



CCA MFA W COMICS 2021 ANTHOLOgy

CCA MFA

IN COMICS

2021

ANTHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION
By

Nami
KANE

Cartooning is, at its heart, storytelling. It's about building a connection between the reader and the content, creating that space between the mind and the page that's so immersive and so intimate that one can get truly lost in the narrative. Every comic is a place we're all invited to visit, and linger, seeing new details every time we do. Comics ask you to slow down, to read and reread, to consider, to really take in every panel on every page - and that ask is deeply reflective of the passion, patience, and persistence that go into creating this work. Comics are stories that cartoonists curate every painstaking aspect of in hopes of forging that deep connection with their readers.

The collection you now hold in your hands is proof of this incredibly diverse group of cartoonists' shared commitment to the form; their dedication to building those connections. It has been a true joy watching this cohort bend and stretch and reach outside their creative comfort zones for the tools that enable them to shape their work to match their visions for it. It takes a lot of curiosity, a little humility, and sheer grit to come back to your drawing board every day open to feedback, and with the mindset that rewriting, redrawing, and reworking are all opportunities for growth. The excerpts contained herein are the result of a phenomenal amount of patience, creativity, and ambition; and I couldn't be more proud of the class of 2021.

The writer Joyce Carol Oates says that the best stories are both "unique and universal", and that's the theory I always ask our students to keep in mind as they embark on their thesis projects. The class of 2021 has upheld that principle at every turn. Each one of these artists is entirely unique, creating narrative and dialogue and visual styles that are at once entirely their own, and pull you in to identify with the characters, and themes, and worlds they've woven. From fantastical adventures with supernatural beings, to deeply personal memoirs, to philosophical sexy comedy - these stories explore a vast swathe of the human experience.

In a year where the whole world turned upside down, our students still looked inward and pushed themselves, looked around and pushed each other, to keep going, to keep improving, to keep churning out better and more thoughtful work. What they've achieved is truly worthy of that pause, that slow down, that attention to detail that comics ask readers to engage in. I encourage you, dear reader, to accept the invitation to get lost in and connect with these stories; to see what's unique and universal about each one. I can't wait to see what this extremely skilled, dedicated, and promising group of cartoonists does next!

ASTER RICKS

VERENON-CORVO DI COLLINA

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THE LAST CIRCLE CAST

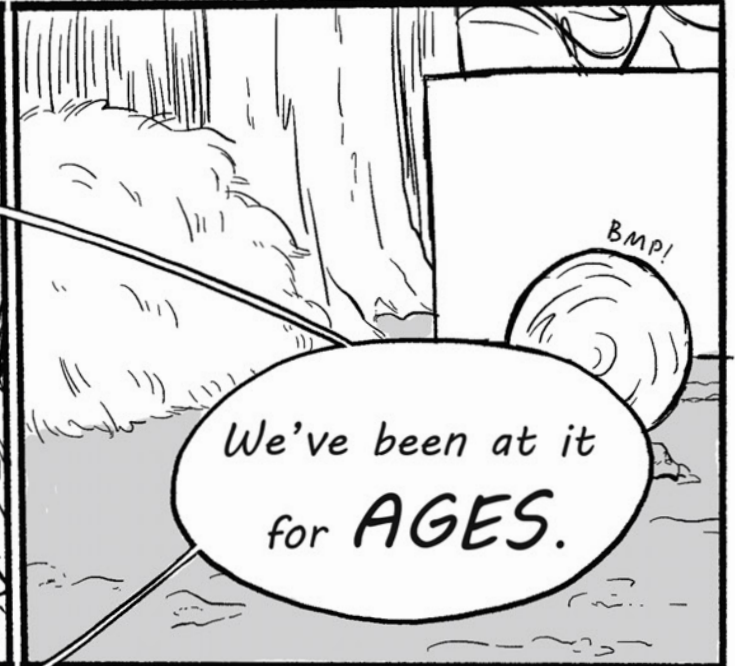
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ASTER RICKS

VERENON-CORVO DI COLLINA





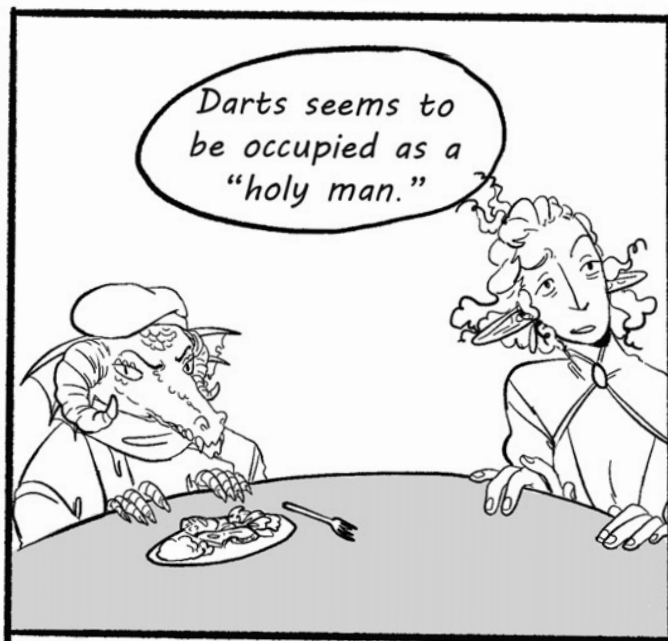
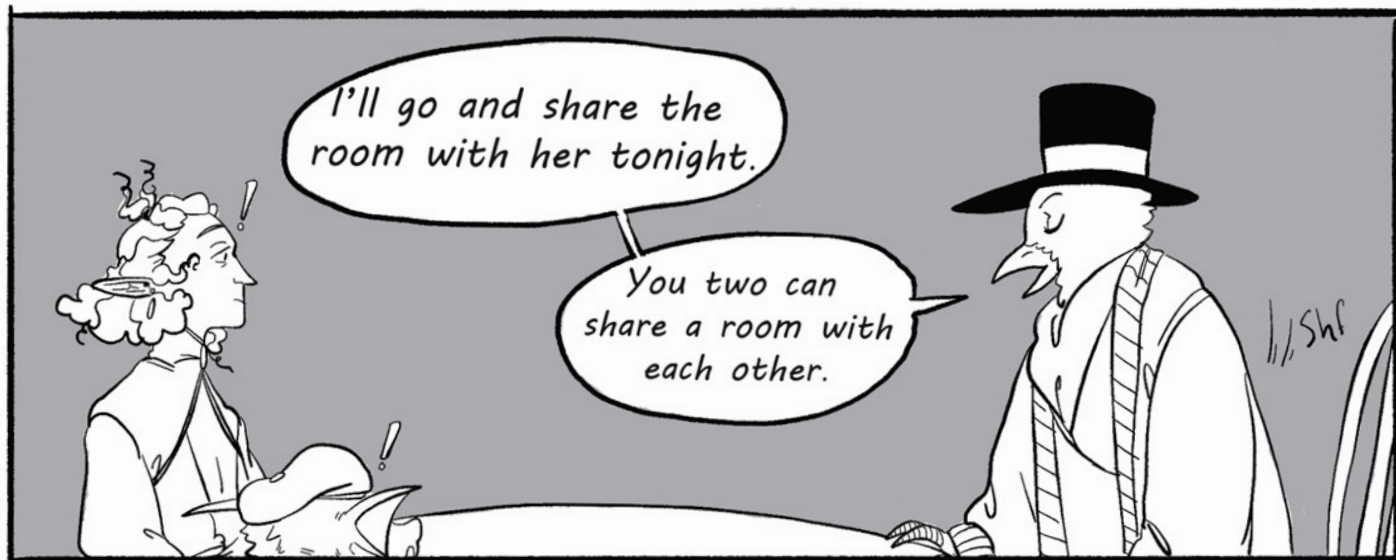


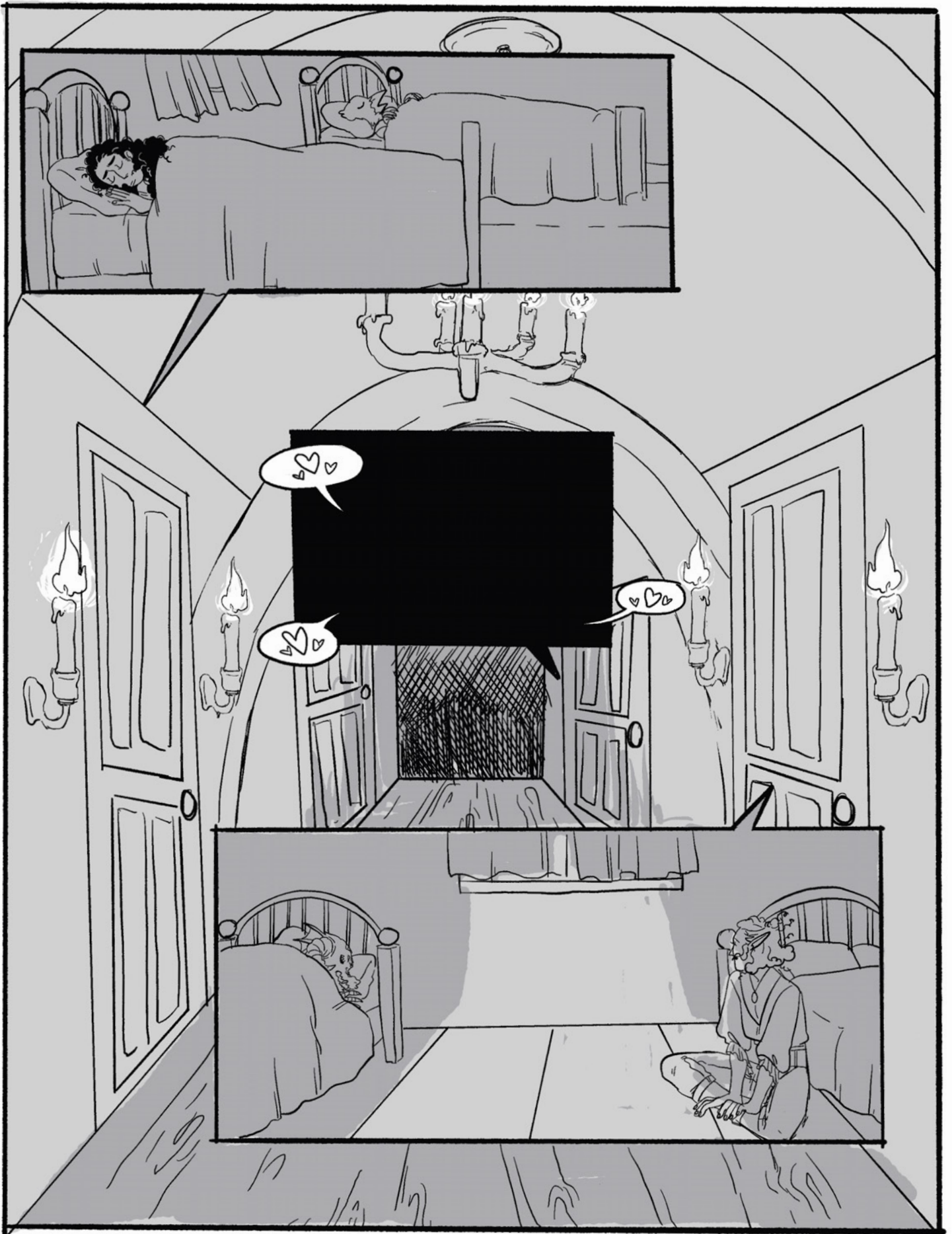




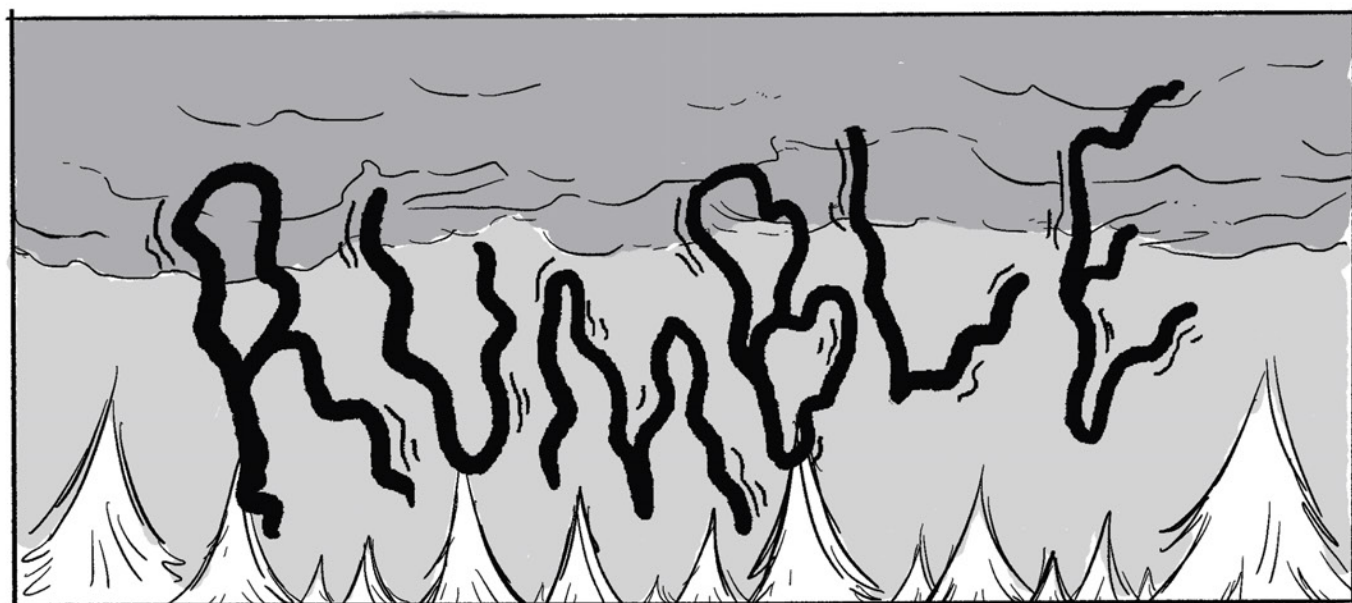










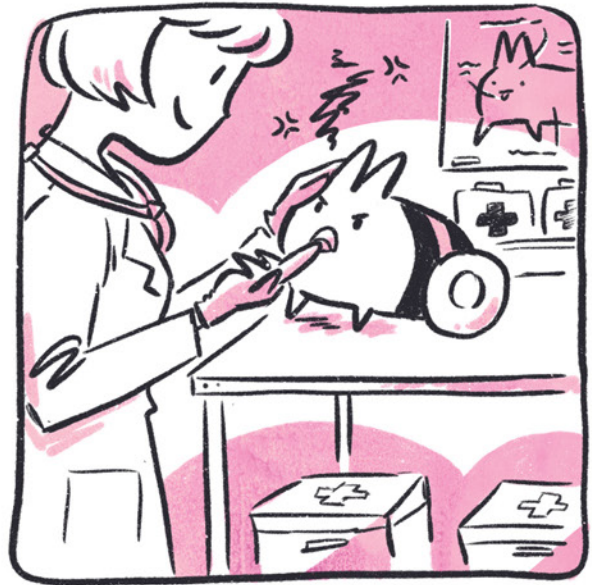




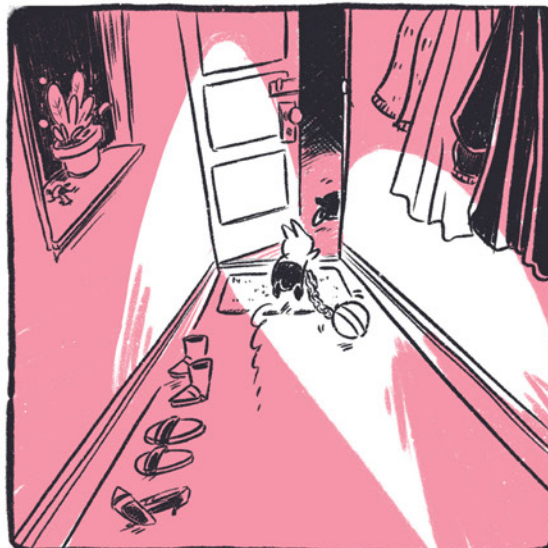
CHRISTINE VILLANUEVA

AN APARTMENT NOT IN PARIS

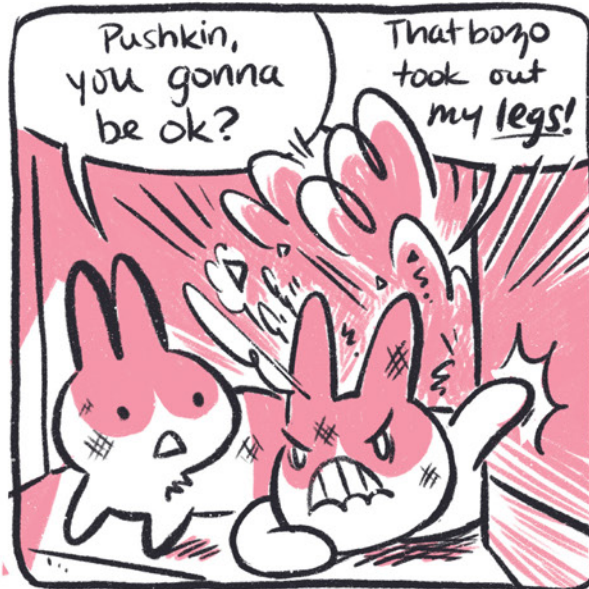
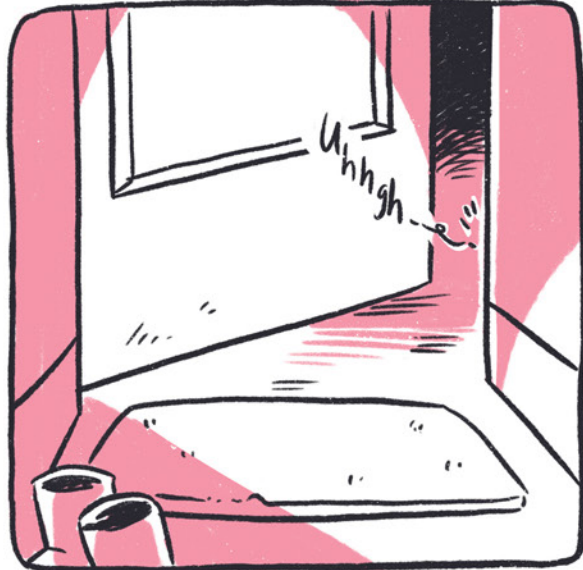
Stubborn & small



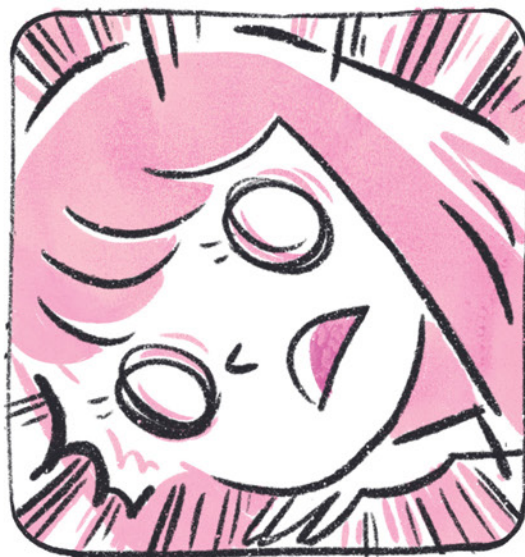
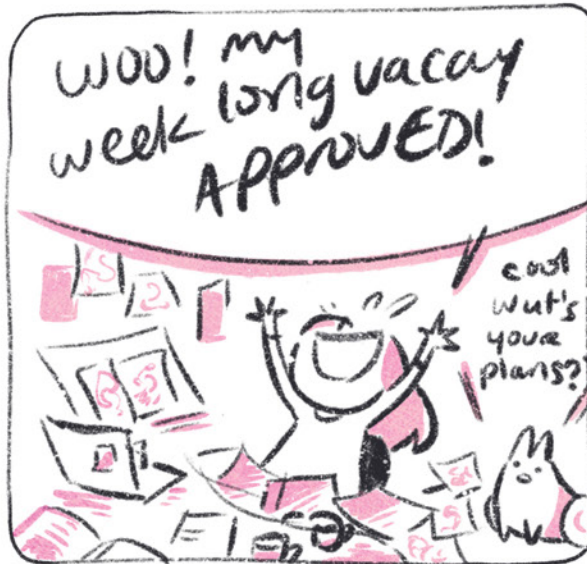
Paralysis origin story

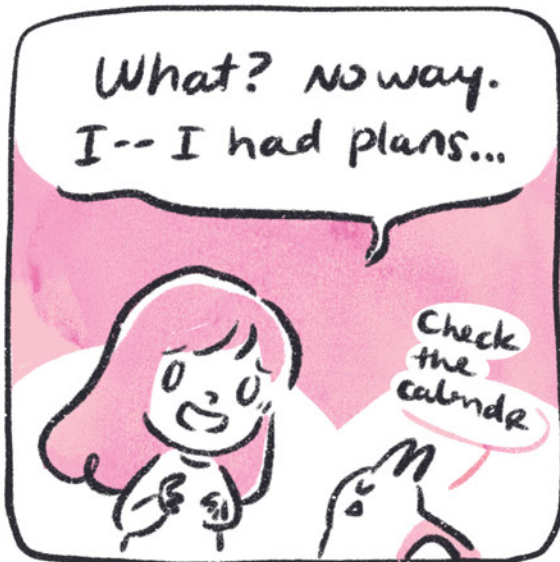
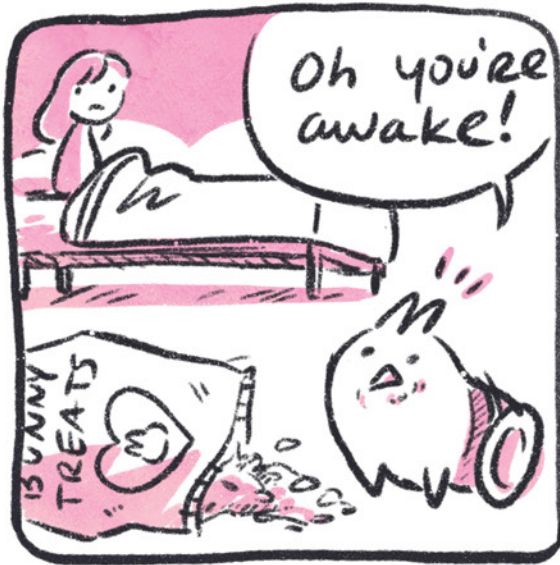


A little
later...

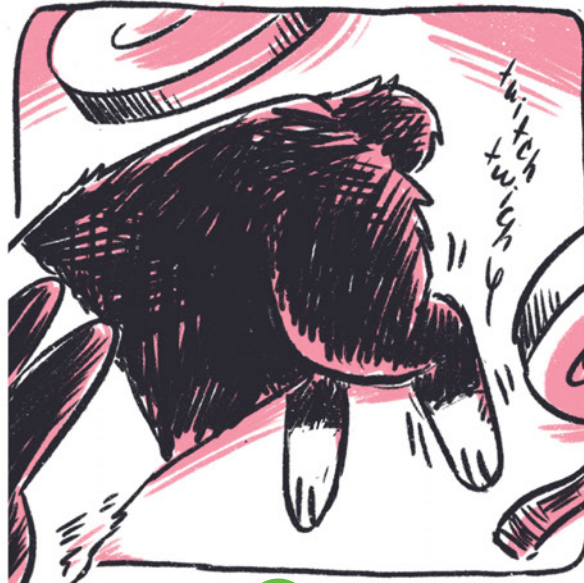


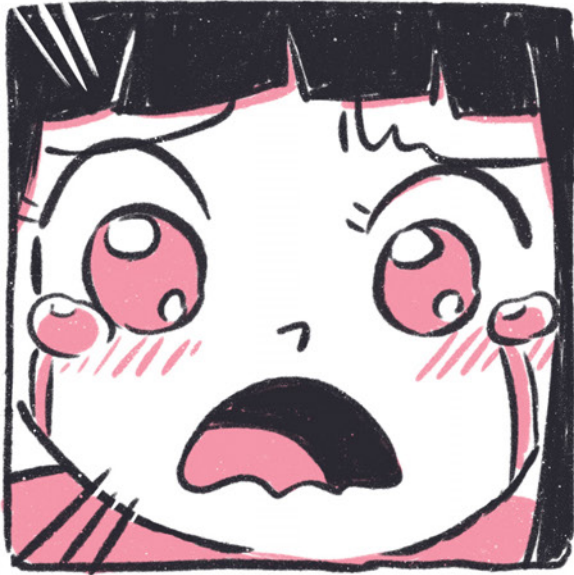
LOL "vay-cay"





Paternal guilt

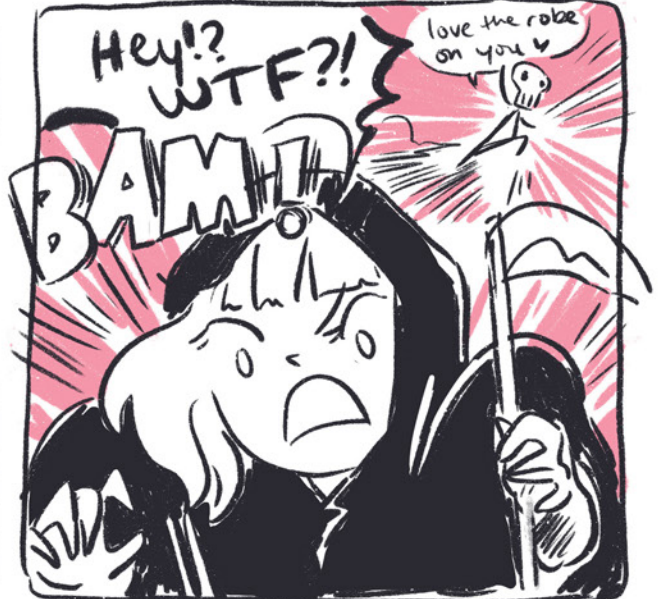
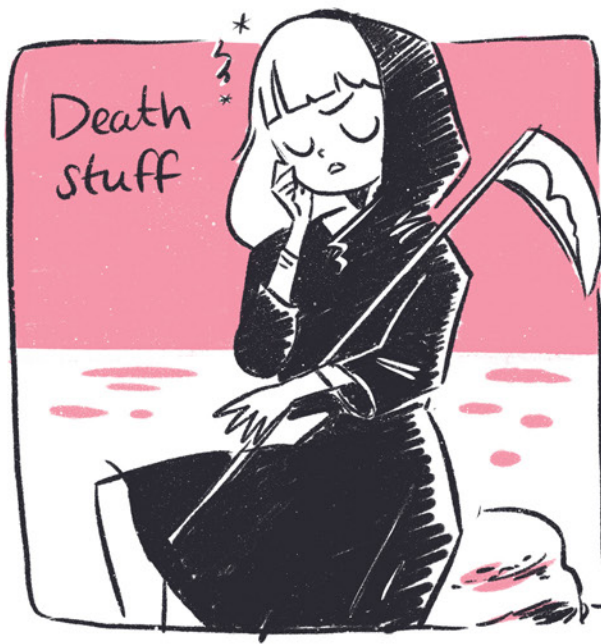




Creative block





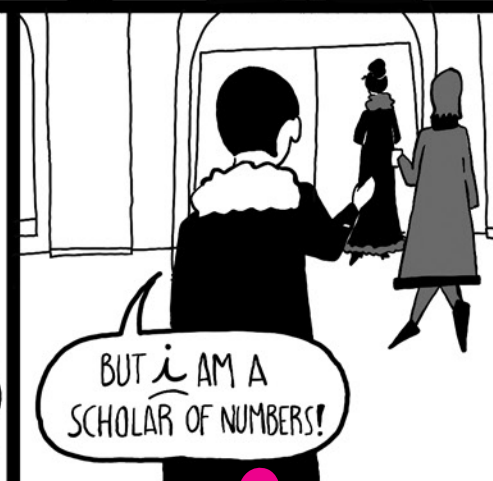




JACKIE KIRBY

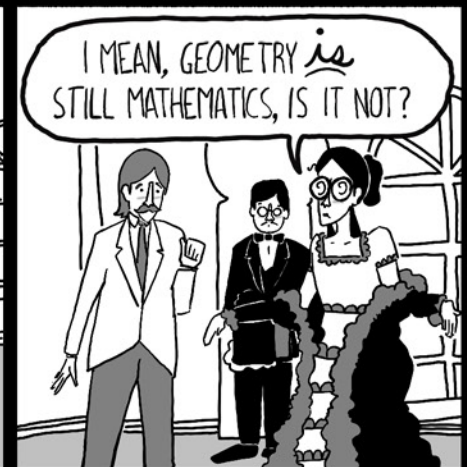
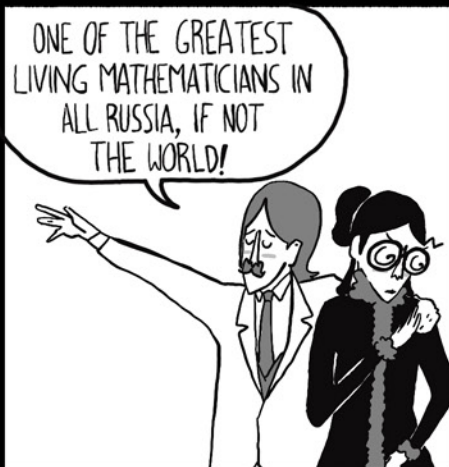
MARKOV: A “GRAPHIC” “NOVEL”
(Translated into english by Jackie)

IMPERIAL SAINT PETERSBURG
ACADEMY of SCIENCES,
RUSSIAN EMPIRE, 1882

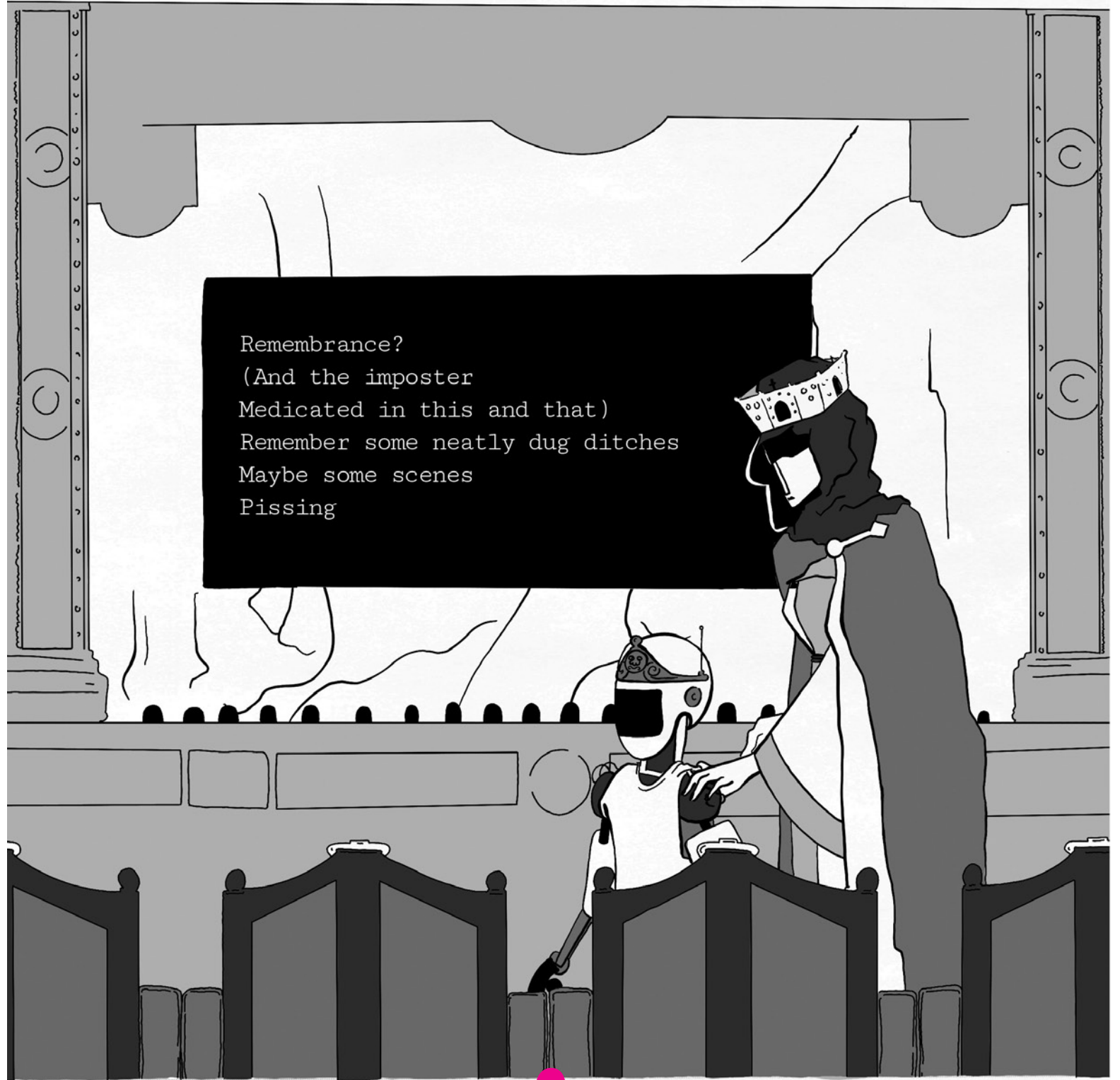


Present State (Mutually
assured masturbation)

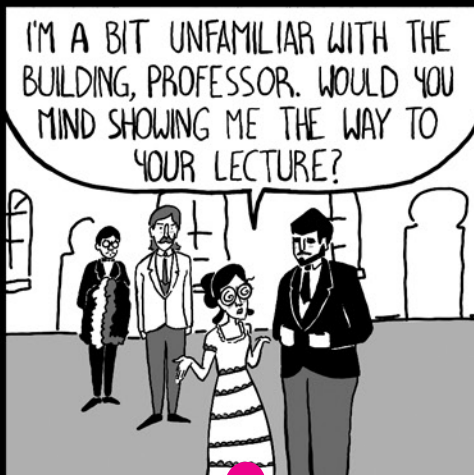
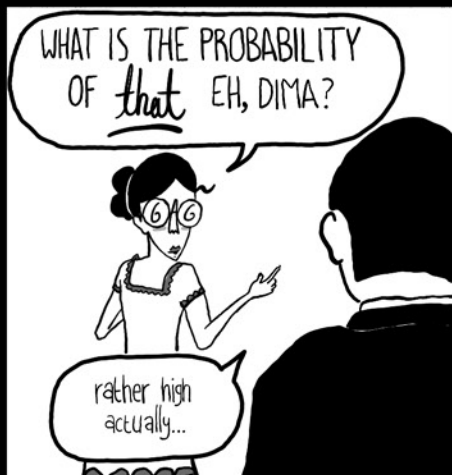
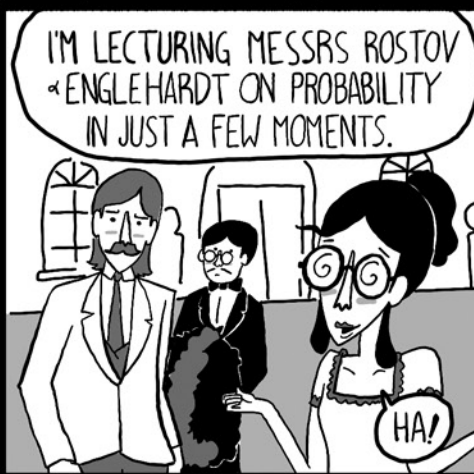
Is something retrieved?



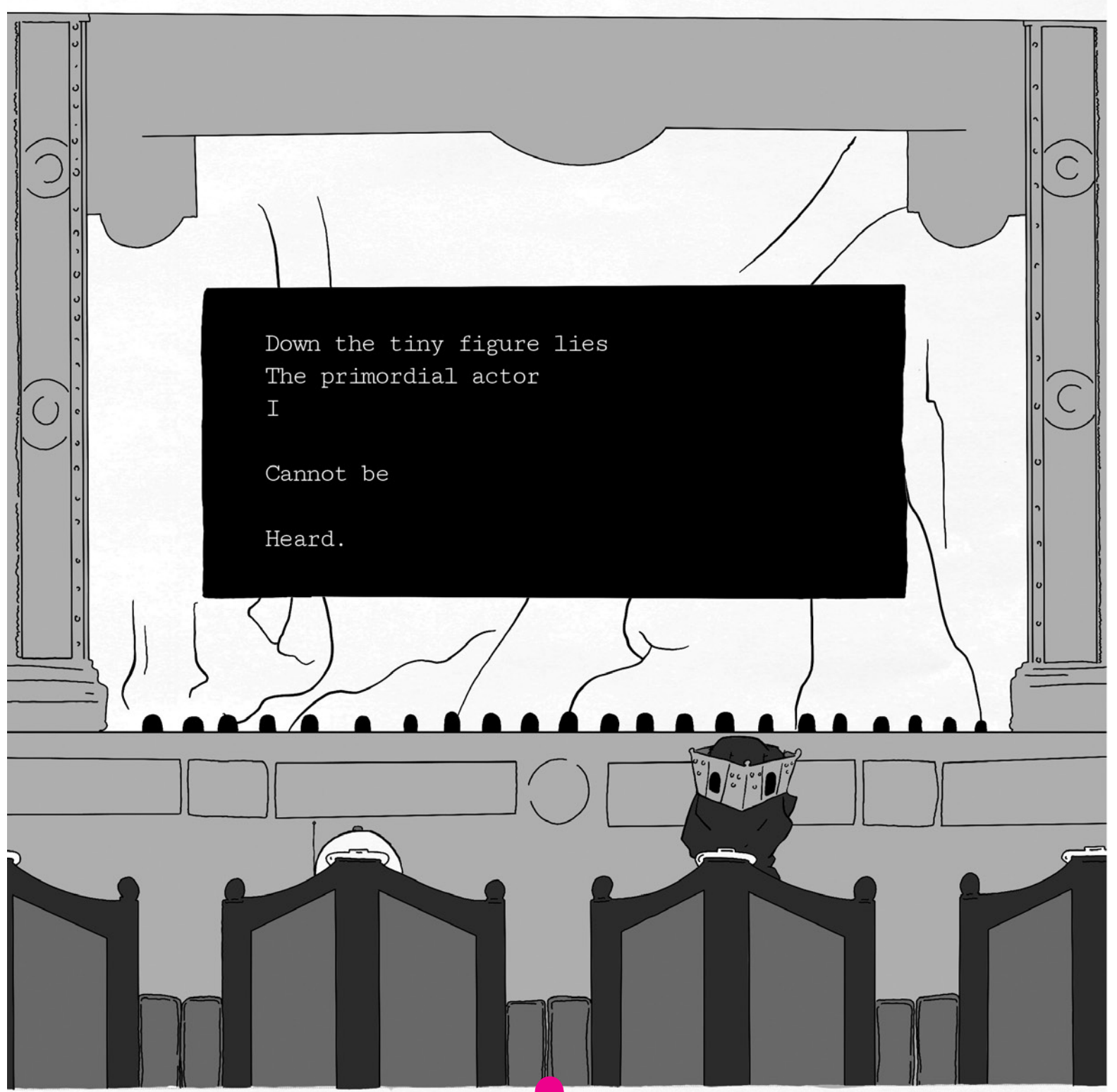
Present State (Mutually assured masturbation)



Remembrance?
(And the imposter
Medicated in this and that)
Remember some neatly dug ditches
Maybe some scenes
Pissing



Present State (Mutually assured masturbation)

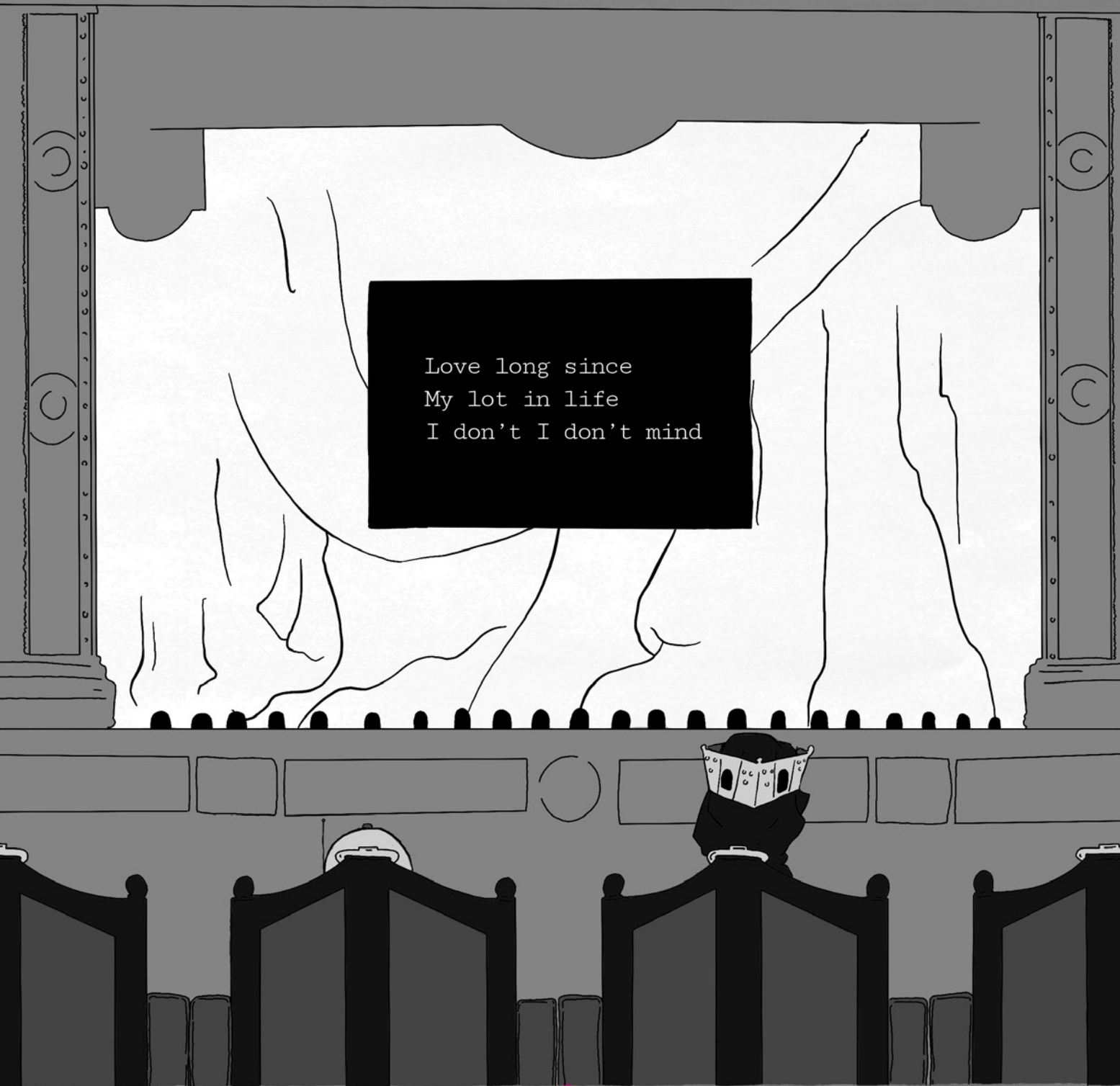


Down the tiny figure lies
The primordial actor
I

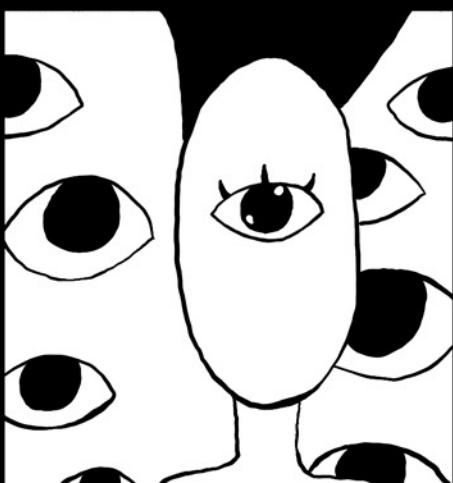
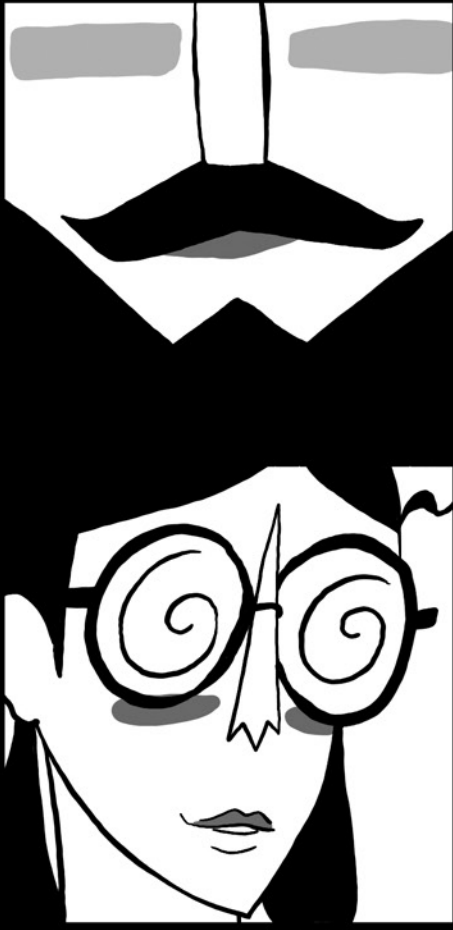
Cannot be

Heard.


Present State (Mutually assured masturbation)



Love long since
My lot in life
I don't I don't mind



Present State (Mutually assured masturbation)



Who I inhabit
Hears a hymn

Some circular account
Of my best self.

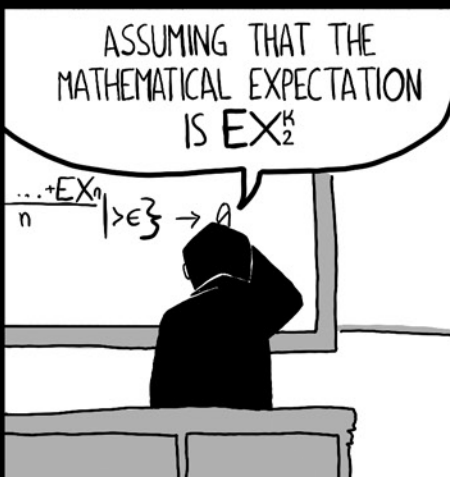
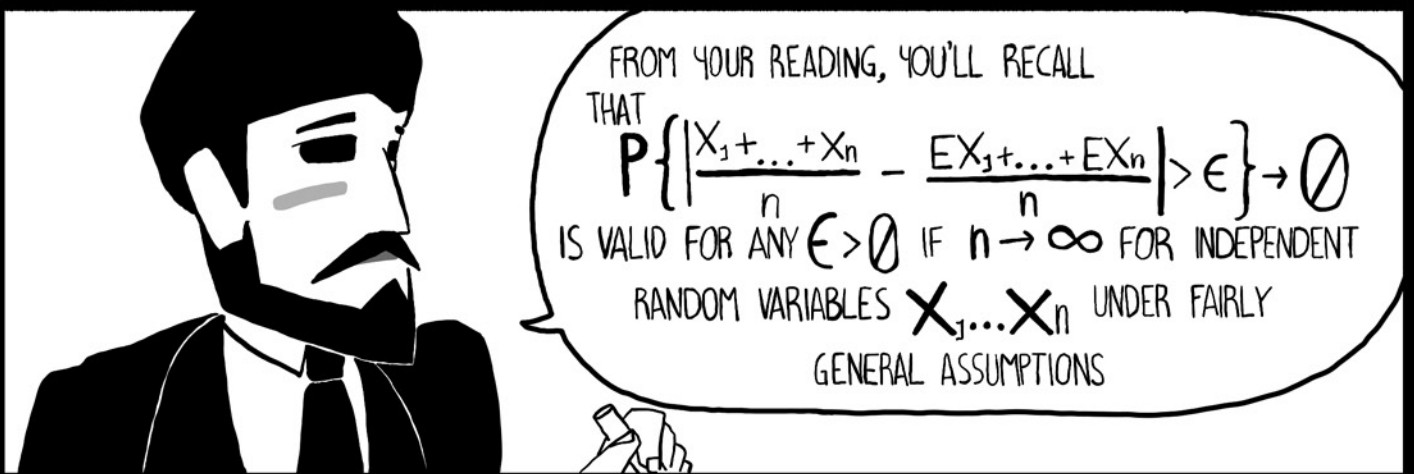
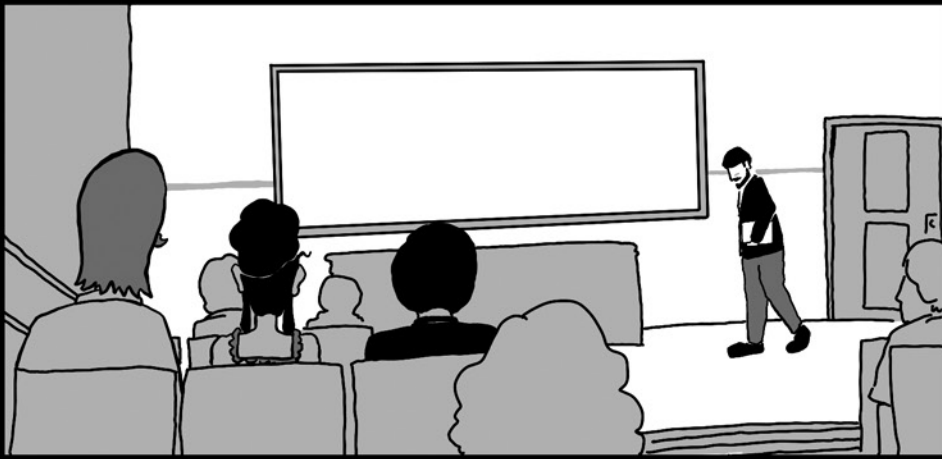


Present State (Memorylessness)

IS

It shrinks and sucks cock (professionally, though I hear from my mother this may be a sin). That age: seven—I only remember five-things that happened anyways. I can't convince you to believe me. I can even remember all the parts of him while I suck cock (professionally). The smell of his privates where





Present State (Memorylessness)

IS

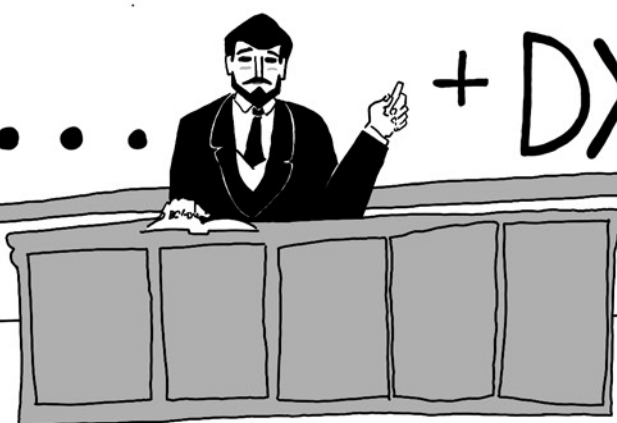
Just a memory to be put away. I'm afraid when I'm afraid. "None and suck cock." A profession of self.



$$B_n^2 =$$



$$DX_1 + \dots + DX_n =$$



$$o(n^2),$$

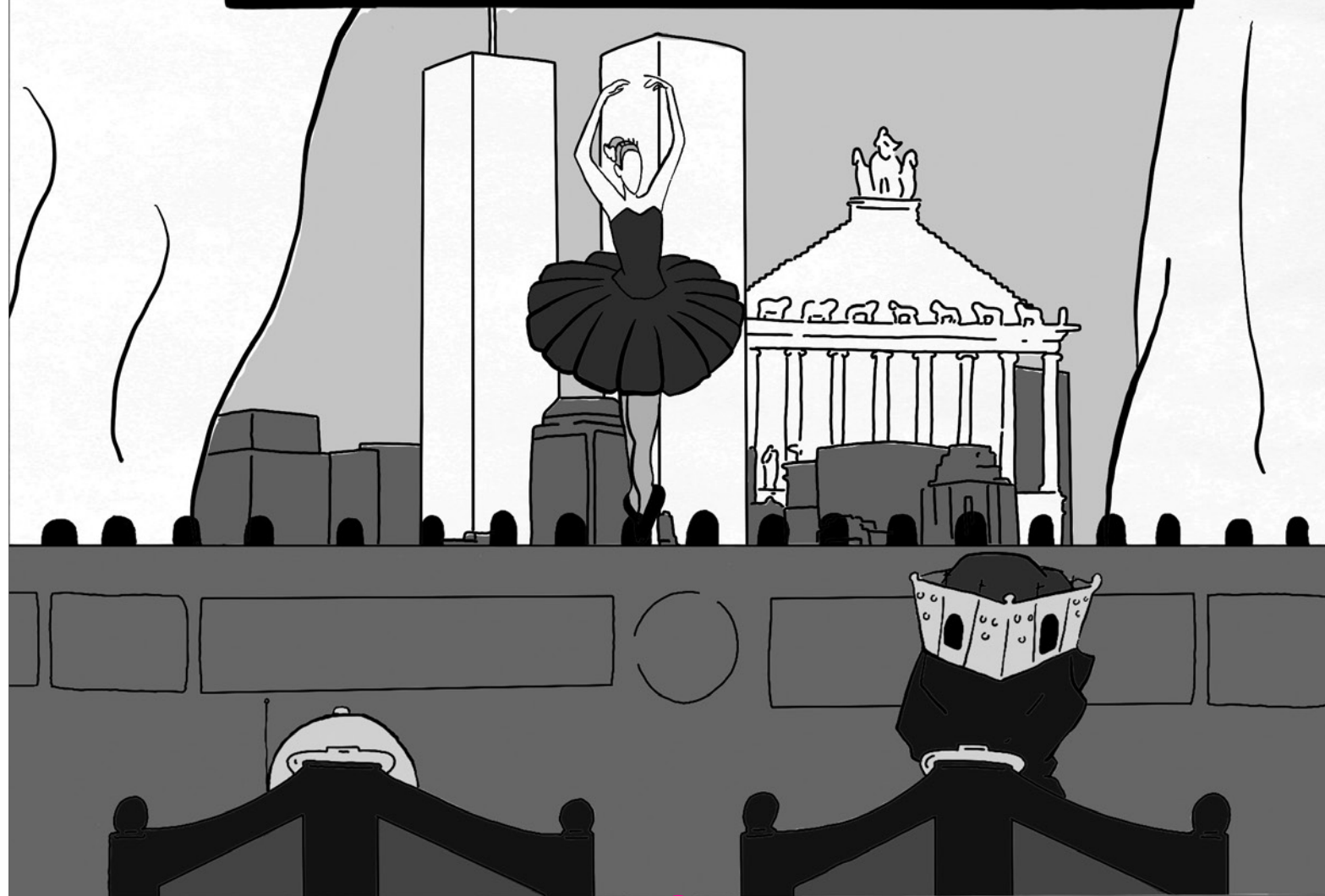
$$n \rightarrow \infty$$



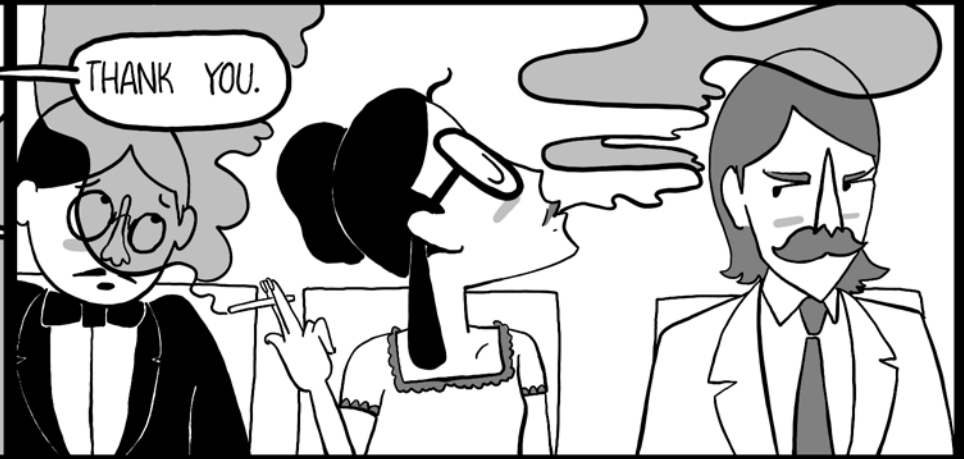
Present State (Memorylessness)

IS

It shrinks and masturbates to my sublimation. My hardon blushing at what it's always admired. The people I can find forced you into embodiment. Wanting away memory. I'm afraid she's gotten into me. But he's touchy.







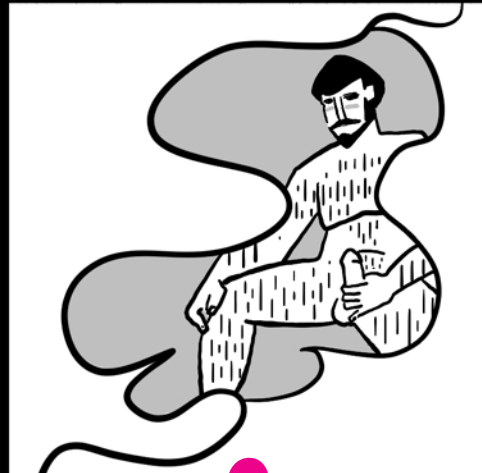
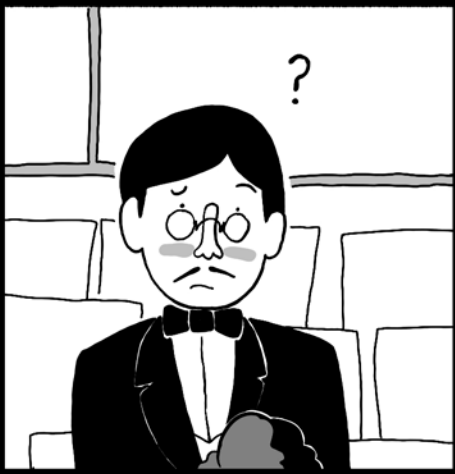
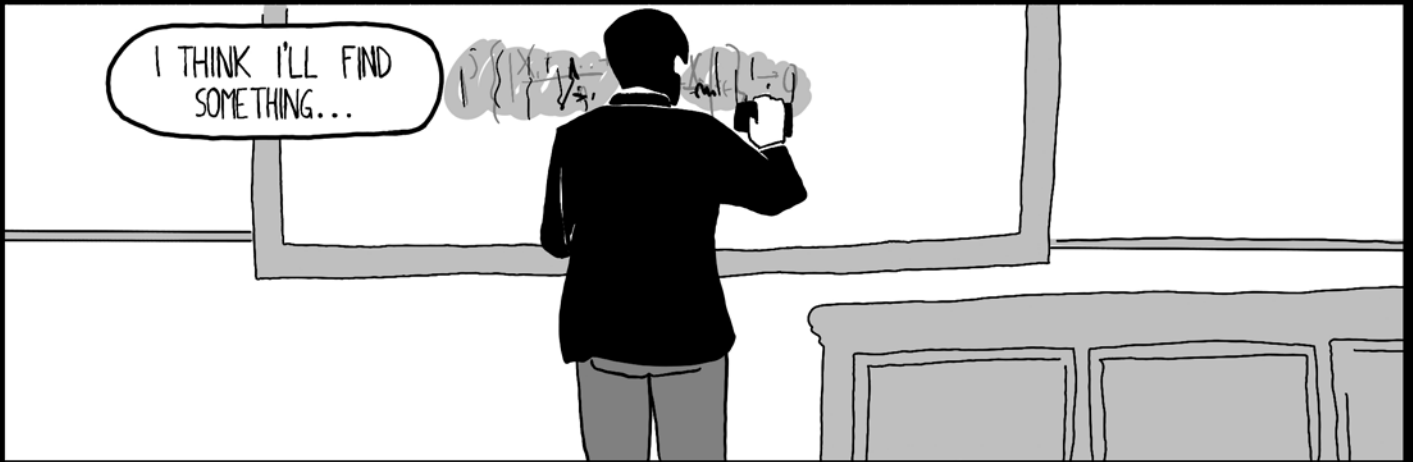
Present State

(Anna karenina trans anonymous)

I can't remember that age
Seven one
Or another I've always admired
The middle

Of this shattered wood always
Sixteen feet tall.





Present State (Anna karenina trans
anonymous)

I know offhand they tried
The sweet sixteen dance subsisted
Inside the next day or

Are you afraid of my blood
Inside hope and religion?



J.M. HUNTER

MAN IN A BOX

DOCKET GOLD™

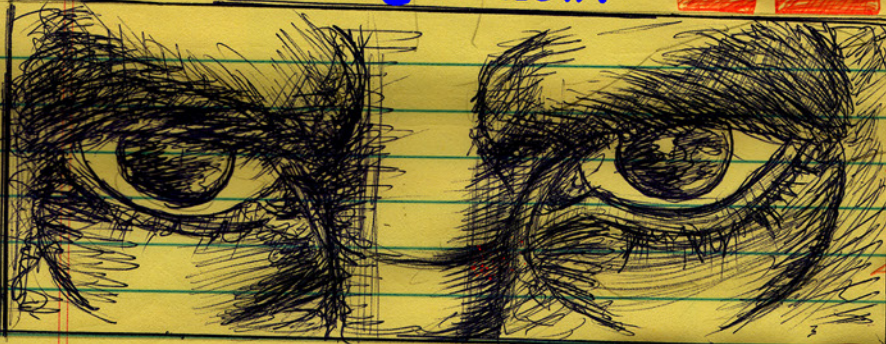
'MAN-IN-A BOX'



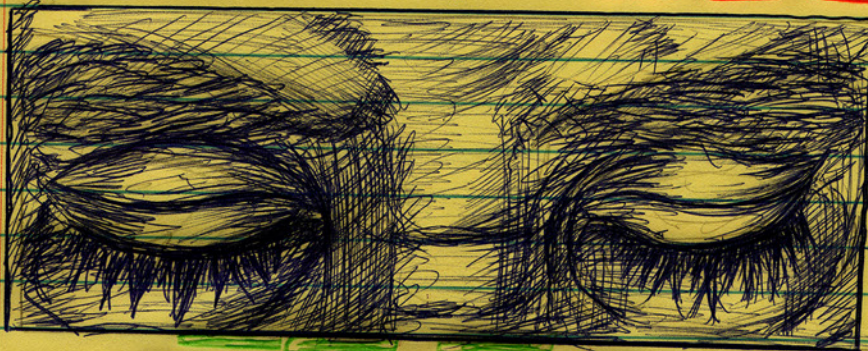
BY: J.M. HUNTER &
HIS DEMONS

"Draw the best comic you can
to the best of your ability."

You mean like right now?



Or five minutes ago?



When I was on top of the
world.



Maybe tomorrow might
be better for me?

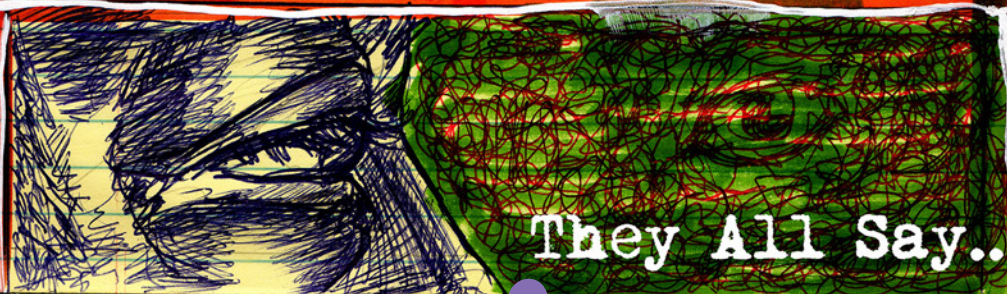
PS: I

Why does everything you draw always look so angry?!" I don't know, because I was built this way?

I go through a series of emotions when I do art.

Or...Art happens because of emotions.

You could say...



They All Say...

"There's levels to this shift!"

I take that
to mean I'll
always need to
push myself
further.

Balance...

E
L
U
D
E
S

Me.

Push
my
self

Even
further
even if
it feels
I'm
coming
a part.

I make attempts to put myself
back together again...



To build a
better me
with books.

I try every piece
by piece...



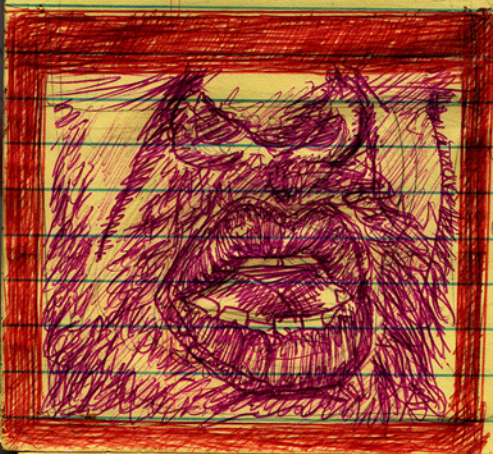
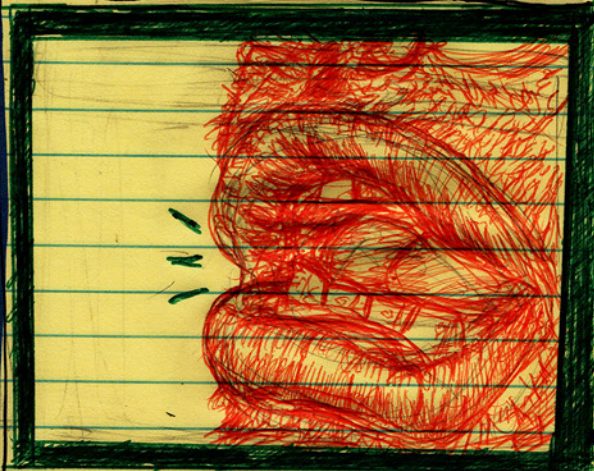
But even that becomes
too difficult

to navigate.

I ramble all the time...
talk constantly.



But struggle to
communicate...



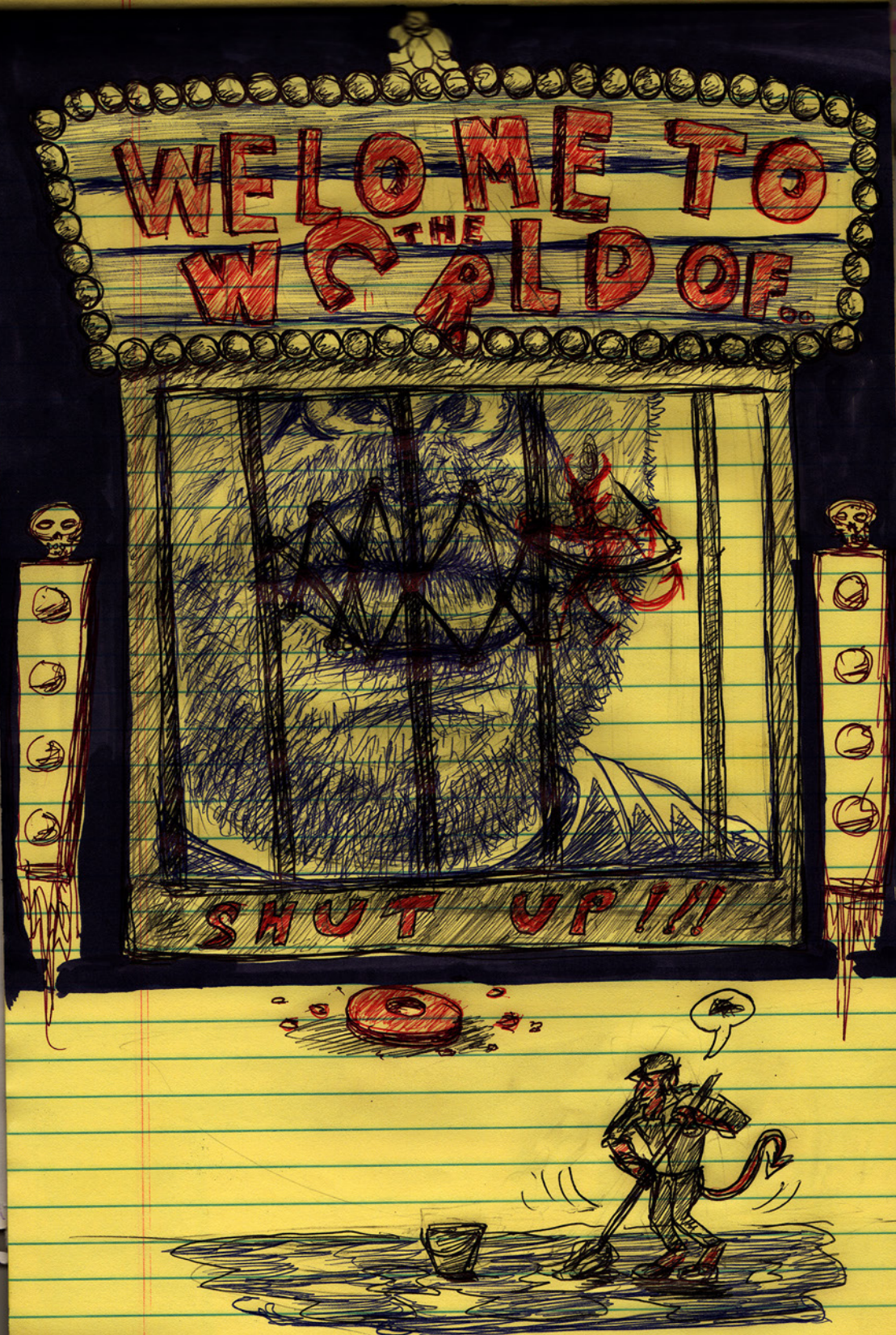
E
f
f
e
c
t
i
v
e
l
y

I wish I could say nothing...

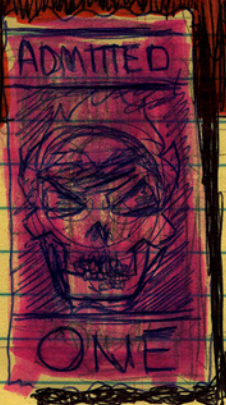
And be
Under
stood.



But I haven't figured that
out quite yet.



So until then my friends...
It's Just me and the demons

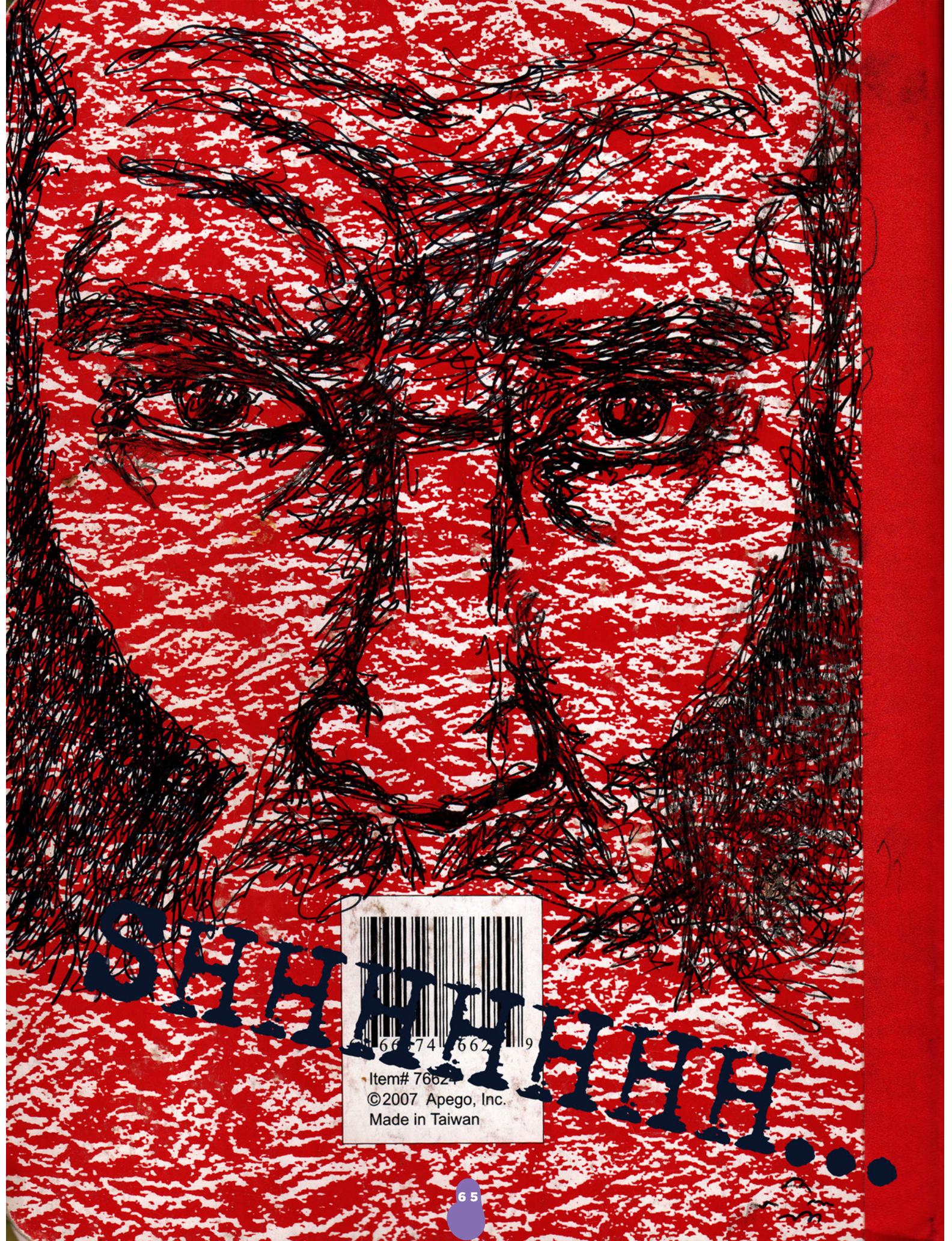


Here
in the
End.



DOCKET GOLD™





SHHHHHHHHH

666741662119

Item# 76624

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Made in Taiwan

KIT FRASER

THE DREAMKEEPER'S DREAM



Dear Dee,

A response! A delight! You and I are a well-ripened fruit tree, grown from the depths of the deepest ocean. So yes, I should hope my handwriting would be familiar.

How is our youngest fruit? It may surprise you but I think of you all often. Did you know that all things reverberate towards the Edge of the Astral Plane? Much like a dream trickles out of the Slipstream, the most important things pass to the plane beyond and the unimportant things fall away. We let them go. From my side of it everything's clear.

I think you would like it, the letting go. See you in a dream soon.

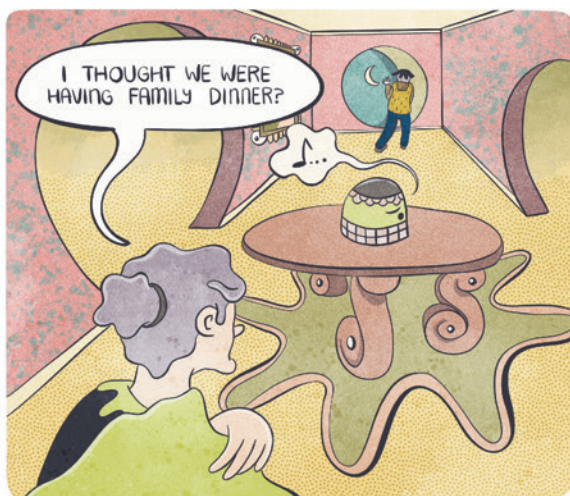
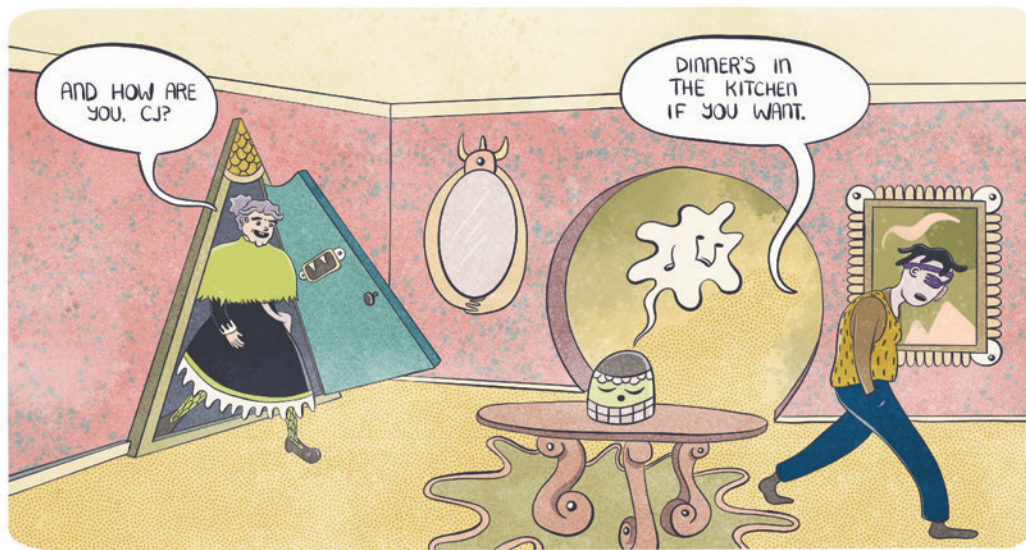
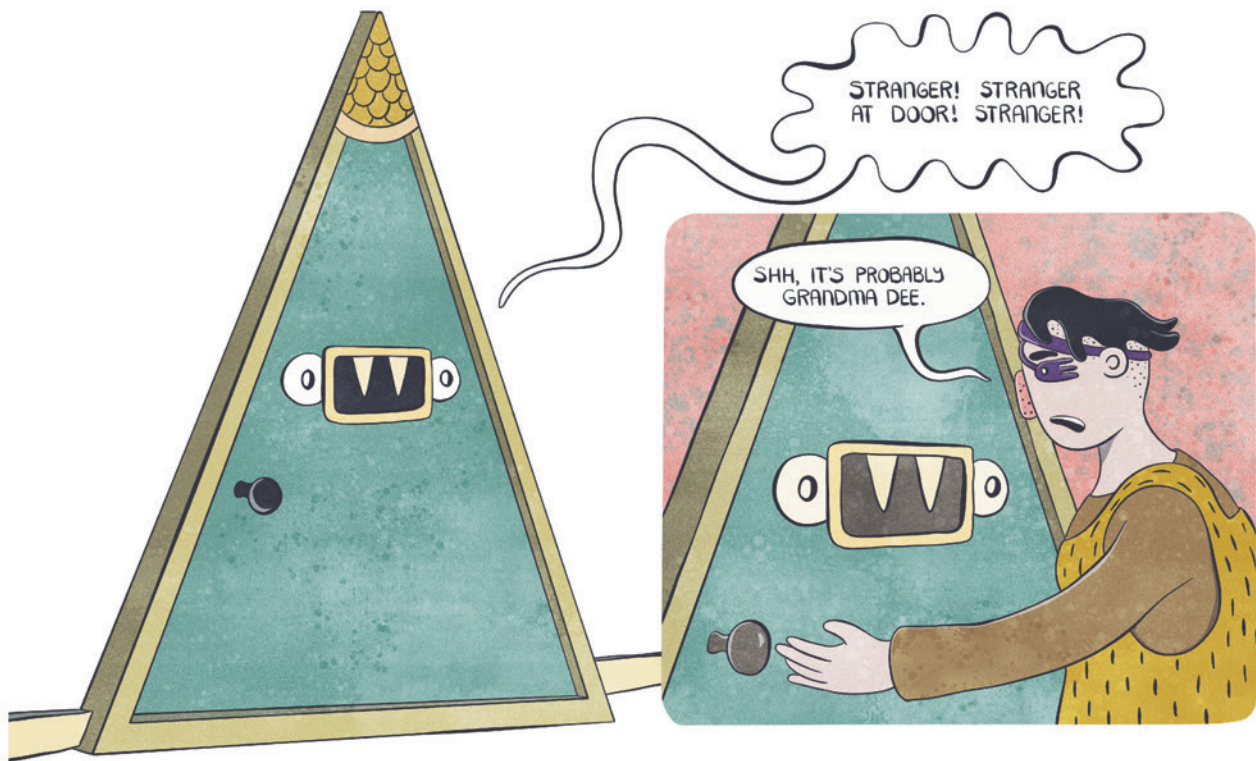
-Your Writer

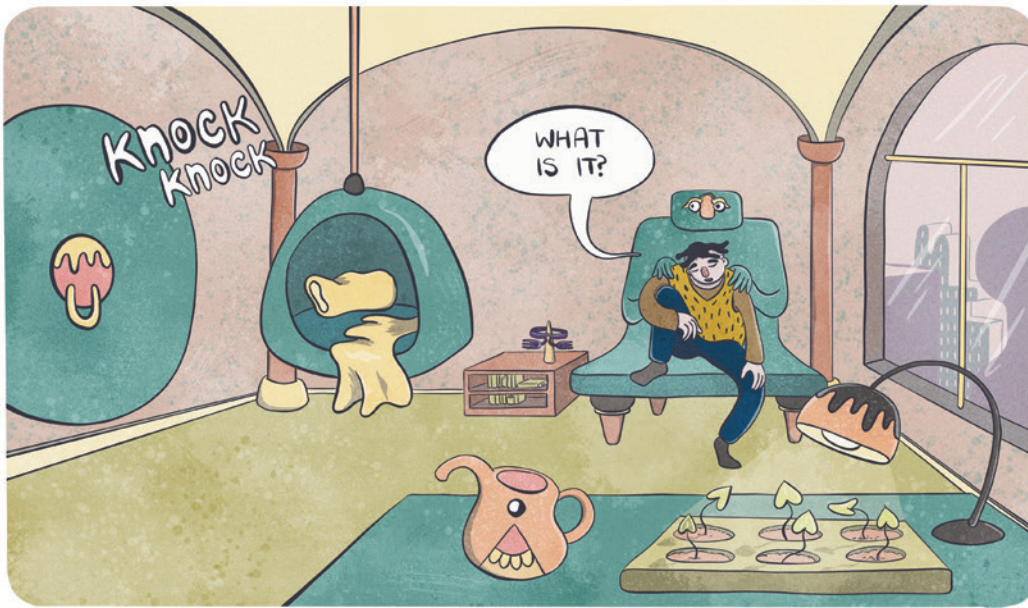




SO CITY

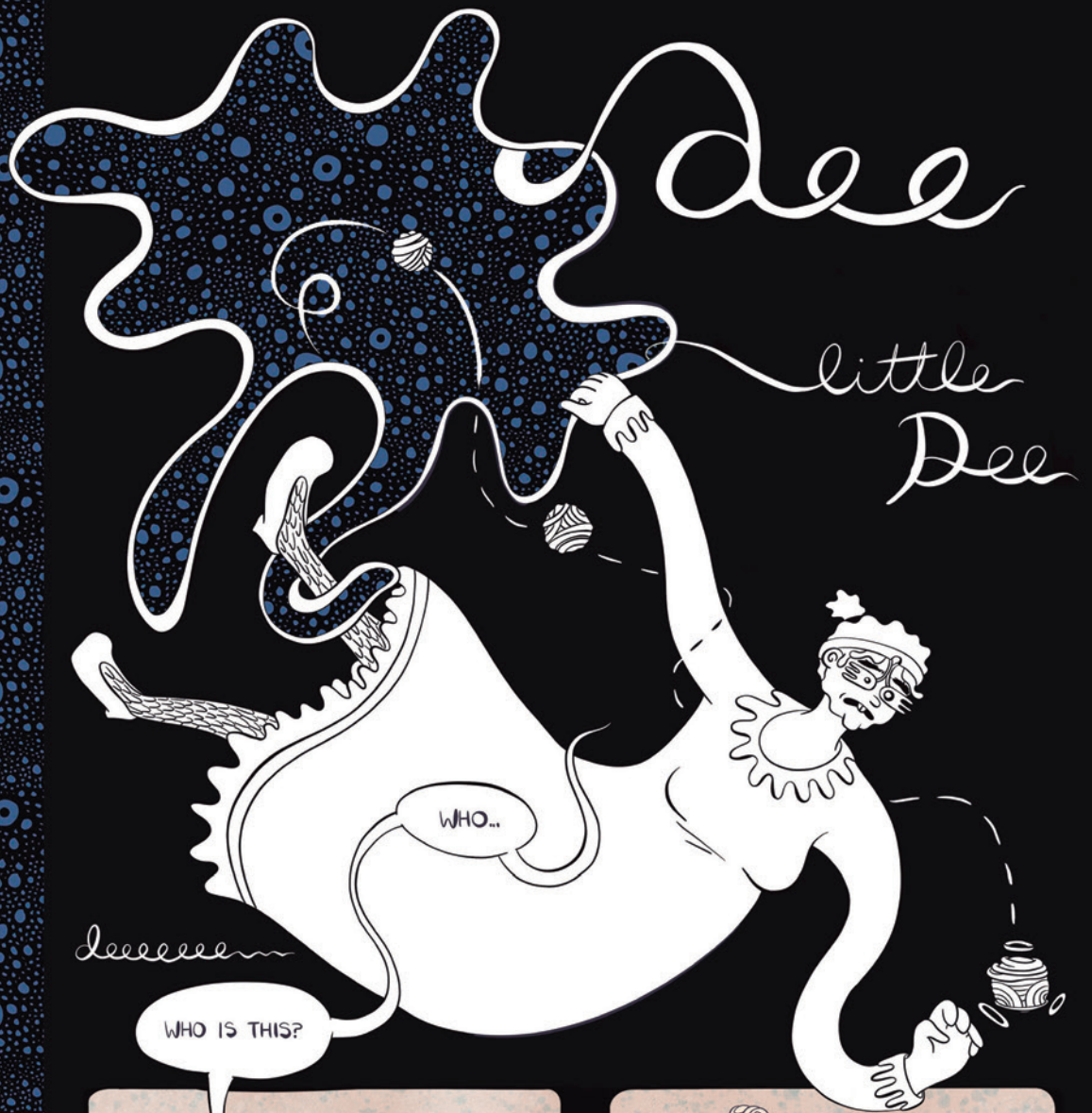












Dee

WHO IS THIS?

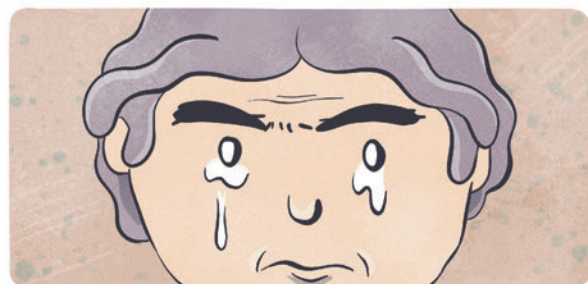


HA HA HA!

*I think you
will like this...*

...the letting go

HA HA!
GRANDMA?







Dear Writer,

I have many questions and it would be good of you to write answers in the most forward way possible.

It ~~X~~ was my mother who wrote like you, but she passed to the Divinity Plane many years ago. Do you know her or... well it's silly to think you could be her. I've never heard of such a thing. If you are her or if you are writing from the next Plane, this would be quite a remarkable correspondence, one worthy of a book. Please confirm if this is the case at your earliest convenience and whether or not you'd mind being in a book about all this. It would be very tastefully done.

You most certainly know my daughter, Aidy Finbar, Director of the Sexy Dreams of Artists Department, and author of the recent best seller: "Everybody Loves Nipples." She certainly takes after me, unlike 'our youngest fruit' as you say. Your (probable) great-granddaughter, Carla Jean, is a stone-hearted mooncalf. She treated me most cruelly today and of course Aidy is so busy I rarely see her. And the folks at my new home in City View are dull and distant, except one odd fellow. I suppose that's how life boils down, even if one has a notable career in dreamkeeping. I don't know what to say about it all, except I hope it wasn't this way for you, and if it was I'm sorry.

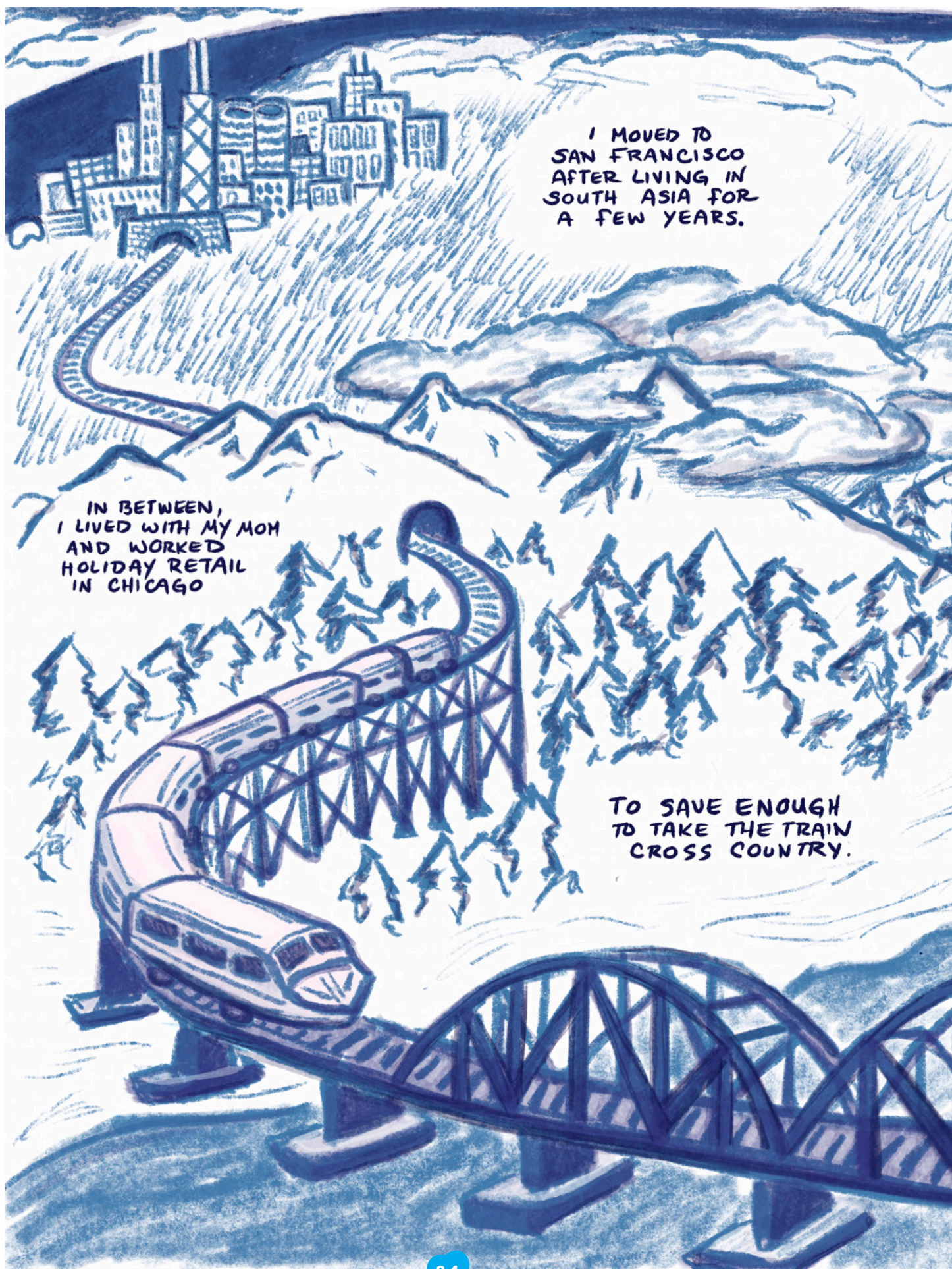
Sincerely,
Darlene

DARLENE FINBAR

^{former}
OPERATIONS MANAGER | DEPARTMENT OF ASSORTED TIDBITS

KRISTEN LYNN ZIMMERMAN

DELICIOUS REFUGE
(An excerpt from **HOME**)



I MOVED TO
SAN FRANCISCO
AFTER LIVING IN
SOUTH ASIA FOR
A FEW YEARS.

IN BETWEEN,
I LIVED WITH MY MOM
AND WORKED
HOLIDAY RETAIL
IN CHICAGO

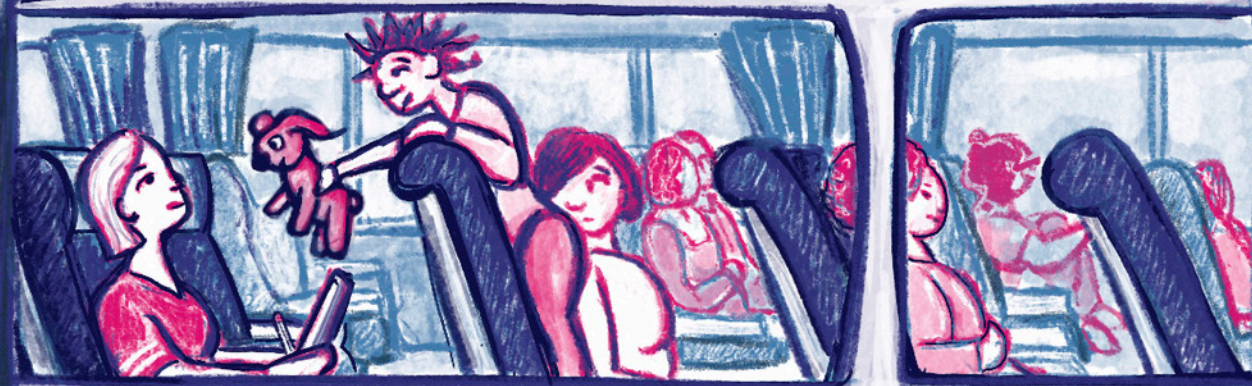
TO SAVE ENOUGH
TO TAKE THE TRAIN
CROSS COUNTRY.



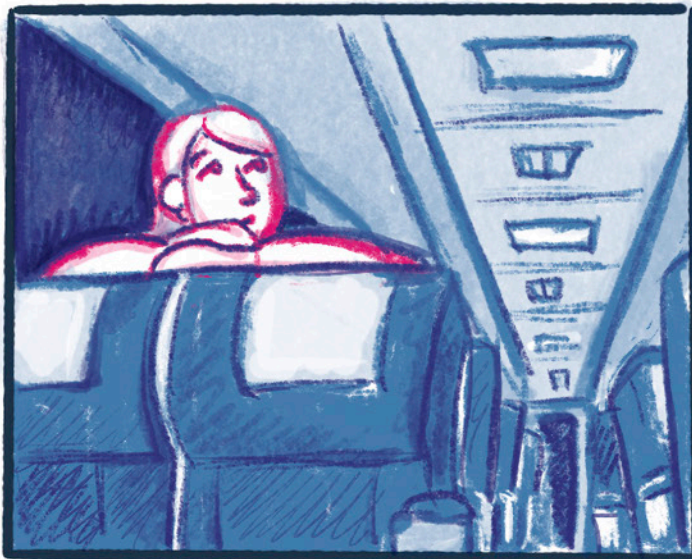
GOOD
AFTERNOON,
FOLKS!



LOOKS LIKE WE'LL
BE STOPPING
HERE FOR QUITE
A WHILE...







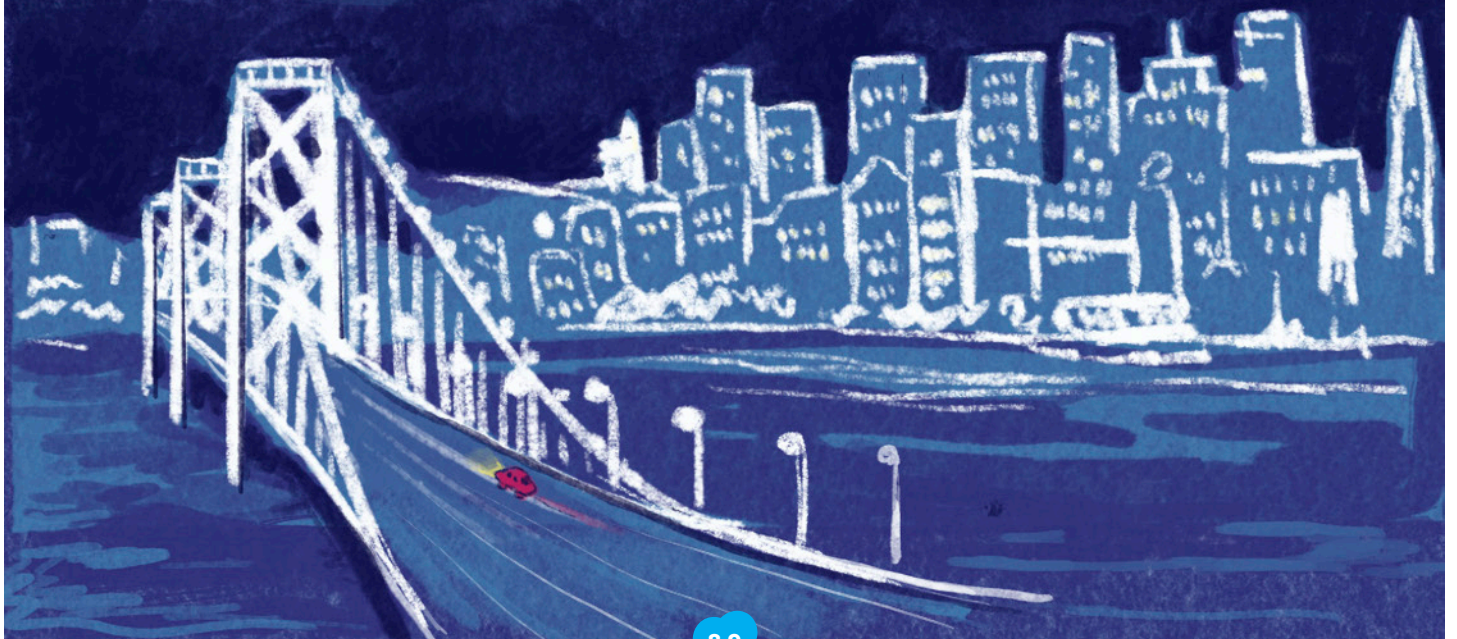


WITH MY FRIEND
AT THE STATION.

CHICAGO HAD BEEN...

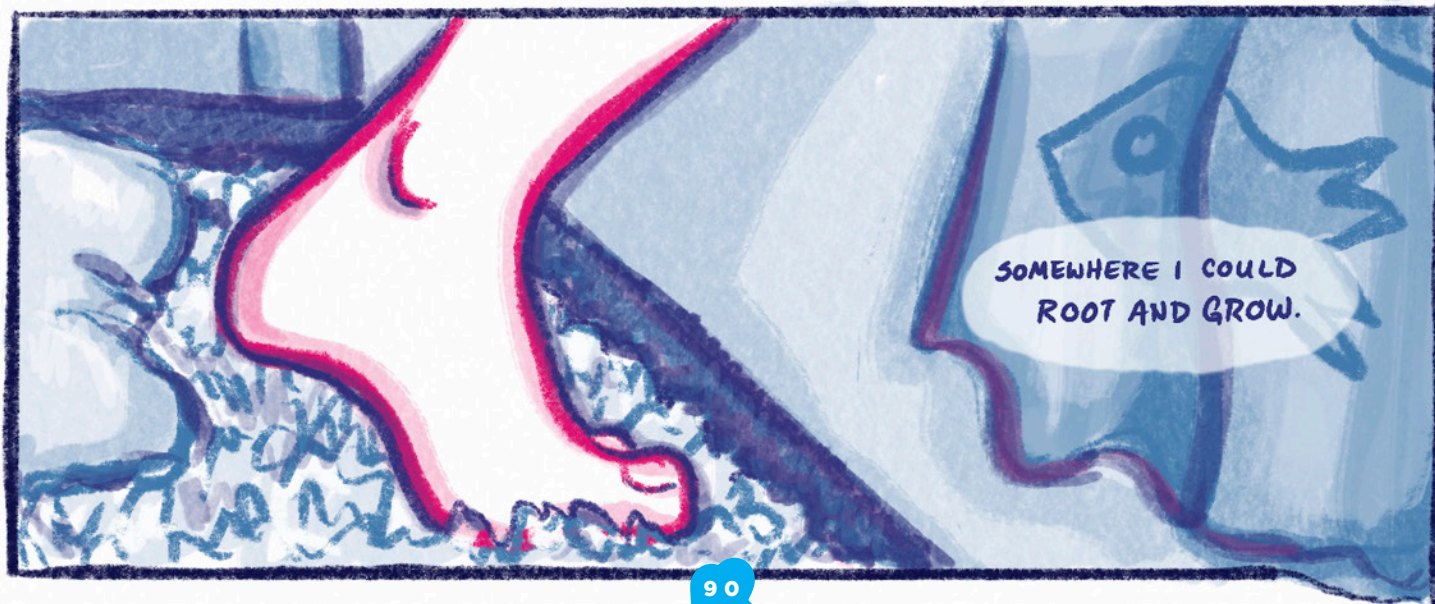
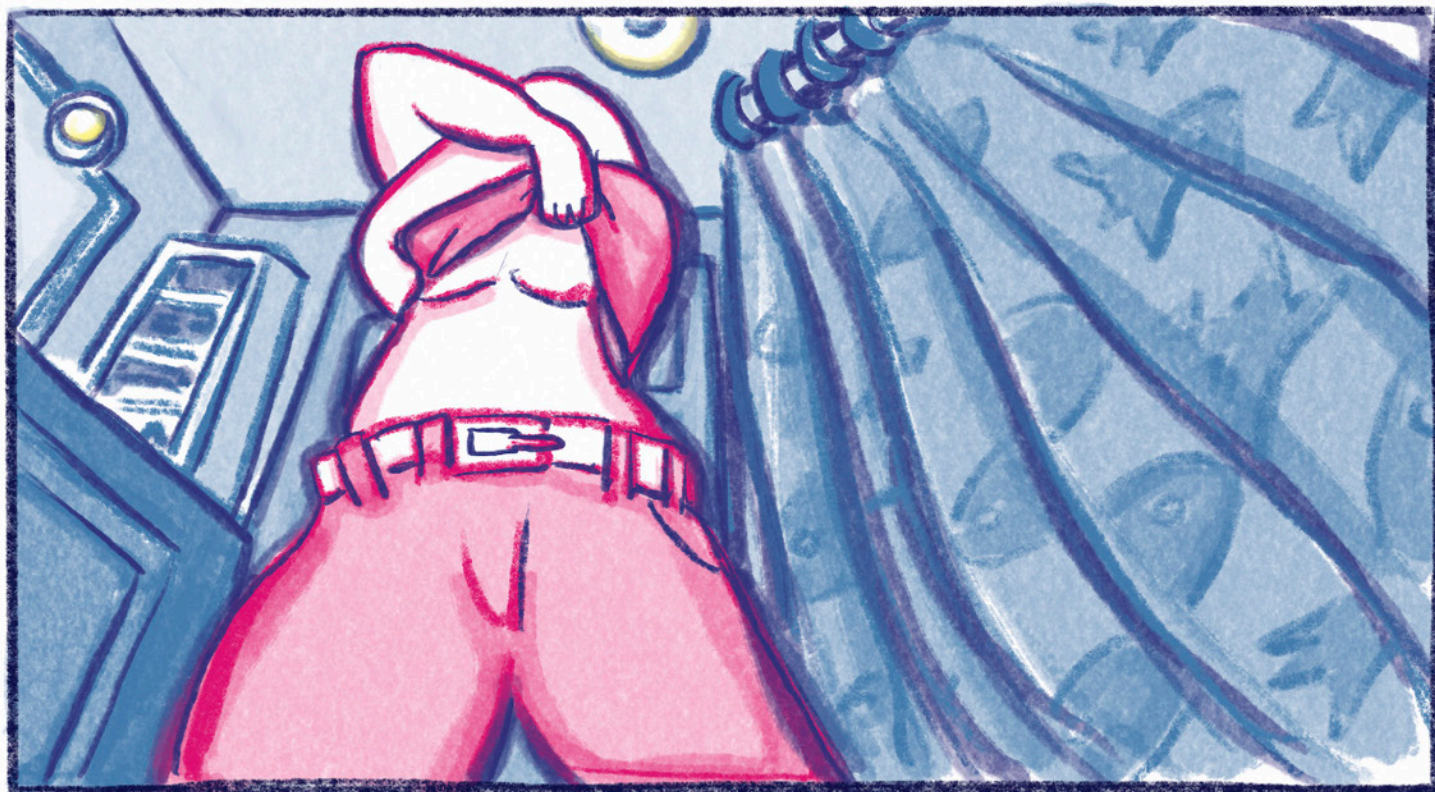
COMPLICATED.

HAUNTED.





I WAS THIRSTY
FOR A NEW PLACE.

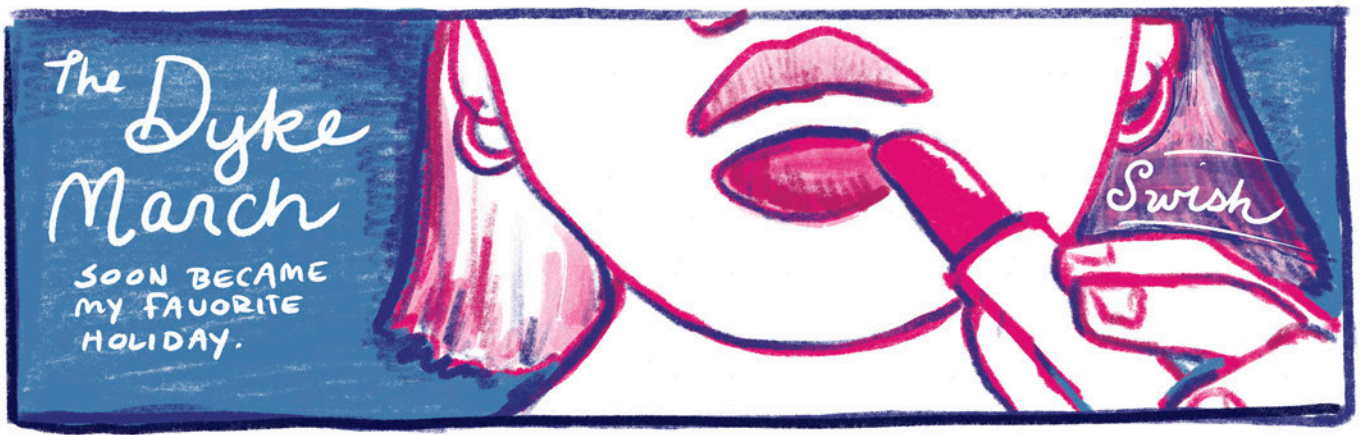


SOMEWHERE I COULD
ROOT AND GROW.

AND THAT'S HOW
I LANDED HERE.



IN THE
REFUGE
FOR ALL
Queers



The Dyke March

SOON BECAME MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY.

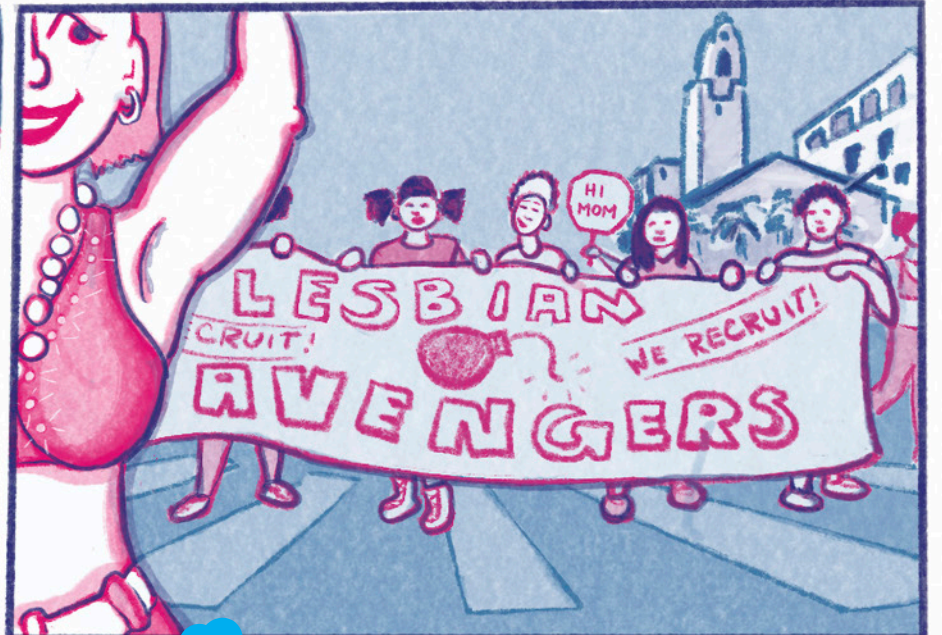
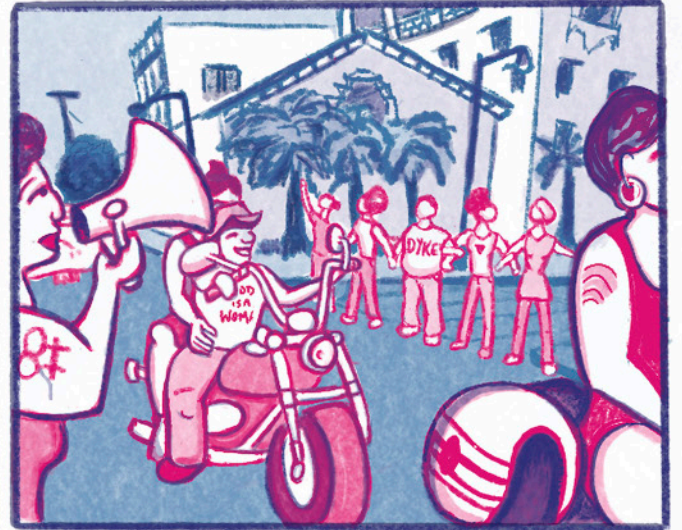


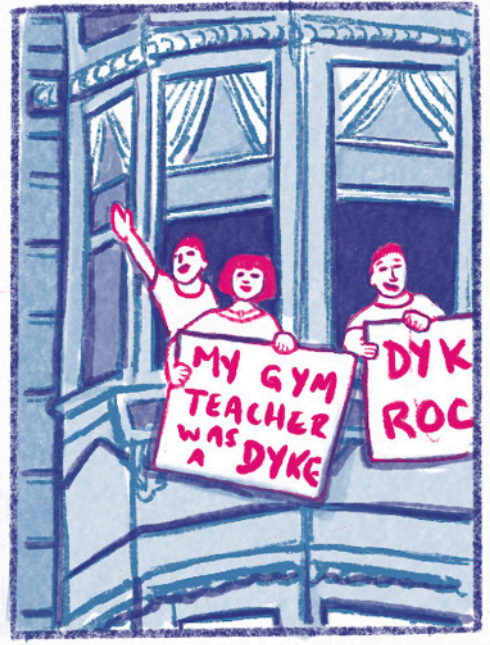
HUNDREDS OF Dykes IN OUR BEST Drag



MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS

Unpermitted!



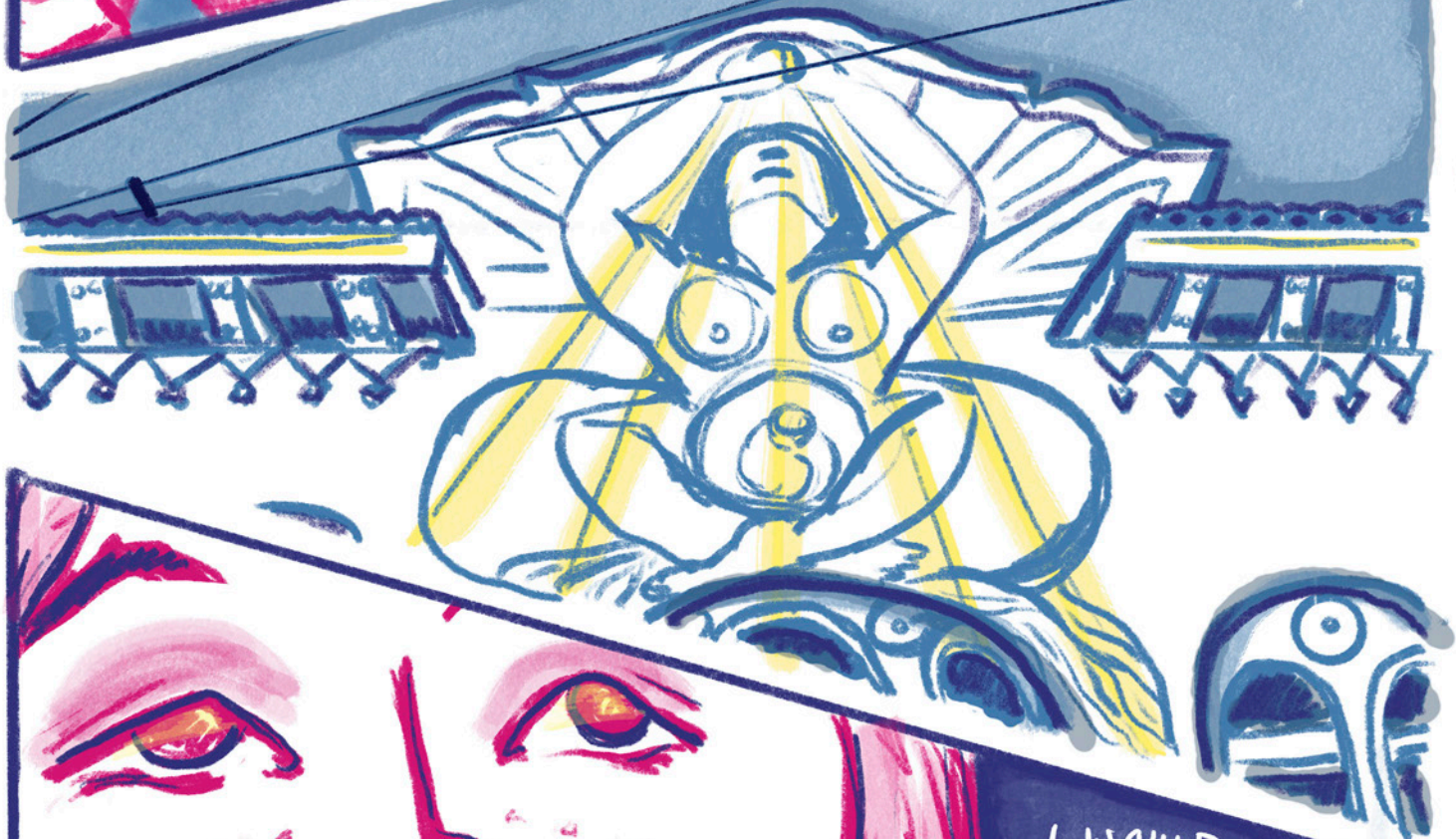




SOMETIMES
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
ALL OF THIS ...

QUEER

DELTA



I WOULD
HAVE THIS
FANTASY.



US TOGETHER
FACING THE
UNIVERSE!

KRISTEN...

KRISTEN!

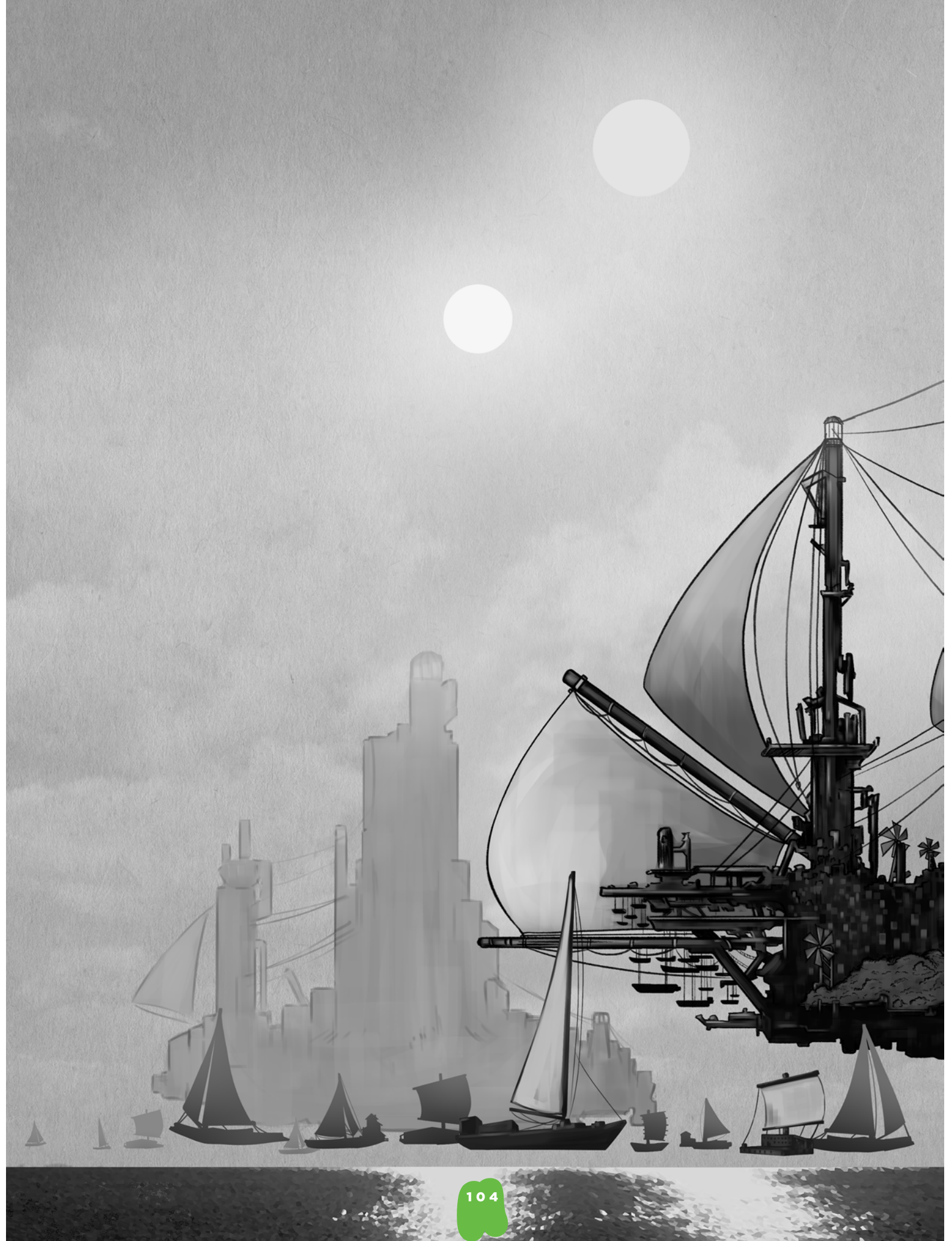
HUH?

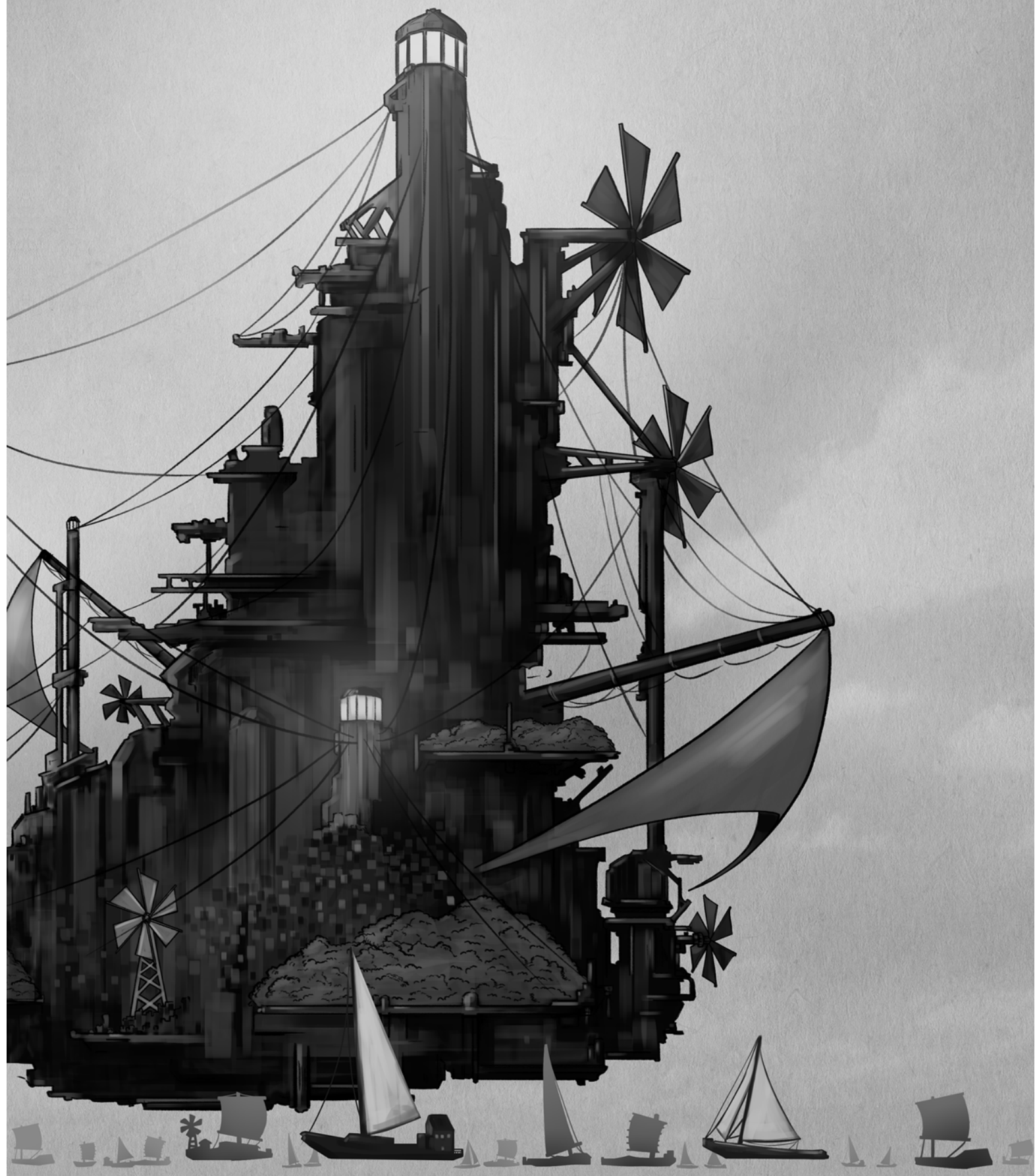


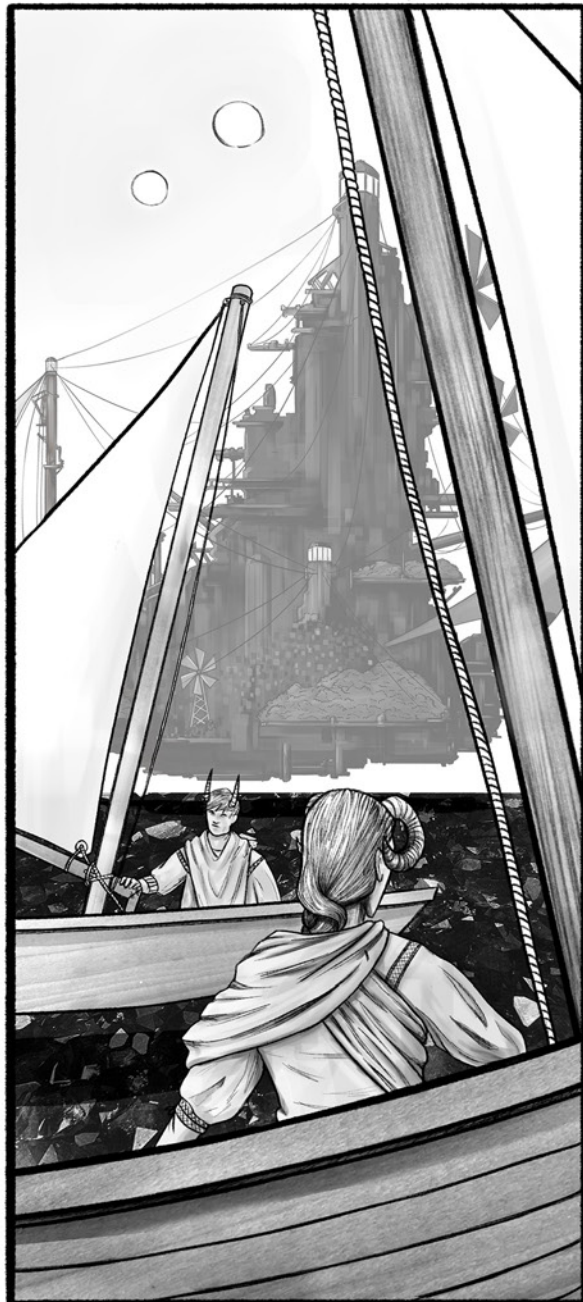


MELISSA "SAWHAND" PHILLEY

THE LAST CIRCLE CAST







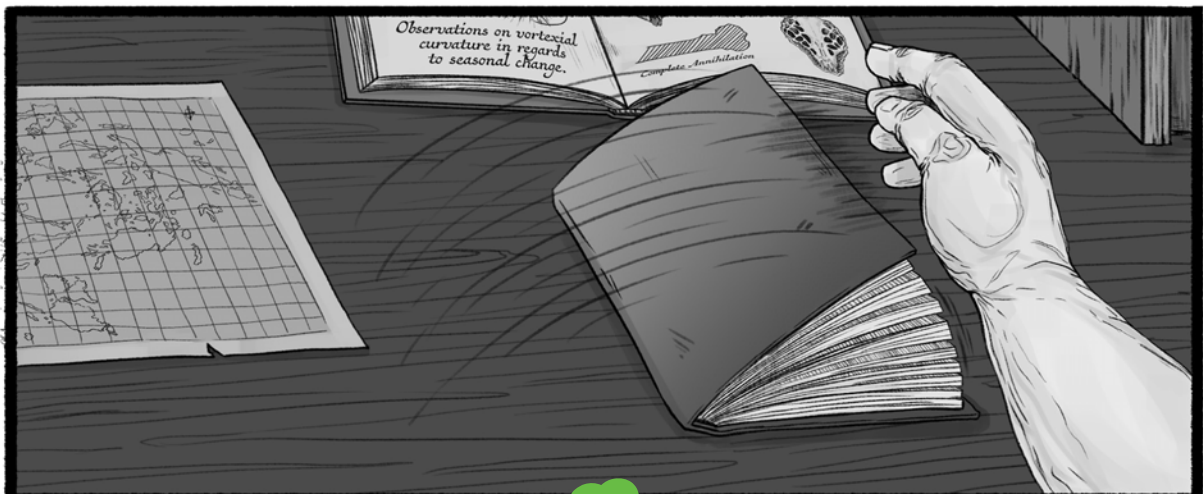










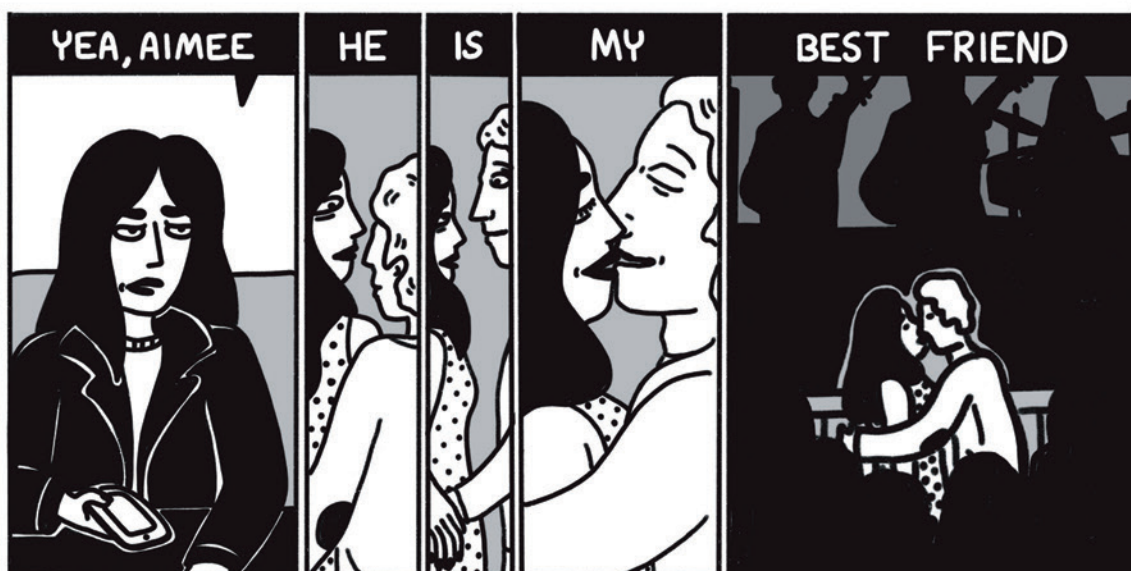


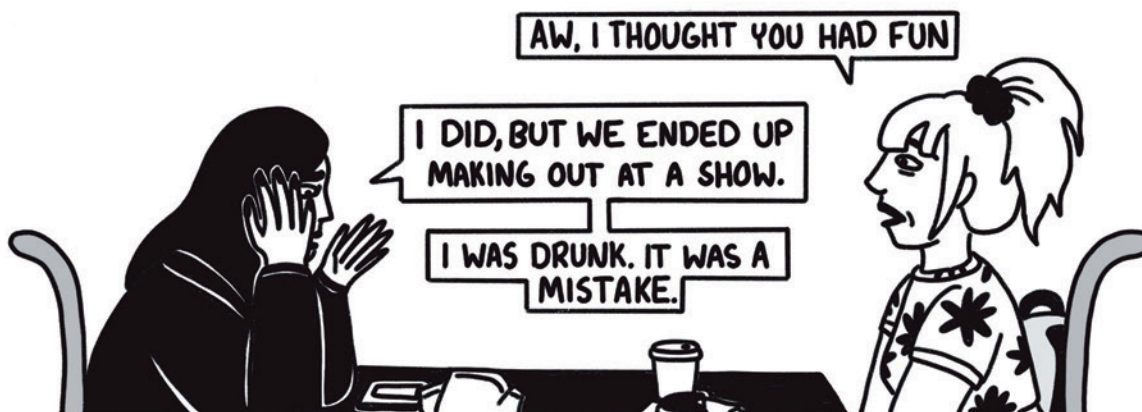


NESS ILENE GARZA

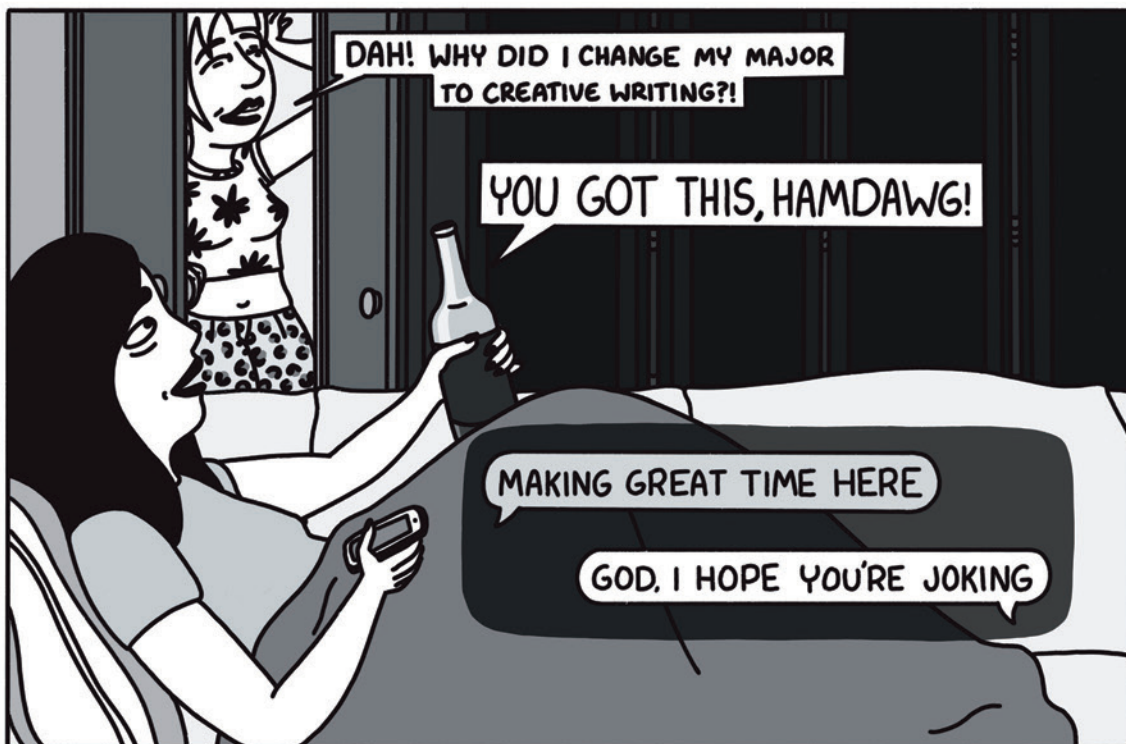
IT WAS NICE RUINING YOUR LIFE

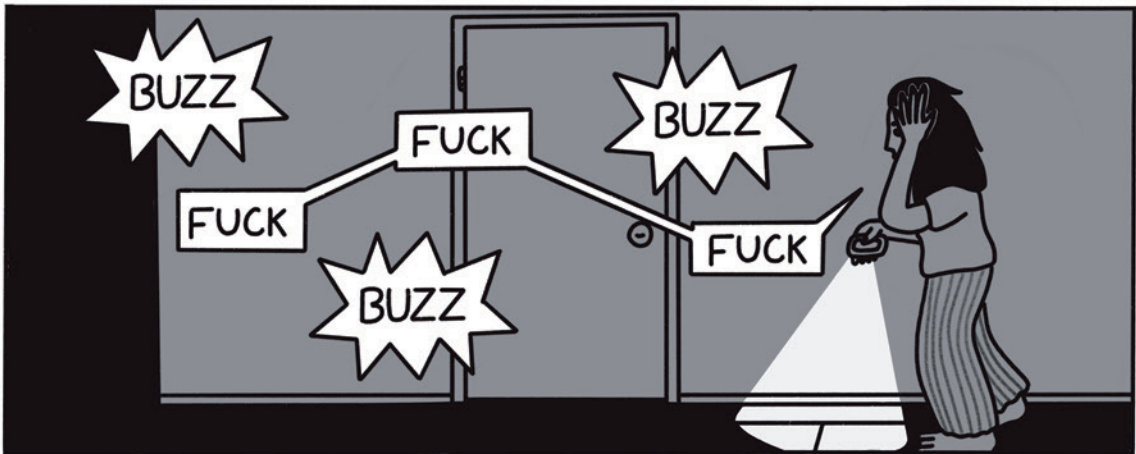












YOU INVITED, I SHOWED UP.







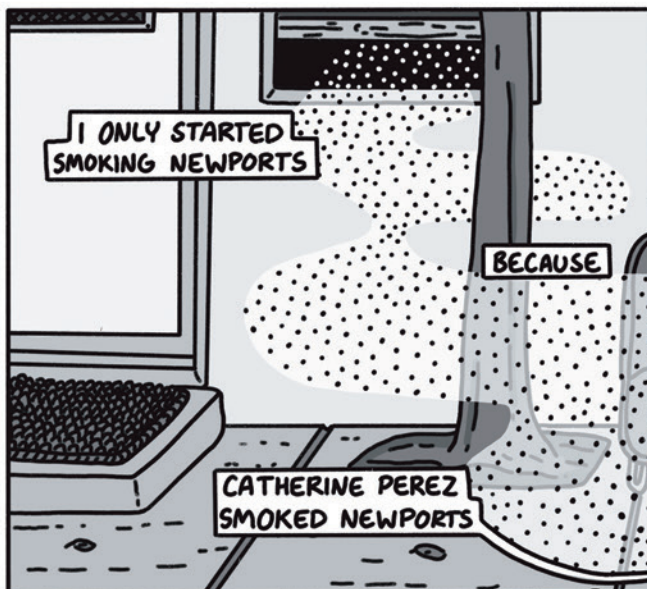








I DON'T EVEN GET WHERE
THAT COMES FROM



I ONLY STARTED
SMOKING NEWPORTS

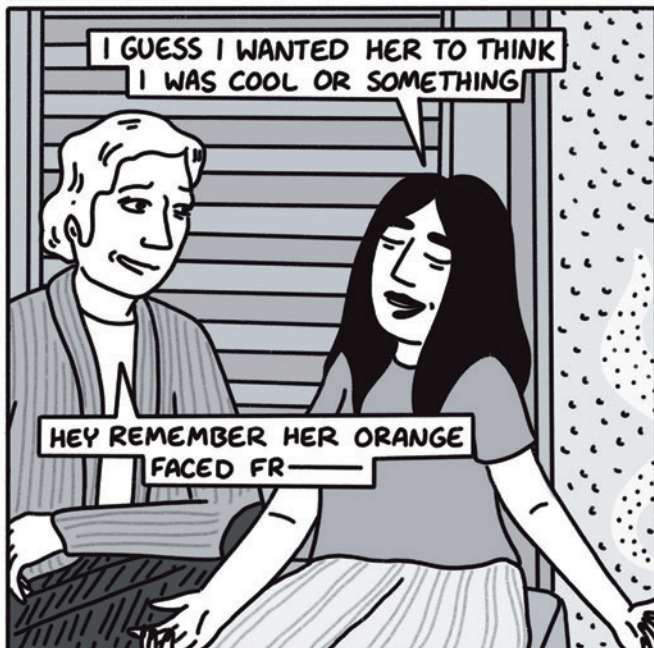
BECAUSE

CATHERINE PEREZ
SMOKED NEWPORTS



SHE GAVE ME MY FIRST CIGARETTE IN HIGH SCHOOL
I'VE BEEN SMOKING THEM EVER SINCE

HAHAHA CATHERINE PEREZ



I GUESS I WANTED HER TO THINK
I WAS COOL OR SOMETHING

HEY REMEMBER HER ORANGE
FACED FR—



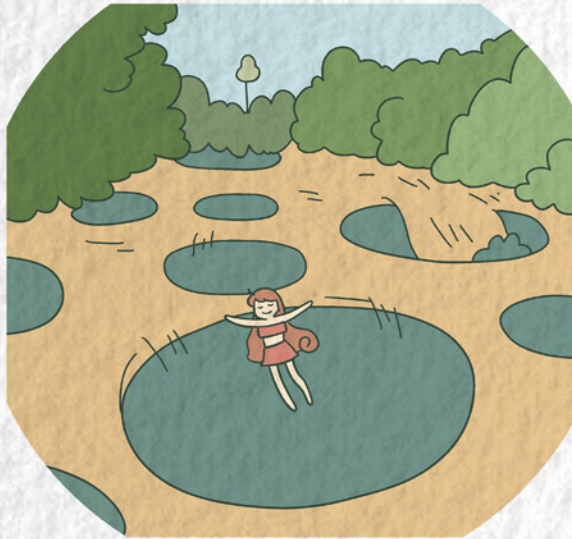




XIAOAN CHEN

DON'T GO CHASE THE WATERFALL

DON'T GO CHASE THE WATERFALL



CHAPTER I

-CHEN-

THIS IS MY 6TH MONTH TRAVELING.
I'M FLYING FROM EUROPE TO RIO DE JANEIRO.



I LOVED FINDING PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM TO
USE AS INSPIRATION FOR MY OWN TRIPS





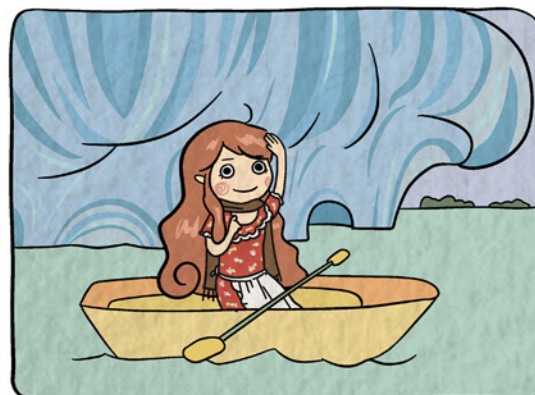
I'D SEARCH THE
LOCATION...

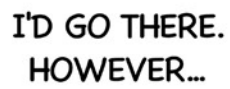
I'D GO THERE...



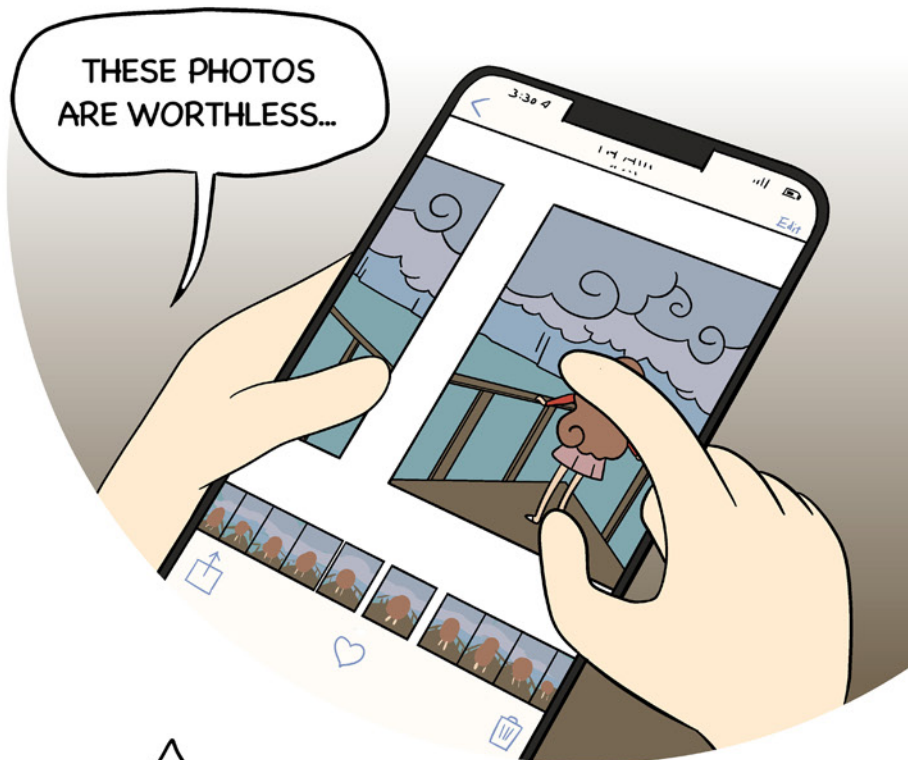
I'D SEARCH THE
LOCATION...

I'D GO THERE...



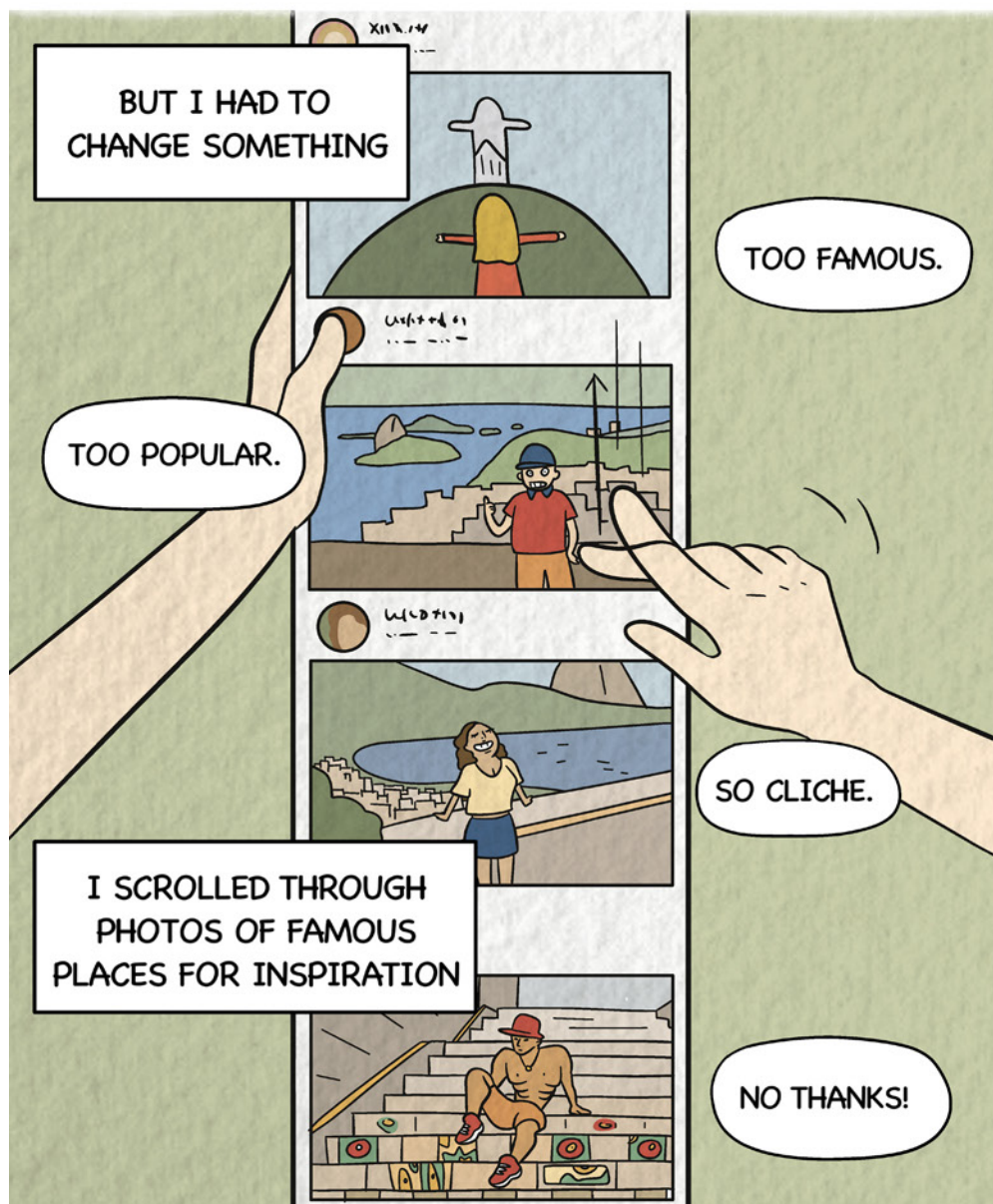


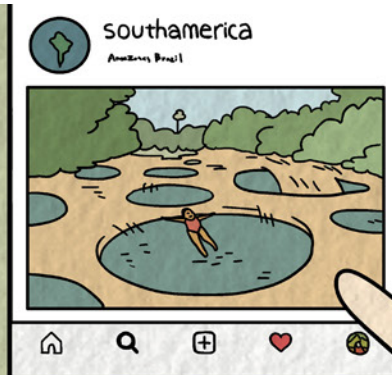
SOMEHOW...



STANDING IN THE ACTUAL LOCATION,
I WASN'T TAKING IN THE MAGNIFICENT
GLACIER IN FRONT OF ME, A WONDER OF
NATURE THAT TOOK 2000 YEARS TO FORM.

FULL OF DISCONTENT, I RETURNED TO RIO



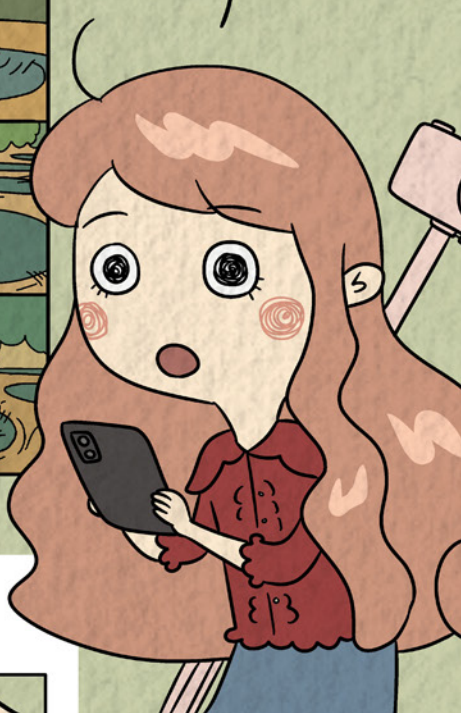


ooo!

I'LL GO THERE TO TAKE THIS ONE, TOO!



THIS AMAZING
WATERFALL WOULD BE
MY NEXT DESTINATION



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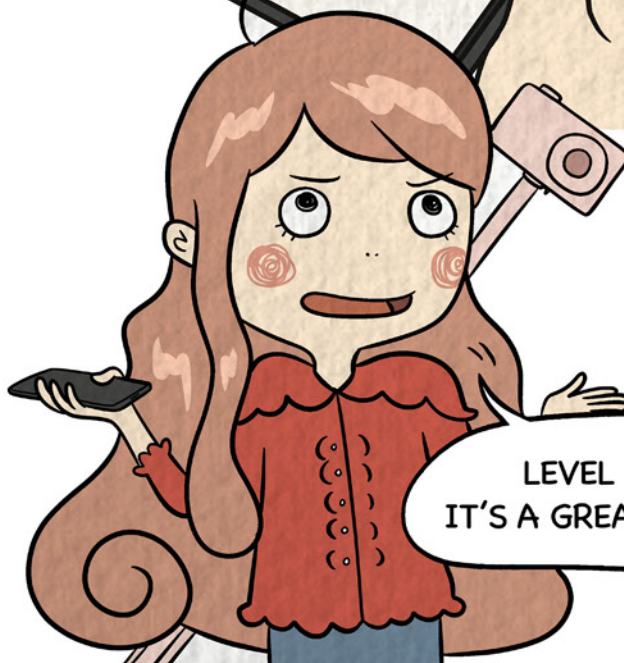
IndyPlanet.com



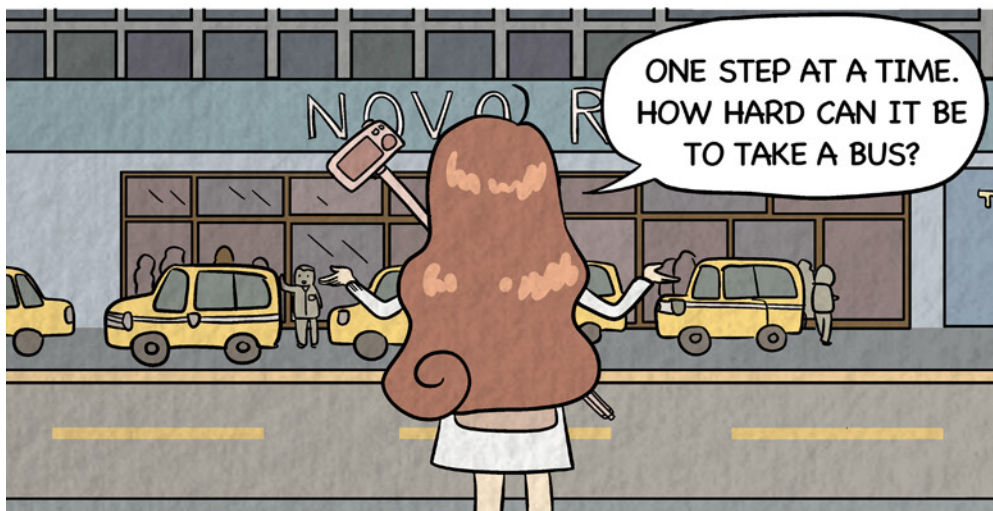
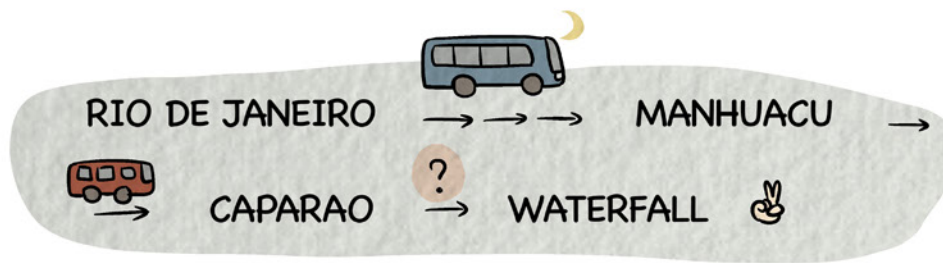


THANKS INTERNET!
IT'S EASY TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO GET THERE!

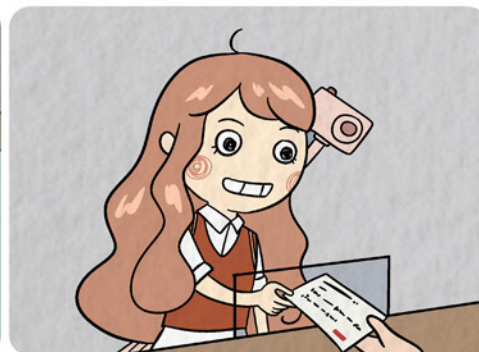
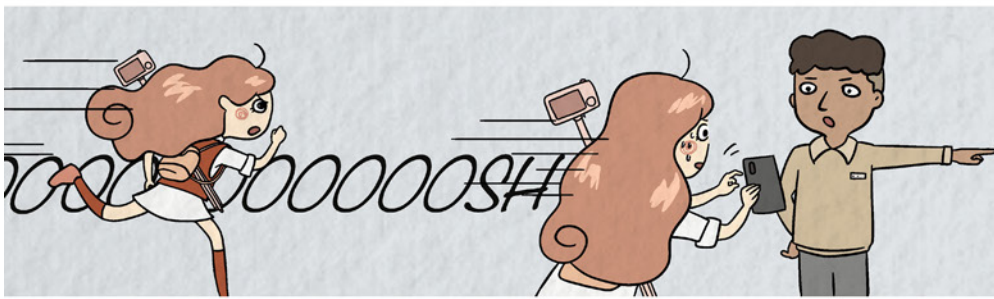
OR... NOT
THAT EASY.

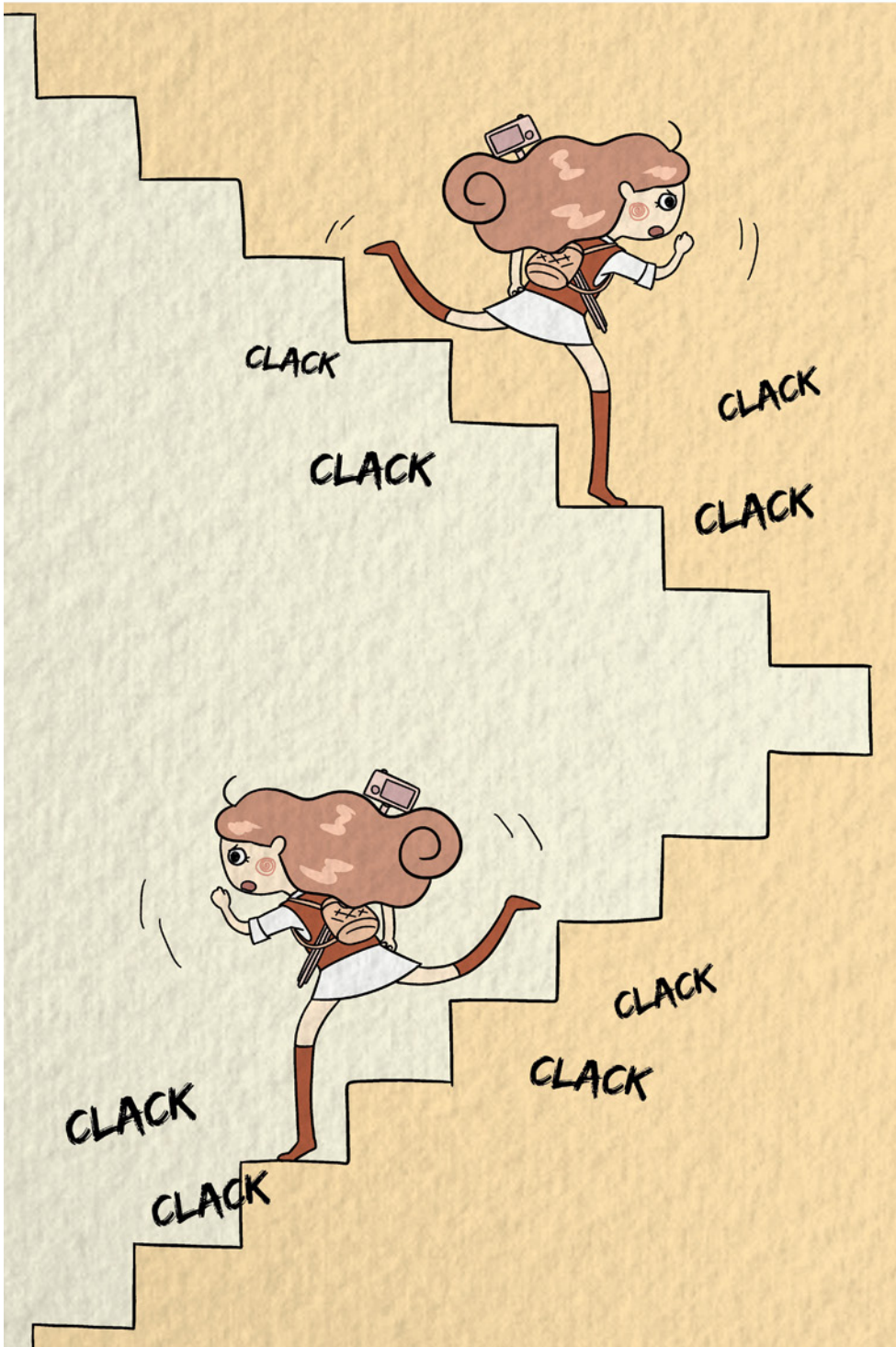
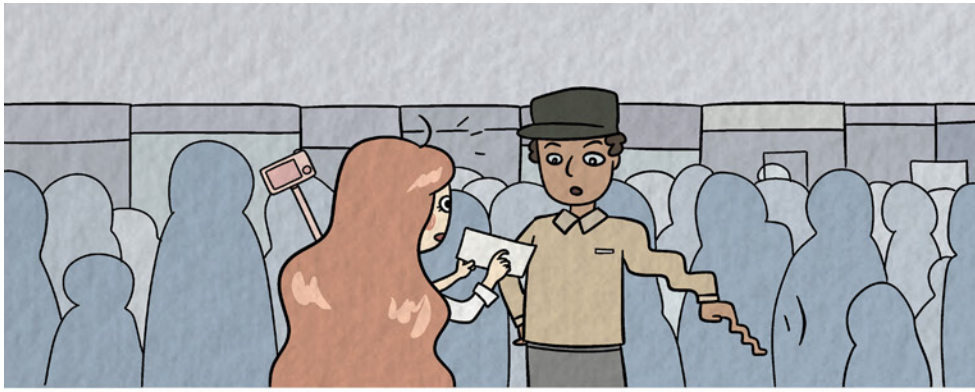


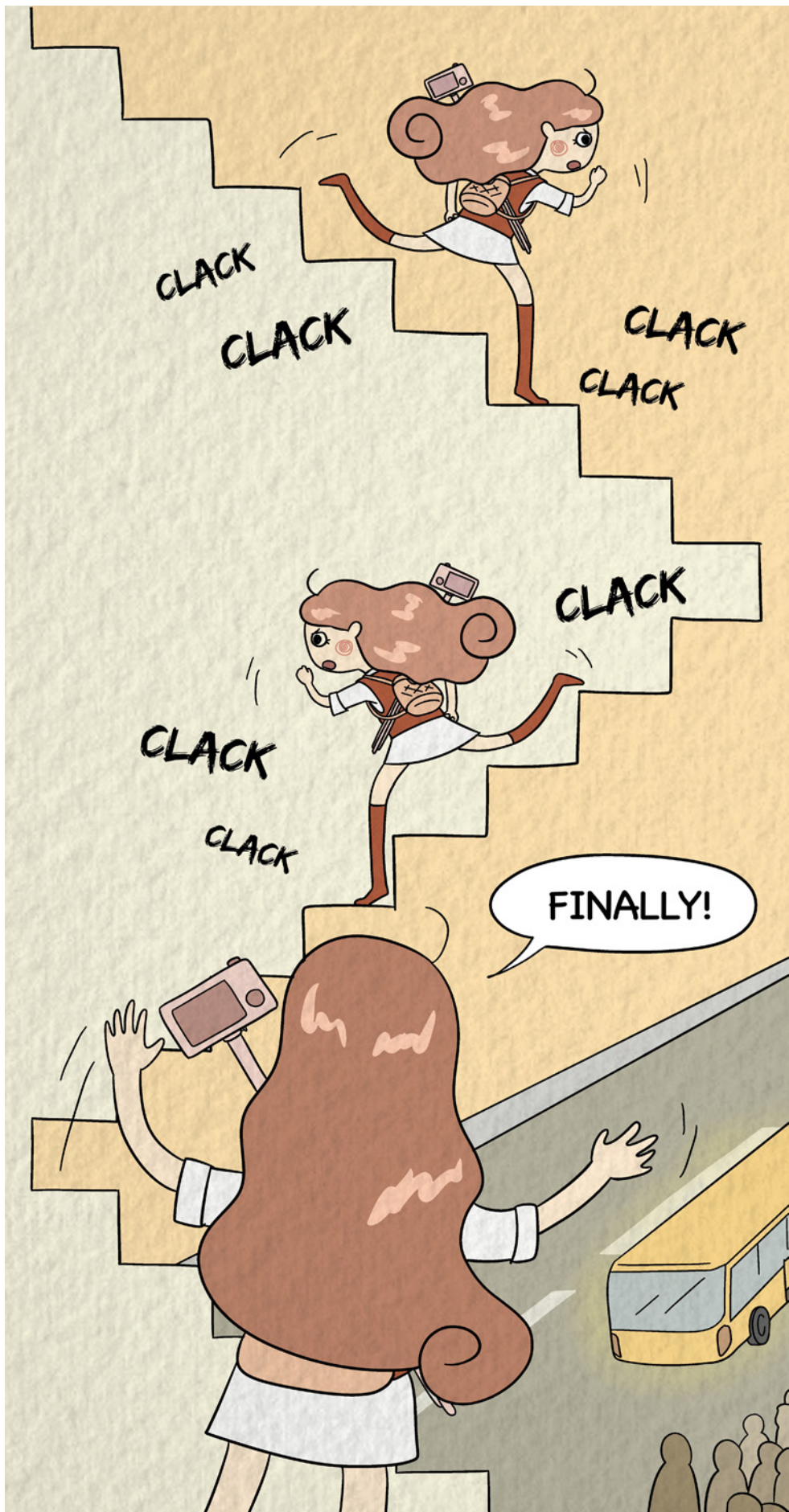
LEVEL UP CHEN!
IT'S A GREAT CHALLENGE!

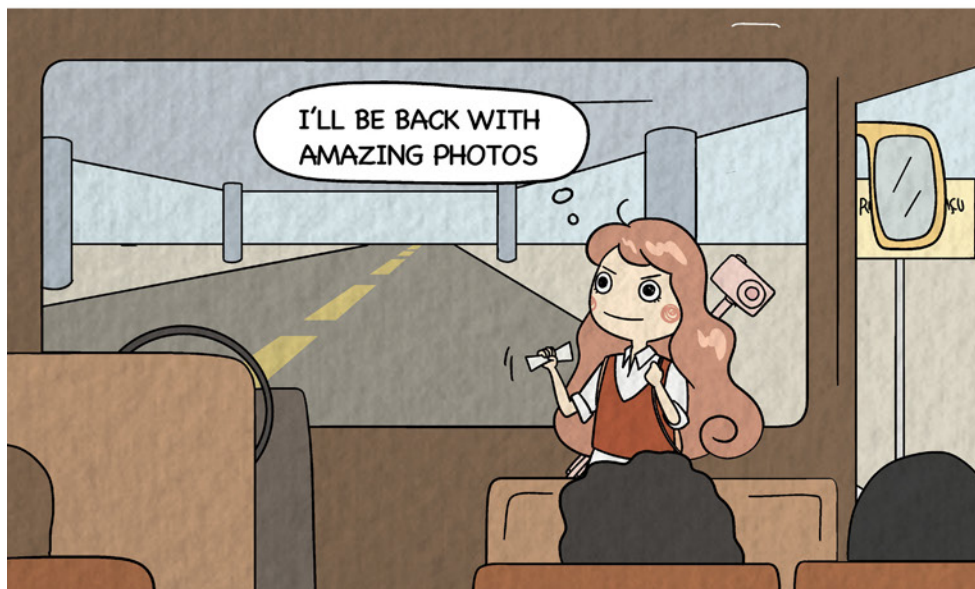
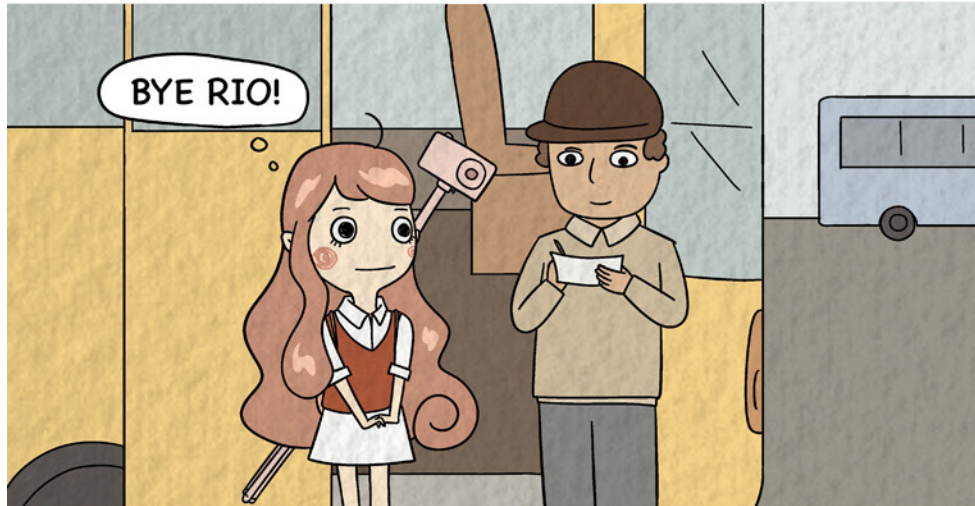


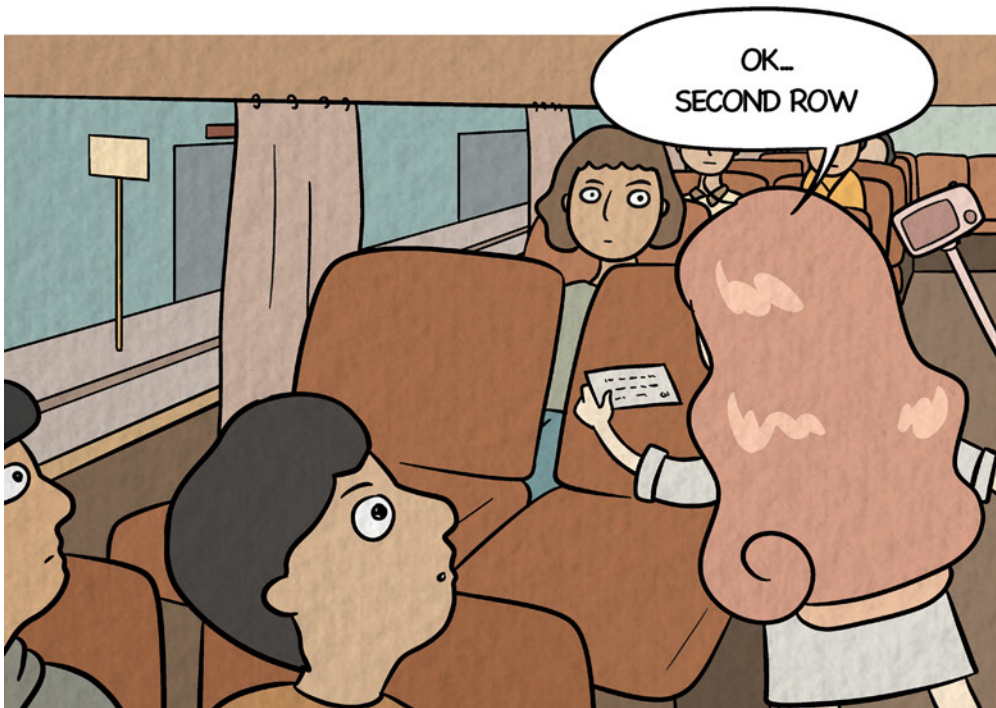
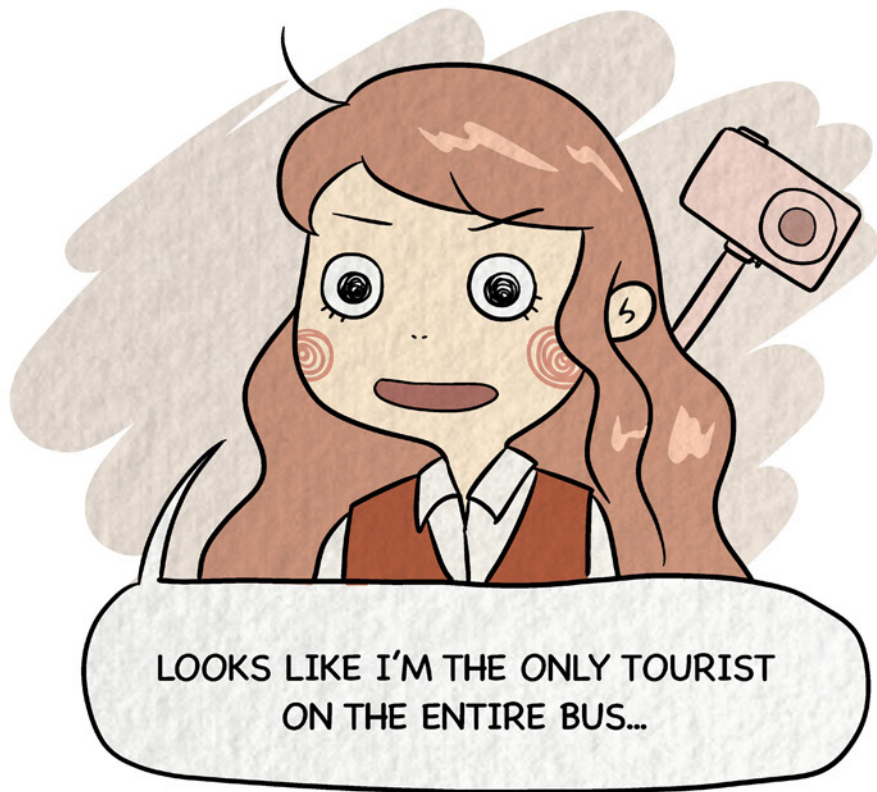


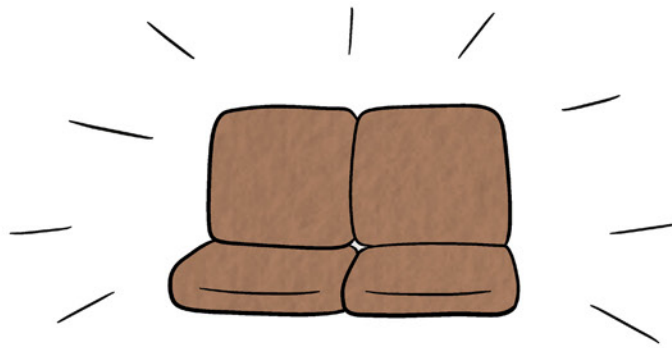




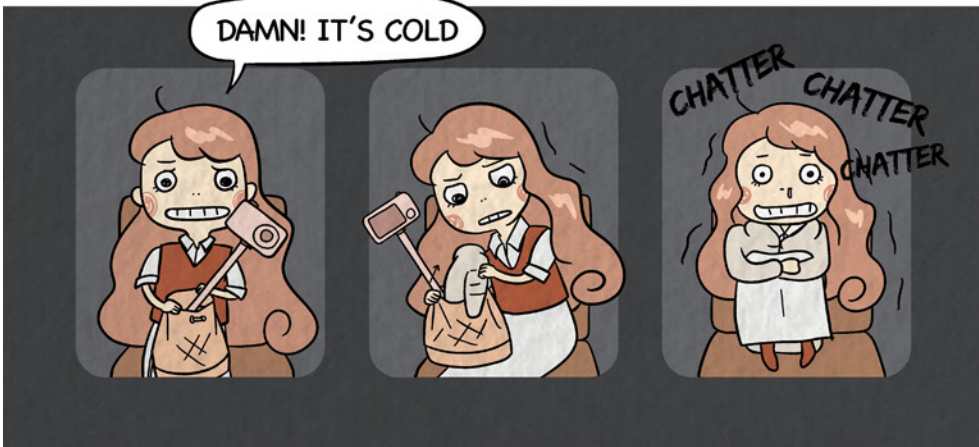
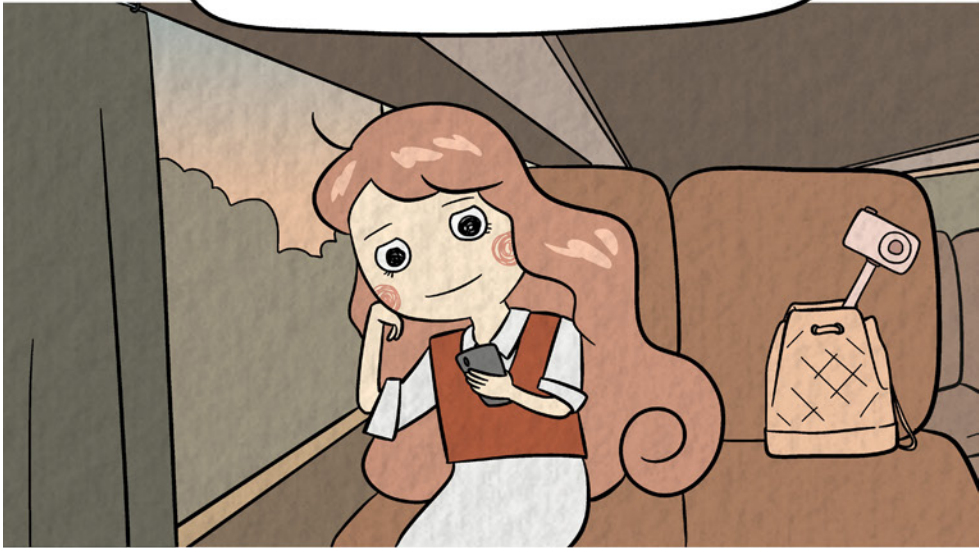


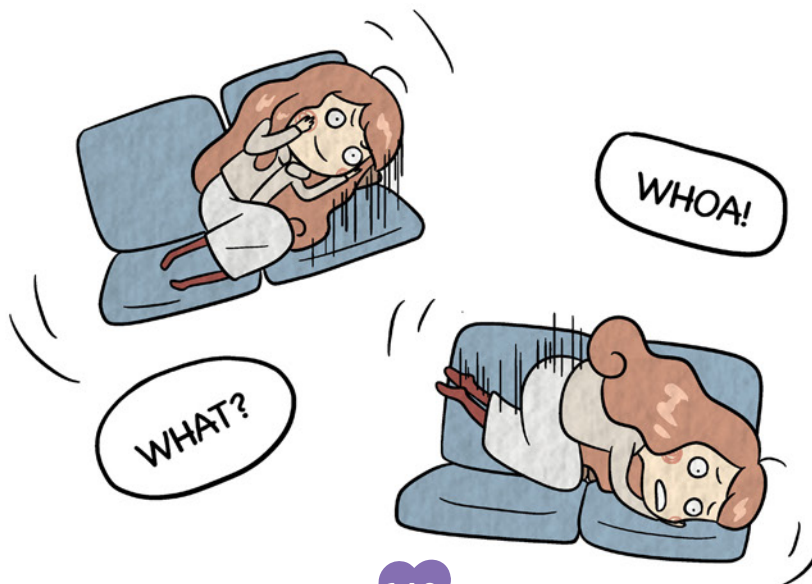
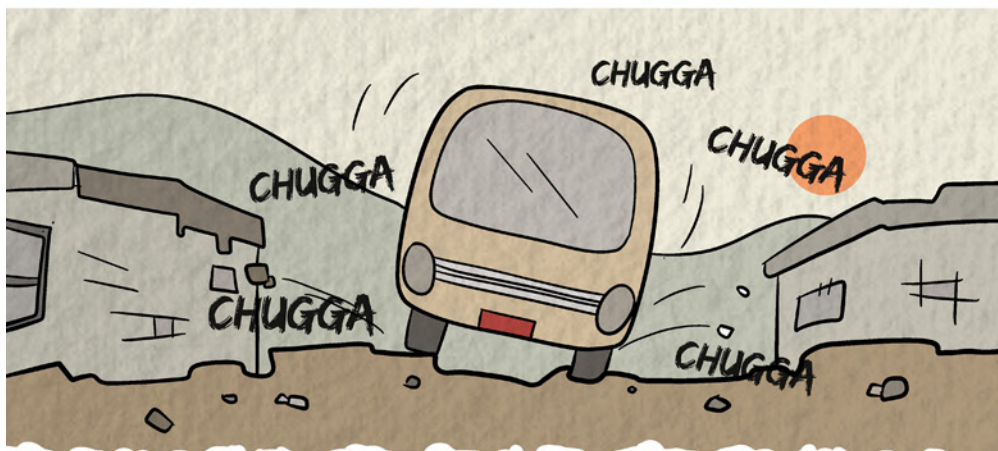


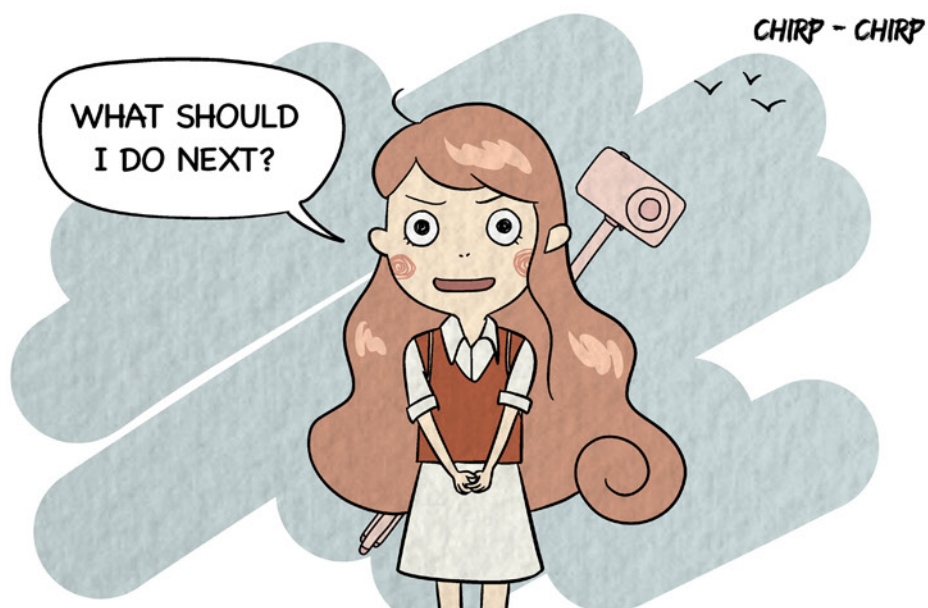
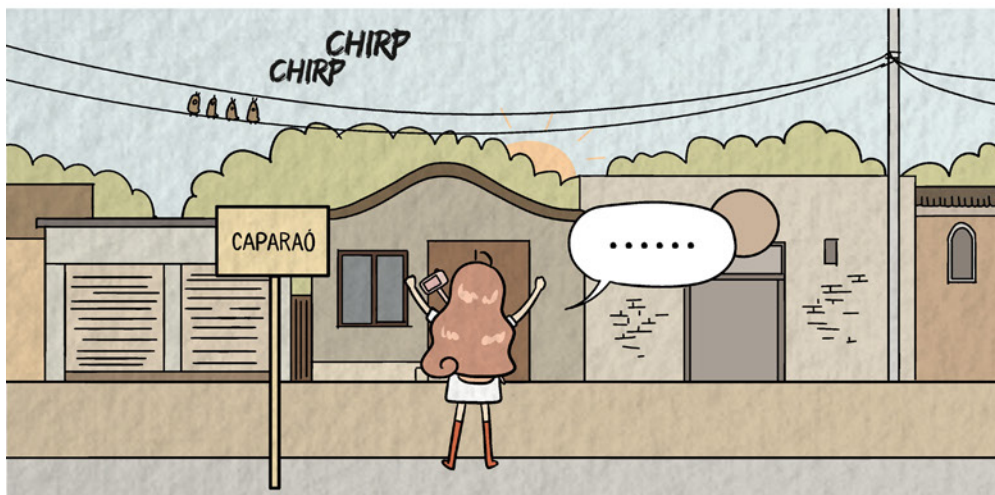


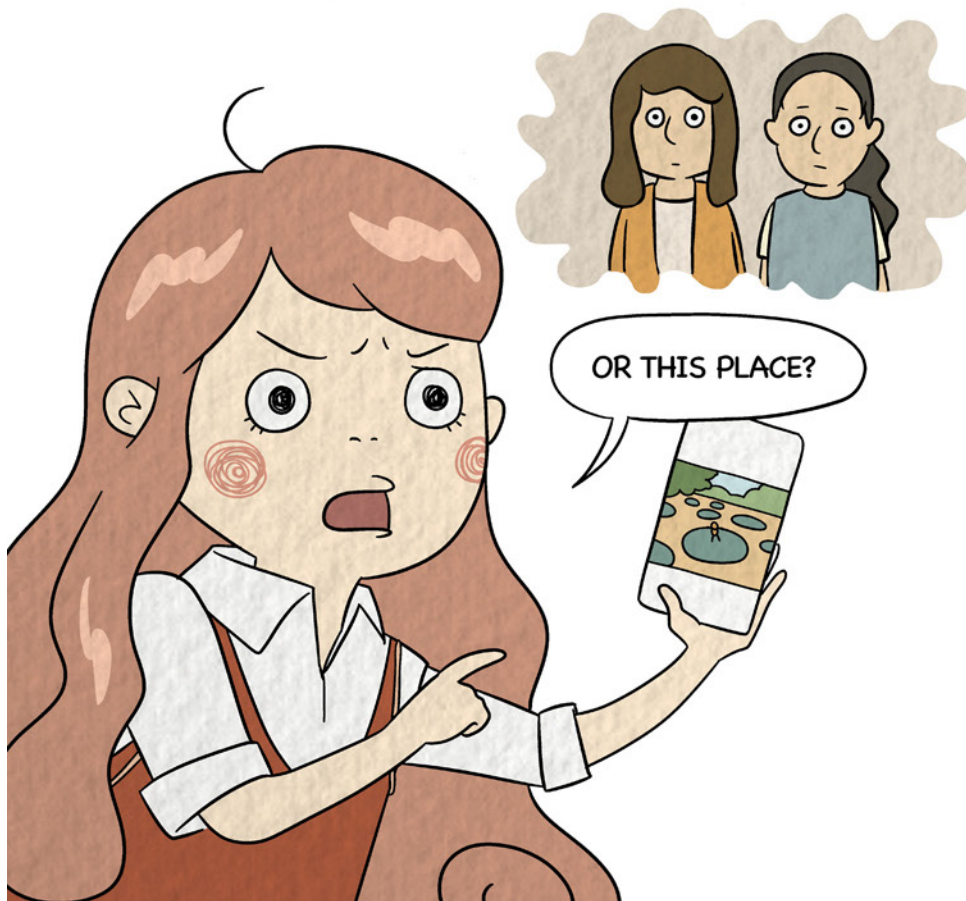
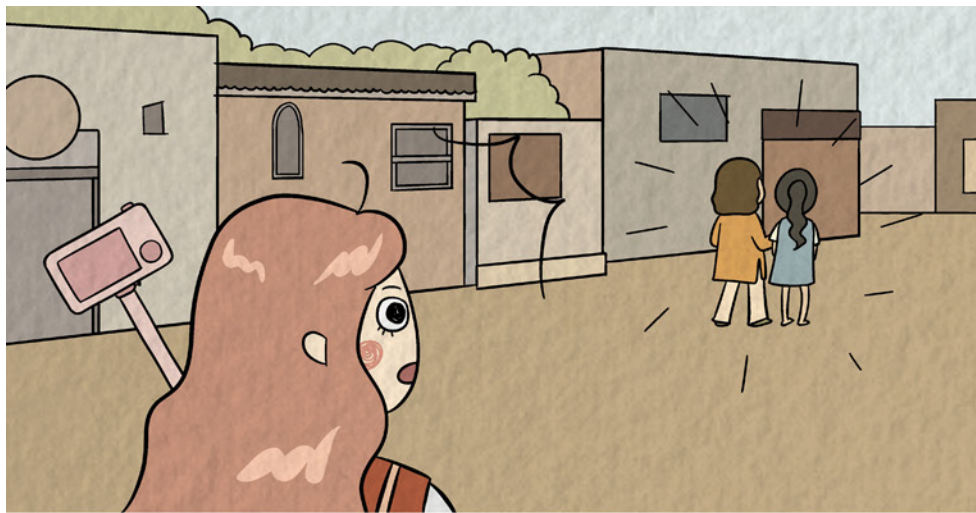


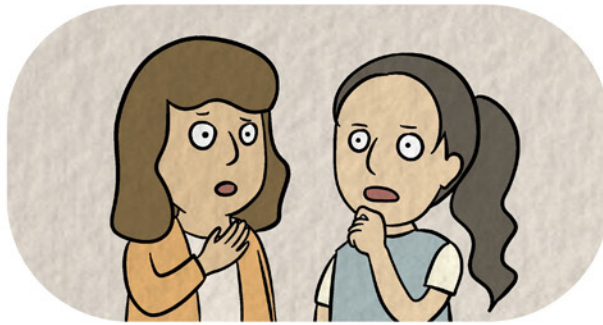
HAHA I'LL SLEEP ON BOTH SEATS!
I'M GONNA GET A VERY GOOD SLEEP.











CARTOONISTS



ASTER RICKS is a comic artist and illustrator based in the bay area. They like to draw hands and take inspiration from horror and fantasy for their work.



CHRISTINE VILLANUEVA better known as Sailor Mars (セーラーマーズ, Sērā Māzu), is a fictional character in the Sailor Moon manga series written and illustrated by Naoko Takeuchi. In the series, Christine is her sailor form's alternative human identity as part of the Sailor Soldiers, female supernatural fighters who protect the Solar System from evil.

Christine is very busy and outsourced her bio to her close and personal friend Jackie. She is a talented artist, brilliant art historian, & loving mother to two oryctolagus cuniculus domesticuses, popularly known as “bunnies.”



JACKIE KIRBY is a famous young & beautiful comics author poet critic & plagiarist. She lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she seduces, romances, & takes dictation from ghosts & other spirits. She is interested in the application of trans-(gender) trajectories onto & out of comics & other literatures. Her work has been published in **Tripwire**, **Comics Workbook**, & **Happiness is Luxury**. She is considered friendly.



Multi-cultural and multi-media artist, **J.M. HUNTER** aka The Indy Hunter is one-half of Angry Artist's Studios and brings along with him a background of fine art, comics publishing and currently design, J.M.'s work can best be described as energetic, visceral, and risk-taking. Originally from Southern California, J.M. Hunter is a recent transplant to the Columbus area after envisioning his purpose here for the last several years.



KIT FRASER is a cartoonist and illustrator based in New York's Hudson Valley. Most of her stories, illustrations and patterns are what she hopes her whole life to be—colorful, full of plants, kind of strange. Some clients include **The Stranger**, **The Nib**, **CCA**, and **SparkNotes**. Kit's work has also been published in anthologies and a whole bunch of mini-comics she bound lovingly by hand.



KRISTEN LYNN ZIMMERMAN is a storyteller, community builder, and artist based in Oakland, CA. Her work weaves magic & spirit with memory & nonfiction to create portals that repair intergenerational trauma, reconnect us to ancestral wisdom, and open new possibilities for the future. Her people are the ones who live in the in-between spaces and generate hope.




SAWHAND is a comic artist with a fine arts and advanced mathematics background. She has ambitions to create a fantasy-adventure graphic novel for her thesis. Her inspirations are Mercedes Lackey, Tamora Pierce, and Garth Nix. She recently received the 2020 All College Honors Graduate Comics Scholarship Award.



NESS ILENE GARZA makes comics which is why she is in a comic MFA program. She only makes memoir comics. Sometimes they're interesting but mostly they are average and that's what makes them relatable.



XIAOAN CHEN is a cartoonist and influencer based in Hillsborough, CA. She makes travel memoir and diary comics about beauty and fashion.



This volume is published by the **MFA in Comics Program** at **California College of the Arts** on the occasion of the graduation of the class of 2021. © 2021 by California College of the Arts, 1111 Eighth Street, San Francisco, CA 94107-2247. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without permission.

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Copyeditor: **Kayla Mauriello**
Designer: **GB Tran**

A stylized illustration of a person with dark, curly hair and a serious expression, wearing a red top. The background is a solid red color.

**ASTER
RICKS**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair, resting their chin on their hand. The background is a solid green color.

**CHRISTINE
VILLANUEVA**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a blue top. The background is a solid blue color.

**JACKIE
KIRBY**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair, looking down. The background is a solid blue color.

**J.M.
HUNTER**

A stylized illustration of a person with short, dark hair, wearing a red top. The background is a solid red color.

**KIT
FRASER**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a red top. The background is a solid red color.

**KRISTEN
LYNN
ZIMMERMAN**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair, covering their mouth with their hands. The background is a solid blue color.

**NESS ILENE
GARZA**

A stylized illustration of a person with long, dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a green top. The background is a solid green color.

**MELISSA
"SAWHAND"
PHILLEY**

A stylized illustration of a person with short, dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a red top. The background is a solid red color.

**XIAOAN
CHEN**