

A SELECTION OF DARK HORSE COMICS THAT EXPLORE LGBTQ+ STORIES, THEMES, AND CHARACTERS

LIEBESTRASSE

Nominated for Outstanding Comic Book by the GLAAD Media Awards, *Liebestrasse* tells the heart-wrenching, poignant tale of forbidden love and survival through the rise of hatred. During the final years of the Weimar Republic, Sam, an American banker, meets Philip, a German art critic, and they fall in love. Their romance is hit with an unspeakable reality as the Nazis come to power and fascism makes them a target.

9781506724553 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

US

What happens when the life you thought you had does a 180° turn? Everything, and yet ... nothing. *Us* is Sara and Diana's love story, as well as the story of Diana's gender transition. Full of humor, heartache, and the everyday triumphs and struggles of identity, this graphic memoir speaks to changing conceptions of the world as well as the self, at the same time revealing that some things don't really have to change.

9781506734187 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$26.99 CA · On Sale Now

RENEGADE RULE

Both hilarious and heartwarming, this new graphic novel from Ignatz-nominated writer Ben Kahn, debut author Rachel Silverstein, and artist Sam Beck is a celebration of friendship, competition, queer identity, and the insane things we do for the things and people we love.

9781506718019 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

KILLER QUEENS

Meet Max & Alex. Reformed intergalactic assassins-for-hire. On the run. Also super gay. Their former boss—a fluffy monkey with a jetpack—is hot on their tail to take back his stolen ship. They gotta eat so they take a mission from Alex's old flame. Your standard no-kill, casually-free kidnapping recovery from a nearby moon. Only complication? Half the moon is ruled by a fascist dictator hostile to foreigners.

9781506722153 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE PRIDE OMNIBUS

Joe Glass's *The Pride* in a full omnibus trade paperback, collecting volumes 1 and 2 as well as the collection of self-contained stories, *The Pride Adventures*! In *The Pride*, FabMan is sick of being seen as a joke. Tired of the LGBTQ+ community being seen as inferior to straight heroes, he thinks it's about damn time he did something about it. Bringing together some of the world's greatest LGBTQ+ superheroes, the Pride is born to protect the world and fight prejudice, misrepresentation and injustice—not to mention a pesky supervillain or two.

9781506724478 · TP · \$29.99 US | \$39.99 CA · On Sale Now

ENIGMA: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

Enigma is a visceral, postmodern tale of self-discovery and sexual identity told against the backdrop of outrageous superheroes and villains. Michael Smith lives a meaningless life of routine and boredom. But when the weird characters from *Enigma*—his favorite childhood comic book series—seem to come to life, Michael embarks upon an increasingly obsessive crusade to uncover the incredible secret behind their improbable existence.

9781506720692 · HC · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now

YOUTH

From Curt Pires, *Youth* was named one of “10 Comic Books to Celebrate Pride” by *The New York Times*. *Youth* is a coming-of-age story of two queer teenagers as they run away from their lives in a bigoted small town and attempt to make their way to California. Along the way their car breaks down and they join up with a group of fellow misfits on the road. Embarking together in a van traveling the country, they party and attempt to find themselves. And then something happens ...

Volume 1 · 9781506724614 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

Volume 2 · 9781506730998 · TP · \$22.99 US | \$29.99 CA · On Sale Now

TWELVE PERCENT DREAD

Twelve Percent Dread is a fast-paced, laugh-a-page graphic novel about friendship, capitalism, and never putting your f***ing phone away. From Emily McGovern, author of *Bloodlust & Bonnets* and the hugely popular webcomic *My Life As a Background Slytherin*.

9781506733203 · TP · \$29.99 US | \$39.99 CA · On Sale Now

SPARKS

Revel Guts's hit webcomic will now be in print for the first time! *Sparks* is a coming-of-age queer romance that can't be missed by fans of LGBTQ+ fantasy and adventure. In a world rising from the ashes of destruction, human society thrives only through their complex alliance with the magical Satyr.

Volume 1 · 9781506741581 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

Volume 2 · 9781506741598 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

GUNNERKRIGG COURT

Tom Siddell's acclaimed, long-running webcomic comes to Dark Horse, with a new cover and updated interior art! After the death of her mother and her father's disappearance, a young girl arrives at a mysterious boarding school. While the curriculum seems to be focused on advancing science and technology, Antimony “Annie” Carver quickly discovers that the grounds are home to plenty of things that science can't explain: ghosts, supernatural phenomena, and even the gods of the neighboring forest.

Volume 1 · 9781506742045 · TP · \$34.99 US | \$45.99 CA · On Sale Now

Volume 2 · 9781506742069 · TP · \$34.99 US | \$45.99 CA · On Sale Now

Volume 3 · 9781506742083 · TP · \$34.99 US | \$45.99 CA · On Sale Now

Volume 4 · 9781506742106 · TP · \$34.99 US | \$45.99 CA · On Sale Soon

SUMMER SHADOWS

The Talented Mr. Ripley meets *Dracula*, this stylish neo-noir horror graphic novel will sink its teeth into you and leave you infatuated. Forever. By day the Greek islands are all sand, sea and fun ... but by night they're the perfect hunting ground for vampires! Nick Landry is searching for his ex on the unspoiled island of Avraxos. Anthony was the love of his life, and without knowing why he left, Nick can't move on. But Anthony isn't the only one to disappear on Avraxos. As the mystery deepens, Nick and Alekos discover that the brighter the sunshine, the darker the shadows ...

9781506742243 · TP · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now

MORE LGBTQ+ TITLES TO ENJOY!

Zodiac Starforce: By the Power of Astra ·

9781616559137 · TP

\$12.99 US | \$17.50 CA · On Sale Now

Spell on Wheels

9781506701837 · TP

\$14.99 US | \$19.99 CA · On Sale Now

The Once and Future Queen

9781506702506 · TP

\$14.99 US | \$19.99 CA · On Sale Now

Lost on Planet Earth

9781506724560 · TP

\$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

ElQuest: Stargazer's Hunt Complete Edition

9781506742359 · HC

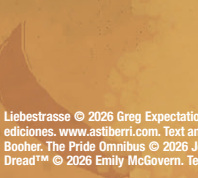
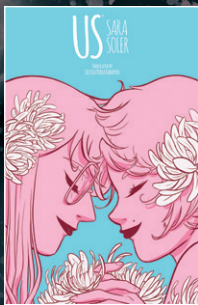
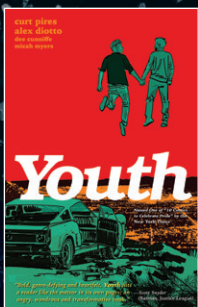
\$29.99 US | \$39.99 CA · On Sale Now

Barbalien: Red Planet—

From the World of Black Hammer

9781506715803 · TP

\$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now



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CARMILLA

Before Dracula, before Nosferatu, there was . . . CARMILLA. Inspired by the gothic novel that started the vampire genre and layered with dark Chinese folklore, this queer, feminist murder mystery graphic novel is a tale of identity, obsession, and fateful family secrets.

Volume 1: The First Vampire · 9781506734644 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$26.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 2: The Last Vampire Hunter · 9781506742205 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 3: The Eternal · 9781506748559 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE ODDLY PEDESTRIAN LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER CHAOS

From the *New York Times* best-selling writers James Tynion IV and Tate Brombal and the artist Isaac Goodhart comes this LGBTQ+ horror-hero coming-of-age story that's *Invincible* meets *Doom Patrol*.

Volume 1 · 9781506736723 · TP · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 2 · 9781506737812 · TP · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 3 · 9781506741697 · TP · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now

MONSTER CRUSH

A whirlwind adventure exploring love, gender, and big emotions, *Monster Crush* is the perfect read for anyone who's ever felt like an outsider. Since her parents split up, Ruby Reid has been having a tough time at Crestwood High. But everything changes the day Ella Mooney moves to town. Ella isn't like most teens: she's never been on a Ferris wheel, never had an ice cream cone, and sometimes she grows fangs and a tail!

9781506726878 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Life as a teenager is full of challenges and learning moments, from love triangles to missed appointments and beyond. Based on the Arthur Schnitzler play by the same name, this volume is a perfect encapsulation of growing up and trying to figure everything out.

9781506736594 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

INVISIBLE KINGDOM

In a small solar system in a far-flung galaxy, two women—one a young religious acolyte and the other a hard-bitten freighter pilot—uncover a conspiracy between the leaders of the most dominant religion and an all-consuming mega-corporation. On the run from reprisals on both sides, this unlikely pair must decide where their loyalties lie—and risk plunging the world into anarchy if they reveal the truth.

Volume 1 · 9781506712277 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 2 · 9781506714943 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 3 · 9781506721514 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE MARBLE QUEEN

A sapphic YA graphic novel with sword fighting, political intrigue, and magic. The princess needs a marriage alliance for the welfare of her kingdom, but she unknowingly accepts a proposal from a mysterious country, having come not from the prince, but his sister.

9781506728124 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$26.99 CA · On Sale Now

LIGHT CARRIES ON

When Leon's camera unexpectedly breaks, he is forced to borrow a used one from his mom's antique store. As he snaps the first picture, the ghost of the camera's former owner is released and the two are inexplicably linked.

9781506726373 · HC · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

UNDER KINGDOM

School can be hard, and making friends can be even harder. Taking your mother's place as the guardian of a secret subterranean kingdom of monsters just might be impossible! With the help of his shapeshifting aunt Sa Belle, Shay must search for his mother while doing what he can to safeguard the citizens of the "Under Kingdom" and try to maintain his normal high-school life.

9781506733630 · TP · \$14.99 US | \$19.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE FIFTH BEATLE: THE BRIAN EPSTEIN STORY (ANNIVERSARY EDITION)

The Fifth Beatle brings to life the true story of visionary Beatles manager Brian Epstein—the man who launched the Beatles to worldwide stardom. This 10th-Anniversary edition of the critically acclaimed, award-winning international bestseller features a new cover, an accompanying musical soundtrack/playlist curated by writer Vivek J. Tiwary, a new introduction by legendary music manager Kelly Curtis (Pearl Jam), and an expanded sketchbook section.

9781506739465 · TP · \$24.99 US | \$33.99 CA · On Sale Now

BASIL AND OREGANO

Mix two parts *The Great British Bake Off* with one part magical boarding school plus a generous dash of romance and you've got *Basil and Oregano*, a sweetly delicious young-adult graphic novel.

9781506728704 · TP · \$19.99 US | \$25.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE AIRLESS YEAR

For Kacee, a queer Black girl in middle school, everything feels like a struggle. When Kacee fails a class as a result of her stress and ends up in summer school, she starts to wonder why she even bothers trying—and ultimately begins to discover her own power to improve the things in her life she can control, and try to let go of what she can't.

9781506720357 · TP · \$14.99 US | \$19.99 CA · On Sale Now

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DARK HORSE BOOKS LGBTQ+ SAMPLER

Killer Queens

Written by David M. Booher. Illustrated by Claudia Balboni.

Us

Written and illustrated by Sara Soler.

The Oddly Pedestrian Life of Christopher Chaos

Written by James Tynion IV and Tate Brombal. Illustrated by Isaac Goodhart.

Monster Crush

Written and illustrated by Erin Ellie Franey.



KILLER QUEENS™

Putting the *SASS* in ASSASSIN!



BOOHER • BALBONI • SAXON • GATTONI



KILLER QUEENS™

"This is how you do comics. This is about as fun as they possibly get."

-PANEL PATER

"Fun to the extreme."

-COMIC WATCH

"Sit back and enjoy the ride."

-MULTIVERSITY COMICS

"A fun-as-hell silver age romp through a modern lens; Booher's script sparkles with razor-sharp dialogue, and Balboni's explosive art practically leaps off the page. This is a wonderful, witty, and propulsive read."

-MICHAEL MORECI (BARBARIC)

"Killer Queens has everything I want from a space adventure comic.

Aliens, gays, and witty dialogue! The story and art are superb!

I can't wait to see what happens next."

-TERRY BLAS (REPTIL, DEAD WEIGHT, HOTEL DARE)

"Killer Queens is SO MUCH FUN! This sci-fi epic has it all: assassins, explosions, sex, tons of queerness, a fabulous retro-cool space design and even an angry monkey with a jetpack. I am so in!"

-AMANDA DEIBERT (HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE, WONDER WOMAN '77)

"Killer Queens is mesmerizing! Equal parts hilarious and poignant,

David M. Booher and Claudia Balboni shine in this timely thriller

about reformed assassins and a fascist empire."

-JULIO ANTA (HOME, FRONTERA)

"This book is for people who dig humor like *Schitt's Creek*, with an epic space adventure spin like *Cowboy Bebop*—it's a mix of quippy aggressive humor and high-end space stakes!!"

-LIANA KANGAS (TRVE KVL, SEEDS OF EDEN, SHE SAID DESTROY)

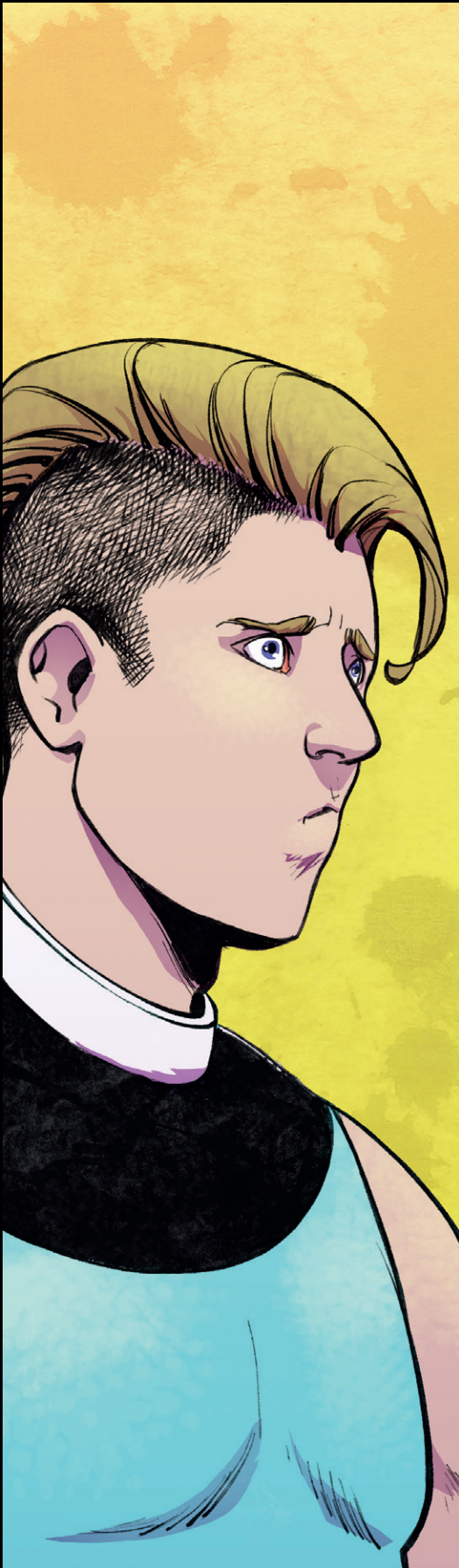
"Killer Queens is the gay space epic we need right now.

Buy this book or I'll open the airlock!"

-PATRICK SCHUMACKER (CO-SHOWRUNNER, HARLEY QUINN)



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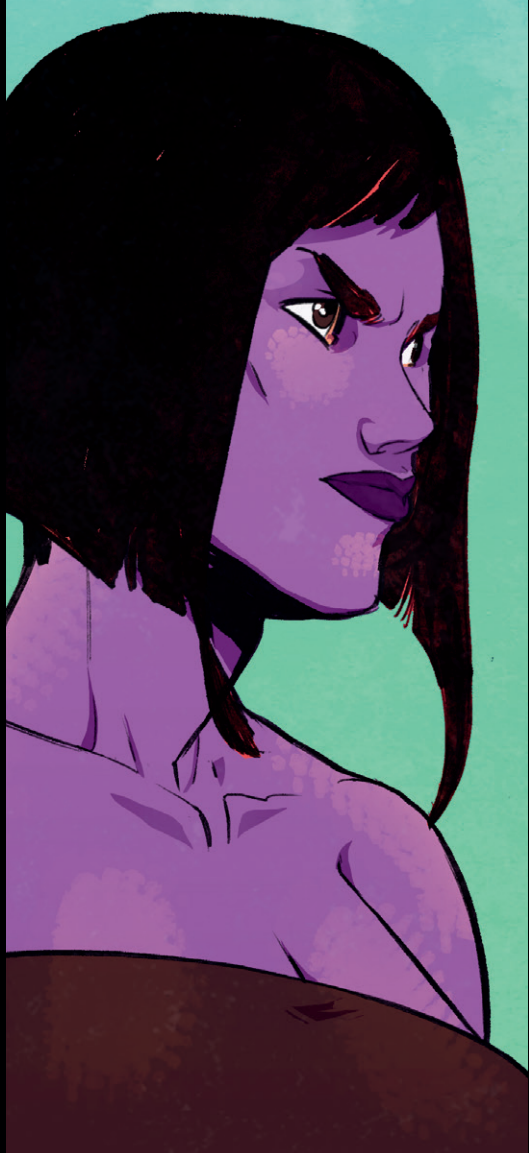
KILLER QUEENS™

Putting the *SASS* in ASSASSIN!

Created and Written by DAVID M. BOOHER
Pencils and Inks by CLAUDIA BALBONI
Colors by HARRY SAXON
Letters by LUCAS GATTONI
Cover by CHRIS ABLES



DARK
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This volume collects issues #1 through #4 of the Dark Horse comic book series *Killer Queens*.

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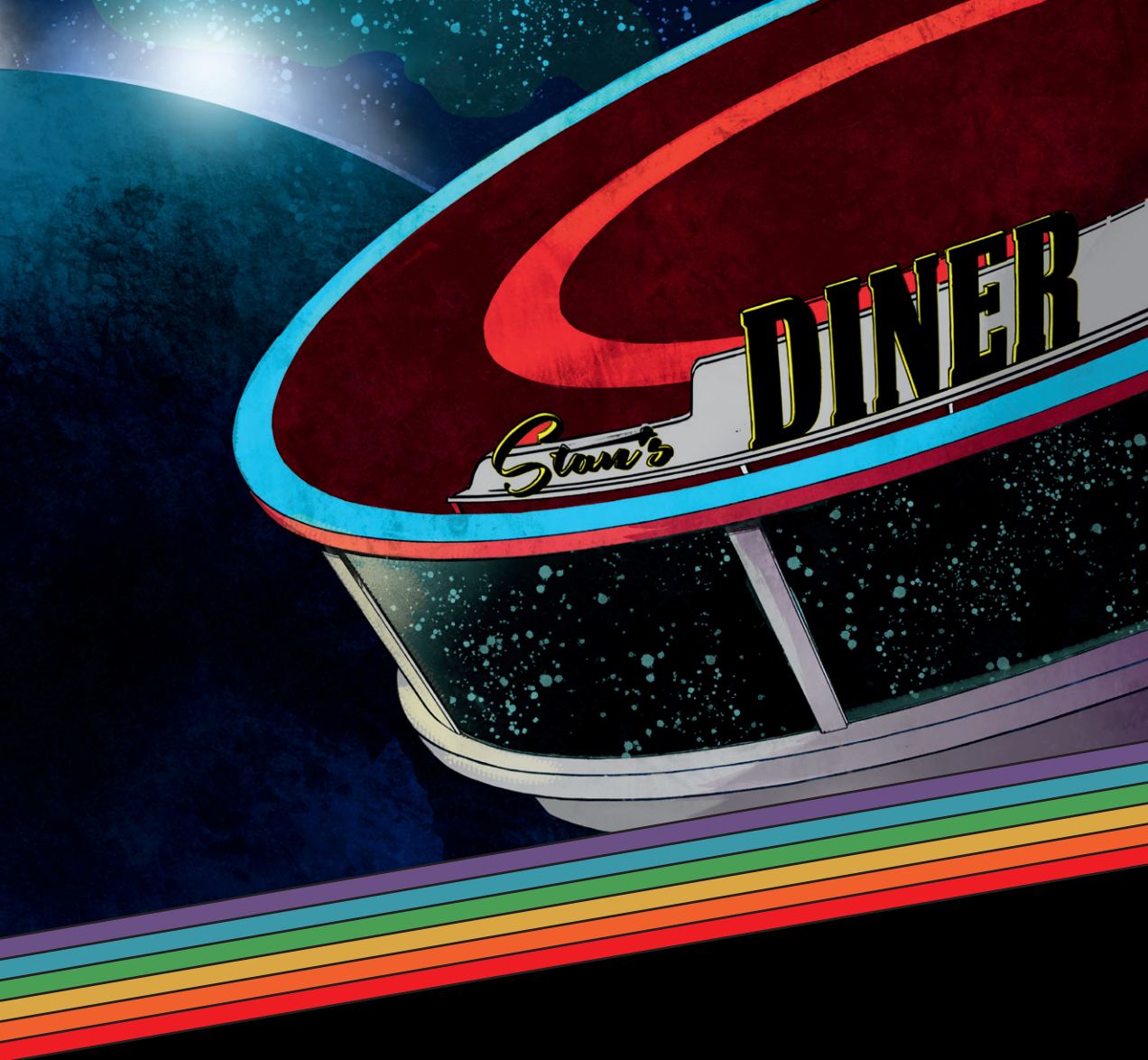
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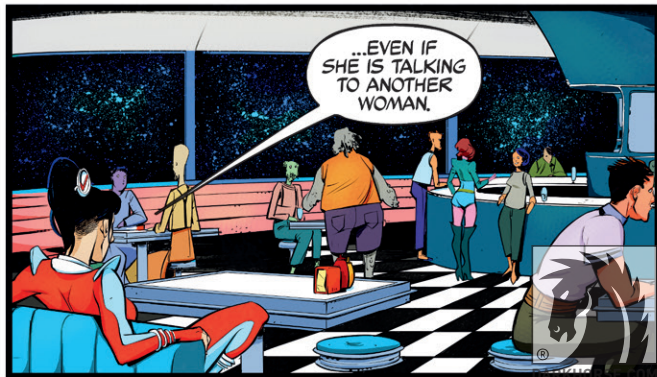
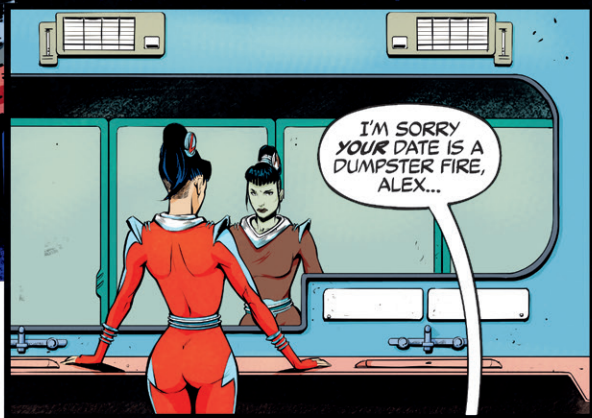
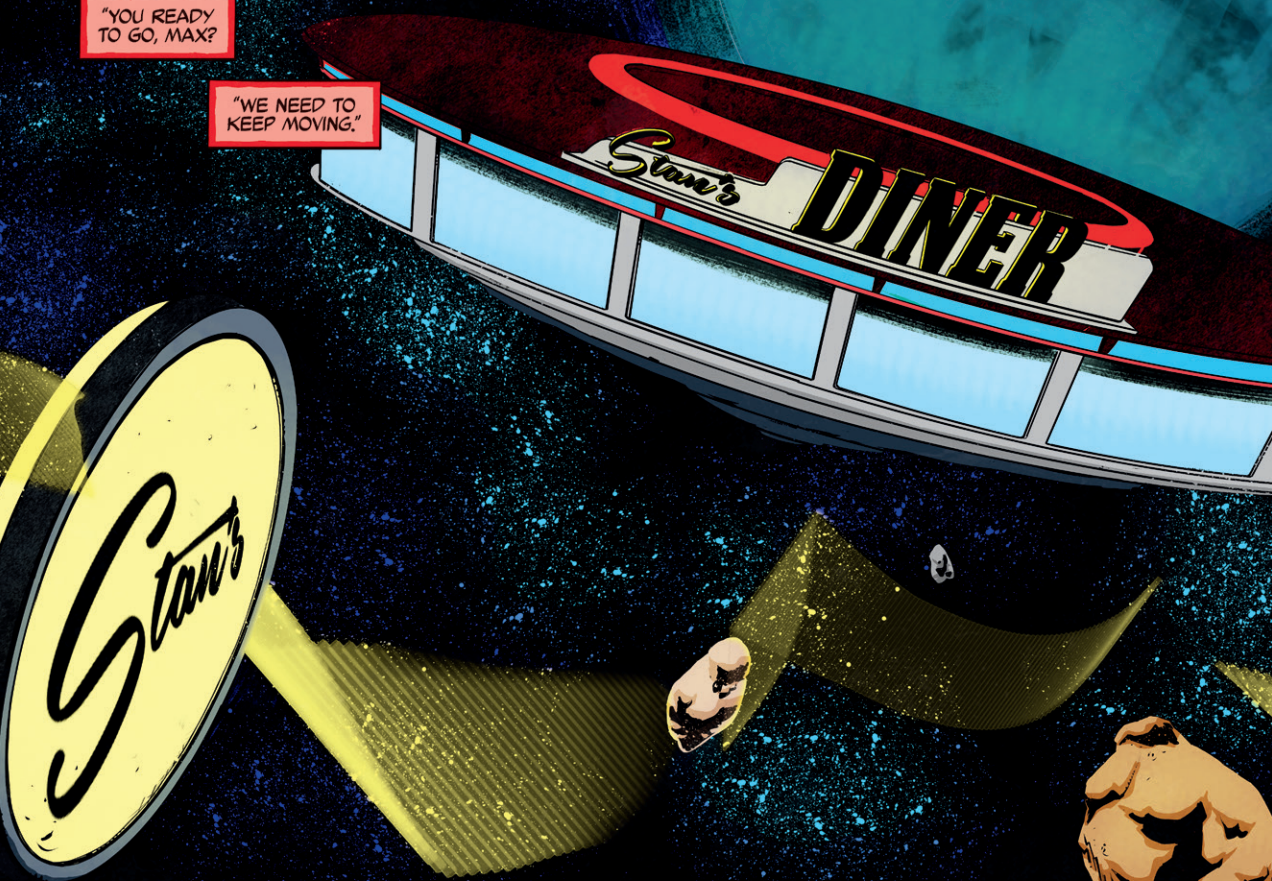
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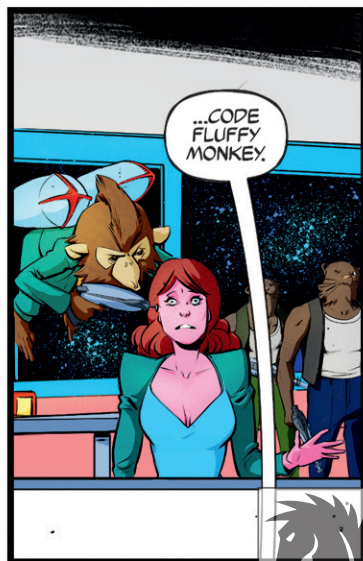


THE NICEST RESTAURANT
IN A REALLY CRAPPY
PART OF THE GALAXY.

"YOU READY
TO GO, MAX?"

"WE NEED TO
KEEP MOVING."







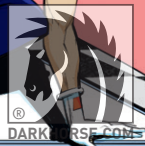
LET'S
WRECK UP
THIS PLACE!

WAIT,
WHAT?

OH,
GOD
GOD



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"MAX, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PARKED BIETI'S SHIP OUT IN THE OPEN."

"I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T LOOK FOR IT IN THE PARKING LOT."

"DID YOU SEE HIS NEW JET PACK?"

"HE'D BE PRECIOUS IF HE WASN'T SUCH AN ASS."

"DON'T FORGET HE ALSO RUNS AN INTERGALACTIC ASSASSINS-FOR-HIRE RING."

"OH, SO THIS IS THE PART WHERE WE HAVE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY DIALOGUE ABOUT STUFF WE BOTH KNOW?"

"LIKE THAT WE QUIT SAID INTERGALACTIC ASSASSINS-FOR-HIRE RING BECAUSE SAID MONKEY WANTED US TO KILL A WHOLE FAMILY, INCLUDING TWO KIDS."

"AND WE COULDN'T DO IT BECAUSE WE MAY BE MONSTERS, BUT WE'RE NOT **MONSTERS**."

"AND WE'RE ON THE RUN BECAUSE WE STOLE HIS SPACE SHIP AND LEFT HIM WITH OUR PILE OF GARBAGE."

"IS THAT EVERYTHING?"

"OH, AND THAT WE'RE ABOUT TO GET OUR FIRST NON-ASSASSINATION JOB. BECAUSE A GIRL HAS TO EAT. TACOS, PREFERABLY."

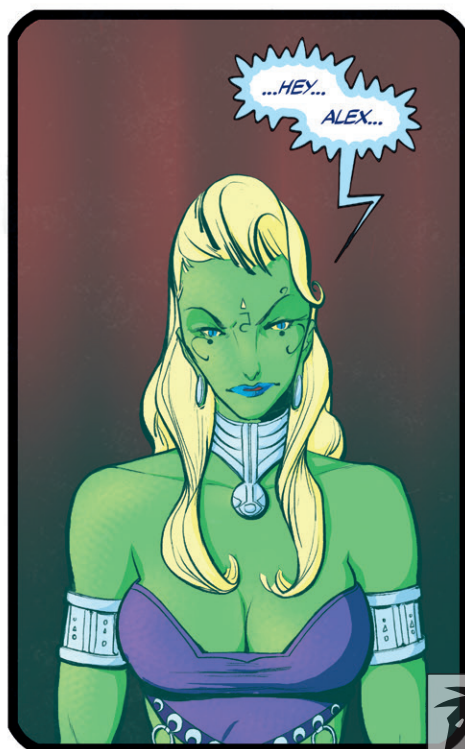
BEEP BEEP BEEP

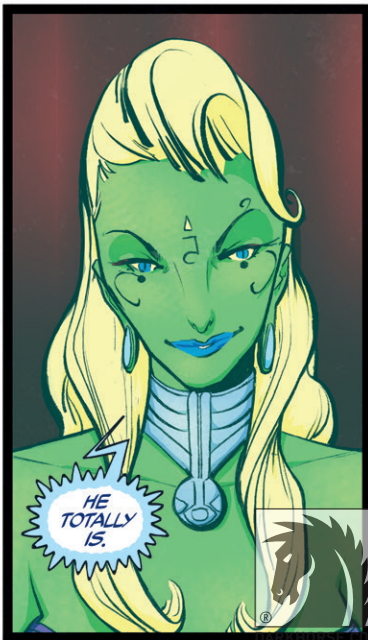
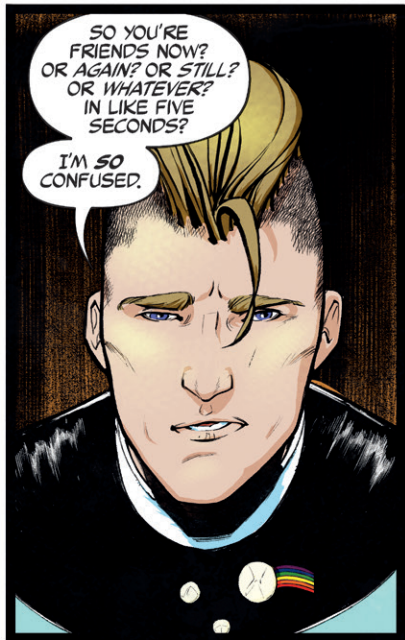
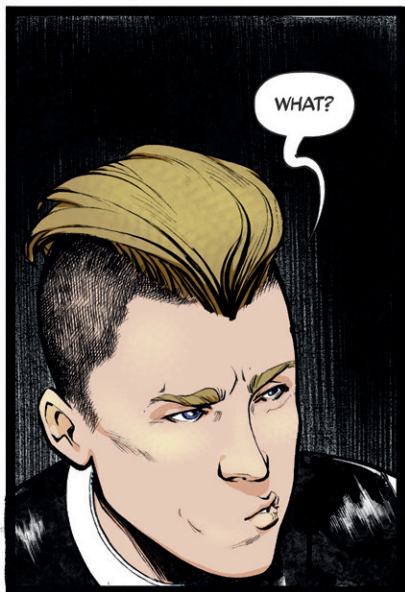
"SEE?"

"DOPE."



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LATER ON CALLIOPE.
WAAAAY OUT ON THE
EDGE OF THE GALAXY.

POPULATION 100,000.
ALL FEMALE.

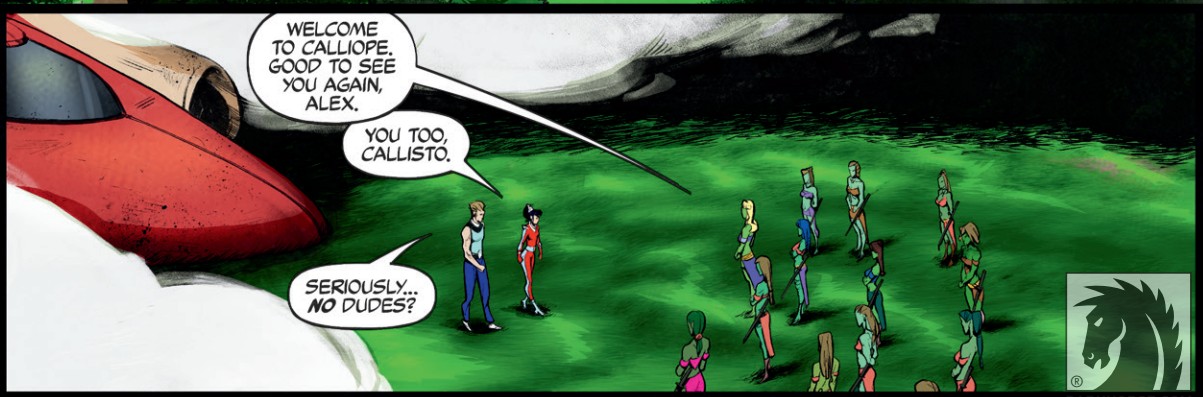
WELL...
ALMOST.



WELCOME
TO CALLIOPE.
GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN,
ALEX.

YOU TOO,
CALLISTO.

SERIOUSLY...
NO DUDES?



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IT WAS A
DISTRESS CALL
FROM AMBASSADOR
XIXA, A DIPLOMAT ON
ANTIGONE, A NEARBY
MOON.

WHAT'D
THEY HAVE
TO SAY?



COME ON.

ALL
THE GUYS
CAN'T HAVE
LEFT.

THERE'S
GOT TO BE *ONE*...
SOMEWHERE...



ANTIGONE
IS SPLIT DOWN
THE MIDDLE.

DEMOCRATIC
HUMANOIDS ON
XIXA'S SIDE AND FASCIST
DICTATORSHIP OF
RHINOCORNS ON
THE OTHER.

XIXA'S SON
AND DAUGHTER ARE
BEING HELD BY THE
RHINOCORNS.

SO WE
GO IN, GET THEM
OUT, AND GET PAID
HANDSOMELY FOR OUR
ASTOUNDING BRAVERY,
RIGHT?

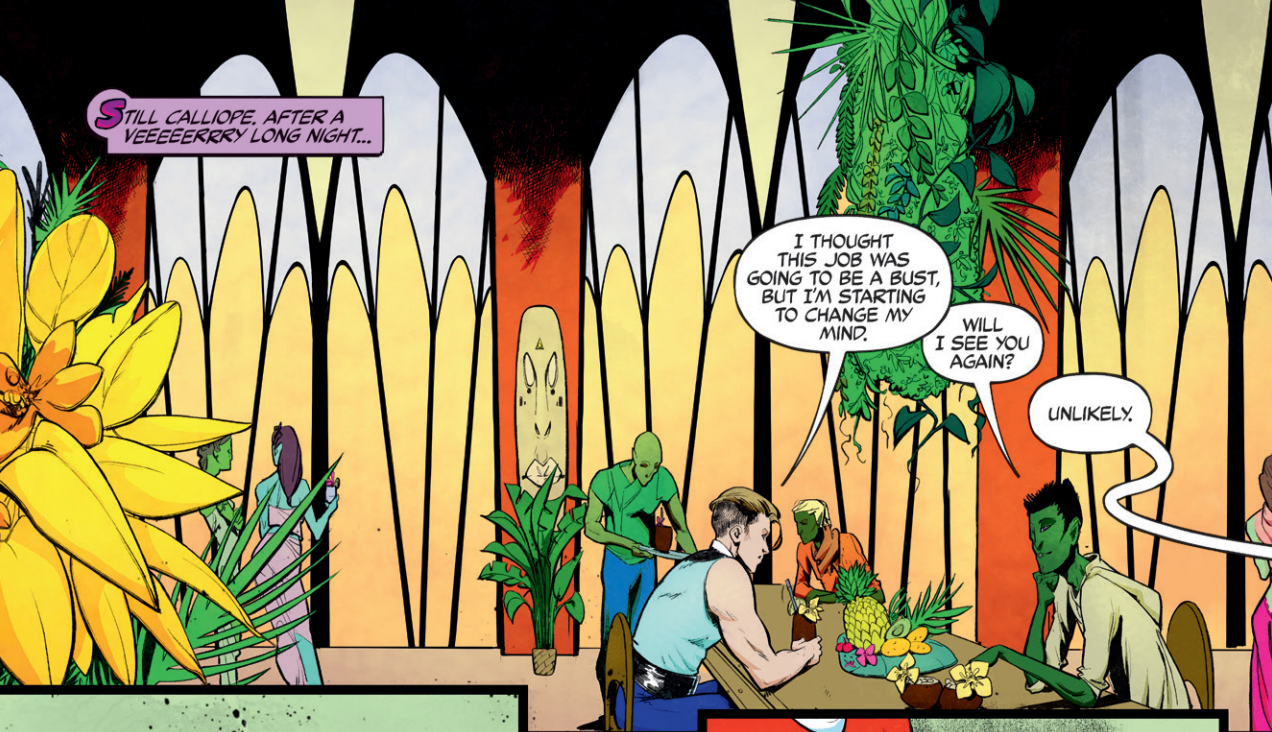
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

I MEAN...
NONE? AS
IN, NOT ONE
MAN?

HOW
DO YOU,
LIKE, MAKE
BABIES?



S STILL CALLIOPE, AFTER A VEEEEERRRY LONG NIGHT...



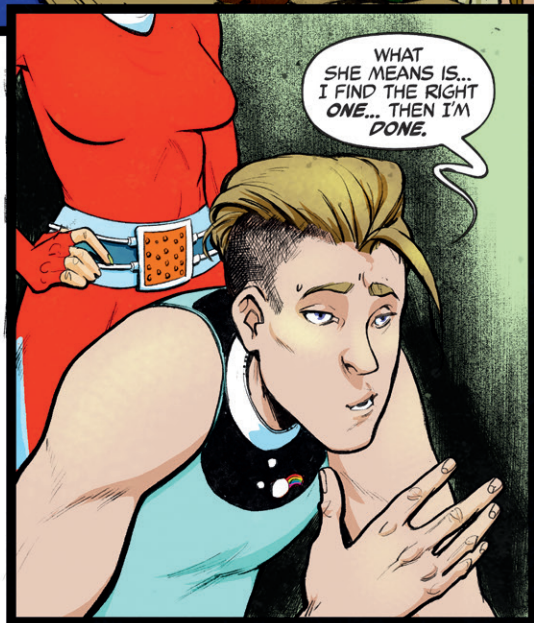
I THOUGHT THIS JOB WAS GOING TO BE A BUST, BUT I'M STARTING TO CHANGE MY MIND.

WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

UNLIKELY.



MAX IS MORE OF A "ONE AND DONE" KIND OF GUY.



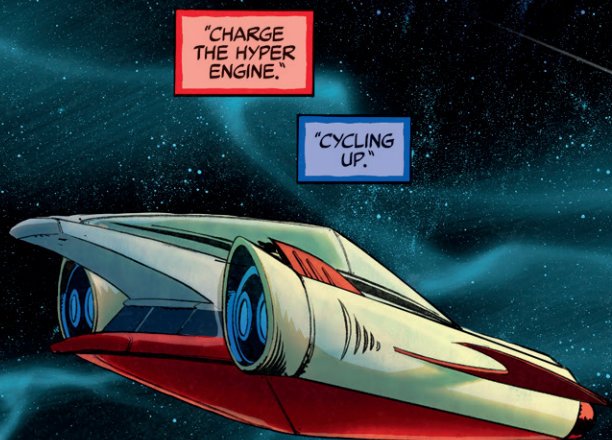
WHAT SHE MEANS IS... I FIND THE RIGHT ONE... THEN I'M DONE.



YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR LIFE! DON'T WAIT FOR ME!

I WASN'T GOING TO, BUT OKAY!

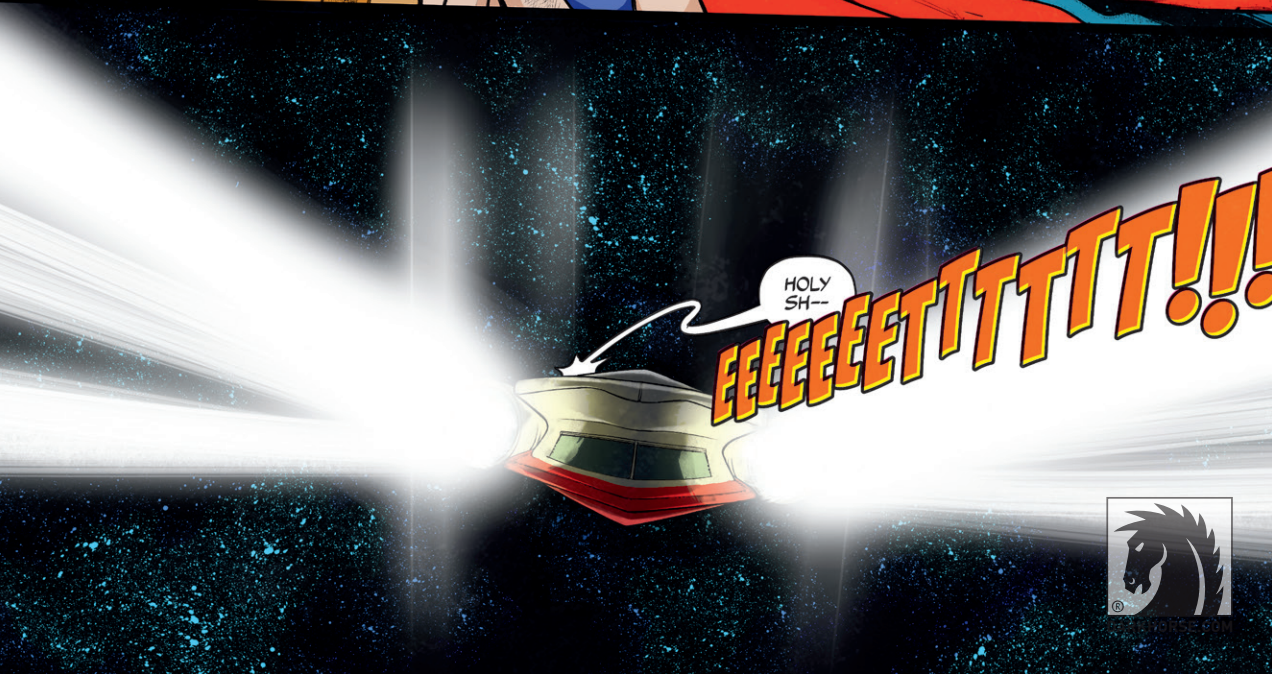
OUCH.



"TELL ME YOU AT LEAST GOT A GOOD DEAL OUT OF HER."

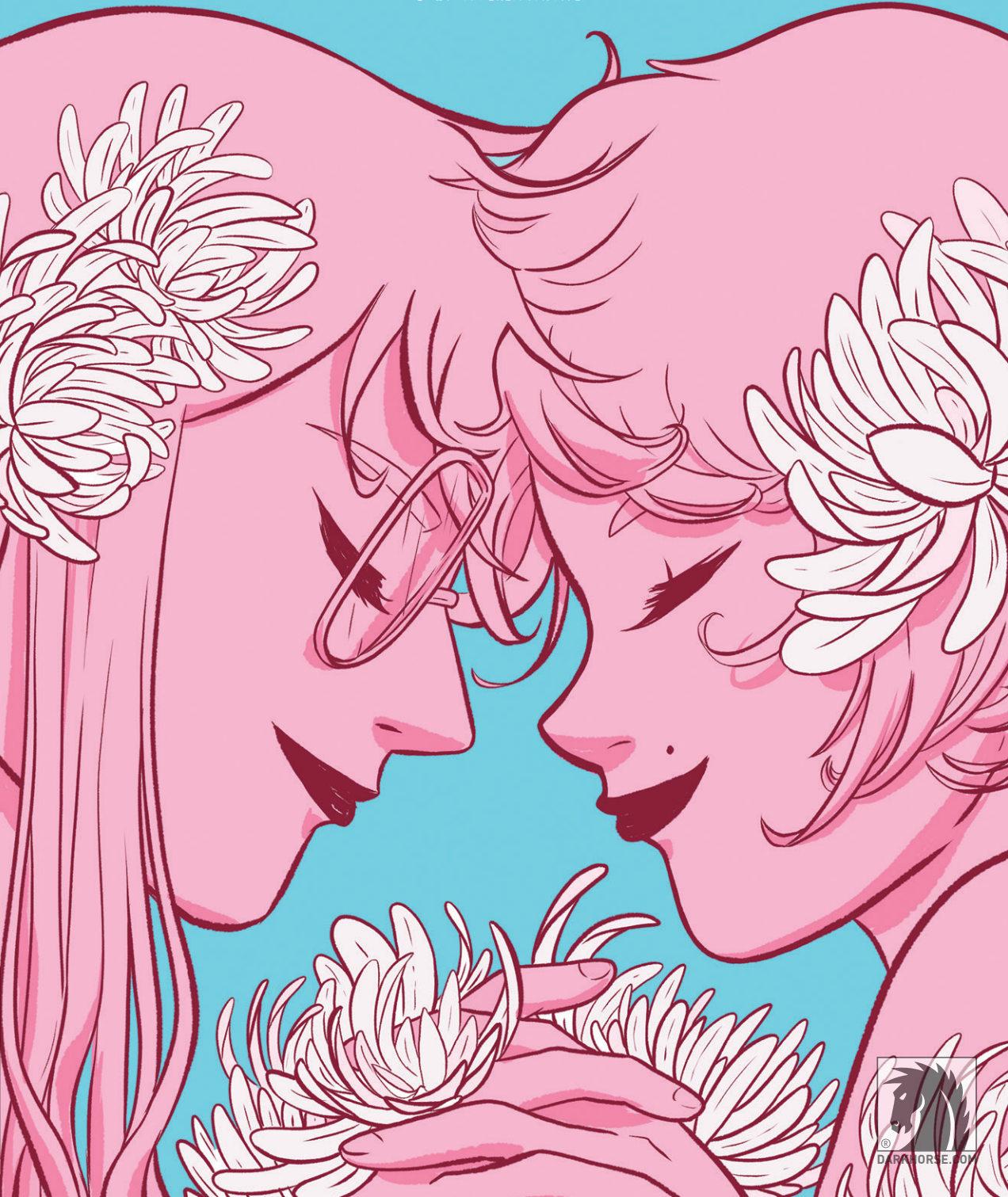
"TWENTY PERCENT."





USTM SARA SOLER

TRANSLATED BY
SILVIA PEREA LABAYEN



USTM

SARA
SOLER



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USTM

SARA SOLER

English translation by
SILVIA PEREA LABAYEN

Letters by
JOAMETTE GIL



ONCE UPON A TIME

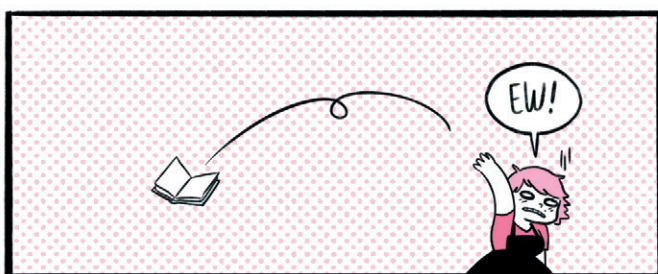
IN A VERY
BINARY WORLD...

THERE WAS A LITTLE
BOY DOING GIRLY THINGS
LIKE WEARING DRESSES
AND PLAYING WITH
DOLLS.

EVER SINCE HE
WAS LITTLE IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT HE
WASN'T REALLY A
BOY, BECAUSE...

...EVERYONE KNOWS
THAT ONLY GIRLS CAN
DO GIRL STUFF, AND ONLY
BOYS CAN DO BOY STUFF.
STEREOTYPES DON'T LIE.
IT'S WRITTEN IN THE BOOK
OF PRECONCEIVED
NOTIONS.

THE BOOK
OF
PRECONCEIVED
NOTIONS



HI!
I'M SARA
AND THIS IS DIANA.
WE'RE HERE TO TELL
OUR STORY!

THE FIRST THING
YOU SHOULD KNOW
IS THAT DIANA IS A
TRANS WOMAN.

YUP, THAT'S
RIGHT. YOU SHOULD
ALSO KNOW WHY WE'VE
CHOSEN TO START
WITH THAT.

LOTS OF TRANS
STORIES BEGIN THIS
WAY, BUT IT'S NOT A RULE.
SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT FOR
SOMEONE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO
CALL THEMSELVES TRANS, THE
SIGNS NEED TO HAVE BEEN
THERE FROM AN EARLY AGE.
**ROOKIE
MISTAKE!**

THIS IS A GENDER
STEREOTYPE.

"IF YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN A
GIRL, WHY WEREN'T
YOU PLAYING WITH
DOLLS AND WEARING
DRESSES?"

SARA →

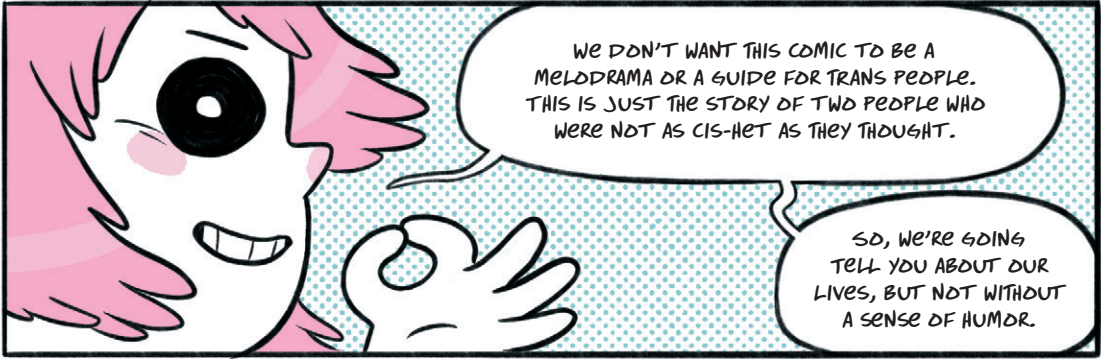
↓
CIMMI

← DIANA

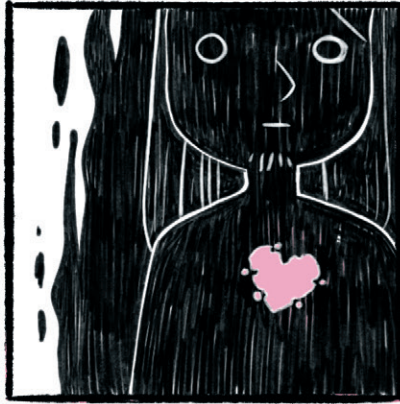




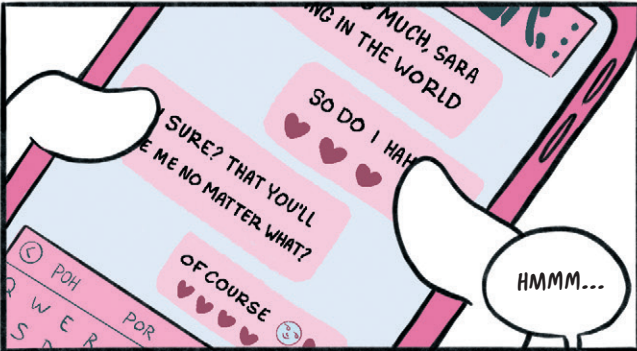
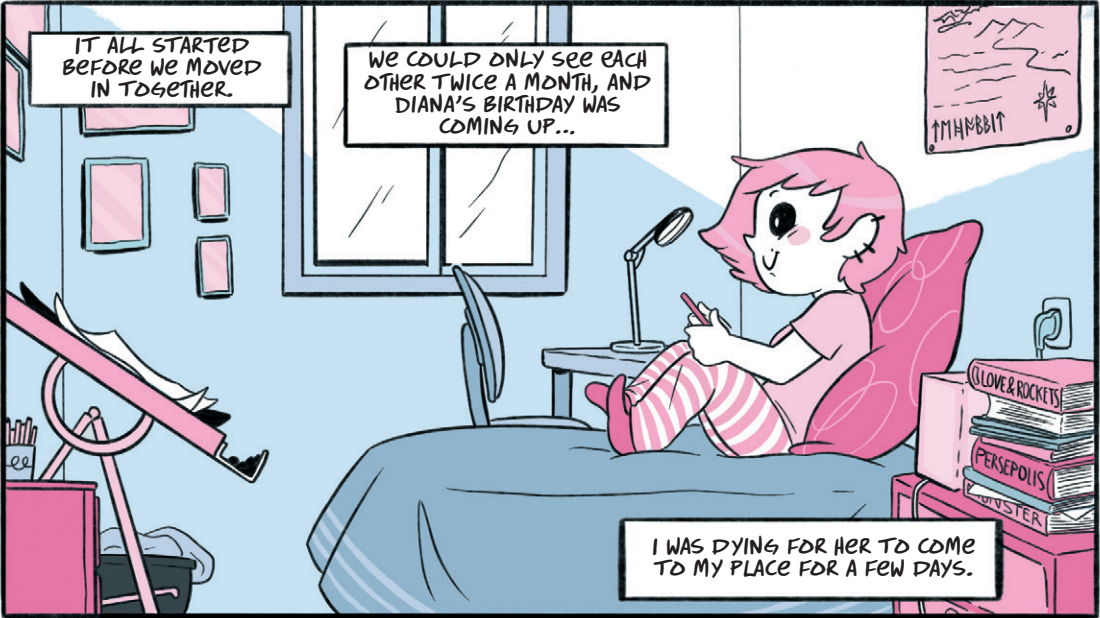


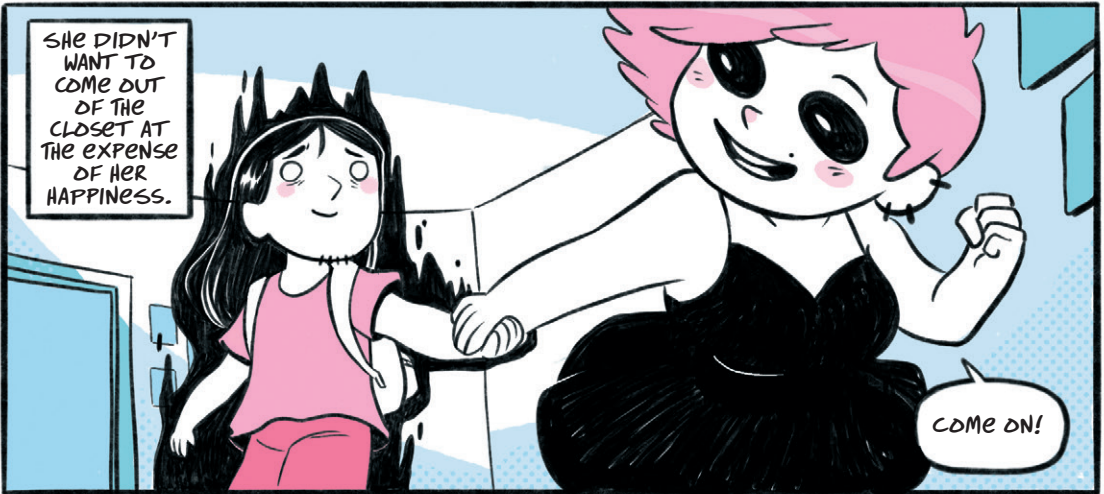
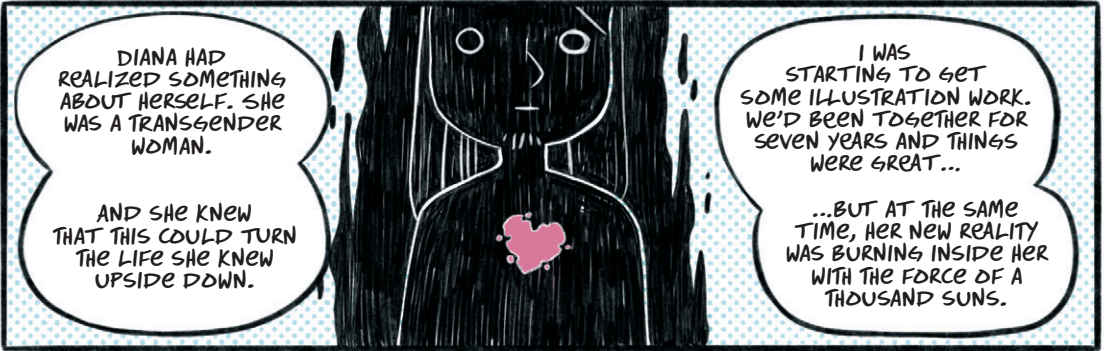
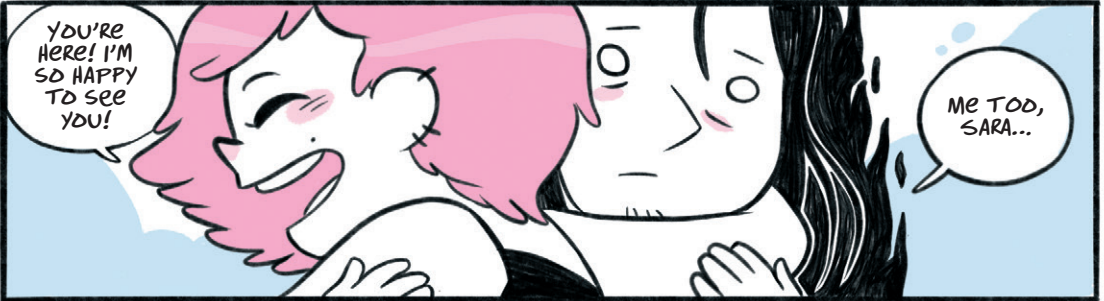


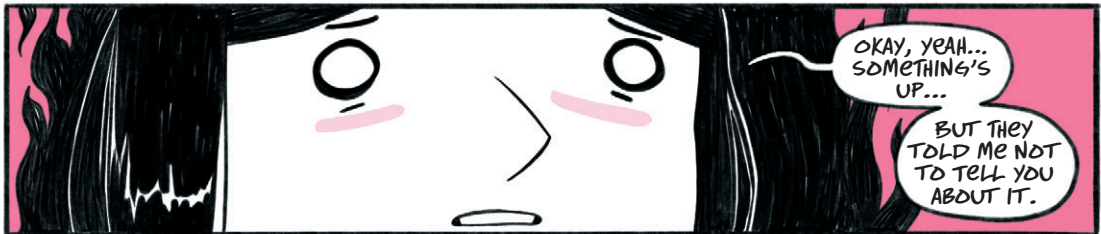
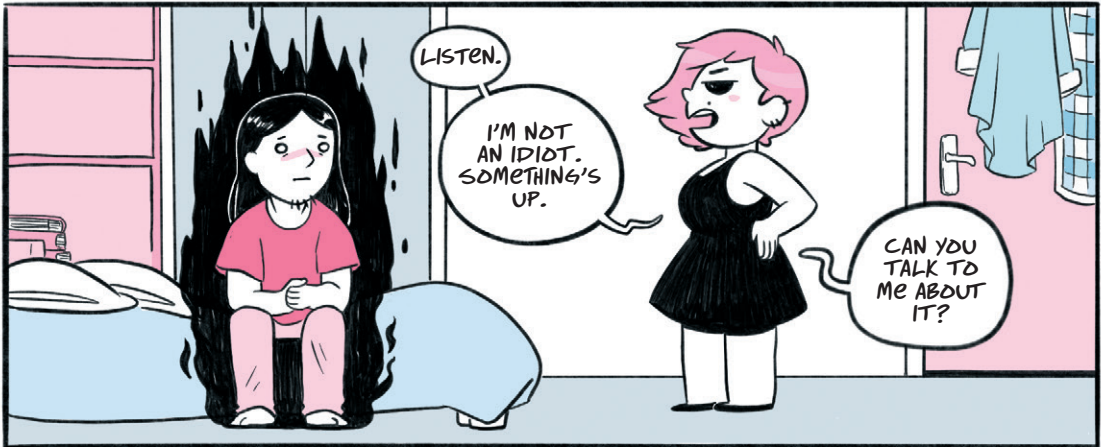
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LEAVING







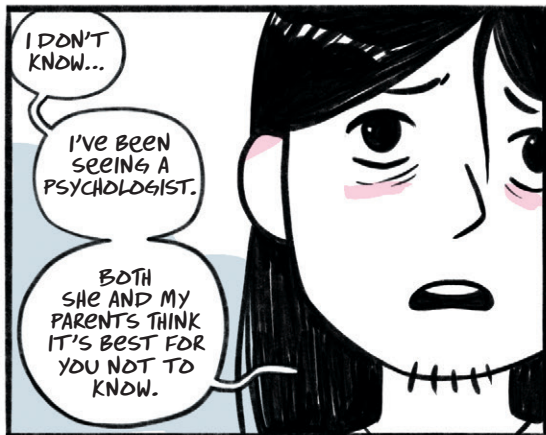
BECAUSE I'M
TOTALLY
NOT A
PESSIMIST, I
THOUGHT:

TERMINAL CANCER



BUT...
BUT...

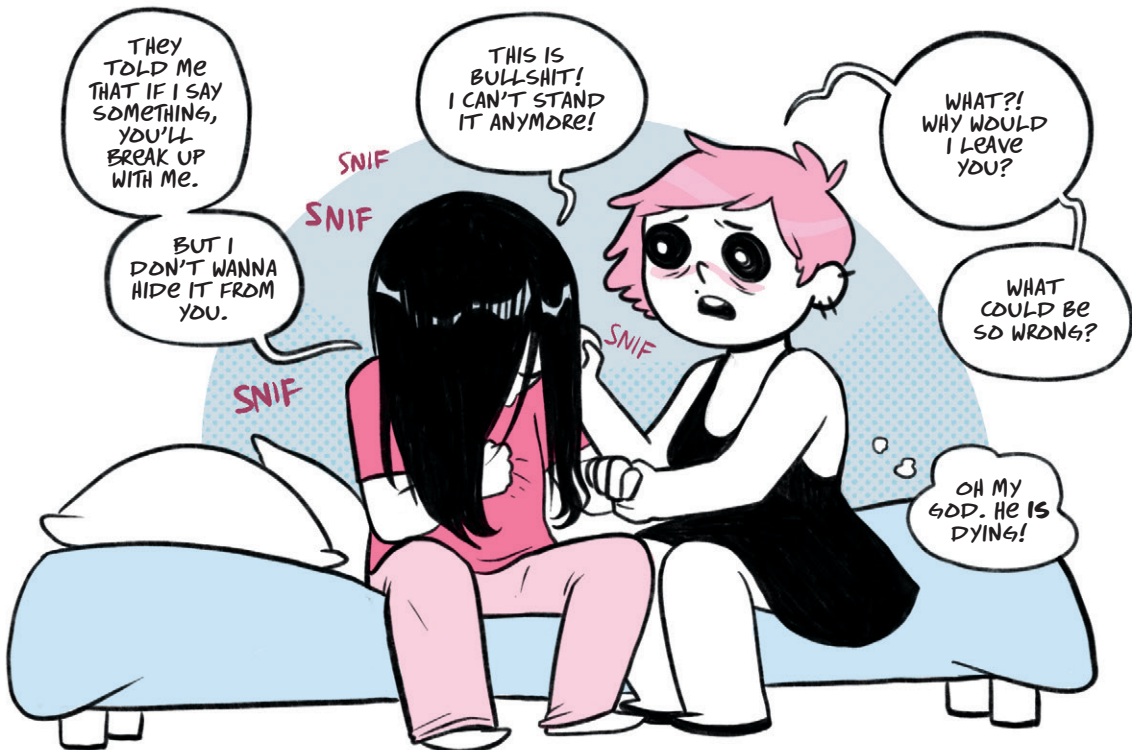
WHY CAN'T
YOU TELL
ME? IS IT
SERIOUS?



I DON'T
KNOW...

I'VE BEEN
SEEING A
PSYCHOLOGIST.

BOTH
SHE AND MY
PARENTS THINK
IT'S BEST FOR
YOU NOT TO
KNOW.



THEY
TOLD ME
THAT IF I SAY
SOMETHING,
YOU'LL
BREAK UP
WITH ME.

BUT I
DON'T WANNA
HIDE IT FROM
YOU.

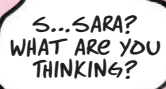
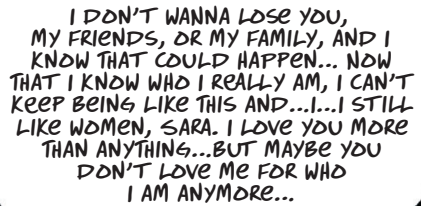
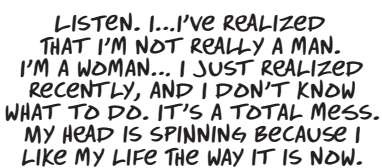
THIS IS
BULLSHIT!
I CAN'T STAND
IT ANYMORE!

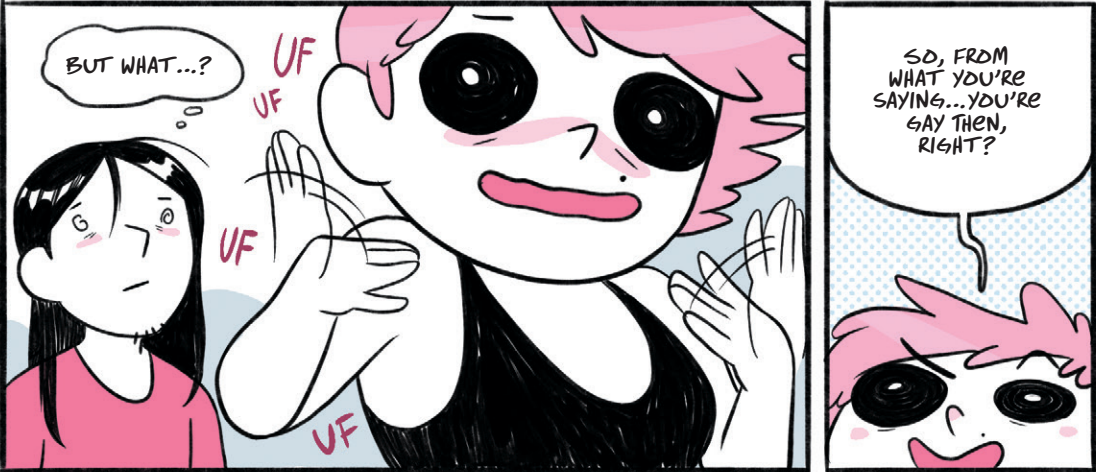
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD
I LEAVE
YOU?

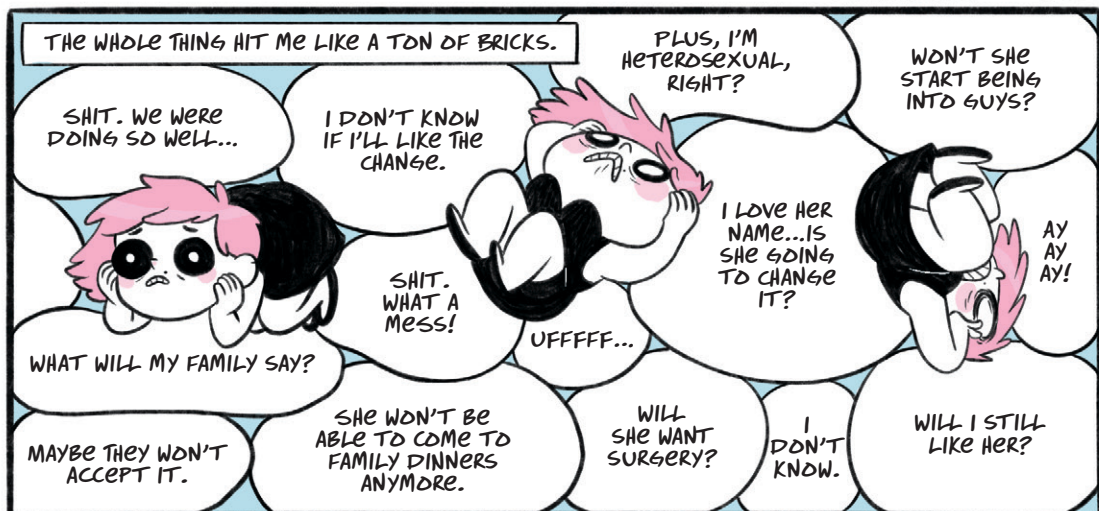
WHAT
COULD BE
SO WRONG?

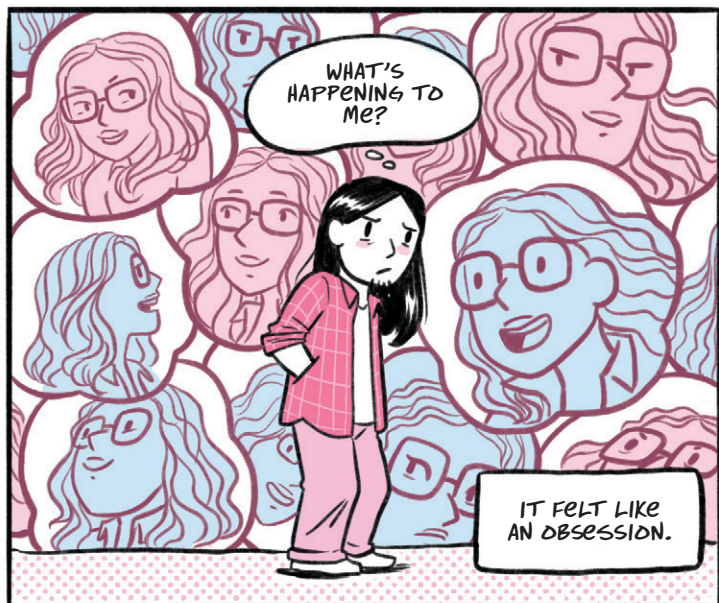
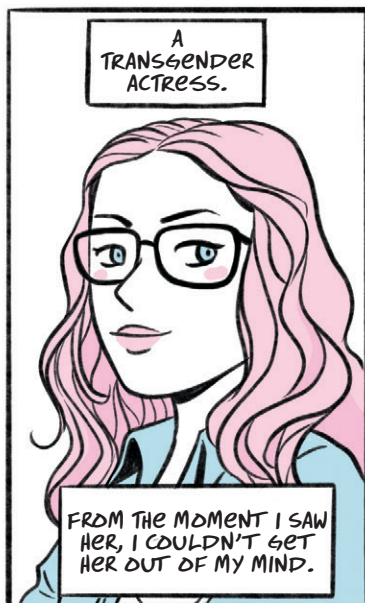
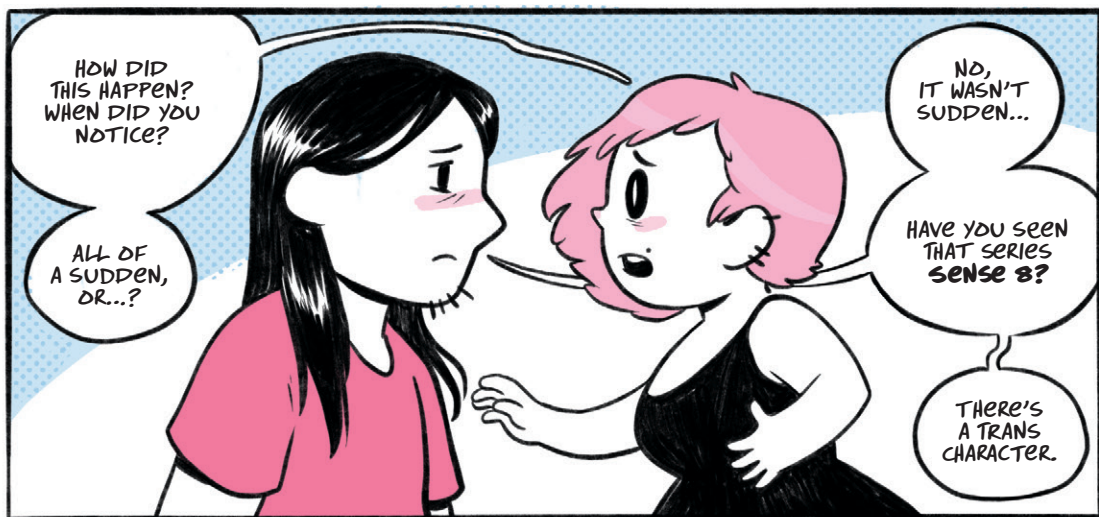
OH MY
GOD. HE IS
DYING!

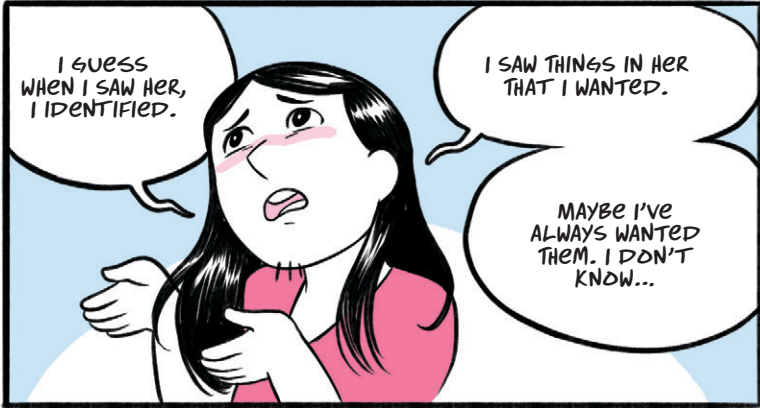




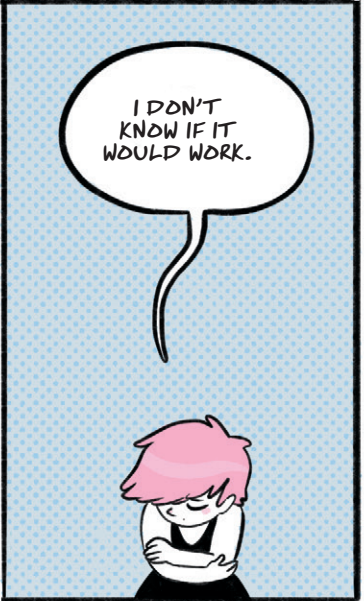
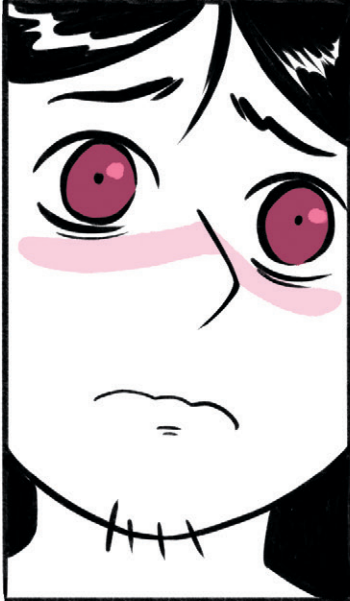


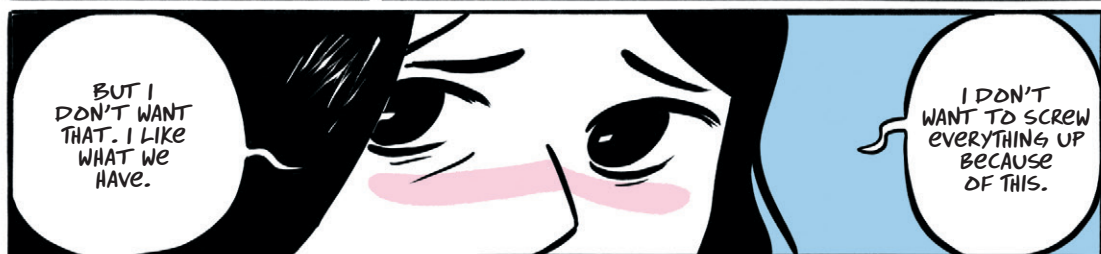


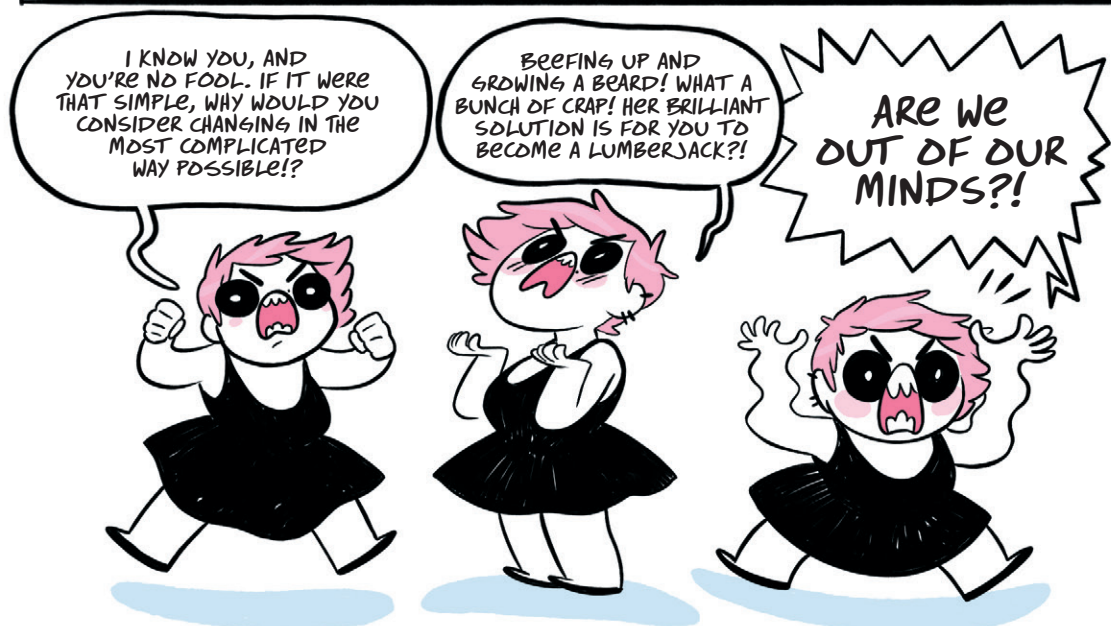




DIANA HADN'T YET REALIZED IT, BUT THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE THAT SHE SAW A TRANS CHARACTER THAT WASN'T A JOKE OR ECCENTRIC OR BAD. SHE WAS JUST A RANDOM REGULAR PERSON.



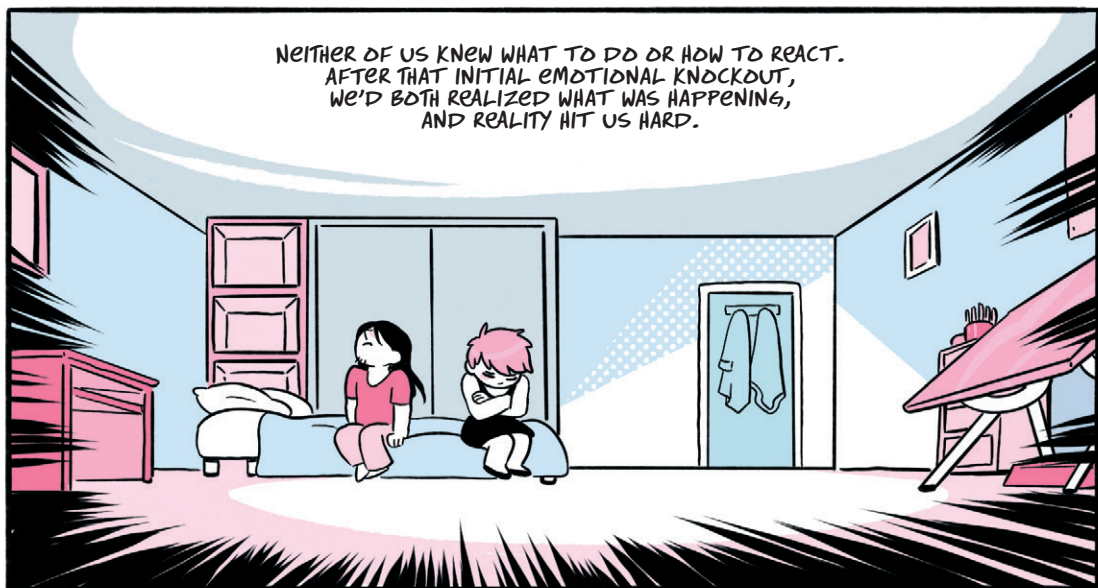




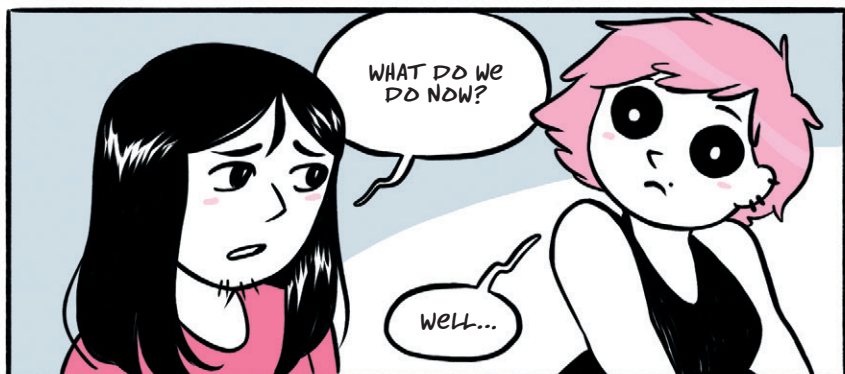
SPOILER: SHE DIDN'T. SHE WAS LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO KEEP THE POSSIBILITY OF DIANA'S TRANSGENDERNESS OUT OF THE EQUATION. SHE WAS UNINFORMED. SHE'D NEVER STUDIED GENDER OR IDENTITY ISSUES. IT WAS LIKE ASKING AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST TO DO OPEN HEART SURGERY.

THEY'RE BOTH DOCTORS, RIGHT?

NEITHER OF US KNEW WHAT TO DO OR HOW TO REACT.
AFTER THAT INITIAL EMOTIONAL KNOCKOUT,
WE'D BOTH REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING,
AND REALITY HIT US HARD.



OUR
RELATIONSHIP,
SOMETHING WE'D
TAKEN AS A
FIXED POINT IN
SPACE-TIME, WAS
SPIRALING OUT
OF CONTROL.



WHAT DO WE
DO NOW?

WELL...

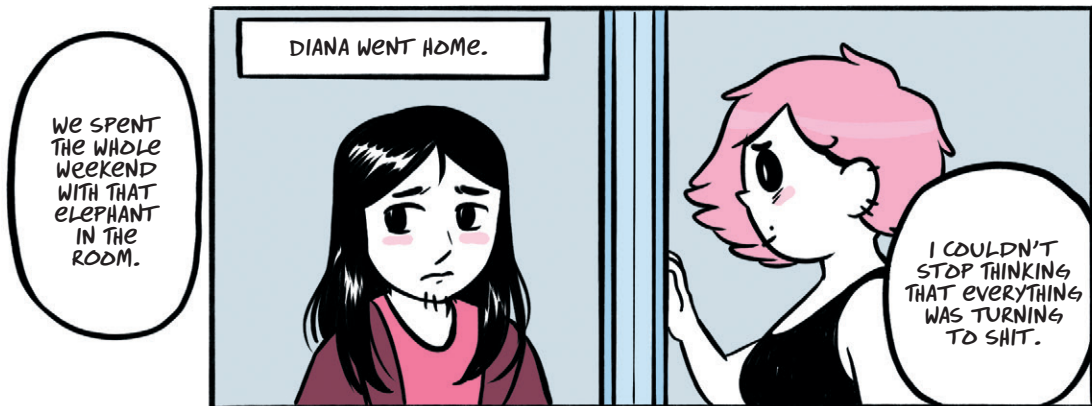
WITH THINGS AS
THEY ARE...I THINK
WE SHOULD HAVE A
QUIET WEEKEND.

AND SEE
HOW THINGS
GO.

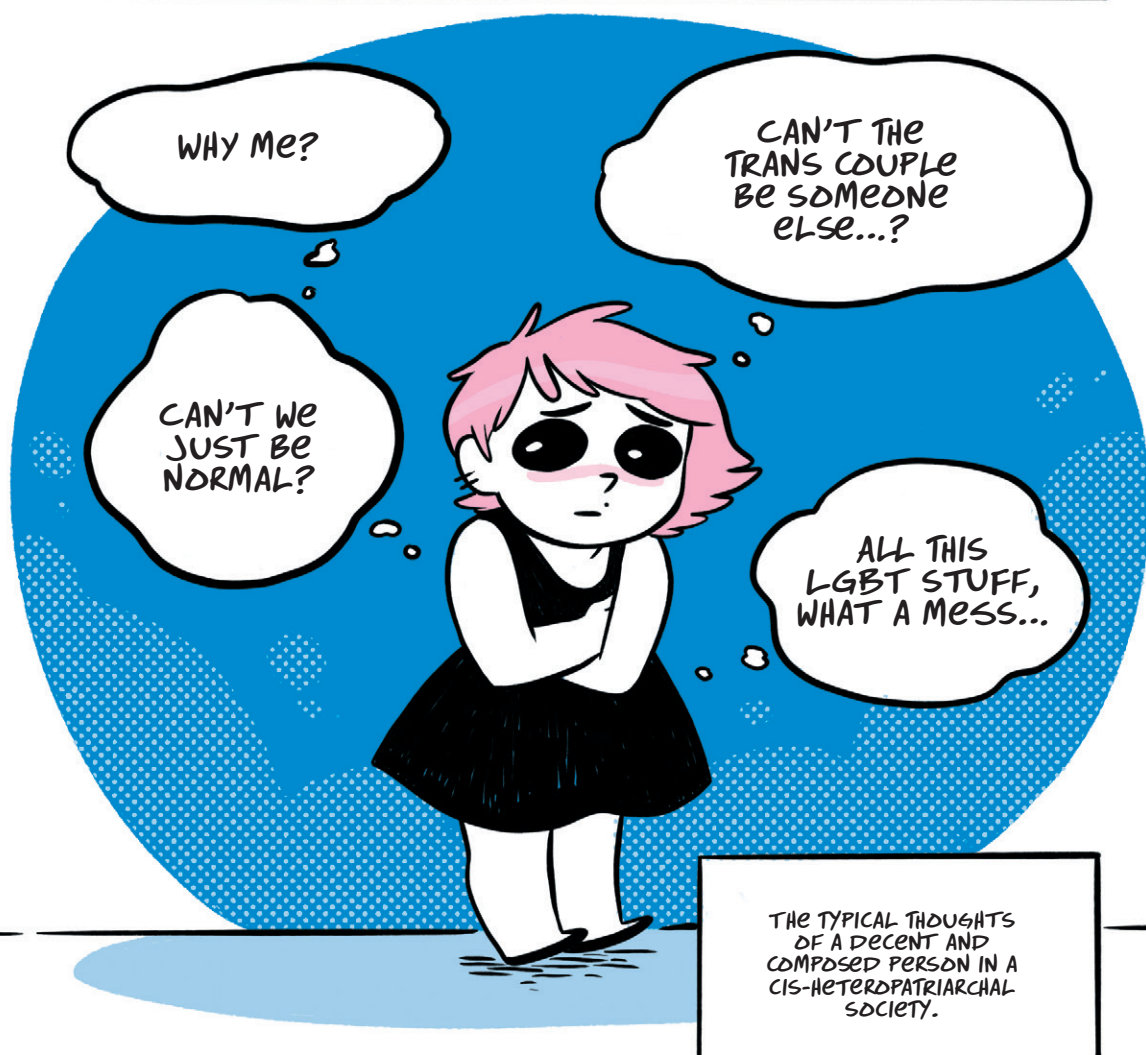
OKAY?

OKAY.





OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS BEFORE WE SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN, LOTS OF STUFF WENT THROUGH MY MIND. SOME REALLY UGLY STUFF THAT I'M NOT PROUD OF.



the oddly pedestrian life of
**CHRISTOPHER
CHAOS™**



Tynion Brombal Goodhart
Muerto Bidikar



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Volume 1

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The Oddly Pedestrian Life of Christopher Chaos Volume 1

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Collects *The Oddly Pedestrian Life of Christopher Chaos* #1-#6 and a ten-page prologue.

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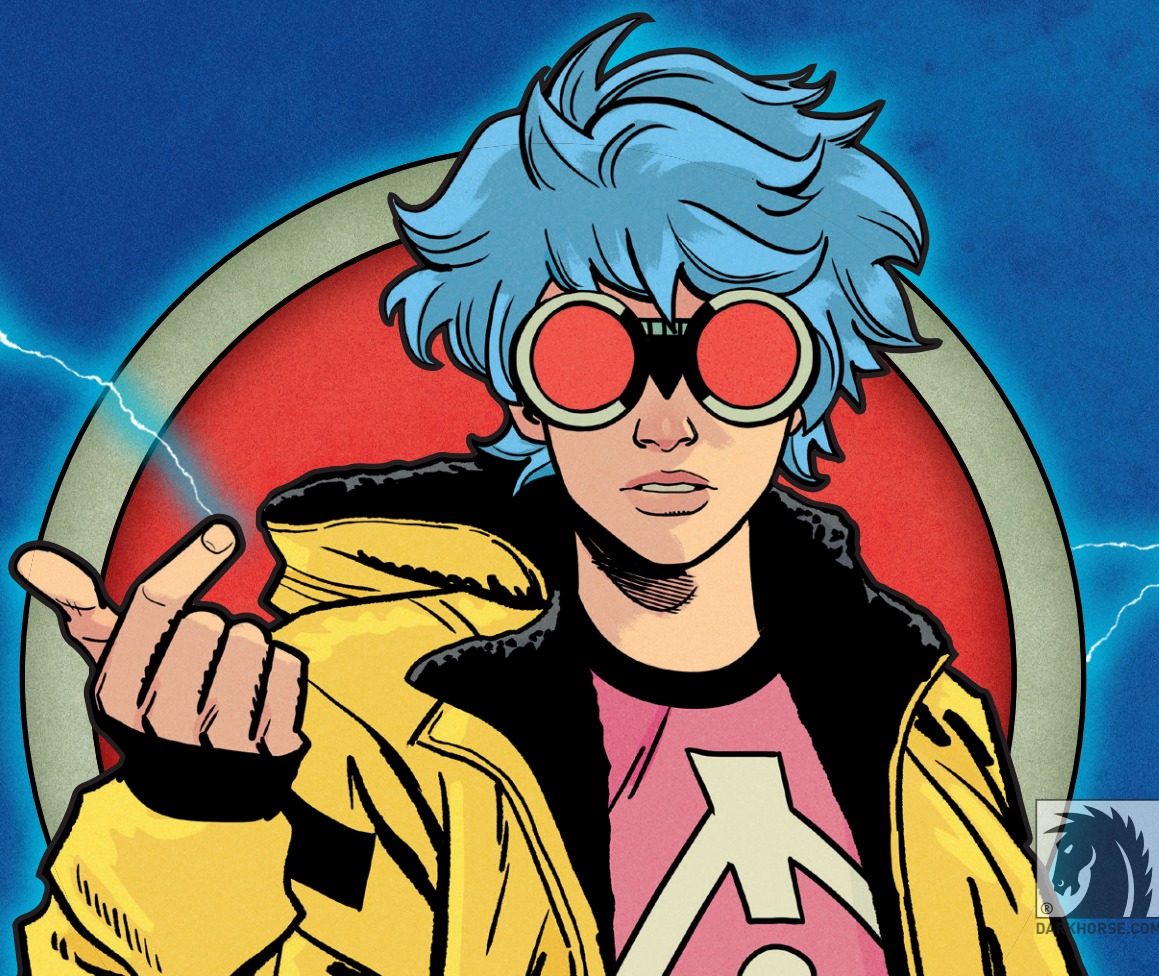
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Prologue



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NEW BRIAR CITY.
Night of the Full Moon.

Where do
I begin?

That stormy
night, or far
earlier?

AXIS

takaTAKKt

tkktAKKtktakata

It is my third attempt at this
letter, as others found their
end in ashes, and ashes they
shall remain--I checked.

It appears I only
write to you in
my depths...

...when all is destitute
of hope and the very end
seems within grasp...

Is that where
I have found
myself? At
an end?

TAKtakaTAKt
tAKTAKATA

Then, where
do I begin?



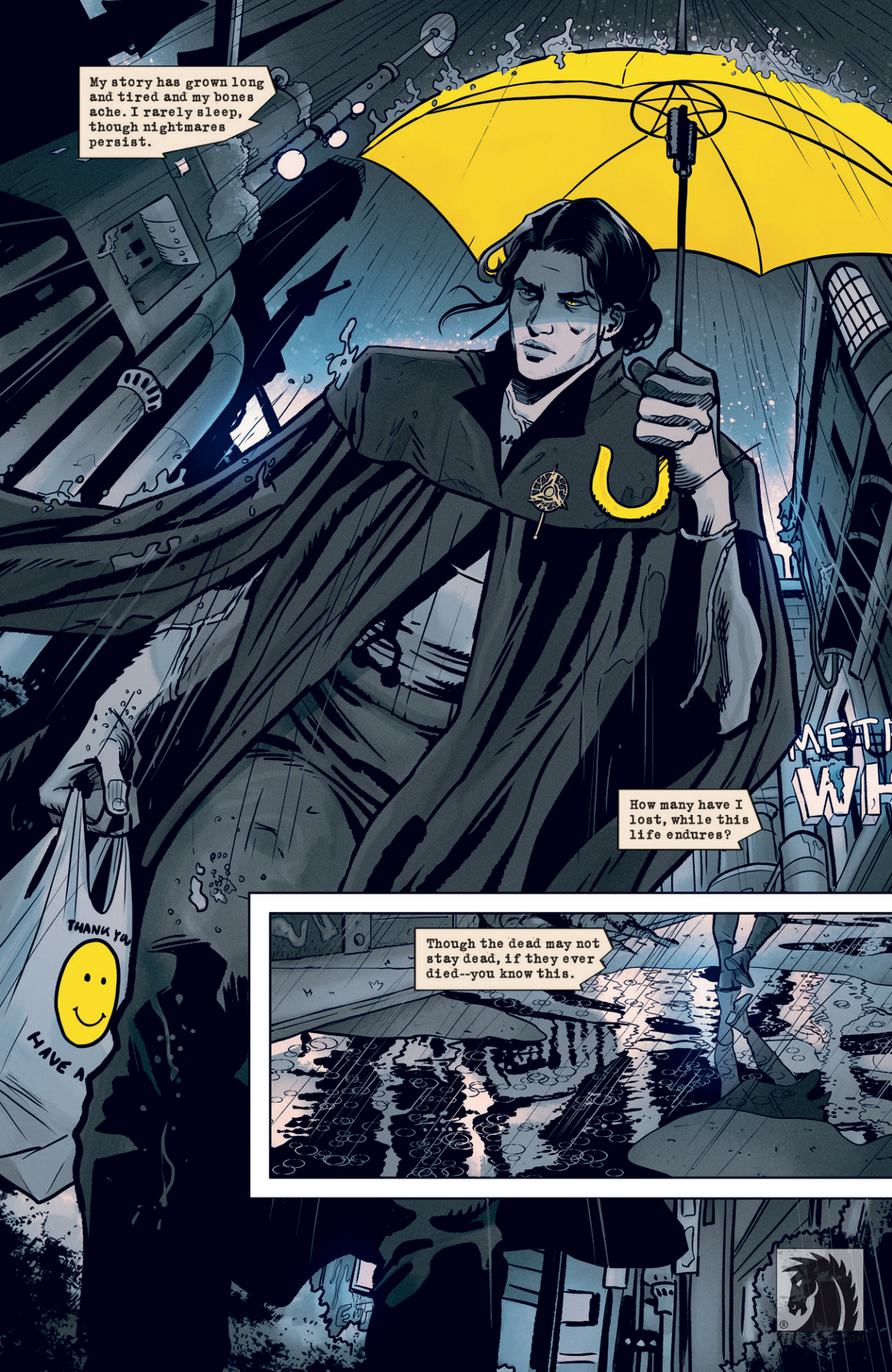
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I am not the man
I once was...



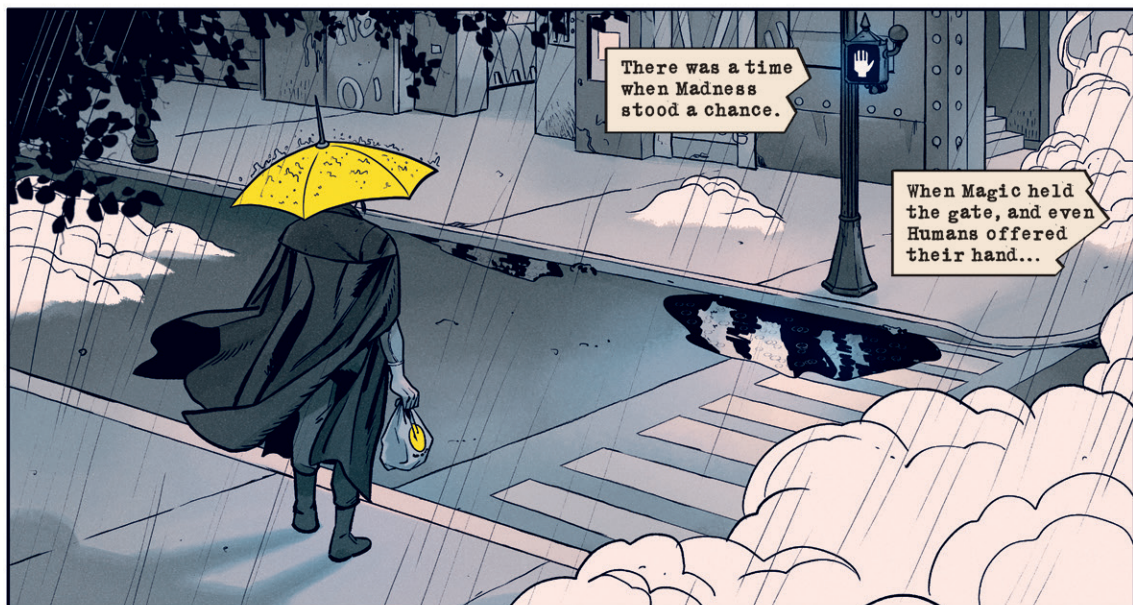
A man with dark hair and a yellow eye patch, wearing a dark trench coat with a yellow 'U' on the chest, holds a bright yellow umbrella. He stands in a rainy, dark city street with buildings and a large ship in the background. A white plastic bag with a smiley face is visible in the lower left.

My story has grown long
and tired and my bones
ache. I rarely sleep,
though nightmares
persist.

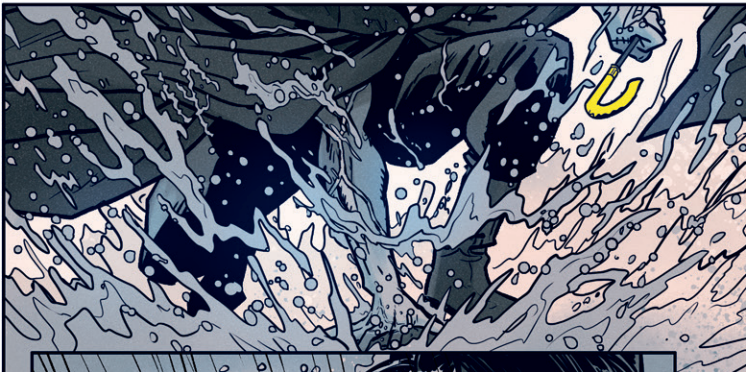
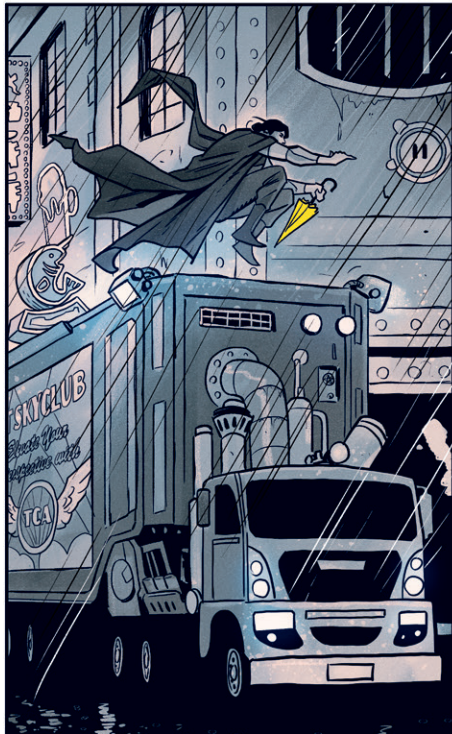
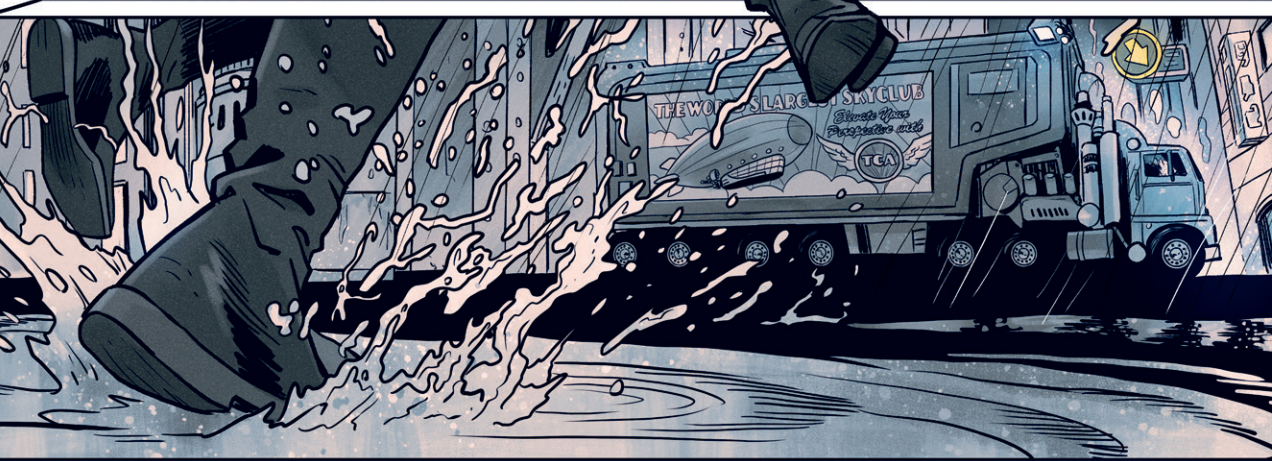
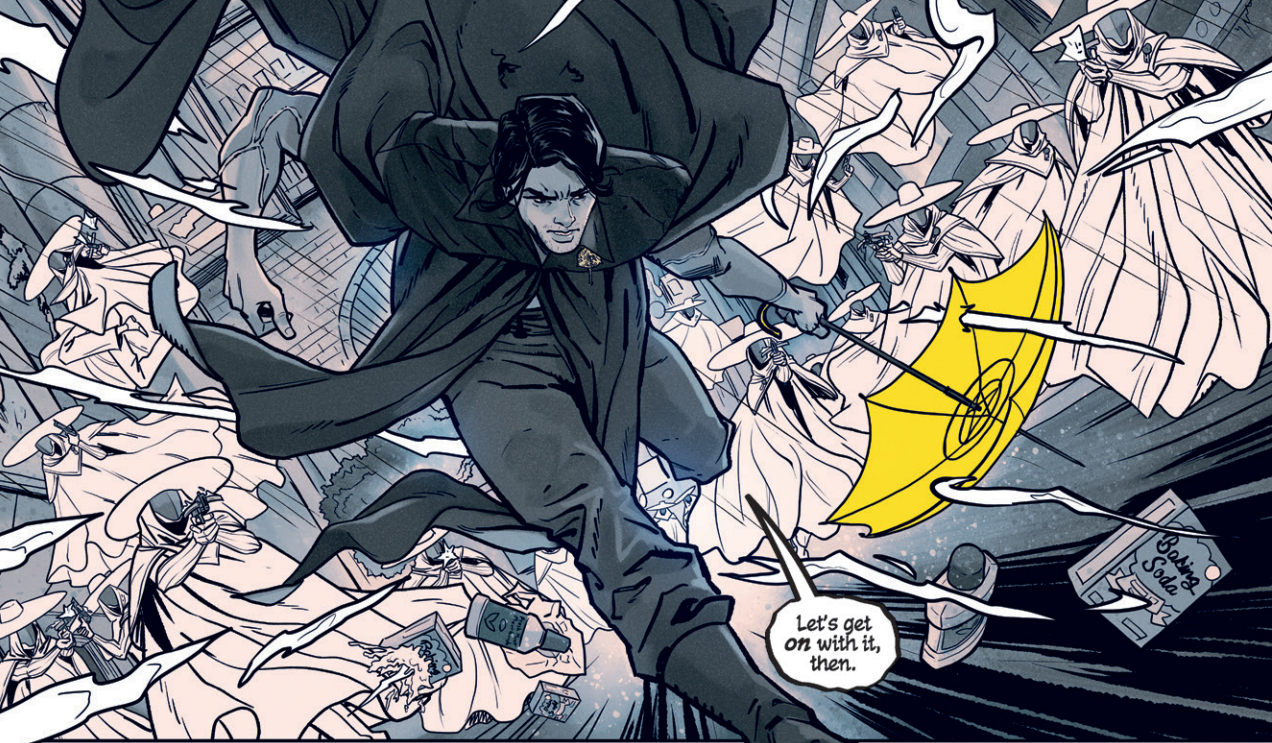
How many have I
lost, while this
life endures?

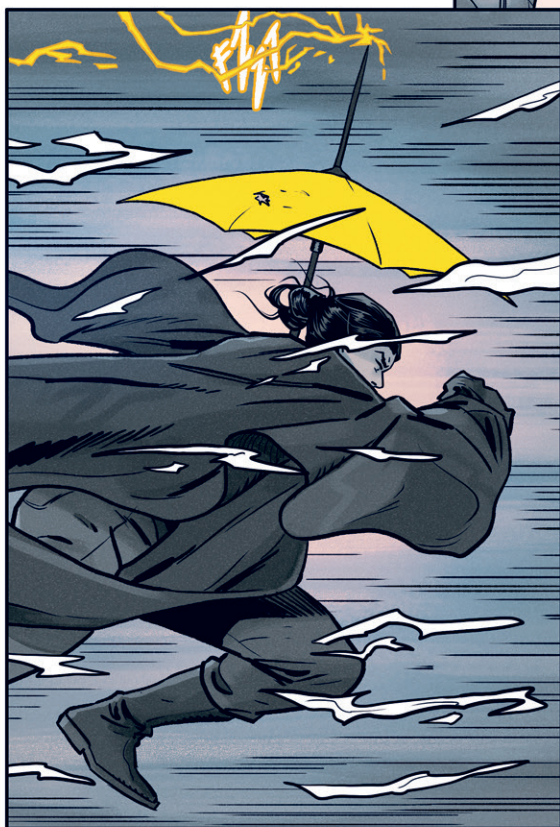
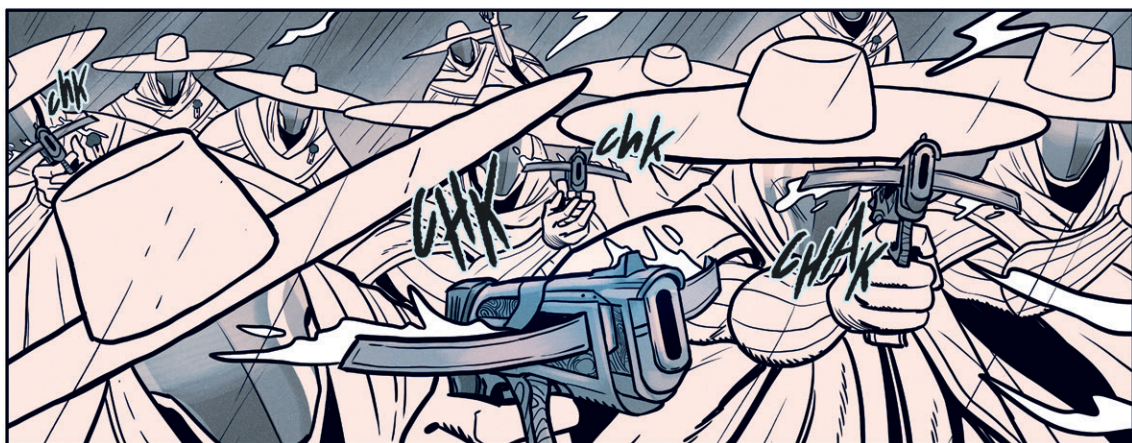
Though the dead may not
stay dead, if they ever
died--you know this.











I began as
an idea--

KRA-TO

--forged
to live
ever after.



Against
my will.

Against my
very flesh.



Is that why I
write, Father?



So not your
will, but
mine, be done?

Yes...YES! Were you not the
first to teach me that
the hated are buried in the
stories of their victors?



Let this be my small
victory, then...

For this letter--my third in
as many centuries--contains
knowledge you desire but
shall never possess.

And in your
ignorance, my story
shall never end.

So, fear the
dark, Father.
Light a candle
for your dread.

The dead will not
stay dead, if they ever
died--I know this.



Because I once
dreamed an
extraordinary
world...



...Now all
I have is
ashes.



And yet, I
write on...

Adam Frankenstein



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Chapter One



Rodriguez 2022



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SOMETIMES
I THINK I'M
REALLY **FUCKED**
UP IN THE
HEAD.

AND I DON'T
EVEN **LIKE** TO
SWEAR.



BUT HALF THE
THINGS I SEE
CAN'T BE REAL,
AND THE OTHER
HALF--

WELL,
THAT'S WHY I'M
GLAD **YOU'RE**
HERE...



I-I-VE JUST WITNESSED
SOMETHING **HORRIBLE**
THAT SAVED MY LIFE AND
DOOMED ME, ALL
THE SAME.



NOW I'M TRAPPED IN
SOME **UNSOLVABLE**
EQUATION WITH
NOWHERE ELSE
TO TURN...

SO I GUESS
I'M ASKING--**WILL**
YOU HELP ME?



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cha-kk



N-NO--

chakk
chakk

NO!

SHUT UP!

SHUT UP!

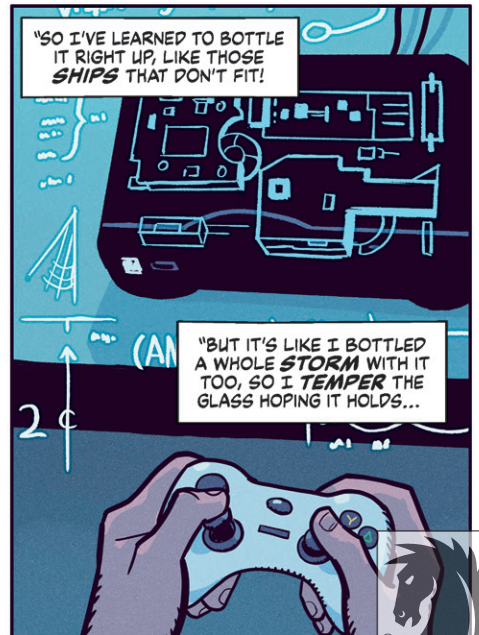
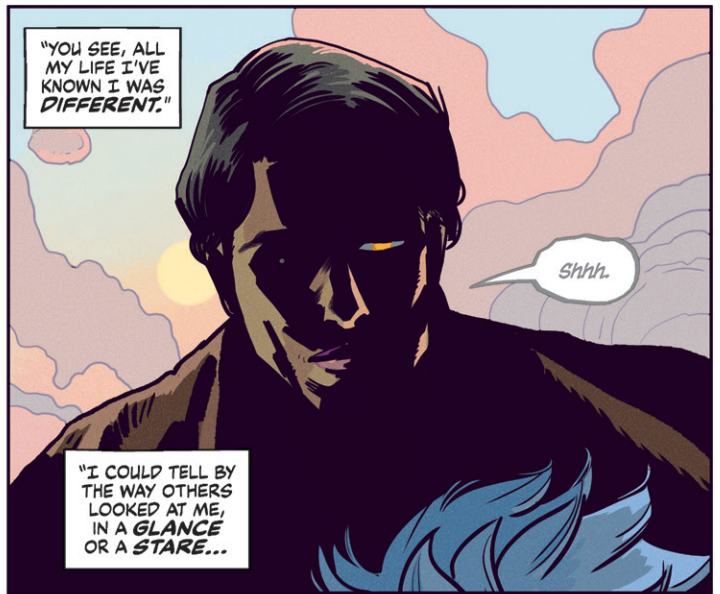
SHUT UP!

SHUT--



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"...BECAUSE IT'S JUST SO
HARD TO PUT ME BACK
TOGETHER AGAIN."



"MAYBE THAT'S
WHY MY **PARENTS**
LEFT ME..."

OH!



CHRISTOPHER?!

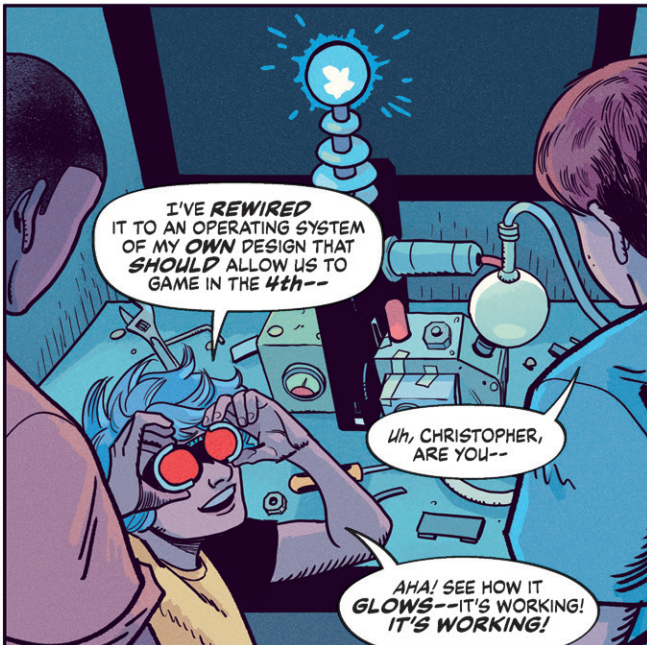
N-NO,
STOP IT.
GET BACK
IN--!



"WHY **EVERYONE**
EVENTUALLY GETS
SCARED AWAY..."

MY SON'S A--
A **NORMAL** BOY,
I PROMISE!

CHRISTOPHER,
SHOW THEM, SHOW
THEM YOU'RE A--



I'VE **REWired**
IT TO AN OPERATING SYSTEM
OF MY **OWN** DESIGN THAT
SHOULD ALLOW US TO
GAME IN THE **4th**--

Uh, CHRISTOPHER,
ARE YOU--

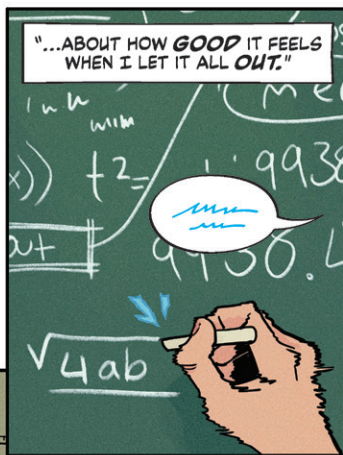
AHA! SEE HOW IT
GLOWS--IT'S WORKING!
IT'S WORKING!



IT WAS
HIM!

CHRISTOPHER--
CHAOS!

"UNTIL IT'S JUST
ME, ALONE AND
FEELING **GUILTY**..."

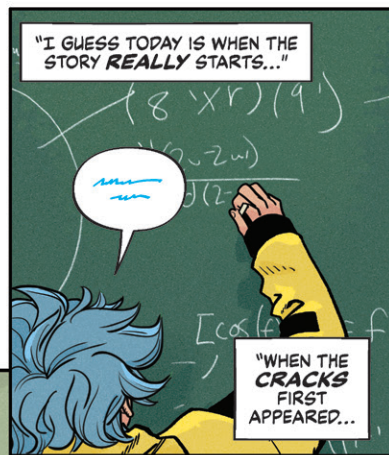


"...ABOUT HOW **GOOD** IT FEELS WHEN I LET IT ALL **OUT**."

mm

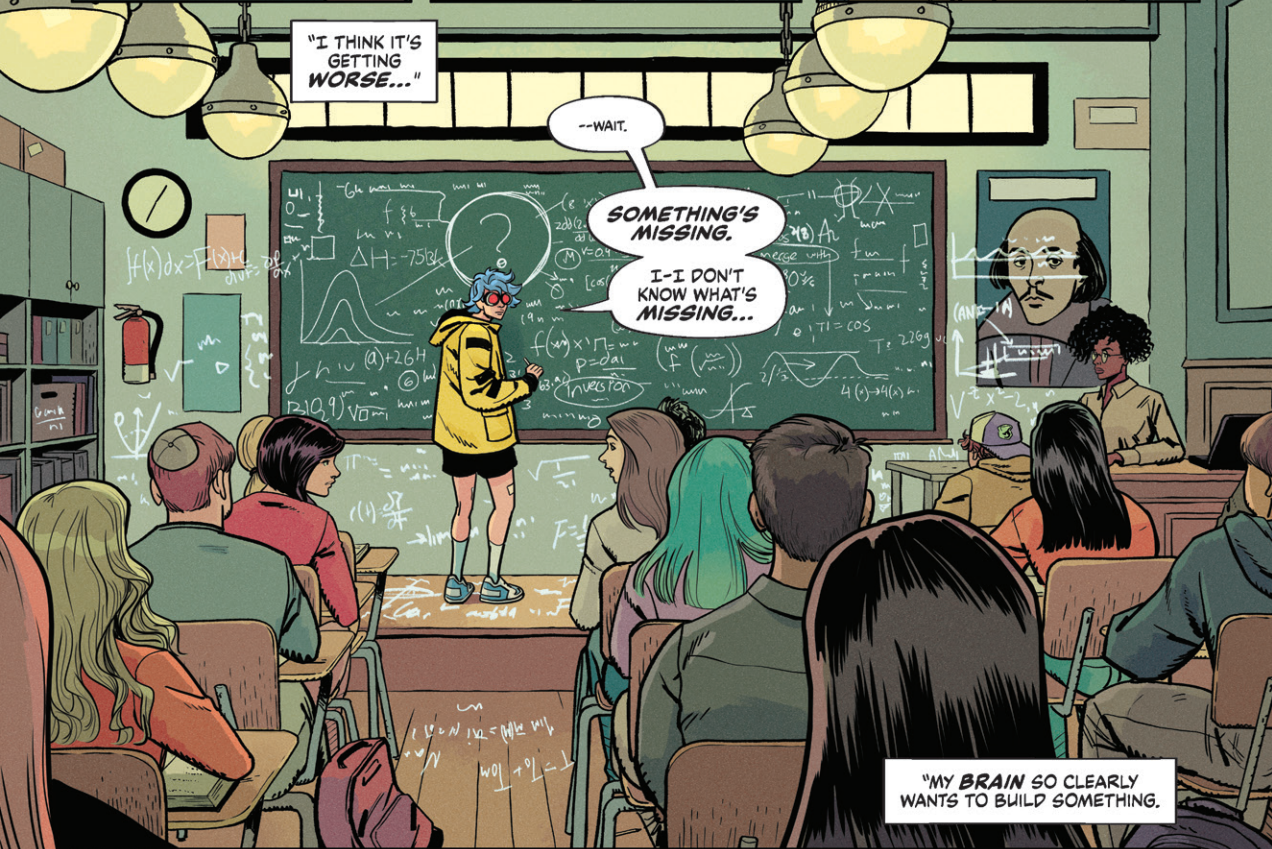


mm
NEUTRALIZE THE



"I GUESS TODAY IS WHEN THE STORY **REALLY** STARTS..."

"WHEN THE **CRACKS** FIRST APPEARED..."



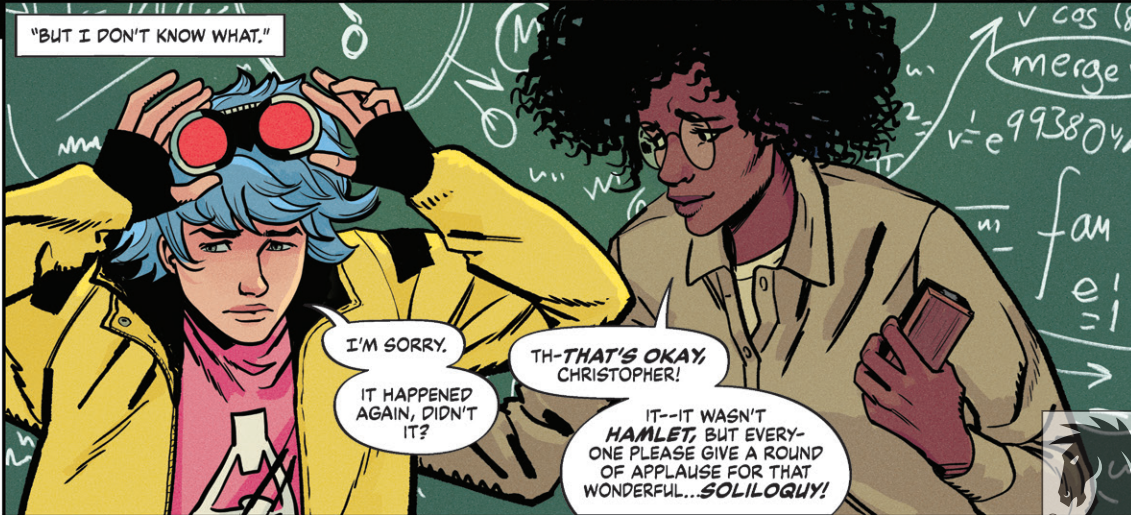
"I THINK IT'S GETTING **WORSE**..."

--WAIT.

SOMETHING'S MISSING.

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MISSING...

"MY **BRAIN** SO CLEARLY WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING.



"BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT."

I'M SORRY.

IT HAPPENED AGAIN, DIDN'T IT?

TH-THAT'S OKAY, CHRISTOPHER!

IT--IT WASN'T **HAMLET**, BUT EVERYONE PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THAT WONDERFUL...**SOLILOQUY!**

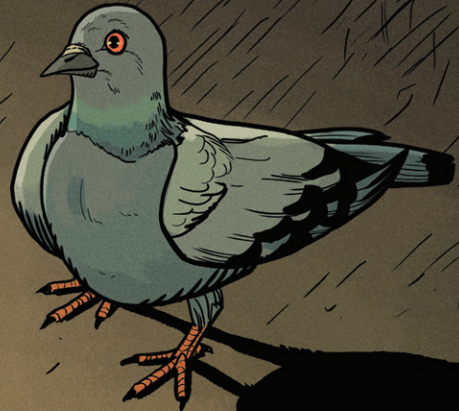


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I THINK
I'D BE GOING
ENTIRELY
INSANE.



COO?



"I WAS SO LOST IN MY HEAD THAT HOURS PASSED AND I FOUND MYSELF NEAR THE **WOODS** MOM ALWAYS WARNED ME ABOUT.

"BUT I-I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW HAYDEN **LOOKED** AT ME IN CLASS EARLIER...

"AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST ANNOYED, BUT I THINK IT WAS MORE, I THINK IT WAS...**SHAME?**

"LIKE HE WAS **EMBARRASSED** BY ME?

"BUT HE WAS **HAYDEN**, HE'S--HE'S...

"...HE WAS STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, NOT FORTY YARDS AWAY.

"AND PART OF ME SCREAMED TO **RUN**, TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.

"BUT HE LOOKED **SCARED**.

"LIKE HE WAS BEING **FOLLOWED** OR WAS ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING... **DANGEROUS**."

"IF ONLY I
KNEW THEN
WHAT I
KNOW NOW."

H-HAYDEN?

IT--IT'S
CHRISTOPHER...

EVERYTHING
OKAY?

A-ARE YOU
MEETING
SOMEONE,
OR--

I DON'T
THINK THESE
WOODS ARE
EXACTLY **SAFE**
AT NIGHT,
HAYDEN!

YOU KNOW,
TH--THERE HAVE
BEEN SOME
VERY RECENT
SIGHTINGS OF
COYOTES AND
WILD--





aaa-

WOOOOOO

--WOLVES?!



HAYDEN?

YOU'RE--
YOU'RE--



brrrrr

RRROOOR!!

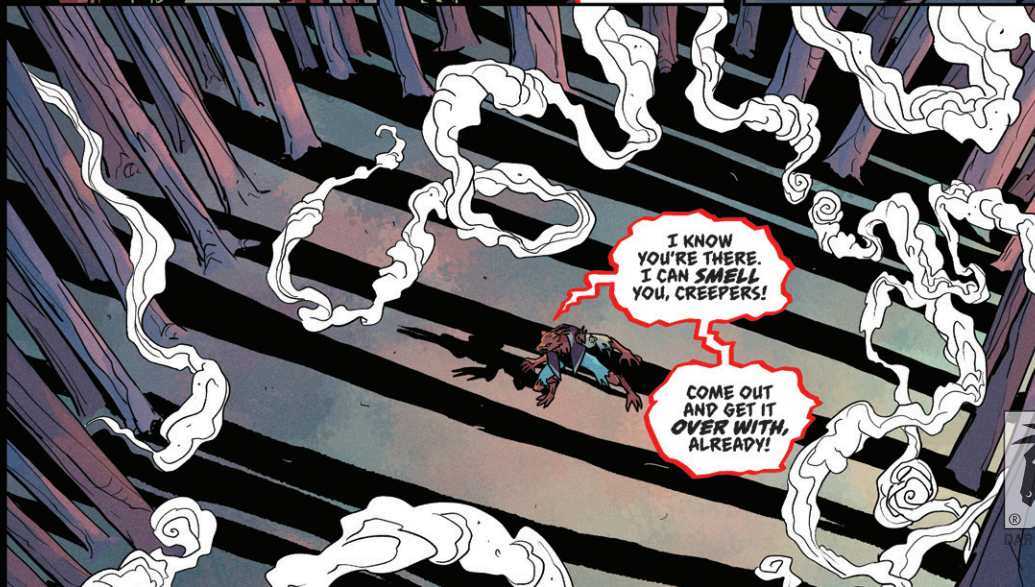


WAIT--

WAIT--

WAIT--!







Grrr...

hrr
hrr
hrr





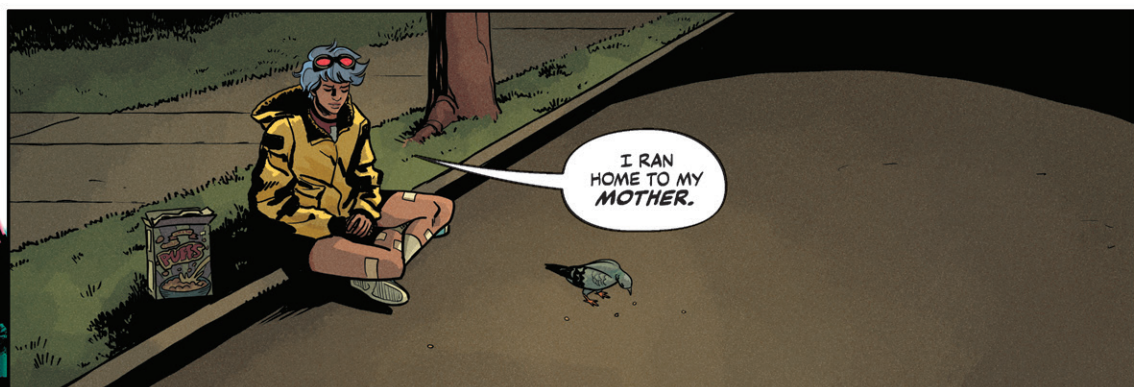


"AND THEN..."

"AND THEN I..."

"...I RAN."





I RAN
HOME TO MY
MOTHER.



EXCEPT...
SHE'D ALREADY
HEARD SOME
NEWS OF
HER OWN.



--OF WOLVES
THIS FAR INTO THE
URBAN CENTER IS
UNUSUAL BUT NOT
IMPOSSIBLE.

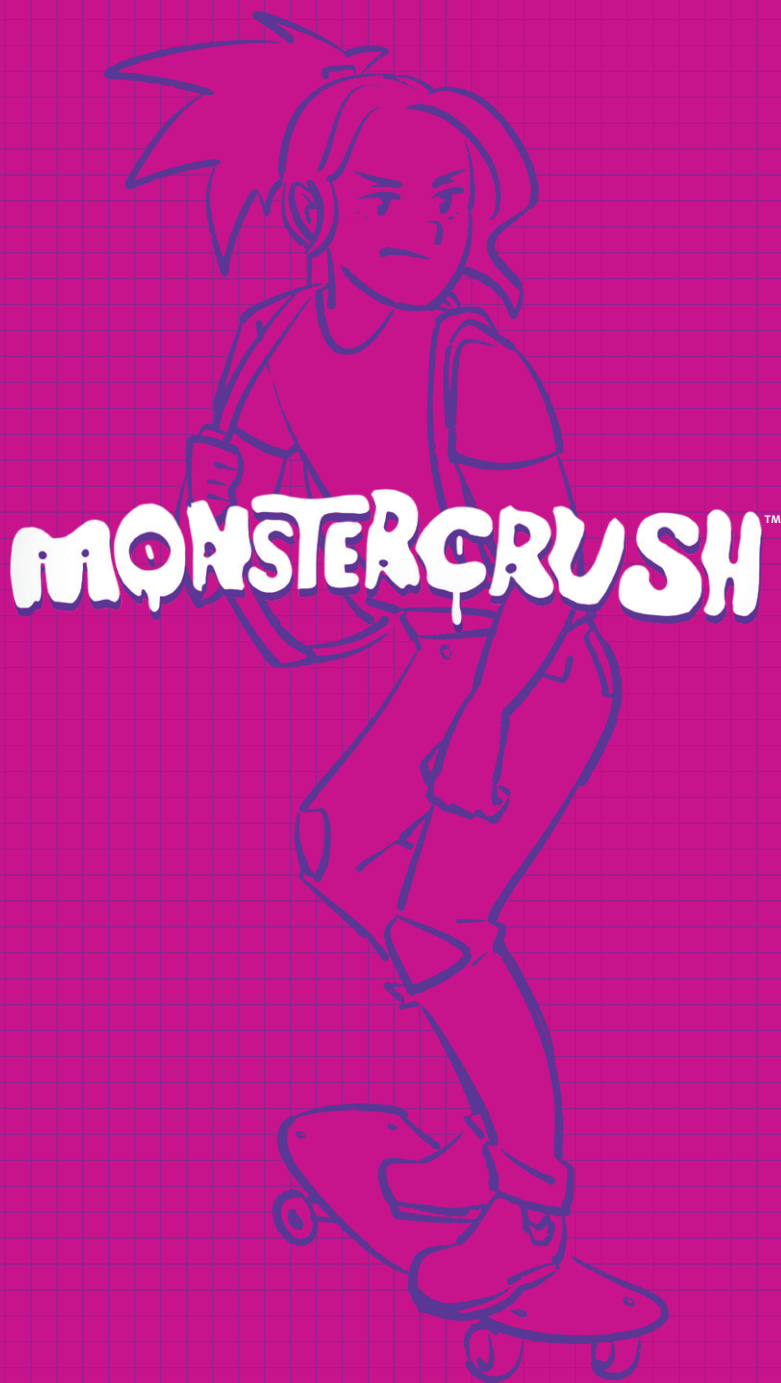
WE ASK
EVERYONE TO
STAY **SAFE** INDOORS
AS MEASURES ARE
TAKEN TO CONTROL
SUCH **BEASTS**...

MONSTER CRUSH™

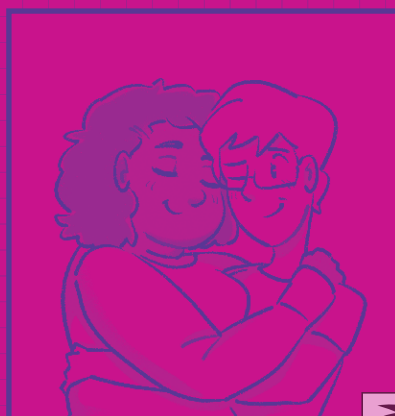
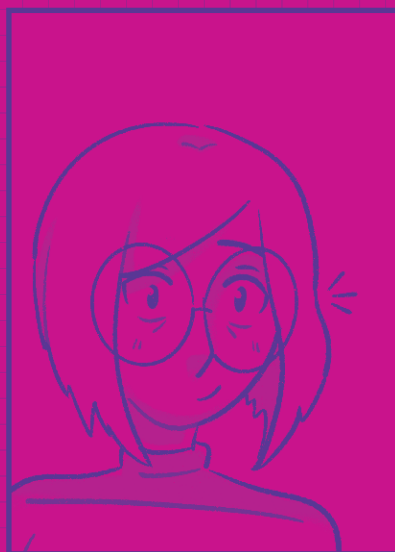
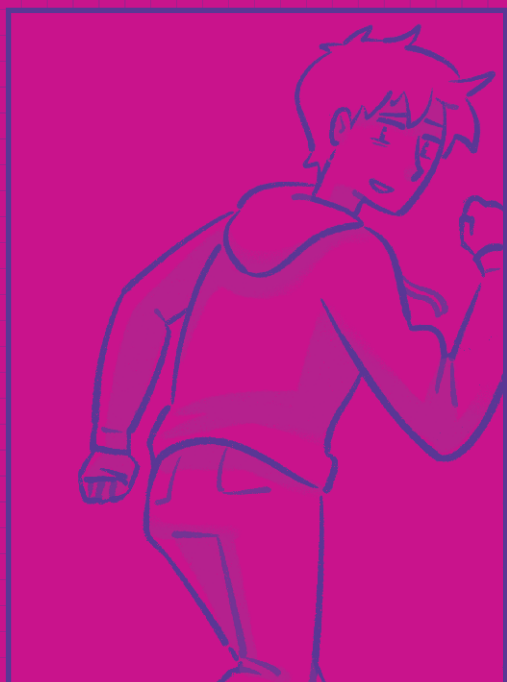
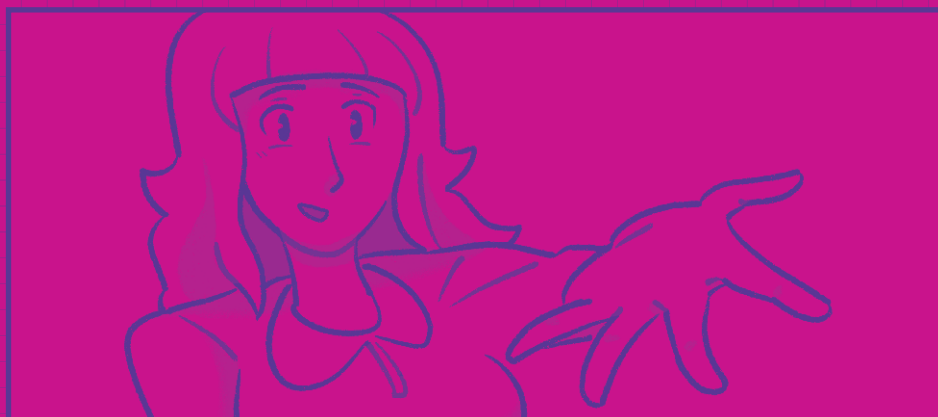


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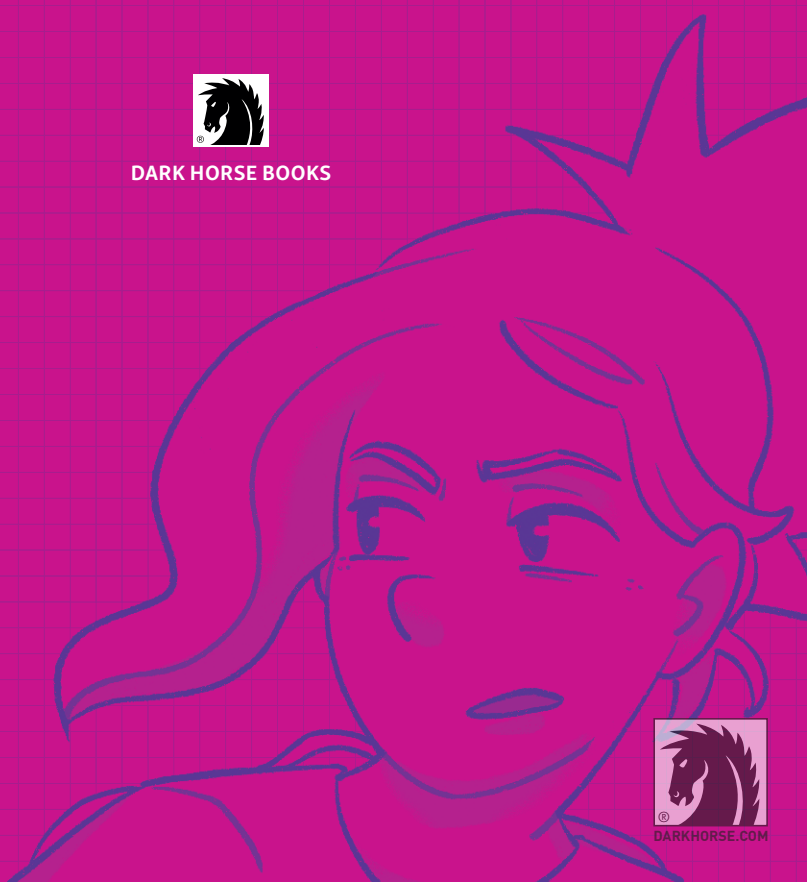


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BY
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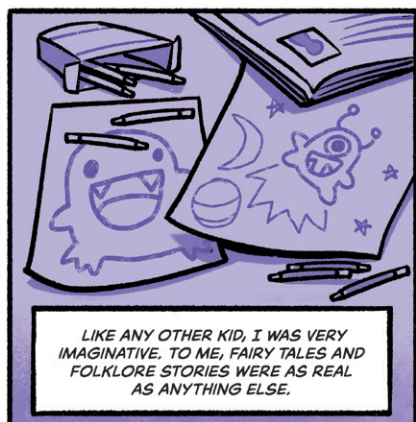
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WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED
BY FANTASTICAL CREATURES--
INTRIGUED BY THE UNKNOWN.



LIKE ANY OTHER KID, I WAS VERY
IMAGINATIVE. TO ME, FAIRY TALES AND
FOLKLORE STORIES WERE AS REAL
AS ANYTHING ELSE.



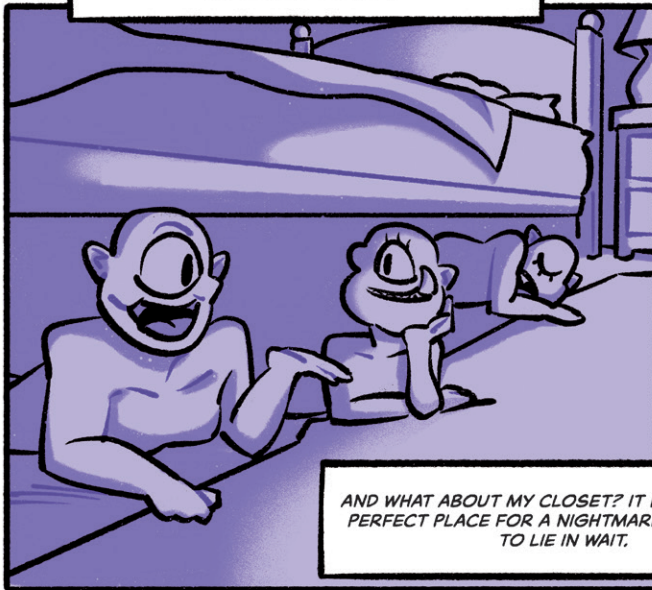
I WAS PROBABLY TOO IMAGINATIVE FOR
MY OWN GOOD, SINCE ANY LITTLE BUMP IN
THE NIGHT WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP ME AWAKE.



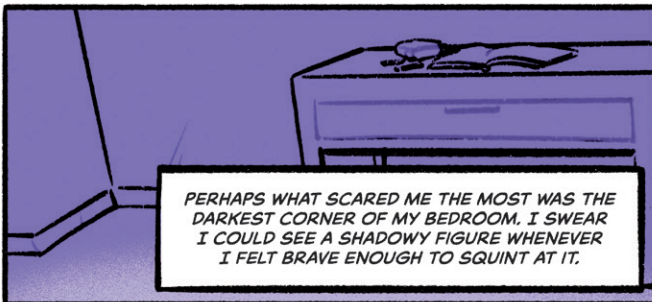


PLENTY OF NIGHTS WERE SPENT LYING IN BED WITH MY OWN THOUGHTS, AND OFTEN I WOULD WONDER:

*DO MONSTERS LIVE UNDER MY BED?
I COULD HEAR A SCRATCHING NOISE UNDER
THERE SOME NIGHTS, BUT I WAS ALWAYS
TOO AFRAID TO LOOK.*



*AND WHAT ABOUT MY CLOSET? IT HAD TO BE THE
PERFECT PLACE FOR A NIGHTMARISH CREATURE
TO LIE IN WAIT,*

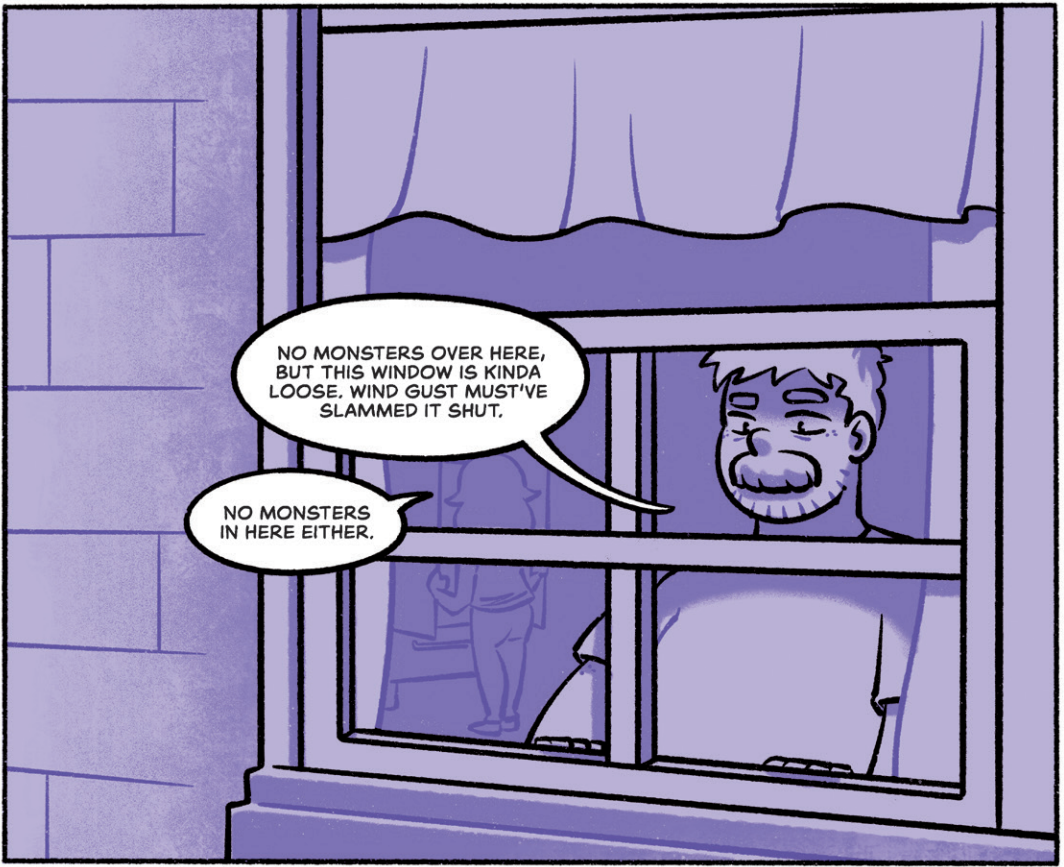


*PERHAPS WHAT SCARED ME THE MOST WAS THE
DARKEST CORNER OF MY BEDROOM. I SWEAR
I COULD SEE A SHADOWY FIGURE WHENEVER
I FELT BRAVE ENOUGH TO SQUINT AT IT.*









NO MONSTERS OVER HERE,
BUT THIS WINDOW IS KINDA
LOOSE. WIND GUST MUST'VE
SLAMMED IT SHUT.

NO MONSTERS
IN HERE EITHER.

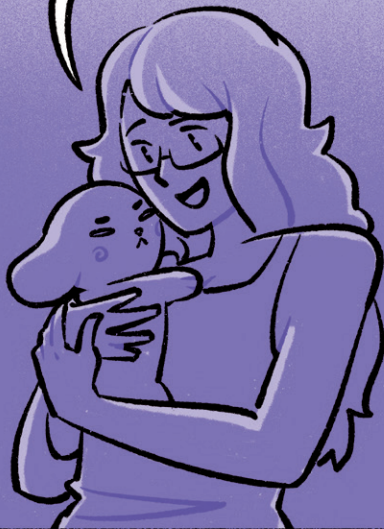


SEE, PUMPKIN?
YOUR ROOM IS MONSTER-
FREE, *GUARANTEED*.

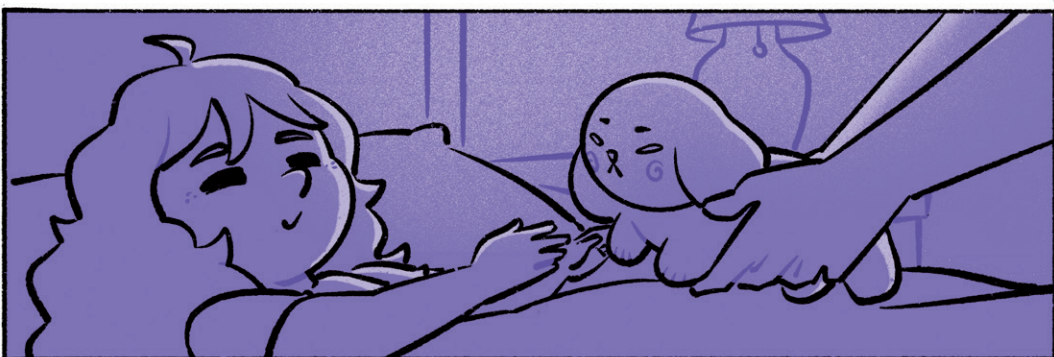


YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT,
WE PROMISE.

PLUS, YOU HAVE LAMBY TO WATCH OVER YOU.
AND IF YOU EVER GET SCARED, JUST
SQUEEZE HIM TIGHT-- HE'LL
ALWAYS KEEP YOU SAFE.



SAFE
AS CAN
BE!



SWEET
DREAMS,
RUBY.



NOW THEN,
LET'S ALL GET SOME
SLEEP, YEAH? MOMMY
AND DADDY HAVE TO
GET UP EARLY.

SLEEP TIGHT,
PUMPKIN.

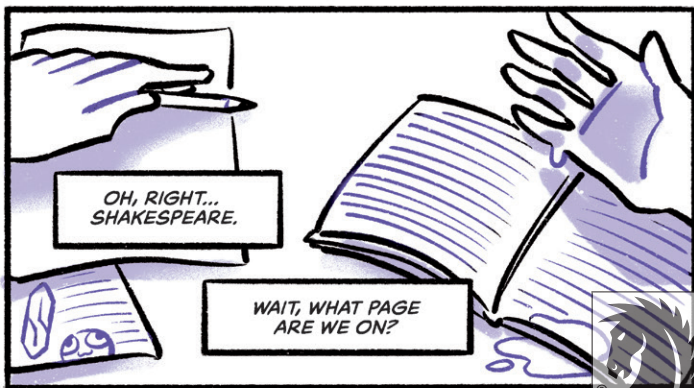
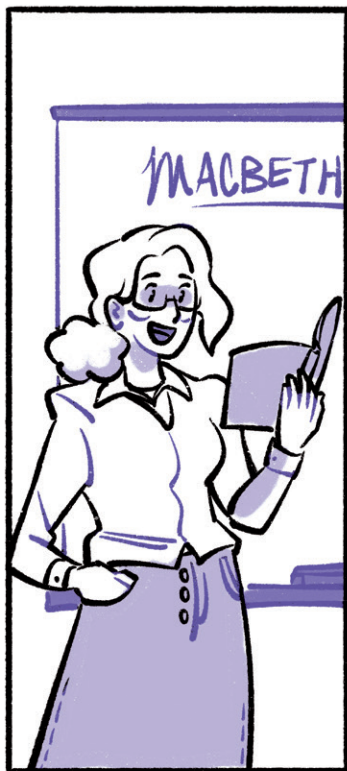
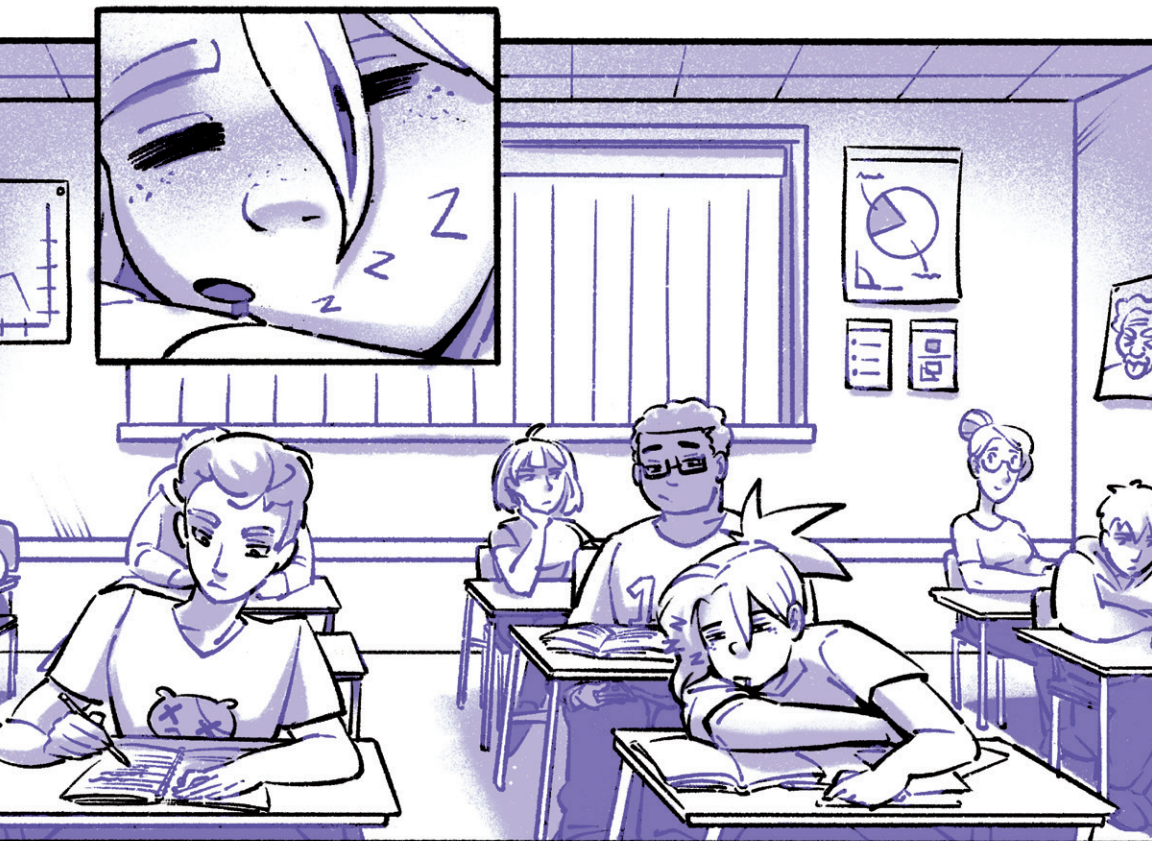


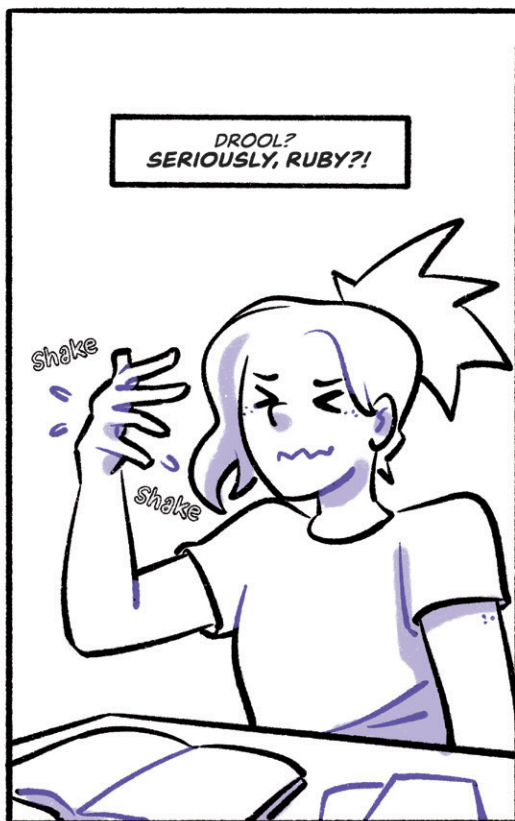


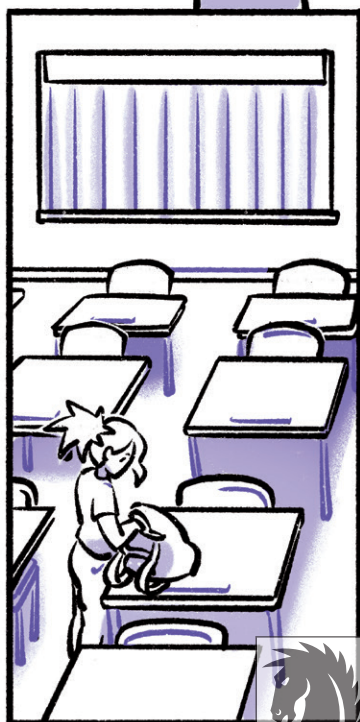
*DESPITE WHAT MY PARENTS TOLD ME, I NEVER
REALLY STOPPED BELIEVING. BUT NOWADAYS
I STILL WONDER...*

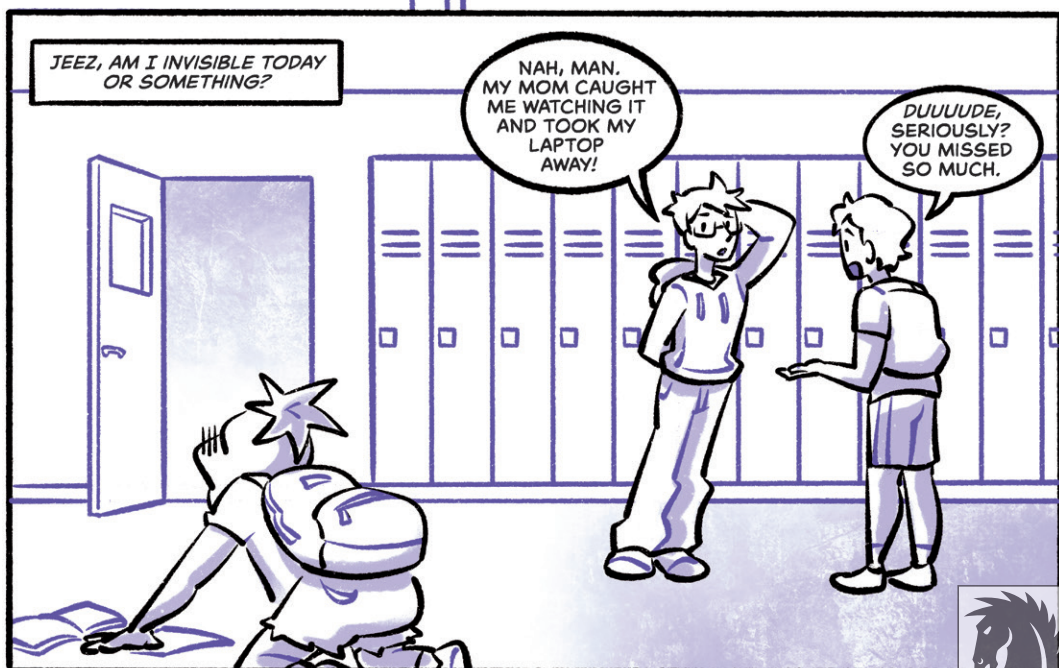
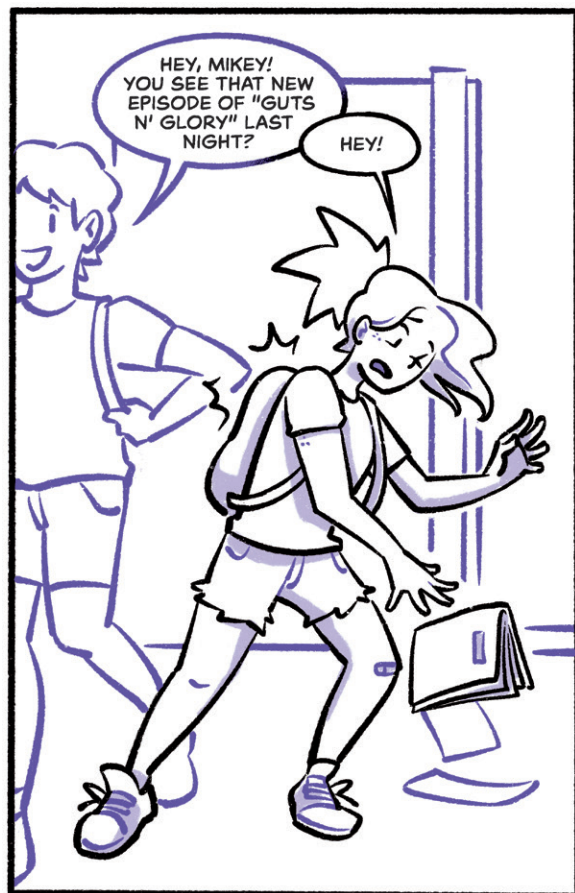
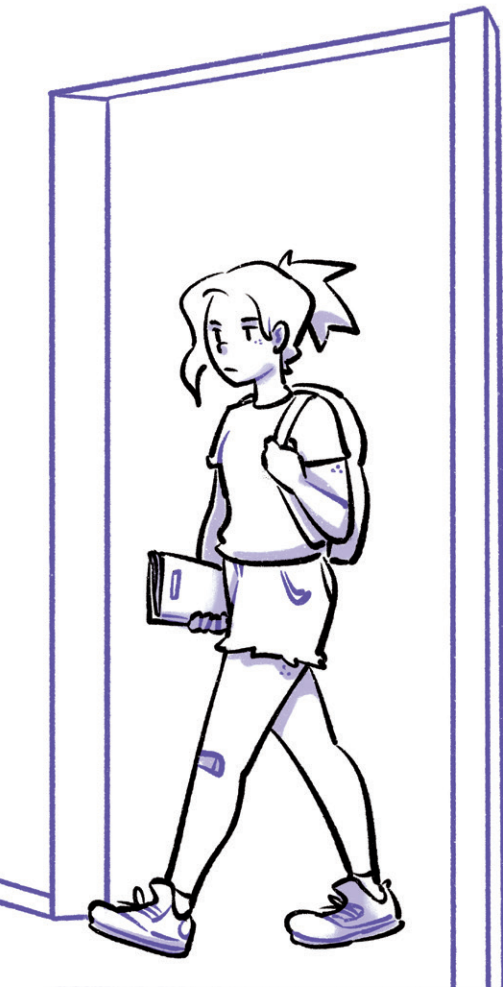


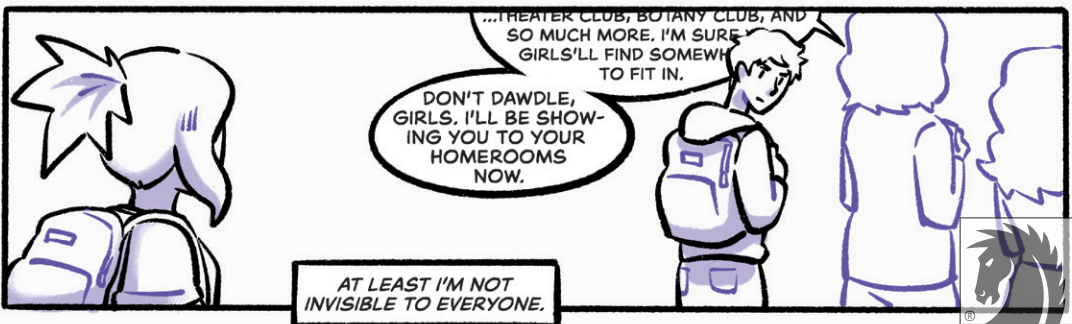
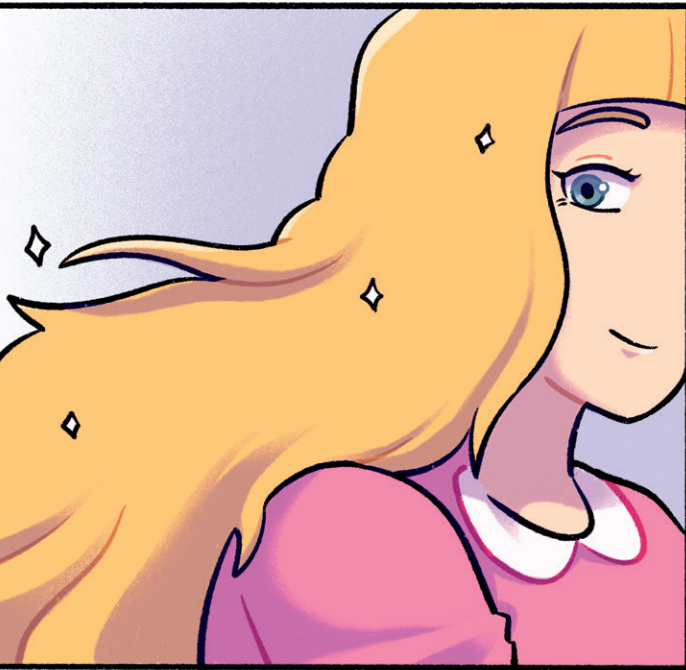
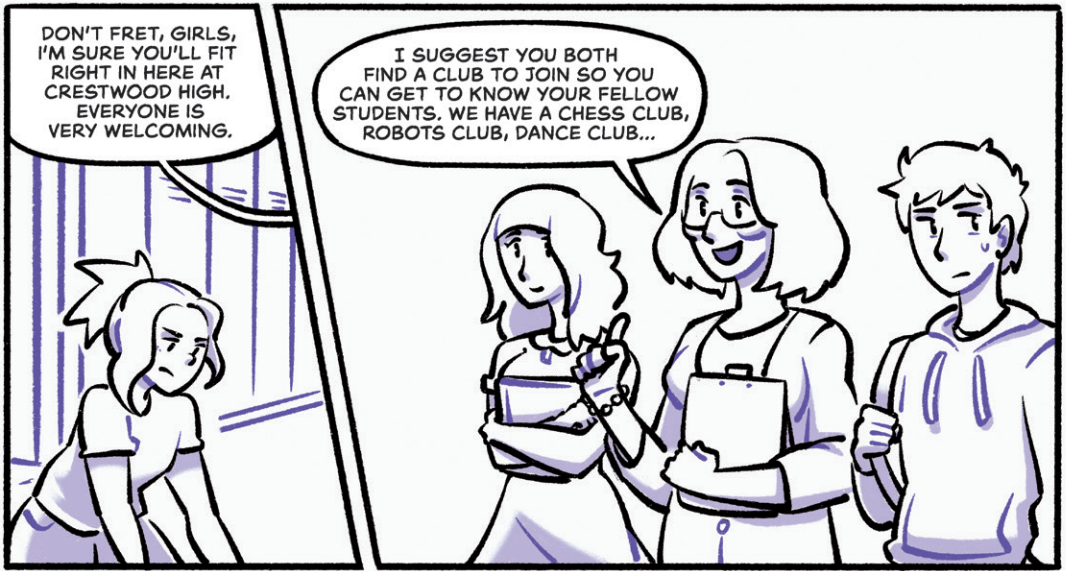
*IF MONSTERS COULD BE REAL...
THEN WHERE ARE THEY ALL HIDING?*

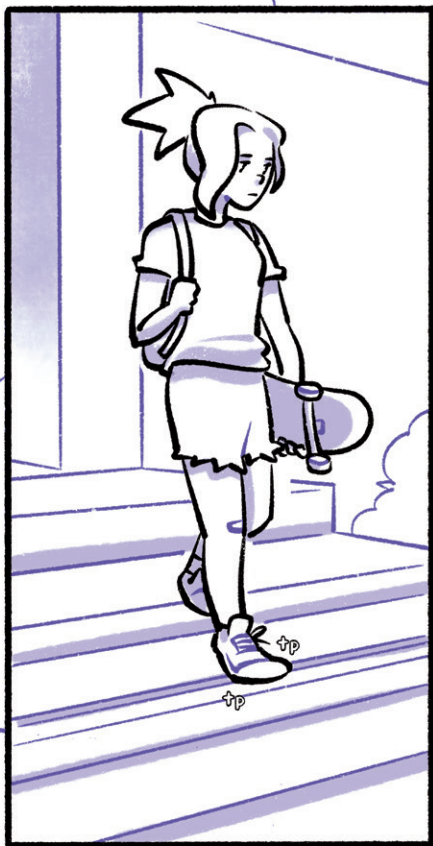


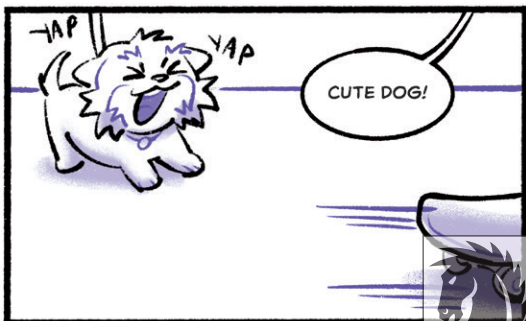
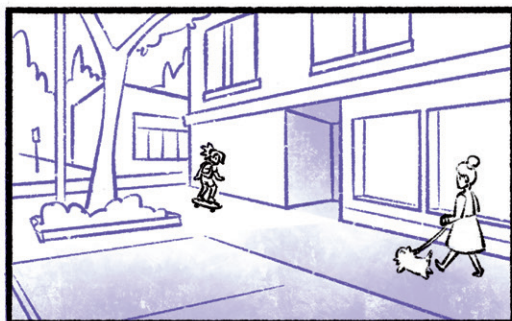
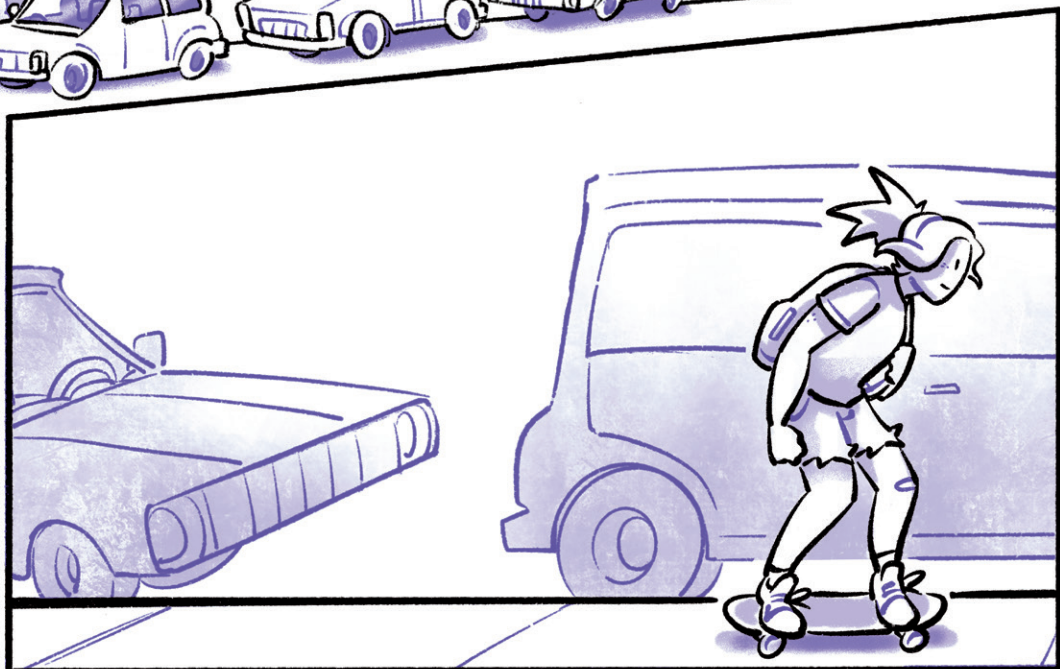
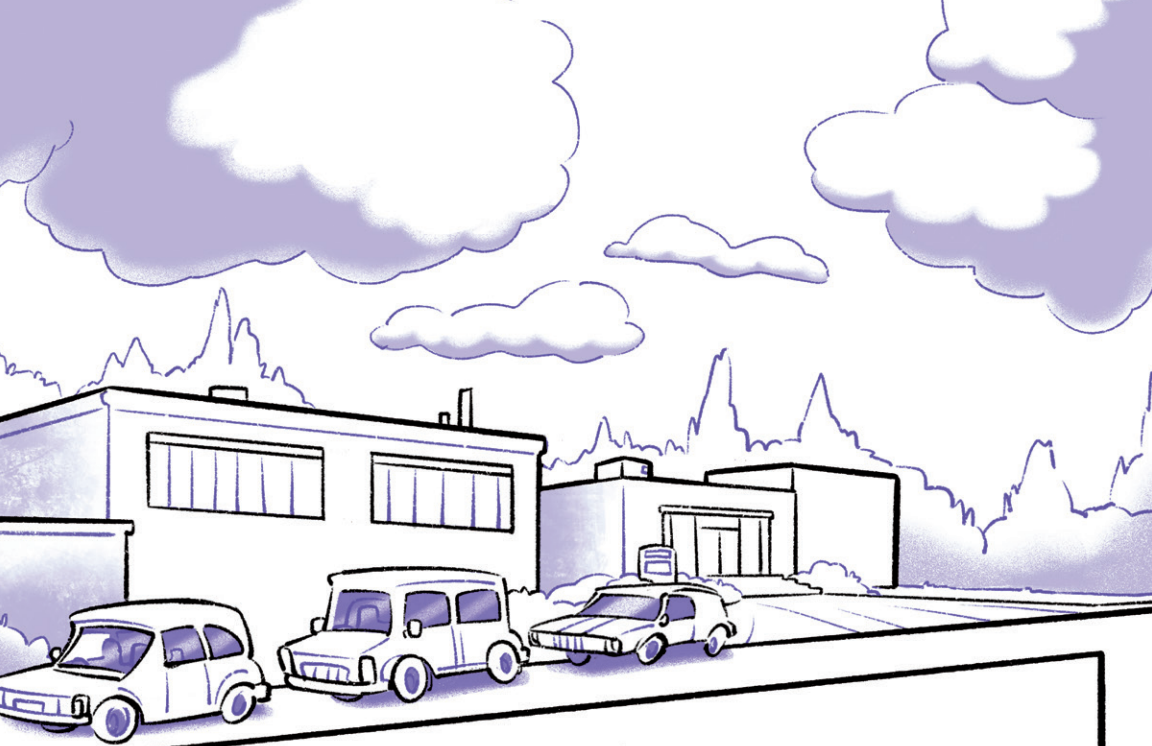


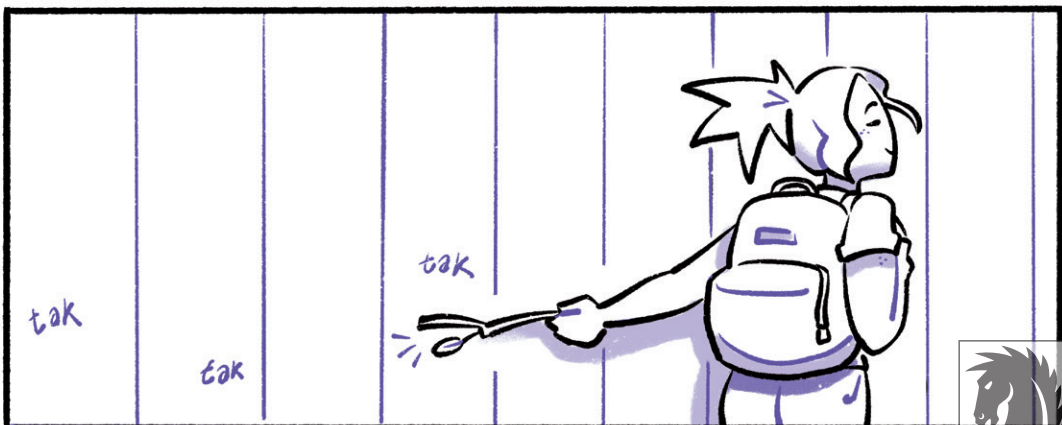
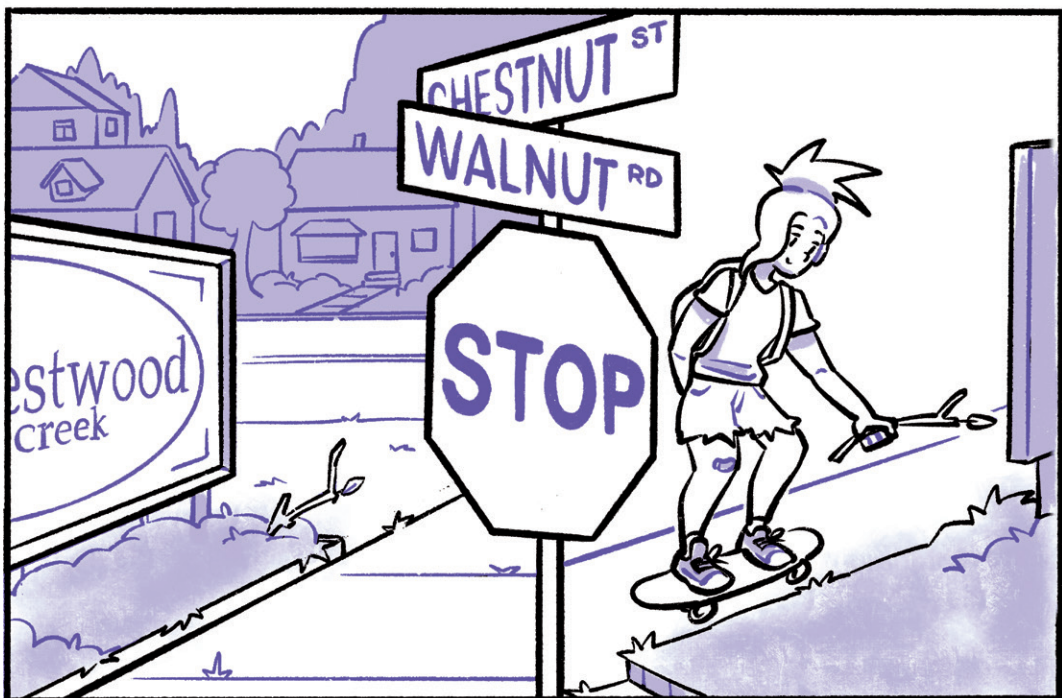
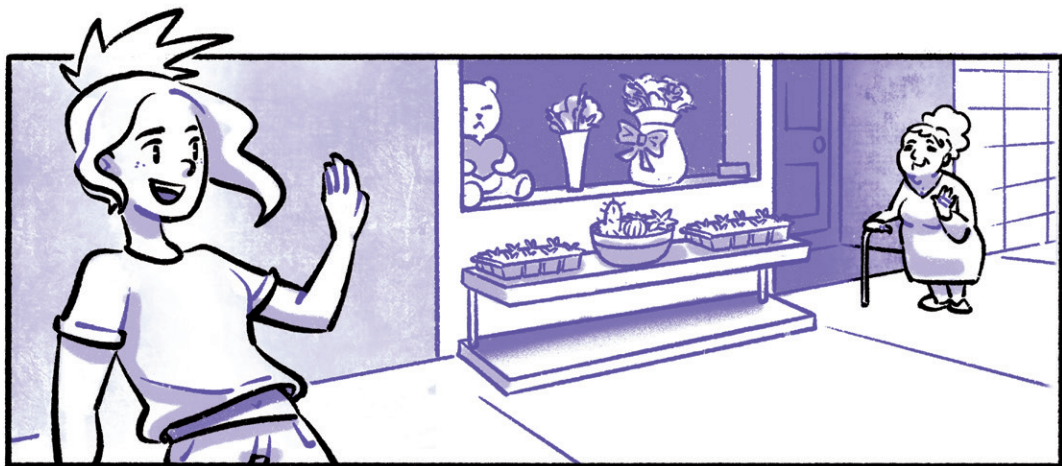




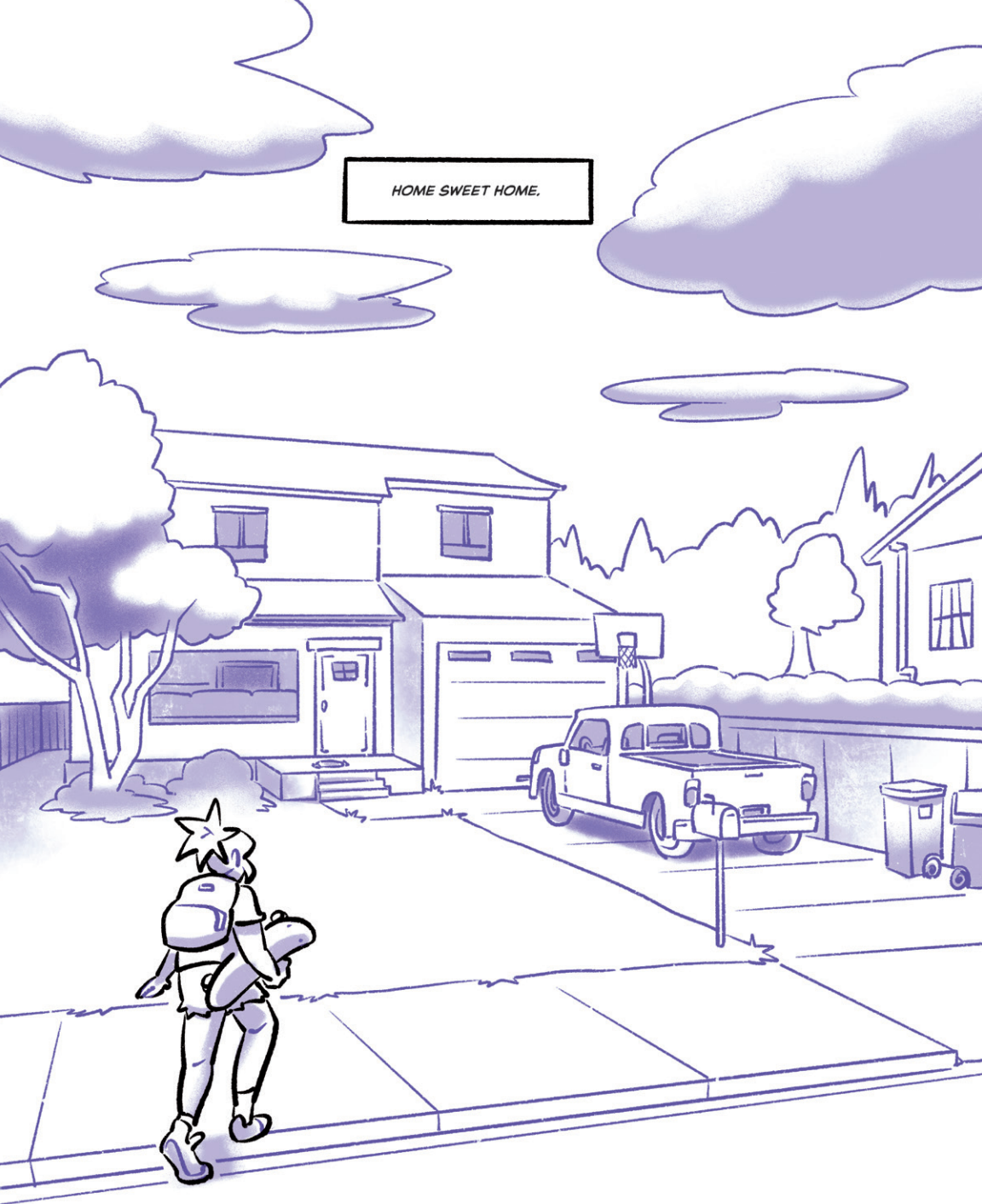


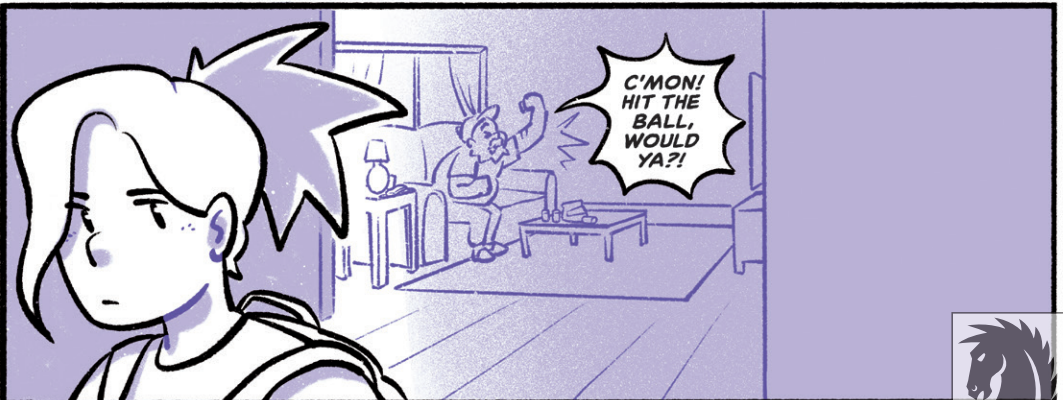
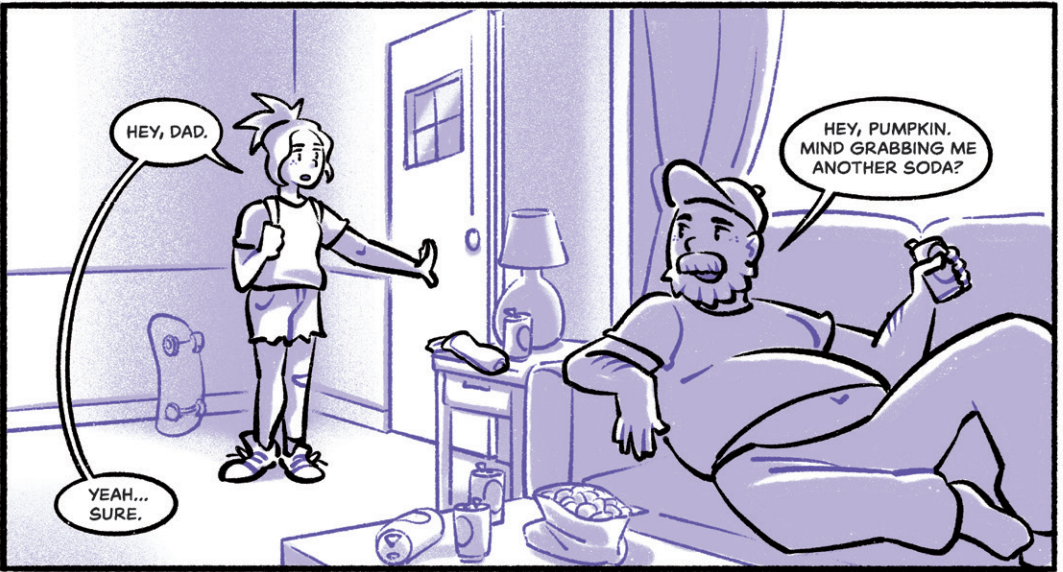
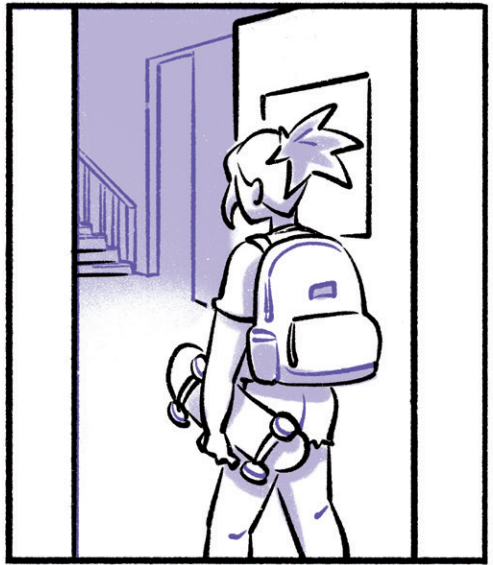


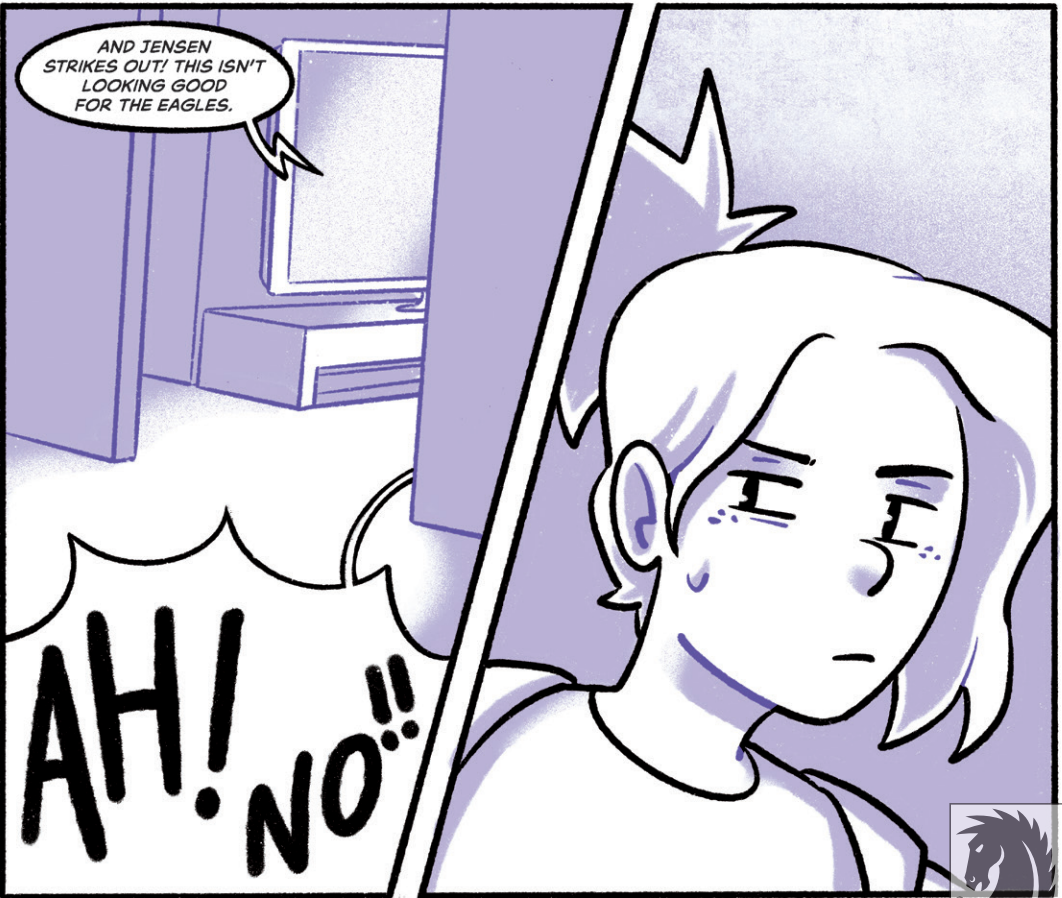
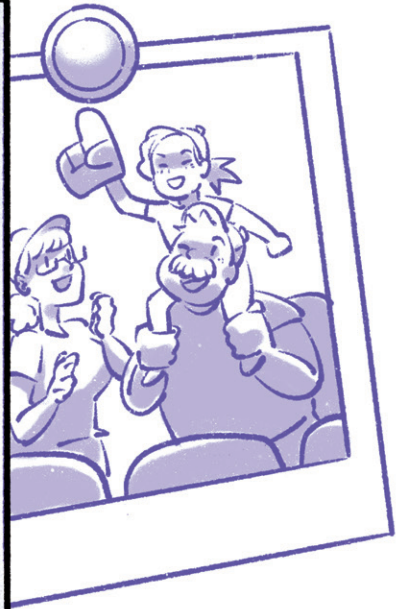
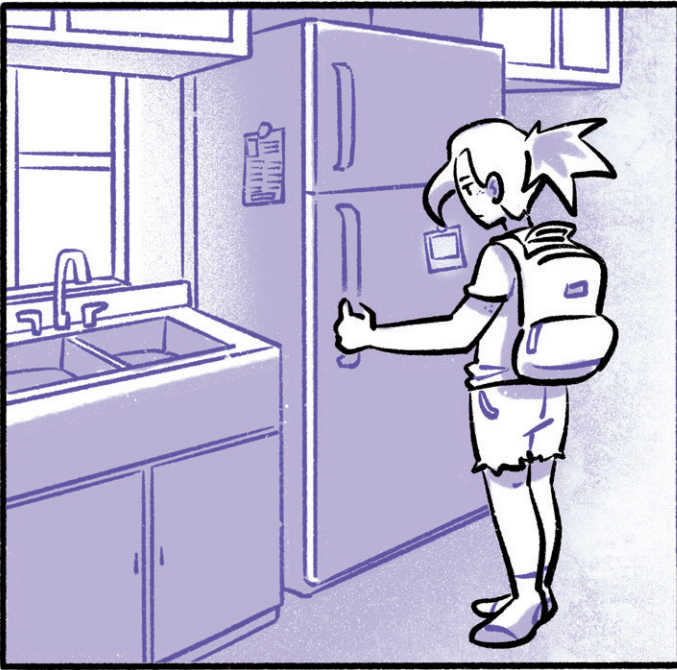




HOME SWEET HOME.







AND JENSEN STRIKES OUT! THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD FOR THE EAGLES.

AH! NO!!

