

2020 MFA IN COMICS CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

One of the things which makes comics unique as a medium is how personal and individual they are to each artist. As a long-form visual medium which can be produced entirely by one person—from writing and art, to design and publication—comics is a genuine rarity. Each cartoonist's style is as unique to them as their handwriting; it could be imitated by another person's hand, but it could never be perfectly replicated by anyone else.

Like a person's handwriting, comics styles also generally take a few years before they really develop. While many cartoonists look back with embarrassment and horror at their old work—cringing at the occasional awkward line of dialogue or wonky bit of anatomy—from a reader's perspective, seeing that evolution on the page is a marvel. It's a magical experience, getting to see visible signs of growth and progress over the course of an artist's career—or sometimes even just over the course of a single book. That evolution speaks to the dedication of the artist—that they pushed themself to improve, to learn, and to expand their creative range.

Whether you realize it or not, each page of comics you complete is quietly laying a stronger, sturdier foundation for the next page, and the page after that. Today's finished page enriches all the work you will draw the rest of your life—lending them all a touch more precision, more style, and more soul.

In that spirit: the book you hold in your hands right now, reader, does not contain the last, nor the best comics these artists will produce over the course of their lives. Rather, it is a marker of where their work was at the start of their professional journey in the comics industry; their jumping-off point from grad school into the wider world. Watch closely, and expect to see already-strong work only become stronger from here.

To the students in this book, now reading this: we all know comics, like any creative industry, can be a minefield. As much as creating comics can be a joy, there are also obstacles and dangers ahead-especially in terms of health, finances, and creative freedom. In general, there are three things that can help smooth the road ahead for new professionals: experience, knowledge, and a supportive peer network. Experience is achieved only with work and with time—there's no shortcuts for it. Knowledge and peer networks, however, are resources you can build up long before you start taking on professional work. Hold on to the things you've learned, and the connections you've made during your time here at CCA-both of them can be a critical lifeline in an industry with very few roadmaps.

Also, when you pick this book up again in the future—when you're a little older, a little more experienced—be gentle to your younger self. The work you're making in the future grew from seeds you planted here, with your hard work and your dedication to the medium. Both then and now, the energy and spirit of your work is inherently unique to you, and therefore irreplaceable. You're making something no one else can. Keep it up.

From myself, and all the faculty at the CCA MFA in Comics program—it's been a privilege to watch you grow over the past few years. We're so proud of your passion, your dedication, your creative energy, and the careful thought and action you've put into your stories. We'll still be here to help you out on the road ahead, and we can't wait to see what you do next.

CLAIRE TOMASI RUGBAE

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RUGBAE

CLAIRE TOMASI
COLORIST: MICKEY QUINN







































ARE YOU OKAY?





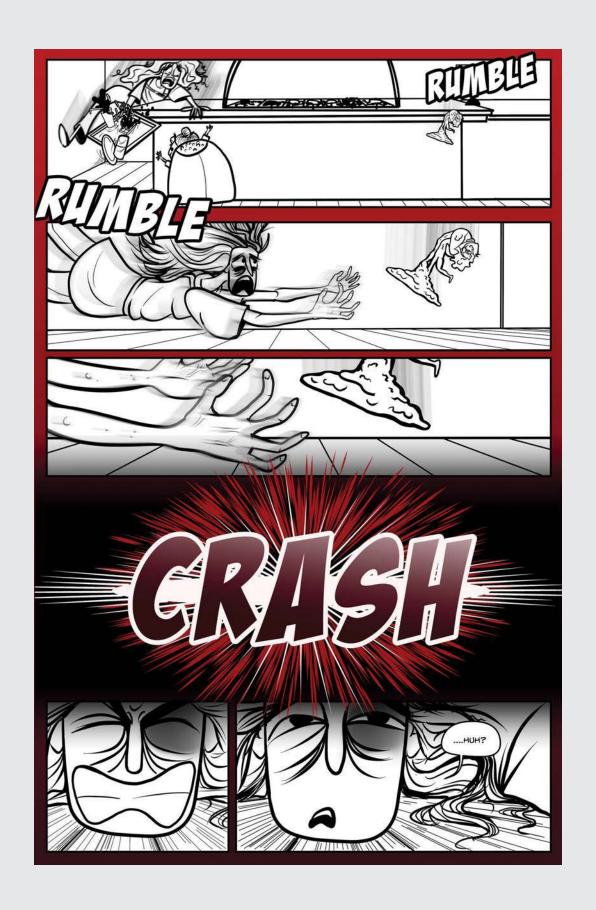






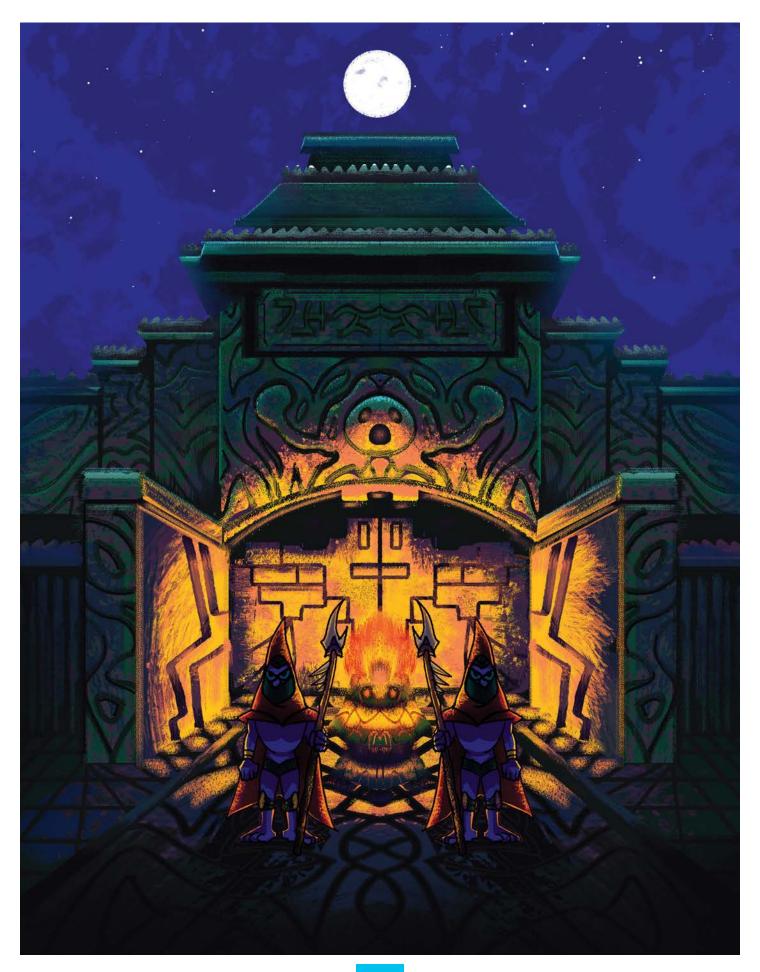




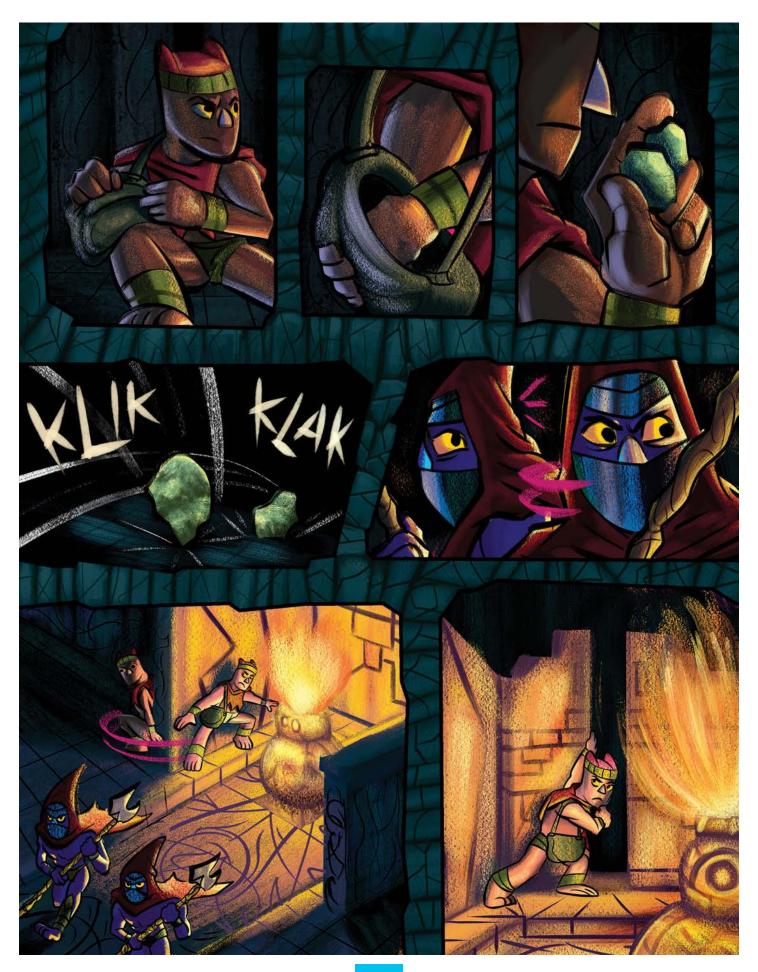




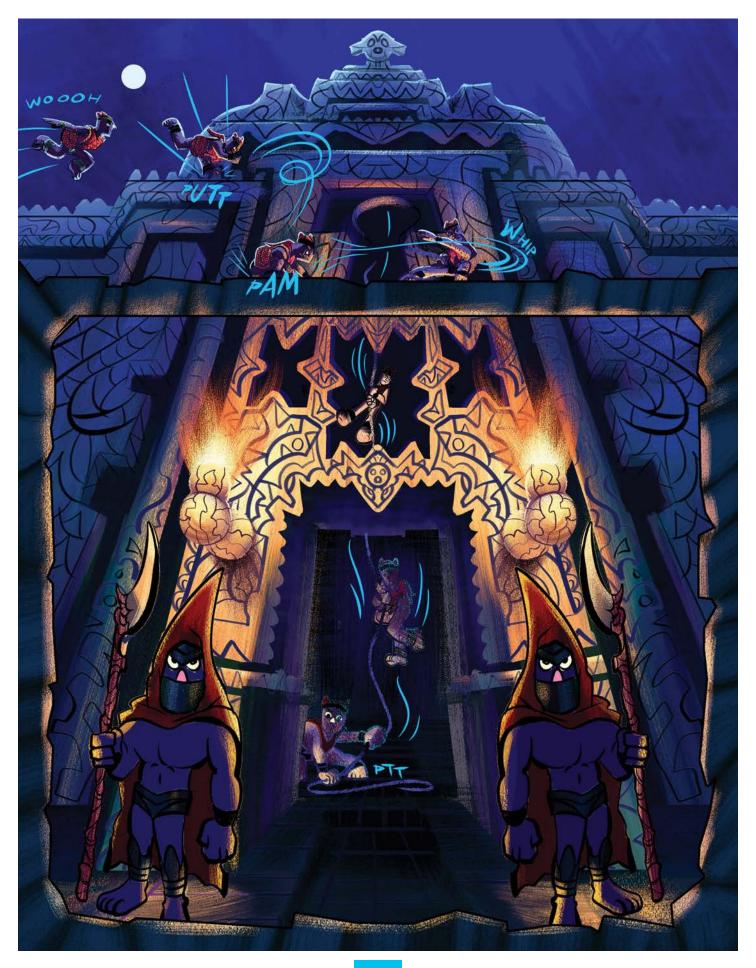
MASKS DUSTIN GARCIA



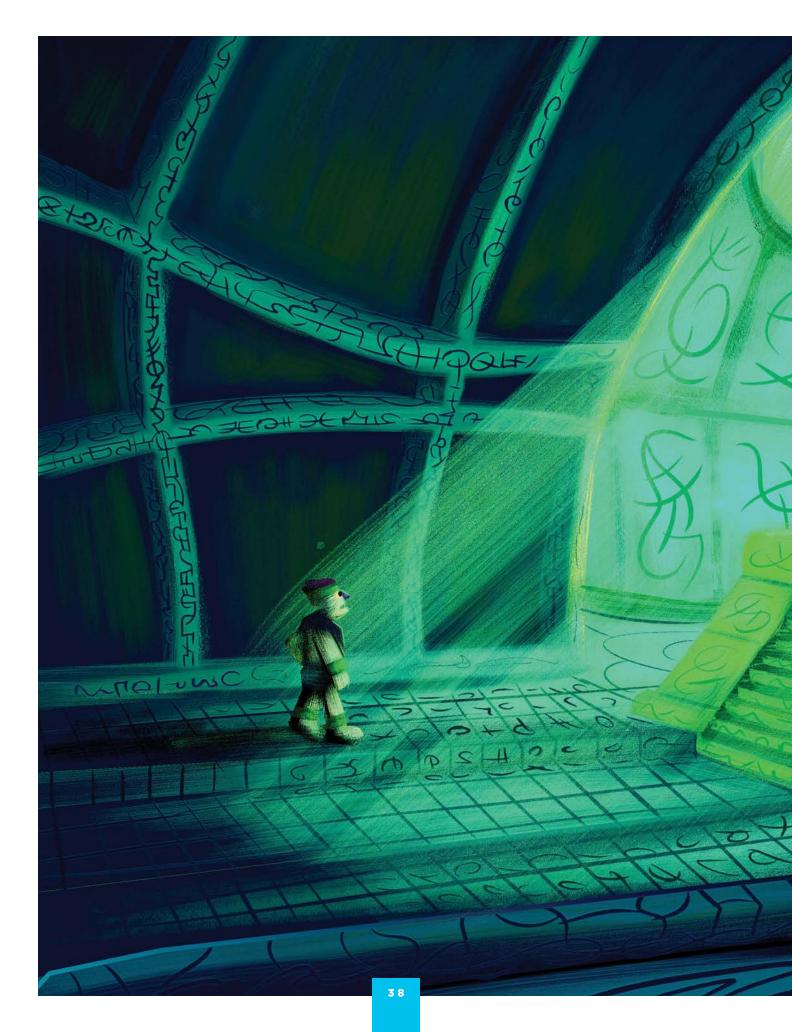


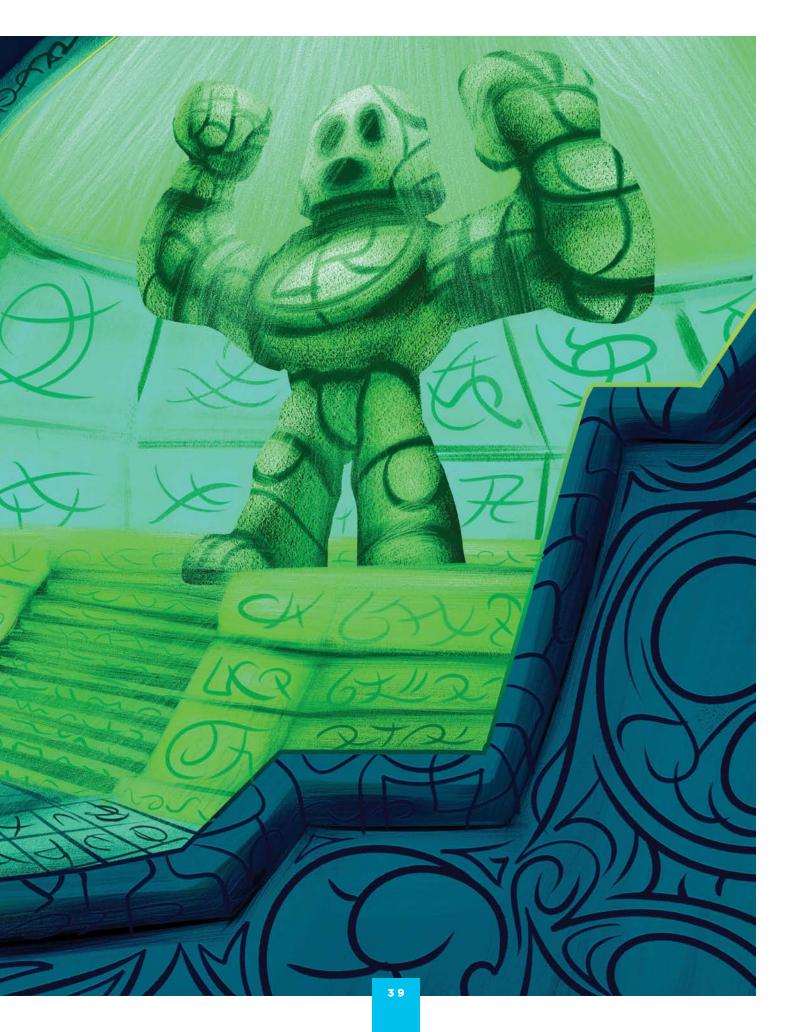














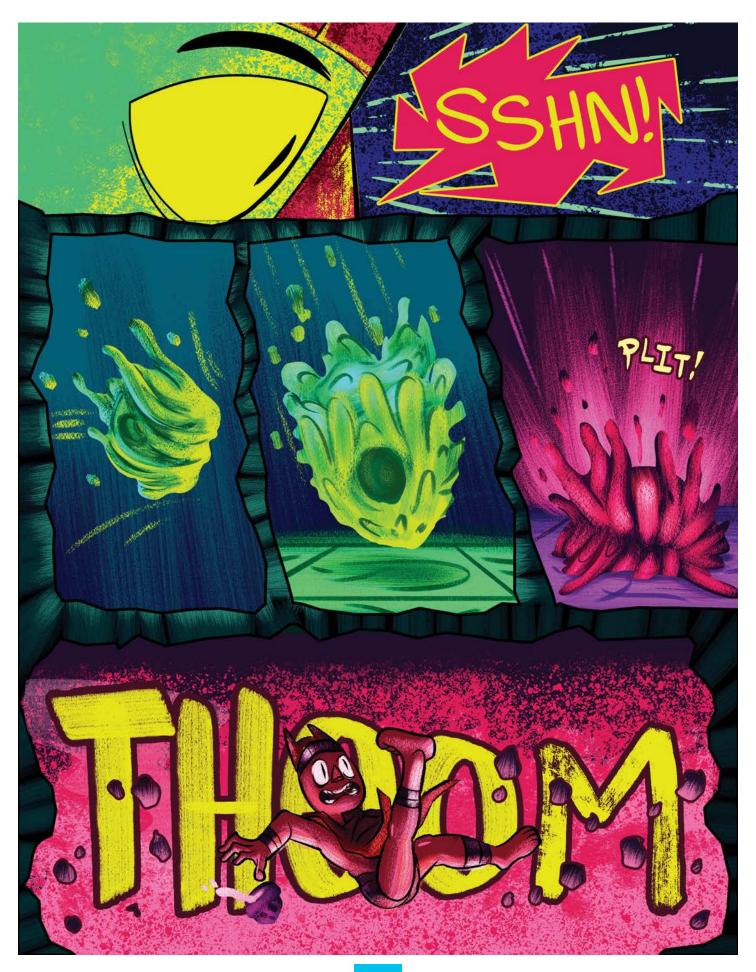






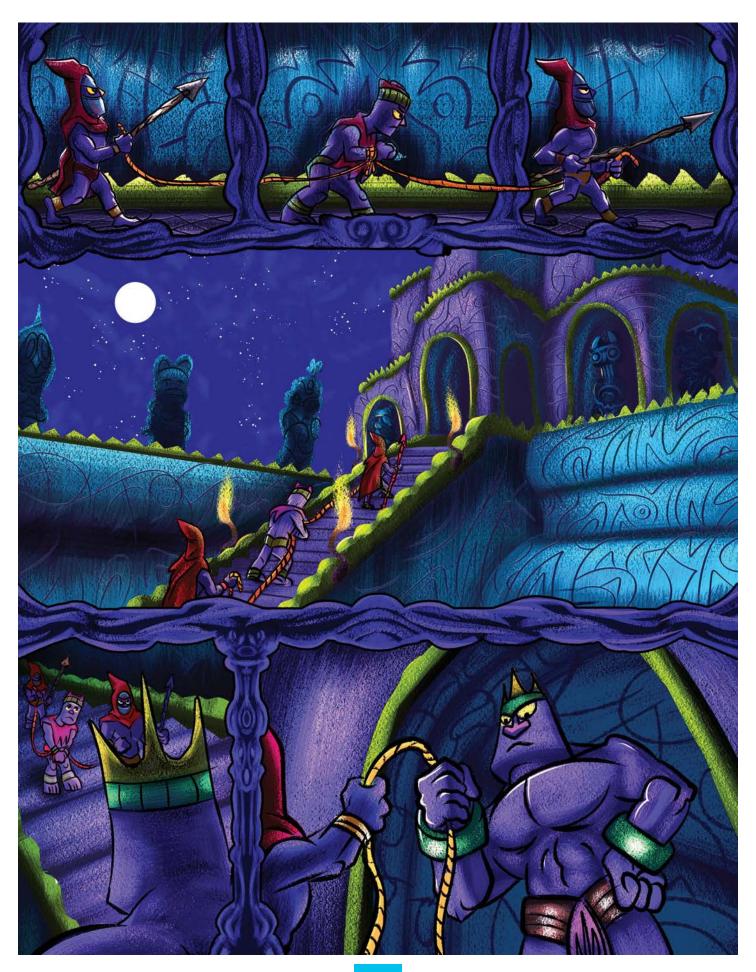


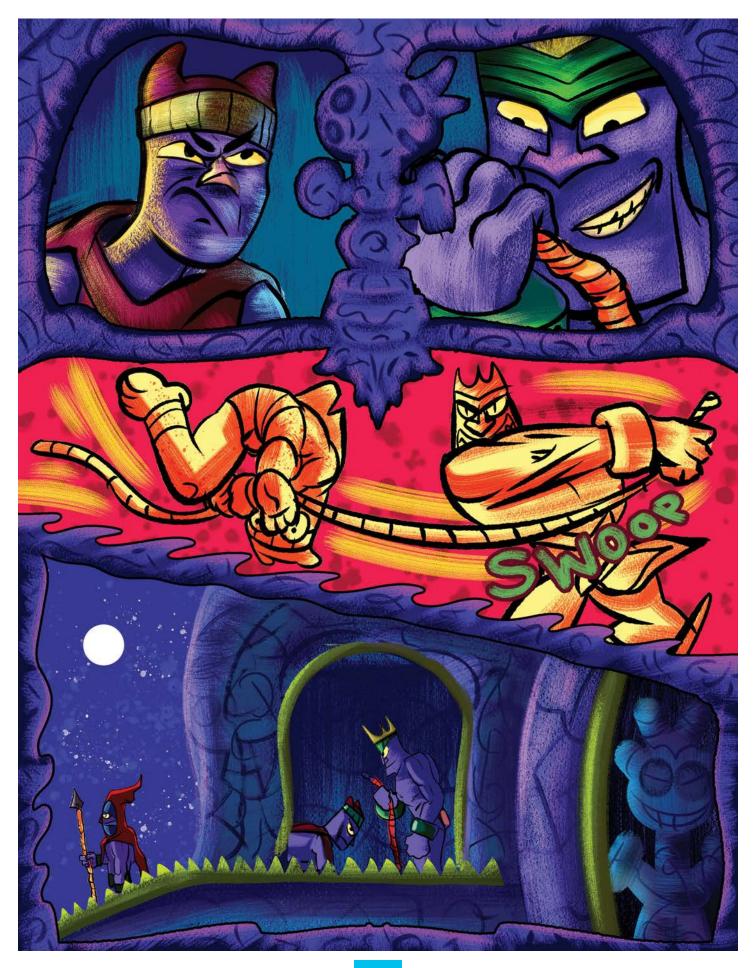








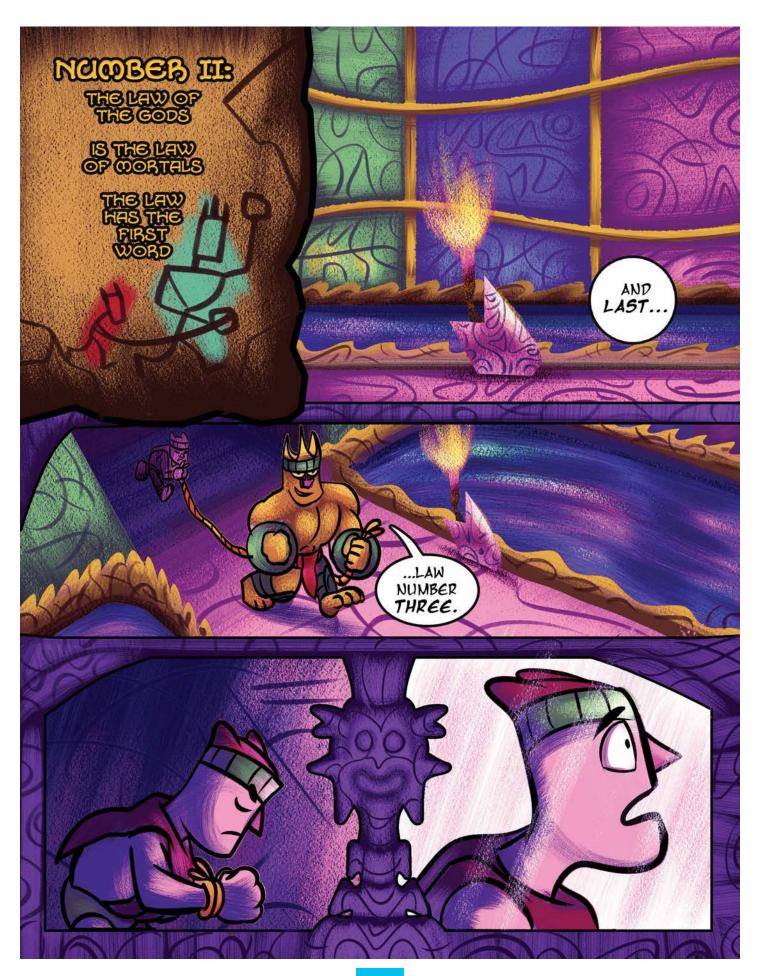


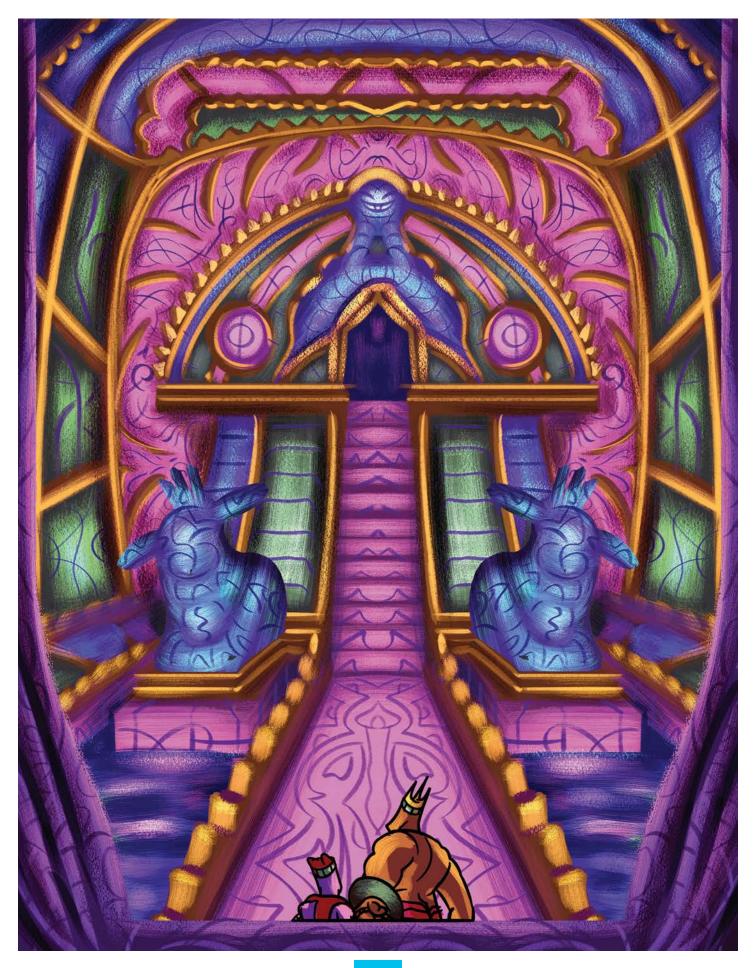












SUPACLUSTA CHAPTER ZERO: THE STUDIO WALK

GAIA WXYZ















































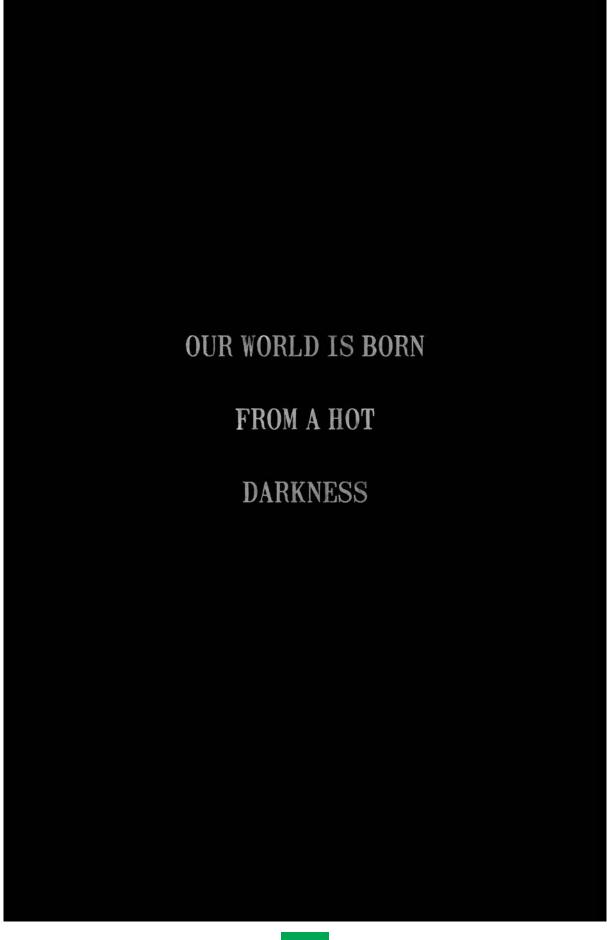








BEFORE THE SUN





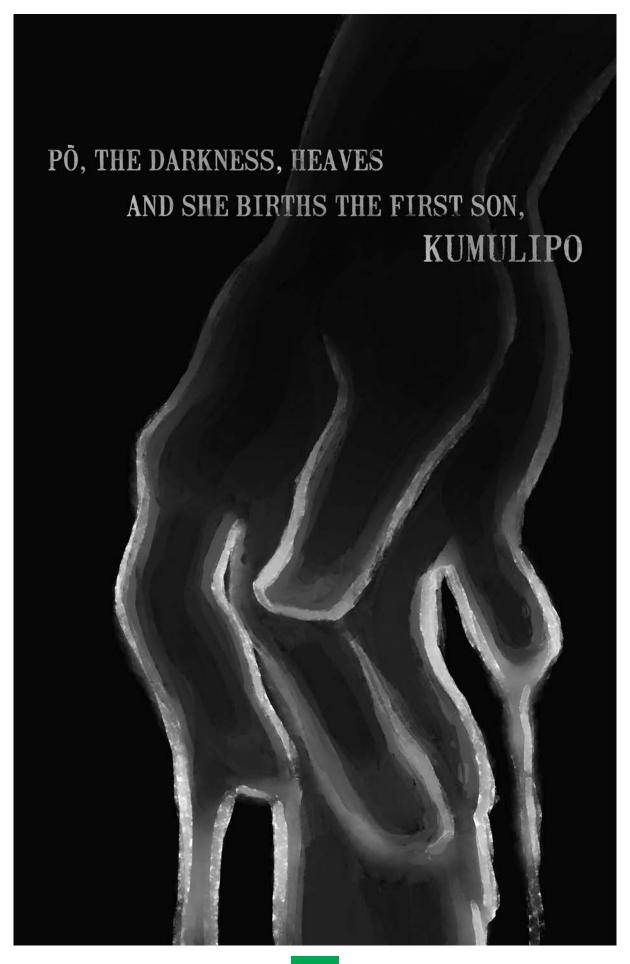
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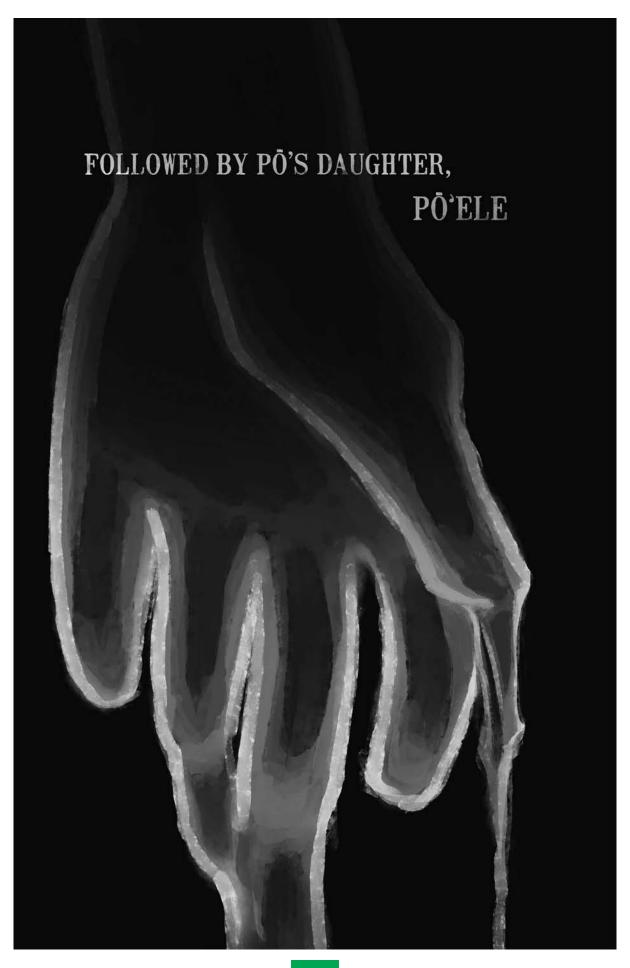
LIT BY THE MOON

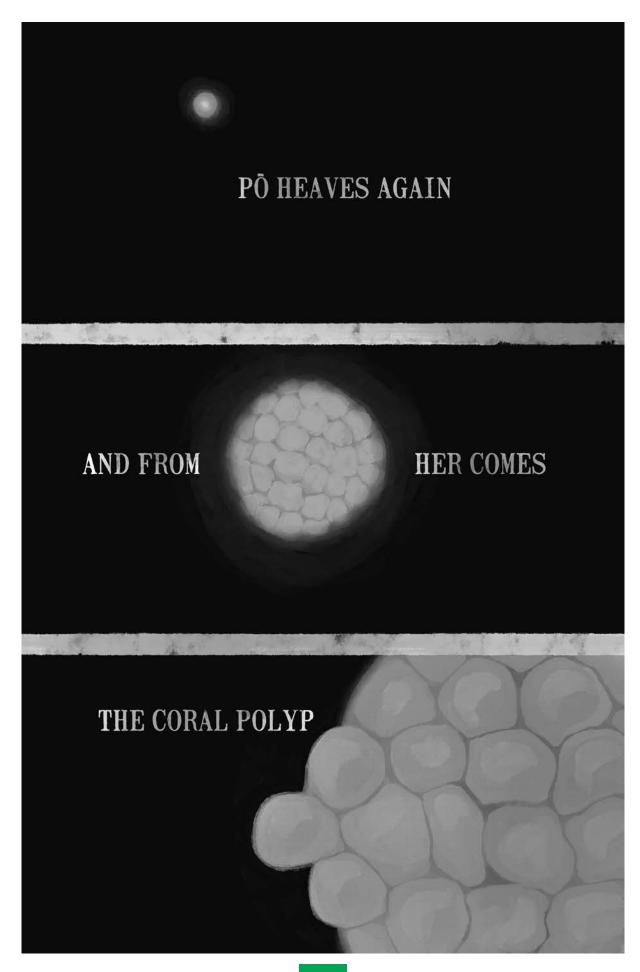




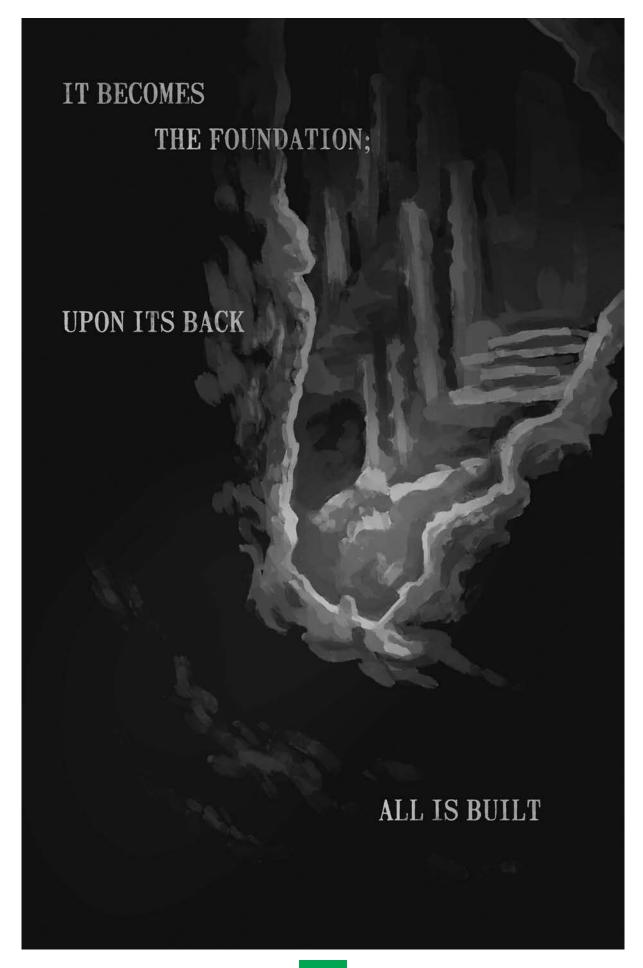
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RISING



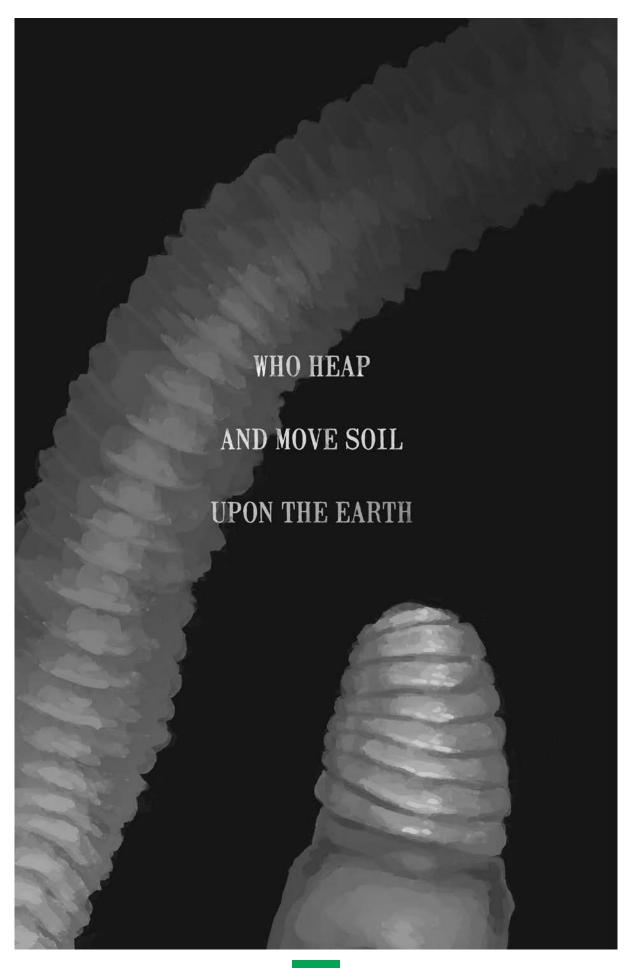




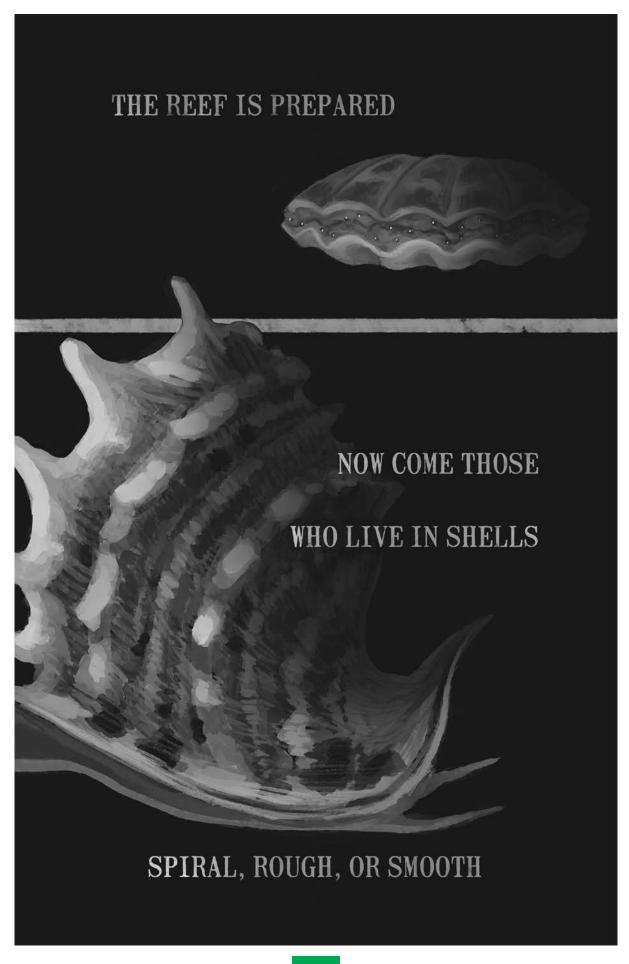


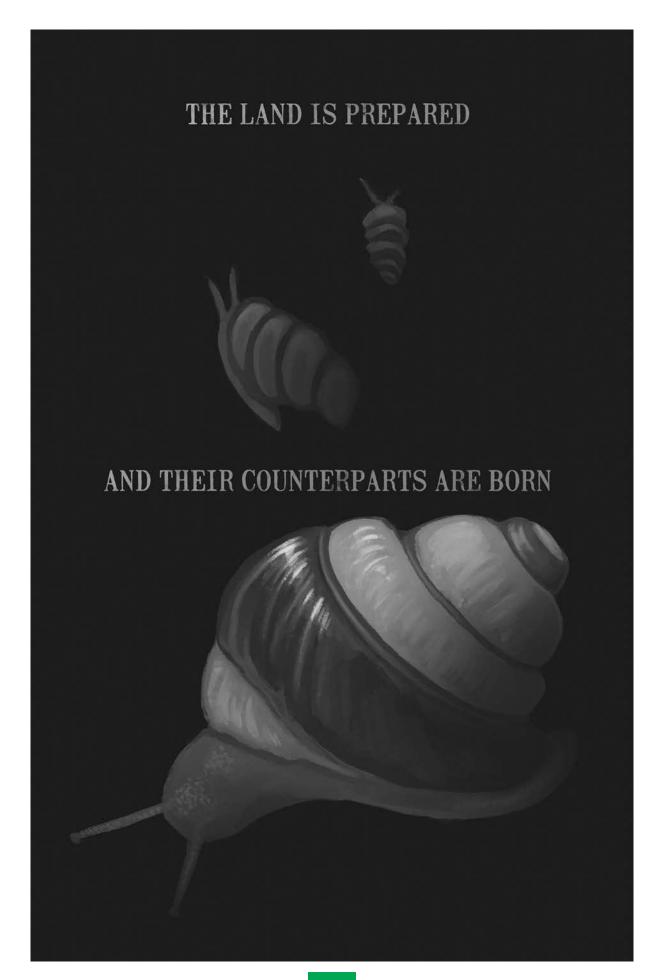


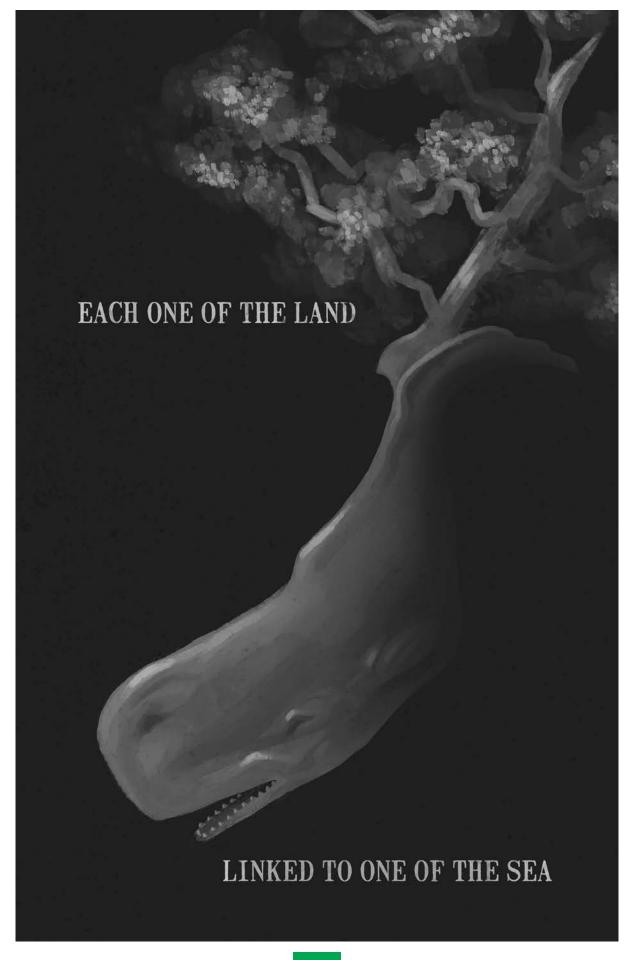


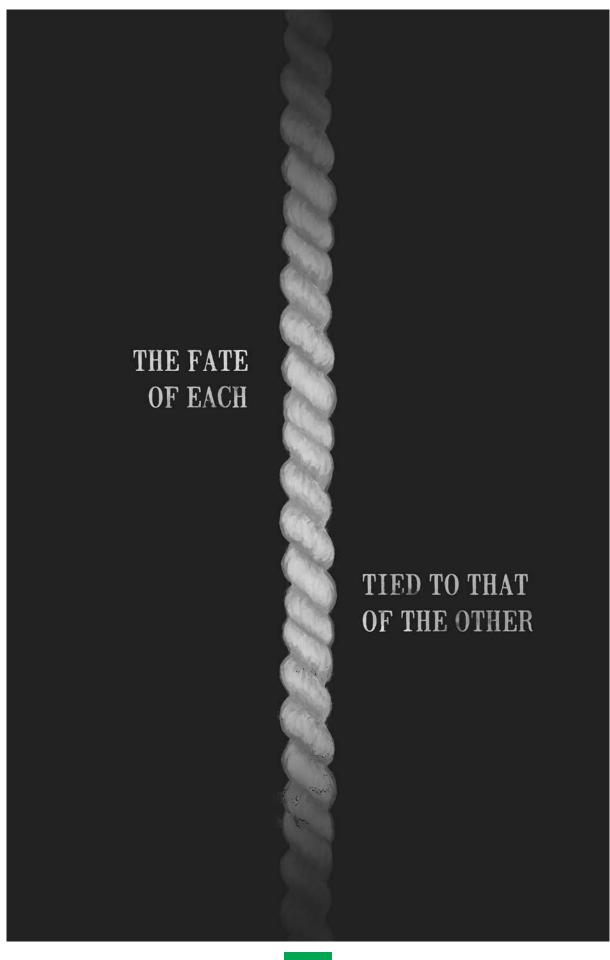


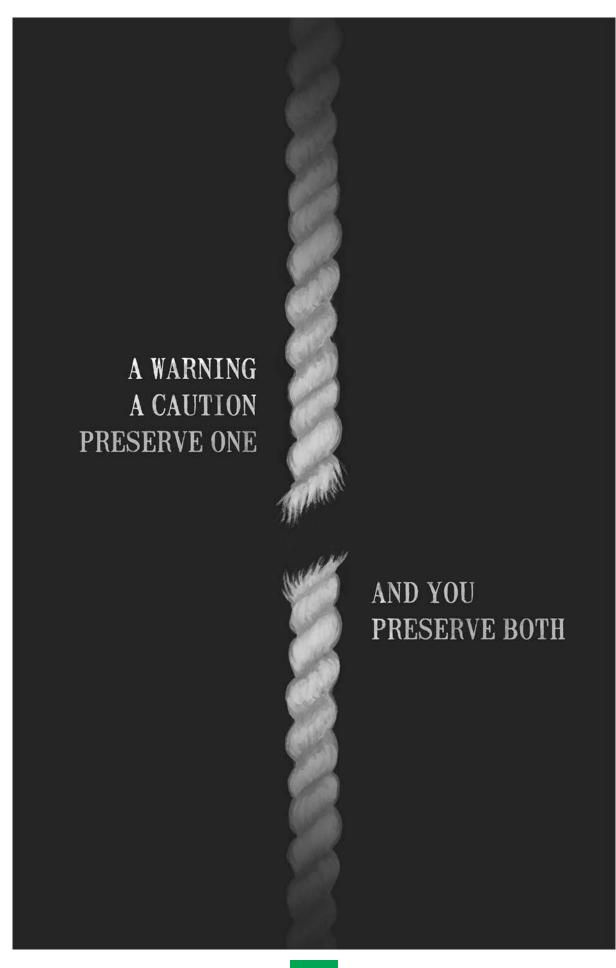


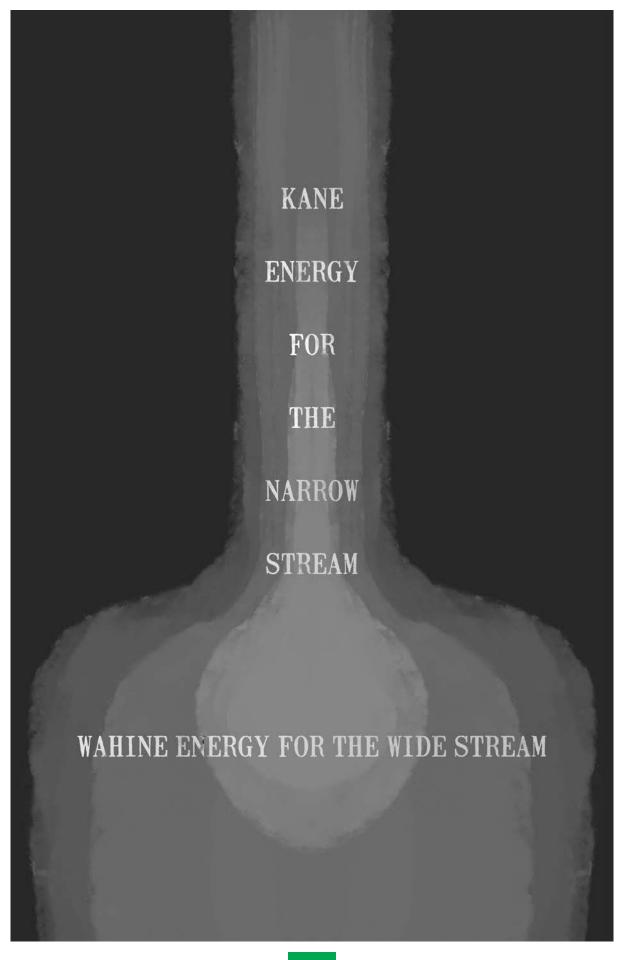


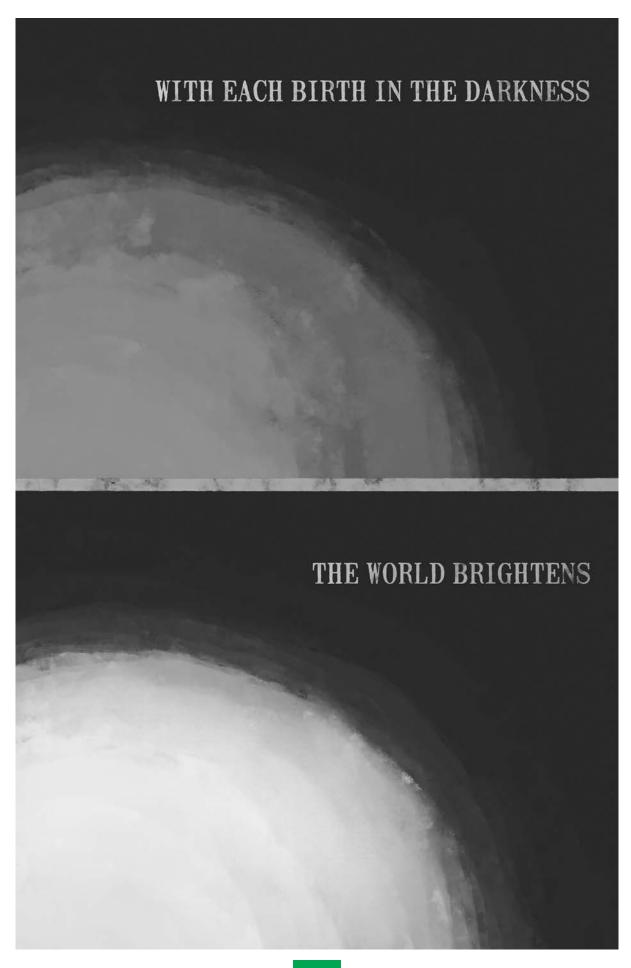


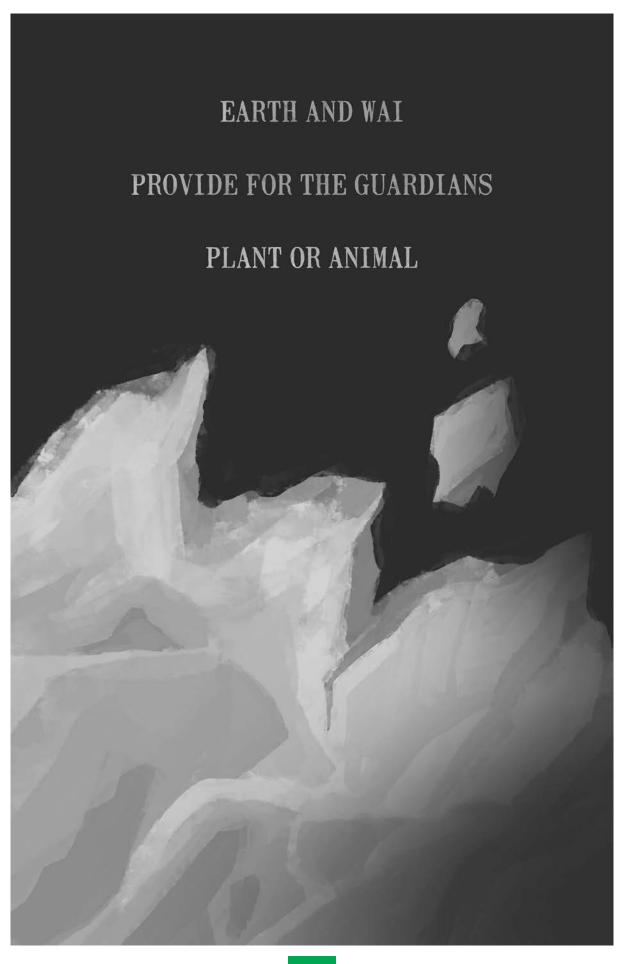










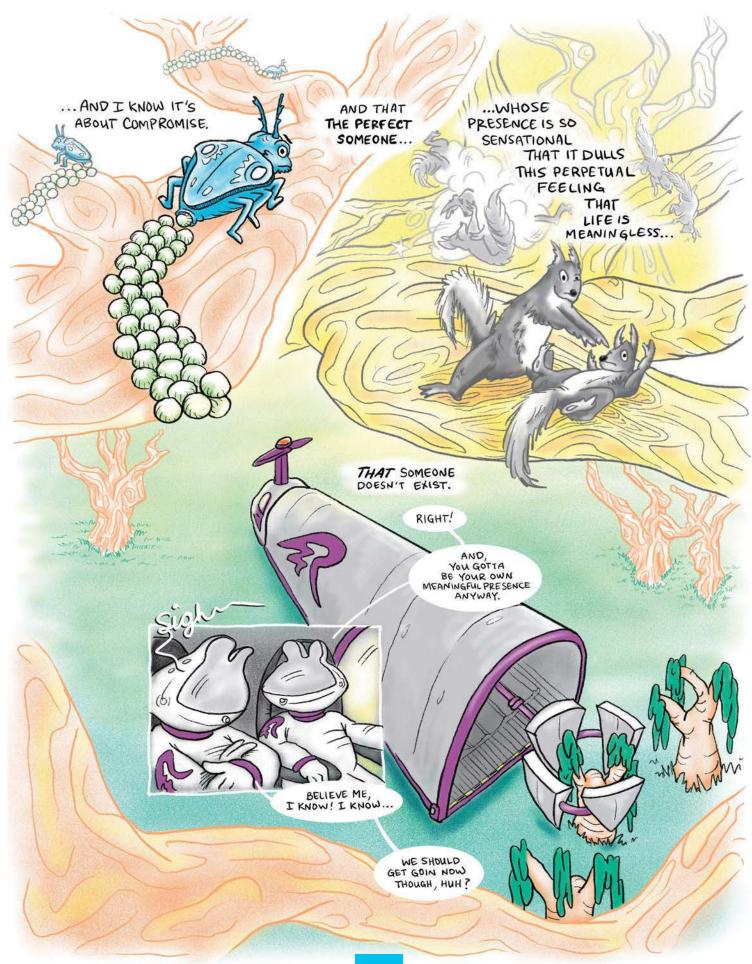


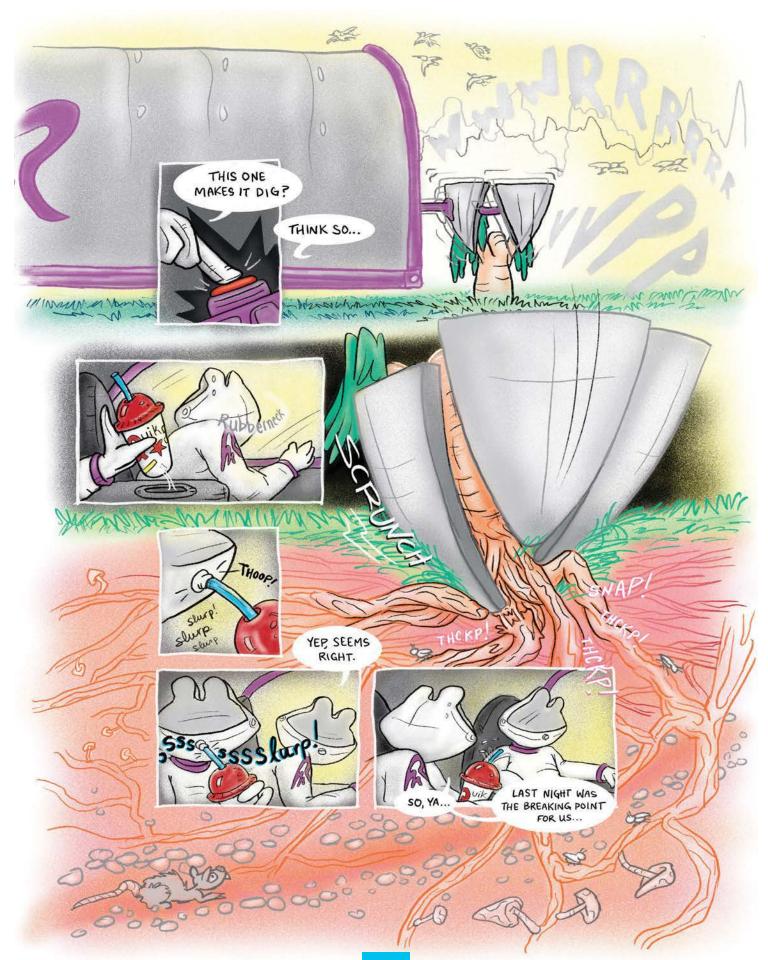
IN THIS REALM OF GODS

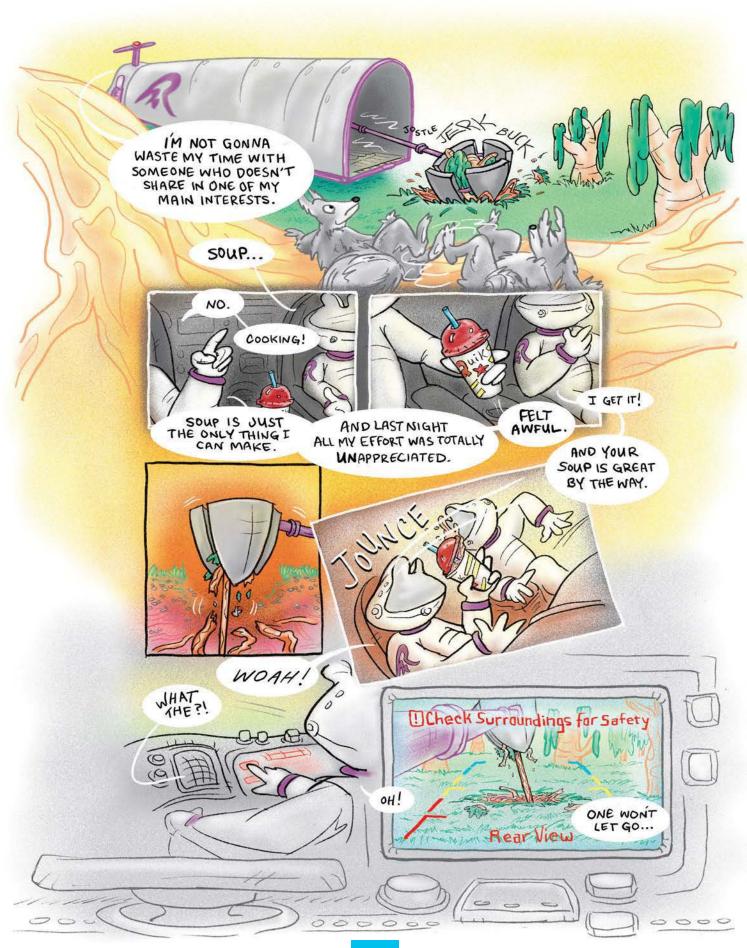
THERE IS NOT YET

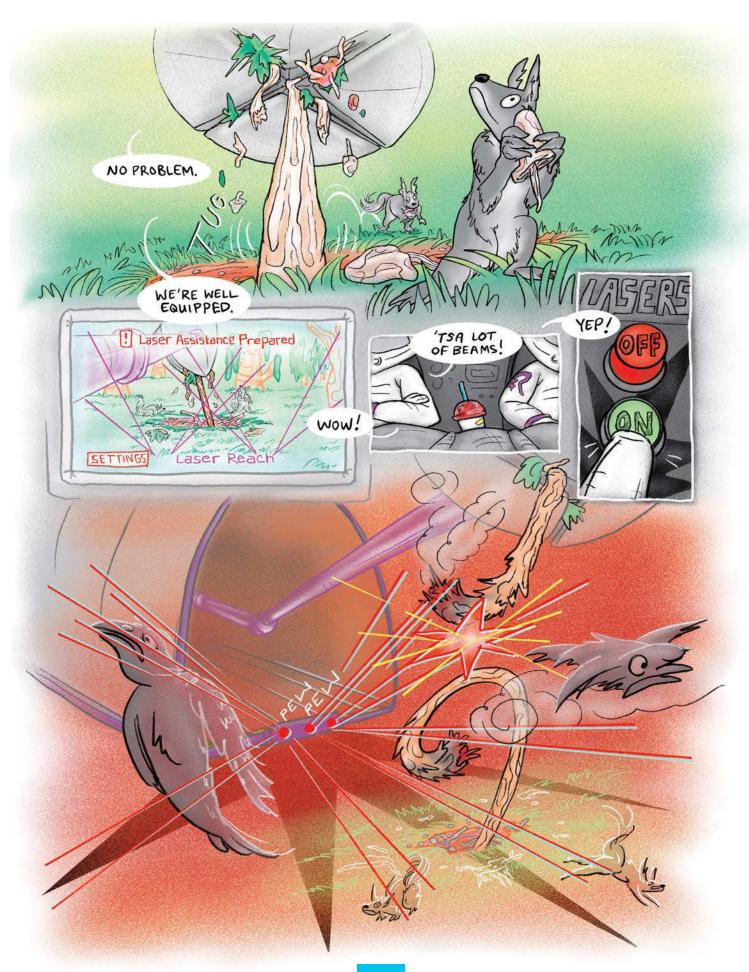
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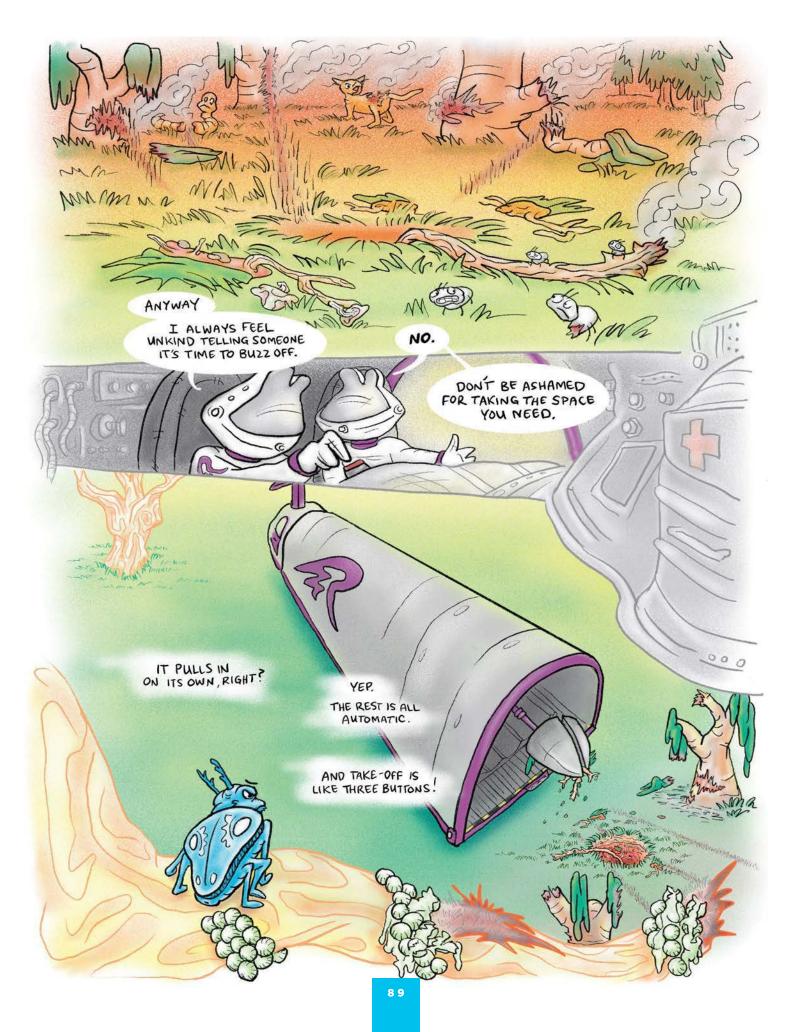
PROLOGUE LAURA SHOEMAKER

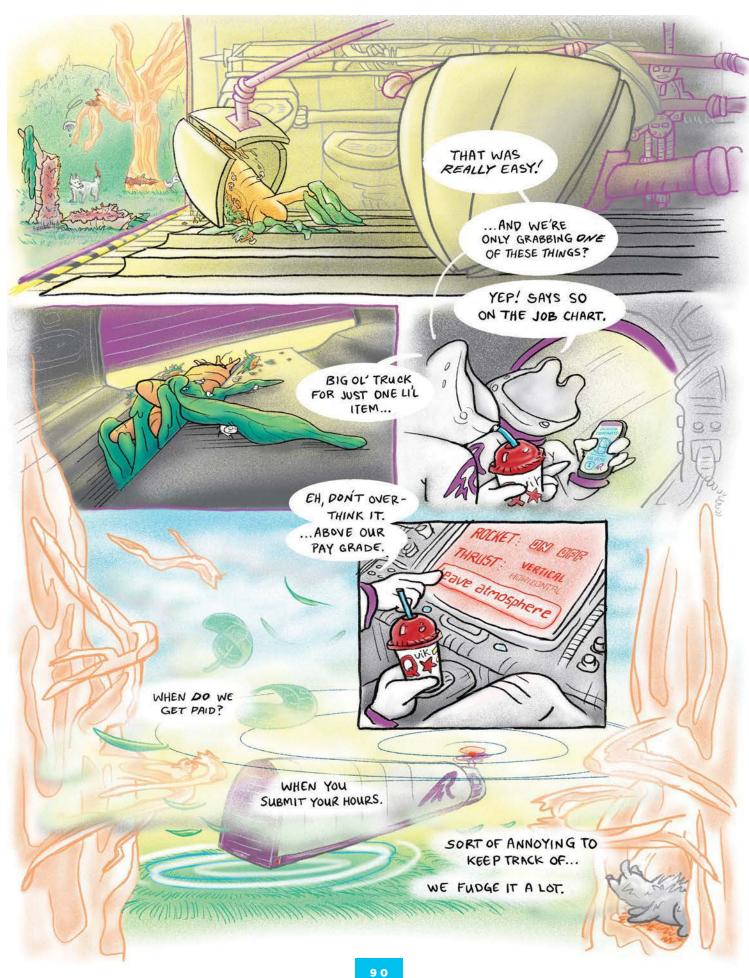


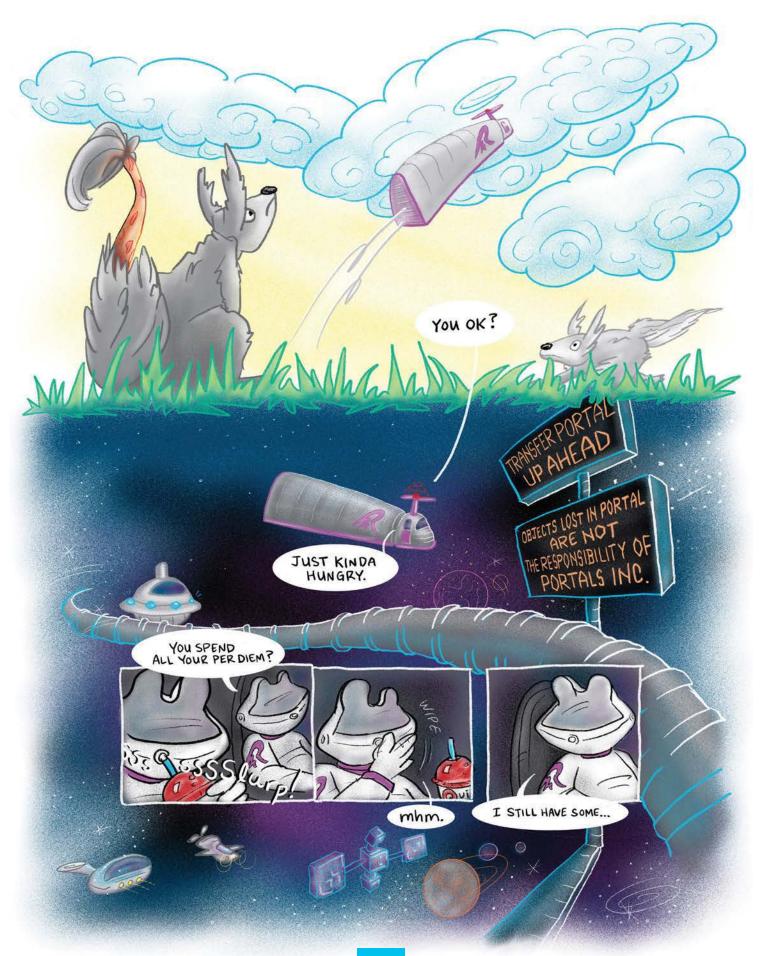




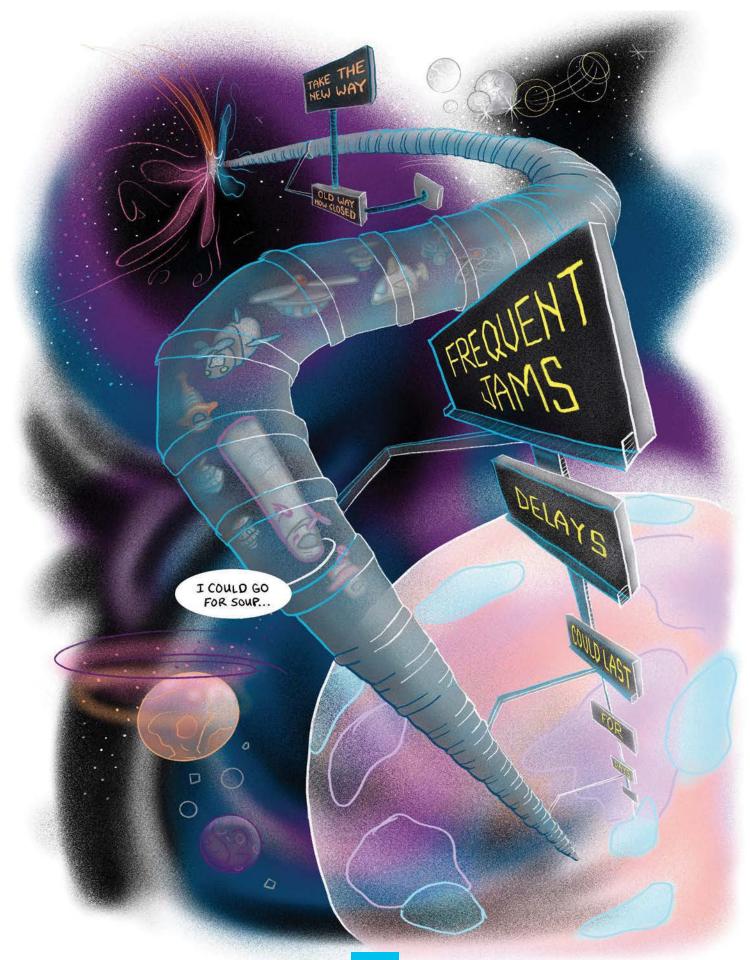




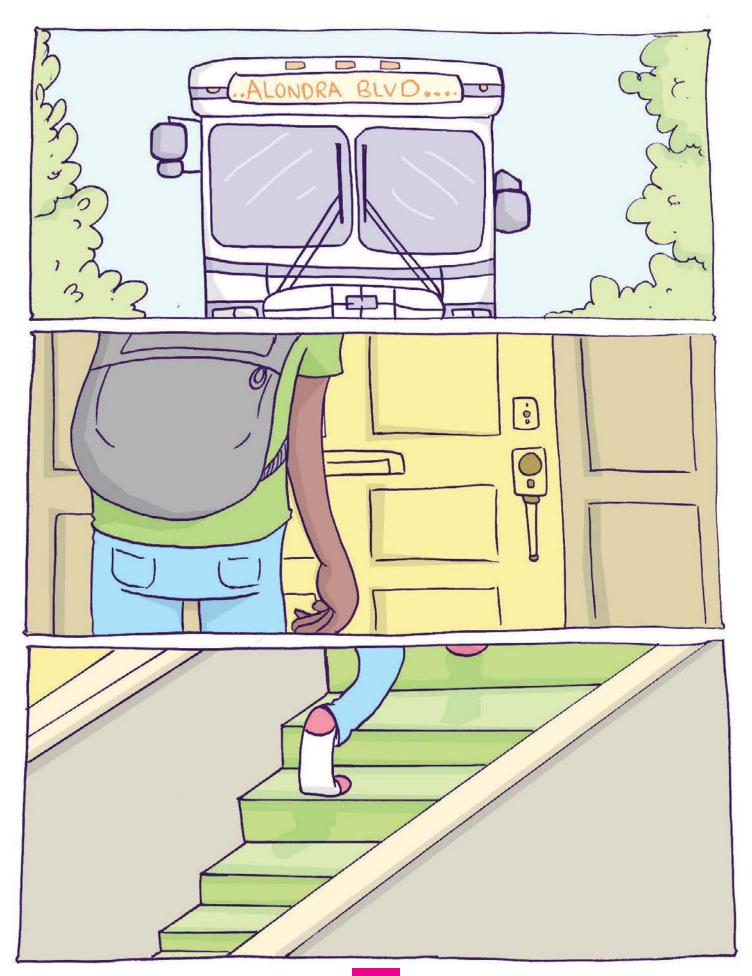




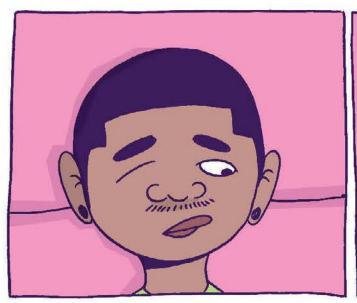


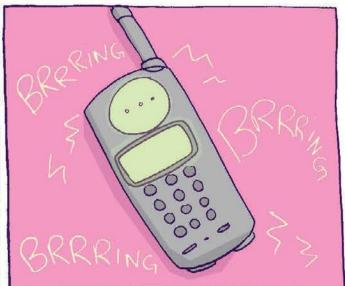


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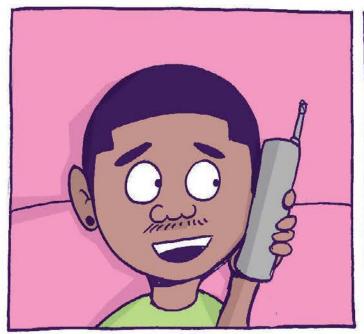


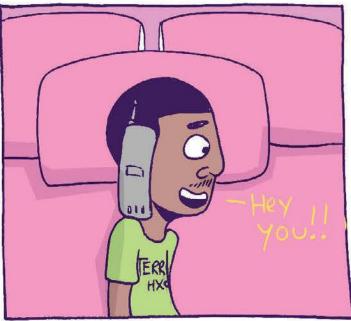


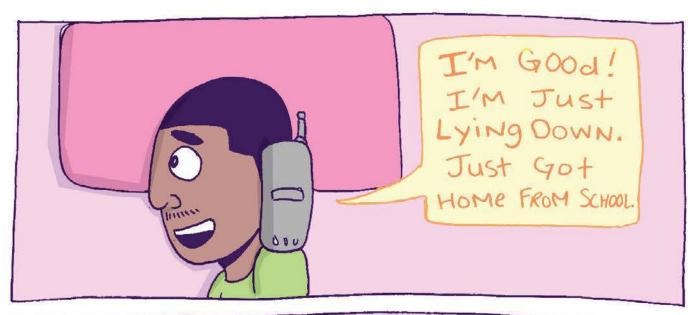




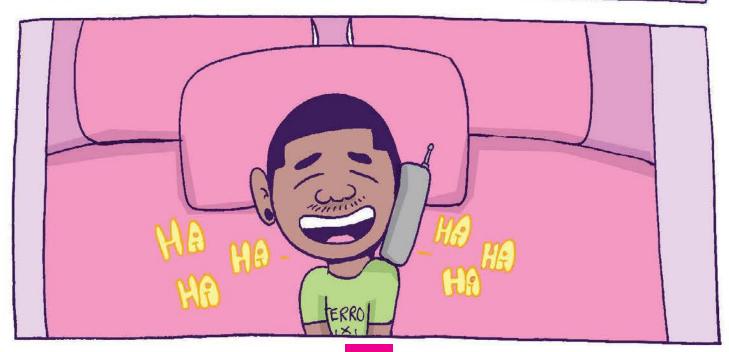








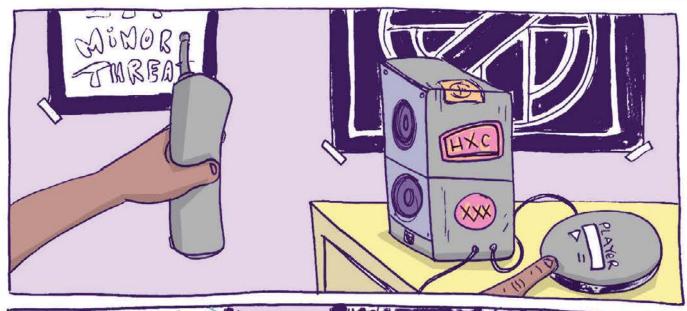


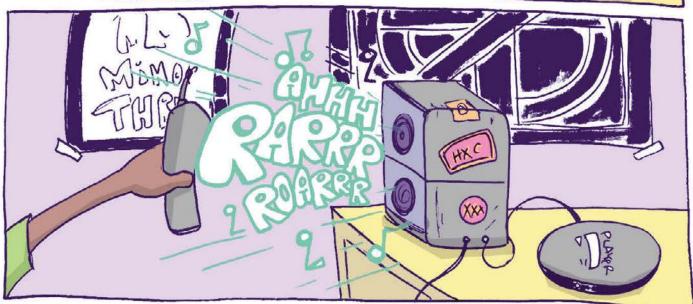




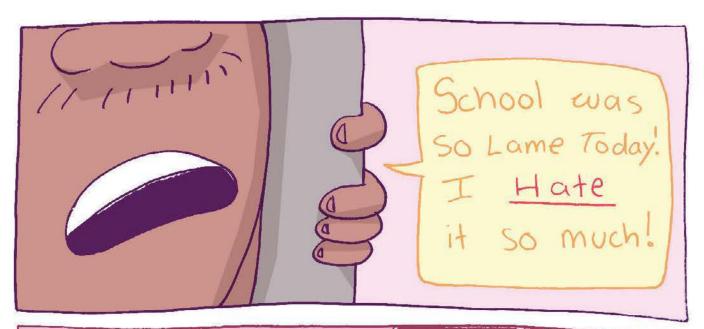




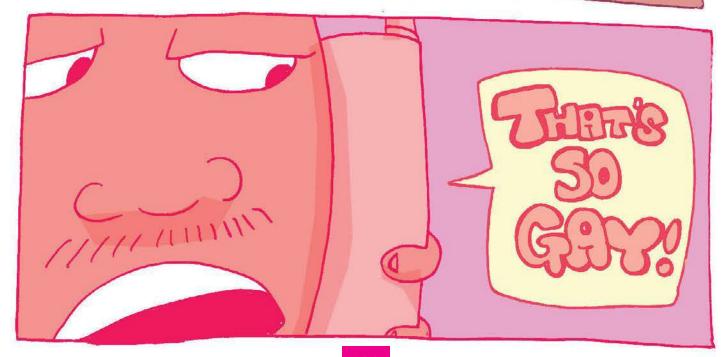




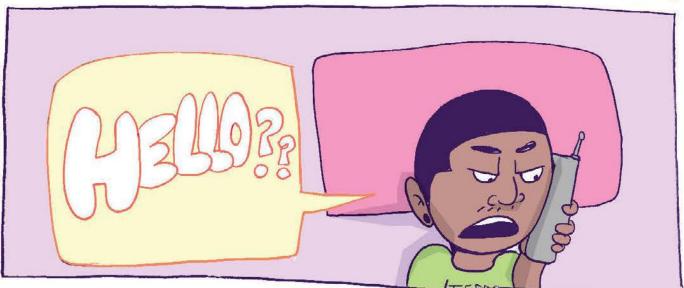




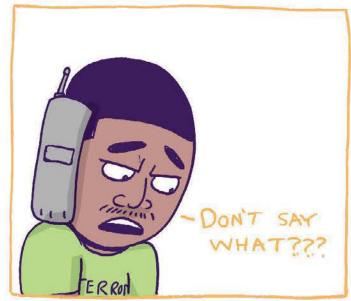








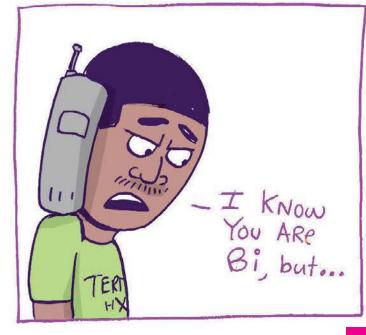






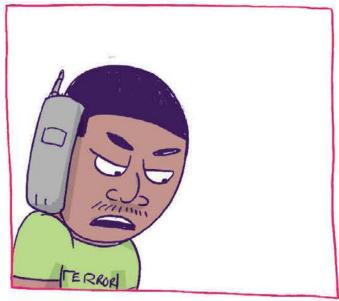




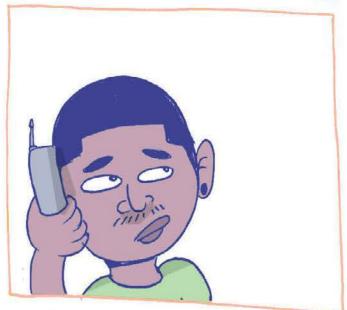














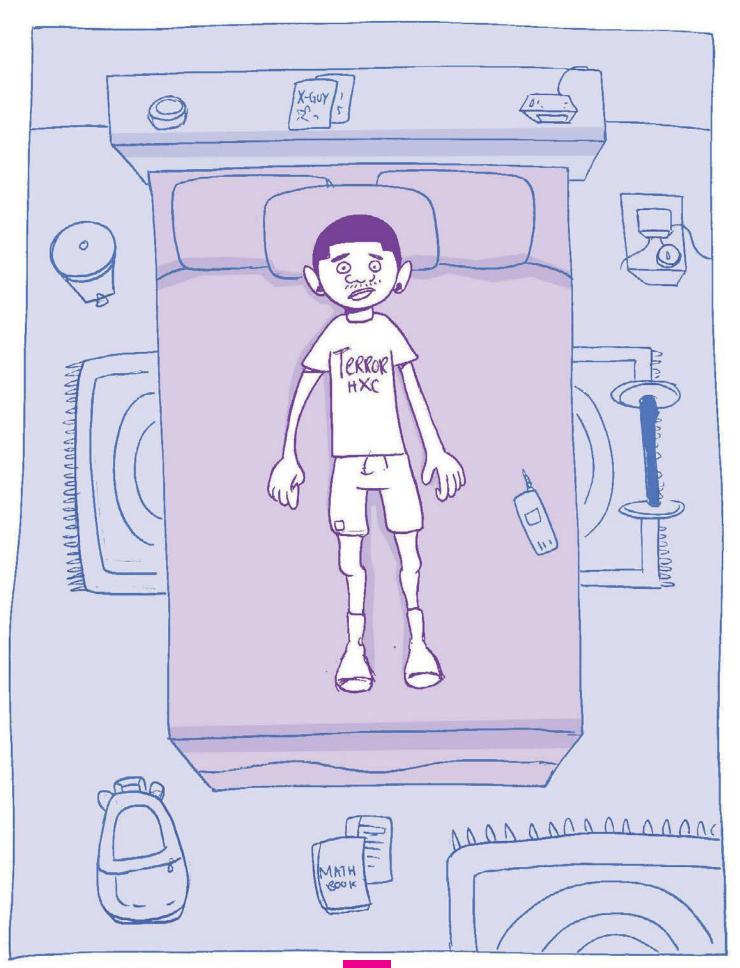




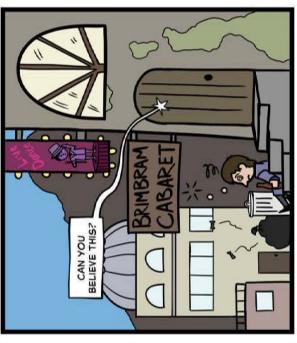








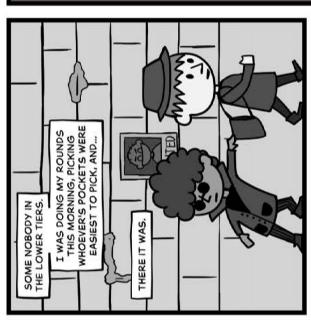
REDWATER LUCAS SOTO











...WHO?



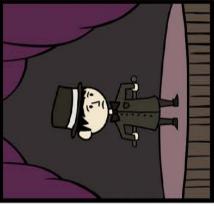
AND WE'RE GOING TO ROB HER BLIND.



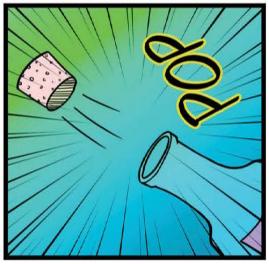
THE RICHEST WOMAN IN ALL OF KORROS.









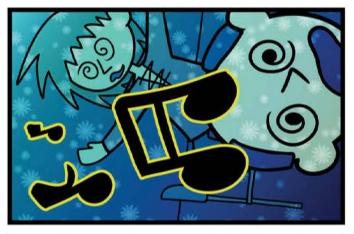




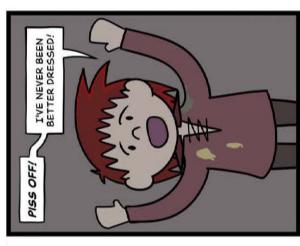




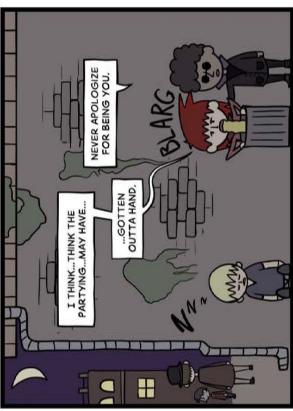










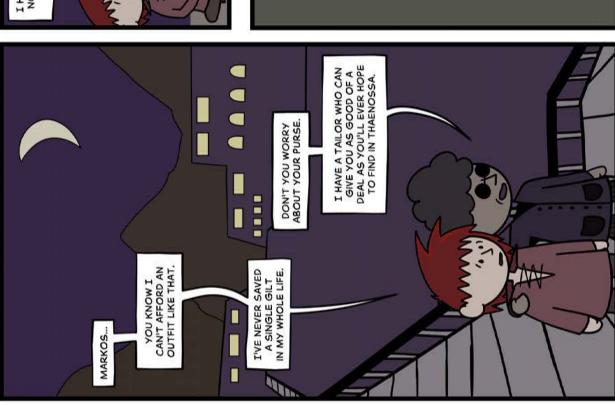






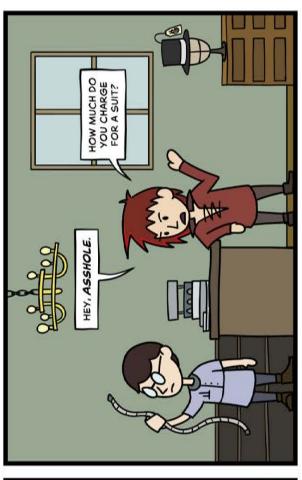




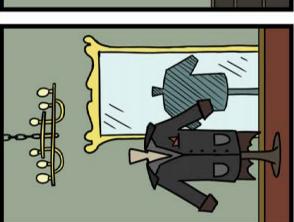




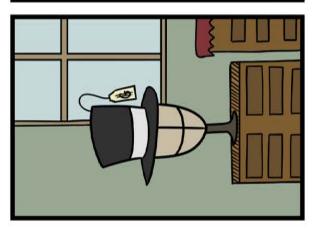












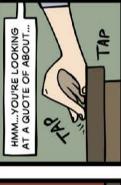






LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU IN THE MIRROR.

FIVE FOOT EIGHT INCHES, ABOUT...ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS...





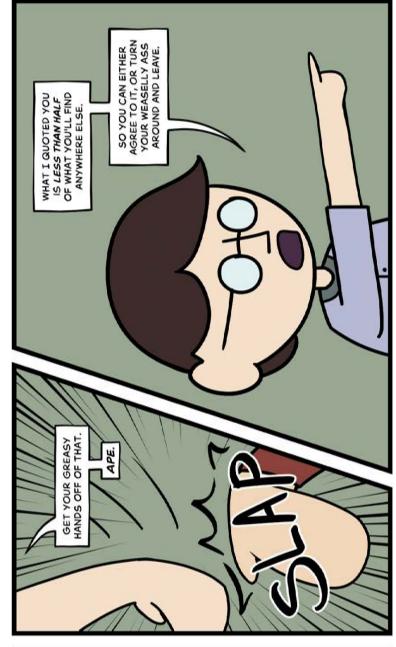


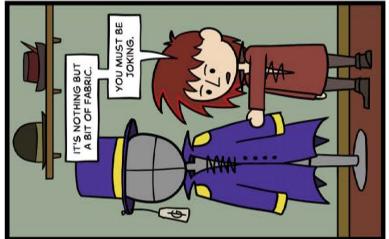




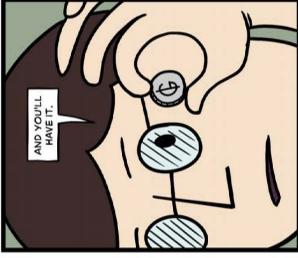




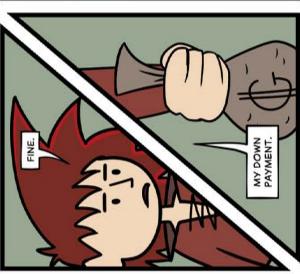


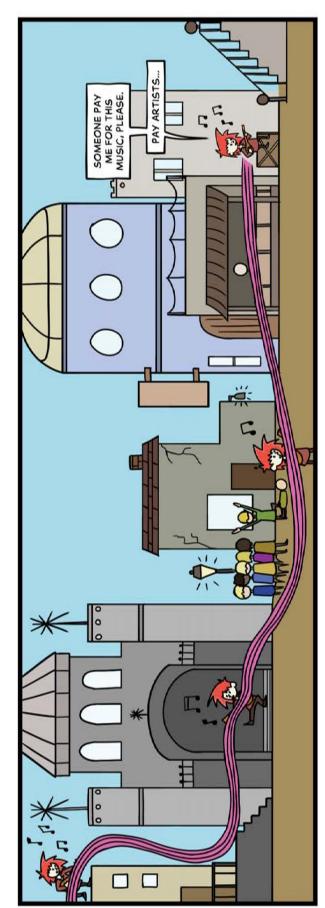


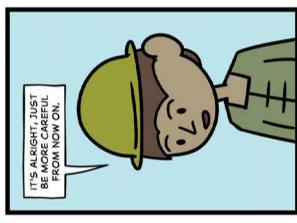
















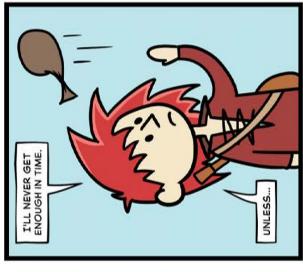


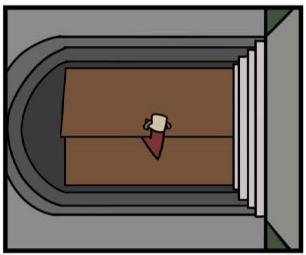


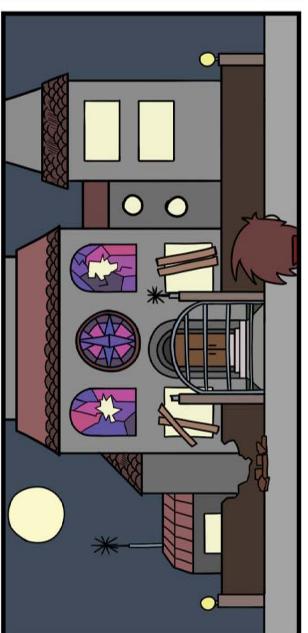




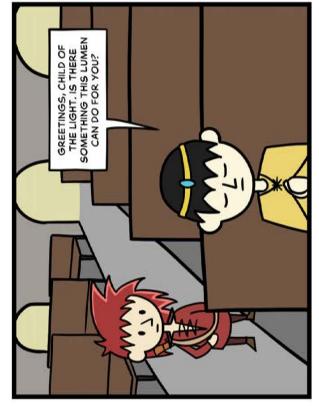
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEASLY GILT.

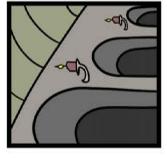






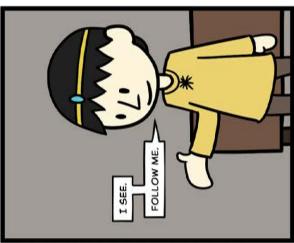














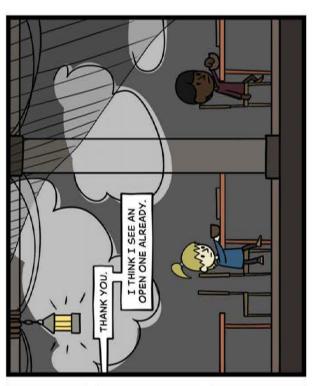






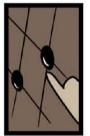
WE'VE MANY ROOMS AND GAMES TO CHOOSE FROM.







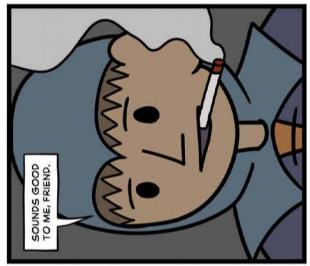


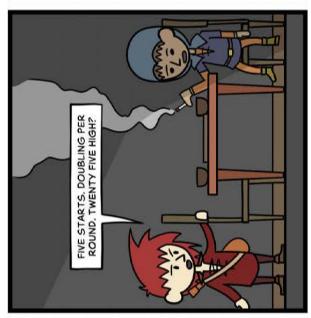




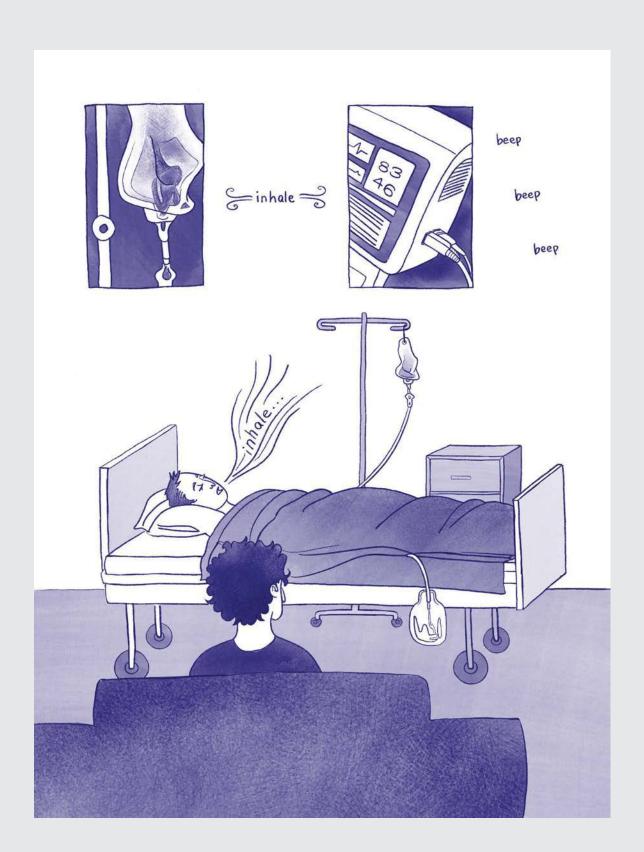


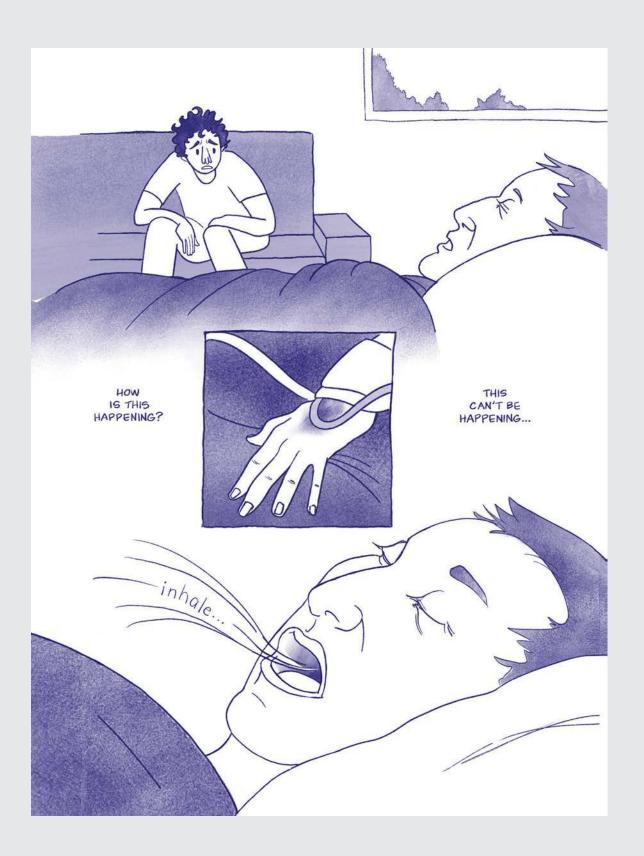


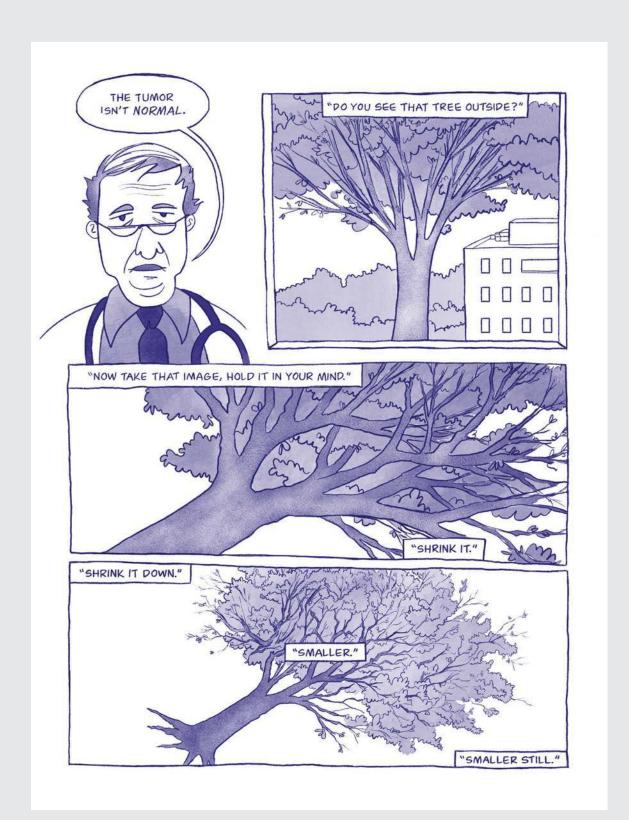


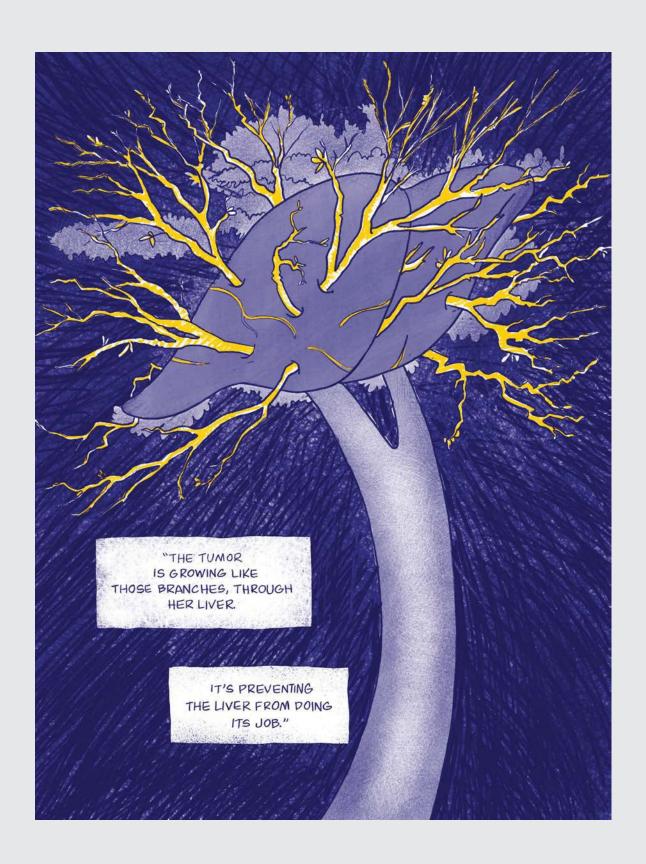


BRANCHES MIKE ROSSI









"THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO."



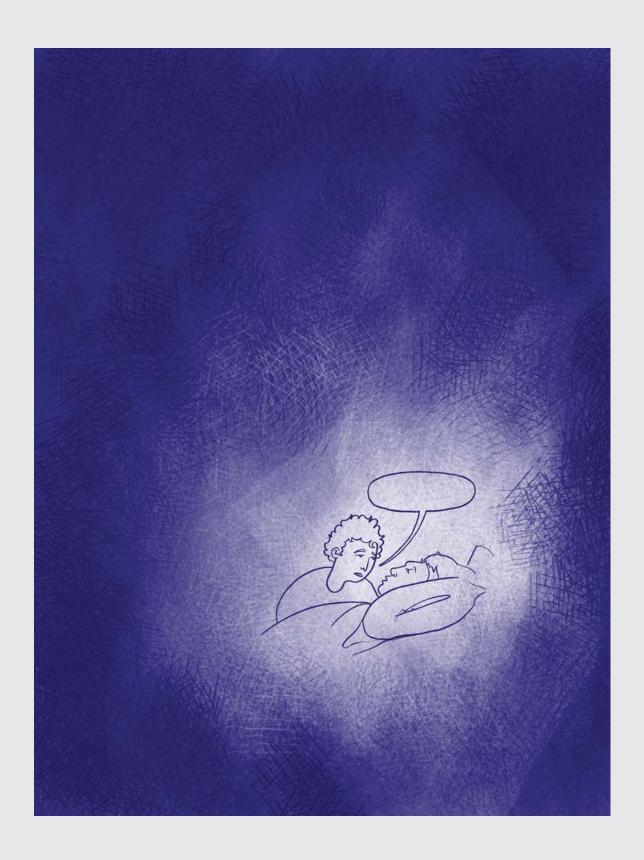
MOM?





EVEN
HER TEARS ARE
YELLOW



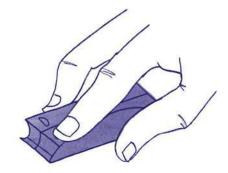






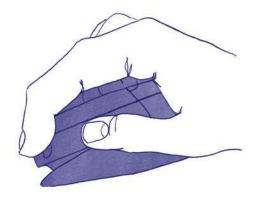
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE WHEN YOU KNOW THEY ARE GOING TO DIE?





WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF CHANCES TO SAY SOMETHING...

WHEN THEY HAVE NO MORE TIME, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU...



WITHOUT THEM.

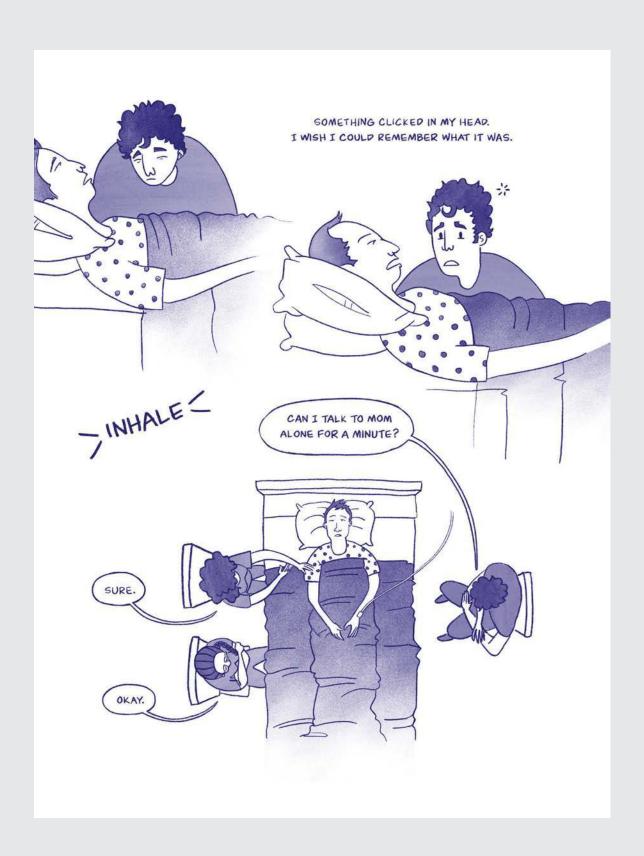


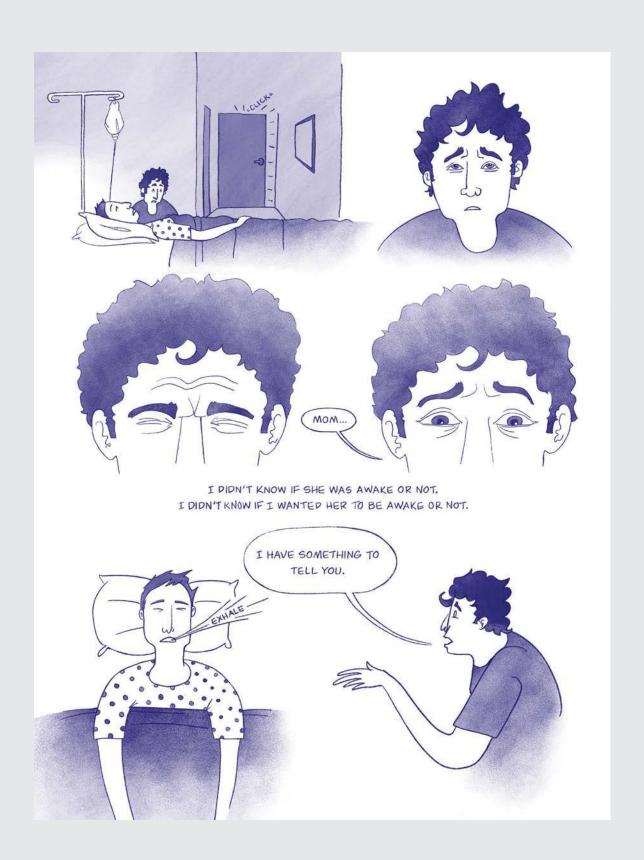


IT'S ONLY GOING TO HURT HER AND MAKE IT WORSE.



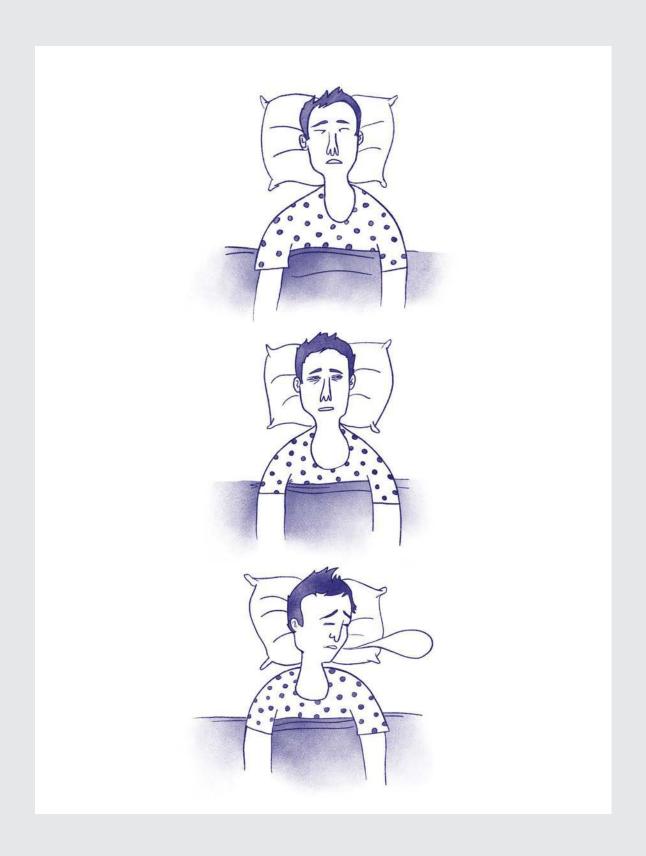


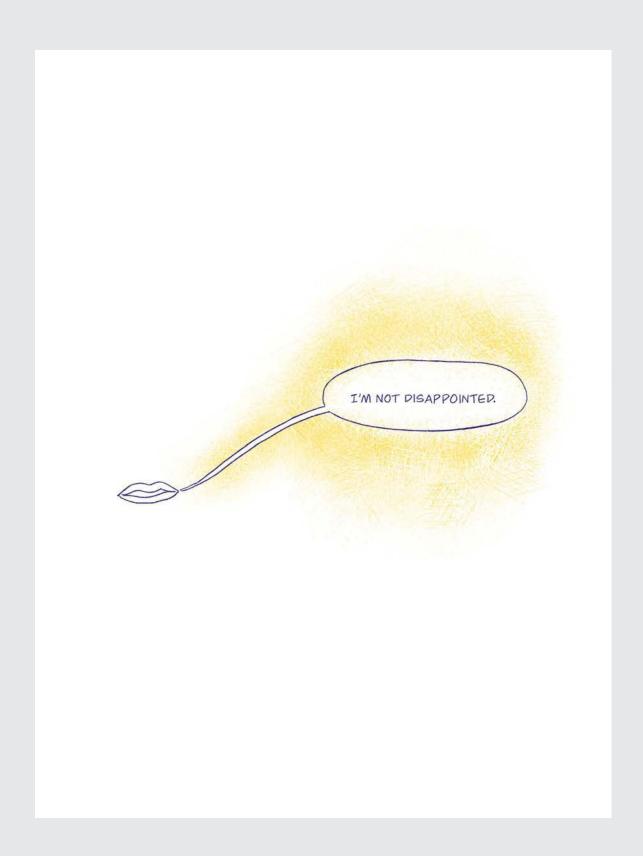


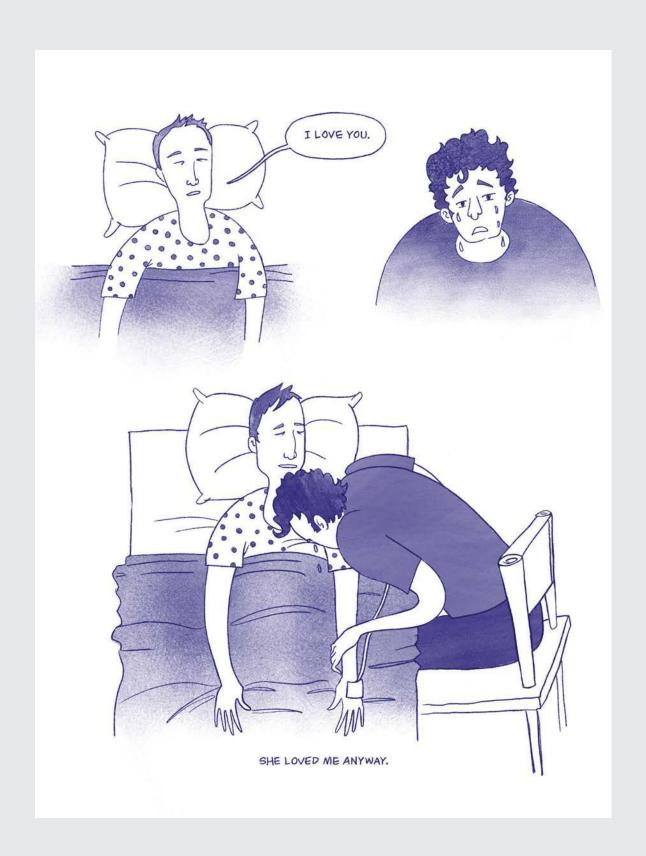




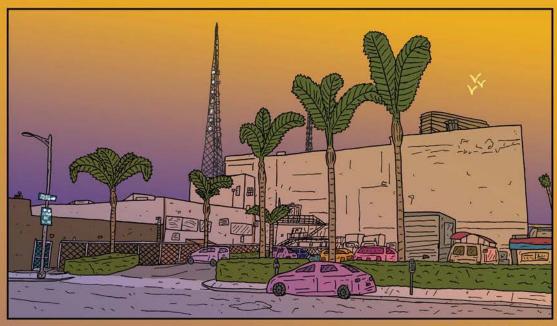








THE DEATH OF ELZAX SONYA SATURDAY



















































LADY BLUEBERRY TALIA DUTTON









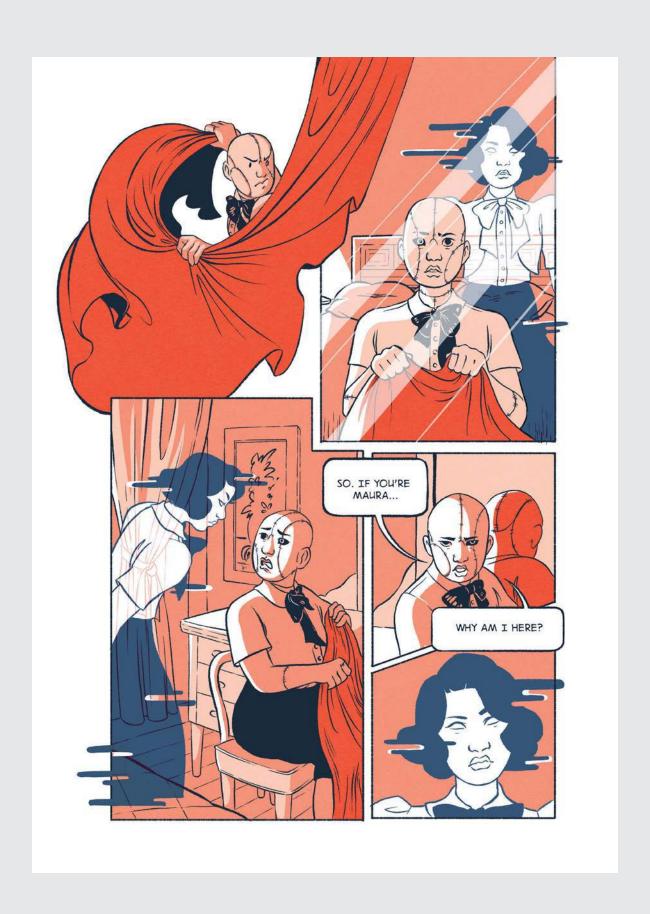






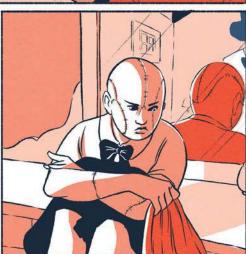




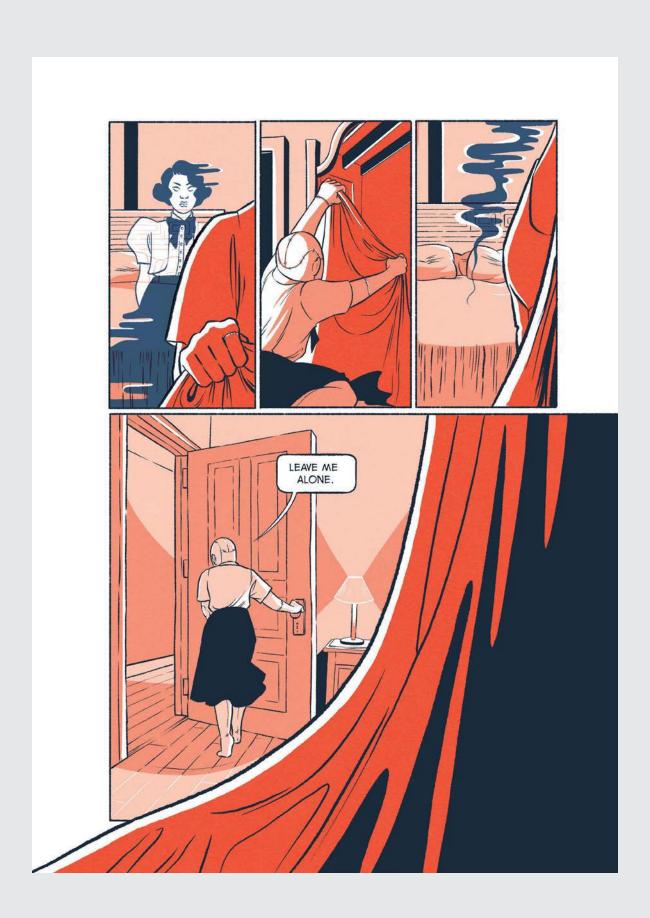


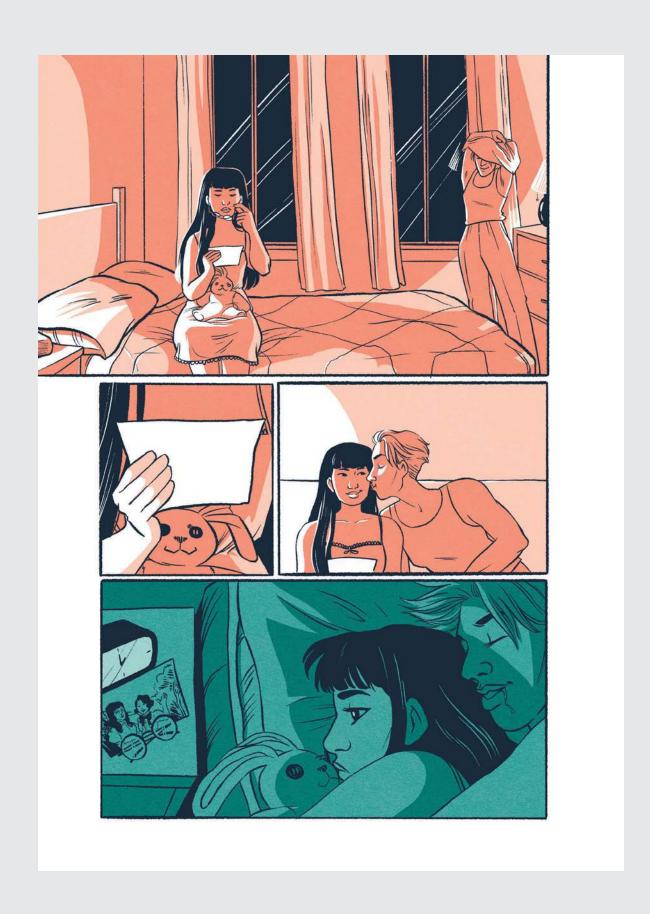












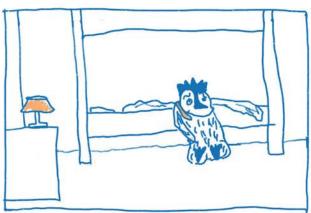
ELIZABETH (EXCERPT) WILL BETKE-BRUNSWICK

DIAGNOSIS











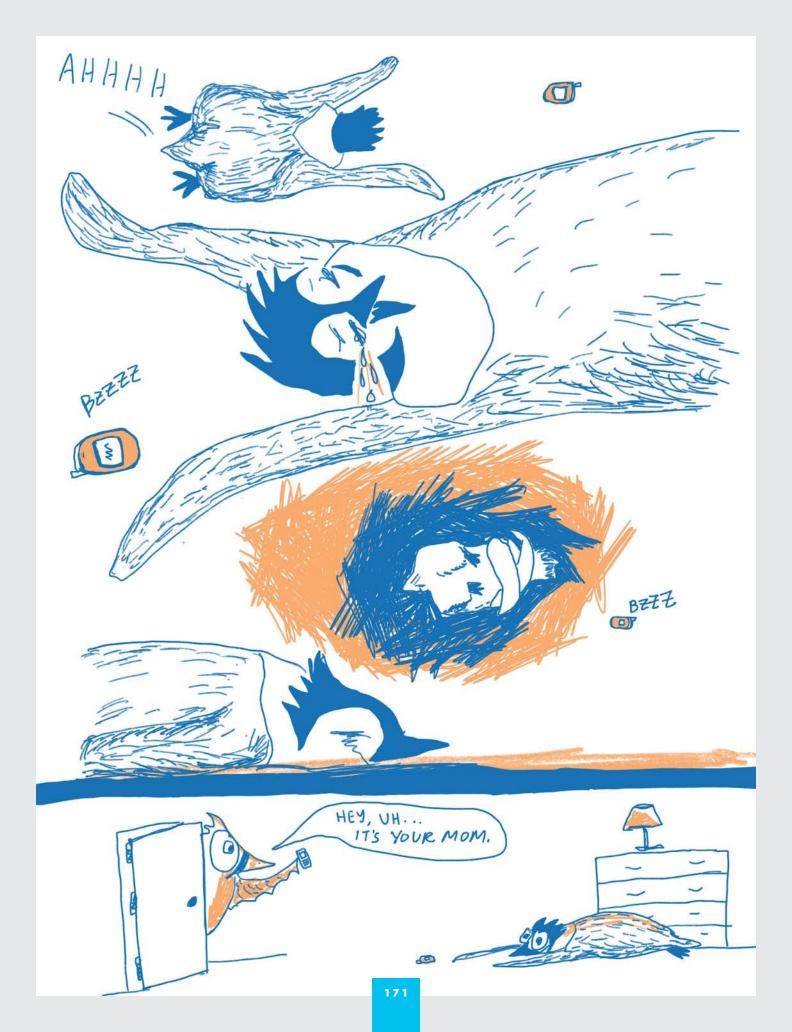


SHE HAD AN ULTRASOUND AND THEY FOUND INNUMERABLE TUMORS ON HER LIVER AND LUNGS

SORRY...

I NEED TO ANSWER THIS ...

























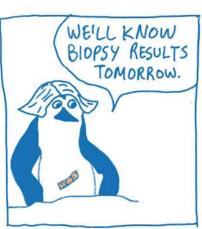










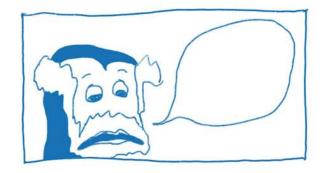












DON'T WANT TO KNOW HER PROGNOSIS















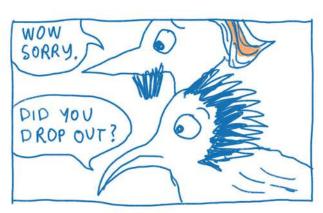


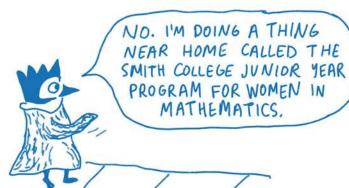
MOVING OUT























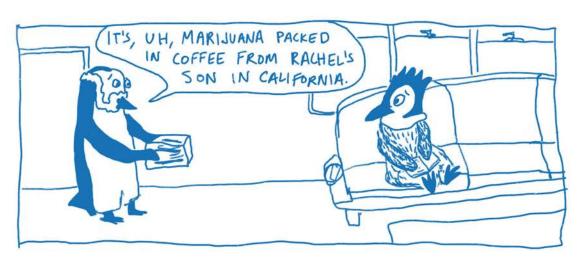




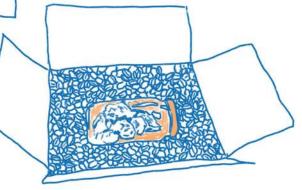
WEED













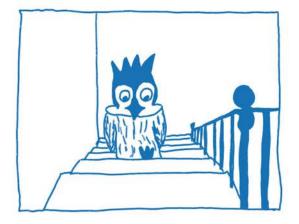








PROS AND CONS



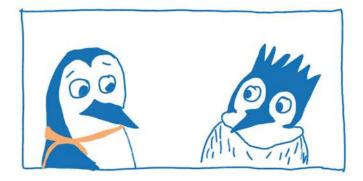






BUT STUDYING ABROAD IN NEW ZEALAND IS KIND OF EXTREME.









NEW ZEALAND

PROS:

- · FRIENDS
- · BEAUTIFUL MNTNS.
- · ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
- · NEW CULTURE
- · GREAT ACCENTS

CONS:

· SAYING GOODBYE TO MUMIN FOREVER

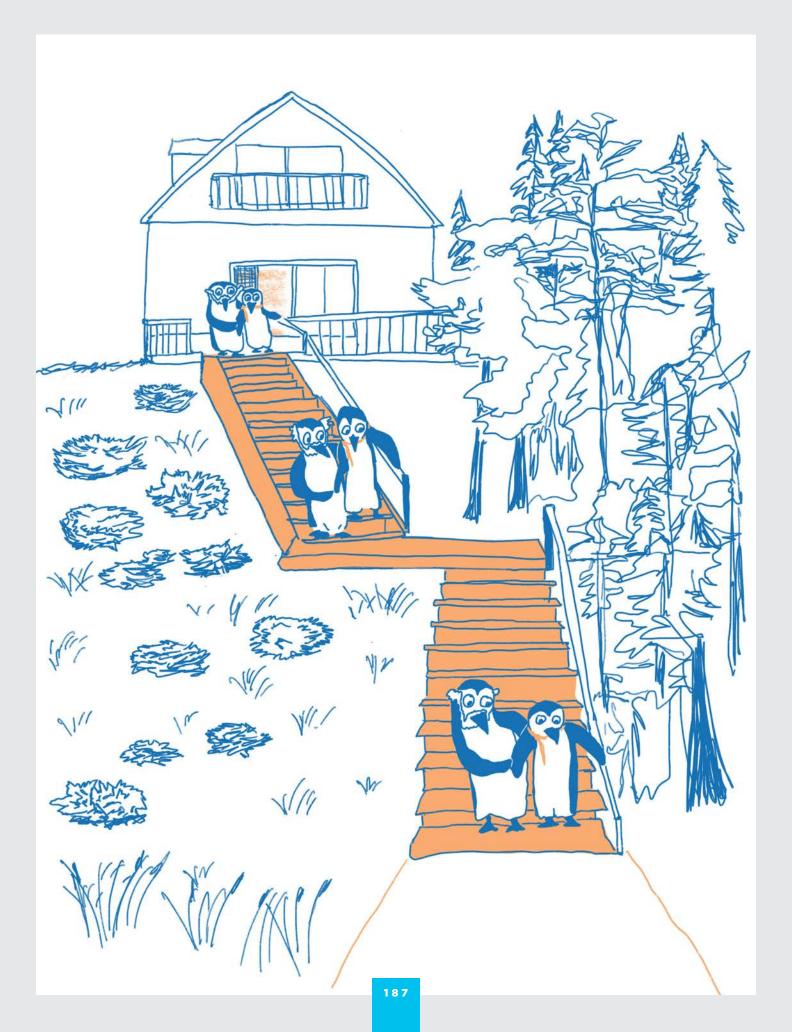
> THERE'S NO WRONG DECISION, HONEY.













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2020 MFA IN COMICS CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

RUGBAE

CLAIRE TOMASI

ARE YOU OKAY?

DANIEL DAHAN

MASKS

DUSTIN GARCIA

SUPACLUSTA CHAPTER ZERO: THE STUDIO WALK

GAIA WXYZ

BEFORE THE SUN

HINAHINA GRAY

PROLOGUE

LAURA SHOEMAKER

THE CALL

LAWRENCE LINDELL

REDWATER

LUCAS SOTO

BRANCHES

MIKE ROSSI

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