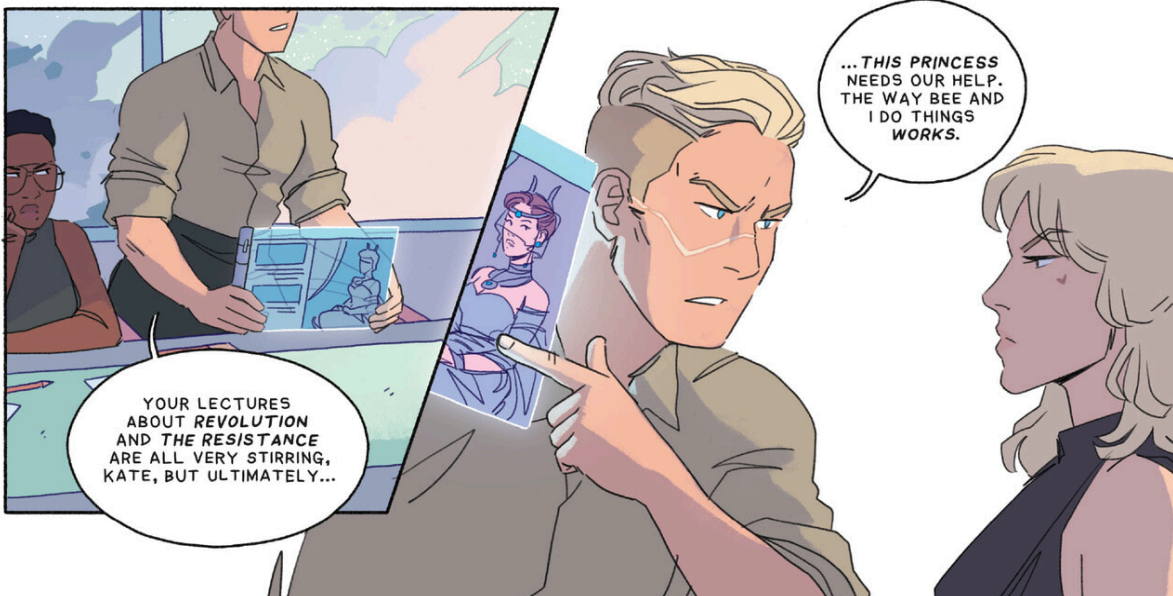


EVERY JOUST IS THE SAME- "MARRY A PRINCESS, BECOME ROYALTY!"- BUT NO ONE OUTSIDE OF THE NOBILITY EVER REALLY MAKES IT.

COSMOKNIGHTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN SHINY CHESS-PIECES IN PRIVATE SQUABBLES OVER RESOURCES THAT ALWAYS MANAGE TO STAY IN THE FAMILY.

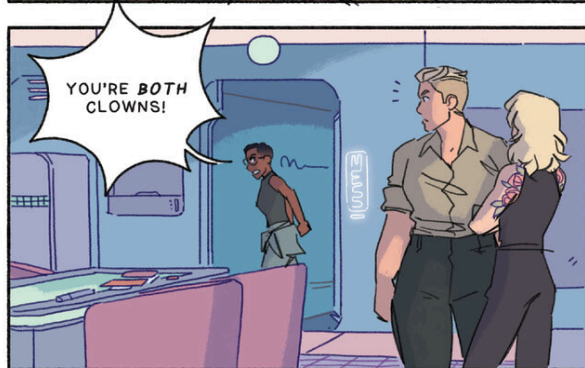
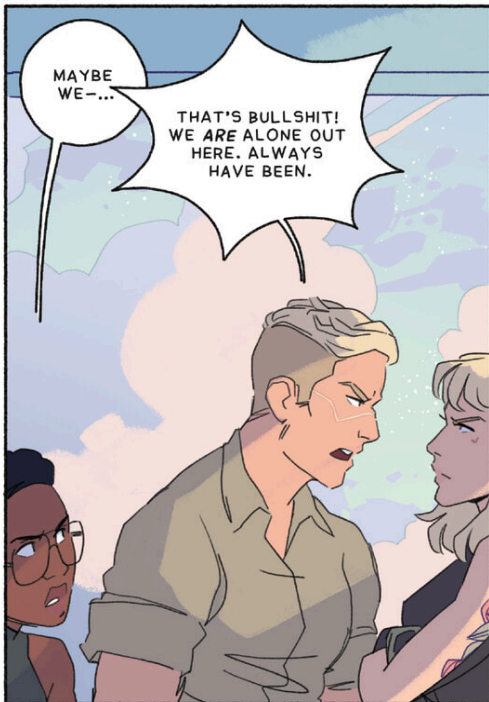
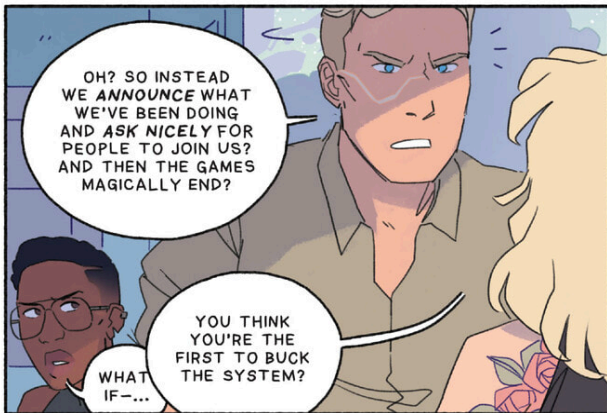
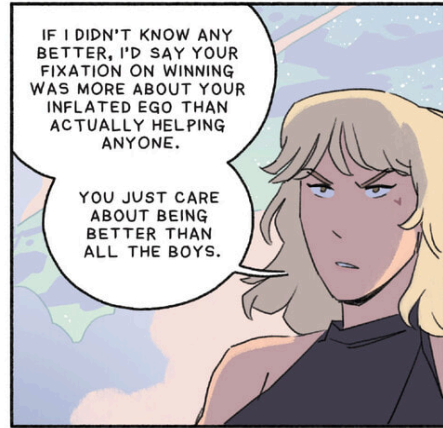
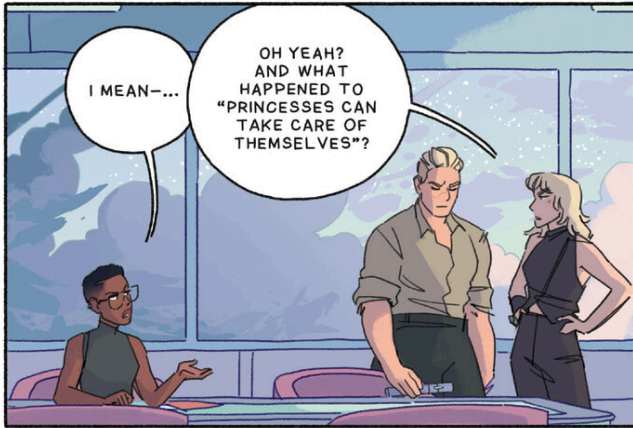


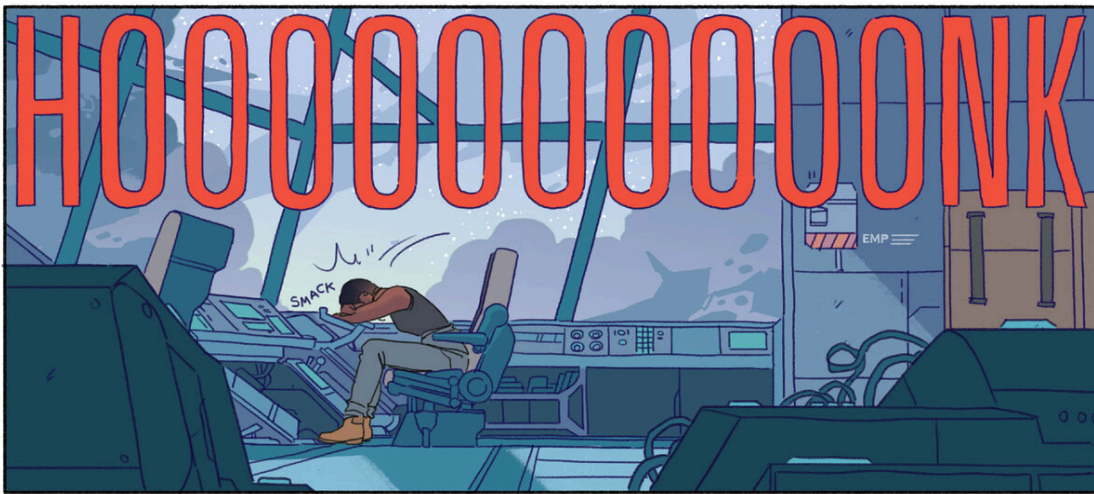
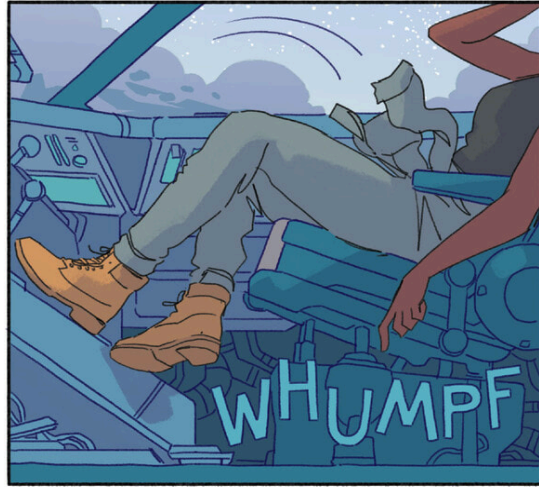
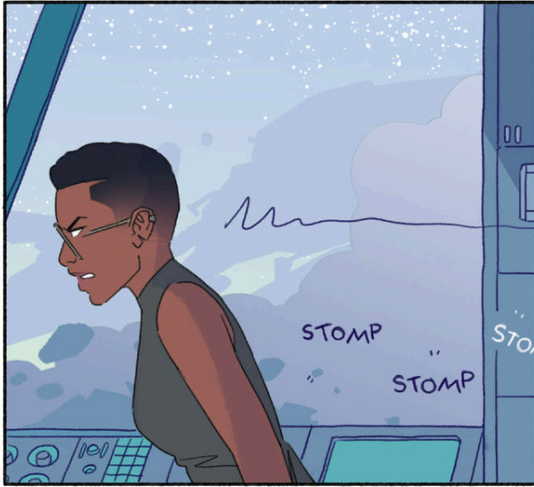
THE GAMES ARE A FARCE WHILE THE RICH CONTINUE TO DO WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT.



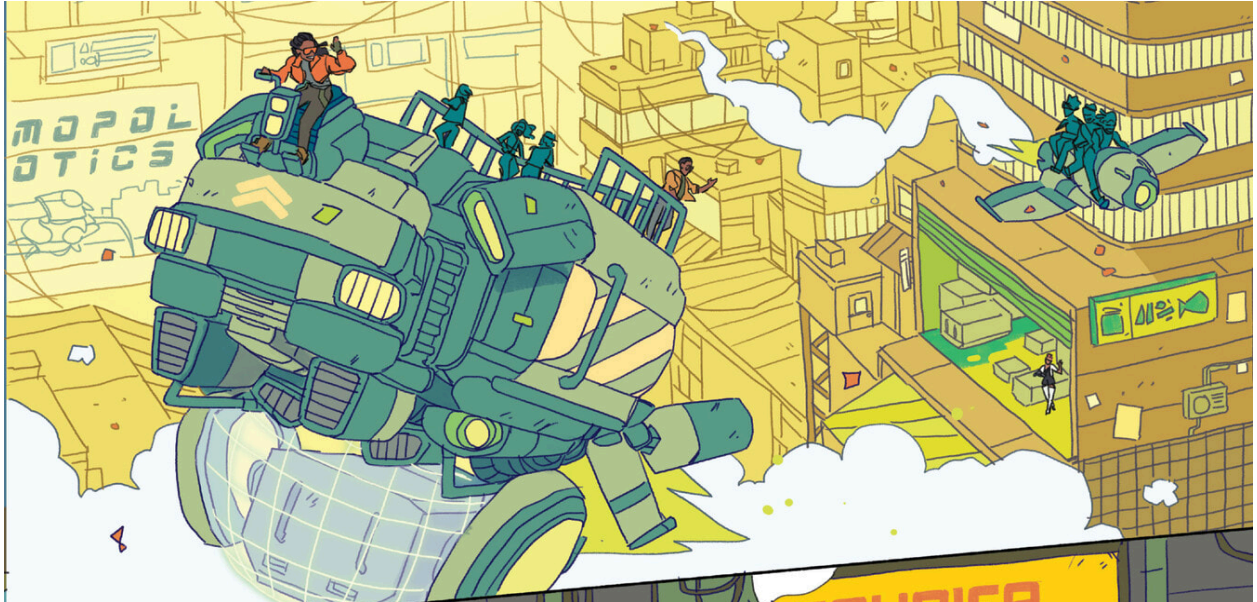
YOUR LECTURES ABOUT REVOLUTION AND THE RESISTANCE ARE ALL VERY STIRRING, KATE, BUT ULTIMATELY...

... THIS PRINCESS NEEDS OUR HELP. THE WAY BEE AND I DO THINGS WORKS.

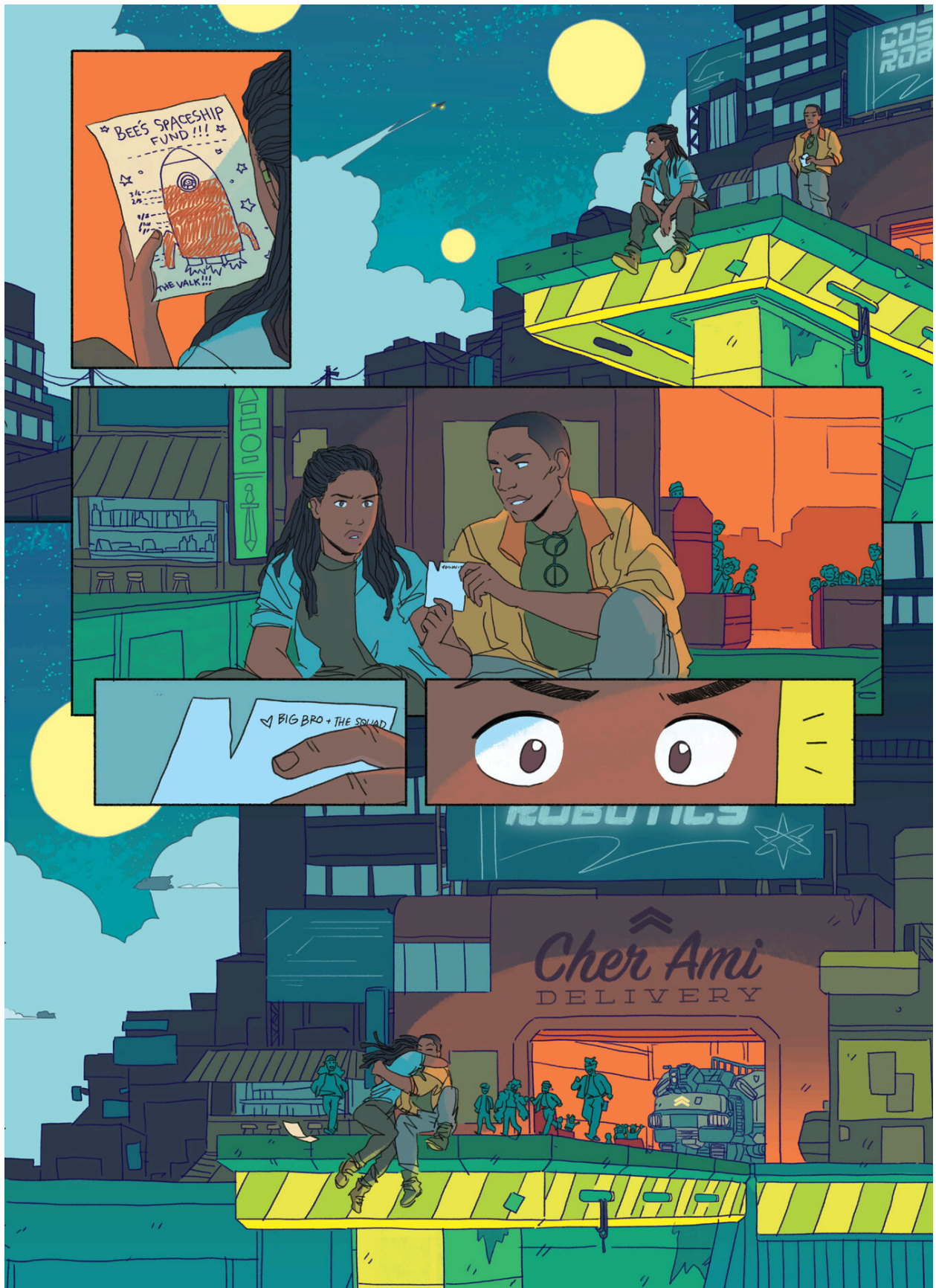


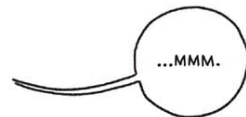
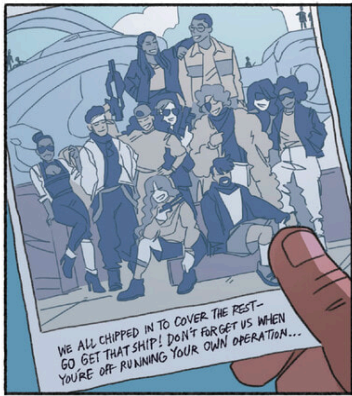


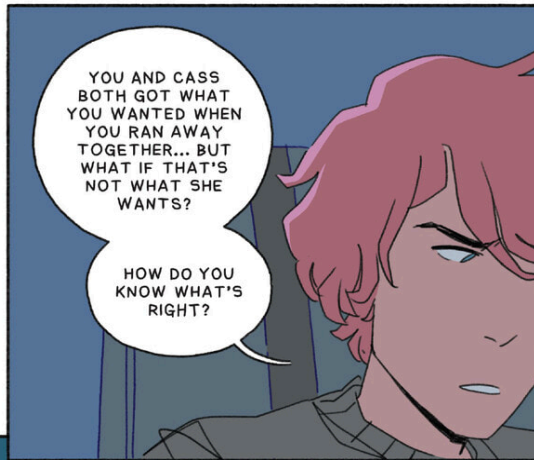














SHIT... I'M SORRY, BEE.



I PUT A LOT OF THINGS ON HOLD WHEN CASS AND I ELOPED.

I WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING, BUT... YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT US BOTH GETTING EVERYTHING WE WANTED.



SMIFF



I JUST TRY TO REMIND MYSELF THAT YOU CAN SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE WONDERING IF YOU MADE ALL THE RIGHT DECISIONS...

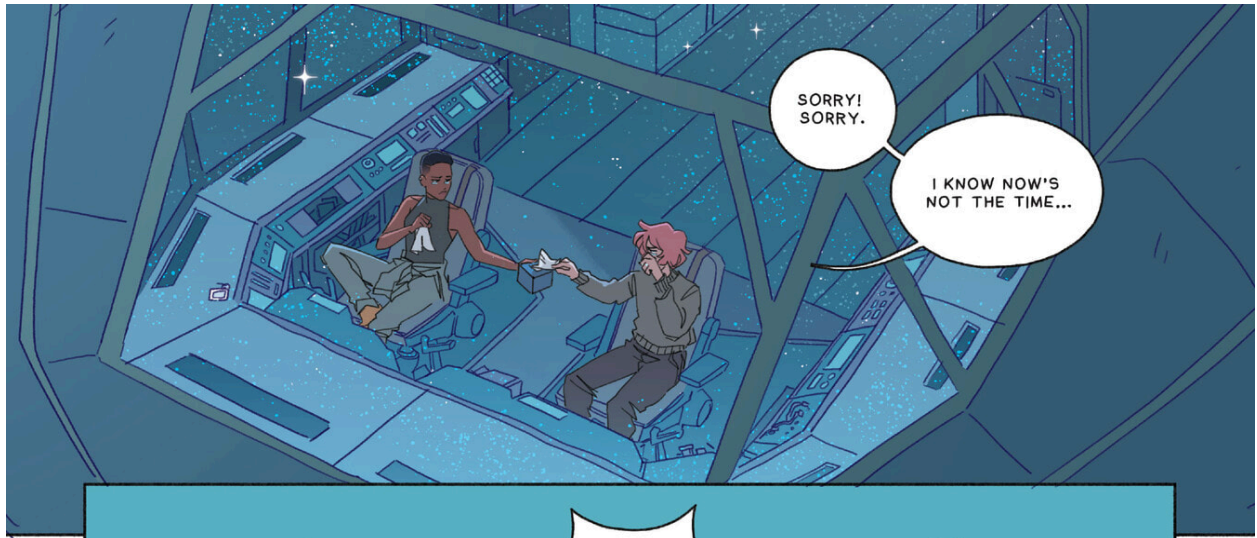
BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST GOTTA BE BRAVE AND DO SOMETHING.



SNIFFLE



OH, DON'T YOU START TOO...



SORRY!
SORRY.

I KNOW NOW'S
NOT THE TIME...

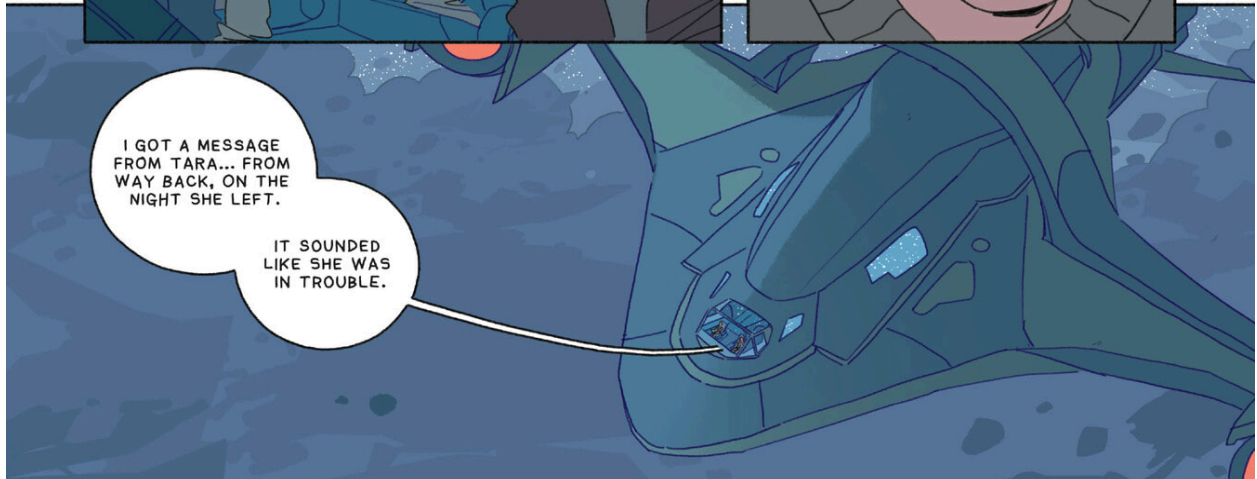


HONK



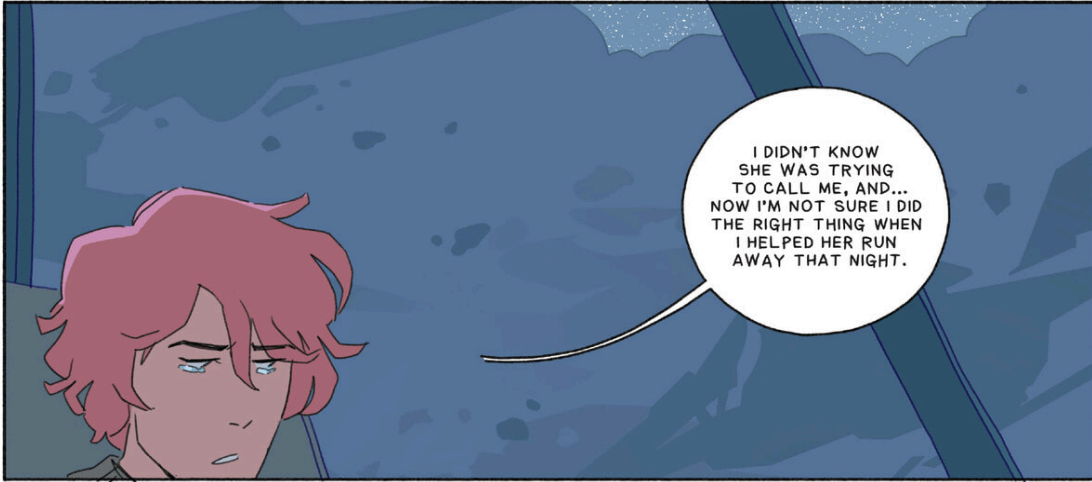
THIS ISN'T
JUST ABOUT
SCOTTIE,
IS IT?

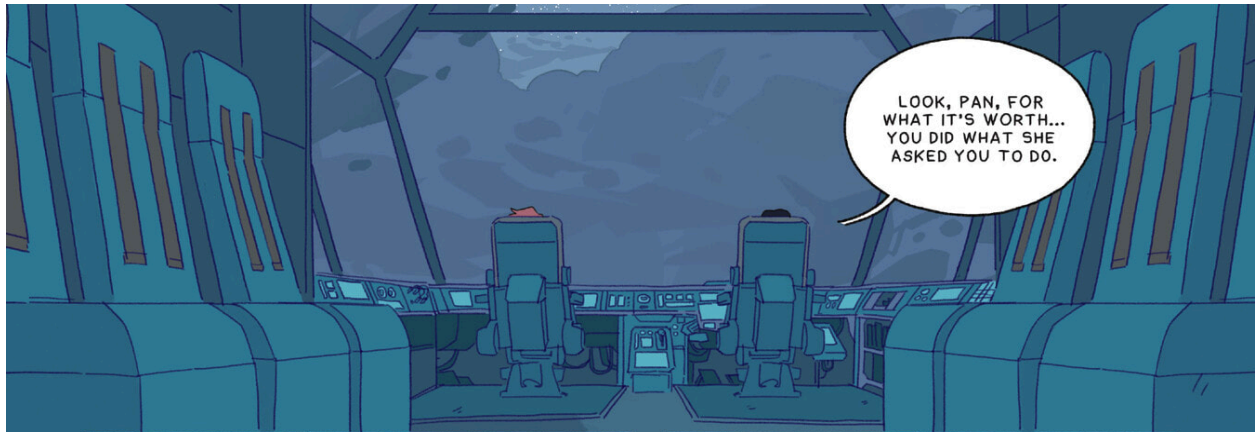
SOMETHING
ELSE IS
BOTHERING
YOU.



I GOT A MESSAGE
FROM TARA... FROM
WAY BACK, ON THE
NIGHT SHE LEFT.

IT SOUNDED
LIKE SHE WAS
IN TROUBLE.





LOOK, PAN, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH... YOU DID WHAT SHE ASKED YOU TO DO.



YOU CAN'T PROTECT PEOPLE BY MAKING DECISIONS FOR THEM.



SO... DOES THAT MEAN SCOTTIE GETS A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS TO HER?

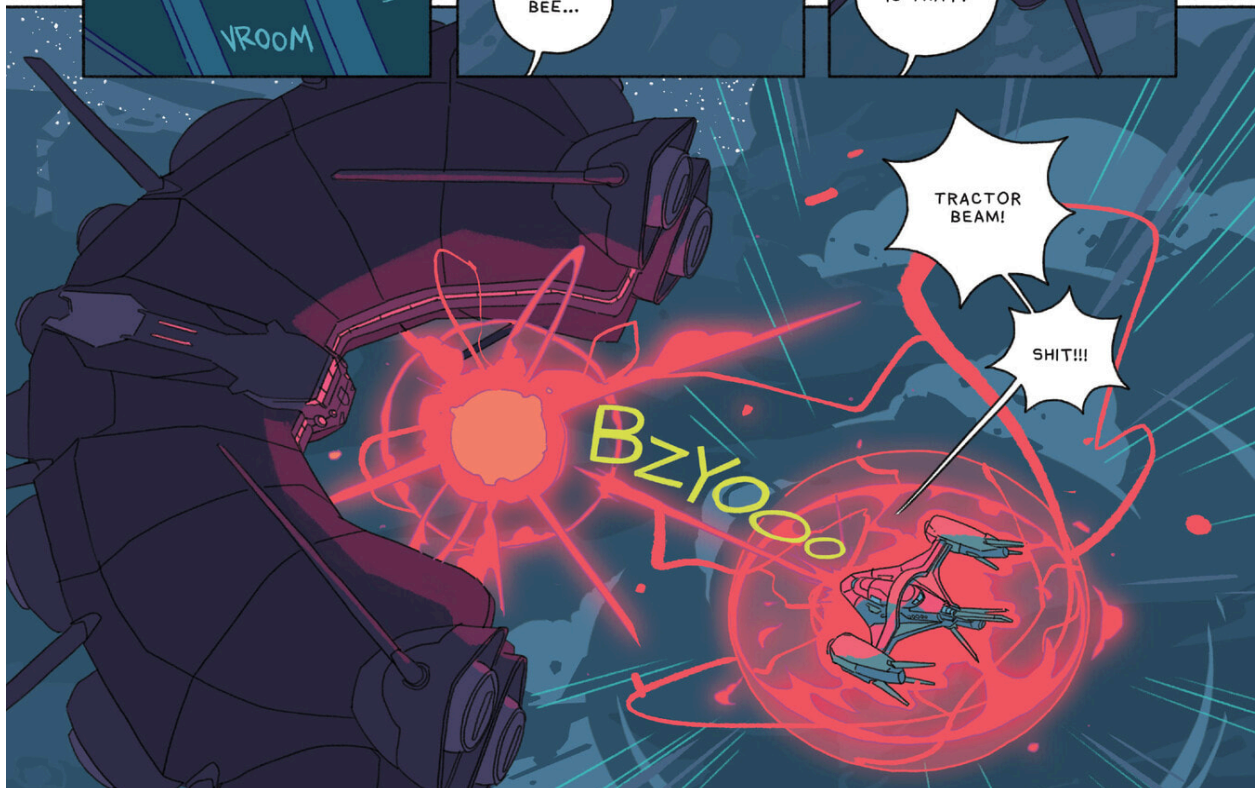
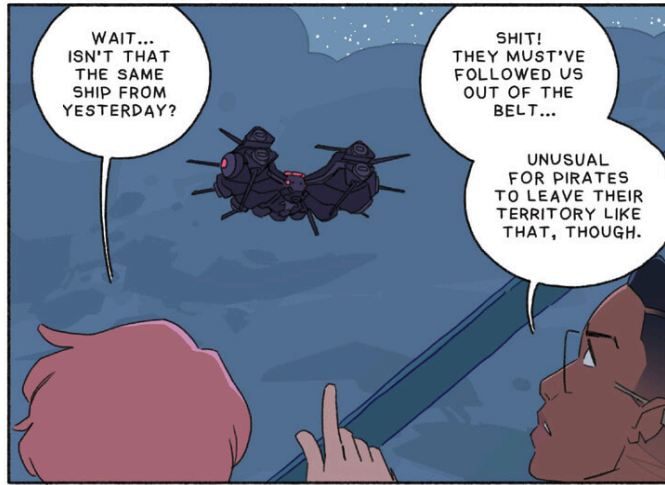


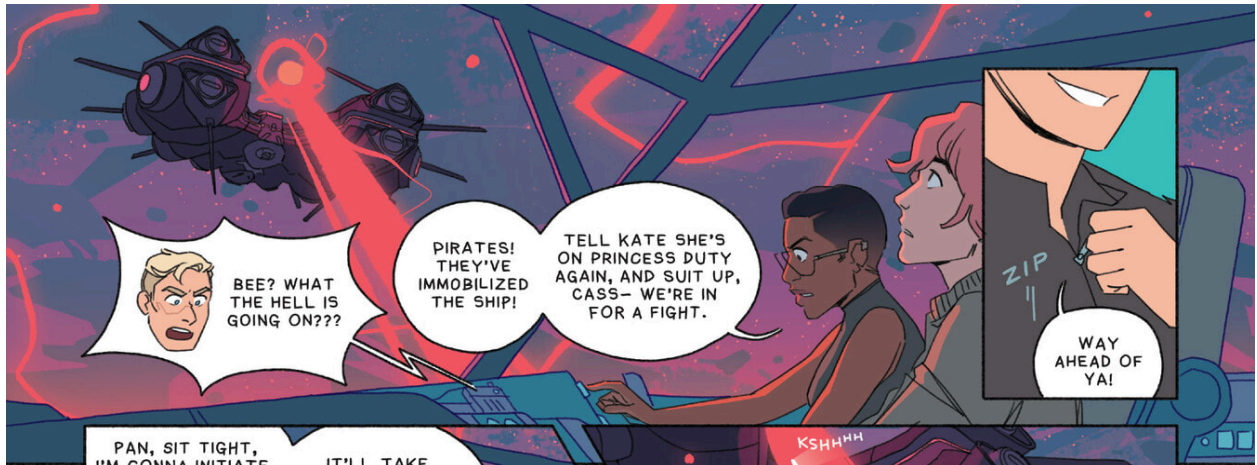
OKAY, OKAY... I HEAR THE IRONY. I REALIZE WE MIGHT HAVE LOST SIGHT OF SOME THINGS...



...BUT WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST. IT'S NOT EASY WHEN WE'RE ALL DEALT SUCH DIFFERENT CARDS.

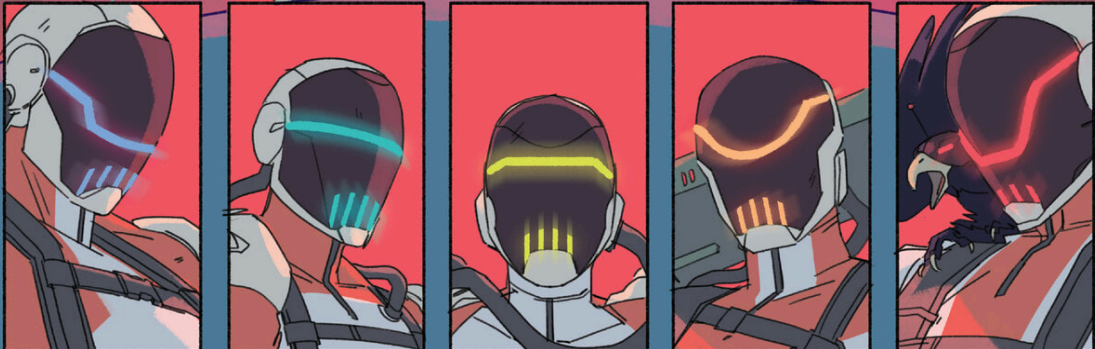
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



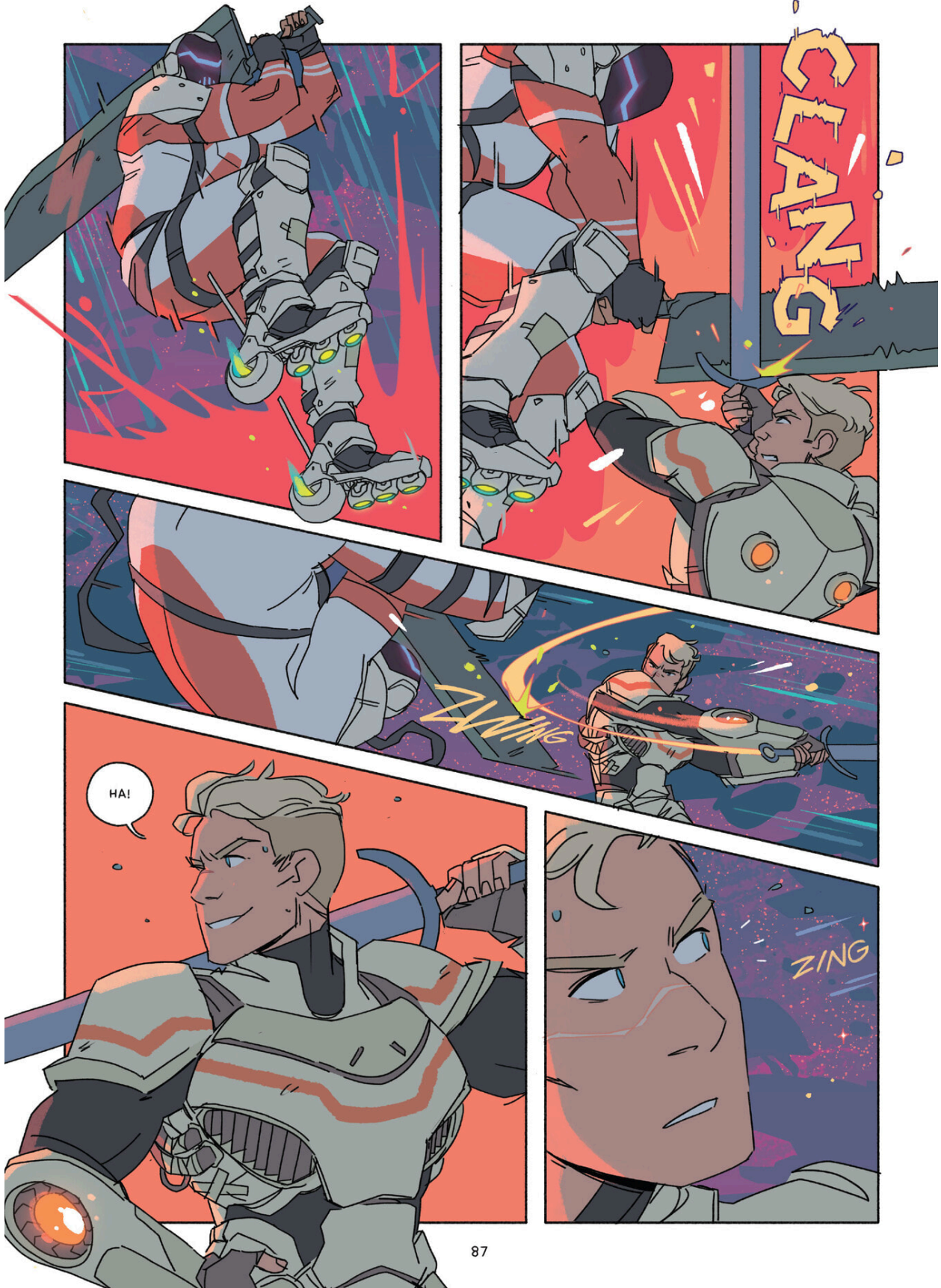


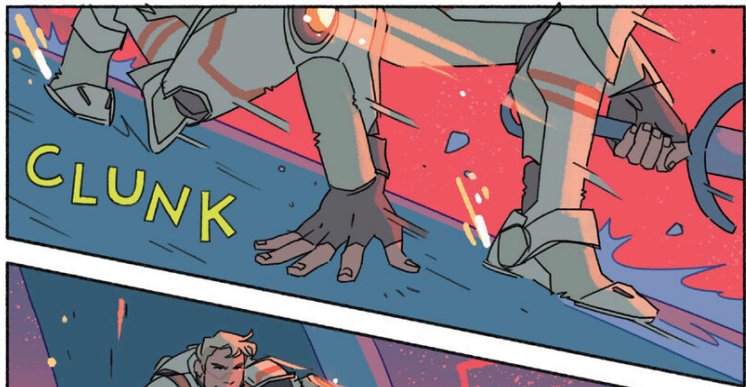
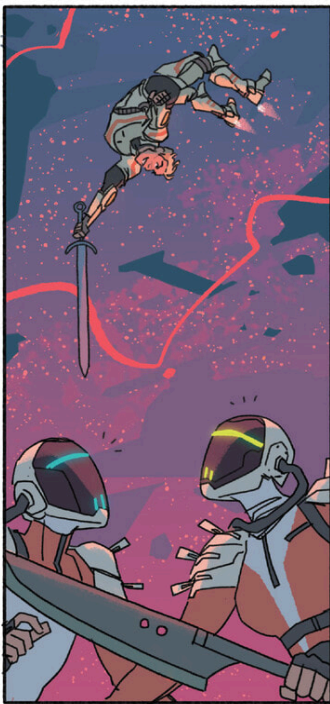
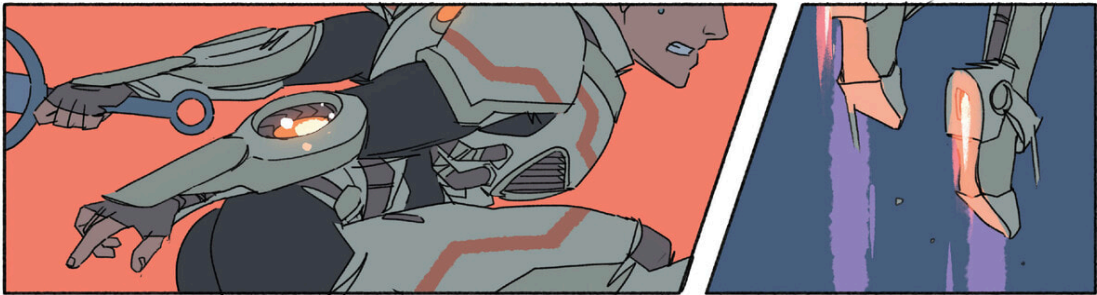


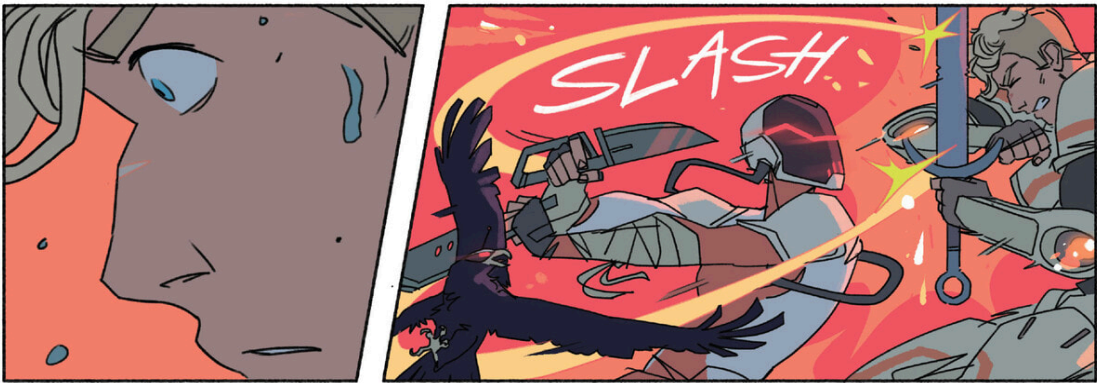
FIVE AGAINST ONE, HUH?

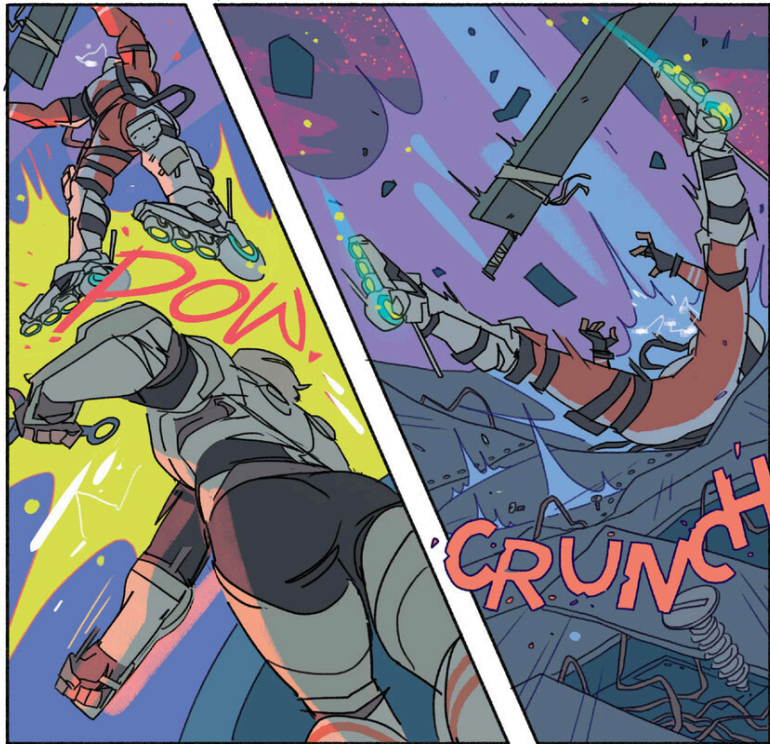
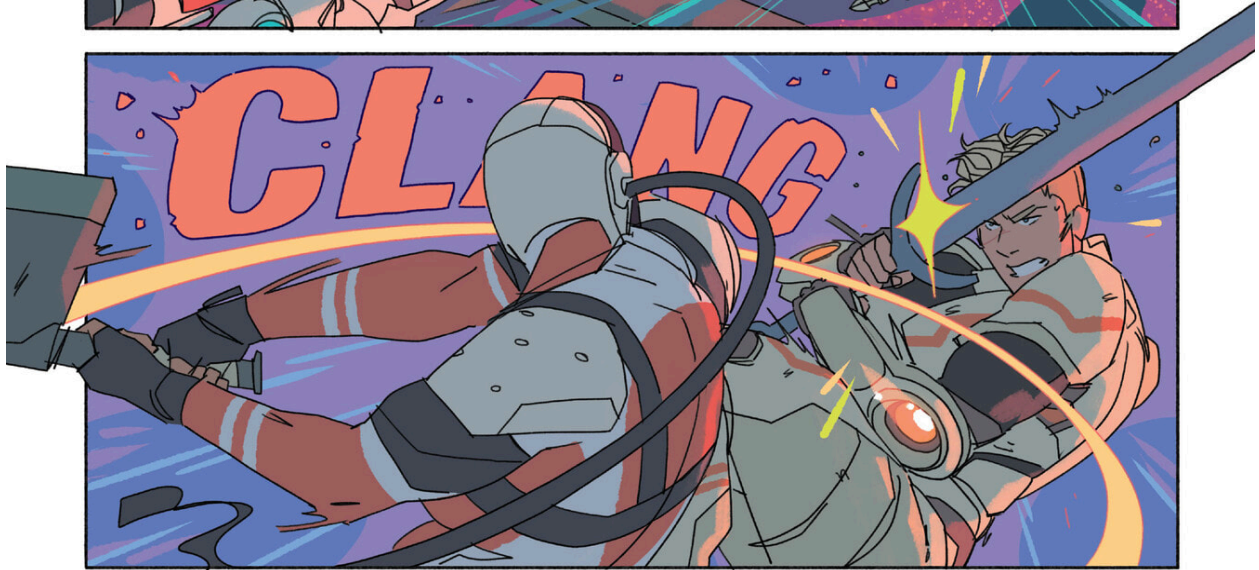
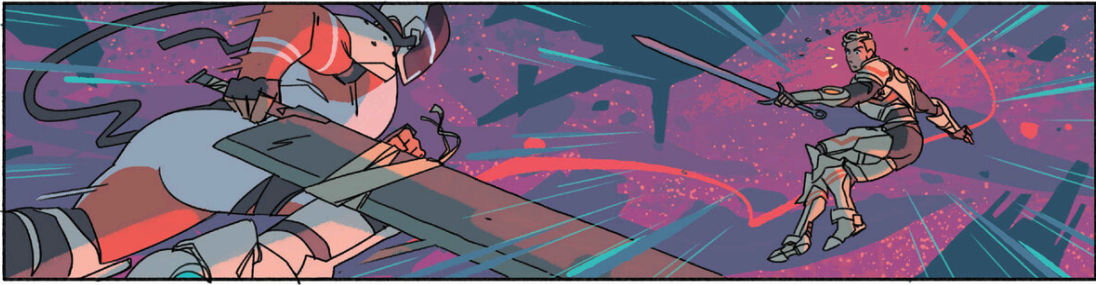


BRING IT ON.



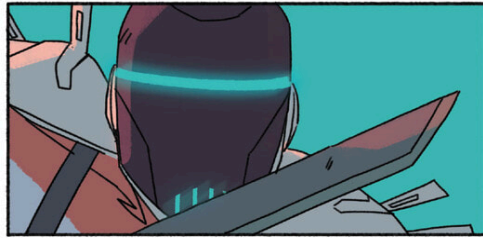






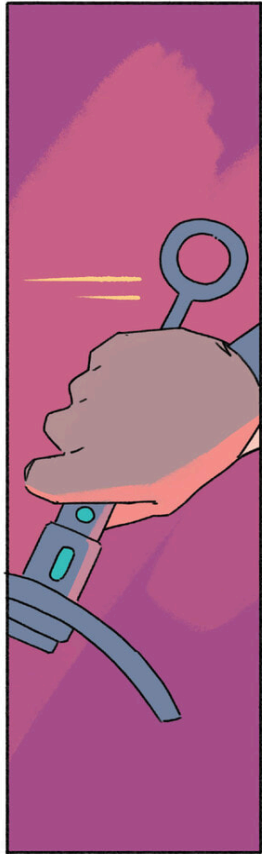
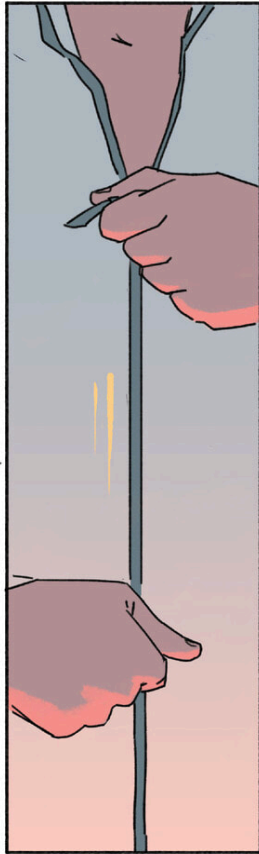


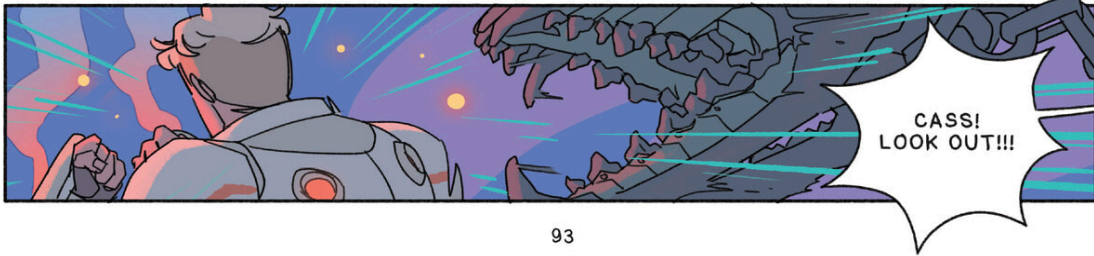
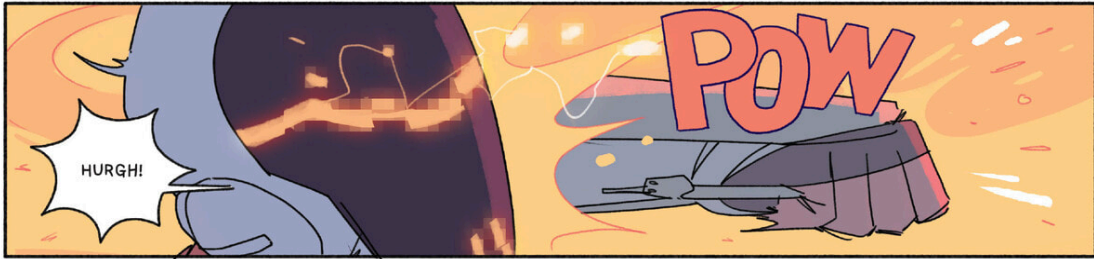
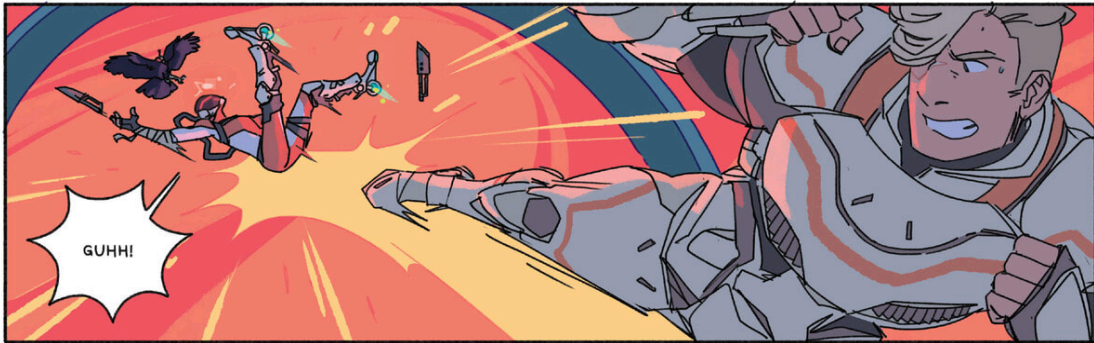
THAT ALL YOU GOT???



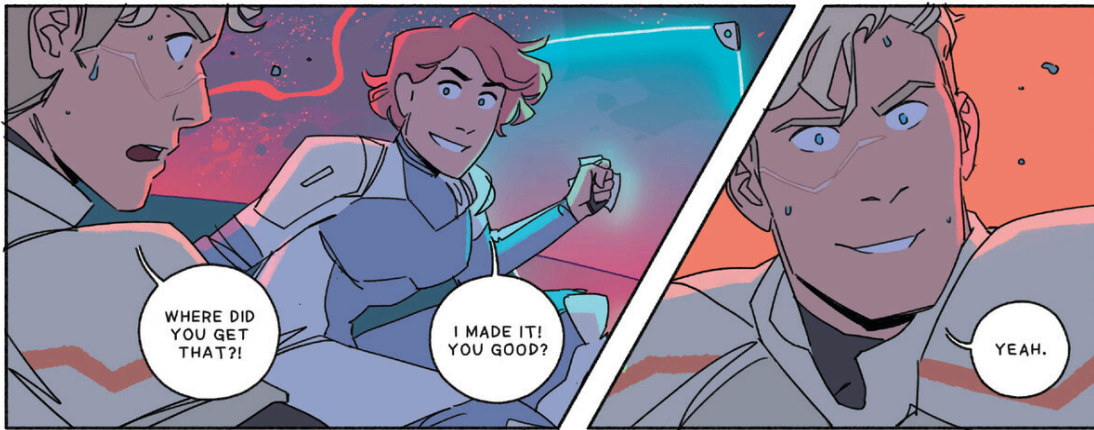
SHE'S PUTTING UP QUITE A FIGHT.

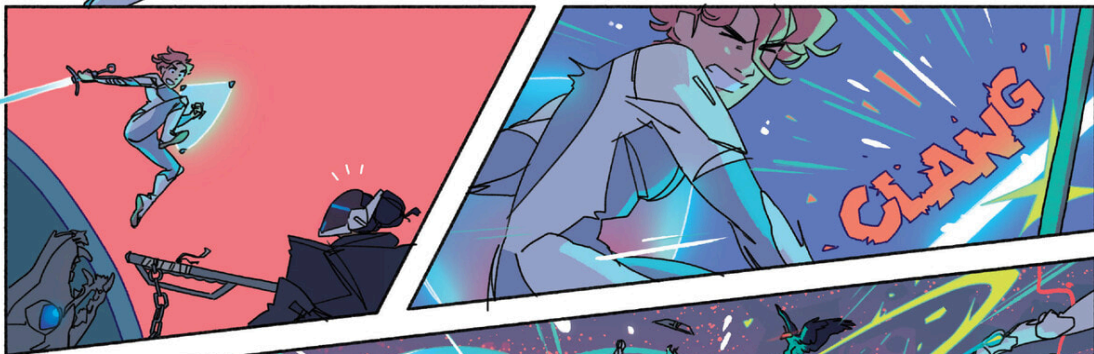
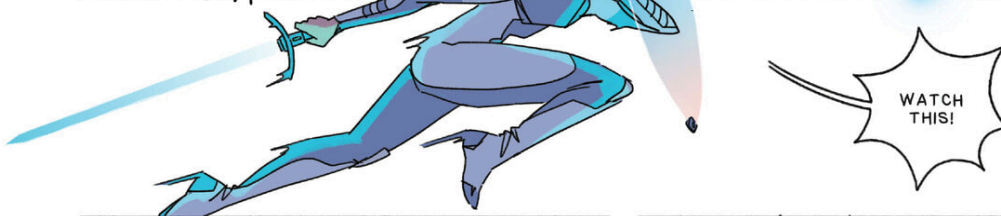
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

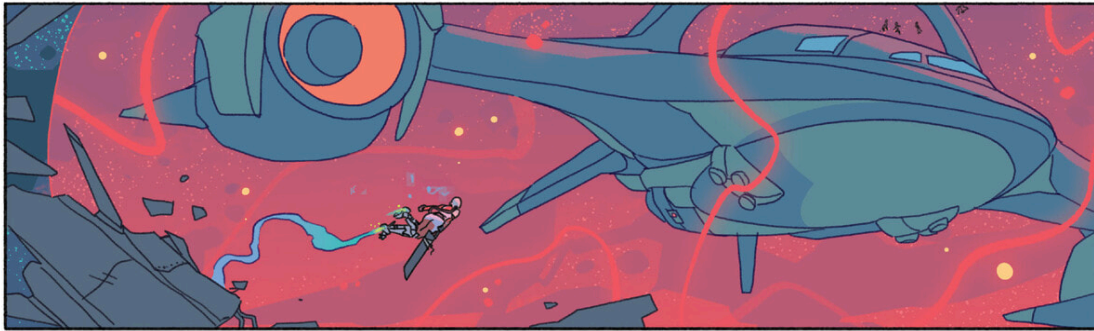
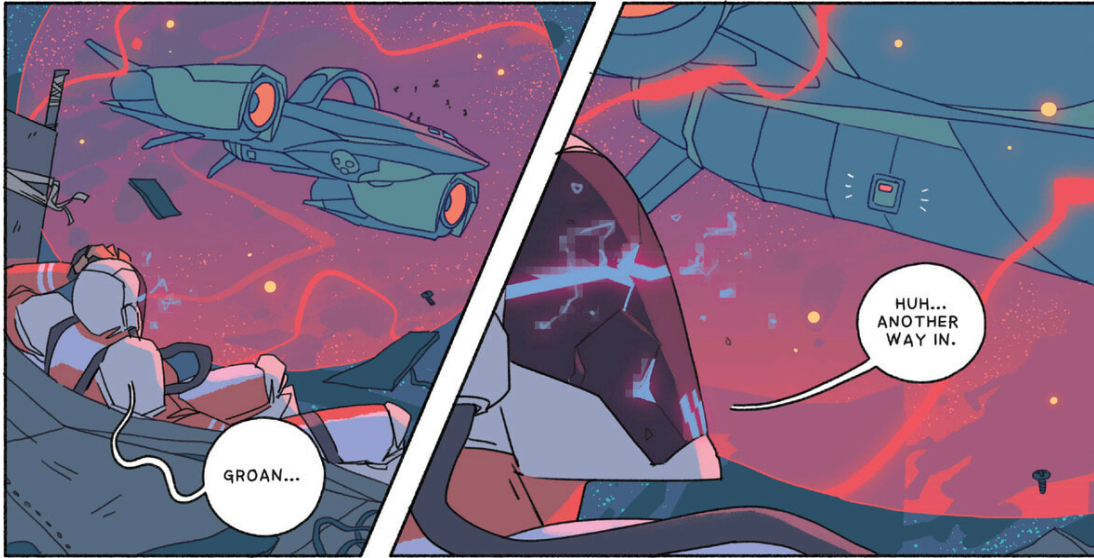


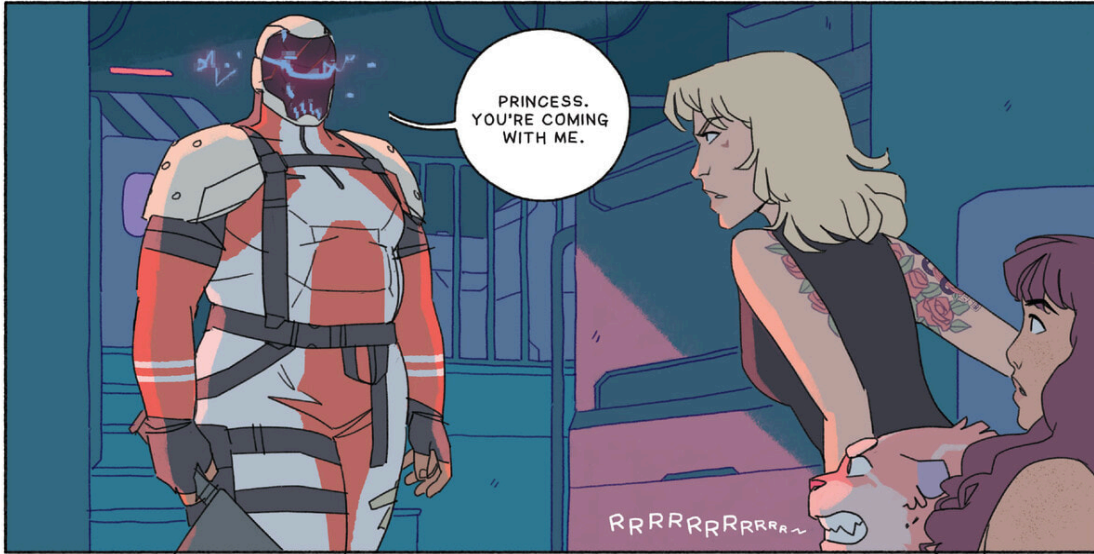


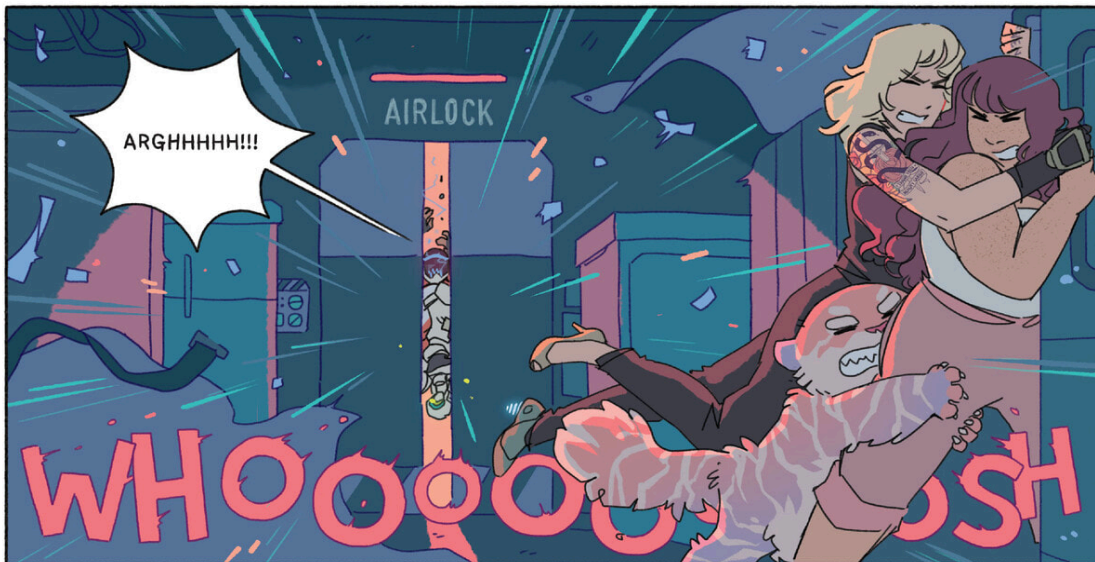
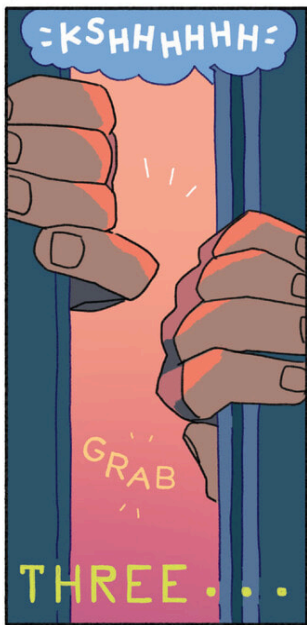


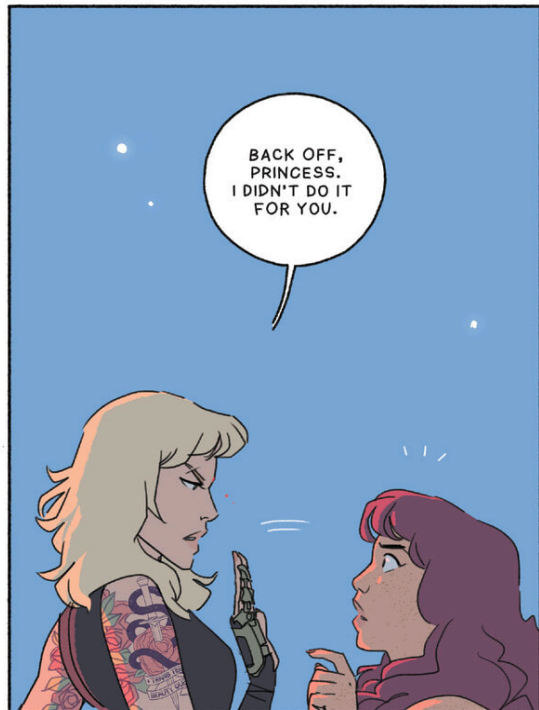


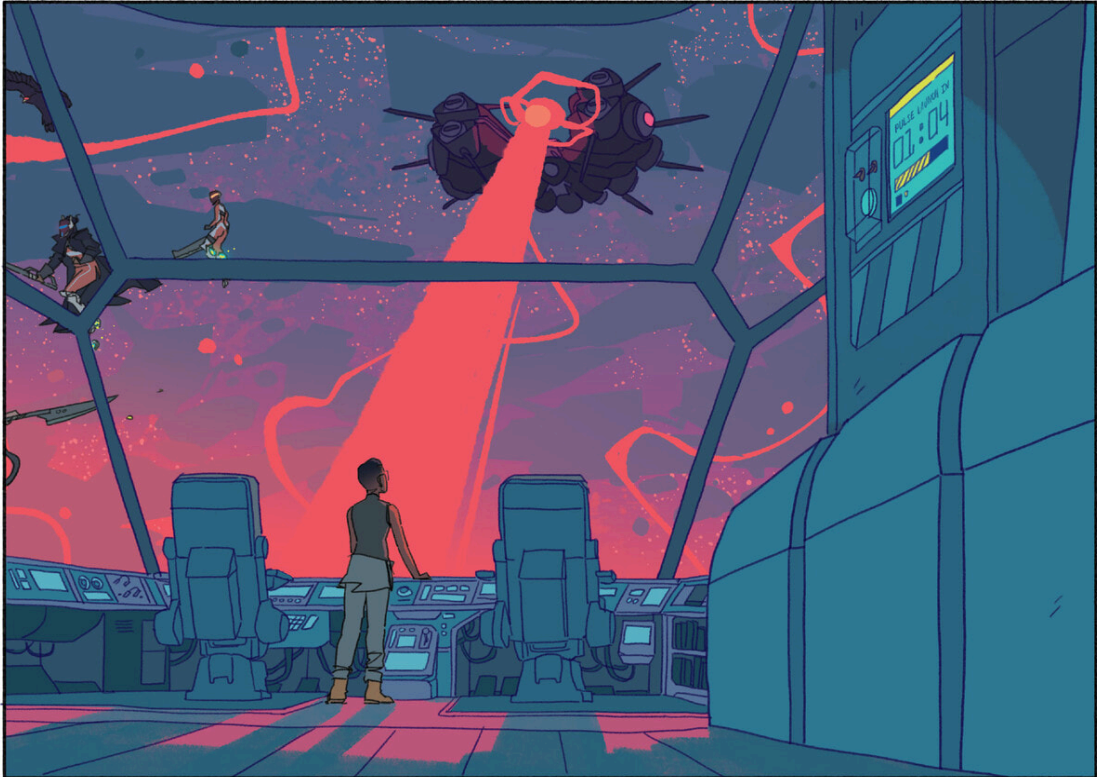
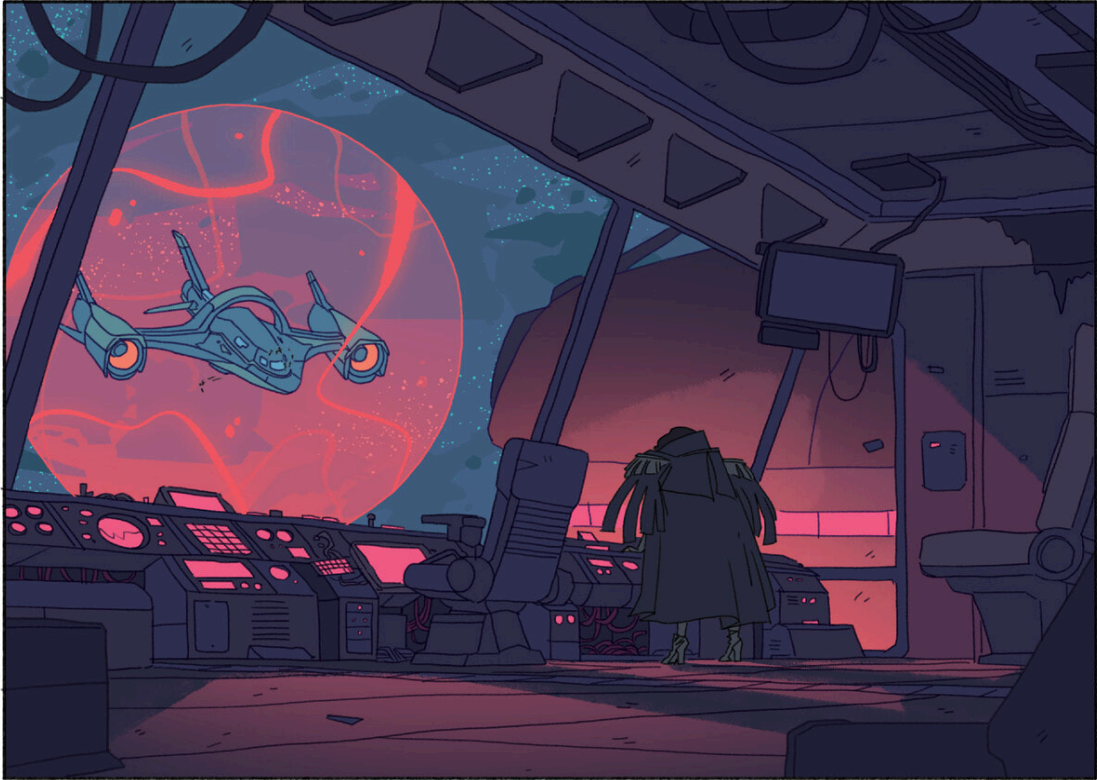


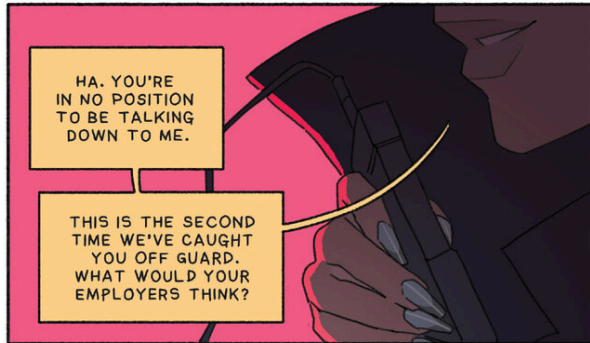
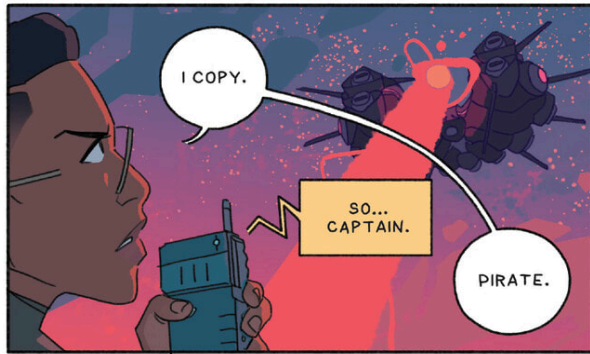


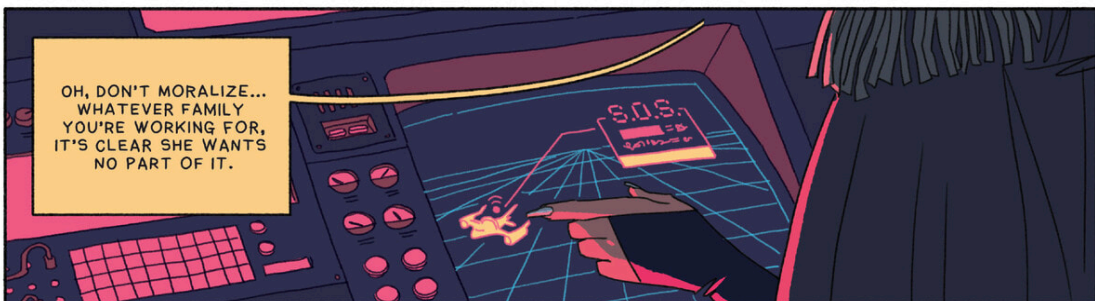
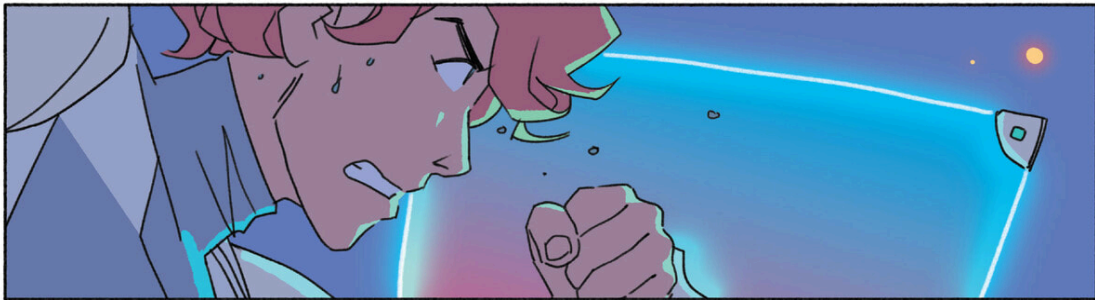


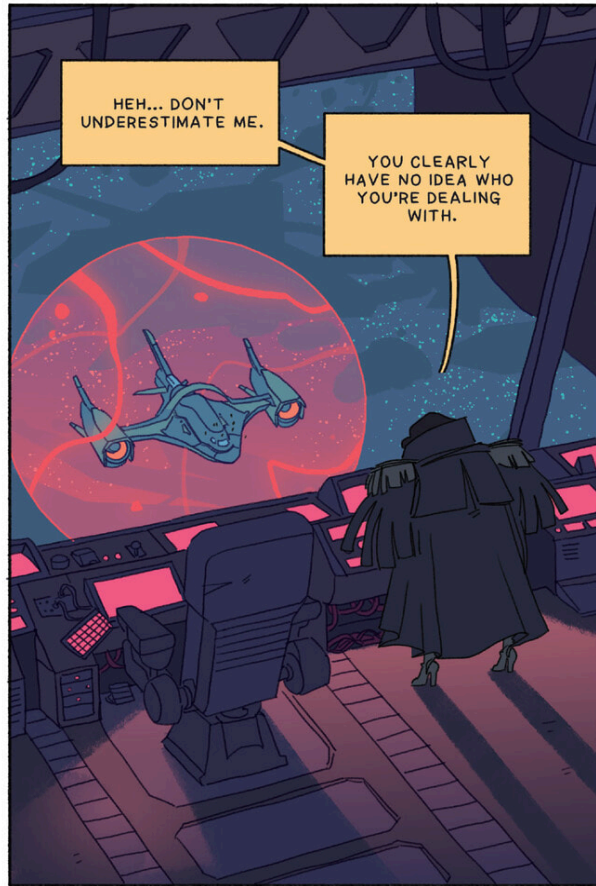


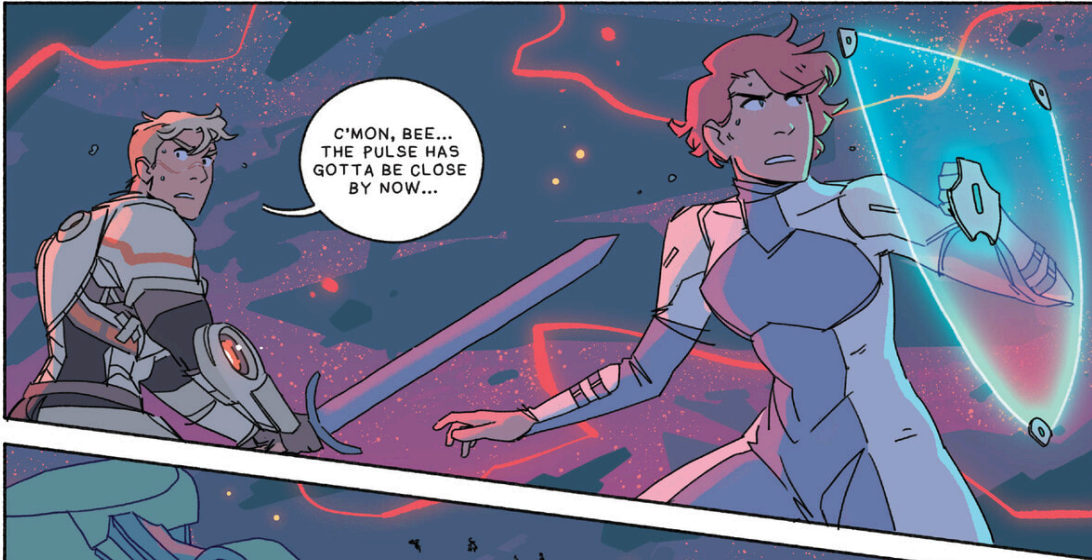












C'MON, BEE...
THE PULSE HAS
GOTTA BE CLOSE
BY NOW...



HONK
HONK
HOOOOONK



ALL RIGHT,
KID, TIME
TO GO...

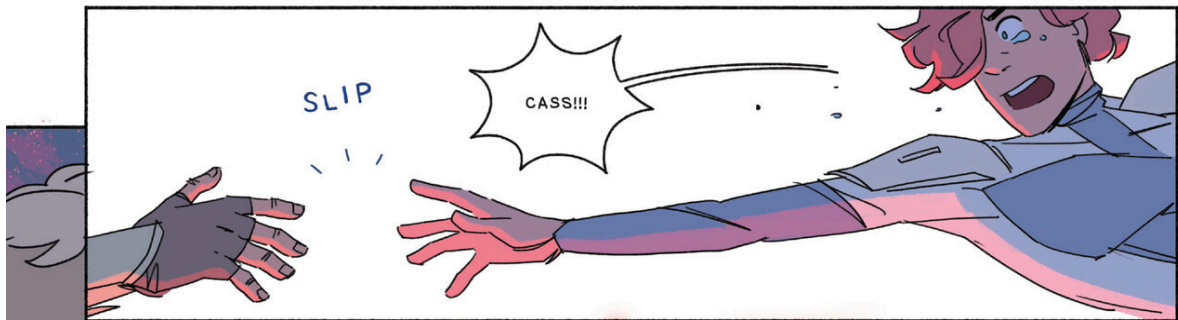
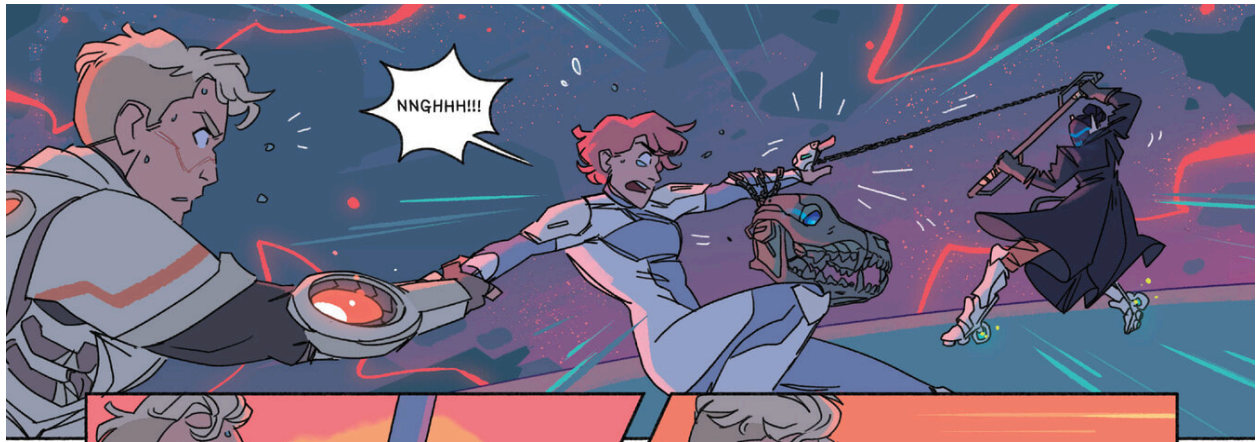
GRAB

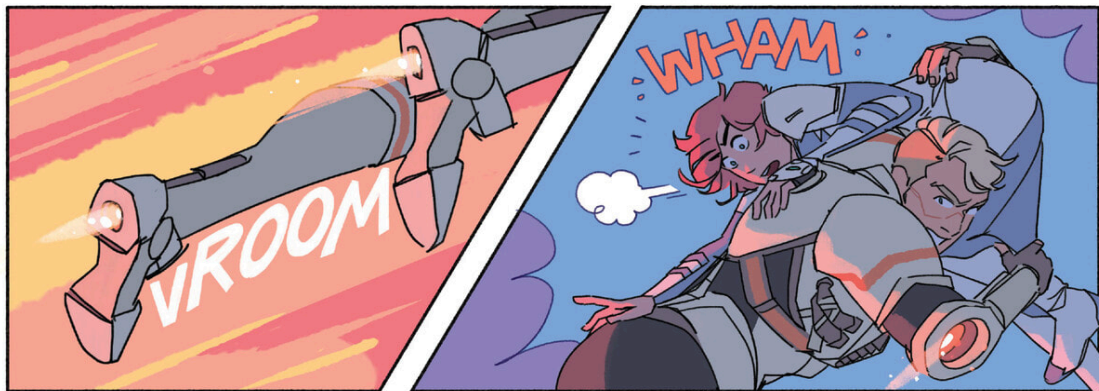
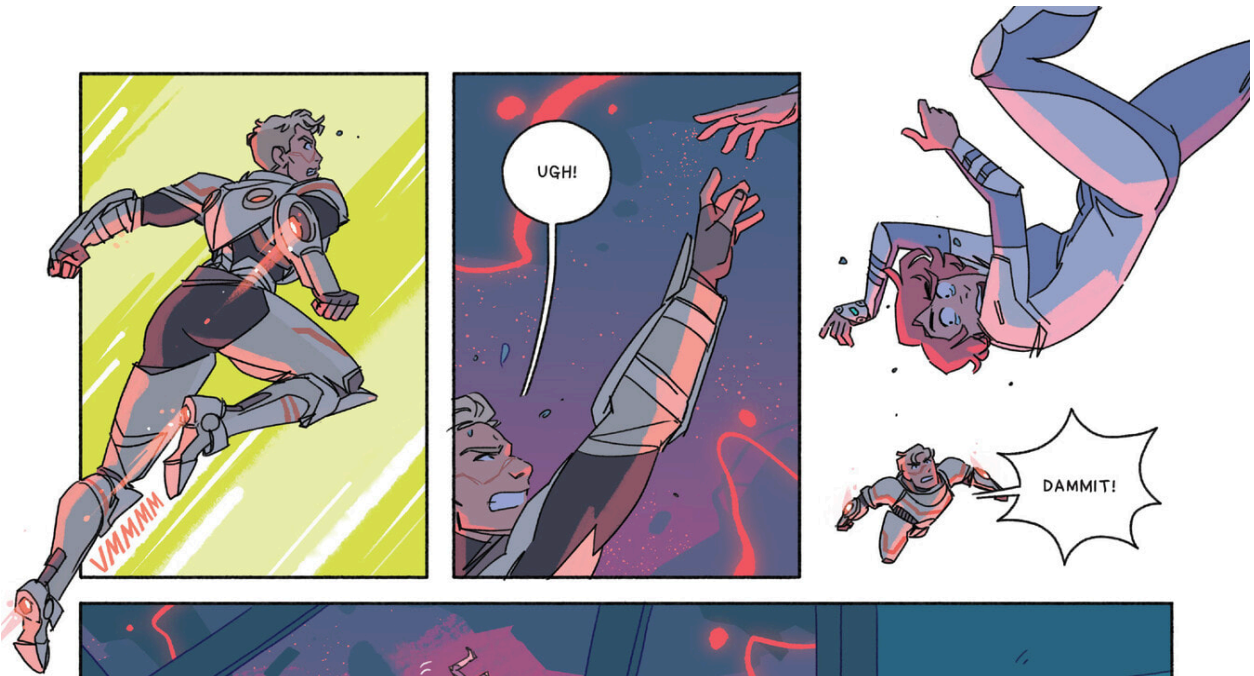


NOT SO
FAST!



AH!!!

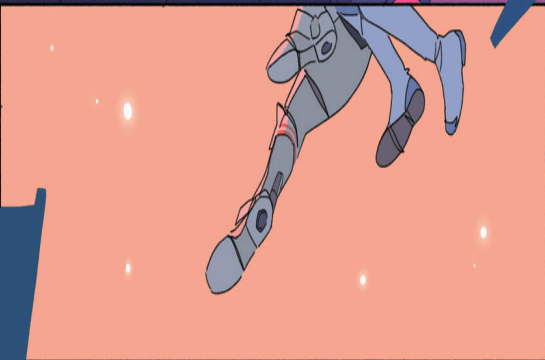


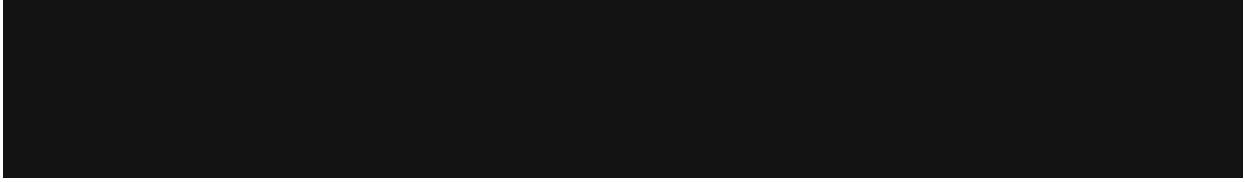


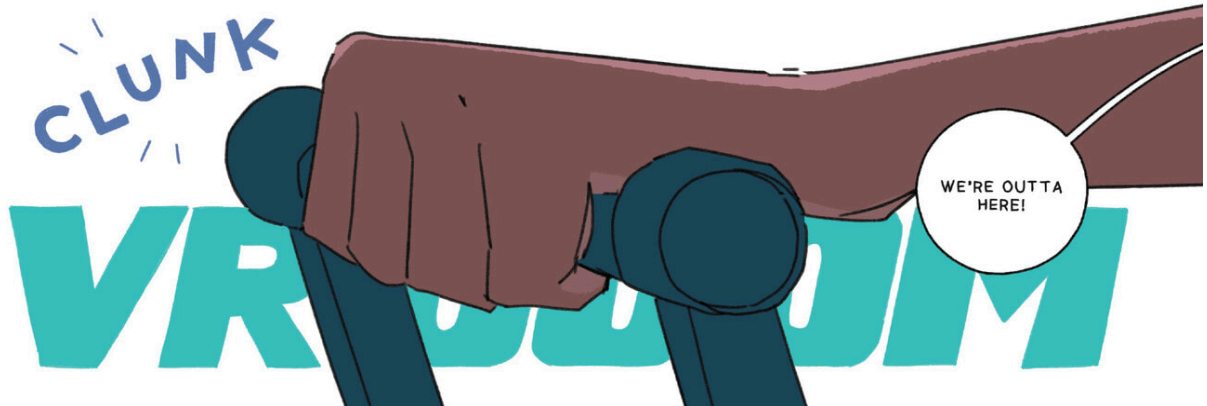
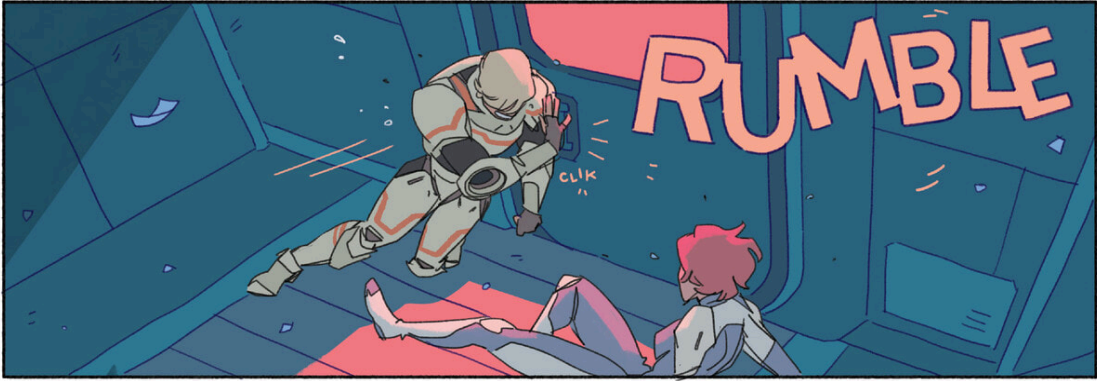




BAHAAA











LATER...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

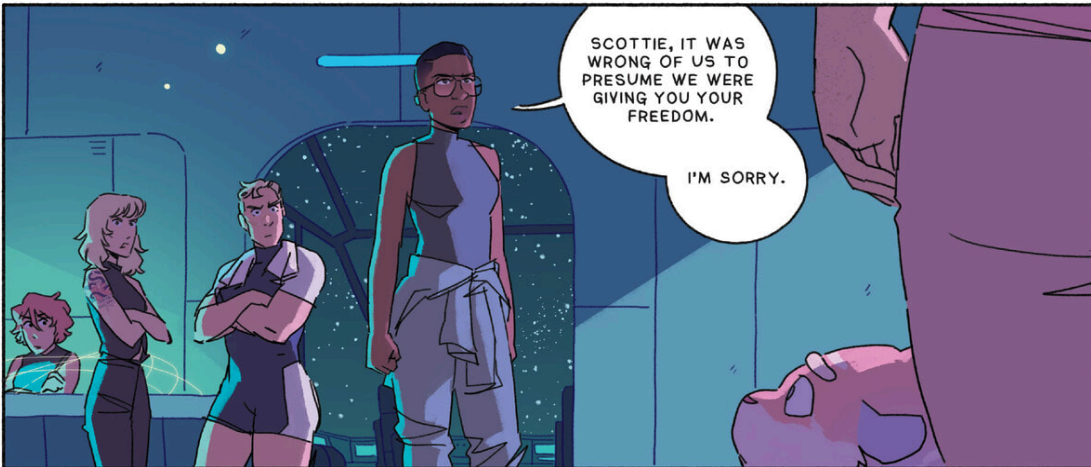
THESE PIRATES COULD WRECK EVERYTHING FOR US.



WE CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS.



YOU'RE RIGHT.



SCOTTIE, IT WAS WRONG OF US TO PRESUME WE WERE GIVING YOU YOUR FREEDOM.

I'M SORRY.



I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE LATE, BUT WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS...



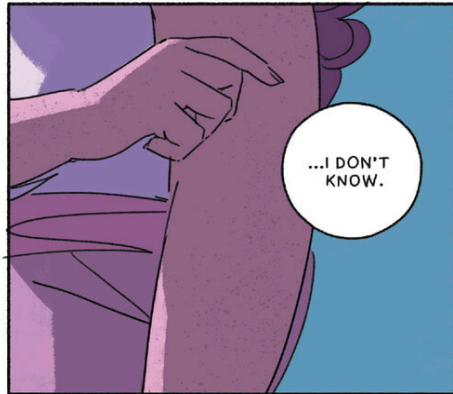
SO I'M ASKING YOU NOW:

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT-?!



I-...



...I DON'T KNOW.



OF COURSE.

FIGURES.

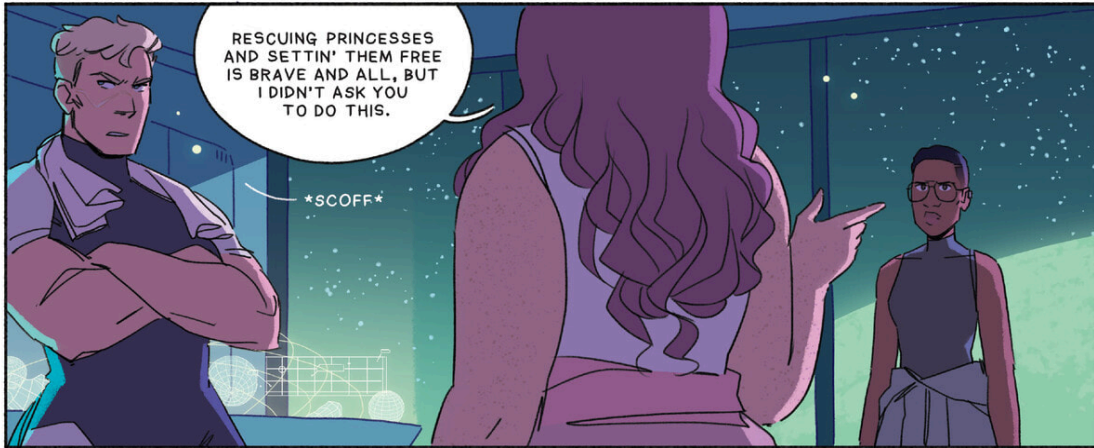
I MEAN, I WANT TO GO HOME!

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D DO WITH ME IF I WENT BACK NOW.

YOU PUT ME IN A REALLY SHITTY POSITION, OKAY?

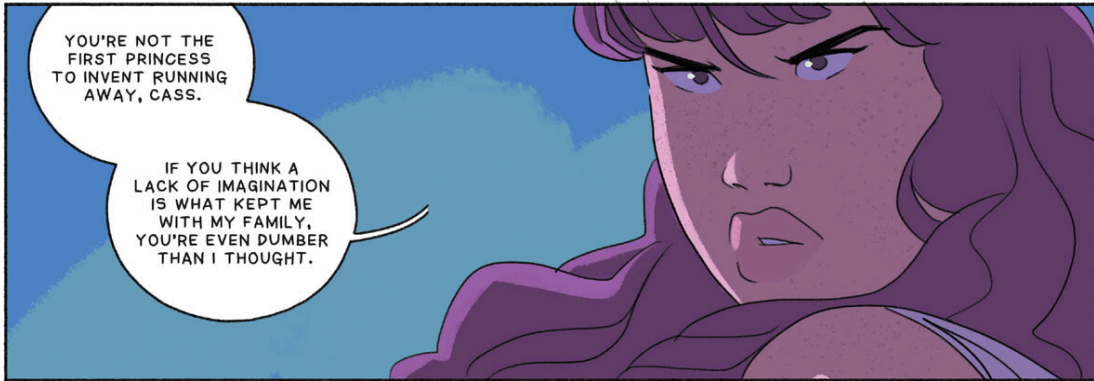
I'M STARTING OVER WITH *NOTHING* BECAUSE OF YOU, SO EXCUSE ME IF I'M A LITTLE LOST!





RESCUING PRINCESSES AND SETTIN' THEM FREE IS BRAVE AND ALL, BUT I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THIS.

SCOFF



YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST PRINCESS TO INVENT RUNNING AWAY, CASS.

IF YOU THINK A LACK OF IMAGINATION IS WHAT KEPT ME WITH MY FAMILY, YOU'RE EVEN DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.

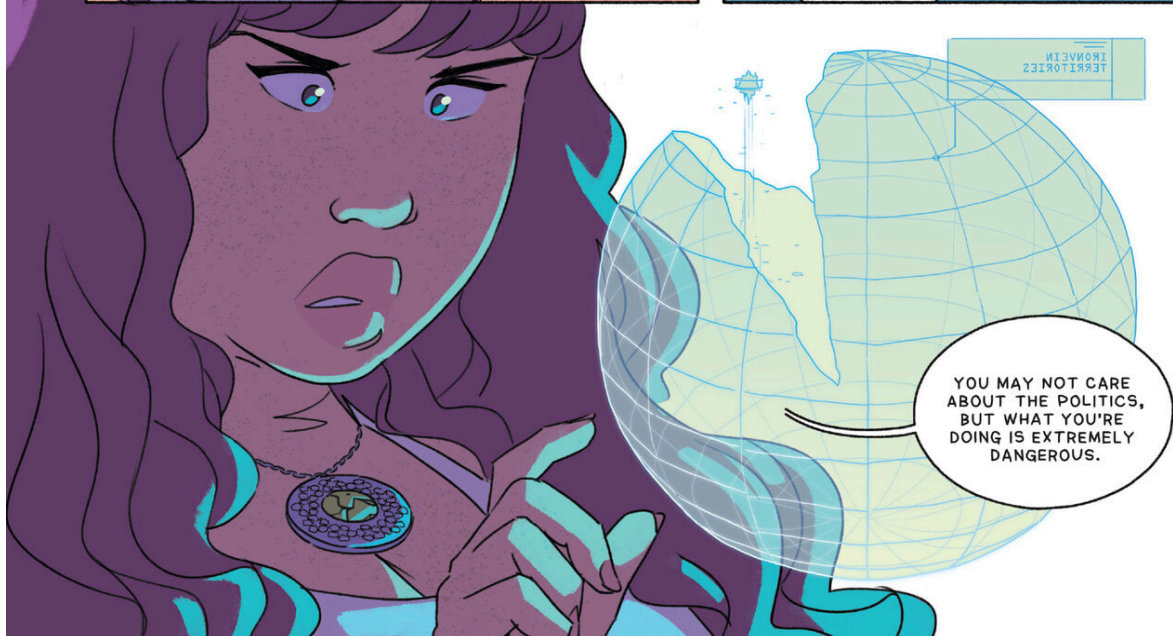
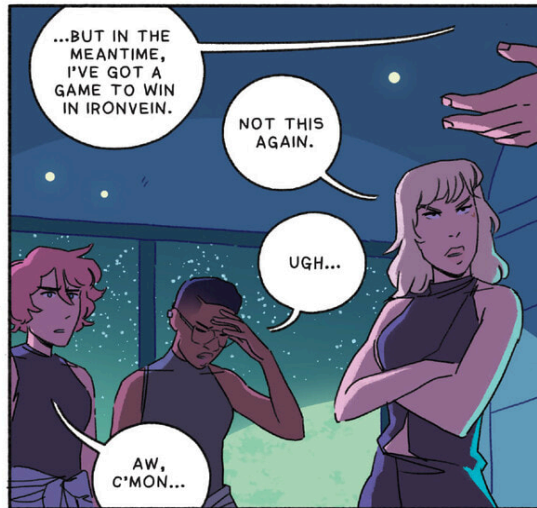
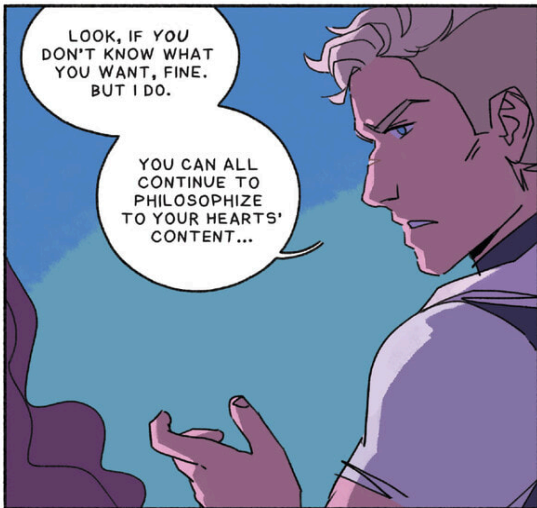


I KNOW I'M A PAWN, BUT I PLAYED MY PART BECAUSE AT LEAST IF IT WAS ME ON THAT THRONE, I COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP.



RESCUING ME DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE STRUGGLING ON MY PLANET.

GOD, YOU SOUND JUST LIKE KATE.

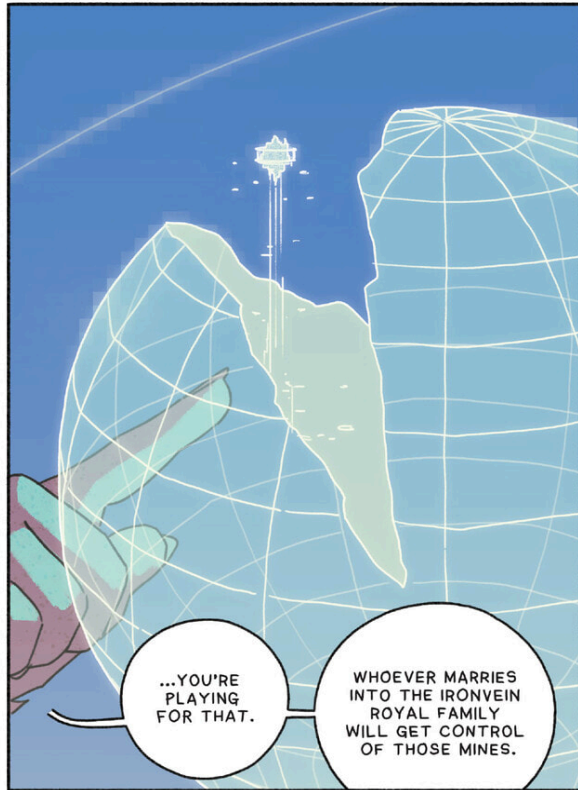




I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THE GAMES ARE DANGEROUS, HONEY.

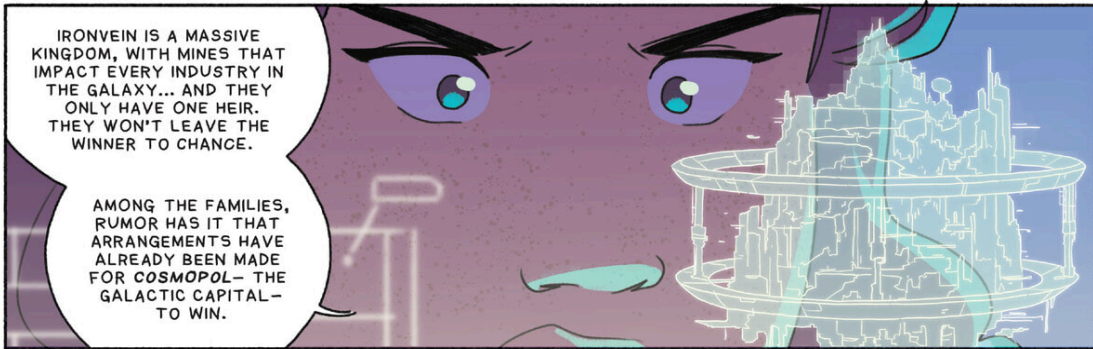
NO, I MEAN IT.

IN IRONVEIN YOU'RE NOT JUST PLAYING FOR A PRINCESS...



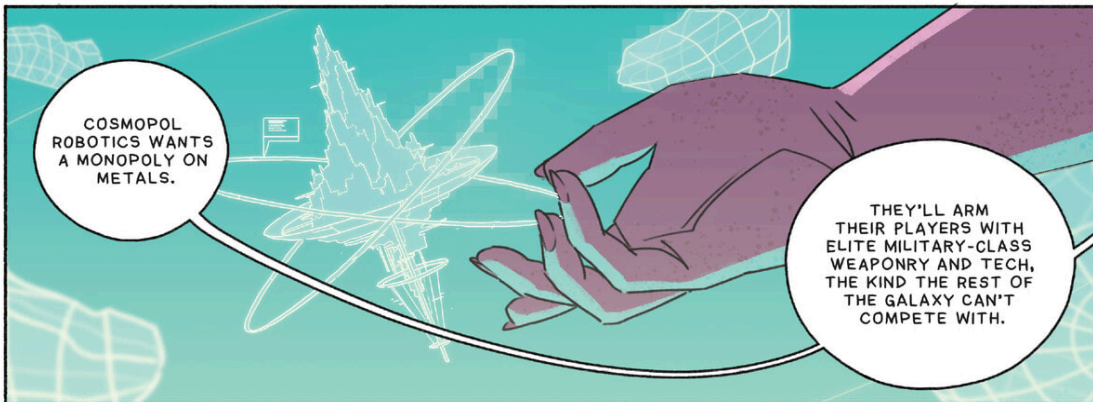
...YOU'RE PLAYING FOR THAT.

WHOEVER MARRIES INTO THE IRONVEIN ROYAL FAMILY WILL GET CONTROL OF THOSE MINES.



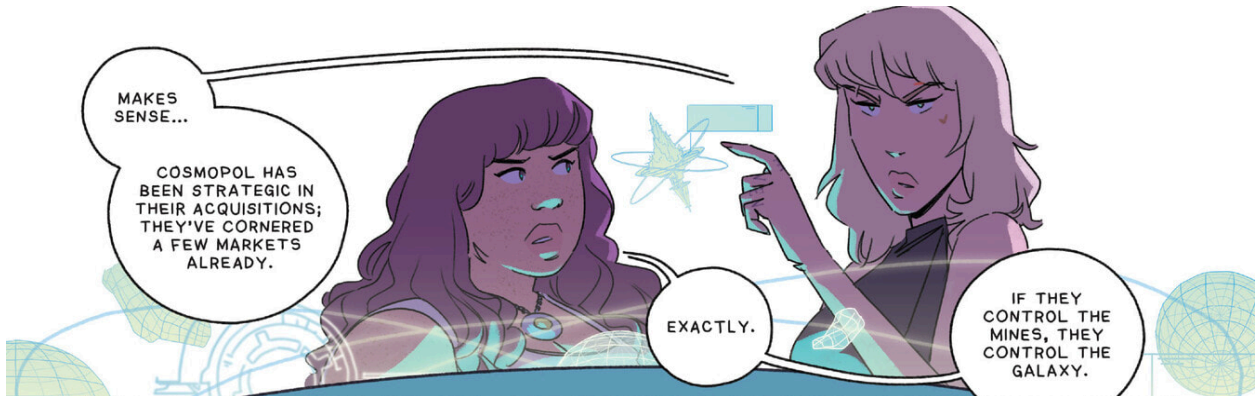
IRONVEIN IS A MASSIVE KINGDOM, WITH MINES THAT IMPACT EVERY INDUSTRY IN THE GALAXY... AND THEY ONLY HAVE ONE HEIR. THEY WON'T LEAVE THE WINNER TO CHANGE.

AMONG THE FAMILIES, RUMOR HAS IT THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR COSMOPOL— THE GALACTIC CAPITAL— TO WIN.



COSMOPOL ROBOTICS WANTS A MONOPOLY ON METALS.

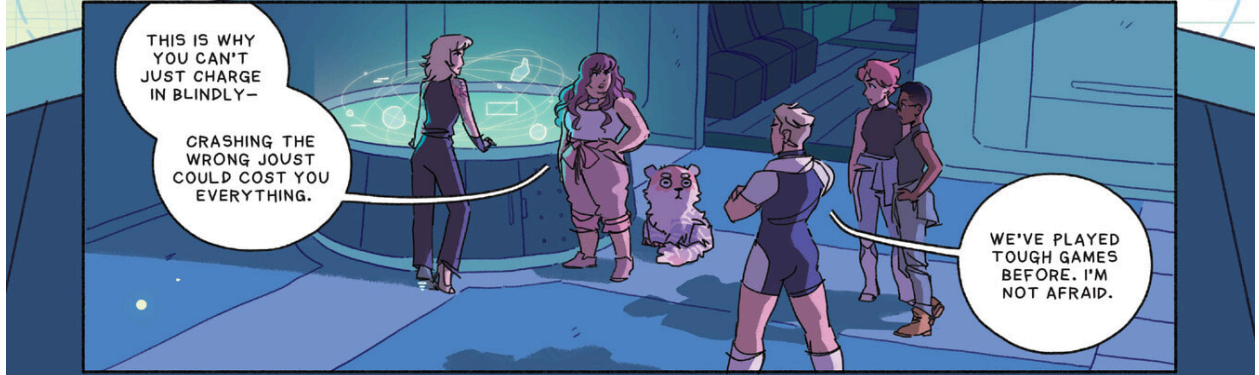
THEY'LL ARM THEIR PLAYERS WITH ELITE MILITARY-CLASS WEAPONRY AND TECH, THE KIND THE REST OF THE GALAXY CAN'T COMPETE WITH.



MAKES SENSE...
COSMOPOL HAS BEEN STRATEGIC IN THEIR ACQUISITIONS; THEY'VE CORNERED A FEW MARKETS ALREADY.

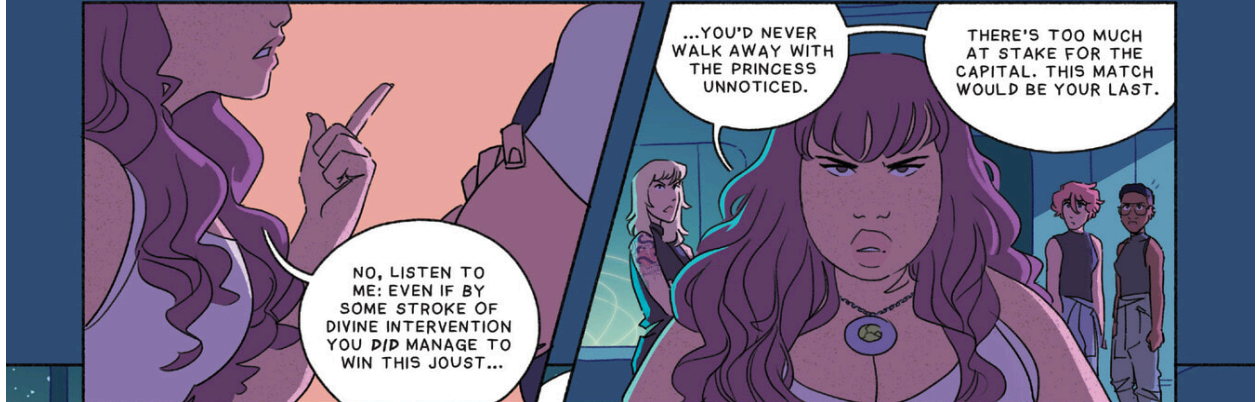
EXACTLY.

IF THEY CONTROL THE MINES, THEY CONTROL THE GALAXY.



THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T JUST CHARGE IN BLINDLY—
CRASHING THE WRONG JOUST COULD COST YOU EVERYTHING.

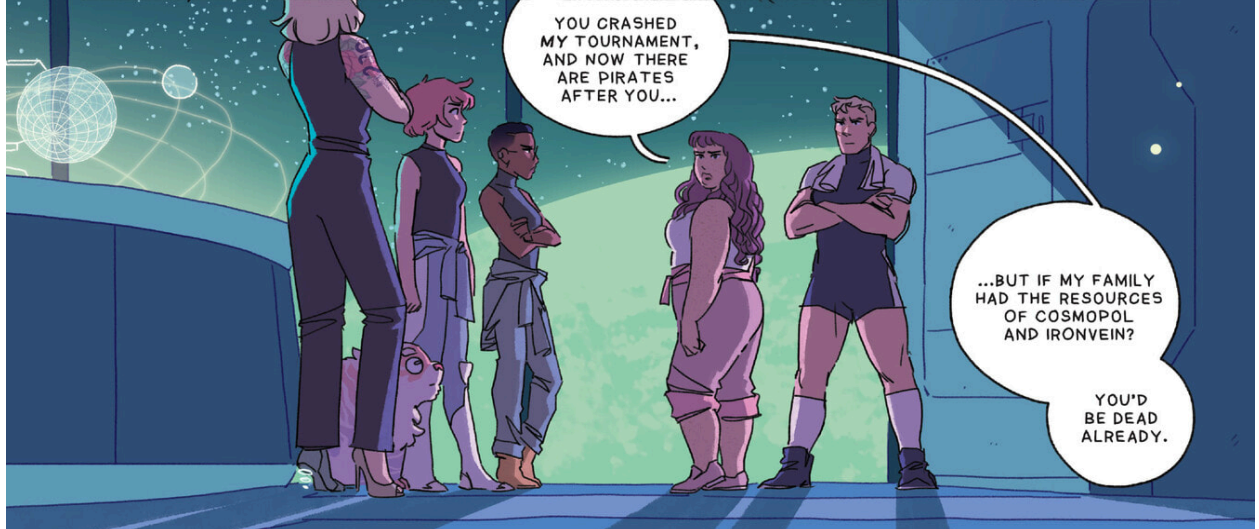
WE'VE PLAYED TOUGH GAMES BEFORE. I'M NOT AFRAID.



NO, LISTEN TO ME: EVEN IF BY SOME STROKE OF DIVINE INTERVENTION YOU DID MANAGE TO WIN THIS JOUST...

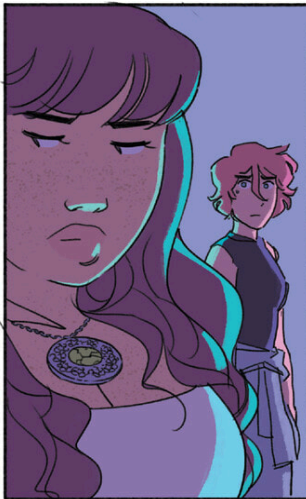
...YOU'D NEVER WALK AWAY WITH THE PRINCESS UNNOTICED.

THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR THE CAPITAL. THIS MATCH WOULD BE YOUR LAST.



YOU CRASHED MY TOURNAMENT, AND NOW THERE ARE PIRATES AFTER YOU...

...BUT IF MY FAMILY HAD THE RESOURCES OF COSMOPOL AND IRONVEIN?
YOU'D BE DEAD ALREADY.







SCOTTIE'S RIGHT: MAYBE WE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THAT PRINCESS UNNOTICED...

...BUT MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO.
MAYBE PEOPLE SHOULD START PAYING ATTENTION TO US.



IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MAKING A STATEMENT... WRECKING THE GALAXY'S BIGGEST BUSINESS DEAL WOULD SEND ONE HELL OF A MESSAGE, RIGHT?



WE HEAR THE SAME THING EVERY GAME: "MAY THE BEST MAN WIN."

THE SYSTEM ONLY WORKS IF PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THOSE WHO MAKE IT TO THE TOP DESERVE TO BE THERE.

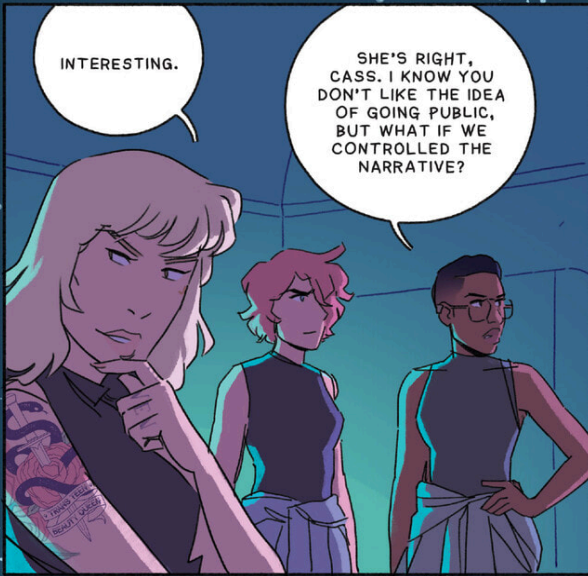


SO LET'S MAKE IT TO THE TOP, AND DEMAND WHAT'S OURS.



WE CAN USE THE WINNER'S PLATFORM TO PROTEST THE GAME AND EXPOSE THE DEAL.

LET THEM COME AFTER US.
EVERYONE IN THE GALAXY WILL BE WATCHING.



INTERESTING.

SHE'S RIGHT, CASS. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF GOING PUBLIC, BUT WHAT IF WE CONTROLLED THE NARRATIVE?



IF WE USED A RIGGED GAME TO MAKE OUR CASE, WE'D MAKE A LOT OF ENEMIES, BUT WE STAND TO MAKE EVEN MORE FRIENDS.



CASS?



YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T LIKE IT.



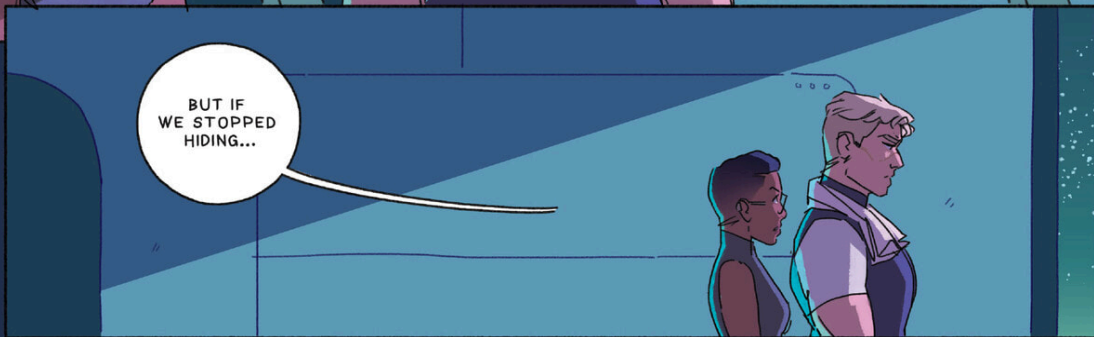
WHAT IF IT DOESN'T WORK?

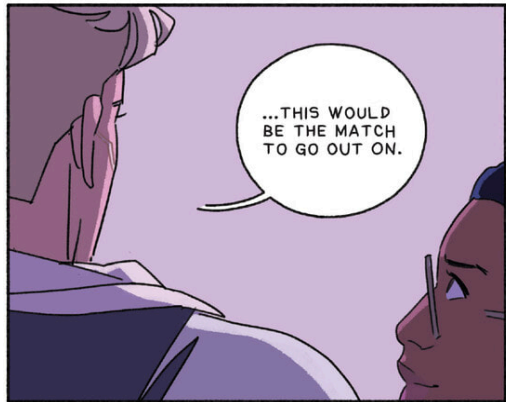
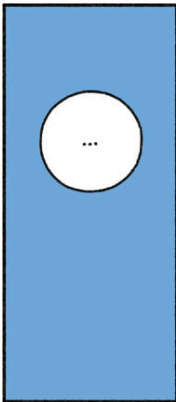
WHAT IF WE REVEAL OURSELVES, AND PEOPLE DON'T CARE?

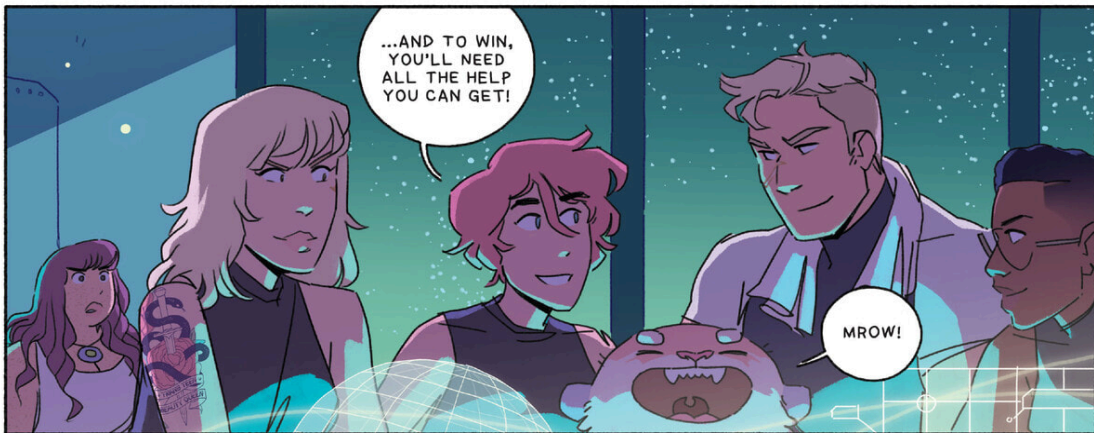
WHAT IF THEY SEND WARDENS OUT TO FIND THE PRINCESSES WE'VE ALREADY RESCUED, AND UNDO EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE?




WE CAN'T RISK THAT.









HELL YEAH.
GO BIG OR GO HOME.





THEY GOT
AWAY FROM
US, TARA.



I CAN SEE THAT.



GET THOSE ENGINES BACK ONLINE! WE CAN STILL CATCH 'EM.



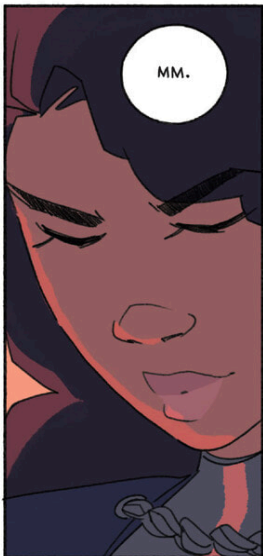
NO OFFENSE, CAPTAIN... BUT WE JUST GOT OUR ASSES HANDED TO US. WE COULD REALLY USE A BREATHER.

HOLD STILL, EVIE.

YEAH, THIS JOB IS TURNING OUT TO BE MORE THAN WE BARGAINED FOR.



I THINK WE CAN AFFORD A FEW HOURS, T.

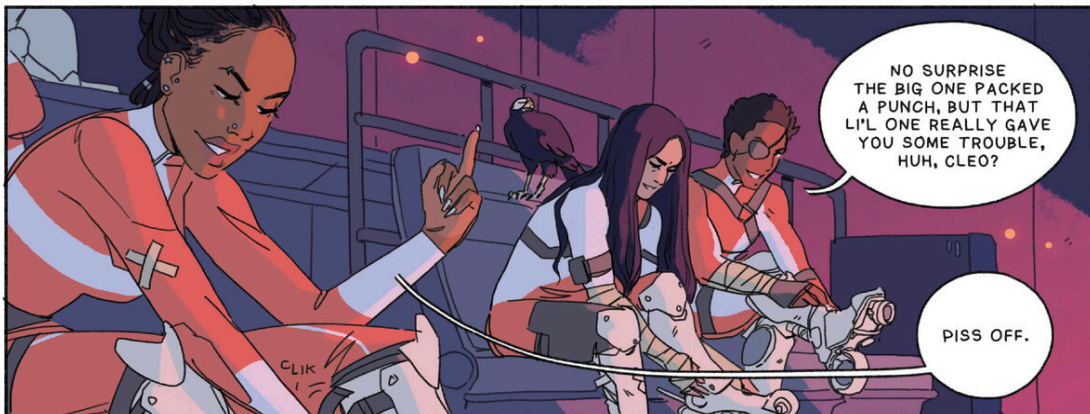


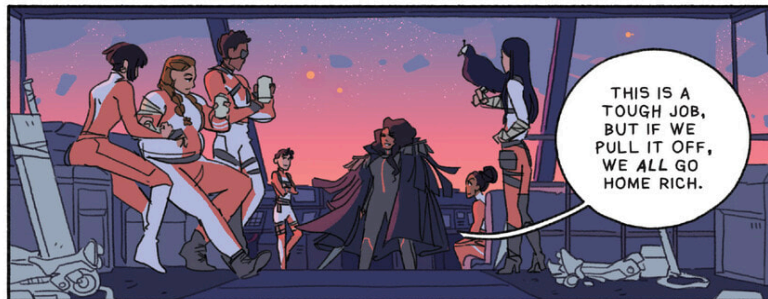
MM.

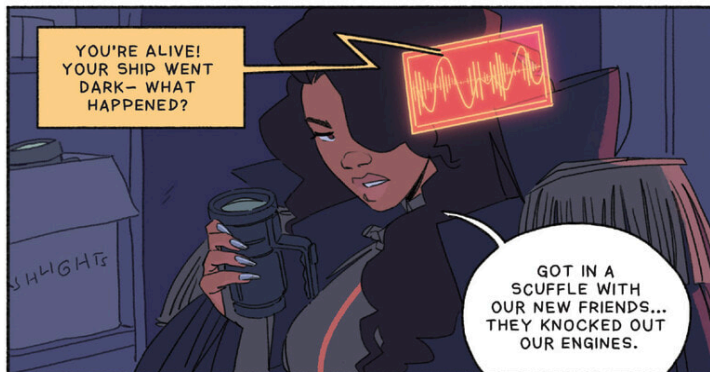
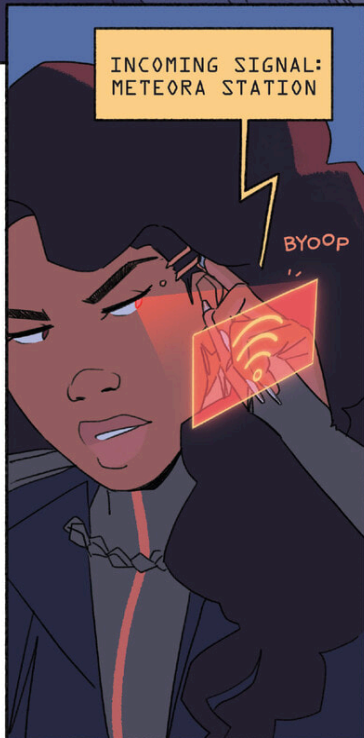


YES, OF COURSE...

...Y'ALL DID GOOD.









UNDERSTOOD. JUST REMEMBER YOU'RE VULNERABLE IN EMPIRE TERRITORY, CAPTAIN. IF WARDEN FORCES IDENTIFY YOUR SHIP, THEY'LL IMPOUND IT AND ARREST YOUR CREW.

I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL. HOW'RE THINGS IN THE BELT?

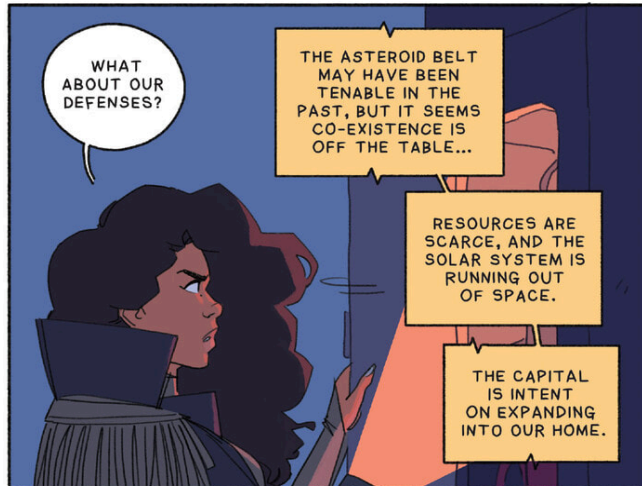


THE OTHER SKIPPERS ARE GETTING NERVOUS. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS.



ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST READINGS ON THE DEMOLITION SHIPS FROM COSMOPOL, WE HAVE TWO WEEKS TO EVACUATE THE STATION AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

OUR WINDOW TO RESPOND IS CLOSING— IT'S AGREED WE NEED TO SECURE THE PRINCESS BEFORE THEY ARRIVE.

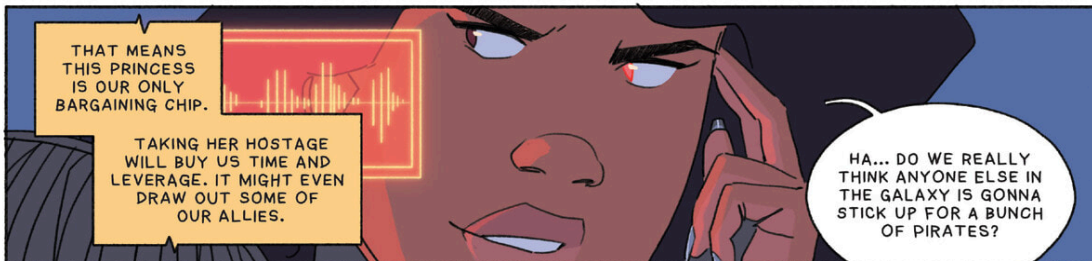


WHAT ABOUT OUR DEFENSES?

THE ASTEROID BELT MAY HAVE BEEN TENABLE IN THE PAST, BUT IT SEEMS CO-EXISTENCE IS OFF THE TABLE...

RESOURCES ARE SCARCE, AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS RUNNING OUT OF SPACE.

THE CAPITAL IS INTENT ON EXPANDING INTO OUR HOME.



THAT MEANS THIS PRINCESS IS OUR ONLY BARGAINING CHIP.

TAKING HER HOSTAGE WILL BUY US TIME AND LEVERAGE. IT MIGHT EVEN DRAW OUT SOME OF OUR ALLIES.

HA... DO WE REALLY THINK ANYONE ELSE IN THE GALAXY IS GONNA STICK UP FOR A BUNCH OF PIRATES?



CAPTURING HER IS OUR BEST SHOT AT PROTECTING OURSELVES.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, TARA.

I KNOW.

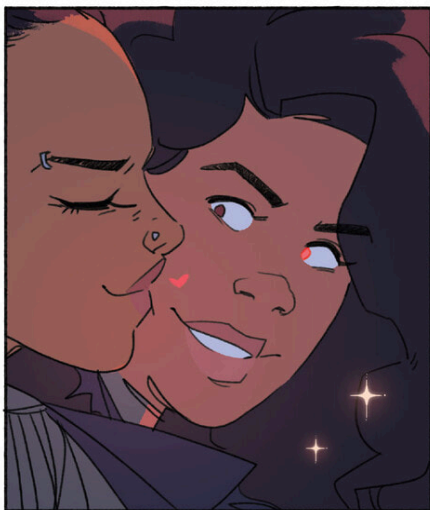
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK



WE KNOW YOU WON'T. GOOD LUCK.

CLIK



HEY, CLE.

HI.





WORD FROM THE STATION?

YEAH.

WE STILL NEED THE PRINCESS.

I SEE...



SO THEN I GUESS THE REAL QUESTION IS:

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?



...DOES IT MATTER?



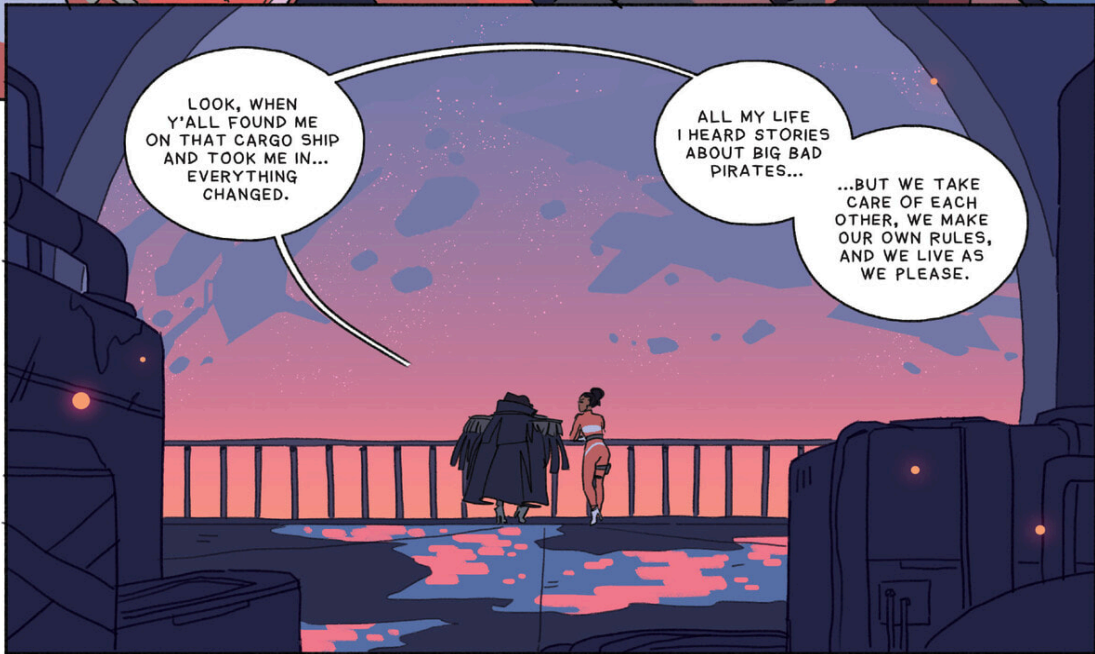
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, HUNTING DOWN ROYALTY?

YEAH, I THINK IT MATTERS.

THE OTHERS MAY NOT KNOW YOUR TRAGIC BACKSTORY, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ME THIS ISN'T PERSONAL.



HEH.



LOOK, WHEN Y'ALL FOUND ME ON THAT CARGO SHIP AND TOOK ME IN... EVERYTHING CHANGED.

ALL MY LIFE I HEARD STORIES ABOUT BIG BAD PIRATES...

...BUT WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER, WE MAKE OUR OWN RULES, AND WE LIVE AS WE PLEASE.



I OWE THIS FLEET EVERYTHING.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT A PRINCESS IS GETTING MIXED UP IN ALL THIS, BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE.



BESIDES, SHE AND I ARE NOT THE SAME. WE MAY HAVE BOTH BEEN BORN INTO ROYALTY...

...BUT I STOPPED BEING A PRINCESS A LONG TIME AGO.



cute
zero-grav
hairstyles
for summer!

Prince Freddy
real-life dance
with a fan!



Interview with POMP ADORE

Favorite planets,
songs to sing in the shower,
and a mysterious
royal crush!



HEY, TARA!
SORRY
I'M LATE!



COMET COOKIE

ASTRO O's





DID YOU GET TO SEE THE NEW MARLIN MODEL?

NO. I MEAN, WE JUST MAKE, LIKE, ONE PART. THEY GET SENT SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BE ASSEMBLED.



MY PARENTS AND I ACTUALLY SPEND MOST OF OUR TIME IN MEETINGS.

OH. THAT DOES SOUND BORING.



YEAH...

BUT I DID GET TO TOUR A SPACESHIP AT THE PORT EARLIER TODAY!



THIS SUPER COOL PILOT LADY WAS PICKING UP STUFF FOR MY DAD, SO SHE SHOWED ME AROUND HER FREIGHTER.

SHE EVEN LET ME SIT IN THE COCKPIT!

AW, THAT RULES! I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN THAT!



SHE SAID SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO COSMOPOL NEXT!

IMAGINE GETTING TO FLY THE WHOLE GALAXY AS YOUR JOB!

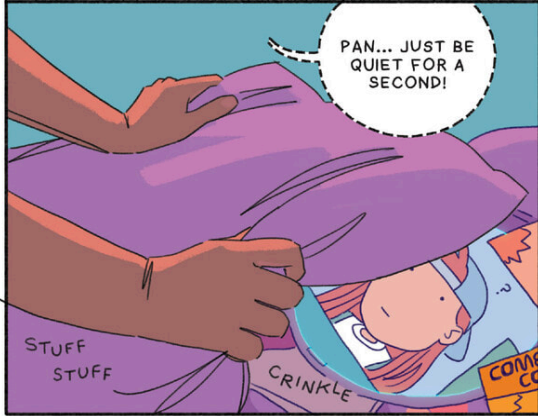
...AND SHE WAS KINDA CUTE.

WOW!!!

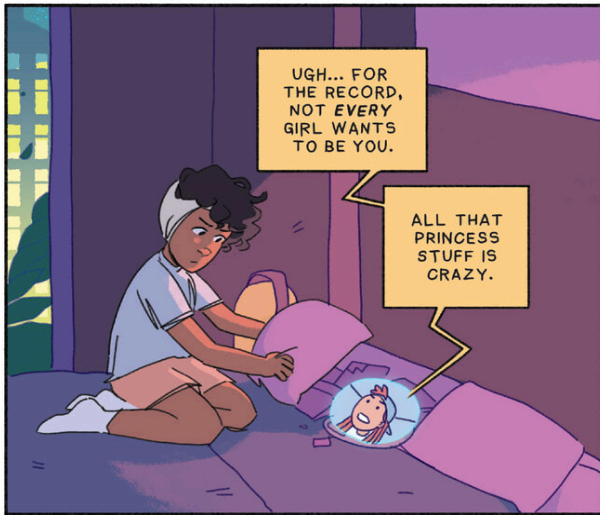


TARA, HONEY? CAN WE COME IN AND SAY GOODNIGHT?

OH, UM... SURE! HOLD ON!



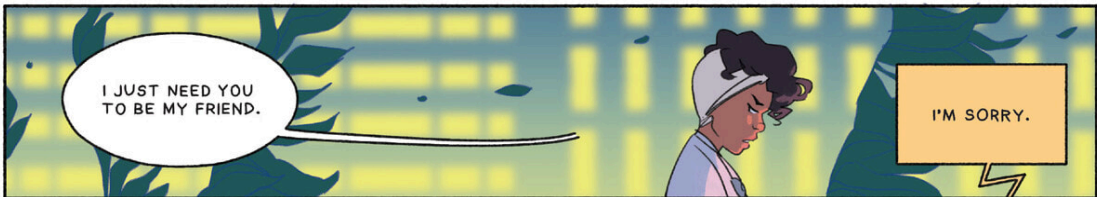






YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, BUT I LOVE MY FAMILY TOO. THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP, BUT YOU CAN'T FIX THIS.



I JUST NEED YOU TO BE MY FRIEND.

I'M SORRY.



I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIEND, TARA.

OKAY, PAN.



...AND MAYBE WE CAN MAKE THINGS BETTER WHEN WE'RE OLDER, Y'KNOW?

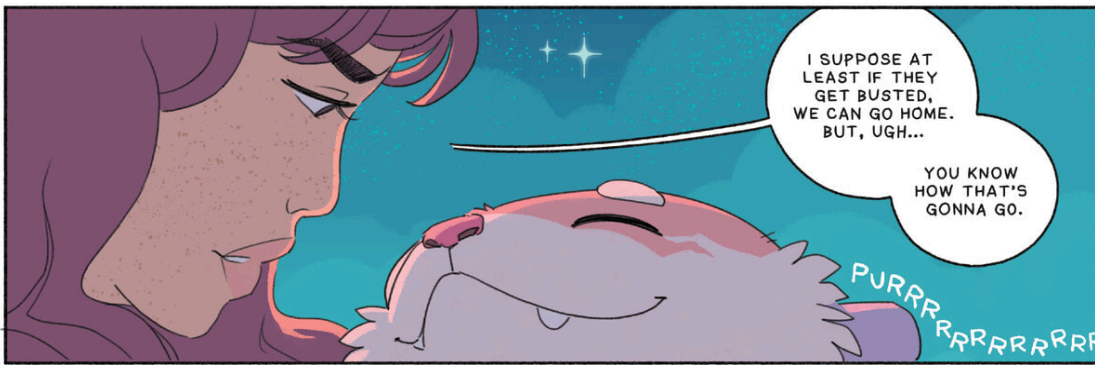


YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT. ONE DAY EVERYTHING **WILL** BE DIFFERENT.

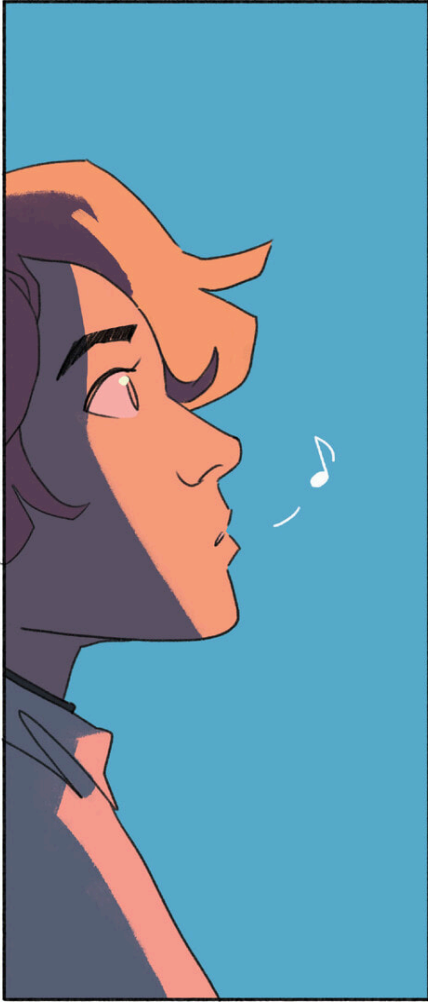
WHEN WE GROW UP...

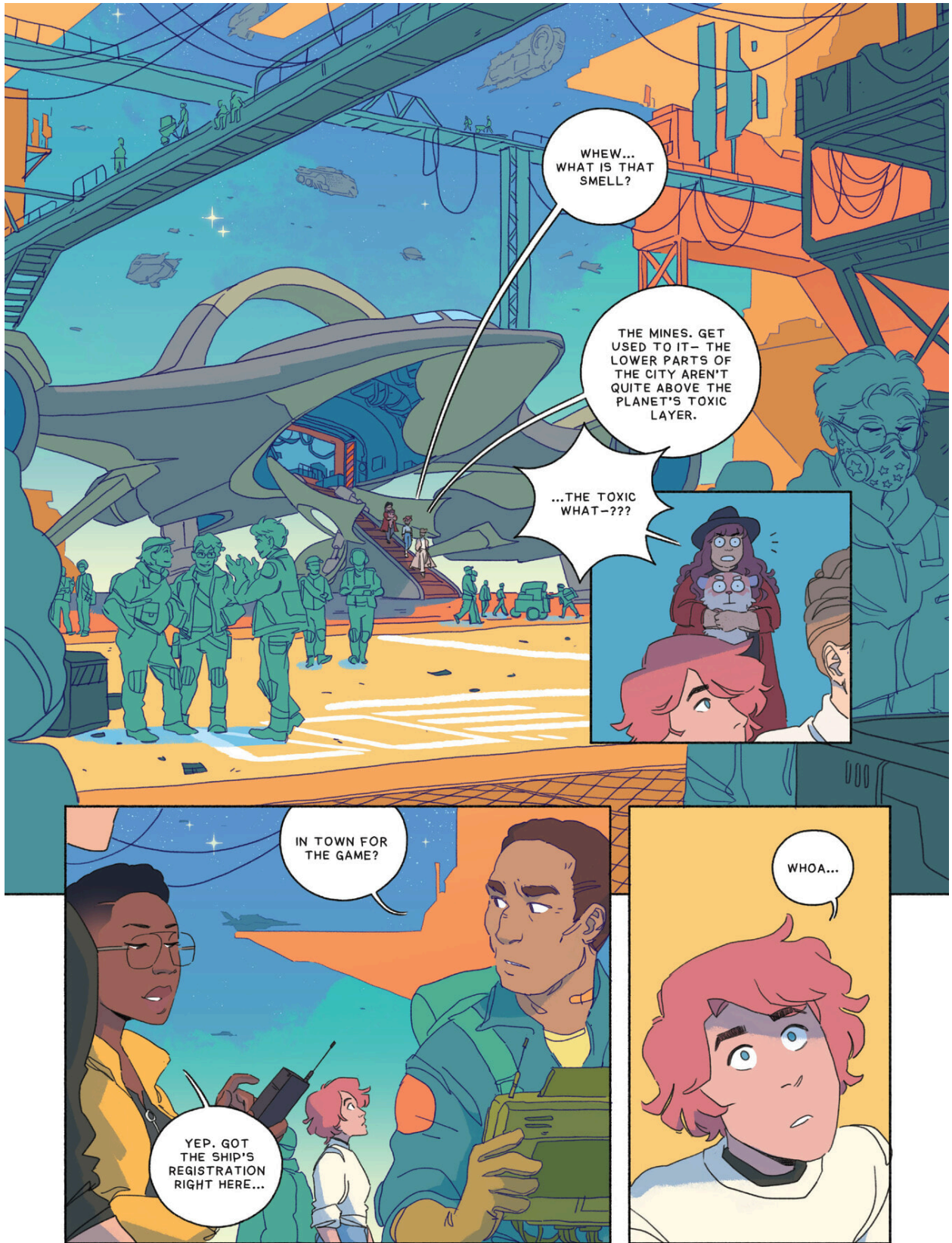


...NO ONE'S
GONNA TELL
US WHAT
TO DO.

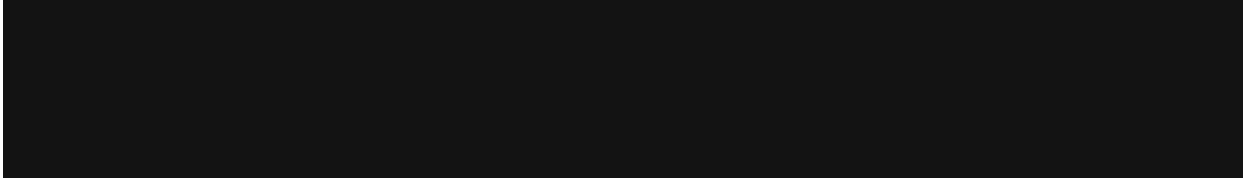


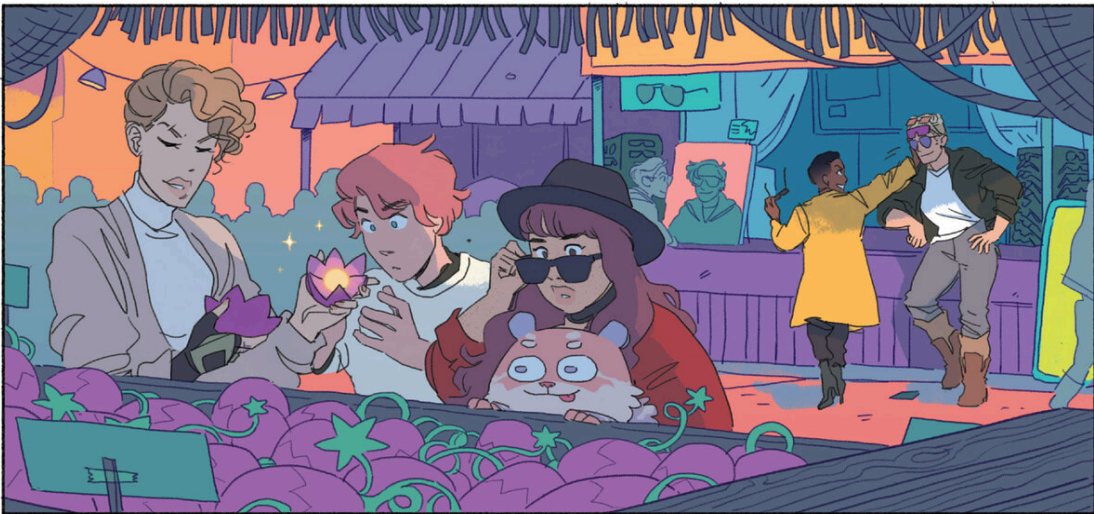


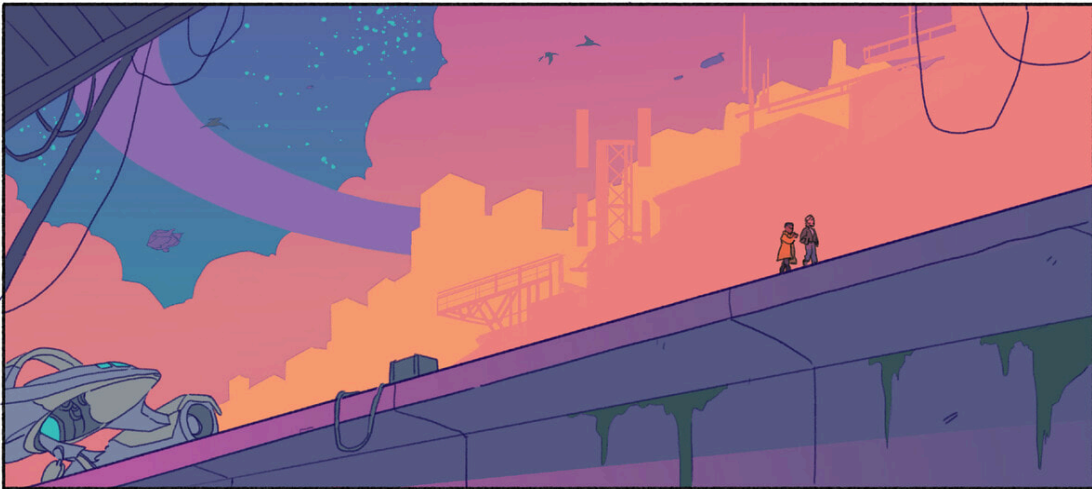


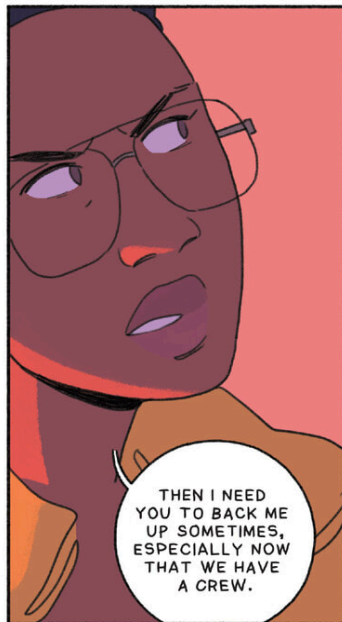
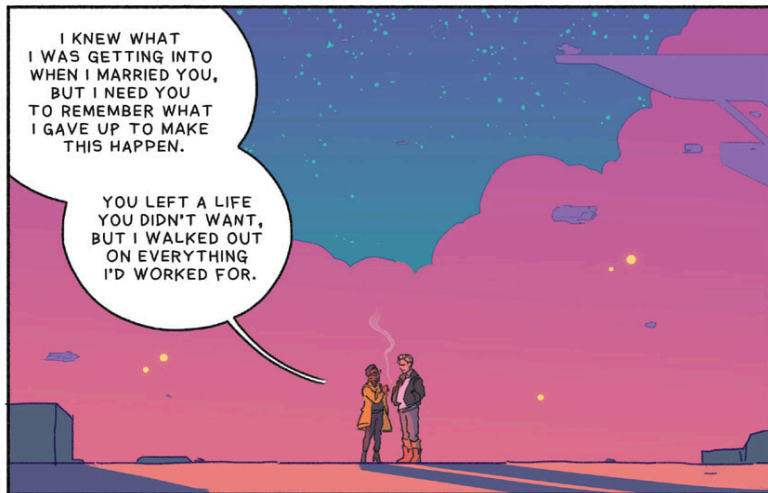
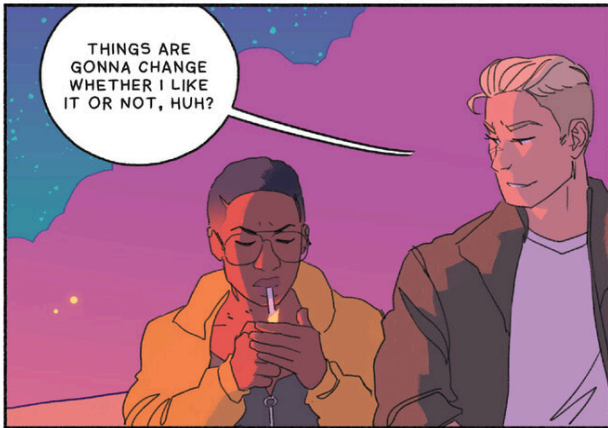














YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

I'M JUST NOT MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER.



THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AN EXCUSE! WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS...



I'M SCARED.

I KNOW HOW TO WIN GAMES AND I KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THE TWO OF US, BUT MORE THAN THAT IS A LITTLE DAUNTING.



ME AND YOU, SURVIVING ON OUR OWN? THAT'S NOT ENOUGH ANYMORE.

WE NEED OTHER PEOPLE, AND THEY NEED US.



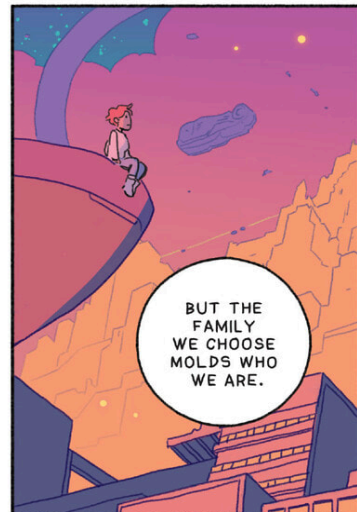
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY EVERYBODY! THAT'S NOT HOW THIS WORKS!



LOOK, I KNOW LETTING PEOPLE IN IS... A CHALLENGE. WE'RE ALL REALLY DIFFERENT.



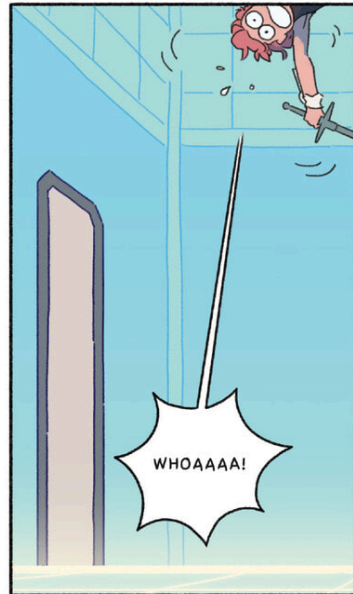
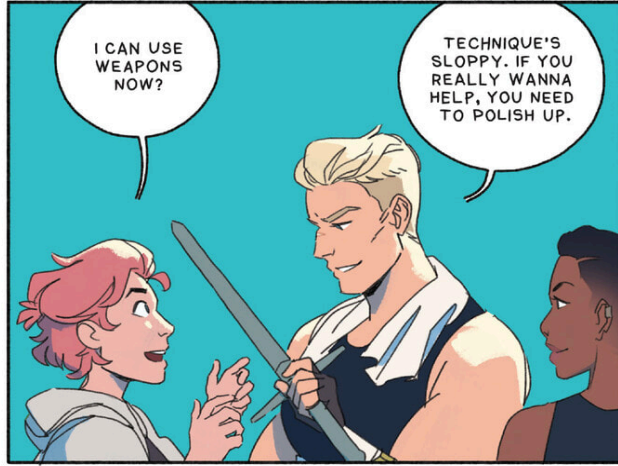
WE'RE NOT GONNA AGREE ON EVERYTHING, AND WE'RE ALL PROBABLY GONNA ANNOY THE SHIT OUT OF EACH OTHER.

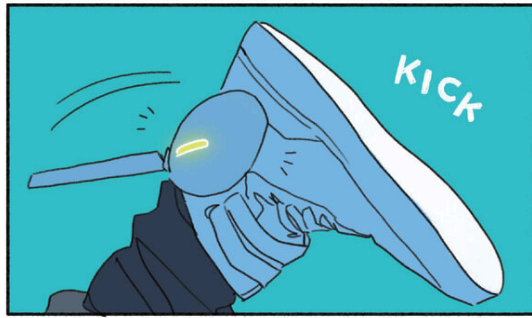
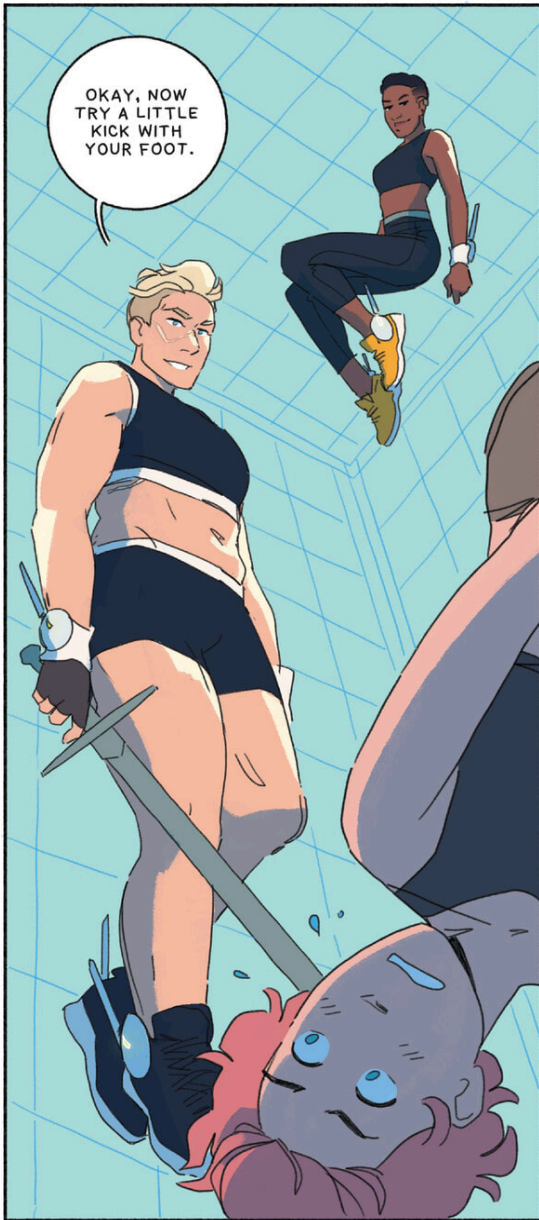


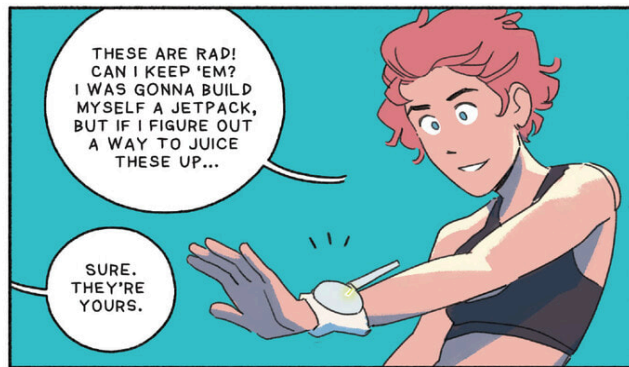
BUT THE FAMILY WE CHOOSE MOLDS WHO WE ARE.

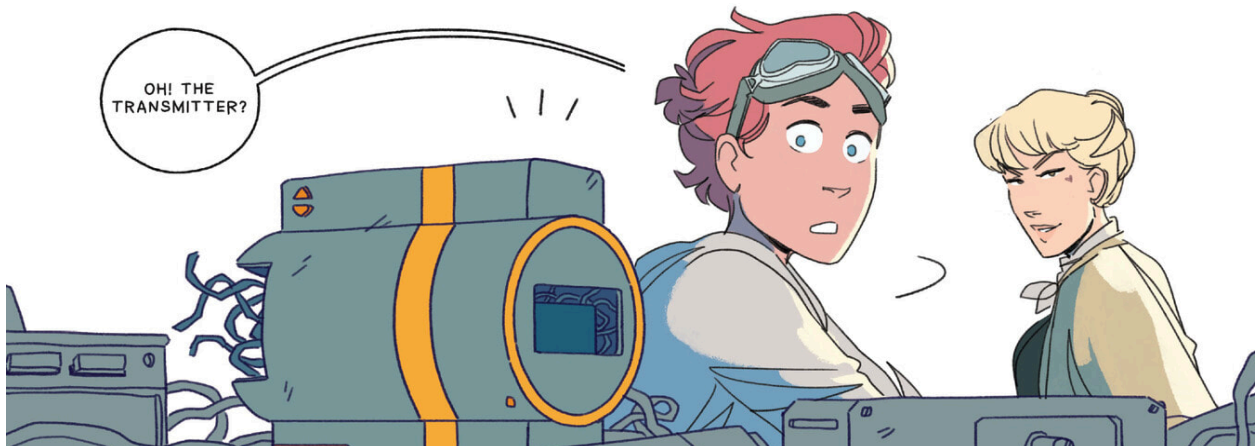
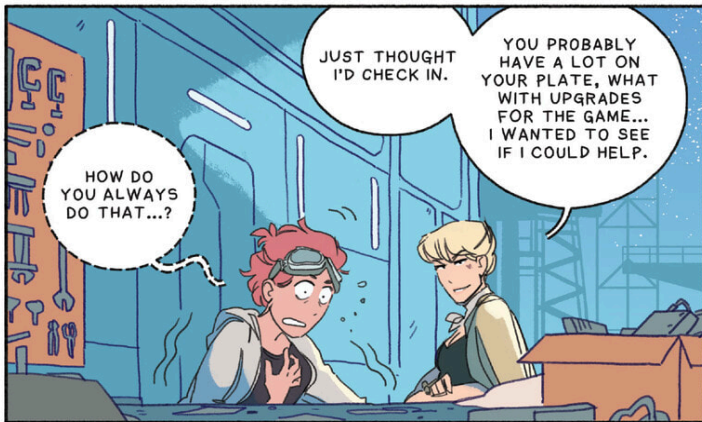


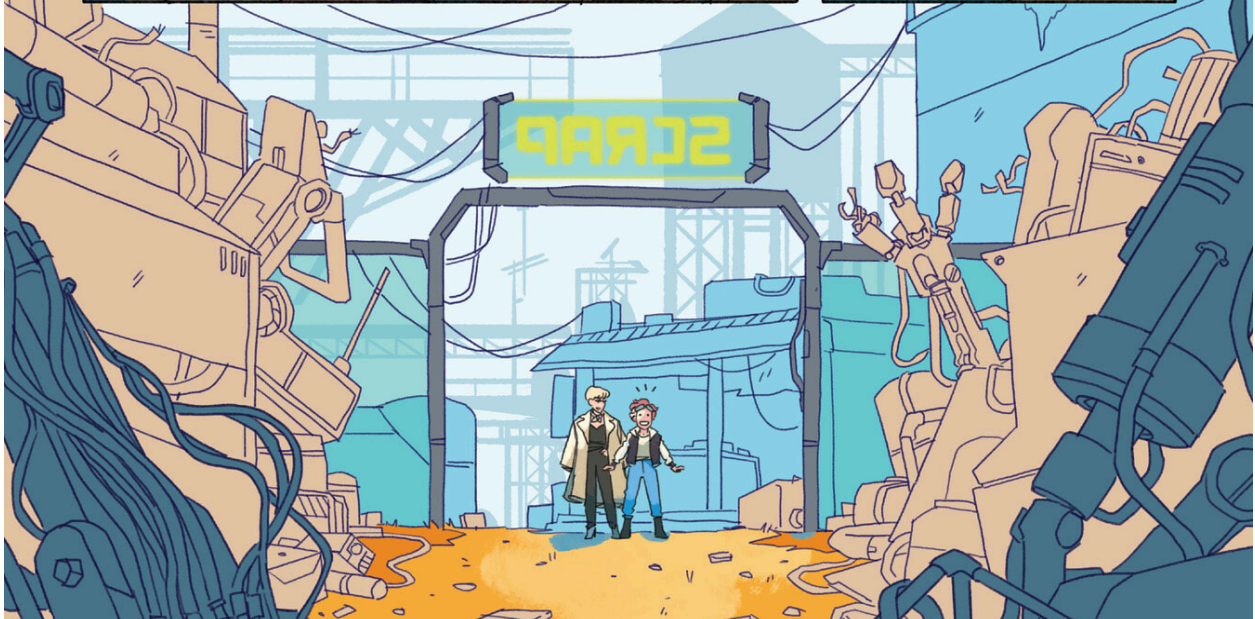
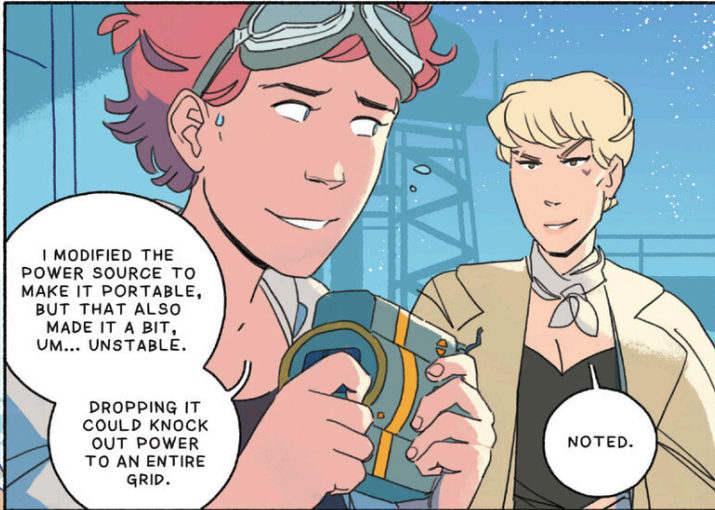
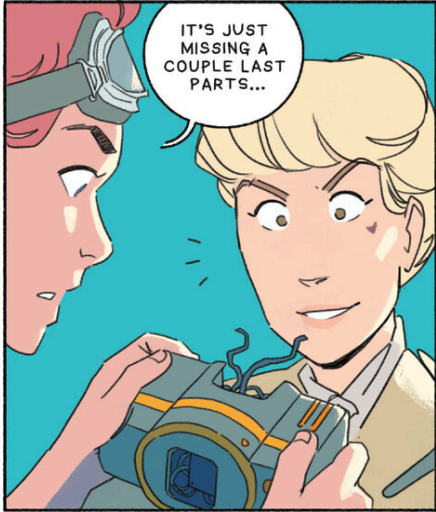


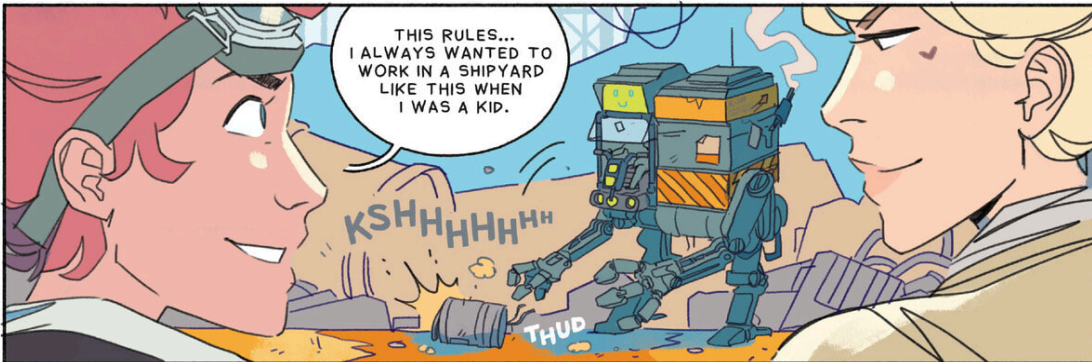
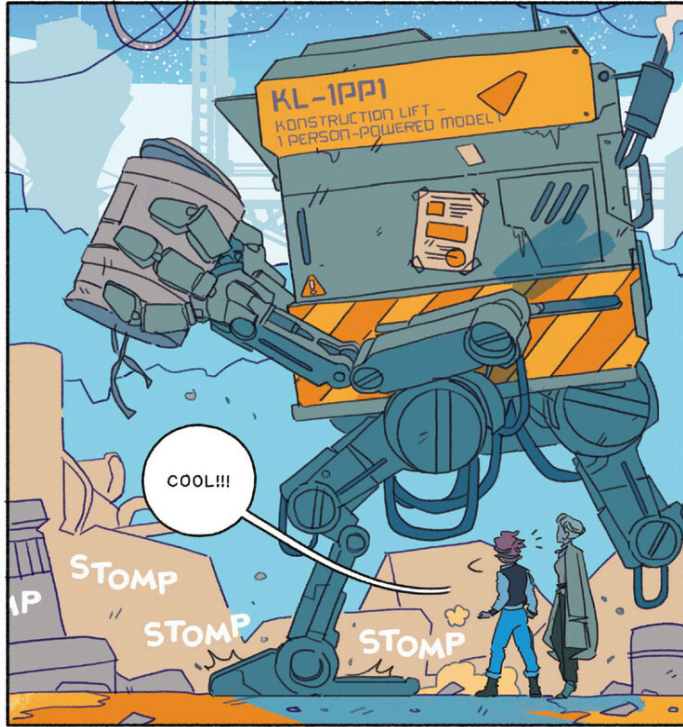
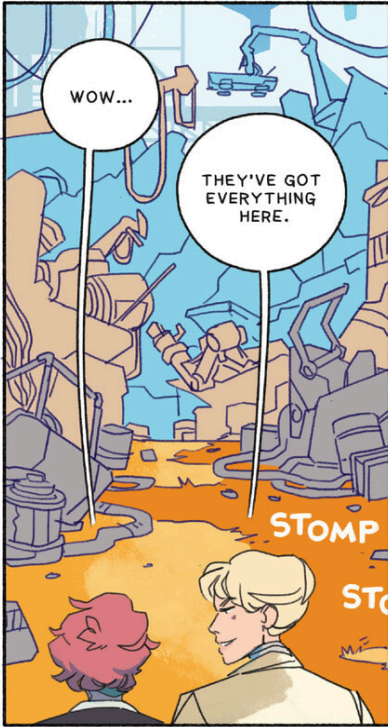




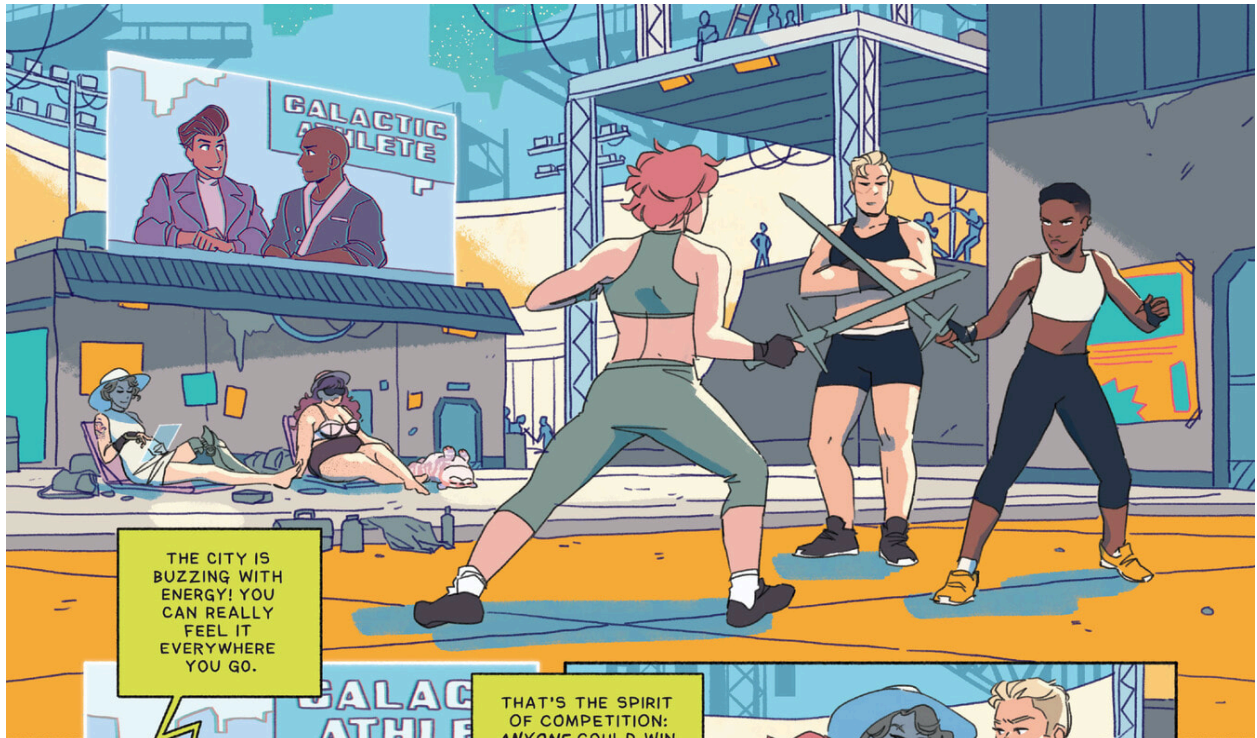








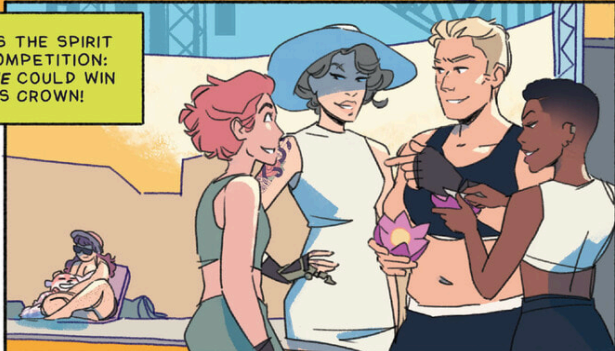




THE CITY IS BUZZING WITH ENERGY! YOU CAN REALLY FEEL IT EVERYWHERE YOU GO.



THAT'S THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION: ANYONE COULD WIN THIS CROWN!



RIGHT YOU ARE— THE GAMES BEGAN AS A TESTAMENT TO HUMAN BRAVERY AND COURAGE...

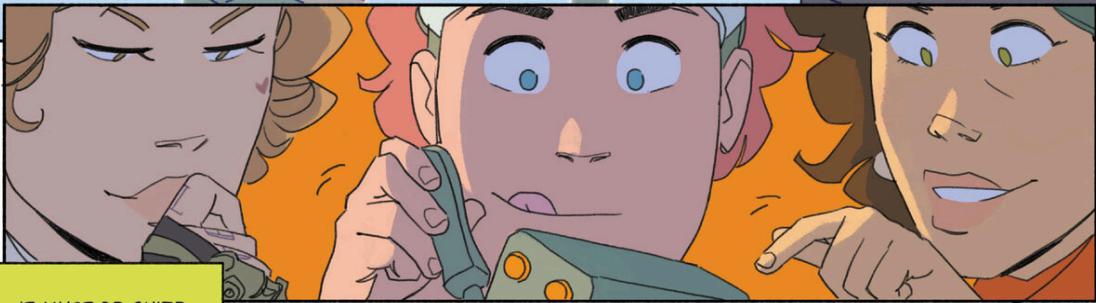
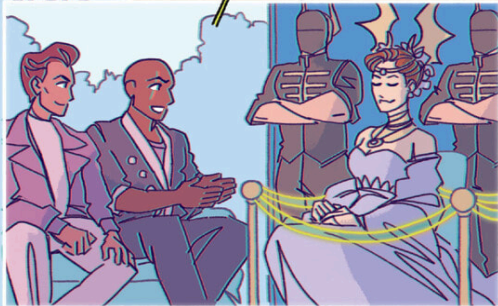


...AND THAT TRADITION LIVES ON TO THIS DAY.





HOW ARE YOU FEELING IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE GAME, PRINCESS?

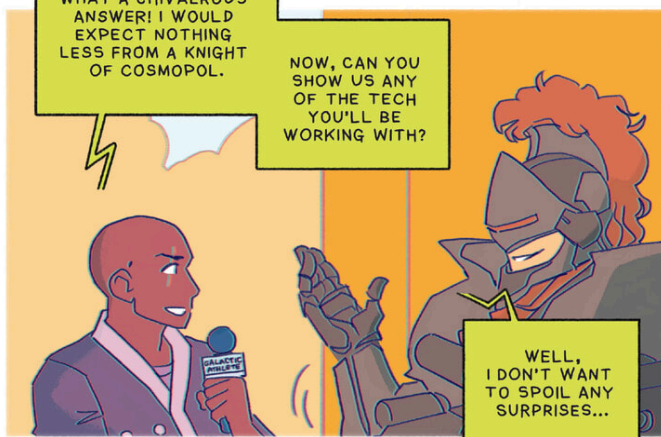


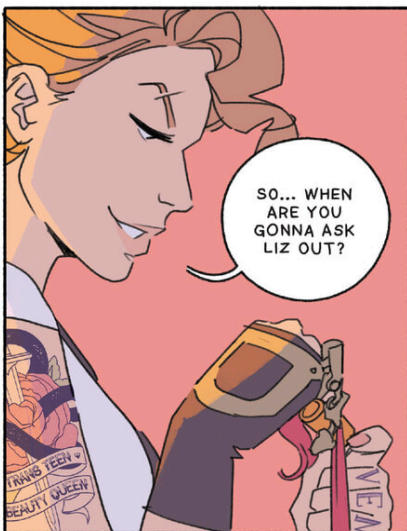
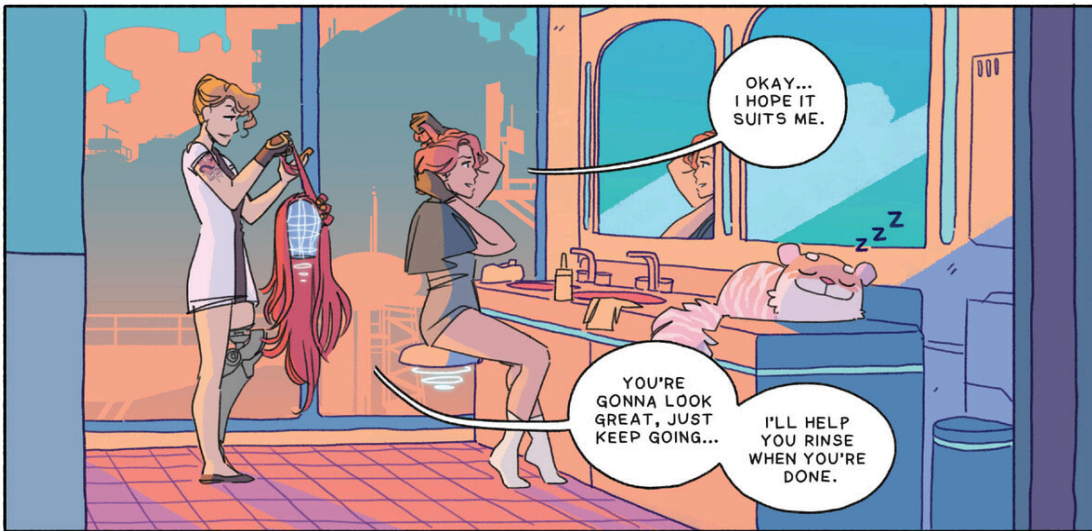
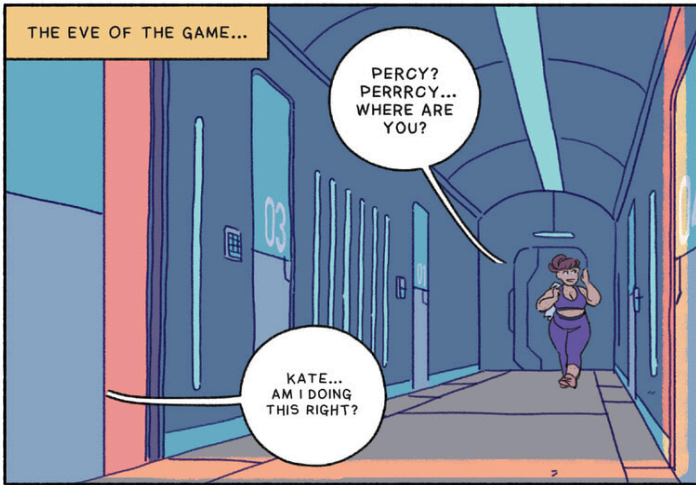
IT MUST BE QUITE SOMETHING KNOWING ALL THIS FUSS IS HAPPENING OVER YOU.



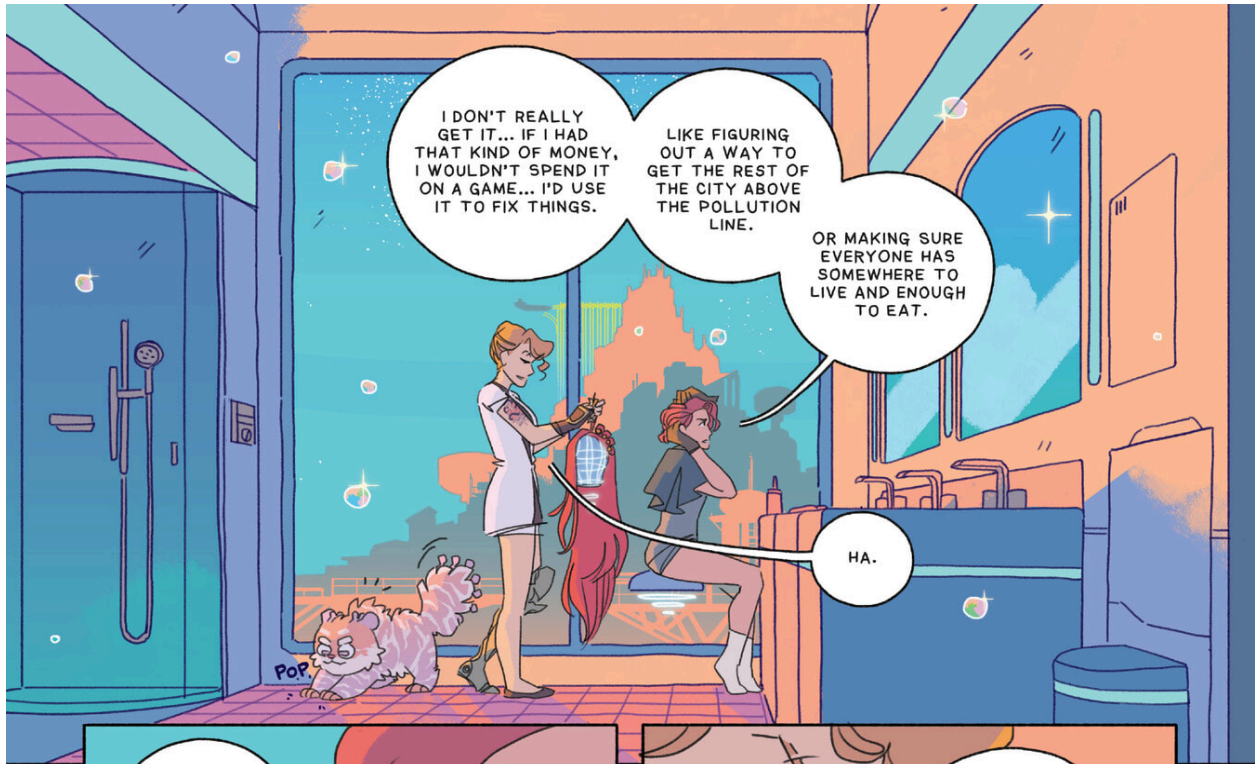
OH, GOLLY, I'M JUST HONORED TO BE A PART OF THIS HISTORICAL EVENT.











I DON'T REALLY GET IT... IF I HAD THAT KIND OF MONEY, I WOULDN'T SPEND IT ON A GAME... I'D USE IT TO FIX THINGS.

LIKE FIGURING OUT A WAY TO GET THE REST OF THE CITY ABOVE THE POLLUTION LINE.

OR MAKING SURE EVERYONE HAS SOMEWHERE TO LIVE AND ENOUGH TO EAT.

HA.

POP



YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'D CHANGE IF YOU COULD?

IT'S A SWEET THOUGHT, BUT ONLY IN THEORY.



YOU WOULDN'T STAY THE SAME PERSON.

YOU ONLY GET THAT KIND OF MONEY BY DISEMPOWERING OTHER PEOPLE.

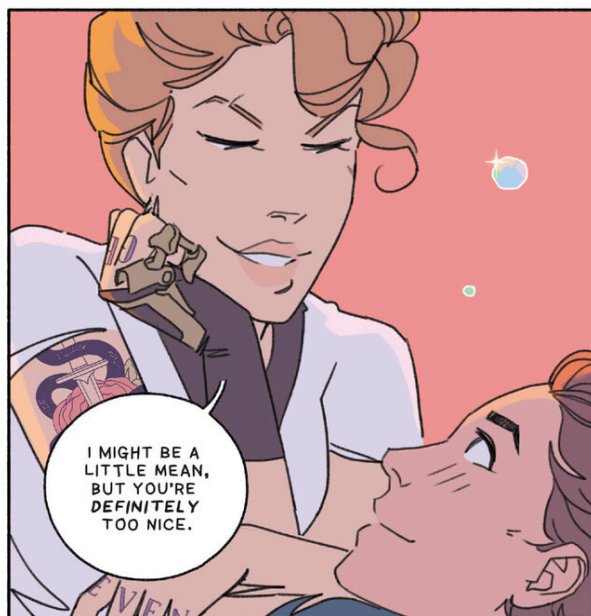
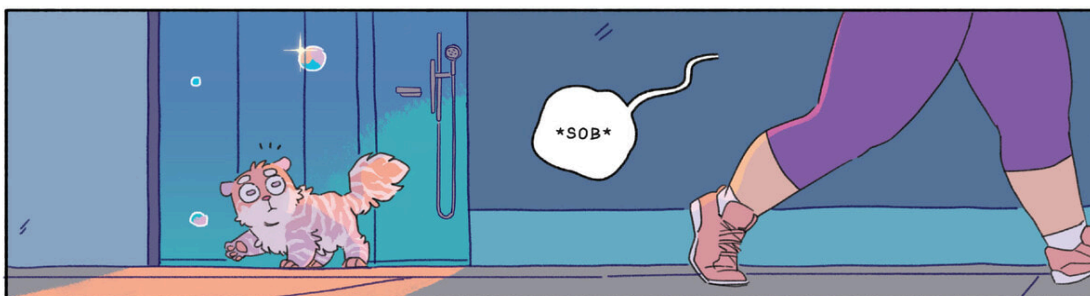


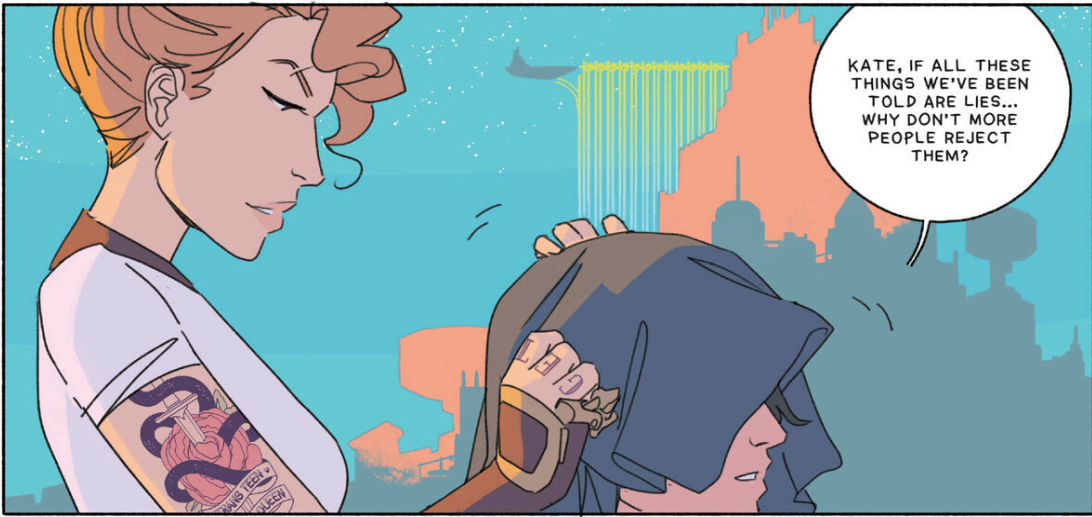
THE NOBILITY THINK THEIR WEALTH IS A RESULT OF DOING SOMETHING RIGHT, OR SOME HIGHER CALLING.

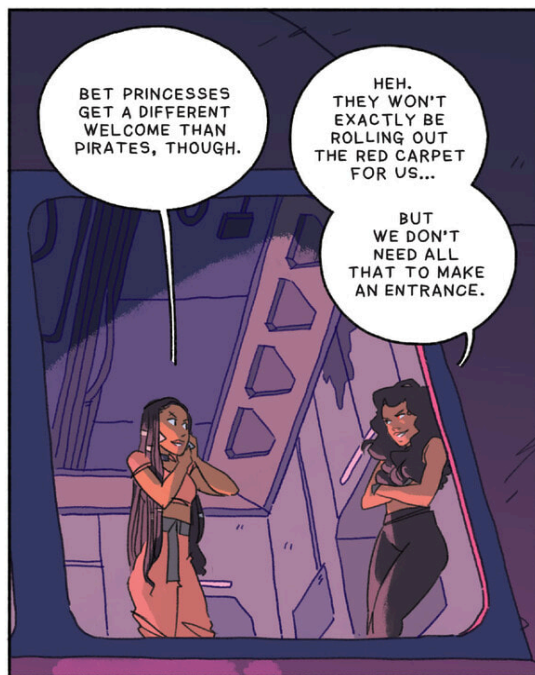
YOU HEARD SCOTTIE... SHE WANTS TO HELP, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS SHE GETS TO STAY ON TOP.



FUNNY HOW EASY IT IS TO ACCEPT YOUR LOT IN LIFE WHEN YOU'RE BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON.









I MISS MY FAMILY, OF COURSE...

BUT AT LEAST OUT HERE, I'M FREE.

MMM.

OR AS CLOSE AS IT GETS, ANYWAY.



TRUE.

I SUPPOSE CASH IS KING NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.



ALL WE CAN DO IS TAKE THE EMPIRE'S TOYS BEFORE THEY BREAK OURS.

AND I KNOW BETTER THAN TO WAIT AROUND TO BE RESCUED. IF WE DON'T LOOK OUT FOR OURSELVES... NO ONE WILL.



THEY DESTROYED MY FAMILY ONCE, CLEO... I WON'T LET THEM DO IT AGAIN.

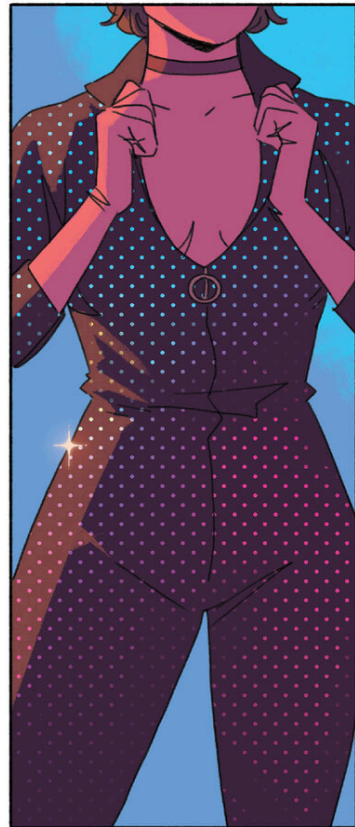
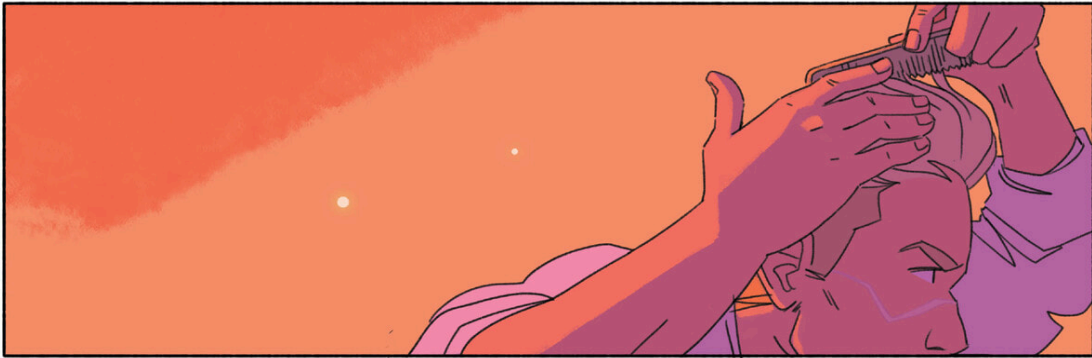


SO LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT WE CAN DO.

KERCLUNK



FULL SPEED AHEAD.





OKAY, NOW YOU ALL KNOW THE DRILL FOR THE PRE-GAME PARTY TONIGHT...



SCOTTIE, YOU'RE SAFER WITH US THAN ALONE ON THE SHIP, BUT KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.

AND EVERYONE ELSE, NO REAL NAMES.



THAT REMINDS ME, PAN— GOT A RING NAME YET?

OH, SHIT! NO... ANY IDEAS?

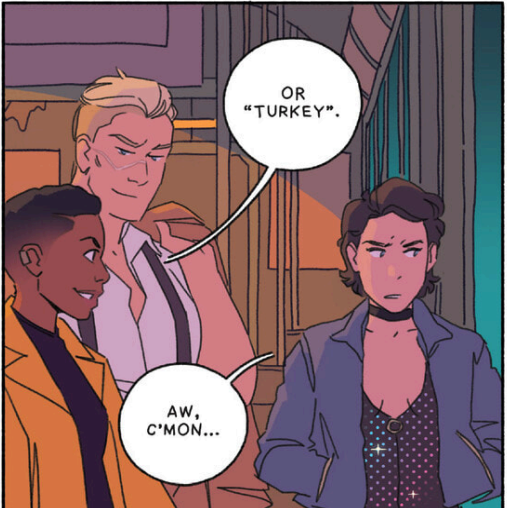


WELL, COSMOKNIGHTS USUALLY BASE THEIR PERSONA ON AN ANIMAL...



HOW 'BOUT "GUPPY"?

WHAT!?



OR "TURKEY".

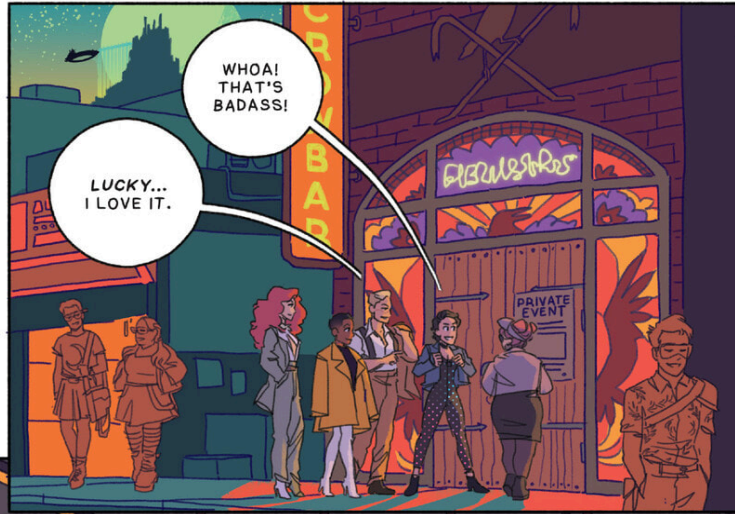
AW, C'MON...

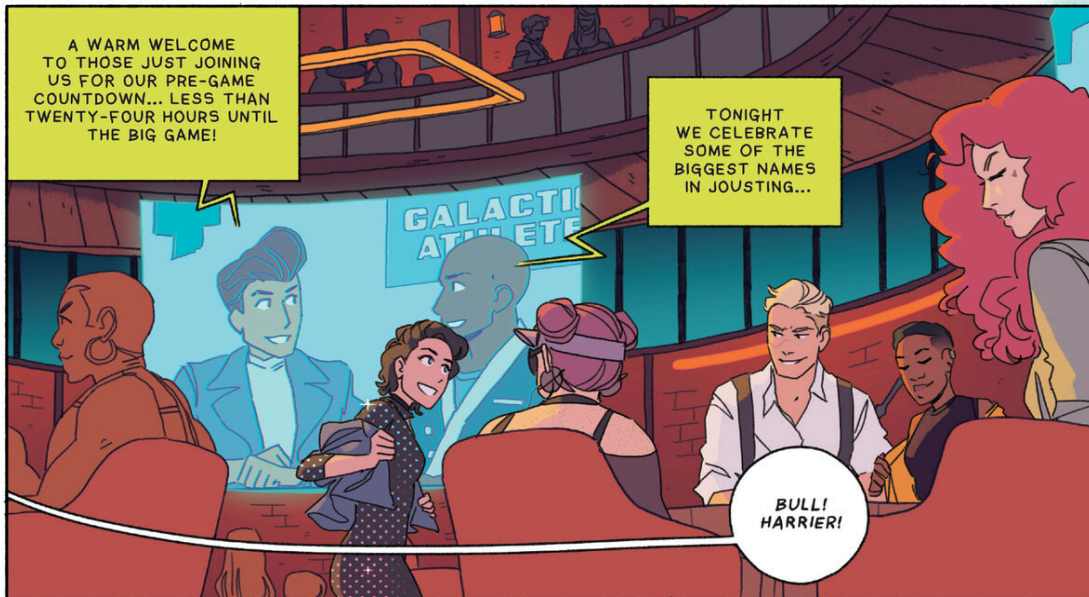


I GOT IT.

"SHRIMPY".

OH, PISS OFF!





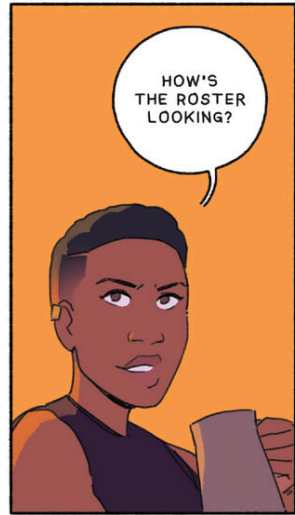


...THIS IS LUCKY. SHE'LL BE PLAYIN' TOMORROW.

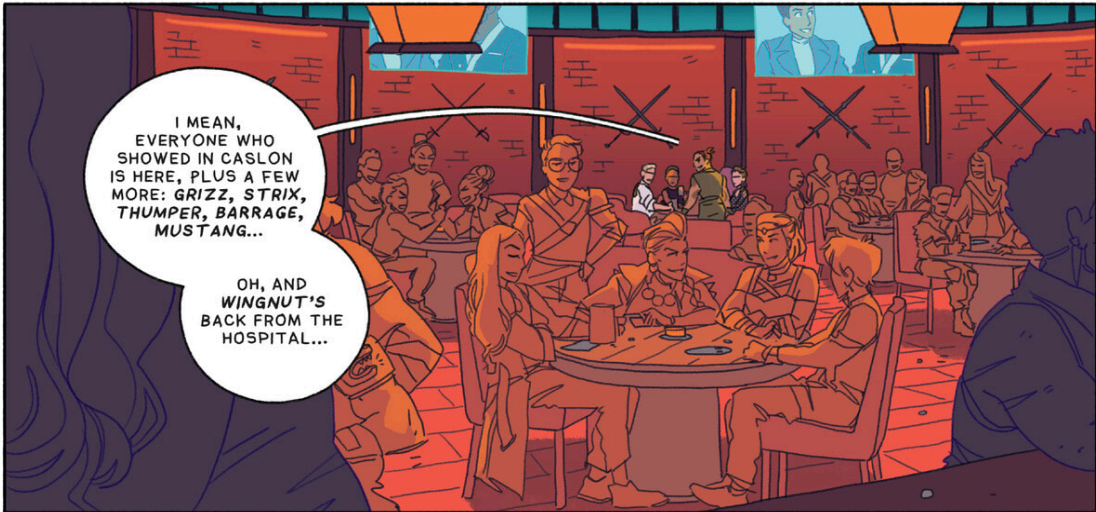


NICE TO MEET YA. ANY FRIEND OF THE BULL'S IS A FRIEND OF MINE.

N-... NICE TO MEET YOU TOO!



HOW'S THE ROSTER LOOKING?



I MEAN, EVERYONE WHO SHOWED IN CASLON IS HERE, PLUS A FEW MORE: GRIZZ, STRIX, THUMPER, BARRAGE, MUSTANG...

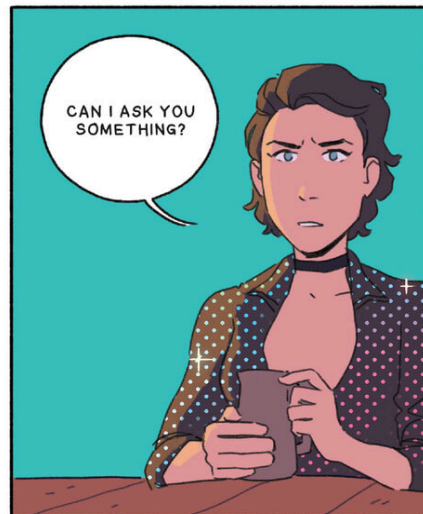
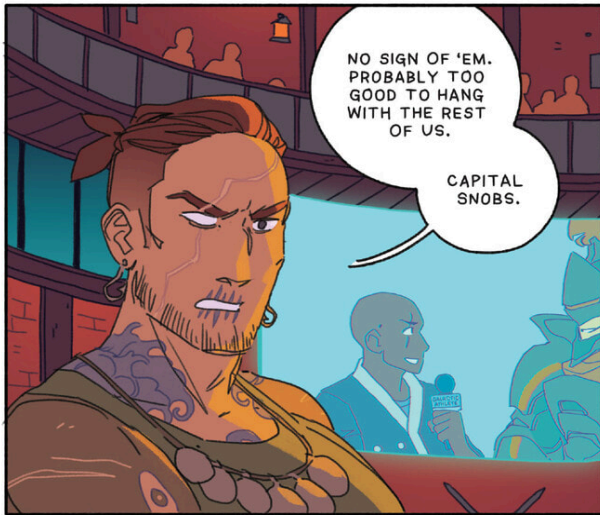
OH, AND WINGNUT'S BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL...



...HE SAYS HE'S HEALED, BUT I'D PULL MY PUNCHES WITH HIM.

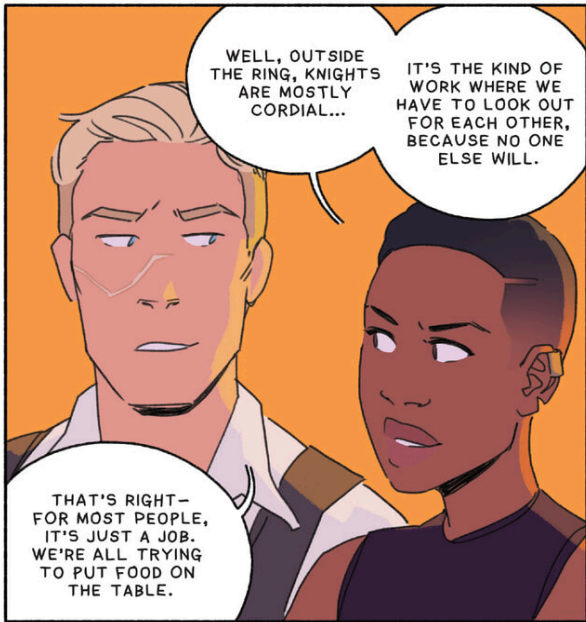


WHAT ABOUT THOSE FANCY COSMOPOL KNIGHTS? THEY HERE?





WHY ARE WE BEING FRIENDLY IF WE'RE GONNA TEAR EACH OTHER APART TOMORROW?



WELL, OUTSIDE THE RING, KNIGHTS ARE MOSTLY CORDIAL...

IT'S THE KIND OF WORK WHERE WE HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL.

THAT'S RIGHT—FOR MOST PEOPLE, IT'S JUST A JOB. WE'RE ALL TRYING TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.



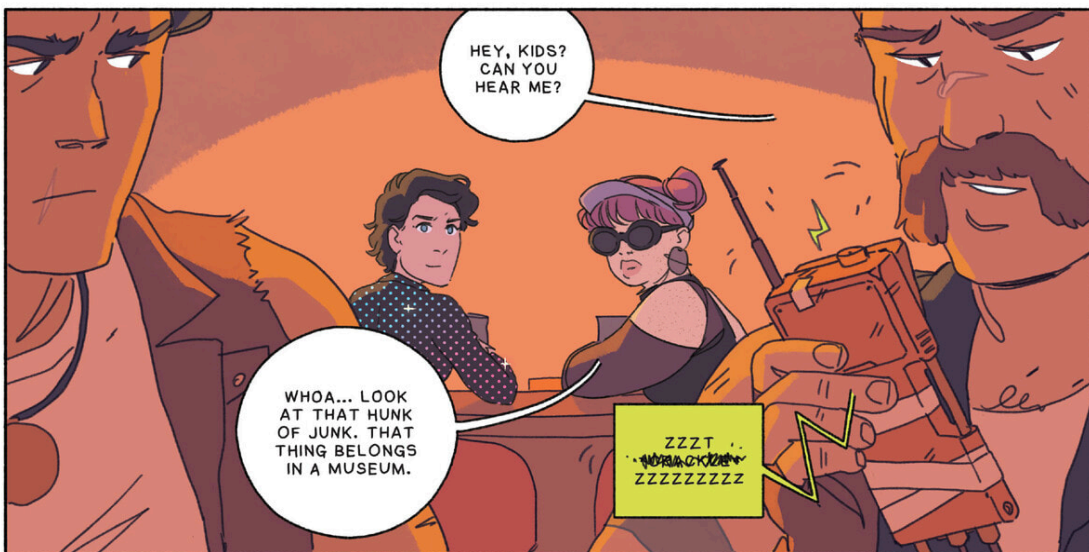
AND, I GOTTA SAY, IT'S ALSO ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES I GET TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS A BUTCH.

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT THE GAMES AT LARGE, BUT COSMOKNIGHTS KNOW RESPECT...

HELLO?

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

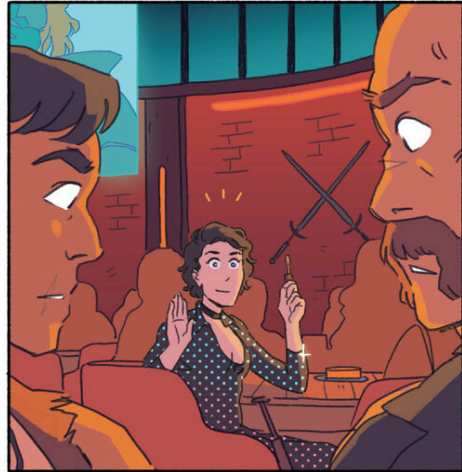
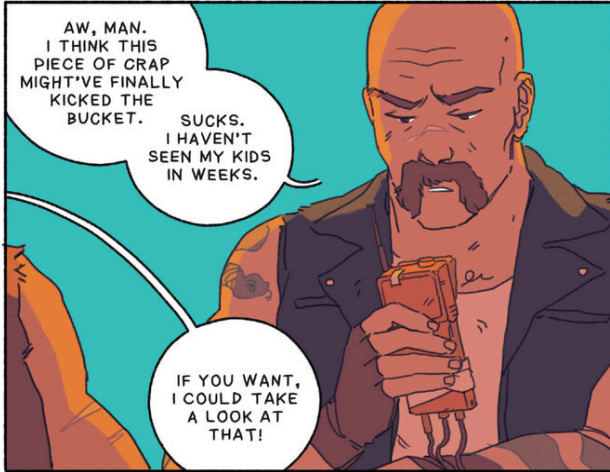
HELLO?



HEY, KIDS? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

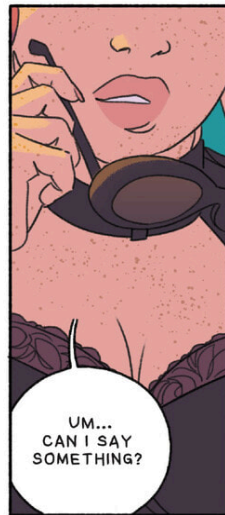
WHOA... LOOK AT THAT HUNK OF JUNK. THAT THING BELONGS IN A MUSEUM.

ZZZT
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
ZZZZZZZZ





WAY TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION, KID.



UM... CAN I SAY SOMETHING?



I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.

I MEAN, FOR CALLIN' THE WARDENS, WHEN YOU FIRST PICKED ME UP.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

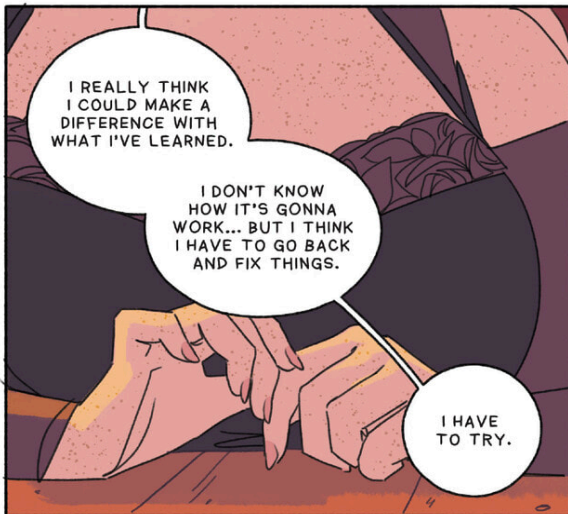


THINGS ARE DIFFERENT OUT HERE THAN I THOUGHT.

I SET ASIDE SO MUCH OF WHO I AM TO BE A PRINCESS, BUT... MAYBE THAT'S NOT ALL I HAVE TO BE.



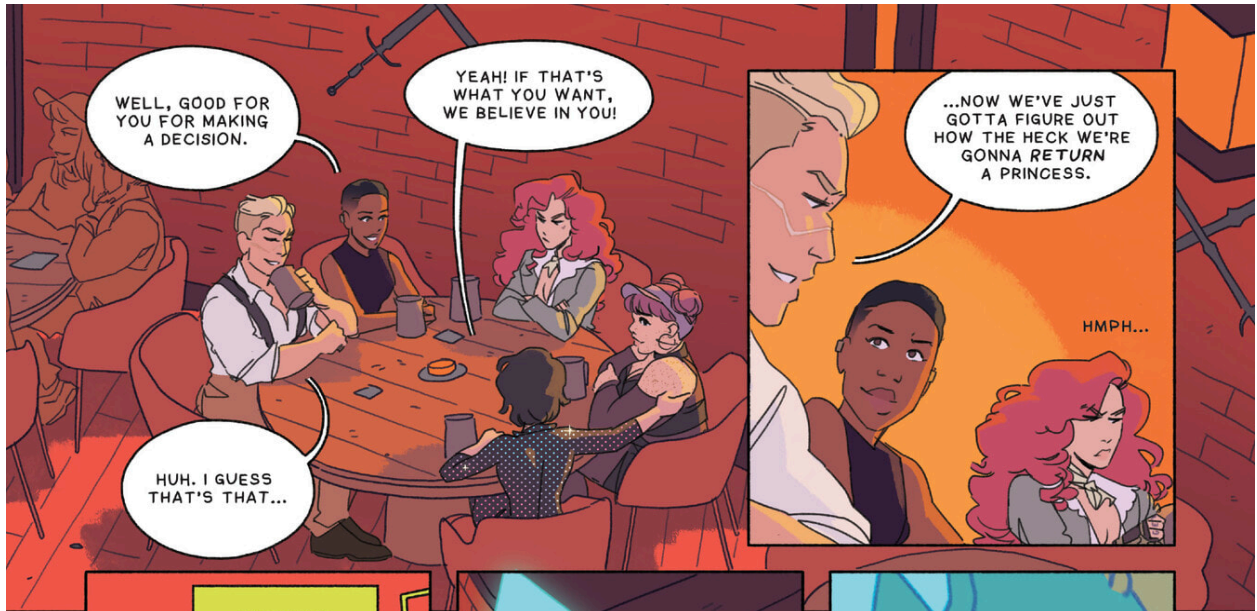
WHEN I TAKE OFF MY CROWN, I'M MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE.



I REALLY THINK I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH WHAT I'VE LEARNED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S GONNA WORK... BUT I THINK I HAVE TO GO BACK AND FIX THINGS.

I HAVE TO TRY.



WELL, GOOD FOR YOU FOR MAKING A DECISION.

YEAH! IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, WE BELIEVE IN YOU!

HUH. I GUESS THAT'S THAT...



...NOW WE'VE JUST GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW THE HECK WE'RE GONNA RETURN A PRINCESS.

HMPH...



THE CITY'S DONE A REALLY GREAT JOB OF PROMOTING THIS GAME.



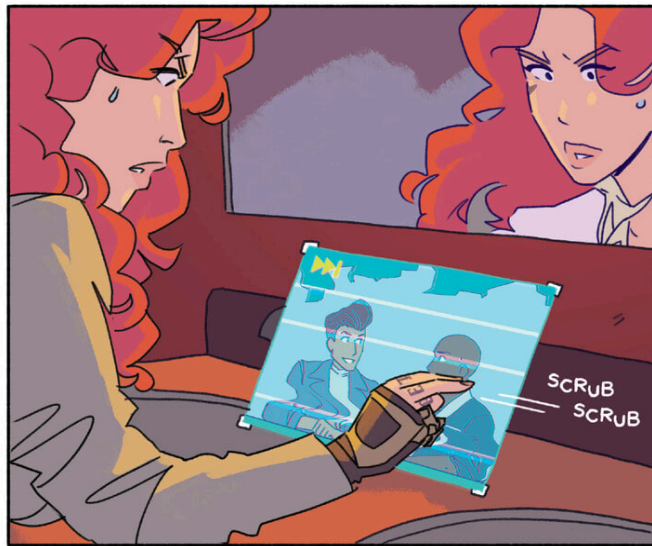
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A FAIR FIGHT TOMORROW!

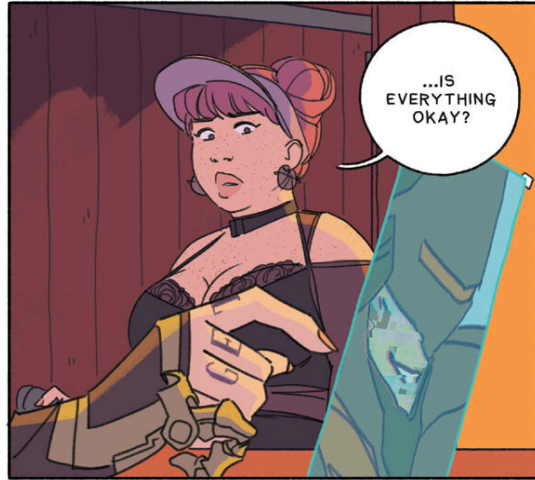


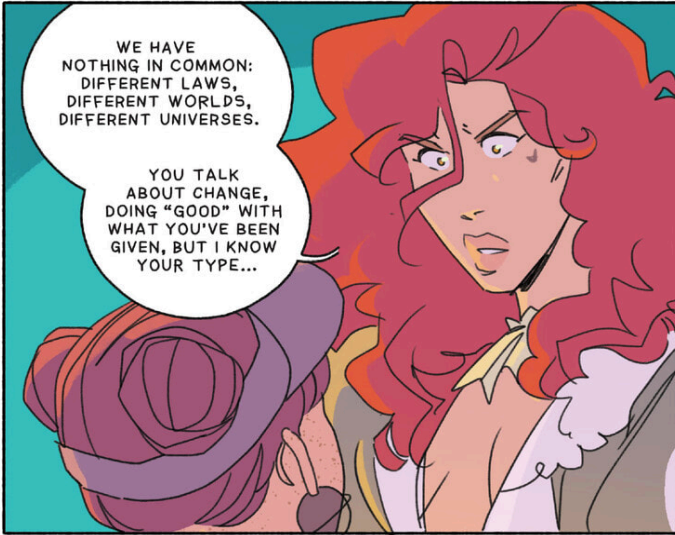
MAY THE BEST MAN WIN.

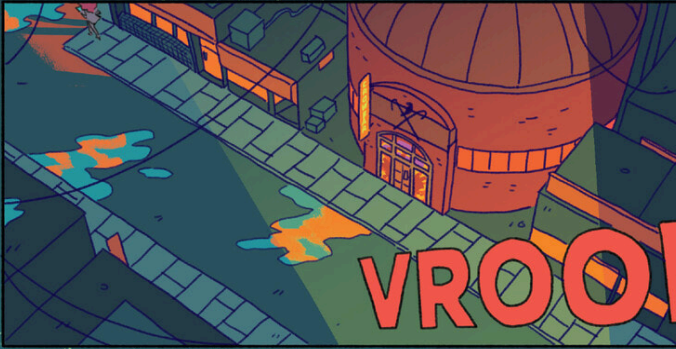


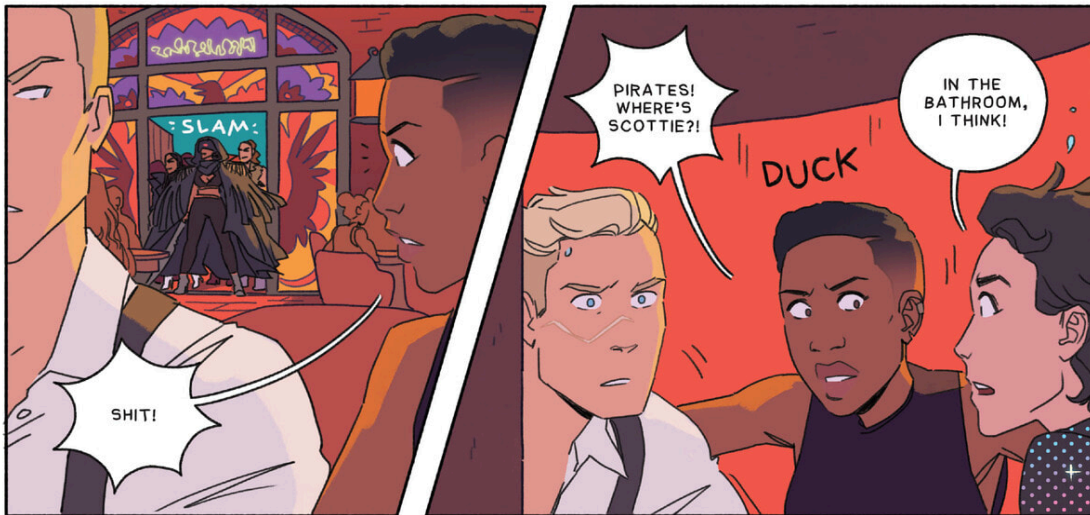
WAIT—WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?

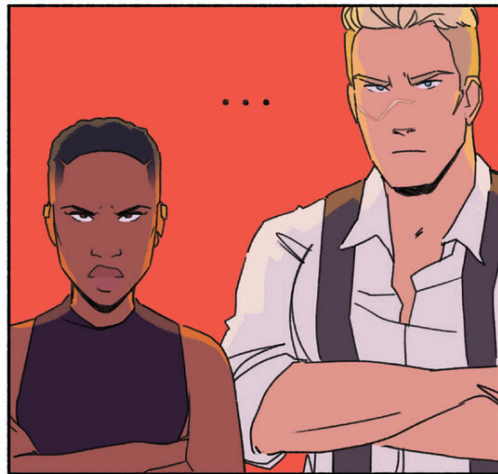
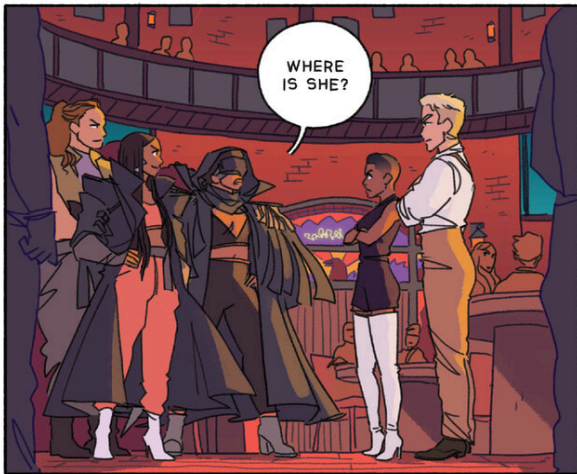


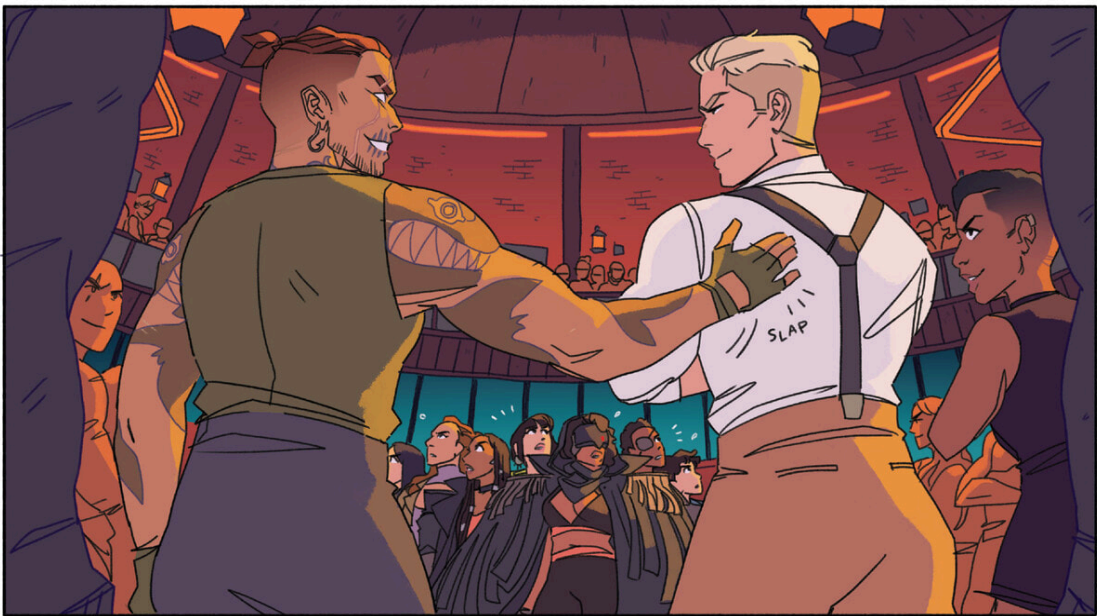
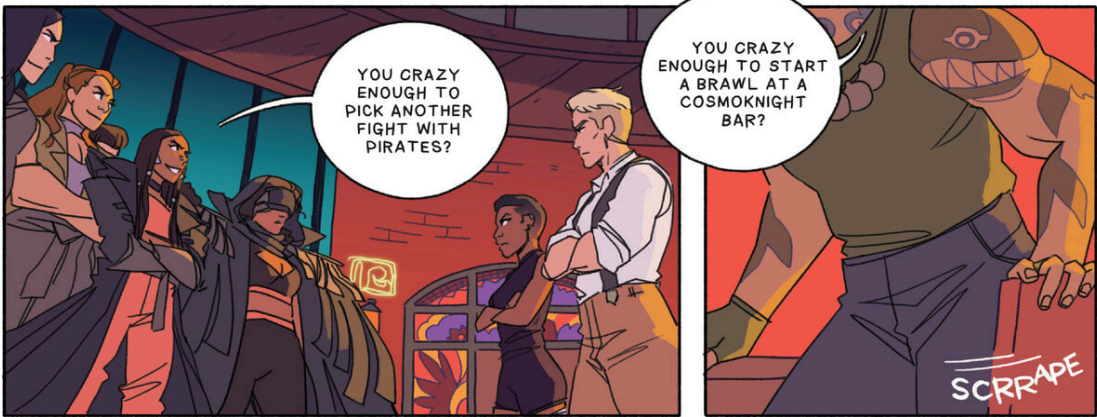




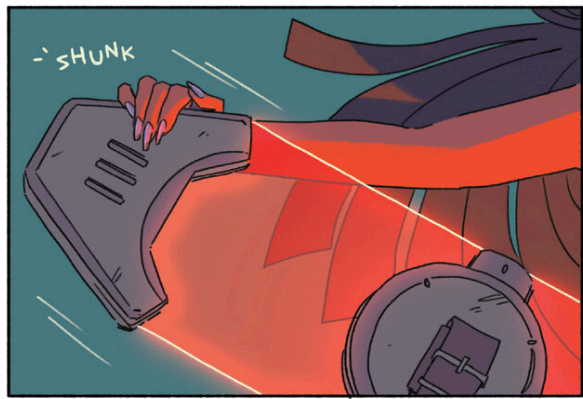
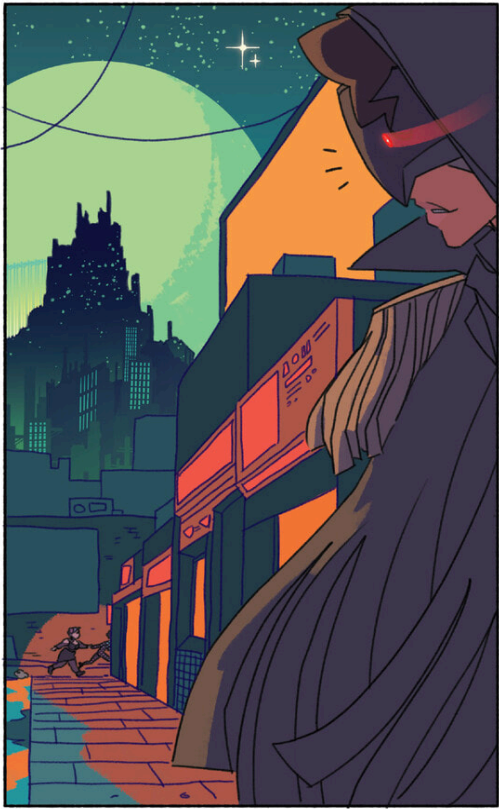


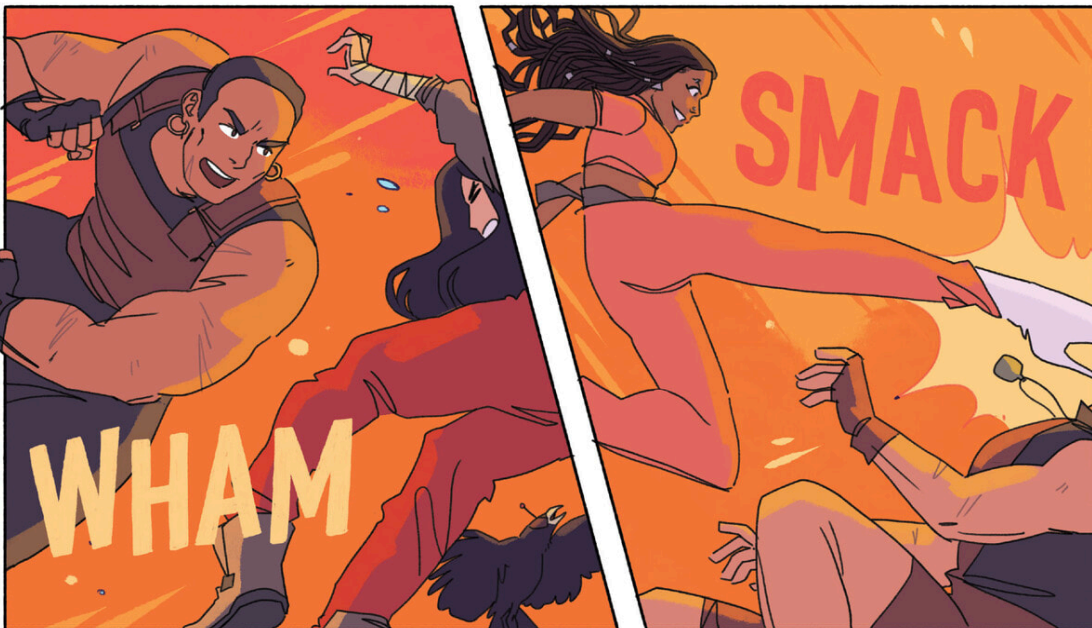


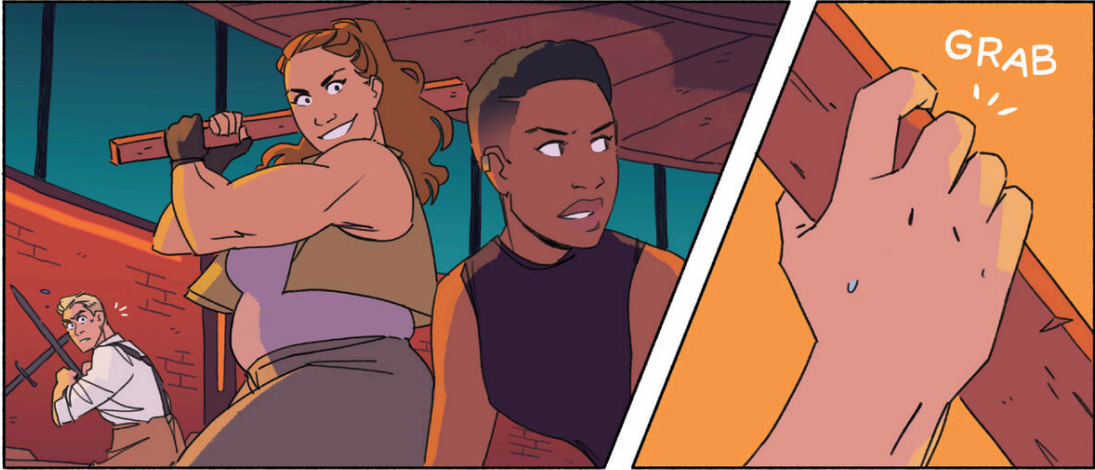


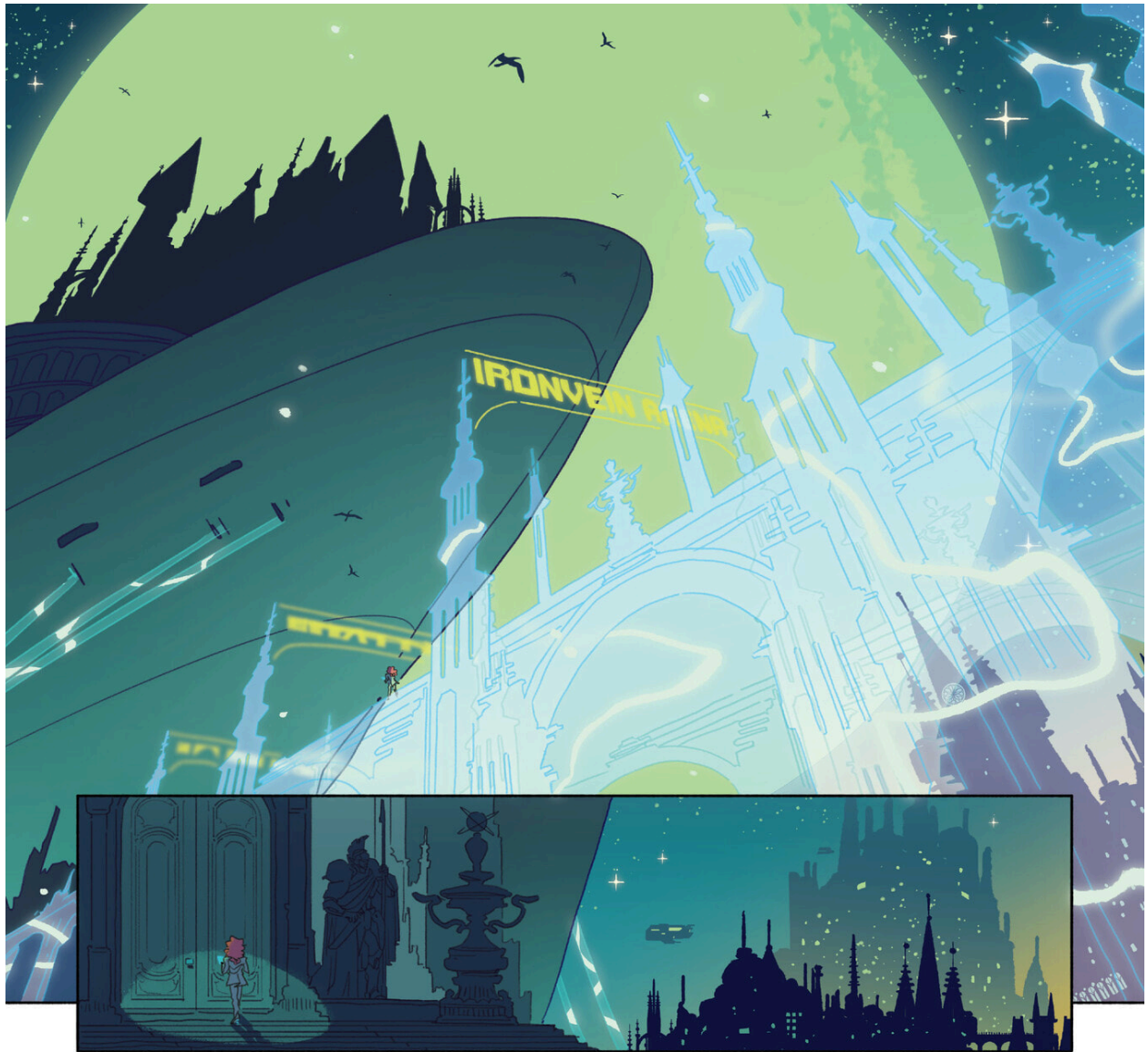


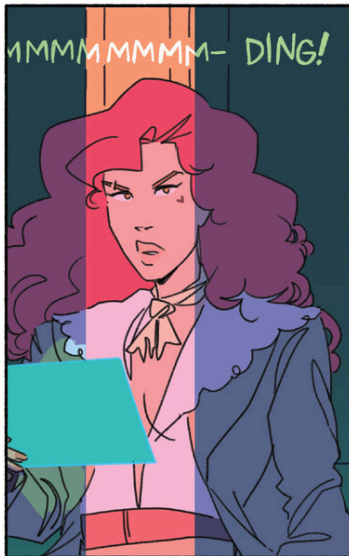
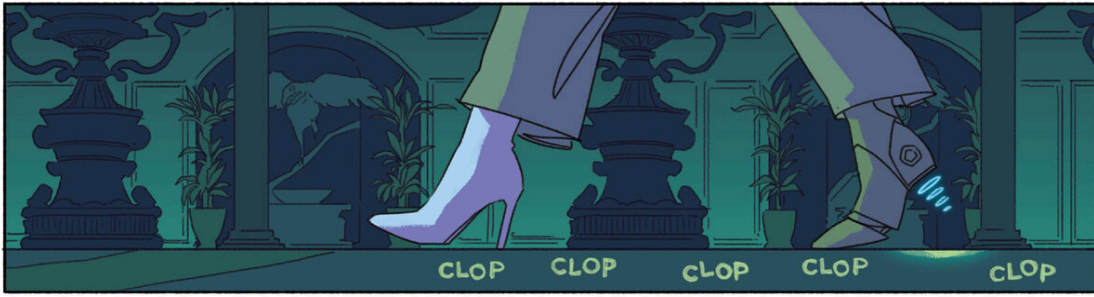




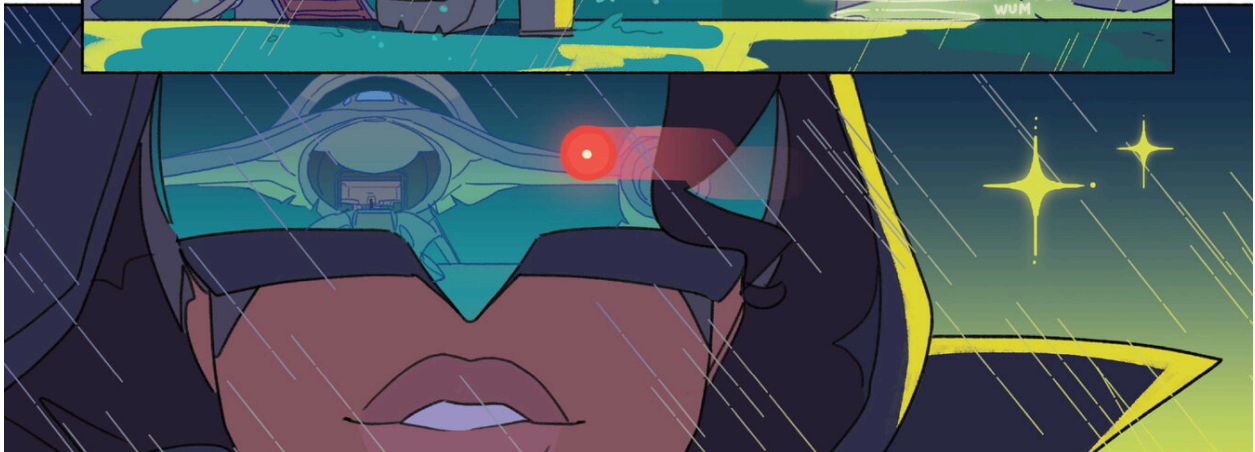
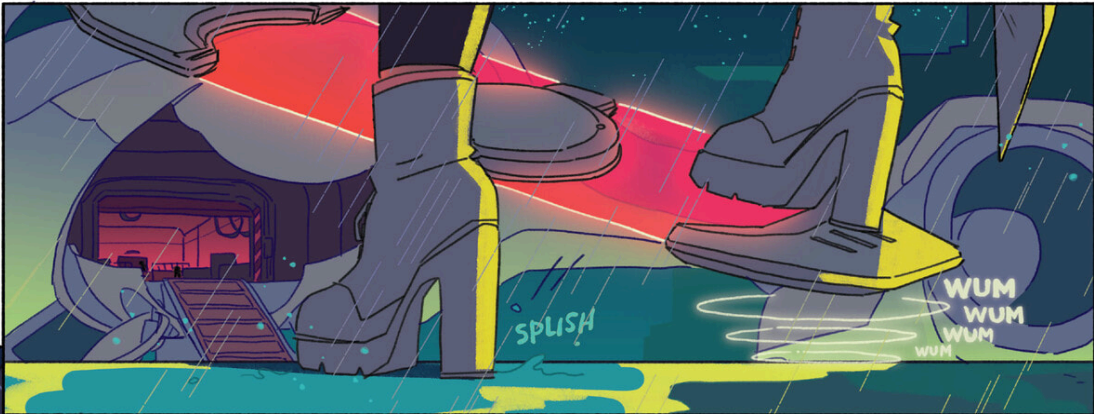
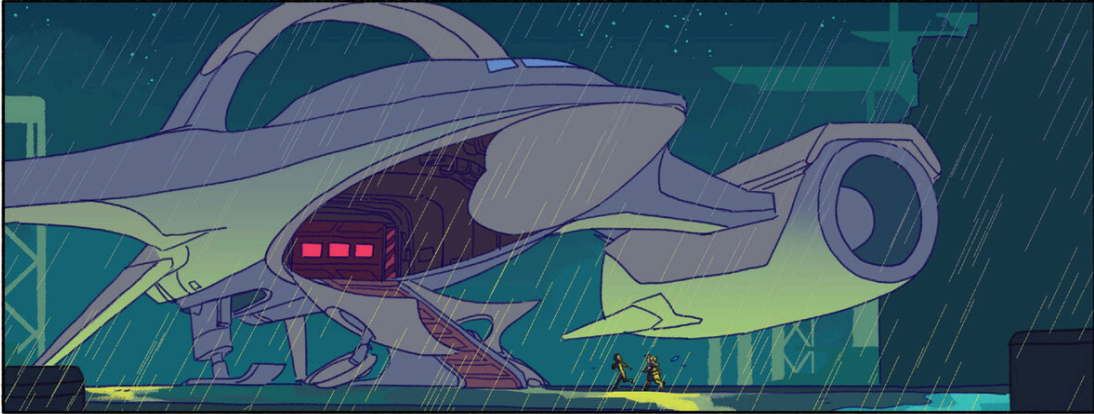


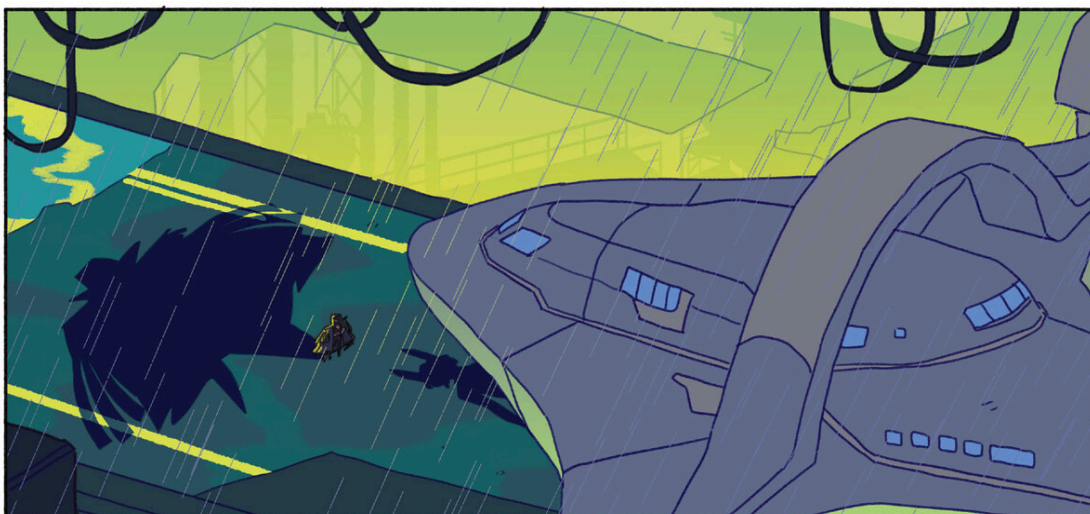






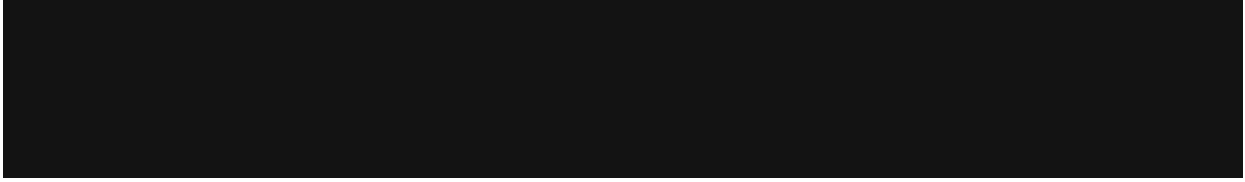


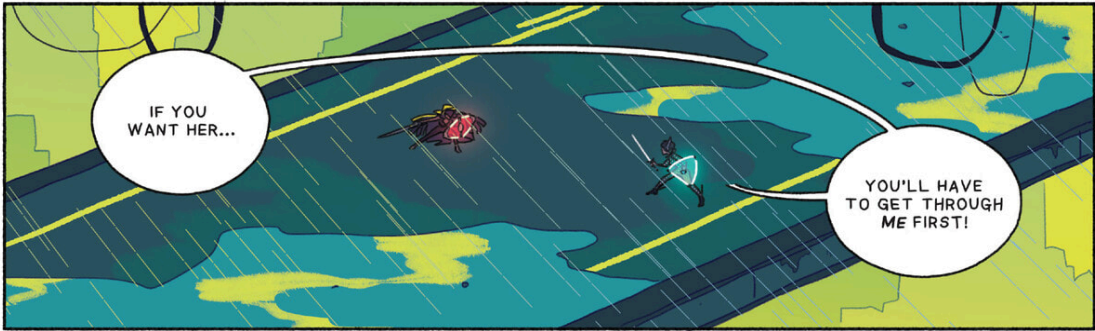




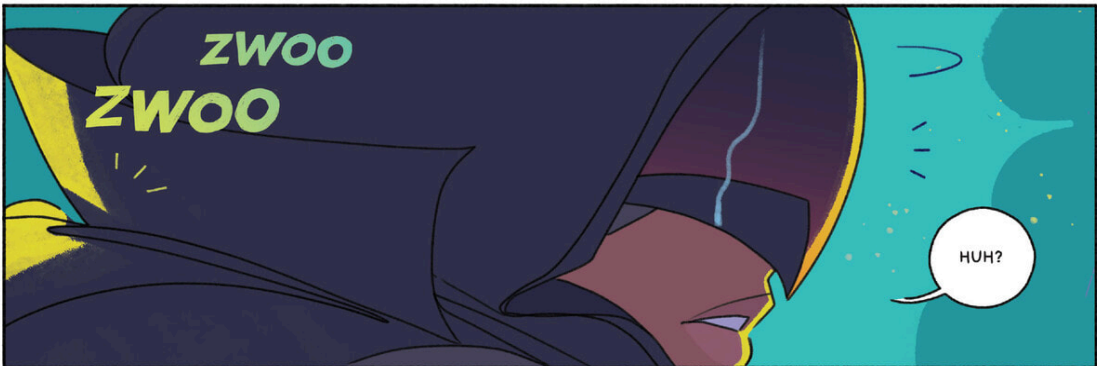








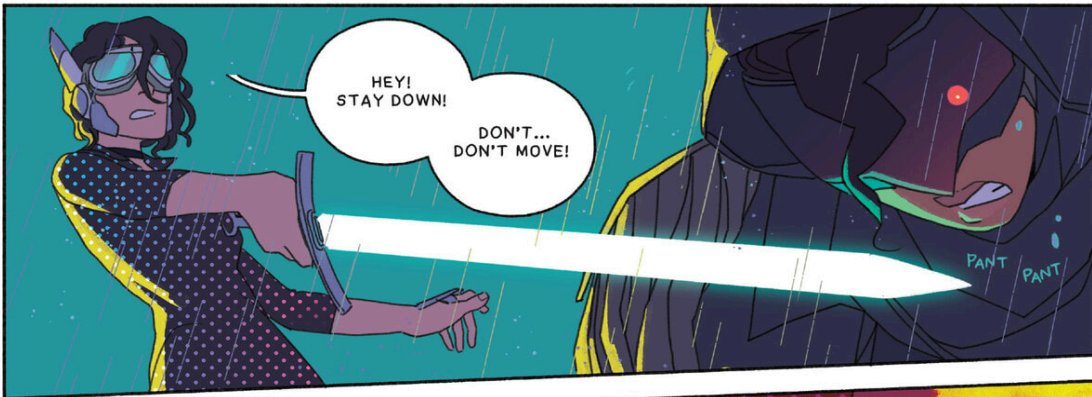


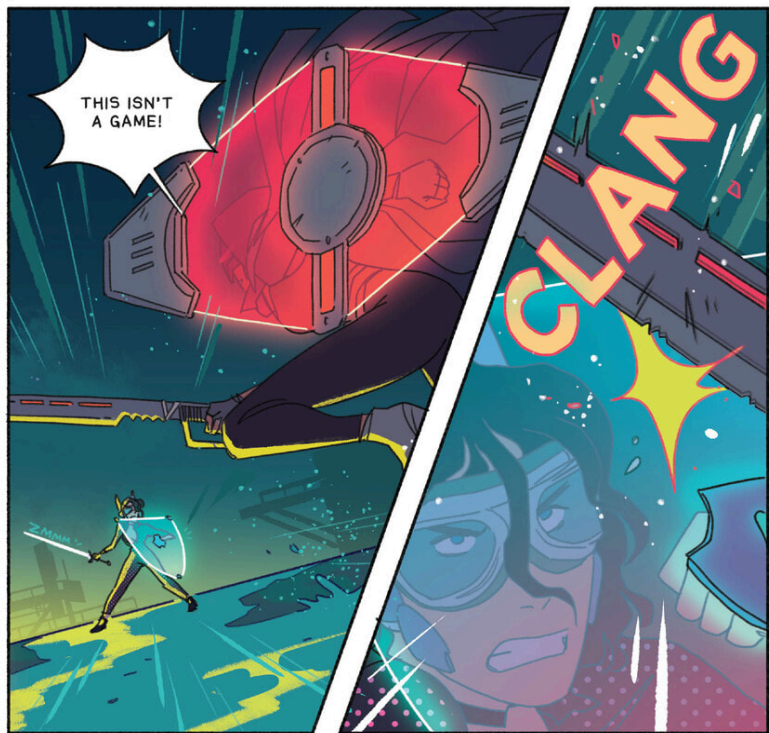




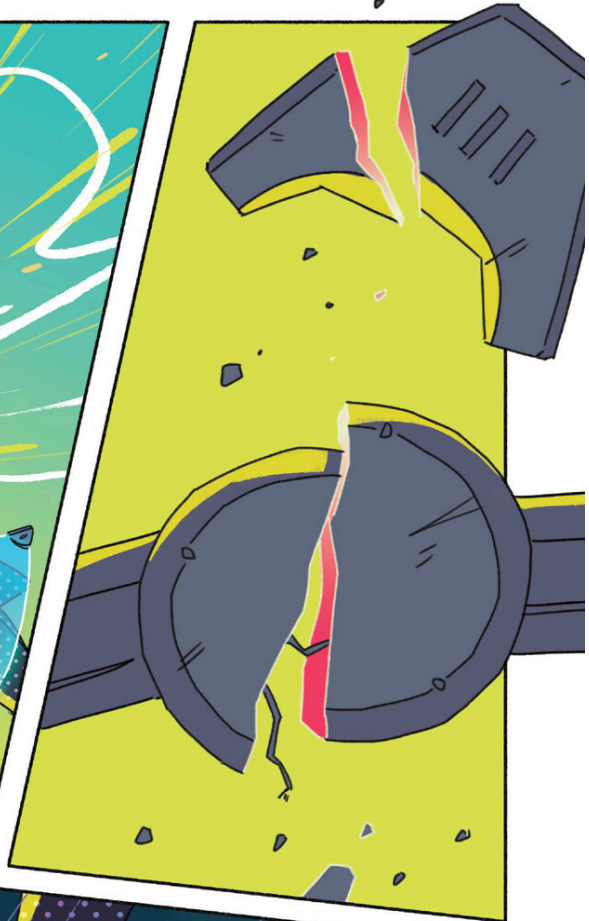
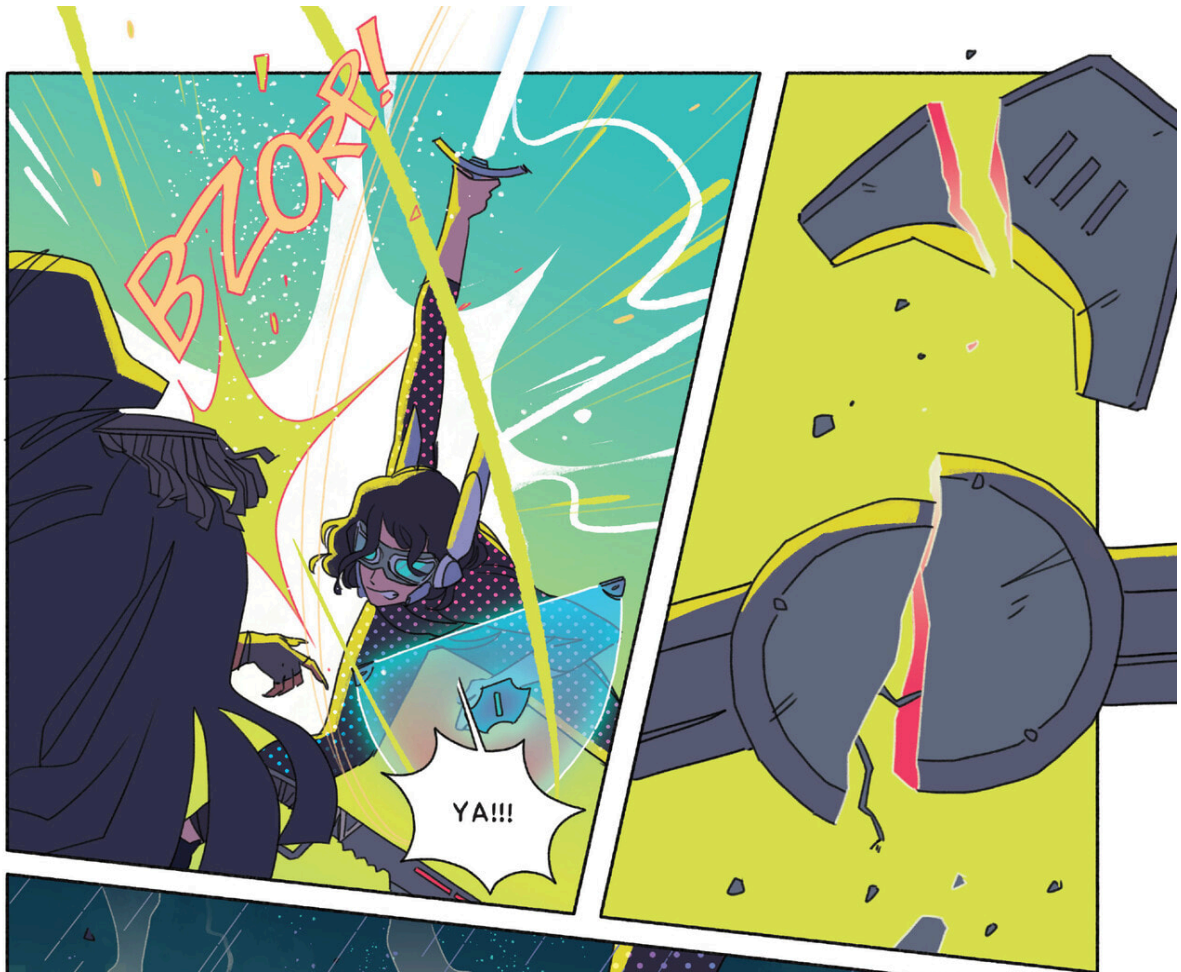














I'VE TRAINED FOR THIS.

I WON'T FAIL HER.



HA... YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THE CAPITAL'S PUPPETS!



AS LONG AS YOU PLAY ALONG-



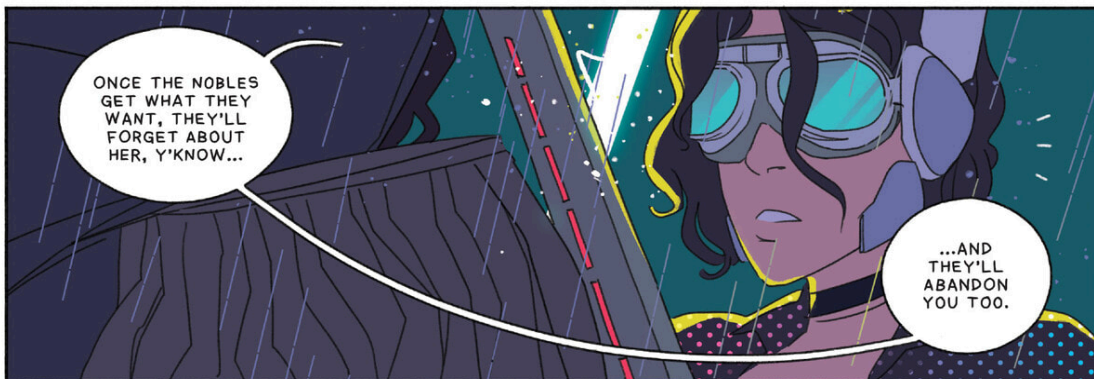
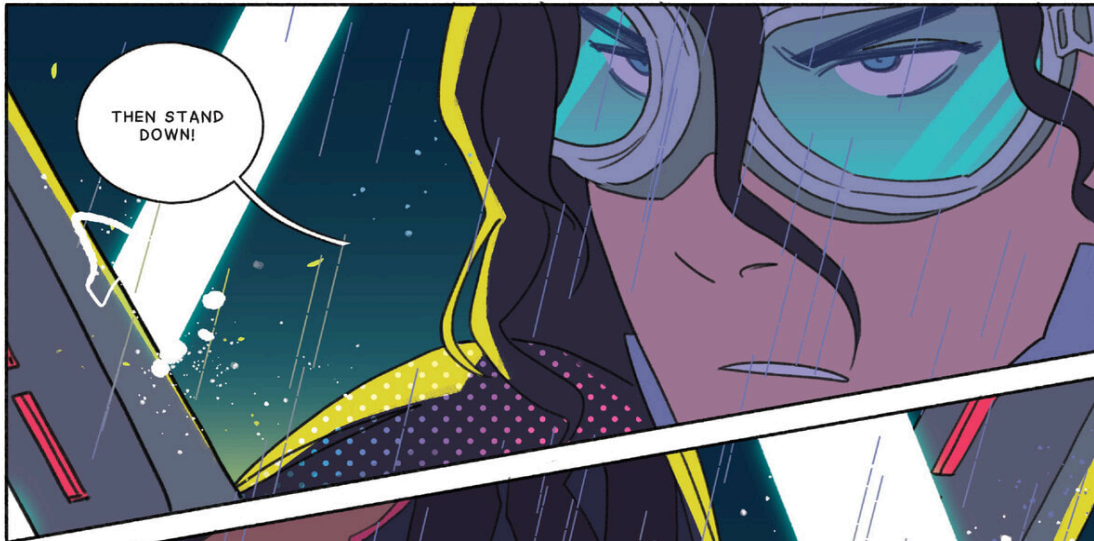
CLANG

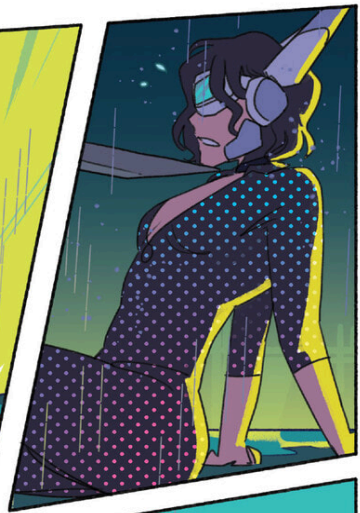
YOU'RE TOYS TO THEM!

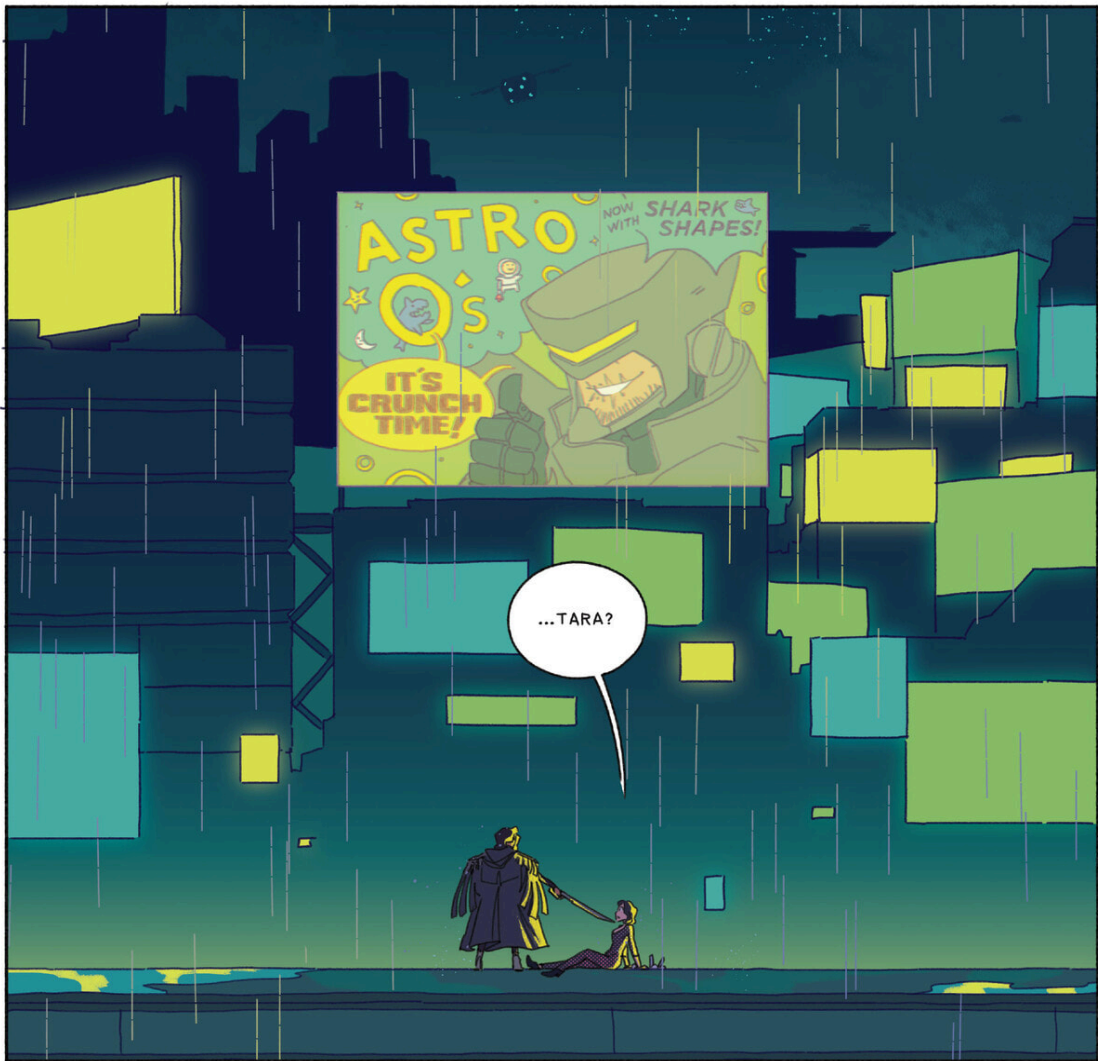


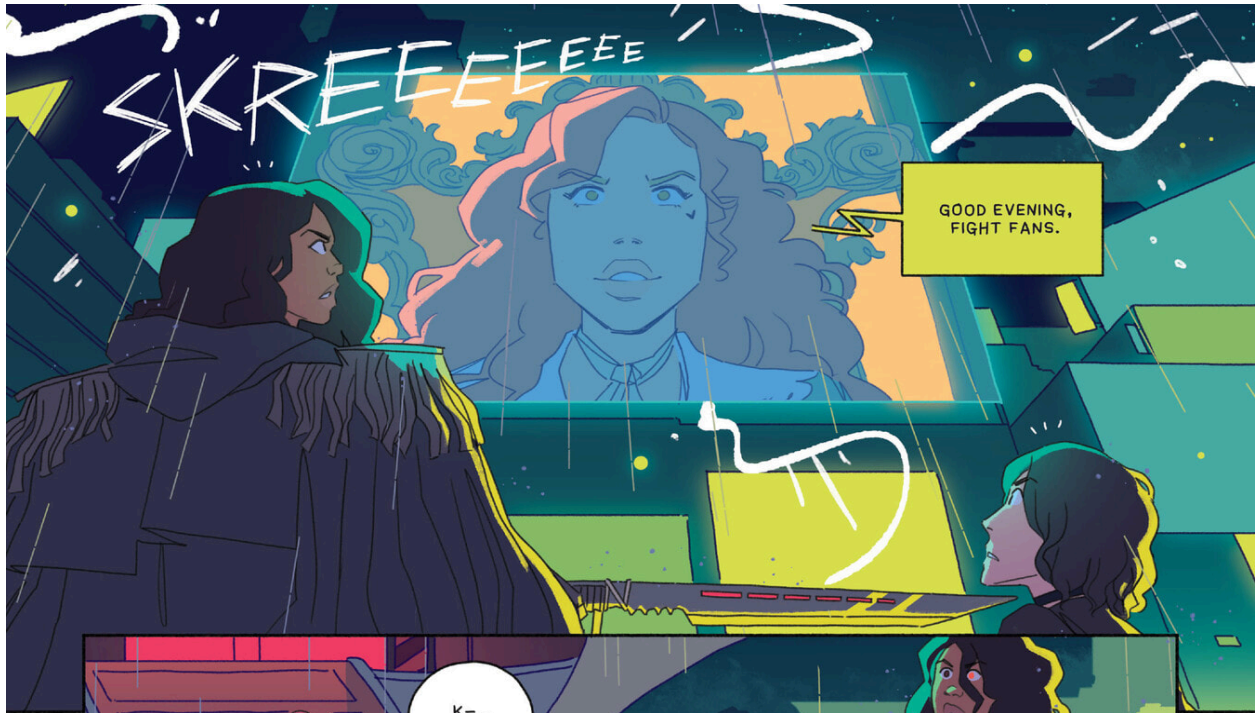
HELL, THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT-

-TO WATCH US DESTROY EACH OTHER!









GOOD EVENING,
FIGHT FANS.



K-...
KATE?!



WHAT THE
HELL?

IS SHE... AT
THE ARENA?!



SORRY TO
INTERRUPT YOUR
REGULARLY SCHEDULED
PROGRAMMING, BUT WE'VE
GOT ONE MORE INTERVIEW
YOU'RE NOT GONNA WANT
TO MISS.



I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE AT AN EXCLUSIVE PARTY TONIGHT WITH SOME OF THE KNIGHTS FROM COSMOPOL.

KNOCK
KNOCK

HEY! DON'T BE SHY... YOU'RE ON TV!

CREAK

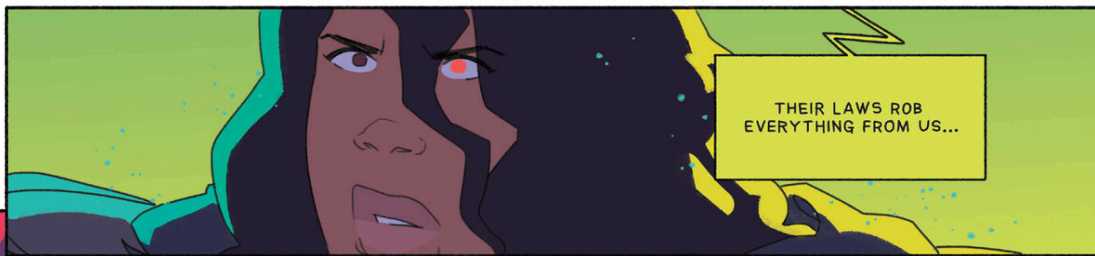
THE GUESTS ARE A LITTLE LIFELESS, THOUGH.

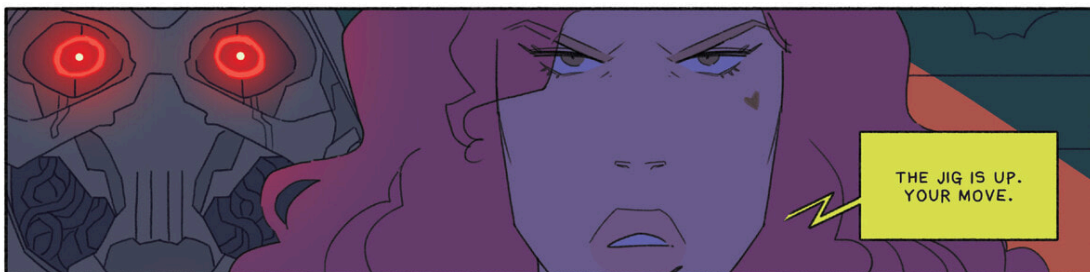
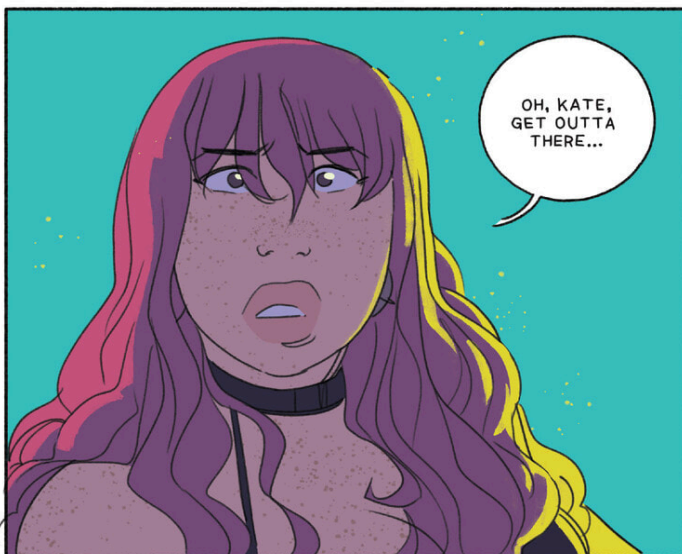
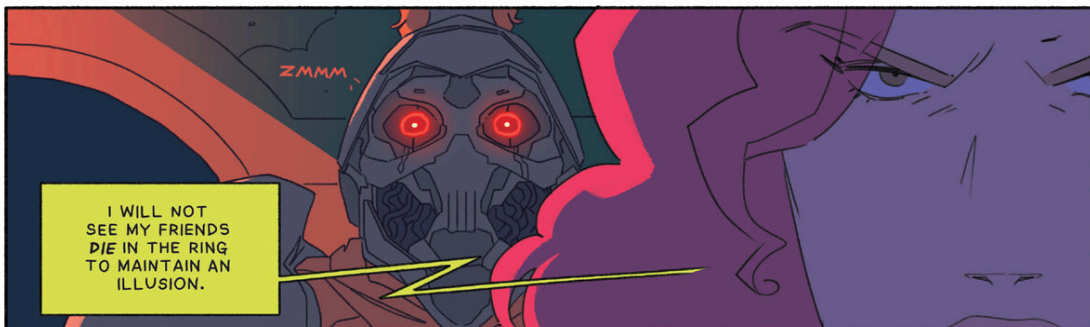
COSMOPOL ROBOTICS MUST BE... TRYING SOMETHING NEW.

HOLY SHIT... THEY'RE GONNA USE BOTS?!

THAT ARENA'S A DEATHTRAP...

NONE OF US STAND A CHANCE...



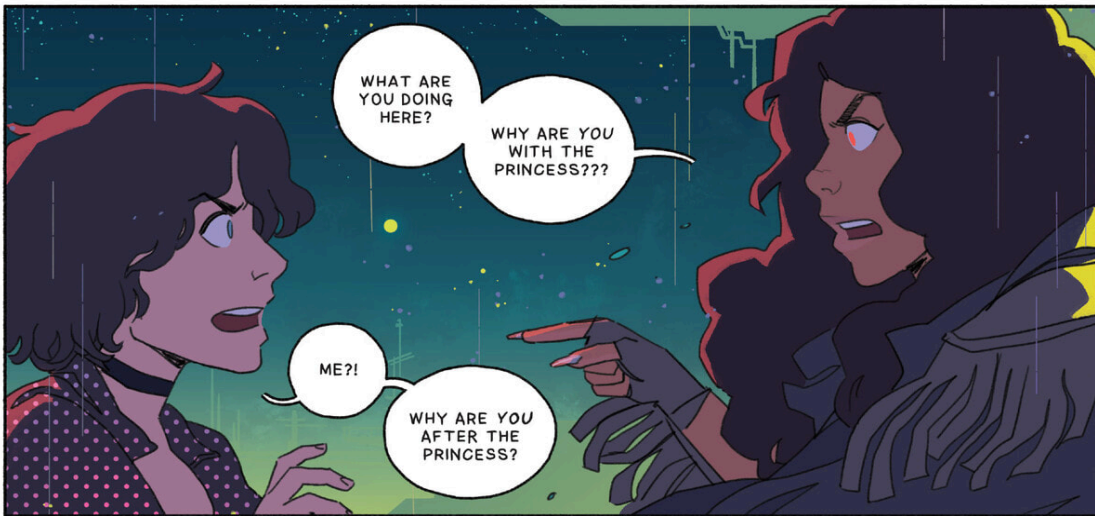




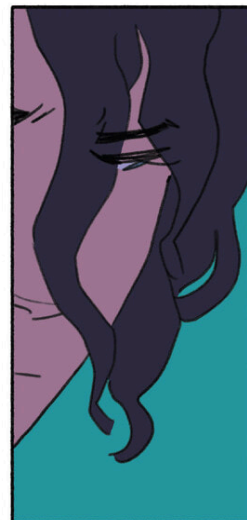
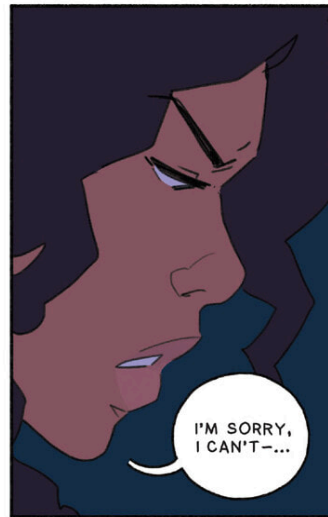
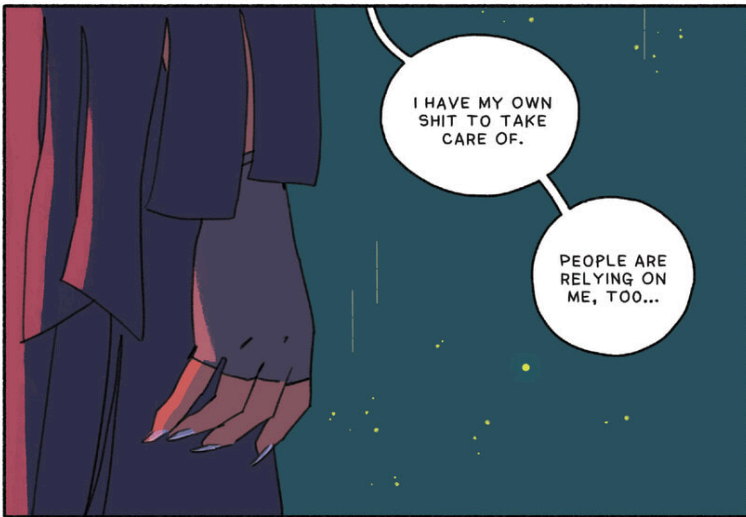
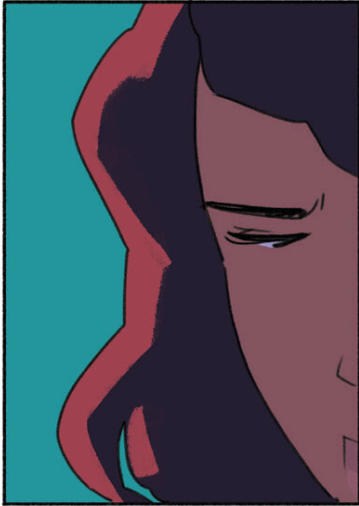


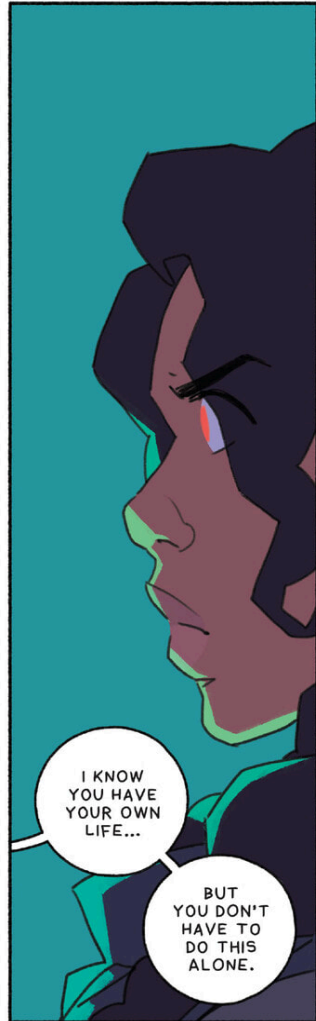


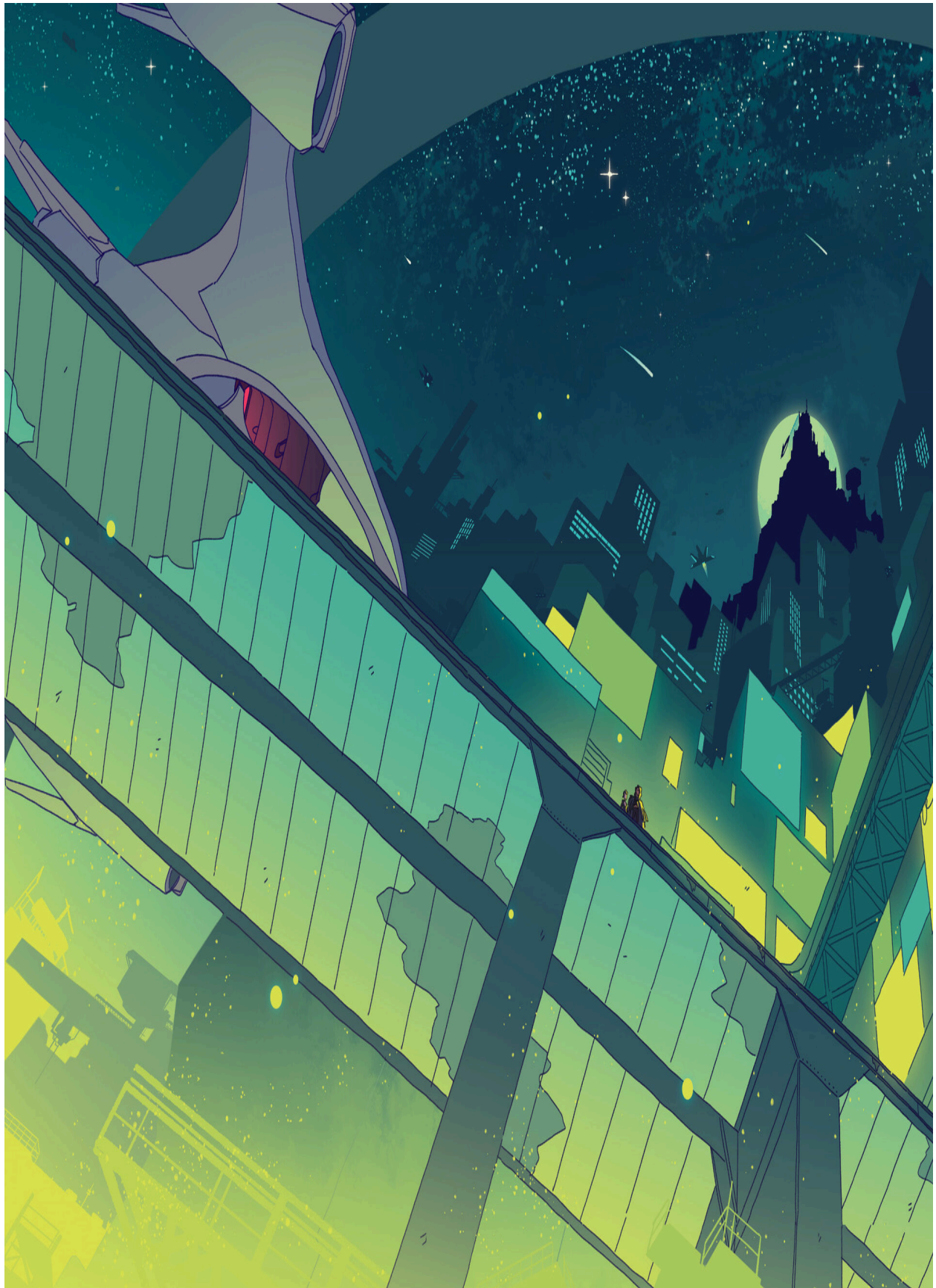


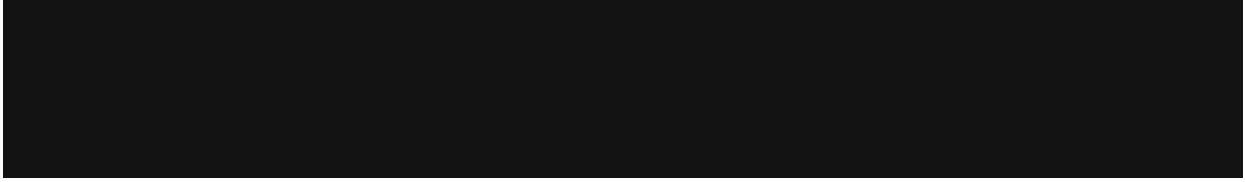


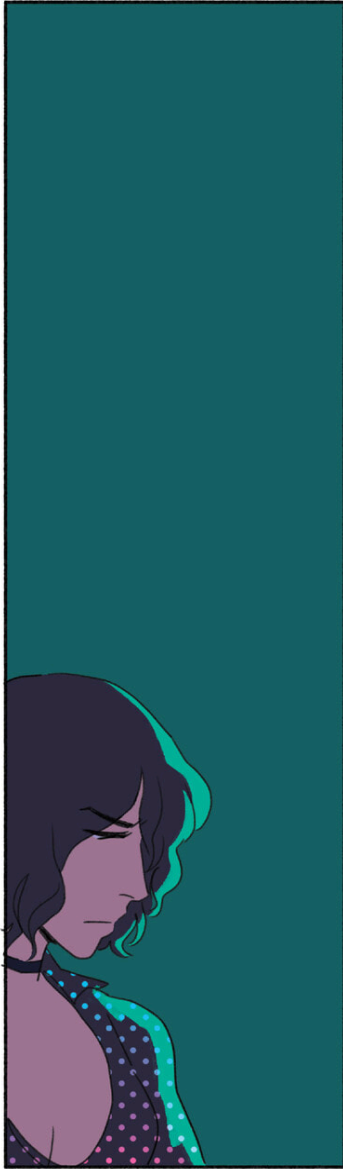


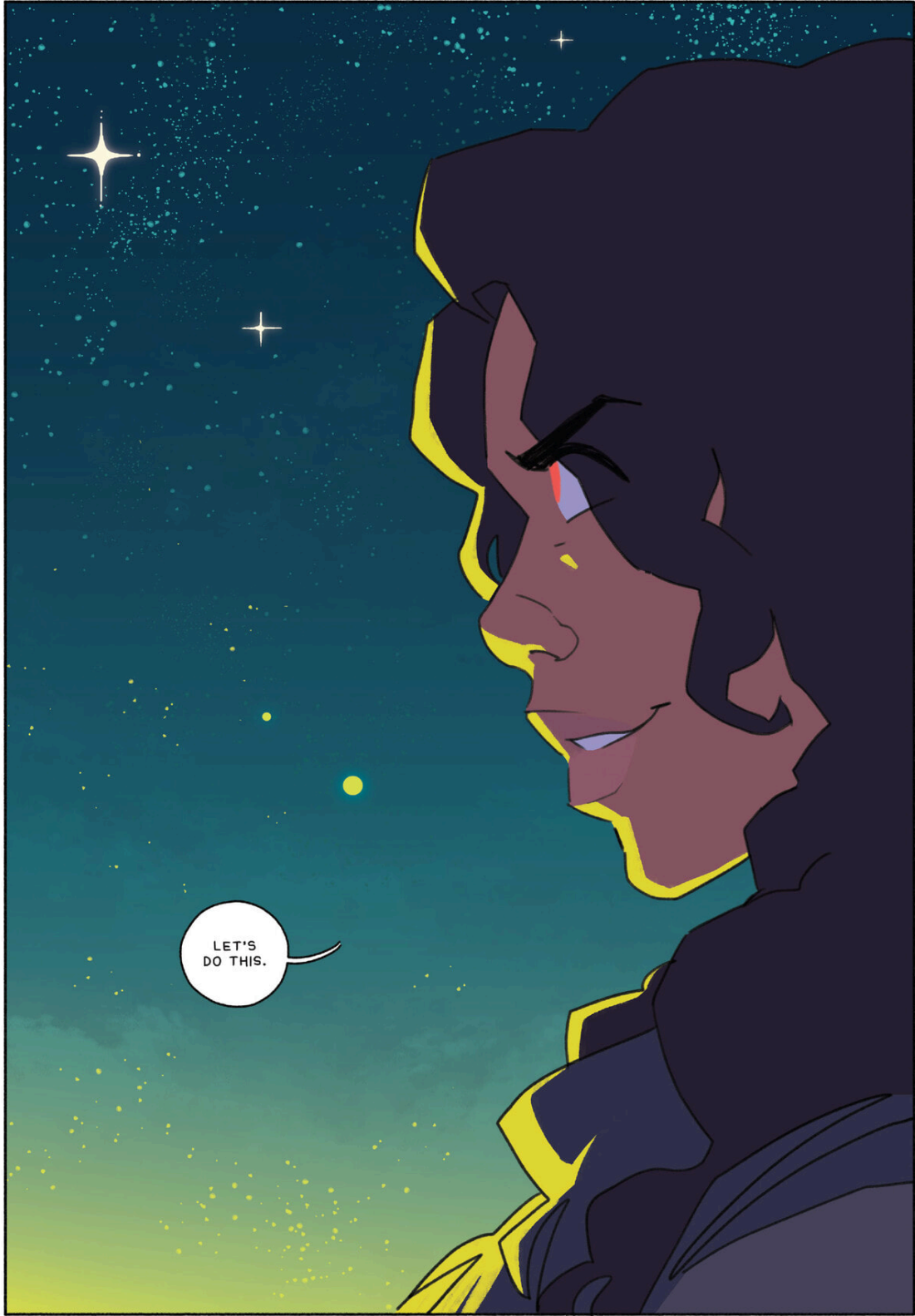




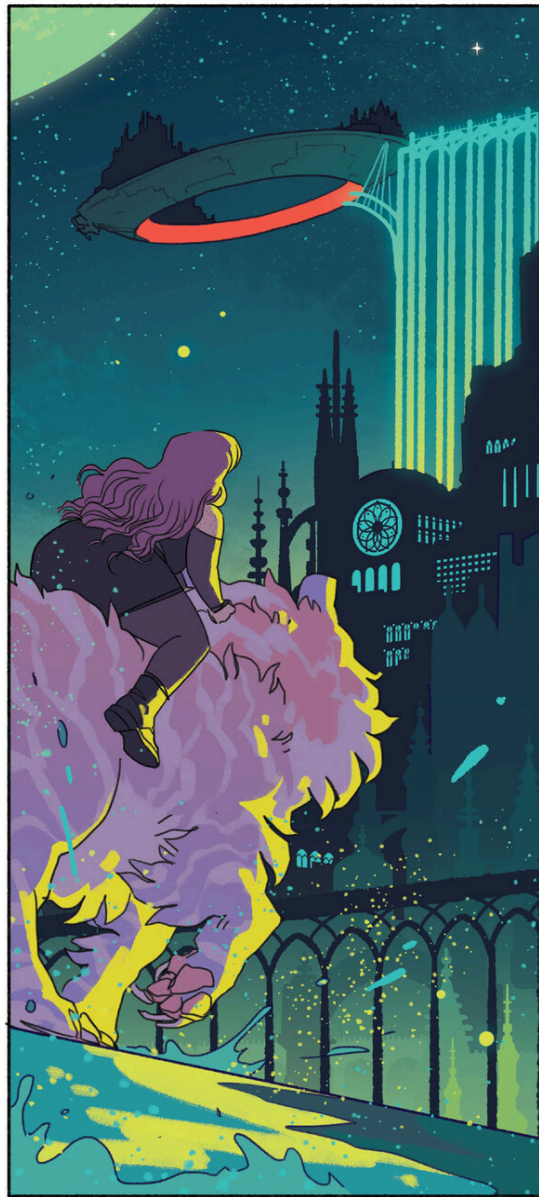


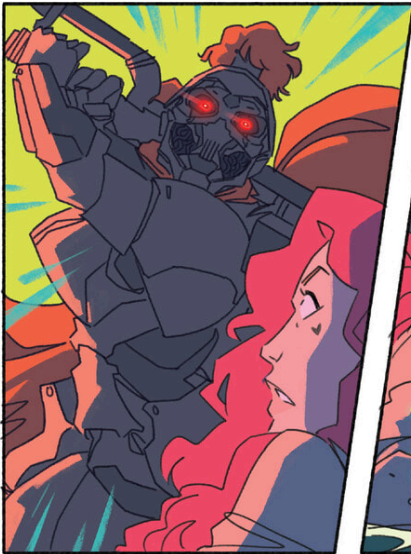
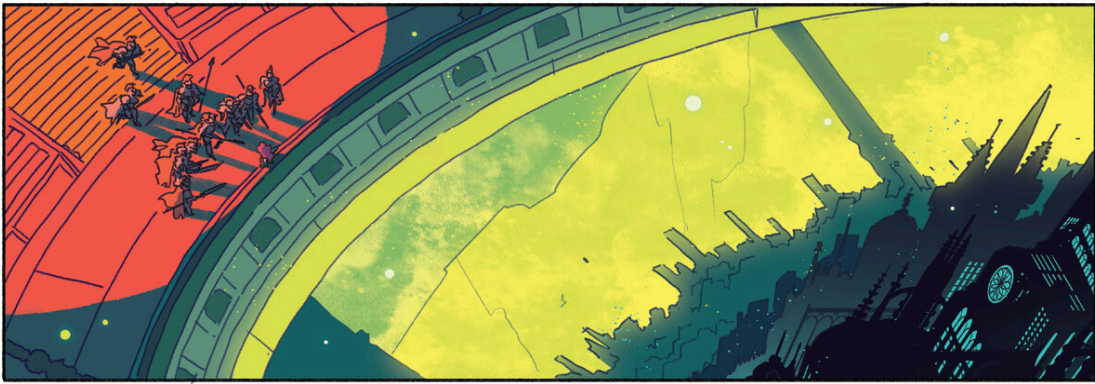
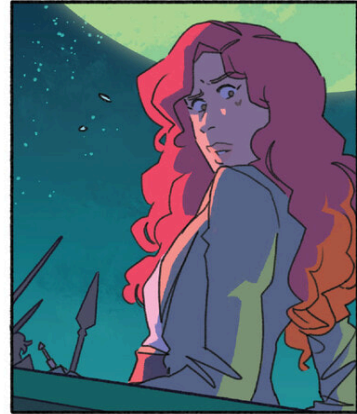
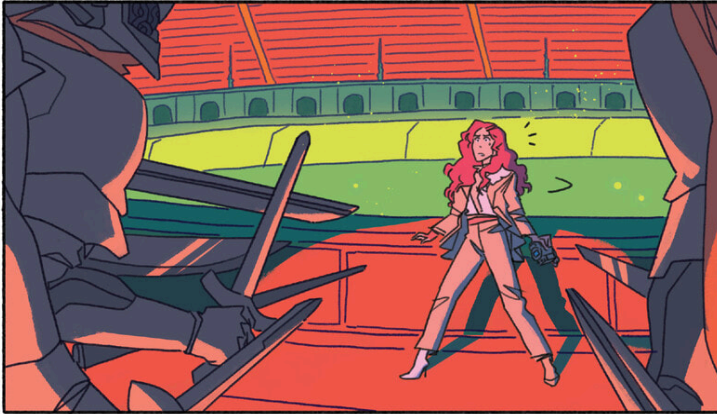






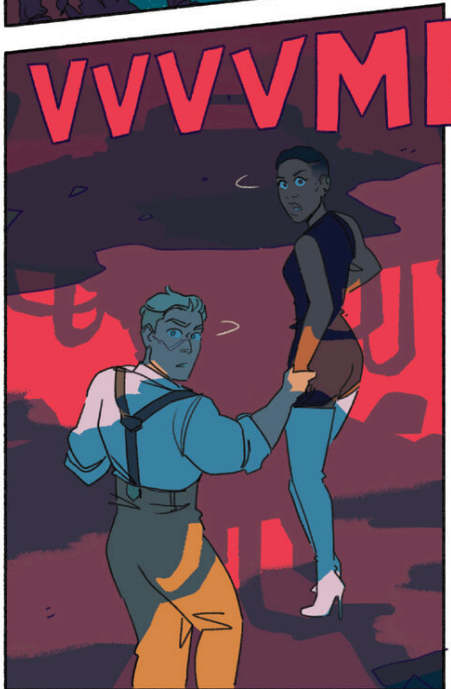


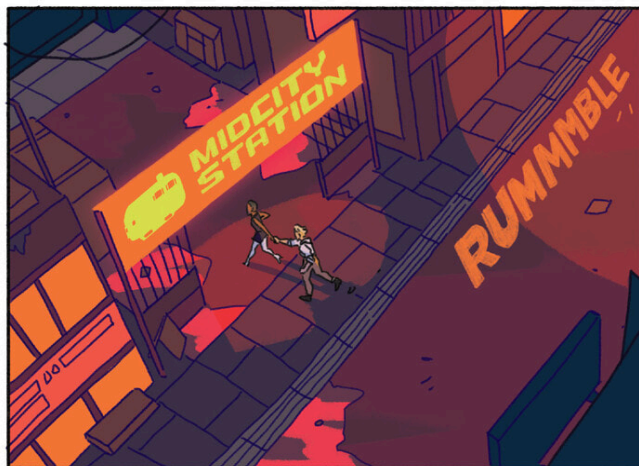
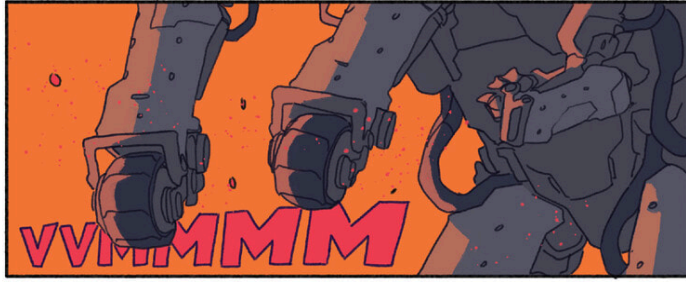






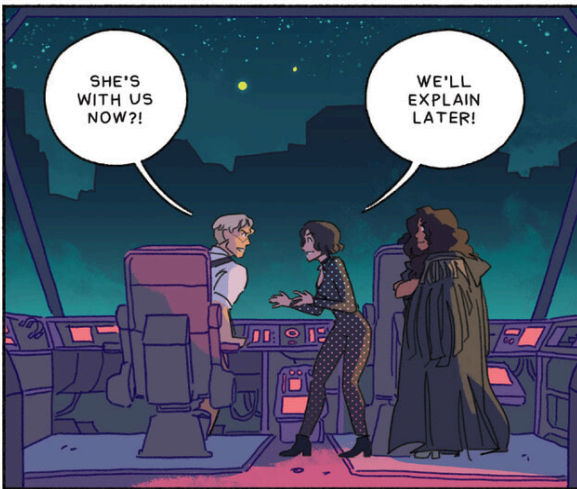


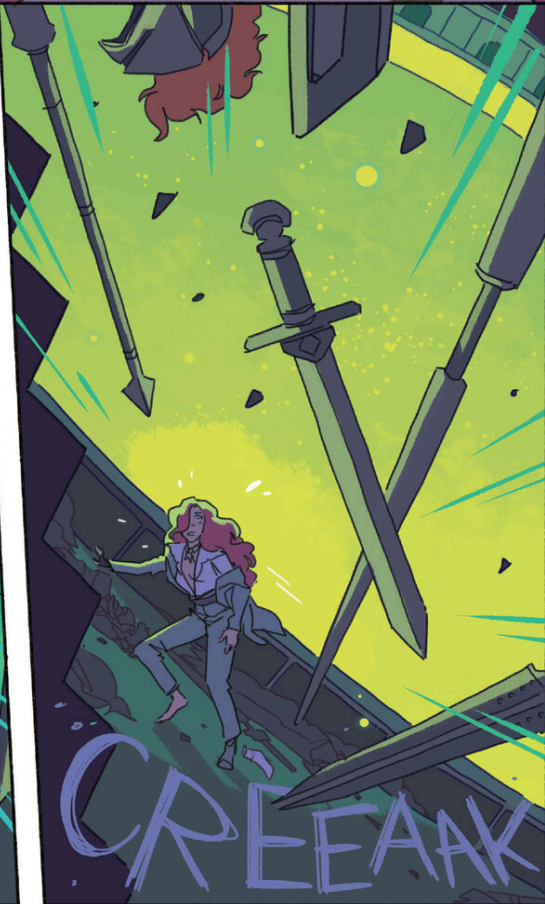
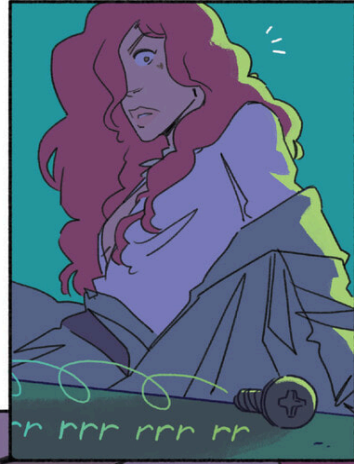






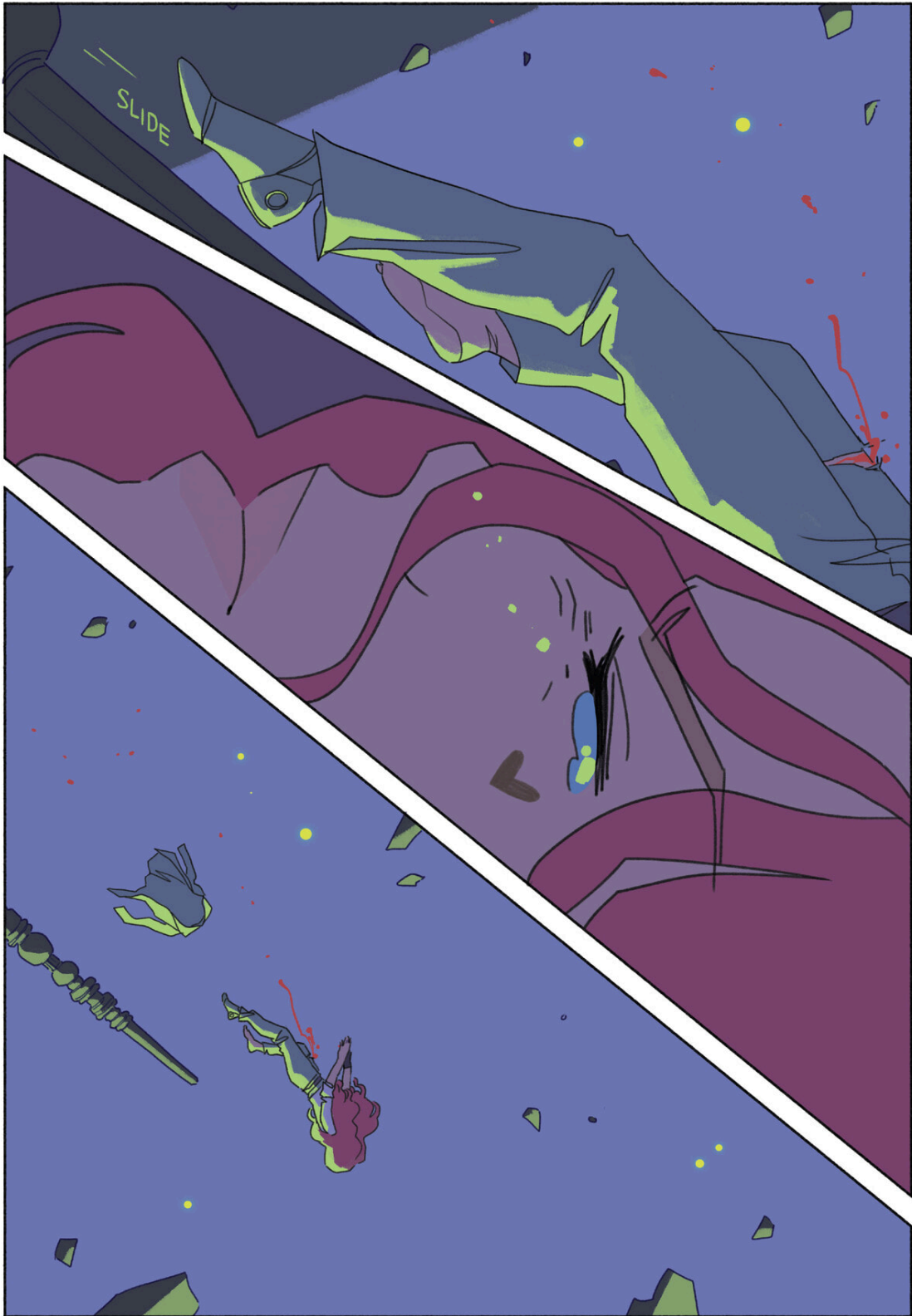




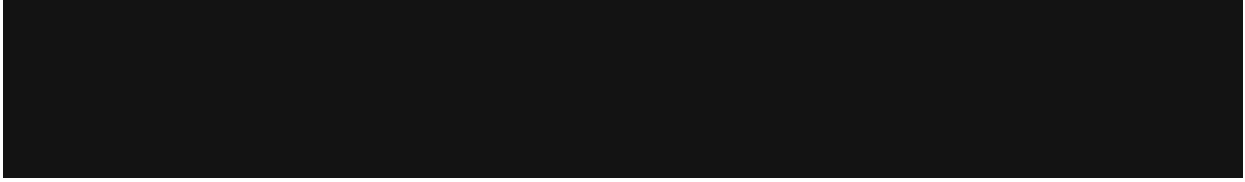


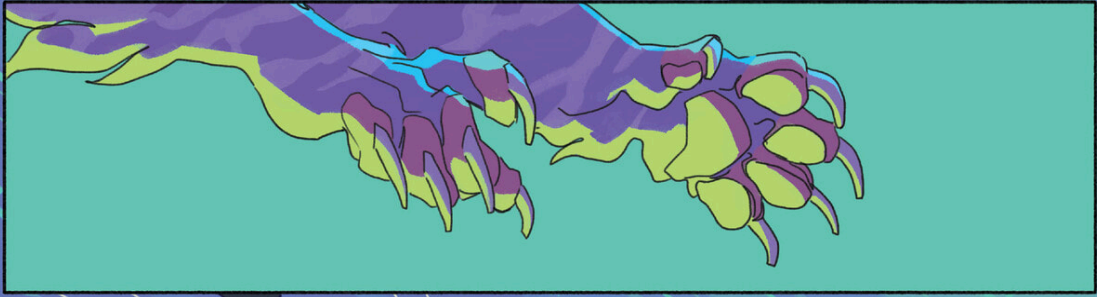




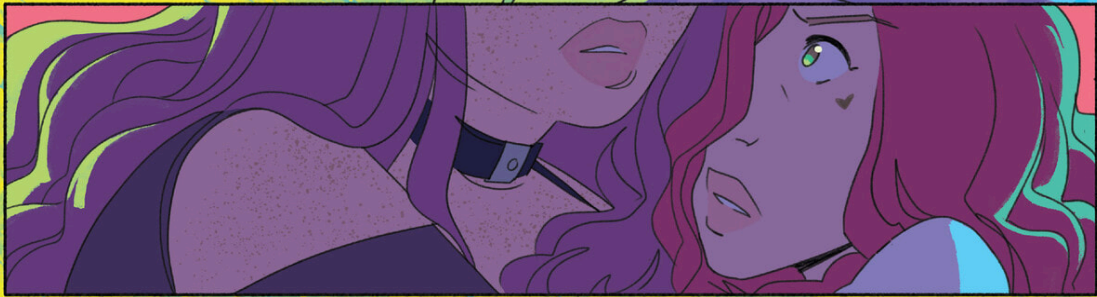


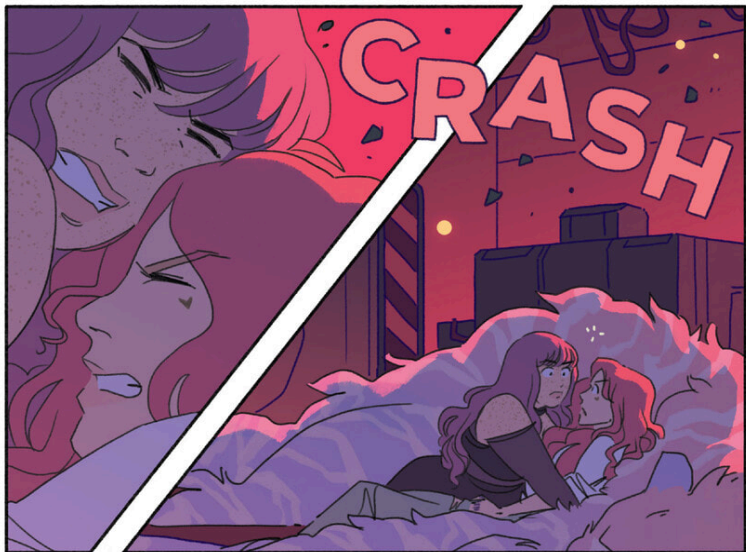






GOTCHA!

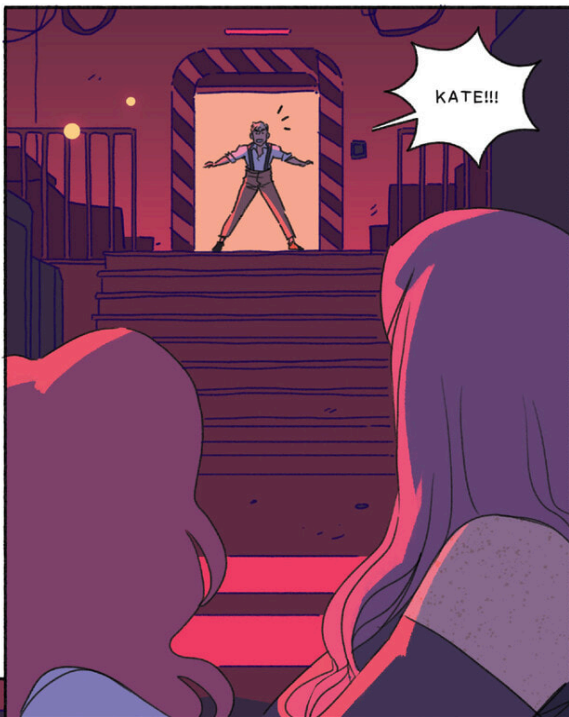








OKAY...
I SEE WHY YOU
PRINCESSES ARE
SO INTO BEING
RESCUED.



KATE!!!



YOU
CRAZY
BITCH!

GOOD TO
SEE YOU TOO,
CASS.

SQUEEZE



NICE WORK,
PRINCESS.





THEY GOT THE CASTLE'S POWER BACK UP.



NOBLE ZONE DETECTED.

CHARGING INITIATED.

TRANSMISSION RECOVERED.



PAN? PAN?!

PLEASE... IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS... YOU GOTTA HELP ME.

SOMETHING WENT WRONG, WE MADE A MISTAKE...



THERE ARE PIRATES ABOARD... I'M HIDING, BUT I'M SO SCARED.



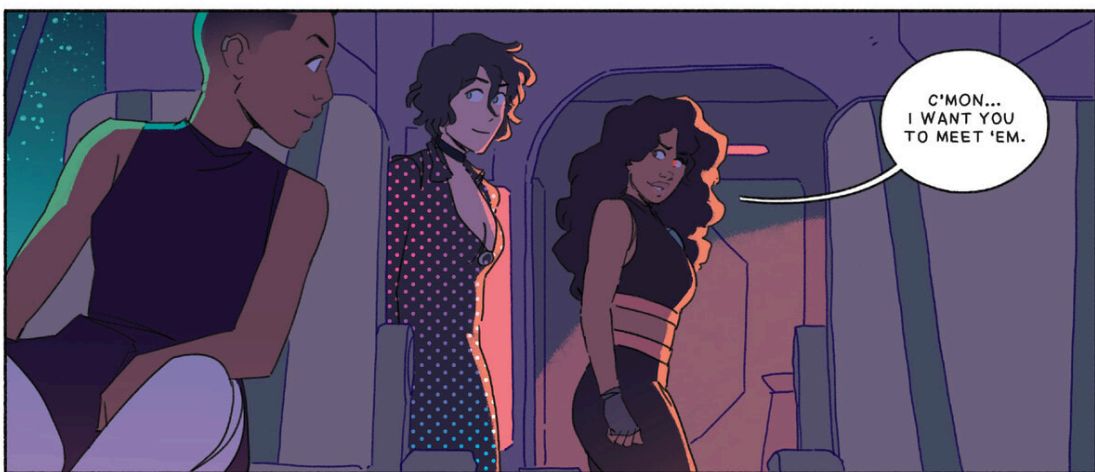
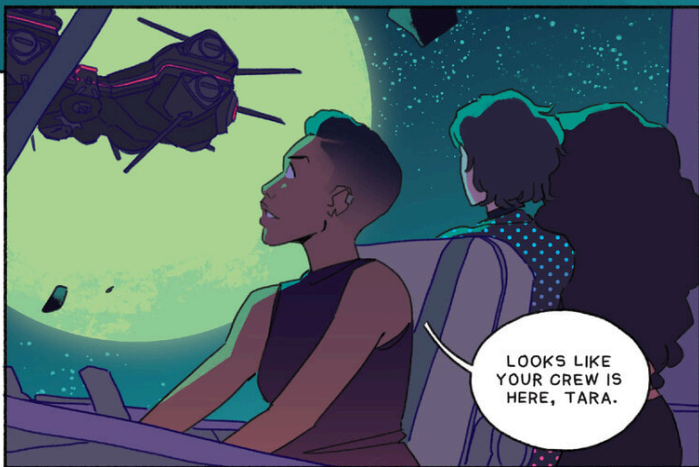
THEY'RE COMING. YOU HAVE TO HURRY... YOU HAVE TO GET HELP.

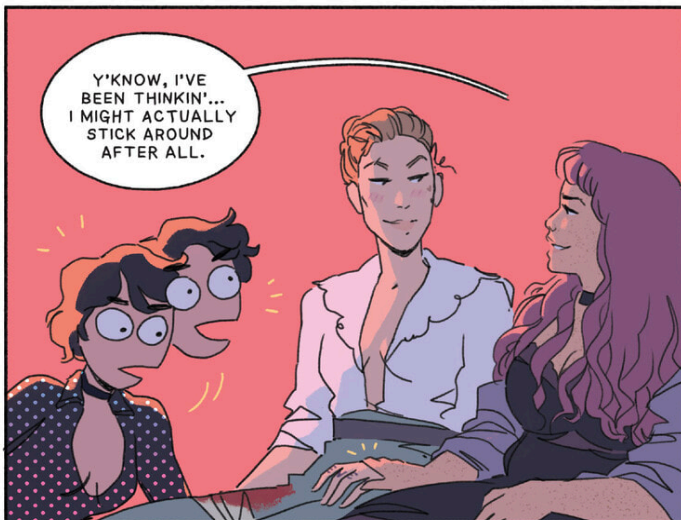


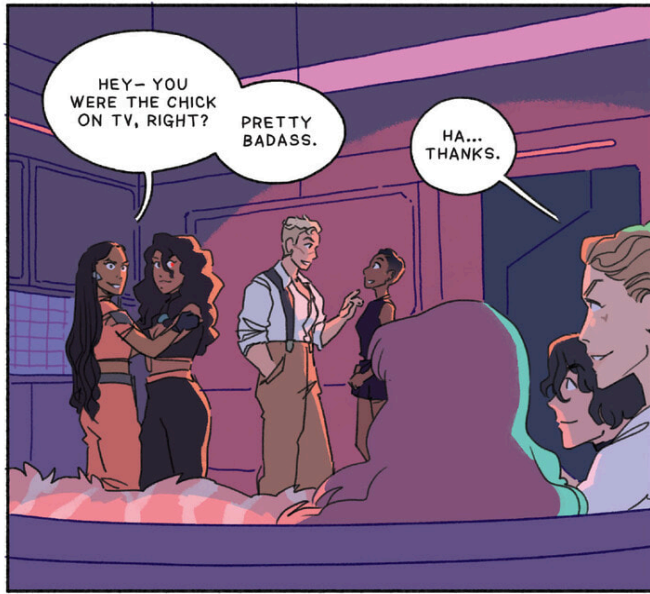
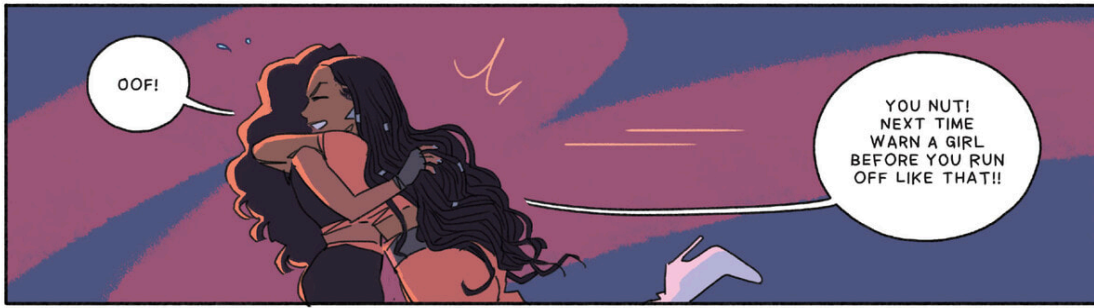
PLEASE. PAN...

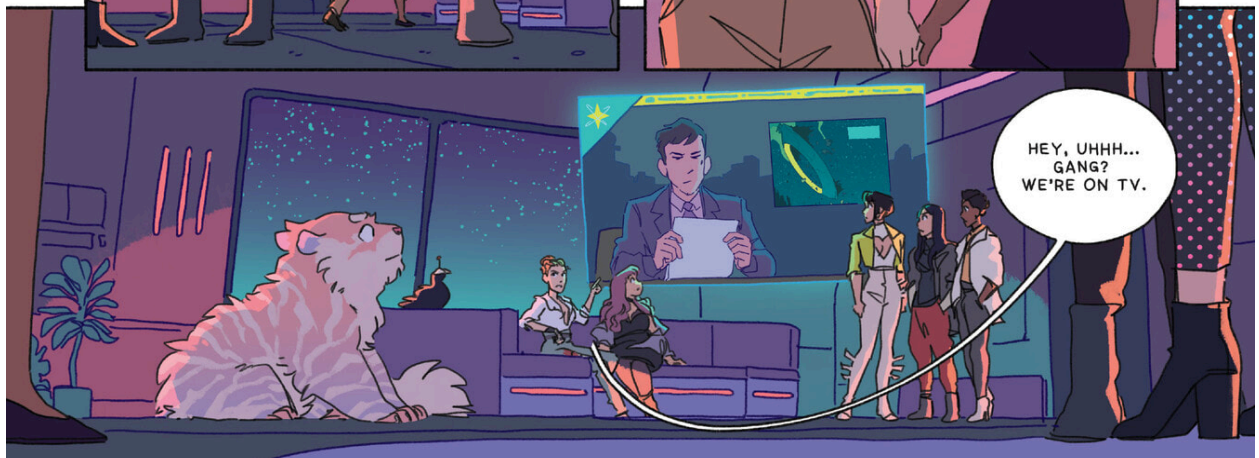
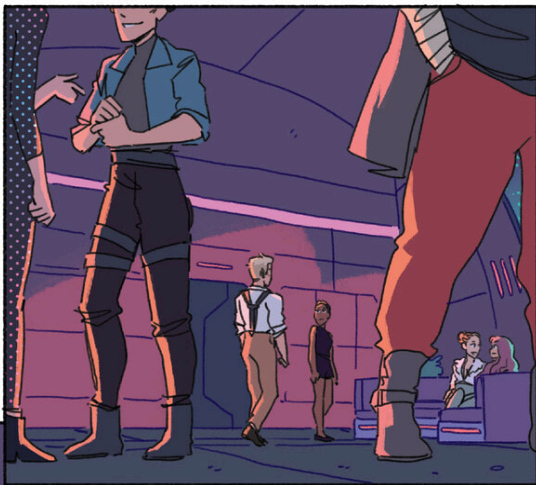
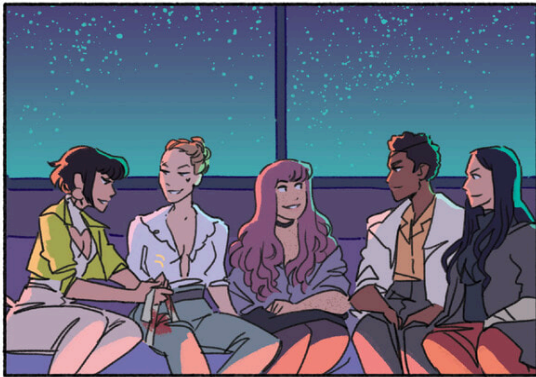
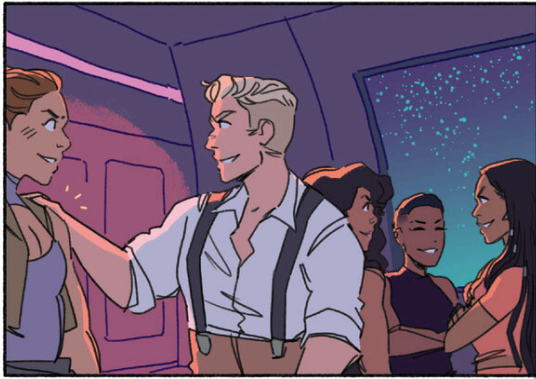


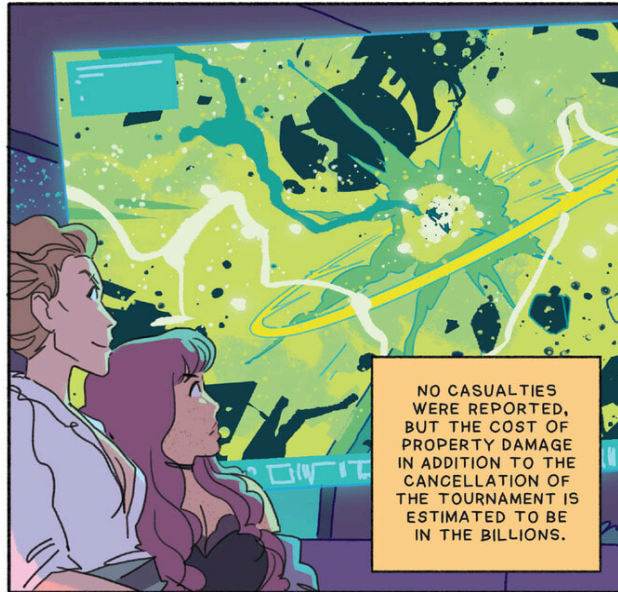
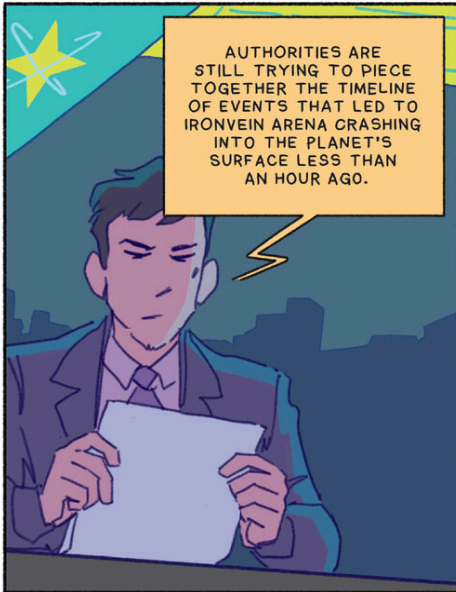
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE UP HERE.











THE MOTIVES OF THE ATTACK REMAIN UNCLEAR, ALTHOUGH A WANTED FUGITIVE BY THE NAME OF KATARINA ROSE BROADCASTED A MESSAGE SHORTLY BEFORE THESE EVENTS.

...FUGITIVE?

I... MAY HAVE SOME THINGS TO FILL YOU IN ON.

GALACTIC AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO WORKING TO IDENTIFY A CARGO VESSEL RECORDED AT THE SCENE.

RECOVERED FOOTAGE SHOWS TWO POTENTIAL SUSPECTS THAT MAY NOW BE ABOARD THIS SPACECRAFT.

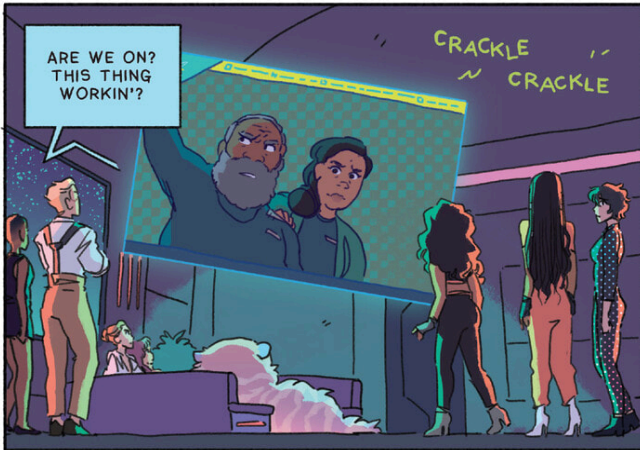
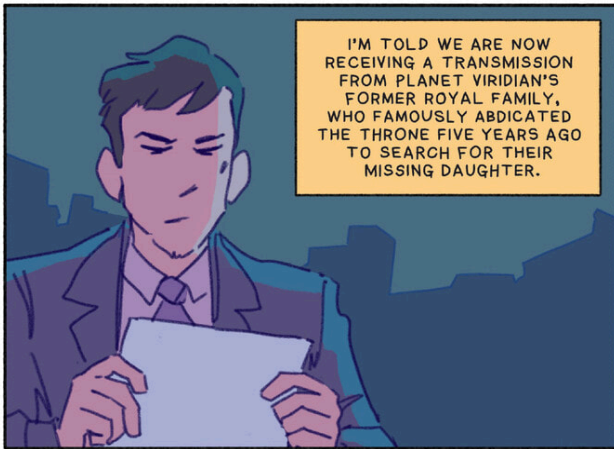
ADDITIONALLY, TWO ROYAL FAVORS WERE PINGED ON THE IRONVEIN NOBLE GRID TONIGHT—

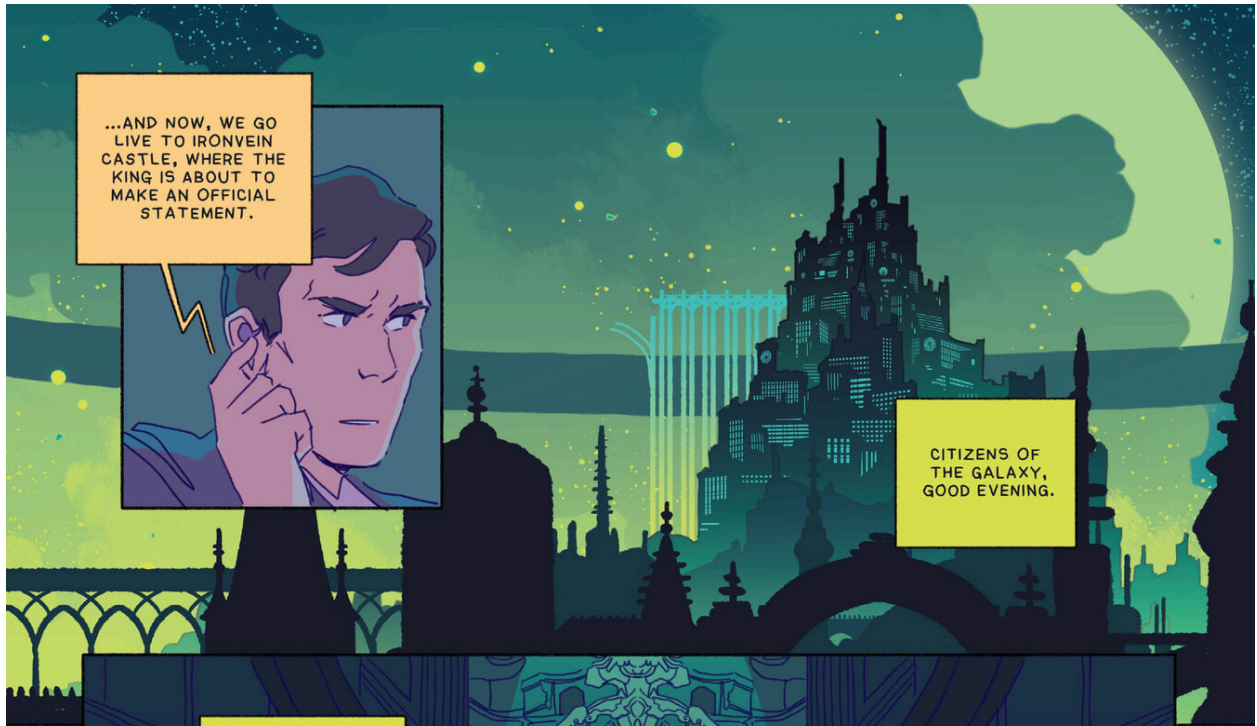
—ONE BELONGING TO A PRINCESS REPORTED MISSING FIVE YEARS AGO, AND THE OTHER NOW BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED WITHIN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

OUR SOURCES INDICATE THESE SIGNALS MAY IN FACT BE CONNECTED TO A MUCH LARGER WEB OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY GOING BACK SEVERAL YEARS.

IRONVEIN CASTLE IS OFFERING A REWARD TO ANYONE WHO PROVIDES INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CAPTURE OR ARREST OF ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

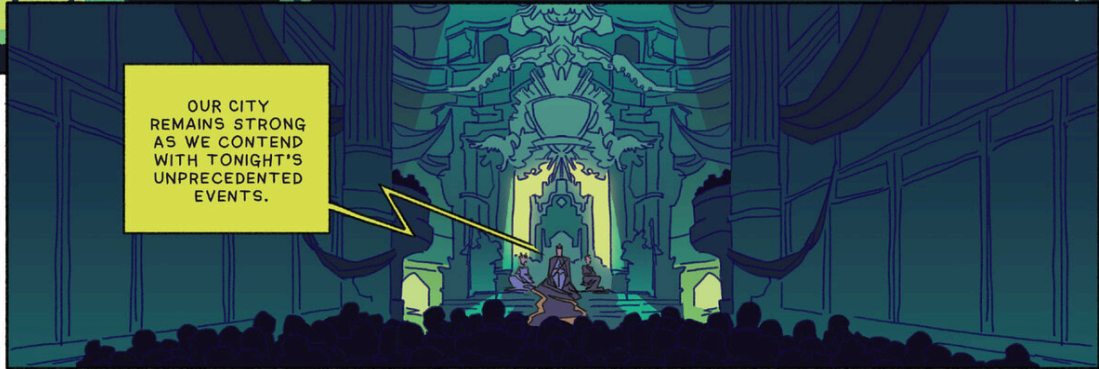
WELL... POUR ONE OUT FOR OUR JOUSTING CAREERS.





...AND NOW, WE GO LIVE TO IRONVEIN CASTLE, WHERE THE KING IS ABOUT TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

CITIZENS OF THE GALAXY, GOOD EVENING.



OUR CITY REMAINS STRONG AS WE CONTEND WITH TONIGHT'S UNPRECEDENTED EVENTS.



JOUSTING HAS LONG BEEN A SYMBOL OF OPPORTUNITY IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, BUT TODAY YOU WATCHED WITH YOUR OWN EYES AS TRAITORS ATTEMPTED TO VANDALIZE A SACRED INSTITUTION.



MAKE NO MISTAKE: THIS DISRUPTION WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THE WORK OF CRIMINALS WHO WOULD SEE OUR EMPIRE DISSOLVE INTO CHAOS.

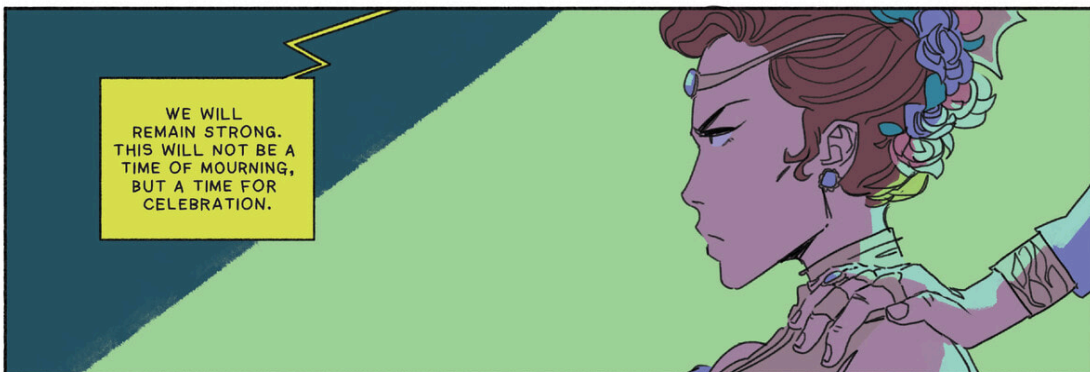
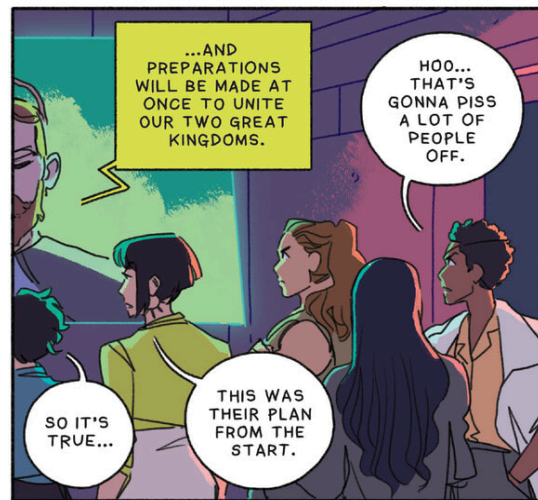


DESPITE WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE, THE ONLY TRUTHS REVEALED TONIGHT WERE THE IDENTITIES OF THIEVES, WHO WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED.



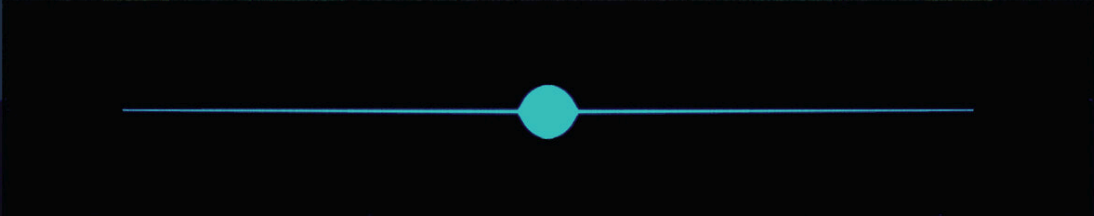
WE WILL NOT BE
INTIMIDATED.

LIFE IN OUR
KINGDOM WILL
CONTINUE AS IT
ALWAYS HAS.





LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
SEE YOU AT THE WEDDING.



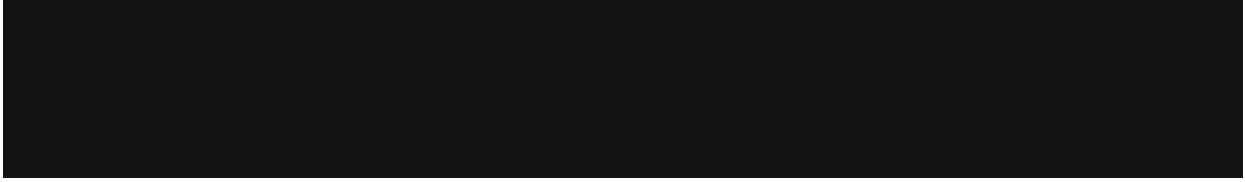


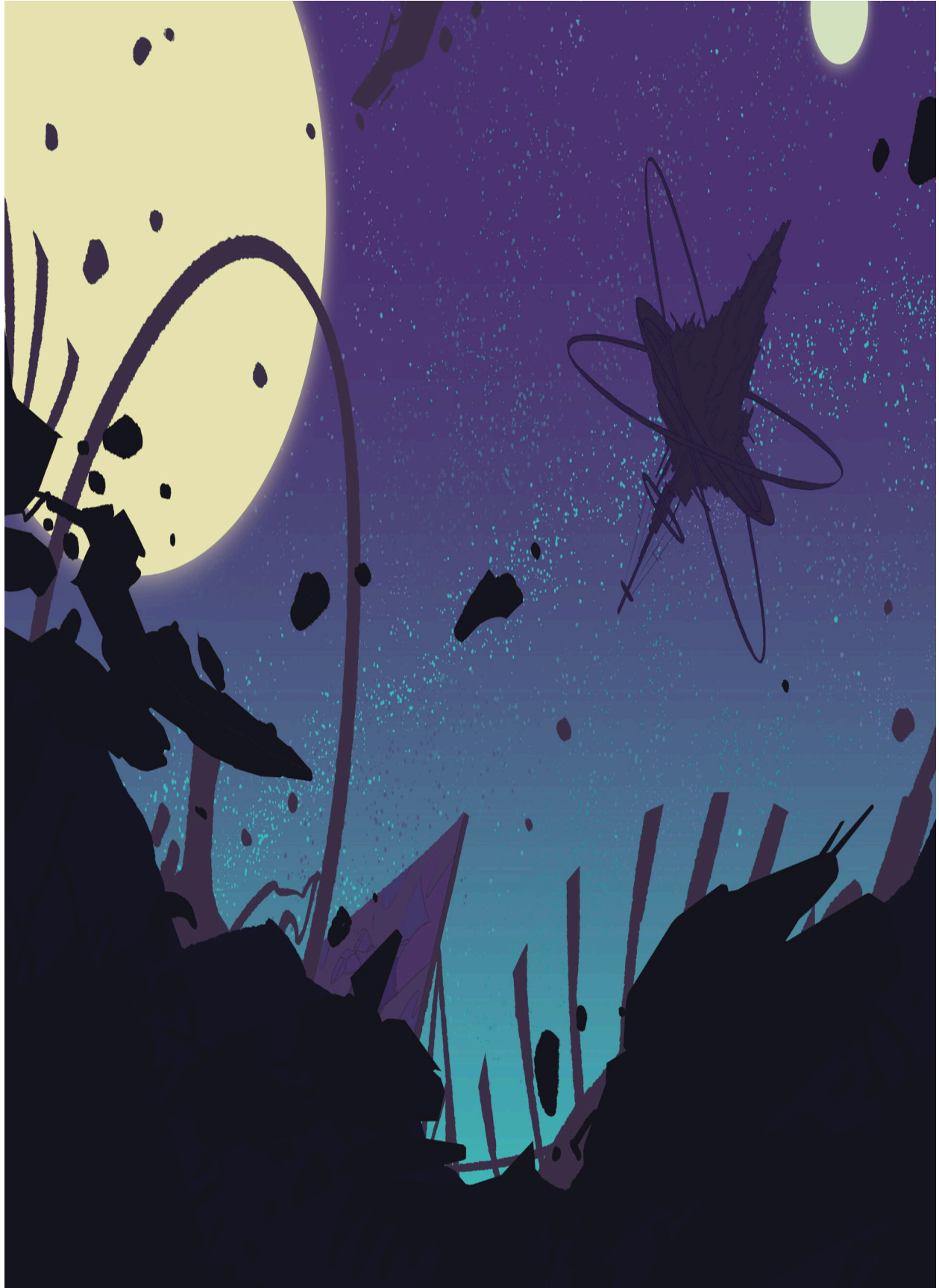


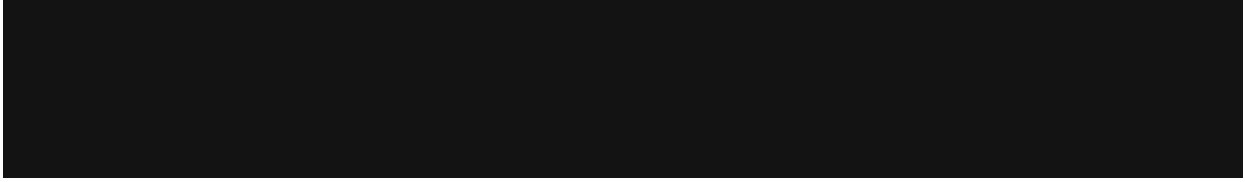


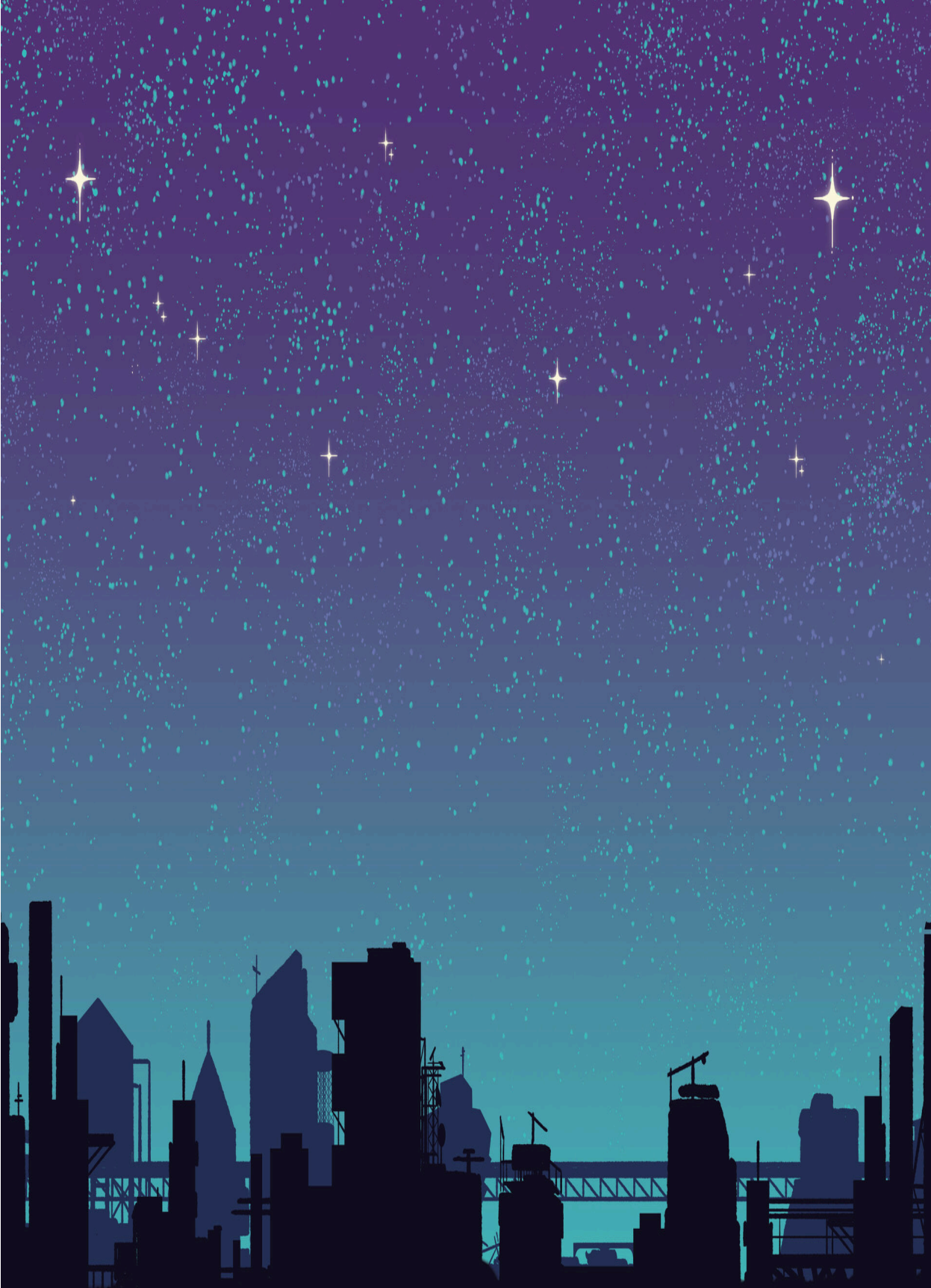
GAME ON.

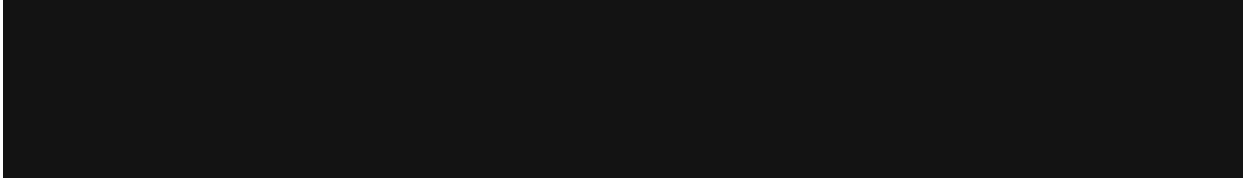














Special thanks to:

My editor, Leigh, for deepening my love for this world and its characters, and for sticking with me.

My agent, Charlie, for your constant support.

Mey Rude, for your work on the book, but more importantly, for becoming one of my truest friends.

Carrie, for your friendship and incredible artistic talent – your models saved me from having to conjure spaceships out of thin air, and for that I owe you many hours added to my life.

Sami, for consulting and going above and beyond – your passion and talent are infectious, and you added something really special to this book.

Countless other friends without whom I would not be here: Ashanti, Lin, Mar, Sunmi, Kate, Olivia, Zach, Maddi, Cal, Kay, Rian, Shan, Miranda, Eric, Bea, Kendra, Marty G, Julie, Emma, Morgan, Alex, Remus, Diane, Cat, Di, Arlo, Molly, and Marty C!

And of course, Barbara, Bri, Laura, and Jason – my own found family.

Cosmoknights will return

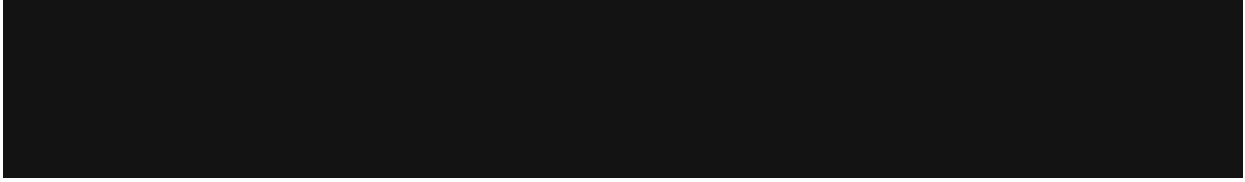
www.cosmoknights.space



Photo by Stephanie Downes

Hannah Templer is an American cartoonist, best known for her award-nominated original graphic novel series *Cosmoknights*. She has also worked as a colorist, cover artist and interior artist on titles such as *GLOW*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Doctor Who*, *TMNT*, *Samurai Jack*, *Captain Marvel*, and *Tomb Raider*, and is the co-creator along with Grace Ellis of the critically-acclaimed graphic novel *Flung Out of Space*, a fictional and complex portrait of bestselling author Patricia Highsmith.

Hannah enjoys life with her trusty dog Thistle and back-flipping cat Super Mario, and plays tabletop roleplaying games as often as she can.







ESCAPE WAS JUST THE BEGINNING.

"Queer romance, friendship, and wild mech battles against the patriarchy? I'm not sure what more you'd need."

—*Barnes & Noble Reads (Best of the Month)*

"A gorgeous and timely space adventure saga."

— *Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

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