



Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Scholars Compass

Emanata (2014-)

Student Newspaper and Magazines

2017

Emanata presents: Mirage (2017)

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EMANATA PRESENTS

MIRAGE

VOL. IV

*Dedicated to Professor Epshteyn, a recently
retired cornerstone of Communication Arts.
If the humans in these stories are discernable
we owe it all to you.
Thank you, from all of us.*

..... **FOREWORD**

HELLO comics readers, ya dorks! You fell for our trick and picked up our book. We're incredibly happy about this not only because we enjoy grifts and trickery but because we're so incredibly proud of this book and the milestones we've reached this year to get it to you. From becoming an official organization at VCU under the Student Media Center to appearing for three weeks on the Cabell Library large screen Vitrine, we are excited to have built a more permanent residence at VCU for Emanata. Enough about us though—on to MIRAGE, our theme for this year!

Any time we choose a theme at Emanata, we aim for one that affords artists not only visual opportunity but also opportunity for compelling stories. In the end, we landed on MIRAGE. Now, we didn't do this to marry ourselves to deserts and stay there. We wanted to play with illusion, magic and lies. The question of reality is implicit in this theme—there is no pool of water in the distance, but can we doubt the feeling of motivation a thirsty traveler feels as a consequence? Well yes, but if it gives them the will to go on, does it matter? We found this remarkably familiar.

Sure, stories might seem false if we test them against facts. It's likely there's no mirror ready to take us to a world with succulent fruit waiting for passersby in the desert. There is no spirit of Bloody Mary in our bathroom...we think. Stories may shamelessly deceive us, but it's through the absurd and singularly unique medium of comics that we are best swept up in the visuals and narratives of other worlds. Because comics can transport us so completely to multitudes of realities, they become a powerful vehicle for seeing our own reality in a new light. The immersive experience of sinking into the vision of someone else allows us to, for a moment, experience not only what a character has felt, but what they have seen. The characters of comics carry us with them.

MIRAGE became about the way analysis of illusion brings us closer to the truth, and how engaging with such horrendous falsehoods can bring us to a deeper understanding of ourselves, the world around us, and the people that inhabit it. Through the stories we tell each other, we build bridges to lands that were, before, inaccessible.

Now, some cool-looking lies from us and VCU's best comics writers and artists created for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy!

-Elly Call, editor-in-chief

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i thought i saw you.



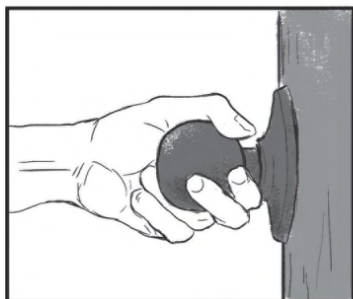
HEY!





but,





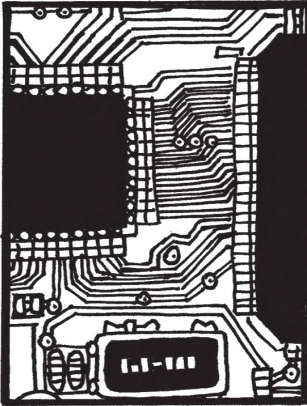
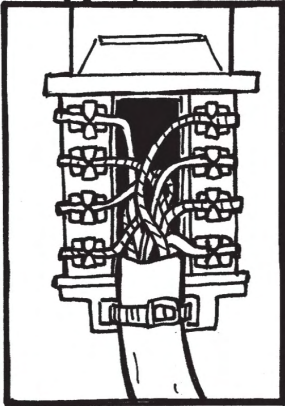
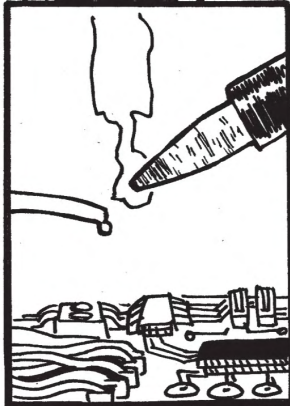
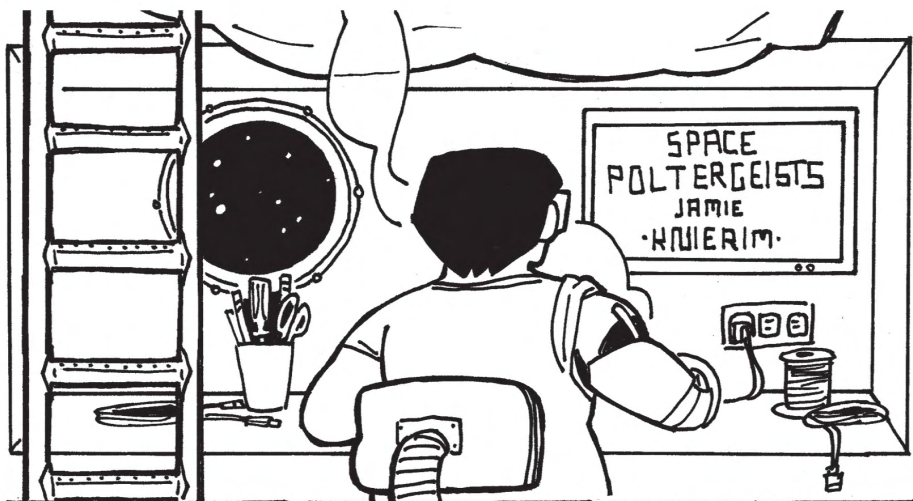


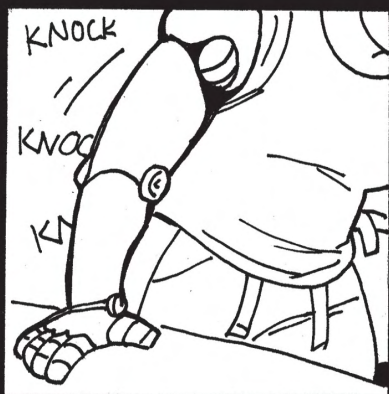


KM17



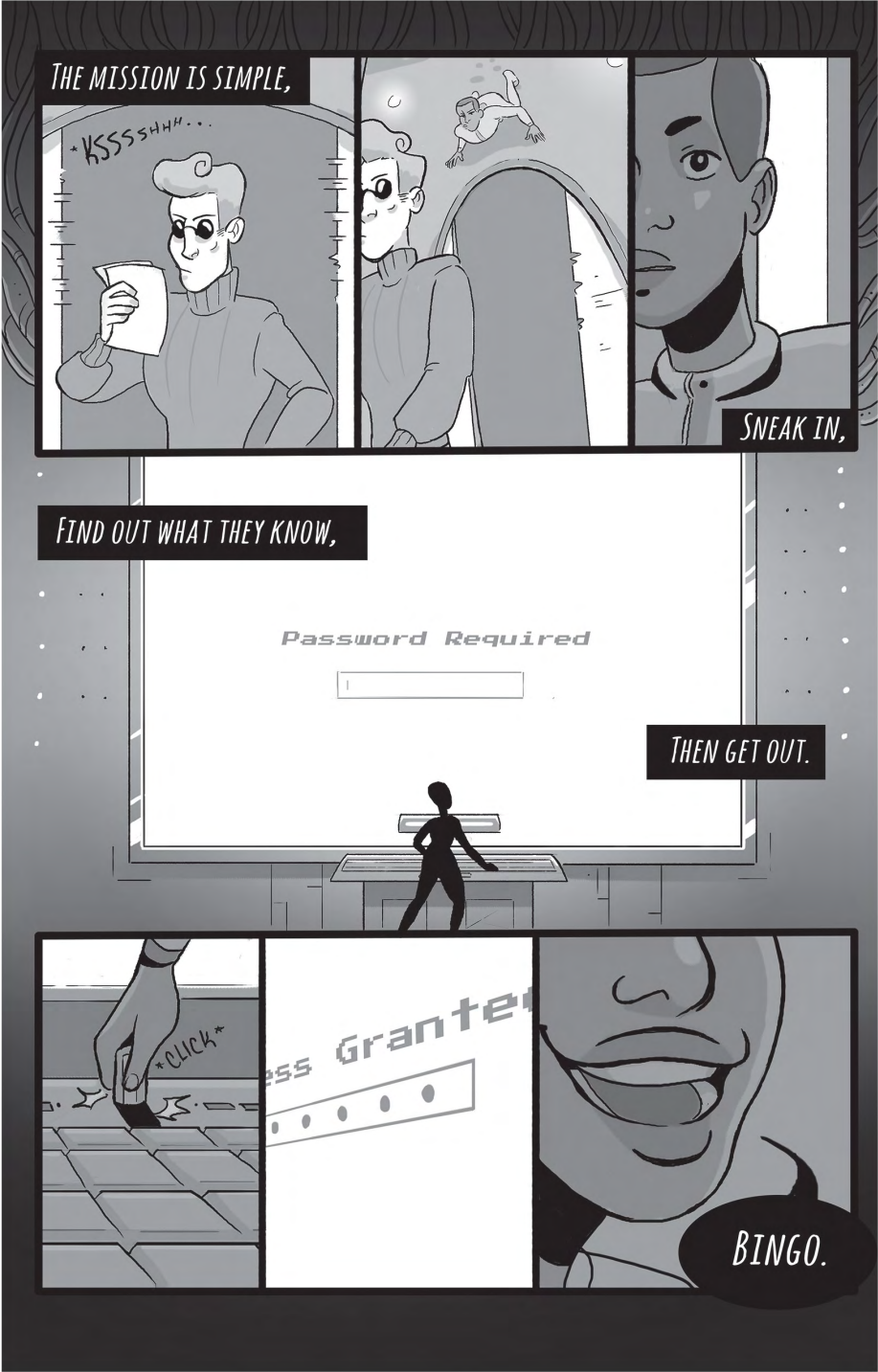
you still wouldn't stay.

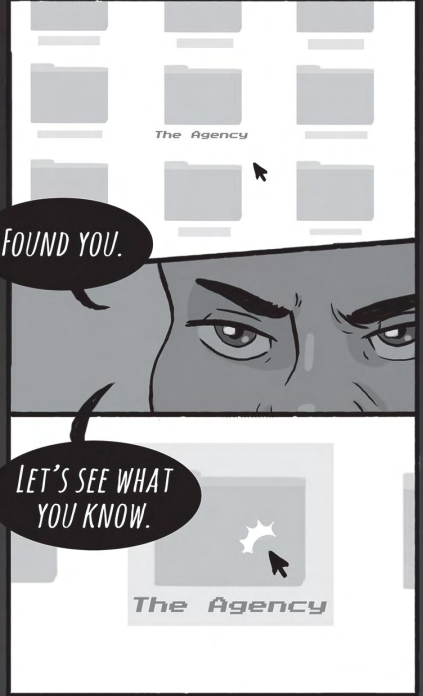


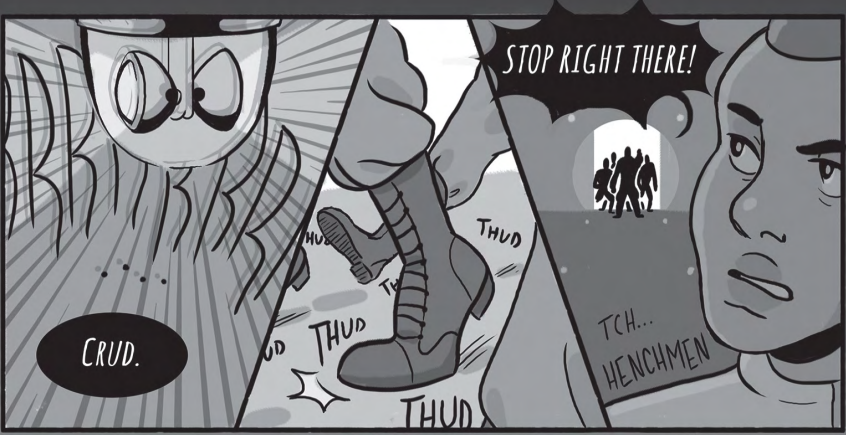




THE
END.







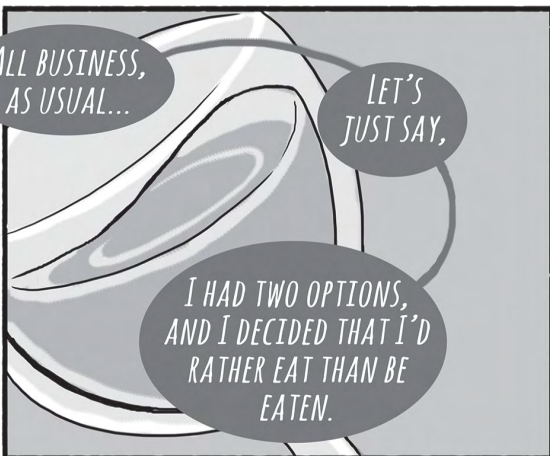




ALL BUSINESS,
AS USUAL...

LET'S
JUST SAY,

I HAD TWO OPTIONS,
AND I DECIDED THAT I'D
RATHER EAT THAN BE
EATEN.



BUT CASSIE,
I'VE MADE AN
EMPIRE HERE!

SO IMAGINE
WHAT WE COULD
DO, TOGETHER!

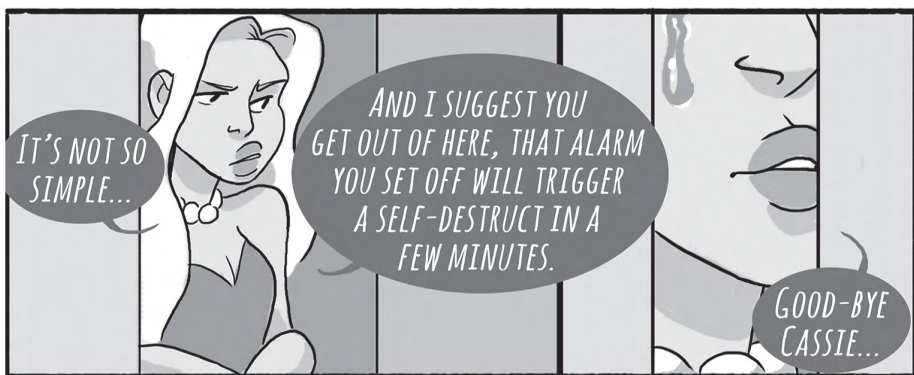
WE COULD HAVE
EVERYTHING WE EVER
WANTED AND MORE! I'VE
MISSED YOU SO MUCH CASSIE.
LET'S BE TOGETHER
AGAIN...



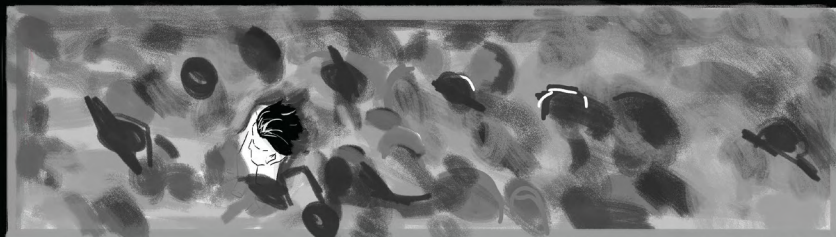
BUT SELENE...

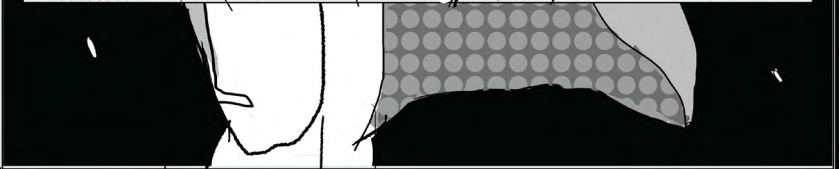


AT WHAT COST?
THE OTHER AGENTS, INNOCENT
PEOPLE... I CAN'T-

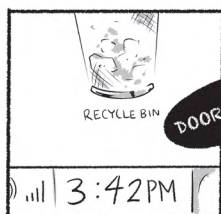












RECYCLE BIN

3:42 PM

DOOR OPEN

AS LONG AS YOU STAY
BEHIND IT, IT'S ATTACKS...



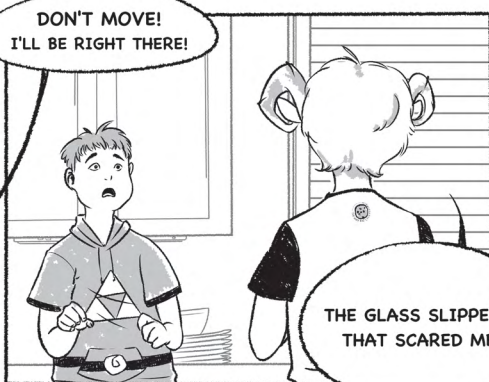
LEVEL 40?!

...GOT IT
CONFISCATED...

...JAMES BROUGHT...



DON'T MOVE!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



THE GLASS SLIPPED...
THAT SCARED ME!



SIGH



ETHAN, SILAS MAY
LOOK A LITTLE
DIFFERENT, BUT...







But we can
put everything together
and divide it—

— Just like
the Musketeers—



— You know
we don't do that.
Pull your weight!

This isn't
a shelter!!!

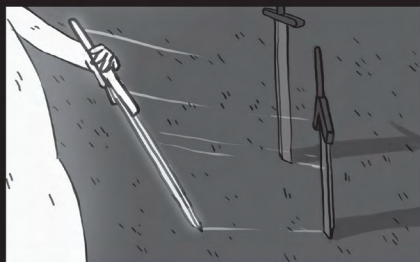












lint

The apartment complex laundry room lint. You neglected to throw it away after your last dryer cycle. Your laziness has brought a new life into this world, and it grew and grew until it gained a sentence. It can't be considered just simple trash, now.

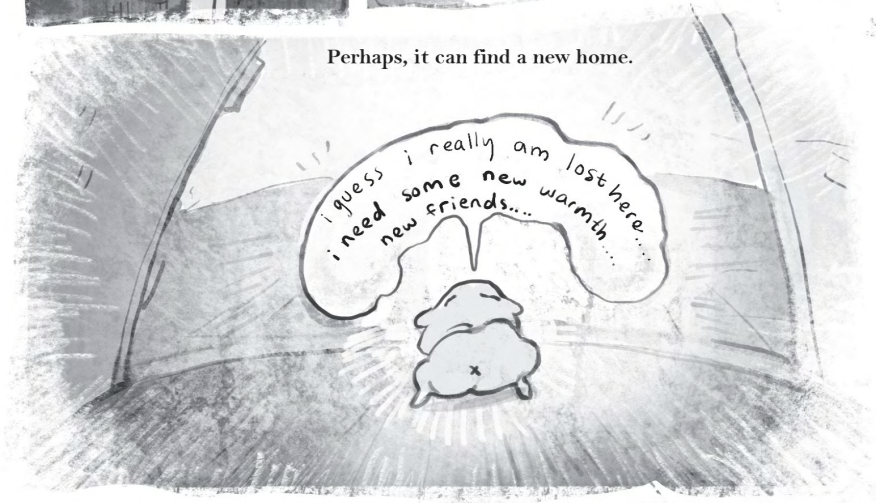
i am... so pretty...
i am such a pretty
sweater....

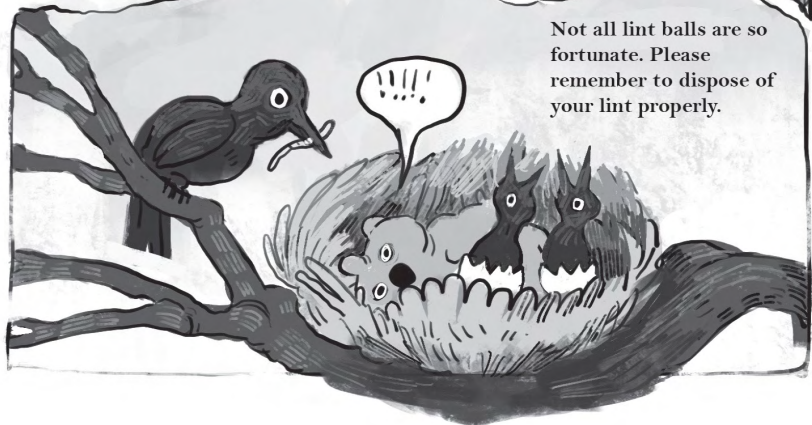
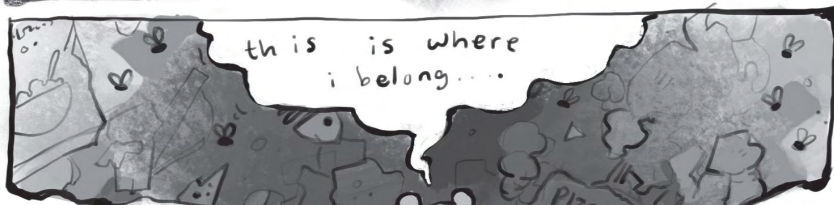
It retains the memories
of its past garments.

thanksgiving was
so great this year.
aunt susan brought
her dog.....

Soon, it realizes,

i haven't been
worn in a while...
the dryer sure is
toasty like their arms...

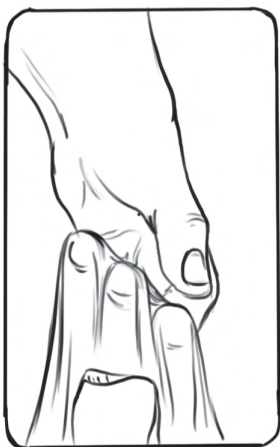


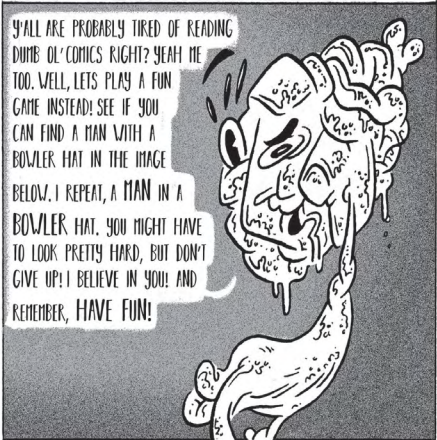


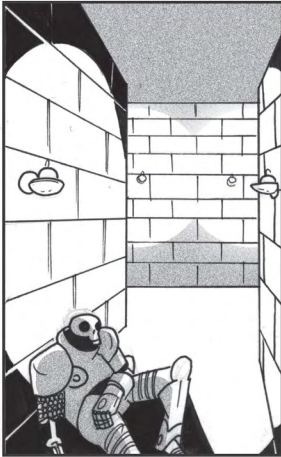
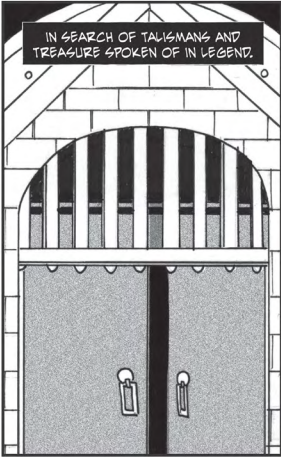
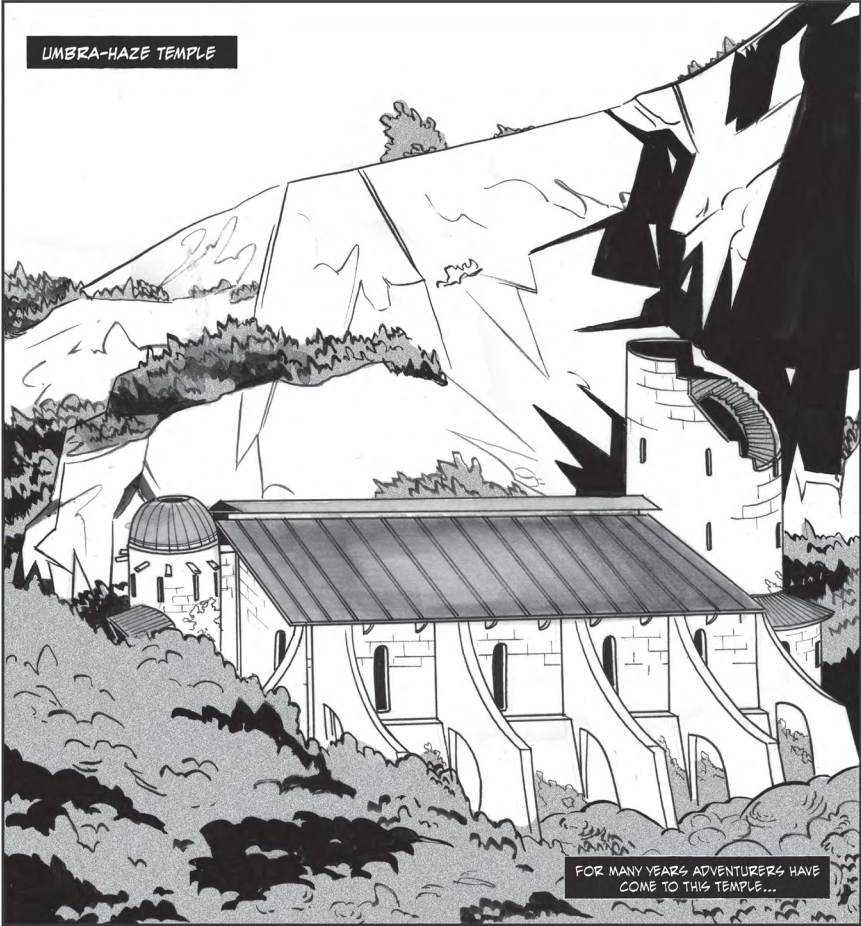
Not all lint balls are so
fortunate. Please
remember to dispose of
your lint properly.

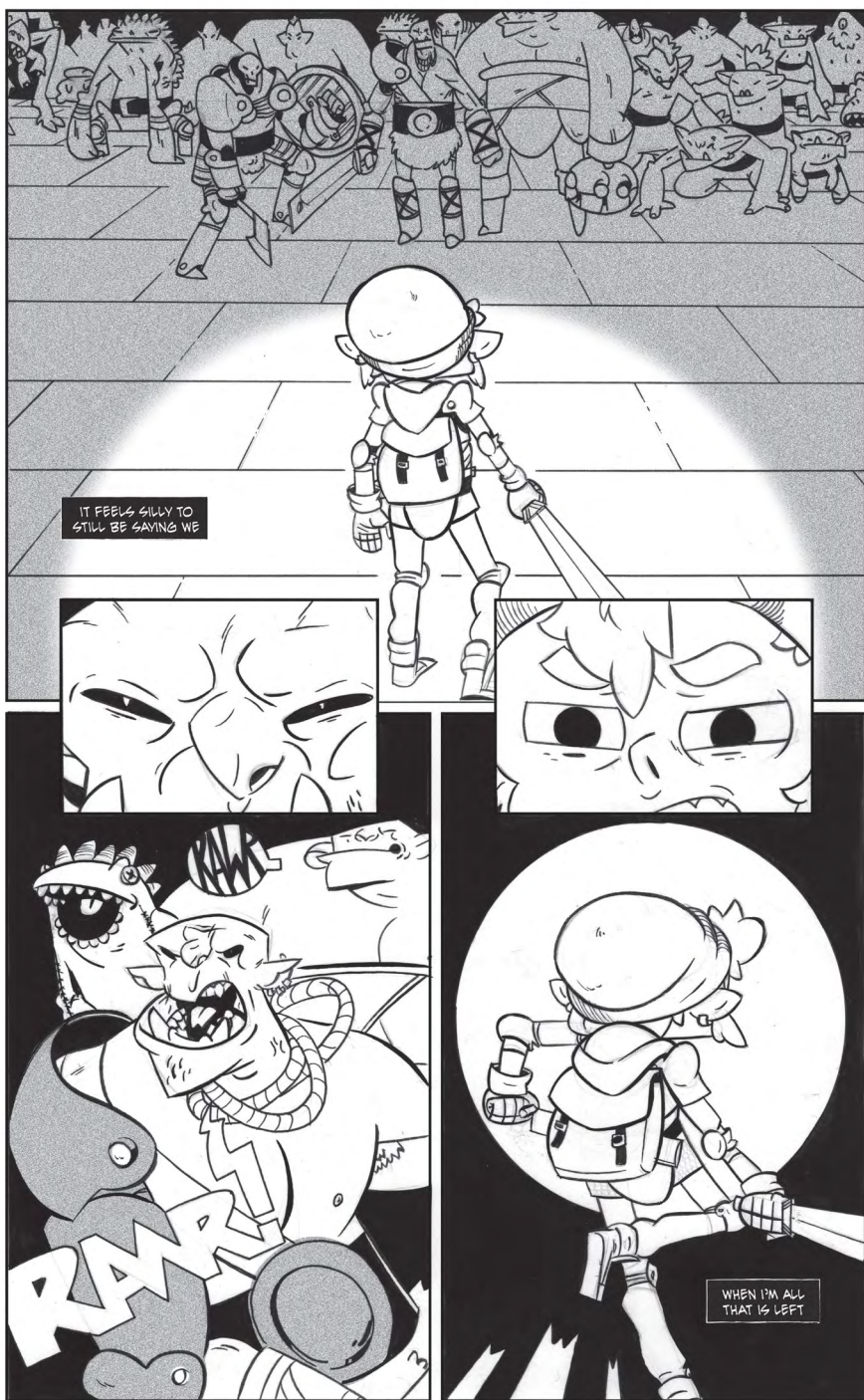


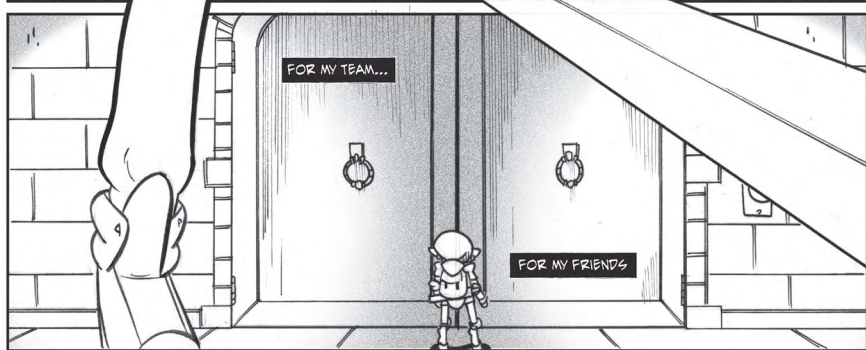
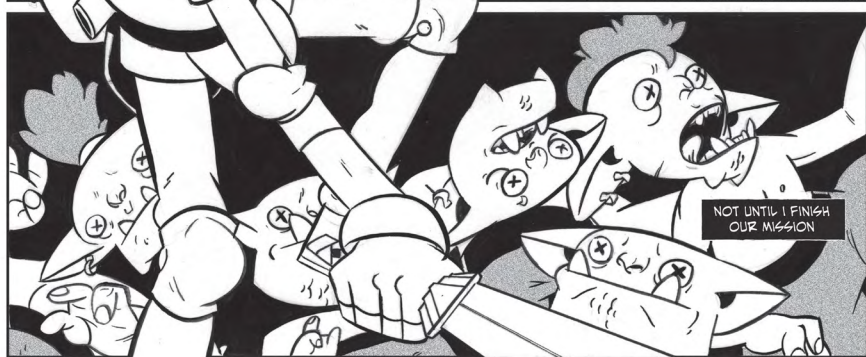
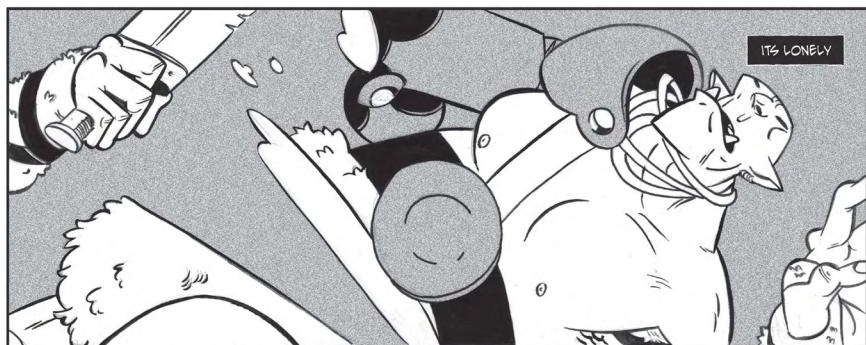


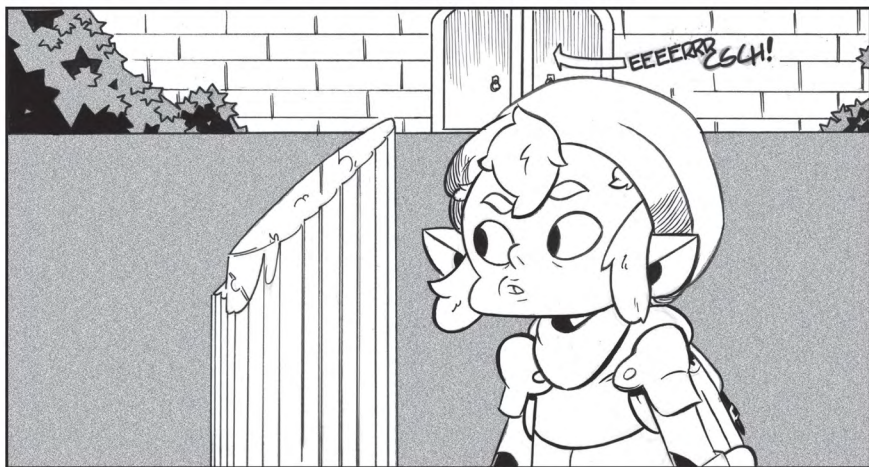
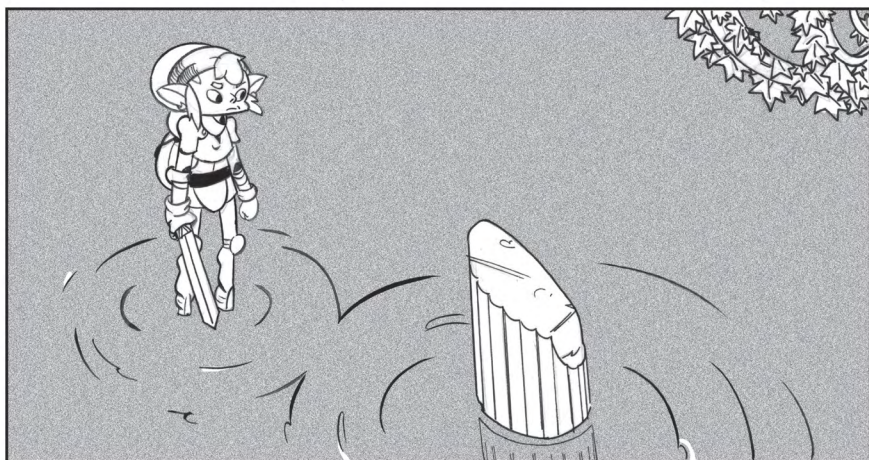
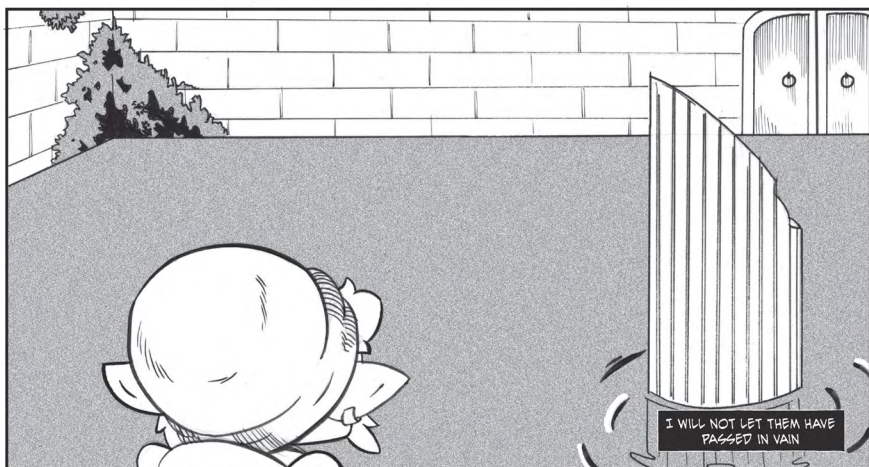


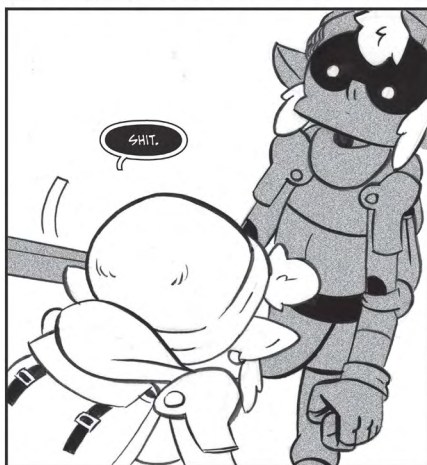
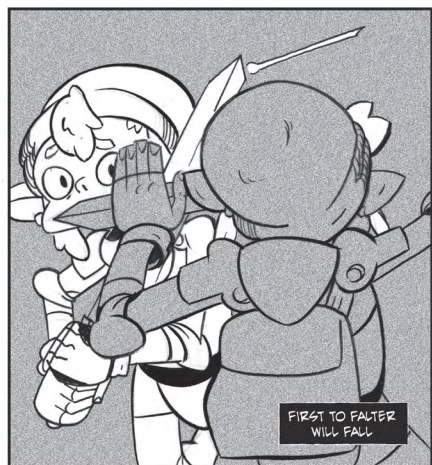
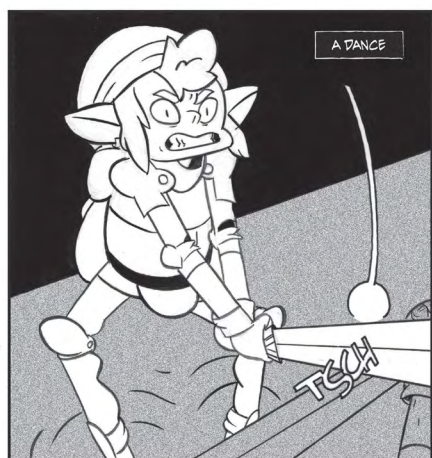
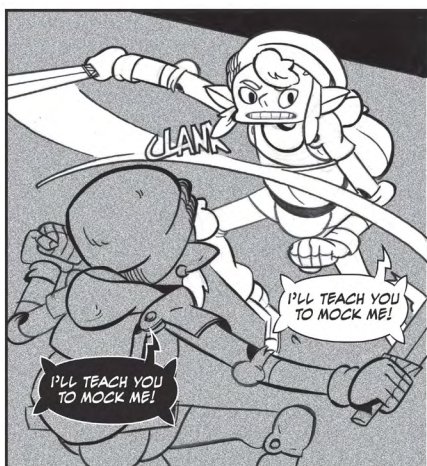


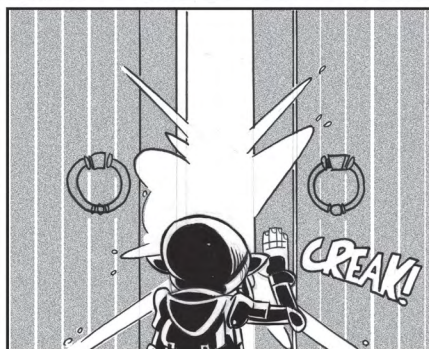
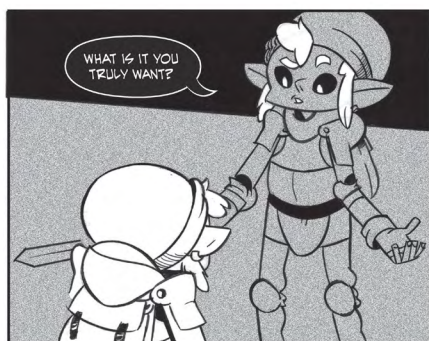


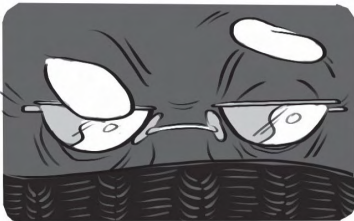
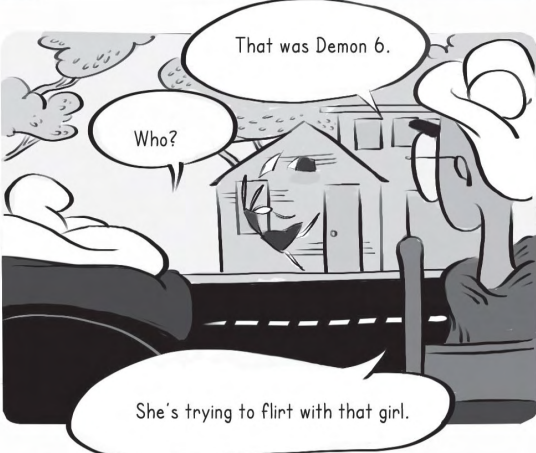














And then I'm in the most
beautiful place.

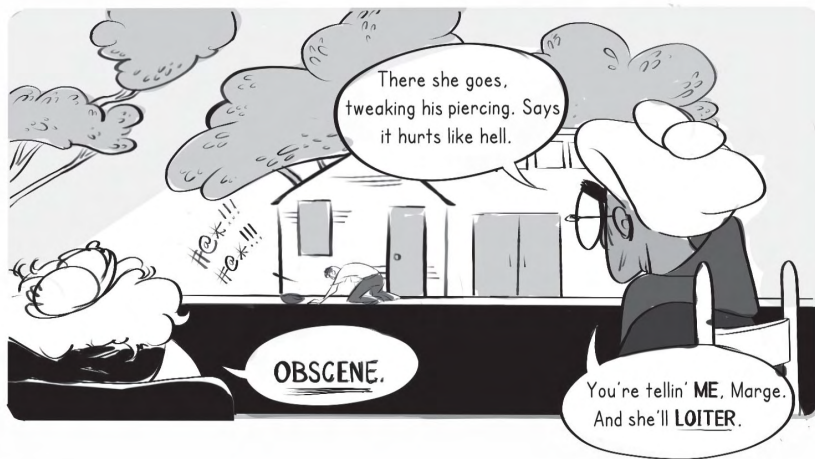
Peacock tails, like I was
swimming in 'em. They were
warm, moving.

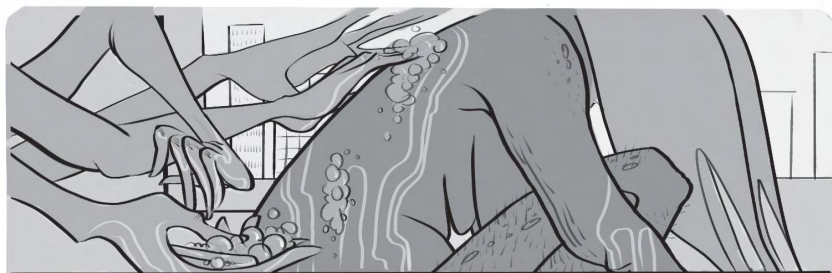
I didn't want anything to
do with it.

But then there she is. I look down
the hall and it's her.



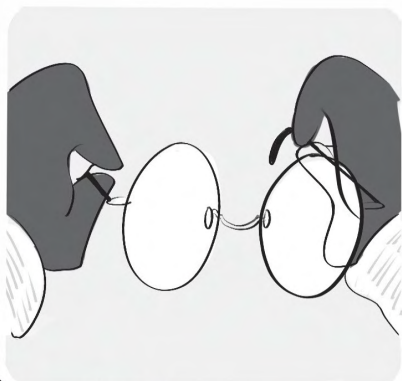




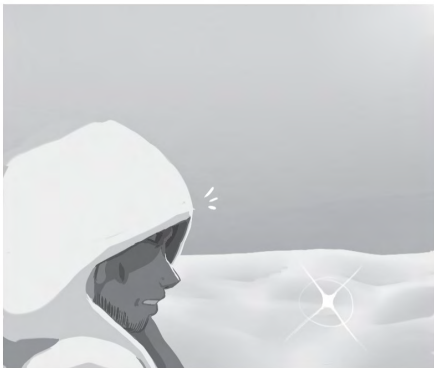


But she knows how to wash an old back so what am I supposed to say? She's DAMNED for chistsakes-



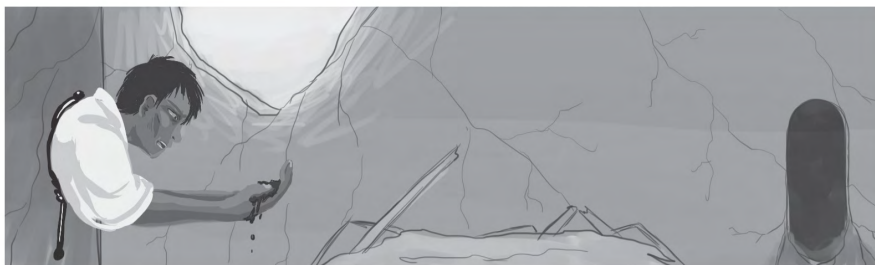
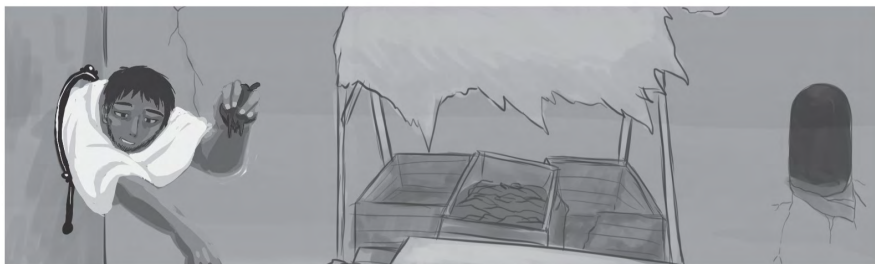


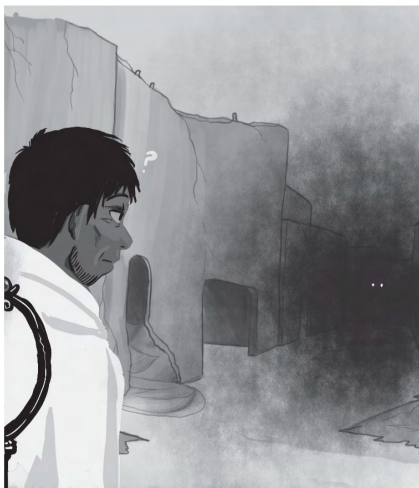
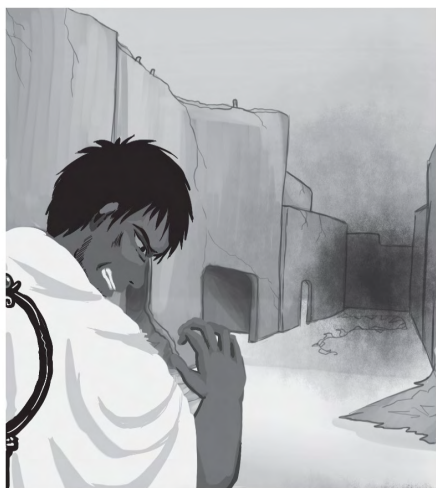


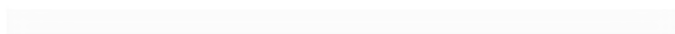
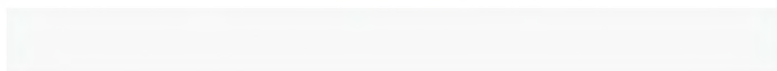
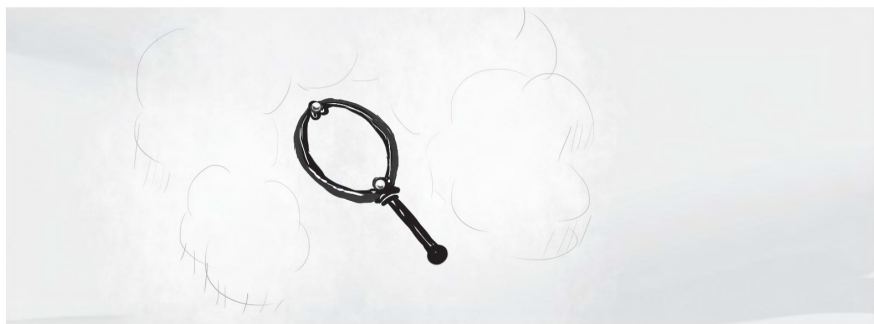










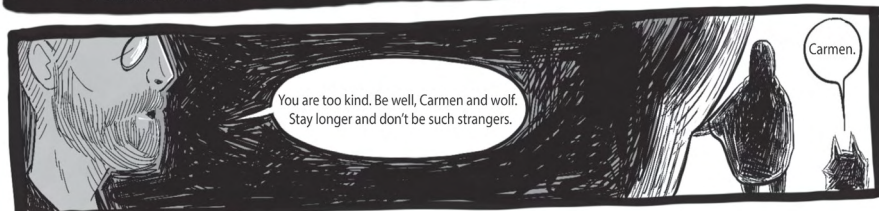


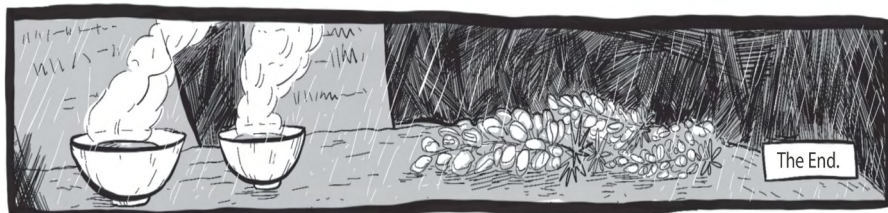
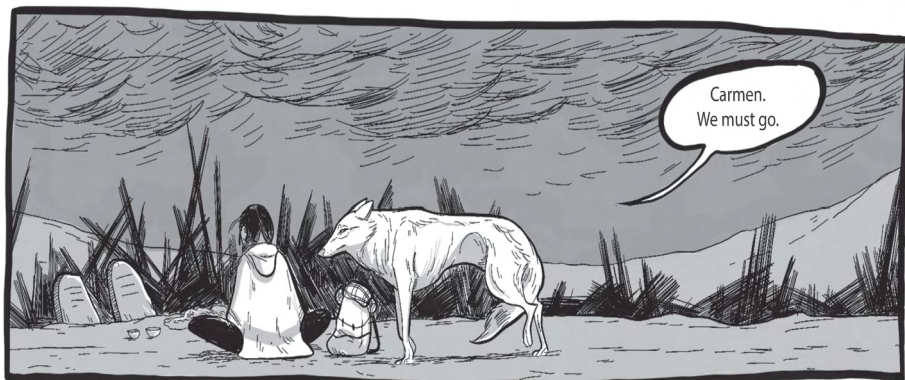
The Girl From Ipanema

Wilson Wylie
Christine Fouron







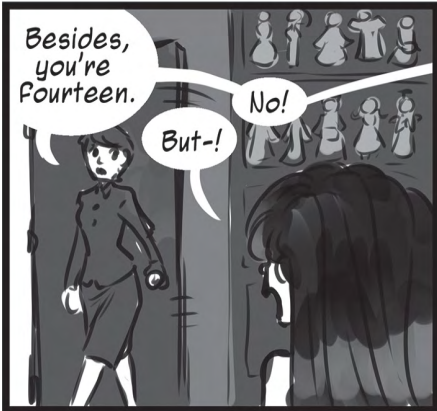


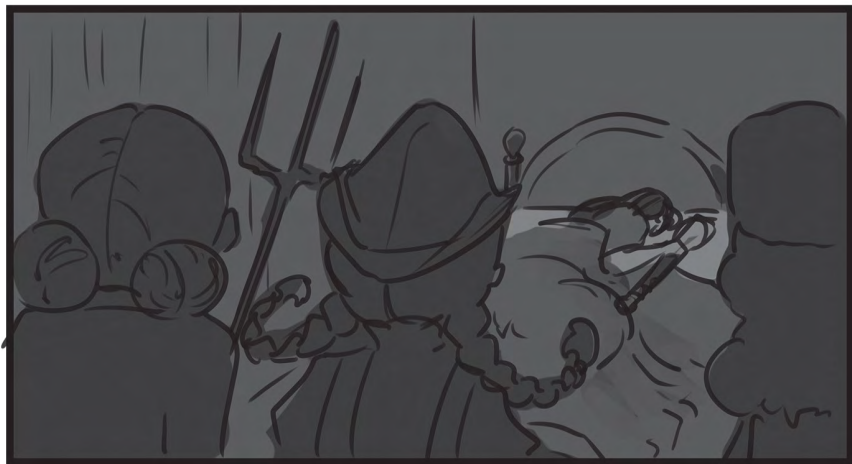


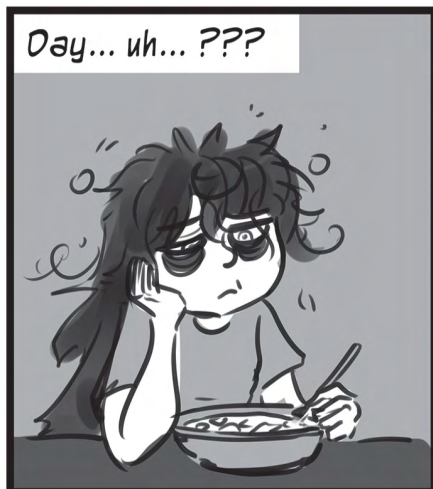
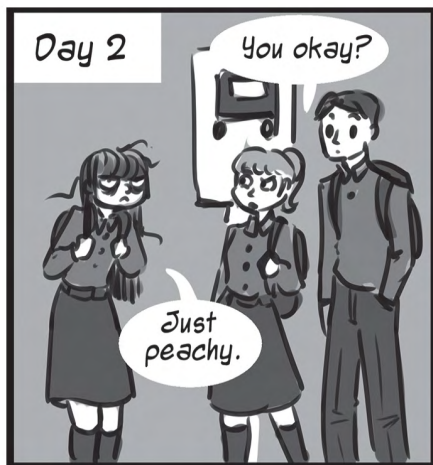














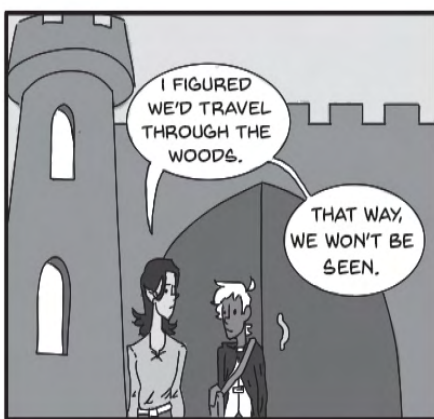
click!





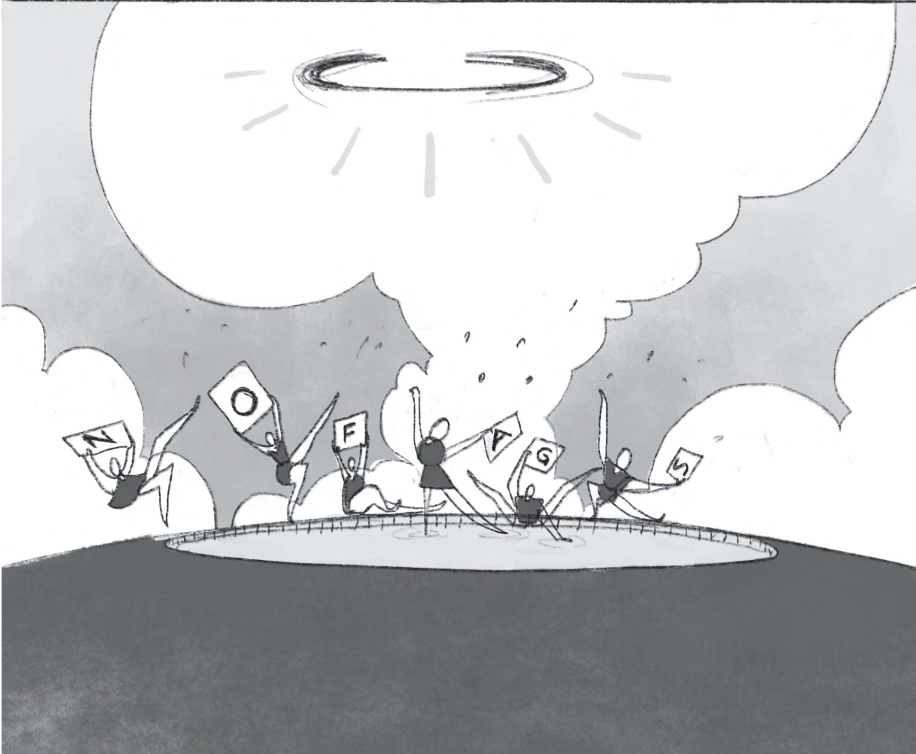
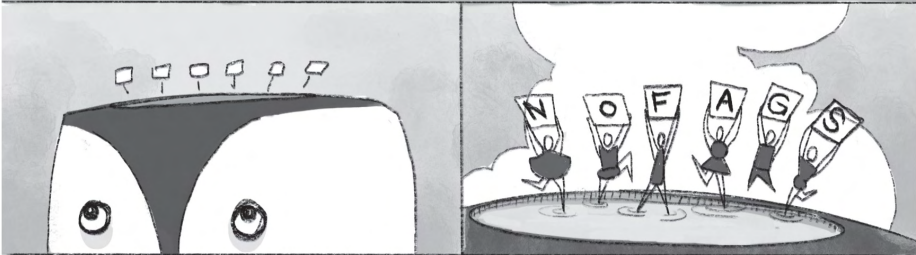


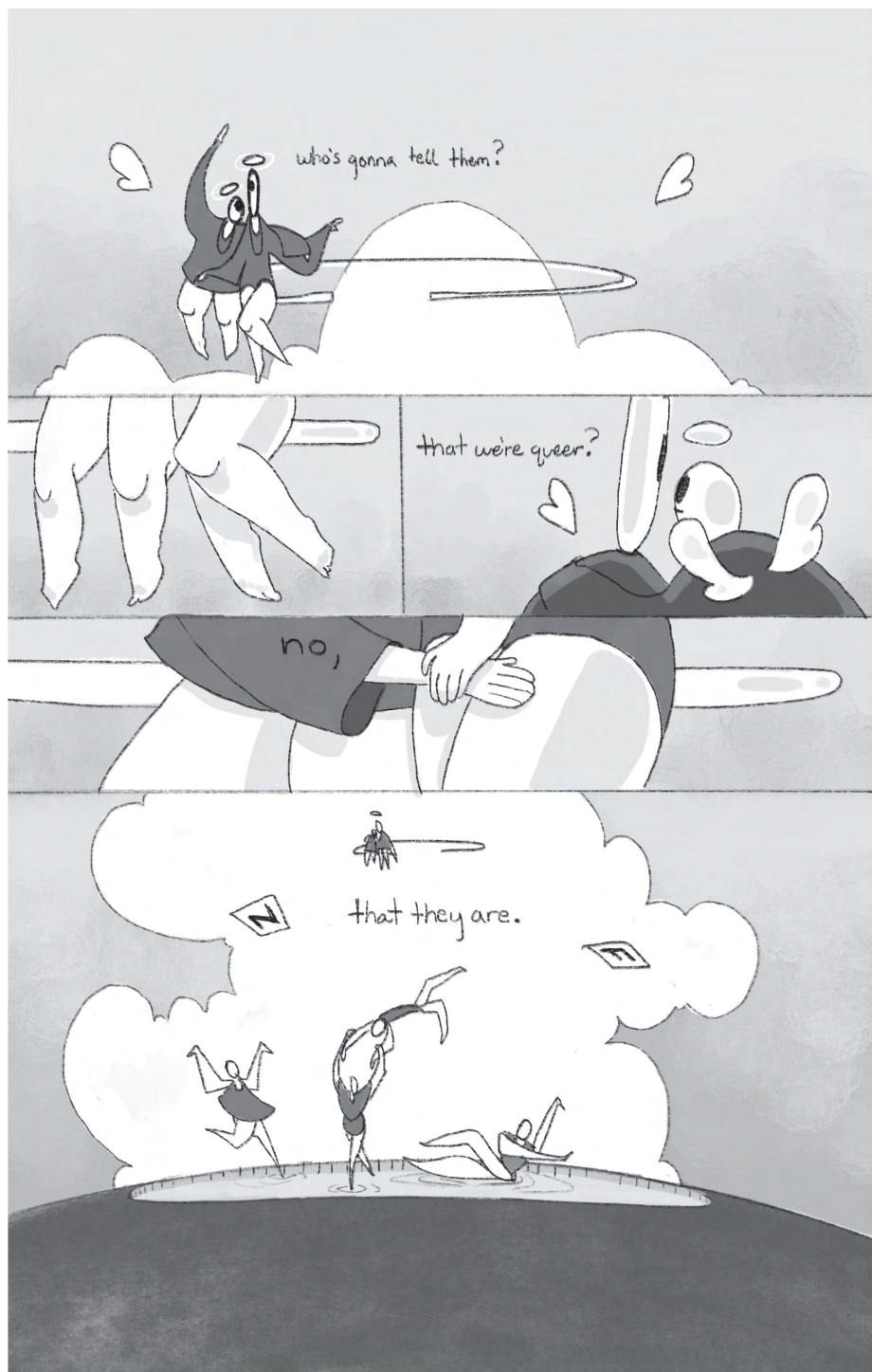


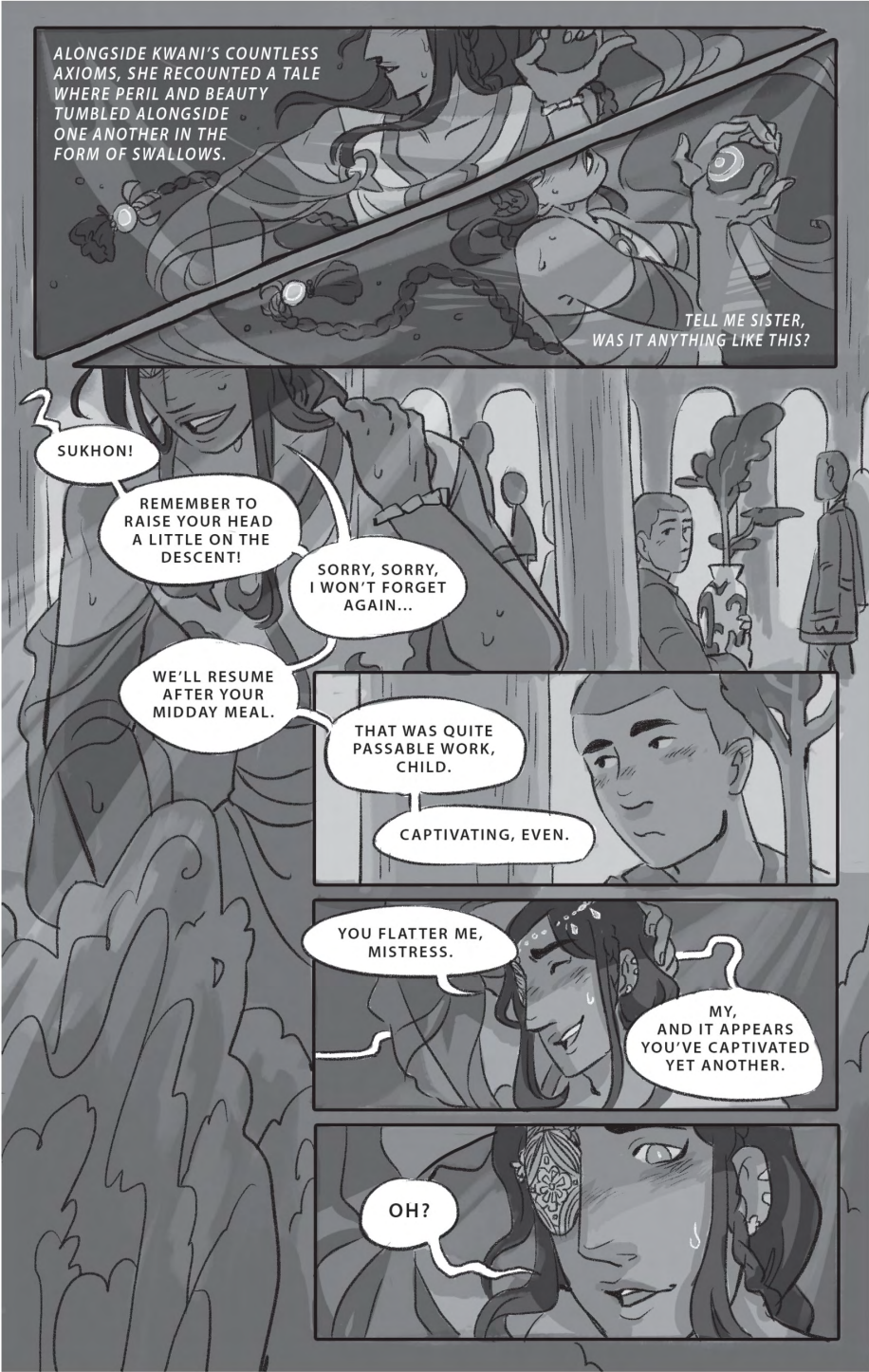


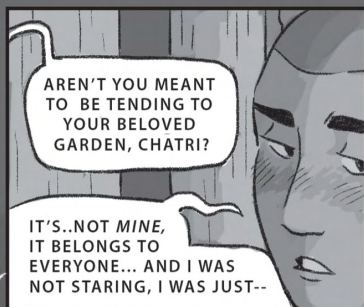












THE VISIONS ARE GAINING STRENGTH
AS SUKHON'S RITE OF PASSAGE NEARS.

BUT REALLY,
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY
WITH HIM.

SINCE THE HEAVY
HEAT OF THAT
FIRST NIGHT,

THE GLINT
OF GOLD


AS
NIMBLE
HANDS,
POISED
SO
SURELY,

FELL
AND TOOK
HIS WICKED EYE,

...I FELT SOMETHING
SHIFT INSIDE OF ME.







PERIL AND BEAUTY,
TUMBLING LIKE SWALLOWS.

THE TRUE MEANING OF MY
VISIONS MAY FOREVER
ELUDE ME, BUT...

I BELIEVE I CAN TREASURE
WHAT THEY BRING ME, EVEN IF
FOR ONLY THIS SMALL SPELL OF TIME.

WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S AN ALARMING SHADE
OF RED YOU'RE SPORTING.

WH-WHAT?
IT'S NOTHING!
ANYWAY...

IS IT TRUE THEY'RE
MAKING YOU PLAY THE
KHU'S DAUGHTER IN
YOUR FACTION'S
CLASSICAL PLAY?

WHO TOLD YOU THAT??

..... EDITORIAL STAFF

Elly Call

Editor-in-Chief

Elly Call is a creature concept designer at VCUarts who is double-majoring in English and Communication Arts. Though deeply ingrained fears of darkness, yerks, and uvula theft littered her childhood, she's found terrifying others to be a helpful coping mechanism. Her work draws inspiration from weapon design, beetles, and the occasional snake. She is Editor-In-Chief of *Emanata*, a comics anthology.

Will Sullivan

Managing Editor

Emanata Staff Editor, junior Communication Arts student, and future triple-A concept designer & illustrator. His work centers around future relics, ancient space, and wicked robots. An eternal fan of sci-fi/fantasy his love of the weird, the otherworldly, the mystical drives his creative work across media.

Megan James

Treasurer

Originally from Frederick, Maryland, Megan is a level 27 Dark Wizard and a senior in Communication Arts. She is also the creator of *Innsmouth*, a comic about fish, fake mormons and the end of the world, which is published through Sink/Swim press. She has also had comics published in D.C. Conspiracy's *Magic Bullet* and the *Commonwealth Times*, as well as *Rebels* (*Emanata* #2) and *Kin* (*Emanata* #3). She is very excited to be a part of the *Emanata* team and the larger comics scene in RVA!

Kelsey Morrison

Secretary

A Junior in Communication Arts, the Honors college, and self-proclaimed rollercoaster aficionado, Kelsey adores creating art to tell stories in the form of comics, storyboards, or concept development. Invested in conveying strong motion and emotion in her work, she was a recipient of a first place National Scholastic Press Association award in the Comic/Panel section. If she's not hovering over her Cintiq, she's inspiring herself with Web comics like *Paranatural* and *Lackadaisy*, or tending to her ever-growing kingdom of succulents.

..... EDITORIAL STAFF

Jupiter Shultz

Staff Editor

Half Communication Arts major at VCU, half Britney Spears apology tour to an audience of one for going to art school and not becoming an astronaut.

Nat DeMenthon

Staff Editor

Nat is a senior studying Communication Arts. One day all birds will recognize her as their king.

Gareth Bentall

Staff Editor

Gareth is a cartoonist and illustrator currently in his senior year as a Communication Arts student. He specializes in political cartoons, humorous illustration, underground comic trivia, bird watching, hoarding, forwarding, boogie boarding, and Parcheesi. Gareth currently resides inside his inkpot. Last year, Gareth won the National Society of Professional Journalists Award for Editorial Cartooning.

Maggie Vanderveer

Staff Editor

Maggie Vanderveer is a Senior at VCUarts studying Communication Arts. She hopes to find a career in freelance illustration. She really likes work that revolves around intersectional feminist and LGBTQIA issues as well as cute things. She loves her cat Rosemary almost as much as she loves a good cheeseburger.

Editors In Training:

Susie Grady, Claire Patefield, India Valle, Morgan Barnett, Taylor Evans, and Evan McGradeby.

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Special Collections and Archives at James Branch Cabell Library holds one of the nation's most significant Comic Arts Collections. The vast collection of 175,000 items and more than 125,000 comic books is open to students and researchers.

VCU Libraries is also supporting *Emanata* by running illustrations from *KIN* vol. 3, 2016, which issues on the Cabell Library Big Screen during April. wp.vcu.edu/cabellscreen.

