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2015

## Emanata: Comics Anthology at VCU presents Rebels (2015)

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Comics Anthology at VCU presents

# REBELS

volume two







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## ..... *FOREWORD* .....

A funny thing happened in the early planning stages of this anthology: The world started to fall apart. Right before our Fall semester started, a young man named Michael Brown was murdered by a police officer in broad daylight, and suddenly the city of Ferguson, Missouri was an atom bomb. A hate movement known as "GamerGate" drove a number of women who were brave enough to speak out against misogyny in the gaming industry from their homes under threat of rape and murder. The American justice system made it clear that a police badge is a license to kill without question or prosecution. And the Islamophobia and transphobia that plague this country continued to rack up a sickening body count. We realized that the world that we live in, in its current state, is a very scary, very broken place.

Maybe things have always been this bad, and it was only over the last year that we began to see the world for what it really is. Maybe becoming aware of these tragedies is part of growing up. It doesn't really matter. Either way, we realized that something has to change. And it was through this realization that it became clear to us what we wanted REBELS to be.

Let's be clear: to claim that REBELS was, from the brink of its inception, forged in fire from the hearts of burgeoning revolutionaries would be a disrespectful lie. This book is not a solution. Not every story you're about to read address world issues or provides sage-like wisdom on the nature of how to fix things.



## ..... FOREWORD .....

What REBELS does do is demand change. Every single story we received this year presented us with characters that see something in their world (or maybe even in themselves) that isn't right, something that needs to be fixed or changed. REBELS is about that fight. It's about action. It's about challenging the norm and realizing that sometimes, if you don't make an effort to create that change, nobody will.

Maybe we're blowing smoke. Maybe we're naïve to believe that this book might be the wake-up call one person ends up needing. But if we don't keep that faith, what's the point? Each and every person involved in this book poured their heart and soul into it, and when you get that many young creative minds hungry for change in one place, sometimes it can start a fire. Everybody in this book feels that they can communicate best through the medium of comics. And comics can be a VERY powerful thing.

So if you're waiting for a sign, this is it. Get up. Start doing. Start creating. Take that stand. Take action, because god, we need you. We need you now more than ever. This world needs change and we need your help to make it happen, even if it's just with a little comic you make alone in your room tonight. We're here and we're waiting for you. So what are you waiting for?

(But read the book first)

- The Editors

# My Final Performance



As I watched my peers  
take those values to heart-



I took to a different  
set of values.



Be  
kind



of course none  
of my peers would  
understand-













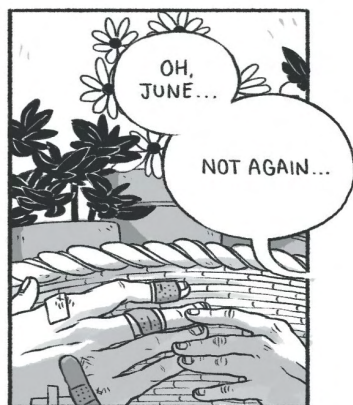
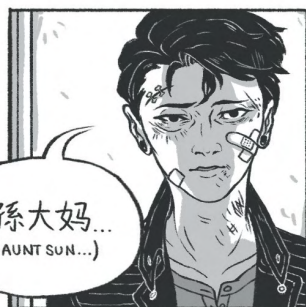
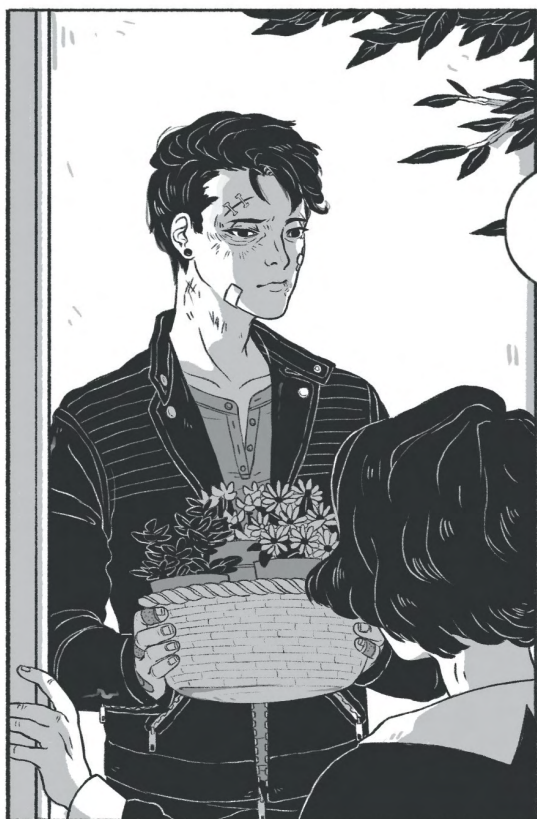












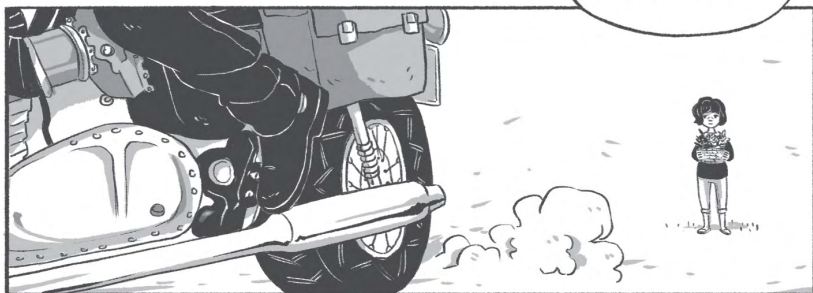
REMEMBER TO WATER  
THEM TWICE A WEEK OR  
THEY'LL WILT...CALL  
THE SHOP IF YOU HAVE  
ANY QUESTIONS, OKAY?



!



留意安全。  
(BE SAFE.)

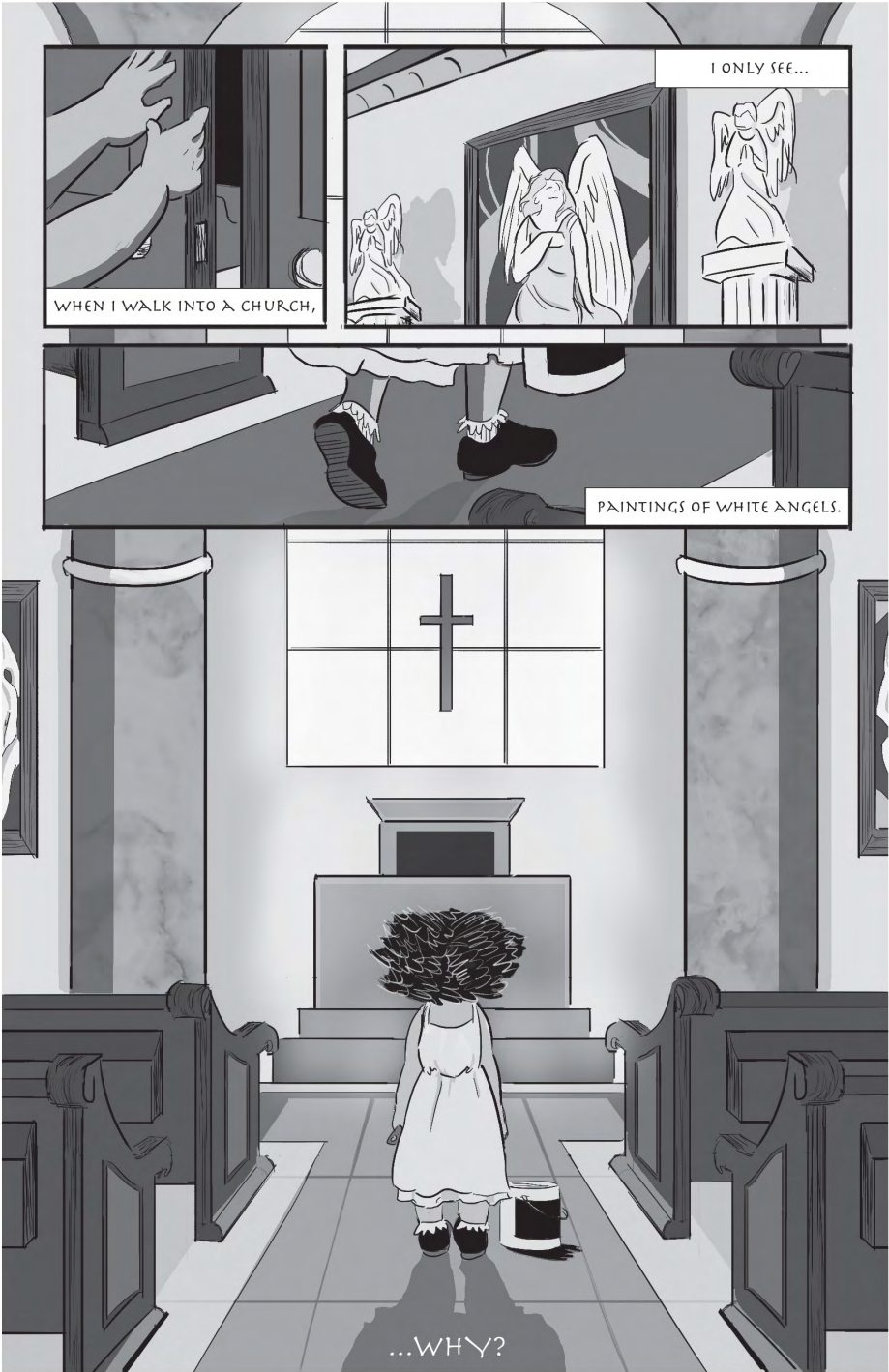


I'VE NEVER HAD A GOOD HANDLE ON LOVE.



NOT WITH  
PEOPLE,  
ANYWAY.

Black Angel





HOW  
COME  
YOU



FORGET  
THE  
BLACKS



IF GOD

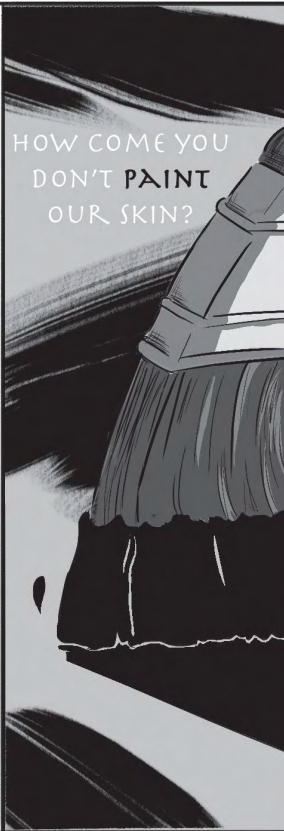


WANTS GOOD BLACKS

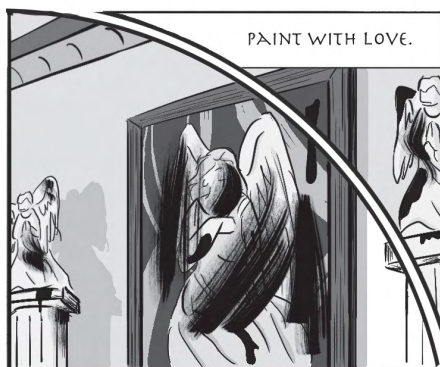
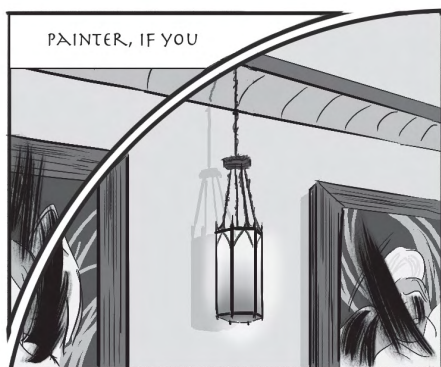


WITH THEM...

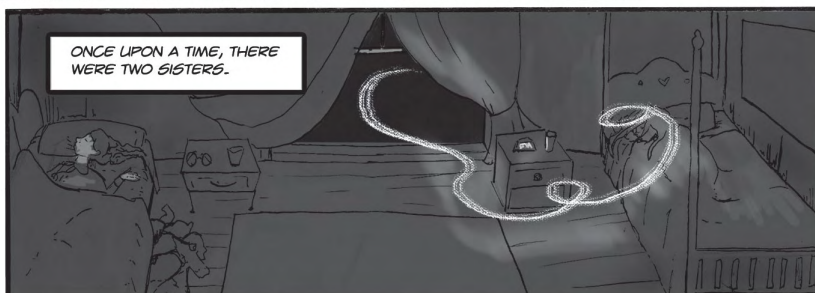
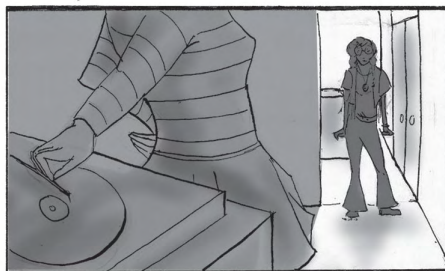
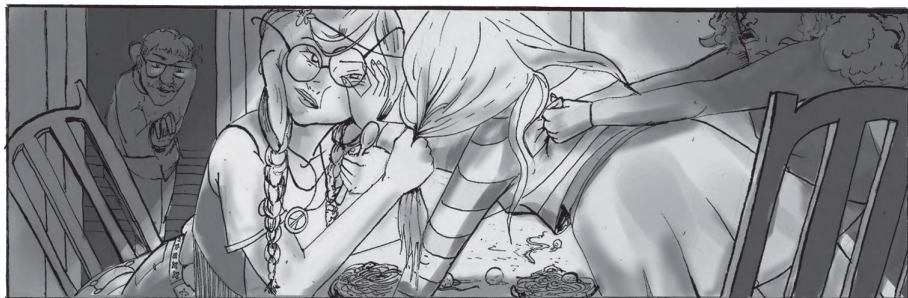
HOW COME YOU  
DON'T **PAINT**  
OUR SKIN?

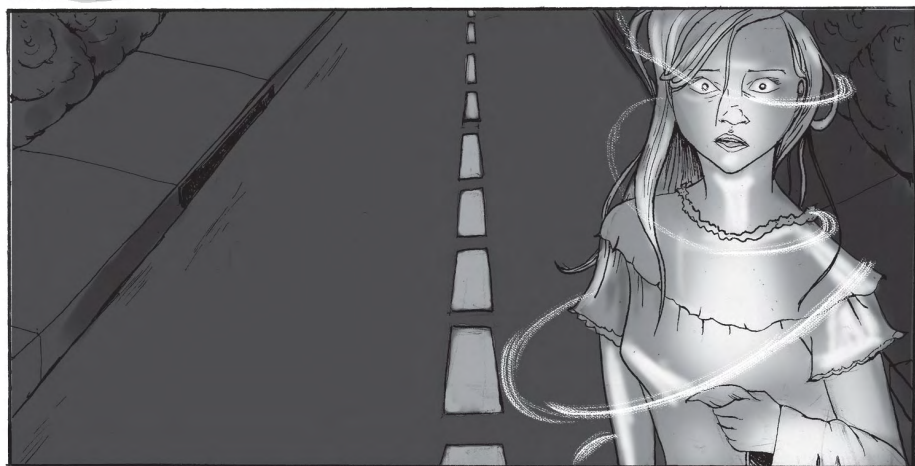
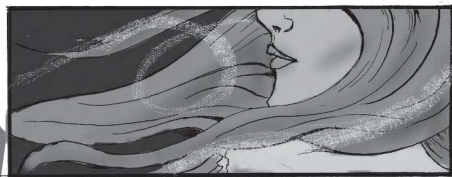


IF YOU PUT  
**LOVE**  
IN YOUR ART...







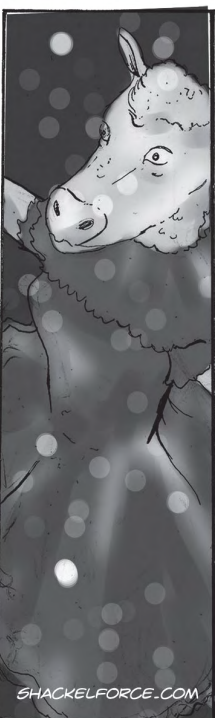


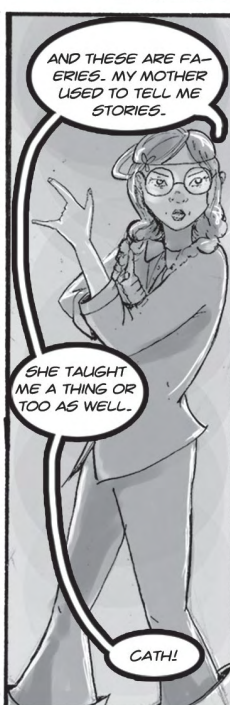












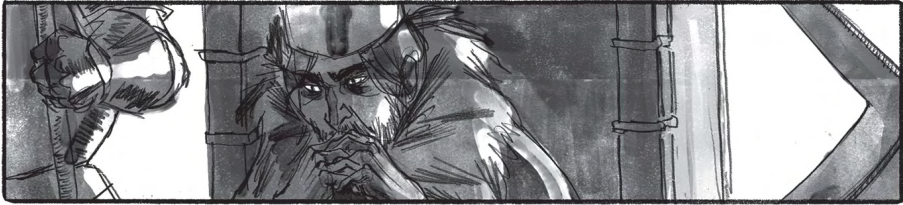




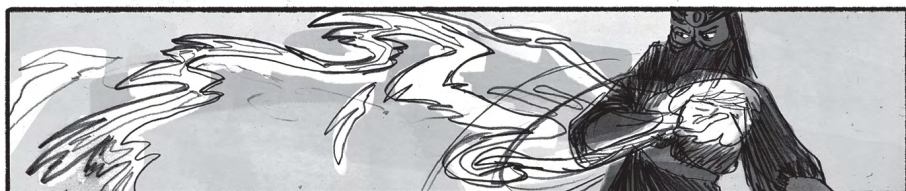
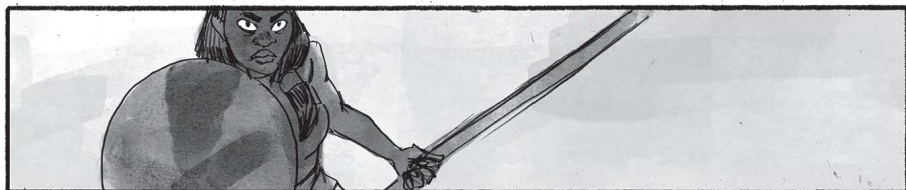




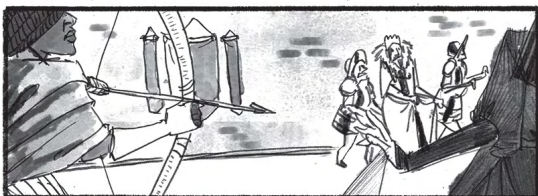
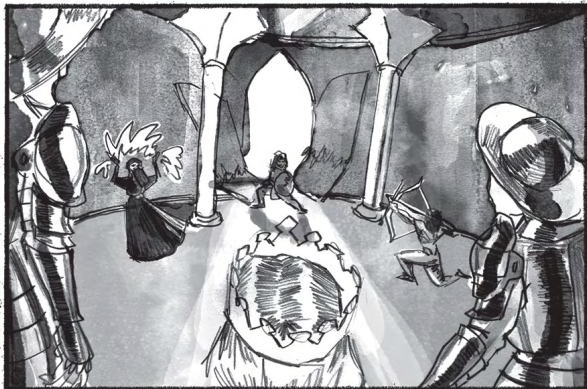








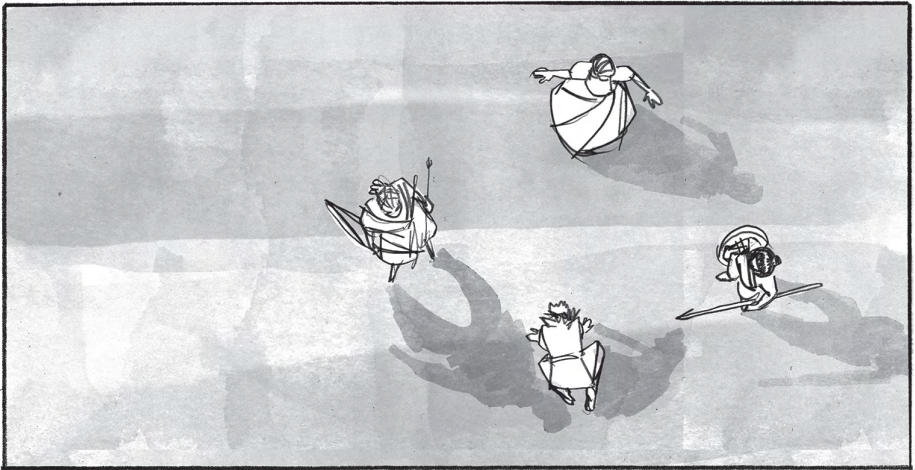
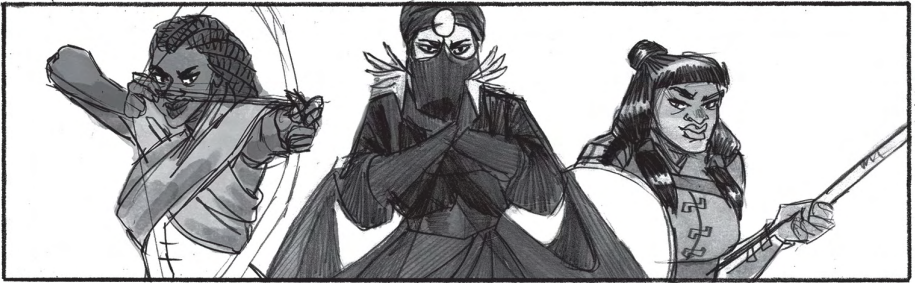
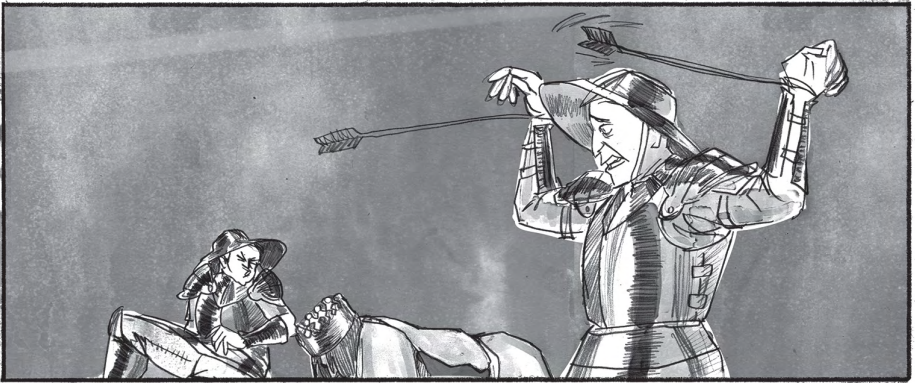




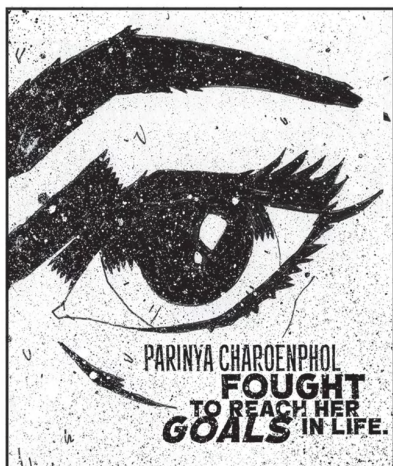




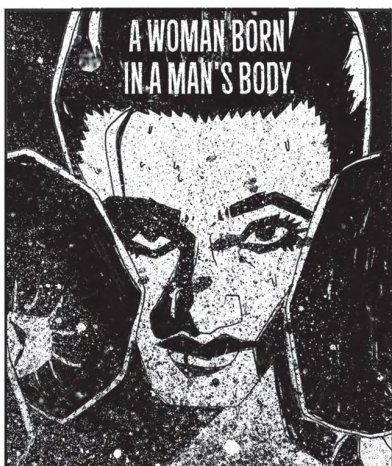
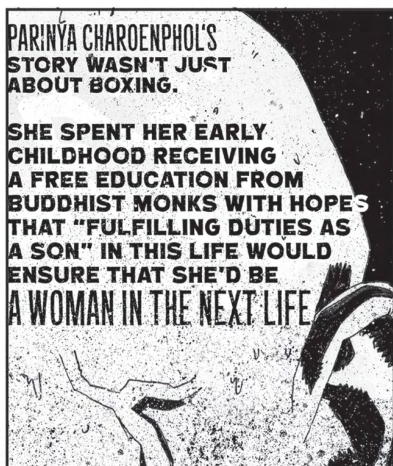
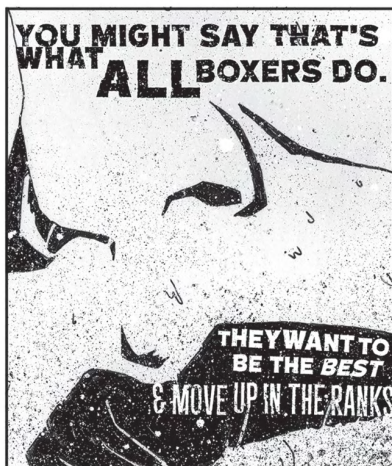




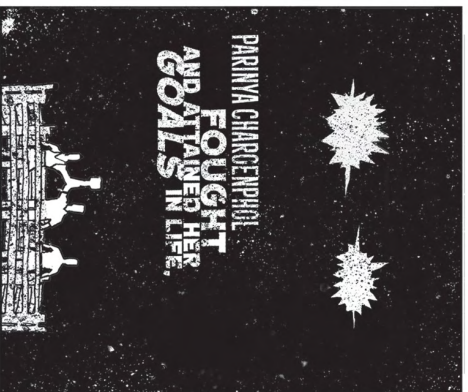




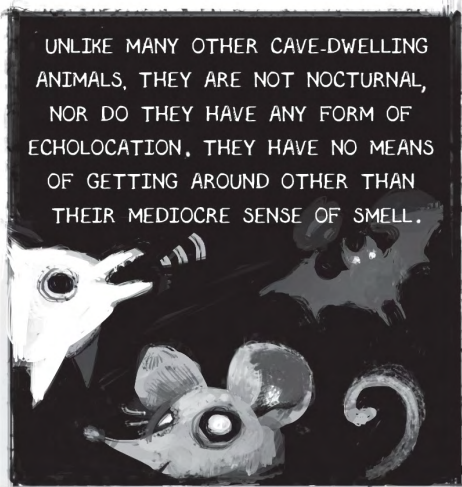
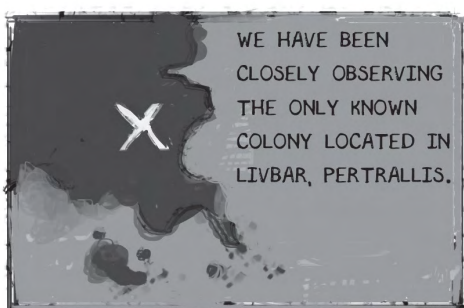
BY BIZHAN KHODABANDEH







DISCLAIMER: THIS SHORT COMIC IS BASED ON PARINYA CHAROENPHOL'S (NONG TOOM) LIFE AND NOT A DIRECT TRANSLATION OF IT. WHAT YOU JUST READ IS A SMALL PART OF HER STORY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WATCH THE FILM BASED ON HER LIFE, "BEAUTIFUL BOXER," AS WELL AS LOOK UP SOME OF HER FIGHTS/INTERVIEWS ONLINE.



OF COURSE THIS LEADS TO SOME... COLLISIONS.  
WE ARE STILL UNSURE HOW THEY LIVE SO LONG.



ONCE THEIR FECES HAVE BUILT UP ON THE WALLS, THE INDIVIDUAL  
SUBCOLONIES MIGRATE DEEPER INTO THE CAVES.



THEY FEED ON THE GEMSTONES AND MINERALS OF THE WALLS SO THEY MUST  
MIGRATE DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE CAVE TO KEEP THEIR SUPPLIES FRESH.



BUT LOOK! THIS COLONY HAS  
REACHED THE END OF THE CAVE!  
THE STENCH IS SO STRONG HERE  
THAT WE MUST WEAR MASKS.



HOW ARE OUR LITTLE ONES FARING?



THEIR ONLY WAY OF GETTING  
AROUND IS BLOCKADED BY  
THE STENCH.

THEIR LONG LEGS ARE  
BEST SUITED FOR...

IT STINKS!

IT  
STINKS

OH MY GOD, THIS IS  
UNPRECEDENTED!!

S!!

THEY ARE CAPABLE OF SPEECH!!!  
VIEWERS THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE  
MOMENT IN HISTORY!!

IT STINKS IT STINKS  
IT STINKS IT STINKS  
IT STINKS IT STINKS

HOW IS THIS IS HAPPENING?  
THIS IS UNEDITED FOOTAGE!

IT STINKS IT STINKS IT STINKS  
IT STINKS IT STINKS IT STINKS  
IT STINKS IT STINKS IT STINKS

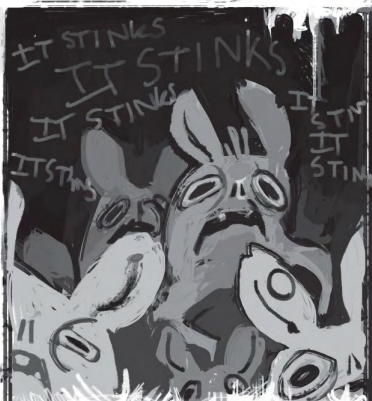


ONE HAS BEGUN  
STRIDING TO THE  
OPENING OF THE CAVE!!



THE REST  
ARE FOLLOWING  
WITH VARYING  
SUCCESS!!

IT STINKS



MY GOD! THE ENTIRE COLONY  
IS JOINING IN, WE NEED  
BACKUP CAMERAS STAT!!





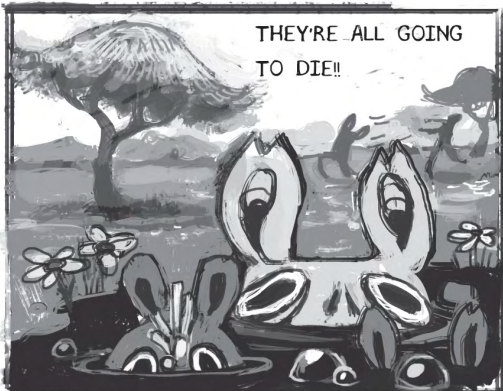
THEY SEEM TO HAVE GREAT TROUBLE RECOGNIZING THE NEW SMELLS.



WAIT, WHAT ARE THEY DOING??



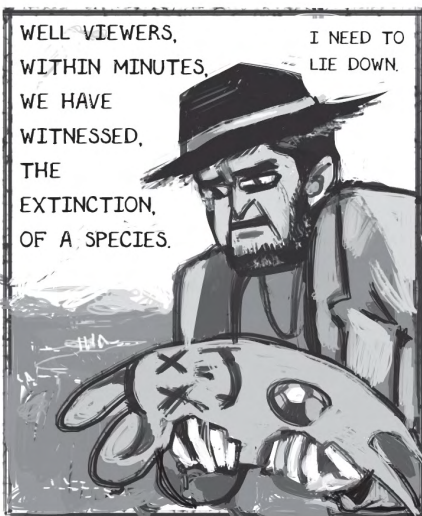
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!!



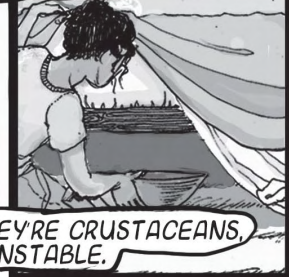
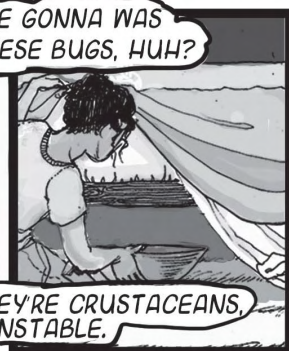
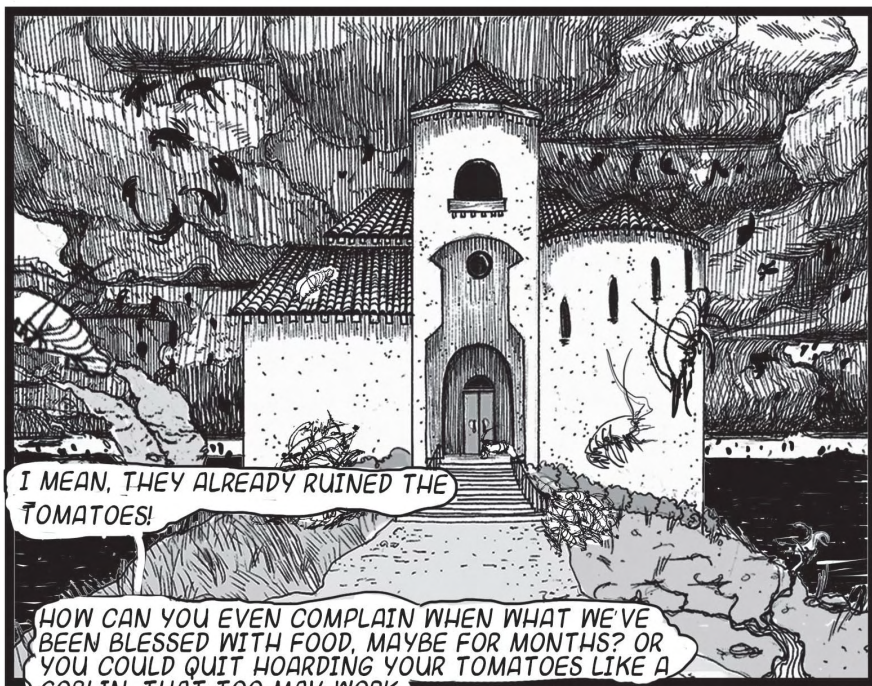
SOMEONE, ANYONE! PLEASE!

WELL VIEWERS,  
WITHIN MINUTES,  
WE HAVE  
WITNESSED,  
THE  
EXTINCTION,  
OF A SPECIES.

I NEED TO  
LIE DOWN.



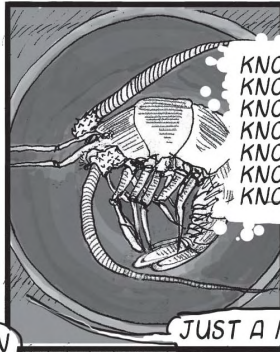








HEY, BUDDY.



KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK



YOU GOTTA COME  
HELP ME WITH  
SOMETHING.

BUT IT'S SATURDAY!

SO? IT RAINED  
LOBSTERS  
LAST NIGHT

JUST A MINUTE!



SO, WHAT AM I EVEN  
DOING TODAY?

EVEN THE LAZY?



DELIVERING LOBSTERS TO THE TOWNS  
FOLK WHO CAN'T GET OUT, FOR WHAT  
EVER REASON. EVEN IF THEY'RE JUST  
LAZY.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS KNOW SO YOU  
JUST HAVE TO ASSUME THEY TELL  
THE TRUTH.



WHY, THOUGH?  
WHY DO WE EVEN  
HAVE TO DONATE  
THEM? EVEN IF  
THEY'RE ALIVE?  
ISN'T THAT MEAN?

THEY'RE  
LOBSTERS.  
NOT DOGS.  
WHO  
CARES?

I KINDA LIKE 'EM.



COULDN'T WE THROW 'EM IN  
THE WATER?

THE WATER'S TOO WARM  
HERE. WE'D JUST KILL THEM  
THROUGH SHOCK. IT'S CRUEL,  
REALLY..



THEY'RE ALL THERE.  
LEMME KNOW IF  
THEY'RE TOO HEAVY.

AND WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO,  
BE THE MAYOR?

I'M GONNA  
HELP CLEAN  
UP THE BEACH.



OH, BY THE WAY,

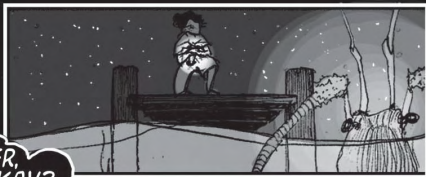
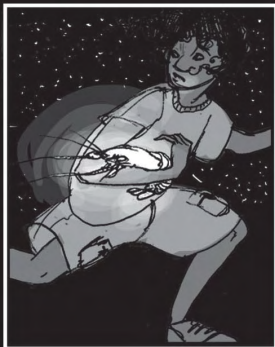
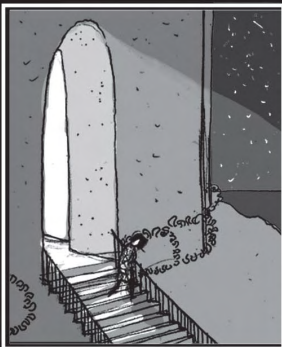
LIFT WITH OUR  
KNEES, NOT WITH  
YOUR BACK.



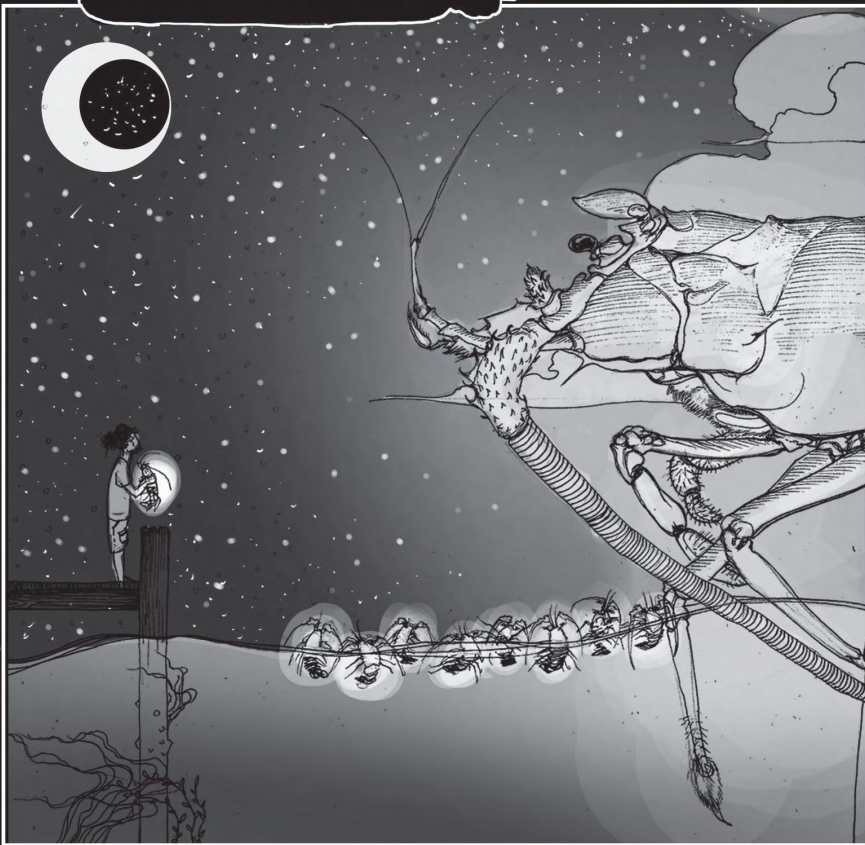






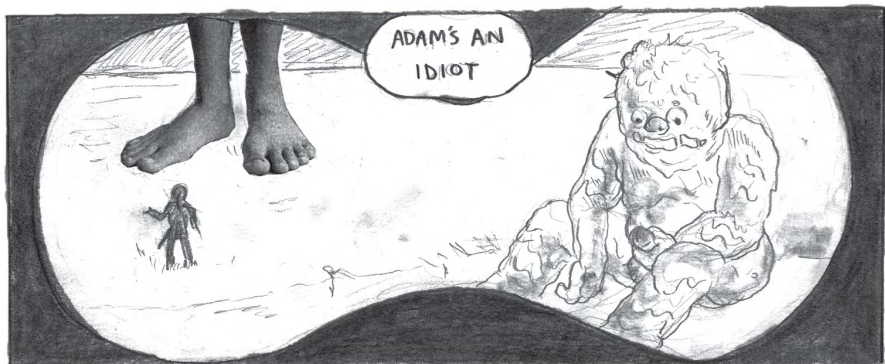
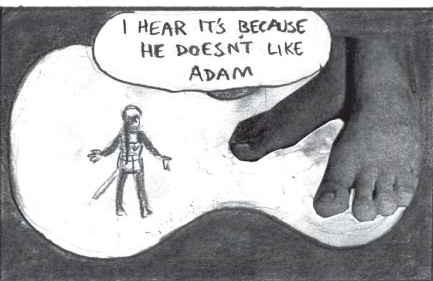
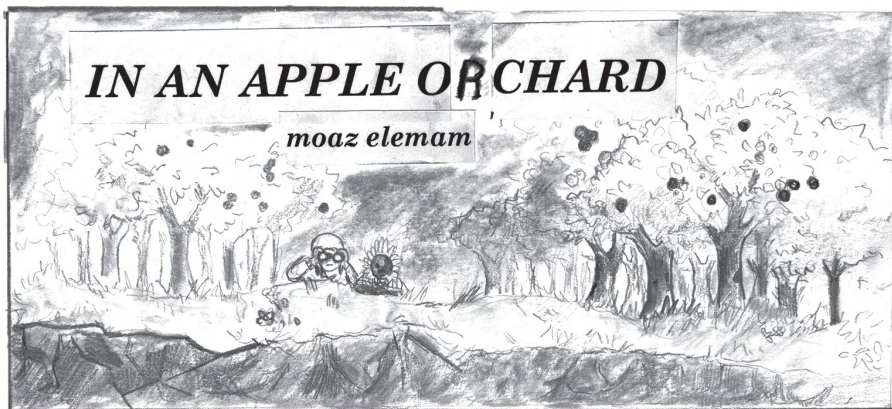


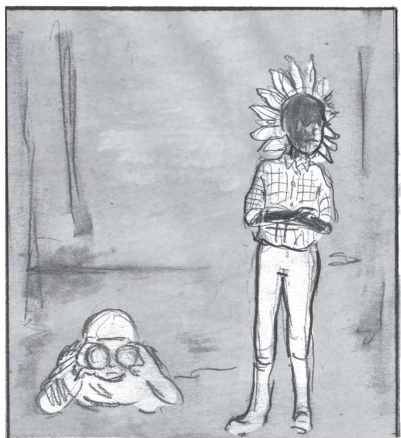
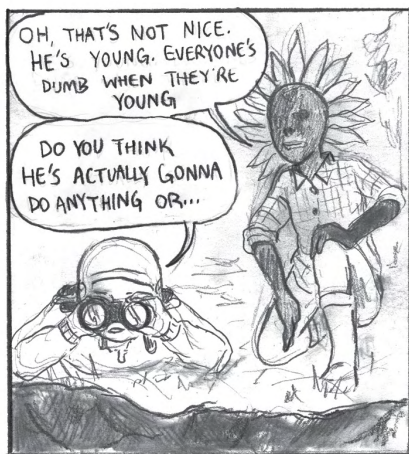
I KNOW IT'S HOT IN THIS WATER,  
BUT...ADJUST HOW YOU CAN, OKAY?



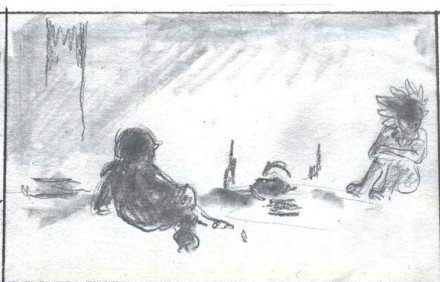
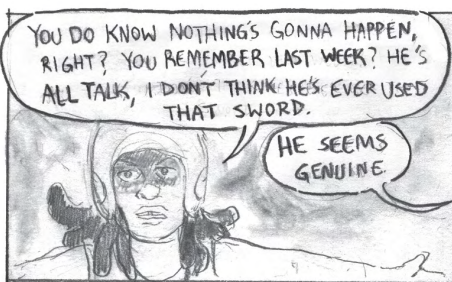


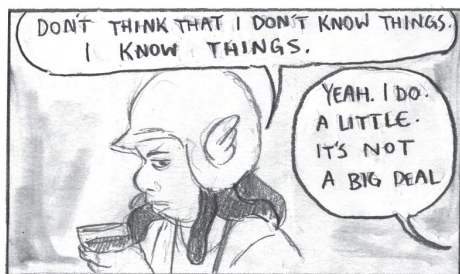
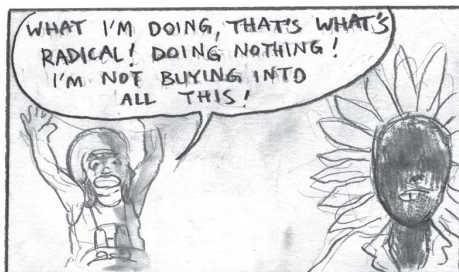




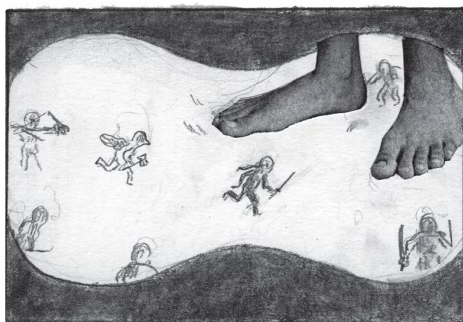
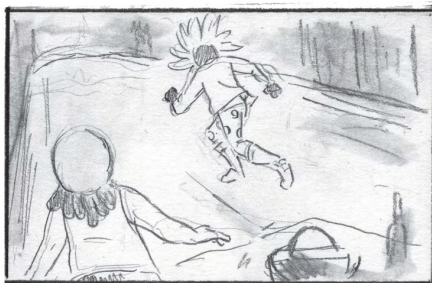
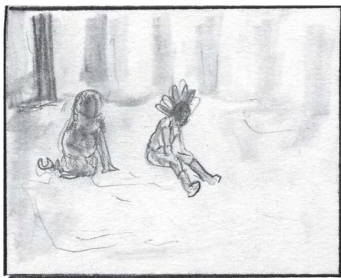




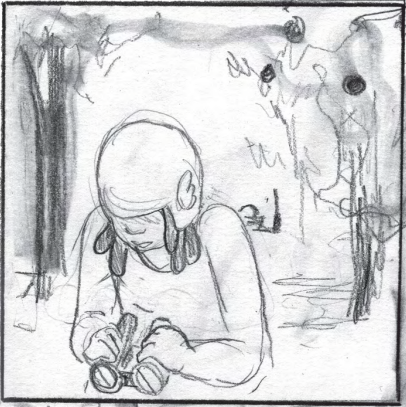




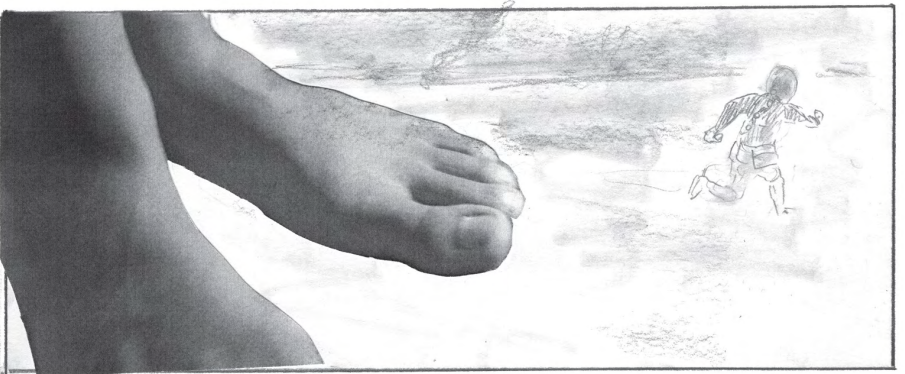
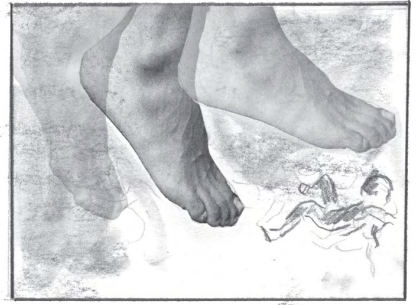
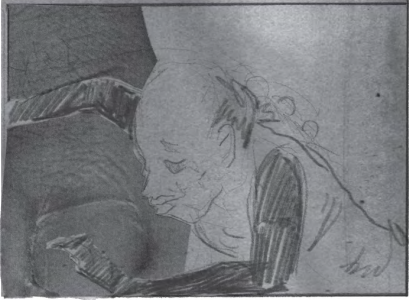
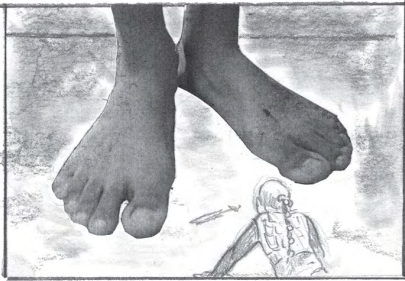


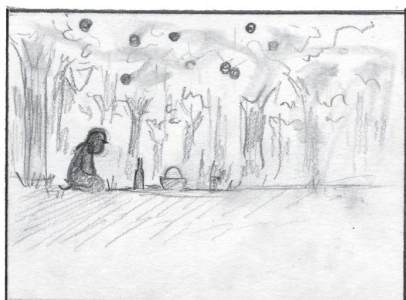
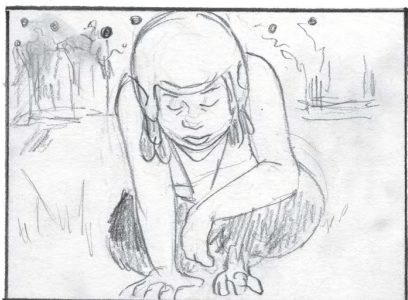
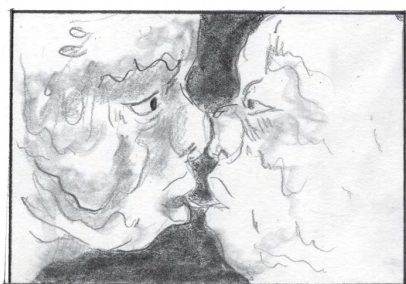
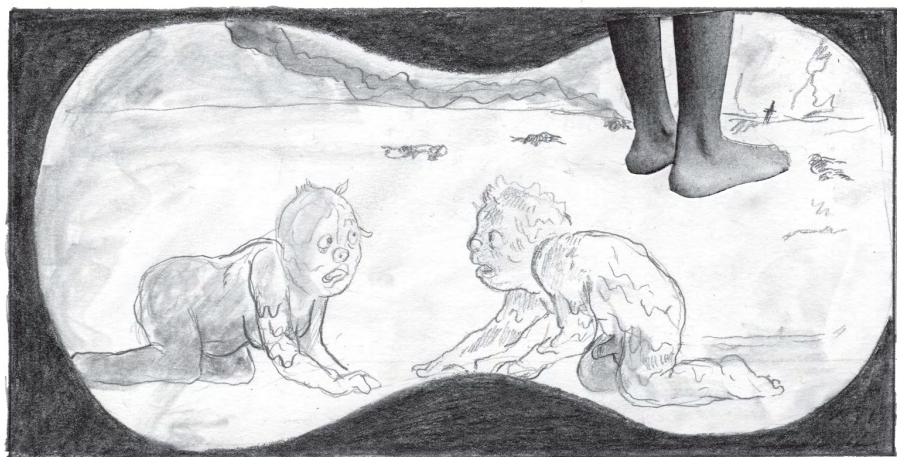
































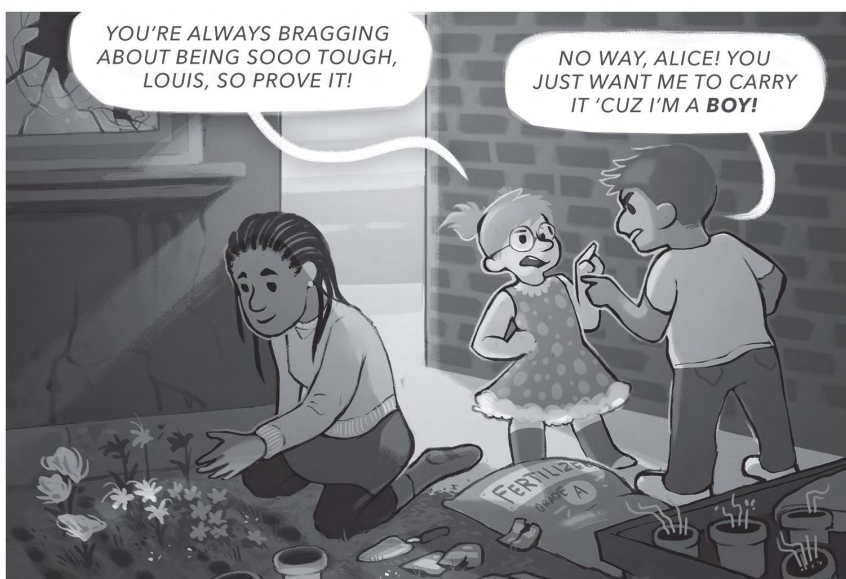
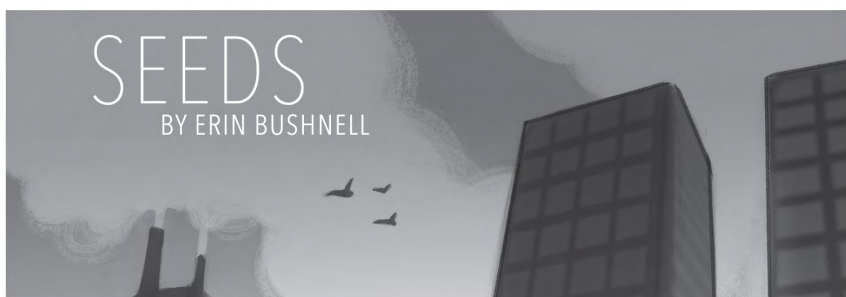




## Seeds

# SEEDS

BY ERIN BUSHNELL

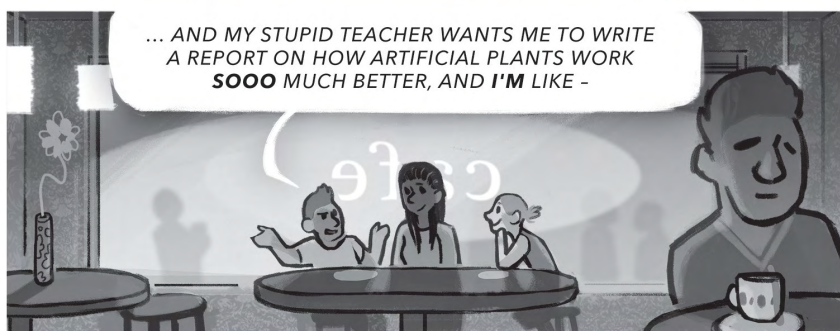


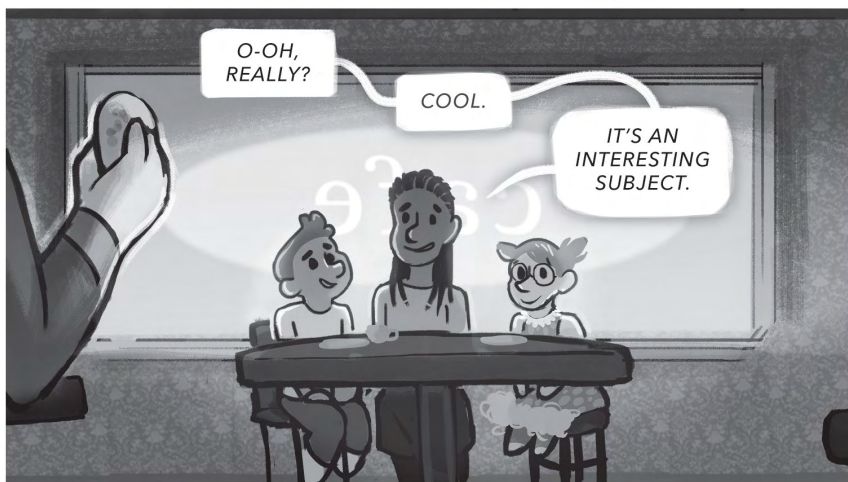
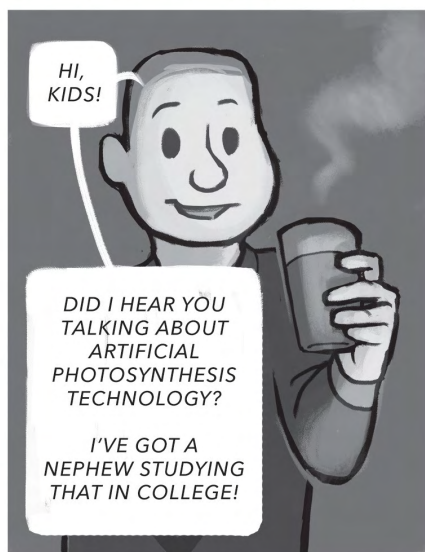














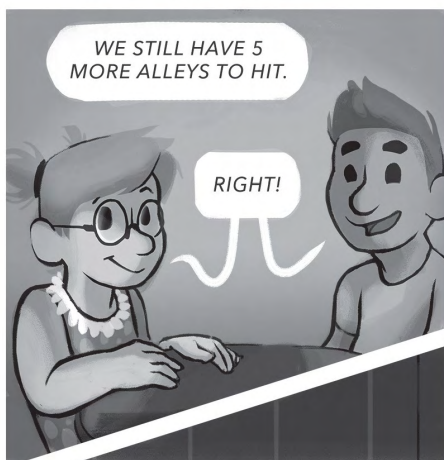


YEP, SOME FOOL'S BEEN RUNNING ALL OVER THE CITY, PLANTIN' FLOWERS, TREES, YOU NAME IT, IN BACK ALLEYS AND SUCH.



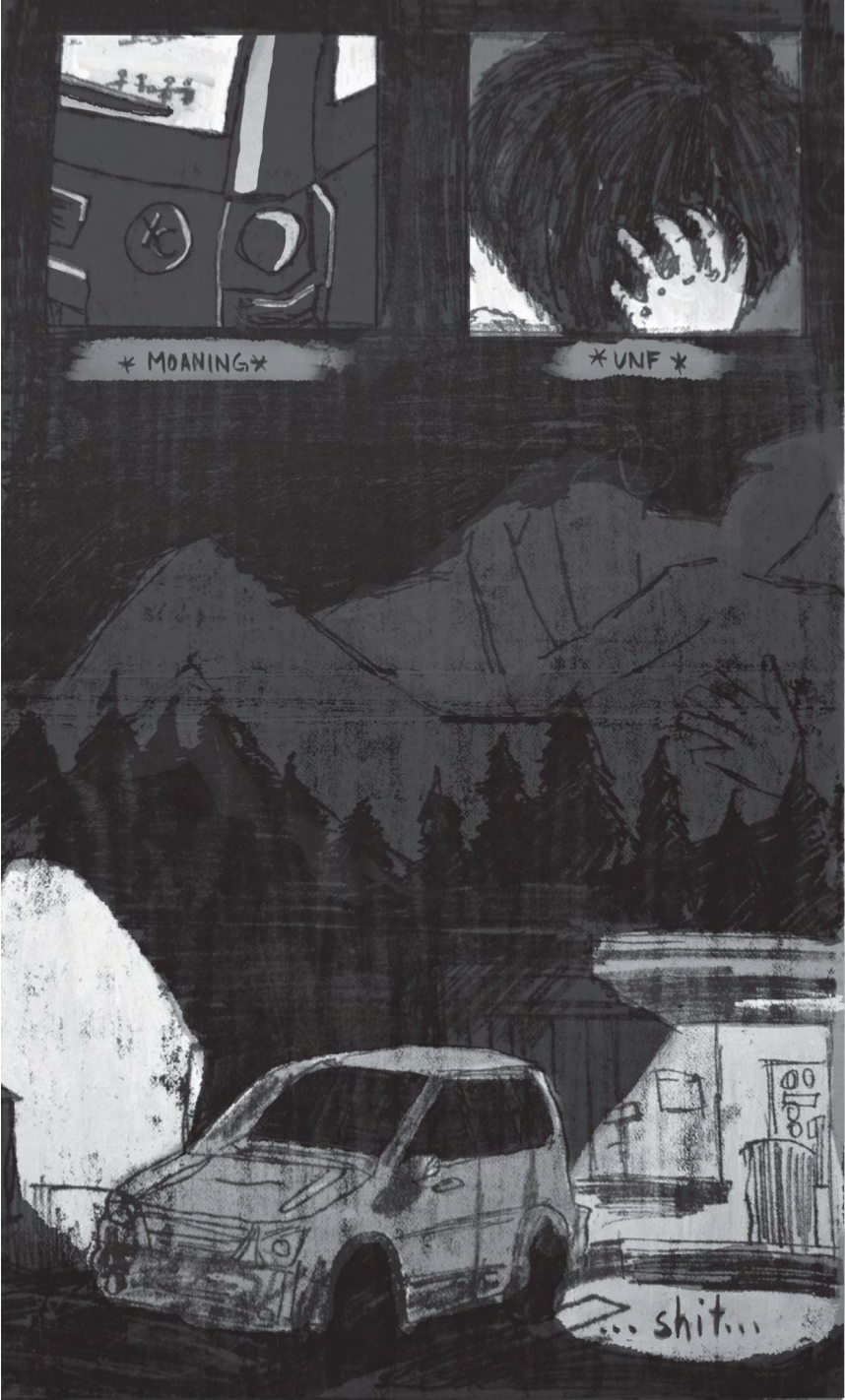














NOT HURTING YOU, AM I?

YOU'RE FIN  
ST REMEMBERED  
ME HOMEWORK  
HAVE TO DO

DO YOU WANNA KEEP GOING?

LIE. I'M MISSING A  
DATE. BUT HE'S SO  
NICE... I CAN'T  
BREAK HIS HEART  
NOT TONIGHT.

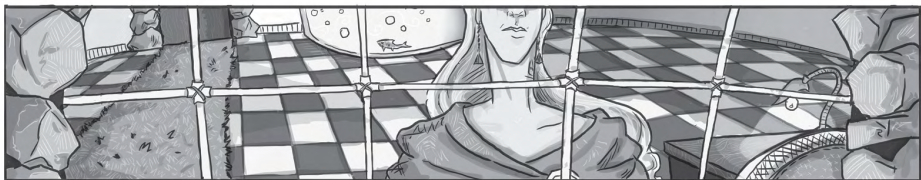
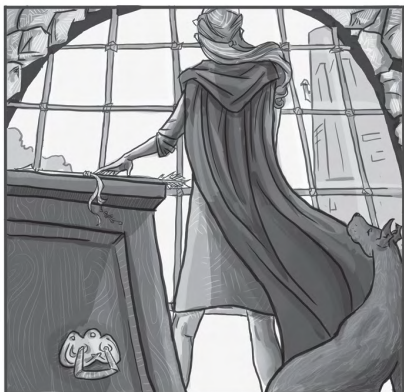
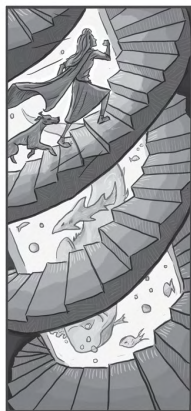
YEAH, IF YOU DO













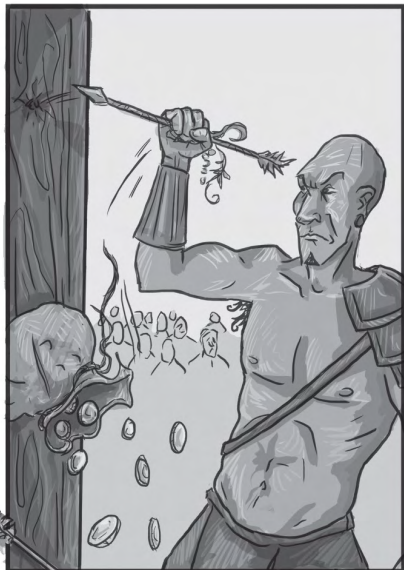




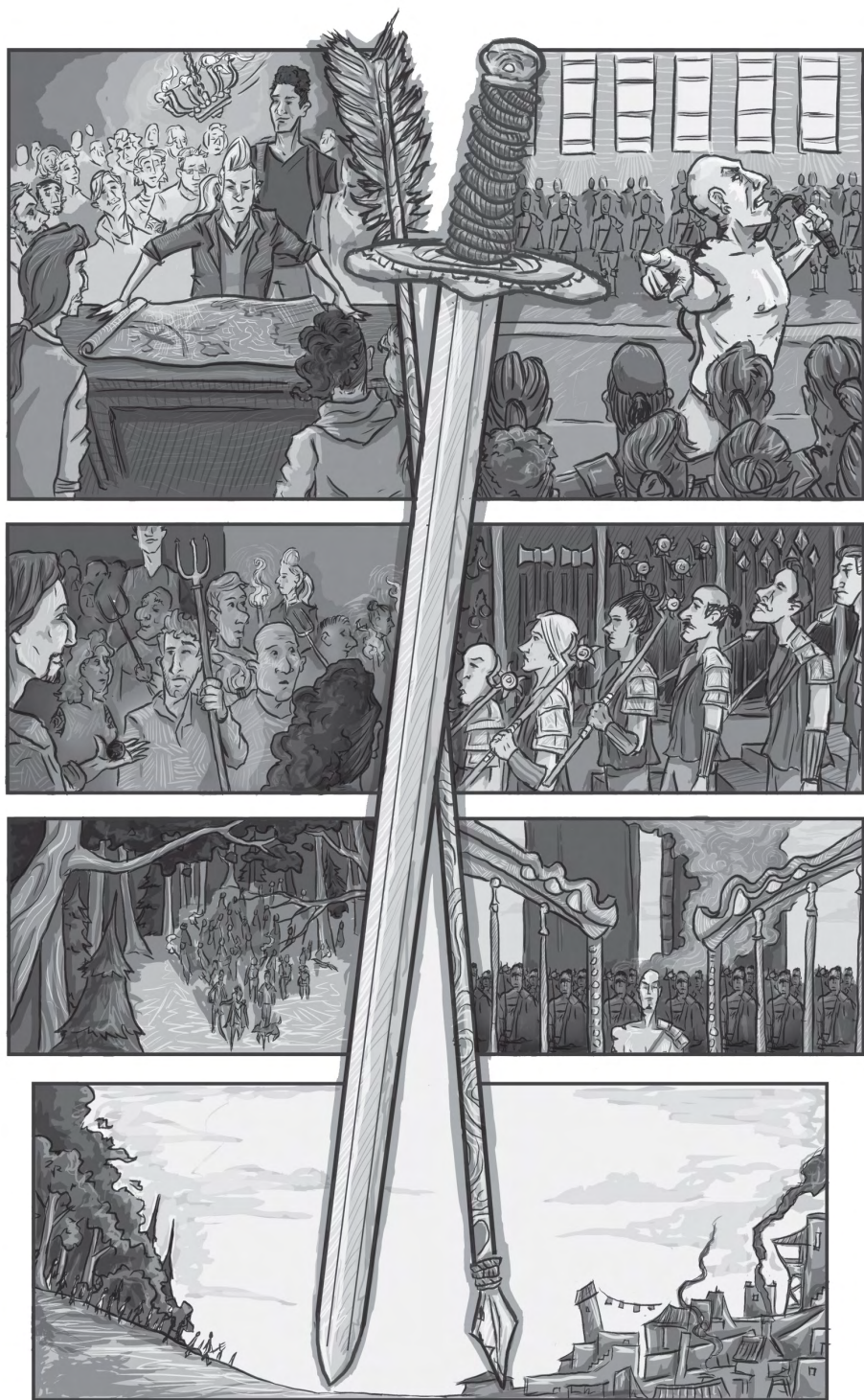










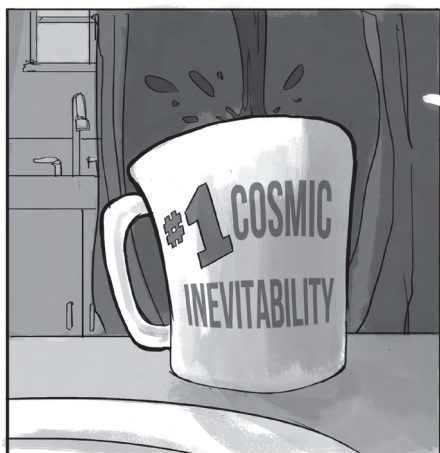






to be continued...

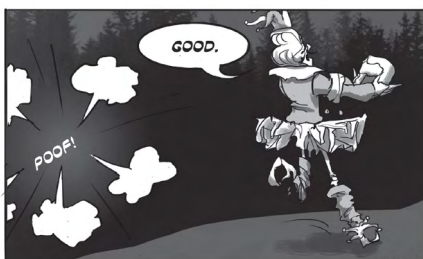




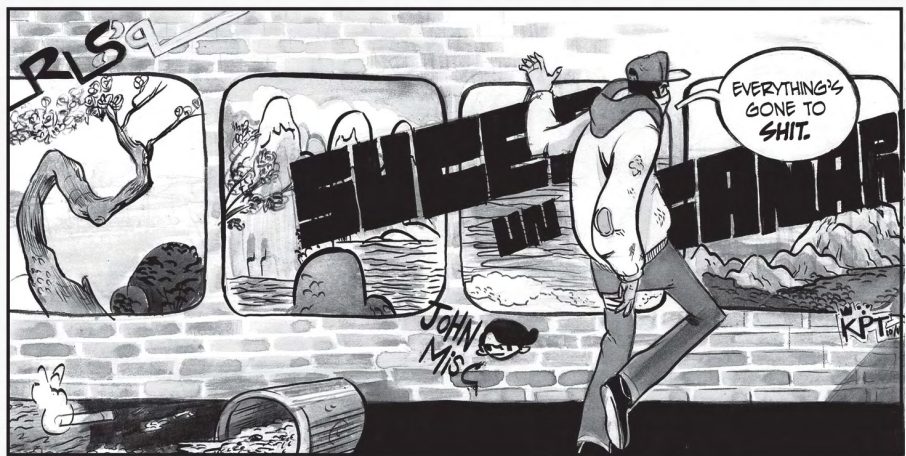




















WHAT'S THE DAMN POINT

*GOOD MEN, THE LAST WAVE BY, CRYING HOW BRIGHT*



*THEIR FRAIL DEEDS MIGHT HAVE DANCED IN A GREEN BAY*







*RAGE, RAGE AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT*

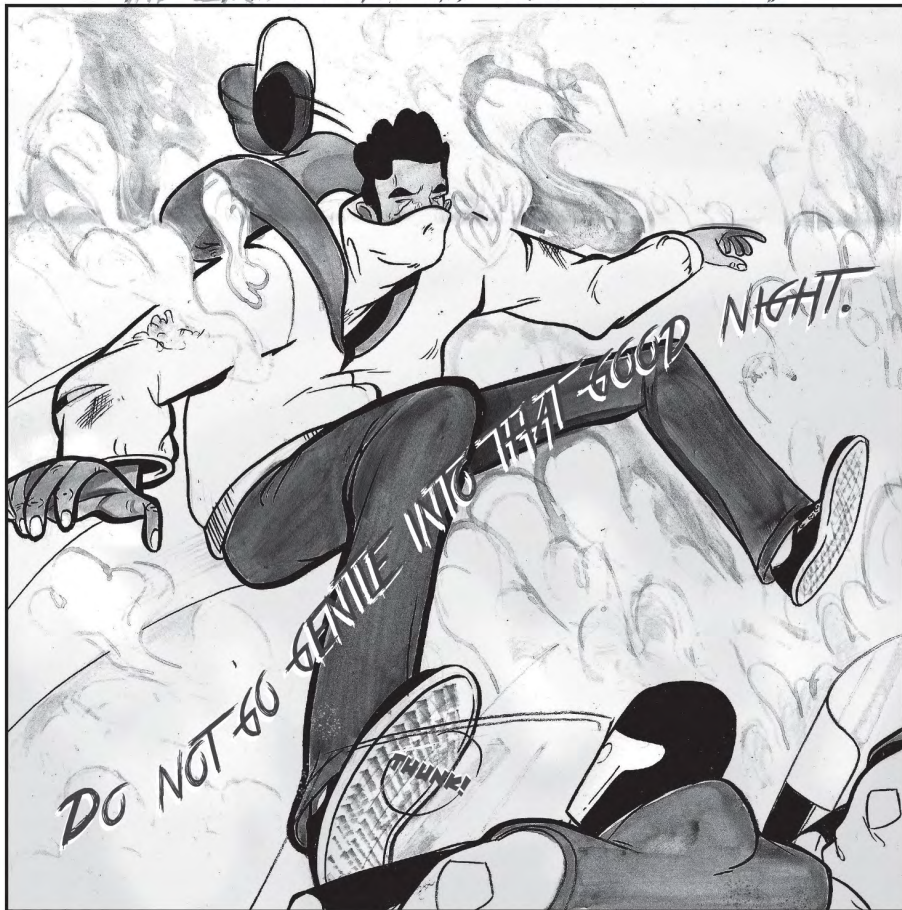


*WILD MEN WHO GAUGHT AND SANG THE SUN IN FLIGHT*





AND LEARN, TOO LATE, THEY GRIEVED IT ON ITS WAY







## ..... EDITORIAL STAFF .....

### **Chris Kindred** - *Editor-in-Chief*

A senior in Communication Arts and total stranger to sleep, Kindred saw Savannah College of Art and Design's student anthology *Senses* in 2005, and was inspired to create the *Comics Anthology* at VCU publication. As someone who surrounds himself with story and storytellers, this project became a fulfilling endeavor that he hopes will be a seed for a thriving comics community among students and alumni.

### **Courtney Shackelford** - *Managing Editor*

A student of the Communication Arts Department, editor for this publication, and a passionately prolific doodler. Though she wants to create comics well into old age, her love of storytelling has expanded her interests to include storyboarding for television and movies. She really likes King Arthur and coffee.

### **Fahmida Azim** - *Staff Editor*

This night-owl is a 2015 comics anthology editor. She spends most of her time drawing things like comics, illustrations, fat cats, and visual development art. She studies communication arts and likes to explore themes of isolation and cultural dichotomies in her work and in her rantings. May or may not be magical-realism incarnate.

### **Moaz Hashim** - *Elemam Staff Editor*

(November 26, 1922 – February 12, 2000) nicknamed Sparky, was an American cartoonist, and one of the content editors for VCU's 2015 *Comics Anthology*, *Rebels*. Best known for the comic strip *Peanuts* (which featured the characters Snoopy and Charlie Brown, among others), he is widely regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time, and cited as a major influence by many later cartoonists.



## ..... EDITORIAL STAFF .....

### **Ameorry Luo** - *Staff Editor*

A VCU Comics editor and junior Communication Arts student with a penchant for clean lines, strong light, and graceful narratives. Mythology, the supernatural, and human vulnerability are all themes she'd like to pursue as an illustrator. Outside of art, she likes playing video games, watching TV, and eating everything.

### **Shannon Wright** - *Staff Editor*

A staff editor for the VCU Comics Anthology, a staff illustrator for the Commonwealth Times and a student of Communication Arts. She has a focus in editorial illustration yet her passions lie in illustrating social, racial and gender based issues. She also makes comics, character designs and fan-art for her favorite series. Besides art, she loves singing, dancing and watching cartoons.

### **Tres Dean Senior** - *Content Editor*

Tres is a writer from Richmond, Virginia. He is the co-creator of DODGER, a sci-fi western comic he makes with his collaborator Jamie Jones. When he's not writing about robots or werewolves, he's probably watching wrestling or listening to Taylor Swift. He believes in CM Punk and the power of straight edge. Stewart Jester is his best friend.

### **Elly Call** - *Staff Editor*

Elly is the general of 13 hordes of crustaceans. When she is not wreaking watery havoc she is a junior who double majors in English (with a writing focus) and Communication Arts (with a story art focus). Her visual work has appeared in the journals Poictesme and Quailbell, and her written works include the novella Cubes, Jessica's Fat (Amendment 2014), and The Creature (Poictesme 2014).

## ..... CONTACT INFO .....

Ameorry Luo  
luoac@vcu.edu  
dustandhalosart.tumblr.com

Bizhan Khodabandeh  
www.mendedarrow.com  
bizhan@mendedarrow.com

Chris Sloce  
Christophersloce@gmail.com

Chris Harper  
harpercs@vcu.edu

Christine Fouron  
fouronc@gmail.com  
fouronillustration.tumblr.com

Courtney Shackelford  
shackelforce@vcu.edu  
shackelforce.com

Doug Fuchs  
fuchsjd@vcu.edu  
dougfuchs.tumblr.com

Della Sigrest  
della-sigrest.tumblr.com  
dsigrest@gmail.com

Daniel Torraca  
torracadh@gmail.com  
danieltorraca.com

Ellen Havasy  
ellenhavasy@live.com  
ellenhavasy.carbonmade.com

Elly Call  
ellycallm@gmail.com  
ellycall.wordpress.com  
saucesomesauce.tumblr.com

Erin Bushnell  
monstercoach.tumblr.com  
bushnellef@mymail.vcu.edu

Hannah Lazarte  
lazaratehn@me.com  
cargocollective.com/lazarte-art

Kelli Moore  
kellimoore93@yahoo.com  
kelli-mart.tumblr.com

Kyle Daileda  
dailedakn@mymail.vcu.edu  
kyle-daileda.squarespace.com

Maggie Vandever  
maggievandever@gmail.com  
antleur.tumblr.com

Megan James  
http://megan-james.weebly.com/  
megemmyjay@gmail.com

Moaz Eleman  
moaz.eleam@gmail.com  
moazlog.tumblr.com

Morgan Sawyer  
morganksawyer.prosite.com  
morganksawyer@gmail.com  
morganksawyer.tumblr.com

Natalie DeMenthon  
bhakri.tumblr.com  
dementthonna@vcu.edu

Reagan Lodge  
http://reaganlodge.com  
reaganlodge@gmail.com

Shannon Wright  
shanneyy23@gmail.com  
shannondrewthis.tumblr.com



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Our talented alumni for reaching back to collaborate with students.

The contributors, for digging deep and getting rebellious.

...and Kerry Talbott, for fostering a vibrant and talented comics  
community of VCU Students and Alumni.

