

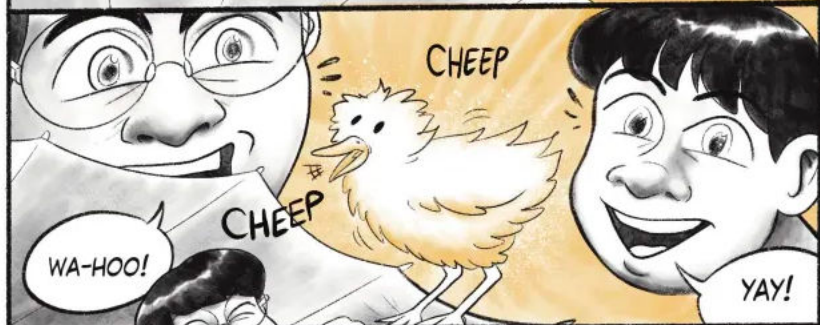
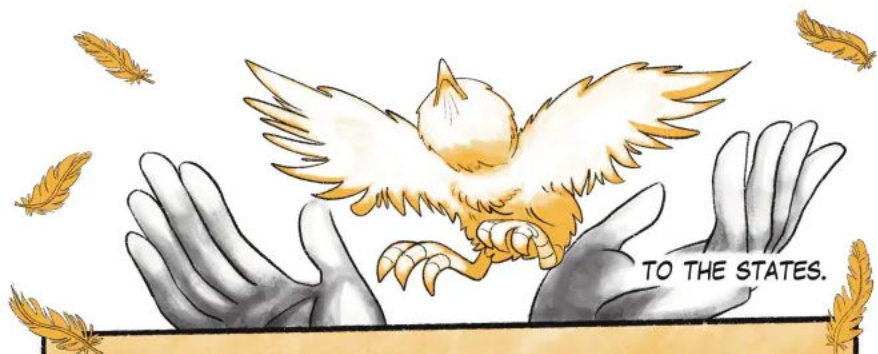
MESTIZO

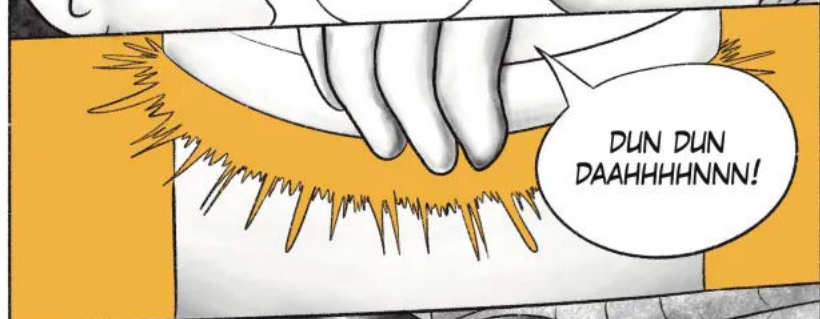
STORY & ART BY PHILLIP KIEFFER

AUGUST 2002.

MY SUMMER IN THE PHILIPPINES
WAS COMING TO AN END.







IT IS TIME FOR...
SABONG SA KAKA!

EH?

WHAT IS THAT?

SPIDER-FIGHT.

GO ON!
GET HIM!

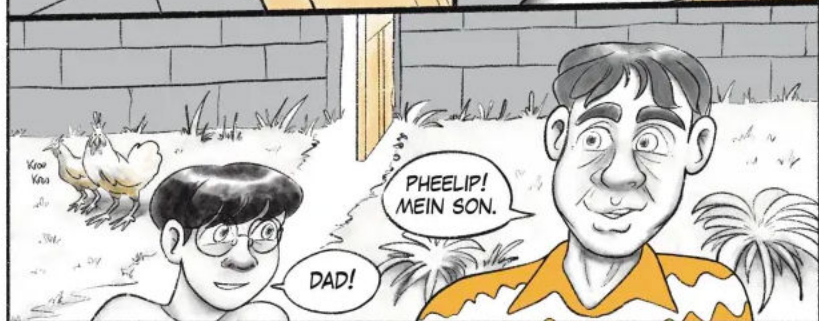
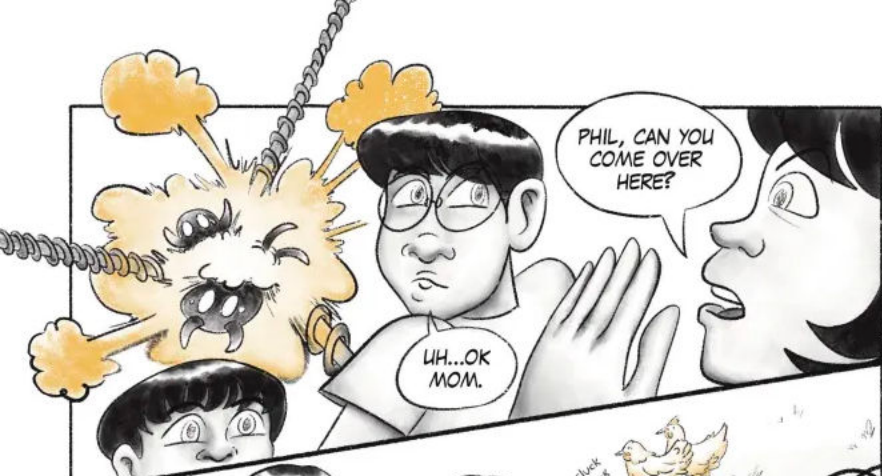
FWUP

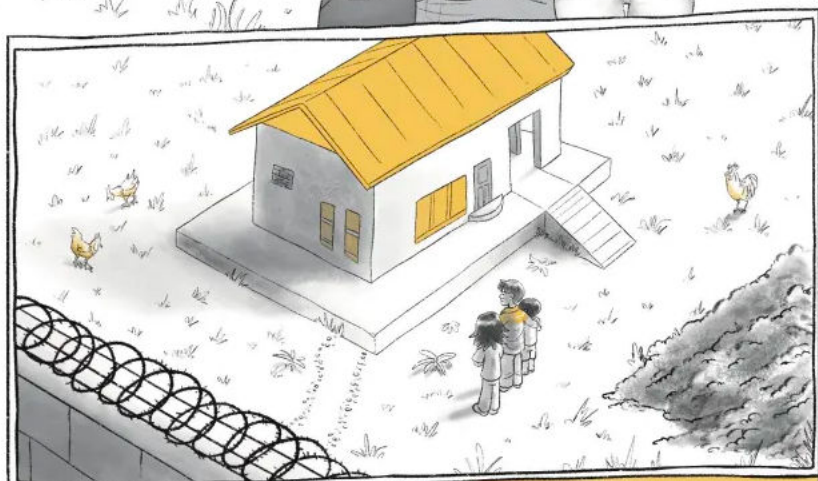
OH MY
GOD.

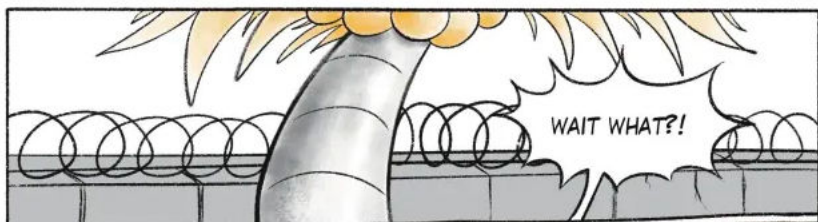
CRACK

THIS IS THE BEST
THING EVER.











I WANT YOU
TO KNOW OUR
CULTURE.

TO KNOW
WHAT ITS LIKE
TO LIVE HERE.

TO BE WITH
OUR PEOPLE



BECAUSE
YOU ARE
FILIPINO.



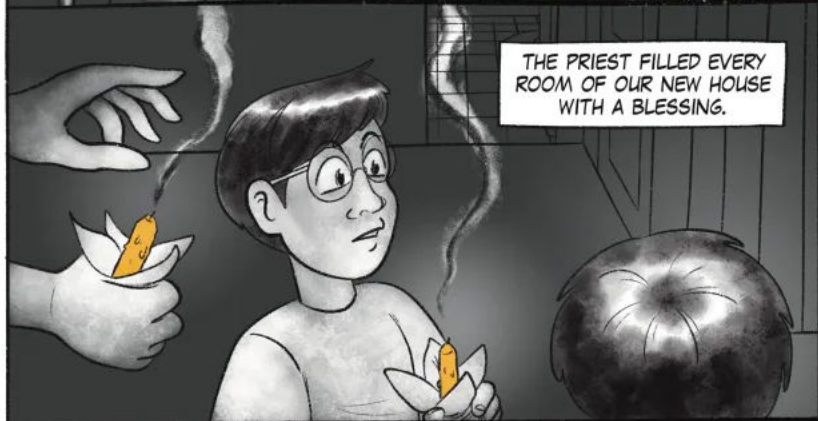
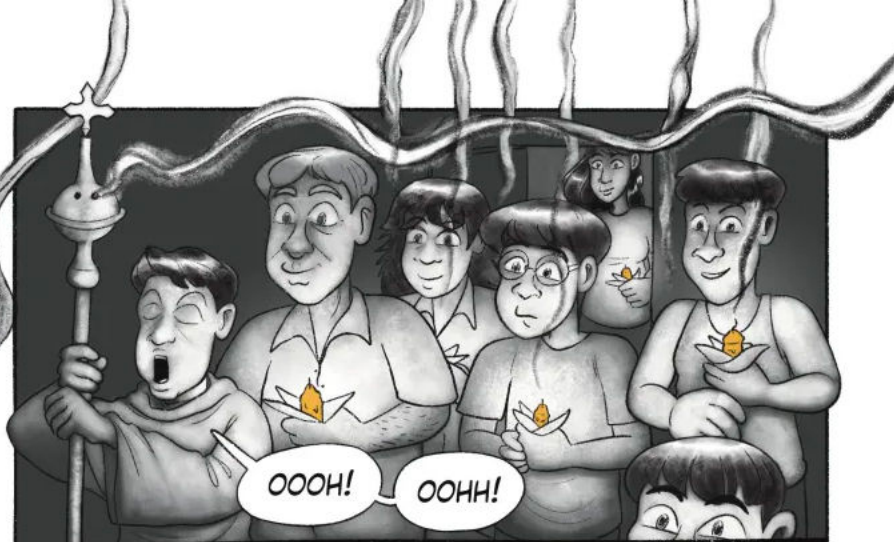
I KNOW,
I KNOW.

YOU ALWAYS
SAY THAT.



I LOVED VISITING THE PHILIPPINES, BUT
POSSIBLY MOVING HERE WAS A LOT
FOR KID ME TO PROCESS.





• FOLDING •

My father left me an inheritance.



But I visited a couple of times in my youth.

He would tell me,

"Feel free

to

fold

there,

when

you

get

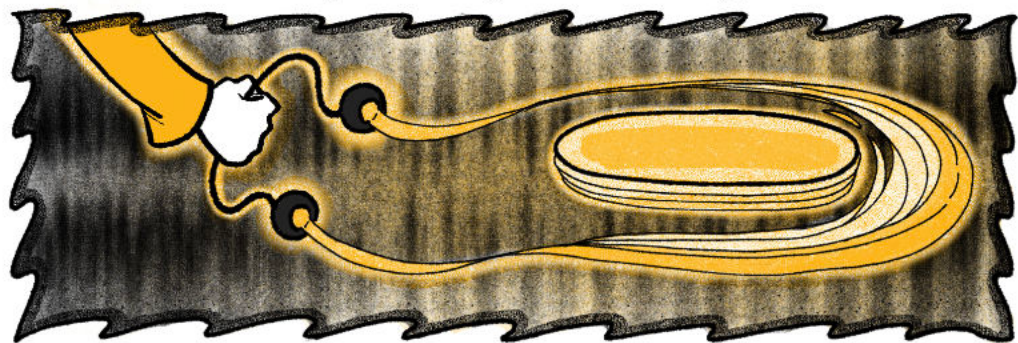
older."



I need to be in between the waves to fold.



Hope it all goes smoothly.



Floating in the middle. I now fold.



Folding usually brings happiness. But I feel the opposite.





Hm? Is that you Anya?
It's Julie. We were friends.
I couldn't stand you though.

No, no, no!
I thought I moved on!

You haven't, since I'm here.
I'm much bigger than
you now.

Nico here. You're still a nobody, huh?

What are your
accomplishments?

Leave me alone!

Ugh!

Dad... ! No wonder he never came here. What a cruel prank.

Rubbing
my
eyes
should help.

Rubbing
brings
new
images.

Lights!

They're lighting up the plants!

I could uproot them and dim - no,
turn off these memories!





RRRIIIPPP!

Holes in the sky...

!

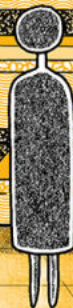
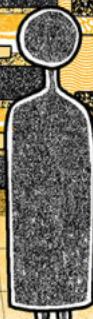
Dead ex-friends? Or dead illusions?



It doesn't matter,
I'm a loser.

A loser stuck in a store
I can't afford...

Am I trapped?



Of course
I am.

A useless person
like me
belongs nowhere.

I'm trapped.

The store is now
neverending.

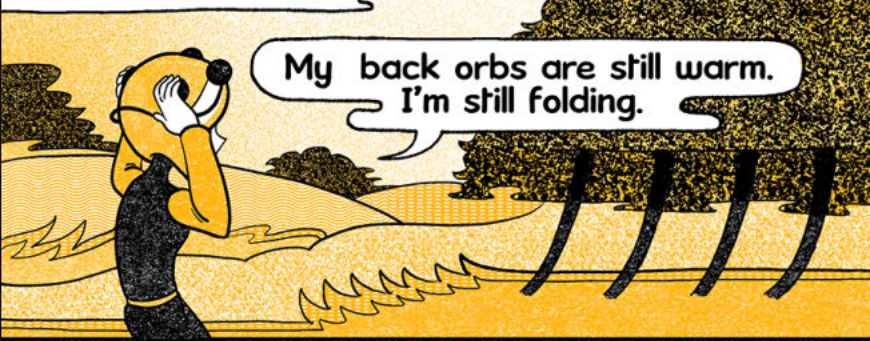
Items being consumed by darkness.

They're getting lost. Maybe I could follow
them and get lost too.



Outdoors?

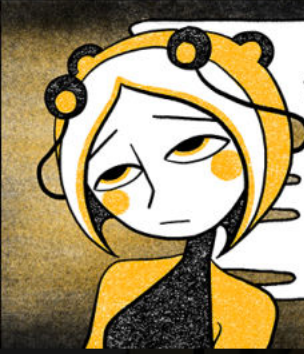
Have I unfolded?



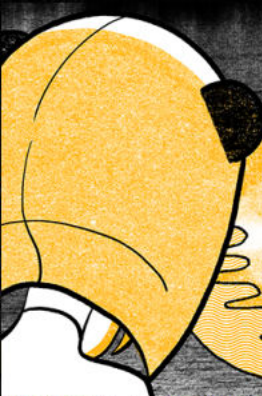
My back orbs are still warm.
I'm still folding.



At least I can afford nature.
They don't expect anything from me.



Which is why I enjoyed
visiting those separated waves.
They were glistening
and soothing.
Why would they activate
such a chain of negative
emotions?



Because that's where I buried
my woes.



Dad?!
No, it can't be!

— You bastard! Thanks for nothing! —



I've been
stuck here
because of
you!



At least the waves are
mine now. I will keep
folding until those
so-called woes of ours
disappear!

You don't
have to do
that.

Focus on yours,
but remember
to do what
you like best
about the waves.

Admiring from afar.





by selephida

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER
SEMI-TRUE TALE FROM
THE GREAT ESCAPE.



NO PLAYBOY DAN
THIS TIME.



THERE WAS ONE HOLY GRAIL
WE HAD THAT I NEVER SAW
COME INTO THE STORE.



IT BECAME A RUNNING JOKE
AROUND THE STORE BECAUSE WE GOT
SO MANY CALLS ABOUT THEM.



Y'ALL GOT
THEM NASCAR
BASEBALLS?





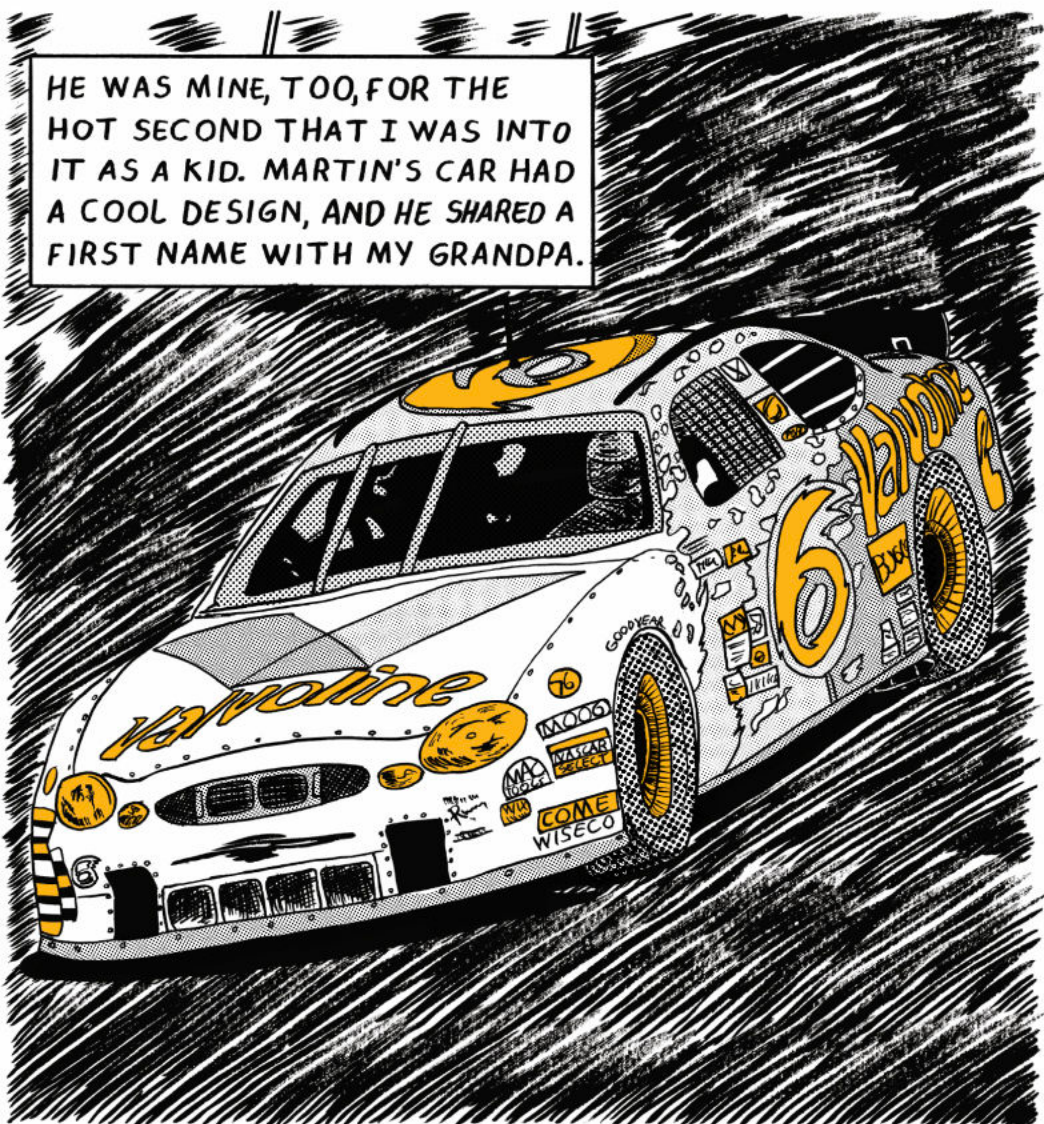
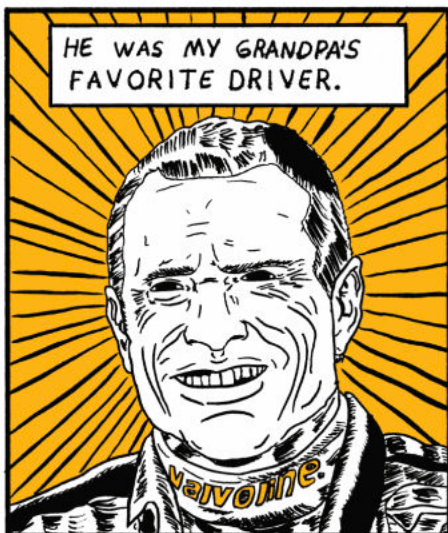


THROUGH SECONDS OF ARDUOUS RESEARCH, I FOUND AT LEAST THREE EXAMPLES OF THE FABLED BALLS. THERE'S A 50TH ANNIVERSARY BALL.

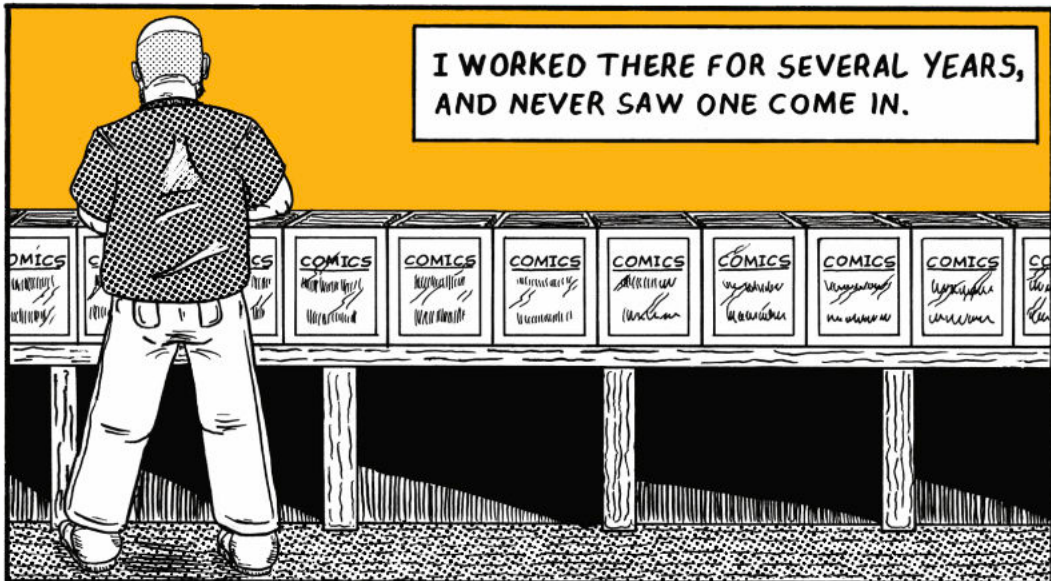
OF COURSE, THERE WAS A DALE EARNHARDT BALL. THEY'VE PUT HIS NAME AND NUMBER ON JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING AT THIS POINT.



THE ONLY OTHER ONE I FOUND WAS FOR JEFF GORDON, THE SECOND COMING, ACCORDING TO SOME PEOPLE AT THE TIME HE STARTED RACING.







I WORKED THERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS,
AND NEVER SAW ONE COME IN.



IT WASN'T UNTIL A FEW
YEARS AFTER I LEFT, THAT
I HEARD FROM AN OLD
COWORKER. IT FINALLY
HAPPENED.



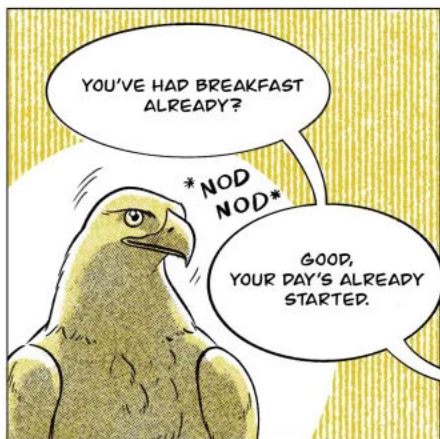
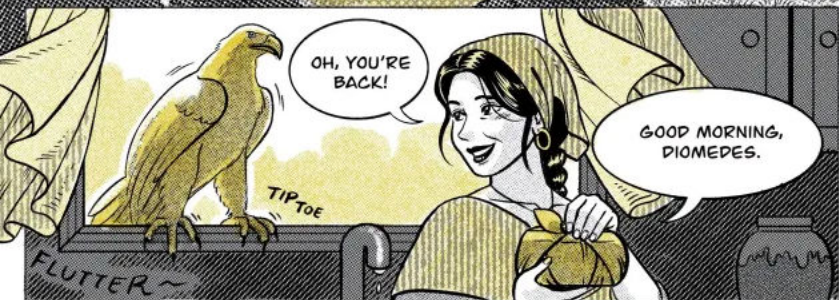
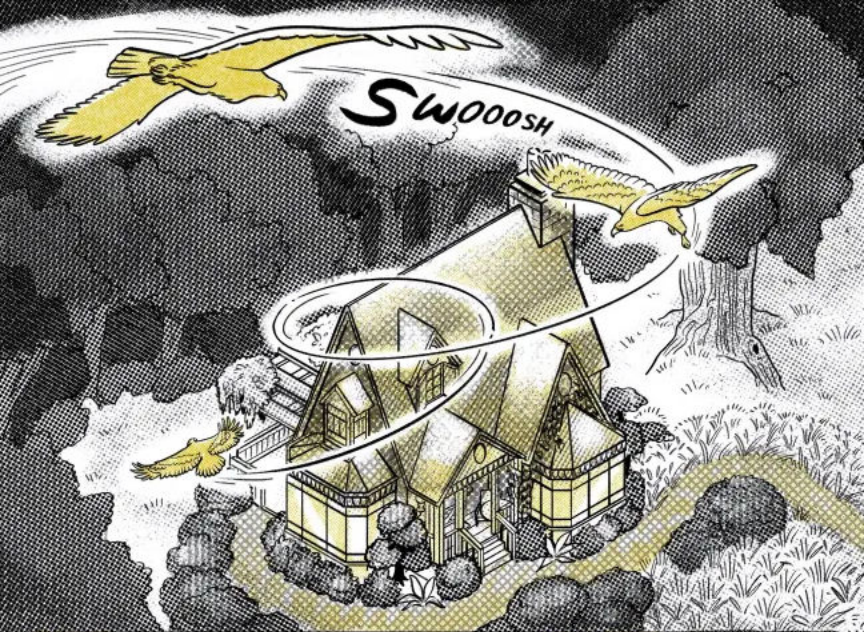
SOMEONE HAD BROUGHT IN
SOME NASCAR BASEBALLS!

TWO BEAUTIFUL BALLS.



ALL THIS ON A
TUESDAY MORNING
MOCHIWEI





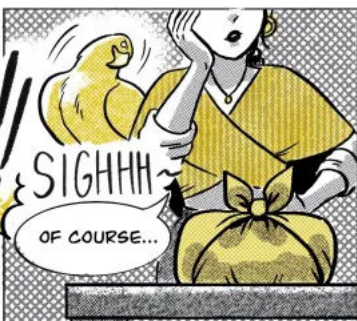


SORRY, I'M
RUNNING LATE!
GOTTA GO,
SEE YOUUUUUUU!



SIGHHH

OF COURSE...



OH MY GOSH-
OH MY GOSH-
WHY DID SHE HAVE
TO ASK NOW??

I THOUGHT I HAD
MORE TIME...

AHHHHH!

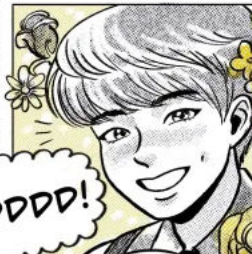


RUSH
RUSH



HE'S HERE
ALREADY!!

REIDDDDD!



GOOD MORNING,
VER!

HIIII,
DID YOU WAIT
LONG?

SO LONG THAT
I DIED
AND
REINCARNATED
JUST TO BE IN
HIGH SCHOOL
AGAIN.

SO 5
MINUTES.

HUGGGGG

HAVE YOU
STARTED ON
THE HISTORY
PAPER YET?

NO, THE PSET
TOOK ALL NIGHT.
I'LL TRY TO
CATCH UP
DURING LUNCH.

OH! CLUB IS
MEETING AT
LUNCH INSTEAD
OF AFTER
SCHOOL!

GREAT! LET'S GO
TO THAT
NEW CAFE
TOGETHER THEN!



SO THIS PAST WEEKEND AT KOREAN SCHOOL

I REALIZED I'VE BEEN SAYING "POOP" INSTEAD OF "BOX".

HAHAHA

THAT IS AMAZING. I SPENT ALL OF SATURDAY LEARNING A SPELL TO MEND MOTH-EATEN CLOTHING IN MY ATTIC.

A REAL SPELL! CAN YOU MEND MY CLOTHES AS WELL??

KIDDING

FLAP FLAP



DAMN, MAGIC LESSONS ARE SO MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN KOREAN SCHOOL...

VER?

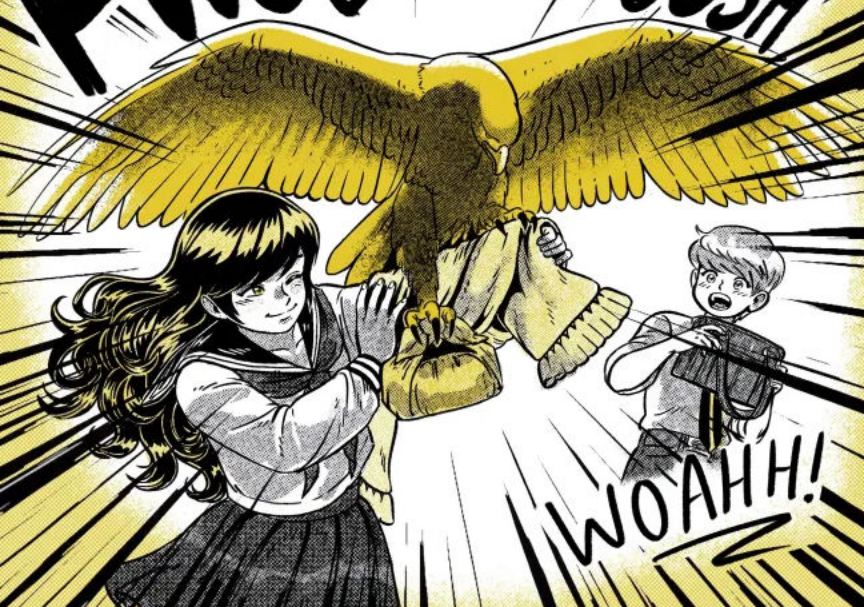


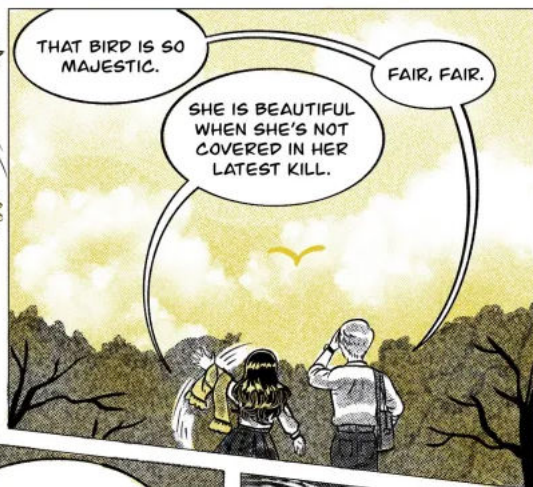
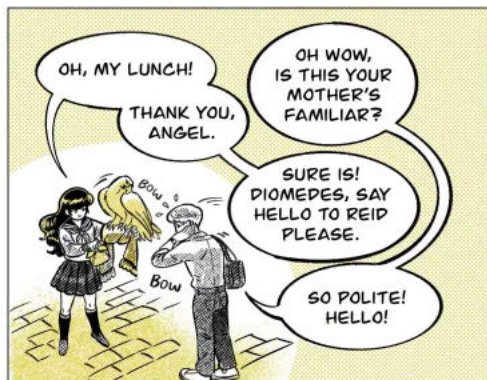
HEY, YOU'RE NOT GETTING READY TO SOCK ME IN THE FACE ARE YOU?

'DUCK'



FWOO — OOSH





GRASP!



VERBENA.

I'M HERE, WE'RE
HERE NOW-

FEEL THE
BEAT OF MY
HEART,

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM BA-DUM

BREATHE WITH
THE RHYTHM,
IN AND OUT.



IN...

HAA

HOO

...AND OUT,
OKAY.



HEY, YOU'RE HERE,
YOU'RE OKAY.

DO YOU STILL WANNA
GO TO SCHOOL?

SNIFF

YEAH, I'M GOOD.
WE CAN GO.

TAP



I'M HONORED I GET TO PLAY
A ROLE IN YOUR FUTURE,
BY THE WAY.

BUT IF I GET A SAY, I REALLY
HOPE YOU CHOOSE THAT
MAGIC APPRENTICESHIP-

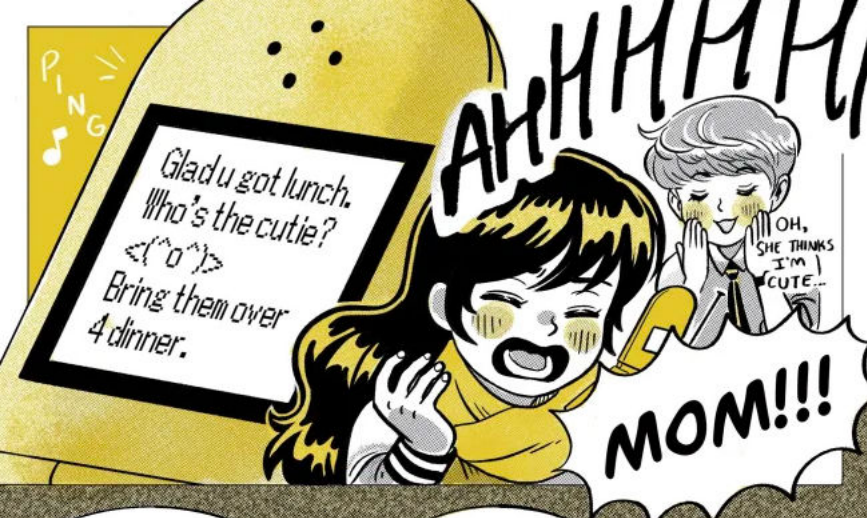
REID, BE SERIOUS-

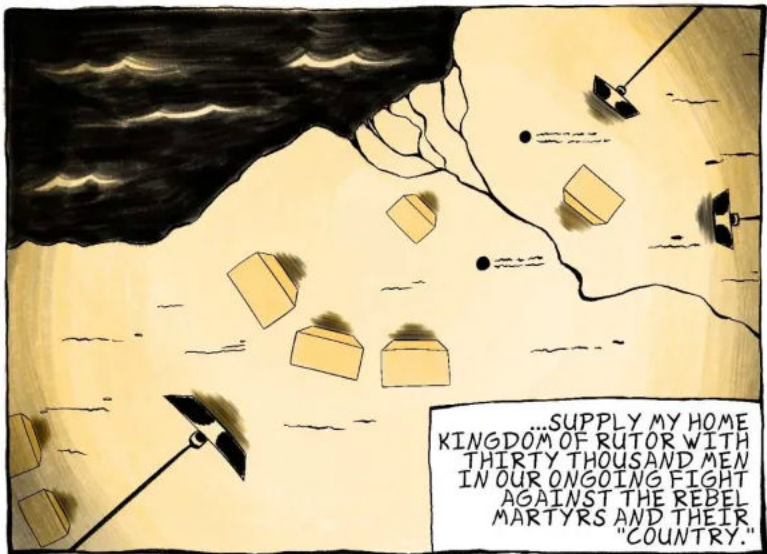
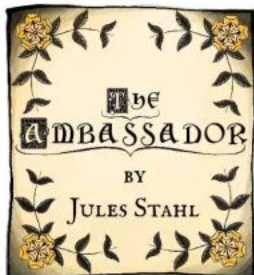
I AM SERIOUS!
YOU MAY GET THE
COOLEST FAMILIAR
LIKE A TIGER... OR A
SHARK!!

BZZZ



HANG ON,
IT'S A TEXT FROM
MY MOM.





FOR YEARS, THEY
TERRORIZED US...



OF COURSE WE HAD TO
FIGHT BACK.

ARE WE PROUD
OF WHAT WE HAD
TO DO?
NO...



... BUT THE LAND
BELONGS TO US...



...NOT THEM.



AGMOES PROMISED US
THIS THOUSANDS OF
YEARS AGO.

AND I AM GRATEFUL TO
HAVE A POWERFUL ALLY
BY OUR SIDE.







HAIL TO YOU, FATHER OF STORMS...





WE THANK
YOU,
AGMOES,
LORD OF
LORDS!

WE ARE
WATCHING
ANCIENT
PROPHECY
UNFOLD.

IN TIME, RUTOR'S
ENEMIES WILL BE
ERADICATED,
PAVING THE WAY
FOR YOUR RETURN.

BUT WITH
YOUR RETURN,
RUTOR WILL
HAVE TO FACE A
CHOICE...

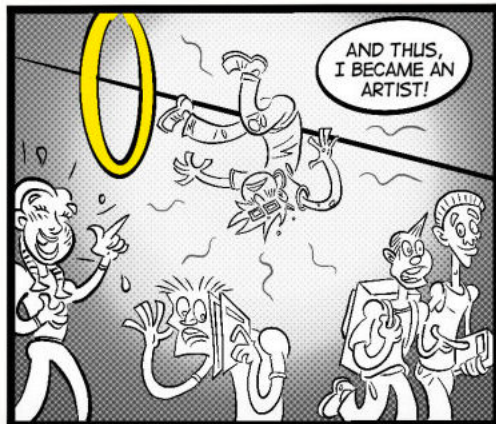
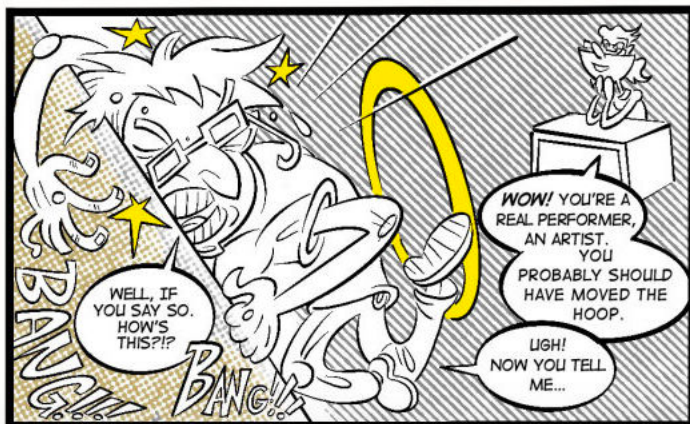
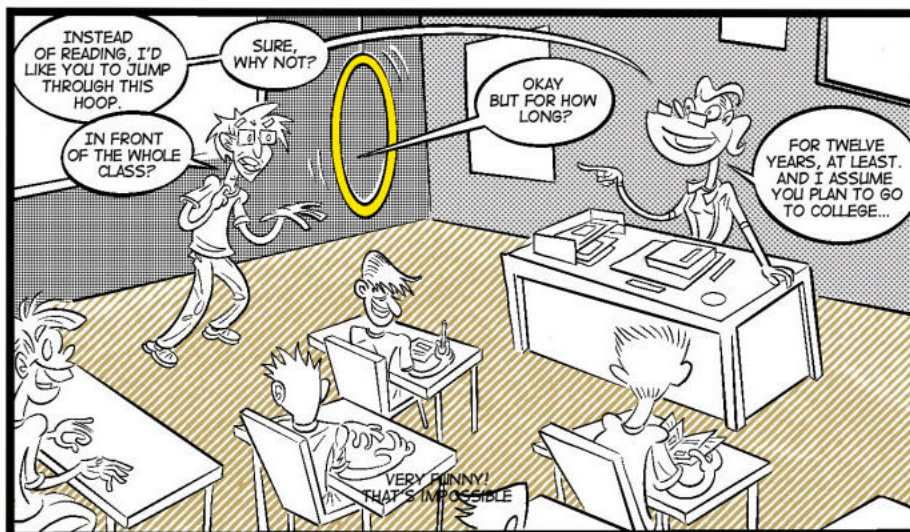
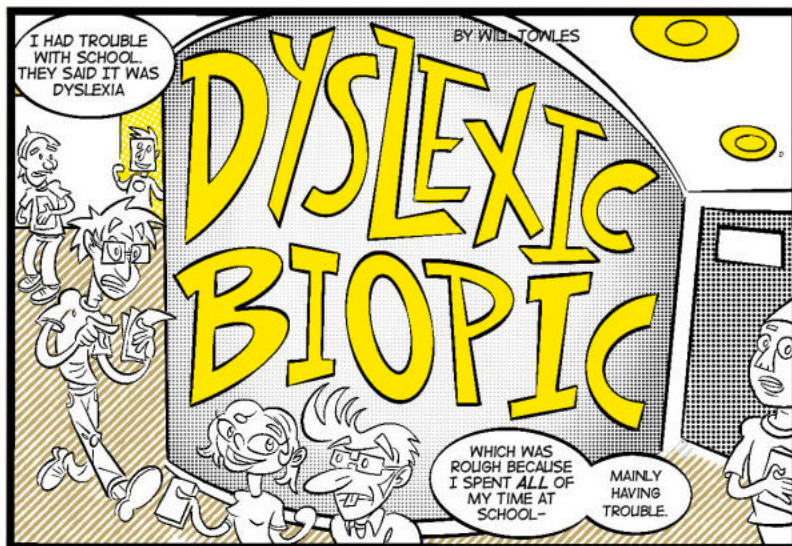
EMBRACE YOU IN
YOUR TRUEST FORM,

...OR PERISH.



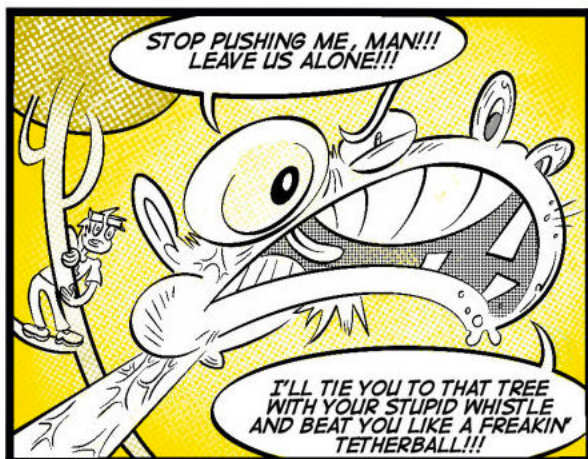


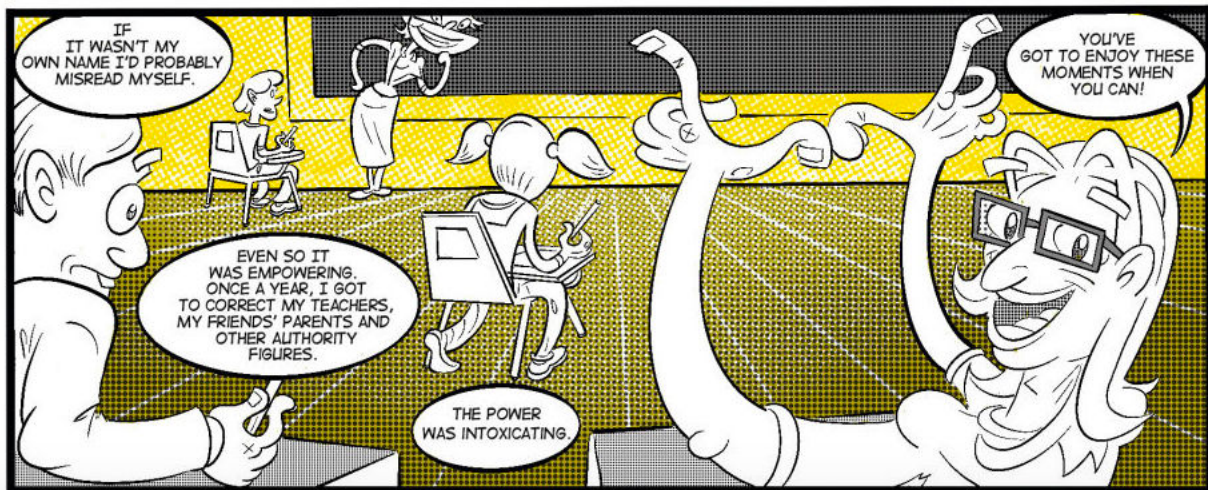
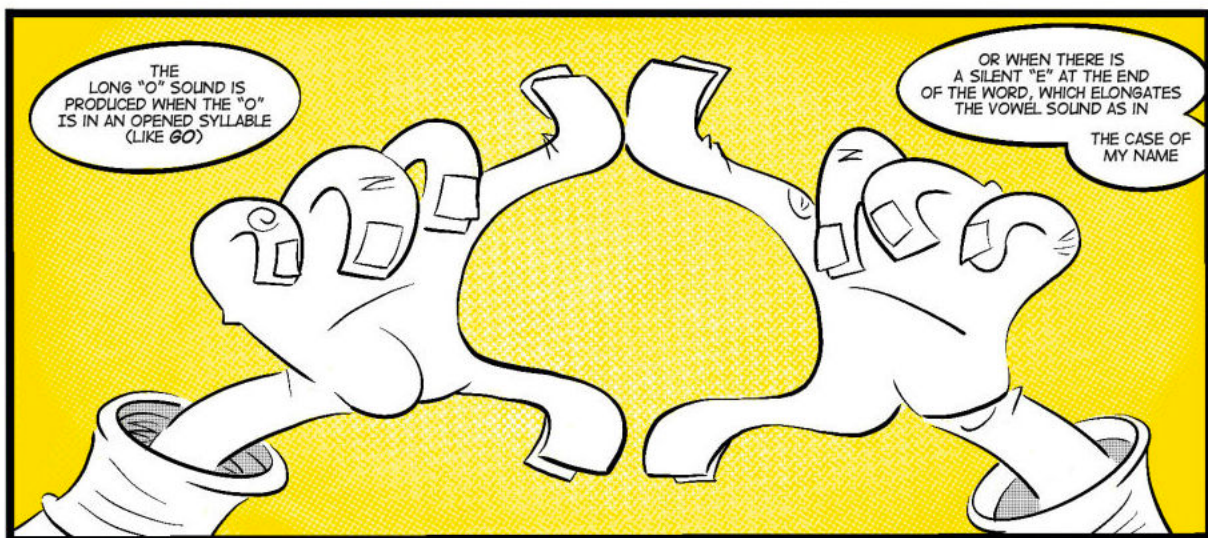
FIN

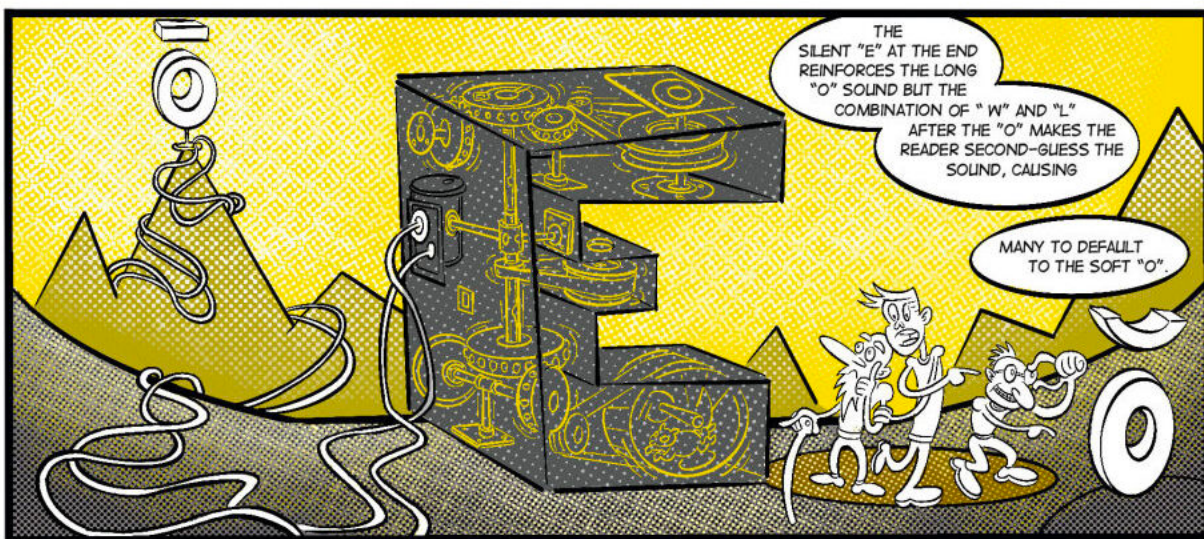


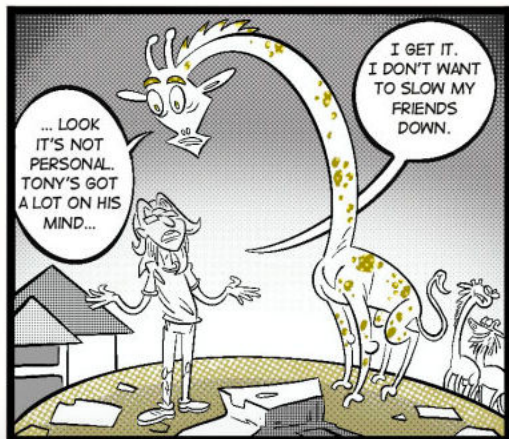
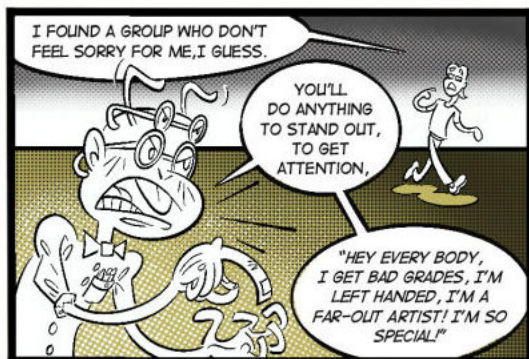
SECOND PERIOD, GYM.

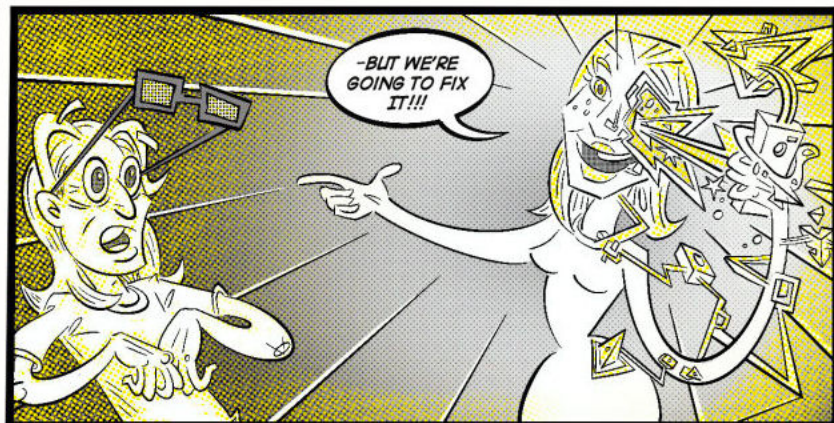
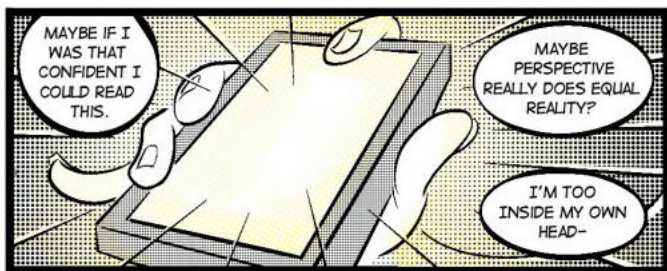
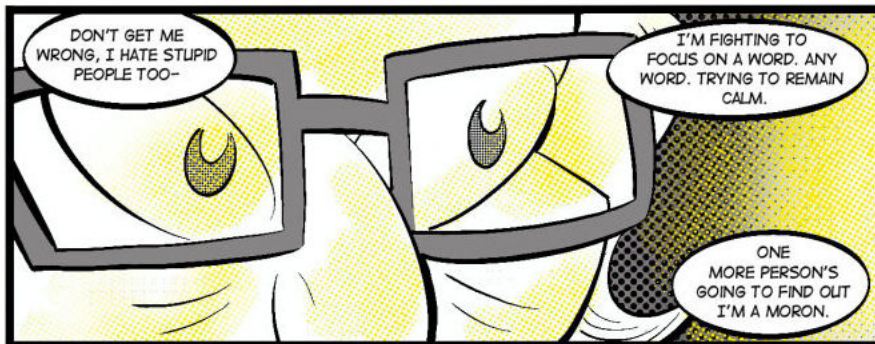


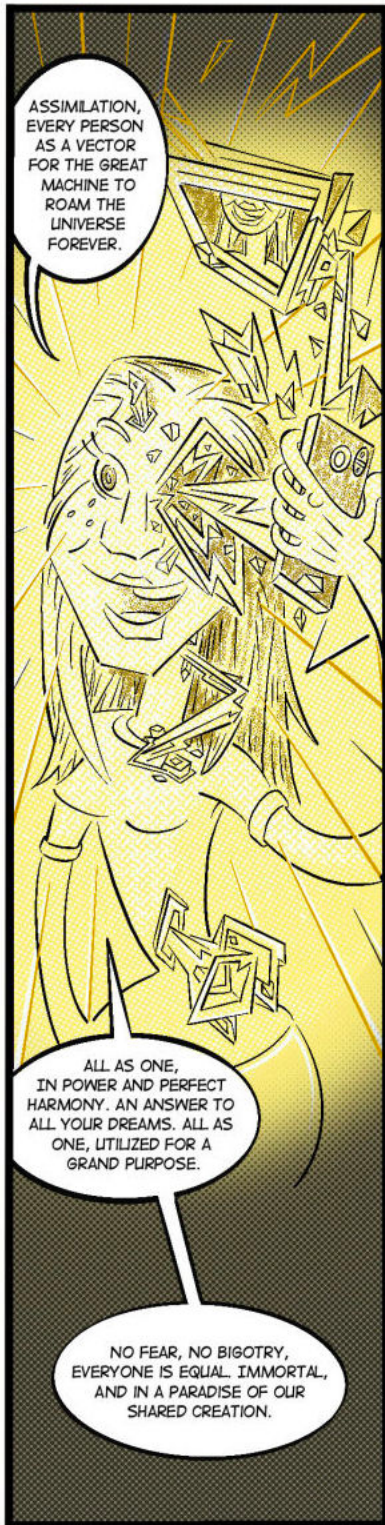


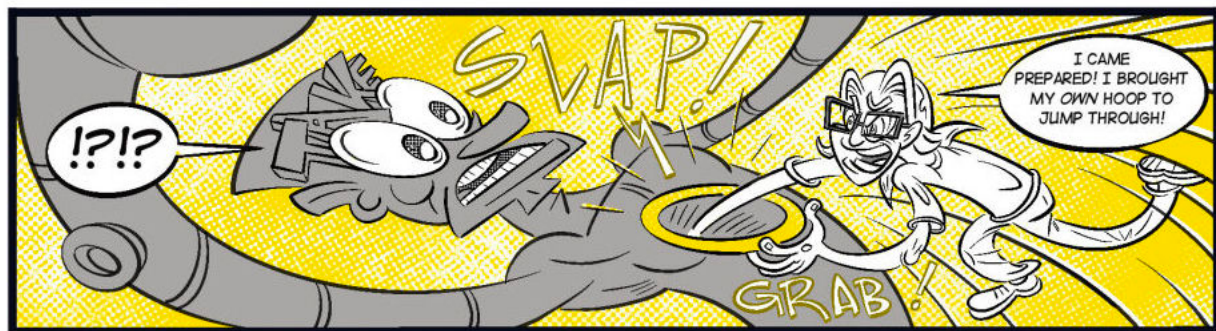
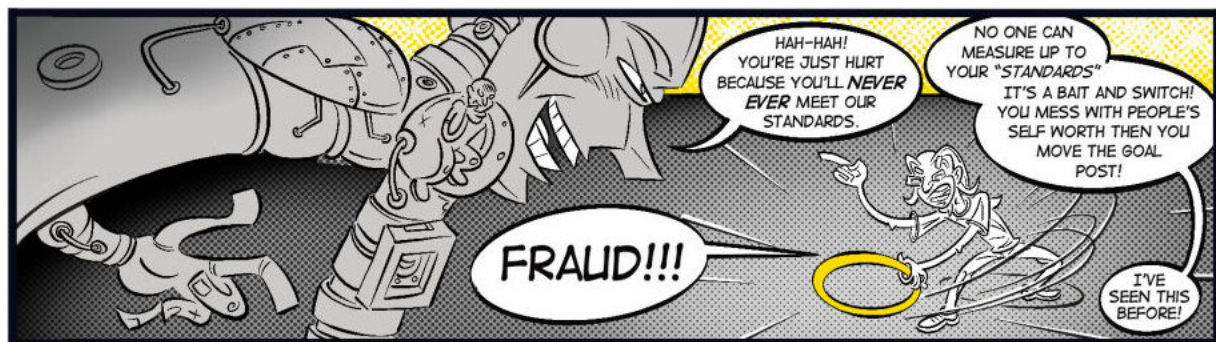
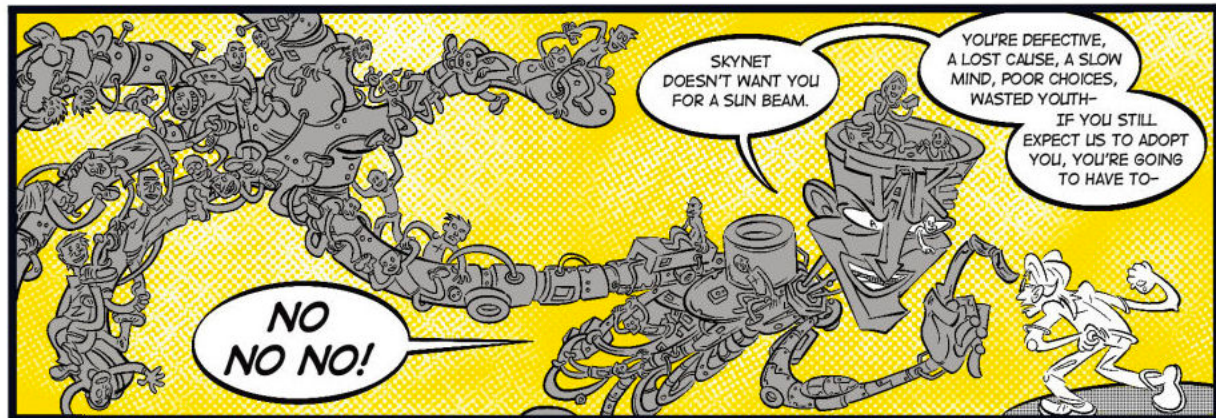






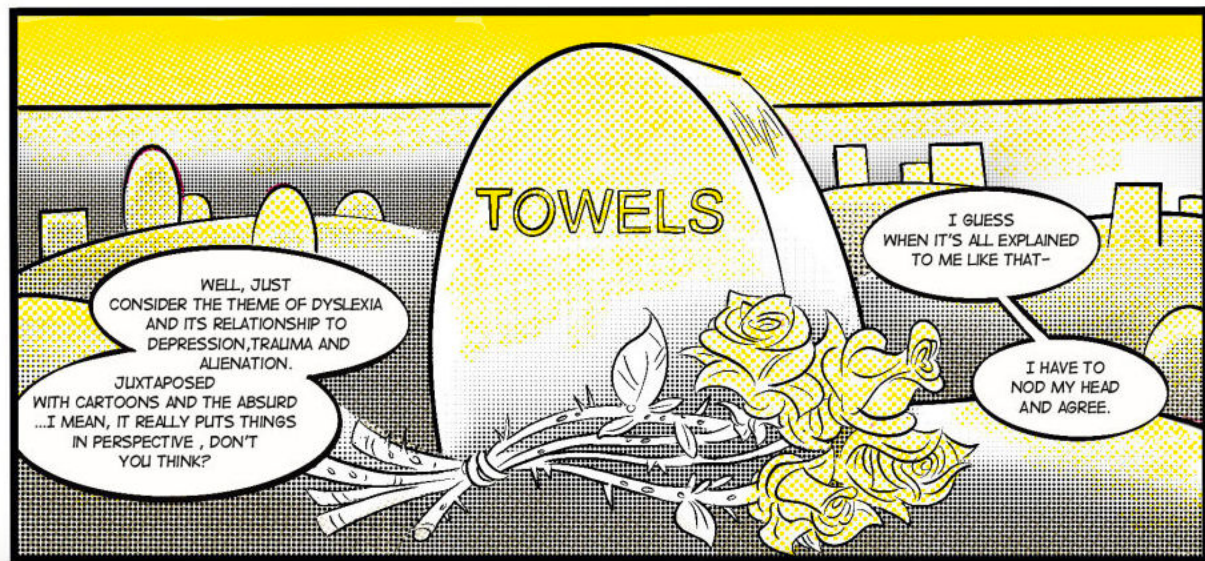






BANG!

BITING THE WIRES CAUSED THE MACHINE TO EXPLODE AND THE INVASION WAS DEFEATED.

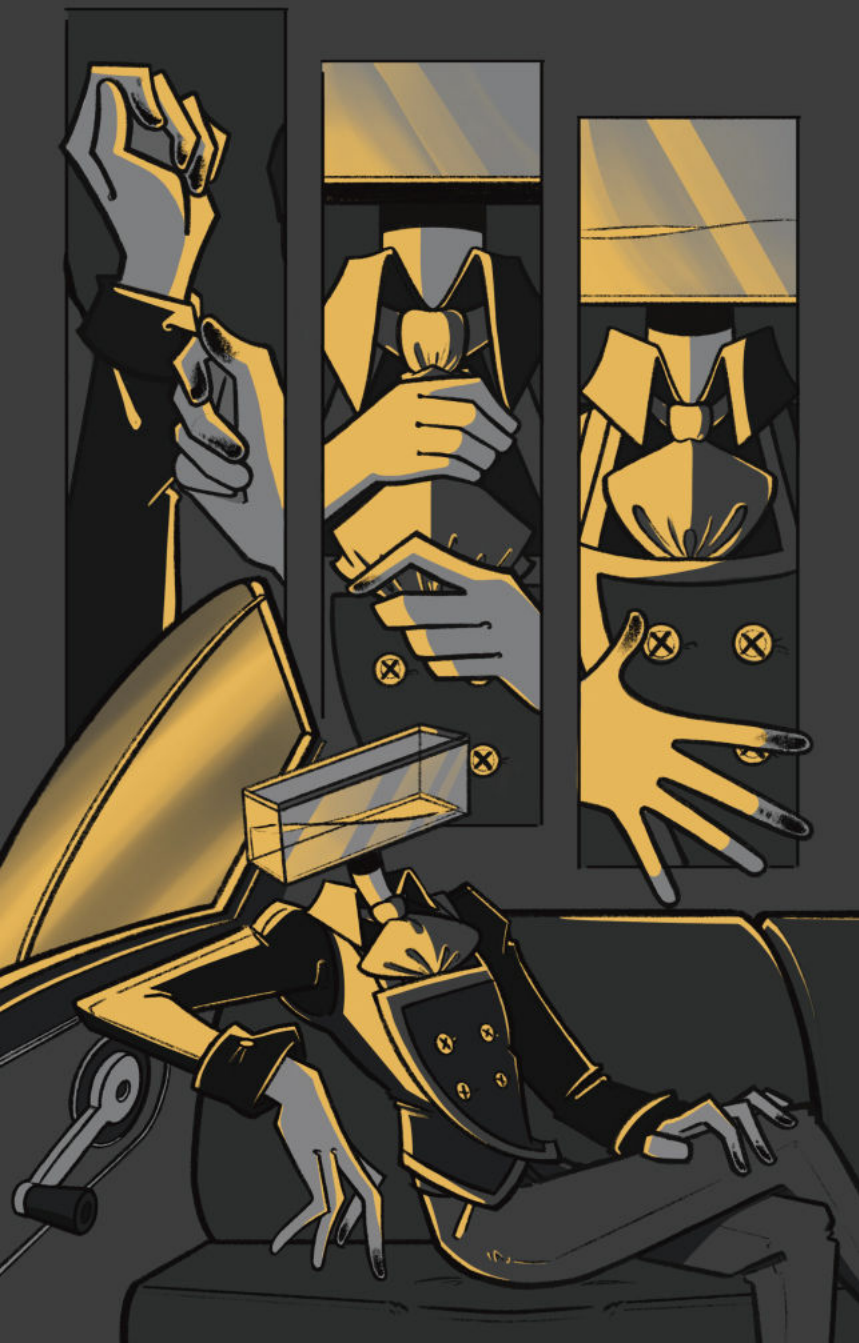


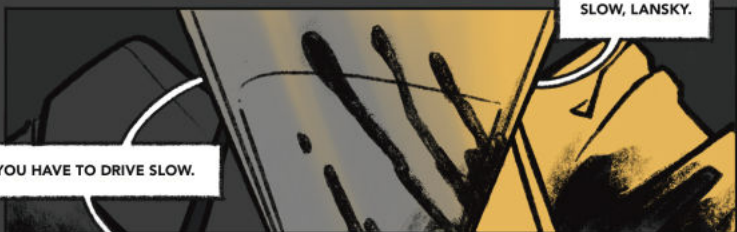
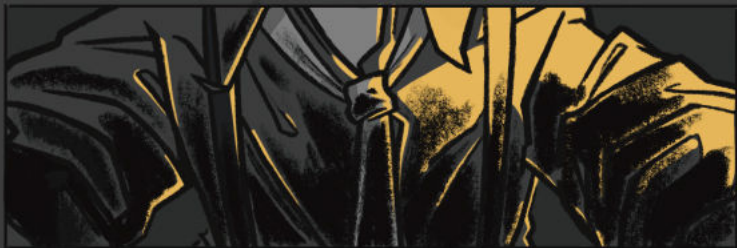
COUSINS

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY GILLIAN GURNEY









SLOW, LANSKY.

YOU HAVE TO DRIVE SLOW.



IT'S LIKE YOU WANT US TO GET CAUGHT.



PASS THE SIGN

Make our Homes and Streets SAFE

TAKE THE TURN.
SLOW. SMOOTH.

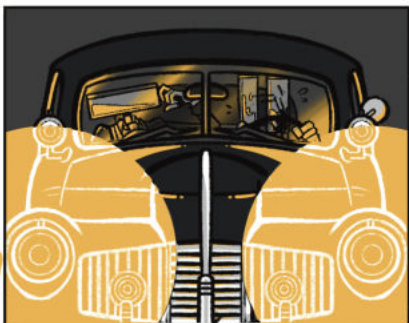
EASE OFF THE GAS.

THREE BLOCKS.
TWO BLOCKS.



STOP AND MAKE A LEFT HERE.

SCREECH



LEFT?!



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS,
IANNUZI. THERE'S NO
LEFT TO TAKE!





THEN EVERYONE
AND THEIR MOTHER
WOULD BE ABLE
TO SEE IT.



BETWEEN THE TREES, LANSKY,
AND IF YOU SCRATCH MY CAR -



- I CUT YOUR ARM.



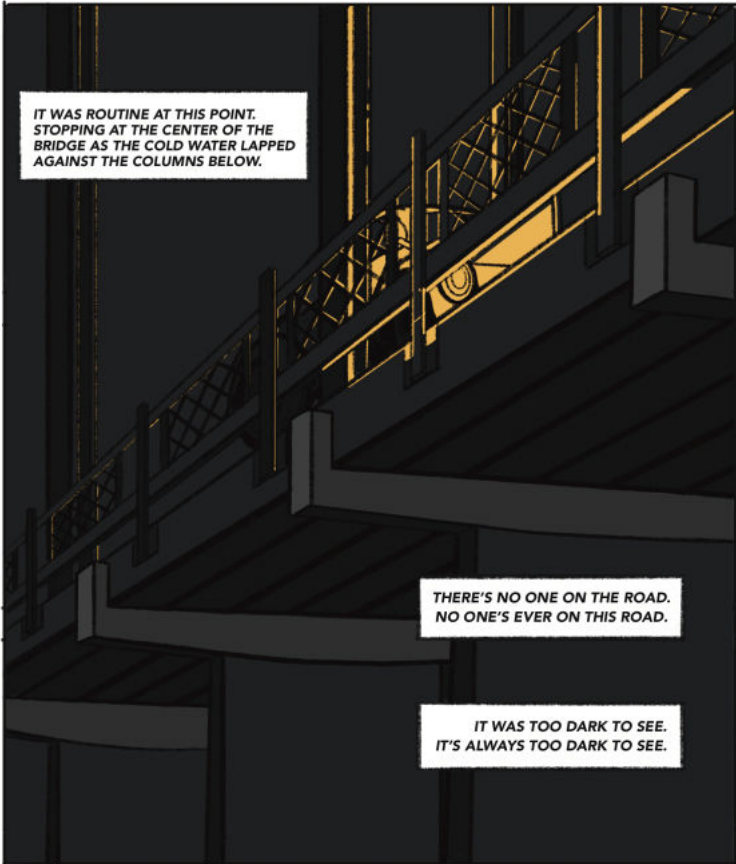
K A A

THUNK



SIGH

DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES
TO TRY AGAIN.



IT WAS ROUTINE AT THIS POINT.
STOPPING AT THE CENTER OF THE
BRIDGE AS THE COLD WATER LAPPED
AGAINST THE COLUMNS BELOW.

THERE'S NO ONE ON THE ROAD.
NO ONE'S EVER ON THIS ROAD.

IT WAS TOO DARK TO SEE.
IT'S ALWAYS TOO DARK TO SEE.



NO SHIT, LANSKY. THAT'S WHY
WE'RE DOING THIS NOW.



HOW FAR
DOWN IS
THE RIVER?

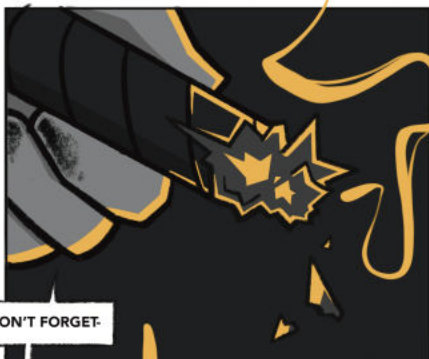


- OR I'LL THROW YOU
OVER TOO.



IT'S FAR ENOUGH TO
KNOCK THE LIFE
OUTTA YOUR BODY.

AND STOP WITH THE
DUMBASS QUESTIONS-



DON'T FORGET-



-A DRIVER IS
THE EASIEST
TO REPLACE.





